

## Fact Sheet: Homelessness in California<sup>1</sup>

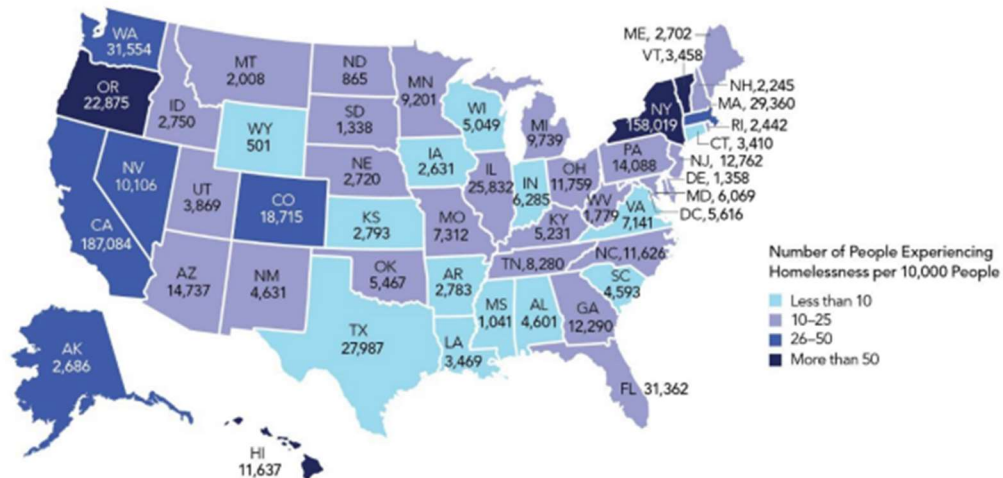
This factsheet highlights the results of the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates conducted by Continuums of Care (COCs) and reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). PIT counts offer a snapshot of experiences of homelessness—both sheltered and unsheltered—on a single night. The PIT counts also provide an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within particular populations such as veterans and individuals experiencing chronic patterns of homelessness. To be included in the PIT count, a person needs to meet the definition of experiencing homelessness used by HUD. PIT counts, however, likely undercount the true numbers of people experiencing homelessness due to limitations on administrative capacity, homelessness cycling, demographic variation, access to homelessness services, and methodological variation, among other things.

### Total Homeless People on a Single Night in 2024:

- California had 187,084 homeless people, which accounted for 28% of the nation’s homeless population. California also had the highest rate of unsheltered people at 66%.
- Nationwide, the number of people experiencing homelessness on a given night increased by 18%. *In California, however, the overall growth increased by only 3%.*
- Between 2023 and 2024, **California had the largest reduction in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness** in the nation, with 1,279 fewer veterans experiencing homelessness on a single night in January in 2024 than in 2023 (8% reduction year over year).
- Between 2023 and 2024, **California had the largest reduction in the number of unaccompanied youths experiencing homelessness in the nation**, with 1,121 fewer unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2024 than in January 2024.

### 1.2 State-Level Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness

Exhibit 1-9: Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2024



### Key Takeaways:

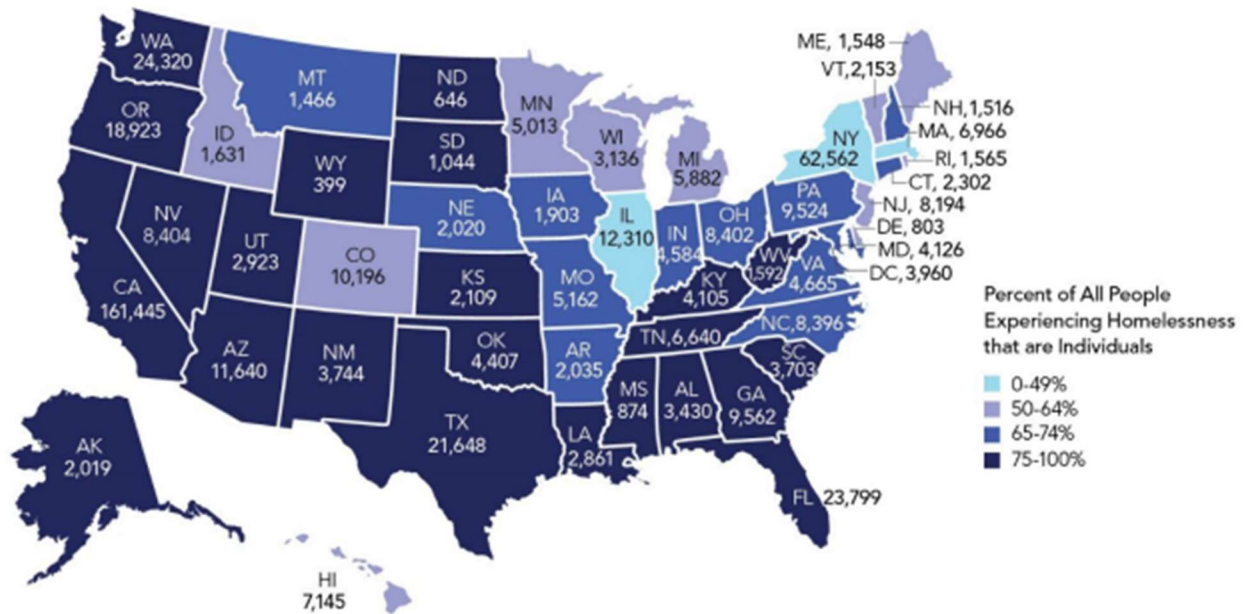
- According to the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative (UCSF Benioff), the reason for the reduction in veteran homelessness is because the state has adequately scaled the evidence-based responses which include Housing First, or housing subsidies paired with appropriate services. The same can likely be said for homeless youth, given consistent set asides with HHAPP funds for this population.
- Additionally, UCSF Benioff states that while the overall increase in homelessness numbers is lower than the national trend, the enormous number of people experiencing homelessness in California reflects the ongoing crisis caused by the lack of affordable housing in California. Given the successes in overall reductions for veterans and homeless youth, we know how to address homelessness, but must scale it adequately and for all populations.

<sup>1</sup> The 2024 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dec 2024. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2024-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

## Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

- In California, 161,445 individuals experienced homelessness on any given night, which was an increase of 5,529 people from 2023.
- 74% of the homeless individuals in California were unsheltered.

**Exhibit 2-8: Estimates of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2024**

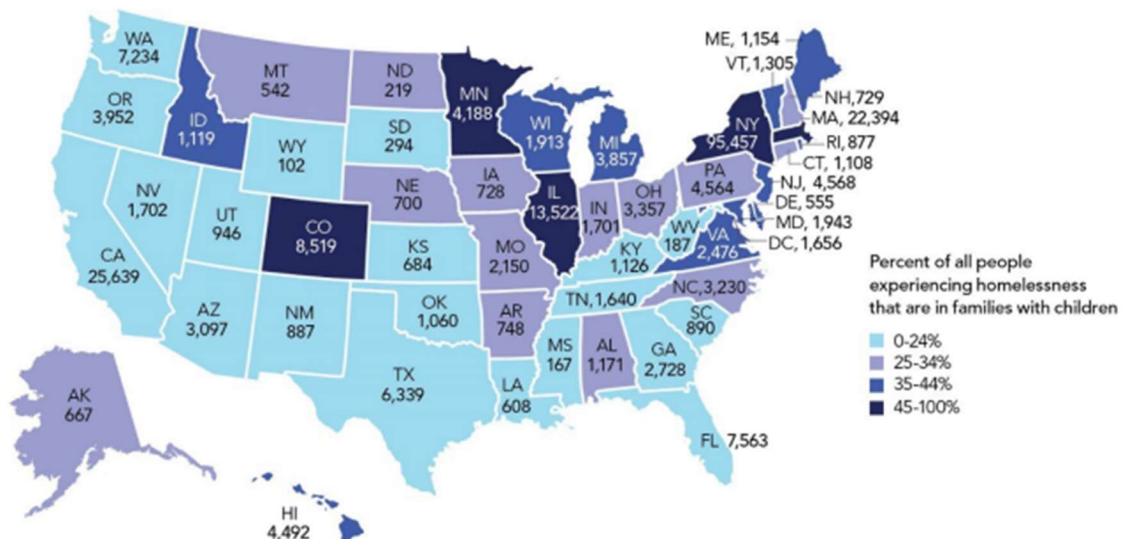


## Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness

- Nationwide, the progress made towards reducing experiences of family homelessness between 2014 and 2021 has reversed in recent years. The number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness increased by 39 percent between 2023 and 2024.
- In California, there were 25,369 people in families with children experiencing homelessness, 21% of which are unsheltered.
- In California, the number of homeless families increased by 156 from 2023 to 2024.

### 3.2 Estimates of Homelessness by State

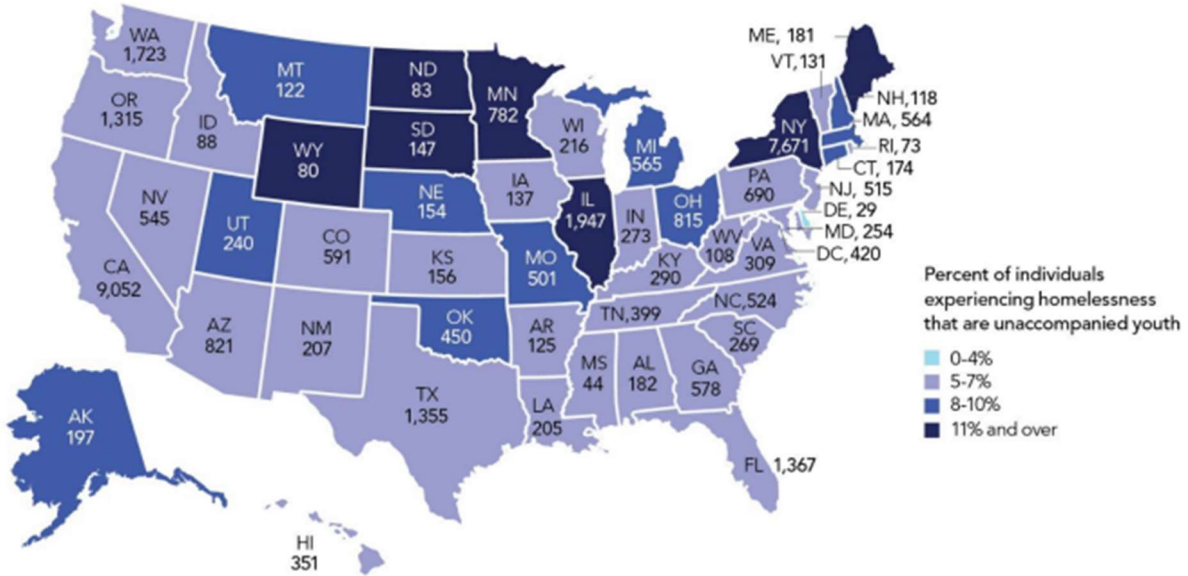
**Exhibit 3-9: State Estimates of People in Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2024**



## Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- In 2024, 38,170 unaccompanied youth were experiencing homelessness in the United States. After decreasing steadily between 2017 (the first year the data were reported) and 2020, the number of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness has risen post-pandemic. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of unaccompanied youth in the U.S. increased by 15%. The number increased again by 10% between 2023 and 2024.
- In California, 9,052 unaccompanied youth experienced homelessness, 60% of which were unsheltered. As noted above, homeless youth decreased by 1,121 from 2023-2024.

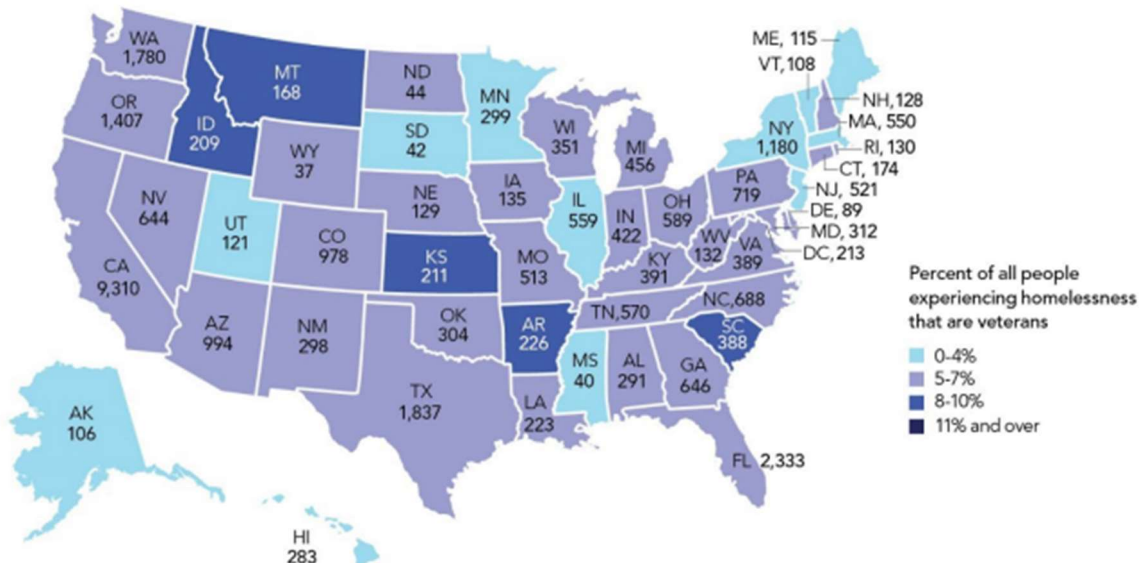
**Exhibit 4-7: Estimates of Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2024**



## Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

- California accounted for 28% of all veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States (9,310 veterans) with 69% unsheltered.
- California was one of 28 states that saw a decrease in veteran’s homelessness (down 1,279 in California from 2023).

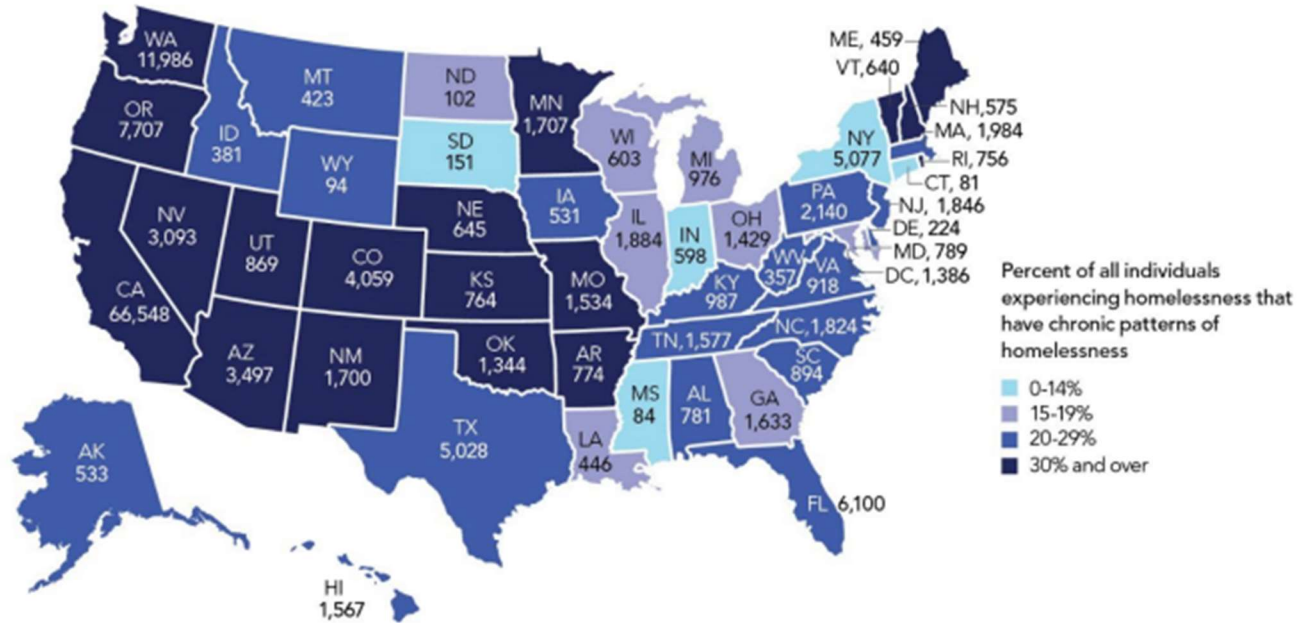
**Exhibit 5-8: Percentage of All Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2024**



## Chronic Homelessness

- In California, 66,548 people experienced chronic homelessness, with 74% of those living unsheltered.
- From 2023-24, California saw a decrease in chronic homelessness (962 fewer people).

### Exhibit 6-4: Estimates of Individuals Experiencing Chronic Patterns of Homelessness by State, 2024



## Key Definitions

- **Continuums of Care (CoC)** are local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state.
- **Homeless** describes a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- **Sheltered Homelessness** refers to people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.
- **Unsheltered Homelessness** refers to people whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (for example, the streets, vehicles, or parks).