

# WAAEH DASHBOARD

## DECEMBER 2024 QUARTERLY BULLETIN

The December 2024 bulletin marks our first quarterly bulletin for the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (WAAEH) Dashboard. The WAAEH Dashboard is updated regularly and can be found on the WAAEH website at <https://waaeh.org.au/knowledge-hub/homelessness-dashboard/>

Each quarter we will summarise the new additions to the Dashboard made in the quarter and present some key figures.

### What's new this quarter?

In the December 2024 quarter we introduce the **quarterly bulletin**. Additionally, we have created a new section of the Dashboard – **Impacts of Homelessness**, where we will present special research topics that need to be profiled as part of WAAEH's advocacy. The first topic highlighted is deaths among Specialist Homelessness Services clients.

Other key updates this quarter include data drawn from latest releases of:

- Specialist homelessness services annual report 2023-24
- September Quarter of the Specialist Homelessness Services monthly data
- Housing Authority Annual Report 2023-24
- Specialist Homelessness Services: feature analysis: People receiving specialist homelessness services support in the last year of life
- The latest trends in key drivers of homelessness.

## Trends in Homelessness in Western Australia

The Zero Project: Total people placed in permanent housing July – September 2024:  
128



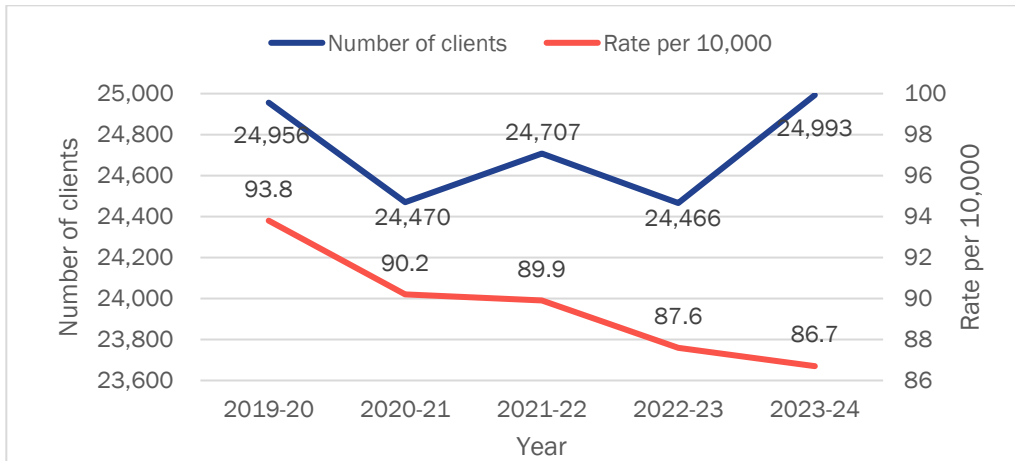
### Key SHS Figures

- The number of clients accessing Western Australia's SHS per 10,000 resident population decreased to 86.7 per 10,000 persons in 2023-24 from 87.6 per 10,000 persons in 2022-23.
- The number of SHS clients experiencing homelessness on entry peaked in August 2024 reaching 4,014 clients decreasing to 3,689 in September 2024.
- The proportion of SHS clients in regional and remote areas decreased from 51.0% in 2022-23 to 48.7% in 2023-24.

# WAAEH Dashboard

## DECEMBER 2024 QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Figure 1: Specialist Homelessness Services clients, Western Australia, by financial year



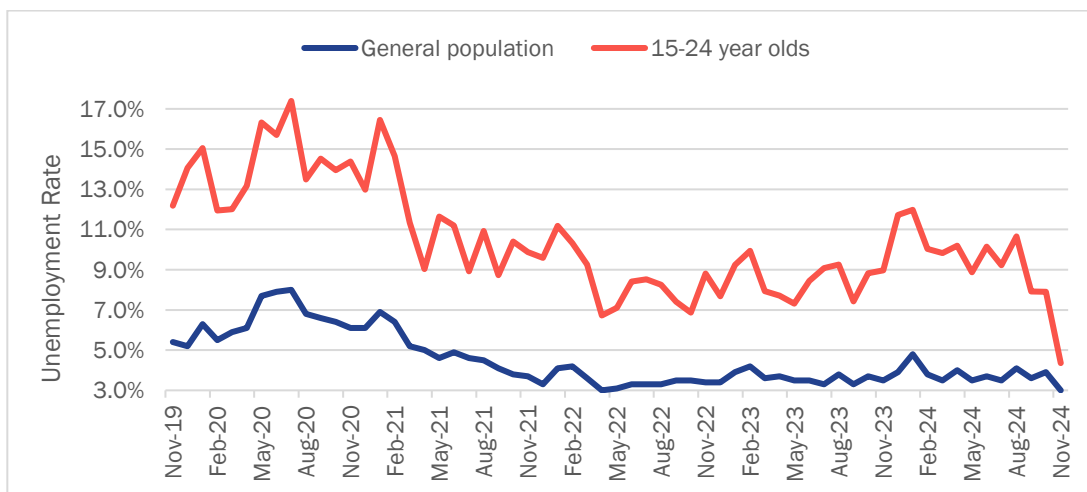
Source: AIHW 2024 Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2023-24

## Preventing Homelessness in WA

### Key Figures

- Rental Market:** Perth vacancy rates have remained above 1% since August 2024 increasing to 1.7% in November 2024, with median market rents remaining stable at the highs of \$650 for houses between May 2024 and December 2024 and increasing slightly to \$620 for units. The recent movements in the vacancy rate and the median rents represent the first sign of a slight improvement for renters in the private rental market.
- Unemployment:** Youth unemployment and general population unemployment rates in November 2024 (4.4% and 3.0%, respectively) decreased significantly since November 2019 (12.2% and 5.4%, respectively). The strong state of the WA labour market is acting to reduce pressures on homelessness at present.
- Domestic Violence:** Family violence offences peaked in 2023-24 which represents a significant increase since 2021-22.

Figure 2: Unemployment rate, youth and general population, Western Australia, by month



Source: ABS 2024 Labour Force, Australia

# WAAEH Dashboard

## DECEMBER 2024 QUARTERLY BULLETIN

### Impacts of Homelessness

#### SHS Mortality Rates: Key Figures from National Research

- Deaths among those experiencing homelessness were 1.8 times the rate of those not experiencing homelessness in 2021-22 (i.e., SRR = 1.8).
- The death rate among those aged between 25 and 34 who accessed SHS supports in the 12-months prior to their death was 6.0 times the rate of deaths among the same age group in the general population (i.e., SMR = 6.0).
- In 2021-22, 15% of deaths were due to accidental poisoning, 12% were due to suicide, 8% heart disease, 5.4% liver disease, 4.6% lung cancer, 4.5% diabetes, 3.6% COPD, and 3.5% road accidents.
- Of those who died from accidental poisoning in 2021-22, as many as 15.7% had accessed an SHS in the 12-months prior to their death. Further, 5.5% of deaths due to suicide in 2021-22 were SHS clients, as well as 4.0% of deaths due to road accidents, and 3.3% of deaths due to liver disease. Considering roughly 1% of Australians accessed SHS supports in the same year, SHS clients are substantially overrepresented in these deaths.

**Authors: Zoe Callis and Paul Flatau**

Centre for Social Impact

The University of Western Australia