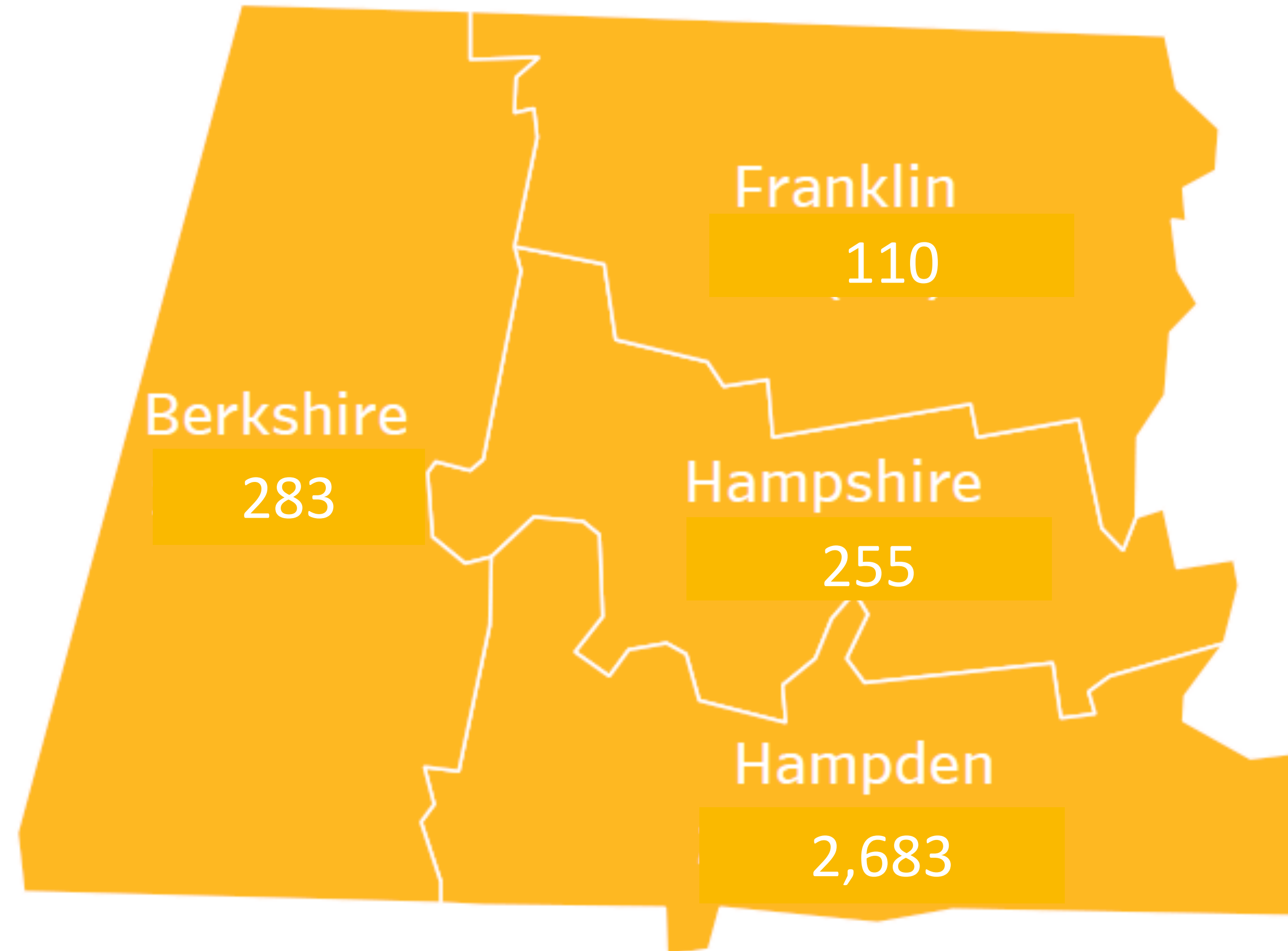


Housing Justice Happens Here

Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness
7th Annual Regional Gathering
Holyoke Community College
May 12, 2023

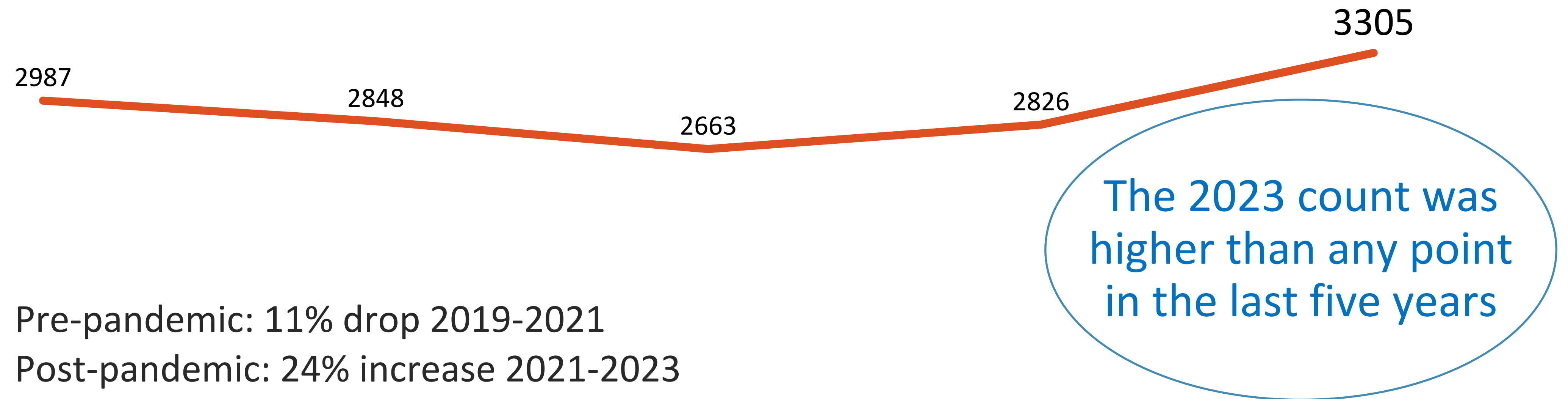
3,305 people homeless on Jan. 25, 2023

Annual Point-in-Time Count



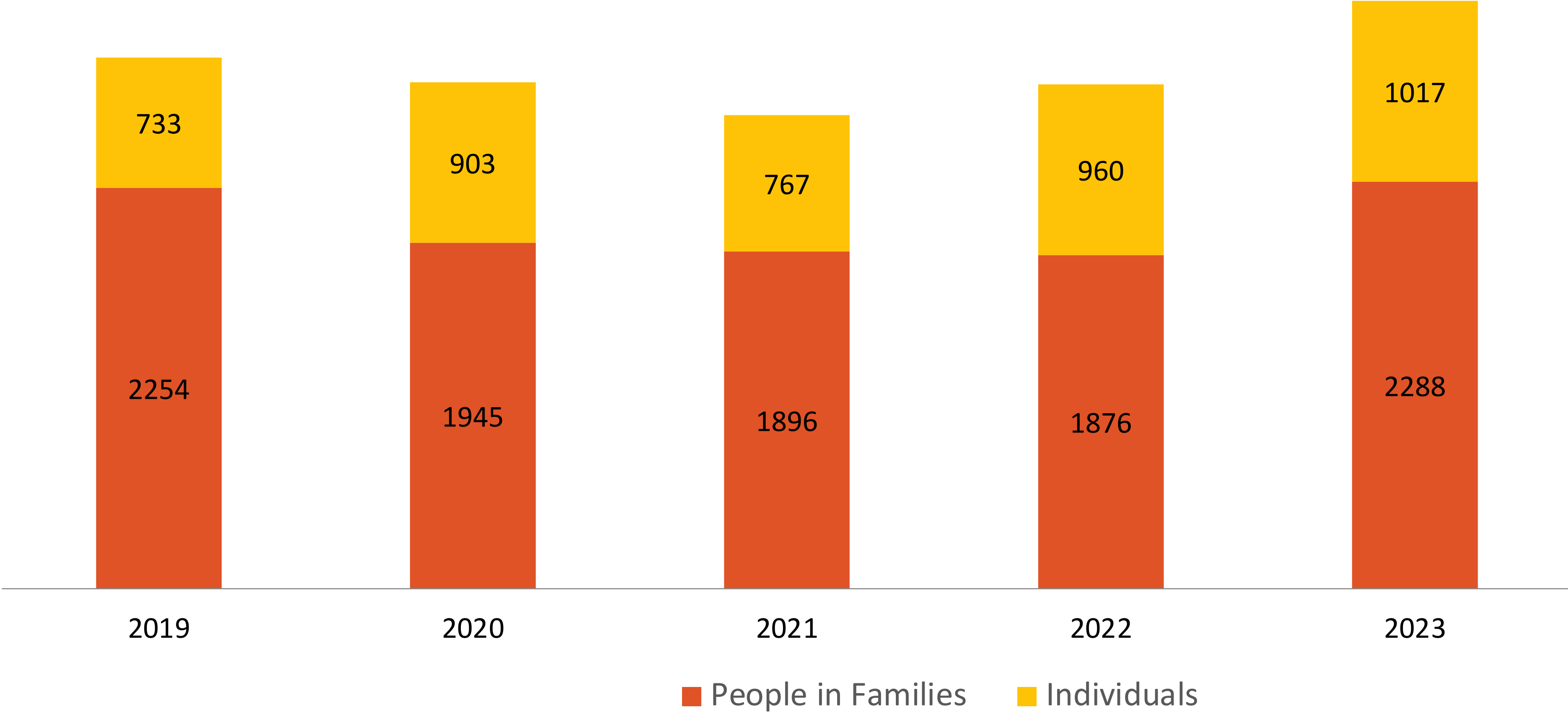
Source: Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Count, Jan. 25, 2023

Homelessness in Western Massachusetts Trend 2019–2023



Increases Among Both Families and Individuals

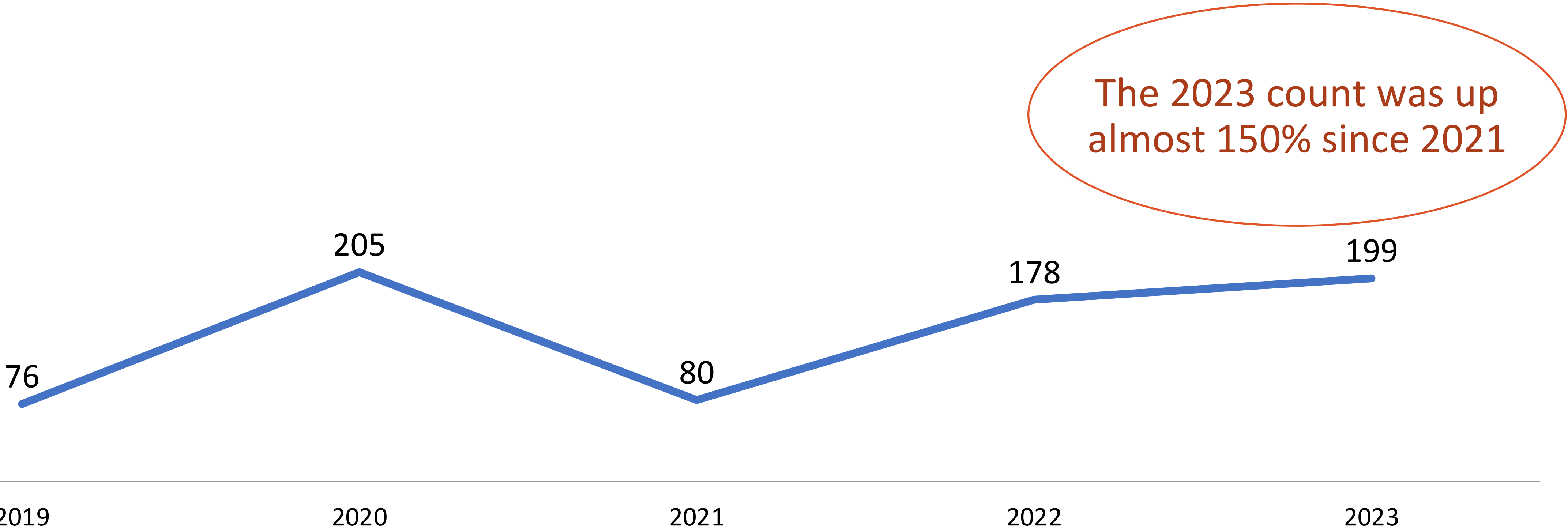
2019-2023



Source: Continuum of Care Annual Point-in-Time Counts, 2019–2023

Unsheltered Homeless in Western Massachusetts

Trend 2019–2023



Source: Continuum of Care Annual Point-in-Time Counts, 2019–2023

Select Characteristics of Homeless Adults

Trends 2019 - 2023

Serious Mental Illness

598

Substance Use Disorder

290

Domestic Violence Survivor

314

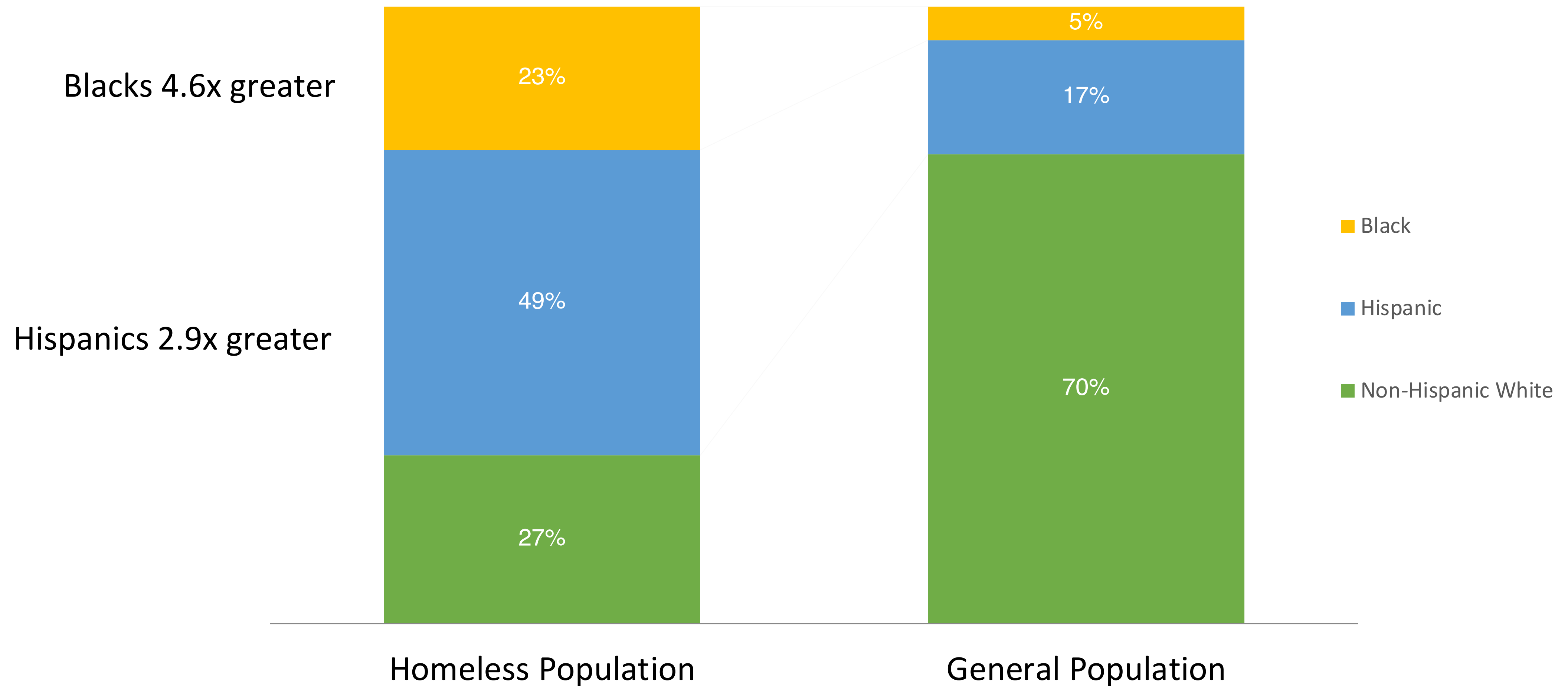
■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023

Source: Continuum of Care Annual Point-in-Time Counts, 2019–2023

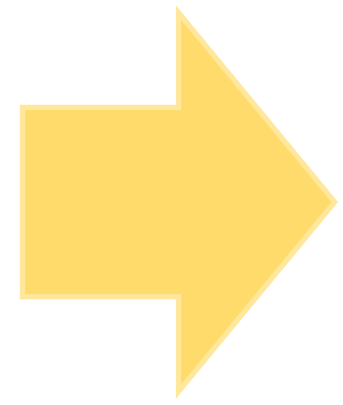


People of Color are Overrepresented in Homeless Population

Four counties of Western Massachusetts



Exiting Homelessness to Housing



Over the last year, homeless providers in Western Mass helped **over 950 people** move from homelessness into permanent housing

Creating the housing

1,097: affordable housing units in development pipeline over the next 5 years - in 18 cities and towns among 101 cities and towns across all of Western MA*

➡ 11,000: affordable housing unit gap in Western MA

184: units of new permanent supportive housing in the last year; with **179** PSH units in the development pipeline**

*Source: Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition

**Source: Hampden County Continuum of Care, Three County Continuum of Care

Rental Assistance Works

In the four counties of Western Massachusetts—

Payment of rental assistance keeps tenants in their housing

For the one-year period ending March 2023—

8,878 tenancies preserved, at a cost of \$25 million

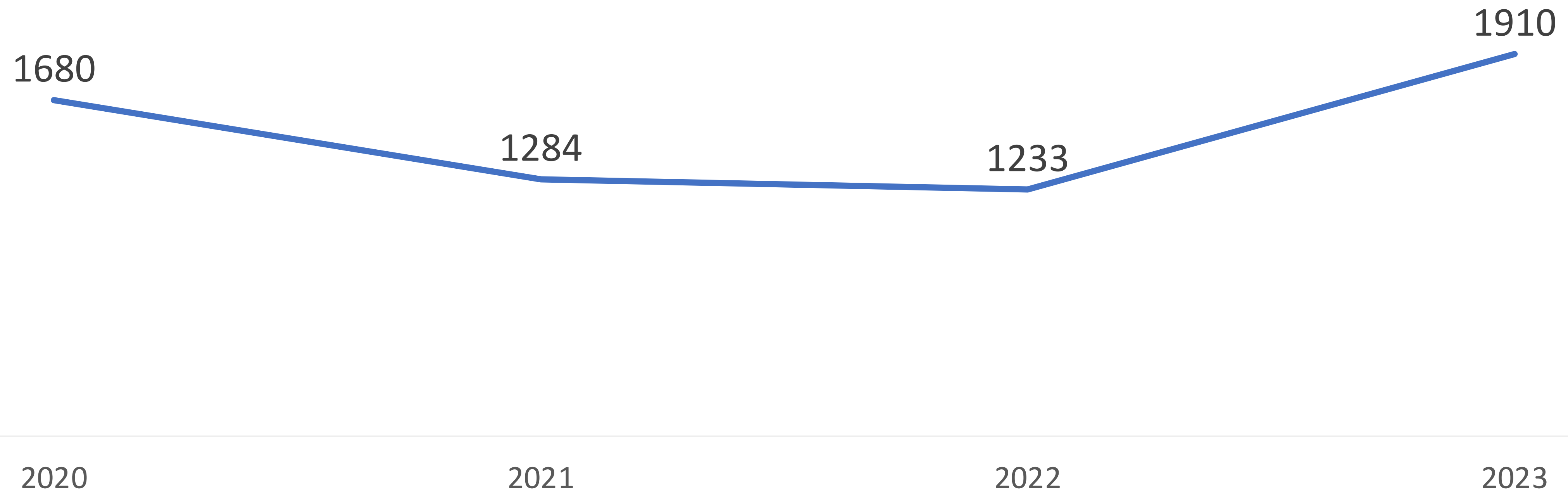
The demand continues to be very high

2,479 applicants in April 2023

Evictions are higher than pre-pandemic levels

Western Massachusetts

Eviction Filing Trend: 1st quarter, by year 2020-2023



Housing Justice Response: 4 Pillars

1. Prevent displacement

- Improve access to rental assistance
- Access to legal counsel in evictions
- Local option for rental control and tenant protections

2. Preserve existing and affordable housing

- Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act

3. Create more affordable housing

- Local Option Transfer Fee to Fund Affordable Housing

4. House people who are unhoused

- Reduce barriers to shelter
- Flex Pool for Permanent Supportive Housing

Join the Network Blog for Housing Justice Action:

<http://westernmasshousingfirst.org>