HOMELESSNESS ANALYSIS FOR EL PASO COUNTY

COLORADO SPRINGS HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Background – Measuring Homelessness

Homelessness in El Paso County[1]—including the surrounding unincorporated areas of the County and the City of Colorado Springs—reflects a complex and persistent challenge with significant social and economic consequences. Homelessness is often hidden, fluid, and defined differently across systems. Although there is keen awareness of the "homeless problem" across the United States, the magnitude of the challenge is extremely difficult to accurately measure because homeless individuals inherently do not have a consistent residence and therefore contact mechanism. But this should not overshadow the reality and gravity of this humanitarian crisis, particularly for the adults and children experiencing homelessness.

A national study using administrative data from homelessness service providers estimated annual counts to be 2.5 to 10.2 times greater than PIT counts.

For these reasons, single-source counts like the Point-In-Time (PIT) significantly underrepresent its true scale. Changes in PIT count methodologies—such as variations in volunteer participation, weather conditions, or survey coverage—can significantly affect year-to-year trends, making it difficult to distinguish true changes in homelessness from changes in data collection. Thus, it is not surprising that a 2022 study estimated that the number of unique individuals experiencing homelessness over a three-year period is at least 3.5 times higher than the PIT snapshot.[2] Another national study using administrative data from homeless service providers in nine U.S. jurisdictions estimated annual counts (from other sources) to be 2.5 to 10.2 times higher than PIT counts.[3]

This study looked at various sources to try and obtain a more accurate picture of the level of homelessness in the El Paso County region. Combining multiple data sources—such as PIT, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), McKinney-Vento, and service provider data—offers a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of who is experiencing homelessness across the county. In pulling data from these other sources (see Appendix A), it is evident that El Paso County's PIT count does not fully represent the number of homeless as is well documented in various national studies. The region's 2024 PIT count showed 1,146 homeless individuals. Yet, according to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a federally mandated database in which service providers collect and report individuals who access homelessness services, El Paso County had 5,178 individuals who were documented as homeless from October 2023 to September 2024. Comparatively, on average in 2024, at any given point in time, approximately 6,912 *households* self-reported homelessness on SNAP applications (Appendix B). This translates to 8,451 *individuals* according to that SNAP data far surpassing the estimated count from PIT (resulting in a 1 to 7.37 ratio of 2024 PIT to SNAP in terms of homelessness count – not unlike national studies). It is important to

[1] The regional Housing Needs Assessment includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs. For this reason, "El Paso County" will be used in this report to represent the entire catchment area and simplify language.

[2] https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10511482.2024.2306607

[3] https://homelesslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/HUD-PIT-report2017.pdf
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12037263/

note that individuals/households who apply for SNAP do not receive any additional benefits or automatic enrollment in SNAP if they do self-identify as homeless. Thus, we assume there is no "incentive" to declare homelessness.

The most recent 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count recorded 1,745 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Colorado Springs Continuum of Care, a substantial 52% increase from 1,146 individuals in 2024. This rise is largely attributable to an increase in volunteers who count homeless individuals from approximately 25 in 2024 to 125 in 2025. In addition, there were expanded outreach efforts by the local Homeless Union, which successfully reached more unsheltered individuals. While PIT counts continue to underrepresent the total population experiencing homelessness—especially children and those in hidden or transient situations—the higher 2025 count reinforces our analysis that the PIT methodology captures only a fraction of the true number of residents experiencing homelessness.

"These (higher homelessness) numbers are validating to service providers. It is more consistent with our observations and independent numbers of people whom we serve."
-Beth Roalstad, CEO at Homeward Pikes Peak

Youth homelessness is also difficult to estimate. While only 269 individuals under 18 were recorded in the 2024 PIT count, broader data from the McKinney-Vento numbers (school data with student housing information) showed that 1,614 students in El Paso County school districts were experiencing homelessness (Appendix C).[4] This includes children staying in motels or doubled up with other families—conditions that are both precarious and excluded from PIT methodology. Furthermore, according to the SNAP estimates, 1,008 homeless *households* indicated having children (with 621 having one child, 246 having two, and 141 having between three and seven children).

It is noteworthy that two data sources, PIT and SNAP, show trends moving in opposite directions. As Appendix D visually shows, there has been a decline in the number of homeless counted via PIT from 2016 to 2024 (down from 1,302 to 1,146 – or a 12% decline). In that 2024 PIT count, 23% of the region's homeless were children (Appendix E) further highlighting the depth of the humanitarian crisis. Zephyr Smith, Data & Analytics Manager with ChangeLine (formerly Community Health Partnership), shared that some of the difference in trends with PIT and SNAP numbers is related to social trust: "When implementing the census approach to the PIT, we require respondents to consent to being counted. They have to have a high level of trust in the enumerator to give us that. Less trust is necessary to check a box on a SNAP application, especially given that those applications are probably done with online or paper forms. We know that social trust in recent years is down broadly. By nature, that impacts the PIT counts more than the SNAP time series." By contrast, SNAP estimates show an increase in the number of homeless households from 2019 (2,834) to 2024 (6,912) - or a 144% increase. The deviation in the trends is telling in and of itself. This underscores the false sense of exactitude in the numbers presented by any of the sources. For example, in January 2024, the (PIT) number 1,146 sounds precise, but so does 8,451 from the SNAP data. As such, all numbers have to be used with caution although it can generally be said that PIT is perhaps the most challenged of the data sources not only because it is one point in time, but also because all other sources point to significantly higher homeless counts (in the approximate range of 5,200 to 8,500).

PIT showed a 12% decline from 2016 to 2024 while SNAP estimates show a 144% increase.

While all numbers have to be used with caution, PIT is perhaps the most challenged because it is one point in time and all other sources point to significantly higher counts.

For the purposes of this study, SNAP counts are used in the ratio calculations (of SNAP to PIT homeless counts: 7.4 to 1). One of the main reasons SNAP was chosen is because the counts are averages taken over the course of the

[4] These numbers are collected during the Student October Count and Student End of Year Collection: https://www.cde.state.co.us/studentsupport/homeless_data

year and therefore are more reliable than a one-time count. Additionally, SNAP counts of homelessness are self-defined and self-identified, so the SNAP definition of homelessness is much more comprehensive than what is captured in PIT. Furthermore, it is important to note that even the higher (SNAP) estimates are unlikely to capture all homeless individuals and/or households because not all homeless people seek out nutritional assistance. Community experts have shared that the broader SNAP numbers are more in line with what they see on the frontlines. Beth Roalstad, Chief Executive Officer at Homeward Pikes Peak, shares that "These numbers are validating to the service providers. It is more consistent with our observations and independent numbers of people whom we serve. In addition, we have had 300+ and as high as 700 names on the Coordinated Entry list for individuals, families and Veterans who are actively seeking housing solutions. While these numbers are much larger than what has been commonly relied upon, the PIT annual data, this more comprehensive data will help us work together to plan better housing and serves to meet the very diverse needs of our community." Although no source is going to be 100% reliable due to the hidden nature of homelessness and the challenges in measuring it, this study did compare various sources and their methodologies and moved forward knowing their limitations.

Transitioning Into Permanent Housing

Exiting homelessness into stable housing remains a significant barrier. According to the 2024 Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) report[5] for the region, only 12% (about 380) of the 3,143 households exiting[6] the homelessness response system are known to have secured permanent housing. Meanwhile, 61% (about 1,905 households) exited to unknown destinations and 27% (about 858 households) are known to have exited to temporary destinations. Disparities by household type are stark: only 8% of adult-only households are known to have exited to permanent housing, compared to 48% of households with adults and children and 52% of child-only households (Appendix F). Moreover, just among those who are known to have achieved permanent housing, 12% returned to homelessness within six months. Given that the vast majority of those who exit the homelessness system leave to unknown destinations, it is likely the percentages of returns are also undercounted, further emphasizing the instability and uncertainty of tracking homelessness. These revolving-door outcomes not only reduce the effectiveness of public investment in housing interventions, they also increase long-term service costs while reducing economic (worker) productivity.

People At-Risk of Housing Instability

One study found that those that were homeless with a severe mental illness used an average of $40,500 in services a year (compared to $16,200 average once housed).

In order to provide a more complete understanding of the housing crisis, it is critical to examine who is at high risk of becoming homeless. A review of national and local literature[7] identifies root causes that include the lack of affordable housing, rising rents, non-livable wages, unemployment, mental and behavioral health needs, and systemic inequities. The financial cost of these systemic vulnerabilities is immense—both for individuals and for the wider community. In fact, one study found that people who were homeless with a severe mental illness used an average of $40,500 in services per year (compared to $16,200 on average once housed).[8] Once you include lost labor force participation, underachievement in schools,

[5] This report covers the period from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024: https://www.ppchp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/CO-504-LSA-2024-print_all.pdf

[6] Individuals experiencing homelessness exit the system to many destinations. Permanent destinations include: rental/ownership with or without subsidy or living with family and friends. Temporary destinations include but are not limited to hospitalization, incarceration, or the streets. In the 2024 LSA, 61% of all households exited to unknown destinations.

[7] https://endhomelessness.org/overview/#what_causes_homelessness; https://nlihc.org/gap; https://endhomelessness.org/income-isnt-keeping-up-with-housing-costs/; https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2024-AHAR-Part-1.pdf

[8] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/45436351_The_Cost_of_Homelessness_A_Perspective_from_the_United_States

and higher reliance on public assistance and crisis services over time, these costs increase dramatically in the long run.[9]

Those "at risk" of homelessness often face severe housing cost burdens, unstable or overcrowded living conditions, and limited access to affordable housing. While renters make up the majority of this population, some low-income homeowners—especially seniors, people behind on mortgage payments, or those living in substandard housing—also face significant vulnerability to housing loss.[10] All of these at-risk populations pose an economic threat to the region, as housing instability is associated with higher public spending on emergency services, lower workforce participation, and long-term costs to health and education systems.

In El Paso County, indicators of poverty and housing burden offer additional insight into risk levels. 51,100 students—or 40% of all public K–12 students in El Paso County—qualified for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) during the 2024–2025 school year.[11] This figure reflects widespread household financial insecurity. It is likely that other U.S. communities have even higher proportions of children on FRPL programs given that El Paso County poverty rates are lower than U.S. rates in terms of the total percentage of residents who are at or below the federal poverty level (see Table 1).

Table 1: 2023 Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

	El Paso County	U.S.
% people at FPL or below	7.00%	12.50%
Note: FPL in 2023 was $14,580 for an individual and $30,000 for a family of four.		

Measuring Housing Instability in the El Paso County Region

To better understand the scale of housing vulnerability in the region and inform proactive intervention strategies, we started by looking at income data as measured by the Area Median Income, or AMI. Specifically, we looked at the proportion and number of households that are *extremely* low-income, or ELI (0-30% of AMI), and *very* low-income, or VLI (31-50% of AMI).[12] We used these AMI tiers to estimate the risk of homelessness because households in these income brackets face the highest rates of housing cost burden and are most vulnerable to housing instability.[13] We then juxtaposed those lower-income households to regional data on the proportion of renters who are "cost-burdened" or "severely cost-burdened."

Households are considered "cost-burdened" if they spend more than 30% of their income on housing and as "severely cost-burdened" if they spend more than 50% of their income on housing. Based on data from the City of Colorado Springs Housing and Homelessness Response[14], 90% of extremely low-income (ELI) renter households were "cost-burdened" with 82% of the cost-burdened group being "severely cost-burdened." For very low-income (VLI) households, 76% were "cost-burdened" with 50% of those cost-burdened households also qualifying as "severely cost-burdened." We applied those cost-burdened and severely cost-burdened rates to estimate how

[9] https://hpri.usc.edu/homeless_research/homelessness-and-employment/

[10] https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/reports/files/Harvard_JCHS_Housing_Americas_Older_Adults_2023.pdfhttps://www.coloradocoalition.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/COAffordableHousingCrisis_StrategicInvestmentReport_CCH_2023.pdf

[11] Colorado Department of Education: 2024-25 Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility by LEA: https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent

[12] We used the Matrix Design Group, Inc. AMI tier breakdown, which is based on the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. We also compared these figures to the AMI breakdown from the ACS 1-Year Estimates and found the results to be similar.

[13] https://inclusionaryhousing.org/designing-a-policy/onsite-development/income-targeting/; https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report_2022.pdf?

[14] https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/Housing-Our-Future_Housing-Needs-Chart_2024-1.pdf

many households in each income tier face financial strain due to housing costs. All calculations were at the (El Paso County) level because that is the geography in which this data was available (for 2023).

To convert these housing strain indicators into (homelessness) risk projections, we used estimated probabilities of homelessness based on a large study that included 381 communities.[15] This study found that the expected homelessness rate quickly increases once median rental costs exceed 30% of median income. The study, conducted by experts at Boston University and the University of Pennsylvania (under the auspices of Zillow Research), provided a statistical link between homelessness and the U.S. government's definition of a housing cost burden. Specifically, homelessness increases by approximately 0.25% across a population for "cost-burdened households" and approximately 0.50% for "severely cost-burdened households." Since there is data available for the number of households in this study region that fall into these categories, it was possible to estimate the probable increase in homelessness due to high housing costs as they relate to total household income.

To account for research indicating that low-income homeowners are half as likely as low-income renters to experience homelessness[16], we reduced the homeowner probabilities of homelessness by half (0.125% for "cost burdened" households and 0.25% for "severely cost burdened" households, respectively). Finally, as established above, PIT counts are severely undercounted, and therefore, the probabilities of homelessness (which are based on PIT counts) are also likely undercounted. To account for this, we applied a local SNAP to PIT ratio of 7.37 to 1 from El Paso County, ensuring our estimates better reflect the full scope of risk. Together, these methods offer a grounded, conservative estimate of those currently at high risk of becoming homeless in the region due to housing cost burdens.

1,551 households (3,925 individuals) currently have a high probability of becoming homeless in El Paso County due to housing cost burden.

After all calculations described above, this methodology resulted in 1,551 additional households—or 3,925 individuals—who have a high probability of becoming homeless in El Paso County due to housing cost burden. A summary table is provided below.

[15] https://projecteuclid.org/journals/annals-of-applied-statistics/volume-15/issue-2/Inflection-points-in-community-level-homeless-rates/10.1214/20-AOAS1414.full and https://www.weforum.org/stories/2019/01/here-s-a-way-of-predicting-when-homelessness-is-likely-to-rise/

[16] https://nlihc.org/resource/pandemic-widens-housing-security-disparities
https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/renters-are-more-likely-homeowners-struggle-paying-basic-needs

Table 2: Applied Risk of Homelessness in El Paso County Based on AMI Tiers									
Income Tier % AMI (Extremely Low-Income	Type of HH	# HH	# of HHS that are "cost-burdened"	# of HHs that are "severely cost-burdened"	TOTAL # of HHs that are "cost-burdened" and "severely cost-burdened"	Applied Risk of Becoming Homeless (Households)	Applied Risk of Becoming Homeless (Individ)	Total HHs (with SNAP to PIT ratio)	Total Individ (with SNAP to PIT ratio)
0-30%	Owner	17,789	2,882	13,128	16,010	36	92	**268**	**679**
0-30%	Renter	22,558	3,654	16,648	20,302	92	234	**681**	**1,722**
Income Tier % AMI (Very Low-Income	Type of HH	# HH	# of HHs that are "cost-burdened"	# of HHs that are "severely cost-burdened"	TOTAL # of HHs that are "cost-burdened" and "severely cost-burdened"	Applied Risk of Becoming Homeless (Households)	Applied Risk of Becoming Homeless (Individ)	Total HHs (with SNAP to PIT ratio)	Total Individ (with SNAP to PIT ratio)
31-50%	Owner	18,877	7,173	7,173	14,346	27	68	**198**	**502**
31-50%	Renter	19,230	7,307	7,307	14,615	55	139	**404**	**1022**
				TOTAL	**65,274**	**211**	**533**	**1,551**	**3,925**

This estimate is informative because it helps explain the sharp rise in homelessness observed in El Paso County, the state, and nation in recent years[17]—trends that are increasingly visible in unsheltered populations and encampments. Indeed, the prevalence of homelessness now defines many (high-cost-of-housing) U.S. cities such as San Francisco, Seattle, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Denver, Dallas, Miami, and others.[18] This analysis also helps explain the increasing pressure on shelters, hospitals, schools, and emergency services. And as those pressures mount, there is an implicit and sizable opportunity cost. When limited resources are channeled to (barely) meet the increasing and acute needs of the homeless population, dollars are foregone that could be used to invest in long-term solutions both for the homeless population and society at large.

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Key Recommendations for Addressing Homelessness

El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs have taken active steps to address homelessness through a range of housing and support initiatives. The El Paso County Housing Trust Fund finances affordable housing development and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on solutions tailored to local needs, including down payment assistance and home repair programs for low-income residents.[19] Meanwhile, Colorado Springs' 2025 Homelessness Response Action Plan identifies key strategies such as expanding shelter access, launching employment initiatives like WorkCOS to provide jobs to unhoused individuals, and investing in permanent

[17] https://gazette.com/news/homelessness/new-study-suggests-numbers-of-homeless-in-colorado-springs-and-statewide-much-larger-than-thought/article_cc78c59d-e981-4640-b8d0-718044423a86.html

[18] https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/cities-with-the-largest-homeless-populations-in-the-u-s?onepage

[19] https://admin.elpasoco.com/economic-development/housing-programs/housing-resources/

supportive housing and wraparound services.[20] A number of recent efforts in Colorado Springs aim to both increase the availability of affordable housing and provide targeted support for individuals and families as they transition from homelessness to long-term stability. For example, Catholic Charities[21] is converting the former Helen Hunt Elementary School into 24 transitional housing units specifically for families at risk of homelessness, helping them move out of crisis, toward stability, and with access to a variety of wraparound services. The Commons[22], operated by Homeward Pikes Peak, is moving forward with Phase 2 to provide 42 units of housing to individuals, families, and veterans. The project also provides on-site case management, health care, and recovery services—critical for individuals with complex needs who are exiting homelessness. Bentley Commons[23]—a partnership between Greccio Housing, Partners in Housing, and Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust—is expanding to include nearly 200 affordable units across income tiers as low as 30% AMI, supporting both those in transitional stages and those ready for long-term housing. TESSA is also growing its Rapid Rehousing program[24], which provides short-term rental assistance and support services to survivors of domestic violence, helping them secure and maintain stable, permanent housing. Together, these projects illustrate a coordinated effort to meet people where they are in the housing continuum and support upward mobility into safe, affordable, and permanent homes.

While Housing First remains a topic of debate in some policy and community circles, a growing body of national research highlights its effectiveness in improving housing outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness. Housing First programs[25] prioritize rapid placement into permanent housing without preconditions, such as sobriety or participation in treatment, and offer voluntary supportive services tailored to individual needs. A systematic review of 26 studies[26] found that Housing First approaches reduced homelessness by 88% and increased housing stability by 41% compared to traditional "Treatment First" models that require participants to meet certain behavioral or health benchmarks before receiving housing. This meta-analysis, which examined interventions across multiple cities, also found that voluntary case management paired with housing leads to significant reductions in the use of emergency services, shelters, and hospitals—translating into long-term public cost savings. While concerns persist about accountability, neighborhood impact, and service engagement, these findings suggest that Housing First can be a highly effective tool, especially for individuals with complex needs. As such Housing First warrants continued evaluation alongside other strategies within a broader affordable and attainable housing continuum.

Despite these proven outcomes, future funding remains uncertain posing a significant threat to local and national progress on homelessness prevention. In 2024, El Paso County invested about $1.4 million through targeted programs such as the Community Services Block Grant, Community Investment Fund, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Children, Youth & Family Services[27]. These funds support key local partners—including the ones highlighted above—in delivering rent assistance, transitional housing, and recovery and employment programs. However, anticipated depletion of federal Emergency Housing Voucher funds by 2026[28] and ongoing federal budget shortfalls already forced the Colorado Springs Housing Authority to pause new enrollments in the

[20] https://coloradosprings.gov/housing-help-and-resources
[21] https://www.ccharitiescc.org/hunt-family-housing-capital-campaign/
[22] https://homewardpp.org/what-we-do/housing/the-commons/
[23] https://www.greccio.org/bentley-commons
[24] https://www.tessacs.org/housing-first/
[25] https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Evidence.pdf
[26] https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8513528/
[27] El Paso County, Department of Human Services, 2024 Responsible Homelessness Prevention
[28] https://apnews.com/article/trump-congress-housing-voucher-assistance-funding-cuts-26f9a716af6731e3c6445015488bab3a

Housing Choice Voucher program[29]. Sustaining and scaling effective interventions will require consistent, bipartisan investment to avoid increased system strain and rising long-term societal costs.

Taken together, these findings illustrate that homelessness is not only a humanitarian crisis; it is an economic one tied to the rapid rise in housing costs. Addressing it effectively will require a multifaceted approach that includes expanding affordable housing supply, bolstering rental assistance and retention efforts, and investing in programs that support youth and families before they fall into homelessness. These actions are not only socially responsible but also fiscally prudent, as preventing and resolving homelessness can significantly reduce public costs in healthcare, criminal justice, and social services while strengthening local economic resilience.

In terms of tactics to increase affordable housing, communities that are ahead, a) think "outside the box" with new forms of construction such as 3-D printed homes provided by the Colorado startup, VeroTouch[30], and scalable modular homes, and b) often pursue an all-of-the-above approach with re-zoning; new, creative, and various construction methodologies; public-private partnerships with builders and key employers; tax incentives; and program's such as the Pikes Peak Down Payment Assistance (PPDPA) Program provided by El Paso County. Indeed, such programs can make a difference in the prevention of homelessness.

Conclusion

This analysis confirms that high housing costs are indeed a precursor to homelessness. Although limited by the inherent challenges of measuring homelessness, this study can serve as a predictive model of additional homelessness within a region due to high housing costs. No doubt, homelessness is a highly complex issue with many determinants beyond the scope of this study. However, the analyses provide a conservative but still sobering estimate that at least 4,000 additional people in El Paso County (including the City of Colorado Springs and the unincorporated parts of the county) may well become homeless due to rapidly escalating housing costs. While social service organizations, including nonprofits, can try and prepare for increased regional homelessness, it would be more humane and financially prudent to prevent homelessness through preemptive affordable housing solutions. As aforementioned, it is more cost effective to address the underlying causes of homelessness with proactive solutions than it is to try and mitigate homelessness once it has occurred.

This portion of the Colorado Springs Housing Needs Assessment was conducted by Data-Driven Economic Strategies (Tatiana Bailey, Ph.D., and Kathryn Zenoni, M.S.Ed.). DDES is extremely thankful to all the individuals and organizations that contributed information and general feedback for this portion of the (HNA) report.

[29] https://www.koaa.com/news/covering-colorado/colorado-springs-housing-authority-pauses-section-8-hcv-assistance

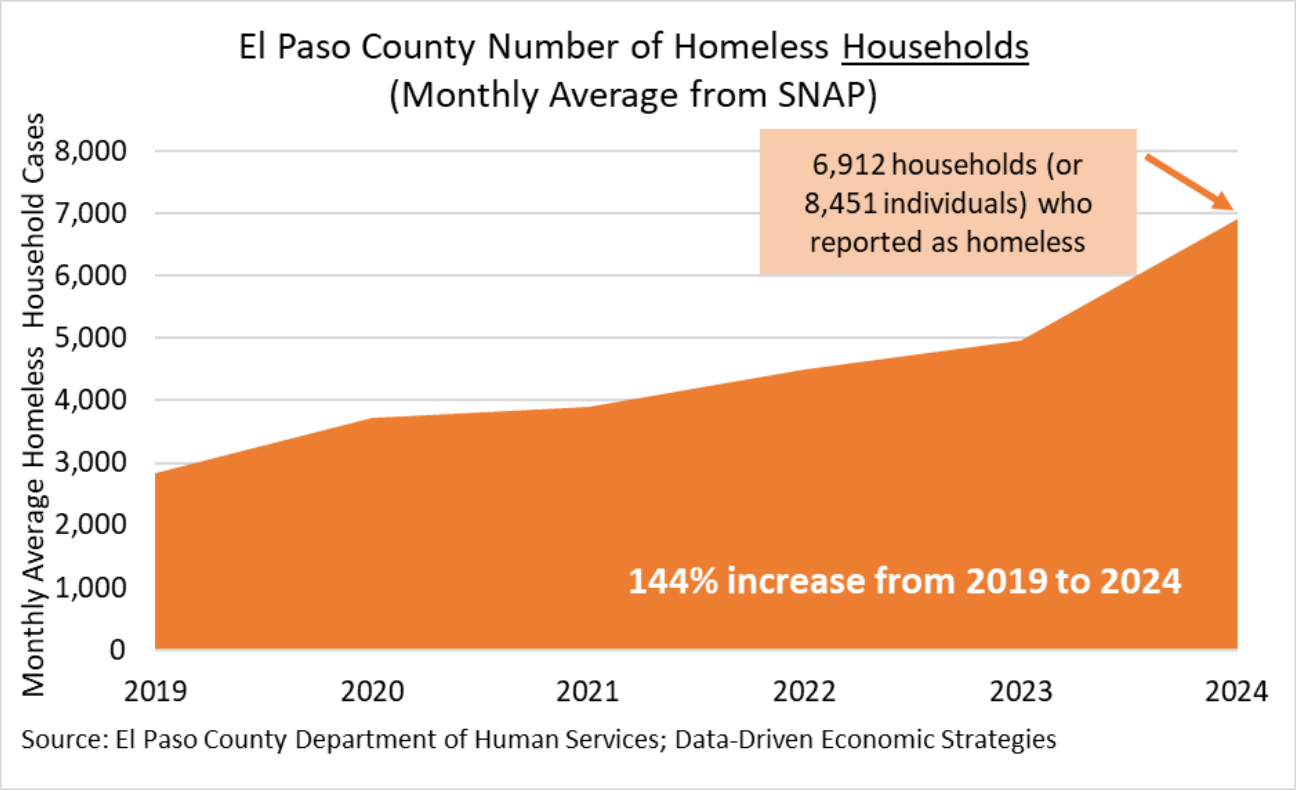
[30] https://verotouch.com/

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Table 3: Different Sources for Homelessness Counts in El Paso County				
Source	**Time Frame**	**Metric**	**Number**	**Methodology**
Point-In-Time	One night in January 2024	Total Number of Homeless Individuals	1,146	Annual, one-night census of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, conducted by local Continuums of Care using shelter data, outreach teams, and volunteers.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) State of Homelessness	10/01/23-09/30/24	Total Number of Homeless Individuals	6,846	Uses a broader data set from HMIS, including individuals who engage with Coordinated Entry, Street Outreach, Supportive Services, and Homelessness Prevention programs in addition to shelter and housing programs. This more inclusive approach captures a wider spectrum of people experiencing homelessness or at-risk, including those who may not receive housing services but engage with providers for meals, case management, or referrals.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Longitudinal Systems Analysis	10/01/23-09/30/24	Total Number of Homeless Individuals	5,178	Aggregates data from homeless service providers throughout the year to track the number, characteristics, and service usage of individuals who access federally prioritized housing interventions. It includes only clients who enroll in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Permanent Housing programs (the interventions most directly funded and tracked by the federal government). Data is self-reported by clients and confirmed by service providers. Individuals who interact with other types of services—such as street outreach or supportive services—are excluded from the LSA dataset.
McKinney-Vento	2023-2024 School Year: Student October Count and Student End of Year Collection	Total Number of Homeless Students	1,614	Identifies homeless students through school district liaisons who collect data on children and youth lacking fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those who are doubled up, in motels, shelters, or unsheltered setting.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	2024 Monthly-Average Cases	Total Number of Homeless Individuals	8,451	Uses self-reported data (not a required field) from individuals and families who indicate they are experiencing homelessness when applying for or recertifying Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Appendix B

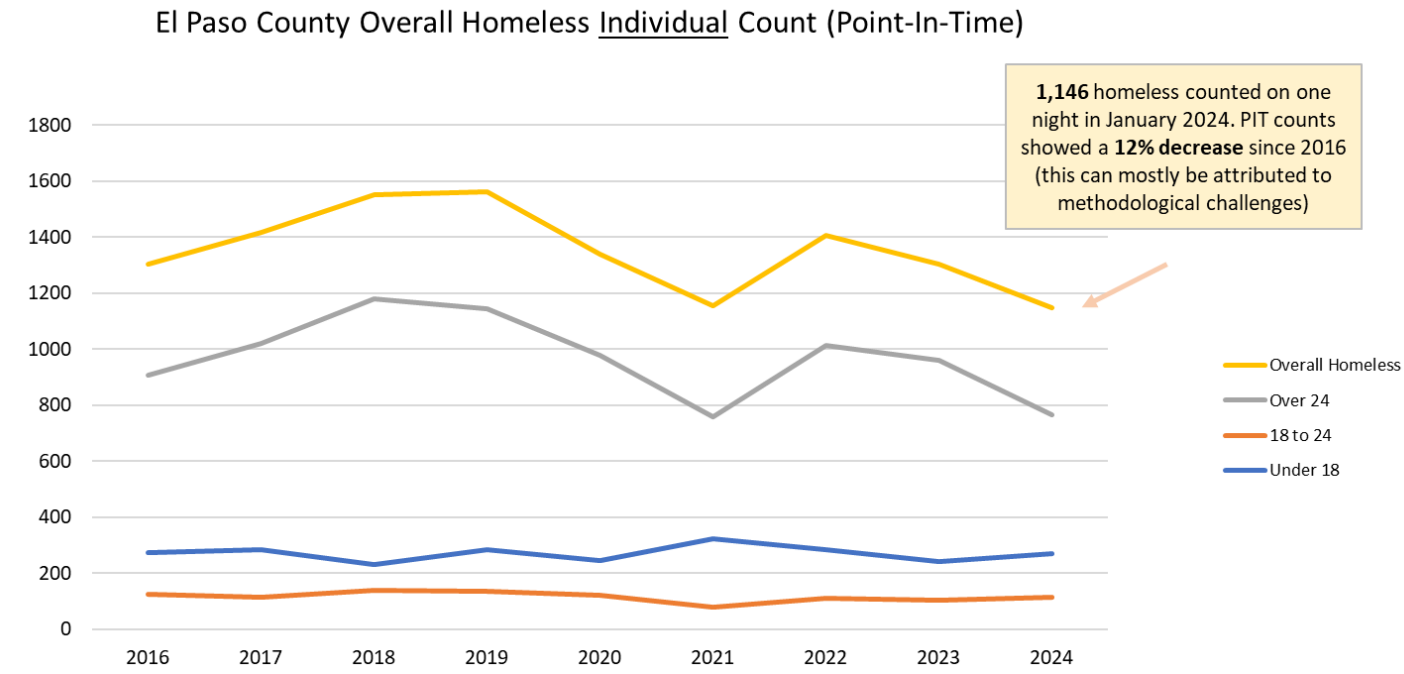

El Paso County Number of Homeless Households
(Monthly Average from SNAP)
Monthly Average Homeless Household Cases
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
6,912 households (or 8,451 individuals) who reported as homeless
144% increase from 2019 to 2024
Source: El Paso County Department of Human Services; Data-Driven Economic Strategies

Appendix C

Table 4: El Paso County: McKinney-Vento Data (2023-2024 School Year)			
District Name	**PK-12 Total**	**PK-12 Total Homeless Count**	**Percentage Homeless**
Hanover 28	271	27	10.0%
Fountain 8	7,885	305	3.9%
Colorado Springs 11	22,744	592	2.6%
Education reEnvisioned BOCES	7,114	178	2.5%
Harrison 2	12,386	90	0.7%
Cheyenne Mountain 12	3,739	27	0.7%
District 49	25,799	185	0.7%
Academy 20	26,607	180	0.7%
Widefield 3	9,377	30	0.3%
Big Sandy 100J	328	*	
Calhan RJ-1	436	*	
Manitou Springs 14	1,238	*	
Ellicott 22	990	*	
Peyton 23 Jt	605	*	
Lewis-Palmer 38	6,545	*	
Edison 54 JT	74	*	
Miami/Yoder 60 JT	406	*	
Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	160	*	
Total	**126,704**	**1,614**	**2.5%**

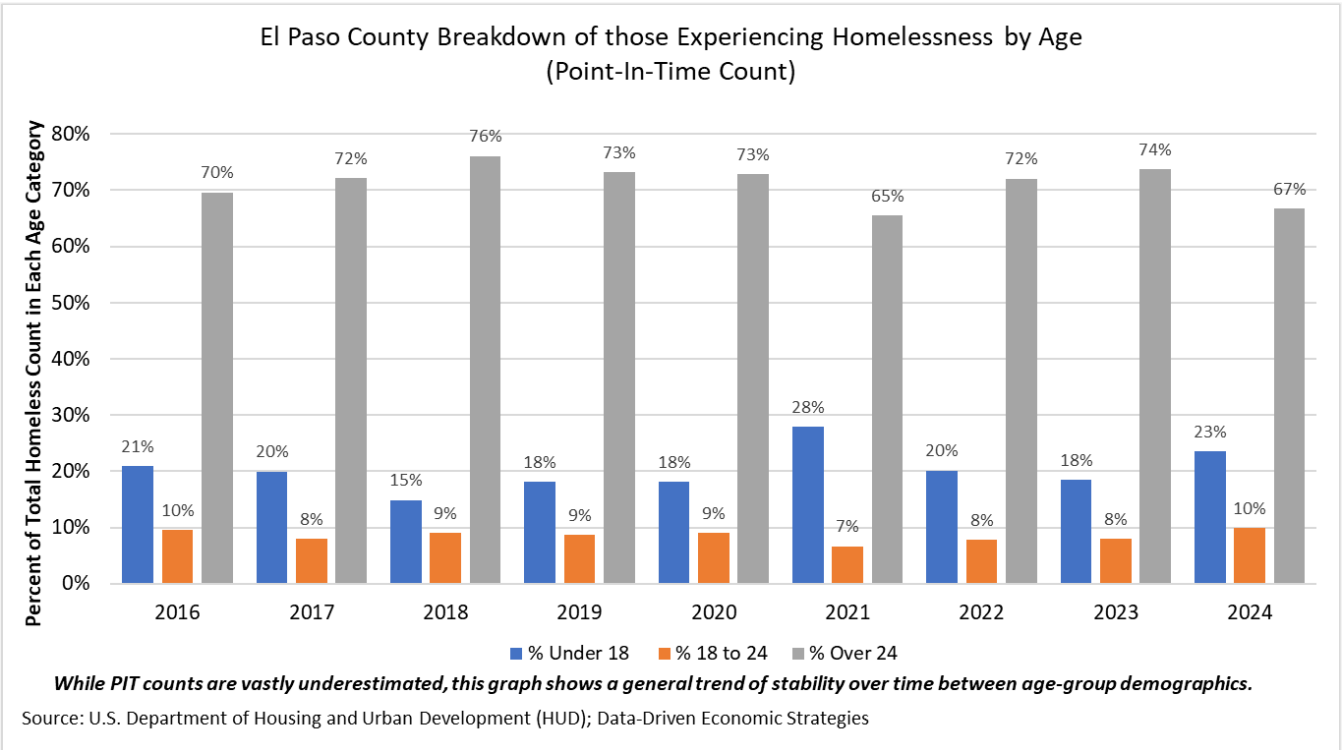
*Cells with astricts indicated a suppressed count to protect student privacy.

Appendix D



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Data-Driven Economic Strategies

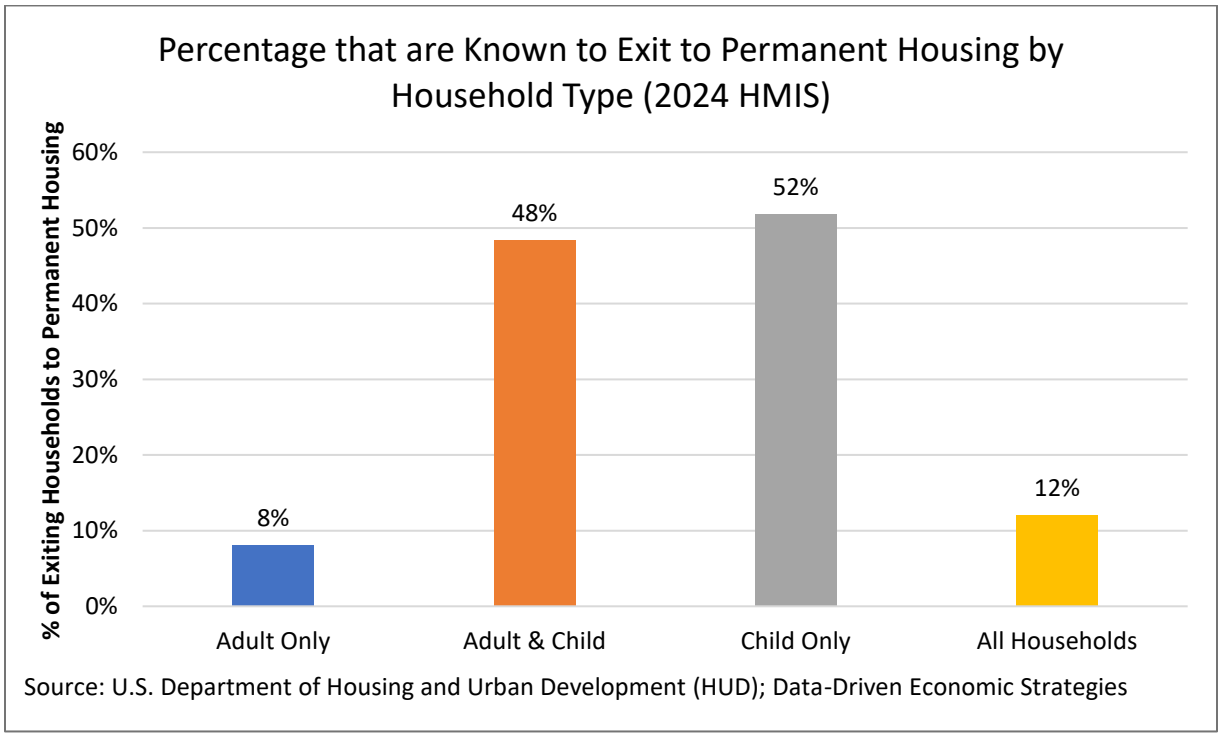
Appendix E



While PIT counts are vastly underestimated, this graph shows a general trend of stability over time between age-group demographics.

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Data-Driven Economic Strategies

Appendix F



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Data-Driven Economic Strategies

Data-Driven Economic Strategies