CITY OF LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S HOUSING GAP ANALYSIS

Prepared for the Downtown Women's Center

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June 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the City of Los Angeles, there has been an observable increase in people experiencing homelessness over recent years. As of 2018, the Los Angeles metro area had one of the largest populations experiencing homelessness in the country (52,765), second only to New York City. While housing insecurity affects various populations, female-identifying people who experience homelessness face unique challenges. In 2018, there were just over 9,500 females of any age experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, accounting for 30% of the city's entire population experiencing homelessness (LAHSA, 2018). The prevalence of female homelessness has multiple drivers, including unemployment, various physical and mental health issues, lack of social support networks, and domestic violence and/or intimate partner violence. These challenges are further exacerbated by the lack of safe, available, and affordable housing in the City of Los Angeles, which disproportionately affects women across age groups. Accordingly, connecting people experiencing homelessness to stable housing is critical to addressing homelessness in general and female homelessness specifically.

In response, the City of Los Angeles, in partnership with researchers at the University of Southern California Price Center for Social Innovation and the Downtown Women's Center, has conducted an analysis to identify the needs of self-identifying females experiencing homelessness in the city. This report focuses specifically on individual women ages 25 and older to measure the gap between their needs and the availability of resources and affordable housing options across the region.

KEY FINDINGS:

Women Experiencing Homelessness

- According to LAHSA's 2018 Homeless Count, there were **7,032 females** ages 25 and older (women) experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, **the vast majority of whom were unsheltered (73%) and living without partners or children (82%)**.
- Compared to the city's overall population, **women ages 51 to 60 and women who identify as Black were overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness**.
- Among women ages 25 and older experiencing homelessness, **over a third were chronically homeless, over half had experienced domestic or intimate partner violence, and over a third reported having a mental illness**. Each of these conditions were reported at higher rates among the unsheltered population compared to the sheltered population.
- Unsheltered women most frequently reported social challenges (e.g. marital break-up, household conflict) and economic barriers (such as unemployment or eviction) as causes of homelessness.

- As of 2018, there were 2,407 existing emergency shelter beds in programs whose target populations included individual females age 18 and over across the city.
- This means that **there were 2,435 more unsheltered individual women experiencing homelessness than existing emergency shelter beds in programs that serve individual women**. Further, given that the majority of the beds were in programs serving a broader target population than just individual women, the gap between the number of unsheltered individual women and existing shelter beds available to them is likely even larger than 2,435.

Affordable and Available Rental Housing in Los Angeles County

- Individual female households were more likely to be rent burdened (paying more than 30% of their incomes on rent) and extremely rent-burdened (paying more than 50% of their incomes on housing costs) than other renter households, including individual male households. **Nearly 70% of individual female households were considered rent burdened in 2016.**
- **Nearly half of individual female renter households (27,340) were considered Extremely Low Income (ELI)**, meaning they had an income less than or equal to 30% of the area median income ($64,800 in LA County in 2016).
- **ELI households struggled with housing affordability at vastly higher rates than other income groups – paying an average of 80% of their incomes towards housing costs.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The number of women ages 25 and older experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles increased by almost 20% between 2015 and 2018, with a small decrease between 2017 and 2018 (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA, 2015, 2018). In the city, there were **7,032 women ages 25 and older experiencing homelessness** according to the LAHSA's 2018 Point in Time (PIT) demographic count/survey and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) counts, representing 22% of the total population experiencing homelessness in the city (see Appendix 3 for details on data sources)**.** Among the total population **of women ages 25 and older experiencing homelessness, nearly three-quarters (73%) were unsheltered,** meaning their primary nighttime residence was a public or private place not meant for human habitation (such as the street, a parking structure, tent, vehicle, etc.). Appendix 1 provides definitions for populations of females discussed throughout this report.

This report details characteristics of women experiencing homelessness, the availability of emergency shelter resources, and the severe shortage of affordable housing that causes women to simultaneously fall into homelessness and remain homeless for significant periods of time in the City of Los Angeles.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Household Type

In 2018 in the City of Los Angeles, **more than eight out of ten women experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness (over 5,100) were individual women** as opposed to women in family households. **Individuals made up 94% of unsheltered women experiencing homelessness** and just under half of those in shelter. Figure 1 shows household types of unsheltered and sheltered women in the City of Los Angeles.

FIGURE 1: HOUSEHOLD TYPE OF UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
Source: PIT Demographic Survey 2018; HMIS 2018
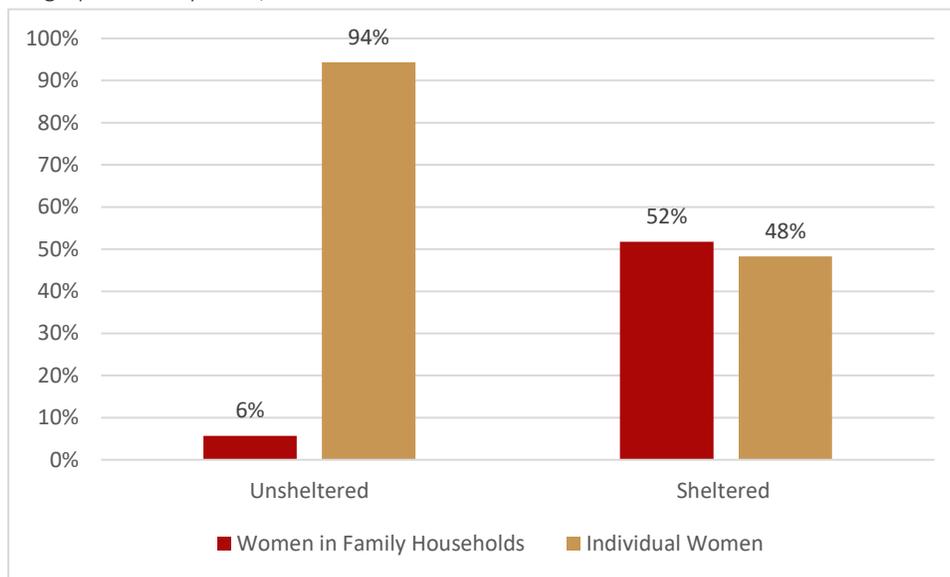
Race/Ethnicity

The largest share of women experiencing homelessness identified as Black (41%), followed by Hispanic/Latinx (31%), and White (22%). Compared to the general population (shown in Figure 2), **women who identify as Black as well as those who identify as more than one race were overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness.**

FIGURE 2: RACE/ETHNICITY OF WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND GENERAL POPULATION
Source: PIT Demographic Survey 2018; HMIS 2018, American Community Survey 2016 5-Year Estimates

Women Experiencing Homelessness

- Other 1%
- White 22%
- Hispanic 31%
- Multi-race 3%
- Asian 1%
- Black 41%

General Population (Women)

- Other 16%
- White 27%
- Hispanic 35%
- Asian 12%
- Black 8%
- Multi-race 2%
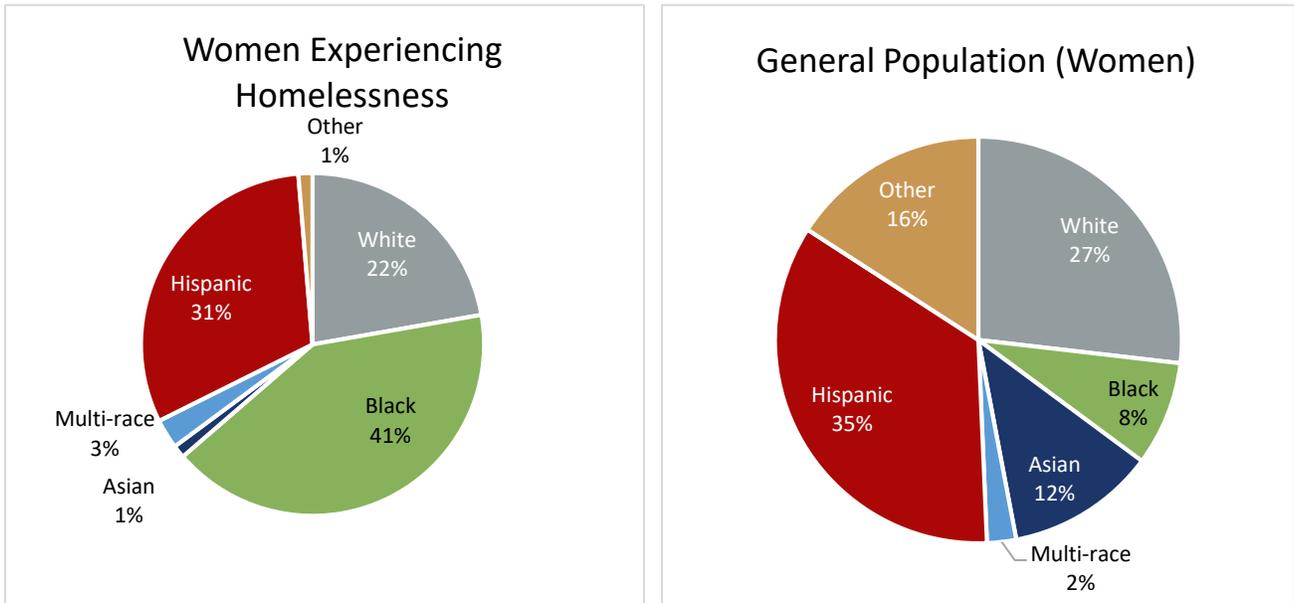
Age Distribution

The two largest age groups of women experiencing homelessness were 31 to 40 years old and 51 to 60 years old, with each group representing 26% of the population. **Compared to the general population, more women experiencing homelessness were between the ages of 51 to 60, although significantly less were ages 61 and older.** Figure 3 shows age categories for women experiencing homelessness and the general population of women ages 25 and older in the City of Los Angeles.

FIGURE 3: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSSNESS AND GENERAL POPULATION
Source: PIT Demographic Survey 2018, HMIS 2018, IPUMS USA 2016 5-year estimates

Women Experiencing Homelessness

- 61+ 9%
- 25-30 16%
- 51-60 26%
- 31-40 26%
- 41-50 23%

General Population (Women)

- 61+ 25%
- 25-30 15%
- 31-40 22%
- 51-60 18%
- 41-50 20%
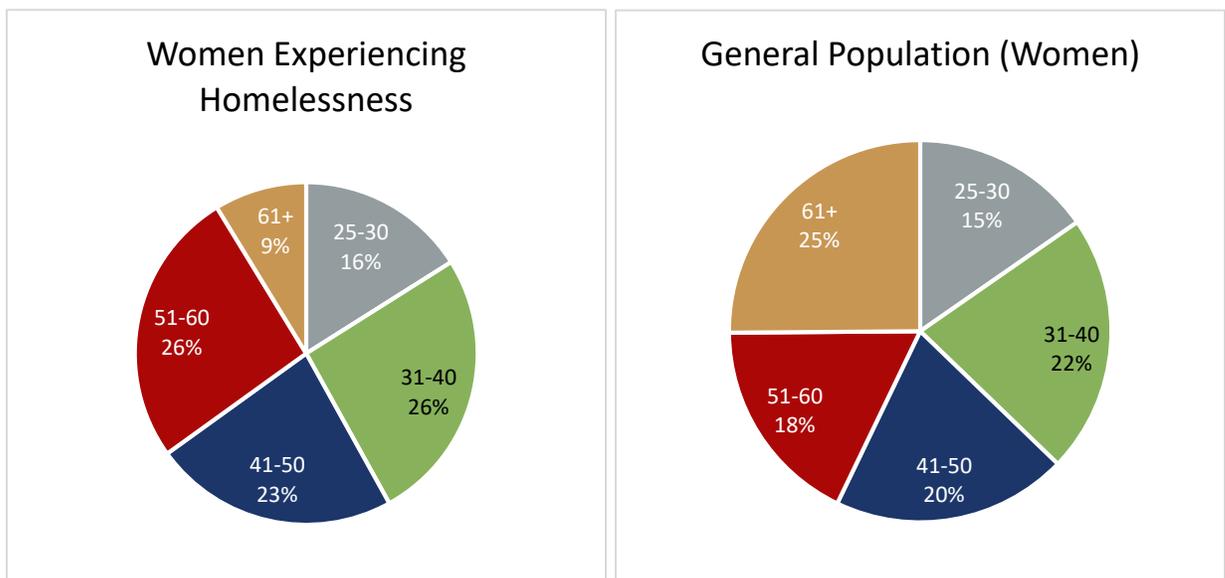
Geographic Distribution

Geographic concentrations of populations experiencing homelessness shift over time. Unsheltered people experiencing homelessness are more likely to move around than people who are housed/sheltered due to conditions such as weather, safety, policing, and access to basic necessities. Map 1 provides a snapshot of unsheltered adult individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles at the time of the 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Darker colors on the map show a higher concentration of unsheltered individual adults per square mile, and black boundaries denote Los Angeles City Council Districts (numbered one through fifteen). The map shows that while homelessness is dispersed geographically throughout many parts of the city, many council districts also contain a specific area with a larger concentration of people experiencing homelessness. Data on the number of unsheltered women experiencing homelessness is not available at the geographic level shown on the map below. However, across the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, roughly 22% of the unsheltered individual adult population experiencing homelessness identify as female.

MAP 1: UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUAL ADULTS PER SQUARE MILE (FEMALES COMPOSE 22%)
Source: PIT Count 2018
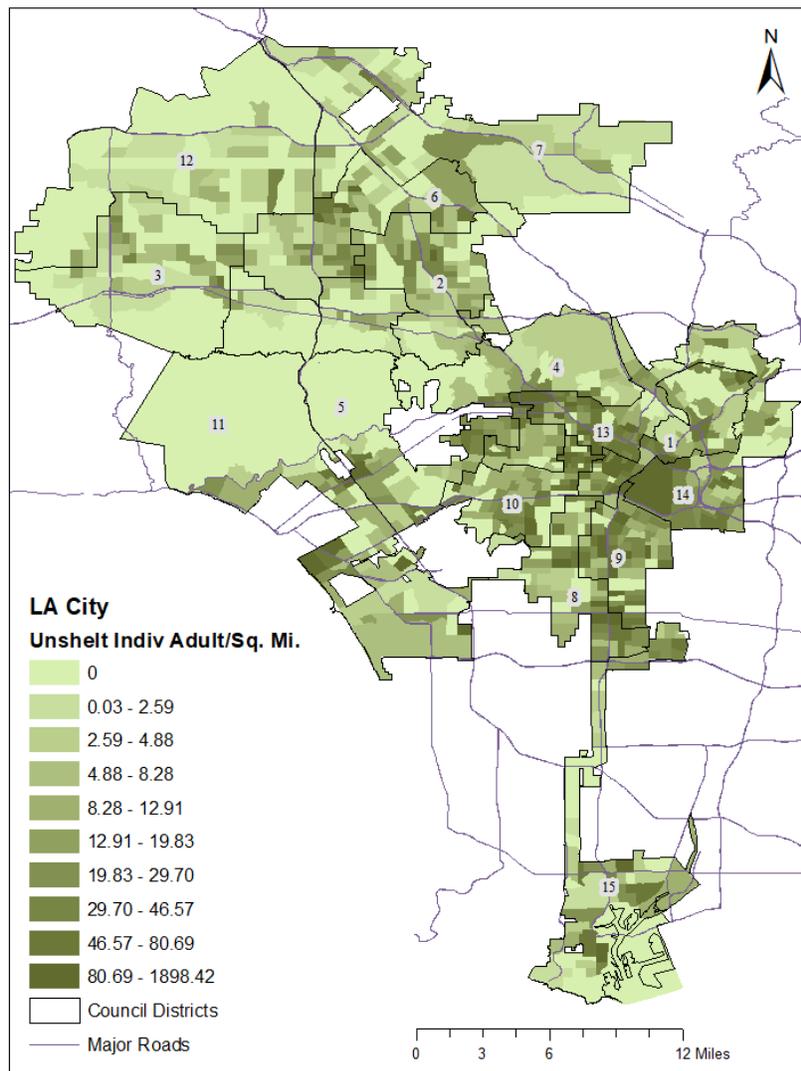
LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS AND PLACES OF DWELLING

Just over half of women (52%) reported experiencing homelessness for longer than one year over the past three years. **Unsheltered women reported experiencing homelessness for longer than a year at twice the rate (60%) compared to sheltered women (30%).** Across both the sheltered and unsheltered population, 58% of individual women reported experiencing homelessness for more than a year compared to just 22% of women in family households.

Among unsheltered women, 65% reported that they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.[1] This rate was consistent across both individual women and women in family households.

A majority of unsheltered women (62%) reported living on the street, meaning they spent the majority of the previous 30 days sleeping in public outdoor locations or parking structures. Individual women reported sleeping on the street or in an outdoor encampment at higher rates than women in family households, while women in family households reported sleeping in a vehicle at higher rates than individual women. Figure 4 shows dwelling places for unsheltered individual women and women in family households.

FIGURE 4: MOST COMMON DWELLING PLACE IN LAST 30 DAYS, UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUAL WOMEN AND WOMEN IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS [2]
Source: PIT Demographic Survey 2018

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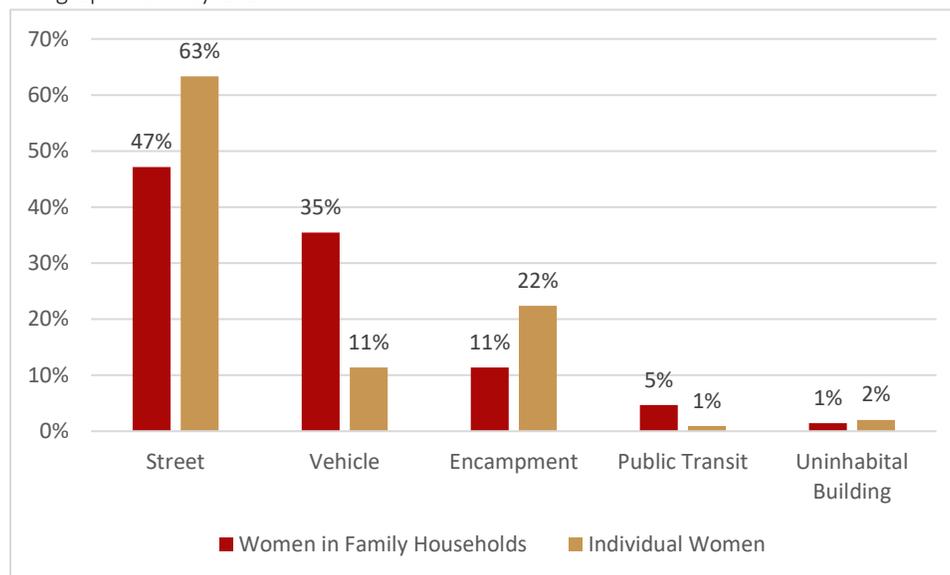
[1] Data on first time homelessness is only available for the unsheltered population.
[2] Common places of dwelling are grouped into categories. Street includes street/sidewalk/alley, under bridge or overpass, campground or woods, parking structure, parking lot (surface), and other outdoor location. Outdoor encampment includes outdoor encampment or tent, and other makeshift shelter not meant for human habitation. Vehicle includes car or truck, van, and RV or camper. Public transit includes bus or train stop/station/transit center or airport, and on a bus or train. Uninhabitable building includes unconverted garage/attic/basement and abandoned buildings.

EXPERIENCES WITH VIOLENCE AND MENTAL/PHYSICAL HEALTH

Among both sheltered and unsheltered women experiencing homelessness, experiences of domestic violence or intimate partner violence (DV/IPV), chronic homelessness,[3] and mental illness were prevalent. **More than one third of women experiencing homelessness (36%) indicated they had some type of mental illness, 34% were chronically homeless, and approximately half had experienced DV/IPV.** Across both the sheltered and unsheltered population, individual women reported being chronically homeless at four times the rate of women in family households. Individual women also reported having a mental illness at twice the rate of those in family households. Figure 5 shows the prevalence of chronic homelessness, mental illness, and experience with DV/IPV for individual women and women in family households.

FIGURE 5: CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES AMONG WOMEN IN FAMIILY HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUAL WOMEN
Source: PIT Demographic Survey 2018, HMIS 2018
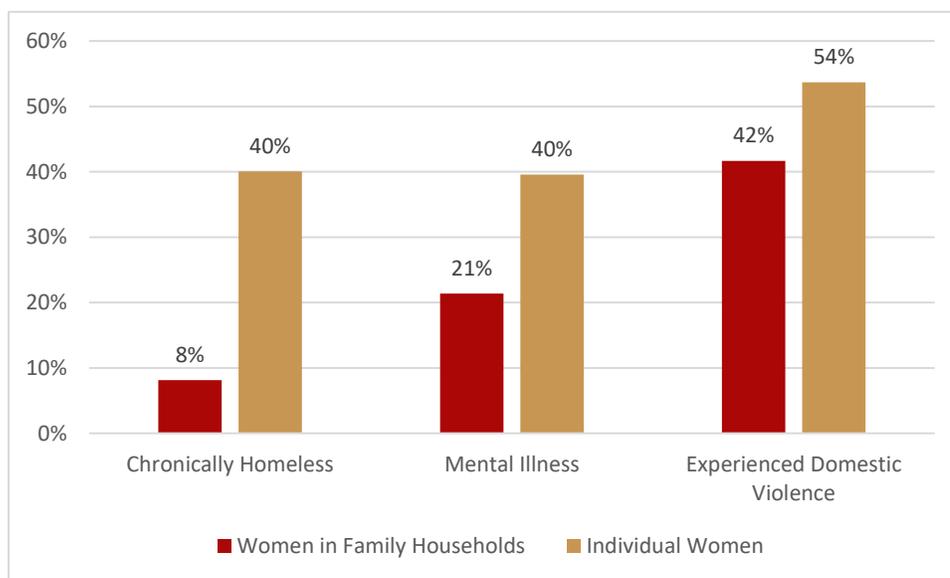
Unsheltered and sheltered women also experienced chronic homelessness, mental illness and DP/IPV at differing rates. **Unsheltered women reported being chronically homeless at nearly four times the rate of sheltered women.** Unsheltered women also reported experiencing DV/IPV at a higher rate (57%) than sheltered women (37%). Figure 6 shows the prevalence of chronic homelessness, mental illness, and experience with DV/IPV for unsheltered and sheltered women.

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[3] A person is identified as chronically homeless when he or she has been homeless more than 12 months or on four occasions in the past three years totaling at least 12 months, while at the same time presenting a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, development disability, cognitive impairments or physical disability (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2015).

FIGURE 6: CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES AMONG UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED WOMEN
Source: PIT Demographic Survey 2018, HMIS 2018
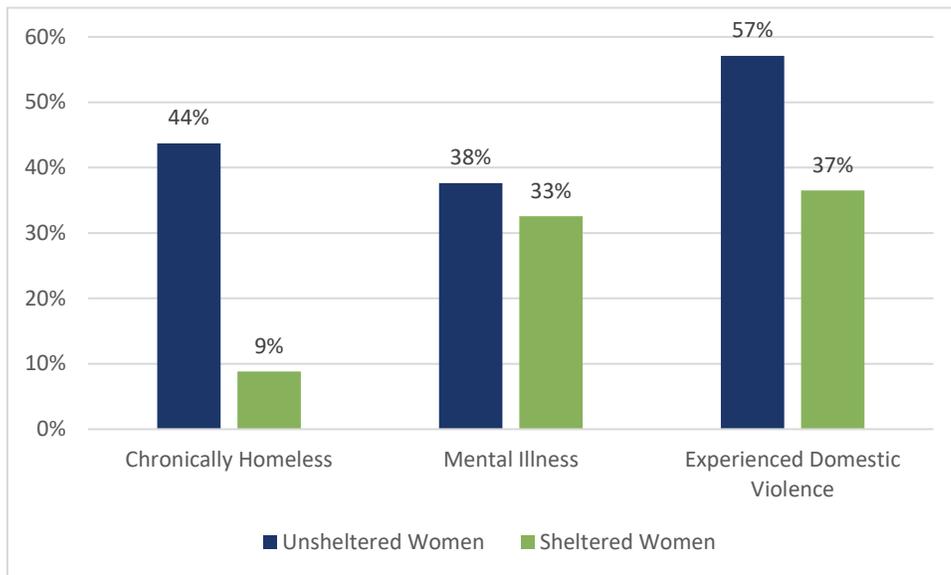
REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

Approximately half of unsheltered women cited social circumstances (such as a relationship ending, household conflict, or lack of family and friends) or economic hardship (such as unemployment or eviction) as key drivers of their homelessness.[4]

Individual women cited social circumstances as a driver of their homelessness more frequently than women in family households. In contrast, women in family households cited behavioral, safety concerns and physical health issues at higher rates than individual women. Figure 7 shows all categories of reasons cited by individual women and women in family households.

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[4] Data on reasons cited for experiencing homelessness is only available for the unsheltered population. Women were given the option to select multiple reasons.

FIGURE 7: REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS AMONG UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUAL WOMEN VS.
UNSHELETERED WOMEN IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS[5]
Source: PIT Demographic Survey 2018
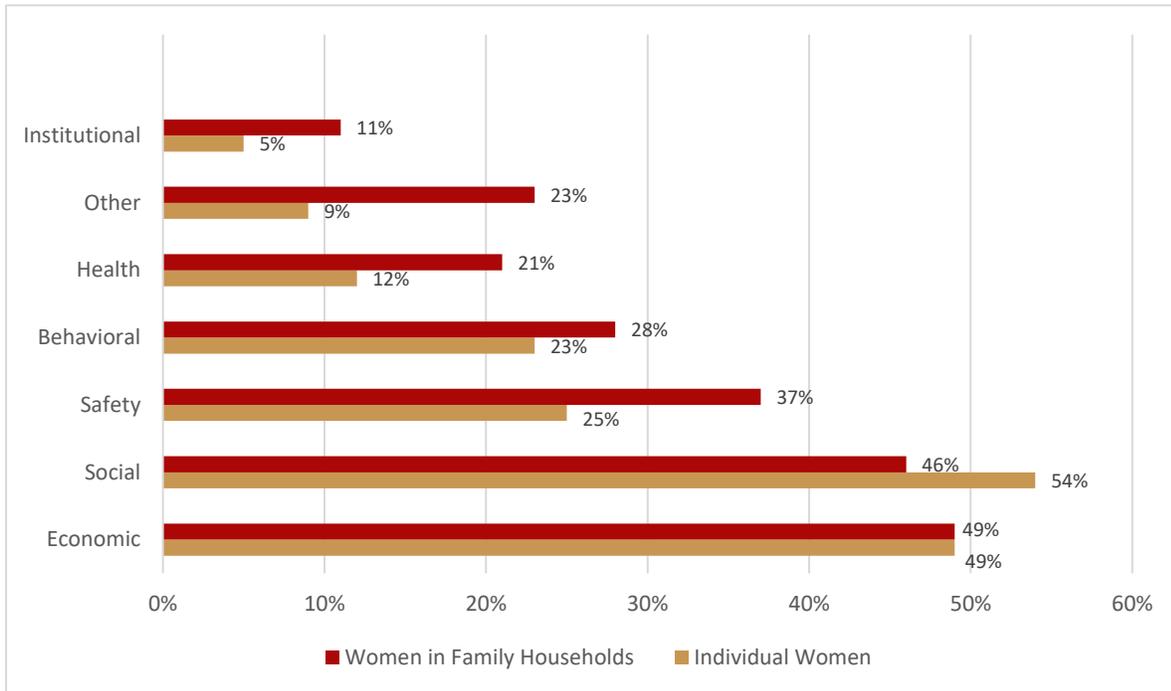
Note 1: The survey question is "What do you think are some of the main reasons or conditions that led to your loss of housing?" Women could choose as many reasons as applied to them. Forty-eight percent chose only one reason, 34% marked two or three reasons, and the remaining 18% marked four or more.
Note 2: A table with all the reasons mentioned can be found in Appendix 2.

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[5] The reasons cited for homelessness are grouped into categories based on the work of Robynn Cox and her colleagues (Cox, Strong, & Henwood, 2018). Behavioral includes mental health/illness, and problematic substance use. Economic includes unemployment, eviction, and child support issues. Social support includes marital or partner split, household conflict, being forced out of a home over sexual orientation/gender identity, death or illness of a family member, and no available family/friends. Safety includes domestic or intimate partner violence, physical safety concerns (like neighborhood conditions), uninhabitable living conditions, and timing out from previous shelter. Physical health includes recent release from a hospital or treatment facility, and a physical disability or illness. Institutional includes timing out of foster care, and release from jail or prison. Immigration includes no other responses than recent immigration.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES & UTILIZIATION WITHIN THE HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEM

Individual women make up over two thirds of all women experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles. As noted throughout the previous section, individual women are more likely to be unsheltered and report experiencing chronic homelessness, mental illness, and domestic/intimate partner violence at higher rates than women in family households. Given the unique set of challenges that individual women face, this section provides an overview of the resources available to them through the homeless service system.

In the City of Los Angeles, the two types of shelter programs available to people experiencing homelessness are emergency shelter and transitional housing. These programs are meant to provide a temporary shelter solution for people while they secure a form of permanent housing. Permanent housing solutions available to people experiencing homelessness include rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and other permanent housing. Both shelter and permanent housing programs have beds assigned for specific target populations, with 75% or more of beds usually going towards that population. Target populations include individual females (18+), individual males (18+), households with children, or some combination of the three. Appendix 1 provides further details about each program type.

As of 2018, the homeless service system in the City of Los Angeles had 5,143 beds in shelter programs and 14,242 beds in permanent housing programs. Of those, **3,237 shelter beds and 14,155 permanent housing beds were in programs whose target populations include individual females age 18 and over,** as shown in Table 1 below. The numbers in Table 1 provide an estimate of beds that exist for individual females age 18 and over, but it is important to note that they could also be assigned to other demographic groups if the program has more than one target population, and they may or may not be occupied. Please see Appendix 4 for details on the methodology used to create these estimates.

TABLE 1. BEDS FOR TARGET POPULATIONS THAT INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL FEMALES (18+) BY PROGRAM TYPE
Source: LAHSA Housing Inventory Count 2018

Program Type	Target Populations that Include Individual Females (18+)					Beds for Target Populations that Include Ind. Females (18+)	Total Beds Across All Target Populations
	Individual Females	Individual Males & Females	Individual Females & HHs with Children	Individual Males & Females & HHs with Children	HHs with Children*		
Emergency Shelter	126	2,213	4	40	24	**2,407**	3,328
Transitional Housing	48	764	12	2	4	**830**	1,815
SHELTER BEDS	**174**	**2,977**	**16**	**42**	**28**	**3,237**	**5,143**
Rapid Re-housing	42	637	0	13	359	**1,051**	1,138
Permanent Supportive Housing	25	6,599	46	3,587	999	**11,256**	11,256
Other Permanent Housing	0	1,538	0	310	0	**1,848**	1,848
PERMANENT HOUSING BEDS	**67**	**8,774**	**46**	**3,910**	**1,358**	**14,155**	**14,242**

*Note: Programs with a target population of households with children are included as some beds in those programs may also be made available for individual adults.

Permanent supportive housing made up the largest share of permanent housing beds for target populations that include individual females age 18 and over, comprising 80% of all permanent housing beds. Research has shown that permanent supportive housing is a particularly effective solution to end homelessness for certain subpopulations including those experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, and chronic homelessness (Homelessness Policy Research Institute, 2018). These issues are prevalent among individual women experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, with 40% experiencing chronic homelessness, 40% experiencing some sort of mental illness, and 13% reporting substance abuse as one of the main reasons for their homelessness.

AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS

Due to limited resources, eligibility requirements, and low vacancy rates, unsheltered women experiencing homelessness may not be able to immediately secure permanent housing as a first form of shelter. Emergency shelter can offer a temporary yet immediate shelter solution for women experiencing homelessness while they begin the process of searching for more permanent housing, and can be the first point of entry into the homeless service system. In order to understand the most immediate resources available to individual unsheltered women experiencing homelessness who were seeking shelter, the following section provides an estimate of emergency shelter beds available to individual females age 18 and over experiencing homelessness as of 2018.

Existing Emergency Shelter Beds

As of 2018, there were 2,407 existing emergency shelter beds in programs whose target populations included individual females age 18 and over across the city. This shows a significant gap between the number of shelter beds available to individual women compared to the number of unsheltered individual women experiencing homelessness (4,842). **There were 2,435 more unsheltered individual women experiencing homelessness than existing emergency shelter beds in programs that serve individual women in 2018.** Further, given that the majority of the beds were in programs serving a broader target population than just individual women, the gap between the number of unsheltered individual women and existing shelter beds available to them is likely larger than 2,435.

Map 2 shows existing emergency shelter beds in programs whose target populations include individual females 18 and older across the City of Los Angeles, with darker colors indicating a larger number of available beds. As previously noted, unsheltered homelessness is spread across the city, with many council districts containing an area with a large concentration of unsheltered homelessness. Map 2 shows that **the vast majority of council districts in the city do not contain any available beds for women experiencing homelessness.** The highest concentrations of beds are found primarily in Council Districts One, Eight, Nine, Thirteen and Fourteen.

Source: LAHSA Housing Inventory Count 2018
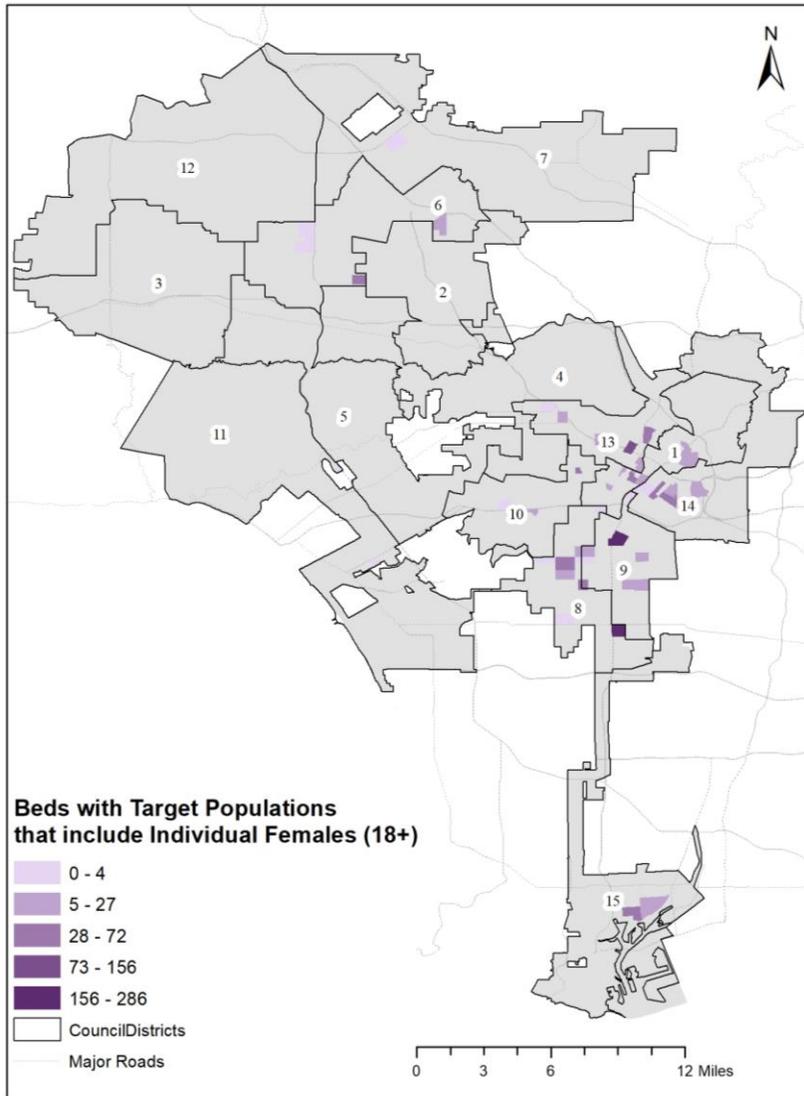
Unoccupied Emergency Shelter Beds

Another consideration when assessing the availability of emergency shelter beds is whether or not the beds are already occupied. While bed occupancy can vary over time, on the night of the Housing Inventory Count[6] in January of 2018, 794 of the 2,407 beds available to individual women were unoccupied. When bed occupancy is taken into consideration in this way, the gap between unsheltered individual women and beds available to them grows even larger. **On any given night, there are**

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[6] The Housing Inventory Count is a point-in-time inventory of the housing and shelter resources dedicated to homeless or formerly homeless populations conducted at the same time as the PIT Count.

approximately 4,000 more unsheltered individual women experiencing homelessness than existing *and unoccupied* **emergency shelter beds available to that population.**

HOUSING IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

In addition to examining resources available within the homeless service system, this report estimates the gap in housing inventory in the City of Los Angeles. Though not within the scope of the traditional homeless service system, the shortage of affordable housing is both a factor that contributes to homelessness and a barrier that prevents people from being housed. The following section focuses on the number of affordable housing units available to extremely low-income households in the city, considering that many individual women experiencing homelessness are part of that population. Examining how unaffordability affects women and their families provides key insight into the larger issues which cause people to fall into homelessness and prevent them from finding stable long term housing.

The Los Angeles metropolitan region consistently ranks as one of the least affordable housing markets in the world (Cox & Pavletich, 2019; Bailey 2019). Since 2000, median rent in Los Angeles County has increased by 32% while median renter household income decreased by three percent over the same period (California Housing Partnership Corporation, 2017). In the City of Los Angeles, where 63% of the population were renters as of 2017 American Community Survey estimates, rising rent prices and stagnant incomes have led to widespread rent burden, a key measure of housing affordability. Rent-burdened households are those that pay more than 30% of their incomes towards housing costs like rent and utilities (Definitions are shown in Box 3)[7].

As of 2016, 60% of renters in the City of Los Angeles were considered rent burdened (PUMS, 2016). In addition to high rent prices and stagnant incomes, the prevalance of rent burden can also be attributed to the depleting supply of affordable housing stock (Ray, Ong, & Jimenez, 2014). An analysis by UCLA found that the City of Los Angeles had fewer publicly subsidized units and weaker rent control measures relative to other large cities, even though comparatively, there were only small differences in median rent prices (Ray, Ong, & Jimenez, 2014). Additionally, Los Angeles has lost many naturally occuring affordable units as the result of housing developers replacing and upgrading low-cost housing stock (Bachrach, Monkkonen, & Lens, 2017).[8]

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND INCOME

High rents and limited housing supply have disproportionate impacts on certain populations, including individual female households (where a female 15 years of age or older lives in a non-family household with no partner present). In 2016, 70% of individual female households were renters (IPUMS, 2016). Individual female households were more likely to be rent burdened (69%) than the general renter population in the city (60%). Notably, individual female households were also more likely to be rent

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[7] Income categories based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definitions and are based on household income and household size (e.g., the ELI income limit for a 1-person household is lower than for a 4-person household).

[8] Naturally occurring affordable housing refers to residential rental properties that maintain low rents without federal subsidy.

burdened than individual male households. Figure 8 shows the prevalance of rent burden and severe rent burden among individual female households, individual male households and all renter households.

FIGURE 8: RENT BURDEN AND SEVERE RENT BURDEN AMONG INDIVIDUAL FEMALE HOUSEHOLDS, INDIVIDUAL MALE HOUSEHOLDS AND ALL RENTER HOUSEHOLDS
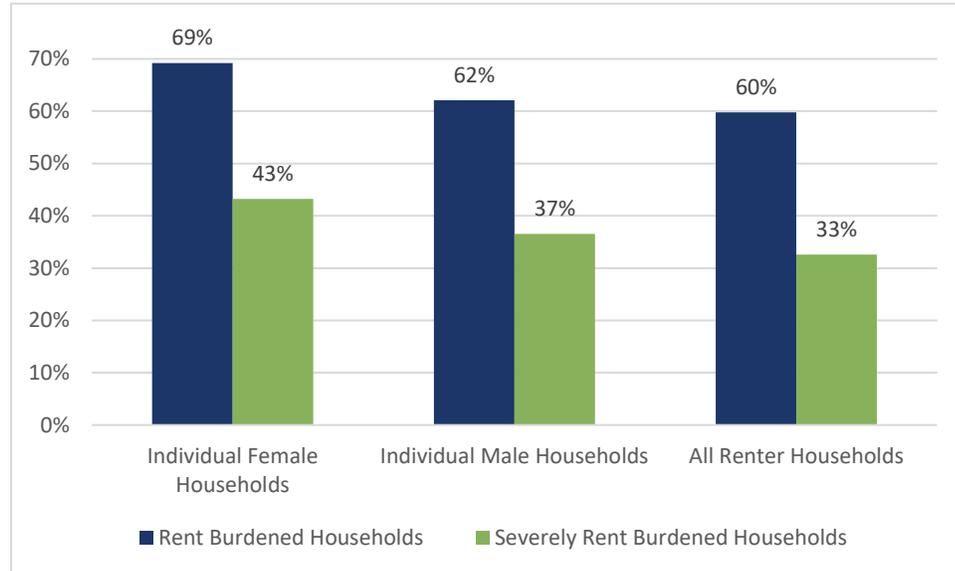
Source: Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) ACS 5-year, 2012-2016

One explanation for higher rent burden among individual female households could be lower incomes as compared to the general population. **In 2016, 53% of individual female households were considered Extremely Low Income (ELI) or Very Low Income (VLI) compared to 32% of all households** (IPUMS, 2016). As shown in Figure 9, ELI and VLI households are significantly more likely to be rent burdened than other income groups.

Source: Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) ACS 5-year, 2012-2016
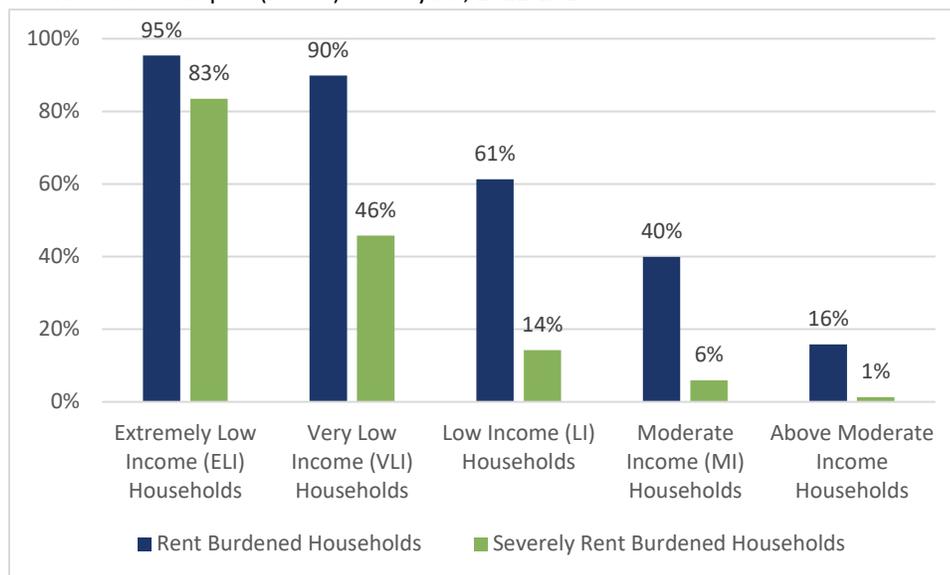
Even within the ELI and VLI income categories, signficant differences in housing affordability exist. As shown in Figure 9, ELI households were only slightly more rent burdened than VLI households, but they were nearly twice as likely to be severely rent burdened than VLI households. **On average, ELI households paid 80% of their incomes towards housing costs in 2016** (IPUMS, 2016). Given that people experiencing homelessness commonly cited economic reasons as the cause of their homelessness, addressing the housing affordability crisis for ELI households is crucial to homelessnes prevention.

AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE RENTAL UNITS IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) develops rent affordability standards for households of various sizes within each income level. Rent is considered affordable if it is equal to 30% or less of the income cutoff within each category.

In addition to affordability, another factor commonly considered when evaluating housing stock is availability. Higher income households can occupy units that are considered affordable to households in lower income groups, making them unavailable to lower income households. As such, any unit that is affordable to a particular income category but occupied by a household in a higher income category is not considered available to the lower income category. A rental unit is considered affordable and available to a particular income category if it meets the affordability standards for that income group and is either vacant or currently occupied by a household with income below the defined level for that group (see Appendix 1 for a full list of definitions).

In 2016, there were over 219,100 renter households categorized as Extremely Low Income (ELI) living in the City of Los Angeles (IPUMS, 2016). Of these, 27,340 were individual female households. By contrast, there were 49,435 rental housing units affordable and available to ELI households, representing **a gap of over 169,600 units needed to make the City of Los Angeles an affordable place to live for ELI renter**

households. Namely, despite the fact that **ELI households make up 25% of the renter population, only 5% of rental units were affordable and available to such households.** Additionally, there were 9,822 units that were affordable to ELI households but not available, meaning they were occupied by a household in a higher income group.

While the gap between the renter population size and number of affordable rental units was greatest for ELI households, there were also gaps within Very Low Income (VLI) and Low Income (LI) groups. In total, ELI, VLI and LI households made up 64% of all renter households while just 25% of the rental housing stock was affordable and available to these groups. Table 2 shows the gap in affordability for ELI, VLI and LI households compared to the surplus of options for Moderate Income (MI) households.

TABLE 2. HOUSING GAP ESTIMATES BY INCOME GROUP
Source: PUMS ACS 5-year California Household estimates, 2012-2016

	Extremely Low Income (ELI)	**Very Low Income (VLI)**	**Low Income (LI)**	**Moderate Income (MI)**
Total households	240,610	196,529	241,830	64,967
Rental households	**219,123**	**162,215**	**173,046**	**41,521**
Percent of all renter households	25%	19%	20%	5%
Affordable & Available Units	**49,435**	**94,364**	**143,568**	**605,176**
Percent of all rental units	5%	10%	15%	65%
Vacant and for rent	1,457	3,284	5,151	39,358
Occupied by renter at that income level	47,978	91,081	138,416	565,818
Affordable & **Not** Available *(occupied by higher income household)*	9,822	10,532	6,393	32,381
Total Shortage of Affordable and Available Units	**169,689**	**67,850**	**29,479**	**0***

*There was a surplus of 563,655 housing units that were affordable and available to MI households

CONCLUSION

Homelessness affected over 31,000 in the City of Los Angeles in 2018. The 7,032 women experiencing homelessness in the city, 4,842 of whom were unsheltered individuals, faced a unique set of challenges. Key drivers of homelessness among women included unemployment, lack of social support networks, and mental and physical health issues. Nearly half of women experiencing homelessness reported experiencing domestic or intimate partner violence, while a third reported having a mental illness. These experiences were more prevalent among unsheltered women than those in shelters.

Emergency shelter is one solution within the homeless service system to provide immediate housing for unsheltered women experiencing homelessness while they look for a more permanent source of housing. However, there were 2,435 more unsheltered individual women experiencing homelessness than existing emergency shelter beds in programs serving individual women in 2018. Given that the vast majority of those beds were occupied at the time they were inventoried and that they could also serve other target populations, the gap between unsheltered individual women and emergency shelter beds available to them is likely even larger.

Nearly half of unsheltered women cited economic circumstances as one of the main reasons for their homelessness, demonstrating the pressing need to address the affordable housing crisis in the city to reduce the number of women experiencing homelessness. Among the housed population, individual female households rented their housing at higher rates than the general population and were more likely to be categorized in the lowest income group. Among individual female renters, nearly half had extremely low incomes (ELI). This is significant because while all lower income groups struggled with housing affordability, the problem was amplified for ELI households. Ninety-five percent of ELI households were rent burdened and paid an average of 80% of their incomes on housing costs.

One reason for the widespread housing cost burden among ELI households is the extreme gap in the supply of rental housing in the City of Los Angeles that is both affordable and available to this income group. In 2016, ELI households made up one-quarter of the rental population, but just five percent of rental housing was considered both affordable and available to such households—a shortage of over 169,600 units. This shortage presents challenges for women at a number of points throughout a period of housing instability. As expressed by many of the women experiencing homelessness that LAHSA surveyed, the inability to find affordable housing can push a person into homelessness. However, the extreme shortage in the housing supply also makes it more difficult for women experiencing homelessness to find permanent housing, leading to longer spells of homelessness. Further, due to the lack of available emergency shelter beds, more women will remain unsheltered during the process of finding permanent housing.

Housing affordability for low income renters is further complicated by the lack of income restrictions in the City of Los Angeles —meaning units that are considered affordable to ELI households are also available to and therefore sometimes occupied by households in higher income groups. While building more market rate housing could help move higher income renters out of ELI-affordable units, without income restrictions, there is no guarantee that ELI households will be able to secure the units affordable to them (and landlords may have financial reasons to pursue higher income renters). The City of Los

Angeles needs more available housing units, but the region especially needs more units for lower income renters, in addition to mechanisms that promote housing stability for households in lower income groups.

This analysis focused on assessing the availability of emergency shelter beds for individual women, but further analysis should be conducted on the availability of permanent supportive housing. Initiatives like the Homelessness Policy Research Institute are working to make administrative data more easily accessible to researchers to help answer questions like the availability of permanent supportive housing for women. Research demonstrates stronger outcomes for women in permanent housing than those who remain unhoused in shelters or on the street. For instance, a need-assessment conducted by the Downtown Women's Action Coalition in 2016 found that women in housing were more likely to report better health outcomes than women who were unhoused. In addition to increased overall health, women in permanent housing reported a better quality of life than women who were unhoused. "[Of the women who were housed] …more than half (54%) said they have a social support network of family and friends, compared with 43% of women who are unhoused" (Downtown Women's Action Coalition, 2016, p. 19). Another assessment by the DC Women's Task Force Interagency on Homelessness in 2017 found similar benefits to permanent housing for women. Fortunately, due to the financial resources from Measure H and Proposition HHH, along with the commitment of local leaders and community members, there is a concerted effort to increase the number of units of permanent supportive housing in Los Angeles City and County (LAHSA, 2017). In 2018 alone, 21,631 people were housed in Los Angeles County across rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and other permanent housing programs.

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APPENDIX 1 - GLOSSARY

CATEGORIES OF WOMEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- **Female** refers to individuals who self-identify as female.
- **Women** refers to people who self-identify as female, 25 years and older.
- **Individuals experiencing homelessness** are those who "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."[9]
- **Individual women** are adult females, 25 years and older, who live alone, with no partner, family or dependents. Individual women are either sheltered (**individual sheltered women**) or unsheltered (**individual unsheltered women**).
- **Women in family households** are adult females, 25 years and older, with at least one minor 17 years or younger. Women in family households are either sheltered (**sheltered women in family households**) or unsheltered (**unsheltered women in family households**).
- **Unsheltered women** include both individual women and women in family households whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.
- **Sheltered women** include both individual women and women in family households who, on the night of the count, are living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.

PROGRAM TYPES

- **Emergency Shelter (ES)**: A facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness, including crisis housing (24-hour, short-term beds), bridge housing (24-hour reserved beds), winter shelter (overnight seasonal beds), hotel/motel vouchers, and other interim housing models.
- **Transitional Housing (TH)**: Time-limited housing programs that are intended to help households ready themselves to move to permanent housing. HUD-funded Transitional Housing programs are limited to homeless households and are intended to serve households for no more than 2 years and usually have specific supportive services as a part of the program.
- **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)**: A program type that connects families with children, individuals, and youth experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. RRH programs help persons experiencing homelessness to solve the practical and immediate challenges of obtaining permanent housing while reducing the amount of time they experience homelessness, avoiding a near-term return to homelessness, and linking to community resources that enable them to achieve housing stability in the long term.

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[9] https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessAssistanceActAmendedbyHEARTH.pdf

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**: Permanent housing with long-term leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist families with children, individuals, and youth experiencing homelessness with high level of service needs. The goal of PSH is to assist participants with a long-term rental subsidy and/or supportive services.
- **Other Permanent Housing (PH):** Community-based housing without a designated length-of-stay in which formerly-homeless persons live as independently as possible.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY MEASURES AND INCOME GROUPS

- **Rent Burden***:* Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs.
- **Severe Rent Burden***:* Renter households spending more than 50% of their income on housing costs.
- **Area Median Income (AMI):** Median family income for a four-person family in a metropolitan area or county ($64,800 in Los Angeles County in 2016).
- **Extremely Low Income (ELI):** Households with incomes at or below 30% of AMI or the Poverty Guideline (whichever is lowest).
- **Very Low Income (VLI):** Households with incomes between 31% and 50% of AMI.
- **Low Income (LI):** Households with incomes between 51% and 80% of AMI.
- **Moderate Income (MI):** Households with incomes between 81% and 120% of AMI.
- **Above Moderate Income:** Households with incomes above 120% of AMI.

HOUSING UNITS

- **Affordable unit**: A unit is affordable to an income group when a household within that group would pay no more than 30% of its income on rent.
- **Available unit**: A unit is available to an income group when it is being rented by another household in the same income group or when it is vacant. If a higher income household is occupying the unit, then it is not considered available to any lower income group.
- **Affordable and Available unit**: A unit is both affordable and available when it is affordable and available to an income group.

APPENDIX 2 – REASONS CITED FOR LOSS OF HOUSING

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS AMONG ALL UNSHELTERED WOMEN

Source: PIT Eligible Individuals Demographic Survey 2018.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE SOME OF THE MAIN REASONS OR CONDITIONS THAT LED TO YOUR LOSS OF HOUSING? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)	UNSHELTERED ADULT WOMEN
Unemployment or financial reasons	49%
No friends or family available	27%
Conflicts with family or household members	22%
Break-up, divorce or separation	21%
Mental health issues	16%
Medical, physical disability or illness	13%
Death or illness of family member or child	13%
Problematic alcohol or drug use	13%
Domestic violence, parental abuse, partner abuse, dating violence, stalking	12%
Eviction or foreclosure	11%
Other	6%
Released from jail or prison	5%
Uninhabitable living conditions	5%
Physical safety concerns (e.g., gang related violence)	5%
Released from hospital, treatment facility, other institution	3%
Timed out or left previous housing program	1%
Child support issues	1%
Left or aged out of foster care	1%
Kicked out because of sexual orientation/gender identity	1%
Recent immigration	0%

Note: Women could choose as many reasons as applied to them. Forty-eight percent chose only one reason, 34% marked two or three reasons, and the remaining 18% marked four or more.

APPENDIX 3 - DATA SOURCES

A) HOMELESSNESS

POINT-IN-TIME (PIT) homeless count provides a snapshot census of the number and characteristics of sheltered and unsheltered women experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles. The PIT count used in this analysis was conducted in January 2018 using HUD's national methodology. The PIT count includes both the number of women who have accessed homeless services during the year (system users) and those who have not accessed those services during the year (non-system users). A limitation of this data is that the count of women who have not accessed services is underestimated. Therefore, it is difficult to report the true number of chronically unsheltered homeless women (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2018).

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) is used to estimate number and characteristics of women who have accessed homeless services during the year (system users). The HMIS data used in this analysis provides the number of women (and their service characteristics) who used substantive homeless system resources in the City of Los Angeles during December of 2017. Substantive homelessness system resources include emergency shelter (ES), transitional housing (TH), safe havens, rapid re-housing (RRH), and permanent supportive housing (PSH). HMIS does not cover programs not funded by LAHSA, and as such the coverage is low for ES and TH programs. In addition, domestic violence programs do not participate in HMIS due to confidentiality concerns (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2018).

B) HOUSING GAPS

LAHSA'S HOUSING INVENTORY COUNT (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of the housing and shelter resources dedicated to homeless or formerly homeless populations conducted at the same time as the PIT Count. The HIC used in this analysis includes permanent housing resources (e.g. PSH, RRH, and other permanent housing) as well as temporary housing resources including emergency shelters in operation as of January 2018.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU'S AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) is an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that collects information on households across the country. This analysis includes several measures from 2016 5-year estimates to determine the number of housing units and general population characteristics in the City of Los Angeles.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU'S PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) OF ACS includes individual and housing unit records with individual responses for ACS 2016 5-year estimates, restricted to Los Angeles City using the PUMS area names. This report analyzed PUMS data to determine rental market, income group, and general population characteristics.

APPENDIX 4 – METHODOLOGY

Women Experiencing Homelessness in the City of Los Angeles
Several data sources were used to estimate the number of women experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles as well as population characteristics:

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) records from December 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 with demographic characteristics
- 2018 Greater Los Angeles Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Count
- 2018 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Adult Demographic Survey

Sheltered Population
According to the 2018 Los Angeles Continuum of Care Homeless Count Methodology Report prepared in August of 2018, demographic and subpopulation estimates for the sheltered population should be estimated as a proportion of the population by age (under 18, 18 to 24, and over 25), shelter type (Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing)[10], and household type (individuals or families with children). Because our estimates were only for the City of Los Angeles, we did not stratify further by SPA.

In order to determine the number of people in each age, shelter type and household category, we started with the total number of people in the City of Los Angeles by shelter type based on the 2018 PIT count (8,398). For each shelter type, we then determined the proportion of the population in each age group and household type for the whole Continuum of Care, and multiplied the proportions by the population counts for the City of Los Angeles (results shown in Table 1 below).[11] In doing so, we assumed that the age distribution and household type are the same between the Continuum of Care and the City of Los Angeles.

Table 1: Sheltered Population by Age, Household and Shelter Type (City of LA)

	Individuals			People in Family Households		
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Ind - Total	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Fam - Total
Under 18	18	6	24	2077	493	2569
18-24	222	419	641	277	72	349
25 and Older	2383	1106	3489	1106	221	1326
TOTAL	**2623**	**1531**	**4154**	**3459**	**785**	**4244**

We then used HMIS data to estimate the proportion of the population that are female by age, household type and shelter type in the City of Los Angeles (counts shown in Table 2 below).

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[10] There were no people reported in Safe Havens in the City of Los Angeles, and as a result, it is not included in shelter types for this report.
[11] Age group and household type proportions were provided by the USC Schaefer Center for Health Policy and Economics.

Table 2: Sheltered Females By Age, Household Type, Shelter Type (City of LA)

	Individuals			People in Family Households		
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Ind - Total	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Fam - Total
Under 18	10	4	14	1025	236	1261
18-24	83	196	279	211	72	283
25 and Older	730	194	924	809	182	991
TOTAL	**822**	**394**	**1217**	**2045**	**489**	**2535**

We then isolated the HMIS data to contain only adult females ages 25 and older. By shelter type and household type, we estimated proportions of the population by race/ethnicity, chronic homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence, length of time homeless, and adult age categories (25-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61+). We then multiplied each proportion by the counts shown in the "25 and older" row of Table 2.

Unsheltered Population
According to the 2018 Los Angeles Continuum of Care Homeless Count Methodology Report prepared in August of 2018, demographic and subpopulation estimates for the unsheltered population should be estimated as a proportion of the population by age (under 18, 18 to 24, and over 25) and household type (individuals or families with children).

To determine the number of people in each age and household category, we started with the total number of people in the City of Los Angeles based on the 2018 PIT count (22,887). [12] We then determined the proportion of the population in each age group and household type for the whole Continuum of Care, and multiplied the proportions by the population counts for the City of Los Angeles (results shown in Table 3 below).[13] In doing so, we assumed that the age distribution and household type are the same between the Continuum of Care and the City of Los Angeles.

Table 3: Unsheltered Population by Age Group & Household Type

	Individuals	In Family Households
Under 18	0	554
18-24	860	45
25 and Older	21012	417
TOTAL	**21871**	**1016**

We then used the Adult Demographic Survey data to estimate the proportion of the population that are female by age and household type in the City of Los Angeles (counts shown in Table 4 below).

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[12] This number excludes unsheltered unaccompanied children under 18.
[13] Age group and household type proportions were provided by the USC Schaefer Center for Health Policy and Economics.

Table 4 : Unsheltered Females by Age and Household Type (City)

	Individuals	In Family Households
Under 24	232	423
25 and Older	4824	292
TOTAL	**5056**	**715**

Using Adult Demographic Survey data and survey subpopulation commands in Stata statistical software we estimated race/ethnicity, chronic homelessness, mental illness, experience with domestic violence, length of time homeless, detailed adult age categories (25-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61+), last place of dwelling, and reasons for experiencing homelessness for adult females (25+) in each household type. We then multiplied each proportion by the counts shown in the "25 and older" row of Table 4.

General Population
Race/ethnicity for the general population of women ages 25 and older was calculated using 2016 5-year American Community Survey estimates for the City of Los Angeles (tables B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, B01001H and B01001I). Age categories (25-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61+) for the general population were calculated using an extract of the 2016 5-year IPUMS USA American Community Survey estimates for the City of Los Angeles.

Available Resources and Utilization within the Homeless Services System

To estimate the current inventory of beds available to populations experiencing homelessness within the homeless services system, we used data from LAHSA's Housing Inventory Count (HIC). This included data on fully-funded housing that opened or was scheduled to open between February 2017 and June 2018.

Total Beds for Individual Women
In order to estimate the number of beds available for individual women (25+) in the City of Los Angeles, we compiled counts of beds included in permanent supportive housing (PSH), rapid re-housing (RRH), transitional housing (TH), emergency shelters (ES), and other permanent housing as recorded in LAHSA's HIC. Each of these programs had beds assigned for a specific target population (individual females, individual males, households with children, or some combination of the three). We kept programs with (1) a Los Angeles City Council District value of 1-15 and (2) a target population that included individual females or households with children (as a few beds were available for individual adults in those programs). The selected target population groups are shown below:
- Single Females 18 years old and over (SF)
- Single Males and Females 18 years old and over (SMF)
- Single Females 18 years old and over and Households with Children (SFHC)
- Single Males and Females 18 years old and over plus Households with Children (SMF+HC)
- Households with Children (HC)

Because the shelter system classifies adults as 18 and older rather than 25 and older, we used the number of beds for individual females (18+) as a proxy for the number of beds for individual women (25+). In doing so, we overestimated the number of beds exclusively for women ages 25 and older.

Existing Emergency Shelter Beds
To determine the number of existing emergency shelter beds available to individual women (25+) experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, we isolated the dataset to include only emergency shelter beds in shelters with a Los Angeles City Council District value of 1-15 that served target populations including individual females age 18 and over (see *Total Beds for Individual Women*).

Unoccupied Emergency Shelter Beds
We determined the number of occupied beds at the time that the HIC was recorded by multiplying the bed utilization rate for each shelter (found in LAHSA's HIC) by the number of existing emergency shelter beds available to individual women (calculated in the previous section). The number of unoccupied emergency shelter beds for individual women was then found by subtracting the number of occupied emergency shelter beds for individual women from all existing emergency shelter beds for individual women.

Because the shelter system classifies adults as 18 and older rather than 25 and older, we used the number of unoccupied beds available to individual females (18+) as a proxy for the number of unoccupied beds available to individual women (25+). In doing so, we overestimated the number of available beds exclusively for women ages 25 and older.

Housing in the City of Los Angeles

Housing Affordability and Income (Household Characteristics)
Characteristics of households in the City of Los Angeles including household type (individual female households, renter households), ability to afford housing (rent burden and severe rent burden), and income group [Extremely Low Income (ELI), Very Low Income (VLI), Low Income (LI), Moderate Income (MI), Above Moderate Income] were found using a rectangular (person-level data) extract of the 2016 5-year IPUMS USA American Community Survey estimates for the City of Los Angeles. Each household was assigned an income group according to 2016 income limits for Los Angeles County determined by the California Department of Housing and Community Development based on household income and the number of people in a household.

Females were considered to be living in an individual female household if they were 15 years of age or older and living alone or with no other relatives or a partner in the household. A household was considered a rental household if they did not own the unit they were currently occupying. A household was considered to be rent burdened if their reported annual gross rent (including rent and utilities) was equal to greater than 30% of their reported annual household income. A household was considered to be severely rent burdened if their reported annual gross rent (including rent and utilities) was equal to greater than 50% of their reported annual household income.

The portion of the population that was rent burdened and severely rent burdened was determined for each household type and income group using survey subpopulation commands in Stata statistical software by dividing reported annual rent by reported annual household income.

The number of rental households in the City of Los Angeles (859,644) was reported by Table B25002 of the 2016 5-year estimates of the American Community Survey. Income groups and household types for the renter population were estimated using a rectangular (person-level data) extract of 2016 5-year IPUMS USA American Community Survey estimates by (1) determining the proportion of renter households that belonged to each income group and household type and (2) multiplying those proportions by the total 859,644 renter households in the City of Los Angeles. Results are shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Renter Income Level by Household Type

	Individual Female Renter Households (%)	Individual Female Renter Households (#)	All Renter Households (%)	All Renter Households (#)
Extremely Low Income (ELI)	44%	27,340	25%	219,123
Very Low Income (VLI)	16%	10,066	19%	162,215
Low Income (LI)	14%	8,963	20%	173,046
Moderate Income (MI)	4%	2,720	5%	41,521
Above Moderate Income	22%	13,588	31%	263,739
TOTAL	**100%**	**62,677**	**100%**	**859,644**

Affordable and Available Rental Units
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) develops rent affordability standards for households of various sizes within each income level. Rent is considered affordable if it is equal to 30% or less of the income cutoff within each category. A rental unit is considered affordable and available to a particular income category if it meets the affordability standards for that income group and is either vacant or currently occupied by a household with income below the defined level for that group.

We first determined the number of vacant rental units affordable to each income group. The total number of vacant housing units was obtained from Table B25003 of the 2016 5-year estimates of the American Community Survey (90,715). We then used a hierarchical extract (housing unit level data with vacant housing units) of the 2016 5-year IPUMS USA American Community Survey estimates to determine the portion of vacant housing units that were for rent (85%) and multiplied it by the total number of vacant units to determine the number of vacant rental units in the City of Los Angeles (77,076).

For vacant housing units, IPUMS reports an annual contract rent but does not report utility costs. To determine annual gross rent (rent plus utilities) for vacant housing units, we added together the annual contract rent for each unit with the average annual cost of utilities for an occupied unit with the same number of bedrooms (shown in Table 6 below).

Table 6: Average Annual Cost of Utilities for Occupied Rental Units by Number of Bedrooms

	Average Annual Cost of Utilities for Occupied Rental Units
Studio	$783
One Bedroom	$1,137
Two Bedroom	$2,055
Three Bedroom	$3,659
Four Bedroom	$4,587
Five or More Bedrooms	$5,462

We then estimated the proportion of vacant units that had an annual gross rent equal to less than 30% of each income group's defined income level. We multiplied these proportions by the number of vacant rental units (77,076).

We then determined which occupied rental units were affordable and available for each income group by estimating (1) the proportion of units that had an annual gross rent that was not more than 30% of the defined level for that income group and (2) were currently being occupied by a household with a household income below the defined level for that income group. We multiplied those proportions by the total number of occupied rental units (859,644) in the City of Los Angeles.

To determine all affordable and available rental units, we added affordable vacant rental units with affordable and available occupied rental units for each income group (shown in Figure 7 below).

Figure 7: Affordable and Available Units by Vacancy Status and Income Group

	Vacant	Occupied	Total Affordable and Available
Extremely Low Income (ELI)	1,457	47,978	49,435
Very Low Income (VLI)	3,284	91,081	94,364
Low Income (LI)	5,151	138,416	143,568
Moderate Income (MI)	39,358	565,818	605,176

Housing Gap
The shortage in available and affordable units was determined by subtracting the number of affordable and available housing units for each income level from the number of renter households at each income level.

Maps
Both maps use census tracts as the primary geographic analysis unit. [14] Each map also contains an overlay of the Los Angeles City Council District boundaries, numbered one through fifteen. Map 1 shows

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[14] Census tracts are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as "small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity that are updated by local participants prior to each decennial census" whose boundaries "generally follow visible and identifiable features." The average area of a census tract in Los Angeles County is roughly 0.74 square miles.

unsheltered individual adults per square mile in each census tract, while Map 2 shows unoccupied emergency shelter beds available to individual females (18+) in each census tract.

Map 1 was created using census tract-level estimates of the unsheltered individual adult population taken from the 2018 PIT Count and the area in square miles of each census tract. People experiencing homelessness are more likely to move around than people who are housed/sheltered for a number of reasons including weather, safety, policing, and access to basic necessities. Therefore, Map 1 illustrates how people experiencing homelessness are dispersed across the city at the time of the PIT Count, but does not dictate a rigid geography or properly indicate that patterns observed at one point in time will be the same patterns observed in the future.[15]

Locating unsheltered individual women experiencing homelessness is a challenge – both during the annual PIT Count data collection process and in the practice of mapping the population across census tracts. While women comprise approximately 22% of unsheltered adult individuals across the City of Los Angeles on average, there is not strong evidence that women are geographically dispersed in the same pattern as unsheltered individual males. Therefore, the proportion of the population that are women likely varies widely across census tracts. As a result, the number of individual women experiencing homelessness cannot be accurately mapped at the census tract level. Unsheltered adult individuals are used as an alternative measure to show the geographic distribution of unsheltered homelessness in Map 1.

Map 2 was created using census tract-level estimates of the number of existing emergency shelter beds in programs with a target population that includes individual females age 18 and over calculated in the *Existing Emergency Shelter Beds* section described above.

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[15] Similarly, we should expect a different geography for sheltered and unsheltered populations because shelters, once constructed, do not move (though new shelters may emerge). Further, because people can move in and out of sheltered status, it is generally worth emphasizing the needs and characteristics of the unsheltered populations – precisely because a person in a shelter today may find themselves unsheltered in the future.