2024 Point-In-Time Count

Albuquerque and Balance of State Report



Prepared By:



Table of Contents

I. Introduction	3
II. 2024 Point-In-Time Count Methodology	4
Unsheltered Count	4
Sheltered Count	4
Housing Inventory Count	5
Methodological Limitations	5
III. Albuquerque CoC Results	7
Overall Numbers	7
Albuquerque Unsheltered Data Breakdown	8
Albuquerque Sheltered Count Data Breakdown	20
IV. Balance of State (BoS) CoC Results	25
Overall Numbers	25
Balance of State Unsheltered Data Breakdown	26
Balance of State Sheltered Count Data Breakdown	37
V. Alternative Data Sources	41
VI. Racial Disparities in Populations Experiencing Homelessness	42
VII. Homeless Response System Successes	46
VIII. Lived Reality of Homelessness	46
IX. Causes of Homelessness	48
A brief history of homelessness in the United States	48
Income and Housing Affordability	49
Homelessness and Health	51
Escaping Violence and Trafficking	52
Racism in Housing	53
Myths	55
X. Acknowledgments	56
XI. Resources	59
HUD Requirements & definitions	59
Previous Balance of State and Albuquerque Data	59
XII. Appendix	60
2024 Albuquerque CoC Point in Time Count Survey	60
2024 Balance of State CoC Point in Time Count Survey	62

I. Introduction

The Point-In-Time (PIT) count is the annual process of identifying and counting individuals and families experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness within a community on a single night in January, as outlined and defined by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). HUD requires any community receiving funding from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, including the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding, to conduct a biennial count. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) has elected to conduct the count annually since 2021.

There are two CoCs that operate inside New Mexico, each covering a specific service area. The Albuquerque CoC (ABQ CoC) covers the City of Albuquerque. The New Mexico Balance of State CoC (BoS CoC) covers all parts of New Mexico outside of Albuquerque. With two CoCs covering the entire geographic area of New Mexico and with the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority distributing ESG funds statewide, both CoCs work with participating communities to implement the PIT counts and meet HUD's requirements. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally on the community level.

The count includes the following components:

- ➤ **Sheltered Count**: the count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter or transitional housing on a single night;
- ➤ **Unsheltered Count**: uses surveys and street outreach to account for individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the night of the count; and
- ➤ Housing Inventory Count (HIC): an inventory of provider programs within a CoC that provides a total number of beds and units dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness, and, for permanent housing projects, individuals who were homeless at entry, per the HUD homeless definition. The HIC counts beds in four Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-Housing; and Permanent Supportive Housing.

The Sheltered, Unsheltered, and Housing Inventory counts attempt to paint a complete picture of our homelessness response system, with the sheltered and unsheltered counts illustrating the need for services and the HIC demonstrating our capacity for providing those services. By conducting the counts annually, NMCEH hopes to provide better information to service providers, governmental entities, and everyday residents of New Mexico to work together on developing effective and solution-based interventions in addressing homelessness across the state.

This report summarizes the data collected in these respective counts for both CoCs in 2024.

¹ 2024 HIC and PIT Count of Homeless Persons: Data Submission Guidance (hudexchange.info)

II. 2024 Point-In-Time Count Methodology

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires CoCs to select one night during the last week of January to collect data on where people experiencing both unsheltered and sheltered homelessness slept that night. The date selected for this year's count was Monday, January 29th, 2024. NMCEH coordinated activities for the PIT count that lasted up to four days immediately following the night of the PIT, from January 30th through February 2nd.

Unsheltered Count

Data was collected from people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by communities statewide by conducting street outreach and completing surveys. "Unsheltered homelessness" includes individuals/families who are sleeping outside, in a tent, in a vehicle, or some other place not meant for human habitation (like an abandoned building or shed). NMCEH helped coordinate street outreach teams and volunteers across the state, canvassing neighborhoods, alleys, parks, high-traffic areas, known encampments, points of congregation, meal-service sites, and general service sites to engage and survey people who identified as being in a homeless situation on the night of January 29th. NMCEH drafted the survey tool to gather all the data required by HUD. CoC providers and community advocates then worked with NMCEH to develop additional survey questions, beyond HUD's requirements, to gather information important to local communities. The resulting surveys for each CoC are broadly similar with minor differences reflecting specific local priorities. The surveys used by both CoCs are included at the end of this report for reference (see: Appendix). Completed surveys were entered into an online form which collated the information into a spreadsheet to organize responses and facilitate data clean-up. This involved performing logic checks on variables to ensure calculated fields were correct, deduplicating entries from individuals who were surveyed more than once, and manually reviewing and correcting spelling errors.

In the Albuquerque CoC, the specific approach to the unsheltered count was to organize the city into zones, group volunteers into teams, and assign teams to shifts canvassing specific zones, focusing on densely-populated areas. For the first time this year, the Albuquerque CoC also organized teams of surveyors to ride the city buses and collect surveys from eligible bus patrons.

In the Balance of State CoC, teams were organized by county and each survey team chose how they would approach surveying their county, utilizing their expertise of the local area.

Sheltered Count

The sheltered count represents the count of people residing in Emergency Shelters (ES) and Transitional Housing (TH) projects across each CoC on the night of the count. For ES and TH projects that utilize the statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which stores enrollment and demographic data for homeless individuals and families enrolled in projects, data was obtained through HMIS reports and automatically deduplicated. To collect data from projects that do not participate in HMIS, the CoC team reached out to each project individually to have them submit the data manually using a data collection form designed by NMCEH to gather the same information stored in HMIS. Both the HMIS and non-HMIS datasets are combined manually to obtain final totals.

Please note that the data on chronic homelessness, veteran status, first-time homelessness, domestic violence, and disabling conditions have not been included in this edition of the report for Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing because of data quality issues. For further information on this, feel free to contact the CoC Team through any of the avenues listed at the end of this report.

Housing Inventory Count

The Housing Inventory Count reports each project's current service capacity in terms of bed and unit inventory and the total number of people enrolled in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) on the night of the count. Again, data from HMIS-participating projects was pulled from the database, and non-HMIS participating projects submitted their data to the CoC individually, with both data sets being combined to obtain final totals.

Methodological Limitations

Collecting, entering, and validating this data reflects six months of work by NMCEH – however, NMCEH was not alone in this effort. PIT count numbers were collected by many different community members, service providers, and individuals currently experiencing homelessness. Many factors, such as number of volunteers, community engagement, understanding of training, location and time of the survey, and weather can influence the reliability of this count. Additionally, most of this data is self-reported directly by people experiencing homelessness, and survey respondents were free to decline to answer any or all of the survey questions.

The 2024 PIT count reflects another increase in the reported number of people experiencing homelessness in New Mexico. There are many reasons to believe that homelessness in New Mexico is continuing to increase, and it is important to note that 2024 marks the second consecutive year the Albuquerque unsheltered count was organized in the same way as the previous year. The count was organized more systematically in 2023 than in years past, which likely exaggerated the scale of the increase. The consistency in approach from 2023 to 2024 means the scale of this increase is likely more reflective of reality. Furthermore, there were many issues that plagued the counts in 2021 and 2022 as a result of the pandemic, so those numbers may be less accurate than the PIT counts before and after those years. Despite these improvements, the PIT count suffers from a number of limitations resulting in a final number that is certainly an undercount.

The unsheltered counts in cities for both CoCs were impeded by ongoing decommissioning of homeless encampments, though this situation was somewhat improved in 2024.² However, the city's aggressive decommissioning policy leading up into the night of the count still caused surveyors to arrive in surveying zones, previously identified as having been heavily populated with unsheltered individuals, with no one to survey, the people in the area having been dispersed. Nonetheless, this represents an improvement on the previous year.

The surveying approach itself has its limitations. Many individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness do not have the time or desire to complete a survey, resulting in hundreds of refusals and incomplete surveys. Which is to say, the number of completed surveys represents only a portion of the total number of people approached by PIT Count surveyors. Furthermore, the questions used to

² Some surveyors reported that police-led clearing of encampments did appear to decline during the count this year.

determine chronic homelessness status³ (questions 3-6) are difficult to navigate in short interactions and street settings, as the specificity can confuse surveyors and surveyees.

The 2024 sheltered count may also be impacted by data quality issues in HMIS. NMCEH has done extensive work to provide training and to identify and address ongoing data issues, but many agencies experience high turnover and are still adjusting to the new HMIS system that was only put in place in late 2022. These situations can result in incomplete or delayed data entry. NMCEH staff work with projects to address data quality issues when they are identified, but it's possible some data errors/omissions remain unresolved.

Finally, there are limitations to the PIT Count - inherent to the definitions and regulations that HUD requires Counts to adhere to - that inevitably result in an undercount of the true size of the population of people experiencing homelessness. HUD's definition of homelessness⁴ categorically excludes many people that readers of this report may consider to be homeless. For example, a person who had been sleeping on the street on and off for a period of time but happened to be sleeping on a friend's couch on the night of 1/29/24 would be definitionally excluded from the PIT Count. Similarly, a person who has been staying on the street that managed to scrape together funds to pay for a motel on the night of the Count would not be included, even if they went back to sleeping on the streets the next night. Individuals staying in institutional settings (hospitals, jails, etc.) cannot be included in the PIT Count even if they were experiencing homelessness prior to going into the institution or if they will be exiting the institution to homelessness. Children are also routinely undercounted because parents will often do everything in their power to make sure their child has a place to sleep inside, even while the parent is forced to sleep on the street or in a vehicle. Although these children may lack a fixed nighttime residence, constantly shuffling through the homes of various friends and family members, for the purposes of the PIT Count, HUD would consider them "housed."

The overall picture is that these counts suffer from many limitations and always have. These limitations invariably result in an undercount of the population of people experiencing homelessness. Tracking trends in homelessness by relying solely on the PIT count may create a distorted picture of the issue, which is why this report includes a discussion of alternative homeless tracking metrics in Section V. Despite the limitations inherent to the project, NMCEH continues to work with community providers to refine and improve the PIT Count. While these combined efforts have resulted in the most accurate count to date, the results presented in this report still represent a significant undercount for the reasons detailed above.

³ HUD defines a specific sub-category of homelessness called "chronic homelessness." To be categorized as chronically homeless, a person must have some kind of disabling condition AND have been homeless for the last year straight OR have 4 or more separate occasions of being homeless over the past 3 years that adds up to a total of at least 12 months homeless.

 $^{{}^{\}underline{a}}\underline{https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-cate}\\ gories/category-1/$

III. Albuquerque CoC Results

Overall Numbers

The following data was collected from unsheltered and sheltered people experiencing homelessness and is organized by living situation as captured for January 29th, 2024.

Table 1a - ABQ - Households 2024

The total count of households experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque on January 29th, 2024.

	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Households with at least one Child	105	22	20	147
Households with only Children	5	5	0	10
Households without children	908	147	1,036	2,091
Total	1,018	174	1,056	2,248

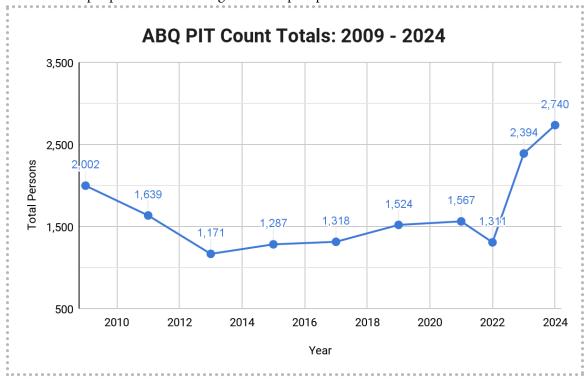
Table 1b - ABQ - Persons 2024

The total count of **persons** experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque on January 29th, 2024.

	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Persons in households with at least one Child	370	67	53	490
Persons in households with only Children	7	5	0	12
Persons in households without children	912	148	1,178	2,238
Total	1,289	220	1,231	2,740

Figure 1 - ABQ PIT Count Over Time

Total number of people counted during the Albuquerque Point-in-Time counts from 2009 - 2024.



Albuquerque Unsheltered Data Breakdown Figure 2 - ABQ Unsheltered - Count Over Time

Count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Albuquerque during the PIT Counts 2009-2023.

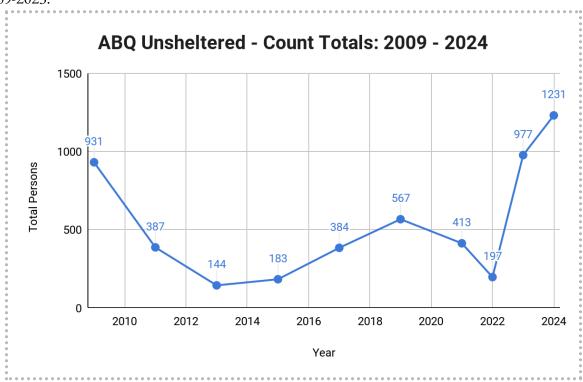


Figure 3 - ABQ Unsheltered - Chronic Homelessness

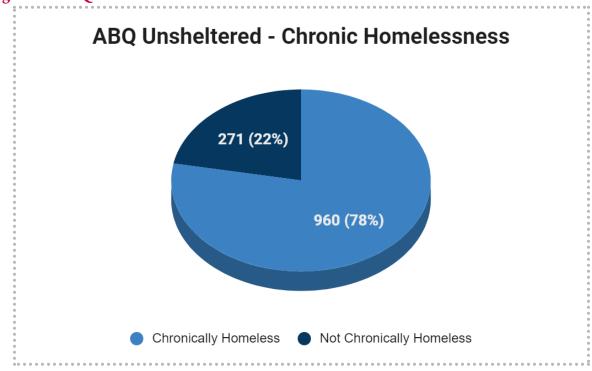


Figure 4 - ABQ Unsheltered - Military Service

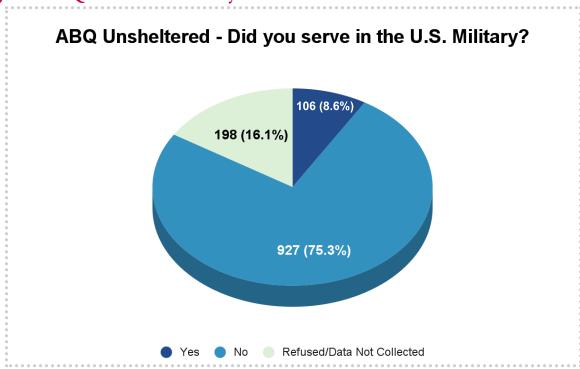


Figure 5 - ABQ Unsheltered - First Time Homeless

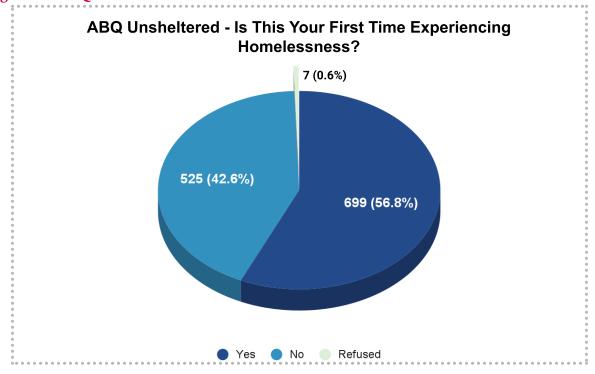


Figure 6 - ABQ Unsheltered - Domestic Violence

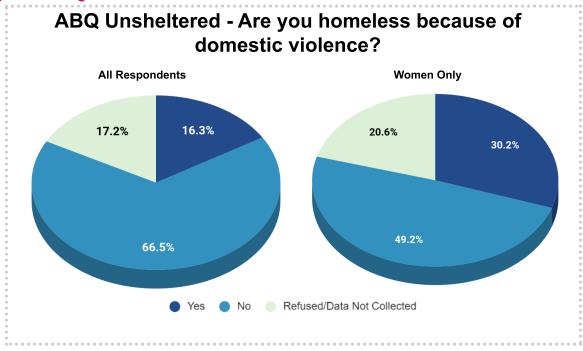


Figure 7 - ABQ Unsheltered - Disabling Conditions

Please note that response categories are not mutually exclusive, and individuals may indicate they experience multiple disabling conditions.

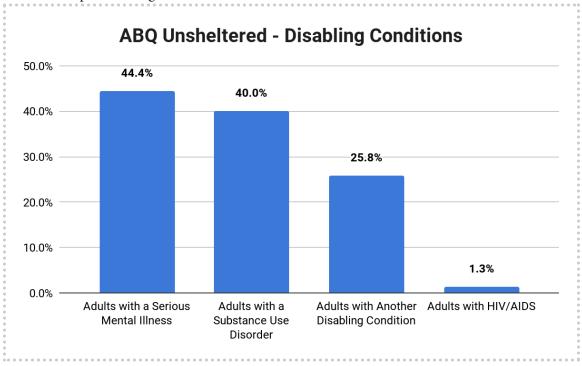
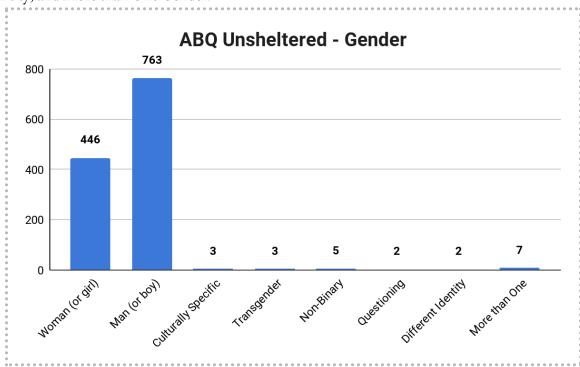


Figure 8 - ABQ Unsheltered - Gender

In October of 2023, HUD updated their gender identifiers: Woman (girl if child); Man (boy if child); Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit); Transgender; Non-Binary; Questioning; Different Identity; and More than One Gender.



ABQ Unsheltered - Age 500 381 400 286 300 256 200 145 94 100 39 30 0 Under 18 18 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44 45 to 54 55 to 64 65 & over

Figure 9 - ABQ Unsheltered - Age

Figure 10 - ABQ Unsheltered - Race

In October of 2023, HUD updated how racial categories are reported on. The updated methodology now includes Hispanic/Latina/e/o in the race category, and one new racial group was added, Middle Eastern or North African.

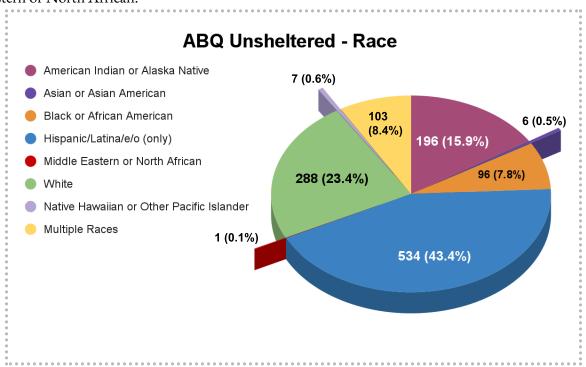


Table 2 - ABQ Unsheltered - Tribal Affiliation

Respondents identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native had the option of providing their tribal affiliation, with the following table depicting those responses.

ABQ Unsheltered - Tribal Affiliation			
Diné - Navajo	94	53.4%	
Acoma Pueblo	4	2.3%	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla	1	0.6%	
Blackfeet	1	0.6%	
Cherokee	7	4.0%	
Choctaw	1	0.6%	
Cochiti Pueblo	1	0.6%	
Chukchansi	1	0.6%	
Cree	1	0.6%	
Isleta Pueblo	2	1.1%	
Jemez Pueblo	4	2.3%	
Kiowa	2	1.1%	
Laguna Pueblo	6	3.4%	
Lumbee	1	0.6%	
Mescalero Apache	4	2.3%	
Nambe Pueblo	2	1.1%	
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	3	1.7%	
Osage	1	0.6%	
Pueblo - Unspecified	8	4.5%	
San Felipe Pueblo	1	0.6%	
Sandia Pueblo	1	0.6%	
Santa Ana Pueblo	1	0.6%	
Santa Clara Pueblo	1	0.6%	
Santo Domingo Pueblo	6	3.4%	
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash	1	0.6%	
Seminole	1	0.6%	
Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux	4	2.3%	
Southern Cheyenne	1	0.6%	
Standing Rock Sioux	1	0.6%	
Taos Pueblo	2	1.1%	
Zuni Pueblo	8	4.5%	
Multiple Tribes	3	1.7%	

Figure 11a - ABQ Unsheltered - State of Origin

Respondents were asked if they were originally from New Mexico or if they had moved to New Mexico from somewhere else. The chart below represents the states of origin for those who indicated they were not from New Mexico.

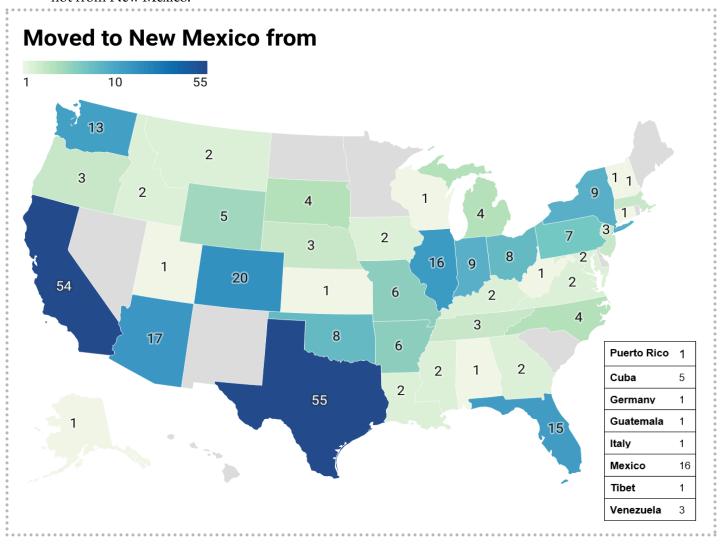


Figure 11b- ABQ Unsheltered - Homeless Prior to Moving to New Mexico

Of the individuals who stated they moved to New Mexico from somewhere else, the percentage of respondents who indicated whether or not they were experiencing homelessness when they moved to the State.

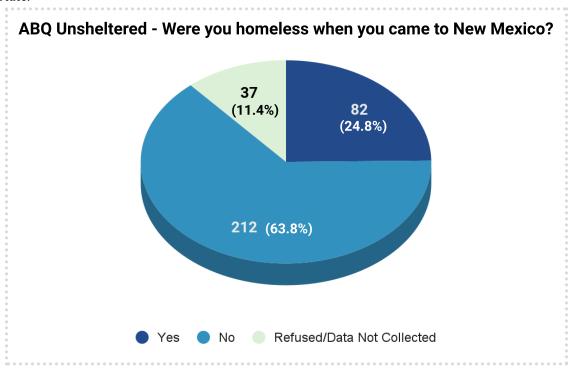


Figure 12a - ABQ Unsheltered - Refusals

This data cannot be deduplicated due to a lack of identifying information and should be treated cautiously. However, NMCEH believes it should be included to show how often unsheltered individuals decline to complete a survey, indicating that the PIT is likely an undercount.

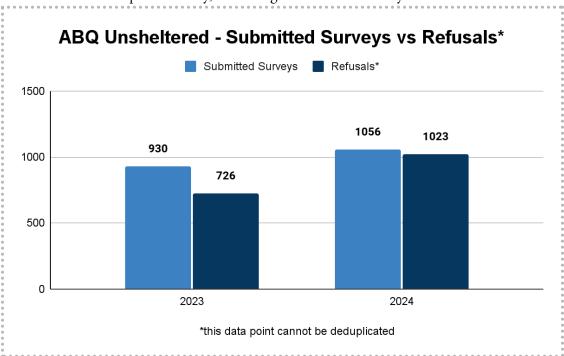


Figure 12b - ABQ Unsheltered - Increase in Surveyors

This figure shows the increase in the number of surveyors conducting the Albuquerque unsheltered count compared to the increase in the unsheltered count. An increase in surveyors should help to explain the magnitude of the growth in the unsheltered count.

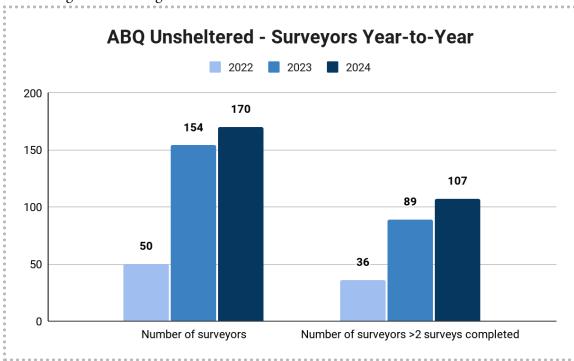


Figure 12c - ABQ Unsheltered - PIT Counts 2022-2024

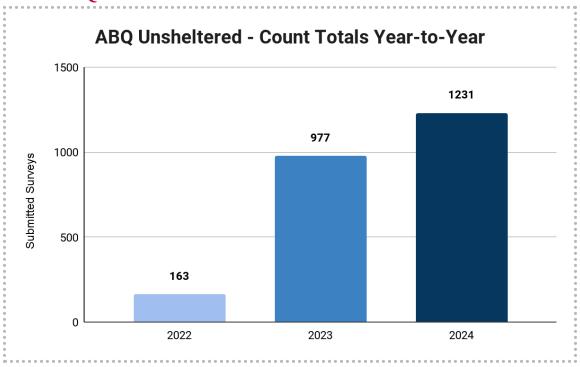


Figure 13a - ABQ Unsheltered - Decommissioning of Encampments

In 2024, the Albuquerque survey included a question asking how many times individuals had their encampment decommissioned by the city in the last year. The vast majority of respondents had experienced this many times, with a significant portion answering "every day" or something similar.

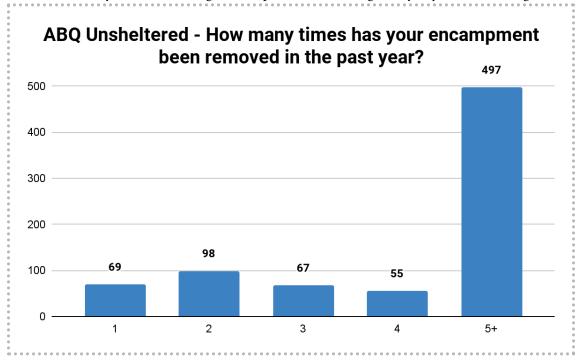


Figure 13b - ABQ Unsheltered - Items Lost During Encampment Decommissioning

This question asked what types of items people lost during encampment removals. Losing these items can hinder progress toward housing and cause emotional distress, especially when sentimental items are involved. The chart below shows the percentage of respondents who indicated they lost the listed items. Note that the response categories are not mutually exclusive; respondents could select all that applied.

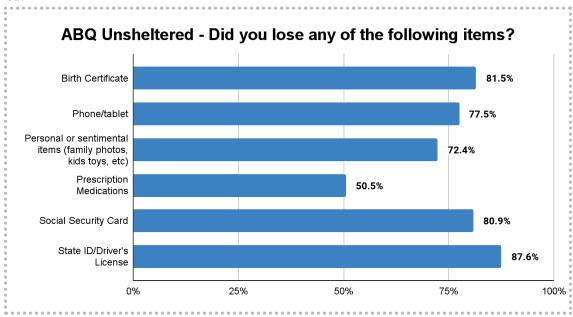


Table 3 - ABQ Unsheltered - Barriers to Getting Housing

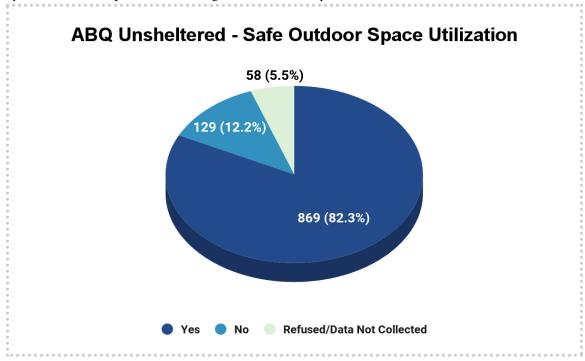
This question asked respondents to list the barriers they are currently experiencing that are preventing them from obtaining housing. The response options were developed during multiple meetings with community planning groups and based on responses to a similar 2023 survey question. Please note the response categories are not mutually exclusive, and respondents were free to indicate as many of the

responses as applied to them.

Barrier	Count of responses	Proportion of all respondents
Access to services	439	42%
Access to communication	263	25%
Available housing is in unsafe neighborhoods	119	11%
Credit issues	150	14%
Criminal record	220	21%
Deposit/Application fees	316	30%
Lack of vouchers (rental subsidies)	333	32%
Missing documentation	374	35%
No housing for large households	33	3%
Pet deposits/Pet Rent	57	5%
Pets not allowed/Breed Restrictions	48	5%
Rental history	144	14%
Rental prices	340	32%
Safety/Security	77	7%
Substance Use Disorder	283	27%
Lack of employment	45	4%
Disabled	34	3%
No mailing address	31	3%
Lack of income	30	3%
Homeless by choice	30	3%
Ineffective service landscape	25	2%
Lack of transportation	14	1%
Discrimination	8	1%

Figure 14 - Safe Outdoor Space Utilization

This question asked whether individuals on the street would use a safe outdoor space or sanctioned encampment if it were made available. Surveyors were instructed to explain in plain terms to anyone who was not familiar with the term "safe outdoor space," i.e. "If there were a space where you were legally allowed to camp without having to move, would you use it?"



Albuquerque Sheltered Count Data Breakdown

Figure 15 - ABQ Emergency Shelter - Count Over Time

Number of people residing in an emergency shelter in Albuquerque during the PIT Counts 2011-2024 as reported in HMIS and by providers.

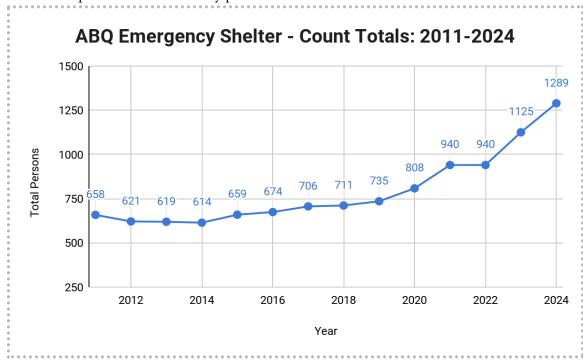


Figure 16 - ABQ Emergency Shelter - Gender

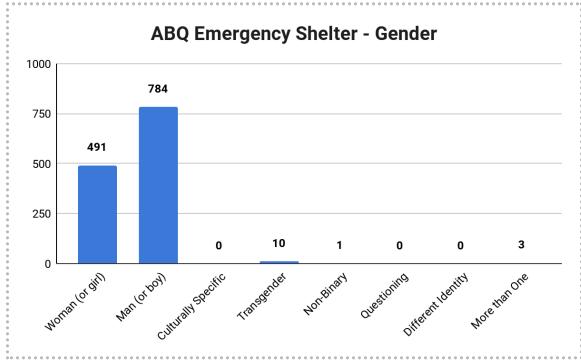


Figure 17 - ABQ Emergency Shelter - Age

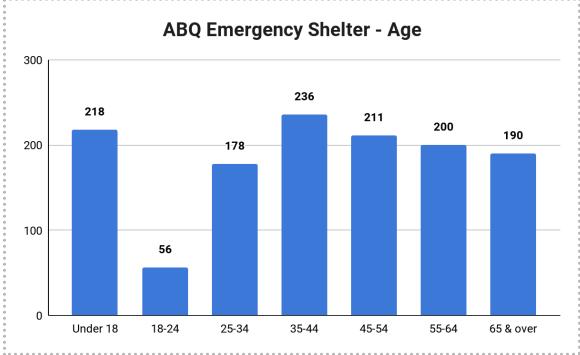


Figure 18 - ABQ Emergency Shelter - Race

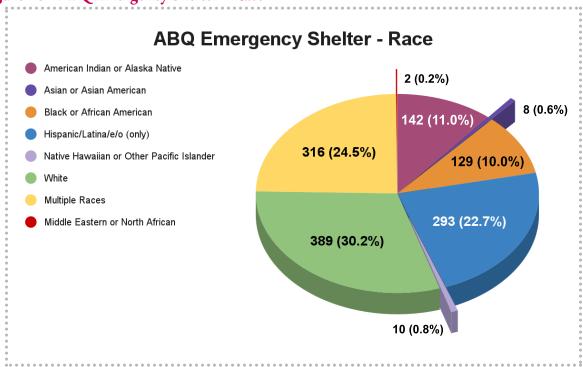


Figure 19 - ABQ Transitional Housing - Count Over Time

Estimated number of people residing in transitional housing in Albuquerque during the PIT Counts 2011-2024. The number of Transitional Housing providers in the CoC has decreased from five in 2015 to two in 2024, which has driven the downward trend in individuals in Transitional Housing programs.

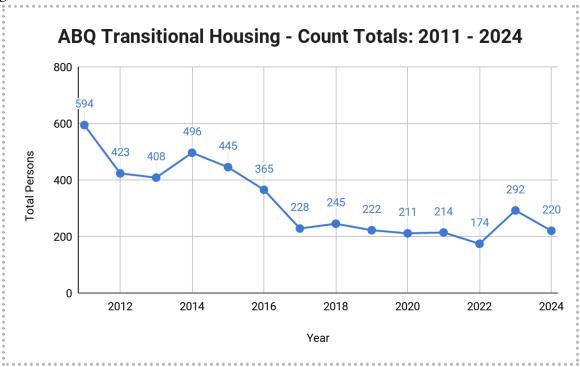


Figure 20 - ABQ Transitional Housing - Gender

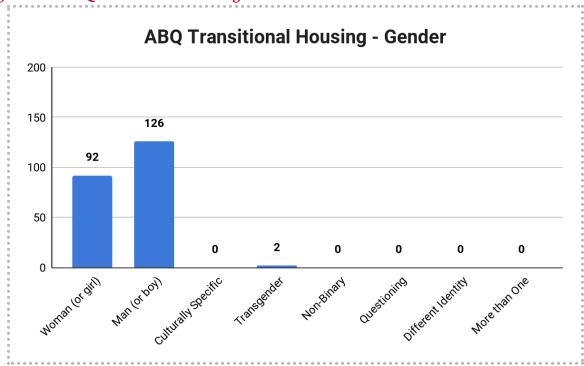
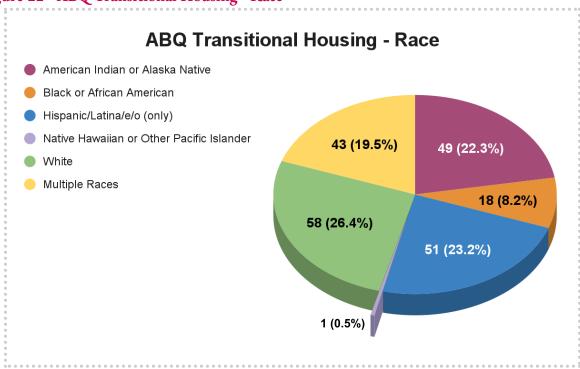


Figure 21 - ABQ Transitional Housing - Age



Figure 22 - ABQ Transitional Housing - Race



IV. Balance of State (BoS) CoC Results

Overall Numbers

The following data was collected from unsheltered and sheltered people experiencing homelessness and are organized by the living situation as captured for January 29, 2024.

Table 4a - BoS - Households 2024

The total count of **households** experiencing homelessness in the Balance of State on January 29th, 2024.

	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Households with at least one Child	84	33	17	134
Households with only Children	20	6	2	28
Households without children	483	37	865	1,385
Total	587	76	884	1,547

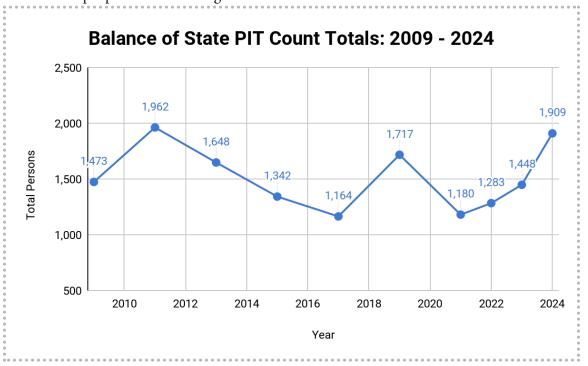
Table 4b - BoS - Persons 2024

The total count of persons experiencing homelessness in the Balance of State on January 29th, 2024.

	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Persons in households with at least one Child	234	108	57	399
Persons in households with only Children	23	6	2	31
Persons in households without children	489	38	952	1,479
Total	746	152	1,011	1,909

Figure 23 - BoS PIT Count Over Time

Total number of people counted during the Balance of State Point-in-Time counts from 2009 - 2024.



Balance of State Unsheltered Data Breakdown

Figure 24 - BoS Unsheltered - Over Time

Estimated number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the Balance of State during the PIT Counts 2009-2024.

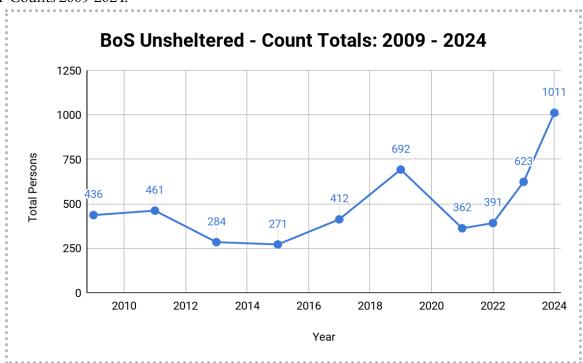


Figure 25 - BoS Unsheltered - Chronic Homelessness

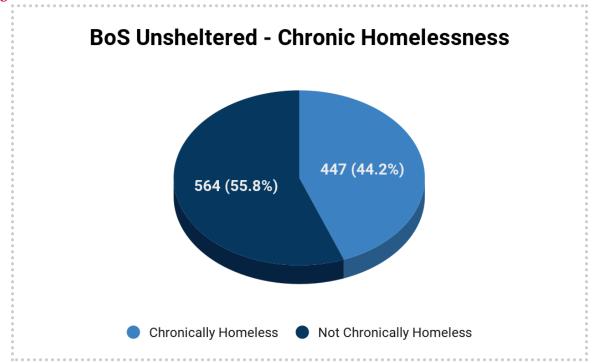


Figure 26 - BoS Unsheltered - Military Service

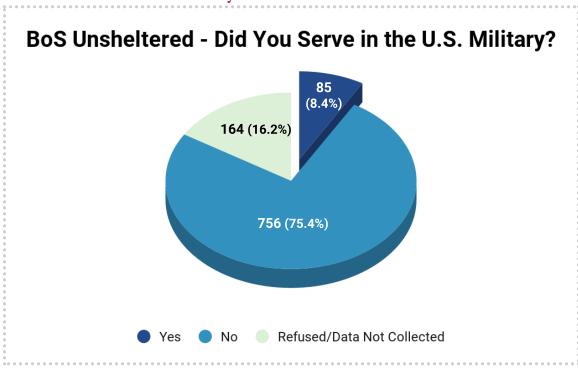


Figure 27 - BoS Unsheltered - First Time Homeless

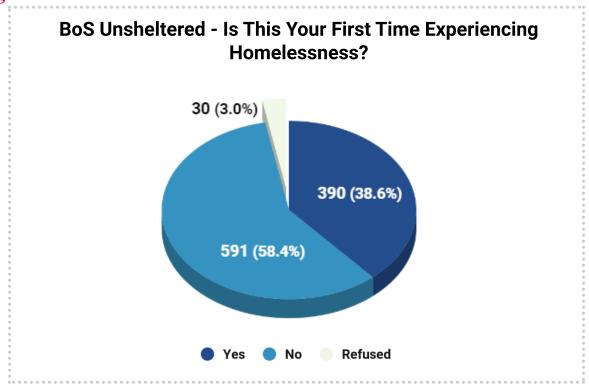


Figure 28 - BoS Unsheltered - Domestic Violence

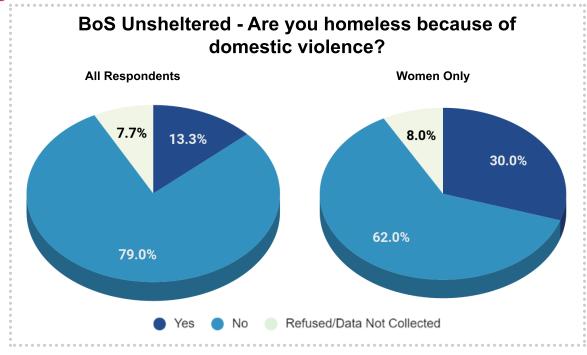


Figure 29 - BoS Unsheltered - Disabling Condition

Please note that response categories are not mutually exclusive, and individuals may indicate they experience multiple disabling conditions.

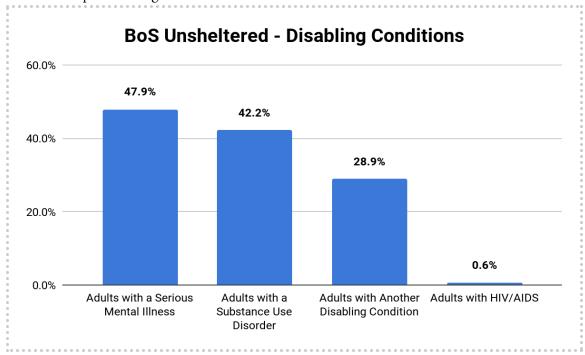
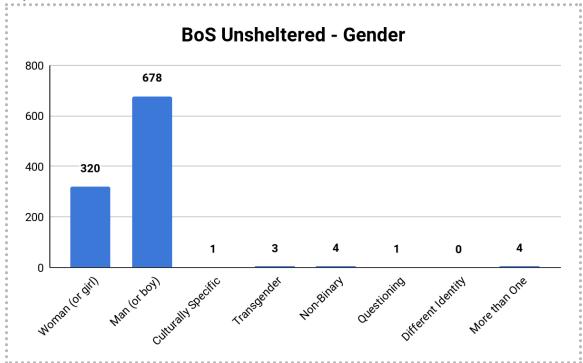


Figure 30 - BoS Unsheltered - Gender

In October of 2023, HUD updated their gender identifiers: Woman (girl if child); Man (boy if child); Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit); Transgender; Non-Binary; Questioning; Different Identity; and More than One Gender.



BoS Unsheltered - Age 300 274 238 198 200 136 100 73 58 34 Under 18 18 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44 45 to 54 55 to 64 65 & over

Figure 31 - BoS Unsheltered - Age

Figure 32 - BoS Unsheltered - Race

In October 2023, HUD updated how racial categories are reported. The updated methodology now includes Hispanic/Latina/e/o in the race category, and one new racial group was added: Middle Eastern or North African.

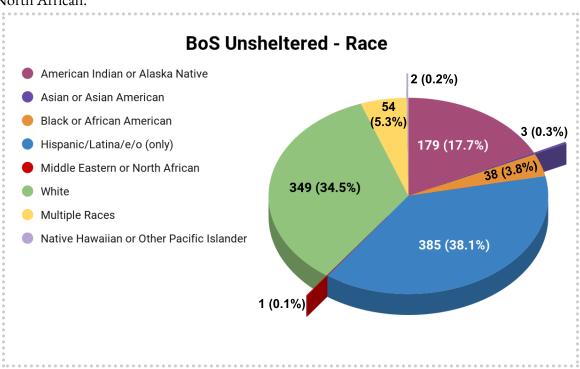


Table 5 - BoS Unsheltered - Tribal Affiliation

Respondents identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native had the option of providing their tribal affiliation, with the following table depicting those responses.

BoS Unsheltered - Tribal Affiliation			
Cherokee	2	1.5%	
Muscogee Creek	1	0.8%	
Mescalero Apache	19	14.3%	
Menominee	1	0.8%	
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	4	3.0%	
Nambe Pueblo	1	0.8%	
Diné - Navajo	64	48.1%	
Kainai	1	0.8%	
Salt River Pima-Maricopa	2	1.5%	
Oneida	1	0.8%	
Zuni Pueblo	6	4.5%	
Narragansett	1	0.8%	
Santo Domingo Pueblo	4	3.0%	
Lakota	1	0.8%	
Santa Clara Pueblo	3	2.3%	
Santa Ana Pueblo	1	0.8%	
Taos Pueblo	2	1.5%	
Tesuque Pueblo	3	2.3%	
Southern Ute	1	0.8%	
Sioux - Unspecified	2	1.50%	
Wyandot Nation	1	0.8%	
Multiple Tribes	5	3.8%	
Apache - Unspecified	4	3.0%	
Shoshone	1	0.8%	
Jicarilla Apache	2	1.5%	

Figure 33a - BoS Unsheltered - State of Origin

Respondents were asked if they were originally from New Mexico or if they had moved to New Mexico from somewhere else. The chart below represents the states of origin for those who indicated they were not from New Mexico.

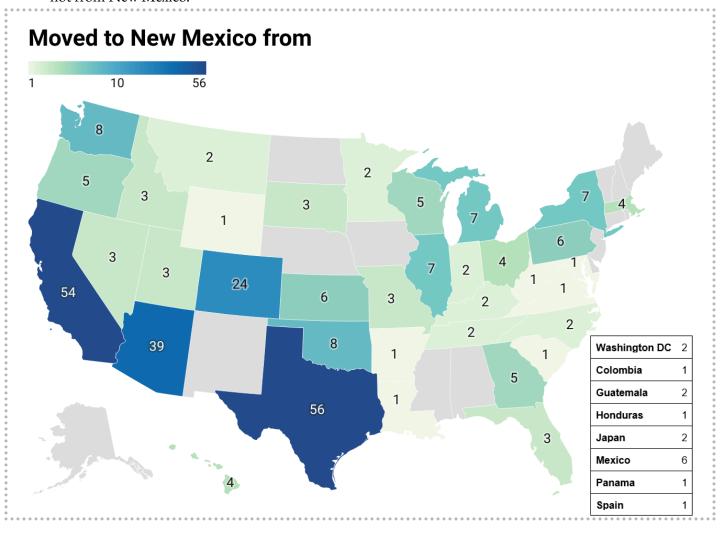


Figure 33b- BoS Unsheltered - Homeless Prior to Moving to New Mexico

Of the individuals who stated they moved to New Mexico from somewhere else, the percentage of respondents who indicated whether or not they were experiencing homelessness when they moved to the State.

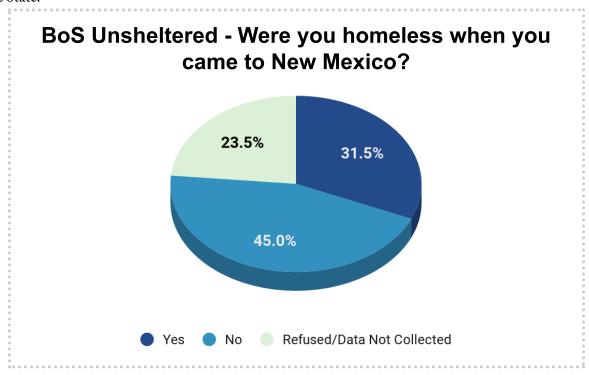


Figure 34 - BoS Unsheltered Surveys by County

This map shows the total number of surveys completed in each county that participated in the 2024 PIT Count. These numbers include every survey conducted (including refusals and ineligible responses). There were four counties that participated in the PIT Count for the first time in 2024: Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, and Quay.

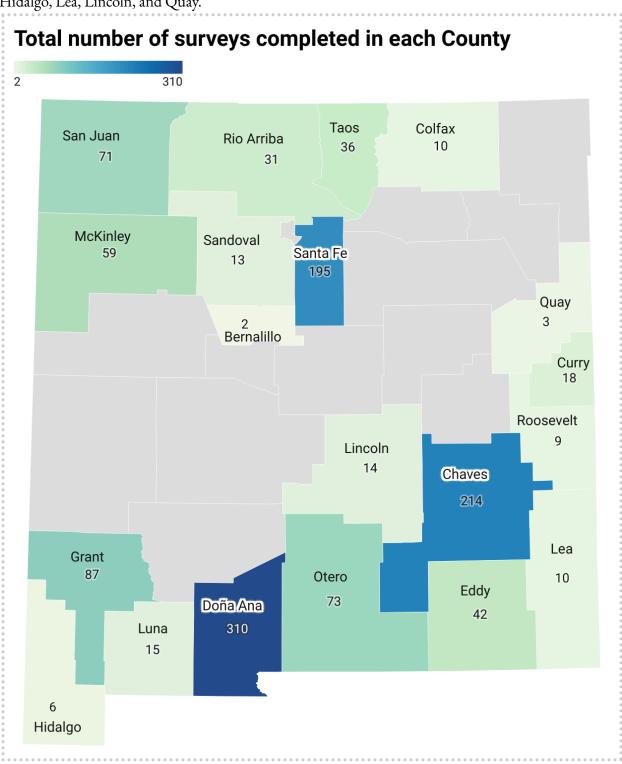


Figure 35 - BoS Unsheltered - Refusals

Measured for the first time in 2023. Please note that this data cannot be deduplicated and should be treated cautiously. Nevertheless, NMCEH feels this count should be included to demonstrate to readers how often unsheltered individuals tell surveyors they are not interested in completing a survey. This is one of the many reasons to believe the PIT is an undercount.

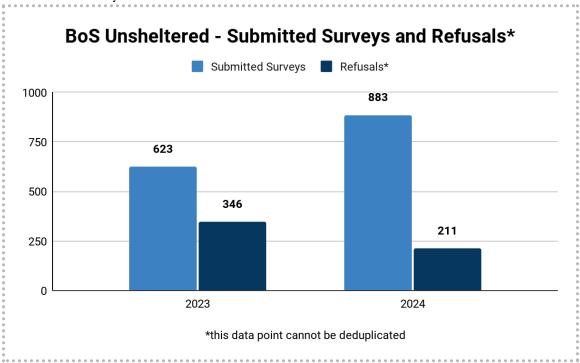


Table 6 - BoS Unsheltered - Barriers to Getting Housing

This question asked respondents to list the barriers they are currently experiencing that are preventing them from obtaining housing. The response options were developed during multiple meetings with community planning groups and based on responses to a similar 2023 survey question. Respondents were free to select as many of the listed responses as apply.

Barrier	Count of responses	Proportion of all respondents
Access to services	332	38%
Access to communication	228	26%
Available housing is unsafe	129	15%
Credit score	144	16%
Criminal record	224	25%
Deposit/app fees	328	37%
Lack of voucher	236	27%
Missing documentation	286	32%
No housing for large households	52	6%
No address	52	6%
Pet deposit/rent	63	7%
Pets not allowed	65	7%

Rental history	154	17%
Rental prices	297	34%
Safety/security	83	9%
Substance use disorder	203	23%
Lack of income	35	4%
Lack of employment	35	4%
Homeless by choice	12	1%
Issues with friends/family (violence, death, etc.)	14	2%
No health insurance	2	0.2%
Disabled	11	1%
Due to a disaster (fire)	2	0.2%
Lack of transportation	4	0.5%
Discrimination	2	0.2%

Balance of State Sheltered Count Data Breakdown

Figure 36 - BoS Emergency Shelter - Count Over Time

Estimated number of people residing in an emergency shelter in the Balance of State during the PIT Counts 2011-2024.

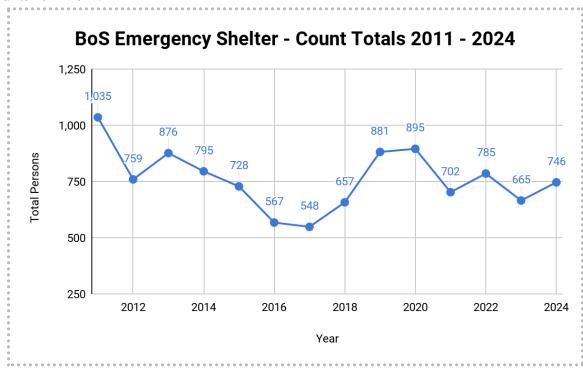
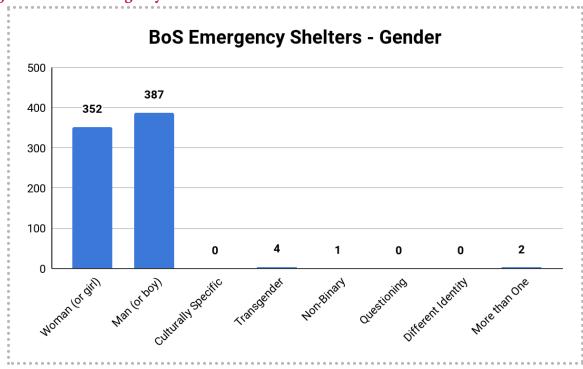


Figure 37 - BoS Emergency Shelter - Gender



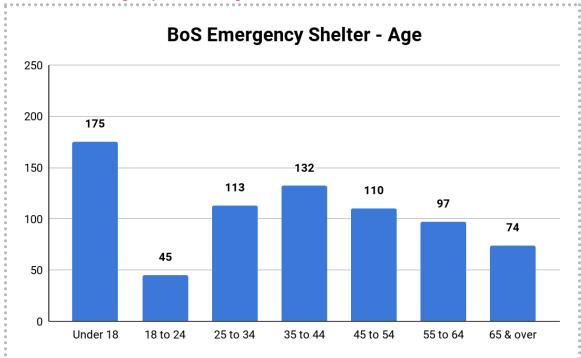


Figure 38 - BoS Emergency Shelter - Age

Figure 39 - BoS Emergency Shelter - Race

In October 2023, HUD updated how racial categories are reported. The updated methodology now includes Hispanic/Latina/e/o in the race category, and one new racial group was added: Middle Eastern or North African.

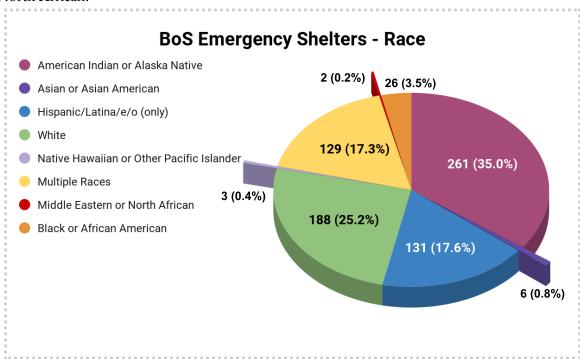
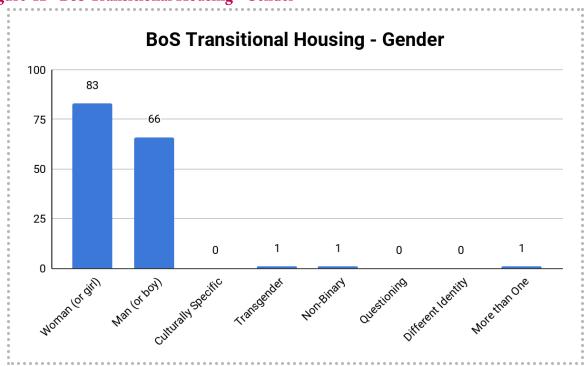


Figure 40 - BoS Transitional Housing - Count Over Time

Estimated number of people residing in transitional housing in the Balance of State during the PIT Counts 2011-2024.



Figure 41 - BoS Transitional Housing - Gender



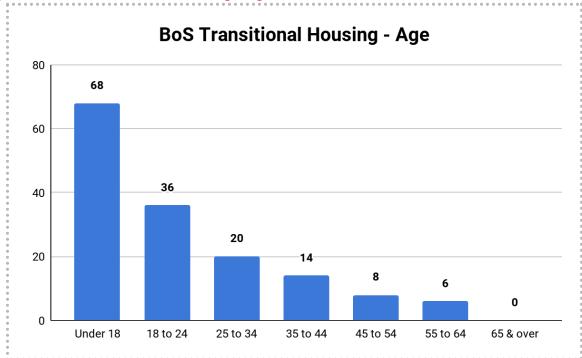
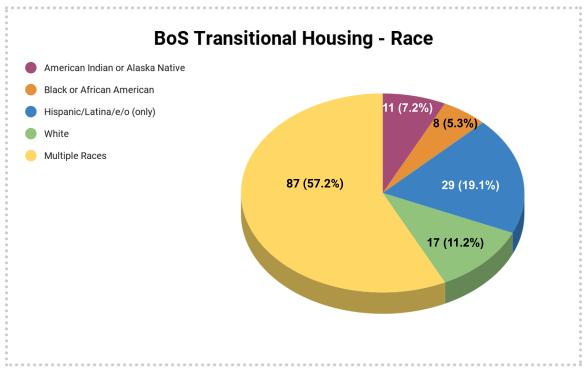


Figure 42 - BoS Transitional Housing - Age

Figure 43 - BoS Transitional Housing - Race

In October 2023, HUD updated how racial categories are reported. The updated methodology now includes Hispanic/Latina/e/o in the race category, and one new racial group was added: Middle Eastern or North African.



V. Alternative Data Sources

As discussed in the "Methodology" portion of Section II of this report, there are several factors that limit the reliability of PIT Count numbers. While the PIT Count provides an important snapshot of the homeless population at a specific point in time, data from the Count should be considered in the broader context of all the homeless tracking data that is available. Included below are several additional metrics that track the size of the homeless population in New Mexico along with context for these numbers. There is undoubtedly an overlap between the people identified during the PIT Count and the numbers shown below. These numbers should be viewed as alternative means to estimate the true size of the homeless population in NM, and not wholly unique counts that are mutually exclusive of each other.

Table 7 - Alternative Data Sources for Tracking Homelessness

Source	Count	Description
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	27,486 individuals	All CoC-funded programs (and several other kinds of homeless programs) are required to report client-level data into a shared database called the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This number represents the total number of <i>distinct</i> individuals that engaged with any portion of the homeless response system in NM at some point during 2023. This number includes both unhoused individuals (people staying at emergency shelters, people interacting with outreach providers, etc.) as well as individuals housed via homeless programs.
New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED)	10,620 - 11,002 students	The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) tracks the number of students enrolled in schools in the state who are experiencing homelessness. Due to differing federal regulations, schools use a broader definition to classify a student as experiencing homelessness. The homeless definition used by schools includes some people that would be excluded from the definition used for the PIT Count. For example, schools consider students who are sharing housing with another family (doubling-up) to be homeless, whereas the PIT Count would not consider someone in that situation homeless. For schools/districts with fewer than 10 students experiencing homelessness, NMPED reports the

		number as a range (<10), rather than the exact number, in order to protect the identity of students. The numbers provided here represent the high and low end produced by extrapolating out the number ranges reported by NMPED. ⁵
New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)	7,343 individuals	NMDOH analyzed state-wide medical service records (hospital visits, interactions with EMS, etc.) and identified several markers that would indicate a person is experiencing homelessness. Markers included a patient listing an address associated with homelessness (e.g. listing the address of an emergency shelter as their personal address) and patients with a diagnosis of homelessness. This number represents an unduplicated count of individuals in 2023 who met NMDOH's diagnostic criteria. NMDOH furnished NMCEH with these numbers, which were presented at a conference earlier in 2024.

VI. Racial Disparities in Populations Experiencing Homelessness

NMCEH is committed to advancing racial equity across our CoC systems. Aiding these efforts, racial datasets were further analyzed to identify overrepresented populations in our homelessness response systems by comparing the percentages of races collected with the most recently available census data for each CoCs geographic area.^{6, 7} The following graphs represent the racial disparities identified across both CoCs. The results suggest that further inquiry into both the presence and causes of racially overrepresented populations in our systems is warranted. Please note that only racial groups with large disparities are displayed on the graphs below.

NMCEH hopes the following information will highlight the importance of addressing this issue and will guide future efforts to promote racial equity. We also recognize the need to determine how people of various races fare once they enter a particular housing program and the importance of identifying possible ethnic disparities in future reports.

For more information on the history of racial disparities in housing and homelessness, see the "Racial Disparities" portion of Section IX: Causes of Homelessness in this report. Please note that these graphs do not all include the same demographic groups. Each graph highlights disparities specific to a particular housing situation (i.e. unsheltered, emergency shelter, transitional housing).

⁵ https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/identity-equity-transformation/ehcy-program/

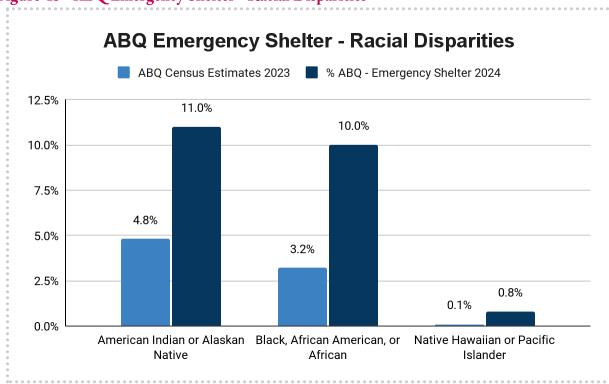
⁶ https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/albuquerquecitynewmexico

⁷ https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/NM

ABQ Unsheltered - Racial Disparities ABQ Census Estimates 2023 📕 % ABQ - Unsheltered 2024 37.0% 40.0% 30.0% 23.4% 20.0% 15.9% 7.8% 10.0% 4.8% 3.2% 0.6% 0.1% 0.0% White (not Hispanic American Indian or Black, African Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander or Latina/e/o) Alaskan Native American, or African

Figure 44 - ABQ Unsheltered - Racial Disparities

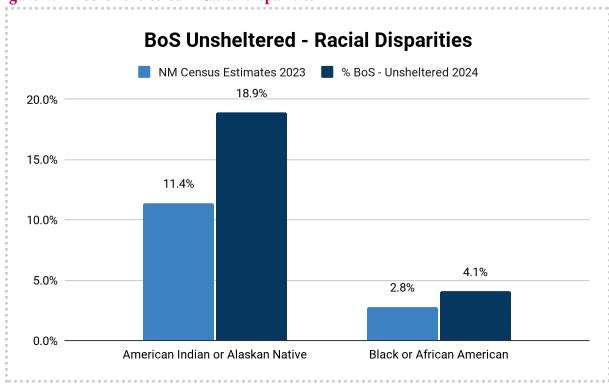




ABQ Transitional Housing - Racial Disparities ABQ Census Estimates 2023 📕 % ABQ - Transitional Housing 2024 37.0% 40.0% 30.0% 26.3% 22.3% 20.0% 8.2% 10.0% 4.8% 3.2% 0.5% 0.1% 0.0% White (not American Indian or Black, African Native Hawaiian or Hispanic/Latina/e/o) Alaskan Native Pacific Islander American, or African

Figure 46 - ABQ Transitional Housing - Racial Disparities





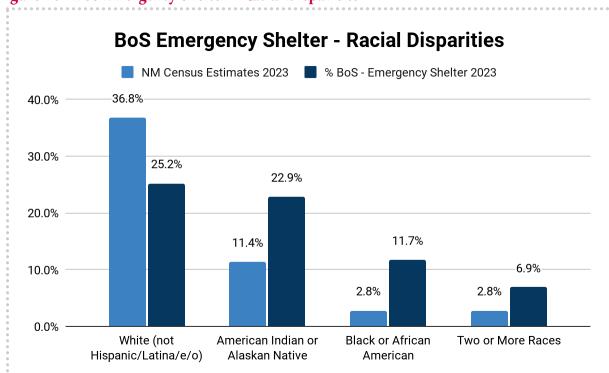
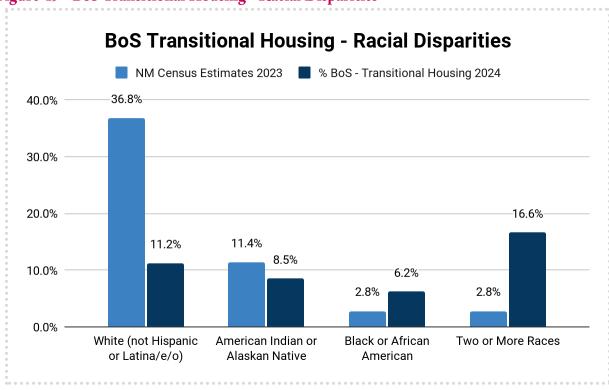


Figure 48 - BoS Emergency Shelter - Racial Disparities





VII. Homeless Response System Successes

The Point in Time Count reminds us of all the work that remains to be done to end homelessness in our communities, however, it is also important to focus on the great work being done by homeless response systems across the state. Every year hundreds of people exit homelessness and move into permanent housing with the aid of supportive housing programs. The following table summarizes several success outcomes across both New Mexico CoCs. It's important to note that these outcomes are specific to CoC-funded programs, not all programs across the state.

Table 8 - ABQ & BoS - Success Outcomes

	ABQ	BoS
Households housed in 2023	455	420
Individuals housed in 2023	696	656
Children housed in 2023	191	206
Households that increased income	323	442
Households with positive exits ⁸	780	688

The writers of this report reached out to a family that was assisted by a supportive housing program to ask about their experience. The family first became housing insecure following a divorce. They were initially able to stay with a friend, but then found themselves sleeping in their vehicle when the friend moved away. The head of the household started a new job, but they still lacked the resources to find and move into a unit on their own. The family was assessed through the Coordinated Entry System and was referred to a local supportive housing program. Within a short period of time, the family was able to secure permanent housing. When asked about the difference the housing program made, the head of household replied, "I didn't have to start from ground zero. I had help with that... They got me food and Christmas gifts for my kids. Everything you'd need to make a transition." The family used their time in the housing program to save up funds and make needed vehicle repairs. The family was able to increase their income and savings, allowing them to graduate from the program and move into housing on their own. The family has been living in their own home (without a housing subsidy) for nearly a year now.

VIII. Lived Reality of Homelessness

The quantitative data collected during the PIT count provides a unique level of insight into the problem of homelessness. However, only looking at the numbers paints a woefully incomplete picture of the lived reality of homelessness for the people who experience it. Homelessness is a constant

⁸ HUD defines a "positive exit" as any household or individual who was enrolled in a supportive housing program that went on to maintain or obtain new permanent housing after exiting the program. Permanent housing exit locations include living in housing owned/rented by the household and staying long-term with friends or family.

struggle and source of stress, with no reprieve at the end of the day. To supplement the PIT count surveys administered by volunteers, testimonials were collected from people experiencing homelessness describing some of the dangers, barriers, and indignities they deal with every day.

More than anything else, the lived reality of homelessness is characterized by pervasive and unrelenting stress. Decisions as small as what to eat for breakfast, which require minimal planning and almost no thought for people who are adequately housed, become a complicated ordeal of tracking service schedules (who is serving breakfast today?), logistics (how will I get to that location?), safety planning (will my belongings be here when I get back?), and compromise (can I get to my appointment on time if I go get breakfast today?). All of the time and energy spent planning just to meet basic needs is a major cognitive drain. For people experiencing homelessness, planning for one's safety must be built into every minute of every day. A woman experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque explained, "I am constantly on guard... I am afraid. Days at a time, no sleep." People must adopt a variety of strategies to manage their safety while homeless, including carrying weapons, avoiding being around other people, and engaging in risky activities to secure a temporary place to stay. Studies have shown that people experiencing homelessness are the victims of violent crimes at rates 7x to 10x higher than the general population. It is unfortunately unsurprising then that a least a third of people who have experienced homelessness develop the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In the proper who have experienced homelessness develop the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Access to hygiene was another commonly repeated concern among respondents. We all have basic hygienic needs that must be met to stay healthy, but when someone lacks a fixed place to stay, simply finding a restroom to relieve oneself can be a major ordeal. As one woman from Albuquerque put it, "Finding a place to use the restroom at night is nearly impossible." Accessing showers and laundry facilities is also a regular and never-ending challenge. Even when these resources are available, getting to them often means planning your whole day around traveling to a specific service location, during a narrow window of time, with no guarantee that you will even get a chance to use the resource once you get there. Minor issues, like basic wound care, that are easily addressed when one has access to basic hygiene can become serious and even life-threatening problems for people experiencing homelessness. In a society like ours that highly prizes the "clean" and "beautiful," apparent poor hygiene (due to all the issues mentioned above) is highly stigmatizing, often resulting in prejudice towards people experiencing homelessness.

The safety and security of one's belongings has always been a concern for people experiencing homelessness, and more recently people have had to contend with public policies that empower municipal workers to collect (and often dispose of) their personal property. While such actions are often cloaked in euphemistic language, like "sweeps" or "decommissioning," the impacts of confiscating and trashing the entirety of a person's belongings can be devastating. As reported in a recent ProPublica article, camp clearing efforts in the City of Albuquerque have resulted in the loss of a

²https://abcnews.go.com/Health/unhoused-people-perceived-dangerous/story?id=103751928#:~:text=Around%2014 %25%20to%2021%25%20of,the%20journal%20Violence%20and%20Victims.&text=Many%20cities%20don't%20 track.victims%2C%20the%20Associated%20Press%20reported

¹⁰ https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32415465/#:~:text=Our%20meta%2Danalysis%20revealed%20that,diagnostic%2 0instrument%20(23.57%25%20%25)

wide variety of property including medicine and medical devices; clothes and equipment needed for work; identification documents (that may require significant effort to replace); sentimental items (letters from a deceased relative, family pictures), and all sorts of goods needed for survival (sleeping bags, food, tents, cell phones). One woman told the ProPublica reporter, "I live in a constant state of fear of losing something." Refer to Section III for a data breakdown of encampments being decommissioned in Albuquerque and the items people lose in this process. No one's ability to exit homelessness is improved by repeatedly having their belongings stolen or thrown away. The only lasting impact of such initiatives is to prolong episodes of homelessness and inflict additional suffering on an already extremely vulnerable population.

IX. Causes of Homelessness

A brief history of homelessness in the United States

Homelessness has existed in some form throughout most of the country's history, but the current epidemic of homelessness differs in both its causes and severity. Historically, increases in homelessness had been linked to economic downturns (like the Great Depression) and mass migrations (the opening of the West, the Great Migration), and levels of homelessness dropped off as these situations resolved. However, several factors converged during the 1980s that brought about the kind of widespread, persistent homelessness that is seen across the country today. Unlike prior waves of homelessness that subsided as conditions changed, homelessness today continues to increase around the country.

In the 1960s, concerned about the rights of individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities living in institutional settings (like state psychiatric hospitals), advocates began pushing for a new approach to treatment that focused on reintegrating patients into mainstream society. The deinstitutionalization movement eventually led to the closure of long-term inpatient psychiatric facilities across the country. The kinds of integrated community supports that advocates had hoped would fill the care needs of formerly institutionalized people failed to materialize, largely due to lack of funding. The impacts of deinstitutionalization were seen around the country. By the 1980s, many people with severe mental illness and/or developmental disabilities had become homeless due to their inability to live independently without support.¹³

Beginning in the 1970s and continuing through the 1980s, the national economy started to shift away from well-paying manufacturing jobs to service industry jobs that tended to be less secure and to pay less. "Over three-quarters of the new jobs created during the 1980s were at minimum-wage levels. By 1983, over 15 percent of Americans were living below the poverty line, even though half of them lived in households where at least one person worked." As real wages were stagnating or falling, public spending on social safety net programs drastically decreased. "Nationwide, between 1982 and 1985, federal programs targeted to the poor were reduced by \$57 billion." During this period substantial

¹¹ https://www.propublica.org/article/albuquerque-homeless-encampments

¹² https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/why-are-so-many-people-homeless/

¹³ https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/sites/joedb/files/2018-05/mhst1-1310.pdf

¹⁴ https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/socal-connected/the-rise-of-homelessness-in-the-1980s

¹⁵ Ibid.

reductions were made to Social Security Income and welfare payments. The late 1980s and early 1990s also saw the tightening of the eligibility requirements for many welfare programs and a subsequent increase in poverty around the country. The net result was fewer individuals qualifying for these programs, and those who did qualify received less support.

Public investment in affordable housing fell substantially during the 1980s and has yet to return to the level of investment seen in the 1970s. By the early 2000s, the budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had been reduced by nearly 60% (when adjusted for inflation) compared to funding levels in the mid-1970s. Public investment in housing was increasingly directed toward the private market (often in the form of tax credits that benefit homeowners and developers) at the expense of investment in public housing infrastructure. HUD built over 755,000 new public housing units between 1976 and 1982, but since 1983, HUD built only 256,000 new public housing units. Since 1996, HUD funding for new public housing has been \$0, while over 100,000 public housing units have been lost to demolition, sale, or other removal in that same period." The decline in public investment in housing development has had the predictable outcome of creating a nationwide shortage of affordable housing. Now there are only 7.1 million affordable rental homes available for the roughly 11 million low and extremely-low income renters who need affordable housing. Today 75% of renter households (16 million households) that are qualified to receive federal rental assistance do not receive this assistance due to lack of funding.

Income and Housing Affordability

The primary reason that homelessness persists is that housing has been continually made less affordable for the last 50 years. Since the 1970s, median gross rent in the United States has increased by over 70%, while median household income has increased by less than 30%. The chart below tracks the growth of housing costs and income.

¹⁶ https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/25133/chapter/14#177

¹⁷ https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Changing-Priorities-Report_August-2002.pdf

¹⁸ https://wraphome.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/WRAPWithoutHousingfederalcutbacks2007report.pdf

¹⁹ https://nlihc.org/gap

 $^{{\}color{blue}^{20}} \underline{\text{https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/funding-limitations-create-widespread-unmet-need-for-rental-assistance\#} \\$

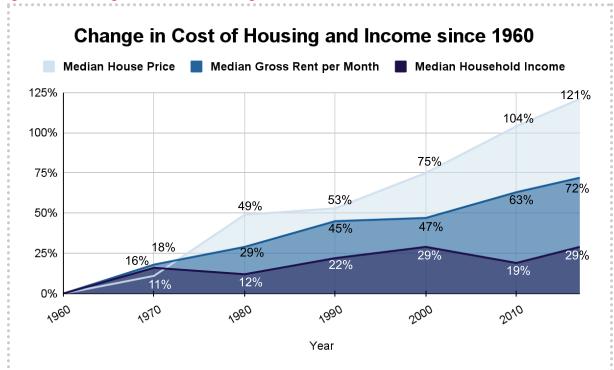


Figure 50 - Change in Cost of Housing and Income

In the absence of increased housing assistance, the only possible outcome of housing costs increasing faster than incomes is that more and more people are unable to afford housing. Since wages have not kept pace with housing costs for so long, it has become progressively harder to secure and maintain housing for the average renter in the United States. When incomes fail to rise with housing costs, even those in stable housing situations can find their housing at risk due when confronted with an emergency expense or rent increase.

The situation of housing costs increasing faster than wages has persisted for several decades now without any significant intervention. Households in the lowest income brackets are especially vulnerable to the effects of lagging income growth. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, "no significant investment in new housing affordable to the lowest income people has been made in more than 30 years, and a great shortage of housing affordable to that population still exists." Indeed, for every 100 extremely low-income households in New Mexico there are only 40 units that are affordable and available.²²

Furthermore, this situation has an outsize impact in this state because New Mexico is one of the lowest-income states in the country. Twenty-eight percent of renter households in New Mexico (nearly 70,000 households statewide) are classified as Extremely Low-Income (ELI), meaning their household income is at or below 30% of the area median income (AMI). Of these renter households, 70% are considered to be "severely cost burdened," meaning they are spending at least 50% of their income on housing and utility costs. The graph below outlines the proportion of New Mexican renter households

²¹ https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Sec1.03 Historical-Overview 2015.pdf

²² https://nlihc.org/gap

in different income ranges that are cost burdened (spending 30% or more of their income on housing and utilities) and severely cost burdened (spending at or above 50% of their income on housing and utilities). Data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.²³

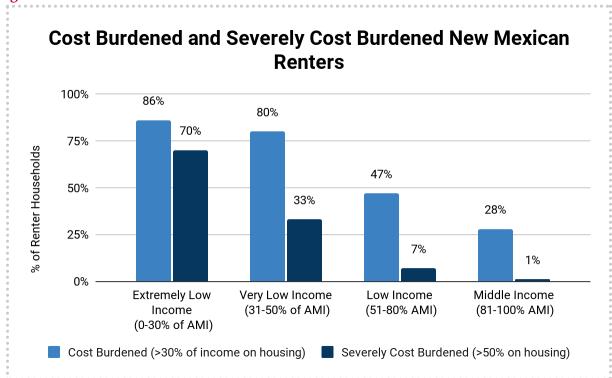


Figure 51 - New Mexico Renters Cost Burden

Homelessness and Health

Health and homelessness are deeply intertwined. To say that housing is healthcare recognizes this connection and appropriately frames homelessness as an urgent and pressing public health issue.

The first way to view this connection is that poor health and healthcare is a major cause of homelessness. Injury and illness can cause people to miss work and eventually lose their job. "The loss of employment due to poor health then becomes a vicious cycle: without funds to pay for health care (treatment, medications, surgery, etc.), one cannot heal enough to work again, and while one remains ill, it is difficult to regain employment." Chronic health conditions can also lead to homelessness when people are forced to choose between paying for their treatment or paying for housing, or when they simply lack the time and energy to manage their conditions because they must work long hours to afford their housing.

Another aspect of this connection is that once someone is homeless, the lived experience of being homeless can make existing health problems worse and create new ones. People experiencing homelessness, whether in a shelter or on the streets, have a difficult time managing chronic health

²³ https://nlihc.org/gap/state/nm

²⁴ https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/homelessness-and-health.pdf

conditions because of limited and irregular access to doctors and medication. Minor issues like wound care can develop into major health problems when a person lacks access to basic hygiene and healthcare, a situation common among people living on the street.

The experience of being homeless also exposes a person to conditions that can create new health problems. Communicable diseases can spread through shelters. People are exposed to harmful and dangerous weather conditions when they are forced to spend most of their time outside. Living on the street increases the risk of malnutrition and being exposed to violence. The list of harmful conditions people experiencing homelessness encounter on a daily basis is despairingly long, and any one of these dangers could result in serious harm to a person's physical and mental health.

People experiencing homelessness often have to rely on emergency room visits to receive medical attention. One study found 45% of frequent ER visitors were homeless.²⁵ Utilizing the emergency room for medical care is expensive – high-utilizers can accumulate up to \$44,000 a year in healthcare costs.²⁶ Many people experiencing homelessness cannot afford to pay off the full costs of their emergency healthcare resulting in these costs being shifted to public coffers. Examining the connection between public spending on healthcare and housing, one study found that providing an individual with permanent supportive housing reduces their associated healthcare costs by nearly 60%, producing significant public savings over the long run (even after accounting for the costs of housing).²⁷

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council writes, "Stable housing not only provides privacy and safety, it is also a place to rest and recuperate from surgery, illness, and other ailments without worry about where to sleep and find a meal, or how to balance these needs with obtaining health care and social services." The provision of stable housing is an indispensable piece of not only solving homelessness, but reducing the strain on healthcare systems and providing the conditions necessary for healthy communities across the country.

Escaping Violence and Trafficking

People experiencing homelessness, and in particular women experiencing homelessness, are frequently victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Studies have shown that between 20-60% of all women experiencing homelessness became homeless as a direct result of domestic violence. Nearly 40% of victims of domestic violence will become homeless at some point in their lives.²⁹

The connection between homelessness and domestic violence is easy to understand: victims of domestic violence are often forced to flee from their home to escape their abuser. Even if a survivor finds a safe place to stay, they may have to move repeatedly to avoid being located by their abuser. Each relocation increases the risk that the victim will eventually fall into homelessness. "Abusers commonly sabotage a victim's economic stability, making victims more vulnerable to homelessness. Many victims

²⁵ https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Report FUHSIFactSheet.pdf

²⁶ https://invisiblepeople.tv/health-care-plan-prescribes-housing-as-a-cure-for-homelessness/

²⁷ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4046466/

²⁸ https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/homelessness-and-health.pdf

²⁹ https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Library TH 2018 DV Housing Homelessness.pdf

and survivors of domestic violence have trouble finding rental properties because they may have poor credit, rental, and employment histories as a result of their abuse."³⁰

Individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness are also at an increased risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. "Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act." Trafficking can result in a person being transported to a new area where they lack social and financial supports, resulting in homelessness. Traffickers also target people already experiencing homelessness. "Traffickers exploit potential victims' fear of sleeping on the street, first by offering safe shelter as a coercive recruitment tactic then, as the situation progresses, by threatening to make them homeless as a means of control."

Victims of trafficking tend to be underserved by homeless response systems, and this population represents a notable blind spot of the PIT count. Because the PIT only considers where a person slept on the night of the Count, individuals who exchange sex or engage in other risky activities to obtain temporary shelter are not included. "Trafficking victims are generally left financially destitute, which in turn makes them susceptible to re-exploitation. Individuals who lack safe housing are more likely to engage in dangerous employment to meet their needs, making them vulnerable to trafficking."³³

Racism in Housing

While homelessness affects all demographic groups, it is crucial to understand its disproportionate impact on people of color. The theoretical framework of intersectionality, advanced by Black feminists such as Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, Audre Lorde, and Patricia Hill Collins, plays a pivotal role in exploring the unique challenges faced by people of color. This perspective reinforces that individuals with intersecting marginalized identities experience homelessness differently. While anyone can become homeless, racial identity influences the specific hardships faced compared to their white counterparts. This concept can be further explored through the idea of stacked stigma, illustrating how multiple marginalized identities can amplify societal stigma.

The data from this PIT Count reveals significant racial disparities within the homeless population in Albuquerque and New Mexico as a whole, which are long-lasting effects of historical events. It is crucial to recognize how historical social systems, institutions, and public policies have contributed to homelessness among people of color, particularly Black, Latiné, and Native American communities. For instance, historical events such as colonization, the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 highlight how the U.S. government systematically deprived communities of their ancestral lands and resources through unjust laws without consequences.

Both historical and contemporary housing policies have reinforced these disparities. Redlining, a practice that emerged in the 1930s intentionally segregating Black communities from resources like mortgage loans, has had enduring multigenerational effects. The Housing Act of the 1940s furthered

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking

³²https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/A-Roadmap-for-Systems-and-Industries-to-Prevent-and-Di srupt-Human-Trafficking-Housing-and-Homelessness-Systems.pdf

³³ https://endhomelessness.org/blog/the-intersection-of-human-trafficking-and-homelessness/

this segregation by concentrating low-income people of color in overcrowded neighborhoods, away from white communities.

Although these policies are no longer legally sanctioned, their consequences persist today due to their deep-rooted nature. Accessing resources such as shelters and individual services remains challenging for many due to heightened risks of various forms of racial bias. Explicit Racial Bias, recognized more commonly, involves conscious or intentional expressions of attitudes and beliefs about other groups. Implicit Racial Bias operates unconsciously, influencing understanding, decisions, and actions through attitudes or stereotypes. Implicit Racial Bias, when displayed in an institutional context, is characterized by patterns and policies that disadvantage people of color. People of color experiencing homelessness are often at risk of either of these biases which can affect their access to resources.

Generational disparities in access to wealth, housing, education, and other resources have perpetuated these inequities, leaving people of color without the advantages long enjoyed by their white counterparts.

In 2016, a woman descended from Vietnamese refugees sought to purchase property in the foothills of Albuquerque to build her home. However, upon reviewing the property deed, she discovered it contained racially offensive language stating that "Asians and African Americans could not live on the land unless they were slaves." ³⁴

Albuquerque's history of segregation persisted into the 1920s. In 1921, New Mexico voters adopted an "Alien Land Ownership" amendment, also known as the Alien Land Law, which prohibited Asian people from owning and leasing real estate. "It wasn't until 2002 that a measure to repeal this discriminatory anti-immigrant provision in the state constitution went before voters, but New Mexico overwhelmingly voted against it." It was finally approved in 2006 after a second attempt, officially removing the Alien Land Law.

Following the Civil War, by the 1880s, over 100 formerly enslaved African Americans had settled in East Albuquerque, demonstrating their established presence in New Mexico for decades. However, in the 1920s, they, too were targeted, facing restrictions preventing them from owning, leasing, or renting homes.

In 2020, Albuquerque news organization KRQE created a Racial Covenants Database and identified approximately 182 addresses with racially offensive language in property deeds, known as Racial Covenants. These covenants used various forms of language to prohibit non-white people from living in certain homes, including:

- 1. "No person of African or Oriental Descent"
- 2. "No person of any race other than the Caucasian race"
- 3. "(prohibits) Any person descended from any African or Oriental race"
- 4. "(prohibits) Any person or persons of African descent"

³⁴ https://www.hcn.org/issues/53-4/south-race-racism-albuquerques-racist-history-haunts-housing-market/

³⁵ Ibid.

- 5. "(prohibits) Any person not of the Caucasian race excepting servants"
- 6. "Not to be occupied by Negro, Mexican, or so-called Spanish occupants"
- 7. "No person of Oriental or African descent shall own or occupy..."
- 8. "(prohibits) Person of the African race as owners or tenants"³⁶

These examples highlight the pervasive discriminatory practices embedded in property deeds that persisted for decades in Albuquerque and across the United States.

Myths

People choose to be homeless

Homelessness is dangerous, stressful, and humiliating. People may choose to sleep on the streets or in an encampment rather than staying in a homeless shelter, but very few people choose to be homeless. A child does not choose to become homeless when their parent loses their job and the family is evicted. A woman does not choose to become homeless when she flees her home to get away from domestic violence. An individual may reject the conditions attached to an offer of housing (e.g. must remain sober to receive housing assistance), but that doesn't mean he doesn't want to have a safe, secure home. If you would not voluntarily choose to live rough on the streets, it makes no sense to assume other people would.

People who experience homelessness are all mentally ill and/or addicted to drugs

While mental illness and substance use issues tend to be present at a higher rate among the homeless population (compared to those with adequate housing), the majority of people experiencing homelessness do not deal with these issues. Mental health and substance use issues are rarely the sole cause of a person's homelessness, and in fact, those issues are more often a symptom of homelessness rather than the cause. Homelessness is a highly traumatic experience which can exacerbate or expose pre-existing mental health issues. People experiencing homelessness may turn to substance use to deal with their daily reality, for example, using stimulants to stay awake all night to avoid being victimized while they sleep or self-medicating with alcohol to cope with untreated mental health symptoms.

People who experience homelessness are violent, dangerous, and/or lawbreakers

People experiencing homelessness are *far* more likely to be the victims of violent crime than the perpetrators³⁷. This is especially true for women, young people, and individuals with severe mental illness. Experiencing homelessness does not make a person more likely to commit a crime. Much of the crime attributed to the homeless is a direct result of their poverty and lack of housing, for example, stealing food so they don't starve, or being ticketed/arrested for loitering in a public area when there is no other place for the person to go.

People who experience homelessness are lazy/unemployed and just need to get a job

Many people experiencing homelessness do have jobs, but these jobs often do not pay enough to afford rent. An individual working full-time at minimum wage in New Mexico (\$12/hr) would need to spend over 50% of their pre-tax income just to afford a single-bedroom apartment in Albuquerque. Housing

³⁶ https://www.krge.com/news-resources/racial-covenants-database/

³⁷ https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/blog/violence-against-people-homeless-hidden-epidemic

prices vary across the state, but in the vast majority of counties in New Mexico, a full-time minimum wage worker would still need to spend over the recommended 30% of their pre-tax income just to afford a single-bedroom unit.

Additionally, homelessness itself presents significant hurdles to finding and keeping a job such as: not having a permanent address to list on applications, not having regular access to hygiene and clean clothes, lack of secure storage for personal belongings, lack of child/pet care options, general prejudice against people experiencing homelessness.

Finally, many individuals experiencing homelessness are permanently disabled and unable to work. Accessing disability benefits is an arduous process for anyone, let alone a person sleeping on the streets. Even if approved, current benefits amounts are not enough for people to pay for housing and their basic needs.

It is impossible to completely eradicate homelessness

Housing ends homelessness. More specifically, the Housing First approach has proven highly effective at helping people exiting homelessness to obtain and maintain housing.³⁸ We know the interventions needed to prevent and end homelessness (diversion services to stop people from falling into homelessness, subsidized housing along with ongoing supportive services, coordination among providers to identify and fill service gaps, increasing the supply of affordable housing), we just have to properly fund those programs. Through efforts like the Built for Zero initiative, communities around the country have demonstrated the ability to achieve functional zero³⁹ for specific homeless subpopulations, like Veterans, when the money and community will is present.

³⁸ https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Evidence.pdf

³⁹ https://community.solutions/built-for-zero/functional-zero/

X. Acknowledgments

Together we collaborated to count our neighbors and fellow community members living without fixed, suitable housing. This required many hours of planning and a huge effort by every volunteer. As a state, we came together to provide this important data for our New Mexico homeless services and housing system.

Thank you to all of our partners!

You made the 2024 Point-In-Time count a success, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Alamogordo Police Department

Assumption Catholic Church

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

Albuquerque Heading Home

Albuquerque Indian Center

Albuquerque Journal

Albuquerque Public Libraries

Albuquerque Public Schools McKinney-Vento Program

Alianza of New Mexico

Amador Health Center

AsUR New Mexico

Barrett Foundation

BlueCross BlueShield

Carlsbad Public Library

Carlsbad Transitional Housing and Homeless Shelter

Casa Milagro

Catholic Charities

Chaves County Health Council

Christus St. Vincent HUGS

City of Albuquerque (ACS, HHH, DFCS, and City

Council)

City of Gallup

City Desk ABQ

The Commons Center for Food Security

The Compassion Service Center

Cuidando Los Niños

Deming Public Schools Equity Department

Deming Silver Linings

Department of Housing & Urban Development Field

Office

Department of Veteran Affairs

Dream Tree

Española Pathways Shelter

First Nations Community HealthSource

Fray Antonio Kitchen

Francis House

New Day

New Mexico Department of Health

New Mexico Dream Center

New Mexico Highlands University

New Mexico Recovery Coalition

People Assisting the Homeless (P.A.T.H.)

Pinwheel Healing

Pioneer Bank

Puerto Seguro

Rio Arriba County Health and Human Services

The Rock at Noon Day

S3 Santa Fe Housing Initiative Community Volunteers

Samaritan House

San Juan County Partnership

Santa Fe Fire Department

Santa Fe Mountain Center

Serenity Mesa

Silver City Gospel Mission

Southwest Care Center

Supporting People In Need (S.P.I.N)

St. Elizabeth's Shelter

Taos Men's Shelter

Technology Leadership High School

TenderLove Community Center

The Life Link

Total Behavioral Health

Trinity Lutheran Church

United Way

UNM Community Health Worker Initiatives

UNM Health Sciences Center

With Many Hands Roswell

Veterans Integration Centers

Youth Development Inc.

Youth Shelters & Family Services

100% Chaves County

100% Otero County

Friends Meeting House Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center Community Volunteers: God Cares About You Anjani Susanna Ziznewski God's Warehouse Augusta Farley Gonzales Hope Center Curt Mearns Good Shepherd Erica Lea-Simka Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Henry Jello The Healing Network Ilse Biel HopeWorks Janus Herrera Joy Junction John Comstock **KRQE** Johnny Ibarra La Familia Kayla Strickler New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee Maree P. McHugh Lincoln County Community Health Council Mary Salazar Maurreen Skowran Lived Experience Advisory Board Nadia Sikes Los Sueños Community Giving Mental Health Resources, Inc. Ruth Scullion

A special thank you to everyone throughout our state who agreed to complete the PIT Count survey and provide testimonials. Your strength and resilience inspires us everyday.

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope

XI. Resources

HUD Requirements & definitions

Continuum of Care:

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2017-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2017-title24-vol3-part578.xml

Point-In-Time Count: 2023 HIC and PIT Data Collection Notice (10.26.22) CLEAN (hud.gov) Homeless Definition:

https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HEARTH_HomelessDefinition_FinalRule.pdf Chronic Homeless Definition:

https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Defining-Chronically-Homeless-Final-Rule.pdf
Nationwide PIT counts since 2007:

https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/

Previous Balance of State and Albuquerque Data

NMCEH Website:

https://www.nmceh.org/pitreports

For any questions regarding this report contact: NMCEH CoC Team

> coc@nmceh.org 505-433-5175 www.nmceh.org

XII. Appendix

2024 Albuquerque CoC Point in Time Count Survey

PAS	Point in Time Survey	Interviewer's Name:		
MK	January 29, 2024	Date:		City:
li my name	is We're doing surve	vs with people who don't ha	ve housing right no	ow. It is anonymous, and we use the
				right now? Would you be willing to do
				all questions if you don't want to.
) Have you	already completed a surv	ey about where you stayed	on Monday, Jan	nuary 29th?
		move on to the next question		
	<u> </u>	y, DO NOT move forward	with the survey.	
	d you stay on Monday, Ja			☐ Street, Park, Camping Ground or
□ Abandone	J		won't say where	Other outdoor location
☐ Bus or Tra		d unsheltered (Provide detai	age/Storage Unit	
		cross streets, park/busines		201 1 1 1 6 1 1 1 1
		s listed above on the night of If they did, please continue		29th, thank them for their time and
	ers of First Name:	First two letters of Middle		First two letters of Last Name:
Age:	ers of Prist Ivame.	The second secon	u were born:	ist two letters of Last Ivaille.
	e first time you've experier		Yes Don.	□ Refused
	have you been unsheltere			(If more than 12 months skip to Q7)
	ny times before this have y		o1 o2 o3	
	•	nonths in total were you ur		
		with? Culturally Specific		-
□ Woman (g	irl if child)	Spirit)	, racinally (e.g., 1 wo	Li Questioning
□ Man (boy		□ Non-Binary		□ Client doesn't know □ Client refused
□ Transgend		□ Different Identity	:	Utlent refused
8) What rac	e(s) do you identify with?	□ Hispanic/Latina/	e/o	□ White
☐ American	Indian or Alaska Native	□ Middle Eastern o	North African	□ White □ Client doesn't know
	Asian American	□ Native Hawaiian (or Other Pacific Isla	ander Client refused
	African American	□ Other:		
		al Affiliation or Enrollmen		P. C. 1
-		ctive duty in the US Milita		□ No □ Refused
	k if the person is <u>over</u> 18)	□ No ou □ A Mental Health Con		isabling condition of long duration, s a chronic physical illness, traumatic
	u have any of the following			njury, or a developmental disability
	ns? (check all that apply)	□ HIV/AIDS	□ Refuse	
		Are you unsheltered becau		
□ Yes	□ No □ R	efused 🗆 Data No	ot Collected	
	from New Mexico?	es □ No □ Refused	□ Data Not Co.	llected
	did you move here from? _	1 - m 1 :1 6 :1 /6		1 - B 6 1 - B N 6 B
	d you move here? For working there:	vork □ To be with family/f	riends For scho	ool 🗆 Refused 🗆 Data Not Collected
	ou homeless when you came	e here? Yes No	□ Refused □	□ Data Not Collected
	st describes your barriers		L Refused	□ Pets not allowed/Breed Restriction
	nousing? (Check all that apply		ition fees	□ Rental history
□ Access to		□ Lack of vouchers	s (rental subsidies)	□ Rental prices
□ Access to	communication (Cell phone	,	ntation (IDs)	□ Safety/Security
Internet)		□ No housing for l	large households	□ Substance Use Disorder
□ Available	housing is in unsafe neighbo			□ Other:
□ Credit sco		□ Pet deposits/Pet		
		oment been removed in th	e past year?	
Did you	lose any of the following i		A STATE OF THE STATE OF	- 000 A-W-174W - F
		al or sentimental items (fami	ty photoe kide tove	s, etc.) Social Security Card
□ Birth Cert □ Phone/Ta		otion Medication	ly photos, kids toys	□ State ID/Driver's License

16) Did any family or house. January 29th? □ Yes	hold members, such as your cl □ No □ Refused	nild, spouse/partner, or parent	stay with you on Monday,
If yes, How many children under 18 How many people age 18-24 How many people over age 2	stayed with you?stayed with you?	(Only ask if <u>UNDER</u> 18) Did you stay with a parent or le □ Yes	egal guardian? □ No □ Refused
16a) Additional Household	Member Age:	16b) Additional Household M	Member Age:
Gender: Woman (girl if child) Man (boy if child) Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:	Gender: □ Woman (girl if child) □ Man (boy if child) □ Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) □ Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:
Race: Refused Asian or Asian American Black or African American Hispanic/Latina/e/o Middle Eastern or North African	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:	Race: Refused Asian or Asian American Black or African American Hispanic/Latina/e/o Middle Eastern or North African	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:
16c) Additional Household	Member Age:	16d) Additional Household M	Member Age:
Gender: □ Woman (girl if child) □ Man (boy if child) □ Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) □ Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:	Gender: Woman (girl if child) Man (boy if child) Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:
Race: Refused Asian or Asian American Black or African American Hispanic/Latina/e/o Middle Eastern or North	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:	Race: □ Refused □ Asian or Asian American □ Black or African American □ Hispanic/Latina/e/o □ Middle Eastern or North African	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:
16e) Additional Household	Member Age:	16f) Additional Household M	Iember Age:
Gender: Woman (girl if child) Man (boy if child) Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) Transgender Race: Refused Asian or Asian American	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity: □ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White	Gender: Woman (girl if child) Man (boy if child) Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) Transgender Race: Refused Asian or Asian American	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity: □ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
□ Black or African American □ Hispanic/Latina/e/o □ Middle Eastern or North African	American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:	□ Black or African American □ Hispanic/Latina/e/o □ Middle Eastern or North African	□ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:
	Please enter you surv	vey into Google Forms	

2024 Balance of State CoC Point in Time Count Survey

W	Point in Time Survey	Interviewer's Name:		
NK	January 29, 2024	Date:	County:	
li, my name	is We're doing survey	s with people who don't have	housing right now. It is anony	mous, and we use the
	to request additional money for			
	ly takes 5 minutes to complete			
1) Have you	u already completed a surve	y about where you stayed or	n Monday, January 29th?	*
	NOT completed the survey,			
If they have	already completed the survey	DO NOT move forward with	th the survey.	
2) Where di	id you stay on <u>Monday, Jar</u>	nuary 29th? Car	Street Par	k, Camping Ground or
□ Abandon	Ö	□ Homeless, wo	Other out	door location
□ Bus or Tr		□ Shed/Garage	/Storage Unit	
	ation that could be considered			
Physical lo	cation description (cross str	eets, city/county, business	name, etc.):	
f they did n	ot stay in one of the locations	listed above on the night of M	Monday, January 29th, <u>thank t</u>	hem for their time and
lo not move	e forward with the survey. If	they did, please continue wi	ith the survey.	
First two let	ters of First Name:	First two letters of Middle N	ame: First two letter	s of Last Name:
Age:		Month you w		
	e first time you've experien		NO. 1001000000 1000000000000000000000000	
4) How lon	g have you been unsheltered	I?	(If more that	in 12 months skip to Q7
5) How ma	ny times before this have yo	u been unsheltered?	1 🗆 2 🖂 3 🖂 4	□ 5+
6) In the la	st three years, how many me	onths in total were you unsh	eltered?	
7) What ge	nder do you most identify w	ith? Culturally Specific Id	entity (e.g., Two-Spirit)	Overtioning
□ Woman (girl if child)	□ Non-Binary		Questioning Client doesn't know
□ Man (boy		□ Different Identity:		Client refused
□ Transgen	der	Billetent Identity.		Cheffe ferased
	ce(s) do you identify with?	□ Hispanic/Latina/e/c		hite
	ı Indian or Alaska Native	□ Middle Eastern or N	orth African	ient doesn't know
	Asian American	□ Native Hawaiian or 0	Other Pacific Islander	ient refused
	African American	□ Other:	3	
	n Indian, what is your Triba			- D C 1
	u served at least one-day act			□ Refused
	<i>sk if the person is <u>over</u> 18)</i> ou been diagnosed or do you	□ No □ A Montal Health Condit	☐ Any disabling condi	ysical illness, traumatic
	ou have any of the following			velopmental disability
	ons? (check all that apply)	□ HIV/AIDS	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	□ Data Not Collected
	sk if the person is <u>over</u> 18) A			Data Not Conceted
□ Yes		fused Data Not C		
12) Are you	from New Mexico?	es □ No □ Refused	□ Data Not Collected	
If no, W	here did you move here from			
Why d	lid you move here? For we	ork 🗆 To be with family/friend	nds □ For school □ Refus	ed 🗆 Data Not Collecte
	Other:			
Were	you homeless when you came	here? □ Yes □ No	□ Refused □ Data Not C	Collected
	est describes your barriers to	☐ Criminal record	□ Pets not	allowed/Breed Restrictio
getting	housing? (Check all that apply)	□ Deposit/Applicatio		
□ Access to		☐ Lack of vouchers (r		
	communication (Cell phone,	☐ Missing documenta		
Internet)	1	□ No housing for larg		e Use Disorder
	housing is in unsafe neighbor	hoods □ No physical/mailing □ Pet deposits/Pet Re		
□ Credit sc				
	ervices have you needed or t			
□ Behavior		1 /		□ Showers
	bank □ Emergency shel	ters Meal Sites	□ Recovery services	□ Transportation
□ Clothing □ Other: _	0 ,		☐ Safe outdoor spaces	services

If yes, How many children under 18 How many people age 18-24 s How many people over age 24	stayed with you?	(Only ask if <u>UNDER</u> 18) Did you stay with a parent or le ☐ Yes	gal guardian? □ No □ Refused
15a) Additional Household I	Member Age:	15b) Additional Household N	Iember Age:
Gender: □ Woman (girl if child) □ Man (boy if child) □ Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) □ Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:	Gender: Woman (girl if child) Man (boy if child) Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:
Race: □ Refused □ Asian or Asian American □ Black or African American □ Hispanic/Latina/e/o □ Middle Eastern or North African	 □ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment: 	Race: Refused Asian or Asian American Black or African American Hispanic/Latina/e/o Middle Eastern or North African	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:
15c) Additional Household I	Member Age:	15d) Additional Household M	Member Age:
Gender: □ Woman (girl if child) □ Man (boy if child) □ Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) □ Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:	Gender: Woman (girl if child) Man (boy if child) Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:
Race: □ Refused □ Asian or Asian American □ Black or African American □ Hispanic/Latina/e/o □ Middle Eastern or North African	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:	Race: Refused Asian or Asian American Black or African American Hispanic/Latina/e/o Middle Eastern or North African	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:
15e) Additional Household I	Member Age:	15f) Additional Household M	Iember Age:
Gender: □ Woman (girl if child) □ Man (boy if child) □ Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) □ Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:	Gender: Woman (girl if child) Man (boy if child) Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit) Transgender	□ Non-Binary □ Questioning □ Client doesn't know □ Client refused □ Different Identity:
Race: □ Refused □ Asian or Asian American □ Black or African American □ Hispanic/Latina/e/o □ Middle Eastern or North African	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment:	Race: Refused Asian or Asian American Black or African American Hispanic/Latina/e/o Middle Eastern or North	□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander □ White □ American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal Affiliation or Enrollment: