

2019 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report

Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care

What is the PIT Count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count is an annual street and shelter count that determines the number of people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County during a given point in time. Conducted on a single day in January, this project includes a brief survey to identify the needs and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness. Every Continuum of Care is required to submit PIT Count results to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of a national effort to identify the extent of homelessness across the country.

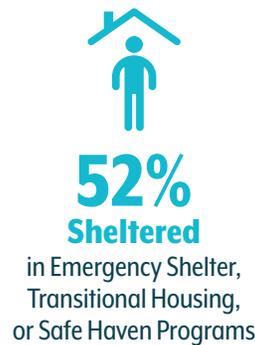
Why is it important?

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

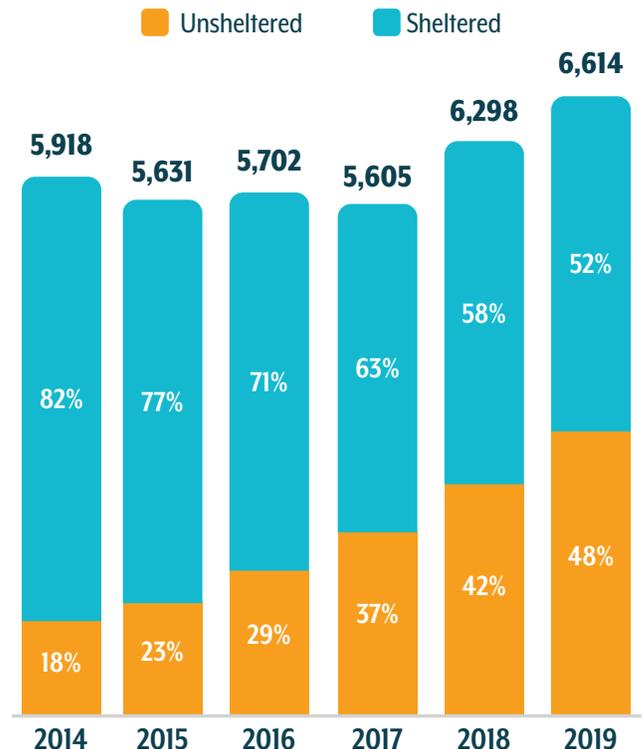
The PIT Count is a one-night snapshot of homelessness that is limited by weather conditions, number and training of volunteers, self-reported survey responses, and other factors. There are more people who experience homelessness over the course of the year than on any given single night. Every year, the Continuum of Care works towards improving the count's accuracy. The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care is committed to using data from the PIT Count and the regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to understand more about the population experiencing homelessness in the region and to provide solutions that will make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

2019 PIT Count Total

6,614
people experiencing homelessness
in Maricopa County on the night of
January 21, 2019



Total PIT Count, 2014-2019



Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care
PIT Count, 2014-2019

Growth Rate from 2018-2019

Total PIT Count

+5%

Unsheltered Count

+22%

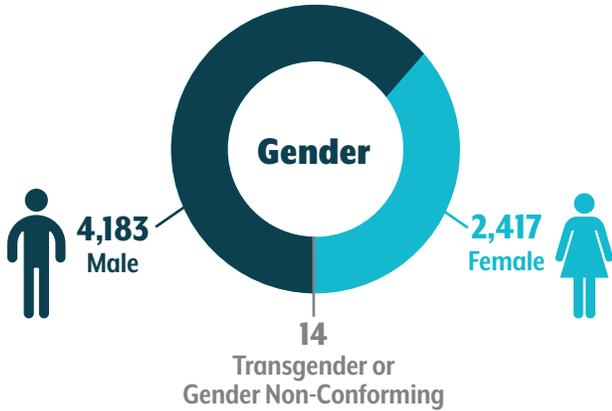
Sheltered Count

-7%

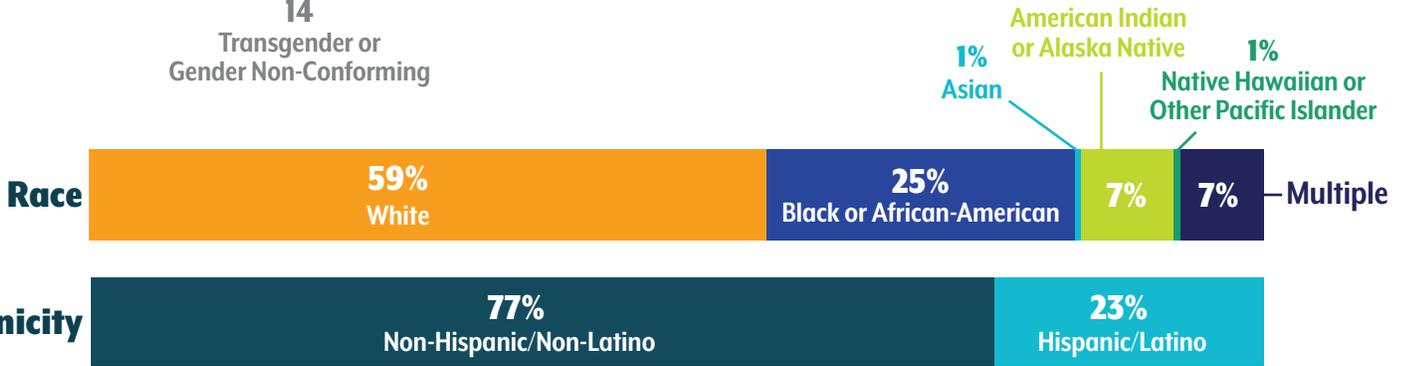
The unsheltered count increased at a **higher rate** than the overall PIT Count, while the sheltered count decreased.

Demographics

The demographics of the PIT Count have been fairly **consistent** over time. These charts show data from the 2019 PIT Count.



For the 2019 PIT Count, 63% of the population experiencing homelessness identified as male, 37% identified as female, and less than 1% identified as either transgender or gender non-conforming. The proportion of gender has remained the same for the PIT Count throughout the years. The PIT Count has a larger proportion of the population identifying as male than Maricopa County's average of 49% from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 Population Estimates.

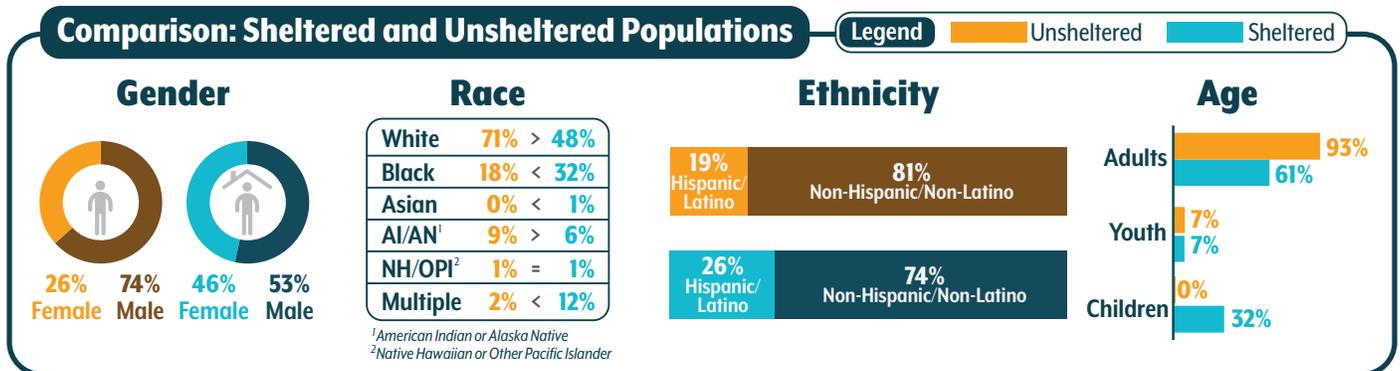


Over the years, the ethnic breakdown of the PIT Count has remained the same with a significant majority identifying as Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino; by race there has been a slight decrease in the White population and slight increase in Multiple Races. The 2019 PIT Count reported a differing racial makeup than Maricopa County. Census estimates for Maricopa County are as follows: White (83%); Black or African American (6%); Asian (5%); American Indian or Alaskan Native (3%); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (0%); and Multiple Races (3%). The PIT population also has a higher percentage of people identifying as Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino compared to Maricopa County population estimates (69%).



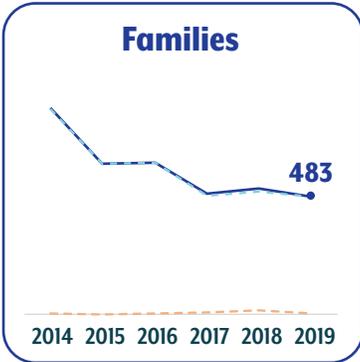
The largest age group from the PIT Count is adults (age 25+), which accounted for 76% of the 2019 PIT population. Children (age 0-17) make up 17% of the population, while youth (age 18-24) make up only 7% of the count. The percentage of adults identified from the PIT Count has been increasing throughout the years, while the percentages of children and youth have been decreasing. The PIT Count has a higher percentage of adults than population estimates for Maricopa County (67%).

Source: Charts show data from the 2019 PIT Count; Maricopa County demographics from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Population Estimates



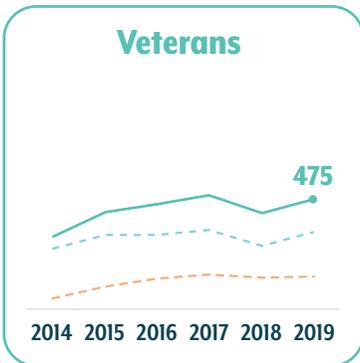
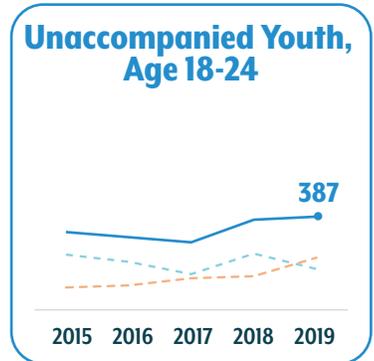
Special Populations

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



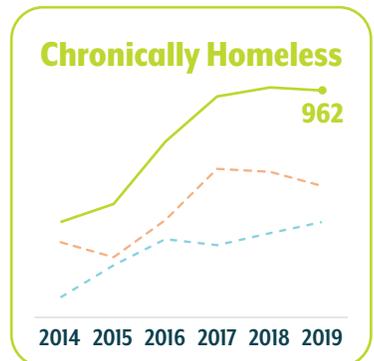
From 2014 to 2019, the number of families has decreased by 43%. Families are defined in this report as households with at least one adult and one child. Almost all families identified from the PIT Count were in either emergency shelter or transitional housing, with only one unsheltered family reported in 2019. Families may be hard for volunteers to identify during the PIT Count due to tendencies to stay in vehicles or other hidden locations. This year's PIT Count took place on a particularly cold night, and it is possible that families were more likely to seek shelter that night.

Youth ages 18-24 are considered a vulnerable population, and the number has increased in the past few years. Efforts to specifically count the population of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness did not start until 2015. Youth are also a challenging subpopulation to identify during the PIT Count. To account for this, homeless youth service providers provided input on PIT Count strategies, including hosting magnet events at resource centers specifically for this subpopulation.



The number of veterans experiencing homelessness has increased. After a slight decrease in 2018, the number of veterans identified during the PIT Count increased again in 2019. It is important to note that veteran status is self-reported for the PIT Count.

The number of people who meet the chronic homelessness definition has significantly increased over the years. From 2014 to 2019, the total number of chronically homeless has increased by 139%. Interestingly in the past two years, the chronic unsheltered number has decreased while the chronic sheltered number has increased. *The HUD definition of chronic homelessness is: (1) a person who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter, (2) has a disability, and (3) has been homeless continuously for one year OR four or more times homeless in the last three years, where the combined length of time homeless is at least 12 months. When a head of household meets this definition, all household members are counted as chronically homeless.*



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

Additional Populations	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mental Illness	586	523	931	866	903	966
Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drug)	458	420	910	711	1,228	1,116
HIV/AIDS	75	13	68	60	80	117
Domestic Violence	581*	604*	1,177*	1,154*	425	805

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

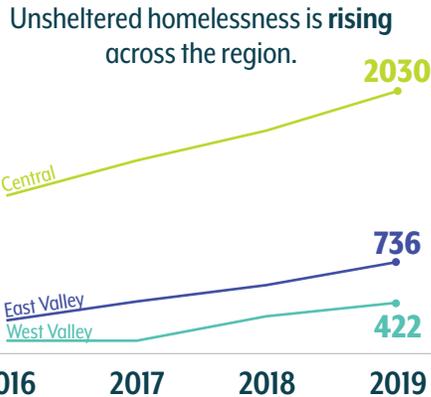
Regional Trends

Unsheltered Count

The overall unsheltered count for the Maricopa County region has been steadily increasing at an average of 25% each year. The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in each subregion has also been increasing annually, with the majority of the unsheltered population concentrated in central Phoenix.

Subregions: West Valley Central East Valley

Unsheltered Count by Subregion

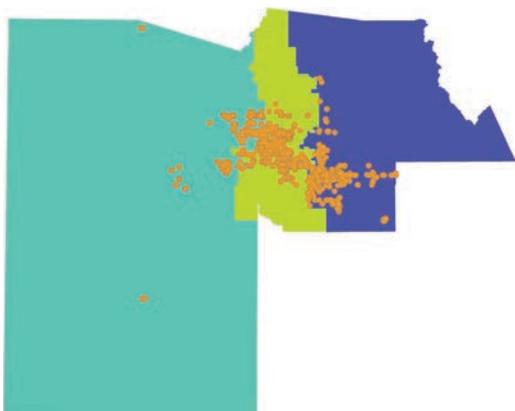


Subregion	2016	2017	2018	2019
Central	1,235	1,508	1,735	2,030
East Valley	276	412	560	736
West Valley	135	139	323	422

Unsheltered PIT Count Growth Rate

From 2016 to 2019, unsheltered homelessness in the Maricopa County region increased by **94%**. In the Central subregion (Phoenix), the growth rate in unsheltered homelessness was **64%**. In the East Valley, unsheltered homelessness increased by **167%** and in the West Valley, it went up by **213%**.

Locations of 2019 Unsheltered Surveys, Maricopa County



A more detailed map of the Unsheltered PIT Count is available online at: <https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count>

Unsheltered Count by Municipality

Municipality	2016	2017	2018	2019
Avondale	37	27	13	35
Buckeye	0	0	22	24
El Mirage	0	0	2	7
Gila Bend	9	7	8	4
Glendale	44	57	164	194
Goodyear	7	7	22	22
Litchfield Park	0	0	0	0
Peoria	31	22	38	78
Surprise	6	16	39	33
Tolleson	0	0	9	5
Wickenburg	0	1	2	2
Youngtown	1	2	4	18
Phoenix	1,235	1,508	1,735	2,030
Carefree	0	0	0	0
Cave Creek	2	0	1	0
Chandler	14	27	54	54
Fountain Hills	0	0	0	0
Gilbert	1	2	4	2
Guadalupe	8	0	9	21
Mesa	95	130	144	206
Paradise Valley	0	0	0	0
Queen Creek	1	1	5	4
Scottsdale	67	50	67	76
Tempe	88	202	276	373
Total	1,646	2,059	2,618	3,188

New Survey Questions

This year, two questions were added to the unsheltered count interview survey:

Where were you this time last year?



Number of Pets?



Source: Unsheltered PIT Count interview surveys

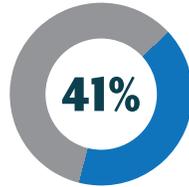
Sheltered Count

Most people experiencing sheltered homelessness during the 2019 PIT Count were in **Emergency Shelters**.

Emergency Shelter
(1,975)



Transitional Housing
(1,406)



Safe Haven*
(45)



Sheltered Count by Subregion

Subregion	2016	2017	2018	2019
Central	3,182	2,871	2,827	2,548
East Valley	663	486	704	672
West Valley	211	189	149	206
Total	4,056	3,546	3,680	3,426

The majority of Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven* programs are located in Phoenix. In recent years, two major emergency shelter programs closed, which likely impacted the decrease in the sheltered count. As the homeless population continues to grow, there is an insufficient number of beds available in shelter programs.

* Note: Maricopa County no longer has "Safe Haven" projects, however, certain veteran Grant Per Diem beds are required by HUD to be reported as Safe Haven for the PIT Count.

Maricopa County

Maricopa County is the fastest growing region in the nation. The annual population growth rate has remained steady at 2% since 2012 (*U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates*). The PIT Count increased by 12% from 2017 to 2018, and 5% from 2018 to 2019.



Housing costs are high in the region. Maricopa County is the second most expensive county in Arizona.

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



Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach 2019*

Methodology

This year, approximately 750 volunteers, staff, and outreach workers participated in the PIT Count across the Maricopa County region. The unsheltered count relies on interview and observation survey responses. All cities and towns except for Phoenix do a direct census count. The City of Phoenix uses an extrapolation method that identifies high and low density grids. High density grids are counted via complete census, while a random sample of low density grids are counted and extrapolated. PIT Count volunteers used either paper survey forms or a

mobile app to submit electronic surveys for each person they encountered. The mobile app was able to accurately record geographic coordinates for mapping purposes, and due to its ease of use, volunteers were often able to complete more surveys. The sheltered count comes from the region's HMIS and service provider surveys to verify the number of beds and occupancy rates for each program.



Special thanks to the 2019 PIT Count Municipal Coordinators, volunteers, staff, and outreach teams that put in the time and effort to make this a successful count; Crisis Response Network for collecting and verifying provider data for the Housing Inventory Chart and Sheltered Count; and the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board, Committee, and Data Subcommittee for their input and support of this annual count.

For more information, visit <http://azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count>



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