

Authentic Engagement: Lifting the Voices of Older Adults to Observe Older Americans Month

May 10, 2023, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EST

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Housekeeping

- All attendees are in listen-only mode.
- Please introduce yourself and where you are from in the chat.
- For technical issues, please use the chat.
- Please use the Q&A box for all questions. We'll answer questions at the end.
- Slides will be posted on our website.

Agenda

Introduction of Panelists

Overview of Older American's Month

Select Demographics of Older Adults

Benefits of Lifting Voices

Panel Discussion

Q&A

Closing

Older Americans Month

- Established in 1963
- Older Americans Month (OAM) is celebrated every May
- Led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Acknowledge the contributions and achievements of older Americans
- Highlight important trends
- Strengthen our commitment to honoring our older citizens
- This year's theme, *Aging Unbound*

2021 Profile of Older Americans

Population age 65+ was 30.8 million women and 24.8 million men and represented 17% of the total population.

- **Gender**: Men had higher median incomes (\$35,808) when compared to women's median income of \$21,245.
- **Race**: Clear racial disparities exist among older adults experiencing poverty. The rate of White (non-Hispanic) older adult population living in poverty was 6.8 percent, compared to 17.2 percent of Blacks or African Americans, 11.5 percent of Asian Americans, and 16.6 percent of the Hispanic population (any race).
- **Poverty**: Five million people age 65+ lived below the poverty level. Another 2.6 million were "near poor". Gender disparities are present in who experiences poverty: the poverty rate for women was 10.1 percent, while the poverty rate for men was 7.6 percent.

Older Americans living in poverty are at increased risk of becoming homeless or experiencing housing instability.

2021 Profile of Older Americans cont.

- **Marital Status**: More men were married (69 percent) when compared to women (47 percent). Three times more women (9.1 million in total) were widowed when compared to men (2.7 million).
- **Living Arrangement**: 15.2 million older adults lived alone, which equated to about 10.1 million women and 5.2 million men. It's important to note the proportion living alone increases with advanced age: for example, 43 percent of women aged 75 and older lived alone. When considering ACL's profile, it is evident that women, especially women of color and those living alone, are more likely to age into poverty than men.

According to the Harvard's Joint Center on Housing, more than 2.2 million older adult renters with very low incomes had "worst case housing needs," which is defined as having severe cost burdens, living in severely inadequate housing, or both.

“Graying of the Homeless Population”

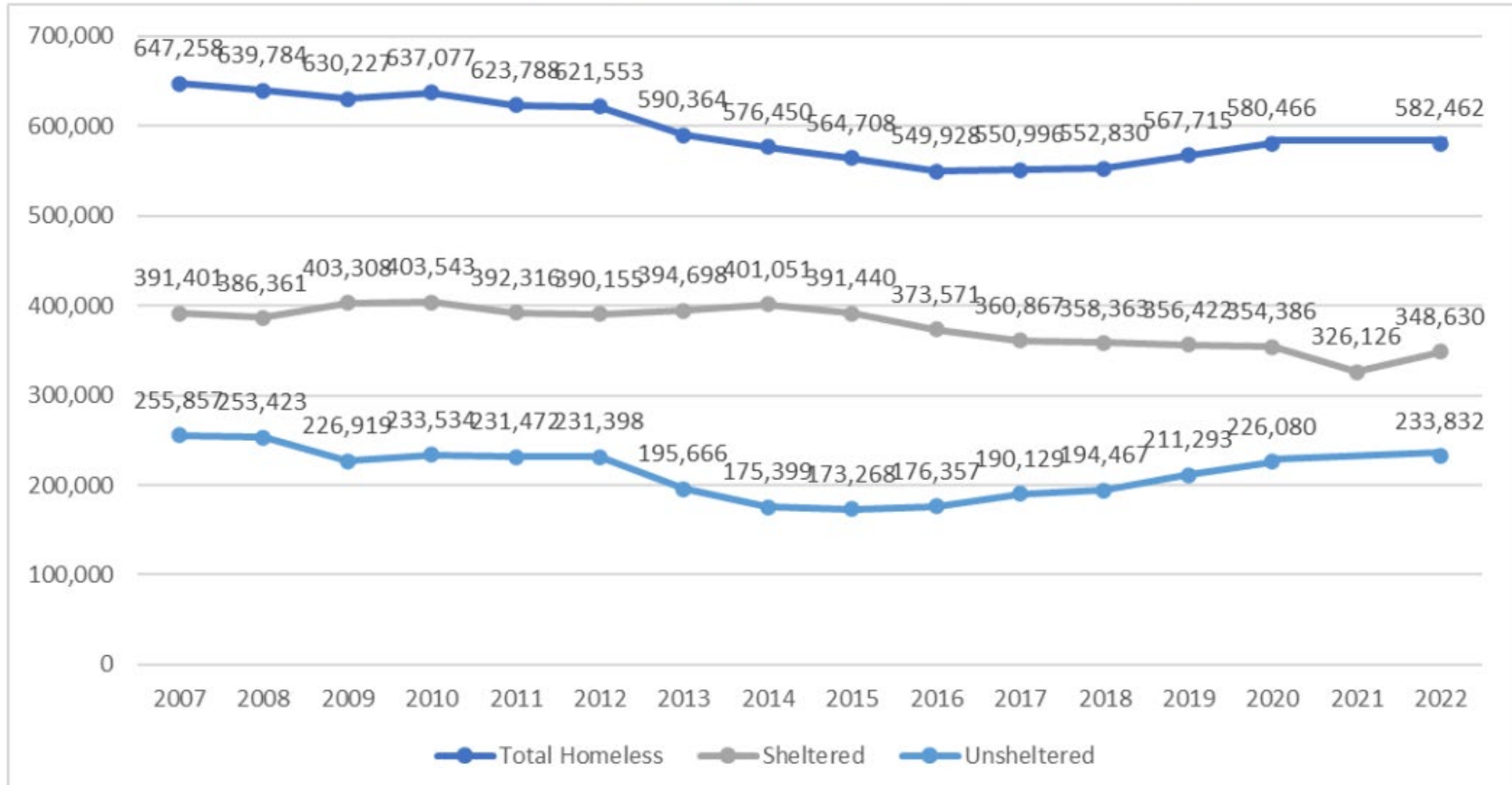
- Currently, we do not have **definitive national*** information on the number of older adults experiencing homelessness.

**This is changing as HUD has expanded the 25+ age category for its annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, beginning with the 2023 PIT Count.*

- Projections based upon analysis of three major U.S. cities estimates that **homelessness among older adults is expected to nearly triple in 2030**, and the population of adults aged 65 and older experiencing homelessness is anticipated to grow from 40,000 to 106,000.

1.1 National Estimates of Homelessness

Exhibit 1-1: PIT Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness by Sheltered Status, 2007-2022



Benefits of Lifting Voices

- Right Thing to Do
- Impact
 - Individual
 - Program
 - Community

Panel Discussion

Q & A

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Thank You!