

2026 Point in Time Count

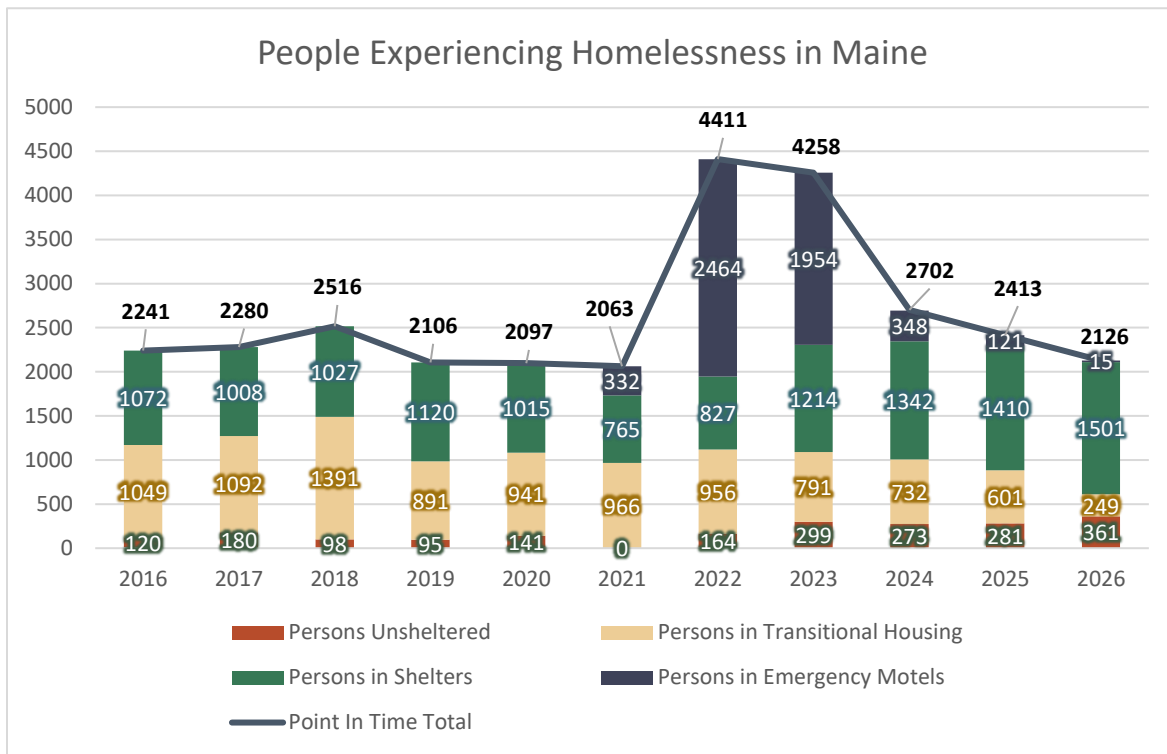


Figure 1: Trends. Point in Time counts over the years, distinguishing between those in homeless shelters, in emergency motels, in transitional housing, and without shelter.

On January 26, 2026, the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness found a 286 person reduction in the total population when compared to the previous year's count. The 2026 PIT count continued a three-year trend of homeless counts decreasing to pre-pandemic levels. Continuing another notable trend, the use of emergency housing motel funds, a primary driver of the increased sheltered count during the pandemic era, has almost entirely phased out.

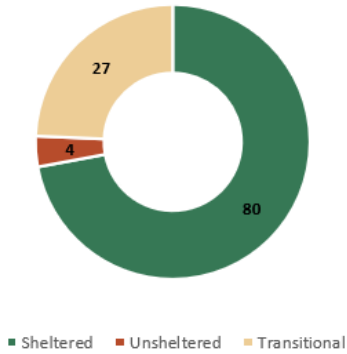
In the 2026 PIT count, the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in a sheltered setting decreased by 17%. There was also a significant reduction in the number of individuals accessing transitional housing on the night of count, primarily due to the closure of the Saco Hotel Transitional Housing Project, which historically offered around 300 beds.

The 2026 PIT count included an increase in the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Some factors that may have contributed to this increase include: (a) increasing average length of stay in shelters, due to the limited supply of long-term housing solutions; (b) more limited supply of transitional housing beds; and (c) continued strategic advancements in the comprehensive PIT count effort organized by Hub Coordinators throughout the state.

It is important to note that the PIT count is a federally mandated exercise that captures a snapshot of homelessness and is not the sole measure of homelessness in any location. The Maine CoC also relies on other measurements of homelessness via the Maine HMIS database to establish a year-round understanding of homelessness in the state. Based on the System Performance Measures submitted to HUD for the Fiscal Year 2025, the total number of sheltered individuals (in Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing Projects, and Safe Havens) served in the HMIS system was 4,179. Please note that this measure does not include those sheltering with providers who do not use the HMIS database, nor does it account for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Youth & Families

111 Households With Children



1714 Households Without Children

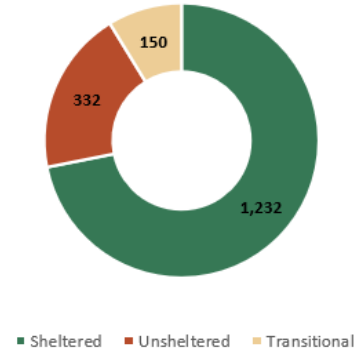


Figure 2a & 2b: Households and Children. In 2026, 6% of all households experiencing homelessness had at least one child during the Point in Time count. Of those with children, less than 3.6% were unsheltered. Not depicted above, the 2026 count included 17 youth under the age of 18, unaccompanied by parents or guardians, in emergency shelters or transitional housing.

Individual Children, Youth, and Adults

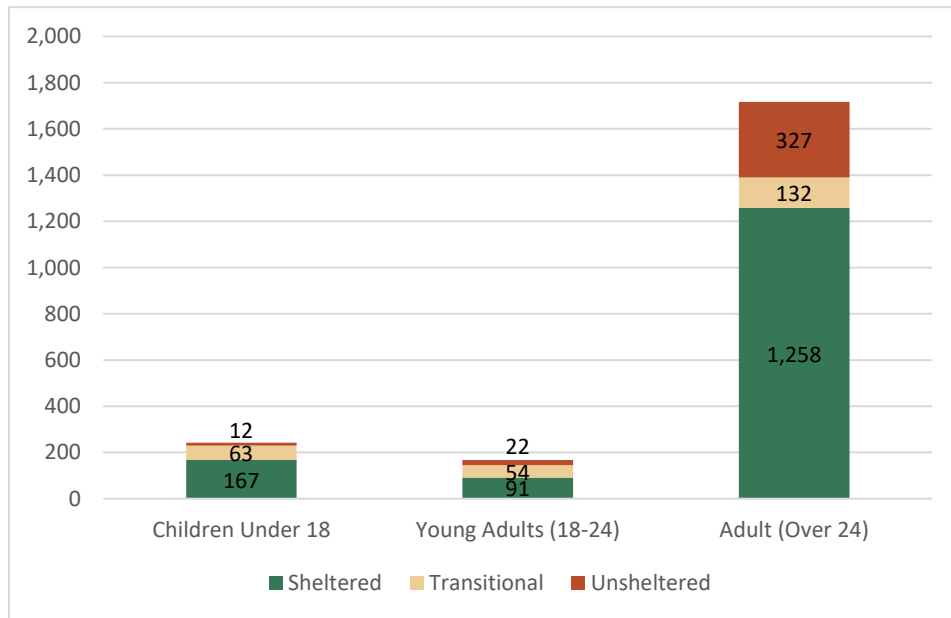


Figure 3: Children, Youth, and Adults. Most children and young adults experiencing homelessness are in emergency shelters or transitional housing.

Race & Ethnicity

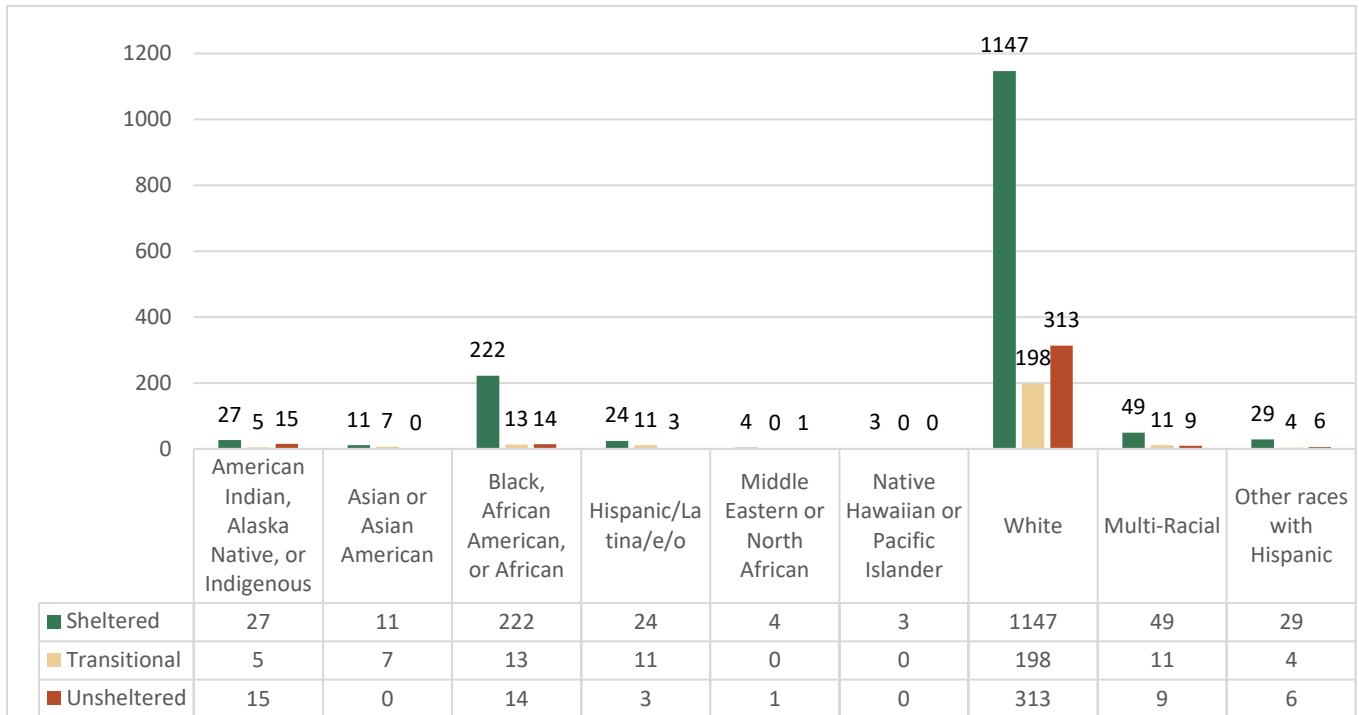


Figure 4: Race and Ethnicity Counts. The “Other races with Hispanic” category refers to individuals who selected a race in addition to Hispanic.

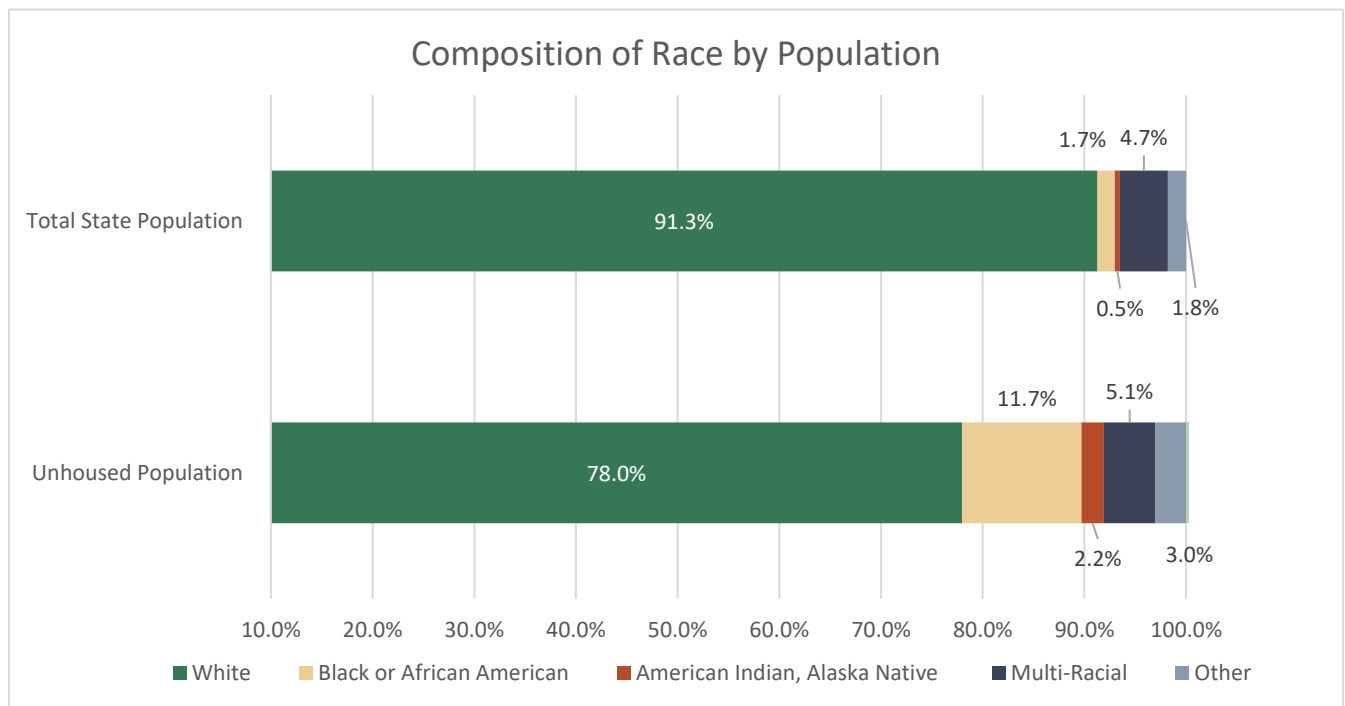


Figure 5: Racial Distributions. This figure depicts the racial distribution of the unsheltered count alongside that of the statewide population. Because ethnicity is not accounted for concurrently with race in US Census data, the unsheltered count of Hispanic or Latinx individuals has been included in the Other category.

Subpopulations in the 2026 Point in Time Count

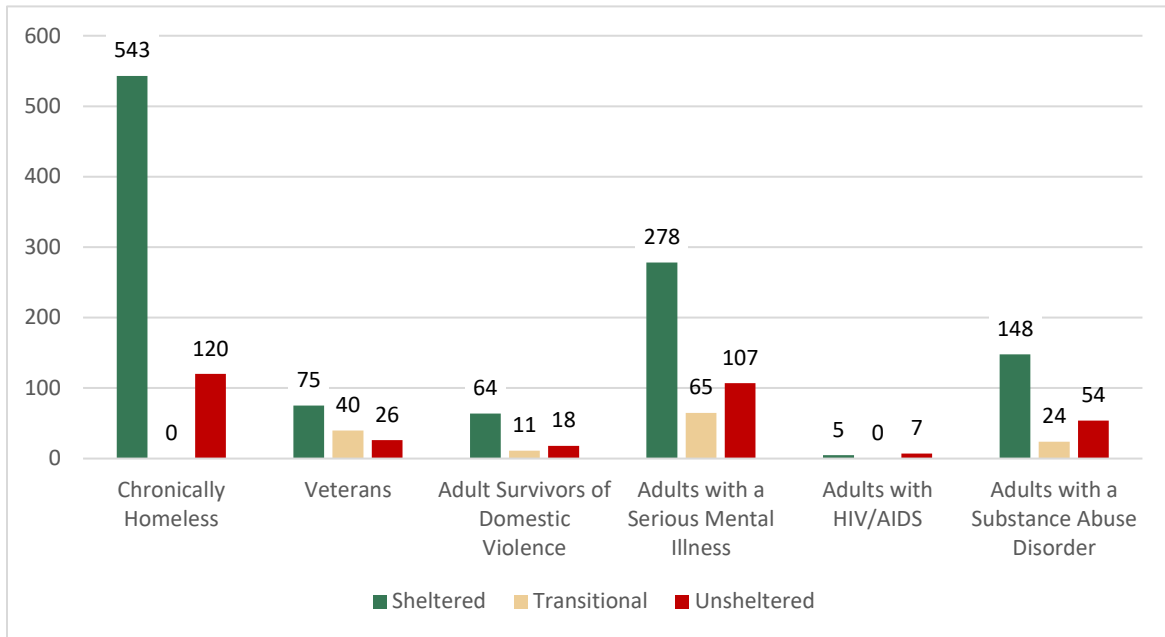


Figure 6: Clients may appear in more than one category. Among the Unsheltered population, 29.6% of individuals reported having a Serious Mental Illness.

Chronically Homeless, Veterans & Survivors of Domestic Violence

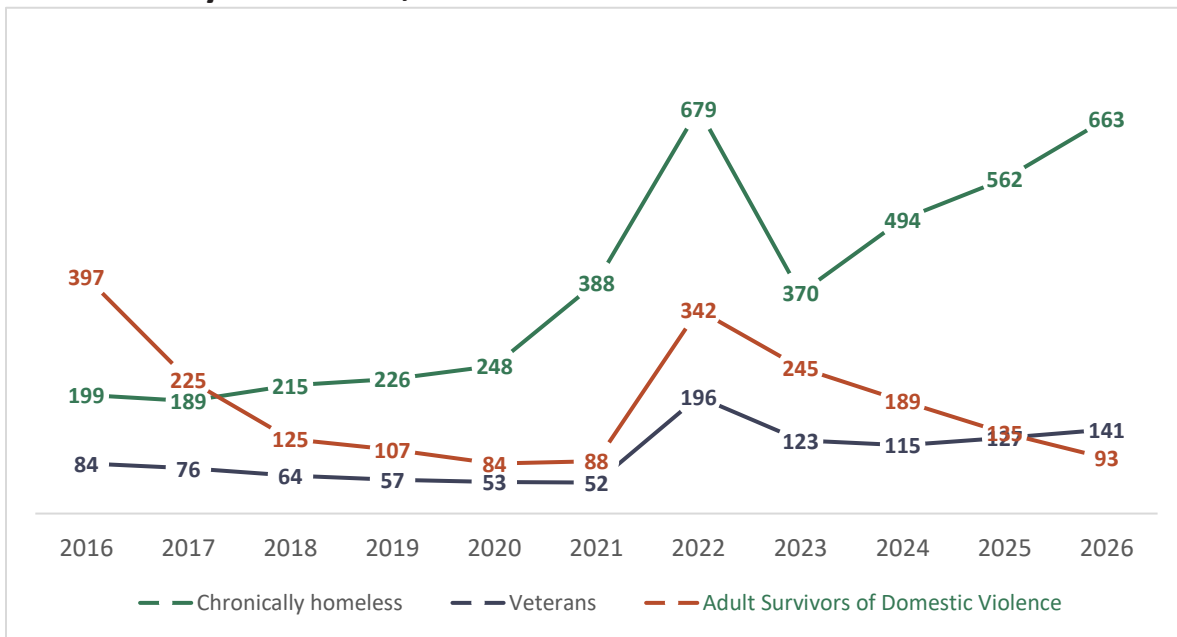


Figure 7: Homeless Trends for clients reporting Chronic Homeless, Veterans, and Survivors of Domestic Violence. The number of homeless survivors of domestic violence decreased by 42. However, the chronically homeless count increased by 101 people and the count of homeless veterans increased by 14. The increasing trend for chronic homelessness is likely driven by a widespread shortage of available housing units, making long-term housing placements that much more difficult for those in emergency shelters and, therefore, increasing the average length of time that individuals remain unhoused.

Where People Were the Night of the Survey

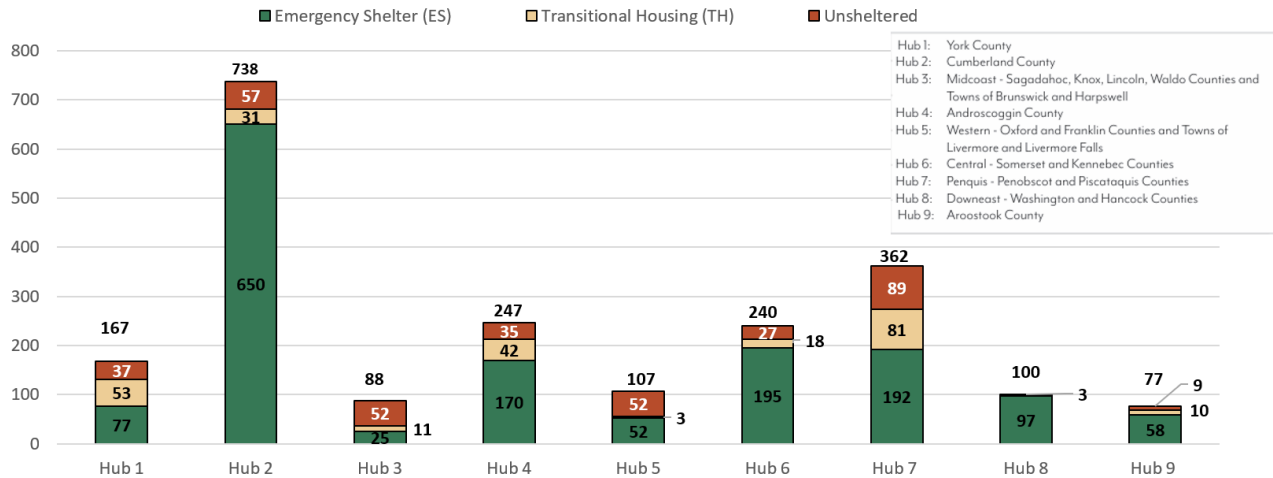


Figure 8: Distribution by Regional Hubs. Hubs 1, 2, 3, and 6 saw net homeless counts decrease in 2026, whereas all others saw at least a small increase. Most notably, the net count in Hub 1 decreased by 373 (69%).

About ICA and the Maine Continuum of Care

The Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) serves as the HMIS Lead Agency and Administrator for the Maine Continuum of Care. In support of MCoC's annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, ICA is responsible for ensuring that providers review and validate their HMIS data prior to submitting project-level count information, coordinating the data collection process for providers, identifying and resolving data errors, and completing the final PIT data submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Beyond the PIT Count, ICA provides ongoing technical assistance and training to HMIS users, monitors system-wide data quality, and prepares and submits other federally required reports on behalf of the CoC.

The Maine Continuum of Care secures HUD funding to create housing and services that help individuals and families exit homelessness and find safe, stable housing. It is a statewide, community-based collaborative that ensures a responsive, fair and just approach to addressing homelessness in Maine, and strives to secure safe, affordable housing for all.

About the Point in Time Count

The Point in Time count is a survey of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons from a single night each year. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that each Continuum of Care conduct a Point in Time count within the last ten days of January annually. HUD uses the Point in Time count from each of the 50 states as a primary data source for the Annual Homeless Assessment Report. Each count is locally planned, coordinated, and carried out. Information from emergency shelters and other service providers is collected through Maine's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), supplemented by paper surveys and mobile app-based surveys to incorporate the unsheltered count. Both the HMIS and survey data are comprised of self-reported information about the participants. In Maine, Hub Coordinators organize the unsheltered portion of the count in each of the nine Homeless Service Hubs throughout the state, relying on support from local volunteers and nonprofit organizations.

The data from these surveys can take several weeks to accurately process. This includes several days of supplementary data gathering, collation of these data from organizations throughout the state, and then several more weeks for data validation and deduplication. The end product is a snapshot that, along with other reports and continuous HMIS data tracking, contributes to our understanding of homelessness in Maine.