

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

June 14, 2024

23

Total Active Sites

168

Total Occupants

153

Total Tents

132

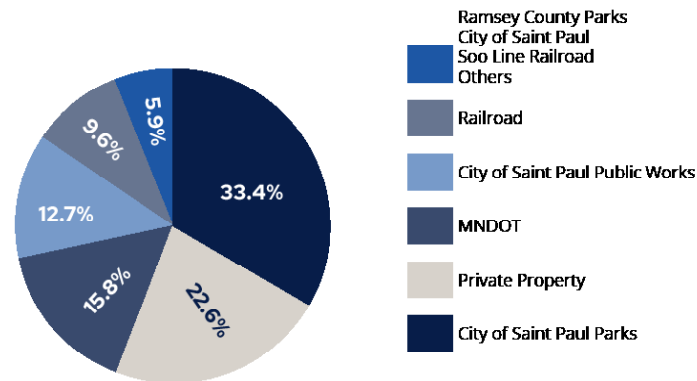
Total Male

36

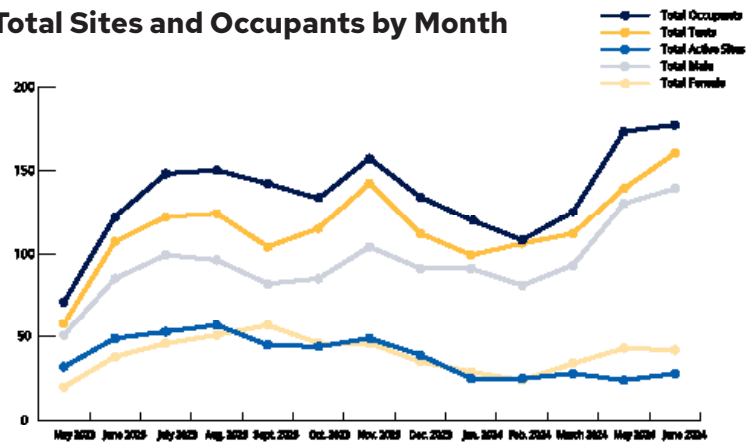
Total Female

City Data Summary

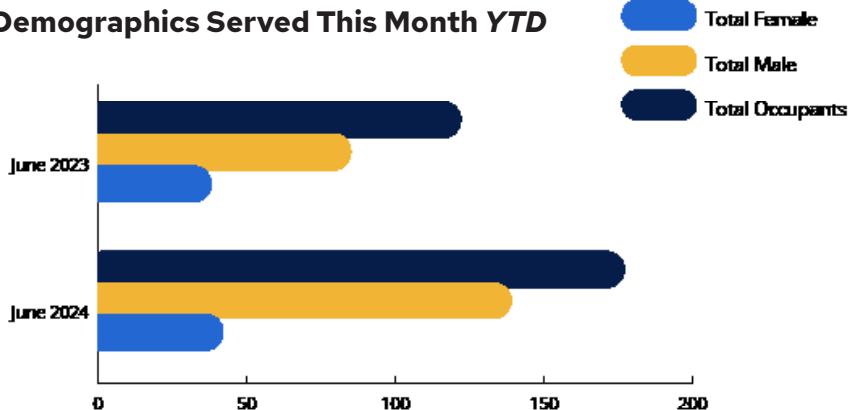
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



HART Contact Information

David Hoban, Deputy Director, DSI
 Brian Ganzel, DSI Inspector III, HART
 James Hoffman, DSI Inspector III, HART
 Kahari Smith-Brewer, Outreach Worker
 Sam Stoltz, Outreach Worker

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Planning for the Future

By Casey Rodriguez, DSI Communications Manager

Before I left the military last year, I spent some time with my buddies doing something that military officers love to do – think scary thoughts about a situation and plan how to overcome it. We call this “wargaming;” using as much data as you can find, you lay out the most likely and most dangerous things that could happen and build a scenario around it. Eventually you run through this scenario with your unit to see if they can get the job done when things go as sideways as possible.

This time we laid out my next 12 months outside of the Air Force. I put my savings and career plans up against all the bad things the big scary civilian world could throw at me. Homelessness was part of this conversation – if money ran out and no help was coming, what could I realistically do about it? If you fail to plan, you plan to fail, right?

Here’s our basic breakdown of the bare minimums to function as I’m used to:

1. Someplace to safely rest
2. Someplace to clean up (shower, laundry, etc)
3. Someplace to store/prepare food
4. A way to get to the job and back
5. A bank account to send the paycheck to
6. An address to set up that account
7. Enough money to pay for all of these

Here comes the “most dangerous” part: what if drug or alcohol addictions are involved? What about mental health issues? What about a criminal record? Those are HUGE wrenches to throw into the machine and, you guessed it, those seven minimums started to go away.

Luckily, I did not end up in the most dangerous course of action. If you’re reading this, you probably know folks who did. You probably know how slippery and steep that slope is.

The good news is that you’re reading this! HART exists and works with a long list of partners who can help with anything from medical treatment, financial support, or even assistance filling out a rental application. These are big steps to take, and if someone isn’t quite ready - that’s ok. HART engages relentlessly - they’ll be around for when the moment is right to lend a helping hand.

Planning for the absolute worst is a humbling experience - I recommend giving it a try sometime. We can never really know what the future holds, but it’s comforting to know there’s a network of people dedicated to helping those who need it most.



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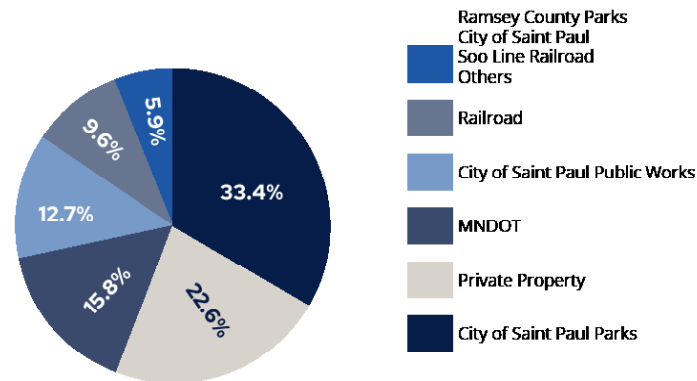
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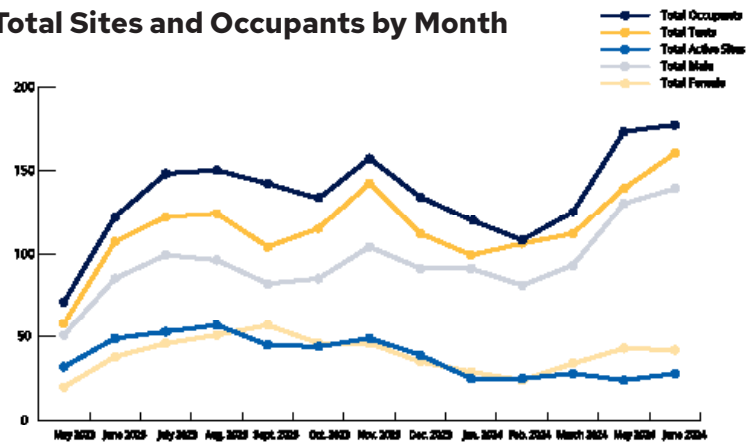
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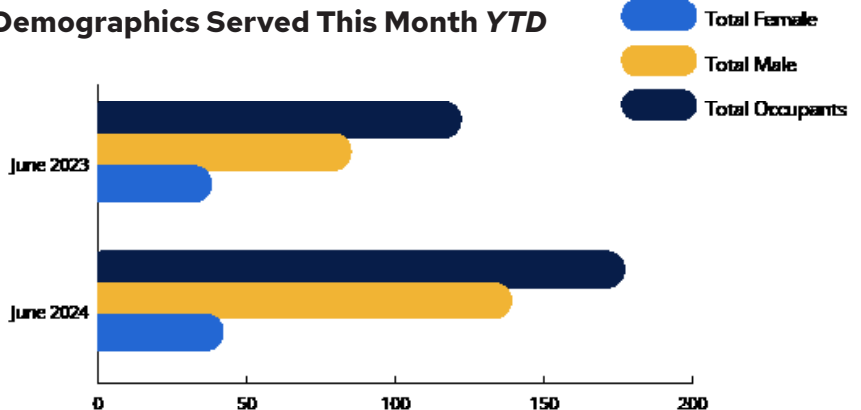
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This time we laid out my next 12 months outside of the Air Force. I put my savings and career plans up against all the bad things the big scary civilian world could throw at me. Homelessness was part of this conversation – if money ran out and no help was coming, what could I realistically do about it? If you fail to plan, you plan to fail, right?

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Luckily, I did not end up in the most dangerous course of action. If you’re reading this, you probably know folks who did. You probably know how slippery and steep that slope is.

The good news is that you’re reading this, which means there's a support system! HART works diligently to help our unsheltered residents overcome the common barriers of addiction, mental health struggles, and criminal records. Through our partnerships with governmental and nonprofit partners, we work together to connect people with the right resources at the right time. If someone isn't quite ready - that's ok. HART engages relentlessly - they'll be around for when the moment is right to lend a helping hand.

Perhaps most important is community support and understanding. We cannot thank you enough for your patience and willingness to help those in need. We literally could not do what we do without your support.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

August 29, 2023

49

Total Active Sites

136

Total Occupants

103

Total Tents

81

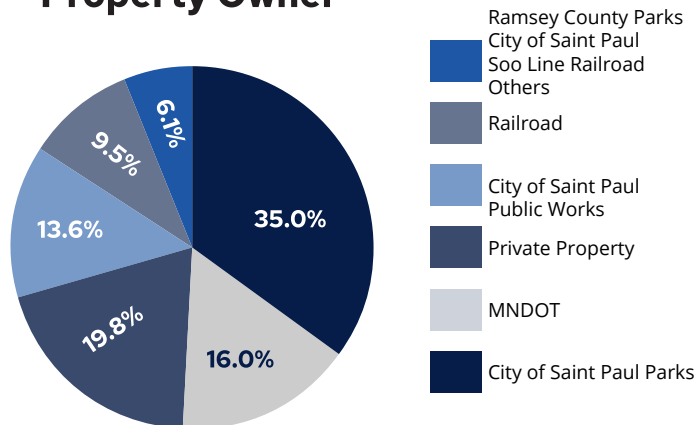
Total Male

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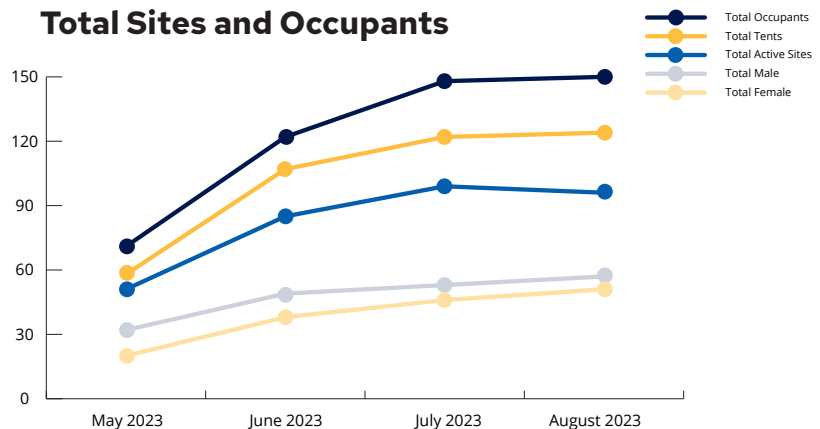
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City Data Summary

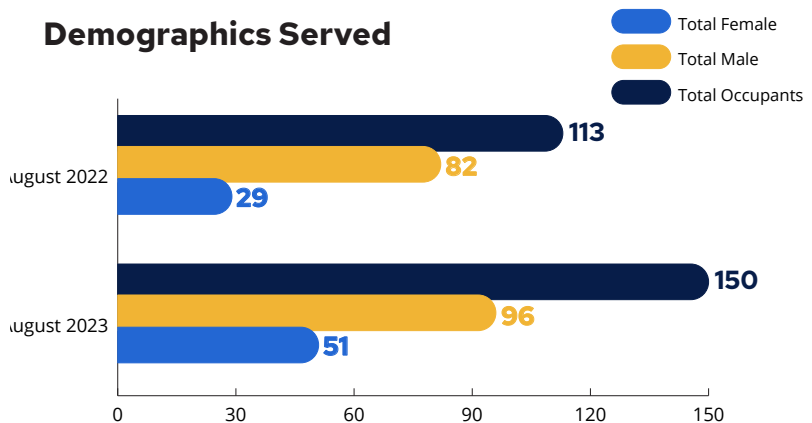
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



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Training Connects Downtown Business Owners and Security Staff with Assistance Programs, Policies, and Resources



Our third Downtown Security and Business Leaders Training was held last Friday, August 25th. Hosted by the Union Depot, 21 participants representing Golden Rule, Osborn 370, TPT, Union Depot and the Saint Paul Downtown Improvement District came together to learn about the many complexities that come when the unsheltered world and business world intersect.

John Bandemer, Director of Safety Strategies for the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance joined up with HART Coordinator Andrea Hinderaker to connect local business owners and security staff with experts in the field of homelessness.

Topics covered include:

1. Narcan Training — Seneca comes with a humanizing perspective that helps explain how addiction plays out in the lives of people surviving on the streets and offered tangible lifesaving resources.



2. Homeless Youth Awareness — Many of our unhoused folks are youth (up to the age of 24). Zarra offered education on the realities of being a youth on the streets and provided assistance options and resources allowing for conversation, connection and hope when encountering youth seeking assistance.

3. All Things Resources for Saint Paul's unsheltered community — Molly and Lauren come armed with day service options and schedules that highlight where folks can find food, respite, shelter, county assistance, outreach assistance and so much more. Molly adds a refreshing perspective on the importance of community, acceptance, and a place to be that doesn't require the purchase of goods or services.
4. How the City Responds to Homelessness — this was Kahari's debut as he spoke about the policies and procedures around the city's management of encampments and our commitment to engagement that recognizes each person as a valuable human regardless of their housing status.

These trainings remind us that it does, in fact, "take a village." If we all work together to learn the language that connects and resources that are available, we are one-by-one reducing the chaos and increasing the hope when we encounter someone in our community that is struggling to make it through the day.



Special thanks

Seneca Kruger, LAMFT

Community and Outreach Program Manager, Community Medical Services

Zarra Marlowe

Opioid Safety Project Coordinator, StreetWorks

Lauren Erchul McCabe

Resource Coordinator, Catholic Charities Opportunity Center

Molly Jalma

Executive Director, Listening House of Saint Paul

Kahari Smith-Brewer

Outreach Worker, City of Saint Paul HART



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

September 6, 2023

45

Total Active Sites

142

Total Occupants

104

Total Tents

82

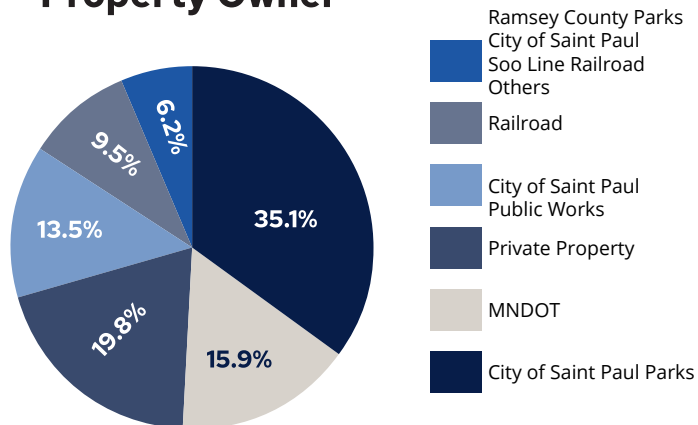
Total Male

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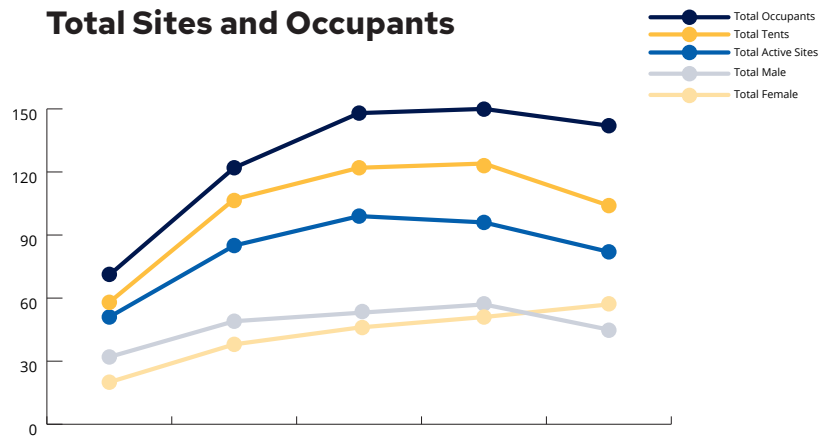
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City Data Summary

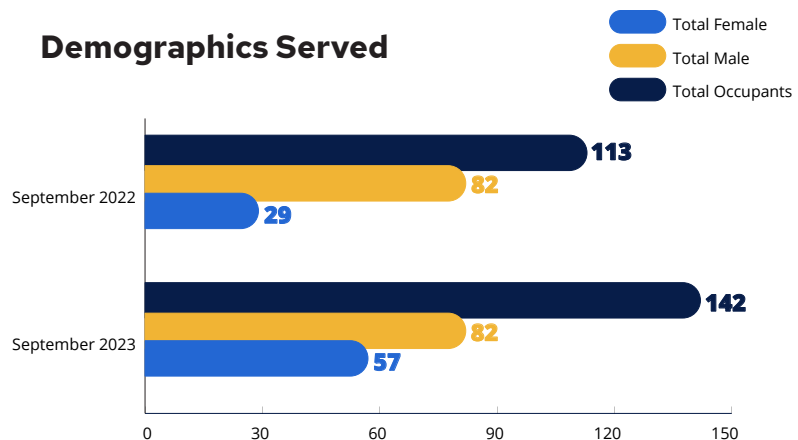
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



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The many sides of managing encampments:



We often feature the hard work of the HART Outreach workers. At the very same time we're actively engaging with over 100 unsheltered individuals around the city, we also work hard to maintain the areas where people reside in their tents. It is important that every citizen of Saint Paul have access to services that allow for quality of life.



Saint Paul has many unique wooded and natural spaces that are attractive for setting up a camp but also attractive to the community at large. In an attempt to balance the two realities, HART is working on creative options that include regular trash pickup schedules, so folks

camping can be prepared and participate in keeping the area they live in clean. We have also begun to identify areas that are more difficult to access for adequate cleaning - in these cases we work with individuals by preparing a nearby space they can shift to that is still private to them, but more accessible for thorough cleaning.

In the pictures provided everyone is working together to move about 30 feet to a now-cleared area off a steep wooded hillside. It was a team effort between the folks living there and HART. While moving we were able to work together to downsize and organize.

Well out in the field that day with the team — between trips back and forth there were so many moments someone would say “thank you for your help” followed by “thank you for your patience”. Human interactions plain and simple...we are all in this together.



Top left: Outreach Staff Sam assists an unsheltered neighbor with a housing assessment at a pop up resource event organized by the Community Medical Services team at Mears Park. **Bottom left:** Outreach staff Kahari assists folks in moving their belongings to a near by cleared site ready for a fresh set up. **Above:** HART team members worked to clean up areas and make them suitable for inhabitants



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

September 12, 2023

44

Total Active Sites

129

Total Occupants

108

Total Tents

76

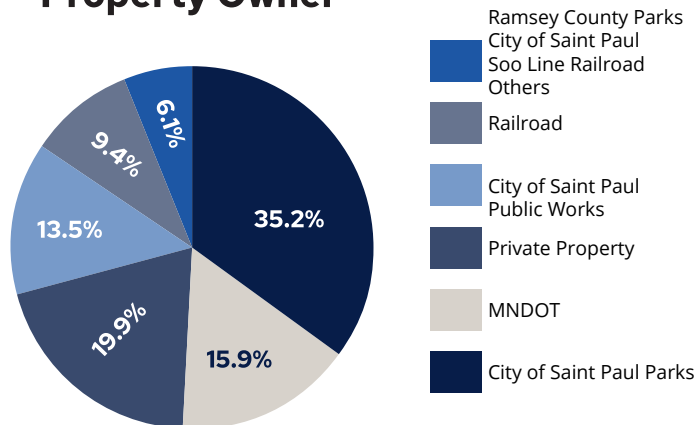
Total Male

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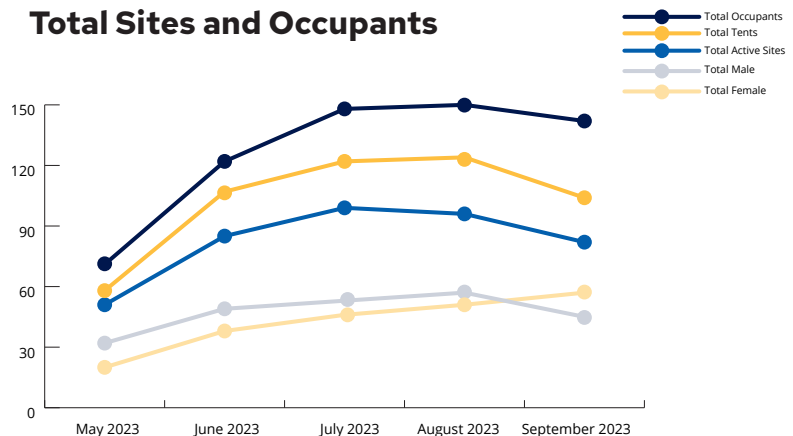
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City Data Summary

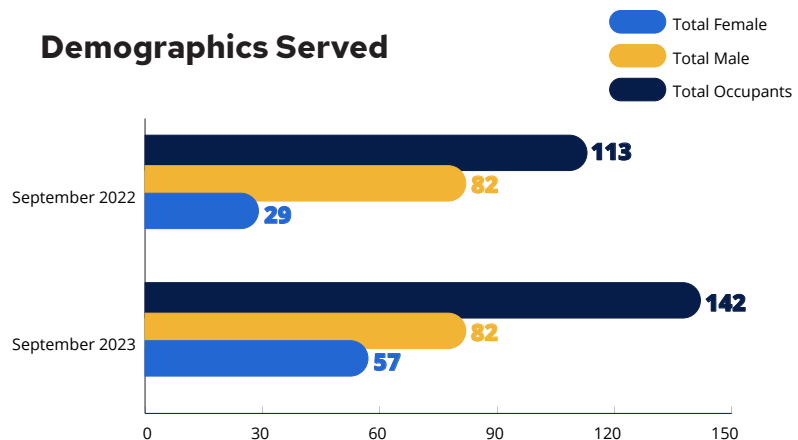
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



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Common Question of the WEEK:

1. Why doesn't HART respond to reports of tents after business hours?



We respond to and address the complexities that come with camping between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The team does not go out at night for a few important reasons:

- The team is able to problem-solve best when options are available to the individuals we are meeting. For example...
- Day centers like Safe Zone and The Listening House are open with meals available.
- County offices for benefits are operating, the shelter lottery is open for a bed at Higher Ground or there is time to get to dinner and shelter at the Union Gospel Mission.

- Emma Norton Services has weekly drop-in intake hours.

Once community resources are closed for the day, we're unable to offer those resources until the next day. At that point, the best option is to stay in-place until they re-open.

Sometimes people land in a park with every intention to move on the next day – this is common and we often receive calls about a tent in a park and find the tent is gone the next day. We do not try to find the individual who moved on their own – we will likely encounter them at a different site if they are still relying on camping as their primary night solution.

Whether convenient for a community or not — once a tent is up and someone is inside, they have established a place for the night where they feel protected and safe. Park security will observe and report to HART if they see a tent in a park at night, but they are advised not to approach in the night. Just as HART outreach would not approach in the night — there are many unpredictable variables when approaching any stranger in the dark, especially in an enclosed space like a tent. We will absolutely attempt engagement the next day — safely and equipped with real-time options for alternatives to remaining at that site if necessary.

2. Who can neighbors call if they are concerned about a tent at night?

Having strangers set up a tent near your home can feel unsafe at times and uncomfortable most often. It is not recommended that you approach folks at night for many of the reasons listed above. However, if they remain the next day and safety is taken into account, sometimes the simple questions of “what brings you here?” or “how can I help you get the help you need?” can start the conversation on the right foot.

When we ask why they're at that location, we are learning about the community at large and what it offers folks who are struggling.

- Sometimes the answer is proximity to bathrooms, gas stations or support services they were not able to access before.
- Sometimes there is family or a friend nearby that cannot host them at night but allows for daytime visits.
- Sometimes it's safety — under lights, or in a place apart from other unsheltered folks. The middle of a neighborhood is sometimes the safest place for single women or other more vulnerable individuals.



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When we ask, “how can I help you get the help you need,” it allows us to...

- Suggest person-centered solutions.
- Reach out to the appropriate resource (i.e., youth outreach, LGBTQAI+ outreach, Domestic Violence advocate, Veteran assistance etc...)
- Acknowledge that they must have needs greater than our own, hence why they put up a tent in a public space open to scrutiny and judgment. Some needs are simple tokens to get through to the next day — water, snacks, dry socks, and a warm blanket, for example.

If we all respond in a safe manner and with resources to help — we’re more effective as a city in finding the balance between compassion and regulation. HART is all set to respond the next day with logistics and options and relentless engagement, but often the person-to-person neighborhood response is the best foundation for forward momentum. ■



Our team is now has identifiable gear to help both our unsheltered and housed community identify us in the field.

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

September 21, 2023

46

Total Active Sites

133

Total Occupants

115

Total Tents

85

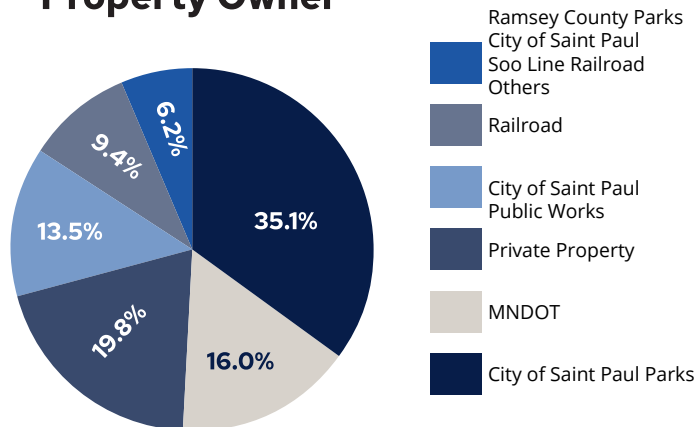
Total Male

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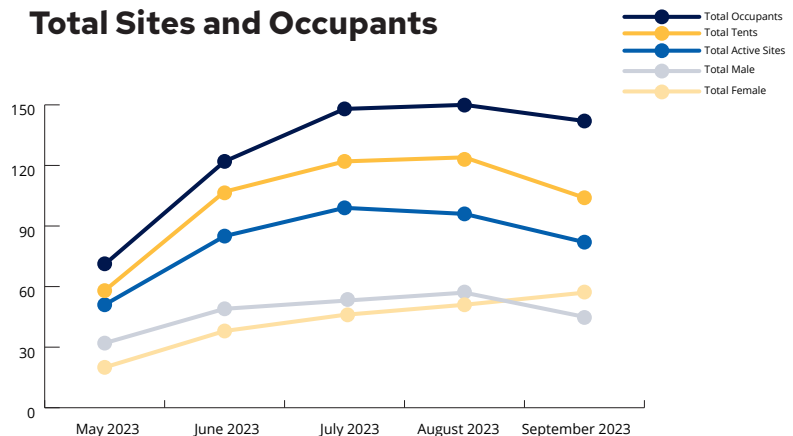
Total Female

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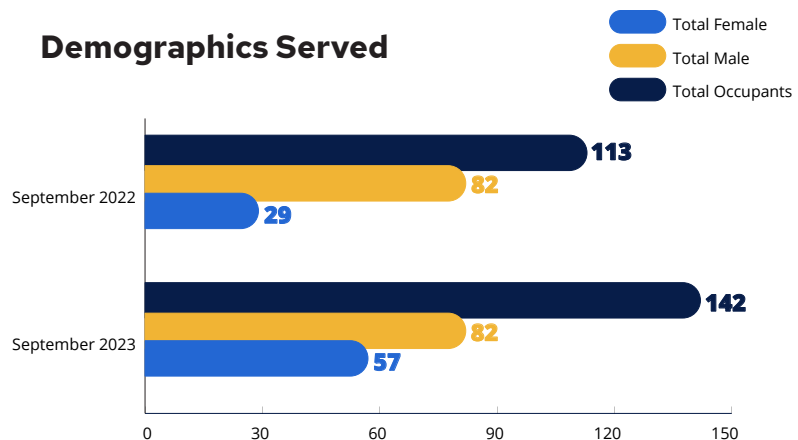
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



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“It was once said that the moral test of Government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

— Hubert H. Humphrey

Saint Paul's Homeless Assistance Response Team is the culmination of so many things:

1. City leadership that were bold enough to come to the most disenfranchised citizens where they are – in the cold or the heat; in their mental illness, addiction, deep poverty; in their tents, beside them on benches and sidewalks; in their despair, their simple celebrations, their pure humanity.
2. City leadership that was curious enough to show up without any solutions – because there are no solutions without first understanding. Without solutions, they could identify the questions:
 - Who do they call?
 - What if they don't speak English?
 - What is considered a crisis?
 - Isn't this enough to warrant a response from someone?
 - What happens to them if I just leave?
 - How did they get here?
 - What fell apart?
 - Is this the best we as a city have to offer?
 - How does anyone get out of this quicksand alone?

Out of that comes an opportunity for leadership to make

HART was nominated for an award in the Public Safety Category at the Leaders in Local Government Awards. Director Angie Wiese and Deputy Directory David Hoban joined the team at the event helping host a table filled with information about the City of Saint Paul's Homeless Assistance Response Team.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team



choices — does this crisis matter enough to warrant a response, or does this crisis matter so much that to keep things unchanged would be the same as saying “if you are unsheltered, you are not only without a home — but also without value in our community.”

HART came out of this city leadership — Our team’s foundation is built on the understanding that there is a balance to be found between compassion and regulation when working with all citizens of Saint Paul, regardless of socio-economic status. Our team’s philosophy is that relentless engagement increases our chances of being in the right place at the right time with the right person-centered options.

When we believe in the work we do — the possibilities are endless. When we believe in the value of the people we serve, we keep trying to do things better. We are not afraid to say there is a better way and we will either find it or build it ourselves.



HART Outreach Kahari and Coordinator Andrea attended the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless Conference in Duluth, MN. Side-by-side with our colleagues from Ramsey County, Radian Health, Catholic Charities and Minnesota Community Care, we were reminded of the need to collaborate, communicate and support each other's specialties in the field of homeless services.



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Homeless Assistance Response Team



HART outreach Sam and Kahari and Coordinator Andrea volunteered at The Listening House of Saint Paul's annual golf fundraiser. The team had the unique opportunity to speak with area business leaders about the collaboration that's necessary when working with our unsheltered neighbors and the important services The Listening House offers that ultimately assist our team in the work we do. The Listening House generously offered our hard-working DSI inspectors a team slot — for a great day of fundraising and team building!



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October 4, 2023

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115

Total Tents

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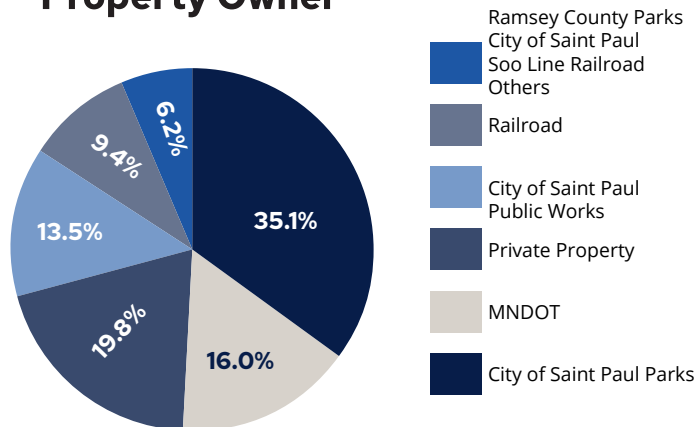
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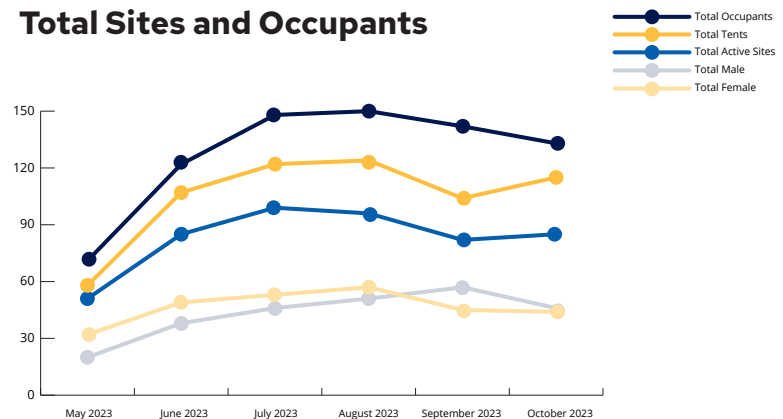
Total Female

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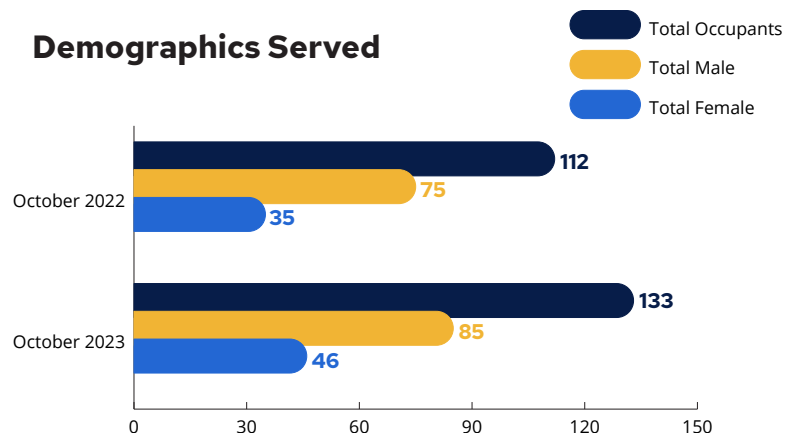
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



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How A Coordinated Systems Approach Can End Homelessness



Shared with Sara's permission.

Sara first met HART's outreach worker Sam Stoltz in May of this year. Code Enforcement Officer Mike Tharlson pointed her out to Sam as someone he would love to see get some assistance, having known her for many of the 10 years she lived outside. Today Sara is one of many women who made the hard choice to accept housing that would not allow her to stay in the same space with her partner who is actively working with People's Incorporated on his own unsheltered situation.

Sam quickly learned that Sara had also been working with Radas Health outreach and together both outreach teams continued engagement. After Sara shared the difficulties her community had securing food, Sam reached out to Evolve to inform them of the camp location to ensure food would be delivered.

In July, Sam took Sara for a tour of the Common Bond apartment — the manager laid out a long process for approval, however Sara remained positive and patient. HART covered the application fees, removing just one of many barriers.

Shortly after, Sara and her partner requested assistance moving to a less chaotic location while they both waited on possible housing opportunities. HART assisted with the move and encouraged both to hang in there during the difficult waiting period.

On the 27th of September, a move-in date was given, and Radas Health began working on a Bridging referral to ensure Sara had a "true home" to move into.

No less than six separate service providers collaborated to make this one very significant life change happen — but in the end it was Sara's willingness to trust, to wait, and wait even longer for an opportunity to become available. To make homelessness brief and rare — maximum collaboration and coordination is necessary.

Welcome home Sara!



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

October 10, 2023

44

Total Active Sites

133

Total Occupants

115

Total Tents

85

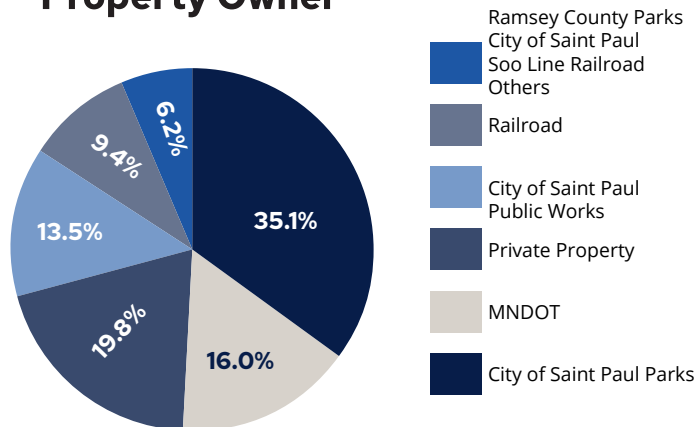
Total Male

46

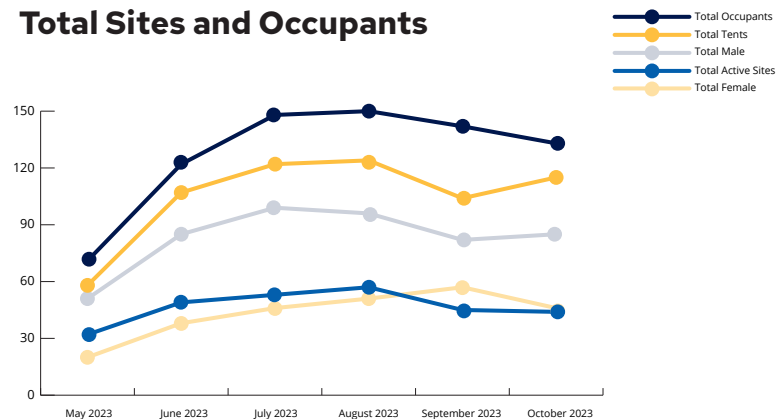
Total Female

City Data Summary

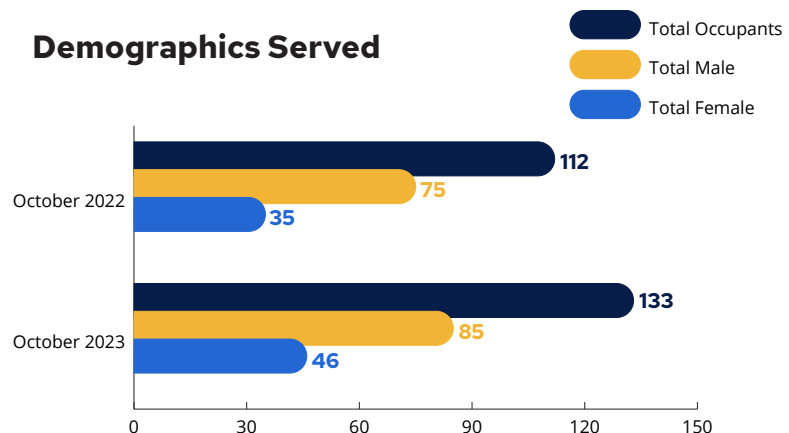
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



HART Contact Information

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The Numbers Answer The Question: “Why Can’t They Just Go Into Shelters?”

We have 133 people living in tents throughout Saint Paul:

There are approximately 14 open spaces in congregate shelter.

- 6 open spaces for 46 women
- 8 open spaces for 85 men

We have approximately 25 couples living in tents throughout Saint Paul:

There are no shelters serving couples in Saint Paul.

HART goes out every day and engages with our unsheltered neighbors — the solution is rarely shelter. Winter hits those living outside long before anyone with a home realizes. If you’re covering your garden to protect it from frost — that means people sleeping outside are waking up with frost on their bodies. Not only is the team making sure every option is considered — HART is also making sure people are safe from the elements and fully aware of all the resources available to folks living outside.



First Image: Outreach worker Kahari speaks through the tent to an occupant about possible housing options after receiving word that her application made it to the top of a project based section 8 waiting list.

Second Image: Outreach Worker Sam leaves her card behind after checking out a newly reported site.

Third Image: Outreach and DSI team working together to keep encampments clean, mitigate stress and chaos, build rapport and problem solve when possible.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

October 18, 2023

53

Total Active Sites

158

Total Occupants

143

Total Tents

103

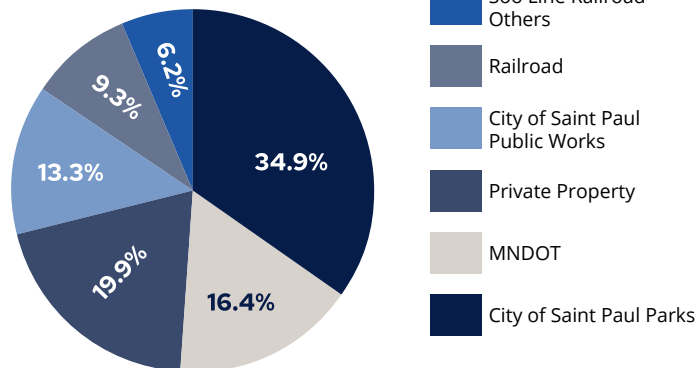
Total Male

53

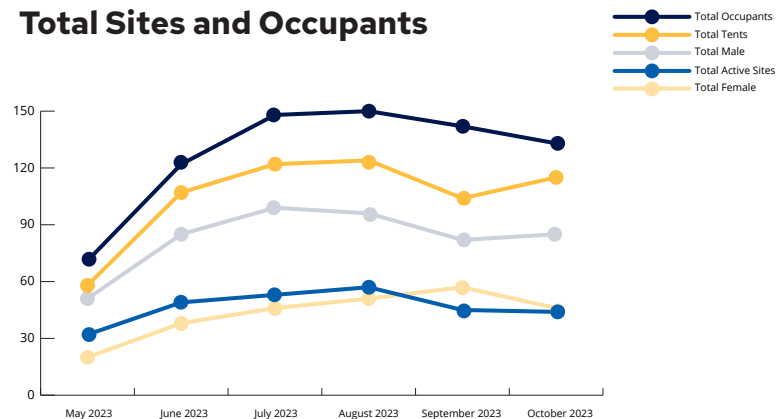
Total Female

City Data Summary

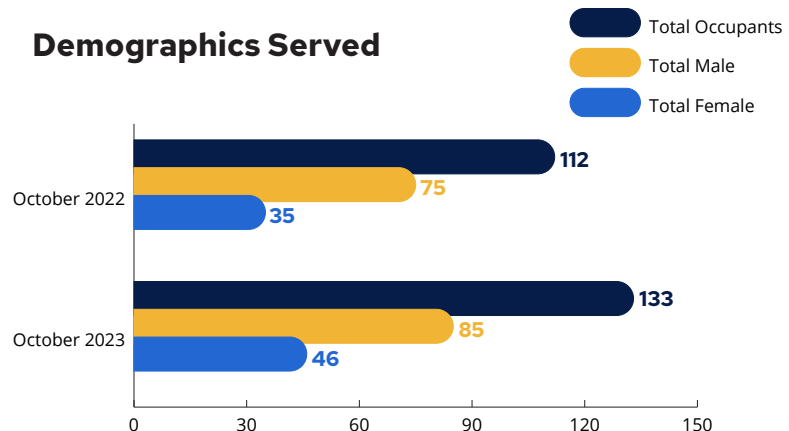
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Partners with MNDOT, Parks Department to Support Unsheltered Citizens



HART delivers trash cans provided by the Parks Department.

Understanding that the accumulation of trash is a reality of living outside, HART has taken on the task of emptying the trash cans and replacing them as needed.



HART providing outreach to individuals on Minnesota Department of Transportation properties.

MNDOT does not have a homeless outreach division but is responsible for removing camps from their properties. HART coordinates weekly with MNDOT representatives and attempts engagement as much as possible to build rapport and assist with more person-centered solutions, allowing MNDOT crews to complete their job tasks effectively.



Coming Soon!

Ramsey County is about to roll out this year's plan for warming centers. Warming centers will be opening as soon as November 1st and remain open until April 1st of next year. Locations and more details will be reported in next week's newsletter — Stay Tuned!



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

October 24, 2023

46

Total Active Sites

157

Total Occupants

138

Total Tents

100

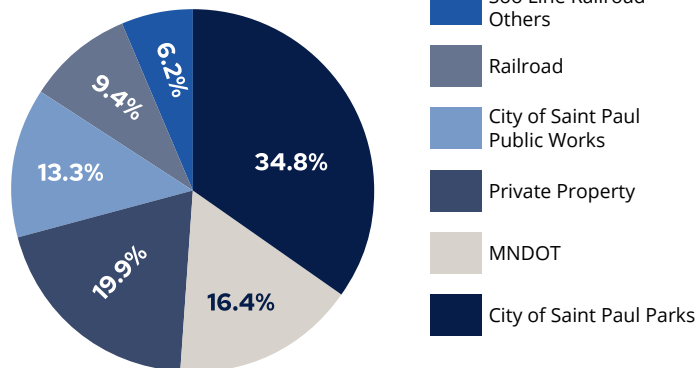
Total Male

46

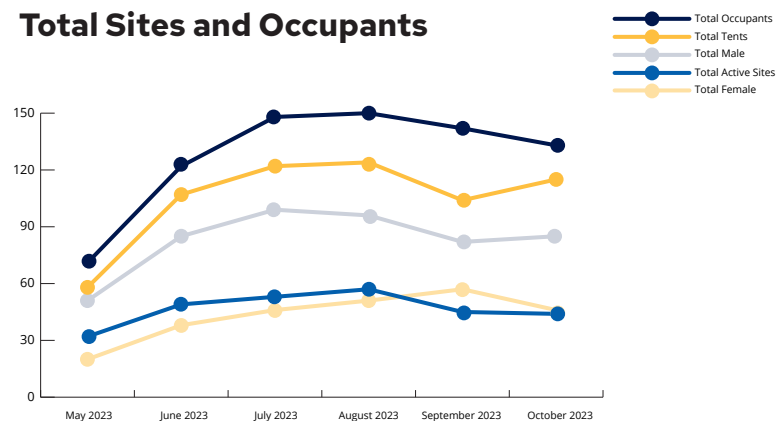
Total Female

City Data Summary

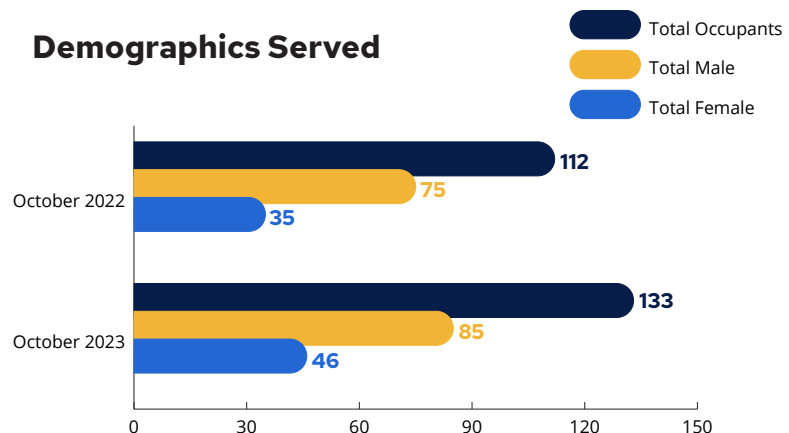
Property Owner



Total Sites and Occupants



Demographics Served



HART Contact Information

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How long does it take to connect people to housing opportunities?

We have no way of knowing until trust is built.

HART outreach often engages with individuals that are working with multiple service providers until, for whatever reason, they fall through a gap in assistance and their progress up until that point is lost. They can either start all over or simply accept that what they had and where they were — was the best it was going get.

An Example of a few months:

This October alone, HART has assisted 4 individuals into housing opportunities with more folks on deck with opportunities on the horizon.



In the photo above, HART outreach is assisting a 56-year-old woman into her apartment after first meeting her in July of this year. She was not open to help at first; her adult son was residing in the same site and she didn't want to be separated from him. Along the way she added a kitten to her household, adding yet another barrier to housing choices. HART kept showing up, kept checking in and made sure paperwork was ready and housing options were on-deck for the ever-unpredictable moment of readiness. That moment came as the temps began to fall and the realities of cold rain on a tired body set in. HART was ready — and needed only to wait for the approved unit to be ready for a mother and her sweet kitten to move in.

An Example of a few years:

Another couple with a dog has been at their site since February of 2022. Over time, one service provider after the next fell away. The couple was angry, emotional, and guarded. Outside of semi-regular cleanings around their site — they have been almost invisible to the bustling world around them. HART continued to relentlessly engage. Sometimes the interactions went well, but mostly they were tense and ended without much resolution.

Earlier this year, the team learned of a waitlist opening at a nearby supported housing location. Just in case there would ever be a moment of readiness, HART applied for a unit even though other agencies told us not get our hopes up — one-bedroom vacancies are rare. Lo and behold, this couple made it to the top of the waitlist — all that was needed was interest by the couple and loads of paperwork needed to be filled out.

None of the next steps were easy for anyone involved. Fears of both the unknown and the familiar were heavy justifications for the couple to stay where they were — change is scary and trust is a commodity not shared easily.

Fast forward to today — the paperwork is complete, the couple and their dog are approved and a move-in date is on the books. There will likely be more bumps in the road for HART outreach to navigate, but this teamwork between our unhoused neighbors and the City of Saint Paul is proof that if you keep showing up — even if it takes almost two years — anything is possible.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

November 1, 2023

49

Total Active Sites

157

Total Occupants

142

Total Tents

104

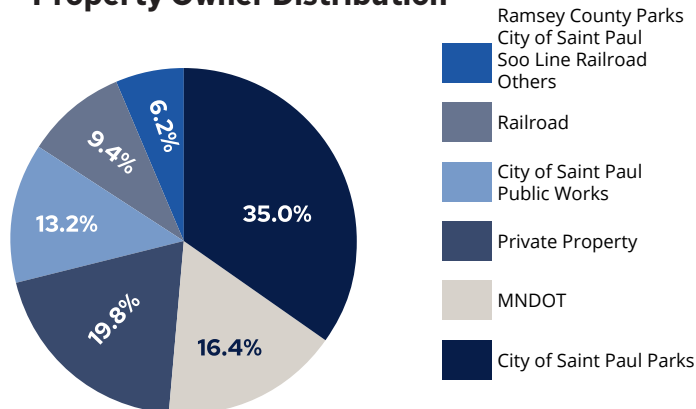
Total Male

46

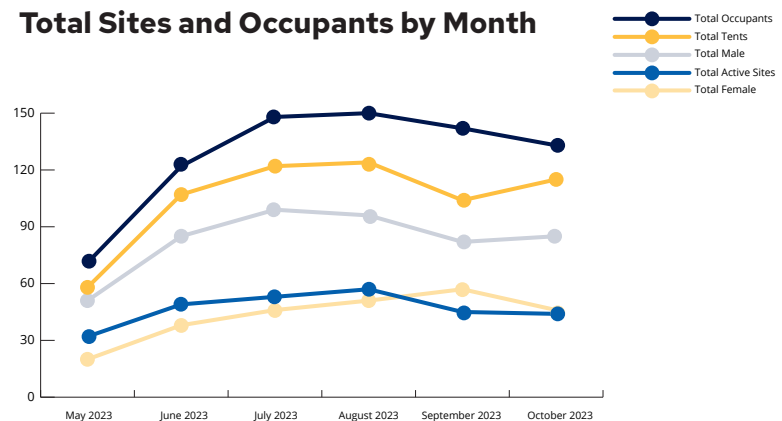
Total Female

City Data Summary

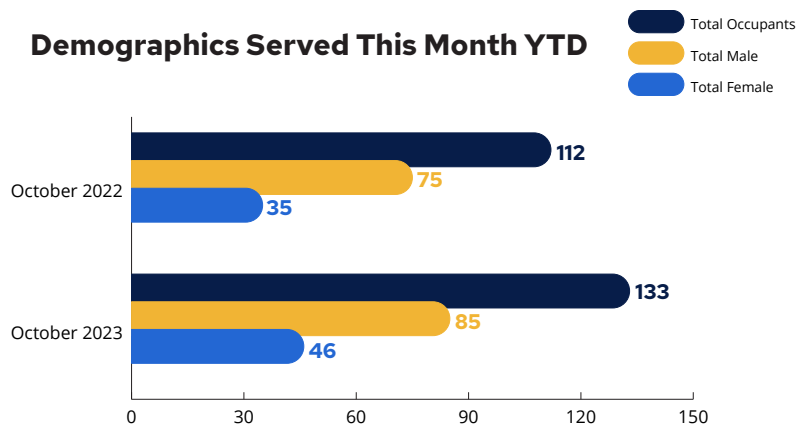
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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Because Knowing is Half the Battle

We try to keep a pulse on community concerns around encampments as much as possible. One way we do this is by following neighborhood social media pages. We've seen an increase in comments regarding the current encampment along Bruce Vento Trail.

I responded with the following information because unknowns are uncomfortable for everyone.

The assumption that nothing is happening when we don't see the actions we want when we want them is often the root of great frustration. Part of my role is to reduce the confusion through education and hard truths about what it means to be unsheltered in Saint Paul. My response is as follows:

HART is on-site at Bruce Vento Trail several times a week, and offers person-centered outreach to include shelter, housing, treatment etc. We coordinate with over 12 different outreach, treatment, and medical partners. The process of jumping through the many hoops between a person's willingness and the actual opportunity is complex and time-consuming. Currently our team has assisted at least a half dozen individuals out of that area and into housing opportunities. Some of the situations took weeks. Some took months.

Rapport needs to be built long before any solution can be found. Many individuals are hopeless and wounded from systems that have failed them or loved ones that could no longer manage their complexities. Rapport-building is the most time-consuming, but best use of time given the roadblocks we will navigate together when readiness presents itself.

In addition to working one-on-one with each person, our DSI team cleans the area weekly to make sure the path stays accessible and offset the realities of what comes with people living without trash services.

I meet with parents in Saint Paul each week who share that their adult children were led onto the streets by drug addiction, a mental health crisis, or both. I have personally experienced the trauma of being close to someone who struggles with addiction. If their addiction ever led them to the streets, I want to believe my community would be willing to offer them the grace and compassion they needed until they were well enough to come home.

This is the assurance I offer the parents and other loved ones in Saint Paul. This is the assurance I offer all of you.

Do we have a housing crisis? Yes. There is not enough affordable housing for the deeply poor.

Do we have a shelter crisis? Yes... always. Our women's shelter beds are full, and we have no location where couples can be together.

Do we have people living outside because they have pasts they cannot escape and many landlords and/or neighborhoods are not willing to take the risk of housing someone with a criminal history? Yes.

Do we have a mental health crisis? Yes.

Are we in the middle of a drug epidemic that is taking the lives of unsheltered people of all ages every day? Yes!

All of this is true, and all of it can remain in the same space as compassion, patience, and a willingness to look beyond the pictures and instead embrace a curiosity about how and why a person could end up on a park trail in below-freezing temperatures.

Feel free to email:
andrea.hinderaker@ci.stpaul.mn.us
I will do my best to reply in a timely manner.



This week's snowfall was a wake-up call for everyone. For some it means breaking out the snow shovels. For the unsheltered, it means adapting to survive and keep dry in cold, snowy conditions.

Encampments can house dozens of people, all with the same basic needs as you and me. HART works to build rapport and provide options to support and lift up those that live unseen by many.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

November 7, 2023

43

Total Active Sites

84

Total Occupants

80

Total Tents

62

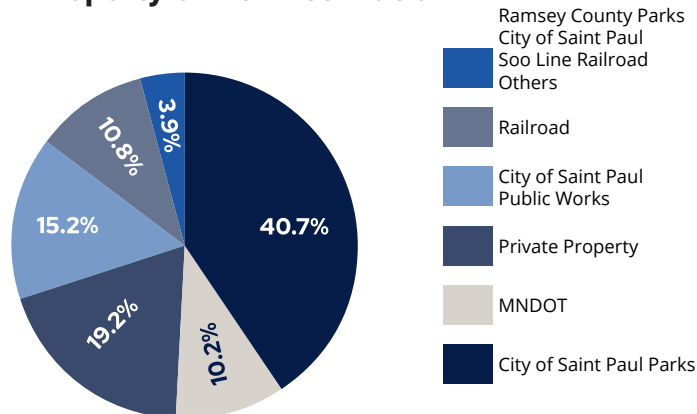
Total Male

22

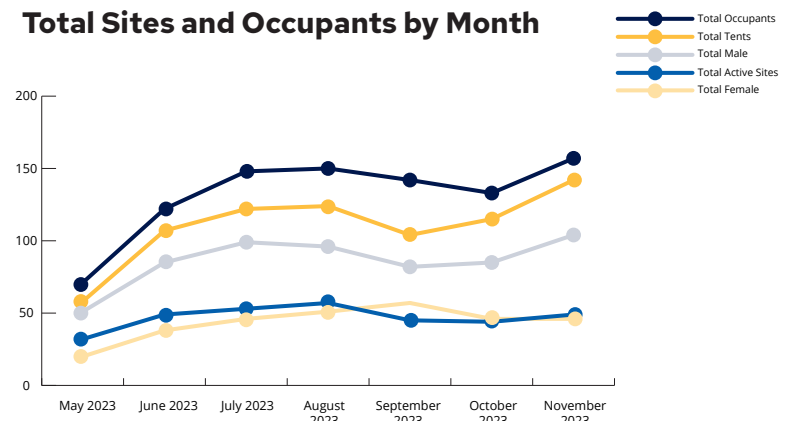
Total Female

City Data Summary

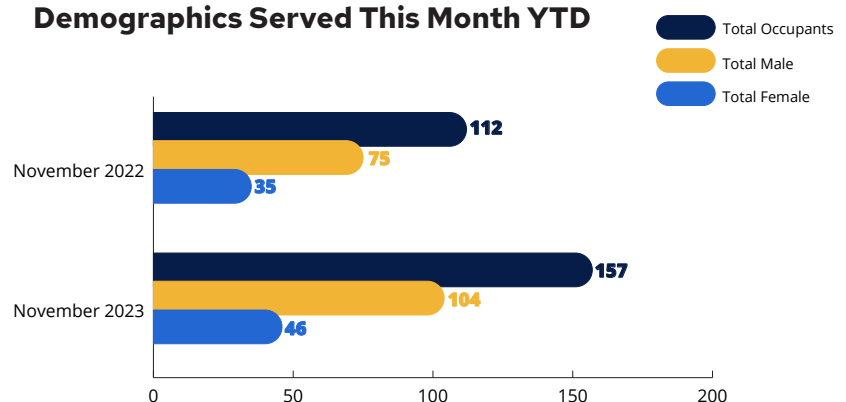
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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What happens when HART posts a notice for cleaning?

In addition to the printed notice, HART engages each person on-site to remind them of the upcoming cleaning to be sure they tuck the things they want to keep close to their tents. These signs also let community outreach organizations know that we will be cleaning and that they may need to help their clients who live on-site prepare.

The signs also spur conversations with the people who live in the neighborhood. They often stop to chat and learn more about the City's efforts to assist our unsheltered community. On more than one occasion, surrounding community members ask how they can be of assistance to the neighbors they have come to know and care for.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

November 20, 2023

49

Total Active Sites

178

Total Occupants

144

Total Tents

134

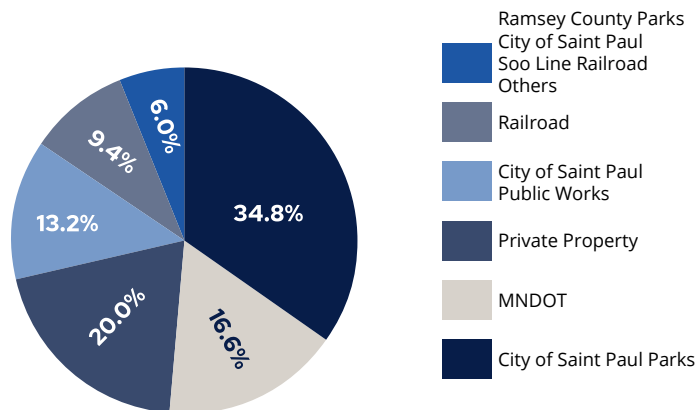
Total Male

42

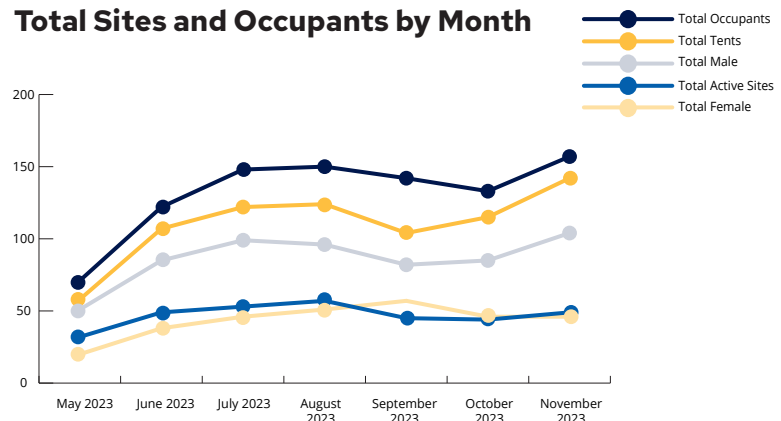
Total Female

City Data Summary

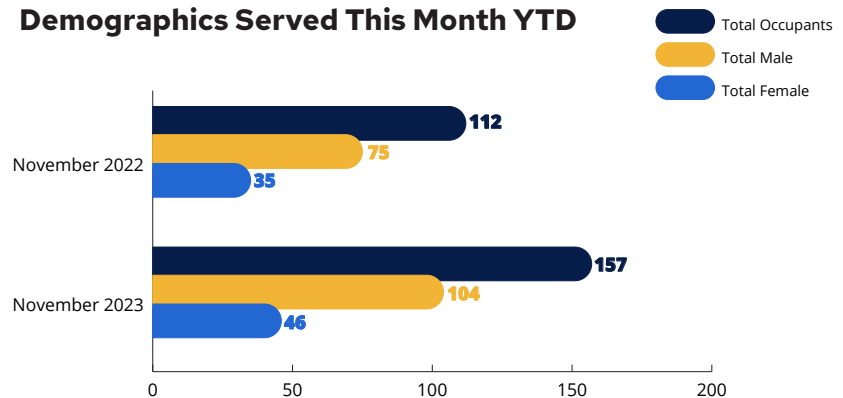
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

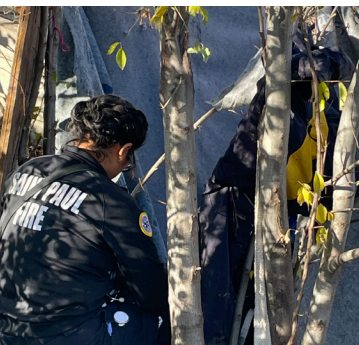
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Four long-term unsheltered neighbors moved into housing

Two of these individuals were 59 and 70 years old. The other two are a couple that have been in our longest-existing encampment for two years.



Through relentless engagement, housing provider relationships, and remarkable teamwork, this couple made the difficult choice to accept a move that will be a huge adjustment, trusting that they were heard throughout the years of engagement and the housing option secured was the best choice as winter is just around the corner.

HART coordinated with Saint Paul's Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) EMS to tend to an elderly unsheltered man who reported complications with his mobility and energy. Having the ability to coordinate on-site medical care without the stressful response of lights and sirens has allowed HART to facilitate preventative interventions at the comfort level of the individual who would otherwise wait until things were so bad an ER visit would be necessary — if they could get there at all.

HART had the opportunity to move a long-term unsheltered neighbor into a warm, welcoming, and supportive shelter for women provided by Minnesota OneStop Lighthouse Way. "I feel like a world of weight was lifted off my shoulders and I feel hope for the first time in a long time," she shared.

Between moving people inside, cleaning 15+ sites around the city, and accompanying individuals to their intake appointments for housing openings, we continue to show up at newly-reported sites adding more lives, stories, and complexities to figure out — one human at a time.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

November 30, 2023

50

Total Active Sites

173

Total Occupants

141

Total Tents

137

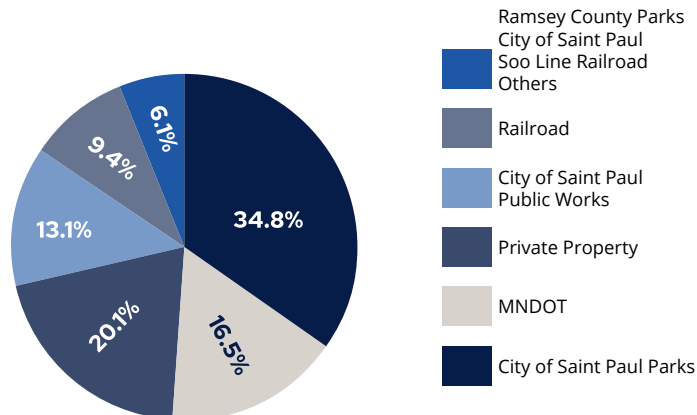
Total Male

36

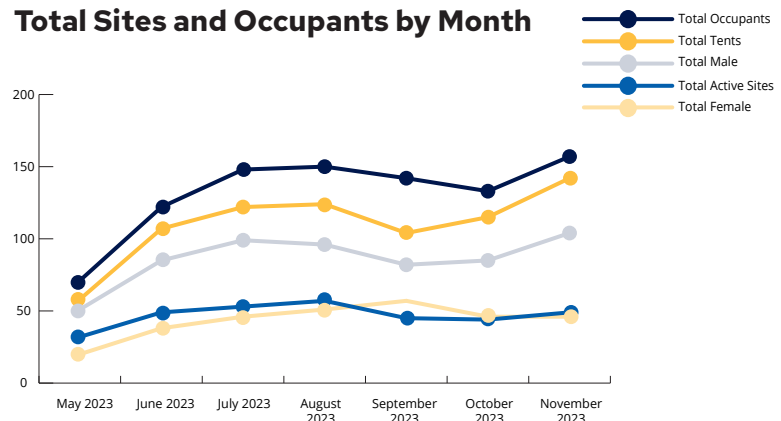
Total Female

City Data Summary

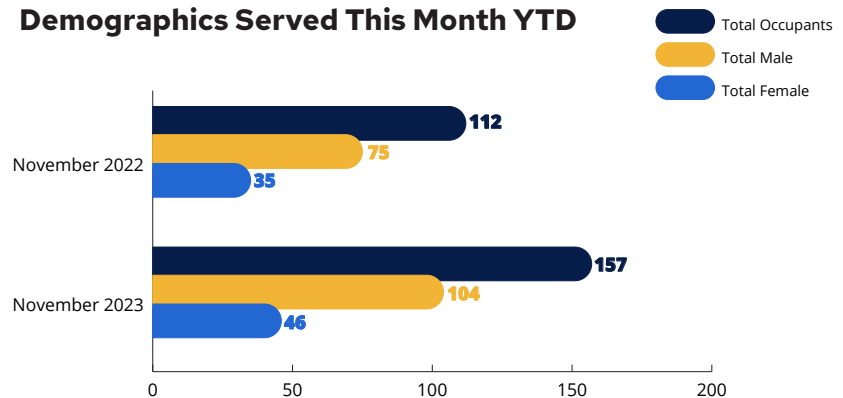
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD

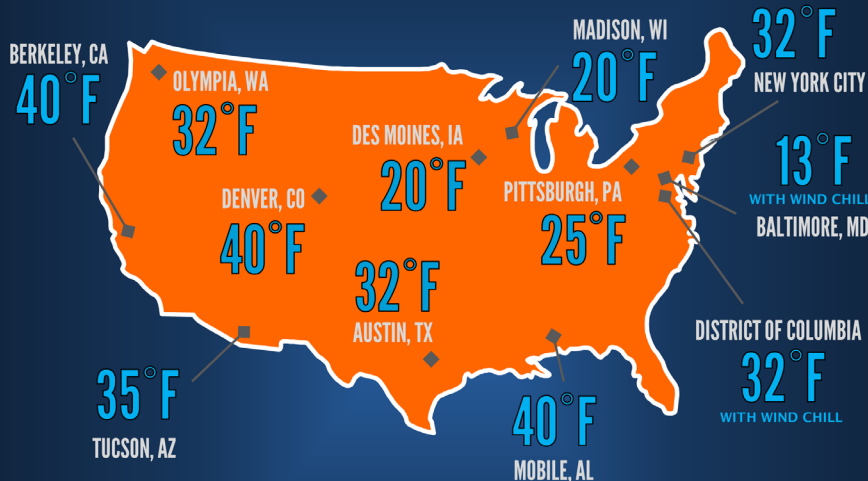


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HOW COLD DOES IT NEED TO BE BEFORE WINTER SHELTERS OPEN?



LIFE-THREATENING HYPOTHERMIA CAN SET IN BETWEEN 32°F - 50°F. BUT MANY EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTERS DON'T OPEN UNTIL IT IS MUCH COLDER

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS



Image source: National Coalition for the Homeless, www.nationalhomeless.org

Winter Warming Spaces are open!

This information was provided by Ramsey County and originally posted to ramseycounty.us/WarmingSpaces.

Open 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily through March 31, 2024.

Saint Paul Opportunity Center

422 Dorothy Day Place
For single adults and couples

Central Baptist Church

420 N. Roy Street
For families and youth ages 14-24
Opens Dec. 4

Please note: Youth ages 14-24 should go to Saint Paul Opportunity Center until Central Baptist Church opens Dec. 4

If you are in need of, or would like to refer someone to a place to warm-up overnight, call 651-266-1050 or email ColdWeatherReferrals@ramseycounty.us. Ramsey County staff are available from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. to help refer people to the nearest warming space or extra available shelter beds.

Transportation to and from warming space locations is also provided.

Visit ramseycounty.us/WarmingSpaces for detailed information.

From HART Program Coordinator Andrea Hinderaker:

From now until April 1st, it does not matter how cold it is outside — people will **always** have a place to go to be safe and warm. Each sunrise is an opportunity for hope and change.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

December 8, 2023

39

Total Active Sites

134

Total Occupants

112

Total Tents

91

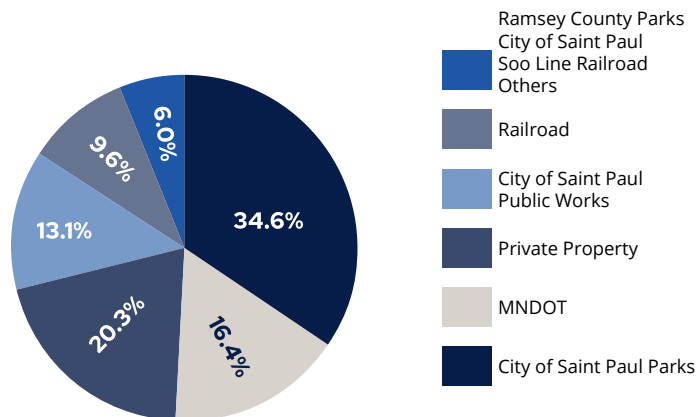
Total Male

35

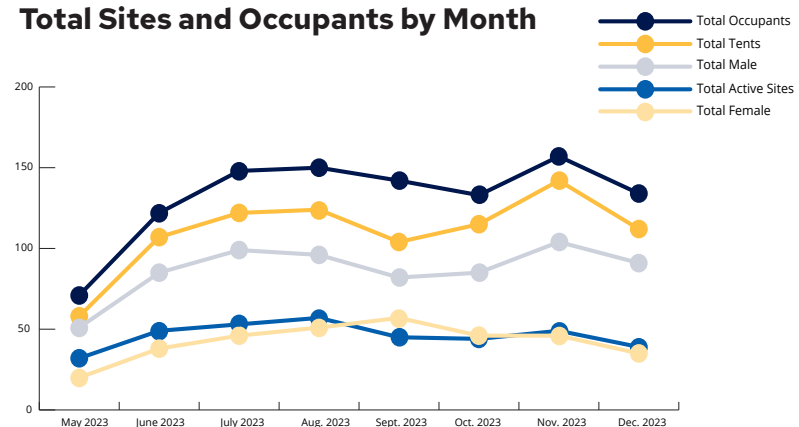
Total Female

City Data Summary

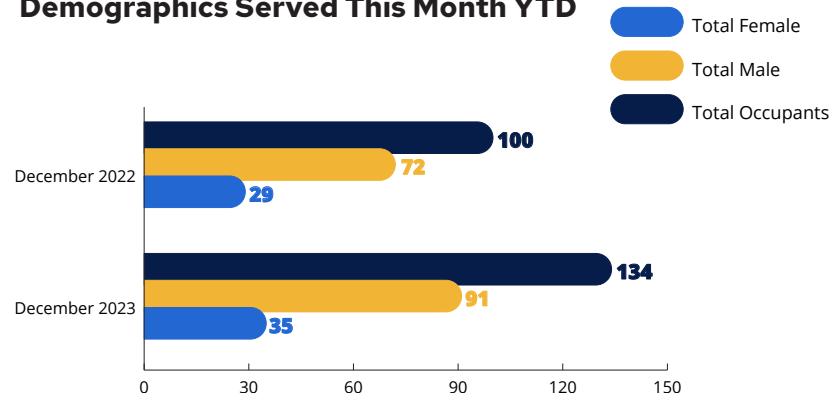
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

HART Contact Information

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A note from Catholic Charities – Doing amazing things for the unsheltered community in Saint Paul!

Hello All!

Throughout the month of November, our Dorothy Day Place Housing Team has set out on a challenge with all of you to house 20 residents in 20 days across our Higher Ground Saint Paul and Dorothy Day Residence housing sites. As of today, we will have moved in our 20th person for the 'November Housing Challenge'.

Our DDP Housing team would like to extend a very BIG thank you to each of you and your teams for your work and partnership over these past 20 days. We have witnessed the impact of your work that you may never get to see when someone is handed their keys and is welcomed into their new homes. "Thank you" does not feel adequate for the countless ways we have seen you show up with support that got all of us across the finish line today.

We know the finish line does not actually exist in our work, but we hope to build on the successes of all the work that has happened well before and will continue well beyond November. Please know that we recognize your invaluable contributions, and that we could not have had a more positive experience in working with all of you to meet our goal. Please share our gratitude with any team members that were a part of this effort.



The HART team continues to engage with and support the local unsheltered population. Partnerships with local organizations (such as the Dorothy Day Center!) help us connect people with the resources they need - especially as winter approaches.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

December 14, 2023

29

Total Active Sites

123

Total Occupants

100

Total Tents

84

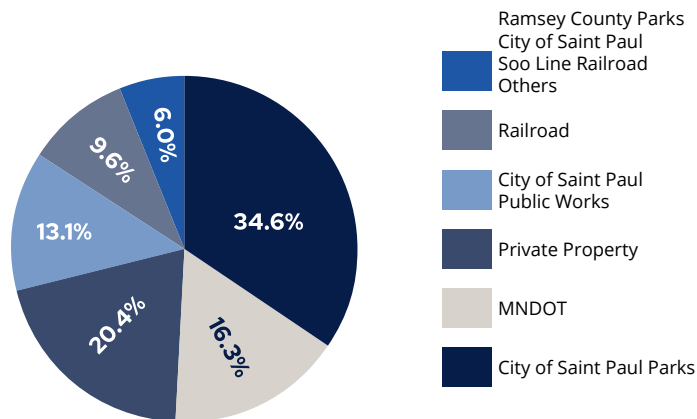
Total Male

33

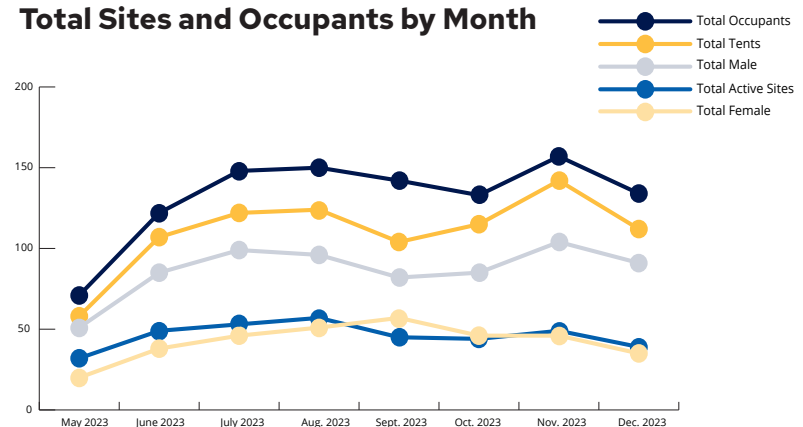
Total Female

City Data Summary

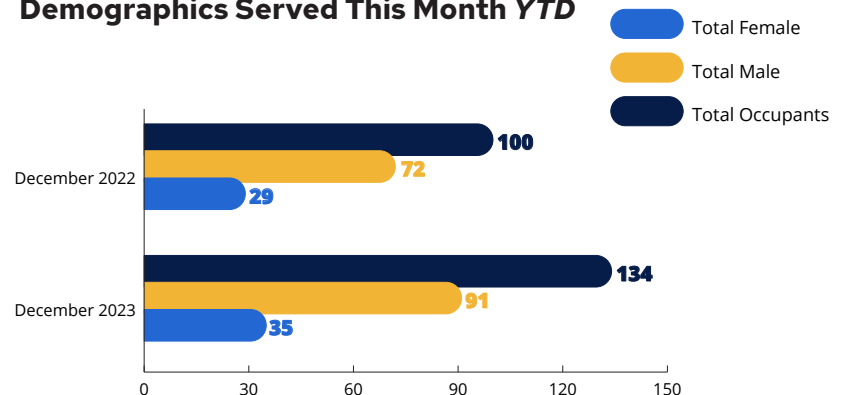
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Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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HART secures housing for another long-term homeless individual!

To date, we've assisted over 70 individuals into housing — 59 of those moves were coordinated through the HART team alone.

2023 breakdown so far:

Month	Move ins
January	4
February	3
April	2
May	3
June	3
July	2
August	2
September	3
October	6
November	7
December	TBD

We have learned that we can look forward to more housing units becoming available in the future — but we cannot wait for them. Rapport and relentless engagement along with strong partnerships with housing providers allows for opportunities that are often overlooked in the service world.

Pictures (from Top to Bottom:)

More often than not, we clean up vacated spots. It is not uncommon for people to leave a site and leave a lot of their belongings behind. Our crew cleans the abandoned site as soon as possible.

The City of Saint Paul continues in their commitment to assist our unsheltered community. Keeping the camping areas clean and safe; educating on spacing and layering to reduce fire risks, clearing away trash and debris to reduce health and wellness risks. Once a regular cleaning schedule is established, residents often place their garbage in designated piles for the city to pick up — a sign of trust and a shared goal of keeping the area clean.

The skid steer is often a representation of chaos and destruction around camps. For our purposes, it allows the cleaning crew to remove large items and collections of designated trash. On more than one occasion, we have assisted individuals in moving their belongings to locations they choose with the skid steer because the volume of items is too much for a person to carry.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

38

Total Active Sites

127

Total Occupants

111

Total Tents

97

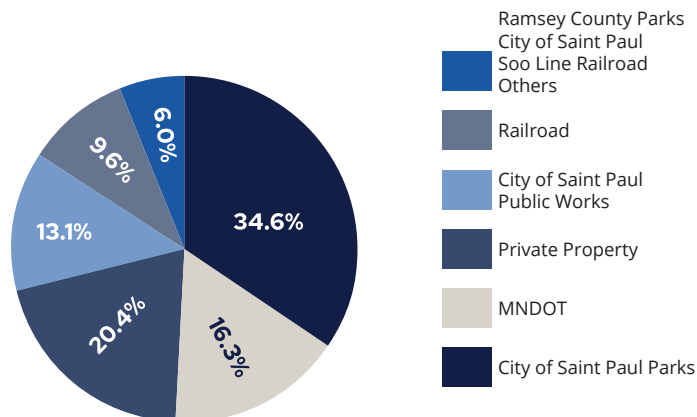
Total Male

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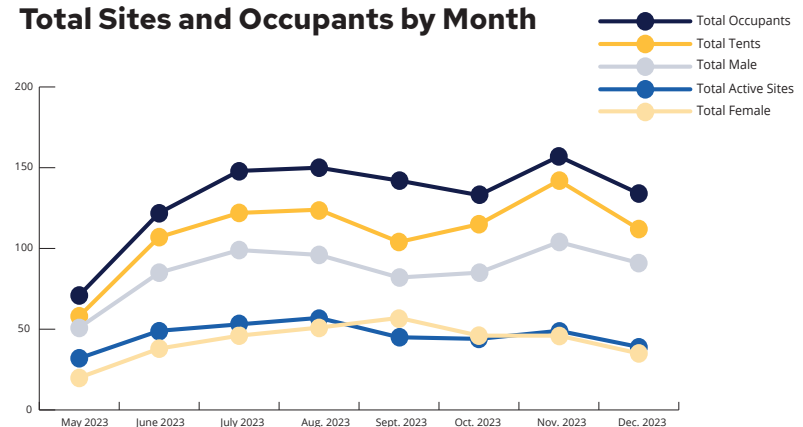
Total Female

City Data Summary

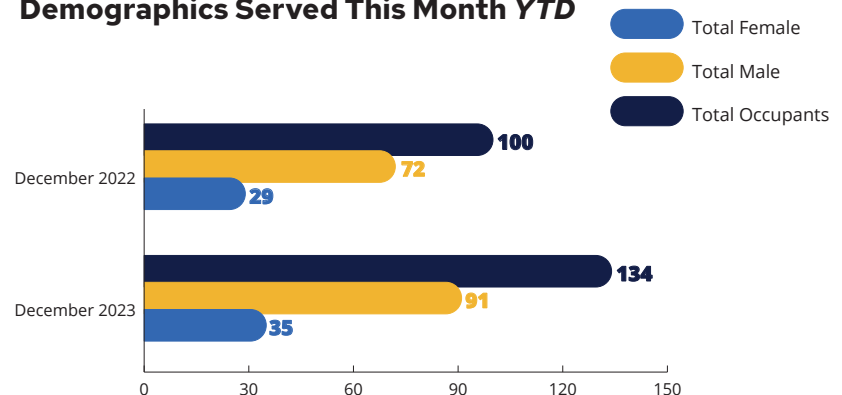
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Silent march honors Minnesotans who died while homeless in 2023

This event is crucial because, in many cases, those who die on the streets never receive a proper memorial service.

125 people have died while homeless in Minnesota this year, 102 of which were previously homeless. 25 advocates have also passed away -that brings the total to 252.

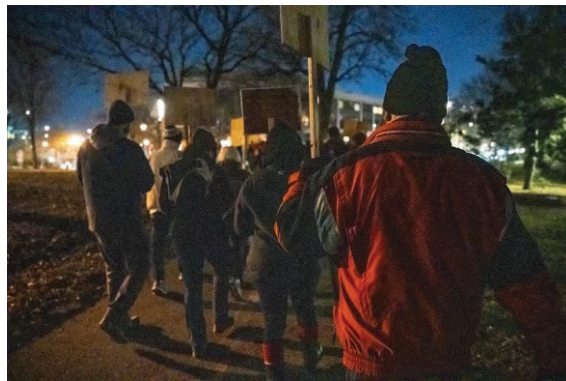
Of these 252 people, the average age at death is only 29 years old.

HART Team members Sam Stoltz and Andrea Hinderaker joined the march for the second year in a row as representatives from the City of Saint Paul. We acknowledge that a city border does not make a life any less worthy of recognition – several of the names honored were from the Saint Paul unsheltered community as well.

HART partners with Bridging!

The HART team toured the Roseville Bridging site and learned more about their amazing work! As the team continues to successfully secure housing for many of those living in encampments throughout Saint Paul, we now have the opportunity to assist each individual with furnishings and all the basics that make a home feel like a home. Often when someone moves into their new housing opportunity, they find it hard to stay inside because their homes are empty and they don't have the funds to create a space that's... well... home.

Bridging has helped over 300,000 households since it was founded by Fran Heltzman in 1987 – a man who knew even just one person can make the world a better place with compassion and creativity. Per their website (bridging.org); “His tremendous work ethic, commitment to quality service, and unwavering pledge to ensure that “everyone has a bed to sleep in” truly made him one-of-a-kind.”



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