2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report
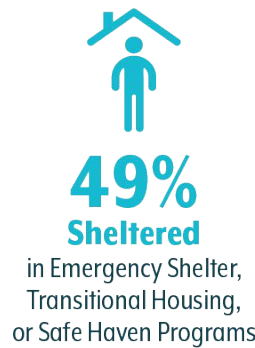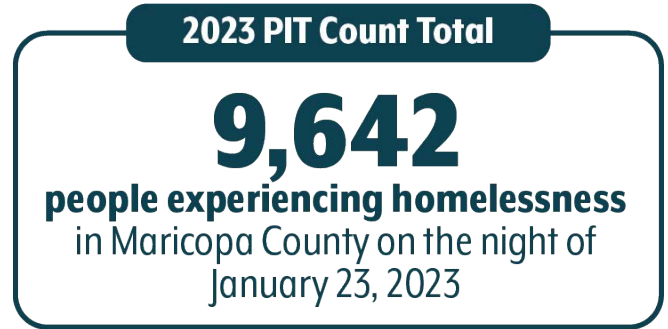## Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care

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.
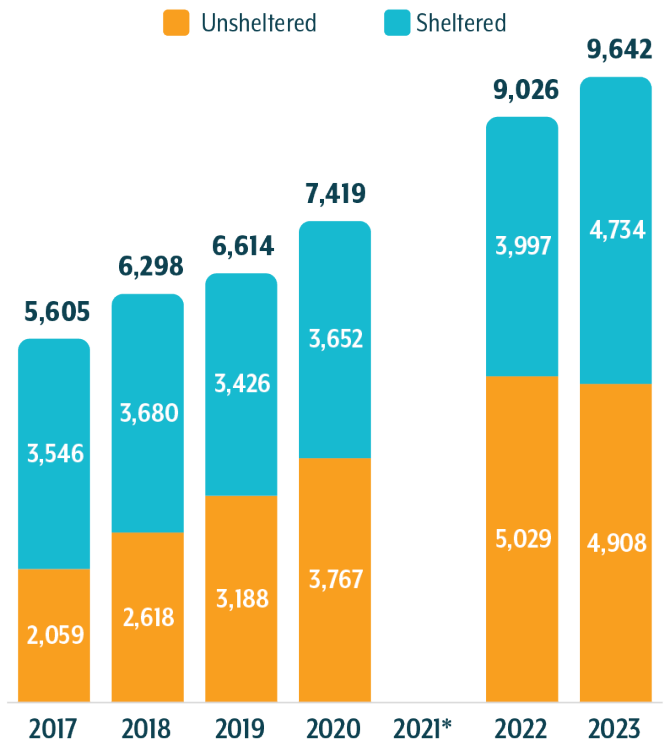
Why is it important?

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 do not access services such as Emergency Shelters or Transitional Housing at any given point in time. 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.

Growth Rate from 2022-2023

Total PIT Count	Unsheltered Count	Sheltered Count
+7%	-2%	+18%

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

2023 PIT Count Total

9,642
people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County on the night of January 23, 2023

49%
Sheltered
in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Safe Haven Programs

51%
Unsheltered
on the streets or other place not meant for human habitation

Total PIT Count, 2017-2023

Legend: Unsheltered | Sheltered

Year	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
2017	2,059	3,546	5,605
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

Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care PIT Count, 2017-2023
*The PIT Count was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic

Demographics
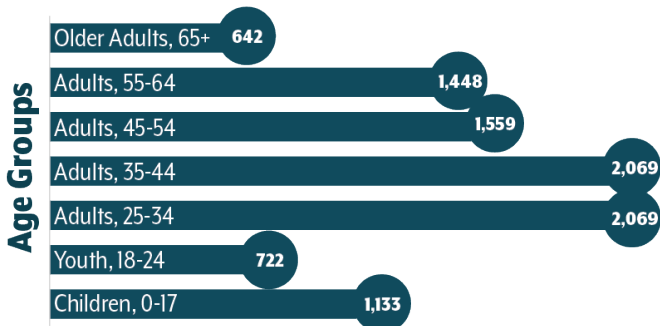
The demographics of the PIT Count have been fairly **consistent** over the past years. These charts show data from the 2023 PIT Count.

Gender

6,188 Male

3,400 Female

54 Transgender, Questioning, or Gender Non-Conforming
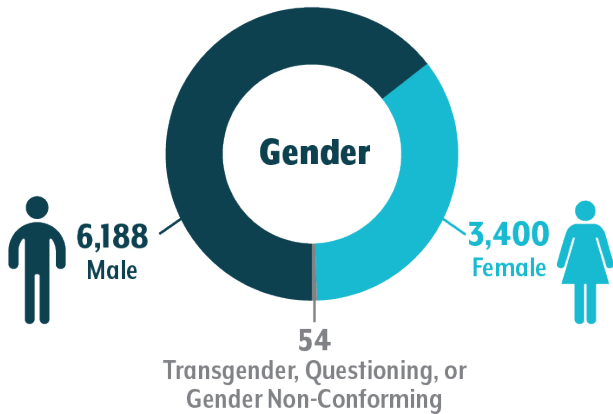
For the 2023 PIT Count, 64% of the population experiencing homelessness identified as male, 35% identified as female, and 1% identified as either transgender, gender non-conforming, or questioning. The proportion of gender has remained the same for the PIT Count throughout the years. The PIT Count had a larger proportion of the population that identified as male than Maricopa County's average of 49.7% from the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2021 1-year estimate).

Race

61% White	28% Black or African-American	5% American Indian or Alaska Native	1% Asian	1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4% Multiple

Ethnicity

| 73% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(o)(a)(x) | 27% Hispanic/Latin(o)(a)(x) |
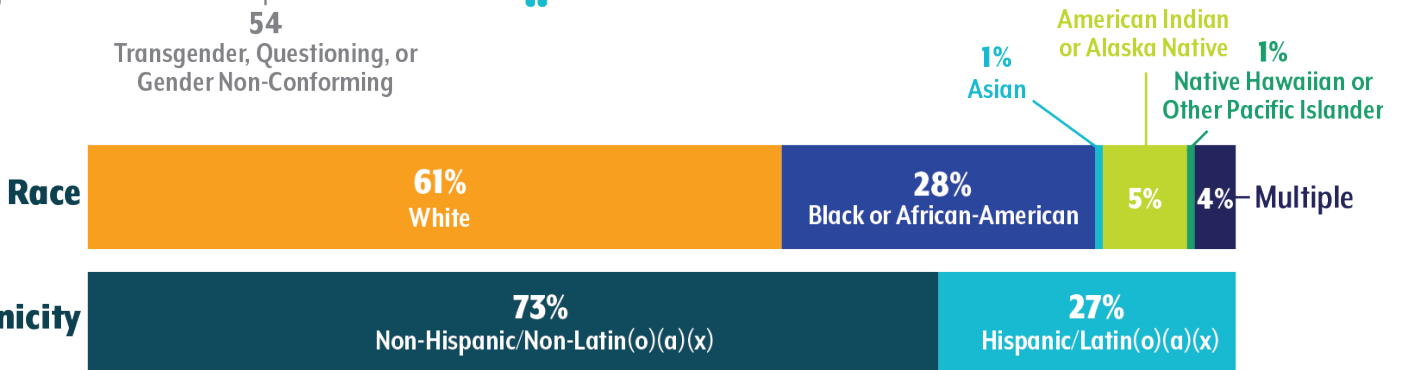
Over the years, a significant majority of the PIT Count has identified as White and Non-Hispanic or Non-Latin(o)(a)(x). By race there has been a slight decrease in the White population and American Indian or Alaska Native, while there was a slight increase in Black or African-American. The 2023 PIT Count reported a differing racial makeup than Maricopa County. The 2021 ACS estimate reported the following numbers for Maricopa County: White (58%); Black or African-American (6%); Asian (4%); American Indian or Alaskan Native (2%); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (<1%); and Multiple Races or Other (30%). The PIT Count also has a higher percentage of people identifying as Non-Hispanic or Non-Latin(o)(a)(x) compared to Maricopa County (68%).

Age Groups

Age Group	Count
Older Adults, 65+	642
Adults, 55-64	1,448
Adults, 45-54	1,559
Adults, 35-44	2,069
Adults, 25-34	2,069
Youth, 18-24	722
Children, 0-17	1,133

This year, age categories were expanded for adults 25+. The largest age group from the PIT Count is adults 25-34 and adults 35-44, which each accounted for 21% of the 2023 PIT population. Children (age 0-17) make up 12% of the population, while youth (age 18-24) and older adults (age 65+) each make up only 7% of the count. 81% of the PIT Count are adults age 25+, a higher percentage than the ACS estimate for Maricopa County, 68% (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2021 1-year estimate).

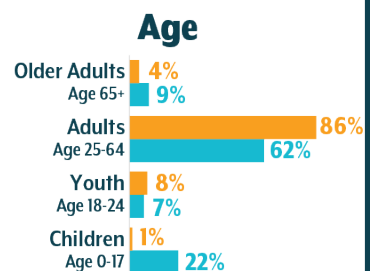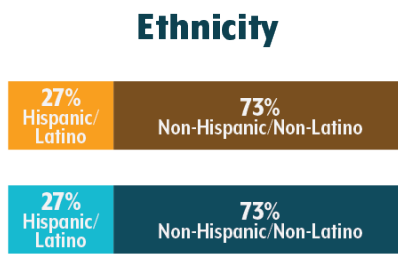## Comparison: Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations

Legend: Unsheltered, Sheltered

Gender

28% Female 71% Male (Unsheltered)
43% Female 57% Male (Sheltered)

Race
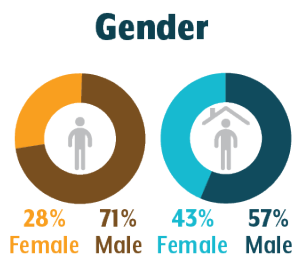
	Unsheltered		Sheltered
White	65%	>	57%
Black	24%	<	32%
Asian	1%	<	1%
AI/AN[1]	7%	>	4%
NH/OPI[2]	1%	>	<1%
Multiple	2%	<	6%

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

Ethnicity

| 27% Hispanic/Latino | 73% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino | (Unsheltered) |
| 27% Hispanic/Latino | 73% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino | (Sheltered) |

Age

	Unsheltered	Sheltered
Older Adults Age 65+	4%	9%
Adults Age 25-64	86%	62%
Youth Age 18-24	8%	7%
Children Age 0-17	1%	22%

Special Populations

Families

610

2017 2018 2019 2020 2022 2023
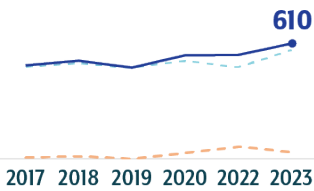
The 2023 PIT Count identified 610 families experiencing homelessness, with a total of 1,924 persons in families. From 2017 to 2023, the number of families has increased by 23%. Families are defined in this report as households with at least one adult and one child. Almost all families identified from 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

559

2017 2018 2019 2020 2022 2023

Veterans

505

2017 2018 2019 2020 2022 2023
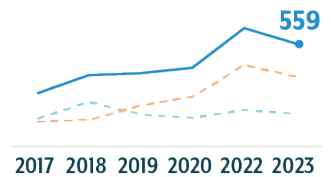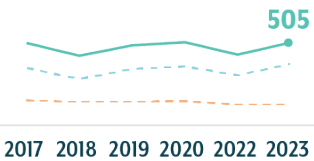
The number of veterans experiencing homelessness increased 20% since 2022. The number of veterans experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on the night of the count has gone up and down over the years. This year, the number of unsheltered and sheltered veterans both increased. It is important 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 2017 to 2023, the total number of chronically homeless has increased by 103%. This year the chronic unsheltered number has increased by 17% since last year while the chronic sheltered number has increased by 81%. *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

1,907

2017 2018 2019 2020 2022 2023
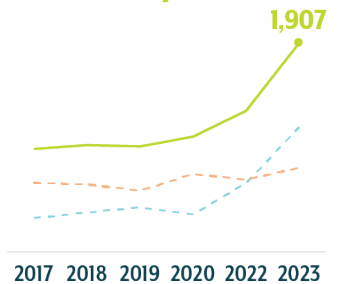
The PIT Count also collects information on other subpopulations based on self-reported, voluntary responses:

Additional Populations

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023
Mental Illness	866	903	966	965	1,022	1,333
Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drug)	711	1,228	1,116	1,110	1,104	1,220
HIV/AIDS	60	80	117	157	135	149
Domestic Violence	1,154*	425	805	576	470	637

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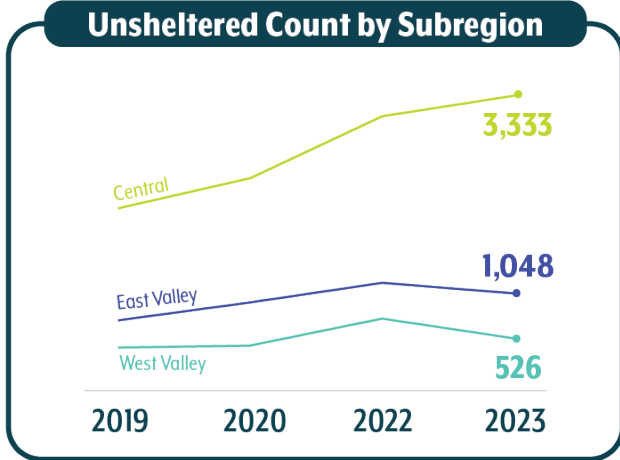
Unsheltered Count

In 2023, unsheltered homelessness decreased. However, from 2019 to 2023, unsheltered homelessness in the Maricopa County region increased by **54%**. In the Central subregion (Phoenix), the growth rate in unsheltered homelessness was **64%**. In the East Valley, unsheltered homelessness increased by **42%** and in the West Valley, it went up by **25%**.
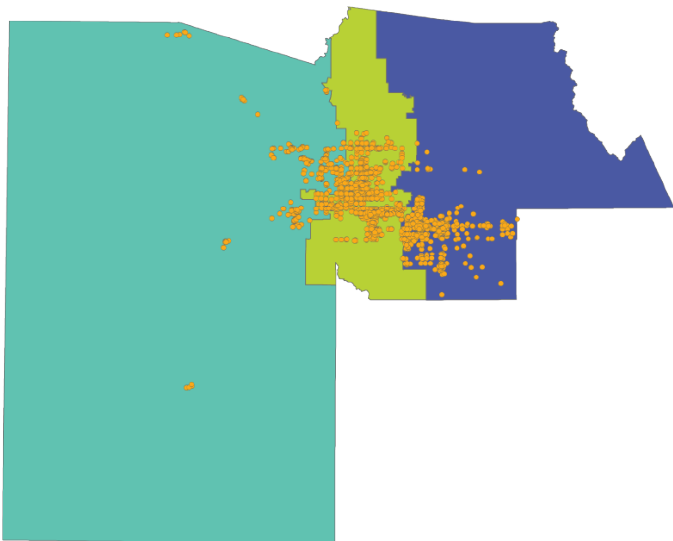
Subregions: West Valley | Central | East Valley

Unsheltered Count by Subregion

3,333 — Central
1,048 — East Valley
526 — West Valley

2019   2020   2022   2023

Subregion	2019	2020	2022	2023
Central	2,030	2,380	3,096	3,333
East Valley	736	944	1,170	1,048
West Valley	422	443	755	526

Locations of 2023 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	2019	2020	2022	2023
Avondale	35	56	59	45
Buckeye	24	41	32	60
El Mirage	7	9	9	26
Gila Bend	4	4	11	7
Glendale	194	170	406	170
Goodyear	22	23	30	22
Litchfield Park	0	0	0	0
Peoria	78	83	115	92
Sun City	n/a	12	32	4
Surprise	33	29	46	67
Tolleson	5	5	7	7
Wickenburg	2	0	0	6
Youngtown	18	11	8	20
Phoenix	2,030	2,380	3,096	3,333
Carefree	0	0	0	0
Cave Creek	0	0	1	0
Chandler	54	75	133	115
Fountain Hills	0	0	1	2
Gilbert	2	9	15	17
Guadalupe	21	22	64	75
Mesa	206	338	451	366
Paradise Valley	0	0	0	2
Queen Creek	4	2	7	1
Scottsdale	76	102	114	64
Tempe	373	396	384	406
Uninc. MC*	n/a	n/a	8	1
Total	**3,188**	**3,767**	**5,029**	**4,908**

Unincorporated Maricopa County is excluded from the subregions.

Additional Survey Questions

Was your homelessness caused by:

COVID-19 pandemic?
 247 said "Yes"

Rent increase?
 440 said "Yes"
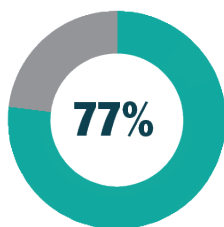
Do you have any pets? How many?

 439

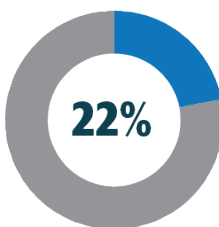*Source: 2023 Unsheltered PIT Count interview surveys*

Sheltered Count

Most people experiencing sheltered homelessness during the 2023 PIT Count were in Emergency Shelters.
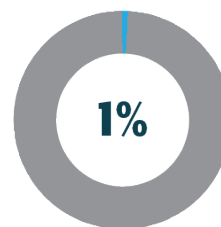The majority of Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven* programs are located in Phoenix.

Emergency Shelter
77%

Transitional Housing
22%

Safe Haven*
1%

Sheltered Count by Subregion

Subregion	2019	2020	2022	2023
Central	2,548	2,755	2,942	3,569
East Valley	672	698	943	1,092
West Valley	206	199	112	73
Total	3,426	3,652	3,997	4,734

There is a question on 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.

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.