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Homelessness Estimates in the Mountain West, 2020

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HOMELESSNESS ESTIMATES IN THE MOUNTAIN WEST, 2020

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Prepared by: Saha Salahi, Vanessa Booth, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This fact sheet summarizes a recent report titled, “The 2020 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress,” by the *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*. By synthesizing homelessness vulnerability categories to the Mountain West states, this report offers data for Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

ABOUT THE DATA:

The *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)* released the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR) in two parts. The national report focuses on facets that play into the occurrence of homelessness including rates of vulnerability and chronic populations, alongside displaced individuals such as unaccompanied children.

This factsheet reports data from part 1 of the report and displays the Point-in-Time (PIT) category that estimates the number of people experiencing homelessness within a chronic at-risk population grouping. Since estimates are conducted during the last ten days of January each year, data does not account for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report also provides counts of beds in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, safe havens, rapid rehousing programs, permanent supportive housing programs, and other forms of permanent housing, but these topics are not included in this fact sheet.¹

KEY TERMS:

Chronically Homeless Individual	An individual with a disability who has been continuously homeless for one year or more.
Point-In-Time Counts	Unduplicated one-night estimates of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by Continuums of Care (CoCs) nationwide and occur during the last week in January of each year.
Unsheltered Homelessness	People whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for regular sleeping accommodations.
Sheltered Homelessness	Individuals who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Arizona leads the Mountain West in the highest estimated populations who are homeless with children or unaccompanied youth, while Colorado contains the highest estimate of homeless veterans and chronically homeless individuals.
2. Utah has the lowest estimation of homelessness within four out of five categories. Nevada reports the lowest estimate of homeless individuals being a part of a family.
3. Between 2019-2020, Nevada experienced a decrease of 3.5% in the number of homeless individuals, which is an absolute decline of 233 fewer people.

¹ See the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, “The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress,” 2020 (<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>)

Table 1 represent the five Mountain West States in five categories: Estimates of Homeless Individuals, Homeless Families with Children, Unaccompanied Homeless Youth, Homeless Veterans, and Chronically Homeless Individuals. Arizona ranks highest among the Mountain West states in the Estimates of Homeless Individuals, Homeless Families with Children, and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth categories. Colorado has the highest estimated rates in Homeless Veterans and Chronically Homeless Individuals for the Mountain West states. Utah has the lowest estimated rates in Unaccompanied Homeless Youth, Homeless Veterans, and Chronically Homeless Individuals.

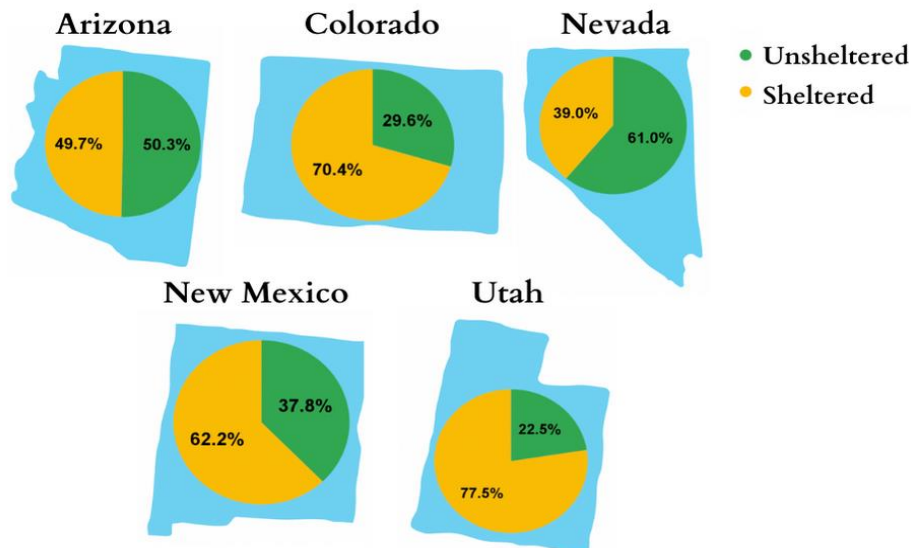
Table 1: PIT Estimates for Mountain West States, January 2020

State	Estimates of Homeless Individuals	Homeless Families with Children	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	Homeless Veterans	Chronically Homeless Individuals
Arizona	8,280	2,699	633	921	1,959
Colorado	7,579	2,267	562	1,044	2,834
Nevada	6,381	519	570	924	1,331
New Mexico	2,555	778	215	252	1,296
Utah	2,150	981	194	114	643

*Adapted from “The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment (AHAR) to Congress”

Figure 1 represents the estimates of Unsheltered and Sheltered individuals who are experiencing homelessness in five Mountain West states. Arizona shows estimates with the most individuals experiencing **Unsheltered Homelessness**, recorded at 5,521. Utah has the lowest estimates at 704. Colorado has the largest estimates of individuals experiencing **Sheltered Homelessness** with 6,693. New Mexico displays the lowest estimate at 2,074.

Figure 1: Unsheltered and Sheltered Estimates for Mountain West States, January 2020



*Adapted from “The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment (AHAR) to Congress”