



Contact

Cathy Alderman
Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
303-312-9638, calderman@coloradocoalition.org

Alexis Whitham
Director of Communications
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
303-312-9642, awhitham@coloradocoalition.org

DENVER – December 20, 2022

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless hosts the Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil on Wednesday, December 21 and Releases 2022 Data Analysis on Deaths

WE WILL REMEMBER: HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL VIGIL:

Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Denver City and County Building, 1437 Bannock Street

For the 33rd year, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (The Coalition) will host “We Will Remember: Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil” on December 21, 2022, at 5:00 PM. Each December, the Denver community comes together on the longest night of the year to honor our unhoused neighbors who passed away in the preceding year. For many, this will be the only service to mark their death.

For the December 21 event, 263 luminary memorials will be placed outside the building, each with the name of a neighbor who passed. The names of the deceased will also be read out loud and broadcast throughout the event. The vigil pays tribute to neighbors who were unhoused at the time of death or had formerly experienced homelessness.

WE WILL REMEMBER: HOMELESS PERSONS' DEATH REVIEW

As a companion to the Memorial Vigil, The Coalition presents *We Will Remember: Homeless Death Review*, a data-rich report on the deaths of people experiencing homelessness in Denver.

The Coalition aims to bring attention to the troubling trend of increased deaths and identify programs and efforts that could reduce such loss of life. The report is [available here digitally](#).

According to the data available through [Metro Denver Homeless Initiative](#) (MDHI), which is comprised of fourteen local organizations dedicated to serving those in our community experiencing homelessness, at least 263 people experiencing homelessness passed away in metropolitan Denver in 2022 (representing the period of November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2022). This is the fourth consecutive year that this number could not be cross-referenced with the Denver Medical Examiner's Office (OME) data due to a change in the OME's policies. **The Coalition is certain this number represents an undercount of the number of people experiencing homelessness who passed away in 2022.**

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless President and CEO John Parvensky added, "It's difficult to have to hold this service year-after-year when we know that many of these deaths could have been prevented with the right resources and support. Investing in supportive housing, health care, and wrap-around services is cost effective and can help improve the health and extend life for people experiencing homelessness and prevent further needless loss of life for the unhoused."

This year's report delves into key data points including cause and manner of deaths, deaths by month and location, the impact of housing on people experiencing homelessness, and promising practices that give the Coalition hope for the future. More information is available on the [Coalition website](#).

About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves. Since its founding more than 35 years ago, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition's comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to over 20,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at www.coloradocoalition.org.

###