
Encampments & Outreach Responses

**City County Homeless Issues Committee
(11/16/20)**

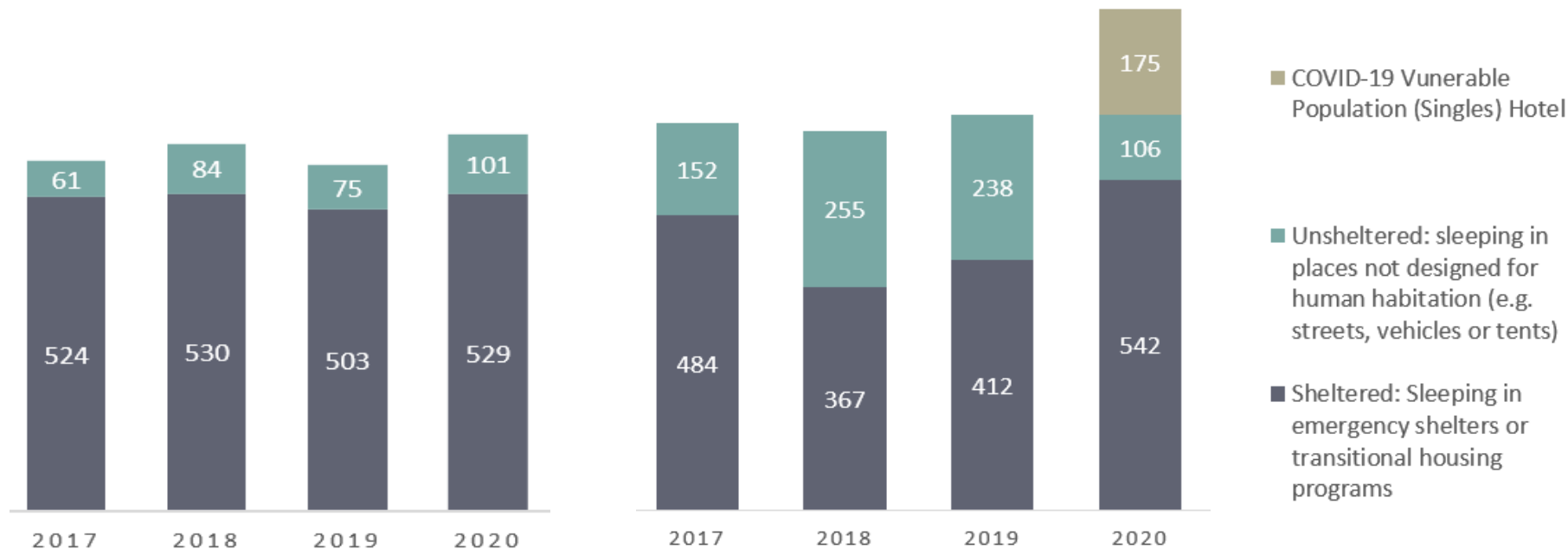
Unsheltered Homeless in Madison/Dane County

On a typical winter night, about 70-100 people are unsheltered in Madison/Dane County.

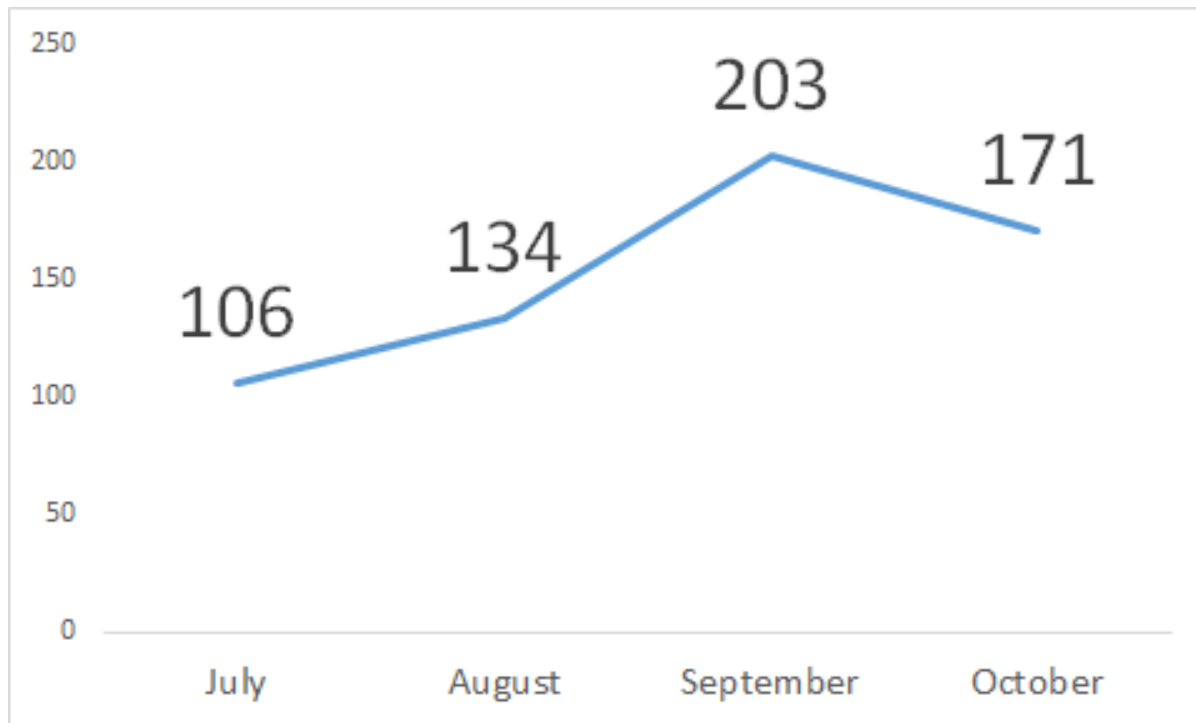
They sleep outside, in a vehicle, in a tent, or other places not suitable for human habitation.

Unsheltered # typically triples in the summer.

January PIT (Winter Count) July PIT (Summer Count)



Unsheltered # peaked in September this year.



Estimated 132 people were unsheltered on November 11, 2020.

Downtown:	25
McPike Park:	25
Starkweather Creek:	25
Hwy 30:	15
Reindahl:	8
Other Places:	34

Unsheltered people have additional challenges.

Most of them are in households without children (singles or couples).

Approximately 25% are female and 75% are male.

According to the 2019 July PIT survey,

- Estimated 64% adults have a serious mental illness (compared to 42% overall);
- Estimated 55% adults have a substance use disorders (compared to 29% overall).

Why are people not using the shelters?

Summer (2019 July PIT)

I do not feel safe.

I have used up my 90 days or I am saving my 90 nights for bad or cold weather nights.

There are too many rules or rules are too strict.

Winter (2020 January PIT)

They are too crowded or loud.

I have issues with shelter staff.

I can't stay with my partner, family or friends.

Why are people not using the shelters?

Recent outreach staff interviews with people at encampments

- Mental health conditions (e.g. PTSD)-- difficult to be in an environment where many people are in crisis
- Feeling unsafe due to crimes (e.g. stealing)
- Rules-- people were not aware of the men's shelter changes regarding intoxication
- Do not want to leave a partner
- Lack of storage--do not want to leave their belongings
- Concerned about COVID-19 in congregate setting
- Transportation--proximity to work and services

Shelter Updates

Our goal is to ensure access to shelter for everyone.

- Working with public health to mitigate risk and ensure safety at shelters
- Increasing shelter capacity
- Lowering barriers for shelter entry
- Accelerate rehousing

Porchlight Men's Shelter

- Relocated from three downtown churches to Warner Park; plan to relocate to First Street fleet facility in December
- Indefinite hold on 90-day limit
- Allowed people under the influence of substances to access shelter
- Increased staffing and worked as a team to better serve guests with challenging behaviors
- Actively reduced the frequency and length of suspensions
- Arranged transportation from The Beacon to Warner Park and back each day
- Regular COVID-19 testing onsite
- **Average Use: 100 guests in October**
- **Capacity: 160 (First Street capacity at least 250)**

Salvation Army Women's Shelter

- Families moved out to hotels, freeing up the 22 family rooms for women
- Women are staying 24 hours a day
- Indefinite hold on 90-day limit
- Increased storage space for guest's belongings
- Decreased length of time for suspensions
- Regular COVID-19 testing onsite
- **Average Use: 59 guests in October**
- **Capacity: 65 (was 45 pre-COVID)**

COVID-19 Vulnerable Population Hotels

- For individuals residing at shelters or unsheltered locations who are at increased risk of severe illness
 - Age 65+
 - Medical conditions identified by CDC such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, severe heart conditions
- Onsite supportive services
- Funded by Dane County CARES Act funds
- **Capacity: 180**

COVID-19 Medical Respite Center

- For individuals and families experiencing homelessness who need to isolate (positive test, symptoms) or quarantine (close contact with someone tested positive)
- Shelters, outreach programs, clinics and hospitals, and corrections can refer
- Funded by Dane County CARES Act funds
- Managed by Public Health
- **Capacity: 70+ units**

Outreach Responses

Sara Allee-Jatta, Sankofa Behavioral and Community Health
Karen Andro, First United Methodist Church

Coordinated Outreach Response

- Weekly outreach check-in for updates and problem solving, attended by various outreach groups
- Weekly food & supply outreach with additional follow-up outreach and case management services, food & supply bags prepared by First United Methodist Church
- Will release a joint statement about encampment donations

Madison Area Coordinated Outreach Teams

 Briarpatch Youth Services



UnityPoint Health- Meriter, VA Outreach and other groups