

Key Findings: Homelessness

The number of people experiencing homelessness increased between June 2022 and June 2023

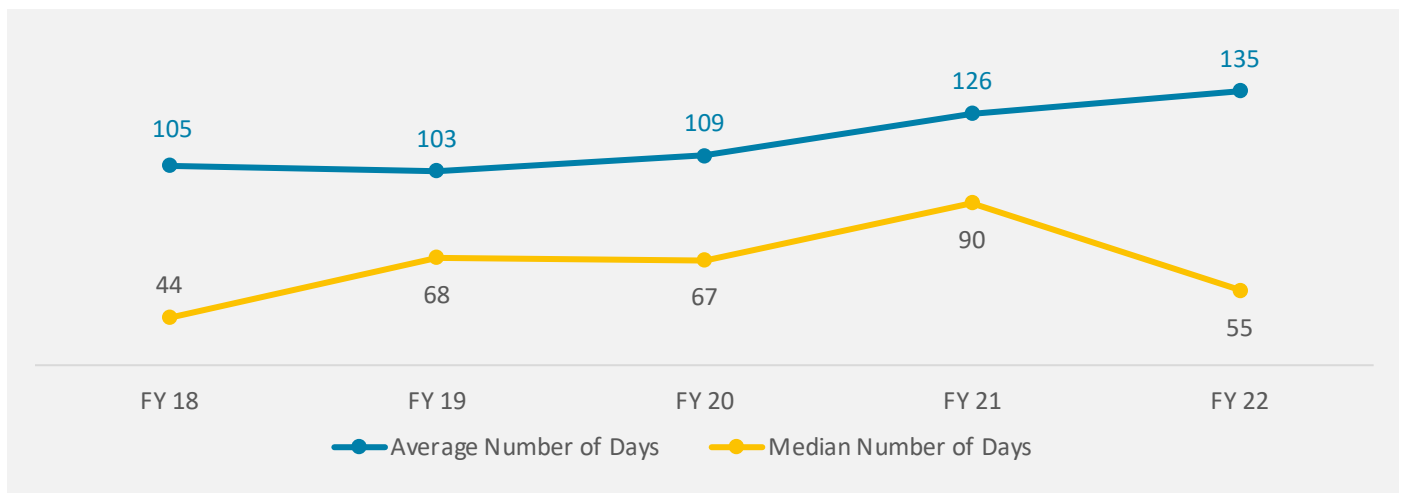
As of June 2023, there were 2,704 people in Mecklenburg County actively experiencing homelessness, a 11% increase from June 2022 (2,428 people). The One Number fluctuated between June 2022 and June 2023 with the highest number of active people during October 2022 (3,260) and the lowest number in June 2022 (2,428). Individuals currently experiencing homelessness are primarily adults ages 25 to 54 (45%) and Black or African American (75%). The One Number includes individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters and a portion of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.



[See page 54 for more.](#)

The average length of emergency shelter stays is increasing

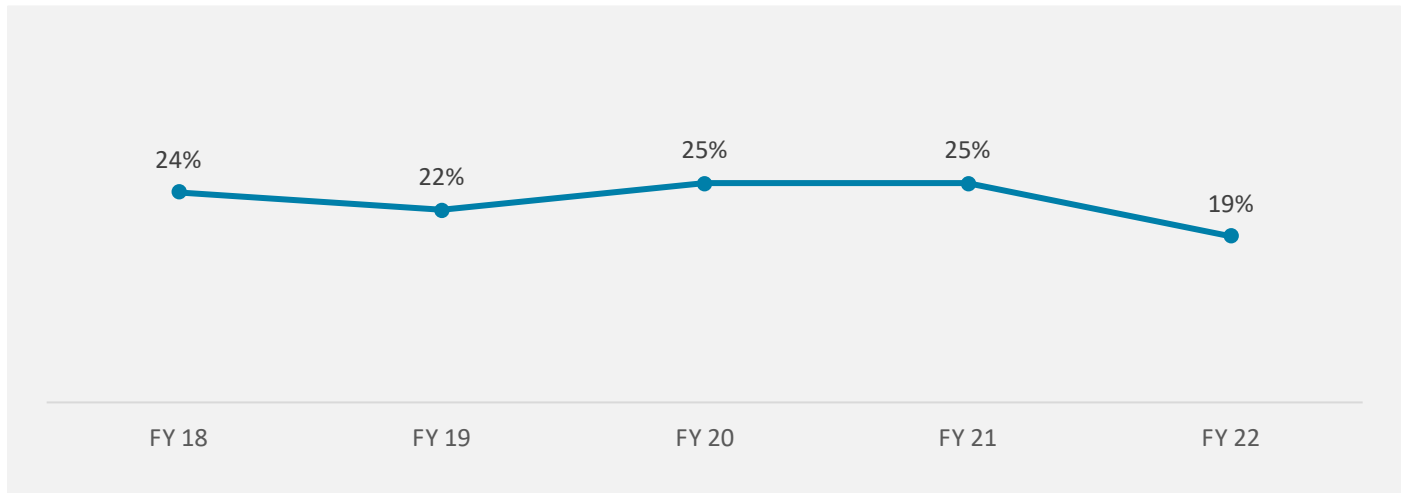
The average length of time that people spent in emergency shelter before exiting to permanent housing increased by 9 days from FY21 to FY22. Average time in emergency shelter has increased 29% (30 days) over the past five years from 105 days in FY18 to 135 days in FY22. The increased time in shelter is due to numerous factors, but is primarily due to a lack of affordable and available housing. The median length of time in shelter has decreased which suggests that a small portion of the population is still spending long periods in emergency shelter, though that number is decreasing.



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Total returns to homelessness have decreased 5% since 2018

The percent of people who returned to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing decreased from 24% (or 706 returns) in FY18 to 19% (or 376 returns) in FY22. The overall decrease in returns to homelessness is primarily due to the decrease in the number of returns from people who exited to permanent housing destinations from emergency shelter and permanent housing programs. Only 10% of people who exited from a permanent housing program (RRH, PSH, OPH) returned to homelessness in FY22. This suggests that permanent housing programs (which include a rental subsidy and supportive services) reduce the likelihood that an individual will return to homelessness. Even with the low rate of returns to homelessness after exiting to a permanent housing program, there are opportunities to strengthen permanent housing placements to ensure that there are fewer returns.



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