

SOLANO COUNTY

# POINT-IN-TIME COUNT COMMUNITY REPORT 2024



Prepared By

**Simtech***Solutions*,inc.

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# INTRODUCTION

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual census conducted for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all people experiencing homelessness who are living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, safe havens, or unsheltered situations on a single night. In Solano, the Community Action Partnership Solano Joint Powers Authority (CAP Solano JPA) conducts the Count in partnership with the Housing First Solano Continuum of Care. Unsheltered situations include anyone without a permanent residence found to be staying outdoors or places not designed for habitation such as vehicles, streets, parks, or abandoned buildings. The PIT Count also presents an opportunity to raise awareness of the myriad of challenges our homeless residents face, hear firsthand experiences from those experiencing homelessness, and demonstrate the compassion and generosity of the Solano community.

The PIT count has two components: sheltered and unsheltered. The sheltered count is conducted annually of people experiencing homelessness who are living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or safe havens. The unsheltered portion of the PIT count is required to be conducted biennially during the last 10 days of January. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the unsheltered PIT that was scheduled for January of 2021 was delayed until February 2022. As a result, the last unsheltered count for regional information to compare against the sheltered count was from 2022.

The PIT is the result of extraordinary community collaboration and includes a countywide effort to engage and assess the unsheltered population. This year's count was conducted during the early morning of January 31, 2024, with the support of 216 registered volunteers, who used the Counting Us mobile application developed by Simtech Solutions Inc., to gather the survey information. The PIT also requires participation by all emergency shelters and transitional housing projects in the region, including those that do not normally utilize the region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for data collection. After the PIT count was completed, the data was carefully analyzed and validated to meet HUD's high data quality standards.

The count results found in this report were successfully submitted to HUD in time for the May 10, 2024, deadline and have since been reviewed by and approved by HUD Technical Assistance providers. This report is a further evaluation of those count results and is being provided as a guide for which the community can measure how effectively we are addressing the needs of our homeless neighbors.



# LIMITATIONS

While the primary purpose of the biennial Point-in-Time count is to quantify the extent of homelessness both locally and nationally, it is important to understand the limitations of this information. One of these limitations is the results represent only snapshot in time and therefore this information does not reflect the total number of people experiencing homelessness throughout the year. Since the count is conducted on a single night in January, other factors such as weather, the number of volunteers available to conduct the count, and the prevalence of COVID may factor into the count's accuracy. As a result of these limitations, it is important to understand that the Point-In-Time Count is only one piece of data used to understand who is experiencing homelessness in our community. Other data that should be considered is data collected through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), McKinney-Vento data of youth experiencing homelessness, and data for people in sheltered situations where upon their release they will become homeless, such as hospitals and jails.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the community of people that contributed to this report.

First and foremost, we would like to thank the people experiencing houselessness that allowed us to interview them to gather the data that is presented in this report.

We would also like to thank:

- The volunteers who spent the early hours of January 31, 2024 assisting us in better understanding our community.
- The regional coordinators who spent significant time assisting with planning and utilized local expertise to ensure the most accurate count possible, including Becky Farris, Samantha Burrows, Natalie Peterson, Edwin Okamura, Jenalee Dawson, Ashley Banta, Tom Cordova and Shawn Delgado.
- Partnership HealthPlan of California who supported the Count by providing bags with supplies to thank people experiencing homelessness who participated by answering surveys.
- All of the jurisdictions and agencies that participated in Count in ways both big and small.

Funding for the 2024 Point in Time Count was provided by the County of Solano and the cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo.

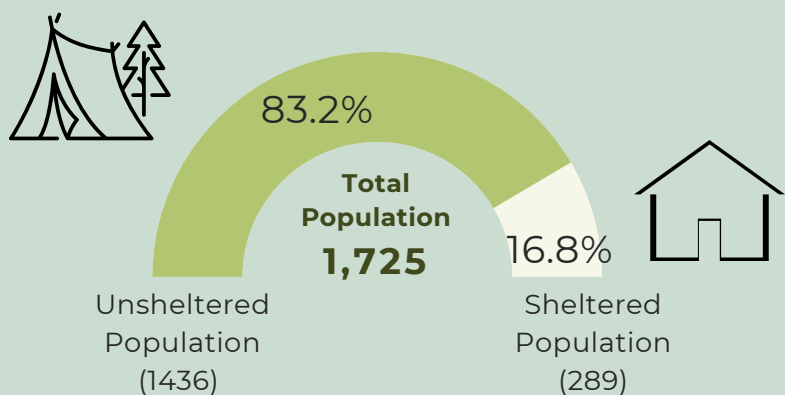
# SOLANO COUNTY

## Homeless Census & Survey 2024

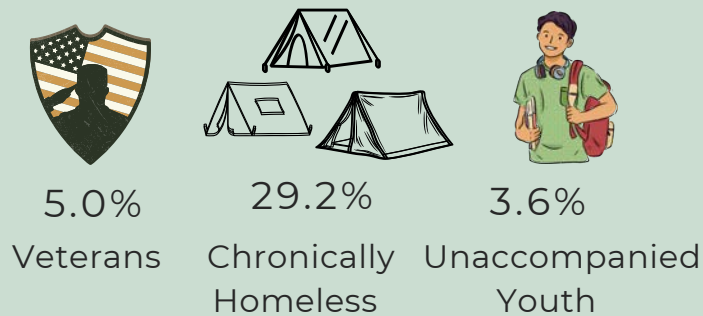
### Executive Summary

The Point-In-Time Count is a national initiative to quantify the extent of homelessness and to gather details on the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness.

The 2024 Solano County Point-in-Time Count was a communitywide effort conducted on January 31, 2024. For this snapshot in time, it is estimated that there were 1,725 people either in shelters or living on the streets of Solano County.

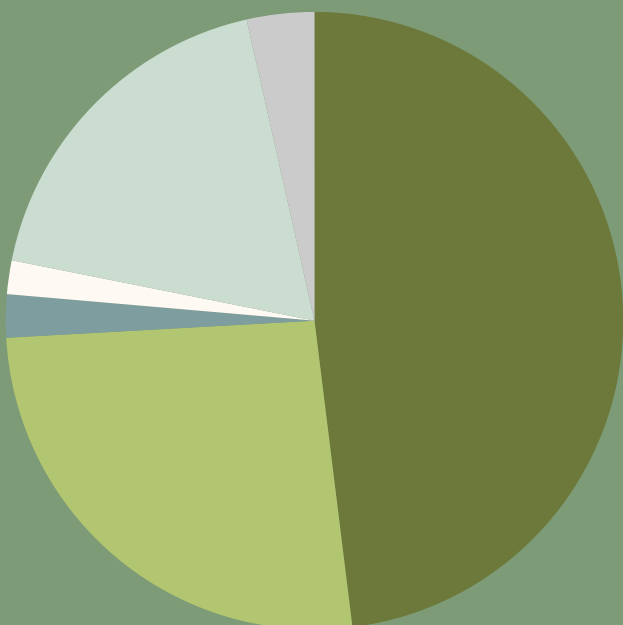


### SUBPOPULATIONS

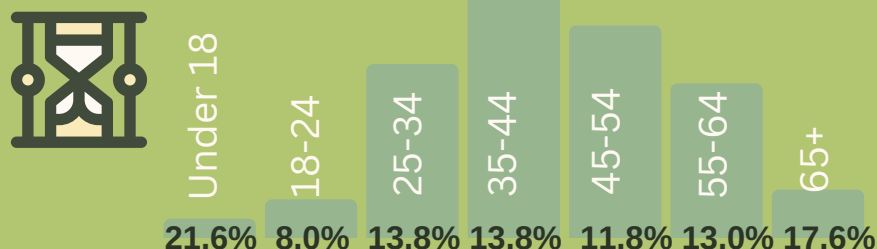


### RACE & ETHNICITY

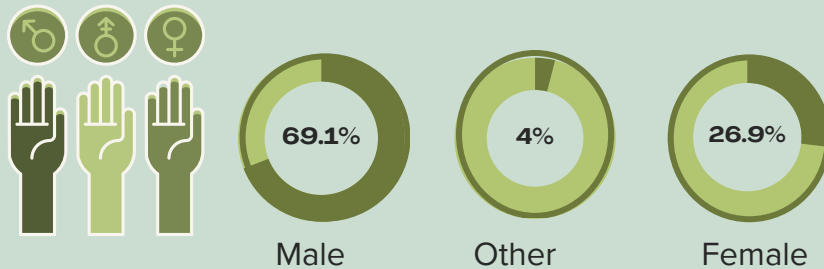
- White - 49%
- Black/African American - 26.6%
- American Indian/Native Alaskan - 2.3%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - 1.8%
- Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) - 18.7%
- Multiple Races - 3.6%



### AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



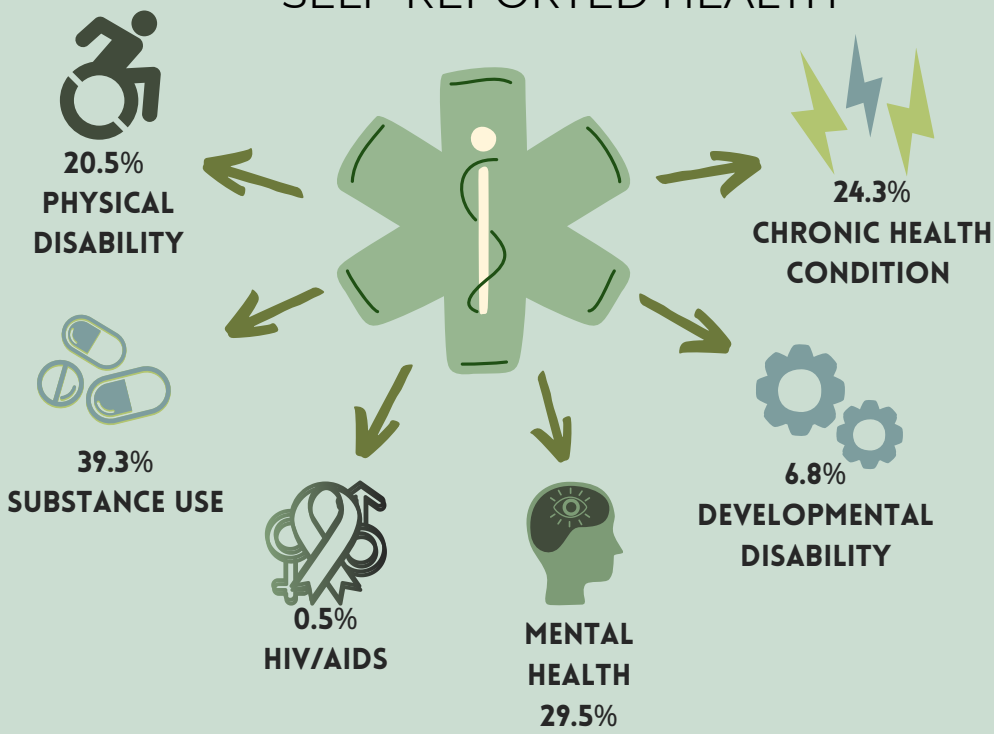
### GENDER



### COUNT TRENDS



## SELF-REPORTED HEALTH



46.0% of people counted reported having at least one disability preventing them from obtaining employment and maintain permanent housing.



People experiencing homelessness stay on average 4 days (36%) longer per hospital admission.

## SHELTER CAPACITY



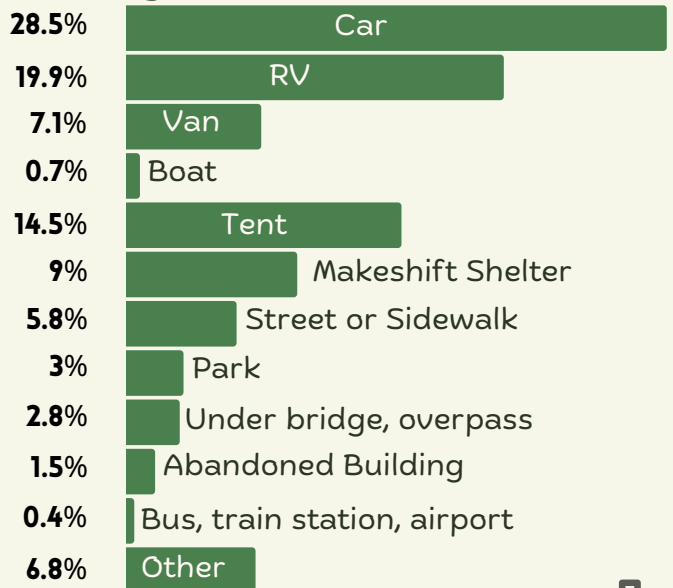
169 (90.4%) Emergency Shelter beds were utilized out of 187 total beds

120 (99.2%) Transitional Housing beds were used out of 121 beds.

## SLEEPING LOCATION



Where did you sleep during the night of the count ?



## REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS

216 registered volunteers organized into 7 regions assisted with the 2024 Count, up from 130 in 2022

7 REGIONS



### \*CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;

An individual with one or more disabling conditions or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:

- Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years

- An individual with one or more disabling conditions or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:

^ Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%

+ Only displaying top responses

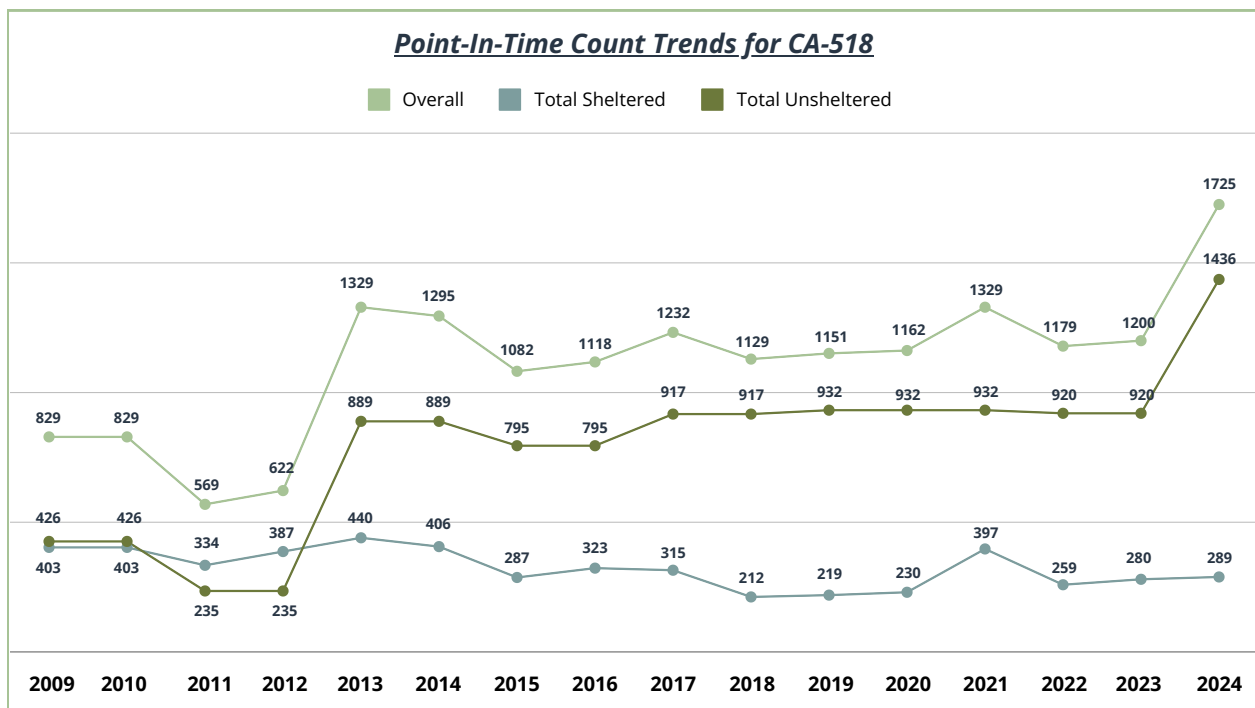
Note: Some percentages have been rounded so total percentage will equal 100%



# KEY FINDINGS

The Point-in-Time Count data from 2024 found that 1,725 people were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January in Solano County. This is an increase of 546 people (46.3%) from the last full Unsheltered PIT count conducted in 2022. This year the number of people counted living unsheltered in Solano County increased by 56.1%. In 2022, Solano County counted 920 unsheltered homeless individuals while only 259 were counted in shelters. In 2024, 1,436 people were counted living unsheltered. There were also 289 people in shelters on the night of the count, an 11.6% increase from 2022.

Individuals accounted for 1,653 (95.8%) of the total homeless population. There were 72 people (4.2%) found in households with at least one adult and one child and 7 people (0.4%) in households with only children under age 18. Over the last ten years, Solano County has seen the total number of people experiencing homelessness counted during the PIT increase by 33.2% with the number of people living unsheltered increasing by 61.5%.

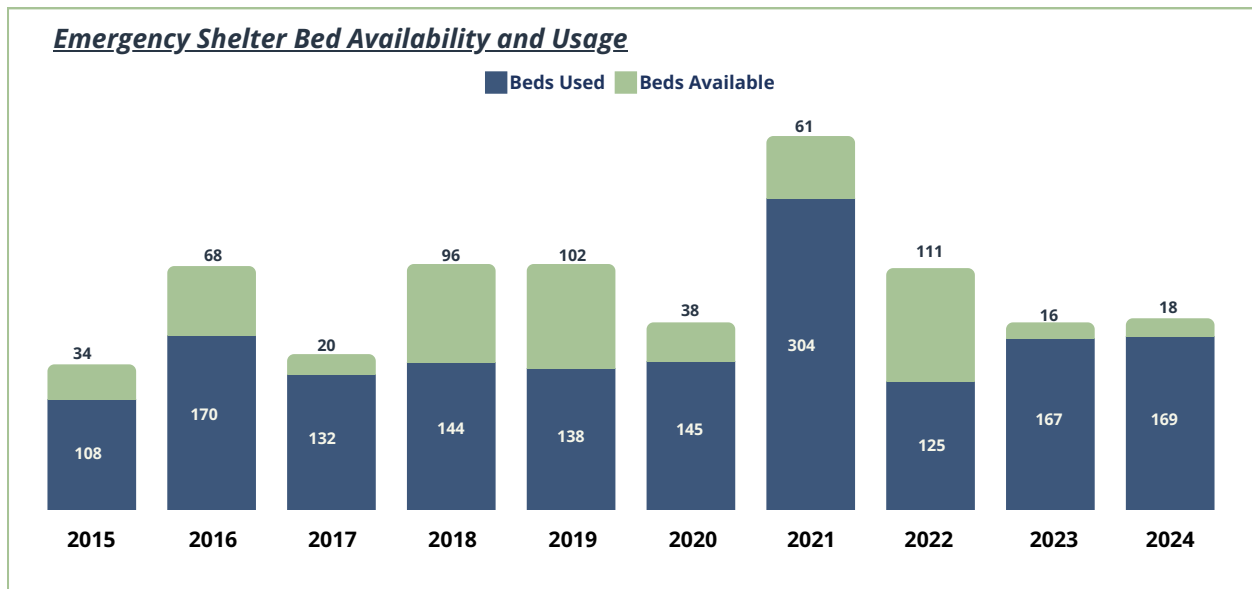


While the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has increased in the 2024 count, it is important to note that this may be reflective of more people experiencing homelessness, but also may be at least partially attributed to how the count was conducted. Overall, in 2024 there were 216 registered volunteers to assist with the count, up from 130 registered volunteers in 2022—a 66% increase. This leads to a more thorough canvassing of count areas and ideally a more accurate count.

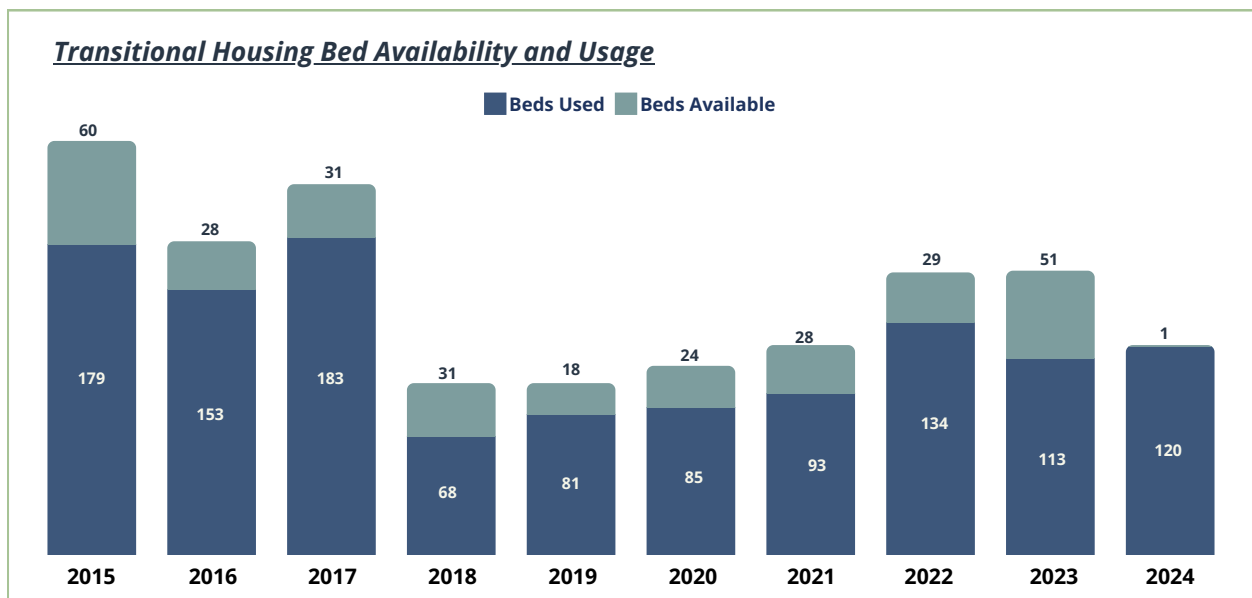


# SHELTER CAPACITY UTILIZATION

The shelter capacity utilization is calculated by comparing the number of people who were indicated to be staying in the emergency shelter and transitional housing beds with the total number of beds indicated to be available according to the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) submitted to HUD. For the night of the count, 169 of the 187 Emergency Shelter beds (90.4%) were used and the remaining 18 (9.6%) were not. The HIC does not identify the reason that the beds were vacant. As seen in the chart below, the bed utilization rate has increased over the last 10 years of the HIC.



For transitional housing, 120 of the 121 beds (99.2%) were utilized on the night of the count, again show an increase in utilization over time.

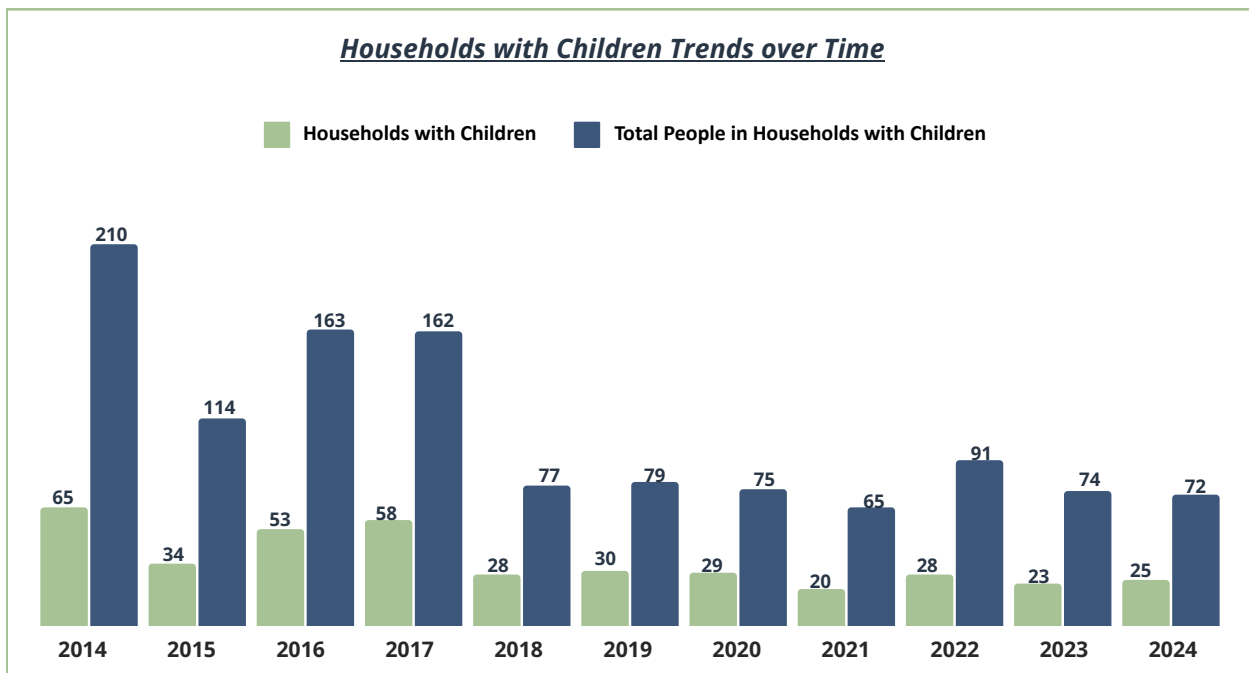


# HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

According to HUD, a family or household is simply one or more individuals who live together. Members of the family do not need to be related by blood, marriage, or in any other legal capacity.

Within the overall homeless population, individuals accounted for an estimated 1,653 (95.8%) of the homeless population whereas the remaining 72 (4.2%) were from 25 households with at least one adult and one child. Census data for Solano County indicate the average household size for families is 2.84 people. The average household size for homeless families was similar at 2.88 people.

The number of families experiencing homelessness decreased by 10.7% from 2022 to 2024 and the number of people in families decreased by 20.9%. Since the 2014 Point-in-Time Count, the number of homelessness families decreased 61.5% from 65 to 25. The number of people within family households decreased 65.7% from 210 people to 72.



Within Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing projects, there were 14 households with both adults and children. 43.8% percent of the individuals making up these households were adults over the age of 25, 6.3% percent were young adults 18-24, and the remaining 50.0% percent were children under the age of 18. The household composition for the unsheltered count found an estimated 11 households with both adults and children with a total of 40 household members. Within these households, 42.5% percent were adults over the age of 25, 45.0% percent were children under the age of 18, and 12.5% between the ages of 18-24 were represented.

# ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN OVER TIME

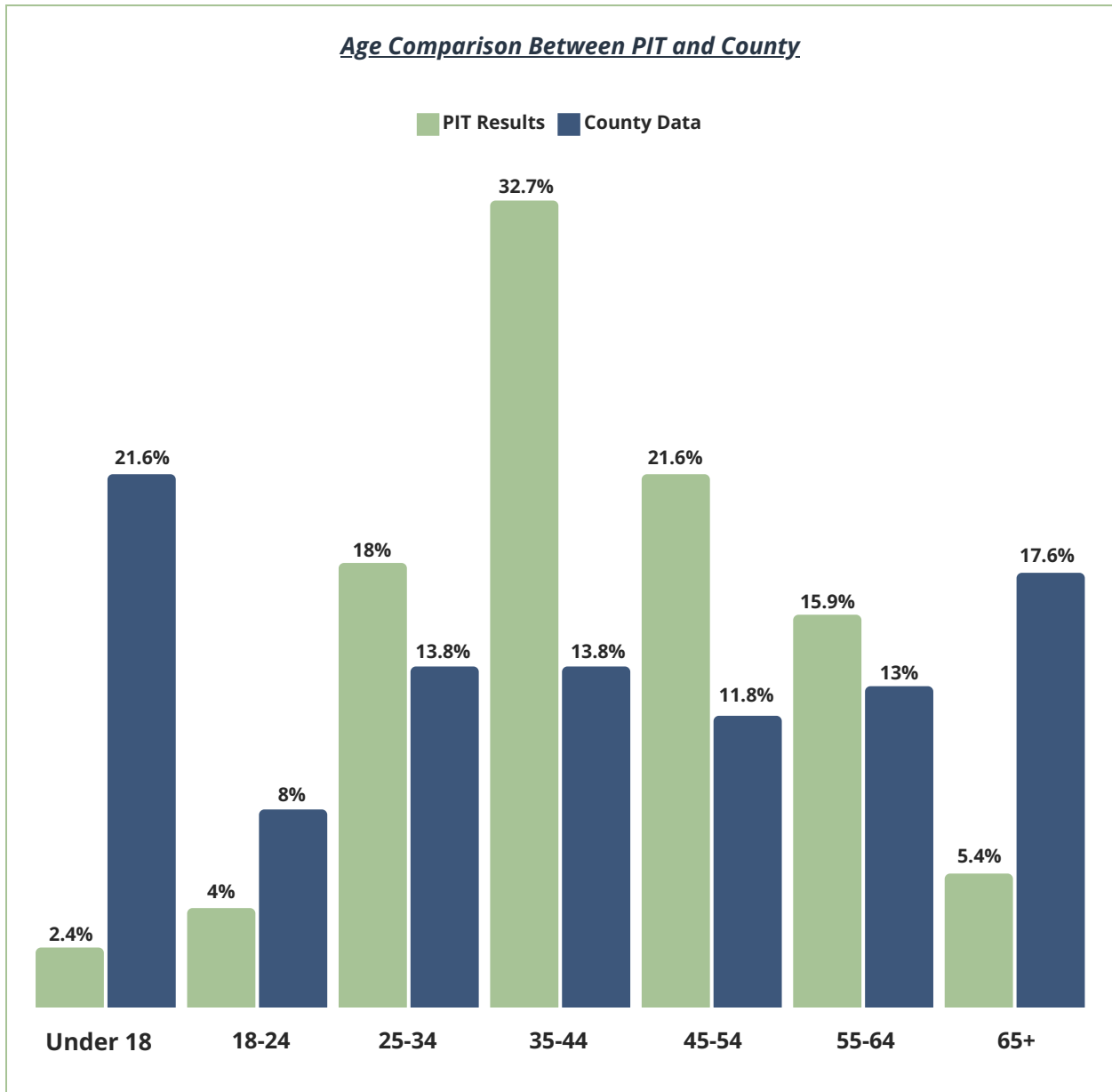
The Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing projects also served 256 people in households without children. Of these, 9.8% percent were young adults (those between the ages of 18 to 24) and the remaining 90.2% percent were adults over the age of 25.

The unsheltered count estimated 1,390 people in households without children. Of these, 2.7% percent were young adults (those between the ages of 18 to 24) and the remaining 97.3% percent were adults over the age of 25.



# AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

The age characteristics vary depending on both the household composition as well as whether those being counted were in shelters or unsheltered.



Within the sheltered population in Solano County, there were 245 persons of the age 25 and older, 27 persons between the age of 18-24, and 17 persons under 18. The number of adults saw an 54.3% increase, while those between the ages of 18-24 decrease by 36.0% and children under 18 saw a 54.0% decrease between 2022 and 2024.





There were 14 households with both adults and children and within these households 50.0% were children under the age of 18, 6.3% were young adults 18-24, and 43.8% were adults over the age of 25. The average household size was 2.29 people. There were 256 households without children with 9.8% being young adults and the remaining 90.2% being adults over the age of 25. Young adults used a smaller percentage of the transitional housing beds (44.4%) than the 55.6% used by young adults in emergency shelters. Within the unsheltered population in Solano County, 1,370 individuals were reported as 25 or older, 42 were between the ages of 18-24, and 20 were reported as children under 18. This represents a 58.0% increase in unsheltered adults above 25 years old, a 68.0% increase in the number of people between the ages of 18-24, and a 29.0% decrease in the number of children under 18 experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Within the total homeless population, including both sheltered and unsheltered, Solano County saw a 51.2% increase in homelessness among adults while the population under 18 decreased -37.0% from 2022 to 2024. Young adults increased 3.0% from 67 in 2022 to 69 in 2024.

When comparing the Solano County 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness to Census information, individuals under 18 represent 2.1% and 21.6% respectively. In opposition to this comparison, those experiencing homelessness between the ages of 35-44 make up 32.6% of the homeless population while they represent 13.8% of the greater populace.

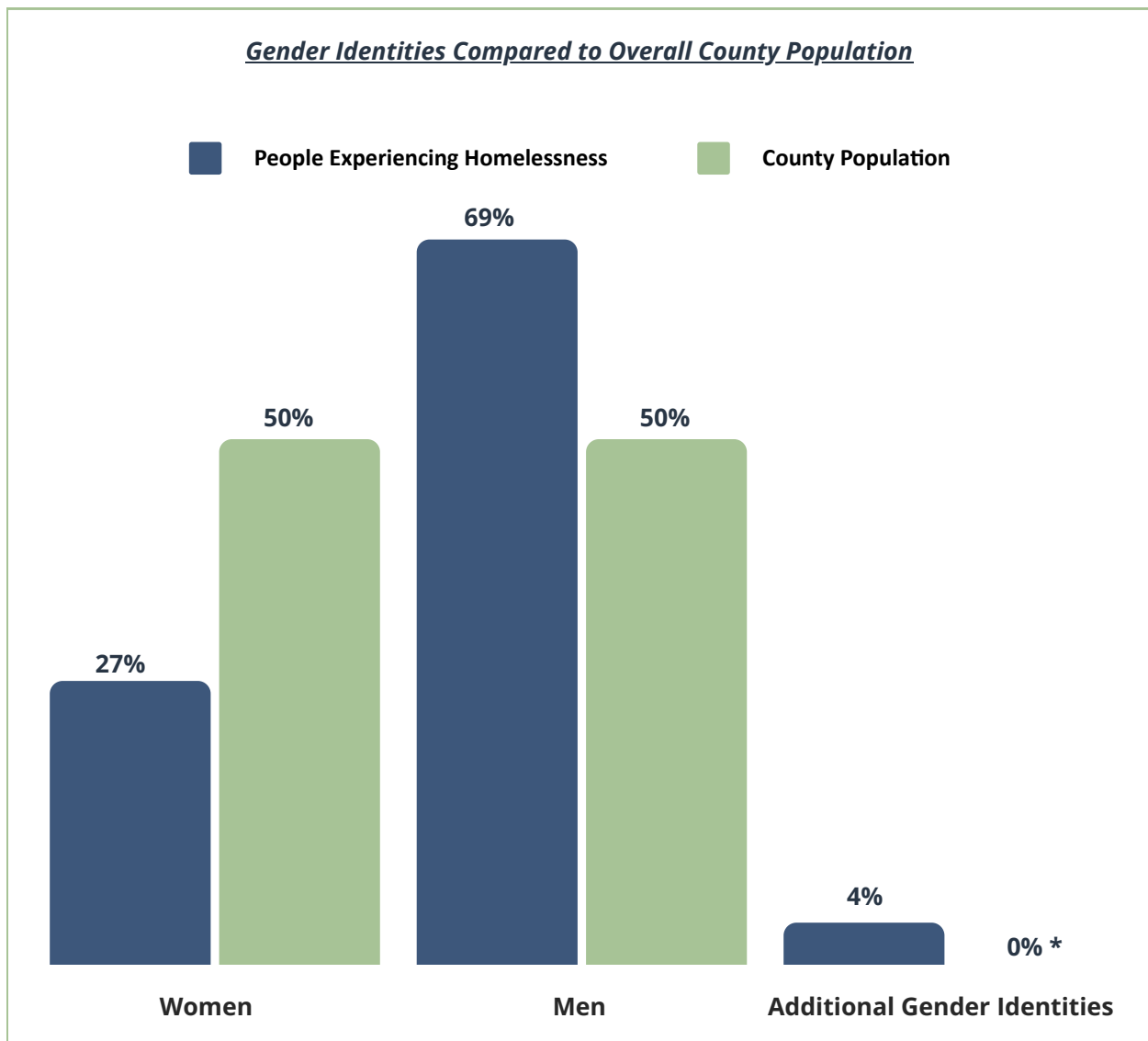
Within Solano County individuals 65 years and older made up 12.1% and 4.0% of sheltered and unsheltered populations, respectively. Within the overall homeless population, individuals over 55 accounted for 21.2% of those recorded as people experiencing homelessness while representing 30.6% of the general population. At a national level, over 19.6% of the homeless population is made up of individuals over 50 years old.

1. [The U.S. Census Bureau. \(2022\). American Community Survey: Demographic and Housing Estimates.](#)

# GENDER

Males comprised most of the homeless population with 1,191 (or 69.0%) of the total population whereas females accounted for 466 (or 27.0%) and other gender groups accounted for less than 3.9% with 68. Compared to census information, 50.0% of the population was recorded as male and 50.0% was recorded as female. It is important to note that the US Census data currently does not provide gender demographic data beyond male and female.

Within Family Households, the survey findings showed that 61.1% of respondents identified as female and 38.9% identified as male. There were no other genders identified on the night of the PIT within family households.

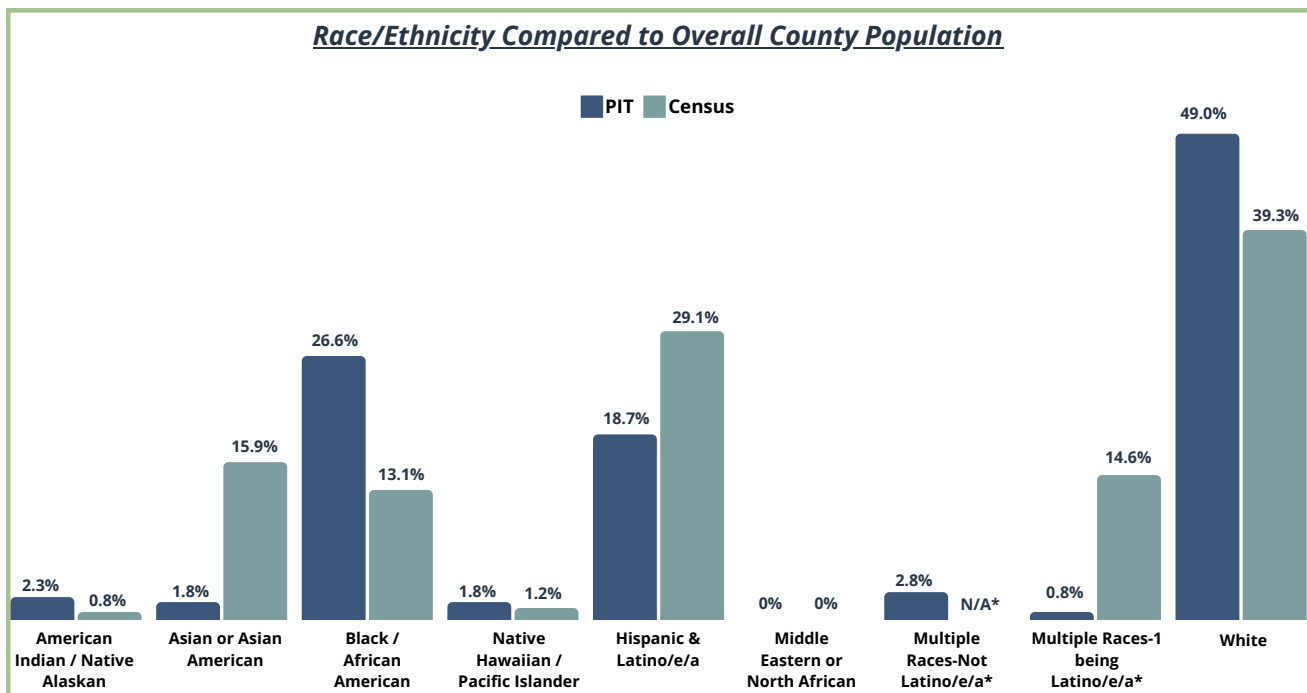


\*Census data does not currently provide figures for Gender Identities outside of Male and Female

# RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE HOMELESS POPULATION

Most Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) groups, especially African Americans, experience homelessness at higher rates than people who are White. Nationally, according to the 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR), African Americans accounted for 37.3% of all people experiencing homelessness and 50.0% of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children, despite being 12.5% of the U.S. population.<sup>3</sup> Within Solano County, people who identify as Black or African American constitute 13.1% of the overall population yet comprise 26.6% of the homeless population.

While the numbers are smaller, there is also a higher prevalence of people who are American Indian or Native Alaskan as well as those who are Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. While the US Census data indicates American Indian / Native Alaskans comprise 0.8% of the overall population this group accounted for 2.3% of the homeless population. Similarly, 1.2% of the population in Solano County is Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders yet 1.8% were found to be experiencing homelessness during the PIT Count.



Typically, people who are White, as well as Asian Americans, are well under-represented in the homeless population. However, within Solano County, the census data indicates 39.3% were White and 15.9% were of Asian descent and yet comprised 49.0% and 1.8% of the homeless population, respectively.

This year, HUD reassigned the Ethnicity Category of Hispanic/Latina/e/o to a Race Category. In Solano County 29.1% of the county's population identify as Hispanic/Latina/e/o, while 18.7% the population experiencing homelessness identified as such.

<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2024). *The 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*.

# RACIAL COMPOSITION FOR SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

Of the people experiencing sheltered homelessness in Solano County, 31.1% identified as Black or African American and 54.3% identified as White. For those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, 25.6% identified as Black or African American and 47.8% identified as White. In comparison to national data, Black or African American people were 44.5% of the overall sheltered population and White people were 45.1% of it. Among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, Black or African American people comprised 26.2% of the population and White people were 56.9% of it.

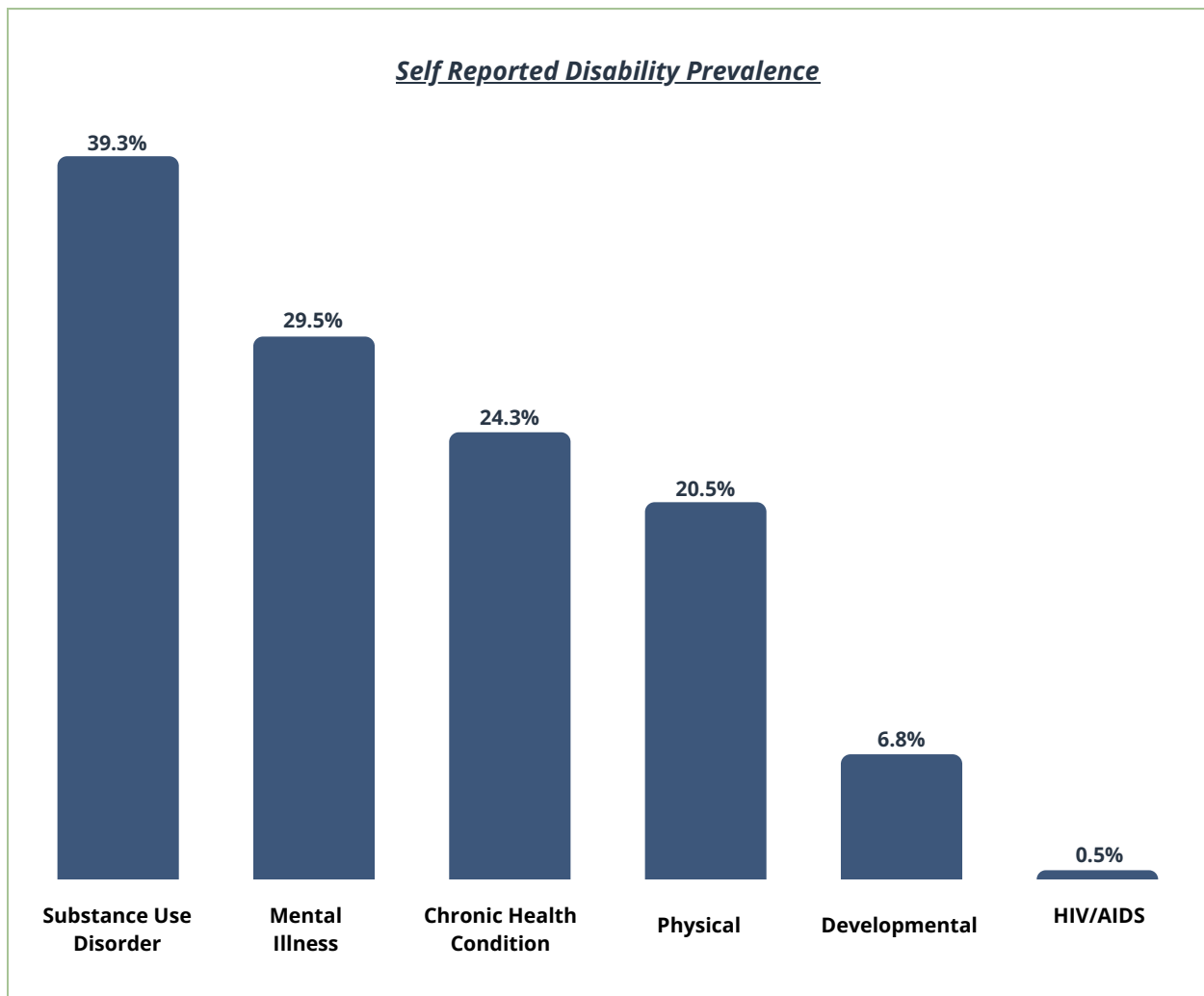




# HEALTH & WELLNESS

According to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC), the average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is 25 years less than those in stable housing. Without regular access to safe and stable housing, many individuals also lack access to healthcare, experience preventable illness, and often endure longer hospitalizations than those who have safe and stable housing. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay four days (or 36%) longer per hospital admission than non-homeless patients.

The presence of a disabling condition, which can be exacerbated by homelessness, can hinder a person from being able to obtain employment and maintain stable housing. In Solano County, 46.7% of those who completed the Point-In-Time survey were found to have at least one disabling condition. The prevalence rates of disabling conditions for the people experiencing homelessness who were surveyed are shown below.



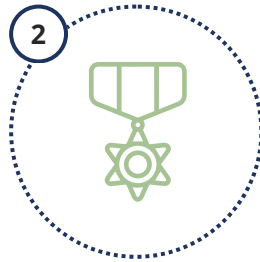
4 *National Health Care for the Homeless Council. (2020). National Homeless Mortality Overview.*

# KEY SUBPOPULATIONS

As homelessness is a complex issue, it is often beneficial to focus the conversations on particular “subpopulations.” Three of these key subpopulations are:



***People experiencing chronic homelessness***



***Veterans***



***Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth***

Local progress toward ending homelessness can be evaluated broadly as well as by each of these subpopulations. The following evaluation utilizes data gathered from local Point in Time counts as well as results from the national count.



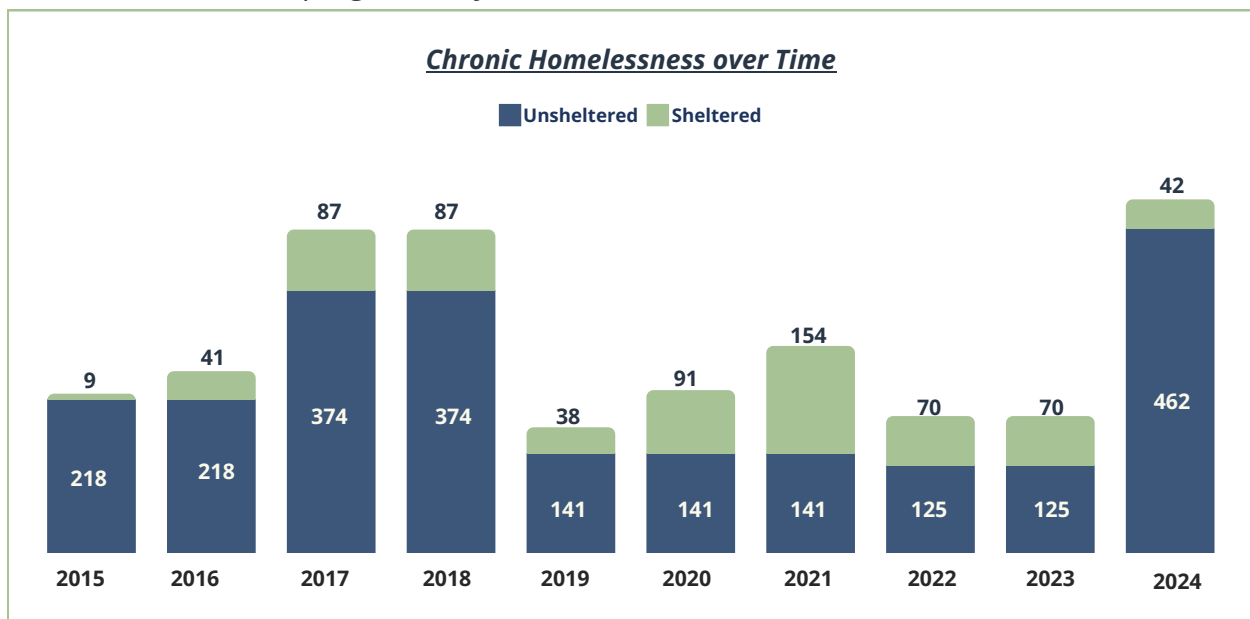
**UNACCOMPANIED MINORS**

# CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

HUD defines a chronically homeless person as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer—or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the last three years—and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as people in family households who meet the definition.

The chronically homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations experiencing unsheltered homelessness; the mortality rate for those experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than that of the general population. The chronic homeless population tends to have higher community costs attributed to emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and regular access to social support and homeless services. These combined costs are often significantly higher than the cost of providing individuals with permanent housing and supportive services.

In Solano County, 42 of 289 people (14.5%) in shelters were determined to be chronically homeless whereas 462 of the 1,436 (32.2%) from the unsheltered count were determined to be chronically homeless. The number of people who reported experiencing chronic homelessness went up significantly in the 2024 Count



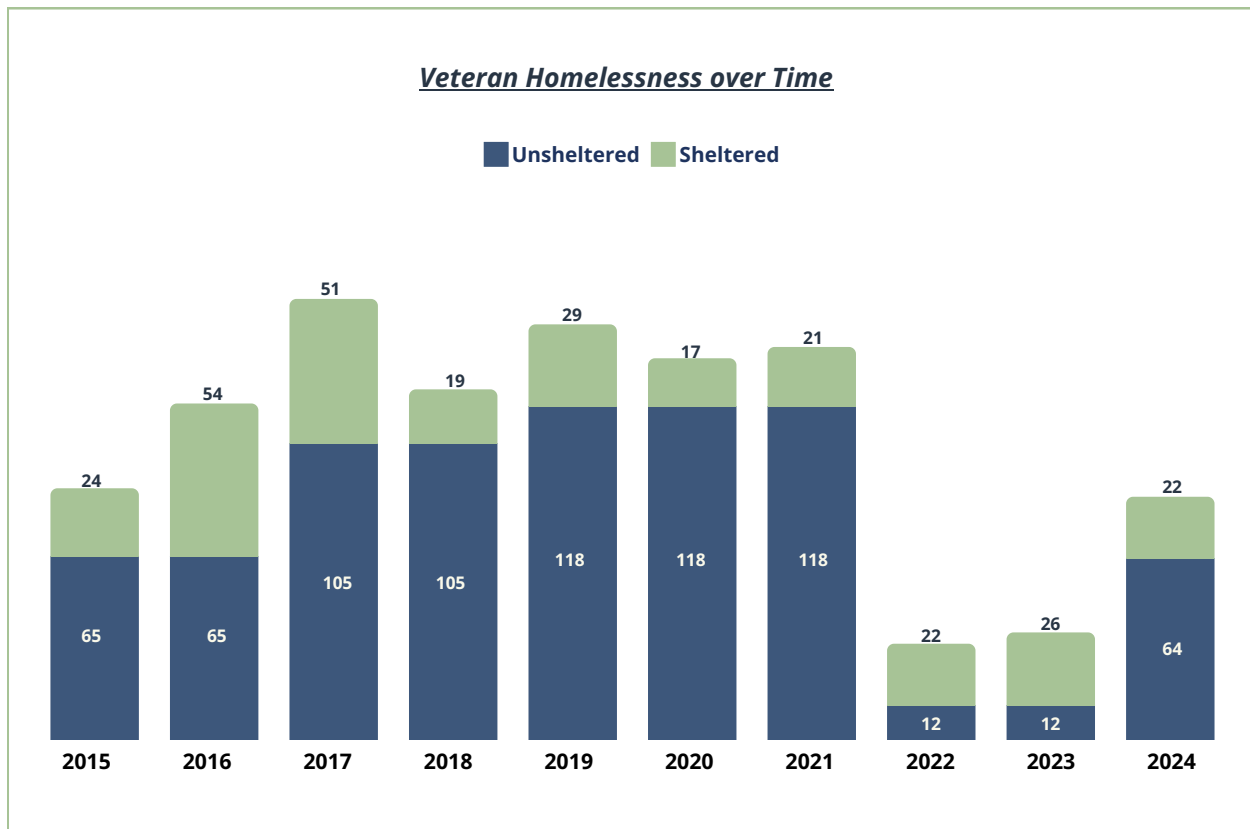
In the 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR), HUD found that 154,313 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness, which is just under one-quarter of all homeless individuals. Within Solano County, 485 of 1646 (29.5%) individual adults were estimated to be chronically homeless. For households, the percentages are lower with 19 of the 72 (26.4%) people in households with at least one adult and one child considered to be chronically homeless.

5. USICH. 2010. *Supplemental Document to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.

# VETERANS

U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans experience higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance use. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters and remain unsheltered for extended periods.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits can involve different forms of financial assistance, including monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, health care, education, and housing benefits. In addition to these supports, the VA and HUD partner to provide additional housing and support services to veterans currently homeless or at risk of homelessness. Within Solano County's PIT count, 86 people identified as a veteran. This represents 5.0% of all adults counted on that night. There were no households or children found to be affiliated with any veterans. There were almost three times the number of veterans living unsheltered than those staying in shelter. Males made up 87.2% of the population with only 11 females total between sheltered and unsheltered groups.



Within shelters, 1 veteran was determined to be chronically homeless and 27 of the unsheltered veterans were determined to be chronically homeless.

6. [National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. Veteran Homelessness.](#)

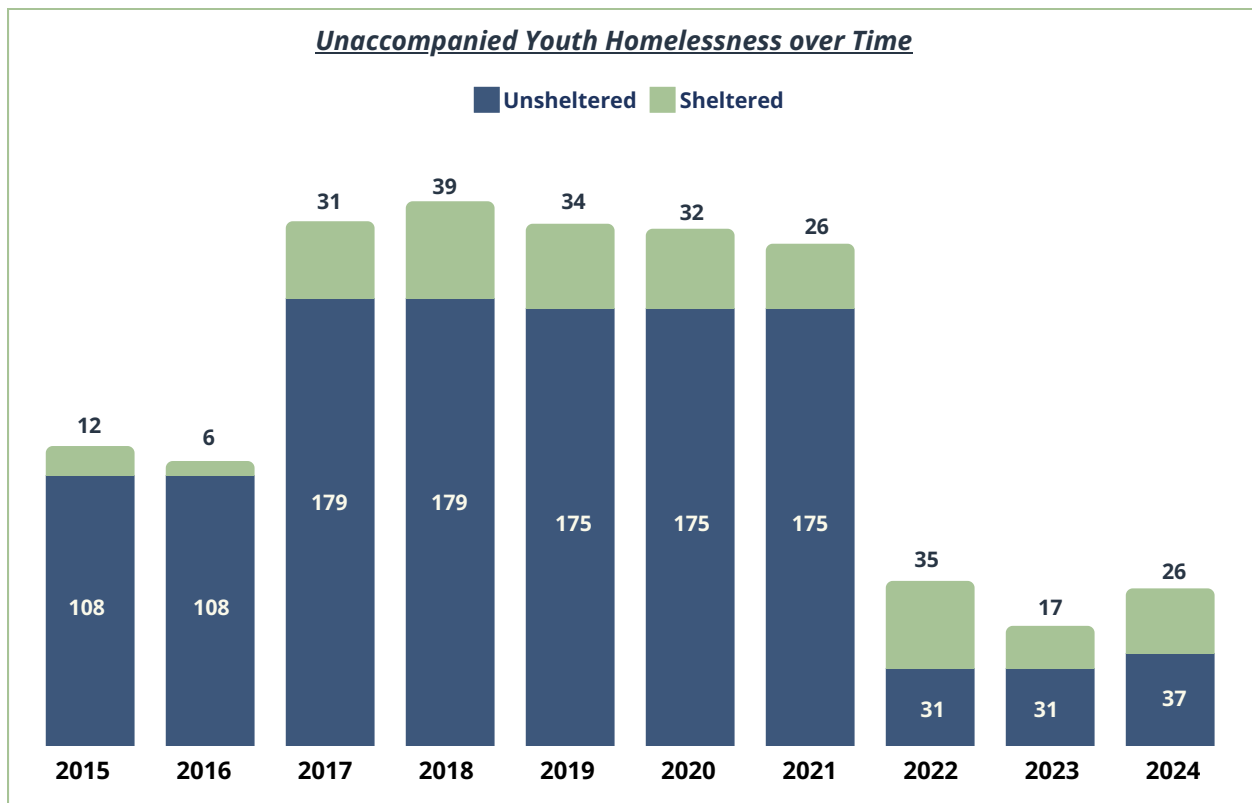


# UNACCOMPANIED AND PARENTING YOUTH

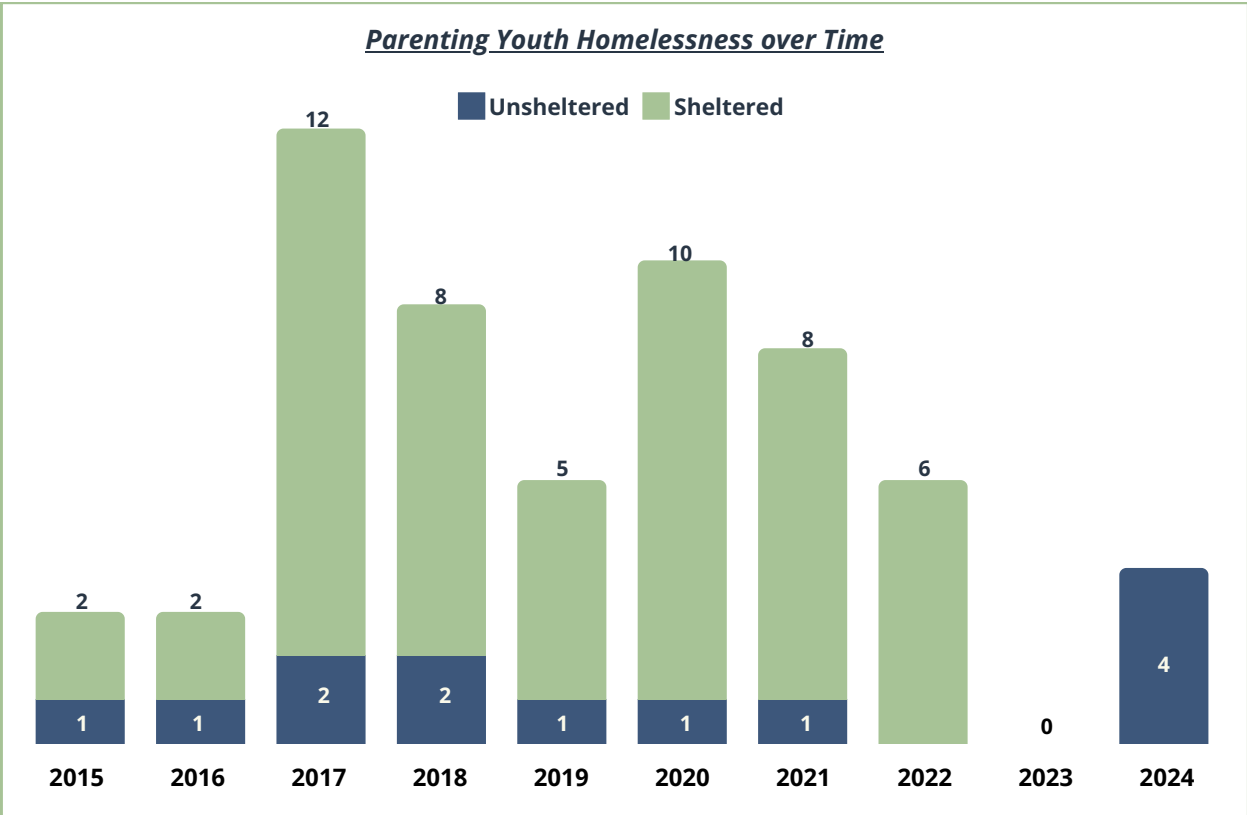
Young people experiencing homelessness have more difficulty accessing services, including shelter, medical care, and employment. Potential reasons for this include the stigma of their housing situation, lack of knowledge of available resources, and a lack of services targeted to young people.

Although largely considered an undercount, nationwide estimates from 2020 suggest there are about 34,000 unaccompanied youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness and in public shelters, with most being between the ages of 18 and 24. According to the 2020 AHAR *“Compared to all individuals experiencing homelessness, unaccompanied youth were more often non-white (52% of youth vs. 46% of all individuals), Hispanic/Latino (25% vs. 20%), female (39% vs. 29%), or identifying themselves other than as male or female (4% vs. 1%).”* In comparison, females represented 42.9% of the Solano County findings, and 3.2% identified as a gender other than male or female. The sheltered unaccompanied youth represented 41.3% of the population with 11 of the 63 total being found in transitional housing.

In 2024, Solano County counted 63 unaccompanied youth under 25 while in the most recent previous full PIT count in 2022, there were 66 persons under age 25. This represents a 4.5% decrease between counts. Additionally, 4.8% of unaccompanied youth were counted as under 18.



7. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). HUD Releases 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part 1

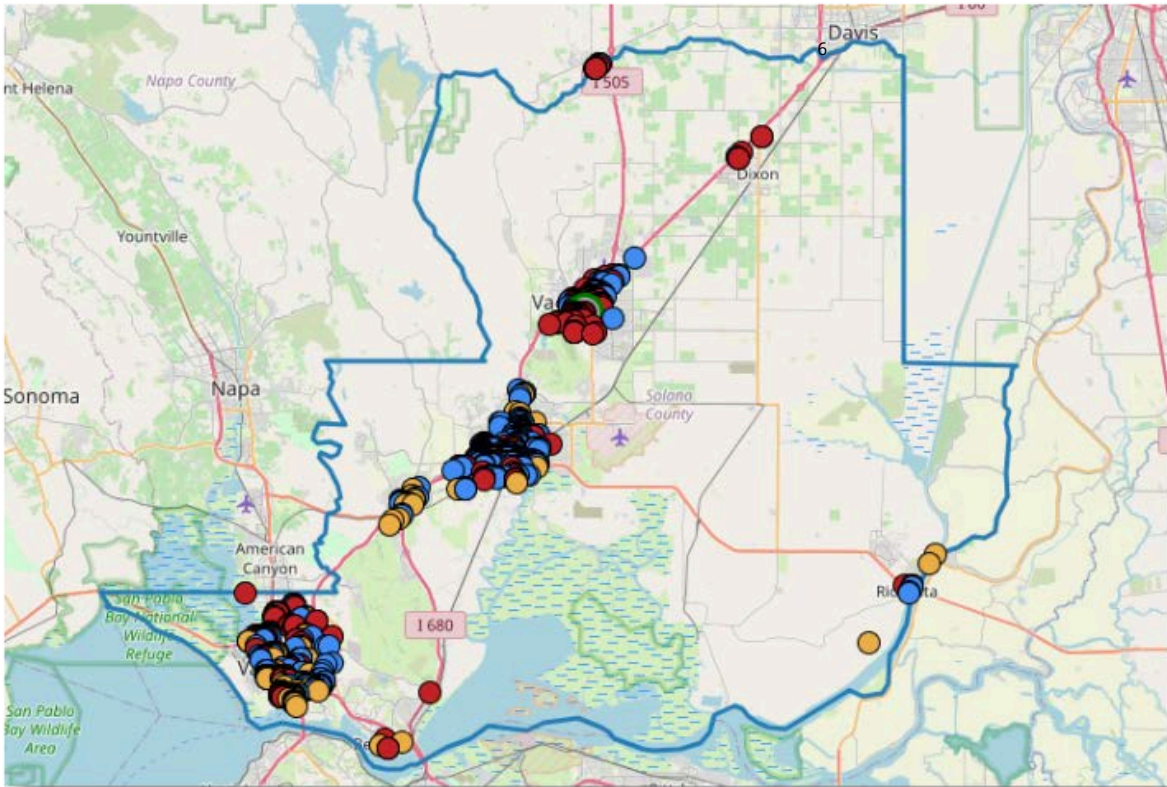


Youth who find themselves parenting while experiencing homelessness have to deal with additional challenges than their counterparts. This subcategory is significantly smaller whether by being collected under the umbrella of another household at the time, greater chances at couch surfing, or more difficult to find. While the total number has consistently fallen since 2020 and reaching zero in 2023, this year it has risen to 4 which is still lower than 2022. However, it is worth noting that the 6 found in 2022 were in transitional housing and the 4 found this year, were all unsheltered.



# THE UNSHELTERED COUNT

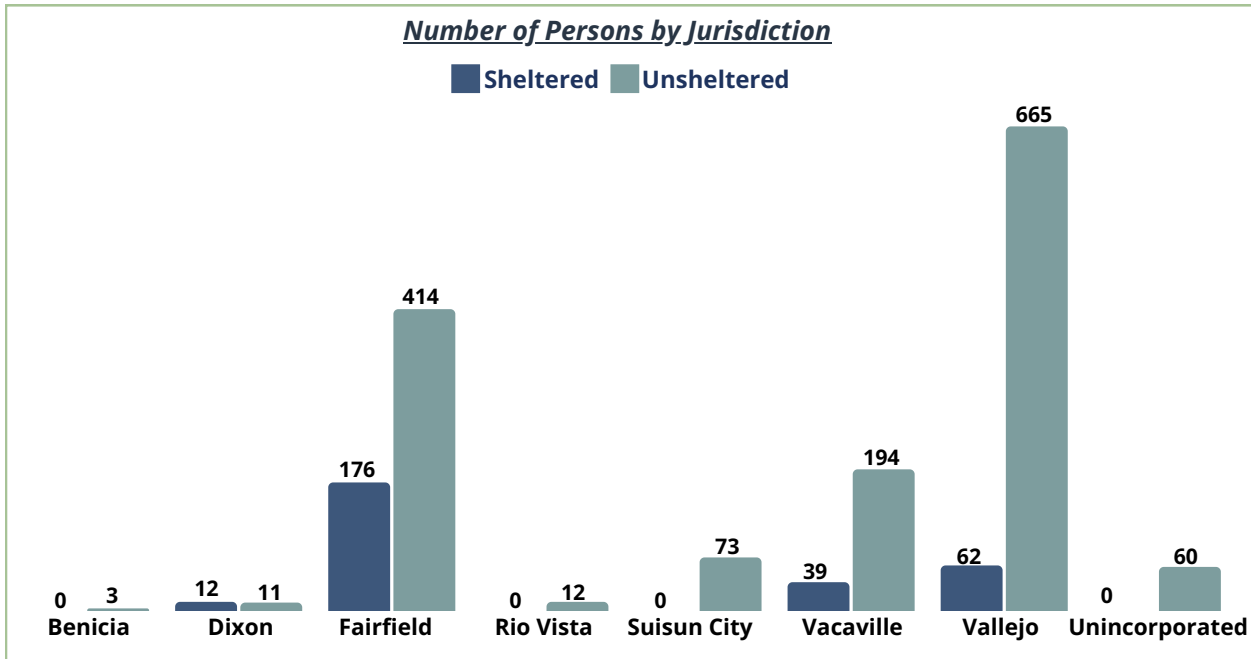
Solano County's estimated unsheltered population for the night of the count was 1,436 people which comprised 83.2% of the total homeless population of 1,725. The Count and survey results were gathered by 216 registered count volunteers.



Within the 7 locales, there were a total of 216 registered volunteers: 7 in Benicia, 6 in Dixon, 72 in Fairfield, 8 in Rio Vista, 22 in Suisun City, 27 in Vacaville, and 70 in Vallejo (note: additional volunteers may have been present assisting with activities not requiring registration). The volunteers used the Counting Us app developed by Simtech Solutions to canvas and survey people experiencing homelessness in the areas they each were designated to canvas.

# JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION

The Point-in-Time Count data collected this year presents the unsheltered individuals by their jurisdictional location including the seven cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, and Vallejo, and unincorporated Solano County. The majority of individuals counted during the PIT Count were found within 3 regions. Vacaville had 233 total counted while Fairfield counted 590 individuals and Vallejo counted 727 individuals. All other regions counted less than 100.



## PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN VEHICLES AND MAKESHIFT SHELTERS

In the California Bay Area, the issue of homelessness has taken on a distinct form with a notable population living in vehicles. Amid the backdrop of Silicon Valley's prosperity, many individuals and families find themselves seeking refuge in cars, vans, and RVs, often parked along residential streets or in designated safe parking areas. This mode of living, while offering some semblance of stability and privacy, comes with significant challenges. Access to basic amenities like sanitation and healthcare remains limited, and the transient nature of housing makes accessing social services and employment opportunities more complicated. Despite these hardships, community organizations and local governments are working to provide support, offering safe parking initiatives, outreach programs, and advocacy efforts to address the complex needs of those living on the margins in one of America's wealthiest regions. In Solano County, 28% of the population experiencing unsheltered homelessness was found to be living in vehicles or makeshift shelters.



# PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS NOT COUNTED IN THE PIT

While the PIT Count provides an important picture of people in our community who are experiencing homelessness, it utilizes the HUD definition of homelessness, which includes people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and people staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing, this does not show the complete picture of all those who may be experiencing housing instability. The following data is not included in the PIT Count but is provided to give a more in-depth overview of who is experiencing housing instability in our community.

## MCKINNEY VENTO DATA

Schools are required to collect data on children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, commonly known as McKinney-Vento Act data. This includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Children and youth who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, shelters
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, or
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances listed above

Some children and youth who meet this definition may be included in the PIT Count, but others, such as children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, are not counted as part of the PIT Count.

Solano County Office of Education Foster and Homeless Youth Services collects data from each school district and charter schools for Solano County. As of February 2024, 1,707 children and youth were identified as meeting the definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act.

# PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS EXITING FROM OTHER SYSTEMS OF CARE

While people are experiencing hospitalization or incarceration are not considered homeless at the time they are in those institutions, people leaving those institutions may be exiting into homelessness. In January 2024, Solano County surveyed their jail population and identified that 112 individuals or 22% of those incarcerated at the time identified that they were unhoused.



# APPENDIX: COUNT METHODOLOGIES

## THE UNSHELTERED COUNT

Fully canvassing a large Continuum of Care (CoC) such as Solano County for the Point-in-Time Count would require a tremendous number of surveyors. Fortunately, HUD supports a “geographic sampling and enumeration” model that enables regions to derive a statistically reliable point-in-time count estimate without necessitating the entire community to be canvassed. The reporting logic used within the Regional Command Center to support this model was developed by Simtech Solutions Inc. in collaboration with statistician and University of Pennsylvania professor, Dan Treglia, PhD. HUD has since authored the “How to Use Sampling within a CoC to Conduct an Accurate Unsheltered Count” paper which aligns with Simtech’s approach.

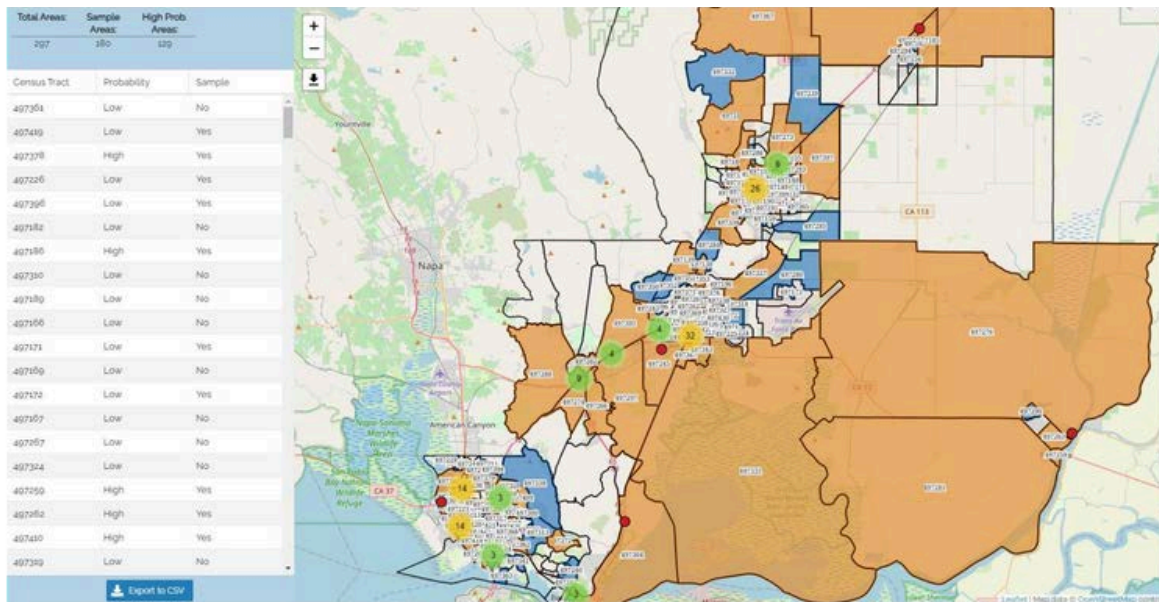


## SAMPLING STRATEGY

A stratified random sample was employed to estimate the number of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness across the entire CoC. This approach required designating each of the 297 census are block groups within the geographic boundaries of the COC as either “high” or “low” based on the probability of finding a person experiencing homelessness in that census tract. All high-probability areas, and a random sample of low-probability areas, were canvassed during the PIT count.

# DESIGNATION OF THE HIGH PROBABILITY CENSUS AREA BLOCK GROUPS

The high probability designations were based on results from the 2022 PIT count and data gathered during the planning phase by outreach staff of areas known to contain people experiencing homelessness. This information was captured using the “Known Locations Survey” within the Counting Us mobile app. In total, 129 of the 297 census area block groups contained at least three (3) people experiencing homelessness and were subsequently designated as high-probability areas. All 129 block groups were selected for canvassing.



*Census area block groups were designated as “high probability” based on Known Locations identified by outreach staff and yyyy PIT Year yyyy PIT Count survey locations. These are the areas in orange on the map.*



# SAMPLING LOW PROBABILITY CENSUS AREA BLOCK GROUPS

The low-probability census area block groups to be canvassed are chosen through a random, computer-generated sample of all census area block groups that were not previously designated as High Probability areas. For Solano, there are 297 total census area block groups, 129 of which were designated as High Probability. This left a total of 168 low-probability areas to be randomly sampled. Determining the Number of Low Probability Census Area Block Groups to be Sampled Simtech used the formula to the right to estimate the predicted precision of the count estimate, within each CoC, for any given sample size. For Solano, the Confidence Level of 90% and a Margin of Error of 10% were used. This resulted in 49 of the 168 low-probability ability census area block groups needing to be randomly sampled. This means 49 or more tracts need to be canvassed to have a confidence level of 90% that the real value is within  $\pm 10\%$  of the measured/surveyed value.

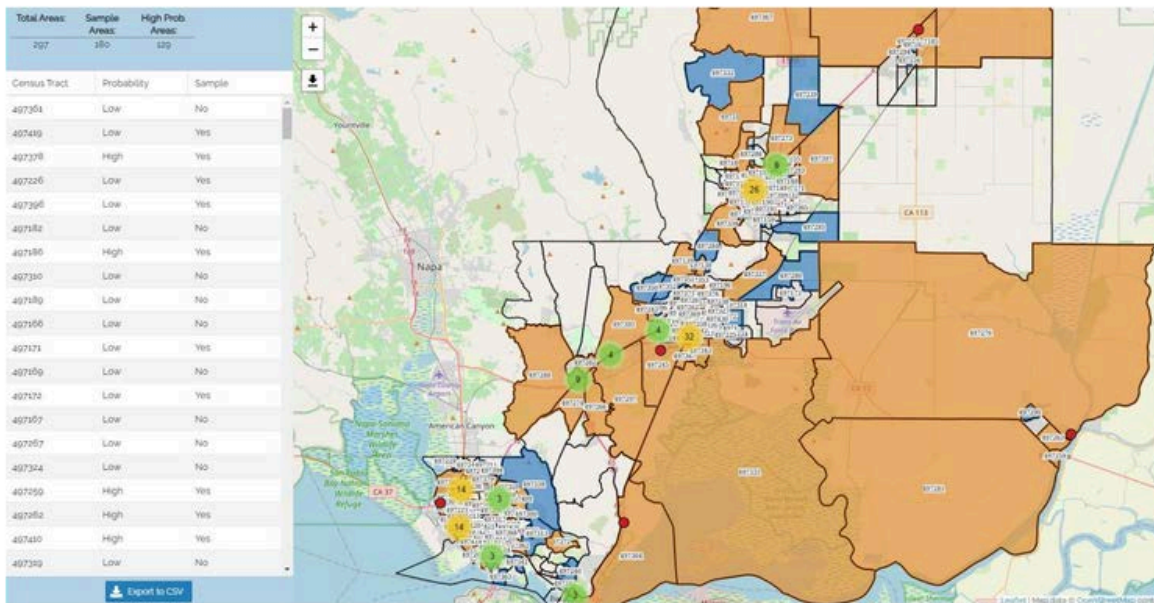
To ensure this threshold was met, 51 block groups were randomly selected instead of 49. Randomly Select Tracts in the Command Center Based on the determination of the number of low-probability census area block groups to be sampled, the “Randomly Select Tracts” function within the Command Center was used to determine which of the tracts are to be canvassed and which are to be ignored. The resulting tract designation is shown below.

$$n_{LP} = \frac{1}{\frac{d^2}{N_{LP}^2 z^2 \sigma^2} + \frac{1}{N_{LP}}}$$

Randomly Select Tracts

What percentage of the 168 available tracts would you like to randomly select?

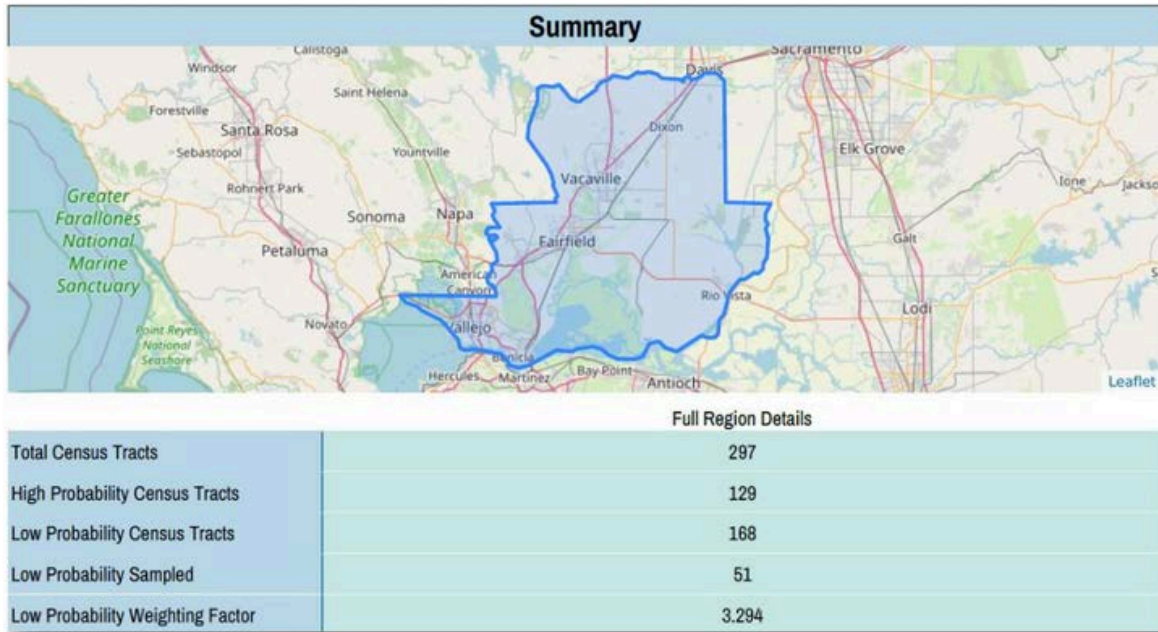
58 tracts will be selected



The sampling setup resulted in 129 total high-probability census area block groups (shown in orange), 51 randomly selected low-probability tracts (shown in blue), and 117 tracts not canvassed (no coloring). The Role of the Weighting Factor in Deriving Estimated Count Figures The Low Probability Weighting Factor is a simple calculation derived by dividing the total number of low-probability census area block groups by the number of low-probability tracts to be sampled.



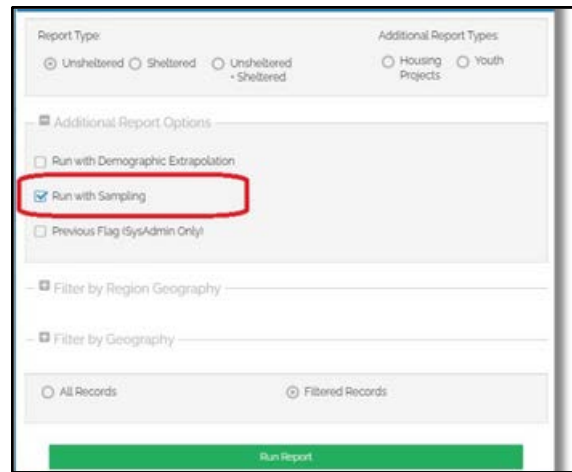
For example, for Solano, the weighting factor is 168/51 or 3.29. After all low-probability areas that have been randomly selected are canvassed, the count results from these areas are multiplied by the weighting factor to derive estimated count figures for all low-probability tracts in the region.



# ENUMERATION OF COUNT RESULTS

Sampling weights, estimates, and confidence intervals are applied differently to high and low probability census area block groups to produce final estimates. Since all high-probability census area block groups are to be fully canvassed, there are no sample weighting factors or confidence intervals applied. The weighting factor is applied to survey figures from the low-probability census area block groups to be sampled to derive estimated figures for all low-probability census area block groups. To ensure the methodological rigor of the PIT estimate, only surveys from areas designated as high probability, or are within low probability census area block groups to be sampled, are included in the results calculation. Surveys from outside of the boundaries of these designated tracts are not included in the results, as doing so would remove the randomness of the random sample.

As shown in the image to the right, the HUD Point in Time Report can be “Run with Sampling” simply by checking off the box shown before clicking “Run Report.” An example of the results for the Solano County is shown below.



	Region High	Region Low	Region Low w/ Geo. Extrap.	Region Total
Total number of persons	888	13	42.82	930.82
Number of children (under age 18)	13	0	0	13
Number of youth (age 18 to 24)	27	0	0	27
Number of adults (age 25 to 34)	141	2	6.59	147.59
Number of adults (age 35 to 44)	250	2	6.59	256.59
Number of adults (age 45 to 54)	159	3	9.88	168.88
Number of adults (age 55 to 64)	109	2	6.59	115.59
Number of adults (age 65 or older)	30	0	0	30
Observed age 25 or older	159	4	13.18	172.18
Unknown Age	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless	122	2	6.59	128.59
Veterans	17	0	0	17

*Estimated Number of Homeless in Solano County for the night of the 2024 Point in Time Count*

After the count was completed, 888 people were counted in the high probability areas, and 13 were counted in the 51 sampled low probability areas. The number of people surveyed (13) was multiplied by the Weighting Factor of 3.294 to derive an estimated count of 43 people for all low probability census area block groups.



# DERIVING ESTIMATED COUNTS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN VEHICLES AND MAKESHIFT SHELTERS

The Vehicle/Structure Tally is an optional feature used to count Vehicles and Makeshift Shelters (VMS) that appear to be serving as temporary living situations for people who cannot be engaged. The process for deriving estimates of people living in these situations is as follows:

1. An average count of people sleeping in each vehicle and makeshift shelter type is derived. To calculate this average, the additional question of "Including yourself, how many people are sleeping in this location?" is asked of anyone who responds to the "Where did you sleep during the night of the count?" question with any living situation that is either a type of vehicle or a makeshift shelter. For instances with three or less people surveyed for the living situation, national averages derived from the 68 regions that used Counting Us for the 2024 count, are applied. These averages, and the sample size for each, are shown in the table to the right.

Row Labels	Average of num_sleeping	Total Records
Abandoned Building	1.92	24
Boat	1.55	11
Car	1.75	1430
Makeshift Shelter	1.86	443
Other	1.92	166
RV	2.30	948
Tent	1.72	1278
Van	2.40	482
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1.935173568</b>	<b>4782</b>

2. Surveyors use the Vehicle/Makeshift Shelter Tally to count any of these living situations that are believed to contain people sleeping in them who cannot be engaged.

In adherence to the guidance from the HUD Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Notice, these structures are only included in the count estimates if the following conditions are met:

*A. The answer to the question "Please indicate whether or not the vehicle or structure appears to be actively being used or if it appears abandoned?" is not "Appears Abandoned." B. For RVs, the RV is counted if the answer to "Please provide details on the condition of the RV?" is not "RV appears to be in good working order and is suitable for habitation" and "Occupants do not have access to sewer, water, and electricity" is selected.*

3. The averages derived in step 1 are multiplied by the counts from step 2 to derive an estimated count per vehicle and structure type.
4. The total estimates for each vehicle and structure type are added together to create a total estimated count of people living in VMS for the region. These totals are subsequently weighted based on whether the vehicle or structure was in a low or high-probability area that was designated to be canvassed, as shown in the report image below. This produced an estimated count of 501 people.

Vehicle and Makeshift Shelter Stats

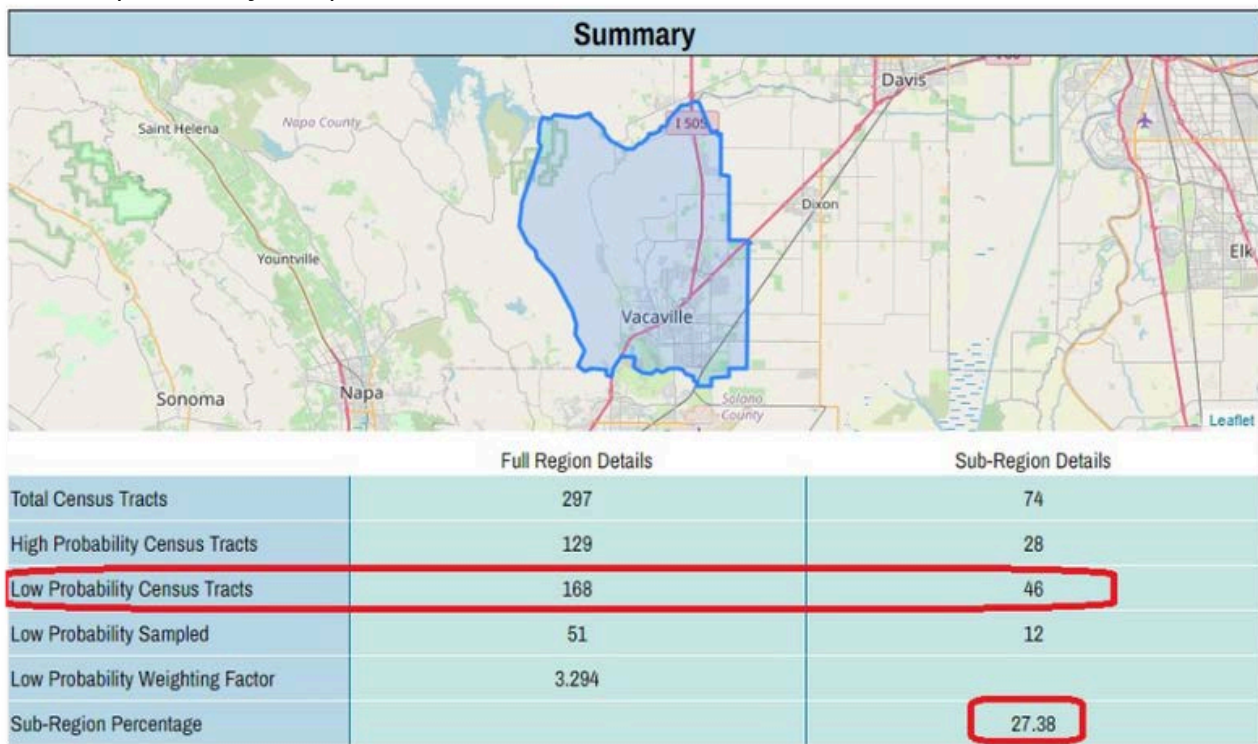


Vehicle/Structure Type	Avg. People per Vehicle/Structure	# Vehicles/Structures - High Prob. Areas	Est. # People - High	# Vehicles/Structures - Low Prob. Areas	Est. # People - Low
Car	17	83	141	0	0
RV	18	100	180	2	4
Abandoned Building	19	1	2	0	0
Tent	19	38	72	0	0
Van	17	29	49	0	0
Makeshift Shelter	20	22	44	0	0
Boat	16	5	8	0	0
Other	14	1	1	0	0
Total			497		4



# DERIVING ESTIMATES IN SUB-REGIONS

Since the number of census area block groups within a sub-region such as a city or town is an insufficient sample size for the purposes of estimations, the estimates for these sub-regions are derived from the estimates calculated at the CoC level. These estimates are based on the number of people counted in high-probability census area block groups within the subregion combined with the weighted average number of people estimated in the low-probability sample.



For the Vacaville region, 186 people were counted in “high probability” census area block groups. The weighted average for the low-probability block groups is calculated by multiplying the count estimate for all low-probability block groups in the COC (42.8) with the percentage of low-probability block groups that exist within the sub-region. For Vacaville, the 46 low-probability block groups comprise 27.3% of the 168 total low-probability block groups. This sub-region percentage is multiplied by the count estimate of 42.8 people for the entire CoC to derive a sub-region estimate of 11.72 people. The final count estimate is derived by adding this figure to the 186 people counted in high-probability block groups to derive an estimate of 197.72.

	Region High	Region Low	Region Low w/ Geo. Extrap.	Region Total	Sub-Region High	Sub-Region Low Extrap.	Sub-Region Total
Total number of persons	888	13	42.82	930.82	186	11.72	197.72