



# 2024 Homeless Count

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CITY OF  
LONG  
BEACH



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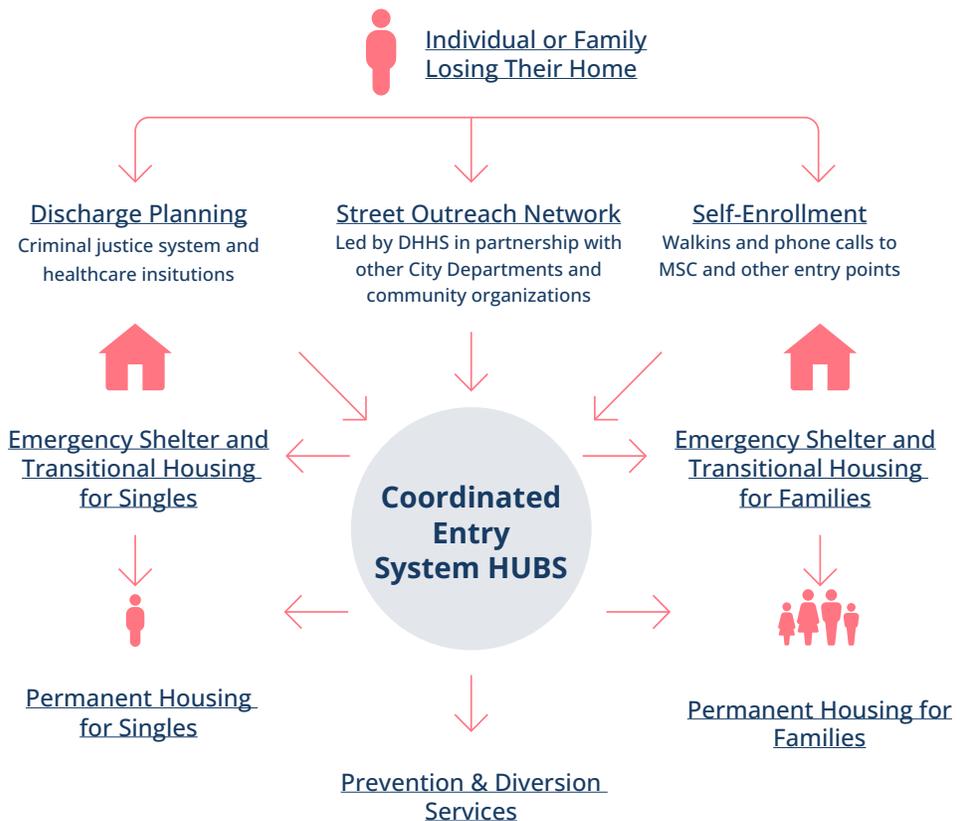




# Introduction

The City has a robust system of care to address the diverse needs of our community members experiencing homelessness. The Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC), made up of over 80 service partners, brings together vital resources to serve people experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Services Bureau, as part of the City’s Health and Human Services Department, is the lead for the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC). The Long Beach Health Department stands by a Housing First model, which means providing access as quickly as possible to a stable setting. Once their basic needs are met, case managers work with people on sobriety or health treatment. The Department also focuses on individualized and person-driven supports and social and community integration. Additional practices that the CoC utilizes to support at-risk or households experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness include:

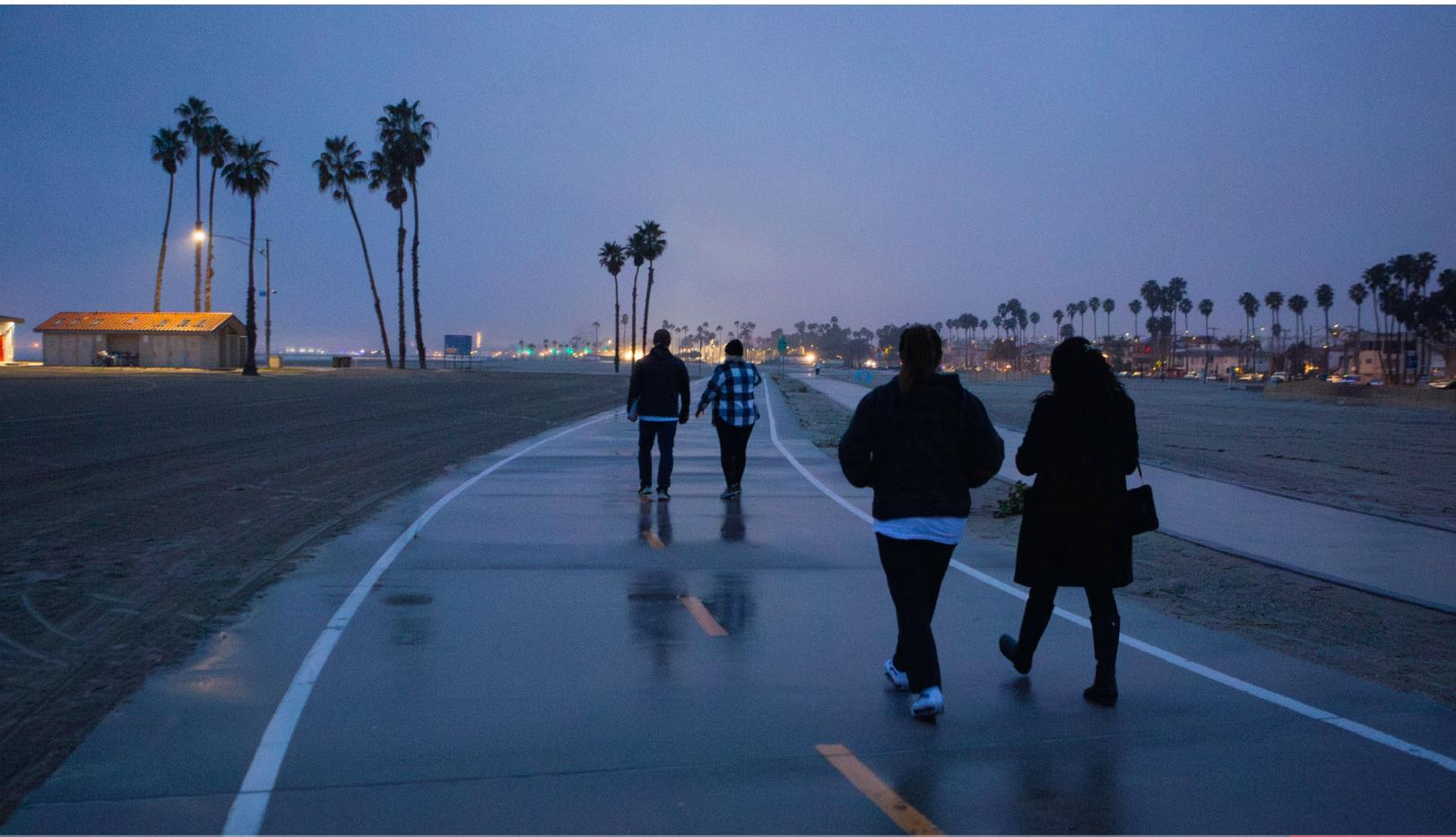
- Individualized delivery of services that are grounded in evidence-based practices for households experiencing and at risk of homelessness.
- Integrating key partners into the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure a holistic approach to accessing and receiving services.
- Coordinated intakes and application processes linked to supportive services and financial assistance programs.
- Interdepartmental and inter-jurisdictional coordination among government departments to utilize expertise and resources to address homelessness in a systematic way.



# Point in Time (PIT) Count Informs the City's System of Care

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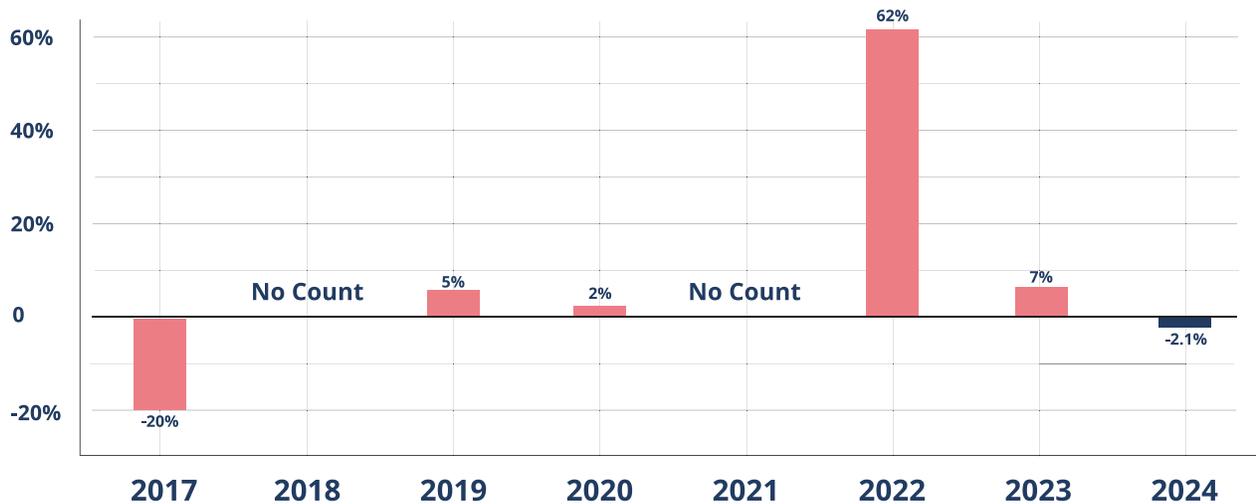
The City's PIT Count is part of a nationwide effort to count the number of people experiencing homelessness. This count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the state of California in order to receive funding to address homelessness. In addition to the funding attached to the Count, the City uses information collected to better understand the trends, issues and demographics of our fellow community members experiencing homelessness. By also offering a survey, which is not required, we can provide better data to service providers, government entities and community members and forge effective and appropriate homeless interventions in Long Beach.



# Setting the Context

The 2024 count shows 3,376 people experiencing homelessness in our city. This number signifies a 2.1% decrease from last year—the first time the City has reported an overall decrease in homelessness since 2017.

### Percentage Change of People Experiencing Homelessness in Long Beach



Notably, the city saw a significant decrease in homelessness among the youngest and oldest populations in Long Beach: for example, homelessness decreased by 49.7% for people 18 to 24 years old; 37% for minors; and 9.4% for those ages 55 to 64. The reductions in overall numbers indicates that the City has begun to reverse the trend of growing homelessness.

After the homeless population in Long Beach jumped significantly following the COVID-19 pandemic, the City proclaimed a local emergency to strengthen the City's preparedness and ability to respond. The emergency, which was in place from Jan. 10, 2023, through Feb. 28, 2024, put into place policies and programs that provided immediate assistance and laid the groundwork for positive long-term outcomes.

In addition to the work undertaken to meet the current need among people experiencing homelessness, the City is looking for upstream supports that could further reduce future homelessness. These include a guaranteed income pilot program, which provides \$500 a month for 12 months, kicked off in May 2023 with 250 households as part of the Long Beach Recovery Act support for economic recovery. Initial data from program participants indicated they experienced significant rates of housing insecurity. In January 2023, the pilot was extended to 200 additional low-income households with children as a homeless prevention measure.



# At a Glance

The 2024 Count was conducted in the early hours of January 25, 2024, with the help of more than 300 people who dedicated their time to compassionately count and interview their neighbors who are unhoused. Volunteers included members of community-based organizations and the business community, members of the public and City staff.

## 2024 Demographics and Survey Results: An Overview

### Total Count



**3,376**

People were experiencing homelessness on the morning of **January 25, 2024**

### Chronically Homeless



**1,705**

50.5%

- Sheltered: 367
- Unsheltered: 1,338

### Unsheltered Count



**2,455**

72.7% Unsheltered

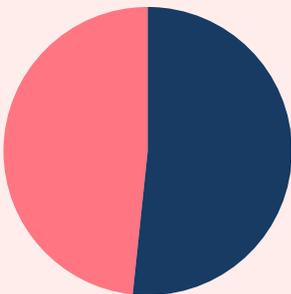
### Sheltered Count



**921**

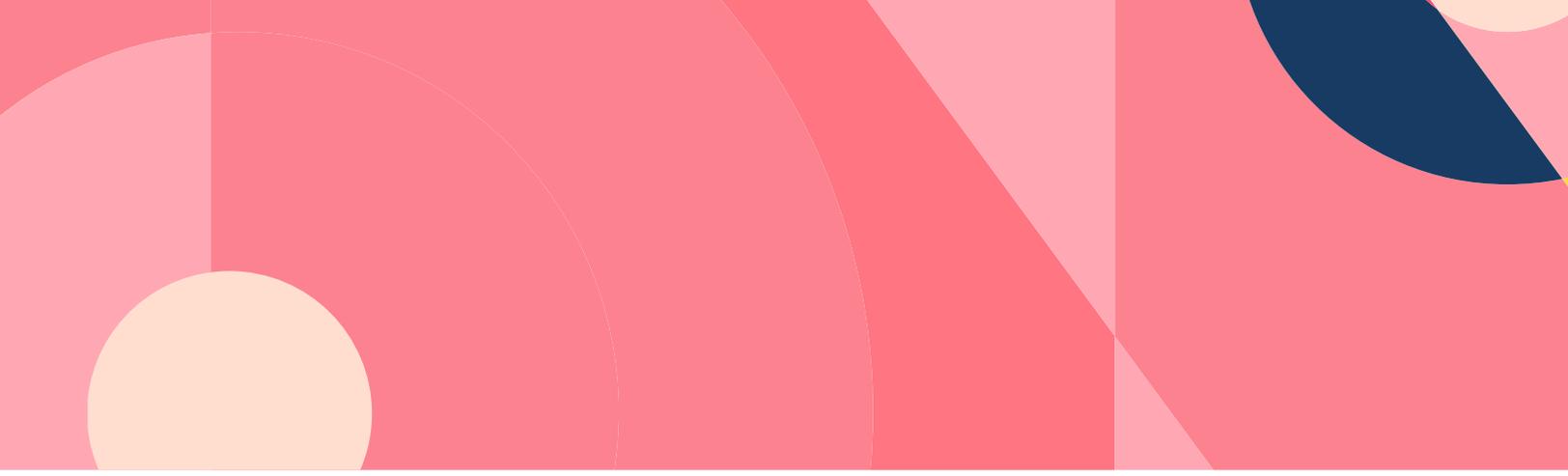
27.3% Sheltered

### First Time Homeless



**53.0%**

Reported that this is their first episode of homelessness



# 2024 Demographics and Survey Results: An Overview

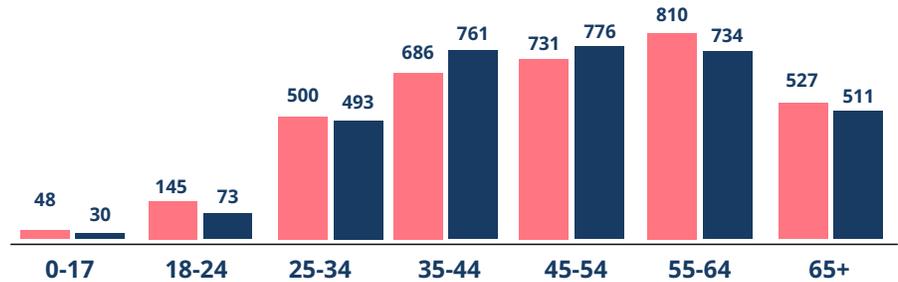
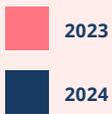
Overview of findings generated from the survey component of the 2024 Long Beach Homeless Point in Time Count & Survey

# Demographics

## 2024 Demographics & Survey Results

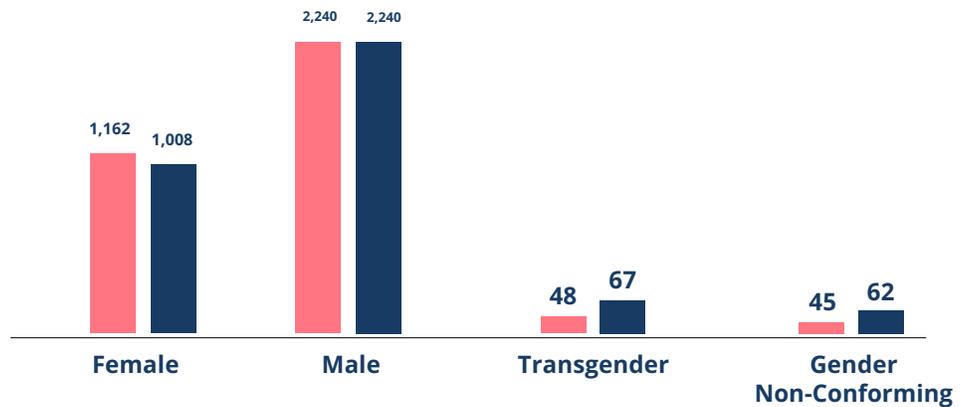
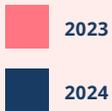
### Age

2024



### Gender

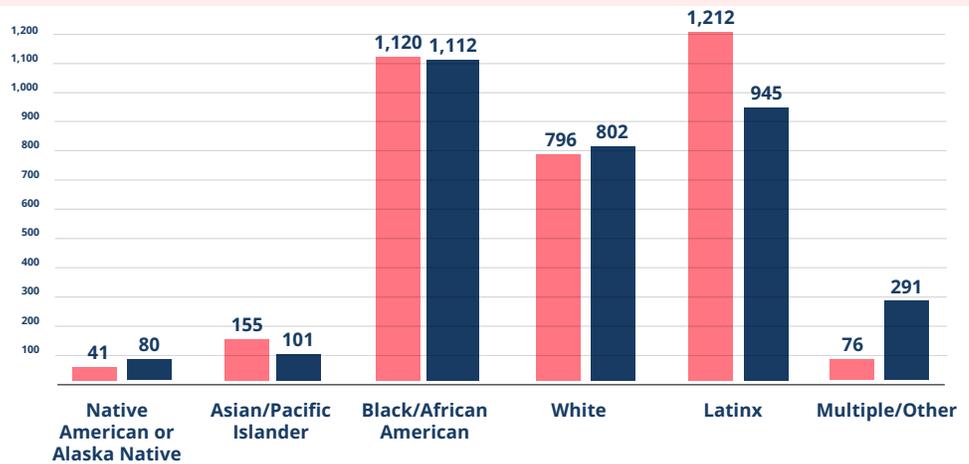
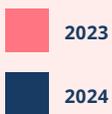
2024



### Race

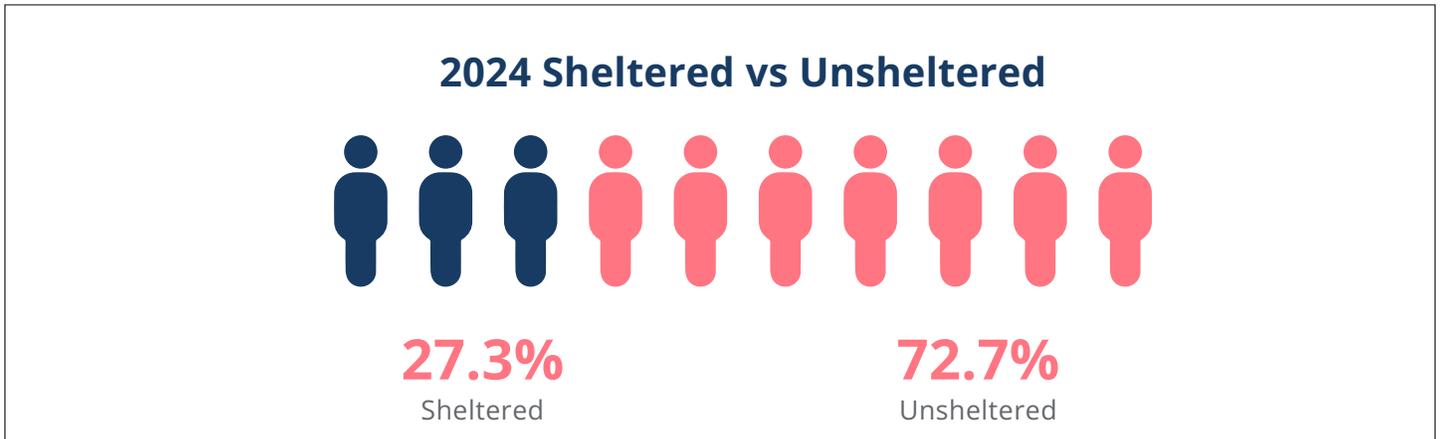
(Including Latinx in Race)

2024

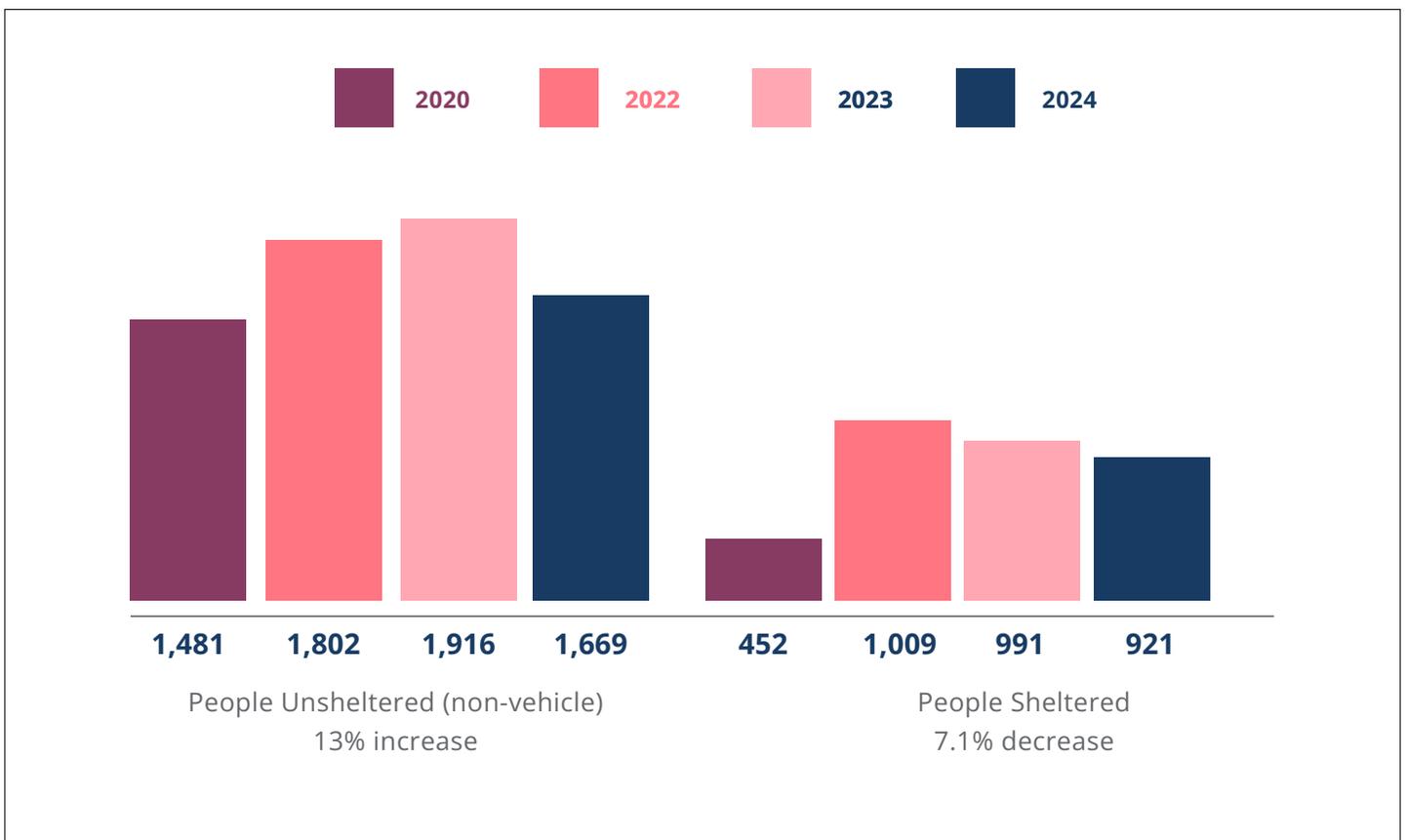


# Sheltered & Unsheltered

## 2024 Demographics & Survey Results



Overview of findings generated from the survey component of the 2024 Long Beach Homeless Point in Time Count & Survey



# Subpopulations experiencing homelessness

## Living In Vehicles



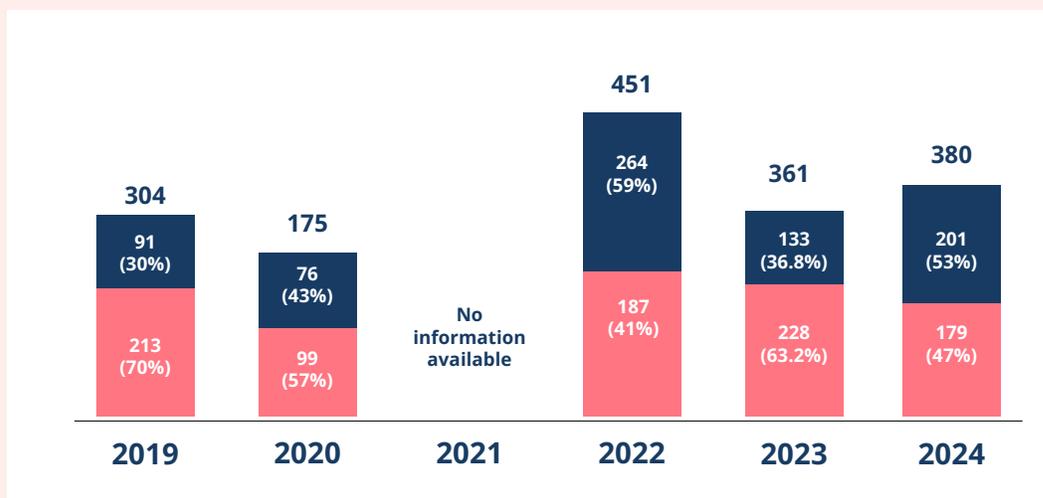
**786 (32%)**

of unsheltered people are living in a vehicle (car or RV)

## Veterans

■ Sheltered Vs.  
■ Unsheltered

20% decrease



## LGBTQ+



**11.2%**

2023

**7.7%**

2024

## Students



**7.4%**

2023



**6.6%**

2024

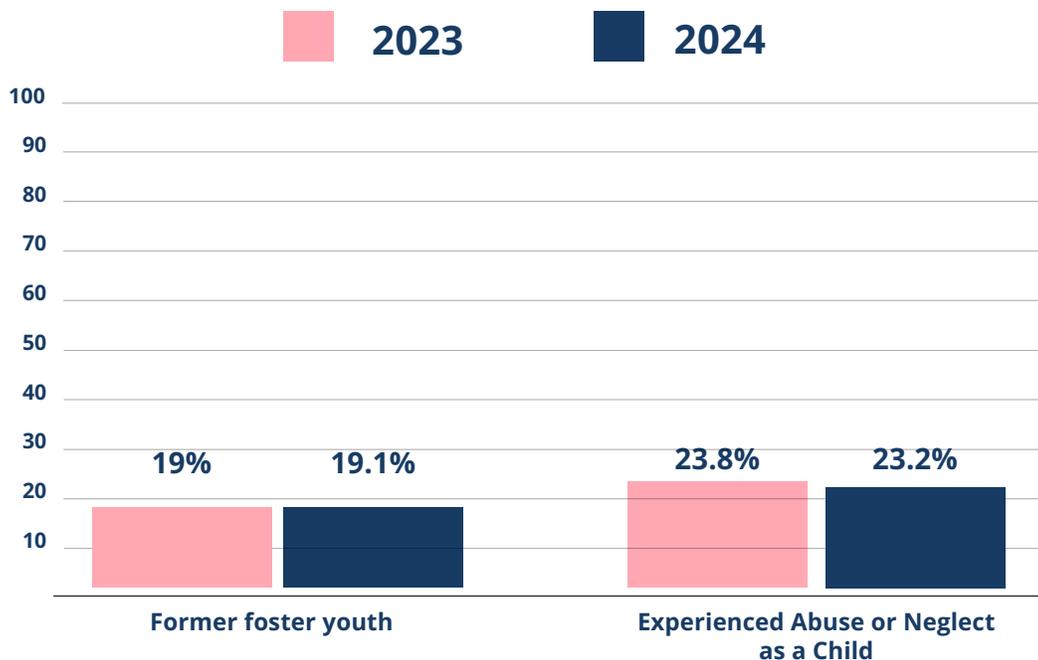
# The Underlying Conditions of Homelessness

## 2024 Demographics & Survey Results

Many people experiencing homelessness have underlying long-term trauma, mental health or substance use concerns or other health conditions. These conditions can make living in unsupported housing and holding a job much more difficult.

### Childhood Trauma

People who experienced abuse and neglect are far more likely to experience homelessness than those who haven't, a person who has spent time in foster care is nearly 40x more likely to be experiencing homelessness than someone who has not.





Physical Disability

**34.6%**



Severe Mental  
Illness

**34.3%**



Chronic Medical  
Condition

**30.6%**



Substance Use  
Disorder

**28.3%**



Traumatic Brain  
Injury

**20.9%**



Developmental  
Disability

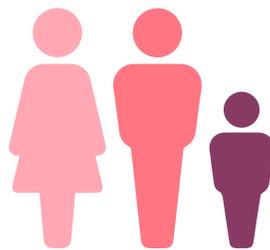
**17.9%**

# Causes of Homelessness

## 2024 Demographics & Survey Results

A critical component of addressing and preventing homelessness is better understanding the major causes behind it. People were asked to identify the leading causes of their homelessness. The following were the top causes reported by respondents.

### Family Disruption



**29.1%**

said they became homeless due to family disruption or relationship problems.

### Financial



**37.1%**

of respondents said they became homeless due to unemployment or financial reasons; a 6% increase from 2023.

### 2024



**29.1%**

**Family**



**37.1%**

**Unemployment**



**16.3%**

**Mental Health**



**16.5%**

**Eviction**



**8.5%**

**Substance Abuse**

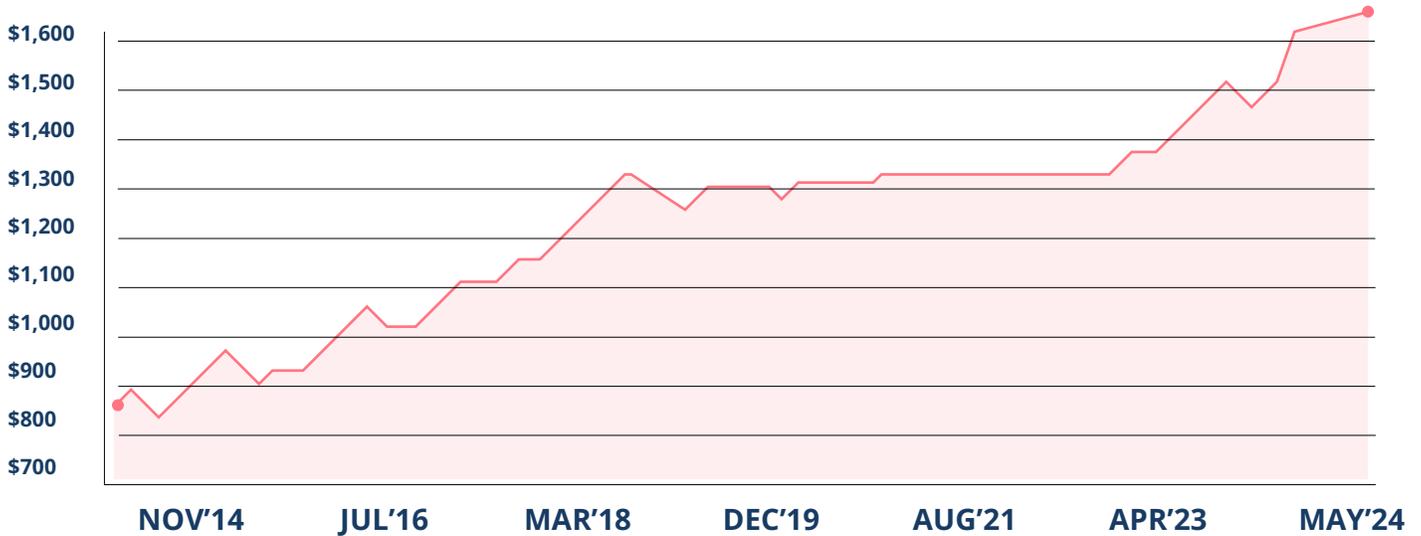


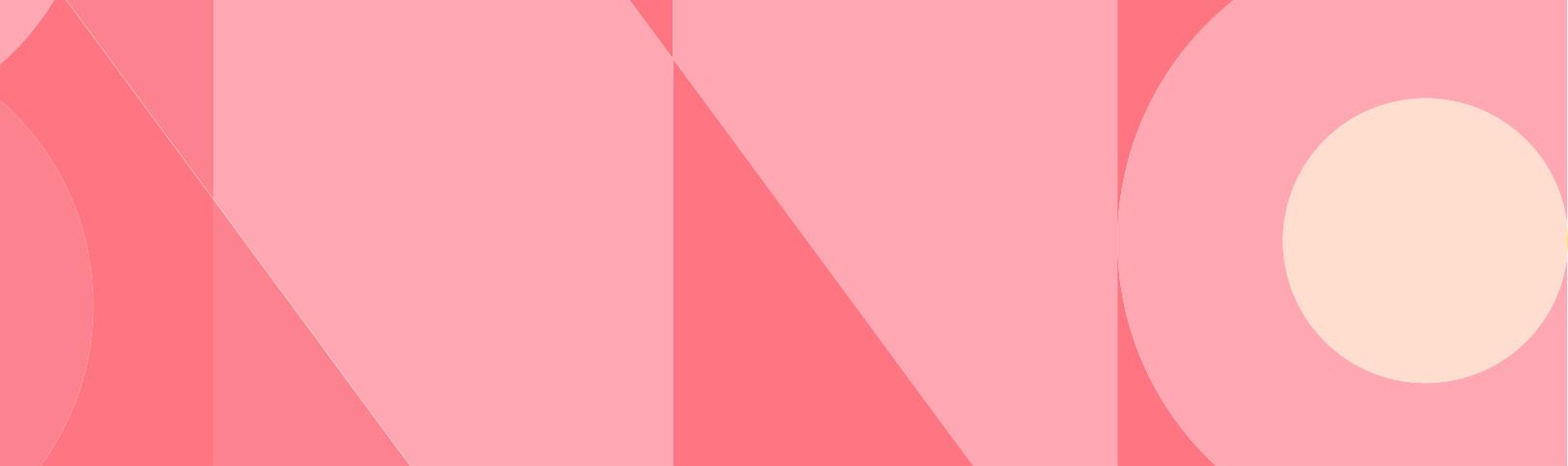
**12.0%**

**Disability**

Homelessness is, fundamentally, a lack of housing. City residents face ongoing issues, including low vacancy rates for units, high housing costs relative to income and an overall high cost of living. The Council for Community and Economic Research Cost of Living Index ranks the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metro area as one of the most expensive markets in the country, with a cost of living 48.8% higher than the national average. And the USC Lusk 2023 Casden Multifamily Forecast Report indicates that 53.92% of households in the Long Beach-Southbay region are rent-burdened.

### Cost to rent a studio apt.





# Count Methodology

# Count Methodology for Data Collection

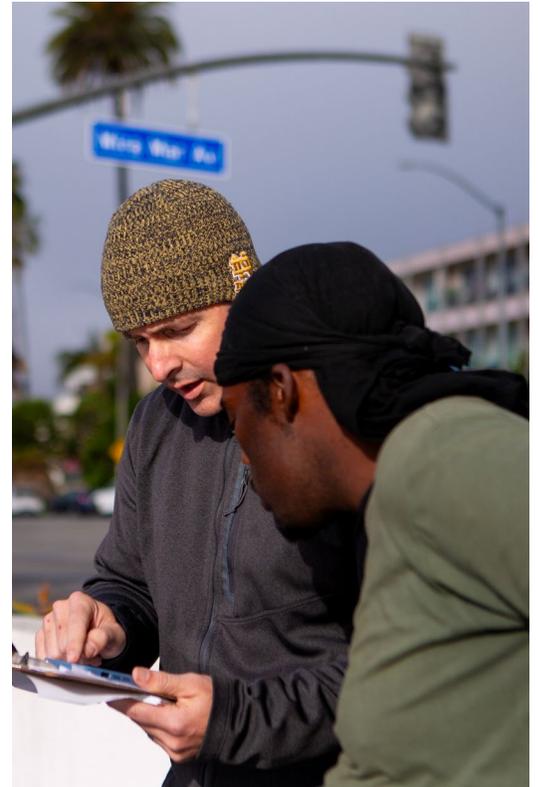
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The Long Beach Count methodology and analysis are based upon best practices incorporated throughout the country as well as lessons learned from past PIT Counts. There are significant challenges in capturing a relatively nomadic population. Every year, the Homeless Services Bureau strives to improve the count data collection methodology to provide more insights to the population.

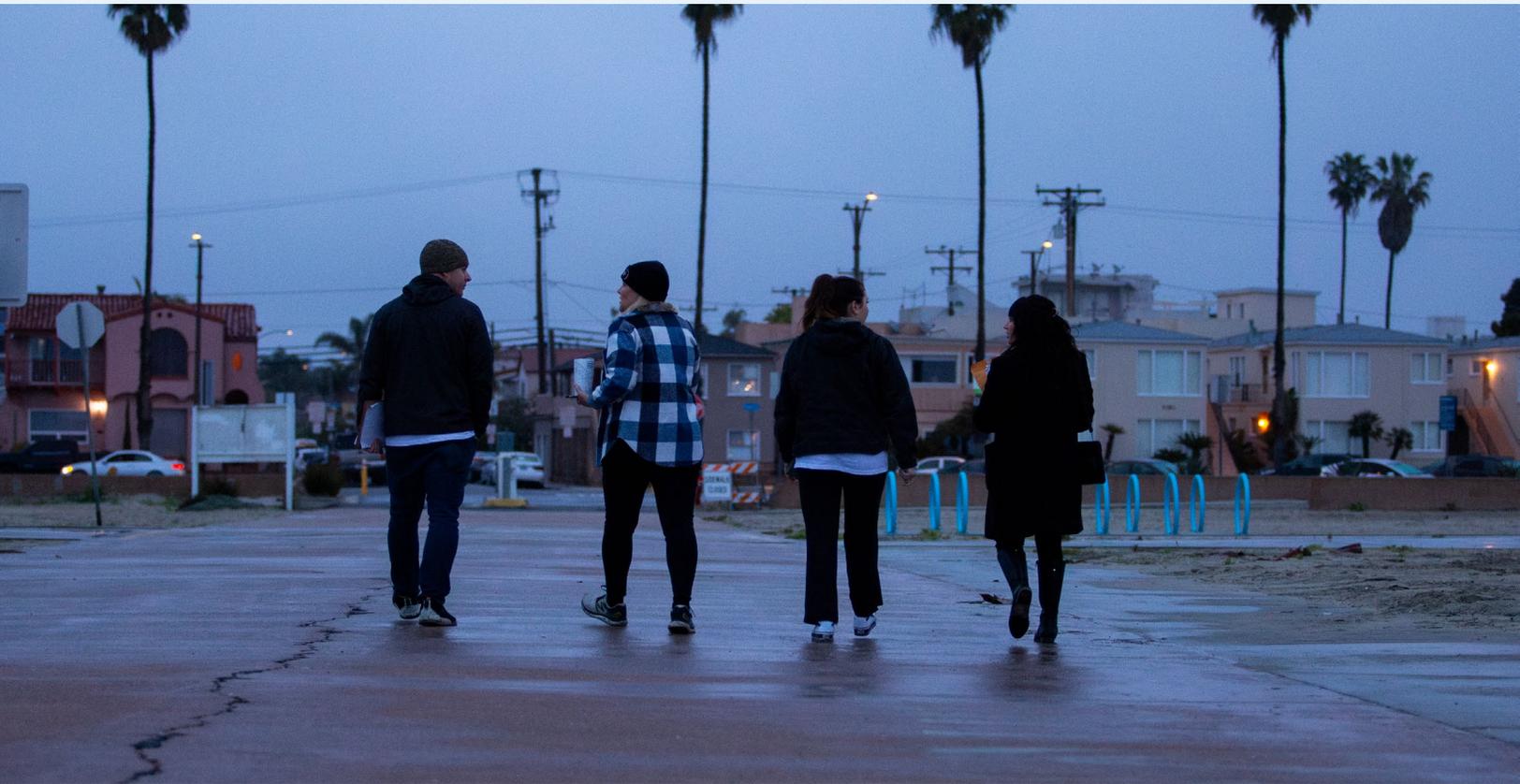
The 2024 Count was conducted in the early hours of January 25, 2024 with the help of more than 300 volunteers. Volunteers included members of community-based organizations and the business community, members of the public and City staff. Teams, led by experienced guides, fanned out on foot and by car conducting surveys of people experiencing homelessness throughout Long Beach. The number of volunteers participating is critical to ensuring the map segments that cover the entire City have comprehensive coverage.

The PIT Count process is designed to ensure comprehensive coverage of the 52 square miles of Long Beach. In the days leading up to the PIT Count, outreach teams conducted a specialized count in areas that are hard to reach or have potential safety concerns. Hot spot guides provided maps of well-known areas of congregation for volunteer teams. On the morning of the PIT Count, teams were organized into small groups of three or four people. Volunteer teams were provided hygiene supplies and snacks to hand out to people they encountered as well as gift cards as an incentive for completing the demographic survey.

Prior to the PIT Count, all volunteers attended an orientation session and were provided training for the survey on the electronic application, engagement techniques and recommendations for the survey process. PIT Count volunteers conducted an all-electronic count, using a custom-built application. The app allowed volunteers to gather survey responses and included a real-time map to track all of the teams. This allowed for a streamlined count process for collection and analysis. The app also allowed the Bureau's data scientists to geolocate the position of all surveys. This made administering and monitoring the count much easier and more streamlined. Teams indicated in the app whether a person was counted visually or if they were surveyed. The 20-question survey asked about demographic information, subpopulation information, length and circumstances of homeless experience, cause of homelessness and previous engagement in services.



# Count Methodology for Data Analysis



Once the unsheltered count concluded, data were compiled for analysis. For shelter programs, reports were generated from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and confirmed by the agency or generated by agencies that do not participate in HMIS. Through unique identifiers created by key demographic questions, any flagged duplicative surveys were removed.

To improve the accuracy of recorded visual counts, additional surveying was conducted by outreach staff to estimate the rate of user error as well as estimate the frequency that there might be multiple people living in a car, van or RV. These were then used to make final adjustments of visual account numbers to get the most accurate estimate possible. Demographics for the portion of visual counts was based upon sampling and the demographic surveys completed.



# Recent and Upcoming Projects

# Looking Forward

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Homelessness remains a leading priority of the City. In 2023, upon declaring a local homelessness emergency, the City established an Incident Command Structure comprised of nine work groups consisting of more than 145 City staff to take on the various aspects of homelessness emergency response and taking several notable actions to tackle the homelessness crisis.

Homeless Services staff increased the number of people reached and the number of people served in 2023.

- In both 2022 and 2023, 173 people per day, on average, visited the Multi-Service Center (MSC), but staff served an additional 1,460 people last year via the Mobile Access Center (MAC), which debuted in 2023.
- Outreach teams made 2,477 encampment visits and services were accepted 85.5% of the time.
- The City launched a text information line, which provided real-time information regarding services to people in English or Spanish.



In partnership with Los Angeles County, the City purchased and opened new year-round 85-bed shelter in June 2023 and provided an additional 60 people 48 nights of inclement weather shelter beds at the MSC. Emergency bed occupancy has grown and now averages 95%.

The City also has a number of temporary housing projects in the works, including:

- Project Homekey at 5950 Long Beach Blvd., which will provide 78 units of temporary housing
- The Youth Shelter and Navigation Center, the City's first-ever permanent shelter facility for youth experiencing homelessness, which will offer 12 temporary shelter beds and supportive services for youth ages 18 to 24
- And the development of 33 new modular non-congregate shelter units, known as Tiny Homes, to safely house people experiencing homelessness

For the first time, Emergency Housing Vouchers for people experiencing homelessness reached 99% utilization. And over the past year, 2,479 people have enrolled in interim housing and 942 people have enrolled in permanent housing programs.

A guaranteed income pilot program, which provided \$500 a month for 12 months, kicked off in May 2023 with 250 households as part of the Long Beach Recovery Act support for economic recovery. Initial data from program participants indicated they experienced significant rates of housing insecurity. In January 2023, the pilot was extended to 200 additional low-income households with children as a homeless prevention measure.

The timeline to entitle affordable housing projects dropped to 60 days compared with six to 12 months pre-emergency. In 2023, nearly 880 affordable housing units were entitled citywide, including units reserved for older adults, veterans and people formerly experiencing homelessness.

The Community Development Department, together with The Long Beach Community Investment Company, has continued to ensure the production of new affordable housing units with supportive services for people experiencing homelessness. The City recently celebrated the grand opening of Wellspring, which provides 87 new affordable homes in the Cambodia Town community, including 20 units reserved for people formerly experiencing homelessness; and another 156 units are currently under construction. Further, three new projects have recently been proposed, which would provide an additional 207 affordable new units for low-income households.

The City also sought ways to better support the mental health of people experiencing homelessness by:

- integrating mental health services with its REACH team
- partnering with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to provide health and mental health supports
- implementing telehealth counseling sessions and expanding mental health services to 5 days/week by partnering with the Black Health Equity Program
- Initiatives including the Interdepartmental Team and Community Crisis Response have mobilized to focus on downtown to address violence on or perpetuated by people experience homelessness.



# Additional findings and analysis in 2024 Point in Time Count

## Newly Homeless:

People reporting that they are newly homeless is down from last year (19% to 14%). Newly homeless is defined as people who are experiencing homelessness for the first time and for less than one year. The rate of first-time homelessness is the same as last year, meaning that this drop in newly homeless indicates that there are fewer people in Long Beach with less than a year's experience with homelessness. We can see this reflected in the growing chronicity of the homeless population as well.

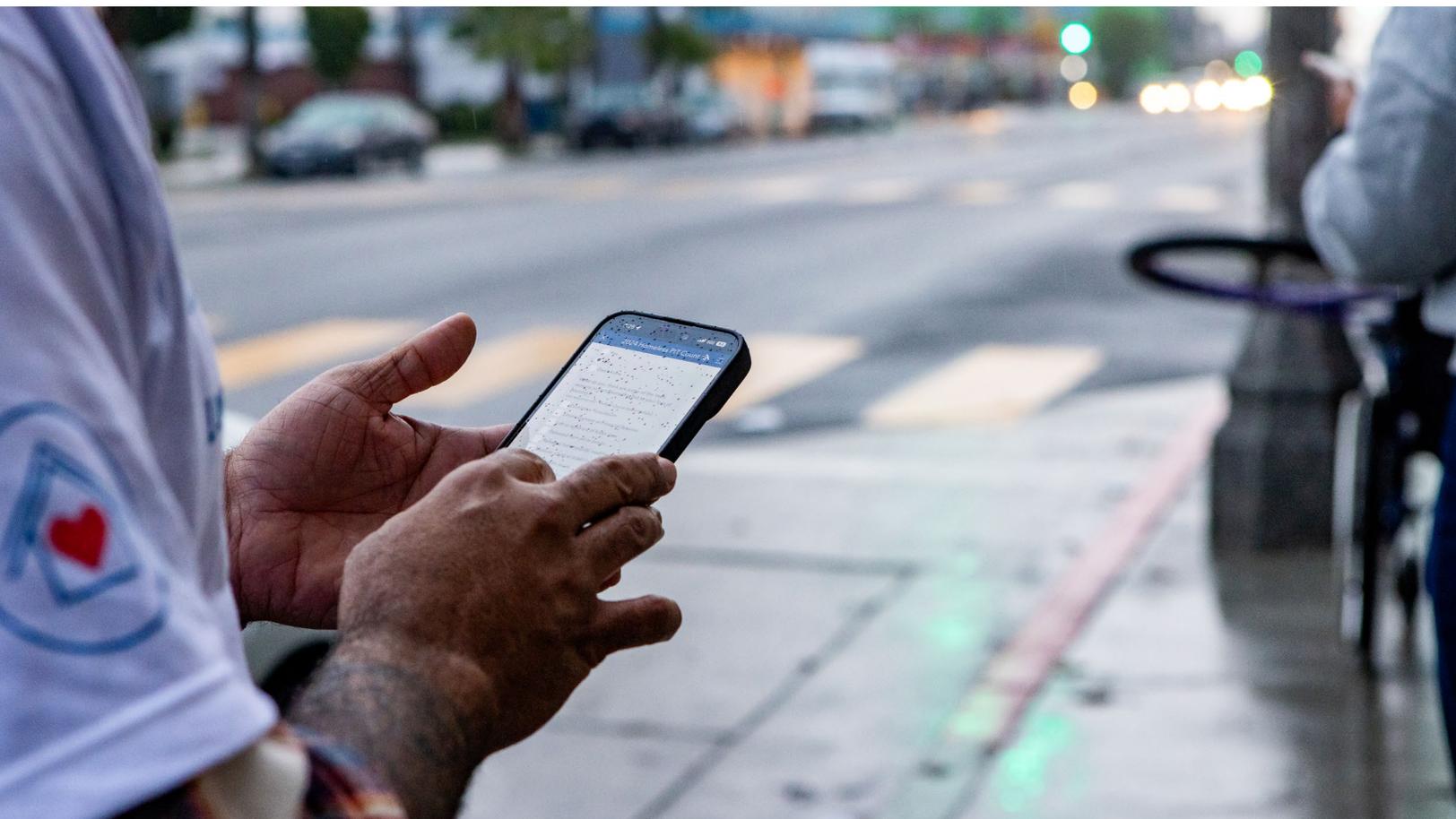
Those who are newly homeless are considerably more likely to be sheltered. Like last year, people who are newly homeless are nearly three times more likely to be sheltered (24% vs. 9% respectively), and twice as likely to identify abuse as a cause of homelessness (13% vs. 6% respectively) when compared with people experiencing homelessness for over a year or for a second time.

## Where Did You Lose Your Housing?

The proportion of people who lost their housing in Long Beach is down 14% from last year, while the proportion of people coming from nearby jurisdictions (L.A. or Orange County) has increased 35%.

## Youth

The proportion of young people (<24) decreased in 2024 by 47%. Youth experiencing homelessness in Long Beach were more likely black (55% compared with 33% among all ages); female (50% to 30% respectively); and more likely to identify mental health as a cause of homelessness (20% to 16% respectively) than older individuals experiencing homelessness.





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