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# Encampments & Outreach Responses

City County Homeless Issues Committee  
(11/16/20)

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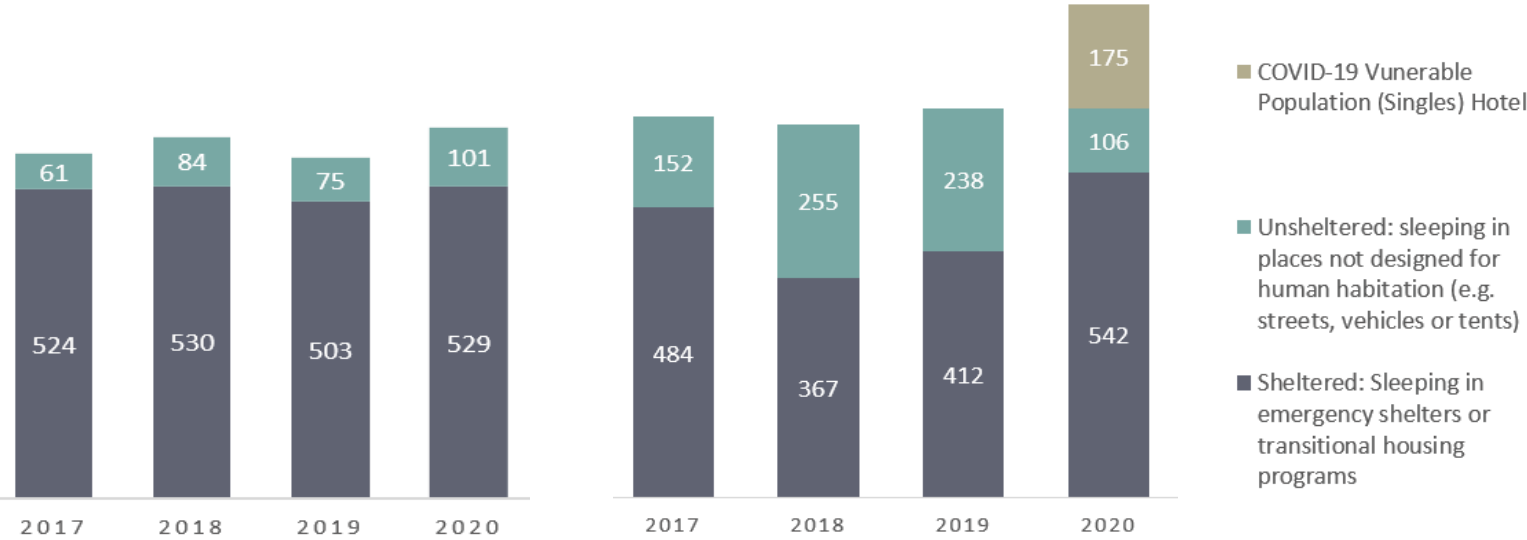
# Unsheltered Homeless in Madison/Dane County

**On a typical winter night, about 70-100 people are unsheltered in Madison/Dane County.**

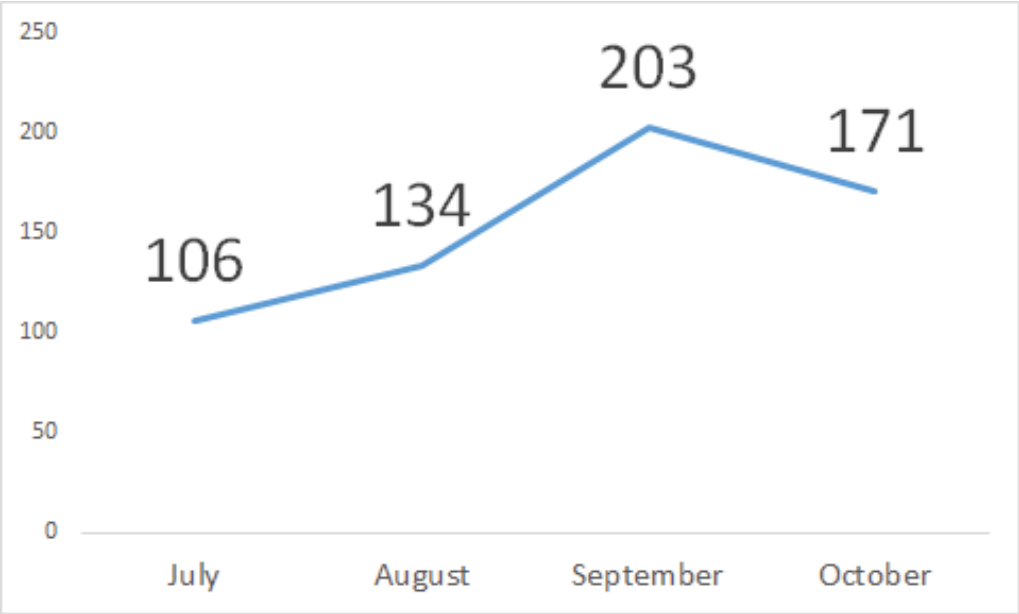
**They sleep outside, in a vehicle, in a tent, or other places not suitable for human habitation.**

# Unsheltered # typically triples in the summer.

January PIT (Winter Count)      July PIT (Summer Count)



**Unsheltered # peaked in September this year.**



# Estimated 132 people were unsheltered on November 11, 2020.

Downtown:	25
McPike Park:	25
Starkweather Creek:	25
Hwy 30:	15
Reindahl:	8
Other Places:	34

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## Unsheltered people have additional challenges.

Most of them are in households without children (singles or couples).

Approximately 25% are female and 75% are male.

According to the 2019 July PIT survey,

- Estimated 64% adults have a serious mental illness (compared to 42% overall);
  - Estimated 55% adults have a substance use disorders (compared to 29% overall).
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# Why are people not using the shelters?

## Summer (2019 July PIT)

I do not feel safe.

I have used up my 90 days or I am saving my 90 nights for bad or cold weather nights.

There are too many rules or rules are too strict.

## Winter (2020 January PIT)

They are too crowded or loud.

I have issues with shelter staff.

I can't stay with my partner, family or friends.



# Why are people not using the shelters?

## Recent outreach staff interviews with people at encampments

- Mental health conditions (e.g. PTSD)-- difficult to be in an environment where many people are in crisis
  - Feeling unsafe due to crimes (e.g. stealing)
  - Rules-- people were not aware of the men's shelter changes regarding intoxication
  - Do not want to leave a partner
  - Lack of storage--do not want to leave their belongings
  - Concerned about COVID-19 in congregate setting
  - Transportation--proximity to work and services
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# Shelter Updates



## **Our goal is to ensure access to shelter for everyone.**

- Working with public health to mitigate risk and ensure safety at shelters
  - Increasing shelter capacity
  - Lowering barriers for shelter entry
  - Accelerate rehousing
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# Porchlight Men's Shelter

- Relocated from three downtown churches to Warner Park; plan to relocate to First Street fleet facility in December
  - Indefinite hold on 90-day limit
  - Allowed people under the influence of substances to access shelter
  - Increased staffing and worked as a team to better serve guests with challenging behaviors
  - Actively reduced the frequency and length of suspensions
  - Arranged transportation from The Beacon to Warner Park and back each day
  - Regular COVID-19 testing onsite
  - **Average Use: 100 guests in October**
  - **Capacity: 160 (First Street capacity at least 250)**
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## Salvation Army Women's Shelter

- Families moved out to hotels, freeing up the 22 family rooms for women
  - Women are staying 24 hours a day
  - Indefinite hold on 90-day limit
  - Increased storage space for guest's belongings
  - Decreased length of time for suspensions
  - Regular COVID-19 testing onsite
  - **Average Use: 59 guests in October**
  - **Capacity: 65 (was 45 pre-COVID)**
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## COVID-19 Vulnerable Population Hotels

- For individuals residing at shelters or unsheltered locations who are at increased risk of severe illness
    - Age 65+
    - Medical conditions identified by CDC such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, severe heart conditions
  - Onsite supportive services
  - Funded by Dane County CARES Act funds
  - **Capacity: 180**
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## COVID-19 Medical Respite Center

- For individuals and families experiencing homelessness who need to isolate (positive test, symptoms) or quarantine (close contact with someone tested positive)
  - Shelters, outreach programs, clinics and hospitals, and corrections can refer
  - Funded by Dane County CARES Act funds
  - Managed by Public Health
  - **Capacity: 70+ units**
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# Outreach Responses

**Sara Allee-Jatta, Sankofa Behavioral and Community Health  
Karen Andro, First United Methodist Church**





## Coordinated Outreach Response

- Weekly outreach check-in for updates and problem solving, attended by various outreach groups
  - Weekly food & supply outreach with additional follow-up outreach and case management services, food & supply bags prepared by First United Methodist Church
  - Will release a joint statement about encampment donations
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# Madison Area Coordinated Outreach Teams



UnityPoint Health- Meriter, VA Outreach and other groups