

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 4, 2024

25

Total Active Sites

120

Total Occupants

99

Total Tents

91

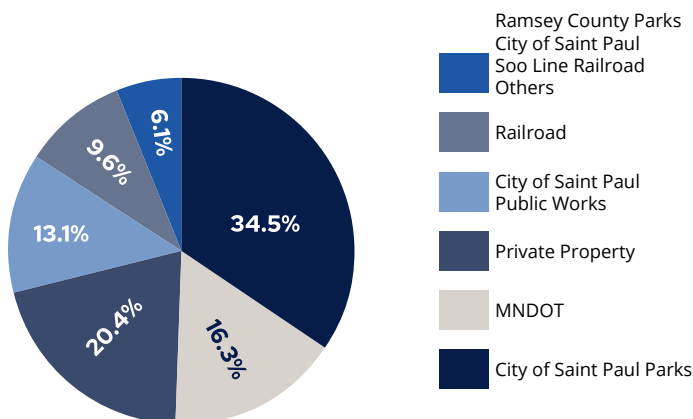
Total Male

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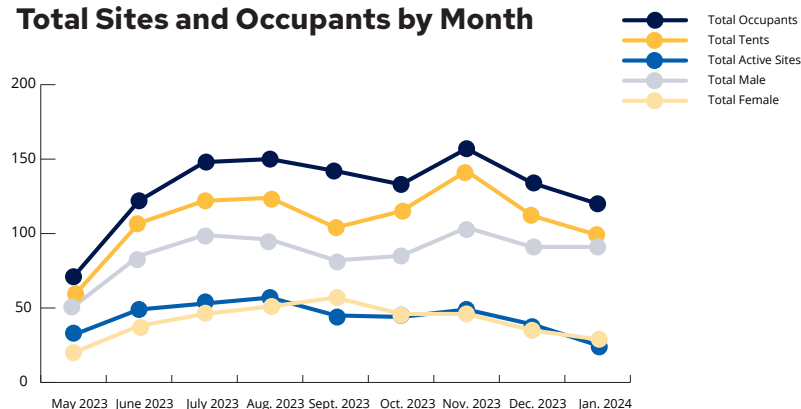
Total Female

City Data Summary

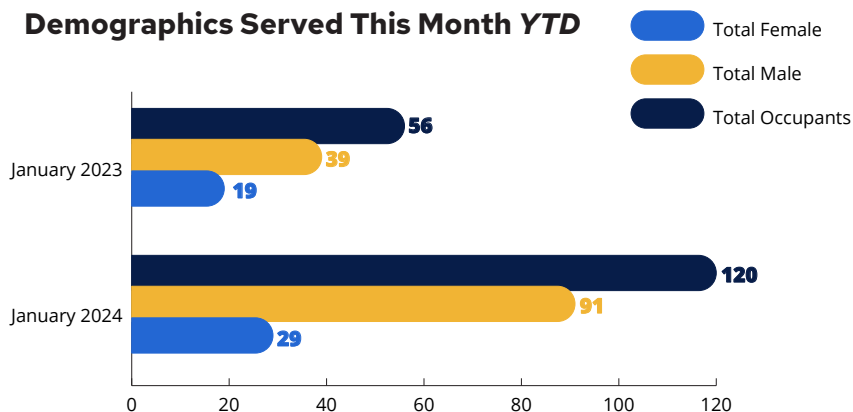
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



HART Contact Information

Andrea Hinderaker, HART Program Coordinator
 Brian Ganzel, DSI Inspector II, HART
 Kahari Smith-Brewer, Outreach Worker
 Sam Stoltz, Outreach Worker

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Balancing asset and behavior-based problem-solving

In a recent opinion piece: Chronic Homelessness is a Behavior Problem, Joseph Grenny makes a distinction between asset problems and behavior problems as they relate to homelessness. As the coordinator of HART, I read his piece both with curiosity and discomfort.

He explains that “Asset problems are those that can be solved through gifts.” In our world, an example is someone is cold so you give them a coat, or someone is evicted from an apartment and you secure temporary housing.

Behavior problems, he says, “are ones where a person’s choices create or contribute to their pain.” Say you have a math test in the morning and know you should study, but instead you spend the evening with friends. You fail the test and now need to complete remedial coursework to make up for it. There’s no asset that can be given to solve this problem.

He argues that behavior problems cannot be solved by giving assets, going on to say giving assets often perpetuates the very problem you are trying to solve.

The rub I felt reading this piece is the use of behavior and choice in the same space. I facilitate and attend a lot of trainings. I have people in my life that have suffered from addiction, continue to feel the pain of their “choice” to use and consequences that came with using “behavior.” And if I use those exact words in that sequence I am almost on the same page as Mr. Grenny.

Where we agree, however, is in the assessment that to solve an asset problem is the least complicated way to address homelessness. It’s a clean transaction, it feels good and there’s instant gratification for both parties. We see this a lot in our camps around Saint Paul, but we see the less attractive

part of asset problem-solving. We clean up thousands of food containers left behind, some broken into by area wildlife, some rotting in the hot summer sun, most resurfacing after the first spring thaw. We see the rain-soaked bags of gifted clothing and blankets hanging on fences and trees — causing the neighborhoods to grow frustrated with what appears to be disregard for the local park.

Most recently a yurt was gifted to an encampment site. It’s beautiful and was intended to create a warm, safe community gathering space. Absolutely an asset given with the best intentions. Here’s where it gets complex: people have moved into the yurt. Now it is no longer available for community gathering for the rest of the encampment, which creates a lot of tension.

As countless hours are put into solving behavioral and asset problems alike, there is a conflicting message to stop reaching for housing and support opportunities that await each individual and instead focus on staying put — outside, through the winter, in Minnesota.

I don’t have the answers to what is right or wrong when good intentions are set in motion. I myself have been a rainstorm of assets throughout my lifetime. HART works daily to keep our unsheltered neighbors focused on the possibilities, not just the short-term. When we all work together, with the help of our city and community partners, we can continue to lift people out of homelessness with dignity and respect.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 10, 2024

25

Total Active Sites

112

Total Occupants

98

Total Tents

80

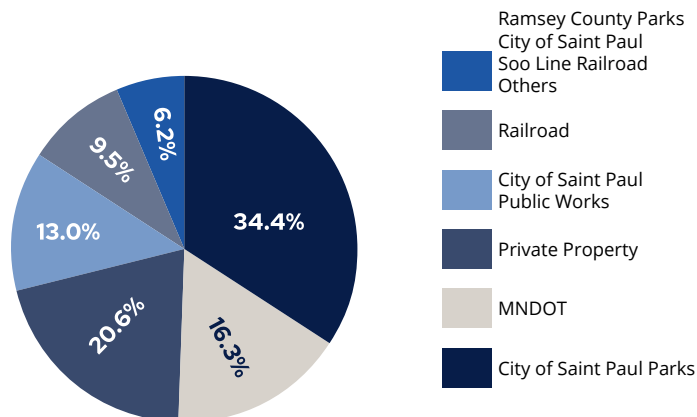
Total Male

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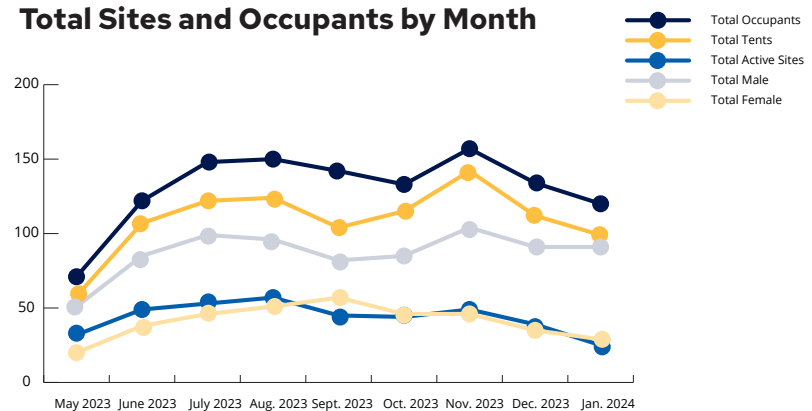
Total Female

City Data Summary

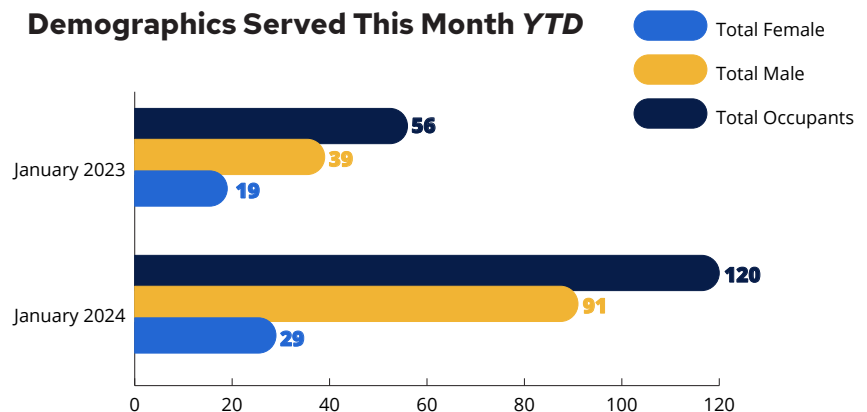
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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First move of 2024

In early October, 2023, Concerned staff at Griggs Community Center called HART regarding a woman who had been sleeping in their entryway for several weeks. The staff compassionately allowed her to settle in there at night, however the community at large began to express concerns.

On October 20th, HART outreach learned that once the temperatures began to drop, the woman was seeking warmth in the Porta Potty on site. We met with her and learned she had been sleeping in her car since 2020 until it was impounded, which was how she landed at Griggs. At 51 years of age, she was seemingly without options, until outreach stepped in.

On November 6th, right when Lighthouse Way re-opened their hotel shelter for women, a referral was made so she could get out of the cold until housing was an option. Open spaces are rare - HART outreach called every morning to check for openings. Unfortunately, it appeared that a handicap-accessible space would be hard to come by, but the shelter staff were working miracles to be sure one would open soon. Fully aware that a 51-year-old woman with disabilities was sheltering in a Porta Potty - HART secured a room at the same hotel until she was able to transition into a shelter room within days.

On December 19th, with the help of Radias Health Outreach, she was transported to an intake appointment for possible housing through Wilder.

On December 22nd, Optimism motivated HART outreach to schedule a Bridging appointment for her - knowing the first open appointment can be set pretty far out!

January 9th, 2024 — Move-in Day!!!

Great news, but it's not the end of the story. Preventing the re-occurrence of homelessness means stepping back and looking at all the reasons someone might not stay in their new home for long.

- People often move into empty apartments. Living in survival mode does not allow someone to prepare and save for furnishings — even the most basic items.
- HART provides a welcome basket that contains items such as an air mattress, bedding, a set of dishes, laundry detergent, toilet paper, hygiene items, and basic cooking supplies.
- There is often minimal (if any) notice when a unit is available, leaving little opportunity for an individual to prepare for their deposit or first month's rent.
- HART assists by reducing the stress at the time of move-in and makes sure the deposit and first month's rent is not a barrier.
- Furnishings are what often makes a space feel like a home. Moving into an empty space, though structurally better than a tent outside, is not always enough to convince a person that housing is better than living in a community with shared amenities outside, regardless of the season.
- HART partners with Bridging to make sure each person has the opportunity to "shop" for the furnishings they need to transform their new space into a new home.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 18, 2024

23

Total Active Sites

120

Total Occupants

107

Total Tents

90

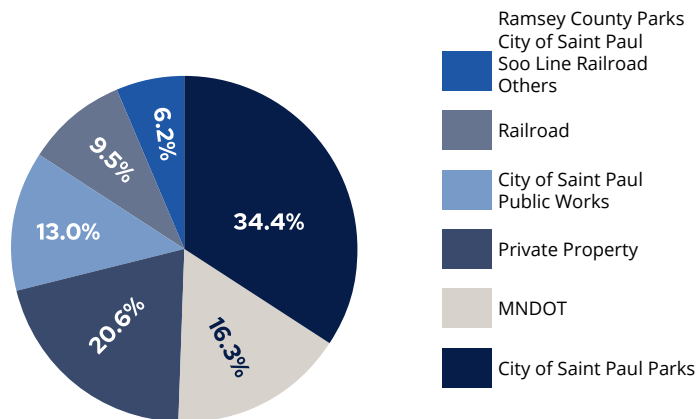
Total Male

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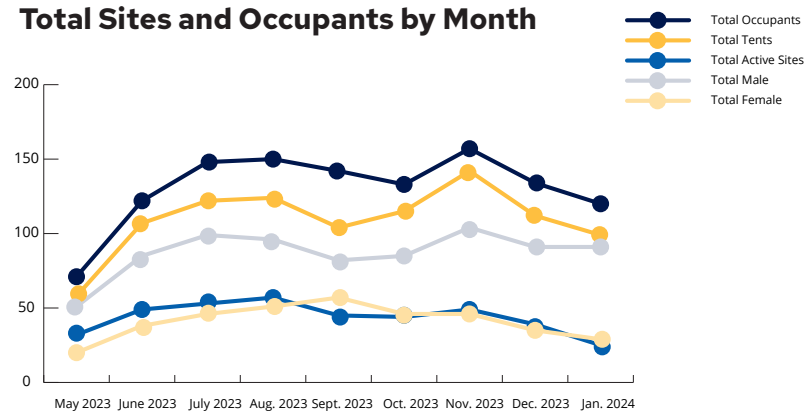
Total Female

City Data Summary

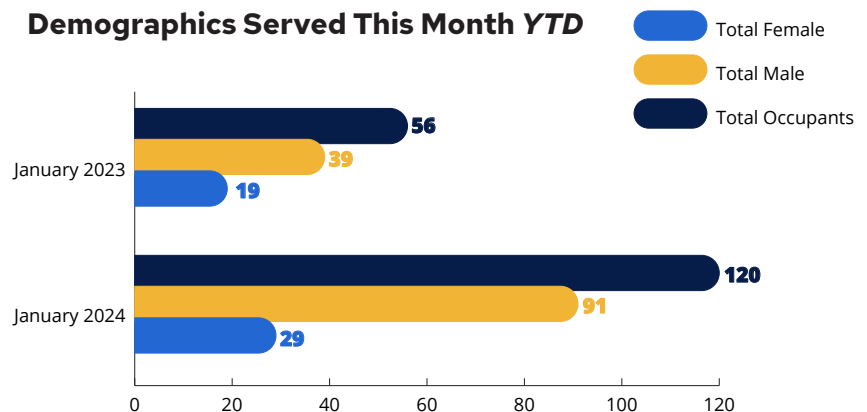
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Total Sites and Occupants by Month



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Winter Homeless Services: Bringing Our Neighbors In From the Cold

An excerpt from the National Coalition for the Homeless

[There are] three critically important elements to an effective regional or local approach to the prevention of injury and hypothermia:

- **Knowledge** — Accurate and timely information can be life saving for people experiencing homelessness, while a lack of information can be damaging or deadly. In many communities, elected officials and decision-makers hold and keep critical information across a broad range of public and private resources and services. Effective prevention strategies include a pre-approved plan for the gathering and dissemination of lifesaving information to all critical stakeholders, including those at risk on the streets.
- **Networking** — In cold weather, local elected officials and decision-makers are a critical first step to preventing hypothermia. Those in need must receive clear, consistent and repeated messages about the signs, symptoms and consequences of hypothermia, as well as emergency services that are being made available for them. Furthermore, the general public wants and needs to know how to help those in danger of hypothermia and what responses are most appropriate. The public also needs to know who the decisionmakers are and what decisions are being made.
- **Temporary Seasonal Shelter and Outreach** — Appropriate approaches to the level, design and schedule of prevention resources, shelter and outreach, are critical to an effective response. The level of response must be timely and measured against the imminent and emerging concern of injury and hypothermia. The design must place the human cost of injury and death front and center. And, the schedule of emergency shelters and outreach services must be developed and available based solely on sound established prevention practices.

How does the City of Saint Paul's HART team exemplify these important elements to prevention of injury and hypothermia?

Communication and Networking are key to successful interventions across the city.

When we're all in the same space, we are challenged to understand the many different perspectives and concerns. Most importantly, we're ready to tackle the really challenging things in a respectful and organized space.

HART coordinator Andrea facilitates two weekly meetings of providers across the city. One meeting has continually expanded its participants and now includes downtown property managers, grassroots organizations, City and County representatives, the Minnesota Department of Health, AmeriCorps, Minnesota Community Care, Community Outreach teams, libraries, Breaking Free, shelters and day services... and so many more individuals invested in working together and learning from each other.

The meeting first came about the spring of 2020, in the early months of the pandemic and the civil unrest associated with the death of George Floyd. Saint Paul had two very large encampments at that time. It was imperative that everyone connected to them had ample knowledge and a voice in whatever strategies were implemented. Not everyone was happy with the outcome — but everyone invested was a part of the discussions.

Andrea was not working for the City at the time and remembers how important it was for community providers to have access to the information that directly affected the face-to-face interactions with our unsheltered residents — and continues to run the meeting with that framework to this day.

Temporary Seasonal Shelter options for Saint Paul — provided by Ramsey County — are available on the next page.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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Do you or someone you know need a place to warm-up overnight?

Ramsey County warming spaces are now open 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. through March 2024.

Warming spaces will be open from 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. and will provide seating, blankets, light snacks, and beverages (such as coffee and cocoa), and warming supplies (such as mittens and hats). There will be a free shuttle service every night from 9 p.m. – 7 a.m., ensuring transportation to and from Winter Warming Space locations.

Winter Warming Space Locations:



Newell Park Building
900 Fairview Ave N., Saint Paul
For women only



Phalen Activity Center
1530 Phalen Dr., Saint Paul
For men only



Union Mission Gospel
435 University Ave E, Saint Paul
For men only



Central Baptist Church
420 N. Roy St., Saint Paul
For families and youth ages 14-24

To learn more, call **651-266-1050**,
or visit **ramseycounty.us/WarmingSpaces**



HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 24, 2024

30

Total Active Sites

111

Total Occupants

108

Total Tents

89

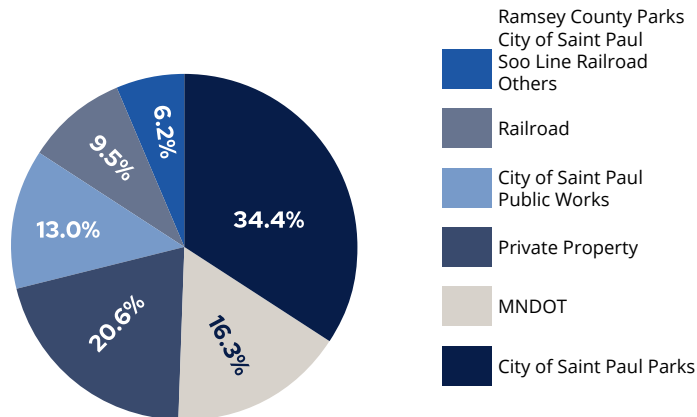
Total Male

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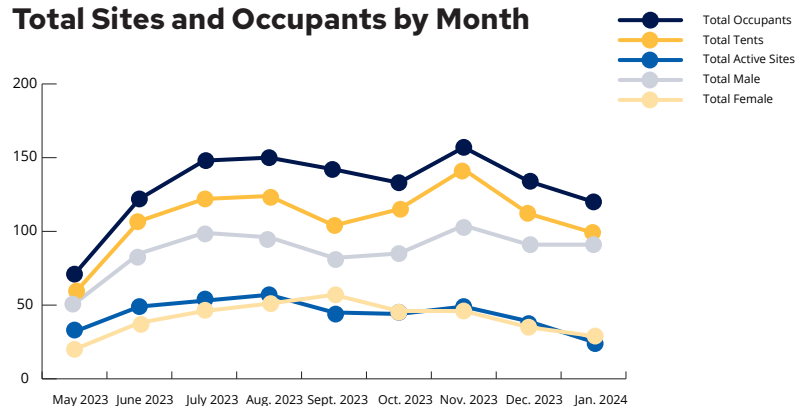
Total Female

City Data Summary

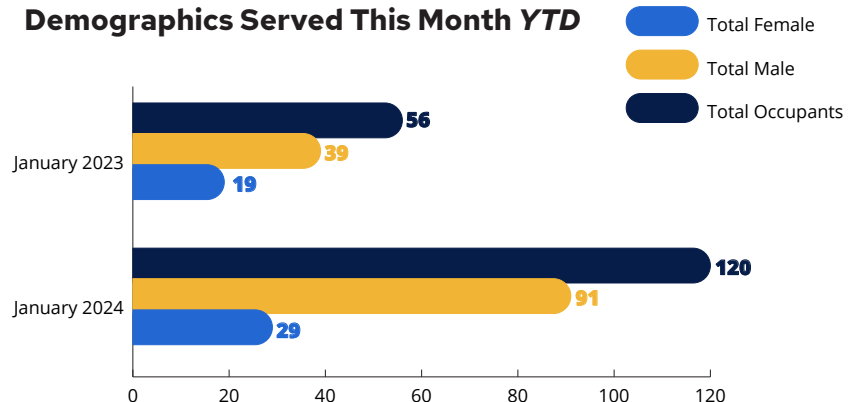
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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How We All Work Together



It has been a busy week of networking and coordinating for the HART team.

Even though it appears that winter is on its way out, we're teetering on some of the most complicated temperature trends. When the temps stay between the low 30's and mid 40's, people living outside are at great risk of experiencing hypothermia. This can lead to increased fire safety risks because people are so focused on quickly warming up that they make clumsy errors.

HART coordinated with Lutheran Social Services StreetWorks to secure fire extinguishers for newly constructed yurts at various sites that are already showing signs of fire damage.

While on site delivering the fire extinguishers, HART ran into Clinic 555's nurse team offering safe-use supplies to include Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips and Narcan.

Jessie Saavedra shares more about the amazing work Clinic 555 does for the community...

"Our team at the Syringe Exchange Program can see upwards of 20–30 folks a day. We provide people with clean syringes and testing supplies for Fentanyl and Xylazine. There are many times where we just listen to a person's story. Sometimes we discuss their options to stop using — we have a staff member who can help navigate a pathway into Medical Assisted Therapies. We distribute Narcan — both intramuscular and nasal. Lately we've seen many folks with new, sometimes large Xylazine wounds. We have nurses on staff that will look at a wound if a participant is willing. The nurses provide care and sometimes refer patients to the ER if the wound is severe. We also handle HIV/Hepatitis C rapid testing and some Syphilis testing as well.

"Our plan is to get our van out on a regular basis visiting encampments and provide access to our services."



Peanut, a resident dog at a site — sits by his owner's heater as outreach meet to discuss housing options.



Outreach Worker Kahari delivers one of several fire extinguishers for each recently constructed Yurt. HART and Saint Paul Fire Dept. Arson Investigator Matt Brown walked through a large encampment, assessing the increased fire risks on site and recent fire-damaged yurts. Matt shared his expertise with residents about the importance of ventilation, distance of fires from tents, and the risks of accumulated combustible materials in and around tents.

HART will now spend an entire day Friday with the camp — assisting in problem-solving the accumulation of items and proximity of combustible materials with the help of community partners, City partners and our contracted cleaning services.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

January 31, 2024

25

Total Active Sites

108

Total Occupants

106

Total Tents

81

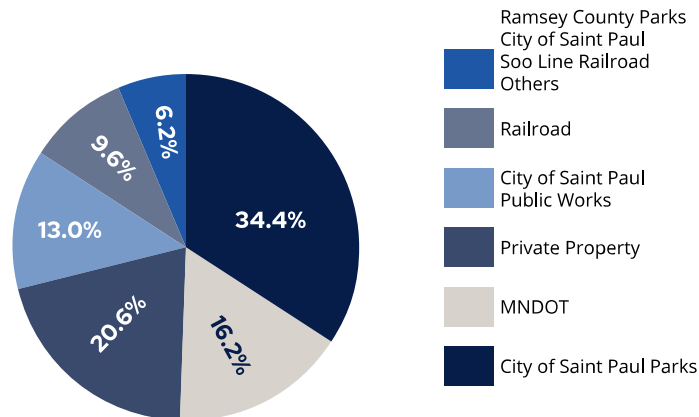
Total Male

24

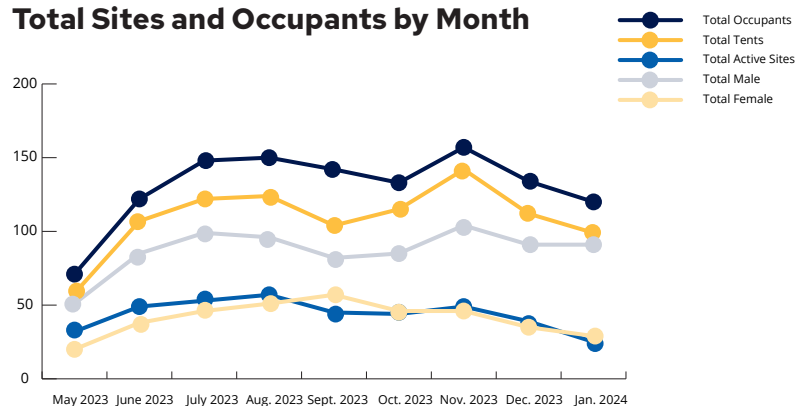
Total Female

City Data Summary

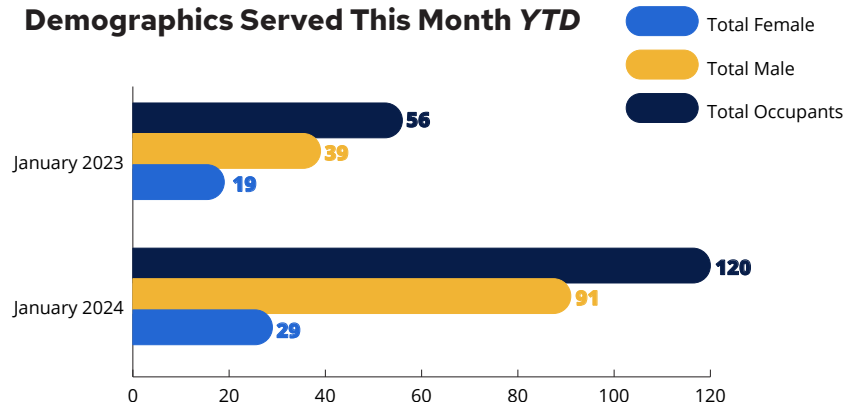
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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HART conducts 2024 PIT count in St. Paul

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual account of everyone experiencing homelessness on a single night, organized by The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This year's PIT count took place on January 24, 2024 — though HUD allows communities to count for 14 days past the kickoff date to ensure that anyone who experienced homelessness on January 24 is counted.

The goals of the PIT count are to:

- Identify how many individuals and households are homeless in a community, including those living on the street or in other unsheltered locations
- Monitor how homelessness changes from year to year
- Assist with local planning efforts

The PIT count includes people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and people staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, safe havens, even those temporarily staying with friends or family. Together with the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), communities can look at the data collected and identify gaps in how they address homelessness.

The 2023 PIT count for Ramsey County, Minnesota, found 368 unsheltered people, which was the highest number ever recorded and a 6% increase from 2022.



Brian, Andrea, Sam and Kahari pause for breakfast at the Hope Breakfast Bar after several early hours out in the field completing PIT surveys.



SAINT PAUL
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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

February 22, 2024

25

Total Active Sites

108

Total Occupants

106

Total Tents

81

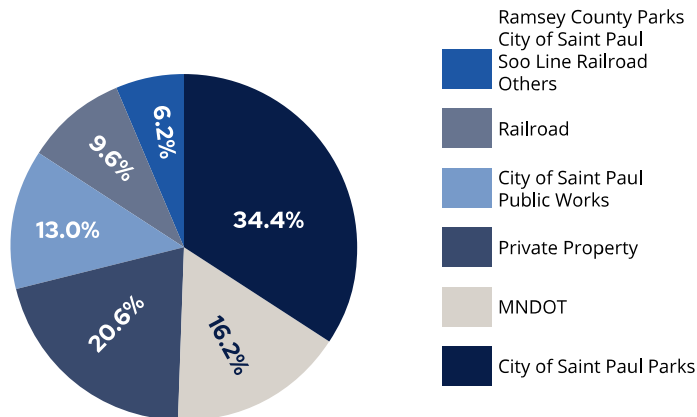
Total Male

24

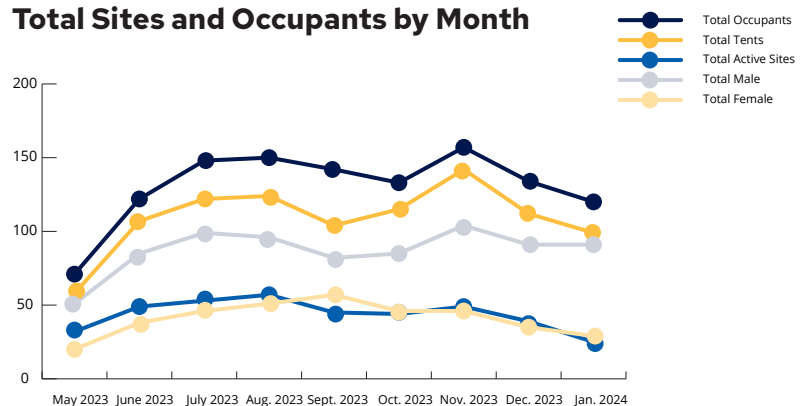
Total Female

City Data Summary

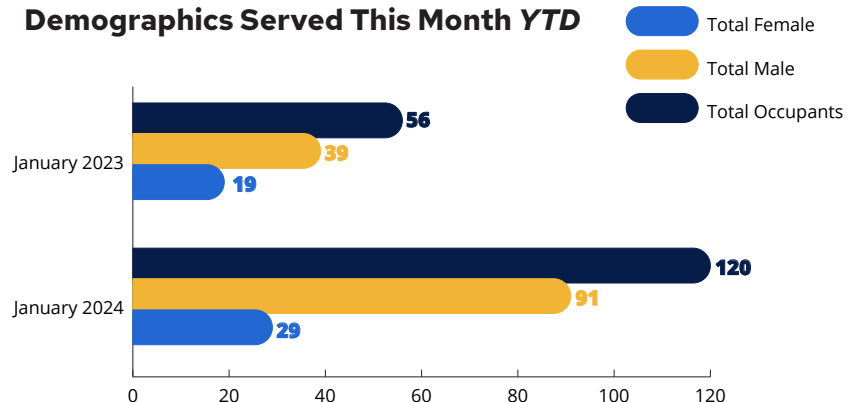
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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A fond farewell to Andrea Hinderaker

From Director Wiese:

"No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other's worth." — Robert Southey

The job of the Homeless Assistance Response Team is not an easy one. Helping others navigate the network to access care, shelter, food, treatment, warmth; it's akin to detangling a ball of yarn. Curiosity, dedication, patience, and luck all play their own parts in guiding someone to the help they need in the exact moment they are ready to accept it. That is but a sliver of the work Andrea Hinderaker has done with HART.

Andrea's real superpower is her ability to see gaps in the ecosystem and a burning passion to sew them together using every resource, funding source, partner, communication, and hour available. She likely believes this is not a superhuman strength but that's only because she knows no other way of being.

We talk about "relentless engagement" when we describe what HART is doing. What does that mean for us? We don't take no for an answer, and we'll keep showing up until we succeed. Even if it's frustrating, sometimes scary, or emotionally taxing. That's where resilience and dedication come in - they're skills that are hard to quantify and even harder to impart, but you know when you see them.

Andrea's real superpower is her ability to see gaps in the ecosystem and a burning passion to sew them together

Andrea Hinderaker was hired by the City of Saint Paul in early 2022 to develop HART in its most effective form. In the immediate wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest in the wake of George Floyd's murder, the Twin Cities faced mounting challenges, not the least of which was caring for a growing unsheltered homeless population with quickly decreasing shelter options.



Andrea accepted the challenge head-on and immediately got to work. She knew when to speed up when people wanted to slow down. She knew when to slow down when people wanted to go faster. She brought new partners to the table. She spoke about our neighbors in ways that help us recognize everyone's humanity.

This is where I envision HART's future; a future where no one is living outside, and our amazing team spends their time preventing homelessness.

This year alone, HART helped more than 70 people find permanent housing and with partner organizations, that number is well over 100. HART has also helped 4 elderly people connect with alternate housing options when their lifetime home was unsafe to live in. This is where I envision HART's future; a future where no one is living outside, and our amazing team spends their time preventing homelessness.

Andrea is leaving Saint Paul's HART but she is not leaving our ecosystem. She stitched up a gap and is heading to the next one. Though it feels as if she is leaving us, I know she is doing anything but. Her next adventure will undoubtedly bring us closer to ending unsheltered homelessness.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

April 4, 2024

17

Total Active Sites

92

Total Occupants

112

Total Tents

85

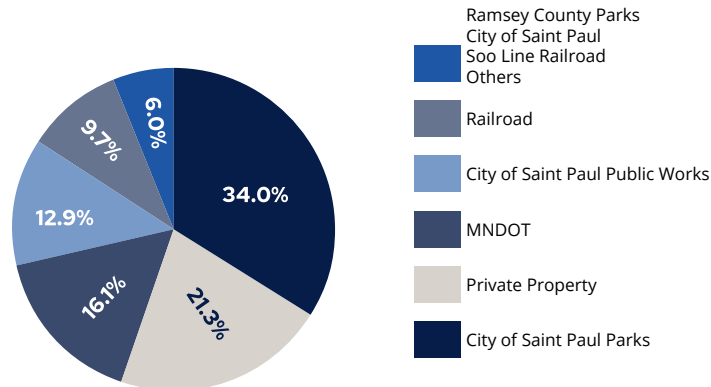
Total Male

23

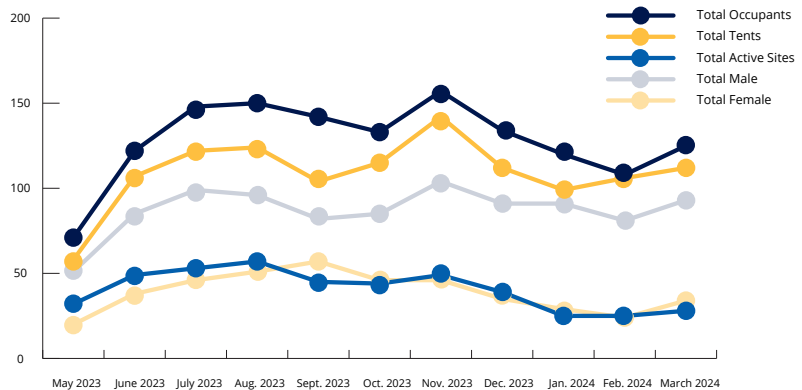
Total Female

City Data Summary

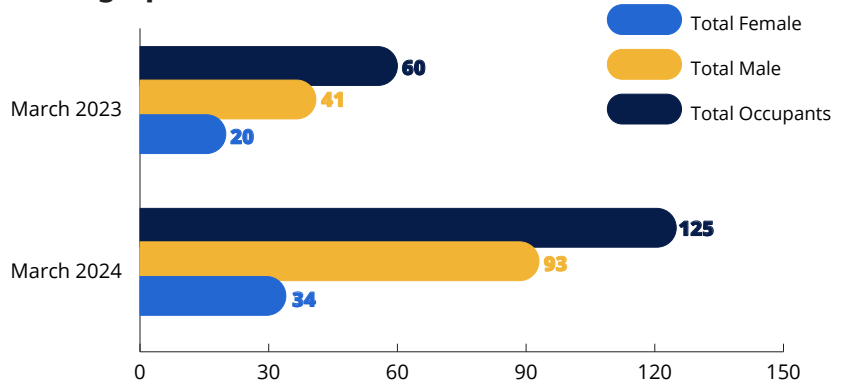
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Ramsey County Introduces Familiar Faces Program

The City of Saint Paul, in partnership with Ramsey County and Heading Home Ramsey, is developing a new program called "Familiar Faces." This program will serve individuals in downtown and the surrounding area who are frequent users of emergency response—defined as having frequent contacts with...

- Law enforcement (St Paul and/or Metro Transit police)
- Saint Paul Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- City of Saint Paul Alternative Response Teams (HART, CARES, COAST)
- Ramsey County jail
- Hospital emergency rooms

Drawing on national models, the program aims to help participants maintain housing stability, reduce jail time, and lower the use of emergency rooms and inpatient psychiatric care.

Familiar Faces will provide personalized, intensive support and service connection to address the unique needs of everyone within the "Familiar Faces" group. The program also includes access to a 24-hour facility which acts as a stable foundation for improving overall well-being and reducing reliance on emergency services.



HART Contact Information

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Sam Stoltz, Outreach Worker

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sam.stoltz@ci.stpaul.mn.us

HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

April 4, 2024

17

Total Active Sites

92

Total Occupants

112

Total Tents

85

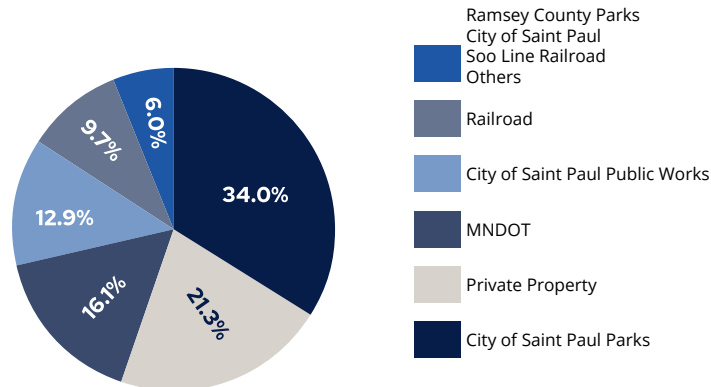
Total Male

23

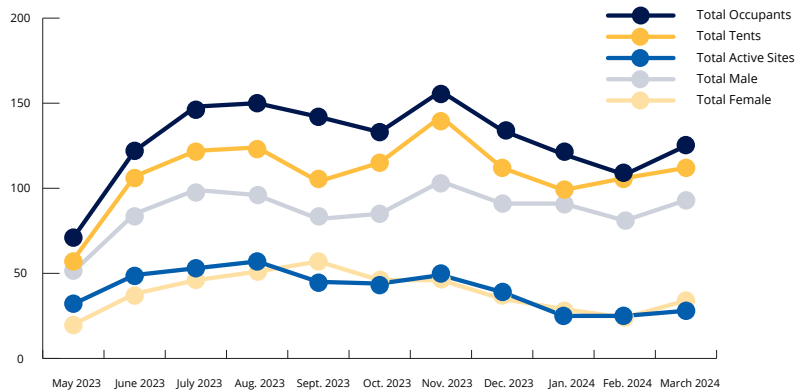
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City Data Summary

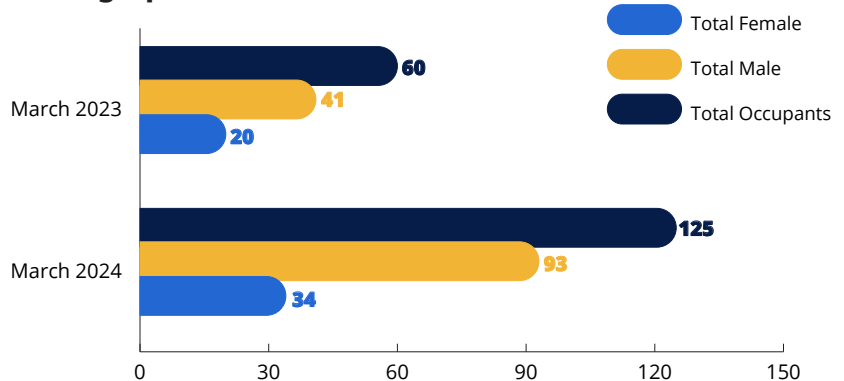
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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Ramsey County Introduces Familiar Faces Program

The City of Saint Paul, in partnership with Ramsey County and Heading Home Ramsey, is developing a new program called "Familiar Faces." This program will serve individuals in downtown and the surrounding area who are frequent users of emergency response—defined as having frequent contacts with...

- Law enforcement (St Paul and/or Metro Transit police)
- Saint Paul Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- City of Saint Paul Alternative Response Teams (HART, CARES, COAST)
- Ramsey County jail
- Hospital emergency rooms

Drawing on national models, the program aims to help participants maintain housing stability, reduce jail time, and lower the use of emergency rooms and inpatient psychiatric care.

Familiar Faces will provide personalized, intensive support and service connection to address the unique needs of everyone within the "Familiar Faces" group. The program also includes access to a 24-hour facility which acts as a stable foundation for improving overall well-being and reducing reliance on emergency services.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

April 19, 2024

17

Total Active Sites

92

Total Occupants

112

Total Tents

85

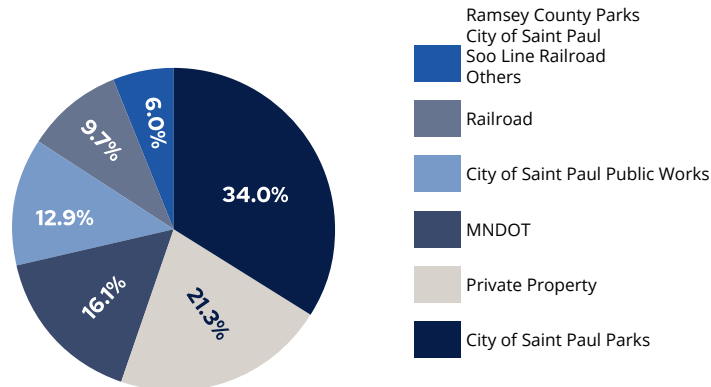
Total Male

23

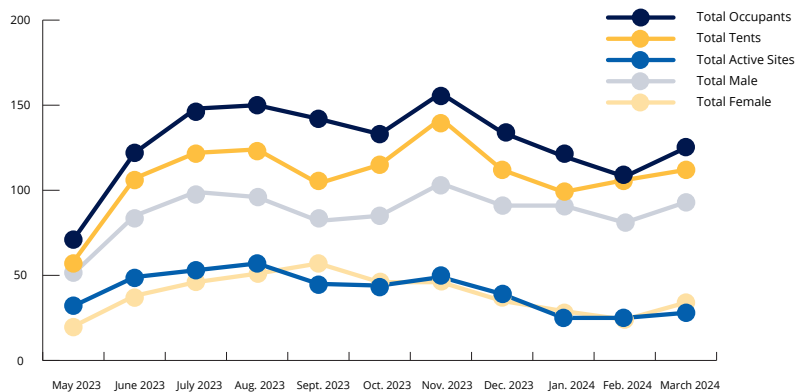
Total Female

City Data Summary

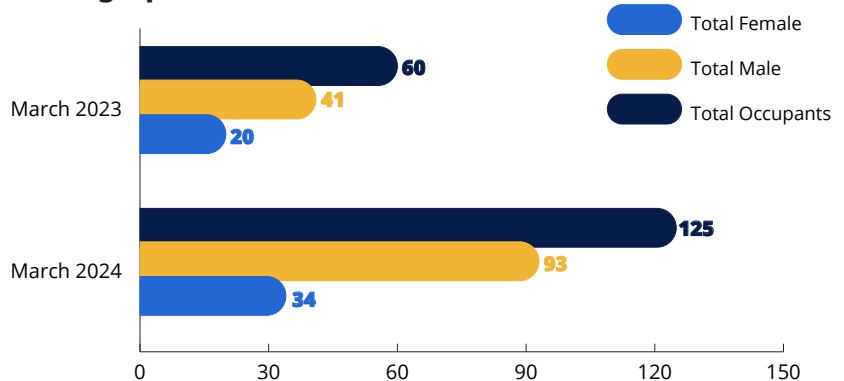
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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Introducing "Familiar Faces" in Saint Paul

Christine Michels, Familiar Faces Program Administrator

The City of Saint Paul, in partnership with Ramsey County, Heading Home Ramsey, and the State of Minnesota, is developing a new program called "Familiar Faces." This program will serve individuals in downtown and the surrounding area who are frequent users of emergency response—defined as having frequent contacts with...

- Law enforcement (St Paul and/or Metro Transit police)
- Saint Paul Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- City of Saint Paul Alternative Response Teams (HART, CARES, COAST)
- Ramsey County jail
- Hospital emergency rooms

Drawing on national models, the program aims to help participants maintain housing stability, reduce jail time, and lower the use of emergency rooms and inpatient psychiatric care.

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SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

April 26 2024

18

Total Active Sites

137

Total Occupants

114

Total Tents

111

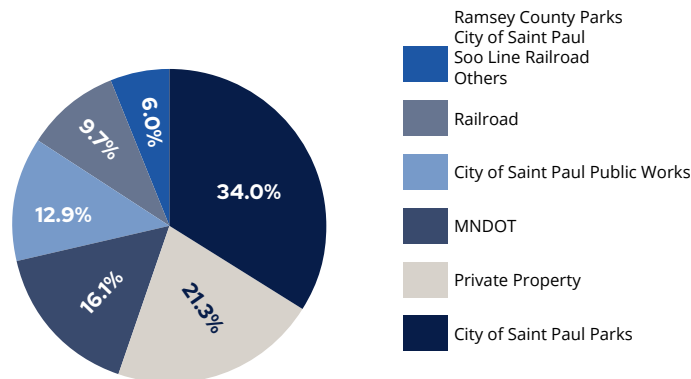
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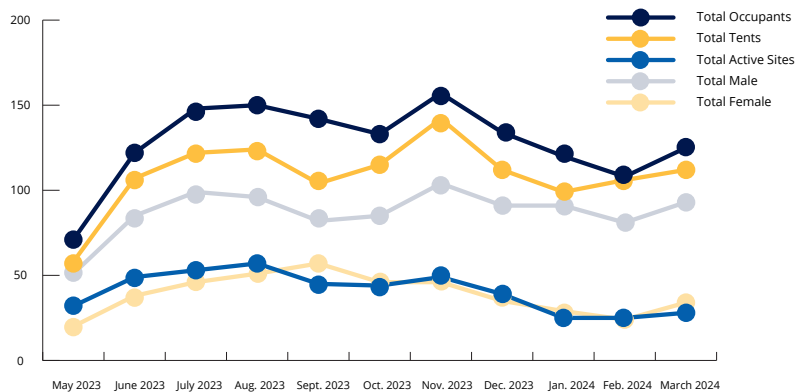
Total Female

City Data Summary

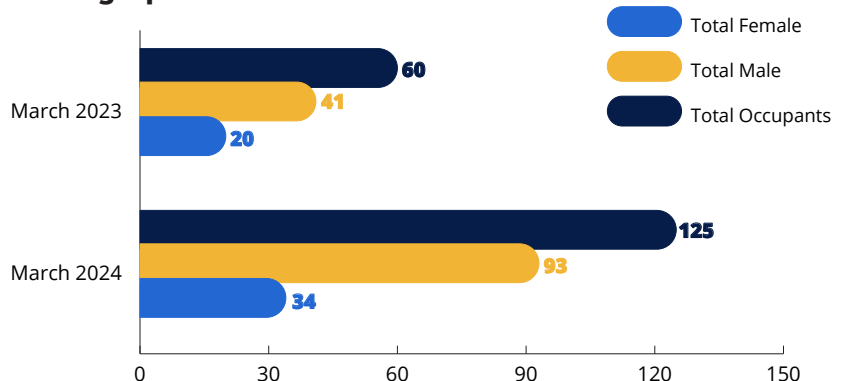
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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Hiring soon for Homeless Assistance Response Team Coordinator!

Seeking servant leaders who want to make a difference in their community; Hard-working people to relentlessly engage with those who need it the most; Communicators with a compassionate side. Must be patient, dedicated, and resilient. Work boots a plus.

As the Homeless Assistance Response Team coordinator, you're responsible for overseeing the dedicated services the City of Saint Paul provides to the unsheltered community. From outreach to cleaning work, you'll engage with the City's unsheltered population, coordinate with community partner organizations, and be regarded as the City's technical expert on unsheltered homelessness work.

Major Duties Performed Most of the Time

- Manage the unsheltered homeless complaint process.
- Provide direction and support to the HART field team and collaborates with staff in the Saint Paul Police Department, Fire Department, and Parks Department.
- Serve as City expert and advocate in unsheltered homeless work.
- Work with variety of stakeholders to share information and identify gaps in existing systems.
- Make presentations to city leadership, public boards, and the business community regarding findings and recommendations.
- Ensure compliance with policies and procedures and ensure record management and retention.
- Recommend and implement process improvements.
- Initiate and facilitate cross-divisional business improvement efforts to improve and support customer service and staff efficiency and effectiveness.
- This position may also be called upon to lead project management related to other initiatives within the department and/or city.



Photo: Visit Saint Paul



Minimum Qualifications

Eight years of experience in program administration, at least two years of which must have been in a responsible administrative capacity; overall administrative responsibility for a program, including selection, hiring, or supervisory responsibilities.

Degrees in a relevant field, including Public Administration, Education, Urban Planning, Information Systems, Management, Business Management, Social Work, Public Health or similar, may be substituted for work experience as follows:

- Associate Degree — 2 years
- Bachelor's Degree — 4 years
- Master's or other Graduate-level degree — an additional 2 years

Compensation

The City of Saint Paul offers a generous compensation and benefits package. The salary range for this position is **\$78,748.80–\$103,480.00** annually. Starting salary is dependent upon experience and qualifications.

City Paid Benefits

- Health Insurance
- Vacation/Holidays
- Sick Leave
- Life Insurance
- Subsidized Metro Bus Pass
- Deferred Compensation
- Retirement Program

Optional Benefits

- Dental
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Disability Insurance
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance
- Long Term Care Insurance

The Process

To be notified when this job is posted, email Caroline Merkl at: caroline.merkl@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Or look out for this posting at www.stpaul.gov/jobs



HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

May 31, 2024

37

Total Active Sites

194

Total Occupants

167

Total Tents

154

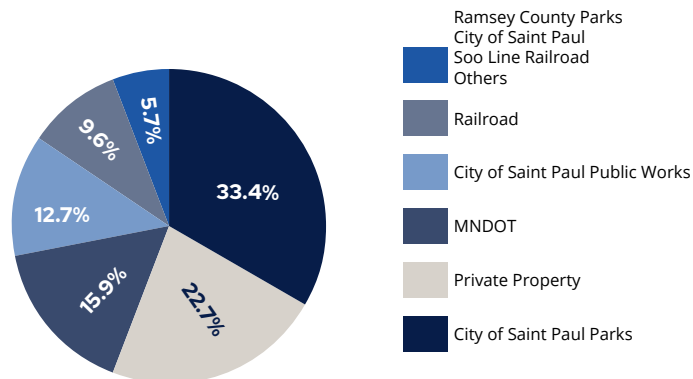
Total Male

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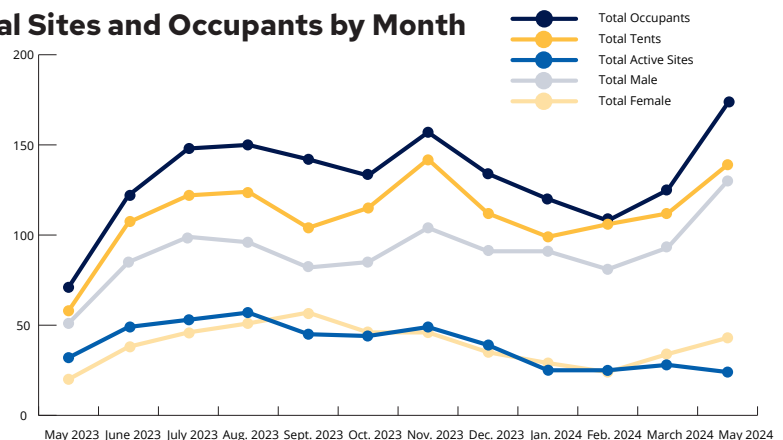
Total Female

City Data Summary

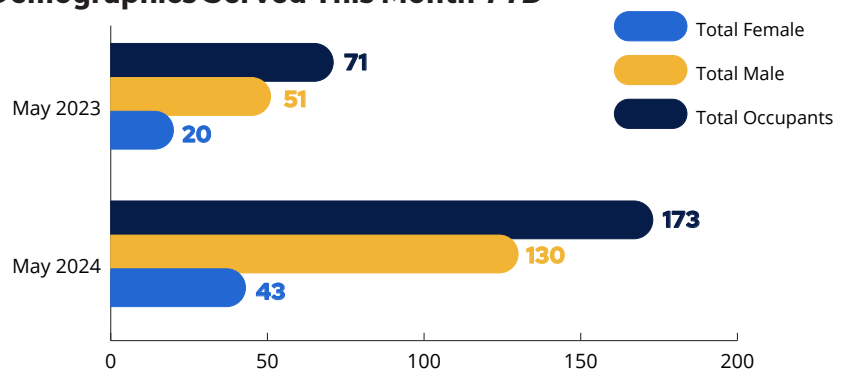
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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Spotlight: RS Eden's Ashland Apartments

Located in the Summit-University area of Saint Paul, RS Eden's Ashland Apartments have been a valuable addition to the supportive housing options offered to our unsheltered neighbors and a testament to how partnering effective outreach with timely housing solutions can reap wonderful results.

We especially want to highlight RS Eden and their team, whose collaborative work with HART recently resulted in securing housing for five long-term unsheltered individuals in the span of one month. One of which was 'Wes' (pictured to the right), who has been battling homelessness since 2017. When housed, he told outreach that he was nervous about the opportunity but "I think I'll be okay".

The team's dedication and efficiency have played a pivotal role in addressing homelessness in our city. Their work underscores RS Eden's commitment to providing housing, support, and resources for individuals seeking stability and a pathway to a brighter future.



Ashland Apartments' beautiful building located in the Summit-University area



Wes, a new resident of Ashland Apartments



RS Eden's wonderful Ashland Team



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

June 7, 2024

28

Total Active Sites

177

Total Occupants

160

Total Tents

139

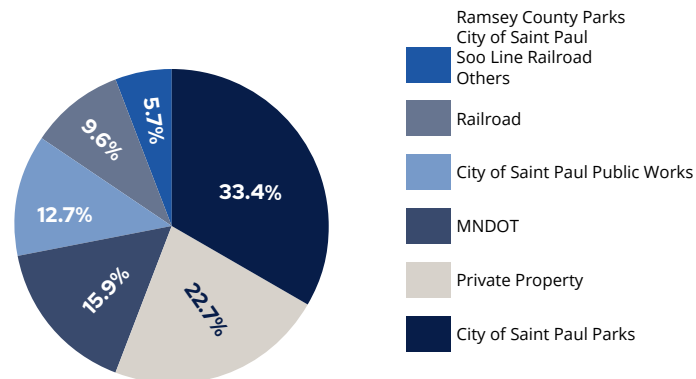
Total Male

42

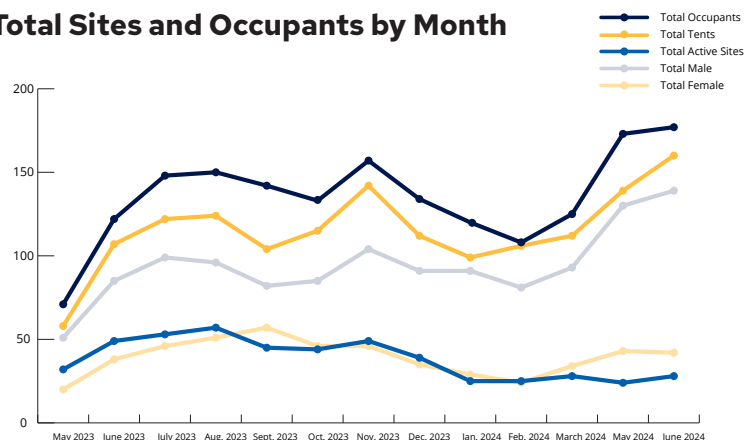
Total Female

City Data Summary

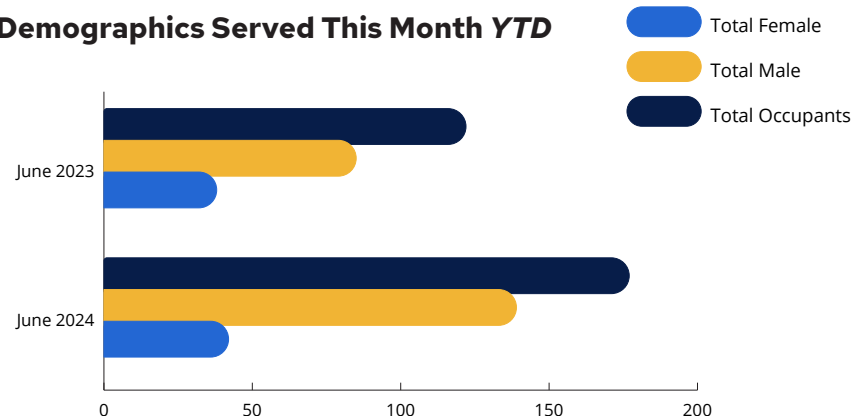
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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A Reasonable Request

By Director Angie Wiese

As you might imagine, we at the Department of Safety & Inspections receive a fair share of thoughts and ideas from our customers regarding how we perform and show up in the community. It's not all bad — many people rely on our services to maintain habitable living conditions and to feel safe in the spaces where they choose to spend their time. Everything from rodent infestations to elevators inaccessible to the wheelchair-bound, they frequently tell our team about the important impact they made and that the outcome would not have been as successful without our intervention. I keep a "kudos" folder in my email inbox expressly to save these moments.

Our unsheltered homeless work is akin to riding a roller coaster that never ends. We have fantastic successes like housing someone who has been outside for more than a decade, connecting people with the treatment they seek, reconnecting people with their network of loved ones, or earning someone's trust. Something as simple as performing a housing assessment is a win because it means they can now access housing. These are the best parts of the roller coaster — you feel amazing and can see the results of your efforts.

One of our team members was handed a 3-page hand-written note from one of our unsheltered neighbors the other day. He has been homeless since 2016 and now finds himself with several dozen people in Saint Paul. He doesn't rant or complain. His ask is simple: "please provide showers, bathrooms with sinks, laundry services, and a space to "repair all of the clothing that I have."

It's easy to say this request is outlandish... but is it? I took a hot shower today... I used the restroom in a safe, hygienic manner several times today. I washed bed sheets last night (thank you, pre-menopause night sweats). Over the weekend I mended several items for my family because I like to, not because it is the only clothes we own. I did not think about these as being luxuries. They are not outlandish expectations...

Applying for jobs, filling out rental applications, signing up for insurance, figuring out how and where to pay what bills when — it's exhausting. Now imagine doing so with little to no capital, sleep, a recent balanced meal or shower, or clean and dry clothes.

Our neighbor concludes his letter with one more request — provide enough housing "to accommodate the minimal census count of each neighborhood of homeless and poverty stricken people."

We are committed to all of our neighbors — sheltered and unsheltered alike. Every day we will continue to establish new partnerships, think creatively, use available funding effectively, and break down barriers to achieve our goals. I love the short wins, but we are here for the long game.

All we can do is our best — every day.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

July 9, 2024

22

Total Active Sites

180

Total Occupants

166

Total Tents

138

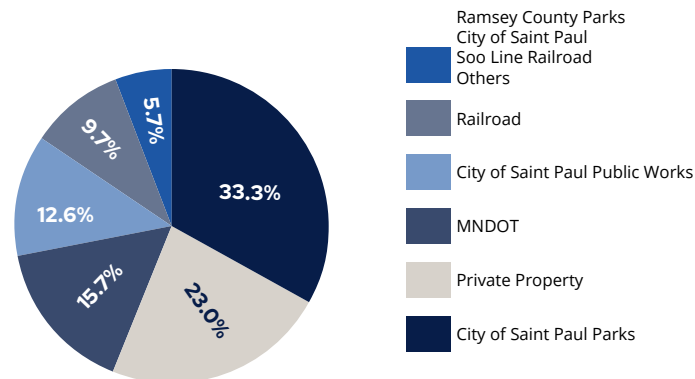
Total Male

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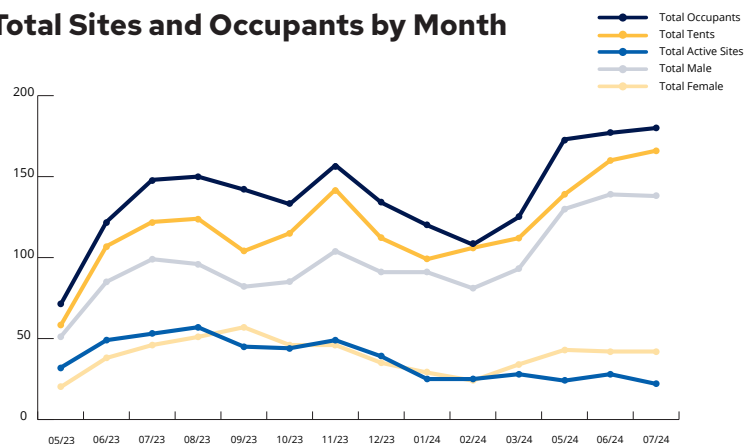
Total Female

City Data Summary

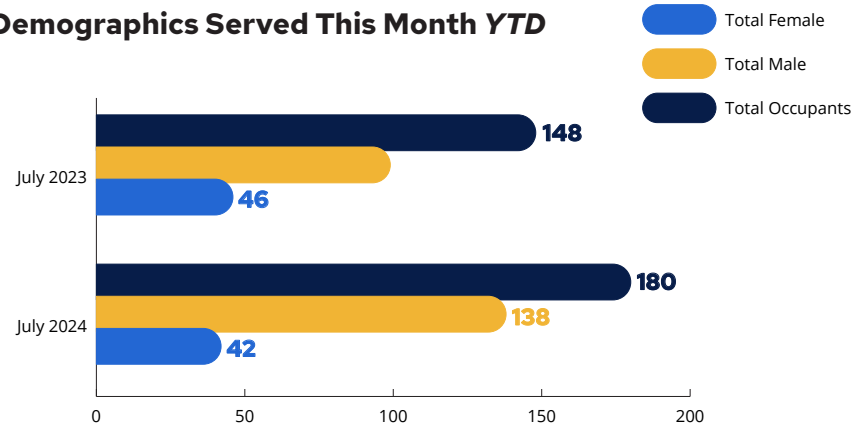
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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Congratulations, Kahari!



It is our great pleasure to announce the promotion of Kahari Smith-Brewer to the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) Coordinator! Kahari assumed his new role on Monday, July 1st.

Kahari has worked at DSI as a HART outreach advocate for a year. Prior to working here, he spent five years as a housing coordinator for a local community engagement and outreach non-profit, as well as several years as a marketing representative and analyst.

Kahari has a master's degree in business administration from the University of St Thomas and a bachelor's in marketing and management information systems from Augsburg University.

Congratulations, Kahari!



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

July 30, 2024

32

Total Active Sites

202

Total Occupants

191

Total Tents

159

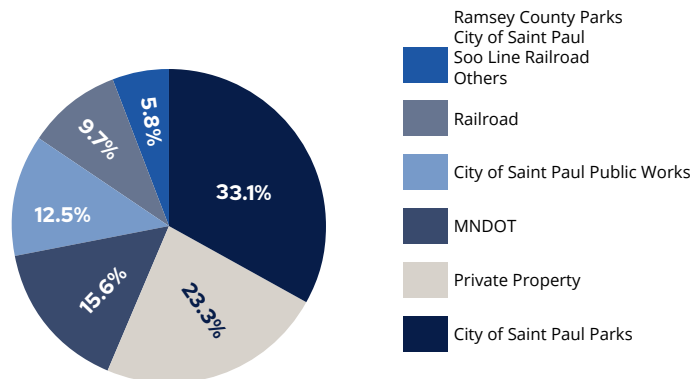
Total Male

42

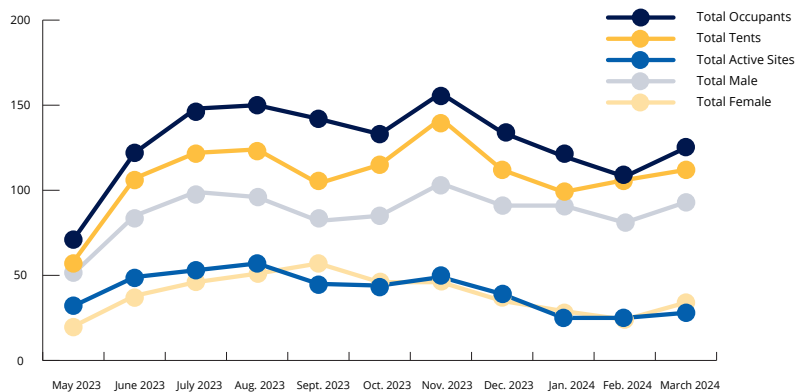
Total Female

City Data Summary

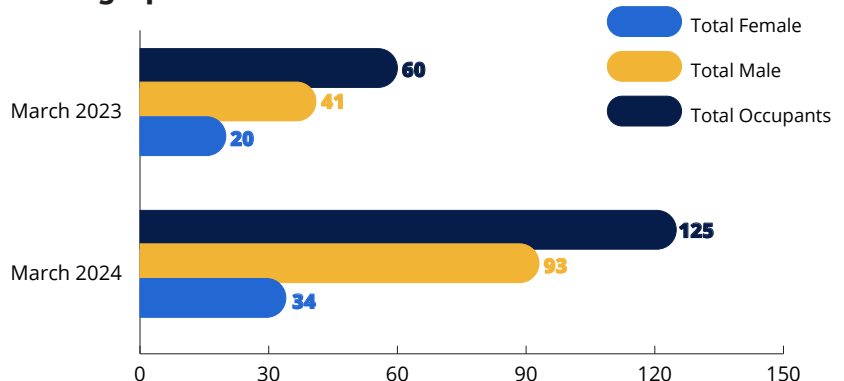
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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 sam.stoltz@ci.stpaul.mn.us



Exciting Opportunity: Unsheltered Outreach Counselor Position Available!

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness? Do you have a experience in community engagement and a strong desire to drive positive change?

As an Unsheltered Outreach Counselor with HART, we offer a dynamic work environment, opportunities for professional growth, and the chance to make a meaningful impact in our community.

You will be at the forefront of our mission to connect unsheltered individuals with vital resources and support. Your role will involve:

- **Building Relationships:** Establishing trust and rapport with individuals experiencing homelessness through compassionate and respectful interactions.
- **Resource Navigation:** Assisting clients in accessing essential services such as housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities.
- **Community Collaboration:** Partnering with local organizations, agencies, and volunteers to enhance the support network available to those in need.
- **Advocacy and Support:** Providing a voice for unsheltered individuals and a commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of all individuals.

Position Requirements:

Four years of experience in the areas of housing, housing advocacy, social services, or a closely related field.

*Two years of post-secondary education in Housing, Counseling, Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, or a closely related field may be substituted for up to two years of experience.

Application Deadline: 7/31/2024

If you're ready to take on this rewarding challenge and contribute to a crucial cause, we encourage you to apply! For more details and to submit your application, please visit [the online listing](#).

Together, we can bring hope and support where it's needed most.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

September 4, 2024

28

Total Active Sites

182

Total Occupants

170

Total Tents

142

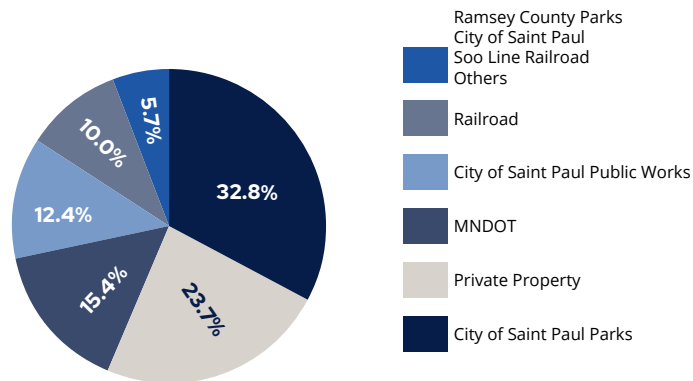
Total Male

43

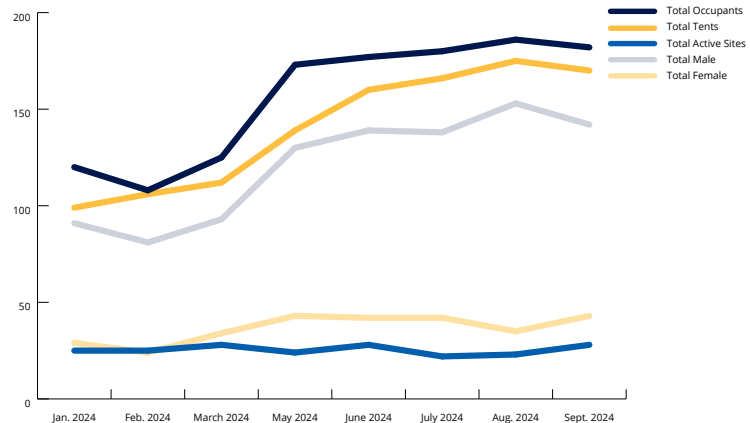
Total Female

City Data Summary

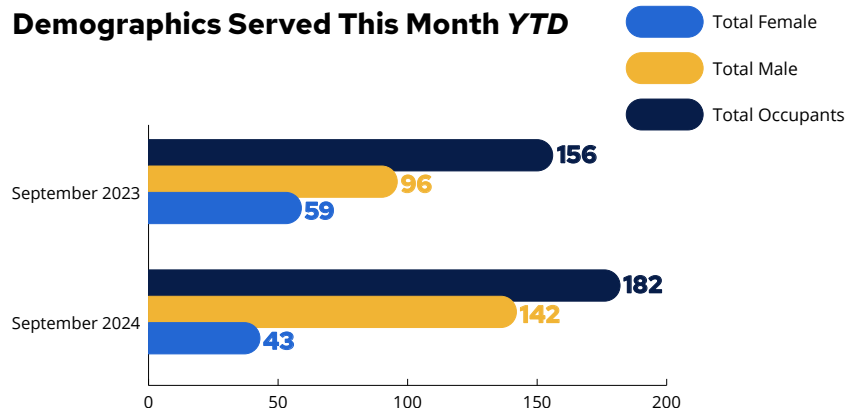
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



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A New Beginning

HART recently had the privilege of welcoming Mark D. to his new home at Catholic Charities St. Paul Residence, and his journey to this new chapter is nothing short of inspiring.

Mark navigated life on the streets for over a year but is now settling into a safe and supportive environment. Mark told us, "It's amazing what you guys [HART] do for people. I can't imagine they do this much in other cities". Hearing these words from Mark is a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

His first impressions of St. Paul Residence? Simply glowing. Catholic Charities St. Paul Residence offers a pathway to stability with access to support and a nurturing community. For Mark, it means a chance to rebuild his life. With a stable living situation, he can focus on his next hurdle of finding employment.

His journey from being unsheltered to having a place to call home is a testament to the collective efforts of our staff and housing providers. It's your unwavering support that helps us turn these hopeful beginnings into reality.



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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

September 26, 2024

27

Total Active Sites

203

Total Occupants

180

Total Tents

153

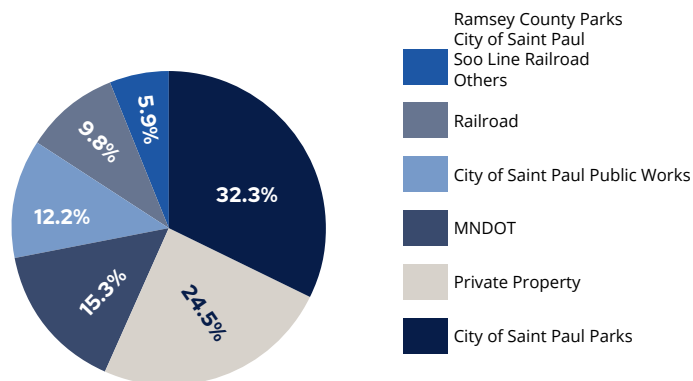
Total Male

47

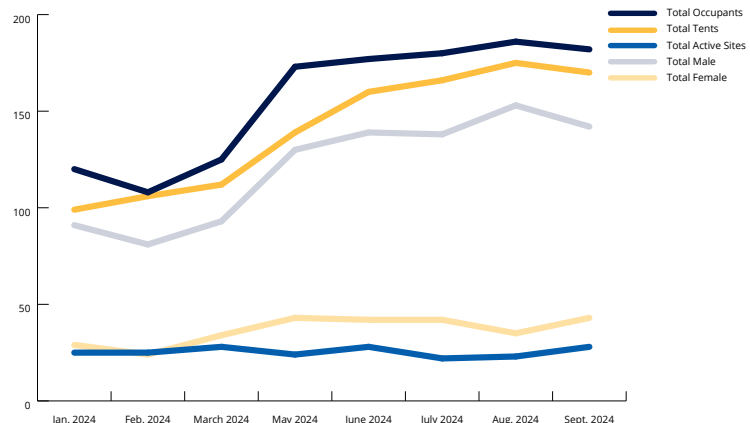
Total Female

City Data Summary

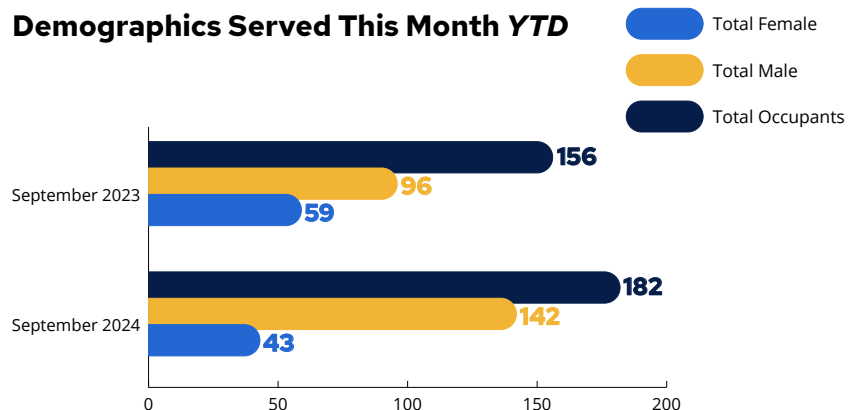
Property Owner Distribution



Total Sites and Occupants by Month



Demographics Served This Month YTD



HART Contact Information

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Brian Ganzel, DSI Inspector III, HART
James Hoffman, DSI Inspector III, HART

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Streamlining Garbage Collection Promotes Cleaner, Safer Spaces

In our ongoing efforts to promote safety and cleanliness, we have installed new garbage receptacles at several managed sites and encampments across the city. These receptacles are strategically placed to ensure accessibility for those living in and around these areas. By making waste disposal easier, we hope to encourage responsible practices that contribute to a cleaner environment. Each receptacle is designed to accommodate a variety of waste types, helping to keep these sites organized and free from clutter.

Why This Matters

Garbage fires have been a persistent issue in unsheltered camps, particularly during colder months. These fires can quickly escalate and pose significant risks to the individuals living in these areas, the surrounding community, and first responders alike. By providing accessible garbage receptacles, we aim to reduce the likelihood of these dangerous situations and promote a healthier environment.

A Cleaner, Safer Space

The new receptacles will improve our weekly clean-up efforts — by ensuring that residents have a safe and convenient way to manage their garbage, the cleaning process is less invasive and more respectful of the individuals living in these camps. Our teams can now work more efficiently, as residents have a designated place to dispose of their waste. This proactive approach empowers residents to maintain the cleanliness of the sites.

Our goal is to create a space that fosters dignity while addressing the community's cleanliness and safety needs. For someone who is already struggling to survive every day, having a specific place to dispose of garbage means one less thing to worry about.

By actively working to improve these spaces, we hope to build a stronger sense of community and enhance the overall quality of life for our unsheltered residents.



SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

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HART Weekly Update

Homeless Assistance Response Team

October 24, 2024

30

Total Active Sites

213

Total Occupants

179

Total Tents

163

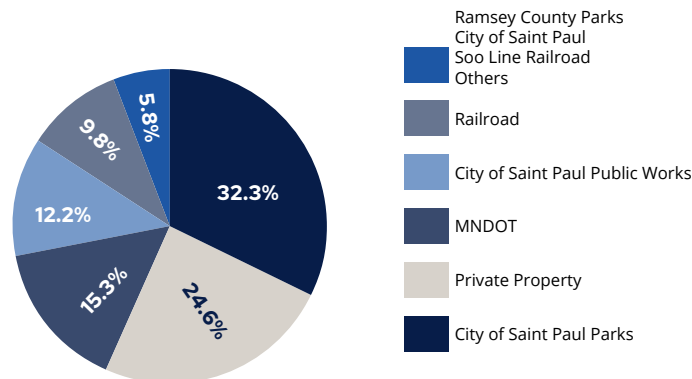
Total Male

48

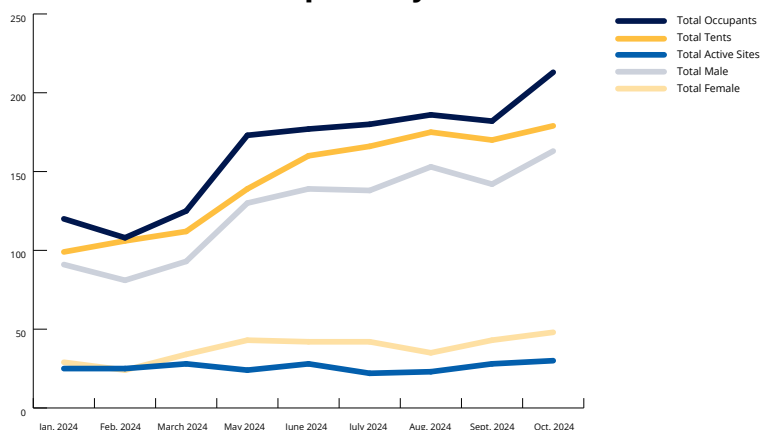
Total Female

City Data Summary

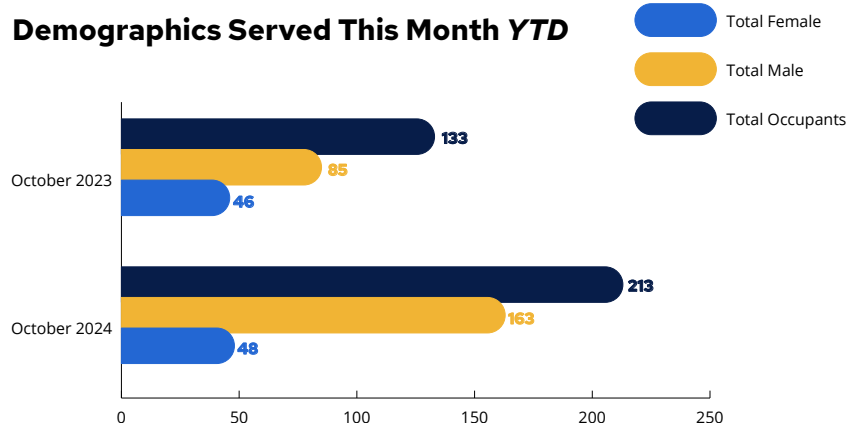
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Fire Safety in Cold Weather

As temperatures begin to drop, the HART is stepping up its efforts to ensure the safety of unsheltered individuals in our community. In response to the seasonal increase in fire risks, HART is taking a proactive approach to educate those living in unsheltered conditions.

Understanding the Risk

With the onset of colder weather, many individuals resort to makeshift heating methods that pose serious fire hazards. Our team is committed to reaching out to those living in encampments and other unsheltered sites to discuss essential fire safety tips and best practices.

Community Engagement

With the aid of the St. Paul Fire Department, HART staff has visited the unsheltered community to engage with individuals and share important safety guidelines, such as:

- Safe Heating Practices: Emphasizing the use of safe heating devices and proper ventilation to prevent uncontrolled fires.
- Emergency Preparedness: Encouraging the creation of emergency plans, including how to evacuate quickly and safely in the event of a fire.

Building Trust and Relationships

Building trust within the community is crucial. The outreach initiative is not only about sharing information but also about fostering relationships. Team members listen to the concerns of the unsheltered community, provide a compassionate ear, and encourage dialogue around fire safety and general wellbeing.

Looking Ahead

As we move through fall and deeper into winter, HART will continue its outreach efforts, collaborating with local fire departments and other organizations to enhance fire safety resources. Our goal is to create a safer environment for everyone, ensuring that no one is left vulnerable as temperatures drop.

For more information on HART's fire safety outreach or to find ways to support our initiatives, please visit our website or contact us directly. Together, we can help keep our community safe this winter.

Stay warm, stay safe, and look out for one another.



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