

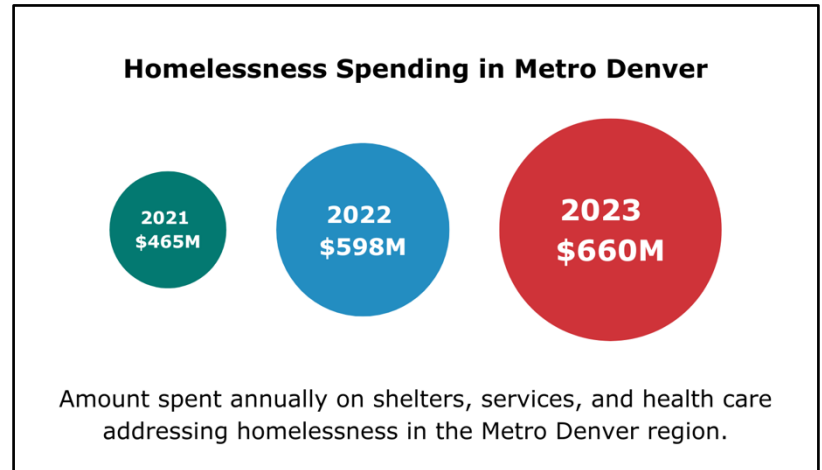
Homelessness in Metro Denver: An Opportunity to Transform Resources & the Existing System

October 2022

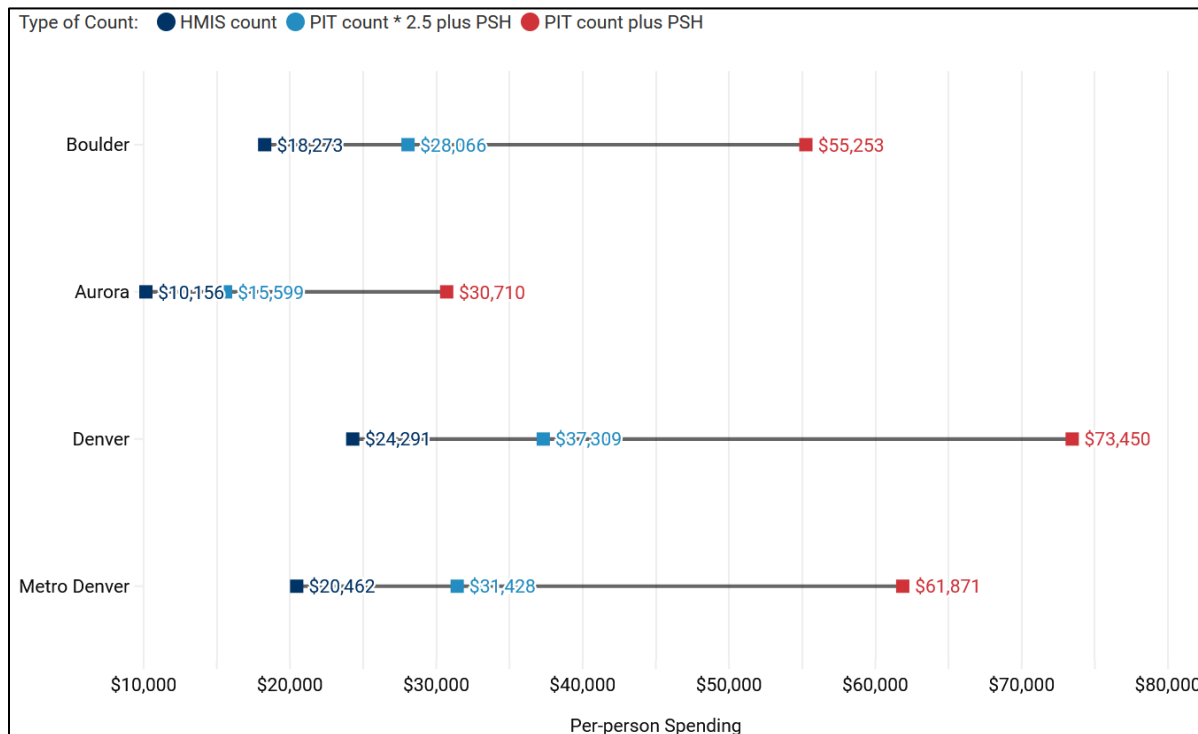
Expenditures

Between 2021 and 2023, an estimated \$1.7 billion will be spent or budgeted in metro Denver to address homelessness.

- The total amount of annual spending is expected to increase from \$465 million in 2021 to an estimated \$660 million in 2023—a 42% increase over those two years (\$195 million).
- 2023 expenditure per individual experiencing homelessness or in permanent supportive housing in metro Denver is expected to be between \$31,428 and \$61,871. Spending per person in the city of Denver is expected to be between \$37,309 and \$73,450.
- CSI developed three estimates of per-person spending based upon different counts of the overall homeless population. The accompanying graph displays those estimates across metro Denver and three metro cities.

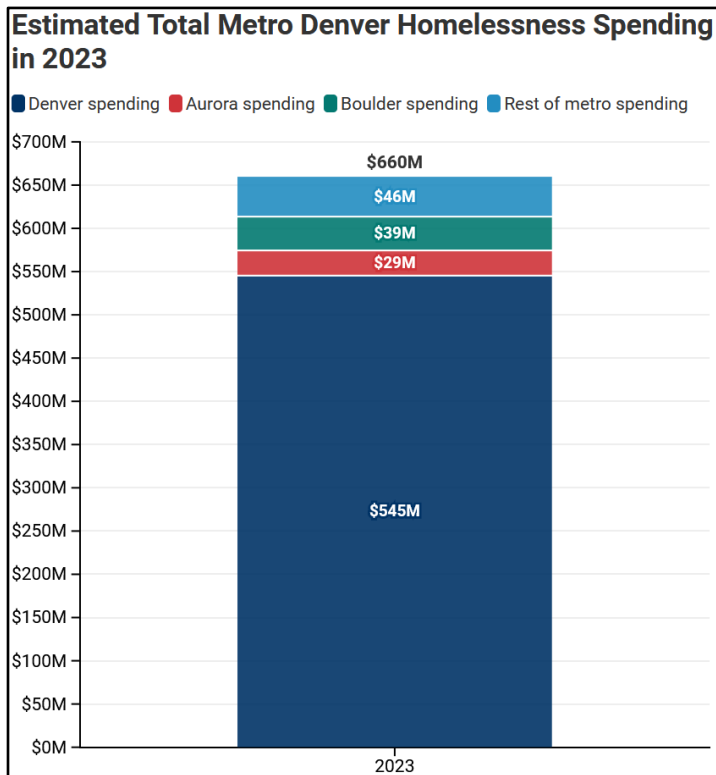


Ranges of 2023 Spending on Homelessness per Person



2023 Spending: Metro Denver and Cities of Denver, Aurora, and Boulder

Estimated 2023 Expenditures: City of Denver		
Baseline	Direct municipal spending and contracts	\$4,810,894
	Denver Health	\$163,665,974
	Non-profits	\$224,722,949
New 2023	Department of Housing Stability (HOST) general fund	\$10,002,066
	Denver Police Department	\$1,630,118
	HOST special funds	\$38,792,671
	State funds	\$43,982,301
	Federal funds	\$57,650,000
Total 2023 spending		\$545,256,973



Estimated 2023 Expenditures: Aurora		
Baseline	Direct municipal spending (including police and fire)	\$1,818,000
	Non-profits	\$16,385,833
New 2023	Aurora Housing and Community Services	\$2,268,211
	State funds	\$8,631,612
Total 2023 spending		\$29,103,657

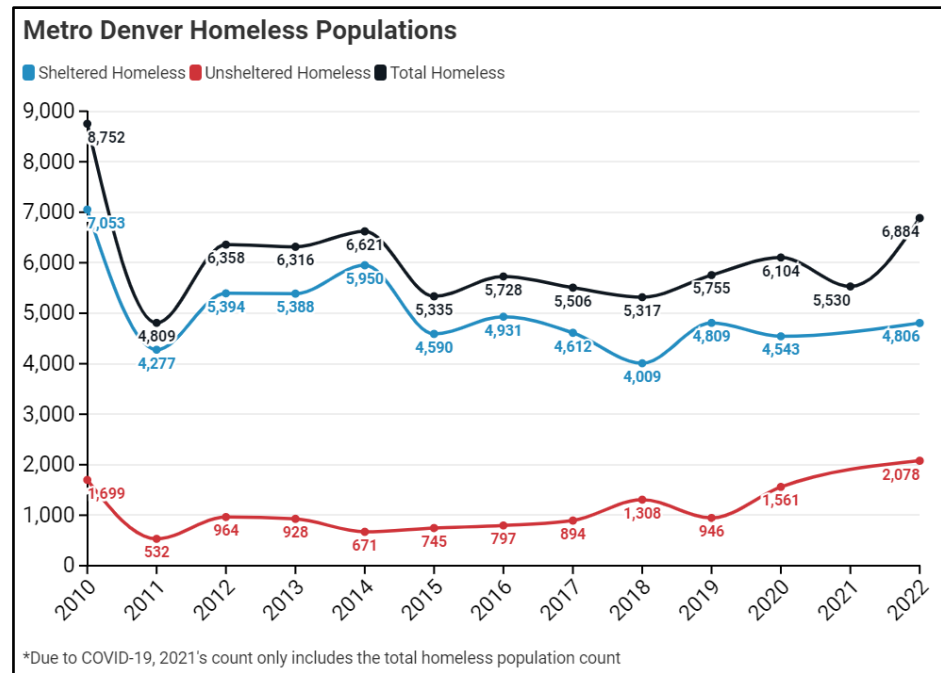
Estimated 2023 Expenditures: Boulder		
Baseline	Direct municipal spending (including police)	\$2,410,900
	Non-profits	\$21,565,309
New 2023	Boulder Housing and Human Services	\$1,196,544
	State funds	\$13,927,824
Total 2023 spending		\$39,100,577

Note: Metro Denver includes seven counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson. Charitable organization spending is collected from Forms 990, annual reports, and outreach to organizations.

The estimated expenditure amounts are conservative and do not represent the full array of charitable organizations, public agencies, and health care and emergency response systems that are dedicated to serving the homeless population.

Homeless Population

- The total metro Denver homeless population grew by 13% from 2020 to 2022. The unsheltered population grew by 30%, which is the highest level since 2008.
 - The unsheltered population is up 120% from the 2019 estimates.
- The metropolitan Denver region’s veteran homeless population is down 31% from 2020, consistent with trends seen in other parts of the county that emphasized reforms and resources dedicated to this population.
- While the unsheltered homeless population in Denver grew by 33% between 2020 and 2022, it decreased by 19% in San Antonio, 9% in Houston.



Workforce Serving People Experiencing Homelessness

Employees at charitable organizations, health care staff at local hospitals and urgent care centers, emergency responders, government workers, social workers, counselors, and others work to provide care and support services for homeless individuals. Based on annual reports, Forms 990, and interviews, it is estimated that 4,000–7,000 employees at these agencies work in this field.

- Thus, there is approximately one job related to serving and addressing homelessness for every two individuals experiencing homelessness or in permanent supportive housing.

Shelter

- In 2021, there were 12,500 year-round beds in the Denver metro area according to the HUD Continuum of Care count.
- 53% of those beds were provided by permanent housing and rapid rehousing initiatives.
 - Between 2014 and 2021, the number of permanent housing units grew by 203% (from 2,192 to 6,634).

Workforce Data

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

4,000-7,000

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

55,000- 85,000

VOLUNTEER HOURS

200,000-300,000

VOLUNTEER HOURS = \$\$

\$5.7M- \$8.6M

Regional System Changes & Outcomes

- One of the most pressing questions facing local leaders and the public is whether a combination of system changes and a near-term influx of funding will lead to long-term reductions in homelessness. Other parts of the country and the metro Denver’s region’s record on veteran homelessness prove that it is possible.
 - In other parts of the country the data are trending in the opposite direction of the metro Denver region. While the unsheltered homeless population in metro Denver grew by 33% between 2020 and 2022, it decreased by 19% in the San Antonio region and 9% in the Houston CoC region.
 - The metro Denver region’s veteran homeless population is down 31% from 2020, which is consistent with trends in other parts of the county that enacted reforms and dedicated resources to this population.

Change in Total Homeless Population			
	Last 5 years (2017–2022)	Last 10 years (2012–2022)	Last 3 Years (2019–2022)
Metro Denver	+25%	+8%	+20%
San Antonio	+9%	-18%	+4%
Houston	-11%	-55%	-18%
Washington, D.C.	-41%	-37%	-32%

Change in Unsheltered Population			
	Last 5 years (2017–2022)	Last 10 years (2012–2022)	Last 3 years (2019–2022)
Metro Denver	+132%	+116%	+120%
San Antonio	-6%	-36%	-13%
Houston	+33%	-61%	-7%
Washington, D.C.	+7%	+42%	+59%

- The system of resources serving the homeless captured in this report will come under even more pressure if broader solutions to mental health, addiction, housing affordability, and educational attainment are not achieved.
- Transparency and sound data are needed in order to efficiently deploy finite resources. Given that most homeless resolution strategies focus on targeting specific groups of people, resources dedicated to each of these populations should be reported similarly.

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