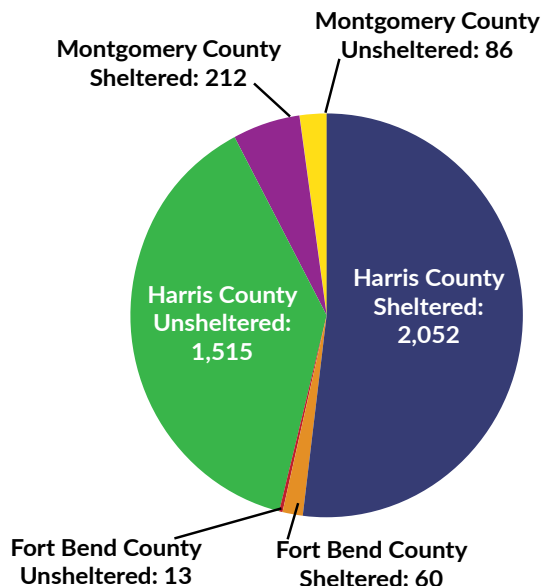


Overview:

The annual Point-in-Time Homeless Count & Survey is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the local Continuum of Care (CoC) known as The Way Home. The Count illustrates trends over time (increases or decreases) in homelessness and provides insights into the effectiveness of a community's housing programs and homeless services. The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County serves as lead agency to The Way Home and coordinates the Count as part of those responsibilities. The Way Home encompasses Houston, Pasadena, and Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties, Texas.

Total: 3,938



Key Findings:

54% decrease in overall homelessness since 2011.

58,000 people touched HMIS in 2018.

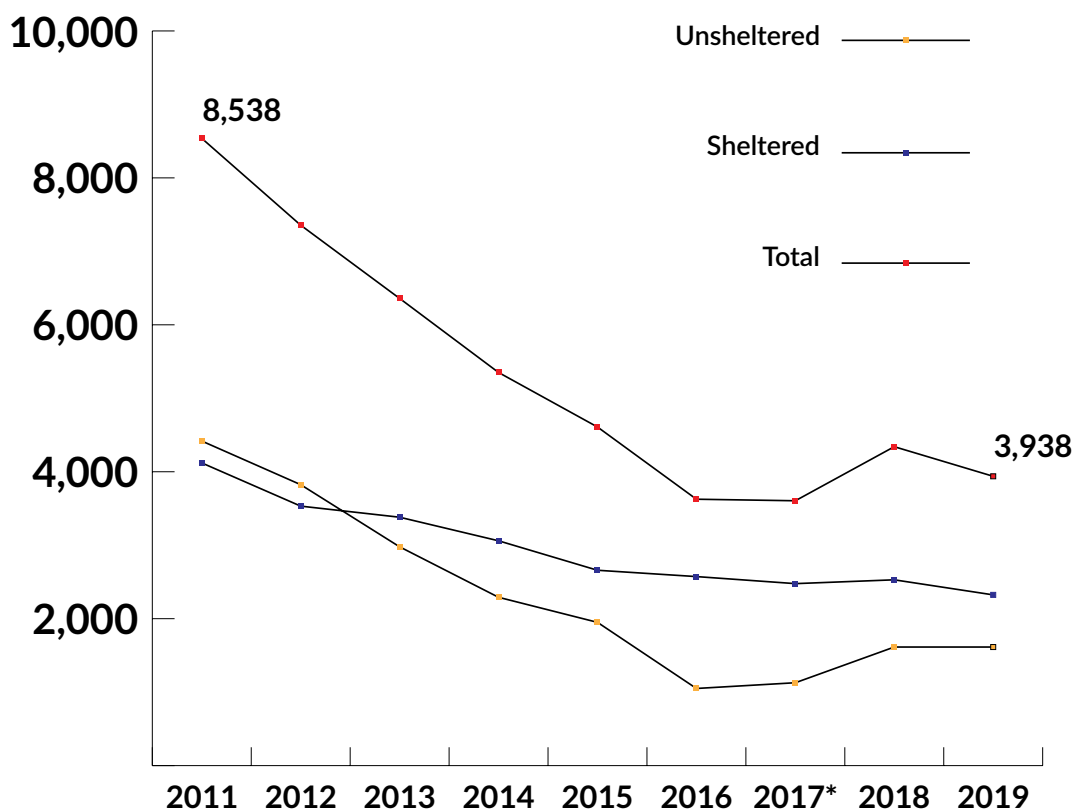
41% of individuals experiencing homelessness were living unsheltered.

17,000 people have been placed in permanent supportive housing since 2011.

23% of individuals experiencing homelessness were young adults ages 18-24.

There were **no families with minor children nor unaccompanied youth living unsheltered** on the night of the Count.

Comparing the Counts: 2011-2019



*In 2016, Montgomery County was added to The Way Home Continuum of Care, and has been included in the Homeless Count & Survey since 2017. This fact sheet compares current data, including Montgomery County, with 2011 data that did not include Montgomery County.

2019 Homeless Count Notes:

The annual Homeless Count & Survey does not provide an absolute number – it does not show exactly how many people are experiencing homelessness at any given second. That would be impossible to do when canvassing over 3,700 square miles. Also, the number of people experiencing homelessness in our region fluctuates multiple times every day.

What the Count is really good at is illustrating trends over time, since the Count has been conducted in the same way each year since 2011. In 2019, the Homeless Count shows a 54% decrease in overall homelessness since 2011.

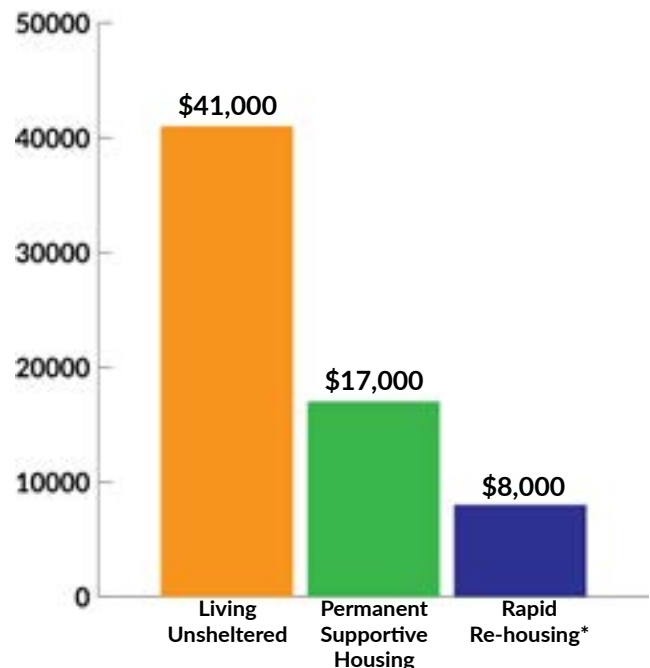
The 2019 Homeless Count results also prove that The Way Home's programs work. Permanent housing combined with supportive services is the key to solving homelessness, and our community's progress in this area has been tremendous compared to other major cities. However; The Way Home has plateaued in its progress for the past four years which confirms that the demand for permanent housing is greater than our region's availability. Also, providing housing for those experiencing homelessness is not only the compassionate thing to do, it is the fiscally responsible thing to do (see our graph, below right, for the cost savings of permanent housing). The Coalition for the Homeless, as lead agency to The Way Home is committed to identifying new and sustainable resources so we can re-energize the local homeless response system and create a community where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-repeating.

The Coalition knows that homelessness is a very visible symptom of a series of other broken systems – justice, healthcare and mental healthcare, education, etc. Our community's homeless response system is often the last stop for people who have been failed time and time again by society. The Coalition is actively calling on these other systems to come to the table and partner with us to help reduce some of this inflow into our homeless response system.

The Coalition is also committed to begin looking "upstream," at the realities for people living in poverty and those who are unstably housed in the Houston region. In 2018, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) recorded more than 58,000 people who accessed some kind of crisis service. In the school year that ended in 2018, more than 24,000 unique students in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery Counties were living doubled up or in a hotel or motel – and that number doesn't include their family members.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition also tells us that Houston ranks 47th out of the top 50 major metropolitan areas in terms of affordable housing – only 19 units are available for every 100 extremely poor families. We have to do better as a community, and the Coalition is committed to being a convener and working in between these spaces to begin dialogue and bring people into The Way Home system to make sure we are ending homelessness for people experiencing it and that we stop the inflow into a housing crisis.

Unsheltered vs Permanent Housing Costs



*Please note costs vary between permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing because they are two different intervention methods.