

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY



Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

2020

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.



Our homeless services system is helping more people than ever, but we must go upstream to stop the inflow to homelessness due to inadequate housing supply, income inequality, and institutional racism.

SUCCESSES:

- ▶ Annual Housing placements doubled since Measure H
- ▶ LAHSA's Housing Central Command increased speed of placements
- ▶ 6,010 people sheltered quickly in pandemic.

CHALLENGES:

- ▶ Systemic racism in housing, justice, health care and economic policy
- ▶ Housing supply 509,000 units short
- ▶ Wages not keeping up with rent costs
- ▶ Economic impact of COVID-19 and pandemic recession

The number of people experiencing homelessness at any point in time in L.A. Is still unacceptably high

	2019	2020	Percent Change
City of Los Angeles	35,550	41,290	16%
County of Los Angeles	58,936	66,436	13%

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES UP 13%

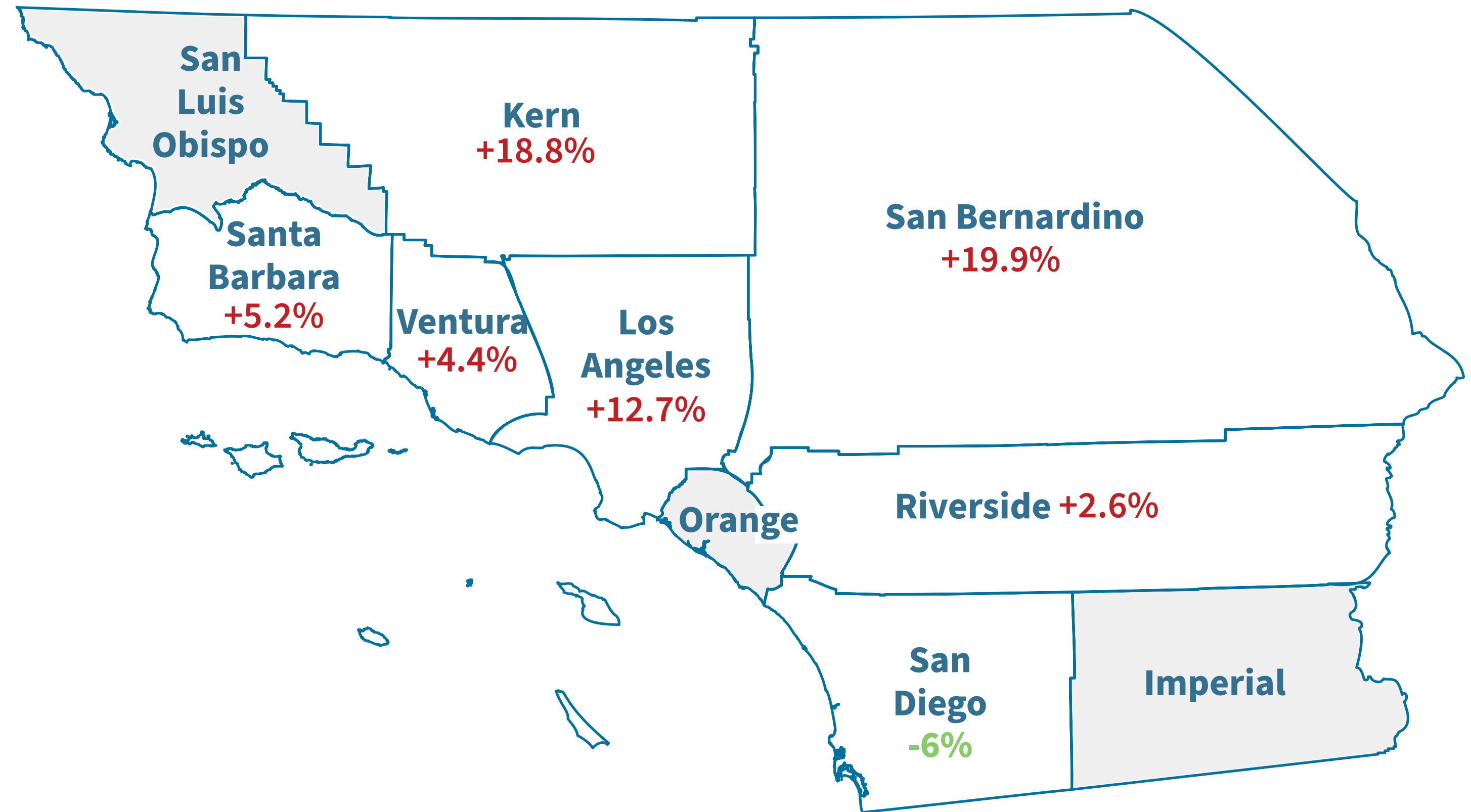
LAST YEAR WAS UP 12%

CITY OF LOS ANGELES UP 16%

LAST YEAR WAS UP 16%

Homelessness is a regional challenge

In Southern California, only one county's homeless count decreased - San Diego - while the other five counties increased between 3% and 20%.*



*Orange and San Luis Obispo Counties did not conduct street counts in 2020; Imperial County has not finalized data.

L.A.'s inadequate housing supply, systemic racism and income inequality are driving inflows to homelessness

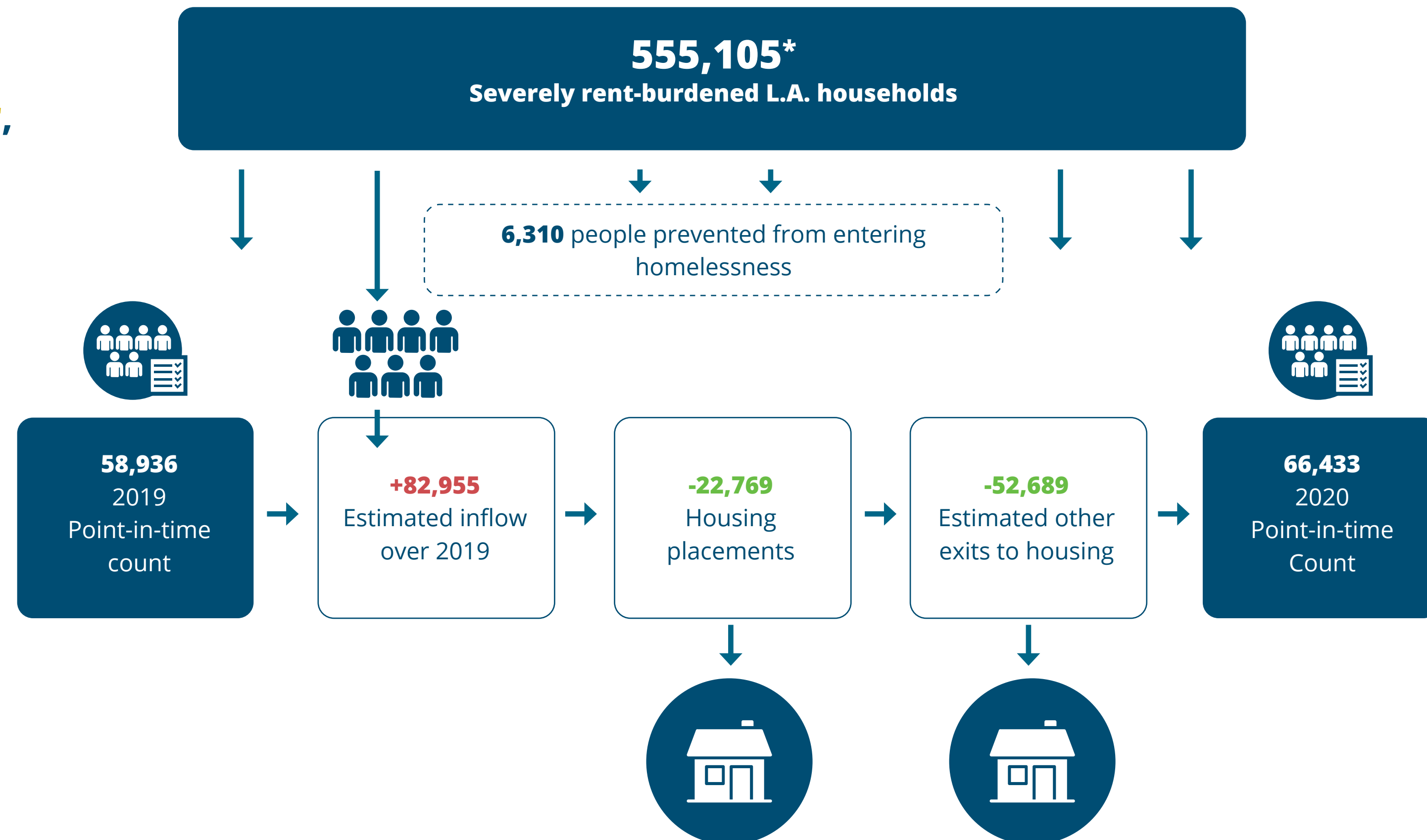
L.A. needs 509,000 new affordable housing units to meet current demand (CA Housing Partnership 2020 report)

Systemic racism leads to a **disproportionate number of black people** becoming homeless In L.A. County, where 8% of the overall population is black, but black people represent **34% of those experiencing homelessness.**

Wages have not kept pace with rents Renters in LA County need to earn \$41.96 per hour — **2.8 times the City of L.A. minimum wage** — to afford the average monthly asking rent of \$2,182.

Inflow has Increased in 2020

L.A. housed **more people than ever**, yet our housing affordability crisis drove a net rise in homelessness.

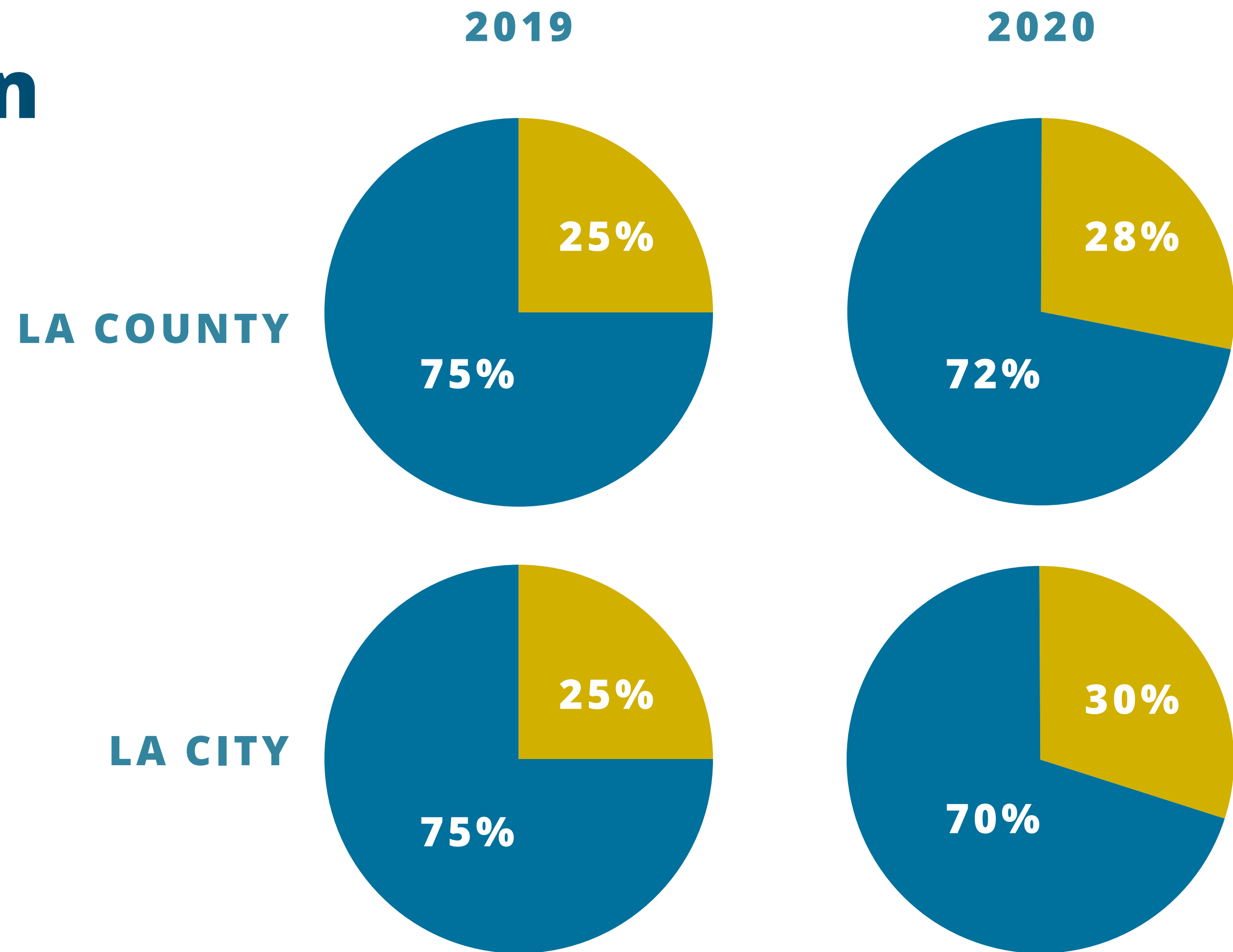


*US Census ACS data

The share of sheltered population increased in both the City and the County

- ▶ 18,395 people experiencing homelessness in L.A. County were sheltered, up from 14,722 the previous year, a 25% increase

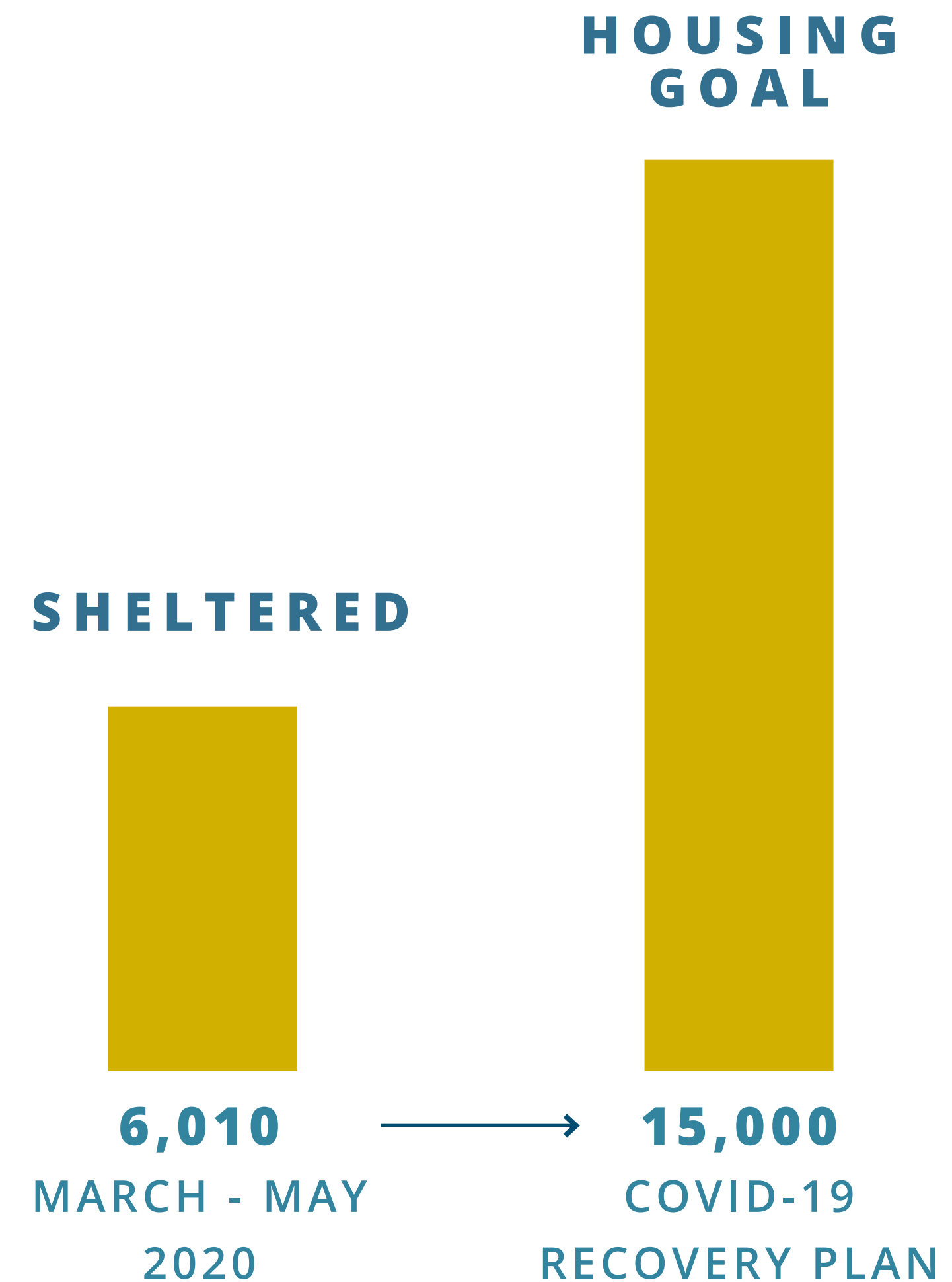
 SHELTERED
 UNSHELTERED





And once COVID-19 hit, our new systems allowed us to shelter thousands more

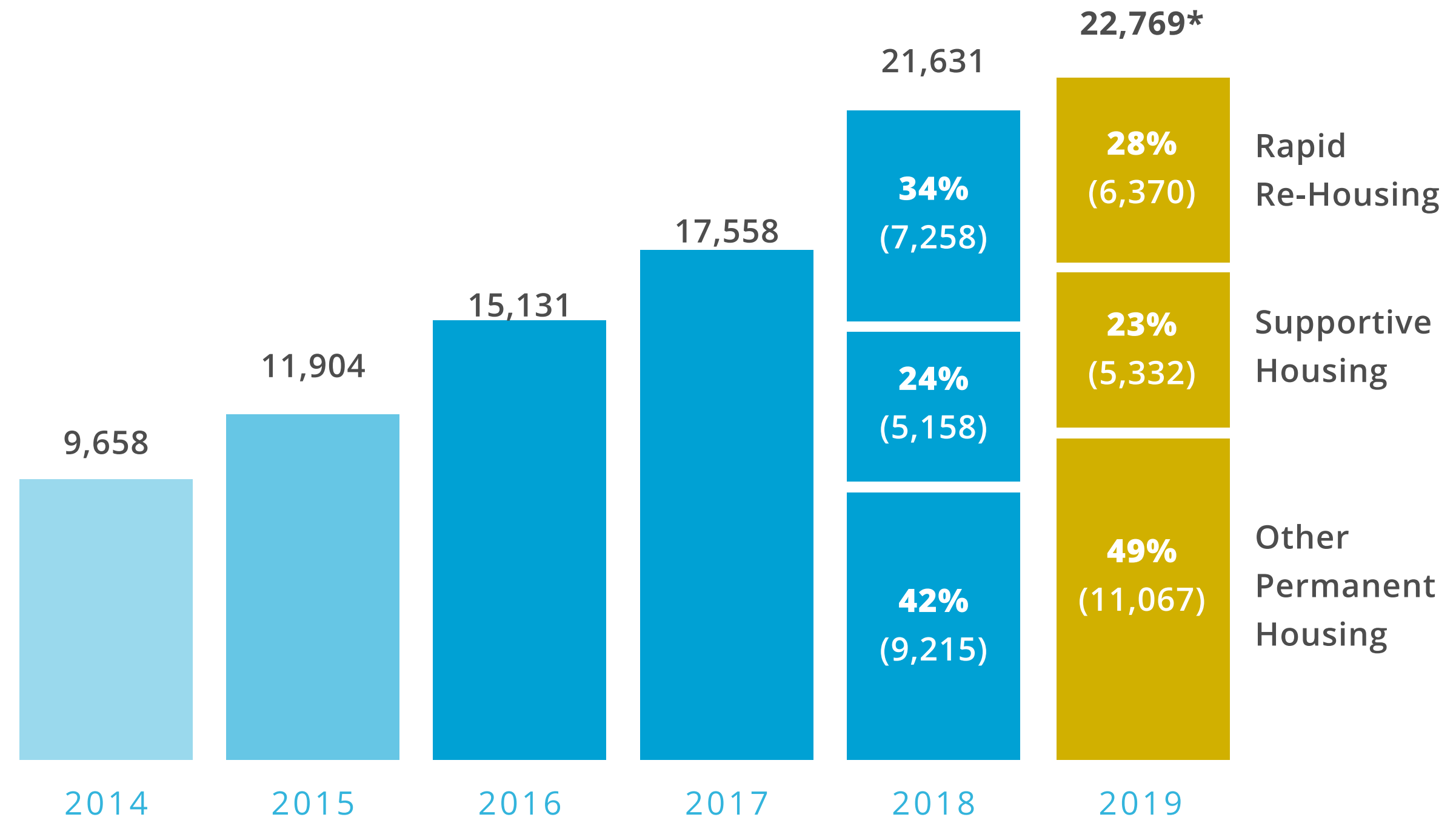
- ▶ With unprecedented speed, our system has sheltered 6,010 of our most vulnerable in past 3 months alone as part of our COVID-19 response.
- ▶ Now, our focus is moving the 15,000 most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness, and including all Project Roomkey residents, into permanent housing.
- ▶ We need the local, state and federal funds to make this happen.





Even in L.A.'s tight housing market, we placed more people than ever into housing

- ▶ 22,769 housing placements, up from last year and more than double annual placements since before Measure H
- ▶ 88% of those placed through our system in 2018 have not returned to homelessness*



*2019 total includes 244 placements from LACDA

Thousands of permanent supportive housing units are bringing our most vulnerable inside

MORE THAN 10,000 PSH UNITS IN THE PIPELINE

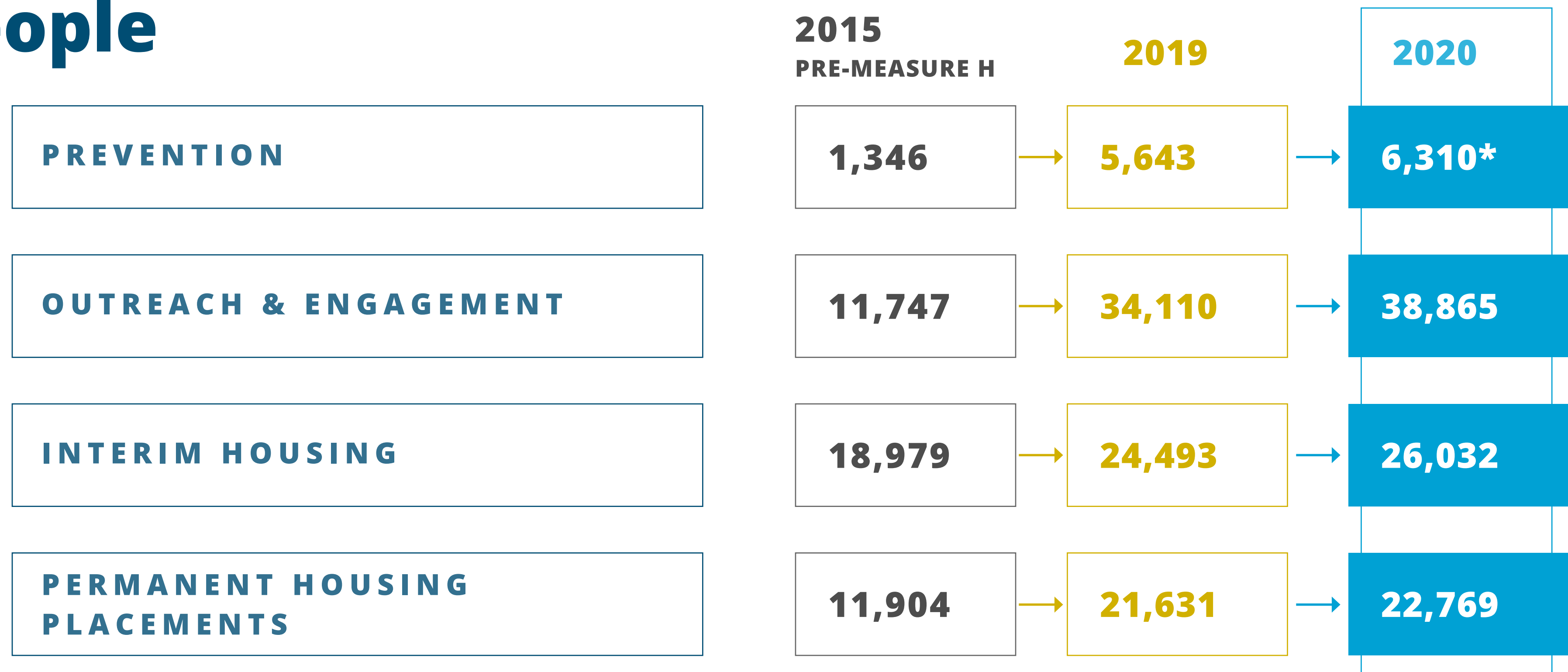
- ▶ 2,360 PSH units will open in the next 12 months.
- ▶ New PSH units fill within days, a more robust rate than other housing units.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total PSH Units</u>
2019-20	732
2020-21	2,694
<u>Cumulative total by:</u>	
2024-25	10,638

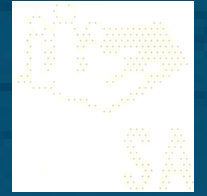


PATH Metro Villas opened March 26, 2019 with 65 new units of supportive housing

Our system continues to help significantly more people



* Number from fiscal year 2018-19.

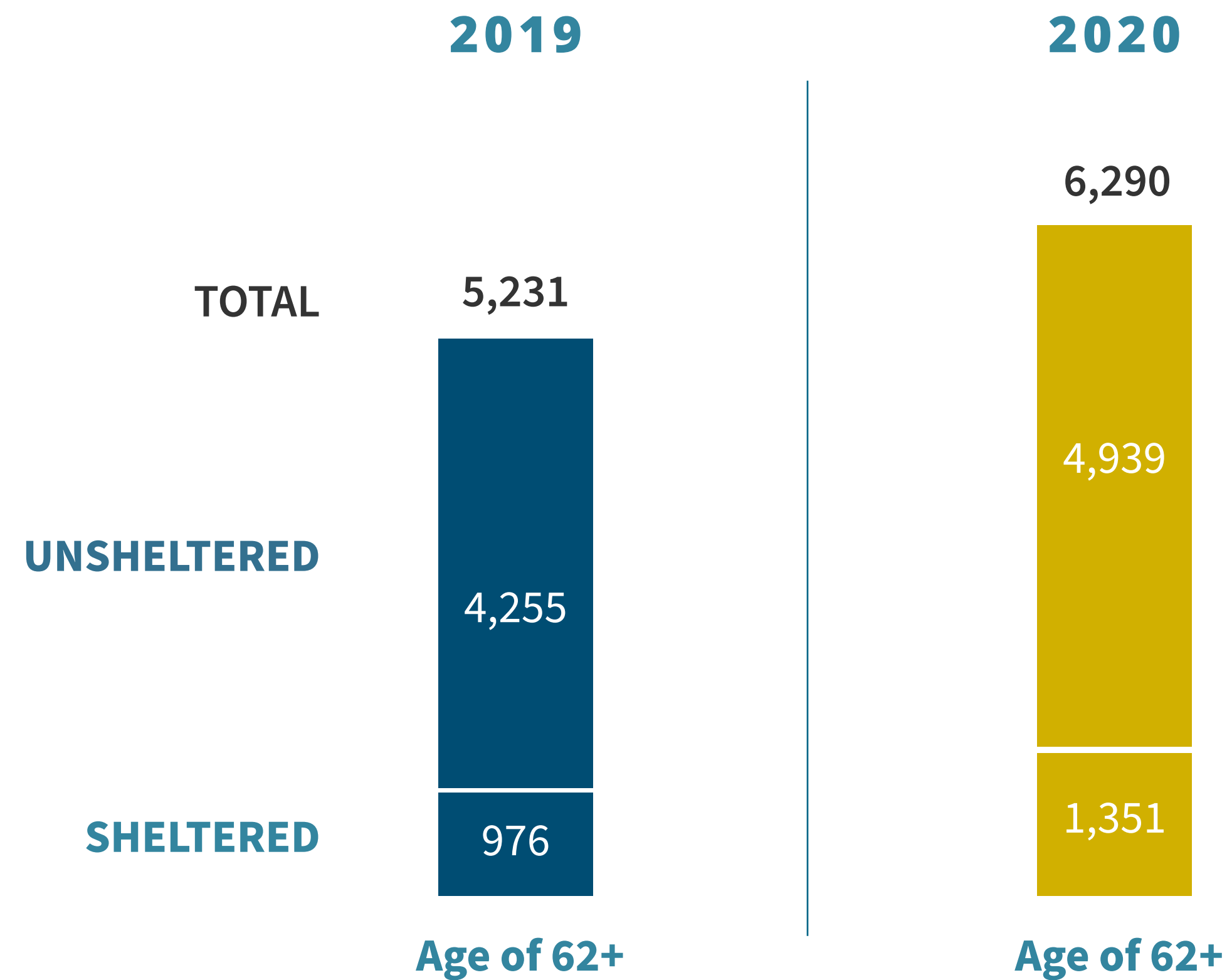


Insights from the 2020 Count Results



Seniors 62+ increased by 20%

- Seniors have been a focus during the COVID-19 crisis, with 1,953 adults 55 and older sheltered through Project Roomkey over the past three months.
- 21% of the 4,939 unsheltered seniors from 2020 have been sheltered through Project Roomkey.

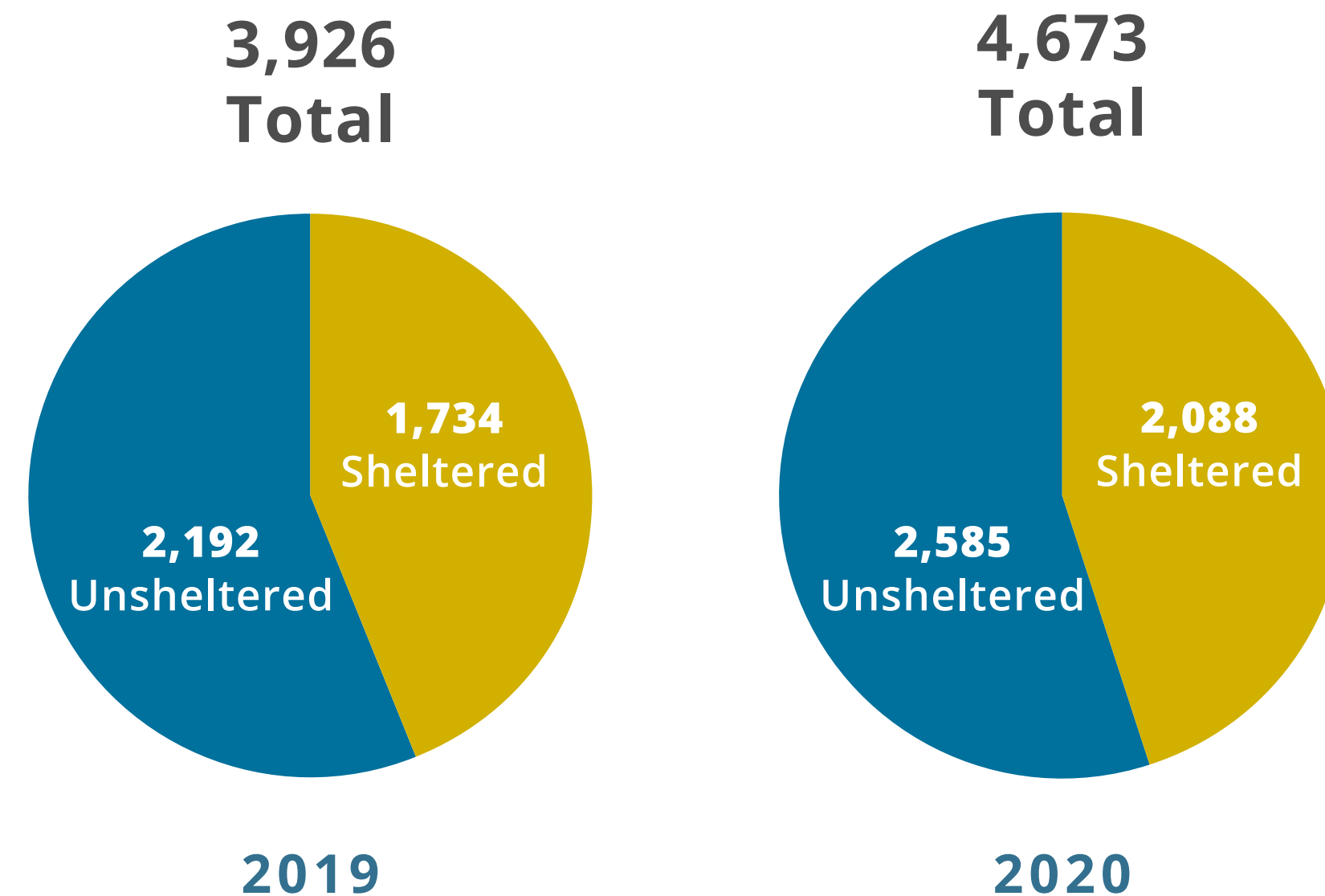


% CHANGE	
Sheltered	38.4%
Unsheltered	16.1%
Total	20.2%

Numbers are for LA Continuum of Care

Homelessness Among Transition Age Youth Households and Unaccompanied Minors Increased 19%

- ▶ 4,673 transition-aged youth experienced homelessness, up from 3,926 last year, within the LA Continuum of Care



*Transition Age Youth Households includes both individuals 18-24 and members of families headed by persons 18-24.

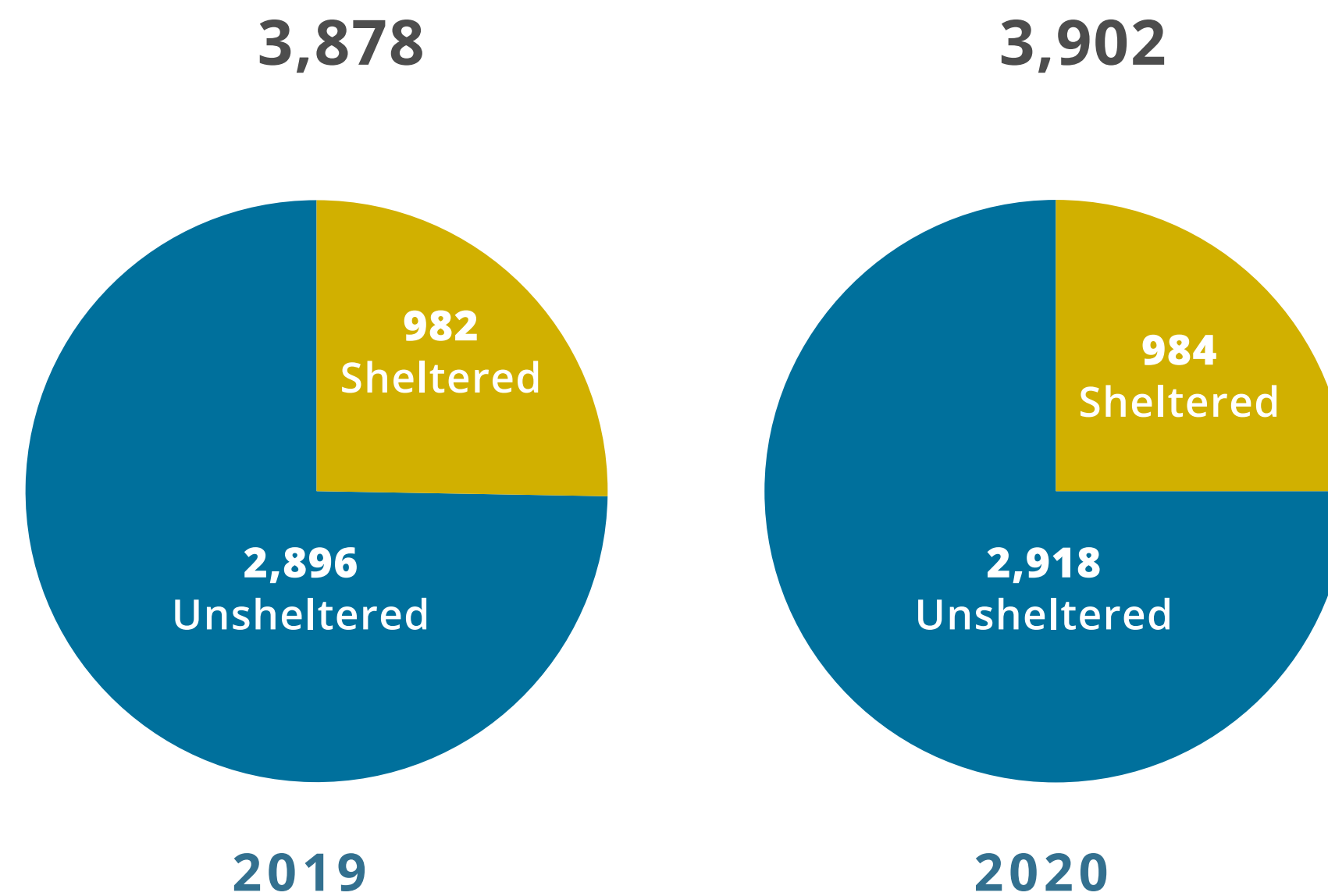


0.6% increase in veterans

This is the population that has received the biggest boost in federal, state and local investment over the past decade.

Illustrates the serious challenge of stemming the tide of inflow to homelessness when the population with the most stable resource base simply holds essentially flat.

% CHANGE	
Sheltered	0.2%
Unsheltered	0.8%
Total	0.6%



Numbers are for LA County.



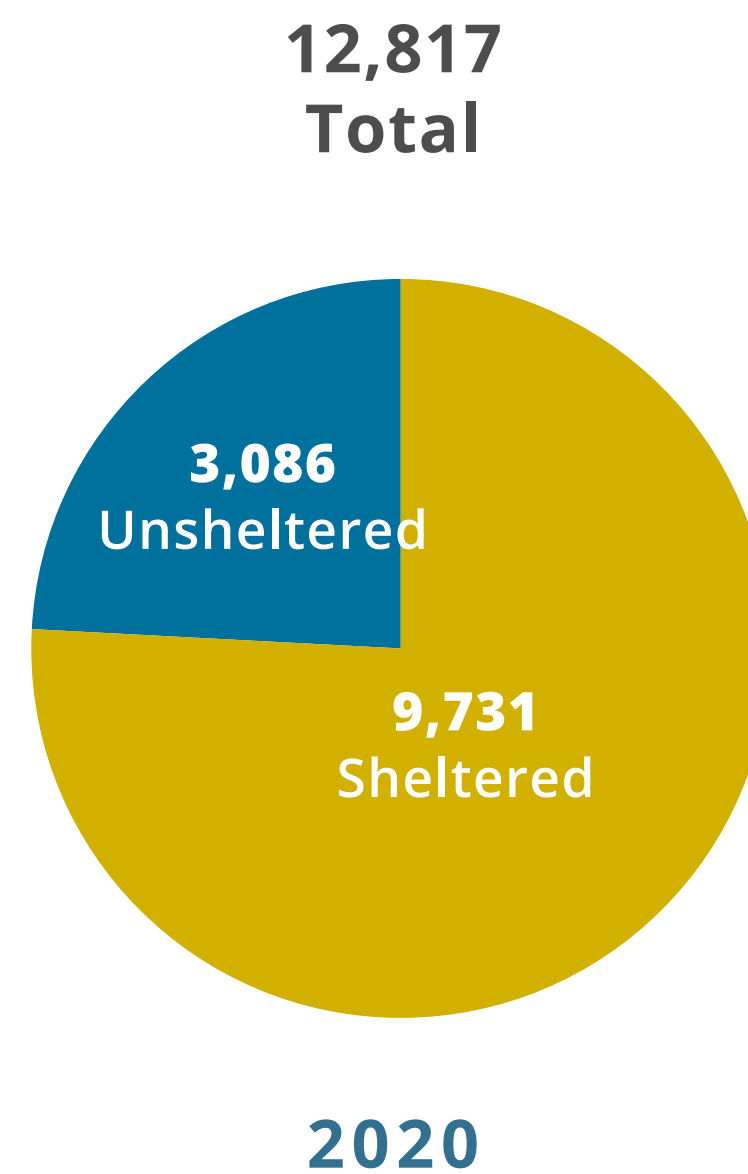
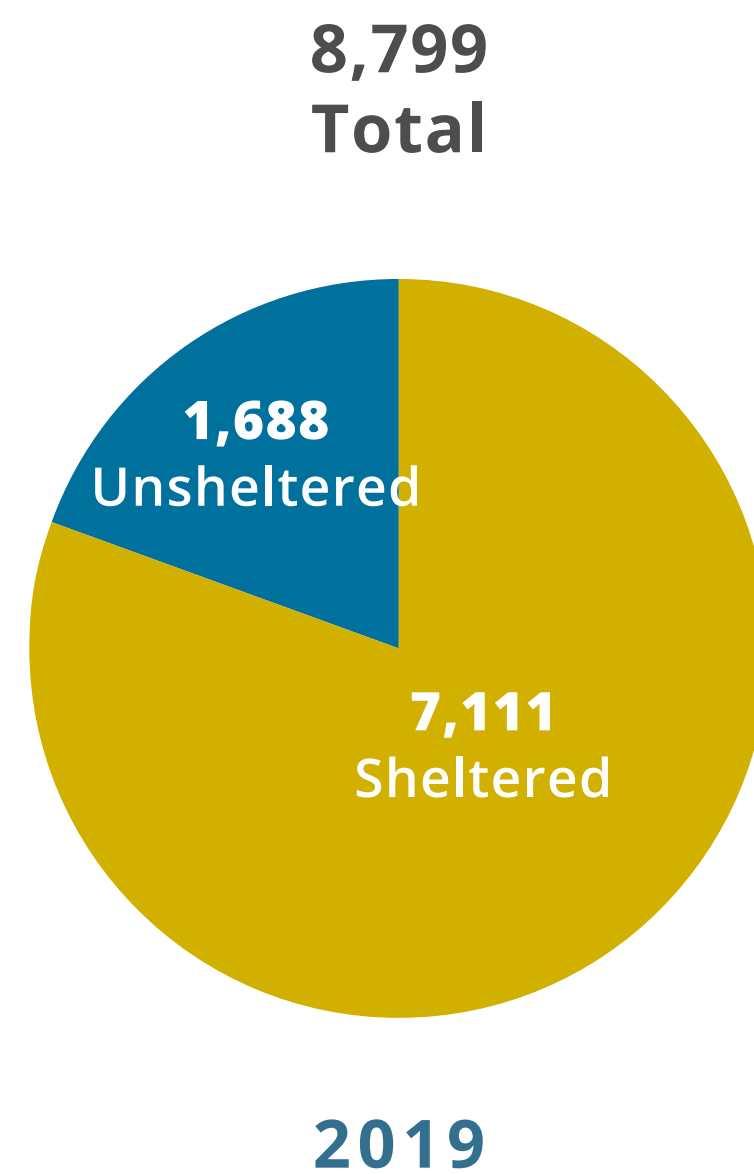
Methodological improvements have set new baselines for family homelessness and chronic homelessness

- ▶ A new, more accurate baseline for unsheltered families resulted in a doubling of surveys from unsheltered families.
- ▶ Better survey methods reveal that chronic homelessness is more widespread than previously understood.
- ▶ Because of these changes, year-to-year comparisons in chronic homelessness and unsheltered families are not comparable, and we should consider 2020 a new baseline.

45.7% increase in families

% CHANGE	
Sheltered	36.8%
Unsheltered	82.8%
Total	45.7%

- ▶ 36.8% increase in sheltered families
- ▶ This year an effort was made to reach more unsheltered families (last year there were 83 surveys, this year there were 180) creating a new, more accurate baseline for unsheltered families.

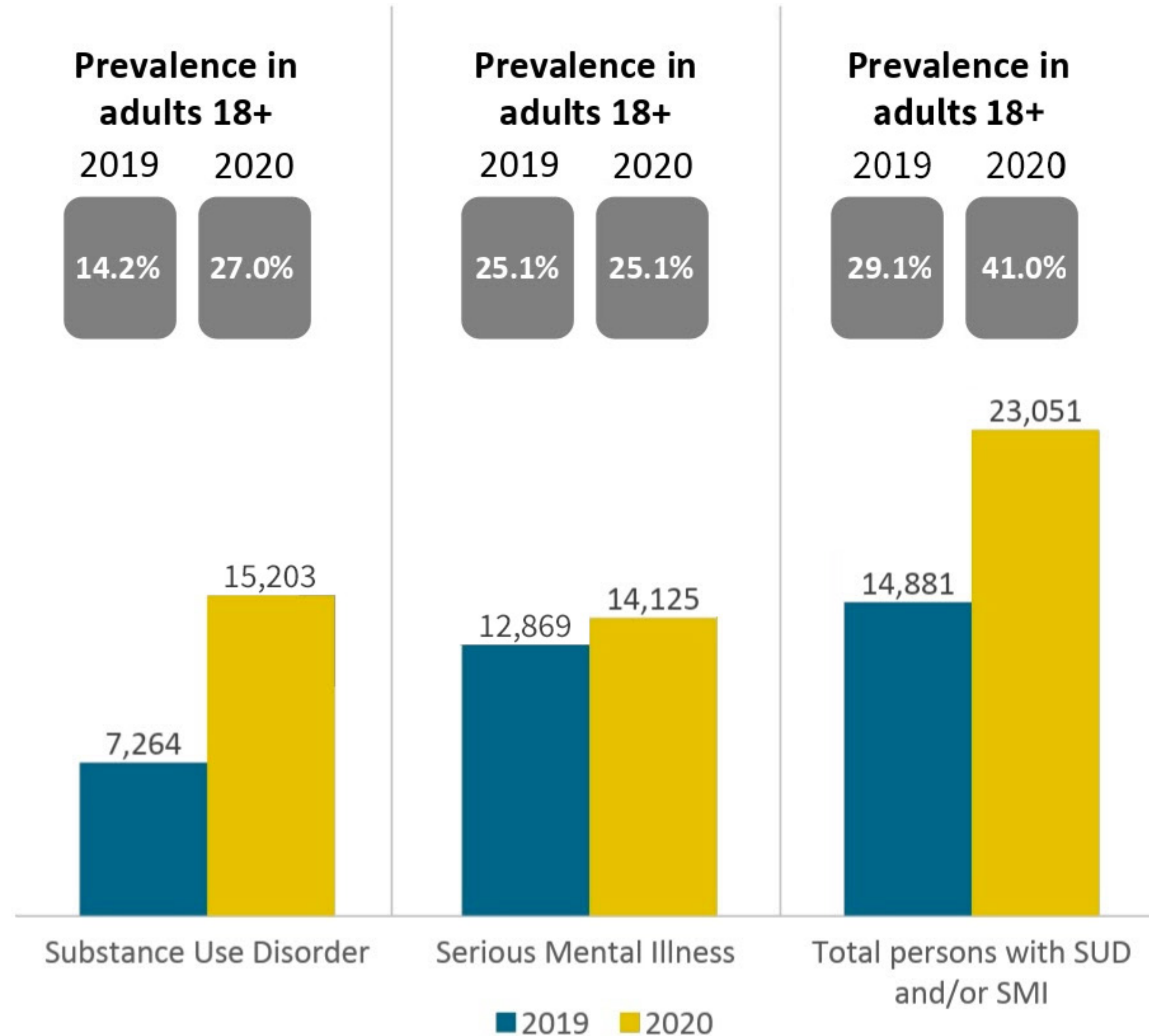


Numbers indicate family members; HUD defines family as at least one adult over 18 with at least one dependent child under 18



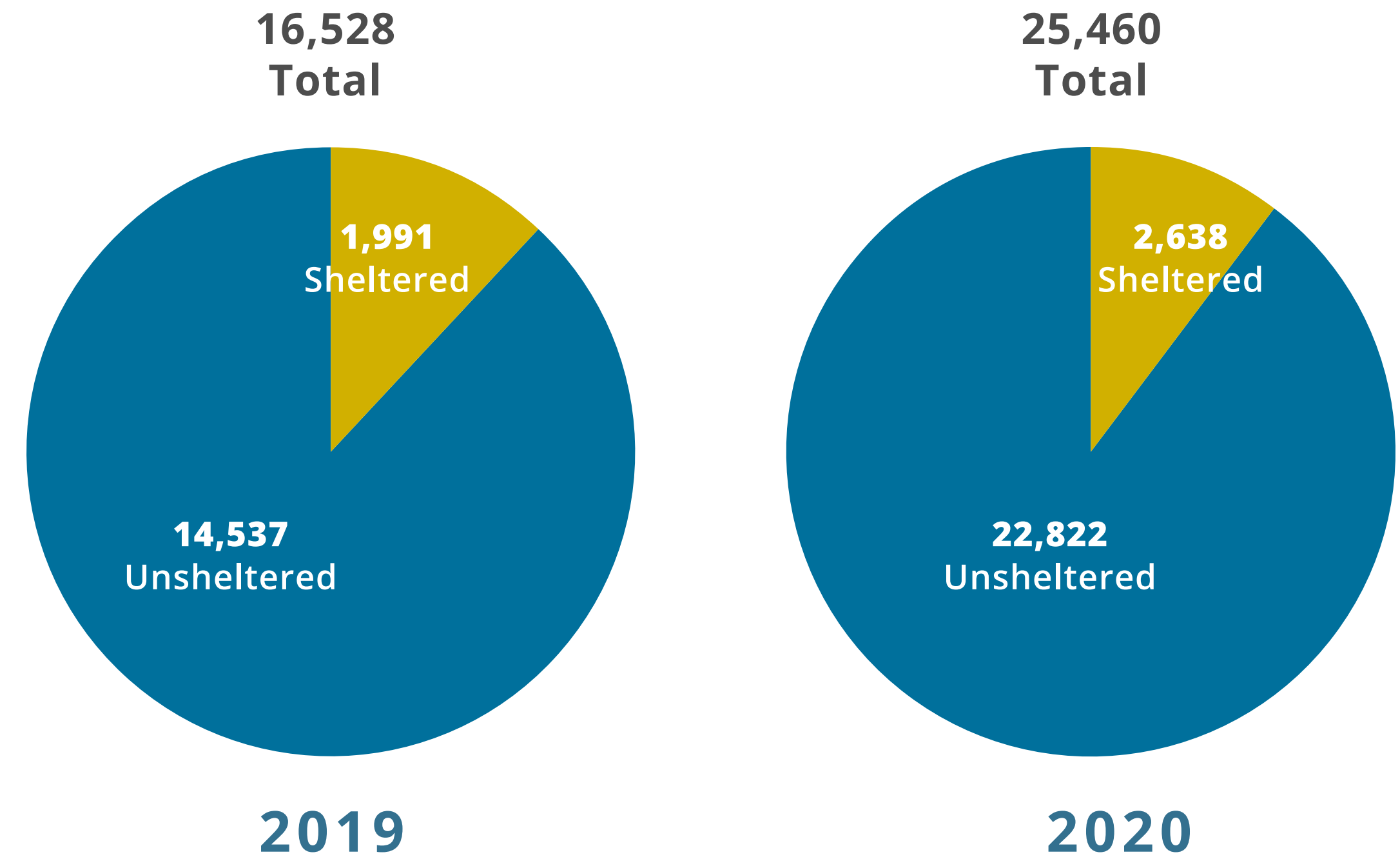
A new level of specificity on substance use

- ▶ This resulted in a doubling of unsheltered who reported substance use in response to the new question wording: 14,284 (32%), up from 6,583, or 16% in the old methodology.
- ▶ Notably, there was not a percentage increase in reporting long-term mental health conditions.

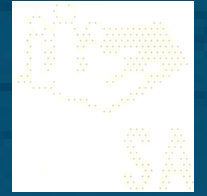


Changes to demographic survey give a more accurate picture of vulnerability

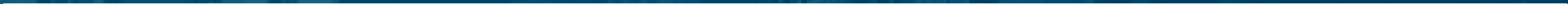
- ▶ HUD defines chronic as homeless more than a year and has a disabling condition.
- ▶ 54% more people in 2020 meet the HUD definition of chronic homelessness, from 16,528 to 25,460*.
- ▶ Because of these changes, year-to-year comparisons in chronic homelessness are not comparable, but we should consider 2020 a new baseline.



*Numbers are for LA County



Demographic Snapshot





Structural racism causes black people to be 4x more likely to experience homelessness

Without institutional racism, there would be 15,000 fewer people experiencing homelessness, almost all coming from African-American & Native American populations.

LAHSA, L.A. City & L.A. County are implementing the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness to dismantle structural racism.

	L.A. CoC Homeless Population	L.A. County Population*
Hispanic/Latino	36.1%	48.5%
Black/African-American	33.7%	7.9%
White	25.5%	26.3%
American-Indian/Alaskan Native	1.1%	0.2%
Asian	1.2%	14.4%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.2%
Multi-Racial/Other	2.1%	2.5%

*U.S. Census Data



59% of newly homeless cite economic hardship as main reason

- 2/3 of unsheltered adults are on their first episode of homelessness

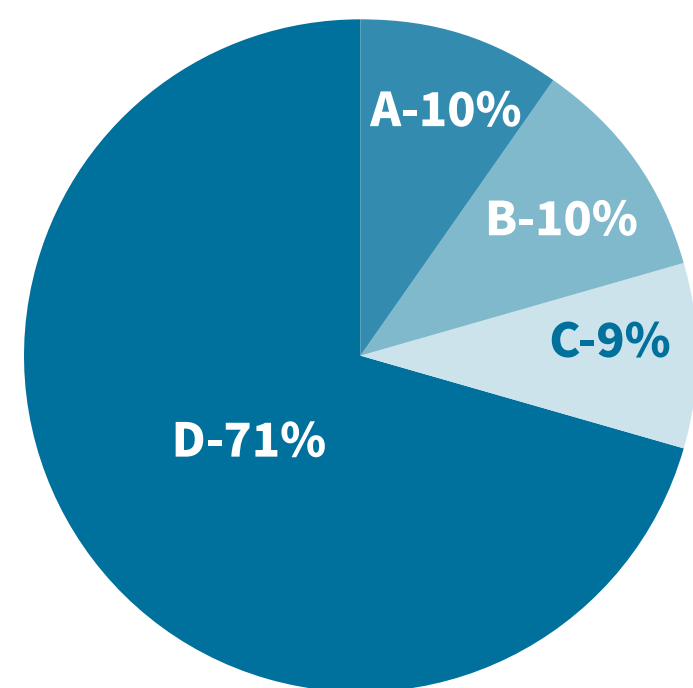
	Percent of newly homeless population*
	First Time (<=1yr)
Economic Hardship	59%
Weakened Social Network	39%
Disabling Health Condition	24%
System Discharge	11%
Violence	8%
Other	4%

*Respondents may choose more than one reason.

80% of unsheltered Angelenos have been here more than 5 years

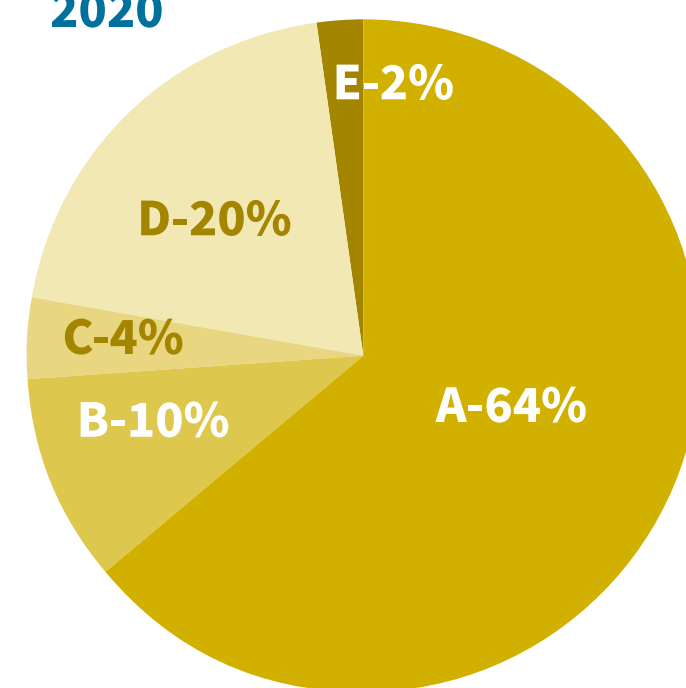
- Two-thirds of unsheltered Angelenos became homeless here in L.A. County

Length of time in L.A. County LA CoC, 2020



A - < 1 year
B - >1 - 5 years
C - >5 - 10 years
D - > 10 years

Place of Residence Before Becoming Homeless L.A. CoC, 2020



A - L.A. County
B - Other County in Southern CA
C - Other County in CA
D - Out of State
E - Outside of the U.S.

Numbers are for Unsheltered Adults 25+ and Children in Adult Families for the CoC only.





Gender

- 2/3 of people experiencing homelessness identify as male.
- 1.3% of people experiencing homelessness are transgender

	Number	% of Pop		Number	% of Pop
Cisgender Male	42,387	66.5%	Male	42,797	67.2%
Transgender Male	410	0.6%			
Cisgender Female	20,300	31.9%	Female	20,671	32.4%
Transgender Female	371	0.6%			
Non-Binary	177	0.3%	Non-Binary	238	0.4%
Transgender Non-Binary	61	0.1%			
Total	63,706	100%		63,706	100%

Numbers are for LA Continuum of Care

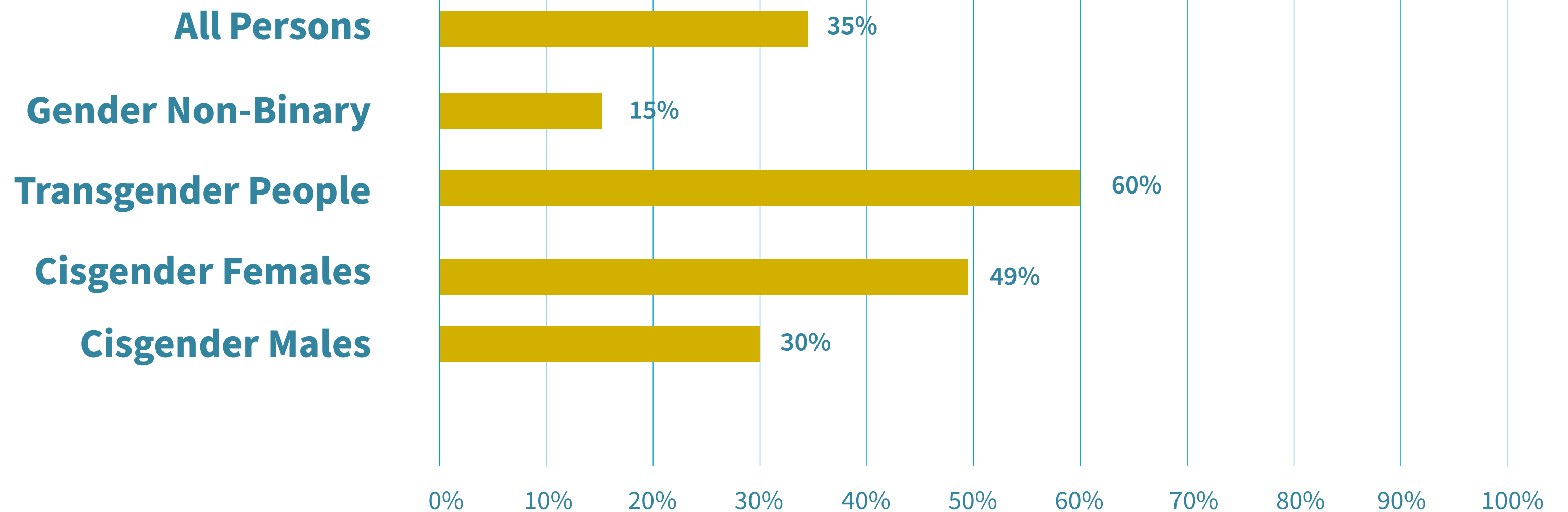


Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence

35% of Unsheltered Adults 18+ have a history of domestic, intimate partner and other sexual violence

- ▶ Half of unsheltered cisgender adult women 18+
- ▶ 6 in 10 Transgender people of all genders

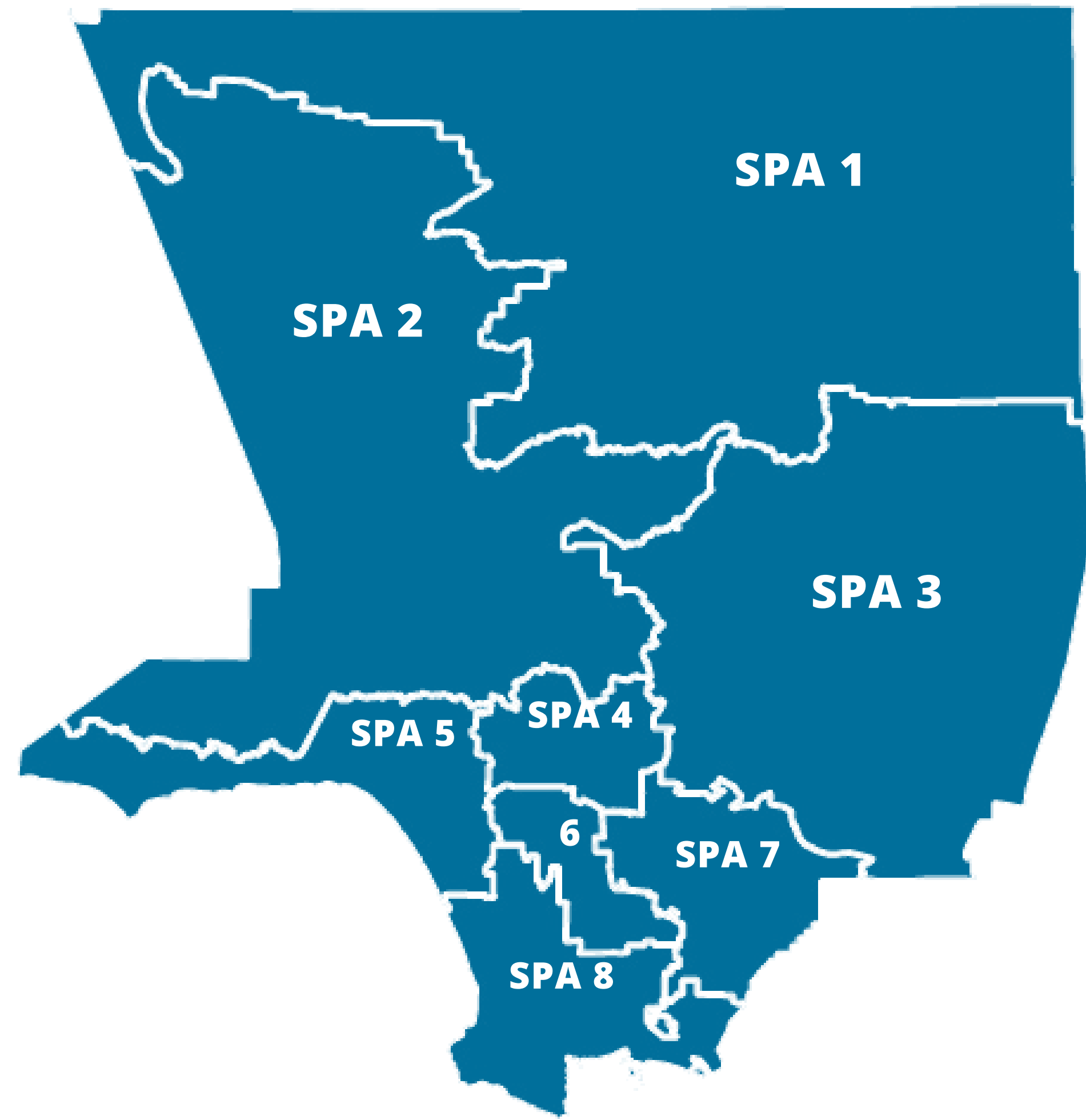
Lifetime History of Domestic & Intimate Partner Violence



among Unsheltered Adults in LA CoC, N = 44,462

Count results by Service Planning Area (SPA)

	2020
SPA 1 - Antelope Valley	4,755
SPA 2 - San Fernando Valley	9,274
SPA 3 - San Gabriel Valley	5,082
SPA 4 - Metro Los Angeles	17,121
SPA 5 - West	6,009
SPA 6 - South	13,012
SPA 7 - East	4,586
SPA 8 - South Bay	6,594
Total LA County	66,433





LAHSA's new model and COVID-19 Recovery Plan are transforming how our homeless services system is managed

- ▶ New strategic plan & command structure positions LAHSA as the center of gravity for the complex homeless response system--critical in L.A. where governance is diffuse
- ▶ Real-time awareness of the permanent supportive housing portfolio across government entities for the first time, and will extend to all housing interventions
- ▶ Housing Central Command will use this model to rapidly move our 15,000 most vulnerable inside

PREVENTION
LAHSA Informs

Preserving affordable housing, addressing income insecurity and housing stability, mainstream safety net and anti-poverty efforts

HOUSING CREATION
LAHSA Informs

Building housing for all income levels and investing in PSH creation

REHOUSING SERVICES SYSTEM
LAHSA Leads

The end-to-end system that focuses on placing our homeless residents into temporary and permanent housing

STREET MANAGEMENT
LAHSA Co-Leads

Street level efforts to provide service to our neighbors who are living on the outside

We need a bold, creative vision to reimagine how to dramatically grow L.A.'s housing supply and fix systems that drive inflow

- ▶ We need the state, county and city to fund the Homeless COVID-19 Recovery Plan
- ▶ We need to reimagine and expand the supply of affordable and supportive housing with a regional approach that moves toward housing for all
- ▶ We need to target prevention resources to the most vulnerable communities to prevent a wave of evictions
- ▶ We need to scale up anti-racist programs that change how our foster care, health care, criminal justice and other systems work to advance racial justice



It will take all of us to reimagine our systems. We need your help.

1. [Advocate for system change](#) to dismantle structural racism.
2. Advocate for expanded state and federal funding for [LAHSA's Covid-19 Recovery Plan](#) and affordable housing and homeless services.
3. [Support more interim and supportive housing](#) in your local community; Join the Everyone In Campaign.
4. [Volunteer](#) at your local homeless service agency.





Thanks to the investments made by the people of LA County,
thousands of people have a home tonight. Our urgent
mission continues **to help those who don't.**

Thank You
