

The Economic Footprint of Homelessness in Metro Denver

Phase One of a Three-Phase Analysis

August 2021

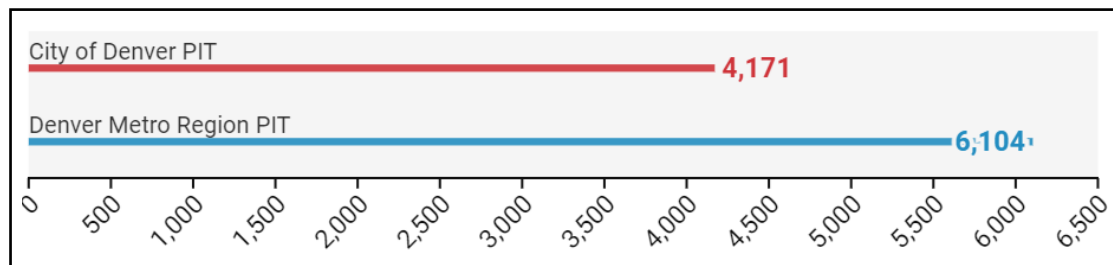
You can read the full report at:

<https://commonsenseinstitute.co.org/the-economic-footprint-of-homelessness-in-metro-denver/>

Key Findings

Homelessness in Metro Denver

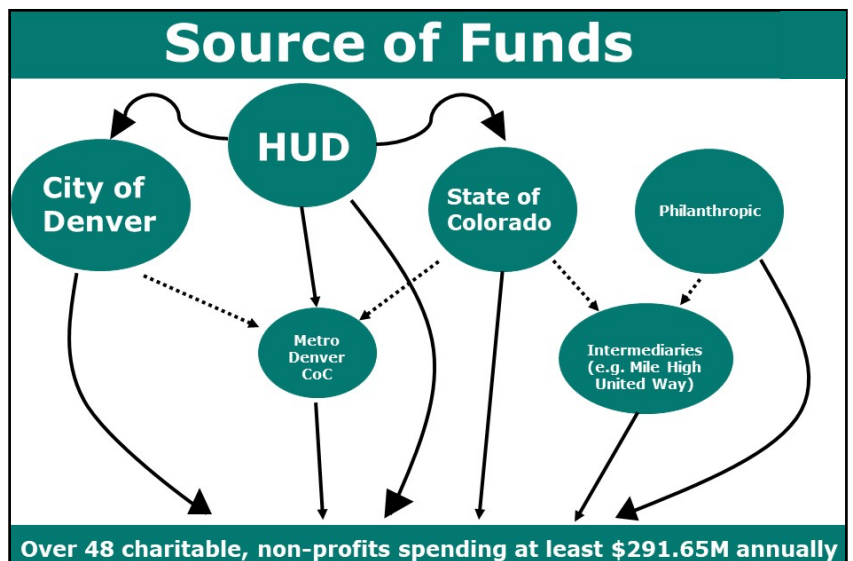
The 2020 Point in Time (PIT) count, which provides a snapshot of the population experiencing



homelessness in the region, counted 6,104 people experiencing homelessness on Jan. 27, 2020, in Metro Denver (covering the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson). 4,171 of those individuals were living within the boundaries of the city and county of Denver, representing 68% of the region’s total. While there is not 2021 data, it is expected that there has been an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Revenue Streams: Homelessness Assistance Programs

The homelessness ecosystem consists of a complex array of organizations, agencies, and funding streams. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the key federal agency working on this issue, while states and localities have many different agencies and departments working on preventing and resolving homelessness.



Aggregated program expenditures using most recent fiscal year data available.

Estimated Expenditures: Homelessness Assistance Programs

Estimated Annual Expenditures, City of Denver

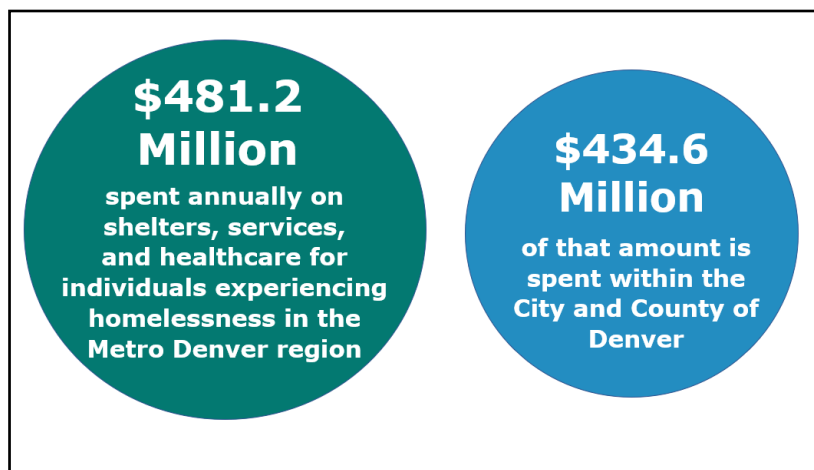
Agency/Organization	Estimated Annual Expenditures
Denver Health	\$ 175,867,454
Denver Police Department	\$1,300,000
Denver Fire Department	\$415,800
Homelessness Resolution Fund	\$40,000,000
Charitable Organizations	\$217,040,343
City/County of Denver Total	\$ 434,623,597

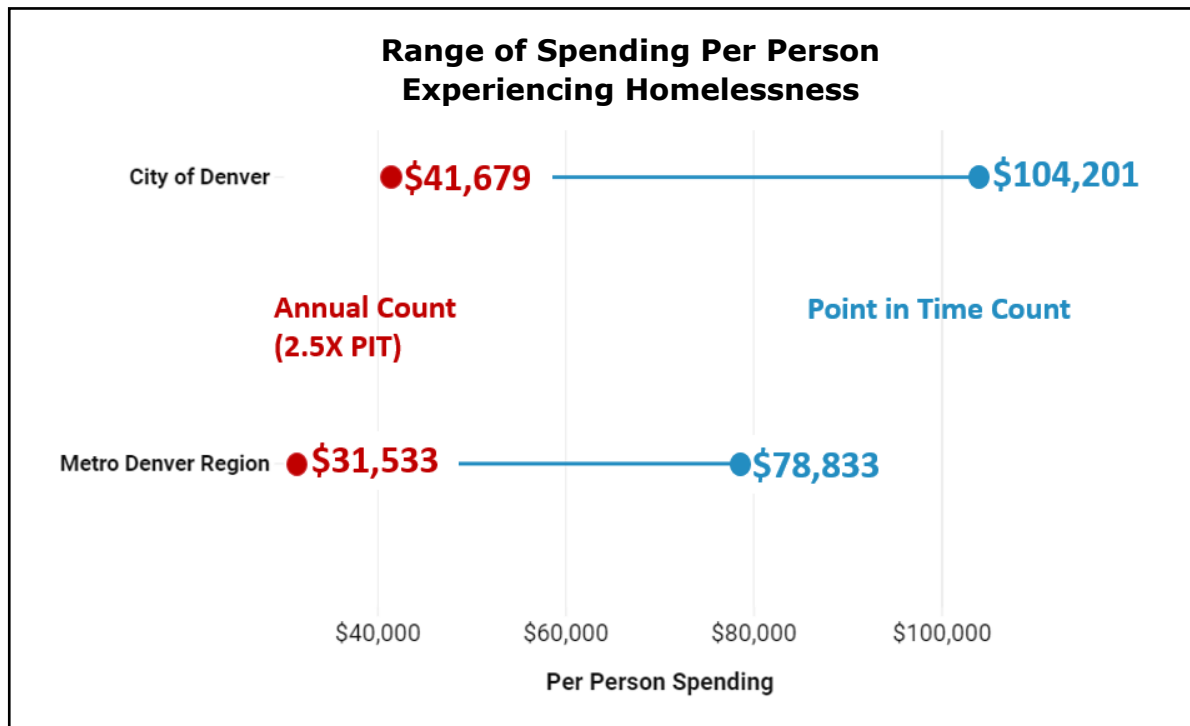
Metro Denver Estimated Expenditures Related to Homelessness

Total Expenditures within City of Denver	\$434,623,597
Total Expenditures within City of Boulder	\$15,945,915
Total Expenditures within City of Aurora	\$7,820,157
Charitable organizations in other cities/counties in the Metro Denver region not included in above counts	\$22,804,392
Metro Denver Total Expenditures	\$481,194,061

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

The estimated expenditure amount of \$481.2 million does not represent the full array of charitable organizations, public agencies, or health care and emergency response systems that are dedicated to serving individuals experiencing homelessness.





Within the City of Denver, the range of spending per person experiencing homelessness is \$41,679 per person to \$104,201 per person depending on the type of count used. In comparison, spending per pupil for K-12 education in Denver Public Schools is around \$19,202.

City of Denver Spending

- **\$41,679 - \$104,201** Per Person Experiencing Homelessness

Comparative Homelessness Assistance Spending:

- **\$29,000** Local emergency services per chronically homeless individual who is a “high-utilizer” of services, according to the City of Denver.
- **\$22,000 - \$36,000** Permanent Supportive Housing Program for one individual per year in the Denver Supportive Housing Social Impact Bond Initiative (Denver SIB).

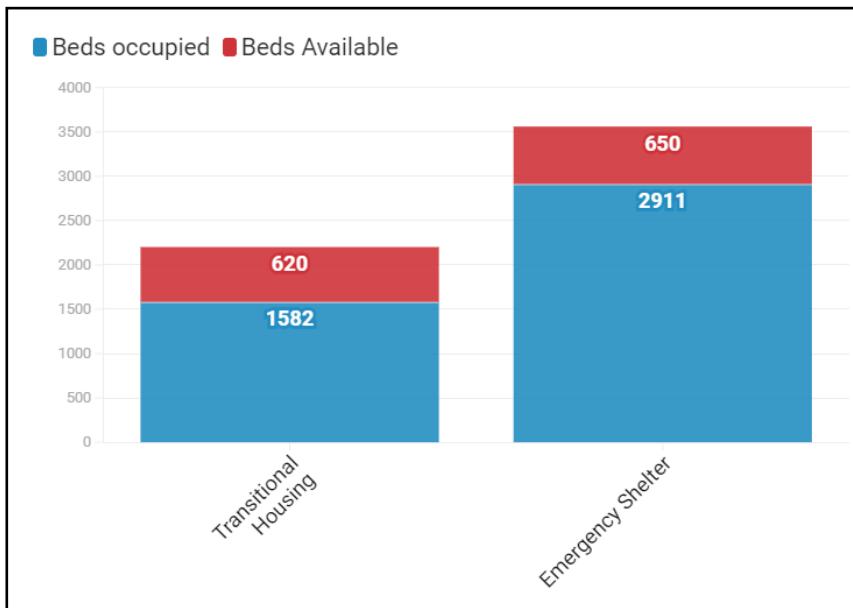
Comparative Denver Metrics

- **\$19,202** Per Pupil Spending for K-12 Education, 2019
- **\$21,156** Average yearly rent for an apartment in Denver, 2021
- **\$44,806** Per Capita Income for an individual in Metro Denver, 2019
- **\$68,592** Median Household Income in Metro Denver, 2019

Workforce Serving People Experiencing Homelessness

In Metro Denver, it is estimated that 4,000–7,000 employees work in organizations, government agencies, emergency response units or other entities that have services or housing dedicated to people experiencing homelessness. The estimated number of volunteers ranges from 55,000 to 85,000 people putting in around 200,000–300,000 hours. The estimated financial value of volunteer hours is \$5.7–\$8.6 million.

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



Number of Beds and Units for People Experiencing Homelessness

Overall, both transitional housing and emergency shelters in Metro Denver had beds available during the 2020 Point in Time count. Transitional housing was 72 percent occupied and emergency shelters were 82% occupied if including the severe weather beds, or 88% occupied if severe weather beds are excluded. Data on bed occupancy for permanent supportive housing is not available for 2020, but in 2019, there 98 percent of permanent supportive housing beds were occupied during the PIT count.

© 2021 Common Sense Institute.