



## Press Release

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### **Colorado Sees a 30% Increase in Homelessness According to the 2024 Point-In-Time Count. CO Coalition for the Homeless Calls for Upstream Solutions**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released its 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (Part 1), which indicates that homelessness has reached a record high nationally, increasing by 18% since 2023. Part 1, focusing on point-in-time (PIT) estimates, captures the number of individuals in shelters, temporary housing, and unsheltered settings as measured in the annual count, which takes place on one night each year.

In Colorado, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness according to the 2024 PIT count was 18,715, up from 14,439 in 2023—an increase of 30% in just one year. Year-over-year increases were seen across many demographics including both sheltered and unsheltered individuals, chronically homeless people, and among women and youth. However, the most notable increases were among families, defined as households with at least one adult and one child. A staggering 134% increase occurred in just one year, from 3,641 individuals in 2023 to 8,519 in 2024. While the exact cause of this increase is unknown, the figure may reflect the increase in new arrivals to Denver, sustained high housing costs, the impact of inflation on families who were already struggling to make ends meet, and the ways in which emergency vouchers were allocated and utilized in the past year.

One bright spot over this period was the reduction in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness from 1,022 in 2023 to 978 in 2024. This is the lowest recorded number since 2020.

HUD Agency Head, the Honorable Adrienne Todman stated in the [HUD press release](#), “It is critical that we focus on evidence-based efforts to prevent and end homelessness. We know what works and our success in reducing veteran homelessness by 55.2% since 2010 shows that.”

Secretary Todman visited the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ nine-story Renewal Village property in late 2024. Approximately 60 veterans are housed at any given time in the recently opened 215-unit permanent supportive housing property, which is the Coalition’s twenty-third.

While HUD has been pivotal in funding for the sector, the change in the Federal administration is likely to impact available funding for Housing First—the most effective data-proven approach to homelessness resolution. Cathy Alderman, Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer for the Coalition added: “A large part of our homelessness funds and housing funds come from the federal government. Though the

state and Denver have made key investments, local funding simply can't replicate what the federal government contributes. The track record of the last Trump administration tells us that despite the growing crisis, less funding should be expected, not more.”

In spite of uncertainty about funding, the Coalition will continue to provide direct services to approximately 22,000 clients each year and pursue upstream solutions to homelessness during the 2025 Colorado legislative session. CCH will prioritize expanding homelessness resolution infrastructure, improving access to identification documents for people experiencing homelessness, and strengthening housing protections for victim-survivors of gender-based violence. Alderman added, “We know that homelessness is a housing problem, and we are committed to driving policies that increase access to safe, sanitary, affordable housing and resources that help people meet basic needs.”

As always, it is important to note that the Coalition views the PIT count to be an extreme undercount of the true number of people experiencing homelessness; likely 1/3 or less of the true total. As outlined in the [2023 State of Homelessness Report](#), the PIT count does not include people who are doubled up or in hospitals, motels or jails on the night of the count, and is therefore not a comprehensive count of people experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

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**About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:**

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves. Since its founding, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition’s comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to over 22,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at [www.coloradocoalition.org](http://www.coloradocoalition.org).