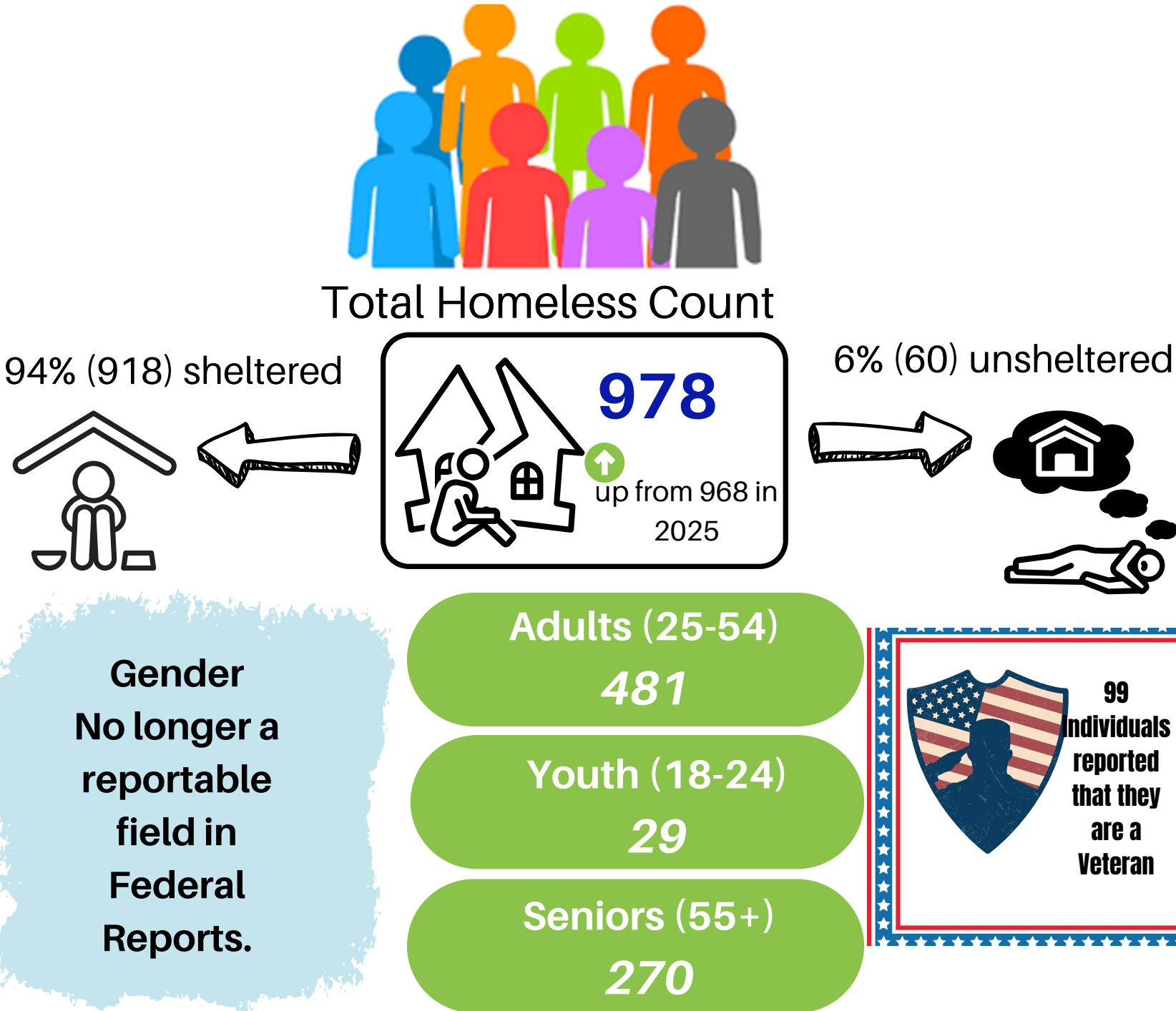


2026 Homeless Point in Time Count

Milwaukee County / January 2026

Each year, Milwaukee conducts a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count to capture a one-night snapshot of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including those in shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered locations. The most recent count took place on January 28, 2026. More than just a number, the PIT Count helps drive federal Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, shape local strategies, and identify emerging trends and gaps in services. While it represents only one night and cannot capture the full scope of homelessness, it provides a powerful lens into the community's needs and serves as a critical tool for turning data into action.

Between 2024 and 2026, Milwaukee's homelessness data tells a story of both consistency and emerging shifts in the population being served. While the profile of who is accessing services has remained relatively stable, the overall number of people experiencing homelessness has continued to rise, reaching 978 individuals in 2026. Single adults remain the driving force behind system demand, accounting for the largest share each year. The number increased from 617 individuals in 2024 to 747 in 2025 and remained elevated at 726 in 2026, reinforcing that single adults continue to represent the majority of people experiencing homelessness. Family homelessness has shown a different pattern, remaining relatively steady over the three-year period. Families served increased modestly from 64 in 2024 to 73 in 2025 before settling at 69 in 2026, suggesting persistent but stable family needs.



Youth homelessness continues to represent a smaller portion of the overall population, though 2026 saw a noticeable increase when youth and young adults are combined, signaling a need to monitor this trend closely. Veteran homelessness also rose, reaching 99 individuals in 2026 and highlighting ongoing challenges for a population often connected to targeted supports.

One of the more significant shifts is the increasing presence of older adults within the homeless population. In 2026, 270 individuals experiencing homelessness were age 55 or older, reflecting a growing trend that may require greater attention to age-related health, housing, and service needs. Overall, the data suggests that while homelessness in Milwaukee continues to affect many of the same populations year after year, the changing demographics point toward evolving system demands and opportunities for targeted intervention.

Racial Disparities

Approximately 76% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Milwaukee identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), despite BIPOC populations representing only about 22% of Wisconsin's population and approximately 64% of Milwaukee's population according to U.S. Census estimates. This disparity highlights the disproportionate impact of homelessness on communities of color.

