



**Erie County (PA) Continuum of Care
2023 HUD Point in Time Count Results**

**Evening of January 26, 2023 9pm
through January 27, 2023 4am**

*Prepared by the Mercyhurst University Civic Institute for the
Erie County Home Team Homeless and Housing Coalition*

Overview of the 2023 Erie County Point in Time Count

- The Erie County (PA) Continuum of Care conducted their annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point in Time Count of unhoused persons on the evening of January 26, 2023.
- The methodology of the Unsheltered Street Count remained unchanged from the 2022 count. As opposed to canvassing Erie County during the late evening/early morning hours, volunteer teams were stationed at known-congregation spots on Friday January 27 and conducted interviews with individuals encountered. Locations included in this approach were: Erie City Mission during breakfast service (7am to 8am); Upper Room drop-in center (8:30 am to 10:30 am); Erie City Mission (11:00 am until 1:00 pm) and Mental Health Association (10:30 am until 12:30 pm) for the lunch services; and Emmaus Soup Kitchen (3:45 until 6:00 pm) for the dinner service.
- During the Unsheltered Street Count, all persons encountered were offered a 'leave behind' bag of food, supplies, toiletries, and clothing. Approximately 350 bags were distributed over the course of the day. Items in the bags were generously supplied by many of our service providers, local businesses, and a sizable cash contribution from a local health foundation.
- This new approach of the Unsheltered Street Count led to a sizable increase in the number of identified persons. Forty persons interviewed noted they slept in a place not for habitation the evening of January 26, an increase from 23 in 2022.
- The Sheltered Count methodology remained unchanged from prior years, as HUD did not introduce any new variables to be included in the report.
- HMIS staff coordinated with the provider agencies in the few weeks prior to work on cleaning data to make sure it was accurate and up-to-date for the count. Agency and program staff were asked to complete an excel spreadsheet with their data for each of the programs they were responsible for. After submission, HMIS and Mercyhurst Civic Institute staff would reconcile figures for accurate reporting. Any discrepancies found would be addressed by the program and corrected prior to resubmission.
- 1,019 total persons were reported during the evening as being in an Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Permanent Supportive, or Rapid Rehousing Program. This figure represents a decrease of 47 persons from the 2022 count of 1,066.
- The total number of persons identified as homeless the night of the Point in Time count was the third highest it has been in the time period data has been reported (since 2017).
- Of the 1,059 persons (1,019 sheltered and 40 unsheltered), a total of 331 were identified by Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing Programs and Safe Havens. It is important to separate this figure from the overall totals, as this figure is reported to HUD along with unsheltered individuals. HUD does not quantify those in long-term housing programs as being homeless. The Erie County Continuum of Care identifies them as being near homeless; without the permanent housing and rapid rehousing programs they utilize many may be reliant on the short-term programs. It is important for local planning efforts to track this population as their situations may change.

Table 1: Overall Summary 2023 Erie County Point in Time Count

| Households with Adults with Children Together | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | <i>Total # Of Households</i> | <i>Total # People Residing</i> |
| Unsheltered | - | - |
| Emergency Shelters | 19 | 71 |
| Transitional Housing | 9 | 26 |
| Safe Haven | - | - |
| Permanent Housing/Rapid Rehousing | 120 | 416 |
| TOTAL ADULTS WITH CHILDREN | 148 | 513 |
| Households Adults Only (without Children) | | |
| | <i>Total # Of Households</i> | <i>Total # People Residing</i> |
| Unsheltered | 36 | 40 |
| Emergency Shelters | 195 | 195 |
| Transitional Housing | 30 | 30 |
| Safe Haven | 9 | 9 |
| Permanent Housing/Rapid Rehousing | 265 | 272 |
| TOTAL ADULTS ONLY (WITHOUT CHILDREN) | 535 | 546 |
| Totals- Combined | | |
| | <i>Total # Of Households</i> | <i>Total # People Residing</i> |
| Unsheltered | 36 | 40 |
| Emergency Shelters | 214 | 266 |
| Transitional Housing | 39 | 56 |
| Safe Haven | 9 | 9 |
| Permanent Housing/Rapid Rehousing | 385 | 688 |
| TOTAL ALL | 683 | 1,059 |

On the evening of the 2023 PIT Count, a total of 683 households were identified, comprising of 1,059 persons. Households are identified as those being *Adults with Children*, and those comprising of *Adults Only*. Within those households of Adults with Children, there were a total of 513 persons residing within 148 households. Eighty-one percent of those resided in Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing programs. Within Adults Only households, 546 persons resided in a total of 535 households. Two-hundred and sixty-five resided in 272 Permanent Housing or Rapid Rehousing Programs. There were also 195 individuals residing in Emergency Shelters. In 2023, there were 40 unsheltered persons identified on the night of the PIT Count.

Figures in other sections of this report will illustrate further demographics of those identified in each housing type.

Figure 2: Trend Analysis of Erie County Point in Time Count Data

Figure 2a: Total # of Identified Homeless Persons

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total # Homeless | 949 | 1,026 | 1,040 | 1,004 | 1,137 | 1,089 | 1,059 |
| Total # Sheltered | 941 | 1,022 | 1,034 | 996 | 1,137 | 1,066 | 1,019 |
| Total # Unsheltered | 8 | 4 | 6 | 8 | - | 23 | 40 |

Figure 2b: Total # of Identified Persons; by Housing Type

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Emergency Shelter | 240 | 238 | 273 | 255 | 165 | 224 | 266 |
| Transitional/SH | 179 | 114 | 117 | 85 | 96 | 53 | 65 |
| Permanent/RRH | 522 | 670 | 644 | 656 | 876 | 789 | 688 |

Figure 2c: Total Number of Identified Households

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Unsheltered | NA | 4 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 21 | 36 |
| Emergency Shelter | NA | 191 | 214 | 206 | 138 | 183 | 214 |
| Transitional/SH | NA | 79 | 87 | 72 | 77 | 44 | 48 |
| Permanent/RRH | NA | 350 | 349 | 385 | 458 | 454 | 385 |
| TOTAL | NA | 624 | 656 | 671 | 673 | 702 | 683 |

The above figures identify trend data for the Erie County Point in Time Count from years 2017 through 2022. Figure 2a represents the total number of identified homeless since 2017. As shown, 2021 and 2022 had the highest census counts in the measured time period (1,137 and 1,089, respectively), with 2023 recognizing the third highest with 1,059. Figure 2b illustrates the number of persons identified by housing type. 2023 saw the second highest Emergency Shelter figure over the time period, even though the community had less shelter beds available that evening than in past years. Figure 2c illustrates the number of identified households. Transitional/Safe Haven households were considerably lower than earlier years, due to a reduction in available beds in these programs, as well as need. Figure 2c does not include 2017 data due to reporting discrepancies. Though there were many factors at play which impacted the figures above, the large spike in unsheltered and Emergency Shelter populations should serve as a cautionary warning. These groups are recognized as the most vulnerable and in need of the greatest level of services.

Figure 3: Erie County Emergency Shelters, 2023 Point in Time Count

| Erie County, PA CoC 2023 Point in Time Count January 26, 2023 | Adults and Children Together | | Adults Only | |
|---|---------------------------------|------|-------------|------|
| | TOTAL | Vets | TOTAL | Vets |
| Total # Households | 19 | 1 | 195 | 20 |
| Of those, the total # of people residing in these households | 71 | 1 | 195 | 20 |
| # of People 17 or younger | 49 | - | - | - |
| # of People 18-24 | 1 | - | 16 | - |
| # of People age 25 and older | 21 | 1 | 179 | 20 |
| Female | 46 | - | 51 | 2 |
| Male | 25 | 1 | 144 | 18 |
| Transgender | - | - | - | - |
| Unspecified | - | - | - | - |
| Non-Hispanic | 62 | 1 | 182 | 20 |
| Hispanic | 9 | - | 13 | - |
| White | 23 | 1 | 121 | 15 |
| Black/African American | 44 | - | 62 | 4 |
| Asian | - | - | 2 | - |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | - | - | 3 | 1 |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | - | - | - | - |
| Multiple Races | 4 | - | 7 | 1 |
| Total # of Households that are Chronically Homeless | 4 | - | 32 | 10 |
| Of these, the total number of people who reside in these households (adults and children combined) | 4 | - | 33 | 10 |

Nine Emergency Shelters reported data for the 2023 Point in Time Count. There were a total of 214 households comprising 266 persons. This population was largely made up of Adult Only households (179 persons), versus 71 in household with children. Of note, there were 49 children ages 17 or younger who were identified in an Emergency Shelter that evening. Males represented 64% of residents; 54% were white; 41% Black. There were also 37 persons identified as being Chronically Homeless in this population, or 14% of those in this category.

Not depicted in the table: 154 individuals were reported to have a Serious Mental Illness, 120 faced a Substance Use Disorder, and 63 were a Victim of Domestic Violence.

Table 4: Transitional Housing Programs, 2023 Point in Time Count

| Erie County, PA CoC 2022 Point in Time Count January 26, 2023 | Adults and Children Together | | Adults Only | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | TOTAL | Vets | TOTAL | Vets |
| Total # Households | 9 | - | 30 | 2 |
| Of those, the total # of people residing in these households | 26 | - | 30 | 2 |
| # of People 17 or younger | 17 | - | - | - |
| # of People 18-24 | 2 | - | 1 | - |
| # of People age 25 and older | 7 | - | 29 | 2 |
| Female | 15 | - | 6 | - |
| Male | 11 | - | 24 | 2 |
| Transgender | - | - | - | - |
| Unspecified | - | - | - | - |
| Non-Hispanic | 21 | - | 28 | 2 |
| Hispanic | 5 | - | 2 | - |
| White | 10 | - | 24 | - |
| Black/African American | 9 | - | 5 | 2 |
| Asian | - | - | - | - |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 1 | - | - | - |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | - | - | - | - |
| Multiple Races | 6 | - | 1 | - |
| Total # of Households that are Chronically Homeless | - | - | - | - |
| Of these, the total number of people who reside in these households (adults and children combined) | - | - | - | - |

Four Transitional Housing programs reported having residents in their programs on the night of the PIT count, serving a total of 55 persons. As with Emergency Shelters, those households of Adults with Children were largely led by females, while Adult Only households were approximately 80% male. Two-thirds of those in Transitional Housing programs identified as White/Caucasian.

Not depicted in the table: 27 individuals were reported to have a Serious Mental Illness, 29 had a Substance Use Disorder, and 12 a Victim of Domestic Violence.

NOTE: 2 of the 15 persons identified in the Adults with Children category did not have demographic figures reported.

Table 5: Safe Haven Programs: 2023 Point in Time Count

| Erie County, PA CoC 2023 Point in Time Count January 26, 2023 | Adults Only | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| | Total | Vets |
| Total # Households | 9 | 9 |
| Of those, the total # of people residing in these households | 9 | 9 |
| # of People 17 or younger | - | - |
| # of People 18-24 | - | - |
| # of People age 25 and older | 9 | 9 |
| | | |
| Female | - | - |
| Male | 8 | 8 |
| Transgender | - | - |
| Unspecified | 1 | 1 |
| | | |
| Non-Hispanic | 9 | 9 |
| Hispanic | - | - |
| | | |
| White | 8 | 8 |
| Black/African American | 1 | 1 |
| Asian | - | - |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | - | - |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | - | - |
| Multiple Races | - | - |
| | | |
| Total # of Households that are Chronically Homeless (see definition of chronically homeless) | - | - |
| Of these, the total number of people who reside in these households (adults and children combined) | - | - |

There is one Safe Haven program within the Erie County Continuum of Care service area. There were 9 males reported in this program on the night of the 2023 Point in Time Count. Eight were identified as White males, with Veteran status.

Table 6: Permanent Supportive & Rapid Rehousing Programs, 2023 Point in Time Count

| Erie County, PA CoC 2023 Point in Time Count January 26, 2023 | Adults and Children Together | | Adults Only | |
|--|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | TOTAL | Vets | TOTAL | Vets |
| Total # Households | 120 | 9 | 265 | 16 |
| Of those, the total # of people residing in these households | 416 | 33 | 272 | 16 |
| # of People 17 or younger | 260 | 19 | 8 | - |
| # of People 18-24 | 19 | - | 19 | - |
| # of People age 25 and older | 137 | 14 | 245 | 16 |
| Female | 250 | 15 | 72 | - |
| Male | 166 | 15 | 199 | 16 |
| Transgender | - | - | 1 | - |
| Unspecified | - | - | - | - |
| Non-Hispanic | 381 | 28 | 261 | 16 |
| Hispanic | 35 | - | 9 | - |
| White | 168 | 21 | 186 | 12 |
| Black/African American | 181 | 9 | 71 | 3 |
| Asian | - | - | - | - |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | - | - | - | - |
| Multiple Races | 58 | - | 11 | 1 |
| Total # of Households that are Chronically Homeless (see definition of chronically homeless) | 36 | 9 | 143 | 7 |
| Of these, the total number of people who reside in these households (adults and children combined) | 109 | 31 | 144 | 7 |

Ten Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing Programs participated in the 2023 Point in Time Count. Six-hundred and eighty-eight persons were identified as residing in one of these long-term housing programs. There were 120 Adult with Children households comprising of 416 persons, including 260 children under the age of 18. Approximately 40% were reported as Caucasian/White, and 60% were female. There were 265 Adults Only households, consisting of 272 persons. Sixteen (6%) were Veterans. Approximately 73% of this population were males and Caucasian/White. 53% were identified as being Chronically Homeless. Note: not all demographic information was reported for all children; therefore, the above categories may not equal the total number of people residing in corresponding households.

Not depicted in the table: 251 were reported to have a Serious Mental Illness, 283 a Substance Use Disorder, and 190 were victims of Domestic Violence.

Table 7: Other Data Points — 2023 Point in Time Count

VETERANS

- One hundred and fifty persons were identified in Veteran-led households on the evening of the 2023 Point in Time Count. There were 124 households.
- Twenty-one were identified in Emergency Shelters, 9 were in Safe Haven programming, and two were in Transitional Housing. The balance (150) were counted in Permanent Supportive or Rapid Rehousing programs.
- Of the Veteran households identified, 95 were known to be Chronically Homeless, accounting for 117 persons.
- Veterans identified were also identified as having a SMI diagnosis (54), battling Substance Use Disorder (49), or have been a victim of Domestic Violence (7).

YOUTH

- For HUD-reporting purposes, Youth are defined as unaccompanied young adults (18 – 24), unaccompanied children (under age 18), parenting young adults (18 – 24), or parenting youth (under age 18). No adults 25 or older are present in these households.
- Twenty-three youth households were identified during the 2023 Point in Time Count.
- There were 16 Emergency Shelters, 1 in Transitional Housing, and 6 in Permanent Supportive Housing.
- All were ages 18 – 24. 14 were female, nine were male.
- Eight Parenting Youth households were identified, consisting of 19 total persons.
- Two households were in Transitional Housing, while six were in Transitional Housing.

Table 8: Bed Utilization Rates—2023 Point in Time Count

| EMERGENCY SHELTERS | Clients Served | # Beds | % Capacity |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| SafeNet - Hospitality House | 28 | 43 | 65% |
| Safe Journey | 5 | 8 | 63% |
| EUMA -Refuge | 27 | 32 | 84% |
| Erie City Mission—Samaritan Care | 50 | 52 | 96% |
| Community Shelter Services - Shelter | 86 | 97 | 89% |
| EUMA Our Neighbors Place | 40 | 35 | 95% |
| St Patrick's Haven | 19 | 20 | 114% |
| We Soldier On | 37 | 43 | 100% |
| ECCM Hotel/Motel | 7 | 7 | 100% |
| TOTALS FOR ES | 266 | 287 | 93% |

| TRANSITIONAL HOUSING/SAFE HAVEN | Clients Served | # Beds | % Capacity |
|--|----------------|------------|------------|
| Mercy Center for Women | 24 | 27 | 89% |
| Erie City Mission - New Life Program | 23 | 38 | 61% |
| SafeNet TLC | 0 | 12 | 0% |
| SafeNet - Bridge House | 9 | 26 | 35% |
| EUMA - Transitional Housing | 0 | 5 | 0% |
| EUMA - Liberty House | 9 | 10 | 90% |
| TOTALS FOR TH and SH | 65 | 118 | 55% |

| PERM. SUPPORTIVE / RAPID REHOUS. | Clients Served | # Beds | % Capacity |
|--|----------------|------------|------------|
| EUMA - My Way Home | 161 | 161 | 100% |
| Community Shelter Services—Lodge on Sass | 46 | 50 | 92% |
| Community Shelter Services - Columbus Apartments | 34 | 40 | 85% |
| Community Shelter Services - Lighting the Candle | 54 | 51 | 106% |
| Guadenzia - Fresh Start | 30 | 30 | 100% |
| Erie Dawn RRH | 6 | 11 | 55% |
| HUD VASH* | 98 | 98 | 100% |
| Soldier On RRH* | 12 | 3 | 400% |
| ECCM -Self Start | 233 | 233 | 100% |
| ECCM RRH* | 5 | 5 | 100% |
| Saint Martin Center | 9 | 19 | 47% |
| TOTALS FOR PH | 688 | 701 | 98% |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------------|
| TOTAL UTILIZATION RATES | 1019 | 1106 | 92% |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------------|

Bed utilization rates are depicted in the table above. These figures should be read with caution, however. In some cases, voucher and rental assistance programs do not have a true bed capacity (noted with *) and figures reported above are duplicative of clients served in those cases. The above does give a reasonable estimate of bed utilization for the 2023 Point in Time Count.

Agency Participation by Program Type - 2023 Point in Time Count

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

- ⇒ *Community Shelter Services Emergency Shelter*
- ⇒ *Erie City Mission Samaritan Care*
- ⇒ *Erie County Care Mgmt Hotel/Motel Program*
- ⇒ *Erie United Methodist Alliance Refuge*
- ⇒ *Erie United Methodist Alliance Our Neighbors Place*
- ⇒ *Safe Journey*
- ⇒ *SafeNet Hospitality House*
- ⇒ *Saint Patrick's Haven*
- ⇒ *We Soldier On*

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- ⇒ *Erie City Mission New Life Program*
- ⇒ *Erie United Methodist Alliance Transitional Housing*
- ⇒ *Erie United Methodist Alliance Liberty House (Safe Haven)**
- ⇒ *Mercy Center for Women*
- ⇒ *SafeNet Bridge House*
- ⇒ *SafeNet TLC Program*

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE

- ⇒ *Community Shelter Services Lodge on Sass*
- ⇒ *Community Shelter Services Columbus Apartments*
- ⇒ *Community Shelter Services Lighting the Candle*
- ⇒ *Erie County Care Mgmt Permanent Supportive Housing*
- ⇒ *Erie United Methodist Alliance My Way Home*
- ⇒ *Gaudenzia Fresh Start*
- ⇒ *Veteran Affairs HUD-VASH*

RAPID REHOUSING

- ⇒ *Erie County Care Mgmt Rapid Rehousing*
- ⇒ *Erie Dawn Rapid Rehousing*
- ⇒ *Soldier On Rapid Rehousing*
- ⇒ *St. Martin Center*



*For more information on the Erie County Home Team Homeless and Housing Coalition,
visit www.endhomelessnesseriecountypa.org*