

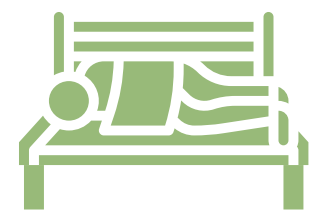
HOMELESSNESS 101

THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS
IN COLORADO AND BEYOND

ARVADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS



653,104

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#), 653,104 people were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2023.

HUD Definition

- Sheltered
- Unsheltered

Not Counted

- Jails
- Hospitals
- Motels
- Couch Surfing

HOMELESSNESS IN COLORADO

Though approximations vary, we estimate the true number of people experiencing homelessness in Colorado is between 14,000-53,000.

14,439



Total number of Coloradans experiencing homelessness according to the 2023 PIT count

30,409



People who accessed homelessness services in Denver Metro according to HMIS data (July 2022 - June 2023)

17,957



Students experiencing homelessness, doubled-up, or unstably housed in the 2021-2022 school year

53,000



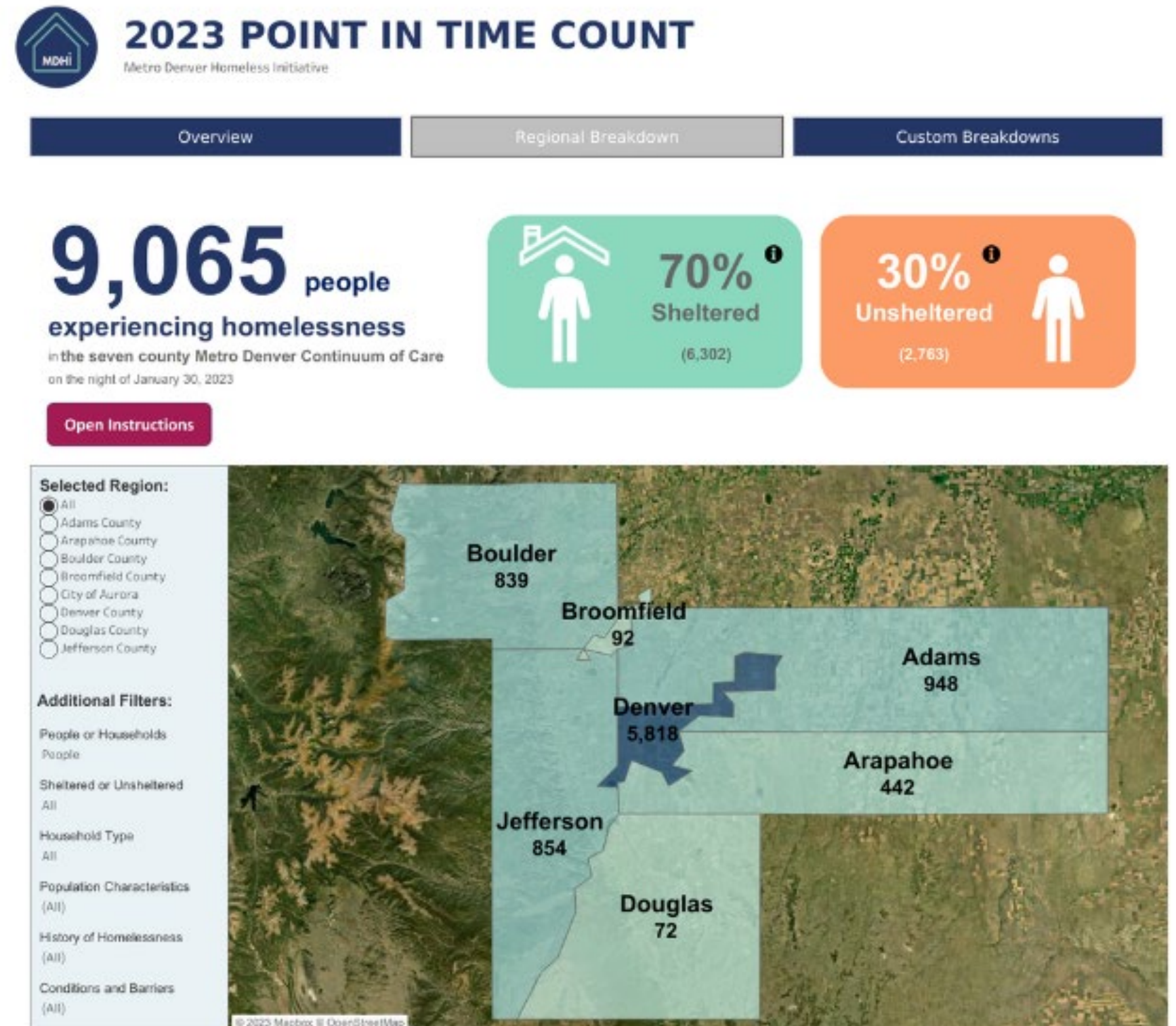
Individuals without stable housing covered by Medicaid in 2019

METRO DENVER HOMELESSNESS

In the seven county Metro Denver area, the PIT count found 9,065 people experiencing homelessness in 2023, a 31.7% increase

30% are unsheltered, and 70% sheltered

*There are many rational reasons individuals choose to remain unsheltered

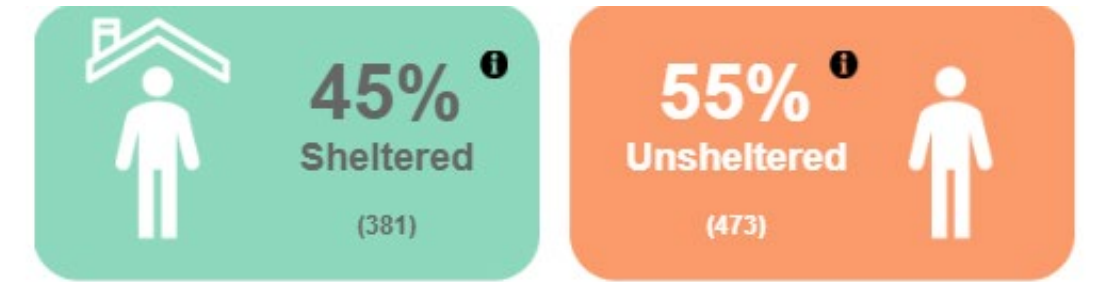


JEFFERSON COUNTY HOMELESSNESS

In Jefferson County alone, 854 people are experiencing homelessness on a single night.

This is a 73% increase from 2022, when 493 people were counted.

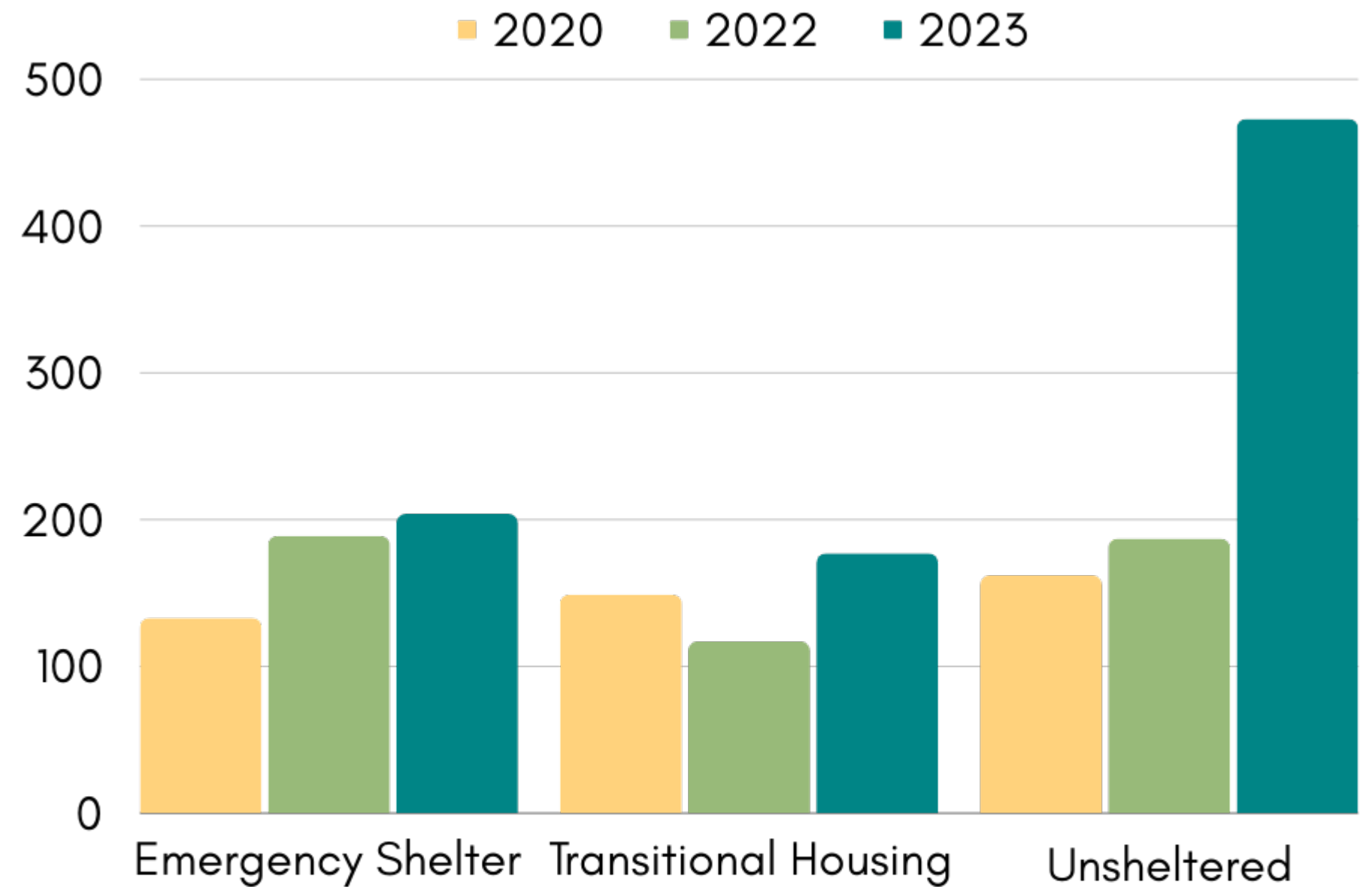
854 people
experiencing homelessness
in Jefferson County
on the night of January 30, 2023



JEFFERSON COUNTY BREAKDOWN

The large increase in unsheltered homelessness in 2023 was primarily responsible for the overall increase in homelessness.

Due to the pandemic, 2021 only included a sheltered count and is not reflected here.



JEFFERSON COUNTY RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

- While the majority of people experiencing homelessness in JeffCo are white, they are underrepresented compared to their % of population.
- Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders in Jefferson County are 47X overrepresented relative to the general population.
- Those identifying as Black or African American are 7.8X overrepresented.
- Native American or Alaska Native (6X)
- Multi-Racial (2X)

JEFFERSON COUNTY OTHER POPULATIONS

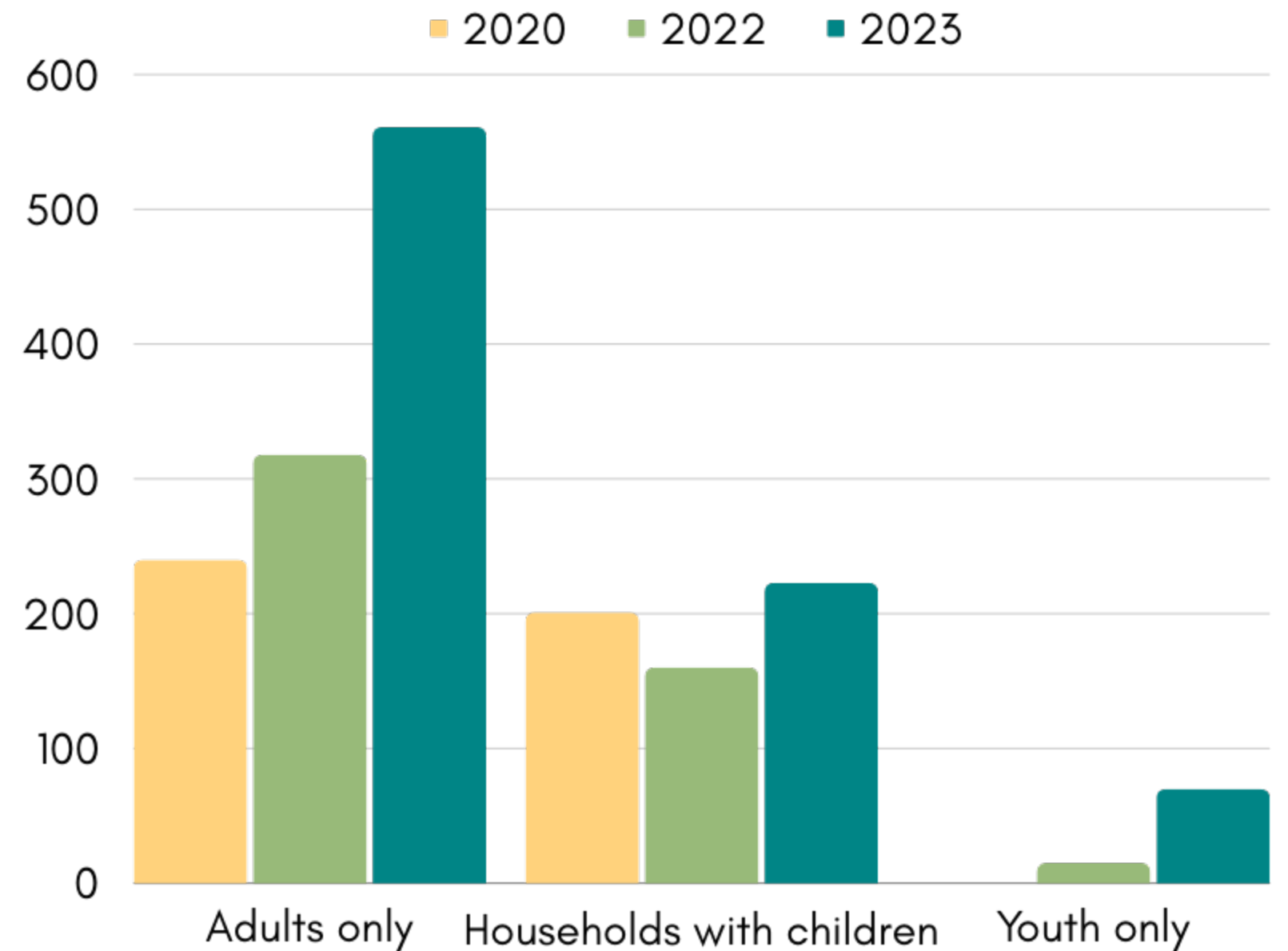
- Half of respondents were experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- 1 in 3 respondents were chronically homeless, meaning that they experienced homelessness for at least a year (or repeatedly) while living with a disabling condition.
- 33% physical disability
- 38% mental health concern
- 28% chronic health condition
- 27% substance use
- 10% domestic violence
- 7% veterans

YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

Most households experiencing homelessness contain only adults.

However, there has been an increase in homelessness among households with children and households with youth only.

Jeffco Schools report 1,637 students experiencing homelessness



SUMMARY - HOMELESSNESS COUNTS

- Whether National, State, or local, we estimate the true annual number of people experiencing homelessness to be roughly 3x the PITcount derived numbers
- Homelessness is increasing, primarily unsheltered homelessness.
- Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, those with mental health concerns, those experiencing domestic violence, and other marginalized populations.



SOME STRUCTURAL CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- FEDERAL LEVEL DISINVESTMENT
- CRIMINALIZATION



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- Studies have found that a \$100 increase in median rent was associated with a 9% to 15% increase in the estimated homelessness rate.
- In Denver, home prices rose \$94 a day over the last decade. The price increase, from \$231,400 to \$607,100 is a 162.4% change.
- There are only 26 affordable and available units for every 100 people at 30% area median income who are looking.
- One must make \$32.13/ hr to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in CO. That wage is \$35.69 in JeffCo.
- There are 22,673 empty units in the Denver Metro area ... luxury units

JEFFCO AMI		
		
30%	24,650	35,150
50%	41,050	58,600
80%	62,600	89,400

REPORT ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3NOUYTM](https://bit.ly/3NOUYTM)

STRUCTURAL FACTORS EXPLAINING HOMELESSNESS

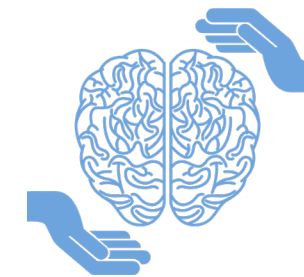
STRONG CORRELATION WITH HOMELESSNESS

Housing Market Conditions
(median rent, rental vacancy rate, high population growth vs low supply elasticity)



FACTORS THAT DO NOT EXPLAIN HOMELESSNESS

Mental Illness



Generosity of Public Assistance



Drug Use



Poverty



More Desirable Climates



FEDERAL LEVEL DISINVESTMENT

- Prior to 1980, almost all affordable housing development was partially or completely federally funded.
- The Housing Choice Voucher Program is the federal government's primary program for assisting very low income families, older adults, and people with disabilities to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Only one in four eligible households receive vouchers or assistance.
- Nationally, most new construction since 2014 has been in the top third of rentals while only 6.6% has been at the low end--lowest third of rentals.



PERSONAL BARRIERS

Family Breakup

Mental Illness

Job Loss

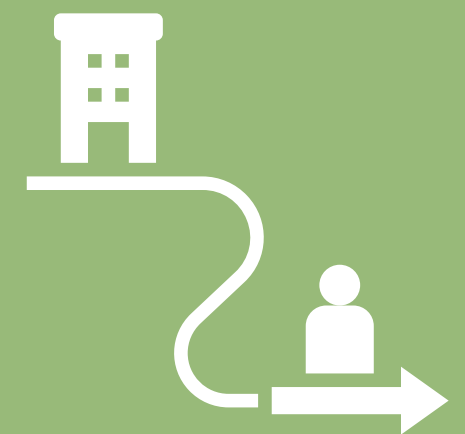
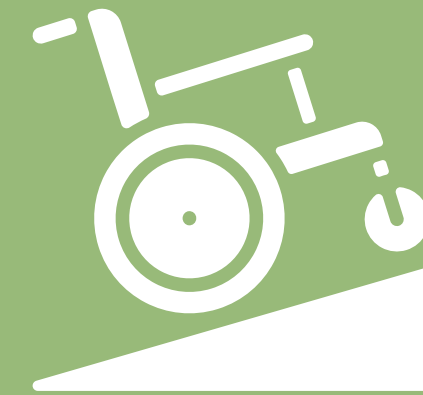
Eviction

Physical Disability

Domestic Violence

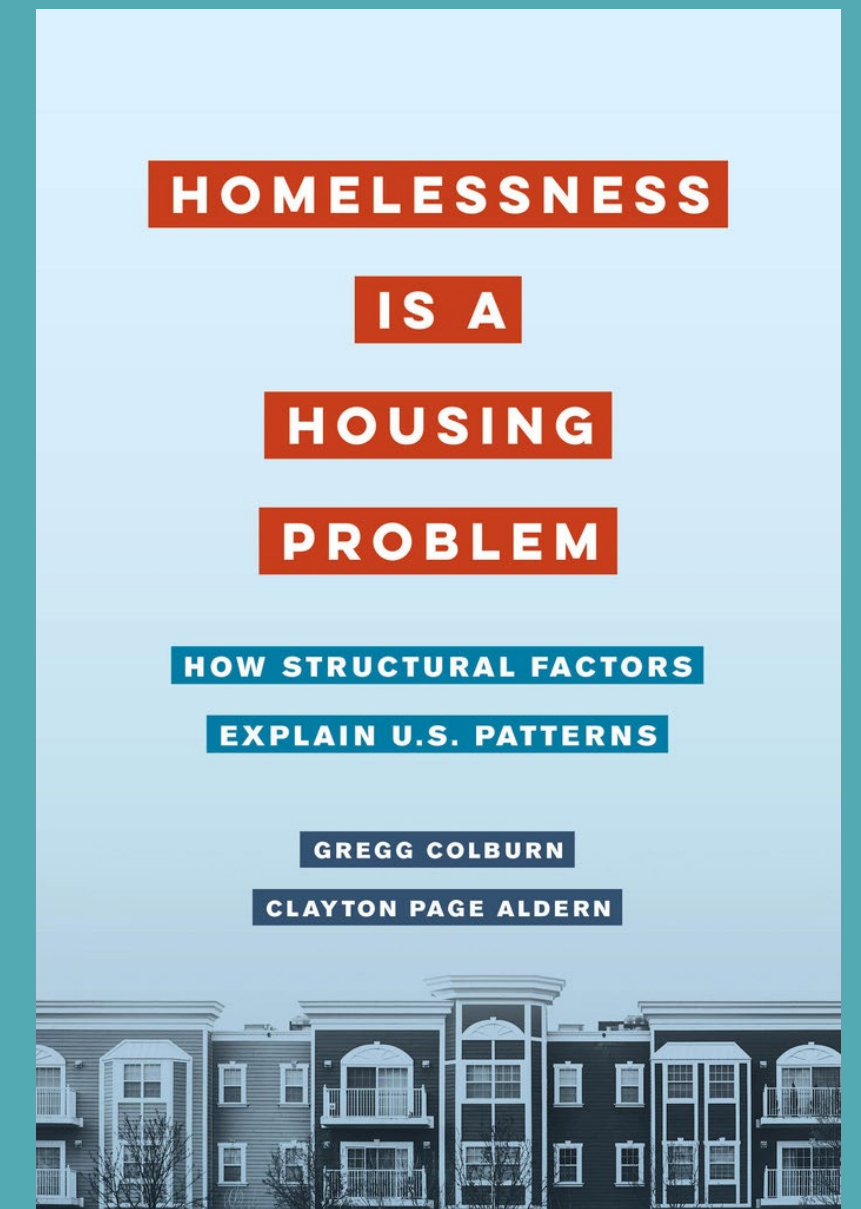
Substance Use Disorder

These incidents alone are not enough to cause homelessness.



SUMMARY: CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- Homelessness is a housing problem.
- The data shows that the most relevant correlation to homelessness is Housing Market Conditions including high median rent, low rental vacancy rate, and high population growth vs low supply elasticity. This is true even when controlling for all other factors.



HOUSING & HEALTHCARE & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & ADVOCACY



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AT CCH

23 PROPERTIES
4470 HOUSEHOLDS

- Housing First, but not Housing Only
- Residents at all facilities are offered wraparound services including onsite case management, counseling, substance use treatment, psychiatric care, medical care, landlord relations, employment services, etc.
- Proven Outcomes for SIB + Home to Health or SIPPRRA



READ SIB REPORT

<https://urbn.is/3lbuO4C>

HEALTH CARE AT CCH

- Primary care medical visits
- Health care for children
- Psychiatry
- Nurse visits (including wound care)
- Dental visits
- Eye Clinic
- Pharmacy
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Case management
- Behavioral health (therapy and groups)
- Medicaid enrollment assistance
- Street Medicine

APPROXIMATELY 15,000
INDIVIDUALS SERVED EACH YEAR



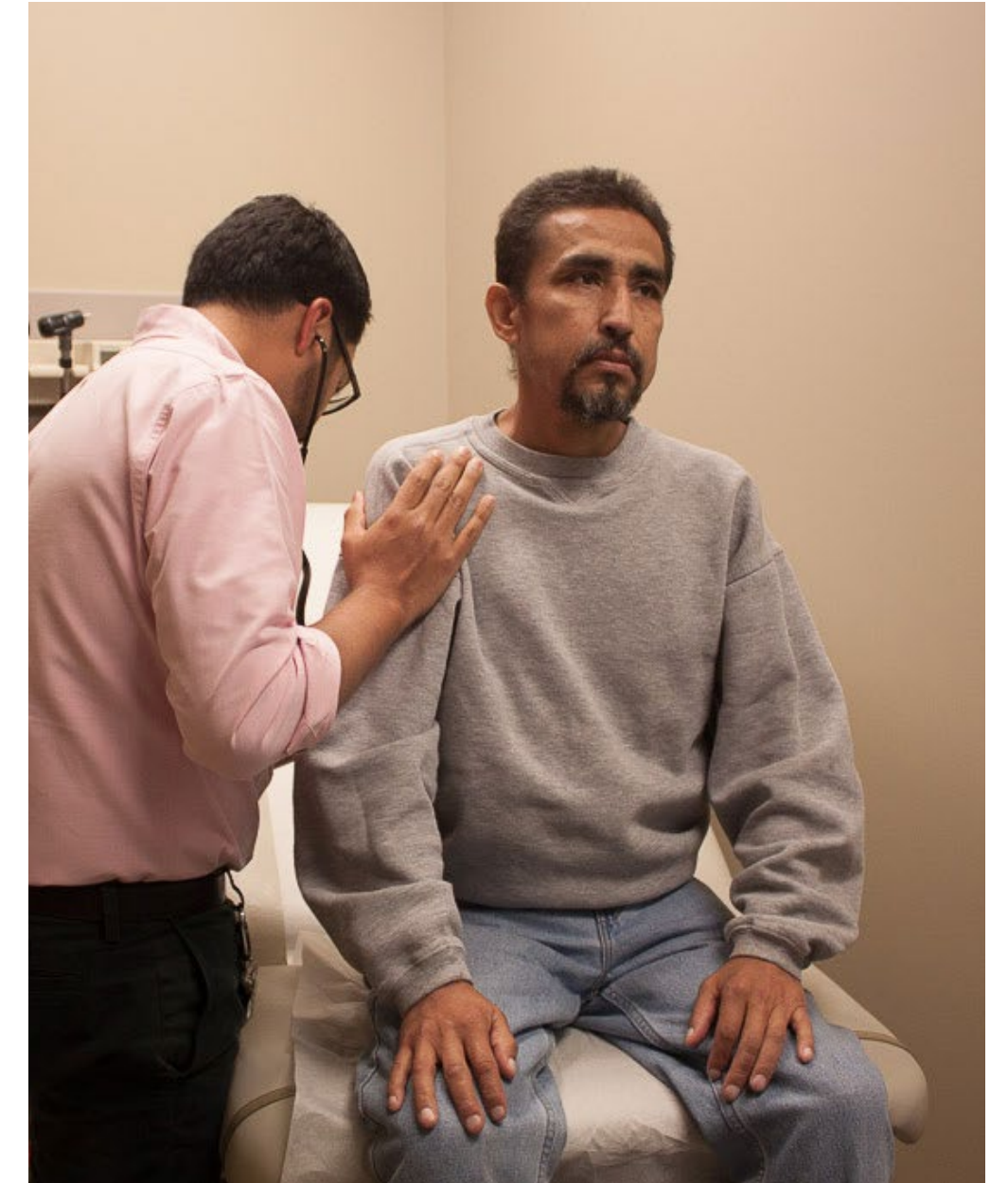
HOMELESSNESS HURTS HEALTH

Homelessness is associated with:

- 15 to 30-year reduced life expectancy
- Increased likelihood of experiencing violence
- Risk of traumatic injuries and assault
- Exposure to extreme heat and cold

Our doctors often say ...

“If I could prescribe housing the way I do medication, I would.”



SUMMARY - THE COALITION

- The Coalition began in 1984 as a healthcare organization. Over the past four decades, we have added in housing in order to be more effective in our work.
- Housing First policies, plus wraparound health and support services are proven to be the most effective way to combat homelessness.
- While not covered in detail here, the Coalition also works in Support Services and Advocacy



SUCCESS STORIES

WALTER BOYD

Walter lost his job due to serious health conditions, then lost his housing during the COVID-19 pandemic, finally staying at an emergency shelter, in chronic pain.

Coalition staff connected Walter with the Stout Street Health Center to address his health needs and assisted him in replacing his identification documents and in applying for disability benefits and housing assistance.

Walter now lives in his own apartment in a suburban neighborhood, a neighborhood where he knew he could find stability and be successful.



Now that I have a home, I can manage my health; and with the support of my case manager, I'm able to maintain the stability I was looking for.”

SUCCESS STORIES

ED CLAIR

Ed Clair lost his apartment during the pandemic. He was working for a janitorial company, lost his job and apartment, and had no choice but to move to the streets. Ed ended up at the Stout Street Recuperative Care Center, recovering from frostbite after a night when he was wandering around in wet shoes and his feet froze.”
“They were completely black from before my toes all the way to the back of my foot and pretty much the bottoms of them froze solid.”

Following the amputation of his feet, Ed recovered at the Recuperative Care Center, where he became sober and now leads recovery groups.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

VISIT [COLORADOCOALITION.ORG](https://coloradocoalition.org) TO LEARN MORE



@COCOALITION

