

2023 Parramatta Homelessness Street Count Results



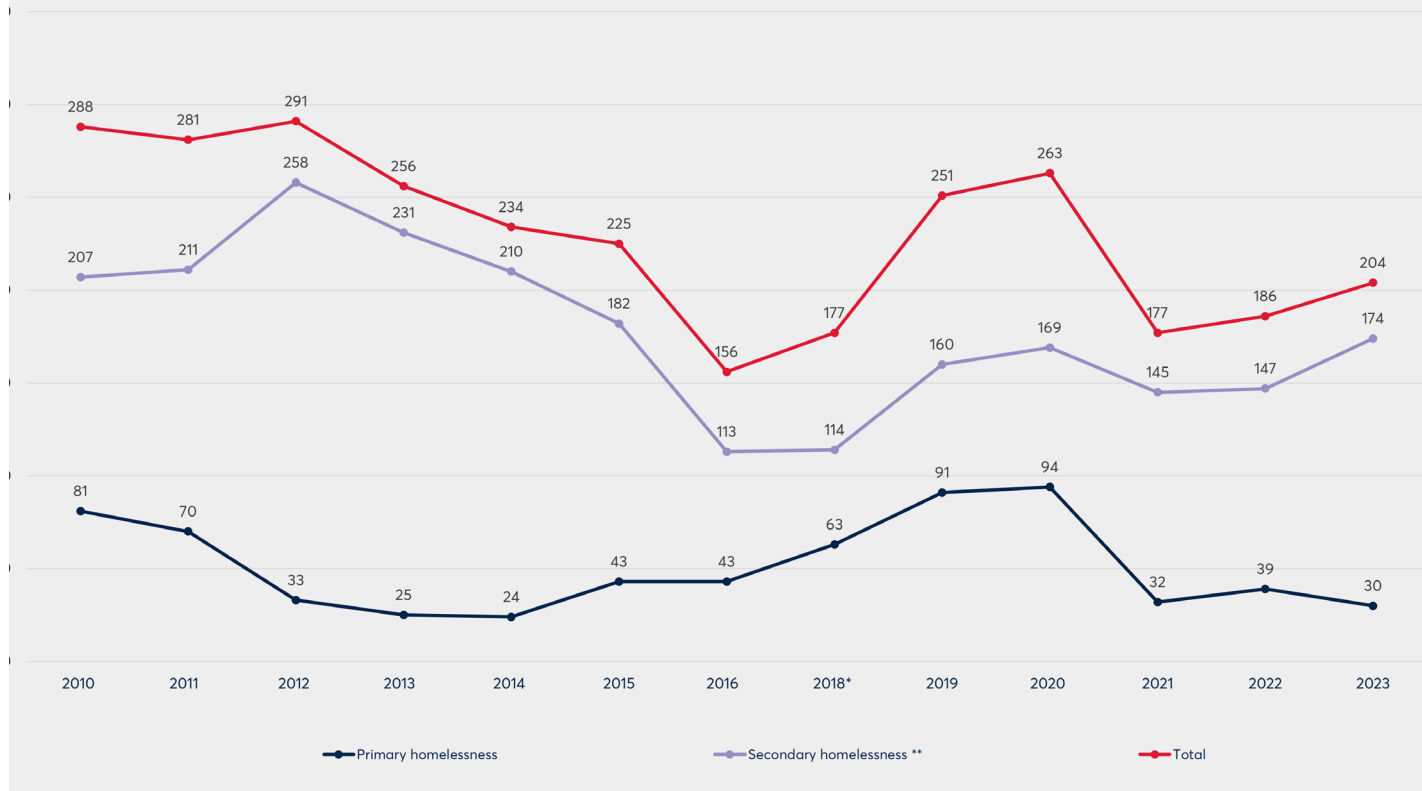
Overview

City of Parramatta Council conducted the 13th annual Parramatta Homelessness Street Count on the night of Monday 20th of February into the early hours of Tuesday 21st February 2023. The Street Count was conducted by Council staff, Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) staff, and local homelessness experts, who covered the Parramatta CBD and the CBD fringes by car and foot.

In 2023, Council identified a total of 204 people experiencing homelessness. The Street Count identified 30 people experiencing primary homelessness (people sleeping rough) compared to 39 in 2022. On the same night, secondary homelessness (people sleeping in crisis and temporary accommodation) totalled 174 people, compared to 147 in 2022. Secondary homelessness data was provided by DCJ Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) providers, Parramatta Women's Shelter, Uniting NSW.ACT, and Westmead and Cumberland hospitals.

Data collected between 2010 and 2023 suggests that the number of people experiencing homelessness in Parramatta has declined over the period. However, there has been a slight increase between 2021 to 2023.

Parramatta Homelessness Street Count Results 2010 - 2023



* Council amalgamations occurred in May 2016 and as a result, LGA boundaries changed. Granville Town Centre is no longer within City of Parramatta LGA. The Count was not performed in 2017 and the 2018 Street Count does not include parts of Granville located in Cumberland Council. These were areas previously identified with numbers of persons experiencing homelessness.

** Secondary count numbers do not include transitional housing and may not be exact.

Observations

The number of people sleeping rough in City of Parramatta has remained relatively stable since 2021. This could be attributed to a variety of factors, including:

Improved effectiveness of local response to people at risk of or are experiencing homelessness through:

- Introduction of active local housing and assertive outreach services.
- A more flexible, agile response to homelessness adopted in the local community to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Renewed NSW Government support for the housing first approach (Together Home program).
- More effective collaboration between service providers, state government departments, and local government.

Whilst the number of people sleeping rough has remained relatively stable, there has been an 18% increase in the number of people sleeping in temporary and crisis accommodation since 2022. This increase could be attributed to a variety of factors, including:

A combination of housing, cost of living, and systemic pressures, such as:

- More people at risk of homelessness have been approached for temporary accommodation, transitional housing, and other housing types that support people out of primary homelessness.
- Less people are coming out of temporary accommodation, transitional housing, and other housing types that support people out of primary homelessness.
- People experiencing secondary homelessness are not able to sustain private rental tenancies, which is exacerbated by increasing cost of living pressures.
- People experiencing secondary homelessness are not able to obtain social housing due to longstanding wait times, exacerbated by a lack of suitable affordable housing options.

City of Parramatta continues to work in partnership to advocate for and support the local homelessness sector and to improve the wellbeing of all our residents.

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