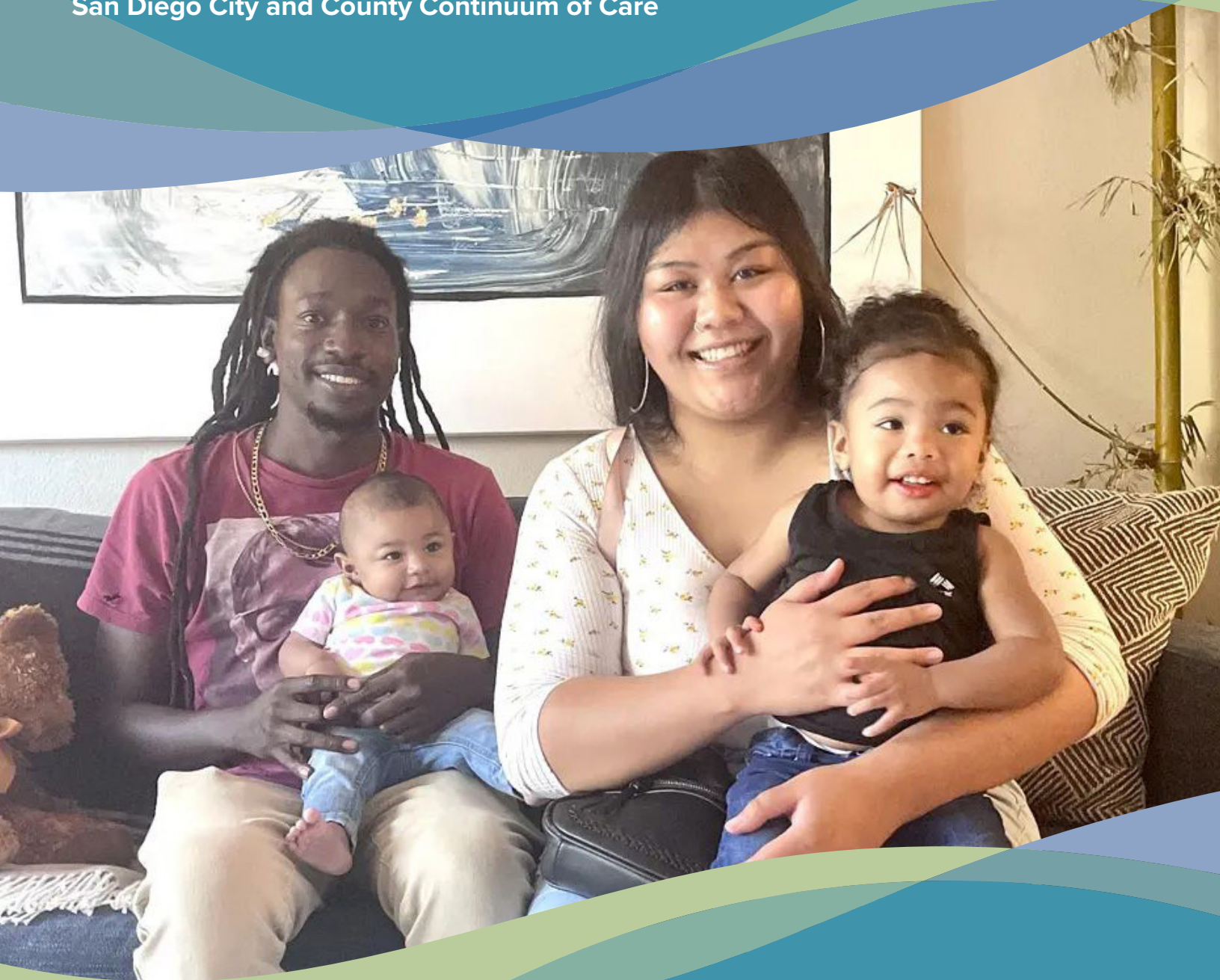SAN DIEGO
**Regional Task Force
on Homelessness**

Homelessness Crisis Response System 2022 Data and Performance Report

San Diego City and County Continuum of Care

JUNE 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) leads the San Diego City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) and oversees the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database, which tracks housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. This report presents a summary of key performance indicators for the San Diego Continuum of Care homeless response system, analyzing trends over the past three years. The data used includes HUD System Performance Measure (SPM) and Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) reports submitted to HUD in 2022, 2021, and 2020, as well as custom reports generated from the HMIS administered by the RTFH.

The report focuses on the following performance measures for individuals and households:

● Total number of persons and households served by the homeless crisis response system.

● Length of time individuals and households participate in homeless projects.

● Total number of persons and households successfully transitioning to permanent housing, along with the percentages of housing exits.

● Recidivism rates, indicating the extent to which individuals and households previously exiting to permanent housing return to homelessness.

● Number of persons and households experiencing homelessness for the first time.

By examining these indicators, the report provides a comprehensive assessment of the San Diego Continuum of Care homeless response system's performance, highlighting progress, challenges, and areas that require attention in addressing homelessness within the region.

Some key findings include:

● **More individuals and households received services than ever before.** In 2022[1], 41,162 people received some form of housing and services from the homeless system that spans services such as homelessness prevention through permanent supportive housing, which is an increase of 16% since 2020. Specifically, there were 5,007 veterans, 4,427 youth, 10,345 seniors and 11,135 persons in families served in 2022 representing an increase of 35% for youth, 14% for seniors, 49% for persons in families and 1% decrease for veterans as compared to 2020.

● **Racial and Ethnic composition:** The racial composition of the homeless population remained consistent over the three-year period, with White and Black or African American individuals comprising the majority, at 64% and 26% respectively in 2022. The ethnic breakdown was 70% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino and 30% Hispanic/Latino. However, in 2022, there was a shift, with the percentages becoming 65% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino and 35% Hispanic/Latino.

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1 All the report years on this report are based on the federal Fiscal Year (FY), which runs from Oct 1 through Sep 30.

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● **Average number of days homeless** for persons in shelters for 2022 was 168, which was an increase of 17 days since 2020, but there is a decrease in the average days of households and sub population group households like veteran, youth and senior households in 2022.

● **Exit of homelessness to a permanent destination:** The rates of successful placement from shelters and rapid re- housing projects to a permanent destination decreased by 7% and successful exits from outreach projects also decreased by 7% since 2020. The retention rate and exits from permanent housing projects remained at 96% for the past three years. The rates of successful placement pattern for child-only household and families decreased by 7% and 6% respectively since 2020.

● **Return to homelessness:** The overall return rate within a two-year timeframe saw a decrease in 2021 followed by an increase in 2022 to return to the 2020 level. Nonetheless, more than one-fourth of clients who were successfully placed in permanent housing two years ago ended up returning to the homeless system. The rate of returns for families and child only households are lower as compared to adult only households and among subpopulation, the rate of return for seniors is also lower compared to veterans and youth.

● **First-time homeless:** The number of first-time homeless clients in shelters increased by 11% in 2021 compared to the previous year, but then decreased by 11% in 2022, returning to the same level as in 2020 but first-time homeless individuals in shelter and permanent housing increased by 18% since 2020. First-time homeless for adult-only households decreased both in shelters as well as in shelters and permanent housing projects but first-time homeless families saw a 46% increase in shelters and 80% increase in shelters and permanent housing since 2020. Among youth households, it increased by 14%, but there is a decrease in first time homeless among both senior and veteran households since 2020.
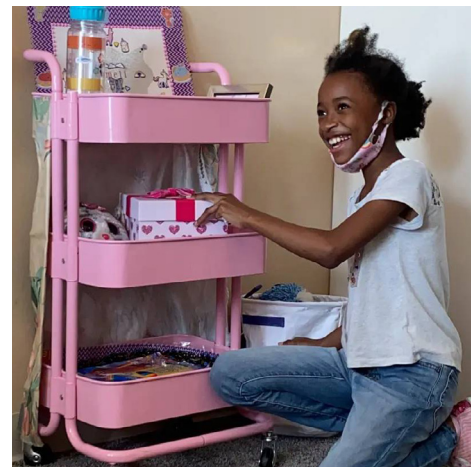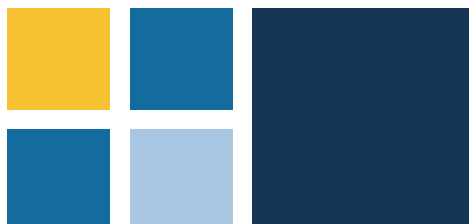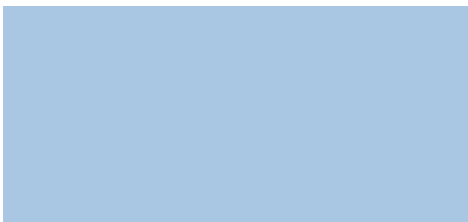
ABOUT THE DATA

This report incorporates data from reports submitted to HUD for the years 2022, 2021, and 2020, with a focus on 2022 data. It is important to note that the HUD fiscal year spans from October 1 to September 30.

The majority of the measures analyzed in this report align with HUD's System Performance Measures (SPM)[2] and Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA)[3], which provide an overview of the overall performance of Continuums of Care (CoCs). The SPM report presents a summary and year-to-year comparison of system-wide counts, averages, and medians across seven performance areas. Similarly, the LSA report includes data related to several of these performance areas but differs significantly in terms of the business logic defined by HUD. The LSA report focuses on how households progress through a CoC's system, using the head of household's data, while the SPM report considers all persons served. This distinction arises from the intended purpose of SPMs as CoC benchmarks and the LSA's purpose of providing detailed information on system functioning to inform interventions for improvement. The LSA specifically emphasizes household-level performance, as programmatic decisions are implemented separately for different households and populations.

Furthermore, certain sections of the report were generated through a custom report from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)[4]. The HMIS serves as the primary data source for both SPM and LSA reports, contributing to the accuracy and reliability of the data presented.

2 https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/system-performance-measures/#guidance
3 https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/lsa/
4 https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/

TOTAL PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

Over the course of three years, the data pertaining to people served in the homeless crisis response system demonstrates a consistent increase in both the number of individuals and households. The number of persons served witnessed a rise from 35,455 in 2020 to 41,162 in 2022, reflecting a total percentage change of approximately 16%. Similarly, the count of households served experienced an upward trend, climbing from 29,863 in 2020 to 32,987 in 2022, denoting a total percentage change of roughly 11%. These statistics underline the increasing demand for homeless services and signify the ongoing endeavors aimed at tackling homelessness within the community. (See Figure 1)

FIGURE 1. **TOTAL PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS SERVED BY THE HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM** [5]
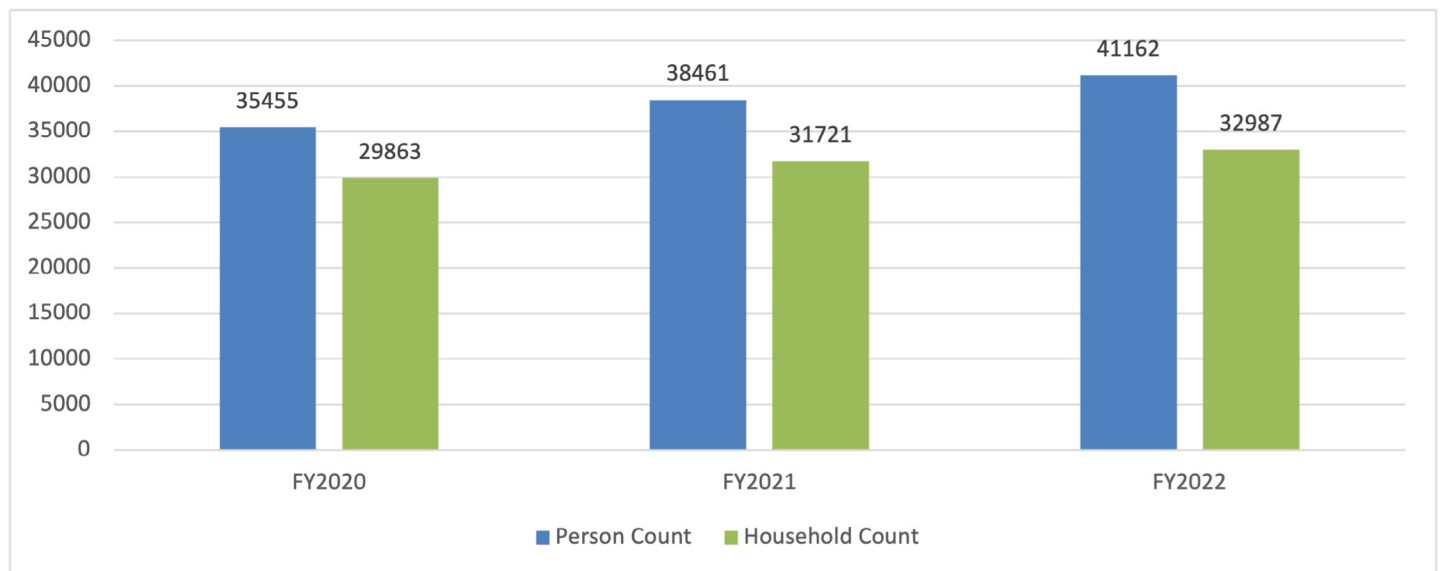
5 Total persons and households served includes all programs and project types that enter data into HMIS including permanent housing projects,
   non-permanent housing projects, and supportive services only projects.   >>>

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FIGURE 2. **TOTAL PERSONS SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE** [6]

Across the three-year period, there has been an overall increase in the number of individuals served across various project types, with the exception of a small decrease in 2022 for individuals served in shelter and homeless prevention projects. Notably, outreach, shelters, and Rapid Re-housing projects consistently served the highest number of individuals throughout all three years.
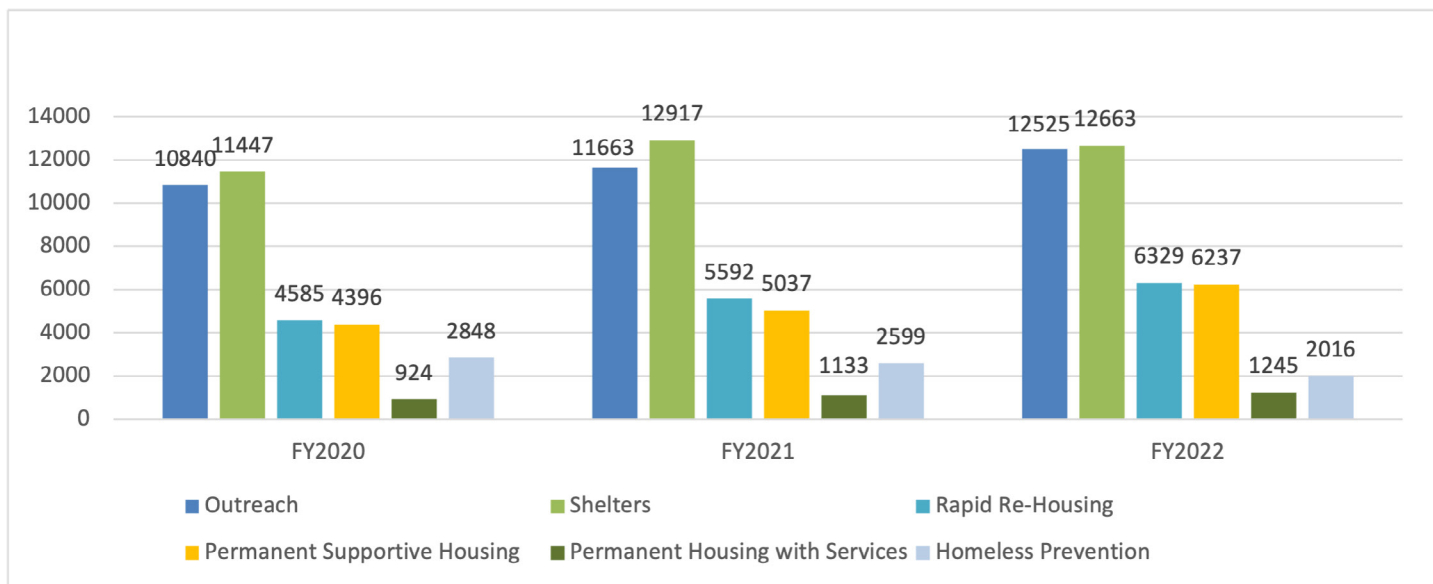
Within the homeless system, households utilize various combinations of project types during their time in the system, known as pathways[7]. Each pathway is associated with different average durations of homelessness, rates of exits to permanent housing, and occurrences of returning to the homeless system. The system map provided below illustrates the performance of the main project types[8] within the homeless system for the year 2022. In subsequent sections of this report, each performance measure will be examined in detail. (See Figure 3, next page)
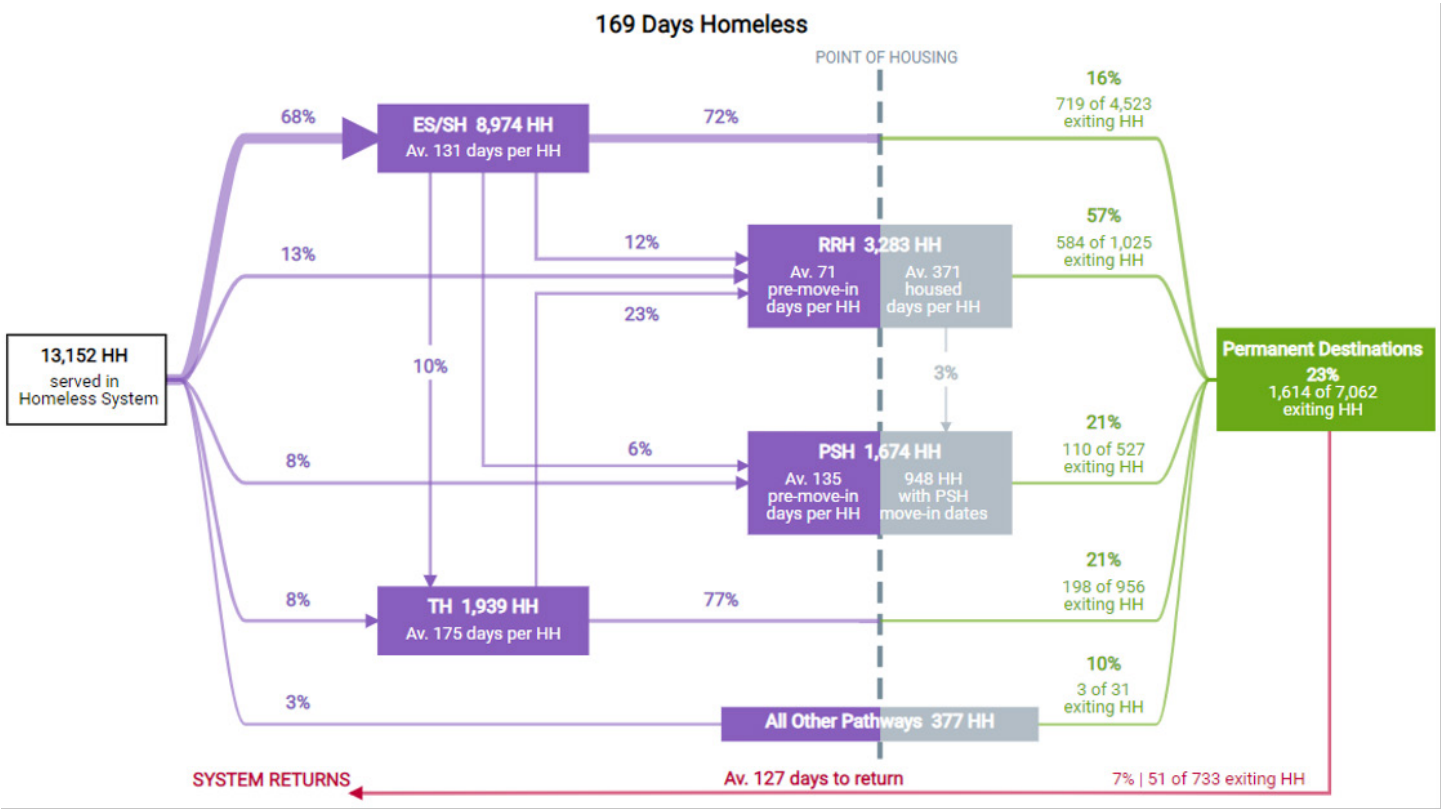

6   Shelters include Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Safe Haven project types.
7   Households can engage with each project type in a pathway in any order.
8   This includes households served in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.

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FIGURE 3. **HOUSEHOLDS SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MAP** [7]

169 Days Homeless

POINT OF HOUSING

- 13,152 HH served in Homeless System
- 68% → ES/SH 8,974 HH — Av. 131 days per HH
  - 72% → 16% | 719 of 4,523 exiting HH
- 13% → RRH 3,283 HH — Av. 71 pre-move-in days per HH | Av. 371 housed days per HH
  - 12%, 23% in
  - 57% | 584 of 1,025 exiting HH
  - 3%
- 10% → PSH 1,674 HH — Av. 135 pre-move-in days per HH | 948 HH with PSH move-in dates
  - 6% in
  - 21% | 110 of 527 exiting HH
- 8% → TH 1,939 HH — Av. 175 days per HH
  - 77% → 21% | 198 of 956 exiting HH
- 8%, 3% → All Other Pathways 377 HH
  - 10% | 3 of 31 exiting HH

Permanent Destinations 23% — 1,614 of 7,062 exiting HH

**SYSTEM RETURNS** ← Av. 127 days to return — 7% | 51 of 733 exiting HH

7 Households can engage with each project type in a pathway in any order.

SUBPOPULATIONS SERVED

The subpopulation data reveals notable trends within specific groups experiencing homelessness. The number of youth (including unaccompanied and parenting youth – individuals between age 18-24) increased steadily over the three-year period, rising from 3,269 in 2020 to 4,427 in 2022, indicating a total percentage change of approximately 35%. Conversely, the number of veterans experienced slight fluctuations, with a slight decrease from 5,047 in 2020 to 4,874 in 2021, followed by a slight increase to 5,007 in 2022. The senior population showed consistent growth, with the number of seniors experiencing homelessness rising from 9,064 in 2020 to 10,345 in 2022, resulting in a total percentage change of approximately 14%. Similarly, the number of individuals in families experiencing homelessness displayed a significant upward trend, increasing from 7,463 in 2020 to 11,135 in 2022, indicating a total percentage change of approximately 49%. These findings highlight the varying dynamics and needs of different subpopulations within the homeless system over the three-year period. (See Figure 4)

FIGURE 4. **TOTAL PERSONS SERVED WITHIN SUBPOPULATIONS BY ALL PROJECT TYPES** [9]
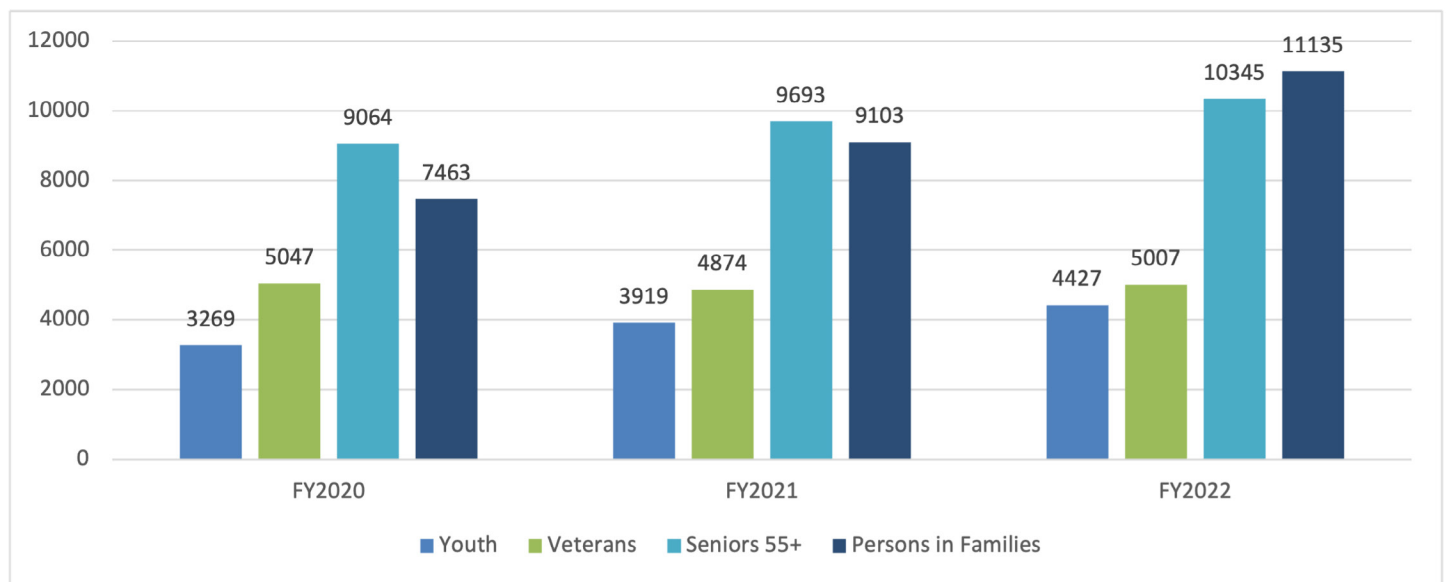
RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

Despite the overall increase in the number of individuals in the crisis response system, the racial composition has remained consistent over the past three years. The dominant racial categories are White, accounting for 64% of the population, and Black or African American, comprising 26% of the population in 2022. This data suggests that, despite changes in the total number of individuals served, the racial distribution within the crisis response system has remained relatively stable. (See Figure 5A)

FIGURE 5A. **RACIAL MAKEUP OF PEOPLE SERVED IN ALL PROJECT TYPES** [9]
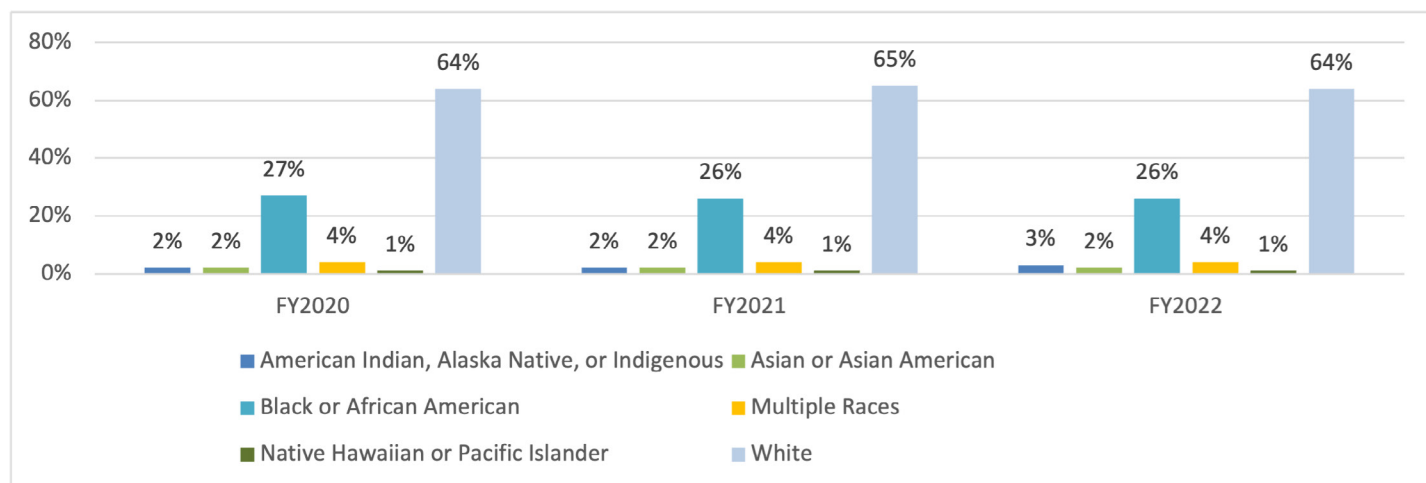
Over the course of three years, the ethnic representation in the crisis response system saw a gradual increase in Hispanic/Latino representation, with a rise from 30% in 2020 to 35% in 2022. Conversely, the percentage of Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino individuals decreased from 70% in 2020 to 65% in 2022. (See Figure 5B)

FIGURE 5B. **ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE SERVED IN ALL PROJECT TYPES** [9]
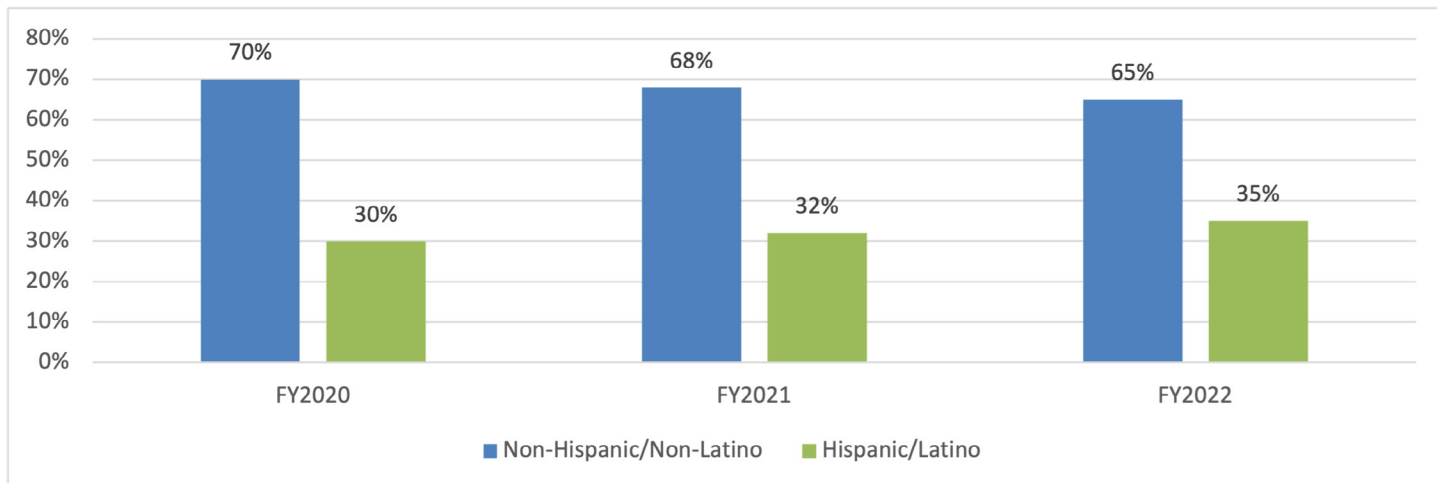
9 Total persons and households served includes all programs and project types that enter data into HMIS including permanent housing projects, non-permanent housing projects, and supportive services only projects.

LENGTH OF TIME IN PROJECTS

The measurement of "**Days Homeless**" is an important performance indicator that helps communities gauge the average duration individuals or households spend in various types of housing projects within the homeless system. These projects include Emergency Shelter (ES), Safe Haven (SH), Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), and Permanent Housing (PH).

Figure 6 presents two distinct methods for calculating the average days homeless. The first method involves homeless program staff recording entry and exit dates of individuals served in their programs through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Based on these records, the average number of days spent in shelters within the San Diego CoC has been lower than the national average.[10]

The second method considers the entire duration a client has experienced homelessness, encompassing the period from their initial homelessness until they secure housing. This measure results in a significantly higher average number of days homeless.

These different calculations provide valuable insights into the duration of homelessness and highlight variations in measuring average days homeless, indicating both shorter stays within shelters compared to the national average and a more comprehensive assessment of the total period individuals experience homelessness. (See Figure 6)

FIGURE 6. **AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN DAYS**
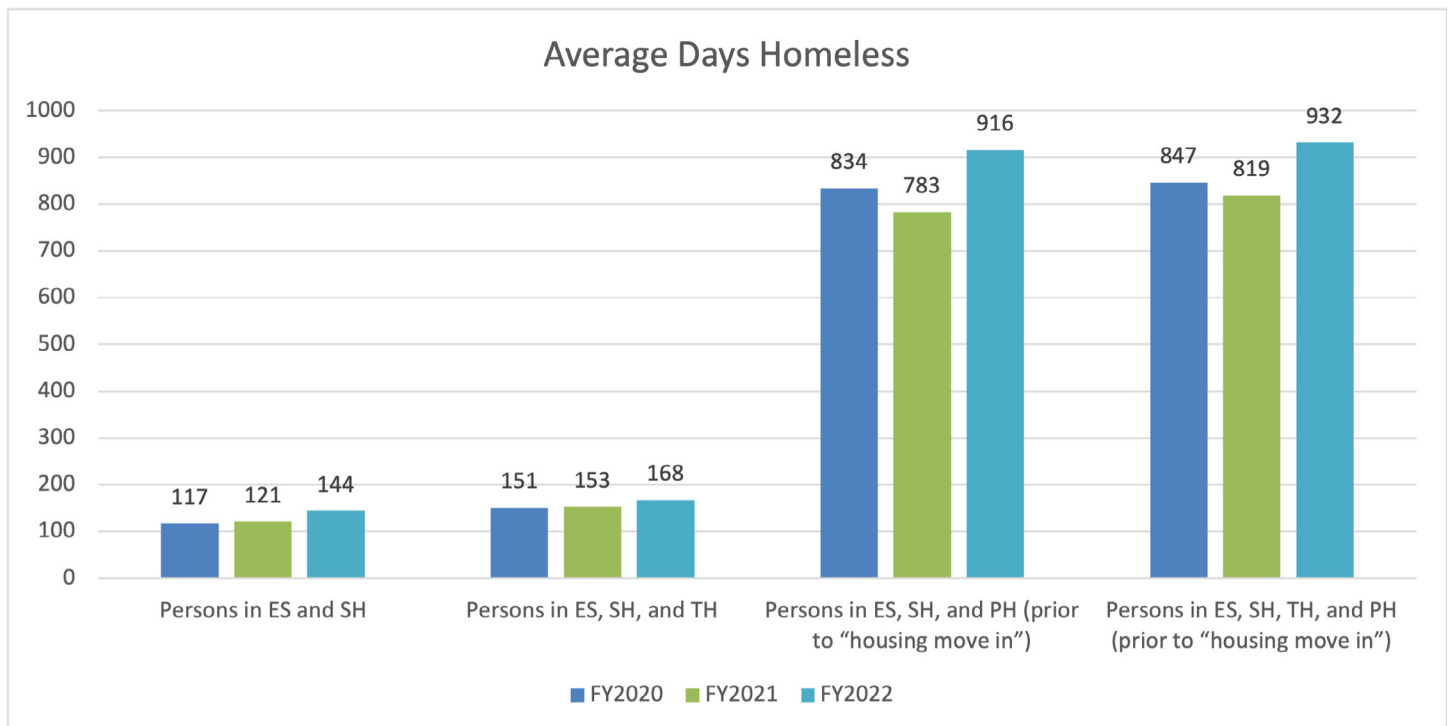
10 HUD System Performance Measures national average of days homeless in ES-SH-TH are 193,160 and 158 for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively.

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When calculating the average length of time for households, any two periods of homelessness are considered as a continuous period if they are less than seven days apart. This criterion aligns with the notion of being continuously homeless, particularly for chronic homeless purposes. As a result, the average number of days homeless for households is generally higher compared to individuals.

Analyzing the data from the past three years, there is a notable pattern regarding the days of homelessness for different household types. The total number of days of homeless for households experienced a decline from 265 in 2020 to 169 in 2022, representing a 37% decrease. Within this category, households with children also witnessed a decrease, dropping from 229 days in 2020 to 157 days in 2022, resulting in a 31% decrease. Similarly, child-only households displayed a decline from 115 days in 2020 to 66 days in 2022, resulting in a decrease of 43%. In contrast, adult-only households initially increased from 269 days in 2020 to 282 days in 2021 but then significantly decreased to 173 days in 2022, reflecting a 36% decrease. These findings highlight the changing dynamics of days of homeless for different household types within the homeless crisis response system, suggesting the need for targeted interventions and support tailored to the specific needs of each group. (See Figure 7)
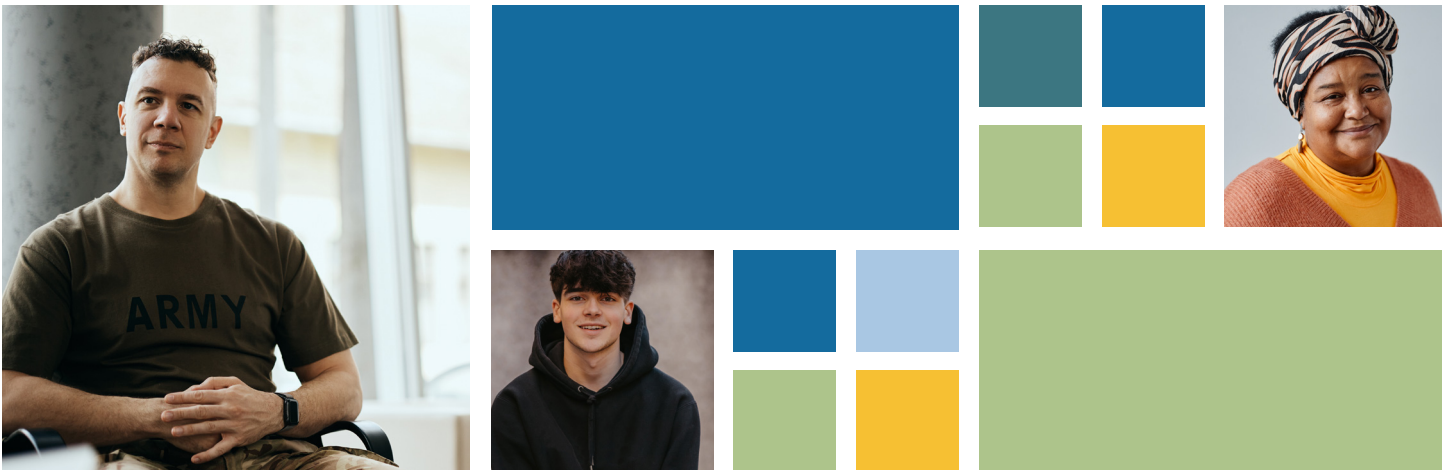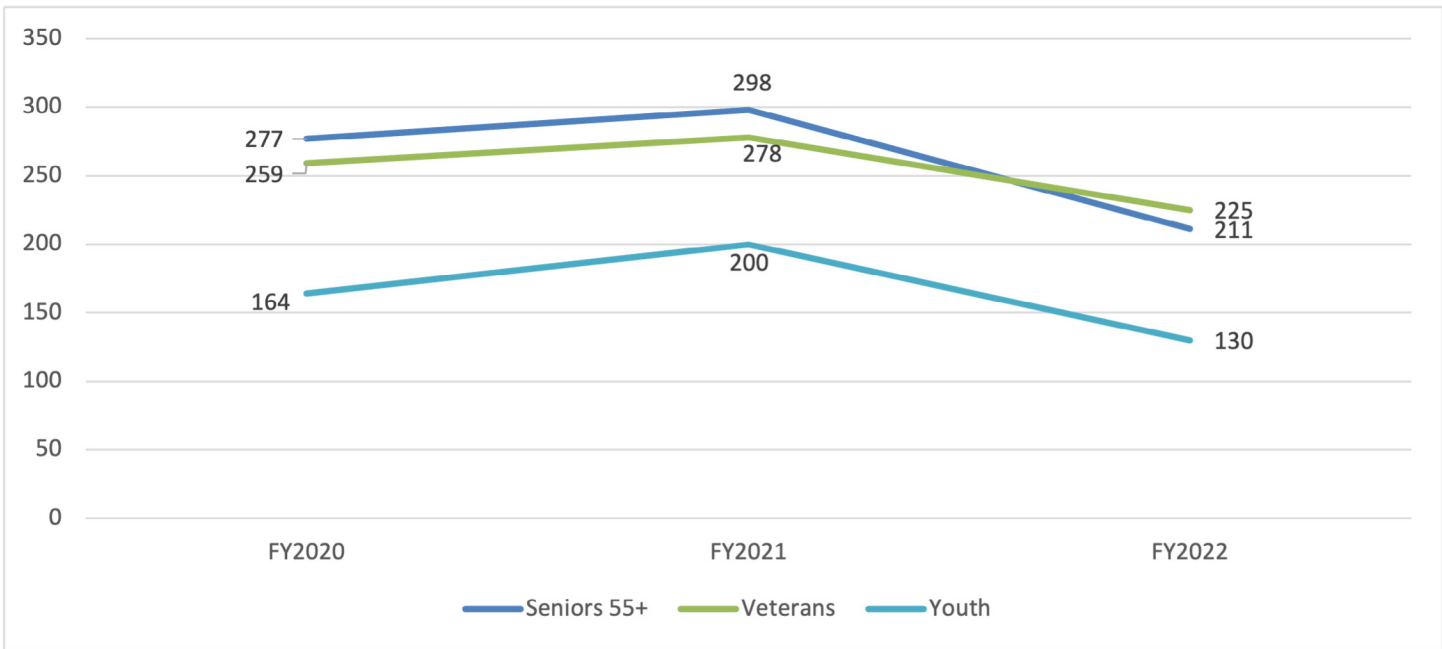
FIGURE 7. **DAYS HOMELESS**[11] **BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**
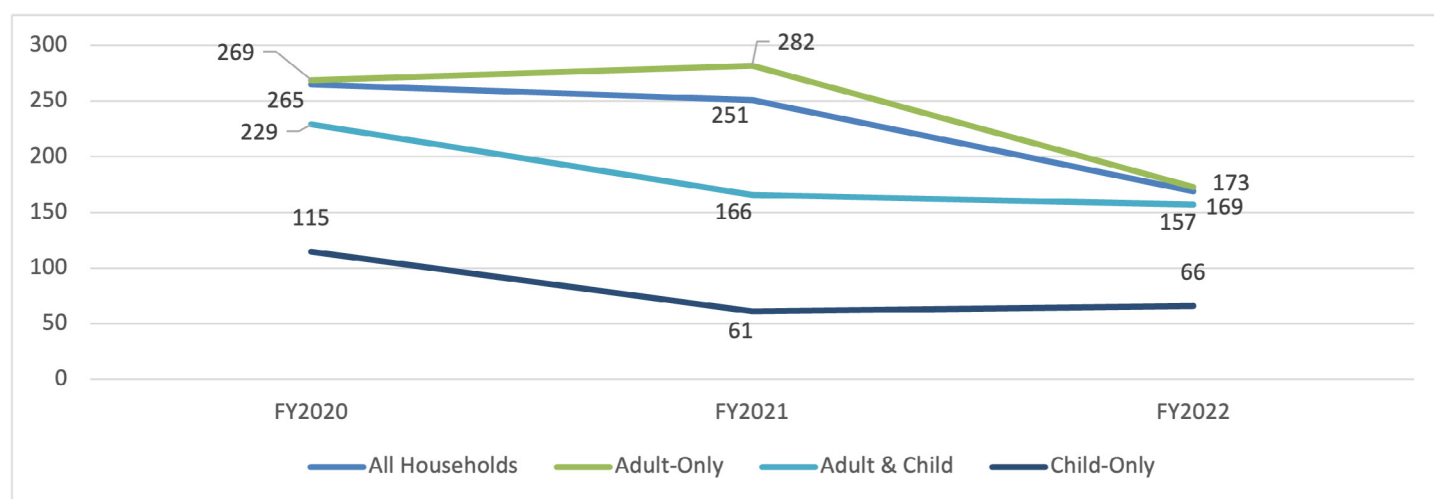
11 The average cumulative, unduplicated number of days that households were served in ES, SH, or TH projects; and days in RRH or any PH project prior to move-in.

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The number of days of homeless for subpopulation data for seniors, veterans, and youth households served in the homeless crisis response system over the past three years reveals notable changes. The days of homeless for seniors experienced a fluctuating trend, starting at 277 days in 2020, increasing to 298 days in 2021, and then decreasing to 211 days in 2022. This represents an overall decrease of approximately 23.9% from 2020 to 2022 but in each of the three years the days of homeless for senior households has been above the average days of homeless for all household types. For veterans, the number of days homeless rose from 259 in 2020 to 278 in 2021, and subsequently decreased to 225 in 2022, indicating a slight decline of approximately 13% over the three-year period but when comparing the days of homeless for veteran households with to the overall household types, days of homeless for veteran household has been above average in 2021 and 2022. The number of days homeless for youth saw an initial increase from 164 in 2020 to 200 in 2021, but then dropped to 130 in 2022, resulting in a decrease of approximately 20% from 2020 to 2022. Youth households tend to have fewer days of homeless as compared to all household types days of homeless in all the three years. (See Figures 7 & 8)
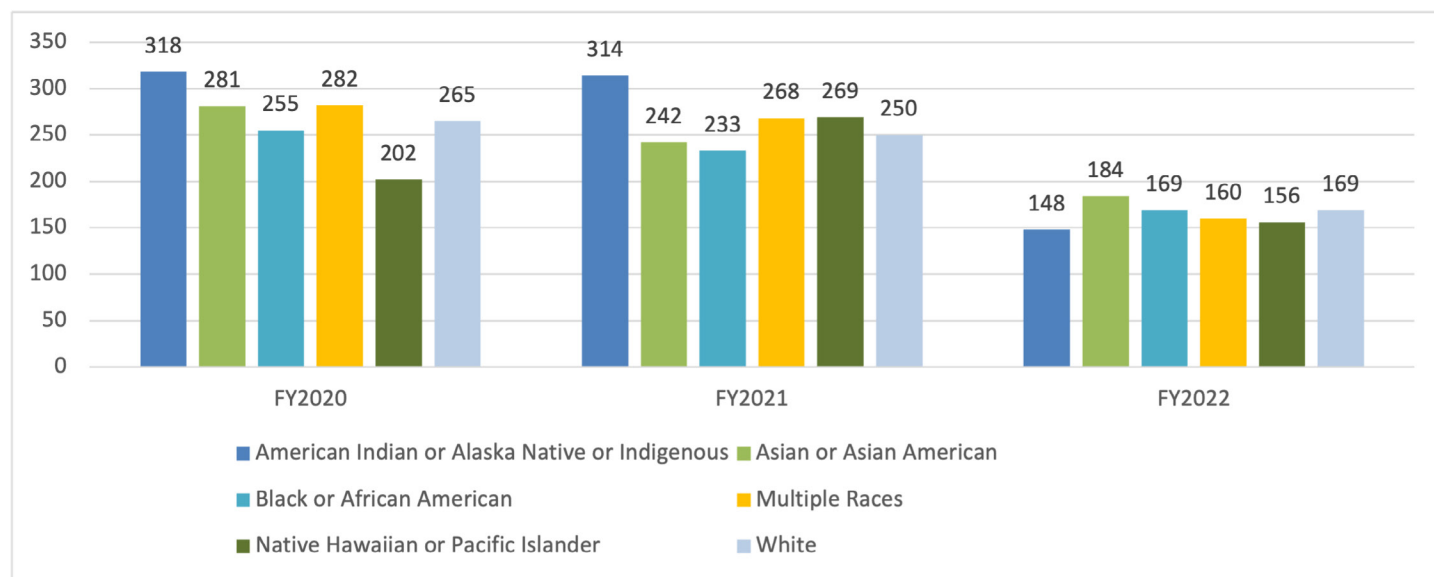
FIGURE 8. **DAYS HOMELESS**[11] **BY SUBPOPULATION**

11 The average cumulative, unduplicated number of days that households were served in ES, SH, or TH projects; and days in RRH or any PH project prior to move-in.

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As shown in Figure 9A, across all race categories, there has been a general decrease in the household days of homelessness. Specifically, when examining the days homeless for Black or African American headed households, there was a 9% decrease in 2021 followed by a 28% decrease in 2022, resulting in an overall decrease of 34% over the three-year period. This change in the days of homelessness for Black or African American-headed households aligns with the 37% decrease observed in the overall household types' days of homelessness, as depicted in Figure 7.

FIGURE 9A. **HOUSEHOLD DAYS**[11] **HOMELESS BY RACE**

In 2020, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino headed households experienced longer days of homeless compared to Hispanic/Latino but in 2021, the trend reversed, and Hispanic/Latino households experienced slightly more days of homelessness than Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino households. By 2022, both ethnic groups experienced a decrease in the number of days of homelessness, with Hispanic/Latino households experiencing 153 days and Non-Hispanic/non-Latino households experiencing 176 days. (See Figure 9B)

FIGURE 9B. **HOUSEHOLD DAYS**[11] **HOMELESS BY ETHNICITY**
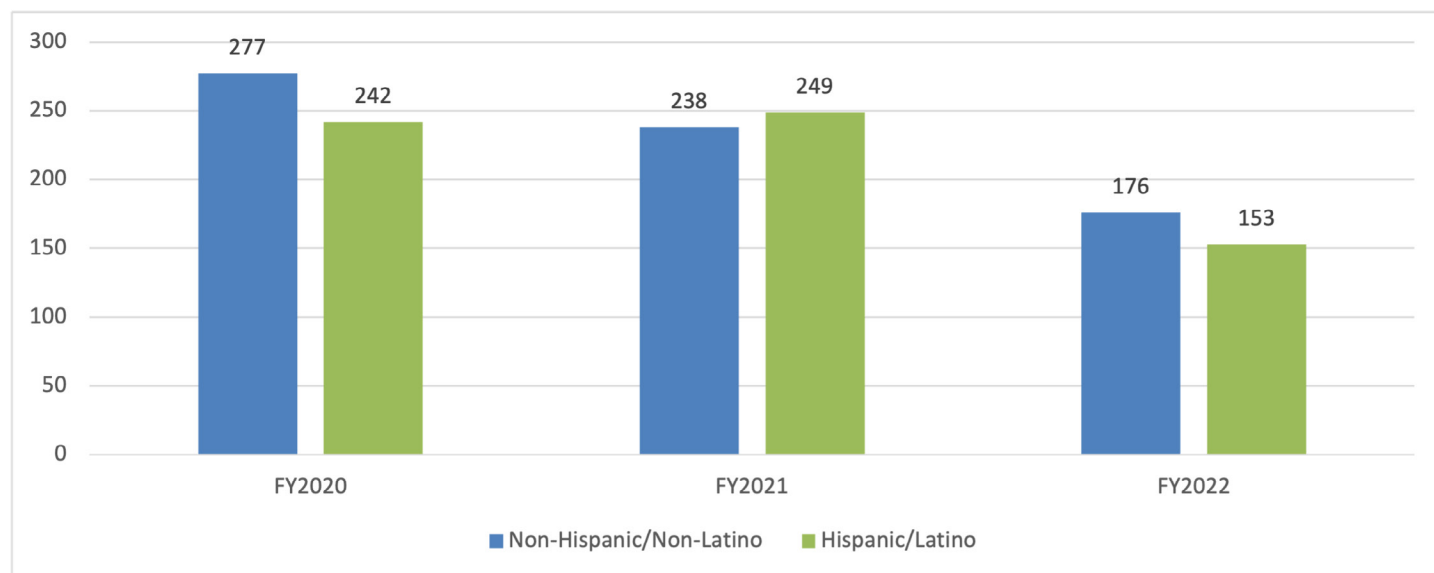
11 The average cumulative, unduplicated number of days that households were served in ES, SH, or TH projects; and days in RRH or any PH project prior to move-in.

PERMANENT HOUSING OR POSITIVE EXITS

Ensuring successful transitions to permanent housing is a critical performance measure within the homeless system. This includes various housing settings such as individuals securing their own rental units, accessing subsidized housing, or establishing permanent arrangements with friends and family. However, when it comes to individuals participating in street outreach programs, HUD acknowledges exits to temporary or institutional settings, such as emergency shelters, foster care, temporary stays with family or friends, safe havens, and transitional housing, as successful exits.[12] This recognition is due to the nature of street outreach projects, which aim to facilitate movement away from street homelessness towards permanent housing, acknowledging that this process may involve temporary arrangements. For individuals in permanent housing programs, success is evaluated not only based on exit to permanent destinations but also by assessing the program's retention rate.

In the comparison between 2020 and 2022, there has been a decline of 7% in the rates of permanent destination exits from shelters and Rapid Re-housing projects. Similarly, successful placements from outreach projects also experienced a 7% decrease. It is also worth noting that the retention rate and exits from Permanent Housing projects have remained consistently high at 96% over the past three years. (See Figure 10)

FIGURE 10. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS[13] OR RETENTION OF PERMANENT HOUSING[14]**
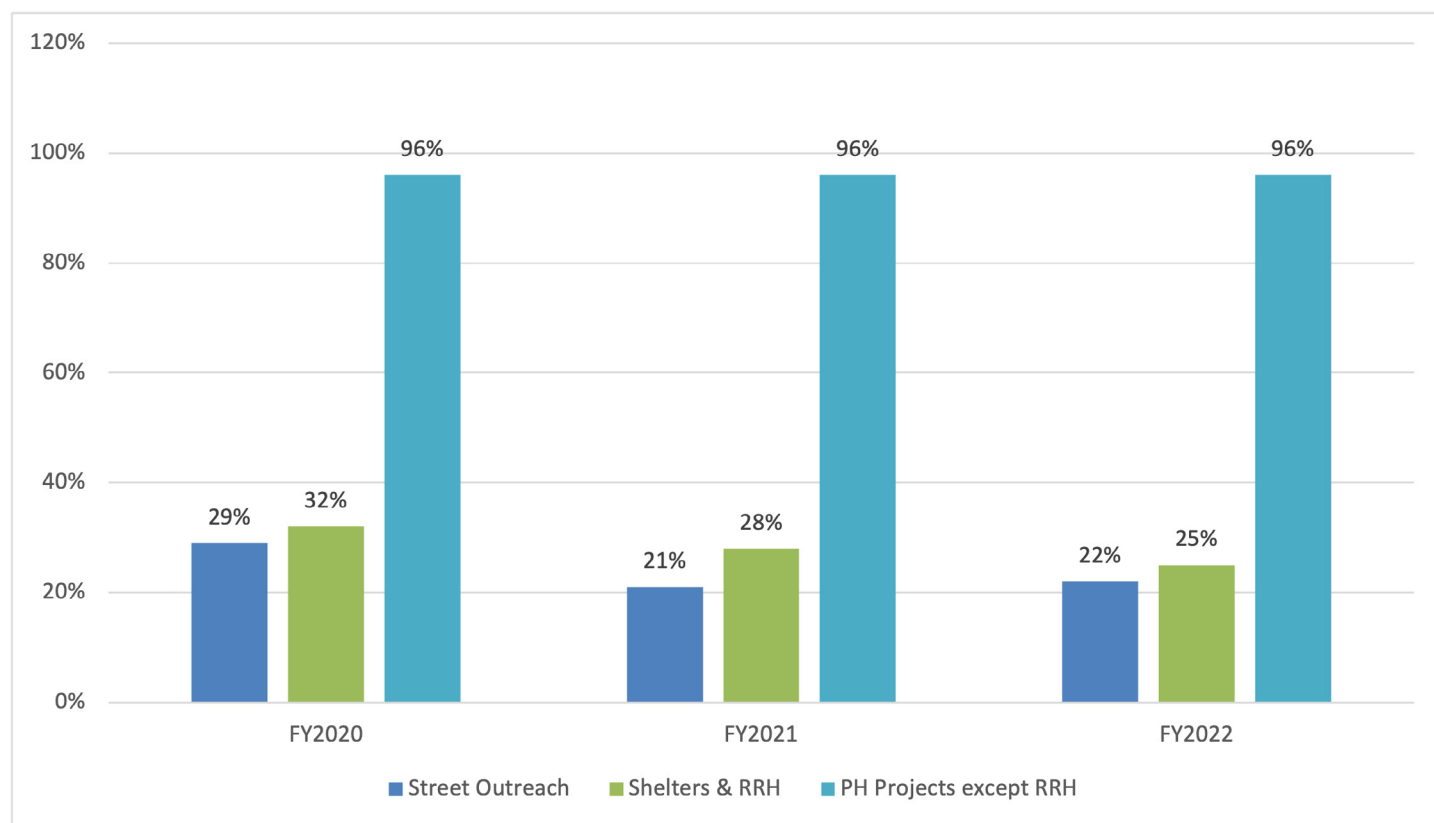
12   HUD SPM reports permanent housing or positive exits in three categories: exits from outreach, exits from shelters ((ES, TH, SH) and RRH, and exits from permanent housing projects except RRH.
13   https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/System-Performance-Measure-7-Housing-Destination-Summary.pdf
14   National Average for successful exit from Street Outreach is 34.5%, 33.4% and 32.4% for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively; from Shelters and RRH is 40%, 37.7% and 33.9% for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively; from PH or retention of PH beyond 6 months is 95.4%, 96.4% and 96.2% for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively.
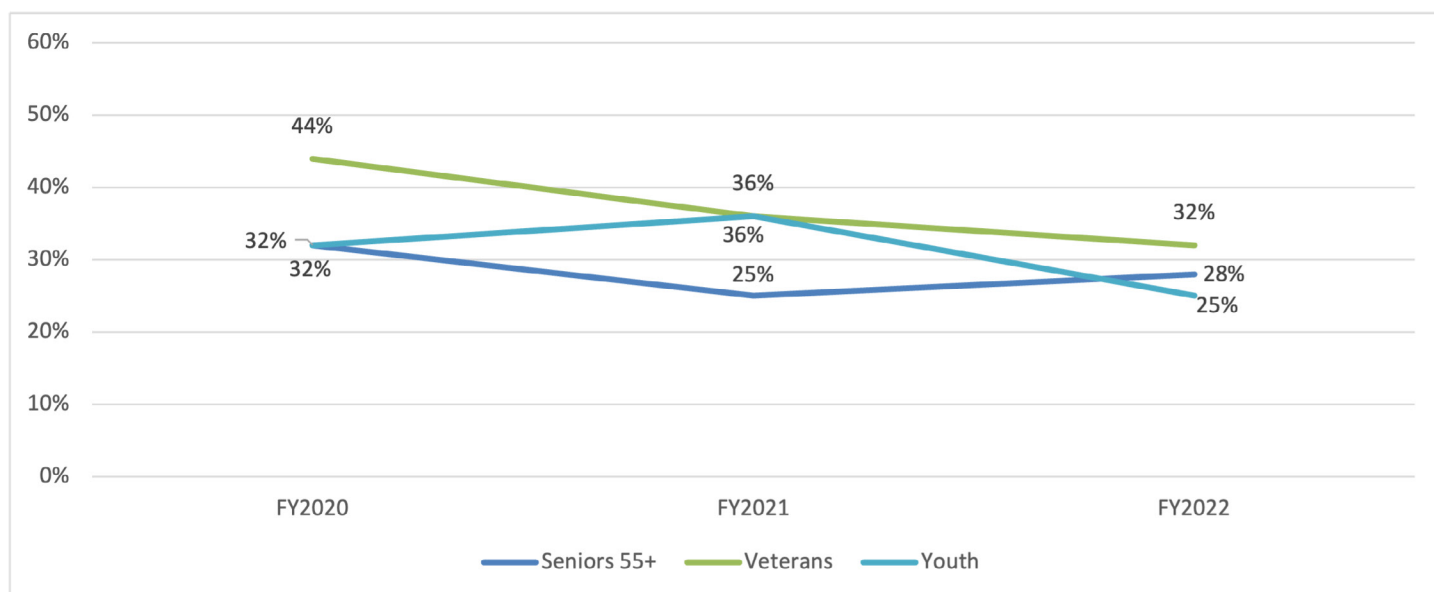
Over the past three years, there has been a decrease in the rate of permanent destination exits for all household types. Child-only households experienced a 7% decrease, while families saw a 10% decrease from 2020. These findings indicate a declining trend in the rate of permanent destination exits across different household types. (See Figure 11)

FIGURE 11. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[15] **BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**
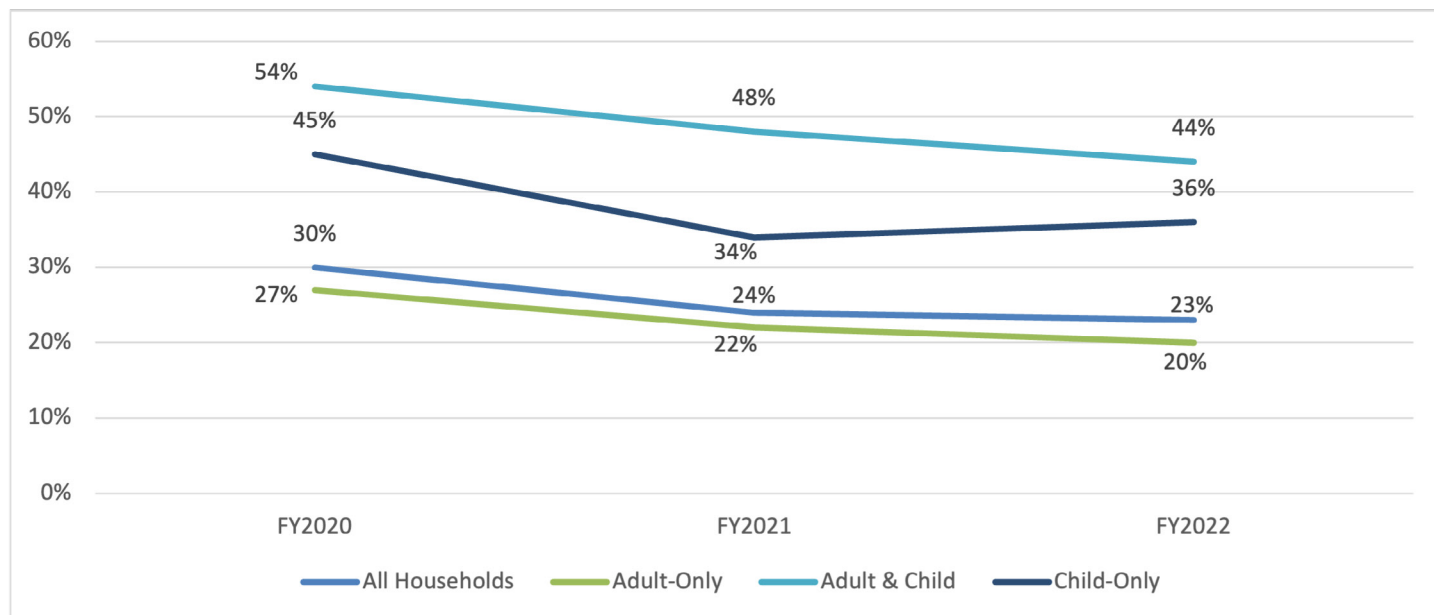
Analyzing the rate of permanent destination exits for different subpopulations over the past three years, varying trends were observed. Among seniors, the rate decreased from 32% in 2020 to 25% in 2021 but slightly improved to 28% in 2022. Veterans experienced a notable decline from 44% in 2020 to 36% in 2021, followed by a further decrease to 32% in 2022. Youth, on the other hand, had a rate of 32% in 2020 and 36% in 2021 but experienced a significant drop to 25% in 2022. (See Figure 12)

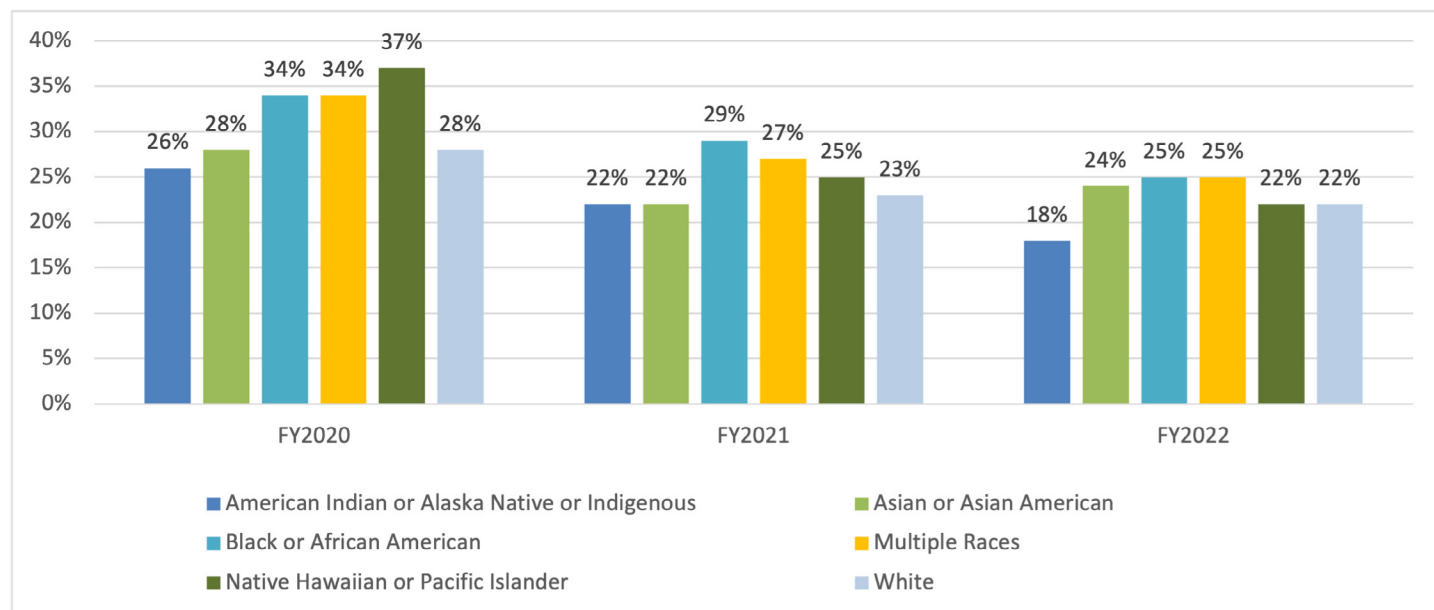FIGURE 12. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[15] **BY POPULATION GROUP**

15   The denominator is household exits from ES, TH, SH, RRH, and all PH project types.

Over the past three years, there has been a decrease in the percentage of permanent destination exits across all race categories. (See Figure 13A)

FIGURE 13A. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[15] **BY RACE**

The percentage of exits to a permanent destination saw a decline over the three years for both Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino households. This trend is consistent with the decline observed for the overall household type in Figure 11. (See Figure 13B)

FIGURE 13B. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[15] **BY ETHNICITY**
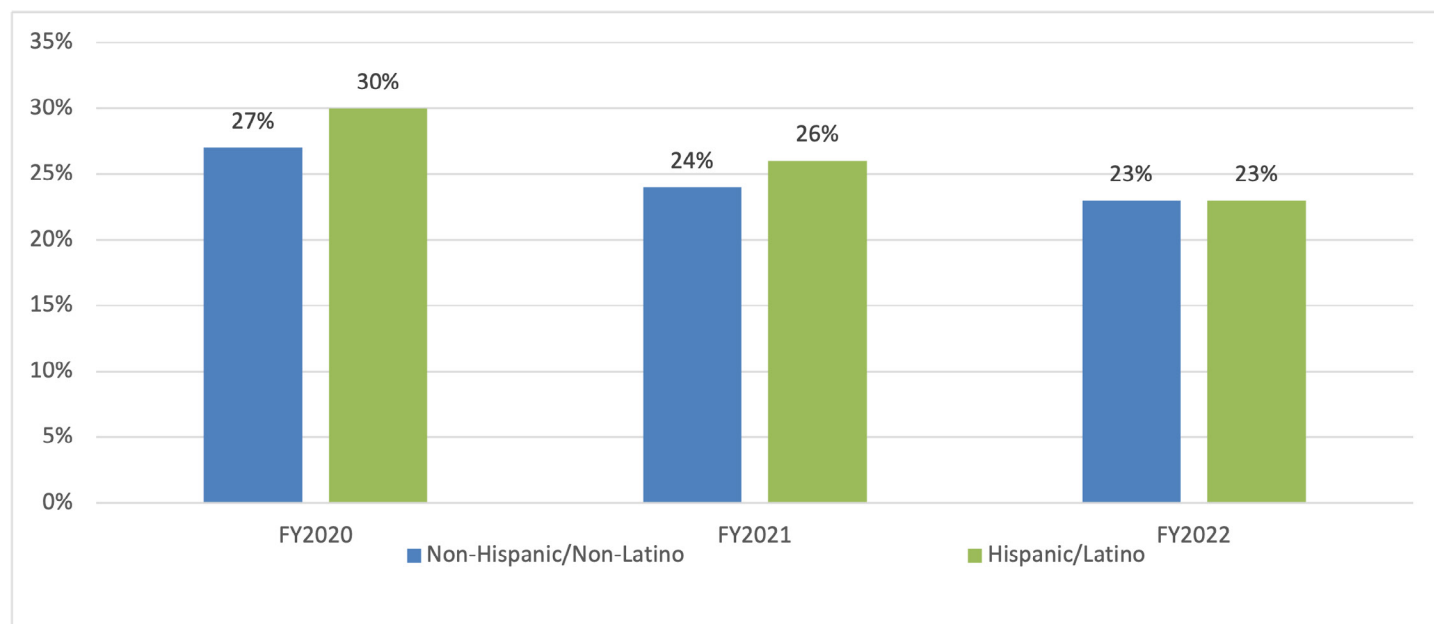
15   The denominator is household exits from ES, TH, SH, RRH, and all PH project types.

RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS

A key aspect of HUD System Performance Measure focuses on reducing the number of individuals who experience a return to homelessness. The purpose of this measure is to assess the level of housing stability among those who have previously transitioned from the homelessness response system to permanent housing. It entails examining individuals who successfully exited to permanent housing two years prior to the reporting period and determining the percentage who re-entered the homeless system within six, twelve, and twenty-four months after securing permanent housing. Returning to the homelessness system encompasses entering either a temporary housing program, such as emergency shelter, safe haven, or transitional housing, or a permanent housing program like rapid re-housing or permanent supportive housing. By monitoring these return rates, efforts can be directed toward enhancing long-term housing stability and preventing recidivism within the homeless population.

Over the course of three years, there is a notable trend indicating a higher percentage of clients returning to the homeless system within the initial six months following their exiting to a permanent destination. However, when examining the overall return rate within a two-year timeframe, there was a decrease in 2021 followed by a return to the 2020 level. Nonetheless, it is important to note that consistently, across all three years, more than one-fourth of clients who were successfully placed in permanent housing two years ago ended up returning to the homeless system.

FIGURE 14. **PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WHO RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS**[16]
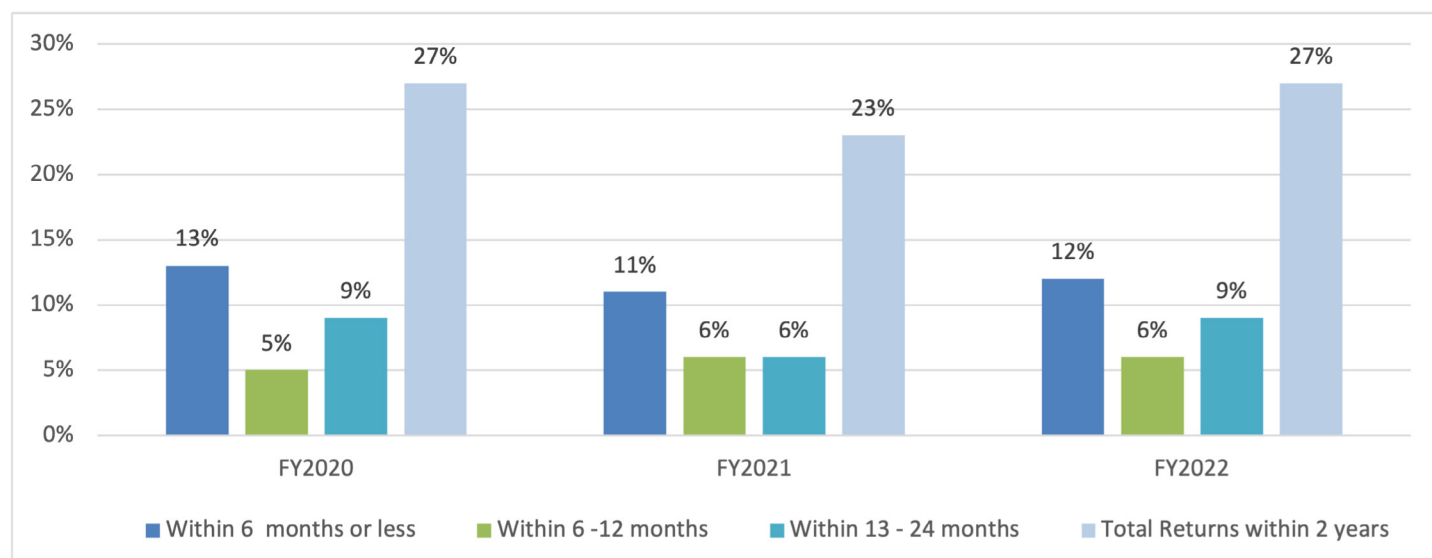
16 The national average for people returning to homelessness within 24 months is 19.7%, 17.8% and 16.5% for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively.

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When analyzing the rate of returns over a two-year period by project type, it is observed that there is a decrease in the number of returners among individuals who exited to a permanent destination from outreach, emergency shelters, and safe havens. However, there is a slight increase in the number of returners among individuals who exited from transitional housing and permanent housing programs in 2022. (See Figure 15)

FIGURE 15. **PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WHO RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS BY PROJECT TYPE**
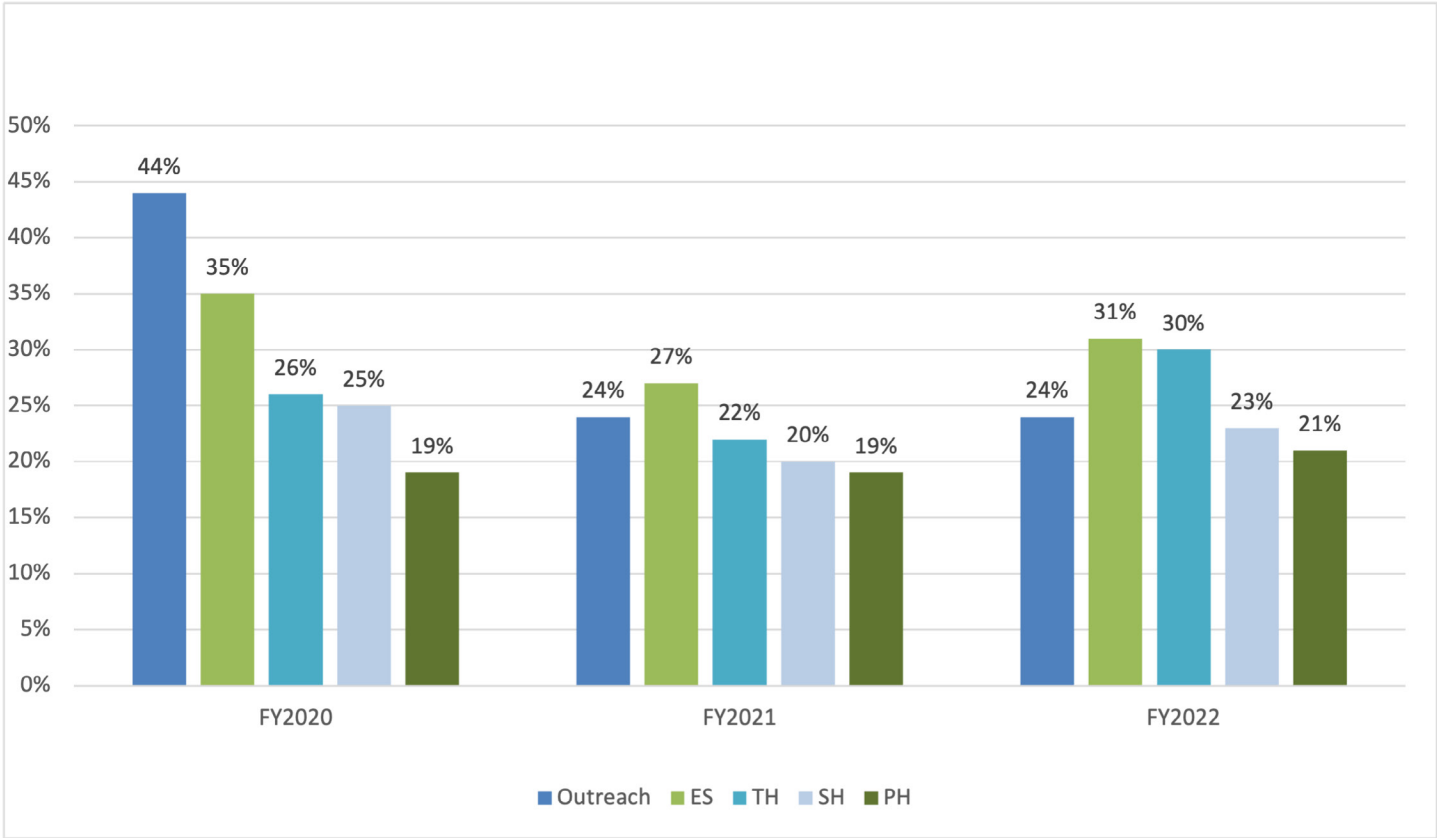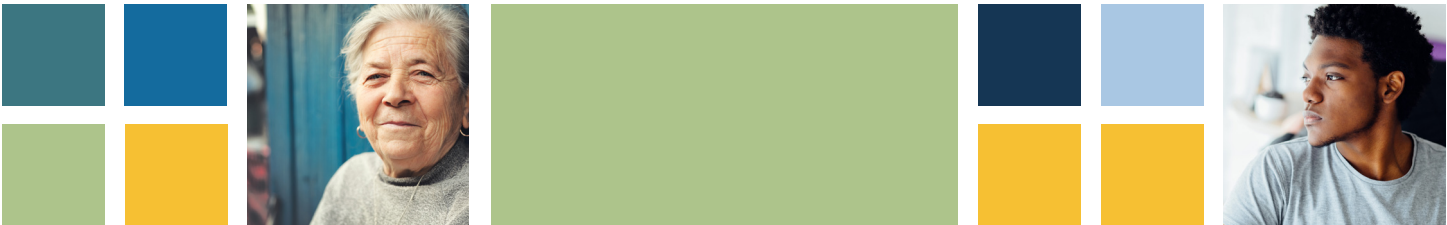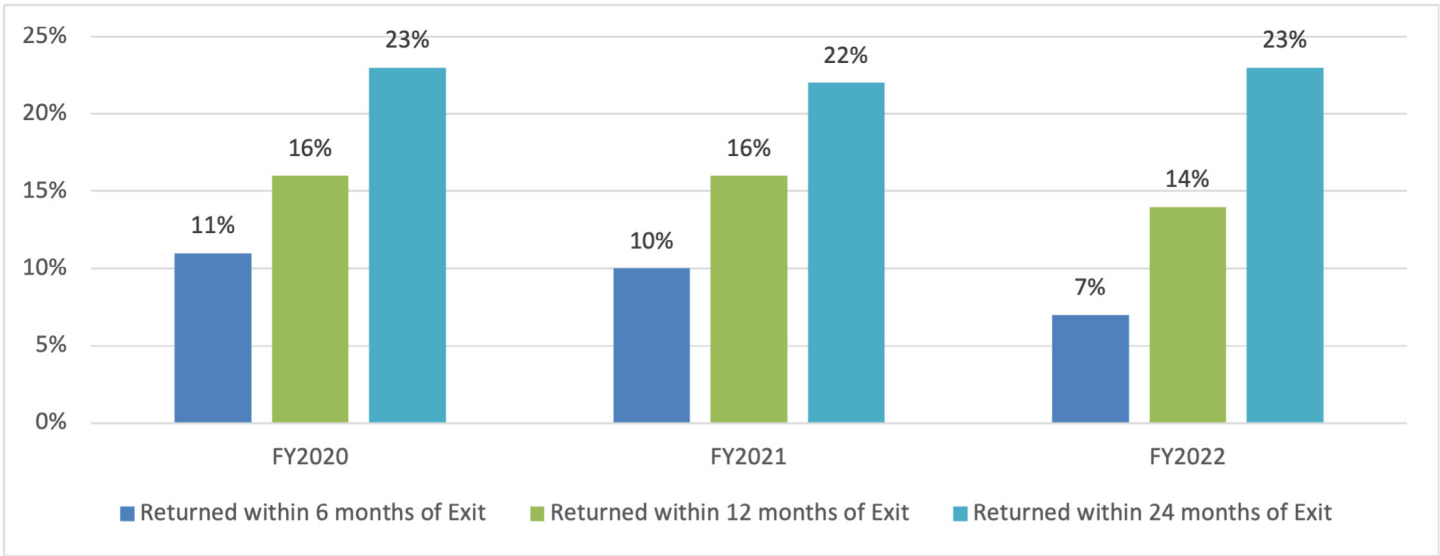
The rate of household returns in the following graphs represents groups of clients becoming homeless in the same household type. This is because households returning to homelessness in a completely different household type do not suggest the same CoC performance issue that a household repeatedly becoming homeless in the same household type suggests.

A group of households that exited the homeless system during a defined time period is called an "exit cohort" and is used as the denominator when calculating the percentage of households who returned to homelessness. Households that exited within the first 6 months of the current reporting period inform returners within 6 months, households that exited within 12 months prior to the current reporting period informs returners within 12 months and households that exited between 12 and 24 months prior to the current reporting period informs returners within 24 months.

The data shows a 4% decrease in the rate of returners within 6 months of exit and a 2% decrease within 12 months of exit since 2020. However, the rate of returns within 24 months has remained consistently high. It is notable that over one-fifth of households who exited to a permanent destination between 12 to 24 months ago have returned to the homeless system within 2 years, seeking assistance through shelters or Permanent Housing projects. (See Figure 16)
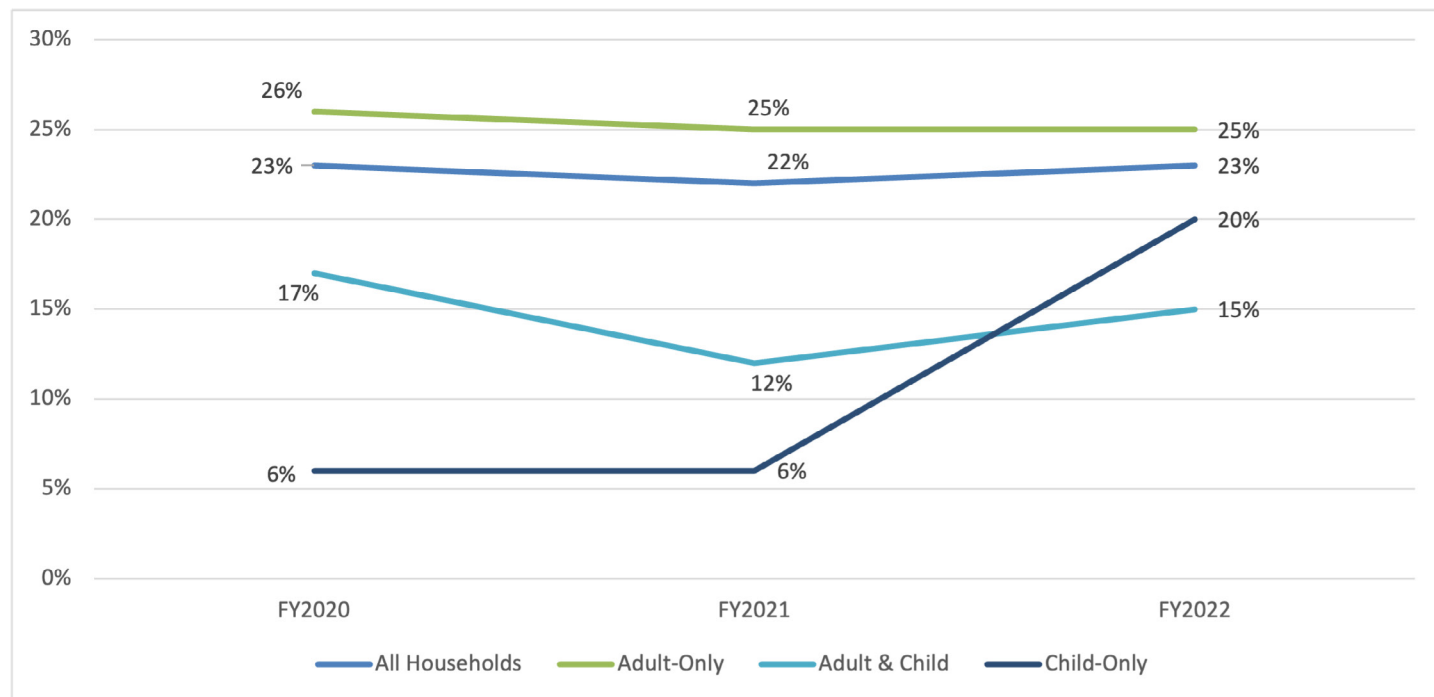
FIGURE 16. **PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS** [17]

Legend: ■ Returned within 6 months of Exit ■ Returned within 12 months of Exit ■ Returned within 24 months of Exit

FY2020: 11%, 16%, 23%
FY2021: 10%, 16%, 22%
FY2022: 7%, 14%, 23%

>>>

Among households that exited to a permanent destination between 12 to 24 months prior to each reporting period, the percentage of returners within 24 months is higher for adult-only households in each of the three years, with one-fourth of adult-only households who had left the homeless system within 12 to 24 months prior to the reporting period having lost their housing within a two-year period and returned to homelessness. The return rate for families is lower as compared to adult-only households and decreased by 2% since 2020. The return rate for child-only households was 6% in 2020 and 2021 before showing a sharp increase to 20% in 2022. (See Figure 17)
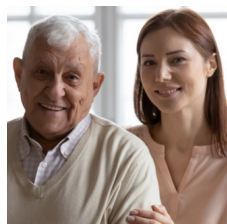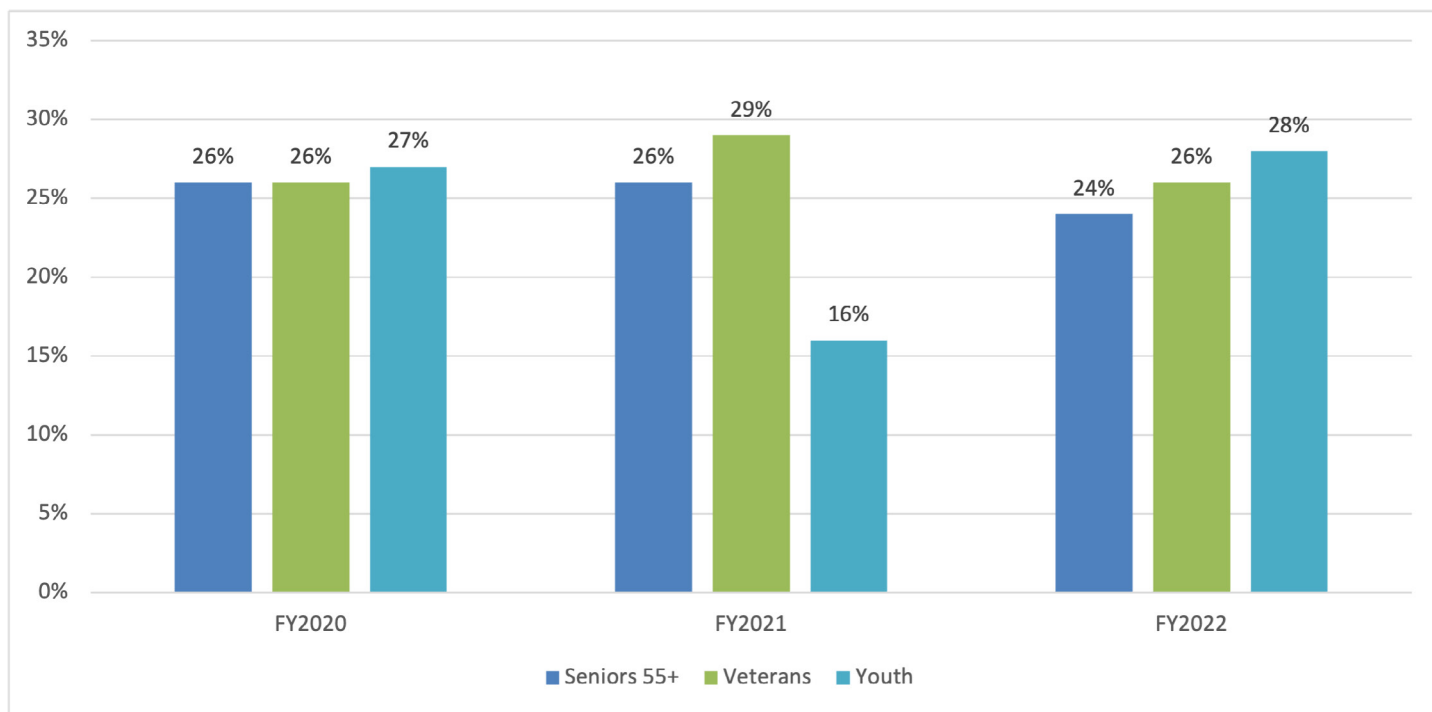
FIGURE 17. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE** [17]

17 Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.

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Upon analyzing the data, a mixed trend among the three subpopulations observed regarding households who left the homeless system to a housing situation within 12 to 24 months prior to the reporting period lost their housing situation within a two-year period and returned to homelessness. Senior households were relatively stable over the previous two years but show a decrease by 2% in 2022. In contrast, saw an increase last year but returned to the same level as 2020 in the current year. The highest return rate was observed among youth households in 2020 and 2022. (See Figure 18)

FIGURE 18. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS**[17] **BY SUBPOPULATION**

Legend: ■ Seniors 55+ ■ Veterans ■ Youth

	Seniors 55+	Veterans	Youth
FY2020	26%	26%	27%
FY2021	26%	29%	16%
FY2022	24%	26%	28%

17 Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.

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Examining the return rate by race, except households with their heads of household identify with a race of White or multiple-race, all saw a decrease in return rate since 2020. (See Figure 19A)

FIGURE 19A. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS**[17] **BY RACE**
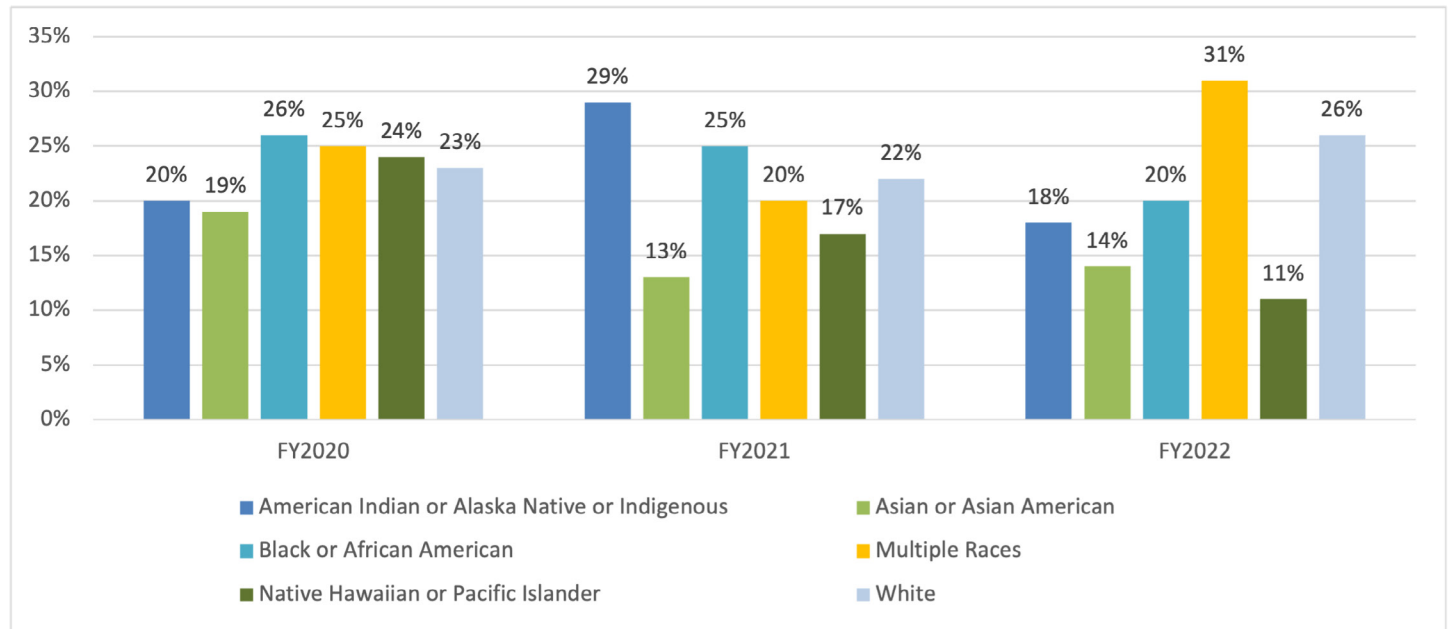
When looking for return rate by ethnicity, Hispanic/Latino headed households experienced a decrease and subsequent increase, while Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino households showed a slight increase in the returners rate over the three-year period. (See Figure 19B)

FIGURE 19B. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS**[17] **BY ETHNICITY**
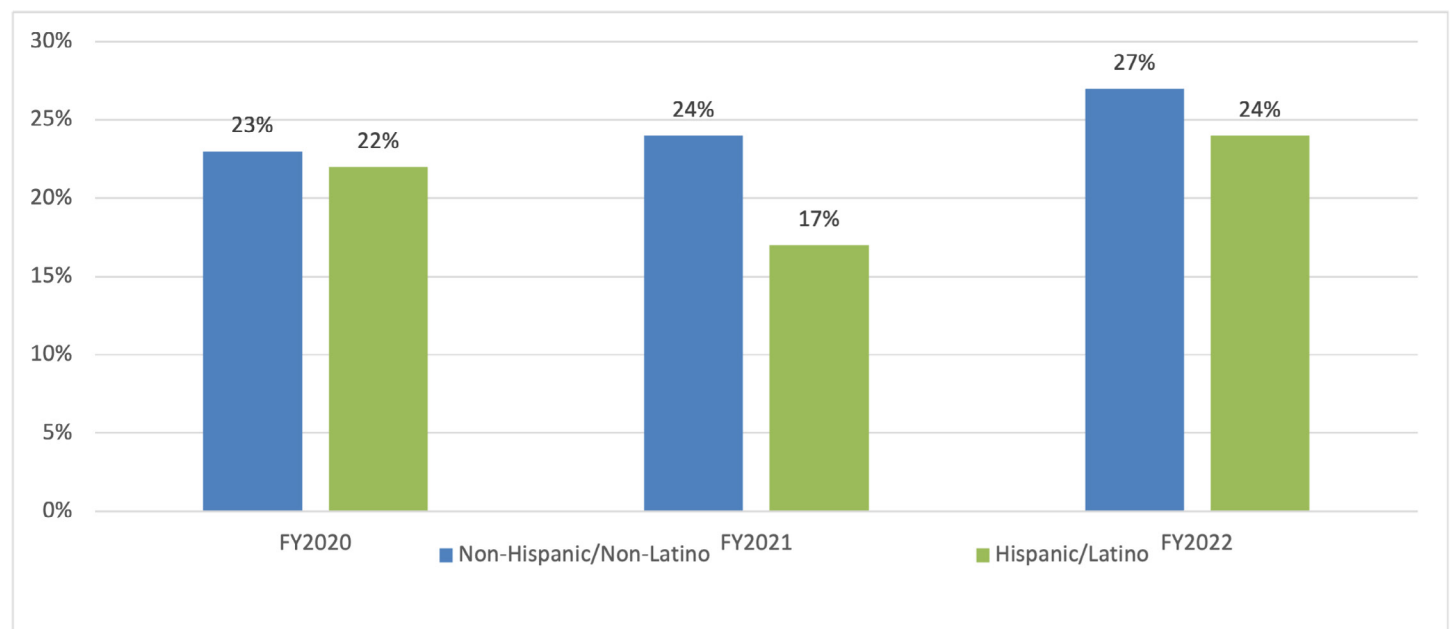
17 Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.

HOMELESSNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME

HUD defines someone as homeless for the first time if they entered a temporary or permanent housing program and did not have prior entry in those projects in the last two years. Based on this definition, clients who are identified as first time homeless may be new clients to the homeless system or have been served by and exited the homeless system more than two years before the reporting period. To end homelessness, we have to ensure that all people currently experiencing homelessness are stably housed and do not return to homelessness, and we have to reduce the number of people who become homeless through successful prevention. The goal of this measure is to reduce the number of people who become homeless for the first time every year.

The number of first-time homeless clients in shelters increased by 11% in 2021 compared to the previous year, but then decreased by 11% in 2022, returning to the same level as in 2020. On the other hand, when considering both shelters and permanent housing projects, the count of first-time homeless individuals was higher and showed a consistent increase over the same three-year period.
(See Figure 20)

FIGURE 20. **NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO BECOME HOMELESS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

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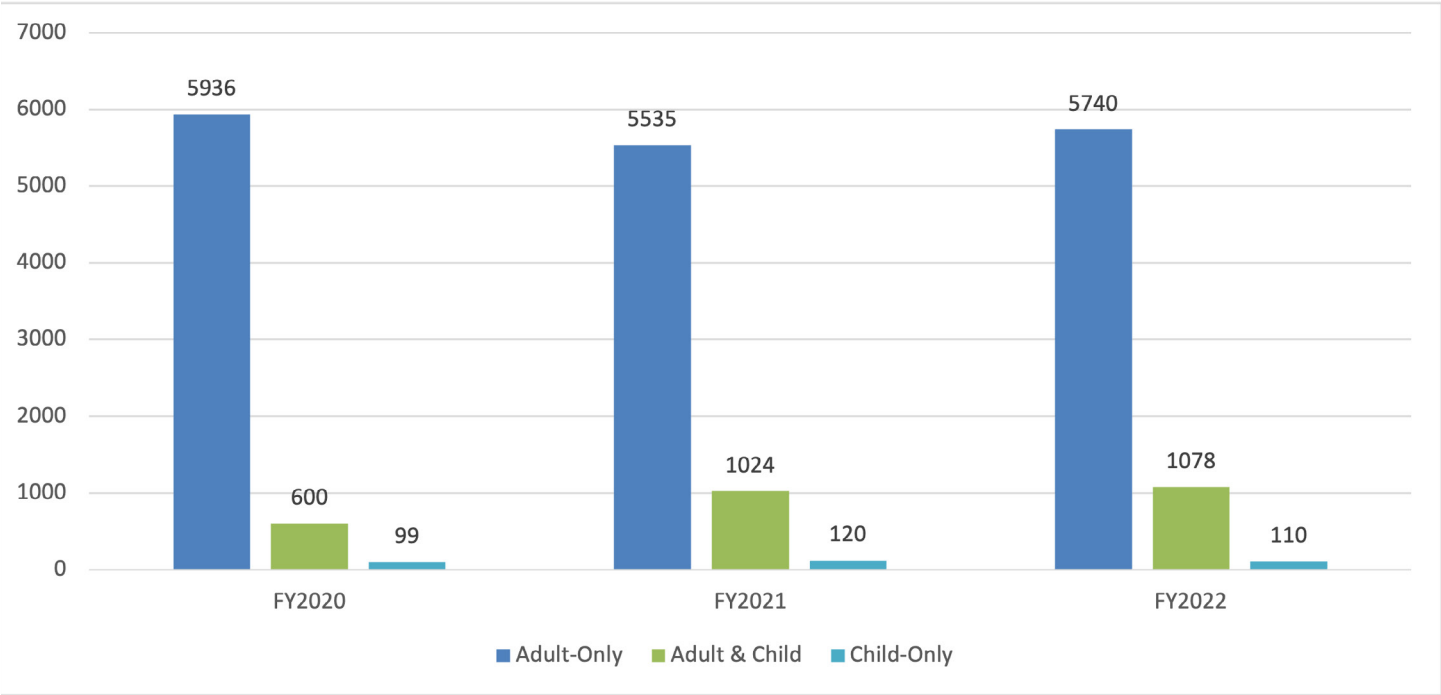
When looking at first time homeless in shelters by household types, adult-only households have been the highest in all of the past three years but a decrease over the past three years. The data further demonstrates first time homeless adult-only households in shelters decreased by 13% but that of families saw a 46% increase from 2020. (See Figure 21)

FIGURE 21. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS**[18] **BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**

Adult Only ■ Adult & Child ■ Child Only

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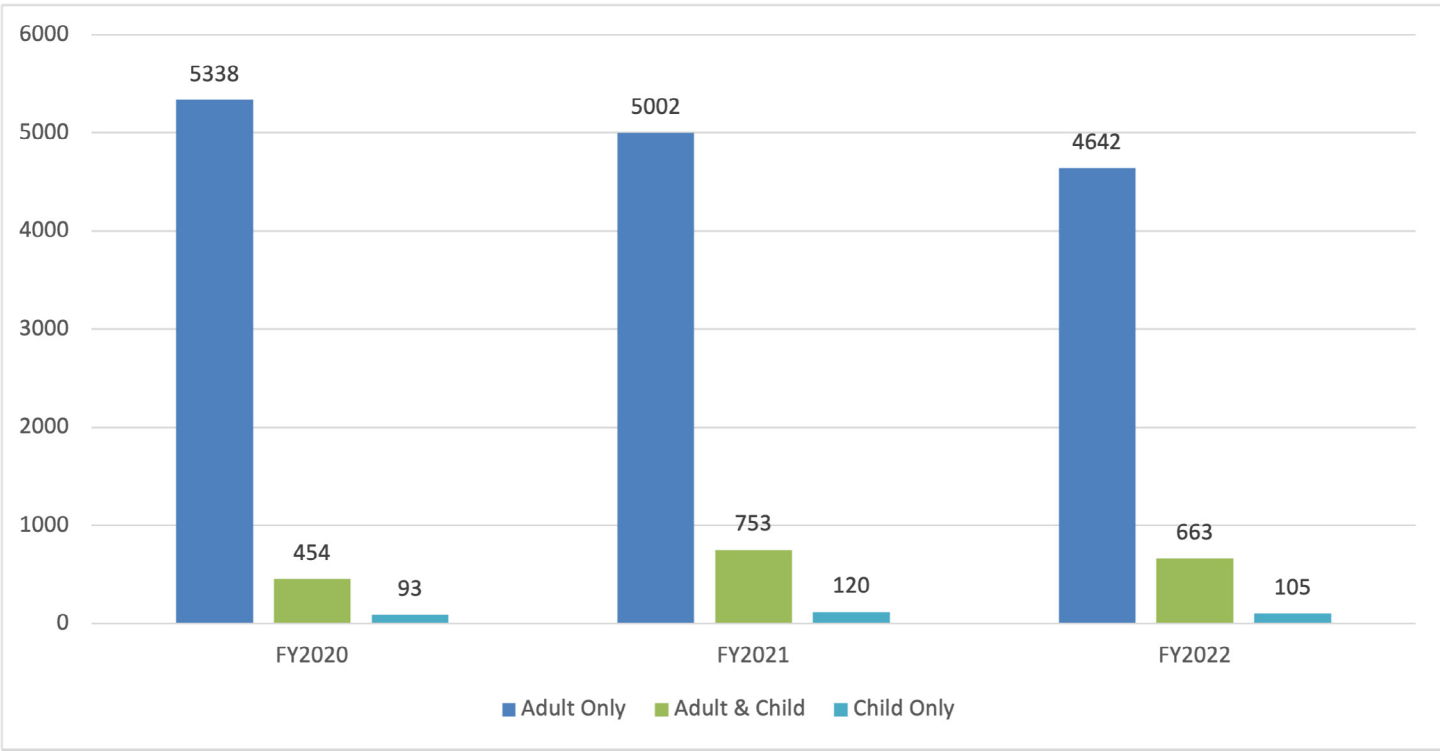
When looking at first time homeless in shelters and permanent housing projects by household types, adult-only households saw a decrease followed by an increase in 2022 resulting in an overall decrease of 3% from 2020. Whereas, first-time homeless families and child only households have experienced a constant increase year over year with family first time homeless saw as high as 80% increase since 2020. (See Figure 22)
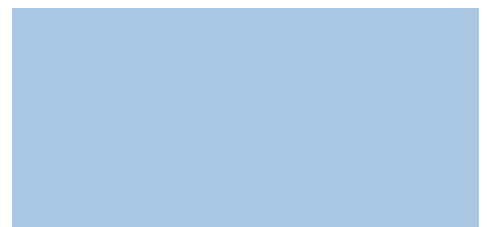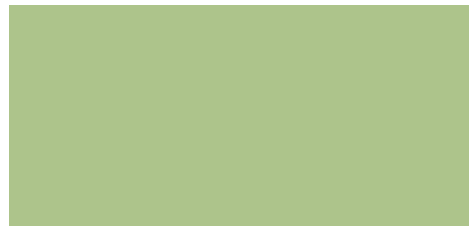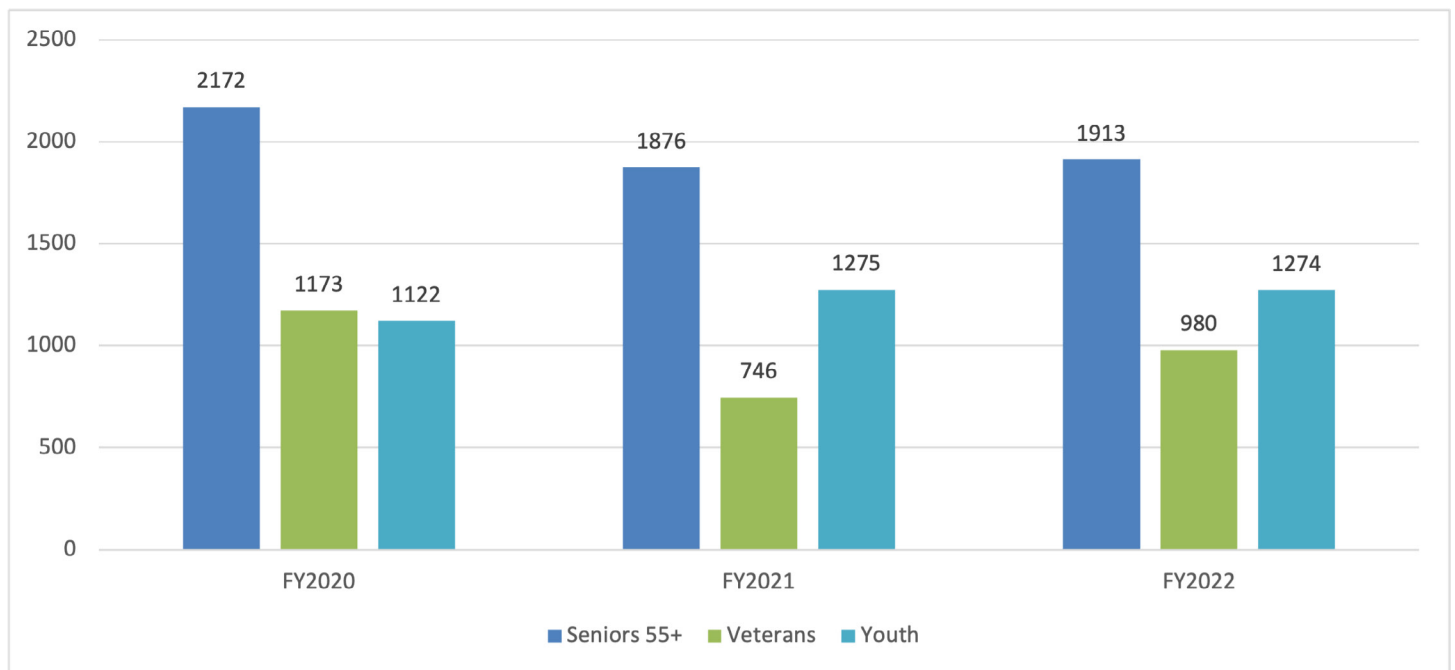
FIGURE 22. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS**[19] **BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**

Bar chart data:

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Adult-Only	5936	5535	5740
Adult & Child	600	1024	1078
Child-Only	99	120	110

19 Figures include households who entered Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.

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Figure 23 shows a breakdown by subpopulation of first-time homeless in shelters and permanent housing projects over the past three years. The number of first-time homeless seniors decreased by 14% from 2020 to 2021, but then slightly increased by 2% in 2022. For veterans, there was a significant decrease of 36% in first-time homelessness from 2020 to 2021, followed by a 31% increase in 2022. In the case of youth, there was a 14% increase in first-time homelessness from 2020 to 2021, but the number remained relatively stable with a slight decrease of 1% in 2022.
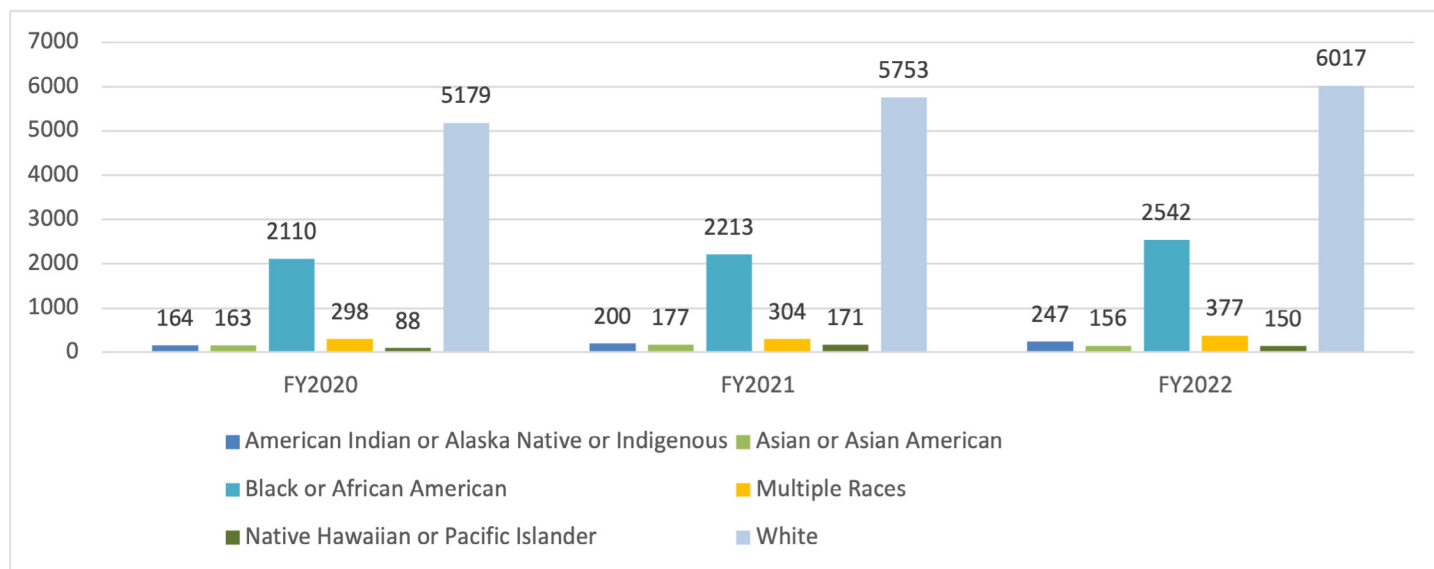
FIGURE 23. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS**[20] **BY SUBPOPULATION**

20 Figures include persons who entered Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.

The race breakdown of first-time homeless persons in shelters and permanent housing projects shows a steady increase in all categories for the past three years with a 21% increase for Black or African Americans and a 16% increase for Whites from 2020. (See Figure 24A)

FIGURE 24A. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS**[20] **BY RACE**

Even though there is a year to year increase in the first-time homeless number for both Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino and Hispanic/Latino individuals, the increase is higher for Hispanic/Latino. Among Hispanic/Latino individuals, there was a significant 27% increase from 2020 to 2021, followed by a 14% increase from 2021 to 2022. In comparison, the Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino experienced a relatively smaller 4% increase from 2020 to 2021 and a slight 1% increase from 2021 to 2022. (See Figure 24B)

FIGURE 24B. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS**[20] **BY ETHNICITY**
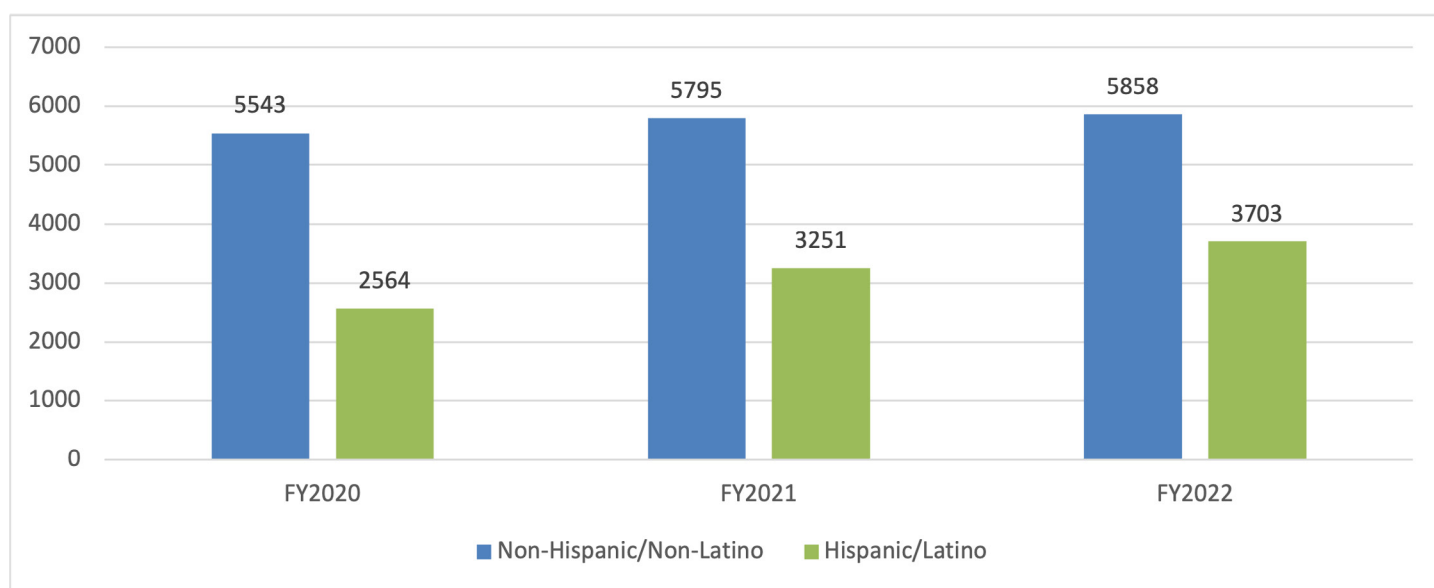
20 Figures include persons who entered Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the homeless system has seen an unprecedented increase in the number of individuals and households receiving services, with 41,162 people accessing housing and support in 2022, marking a 7% increase from 2021 but 16% increase from 2020. Notably, there have been significant increases in the number of youths, seniors, and persons in families served, highlighting the diverse needs within these groups. White and Black or African American individuals' representation in the homeless population is about 64% and 26% respectively. While the average number of days spent homeless has shown fluctuations, there has been a decrease in the average days for households and subpopulation groups such as veterans, youth, and seniors in 2022. The successful placement rates to permanent destinations from shelters, rapid re-housing, and outreach projects have seen declines. The challenge of preventing clients from returning to homelessness is evident, with more than one-fourth of previously placed individuals returning to the homeless system. Notably, the rate of return is lower for families and child-only households compared to adult-only households, and seniors have a lower rate of return compared to veterans and youth. While there was an increase in first-time homeless clients in shelters in 2021, followed by a decrease in 2022, the numbers returned to the level observed in 2020. But the number of first-time homeless individuals in shelters and permanent housing projects has been increasing year to year and resulted in an 18% increase since 2020. First-time homeless for adult-only households in shelters decreased by 13% but that of families saw a 46% increase since 2020. When considering first-time homeless numbers in shelters and permanent housing projects, adult only households saw 3% decrease but families saw an 80% increase since 2020. Even though there is an increase in first-time homeless numbers among senior and veteran households in 2022, there is an overall decrease since 2020. On the contrary, first-time homeless youth households in shelters and permanent housing projects experienced a 14% increase since 2020. These findings underscore the ongoing need for comprehensive and targeted interventions to address the unique challenges faced by different subpopulations and to work towards sustainable solutions in combating homelessness.

This report offers a concise overview of the data, highlighting key findings regarding homelessness in the San Diego region. However, further in-depth analysis is required to identify specific system challenges and prioritize effective strategies for enhancing housing outcomes. By diving deeper into the data, policymakers and stakeholders can gain a comprehensive understanding of the underlying issues and develop targeted interventions that address the unique needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Continued efforts and data-driven decision-making will be crucial in achieving sustainable and long-lasting solutions to combat homelessness in the San Diego area.
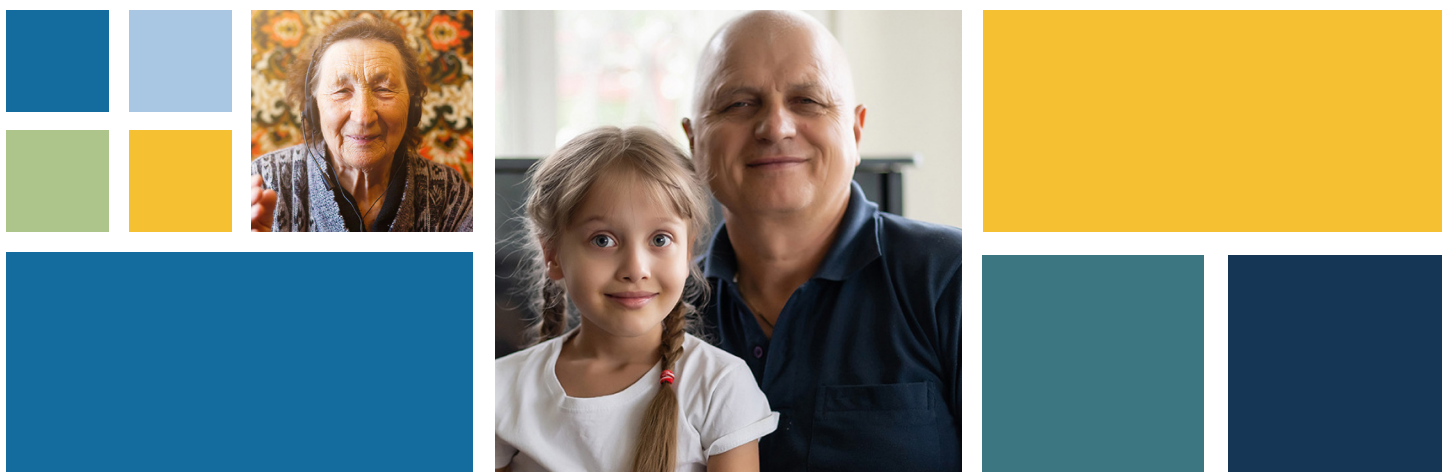
GLOSSARY

Adult & Child: Households in which one or more member is 18 years old or older and one or more member is under 18 years old.

Adult-Only: Households in which all members are 18 years old or older.

Child-Only: Households in which all members are 17 years old or younger.

Continuum of Care (CoC): A regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. The CoC Program is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families and communities by homelessness; promote access to and affect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Shelter: A project type in HMIS that offers temporary shelter (lodging) for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.

Homeless Management Information System: A local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.

Homeless Prevention: A project type in HMIS that offers services and/or financial assistance necessary to prevent a person from moving into an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation.

Household: A household is a single individual or a group of persons who are assisted together in a project.

Household Type: One of three main household types - Adult-Only, Adult & Child and Child-Only, based on the age of household members on the first day of the report period (or at entry, if later). Households may be counted in more than one household type, if the household members are served in more than one household type in different project enrollments. Performance measures reported by household type are calculated based on project enrollments associated with the respective household type.

Point-In-Time: An unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness that includes both sheltered and unsheltered populations.

Permanent Housing with Services (PHwS): A project type in HMIS that offers permanent housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons to live independently, but does not limit eligibility to individuations with disabilities or families in which one adult or child has a disability.

Permanent Housing Only: A project type in HMIS that offers permanent housing for persons who are homeless, but does not make supportive services available as part of the project.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): A project type in HMIS that offers permanent housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability (individuals with disabilities or families in which one adult or child has a disability) to live independently.

Rapid Re-housing (RRH): A permanent housing project type in HMIS that provides housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Safe Haven: A project type in HMIS that offers supportive housing that (1) serves hard to reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who came from the streets and have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services; (2) provides 24-hour residence for eligible persons for an unspecified period; (3) has an overnight capacity limited to 25 or fewer persons; and (4) provides low demand services and referrals for the residents.

Street Outreach: A project type in HMIS that offers services necessary to reach out to unsheltered homeless people, connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services, and provide urgent, non-facility-based care to unsheltered homeless people who are unwilling or unable to access emergency shelter, housing, or an appropriate health facility. Only persons who are "street homeless" should be entered into a street outreach project.

Transitional Housing: A project type in HMIS that provides temporary lodging and is designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within a specified period of time, but no longer than 24 months.

Youth Households: Households in which all the members are older than 17 years old but younger than 25.

Image courtesy of Humble Design

SAN DIEGO
Regional Task Force
on Homelessness