



## DATA BRIEF

# People Using Adult-Only Emergency Shelters in Allegheny County: April 2022 through March 2023

January 2024

In Allegheny County, a network of shelters provides a temporary place to stay for people experiencing homelessness. Allegheny County's emergency shelter network includes facilities which serve adults only and others that offer accommodations to families with children. The County strives to ensure that every shelter stay is rare, brief and non-recurring.

Individuals in adult-only households make up about three-quarters of all shelter users. This data brief focuses on the 1,560 adults who entered one of the County's 13 adult-only emergency shelters once or more from April 2022 through March 2023. For descriptions of other people served in the homeless system, see these related [data briefs](#): "People using Family Shelters in Allegheny County" and "People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness in Allegheny County."

### KEY FINDINGS

- **70% (N=1,096) of the people using adult-only shelters were men. Black individuals were overrepresented, making up 51% of those using shelter but only 14% of Allegheny County's population.** 80% of people were between 25 and 64 years old and relatively evenly distributed among the four age groups in that range. 13% were ages 18 through 24 and 7% were 65 or older.
- **76% (N=1,181) of people had only one shelter stay during the period of study.** 15% had two stays and 9% had three or more.
- **Half of the shelter stays were for two weeks or less.** 25% of shelter stays lasted five days or fewer and 75% were for 54 days or fewer.
- **Most of the people using shelters had recent addresses in Allegheny County communities.** 46% had recent addresses in the City of Pittsburgh, with the most common neighborhoods being Carrick, East Liberty, Marshall-Shadeland and Sheradan. The remaining 54% had addresses outside of the City, with the most common municipalities being McKeesport, Wilkinsburg and Penn Hills.
- **Among shelter stays for which we have exit information, 49% (N=760) of stays resulted in exits to stable housing.** Almost half of the people who exited their stay(s) within two weeks exited to stable housing, increasing to 58-65% of people who exited their stay(s) after a month.
- **Less than half of individuals reported income from any source. PA Department of Labor and Industry data provides some insight over time; about one-third of people using shelter were employed in any given quarter from 2017 through 2022.** For those who were employed, wages averaged between \$663-\$1,017 per month.
- **17% (N=259) of people had a shelter stay in the year prior to their first stay in the study period.** 8% (N=132) were engaged in a supportive housing program in the year prior to their shelter stay.

- **Other services and system involvement:**

- **Behavioral health services.** Among adult shelter users enrolled in Medicaid (N=945), more than 75% accessed behavioral health services. 43% (N=404) accessed mental health outpatient care, 39% used a mental health crisis service and 15% used a mental health inpatient service. The most frequent mental health diagnoses were depressive disorder, adjustment disorder, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. 35% (N=327) used a substance use disorder service. The top substance use disorders involve opioids and alcohol.
- **Physical health services.** For Medicaid-enrolled individuals, the most common chronic condition was hypertension, followed by kidney disease and diabetes. Adults using shelter have higher rates of many chronic diseases than those in the general Medicaid-enrolled population in the County.
- **Criminal Justice System.** About a third of people were involved with the adult criminal justice system in the year prior to their shelter stay.
- **Other services.** Five percent (N=75) of adults were involved in child welfare as a parent. 20% (N=46) of older adults (aged 60+) using shelter were connected to aging services in the year prior to their entry.

## METHODOLOGY

Facilities that provide emergency shelter collect demographic data on shelter visitors and record entry and exit dates and destinations in Allegheny County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This information is integrated with other information in Allegheny County's [Data Warehouse](#), enabling description of these individuals' experiences with publicly funded behavioral health and physical health services and with other social services, their involvement with the criminal justice system, and their employment history. Some people entered a shelter only once during that period, while others entered a shelter more than one time, meaning that they stayed in a shelter, left, and then returned to a shelter. While this analysis predominantly focuses on individuals, information about stays is sometimes the unit of analysis (for which an individual might have more than one); when this is the case, it is indicated in the text.

## Limitations

There are people in the region who may be experiencing homelessness or unstable housing who did not reach out for services. Additionally, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) does not receive client-specific information about people staying in shelters that serve survivors of intimate partner violence. As such, the information included is an undercount of people needing shelter during this period.

Sixty-one percent (N=945) of people using adult-only shelters were enrolled in Medicaid. For these individuals, we are able to report on health-related metrics. We are not able to report on the health-related metrics for the 39% of people that were not publicly insured.

Information on gender is derived from Allegheny County's Data Warehouse, which uses the 'best known' information for each person. However, the categories are imperfect for several reasons. First, they do not encompass the full sex/gender continua, for which two discrete categories is insufficient. Second, the local data source uses the terms "male" and "female," which typically describe a person's biological sex (i.e., a person's chromosomes, anatomy, and hormones) and places these terms in a category called "gender" (i.e., a social construct whereby a society assigns certain behaviors masculine or feminine). As such, the data source conflates the terms and does not allow for the possibility that a given individual's assigned sex does not correspond with their gender identity. Gender identity is not consistently captured in the Allegheny County Data Warehouse, except in child welfare data.

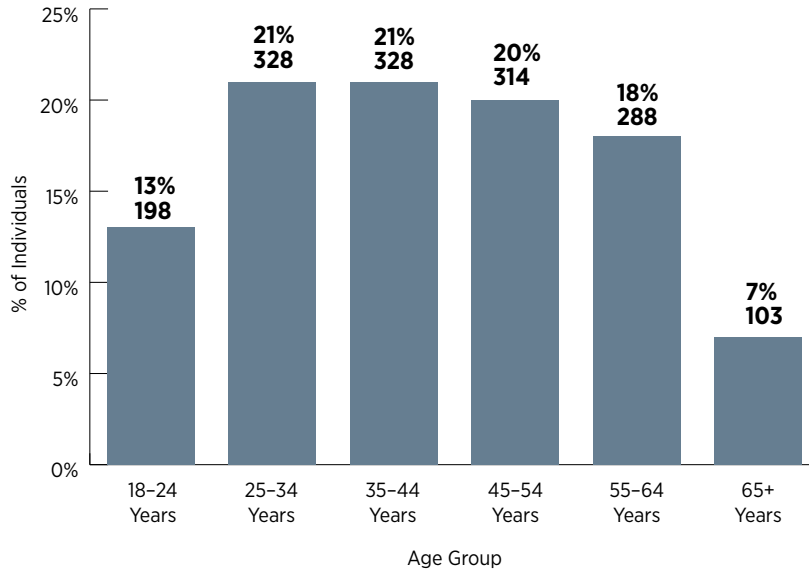
Data Warehouse and U.S. Census categories for race and ethnicity are broad and may not capture identities that individuals would otherwise more readily identify with. Likewise, specific subgroups of a given racial grouping may have differing experiences and outcomes that are masked by their being categorized under a broader group. Though flawed, DHS presents this data because tracking and analyzing the race/ethnicity of people who use human services helps DHS identify areas of disparity and changes over time.

Finally, during this period, the County also worked with agencies to operate five winter shelter spaces. Because 42% (N=667) of all winter shelter records did not contain enough demographic information to reliably match them to individuals, we did not include these in the main analysis. We describe the population of those for whom demographic information was available (58%, N=934) in Appendix A but recognize that because of missing data, the information may not be generalizable to the entire winter shelter population. That is, there could be systematic differences in who chooses not to provide their name or date of birth that skews these results.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

During this period, 1,560 people enrolled in an adult-only emergency shelter at least once. People were relatively evenly distributed among age groups 25 through 64 (**Figure 1**).<sup>1</sup> Thirteen percent were aged 18 through 24 and 7% were 65 or older. The County funds one shelter, Family Links’ Downtown Outreach Center and Shelter, specifically tailored to support young people aged 18 through 25.

**FIGURE 1: Age of Individuals who Enrolled in Adult-Only Shelters, April 2022 through March 2023**



*Note: One individual was 17 years old upon enrollment and not included in this figure.*

<sup>1</sup> Age on date of first enrollment within the April-to-March period.

Seventy percent (N=1,096) of shelter users were men and 51% (N=795) were Black (See **Table 1**). This is in comparison to the racial makeup of Allegheny County, where Black individuals account for 14% of the total population. Forty-six percent (N=720) of year-round shelter visitors were White. One percent (N=11) of people using year-round shelters were of Hispanic/Latino origin.

**TABLE 1: Race and Hispanic Origin of Individuals Using Adult-Only Emergency Shelter**

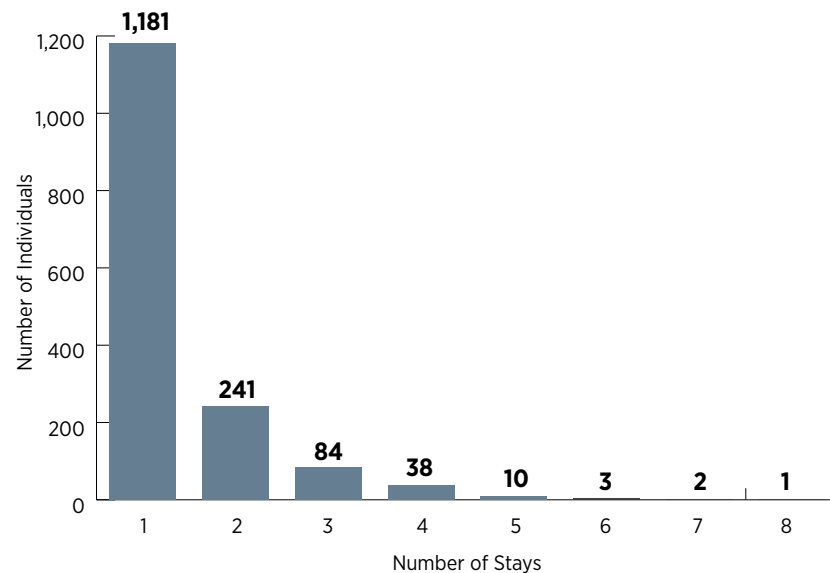
	# OF PEOPLE	% OF TOTAL	% OF ALL ALLEGHENY COUNTY RESIDENTS <sup>2</sup>
Black	795	51%	14%
White	720	46%	78%
Other Races <i>Includes Asian, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander groups, people of two or more races, and people whose race was unknown*</i>	45	3%	8%
Hispanic/Latino <i>Of any race</i>	11	1%	2%

\* Race was unknown for three people (<1%).

**NUMBER OF STAYS AND LENGTHS OF STAY**

Most people in adult-only shelters had just one shelter stay during the year-long study period (76%, N=1,181) (**Figure 2**). Fifteen percent of people had two shelter stays, and nine percent had three or more stays.

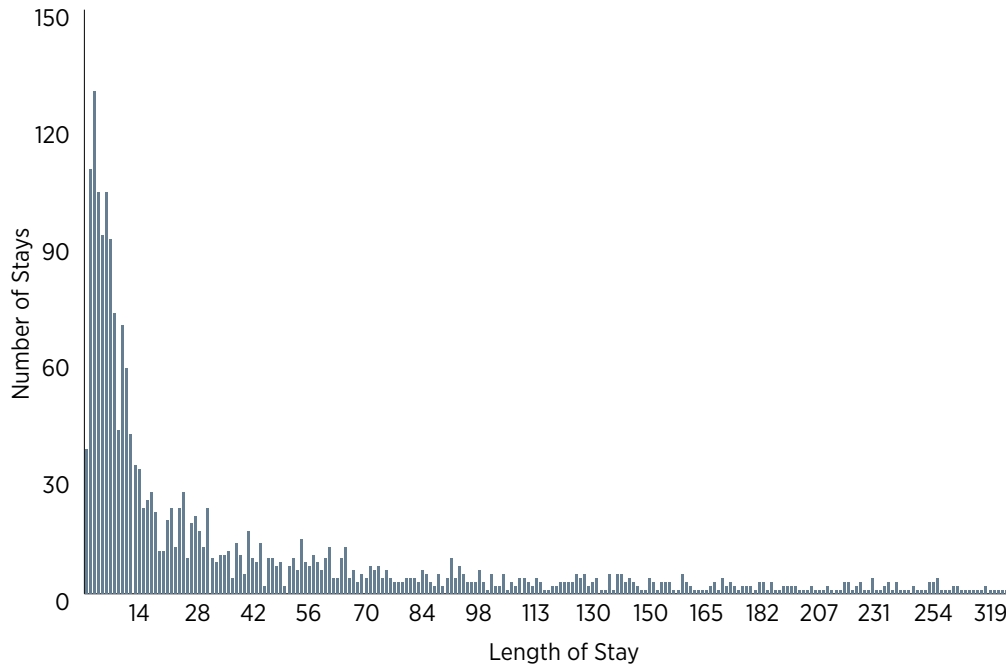
**FIGURE 2: Number of Stays for People Using Adult-Only Shelters**



2 U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

Twenty-five percent of shelter stays were five days or fewer, 50% were 14 days or fewer and 75% were 54 days or fewer (**Figure 3**).<sup>3</sup> Ten percent of emergency shelter stays lasted more than four months and, although rare, some stays lasted nearly a year.

**FIGURE 3: Length of Stay Distribution for People Enrolled in Adult-Only Shelters During the Study Period**



**BEST KNOWN ADDRESSES OF SHELTER USERS**

We examined the best-known address for individuals in this cohort. There were 91 (6%) addresses missing, 45 (3%) addresses that we were unable to map (e.g., PO Box or incomplete address) and 181 (12%) addresses that corresponded to facilities. The analysis focuses on the remaining 1,243 (80%) addresses. Of these addresses, 1,080 (87%) were within Allegheny County. Of those with addresses in Allegheny County, 46% (N=497) were from the City of Pittsburgh and 54% (583) were outside the City of Pittsburgh.

**Figures 4 and 5** show the location of most reported addresses. Within the City, the most common recent addresses were in Carrick, East Liberty, Marshall-Shadeland and Sheraden. Outside of the City, recent addresses were most often in McKeesport, Wilkinsburg and Penn Hills. See **Appendix B** for information on the top municipalities and neighborhoods.

3 To include lengths-of-stay for people who entered emergency shelter toward the end of the study period, stay lengths were calculated through July 20, 2023.

Ninety-seven stays did not end by that date and were excluded from the lengths-of-stay analysis.

Figure 4: Map of Shelter Clients with Available Addresses, by Municipality

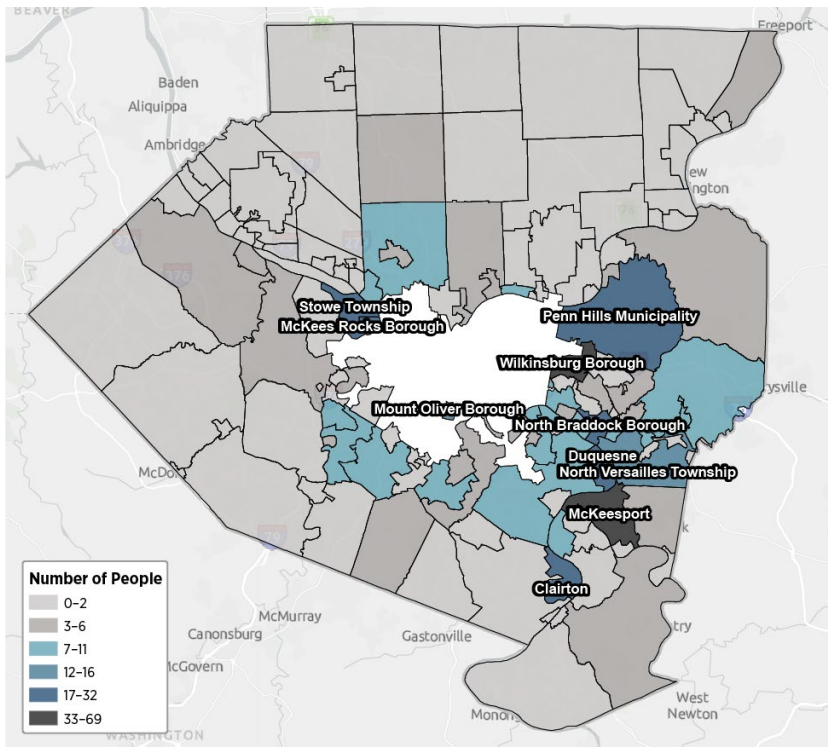
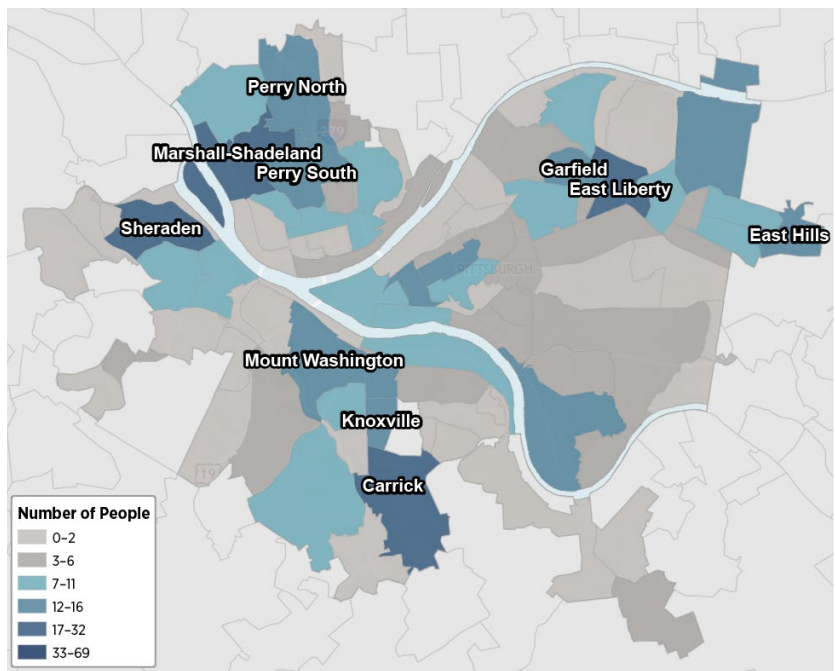


FIGURE 5: Map of Shelter Clients with Available Addresses, by Pittsburgh Neighborhood



## EXIT DESTINATIONS

This study cohort had a combined total of 2,133 shelter stays. When those stays ended, staff recorded exit destinations when known. Because exit destinations are not always known or shared, DHS turned to administrative data in the Data Warehouse to see if any of the stays with missing exit information were associated with individuals who had system or service involvement within 30 days of shelter exit. Using those two sources of information, we were able to categorize an exit destination for 72% of stays. Among those that we were able to categorize, 49% (N=760) of exits were to stable housing, followed by other shelter or hotel/motel, which accounted for 27% of known destinations.

TABLE 2: Exit Destinations from Adult Shelter Stays, Reported or from Administrative Data

	# EXITS TO DESTINATION, REPORTED AT EXIT	# OF EXITS TO DESTINATION WITHIN 30 DAYS, ADMIN DATA	% OF EXITS AMONG THOSE WITH KNOWN EXIT DESTINATION
<b>Stable housing</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>49%</b>
Housing Program	67	11	5%
Other Housing	488		32%
Owned/Rental, with subsidy	88		6%
Owned/Rental, no subsidy	106		7%
<b>Other shelter or hotel/motel</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Institution</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>190</b>		<b>12%</b>
<b>Deceased</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total Stays with a known exit destination</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>152</b>	

\*Missing = Information for 596 stays, or 28%

### EXIT CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

**Housing program:** includes non-emergency housing services such as subsidized rapid rehousing rentals; transitional housing; and permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless people

**Institution:** includes jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility; hospital or psychiatric facility; and substance abuse treatment or detox facility

**Missing:** exit destination not collected; unknown; or declined to answer

**Other housing:** includes permanent or temporary housing with family or friend; long-term care facilities; non-crisis host home; foster care and nursing homes; and residential project or halfway house

**Other shelter or hotel/motel:** includes shelter; hotel/motel with or without a voucher; and Safe Haven

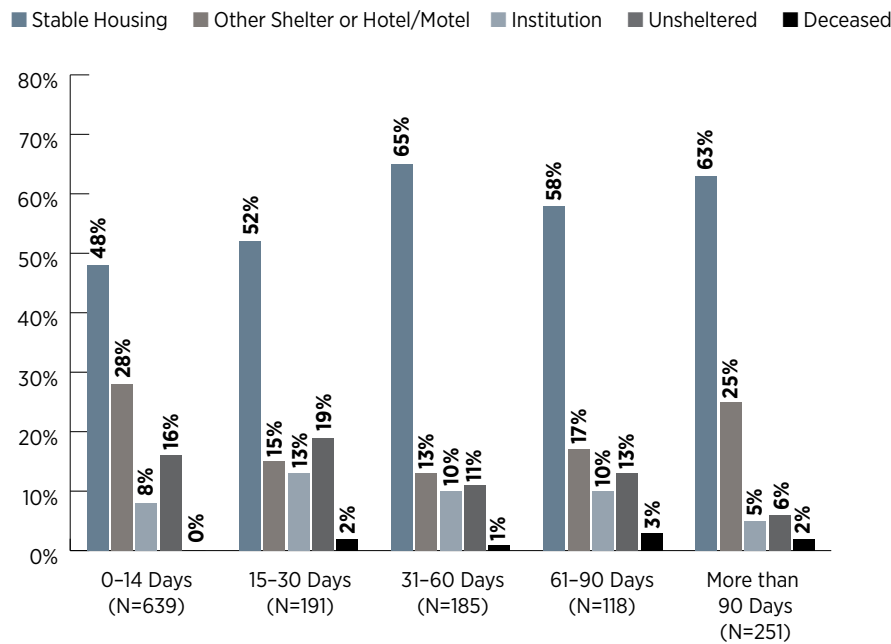
**Owned/rental:** includes rent paid for by a client with or without a voucher or subsidy; rental in a public housing unit; and a unit owned by client with or without housing subsidy

**Unsheltered:** a place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside)



Regardless of length of stay in a shelter, many people exit to stable housing. Almost half of the people exiting their stay(s) within two weeks exit to stable housing, increasing to 58-65% of people exiting their stay(s) after a month (Figure 6). The percentage of exits to an unsheltered destination remains small but does decrease slightly over time.

**FIGURE 6: Exit Destinations by Length of Stay in Shelter**



**INCOME AND INCOME SUPPORTS**

People served in shelter may receive income from a variety of sources – from public benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI), formal labor market jobs or informal jobs such as work in the gig economy. In addition, people may be receiving other income support (e.g., Medicaid or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

People self-report their income to shelters. For this cohort, 41% (N=635) reported income from any source, with 24% (N=377) reporting SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) income and 19% (N=292) reporting income from other sources.

Since income and income sources are reported at a single point in time, we also examined administrative data for longer-term trends. From that information, we observe that six in 10 shelter users were enrolled in Medicaid and 81% received some public benefits during the year prior to their shelter stay (**Table 3**). Eighteen percent of the cohort received SSI.

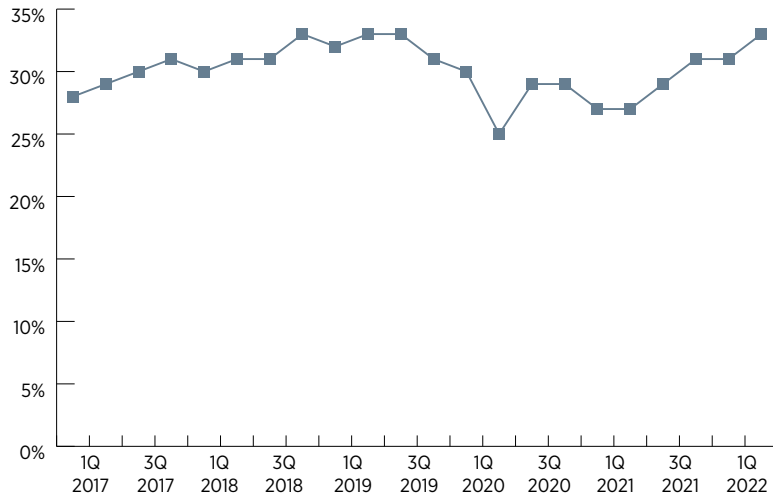
**TABLE 3: Public Benefit Receipt During the Year Prior to First Shelter Enrollment Within the Study Period**

SERVICE CATEGORY	# OF PEOPLE	% OF TOTAL
Medicaid	945	61%
Public Benefit	1,257	81%
<i>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</i>	972	62%
<i>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</i>	287	18%

DHS was able to access Pennsylvania (PA) Unemployment Insurance (UI) records for 1,253 individuals in this cohort (80%). Nearly all employers in PA are required to report the pre-tax earnings of their employees to the state government on a quarterly basis. The state government uses these reported earnings to administer payroll taxes and to compute UI payment amounts for people receiving unemployment benefits. A person's absence from the UI records does not necessarily mean that they had no work of any kind in that quarter. PA UI records do not capture certain types of employment, including: military and federal government jobs; self-employment; paid employment between family members; work for agricultural businesses that employ fewer than 10 employees for any part of a day in at least 20 weeks out of the year or that pay less than \$20,000 in total wages in the year; domestic work for private households; local college clubs, fraternities or sororities that pay less than \$1,000 in quarterly wages for four consecutive quarters; informal work; and any employment that takes place outside of PA. These types of non-UI-eligible jobs comprise an estimated 9% to 14% of all jobs in the U.S. However, lower income individuals such as those in this cohort may be disproportionately likely to work in a non-UI-eligible job. For these reasons, the information presented here does not fully describe the labor market experiences of people using shelter but can provide insight into certain aspects of their labor market experience.

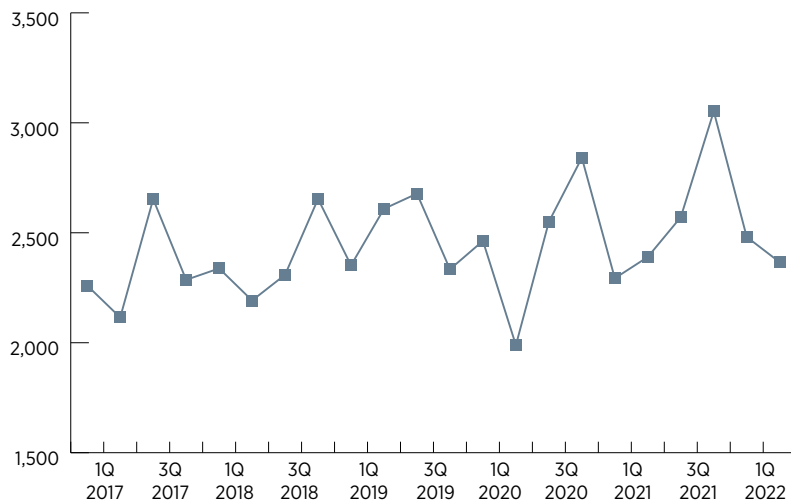
Between the first quarter of 2017 and the second quarter of 2022,<sup>4</sup> the percentage of those who had UI-covered employment hovered between about 27% and 33%. There was a notable drop in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 7).

**FIGURE 7: Employment Rate by Quarter, 2017 (Q1) through 2022 (Q2)**



Among those individuals who had UI-covered employment, earnings were low. Figure 8 illustrates median quarterly UI-covered earnings over time, excluding those with zero earnings in a quarter. Earnings ranged from \$1,989 to \$3,052 quarterly, which is \$663 to \$1,017 per month.

**FIGURE 8: Median Earnings by Quarter, 2017 (Q1) through 2022 (Q2)**



4 The most recent quarters for which data was available to DHS; although it is not

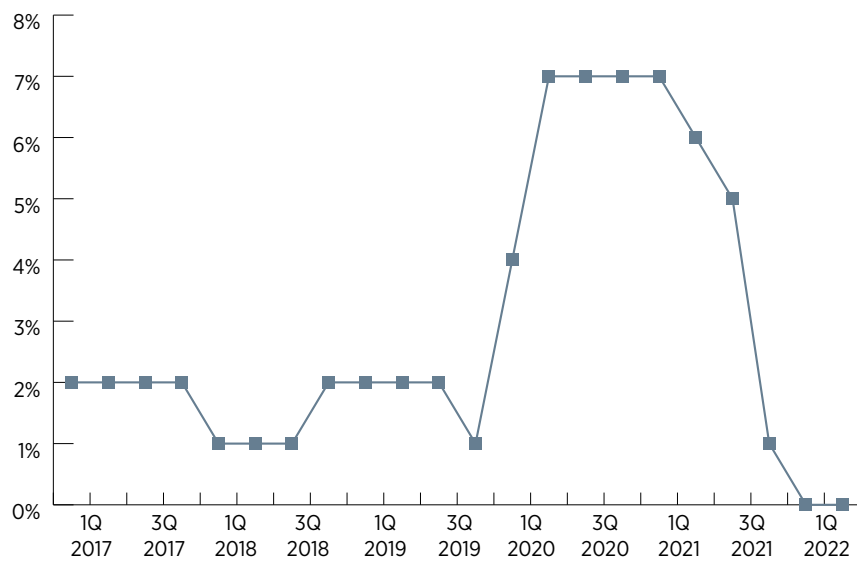
concurrent with shelter enrollment, it provides some insight into earnings.

The four most common employment industry classifications were:

- Accommodation and food services
- Administration & support services
- Waste management & remediation services
- Retail trade

The unemployment benefits receipt rate remained stable between 0.8% and 2.2% from the first quarter of 2017 to the fourth quarter of 2019, but it increased in the first quarter of 2020, possibly due to the pandemic. It reached rates of 6.8%, where it remained for several quarters until it decreased again in the fourth quarter of 2021 to rates between 0.7% and 0.4% (Figure 9). It is not surprising that so few clients in this cohort have received UI benefits in recent quarters, because these benefits require the client to have more than a certain minimum level of earnings in the five quarters prior to filing their unemployment claim.

**FIGURE 9: Percent of Individuals Receiving Unemployment Compensation, by Quarter, 2017 (Q1) through 2022 (Q2)**



## SERVICE AND SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

The Allegheny County Data Warehouse integrates client and service data from a wide variety of sources to describe individuals' experiences with publicly funded behavioral and physical health services, other social services and the criminal justice system.

### Housing-Related Services

Thirty percent (N=463) of people using adult-only emergency shelters used other DHS housing supports in the year prior to their first enrollment in the April 2022 through March 2023 study period. More than half of the 30% had previously stayed at an emergency shelter (**Table 4**).<sup>5</sup>

**TABLE 4: DHS-Administered Housing Supports During the Year Prior to First Shelter Enrollment within the Study Period**

SERVICE CATEGORY	# OF PEOPLE	% OF TOTAL
DHS Housing Supports	463	30%
Homeless Prevention/Rental Assistance	7	0%
Emergency COVID Rent Relief	69	4%
Homeless Services —Emergency Shelter	259	17%
Homeless Services — Transitional Housing	10	1%
Permanent Housing for Formerly Homeless	132	8%
Permanent Supportive Housing	66	4%
Rapid Rehousing	69	4%

Fewer than 10% (N=132) were engaged in supportive housing programs prior to their stay. Some individuals had exited a program and subsequently entered shelter (N=69); others were searching for housing with a program and staying in shelter as they searched (N=25); and still others appeared to be using the shelter for short stays even after having moved into a unit with a program (N=38). Further analysis would be required to fully understand the reasons.

5 Our related [data brief](#) on families using shelter suggests that families are less likely than individuals in adult-only shelters to have had shelter and housing program

involvement (6% of the family shelter cohort) in the last year, but more likely to have accessed rental assistance/relief (26%).

## Health-Related Services

Most Medicaid-enrolled adults using emergency shelter (N=945) received behavioral health services during the year prior to their first enrollment in shelter within the study period (**Table 5**), with 39% using mental health crisis services. Many others were involved in supportive behavioral services like drug and alcohol services (35%) and mental health outpatient services (43%).<sup>6</sup> These data provide insight into who is receiving services but may not describe the full picture of their health challenges, as some individuals may not be accessing services they need.

Approximately 90% of Medicaid-enrolled shelter users had used physical health services in the year prior to their shelter episode, both outpatient services (88%) and emergency department visits (73%). Only 16 of the 691 people with an emergency department visit went on to have an inpatient admission to the hospital.

**TABLE 5: Health-Related Service Involvement During the Year Prior to First Shelter Enrollment within the Study Period, Medicaid-Enrolled Clients Only (N=945)**

SERVICE CATEGORY	# PEOPLE	% OF TOTAL
Behavioral Health Services	727	77%
Drug / Alcohol Services	327	35%
Mental Health (MH) Services	659	70%
MH Crisis Services	366	39%
MH Inpatient Treatment	146	15%
MH Outpatient Treatment	404	43%
Physical Health Services	857	91%
Outpatient	836	88%
Emergency Dept. (ED) Visits	691	73%
ED visits NOT resulting in inpatient stay	675	71%
Inpatient hospitalization	196	21%

6 County-wide, Medicaid-enrolled adults are less likely than the study cohort to use behavioral health services in general and

drug and alcohol services, in particular (23% and 5%, respectively, in 2022).

For Medicaid-enrolled individuals accessing mental health services, nearly a third were diagnosed with a depressive disorder, 23% with an adjustment disorder, 22% with schizophrenia and 20% with bipolar disorder. Roughly equal numbers of people were diagnosed with opioid use disorder and with alcohol use disorder. An additional 28% were diagnosed with cocaine use disorder (**Table 6**).

**TABLE 6: Top Five Behavioral Health Diagnoses of People Accessing Services, Medicaid-Enrolled Clients Only (N=945)**

TOP MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	# OF PEOPLE	% OF PEOPLE WITH A DIAGNOSIS	TOP SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS	# OF PEOPLE	% OF PEOPLE WITH A DIAGNOSIS
Depressive disorder	207	31%	Opioid	175	54%
Adjustment disorder	154	23%	Alcohol	163	50%
Schizophrenia	142	22%	Cocaine	91	28%
Bipolar disorder	131	20%	Cannabis	21	6%
Anxiety disorder	84	13%	Amphetamine	15	5%

For Medicaid-enrolled individuals, the most common chronic physical condition was hypertension, followed by kidney disease and diabetes. For most conditions listed in **Table 7**, adults using shelter have a diagnosis rate nearly double that of Medicaid-enrolled adults in the County.

**TABLE 7: Top Chronic Diseases, Medicaid-Enrolled Clients Only (N=945)<sup>7</sup>**

CHRONIC DISEASE	# PEOPLE	% OF PEOPLE WITH A DIAGNOSIS	COMPARISON GROUP: MEDICAID-ENROLLED ADULTS 2022 (N=200,676)
Hypertension	315	33.3%	21.7%
Chronic Kidney Disease	178	18.8%	10.8%
Diabetes	159	16.8%	12.3%
Asthma	146	15.4%	8.9%
Liver Disease	128	13.5%	7.6%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	124	13.1%	6.9%
Ischemic Heart Disease	120	12.7%	7.9%

<sup>7</sup> **Table 7** shows all chronic diseases with at least a 10% diagnosis rate in the study cohort.

### Criminal Justice System Involvement

Nearly 70% of those using adult-only emergency shelters had no involvement with the adult criminal justice system during the year prior to their first shelter stay within the April 2022 through March 2023 study period (Table 8). Most of those with involvement in the adult system were those with new criminal filings, but fewer had a jail booking. Seventeen age-eligible individuals (12%) were involved with the juvenile justice system during the year prior.

**TABLE 8: Criminal Justice System Involvement During the Year Prior to First Shelter Enrollment within the Study Period**

SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT	# OF PEOPLE	% OF TOTAL
Adult Criminal Justice System	506	32%
New Criminal Filing	447	29%
Jail Booking	240	15%
Adult Probation	215	14%
Juvenile Justice System*	17	12%

\*The denominator for juvenile justice services is the number of people who were eligible based on age in the previous year: N=145. The juvenile justice system is for individuals ages 10 through 20.

### Other Services

Five percent of shelter users (N=75) were parents involved in a child welfare case. No children were staying with their parents at the adult-only shelter, as those with children stay at family shelters. Of the people who were under 18 at any point in the year prior to their first shelter stay (N=30), 27% had an active case in the child welfare system (Table 9).

Of those who were 60 years of age or older, approximately 20% received services through the County's Aging Services (e.g., senior centers, training and employment, transportation, domiciliary care/adult foster care, in-home services and caregiver support).<sup>8</sup>

**TABLE 9: Other Service Involvement During the Year Prior to First Shelter Enrollment within the Study Period**

SERVICE CATEGORY	# OF PEOPLE	# ELIGIBLE	% OF ELIGIBLE
Child welfare (as Parent)	75	1560	5%
Child welfare (as Child)*	8	30	27%
Child welfare placement services	3	30	10%
Aging	46	235	20%

\*Children and youth aged 17 and under are eligible for these services.

8 County-wide, the rate of involvement for those 60+ in aging services is about 12%.



## NEXT STEPS

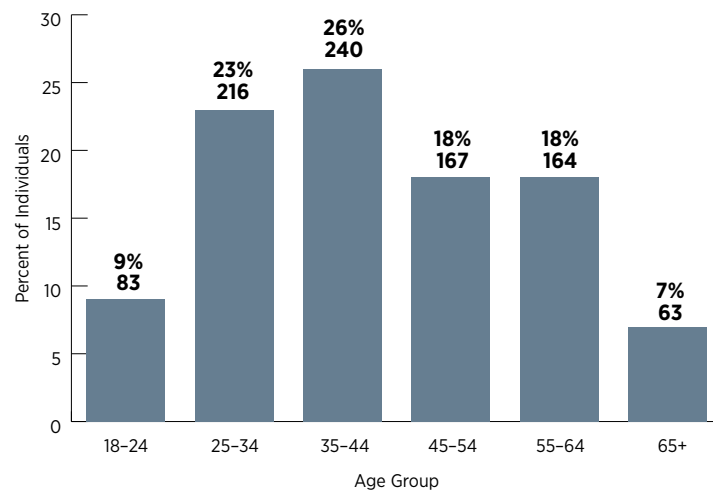
Emergency shelters are meant to be short-term accommodations for people experiencing a crisis. The County's goal is to ensure that shelter stays are rare, brief and non-recurring. Though Allegheny County does provide longer-term supportive housing (permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing programs), these programs have extremely limited capacity. [Read here about how the County prioritizes who receives housing programs.](#) Among adults who used shelter at any point in 2022, only about 10% have subsequently enrolled in a County-funded supportive housing program.

Most adults in this cohort used shelter just one time with a median length of stay of two weeks. However, 10% of shelter stays lasted more than four months and, although rare, some stays lasted nearly a year. Most of the adults in shelters have minimal income and cannot afford market rate rent. Fair Market Rent in the Pittsburgh metro area increased 11% between 2022 and 2023. Additionally, the demand for subsidized housing far outweighs supply, which narrows options for exits to stable housing even further. The County is working with shelter staff and other housing providers to support client moves to stable housing when possible, with the goal of improving their overall outcomes and ensuring that short-term beds are available when people need them.

**APPENDIX A****APPENDIX A: WINTER SHELTER USERS (NOVEMBER 2022 THROUGH MARCH 2023)**

Winter shelter staff collected identifying information about people each night they used the shelter. However, because of staff constraints and visitors' privacy preferences, only 58% of shelter users data is complete; 42% (N=667) of winter shelter records did not contain enough demographic information to reliably match individuals. As a result, we are only able to describe the 934 people who had basic demographic information (name, date of birth, gender) recorded. Of the 934 people we were able to identify who used the winter shelter, the majority (58%, N=541) did not enroll in other emergency shelters during the study period.

The demographic breakdown of this population looks very similar to that of adults using year-round emergency shelters. The 35-through-44 age group was the largest group of winter shelter users. Seventy three percent (N=680) of people who used winter shelters were male; 42% (N=389) were Black and 43% were White (N=400). Race data were not available for 14% of people who used winter shelter, which reflects a pronounced data challenge for this type of shelter.

**Age of Individuals who Used Winter Shelters (N=934)****INCOME AND PUBLIC BENEFITS**

Like year-round shelter users, 56% (N=526) of individuals who used winter shelters were enrolled in Medicaid and 70% (N=658) received some sort of public benefit, including 19% (N=176) who received SSI and 59% (N=554) who received SNAP in the year prior to their first enrollment in a winter shelter.

Self-reported income is available for 911 individuals (97%). Most (79%) reported having zero income. Among those who disclosed some income (21%), their median monthly income was \$930, which can come from multiple sources, including public benefits and employment.

## APPENDIX A

## EMPLOYMENT

UI-covered employment data were available for 624 individuals within the cohort that used winter shelters (67%). Overall, employment statistics of winter shelter users are like those of adult users of year-round shelters. The percentage of winter shelter users that had UI-covered employment ranged from 19% to 29% in the period Q1 2017 through Q2 2022. The percentage was 27% in the second quarter of 2022. Among individuals with UI-covered employment, quarterly earnings ranged from \$3,246 to \$1,820; in the second quarter of 2022, the median quarterly wage for this cohort was \$2,296. Like trends among adult year-round shelter users, the UI benefits receipt rate fluctuated between 0.5% and 1.4% from the first quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2021; it then increased and plateaued around 6% until the third quarter of 2021, then returned to a rate of 0.3% in the second quarter of 2022.

## SERVICES

Service utilization for winter shelter users looks very similar to that of year-round shelter users. One in four people using winter shelter used another emergency shelter in the year prior and 9% were enrolled in a permanent housing program. Of the people enrolled in Medicaid (56% of the population), eight in 10 used a behavioral health service in the year prior. Forty percent of this cohort used a mental health crisis service in the year prior and 39% utilized substance use disorder treatment services. Very few (3%) were parents in the child welfare system and about one third had any interaction with the County's criminal justice system (jail booking or new criminal filing).

## Service or System Involvement During the Year Prior to First Winter Shelter Enrollment within the Study Period

SERVICE OR SYSTEM CATEGORY	# ACTIVE IN LAST YEAR	% ACTIVE IN LAST YEAR
DHS Housing Supports	342	37%
Homeless Prevention/Rental Assistance	7	1%
COVID-19 Rent Relief	30	3%
Homeless Services – Emergency Shelter	241	26%
Homeless Services – Transitional Housing	5	1%
Permanent Housing for Formerly Homeless	84	9%
Permanent Housing	47	5%
Rapid Rehousing	42	5%
Behavioral Health Services (among Medicaid enrollees)*	429	82%
Drug / Alcohol Services	206	39%
Mental Health (MH) Services	380	72%
MH Crisis Services	213	40%
MH Inpatient Treatment	100	19%
MH Outpatient Treatment	231	44%
Emergency Department Visits (among Medicaid enrollees)*	396	75%
Child Welfare Services (as parent)	39	3%
Adult Criminal Justice System	327	35%
Jail Booking	289	31%
New Criminal Filing	162	17%

\*Data are only available for the 56% (N=526) of people who were enrolled in Medicaid

**APPENDIX B****APPENDIX B: BEST KNOWN ADDRESSES OF SHELTER USERS; TOP NEIGHBORHOODS AND MUNICIPALITIES****Top 10 Pittsburgh neighborhoods**

NEIGHBORHOOD	# OF PEOPLE	PERCENT OF TOTAL PEOPLE WITH VALID ADDRESSES (1,243)
Carrick	25	2.0%
East Liberty	19	1.5%
Marshall-Shadeland	18	1.4%
Sheraden	18	1.4%
Perry South	16	1.3%
Mount Washington	16	1.3%
Knoxville	15	1.2%
East Hills	14	1.1%
Perry North	14	1.1%
Garfield	13	1.0%

**Top 10 municipalities (excluding Pittsburgh)**

MUNICIPALITY	# OF PEOPLE	PERCENT OF TOTAL PEOPLE WITH VALID ADDRESSES (1,243)
McKeesport	69	5.6%
Wilkinsburg Borough	44	3.5%
Penn Hills Municipality	32	2.6%
McKees Rocks Borough	21	1.7%
Stowe Township	21	1.7%
Duquesne	20	1.6%
Clairton	19	1.5%
North Braddock Borough	18	1.4%
Mount Oliver Borough	14	1.1%
North Versailles Township	12	1.0%