



JUNE 2024



**HOMELESSNESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM
2023 DATA AND PERFORMANCE REPORT**
SAN DIEGO CITY AND COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

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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 2021, 2022, and 2023, 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 high-level summary includes:

Number of Individuals and households received services: Over the past three years, the number of individuals and households served by the homeless crisis response system has steadily increased. Persons served rose by 6.4% in 2022¹ and 12.8% in 2023, while households served grew by 3.5% and 9.8%, respectively. Outreach and shelter projects consistently served the most individuals, with outreach services increasing steadily and shelter services peaking in 2022. Rapid Re-housing projects also saw a notable rise in 2022, while prevention projects declined each year. Subpopulation trends showed significant increases, particularly among youth, veterans, seniors, and persons in families, with the latter group experiencing the most substantial growth.

Racial and Ethnic composition: Over the past three years, the racial composition of individuals in the crisis response system has remained stable, with White and Black or African American categories consistently making up 90% of the population and Black or African American individuals comprising 26-28%. Meanwhile, the Hispanic population has steadily increased from 32% in 2021 to 35% in 2023, while the non-Hispanic population has decreased from 68% to 65%, indicating a shifting ethnic balance.

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



Average number of days homeless for persons spent in shelters were below the national average in 2021 but exceeded it by 10 days in 2022. Overall, households saw a decrease in average days of homelessness from 251 in 2021 to 169 in 2022, with a slight rise to 185 in 2023. Adult-Only households followed a similar pattern, while households with children remained relatively stable, and Child-Only households experienced a significant reduction. Subpopulations showed distinct trends, with seniors and veterans seeing overall decreases despite fluctuations, and youth showing a notable decline. Additionally, Black or African American-headed households and Hispanic/Latino individuals saw significant reductions in days of homelessness, though slight increases occurred in 2023.

Exit of homelessness to a permanent destination: From 2021 to 2023, Street Outreach projects increased permanent exits from 21% to 24%, while Shelters & RRH projects dipped to 25% in 2022 before rising to 27%. Overall household exit rates remained stable at 23-24%, with Adult-Only households fluctuating slightly and Adult & Child households declining. Seniors' exit rates rose, then slightly dropped, veterans steadily declined, and youth had a sharp drop before a slight rise. White-headed households stayed stable at 22-23%, whereas Black or African American-headed households saw a decline before a slight increase. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino households had consistent rates, while Hispanic/Latino households decreased then recovered.

Return to homelessness: Overall returns within two years peaked at 27% in 2022 before dropping to 25% in 2023. Outreach and Transitional Housing saw increases, while Emergency Shelters peaked in 2022 then declined. Safe Haven improved, and Permanent Housing remained stable. Adult-only households had the highest return rates, with families and child-only households showing rising trends. Seniors and veterans' returns decreased, while youth rates varied. White-headed households saw an increase then decrease in returns, while Black or African American-headed households experienced a decline followed by a rise.

First-time homeless: From 2021 to 2023, first-time homeless clients in shelters decreased by 8%, then increased by 3%. Combined shelters and permanent housing projects saw a 4% increase, then a slight decrease. Adult-only households showed a decrease, while families increased by 15%. In shelters and permanent housing, adult-only households increased by 4%, families by 17%, and child-only households decreased. Seniors saw a 2% increase then a 13% decrease; veterans had a 30% increase then a 3% decrease; youth saw a 2% decrease followed by a 6% increase. Black or African Americans increased by 18%, and Whites decreased by 12%. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino numbers fluctuated slightly, while Hispanic/Latino numbers grew significantly before stabilizing.

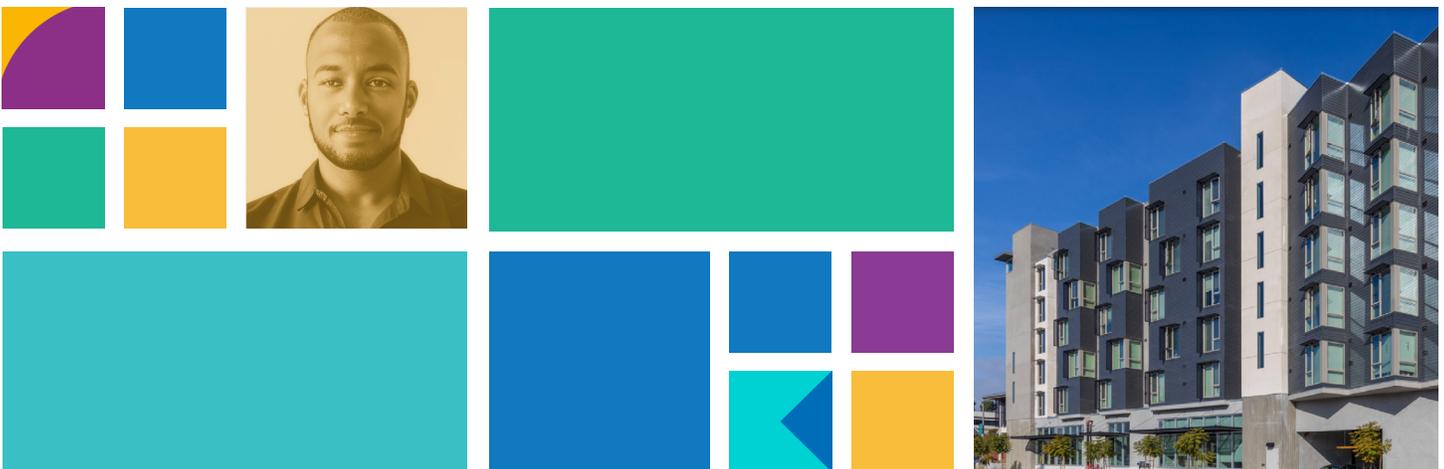


ABOUT THE DATA

This report incorporates data from reports submitted to HUD for the years 2023, 2022, and 2021, with a focus on 2023 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>

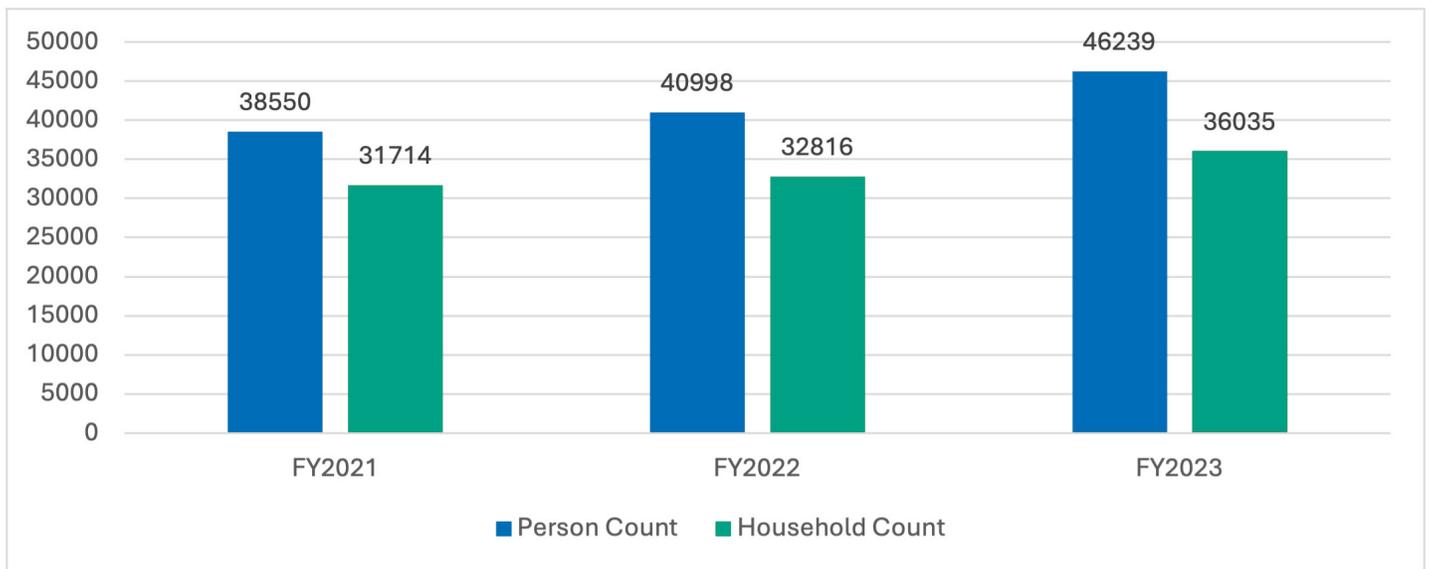
³ <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/lsa/>

⁴ <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/>

TOTAL PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

Over the past three years, the data on individuals served by the homeless crisis response system shows a consistent increase in both the number of persons and households. The number of persons served rose from 38,550 in 2021 to 40,998 in 2022, a 6.4% increase, and further to 46,239 in 2023, a 12.8% increase from the previous year. Similarly, the number of households served grew from 31,714 in 2021 to 32,816 in 2022, a 3.5% increase, and further to 36,035 in 2023, a 9.8% increase from the previous year. These statistics highlight the growing demand for homeless services and reflect the continuous efforts to address homelessness within the community. (SEE FIGURE 1)

FIGURE 1. **TOTAL PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS SERVED BY THE HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM** ⁵



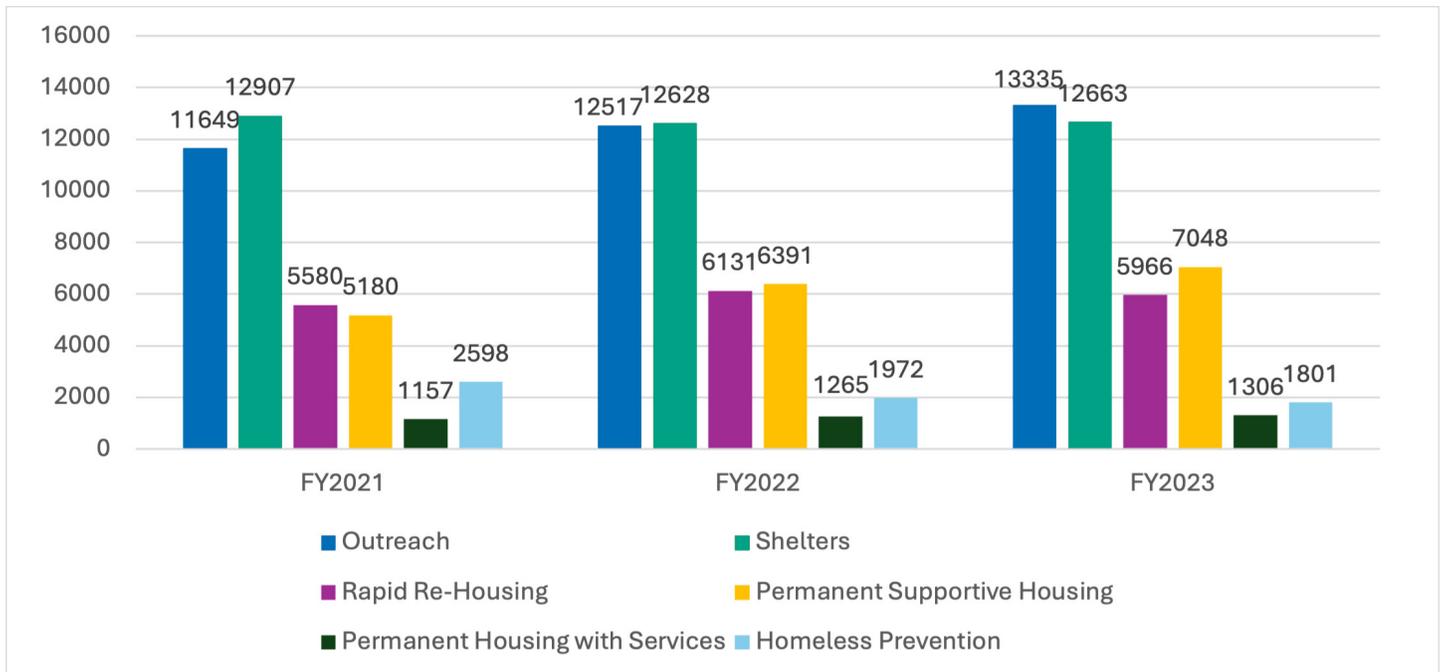
⁵ Total persons and households served includes all programs and project types that enter data into HMIS including permanent housing projects, non-permanent housing projects, and supportive services only projects.



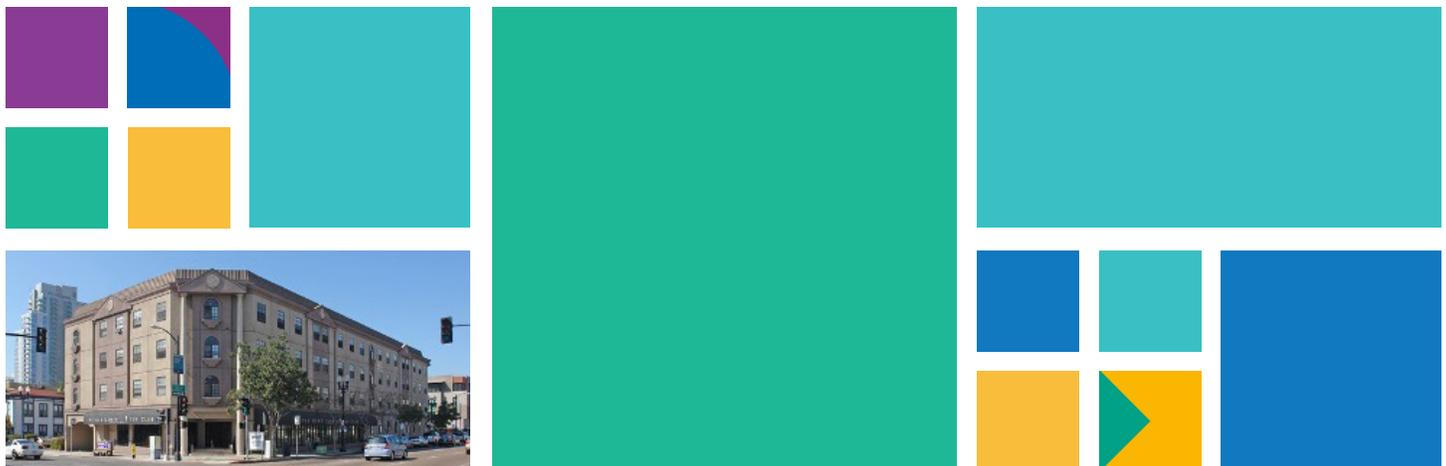


Over the three-year period, the outreach and shelter projects consistently served the largest number of individuals, showing a steady increase in outreach services and a peak in shelter services in 2022 compared to 2020 and 2023. Rapid Re-housing projects also followed a similar trend, with a notable rise in 2022. In contrast, the prevention project type experienced a decline in the number of people served each year. (SEE FIGURE 2)

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



Within the homeless system, households utilize various combinations of project types during their time in the system, known as pathways⁷. 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 types⁸ within the homeless system for the year 2023. 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.

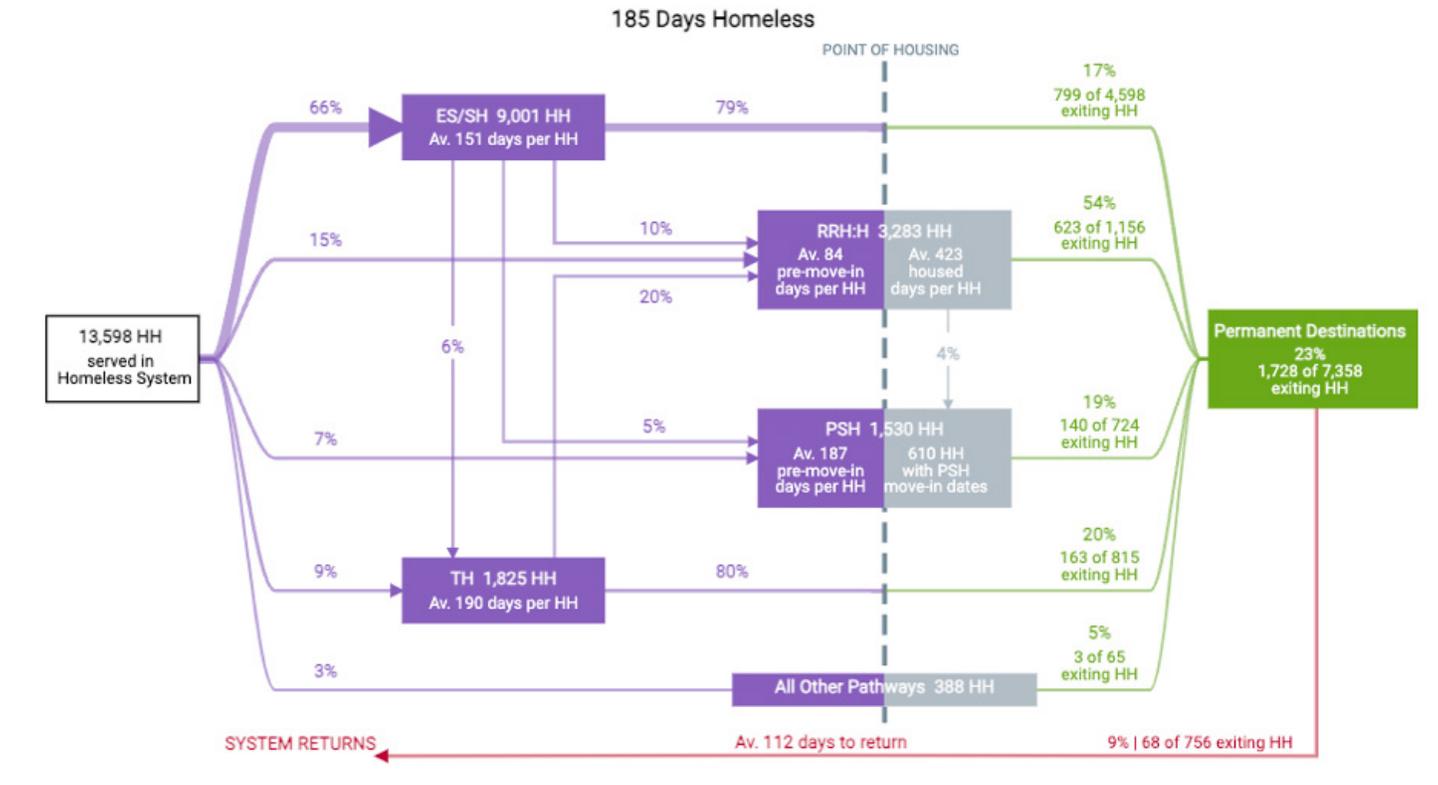
⁷ Households can engage with each project type in a pathway in any order.

⁸ This includes households served in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.





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

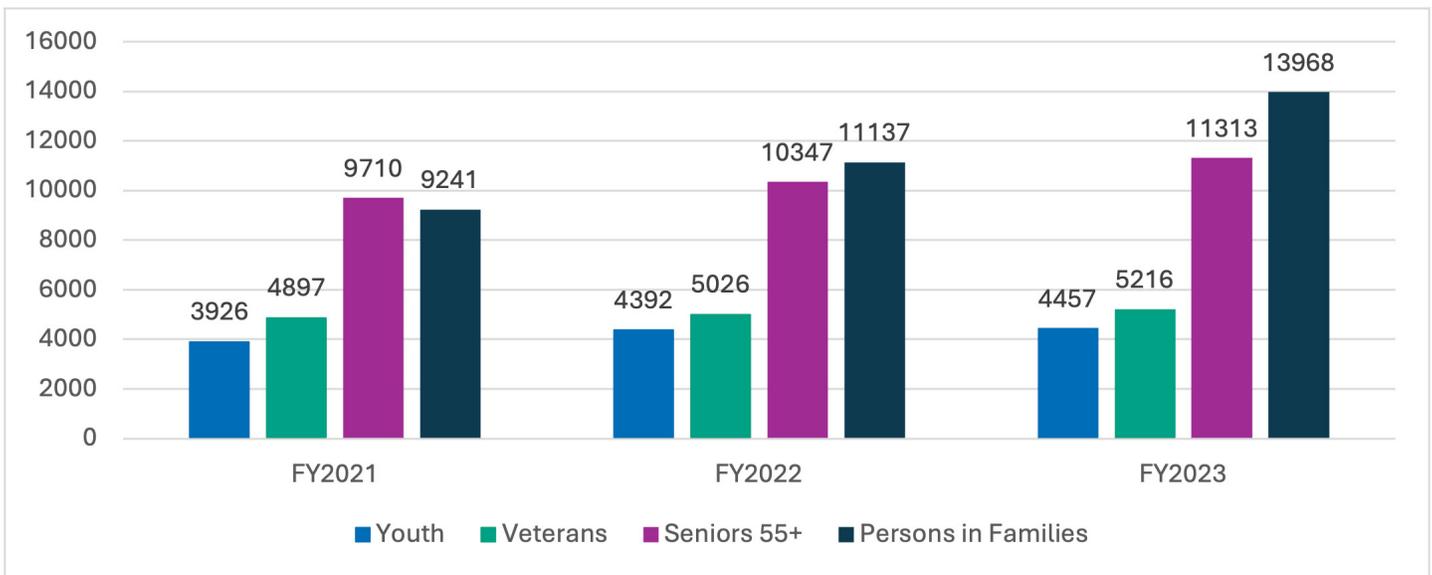


⁷ Households can engage with each project type in a pathway in any order.

SUBPOPULATIONS SERVED

Over the three-year period, each subpopulation group exhibited distinct trends and percentage changes. The youth population served increased from 3,926 in 2021 to 4,392 in 2022 (an 11.8% increase), and further to 4,457 in 2023 (a 1.5% increase). The veteran population saw a rise from 4,897 in 2021 to 5,026 in 2022 (a 2.6% increase), and then to 5,216 in 2023 (a 3.8% increase). The senior population grew significantly, from 9,710 in 2021 to 10,347 in 2022 (a 6.6% increase), and further to 11,313 in 2023 (a 9.3% increase). Persons in families experienced the most significant growth, increasing from 9,241 in 2021 to 11,137 in 2022 (a 20.5% increase), and then to 13,968 in 2023 (a 25.4% increase). These trends indicate a substantial rise in the number of individuals served across all subpopulation groups, with persons in families showing the most significant increase year to year. (SEE FIGURE 4)

FIGURE 4. **TOTAL PERSONS SERVED WITHIN SUBPOPULATIONS BY ALL PROJECT TYPES**⁹

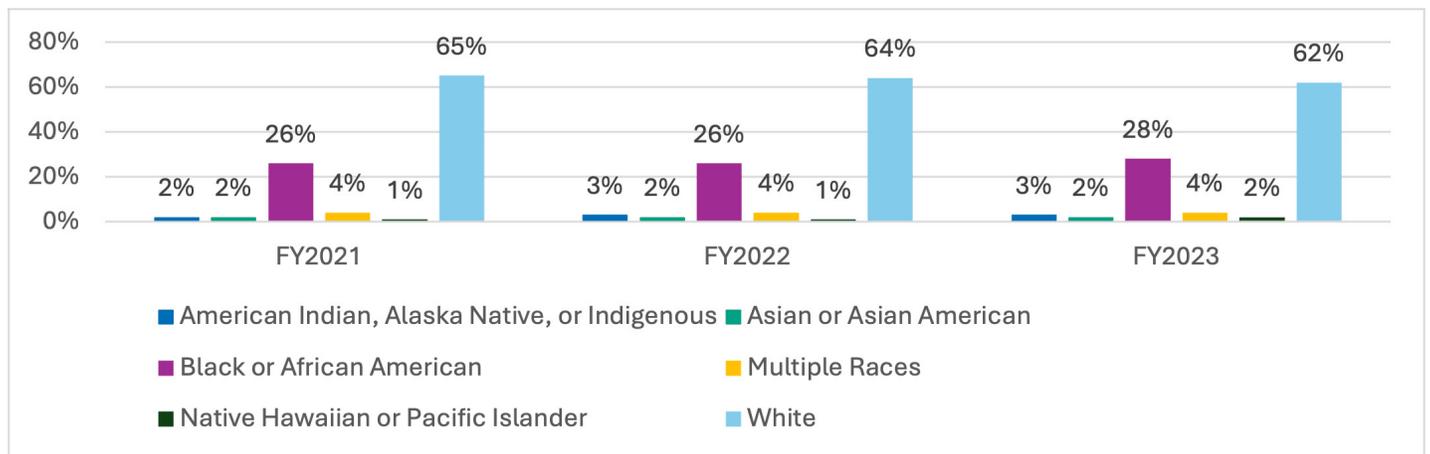


⁹ Total persons and households served includes all programs and project types that enter data into HMIS including permanent housing projects, non-permanent housing projects, and supportive services only projects.

RACIAL & ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

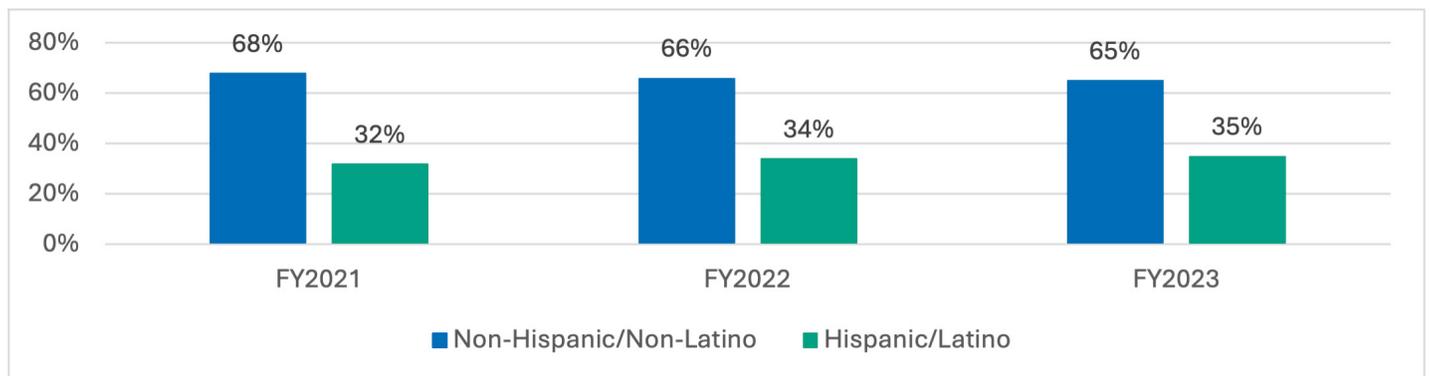
Despite the growing number of individuals in the crisis response system, the racial composition has shown consistency over the past three years. The combined categories of White and Black or African American consistently make up 90% of the population each year. This data indicates that, while there have been fluctuations in the total number of individuals served, the racial distribution within the crisis response system has remained stable. (SEE FIGURE 5a)

FIGURE 5a. **RACIAL MAKEUP OF PEOPLE SERVED IN ALL PROJECT TYPES** ⁹



The Hispanic population has shown a gradual increase from 32% in 2021 to 34% in 2022 and further to 35% in 2023, reflecting a consistent upward trend. In contrast, the non-Hispanic population has experienced a corresponding decrease, declining from 68% in 2021 to 66% in 2022 and to 65% in 2023. These trends indicate a shifting balance in the ethnic makeup of those accessing crisis response services, with the Hispanic population seeing a slight rise while the non-Hispanic population proportionately decreases over the three-year period. (SEE FIGURE 5b)

FIGURE 5b. **ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE SERVED IN ALL PROJECT TYPES** ⁹



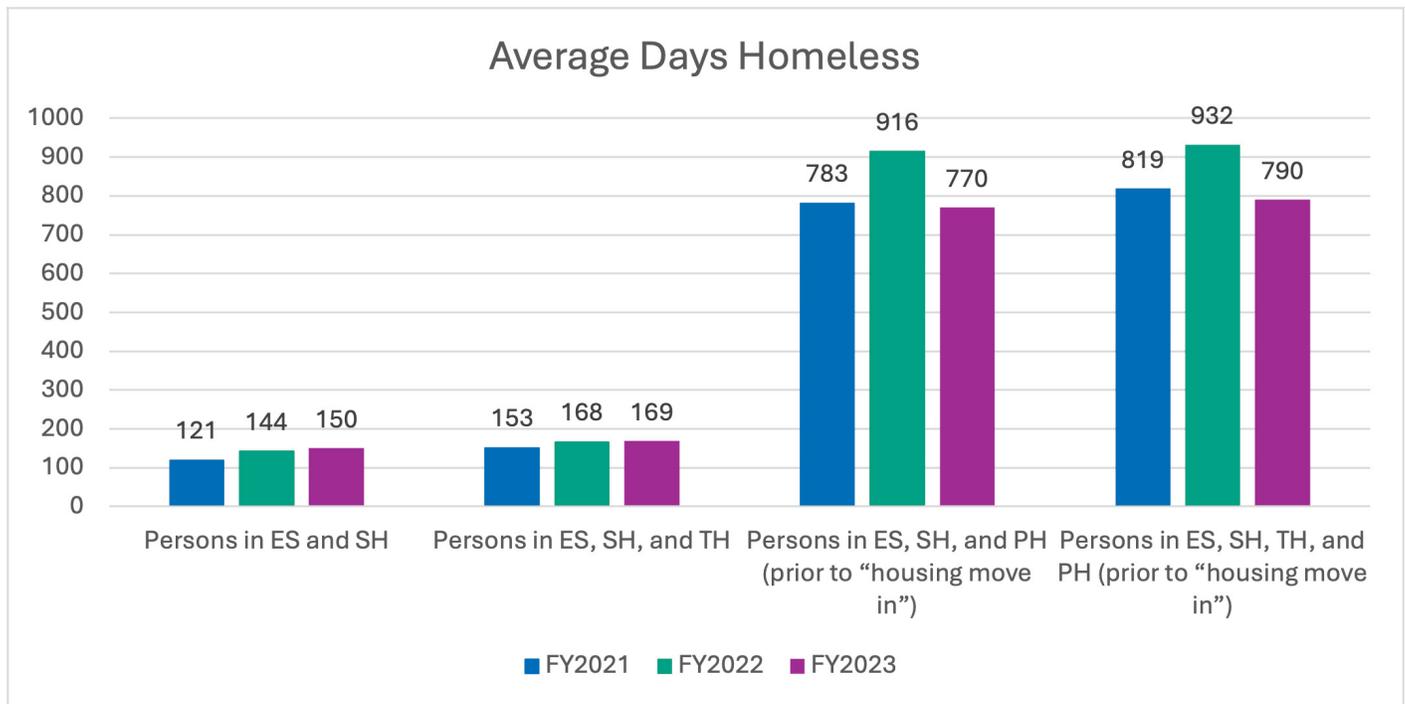
⁹ Total persons and households served includes all programs and project types that enter data into HMIS including permanent housing projects, non-permanent housing projects, and supportive services only projects.

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 in 2021 and over by 10 days in 2022.¹⁰ 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 and a more comprehensive assessment of the total period individuals experience homelessness. (SEE FIGURE 6)

FIGURE 6. **AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN DAYS**



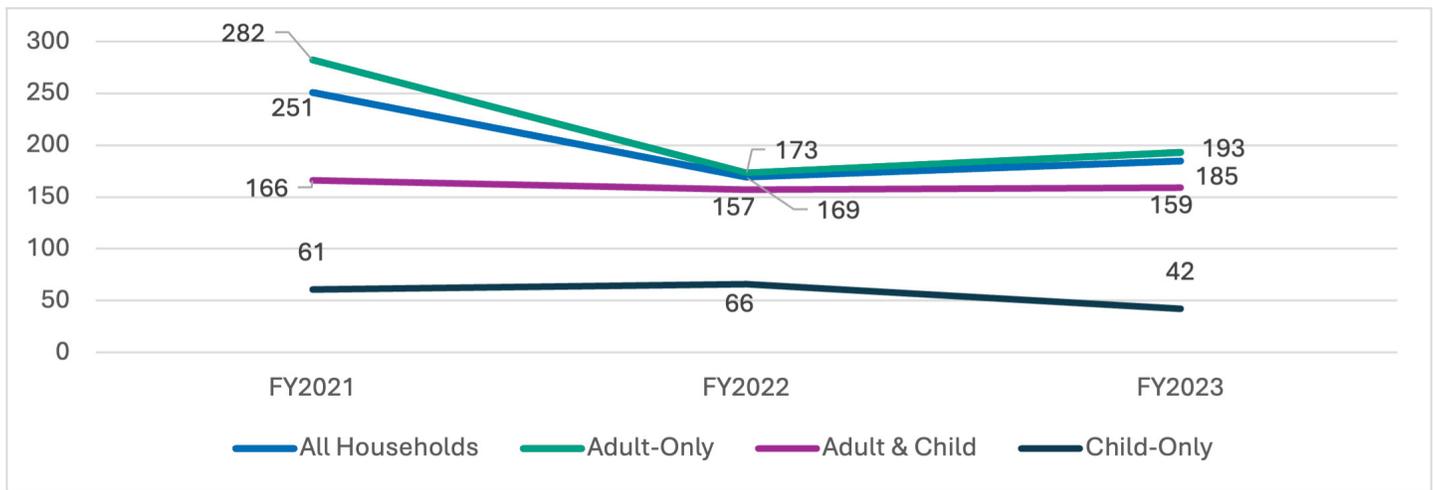
¹⁰ HUD System Performance Measures national average of days homeless in ES-SH-TH are 193,160 and 158 for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively.



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.

Over the fiscal years 2021 to 2023, there were distinctive trends in the average days of homelessness experienced by different household types. Over all households saw a notable decrease in average days from 251 in 2021 to 169 in 2022, followed by a slight increase to 185 in 2023. Adult-Only households similarly experienced a decrease from 282 days in 2021 to 173 days in 2022, with a subsequent increase to 193 days in 2023. Households with children showed consistency with 166 days in 2021 and a slight increase to 159 days in 2023. In contrast, Child-Only households experienced a significant decrease from 61 days in 2021 to 42 days in 2023. These trends indicate varying patterns in the duration of homelessness across different household types, reflecting both improvements and fluctuations in housing stability over the three-year period. (SEE FIGURE 7)

FIGURE 7. **AVERAGE DAYS HOMELESS¹¹ BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**



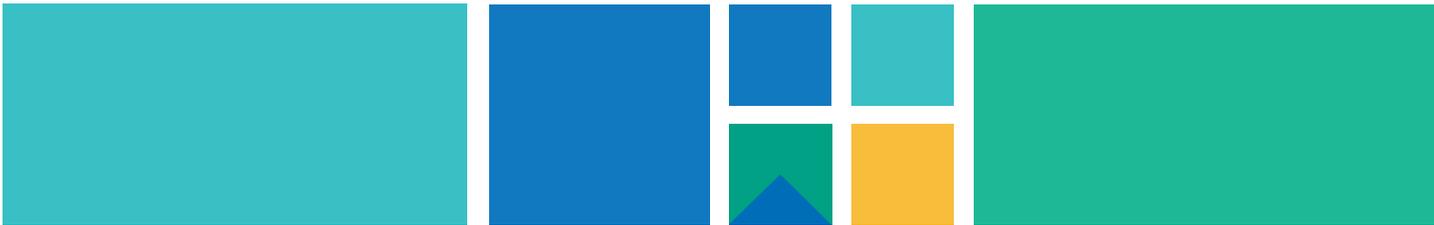
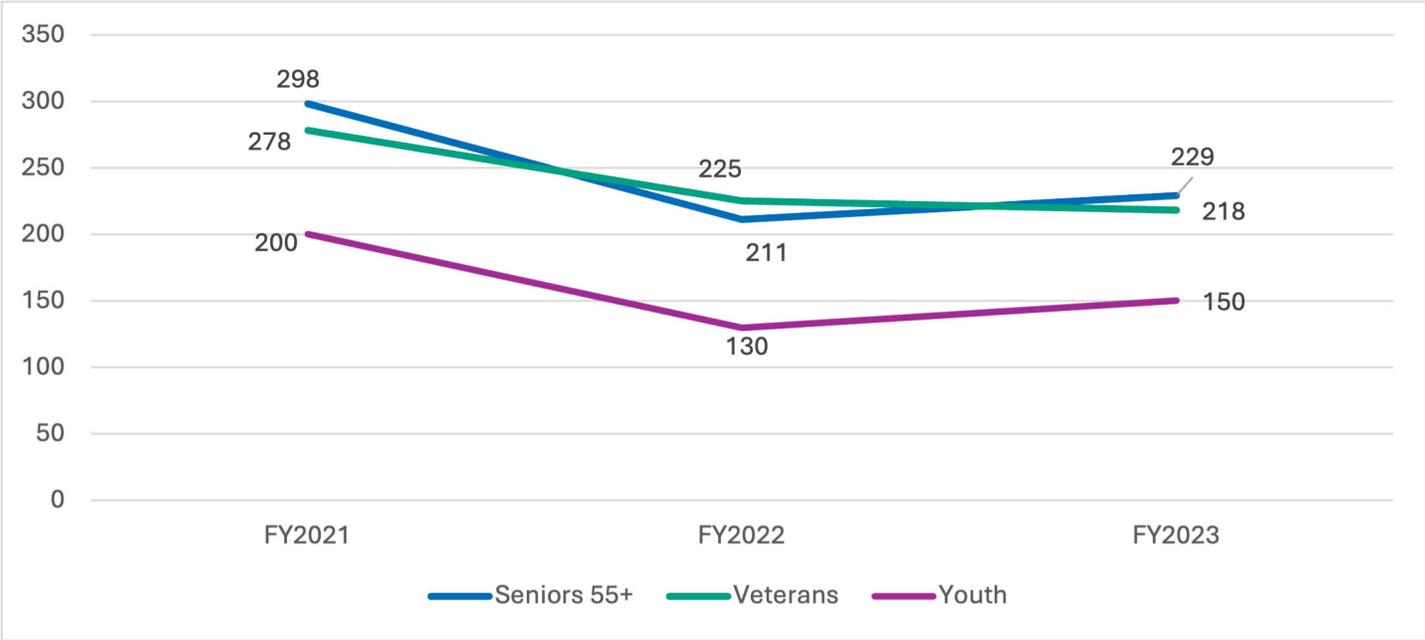
¹¹ The average cumulative, unduplicated number of days that households were served in ES, SH, or TH projects; and days in RRH or any PH project prior to move-in.





The average 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 notable decrease from 298 days in 2021 to 211 days in 2022, followed by a slight increase to 229 days in 2023. This represents an overall decrease of 69 days from 2021 to 2023 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. Veterans also saw a decline from 278 days in 2021 to 225 days in 2022, with a marginal decrease to 218 days in 2023, indicating a slight decline of 60 days over the three-year period but when comparing the days of homeless for veteran households with to the household types, days of homeless for veteran household has been above average in 2022 and 2023. In contrast, youth had a major decrease from 200 days in 2021 to 130 days in 2022, followed by a moderate increase to 150 days in 2023. Youth households tend to have fewer days of homeless as compared to all household types days of homeless in all the three years. (SEE FIGURE 7, PREVIOUS PAGE AND FIGURE 8)

FIGURE 8. **AVERAGE DAYS HOMELESS¹¹ BY SUBPOPULATION**



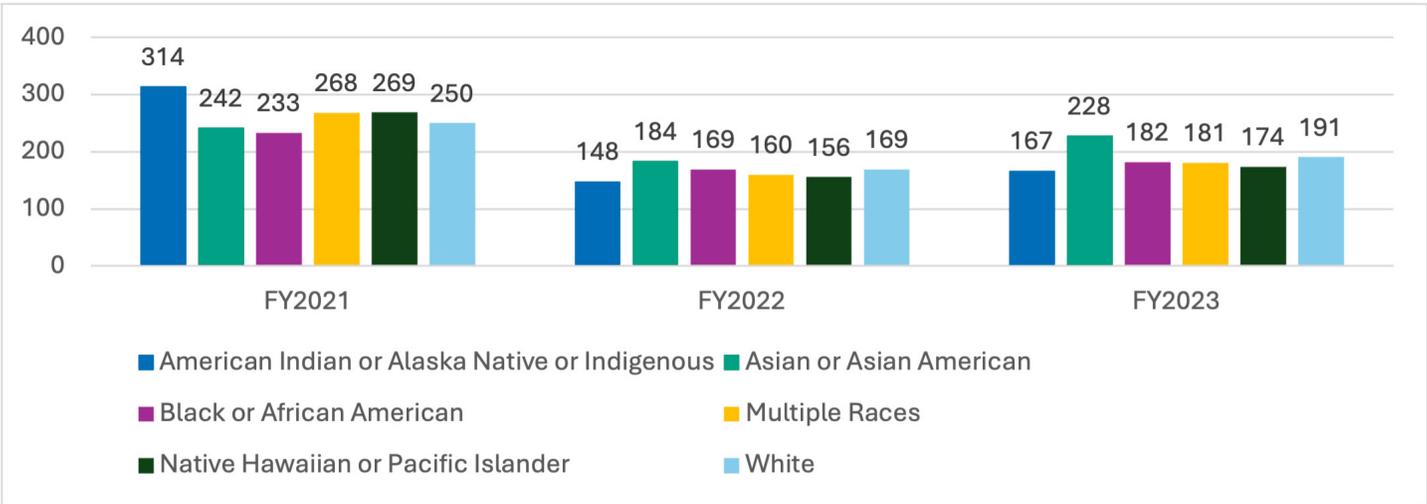
¹¹ The average cumulative, unduplicated number of days that households were served in ES, SH, or TH projects; and days in RRH or any PH project prior to move-in.





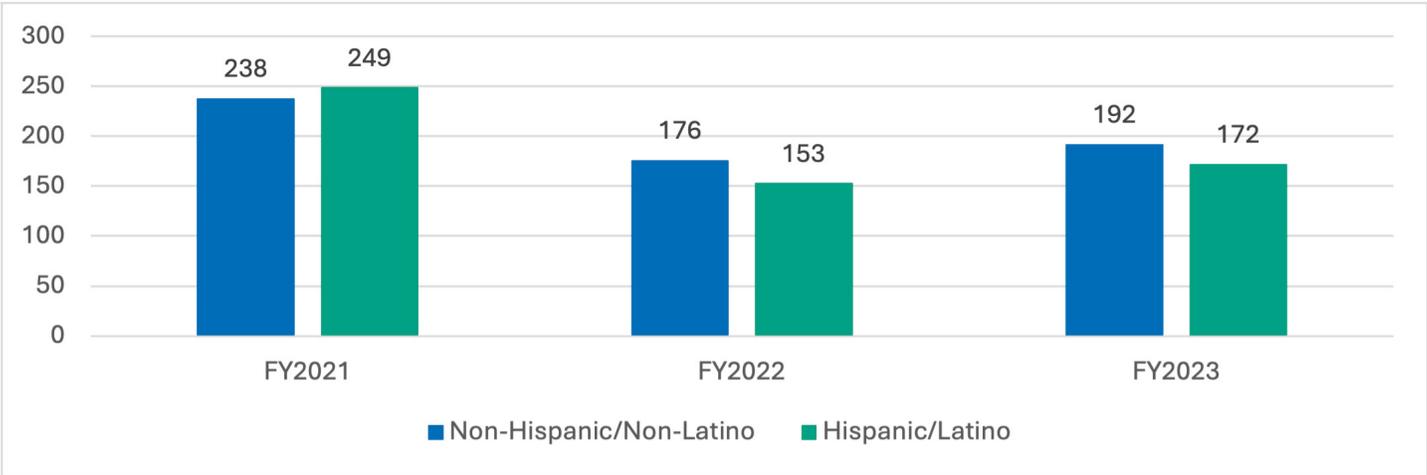
As shown in Figure 9a, across all race categories, there has been a major decrease in 2022 followed by a slight increase in 2023 of the household days of homelessness. Specifically, when examining the days homeless for Black or African American-headed households, there was 64 days decrease in 2022 followed by 13 days increase in 2023, resulting in an overall decrease of 51 days over the three-year period. This change in the days of homeless for Black or African American-headed households is slightly higher than the decrease observed in the overall household types' days of homeless, as depicted in Figure 7.

FIGURE 9a. **HOUSEHOLD DAYS¹¹ HOMELESS BY RACE**



From 2021 to 2023, there were distinct trends in the average days of homeless between Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino populations. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino individuals saw their average days of homeless decrease by 62 days in 2022, with a slight increase by 16 days in 2023. Hispanic/Latino individuals experienced a similar trend, with a significant reduction by 96 days in 2022, followed by an increase by 19 days in 2023. These trends indicate that while both groups saw improvements in the days of homeless initially, there was a modest rise in average days in the third year, highlighting ongoing challenges in achieving stable housing for both ethnic groups. (SEE FIGURE 9b)

FIGURE 9b. **HOUSEHOLD DAYS¹¹ HOMELESS BY ETHNICITY**



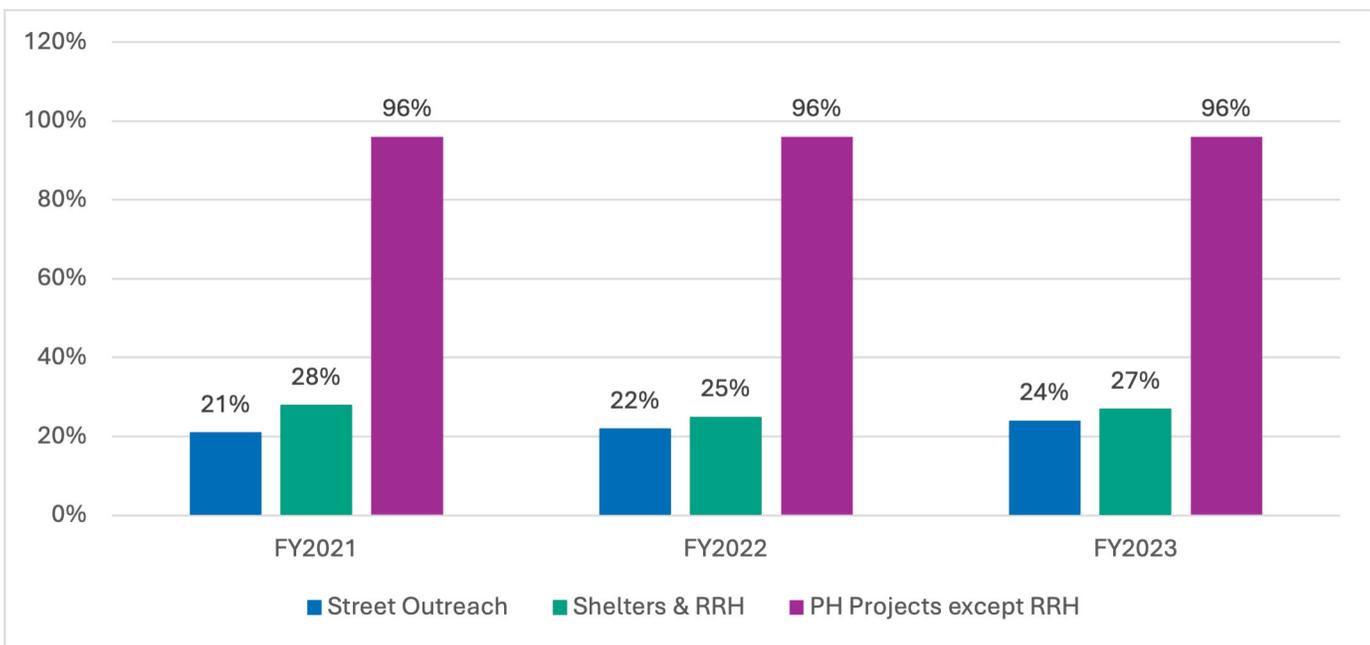
¹¹ The average cumulative, unduplicated number of days that households were served in ES, SH, or TH projects; and days in RRH or any PH project prior to move-in.

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.

From 2021 to 2023, there were notable changes in the rates of permanent destination exits for clients in Street Outreach and Shelter & RRH projects. Street Outreach projects saw a steady increase in permanent exits, rising from 21% in 2021 to 22% in 2022, and further to 24% in 2023. In contrast, Shelters & RRH projects experienced a slight decline from 28% in 2021 to 25% in 2022, followed by an increase to 27% in 2023. This comparison indicates that while Street Outreach projects consistently improved their permanent exit rates over the three years, Shelters & RRH projects showed more variability, with a dip in the second year before partially recovering in the third year. 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 EXITS¹³ OR RETENTION OF PERMANENT HOUSING¹⁴**



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>

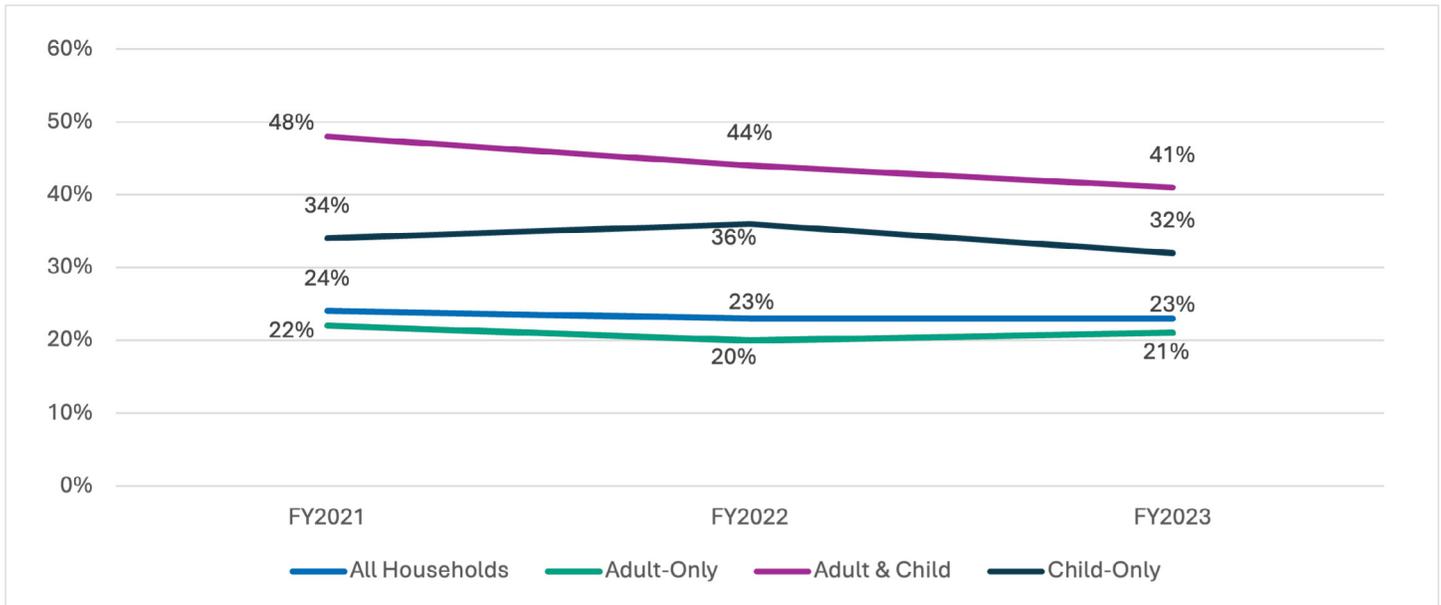
¹⁴ National Average for successful exit from Street Outreach is 34.5%, 33.4% and 32.4% for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively; from Shelters and RRH is 40%, 37.7% and 33.9% for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively; from PH or retention of PH beyond 6 months is 95.4%, 96.4% and 96.2% for FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022 respectively.





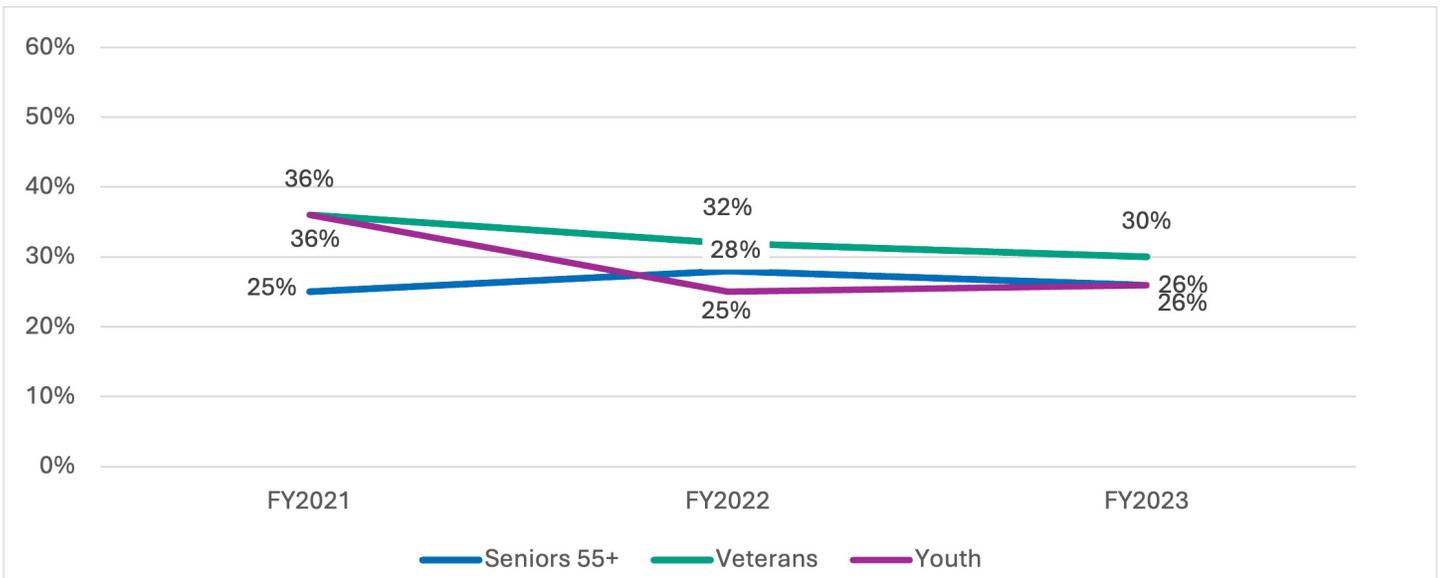
From 2021 to 2023, percentage of permanent destination exit varied among household types. All Households maintained a rate of 23 to 24%, while Adult-Only households decreased from 22% to 20%, then slightly rose to 21%. Adult & Child households saw a steady decline from 48% to 41%. Child-Only households fluctuated, rising from 34% to 36%, then dropping to 32%. (SEE FIGURE 11)

FIGURE 11. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS¹⁵ BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**



Senior subpopulation saw an increase from 25% in 2021 to 28% in 2022, followed by a slight drop to 26% in 2023. Veterans experienced a steady decline from 36% in 2021 to 32% in 2022, and further to 30% in 2023. Youth had a significant decrease from 36% in 2021 to 25% in 2022, then a slight rise to 26% in 2023. These patterns indicate fluctuating success rates in achieving permanent exits among different subpopulations. (SEE FIGURE 12)

FIGURE 12. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS¹⁵ BY POPULATION GROUP**



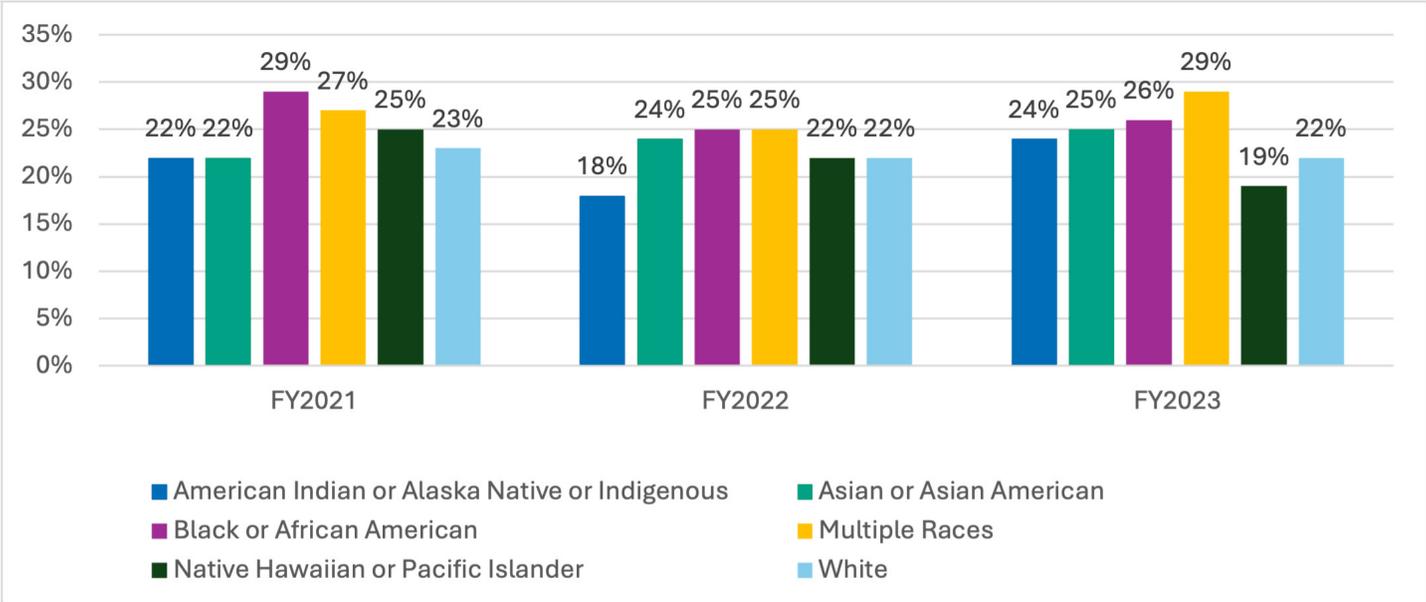
¹⁵ The denominator is household exits from ES, TH, SH, RRH, and all PH project types.





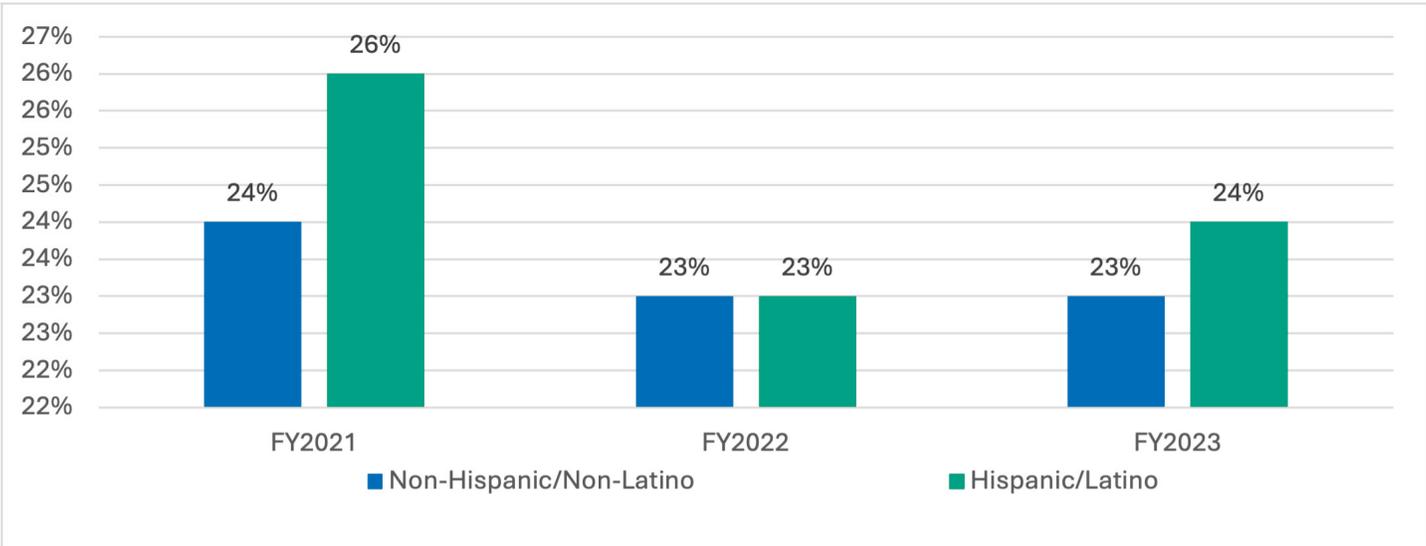
Over the past three years, percentage of exits to permanent destination have varied across different race categories. For the two major race groups, White-headed households maintained a stable exit rate of 22 to 23%. In contrast, Black or African American-headed households experienced a decline from 29% in 2021 to 25% in 2022, followed by a slight increase to 26% in 2023. (SEE FIGURE 13a)

FIGURE 13. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS¹⁵ BY RACE**



From 2021 to 2023, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino households had a consistent permanent exit rate of 23-24% whereas, Hispanic/Latino households decreased from 26% in 2021 to 23% in 2022, then rose to 24% in 2023 as shown in Figure 13b.

FIGURE 13b. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS¹⁵ BY ETHNICITY**



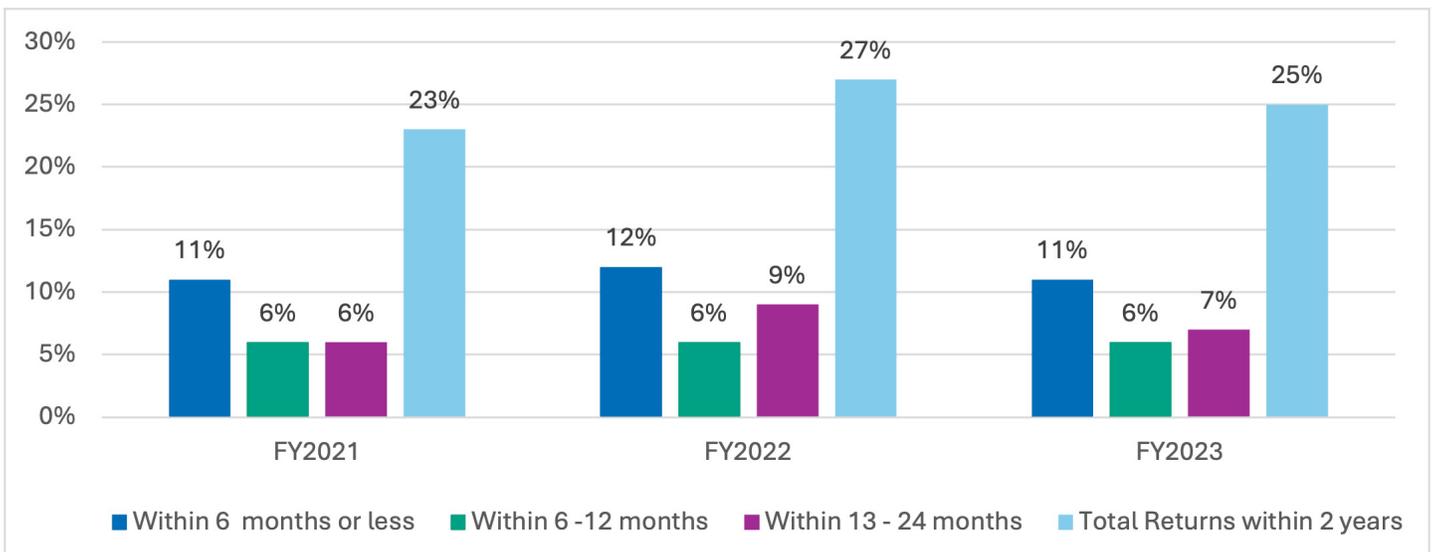
¹⁵ The denominator is household exits from ES, TH, SH, RRH, and all PH project types.

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.

From 2021 to 2023, the percentage of persons returning to homelessness showed some variation. Returns within 6 months fluctuated slightly, going from 11% in 2021 to 12% in 2022, then back to 11% in 2023. Returns within 6 to 12 months remained steady at 6% each year. Returns within 13 to 24 months increased from 6% in 2021 to 9% in 2022, then decreased to 7% in 2023. Overall, total returns within 2 years rose from 23% in 2021 to 27% in 2022, before dropping to 25% in 2023. (SEE FIGURE 14)

FIGURE 14. **PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WHO RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS**¹⁶

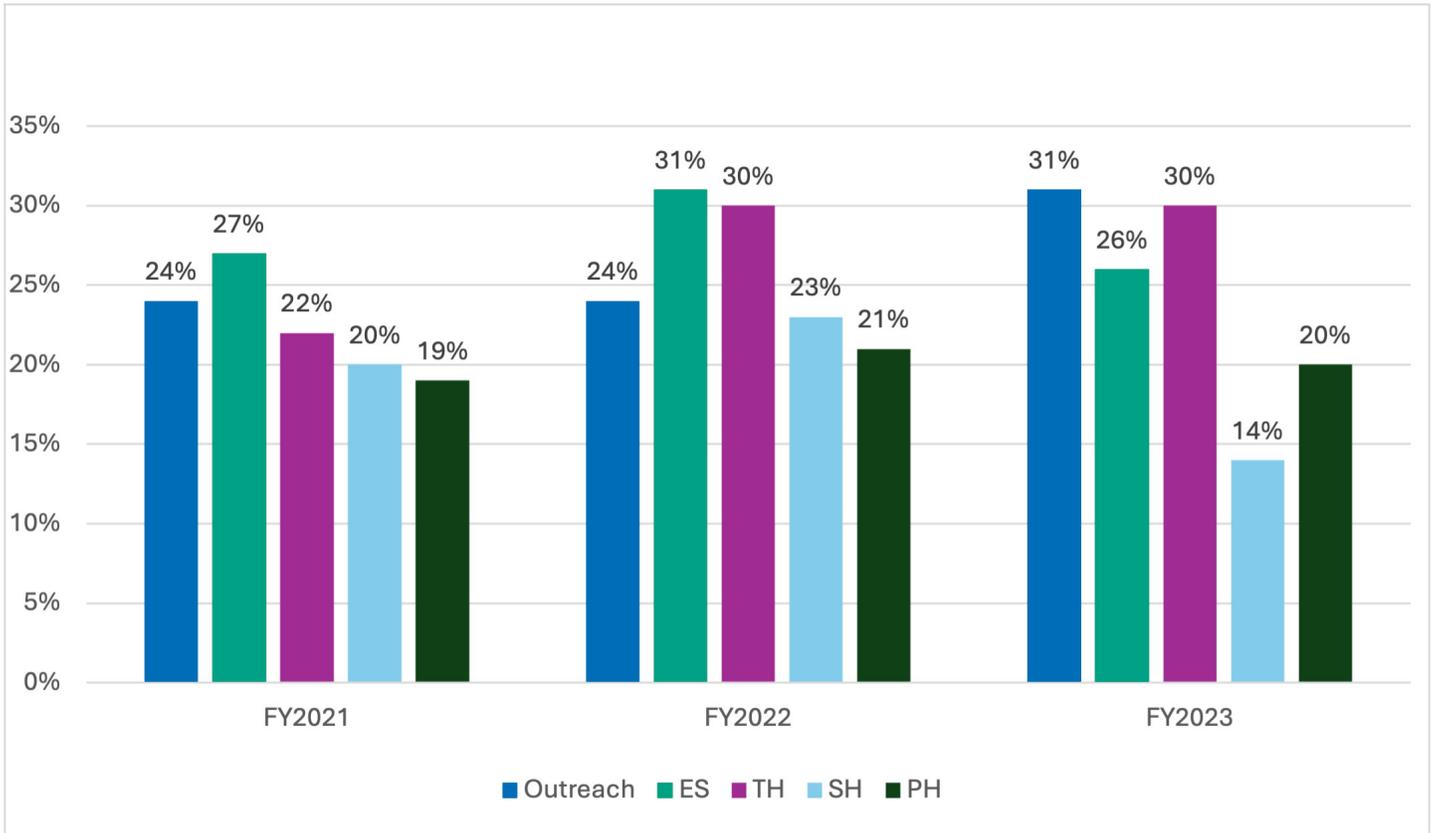


From 2021 to 2023, the percentage of persons returning to homelessness varied by project type. Outreach projects saw an increase from 24% to 31%, while Emergency Shelters peaked at 31% in 2022 before dropping to 26% in 2023. Transitional Housing returns jumped from 22% to 30%, highlighting persistent challenges. Safe Haven projects improved, with returns decreasing from 23% to 14%. Permanent Housing remained stable, fluctuating slightly from 19% to 21%, then back to 20%. (SEE FIGURE 15, NEXT PAGE)

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.



FIGURE 15. **PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WHO RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS BY PROJECT TYPE**



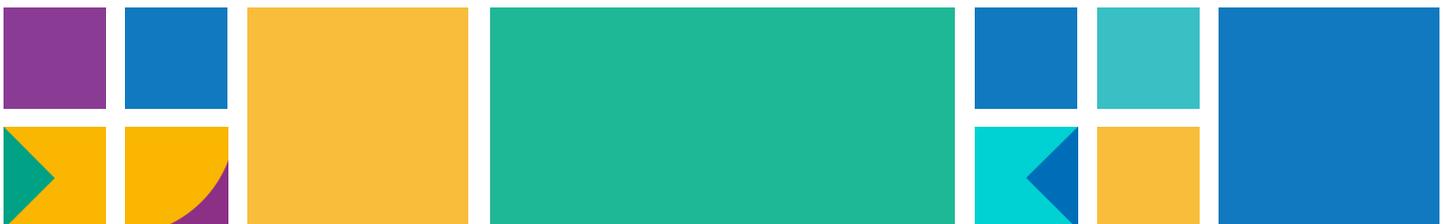
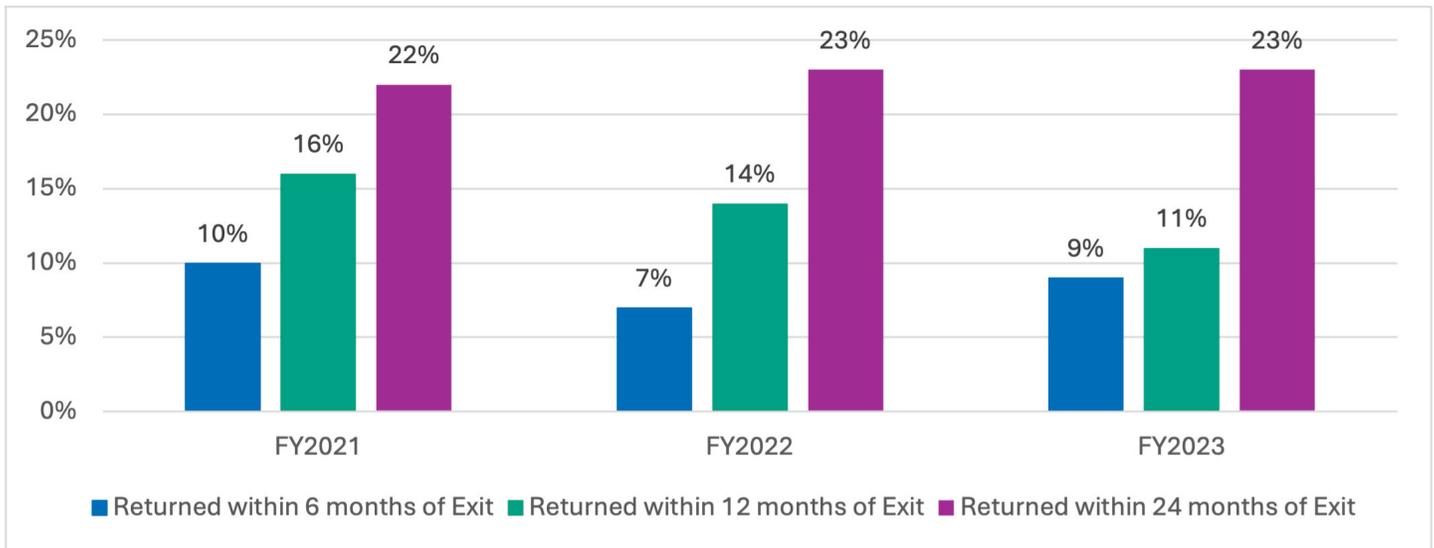


The rate of household returns in the following graphs represents groups of clients becoming homeless in the same household type. This is because households returning to homelessness in a completely different household type do not suggest the same CoC performance issue that a household repeatedly becoming 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.

From 2021 to 2023, the percentage of households returning to homelessness after exiting to a permanent destination showed a slight decrease within the first year but remained stable within two years. Returns within 6 months dropped from 10% to 7%, then rose to 9%. Returns within 12 months declined from 16% to 11%. Returns within 24 months stayed consistent at around 22-23%. (SEE FIGURE 16)

FIGURE 16. **PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS** ¹⁷



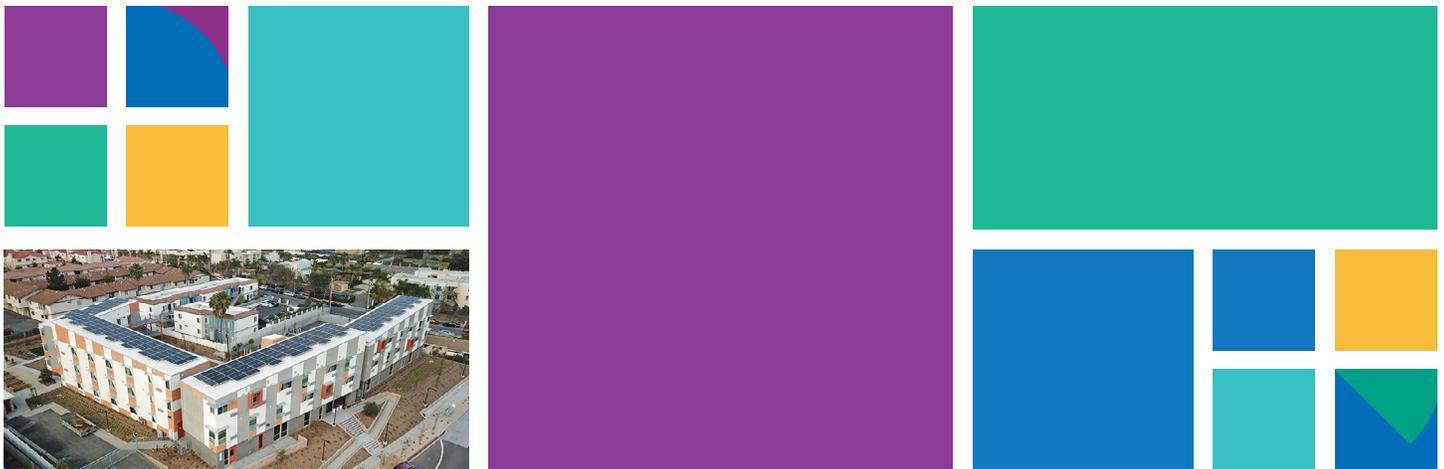
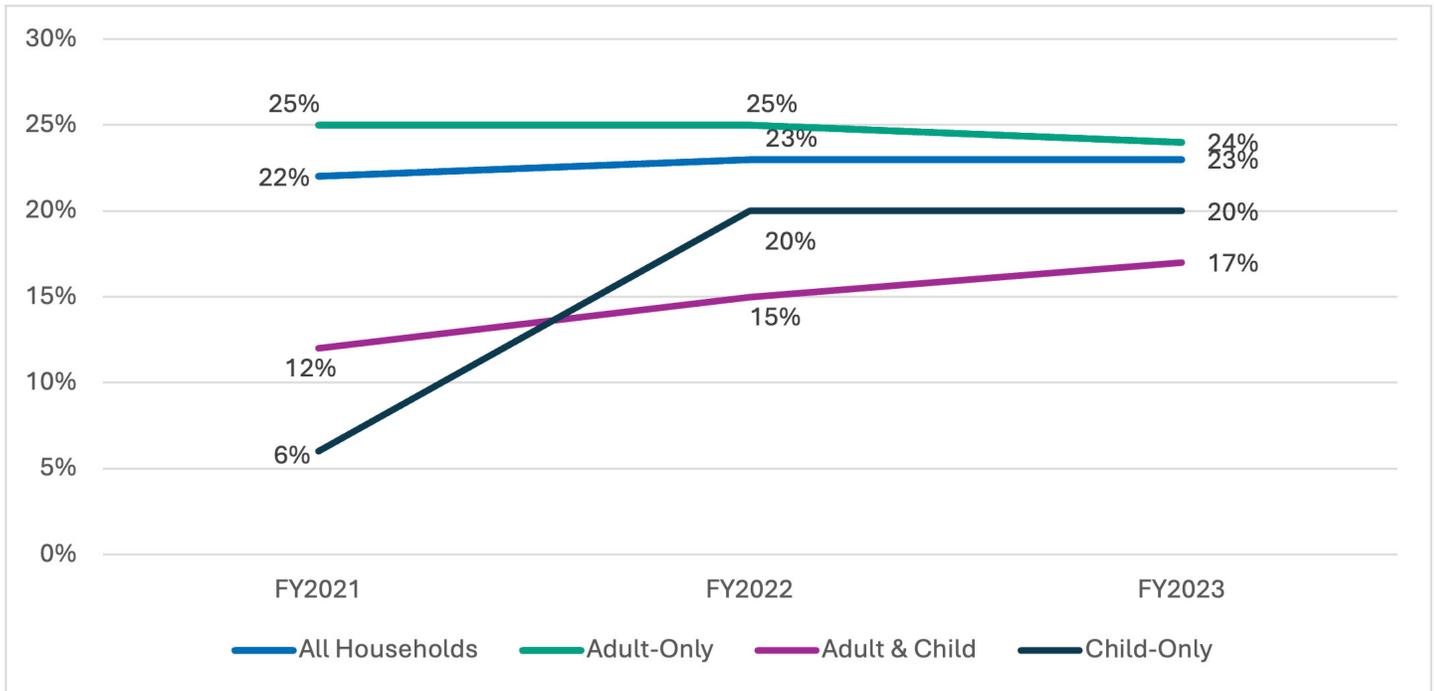
¹⁷ Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.





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 was consistently higher for adult-only households across all three years. About one-fourth of adult-only households that exited within this timeframe returned to homelessness within two years. The return rate for families, while lower than that for adult-only households, steadily increased over the past three years. Child-only households saw a significant rise in returns, from 6% in 2021 to 20% in 2022, and maintained this level in 2023. These trends highlight increasing returns for households with children and child-only households, while adult-only households showed more stability. (SEE FIGURE 17)

FIGURE 17. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE** ¹⁷



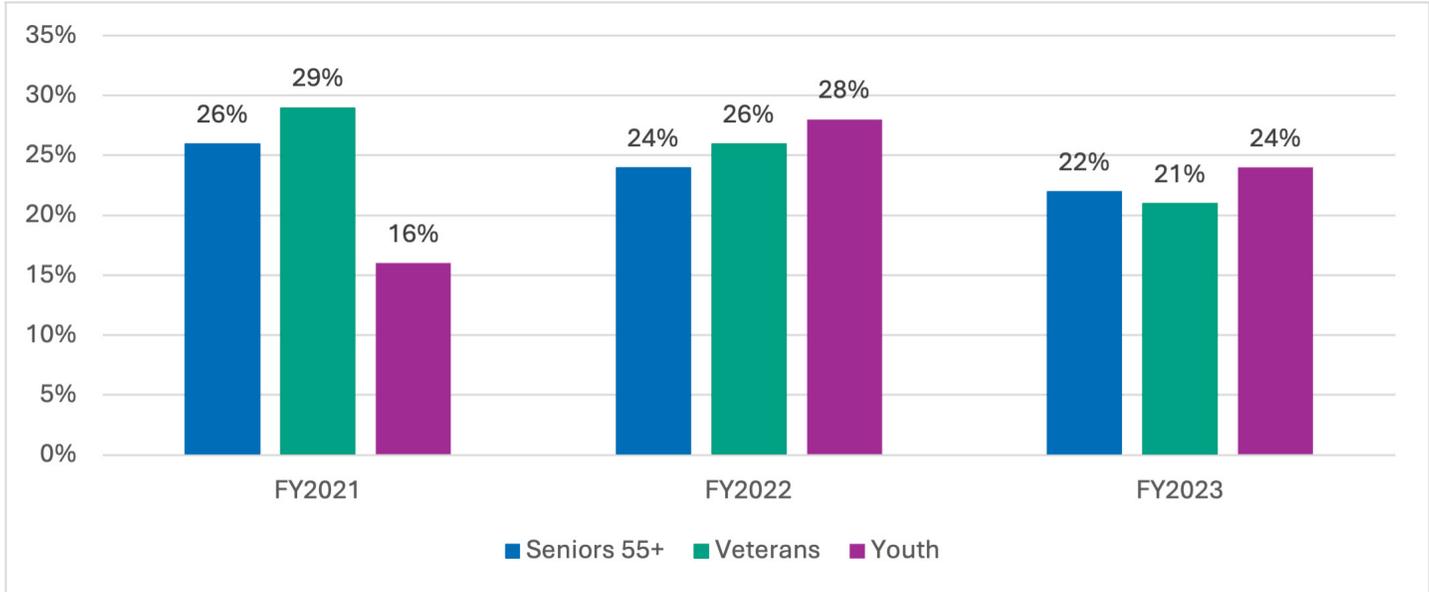
¹⁷ Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.





From 2021 to 2023, the percentage of households returning to homelessness within 12 to 24 months showed notable changes. Seniors' return rates decreased from 26% to 22%, and Veterans' rates dropped from 29% to 21%. Youth return rates increased from 16% in 2021 to 28% in 2022, then decreased to 24% in 2023. These trends show improving stability for seniors and veterans, with more fluctuations for youth. (SEE FIGURE 18)

FIGURE 18. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS¹⁷ BY SUBPOPULATION**



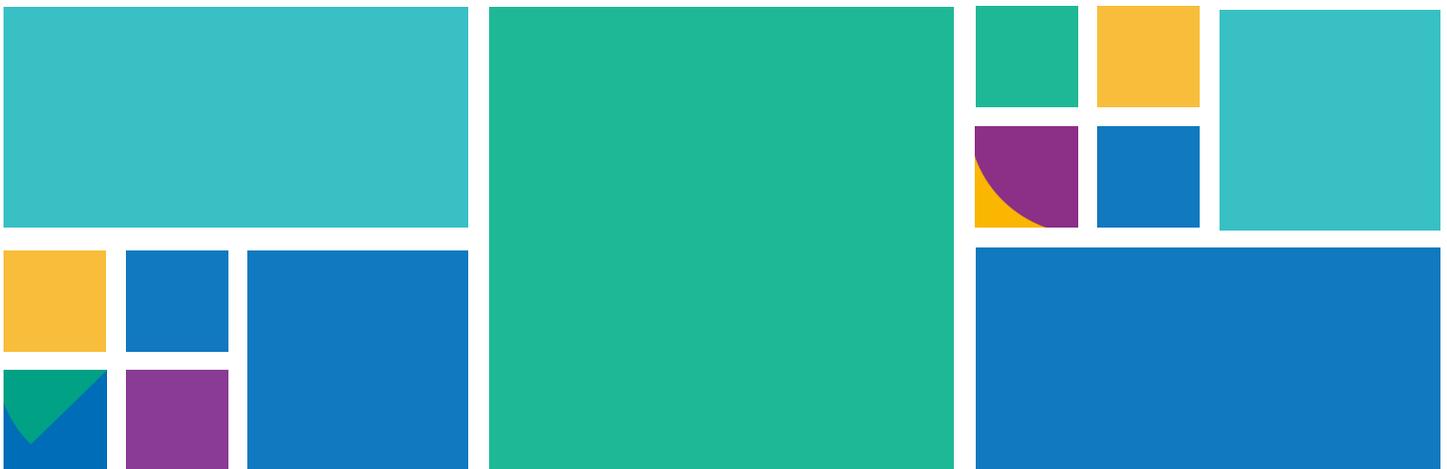
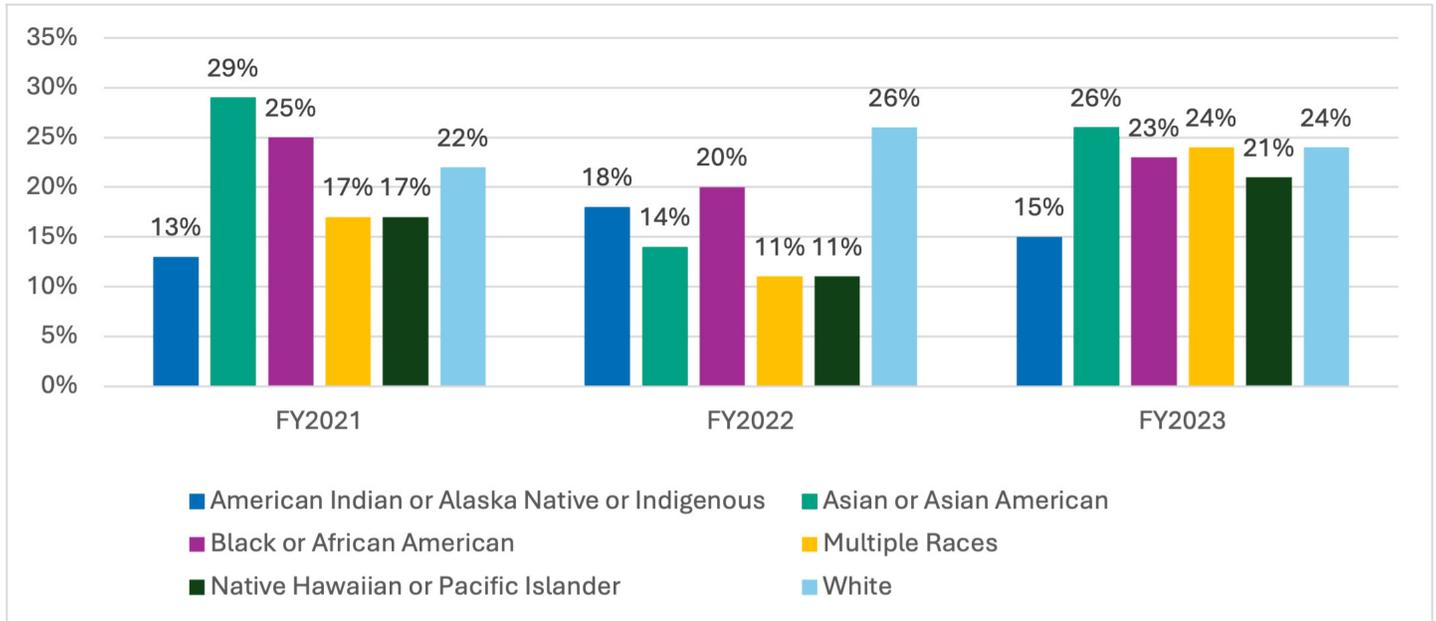
¹⁷ Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.





Over the past three years, return rates have varied across different race categories. White-headed households' rates increased from 22% to 26%, then fell to 24%. In contrast, Black or African American-headed households saw return rates to homelessness drop from 25% to 20%, then rise to 23%. (SEE FIGURE 19)

FIGURE 19. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS¹⁷ BY RACE**



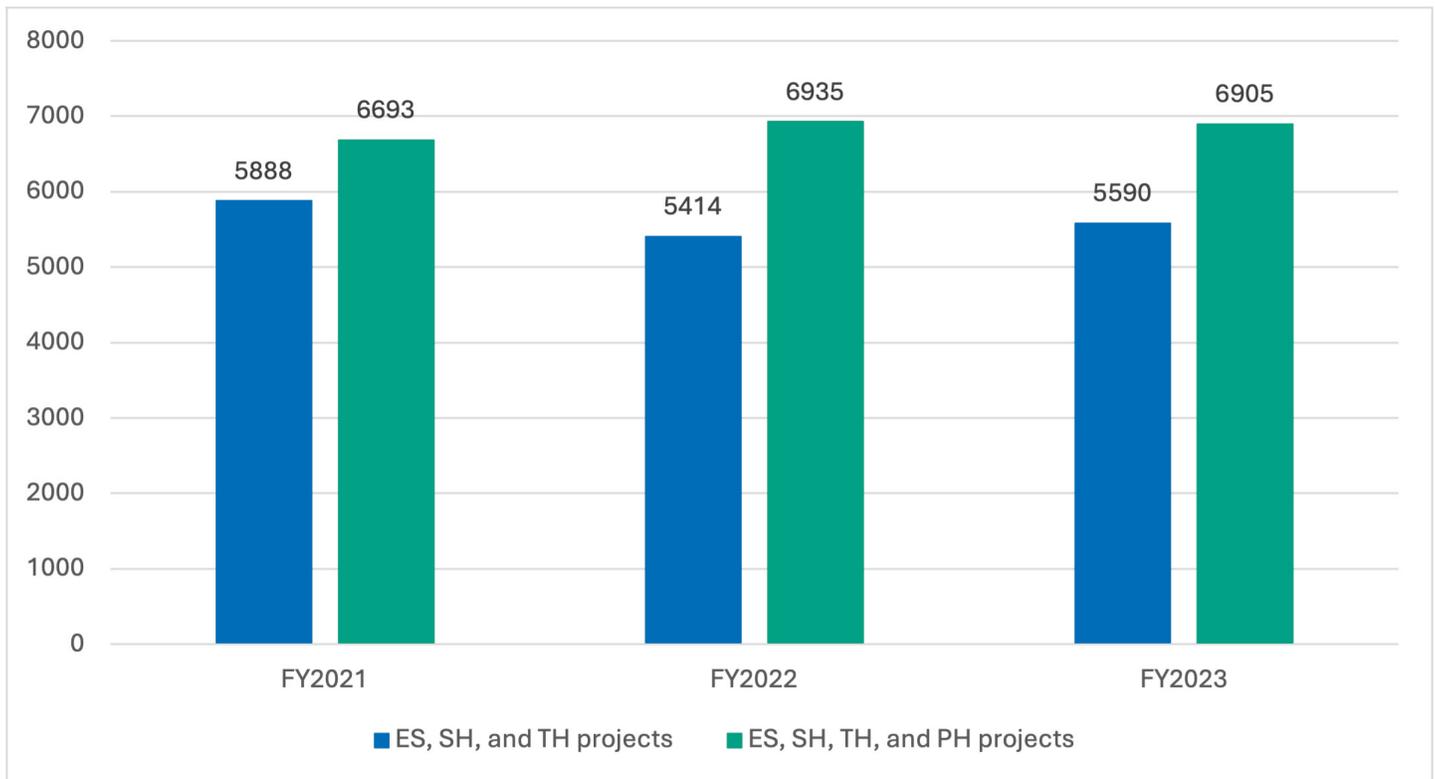
¹⁷ Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.

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 individuals in this report is based on entries into shelter and permanent housing programs only, and does not include those in outreach and other unsheltered program types.**

The number of first-time homeless clients in shelters decreased by 8% from 2021 to 2022, then increased by 3% in 2023. On the other hand, for shelters and permanent housing projects combined, there was a 4% increase from 2021 to 2022, followed by a slight decrease of less than 1% in 2023. (SEE FIGURE 20)

FIGURE 20. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS PERSONS IN SHELTER AND PERMANENT HOUSING**¹⁸

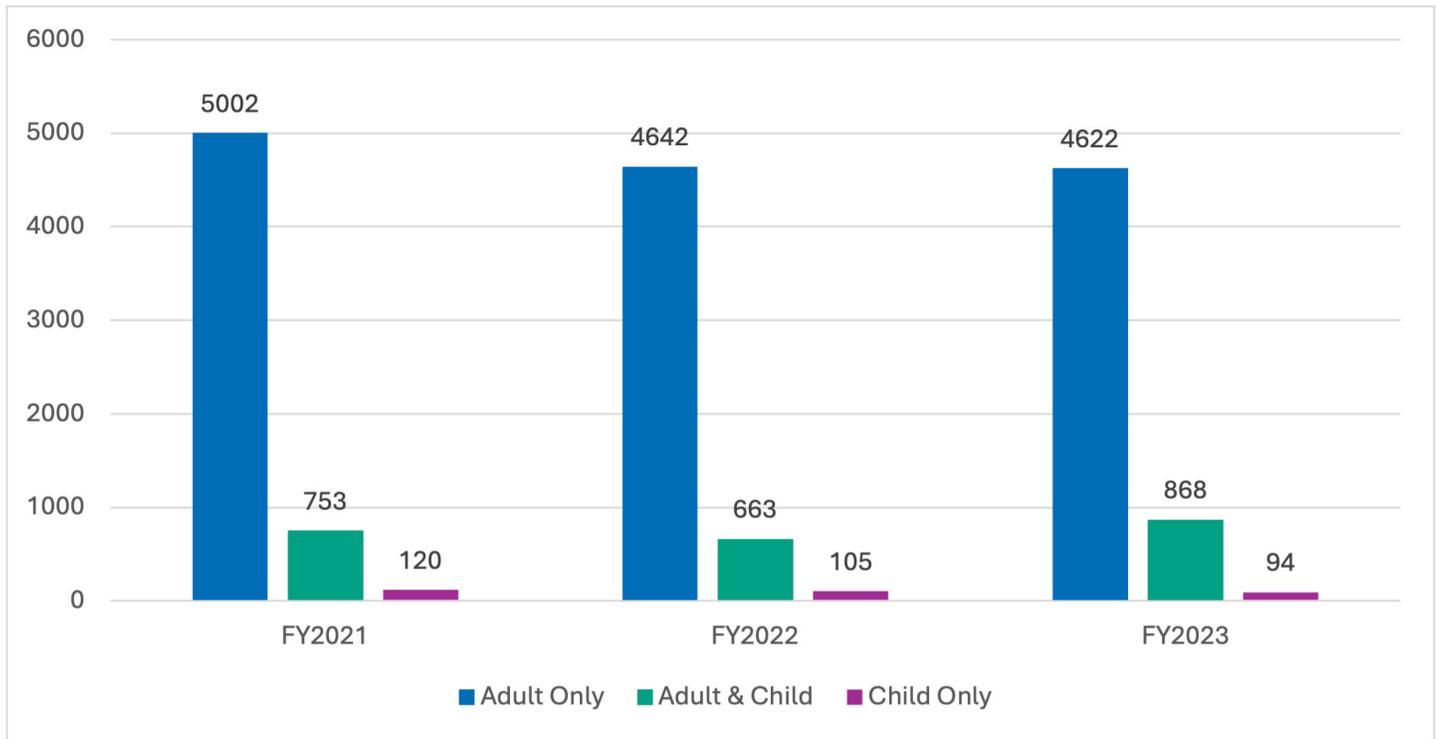


¹⁸ Figure excludes Outreach and other unsheltered project types.



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 8% but that of families saw a 15% increase from 2021. (SEE FIGURE 21)

FIGURE 21. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS¹⁹ BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**



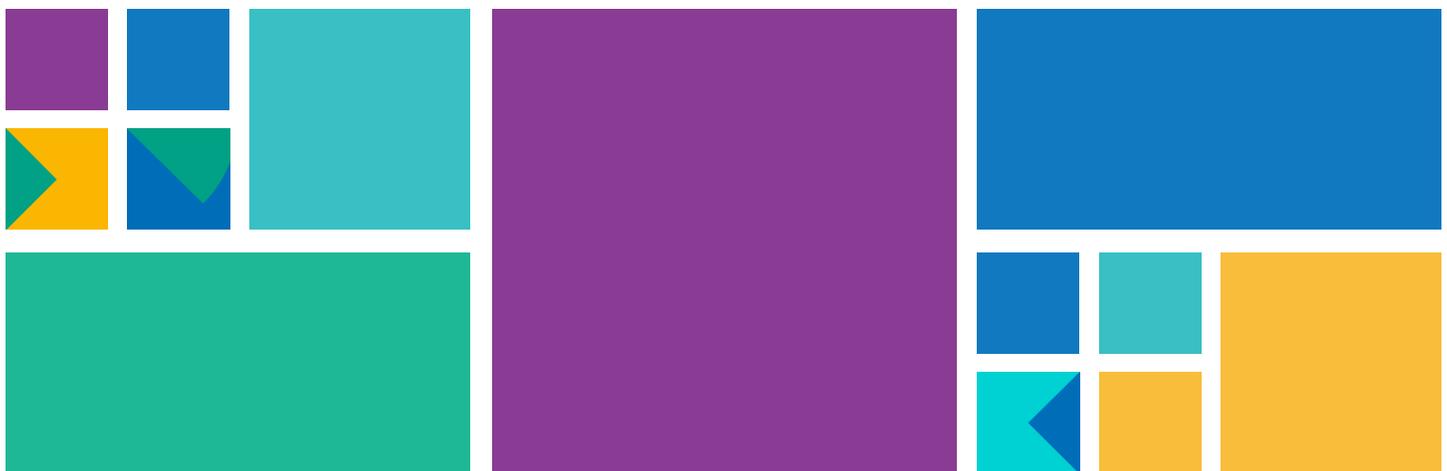
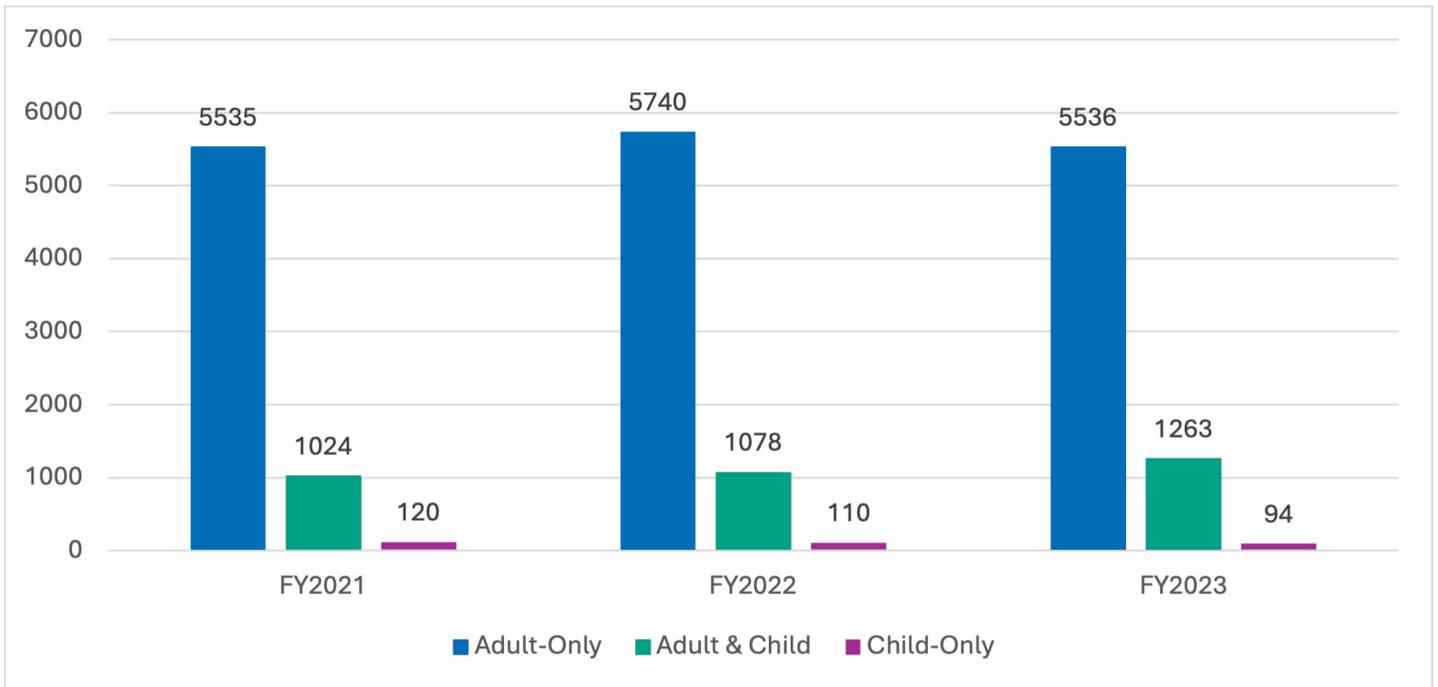
¹⁹ Figures include households who entered Emergency Shelter, Safe Havens, or Transitional Housing.





When looking at first time homeless in shelters and permanent housing projects by household types, adult-only households increased by 4% from 2021 to 2022, then remained stable in 2023. Families saw an increase of 5% from 2021 to 2022, followed by a 17% increase in 2023. Child-only households experienced an 8% decrease from 2021 to 2022, and a further 15% decrease in 2023. (SEE FIGURE 22)

FIGURE 22. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS²⁰ BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**



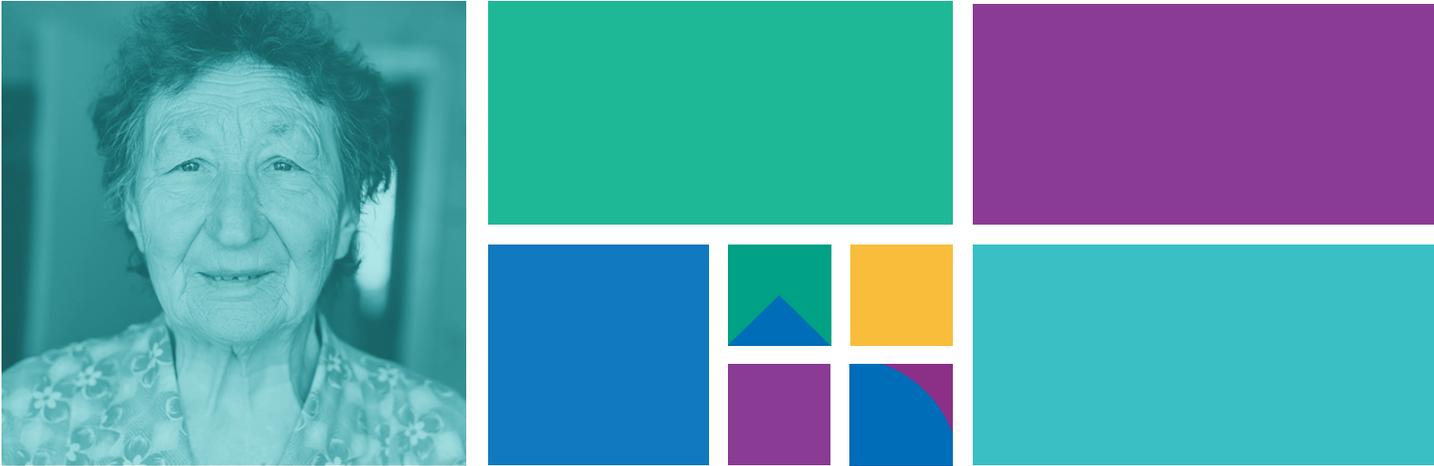
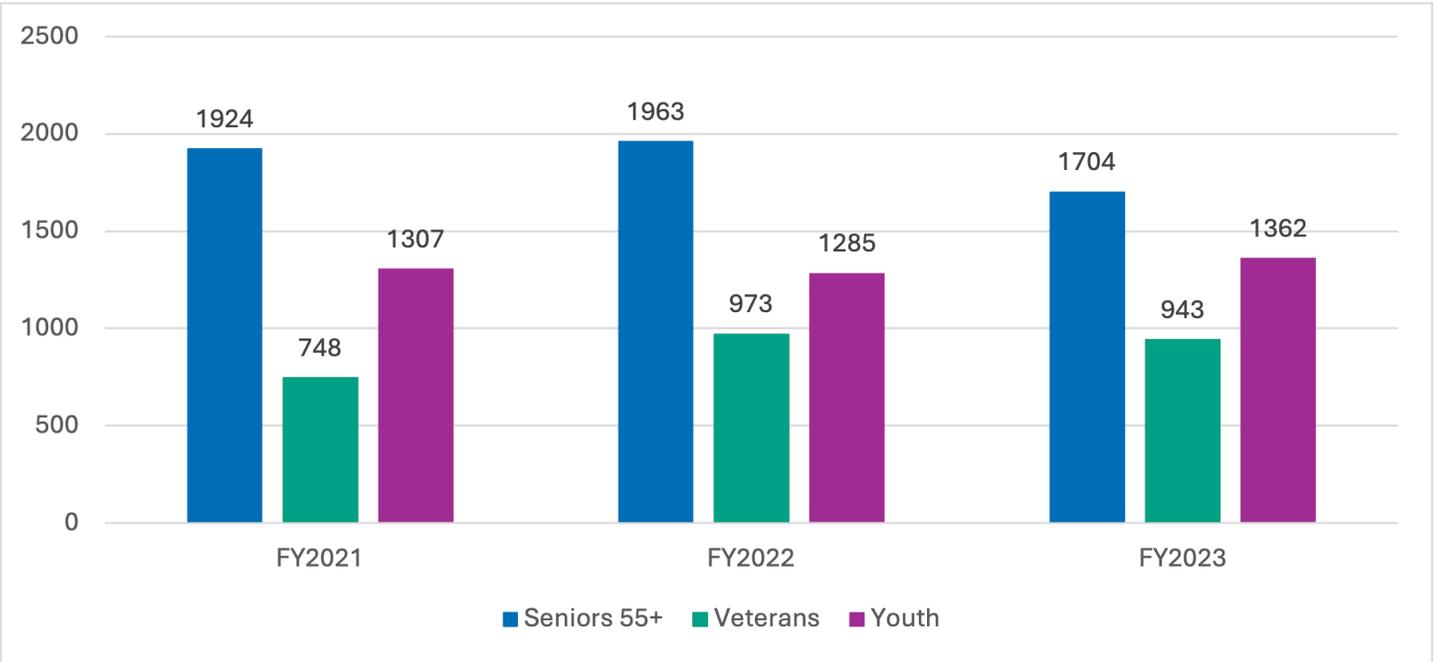
²⁰ Figures include households who entered Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.





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 slightly increased by 2% from 2021 to 2022, but then decreased significantly by 13% in 2023. For veterans, there was a significant increase of 30% in first-time homelessness from 2021 to 2022, followed by a slight decrease by 3% in 2023. In the case of youth, there was a 2% decrease in first-time homelessness from 2021 to 2022, followed by a 6% in 2023.

FIGURE 23. FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS²⁰ BY SUBPOPULATION

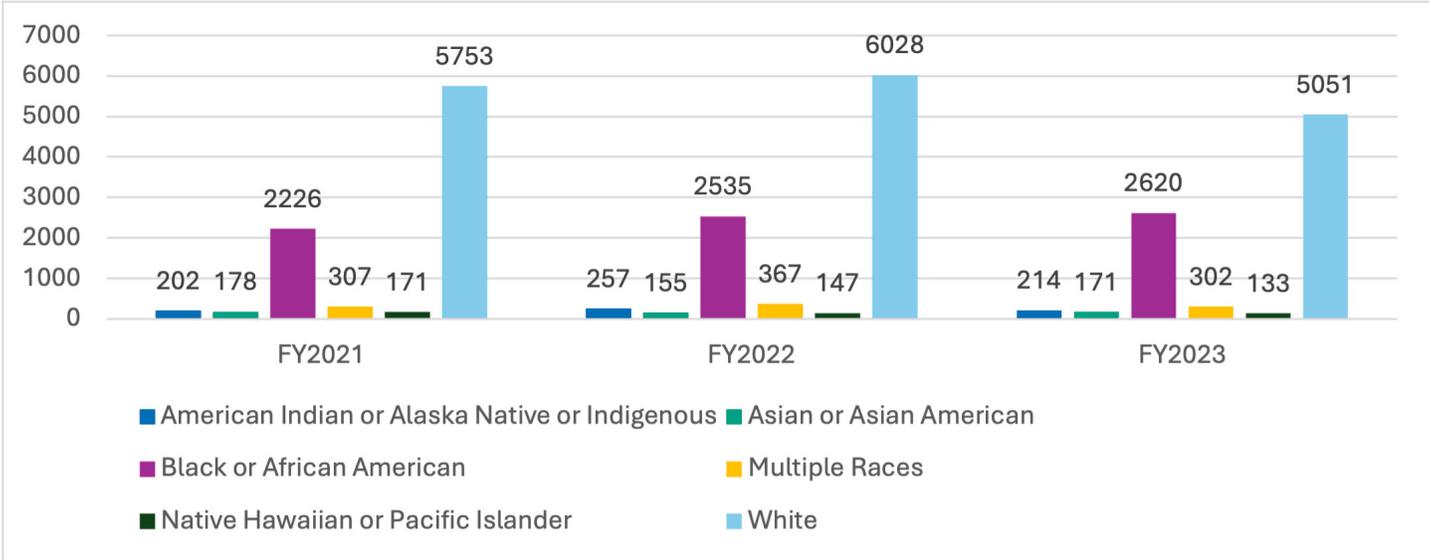


²⁰ Figures include persons who entered Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.



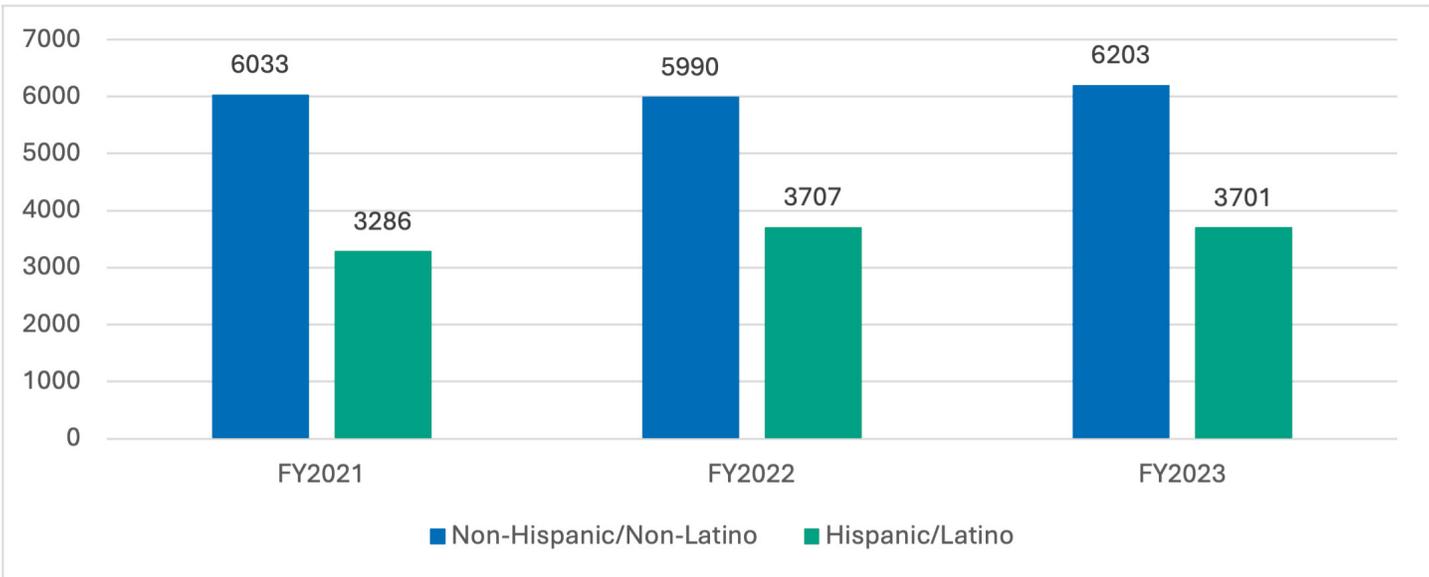
The race breakdown of first-time homeless persons in shelters and permanent housing projects shows a varied changes in all categories for the past three years with a 18% increase for Black or African Americans and a 12% decrease for Whites from 2021. (SEE FIGURE 24a)

FIGURE 24a. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS²¹ BY RACE**



From 2021 to 2023, the number of first-time homeless among Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino individuals saw a slight decrease from 2021 to 2022, followed by an increase in 2023. In contrast, Hispanic/Latino individuals experienced a significant increase from 2021 to 2022, then remained relatively stable in 2023. This indicates that while Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino numbers fluctuated modestly, Hispanic/Latino numbers showed more substantial growth before stabilizing. (SEE FIGURE 24b)

FIGURE 24b. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS²⁰ BY ETHNICITY**



²¹ 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, from 2021 to 2023, the homeless crisis response system saw a consistent increase in the number of individuals and households served, indicating a growing demand for services. Despite this rise, different project types and subpopulations exhibited varied trends. Outreach services increased steadily, while shelter services peaked in 2022. Pathways through the system showed different durations of homelessness and exit rates. Subpopulations, including youth, veterans, seniors, and families, experienced significant changes in service numbers, with families seeing the most substantial growth. Racial and ethnic compositions remained stable, although the Hispanic population showed a gradual increase. Rates of exits to permanent destinations varied, with Street Outreach projects improving, while others fluctuated. Overall, the data reflect both progress and ongoing challenges in addressing homelessness, highlighting the need for continued efforts to enhance service delivery and achieve stable housing outcomes.

This report offers a brief summary of significant discoveries concerning homelessness in the San Diego area. Nevertheless, more thorough examination is needed to identify precise systemic challenges and prioritize effective strategies for enhancing housing results. Delving deeper into the data will empower policymakers and stakeholders to grasp the fundamental issues fully and develop focused interventions that cater to the specific needs of homeless individuals. Sustained commitment and data-driven decision-making are crucial for achieving durable, effective solutions to tackle homelessness in San Diego.



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 individuals 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.

The Regional Task Force on Homelessness is the San Diego Continuum of Care (CoC), designated by The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CoC Program is designed to promote communitywide 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.



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The RTFH is responsible for collecting, tracking, and reporting on a significant amount of data as it pertains to homelessness in our region.

Our thanks to Lisa DeMarco of DeMarco Design for the impactful layout and design.