



LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO

# Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County, 2022-2023



Accredited on May 17, 2016  
Reaccredited on August 21, 2023

County of San Diego, Health and Human  
Services Agency, Public Health Services,  
Community Health Statistics Unit

Prepared August 2024



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# Introduction

## Homelessness in San Diego County

In 2023, the United States was home to over 334 million people, where on a single night, 653,1000 people were experiencing homelessness.<sup>1,2</sup> Of the persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in the United States in 2023, 28% were located in California, and 10,264 were located in San Diego County.<sup>3</sup> In 2023, San Diego County had the second largest number of PEH in California and the fourth largest number of PEH in the United States.<sup>2</sup> PEH face a variety of health risks, including poverty, chronic disease, overcrowding in shelters, and mental and health substance use disorders.<sup>4</sup> Collection and examination of data identifying PEH and their health outcomes is crucial to understanding this population's health disparities.

This brief provides key take aways from the Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County Dashboard, 2022-2023, located here: [Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County | Tableau Public](#). This includes data from the 2023 Point-in-Time Count for San Diego County, the 2022-2023 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System homeless student data for San Diego County, the 2022 California Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) data for medical encounters among persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County, and the 2022 Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS) data among persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County.

## Definitions

### Point-in-Time Count Definition<sup>2</sup>

Definitions of homelessness vary by data source. To be considered homeless in the Point-in-Time Count, a person needs to meet the definition of experiencing homelessness used by HUD<sup>2</sup>. It is defined as lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning the following:

- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; or
- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by



In 2023, there were **653,104** persons experiencing homelessness in the United States (US).



In 2023, there were **181,399** persons experiencing homelessness in California, accounting for **28%** of the US homeless population.



In 2023, there were **10,264** persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County, accounting for **6%** of California's homeless population.

charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals).

### California Department of Education, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Definition<sup>5</sup>

To be considered a homeless student in the CALPADS data, enrolled students must have reported experiencing homelessness at any point in time during the academic year. This includes students reporting residing in a hotel, motel, or a temporary shelter, living temporarily doubled-up, or were temporarily unsheltered.

### Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) Definition<sup>6</sup>

In the 2022 Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) Emergency Department Discharge Data and Hospital Discharge data, a person was considered homeless if the patient zip code was reported as 'zzzzz' or an ICD-10 diagnosis code for reporting homelessness was included in the patient record. This includes Z59.00, Z59.01, and Z59.02.

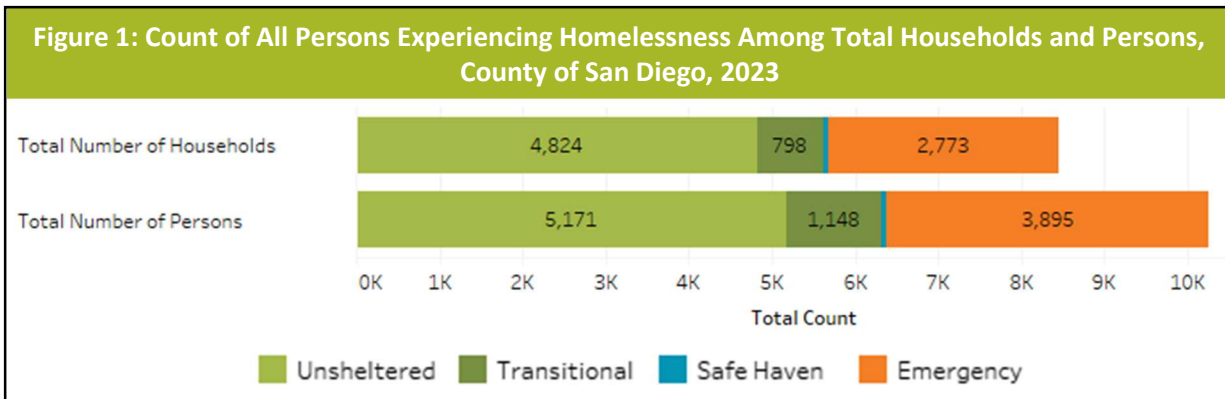
### Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS) Definition<sup>7</sup>

In the data from the Vital Records and Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), a person was considered to have been experiencing homelessness if the homeless status was entered as 'Yes.'

# Point-in-Time Count Data

## Counts by Household Types

### ALL HOUSEHOLDS



Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

**Overall, there were a total of 10,264 persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in San Diego County.**

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 10,264 persons experiencing homelessness among 8,445 households.

**In 2023, the unsheltered PEH population accounted for half of the total PEH population.**

In 2023, 5,171 unsheltered PEH were counted among 4,824 households, 50.4% of the total PEH population and 57% of households experiencing homelessness. Among the sheltered PEH population, 3,895 were using emergency shelter services, 1,148 were living in transitional housing, and 50 were using safe haven services.

**Among all persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County, 3,516 reported being chronically homeless.**

Of those who reported being chronically homeless, 2,265 were unsheltered, 1,218 were utilizing emergency services, and 33 were using safe haven services.

## HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN



Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

**Among households without children, there were a total of 8,109 persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in San Diego County.**

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 8,109 persons experiencing homelessness among 7,740 households without children.

**In 2023, the unsheltered PEH population accounted for 63% of the homeless population without children.**

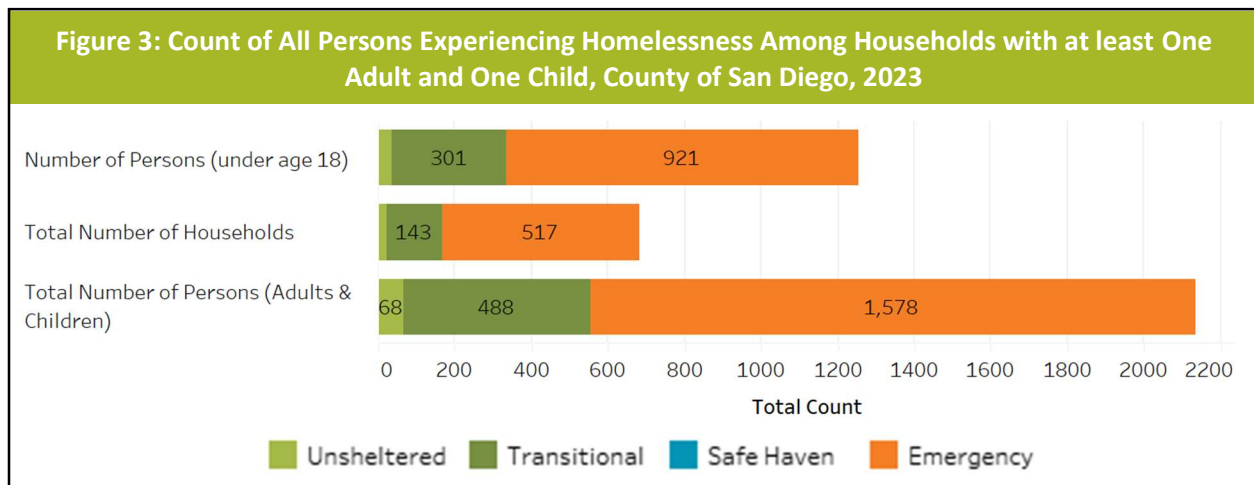
In 2023, 5,087 unsheltered PEH were counted among 4,784 households, 63% of the PEH population without children and 62% of households experiencing homelessness. Among the sheltered PEH population, 2,312 were using emergency shelter services, 660 were living in transitional housing, and 50 were using safe haven services.

**Among the PEH in households without children, 3,218 reported being chronically homeless.**

Of those who reported being chronically homeless, 2,244 were unsheltered, 941 were utilizing emergency services, and 33 were using safe haven services.



## HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD



Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

### Among households with children, there were a total of 2,134 persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in San Diego County.

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 2,134 persons experiencing homelessness among 684 households with children. Of the PEH, 1,256 were children under the age of 18.

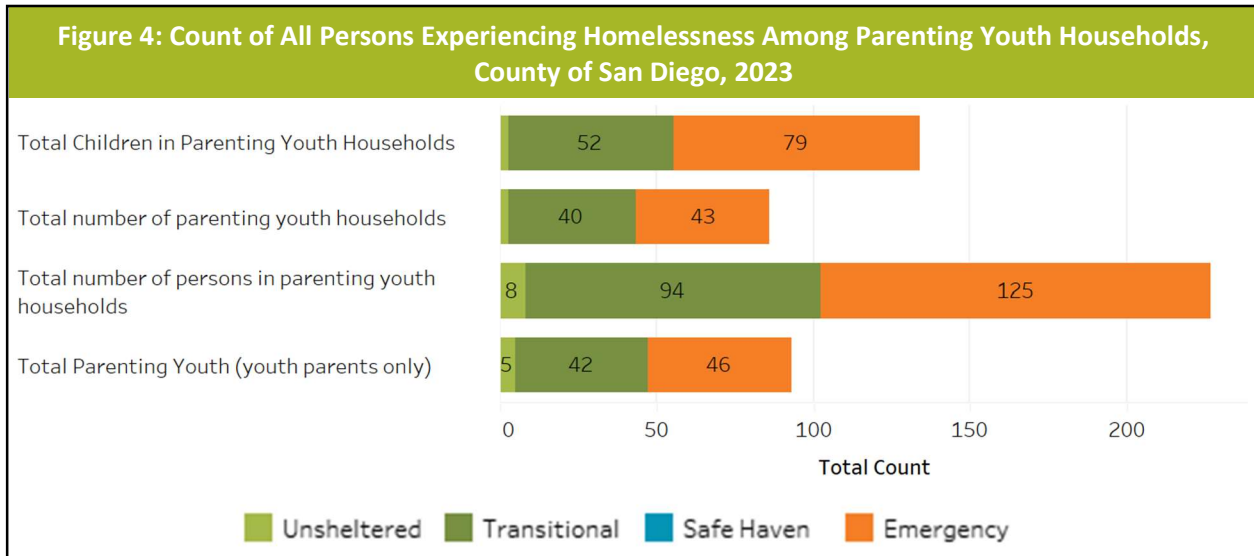
### In 2023, nearly 3 in 4 children under the age of 18 who were experiencing homelessness were utilizing emergency services.

In 2023, 73% of children under the age of 18 who were experiencing homelessness were utilizing emergency services, and 24% were living in transitional housing. There were 34 unsheltered children and 34 unsheltered adults among 24 households in 2023.

### Among the PEH in households with children, 291 reported being chronically homeless.

Of those who reported being chronically homeless, 16 were unsheltered and 275 were utilizing emergency services.

## PARENTING YOUTH HOUSEHOLDS



Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

### Among parenting youth households, there were a total of 227 persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in San Diego County.

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 227 persons experiencing homelessness among 86 parenting youth households. Of the PEH, 134 were children under the age of 18, and 93 were parenting youth.

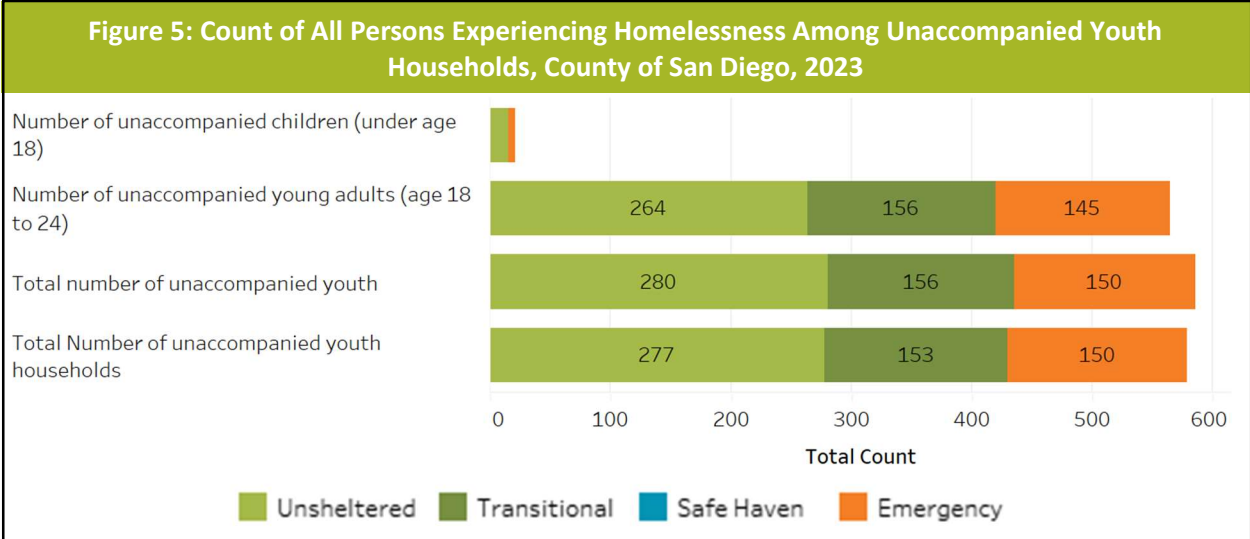
### In 2023, half of parenting youth households were utilizing emergency housing.

In 2023, 50% of parenting youth households were utilizing emergency shelter services, and 47% were living in transitional housing. There were 3 unsheltered children and 5 unsheltered adults among 3 households in 2023.

### Among the PEH in parenting youth households, 21 reported being chronically homeless.

Of those who reported being chronically homeless, all 21 were utilizing emergency shelter services.

# UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH HOUSEHOLDS



Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

**Among unaccompanied youth households, there were a total of 586 persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in San Diego County.**

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 586 persons experiencing homelessness among 580 unaccompanied youth households. Among unaccompanied youth households, there were 21 unaccompanied children under the age of 18 and 565 young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.

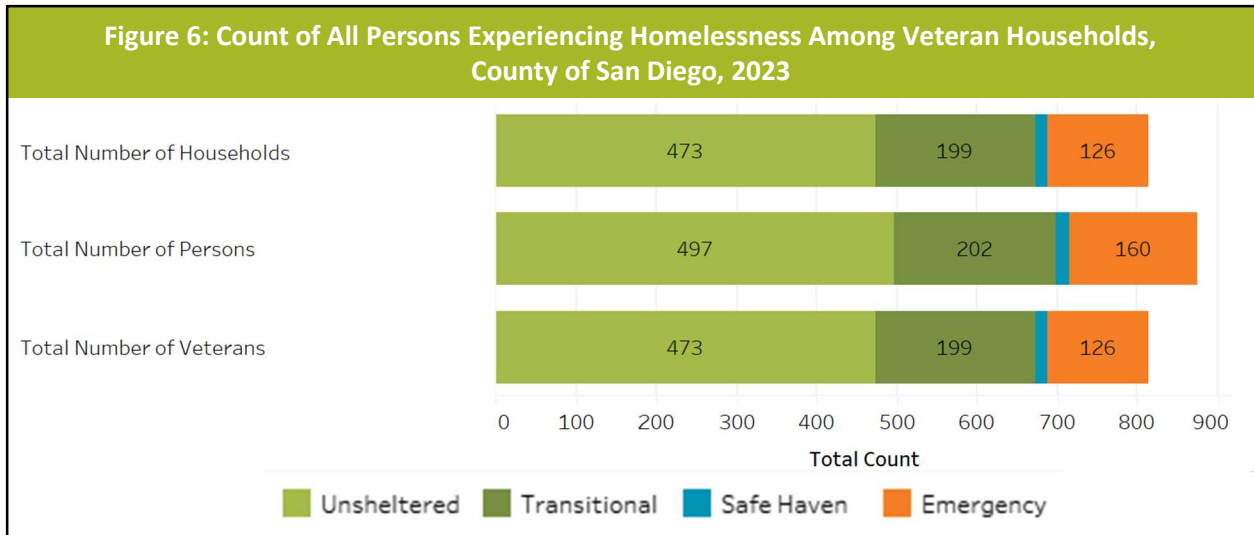
**In 2023, the unsheltered PEH population accounted for 48% of the unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness.**

In 2023, 280 unsheltered PEH were counted among 277 households, 48% of the unaccompanied youth population experiencing homelessness and 48% of unaccompanied youth households experiencing homelessness. Among the sheltered PEH population, 150 were using emergency shelter services and 156 were living in transitional housing.

**Among the PEH in unaccompanied youth households, 83 reported being chronically homeless.**

Of those who reported being chronically homeless, 78 were unsheltered and 5 were utilizing emergency shelter services.

## VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS



Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

### Among veteran households, there were a total of 875 persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) in San Diego County.

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 875 persons experiencing homelessness among 814 veteran households. Among these households, 814 PEH were veterans.

### In 2023, the unsheltered PEH population accounted for 58% of the homeless veteran population.

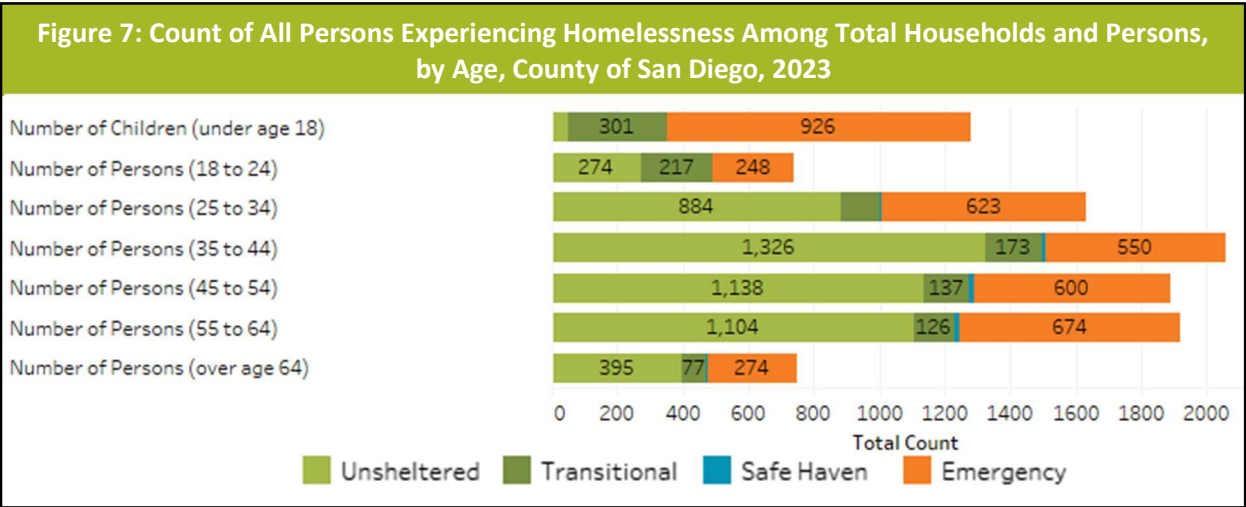
In 2023, 473 unsheltered veterans were counted, 58% of the PEH veteran population. Among the sheltered veteran population, 199 were living in transitional housing, 126 were using emergency shelter services, and 16 were using safe haven services.

### Among the PEH in veteran households, 339 reported being chronically homeless.

Of those who reported being chronically homeless, 262 were unsheltered, 72 were utilizing emergency shelter services, and 5 were using safe haven services.

# Demographics

## AGE

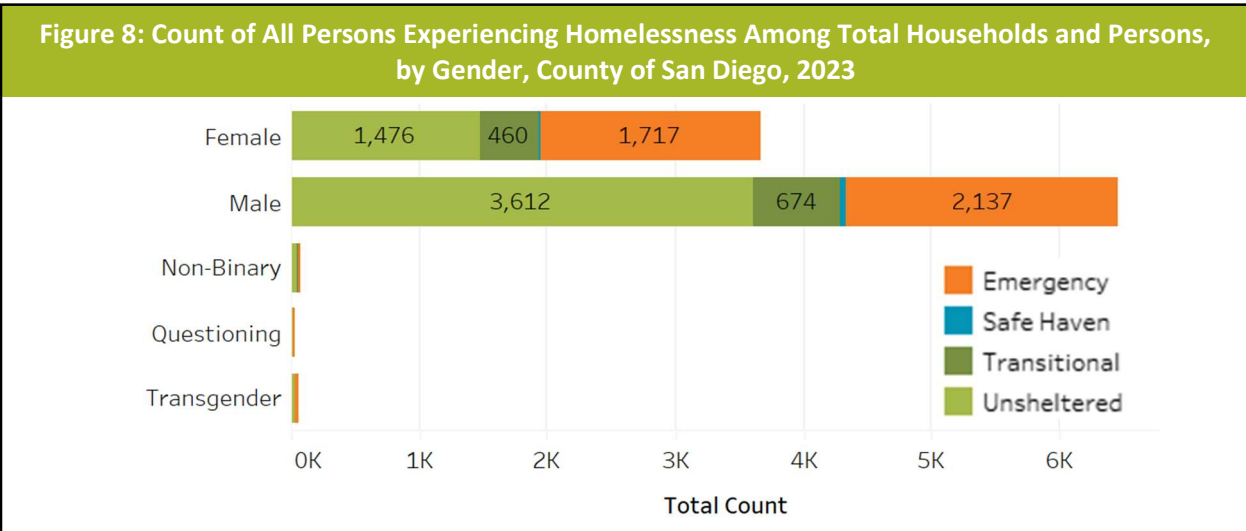


Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

The majority of the unsheltered PEH population was between the ages of 35 and 64, while the majority of the sheltered PEH population was under the age of 18.

Among the unsheltered PEH population, the 35 to 44 age group had the highest count of PEH (1,326), followed by the 45 to 54 age group (1,138), while children made up the lowest count (50). Among the sheltered population, children had the highest count of PEH (1,227), where the majority were utilizing emergency shelter services.

## GENDER

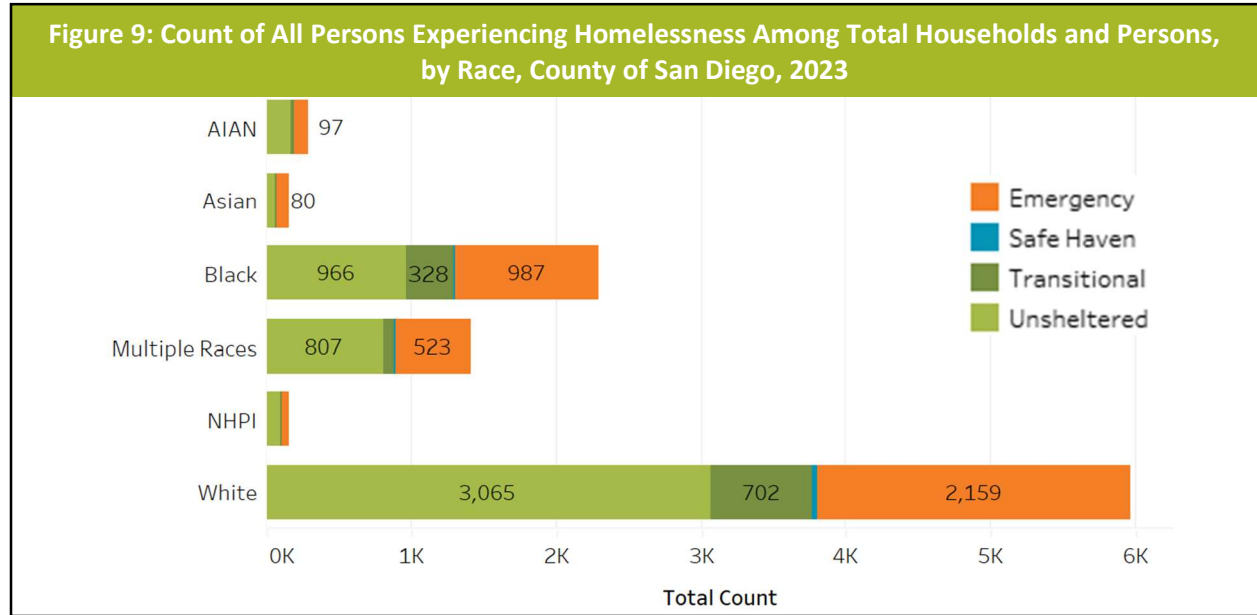


Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

**The male PEH population was nearly twice the female PEH population.**

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 6,461 males experiencing homelessness and 3,663 females experiencing homelessness. There were also 68 non-binary, 63 transgender, 9 questioning persons experiencing homelessness. The male unsheltered PEH population (3,612) was 2.4 times more than the female unsheltered PEH population (1,476). The male population appears to be at greater risk of experiencing homelessness in San Diego County.

**RACE/ETHNICITY**



Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

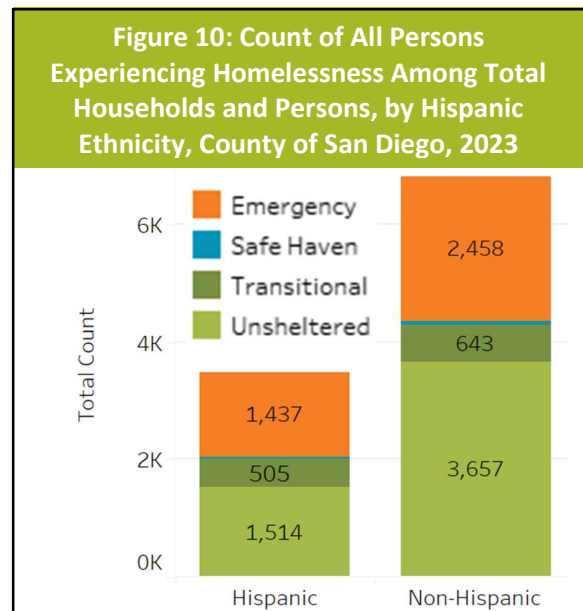
**Overall, the White population made up the greatest proportion of PEH.**

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 5,964 White persons experiencing homelessness, accounting for 58% of the total PEH population and 59% of the total unsheltered PEH population, similar to the proportion of the White population in San Diego County overall (57.8%).<sup>8</sup>

**However, the Black population is disproportionately represented among the PEH population.**

The Black population accounted for 22% of the total PEH population (2,288) and 19% of the total unsheltered PEH population (966), much larger proportions than the Black population in San Diego

County overall (4.8%).<sup>8</sup>



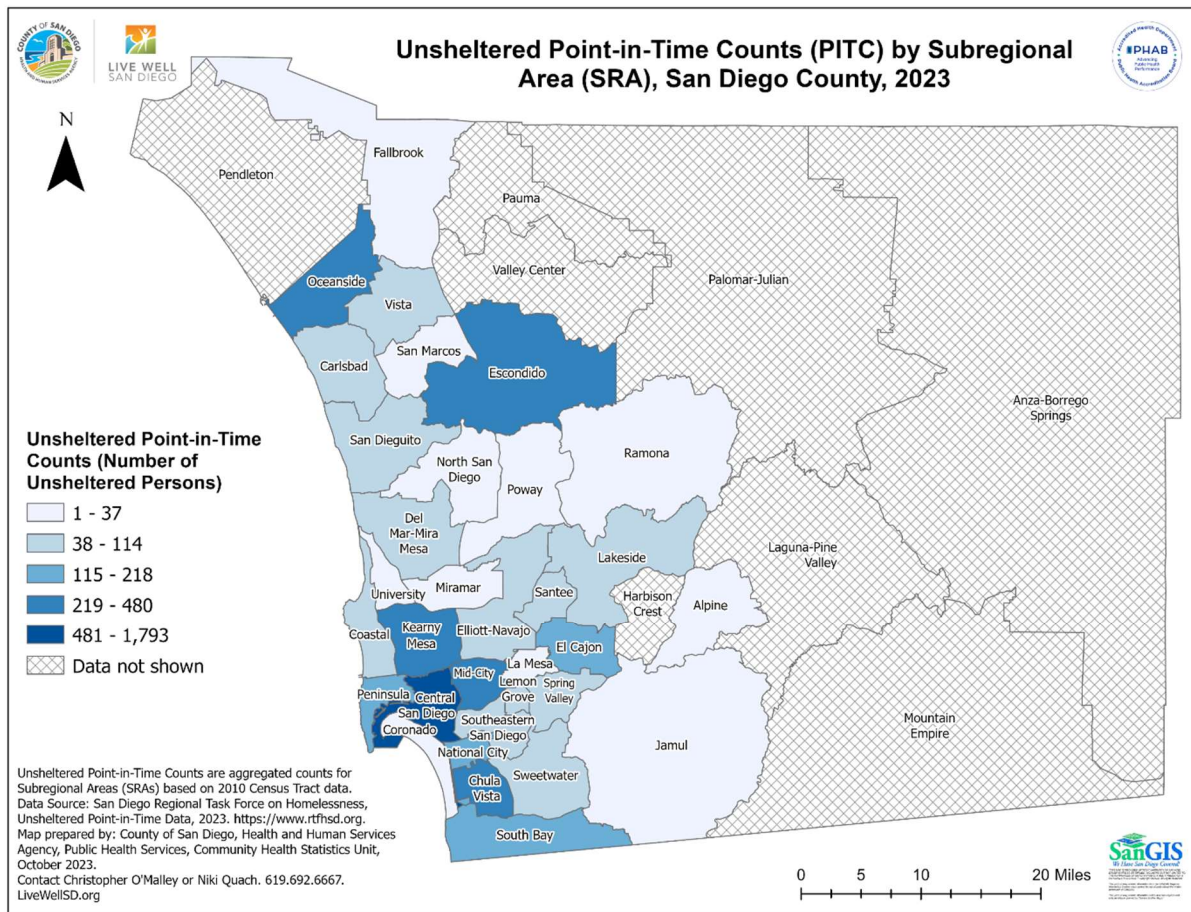
Source: Regional Task Force for Homelessness, Point-in-Time Count, 2023. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

Additionally, the non-Hispanic population made up the greatest proportion of PEH.

In 2023, the San Diego Regional Task Force for Homelessness (RTFH) counted 6,794 non-Hispanic persons experiencing homelessness 3,470 Hispanic persons experiencing homelessness, accounting for 66% and 34% of the total PEH population, respectively. These proportions are similar to the proportions of non-Hispanic (65.5%) and Hispanic (34.5%) populations in San Diego County overall. <sup>8</sup>

## UNSHeltered COUNTS BY SUBREGIONAL AREA (SRA)

Figure 11: Unsheltered Point-in-Time Counts (PITCS) by Subregional Area (SRA), San Diego County, 2023.



Central San Diego Subregional Area (SRA) had the greatest number of unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness in Central Region, and San Diego County overall.

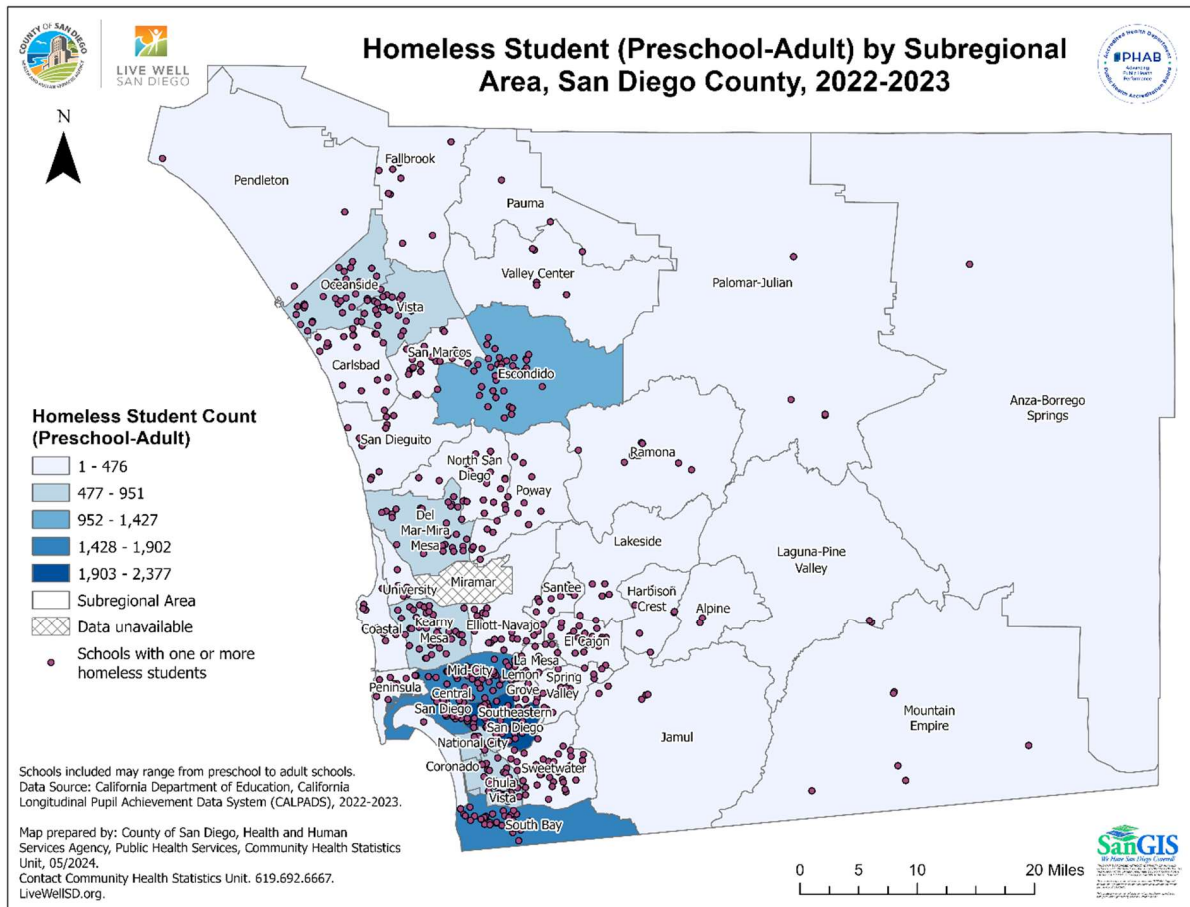
In 2023, about 2,300 unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness were counted in Central Region.

To view demographics by household type, visit [Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County | Tableau Public](#).

# Students Experiencing Homelessness

## Homeless Students in San Diego County

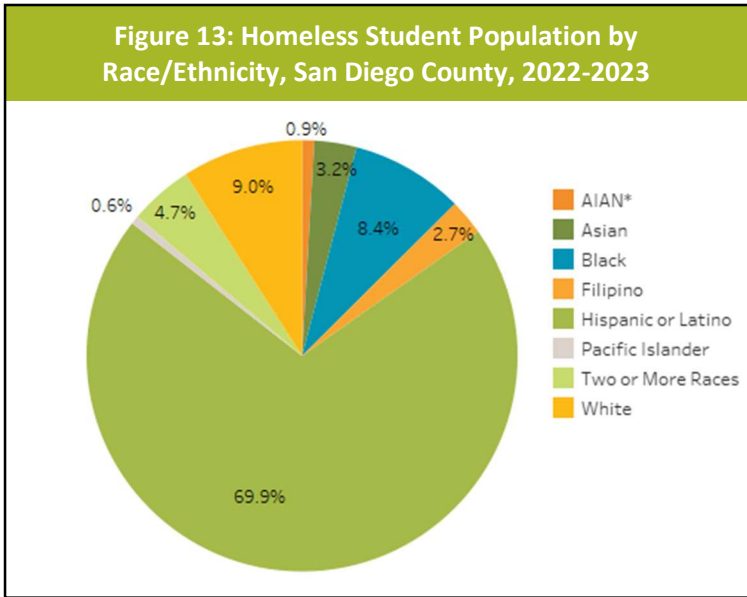
Figure 12: Homeless Student (Preschool-Adults) by Subregional Area (SRA), San Diego County, 2022-2023



In the 2022-2023 school year, there were 16,658 students experiencing homelessness in San Diego County.

Among Subregional Areas (SRAs) in San Diego County, Southeastern San Diego had the greatest number of students experiencing homelessness (2,377), followed by South Bay (1,582).

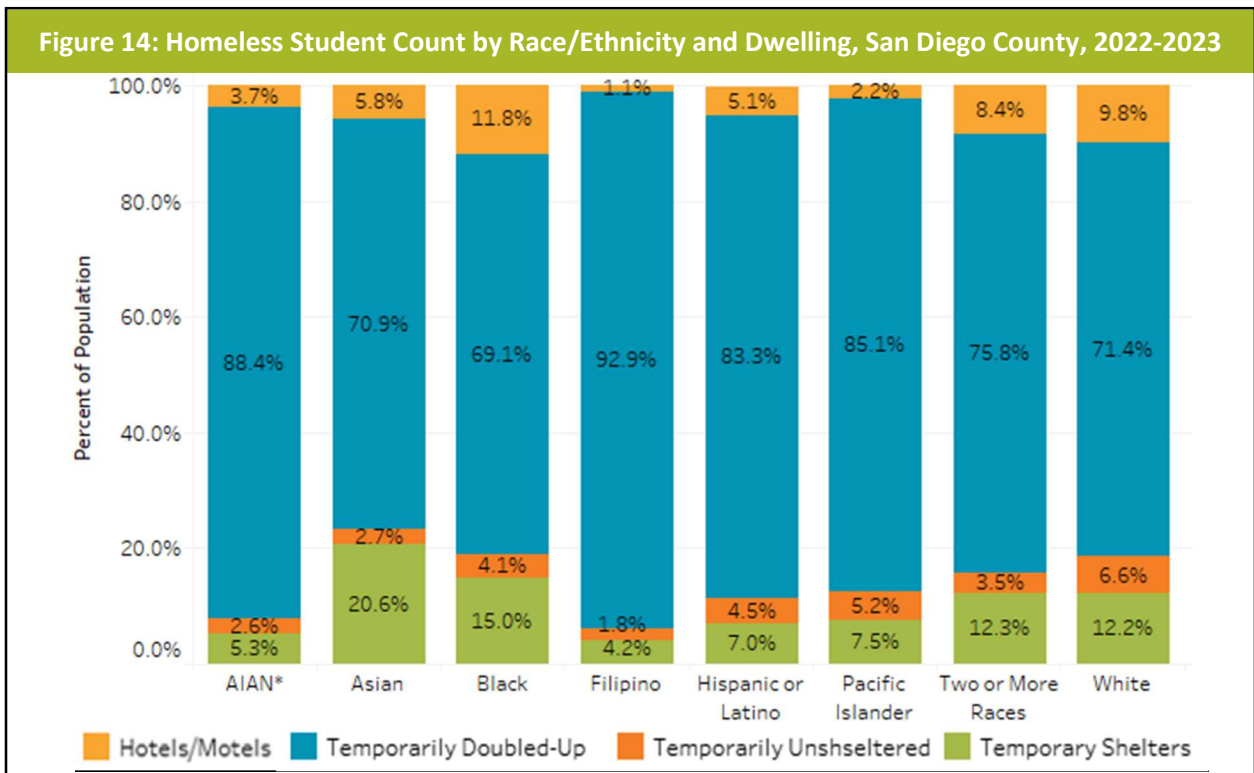




In the 2022-2023 school year, the majority of the homeless student population was Hispanic or Latino.

The Hispanic/Latino population made up nearly 70% of the homeless student population, a proportion 1.4 times the proportion of the total student enrollment in San Diego County overall (49.2%). Black students made up 8.4% of the homeless student population, nearly twice the proportion of Black students in San Diego County overall (4.3%).

Source: California Department of Education, Data Quest, 2022-23 Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type, San Diego County Report Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity. Accessed 7/26/24. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.



Source: California Department of Education, Data Quest, 2022-23 Homeless Student Enrollment by Dwelling Type, San Diego County Report Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity. Accessed 7/26/24. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

In the 2022-2023 school year, the majority of the homeless student population, regardless of race/ethnicity, were temporarily doubled-up.

The Black homeless student population had the highest proportion of students living in hotels/motels (11.8%), the Asian homeless student population had the highest proportion of students living in

temporary shelters (20.6%), and the White student population had the highest proportion of students who were temporarily unsheltered (6.6%).

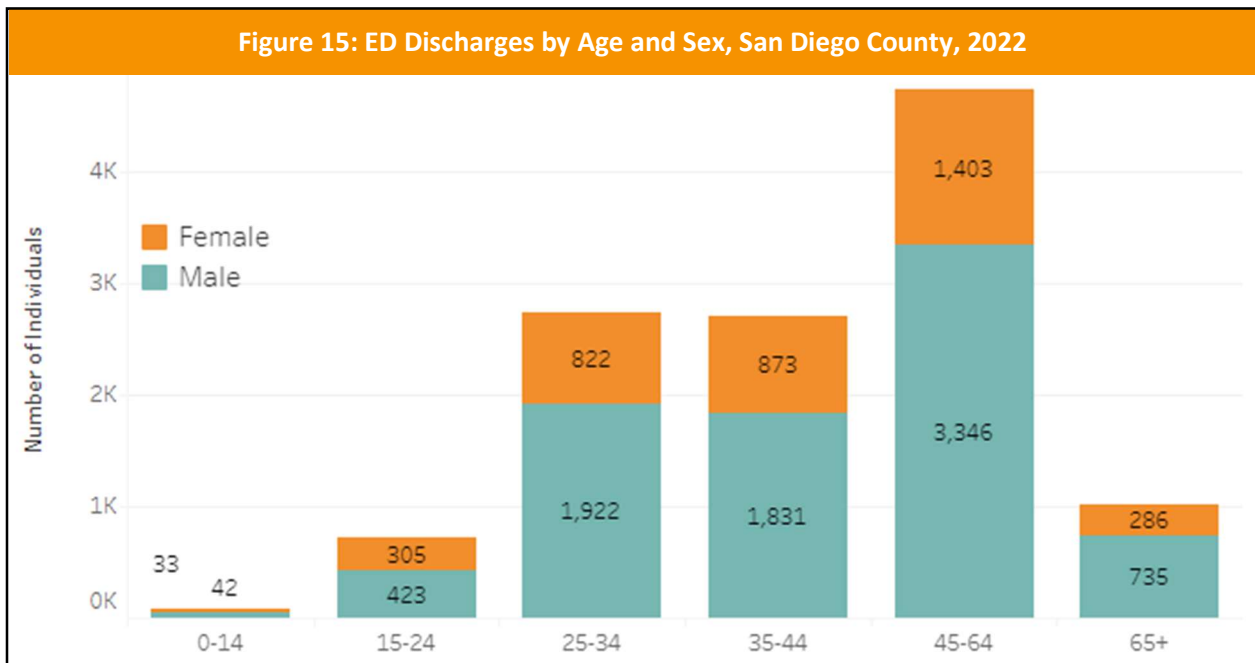
## Medical Encounters

Hospitals in San Diego County are beginning to adopt the practice of indicating select social determinants of health in patients' medical records through defined codes (ICD-10 Z codes). This information was utilized to examine hospital and emergency department (ED) discharge data for persons experiencing homelessness in 2022.

### Emergency Department Discharges

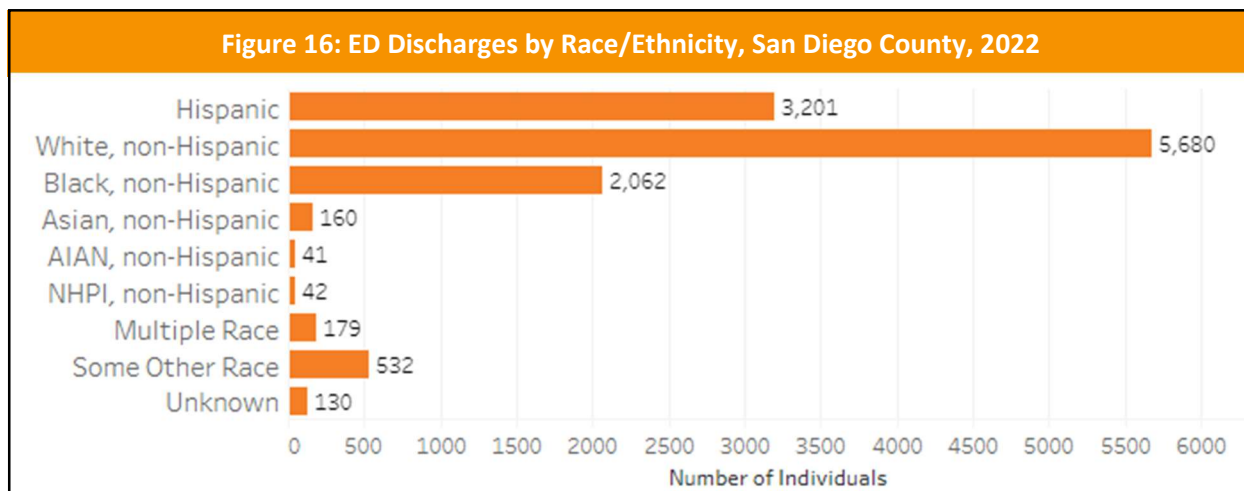
|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Discharged from the ED<br><br><b>12,027</b> | Total Number of ED Discharges Experiencing Homelessness<br><br><b>35,637</b> | Average Number of Visits per Person<br><br><b>3.0</b> |
|---|--|---|

In 2022, 12,027 persons experiencing homelessness were discharged from the Emergency Department (ED) in San Diego County. There was a total of 35,637 ED discharges in 2022, indicating an average of three visits per person experiencing homelessness.



Individuals with unknown gender or age are not included in count of gender by age. Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

Among PEH that were discharged from the ED, the highest number of discharges was among 45–64-year-olds for both males and females. There were more male PEH discharged from the ED than female PEH.



*AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native. NHPI: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.*

Among PEH that were discharged from the ED, the highest number of discharges was among non-Hispanic White PEH, followed by Hispanic, and non-Hispanic Black.

**Figure 17: Emergency Department Discharges Among PEH by Top Five Facility Zip Codes, San Diego County, 2022**

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 92103 | 6,126 |
| 91942 | 1,518 |
| 92123 | 666   |
| 92029 | 657   |
| 92120 | 631   |

**Figure 18: Emergency Department Discharges Among PEH by Top Five Expected Sources of Payment, San Diego County, 2022**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Medicaid (Medi-Cal)                           | 8,873 |
| Medicare Part B                               | 1,001 |
| Health Maintenance Organization Medicare Risk | 714   |
| Self-Pay                                      | 671   |
| Health Maintenance Organization               | 228   |

*Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.*

Emergency Departments in zip code 92103 had the greatest number of emergency discharges of PEH (6,126 discharges) compared to other zip codes. The majority of PEH discharged from emergency departments in San Diego County in 2022 had Medi-Cal or Medicare Part B as the expected source of payment.

| Figure 19: Emergency Department Discharges Among PEH by Top Three Patient Dispositions, San Diego County, 2022 |        |
|--|--------|
| Discharged to home or self care (routine discharge)  | 10,482 |
| Left against medical advice or discontinued care   | 590    |
| Discharged/Transferred to a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric distinct part unit of a hospital               | 365    |

Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

The majority of PEH discharged from the emergency departments in San Diego County in 2022 were discharged to home or self-care (routine discharge) (10,482 discharges) or left against medical advice or discontinued care (590 discharges).

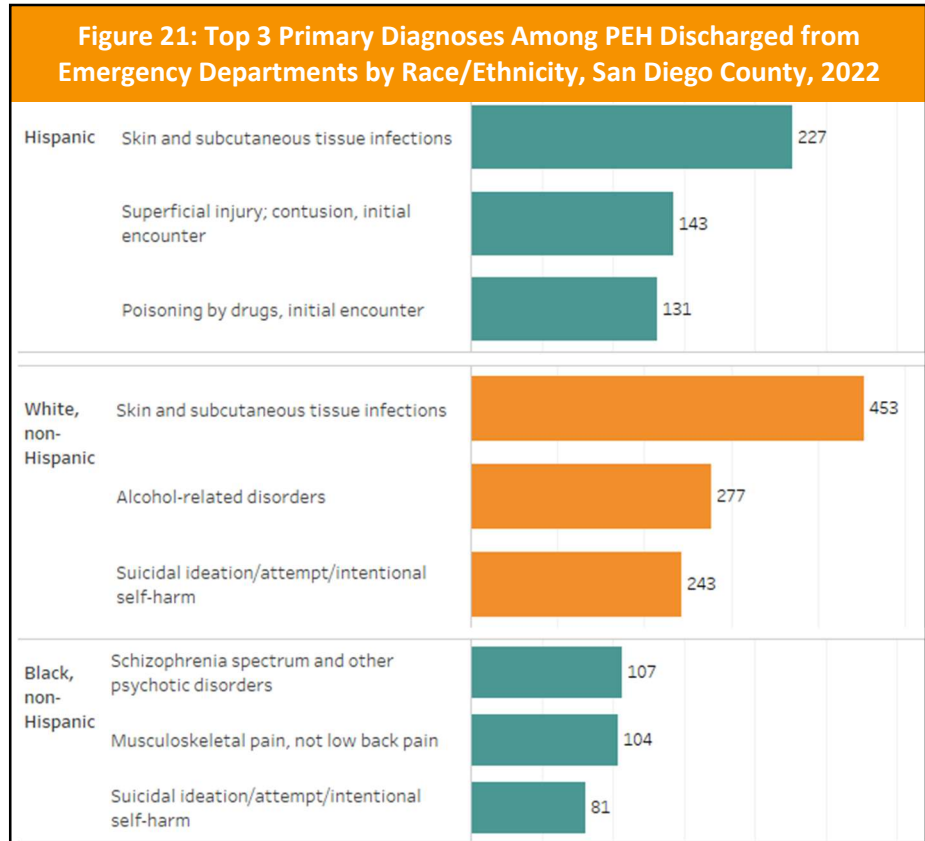
| Figure 20: Top 10 Primary Diagnoses Among PEH Discharged from Emergency Departments, San Diego County, 2022 |     |
|---|-----|
| Skin and subcutaneous tissue infections   | 824 |
| Musculoskeletal pain, not low back pain   | 513 |
| Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders  | 502 |
| Suicidal ideation/attempt/intentional self-harm   | 486 |
| Superficial injury; contusion, initial encounter  | 467 |
| Alcohol-related disorders   | 466 |
| Abdominal pain and other digestive/abdomen signs and symptoms   | 395 |
| Poisoning by drugs, initial encounter   | 395 |
| Coronavirus disease – 2019 (COVID-19)   | 364 |
| Nonspecific chest pain  | 335 |

Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

The top diagnosis among PEH discharged from emergency departments in San Diego County was skin and subcutaneous tissue infections (824 discharges), followed by musculoskeletal pain, not low back pain (513), followed by schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders (502 discharges).

The top diagnosis among Hispanic PEH discharged from emergency departments in San Diego County was skin and subcutaneous tissue infections (227 discharges), followed by superficial injury, contusion (143 discharges), and poisoning by drugs (131 discharges).

The top diagnosis among non-Hispanic White PEH discharged from emergency departments in San Diego County was skin and subcutaneous tissue infections (453 discharges), followed by alcohol-related disorders (277 discharges), and suicidal ideation/attempt/intentional self-harm (243 discharges).



Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

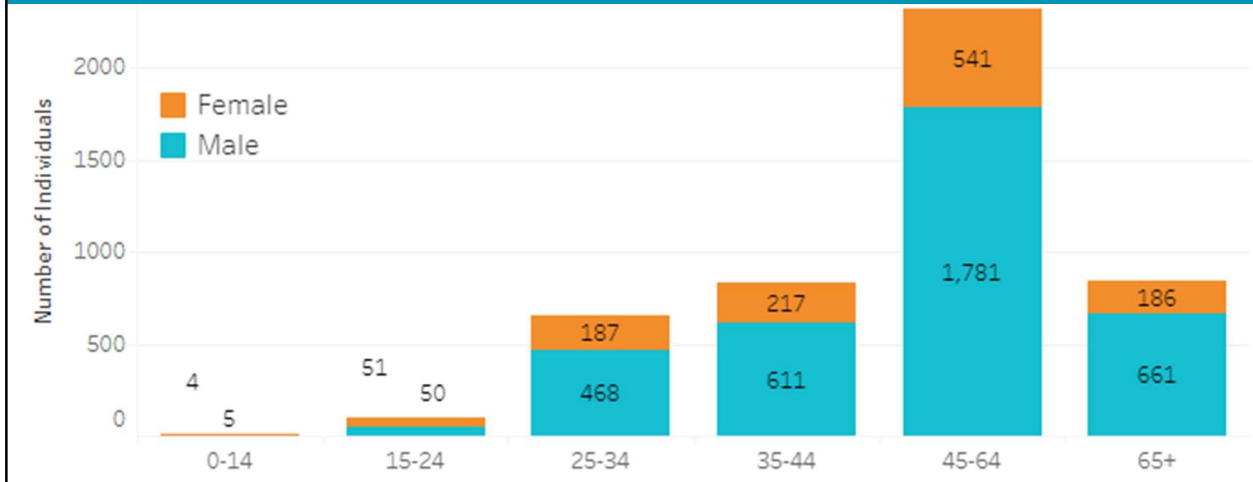
The top diagnosis among non-Hispanic Black PEH discharged from emergency departments in San Diego County was schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders (107 discharges), followed by musculoskeletal pain, not low back pain (104 discharges), and suicidal ideation/attempt/intentional self-harm (81 discharges).

## Hospital Discharges

|  |   |                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Discharged from the Hospital | Total Number of Hospital Discharges Experiencing Homelessness | Average Number of Visits per Person |
| <b>4,763</b>   | <b>8,459</b>  | <b>1.8</b>                          |

In 2022, 4,763 persons experiencing homelessness were discharged from a hospital in San Diego County. There was a total of 8,459 hospital discharges in 2022, indicating an average of 1.8 visits per person experiencing homelessness

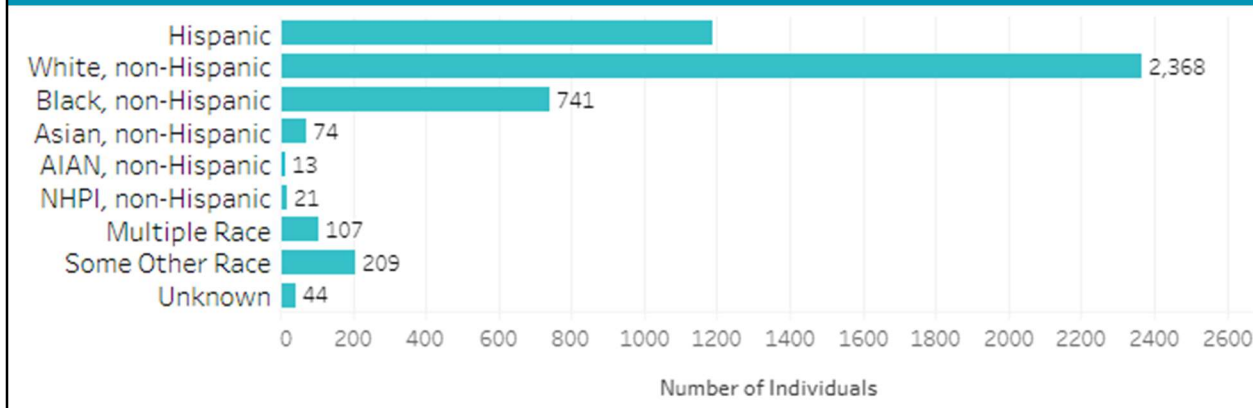
**Figure 22: Hospital Discharges by Age and Sex, San Diego County, 2022**



Source: California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

Among PEH that were discharged from the hospital, the highest number of discharges was among 45–64-year-olds for both males and females. There were more male PEH discharged from the hospital than female PEH.

**Figure 23: Hospital Discharges by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2022**



Source: California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

Among PEH that were discharged from the hospital, the highest number of discharges was among non-Hispanic White PEH, followed by Hispanic, and non-Hispanic Black.

| Figure 24: Hospital Discharges Among PEH by Top Five Facility Zip Codes, San Diego County, 2022 |       |
|---|-------|
| 92103   | 2,266 |
| 91942   | 479   |
| 92123   | 420   |
| 92120   | 265   |
| 92037   | 239   |

| Figure 25: Hospital Discharges Among PEH by Top Five Expected Sources of Payment, San Diego County, 2022 |       |
|--|-------|
| Medicaid (Medi-Cal)  | 3,348 |
| Medicare   | 1,116 |
| Private Coverage   | 104   |
| Other Government   | 96    |
| Self-Pay   | 76    |

Source: California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

Hospitals in the zip code 92103 had the greatest number of discharges of PEH (2,266 discharges) compared to other zip codes. The majority of PEH discharged from hospitals in San Diego County in 2022 had Medi-Cal or Medicare as the expected source of payment.

| Figure 26: Hospital Discharges Among PEH by Top Three Patient Dispositions, San Diego County, 2022                   |       |
|--|-------|
| Discharged to home or self care (routine discharge)  | 2,909 |
| Discharged/transferred to skilled nursing facility (SNF) with Medicare certification in anticipation of skilled care | 831   |
| Left against medical advice or discontinued care   | 482   |

The majority of PEH discharged from the hospitals in San Diego County in 2022 were discharged to home or self-care (routine discharge) (2,909 discharges) or were discharged/transferred to a skilled nursing facility (SNF) with Medicare certification in anticipation of skilled care (831 discharges).

Source: California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

| Figure 27: Top 10 Primary Diagnoses Among PEH Discharged from Hospitals, San Diego County, 2022 |     |
|---|-----|
| Septicemia  | 689 |
| Skin and subcutaneous tissue infections   | 418 |
| Heart failure   | 248 |
| Alcohol-related disorders   | 211 |
| Diabetes mellitus with complication   | 183 |
| Poisoning by drugs, initial encounter   | 179 |
| Coronavirus disease - 2019 (COVID-19)   | 130 |
| Traumatic brain injury (TBI); concussion, initial encounter                                     | 94  |
| Fracture of the lower limb (except hip), initial encounter                                      | 87  |
| Cerebral infarction   | 73  |

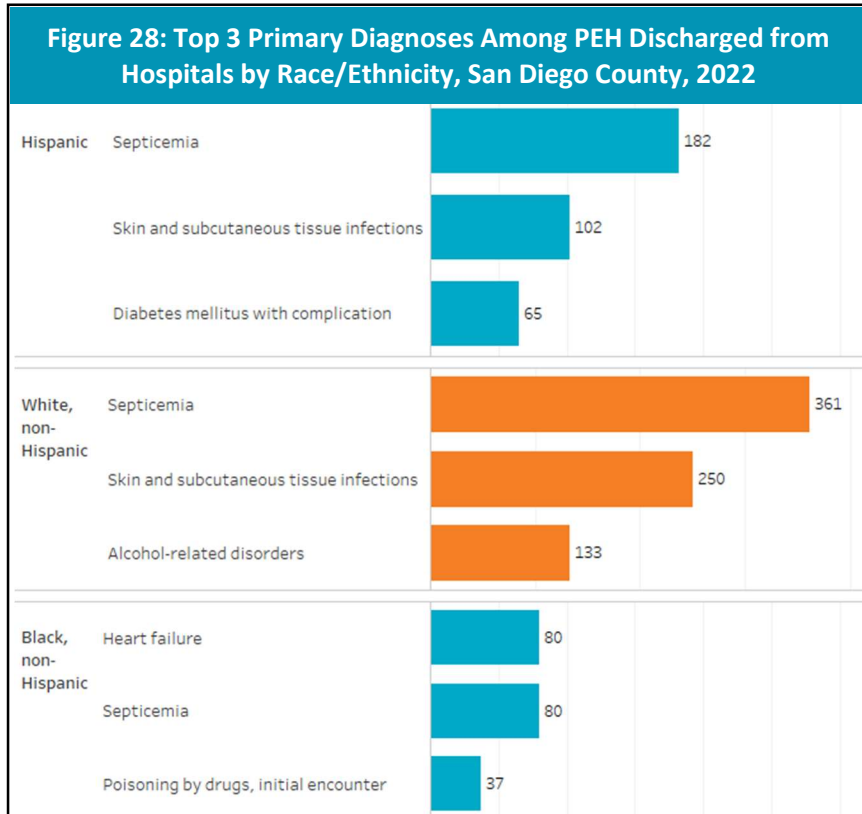
The top diagnosis among PEH discharged from hospitals in San Diego County was septicemia (689 discharges), followed by skin and subcutaneous tissue infections (418 discharges), and heart failure (248 discharges).

Source: California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

The top diagnosis among Hispanic PEH discharged from hospitals in San Diego County was septicemia (182 discharges), followed by skin and subcutaneous tissue infections (102 discharges), and diabetes mellitus with complication (65 discharges).

The top diagnosis among non-Hispanic White PEH discharged from hospitals in San Diego County was septicemia (361 discharges), followed by skin and subcutaneous tissue infections (250 discharges), and alcohol-related disorders (133 discharges).

The top diagnoses among non-Hispanic Black PEH discharged from hospitals in San Diego County was heart failure (80 discharges) and septicemia (80 discharges), followed by poisoning by drugs (37 discharges).



Source: California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Data, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 07/2024.

## Mortality

**Figure 29: TOP 2 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH<sup>1,2</sup> AMONG PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, 2022**

| RANK                      | Underlying Cause of Death        | n   | %      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 1                         | Accidents/Unintentional Injuries | 137 | 61.2%  |
| 2                         | Diseases of the Heart            | 25  | 11.2%  |
| 3                         | All other causes (not rankable)  | 62  | 27.7%  |
| Total Deaths <sup>3</sup> |                                  | 224 | 100.0% |

<sup>1</sup>Rank is based on total number of deaths in each of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) "rankable" categories. The top 2 leading causes of death presented here are based on deaths that occurred in San Diego for their respective years. <sup>2</sup>Cause of death is based on the underlying cause of death reported on death certificates as classified by ICD-10 codes. <sup>3</sup>Deaths for specific demographics or geographic area may not equal the total deaths for San Diego County due to missing data. The COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality including those of Leading Causes of Death. Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System. Prepared by County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, March 2024.



The top two leading causes of death among persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County in 2022 were accidents/unintentional injuries and diseases of the heart.

### Sex

Males made up the majority of the deaths among PEH (83.9%).

### Age

Over half of the deaths among PEH were among those aged 50-69 (57.6%).

### Race/Ethnicity

The Non-Hispanic, White population accounted for 64.3% of deaths among PEH, followed by Hispanic (19.6%), and Non-Hispanic Black (10.7%).

| Figure 30: Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness, San Diego County*, 2022 |       |            |
|--|-------|------------|
| Demographic  | Count | % of Total |
| Sex  |       |            |
| Male   | 188   | 83.9%      |
| Female   | 36    | 16.1%      |
| Age  |       |            |
| Ages 0-10  | §     | §          |
| Ages 20-29   | §     | §          |
| Ages 30-39   | 34    | 15.2%      |
| Ages 40-49   | 37    | 16.5%      |
| Ages 50-59   | 64    | 28.6%      |
| Ages 60-69   | 65    | 29.0%      |
| Ages 70-79   | 16    | 7.1%       |
| Ages 80 Plus   | §     | §          |
| Race/Ethnicity   |       |            |
| Hispanic   | 44    | 19.6%      |
| NH White   | 144   | 64.3%      |
| NH Black   | 24    | 10.7%      |
| NH API   | §     | §          |
| NH Other   | §     | §          |
| TOTAL  | 224   | 100.0%     |

\*Table contains deaths that occurred in San Diego County. § Not shown for fewer than 11 deaths. NH: Non-Hispanic. Source: California Department of Public Health, Centers for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System, 2022. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, March 2024.

## Conclusion

Homelessness continues to increase across the United States, California, and San Diego County. Lack of adequate and stable housing exacerbates existing health problems and can cause new ones, including chronic disease, poor mental health, and increased complications following infection or injury. Collection and examination of data identifying persons experiencing homelessness and their health outcomes is crucial to understanding the population’s health disparities. These data may inform decisions regarding targeted resources and interventions.

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LIVE WELL  
SAN DIEGO



Accredited on May 17, 2016  
Reaccredited on August 21, 2023