

89th Legislature debrief & looking ahead to the 90th

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Agenda



THN & What we
do



Homelessness
in Texas



Legislative
debrief & 90th
preview



What is THN?

THN is a statewide agency that...

Leads communities in Texas so that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring

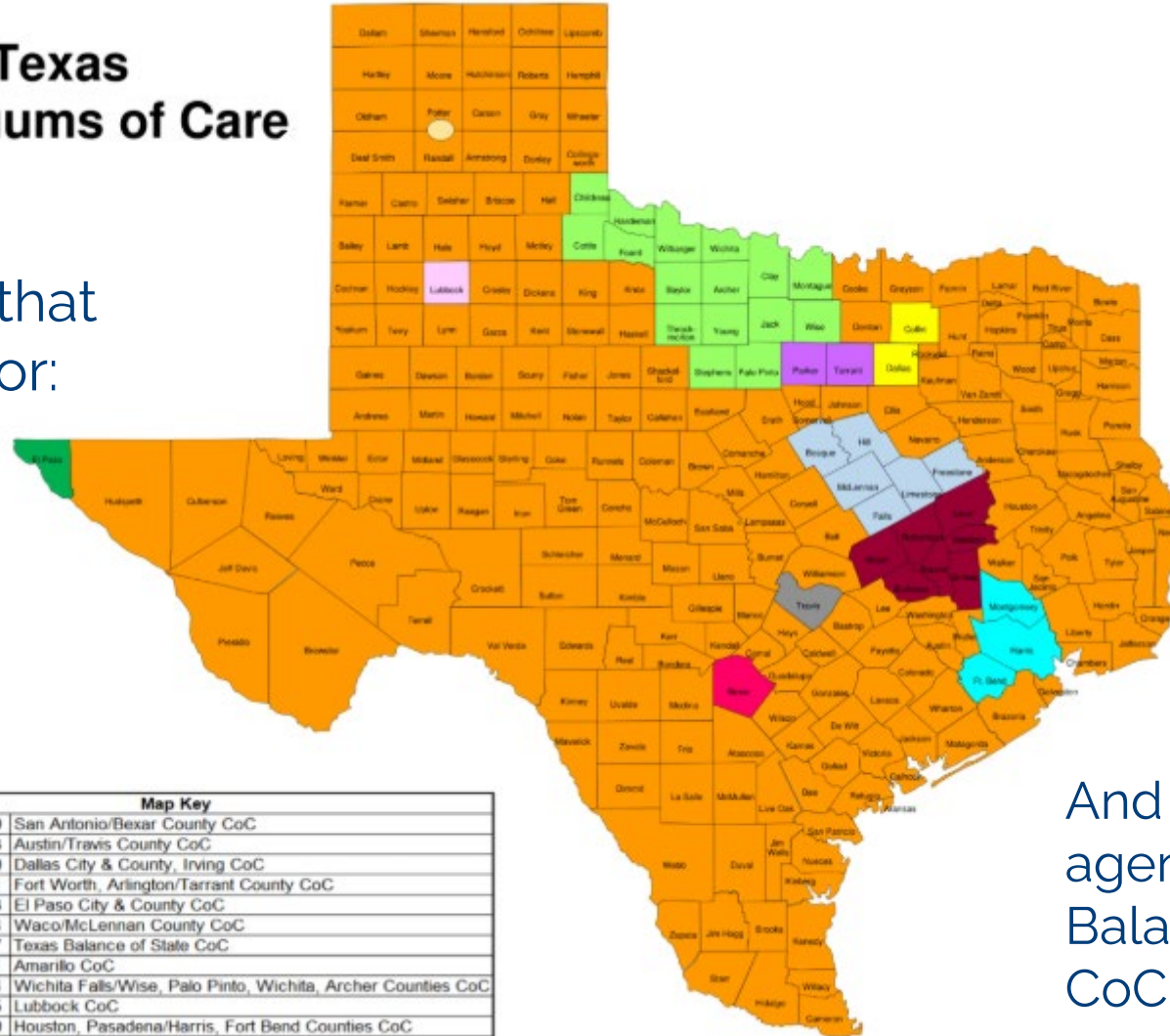
This work is done through systems called Continuums of Care or Homeless Response systems



Homelessness in Texas

Texas Continuums of Care

The communities that
THN works with/for:



And THN is the lead
agency for Texas
Balance of State
CoC (TX BoS CoC)

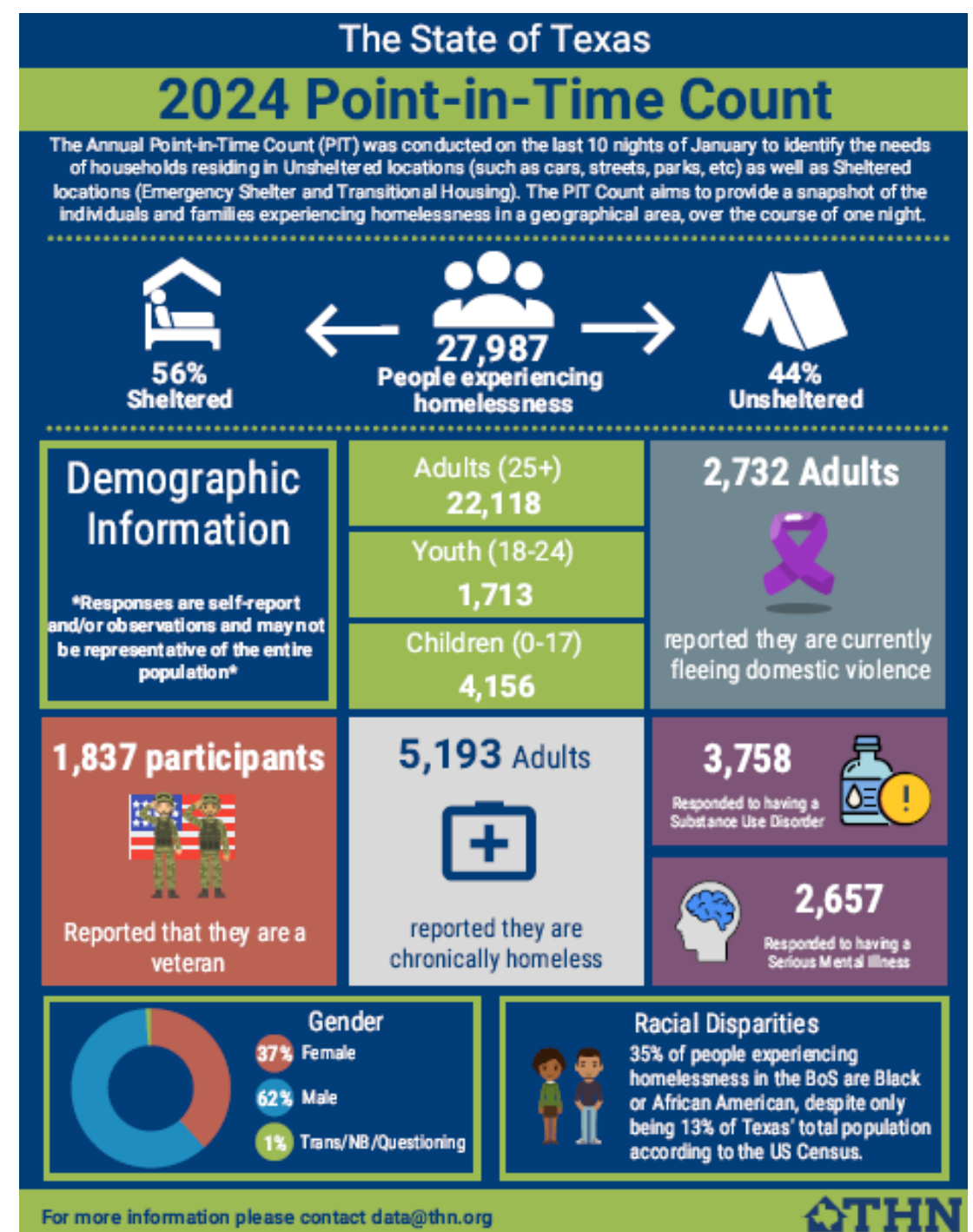


Homelessness in Texas



Texans experiencing homelessness on any given night (Point-in-Time)

- These are the data most often used to describe the population who are homeless – it's imperfect, but easy to compare year after year.
- The total number of people experiencing homelessness increased by only 2% in the past five years, but families living in unsheltered locations increased by 49% in the same time.
- Veteran homelessness decreased by 6% over the past five years.



Annualized data (another way to look at homelessness) – Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network (THDSN)

Snapshot of Homelessness in Texas: 2024

49,133

Homeless Households

57,331

26%

Unsheltered



Scan the QR code for complete access to the THDSN Data Dashboard

Total Number of People Experiencing Homelessness



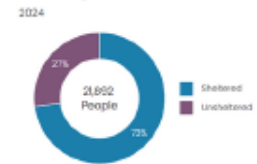
Total Number of People Entering and Exiting Homelessness



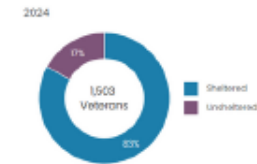
Racial Composition



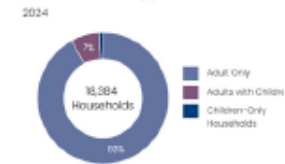
All People



Veterans



Household Type



Persons in Households Without Children



Persons in households with at least one child and one adult



Persons in Child-Only Households



Disclaimer: This report represents the total number of people who fell into homelessness in Texas during the specified time period and accessed services from state and federally funded programs. It's important to recognize that this figure underestimates the actual rate of homelessness in Texas, as not all households facing housing insecurity qualify for assistance or are comfortable seeking services.



89th legislative debrief & 90th preview



THN's Priorities for the 89th Legislative Session

- **Strengthen Texas' Homeless Crisis Response Systems**
 - Homeless Crisis Response Systems, or Continuums of Care, end homelessness through the strategic development of systems based on data-driven solutions. They do this well, and with more funding they would do more.
- **Expand Affordable, Accessible housing opportunities**
 - Ending homelessness requires housing. Texas must support the development and rehabilitation of more affordable housing if we want to end homelessness.
- **Targeted, Intersectional Assistance**
 - Recognizing the intersections between Texans we serve who are also assisted by other systems of care and intentionally collaborating to provide aid (i.e. people with disabilities)
- **Play defense**



Legislation THN supported or worked on last session & plan for 90th

- Budget increase for the Homeless Housing and Service Program funding – This will again be a priority in 2027
- Support for TRLI HB 714/SB 337 & HB 1144: tenant readiness/disaster preparedness for vulnerable populations
- Bills increasing housing opportunity & stability prioritized by our partners – This will again be a priority in 2027
- Expansion support for the Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network (THDSN) – This will not be pushed in 90th
- SB 1324: Funding to provide support to community college students at risk or experiencing homelessness – This will again be a priority in 2027
- HB 2016: Funding to provide support development of affordable housing/housing navigator services – This will again be a priority in 2027



THN supported or worked on last session & plan for 90th continued

- **HB 2754: Pilot program providing personalized Sub. Abuse treatment – This will again be a priority in 2027 & THN would support a bill focused on a pilot program offering homelessness prevention)**
- **HB 2142: study on using certain models to address homelessness – This will be addressed in the interim**
- **Establish Crisis Service Centers in major metro counties with focus of serving SMI & non-penal detention – THN will work on this again, but funding should be attached (SB 2487 didn't pass/SB 1164 did)**



Legislation That May Hinder Efforts to End Homelessness

These are examples of legislation we will play defense against – we will educate policymakers and advocates on bills that contain proposed actions that, in THN’s opinion, limit opportunities for communities to address homelessness effectively.

Bills filed last session that are likely to return (more are likely to be filed in 2027):

- **SB 399: So called, “Homeless Services Audits” bill which would create duplicative & unnecessary program assessments that would inefficiently utilize state funds – We expect it will be filed again & THN would oppose again**
- **SB 241: compels/coerces communities to aggressively enforce the statewide camping ban – We expect it will be filed again & THN would oppose again**
- **SB 2623: the bill establishing a “school safety zone” or perimeter of space around a school, park, etc. in which “homeless navigation services” cannot be provided – Unsure if it will be filed again but, if it is, THN would oppose again**

