

A P R I L 2 0 2 3

**Annual Report  
Homeless Continuum of Care  
of Stark County, Ohio**

**No one should experience homelessness.  
No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home.**



HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE  
OF STARK COUNTY



## **Annual Report**

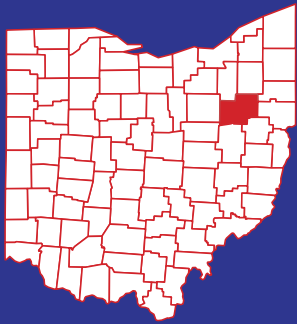
April, 2023

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

This report was prepared by Stark Housing Network.

Graphic Design by Jill Shargaa • Shargaa Illustration & Design ©2023

# The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County



The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) was established in 2013 to comply with the U.S Department of Housing and Development's (HUD) interim rule for Continuum of Care (CoC) funding. It is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, by providing funding to nonprofit housing providers, to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families. Prior to establishing the HCCSC, efforts to establish a coordinated community effort to end homelessness started as early as 2004 with a group of volunteers who formed the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Stark Housing Network, Inc. is a nonprofit organization established in 2017 with staff who manage the work of the HCCSC.

The HCCSC partners with 18 agencies to combat homelessness. The CoC funding allocated by HUD to Canton, Alliance, Massillon, and Stark County (referred to as Stark County) funds 19 different programs including 16 housing programs including Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. Many of the programs are geared towards serving chronically homeless, those experiencing severe mental illness, veterans, people struggling with substance use, and survivors of domestic violence.

We are always looking to collaborate with more individuals and agencies who support efforts to end homelessness. Our goal is to create more awareness, bring more resources into our community, and implement innovative ideas to help equitably end homelessness in Stark County. For more information about the HCCSC including opportunities to support these efforts, please visit our website, [www.starkcountyhomeless.org](http://www.starkcountyhomeless.org).

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## Partner Agencies – HCCSC Data or Federal Partner Data

- Alliance for Children and Families
- Coleman Professional Services
- CommQuest (Family Living Center)
- Family & Community Services
- ICAN Housing
- Refuge of Hope
- Stark County TASC
- Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
- Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority
- YWCA of Canton

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## Partner Agencies – Non-HCCSC Data

- Alliance Salvation Army
- Canton Salvation Army
- Catholic Charities
- Massillon Salvation Army
- Stark County Job & Family Services
- United Way of Greater Stark County

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## Partner Agencies – No Electronic Data Sharing

- Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter
- Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

# Highlights

Percentage of households who do NOT return to the homeless system within six months of exiting to a permanent destination within each of the past three years. For the current report period, the universe for the chart is households that exited within the first six months of the report period.

**2020: 89%**  
[36/333]

**2021: 88%**  
[34/277]

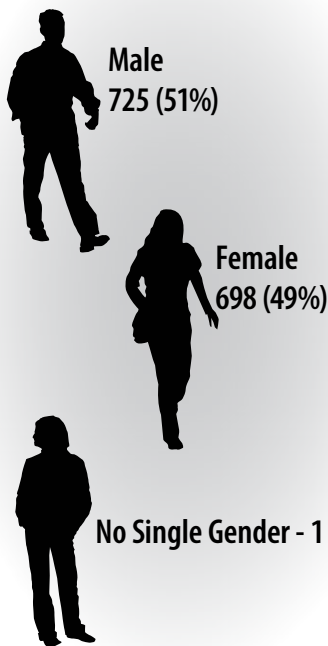
**2022: 94%**  
[10/156]

**2022: 88%**  
in the 12 months prior to the current report period, 89% between 12 and 24 months prior to the current report period.

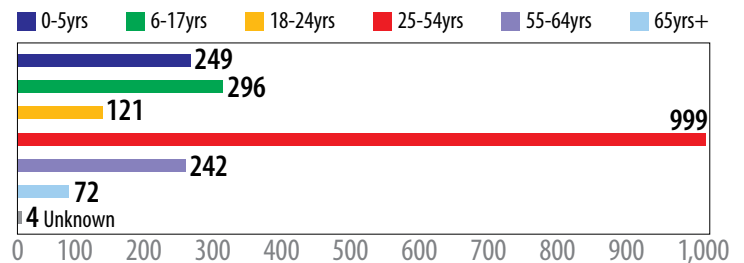
# Profile of Homelessness in Stark County, OH

All tables, unless noted otherwise, include data for a 1-year period from 10/1/2021 to 9/30/2022.

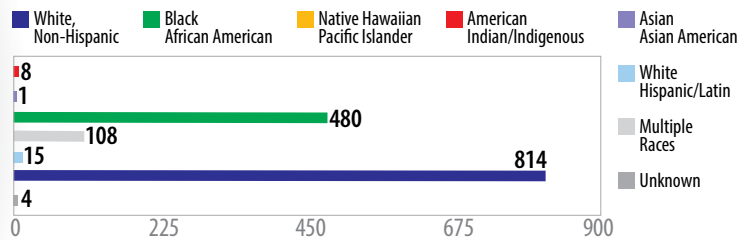
**Gender of Head of Household (HoH) and Adults: n=1,430 (total people served 1,979)**



**Age: n=1,979**

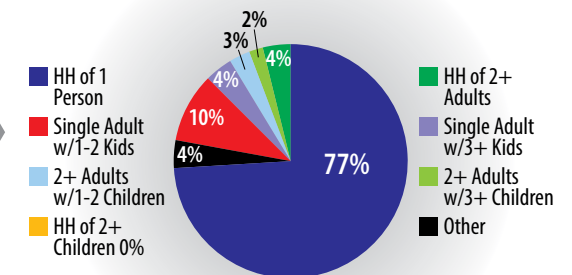


**Race and Ethnicity of HoH and Adults: n=1,430**



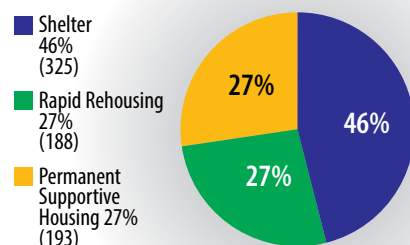
**Household Composition: n=1,313**

**Note:** 1,065 households were adults only, and 244 households were adults and children.



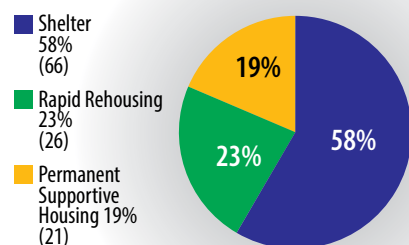
A total of 837 heads of household (HoH) and adults were served in shelter. 66 of the 837 served in shelter were veterans. Of the same 837 HoH and adults served in shelter 325 were domestic violence survivors.

**Assistance Provided for Domestic Violence Survivors\***

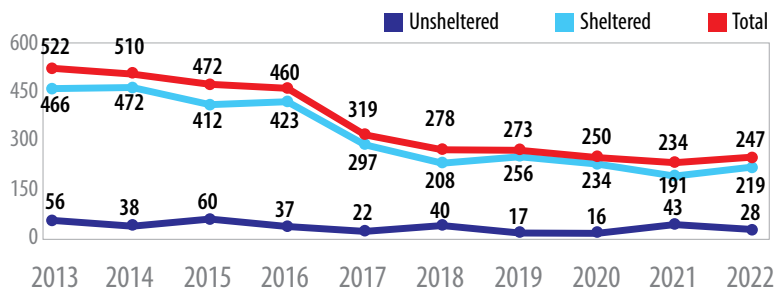


\*DV status includes DV survivor currently fleeing and DV survivor not currently or unknown fleeing status.

**Assistance Provided for Veterans**



## Sheltered and Unsheltered Point in Time Count (2013 - 2022)



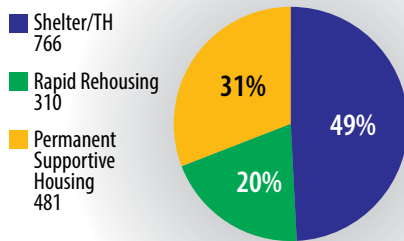
## Total Beds by Housing Type

ES - Emergency Shelter  
PSH - Permanent Supportive Housing  
RRH - Rapid Rehousing

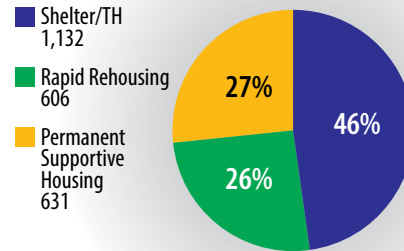
	2021	2020
ES	173	192
PSH	546	522
RRH	154	200



## Assistance Provided Households (1,313)



## Assistance Provided People (1,979)



# Emergency Shelter and Types of CoC Housing



**EMERGENCY SHELTER (ES):** Any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of homeless people. The length of stay can range from one night to as much as three months.

**RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH):** An intervention that rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services.

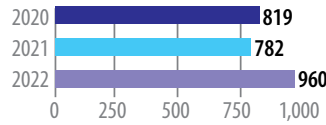
**PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH):** Long-term community-based housing and supportive services for homeless people with disabilities. The intent of this type of supportive housing is to enable this special-needs population to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.

**STREET OUTREACH (SO):** Essential services related to reaching out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services. May include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations.

# Trends for 2020 to 2022

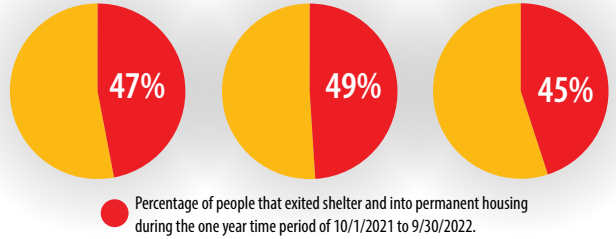
In this section are key metrics that measure the effectiveness of the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County. Unfortunately, the number of persons who are experiencing homelessness for the first time is increasing with an increase of 178 persons between 2021 (782) and 2022 (960). There has also been a slight increase year over year from 2020 to 2022 in the length of time persons are homeless in Stark County. These are metrics the HCCSC is aware of and is working on strategies to improve, however, there are additional factors outside of the HCCSC that impact these numbers including the low inventory of affordable housing. The U.S., State of Ohio, and Stark County have a shortage of rental homes affordable to renters with extremely low incomes—that is, incomes at or below either the federal poverty guideline or 30% of the area median income, whichever is greater. In Ohio, only 40 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households.\* The information below provides information specific to Stark County and the City of Canton.

## First Time Homeless

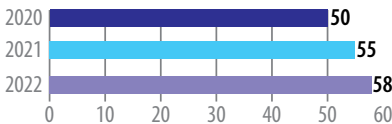


Person who did not have entries into ES, PSH, RRH in the previous 24 months

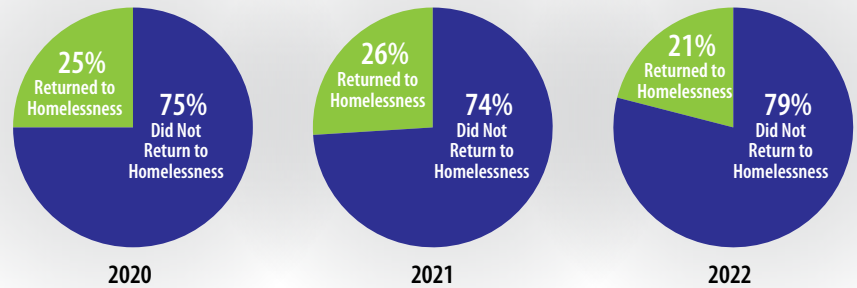
## Percentage of Persons Who Exited Shelter or Housing Projects to Permanent Housing\*



## Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless



## Percentage of Persons Who Exited to Permanent Housing and Returned to Homelessness in 2 Years



# Low Inventory of Affordable Housing

Like many communities, Stark County has an insufficient inventory of affordable housing for most income tiers up to 80% Area Median Income (AMI). This shortage is impacting the demand for homeless assistance shelter and housing in several ways:

- There is a lack of available and affordable units for persons exiting the homeless system. This, in turn, has caused lengthened stays in emergency shelter beds.
- The tight rental market overall has caused rents to surge as landlords and property managers increase rents due to demand exceeding supply. As a result, landlords are less interested in accepting tenants with rental vouchers because they can achieve higher rents than the HUD fair market rents.
- With increasing mortgage interest rates, renters who were hoping to become homebuyers are remaining renters since they've been priced out of the sales market. This means less turnover in the rental market.
- Households with incomes above 80% of AMI have more options in the rental market. If they are unable to rent within their income tier (e.g., an 80-100% AMI

household finding a unit that is affordable to an 80-100% AMI household), then they tend to rent down-market. In other words, they will rent units that are affordable to households in lower-income tiers. This squeezes out the lower-income households from renting within their own income tier, causing cost burden for many who then rent up-market.

- The resulting shortage of units both affordable and available for renter households at or below 30% AMI increases housing insecurity for extremely low-income households, making them at risk of becoming homeless.

The Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data used to complete this analysis is from 2014-2018 and was the current data set at the time this analysis was conducted. It does not reflect current housing market conditions that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, including recent rent surges. However, it is still valuable in analyzing the degree to which households above 30% AMI and above 50% AMI are renting down-market due to a lack of housing inventory for higher-income households.

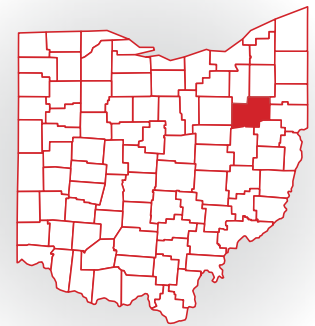
# Housing Gap Analysis

Stark County Renter Households (excluding Canton)	0-30% AMI	31-51% AMI
Total Households.....	10,900.....	8,950
Affordable Housing Units.....	9,195 .....	16,730
Units Occupied by Appropriate Income Tier <sup>1</sup> .....	4,270 .....	3,670
Units Occupied by Other Income Households <sup>2</sup> .....	4,925 .....	13,060
<b>Gap<sup>3</sup> .....</b>	<b>6,630.....</b>	<b>5,280</b>

<sup>1</sup> Number of housing units occupied by a household of the same income tier (i.e., a 0-30% AMI household occupies a unit that is affordable to a 0-30% AMI household).

<sup>2</sup> Number of housing units occupied by a household that is not of the same income tier (i.e., a 0-30% AMI unit is occupied by a household above 30% AMI).

<sup>3</sup> Total Number of Households minus Units Occupied by Appropriate Income Tier equals the number of units needed to house the balance of the households within that income tier that are occupying units affordable to households above their income tier (i.e., the housing gap).



Data Source: 2014-2018 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS).

City of Canton - Stark County Renter Households	0-30% AMI	31-51% AMI
Total Households.....	5,400.....	3,485
Affordable Housing Units.....	4,940 .....	6,155
Units Occupied by Appropriate Income Tier <sup>1</sup> .....	2,585 .....	1,515
Units Occupied by Other Income Households <sup>2</sup> .....	2,355 .....	4,640
<b>Gap<sup>3</sup> .....</b>	<b>2,815.....</b>	<b>1,970</b>

<sup>1</sup> Number of housing units occupied by a household of the same income tier (i.e., a 0-30% AMI household occupies a unit that is affordable to a 0-30% AMI household).

<sup>2</sup> Number of housing units occupied by a household that is not of the same income tier (i.e., a 0-30% AMI unit is occupied by a household above 30% AMI).

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Data Source: 2014-2018 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS).



**Footnote for all data:** The report was created based on data pulled from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Stella Performance system for reporting year 10/1/2021 to 9/30/2022 and HCCSC System Performance data for the same reporting period.

## Success Story

**Y**WCA of Canton Permanent Supportive Housing Client, Steven\*, has come a long way since his start in the program. When he first became housed, he faced significant trauma and mental health challenges that made it difficult for him to obtain and maintain stable housing.

YWCA staff, along with onsite supportive services staff, identified and referred him to regular on-site services in 2022. Since engaging with services, Steven has built a productive therapeutic relationship with support services staff, which has allowed him to learn skills like how to moderate his emotions and use open communication to problem solve. His progress with supportive services also gave him the confidence to apply for Social Security, and at the end of 2022, his social security was successfully awarded.

Steven is an example of the positive impact Homeless Continuum of Care Stark County programs have on individuals who are experiencing homelessness; stabilization and wrap around services have given Steven the skills and support needed to stay out of homelessness.



HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE  
OF STARK COUNTY

