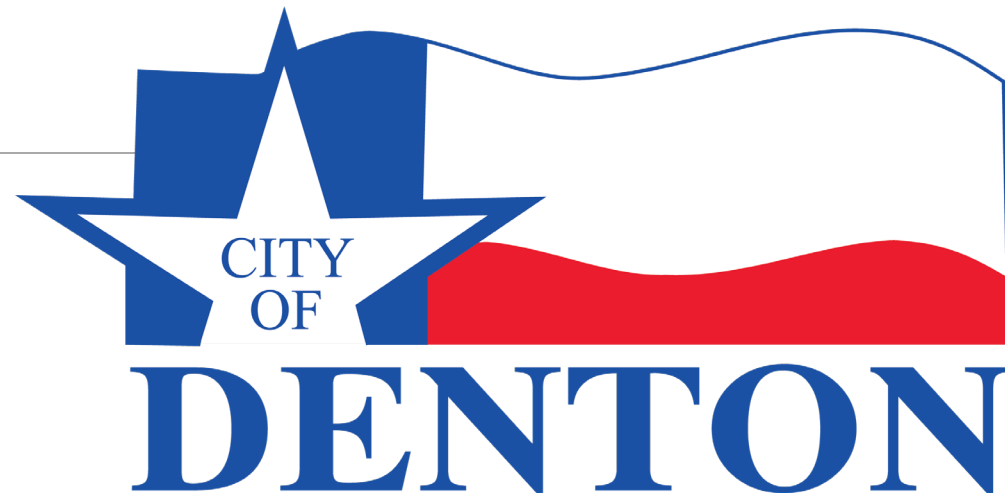


Homelessness Initiatives Update

June 2, 2026





Jesse Kent, Director of Community Services



Agenda

- Current state of homelessness
 - Services in Denton
 - Direct indicators: Point-in-Time Count, Housing Priority List, encampments
 - Indirect indicators: Community Survey, Public Safety (Fire & EMS, PD)
- City initiatives update
 - Last year recap
 - Audit update
 - Encampments and Street Outreach
 - Shelter updates

Denton County's Collective Approach to Homeless Services & Initiatives

SERVICE COMPONENT	PROVIDERS	PURPOSE	SERVICES
 <p>Prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salvation Army Our Daily Bread Giving Grace Interfaith Ministries 	Keep families housed; prevent evictions	Assistance with rent, and/or utilities; case management
 <p>Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving Grace Denton PD Outreach Team CIRT 	Connect people to shelter, housing, and other services	Obtain IDs; referrals to; shelter/housing; mental health/substance use services
 <p>Emergency Shelter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Daily Bread Salvation Army Giving Grace Denton County Friends of the Family 	Provide shelter; address basic needs, connect to housing	Shelter; meals, basic hygiene; case management
 <p>Housing Stability</p> <p>1: Short-Term 2: Medium-Term 3: Long-Term</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denton County Friends of the Family Our Daily Bread 	Transitional stay while locating permanent housing	Short term stays; case management
	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian Community Action Giving Grace 	Rapidly rehouse and reconnect to permanent housing	3 to 24 months of rental assistance
	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denton County MHMR Denton Housing Authority Giving Grace 	Ongoing assistance for vulnerable populations	Rental subsidy for low-income and people with disabilities

Current State of Homelessness

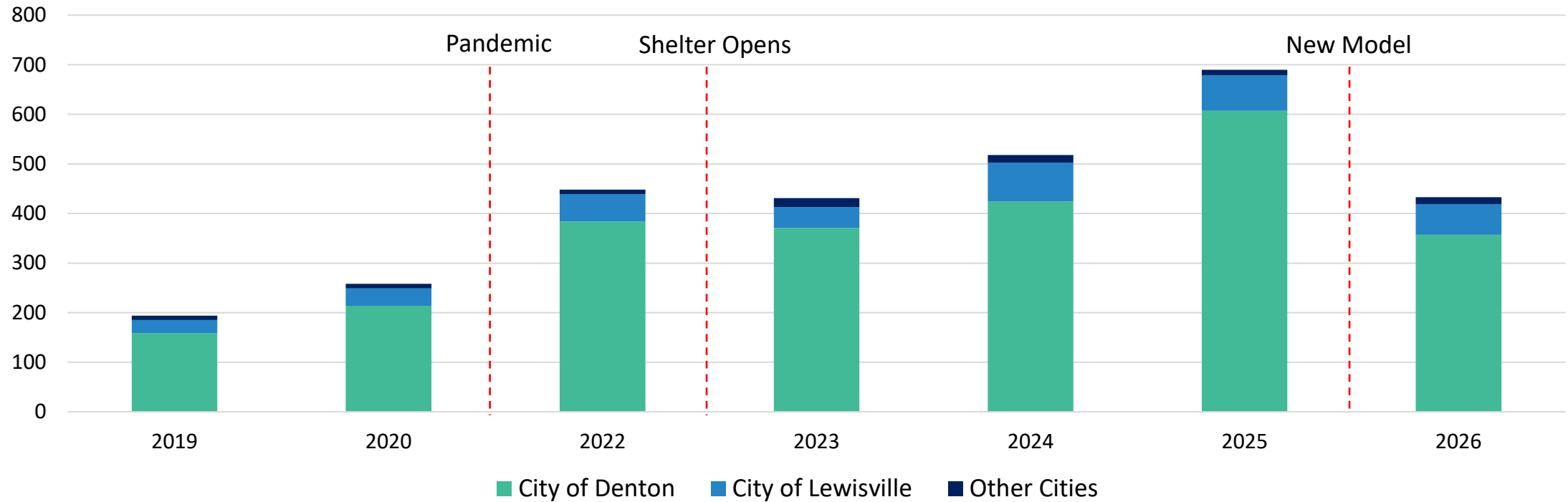
Direct Indicators:

- PIT Count: Annual Point-in-Time Count, an annual census of households experiencing homelessness, mandated by HUD
- HPL: Housing Priority List, households assessed by the Housing Crisis Response System for housing solutions, and used by programs to prioritize households for services
- Encampment trends

Indirect Indicators:

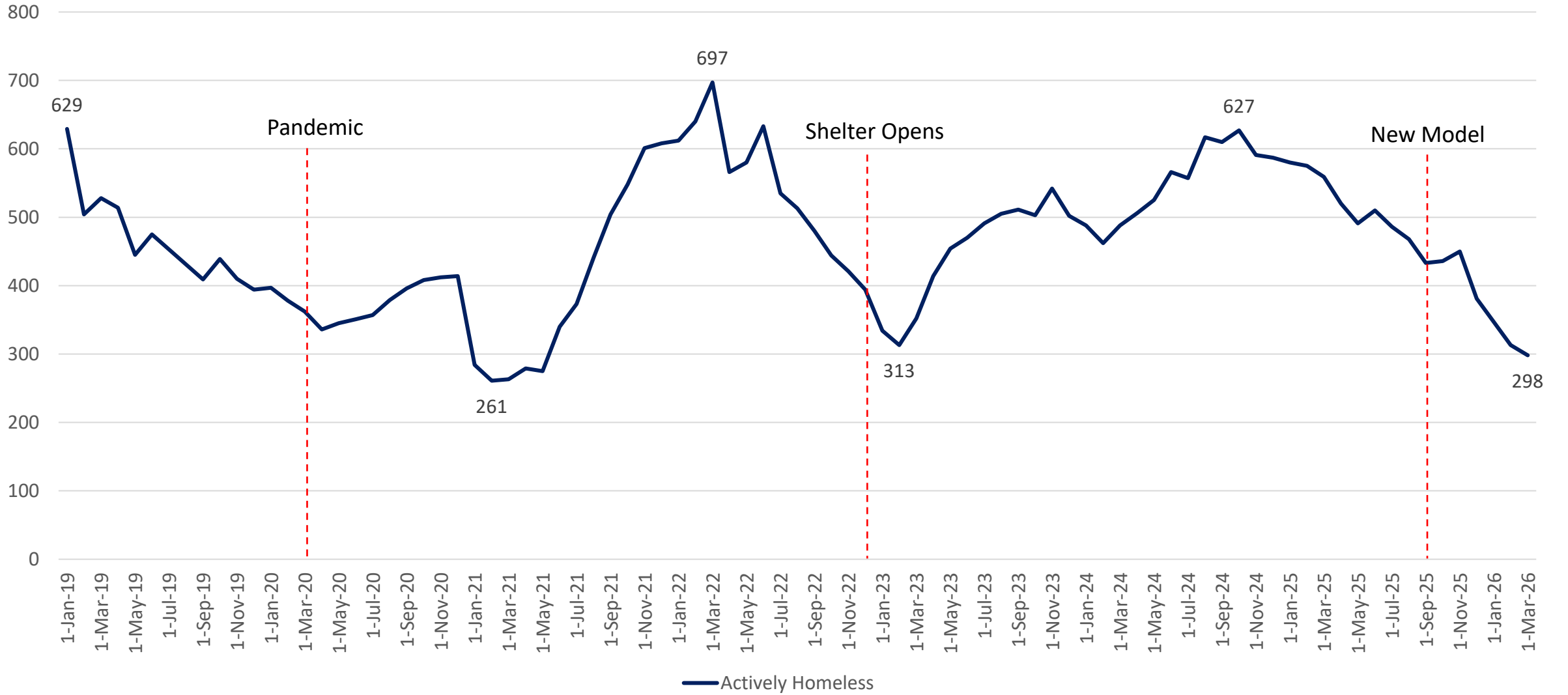
- Fire calls for service of the homeless type and to the Denton Community Shelter
- Police calls for service of the homeless type
- 2026 Community Survey results, homeless priority place

Denton County PIT Count



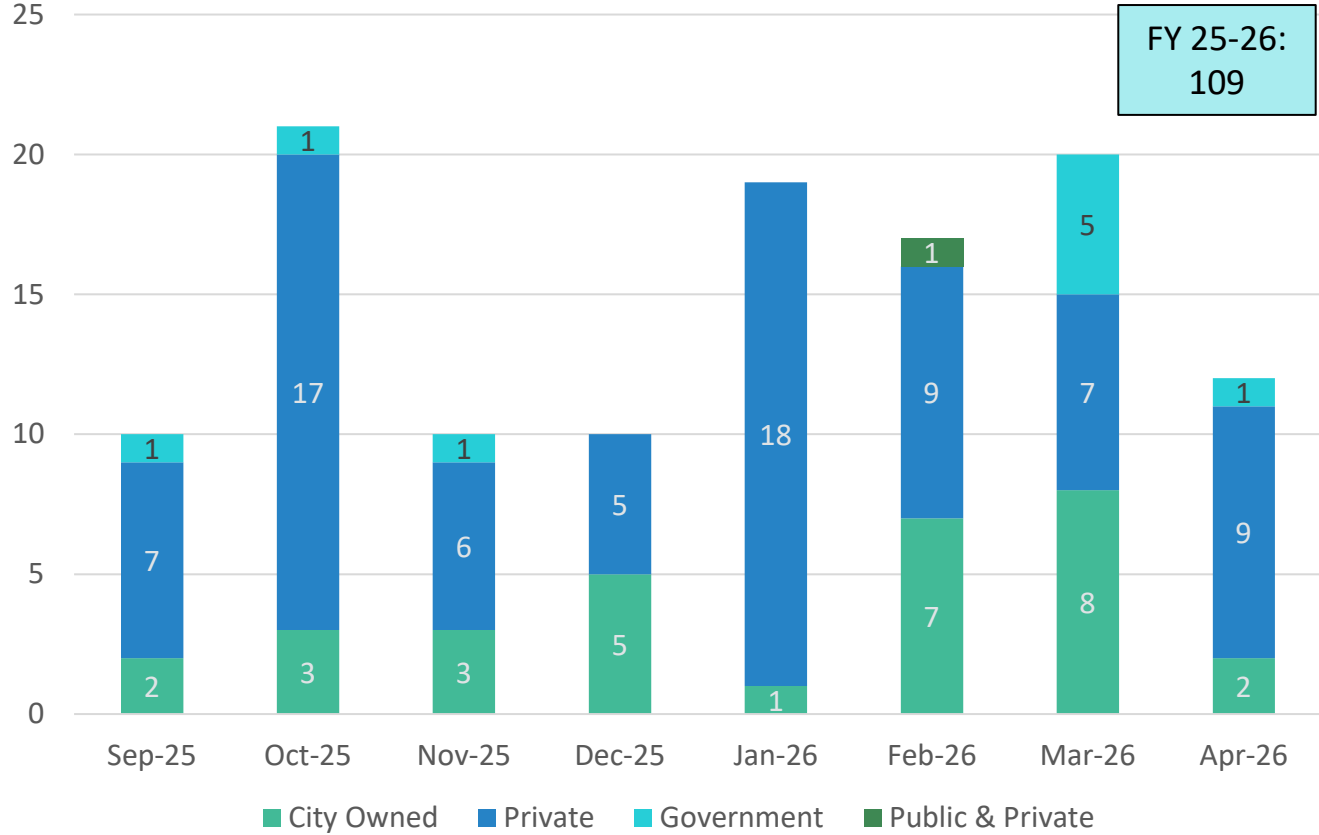
	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
City of Denton	159	214	384	371	424	607	357
City of Lewisville	26	35	55	42	78	72	62
Other Cities	9	9	9	18	16	11	14
Total	194	258	448	431	518	690	433
City of Denton change in %	-	35%	79%	-3%	14%	43%	-41%

Housing Priority List

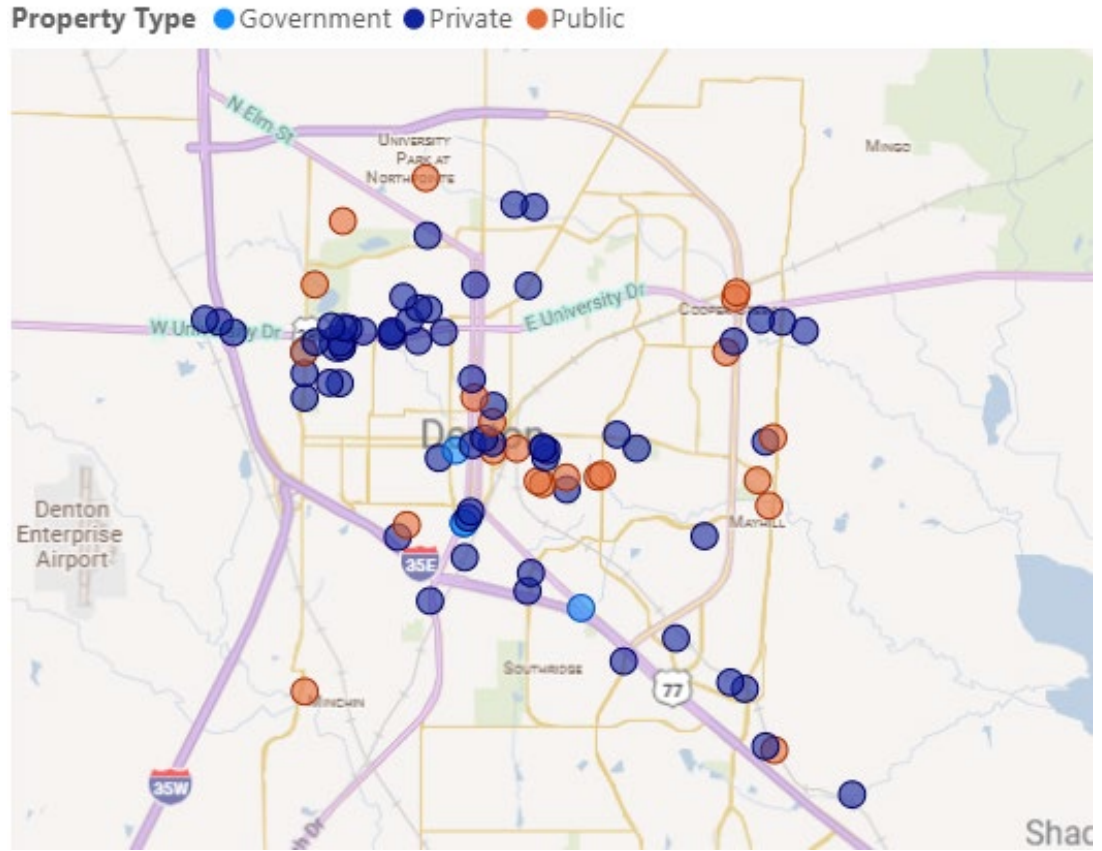


Encampments

Encampments Closed by Property Ownership



Encampments by Property Type







2026 Community Survey

- **84%** of respondents view homelessness as a moderate or major problem.
- Only **28%** rate the City's efforts positively, indicating a gap between expectations and performance.

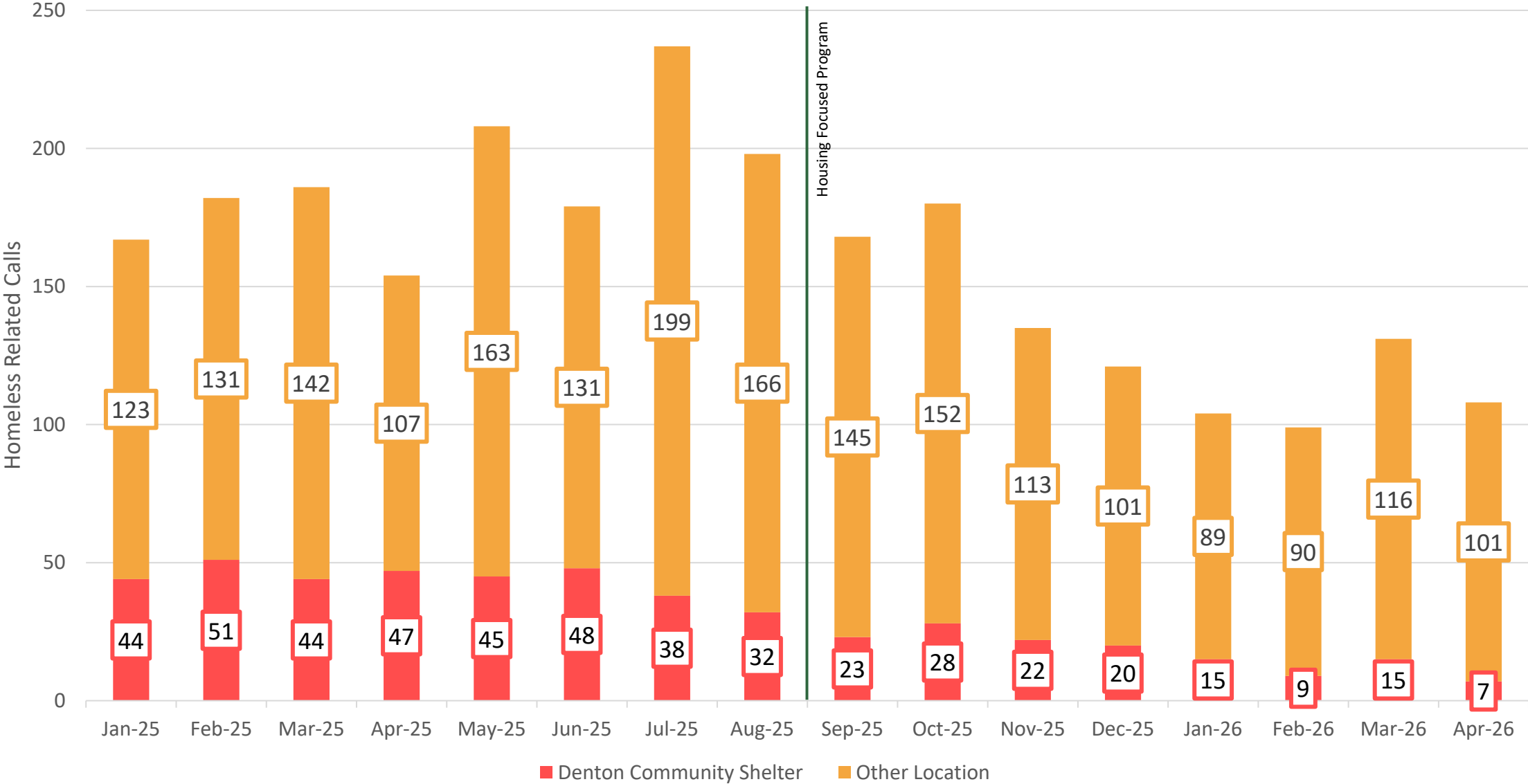
Comments reflect **two major resident viewpoints**:

- **Providing needed services to exit homelessness** (shelter, mental health, housing stability)
- **Enforcement/law-and-order approach** (reduce panhandling, relocate encampments)

Both perspectives are present at meaningful scale, both reflecting a strong public desire to address homelessness.

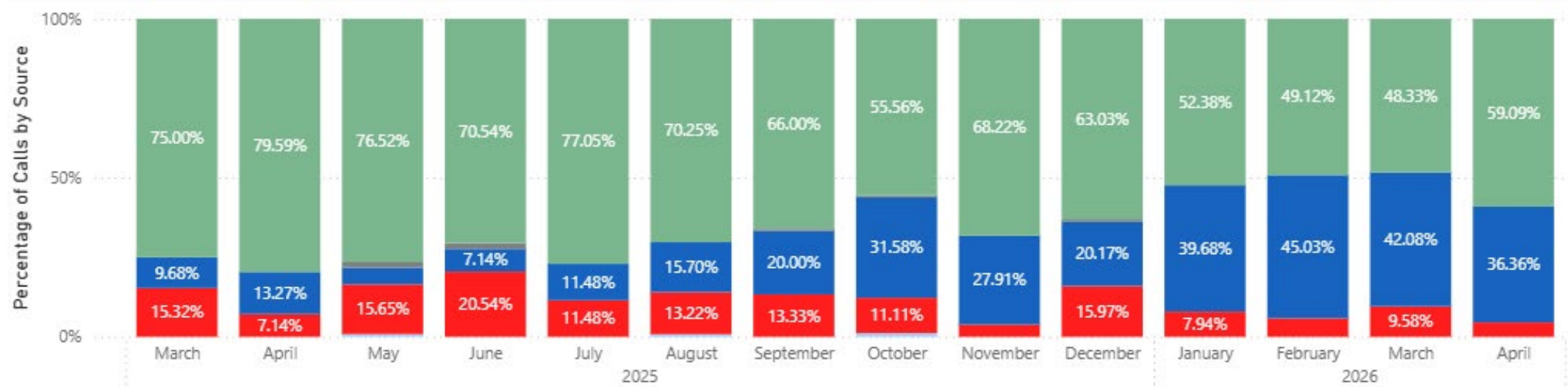
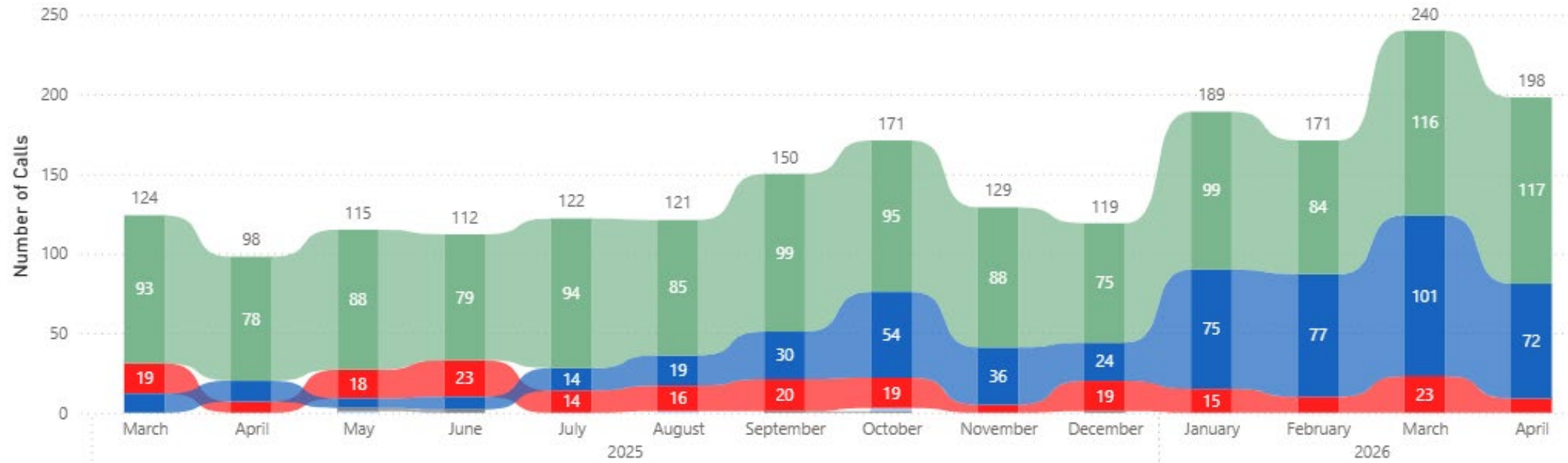
14. To what degree, if at all, is homelessness a problem in the City of Denton?			
	2024	2026	Change
Major Problem	50%	44%	 -6.0
Moderate Problem	35%	40%	 4.6
Minor Problem	14%	13%	 -0.9
Not a Problem	2%	3%	 1.4

All Homelessness Related Fire and EMS Dispatch

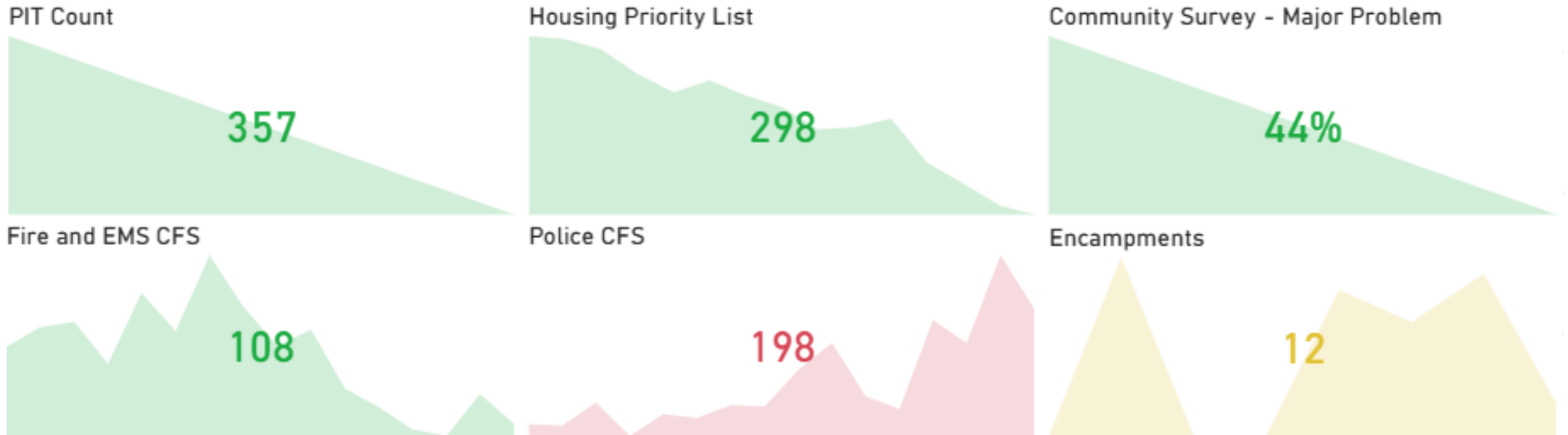


Police Homelessness Calls

Call Source: 311 (light blue), 911 (red), Officer Initiated (dark blue), Other Source (grey), Public Initiated (green)



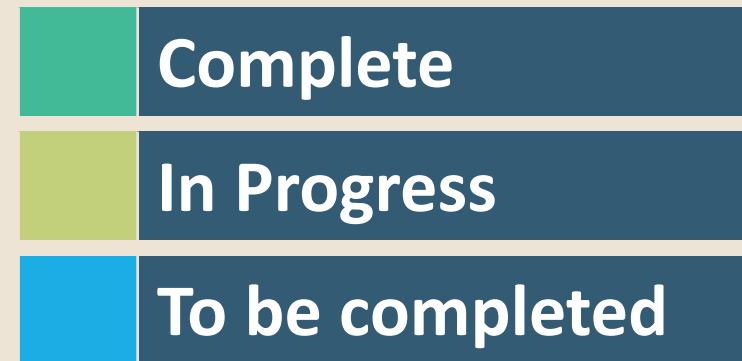
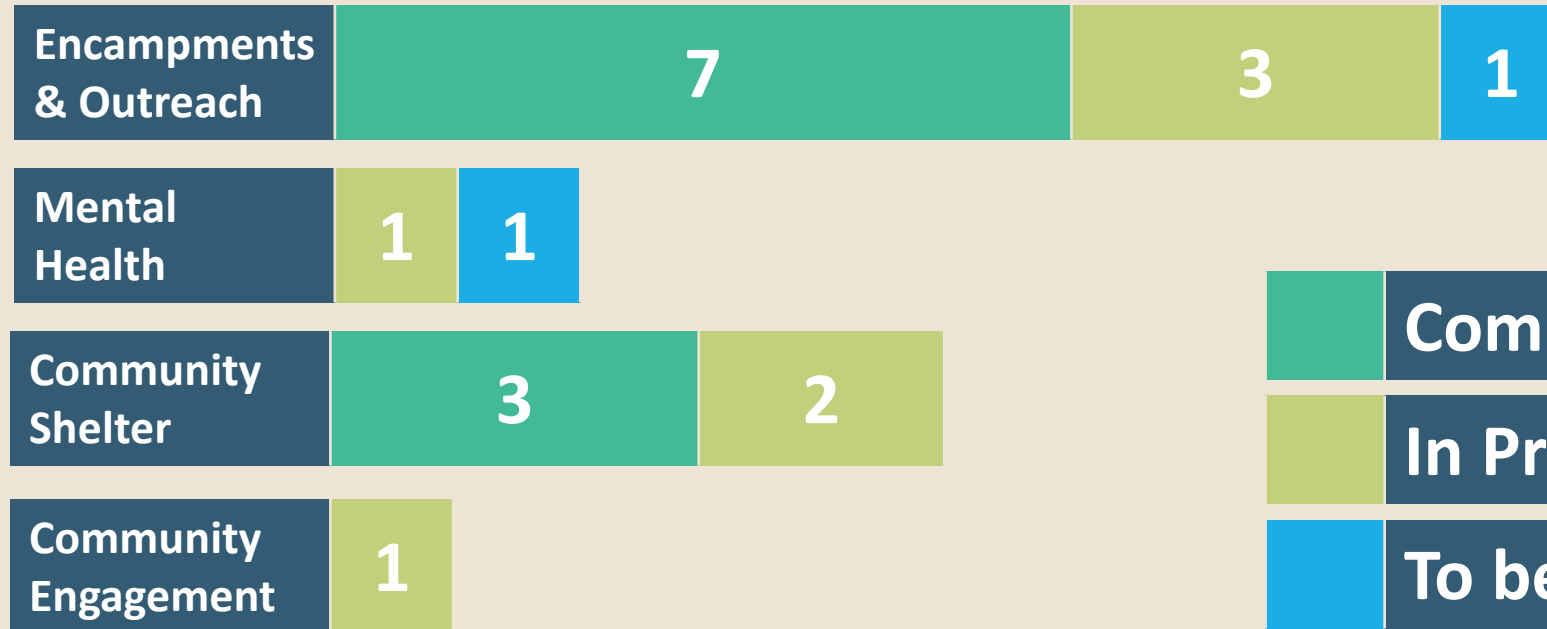
Overview of Current Indicators



Review of Previous Discussion and Direction

- April 2025: Audit of homelessness response
- Council direction
 - Enhance coordination in encampment response
 - Community Services as lead department
 - Defined encampment process, attempt to address encampments within seven days
 - Denton Community Shelter changes:
 - Case management
 - Waitlist development
 - Length of stay policy
 - Progress on housing plan required

April 2025 Audit



Encampments and Street Outreach

Staff have created a more comprehensive and proactive approach to addressing encampments through processes, tools, and resources for individuals and property owners.


DENTON CITY OF DENTON
 Directive Number and Title: 513.01 Encampment Response Directive
 Section and Chapter:
 Owner & Contact: Community Services Department
 Policy or Directive: 601 E. Hickory St., Denton, TX 76201 • (940) 348-7726
 Last Revision Date:
Property Owner Guide for Homeless Encampments
 DIRECTIVE PURPOSE
 The City of Denton is committed to maintaining the safety, health, and wellbeing of all community members. This guide was developed to inform property owners of their rights and responsibilities and provides notice.
 It is the directive of the that reflects the directive
 This directive establish responsibilities, and standards for homeless encampments
 The City recognizes the collaborative partnership ensures that all actions community in line with Document.
 To maintain the effective directive will be reviewed and updated as needed.
DIRECTIVE
 From 2019 to 2025, the City has led to an increase in individuals who live in the community's quality of facilitating access to it promotes health, safety, showed, in the City of experiencing homelessness PIT Count, the number

ATTENTION / ATENCIÓN
 CITY OF DENTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
 601 E HICKORY ST, DENTON, TX 76205 PHONE: (940)230-5337
Camping in this area is prohibited under Texas Penal Code § 48.05.
 The "ÁREA" means the public property in the area:
 Persons having belongings located in the Area have from _____, until _____, to remove any personal property. Any left personal property will be removed starting on _____.
 Questions can be directed to the contact information above.
 PLACARD POSTED Date: _____
THIS IS NOT AN AUTHORIZED AREA FOR STORAGE OR SHELTER. ALL FOREIGN MATERIAL WILL BE REMOVED STARTING ON THE POSTED DATE. IF YOU ARE UNHOUSED AND NEED SUPPORT, PLEASE VISIT THE DENTON COMMUNITY SHELTER (909 N LOOP 288)
 DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS COMUNITARIOS DE LA CIUDAD DE DENTON
 601 E HICKORY ST, DENTON, TX 76205 TELÉFONO: (940)230-5337
Acampar en esta área está prohibido por el Código Penal de Texas § 48.05.
 El "ÁREA" significa la propiedad pública en el área:
 Las personas que tengan pertenencias en la ÁREA tienen desde _____, hasta _____, para quitar cualquier propiedad personal. Cualquier propiedad personal abandonada será quitada a partir de _____.
 Preguntas pueden dirigirse a la información de contacto que aparece arriba.
 CARTEL DE PUBLICACIÓN Fecha: _____
ESTA NO ES UN ÁREA AUTORIZADA PARA ALMACENAMIENTO O REFUGIO. TODO EL MATERIAL EXTRAÑO SERÁ QUITADO A PARTIR DE LA FECHA PUBLICADA. SI NO TIENE VIVIENDA Y NECESITA APOYO, VISITE EL REFUGIO COMUNITARIO DE DENTON (909 N LOOP 288)

Area	Before April 2025 Work Session	September 2025 – May 2026
Days to Close (Median)	Unknown	14
Number of Encampments	Unknown	111
Cleanup Costs	Unknown	\$19,707

Community Shelter

Changes to the shelter program have been implemented to set the shelter to a Housing-Focused Model through a Shelter Stay Policy.



Shelter Stay Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Housing-Focused Program is to provide our guests experiencing homelessness with temporary shelter and support. This program is designed to be a short-term resource that helps guests take steps toward finding and keeping permanent housing.

Guests are expected to actively participate in housing-focused activities while staying at the shelter. The length of stay is based on progress toward housing goals and should not last longer than necessary to secure permanent housing or enter a program that supports long-term stability.

Shelter Entry Eligibility

- Guests must be physically self-sufficient to stay in shelter. This includes being able to get on and off bunks unassisted and independently manage personal hygiene, eating, bathing, dressing, and using the restroom.
- Guests must be 18 years of age or older upon entry.
- Guests must agree to engage in housing-focused activities as outlined in their individualized Housing Stability Plan.
- Guests must be experiencing literal homelessness according to the HUD definition upon entry.

Shelter Application & Waitlist

- Applicants are admitted based on availability.
- Prospective guests will complete a Shelter Application in-person at Our Daily Bread.
- Admission to shelter and case management services is based on bed availability. Guests may be placed on a waitlist if beds are unavailable.
- Day shelter services are available to all guests regardless of program admission. All guests may enroll in day shelter services regardless of program availability.
- When space becomes available, a guest has three business days to claim their bed before it is offered to the next person on the list. Guests who are passed over retain their position on the waitlist until they have gone 30 days without verified service engagement.
- Individuals will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis as beds are available, as long as they are still willing to engage in taking steps towards housing.

Area	September 2024 - August 2025	September 2025 – May 2026
Clients Housed (Permanent)	108	82
Average Length of Stay (In Program)	133 days	107 days
Overnight Capacity	192	120

Staff Focus

- Community Shelter Contract
- Preparing for Council budget discussions
- Evictions and Homelessness Prevention in Denton
- Community involvement
- Continued data quality improvement

COUNCIL DISCUSSION
