

HOMELESSNESS IN KNOX COUNTY



REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS



DECEMBER 2022

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS.....	4
HOUSING	4
INCOME.....	6
HEALTH.....	7
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....	7
RACIAL INEQUALITY.....	8
HOMELESSNESS IN KNOX COUNTY	8
INTERVIEWS WITH UNHOUSED COUNTY RESIDENTS	9
HOMELESSNESS POLICIES	12
CITY OF KNOXVILLE	12
STATE LEGISLATION	13
ACCESS TO HOMELESS SERVICES	14
CURRENT DATA ON HOMELESSNESS	15
FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE	18
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS	19
RECOMMENDATIONS	21
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Homelessness is a complicated issue that cannot be fully examined through any single report. While most areas of the country are grappling with a significant increase in homelessness, an understanding of the unique impacts and resources within Knox County is key in determining solutions that will prove effective in our community. This report was developed by Knox County Grants and Community Development through consultation with local nonprofit agencies, faith-based organizations, the City of Knoxville, and other departments of the County.

While the cause of homelessness is unique to each individual or family, a relatively short list of “significant contributors” – housing, mental health, substance misuse, and the need for additional support networks – came up repeatedly in our research. In Knox County, approximately 7,700 individuals received homelessness services in 2020, and the data collected on “cause of homelessness” aligns with those contributors frequently cited in research on the topic. Based on the most current data available, *the top five causes of homelessness in Knox County are a lack of affordable housing, eviction, job loss/underemployment, substance misuse, and mental health.*

Homelessness is not new to our area, and local nonprofits, churches, and public agencies have been working to address the issue for decades. However, the number of unhoused individuals and families living in the City and County has been growing rapidly, and the impact of this growth is being felt throughout our community. There has been a substantial growth in the number of homeless camps located in unincorporated areas of the County, and homeless service providers have reported an unprecedented number of people seeking emergency shelter over the past year.

Families with children are living in their cars, emergency shelter beds for seniors are full, and an increasing number of individuals with severe mental illness or uncontrolled substance misuse disorders are living on the street. While the difficulties faced by unhoused individuals and families is by far the most acutely felt consequence of homelessness, the entire community is affected and suffers the negative impacts of the issue. While there are no quick solutions or easy answers for a problem as complicated as homelessness, developing a plan that addresses the County’s specific needs and resources will provide long-term benefits for both our unhoused residents and community as a whole.

We cannot develop or implement an effective approach to homelessness alone – partnering with the City, nonprofit agencies, and faith-based organizations will be critical for the success of any initiative. Most likely, despite our best efforts, we will not end homelessness in Knox County anytime in the near future. However, by working with our community partners, we can provide additional assistance to our unhoused residents and mitigate a significant portion of the short and long-term impacts the growing issue of homelessness is having on all residents of Knox County.



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS



In the City and County, official data on homelessness is housed in the KnoxHMIS software platform. Local homeless service providers use the system to report data on homelessness, and the University of Tennessee Social Work Office of Research and Public Institute manage the platform and provide analysis of the data submitted by service providers.

In the most recently released KnoxHMIS Annual Report, approximately 7,700 individuals were reported as receiving homeless services in 2020, with 4,950 people confirmed as street homeless at some point during the year. Homeless prevention and response services were provided to 664 families, 5,248 single adults, and 550 unaccompanied youth <https://knoxhmis.sworpswebapp.sworps.utk.edu/resources/>.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, cites housing, income, health, domestic violence, and racial inequality as the individual, or combined factors, causing housing instability and homelessness for individuals and families in the United States.

<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/>.

HOUSING

A lack of affordable housing continues to be the number one reason unhoused individuals cite as their cause of homelessness. As reported in the latest State of the Nation's Housing Report released by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, home prices in the Knoxville MSA increased 28.7% year-over-year in the first quarter of 2022. The typical home value for our area is \$307,849 making these homes affordable for households with an income of \$84,651 or higher. With a median household income of \$56,857, this means that only one-third of residents currently living in the Knoxville MSA can afford to become a homeowner <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/state-nations-housing-2022>.

Historically, individuals and families whose incomes prevent them from purchasing a home have had the option of finding housing through the local rental market. Based on increasing home prices and limited supply, along with a growth in population, the rental market in the Knoxville area is currently seeing unprecedented price growth resulting in extremely limited housing options for low to moderate-income households. The Knoxville Area Association of Realtors' (KAAR) 2022 State of Housing Report, states that since early 2020, effective rent prices have increased by 19.27% and high occupancy rates have resulted in average annual demand exceeding supply by more than 50% here in Knox County.

Rents rise in Knoxville during July as occupancy rate soars to almost 99%

The Knoxville Area Association of Realtors said that in July, rent prices in Knoxville rose by almost 20% in the second quarter of 2022.



Published by WBIR on August 29, 2022



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



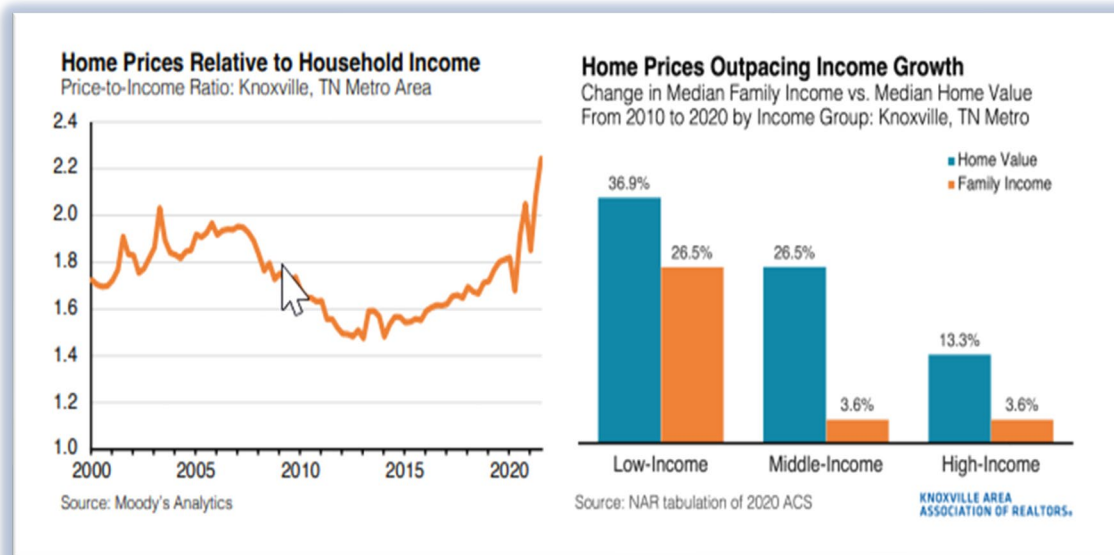
ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

In a recent post on the Knoxville Chamber’s website, Amy Nolan, Vice President of Regional Enhancement, shared, “Historically, people have cited cost of living, particularly affordable housing, as a local advantage. That advantage is quickly evaporating, however, because of skyrocketing housing costs that reflect a lack of inventory. Too often this issue is defined as a battle between developers, the real estate and business community versus residents, homeowners, and neighborhoods, but that’s a false dichotomy. Generational residents find themselves priced out of the market.” <https://www.knoxvillechamber.com/your-voice-needed-to-help-advance-knox-plan-for-future/>

The previously referenced KAAR State of Housing Report provides further evidence supporting the need for an increase in housing supply. In 2021, the median sale price in the Knoxville Area increased 19.7% on an annual basis. This increase places Knox County among the fastest growing housing markets in terms of price growth in the United States.

https://www.kaarmls.com/sites/default/files/2022_state_of_housing_report-final.pdf.

Home Prices in Knoxville Metro Area



As the County continues to grow, the pressure on the housing market will only increase. Amy Brooks, former Executive Director of Knoxville-Knox County Planning, estimates that approximately 40,000 additional homes are needed by 2050 to account for the county’s growing population.

<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/money/business/2021/07/08/knoxville-home-builders-houses-sale-shortage-real-estate-demand/7781656002/> .

The Knoxville-Knox County 2020 Development Activity Report shows residential construction permits were up 18.5% overall since 2016 and a net of 3,526 residential units were constructed in 2020. While increasing the overall supply of housing has positive effects on affordability, home prices in the metro Knoxville area are almost 35% higher than in 2019 and buying a home is out of reach for most, if not all, low to moderate-income residents in the County.

<https://archive.knoxplanning.org/loclldata/devactrep/2020%20Development%20Activity%20Report.pdf>



PHONE:
865-215-3980



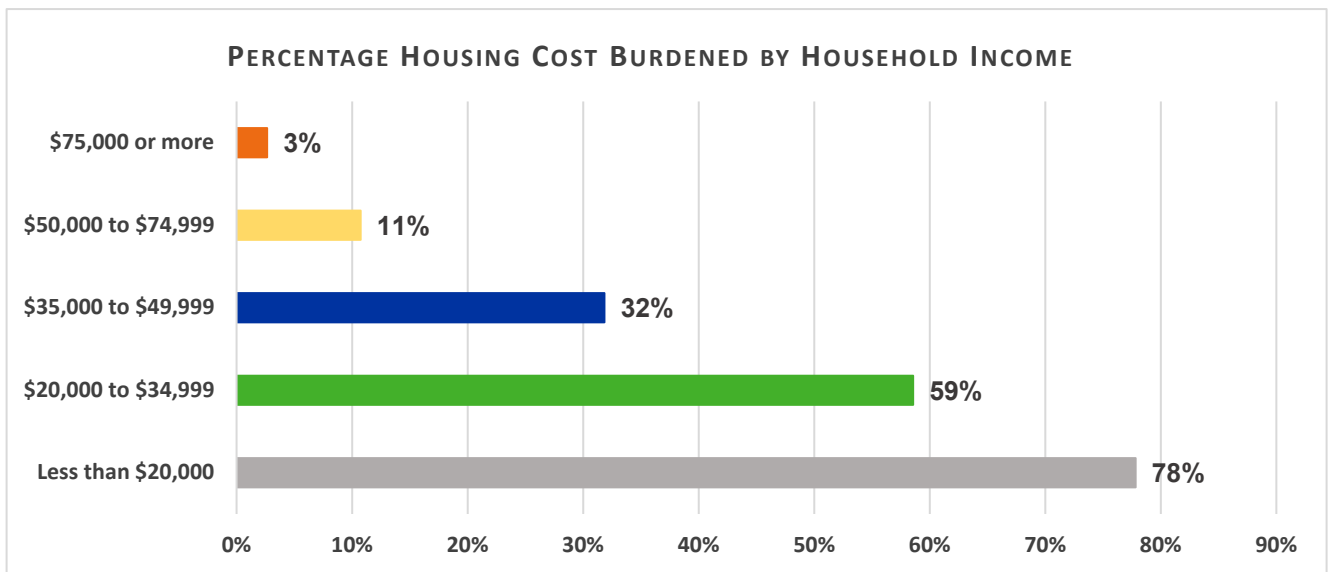
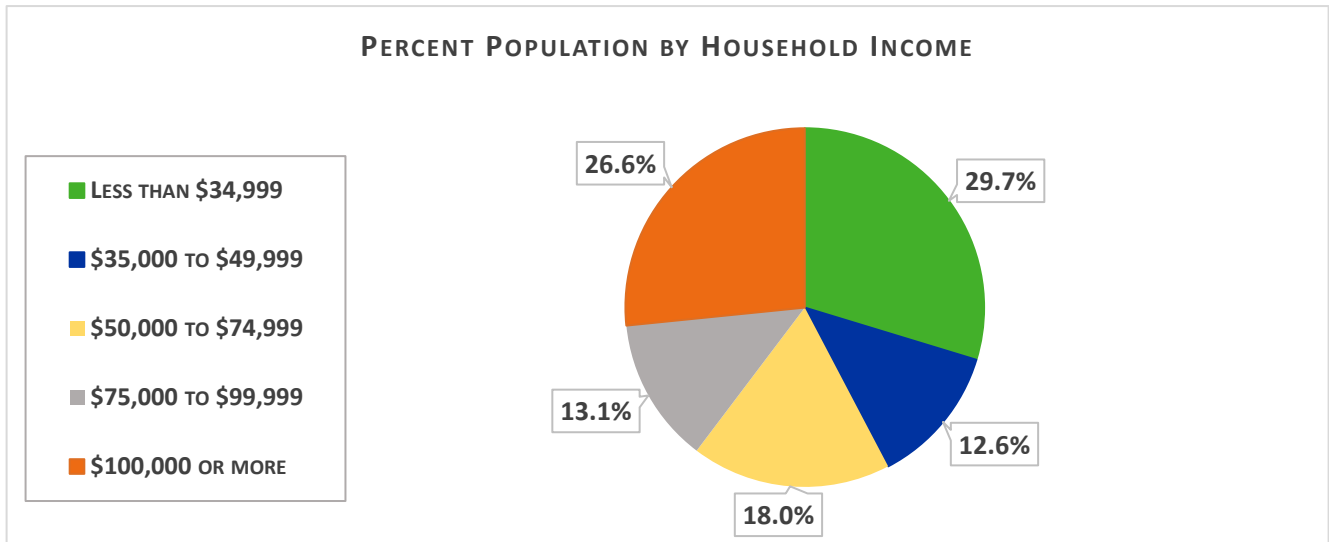
ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

INCOME

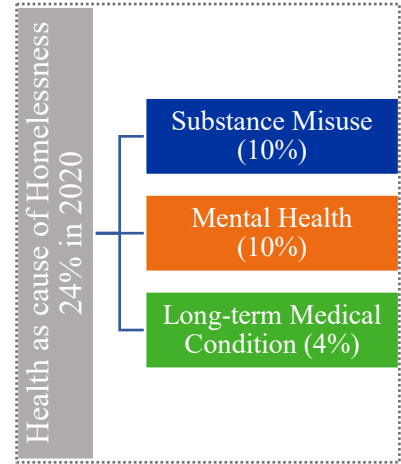
Based on American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2020, the median income in Knox County is \$59,250 and 42.3% of residents have a household income of less than \$49,999. As reported by KnoxHMIS, in the 3rd Quarter of 2022, 76% of newly served clients were from Knoxville and Knox County and 56% of all individuals/families seeking services, cited employment or eviction/inability to afford housing as their primary cause of homelessness.



With local housing costs increasing at record levels, many households are forced to spend a greater percentage of their income on housing. Based on ACS data, 26% percent of all households in Knox County were spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs in 2020 and are considered “housing cost burdened”. While this effects households at all income levels, those with the lowest incomes are impacted at a much higher percentage.

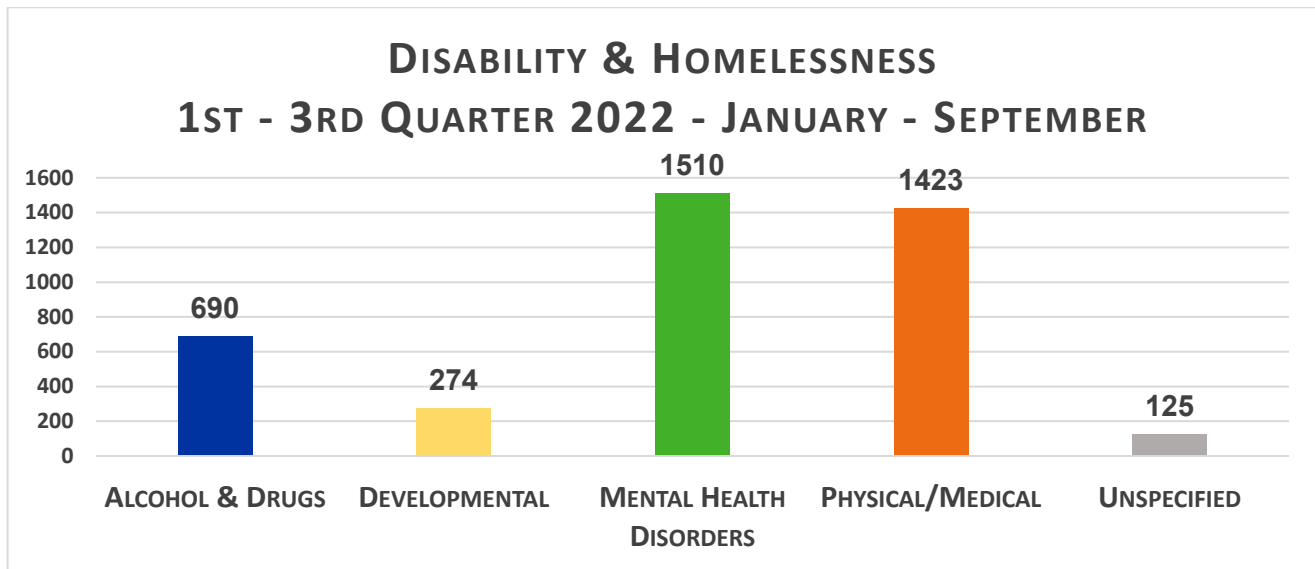
HEALTH

Data reported in KnoxHMIS during 2020 shows that 24% of people accessing homeless services cited health as their primary cause of homelessness (substance misuse – 10%, mental health – 10%, and long-term medical condition – 4%). However, during interviews with local agencies serving the homeless, multiple subject matter experts stated that this reported number is low, and that the number of people seeking homeless services due to substance misuse and mental health disorders is much higher. Many times individuals seeking assistance are concerned that admitting they are struggling with these health issues will have an impact on their access to services and so they do not fully disclose their cause of homelessness.



Mental health and substance misuse also increase the likelihood that a formerly unhoused individual will have difficulty obtaining stable long-term housing. When an individual is experiencing untreated or undiagnosed mental illness, or lacks access to housing specifically for substance misuse, they often struggle to maintain their housing. Being placed in permanent housing while coping with inadequately treated substance misuse or mental health disorders can lead to complex and sometimes unsustainable relationship dynamics in facilities.

While mental and physical health problems are substantial contributors to homelessness, the reverse is also true – housing instability and homelessness can cause formerly healthy individuals to become ill. Studies have shown that homelessness has a detrimental impact on an unhoused person’s mental and physical health, and the effects of homelessness can be so destabilizing that an individual or family is unable to overcome the challenges required to maintain stable housing. The chart below includes data on disabilities as reported by individuals seeking homelessness services in the 3rd Quarter of 2022.



There are very few housing options available with on-site staff trained to support formerly homeless individuals and families who may be struggling with substance misuse and/or mental or physical health disorders. Without access to specialized services, the likelihood of someone struggling with either of these disorders returning to homelessness is high.

FAMILIES & YOUTH

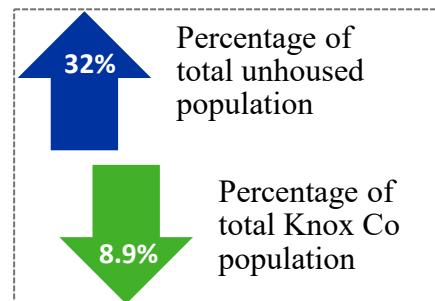
According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness “*A domestic violence experience is common among youth, single adults, and families who become homeless. For many, it is the immediate cause of their homelessness.*” <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/what-causes-homelessness/domestic-violence/>.

Though not cited as frequently as housing, income, or health, KnoxHMIS data shows fleeing domestic violence (8%), family confrontations (7%), and health/safety (2%) were the primary cause of homelessness for 17% of individuals seeking services in the City and County in 2020, and in the 3rd Quarter of 2022, 43% of females and 16% of males seeking homelessness services were victims of domestic violence.

In the 3rd quarter of 2022, an average of 3,501 clients were provided homelessness services each day, and 26% of these individuals were under the age of 25. In interviews with local homeless service providers, several agencies shared that this population typically does not engage with service providers so the number reported represents only a fraction of the young people currently living unhoused. One agency working to end youth homelessness estimated that there are at least 1,200 young people currently “couch surfing” in the homes of various friends and acquaintances. When added to the numbers reported in KnoxHMIS, it is estimated that there are over 2,000 unhoused young people currently living in the City and County.

RACIAL INEQUALITY

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that as of July 1, 2021, 8.9% of Knox County residents are Black or African American. In 2020, KnoxHMIS reported that 32% of the unhoused population was Black or African American. Homelessness for Black or African American individuals was three and half times higher than their percentage of the County population, indicating that homelessness is disproportionately impacting these residents.



While Black or African American households represent 32% of the overall homeless population, only 24% of adult-only unhoused households were Black or African American. As stated in the KnoxHMIS 2020 Annual Report, “*Among individuals and families experiencing homelessness, those who were Black/African American were on average far more likely than their White counterparts to be children, or in families with children. Households were more likely to cite a lack of affordable housing and less likely to cite substance use as their primary cause of homelessness.*” <https://knoxhmis.sworpswebapp.sworps.utk.edu/resources/>



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET

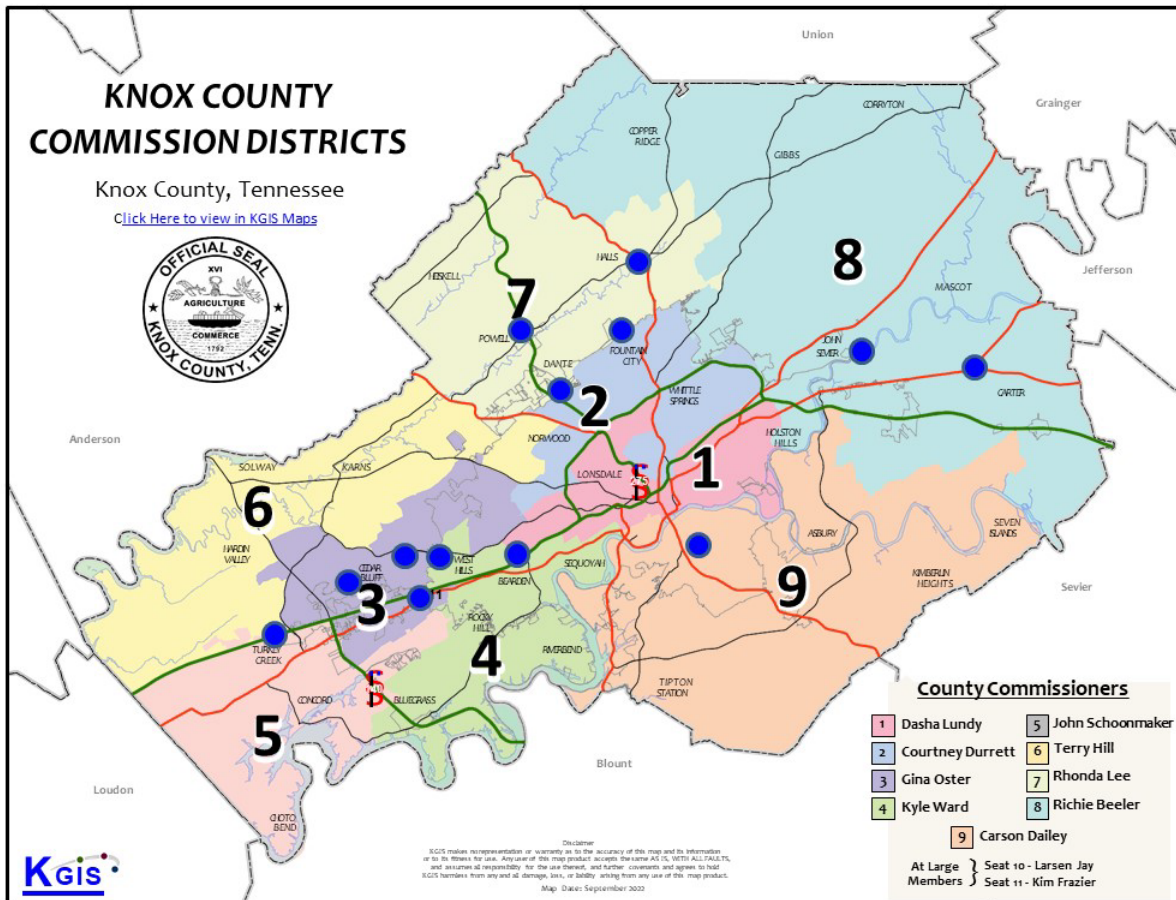


ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

HOMELESSNESS IN KNOX COUNTY

Homeless service agencies interviewed for this report described a continual growth in homelessness outside the boundaries of the City of Knoxville. Several reasons were cited for why an individual may opt to live in unincorporated parts of the county versus near services in the City. In 2020, KnoxHMIS data showed that the last permanent address of 622 individuals seeking homeless services was located in unincorporated areas of the County, and proximity to family or familiar resources may be a deciding factor in why they wish to live outside the City. Additionally, the fear of victimization and prevalence of drugs are both cited frequently as reasons some choose to camp, or park their car overnight, in the County rather than the City.

CAMPS LOCATED IN UNINCORPORATED PARTS OF KNOX COUNTY



Historically, encampments located in the county tended to be comprised of fewer people and were typically more isolated and less visible as they were often in forested areas or hidden in shrubbery. These encampments were usually well-maintained and often included higher quality tents and/or structures built by homeless individual(s), who frequently lived in the same location for months, or even years. In the past, unless an encampment was poorly shrouded or grew to the point that the location was no longer hidden, these camp locations were mostly unknown and caused little complaint by County residents. Due to fewer options for camping in the City, along with a growth in homelessness nationwide, the number and type of homeless camps located in the County has changed significantly.

INTERVIEWS WITH UNHOUSED COUNTY RESIDENTS



Interviews with county residents experiencing homelessness were conducted at Cokesbury United Methodist's Homeless Day Center, Fig Tree. Interviewees shared what precipitated losing their housing, their experiences with homelessness, encounters with service agencies, and recommendations to improve their quality of life. *All names have been changed to protect the privacy of those agreeing to be interviewed.*

John and Katherine's story shows just one of many paths to homelessness. John recently lost his job due to a medical emergency that required him to be hospitalized. Without John's income, the couple was no longer able to pay for their housing and are now living in their car and sleeping in Fig Tree's parking lot at night. (Note: Fig Tree is no longer allowing overnight parking.) Katherine shared that they have had difficulty applying for unemployment benefits online and have been unable to complete an application after multiple attempts. Fig Tree and a CAC outreach worker are working with John and Katherine to find housing options.

Stephanie's story illustrates both a successful transition from homelessness, and how a gap in available services can lead a family to live in their car. Stephanie owned a cleaning service that allowed her to both provide an income and take care of an adult child with disabilities. With so many clients dropping their cleaning service during the pandemic, Stephanie's income dropped to the point where she could no longer afford housing. There are no shelters in Knox County that can accommodate a parent and adult child, and Stephanie's son requires 24/7 care so being separated was not an option. The family spent a year living in motels and in their car when finances were too tight to afford to pay for a room. Eventually, a local church connected Stephanie with CAC and Fig Tree. The



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

staff at Fig Tree was able to help her navigate resources and advocate on her behalf while she was searching for housing. The family is now living in a two-bedroom apartment in Fountain City.

Jack's story demonstrates the impact of unexpected financial hardship and the rising cost of rent in Knox County. He was injured on the job, and while fighting for workmen's compensation, his landlord raised his rent, and he was unable to find someplace affordable to move. Spending time at Fig Tree allows Jack to shower, do his laundry, and get a hot meal while he continues looking for housing.

Blake's story demonstrates the importance of wrap around services for people struggling with homelessness. Blake grew up in Farragut but has been homeless since 2018. He recently developed a staph infection, and though he has health insurance, he has struggled in obtaining treatment for both his physical and mental health. Case workers from Fig Tree and CAC have now stepped in as advocates and are assisting him in accessing health services and obtaining housing. While Blake worries that another housing application will be denied, his case workers are determined to help him find a safe place to live.

Melanie's story is another example of how nonprofit and faith-based organizations are able to help individuals and families new to homelessness transition back to stable housing. The experience of being homeless was foreign to Melanie prior to the death of her boyfriend and resulting change in her finances. She was forced to live in her car and explained, *"I had no idea what it like to be homeless. After the first cold snap, I thought I was going to die."* With the assistance of CAC and Fig Tree, Melanie recently signed a lease for an efficiency apartment.

Sara's story illustrates the difficulties of not having a stable place to call home. She shared that she is currently couch surfing and is concerned she may lose even this temporary housing. She arrives at her friend's place late at night to avoid the apartment manager noticing she lives there and seldom uses the shower to prevent roommate conflicts. While her living circumstances are stressful, she prefers her current situation to living on the street.

Homelessness was not a choice for any of the interviewed individuals or families – they simply had no place to go. Many of the people receiving services through Fig Tree maintain jobs and continue to look for a safe and affordable place to call home.

Most everyone interviewed for this report communicated how grateful they were for the opportunity to build community at Fig Tree. While most of their basic needs are being met through the center, the benefit to their mental health was mentioned most often. The program designed by the staff at Fig Tree provides their community members an opportunity to support one another while struggling through their similar hardships. The positive impact this approach has on these individuals and families was evident in every interview. As Jacqueline said, *"We don't want to be homeless"*.



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

Each individual interviewed was asked if they had any recommendations for additional services. Some of the ideas listed below were recommended by multiple people interviewed.

1. Assistance with vehicle repairs and maintenance
2. Fuel vouchers and transportation to access bus lines
3. Transportation to job interviews and medical appointments
4. Additional access to public restrooms
5. Designated overnight parking areas
6. Storage options for their belongings
7. Additional assistance in obtaining housing
8. Referrals for mental/physical healthcare
9. Access to additional shower and laundry facilities.



HOMELESSNESS POLICIES

Knox County currently has no formal policy on homelessness. Information on legislation enacted at the State level and policies on homelessness in the City of Knoxville are included below.

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

The following guidelines regarding homelessness are posted on the City of Knoxville Office on Homelessness website at <https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=109562&pageId=17372281>.

Tent Camps

Living in a tent is prohibited in the City of Knoxville. Tents and other makeshift structures can't provide the basic levels of health, safety and sanitation required for long-term human habitation. These challenges are compounded as the number of occupants in a tent encampment increases, resulting in unhealthy and unsafe conditions for inhabitants, as well as an increase in criminal activity that affects both people living in encampments, nearby residents and businesses, and the environment.

Notice to Move

The City provides 72-hour notice on public property that is not already posted with “no trespassing” signage. Encampments on private property are asked to relocate within a timeframe determined by the landowner. The City attempts to coordinate efforts for notice with private property owners.



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

Cleanup of Homeless Camps

Following official notice through “no trespassing” signage or 72-hour notice to occupants, Public Service crews arrive to remove any items and waste remaining in the area.

Decisions on When to Conduct Cleanup

Environmental degradation, public health issues, and public safety drive the decision to conduct a cleanup in order to address hazards facing those living in a homeless camp as well as surrounding neighbors and businesses.

Camps on Private Property

Camping without permission on private property is trespassing. Moreover, tent camping on private property, with or without permission by the owner, is a Codes violation. The City has adopted Building Codes to ensure protection of public health, safety, and welfare in Knoxville’s environment. The City’s role is to balance the interests of all Knoxville residents. Codes violations by one property owner can infringe on the health and safety of their neighbors.

STATE LEGISLATION

On July 1, 2022, House Bill 978 was enacted making camping on public property a felony and camping near or on the shoulder, right-of-way, bridge, overpass, or underpass of a state or interstate highway a Class ‘C’ misdemeanor.

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates a Class C misdemeanor offense, punishable by a \$50 fine and community service work, for camping along a controlled-access highway or entrance or exit ramp; expands Equal Access to Public Property Act of 2012, under which it is a Class E felony offense for a person to camp on property owned by the state knowing that the area on which the camping occurs is not specifically designated for use as a camping area, to apply the offense of unauthorized camping to all public property. - Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 14; Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 3 and Title 55, Chapter 8.

Governor Bill Lee declined to sign the legislation, saying he believes that there are better alternatives, *“I want to bring together all the parties. I want to call together the faith leaders, the nonprofits, the government leaders, those who advocate for the homeless who understand the housing challenges and the issues.”* <https://tennesseelookout.com/2022/06/01/governor-wants-alternatives-to-homeless-camping-prohibition-despite-letting-law-take-effect/>.



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

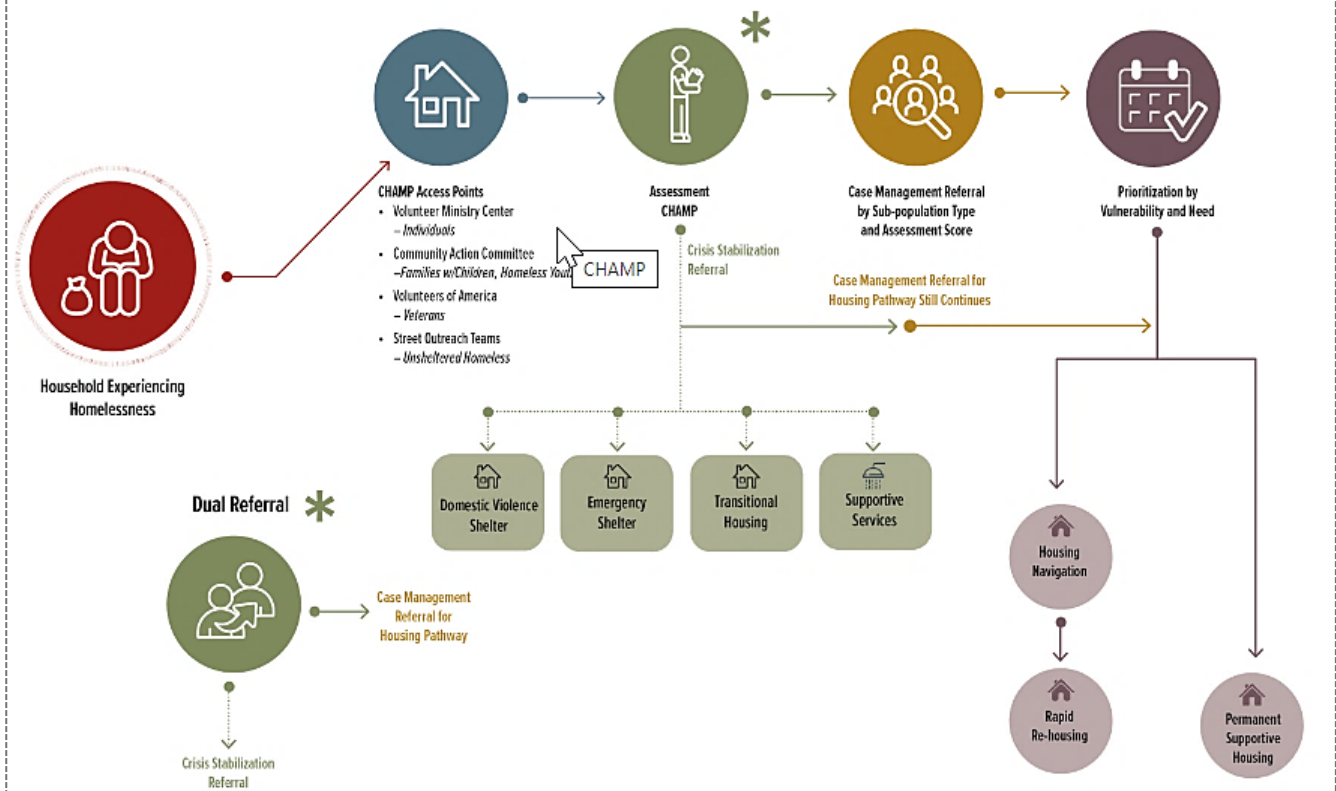
ACCESS TO HOMELESS SERVICES

The Coordinated Housing Assessment and Match Plan (CHAMP) system provides homeless individuals and families, or those at risk of homelessness, access to a variety of assistance services. The CHAMP system improves coordination between agencies, prevents duplications of service, and ensures services are provided based on the need of the individual or family.



Local nonprofit and social service agencies act as access points for entry into the CHAMP system. These agencies assist individuals and families in completing an assessment utilized to determine needs and prioritization for services. The data collected through these assessments is stored in KnoxHMIS.

Knoxville/Knox County Continuum of Care's Coordinated Housing Assessment and Match Plan



https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/housing_and_neighborhood_development/office_on_homelessness

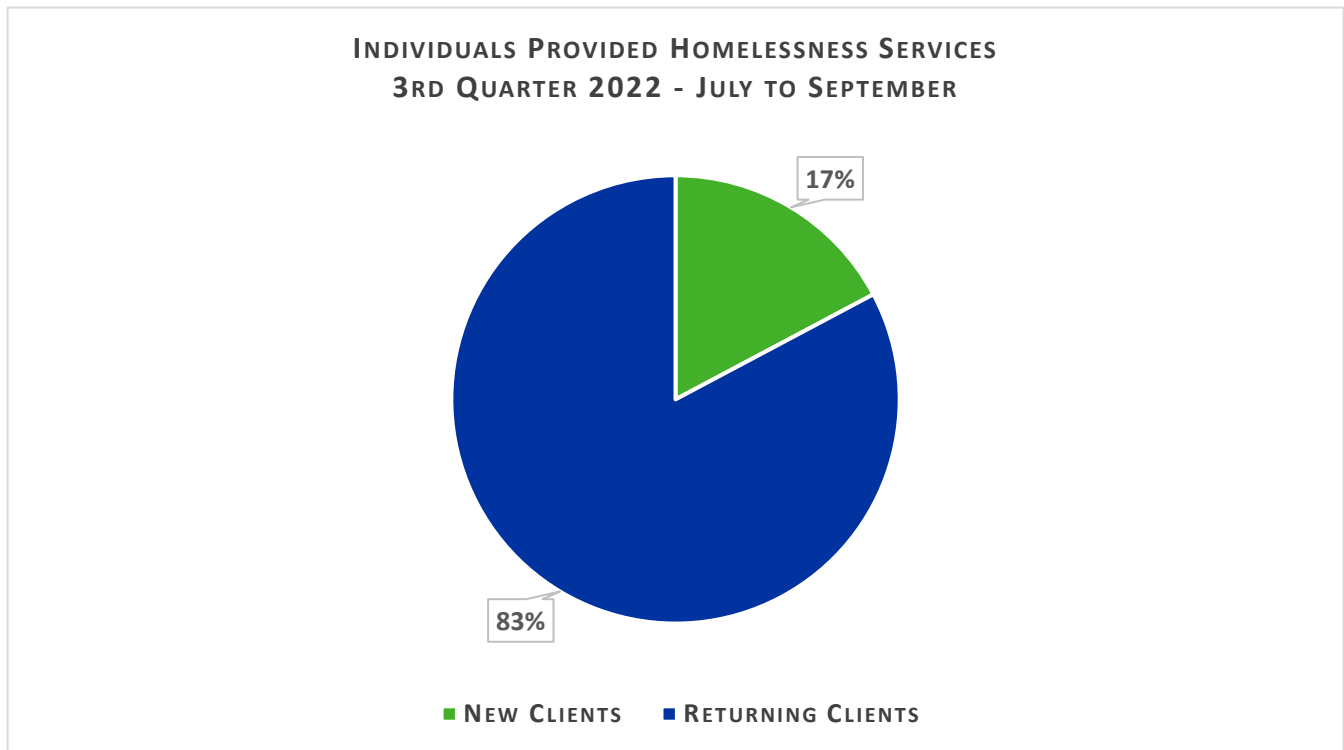
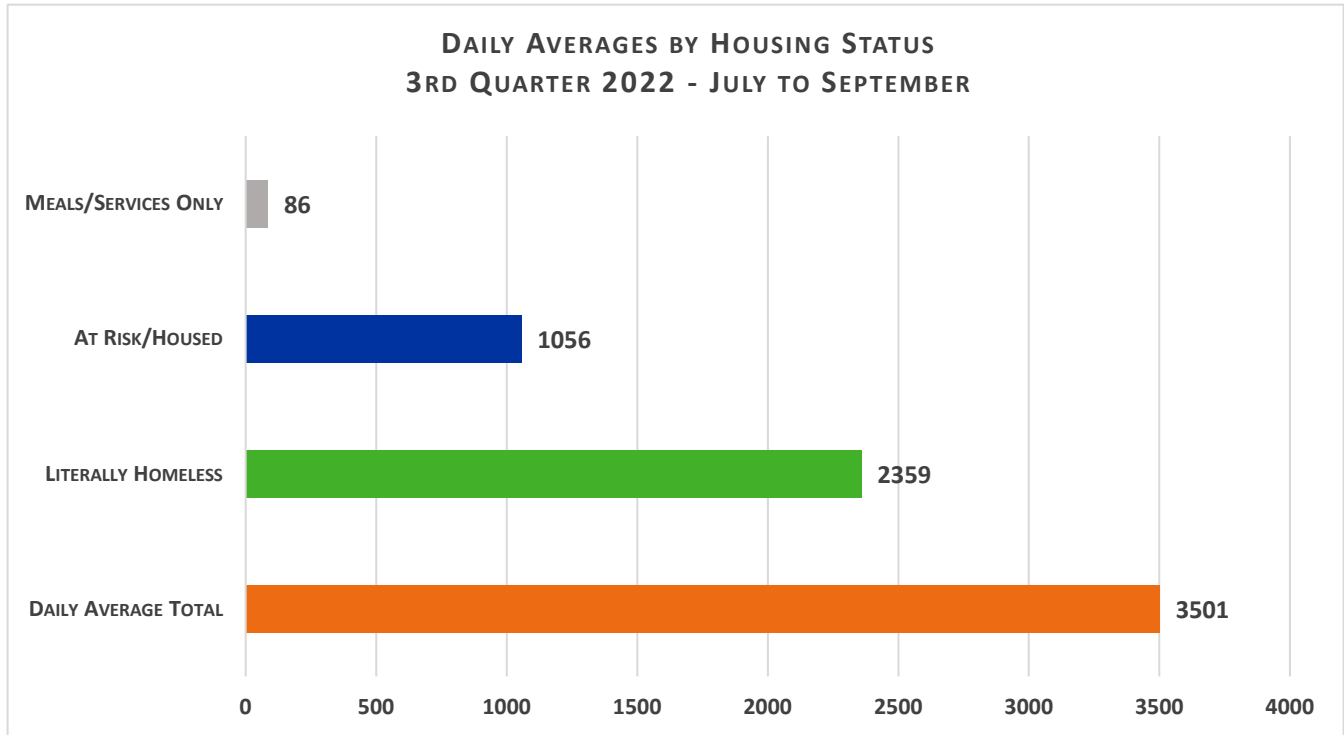
PHONE:
865-215-3980

ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET

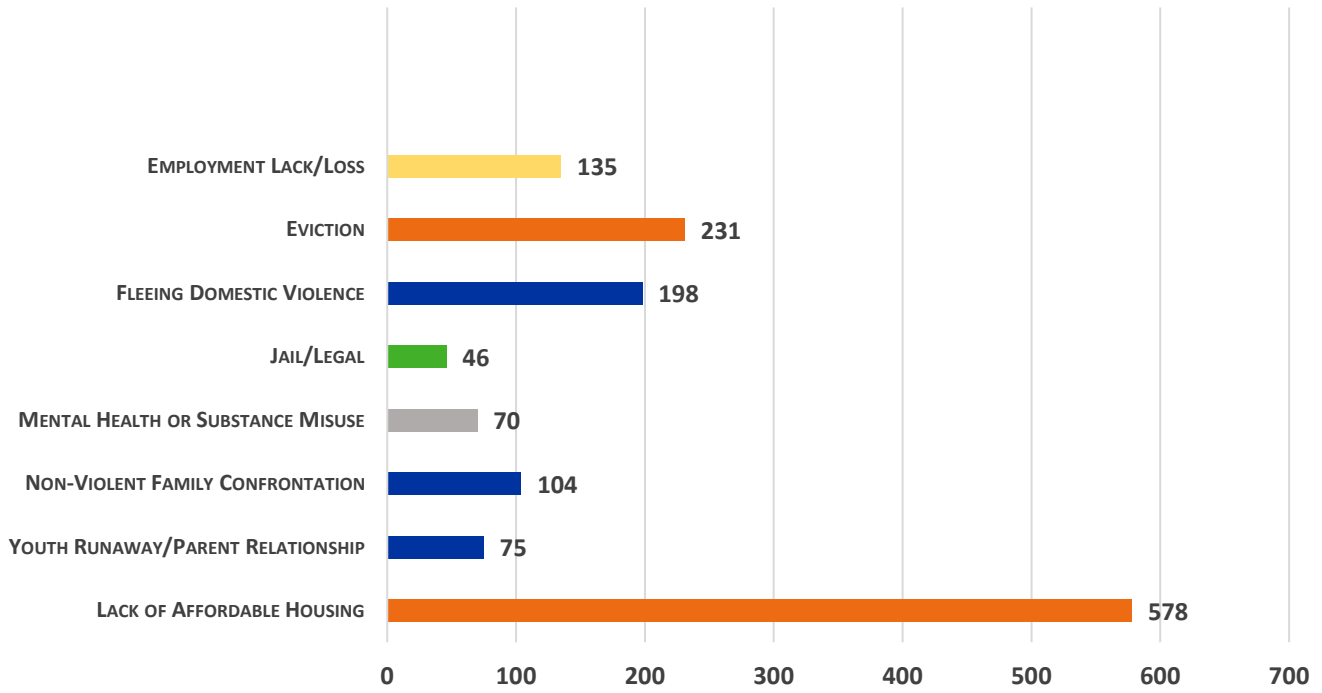
ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

CURRENT DATA ON HOMELESSNESS

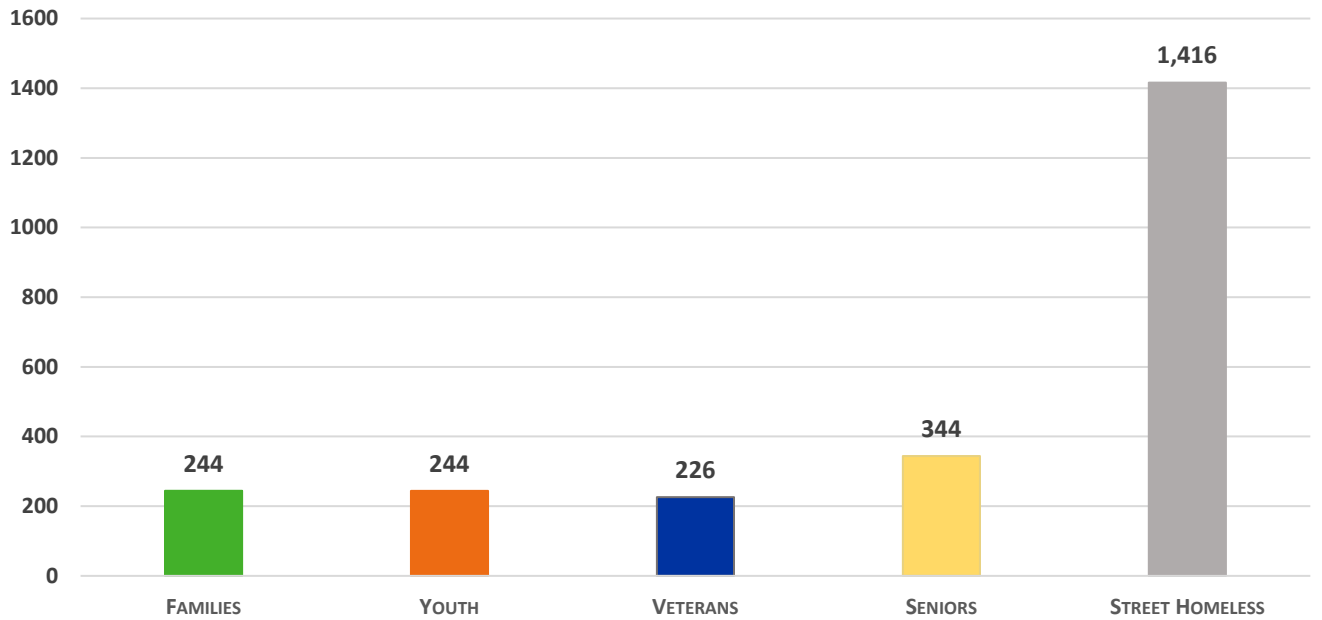
The following charts and graphs represent data for the City and County as reported in KnoxHMIS during the 1st through 3rd quarters of 2022 <https://knoxhmis.sworpswebapp.sworps.utk.edu/resources/>



**REPORTED CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS FOR *NEW* HOUSEHOLDS
1ST - 3RD QUARTER 2022 - JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER**



**LITERALLY HOMELESS BY CATEGORY
1ST QUARTER 2022 - JANUARY TO MARCH***



*3rd Quarter data unavailable at time of report



PHONE:
865-215-3980

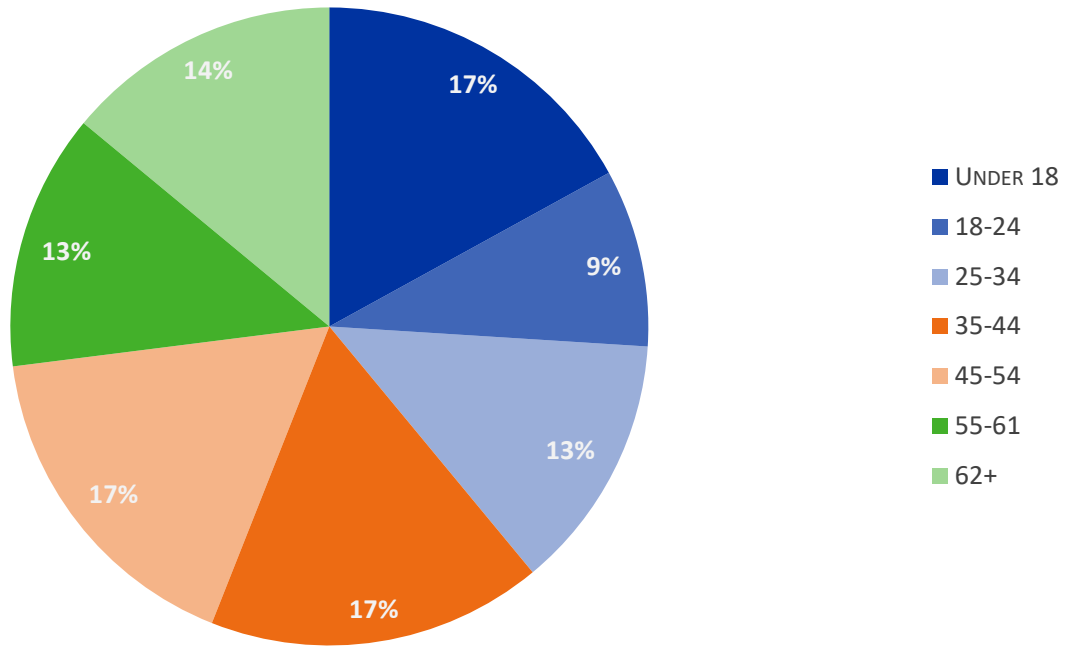


ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET

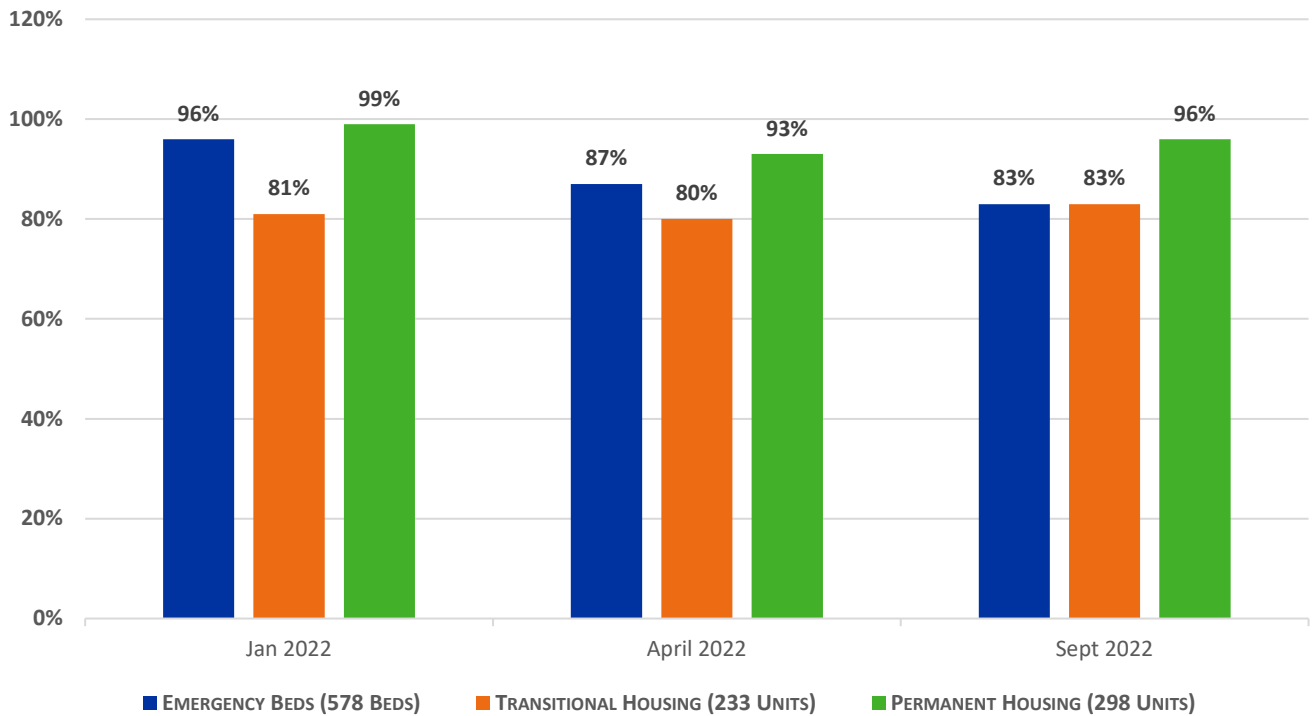


ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

**PERCENTAGE OF HOMELESS SERVICES CLIENTS BY AGE GROUP
1ST - 3RD QUARTER 2022 - JANUARY - SEPTEMBER**



**HOMELESS HOUSING OCCUPANCY RATE BY TYPE
1ST - 3RD QUARTER 2022 - JANUARY - SEPTEMBER**



FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Knox County's allocation of funding in response to homelessness has increased significantly in the last two years. The County oversees the U.S. Department of Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program and has provided over \$54 million in rent and utility assistance to city and county residents since the inception of the program in early 2021. In addition to the remaining ERA program funds, over \$2.8 million has been allocated in local and federal funds for the prevention and response to homelessness in fiscal year 2023.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & RESPONSE SERVICES	FUNDING AMOUNT
Coordinated Housing Assessment Match Plan – VMC (HUD Funds)	\$ 17,280.00
County Homeless Outreach Workers – CAC (HUD Funds)	\$ 240,000.00
Downtown Ambassadors - Visit Knox (Local Funds)	\$ 82,000.00
Fig Tree Homeless Day Services – Cokesbury (ARPA Funds)	\$ 250,000.00
Homeless Management Information System – HMIS (HUD Funds)	\$ 10,000.00
Homeless Youth Services – McNabb (Local Funds)	\$ 50,000.00
Hotel Fees for Homeless Families/Seniors/Youth – CAC (ERA Funds)	\$ 960,000.00
Housing Stability Programs – Multiple Agencies (ERA Funds)	\$ 567,000.00
Keys of Hope – YWCA (ARPA Funds)	\$ 50,000.00
Shower Trailer Operating Funds – VMC (ARPA Funds)	\$ 150,000.00
The Foyer Low Barrier Shelter – VMC (ARPA Funds)	\$ 75,000.00
Knox Co Health Department Indigent Care Funds (Local Funds through Oct.)	\$ 252,211.00
Knox Co Health Department Medical Services (Local Funds through Oct.)	\$ 10,049.00
Knox Co Regional Forensic Center Services (Local Funds through Oct.)	\$ 140,100.00
TOTAL KNOX COUNTY FUNDING	\$ 2,853,640.00



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

There are a number of programs and projects focused on preventing and responding to homelessness in the City and County. In addition to the organizations listed below, other agencies, local churches and community members provide various means of support to unhoused individuals and families and/or those at risk of becoming homeless.

EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS

Emergency shelters provide short-term overnight shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

Catholic Charities: Samaritan Place

Family Promise of Knoxville

KARM: Overnight

Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC): ESG/ERA Hotel Program

McNabb Center: Family Crisis Center

McNabb Center: Runaway Host Homes

Salvation Army: Joy Baker Center

Volunteer Ministry Center: The Foyer

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Block by Block Downtown Ambassadors

Cokesbury United Methodist Church – Fig Tree

Knox County Health Department – Communicable Disease Street Outreach/Referrals

Knoxville-Knox County CAC – County Street Outreach

Next Step Initiative

Volunteer Ministry Center – Portable Shower Trailer/City Street Outreach

HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Homeless prevention projects offer services or financial support needed to keep a person in a precarious housing situation from becoming literally homeless.

All4Knox – Housing Subcommittee

Knoxville-Knox County CAC: ESG-CV Housing Assistance Program

Centro Hispano Housing Stability Program

Child & Family Tennessee

Compassion Coalition Housing Stability Program

HomeSource East Tennessee Housing Stability Program

Knoxville Area Urban League Housing Stability Program

Legal Aid/Community Mediation Eviction Prevention Program

McNabb Center: Runaway Prevention

McNabb Center: Youth LINC Supportive Community Living



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

Volunteer Ministry Center: Bush Family Refuge & Housing Stability Program
 Volunteers of America: SSVF Homeless Prevention
 Volunteers of America: SSVF Rapid Resolution

PERMANENT HOUSING PROGRAMS

Permanent housing programs offer permanent, community-based housing so that formerly homeless individuals and families live as stably and independently as possible.

Catholic Charities-Samaritan Place
 Knoxville Community Development Corporation: HUD VASH
 Knoxville Leadership Foundation: Flenniken Landing*
 McNabb Center: Cedar Crossing*
 McNabb Center: Pleasantree *
 McNabb Center: Ginn Road*
 McNabb Center: Maple Grove Apts.*
 McNabb Center: Morgan Street*
 McNabb Center: New Hope Apartments*
 McNabb Center: The Willows*
 McNabb Center: Washington Oaks*
 McNabb Center: Middlebrook Pike*
 VMC: Minvilla Manor*
 VMC: Positively Living*

* = Permanent Supportive Housing that includes case management and additional supports for individuals having a disabling condition.

TRANSITIONAL AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAMS

Transitional housing provides support for up to 24 months. Rapid re-housing programs emphasize housing relocation services and short and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families as rapidly as possible into permanent housing.

CAC: Elizabeth Homes/Families in Need/Homeward Bound
 Child & Family Tennessee
 Family Promise of Knoxville
 McNabb Domestic Violence Transitional Housing
 Salvation Army: Bootstrap RRH/THDA Rapid Re-Housing
 Volunteer Ministry Center THDA Rapid-Rehousing
 Volunteers of America SSVF
 YWCA Keys of Hope Program for Victims of Domestic Violence



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **POLICY ON HOMELESSNESS** – In coordination with County departments, the Knox County Sheriff’s Office, City of Knoxville, and local nonprofit agencies, develop a formal policy addressing homelessness in the County.
2. **JOINT OFFICE** – Stand up the Knoxville-Knox County Office of Housing Stability through a partnership between Knox County and the City of Knoxville. The office will take the lead on issues of housing stability and homelessness with an initial goal of evaluating funding and programs to identify gaps and future needs. An Executive Director, reporting to the Board, could then be hired to oversee programs and work with area nonprofits and faith-based organizations to ensure coordination of efforts.
3. **TEAGUE CLINIC** – Repurpose the clinic as office space for joint office and other personnel working on issues related to housing stability.
4. **HOMELESS DAY CENTERS** – Partner with area faith-based organizations to create additional day centers around the County modeled on Cokesbury’s Fig Tree. Support these churches in developing programs providing meals, showers, laundry facilities, computer labs, cellphone charging stations, and access to case management services.



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report could not have been completed without the subject matter expertise, data, and interview opportunities provided by a variety of community partners. Knox County Grants and Community Development would like to thank the following agencies for their invaluable assistance:

- CITY OF KNOXVILLE – HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT
- CITY OF KNOXVILLE – OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS
- COKESBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - FIGTREE
- KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
- KNOX COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
- KNOX COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
- KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL FORENSIC CENTER
- KNOXVILLE AREA RESCUE MINISTRIES (KARM)
- KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE
- NEXT STEP INITIATIVE
- UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK (KNOXHMIS)
- VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER (VMC)



PHONE:
865-215-3980



ADDRESS:
400 WEST MAIN STREET



ONLINE:
KNOXCOUNTY.ORG