



**LAHSA**

**2023**

# Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY

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June 29, 2023

# WHY WE COUNT

Behind these numbers are our **NEIGHBORS**.

We use this information locally to inform policies and strategies to end homelessness, and L.A.'s data contributes to the California and national understanding of homelessness.



## LAHSA performs the largest annual PIT Count in the United States as required by the HUD for Continuums of Care (CoC) nationwide.

LAHSA's data is then reviewed and validated by HUD.

- The process is designed in partnership with data experts at USC with guidance from HUD to create an accurate census of unhoused people living in the Los Angeles CoC
- The count is an imprecise estimate. It includes both specific numbers like shelter bed counts, along with estimates, observations, and statistical sampling.



USC

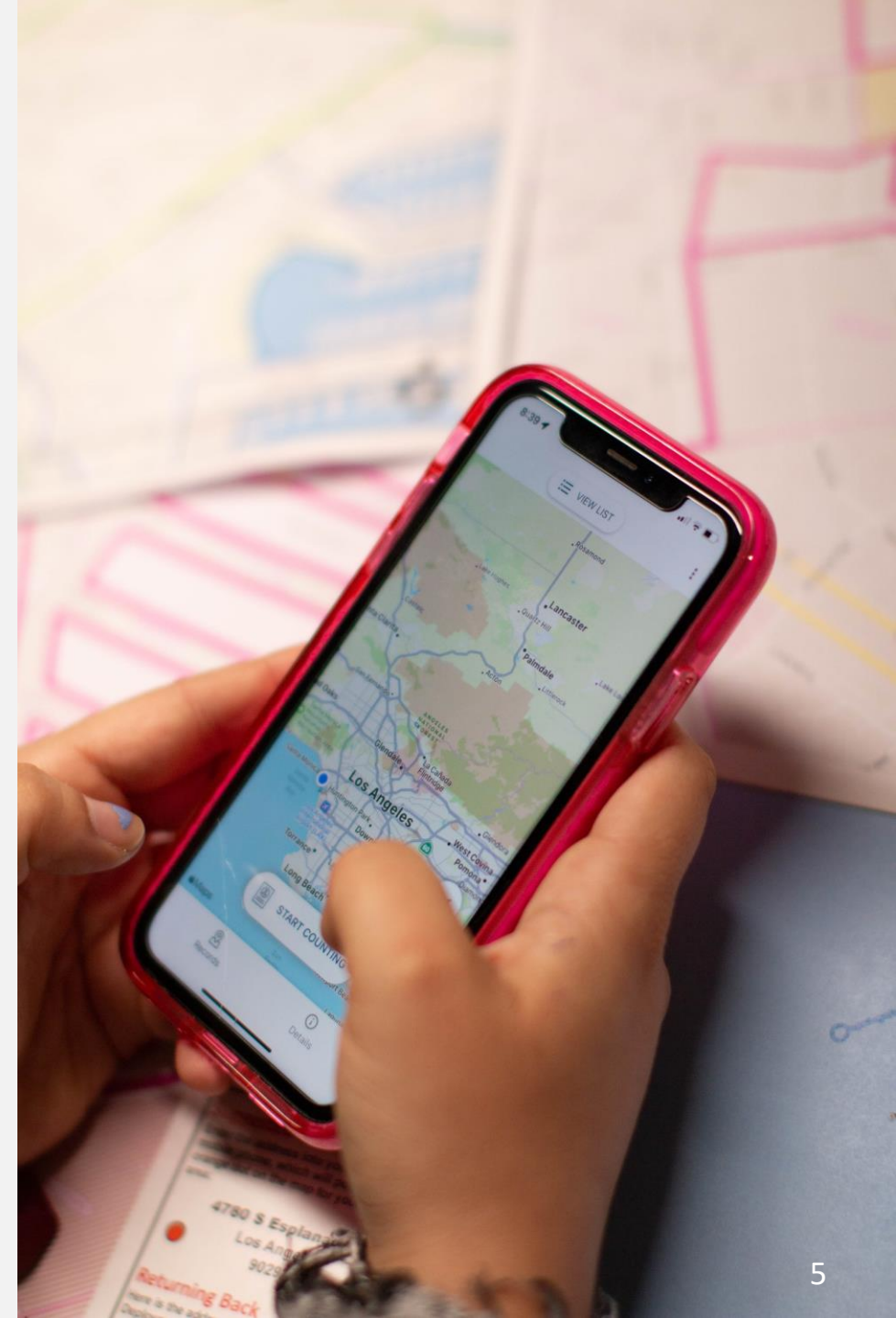


## For the 2023 Homeless Count, LAHSA and USC took lessons learned and best practices from previous years to strengthen data quality.

- We improved quality assurance at deployment sites, simplified volunteer training, and improved count quality through a new digital app.
- We hired a demographer and data scientist to optimize how we count and analyze data.
- To improve the volunteer experience, LAHSA replaced the counting app used in 2022 with one built by a vendor with years of experience developing apps for Homeless Counts across the country.
- This resulted in better data quality than ever before as we continue to refine and improve our approach, in the interest of a more accurate count with greater stakeholder involvement.

## LAHSA implemented a new quality assurance process that included:

- LAHSA provided volunteers with backup paper maps and tally sheets and checked volunteers in and out of their count.
- Volunteers could see their data submissions in the app, and the deployment site coordinator had access to a real-time dashboard.
- Data collected on paper by volunteers who did not use the app was entered into an electronic tally sheet survey form and photographed to ensure the data is included in the final count.
- When data was not submitted by noon the day following the count, the tract was considered uncounted, and LAHSA deployed make-up teams to count it.





## The Count is best interpreted as a snapshot of homelessness at the regional level.

The count goes through extensive quality control in order to provide a countywide view. It is not a useful guide to neighborhood-level homelessness.

Over the years, individual communities have established local counts that add detail to neighborhood-level understanding.



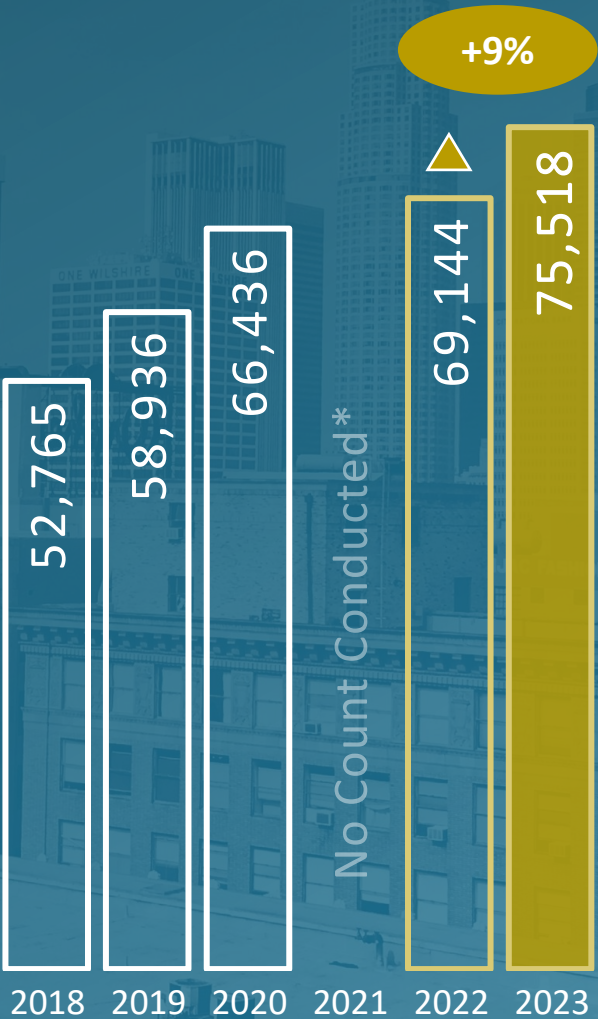
# Part 1

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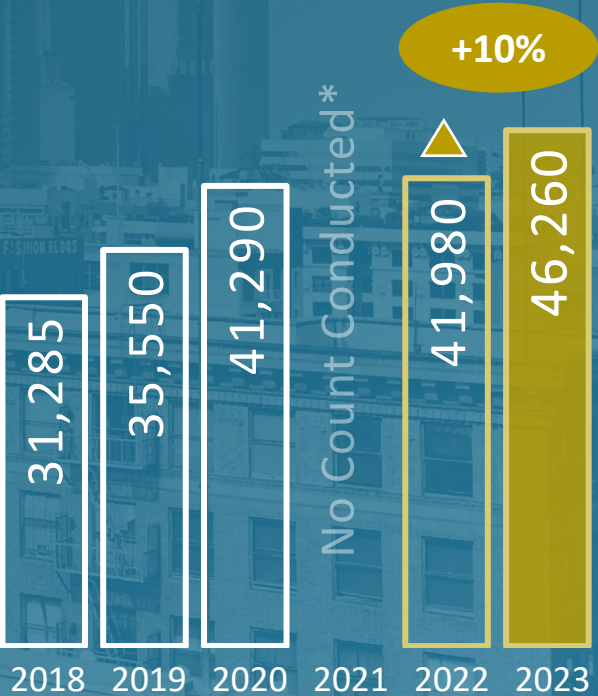


This year we estimate that **75,518 people** experience homelessness on any given night in LA County and **46,260 people** in LA City.

County of LA



City of LA

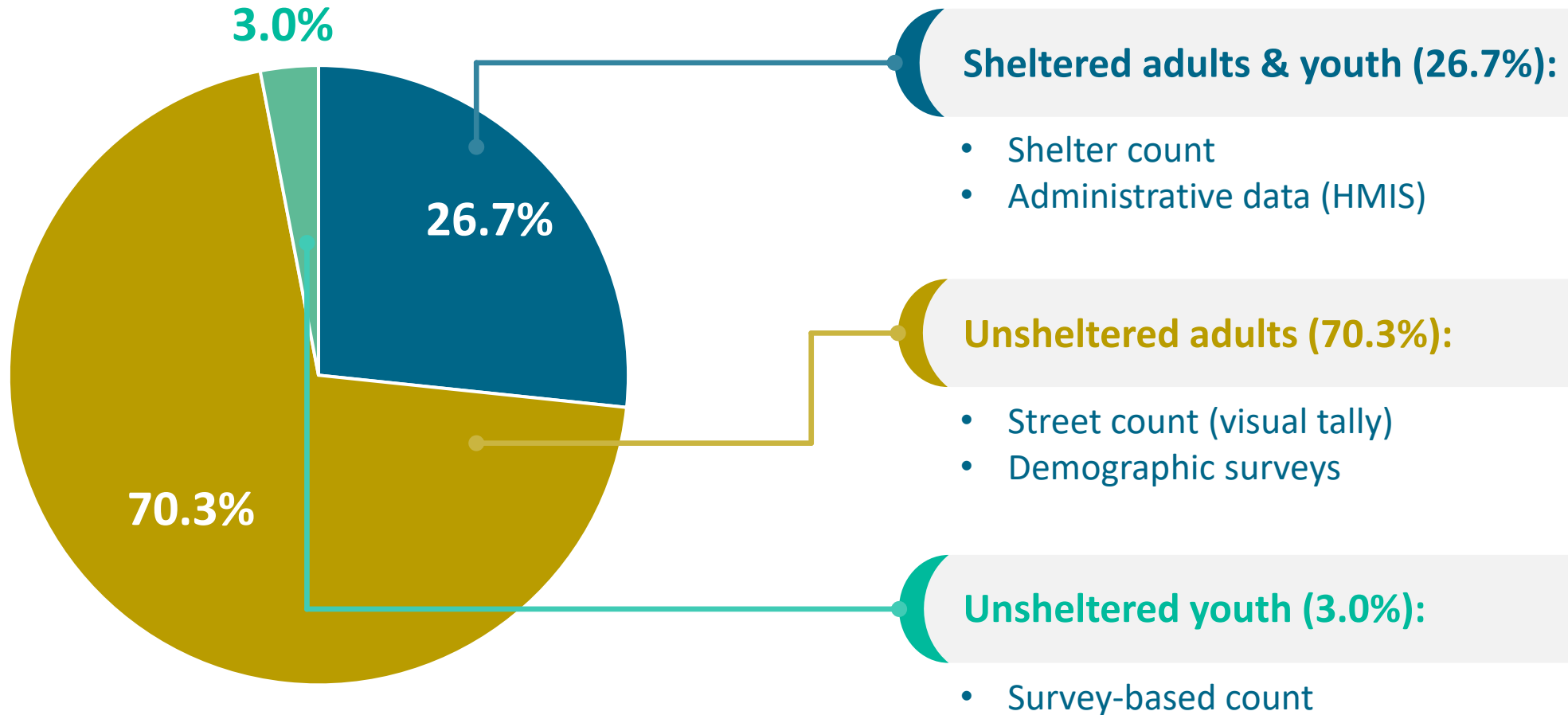


Note: The 2023 Homeless Count was conducted on January 24 – 26, 2023.



## The LA CoC\* PIT Count methodology has 3 components

**Overall Estimate: 71,320 (+/- 1,558)**



### Sheltered adults & youth (26.7%):

- Shelter count
- Administrative data (HMIS)

### Unsheltered adults (70.3%):

- Street count (visual tally)
- Demographic surveys

### Unsheltered youth (3.0%):

- Survey-based count

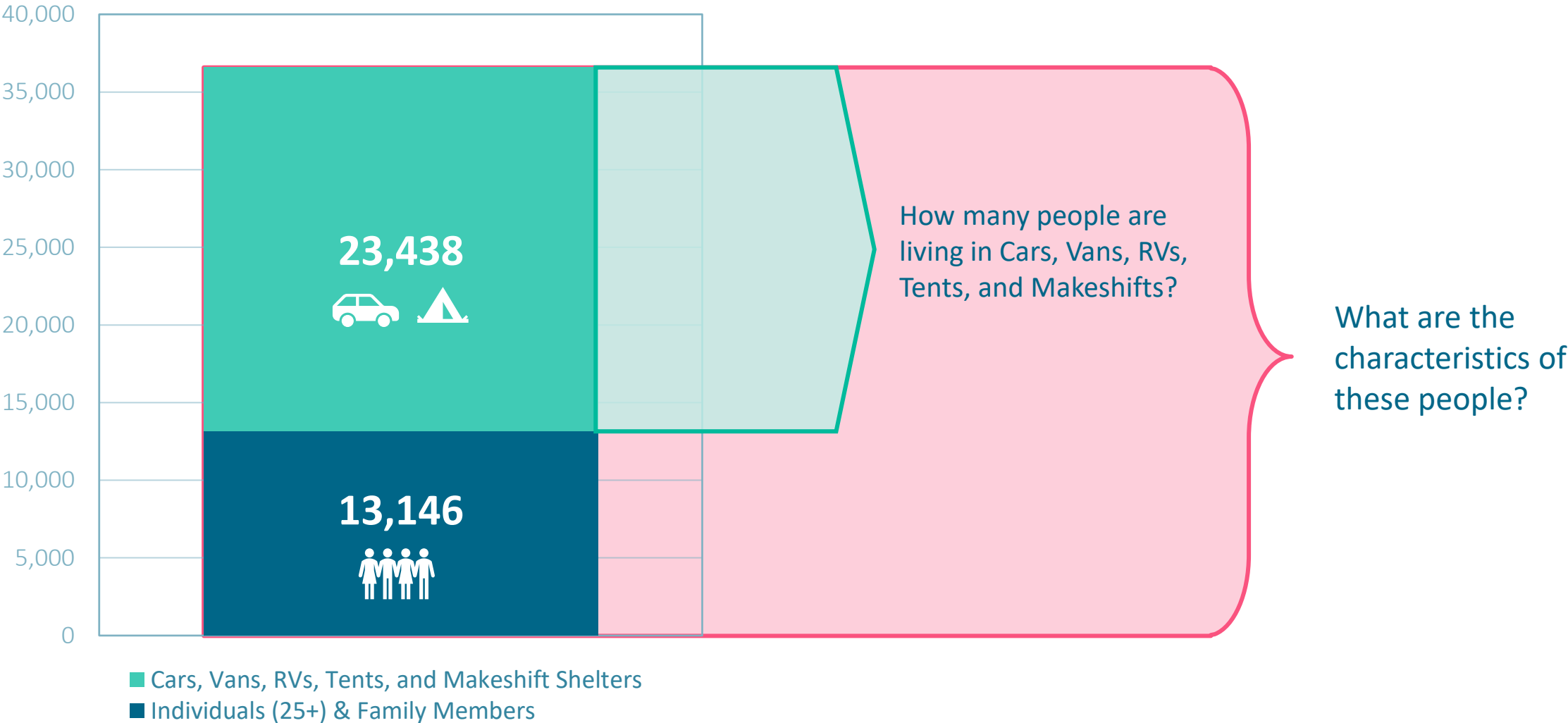
\*Note: Estimates do not include Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena.

Volunteers power the street count, a visual tally of what we can see that helps us quantify unsheltered homelessness

Dwelling Types	2022	2023
Cars	3,367	3,918
Vans	2,330	3,364
RVs	7,178	6,814
Tents	4,304	4,293
Makeshift shelters	4,786	5,049
Total	21,965	23,438



# 2023 Point-in-Time Count: Visual Tally

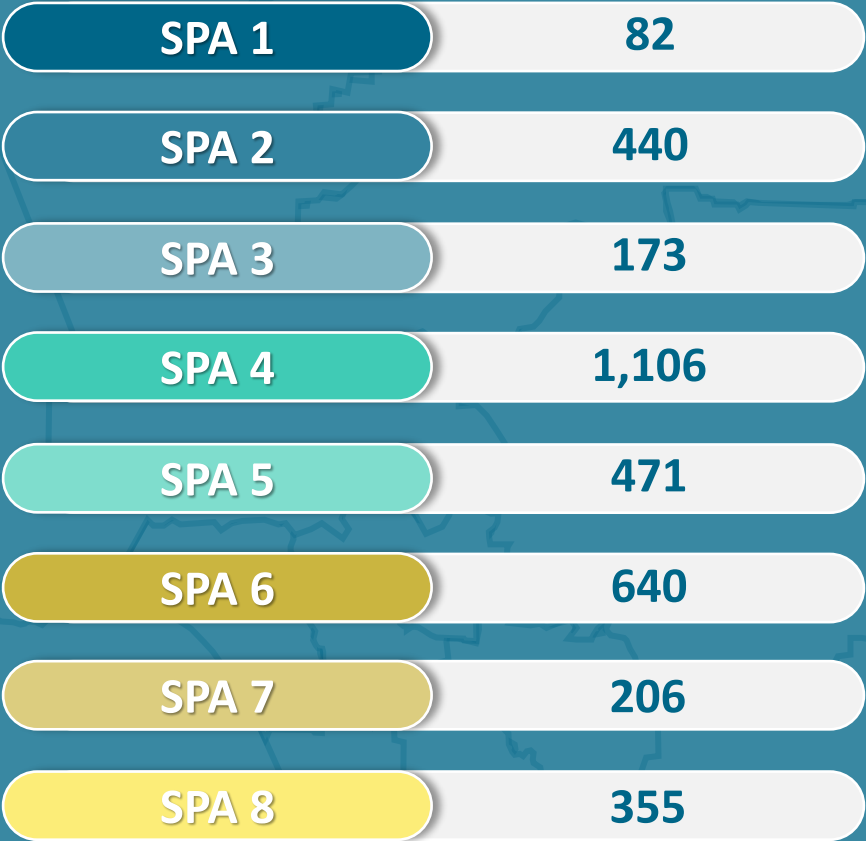




Data partners conduct a countywide, representative sample of people experiencing homelessness for the demographic survey

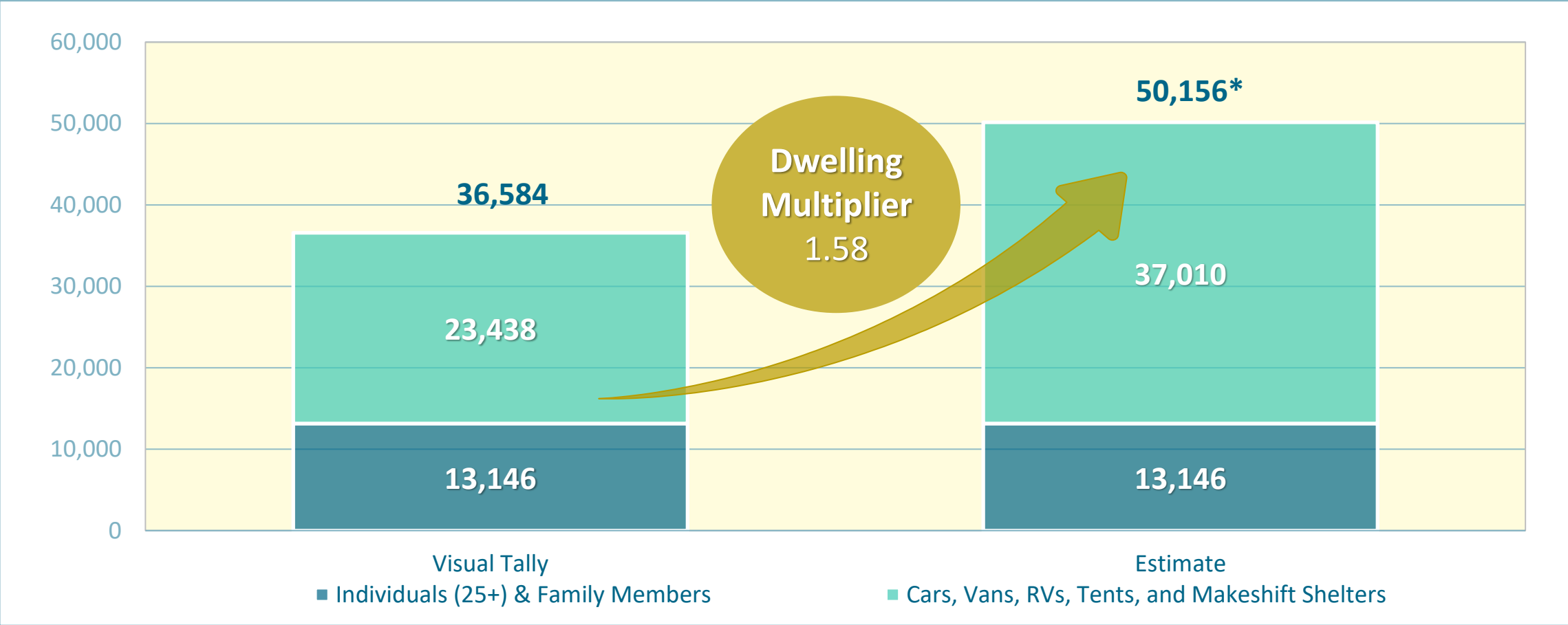
# Unsheltered Adults

3,473 Eligible Surveys



# Survey data is used to determine how many people are living within each vehicle, tent and makeshift shelter

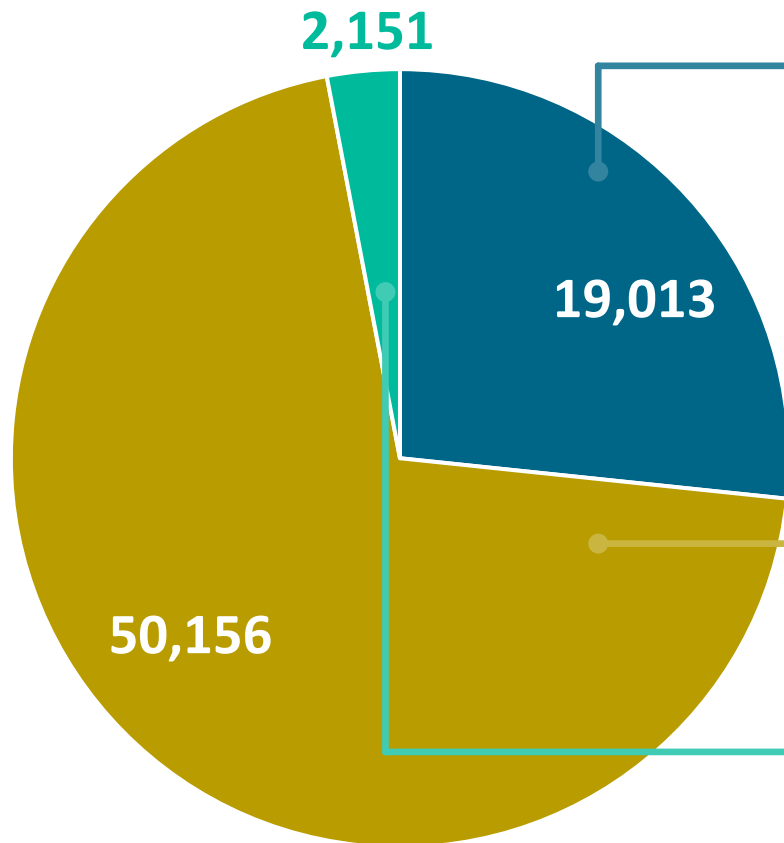
2023 Point-in-Time Count: Estimating People Based on Dwelling Counts



\*The 95% confidence interval is 48,708 to 51,604.

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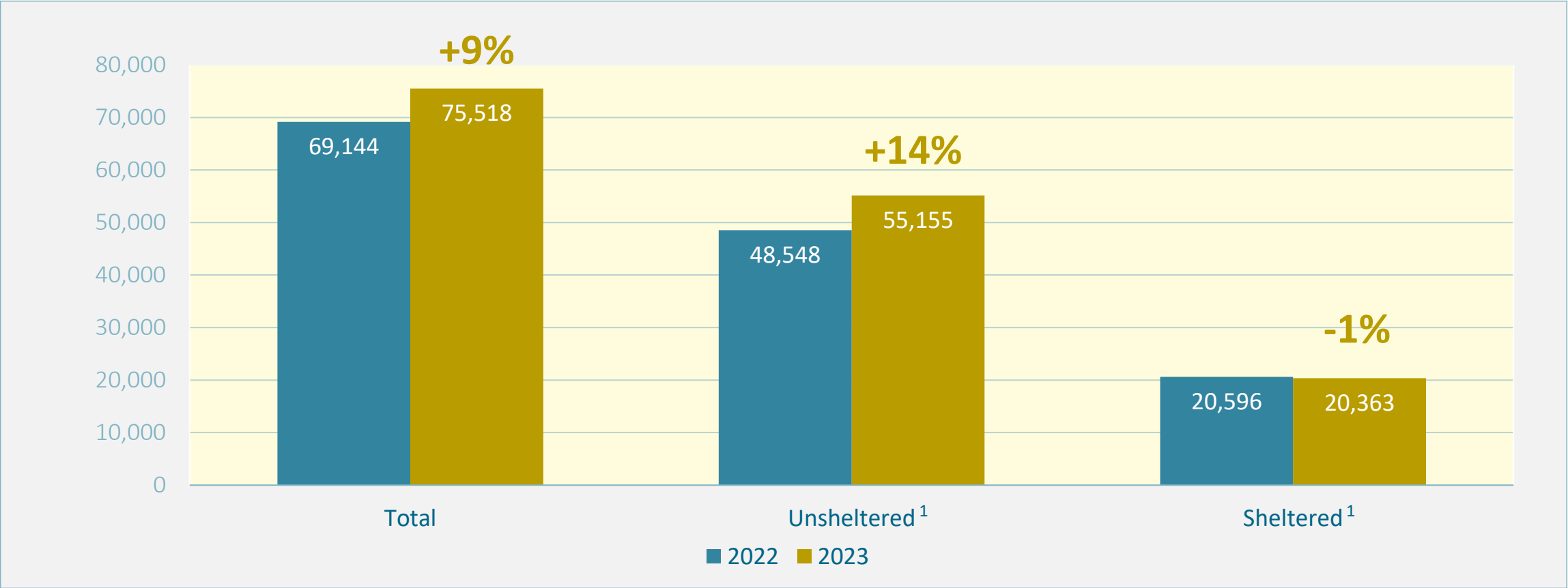
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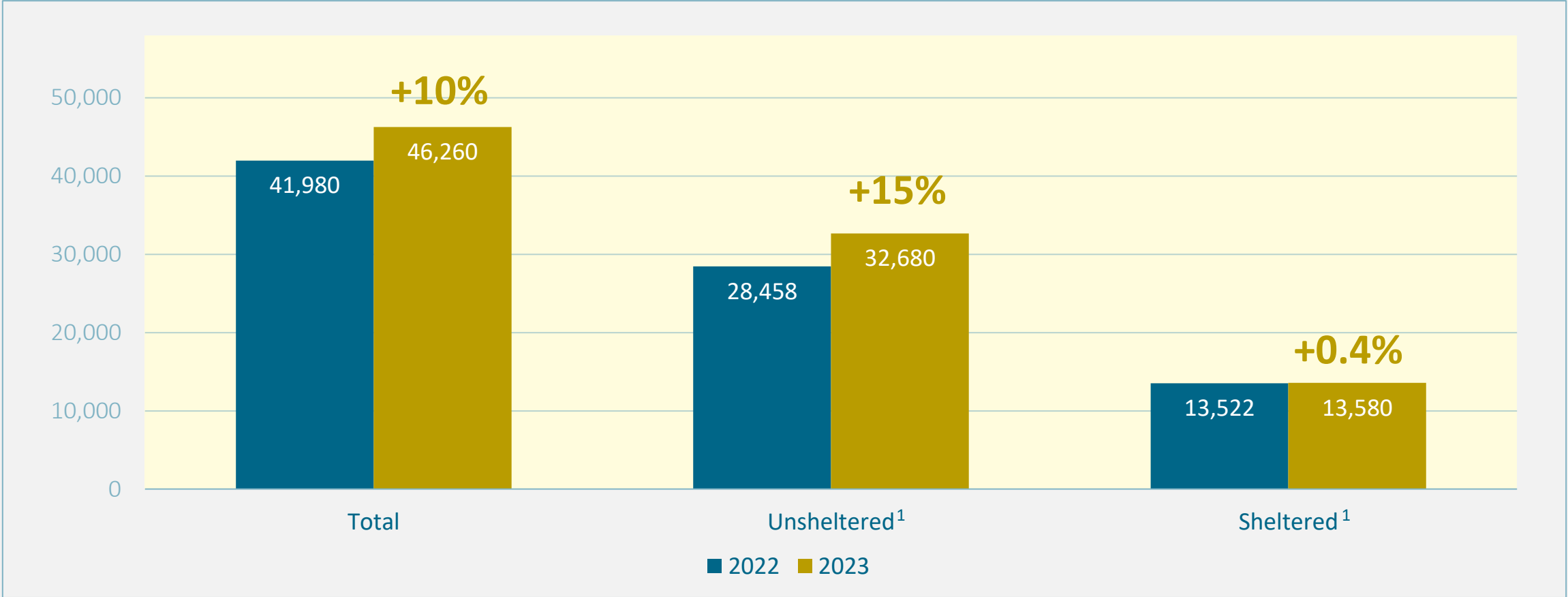


Across the County\*, the number of people experiencing homelessness in shelter was similar to last year, but the number of our unsheltered neighbors rose.



\*Including data from Glendale CoC, Pasadena Coc, and Long Beach CoC.  
<sup>1</sup> Unsheltered numbers are an estimate, while Sheltered numbers have been counted.

In the City of LA, the number of people experiencing homelessness in shelter was similar to last year, but the number of our unsheltered neighbors rose.



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## Service Planning Areas (SPAs)

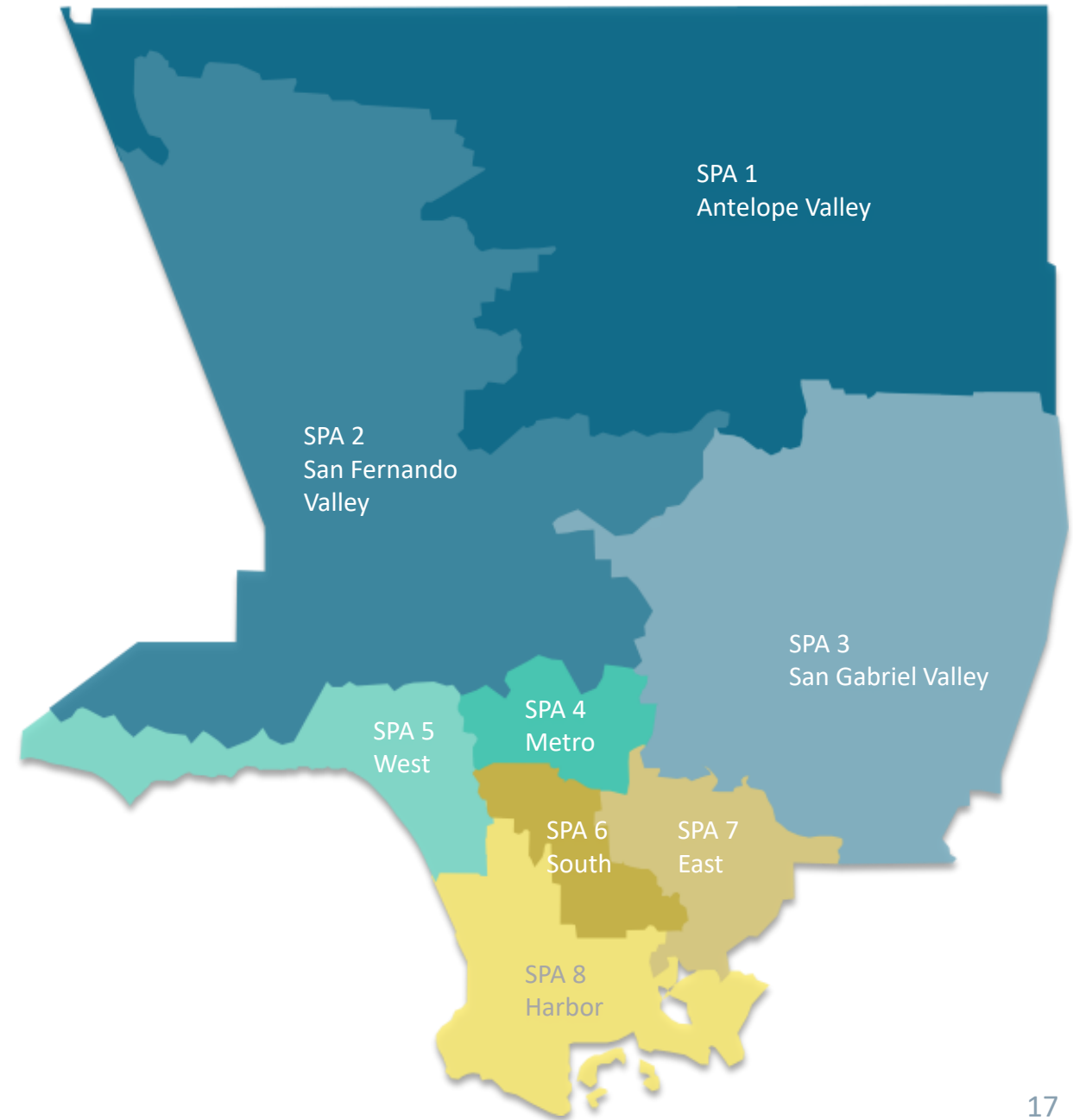
SPA	2022	2023	Change
SPA 1	4,598	4,686	+88
SPA 2 <sup>1</sup>	9,604	10,443	+839
SPA 3 <sup>2</sup>	4,661	5,009	+348
SPA 4	17,820	18,531	+711
SPA 5	4,604	6,669	+2,065*
SPA 6	14,598	12,995	-1,603*
SPA 7	4,781	6,511	+1,730*
SPA 8 <sup>3</sup>	4,445	6,476	+2,031*

**\*Statistically significant change**

<sup>1</sup> SPA 2 excludes data from Glendale CoC

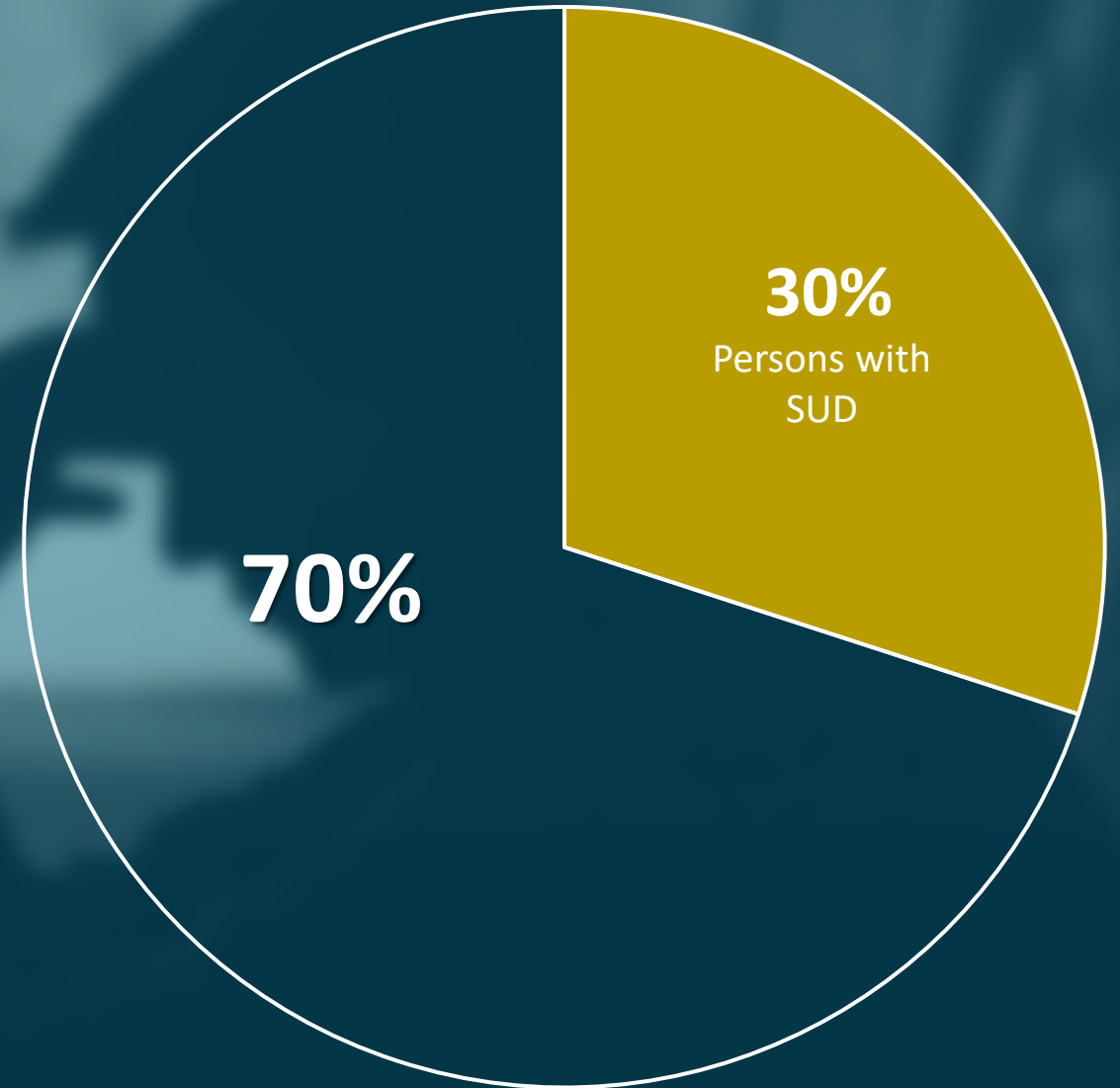
<sup>2</sup> SPA 3 excludes data from Pasadena CoCs

<sup>3</sup> SPA 8 excludes data from Long Beach CoC

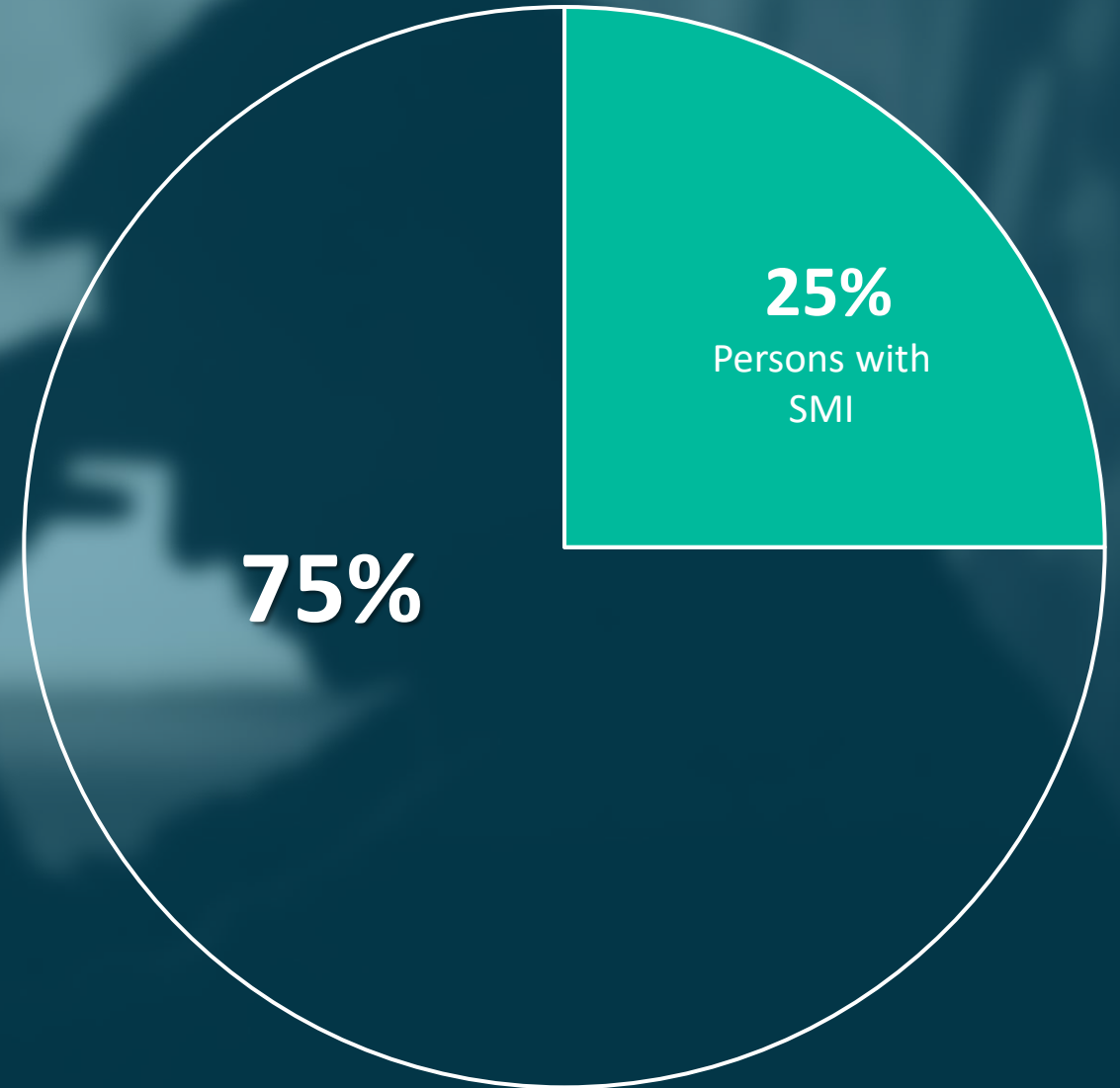




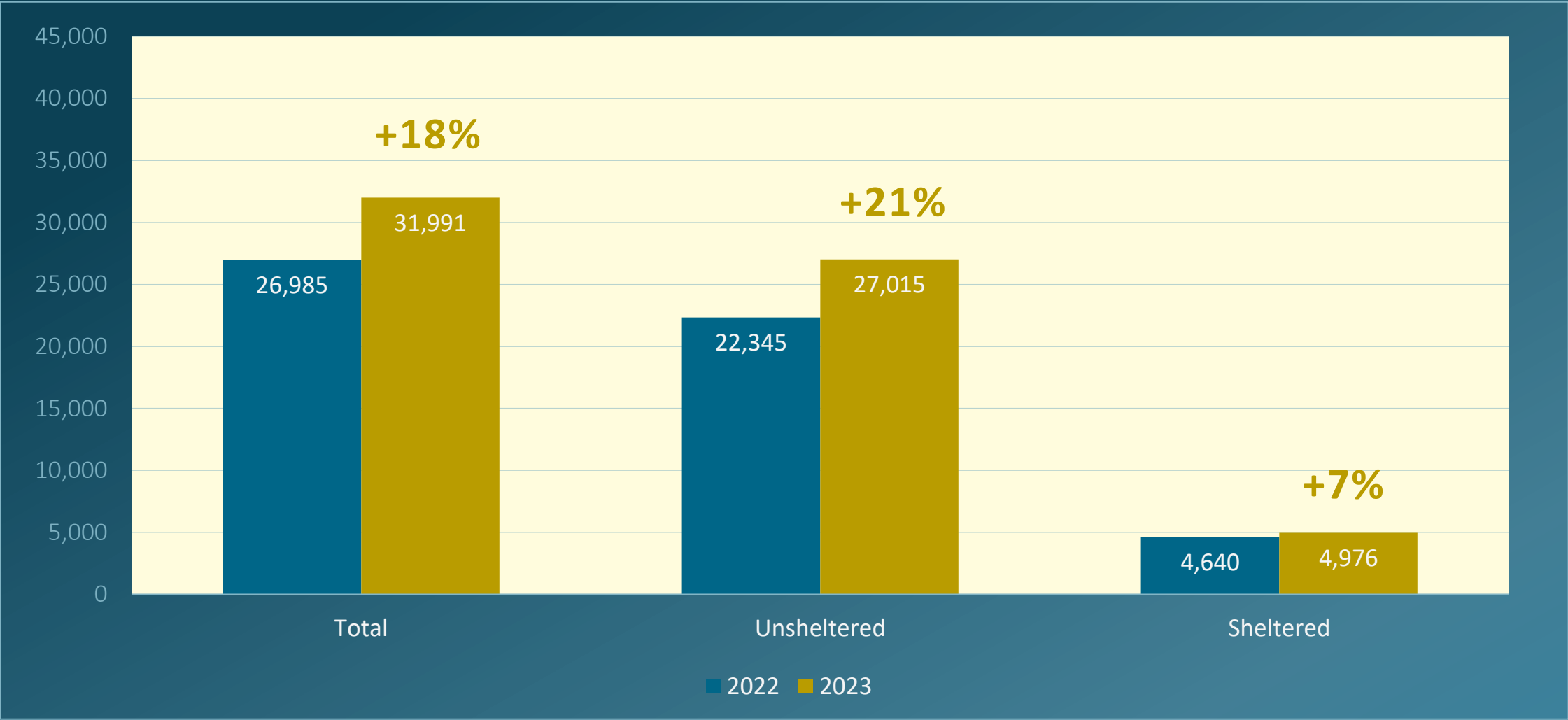
**30% of our unhoused neighbors report experiencing substance use disorder (SUD) in LA CoC (from 26% in 2022)\*.**



**25% of our unhoused neighbors report experiencing serious mental illness (SMI) in LA CoC (from 24% in 2022)\*.**



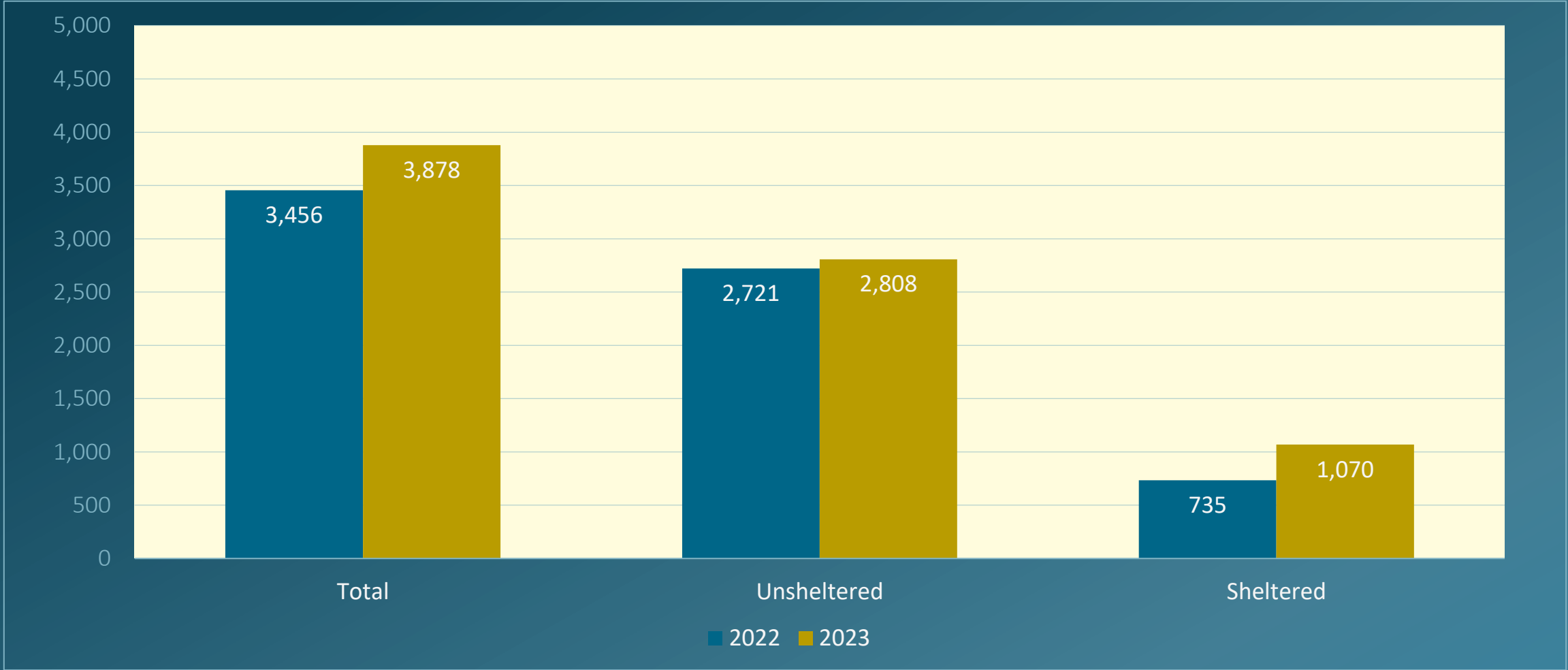
# Chronic homelessness grew by 18% in LA CoC\*.



\*Data does NOT include Glendale CoC, Pasadena Coc, and Long Beach CoC.



In LA CoC\*, the number of sheltered **veterans** increased.



\*Data does NOT include Glendale CoC, Pasadena Coc, and Long Beach CoC.

## Systemic racism continues to impact homelessness.

Proportion of Black/African American (Non-Hispanic/Latino) persons experiencing homelessness in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care far exceeds their proportion in LA County's population.

Race / Ethnicity	Total Homeless Pop.	Prevalence in Homeless Pop. (%)	Prevalence in LA County Pop. (%)*
Hispanic/Latino	30,350	42.6%	48.0%
Black/African American (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	22,606	31.7%	7.6%
White (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	13,826	19.4%	25.6%
Mixed, Multiple, or Other races (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	2,214	3.1%	3.7%
Asian (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	1,212	1.7%	14.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	723	1.0%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (Non-Hispanic/Latino)	389	0.5%	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,320</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-</b>

# GENDER

Among People Experiencing Homelessness in LA CoC\*

Males experiencing homelessness **increased by 11%.**

Gender	2022	2023
Female**	21,145	22,320
Male**	43,212	48,260
Non-Binary**	624	630
Questioning**	130	110
Transgender	917	1,112



\*Data does NOT include Glendale CoC, Pasadena Coc, and Long Beach CoC.  
\*\*Includes transgender

# AGE

Among People Experiencing Homelessness in LA CoC\*

- The number of **adults (25-64)** experiencing homelessness **increased by 10%**
- The number of **older adults (65+)** experiencing homelessness **increased by 11%**

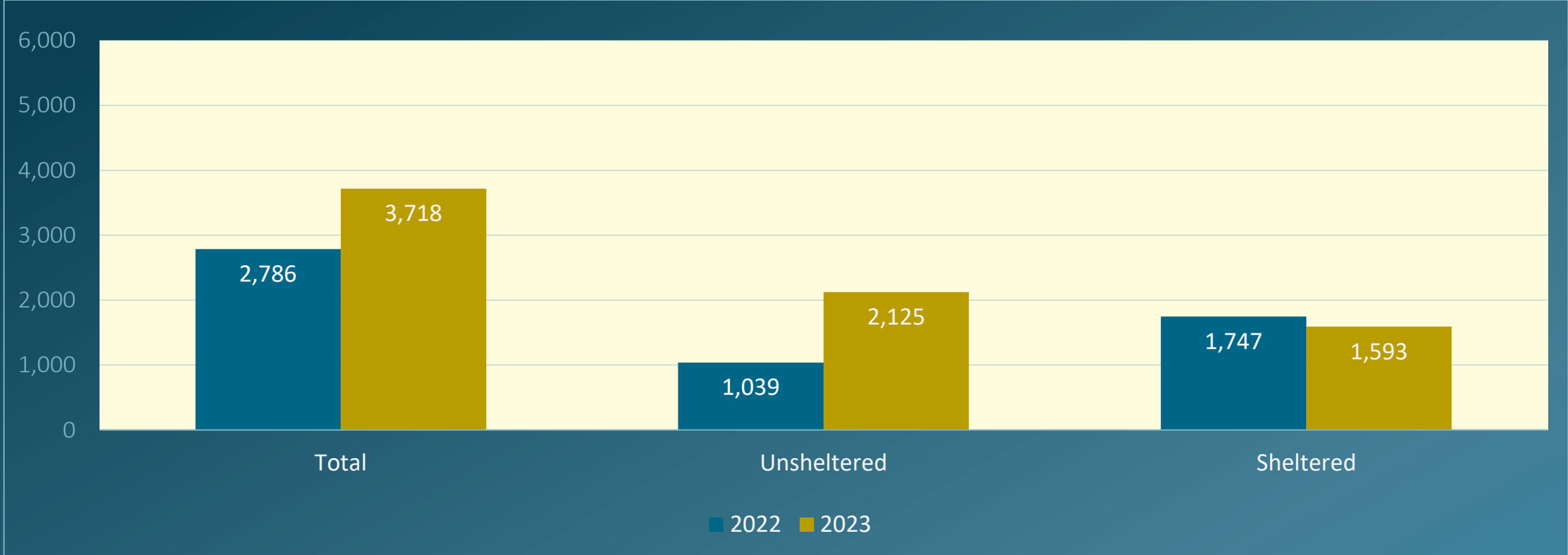
Age Groups	2022	2023
Children (0-17 years)	6,346	6,230
Adults (25-64 years)	51,735	56,647
Older Adults (64+ years)	4,244	4,725

\*Data does NOT include Glendale CoC, Pasadena CoC, and Long Beach CoC.



# In LA CoC\*, Transition Aged Youth (TAY) 18-24 data collection improved.

HUD authorized LAHSA to collect surveys by phone in addition to count locations. This led to significant increases in number of survey collected in 2023. The data results from this improved methodology for TAY.



\*Data does NOT include Glendale CoC, Pasadena Coc, and Long Beach CoC.

# Part 2

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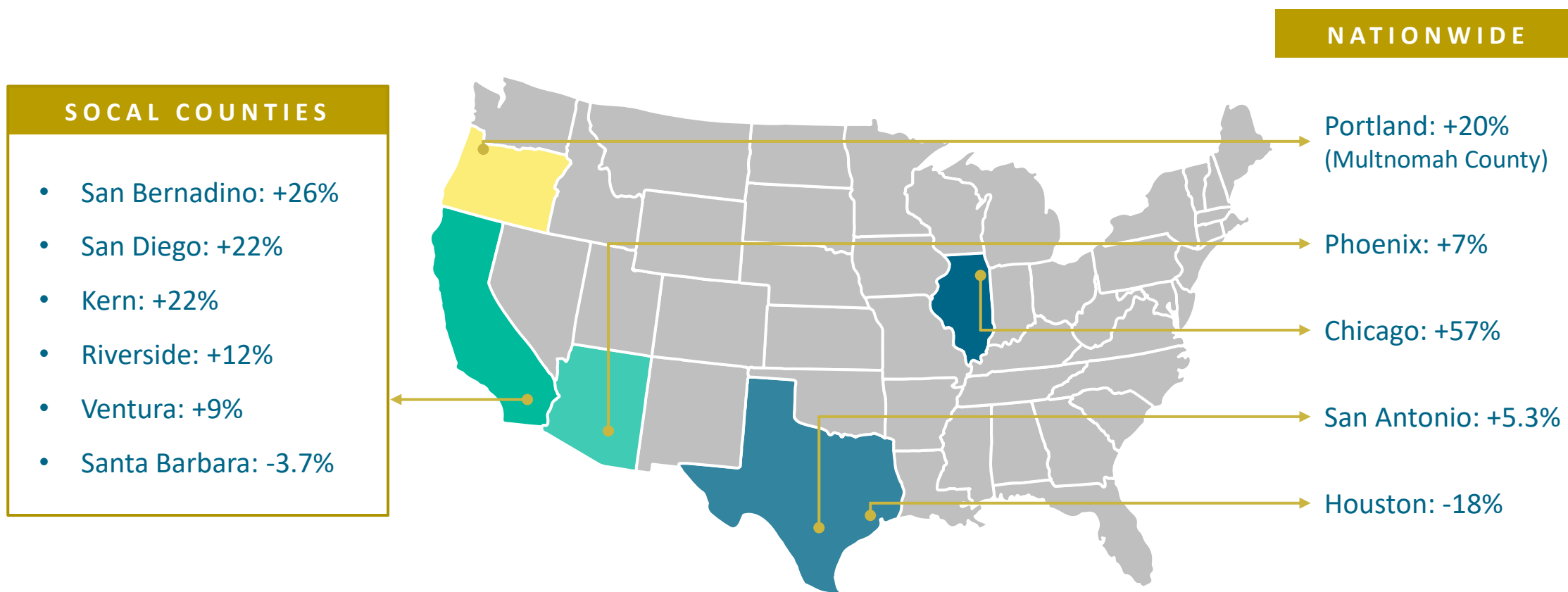
## These results are disappointing but not surprising.

We're back to a trajectory of more people becoming unhoused faster than we can move them back inside.



# The rise in homelessness is both a national and regional trend.

Unaffordable rent is driving homelessness in California. According to a recent study on California homelessness by UC San Francisco's Homelessness and Housing Initiative\*, the most common reason for leaving housing for leaseholders was economics.



\*Source: <https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/our-impact/our-studies/california-statewide-study-people-experiencing-homelessness>

The LA CoC's shelter system capacity remains notably higher than it was pre-pandemic.

2019

15,617

Shelter beds

2023

26,245

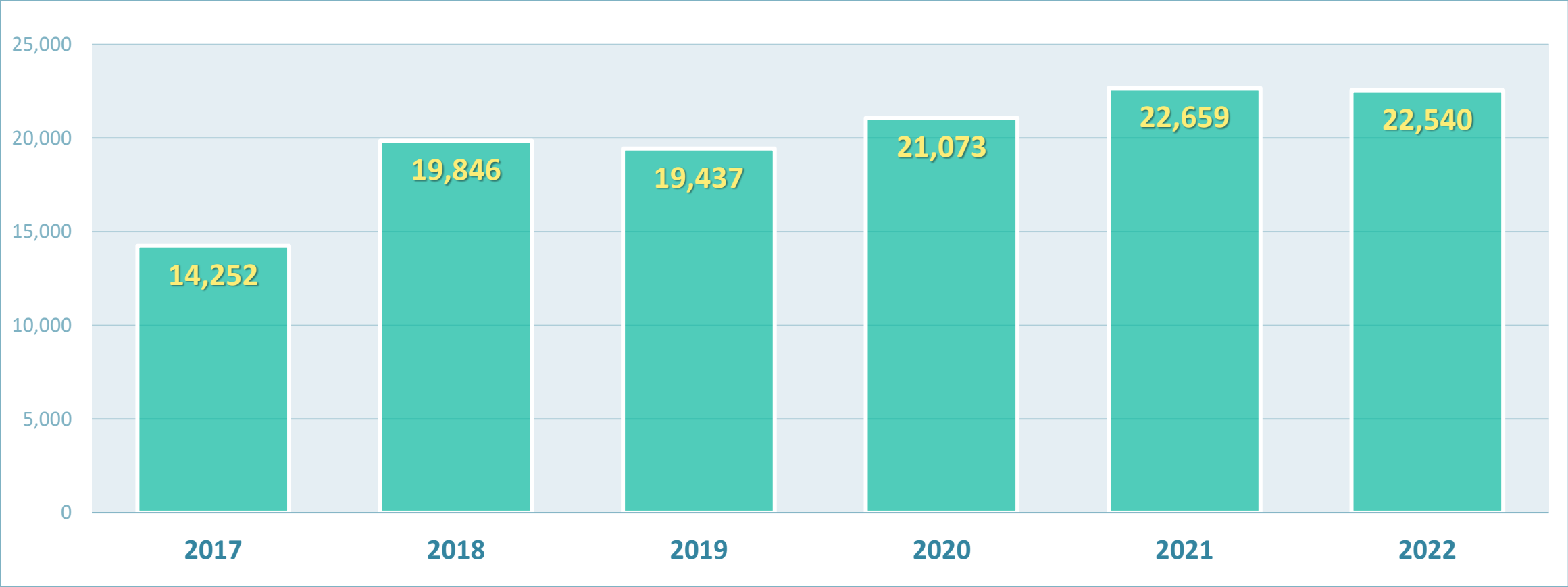
Shelter beds





**Although the numbers are higher, the data continues to tell us the same story: while there is good work being done, we need to be more coordinated and scale what is working to make a real impact.**

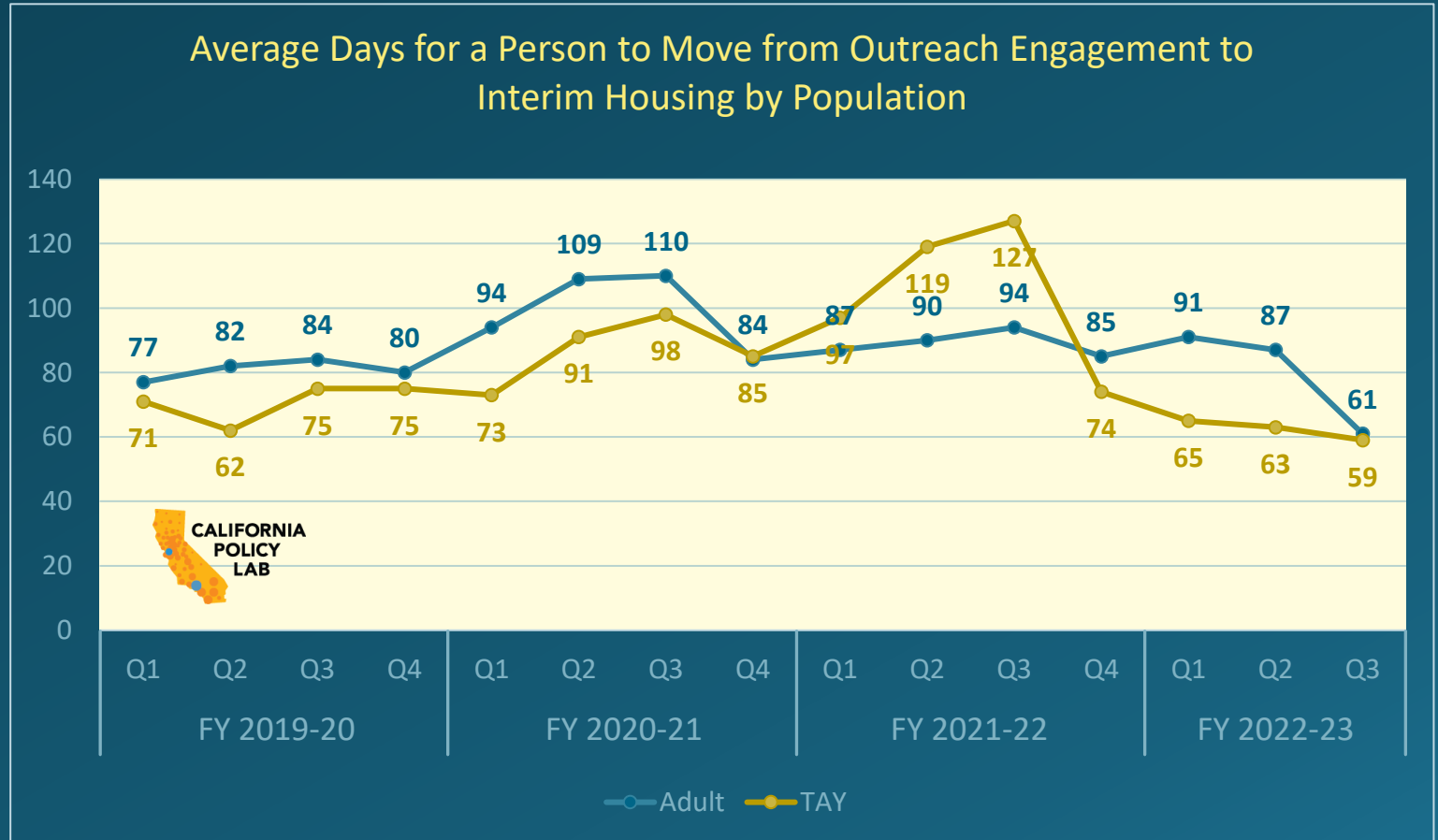
For three consecutive years, the rehousing system has made over 20,000 permanent placements each year\*.



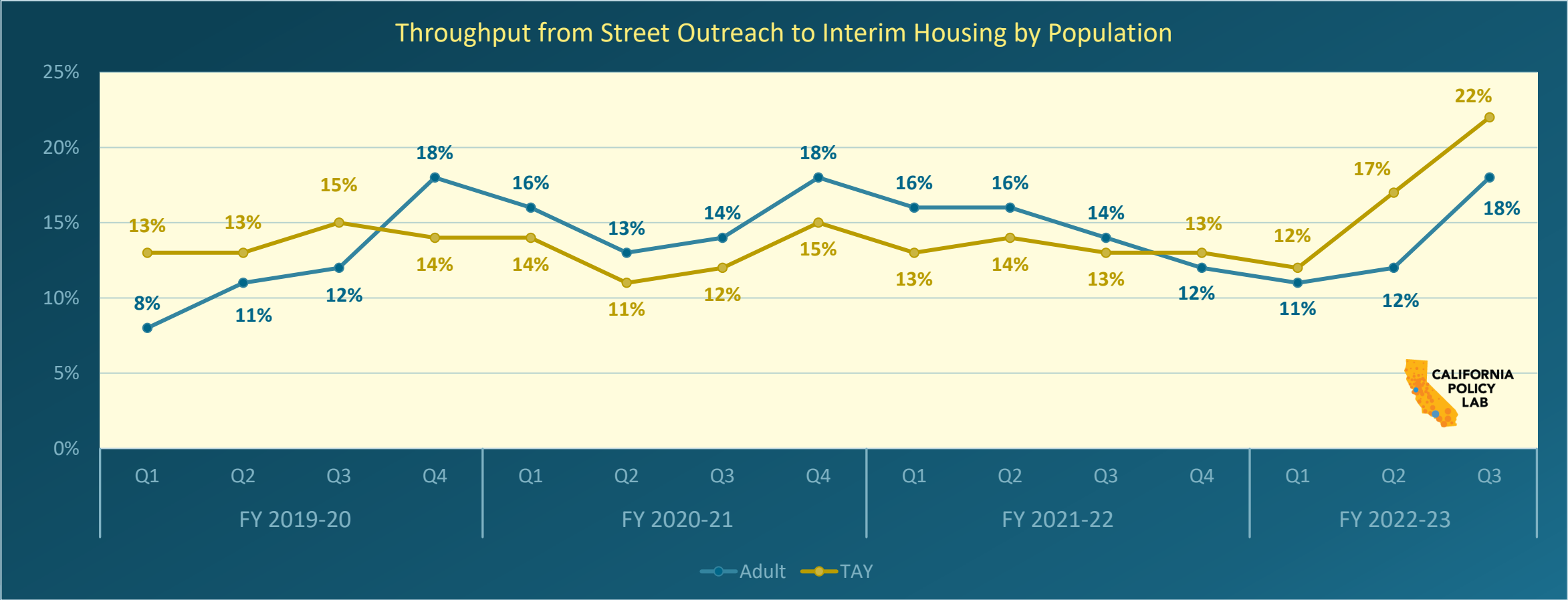
\*Note: Data provided courtesy of County of Los Angeles’ Homeless Initiative. It is possible for one person to have multiple permanent housing placements in a year.

# It takes less time to move someone from the street to interim housing.

- For adults engaged by outreach, the amount of time was cut by 45% from 110 to 61 days.
- For TAY, the amount of time was cut by more than 50% from 127 days to 59 days.
- System improvements must continue, be more targeted, and scaled to lower unsheltered homelessness



From this time last year, we have seen an increase of almost 30% in interim housing placements from street outreach.





# Part 3

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## Los Angeles needs a coordinated path forward.

01

When we have set out to address a specific population, we have changed the trajectory.

02

We need to focus on addressing unsheltered homelessness and expand it countywide.

03

We need to set a goal on decreasing encampments, and work toward it as a unified system.



**Los Angeles needs a coordinated path forward**

That's what we're doing by "locking arms."



# New leadership is taking bold action to address unsheltered homelessness.

## Since January:

- Mayor Bass declared homelessness a state of emergency in LA.
- The Board of Supervisors declared a state of emergency in LA County.
- Other local Cities declared states of emergency, including Long Beach, Santa Monica, and Culver City
- State of California granted dedicated Encampment Resolution funds.
- The Biden/Harris Administration selected Los Angeles to participate in ALL-INside, their signature new program to reduce unsheltered homelessness.





**LAHSA is assuming a leadership and coordinating role to urgently address the humanitarian crisis happening on our streets.**

We're launching a **Multi Departmental Crisis Response Team** to bring people indoors quickly and expedite their journey through the system into permanent housing.



## We will partner with the cities and county to implement policies and processes that work.





# We will set measurable system-wide goals. You can track our progress.

**We'll release quarterly Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) reports that will track:**

- Increases in the number of people moving from outreach to interim housing and from interim into permanent housing
- Increases in the number of people who stay in permanent housing
- Decreases in how long it takes to go from street outreach to interim housing
- Decreases in how long people stay in interim housing



## A recent study by UCSF shows us that primary causes of homelessness is economic.



The #1 reason people with a lease fell into homelessness was loss of income



Median monthly household income preceding homelessness was \$935



Average monthly rent in LA is \$2,452\*



People with a history of trauma, people of color, and older adults are at higher risk.

## LAHSA and LA County engage people experiencing or at risk of homelessness through **prevention**:

- Coaching
- Limited cash assistance
- Connecting them to existing subsidies

### **What if we expanded prevention to:**

- **Foster care**
- **Reentry**
- **Evictions**
- **Workforce development**
- **Health and mental healthcare systems**





## Everyone must say yes to new housing.

01

The county of Los Angeles is on track to create 5,000 units. Prop HHH will provide 3,200 homes this year. However, our community must create more.

02

Measure ULA can be instrumental in helping people stay in their homes and fund more affordable homes.

03

L.A. County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS), when funded, can provide future opportunities to protect affordable homes and scale up new housing development.

**We need more homes to end homelessness.**





**We all want the same thing: To bring our  
unhoused neighbors inside to a  
permanent home as quickly as possible.**