



Homeless Outreach Population Estimate

2023 Results

What is the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE)?

- HOPE is NYC’s estimate of the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and sleeping in public places such as streets, parks, and subways on a single night during the last week of January.
- Fulfills the “point-in-time” survey of unsheltered individuals, as required for every odd year by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Conducted annually since 2005, using the same sampling methodology:
 - All areas of the city where individuals experiencing homelessness are known to stay (i.e., “high density” areas) based on past surveys and outreach worker observations—all individuals experiencing homelessness in these areas are counted, *and*
 - Random sample of all other areas, termed “low density”—results from these areas used to estimate the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in areas not surveyed.

HOPE 2023 Survey Approach

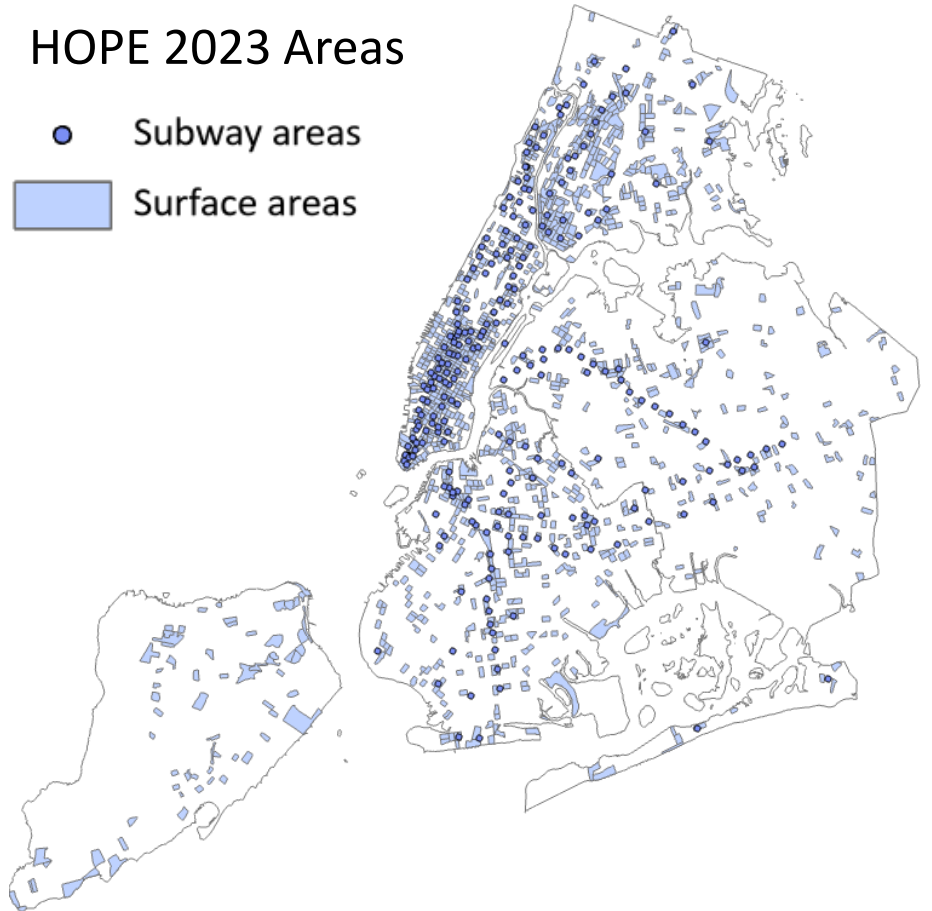
HOPE 2023 built on lessons learned from 2021 and 2022 to implement a **hybrid model** for conducting the survey **while bringing volunteers back into the fold for the first time since the pre-pandemic HOPE 2020:**

- Canvassing took place primarily on a single night, with additional follow-up as needed.
- Both community volunteers (comprising the majority) and professional outreach staff were deployed to canvass street areas and subway stations.
- Canvasser training and end-of-night dismissal were conducted remotely.

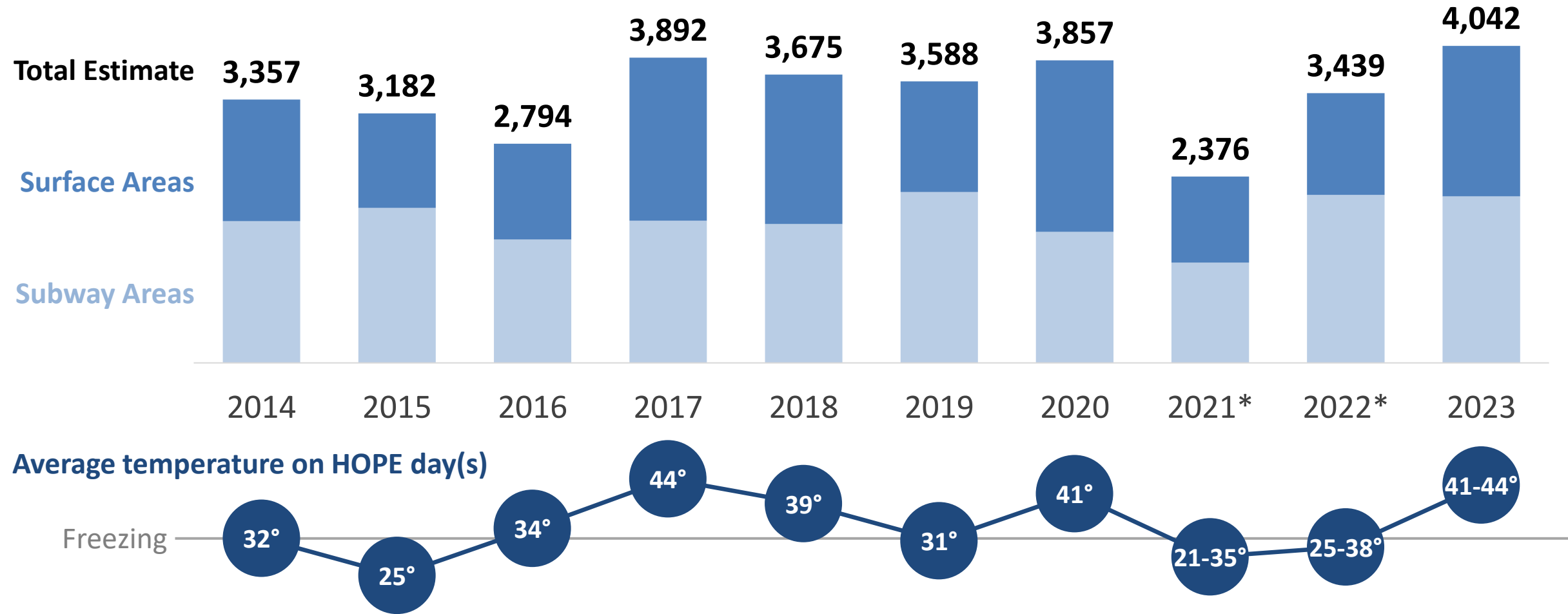
Other aspects of HOPE—including the sampling methodology, the deployment of Shadow Count “decoys,” the survey questionnaire, and the use of the HOPE mobile app for data collection—remained unchanged.

Overall Results from HOPE 2023

- An estimated **4,042 individuals** experienced unsheltered homelessness on the night of January 24th, 2023.
- Compared to HOPE 2020 (pre-pandemic), there were approximately the same number of unsheltered homeless (+5%). Operational adjustments to the survey process during the pandemic make 2021-22 comparisons difficult.
- HOPE 2023 recorded a similar total of unsheltered individuals on surface areas, but a larger total across subway areas compared to 2020. HOPE 2023 was conducted during an exceptionally mild winter when compared to 2021-2022.



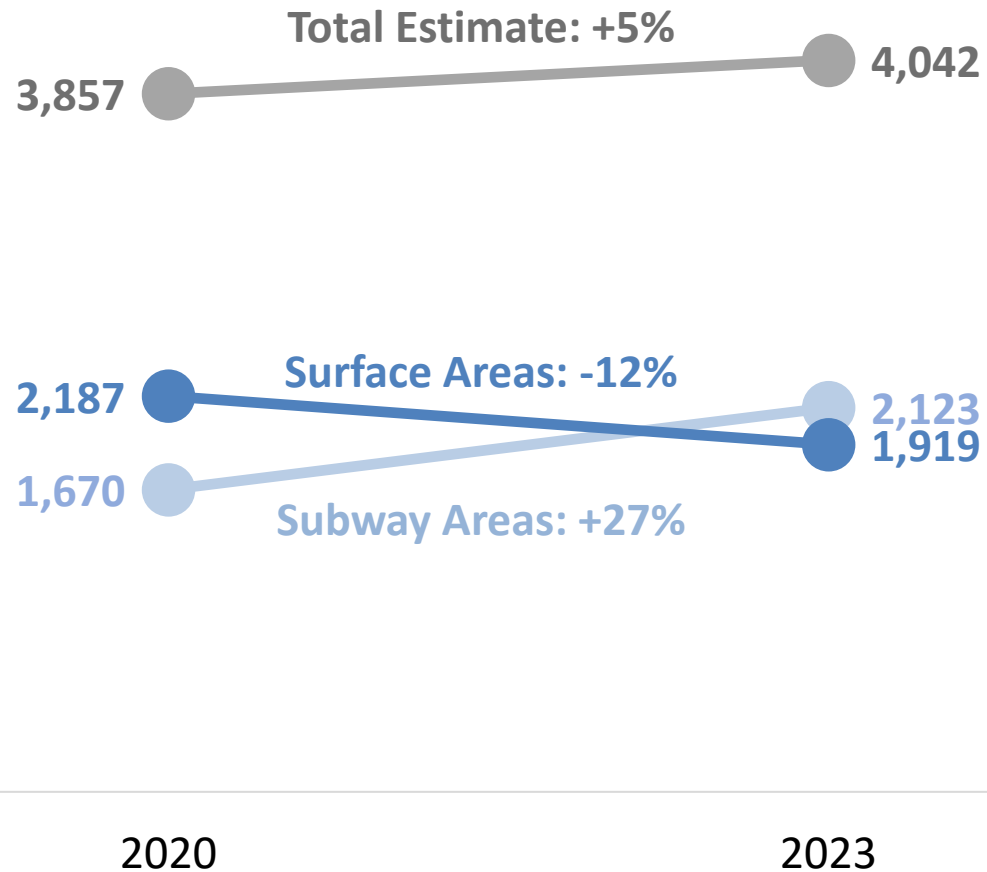
HOPE Estimates, 2014-2023



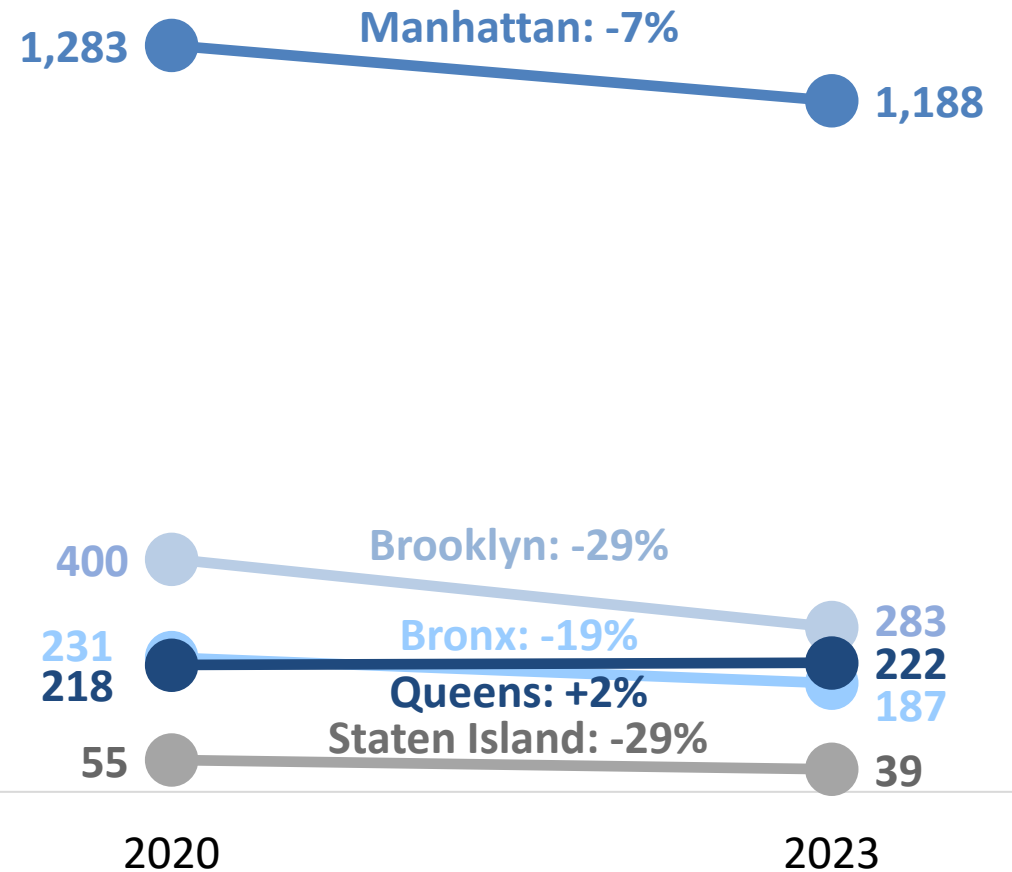
* In 2021 and 2022, the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated operational changes as volunteers were not involved in the HOPE survey. Which is why comparisons to HOPE years 2021-2022 should be made with caution.

Change in HOPE Estimates, 2020-2023*

Change in HOPE Estimates, by Surface and Subway Areas



Change in HOPE Surface Area Estimates, by Borough



* In 2021 and 2022, the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated operational changes as volunteers were not involved in the HOPE survey. Which is why comparisons are made with HOPE 2020, which was completed prior to COVID-19.