Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Census Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of this project is a testament to the extraordinary dedication and expertise of our team. We are profoundly grateful to the generous donors and sponsors whose support made this initiative a reality. Our deepest gratitude goes to the service providers who not only recruited and trained census workers but also played a vital role in administering and distributing the survey.

We extend a special thank you to the survey respondents, whose invaluable participation is crucial for the depth and accuracy of this report. Lastly, we honor the hundreds of community volunteers whose unwavering commitment and hard work were essential to the success of the homeless census and survey. Your collective efforts have made a meaningful impact.

Community Partners

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC)
City of Boulder City Parks & Recreation
City of Boulder City Fire Department
City of Boulder City Police Department
Emergency Aid of Boulder City
Boulder City Hospital
City of Henderson Community Development & Services Department
City of Henderson Parks & Recreation
City of Henderson Public Works
Henderson Police Department
City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services
City of North Las Vegas Housing and Neighborhood Services
Clark County Building Department
Clark County Administrative Services
Clark County Parks & Recreation
Clark County Social Service
Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice
Clark County Department of Family Services
Clark County Information and Technology
Family Promise of Las Vegas

HELP of Southern Nevada
Hopelink
Jewish Family Service Agency
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Lutheran Social Services of Nevada
Nevada Behavioral Health Services
Nevada Health Centers
Nevada Homeless Alliance
Nevada Partners Inc.
Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
S.A.F.E. House
SafeNest
Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Southern Nevada CHIPs
Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority
St. Jude's Ranch for Children
Southern Nevada Lived X Consultants
The Cupcake Girls
The Just One Project
The Salvation Army
U.S. VETS-Las Vegas
VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System
Vegas Stronger

Table of Contents

Introduction

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates that communities conduct a biennial count of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in January (Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 24 CFR § 578.7(c)(2)). This nationwide initiative, known as the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, is the primary census-based method for quantifying both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness in the United States, playing a pivotal role in shaping homelessness initiatives.

The accuracy of the PIT count relies on the thorough process of surveying the country, which includes visiting known and suspected camps where people experiencing homelessness stay, as well as shelters. It's important to understand that the PIT count provides a snapshot of everyone experiencing homelessness in the United States on a single day in the last ten days of January. Therefore, it doesn't reflect the total number of people experiencing homelessness throughout the year.

On January 25th, 2024, the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care (SNHCoC) carried out the PIT count, specifically through the Collaborative Applicant, Clark County, in partnership with the City of Henderson, City of North Las Vegas, and the City of Las Vegas. To ensure accuracy and prevent duplicate data, personal identifying information such as name, date of birth, and social security number are used to compare data and remove duplicates. Volunteers supporting this effort were assigned to unique census tracts, to conduct interviews with as many people experiencing homelessness as possible.

> **HUD's Definition of Homelessness**
> Continuums should keep HUD's definition of homelessness in mind as they plan their public places count. According to HUD, a person is considered homeless only when they reside in one of the places described below at the time of the count.
> An unsheltered person experiencing homelessness resides in:
> - In a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings (on the street).
>
> A sheltered person experiencing homelessness resides in:
> - In an emergency shelter.
> - In transitional housing or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters.

Key Points

In Clark County, 7,906 people experiencing homelessness were counted on a single night in January 2024. This represents an increase of approximately 20 percent from the 2023 count.

- The number of people experiencing homelessness staying in emergency shelter increased by nearly 40 percent. A positive development, reflecting the County's proactive response to the 2023 PIT count, when 60 percent of the homeless population was unsheltered. In response, the County has added non-congregate shelter beds tailored to various subpopulations, helping more individuals find safer, more suitable accommodations.

- 51 percent of the available bed inventory consists of Permanent Housing, while Shelters make up the remaining 49 percent.
- A higher proportion of individuals between the ages of 35-44 experience homelessness compared to any other age group in Clark County.
- According to the PIT count data, African American individuals experience the highest disparities in homelessness, constituting 42 percent of the homeless population.
- Clark County experienced a significant increase in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness between the 2023 and 2024 PIT Counts, largely due to a change in methodology for the Unsheltered Count, resulting in a 54% increase in adult-only households and a 170% increase in households with children in the Sheltered Count.
- The 2023 PIT Count used a single-night survey with a 20% response rate, leading to skewed demographic extrapolations. In 2024, the methodology was improved by integrating Street Outreach data from November 2023 to February 2024, offering a more accurate representation of the unsheltered population and contributing to the observed increase in chronic homelessness.
- Street Outreach data showed a 26% increase in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness on the PIT night between 2023 and 2024. In addition, analysis of Length of Time suggests that unsheltered clients may be aging into chronicity as it relates to adult-only households with Street Outreach enrollments and 'stays' longer than 365+ days.

Clark County

HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) provides an annual overview of PIT estimates to capture a snapshot of individuals experiencing homelessness, in sheltered and unsheltered locations, on a single night. The last report was issued in 2023.

To understand how the characteristics of homelessness differ by location, the AHAR categorizes CoCs into four groups:

1. Major city CoCs
2. Mainly other urban CoCs
3. Largely suburban CoCs
4. Largely rural CoCs

Based on U.S. Census data, the CoCs representing the 50 most populous cities in the United States are in the major city CoC category.

In 2023, among all major cities, Las Vegas/Clark County ranked 11th out of 50 CoCs based on the overall homelessness count. It is worth noting that even though Las Vegas sheltered and unsheltered ranked 11th, other major cities who ranked lower provided shelter-only counts. Based upon our sheltered only rates (2654) in 2023, Las Vegas would rank among the 20-25 range.

#	Name	Overall Count
2023 Major Cities CoC's Homeless Census Count	
1	New York City	88025
2	Los Angeles City & County	71320
3	Seattle/King County	14149
4	San Diego City and County	10264
5	Metropolitan Denver	10054
6	San Jose/Santa Clara City & County	9903
7	Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County	9759
8	Phoenix, Mesa/Maricopa County	9642
9	Sacramento City & County	9281
10	San Francisco	7582
11	Las Vegas/Clark County	6566
12	Portland, Gresham/Multnomah	6297
13	Chicago	6139
14	Boston	5202
15	District of Columbia	4922
16	Philadelphia	4725
17	Fresno City & County/Madera County	4493
18	Dallas City & County, Irving	4244
19	Miami-Dade County	3657
20	Long Beach	3447
21	Minneapolis/Hennepin County	3312
22	Houston, Pasadena, Conroe/Harris, Ft. Bend, Montgomery, Counties	3270
23	San Antonio/Bexar County	3155
24	Fort Worth, Arlington/Tarrant County	2776
25	Atlanta	2679
26	Albuquerque	2394
27	Austin/Travis County	2374
28	Columbus/Franklin County	2337
29	Tucson/Pima County	2209
30	Nashville-Davidson County	2129

In 2023, among the top 30 Major City CoCs, New York City CoC accounted for nearly 28 percent of the homeless population, followed by Los Angeles City & County CoC with almost 23 percent, Seattle/King County CoC Sheltered Only Count with slightly over four percent, and San Diego City and County CoC around three percent. Clark County CoC accounts for just over two percent of the overall homeless population among the top 30 Major Cities.

The Experience of Homelessness in the US and Clark County

Similar CoC Population Proportion of those Experiencing Homelessness, 2020-2023
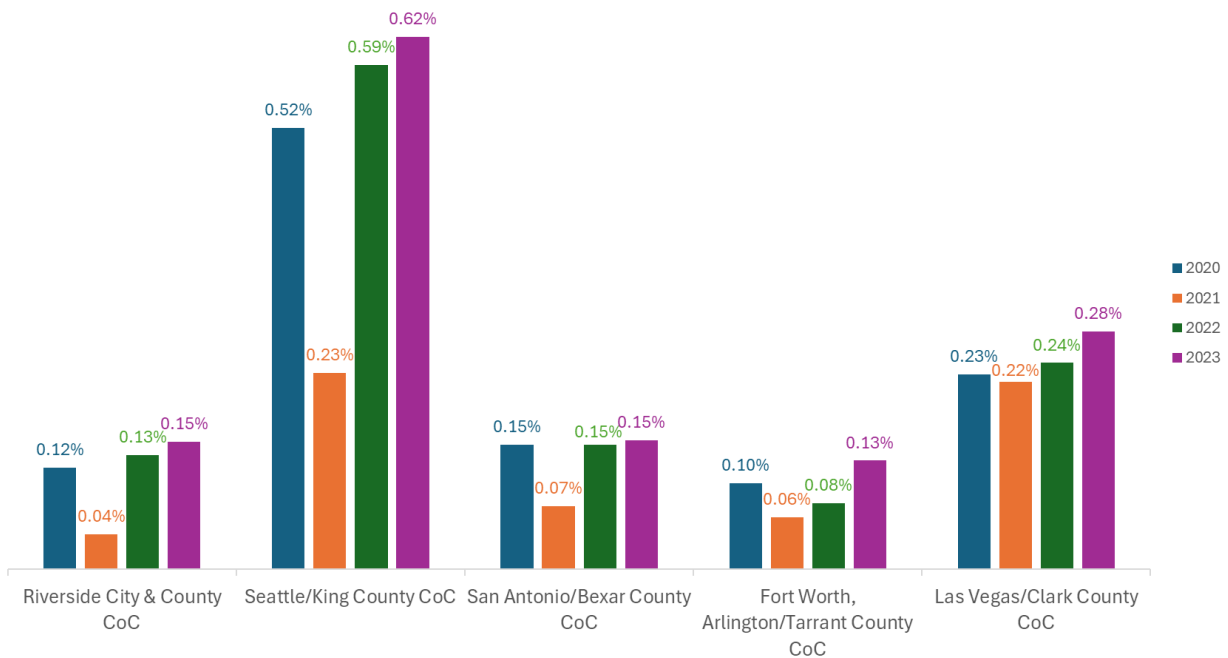
When adjusted for population size rather than just the homeless population, Clark County has lower rates of homelessness compared to Seattle/King County. However, it has higher rates than Riverside City and County, San Antonio/Bexar County, and Fort Worth Arlington/Tarrant County, which are comparable CoCs by population size.
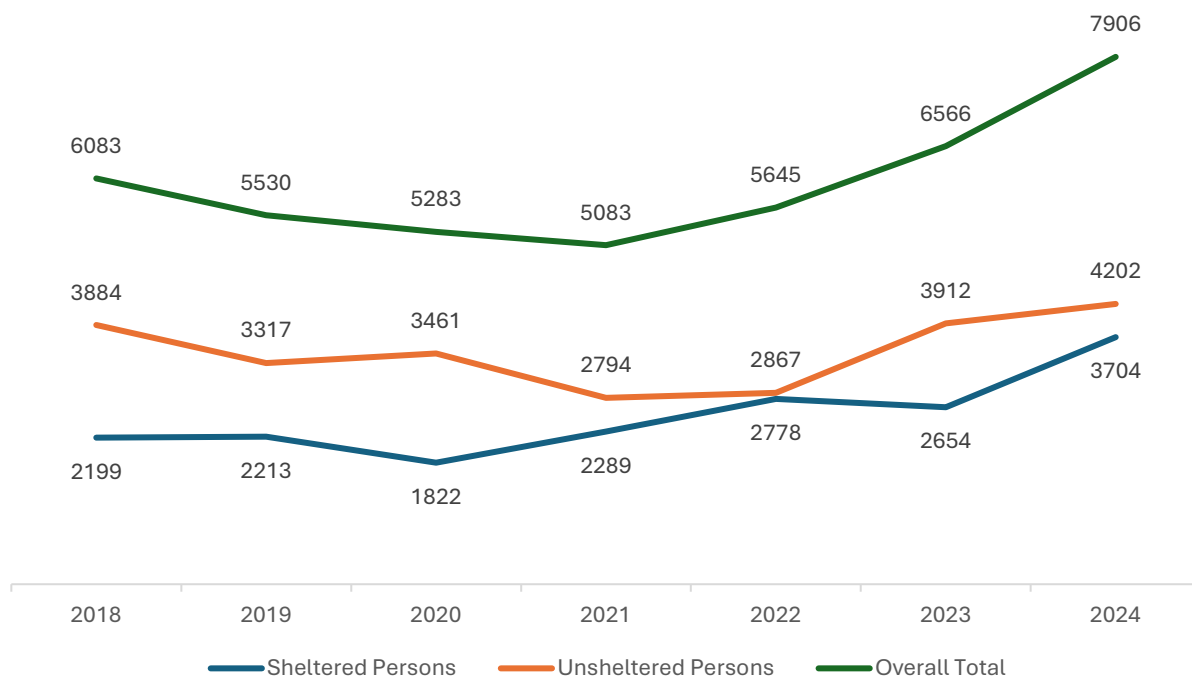
When comparing the Sheltered versus Unsheltered population among similar CoCs in 2023 by Standardized Population, Clark County is experiencing similar rates of Unsheltered and Sheltered populations as Riverside City and County and Seattle/ King County.

Sheltered vs. Unsheltered By CoC, 2023		
CoC	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Riverside City & County CoC	34%	66%
Seattle/King County CoC	46%	54%
San Antonio/Bexar County CoC	72%	28%
Fort Worth, Arlington/Tarrant County CoC	61%	39%
Las Vegas/Clark County CoC	40%	60%

Clark County 2024 Homeless Census Count

Data from the January 2024 PIT Count indicates that Clark County experienced an increase in homelessness over previous years, counting 7,906 individuals affected on a single night. This represents a 20 percent increase from 2023.

Number of People Counted by Shelter Status, 2018-2024

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Overall Total	6083	5530	5283	5083	5645	6566	7906
Unsheltered Persons	3884	3317	3461	2794	2867	3912	4202
Sheltered Persons	2199	2213	1822	2289	2778	2654	3704

Legend: Sheltered Persons — Unsheltered Persons — Overall Total

When comparing the 2023 to the 2024 count, the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness only increased by only seven percent, while the number of people in shelters increased by nearly 40 percent.

The total number of people experiencing homelessness is not the only factor that affects total shelter use. The increase in the sheltered count maybe correlated to the improved availability of emergency shelters due to the expansion of shelter access for those experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. Clark County increased the number of available non-congregate shelter beds by

Clark County Yearly Point In Time Count 2018-2023

| 2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
6083	5530	5283	5083	5645	6566	7906
	-9%	-4%	-4%	11%	16%	20%
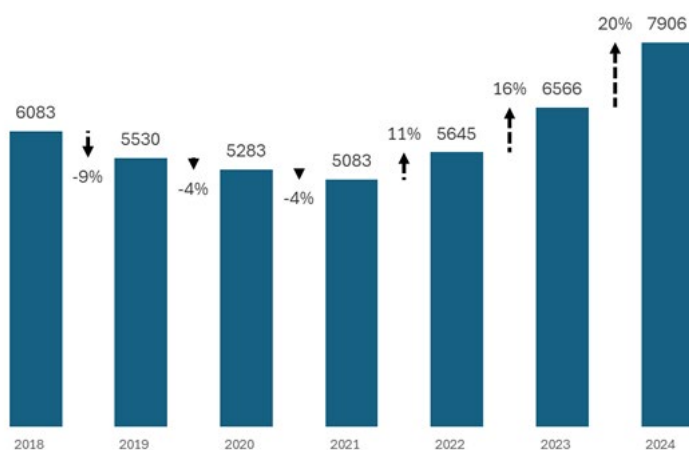
1670 or 62 percent from 2023 to 2024, simultaneously providing additional emergency shelter access to multiple providers in the community. Between 2022 to 2023, there was an over four percent decrease in the sheltered population, suggesting that fewer people were seeking assistance in shelters at that time. Local efforts to expand shelters for those experiencing

homelessness contributed to this nearly 40 percent increase, offering a glimmer of hope in the fight against homelessness.

Population Proportion

A comparison of the PIT Count to Clark County's overall population over the past decade reveals a generally declining proportion of people experiencing homelessness, even as the county's population has grown. Significant decreases were noted in 2016, 2019, and 2021, supporting this downward trend. However, recent data suggests that this trend may reverse, with notable increases in homelessness observed in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Clark County Total Population vs PIT Count Percentages, 2014-2024
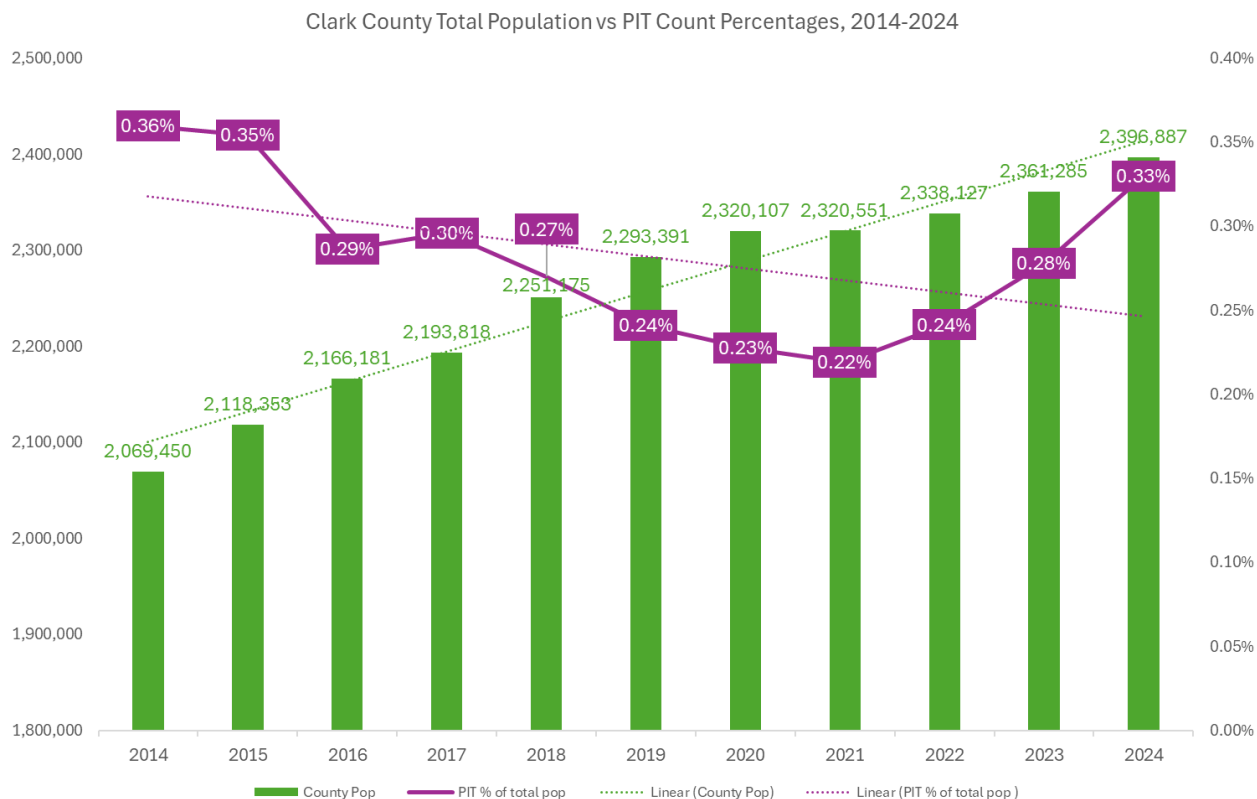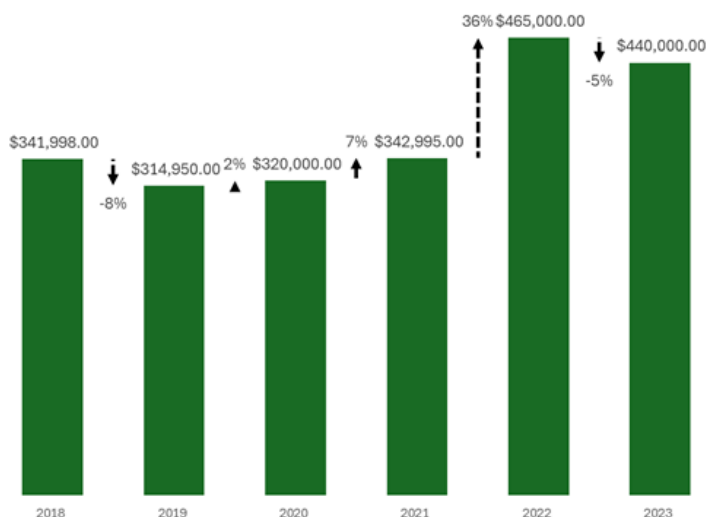

Though individuals experiencing homelessness currently represent less than one percent of the overall population, their numbers and proportion relative to the total population have been rising. These trends indicate a potential shift towards increased homelessness. This information is crucial for planning and implementing proactive measures, such as establishing additional shelter locations, affordable housing and permanent supportive housing programs, to address the anticipated rise in homelessness alongside the county's population growth.
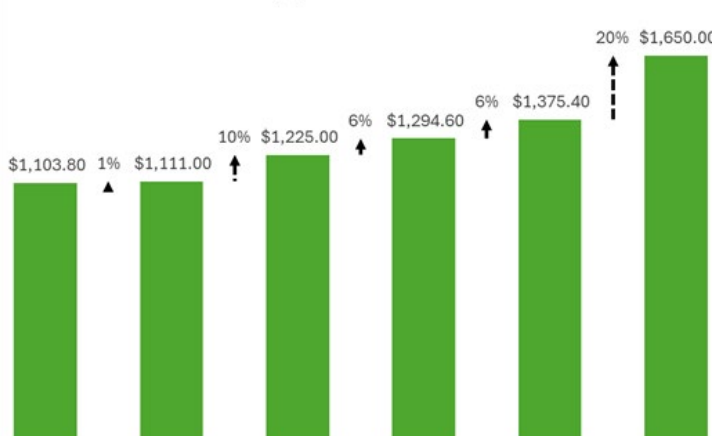
Housing Affordability and Income

From 2018 to 2021, Clark County experienced only modest increases in median household prices. However, between 2021 and 2022, these prices surged by over 35 percent. Similarly, Fair Market Rents remained relatively stable from 2018 to 2022 but rose by a significant 20 percent between 2022 and 2023. This trend indicates that both home prices and rental costs have recently experienced substantial increases, at different rates. The observed parallels between annual median household prices, Fair Market Rents, and the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count suggest that these factors may be interconnected and reflective of broader trends affecting the Clark County community.

From 2018 to 2021, income in Clark County grew only modestly. However, following an over 35 percent increase in median household prices between 2021 and 2022, income levels also began to increase. This increase in income, while notable, was comparatively slower, growing at approximately half the rate of the surge in median household prices and Fair Market Rents. This delayed and less pronounced rise in income underscores the disparity between housing cost increases and income growth, highlighting a growing affordability challenge for residents in Clark County.
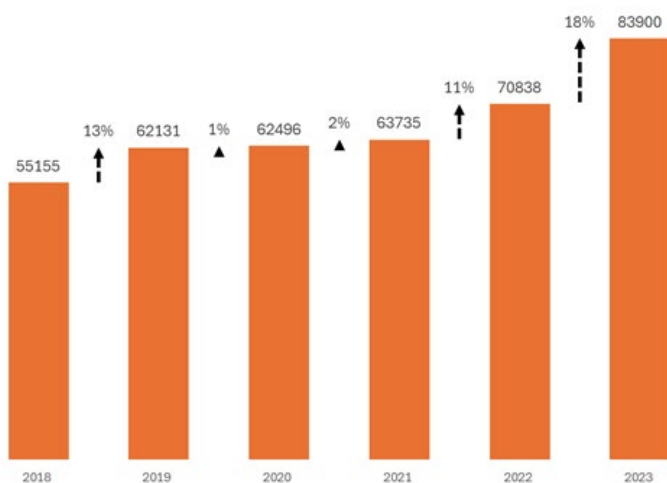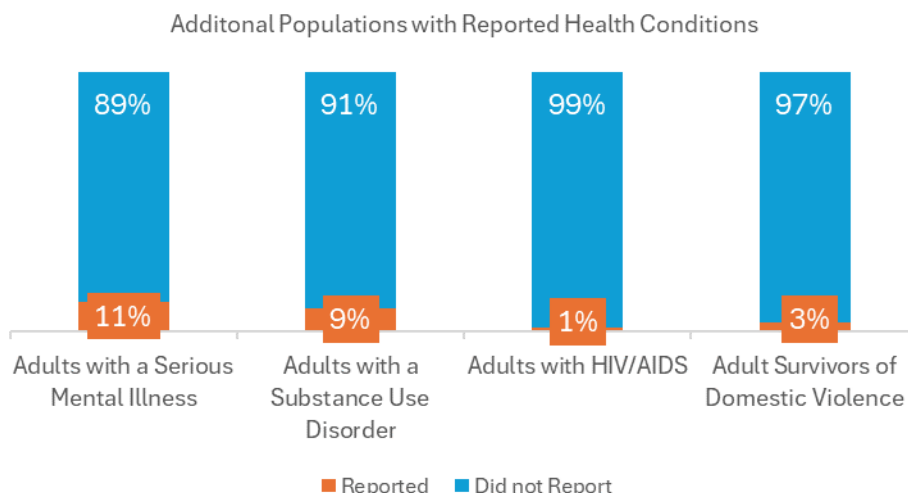
Yearly Median Household Prices 2018-2023

- 2018: $341,998.00
- 2019: $314,950.00 (-8%)
- 2020: $320,000.00 (2%)
- 2021: $342,995.00 (7%)
- 2022: $465,000.00 (36%)
- 2023: $440,000.00 (-5%)

Avergage Fair Maket Rent 2018-2023

- 2018: $1,103.80
- 2019: $1,111.00 (1%)
- 2020: $1,225.00 (10%)
- 2021: $1,294.60 (6%)
- 2022: $1,375.40 (6%)
- 2023: $1,650.00 (20%)

Clark County Yearly Household Income 2018-2023

- 2018: 55155
- 2019: 62131 (13%)
- 2020: 62496 (1%)
- 2021: 63735 (2%)
- 2022: 70838 (11%)
- 2023: 83900 (18%)

Subpopulations

Additonal Populations with Reported Health Conditions

Of the total population of people experiencing homelessness in 2024, 11 percent reported having a Serious Mental Illness (SMI), while nine percent reported a Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Additionally, one percent reported being HIV-positive, and three percent reported being survivors of domestic violence.

People with Selected Health Conitions in Sheltered or Unsheltered Location(s)
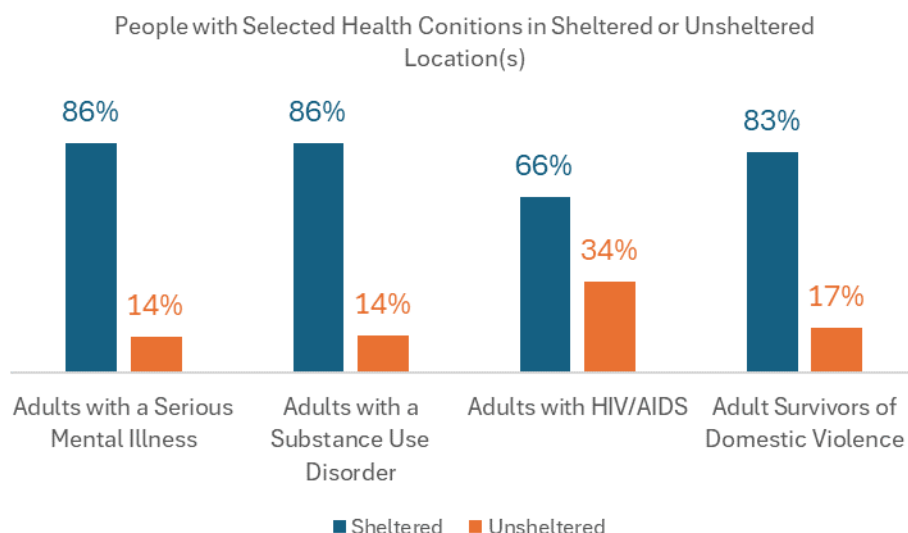
When comparing individuals in sheltered versus unsheltered locations, those in sheltered settings are more likely to report public health issues or social determinants of health that impact their daily lives. One possible explanation is that people in sheltered environments often have more regular and structured access to healthcare and social services. In these settings, there is typically more frequent interaction with professionals who can identify, diagnose, and document conditions such as serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or other health issues. Consequently, individuals in shelters may be more likely to have their conditions recognized and

reported. In contrast, those in unsheltered locations might have less access to formal healthcare and support services, leading to fewer reported diagnoses.

Veteran Population


Overall Veteran Count, 2022-2024
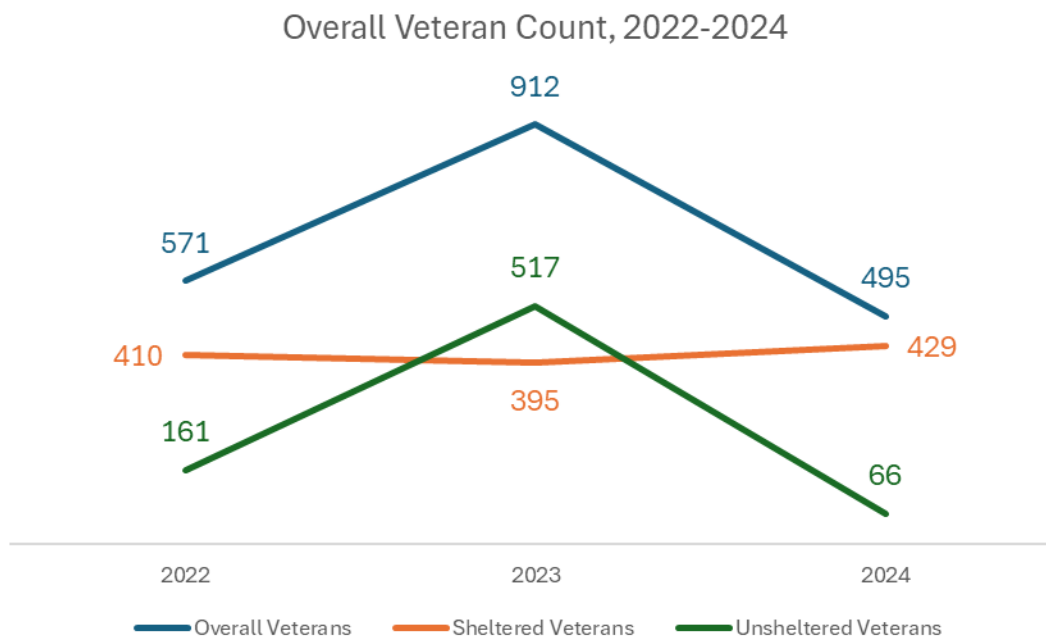
In 2023, Las Vegas/Clark County CoC had one of the highest numbers of veterans experiencing homelessness in the country, with 912 veterans (three percent of the national total). In 2024, there was a nearly 46 percent decrease in veterans experiencing homelessness in Clark County (87 percent decrease in unsheltered Veterans and a nine percent increase in sheltered).

This improvement is partly attributable to enhanced access to shelters, which provide critical services and resources for veterans. Veterans now account for six percent of the total 2024 count. It is important to note that the significant change from 2023 to 2024 is also due to a correction in our demographic projection methodology. Last year, a demographic projection error led to an overestimation of the number of veterans experiencing homelessness. This year, we have refined our projection process to ensure greater accuracy, particularly in our veteran count. These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to accurately represent the needs of our community and to continuously improve our data collection and analysis methods.

Age Group

Number of People Counted by Age Group Proportion
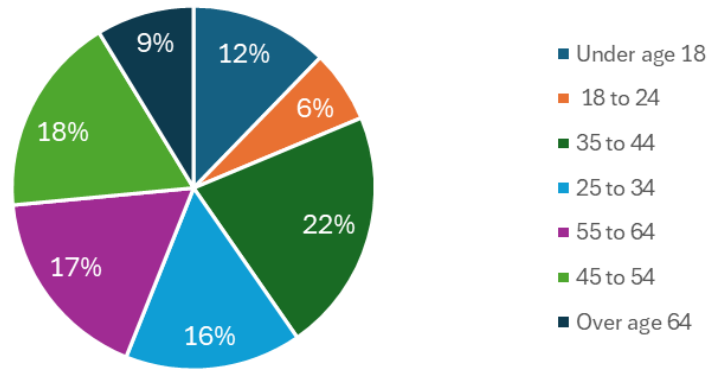
In 2023, HUD expanded data collection and reporting requirements to include additional age group categories. HUD categorizes age groups as follows: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and over 64. Based on our data in these new categories, the majority of the population experiencing homelessness falls within the 35-44 age range. Among the 35-44 age group, 65 percent were unsheltered, while 35 percent were sheltered, with the majority housed in Emergency Shelters. Since 2023, the 35-44 age group has increased by 30 percent. Additionally, there was a 79 percent increase in homelessness among those under 18 between 2023 and 2024. This appears to be correlated to our increase in family specific non-congregate shelter beds as 91 percent of children under the age of 18 are residing in Shelters. Those over 64 experienced a 25 percent decrease, though this age group continues to grow in the general population, further analysis needs to be conducted to support that the prioritization for housing of this age group is leading to this decline.

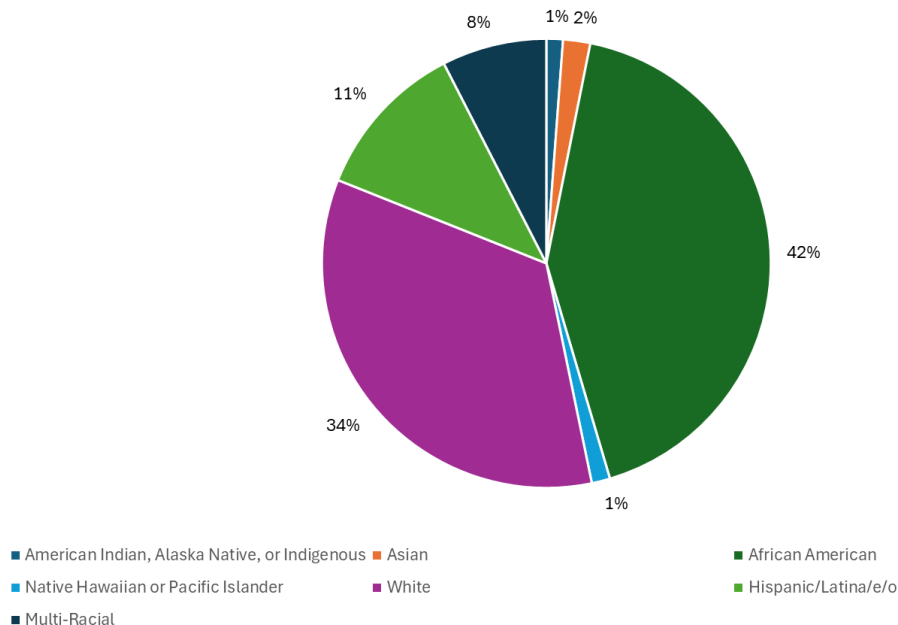### OVERALL COUNT BY AGE GROUPS 2023-2024
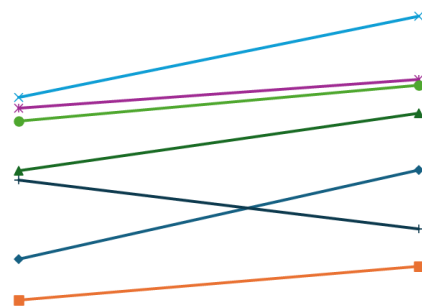
	2023	2024
Under age 18	542	971
18 to 24	347	508
25 to 34	966	1243
35 to 44	1320	1710
45 to 54	1266	1406
55 to 64	1204	1379
Over age 64	921	689

Race and Ethnicity

People Experiencing Homelessness Population Percentage By Race and Ethnicity

Legend:
- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- Asian
- African American
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White
- Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- Multi-Racial

Among those experiencing homelessness in Clark County, 42 percent identified as Black, African American, or African, eight percent as multi-racial, one percent as American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous, one percent as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, two percent as Asian or Asian American, and 11 percent as Hispanic.

In Clark County, African American individuals face the most significant disparities in representation among people experiencing homelessness, according to our PIT count.

Population of People Experiencing Homelessness vs Clark County Population By Race and Ethnicity Percentage

■ % of Population of those Experiencing Homelessness   ■ Clark County Population (%)
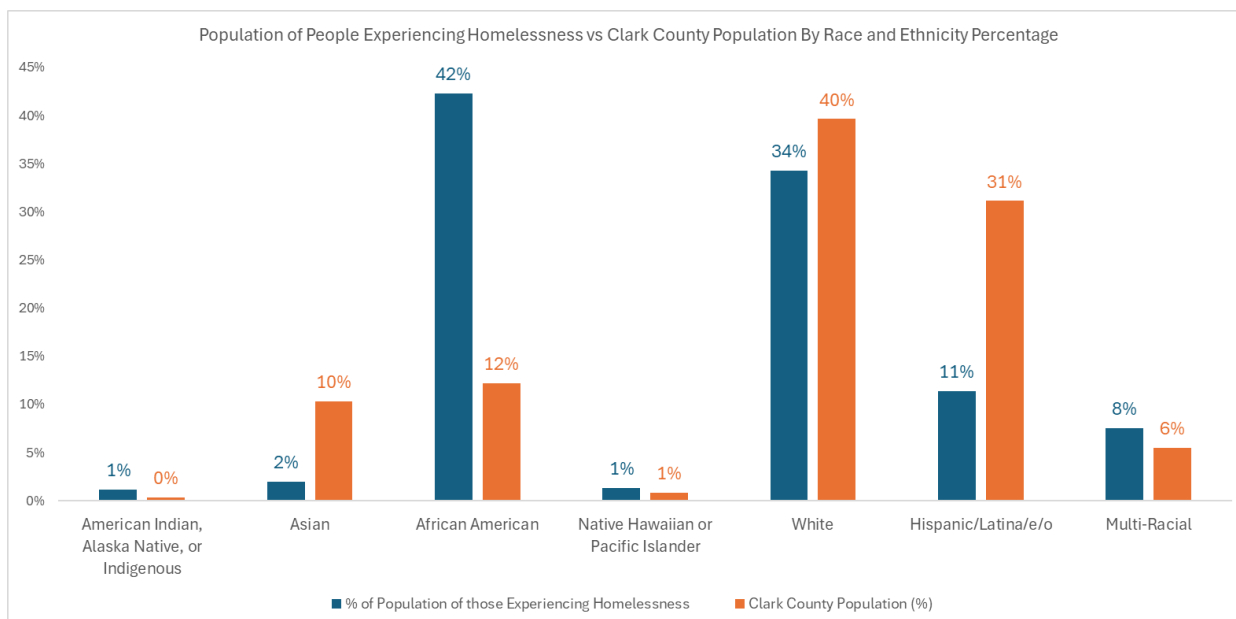
When comparing our PIT Count to the American Community Survey (ACS) data, we discovered that a higher proportion of people of color are experiencing homelessness compared to their White counterparts. Specifically, people who identify as Black, African American, or African, make up 12 percent of the overall Clark County population but make up 42 percent of the individuals experiencing homelessness.

Housing Inventory

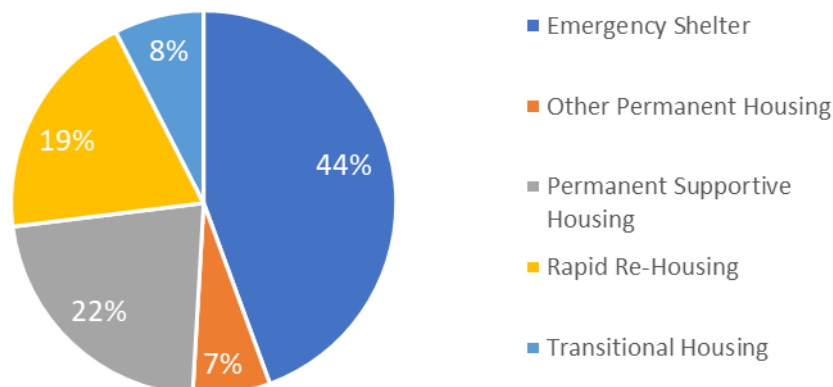| Project Types |
|---|
| **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)-** A CoC program component type providing indefinite leasing or rental assistance combined with supportive services for disabled persons experiencing homelessness so that they may live independently.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)- A permanent housing solution emphasizing housing search and relocation services and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into housing.

Emergency Shelter (ES)- A project that offers temporary shelter (lodging) for people experiencing homelessness in general or for specific populations of people experiencing homelessness.

Safe Haven (SH)- A project that offers supportive housing that (1) serves hard-to-reach people experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness who have been unsheltered and have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services; (2) provides 24-hour residence for eligible persons for an unspecified period; (3) has an overnight capacity limited to 25 or fewer persons; and (4) provides low demand services and referrals for the residents.

Transitional Housing (TH)- Designed to provide homeless individuals and families with the interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing.
Other- A project that offers services, but does not provide lodging, and cannot otherwise be categorized as another project type. |

Percentage of Total Project Beds

- Emergency Shelter — 44%
- Other Permanent Housing — 7%
- Permanent Supportive Housing — 22%
- Rapid Re-Housing — 19%
- Transitional Housing — 8%

The Housing Inventory Count classifies projects into different types, including places for people experiencing homelessness, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens. The inventory also includes housing projects for formerly homeless individuals, such as permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and other forms of permanent housing.

	Project Type	Total Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate
Shelter	Emergency Shelter	3676	3163	86%
	Transitional Housing	703	541	77%
Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing	2134	1523	71%
	Other than Permanent Housing	628	536	85%
	Rapid ReHousing	1872	1872	100%
	Grand Total	9013	7635	85%

In Clark County, 48 percent of the available inventory consists of Permanent Supportive Housing, Other Permanent Housing, and Rapid Rehousing, with the majority being Permanent Supportive housing. Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing make up the remaining 52 percent. During the Point-in-Time count, shelters had an 85 percent overall utilization rate; 86 percent for emergency shelters and 77 percent for transitional housing. Housing also experienced an 85 percent utilization rate; 71 percent for permanent supportive housing, 85 percent for types other than permanent supportive housing, and 100 percent for rapid rehousing.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count found that 7,906 people in Clark County were experiencing homelessness on a single day. Of this total, 3,704 individuals were identified as living in shelters, while an estimated 4,202 people unsheltered. It's important to recognize that no PIT Count can fully capture the complete extent of homelessness due to several factors. Despite

the best efforts of the community, there are inherent challenges in identifying everyone living in unsuitable conditions. Additionally, individuals can only be included in the count if they agree to take part in the PIT survey and provide sufficient details to prevent double counting. It's crucial to note that the PIT Count is just one method of gauging progress in preventing and ending homelessness. It does not encompass the experiences of all individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Clark County each year. However, when combined with data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and feedback from service providers and individuals with lived experience, the PIT Count offers valuable information that supports the major cities in Clark County, the CoC, and various partners in making progress towards the shared goal of ending homelessness.