2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report
Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care

What is the PIT Count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count is an annual street and shelter count that determines the number of people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County during a given point in time. Conducted on a single day in January, this project includes a brief survey to identify the needs and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness. Every Continuum of Care is required to submit PIT Count results to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of a national effort to identify the extent of homelessness across the country.

Why is it important?

The PIT Count is an important source of data on homelessness and is reported to Congress as part of the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR). The PIT Count is a source of unsheltered homeless numbers and helps to inform communities on the number of people who access Emergency Shelters or Transitional Housing, as well as those who are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation. As the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to rise across the region, increased regional efforts to address homelessness are necessary.

The PIT Count is a one-night snapshot of homelessness that is limited by weather conditions, number and training of volunteers, self-reported survey responses, and other factors. There are more people who experience homelessness over the course of the year than on any given single night. Every year, the Continuum of Care works towards improving the count's accuracy. The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care is committed to using data from the PIT Count and the regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to understand more about the population experiencing homelessness in the region and to provide solutions that will make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

2024 PIT Count Total

9,435
people experiencing homelessness
in Maricopa County on the night of
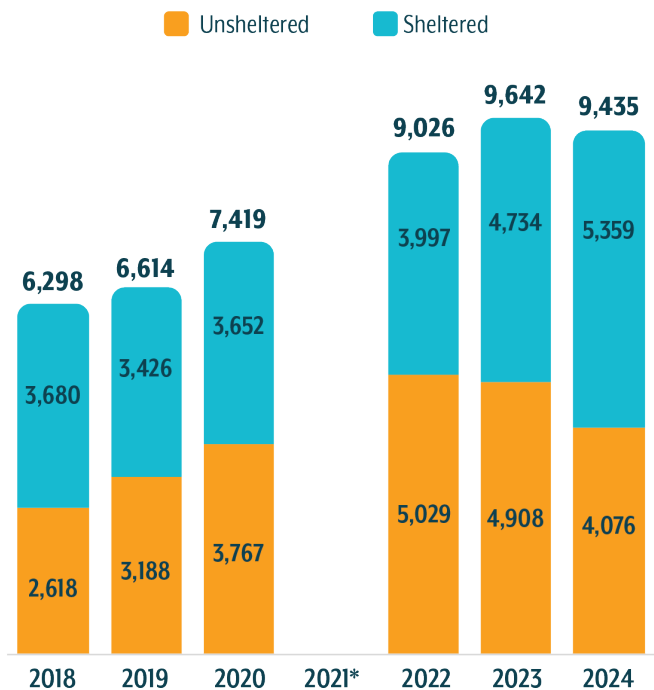January 22, 2024

57%
Sheltered
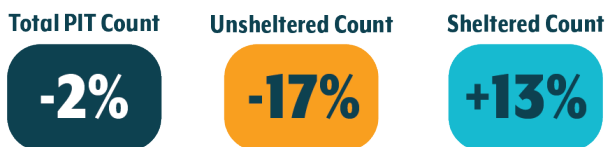in Emergency Shelter,
Transitional Housing,
or Safe Haven Programs

43%
Unsheltered
on the streets or other
place not meant for
human habitation

Total PIT Count, 2018-2024

Legend: ■ Unsheltered ■ Sheltered

Year	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
2018	2,618	3,680	6,298
2019	3,188	3,426	6,614
2020	3,767	3,652	7,419
2021*			
2022	5,029	3,997	9,026
2023	4,908	4,734	9,642
2024	4,076	5,359	9,435

Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care PIT Count, 2018-2024
*The PIT Count was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic

Growth Rate from 2023-2024

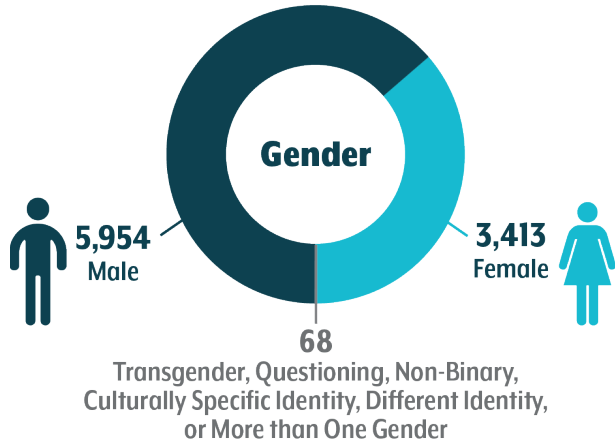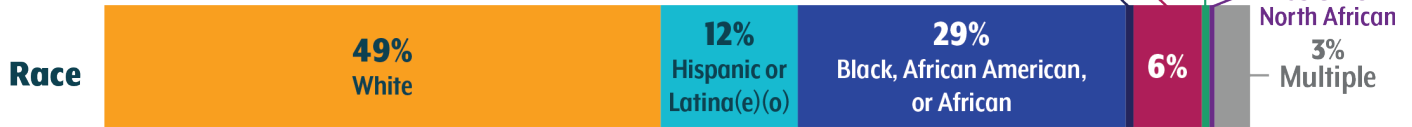| Total PIT Count	Unsheltered Count	Sheltered Count
-2%	**-17%**	**+13%**

The sheltered count increased at a **higher rate** than the unsheltered and overall PIT Count.

Demographics
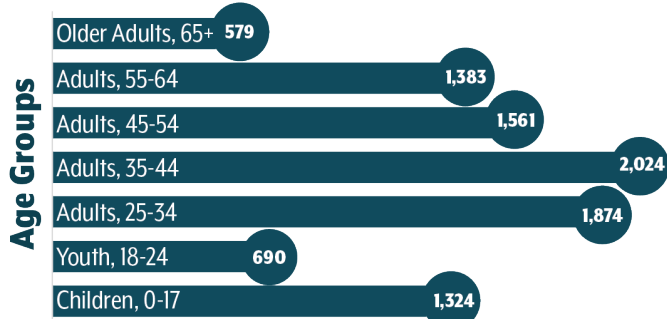
The demographics of the PIT Count have been fairly **consistent** over the past years. These charts show data from the 2024 PIT Count.

Gender

5,954 Male

3,413 Female

68
Transgender, Questioning, Non-Binary, Culturally Specific Identity, Different Identity, or More than One Gender

For the 2024 PIT Count, 63% of the population experiencing homelessness identified as male, 36% identified as female, and 1% identified as transgender, non-binary, questioning, culturally specific identity, different identity, or more than one gender. The PIT Count had a larger proportion of the population that identified as male than Maricopa County's average of 50% from the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2022 1-year estimate).

1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous

1% Asian

<1% Middle Eastern or North African

Race

| 49% White | 12% Hispanic or Latina(e)(o) | 29% Black, African American, or African | 6% | 3% Multiple |

Ethnicity

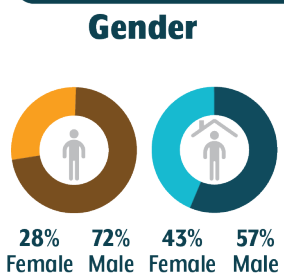| 27% Hispanic/Latina(e)(o) | 73% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latina(e)(o) |

This year, HUD combined race with ethnicity and included "Hispanic or Latina(e)(o) Only" as its own race/ethnicity category. The graphics above show the demographic breakdown by race and by ethnicity separately. The 2024 PIT Count reported a differing racial makeup than Maricopa County. The 2022 ACS estimate reported the following numbers for Maricopa County: White (58%); Black or African American (6%); Asian (5%); American Indian or Alaskan Native (2%); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (<1%); and Multiple or Other Races (30%). The PIT Count also has a higher percentage of people identifying as Non-Hispanic or Non-Latina(e)(o) compared to Maricopa County (68%).

Age Groups

Older Adults, 65+	579
Adults, 55-64	1,383
Adults, 45-54	1,561
Adults, 35-44	2,024
Adults, 25-34	1,874
Youth, 18-24	690
Children, 0-17	1,324

The largest age group from the PIT Count is adults 35-44 which accounted for 21% of the 2024 PIT population, followed by adults 25-34 accounting for 20%. Children (age 0-17) make up 14% of the population, while youth (age 18-24) make up 7% and older adults (age 65+) make up 6% of the count. 79% of the PIT Count are adults age 25+, a higher percentage than the ACS estimate for Maricopa County, 68% (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2022 1-year estimate).
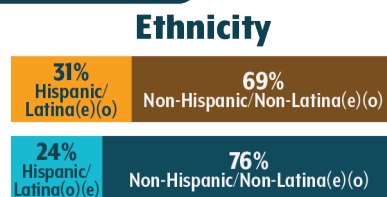
Comparison: Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations
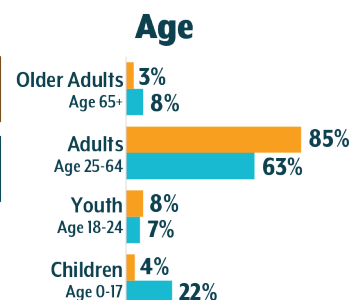
Legend ■ Unsheltered ■ Sheltered

Gender

28% Female 72% Male (Unsheltered)
43% Female 57% Male (Sheltered)

Race

	Unsheltered		Sheltered
White	50%	>	48%
Hispanic	19%	>	7%
Black[1]	21%	<	35%
Asian	<1%	<	1%
AI/AN/I[2]	7%	>	5%
NH/PI[3]	1%	=	1%
ME/NA[4]	1%	>	<1%
Multiple	1%	<	4%

Ethnicity

Unsheltered:
31% Hispanic/Latina(e)(o) 69% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latina(e)(o)

Sheltered:
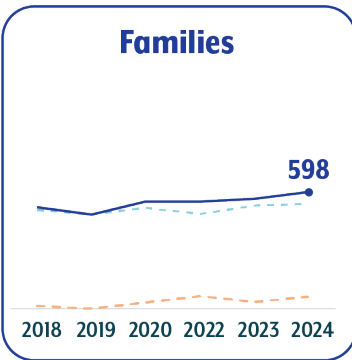24% Hispanic/Latina(o)(e) 76% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latina(e)(o)

[1] Black, African American, or African
[2] American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
[3] Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
[4] Middle Eastern or North African

Age

	Unsheltered	Sheltered
Older Adults Age 65+	3%	8%
Adults Age 25-64	85%	63%
Youth Age 18-24	8%	7%
Children Age 0-17	4%	22%

Special Populations
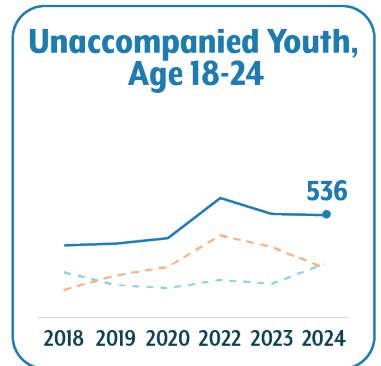
Families

598

2018 2019 2020 2022 2023 2024

The 2024 PIT Count identified 598 families experiencing homelessness, with a total of 2,089 persons in families. From 2018 to 2024, the number of families has increased by 15%. Families are defined in this report as households with at least one adult and one child. Almost all families identified from the PIT Count were in either emergency shelter or transitional housing. Unsheltered families may be hard for volunteers to identify during the PIT Count due to tendencies to stay in vehicles or other hidden locations. Family service providers reached out and conducted interview surveys over the phone to better count the number of families experiencing homelessness.
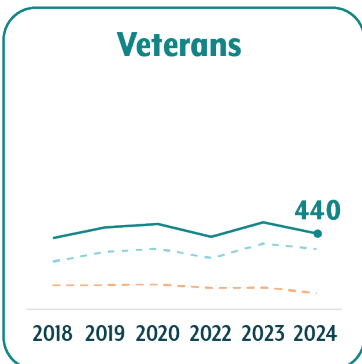
Youth ages 18-24 are considered a vulnerable population, and the number slightly decreased this year. Youth are also a challenging subpopulation to identify during the PIT Count. To account for this, homeless youth service providers have participated in the planning and survey process over the years to better understand this subpopulation and to capture the number of unaccompanied youth.

Unaccompanied Youth, Age 18-24

536

2018 2019 2020 2022 2023 2024

Veterans

440
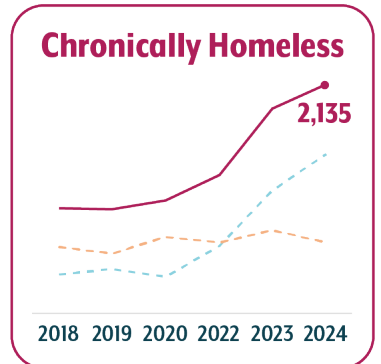
2018 2019 2020 2022 2023 2024

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased 13% since 2023. The number of veterans experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on the night of the count has gone up and down over the years. This year, the number of unsheltered and sheltered veterans both decreased. It is important to note that veteran status is self-reported for the PIT Count.

The number of people who meet the chronic homelessness definition has significantly increased over the years. From 2018 to 2024, the total number of chronically homeless has increased by 119%. This year the chronic unsheltered number has decreased by 14% since last year while the chronic sheltered number has increased by 30%. *The HUD definition of chronic homelessness is: (1) a person who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter, (2) has a disability, and (3) has been homeless continuously for one year OR four or more times homeless in the last three years, where the combined length of time homeless is at least 12 months. When a head of household meets this definition, all household members are counted as chronically homeless.*

Chronically Homeless

2,135

2018 2019 2020 2022 2023 2024

The PIT Count also collects information on other subpopulations based on self-reported, voluntary responses:

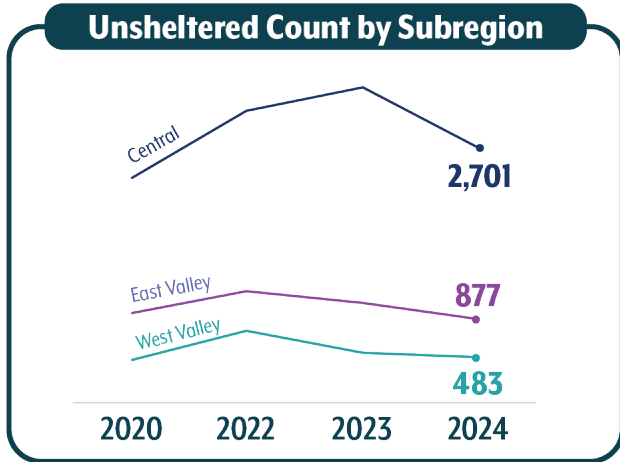| Additional Populations	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
Mental Illness	903	966	965	1,022	1,333	1,309
Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drug)	1,228	1,116	1,110	1,104	1,220	1,300
HIV/AIDS	80	117	157	135	149	181
Domestic Violence	425	805	576	470	637	667

Regional Trends

Unsheltered Count

In 2024, unsheltered homelessness decreased. However, from 2020 to 2024, unsheltered homelessness in the Maricopa County region increased by **8%**. In the Central subregion (Phoenix), the growth rate in unsheltered homelessness was **13%**. In the East Valley, unsheltered homelessness decreased by **7%** and in the West Valley, it went up by **9%**.
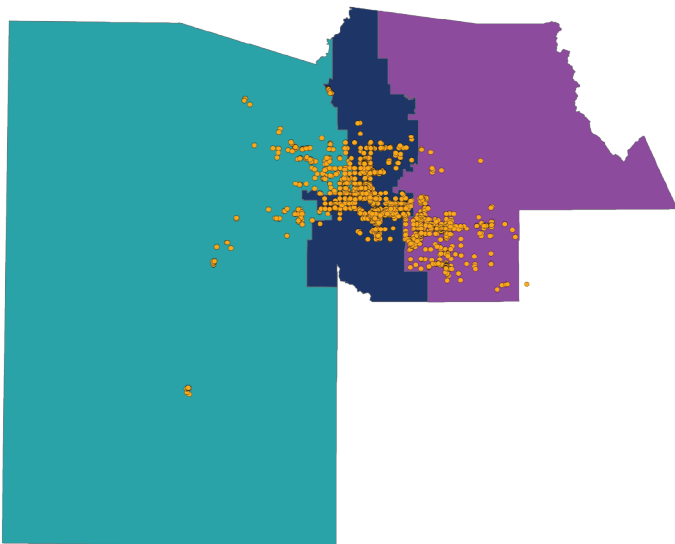
Subregions: West Valley | Central | East Valley

Unsheltered Count by Subregion

Central — 2,701
East Valley — 877
West Valley — 483

2020 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024

Subregion	2020	2022	2023	2024
Central	2,380	3,096	3,333	2,701
East Valley	944	1,170	1,048	877
West Valley	443	755	526	483

Locations of 2024 Unsheltered Surveys, Maricopa County

A more detailed map of the Unsheltered PIT Count is available online at: https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count

Unsheltered Count by Municipality

Municipality	2020	2022	2023	2024
Avondale	56	59	45	46
Buckeye	41	32	60	25
El Mirage	9	9	26	15
Gila Bend	4	11	7	10
Glendale	170	406	170	211
Goodyear	23	30	22	30
Litchfield Park	0	0	0	0
Peoria	83	115	92	82
Sun City	12	32	4	0
Surprise	29	46	67	49
Tolleson	5	7	7	7
Wickenburg	0	0	6	0
Youngtown	11	8	20	8
Phoenix	2,380	3,096	3,333	2,701
Carefree	0	0	0	0
Cave Creek	0	1	0	0
Chandler	75	133	115	115
Fountain Hills	0	1	2	1
Gilbert	9	15	17	16
Guadalupe	22	64	75	74
Mesa	338	451	366	309
Paradise Valley	0	0	2	0
Queen Creek	2	7	1	7
Scottsdale	102	114	64	89
Tempe	396	384	406	266
Uninc. MC*	n/a	n/a	8	15
Total	**3,767**	**5,029**	**4,908**	**4,076**

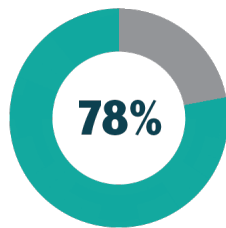**Unincorporated Maricopa County is excluded from the subregions.*

Weather Impact on Count

An important note about this year's unsheltered count is that there was heavy rain during the night of the PIT Count, which continued into the morning as volunteers went out to conduct the survey. It is possible that due to these weather conditions, people who typically would have slept in unsheltered conditions sought shelter that evening, either in the homeless system (such as emergency shelters) or by other means.
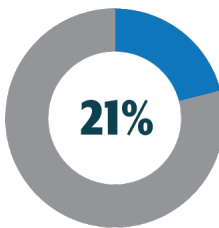
Sheltered Count

Most people experiencing sheltered homelessness during the 2024 PIT Count were in Emergency Shelters. The majority of Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven* programs are located in Phoenix.
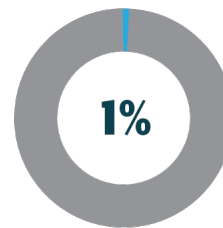
Emergency Shelter
78%

Transitional Housing
21%

Safe Haven*
1%

Sheltered Count by Subregion

Subregion	2020	2022	2023	2024
Central	2,755	2,942	3,569	4,097
East Valley	698	943	1,092	1,086
West Valley	199	112	73	176
Total	3,652	3,997	4,734	5,359

In previous years, there was a question on the unsheltered survey asking why people do not seek shelter services. Of those who responded, the top two reasons reported were "previous negative experience with shelter" and "shelters full."

* Note: Maricopa County no longer has "Safe Haven" projects, however, certain veteran Grant Per Diem beds are required by HUD to be reported as Safe Haven for the PIT Count.

Additional Data

The **Homelessness Trends Report** is an infographic report summarizing quarterly trends in homelessness data. Data comes from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and includes metrics on clients/households served, system flow, demographics, subpopulations, and an overview of system performance measures. **azmag.gov/Homelessness-Trends**

System Performance Measures (SPMs) are metrics that are reported to HUD by our Continuum of Care, designed to measure progress towards resolving homelessness. The SPM dashboard shows trends for Maricopa County by annual submissions going back to 2018, and by quarter for the last year. **azmag.gov/CoC-SPM**

The **Housing Data Explorer** is an interactive dashboard visualizing data for the Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler Metropolitan Statistical Area (Phoenix MSA) which includes Maricopa County and Pinal County. Data on this dashboard includes median sale price, apartment rent, evictions, cost burden, and distressed properties. **azmag.gov/Housing-Data-Explorer**

Methodology

Every year, hundreds of volunteers, staff, and outreach workers participate in the PIT Count across the Maricopa County region. The unsheltered count relies on interview and observation survey responses. All cities and towns except for Phoenix do a direct census count. The City of Phoenix uses an extrapolation method that identifies high and low density grids. High density grids are counted via complete census, while a random sample of low density grids are counted and extrapolated. PIT Count volunteers use a mobile app to submit electronic surveys for each person they encounter. Due to its ease of use, volunteers are able to complete more surveys using the mobile app. The sheltered count comes from the region's HMIS and service provider surveys to verify the number of beds and occupancy rates for each program. Missing demographics are extrapolated from known information using the HUD PIT Extrapolation tool.