

# Facts on Homelessness

**Over 5,700 people are experiencing homelessness in the city of Philadelphia, where over 960 people are unsheltered.**



It's important to note that these counts came from the 2020 PIT Count. The 2020 PIT Count is not entirely representative of everyone experiencing homelessness. It was also conducted pre-pandemic and does not include anyone who may have lost stable housing since.

**Philadelphia has a 25.7% poverty rate, which is among one of the highest poverty rates in the country.**

## **What are the contributing factors of homelessness?**

Homelessness is caused by many factors: poverty, unaffordable housing options, strict requirements for housing, lack of access to healthcare (in particular support for those living with mental illness), the opioid crisis, racial inequalities, and many others.

## **There are racial disparities in homelessness<sup>1</sup>.**

African Americans make up more than 40% of the population experiencing homelessness but only represent 13% of the general population. Those identifying as Hispanic make up 18% of the general population but 21% of the population experiencing homelessness. This is a result of systemic racial inequity within the United States.

## **What is Housing First?**

Housing First model, which incorporates access to housing, accessing to complete physical, mental, and behavioral healthcare, and support in reintegrating back into the community. Pathways to Housing PA utilizes Housing First because it has been proven to be the most successful and sustainable solution to homelessness.

## **Ways you can help:**

- Call the Homeless Outreach Hotline: 215-232-1984
- Keep an eye out for people when there is a Cold Blue or Code Red, if someone needs help please call the Homeless Outreach Hotline
- Donate to an organization that supports the Housing First Model, like Pathways to Housing PA
- Vote and support legislation that prioritizes affordable housing and sustainable solutions to end homelessness