

# 2026 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT REPORT

## HARRIS, FORT BEND, AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES

**A snapshot of homelessness in the Houston region,  
informed by data and strengthened by our community.**

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**MAKING OUR HOMELESS RESPONSE  
SYSTEM WORK — BETTER.**

**PIT COUNT**

CONDUCTED FEB 2026

# Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of The Way Home partner agencies who participated in this year's PIT Count.

ACAM  
Access Public Health  
Allies in Hope  
Avenue 360  
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Bay Area Turning Point, Inc.  
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Houston Area Women's Center  
(HAWC)  
Houston HELP, Inc.  
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Magnificat Houses, Inc.  
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Montrose Grace Place  
Northwest Assistance Ministries  
(NAM)  
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Sarah's House  
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Spring Branch Community  
Health Center (SBCHC)  
Star of Hope (SOH)  
Temenos Community  
Development Corporation  
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The Montrose Center  
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# Background: Partners and the Regional Response System

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a large-scale, coordinated effort made possible through a longstanding regional partnership. It reflects the collective work of outreach teams, shelter providers, local governments, community volunteers, and people with lived experience of homelessness. Together, these partners ensure that the count captures as complete and accurate a picture as possible under real-world conditions.

The regional homelessness response system is known as **The Way Home**, the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the Houston area (TX-700). The Way Home is a public-private partnership that brings together dozens of organizations, including nonprofit service providers, healthcare systems, housing authorities, local jurisdictions, and philanthropic partners, aligned around a shared goal: to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. This system coordinates outreach, shelter, housing placement, and supportive services across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties, using shared data and prioritization processes to guide decisions.

**The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County** (CFTH; [www.cfthhouston.org](http://www.cfthhouston.org)), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the designated coordinator for The Way Home. In this role, CFTH is responsible for coordinating the PIT Count, managing the region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and supporting system-wide planning and performance evaluation. CFTH works closely with partners across the region to align resources, standardize data practices, and translate findings from the count into actionable strategy.

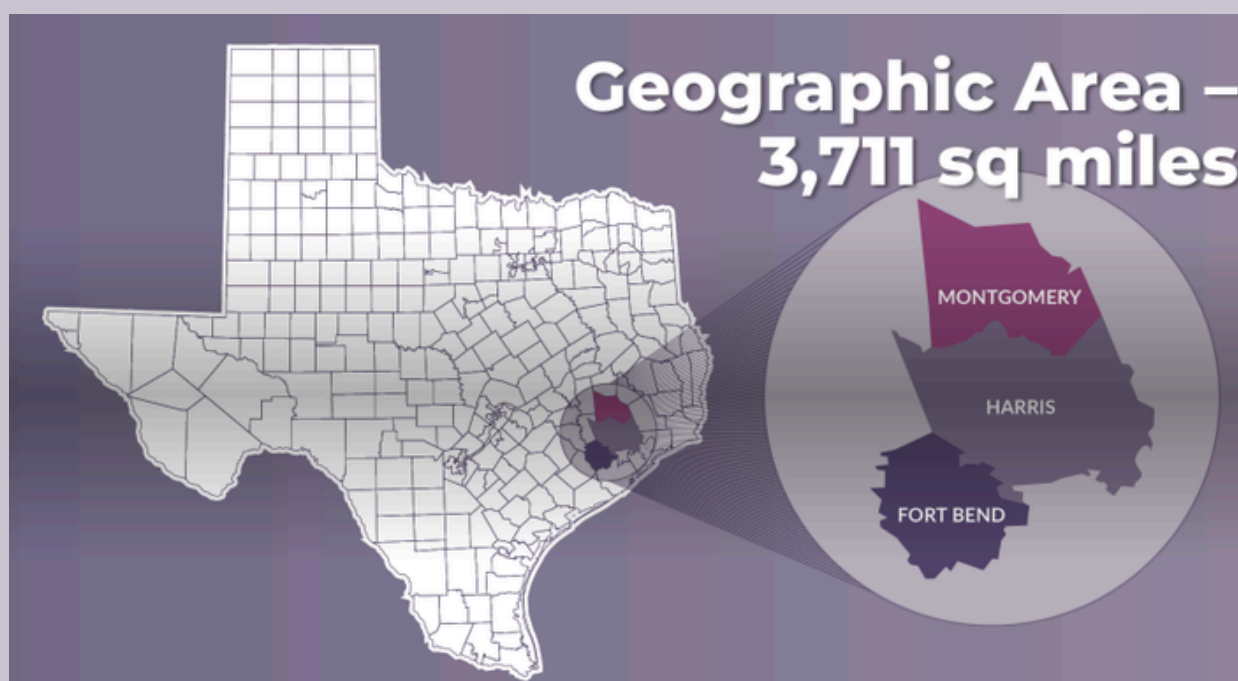
Importantly, the PIT Count is not a standalone activity. It is embedded within a broader system of continuous improvement, where data collected through the count are used alongside HMIS data, program performance metrics, and community input to guide policy and investment decisions. For healthcare providers and other frontline partners, the PIT Count offers a critical opportunity to better understand the population they serve, identify emerging needs, and advocate for targeted interventions within the homelessness response system.

# Executive Summary

A total of **3,321 sheltered and unsheltered individuals** were counted as experiencing homelessness during the 2026 PIT Count in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties (combined population of 6.9 million [World Population Review, n.d.]). This overall count reflects continued stability in the region's homeless population, consistent with the relatively flat trend observed over the past several years.

While the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness has remained stable, the distribution between sheltered and unsheltered populations continues to fluctuate over time. **In 2026, 2,051 individuals (62%) were counted in sheltered settings, while 1,270 individuals (38%) were unsheltered.** This shift reflects changes in system capacity and access rather than a fundamental change in the overall size of the population.

Notably, the increase in the sheltered population in 2026 was offset by a decrease in unsheltered individuals. This pattern reflects a positive development in system capacity, driven in part by the opening of two new emergency shelter programs serving survivors of domestic violence. These additional resources have expanded access to safe shelter for individuals and families in crisis.



Geographically, Harris County continues to account for the vast majority of individuals experiencing homelessness in the region (90%), with Fort Bend and Montgomery counties representing smaller shares (2% and 8%, respectively). The regional distribution remains consistent with prior years and reflects population density and the concentration of services.

This continued stability in the total count contrasts with national trends. Recent national PIT Counts (2022-2024) reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have shown historically large increases in homelessness over the past several years, before a small correction back down in 2025 (see Figure 3). Against this backdrop, the relative stability observed in the Houston region remains a notable feature of the local system.

### **Key Demographic Findings**

The demographic profile of individuals experiencing homelessness in the region remains broadly consistent with prior years, with expected variation in point-in-time estimates.

- **Age:** The unsheltered population continues to be predominantly middle-aged, with the majority between ages 35 and 64. In contrast, sheltered populations include a substantial proportion of households with children and youth, reflecting the greater presence of families in emergency shelter settings
- **Gender:** Men represent the majority of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness (77%), while sheltered populations are more evenly distributed by gender. Overall, men comprise approximately 59% of the total population.
- **Race and Ethnicity:** Black individuals remain disproportionately represented among those experiencing homelessness, accounting for 57% of the total population. White individuals represent 25%, and Hispanic individuals account for 14%. As in prior years, these disparities reflect ongoing, broader structural inequities and remain a critical focus for system response.

**Implications:**

The 2026 PIT Count reinforces several key conclusions about homelessness in the region:

- The overall number of individuals experiencing homelessness has remained stable in recent years, even as the composition of sheltered and unsheltered populations shifts.
- Investments in emergency shelter capacity, particularly for survivors of domestic violence, are having measurable effects on where individuals are counted and how many are served.
- Persistent disparities in race, health status, and service access continue to shape the experience of homelessness and require sustained, targeted responses.
- A substantial portion of the unsheltered population remains disconnected from formal services, underscoring the importance of outreach and engagement strategies.

Taken together, these findings highlight both the strengths of the regional homelessness response system and the ongoing challenges that require coordinated, data-informed action.

# Methodology

The 2026 PIT Count for the Houston region (Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties) was conducted in February 2026 and followed the same core data collection and enumeration approach used in recent years (Troisi et al., 2015). This consistency in field operations, survey deployment, and data integration supports continuity in understanding homelessness across the region, while allowing for targeted methodological improvements where needed. As in prior years, CFTH led coordination, data management, and training efforts in partnership with a broad network of service providers, outreach teams, and community volunteers.

## Sheltered Count

The sheltered count was derived from the region's **HMIS**, which aggregates data reported by emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and safe haven projects. Each participating program provided a census of individuals residing in their facilities on the night of the PIT Count, in accordance with requirements from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

For the domestic violence shelter programs not participating in HMIS, as required by law, data were collected using a standardized reporting form and manually entered by CFTH staff. All sheltered data were reviewed and deduplicated through a combination of project-level verification and system-wide cross-referencing to ensure that individuals were counted only once. For reporting purposes, Safe Haven beds are included within Emergency Shelter totals in the main report visuals, consistent with their small number, while remaining separately identified in appendix tables to align with HUD reporting requirements.

## **Unsheltered Count**

The unsheltered count included individuals identified as experiencing homelessness in locations not meant for human habitation, such as streets, encampments, vehicles, parks, or abandoned structures. Trained **survey** teams conducted field-based enumeration over several days surrounding the official PIT date, using a strategic deployment approach informed by prior-year data, provider input, and ongoing street outreach knowledge. Importantly, volunteers do not enter private property or abandoned buildings. Individuals encountered were invited to complete a structured survey aligned with HUD guidance, collecting information on demographics, housing history, and key subpopulation characteristics.

When individuals declined participation or could not be safely engaged, trained staff recorded observational data to support an unduplicated count. **Observations** were included only when there was a high degree of certainty that the individual met HUD's definition of unsheltered homelessness. All survey and observation records underwent a deduplication process, using identifiers such as location, estimated age, gender, and descriptive characteristics to minimize the risk of double counting.

## **Updates to Data Completeness and Missingness**

While the overall approach to data collection remained consistent, the 2026 PIT Count includes an important methodological enhancement in how missing data were addressed.

Due to a technical issue affecting survey branching logic early in the field period, the proportion of missing demographic data in completed surveys was higher than anticipated. In addition, a larger share of unsheltered individuals were counted through observational methods, which, by design, capture only limited demographic information and do not include key HUD-reportable characteristics such as youth status, chronic homelessness, serious mental illness, substance use, domestic violence experience, or HIV status.

To address this increased missingness, CFTH implemented a multiple imputation approach using chained equations. This method allows for more accurate estimation of missing values by leveraging relationships observed within the available data. Demographic characteristics and geographic information (such as county of enumeration) were used to model and estimate missing demographic fields. These completed demographic variables were then used to estimate additional population characteristics where data were missing or not collected.

The imputation process was conducted in a sequential and integrated manner, prioritizing variables based on the extent of missingness and applying a single, unified modeling framework. This approach allows for the generation of complete datasets that better reflect the likely distribution of characteristics across the full population, including individuals who were observed but not surveyed.

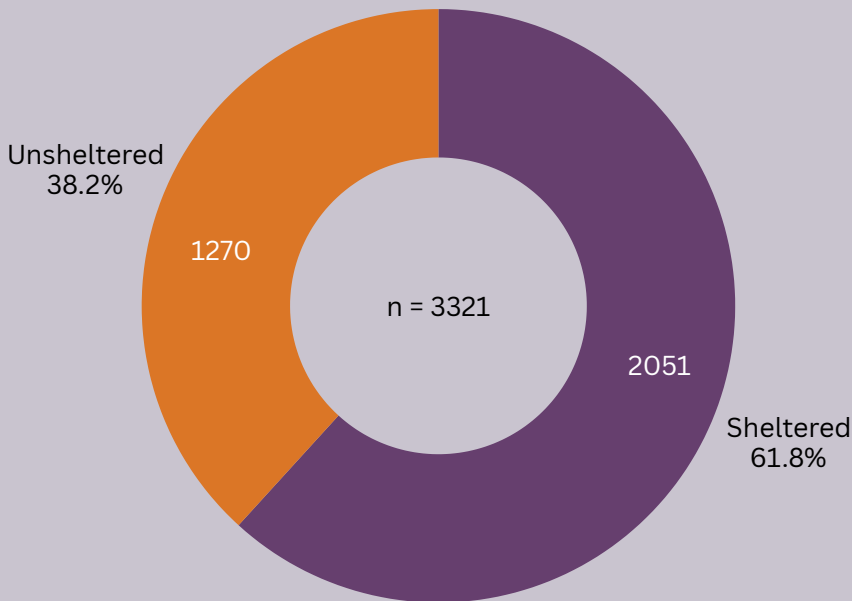
Importantly, this enhanced method represents a shift from prior approaches to handling missing data. While it improves the internal validity and completeness of estimates for key subpopulations, it also affects the comparability of certain measures with previous PIT Counts. As a result, **differences in demographic proportions or subpopulation counts between 2026 and prior years should be interpreted with caution**, as they may reflect methodological improvements rather than true changes in the underlying population.

## Summary

The 2026 PIT Count maintains continuity in its core enumeration strategy, combining HMIS-based sheltered data with field-based unsheltered data collection, while introducing a more rigorous, data-driven approach to addressing missingness. Together, these methods provide a comprehensive and regionally grounded estimate of homelessness in Greater Houston, supporting both local decision-making and federal reporting requirements.

# Key Count Findings

Figure 1. Total Number of Those Experiencing Homelessness



During the 2026 PIT Count, a total of 3,321 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties. This represents a very small decrease of four individuals compared to the 2025 PIT Count, indicating little overall change in the region’s population experiencing homelessness. Among those counted, 61.8% were experiencing sheltered homelessness, staying in settings such as emergency or transitional housing. A smaller share (38.2%) were experiencing unsheltered homelessness, living in places not intended for human habitation, such as streets, encampments, or other outdoor locations.

Table 1 illustrates the distribution of individuals experiencing homelessness across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties during the 2026 PIT Count. An overwhelming majority of both sheltered (53.9%) and unsheltered (35.8%) individuals were located in Harris County. Smaller proportions were counted in Montgomery County, followed by Fort Bend County.

Overall, these findings show that homelessness is heavily concentrated in Harris County, which accounted for 89.7% of all individuals experiencing homelessness in the region, while Montgomery and Fort Bend counties accounted for 7.8% and 2.4%, respectively. This distribution highlights the concentration of homelessness in more urban areas and may reflect differences in shelter capacity, service availability, and outreach resources across counties.

Table 1. Total Number of Those Experiencing Homelessness By Location

	SHELTERED	
HARRIS	1791	53.9%
FORT BEND	60	1.8%
MONTGOMERY	200	6.0%
	UNSHELTERED	
HARRIS	1189	35.8%
FORT BEND	20	0.6%
MONTGOMERY	61	1.8%

n = 3321

Figure 2 compares the proportions of sheltered and unsheltered individuals identified during the PIT Count from 2023 to 2026. Across all four years, the majority of individuals experiencing homelessness were sheltered. Between 2025 and 2026, the unsheltered population decreased slightly from 1,282 to 1,270 individuals, representing a 0.9% decline following the increase observed in the previous year. Despite this modest decrease, more than one-third of individuals experiencing homelessness remained unsheltered in 2026, highlighting the continued need for outreach, housing, and supportive services, including initiatives such as the End Street Homelessness Plan.

Figure 2. Comparison of PIT Count Sheltered and Unsheltered Proportions 2023-2026

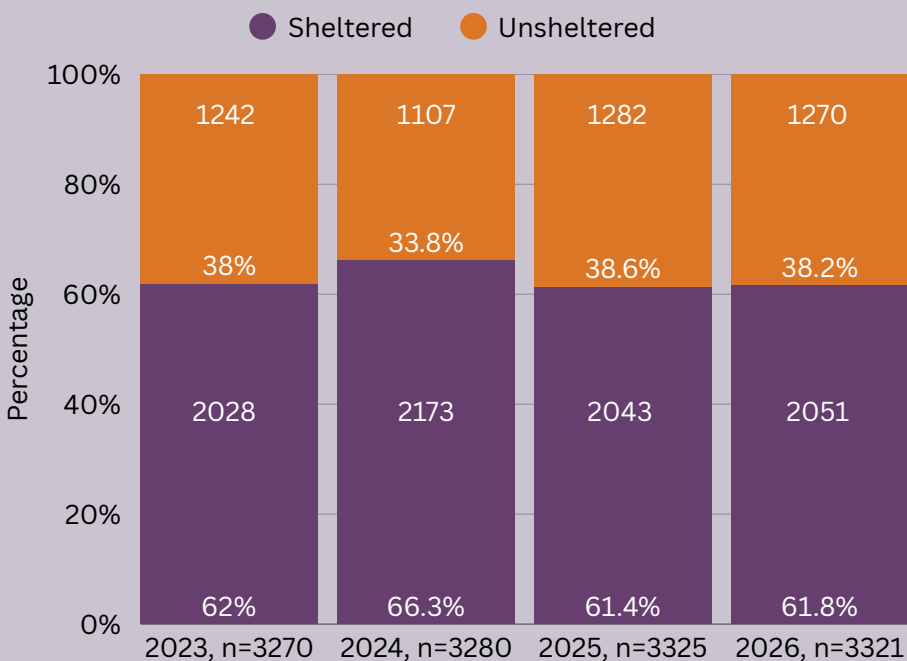
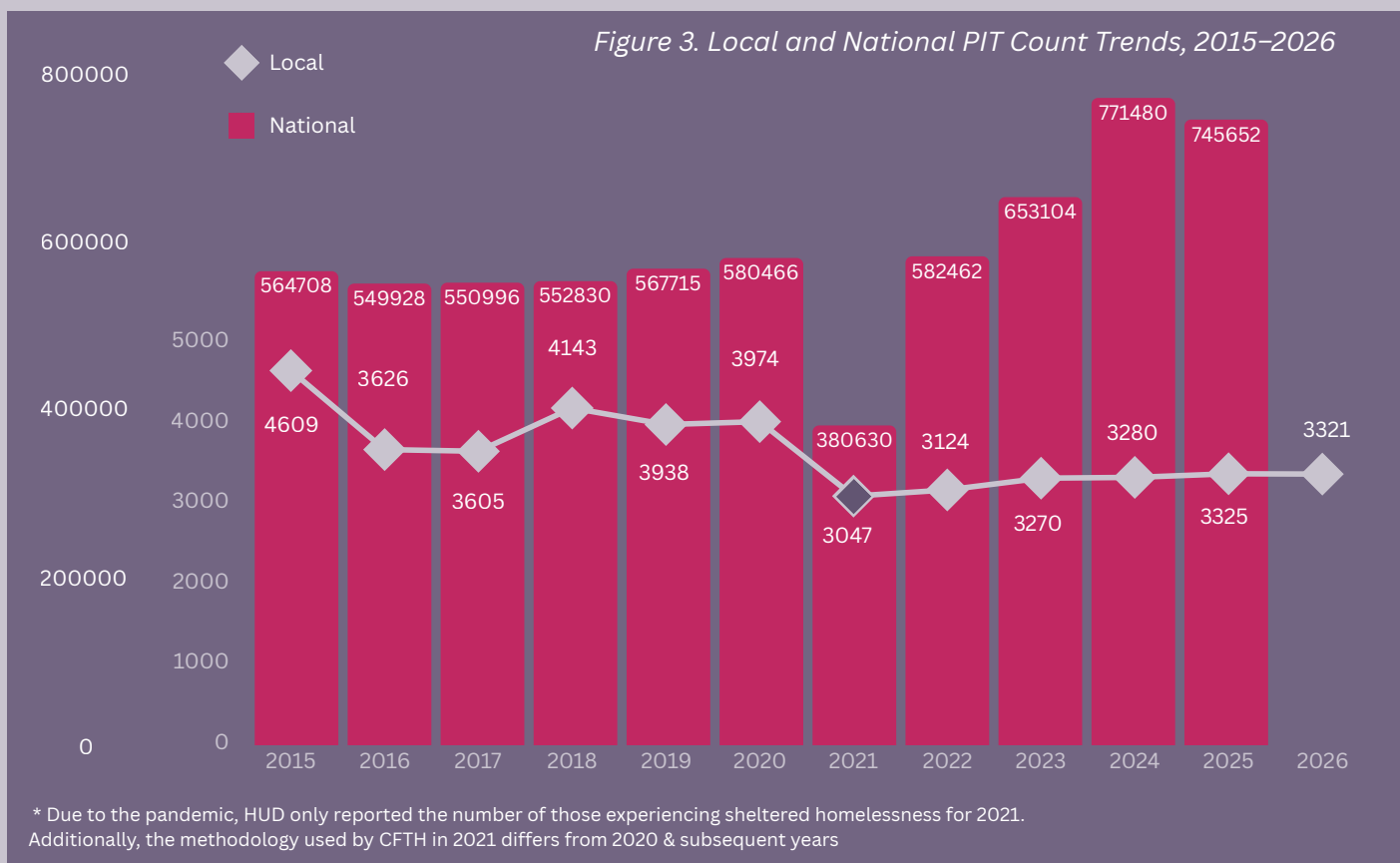


Figure 3 displays trends in the number of people experiencing homelessness in the three-county region (line graph) alongside the national total reported by HUD (bar chart) from 2015 to 2026 (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2026). Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the local PIT Count has remained relatively stable, increasing by 9.0% from 3,047 individuals in 2021 to 3,321 in 2026. In contrast, the national PIT Count increased substantially during the same period, reaching a record high of 771,480 individuals in 2024 before declining slightly to 745,652 in 2025. Overall, the number of people experiencing homelessness nationwide increased from 580,466 in 2020 to 745,652 in 2025, representing a 28.5% increase over five years. These findings demonstrate that local homelessness trends have remained relatively stable and have not mirrored the sharp post-pandemic increases observed nationally.

Figure 3. Local and National PIT Count Trends, 2015-2026



# Characteristics of Those Experiencing Homelessness

Figure 4. Age Distribution of Total Population Experiencing Homelessness

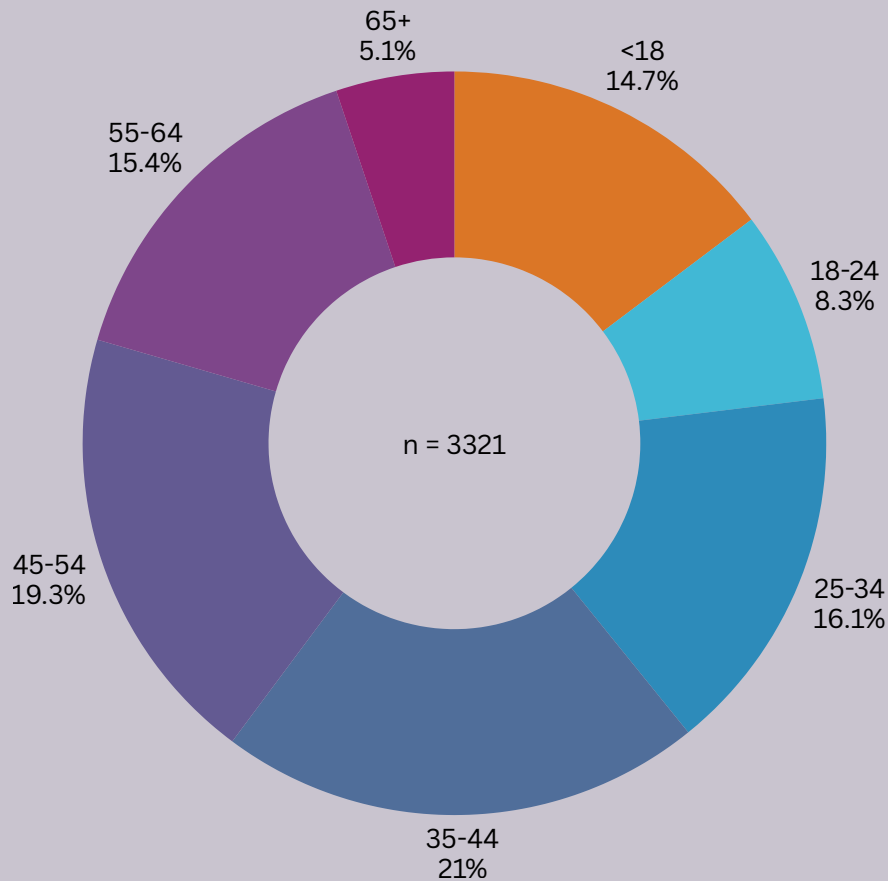
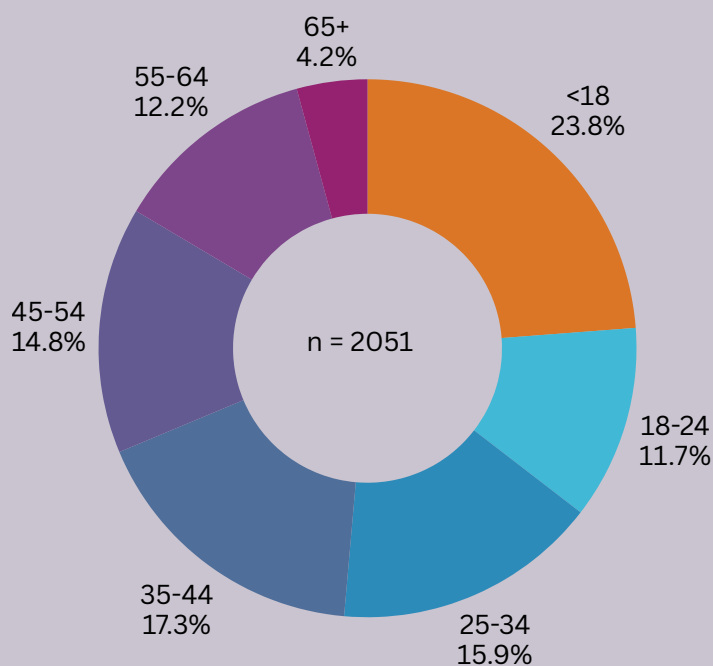


Figure 4 illustrates the age distribution of individuals counted during the 2026 PIT Count. The largest age groups were adults aged 35–44 (21.0%) and 45–54 (19.3%). Individuals aged 25–34 and 55–64 also represented substantial portions of the population, accounting for 16.1% and 15.4%, respectively. Children and adolescents under age 18 comprised 14.7% of the total population, while young adults aged 18–24 accounted for 8.3%. Adults aged 65 years and older represented the smallest age group at 5.1%.

Combined, children, adolescents, and young adults under age 25 accounted for 23.0% of all individuals experiencing homelessness, while adults aged 55 and older comprised 20.5%. These findings demonstrate that homelessness affects individuals across the lifespan and highlight the need for age-specific services and supports that address the unique needs of different age groups.

*Note: Age distributions are imputed for all missing responses. The missing values were modeled using multiple imputation with chained equations, with demographics and geographic values used to predict missing values in surveys and observations. Values reflect estimated proportions for the full samples of unsheltered (n = 1270) and sheltered (n = 2051) counts.*

Figure 5. Age Distribution of Sheltered Population Experiencing Homelessness



The age distribution of the sheltered population skews younger, with children under 18 comprising the largest group (23.8%). Adults aged 35–44 accounted for the next largest share (17.3%), followed by those aged 25–34 (15.9%). Overall, over half (51.4%) of the sheltered population is under the age of 35, reflecting a greater presence of families with children and younger adults in shelter settings.

Compared with the age distribution of the sheltered population, the unsheltered population has a much larger proportion of middle-aged and older adults. Individuals aged 35 years and older accounted for more than three-quarters (80.5%) of the unsheltered population, with the largest shares occurring among those aged 35–44 (27.0%) and 45–54 (26.5%). In contrast, only 3.0% of unsheltered individuals were aged 18–24. This distribution suggests that unsheltered homelessness is more prevalent among middle-aged and older adults than among younger age groups.

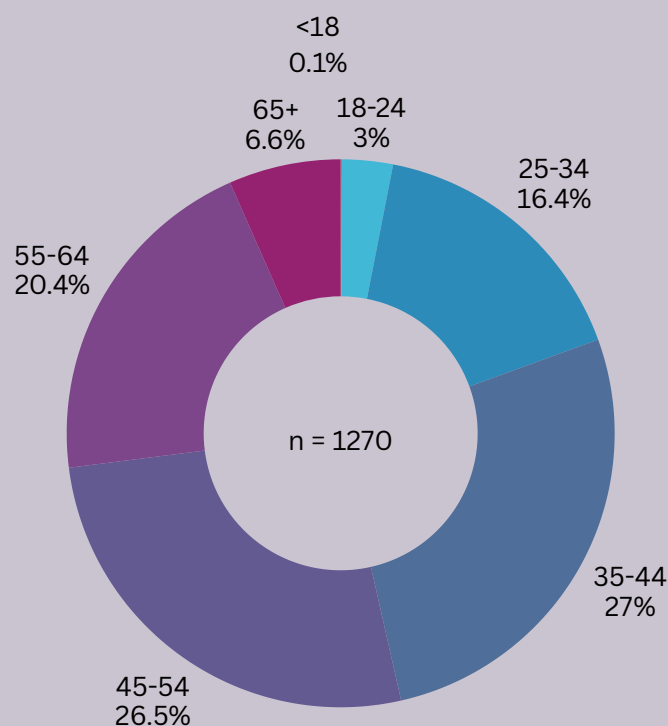


Figure 6. Age Distribution of Unsheltered Population Experiencing Homelessness

Note: Age distributions are imputed for all missing responses. The missing values were modeled using multiple imputation with chained equations, with demographics and geographic values used to predict missing values in surveys and observations. Values reflect estimated proportions for the full samples of unsheltered (n = 1270) and sheltered (n = 2051) counts.

Figure 7. Number of Sheltered Individuals by Age Group

n = 2051

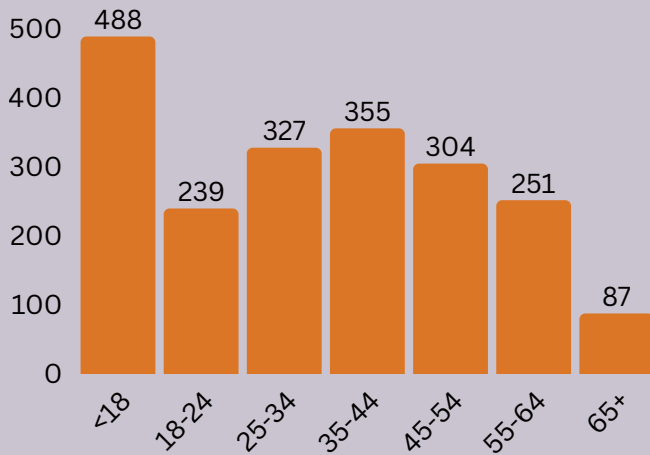


Figure 8. Number of Unsheltered Individuals by Age Group

n = 1270

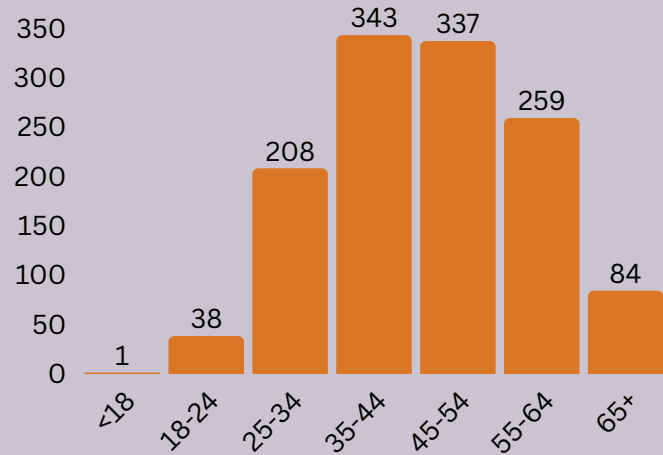
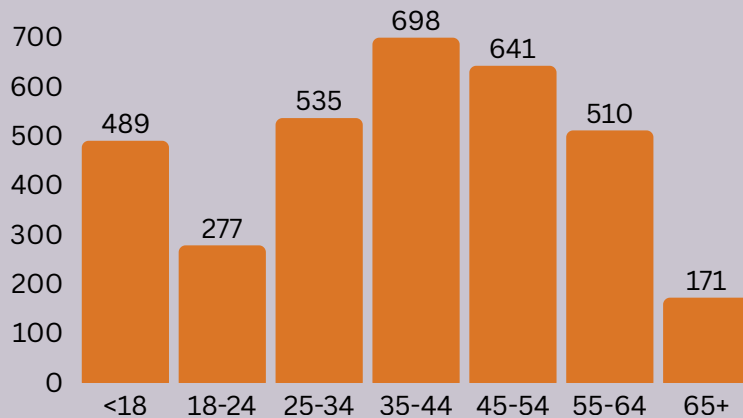


Figure 9. Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by Age Group

n = 3321



Figures 7–9 display the age distributions of the sheltered, unsheltered, and overall populations experiencing homelessness. The sheltered population included a substantially larger number of children under age 18 (n = 488), making this the largest age group among sheltered individuals. In contrast, the unsheltered population was concentrated among early and middle-aged adults, with individuals aged 35–44 (n = 343) and 45–54 (n = 337) representing the largest groups.

For both sheltered and unsheltered populations, young adults aged 18–24 and adults aged 65 years and older represented the smallest age groups. When combining sheltered and unsheltered individuals, adults aged 35–44 comprised the largest age group overall (n = 698), followed by those aged 45–54 (n = 641), while adults aged 65 years and older represented the smallest group (n = 171).

These findings further illustrate the younger age profile of the sheltered population and the concentration of unsheltered homelessness among middle-aged adults.

*Note: Age distributions are imputed for all missing responses. The missing values were modeled using multiple imputation with chained equations, with demographics and geographic values used to predict missing values in surveys and observations. Values reflect estimated proportions for the full samples of unsheltered (n = 1270) and sheltered (n = 2051) counts.*

Figure 10. Gender Distribution of Total Population Experiencing Homelessness

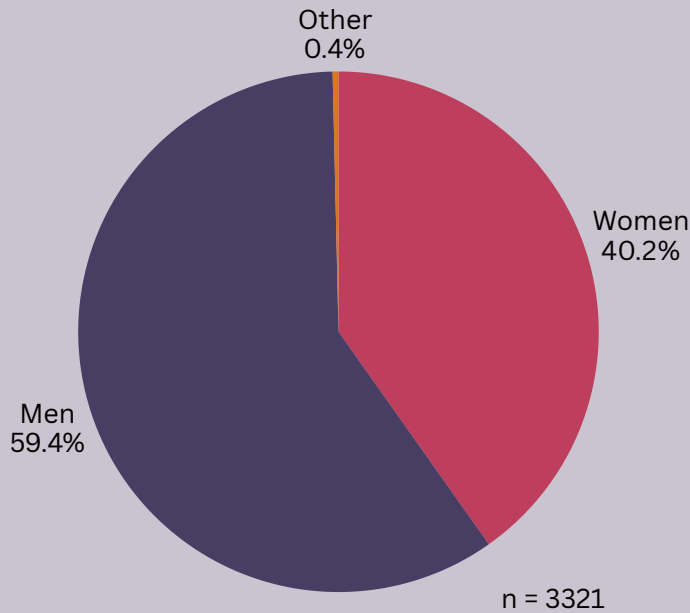


Figure 10 displays the gender distribution of the total population experiencing homelessness. Men made up the majority of individuals counted (59.4%), while women accounted for 40.2% of the population. Individuals identifying as another gender represented the remaining 0.4%.

The gender distribution differed substantially between the sheltered and unsheltered populations. Among sheltered individuals, the distribution was nearly even, with women accounting for a slight majority (51.0%) and men accounting for 48.5%. In contrast, men comprised more than three-quarters (77.2%) of the unsheltered population, while women accounted for only 22.8%. These findings illustrate how men continue to be disproportionately represented among individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Figure 11. Gender Distribution of Sheltered Population Experiencing Homelessness

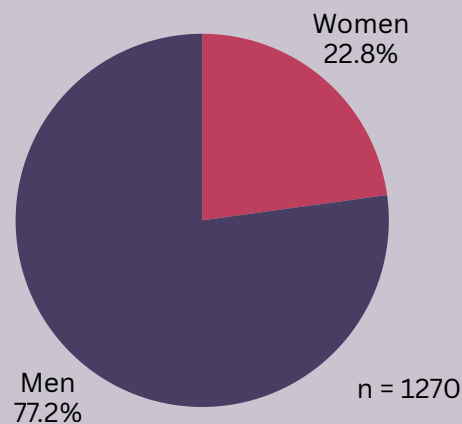
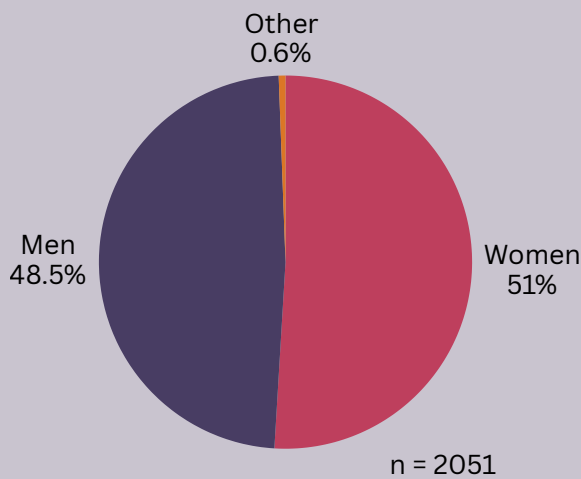


Figure 12. Gender Distribution of Unsheltered Population Experiencing Homelessness

Note: Distributions are imputed for all missing responses. The missing values were modeled using multiple imputation with chained equations, with demographics and geographic values used to predict missing values in surveys and observations. Values reflect estimated proportions for the full samples of unsheltered (n = 1270) and sheltered (n = 2051) counts.

“Other” for both the Unsheltered and Sheltered Counts combined the responses: Culturally Specific, Transgender, Non-Binary, Questioning, Different Identity, and More Than One Gender.

Figure 13. Race/Ethnicity Distributions Among Sheltered, Unsheltered, and Total Population Experiencing Homelessness

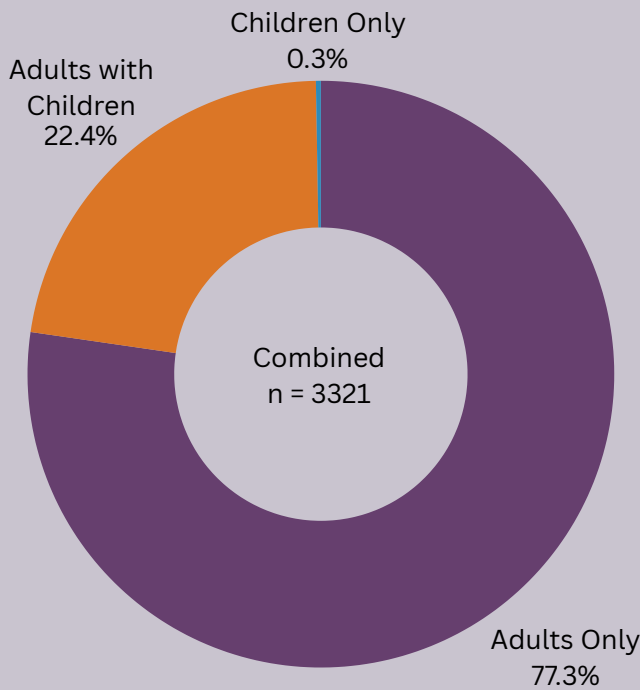


Figure 13 displays the racial and ethnic distribution of individuals experiencing homelessness across sheltered, unsheltered, and combined populations. Due to small sample sizes, American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), Middle Eastern/North African (MENA), Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI), and individuals identifying with other racial groups were combined into a single category.

Overall, Black individuals represented the largest racial/ethnic group among people experiencing homelessness, accounting for 57.2% of the total population. Black individuals comprised a substantially larger share of the sheltered population (62.2%) than of the unsheltered population (49.1%). White individuals represented the second-largest group, accounting for 25.4% of the total population. However, in contrast to Black individuals, White individuals comprised a greater proportion of the unsheltered population (31.6%) than the sheltered population (21.5%). Hispanic individuals accounted for 13.7% of the total population and were also more highly represented among unsheltered individuals (15.3%) than sheltered individuals (12.7%).

*Note: Distributions are imputed for all missing responses. The missing values were modeled using multiple imputation with chained equations, with demographics and geographic values used to predict missing values in surveys and observations. Values reflect estimated proportions for the full samples of unsheltered (n = 1270) and sheltered (n = 2051) counts.*

Figure 14. Household (HH) Types of Total Population Experiencing Homelessness



Overall, the majority of individuals experiencing homelessness were adults without children (77.3%). Individuals in households consisting of adults with children accounted for 22.4% of the population, while unaccompanied children represented a very small proportion (0.3%).

Household composition differed substantially between the sheltered and unsheltered populations. Among unsheltered individuals, nearly all (99.8%) were adults without children, with households of adults with children accounting for only 0.2% of the population. While adults without children remained the largest group in the sheltered population (63.3%), households of adults with children accounted for a larger share (36.2%). Unaccompanied children accounted for 0.4% of the sheltered population.

These findings suggest that families with children are more likely to access sheltered services, while unsheltered homelessness is overwhelmingly concentrated among adults without children.

Figure 15. HH Types of Unsheltered Population Experiencing Homelessness

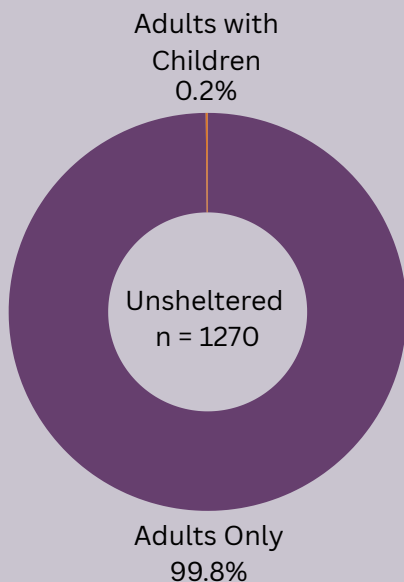
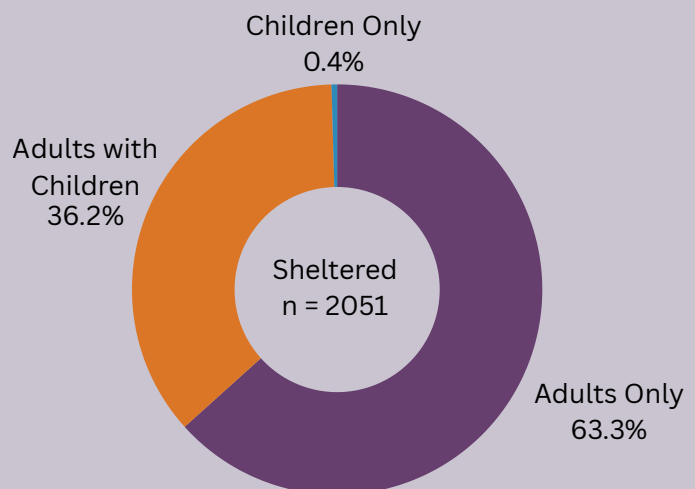


Figure 16. HH Types of Sheltered Population Experiencing Homelessness



# Unsheltered Count

Figure 17 describes how data were collected during the 2026 PIT count. A total of 1,270 individuals were identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Most individuals (57.4%) completed structured surveys conducted by survey teams. The remaining 42.6% were recorded through observational data when individuals were unable or unwilling to engage. Observational data were included only when survey teams were confident that individuals met the HUD definition of unsheltered homelessness. Because these individuals did not participate in surveys, relying on observation limited the level of detail collected, particularly regarding demographics, service needs, and lived experiences that would have been gathered through direct interaction.

Figures 18-20 compare the data collection methods across the three counties during the 2026 PIT count. In Harris County, surveys accounted for 56.5% of the data, while observations made up 43.5%, showing a relatively balanced use of both methods. In Fort Bend County, surveys represented 60% of the data, with observations making up the remaining 40%. In Montgomery County, data collection relied heavily on surveys, which accounted for 73.8%, compared to 26.2% from observations. Overall, surveys were the primary method across all three counties, with the strongest response rate seen in Montgomery County.

Figure 17. Data Type Among Unsheltered Populations Experiencing Homelessness

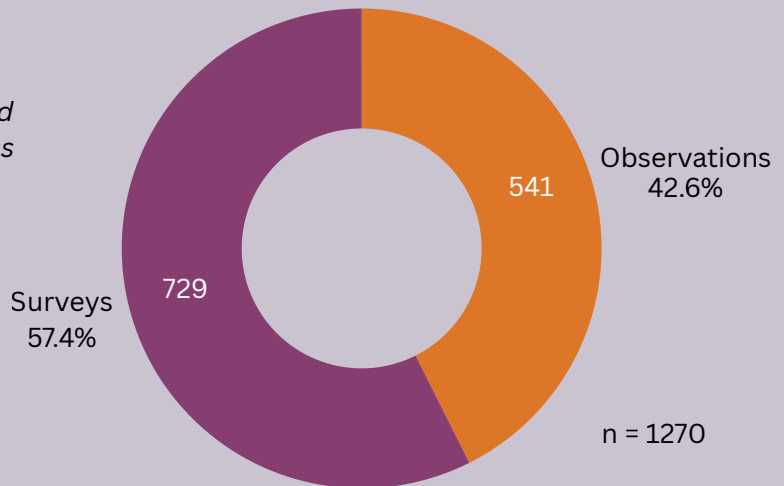


Figure 18. Data Type in Harris County

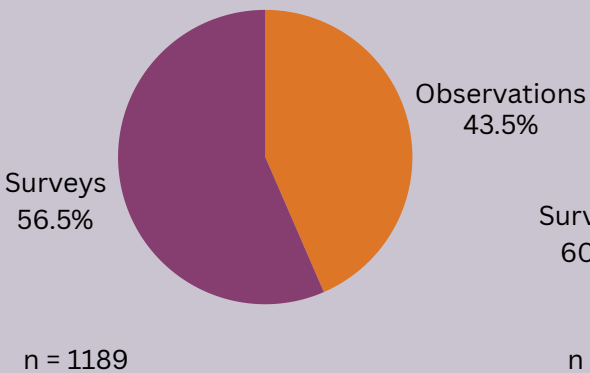


Figure 19. Data Type in Fort Bend County

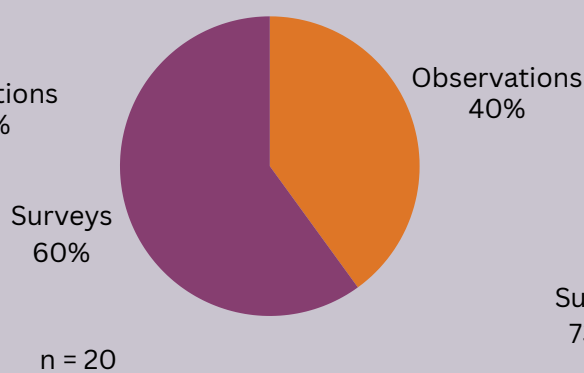
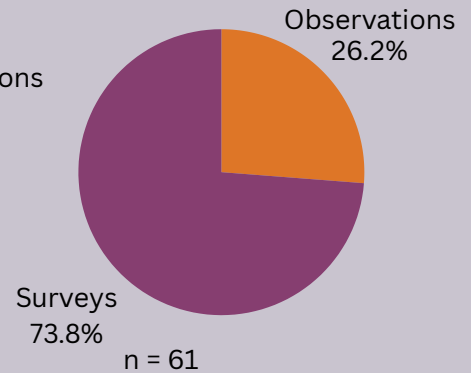


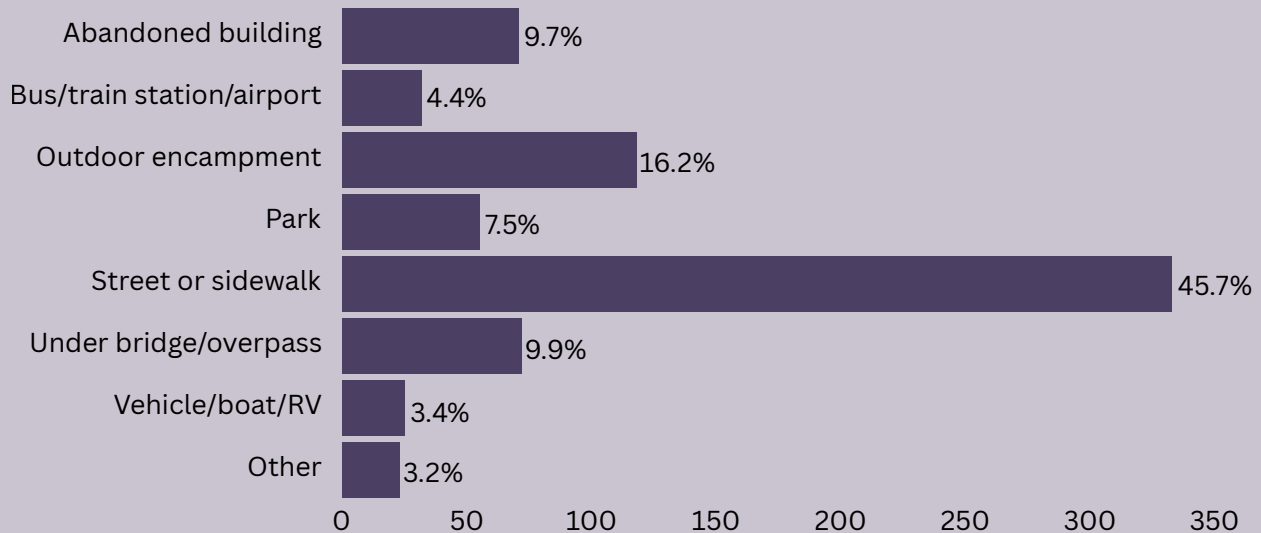
Figure 20. Data Type in Montgomery County



# Unsheltered Survey Measures

Figure 21. Reported Sleeping Location on the Night of February 23, 2026

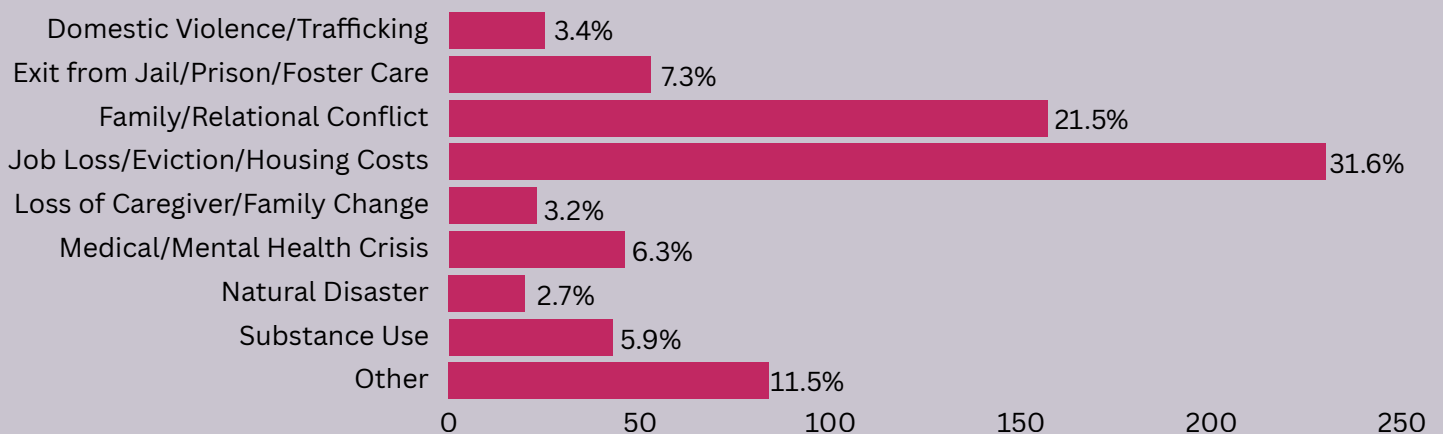
n = 729



Survey participants were asked to report where they slept on the night of February 23, 2026, the official PIT Count date. The most commonly reported location was the street or sidewalk, accounting for the largest share of responses (45.7%). Other commonly reported locations included outdoor encampment (16.2%), areas under bridges or overpasses (9.9%), and abandoned buildings (9.7%). Smaller portions of respondents reported staying in parks (7.5%), transit stations or airports (4.4%), vehicles (3.4%), or other locations (3.2%). These responses highlight how many individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness are living in highly visible and exposed environments without access to stable or secure shelter.

Figure 22. Primary Cause of Homelessness

n = 729



Respondents were asked to identify the primary factor contributing to their current experience of homelessness. The most commonly reported reasons were job loss, eviction, or housing costs (31.6%), followed by family or relational conflict (21.5%), accounting for over half of respondents. Other contributing factors included exiting from jail or foster care (7.3%), medical or mental health crises (6.3%), substance use (5.9%), and other reasons (11.5%). Smaller proportions of respondents reported causes such as domestic violence or trafficking (3.4%), loss of caregiver or family changes (3.2%), and natural disaster (2.7%).

Figure 23. Location Before Experiencing Homelessness

n = 703

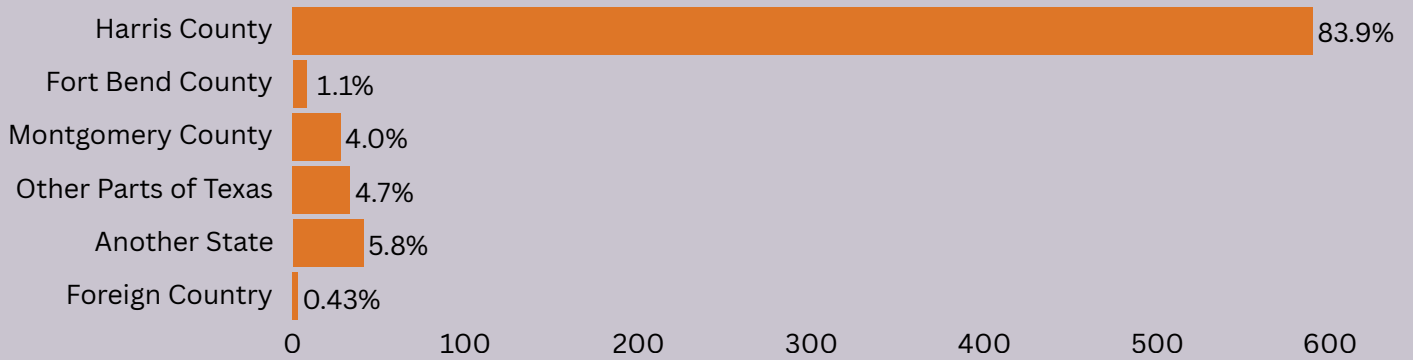


Figure 23 shows the location where individuals entered into homelessness. The overwhelming majority (83.9%) reported entering homelessness in Harris County. Fewer respondents reported becoming homeless in Fort Bend County (1.1%) or Montgomery County (4.0%). Some respondents reported becoming homeless elsewhere in Texas (4.7%) or in another state (5.8%). Less than half a percent of respondents reported becoming homeless abroad. Overall, these findings suggest that most individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the region first become homeless locally (89.0%), highlighting the importance of targeted prevention and intervention efforts at the local level.

Figure 24. Length of Current Episode of Homelessness

n = 704

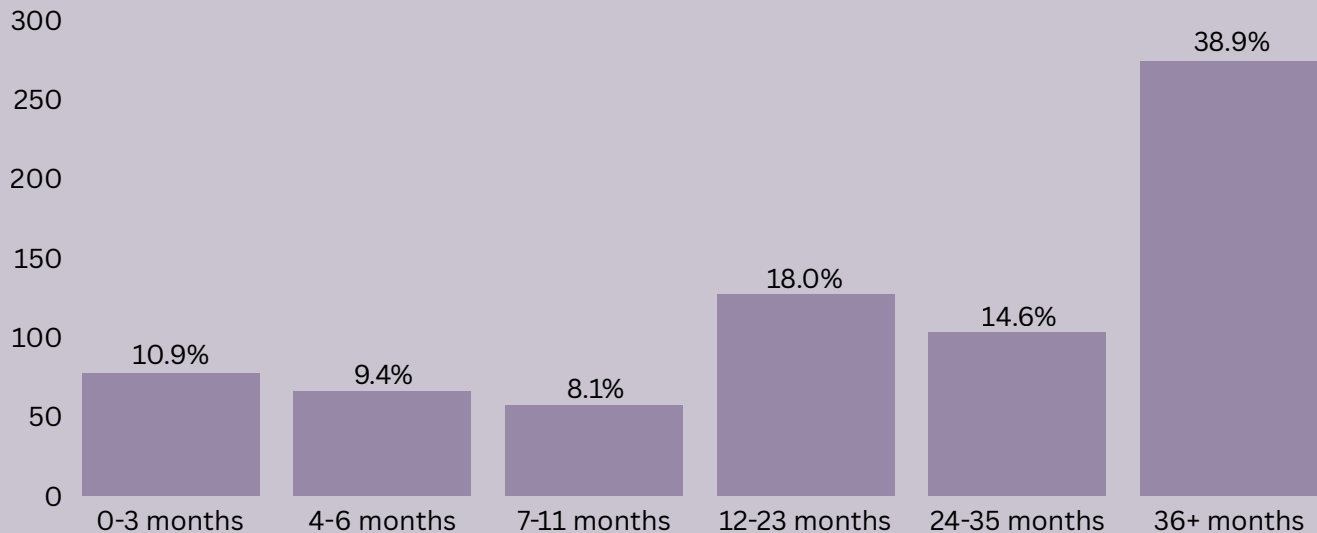
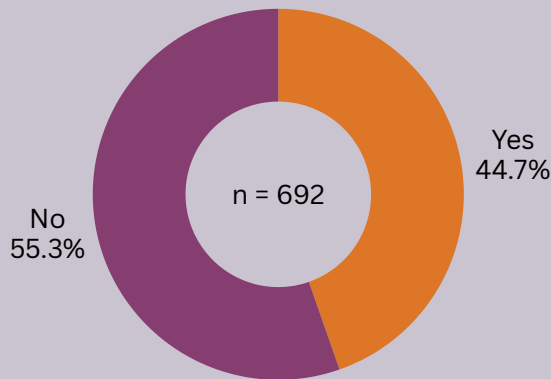


Figure 24 presents the duration of time individuals reported being without stable housing in their current episode of homelessness. The largest share of respondents (38.9%) indicated experiencing homelessness for 36 months or longer (over three years). Notable portions also reported durations between 12-23 months (18.0%) and 24-35 months (14.6%). Fewer individuals reported shorter periods of homelessness, such as 7-11 months (8.1%), 4-6 months (9.4%), and 0-3 months (10.9%). Overall, 71.5% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness for a year or longer, suggesting that many individuals in the region experience prolonged rather than short-term episodes of homelessness.

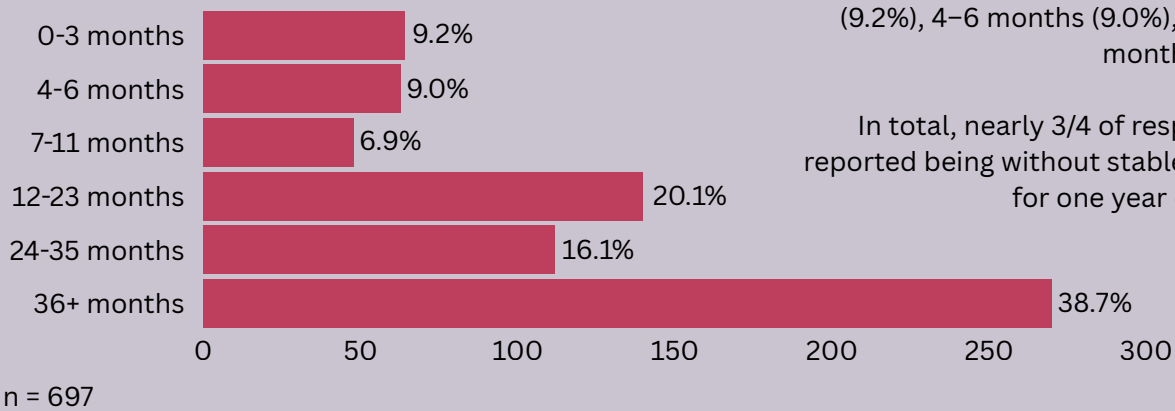
Note: Individuals with missing responses or multiple county responses were excluded. As a result, the total n may be lower than the full unsheltered survey count (n = 729). In addition, any responses with multiple geographic selections were consolidated to the most local (proximal) geographic response option. For example, responses indicating both 'Other Parts of Texas' and 'Harris County' were consolidated to 'Harris County.'

Figure 25. First-Time Experience of Homelessness



Individuals were asked whether this was their first time experiencing homelessness. A slight majority of the respondents (55.3%) indicated that they had previously experienced homelessness, while 44.7% reported that this was their first time. This distribution reflects the cyclical nature of homelessness while also indicating that a sizable share of individuals are experiencing it for the first time in the region.

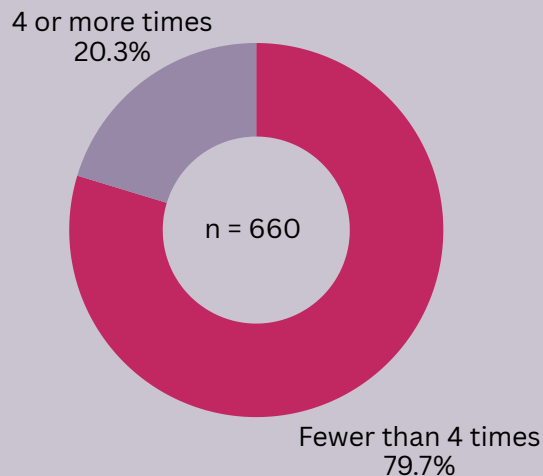
Figure 26. Duration of Time Spent Homeless Over the Past 3 Years



Respondents were asked about the total time spent without stable housing over the past three years. The largest share (38.7%) reported experiencing homelessness for 36 months or more, followed by 12–23 months (20.1%) and 24–35 months (16.1%). Shorter durations were less common, with smaller proportions reporting 0–3 months (9.2%), 4–6 months (9.0%), and 7–11 months (6.9%).

In total, nearly 3/4 of respondents reported being without stable housing for one year or longer.

Figure 27. Number of Homeless Episodes in the Past 3 Years



To further expand on Figure 26, Figure 27 shows the number of times respondents experienced homelessness during the past three years. The majority (79.7%) reported fewer than four episodes, while 20.3% reported experiencing homelessness four or more times, highlighting the cyclical nature of homelessness for many individuals.

Note: Individuals with missing responses were excluded. As a result, the total n may be lower than the full unsheltered survey count (n = 729).

Figure 28. Homelessness Due to a Natural Disaster

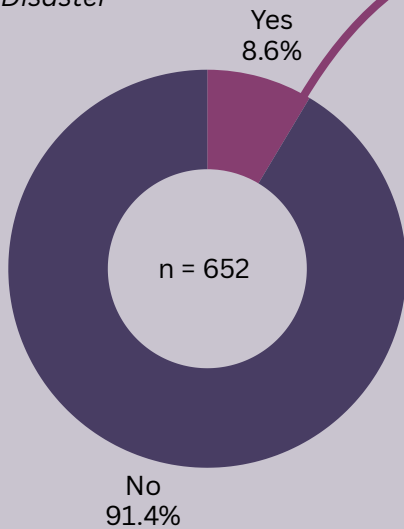
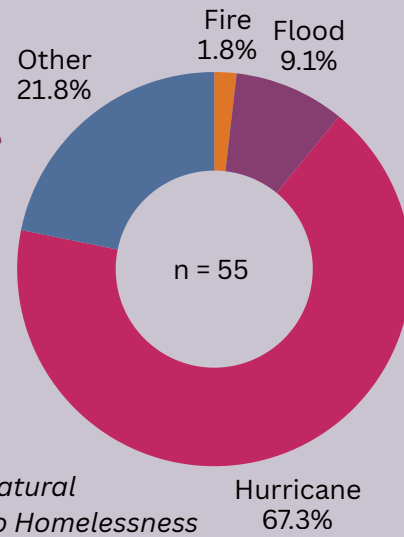


Figure 29. Type of Natural Disaster That Led to Homelessness



Respondents were asked whether they were experiencing homelessness as a result of a natural disaster. A small proportion (8.6%) attributed their homelessness to a natural disaster, while the majority (91.4%) did not.

Among those who reported that they were experiencing homelessness as a result of a natural disaster, the majority (67.3%) identified a hurricane as the primary cause. Smaller shares reported floods (9.1%), fires (1.8%), or other disasters (21.8%).

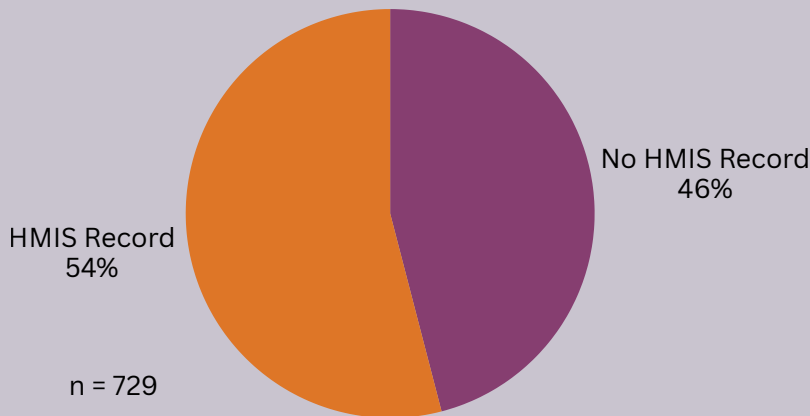


Figure 30. HMIS Record

Figure 30 shows the proportion of unsheltered respondents who were matched to a record in the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS is a regional data system used by housing and service providers to track client interactions, program participation, and outcomes across the homeless response system (Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, 2024). Slightly more than half of respondents (54%) were successfully matched to an HMIS record, while 46% had no documented service history within the system. However, a number of surveys could not be matched because of incomplete or poor-quality identifying information, suggesting that the true proportion of individuals with prior service engagement may be higher.

The distribution suggests that although many individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness have interacted with local services, a considerable number remain outside the formal system. This points to continued difficulties in reaching and consistently capturing data on unsheltered individuals, emphasizing the need for stronger outreach and better coordination to connect more people to housing and support services. Additionally, the wide geographic distribution and size of the unsheltered population make it challenging for current outreach teams to engage with all individuals in need, which highlights the importance of increasing staffing and resources to expand coverage and improve connections with individuals who remain outside the service system.

Note: Individuals with missing responses were excluded. As a result, the total n may be lower than the full unsheltered survey count (n = 729). Due to missing data, a significant number of responses were unmatchable to HMIS records.

# Unsheltered Subpopulations

Within the unsheltered population, subgroups such as individuals facing chronic homelessness, relational violence, substance use disorders, chronic health conditions, and those with a history of veteran status often encounter additional challenges and health and social risks. These overlapping factors can contribute to longer periods of homelessness and increased barriers to accessing services, which can worsen overall health outcomes. Targeted support to meet the unique needs of these groups is crucial for improving access to housing, health care, and other essential resources and services.

Figure 31. Prevalence of Chronic Homelessness among Unsheltered Population

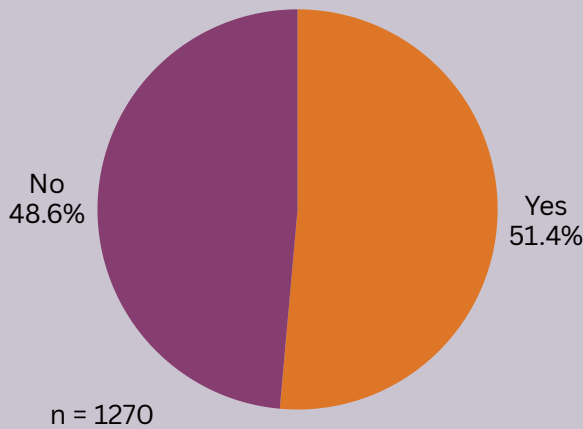
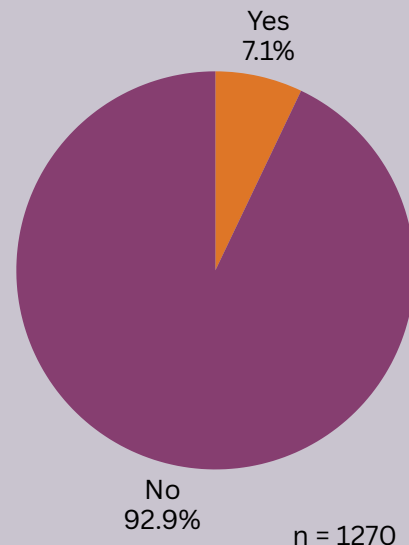


Figure 32. Veteran Status among Unsheltered Population



Based on respondents' self-reported survey responses, just over half of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness (51.4%) met the criteria for chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness is defined as experiencing homelessness for at least 12 months, or on four or more separate occasions in the past three years, while living with a disability (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, n.d.).

Figure 32 shows that 7.1% of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness identified as U.S. veterans. Although this group represented a relatively small proportion of the unsheltered population, their continued presence highlights the importance of maintaining targeted housing, outreach, and support services designed to address the unique challenges faced by veterans experiencing homelessness.

*Note: Distributions are imputed for all missing responses. The missing values were modeled using multiple imputation with chained equations, with demographics and geographic values used to predict missing values in surveys and observations. Values reflect estimated proportions for the full samples of unsheltered (n = 1270) count.*

Figure 33. Prevalence of Disabling Conditions and Other Vulnerability Indicators Among Unsheltered Individuals

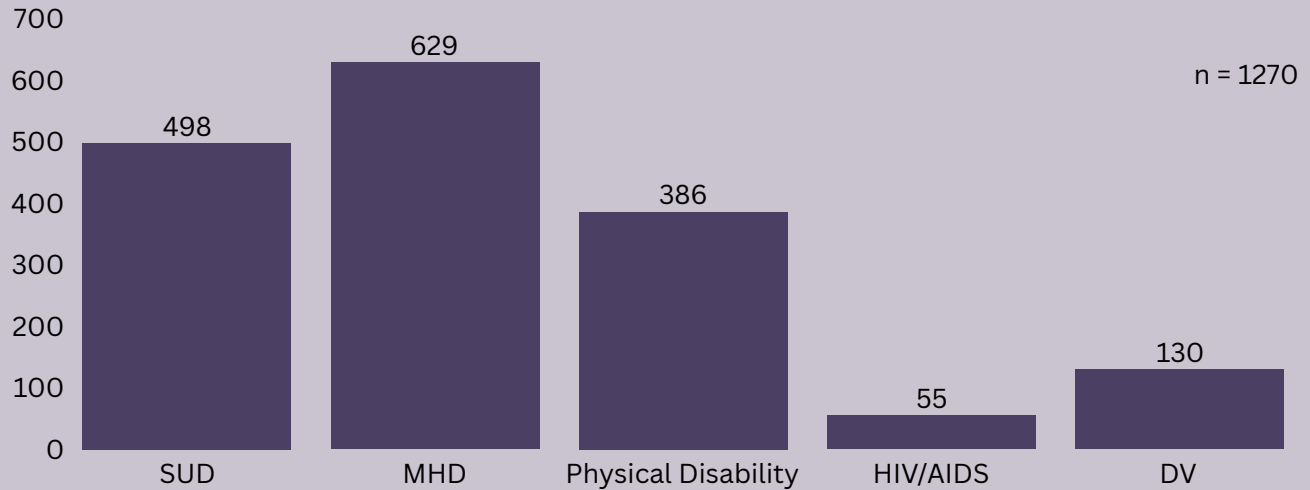
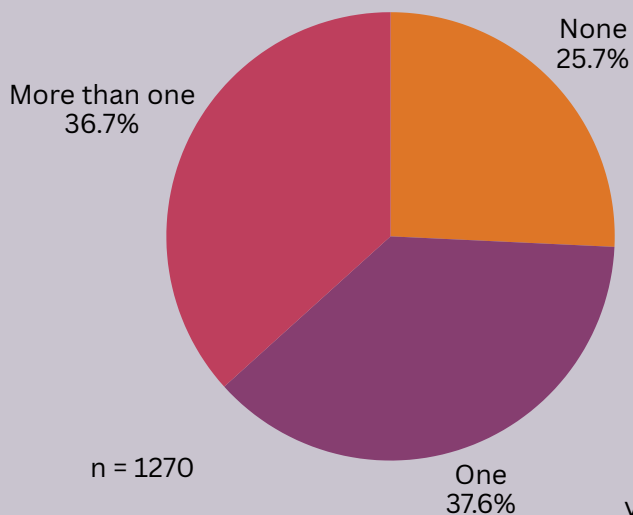


Figure 33 shows the prevalence of self-reported disabling conditions and other vulnerability indicators among the unsheltered population. Many individuals may experience more than one of these conditions or circumstances. However, each represents a distinct vulnerability that can affect housing stability, health, and service needs.

39.2% of respondents reported a long-term substance use disorder (SUD) that impaired their ability to live and work independently. Long-term mental health disorders (MHDs) that impaired their ability to maintain employment or live independently were reported by nearly half of respondents (49.5%). Additionally, 30.4% of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness reported having a long-term physical disability that limited their ability to maintain employment or live independently. A smaller proportion of respondents reported living with HIV/AIDS (4.3%). Finally, 10.2% of individuals reported that they were experiencing homelessness as a result of fleeing domestic or dating violence (DV), sexual assault, or stalking.

Figure 34. Prevalence of Conditions Limiting Employment or Independent Living



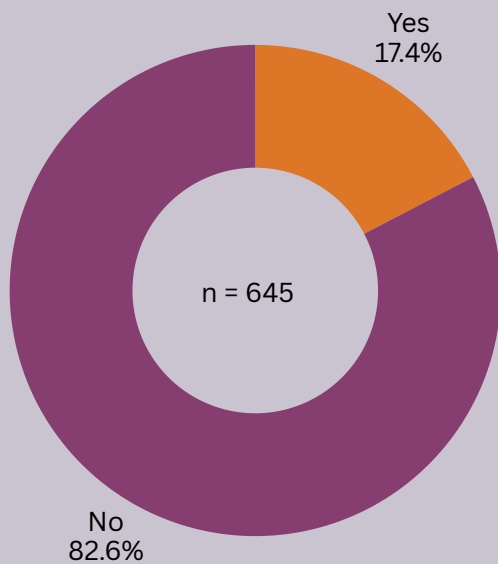
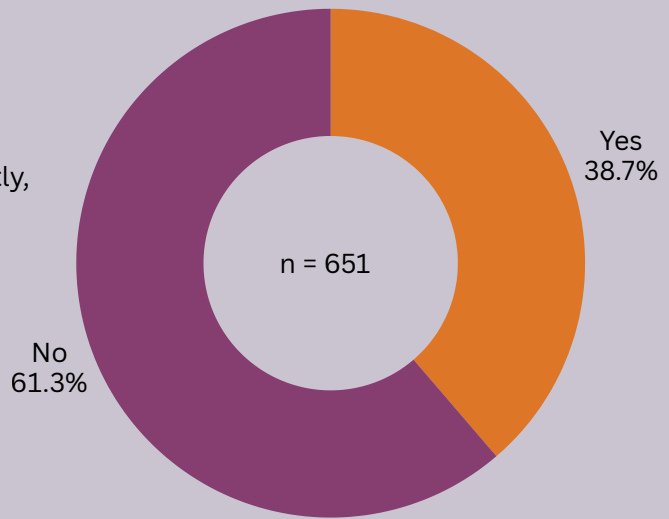
Among those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, 37.6% reported having one chronic condition or disability, while 36.7% reported more than one. In total, 74.3% indicated at least one ongoing health-related condition, including physical disabilities, SUDs, and MHDs that limit their ability to maintain employment or live independently. In contrast, only 7.9% of adults under age 65 in Harris County report having a disability (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.), highlighting the substantially greater health burden experienced by this population.

Together, these findings emphasize the need for a diverse continuum of housing, healthcare, behavioral health, and supportive services that can address the varied and intersecting needs of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The high prevalence of co-occurring conditions also supports the need for coordinated, cross-disciplinary approaches to support long-term housing stability and well-being.

Note: Distributions are imputed for all missing responses. The missing values were modeled using multiple imputation with chained equations, with demographics and geographic values used to predict missing values in surveys and observations. Values reflect estimated proportions for the full samples of unsheltered (n = 1270) count.

Figure 35. Impact of Chronic Health Condition on Employment or Independent Living

Among unsheltered survey respondents, 38.7% reported having a chronic health condition that impairs their ability to maintain employment or live independently, while 61.3% did not.



A smaller proportion of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness (17.4%) reported having a developmental disability.

Figure 36. Developmental Disability

Despite many respondents reporting at least one disabling condition, only 16.6% indicated that they were receiving disability benefits. This suggests that many individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness who may be eligible for these supports are not connected to them or may be facing barriers to accessing them.

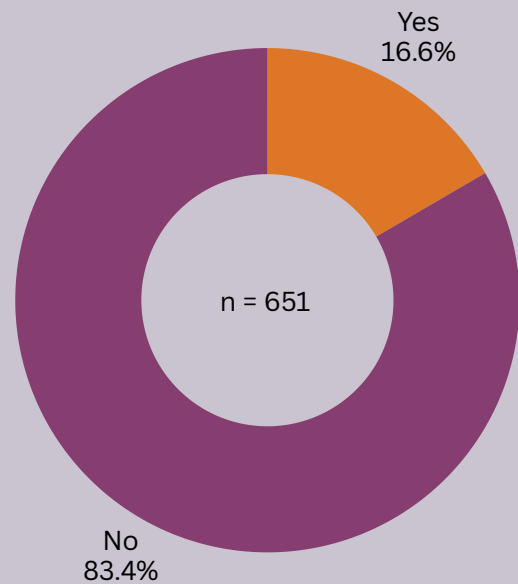


Figure 37. Receipt of Disability Benefits

Note: Individuals with missing responses were excluded. As a result, the total n may be lower than the full unsheltered survey count (n = 729).

# Sheltered Count

Figure 39. Shelter Type in Harris County

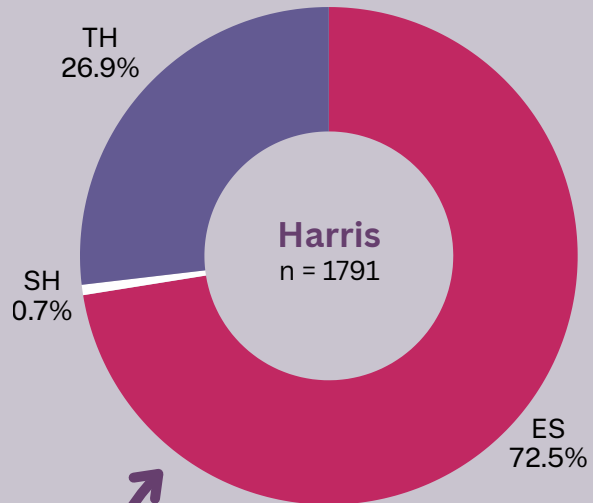


Figure 40. Shelter Type in Fort Bend County

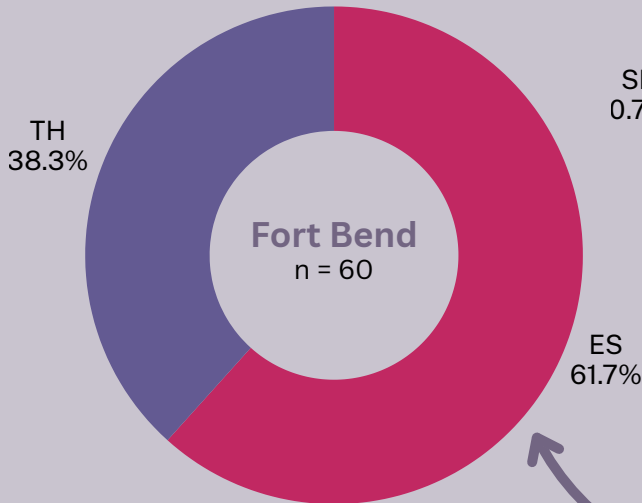


Figure 41. Shelter Type in Montgomery County

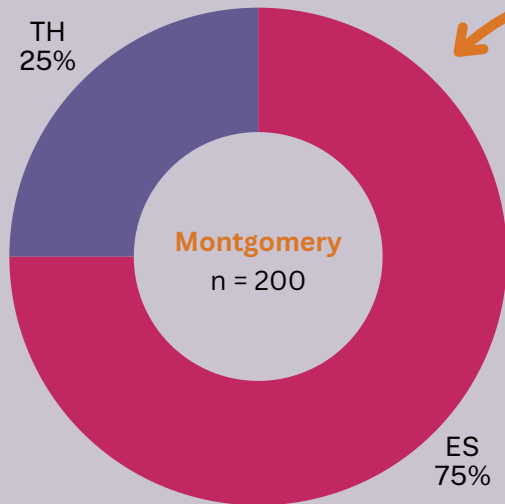
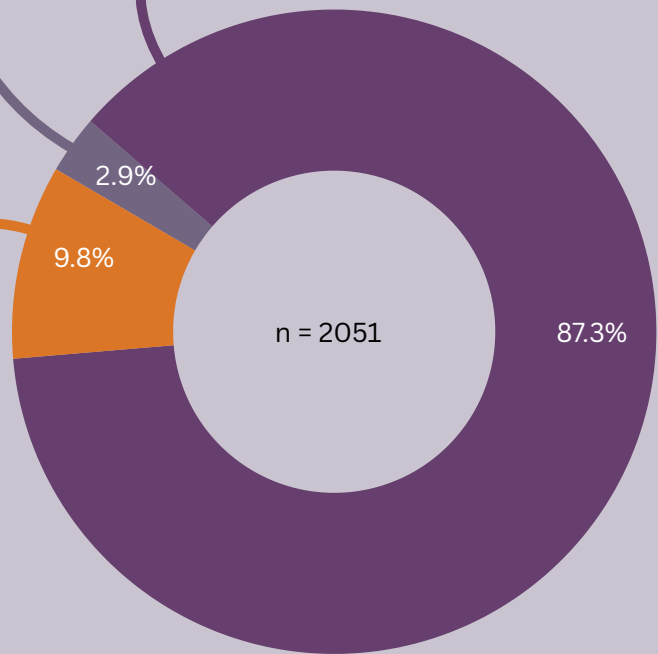


Figure 38. Shelter Type by County



TH = Transitional Housing, SH = Safe Haven, ES = Emergency Shelter

Figure 38 displays the distribution of sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties during the 2026 PIT Count. Of the 2,051 individuals identified as experiencing sheltered homelessness, the majority (87.3%; n = 1,791) were in Harris County, followed by Montgomery County (9.8%; n = 200), then Fort Bend County (2.9%; n = 60).

Figures 39–41 further illustrate the distribution of shelter types within each county. In Harris County, nearly three-quarters of sheltered individuals were residing in emergency shelters (72.5%), followed by transitional housing (26.9%) and safe havens (0.7%). Similarly, in Montgomery County, most individuals were staying in emergency shelters (75.0%), while the remaining 25.0% were in transitional housing. Fort Bend County had the highest proportion of individuals in transitional housing (38.3%), although emergency shelters remained the most common shelter type (61.7%). Overall, emergency shelters represented the primary form of sheltered homelessness across all three counties.

# Characteristics of Those Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness

Figure 42. Sheltered Counts by Population Category

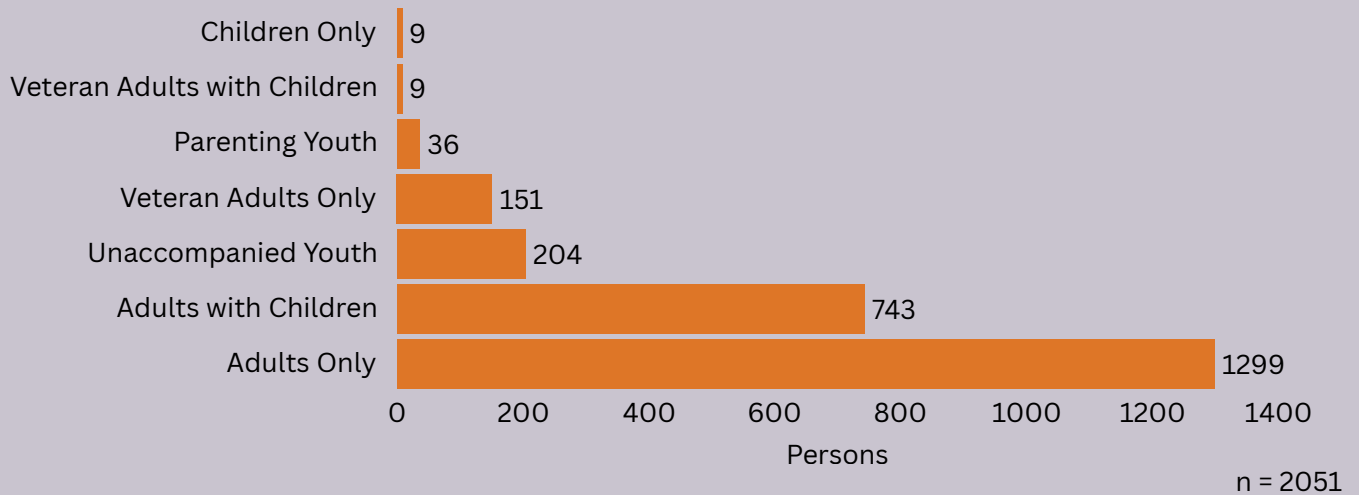


Figure 42 displays the number of sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness by population category. These categories distinguish between veterans and non-veterans, household composition, and youth populations. Adults without children represented the largest category (n = 1,299), followed by adults with children (n = 743). Unaccompanied youth accounted for 204 individuals, while veteran adults without children represented 151 individuals. Smaller populations included parenting youth (n = 36), children-only households (n = 9), and veteran adults with children (n = 9). These categories are not mutually exclusive, and individuals may be represented in more than one population category.

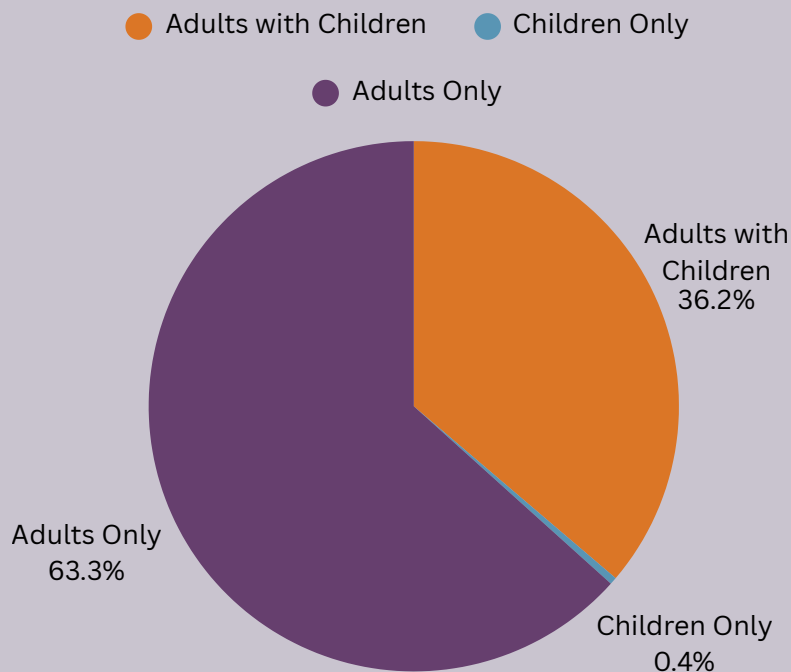
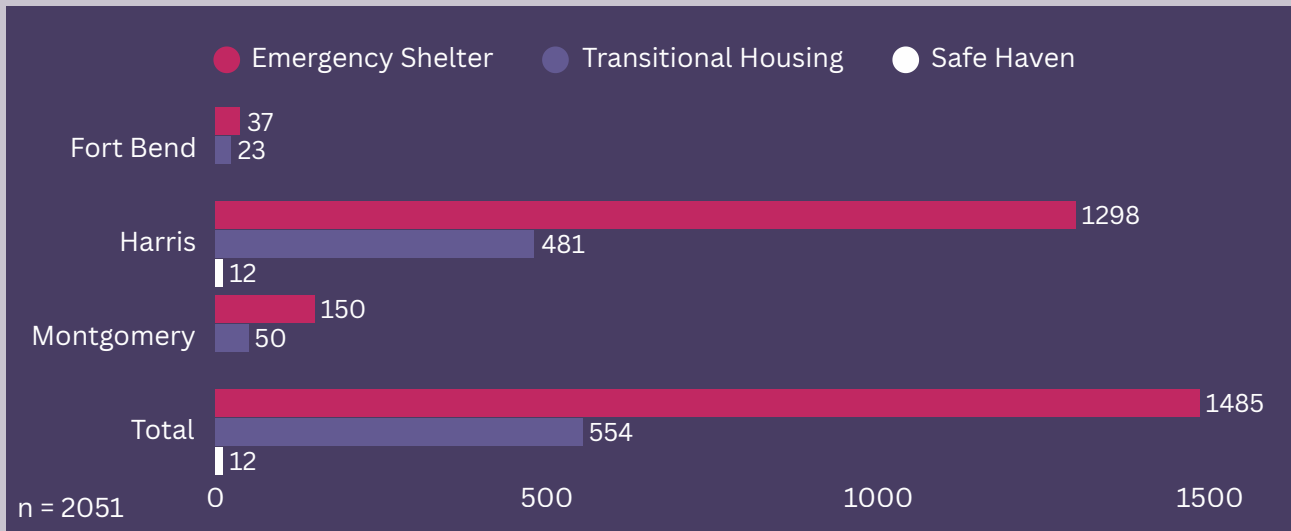


Figure 43 further illustrates the figure above. Individuals were classified into three household types: adults with children (AC), children only (CO), and adults only (AO). Of the 2,051 individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness, the majority were adults-only households (63.3%). Adults with children accounted for 36.2% of the sheltered population, while children-only households represented just 0.4%. While single adults comprise most of the sheltered population, these findings show that families with children also represent a substantial portion of individuals utilizing shelter services.

Figure 43. Distribution of Household Type n = 2051

Figure 44. Sheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness by County and Type of Shelter



Across all three counties, emergency shelters accounted for the majority of sheltered individuals (n = 1,485), followed by transitional housing (n = 554) and safe havens (n = 12). Harris County accounted for most sheltered individuals in all shelter types, including 1,298 individuals in emergency shelters, 481 in transitional housing, and all 12 individuals residing in safe havens. Montgomery County reported 150 individuals in emergency shelters and 50 in transitional housing, while Fort Bend County reported 37 individuals in emergency shelters and 23 in transitional housing. Overall, the distribution by shelter type and county was similar to that observed in the 2023 - 2025 PIT Counts

Figure 45. Sheltered Youth Experiencing Homelessness by Type of Shelter

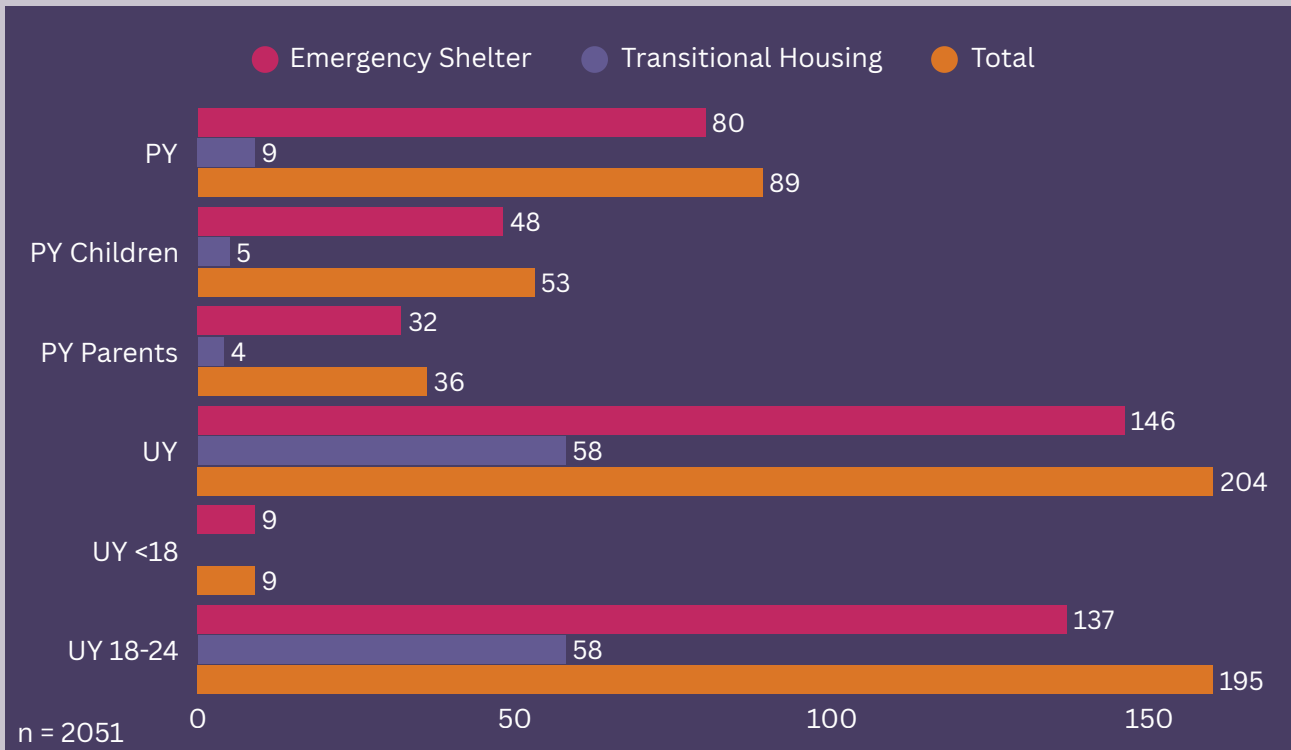
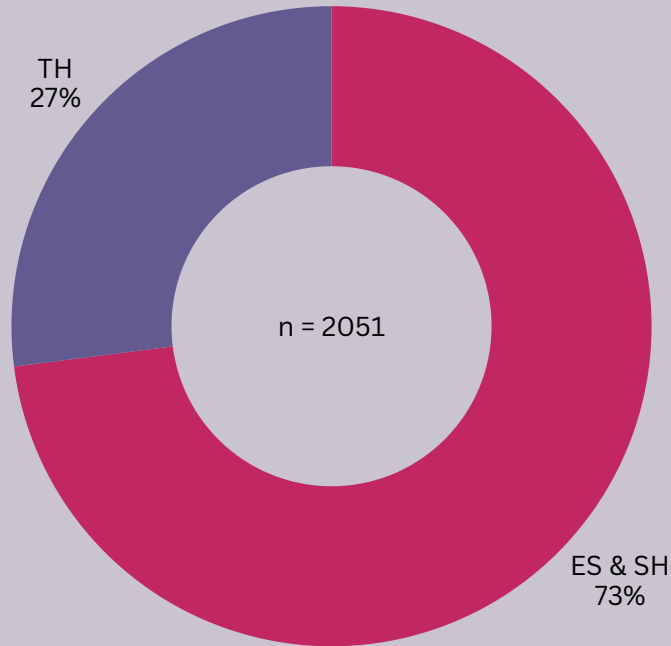


Figure 45 shows the distribution of sheltered youth experiencing homelessness by shelter type. For both unaccompanied youth (UY) and parenting youth (PY), substantially more individuals were staying in emergency shelters than transitional housing, indicating that emergency shelters served as the primary shelter type for youth experiencing homelessness in the region.

Figure 46. Shelter Type Distribution

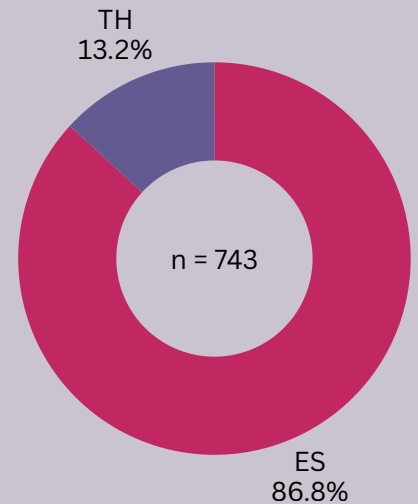
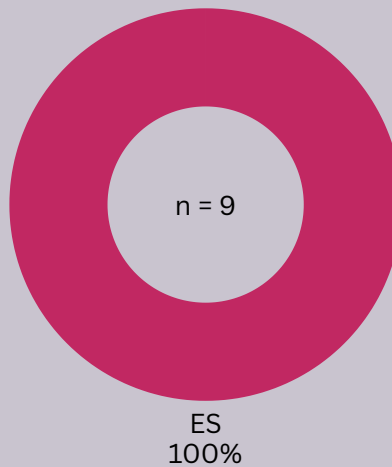
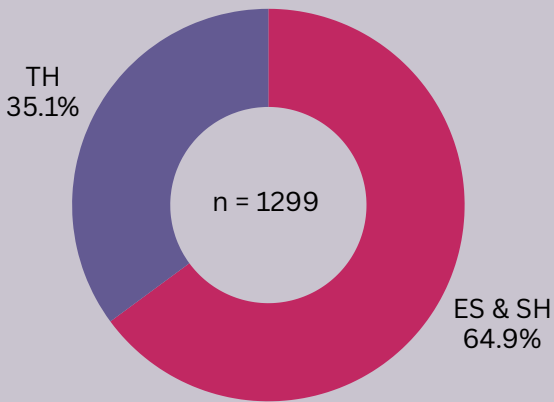


Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), Safe Havens (SH)

Figure 47. Adults Only Shelter Type Distribution

Figure 48. Children Only Shelter Type Distribution

Figure 49. Adults With Children Shelter Type Distribution



Figures 46–49 display the distribution of shelter types among sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness overall and by household type. Across the sheltered population, emergency shelters and safe havens accounted for the majority of individuals (73.0%), while transitional housing accounted for 27.0%. AO households had the highest proportion of individuals residing in transitional housing (35.1%), compared with 13.2% among AC. All CO households (n = 9) were residing in emergency shelters.

The predominance of emergency shelters across all household types may reflect their lower barriers to entry compared with transitional housing, as well as their greater availability across the region. The concentration of children-only households in emergency shelters could also reflect differences in the populations served by various shelter types and the limited number of CO households identified in the PIT Count.

Figure 50. Number of Sheltered Adults with Children by Age Group

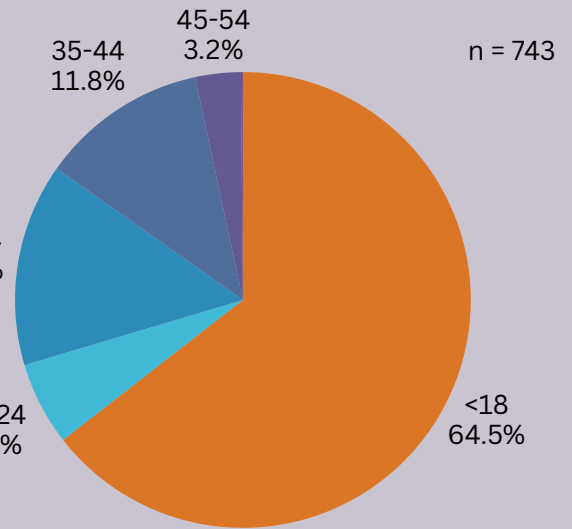
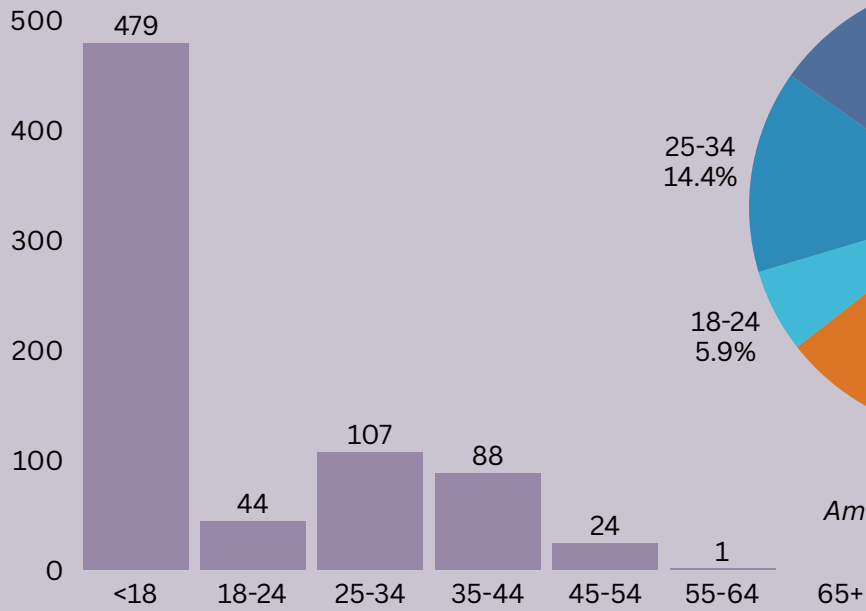


Figure 51. Age Distribution Among Sheltered Adults with Children

Among AC, 64.5% of individuals were under age 18, reflecting the presence of dependent children within these households. Among adults in these households, those ages 25–34 represented the largest age group (14.4%). In contrast, AO households were more evenly distributed across age groups, with the largest proportions ages 45–54 (21.6%), 35–44 (20.6%), and 55–64 (19.2%). Overall, families accessing shelter services tended to be younger, while adults without children were more concentrated among middle-aged adults.

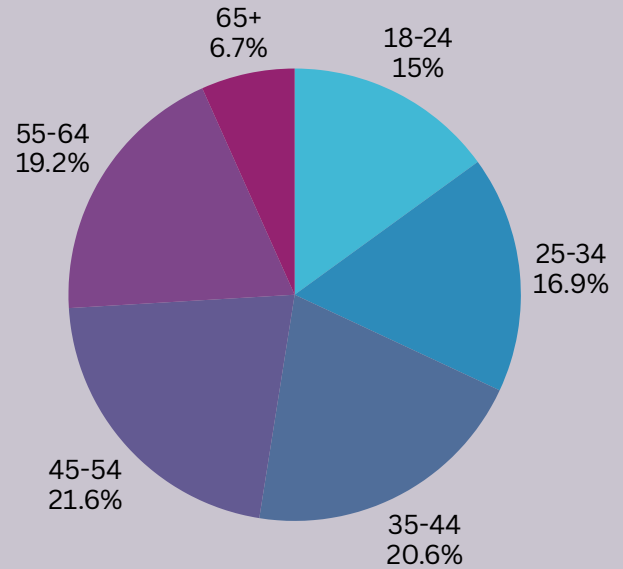
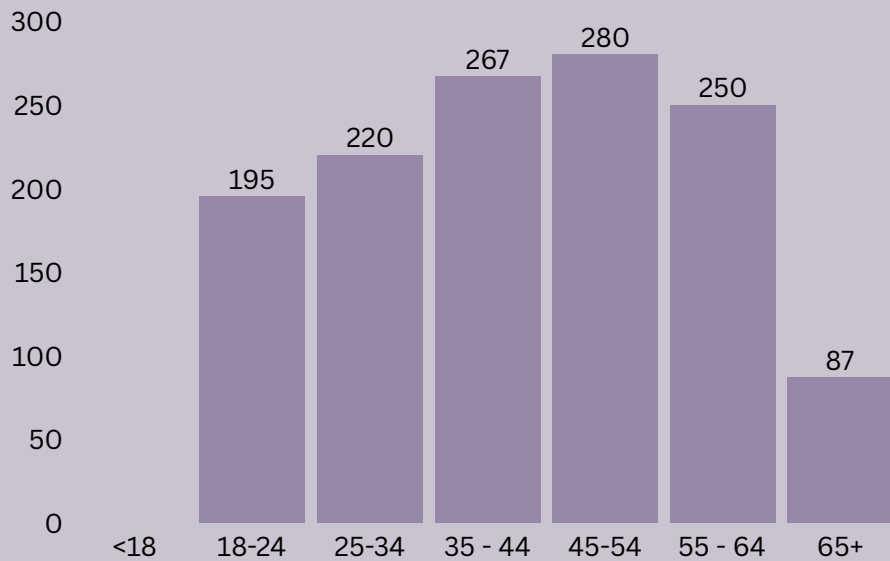


Figure 53. Age Distribution Among Sheltered Adults Only

Figure 52. Number of Sheltered Adults Only by Age Group



n = 1299

Figure 54 shows the age distribution of sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness across all household types. Children under age 18 represented the largest age group (23.8%), followed by adults ages 35–44 (17.3%), 25–34 (15.9%), and 45–54 (14.8%). Adults aged 65 years and older comprised the smallest proportion of the sheltered population. As seen below, AO households were distributed across a wider range of adult age groups, while households with children were primarily concentrated among younger adults, particularly those aged 25–44 years.

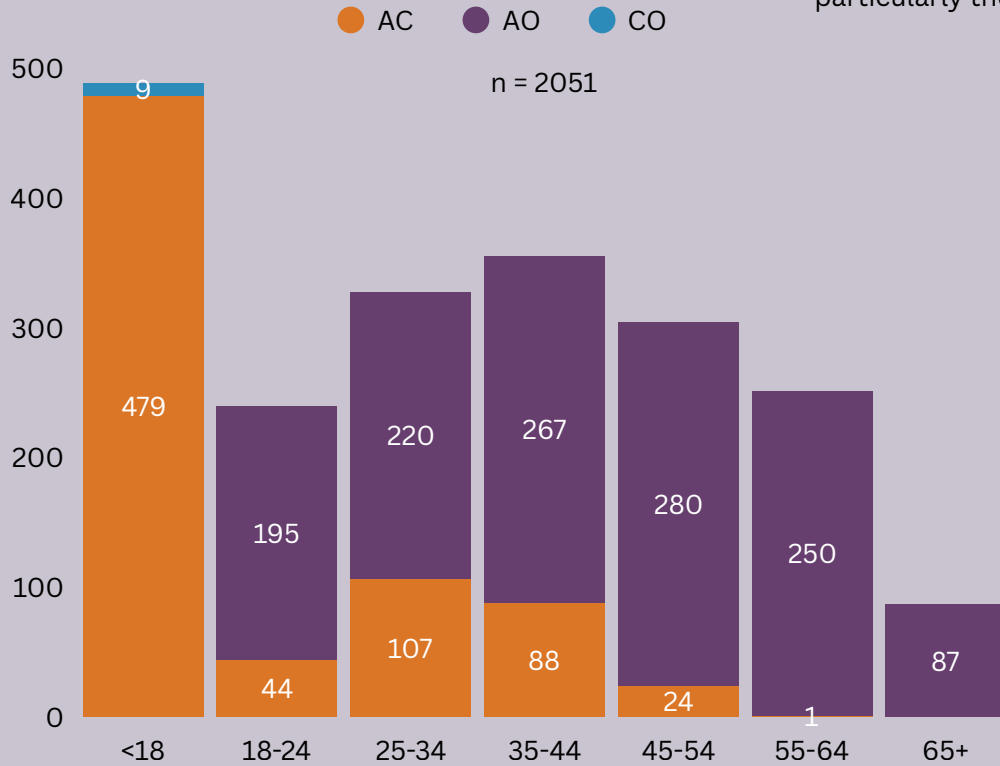


Figure 54. Sheltered Individuals by Age Group and Household Type

Age distributions based on shelter type show that in emergency shelters, children under age 18 represented the largest age group, which may be a result of its acute care responses. Since these shelters provide short-term relief for children and families with children, there may be a higher representation of minors in this setting. In contrast, transitional housing has a higher proportion of individuals between 35-54 years old since they mainly target adults who meet the criteria of transitional housing programs.

Figure 55. Emergency Shelter & Safe Haven Age Distribution

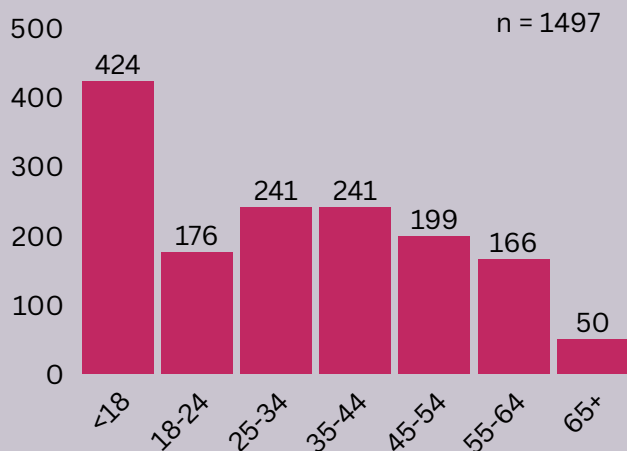


Figure 56. Transitional Housing Age Distribution

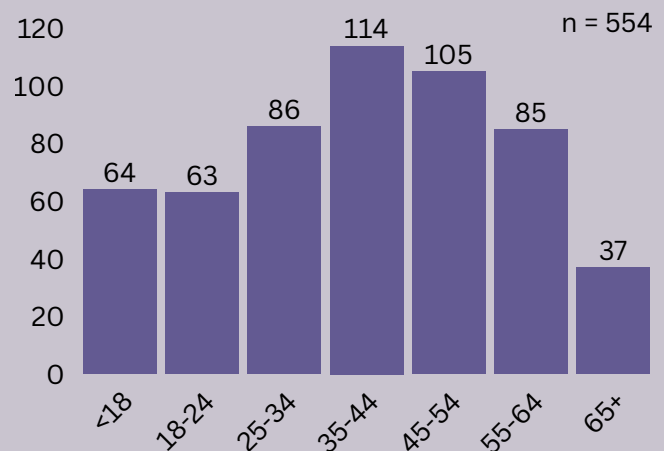
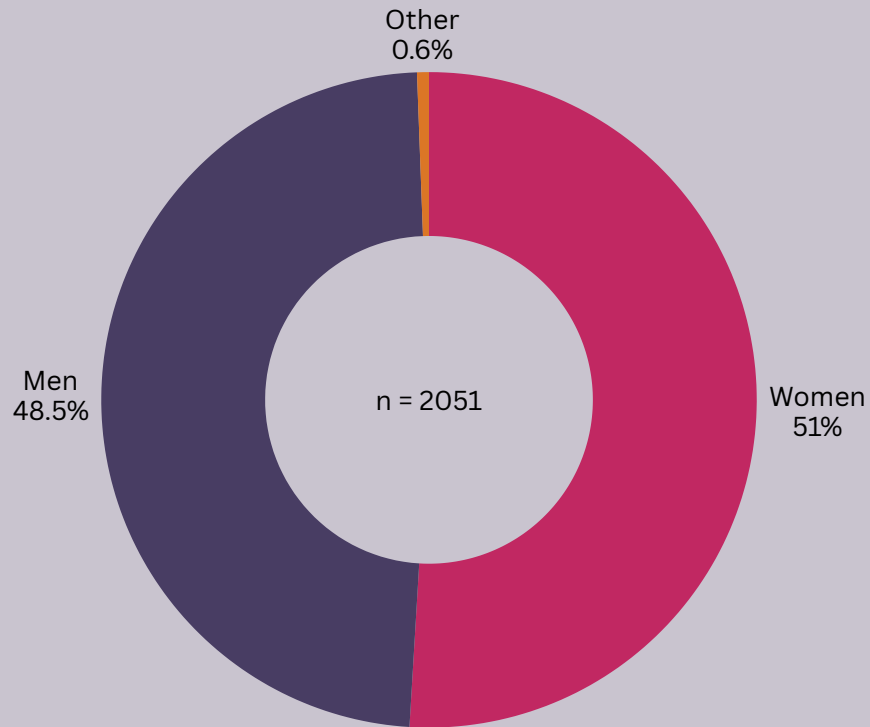


Figure 57. Gender Distribution Among Sheltered Individuals



Although presented earlier in the report, the overall gender distribution of the sheltered population is shown again here to provide context for the gender distributions observed across household types.

Gender distributions varied across household types. Among CO households, all children were boys (100%). AO households were predominantly male, with men accounting for 57.2% (n = 743) of individuals in this household type. AC had the highest proportion of women, who made up 67.2% (n = 499) of individuals in these households, suggesting that women are more highly represented among sheltered family households, while men are more represented among AO households.

Figure 59. Gender Distribution Among Children Only

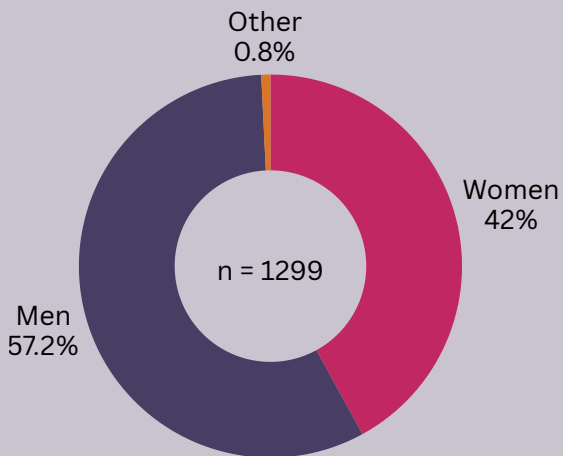


Figure 58. Gender Distribution Among Adults Only

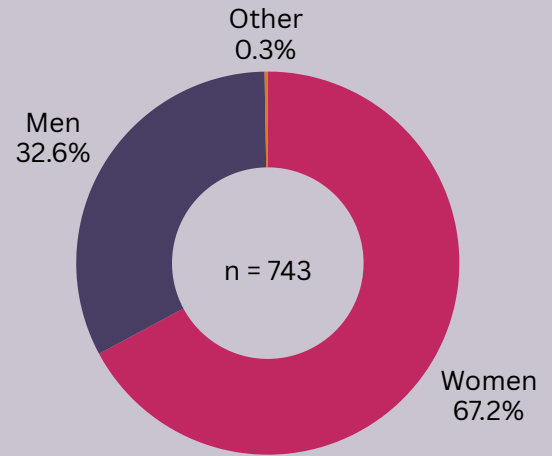
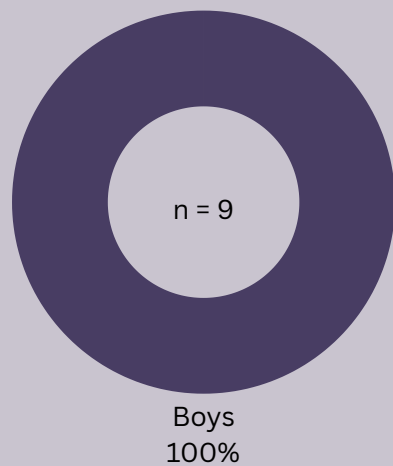


Figure 60. Gender Distribution Among Adults with Children

Figure 61. Emergency Shelter and Safe Haven Gender Distribution

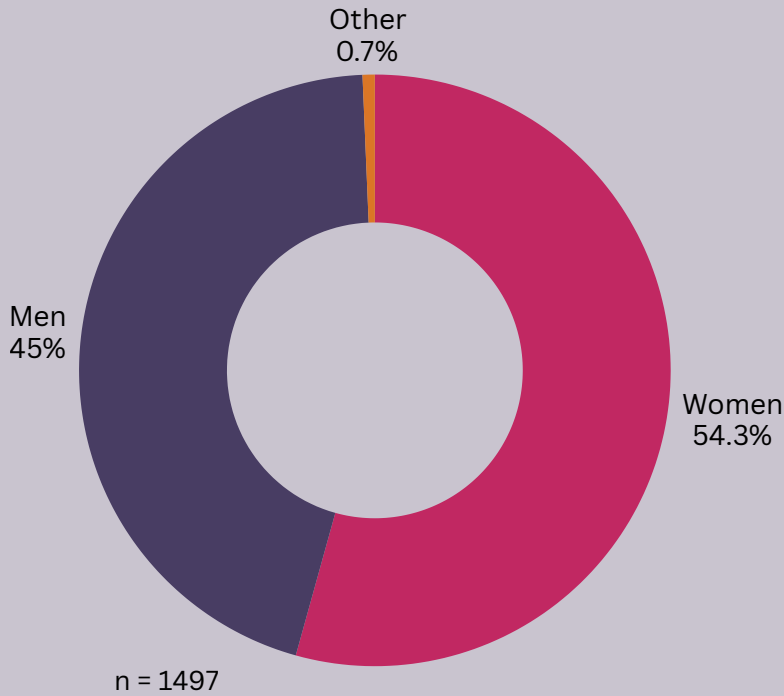
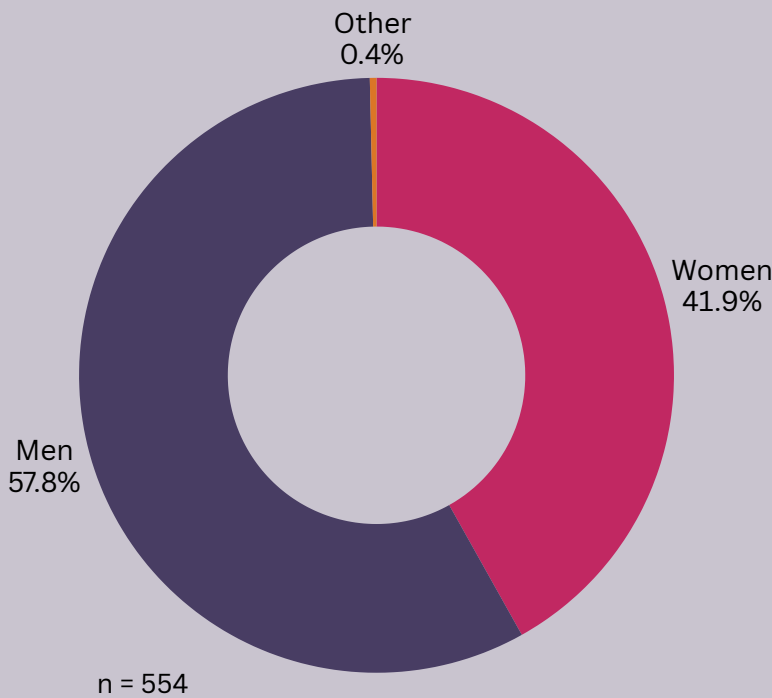


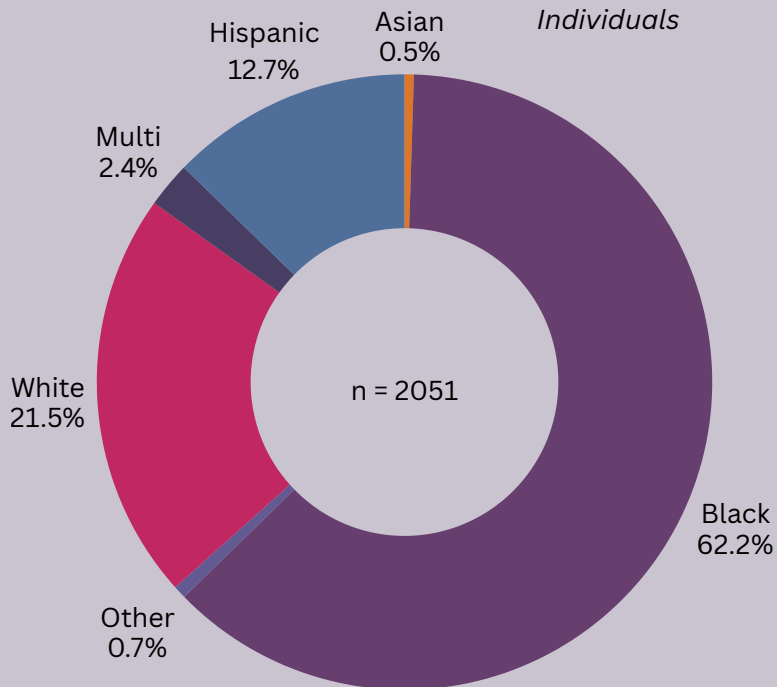
Figure 62. Transitional Housing Gender Distribution



Gender distributions also varied by shelter type. In TH, men accounted for the majority of residents (57.8%; n = 320), while women accounted for 41.9% (n = 232). In ES and SH women represented a slight majority (54.3%; n = 813), compared with 45.0% men (n = 674) and 0.7% individuals identifying as another gender (n = 10). All individuals residing in SH (n = 12) were men.

Differences in gender distributions across shelter types may be influenced by the populations served by specific shelter programs in the region. For example, many TH beds are located in programs serving single men, while the region's SH program primarily serves veterans, a population that is predominantly male. As a result, gender differences across shelter types likely reflect both variations in service populations and differences in shelter utilization patterns.

Figure 63. Race/Ethnicity Distribution Among Sheltered Individuals



The race/ethnicity distribution of the sheltered population is displayed again in Figure 63. In ES and SH, the racial and ethnic distribution was similar to that of the overall sheltered population, with Black individuals making up the largest proportion (65.7%), followed by White (19.6%) and Hispanic (11.1%) individuals. Smaller proportions included individuals identifying as Multiracial (2.3%), Asian (0.7%), and Other racial and ethnic groups, including AIAN, MENA, and NHOPI (0.6%).

Among individuals in TH, Black individuals also represented the largest group (52.9%). However, TH included higher proportions of White (26.5%) and Hispanic (17.1%) individuals compared with ES and SH. Smaller proportions identified as Multiracial (2.5%) or Other racial and ethnic groups (0.9%).

Overall, while Black individuals represented the largest racial and ethnic group across all shelter types, a more racially and ethnically diverse population was observed in TH than ES and SH.

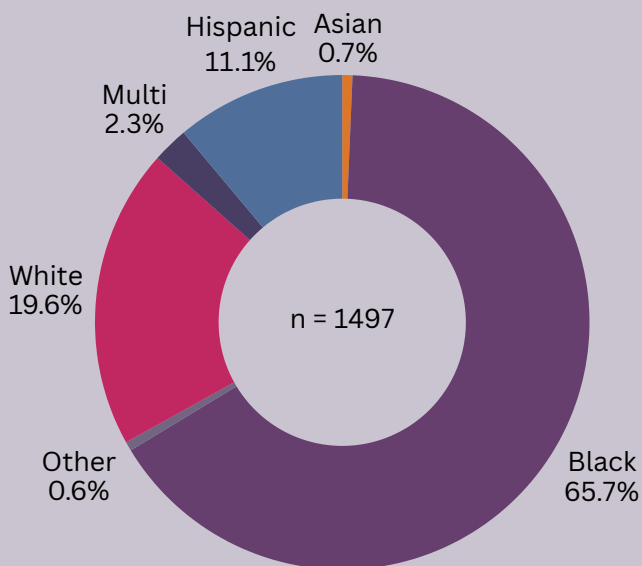


Figure 64. Emergency Shelter & Safe Haven Race/Ethnicity Distribution

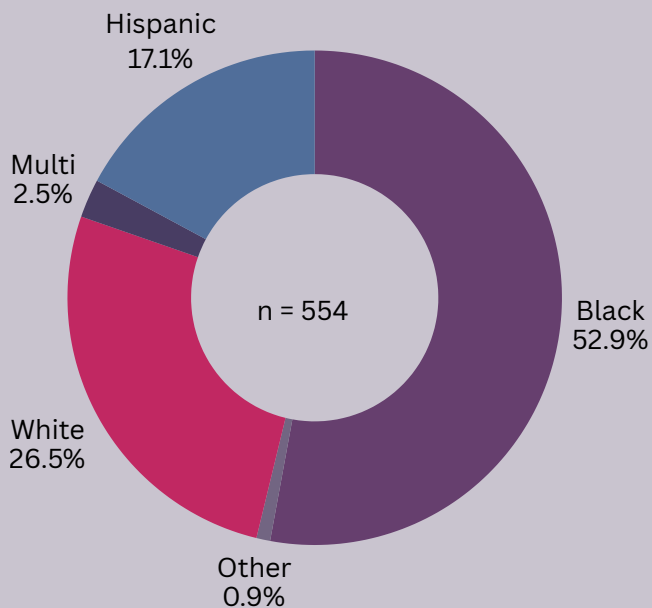


Figure 65. Transitional Housing Race/Ethnicity Distribution

Figure 66. Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Unaccompanied Youth

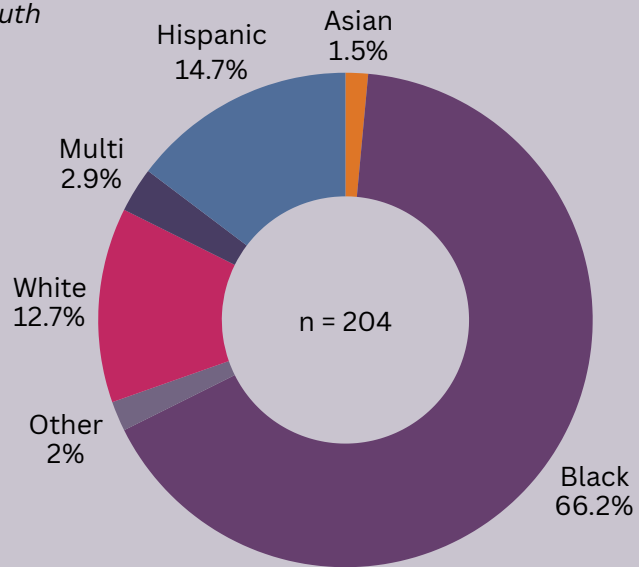


Figure 67. Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Children Only

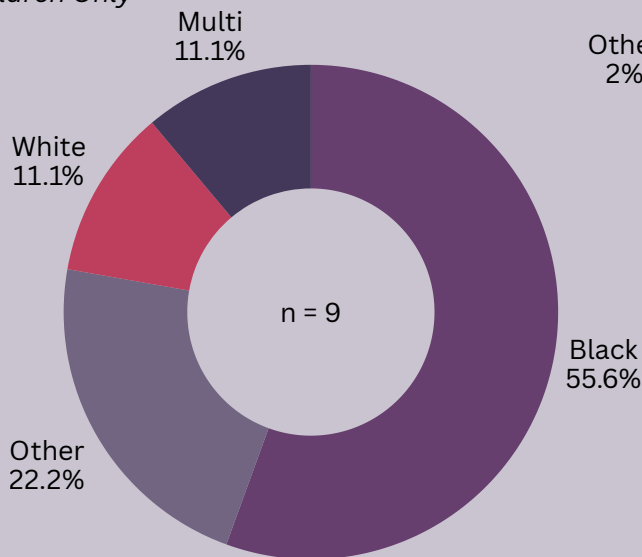
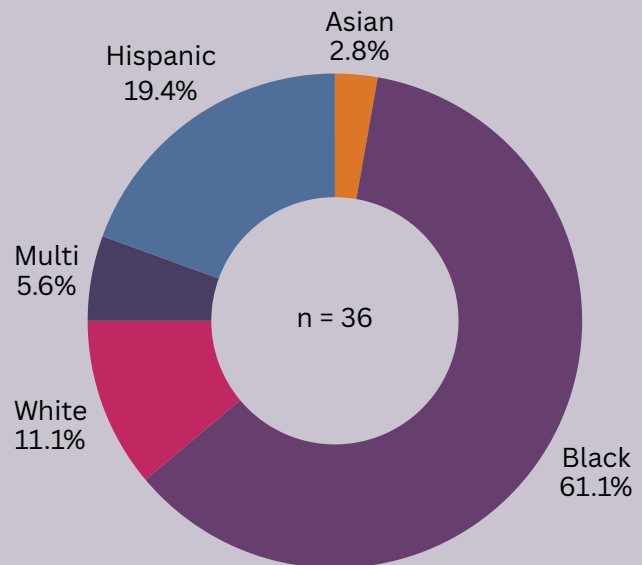


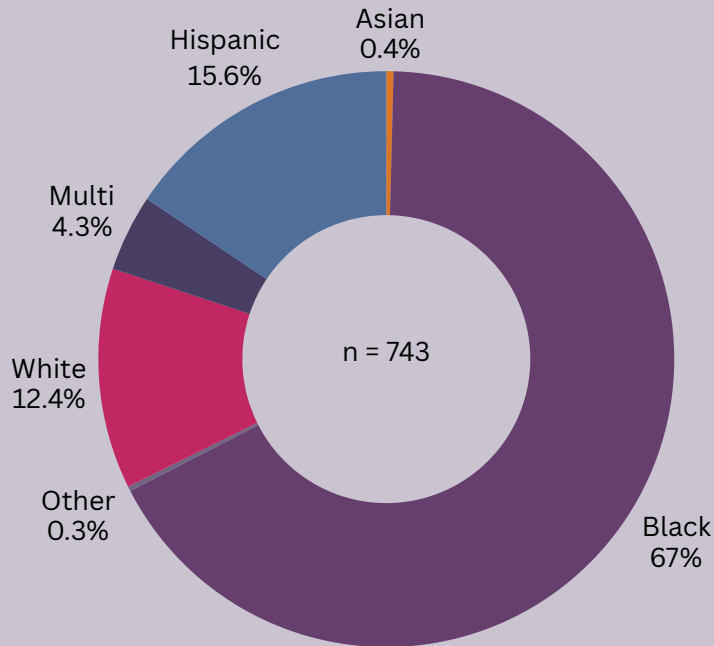
Figure 68. Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Parenting Youth



Figures 66-68 break down the racial and ethnic distribution of youth populations experiencing sheltered homelessness. Among UY, Black individuals comprised the largest racial/ethnic group (66.2%), followed by Hispanic (14.7%) and White individuals (12.7%).

Similarly, among CO households, Black individuals represented the largest proportion of the population (55.6%), followed by individuals of Other racial and ethnic groups (22.2%).

Among PY, Black individuals also made up the largest racial/ethnic group (61.1%). Compared with UY and CO households, parenting youth had higher proportions of Hispanic individuals (19.4%). Across all three youth populations, Black youth represented the majority of those experiencing sheltered homelessness.



Figures 69 and 70 display the racial/ethnic distributions of adult populations experiencing sheltered homelessness.

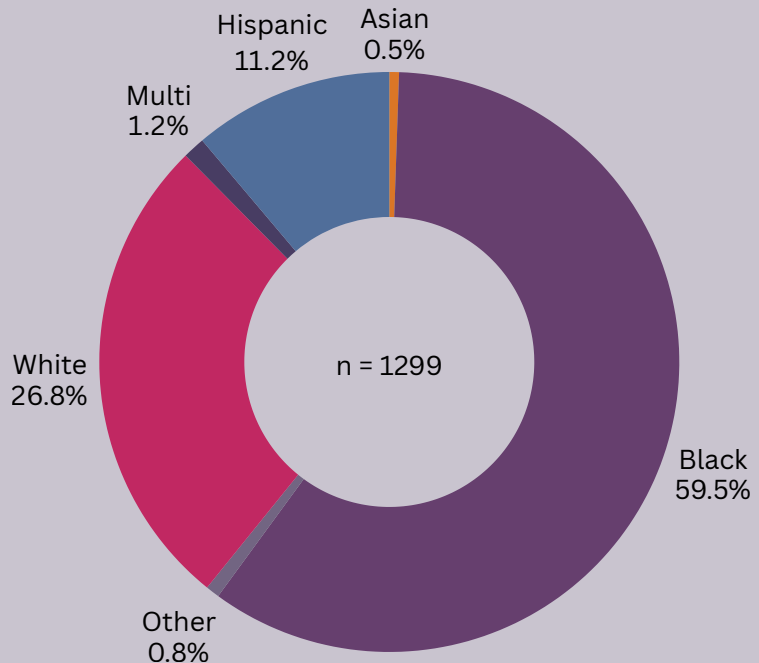
AC had a racial/ethnic distribution similar to that of UY and PY, with Black individuals representing the majority of the population (67.0%). Hispanic (15.6%) and White (12.4%) individuals accounted for the next largest groups, while Multiracial individuals accounted for 4.3% of the population.

Figure 69. Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Adults with Children

Among AO households, Black individuals also comprised the largest racial/ethnic group (59.5%), followed by White (26.8%) and Hispanic (11.2%) individuals. Smaller proportions identified as Multiracial (1.2%), Asian (0.5%), or Other racial and ethnic groups (0.8%).

Compared with AO households, AC had a higher proportion of Black and Hispanic individuals and a lower proportion of White individuals.

Figure 70. Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Adults Only



# Sheltered Subpopulations

Figure 71. Sheltered Subpopulations

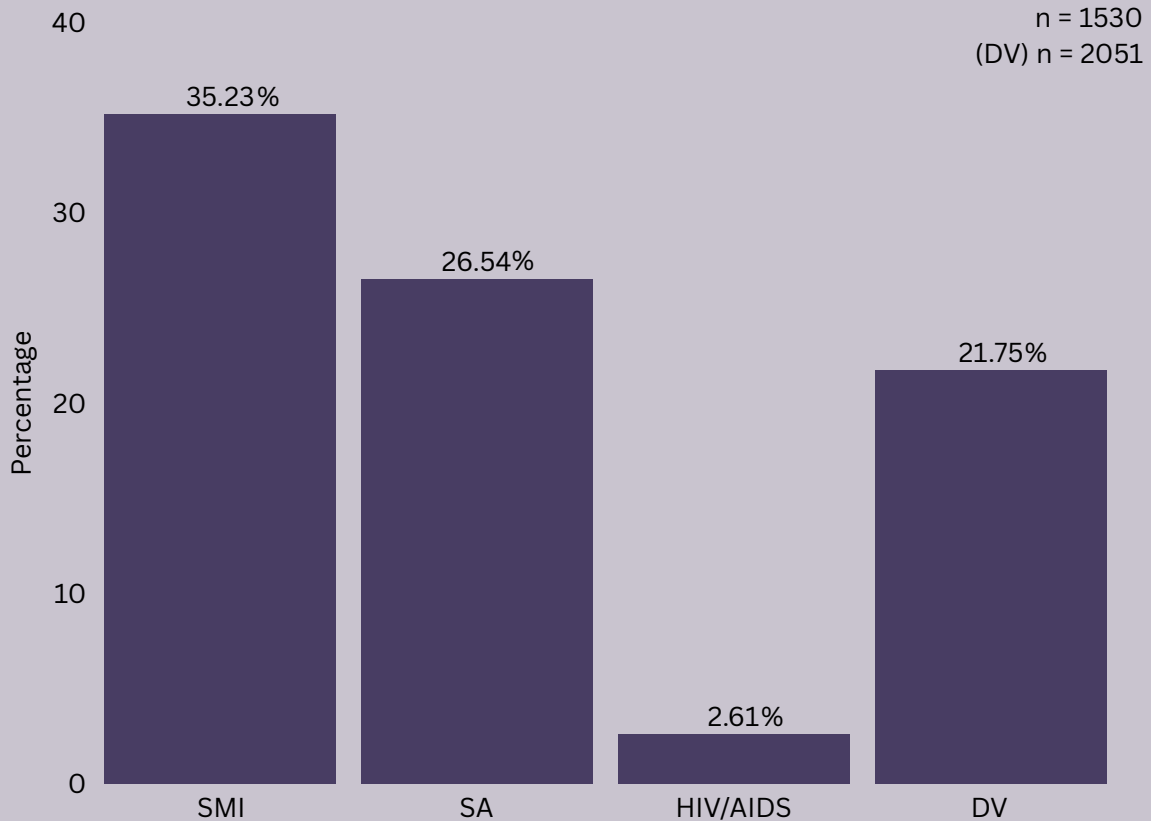


Figure 71 displays the proportions of sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness who reported having severe mental illness (SMI), substance abuse (SA), an HIV/AIDS diagnosis, or an experience of domestic violence (DV). Among individuals with SMI, SA, and HIV/AIDS data collected, SMI was the most commonly reported condition (35.2%), followed by SA (26.5%) and HIV/AIDS (2.6%). DV was identified among 21.8% of the full sheltered population.

Compared to the 2025 PIT Count, the proportions of sheltered individuals identified as experiencing DV or HIV/AIDS remained relatively stable. The most notable changes were increases in the proportions of individuals identified with SMI (26.9% to 35.2%) and SA (18.4% to 26.5%). These increases may reflect improved identification, documentation, and access to behavioral health services within shelter settings. They may also be influenced by the composition of shelter programs, including programs designed to serve individuals with more intensive behavioral health needs. While these changes should be interpreted with caution, they suggest a continued and potentially increasing need for behavioral health care among sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness.

It is important to note that DV was calculated using the full sheltered population (n = 2,051), whereas SMI, SA, and HIV/AIDS were calculated among sheltered individuals for whom these data were collected (n = 1,530). These measures were not collected for those residing in DV shelters.

Figures 72 and 73 show the distributions of sheltered subpopulations by shelter program type. These differences should be interpreted in the context of the populations served by each program type.

Emergency shelter, safe haven, and transitional housing programs often serve individuals with different service needs, eligibility criteria, and referral pathways, which can influence the proportion of individuals identified within each subpopulation.

For example, the higher proportions of SMI and SA among individuals in transitional housing likely reflect the role of some transitional housing programs in serving people with ongoing behavioral health needs. Similarly, the safe haven program is designed to serve hard-to-reach veterans with SMI, which may influence the distribution of SMI within the emergency shelter and safe haven group.

These differences do not necessarily indicate that one shelter type has higher underlying rates of these conditions. Instead, they suggest that program design, eligibility criteria, referral pathways, and the populations served can shape the observed distributions.

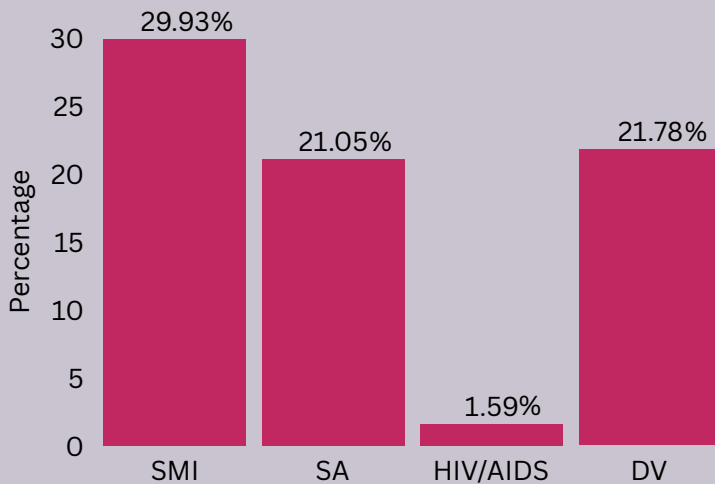
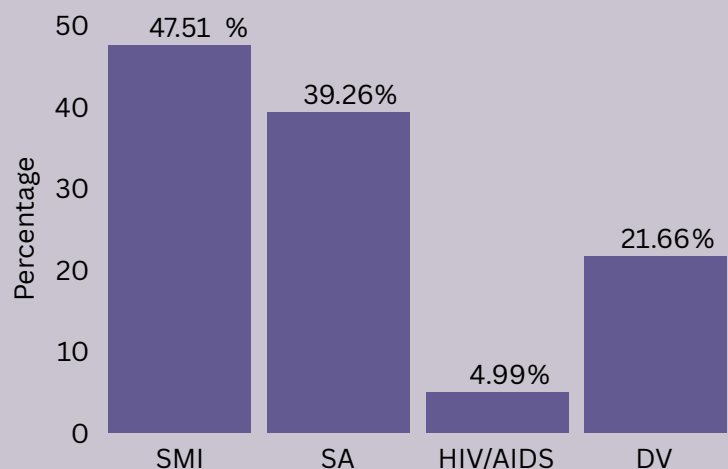


Figure 72. Emergency Shelter and Safe Haven Subpopulations

n = 1069  
(DV) n = 1497

Figure 73. Transitional Housing Subpopulations

n = 461  
(DV) n = 554



ES accounted for a larger share of sheltered DV survivors (73.1%) than TH (26.9%), which may be influenced by the classification of DV-specific shelters as ES. Additionally, individuals affected by DV may initially seek services through ES before transitioning to longer-term housing programs.

Figure 74. Sheltered DV Distribution

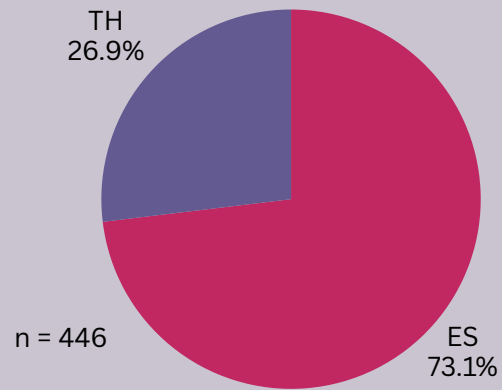


Figure 75. Sheltered SA Distribution

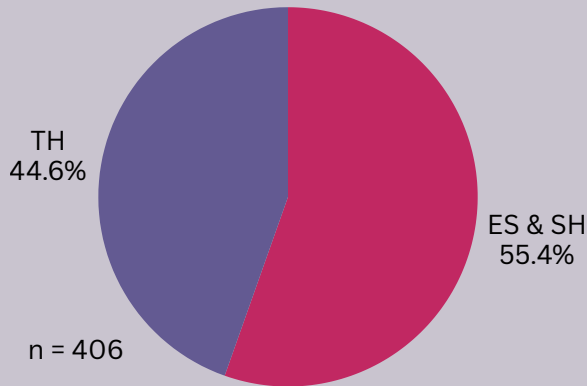


Figure 75 shows that SA was more commonly reported among individuals residing in ES and SH (55.4%) than among those in TH (44.6%). However, this pattern may reflect differences in the populations served by each shelter type. ES often serve as the primary point of entry into the homeless response system and may accommodate a larger number of individuals experiencing acute crises, whereas TH programs may have eligibility requirements or provide longer-term supportive services that influence resident composition.

Individuals living with HIV/AIDS were more often represented in TH (57.5%) than in ES (42.5%). This pattern may reflect the availability of longer-term housing and supportive services that help individuals living with HIV/AIDS maintain housing stability and access ongoing medical care. Differences in the populations served by ES and TH programs may also contribute to the observed distribution.

Figure 76. Sheltered HIV Distribution

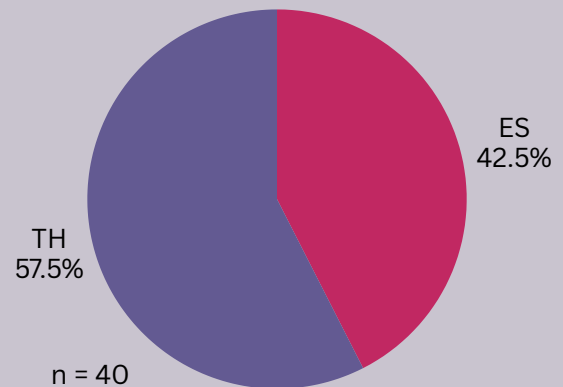
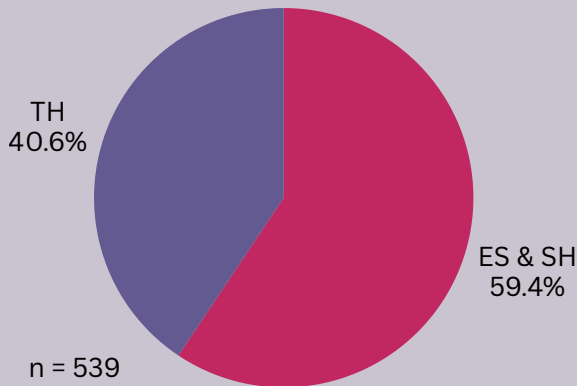


Figure 77. Sheltered SMI Distribution



A greater proportion of individuals reporting SMI were in ES and SH (59.4%) than TH (40.6%). Compared with the overall distribution of sheltered individuals by shelter type, persons reporting SMI were overrepresented in TH settings. This pattern may reflect the availability of behavioral health services, specialized programming, and case management within these programs, as well as more identification and documentation of mental health conditions among residents.

Individuals with missing responses were excluded. As a result, the total n may be lower than the full sheltered count (n = 2,051).

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[assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/definition-of-chronic-homelessness/](https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/definition-of-chronic-homelessness/)

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# Appendix A: Survey Questions



## 2026 Unsheltered Survey

1. Have you already been interviewed today for the Point in Time Count?  Yes  No (If Yes --- STOP)
2. Where are you sleeping on the night of the Count? (If an option in bold is selected, continue with the survey)

<input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned building	<input type="checkbox"/> Under bridge/overpass	<input type="checkbox"/> Jail
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus; train station; airport	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle/Boat/RV	<input type="checkbox"/> Motel/Hotel paid for w/ own \$
<input type="checkbox"/> Motel/Hotel paid for by agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter/warming shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor encampment	<input type="checkbox"/> In your own apt or home	<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment program
<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> With family/friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Street or Sidewalk	<input type="checkbox"/> In a place being evicted from within 2 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

### 3. What name or initials should we use for this survey?

First Name (or Initial): \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name (or Initial): \_\_\_\_\_

- What is your date of birth? (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

If refused to answer date of birth, ask "What is your age?" \_\_\_\_\_

If refused to answer age, "What age range do you fall into?"

<5  5-12  13-17  18-24  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-64  65+

- **Surveyor Script (read aloud):** "Thanks. Before I ask more questions, we can check our system to see if you're already in there. This helps us avoid asking things twice and makes sure we have the right info. It's just to help speed things up, is that okay?" *Select all that apply.*

I asked for permission to look up in HMIS  Person Gave permission  Person declined

- **HMIS Lookup Outcome**

Found in HMIS - HMIS ID: \_\_\_\_\_  Not found  Not applicable (person declined)

## DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

### 4. What is your gender?

Woman/Girl  Man/Boy  Culturally Specific Identity  Transgender  Non-Binary  Questioning  
 Different identity \_\_\_\_\_  Client doesn't know  Client prefers not to answer

a. If different gender identity, please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_



**5. What is your sex?**

- Female  Male

**6. What is your race or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)**

- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous (Specify Tribe (optional): \_\_\_\_\_)  Asian or Asian American  Black, African American, or African  Hispanic/Latina/o  Middle Eastern or North African  Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  White  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  Person doesn't know  Person prefers not to answer

**a. If other race, please indicate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**b. If American Indian; Alaska Native; or Indigenous, to which tribe do you belong?** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Are you a veteran? (served in the US Armed Forces OR been called into a duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist):**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer

**8. Is this the first time you have been homeless?**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer

**9. How long have you been without stable housing this time?**

- 0 to 3 months  4 to 6 months  7 to 11 months  12 to 23 mos  24 to 35 mos  36 mos or more  
 Person doesn't know  Person prefers not to answer

**10. In the past 3 years, how many total months have you been without housing?**

- 0 to 3 months  4 to 6 months  7 to 11 months  12 to 23 mos  24 to 35 mos  36 mos or more  
 Person doesn't know  Person prefers not to answer

**11. How many separate times have you been without housing in the past 3 years?**

- One time  2 times  3 times  Fewer than 4 times  4 or more times  Person doesn't know  
 Person prefers not to answer

**• What area were you living in before becoming homeless? (Select all that apply)**

- Houston/Harris County area  Montgomery County  Fort Bend County  Another part of Texas  
 Another state  Outside the United States  Doesn't know  Prefers not to say

**• Are you currently homeless because of a natural disaster?**

- Yes  No  Doesn't know  Refused

**If yes, what kind?**  Hurricane  Flood  Fire/Mud  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SAFETY**

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**12. Are you currently homeless because you are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer

**• If "Yes" selected: Would you like help connecting to a support service (confidential and free)?**

- Yes  No  Not sure/later  Already connected



## DISABLING CONDITIONS

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- 13. Do you have a long-term substance use disorder that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer
- 14. Do you have a long-term chronic health condition that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer
- 15. Do you have a long-term mental health disorder that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer
- 16. Do you have a long-term physical disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?**  
 Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer
- 17. Do you have a Developmental Disability?**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer
- 18. Do you receive disability benefits?**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer
- 19. Are you living with HIV or AIDS**  Yes  No  Person Doesn't Know  Person prefers not to answer

## LOCAL DATA - FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING

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- **Where were you staying right before you became homeless? (Choose one)**  
 A place you rented  A place you owned  Staying with family  Staying with friends  Hotel or motel (paid by self)  Transitional housing  Institutional setting (hospital, jail, treatment program, foster care, etc.)  Other temporary situation: \_\_\_\_\_  Don't know/Prefer not to say
- 20. What was the main cause of your current housing situation? (Select up to 1)**
- Job loss, eviction, or housing cost  Family or relationship conflict  Domestic violence or trafficking  
 Medical or mental illness crisis  Substance use-related crisis or challenges  Exit from jail, prison, or foster care  Loss of caregiver or family change  Natural disaster  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. What is your current employment status?**
- Unemployed  Unable to work/on disability  Working full time (35+ hours/week)  Working part time (<35 hours/week)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  Not sure  Prefer not to answer

# Appendix B: Survey Team Training for the 2026 PIT Count

In preparation for the 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, six (6) comprehensive training sessions – two in-person and four virtual – were conducted to ensure survey teams were fully prepared to safely and accurately conduct the unsheltered homelessness count across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties. Trainings emphasized methodological consistency, personal safety, and proper use of PIT data collection tools.

## **Training for Survey Teams**

Survey teams received training focused on safe, respectful, and effective engagement with individuals experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations.

### KEY TOPICS INCLUDED:

- The Purpose and Structure of the PIT Count: Overview of The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC) region; the importance of the PIT Count for data-driven planning, advocacy, and funding; and alignment with HUD reporting requirements.
- Outreach Best Practices: Guidance on locating and respectfully engaging individuals in encampments and other non-habitable locations, with an emphasis on informed consent, cultural humility, and trauma-informed approaches.
- Safety Protocols: Emphasis on working in teams of at least two, maintaining visual and auditory contact with partners, and avoiding hazardous environments such as abandoned buildings. Survey teams were instructed to wear identifiable PIT shirts and appropriate weather- and safety-related gear.
- Emergency Preparedness: Review of emergency response procedures, including how to respond to crises or unsafe conditions and use of local emergency contact information.
- Use of the Counting Us Mobile App: Review of navigating the app, conducting interviews, and entering data in real time. Observation protocols were discussed as a last-resort method, to be used only when interviews were not feasible due to safety concerns or participant refusal.
- Daily Protocols and Check-ins: Clear guidance outlining required morning, mid-day, and end-of-day check-ins with CFTH PIT Captains to support volunteer safety, coordinate coverage, address troubleshooting needs, and ensure accurate reporting.

## **Volunteer and Staff Training Requirements**

All volunteers and staff from both CoC-funded and non-funded agencies were required to attend PIT Count training sessions. Training content included:

- Overview of The Way Home CoC: Introduction to the CoC’s mission, structure, and collaborative goal of preventing and ending homelessness through housing and supportive services.
- PIT Count Requirements: Expectations for registration and training, mandatory participation on assigned survey days, and required use of the Counting Us mobile app.
- Survey Methodology: Survey team members were trained to prioritize interviews and avoid assumptions, with a goal of achieving a 100% interview rate. Observation protocols were clarified and generally discouraged, except when unavoidable. Training emphasized a person-centered approach, highlighting both the privilege and responsibility of documenting the histories and experiences of individuals engaged during the 2026 PIT Count.
- Training Materials: Training materials were posted online and shared via email with all volunteers to support further review and practice of the survey questions, helping optimize results.
- App Registration & Setup: Step-by-step instructions for downloading the Counting Us app, entering the 2026 count code (“TWH2026”), and navigating the app.
- On-the-Ground Conduct: Guidance on approaching individuals with respect, administering survey questions with clarity and compassion, and submitting responses in real time. Practice scenarios were provided to build confidence with the technology and interview process.
- Logistics & Reporting: Information on staging areas, check-in procedures, issue reporting, and best practices for personal preparedness, including appropriate attire, hydration, and rest.

All trainings emphasized that every participant, regardless of experience, was required to complete the training and register individually as a team member. Only those who completed the training were assigned to teams. This ensured a safe, respectful, and methodologically sound PIT Count across the Greater Houston region.

## Training Impact Summary

Collectively, these trainings strengthened the capacity of staff and volunteers to conduct the 2026 PIT Count safely, respectfully, and with methodological integrity. By emphasizing person-centered engagement, consistent survey practices, and clear safety and reporting protocols, the training supported high-quality data collection while safeguarding both participants and survey teams. This comprehensive preparation aimed to ensure broad coverage across the region, reduce the need for observational counts, and reinforce a shared responsibility to accurately document the information of individuals experiencing homelessness across The Way Home CoC.



**ATTENTION PLEASE!**

**Please be sure to:**

- Turn on/enable your location
- Hit "submit" to complete the survey
- Review and practice conducting the survey with peers before the actual count.  
Practice will allow you to familiarize yourself with the survey and help you prepare for how best to capture/communicate the information we're trying to capture.
- Do your best to capture all the information.  
See the conversation guidance slides for suggestions.

# Appendix C: Additional Data

HHWC	ES	TH	SH	US	Total
Total # of HH	228	32	0	1	261
Total # of Persons	645	98	0	2	745
<18	415	64	0	1	480
18-24	39	5	0	0	44
25-34	94	13	0	0	107
35-44	74	14	0	1	89
45-54	22	2	0	0	24
55-64	1	0	0	0	1
65+	0	0	0	0	0
Woman	437	62	0	1	500
Man	206	36	0	1	243
Culturally Specific	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0	0
More than one gender	2	0	0	0	2
AI/AN/Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	3	0	0	0	3
Asian/His	0	0	0	0	0
Black/AA	450	48	0	2	500
Black/AA/His	12	1	0	0	13
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	43	24	0	0	67
Middle Eastern/NA	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern/NA/His	0	0	0	0	0
NH/PI	2	0	0	0	2
NH/PI/His	0	0	0	0	0
White	77	15	0	0	92
White/His	19	3	0	0	22
Multiple Race/His	14	0	0	0	14
Multi-Race	25	7	0	0	32
Chronic HHs	4	0	0	0	4
Chronic Persons	14	0	0	0	14

HHWOC	ES	TH	SH	US	Total
Total # of HH	827	456	12	1238	2533
Total # of Persons	831	456	12	1268	2567
<18	0	0	0	0	0
18-24	137	58	0	38	233
25-34	145	73	2	208	428
35-44	164	100	3	342	609
45-54	174	103	3	337	617
55-64	162	85	3	259	509
65+	49	37	1	84	171
Woman	376	170	0	289	835
Man	447	284	12	979	1722
Culturally Specific	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	1	0	0	0	1
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0	0
More than one gender	7	2	0	0	9
AI/AN/Indigenous	3	2	1	19	25
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	7	0	0	13	20
Asian/His	0	1	0	0	1
Black/AA	521	245	7	622	1395
Black/AA/His	3	2	0	19	24
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	40	42	0	133	215
Middle Eastern/NA	0	2	0	2	4
Middle Eastern/NA/His	1	0	0	0	1
NH/PI	1	1	0	1	3
NH/PI/His	0	0	0	0	0
White	212	132	4	401	749
White/His	31	22	0	38	91
Multiple Race/His	3	0	0	4	7
Multi-Race	9	7	0	16	32
Chronic HHs	0	0	0	645	645
Chronic Persons	44	0	1	653	698

HHonlyC	ES	TH	SH	US	Total
Total # of HH	9	0	0	0	9
Total # of Persons	9	0	0	0	9
<18	9	0	0	0	9
18-24	0	0	0	0	0
25-34	0	0	0	0	0
35-44	0	0	0	0	0
45-54	0	0	0	0	0
55-64	0	0	0	0	0
65+	0	0	0	0	0
Woman	0	0	0	0	0
Man	9	0	0	0	9
Culturally Specific	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0	0
More than one gender	0	0	0	0	0
AI/AN/Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/His	0	0	0	0	0
Black/AA	5	0	0	0	5
Black/AA/His	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern/NA	2	0	0	0	2
Middle Eastern/NA/His	0	0	0	0	0
NH/PI	0	0	0	0	0
NH/PI/His	0	0	0	0	0
White	1	0	0	0	1
White/His	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Race/His	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Race	1	0	0	0	1
Chronic HHs	0	0	0	0	0
Chronic Persons	0	0	0	0	0

Totals	ES	TH	SH	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Total # of HH	1064	488	12	1564	1239	2803
Total # of Persons	1485	554	12	2051	1270	3321
<18	424	64	0	488	1	489
18-24	176	63	0	239	38	277
25-34	239	86	2	327	208	535
35-44	238	114	3	355	343	698
45-54	196	105	3	304	337	641
55-64	163	85	3	251	259	510
65+	49	37	1	87	84	171
Woman	813	232	0	1045	290	1335
Man	662	320	12	994	980	1974
Culturally Specific	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	1	0	0	1	0	1
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than one gender	9	2	0	11	0	11
AI/AN/Indigenous	3	2	1	6	19	25
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	10	0	0	10	13	23
Asian/His	0	1	0	1	0	1
Black/AA	976	293	7	1276	624	1900
Black/AA/His	15	3	0	18	19	37
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	83	66	0	149	133	282
Middle Eastern/NA	2	2	0	4	2	6
Middle Eastern/NA/His	1	0	0	1	0	1
NH/PI	3	1	0	4	1	5
NH/PI/His	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	290	147	4	441	401	842
White/His	50	25	0	75	38	113
Multiple Race/His	17	0	0	17	4	21
Multi-Race	35	14	0	49	16	65
Chronic HHs	4	0	0	4	645	649
Chronic Persons	58	0	1	59	653	712

Unaccompanied Youth (UAY) HH	ES	TH	SH	US	Total
Total #of HH	146	58	0	0	204
Total # of Persons	146	58	0	0	204
<18	9	0	0	0	9
18-24	137	58	0	0	195

Woman	67	26	0	0	93
Man	75	31	0	0	106
Culturally Specific	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	1	0	0	0	1
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0	0
More than one gender	3	4	0	0	7

AI/AN/Indigenous	0	1	0	0	1
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	3	0	0	0	3
Asian/His	0	0	0	0	0
Black/AA	104	31	0	0	135
Black/AA/His	2	1	0	0	3
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	9	6	0	0	15
Middle Eastern/NA	0	1	0	0	1
Middle Eastern/NA/His	0	0	0	0	0
NH/PI	0	0	0	0	0
NH/PI/His	0	0	0	0	0
White	14	12	0	0	26
White/His	8	4	0	0	12
Multiple Race/His	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Race	4	2	0	0	6

Chronic Persons	2	14	0	0	16
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Parenting Youth (PY) HH	ES	TH	US	Total
Total #of HH	31	4	0	35
Total # of Persons in PY HH	80	9	0	89
Total # of PY (youth parents only)	32	4	0	36
Total # of children in PY HH	48	5	0	53
# of PY <18	0	0	0	0
Children in HH with PY <18	0	0	0	0
# of PY 18-24	32	4	0	36
Children in HH with PY 18-24	48	5	0	53

#### Gender (PY only)

Woman	30	4	0	34
Man	2	0	0	2
Culturally Specific	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0
More than one gender	0	0	0	0

#### Ethnicity (PY only)

AI/AN/Indigenous	0	0	0	0
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0	0
Asian	1	0	0	1
Asian/His	0	0	0	0
Black/AA	20	2	0	22
Black/AA/His	0	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	4	1	0	5
Middle Eastern/NA	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern/NA/His	0	0	0	0
NH/PI	0	0	0	0
NH/PI/His	0	0	0	0
White	3	1	0	4
White/His	2	0	0	2
Multiple Race/His	0	0	0	0
Multi-Race	2	0	0	2
Don't Know/Refused	N/A	N/A	0	0

Chronic HHs	0	2	0	2
Chronic Persons	0	2	0	2

<b>Subpopulations</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>TH</b>	<b>SH</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>Total</b>
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	314	219	6	629	1168
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	223	181	2	498	904
Adults with HIV/AIDS	17	23	0	55	95
Survivors of Domestic Violence	326	120	0	130	576
Veterans	44	98	12	90	244

Counties	MC S	MC US	FBC S	FBC US	HCS	HC US
Total # of HH	139	59	39	20	1386	1160
Total # of Persons	200	61	60	20	1791	1189
<18	69	0	19	0	400	1
18-24	35	1	17	0	187	37
25-34	24	13	7	0	296	195
35-44	30	22	11	5	314	316
45-54	21	11	6	4	277	322
55-64	18	13	0	8	233	238
65+	3	1	0	3	84	80
Woman	113	16	48	8	884	266
Man	87	45	12	12	895	923
Culturally Specific	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0	1	0
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than one gender	0	0	0	0	11	0
AI/AN/Indigenous	0	0	2	0	4	19
AI/AN/Indigenous/His	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	10	13
Asian/His	0	0	0	0	1	0
Black/AA	84	6	34	8	1158	610
Black/AA/His	0	0	1	1	17	18
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	33	6	3	1	113	126
Middle Eastern/NA	3	0	0	0	1	2
Middle Eastern/NA/His	0	0	0	0	1	0
NH/PI	1	0	0	0	3	1
NH/PI/His	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	60	48	8	10	373	343
White/His	4	1	10	0	61	37
Multiple Race/His	2	0	0	0	15	4
Multi-Race	13	0	2	0	34	16
Chronic HHs	1	23	0	17	3	605
Chronic Persons	7	24	0	17	52	612

Harris County Totals	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Total # of HH	1386	1160	2546
Total # of Persons	1791	1189	2980
<18	400	1	401
18-24	187	37	224
25-34	296	195	491
35-44	314	316	630
45-54	277	322	599
55-64	233	238	471
65+	84	80	164
Woman	884	266	1150
Man	895	923	1818
Culturally Specific	0	0	0
Transgender	1	0	1
Non-Binary	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0
More than one gender	11	0	11
AI/AN/Indigenous	4	19	23
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0
Asian	10	13	23
Asian/His	1	0	1
Black/AA	1158	610	1768
Black/AA/His	17	18	35
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	113	126	239
Middle Eastern/NA	1	2	3
Middle Eastern/NA/His	1	0	1
NH/PI	3	1	4
NH/PI/His	0	0	0
White	373	343	716
White/His	61	37	98
Multiple Race/His	15	4	19
Multi-Race	34	16	50

Harris County Totals	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Chronic HHs	3	605	608
Chronic Persons	52	612	664

Subpopulations			
Adults with SMI	516	598	1114
Adults with SUD	400	475	875
Adults with HIV/AIDS	39	55	94
DV Survivors	341	121	462
Veterans	151	84	235
Homeless due to natural disaster	N/A	50	50
First time homeless	N/A	285	285

Top cause of homelessness			
Family or relationship conflict	N/A	140	140
Job Loss/Eviction/Housing Costs		212	212

Montgomery County Totals	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Total # of HH	139	59	198
Total # of Persons	200	61	261
<18	69	0	69
18-24	35	1	36
25-34	24	13	37
35-44	30	22	52
45-54	21	11	32
55-64	18	13	31
65+	3	1	4

Woman	113	16	129
Man	87	45	132
Culturally Specific	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0
Non-Binary	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0
More than one gender	0	0	0

AI/AN/Indigenous	0	0	0
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0
Asian/His	0	0	0
Black/AA	84	6	90
Black/AA/His	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	33	6	39
Middle Eastern/NA	3	0	3
Middle Eastern/NA/His	0	0	0
NH/PI	1	0	1
NH/PI/His	0	0	0
White	60	48	108
White/His	4	1	5
Multiple Race/His	2	0	2
Multi-Race	13	0	13

Montgomery County Totals	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Chronic HHs	1	23	24
Chronic Persons	7	24	31

Subpopulations			
Adults with SMI	22	19	41
Adults with SUD	6	14	20
Adults with HIV/AIDS	1	0	1
DV Survivors	72	4	76
Veterans	3	6	9
Homeless due to natural disaster	N/A	6	6
First time homeless	N/A	22	22

Top cause of homelessness			
Family or relationship conflict	N/A	13	13
Job Loss/Eviction/Housing Costs		14	14

Fort Bend County Totals	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Total # of HH	39	20	59
Total # of Persons	60	20	80
<18	19	0	19
18-24	17	0	17
25-34	7	0	7
35-44	11	5	16
45-54	6	4	10
55-64	0	8	8
65+	0	3	3
Woman	48	8	56
Man	12	12	24
Culturally Specific	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0
Non-Binary	0	0	0
Questioning	0	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0
More than one gender	0	0	0
AI/AN/Indigenous	2	0	2
AI/AN/Indigenous /His	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0
Asian/His	0	0	0
Black/AA	34	8	42
Black/AA/His	1	1	2
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	3	1	4
Middle Eastern/NA	0	0	0
Middle Eastern/NA/His	0	0	0
NH/PI	0	0	0
NH/PI/His	0	0	0
White	8	10	18
White/His	10	0	10
Multiple Race/His	0	0	0
Multi-Race	2	0	2

<b>Fort Bend County Totals</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Chronic HHs	0	17	17
Chronic Persons	0	17	17

<b>Subpopulations</b>			
Adults with SMI	1	12	13
Adults with SUD	0	9	9
Adults with HIV/AIDS	0	0	0
DV Survivors	33	5	38
Veterans	0	0	0
Homeless due to natural disaster	N/A	0	0
First time homeless	N/A	2	2

<b>Top cause of homelessness</b>			
Family or relationship conflict	N/A	4	4
Job Loss/Eviction/Housing Costs		4	4