

# UNSHELTERED CENSUS COUNT RESULTS

## When, Why, Who, and How?

On Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, DC counted unsheltered residents to track impacts from the federal law enforcement surge. This census count was “count only” and did not include interviews nor collection of personal information. The goal is to ensure resources are available to residents in need.

The census used approximately 100 outreach volunteers organized by the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), in coordination with DC’s dedicated partners at The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, Pathways to Housing DC, Community Connections, and Miriam’s Kitchen.

## Results of the August 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Census

The count showed 764 Unsheltered Individuals in DC

- 81 people in 54 tents; 683 unsheltered plus individuals of unsure status.
- NOTE: a direct comparison of these numbers to the January PIT count should not be made, as the methodology is different. DC’s goal was to count unsheltered residents to help plan services.
- In July, there were 128 people living in 107 tents in DC according to a DMHHS count.

## Expansion of Services During the Surge

During the federal surge, DC has accelerated outreach to connect residents to services and housing. DC funds 35 outreach workers. During the surge, workers have operated under extended outreach hours, including weekends and late nights. Shelter capacity in DC can be adjusted based on demand. Since the start of the federal surge, **over 80 additional residents have accepted shelter**. We currently have over 1,200 low-barrier shelter beds online with beds still available. More than 100 low-barrier shelter beds were added in August. With The Aston plus the opening of E Street Bridge Housing in September, the District will also operate roughly 300 non-congregate shelter beds.

DHS’ Project Reconnect program has also been an effective tool to help divert nearly 60 people from shelter to alternative housing solutions.

## District Efforts to End Homelessness

Mayor Bowser has set a goal of making homelessness in DC “brief, rare, and non-reoccurring.” DC is transforming our shelter system, including new non-congregate bridge housing at The Aston and E St. The Peer Case Management Institute (Winner of the Cafritz Team Award) provides case managers with lived experience with homelessness. **Family homelessness in DC is down 61% under Mayor Bowser.**

Homelessness has been trending downward in DC: a **9% decrease since 2024**, including an 18.1% decrease among families and a 4.5% decrease among unaccompanied individuals. From January 2023 to July 2025, DC’s number of residents in encampments **fell 56.4%, from 294 to 128**.

DC’s goal is always to place individuals in stable housing. Project Reconnect provides housing counseling and flexible funding to place people into stable housing. The District supports households to lease up with permanent housing vouchers – over 900 in FY24 and over 1,000 so far in FY25. DC has also leveraged Medicaid funding to provide supportive services to nearly 9,000 households.