



Arizona Department of Housing

2020

Balance of State Continuum of Care Sheltered & Unsheltered Point in Time Report

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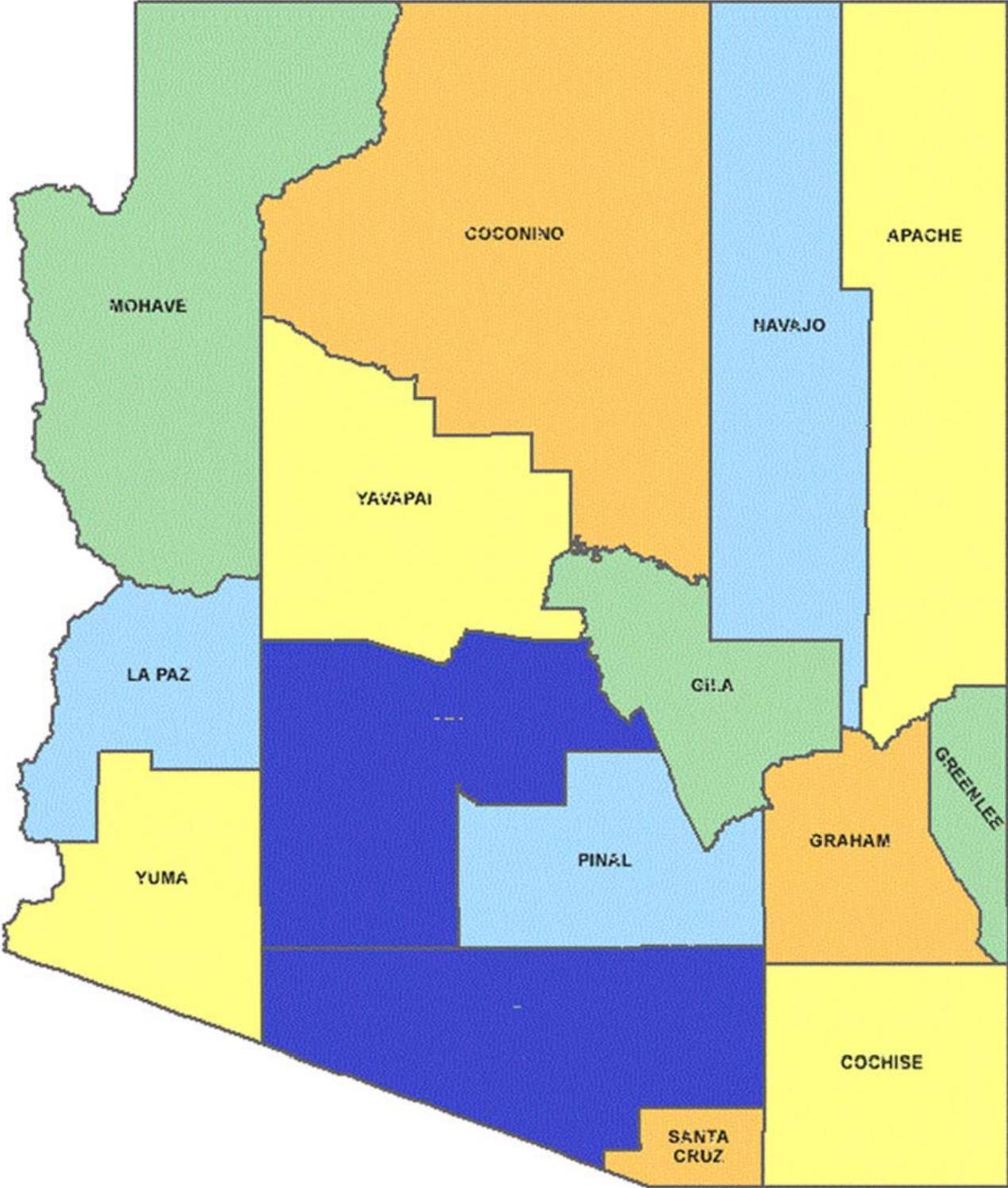
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The Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care includes thirteen counties—Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, and Yuma.



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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

ARIZONA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

2020 UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED COUNT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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• **Special Thanks to all the individuals who were willing to provide information for the point in time count. Without your cooperation, there would not be information to build upon in order to implement community solutions to end homelessness in our communities.**
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• **Special thanks to 350 plus volunteers who contributed their time to travel to locations throughout their counties and interview individuals. Without your contribution, the Point in Time Count could not take place and provide information about homelessness throughout the counties in the Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care.**
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• **Special thanks to the following agencies and community organization that contributed staff time, support and resources, office space for planning and training activities to help make this 2020 PIT a success:**

County	Agencies
Apache	Old Concho Community Assistance Center, Community Volunteers
Cochise	Good Neighbor Alliance, Police Departments of Benson, Huachuca City, Sierra Vista, Tombstone and Willcox, City of Sierra Vista Code Enforcement, Cochise County Sheriff's Dept., Mod Pizza, Native Grill, Pizza Hut, Schlotzsky's Deli, Street Tacos, and Subway Restaurants, and Douglas Tabernacle Church.
Coconino	AZ Community Foundation, Catholic Charities, City of Flagstaff Coconino County, East and West Flagstaff Libraries, Flagstaff Police Department, Flagstaff Shelter Services, Joe C. Montoya Senior Center Northland Family Help Center, Shadow Foundation, Sharon Manor Sunshine Rescue Mission, United Way, Veterans Resource Center
Gila	Gila County, Community Members
Graham	CPSA, Community Partners Integrated Health Care
Greenlee	CPSA, Community Partners Integrated Health Care
La Paz	CPSA, Big River Baptist Church, DES, One Seedling, Regional Center for Border Health, VA (Prescott Office), WACOG
Mohave	Mohave County Housing Authority (MCHC), Catholic Charities, Cornerstone Mission, Guardian, Jerry Ambrose Veterans Center, VA, Veteran Resource Center, WACOG
Navajo	Old Concho Community Assistance Center, Community Volunteers, White Mountain Apache Tribal Community
Pinal	CAHRA, Casa Grande Police Department, CBI, City of Apache Junction City of Casa Grande, Community volunteers, Empowerment Systems Horizon Health and Wellness, NCHP, Pinal County Housing Department, Apache Junction Food Bank, City of Apache Junction Empowerment Systems, Genesis Project, Horizon Health and Wellness, La Frontera, and St George Catholic Church.
Santa Cruz	CBI
Yavapai	VA, VRC, NACOG, U.S. Vets, Arizona Department of Economic Security

County	Agencies
	Verde Homeless Coalition, The Cottonwood Mission, Terros Health, West Yavapai Guidance Center, Coalition for Compassion and Justice
Yuma	Arizona Complete Health, Community volunteers, DES, NAU, NCHP

Special thanks to our consultant, **Candee Stanton**, for her expertise and guidance through the entire Point in Time Count and Survey. Her planning coordination and guidance plus production of the final report is invaluable in our efforts to end homelessness for all Arizonans.

NOTE: The Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care data report and individual county data reports can be found at the Arizona Department of Housing website. These reports provide additional detail about the information provided in summary form in this report.

<https://housing.az.gov/documents-links/forms/special-needs-continuum> (scroll down to Point In Time Reports)

Archived reports for prior years are located at:

<https://housing.az.gov/documents-links/forms/special-needs-archives>

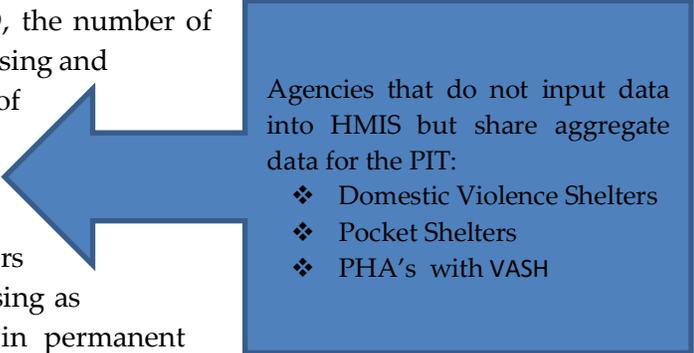
Individual Counties' Data Reports

- Each county has its own data report that provides information specific to the community.
- For the tables that provide data about conditions, the total number of conditions named may be larger than the number of individuals counted. The reason for this is that individuals were able to choose multiple conditions in each category.
- Demographic data provides the total of individuals interviewed and the household members they identified.
- The final table in the report provides a summary of housing units included in the HUD Housing inventory including the number of projects, types of projects, number of persons housed and the capacity. Projects include those that report through HMIS and those pocket and domestic violence shelters that completed the survey distributed as a part of the point in time process.

OVERVIEW

The Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) is the Collaborative Applicant for the Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care (AZBOSCO). The U. S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) requires that communities that provide services to persons who are experiencing homelessness and receive HUD funding for housing projects must convene a continuum of care. The AZBOSCO has many responsibilities including:

- **Planning and implementing** services for persons who are experiencing homelessness in thirteen counties in Arizona including Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, and Yuma.
- Through the Arizona Department of Housing as fiscal agent, the AZBOSCO **makes permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and rapid re-housing services available** to persons who are experiencing homelessness in the counties identified above.
- **Coordinated Entry and Case Conferencing** activities to provide individuals access to services and ensure that resources are allocated equitably and in response to the highest need.
- **The Yearly Sheltered Count** – As required by HUD, the number of persons who are in emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing must be counted in a single point of time count that takes place annually during the last weeks in January. This count includes all agencies that enter data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Although HUD considers only those in emergency shelter and transitional housing as “homeless” for the purposes of the count, those in permanent housing are also counted to give an overall picture of persons housed by service providers that serve those who experience homelessness.
- **The Yearly Unsheltered Count** – In addition to the sheltered count, HUD also requires continuums of care to count persons who are unsheltered as a part of the point in time count. This count takes place during the last two weeks in January. ADOH provides coordination for this effort statewide, but Local Coalitions to End Homelessness’ (LCEH) provide administration and logistics planning at the local level. In 2020, this count occurred during the last 10 days in January.
- Volunteers are the key resource for completing the point in time count. In 2020, 355 volunteers contributed time and energy to complete the count.



Agencies that do not input data into HMIS but share aggregate data for the PIT:

- ❖ Domestic Violence Shelters
- ❖ Pocket Shelters
- ❖ PHA's with VASH

IMPROVEMENTS:

- ❖ Over the years, the LCEH have developed a standing PIT Committee that facilitates logistics in local communities
- ❖ The survey tool has evolved.
- ❖ Additional training of volunteers takes place in person at the local level in addition to the ADOH training webinars.
- ❖ Crisis Response Network (CRN) has worked with providers to enhance the accuracy of information entered in HMIS.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

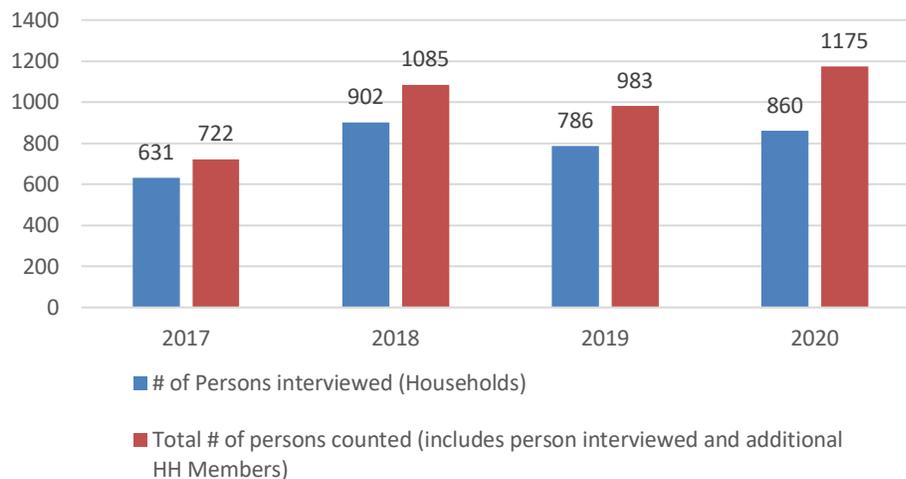
- Occupancy in emergency shelters (including domestic violence shelters) increased to 91.81% in 2020 from 85.4% in 2019. Increased utilization of shelters is key to engaging individuals into services and options for housing.

Utilization rates increased across all types of housing

- The overall occupancy rate for all types of housing (i.e. emergency shelter, permanent housing, rapid rehousing, and transitional housing) was 99.57%, an increase from 92.01% in 2019. This is an indication that coordinated entry is effective in connecting individuals with housing. Non Continuum of Care resources funded by the Arizona Department of Housing, ESG funds administered by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and Veteran specific resources are fully utilized and have been effective in contributing to ending homelessness in the Balance of State Continuum of Care geographic area.

- The AZBOSCOG experienced an increase in the number of unsheltered households. The following graph provides an overview of the number of households and the number of individuals in those households from 2017 to 2020. From 2019 to 2020, there was a 19.5% increase in the number of individuals counted during the Point in Time Count

2017-2020 Unsheltered PIT Count

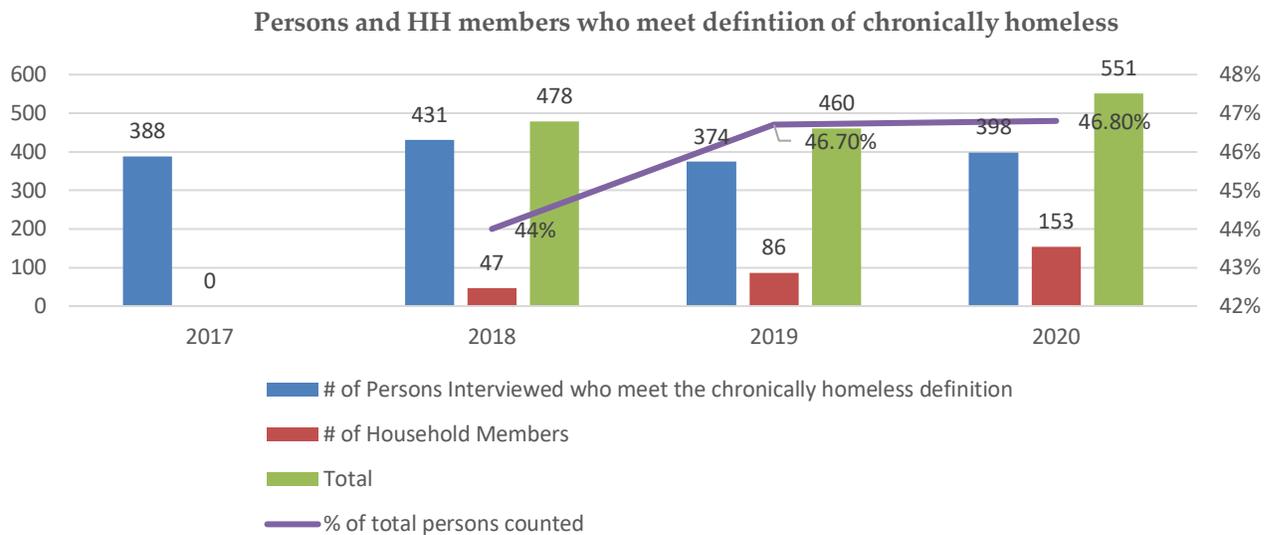


- The number of people counted is impacted by a variety of factors including weather conditions and the number of volunteers available in each community. The structure of the AZBOSCOG has evolved with the establishment of the Local Coalitions to End Homelessness (LCEH). As the LCEHs have solidified the structure and engagement process from 2017 to the present, the structure of how the counts have been conducted have been positively impacted.
- The AZBOSCOG in partnership with CRN, the HMIS Administrator, is finalizing mechanisms that will provide current System Performance (SPM) information (through data dashboards) to the

LCEHs so that strategies to end homelessness in local communities will be responsive to current conditions.

- For 2020, 138 (16%) of the individuals interviewed indicated that they had served in the Armed Forces. This is in comparison to 123 (15.65%) in 2019, 162 (17.9%) in 2018, and 125 (19.8%) in 2017. The reduction of unsheltered Veterans as a percentage of all individuals interviewed over time, is the direct result of increasing housing resources in programs that serve Veterans specifically including VASH, GPD, and SSVF.
- Survivors of domestic violence were 25.4% of all individuals interviewed in 2020. The AZBOSCOC as a part of the 2019 NOFA, was awarded two new rapid rehousing programs that will house survivors. The programs are located in Mohave and Pinal Counties.
- In 2020, 46.8% of individuals and household members counted met the definition of chronically homeless. This was essentially unchanged from 46.7% in 2019.

The number of Veterans that were unsheltered remained stable and was lower than 2017 and 2018.



Those who meet the definition of chronically homeless have been homeless for 12 months or more or have experienced several periods of homelessness over a three-year period of time. In addition, the individual has a significant condition that impacts daily functioning. The AZBOSCOC has implemented several strategies to prioritize households who meet the definition. They include: implementation of Housing First, designation of all permanent supportive units as dedicated plus indicating that the unit is prioritized for households who meet the definition.

- LCEHs continue to refine the use of coordinated entry to match individuals who are experiencing homelessness with housing resources. Based on System Performance Measures, from 2015 through 2018, the AZBOSCOC, (except for 2015) was lower than the national average of returns to

homelessness at 24 months¹. (Returns are based on individuals documented in HMIS without regard for the funding source of the housing that the individual occupied)



IMPACTS TO THE COUNT

- The AZBOSCO has conducted unsheltered point in time counts since 2008. Originally, unsheltered counts were completed every other year and sheltered counts every year. In 2015 the AZBOSCO made the commitment to conduct unsheltered counts every year. This decision aligned the AZBOSCO with HUD’s increasing use of data related to program and funding decisions. Completing the unsheltered count every year provides the AZBOSCO with timely information for decision making and improves the ability to be competitive in the HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process.
- The survey and methodology for the unsheltered count has improved yearly based on ongoing feedback from LCEHs and local Point in Time Coordinators. In 2019 and continuing in 2020, a Spanish version of the survey was available.
- Local Coordinators have helped develop consistent methodologies related to volunteer recruitment and training. All LCEHs now conduct local training for the unsheltered count.
- Beginning in 2014, HUD refined the count and added sub-populations beyond the general count including households that met the definition of chronically homeless, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and unaccompanied youth.
- The weather conditions can dramatically impact a count. When there are severe winter storms and below freezing weather, which does occur in the northern counties, it can be difficult to conduct a robust count. For 2020, the weather in northern counties was mild, thus more volunteers were able to cover broader areas of the counties resulting in increased face to face interviews.

METHODOLOGY

Arizona conducted the unsheltered count from January 21st thru Sunday, January 26th, 2020 with the 21st being the night in question for “Where did you sleep?” Persons were interviewed for the count from all thirteen counties in the CoC geographic area. Individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness

¹ <https://icalliances.org/spm-compare>

in all counties except Greenlee. Volunteers and the LCEH Count Coordinators are the critical components of the count. Safety for the both the individuals being surveyed and volunteers is always stressed. We always cover in a training to beware of surroundings and there must always be teams of at least two, three is best.

Persons who came to locations such as feeding programs were asked if they would participate in a brief survey. Volunteers and agency staff also outreached to locations where individuals have gathered including encampments in the desert, forests, or mountains. Persons who participated were offered a small token of thanks such as socks and/or hygiene items for participating. Only persons who slept in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, on the street, in a riverbed, in the forest or some similar location were counted. In 2020, persons were counted in 12 of the 13 counties in the AZBOSCOG geographic region. The following provides an overview of the surveys collected by county:

County	# of persons interviewed	# of HH members	Total # of Persons	%
Apache	4	1	5	0.43%
Cochise	58	14	72	6.13%
Coconino	51	14	65	5.53%
Gila	36	8	44	3.74%
Greenlee	0	0	0	0
Graham	7	0	7	0.60%
La Paz	178	135	313	26.64%
Mohave	162	39	201	17.11%
Navajo	32	5	37	3.15%
Pinal	159	52	211	17.96%
Santa Cruz	12	0	12	1.02%
Yavapai	70	23	93	7.91%
Yuma	91	24	115	9.79%
Totals	860	315	1175	100.00%

Most Individuals Counted

- **Over the age of 35**
- **Male**
- **Caucasian**

As in past years, the majority of the persons interviewed are living solo. Of those that were interviewed 663 (77%) were solitary and 162 (18.8%) were in households with other adults. Only 35 (4%) of the individuals were in households that included children under 18.

The majority of individuals were between the ages of 35 and 75+ (64.34%). The individuals identify primarily as male (64.77%). In addition, the majority of individuals are White (73.02%). Of all individuals counted, 144 (12.26%) identified as Hispanic/Latino/Chicano. Demographics of individuals interviewed, and their household members are as follows:

GENDER

Gender	# of persons interviewed	# of HH members	Total # of Persons	%
1-female	236	159	395	33.62%
2-male	616	145	761	64.77%
3-transgender	4	6	10	0.85%
4-non-conforming	4	5	9	0.77%
	860	315	1175	100.00%

AGE

Age Range	# of persons interviewed	# of HH members	Total # of Persons	%
1-under 18	0	62	62	5.28%
2 18-24	72	52	124	10.55%
3 25-34	153	80	233	19.83%
4 35-44	170	41	211	17.96%
5 45-54	175	46	221	18.81%
6 55-64	201	29	230	19.57%
7 65-74	76	5	81	6.89%
8 75+	13	0	13	1.11%
	860	315	1175	100.00%

RACE

Race	# of persons interviewed	# of HH members	Total # of Persons	%
1-White	645	213	858	73.02%
2-African American	36	35	71	6.04%
3-Asian	2	0	2	0.17%
4-Hawaiian	2	0	2	0.17%
5-Native American	102	38	140	11.91%
6-Many (Multiple)	73	29	102	8.68%
	860	315	1175	100.00%

ETHNICITY

Ethnicity (Latino, Hispanic, Chicano)	# of persons interviewed	# of HH members	Total # of Persons	%
Yes	111	33	144	12.26%

HOMELESSNESS STATUS

Of the individuals interviewed, 47.33% indicated that they had spent the night camping. The second highest response was sleeping in a vehicle at 19.65%. Of those interviewed, 31.16% reported being homeless less than one year, 27.91% reported being homeless one to three years, and 37.21% reported themselves as being homeless more than three years. Those experiencing homelessness for the first time was 41.05%.

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

Individuals were asked about their circumstances, which resulted in their current situation in three major areas—economic, domestic, and medical. Individuals could choose multiple conditions in each area. The most common conditions for each major area included:

Economic: 15.40%--loss of job; 14.67%--unable to pay rent or mortgage, 9.64%--eviction.

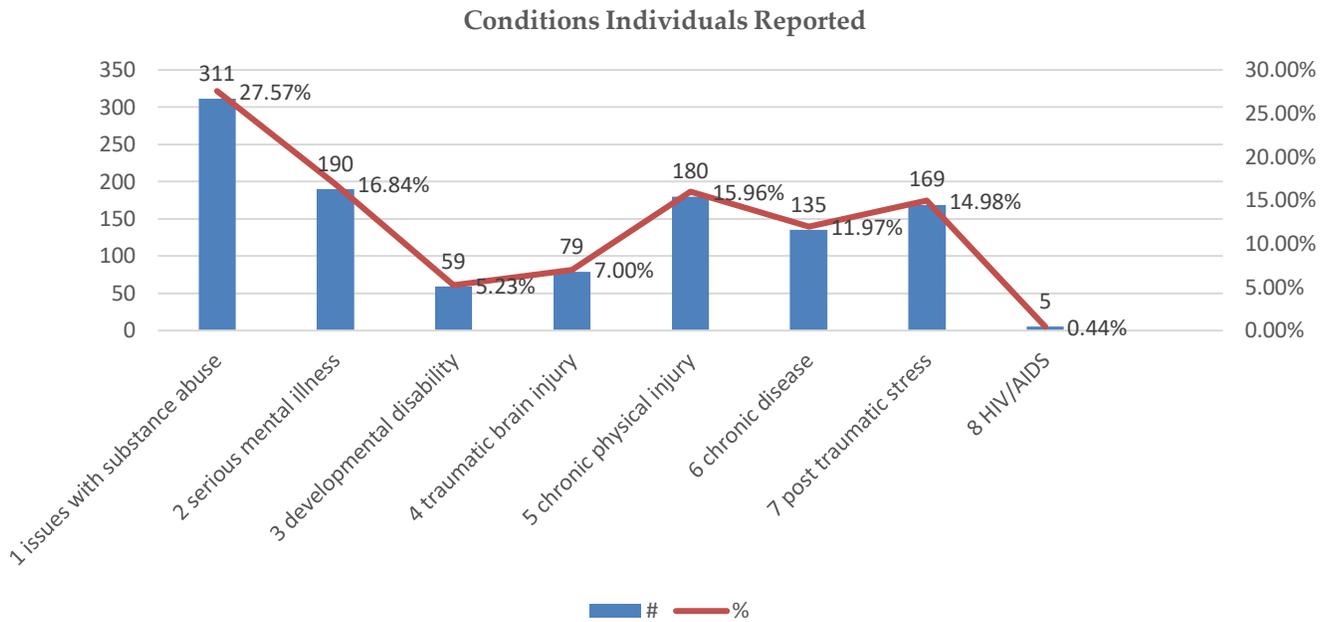
Domestic: 11.93%--overcrowding; 10.88%--divorce/separation; 8.34%--housing situation not safe.

Medical: 18.71%--medical condition; 17.54%--physical disability; 15.59%--mental disability. Of all individuals interviewed, 27.33% indicated they had health care coverage.

Reasons for Homelessness

- ❖ Economic
- ❖ Domestic
- ❖ Medical

In addition, to the areas described above, specific questions were asked about the conditions that contribute to a person meeting the definition of chronically homeless. (Individuals were able to have multiple answers).

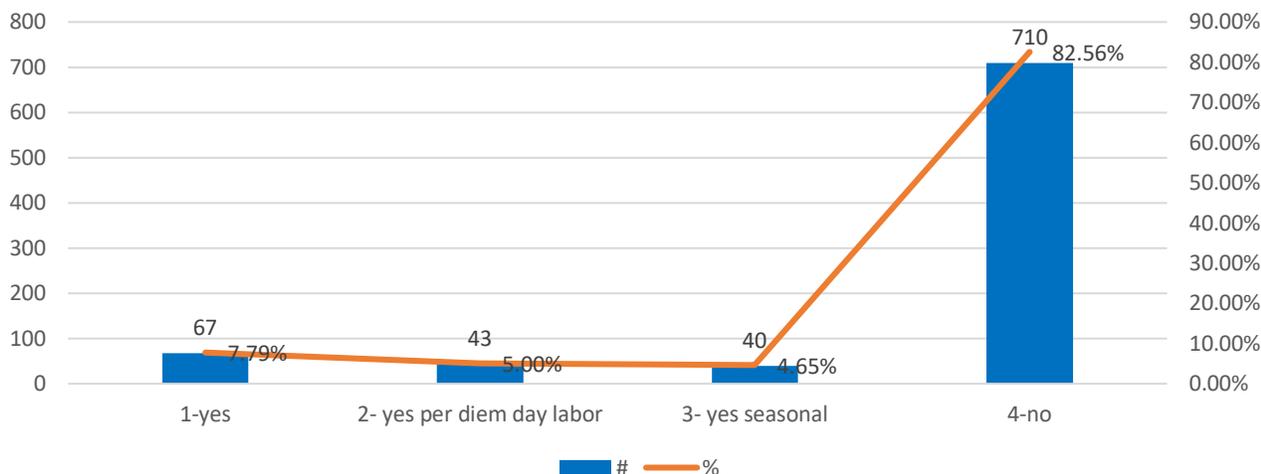


Of the persons interviewed, 254 (29.53%) did not report any of these conditions. Of those who did report a condition, 54.62% only reported having one of the conditions identified in the table above.

Employment/Income

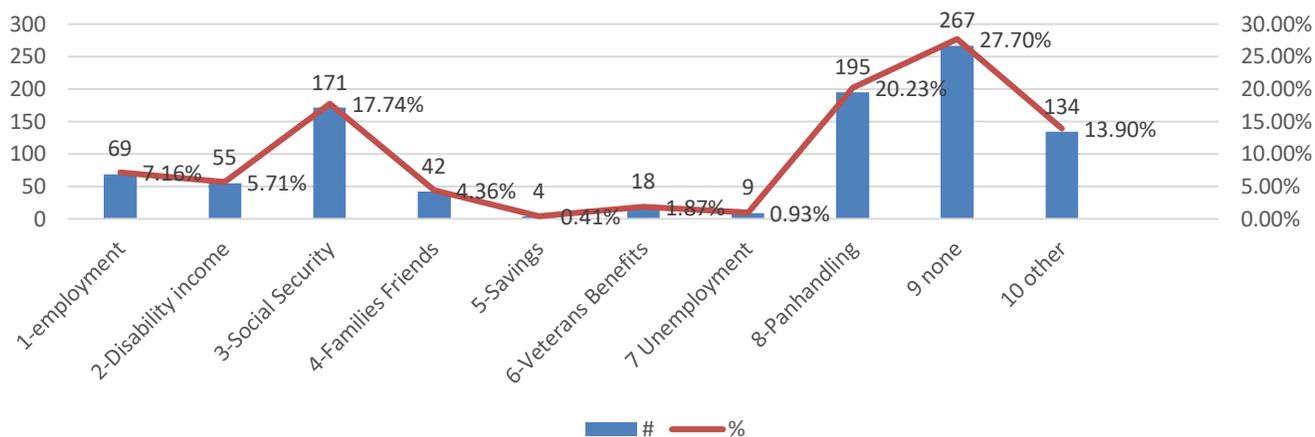
Only 17.44% of individuals interviewed, indicated some sort of employment.

Employment Status



Individuals were also asked about sources of income. For those that had income, the primary source was panhandling (20.23%), followed by Social Security (17.74%). The table below provides a summary of all responses.

Sources of Income



SHELTERED COUNT

In addition to the unsheltered count, HUD requires a point in time count related to individuals that were sheltered in temporary housing such as emergency shelter and transitional housing. For 2020, there were 830 emergency shelter beds and 231 transitional housing beds that were occupied at the Point in Time Count. This represents a utilization rate of 93.40%. The following chart provides detail.

Project Type	# occupied beds	% of Total Occupied Beds	# of beds available (capacity)	% of Total Beds-Capacity	Utilization Rate
Emergency Shelter	830	78.23%	904	79.58%	91.81%
Transitional Housing	231	21.77%	232	20.42%	99.57%
	1061	100.00%	1136	100.00%	93.40%

Within the project types, some beds are dedicated to a specific population:

- 282 (33.97%) of the occupied ES beds were dedicated to survivors of domestic violence. For capacity 357 (39.49%) were dedicated to survivors of domestic violence
- 88 (38.09%) of the occupied TH beds were dedicated to survivors of domestic violence. For capacity, 89 (38.36%) were dedicated to survivors of domestic violence.

HOUSED COUNT

HUD also requires a count of individuals and beds available in permanent housing projects including rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and other permanent housing. The following chart provides detail related to the permanent housing projects:

Project Type	# occupied beds	% of Total Occupied Beds	# of beds available (capacity)	% of Total Beds-Capacity	Utilization Rate
Rapid Re-Housing	840	43.41%	840	43.41%	100.00%
Permanent Supportive Housing	1087	56.18%	1087	56.18%	100.00%
Other Permanent Housing	8	0.41%	8	0.41%	100.00%
Totals	1935	100.00%	1935	100.00%	100.00%

Similar to dedicated beds for temporary housing some beds in permanent housing projects are dedicated to specific populations. Of all the permanent housing beds counted, 35.40% were dedicated to Veteran Households. The following chart provides a summary of beds dedicated to housing Veteran households:

Project Type	Total Beds Occupied by Veteran Households	Total PIT Count by Project Type	% of Beds Occupied by Veteran Households of Total PIT Count
Rapid Rehousing	141	840	16.79%
Permanent Supportive Housing	536	1087	49.31%
Other Permanent Housing	8	8	100%
Totals	685	1935	35.40%

Dedicated beds for households/individuals who met the definition of chronically homeless)

Most households that meet the definition of chronically homeless (CH) are housed in permanent housing particularly permanent supportive housing. The following chart indicates the number of beds that were dedicated to households that met the definition.

Project Type	# of Projects	Beds Occupied by CH Households with Children	Beds Occupied by CH Households without Children	PIT Count	Total Beds
Permanent Supportive Housing	32	244	284	528	528

In 2017, HUD through the NOFA added the category of dedicated plus. This allowed additional beds to be dedicated to chronically homeless even if they had not initially been when the contract was first

executed. As a contract requirement, the implementation of Housing First and the use of the VI-SPDAT, the priority is to place households that are considered chronically homeless first. In 2020, 528 (48.5%) of all PSH beds were occupied by households that met the definition of chronically homeless.

INVENTORY OF ALL PROJECTS (BOTH SHELTER AND PERMANENT HOUSING)

In addition to the point in time count for unsheltered and sheltered persons, HUD also requires a submittal of a housing inventory inclusive of all temporary and permanent housing projects. The following chart provides an overview from 2017-2020 of the number of projects (inclusive of emergency shelter, permanent housing, rapid rehousing, and transitional housing), the capacity of the projects and how many beds were occupied for the point in time count.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of Projects	100	108	119	127
Number of available beds in those projects	2536	2945	3004	3071
Number of beds occupied the night of the count	2372	2741	2764	2996
Bed utilization rate	93.5%	93.07%	92.01%	97.55

Considerations:

- The number of projects fluctuates from year to year as new projects were added or consolidated. In addition, projects that do not participate in HMIS fluctuate as well. Projects may not provide information each year. As an example, HUD required that the Veterans’ Domiciliary (in Prescott) be included in prior year counts but excluded it for the count in 2016 and future years.
- The number of beds available may fluctuate due to Fair Market Rents.
- Total number of beds may include beds that were added to accommodate seasonal needs (i.e. winter/summer specific beds, overflow).
- Arizona Department of Housing, The Arizona Department of Economic Security and Veteran programs have funded additional units during this time resulting in an increase of available units.
- From 2017 through 2020, there has been a 27% increase in the number of projects in the Balance of State geographic area. In addition, the number of beds available increased by 18.45%.

CONCLUSION

The Point in Time Count continues to be a critical component in ending homelessness in the communities in the AZBOSCO. It paints a picture so that local stakeholders can implement strategies to ensure the individuals and families have access to needed services and housing in order that they may regain self-sufficiency.