END UTAH HOMELESSNESS
Salt Lake Valley

SALT LAKE COUNTY
HOMELESSNESS DATA REPORT

A multi-year review of our community's Point-in-Time, Housing Inventory Count, and other key data.

2023 - 2026



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2026 Point-in-Time Data
- Sub-population Data
- 2023 - 2025 System Performance Measures
- 2026 Housing Inventory Count Data
- 2023 - 2026 Trend Data
- Key Findings
- Context Narratives

Prepared by: Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
Key Insight Analysis: Subject experts from across Salt Lake County

END UTAH HOMELESSNESS
Salt Lake Valley

LOCAL CONTEXT: SLVCEH OVERVIEW

The Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH) aims to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. We pursue this through a system-wide commitment of resources, services, data collection, analysis, and coordination among all stakeholders and community partners.

SLVCEH was established in April 2019. Our goal is to build a strong, effective homelessness response structure that supports a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness, unites communities and service providers in new ways, and promotes self-sufficiency among people experiencing homelessness.

REPORT GOAL & PURPOSE

The PIT Count and HIC provide a baseline snapshot of homelessness and system capacity in our community and are conducted in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reporting requirements. Together, this data help establish a shared understanding of who is experiencing homelessness on a single night and the resources available to respond.

To provide additional context, this report brings together community perspectives, complementary data sources, and local insights to help explain the trends behind the numbers, highlight the impact of ongoing efforts, and identify opportunities for continued improvement.

REPORT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the valuable insights and contributions from key providers who reviewed and gave the invaluable context to the data and conclusions in this report. We also appreciate the valuable time and effort from our SLVCEH Steering and Executive Committees, the Utah Office of Homeless Services, the Youth Action Board, and the team at Salt Lake County's Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform.

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SALT LAKE COUNTY

HOMELESSNESS DATA REPORT

2023 - 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

POSITIVE TRENDS:

- **Chronically homeless individuals** saw **unsheltered counts drop** 57.0% (251 to 108), the lowest in the three-year series, alongside continued growth in sheltered placements.

- **Veteran homelessness improved** across nearly every measured category in 2026 PIT data. Notably, unsheltered Veterans fell to a three-year low of four individuals, and Emergency Shelter placements dropped from 54 to 31. Since 2024, placement emphasis has helped more than 770 Salt Lake County Veterans exit literal homelessness, which suggests the placement pipeline—not simply fewer Veterans entering the system—is a meaningful driver of the decline.

- **Unsheltered adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) dropped** 35.6% (247 to 159), even as this population's overall size grew over the three-year period.

- **Domestic violence survivor homelessness declined** 16.6% year over year, driven primarily by a reduction in unsheltered survivors identified during the Point-in-Time Count (62 to 38 individuals). However, this finding should be interpreted with caution. Reporting of domestic violence survivor status is voluntary, and the Point-in-Time Count may not fully capture the experiences of survivors.

- **HIC bed capacity grew** 13.6% since 2024, reflecting continued investment in shelter and housing infrastructure.

FINDINGS REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION

- In 2026, the CoC experienced a decrease in the unsheltered count to 408 individuals, the lowest total in the three-year trend data count. However, in the same year, the jail-reported homeless population increased by 164 individuals (517 to 681). This represents a 31.7% increase, one of the largest year-over-year increase of any metric in this report.

FINDINGS REQUIRING FURTHER INVESTIGATION (Cont.)

- While jail data is not included in HUD's PIT definition, SLVCEH found it important to highlight this data to indicate where people experiencing homelessness may be staying on the night of PIT. This underscores the importance of strengthening our partnership with our justice system partners, including CJAC and the Behavioral Health and Justice Recommendation developed by the Leifman Group. The SLVCEH is housed in the Salt Lake County Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform, which also hosts CJAC, creating an ideal environment to strategically address this population.

- Homeless Resource Center turnaways and waitlists were outside the scope of this report but represent an important area for future analysis. Examining unmet demand alongside homelessness trends can help inform community resource allocation in future reports.

AREAS OF CONCERN

- **Unaccompanied youth (18-24) homelessness rose** every year since 2024, up 25% overall (122 to 153), with unsheltered youth jumping 79.2% in 2026 alone (24 to 43), the sharpest single-year unsheltered increase among all sub-populations tracked.

- **Senior homelessness (65+) grew** every year with no decline, up 55.6% since 2024, with unsheltered counts holding flat (15-19) rather than improving.

- **Family homelessness increased in 2026**, household numbers were up 15.9% (176 to 204), individuals up 17.1% (567 to 664), unsheltered individual family numbers more than tripled (7 to 24). 2026 was the first year of a specialized, incentivized family PIT count which suggests improved enumeration rather than visibility or system increase. However, with unsheltered individual rates more than tripling, monitoring this subpopulation and trend is imperative to understand the trend.

- **HIC utilization dipped** slightly (91% to 89%) in 2026 after remaining stable for two years. This is in large part to system-wide bed capacity growth which outpaced program placement in 2026.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PIT & HIC Explained

Each January, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the nation conduct Point-in-Time (PIT) counts to assess the circumstances of sheltered and unsheltered individuals within their respective regions. Utah's three CoCs conducted independent PIT counts of their respective region in partnership with the Office of Homeless Services to ensure continuous data and reporting efforts locally.

History

Salt Lake County and the SLVCEH have conducted the PIT Count since the inception of HUD Continuum of Care programs in 2005. It is a volunteer-driven event and in recent years, volunteer participation has ranged from 300–400 people. In partnership with the community, the count provides a "snapshot" of homelessness to inform city, county, and state funding and policy.

Key Terms

PIT Survey: An in-person interaction between a PIT volunteer conducting a PIT interview and a person experiencing unsheltered homelessness being interviewed. This interaction is submitted to OHS for de-duplication before becoming an official PIT survey.

PIT Observation: An in-person observation of perceived homelessness submitted by a PIT volunteer. This does not become an official PIT survey as submitted to HUD, but helps to guide future PIT efforts.

PIT Data: This number represents individuals and families that are unsheltered, utilizing beds at an emergency shelter, or are part of a transitional housing program. This data can be organized into respective subcategories such as gender and age demographics, or self-reported substance abuse or mental health issues based on the information given at a survey or shelter intake process.

HIC Data: This refers to the Housing Inventory Count which is an overall assessment of the resources available throughout a system. This report collects bed count, utilization, and availability.

Reference Date:
This refers to the reference night for PIT surveys. For 2026, the PIT Reference Night was Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Although surveys were conducted from Wednesday, January 28 – Friday, January 30, 2026 throughout Salt Lake County, the questions about a person's sleeping circumstances refers to their experience on January 28, 2026.

Methodology & Approach

The PIT count is a vital tool for estimating the prevalence and understanding some of the key demographics around homelessness. It is not an exact total of everyone who experiences homelessness over the course of a year. Factors such as weather, volunteer participation, and area size can affect the accuracy of the data.

Salt Lake County relies on a census-based approach to enumerate people experiencing homelessness throughout the CoC geography rather than estimate the population through sampling. In 2026, over 350 volunteers were divided into more than 60 teams that surveyed throughout Salt Lake County to gain an accurate assessment of the county's unsheltered population.

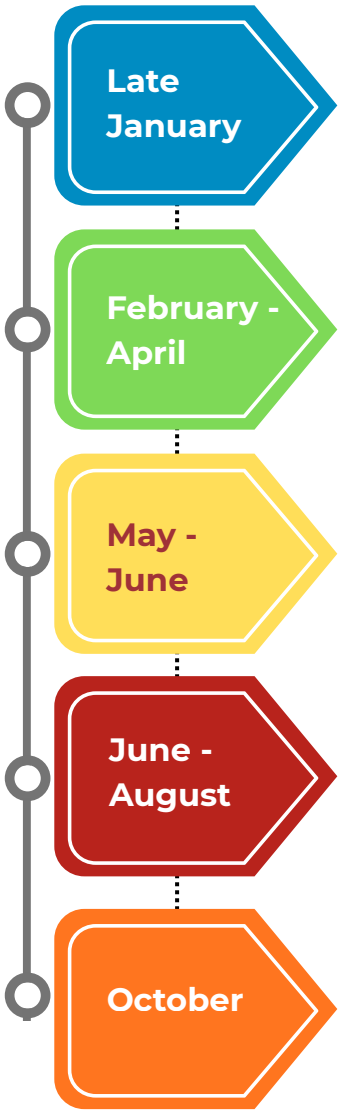


The Utah's Office of Homeless Services (OHS) aggregates this data and functions as the data system managing partner on the behalf of the three state CoCs. Once the data is compiled and analyzed by OHS, it is reviewed by the CoCs before the CoCs submit this report to HUD. Additionally, each CoC reviews their data with CoC leadership and membership for further insight and analysis.

OHS produces the Annual Data Dashboard on Homelessness, the state's comprehensive yearly analysis of the homeless system and the individuals it serves. The Data Dashboard can be found here: https://jobs.utah.gov/homelessness/hboard.html

While an unsheltered count is only required every two years by HUD, SLVCEH—as well as the other CoCs—have determined for data purposes and consistency as well as awareness and advocacy, to conduct the unsheltered count annually.

PIT ANNUAL TIMELINE



Data Collection
The Statewide Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) are conducted. The PIT captures sheltered and unsheltered homelessness data, while the HIC collects information from Homeless Resource Centers and other housing programs to provide a broader view of the homeless response system.

Data Review & Submission
OHS conducts data analysis, de-duplication, and quality review in partnership with the CoCs. Once compiled and reviewed, SLVCEH verifies and submits its finalized PIT and HIC data to HUD by the federal reporting deadline.

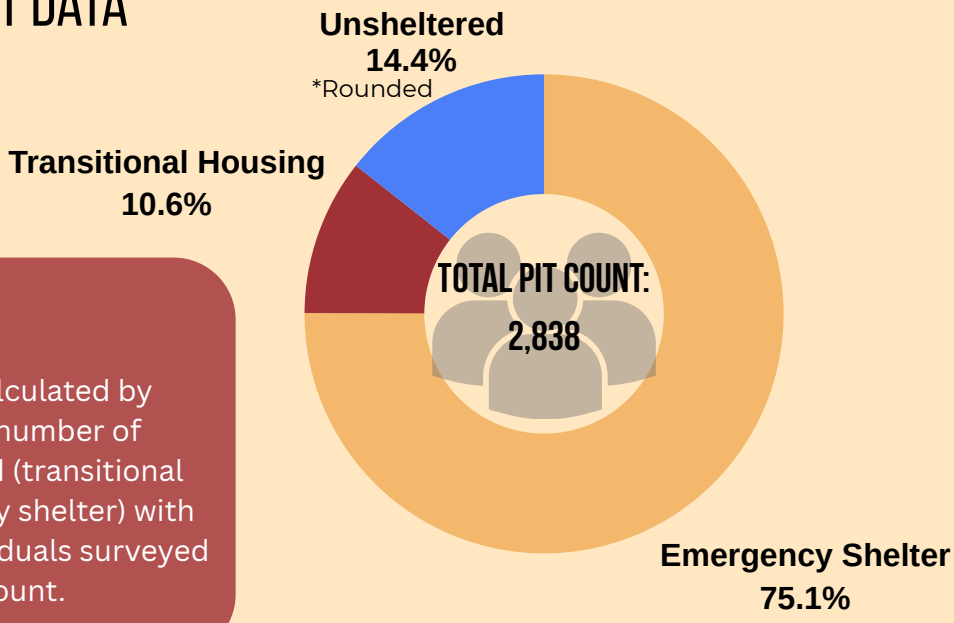
Analysis & Public Reporting
Following submission, SLVCEH, OHS leadership, and community partners work together to achieve a more comprehensive analysis of the data and provide appropriate context for the findings.

Dashboard Released
OHS publishes statewide homeless services dashboard which reflects statewide trends and PIT/HIC data findings. Joint public communications and coordinated data releases are anticipated during this timeframe.

PIT Count Planning Begins
The PIT Planning Committee starts recruiting for volunteers, organizing and preparing for the PIT Count.

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2026 OVERVIEW: PIT DATA



Reminder:

Total PIT Count is calculated by combining the total number of individuals sheltered (transitional housing & emergency shelter) with the number of individuals surveyed in the unsheltered count.

Salt Lake County's 2026 PIT Count identified 2,838 individuals experiencing homelessness on the count night, 85.6% of whom were in shelter (emergency shelter or transitional housing) and 14.38% unsheltered.

Total PIT Count	2,838

SHELTERED	
Emergency Shelter (ES)	2,130
Transitional Housing (TH)	300
Total Sheltered	2,430

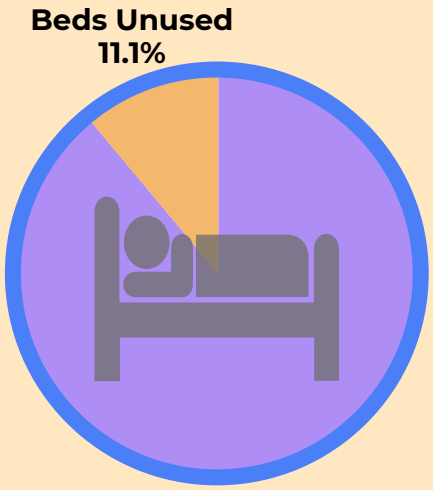
UNSHELTERED	
Total Unsheltered	408
Unsheltered Rate	14.38%

2026 OVERVIEW: HIC DATA

Reporting Organizations	20
Total Projects	93
Total Beds Available	6,568
Beds Utilized	5,841
Utilization Rate	89%

Reminder:

This refers to the Housing Inventory Count which is an overall assessment of the resources available throughout a system. This report collects bed count, utilization, and availability.



NOTE

While **utilization rate** includes all available beds, some beds have eligibility requirements that limit the availability to fill them.
For example, a youth bed or bed at a domestic violence shelter could be available not able to serve the next person in need if that person does not fit the eligibility requirements.

The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) provides a snapshot of the community's housing and shelter capacity on the night of the PIT Count. It includes five HUD defined project types: Emergency Shelter (ES), Safe Haven (SH), Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). In Salt Lake County at the time of the publishing of this report we do not have any Safe Haven projects.

Twenty organizations submitted data across 93 projects supporting housing for people experiencing homelessness. On the PIT night, 5,841 of the county's 6,568 available beds were filled, an 89% utilization rate, indicating the system was operating near capacity.

2026 PIT COUNT: SUB-POPULATION DATA

The PIT Count Survey helps identify population data and trends to better contextualize the community and populations served.

The 2026 high-level sub-population data is listed below:

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

Sub Population	ES	TH	Unsheltered	Total
Chronically Homeless	722	-	108	**830**
Veterans	31	53	4	**88**
Adult Survivors of DV	144	14	38	**196**
Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)	77	33	43	**153**
Parenting Youth Households	7 (22 people)	2 (4 people)	0	**9 households / 26 people**
Adults with SMI	962	81	159	**1,202**
Adults with SUD	613	51	151	**815**
Adults with HIV / AIDS	40	1	6	**47**
Family Households	140	58	6	**204**
Family Individuals	447	193	24	**664**
Seniors (65+)	239	9	18	**266**

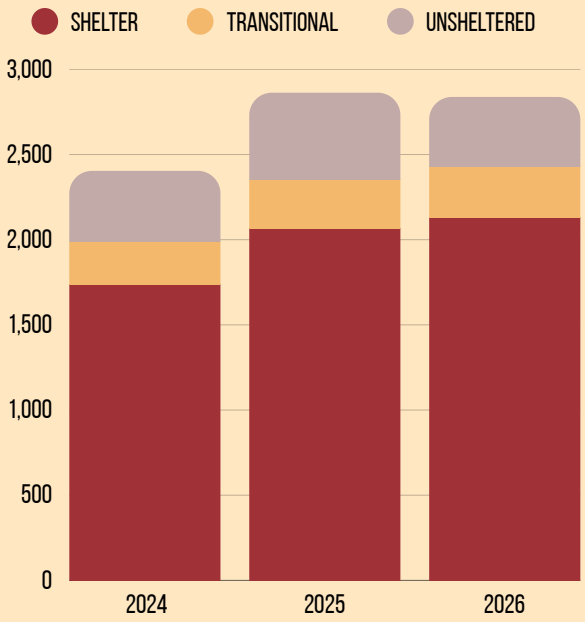
DV = Domestic Violence; SMI = Serious Mental Illness; SUD = Substance- Abuse Disorder

2026 PIT COUNT: TREND DATA

In 2022, Salt Lake County and the SLVCEH produced a four-year summary report covering PIT data from 2018–2022. Our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan concludes this year, so this section presents trend data spanning the life of that plan. Due to some differential data reporting categories, this report focuses on 2024-2026 to avoid confusion.

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

	2024	2025	2026
ES	1,739	2,067	2,130
TH	252	289	300
Shelter Total	1,991	2,356	2,430
Unsheltered Total	413	507	408
% Unsheltered	17.18%	17.71%	14.38%
Total Homeless	**2,404**	**2,863**	**2,838**

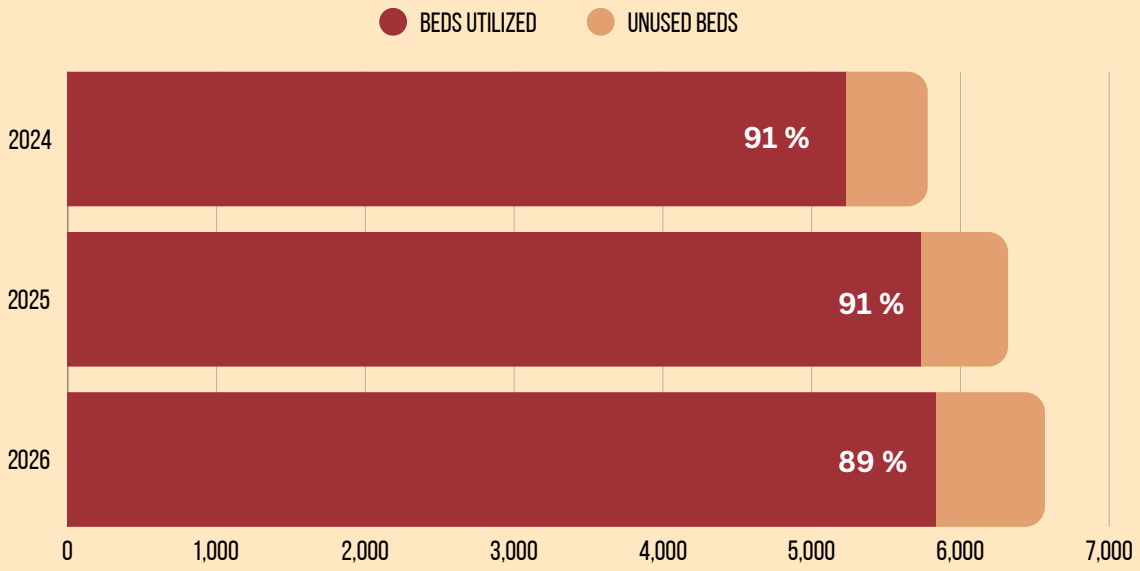


Overall homelessness in Salt Lake County has grown 18.1% since 2024 (2,404 → 2,838), though the trend isn't linear. The count jumped sharply from 2024 to 2025 (+19.1%), then nearly leveled off from 2025 to 2026 (-0.9%).

Shelter utilization has grown steadily every year (1,991 → 2,430). Unsheltered homelessness numbers spiked in 2025 (+507, the three-year high) before dropping 19.5% to 408 in 2026, now the lowest unsheltered count in the series. The proportion of the total population that's unsheltered fell from 17.18% in 2024 to 14.38% in 2026.

HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT TREND DATA 2024 - 2026

	2024	2025	2026
Beds Utilized (PIT)	5,235	5,737	5,841
Total Beds	5,780	6,320	6,568
Utilization Rate	91%	91%	89%



Throughout this period, overall bed capacity has grown steadily, up 13.6% from 5,780 (2024) to 6,568 (2026). Utilization held steady at 91% for two straight years before dropping to 89% in 2026. That's a small shift and factors such as bed type, population restrictions by program, etc. often play a role in this.

Housing placement trends should be considered alongside the availability of housing subsidies and new housing projects coming online. This relationship provides important context for understanding year-to-year fluctuations, as changes in housing placement outcomes are often driven by the availability of housing resources rather than program performance alone.

HIC COUNT BY PROGRAM TYPE

The HIC Count can also be broken down into Shelter Inventory and Permanent Housing Only data. The Shelter Inventory includes Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing. Where Permanent Housing includes Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Shelter Inventory (Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing)

	2024	2025	2026
Beds Utilized (PIT)	1,991	2,356	2,430
Total Beds	2,316	2,649	3,050
Utilization Rate	86%	89%	80%

Permanent Housing Only (Rapid Re-housing & Permanent Supportive Housing)

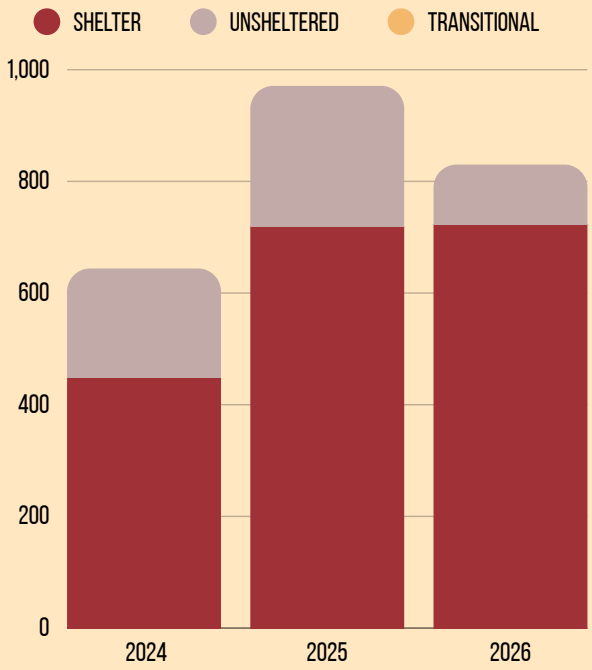
	2024	2025	2026
Beds Utilized (PIT)	3,244	3,381	3,411
Total Beds	3,464	3,671	3,518
Utilization Rate	94%	92%	97%

In 2021, the first Housing Now assessment was completed for the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness as a way to understand the amount of investment that is needed to solve homelessness in Salt Lake County. The updated 2025 Housing Now Report is intended to serve as a comprehensive housing analysis of current and future needs for those who are experiencing homelessness in Salt Lake County. The update was a collaboration between Salt Lake County Housing and Community Development, Salt Lake County Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform, Salt Lake City Housing Stability Division, Housing Connect, the Road Home and the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS TREND DATA 2024-2026

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

	2024	2025	2026
ES	458	720	722
TH	0	0	0
Unsheltered	196	251	108
Total Homeless	**654**	**971**	**830**



The chronically homeless population in Salt Lake County grew overall between 2024 and 2026, from 654 to 830 individuals, but the trend was non-linear. The count rose sharply in 2025, reaching a three-year high of 971. It then fell 14.5% in 2026 to 830.

The sheltered chronically homeless population increased 37.5% over the three-year period (458 to 722), with nearly all of that growth occurring in a single year – an increase of 317 individuals between 2024 and 2025.

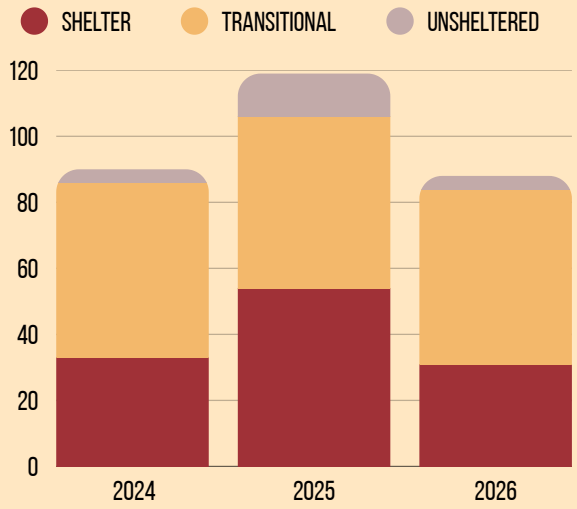
The unsheltered, chronically homeless population followed a markedly different path. After peaking at 251 in 2025, it dropped 57.0% to 108 in 2026, the lowest figure in the three-year series.

This sharp 2026 decline in unsheltered chronic homelessness mirrors the broader unsheltered trend identified in the Total PIT Count section.

VETERANS TREND DATA 2024-2026

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

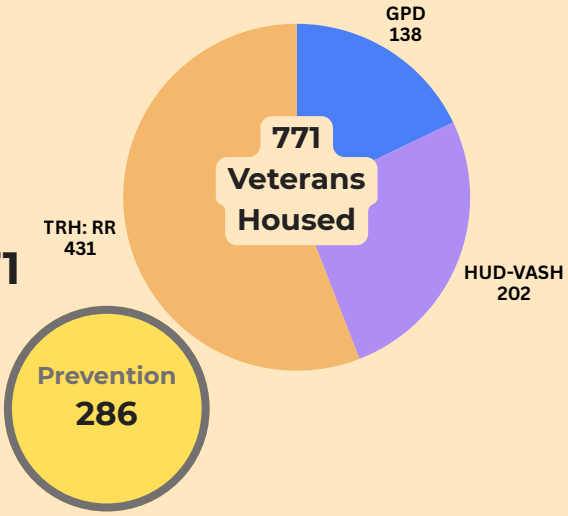
	2024	2025	2026
ES	33	54	31
TH	53	52	53
Unsheltered	5	13	4
Total Homeless	**91**	**119**	**88**



Homelessness among veterans peaked in 2025 at 119 individuals before declining 26.1% to 88 in 2026 the lowest total in the three-year window. This 2026 improvement was driven primarily by a sharp drop in unsheltered veterans, which fell 69.2% from 13 in 2025 to just 4 in 2026, the lowest unsheltered figure across the entire three-year window.

PROGRAM	VETERANS SERVED
Grant Per Diem Program (Transitional Housing)	138
HUD-VASH	202
The Road Home: Rapid Re-housing	431
The Road Home: Homeless Prevention	286

771



To provide additional context, the Veteran By-Name List (BNL) average of 56 Veterans in GPD and 110 literally homeless Veterans in shelter or place not meant for human habitation during the same period. Literally homeless Veterans on the BNL typically average 110- 120 in any given month; the total average which includes GPD, which is counted as literally homeless per HEARTH Act and McKinney-Vento standards and runs 166- 176.

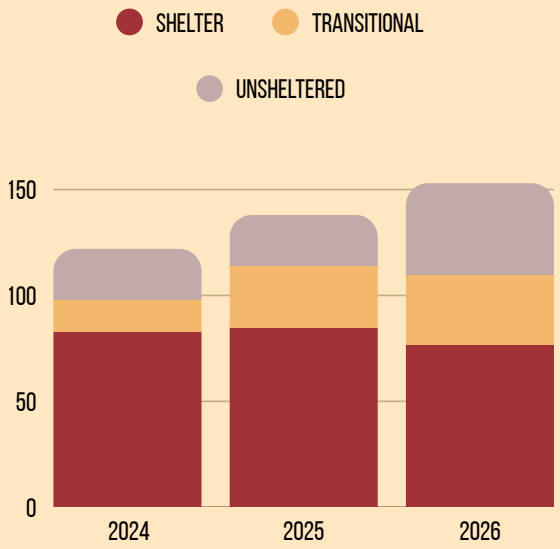
Taken alongside the PIT trend above, this placement volume helps explain the 2026 improvement in veteran homelessness: GPD, HUD-VASH, and Rapid Rehousing together placed over 770 Veterans out of literal homelessness across the two-year window against a BNL that holds fairly steady month to month, suggesting the placement pipeline not simply fewer Veterans entering the system is a meaningful driver of the decline. Homeless Prevention (286) is a separate lever worth noting alongside these placement numbers, but it serves a different population. Veterans at risk of homelessness rather than those literally homeless, so it isn't directly comparable to the BNL figures above and shouldn't be added into the "Veterans housed" total.

YOUTH TREND DATA 2024-2026

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

	2024	2025	2026
ES	83	85	77
TH	15	29	33
Unsheltered	24	24	43
Total Homeless	122	138	153

Note: For this sub-population, data includes information about unaccompanied youth ages 18-24



The composition of youth homelessness growth has shifted over time. Sheltered youth counts (ES + TH) grew from 98 in 2024 to 114 in 2025(85 ES + 29 TH), then held roughly flat at 110 in 2026 (77 ES + 33 TH), while Transitional Housing placements rose sharply, up annually and more than doubling since 2024 (15 to 33).Unsheltered youth, meanwhile, held steady at 24 for two consecutive years before jumping 79.2% to 43 in 2026 which is the highest unsheltered youth figure in the three-year series.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT: YOUTH ACTION BOARD PRESIDENT

When we conduct the Youth Point-in-Time each year, we are counting more than the number of young people experiencing homelessness. We are recognizing real lives, real potential, and real opportunities to change the future. This year, the number of youth identified during the PIT Count increased. While that reminds us there is still important work to do, it also reinforces why our community's continued commitment matters. Across Salt Lake County, providers, community partners, volunteers, and young people with lived experience are working together to ensure that every young person has access to safe housing, supportive services, and the opportunity to build a successful future. We have made meaningful progress, but our work is far from over.

Every young person counted is more than a statistic. They are someone with dreams, strengths, and unlimited potential who simply needs the opportunity and support to succeed. That is why the work of the Youth Action Board is so important. We use our lived experience to help shape solutions, improve systems, and advocate for young people who are still finding their path forward.

One young woman counted during the Youth Point-in-Time Count was living in the Milestone Transitional Living Program after experiencing homelessness. She was 20 years old and determined to create a different future for herself.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT: YOUTH ACTION BOARD PRESIDENT

During her time in the program, she earned her high school diploma, maintained steady employment, obtained her driver's license, and purchased her first vehicle through a partnership with Markosian Auto. Just as importantly, she built the confidence, healthy coping skills, and independence needed to move forward with hope.

Today, she has successfully graduated from the Milestone Transitional Living Program, moved into permanent housing, and is attending Salt Lake Community College through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, where she is pursuing certification as a Nursing Assistant. She is building a career dedicated to helping others, a powerful reminder that when young people are given stability, opportunity, and someone who believes in them, they can accomplish extraordinary things.

This is why the Youth Point-in-Time matters. The data helps us understand the need, but the stories remind us what is possible. Every young person deserves the opportunity to move beyond homelessness, and every successful outcome is proof that investing in youth changes lives and reduces chronic Homelessness.

Together, we can continue building a community where every young person has the opportunity not just to survive, but to thrive.

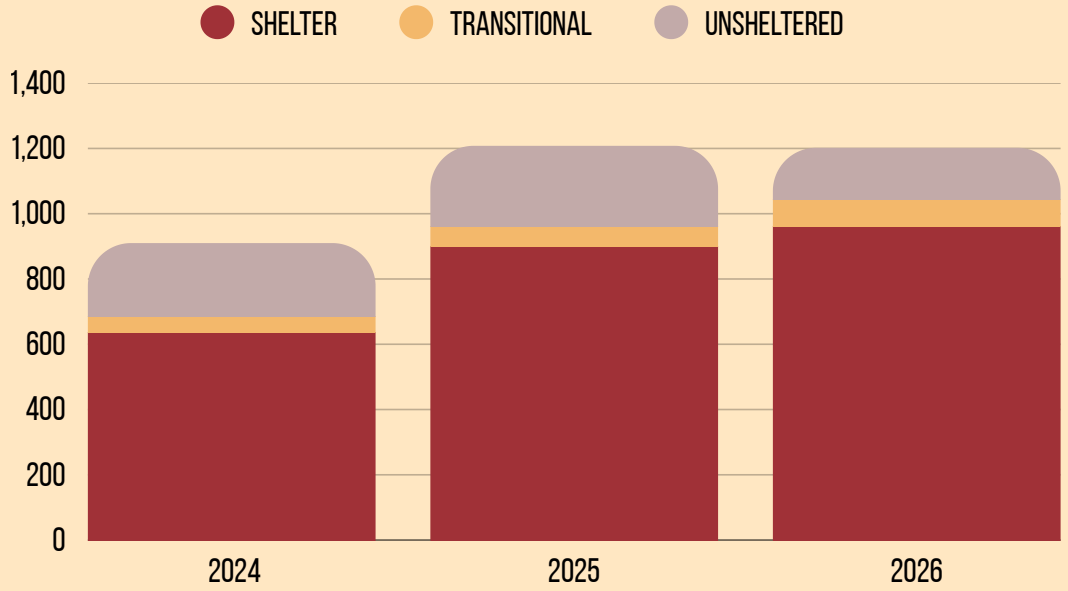
SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS TREND DATA 2024-2026

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

	2024	2025	2026
ES	637	900	962
TH	49	61	81
Unsheltered	224	247	159
Total Homeless	**910**	**1208**	**1202**

Note: Homelessness among adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) rose sharply from 2024 to 2025 (+32.7%, 910 to 1,208), then leveled off in 2026 with a slight decline of 0.5% to 1,202.

SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS TREND DATA 2024-2026 (CONTINUED)



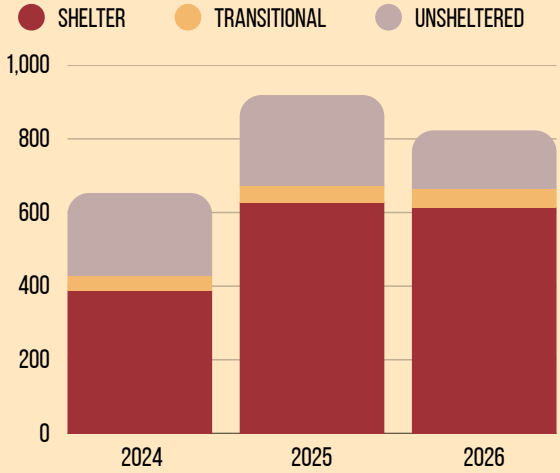
The composition of this population has shifted meaningfully. Sheltered adults with SMI (ES + TH) have grown every year, up 51.6% from 686 in 2024 to 1,043 in 2026, with Emergency Shelter placements alone increasing 51.0% over that span. In contrast, unsheltered adults with SMI declined substantially in 2026, falling 35.6% from 247 to 159 after increasing the previous year. This pattern mirrors the trend observed among individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, suggesting more individuals with complex needs may be accessing shelter or other crisis response systems.

At the same time, local substance use disorder and mental health treatment providers report seeing an increase in individuals entering treatment with co-occurring substance use disorders and serious mental illness, often presenting with significant psychotic symptoms such as delusions, hallucinations, and paranoia. While there are several theories about what may be contributing to this trend, there is currently insufficient data to draw conclusions. Additionally, to explain the plateauing of SMI individuals, the Salt Lake County Division of Behavioral Health has also brought on several new Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT) as well as several new mental health group homes that are targeting the housing and supportive services need of the homeless SMI population, which could contribute to this trend. Given that adults with SMI represent one of the largest sub-populations identified in the PIT Count, these findings highlight the continued need for behavioral health services, shelter-based supports, and further analysis to better understand changes in this population.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREND DATA 2024-2026

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

	2024	2025	2026
ES	389	627	613
TH	40	45	51
Unsheltered	183	150	151
Total Homeless	**612**	**822**	**815**



Homelessness among adults with Substance-Use Disorder (SUD) followed a non-linear path over the three-year period, ending 2026 up 33% from the 2024 baseline (612 to 815) but down slightly (-0.9%) from 2025's peak of 822. The pattern resembles what was seen in the SMI population: a sharp rise from 2024–2025, followed by a plateau in 2026.

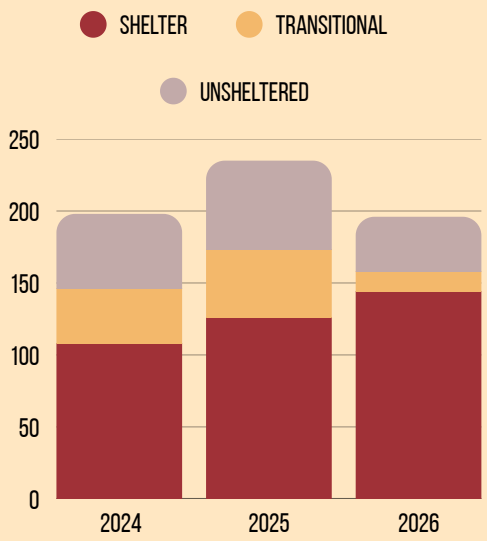
Sheltered adults with SUD grew 54.7%% overall (429 to 664), with growth concentrated between 2024 and 2025 (+56.6%, 429 to 672) before leveling off in 2026 (672 to 664, essentially flat). SUD treatment providers in late 2025 and 2026 reported a dip in referrals from the criminal justice system and investigation into how the recent changes in criminal justice policies and enforcement practices may be influencing how individuals with significant behavioral health needs interact with the homeless response system.

Community Input Note from Behavioral Health providers:
One hypothesis is that some individuals are spending longer periods in county jail and, in some cases, may choose to complete their jail sentences rather than participate in treatment programs. At this time, this is an observation rather than a finding supported by available data, and additional analysis would be needed to understand whether and to what extent these factors are contributing to observed trends.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREND DATA 2024-2026

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

	2024	2025	2026
ES	108	126	144
TH	38	47	14
Unsheltered	52	62	38
Total Homeless	**198**	**235**	**196**



Reported domestic violence survivor homelessness has fluctuated over the three-year period, however between 2024 and 2026 the overall instance of reported domestic violence survivor homelessness has remained nearly identical.

The composition shifted notably in 2026. Emergency Shelter placements rose to a three-year high of 144, while Transitional Housing placements dropped sharply, down 70.2% from 47 in 2025 to just 14 in 2026. Unsheltered DV survivors fell 38.7% from 62 to 38, continuing the broader 2026 pattern of declining unsheltered counts seen across most sub-populations. While additional context would be needed to understand the decline in transitional housing, the change in where survivors are accessing services could indicate increased access to emergency shelter, improved identification of survivors entering shelter, or a greater reliance on emergency shelter as an immediate safety response. Additionally, due to providers seeing transitional housing units being filled stably and if anything more quickly, as of late because of increased program visibility and streamlined application processes, a further review of data collection for transitive housing would be beneficial to identify areas to improve reporting.

South Valley Services reported that unmet domestic violence shelter requests in Salt Lake County remain consistently high. At the end of FY26, unmet requests increased by 42%, totaling 1,575 requests. Of those, 845 were eligible survivors of abuse who were turned away due to a lack of shelter bed capacity. While these figures do not indicate how many individuals ultimately remained unsheltered, they highlight the significant unmet need for shelter for domestic violence survivors in Salt Lake County.

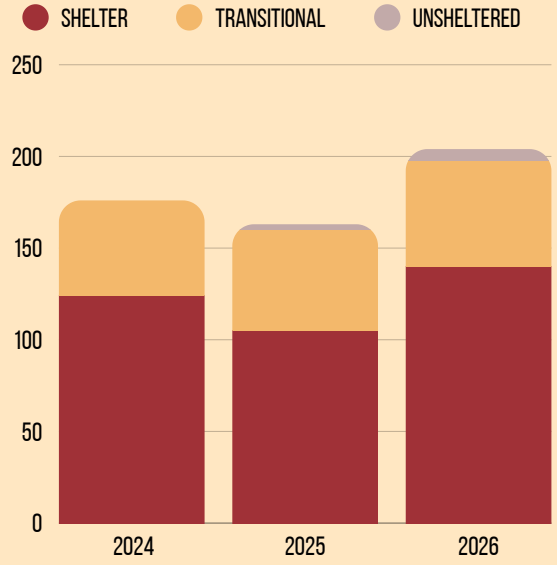
While these trends are important to monitor, they should be interpreted with caution. Because reporting domestic violence survivor status is voluntary and intentionally limited to protect survivor safety and confidentiality, the data likely underrepresents the true number of survivors experiencing homelessness. Changes may reflect differences in reporting practices, survivor willingness to disclose, and provider data collection, rather than actual changes in prevalence. As a result, this data is better suited for identifying trends over time than for estimating the overall prevalence of homelessness among domestic violence survivors. Continued improvements in data collection and coordinated reporting will be important to better understand and respond to the needs of this population.

FAMILIES TREND DATA 2024-2026

Note: Family PIT data is reported as the number of households presenting with at least one adult and one child.

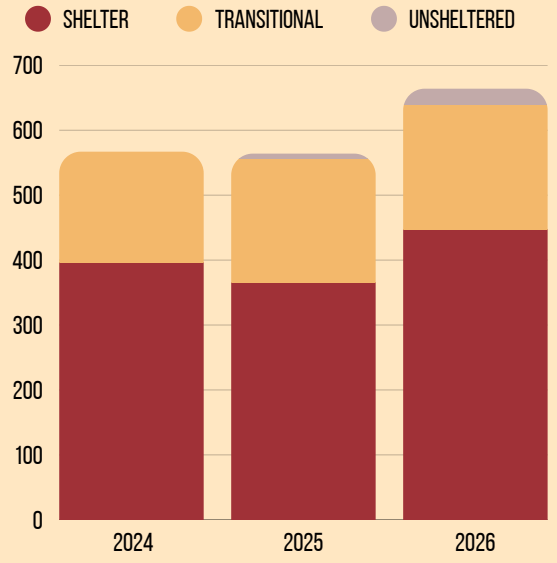
By Household

	2024	2025	2026
ES	124	105	140
TH	52	55	58
Unsheltered	0	3	6
Total Homeless	**176**	**163**	**204**



By Individual

	2024	2025	2026
ES	397	366	447
TH	170	191	193
Unsheltered	0	7	24
Total Homeless	**567**	**564**	**664**



Note: The table on the left displays the number of family households recorded, while the table on the right breaks those family units down into individuals.

FAMILIES TREND DATA 2024-2026 (CONTINUED)

****Methodology Note: 2026 was the first year a specialized, incentivized family PIT count was conducted to respond to community concerns that family homelessness was underreported.**

Family household counts grew 15.9% from 2024 to 2026 (176 to 204). We also see an increase in the unsheltered population for both individuals and households. Increasing from a baseline of 0 in 2024 for both datasets.

Unsheltered families have historically been underrepresented in the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count for a variety of reasons. This population tends to be highly mobile and often does not remain in the same location from night to night. Many unsheltered families are also concerned about potential interactions with law enforcement or child welfare agencies, which can make them hesitant to engage with outreach teams. As a result, they may move frequently or leave their sleeping locations very early in the morning before count efforts begin.

Additionally, because the PIT Count takes place during some of the coldest nights of the year, families and friends are often more willing to temporarily accommodate unsheltered families by allowing them to stay on couches or in spare rooms. While these arrangements may only last a night or two, they can make it more difficult to accurately capture the scope of family homelessness during the count, particularly when families are trying to keep children from sleeping outdoors or in vehicles.

The increase in unsheltered families identified this year is due, in part, to a more intentional and targeted approach to data collection. Prior to the PIT Count, The Road Home contacted families it knew to be unsheltered and invited them to come to The Connie Crosby Family Resource Center to complete the assessment in person. This strategy helped us identify and count more unsheltered families than in previous years. We also conducted additional community outreach and distributed flyers throughout the county to increase awareness of the count and encourage participation.

While the number of unsheltered families in our community does continue to grow, the significant increase reflected in this year's PIT Count is not solely attributable to growth in the population. It is also the result of improved outreach efforts, stronger community engagement, and intentional strategies to better identify and count families who may have been missed in prior years.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT: THE ROAD HOME SUCCESS STORIES

Success Story 1

A family experiencing homelessness came to The Road Home while their young son was undergoing chemotherapy at Primary Children's Hospital. Because he was immuno-compromised, staying in a congregate shelter was not a safe option, creating an urgent need for emergency shelter that could support both his health and the family's stability.

Through The Road Home's Family Interim Non-Congregate Housing Program, the family was able to stay in a private, safe environment while their son continued his cancer treatment. The stability provided by the program allowed both parents to secure employment, maintain access to lifesaving medical care, and focus on finding permanent housing. Within a few months, the family moved into a home near Primary Children's Hospital, ensuring continued access to treatment while ultimately securing permanent housing.

Success Story 2

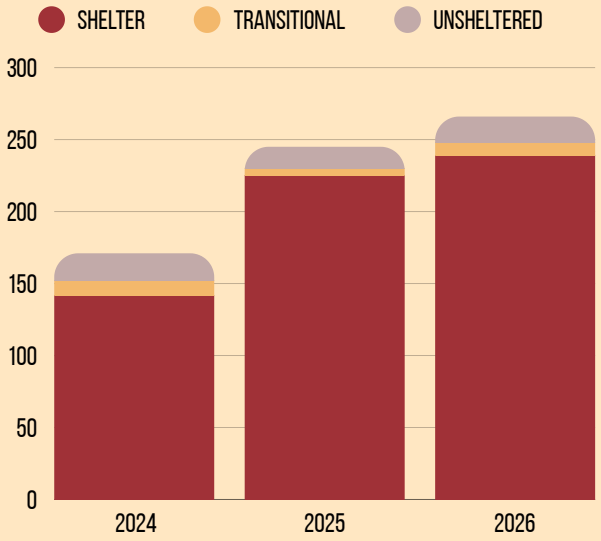
A single mother entered The Road Home's shelter with her three young children, including a non-verbal child on the autism spectrum who experienced significant sensory challenges. The noise and activity of the congregate shelter environment were overwhelming, causing the child to pace throughout the night and struggle to rest. As a result, the mother was exhausted and faced additional barriers to securing employment, searching for housing, and caring for her family.

After transferring to The Road Home's Family Interim Non-Congregate Housing Program, the family gained the privacy and stability they needed. The quieter environment helped the child feel safe, regulated, and able to sleep through the night, significantly reducing stress for the entire family. With consistent rest and greater stability, the mother was able to focus on employment and work closely with housing staff to secure permanent housing. Within a few months, the family ultimately secured permanent housing, providing a stable, supportive environment where the mother and her three children could thrive.

SENIORS (65+) TREND DATA 2024-2026

ES = Emergency Shelter; TH = Transitional Housing

	2024	2025	2026
ES	142	225	239
TH	10	5	9
Unsheltered	19	15	18
Total Homeless	**171**	**245**	**266**



Homelessness among seniors (65+) rose steadily across the three years with available data, growing 55.6% from 171 in 2024 to 266 in 2026. Unlike most other sub-populations in this report, seniors show no year with a decline in the total count. The growth was continuous, though the rate slowed somewhat in the most recent year.

Emergency Shelter placements followed a similar trend: a sharp 58.5% jump from 142 to 225 between 2024 and 2025, then a slight increase to 239 in 2026. Temporary Housing and unsheltered counts have both remained comparatively small and stable throughout the period (TH: 5-10; unsheltered: 15-19), suggesting that growth in this sub-population has been concentrated almost entirely in emergency shelter usage rather than in temporary housing or unsheltered settings.

Seniors saw no comparable improvement; unsheltered senior homelessness has held roughly flat (15-19) for three straight years with no sign of the same downward movement seen elsewhere. Combined with the steady overall growth trend and Utah's broader aging population, this sub-population is a key finding and note for the community.

The number of unsheltered older adults identified in the PIT Count likely does not capture the full extent of housing instability experienced by this population. Many older adults experiencing homelessness are not living visibly unsheltered and may cycle between short-term hotel stays, couch surfing, living in vehicles, or residing in unsafe or unstable situations, such as garages, sheds, RVs without utilities, or other informal arrangements. Because these individuals are often not engaged with the homeless response system they may not be reflected in the PIT Count despite lacking stable, permanent housing.

Long waitlists for subsidized senior housing, often exceeding one year and can leave older adults in these precarious living situations for extended periods. For many, age-related mobility limitations, chronic health conditions, and fixed incomes further increase their vulnerability. Additionally, while Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments expand the affordable housing supply, rents may still exceed what many older adults on fixed incomes can reasonably afford and the income/rental cost ratio leaves them ineligible even if they are willing to pay the higher rent.

ADDITIONAL DATA

2023 - 2025 SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

HUD System Performance Measures (SPM) are a set of seven metrics used by Continuums of Care (CoCs) to track community progress in preventing and ending homelessness, submitted annually. This data is reported on the federal fiscal year so at the time this report was written, this data is available through 2025 and provides additional insight to the PIT and HIC Data.

SPM 1: Length of Time of Homelessness

SPM 2: The Extent to Which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness

SPM 3: Number of Homeless Persons

SPM 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-Funded Projects

SPM 5 (A): Total Individuals Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness

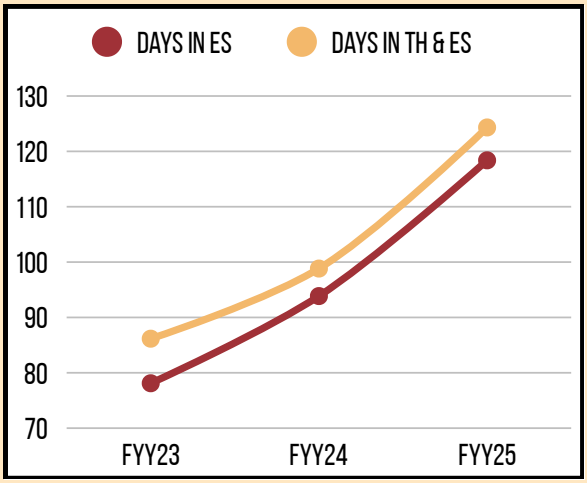
SPM 5 (B): Number of Persons Who Become Homeless for the First Time

SPM 6: Homeless Prevention and Housing Placement of Persons defined by category 3 of HUD's Homeless Definition in CoC Program-funded Projects

SPM 7: Successful Housing Placement

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #1

Length of Time Homeless



	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25
Average Days in ES & TH	86.16	98.83	124.32
Average Days in ES	78.11	93.86	118.38

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #1 (Continued)

Length of Time Homeless

Context:

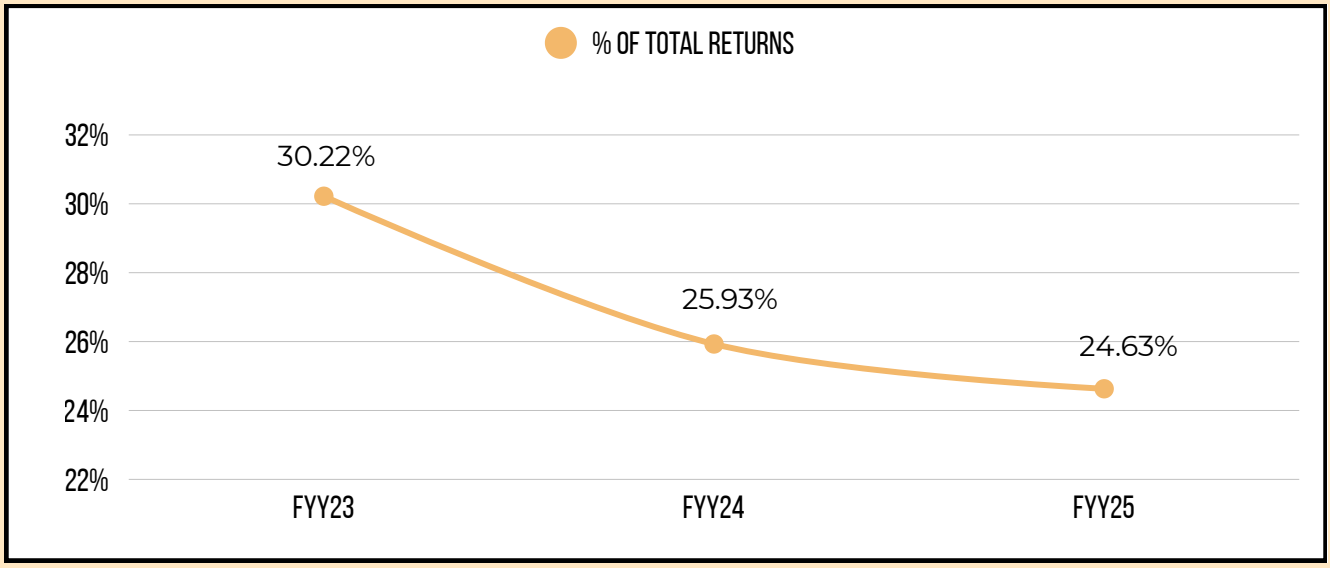
Considers at all Emergency Shelter (ES) and Transitional Housing (TH) projects and finds the average number of days that a person was homeless in any ES or TH project during the reporting period.

Length of time homeless continues to rise and would be helpful to investigate long-stayers in shelters and what barriers exist to address as a system.

Note: It is important to note that certain groups like DV survivors experience additional trauma barriers that can complicate rapid transitions to self-sufficiency and permanent housing. Return to homelessness data for DV survivors can be misleading because for these individuals a return to shelter is seen as a positive in terms of returning to safety.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #2

The Extent to Which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness



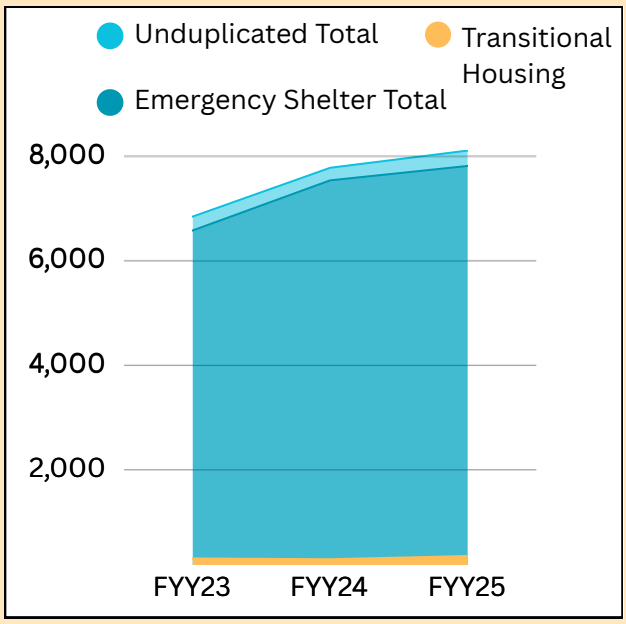
Context:

This measure calculates how many people exited homelessness to permanent housing24 months before the reporting period, then calculates how many people returned to homelessness at different intervals.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #3

Number of Homeless Persons

	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25
Unduplicated Total Sheltered Homeless Persons	6,838	7,770	8,099
Emergency Shelter Total	6,573	7,530	7,805
Transitional Housing Total	304	289	351



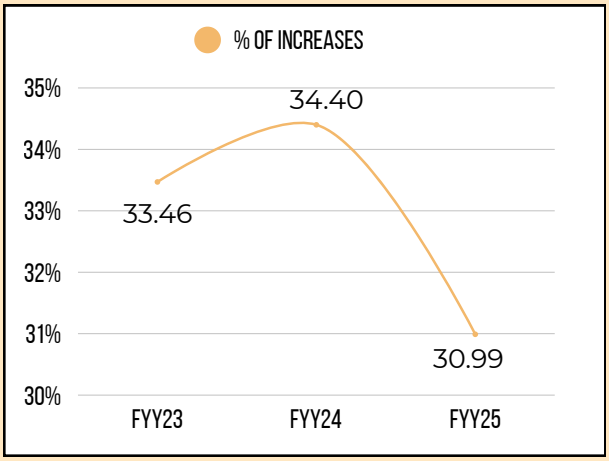
Context:

This measure represents an unduplicated count of people enrolled in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing projects during the reporting period.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #4

Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-Funded Projects

	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25
Universe: Number of Adults: (System Stayers + System Leavers)	789	779	797
Number of Adults with Increased Income	264	268	247
Increase of Total Income for CoC Funded Program	33.46%	34.40%	30.99%



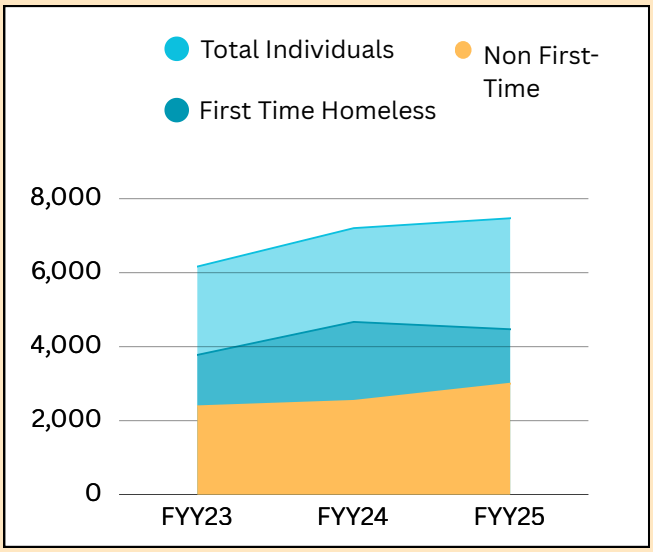
Context:

This measure shows the percentage of persons in CoC-funded housing programs who increase income during the reporting period.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #5A

Total Individuals Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness

	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25
Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	6,165	7,204	7,471
Individuals Experiencing first-time homelessness	3,777	4,669	4,471
Individuals not experiencing first-time homelessness	2,388	2,535	3,000



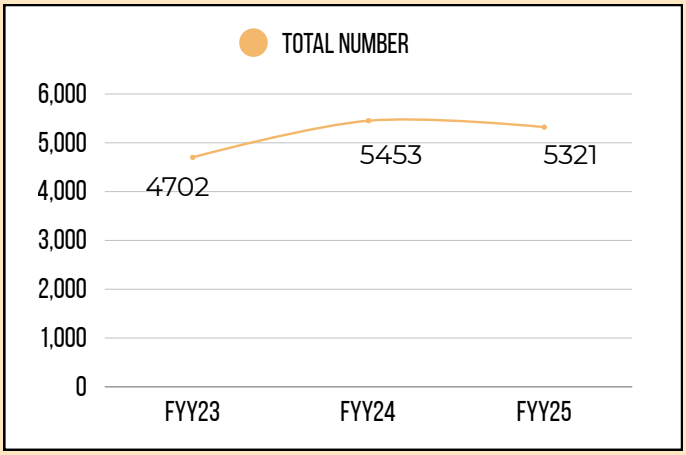
Context:

This measure counts the total number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness, including people entering emergency shelters, and transitional housing.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #5B

Number of Persons Who Become Homeless for the First Time

	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25
Individuals Experiencing Homelessness for the first time	4,702	5,453	5,321



Context:

This measure calls out the number of people **experiencing homelessness for the first time** in the reporting period, including people entering emergency shelters, transitional housing, and all permanent housing projects.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #6

Homeless Prevention and Housing Placement of Persons defined by category 3 of HUD's Homeless Definition in CoC Program-funded Projects

Context:

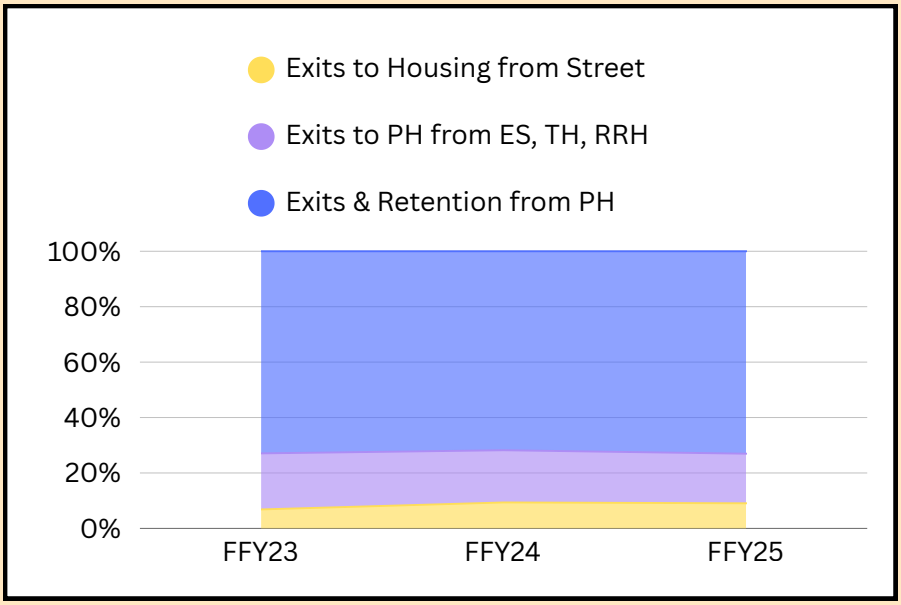
Category 3 is: Unaccompanied youth under age 25, or families with children and youth, who are defined as homeless under another federal statute, have not had a lease or ownership interest in permanent housing during the previous 60 days, have experienced persistent housing instability, and are expected to continue in that status because of barriers to obtaining housing.

Currently, CoCs are not authorized to serve individuals who fall under Category 3 and are not required to track data or report on this measure.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURE #7

Successful Housing Placements

	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25
% Successful exits or retention of housing from PH	94.99%	94.86%	95.30%
% Successful exits to Permanent Housing from ES, TH, RRH	26.34%	24.89%	23.35%
% Successful exits to permanent or temporary housing from Street Outreach	8.91%	12.37%	11.82%



Context:

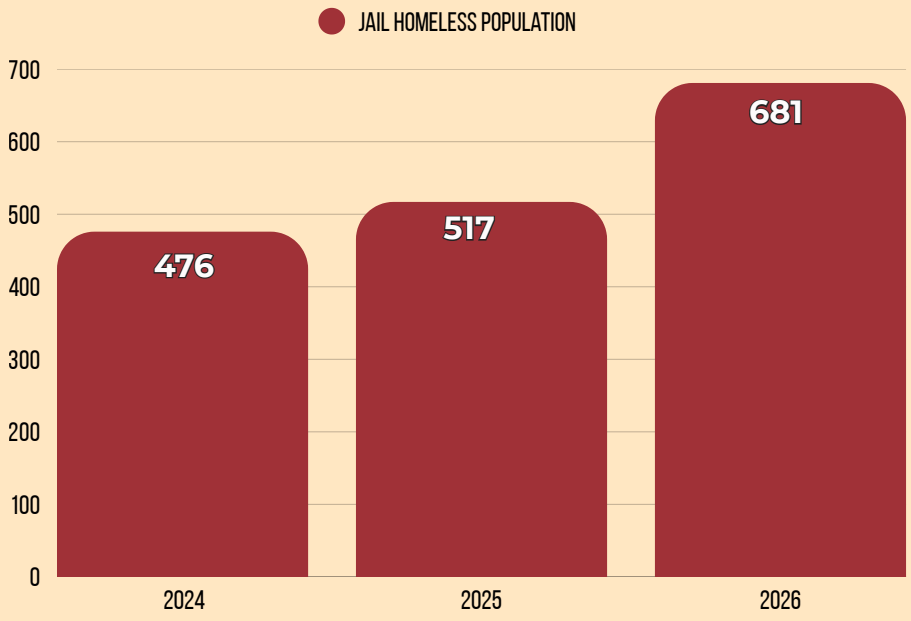
This measure looks at people who retained permanent housing or exited to a permanent housing destination during the reporting period.

ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

The PIT Count and HIC use HUD's definition of homelessness, which captures individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night who meet HUD's definition of homelessness. As a result, this data does not include all people experiencing housing instability. Some individuals, including those who self-report homelessness while incarcerated in the county jail, students identified under the U.S. Department of Education's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and people living in temporary or unstable housing situations that fall outside HUD's definition, are tracked through other systems but are not reflected in the PIT or HIC. Similarly, individuals who temporarily enter institutional or program settings may not be captured in the PIT despite continuing to face significant housing challenges upon exit. This section presents complementary data from these sources to provide additional context and a more complete understanding of homelessness and housing instability in the community.

To provide additional context to better understand our system locally, we have included some of the additional data below.

JAIL HOMELESSNESS DATA ON PIT NIGHT (SELF-REPORTED)



SLVCEH is committed to fully understanding the experiences of people experiencing homelessness in our community. One data point of particular interest is **jail data.** The self-reported homeless population within the county jail on PIT night has grown substantially and consistently, rising 43% from 476 in 2024 to 681 in 2026.

JAIL HOMELESSNESS DATA ON PIT NIGHT (SELF-REPORTED)

It is important to highlight this data and acknowledge that the population experiencing both homelessness and justice involvement has unique needs and challenges affecting the homeless response system and the criminal justice system alike. Our goal is to work closely with our justice partners through The Salt Lake County Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) to ensure the right system response to these challenges.

SLVCEH wants to make sure this population is fully considered in the community's response. We are examining their needs through the work of CJAC and the Behavioral Health and Justice Recommendations developed with the Leifman group (Leifman initiative).

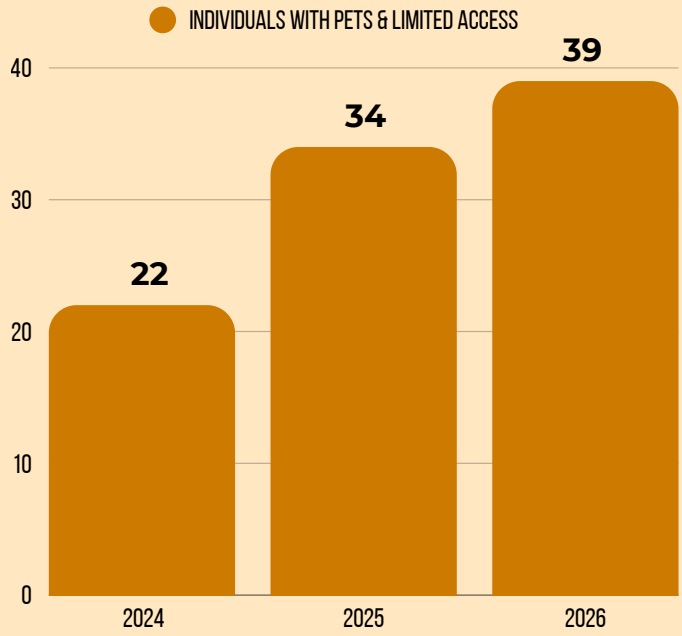
For up-to-date jail data, please visit this dashboard: https://www.saltlakecounty.gov/sheriff/corrections/jail/.

MCKINNEY-VENTO LIAISON DATA (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION)

Many children and families experiencing housing instability are identified through the U.S. Department of Education's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act under a broader definition of homelessness than the HUD definition of homelessness including those who are doubled up or living in other temporary situations that are not captured by the PIT Count. As a result, reporting households with children provides a more meaningful representation of family homelessness within the context of HUD's data collection requirements, while recognizing that the overall number of children experiencing homelessness in the community is likely higher.

This data is available publicly by school year through 2024: Download | Ed Data Express.

UNSHELTERED SURVEY PET DATA



As part of the unsheltered count, we ask individuals to indicate if having a pet (companion animal) limited their ability to access services or housing in Salt Lake County on the PIT count night. The number of individuals that expressed that having a pet (companion animal) has limited their access to finding shelter has grown throughout the last 3 years, reaching an all-time high in 2026.

Across Utah's Balance of State, Mountainland, and Salt Lake County Continuums of Care (CoCs), 151 of 1,008 unsheltered individuals surveyed in 2024 (15%) reported that having a pet created a barrier to accessing shelter or housing. In 2025, that number declined to 76 of 1,046 individuals surveyed (7%), representing a 50% decrease.

The reasons for this decline warrant further investigation. However, one potential contributing factor is the expansion of Code Blue shelter sites outside of Salt Lake County, many of which allow individuals to bring their pets. Increased availability of pet-friendly emergency shelter may have reduced this barrier for some people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

CONCLUSION

The 2026 data reflects a system that made progress for several historically hard-to-house populations including chornically homeless individuals, Veterans, and adults with serious mental illness. All subpopulations experienced meaningful reductions in unsheltered homelessness. At the same time, other data gathered this year indicates a finding that complicates a straightforward narrative.

As unsheltered counts fell this year, jail-reported homelessness rose sharply and disproportionaltely among those same populations. This finding underscores the importance of gatering data beyond the PIT and HIC data in order to have a full understanding of trend data, particularly in relationship to unsheltered homelessness. It will become standard practice to incorporate data bend the PIT and HIC, including jail counts. The SLVCEH also looks to refine methodolgy and processes in order to ensure data and reporting accuracy.

Youth, seniors, and families warrant continued attention heading into 2027, partiuclarly for our Coalition's strategic planning purposes, with each subpopulation showing upward trends that were not offset by any placement increases in participating programs.

As our Coaltion's 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan concludes this year, this report's findings, particualrly the open question around jail-involved homelessness, should directly inform priorites for the next planning cycle.

For more information and to se the full, comprehensive state data dashboard, please visit https://jobs.utah.gov/homelessness/hboard.html.

For more information on the Salt Lake Valley Coaltion to End Homelessness, including involvement, membership, newsletters, and other documents, please visit http://endutahhomelessness.org/salt-lake-valley.

SALT LAKE VALLEY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

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