

# FY2023

## Homelessness Summary Brief

Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties

Prepared by The Homeless Alliance of Western New York



## 2023 Homelessness Summary Brief

Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties

### Introduction

*Homelessness is one of the most difficult experiences a person can endure. This brief provides detailed information about the people in Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties who are/were experiencing homelessness as well as the reasons they lost their housing.*

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The Homeless Alliance of Western New York (HAWNY) leads efforts to reduce homelessness in Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties. As the region's designated Continuum of Care (CoC), we collect vital data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which tracks both government-funded and community-based homelessness services such as shelters, outreach programs, and housing initiatives.

Homelessness is rising across the entire CoC, with GOW Counties experiencing a moderate increase. In fiscal year 2023, 710 people in GOW Counties lost their housing, a 12.9% increase from the previous year, which included an 8.0% rise in Youth Homelessness and a 17.9% increase in clients 62 years and over. Despite the growing numbers, GOW saw a 6.7% decrease in Veteran Homelessness and an impressive 73.7% decrease in Chronic Homelessness. In the upcoming years, our efforts to understand and address homelessness will continue, as we work toward securing more affordable and sustainable housing for everyone in our community.

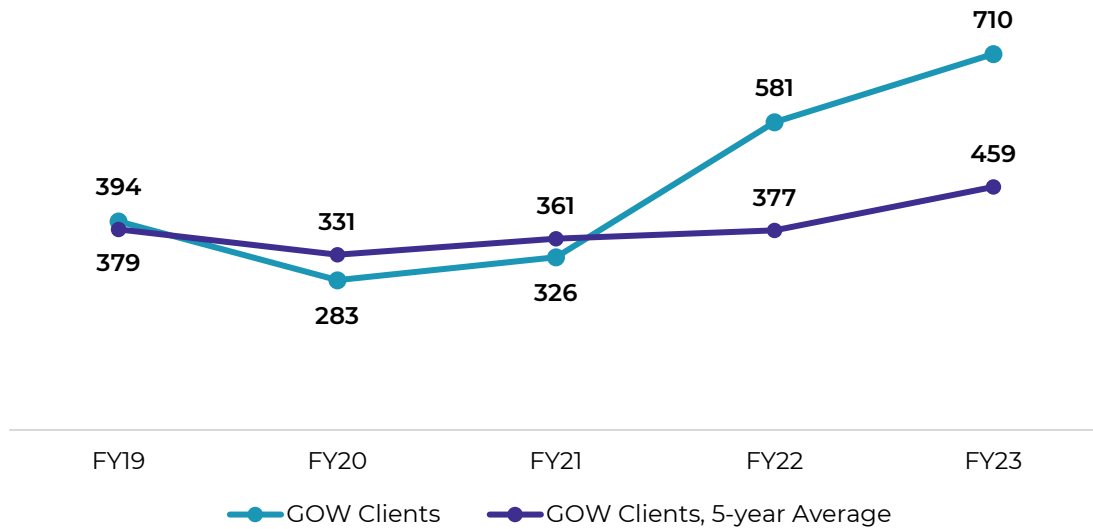
The data on clients experiencing homelessness was downloaded from HMIS on November 11, 2023, and includes all data from Transitional Housing, Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach, and Supportive Services Only projects that utilize HMIS. FY2023 is October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023. Data about community demographics and rental costs come from the American Community Survey, 2018-2022 Five Year Estimates.

### Demographics

#### Who experienced homelessness?

- 83.6% of households who experienced homelessness were one-person households.
- 38.6% of people who experienced homelessness were aged 25-44.
- People who experience a disability are overrepresented in the homeless population.

**Figure 1: Number of Clients Served by NY-508 Over Time**  
FY2019-FY2023, GOW Counties



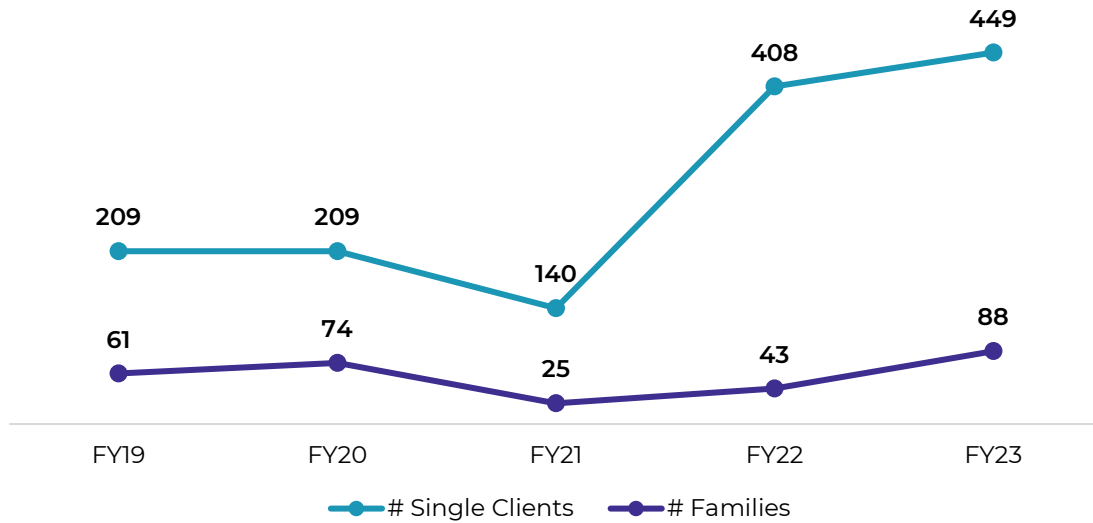
Note: FY2020 is the first year that GOW fully utilized HMIS, the annual estimated number of clients was used for the years prior to FY2020.

**Table 1: Household Type Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508**  
FY2023, GOW Counties

Household Type	Count of Households	% of Households
<b>Single Clients</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>83.6%</b>
<b>Families</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
Couple with No Children	8	1.5%
Female Single Parent	54	10.1%
Male Single Parent	6	1.1%
Other	5	0.9%
Two Parent Family	15	2.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: 1 single client = 1 household

**Figure 2: Household Type Served by NY-508 Over Time**  
FY2019-FY2023, GOW Counties

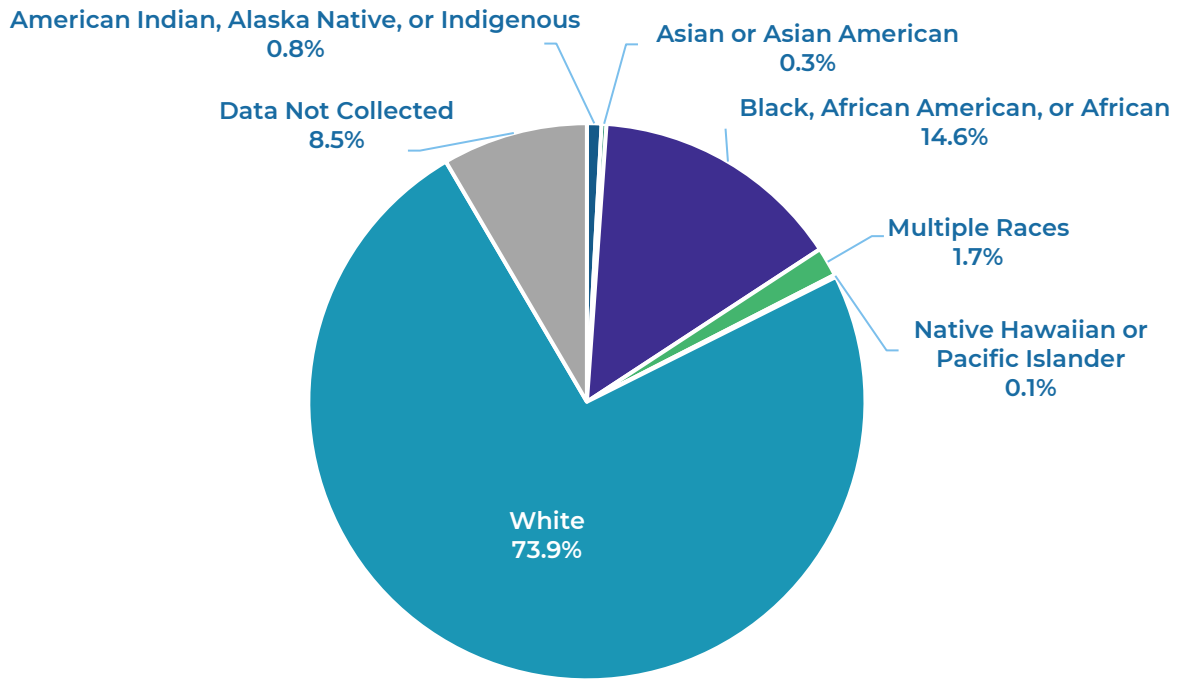


Note: In FY2022 only households with at least one adult and one child were considered Families.

**Table 2: Age Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508**  
FY2023, GOW Counties

Age	Count of Clients	% of Clients
<5	58	8.2%
5-12	54	7.6%
13-17	26	3.7%
<b>All Youth (under 18)</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
18-24	86	12.1%
25-34	130	18.3%
35-44	144	20.3%
45-54	92	13.0%
55-61	51	7.2%
62+	46	6.5%
<b>All Adults (18 and Older)</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>77.3%</b>
Data Not Collected	23	3.2%

**Figure 3: Race Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508  
FY2023, GOW Counties**

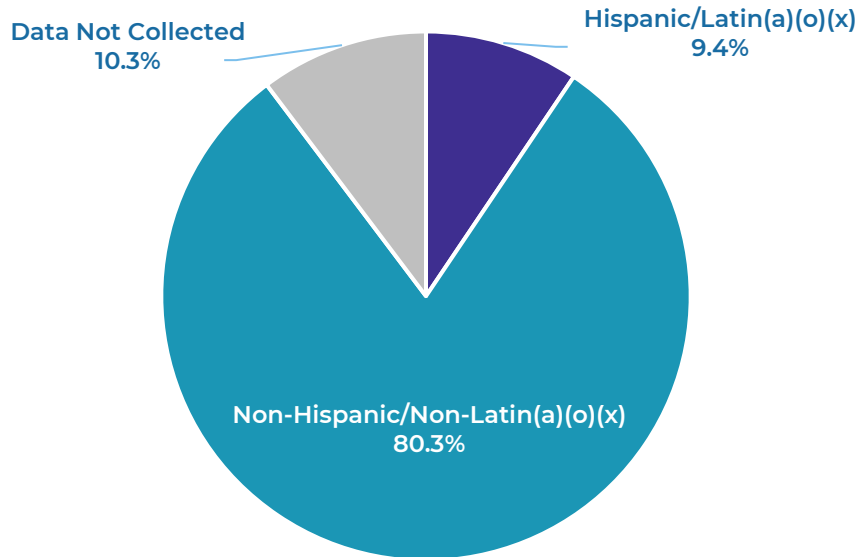


**Table 3: Comparison of Race Distribution between People Who Experienced Homelessness and All Residents  
FY2023, GOW Counties**

Race	% of People Experiencing Homelessness	% of All Residents of GOW Counties
Asian or Asian American	0.3%	0.7%
Black, African American, or African	16.0%	3.5%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	0.9%	0.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.0%
White	80.8%	89.6%
Other Race	N/A	1.9%
Multiple Races	1.8%	4.1%

*Note: Clients whose Race was not known are excluded from the People Who Experienced Homelessness calculation. (n=650)*

**Figure 4: Ethnicity Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508  
FY2023, GOW Counties**

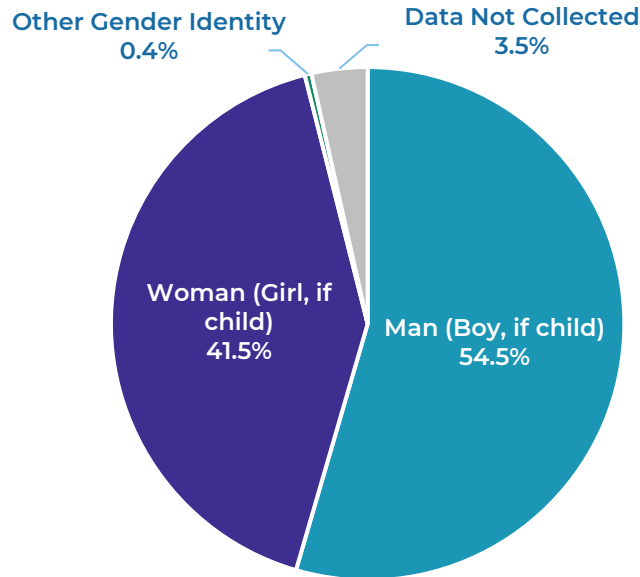


**Table 4: Comparison of Ethnicity Distribution between People Who Experienced Homelessness and All Residents  
FY2023, GOW Counties**

Ethnicity	% of People Experiencing Homelessness	% of All Residents of GOW Counties
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	10.5%	4.0%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)	89.5%	96.0%

*Note: Clients whose Ethnicity was not known are excluded from the People Who Experienced Homelessness calculation. (n=637)*

**Figure 5: Gender Identity Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508  
FY2023, GOW Counties**



**Table 5: Comparison of Gender Identity Distribution between People Who Experienced Homelessness and All Residents  
FY2023, GOW Counties**

Gender Identity	% of People Experiencing Homelessness	% of All Residents of GOW Counties
<b>Man (Boy, if child)</b>	56.5%	51.3%
<b>Woman (Girl, if child)</b>	43.1%	48.7%
<b>Other Gender Identity</b>	0.4%	N/A

*Note: Clients whose Gender Identity was not known are excluded from the People Who Experienced Homelessness calculation. (n=685)*

**Table 6: Comparison of Disability Status Distribution between People Who Experienced Homelessness and All Residents**  
FY2023, GOW Counties

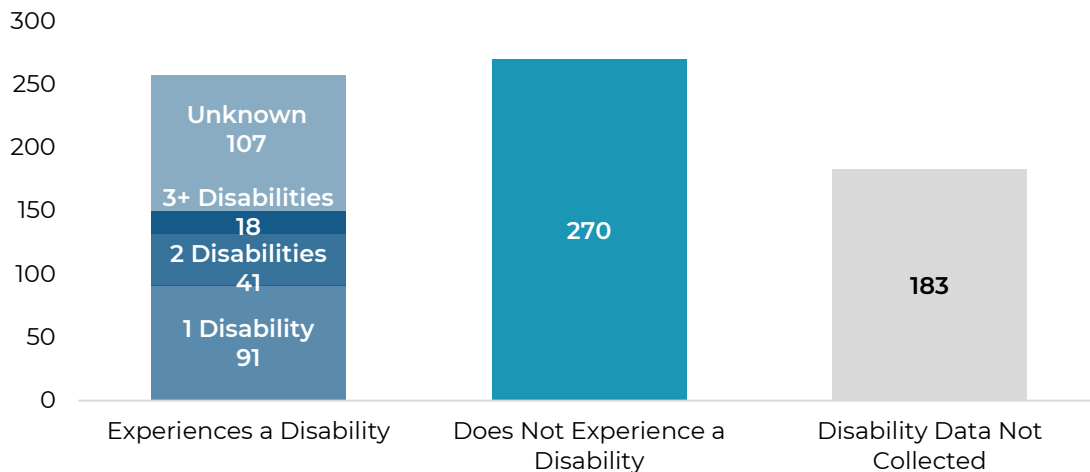
	% of People Experiencing Homelessness	% of All Residents of GOW Counties
Experience a Disability	36.2%	14.8%

**Table 7: Disability Type Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508**  
FY2023, GOW Counties

Disability Type	Count of Clients	% of Clients w 1+ Disability	% of All Clients
Mental Health Disorder	98	38.1%	13.8%
Alcohol Use Disorder	7	2.7%	1.0%
Drug Use Disorder	13	5.1%	1.8%
Both Alcohol and Drug Use Disorder	12	4.7%	1.7%
Chronic Health Condition	20	7.8%	2.8%
HIV/AIDS	1	0.4%	0.1%
Developmental Disability	12	4.7%	1.7%
Physical Disability	61	23.7%	8.6%

*Note: Number of clients who experienced one or more disabilities is 257. Columns may not sum to 100% as clients may experience multiple disability types or not experience any disability.*

**Figure 6: Number of Disabilities Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508**  
FY2023, GOW Counties





### Special Populations

**What groups of people have unique needs?** Some individuals experiencing homelessness are more likely to have more severe service needs and are referred to as “Special Populations.” In NY-508 there are four main Special Populations: chronically homeless, survivors of domestic violence, veterans, and youth\*. Clients who meet the criteria for one or more of these special populations have access to resources designed specifically for their needs. Due to the extremely sensitive nature of information on clients who are youths or survivors of domestic violence limited data is available for these special populations.

*\*See Table 14 in the Appendix for definitions*

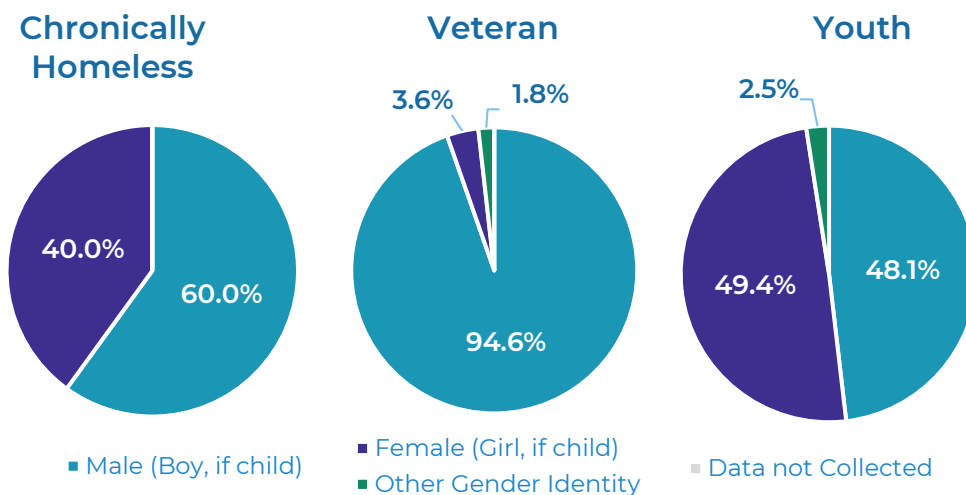
**Table 8: Special Populations Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508 FY2023, GOW Counties**

Special Population	Count of Clients	% of Clients
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>	5	0.7%
<b>Survivor of Domestic Violence</b>	48	6.8%
<b>Veteran</b>	56	7.9%
<b>Youth</b>	81	11.4%

*Note: Columns may not sum to 100% as clients may meet criteria for multiple Special Populations or not meet criteria for any Special Population.*

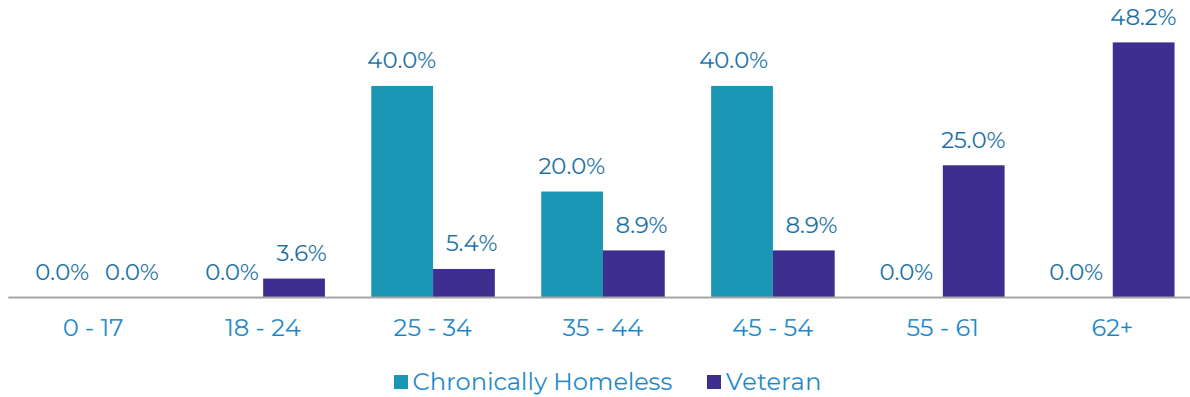
**Figure 7: Gender Distribution Among Special Population Clients Served by NY-508**

FY2023, GOW Counties



**Figure 8: Age Distribution Among Special Population Clients Served by NY-508**

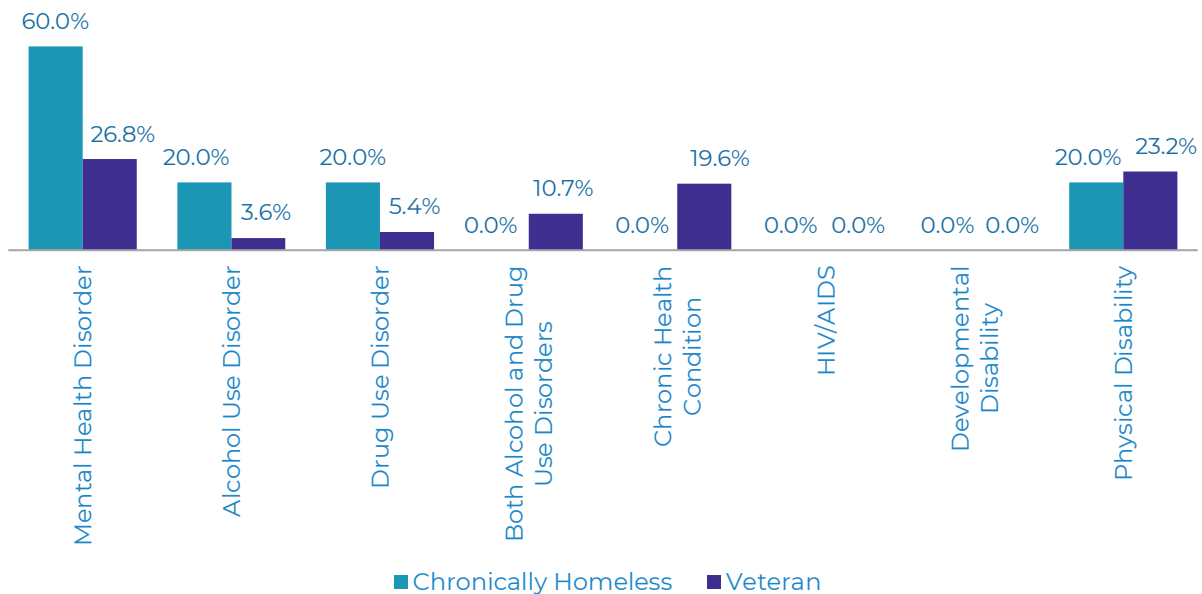
FY2023, GOW Counties



Note: The denominators for the percentage calculations are the number of Chronically Homeless (n=5) and the number of Veterans (n=56).

**Figure 9: Disability Type Distribution Among Special Population Clients Served by NY-508**

FY2023, GOW Counties



Note: The denominators for the percentage calculations are the number of Chronically Homeless (n=5) and the number of Veterans (n=56).



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### Prior Residence

#### Where were people living before losing their housing?

- 24.5% of clients reported that their last permanent address was in the Warsaw or Batavia area.
- The proportion of clients who had been living in a place not meant for habitation decreased from 20.1% to 14.0% between FY2022 and FY2023.
- The proportion of clients who had been living in a jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility decreased from 12.4% to 9.7% between FY2022 and FY2023.

**Table 9: Top Six Zip Codes for the Last Permanent Residence Among Clients Served by NY-508 FY2023, GOW Counties**

Zip Code of Last Permanent Address	% of Clients	Zip Code of Last Permanent Address	% of Clients
14569	12.6%	14103	8.0%
14020	11.9%	14530	6.0%
14411	9.3%	71743	5.3%

*Note: Clients whose Zip Code of Last Permanent Address was not known are excluded from the calculation (n=151). The Zip Code of Last Permanent Address is provided by the Head of Household upon their first entry into a NY-508 Service Provider during FY2023.*

**Table 10: Top Ten Previous Residence Types Among Clients Served by NY-508 FY2023, GOW Counties**

Residence Prior to Project Entry	Count of Clients	% of Clients
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher	170	24.6%
Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house	112	16.2%
Place not meant for habitation	97	14.0%
Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment or house	90	13.0%
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	67	9.7%
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	54	7.8%
Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	33	4.8%
Substance use treatment facility or detox center	19	2.8%
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	14	2.0%
Transitional housing for homeless persons	11	1.6%

*Note: Clients whose Prior Residence Type was not known are excluded from the calculation. (n=691). The Prior Residence Type is provided by the Head of Household upon their first entry into a NY-508 Service Provider during FY2023.*



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### Causes

#### Why did people experience homelessness?

- The proportion of clients who reported that an eviction by the primary tenant is the primary reason they lost their housing increased from 10.2% to 17.8% between FY2022 and FY2023.
- The proportion of clients who reported that a non-DV related household dispute is the primary reason they lost their housing decreased from 19.5% to 7.7% between FY2022 and FY2023.
- More than 43% of residents of GOW Counties who rent their residence pay more than 30% of their income on rent alone.

**Table 11: Top Ten Primary Reason for Homelessness Clients Served by NY-508 FY2023, GOW Counties**

Primary Reason for Homelessness	Count of Clients	% of Clients
Release from Institution	34	20.1%
Eviction by primary tenant	30	17.8%
Asked to leave by landlord	16	9.5%
Court eviction by landlord	14	8.3%
Household Disputes (not DV)	13	7.7%
Relocation from out of the NY-508 CoC Area	9	5.3%
Domestic Violence (DV)	8	4.7%
Fire or Natural Disaster	8	4.7%
Substance Use	8	4.7%
Problems with building	7	4.1%

*Note: Clients whose Primary Reason for Homelessness was not known are excluded from the calculation. (n=169). The Primary Reason for Homelessness is provided by the Head of Household upon their first entry into the Homelessness Alleviation System during FY2023.*

**Table 12: Percent of Income Towards Rent Distribution Among Residents 2018-2022 Average**

Percent of Income Towards Rent	Genesee County	Orleans County	Wyoming County
Less than 15.0 percent	14.7%	17.3%	20.4%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	16.5%	10.4%	17.9%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	12.5%	17.9%	8.1%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	11.0%	11.3%	10.5%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	9.1%	3.8%	12.4%
35.0 percent or more	36.3%	39.4%	30.7%

*Note: Residents that the American Community Survey reported were unable to have their Percent of Income Towards Rent computed are excluded from the calculation.*



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## Exit Destination

**When people exit the system, where do they go?** In FY2023 the number of people experiencing homelessness increased from FY2022, but the number of supported housing beds and affordable housing units stayed relatively the same. As a result, clients remained in shelters for longer and fewer were able to find stable housing.

**Table 13: Residence Type Upon Exit Distribution Among Clients Served by NY-508 FY2023, GOW Counties**

Exit Destination Type*	Count of Leavers	% of Leavers
Permanent	205	37.5%
Temporary	65	11.9%
Institution	28	5.1%
Other/Unknown	248	45.4%

*Note: The denominator for the percent calculation is the number of clients who exited a NY-508 Service Provider during FY2023 (n=546).*

*\*See Table 15 in the Appendix for definitions*

## Acknowledgements

The Homeless Alliance of WNY facilitates strategic dialog to end homelessness in Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties. Our community is as effective as it is in assisting the members of our community who have lost their housing because there is a strong spirit of collaboration. This report would be impossible without the enthusiastic assistance of so many agencies in the area.

Of course, these agencies could not operate without the dedicated direct-service providers who give their time and labor to our community members when they are actively experiencing the challenges associated with losing their housing. These staff provide critical, immediate support and guidance for clients as they begin to navigate our homeless response system. Thank you for all that you do.

Thank you to all agencies participating in HMIS whose data is included in this report:

- Eagle Star Emergency Housing
- Genesee County Department of Social Services
- Orleans County Department of Social Services
- Wyoming County Department of Social Services

Thank you to all agencies who provided aggregate or de-identified client-level data to the Homeless Alliance for the NY-508 estimates:

- YWCA of Genesee County, Inc.



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### Appendix

**Client:** An individual who has or is currently experiencing homelessness and was or is receiving services from a NY-508 Service Provider.

**Continuum of Care (CoC):** A community with a unified plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency.

**NY-508:** The HUD designation for the Western New York CoC, the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls and Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming counties.

**Disability:** A diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness that is expected to be of long-continues and indefinite duration that substantially impairs the person’s ability to live independently.

**Emergency Shelter (ES):** ES are any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

**Household:** All the people who occupy, or will occupy, a housing unit. A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people, if any, who share, or will share, the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit is counted as a household.

**Leavers:** Clients who stopped receiving services from any NY-508 Service Provider during FY2023.

**Street Outreach (SO):** SO activities are designed to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and providing them with urgent, non-facility based care.

**Supportive Services Only (SSO):** SSO projects provide supportive services, such as conducting outreach to sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons and families and providing referrals to other housing or other necessary services to families and individuals experiencing homelessness. These projects do not provide housing or housing assistance.

**Transitional Housing (TH):** TH provides temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing.

**Table 14: Special Populations Definitions/Criteria**

Population	Definition/Criteria
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>	An individual with a disability who has been homeless for at least 12 consecutive months <b>or</b> has been homeless on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years and the combined time homeless equals at least 12 months.
<b>Survivor of Domestic Violence</b>	An individual who has previously or is currently experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking.
<b>Veteran</b>	An individual who has ever been on active duty in the armed forces of the United States.
<b>Youth</b>	An individual between the ages of 12 and 24 alone or in a household with no members over age 24.

*Note: Definitions/Criteria are summarized.*

**Table 15: Residence Type Upon Exit Definitions**

Exit Destination Type Specifics			
Permanent	Temporary	Institution	Other/Unknown
Owned by client (with or without subsidy)	Emergency shelter, hotel/motel paid with voucher	Foster care home or foster care group home	Client doesn't know
Permanent housing (other than RRH) for formerly homeless persons	Host Home (non-crisis)	Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	Client prefers not to answer
Rental by client (in public housing or with or without subsidy or voucher)	Hotel/motel without voucher	Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	Data not collected
Staying or living with family or friends (permanent tenure)	Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	Long-term care facility or nursing home	Deceased
	Safe Haven	Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	No exit interview completed
	Staying or living with family or friends (temporary tenure)	Substance use treatment facility or detox center	Other
	Transitional housing for homeless persons		