

2022 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 primary source of unsheltered homeless numbers and helps to inform communities on the number of people who do not access services such as Emergency Shelters or Transitional Housing at any given point in time. As the unsheltered count in particular continues to rise across the region, increased regional efforts to address homelessness are necessary. Potential factors that may have contributed to the increase include: improvement in PIT Count volunteer training and recruitment, change in emergency shelter capacity, and rising housing costs in the region.

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.

Growth Rate from 2020-2022

Total PIT Count

+22%

Unsheltered Count

+34%

Sheltered Count

+9%

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

2022 PIT Count Total

9,026
people experiencing homelessness
in Maricopa County on the night of
January 24, 2022



44%
Sheltered

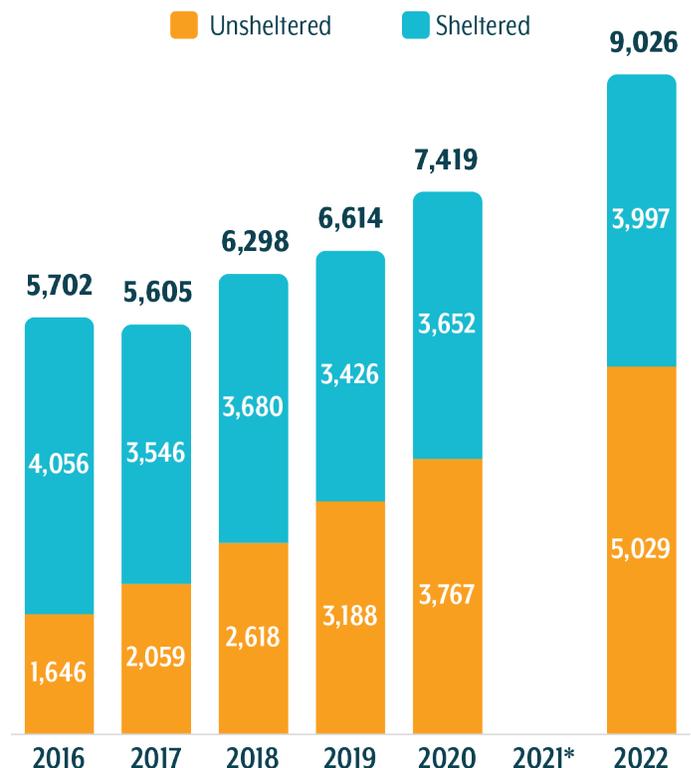
in Emergency Shelter,
Transitional Housing,
or Safe Haven Programs



56%
Unsheltered

on the streets or other
place not meant for
human habitation

Total PIT Count, 2016-2022

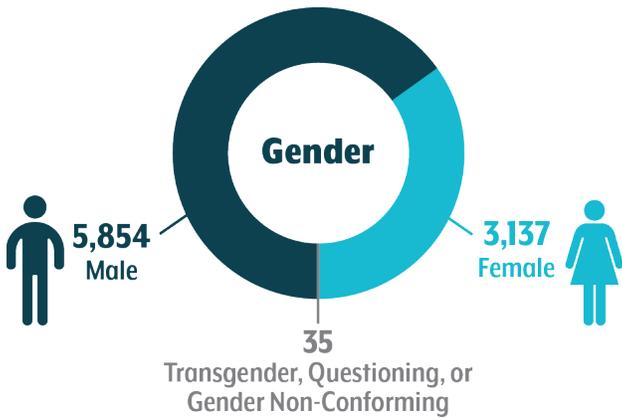


Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care PIT Count, 2016-2022

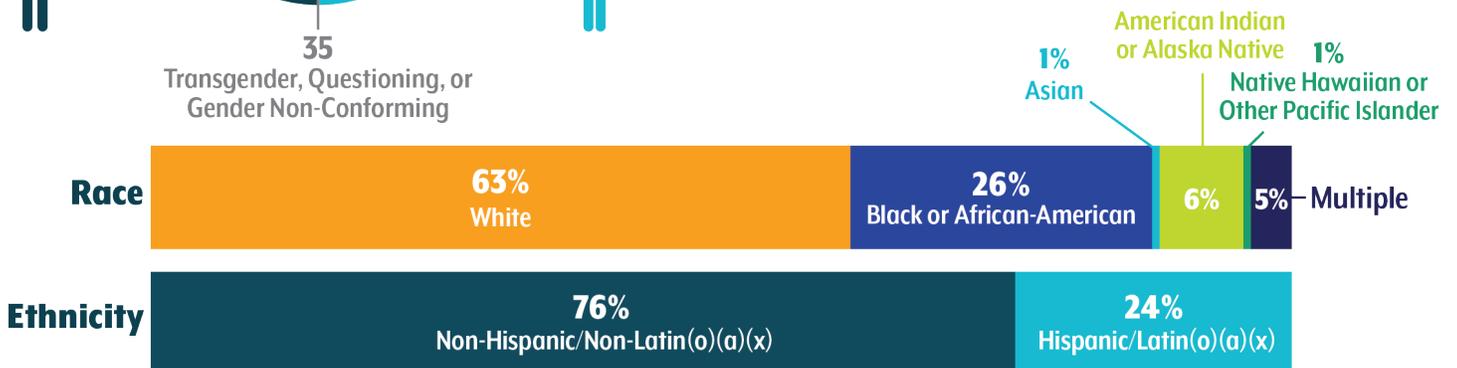
*The PIT Count was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic

Demographics

The demographics of the PIT Count have been fairly **consistent** over the past years. These charts show data from the 2022 PIT Count.



For the 2022 PIT Count, 65% of the population experiencing homelessness identified as male, 35% identified as female, and less than 1% identified as either transgender, gender non-conforming, or questioning. The proportion of gender has remained the same for the PIT Count throughout the years. The PIT Count had a larger proportion of the population that identified as male than Maricopa County's average of 49% from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate (*U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019 1-year estimate*).



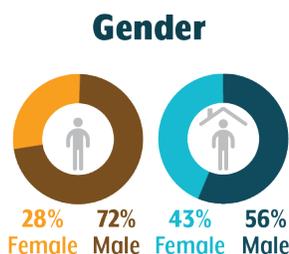
Over the years, a significant majority of the PIT Count has identified as White and Non-Hispanic or Non-Latin(o)(a)(x). By race there has been a slight increase in the White population and Multiple Races, while there was a slight decrease in Black or African-American and American Indian or Alaska Native. The 2022 PIT Count reported a differing racial makeup than Maricopa County. The 2020 Decennial Census reported the following numbers for Maricopa County: White (60%); Black or African-American (6%); Asian (5%); American Indian or Alaskan Native (2%); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (<1%); and Multiple Races (14%). The PIT Count also has a higher percentage of people identifying as Non-Hispanic or Non-Latin(o)(a)(x) compared to Maricopa County (69%).



The largest age group from the PIT Count is adults (age 25+), which accounted for 78% of the 2022 PIT population. Children (age 0-17) make up 14% of the population, while youth (age 18-24) make up only 8% of the count. The proportion of adults and youth reported from the PIT Count slightly increased from 2020 to 2022 while the proportion of children decreased. The PIT Count has a higher percentage of adults than the ACS estimate for Maricopa County, 67% (*U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2019 1-year estimate*).

Comparison: Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations

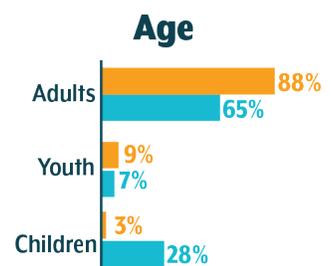
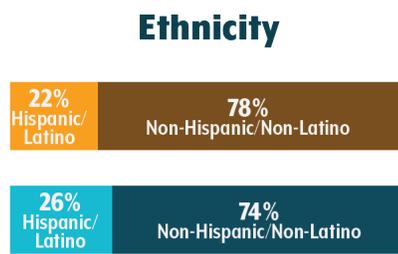
Legend: Unsheltered (Orange), Sheltered (Blue)



Race

White	68%	>	55%
Black	21%	<	32%
Asian	<1%	<	1%
AI/AN ¹	7%	>	4%
NH/OPI ²	1%	>	<1%
Multiple	3%	<	6%

¹American Indian or Alaska Native
²Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander



Special Populations

Legend *solid line* Total *orange dashed line* Unsheltered *blue dashed line* Sheltered

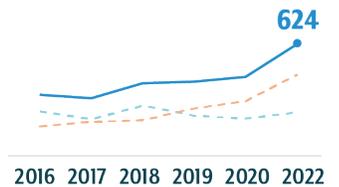
Families



The 2022 PIT Count identified 550 families experiencing homelessness, with a total of 1,946 persons in families. From 2016 to 2022, the number of families has decreased by 12%. 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. 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 has increased in the past few years. 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



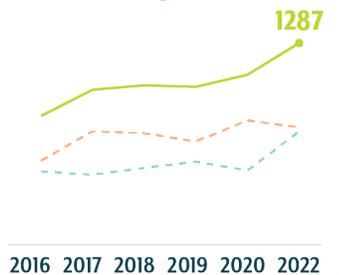
Veterans



The number of veterans experiencing homelessness has decreased 15% since 2020. After increasing in 2019 and 2020, the 2022 PIT Count showed a decrease in the number of veterans experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on the night of the count. 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 2016 to 2022, the total number of chronically homeless has increased by 73%. This year the chronic unsheltered number has decreased by 7% since 2020 while the chronic sheltered number has increased by 85%. 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



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

Additional Populations

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022
Mental Illness	931	866	903	966	965	1,022
Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drug)	910	711	1,228	1,116	1,110	1,104
HIV/AIDS	68	60	80	117	157	135
Domestic Violence	1,177*	1,154*	425	805	576	470

*Prior to 2018, the PIT Count collected data on 'Survivors of Domestic Violence'; in 2018, this field changed to 'Fleeing Domestic Violence'.

Regional Trends

Unsheltered Count

The overall unsheltered count for the Maricopa County region has been increasing each year. The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in each subregion has also been increasing annually, with the majority of the unsheltered population concentrated in central Phoenix.

Subregions: West Valley Central East Valley

Unsheltered Count by Subregion

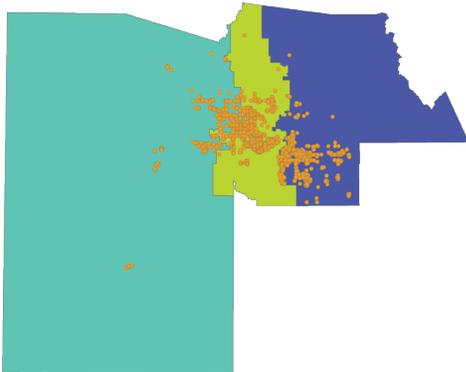


Subregion	2018	2019	2020	2022
Central	1,735	2,030	2,380	3,096
East Valley	560	736	944	1,170
West Valley	323	422	443	755

Unsheltered PIT Count Growth Rate

From 2018 to 2022, unsheltered homelessness in the Maricopa County region increased by **92%**. In the Central subregion (Phoenix), the growth rate in unsheltered homelessness was **78%**. In the East Valley, unsheltered homelessness increased by **109%** and in the West Valley, it went up by **134%**.

Locations of 2022 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	2018	2019	2020	2022
Avondale	13	35	56	59
Buckeye	22	24	41	32
El Mirage	2	7	9	9
Gila Bend	8	4	4	11
Glendale	164	194	170	406
Goodyear	22	22	23	30
Litchfield Park	0	0	0	0
Peoria	38	78	83	115
Sun City*	n/a	n/a	12	32
Surprise	39	33	29	46
Tolleson	9	5	5	7
Wickenburg	2	2	0	0
Youngtown	4	18	11	8
Phoenix	1,735	2,030	2,380	3,096
Carefree	0	0	0	0
Cave Creek	1	0	0	1
Chandler	54	54	75	133
Fountain Hills	0	0	0	1
Gilbert	4	2	9	15
Guadalupe	9	21	22	64
Mesa	144	206	338	451
Paradise Valley	0	0	0	0
Queen Creek	5	4	2	7
Scottsdale	67	76	102	114
Tempe	276	373	396	384
Uninc. MC*	n/a	n/a	n/a	8
Total	2,618	3,188	3,767	5,029

*Sun City and Unincorporated Maricopa County were not counted in previous years. Unincorporated Maricopa County is excluded from the subregions.

Additional Survey Questions

Was your homelessness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?



302
said "Yes"

Do you have any pets? How many?



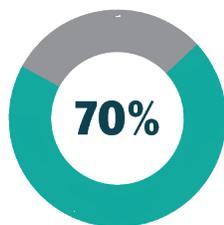
352

Source: 2022 Unsheltered PIT Count interview surveys

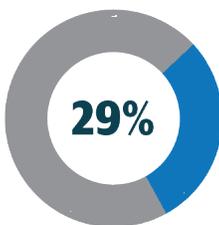
Sheltered Count

Most people experiencing sheltered homelessness during the 2022 PIT Count were in Emergency Shelters. The majority of Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven* programs are located in Phoenix.

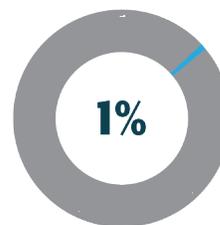
Emergency Shelter



Transitional Housing



Safe Haven*



Sheltered Count by Subregion

Subregion	2018	2019	2020	2022
Central	2,827	2,548	2,755	2,942
East Valley	704	672	698	943
West Valley	149	206	199	112
Total	3,680	3,426	3,652	3,997

In recent years a question was added to the unsheltered survey asking why people do not seek shelter services. Of those who responded to the question, 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.

Maricopa County

Maricopa County is the fastest growing region in the nation. According to Census population estimates, from 2020 to 2021 Maricopa County grew by 58,246, a 1% increase (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates). The PIT Count increased by 12% from 2019 to 2020, and 22% from 2020 to 2022.



Housing costs are high in the region. Maricopa County is the second most expensive county in Arizona. As of Q4 2021, median apartment rent was \$1,550 and has increased 29% since Q4 2020 (RealData, Inc 50+ unit complexes only).

Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a One-Bedroom Apartment at Fair Market Rent



Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2021

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

used a mobile app to submit electronic surveys for each person they encountered. This was the first year that all surveys were submitted through the mobile app. Due to its ease of use, volunteers were 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.



Special thanks to the 2022 PIT Count Municipal Coordinators, volunteers, staff, and outreach teams that put in time and effort to make this a successful count; Solari for collecting and verifying provider data for the Housing Inventory Chart and Sheltered Count; the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care for their support of this annual count; and to those experiencing homelessness who were willing to speak with us about their experiences. For more information, visit <http://azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count>



Prepared by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)
(602) 254-6300 www.azmag.gov