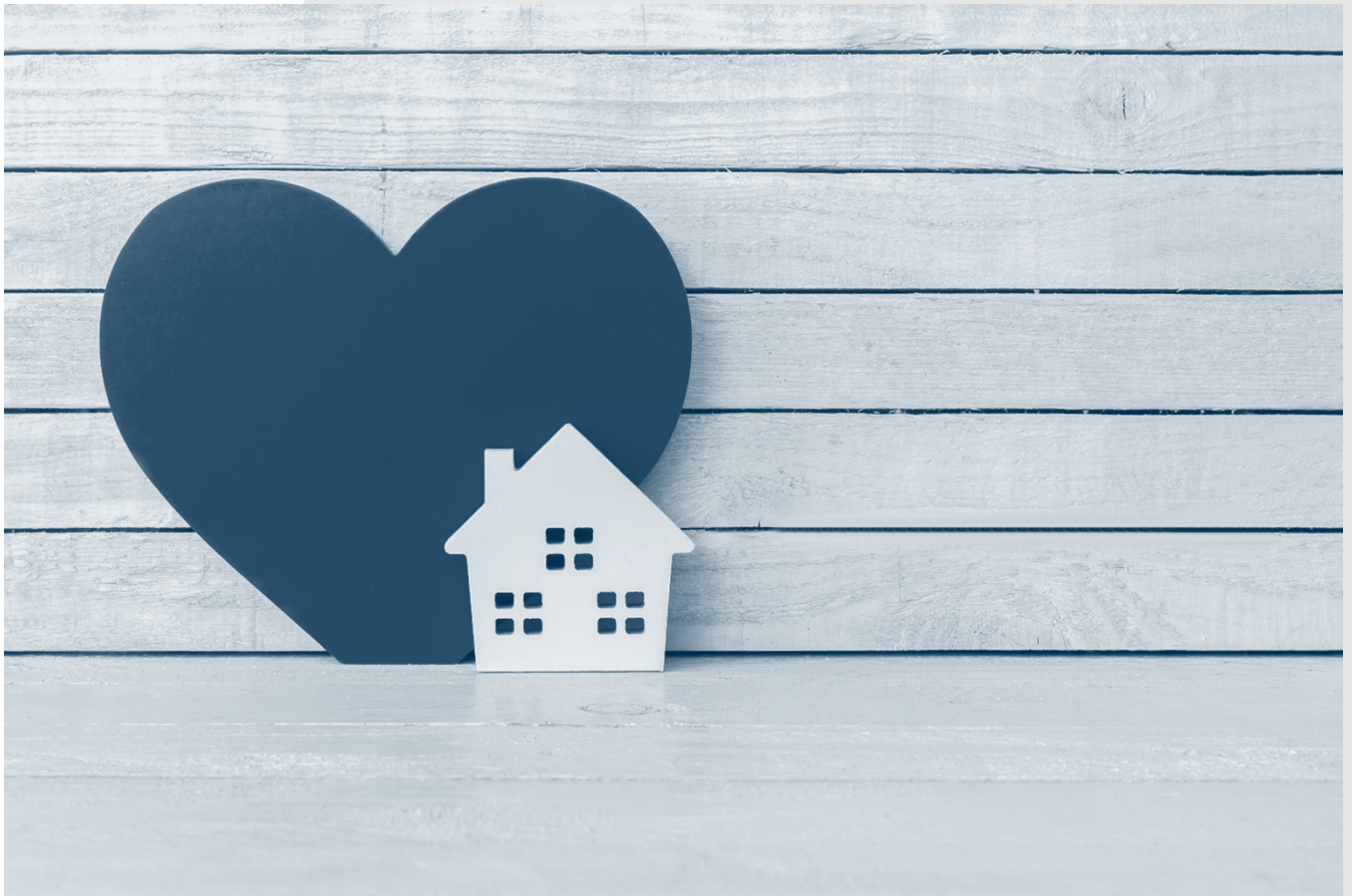


RURAL NEVADA CONTINUUM OF CARE

2023

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT



**A report on homelessness in
Rural Nevada**

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Note that this version of the 2023 RNCoc PIT Count Report is ADA-compliant and does not contain county-specific snapshots.

To access a non-ADA compliant version of the 2023 RNCoc PIT Count Report that does include county-specific snapshots, please email rncocevada@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count would not be possible without the contributions and effort of many groups and individuals, including social service and other county agencies, law enforcement, non-profit organizations, school district McKinney-Vento liaisons, Bitfocus staff, and volunteers. Of particular note are the contributions of individuals serving as county leads, who play a critical role in organizing outreach teams, rallying community support, and collecting, submitting, and validating data. The spirit and contributions of participants reflects their commitment to their communities and their desire to do what they can with few resources, as well as the coordinated and collaborative nature of the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (RNCoC).

Thank you to all contributors for your commitment of time and your ongoing efforts to help combat homelessness in Nevada.

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COUNTY LEADS

Mary Jane Ostrander and Ana Gregg
Carson City

Jackee Stewart
Churchill County

Jodi Qualls
Douglas County

Sherry Smith
Elko County

Jessica Barlow
Esmeralda and Nye Counties

Millie Oram
Eureka County

Alaine Kliewer-Nye and Janine Robinson
Humboldt, Lander, and Pershing Counties

Denice Brown
Lincoln County

Heather Benson
Lyon County

Debbie Lee
Mineral County

Kelly Ibarra
Storey County

Desiree Barnson
White Pine County



This report was developed by Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI), a Nevada-based consulting firm that served as the Coordinator for the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care.

OVERVIEW OF THE PIT AND FINDINGS

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. The count is traditionally conducted on a specific night (i.e., a single “point in time”) during the last two weeks in January in order to minimize duplicated counts and give a more accurate picture of homelessness in Nevada.

The PIT is conducted to:

- Measure and monitor trends and changes in homelessness on local and national levels and track progress toward ending homelessness.
- Help communities understand what resources are needed and strategize the best ways to use them to end homelessness.

The 2023 RNCoc PIT Count took place on the night spanning January 25-26, 2023 and comprised the following components. The sheltered and unsheltered components of the count are mandated by HUD, and the RNCoc elects to conduct additional components to facilitate a more robust understanding of homelessness in Nevada.

Mandated by HUD



Sheltered Count: Includes people residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs on the night of the count.



Unsheltered Count: Includes people whose primary nighttime residence (i.e., where they sleep) is not a place designed for or ordinarily used for sleeping.

RNCoc Elected



Motel Count: Includes individuals and families living in motels, the purpose of which is to collect information on people who are under-housed or at risk of becoming homeless.



In-Depth Interview: Includes individuals experiencing homelessness and those at risk of experiencing homelessness.



School Count: Includes children without access to permanent or stable housing on the night of the count.

GENERAL FINDINGS

A total of 410 individuals were experiencing either sheltered or unsheltered homelessness on January 26, 2023. 1,151 children were reported as experiencing some form of homelessness or housing instability through the school count, and some of these children may be included in either the sheltered or unsheltered count total. Not all counties participated in the optional in-depth interview and motel count components of the 2023 PIT Count. As such, aggregated results of those counts are not found within the body of this report and instead data can be found in the county-level reports contained in the appendices for the counties that conducted those counts.



96 sheltered count



314 unsheltered count



1,151 school count

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

To address the problems of homelessness in a comprehensive manner, HUD competitively funds Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the nation. Nevada has three CoCs: Northern Nevada, Southern Nevada, and the Balance of State. The Balance of State CoC is referred to as the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (RNCoc). The RNCoc comprises 15 counties in Nevada, as listed below.

List of Counties in the RNCoc

- Carson City
- Churchill County
- Douglas County
- Elko County
- Esmeralda County
- Eureka County
- Humboldt County
- Lander County
- Lincoln County
- Lyon County
- Mineral County
- Nye County
- Pershing County
- Storey County
- White Pine County

Locations of Counties in the RNCoc



UNDERSTANDING THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

CoCs are commonly organized around two main goals — planning for a homeless housing and service system in a community and applying for funding from HUD’s competitive McKinney-Vento Act programs. Additionally, the CoCs must plan and be responsive to new regulations as well as existing regulations that are part of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. To receive HUD McKinney-Vento funding for projects and services, organizations must work through a local CoC.

Rural continua, which often have a broad and very diverse partnership base, must handle the complex task of organizing and building capacity among their partners while still being strategic and clear about the varying roles and responsibilities of each partner. When organizing a CoC, rural continua address specific programmatic, funding, communication, and geographic constraints that more urban

communities may not need to consider when providing services to individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness or who are experiencing homelessness.

To receive CoC funding from HUD, all continua must conduct counts of the homeless population to help demonstrate and quantify need. Understanding the unique needs of rural communities helps the RNCoc plan and implement strategies to address these needs. It also allows the CoC to apply for and receive funding for projects and services.

The following report provides the detailed results of the 2023 PIT Count for the RNCoc as a whole. To access a non-ADA compliant version of the 2023 RNCoc PIT Count Report that includes county-specific snapshots, please email rncocevada@gmail.com.

OVERVIEW OF NEVADA IN 2023

To better understand the RNCoc and the results of the PIT count presented in this report, it is important to recognize Nevada's unique geographic and demographic makeup. It should be noted that Nevada, as with the rest of the nation, struggled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. The impact of the pandemic on the results of the 2021 and 2022 PIT counts are described throughout the body of the report as appropriate to provide context to the included results.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATION DENSITY

Nevada encompasses approximately 109,860 square miles.¹ While most of this land mass is found within the counties that make up the RNCoc, the majority of Nevada's population is located in Nevada's urban counties, specifically in the metropolitan areas of Reno-Sparks in Washoe County and Las Vegas in Clark County. As demonstrated in Table 1, approximately 89% of Nevada's population reside in either Clark or Washoe counties; only 11% live within the counties that comprise the RNCoc.

With the exception of Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey counties, the other 11 counties that comprise the RNCoc are defined as "frontier" counties, meaning that they are considered remote in terms of travel time and distance from the nearest population centers.² Residents of frontier communities may face logistical hurdles when trying to access health, supportive, and other services that are more likely to be located in larger population centers and potentially a significant distance away. Barriers to access can be exacerbated for individuals experiencing homelessness who may have limited mobility and no access to personal or reliable transportation.

¹ QuickFacts: Nevada. Accessed February 17, 2023 at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NV,US/PST045222>.

² Nevada Rural and Frontier Data Book—Tenth Edition. UNR School of Medicine - Office of Statewide Initiatives. February 2021. Available at <https://med.unr.edu/statewide/reports-and-publications/nevada-rural-and-frontier-health-data-book>.

TABLE 1. POPULATION DENSITY BY COUNTY IN NEVADA

County	2022 Population ³	Total Est. Area (sq. mi.) ⁴	Population Density (pop. per sq. mi.)
Clark	2,338,127	7,910	296
Washoe	501,635	6,342	79
Counties in the RNCoc			
Carson City	58,314	143	408
Churchill	26,564	4,929	5
Douglas	52,674	710	74
Elko	56,396	17,179	3
Esmeralda	1,068	3,588	<1
Eureka	1,847	4,176	<1
Humboldt	17,921	9,648	2
Lander	6,158	5,494	1
Lincoln	4,971	10,634	<1
Lyon	60,454	1,994	30
Mineral	4,870	3,756	1
Nye	51,334	18,147	3
Pershing	7,344	6,037	1
Storey	4,427	263	17
White Pine	10,001	8,876	1

³ Annual Report on the Estimated Population of Towns, Cities and Counties in the State of Nevada as of July 1, 2022. Accessed February 17, 2023 at https://tax.nv.gov/publications/population_statistics_and_Reports/.

⁴ Nevada Rural and Frontier Data Book—Tenth Edition. UNR School of Medicine - Office of Statewide Initiatives. February 2021. Table 1.2, page 17. Available at <https://med.unr.edu/statewide/reports-and-publications/nevada-rural-and-frontier-health-data-book>.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

For the past several years, HUD has produced the *CoC Analysis Tool*, which draws on American Community Survey data and past PIT-count data to “facilitate an analysis of racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness.”⁵ The region-level population estimates specific to race and ethnicity included in the tool have been presented in past PIT reports to provide a comparison for race and ethnicity data collected during the PIT Count. However, this tool does not provide estimations at the county level, so beginning in the 2022 PIT Count Report, the following table provides race and ethnicity population estimates from the most recent census data available at a county, rather than region level. It is intended that counties use the data presented in Table 2 to explore whether there are housing inequities or disparities demonstrated in their county-specific PIT Count data.

TABLE 2. POPULATION ESTIMATES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE RNCOC ⁶

Race	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	Ethnicity
							Hispanic or Latino
Carson City	2.9%	2.8%	2.4%	.4%	3.5%	88.0%	25.6%
Churchill	5.5%	2.9%	2.9%	.4%	4.9%	83.4%	15.5%
Douglas	2.3%	2.1%	.9%	.3%	3.1%	91.3%	13.3%
Elko	6.6%	1.4%	1.4%	.3%	2.8%	87.5%	25.5%
Esmeralda	7.5%	.9%	3.8%	.1%	4.8%	82.8%	19.9%
Eureka	3.7%	1.3%	1.6%	.2%	3.3%	90.0%	15.0%
Humboldt	4.7%	1.2%	1.1%	.3%	3.2%	89.5%	28.3%
Lander	5.5%	1.2%	1.3%	>0%	2.9%	89.1%	23.6%
Lincoln	2.4%	.9%	3.1%	.4%	2.7%	90.5%	7.8%
Lyon	3.4%	1.8%	1.5%	.4%	4.0%	88.8%	19.6%
Mineral	18.3%	3.6%	4.9%	.3%	4.9%	68.1%	14.5%
Nye	2.0%	2.1%	4.0%	.7%	3.6%	87.6%	16.6%
Pershing	4.7	1.3	4.6	.4%	3.7%	85.3%	24.8%
Storey	2.1%	2.3%	1.7%	.5%	3.1%	90.3%	9.2%
White Pine	5.2%	1.1%	4.8%	.2%	3.4%	85.2%	17.3%

⁵ CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity. Published March 2022. Accessed May 31, 2023 at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5787/coc-analysis-tool-race-and-ethnicity/>. The 2023 CoC Analysis Tool had not been published as of the time of this report.

⁶ QuickFacts. United States Census. Accessed May 31, 2023 at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US#>, with data pulled for each county specifically.

Applying an Equity Lens

In preparation for the 2023 PIT Count, the RNCOC PIT Planning Committee discussed how to apply an equity lens to PIT activities. It was determined that county leads and count team members could support application of an equity lens through use of the following strategies:

- Expanding outreach to Native communities to offer support for their count activities, while respecting Tribal sovereignty and gaining permission before conducting the count on sovereign lands
- Working more closely with mental health and health care providers to thoroughly identify populations experiencing homelessness in each county
- Applying a culturally humble and linguistically appropriate framework to count activities, such as recruiting volunteers who speak languages other than English or recruiting volunteers who are experiencing/have experienced homelessness in their communities

Some counties reported efforts to connect with local tribal communities and recruit a diverse group of volunteers, some of whom speak Spanish in addition to English. However, it was recognized that not all strategies could be implemented during the 2023 PIT Count. Count leads and participants were asked to, at a minimum, consider how they could deploy these strategies in future counts. It is expected that the RNCOC will more effectively plan count activities to fully adopt these strategies in the coming years.

Considerations for Future PIT Activities

The race and ethnicity composition of counties within the RNCOC is provided in Table 2. However, the number of individuals for whom demographic information was collected varies by county. For some counties, a large portion of individuals' demographic information was not collected. While there may be various reasons for this lack of information, it limits the RNCOC's ability to compare the demographics of individuals experiencing homelessness to those of the general population.

In addition to implementation of the strategies above, the RNCOC may consider how to reduce the number of individuals in the sheltered and unsheltered counts with unknown demographic information (age, race, ethnicity, gender, etc.). Having accurate demographic information for people experiencing unsheltered and sheltered homelessness by county can support the RNCOC's efforts to advance equity. Such information may allow for the exploration of possible disparities in service provision and utilization at a county level, as well as in the RNCOC as a whole.

UNEMPLOYMENT

A common theme seen in previous PIT reports is that a major contributor to homelessness is lack of financial resources and the inability to find or retain employment. At the time of the PIT Count in January 2023, Nevada’s non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 5.6%.⁷

TABLE 3. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTY IN JANUARY 2023⁸

County	January 2023 Unemployment Rate	January 2022 Unemployment Rate
Carson City	5.2	3.6
Churchill	4.7	2.8
Douglas	5.1	3.7
Elko	4.0	2.8
Esmeralda	4.6	2.9
Eureka	4.6	2.0
Humboldt	4.2	2.6
Lander	3.8	3.1
Lincoln	4.7	2.8
Lyon	6.7	4.3
Mineral	5.1	3.1
Nye	6.5	4.9
Pershing	5.2	3.1
Storey	5.0	3.6
White Pine	4.0	2.5

⁷ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Accessed March 21, 2023 at <https://data.bls.gov/lausmap/showMap.jsp>.





⁸ Ibid.

HOMELESSNESS IN RURAL NEVADA

Many of the underlying factors that cause homelessness in rural areas are no different than those in urban areas, including lack of funds, lack of appropriate and/or affordable housing options, and untreated mental health or substance use disorders.

Rural communities face additional challenges in addressing homelessness, such as the lack of public transportation, making it difficult for people to access employment opportunities and services. Rural populations that are homeless often are “unseen” and spread out in remote locations. Although rural communities often pride themselves on “taking care of their own,” the hidden nature of rural homelessness means that the issue is most often viewed as an urban problem and overlooked in a rural context. Resources and infrastructure for providing emergency services for individuals and families who are homeless and addressing underlying causes that result in homelessness are often scarce in rural areas, and even more scarce in areas that fall in the “frontier” category. Barriers to addressing homelessness in Nevada’s rural communities are depicted in Table 4.

TABLE 4. BARRIERS TO ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN RURAL NEVADA

	<p>Transportation: Large distances must be traversed to reach services that are few and far between and there are limited or no public transportation options available.</p>
	<p>Isolation: Rural areas can be isolated due to the counties’ expansiveness and/or sparse populations. People who are homeless often feel cut off geographically and for recently arrived immigrant populations, they can be cut off linguistically and culturally from the services that are available in the area.</p>
	<p>Shortage of Services: Few homeless-specific providers are available in most rural areas and mainstream services can be difficult to access, as they are spread over large areas and often not structured to accommodate populations that are homeless.</p>
	<p>Lack of Affordable Housing Options: Throughout the state, lack of inventory and the increasing cost of housing continue to create serious barriers for populations who are homeless. This has been reinforced as a major contributor to homelessness through interview results contained in past reports.</p>

These problems frequently overlap and compound challenges facing individuals and families. For example, the shortage of services nearby may mean that individuals who are homeless must travel to a neighboring community to get services they need, which can be difficult due to a lack of public transportation. Similarly, geographic and linguistic and/or cultural isolation of individuals who are homeless in a community may exacerbate the invisibility of the population.

The PIT count is especially important for rural counties because it quantifies a “hidden” problem that many believe only exists in urban areas.

CONDUCTING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The PIT count is a HUD mandated count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness within a defined geographic area. The count is conducted on a specific night (i.e., a single “point in time”) to avoid duplicated counts. The 2023 PIT Count was conducted on the night spanning January 25-26, 2023. The RNCOC has conducted a PIT count in the geographic region comprised of Nevada’s 15 rural counties annually since 2005.

The PIT count is designed to:

- ✓ Measure and monitor trends and changes in homelessness on local and national levels and track progress toward ending homelessness.
- ✓ Help communities understand what resources are needed and strategize the best ways to use them to end homelessness.
- ✓ Increase awareness and collective knowledge about the problem of rural homelessness.
- ✓ Link individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at-risk of experiencing homelessness to services.

Conducting the PIT count can be particularly challenging in rural areas because individuals who are homeless are dispersed over wide geographic areas. In addition, few individuals who are qualified to conduct outreach and engage individuals and families experiencing homelessness live in rural areas, and those that do may not be able to participate in the count due to other responsibilities. Finally, due to a scarcity of emergency shelters in rural areas, people experiencing homelessness in rural Nevada often live in areas that are difficult for count teams to access.

The RNCOC annual PIT Report is routinely used by other housing and homeless planning initiatives within Nevada, including:

- ⇒ Nevada Rural Housing Authority
- ⇒ Nevada Housing Division
- ⇒ Nevada Governor’s Interagency Council on Homelessness
- ⇒ Provisional Assistance Through Housing (PATH)
- ⇒ Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
- ⇒ Local Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) efforts

METHODOLOGY

On January 26th, 2023, the RNCOC conducted the following HUD-mandated and RNCOC-selected components as part of the PIT count. HUD requires a count of sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness every year and a count of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness every two years. The RNCOC has elected to conduct the unsheltered PIT count every year. In addition to these HUD-mandated counts, the RNCOC has traditionally also elected to conduct in-depth interviews, a motel count, and a school count each year.⁹

PIT COUNT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

An RNCOC PIT Planning Committee was convened in November and December 2022 to organize efforts, develop data collection tools, and ensure continuity between count components and county activities. Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) coordinated these activities. SEI team members participated in HUD’s PIT Count Office Hours to ensure that count activities aligned with HUD guidance for conducting the count. A PIT Guide was developed, which provides additional information on the 2023 methodology for each count component. The Guide was shared with county leads and count volunteers. An online orientation webinar was also offered to all count volunteers via a live Zoom that was recorded and subsequently shared with county leads for distribution to their team members who were unable to attend live. Topics covered in the webinar included an overview of the PIT count, descriptions of each component, a discussion of how to apply an equity lens to count activities, training on how to use all data collection tools, and a Q&A session.

PIT COUNT COMPONENTS

Components presented below with an asterisk (*) were led and managed by leads within each county, with pre-count support and post-count data validation and analysis supported by SEI. Components without an asterisk were led and managed by SEI, with county leads providing resources, linkages, and insights to inform data collection.

All datasets were collected as described below. SEI validated the data, compiled it by county, and synthesized it for this report. While the sheltered and unsheltered components were conducted at the same time in order to minimize duplication, it is likely that there is some overlap between individuals counted in these components and the motel and school count components. Specifically, children noted as being “sheltered” or “unsheltered” in the school component may be included in the sheltered and

⁹ Note that count activities were altered in 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with adjustments made specifically to reduce the risk of virus transmission between count volunteers and individuals experiencing homelessness; the unsheltered count was conducted as an observation-only head count, and the in-depth interview was not conducted in 2021.

unsheltered counts, respectively, and persons included in the motel count may be included in the sheltered count, depending on whether an agency is financially supporting their stay through use of specific types of housing vouchers. Overlap between individuals participating in the in-depth interview and all other count components is also likely and expected.

Unsheltered Count* | Per HUD, CoCs must conduct an unsheltered, or “street”, count at least every other year; the RNCoc, like most CoCs, has elected to conduct this count annually. In 2023, this component was conducted with law enforcement, code enforcement, social service agencies, and volunteer teams who counted the number of individuals and families who were experiencing homelessness and met the HUD-definition of “unsheltered” on the night of the count. Only individuals “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings” were included in the unsheltered count (24 CFR 578.3). Count volunteers utilized one of two methods to count individuals that were unsheltered: volunteers either engaged individuals believed to be unsheltered through a brief survey or utilized an observation-only approach if individuals were not willing or able to participate in the survey.

For the 2023 PIT Count, the RNCoc invested in a mobile application, “Counting Us,” to collect unsheltered count data. Count volunteers were provided online training on how to download, set up, and use the mobile application. Paper forms were also provided to teams in case of technology problems; data from all paper forms were electronically input to the Counting Us application by count team members via the desktop interface before analysis.

In 2023, the RNCoc did not conduct a count of vehicles and structures for which habitation could not be verified, as it did in 2022. In 2022, the RNCoc attempted to utilize the Counting Us app to also ascertain the number of vehicles and structures for which habitation could not be verified, but that were possibly being used by individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness (e.g., tents, cars, RVs not connected to services, and outbuildings). The app was not designed to be used for this purpose, which caused issues during the data review and validation process. The Counting Us app released a module that is designed for this type of count activity in late 2022, but the RNCoc did not elect to purchase it due to its unbudgeted cost.

Sheltered Count | Per HUD, CoCs must conduct a sheltered count annually, which counts the number of individuals residing in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven programs on the night of the count. These data are extracted from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and from manual counts submitted by providers not participating in the HMIS to SEI. The HMIS system in Nevada is managed by Bitfocus, which validated the sheltered data prior to sharing it with SEI for analysis and inclusion in this report. The results for this component reference chronically homeless individuals, which are defined by HUD as “either (1) an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR (2) an

unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.”¹⁰

In-Depth Interviews* | In-depth interviews were conducted with individuals and families who were homeless or who were at-risk of homelessness on the day of the count. Not all individuals interviewed met HUD’s definition of homelessness on the day the interviews were conducted. County leads established their own criteria for identifying appropriate interview participants, which may have included individuals experiencing homelessness or those who have recently accessed local services to avoid homelessness. The in-depth interview is not required by HUD and differs from the survey conducted as part of the unsheltered count, as it is designed to provide additional context and information on factors contributing to homelessness in Nevada.

Interview questions were approved by the PIT Planning Committee and provided to count volunteers via paper forms. Responses were transferred from the paper forms to SurveyMonkey to facilitate data analysis efforts.

Motel Count* | This portion of the count was conducted in conjunction with motel owners and operators. Motel operators were provided with a hard copy of a data collection form, as well as instructions on how to complete it prior to the count. Count volunteers visited or called each motel to collect the data sheet or assist the motel owner/operator in completing the PIT count for their motel. Responses were transcribed from the paper forms to SurveyMonkey to facilitate data analysis efforts.

The motel count is not required by HUD, as people living in motels who do not meet the definition of homeless should not be included in the count. However, it is deemed important data to collect as it provides information on people who are possibly under-housed or at-risk of becoming homeless. Persons in motels using an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) voucher or community housing voucher may be included in the sheltered count.

School Count | A count of children experiencing housing instability in the school districts within the RNCOC was also conducted. The homeless liaison for each school district in the RNCOC was contacted prior to the count and briefed on the information that would be requested. The liaisons provided information on the number of children experiencing housing instability on the day of the count to SEI via phone, email, or a SurveyMonkey submission. All data was entered into SurveyMonkey to facilitate data analysis efforts. This component is not required by HUD. However, because the number of families experiencing homelessness is a growing trend, Nevada’s Rural CoC has deemed it important to capture the number of children experiencing housing instability.

¹⁰ From Defining Chronic Homelessness: A Technical Guide for HUD Programs. Published September 2017 at <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/DefiningChronicHomeless.pdf>

2023 PIT COUNT TIMELINE

The following table outlines the process and timeline for conducting the 2023 PIT Count, collecting and analyzing data, submitting required information to HUD, and developing the RNCOC's PIT Report.

September-October 2022

- Guidance on conducting the 2023 PIT Count, including virtual office hours, webinars, and other information, is released by HUD on October 26
- The RNCOC Coordinator reviews released guidance and participates in HUD Office Hours

November-December 2022

- The RNCOC Coordinator updates the PIT Guide based on HUD guidance
- The RNCOC Coordinator confirms the county lead for each of the RNCOC's 15 counties
- The RNCOC Coordinator convenes PIT Planning meetings and RNCOC Steering Committee meetings to review the updated guidance, determine count activities, and revise data collection forms as needed
- A contract with Simtech, the mobile app vendor for "Counting Us," is executed to establish an alternative to paper forms for the unsheltered count
- The RNCOC Coordinator conducts outreach:
 - to county leads to confirm sheltered providers in their region
 - to liaisons at all school districts to confirm school count participation
 - to sheltered providers not utilizing HMIS to ensure they are prepared to submit count data manually

January 2023

- The RNCOC Coordinator hosts a PIT Count Training Webinar to orient staff and volunteers to 2023 protocols and data collection tools
- The RNCOC Coordinator distributes data collection tools to all county leads
- **The 2023 PIT Count takes place on January 26, 2023**

February-April 2023

- County leads ensure that
 - all unsheltered data is entered through the mobile app
 - all motel and in-depth interview data is entered to SurveyMonkey
- The RNCOC Coordinator works with school district liaisons to collect school count data
- Bitfocus reviews HMIS entries for the night of the count and validates data with shelter providers
- The RNCOC Coordinator collects manual PIT Count data from shelter providers not participating in HMIS and provides to Bitfocus for incorporation into their shelter provider summary report

- The RNCOC Coordinator works with county leads to validate and clean submitted unsheltered, in-depth interview, and motel data
- The RNCOC Coordinator, in conjunction with Bitfocus and county leads, performs final validation checks on PIT Count data
- **The RNCOC Coordinator submits the RNCOC’s Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and PIT Count data to HUD via the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) portal by April 28, 2023**
- The RNCOC Coordinator develops the draft 2023 RNCOC PIT Report and infographic

May – June 2023

- The draft RNCOC PIT Report and infographic is emailed to the RNCOC Steering Committee and county leads for feedback on narrative content and data
- **A final document is submitted to the RNCOC Steering Committee for approval by June 30, 2023**

LIMITATIONS

The following limitations should be taken into consideration in the use and interpretation of the data presented.

- ✓ **Comparisons with Past Years:** Although longitudinal data is provided throughout this report, caution should be taken when comparing 2021 data with other years for which data is included, particularly with regard to the unsheltered count. COVID-19 substantially impacted the RNCOC’s ability to conduct a comprehensive unsheltered count in 2021. During the 2021 count, teams did not ask individuals to participate in the brief survey due to concerns over COVID-19 transmission, so no demographic or other data was collected. In 2021, count teams also did not attempt to ascertain the occupancy of tents, RVs, vehicles, and outbuildings, which may have led to an underestimation of the true number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in 2021.
- ✓ **Extrapolation and Variance from HDX Submission:** Sheltered and unsheltered data gathered during the PIT count is submitted to HUD via HDX. HUD requires the use of data extrapolation to assign values when demographic data is unknown due to a “decline to answer” or other non-response from the participant. SEI has elected to utilize the non-extrapolated data to produce this report, so variances between the HDX submission and this report may exist for some demographic factors. Sheltered data provided to HUD via the HDX submission is both manually collected and exported from the RNCOC’s HMIS system; in some cases, data may have been updated by program providers utilizing the HMIS system after the HDX submission, which may also account for small variances between the sheltered demographics included in this report and those submitted to HUD (e.g., with regards to household type).
- ✓ **Varied County Participation:** County participation, and type and amount of data gathered within each county, varied significantly. County snapshots are provided beginning on page 28 of

the alternate, non-ADA compliant version of this report that is available by emailing rnconevada@gmail.com. Without every county participating at a baseline level by providing PIT and HIC data, a complete picture of homelessness cannot be determined across all 15 counties in the RNCOC.

- ✓ **Variance:** Insignificant variances may be seen between overall counts and county data due to unavailable or missing data at the county level.

2023 PIT COUNT RESULTS FOR THE RNCOC

The RNCOC partners and participants conducted the PIT count of homeless persons in rural Nevada on January 26, 2023.

TOTAL RESULTS

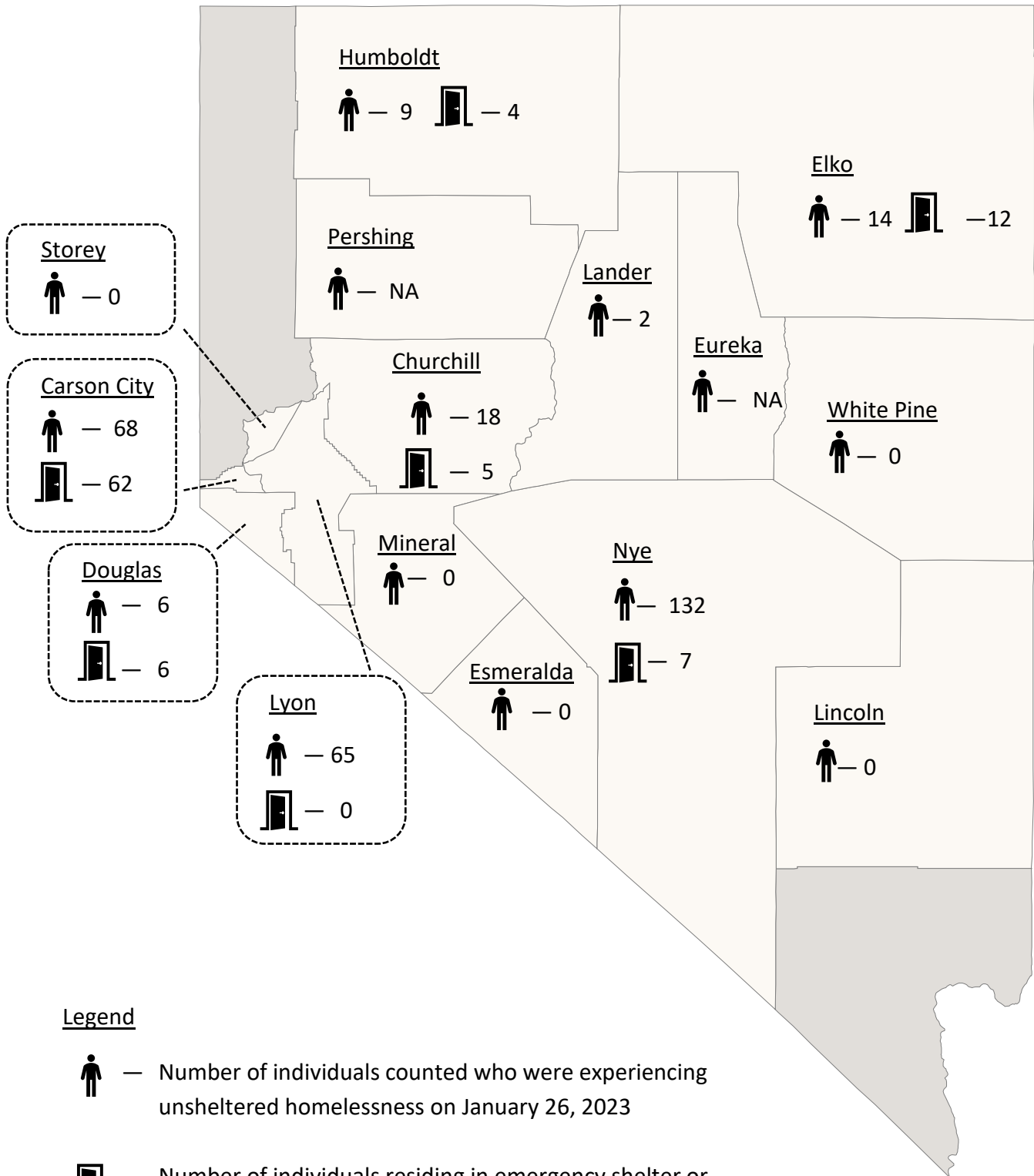
On January 26, 2023, there were **410 individuals experiencing homelessness** counted throughout the 15 counties that comprise the RNCOC as part of the HUD-mandated sheltered and unsheltered counts. Table 5 illustrates the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals within each county in the RNCOC. Additionally, the table summarizes by county the number of individuals that were counted as part of the motel, in-depth interviews, and school components.

In the Sheltered column, a value of 0 indicates that the county has either Emergency Shelter (ES) or Transitional Housing (TH) programs or both, but that no individuals were utilizing those shelter types on the night of the count; a value of NA indicates no known ES or TH programs active in the county on the night of the count. A value of zero in the remaining columns (Unsheltered, Interviews, Motel, and School) indicate that the count component was conducted within that county but no individuals were counted. A value of NA indicates that the specific count component was not conducted.

TABLE 5. COUNT SUMMARY BY COUNTY

County	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Interviews	Motel	School
Carson City	62	68	16	NA	186
Churchill	5	18	24	41	104
Douglas	6	6	NA	70	36
Elko	12	14	10	46	44
Esmeralda	NA	0	NA	NA	2
Eureka	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Humboldt	4	9	NA	36	93
Lander	NA	2	NA	0	29
Lincoln	NA	0	NA	NA	4
Lyon	0	65	21	2	253
Mineral	NA	0	0	0	1
Nye	7	132	NA	NA	315
Pershing	NA	NA	2	9	60
Storey	NA	0	0	0	0
White Pine	NA	0	0	0	24
Total	96	314	73	204	1,151

FIGURE 1. RESULTS OF 2023 PIT COUNT BY COUNTY



Legend



— Number of individuals counted who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness on January 26, 2023



— Number of individuals residing in emergency shelter or transitional housing on January 26, 2023; if no door icon is present in a county, no ES or TH programs were noted as active on the night of the count



SHELTERED COUNT RESULTS

There were **96 individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness** and utilizing either emergency shelter (ES) or transitional housing (TH) on the night of the count.

Notable demographic characteristics of these 96 individuals include the following:

- ✓ **Households:** These 96 individuals comprised 81 households; 8 households included children and 73 households did not include children.
- ✓ **Age:** The majority of those counted (81 or 84%) were 25 or older, but 2% of individuals utilizing ES and TH were determined to be transitional aged youth (18-24) and 14% were under age 18 (total age breakdown is provided in Table 6).
- ✓ **Race and Ethnicity:** The majority (80, 83%) of individuals identified as White (total racial and ethnic breakdown is provided in Table 7).
- ✓ **Gender:** The majority of individuals identified as male (57, 59%), with 39 females representing 41% of the count. No individuals indicated they were transgender, questioning, or a gender not singularly male or female.
- ✓ **Chronic Homelessness:** There were 21 individuals who met the definition of chronically homeless included in this total.

TABLE 6. SHELTERED INDIVIDUALS BY AGE RANGE

Age Range	Count	Percent
Under 18	13	14%
18-24	2	2%
25 and older	81	84%

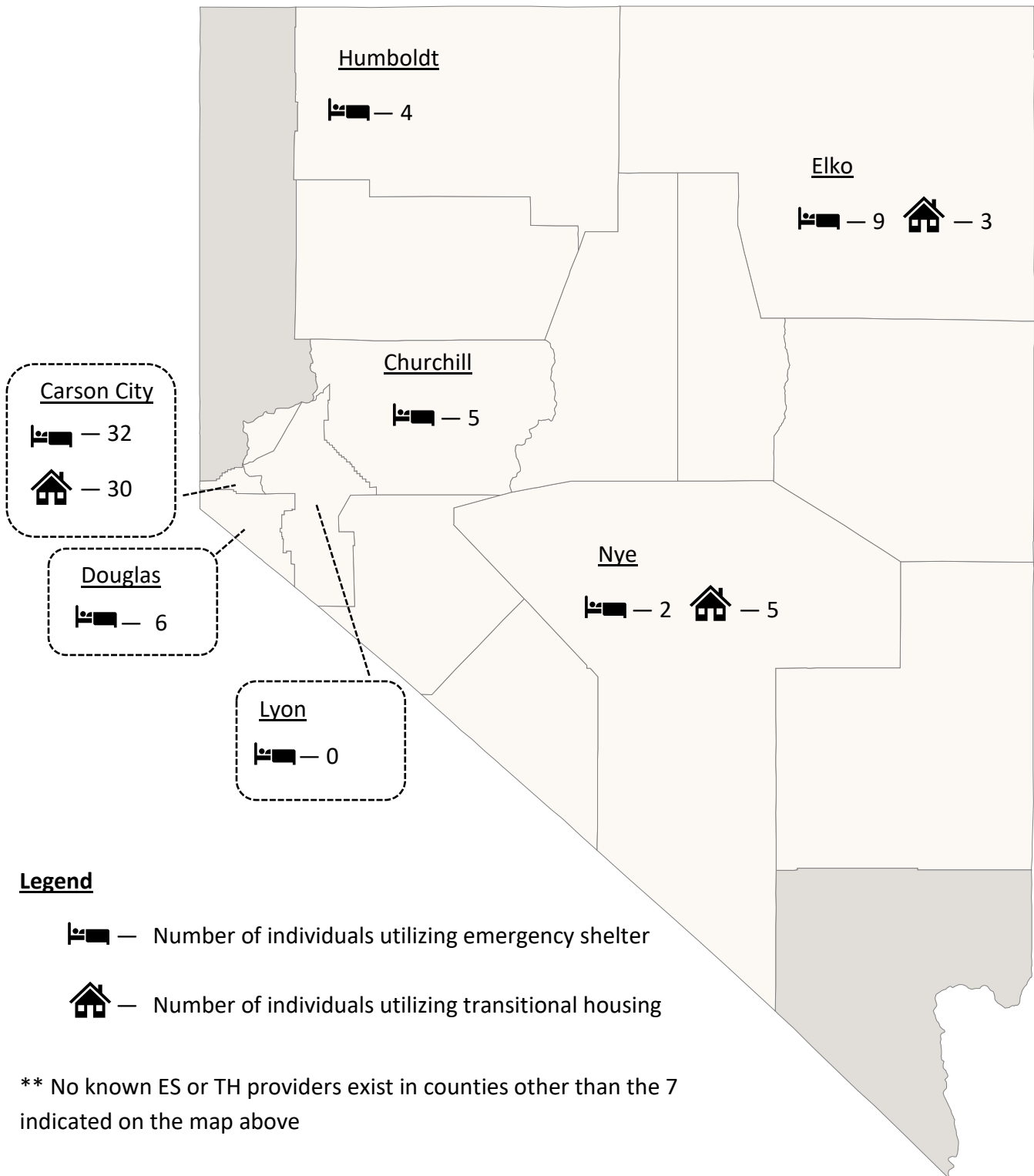
TABLE 7. SHELTERED INDIVIDUALS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY ¹¹

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	3	3%
Asian or Asian American	0	0%
Black, African American, or African	4	4%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White	80	83%
Two or More Races	1	1%
Race Unknown	8	8%
Hispanic Not Hispanic Ethnicity Unknown	11 56 29	11% 58% 30%

An additional 252 individuals were reported as utilizing permanent supportive housing, other supportive housing, or rapid rehousing on the night of the count. Demographic data is not collected or reported for individuals utilizing these types of shelter.

¹¹ Hispanic individuals may be of any race; the ethnicity breakdown should be considered separately.

FIGURE 2. RESULTS OF 2023 EMERGENCY SHELTER AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SHELTERED PIT COUNT BY COUNTY





UNSHELTERED COUNT RESULTS

314 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness were counted in the 2023 PIT Count. Demographic characteristics of these 314 individuals include:

- ✓ **Households:** These 314 individuals comprised 278 households; 4 households included children, and the remaining 274 households did not include children.
- ✓ **Age:** The majority of those counted (287, 91%) were over the age of 25, but 4% of individuals were determined to be under age 18 (total age breakdown is provided in Table 8).
- ✓ **Gender:** 62 individuals counted identified as female comprised (20%), 163 identified as male (52%), 2 identified as questioning, 1 identified as transgender, and 1 identified as a gender other than singularly female or male. Gender was unknown for the remaining 85 individuals.
- ✓ **Race and Ethnicity:** The majority (177, 56%) identified as white, although race was unknown for 103 individuals (total racial and ethnic breakdown is provided in Table 9).

TABLE 8. UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS BY AGE RANGE

Age Range	Count	Percent
Under 18	12	4%
18-24	15	5%
25 and older	287	91%

TABLE 9. UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY ¹²

Race/Ethnicity	Count	Percent
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	9	3%
Asian	2	<1%
Black or African American	8	3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
White	177	56%
Two or more races	8	3%
Unknown	103	33%
Other	7	2%
Hispanic Not Hispanic Unknown	25 187 102	8% 60% 32%

A graphic representing the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness by county is presented on page 25.

¹² Hispanic individuals may be of any race; the ethnicity breakdown should be considered separately.

SURVEY RESULTS

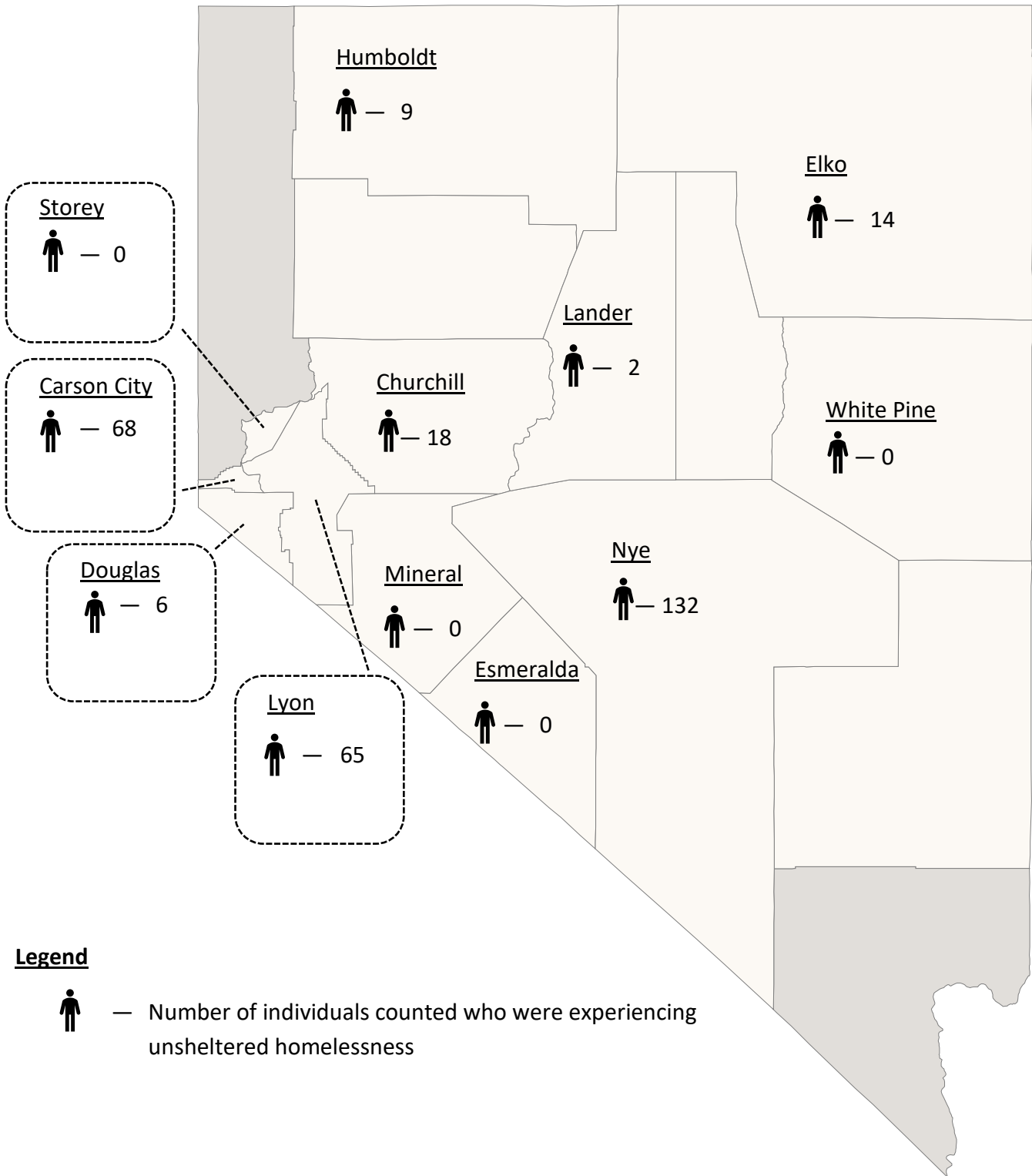
Of the 314 individuals counted, 232 responded to a brief survey about their background and current challenges (answers provided below are not mutually exclusive):

- ✓ 85 reported they live in a household with at least one individual, including themselves, that has experienced chronic homelessness
- ✓ 72 reported having a mental health disorder, 57 reported having a substance use disorder, 1 reported they have an AIDS or HIV related illness
- ✓ 23 reported they were veterans
- ✓ 14 reported they were experiencing homelessness because they were fleeing domestic violence

TABLE 10. SLEEPING LOCATIONS OF UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS (N=232)

Sleeping Location	Count
Abandoned building	5
Bus, train station, airport	1
Outdoor encampment	72
Park	6
Street or sidewalk	27
Under bridge/overpass	7
Vehicle/boat/RV not connected to services	108
Other	6

FIGURE 3. RESULTS OF 2023 UNSHELTERED PIT COUNT BY COUNTY





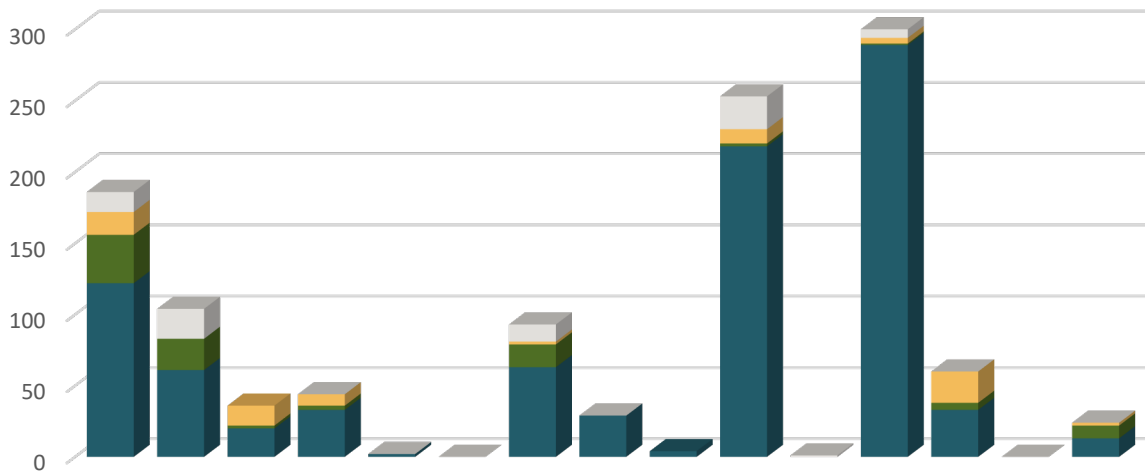
SCHOOL COUNT RESULTS

The RNCOC recognized **1,151 children across 15 counties who experienced housing instability or insecurity in January 2023.**

Nye County, Lyon County, and Carson City had the most children who were experiencing housing insecurity or instability, with 315, 253, and 186, respectively.

The School Count records the types of insecurity that children are experiencing. Categories comprise “doubled-up,” wherein families share the housing of other persons and likely do not have legal rights or a lease to ensure their continued housing; children living in a hotel or motel; in a shelter (which also includes transitional housing and, in some cases, waiting for foster care); and unsheltered. These are summarized by county in Figure 4 and Table 11.

FIGURE 4 AND TABLE 11. NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY COUNTY AND TYPE OF HOMELESSNESS



	Carson	Churchill	Douglas	Elko	Esmeralda	Eureka	Humboldt	Lander	Lincoln	Lyon	Mineral	Nye	Pershing	Storey	White Pine	Total
Doubled-Up	122	61	20	33	2	0	63	29	4	218	0	289	33	0	13	887
Hotel/Motel	34	22	2	3	0	0	16	0	0	2	0	1	5	0	9	94
Sheltered	16	0	14	8	0	0	2	0	0	10	0	4	22	0	2	78
Unsheltered	14	21	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	23	1	21	0	0	0	92
Total	186	104	36	44	2	0	93	29	4	253	1	315	60	0	24	1,151

COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS PIT COUNTS

The following graphics detail change over time regarding homelessness in rural Nevada. Whenever possible, county data has been aggregated to illustrate trends over at least a ten-year time period; shorter time spans indicate that data was not available prior to the first year presented in the graph.

FIGURE 5. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COUNTED IN SHELTERED COUNT 2013-2023 (EMERGENCY SHELTER AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ONLY)

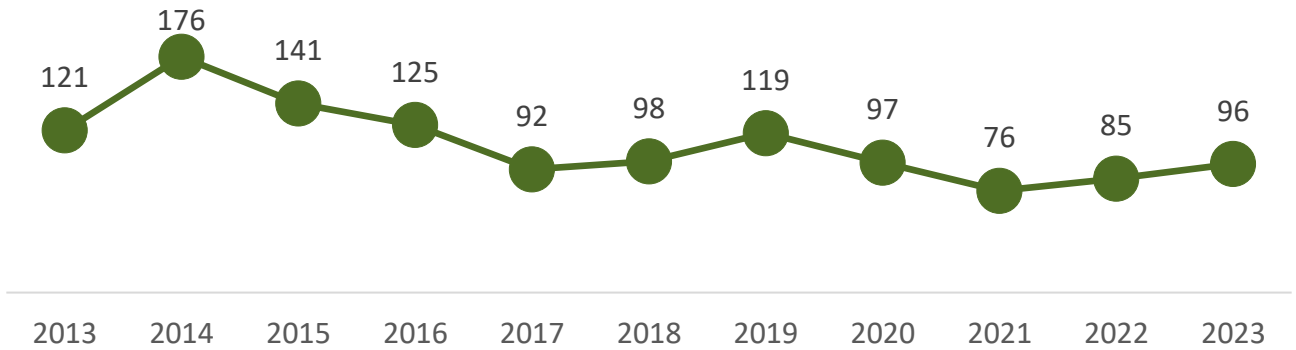


FIGURE 6. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COUNTED IN UNSHELTERED COUNT 2013-2023

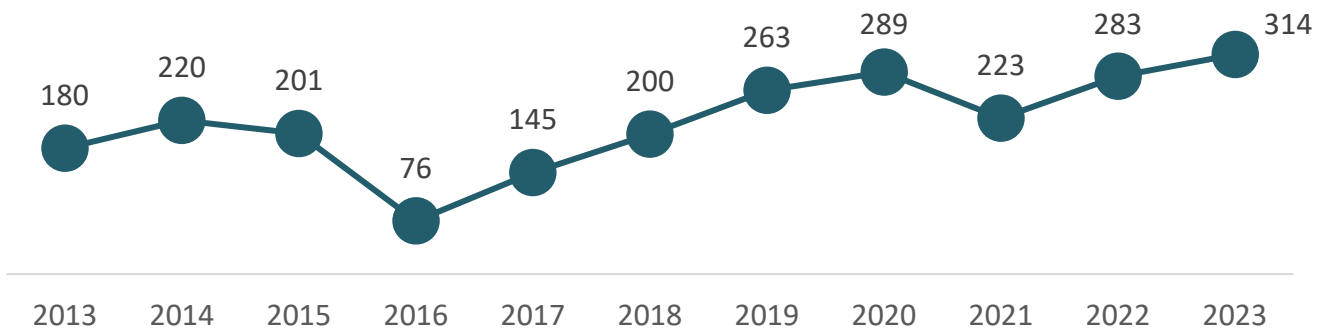


FIGURE 7. CHILDREN COUNTED AS HOMELESS IN SCHOOL COUNT 2013-2023

