

Homelessness Awareness Day

Office of Economic Opportunity &
Economic Services Division



DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Agency of Human Services

2023 Point-In-Time Count

A one-night, unduplicated count of people experiencing homelessness
2,256 Households – 3,295 People

109 persons were Unsheltered (5% of total persons)

654 Children (20% of total persons)

366 Families with Children (16% of households)

247 Young Adults (ages 18-24) (7% of persons)

6 Unaccompanied Minors

8% Chronically Homeless

4% Veterans

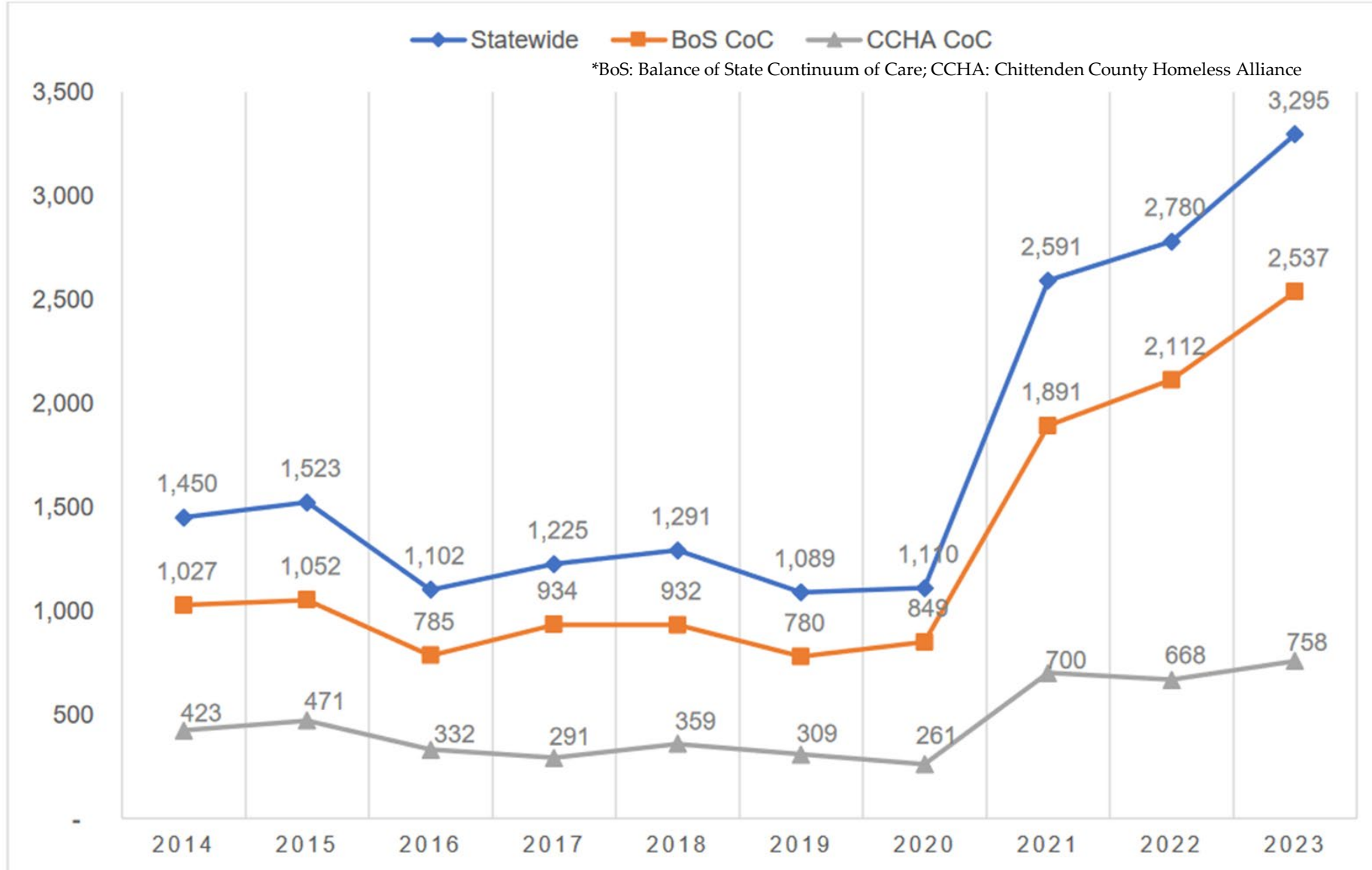
9% Fleeing Domestic or
Sexual Violence

14% BIPOC

44% Female, 55% Male

1% Transgender or Gender
Non-conforming

Total Persons Experiencing Homelessness



General Assistance Emergency Housing

General Assistance and Emergency Housing program has a Shelter First goal.

Provides emergency housing in a hotel/motel when no alternative shelter is available

Eligibility/access through Economic Services or 2-1-1 (after hours)

- “Catastrophic” up to 84 nights or “Vulnerable” up to 28 nights, depending on eligibility
- Adverse Weather Conditions during winter months
- Cohort, refers to a group of clients who were living in a hotel/motel in June 30th, 2023 and were granted an extension to stay in the hotel/motel through April 1st, 2024.

General Assistance and Emergency Housing Program Eligibility based on Category

| Housing as of 01/15/2024 | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Eligibility Category | Total Eligible Households | Eligible Cohort Households | Eligible Non-Cohort Households |
| Age 60+ | 52 | 48 | 4 |
| Death of a Spouse or Minor Child | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Disabled (SSI/SSDI) | 407 | 357 | 50 |
| Domestic Violence | 68 | 25 | 43 |
| Families with Children | 163 | 145 | 18 |
| Health Code Violations/Eviction | 129 | 61 | 68 |
| Natural Disaster (Fire, Flood, Hurricane) | 12 | 3 | 9 |
| Pregnant | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Vulnerable Population Points | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adverse Weather Conditions | 779 | 0 | 779 |
| Total | 1619 | 647 | 972 |

High costs for low return

- The current hotel/motel program is expensive:
- \$132 Average nightly rate the week of 12/26/2023
- That's about \$4,000/month without providing any services.

Ideal and Common services at shelters include:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Case Management | Ability to receive mail |
| Housing Navigation | Access to a computer |
| Warm meals | Connection to Recovery coaching |
| Laundry facility | Job Readiness workshops |
| Health/mental health care | Substance use treatment |

Get Connected to Housing Help – Local Lead Agencies

Washington
County: Capstone

Rutland County:
Homeless
Prevention Center

Addison County:
Charter House

Franklin/GI:
CVOEO

St. Johnsbury
Area: NEKCA

Springfield Area:
Springfield
Supported
Housing

Hartford Area:
Upper Valley
Haven

Southern
Windham:
Groundworks

Bennington
County: BROCC

Lamoille County:
Capstone

Newport Area:
NEKCA

Chittenden:
CVOEO

Emergency Shelter/Housing Capacity

Emergency Shelter Network

- Emergency shelters, emergency apartments, DV motel overflow
- ~563 household capacity (only 45 seasonal)
 - Pre-covid: 562 household capacity (180 seasonal)
 - May 2020: 160 household capacity



Preserve & Expand Emergency Shelters

- New base funding prioritized:
 - Emergency shelter expansion
 - Expanding staffing at shelters to address safety concerns
 - Addressing inflationary cost increases to preserve projects
 - Preserving projects where loss of funding would have reduced capacity
- Expanding Emergency Shelter Capacity:
 - 2 seasonal shelters shifted to year-round operations
 - New and expanded projects (Barre, Brattleboro, Burlington, Rutland, Springfield, St. Johnsbury)
 - Under consideration/In development for SFY24: Temporary/one-time projects to support the Act 81 cohort
 - Under consideration/In development for SFY25: 3 potential projects could add about 100 HH capacity (Brattleboro, Hartford, Rutland)

Additional Housing Opportunity Grant Program Investments

- Flexible Client Financial Assistance to help homeless or at-risk households stabilize in housing (e.g. security deposits, rental arrears, transportation, fees, etc.)
- Day shelter expansion to address unsheltered homelessness, including food
- Staffing to expand housing navigation services
- Expanding rapid re-housing

The Annual HOP Award Summary is available online:

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/oec/resources/awards>

Family Supportive Housing

- Supportive housing for families with complex needs experiencing homelessness

| | Start of SFY24 | January 2024 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Districts Served | 9 | 11 (Lamoille Valley in progress) |
| Service Coordinator Capacity | 18 Positions | 31 Positions |
| Caseload Range | 216-270 | 372-465 |

- Program components:
 - Permanent housing (MOU with housing providers)
 - Intensive, home-based services (small caseloads)
 - Financial empowerment services (banking, credit, spending, savings)

Community Services Block Grant & Community Action Agencies

Change Agents

- *Low income people gain economic security*
- *Low income communities are healthy and offer economic opportunity.*
- *Low income people are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.*



Community Services Block Grant & Community Action Agencies



Range of services and strategies - based on a community assessment - to connect people to crisis resources and promoting economic mobility.

The State of Vermont goes through an annual state planning process (public hearing in June, submitted in August). Includes support for statewide training and technical assistance for homeless and housing providers as well as support for innovative initiatives based on community needs.

Additional Investments

- **HOME Family Housing Voucher** Project launched in January 2023 to help families with children exit homelessness.
 - As of 1/12/24 90 families have exited homelessness and moved into an apartment with a HOME voucher.
- **Landlord Relief Program** launching February 2023 (statewide “risk” pool)
 - 215 approval applications (\$777,835); average \$5,179 per landlord
- Temporary expansion of the **Vermont Rental Subsidy program** for Reach Up families (\$1.5M)
- **Homeless Health Care Capacity Building Projects**
 - 8 projects around the state

Additional Investments

- **ERAP Housing Stability Services** capacity continues through June 2025 – legal services, mediation, landlord liaisons, supplemental housing navigation and retention services
 - In SFY23:
 - 1,220 households received Housing Navigation services,
 - 415 households received Housing Retention services,
 - 545 landlords received outreach and education,
 - 773 households received legal consultation or representation

“3 legs of the Stool” to Solve Homelessness



1. *A Unit*
2. *Rental assistance* to fill the affordability gap
3. *Supportive services* tailored to help people get and keep housing – connections to employment and health services