



Press Release

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Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil Attended by Hundreds of Denverites on Saturday, December 21: Honoring the Lost Lives of 276 or More Unhoused Neighbors

For the 36th year, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH or the Coalition) hosted the “We Will Remember: Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil” at the Denver City and County Building on Sunday evening. The candlelight vigil and name-reading ceremony was attended by hundreds of housed and unhoused community members and paid tribute to those who died while experiencing homelessness in 2025. Vigils like this one have been held in Denver and cities across the country on the longest night of the year since 1990.

The number of individuals reported to have passed away this year was 276. These names were compiled by local services organizations, and this year's total is fewer than 2024's total of 294 and 2023's total of 311. An additional 13 names were added at the event by attendees whose loved ones had not been included originally. The event program is available [here](#).

At the event, each individual's name was read, followed by “We Will Remember” chanted by hundreds of crowd members. This event is hosted through collaboration between the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, the City of Denver's Department of Housing Stability (HOST), and homelessness service providers across the Denver Metro Area including those listed on the [event program here](#).

The 2025 vigil featured a eulogy by local activist and poet Randle Loeb and two songs performed by Denver Chorale. [Event photos are available here, courtesy of Giles Clausen of the Denver VOICE.](#)

In addition, this year Denver organizers were proud to partner with the Homeless Memorial Blanket Project, which is both an art display and an opportunity for generous blanket makers to knit, crochet, and quilt special gifts for neighbors far and wide who are experiencing homelessness. 2025 marks the Homeless Memorial Blanket Project's 5th year and the first time it has moved off the east coast. After the display, the blankets and quilts were donated to individuals and families in the Denver area who are in need of housing. Handmade blankets and quilts were sent to Denver from across the US as well as from Australia, Canada, and Germany.

WE WILL REMEMBER: HOMELESS PERSONS' DEATH REVIEW

As a companion to the Memorial Vigil, the Coalition presents the *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 preventable deaths and identify programs and efforts which could reduce such loss of life. [The report is available here digitally.](#)

During the period of November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025, the Denver Medical Examiner's Office (OME) listed 227 deaths, a slight increase from 225 in 2024. Without the names from OME, it is impossible to know how many of those 225 names are captured amongst the 276 submitted by partner organizations, and what the true total is.

Some key data points from this year's report include:

- The average age of a person experiencing homelessness remains significantly lower than the age of death for the general U.S. population—43.4 years vs. 78.4 years. Individuals recovering from homelessness who are now in housing outlive their unhoused counterparts, with an average age of death of 51.4 years. This number is still far lower than the generally housed population.
- Overdose remained the primary cause of death for individuals captured in the OME data. That number rose from 68% of all deaths in 2024 data to over 77% in 2025 data.
- In the latter pages of the report, the Coalition recommends proven solutions to combat this unacceptable number of deaths including those due to overdose. Solutions include naloxone distribution and use, housing with integrated supportive services, and substance use recovery facilities such as the [Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community](#) and the newly opened [Sage Ridge Supportive Residential Community](#).

More information is available at coloradocoalition.org/vigil.

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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 homeless and at-risk families, children, and individuals throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, wellbeing and stability of those it serves. Learn more at www.coloradocoalition.org.