

2023

The Summary on Housing & Homelessness in York County



CACH

Catawba - Area - Coalition - For The Homeless

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Executive Summary

Community members, businesses, stakeholders, faith-based organizations, and elected officials must understand the state of homelessness and the availability of housing opportunities in order to effectively collaborate and improve the existing system. This paper outlines the state of homelessness in York County, South Carolina. Many of the data points are centered around Rock Hill, given the higher concentration of homelessness in the Rock Hill area in comparison to the rest of the county. That being said, CACH is committed to addressing homelessness within the counties of Chester, Lancaster, and York to ensure that every person within our community has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

This summary will define homelessness, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing, and analyze the demographics and circumstances surrounding homelessness in York County including the Area Median Income and Fair Market Rent. It will also discuss the Continuum of Care, barriers to shelter and housing in the area, and analyze the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within our current structure in order to map out the current system, identify gaps, and make recommendations to close the gaps.

In 2022, the Catawba Area Coalition for the Homeless (CACH) realized the need to install infrastructure to meet the current need, triage future cases, and move individuals along the housing continuum to a place of permanency more effectively. By getting ahead of future needs and identifying gaps, we will be able to avoid larger chasms in the future.

CACH History

In 2006 Gina Amato and Carol Harvey developed the Catawba Area Coalition for the Homeless (CACH). CACH met a crucial need in the community by advocating for safe, decent, affordable housing and collaborating with local agencies to better understand the resources available and make effective referrals. CACH's mission was homeless prevention because at the time there was another glaring need in the community - emergency homeless shelters. Members of CACH such as Lora Holladay, Ray Koterba, and others were instrumental in getting the shelters started.

"All we had was \$42 and a vision, sometimes it would be just 5 people in the room. It's amazing that we outgrew the room so fast. I am so passionate about helping others. At one point in my life, I was homeless for 3 weeks. My husband and I had to drop our son off with relatives and live in our car. The Lord was faithful to bring us through that situation, and I know that I am called to help others every day from then on."

- Carol Harvey, CACH Cofounder



10-Year Strategic Plan

In 2009, CACH developed a 10-year strategic plan in tandem with The City of Rock Hill and the United Way of York County to respond to homelessness. The 10-year plan included the following general recommendations:

General Recommendations

1. Minimize or eliminate overlapping of services

2. Embrace collaboration

3. Listen to, respect, and support experts in the field

4. Create and/or improve existing reporting/documenting systems so that they complement each other

10-Year Plan Objectives

1 Prevention

Prevent families and individuals from becoming unhoused through targeted education to at-risk areas of the community, and through coordinated discharge planning from local institutions.

2 Community Engagement and Education

Engage and provide educational information to the broader community to increase awareness and understanding of homelessness and develop support for the implementation of this initiative.

3 Single Portal of Entry

Develop a centralized starting place for families and individuals to find assistance in a crisis so that they may be able to retain their current housing or be referred for rapid re-housing or other housing assistance and support services.

4 Support Services

Provide a broad range of coordinated support services to meet the needs of families and individuals, including those in special needs populations, to enable them to obtain and remain in housing.

5 Employment and Income

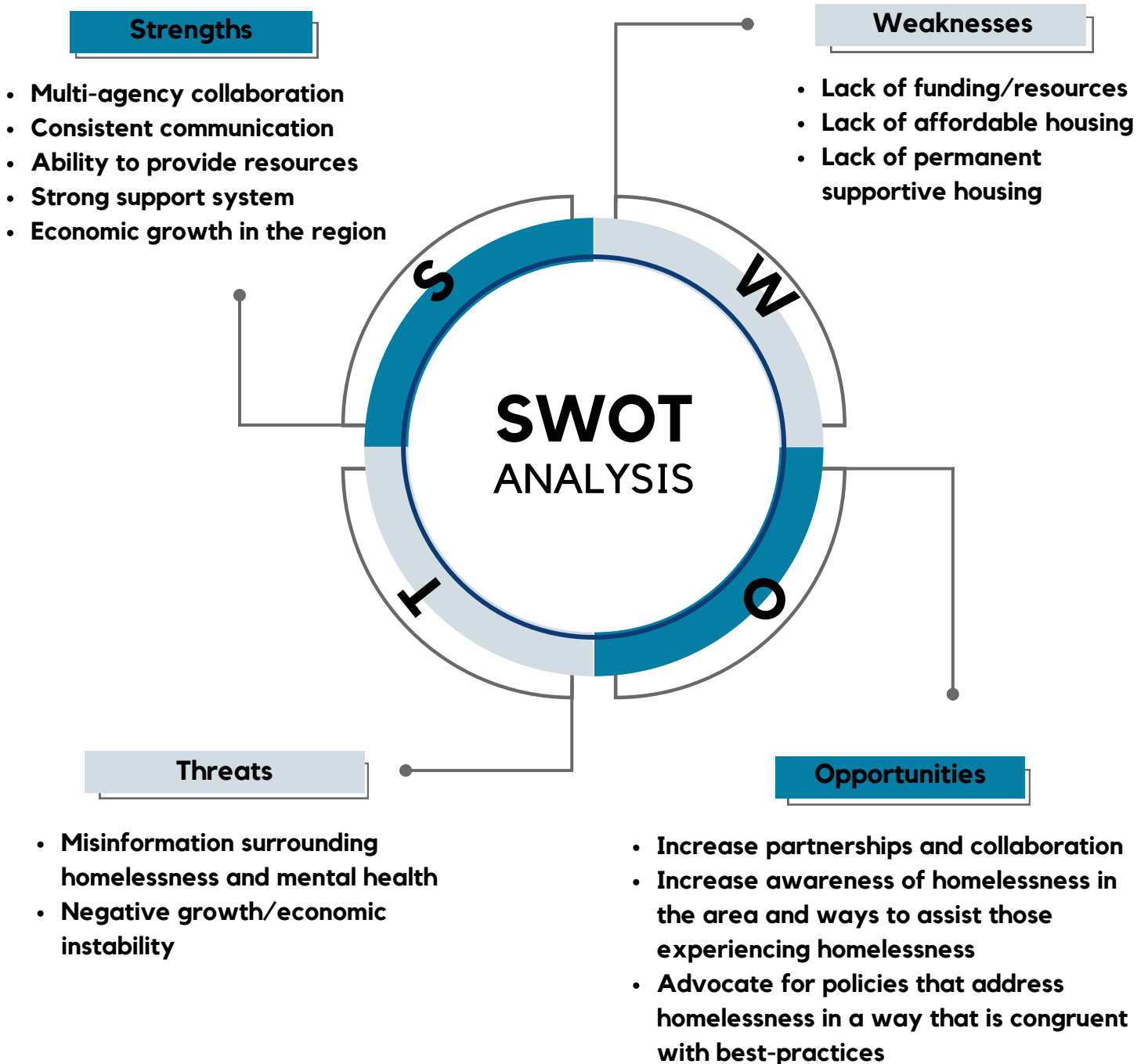
Ensure that families and individuals have the opportunity to obtain employment and income support that enables them to afford adequate housing.

6 Housing

Ensure that adequate housing and financial assistance are available to those who become unhoused to rapidly return them to housing.

SWOT Analysis

In the summer of 2022, CACH used a SWOT Analysis to help determine the organization's strengths, weaknesses, potential threats, and opportunities for growth.



Defining Homelessness

To be considered unhoused by The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an individual must be sleeping in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a place that is not intended for, or adequate for, human habitation. The McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness includes individuals who lack stable housing. This broadened definition of homelessness includes individuals who are "doubled-up" (e.g. couch surfing) or residing in a hotel room not being paid for by a voucher. Because HUD's definition of homelessness isn't as expansive as the McKinney-Vento definition, service agencies that utilize HUD funding have limitations on how they address homelessness and whom they are allowed to serve.

HUD

When an individual or household is sleeping in an emergency shelter, transitional housing facility, or a place that is not intended for or adequate for human habitation.

Includes individuals and households sleeping in the following places:

- Emergency shelter
- Transitional housing facility
- Car
- Outside
- In a hotel/motel (paid for by a voucher)

McKinney-Vento

When an individual or household lacks stable, consistent, or adequate housing.

Includes individuals and households sleeping in the following places:

- Emergency shelter
- Transitional housing facility
- Car
- Outside
- In a hotel/motel (paid for by a voucher)
- In a hotel/motel (paid for by self)
- Overcrowding (i.e. multiple families staying in a single-family home)

Types of Homelessness

Beyond the definition of homelessness, there are different types or categorizations of homelessness based on the duration and number of times the individual has experienced homelessness. The cause of homelessness can also be used to determine the type of homelessness someone is experiencing.

Chronic Homelessness

Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness have experienced homelessness multiple times or for a year or longer. In addition to this, these individuals also have a disabling condition that prevents them from securing and/or maintaining stable housing. Examples of disabling conditions include developmental disorders, mental health disorders, physical impairments or disabilities, and substance use disorders.

Episodic Homelessness

Individuals experiencing episodic homelessness face disadvantages that put them at a higher risk of becoming unhoused. Some examples of disadvantages faced by this population are job instability, income inequality, and physical/mental disorders. People experiencing episodic homelessness often experience homelessness multiple times for short periods of time.

Hidden Homelessness

Individuals experiencing hidden homelessness lack a fixed, permanent place to live but are not easily visible to the public because they are not residing in shelters or on the streets. Instead, these individuals may temporarily stay with friends or family, squat in abandoned buildings, live in substandard or overcrowded housing, or resort to other unstable housing arrangements. Oftentimes, individuals experiencing hidden homelessness must rely on friends, family, and neighbors for shelter because they are unable to afford stable housing.

Situational Homelessness

Individuals experiencing situational homelessness are unhoused as a result of a crisis or negative life event that prevents them from maintaining housing. This type of homelessness could stem from job loss, illness, divorce, domestic violence, or a natural disaster. This type of homelessness is often temporary as individuals and households experiencing situational homelessness will often regain stable housing once the crisis is resolved.




Causes of Homelessness

There are many different systemic issues that lead individuals to become unhoused. Of these are a lack of accessible and affordable housing, income and racial disparities, a lack of accessible and affordable healthcare, domestic violence, and mental health and substance use disorders. To learn more about each individual issue, please turn to its specified page.

Cause of Homelessness	Page #
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Lack of Accessible & Affordable Housing

For housing to be considered affordable, it must cost no more than 30% of a household's income. Housing costs include the cost of rent/mortgage as well as the cost of utilities (i.e. water, sewer, electric). This means that an apartment may be affordable for one household, but not affordable for another. Before factoring in the cost of utilities, the average cost of a studio apartment in Rock Hill, SC is \$1,265/month. Among the workers mentioned below, Worker C, who is a nurse practitioner, is the only one who can afford this apartment. Worker B's income can cover the rent, but utility expenses make this housing option unaffordable for them. Unfortunately, neither Worker A nor Worker B, both of whom are considered essential workers, can afford housing in Rock Hill.

	Occupation	Annual Salary*	% of Gross Income Spent on Rent (for a Studio Apartment in Rock Hill, SC)
	Person A Fast Food Attendant	\$28,522	53%
	Person B Elementary School Teacher	\$51,657	29%
	Person C Nurse Practitioner	\$107,904	14%

*Annual salary was determined using Indeed, an online job search platform. The averages listed reflect the average salary for that position in York County, SC.

Lack of Accessible & Affordable Housing

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), no state in the U.S. possesses a sufficient amount of reasonably-priced housing for low-income renters. Based on data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, NLIHC found that in 2023 there were 157,352 renters in South Carolina with an "extremely low income" status, meaning they earn 0-30% of the Area Median Income (AMI). However, there were only 42 affordable and available homes per 100 extremely low-income renter households in the state. Area Median Income (AMI) is a term used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine eligibility for affordable housing programs. It is the midpoint of a region's income distribution, meaning that half of the households in the area earn more than the AMI, while the other half earns less. The AMI is calculated by HUD using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

There are only 42 affordable and available homes per 100 extremely low-income renters in South Carolina.

In addition to the 87% of extremely low-income renter households that are cost-burdened, NLIHC found the following:

- 74% of extremely low-income renter households spent more than 50% of their income on rent and utilities
- 74% of very low-income households (31-51% of AMI) spent more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities
- 45% of low-income households (51-80% of AMI) spent more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities
- 16% of middle-income households (81-100% of AMI) spent more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities

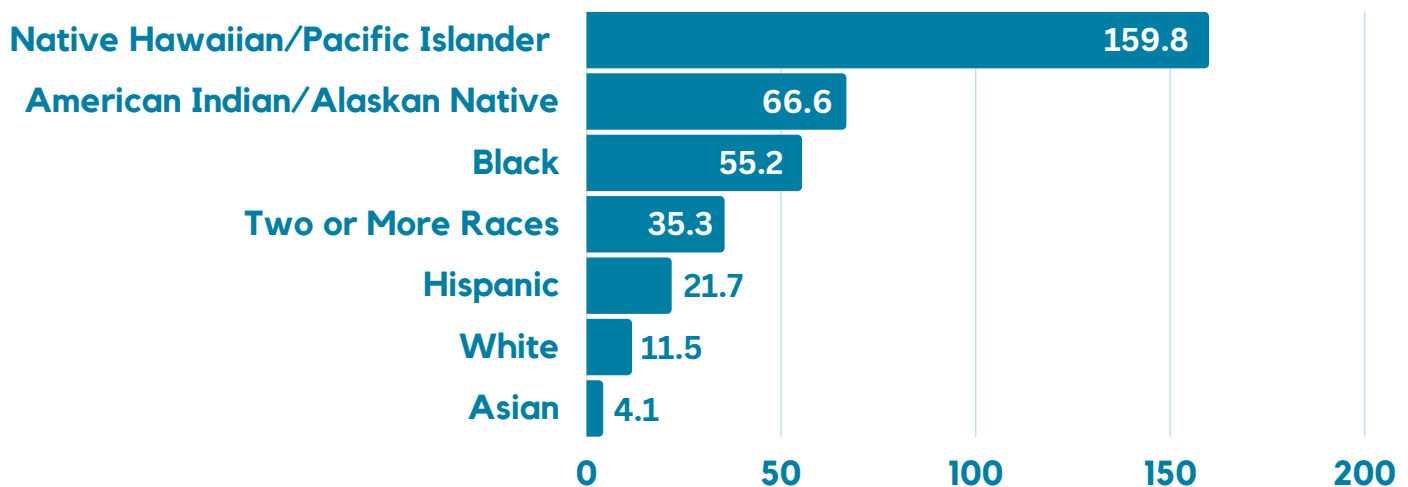
Income & Racial Disparities

Income inequality is a major contributor to homelessness. Disparities in income impact homelessness in the following ways:

- When income inequality increases, it often means that the gap between those who can afford stable housing and those who cannot widens. As a result, low-income individuals and families may struggle to pay rent or mortgage, making them more vulnerable to eviction and homelessness.
- High-income neighborhoods may become more expensive, leading to gentrification and displacement of low-income individuals and families. This can push these individuals and households into less desirable neighborhoods with fewer resources, which can further increase their risk of homelessness.
- Income inequality can limit access to resources such as education, healthcare, and job opportunities, making it difficult for low-income individuals to improve their financial situation and maintain stable housing. All of these factors can contribute to the risk of homelessness.

In addition to income inequality, racial disparities can also be seen among the homeless population. As of 2020, Black individuals made up 14% of the total population in America but 40% of the unhoused population. Similarly, the majority of minority groups have higher rates of homelessness than White individuals.

Number of Unhoused Individuals Per 10,000 in The U.S. Population



Income & Racial Disparities

While it is crucial to understand and address racial disparities, it is important to avoid drawing a direct correlation between race itself and homelessness. Instead, it is essential to consider the systemic factors that have contributed to racial disparities.

Gerrymandering

The manipulation of electoral district boundaries to gain a political advantage by favoring a specific party or group. It involves drawing district lines strategically to concentrate or dilute the voting power of certain communities, potentially undermining fair representation and democratic principles.

Mass Incarceration

A significant increase in imprisonment rates, often with harsh sentencing policies that disproportionately affect marginalized communities, particularly racial and ethnic minorities.

Predatory Lending

Unethical and exploitative lending practices in which lenders take advantage of borrowers, often targeting individuals or communities who are vulnerable or lack access to traditional financial services. These lenders impose excessive fees, high interest rates, and unfair terms that are designed to benefit the lender at the expense of the borrower.

Racial Discrimination & Exclusion

Minority communities have faced significant barriers to accumulating wealth and accessing stable housing due to discriminatory practices and policies. This lack of generational wealth and homeownership opportunities has increased the risk of homelessness among minority populations.

Redlining

A discriminatory practice that began in the 1930s, where certain neighborhoods were deemed high-risk for lending based on racial demographics. This practice limited access to mortgage loans and affordable housing for minority communities, disproportionately affecting Black individuals and other marginalized groups.

Lack of Accessible & Affordable Healthcare

On average, individuals experiencing homelessness die 12 years earlier than the overall U.S. population and are much more likely to have the following: diabetes, hypertension, heart attacks, HIV, and hepatitis C. The lack of accessible and affordable healthcare can have severe consequences for unhoused individuals, who often face numerous health challenges due to their living conditions and lack of resources. Here are some of the ways that a lack of accessible and affordable healthcare can hurt individuals experiencing homelessness:

- **Lack of preventative care:** Unhoused individuals may not have access to routine health screenings, immunizations, and other preventive care measures. This can lead to undiagnosed and untreated health conditions, which can become more severe and costly to treat over time.
- **Limited access to medications:** Unhoused individuals may have difficulty obtaining medications for chronic conditions or acute illnesses, which can lead to complications or exacerbation of their health issues.
- **Increased risk of infectious diseases:** Unhoused individuals may be at increased risk of infectious diseases due to crowded living conditions, lack of sanitation, and limited access to healthcare. This can lead to outbreaks of diseases like tuberculosis, hepatitis, and HIV/AIDS.
- **Delayed treatment:** Unhoused individuals may delay seeking treatment for health issues due to the cost or lack of access to healthcare services. This can result in more severe health problems that require more extensive and expensive treatment.

A lack of accessible and affordable healthcare can have severe consequences for people experiencing homelessness, impacting their physical and mental health and exacerbating the challenges of homelessness. Access to comprehensive and affordable healthcare services is essential to improve the health outcomes of homeless individuals and reduce the burden on the healthcare system.

Domestic Violence

There are about 32,563 cases of intimate partner violence in South Carolina each year, according to data from the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. About 42.3% of South Carolina women and 29.2% of men will be physically or sexually abused, or stalked, by a romantic partner within their lifetimes. It's also important to recognize that domestic violence is often underreported, and the number of cases investigated by police is only a fraction of the state's reality. This highlights the need for increased awareness and support for victims, as well as efforts to address the root causes of domestic violence.

There is no simple solution to domestic violence, but steps can be taken to help prevent it and support victims. These steps include the following:

Increasing awareness and education about domestic violence

Providing resources and support for victims of domestic violence

Holding abusers accountable for their actions

Addressing cultural norms and beliefs that contribute to domestic violence

Domestic Violence

When discussing domestic violence in relation to homelessness, the following statistics may be particularly significant:

15%

Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime: Domestic violence is a significant contributor to overall violent crime, and its impact can be felt in many areas of society, including homelessness.

500%

The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%: Domestic violence can escalate to deadly levels, and the presence of a weapon can make the situation even more dangerous. Survivors of domestic violence may feel unsafe in their homes and may be forced to flee to avoid harm, which can lead to homelessness.

72%

72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these murder-suicides are women: The risk of domestic violence-related homicide is a significant concern for survivors and can contribute to their decision to leave an abusive relationship.

20%

20% of victims in intimate partner homicides are not the partners – instead, they are family members, friends, neighbors, persons who intervened, law enforcement responders, or bystanders: Domestic violence can impact not only the survivor but also those around them, including children, family members, and friends. This can lead to displacement and homelessness for those affected by the violence.

These statistics illustrate the complex and interconnected nature of domestic violence and homelessness. Addressing domestic violence requires a multifaceted approach that includes prevention, intervention, and support for survivors, as well as affordable housing options and access to resources for those impacted by violence.

Mental Health, Trauma, & Substance Use Disorders

Mental health can have a significant impact on homelessness. Individuals experiencing mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia may have difficulty maintaining employment or finding stable housing, leading to homelessness. Additionally, those experiencing homelessness may develop mental health problems due to the stress and trauma of living on the streets, such as the lack of basic needs like food, shelter, and safety, social isolation, and victimization. Homelessness can also exacerbate pre-existing mental health conditions, causing them to become more severe.

1/5 adults in the U.S. experience a mental illness each year

1/6 youth (aged 6-17) experience a mental health disorder each year

75% of all lifetime mental illness begins by the age of 24

Stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness can make it difficult for individuals to access housing, healthcare, and other resources necessary to address their mental health issues, which can lead to a cycle of homelessness and mental illness.

Overall, mental health issues can contribute to the likelihood of becoming unhoused, the length of time an individual remains unhoused, and the ability to access and maintain housing and supportive services. Addressing mental health concerns is a critical component of addressing homelessness.

Mental Health, Trauma, & Substance Use Disorders

Individuals who have mental health disorders, trauma-related disorders, and/or substance use disorders while experiencing homelessness are more likely to have immediate, life-threatening physical illnesses and live in dangerous conditions.

The intersection between mental health, trauma, and substance use disorders is complex and often interrelated. People who experience trauma, such as physical or sexual abuse, can be at an increased risk of developing mental health disorders like depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Substance use disorders can also develop as a way to cope with the effects of trauma or to manage symptoms of mental health disorders. In turn, substance use can worsen mental health symptoms and increase the risk of trauma exposure. Homelessness can exacerbate this intersection by exposing individuals to traumatic experiences, making it difficult to access healthcare services, increasing the risk of substance use disorders, and contributing to feelings of shame, guilt, and hopelessness.

The cycle of trauma, mental health, and substance use can be challenging to break, and effective treatment often requires addressing all three aspects of an individual's experience. Cost-effective solutions to homelessness, such as permanent supportive housing, allow individuals who are experiencing homelessness the opportunity to engage in treatment fully without the additional stress of housing instability.

In our public health system, 10% of individuals who seek substance abuse or mental health treatment are experiencing homelessness.

Data Presentation

Quantifying the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community is a challenging task. That being said data collection is a crucial component in effectively addressing homelessness. Currently, York County relies on two methods for tracking trends in homelessness, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. By utilizing HMIS and PIT Count data, we aim to present a comprehensive picture of this pressing issue.

HMIS

HMIS serves as a vital tool in capturing and organizing data related to homelessness. However, it requires collaborative efforts with community organizations to ensure accurate record-keeping. Additionally, HMIS mainly focuses on individuals seeking shelter and accessing services, which may not fully capture the entire unhoused population.

PIT COUNT

Complementing HMIS data, the PIT Count provides a valuable snapshot of homelessness within our community at a specific point in time. However, it primarily captures individuals residing in shelters and the visible unsheltered population, potentially underrepresenting those experiencing hidden homelessness or receiving temporary assistance.

By leveraging the information collected from HMIS and the PIT Count, we have carefully selected and curated a wealth of data to unveil key findings, trends, and patterns that illuminate the scale of homelessness in York County. Utilizing visualizations and statistical analysis, our objective is to provide a clearer understanding of the extent of homelessness in our community.

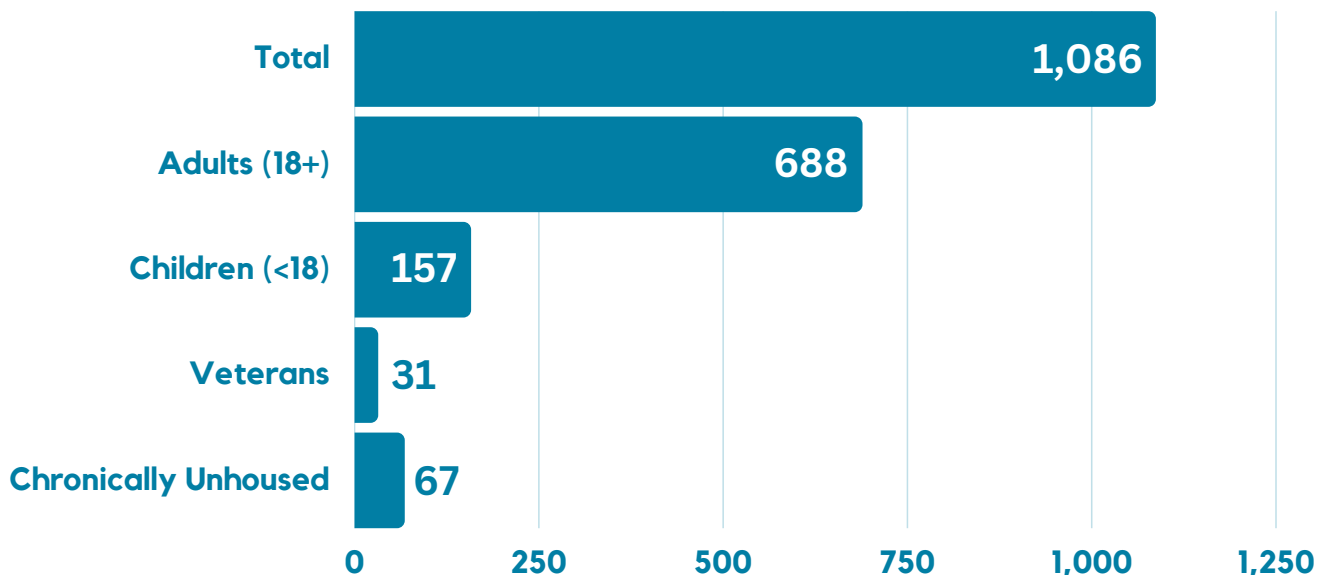
In tackling the challenges associated with tracking homelessness data, we aspire to foster meaningful discussions, enable evidence-based decision-making, and facilitate the development of effective strategies to address this critical issue. Together, we can strive towards building a more inclusive and equitable society that embraces the well-being of all individuals.

HMIS Data

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a database used to collect, manage, and analyze data related to homelessness and the services provided to homeless individuals and families. HMIS is typically used by organizations and agencies that offer housing and support services to the unhoused population, including shelters, outreach programs, and social service agencies. While data collected using HMIS can be useful in making evidence-based decisions, using HMIS poses challenges such as data quality and privacy concerns. Gathering accurate information from transient individuals is difficult, and data sharing among agencies requires technical and administrative efforts.

Unlike the PIT Count, HMIS is utilized by providers year-round and therefore provides a more comprehensive and continuous understanding of homelessness in a community. Used in conjunction with data collected from the PIT Count, HMIS data can be a powerful tool for communities as they work to effectively address homelessness. By capturing ongoing information and tracking service utilization, HMIS enables organizations to monitor progress, identify trends, and allocate resources more efficiently. It supports evidence-based decision-making and promotes a coordinated approach to tackling homelessness at a local level.

Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Who Received Homeless Services in York County in 2022



HMIS Key Findings

Number of Persons Served

1,086

individuals experiencing homelessness who received homeless services in York County in 2022

157

children experiencing homelessness who received homeless services in York County in 2022

Gender of Adults

58%

of adults who received homeless services identified as female*

Race

43%

of individuals who received homeless services were Black*

29%

of individuals who received homeless services were White*

Mental Health Conditions

16%

of adults who received homeless services reported having a mental health disorder*

<8%

of adults who received homeless services reported having an alcohol or drug use disorder*

Domestic Violence History

12%

of adults who received homeless services reported having a history of domestic violence*

*Percentages are based off of the number of adults who responded to the question.

Point-In-Time (PIT) Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a one-night, unduplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in a community. The PIT count is conducted annually in communities across the United States as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) efforts to understand and address homelessness.

Here are some things people should know about the PIT count:

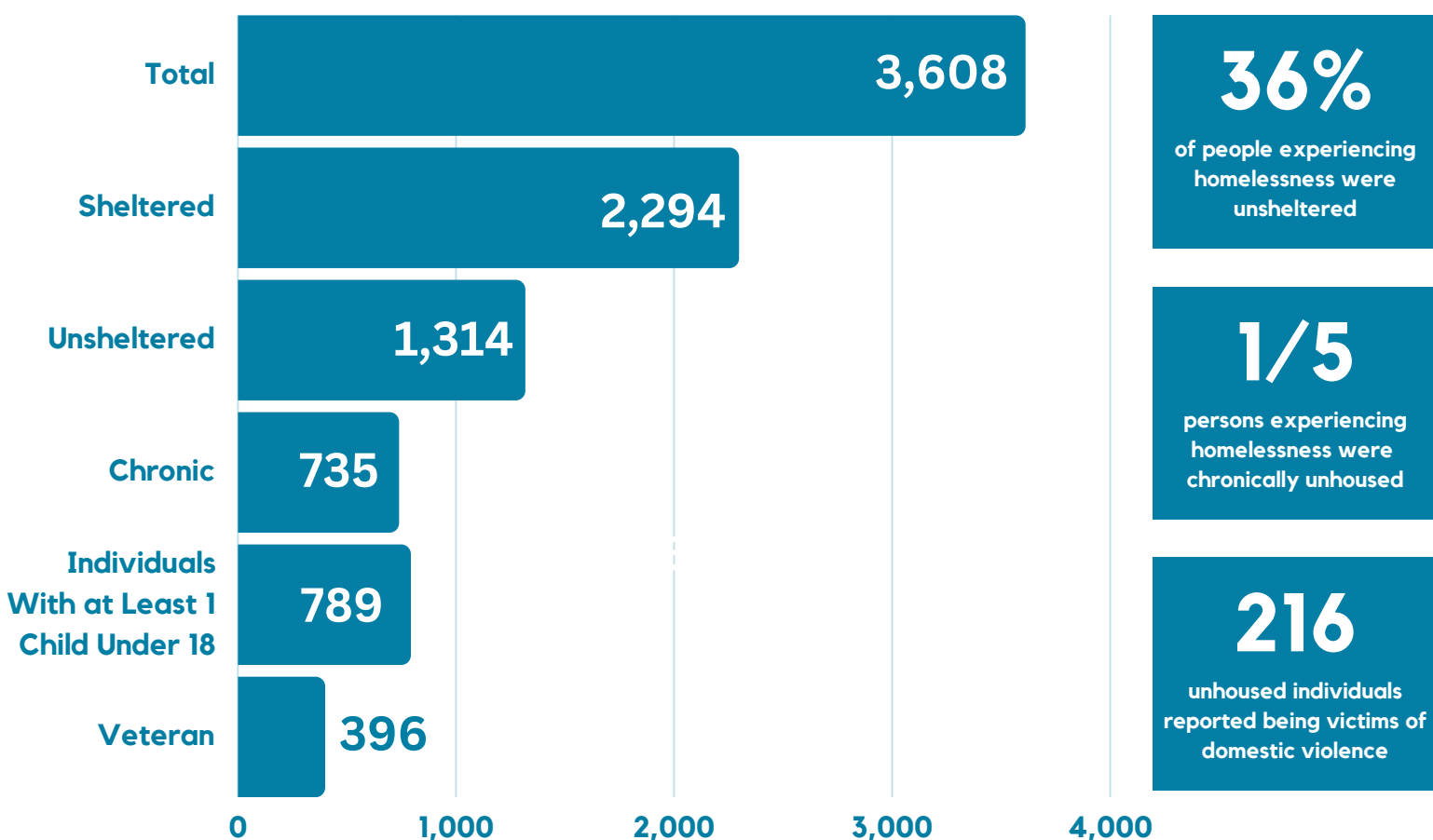
- **The PIT count is used in part to inform funding decisions:** The data collected from the PIT count is used by HUD to determine the level of funding each community will receive for homeless assistance programs.
- **It is not a comprehensive count:** The PIT count provides a snapshot of homelessness on a given night, but it does not capture all homeless individuals, especially those who may be temporarily doubled-up with others or living in hotels or motels.
- **The count is typically conducted in late January:** HUD requires communities to conduct the PIT count during the last ten days of January, although some communities may choose to conduct the count at other times of the year.
- **Both sheltered and unsheltered individuals are counted:** The PIT count includes both individuals and families who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and safe havens, as well as those who are sleeping outside, in cars, or in other places not meant for human habitation.
- **Volunteers play a key role in conducting the count:** Communities rely on volunteers to help conduct the PIT count. Volunteers may be trained to conduct surveys, distribute hygiene kits or other supplies, or assist with other tasks.

Overall, the PIT count provides important data on the scope and nature of homelessness in communities across the United States and is a key tool for policymakers and service providers seeking to end homelessness. However, the PIT count has limitations, such as not capturing all homeless individuals, relying on self-reporting, difficulty counting unsheltered individuals, not capturing the full range of homelessness experiences, and not capturing changes over time. Despite these challenges, the PIT count remains an important tool for addressing homelessness, and efforts are underway to improve its accuracy and make it more comprehensive.

Using information from the 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count, the South Carolina Interagency Council on Homelessness released its "2022 State of Homelessness" report. Below is information on the total number of unhoused individuals counted during the 2022 PIT Count in South Carolina.

PIT Count Data for South Carolina (2022)

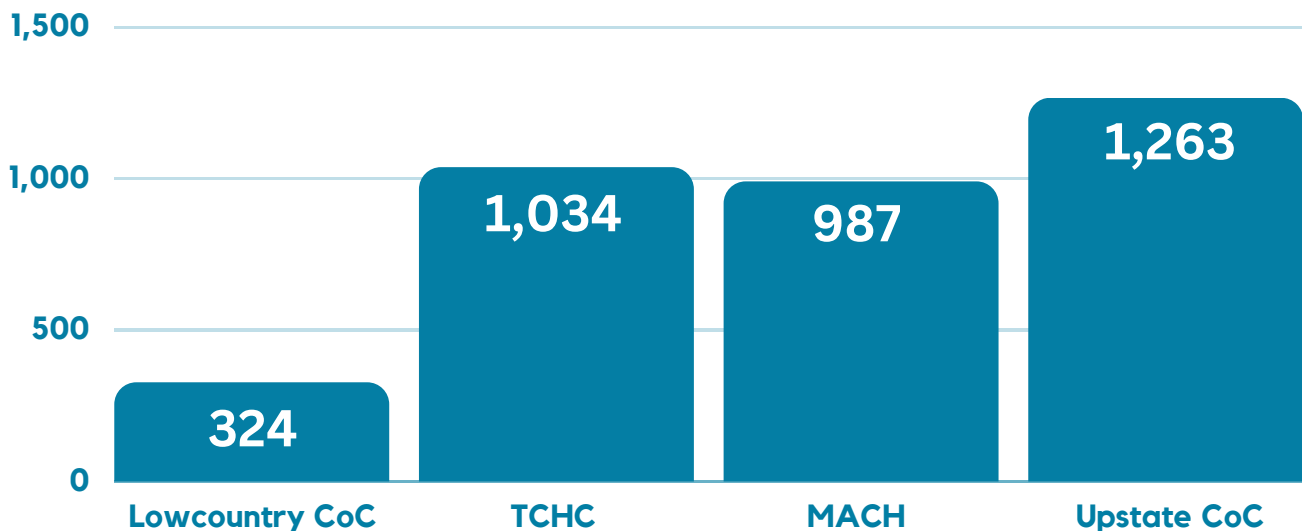
The graph (below) shows the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness by population.



3,608 Estimated number of individuals who experienced homelessness in South Carolina on a "given night in 2022."

PIT Count Data By Region (2022)

The graph (below) shows the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness by region. Each of the below regions is divided based on the Continuum of Care (CoC) that represents them.



Lowcountry CoC: Beaufort County, Berkeley County, Charleston County, Colleton County, Dorchester County, Hampton County, Jasper County

Total Care Homeless Coalition (TCHC): Chesterfield County, Clarendon County, Darlington County, Dillon County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Horry County, Kershaw County, Lee County, Marion County, Marlboro County, Sumter County, Williamsburg County

Midlands Area Consortium for The Homeless (MACH): Aiken County, Allendale County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Calhoun County, Chester County, Fairfield County, Lancaster County, Lexington County, Newberry County, Orangeburg County, Richland County, York County

Upstate CoC: Abbeville County, Anderson County, Cherokee County, Edgefield County, Greenville County, Greenwood County, Laurens County, McCormick County, Oconee County, Pickens County, Saluda County, Spartanburg County, Union County.

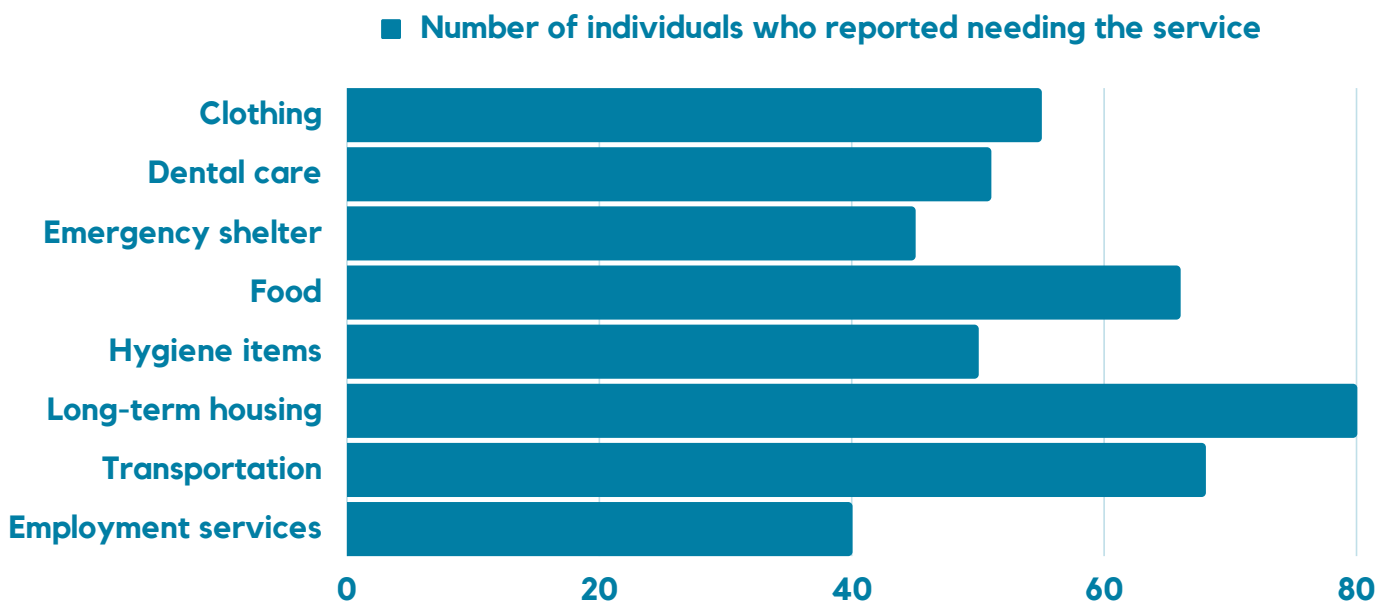
987

Estimated number of individuals who experienced homelessness in the Midlands on a "given night in 2022."

CACH, for the first time in its history, coordinated the PIT Count for York County in 2023. The PIT Count Team, consisting of CACH staff, law enforcement, volunteers, and service providers conducted surveys with 154 individuals over three days. Out of these individuals, 135 reported that they had experienced homelessness on the night of January 25th. The data below was compiled based on their responses.

PIT Count Data for York County (2023)

Survey participants were asked what services they were most in need of. The graph (below) shows the top eight services respondents said they were in need of.



Over a third of individuals surveyed reported experiencing homelessness for one year or more.



69% of individuals surveyed reported experiencing homelessness more than once or more than 90 days consecutively



57% of unhoused individuals reported that their last permanent address was in York County.

PIT Count Data for York County (2023)

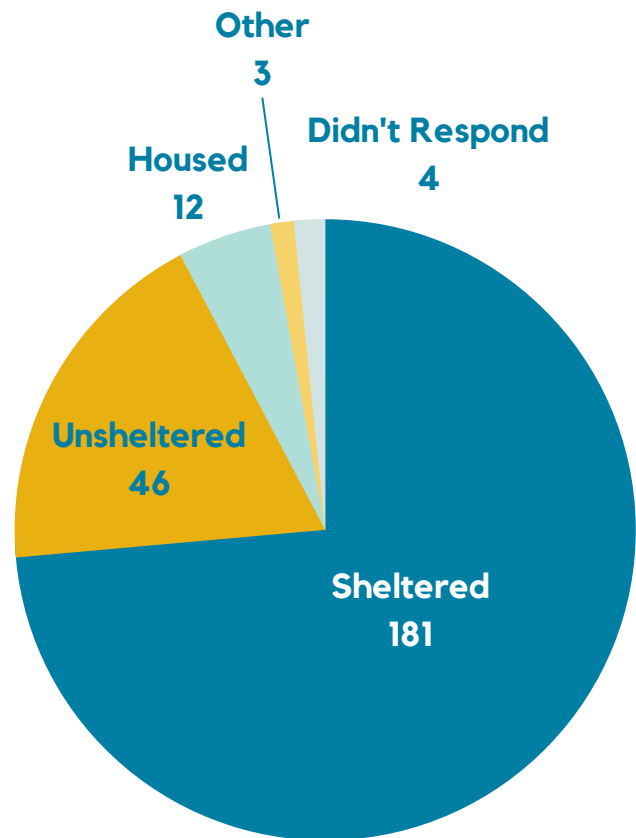
In addition to surveys that were completed by our PIT Count Team, service providers counted the number of individuals who stayed at an emergency shelter or transitional facility on the night of January 25th. After identifying and removing duplicates (individuals who were counted by a PIT Count volunteer and a service provider), the following data was determined.

Sheltered Examples

- Church
- Emergency Shelter
- Hotel/Motel (Paid for By Voucher)
- House or Apartment of Friend or Family
- Jail, Hospital, or Treatment Program
- Transitional Home

Unsheltered Examples

- Abandoned Building
- Park
- Place With no Water, no Electricity, or Beyond Repair
- Street or Sidewalk
- Under a Bridge or Overpass
- Vehicle
- Woods or Encampment



Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: 238

During the 2023 PIT Count, 238 unhoused individuals were counted. This represents the minimum number of individuals that experienced homelessness in York County on the night of January 25th. Compared to the PIT Count data from the year prior, York County accounted for nearly 25% of individuals experiencing homelessness in the Midlands.

Discussion of Presented Data

While many communities, including York County, rely on the PIT Count and HMIS to measure trends in homelessness, there are limitations to these approaches. The PIT Count, for example, relies heavily on volunteers to locate and survey individuals experiencing homelessness. This model is flawed in that it assumes that individuals experiencing homelessness will come into contact with a volunteer, agree to complete a survey, and answer questions such as the following:

- What is your social security number?
- Have you ever been a victim/survivor of domestic violence?

Similarly, the data collected through HMIS depends on the client's voluntary participation and primarily captures individuals who actively seek out services, such as shelter or hotel/motel vouchers. This presents a potential limitation in the comprehensiveness of HMIS data, as it may not account for those who do not engage with the homeless service system or those experiencing hidden or unconventional forms of homelessness.

Due to the challenges of relying on HMIS and the PIT Count for monitoring and tracking the unhoused population, organizations such as Community Solutions, an organization committed to collaborating with communities across the United States to eradicate homelessness, have promoted a different method for counting individuals experiencing homelessness called a By-Name List. A By-Name List is a regularly updated list of every individual experiencing homelessness in the community. A By-Name List includes the names of individuals, their experiences with homelessness, and their health and housing needs. This approach is also more person-centered as it uses the names of individuals instead of considering them only as a number.

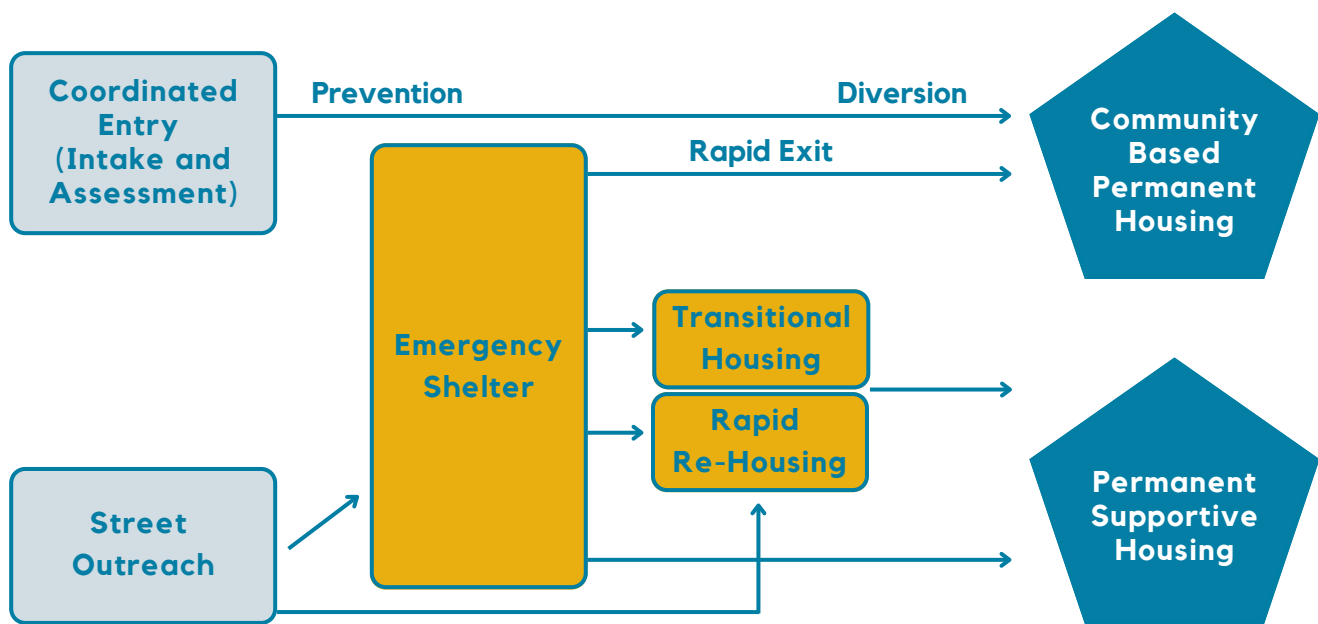
While the PIT Count and HMIS remain widely used tools for tracking and monitoring homelessness, they have limitations. By improving the systems we use to identify and understand the needs of the unhoused population, we can more effectively address homelessness. Updating the tools we use to count and track individuals experiencing homelessness is essential as the data collected can be used to counteract misinformation and polarizing rhetoric used to dehumanize individuals experiencing homelessness.

Continuum of Care

The primary aim of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is to encourage the entire community to work together to end homelessness. This program provides funding for non-profit organizations, state, and local governments to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly find new housing while minimizing the negative impact of homelessness. CoCs also seek to help individuals experiencing homelessness access and effectively utilize mainstream programs while promoting self-sufficiency.

In addition to the broader community, entities involved in the Continuum of Care include organizations that engage in one or more of the following activities:

- Identify needs and connect clients with service providers
- Provide an immediate alternative to sleeping on the streets
- Provide supportive services and help develop skills needed for permanent housing
- Provide affordable housing with services if needed



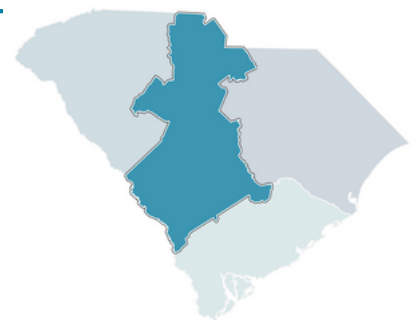
Capacity and Comparison

South Carolina has four Continuums of Care (CoC) that address homelessness. "A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional body that coordinates housing, services, and funding for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) is the overarching body that serves York County. MACH has developed a Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure people who are most vulnerable are prioritized to receive housing. In this section, we will explore each of the eight parts of the CoC to analyze the effectiveness of our interventions and identify any gaps or opportunities for improvement. As part of our analysis, we will compare the York County CoC to the CoC in Spartanburg, a similarly-sized community in South Carolina.

In recent years the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has emphasized a "housing first" model, which seeks to place individuals in housing and then refer them to services to address other concerns such as mental health. The York County CoC uses the housing first model to direct our services. In order to do this, there are eight necessary parts of a continuum to move people towards more stable, and eventually, permanent housing.

Parts of The Continuum

1. Prevention
2. Outreach, Intake, & Assessment
3. Emergency Shelter
4. Rapid Re-Housing & Rapid Exit
5. Diversion
6. Transitional Housing
7. Community-Based Permanent Housing
8. Permanent Supportive Housing



Parts of The Continuum

Prevention

Prevention is a crucial part of a CoC as it provides assistance for individuals and households who are at risk of becoming unhoused. Prevention services include rental assistance, rent stabilization, housing relocation, and housing subsidies. By preventing individuals from experiencing homelessness, shelter beds, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing can be utilized for individuals and families that are actively experiencing homelessness.

Outreach, Intake, & Assessment

Outreach, intake, and assessment are crucial components of a CoC as they identify needs and connect individuals and families to services. These tools also help service providers measure and monitor trends in homelessness so that they may operate more efficiently and effectively.

Diversion

Diversion is a proactive strategy that is designed to rapidly assist individuals and households experiencing homelessness, with the aim of preventing or minimizing their time spent in unsheltered situations or emergency shelters. This client-centered approach is based on a comprehensive understanding of the individual or family's unique circumstances and involves collaborating with them to identify immediate alternatives to homelessness. These may include connecting the individual or household with friends or family, identifying temporary housing, or helping them access other available resources such as rental assistance or employment services. The primary goal of diversion is to help people find stable and safe housing as quickly as possible, rather than relying on long-term shelter stays or other emergency services that may not be appropriate or sustainable for their individual situation.

Parts of The Continuum

Emergency Shelter

The goal of emergency shelters is to provide an immediate alternative to sleeping on the streets, not a permanent one. Emergency shelters typically have limited stay durations, ranging from a few days to a few weeks, and are intended to be a short-term solution to address immediate needs. While emergency shelters are essential to address homelessness, they cannot be the only option available to people experiencing homelessness.

Rapid Re-Housing & Rapid Exit

Rapid Re-Housing is a strategy designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. The approach involves providing short-term rental assistance, such as security deposits and rental payments, along with supportive services to help people stabilize and maintain their housing. The goal of rapid rehousing is to help individuals and families achieve long-term housing stability and self-sufficiency. Similarly, rapid exit interventions work to address homelessness as soon as an individual or household experiences it. These interventions can be implemented regardless of whether the individual is unsheltered or staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing unit. The goal of rapid exit is to remove the individual from the condition of homelessness as quickly as possible. Rapid exit interventions utilize the individual's strengths and come alongside them to identify and access resources that will help them quickly exit homelessness.

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing services differ from emergency shelters in that they seek to provide supportive services while helping individuals develop skills needed for permanent housing. It's important to note that there are often program requirements that must be met in order to access these services, which may include compliance with rules and regulations, participation in supportive services, and meeting certain eligibility criteria. In contrast to emergency shelters, which may have restrictions based on age, gender, or other factors, transitional housing services are generally more flexible in terms of whom they can serve. Unfortunately, a lack of capacity and availability makes it difficult for individuals to transition into permanent housing.

Parts of The Continuum

Community-Based Permanent Housing

Community-based permanent housing refers to a long-term housing option for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, which involves placing them in private rental units or other permanent housing with supportive services provided by the community. This type of housing is intended to be stable and sustainable for the residents, and helps to address the underlying causes of homelessness while supporting them in their transition to self-sufficiency.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Community-based permanent housing and permanent supportive housing (PSH) are similar in that both involve placing individuals and families in permanent housing. However, PSH also provides ongoing supportive services such as case management, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and other services tailored to the individual's needs. PSH is typically designed for people who have complex health or behavioral health conditions that require ongoing support to maintain housing stability. In contrast, community-based permanent housing may offer some services, but not to the extent that PSH does, and is generally targeted at people who may not require intensive support but need affordable and stable housing options.

PSH is modeled off of Housing First, an evidenced-based philosophy that aims to end homelessness by providing individuals experiencing homelessness with permanent, affordable housing without preconditions. It is a departure from the traditional "housing readiness" model, where people must meet certain requirements, such as sobriety, employment, or mental health treatment, before being placed in permanent housing.

The Housing First approach is based on the belief that stable housing is a basic human need and a fundamental prerequisite for achieving stability in other areas of life, such as employment, healthcare, and education. Housing First recognizes that addressing complex issues such as addiction, mental illness, and trauma is much more effective when people have a safe and stable place to call home. Once individuals are housed, they are connected to a network of support services, such as case management, mental health counseling, and employment assistance, to help them maintain their housing and work towards their goals.

Continuum of Care: Agencies in York County

In York County, there are 12 organizations that work along the housing continuum. Organizations involved in the York County CoC often work with clients in more than one part of the continuum, moving an individual from an emergency situation into transitional housing. We will explore how these organizations work through the four parts of the continuum, starting with outreach, intake, and assessment.

Intake & Assessment:

Bethel Shelters, Family Promise, Fullife Hope Center, Habitat for Humanity, The Haven Men's Shelter, Housing Authority, Housing Development Corporation, The Life House, Pathways, Pilgrims' Inn, Salvation Army, Safe Passage, United Way 211

Street Outreach:

Catawba Area Coalition for The Homeless, Fullife Hope Center

Homeless Prevention:

Family Promise, Housing Development Corporation, Salvation Army

Emergency Shelter:

Bethel Shelters, Family Promise, The Life House, Pilgrims' Inn, Salvation Army, Safe Passage

Transitional Housing:

Family Promise, The Haven Men's Shelter, Her Place, Tender Hearts, The Life House, Pilgrims' Inn, Salvation Army,

Rapid Rehousing:

Housing Development Corporation, Safe Passage

Community-Based Permanent Housing:

Habitat for Humanity, Housing Authority, Housing Development Corporation

Permanent Supportive Housing:

Housing Development Corporation, Pilgrims' Inn

Barriers to Shelter & Housing

Accessing shelter and secure housing can be challenging due to various barriers that individuals face. Recognizing and addressing these barriers is crucial to ensure equitable access and provide individuals with the safe and supportive environments they need to thrive.

Barriers to Emergency Shelter

Insufficient shelter capacity: Limited availability of emergency shelter beds can pose a significant barrier, especially in areas with high demand and inadequate resources. Overcrowding and long waiting lists can prevent individuals from accessing immediate shelter when needed.

Eligibility criteria: Some emergency shelters have specific eligibility requirements that individuals must meet to gain access. These criteria may include factors such as age restrictions, gender, or specific populations served, which can exclude certain individuals from accessing shelter services. *Example: A single father may not be able to stay at the same shelter as his children.*

Time limitations: Some emergency shelters have time limits on how long individuals can stay, leading to a lack of long-term stability for those in need. This can result in individuals cycling between temporary shelters, transitional housing, or even returning to homelessness. Additionally, most emergency shelters have closing times that may not align with an individual's work schedule, leading to difficulties in finding shelter. *Example: An individual works until 10 PM, but the local shelter closes its doors at 7 PM.*

Geographic limitations: Emergency shelters may not be evenly distributed across a region, making it difficult for individuals in rural or remote areas to access shelter services. Limited transportation options can further exacerbate this barrier. *Example: An individual working across town from the local shelter may be unable to access the emergency shelter as the bus system is closed by the time they finish work.*

Barriers to Shelter & Housing

Barriers to Transitional Housing

Limited Availability: Transitional housing resources may be limited, and there may not be enough spaces to accommodate all individuals or families in need. This shortage can lead to long wait lists or an inability to access transitional housing altogether.

Funding Constraints: Insufficient financial resources can limit the number of available units, the quality of services provided, and the duration of support. A lack of sustainable funding can also lead to program closures or reduced services.

Length of Stay Limitations: Transitional housing programs typically have a predetermined length of stay, often ranging from a few months to a couple of years. However, this limited timeframe may not be sufficient for some individuals or families to stabilize their lives and secure permanent housing. Premature exits from transitional housing can increase the risk of returning to homelessness.

Complex Eligibility Criteria: Some transitional housing programs have strict eligibility criteria, which can exclude certain groups of individuals or make it challenging for them to access services. For example, requirements related to sobriety, mental health stability, or criminal background can limit opportunities for those who may benefit from transitional housing.

Access to Supportive Services: Effective transitional housing programs offer more than just shelter. They provide comprehensive support services such as counseling, case management, employment assistance, and life skills training to help residents address the root causes of their housing instability. However, limited availability or accessibility of these services can be a barrier for some individuals.

Lack of Affordable Housing: One of the primary goals of transitional housing is to help individuals or families transition into permanent, stable housing. However, a significant barrier to this transition is the lack of affordable housing options in many communities. Limited affordable housing stock can prolong the stay in transitional housing or even force individuals back into homelessness.

Barriers to Shelter & Housing

Barriers to Community-Based Permanent Housing

Limited Availability: Similar to transitional housing, there may be a scarcity of available community-based permanent housing units, especially affordable ones, which can lead to long waiting lists or individuals being unable to access suitable housing options.

Affordability: The affordability of community-based permanent housing can be a significant barrier, particularly for low-income individuals or families. Rental costs may exceed their financial capacity, making it difficult to secure and maintain permanent housing.

Discrimination and Bias: Discrimination based on factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or family composition can hinder individuals' ability to find community-based permanent housing. Landlords or housing providers may engage in discriminatory practices, making it challenging for certain groups to access housing opportunities.

Insufficient Support Services: Community-based permanent housing may not always come with the necessary support services to help individuals maintain stability. Services like case management, counseling, employment assistance, and healthcare access may be limited or not readily available, making it harder for individuals to address their needs and sustain their housing.

Location and Neighborhood Factors: The location of community-based permanent housing can pose challenges. Housing options may be concentrated in areas with limited access to amenities, transportation, employment opportunities, and essential services. This can isolate residents and make it difficult to thrive in their new communities.

Insufficient Policy Support: The absence of supportive policies and regulations at the local, state, or national level can hinder the development and availability of community-based permanent housing. Lack of funding, zoning restrictions, or limited incentives for affordable housing can impede progress in this area.

Barriers to Shelter & Housing

Barriers to Permanent Supportive Housing

Limited Availability and Funding: Permanent supportive housing, which combines affordable housing with support services for individuals with chronic health conditions or disabilities, often faces a shortage of available units and limited funding. This shortage can prevent individuals who require intensive support from accessing suitable housing options.

Funding Constraints: Adequate funding is crucial for the development and maintenance of permanent supportive housing programs. Insufficient financial resources can limit the number of available units, the quality of support services provided, and the capacity to meet the diverse needs of residents.

Community Opposition: Community resistance can arise when attempting to establish permanent supportive housing in certain neighborhoods. Concerns about property values, safety, and perceived impacts on the community can lead to opposition and hinder the development of PSH projects.

Complex Needs and Support Services: Permanent supportive housing is designed to serve individuals with complex health conditions, including mental illness, substance abuse disorders, or chronic physical ailments. Providing appropriate and comprehensive support services can be challenging due to the diversity and intensity of these needs, requiring a coordinated approach among healthcare providers, social services, and housing providers.

Coordination of Services: The successful implementation of permanent supportive housing relies on effective coordination among various service providers and agencies. Challenges can arise when different organizations or systems have fragmented communication or operate independently, leading to gaps in service provision.

Legal and Regulatory Barriers: Some legal and regulatory barriers, such as zoning restrictions, building codes, or licensing requirements, can impede the development of permanent supportive housing. These barriers can limit the availability of suitable properties or increase the costs and time associated with creating PSH units.

Humanizing Homelessness

The concept for Humanizing Homelessness was developed by Sydney Spears, a high school senior who interned with Pathways Community Center and Ascend Solutions. Sydney's passion for art and storytelling through the lens of humanity led to the creation of a product that gives back to the community. After weeks of brainstorming, the team settled on an immersive exhibit that would encourage human empathy, advocacy, and collaboration on the issue of homelessness. The exhibit's name was chosen, and a team of volunteers and individuals with life experiences were assembled to bring the design to life.

After securing a location and building an 80-foot wooden structure, the exhibit, located in Rock Hill, opened to the public for one week, attracting hundreds of visitors who were moved by its impactful message. Pathways Board of Directors and staff were present each day to answer questions and witness the impact the exhibit had on visitors. The exhibit served its purpose, exceeding Pathways' expectations, and plans are underway to reveal its next iteration in the latter half of 2023. The Humanizing Homelessness exhibit changed the way people think about homelessness and encouraged action to address the growing societal issue.

The Humanizing Homelessness exhibit utilizes immersive storytelling and data sharing to shed light on the harsh realities of homelessness. By providing shared experiences that guide visitors on a path toward action, the exhibit aims to inspire individuals to utilize their time, talent, and resources to make a positive impact. This exhibit was created to encourage conversation surrounding homelessness and the disparities faced by zero-to-low-income populations. Its ultimate goal is to promote empathy, advocacy, and collaborative solutions.

Amidst the statistics and figures, it is important to remember that behind every data point and exhibit participant, there is a unique and individual story. Homelessness affects people from diverse backgrounds and circumstances, and each person's journey is deserving of empathy and understanding. Through exhibits like Humanizing Homelessness, we can break down stereotypes and foster a deeper appreciation for the shared humanity that connects us all.

Humanizing Homelessness

When quantifying the number of individuals experiencing homelessness within a community, it is important to remember that each number represents a human being. Every individual has a story and that is no different when discussing the unhoused population. Below are two individuals whose stories were told through the Humanizing Homelessness exhibit.

Janet's health declined from black mold exposure, causing her to lose her vision and her home. Thankfully, Janet found refuge at The Life House Women's Shelter. Through a partnership with Family Promise of York County, The Life House helped Janet and her husband secure a new home.



After being incarcerated, Jason left Columbia, SC in an effort to turn his life around. Once arriving in Rock Hill, Jason got connected with The Haven Men's Shelter, a transitional shelter that works to empower men experiencing homelessness.

Gaps in Our Approach

Based on the SWOT analysis, service provider interviews, and conversations with local community leaders, CACH identified four primary gaps in services that contribute to homelessness. By addressing these service gaps, we can begin to implement long-term, sustainable solutions to homelessness that make the experience of homelessness rare and brief.

1

**Street
Outreach**

3

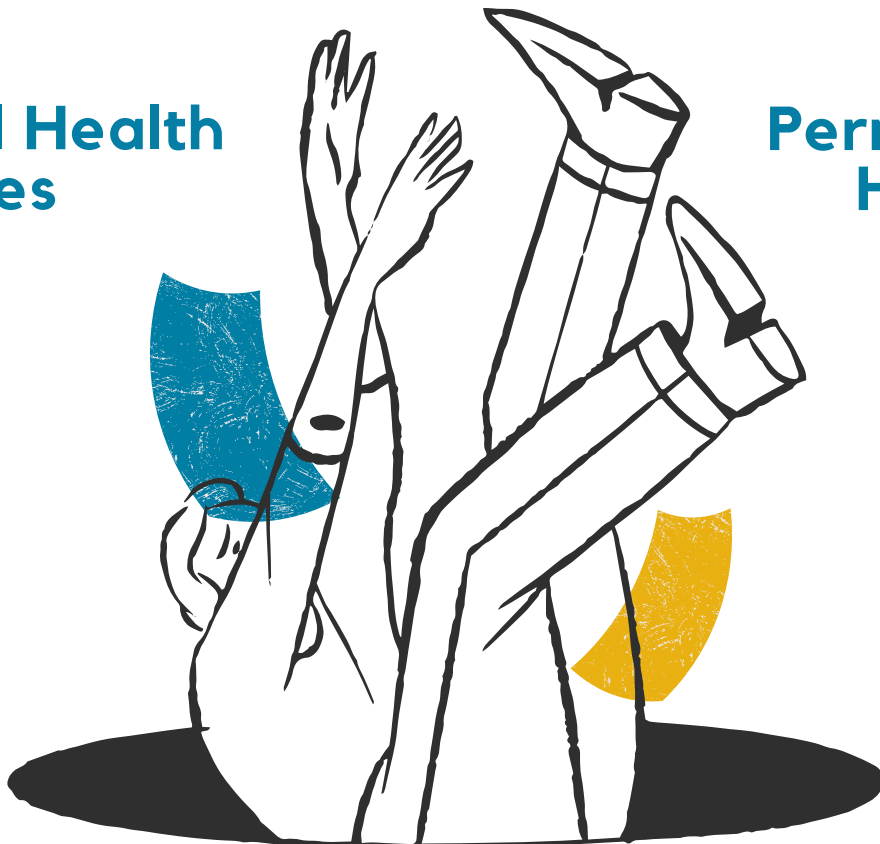
**Affordable
Housing**

2

**Mental Health
Services**

4

**Permanent
Housing**



Gaps in Our Approach

Street Outreach

Street outreach programs aim to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of assistance for unhoused individuals and families, without regard to their situation. Street outreach aligns with coordinated entry and Housing First, emphasizing the removal of barriers to entry, swift housing without preconditions or mandatory service participation, client empowerment, and prompt emergency aid when needed.

Mental Health Services

Increasing access to mental health services can help address homelessness by preventing homelessness through early identification and treatment of mental health issues, providing support to manage mental health, treating mental health conditions among homeless individuals, and collaborating between mental health service providers and homeless service providers for more effective service delivery.

Affordable Housing

Increasing the supply of affordable housing is a crucial step in addressing homelessness, providing stable housing, reducing housing costs, preventing homelessness, and addressing the root causes of homelessness. By providing affordable housing, individuals and families may have more stability in their lives, which can lead to improved health outcomes and economic opportunities.

Permanent Housing

Permanent housing provides a stable, secure, and safe living environment for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and addresses the root causes of homelessness, such as poverty, lack of access to affordable healthcare, and limited economic opportunities. Permanent housing reduces the likelihood of individuals returning to homelessness, as they have a stable living environment and access to ongoing support services to help them maintain their housing. Both community-based permanent housing and permanent supportive housing are needed to ensure that housing is affordable and accessible to all.

Solutions to Homelessness

Homelessness is not solely an individual or family's responsibility, it is a systemic issue that requires collective attention and action. For too long York County has settled for temporary, "bandaid" solutions to homelessness, relying on shelters, food services, and emergency medical care. Now, we as a community have the opportunity to provide individuals and families with permanent housing and long-term, supportive services. This solution to homelessness works to dignify, empower, and increase self-sufficiency among individuals experiencing homelessness. In order to make this dream a reality and effectively address homelessness in York County, we need your help.

Discover how you can effectively address homelessness in York County by utilizing the actionable steps provided by Community Solutions — an organization committed to collaborating with communities across the United States to eradicate homelessness. Use the below graph to identify your community role and learn how you can make a meaningful impact!

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<u>Community Members</u>	42
<u>Donors & Corporate Partners</u>	43
<u>Elected Officials</u>	43
<u>Faith-Based Organizations</u>	44
<u>Healthcare Professionals</u>	44
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<u>Journalists</u>	45

Solutions to Homelessness

Business Leaders

Advocate for comprehensive and enduring solutions to homelessness.

Engage in the collection and application of accurate, consistent, and reliable data.

Familiarize yourself with the needs of your community and understand how you can help.

Community Members

Break the stigma surrounding homelessness through education and advocacy.

Support existing service agencies by donating your time, money, and spare goods.

Establish responsibility for achieving measurable and equitable solutions to homelessness.

Solutions to Homelessness

Donors & Corporate Partners

Support existing service agencies through financial contributions.

As an employer, prevent and address homelessness by offering job opportunities at a livable wage.

Boost funding for initiatives aimed at addressing homelessness.

Elected Officials

Create shared goals that the whole community can collaborate on to establish mutual responsibility.

Enact laws that prioritize affordable housing and allocate funding for homelessness prevention and services.

Assist communities in establishing and utilizing high-quality, up-to-date data.

Solutions to Homelessness

Faith-Based Organizations

Take action within your congregation to raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness.

Assist individuals experiencing homelessness and get to know them by name.

Assemble a vocal group of supporters for affordable housing.

Healthcare Professionals

Establish responsibility for addressing homelessness within the healthcare system.

Support your community's goals for ending homelessness.

Work with service providers to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness are identified by name.

Solutions to Homelessness

Service Providers

Unify fellow service providers, bringing different agencies together to collaboratively address homelessness.

Assist your community in developing a shared goal to address homelessness.

Establish person-centered, comprehensive data collection tools and utilize data to determine the most effective allocation of resources.

Journalists

Identify all systems and individuals needed to effectively address homelessness.

Provide information on whether the community has clear and measurable goals to address homelessness.

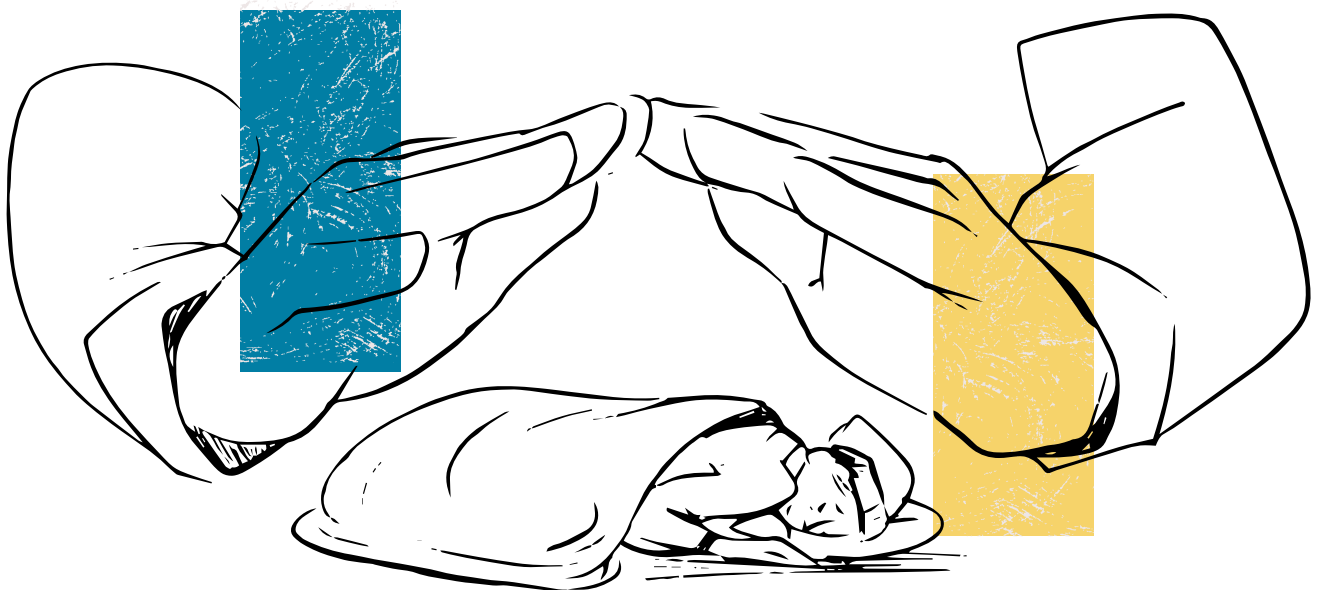
Examine whether the community is advancing towards its goal and if it has access to the necessary data to assess progress.

Conclusion

The Summary on Housing & Homelessness in York County, prepared by the Catawba Area Coalition for The Homeless (CACH), serves as an educational resource aimed at shedding light on the challenges faced by individuals and families in our community. This report not only aims to provide valuable insights but also aims to dispel common misconceptions surrounding homelessness.

The report underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies and collaborative efforts to address the root causes of homelessness and establish sustainable housing solutions. By utilizing accurate and representative data, we can work towards building a more inclusive and resilient community that ensures safe and stable housing for all residents of York County.

CACH remains unwavering in its commitment to advocating for the rights of those experiencing housing instability and homelessness. With the insights gained from this report and by employing evidence-based practices, we strive to make a positive impact and bring meaningful change to the lives of individuals and families in York County. Together, we can enhance our collective efforts and foster a future where everyone in our community has access to safe, affordable, and stable housing.



About Our Data

The data presented in this report is derived from various sources, including government reports, surveys, and community assessments. While efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented, it is important to acknowledge the inherent limitations of the data which include the following:

- **Data Availability:** The availability of accurate and up-to-date data on housing and homelessness can be a challenge. The data used is based on the information that was accessible at the time of the report. It is possible that some data points may have changed or new information may have become available since the report's publication.
- **Reporting Bias:** Data on housing and homelessness often relies on self-reported information from individuals or organizations. This can introduce reporting bias, as some individuals may be reluctant to disclose their housing status or may not be aware of the resources available to them.
- **Sample Size and Representativeness:** The data presented in this summary is based on a sample of individuals or households, and it may not represent the entire population of York County. The findings may not fully capture the experiences and circumstances of all individuals and families who are affected by housing instability or homelessness.
- **Data Quality:** Despite efforts to ensure data accuracy, there may be inherent limitations in the quality of the data used. This could include errors in data collection, data entry, or data processing. It is important to interpret the findings with these potential limitations in mind.
- **Changing Nature of Homelessness:** Homelessness is a complex and dynamic issue, influenced by various factors such as economic conditions, housing policies, and social factors. The data provided in this summary reflects a specific point in time and may not capture the full range of changes and trends in homelessness over a longer period.

While this report strives to provide an accurate representation of the housing and homelessness situation in York County, it is important to approach the findings with awareness of the aforementioned limitations. The data should be used as a basis for understanding the current state of affairs and informing future strategies to address housing instability and homelessness in the community.

References By Section

In an effort to effectively address homelessness, CACH advocates for the use of evidence-based practices. In addition to this, CACH works to provide its community members with resources so that they too might become educated on sustainable and proven solutions to address homelessness. Below is a list of resources that were used to make this report. We hope that you will take this information and use it to educate your fellow community members, advocate for long-term, sustainable solutions to homelessness, and serve those in need.

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Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

One of CACH's greatest strengths is its ability to bring agencies together to collaborate on solutions to homelessness. Each agency that works alongside CACH addresses homelessness in its own unique and valuable way, offering a variety of services to meet the needs of its clients and community. To share the strengths of these agencies and their goals for the future, members of CACH's Board of Directors met with members along the Continuum of Care to learn what they do, where they've been, and where they're going (outlined on p. 54-61). While this list of agencies is not comprehensive and does not include every agency that serves the unhoused population, it does represent much of the amazing work that is already happening in York County.

In the future, we hope to share this spotlight with additional service agencies, including the following:

- Agencies that are located in York County that are not based in Rock Hill
- Agencies that are located in Chester and Lancaster County
- Agencies that provide supportive services such as substance use treatment, food services, healthcare, and mental health services

Collaboration is essential in addressing homelessness as it brings together multiple agencies with various expertise and resources to work towards a common goal. The complex issues that contribute to homelessness require a comprehensive approach that no single agency can accomplish alone. By working together, agencies can leverage their strengths and resources to provide more effective and efficient services to those experiencing homelessness. Collaboration among agencies fosters a stronger sense of community and increases the likelihood of achieving lasting solutions to homelessness. That being said, CACH recognizes the potential for additional collaborations and partnerships to address the unique needs of the unhoused population in the counties of Chester, Lancaster, and York. With continued collaboration and strategic planning, CACH hopes to build on its success and further expand its partnerships to better serve the community.

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

Bethel Shelters

Mission: Provide a safe place to sleep, a hot meal to eat, and pathways to self-sufficiency for homeless individuals year-round.

"The people we serve are brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters of people in our community; they are community members like our neighbors, and it could've just as easily been me or you in this situation."
– Emily Sutton

Bethel Shelters provides...

- Overnight shelter for men ages 18+
- Day shelter for any person ages 18+

Bethel Shelters would like to...

- Increase their number of board members and community partners
- Increase mental health resources
- Expand affordable and permanent supportive housing
- Provide in-house treatment for male clients at Keystone

Family Promise of York County

Mission: To provide a comprehensive and compassionate program of meals, shelter and case management services to homeless families through a community network of congregations and staff that foster long-term self-sufficiency, independence and success for families.

"The families we serve are just like other families. 90% of our families are not homeless because they want to be or because they did something they weren't supposed to. We are all just one paycheck away from a disaster."
– Leslie Starnes

Family Promise provides...

- Rental assistance related to COVID-19
- Hotel assistance for couples with children
- Transitional housing for families
- Access to an interfaith hospitality network for families with minors
- Fresh Start Program for couples and families

Family Promise would like to...

- Add 3 churches to their existing hospitality network
- Expand prevention services
- Create a diversion program
- Add an additional transitional home

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

Fullife Hope Center

Mission: To empower and elevate at-risk and disadvantaged members of the community by restoring their ability to maintain full lives within society.

"Individuals experiencing homelessness have a lot to offer; it just takes time for people to understand who they are, what their needs are, and how they can best meet those needs." – Lakesha Johnson

Fullife Hope Center provides...

- Intake and assessment
- Street outreach
- Mentor and training programs
- Supportive services

Fullife Hope Center would like to...

- Expand its operating facility so that it can serve more individuals
- Make improvements to their life skills and education courses

Habitat for Humanity of York County

Mission: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity of York County brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

"The individuals and families we serve are incredibly hardworking. Our process isn't easy, but our clients put in the work and turn their lives around."
– Stefanie Barnette

Habitat for Humanity provides...

- Homeownership opportunities for individuals and families who fall between 30-60% AMI
- Critical home repairs that impact health, safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency at a subsidized rate
- Financial capability workshops

Habitat for Humanity would like to...

- Be fully staffed so that they have the capacity to expand their services
- Hit the goals that are identified in their strategic plan
- Serve more individuals living in York County

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

The Haven Men's Shelter

Mission: To help break the cycle of chronic homelessness by empowering homeless men through igniting hope, demonstrating compassion, providing encouragement, and creating opportunities.

"They're here because they want a hand up not a handout." – Nancy Landerman

The Haven Men's Shelter provides...

- Transitional housing
- A mentorship program

The Haven Men's Shelter would like to...

- Expand their mentorship program
- Move more male clients into permanent supportive housing
- Launch a volunteer program that would allow shelter residents to choose from a wide variety of volunteer projects
- Increase the number of transitional shelter beds

Her Place

Mission: We provide our clients with a safe, supportive, and trusting community. Our programs and services will help deepen their faith in God and in themselves so they can move toward a place of self-sufficiency.

"Our clients want to be a part of a loving and supportive community." – Totty Wilkerson

Her Place provides...

- Transitional housing for women 18+
- Access to doctors, dentists, and other health professionals
- A two-year program that centers on nurturing and developing the financial, intellectual, physical, emotional, occupational, cultural, social, spiritual, and environmental well-being of each individual

Her Place would like to...

- Ensure that their clients are able to secure gainful employment after completion of the program

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

Rock Hill Housing Authority

Mission: To provide safe, decent and sanitary housing conditions for very low-income families and to manage resources efficiently.

"Our clients are hardworking and goal-oriented. They have dreams and aspirations. They want to earn a living wage. They want more education and housing opportunities. They want better access to healthcare and transportation. They are no different from anyone else." – Dewayne Alford

The RHHA provides...

- Public housing units
- Vouchers
- Multi-family housing
- Affordable rental units

The RHHA would like to...

- Upgrade/update public housing units
- Collaborate with the City of Rock Hill on a permanent supportive housing project

Housing Development Corporation of Rock Hill

Mission: The mission of the Housing Development Corporation of Rock Hill is to provide and improve housing opportunities for low-to-moderate-income residents.

"We believe that housing is for all. Regardless of income, every person deserves a roof over their head and a clean safe living environment." – Corinne Sferrazza

HDC provides...

- First Time Homebuyer Education and Assistance
- New House Construction
- Owner Occupied Rehabilitation
- Affordable Rental Units
- Homeless Prevention Assistance

HDC would like to...

- Complete the construction of 28 new affordable rental units in the Catawba Terrace Neighborhood
- Expand our Permanent Supportive Housing units from one unit to six units by 2027
- Increase the number of people served under our Rapid Rehousing Program

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

The Life House Women's Shelter

Mission: To offer safe shelter, warm meals, access to laundry and shower services, fellowship, and case management to homeless women in our community.

"We like to think that this would never happen to us, but the reality is that it can happen and it does happen to people just like us. I want people to view homeless individuals the way they would want to be viewed, through a lens of grace and mercy." – Courtney Denton

The Life House Women's Shelter provides...

- Emergency shelter for women and children

The Life House Women's Shelter would like to...

- Build a triplex for transitional housing
- Expand into transitional housing
- Subsidize rent for affordable housing
- Create a more fluid Continuum of Care in partnership with other organizations and agencies

Mercy House

Mission: The mission of Mercy House is to provide a safe and compassionate home for individuals facing the end of life and who are homeless, in a physically unsafe environment, or at risk of dying alone.

"Homelessness is an experience that does not define the individual, even at the end of life."
– Mercy House Representative

Mercy House provides...

- A loving home for individuals who are experiencing homelessness and facing a terminal illness
- Basic needs such as lodging, food, companionship, and comfort care

Mercy House would like to...

- Become an established source of care within Chester, Lancaster, and York counties for unhoused individuals suffering from a terminal illness
- Provide care for this population on a larger scale and help them face their final journey in peace.

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

Pathways Community Center

Mission: To be York County's single location, which promotes collaboration among service providers and connects people in need with those agencies to help them move towards self-sufficiency.

"Real solutions must go beyond what any one program can achieve." -Alex Greenawalt

Pathways Community Center provides...

- Intake assessments, referrals, and a warm hand-off to care
- Below-market-rate rental space for Health and Human service providers, including Homeless Shelters
- A collaborative environment that works to ensure clients become self-sufficient
- 24/7 security to ensure safety for all

Pathways Community Center would like to...

- Renovate the facility to meet the service providers growing needs
- Improve referral communication and the status of client's needs to close the loop

Pilgrims' Inn

Mission: Our hope is to assist clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to reach their goals of independence and financial stability.

"Housing costs and living expenses are too much to overcome when you only have 90 days in an emergency shelter and are making minimum wage." – Jason Davenport

Pilgrims' Inn provides...

- Emergency shelter and transitional housing for women and children
- Permanent supportive housing for individuals with a severe mental health diagnosis
- Support services including a food pantry and affordable daycare

Pilgrims' Inn would like to...

- Increase employee retention
- Increase the number of shelter beds
- Create transitional and permanent supportive housing

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

Safe Passage

Mission: Empower the Survivor. Eliminate the Abuse.
Engage the Community.
Engender Change.

Safe Passage provides...

- Domestic peace programs including short-term counseling services and long-term advocacy services
- Rapid-rehousing for their clients

Safe Passage would like to...

- Increase donor funding by 25% in the next year, decreasing their dependency on state and federal funding
- Add additional staff members to meet the organization's needs

The Salvation Army

Mission: To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

"Affordable housing is an issue at the moment. It is hard for someone to transition out of a shelter when there is nowhere affordable for the family to go."
– Social Services Program Coordinator

The Salvation Army provides...

- Transitional housing
- Emergency shelter (seasonal warming center) for women and children

The Salvation Army would like to...

- Expand into Lancaster & Chester counties
- Increase the number of resources and staff members in counties outside of York

Appendix A: Local Agencies Along the Housing Continuum of Care

Tender Hearts Ministries

Mission: We exist so that those in need may receive food, clothing, shelter, educational opportunities, counseling, financial management classes, job training, access to other human service agencies, transportation, and compassion.

Tender Hearts currently has a 100% success rate of individuals who finish the 9-month program and who move on to and graduate from the 24-month program.

– Ainslee Moss

Tender Hearts provides...

- Transitional housing
- A 9-month program that is designed to provide counseling, education, and job training for men and women
- A program that provides senior citizens with food and clothing
- Job opportunities at their thrift stores
- Tender Hearts Thrift Store gift cards for community partners to pass along to their clients
- Free notary services

Tender Hearts would like to...

- Open a second thrift store location in Rock Hill, SC
- Construct 8 more transitional homes by 2025



For more resources,
visit www.sccach.org

Appendix B: Glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Affordable Housing	Housing that costs the household no more than 30% of their gross income. Housing costs include rent, mortgage payments, condominium fees, utilities, taxes, and insurance, as applicable for rental or owned housing units.
Area Median Income (AMI)	A metric used by government agencies, housing organizations, and policymakers to determine income eligibility and affordability in housing and other programs. It represents the midpoint of a region's income distribution, where half of the households earn more and half earn less than the determined AMI.
At-Risk for Homelessness	Individuals or households who have incomes below 30% of the area median income (AMI) and have insufficient resources to obtain housing stability.
Coordinated Entry	A systematic and collaborative approach utilized by communities and organizations to streamline access to housing and supportive services. It serves as a comprehensive and centralized system that aims to ensure fair and equitable access to available resources and prioritize those in greatest need.
Community-Based Permanent Housing	A long-term housing option for individuals and families experiencing homelessness that places them in permanent housing with supportive services provided by the community. This type of housing is intended to be stable and sustainable for the residents and helps address the underlying causes of homelessness.
Continuum of Care	A comprehensive and coordinated system of housing and supportive services designed to address the diverse needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Appendix B: Glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Diversion	A proactive strategy aimed at preventing individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness from entering the homeless system by helping them find alternative housing solutions. It focuses on providing immediate assistance and support to individuals facing housing crises, helping them identify and access resources that can help them maintain stable housing without the need for emergency shelter or long-term homelessness assistance.
Emergency Shelter	A temporary place for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or facing an immediate housing crisis to sleep and access basic services.
Gerrymandering	The manipulation of electoral district boundaries to gain a political advantage by favoring a specific party or group. It involves drawing district lines strategically to concentrate or dilute the voting power of certain communities, potentially undermining fair representation and democratic principles.
Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)	A federal government agency in the United States responsible for implementing and overseeing housing and urban development programs, policies, and initiatives.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	A data management system used by government agencies, nonprofits, and service providers to collect, analyze, and report information on homelessness and the utilization of homeless services.

Appendix B: Glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Homelessness (HUD)	(a) an individual or family which lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or (b) an individual or family which has a primary nighttime residence that is (1) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for persons with mental illness; (2) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or (3) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for humans.
Housing First	An approach to addressing homelessness that prioritizes providing individuals and families experiencing homelessness with immediate access to permanent, stable housing as a first step. It emphasizes the belief that housing is a fundamental human right and that individuals are better able to address other challenges and work toward stability when they have a safe and stable place to live.
Mass Incarceration	(a) The significant and unprecedented increase in the number of individuals held in prisons and jails within a particular country or jurisdiction, often accompanied by harsh sentencing policies and a high rate of imprisonment. (b) A state where a large proportion of a population is confined within correctional facilities, leading to a disproportionately high incarceration rate compared to other countries or historical periods.
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	A Federal law enacted in the United States to provide assistance and support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. It was first passed by Congress in 1987 and has been amended and expanded several times since then.

Appendix B: Glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Permanent Supportive Housing	A long-term housing intervention designed to provide stable and affordable housing for individuals or families who have experienced chronic homelessness, combined with ongoing support services to address their specific needs.
Point-In-Time (PIT) Count	A count of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that Continuum of Cares (CoCs) count individuals who are sheltered (i.e. staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens) once a year and unsheltered individuals (i.e. living on the streets, in cars, abandoned buildings, parks, or other places not meant for human habitation) every other year.
Predatory Lending	Unethical and exploitative lending practices in which lenders take advantage of borrowers, often targeting individuals or communities who are vulnerable or lack access to traditional financial services. These lenders impose excessive fees, high interest rates, and unfair terms that are designed to benefit the lender at the expense of the borrower.
Rapid Exit	An approach to homelessness aimed at swiftly transitioning individuals or families experiencing homelessness into stable and permanent housing, minimizing their length of time spent in homelessness.
Rapid Rehousing	An intervention designed to assist individuals or families experiencing homelessness by quickly connecting them to stable and permanent housing while providing short-term financial assistance and supportive services.

Appendix B: Glossary

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Redlining	A discriminatory practice that began in the 1930s, where certain neighborhoods were deemed high-risk for lending based on racial demographics. This practice limited access to mortgage loans and affordable housing for minority communities, disproportionately affecting Black individuals and other marginalized groups.
Transitional Housing	A temporary and supportive living arrangement designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This type of housing serves as an intermediary step between emergency shelters or homelessness and permanent housing.

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