HOMELESSNESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM
2024 DATA AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

RTFH
SAN DIEGO'S
REGIONAL LEADER
ON HOMELESSNESS

SAN DIEGO CITY AND COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

JUNE 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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, 2023, and 2024, 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 fiscal years, the homeless crisis response system has seen steady growth, with a 22% increase in individuals served and a 16% increase in households served from FY2022 to FY2024. Outreach and shelter projects consistently served the most individuals, with shelter services rising by 16% and outreach by 7% over the period. While Permanent Supportive Housing and related programs grew steadily, Rapid Re-Housing declined, and prevention services dipped before a slight increase. Among subpopulations, persons in families saw the largest increase—up 47%—followed by notable growth among seniors, veterans, and youth, reflecting both rising demand and targeted service expansion.

Racial and Ethnic composition: Despite overall growth in those served, the racial and ethnic makeup of the crisis response system has remained relatively stable. White and Black or African American individuals made up 88% in FY2022–2023 and 84% in FY2024, with a slight rise in Black representation and a decline in White.

---

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

The Hispanic population held at 34% through FY2023 before dropping to 31% in FY2024, while the non-Hispanic share rose to 69%, reflecting only modest demographic shifts.

Average number of days homeless for persons spent in shelters were below the national average in 2022 but exceeded it by 2 days in 2024. From FY2022 to FY2024, average homelessness duration increased for most households—rising from 169 to 200 days overall, and from 173 to 207 days for adult-only households. Households with children saw a smaller rise, while child-only households improved significantly, dropping from 66 to 36 days. Seniors faced the longest stays, increasing from 211 to 239 days, veterans remained steady around 220 days, and youth saw a moderate rise from 130 to 167 days.

Exit of homelessness to a permanent destination: From FY2022 to FY2024, permanent exit rates improved overall, rising from 23% to 26%. Shelter and Rapid Re-Housing projects saw steady gains, while Street Outreach fluctuated slightly, and Permanent Housing retention rate maintained high at 95–96%. Adult-only households improved, adult-and-child households remained stable, and child-only households saw a notable decline. Youth outcomes improved, seniors and veterans stayed fairly consistent, and both Black and Hispanic/Latino households saw gradual increases.

Return to homelessness: From FY2022 to FY2024, overall returns to homelessness within two years dropped from 27% to 21%, with declines seen across most timeframes and household types. Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing returns fell significantly, while Safe Haven improved sharply. Adult-only households had the highest return rates but showed progress. Seniors, veterans, and youth saw notable declines, and White-headed households improved steadily. Returns for Black or African American households varied but trended down, while Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander households saw a sharp increase.

First-time homeless: From FY2022 to FY2024, first-time homelessness declined overall, with total entries dropping from 6,935 to 6,218. Adult-only households decreased by 8%, while families rose by 17% in FY2023 before falling 36% in FY2024. Seniors declined 13%, veterans dropped 12%, and youth fell 7% over the three years. Black or African American individuals decreased by 9%, and White individuals by 14%. Hispanic/Latino entries rose 1% in FY2023, then declined 10% in FY2024, while Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino entries remained relatively stable.

ABOUT THE DATA

This report incorporates data from reports submitted to HUD for the years 2024, 2023, and 2022, with a focus on 2024 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/
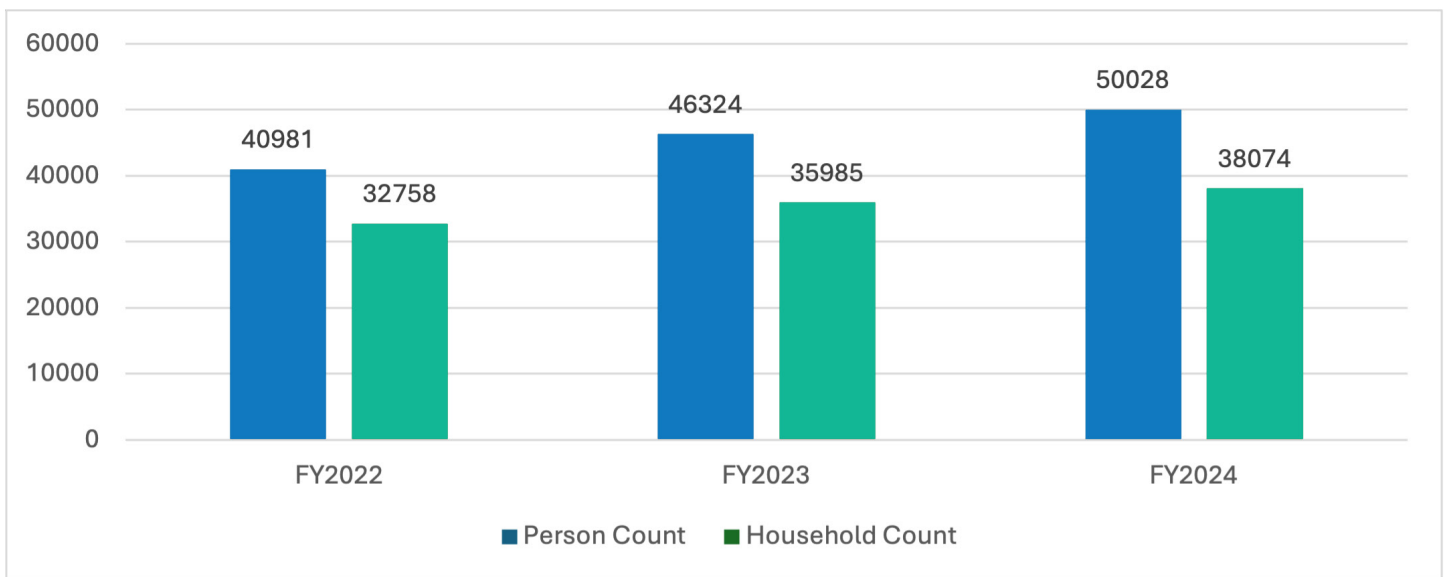4 https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/

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 40,981 in FY2022 to 46,324 in FY2023, a 13% increase, and further to 50,028 in FY2024, an 8% increase from the previous year. Similarly, the number of households served grew from 32,758 in FY2022 to 35,985 in FY2023, a 10% increase, and further to 38,074 in FY2024, a 6% 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]

Bar chart showing Person Count and Household Count for FY2022, FY2023, FY2024:
- FY2022: Person Count 40981, Household Count 32758
- FY2023: Person Count 46324, Household Count 35985
- FY2024: Person Count 50028, Household Count 38074

Legend: ■ Person Count ■ Household Count

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, outreach and shelter projects consistently served the largest number of individuals, with steady growth each year. Shelter services increased from 12,619 in FY2022 to 14,638 in FY2024, while outreach rose from 12,518 to 13,448. Rapid Re-Housing showed a gradual decline over time. Permanent Supportive Housing and Permanent Housing with Services steadily increased, while homelessness prevention services dipped in FY2023 before a slight rebound in FY2024. (SEE FIGURE 2)

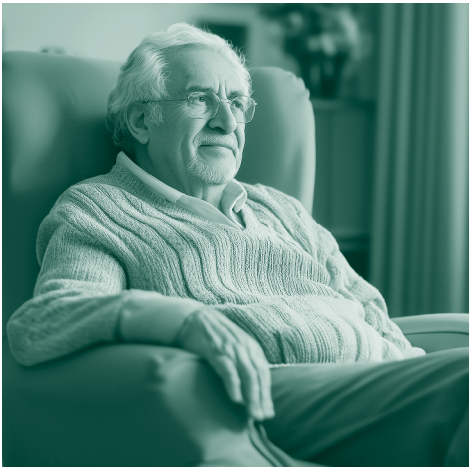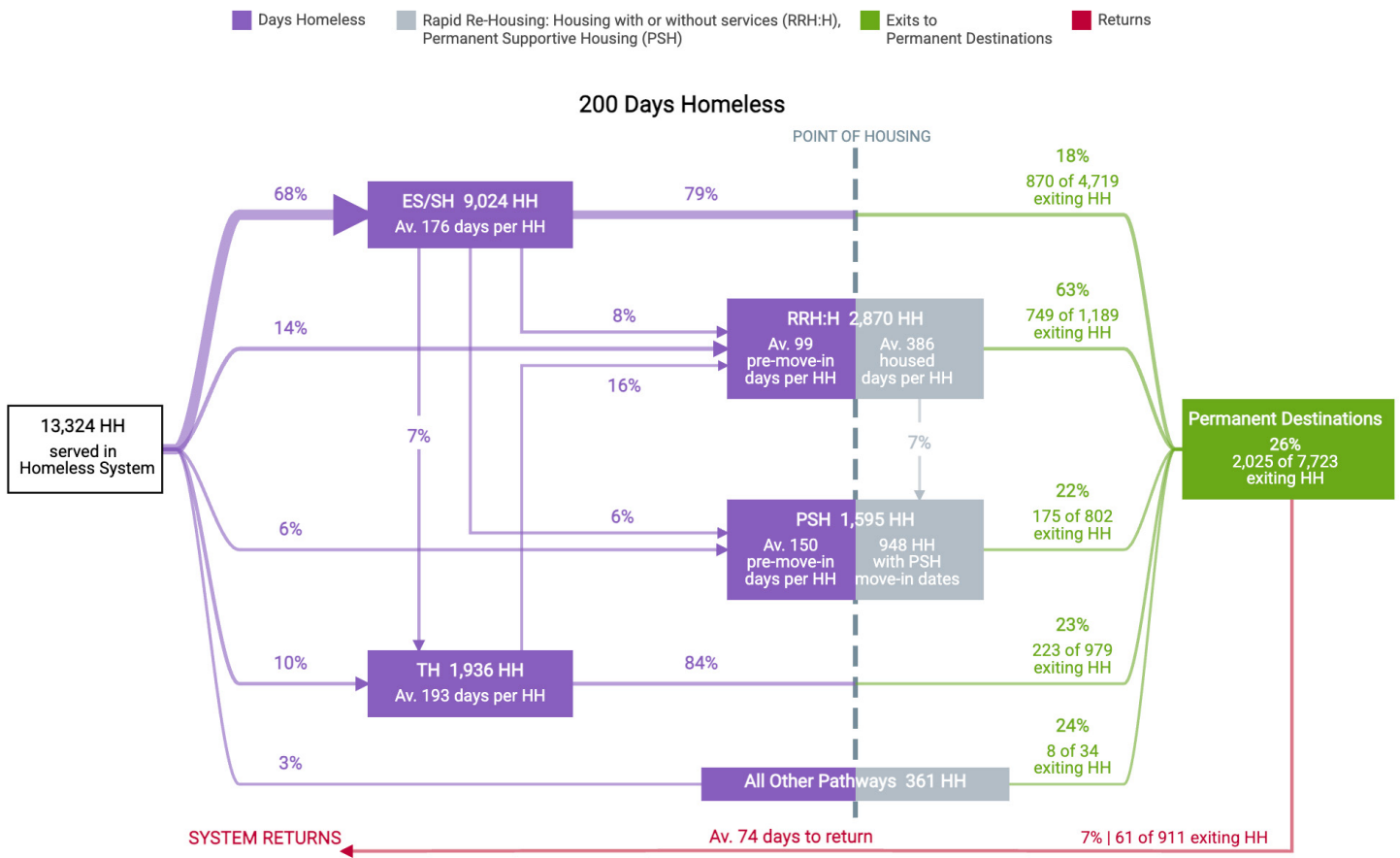FIGURE 2. **TOTAL PERSONS SERVED BY PROJECT TYPE** [6]
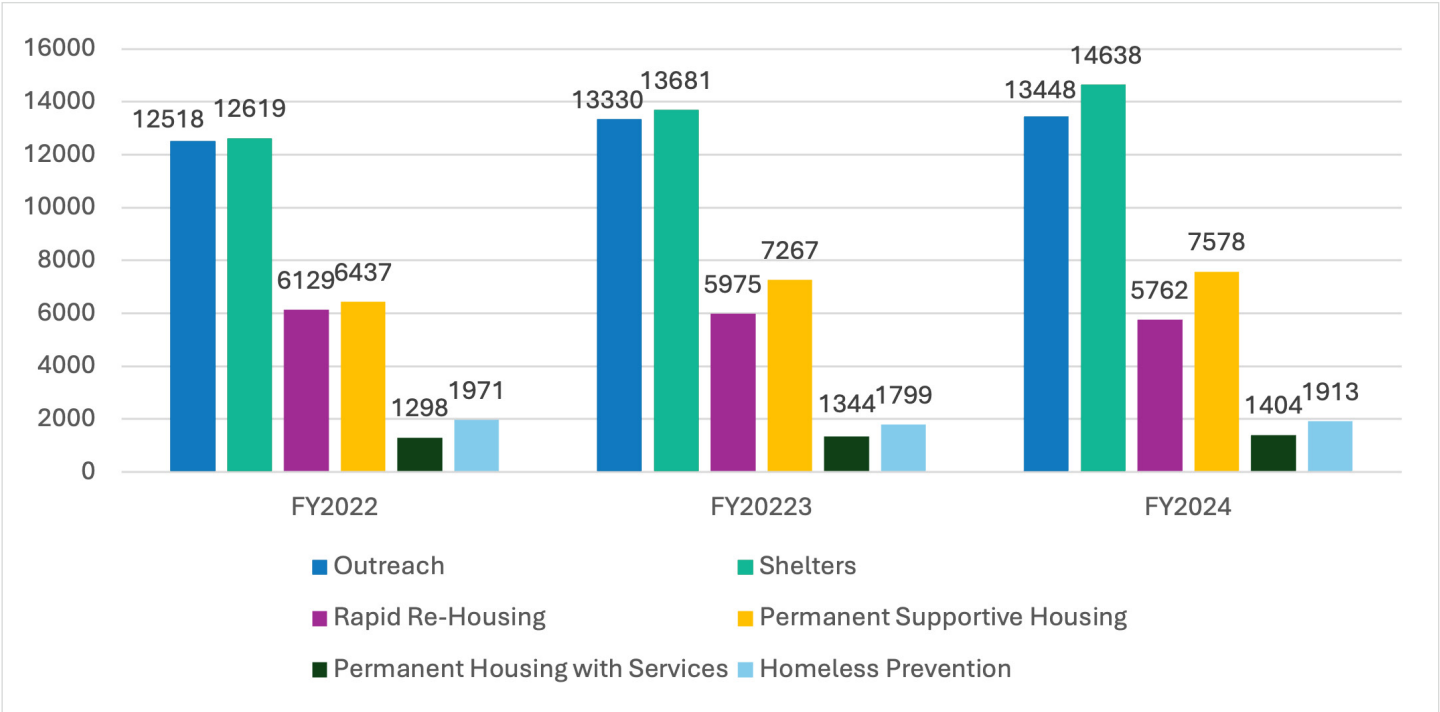
Within the homeless system, households utilize various combinations of project types during their time in the system, known as pathways[7]. Each pathway is associated with different average durations of homelessness, rates of exits to permanent housing, and occurrences of returning to the homeless system. The system map provided below illustrates the performance of the main project types[8] within the homeless system for the year 2024. In subsequent sections of this report, each performance measure will be examined in detail. (SEE FIGURE 3, NEXT PAGE)
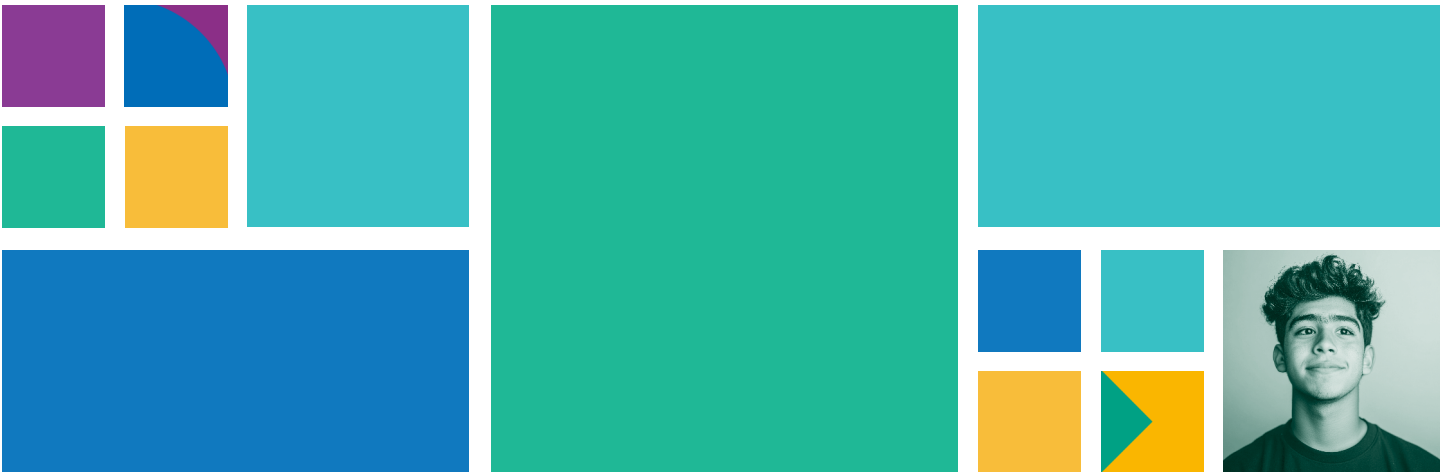
6 Shelters include Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Safe Haven project types.
7 Households can engage with each project type in a pathway in any order.
8 This includes households served in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.

>>>

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

Legend:
- Days Homeless
- Rapid Re-Housing: Housing with or without services (RRH:H), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Exits to Permanent Destinations
- Returns

200 Days Homeless

POINT OF HOUSING

13,324 HH served in Homeless System

68% → **ES/SH 9,024 HH** Av. 176 days per HH
- 79% →
- 18% 870 of 4,719 exiting HH

14% → 8% → **RRH:H 2,870 HH** Av. 99 pre-move-in days per HH | Av. 386 housed days per HH
- 16%
- 63% 749 of 1,189 exiting HH

7%
7%

6% → 6% → **PSH 1,595 HH** Av. 150 pre-move-in days per HH | 948 HH with PSH move-in dates
- 22% 175 of 802 exiting HH

Permanent Destinations 26% 2,025 of 7,723 exiting HH

10% → **TH 1,936 HH** Av. 193 days per HH
- 84% →
- 23% 223 of 979 exiting HH

3% → **All Other Pathways 361 HH**
- 24% 8 of 34 exiting HH

SYSTEM RETURNS ← Av. 74 days to return

7% | 61 of 911 exiting HH

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

SUBPOPULATIONS SERVED

Over the past three fiscal years, each subpopulation group showed distinct growth patterns. The number of youth served rose from 4,389 in FY2022 to 4,444 in FY2023, and then to 4,743 in FY2024. Veterans increased steadily from 4,997 to 5,184, reaching 5,305 in FY2024. The senior population, aged 55 and older, grew from 10,313 in FY2022 to 11,272 in FY2023, and further to 11,733 in FY2024. Persons in families experienced the most significant increase, rising from 11,215 in FY2022 to 14,205 in FY2023, and then to 16,487 in FY2024. These figures reflect consistent growth across all groups, with families showing the largest increase over the three years. (SEE FIGURE 4)

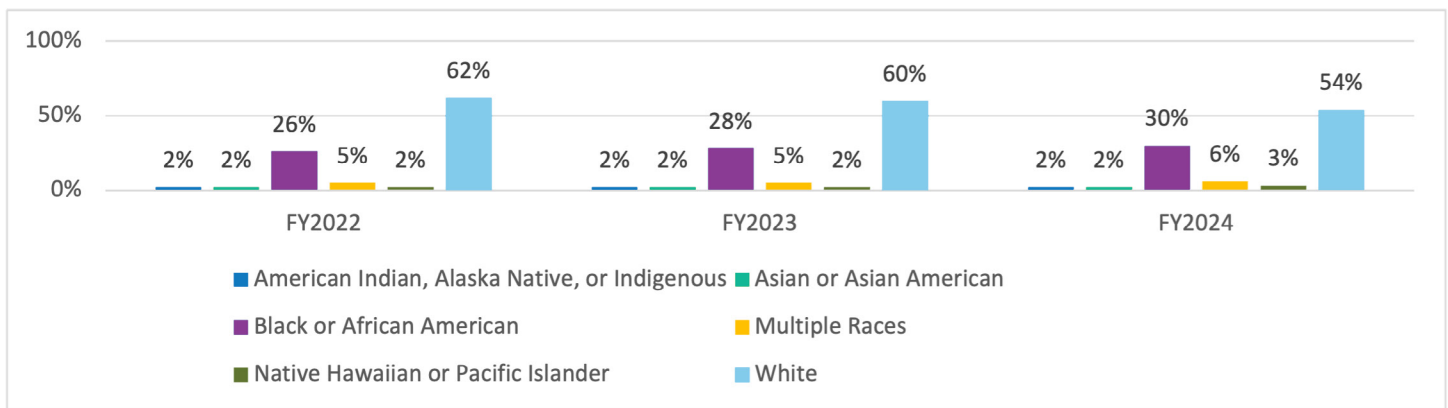FIGURE 4. **TOTAL PERSONS SERVED WITHIN SUBPOPULATIONS BY ALL PROJECT TYPES** [9]
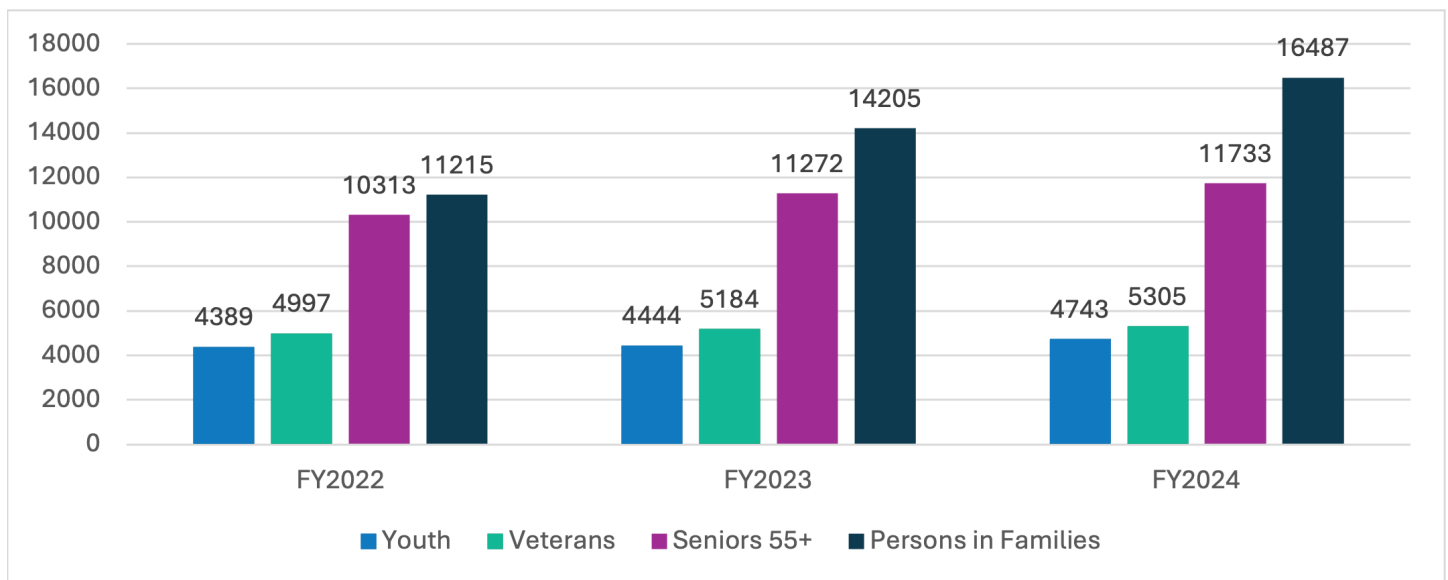
9 Total persons and households served includes all programs and project types that enter data into HMIS including permanent housing projects, non-permanent housing projects, and supportive services only projects.

RACIAL & ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

While the total number of individuals in the crisis response system has grown, the racial composition has remained relatively consistent with only gradual shifts over time. Across the past three years, White and Black or African American individuals have continued to represent the majority—together accounting for 88% in FY2022, 88% in FY2023, and 84% in FY2024. Though the proportion of Black or African American individuals increased slightly from 26% to 30%, and White individuals declined from 62% to 54%, the overall racial distribution has stayed largely stable. These trends suggest persistent racial patterns in who is accessing homeless services, even as the total population served continues to grow. (SEE FIGURE 5a)

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

The ethnic composition of individuals accessing crisis response services has remained relatively stable over the past three years, with only slight shifts. The Hispanic or Latino population held steady at 34% in both FY2022 and FY2023, before declining to 31% in FY2024. Meanwhile, the non-Hispanic population remained at 66% for two years and rose to 69% in FY2024. (SEE FIGURE 5b)

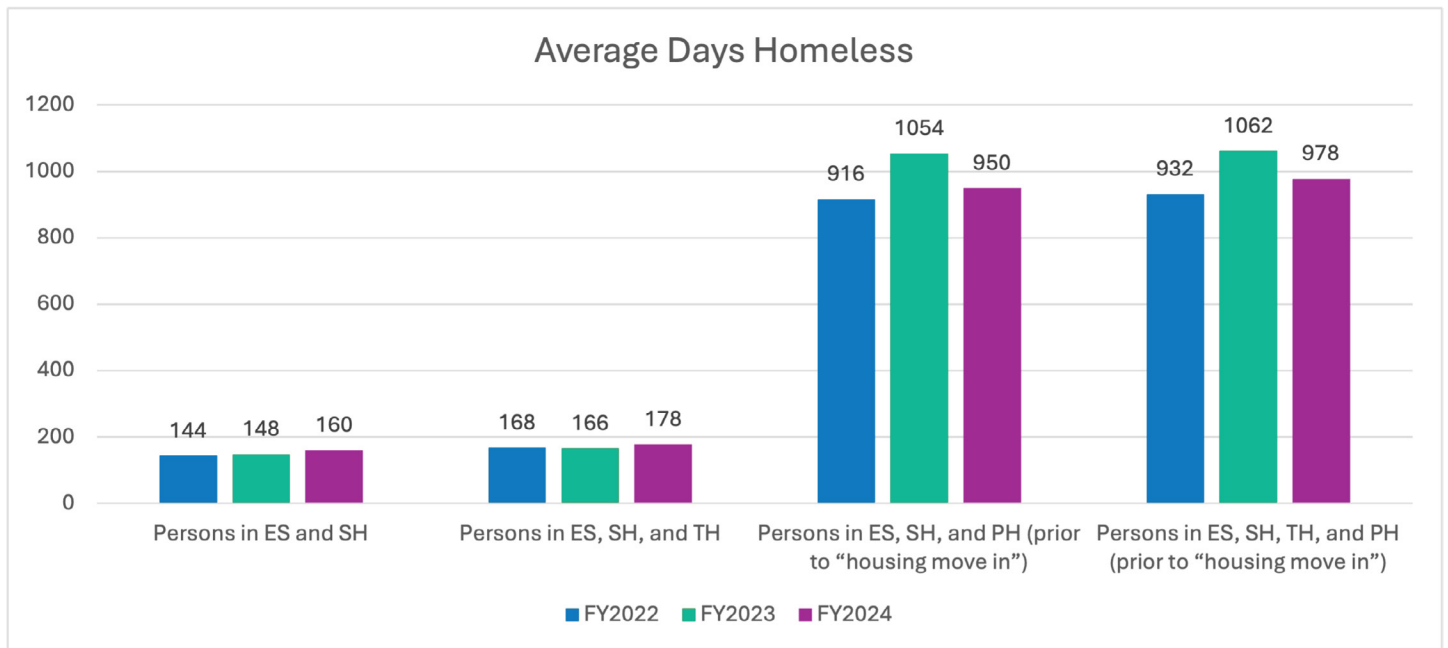FIGURE 5b. **ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE SERVED IN ALL PROJECT TYPES** [9]
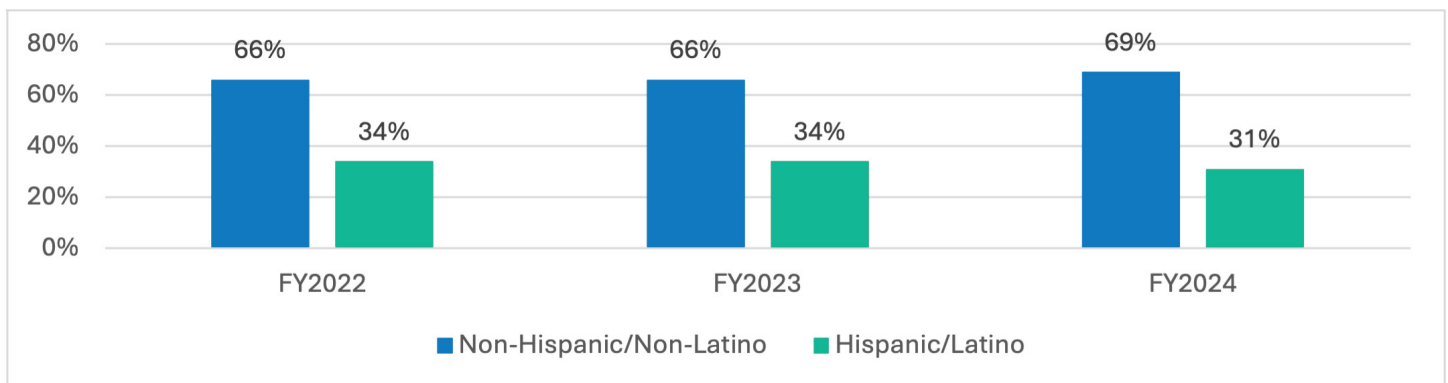
9 Total persons and households served includes all programs and project types that enter data into HMIS including permanent housing projects, non-permanent housing projects, and supportive services only projects.

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 2022 and the same as the national average in 2023.[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)

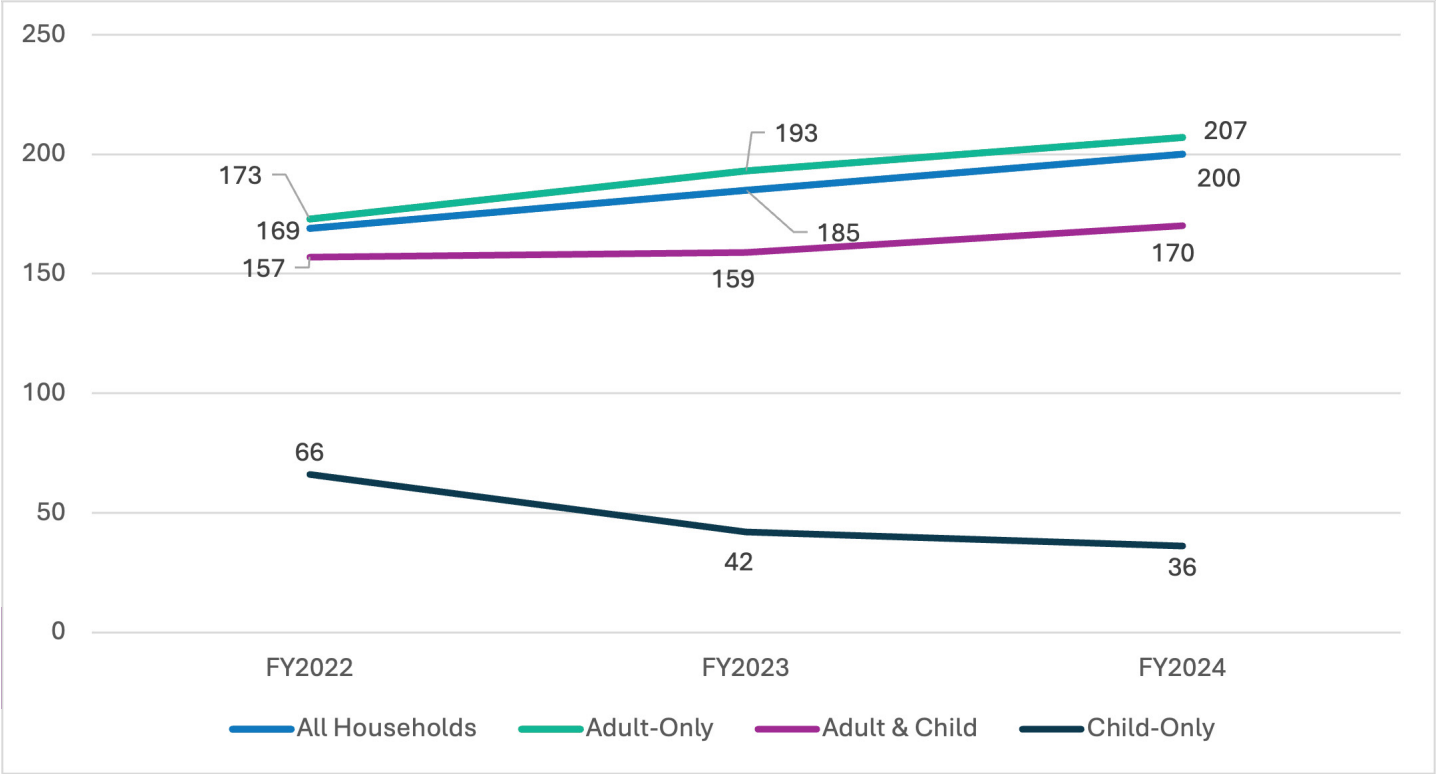FIGURE 6. **AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN DAYS**

Average Days Homeless

Category	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Persons in ES and SH	144	148	160
Persons in ES, SH, and TH	168	166	178
Persons in ES, SH, and PH (prior to "housing move in")	916	1054	950
Persons in ES, SH, TH, and PH (prior to "housing move in")	932	1062	978

---

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.

From FY2022 to FY2024, the average number of days households experienced homelessness varied across household types, showing a mix of increases and decreases. For all households, the average length of homelessness rose from 169 days in FY2022 to 185 in FY2023, and further to 200 in FY2024. Adult-only households followed a similar pattern, increasing from 173 days to 207 over the same period. Households with children saw a more modest rise, from 157 days in FY2022 to 170 in FY2024. In contrast, child-only households experienced a notable decline, dropping from 66 days to just 36 days. These shifts highlight differing trajectories in housing stability across household types, with some seeing worsening trends while others, like child-only households, show significant improvement. (SEE FIGURE 7)

FIGURE 7. **AVERAGE DAYS HOMELESS[11] BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**

250

207

200
193
200
185
173
169
170
159
157

150

100

66

50
42
36

0

FY2022   FY2023   FY2024

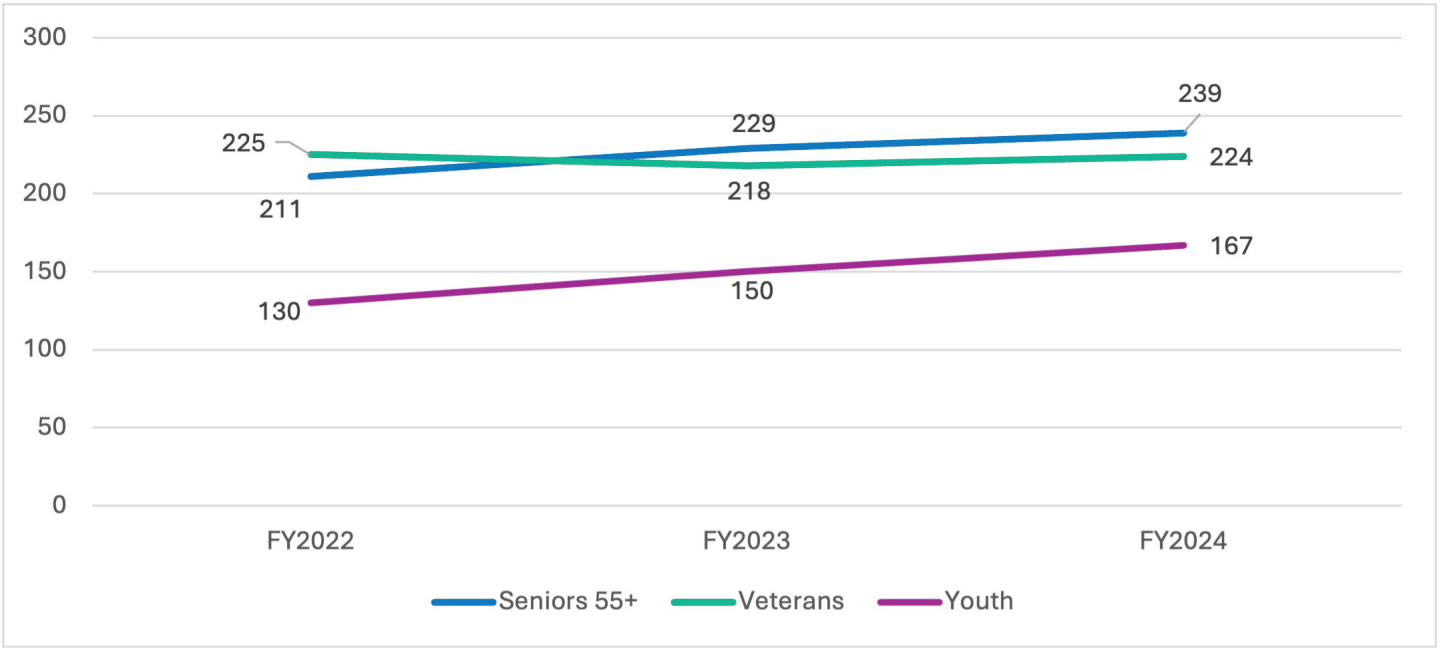All Households   Adult-Only   Adult & Child   Child-Only

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.

Over the past three fiscal years, the average number of days spent homeless among senior, veteran, and youth households has shifted in varying ways. Seniors experienced a gradual increase in average days of homelessness, rising from 211 in FY2022 to 229 in FY2023, and reaching 239 in FY2024. Throughout this period, the number of days seniors remained homeless consistently exceeded the average for all household types. Veteran households saw relatively stable trends, with 225 days in FY2022, a slight dip to 218 in FY2023, and a small increase to 224 in FY2024—remaining above the overall average in each year. Youth households, by contrast, had consistently lower average days of homelessness, starting at 130 in FY2022, rising moderately to 150 in FY2023, and to 167 in FY2024. These patterns reflect ongoing disparities in housing stability across subpopulations, with seniors and veterans facing longer periods of homelessness compared to youth. (SEE FIGURE 7, PREVIOUS PAGE AND FIGURE 8)

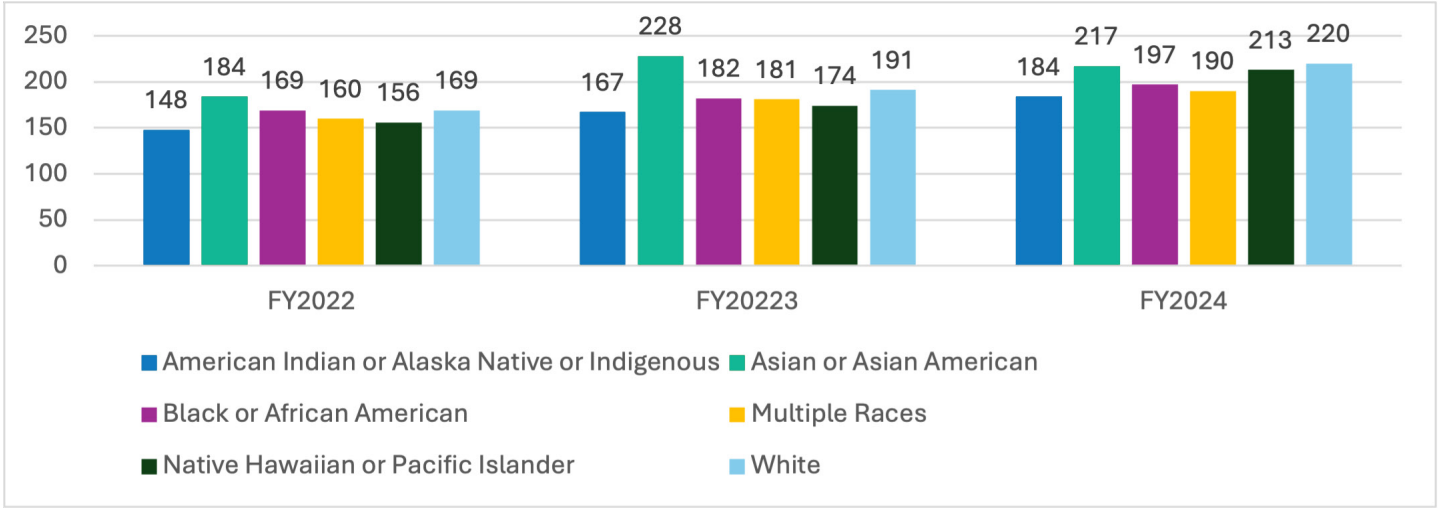FIGURE 8. **AVERAGE DAYS HOMELESS**[11] **BY SUBPOPULATION**

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.
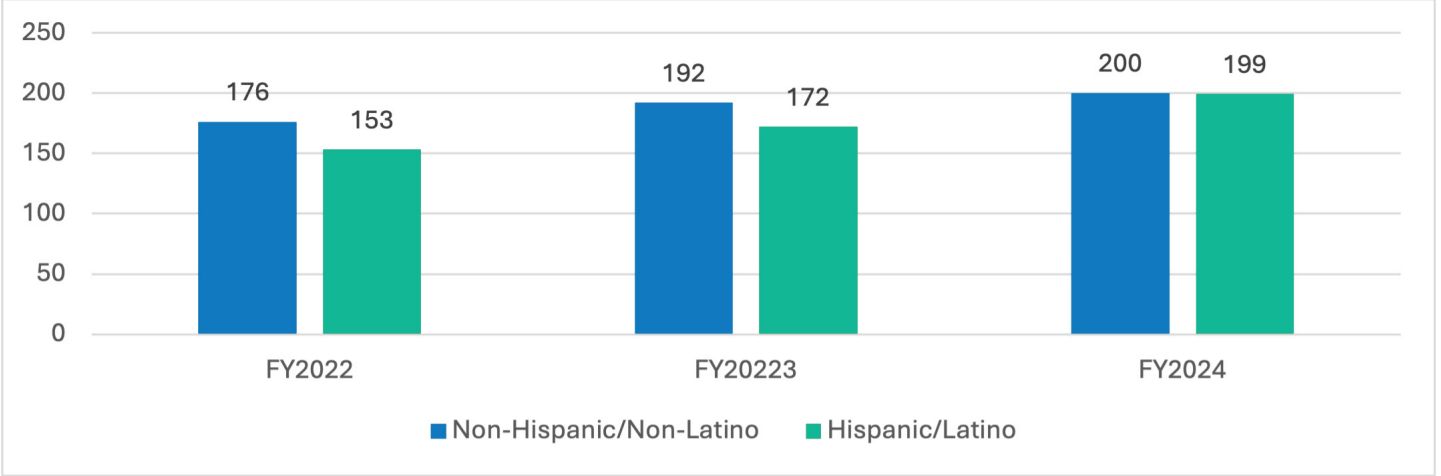
>>>

As shown in Figure 9a, there is a general increase in the number of days of homeless in the past three consecutive years. (SEE FIGURE 9a)

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

Legend:
- American Indian or Alaska Native or Indigenous
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Multiple Races
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White

FY2022: 148, 184, 169, 160, 156, 169
FY20223: 167, 228, 182, 181, 174, 191
FY2024: 184, 217, 197, 190, 213, 220

Following the pattern of the previous analysis, there is an increase in the days of homelessness for both Hispanic and non-Hispanic persons in the past three years. (SEE FIGURE 9b)

FIGURE 9b. **HOUSEHOLD DAYS**[11] **HOMELESS BY ETHNICITY**

Legend:
- Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino
- Hispanic/Latino

FY2022: 176, 153
FY20223: 192, 172
FY2024: 200, 199

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.

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 FY2022 to FY2024, the rate of permanent exits varied across project types. Street Outreach projects saw a slight improvement from 22% in FY2022 to 24% in FY2023, followed by a small decline to 23% in FY2024. In contrast, Shelter and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects showed steady progress, increasing from 25% to 31% over the same period. Meanwhile, Permanent Housing projects (excluding RRH) consistently maintained high rates of retention and permanent exits, with rates holding at 96% in FY2022 and FY2023, and only a minor dip to 95% in FY2024. These trends suggest continued strength in housing retention among permanent housing programs, with notable improvement in outcomes for Shelter and RRH projects.   (SEE FIGURE 10)

FIGURE 10. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[13] **OR RETENTION OF PERMANENT HOUSING**[14]
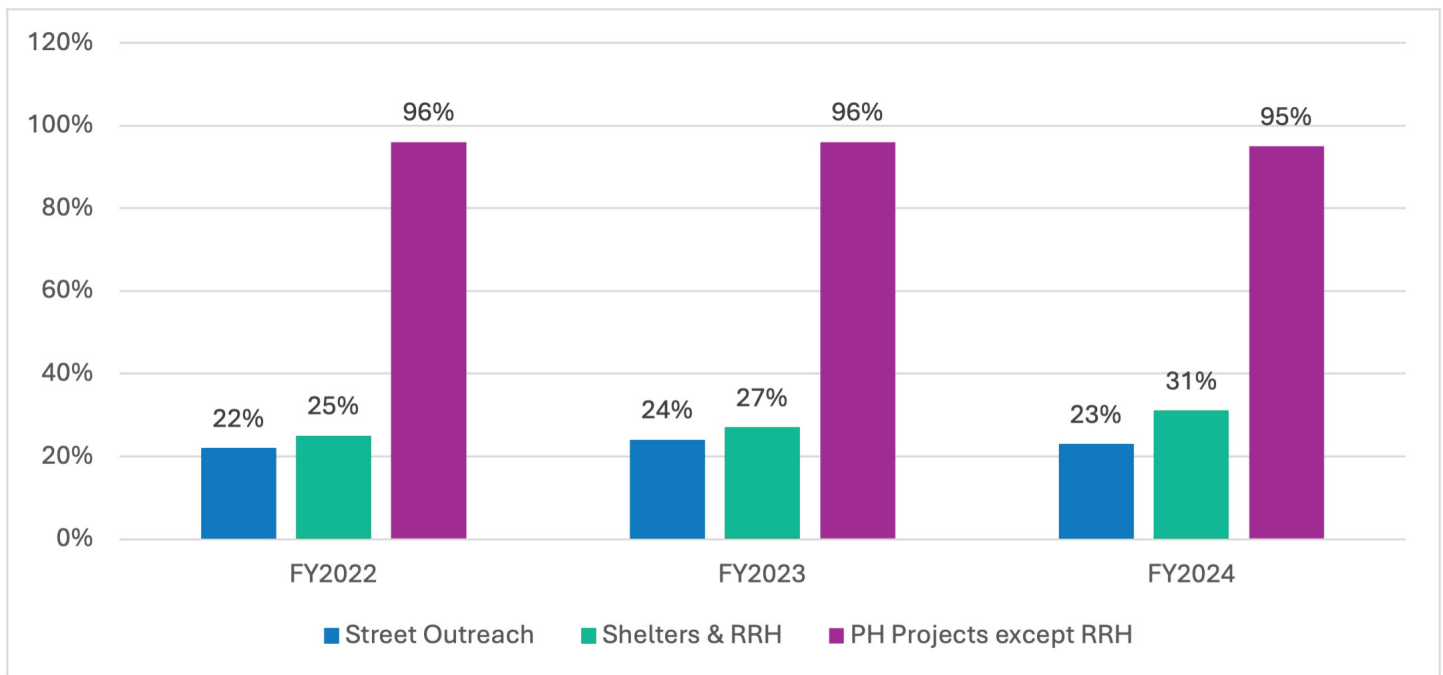
12 HUD SPM reports permanent housing or positive exits in three categories: exits from outreach, exits from shelters ((ES, TH, SH) and RRH, and exits from permanent housing projects except RRH.
13 https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/System-Performance-Measure-7-Housing-Destination-Summary.pdf
14 National Average for successful exit from Street Outreach is 31.2%, 26.7% and 32.3% for FY2022, FY2023 and FY2024 respectively; from Shelters and RRH is 33.9%, 32.6% and 33.8% for FY2022, FY2023 and FY2024 respectively; from PH or retention of PH beyond 6 months is 96.0%, 95.7% and 95.5% for FY2022, FY2023 and FY2024 respectively.

Between FY2022 and FY2024, the percentage of permanent destination exits varied across different household types. For all households, the rate remained steady at 23% in the first two years before rising to 26% in FY2024. Adult-only households showed gradual improvement, increasing from 20% to 23% over the same period. Households with adults and children experienced a slight decline from 44% to 41% in FY2023, followed by a small rebound to 42% in FY2024. Child-only households saw a notable decrease, dropping from 36% in FY2022 to 23% in FY2024. These trends highlight differences in exit outcomes depending on household composition.   (SEE FIGURE 11)

FIGURE 11. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[15] **BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**
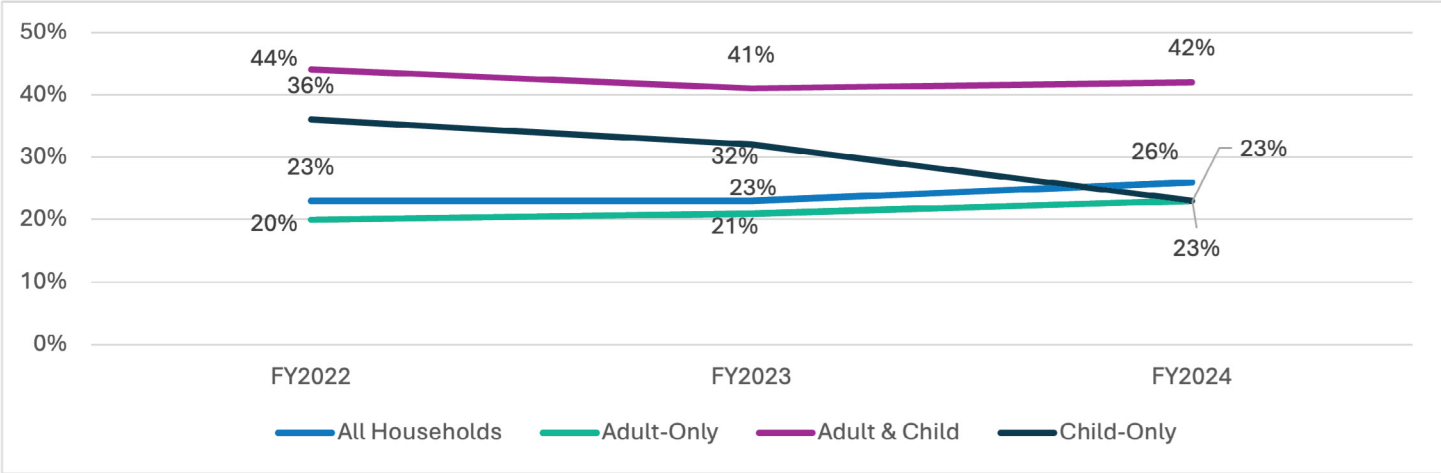
The senior subpopulation saw a slight decrease in permanent housing exits from 28% in FY2022 to 26% in FY2023, followed by a modest increase to 27% in FY2024. Veterans experienced a gradual decline from 32% to 30% between FY2022 and FY2023, then a small rebound to 31% in FY2024. Youth showed steady improvement, rising from 25% in FY2022 to 31% in FY2024. These trends reflect varying success rates in achieving permanent exits across different subpopulations over the three-year period.   (SEE FIGURE 12)

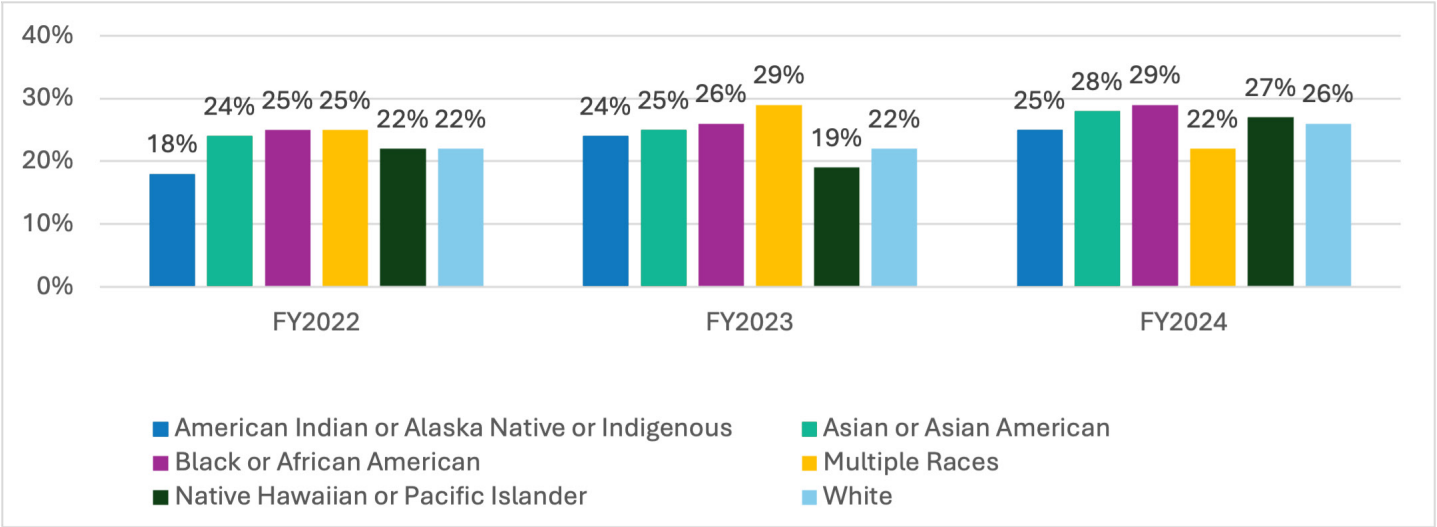FIGURE 12. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[15] **BY POPULATION GROUP**
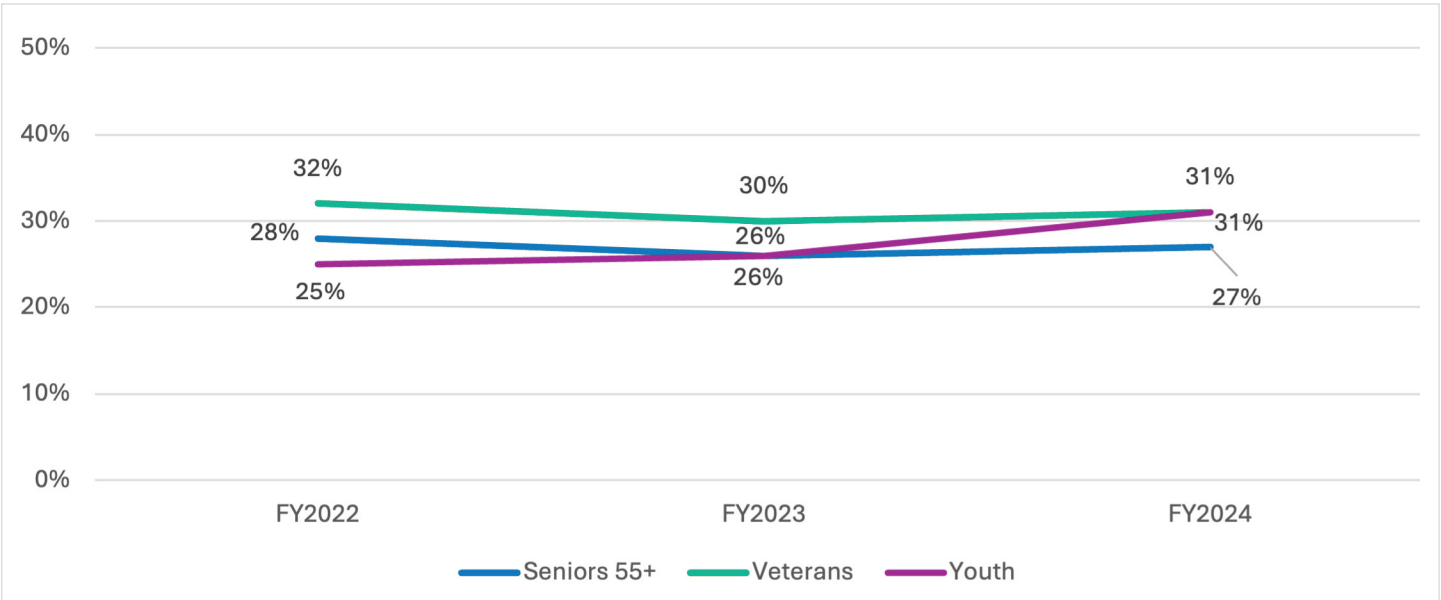
15   The denominator is household exits from ES, TH, SH, RRH, and all PH project types.

Over the last three fiscal years, exit rates to permanent destinations have fluctuated across racial groups. White-headed households held steady with exit rates around 22% in FY2022 and FY2023, increasing to 26% in FY2024. Black or African American-headed households saw a gradual rise from 25% to 29% over the same period. Other groups experienced varied changes, including American Indian or Alaska Native households increasing from 18% to 25%, Asian or Asian American households rising from 24% to 28%, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander households fluctuating but ending higher at 27%. Meanwhile, households identifying as Multiple Races peaked at 29% in FY2023 before declining to 22% in FY2024.   (SEE FIGURE 13a)

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

From FY2022 to FY2024, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino households maintained a steady permanent exit rate of 23% in the first two years, increasing to 26% in FY2024. Meanwhile, Hispanic/Latino households experienced a gradual rise from 23% to 27% over the same period as shown in Figure 13b. (SEE FIGURE 13b)

FIGURE 13b. **PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT DESTINATION EXITS**[15] **BY ETHNICITY**
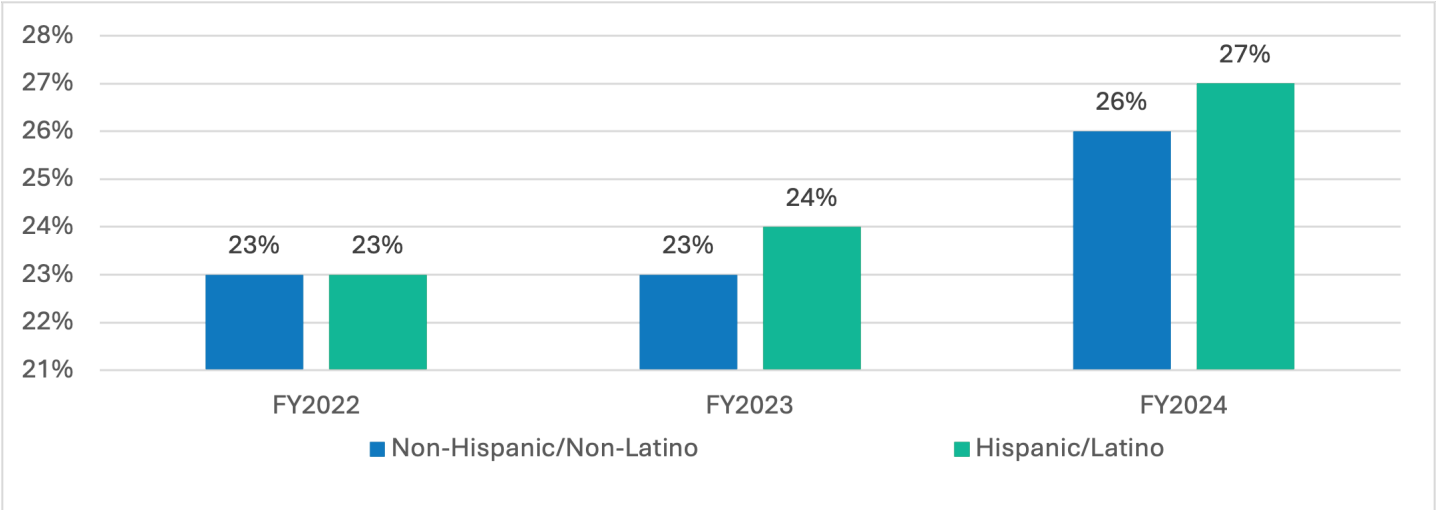

15   The denominator is household exits from ES, TH, SH, RRH, and all PH project types.

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.

Between FY2022 and FY2024, the rates of persons returning to homelessness showed some shifts. Returns within six months gradually declined from 12% to 10%, while returns within six to twelve months decreased from 6% to 4%. Returns within thirteen to twenty-four months remained steady at 7% in FY2023 and FY2024 after a peak of 9% in FY2022. Overall, total returns within two years dropped from 27% in FY2022 to 21% in FY2024, indicating a positive trend in declining recidivism over this period. (SEE FIGURE 14)

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

Legend: ■ Within 6 months or less ■ Within 6 -12 months ■ Within 13 - 24 months ■ Total Returns within 2 years
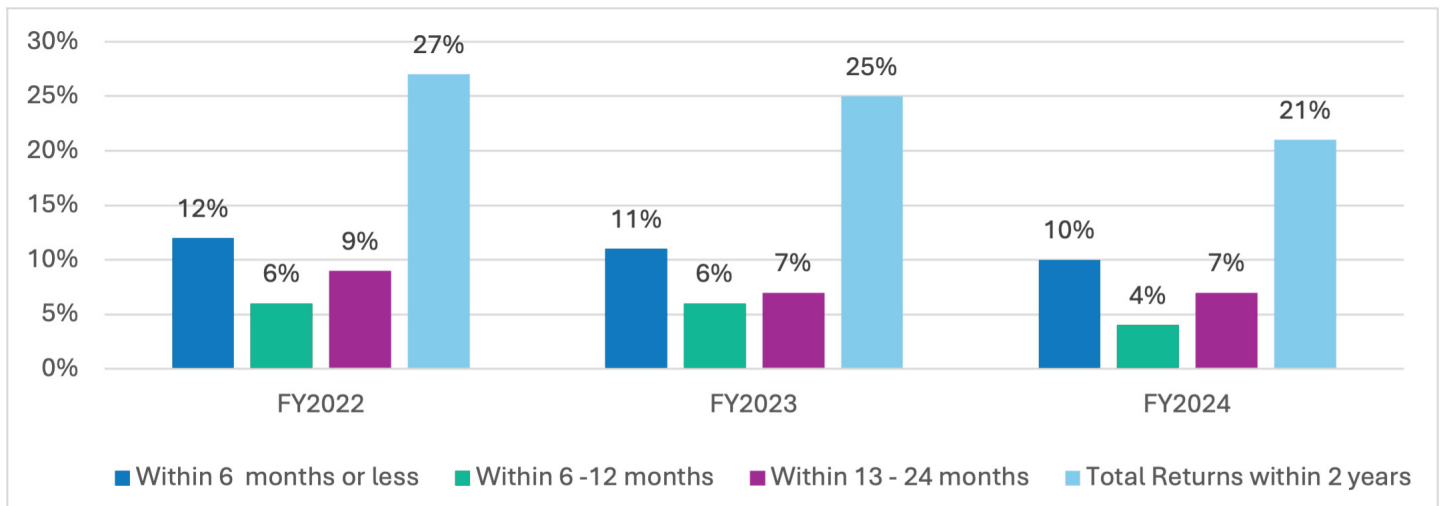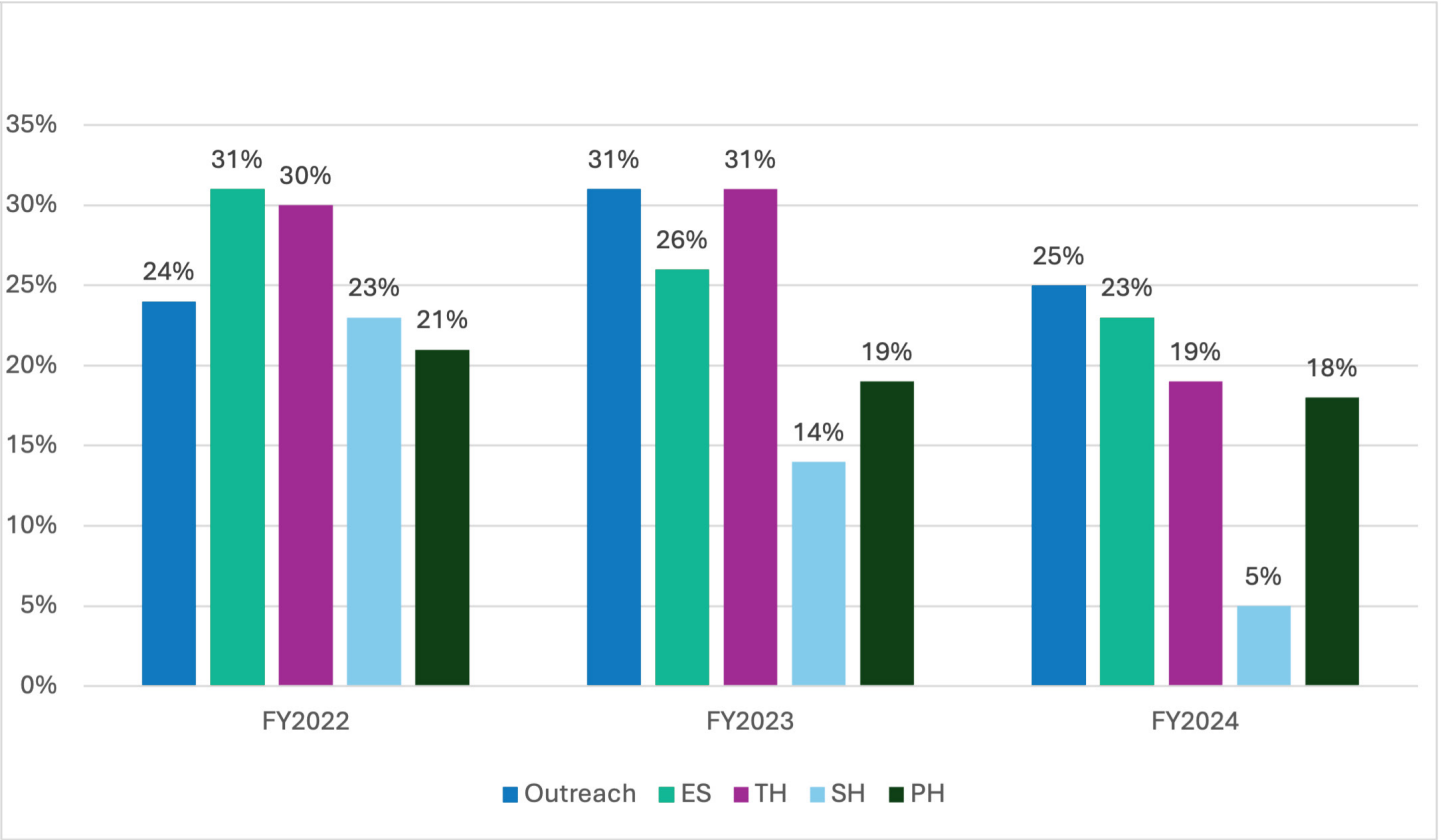
From FY2022 to FY2024, the percentage of persons returning to homelessness varied across project types. Outreach returns rose from 24% to 31% in FY2023 before dropping to 25% in FY2024. Emergency Shelter returns declined steadily from 31% to 23% over the three years. Transitional Housing saw an initial increase from 30% to 31%, followed by a significant decrease to 19%. Safe Haven projects showed notable improvement, with returns falling sharply from 23% to just 5%. Permanent Housing remained relatively stable, with a slight decline from 21% to 18% during this period. (SEE FIGURE 15, NEXT PAGE)

16 The national average for people returning to homelessness within 24 months is 16.6%, 18.3% and 17.4% for FY2022, FY2023 and FY2024 respectively.

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

	Outreach	ES	TH	SH	PH
FY2022	24%	31%	30%	23%	21%
FY2023	31%	26%	31%	14%	19%
FY2024	25%	23%	19%	5%	18%

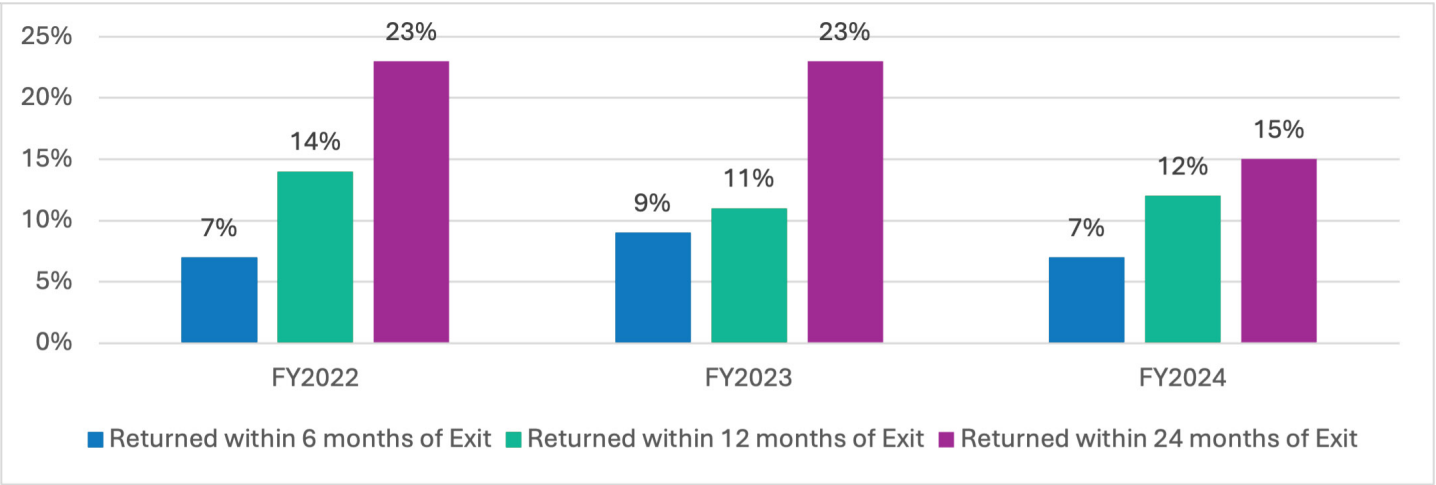Legend: ■ Outreach ■ ES ■ TH ■ SH ■ PH

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.

Between FY2022 and FY2024, trends in returns to homelessness after permanent exits revealed both consistency and progress. The rate of returns within six months held steady, starting at 7%, peaking at 9% in FY2023, and falling back to 7% in FY2024. Returns within twelve months followed a similar pattern, with a slight drop from 14% to 11%, before ticking up to 12%. Most notably, the proportion of households returning within 24 months saw a substantial decline—from 23% in FY2022 and FY2023 to just 15% in FY2024—suggesting improved long-term housing stability for many households. (SEE FIGURE 16)

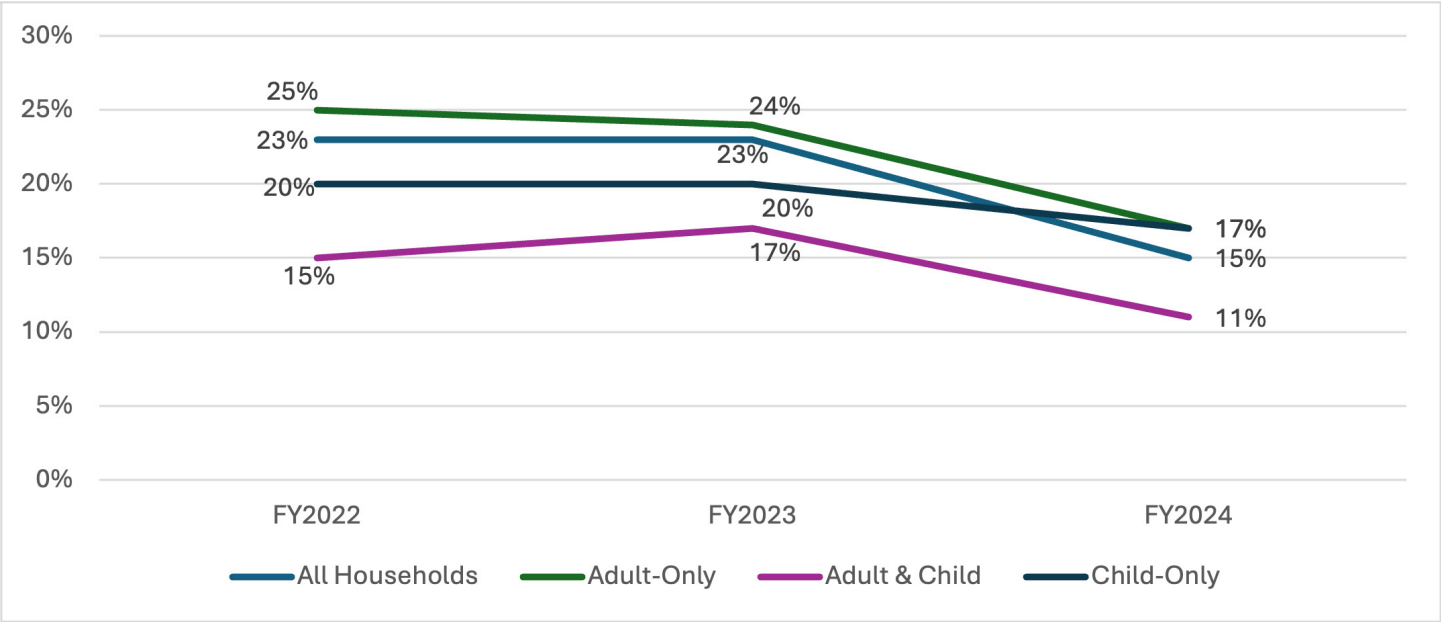FIGURE 16. **PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS RETURNED TO HOMELESSNESS** [17]

>>>

Homelessness Crisis Response System 2024 Data and Performance Report ■ San Diego City and County Continuum of Care   **20**

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 remained highest among adult-only households across all three years. Their return rate was 25% in FY2022, slightly decreased to 24% in FY2023, and then dropped to 17% in FY2024. Adult and child households showed lower return rates, increasing slightly from 15% in FY2022 to 17% in FY2023, before improving to 11% in FY2024. Child-only households had a return rate of 20% in both FY2022 and FY2023, which declined to 17% in FY2024. These patterns suggest some improvement in long-term housing stability, particularly in the latest year, though adult-only and child-only households continue to experience higher risks of returning to homelessness when compared to household with children. (SEE FIGURE 17)

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

Legend: All Households, Adult-Only, Adult & Child, Child-Only

FY2022: Adult-Only 25%, All Households 23%, Child-Only 20%, Adult & Child 15%
FY2023: Adult-Only 24%, All Households 23%, Child-Only 20%, Adult & Child 17%
FY2024: Adult-Only 17%, Child-Only 17%, All Households 15%, Adult & Child 11%

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

>>>

Between FY2022 and FY2024, there was a consistent decline in the percentage of seniors, veterans, and youth returning to homelessness within 12 to 24 months of exit. Seniors experienced the largest drop, falling from 24% to just 13%. Veterans also saw improvement, with return rates decreasing from 26% to 19% over the same period. Youth, who had the highest return rate in FY2022 at 28%, saw a significant reduction to 16% by FY2024. (SEE FIGURE 18)

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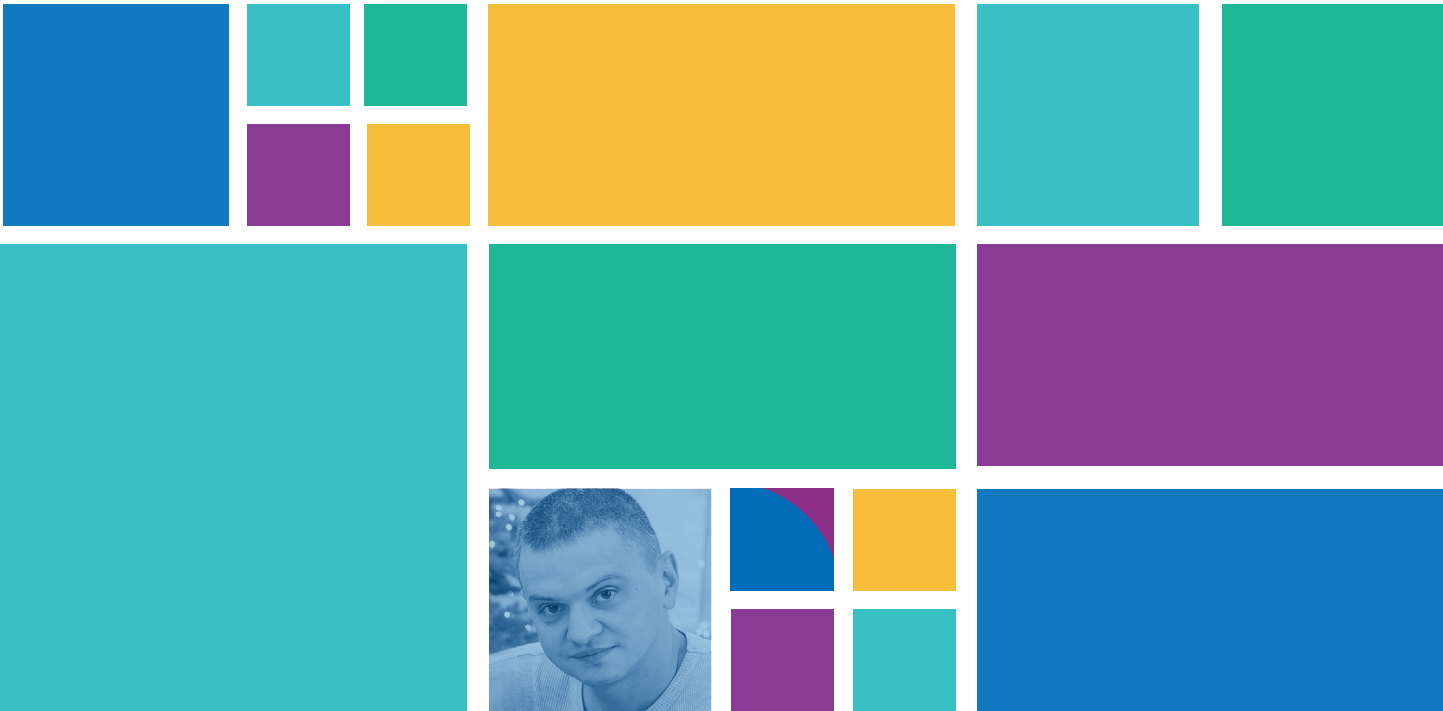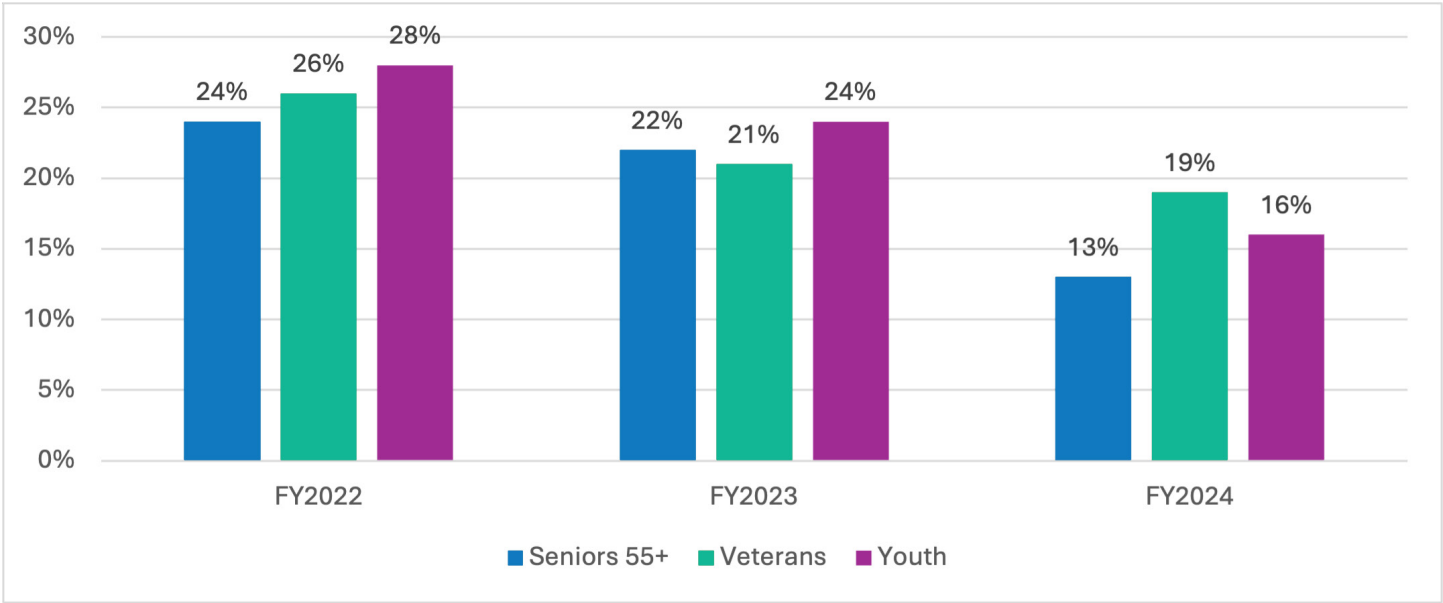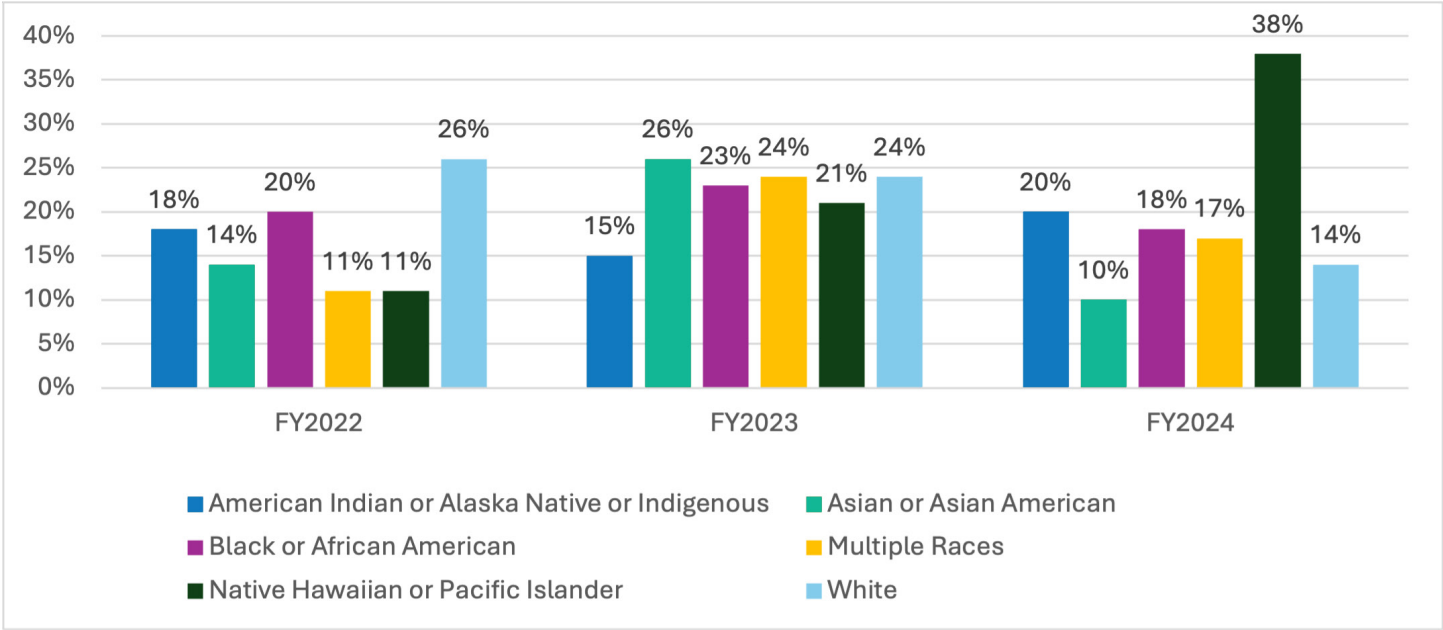

17 Household returned to ES, SH, TH, RRH or PSH projects after exiting the homeless system.

>>>

Over the past three years, return rates to homelessness varied by race. White-headed households decreased from 26% to 14%, while Black or African American households fluctuated between 20% and 23%, ending at 18%. (SEE FIGURE 19)

FIGURE 19. **PERCENTAGE OF RETURNS**[17] **BY RACE**

Legend:
- American Indian or Alaska Native or Indigenous
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Multiple Races
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White

FY2022: 18%, 14%, 20%, 11%, 11%, 26%
FY2023: 15%, 26%, 23%, 24%, 21%, 24%
FY2024: 20%, 10%, 18%, 17%, 38%, 14%

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.

Between FY2022 and FY2024, first-time homeless clients in Emergency Shelters, Safe Havens, and Transitional Housing projects decreased from 5,414 to 5,153 after a slight rise in FY2023. Including Permanent Housing projects, the total dropped from 6,935 in FY2022 to 6,218 in FY2024, following a small dip in FY2023. (SEE FIGURE 20)

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


- ES, SH, and TH projects
- ES, SH, TH, and PH projects
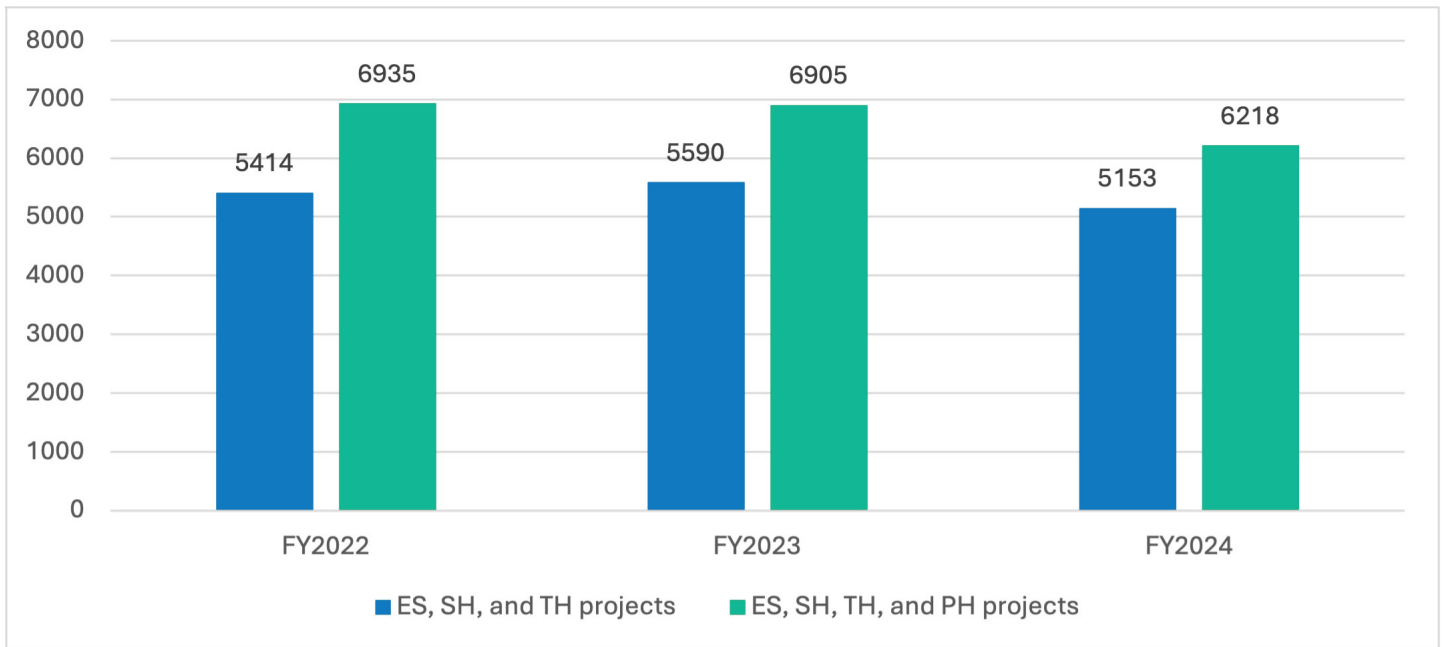
18 Figure excludes Outreach and other unsheltered project types.

Over the past three years, adult-only households consistently made up the largest share of first-time homelessness in shelters, though their share declined slightly—dropping by about 4% from FY2022 to FY2024. Adult and child households saw a 31% increase from FY2022 to FY2023, followed by a 33% decrease in FY2024, ending slightly below their initial level. Child-only households remained relatively stable, with only a 9% decrease from FY2022 to FY2023 and a 1% increase in FY2024. These patterns highlight a modest decline among adult-only households, greater fluctuation among families, and steady trends for child-only households. (SEE FIGURE 21)

FIGURE 21. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS**[19] **BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**

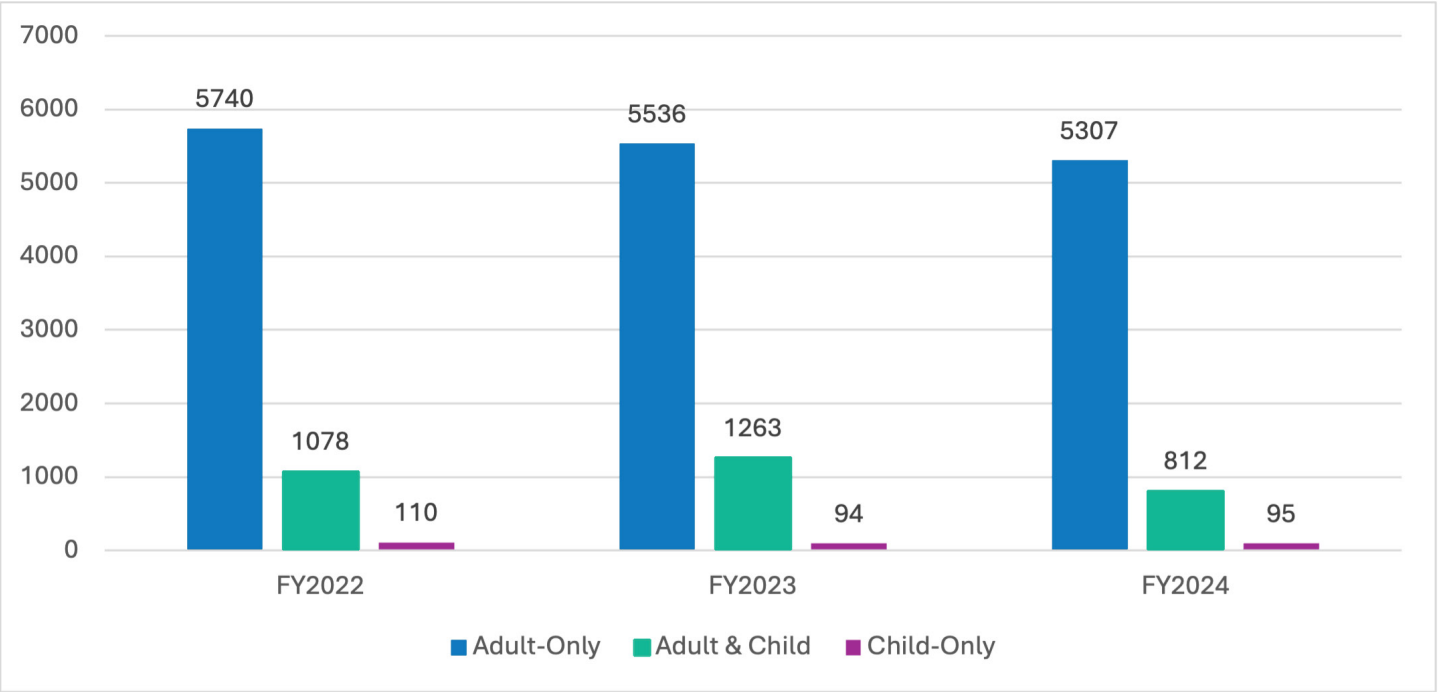|	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Adult Only	4642	4622	4473
Adult & Child	663	868	583
Child Only	103	94	95
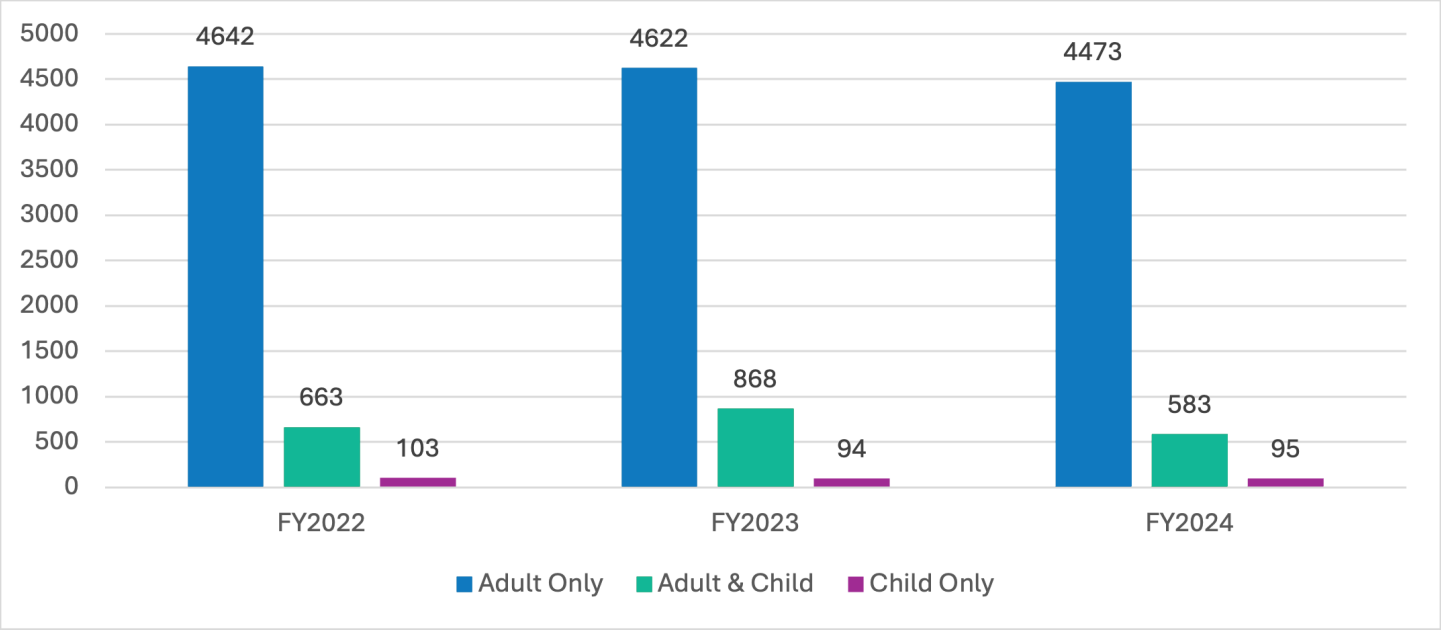
19 Figures include households who entered Emergency Shelter, Safe Havens, or Transitional Housing.

>>>

Examining first-time homeless households in shelters and permanent housing projects, adult-only households decreased by about 4% from FY2022 to FY2023 and declined further by 4% in FY2024. Families (adult & child households) grew by 17% from FY2022 to FY2023, then dropped significantly by 36% in FY2024. Child-only households declined by 15% from FY2022 to FY2023 and remained stable in FY2024. (SEE FIGURE 22)

FIGURE 22. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS**[20] **BY HOUSEHOLD TYPES**

Bar chart data:

| Household Type	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Adult-Only	5740	5536	5307
Adult & Child	1078	1263	812
Child-Only	110	94	95

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 illustrates the number of first-time homeless individuals in shelters and permanent housing projects by subpopulation over the past three years. The senior population (55+) decreased by 13% between FY2022 and FY2023, with a small further decline in FY2024. Veterans saw a modest 3% reduction from FY2022 to FY2023, followed by an additional 9% decrease in FY2024. Youth first-time homelessness rose by 6% from FY2022 to FY2023 before dropping 13% in FY2024. (SEE FIGURE 23)

FIGURE 23. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS**[20] **BY SUBPOPULATION**
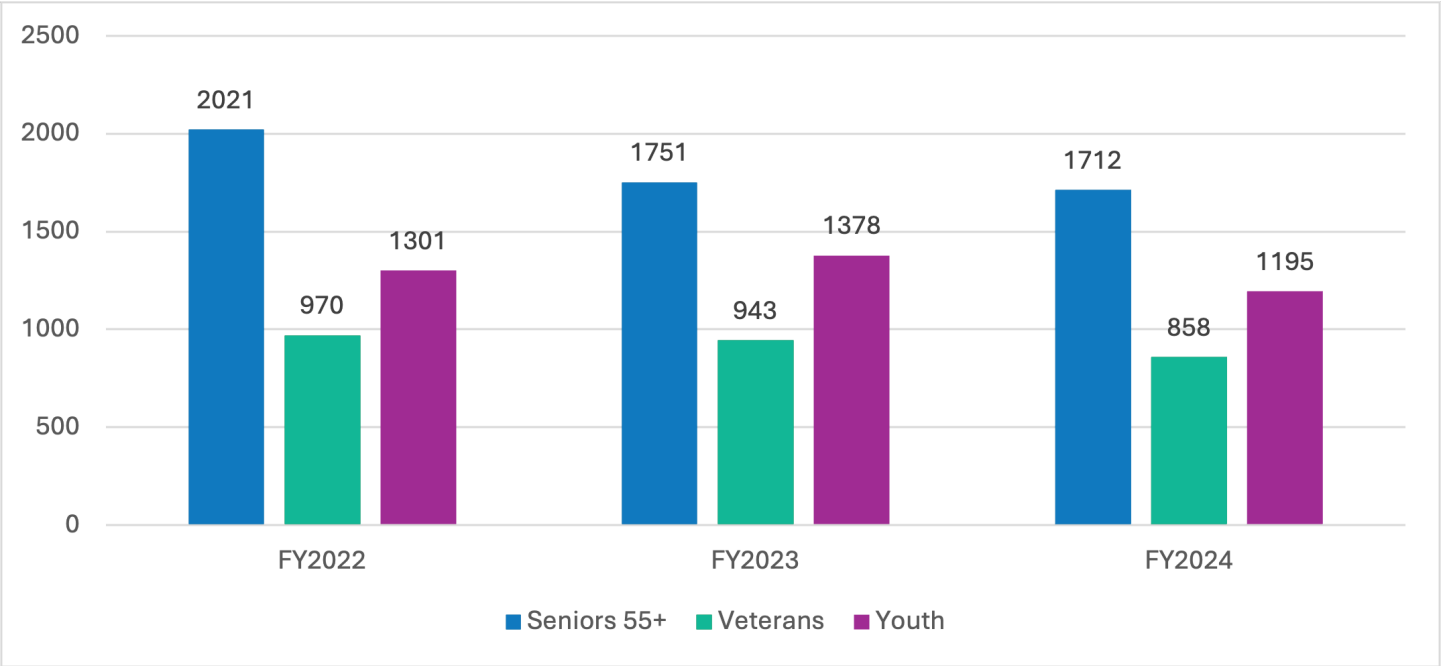
20 Figures include persons who entered Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Other Permanent Housing project types.
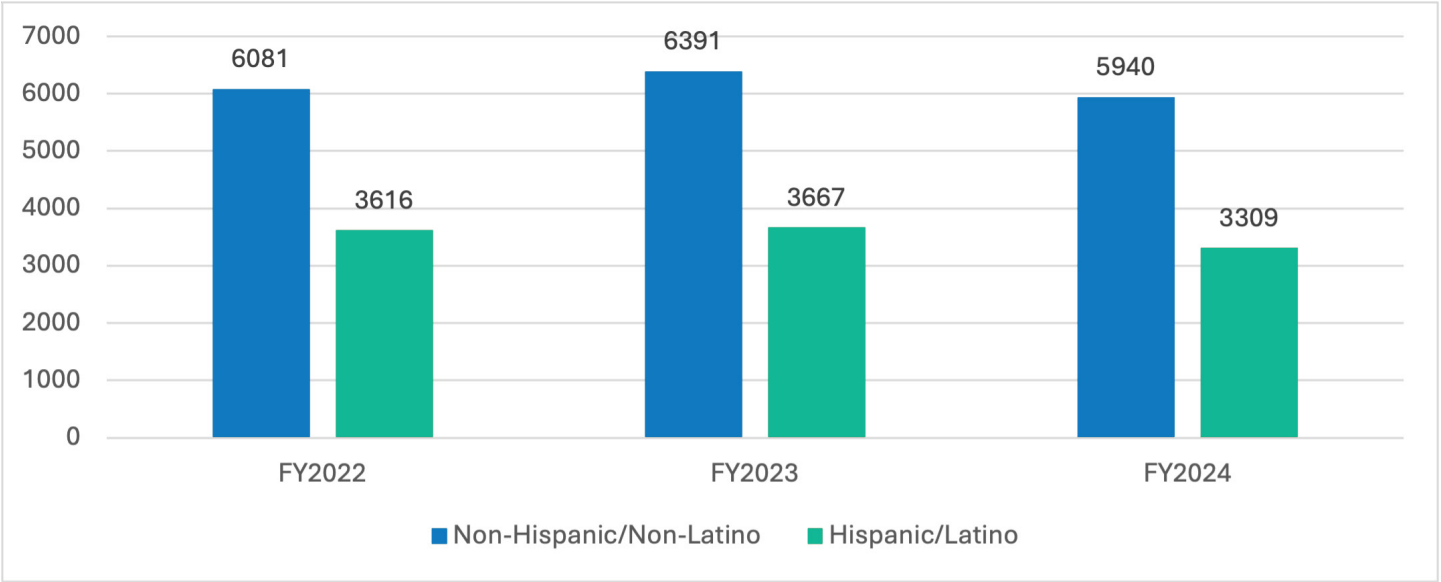
>>>

From 2022 to 2024, the racial distribution of first-time homeless individuals in shelters and permanent housing projects showed notable shifts. Black or African American individuals decreased 9%, while White individuals experienced a more significant drop of 14% over the three years. (SEE FIGURE 24a)

FIGURE 24a. **FIRST TIME HOMELESS IN SHELTERS AND PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECTS[21] BY RACE**
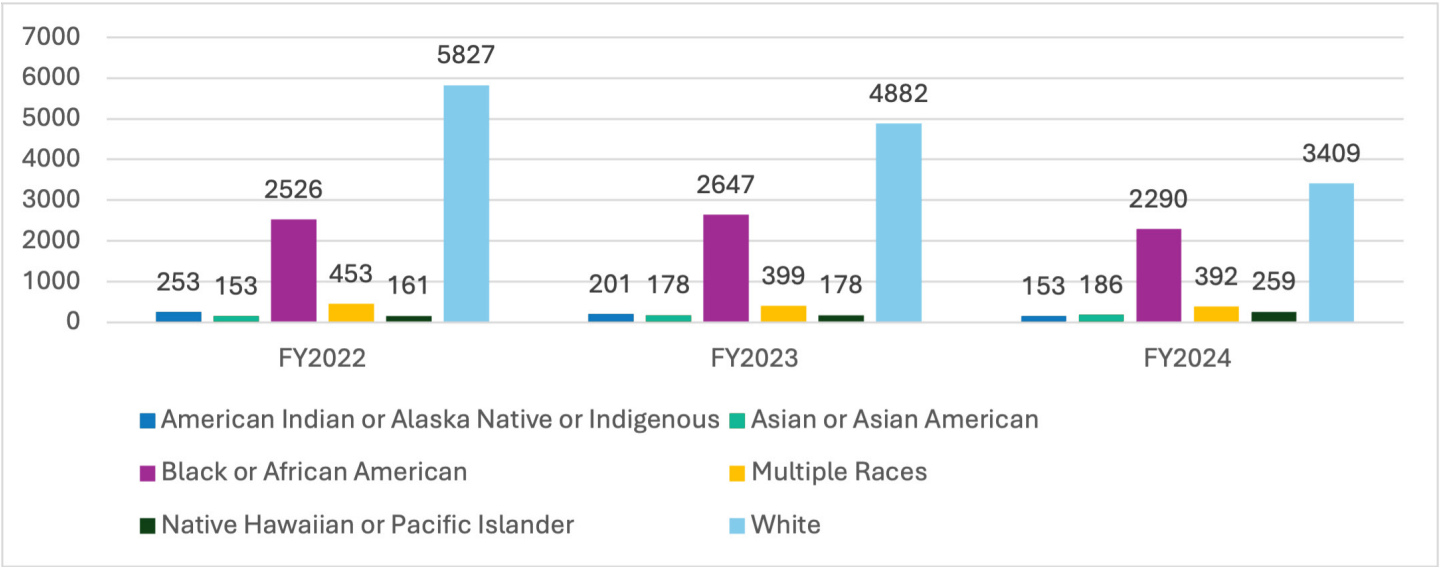
From 2022 to 2024, the percentage of first-time homeless individuals who were Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino increased by 5% between 2022 and 2023, then declined by 7% in 2024. Hispanic/Latino individuals saw a modest 1% increase in 2023, followed by a larger 10% decrease in 2024. These trends show relatively stable patterns for both groups, with a more pronounced drop in 2024. (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

Over the past three years, the homeless crisis response system has demonstrated meaningful progress in both scale and impact. More individuals and households have accessed services, reflecting expanded outreach and growing community need. At the same time, improvements in key performance areas signal that efforts to strengthen housing stability are working. Permanent housing placements have increased in several project types, and returns to homelessness—particularly within two years of exit—have declined overall. Certain subpopulations, including youth, seniors, and veterans, have shown notable gains, with improved housing outcomes and decreased likelihood of returning to homelessness. While the average length of time homeless has risen modestly, especially among adult-only households, other groups such as child-only households and youth have seen encouraging reductions. These trends point to a system that is not only reaching more people but also achieving more lasting housing outcomes for many.

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.

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.