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HOMELESSNESS IN MOUNTAIN WEST CONTINUUMS OF CARE (COC), 2022-2023

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PURPOSE:

This fact sheet examines data on the number of homeless per 100,000 individuals and the number of unsheltered per 100,000 individuals in six Mountain West metropolitan areas in 2023. Six continuums of care (CoC) are identified in the Mountain West: the Albuquerque, NM CoC; the Las Vegas/Clark County, NV CoC; the Phoenix, Mesa/Maricopa County, AZ CoC; the Tucson/Pima County, AZ CoC; the Metropolitan Denver, CO CoC; and the Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO CoC.

ABOUT THE DATA:

The Brookings Institution report, “Despite a national spike in homelessness, some US regions are finding solutions” includes information for 45 CoCs in the United States.¹ CoCs are local planning bodies that provide services to homeless families and individuals that receive funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Data included in the Brookings Institution report originates from the HUD Annual Point-in-Time Count 2022² and the 1-year Estimates from the American Community Survey in 2022.³

KEY FINDINGS:

1. The Las Vegas/Clark County, NV CoC reported 283 homeless individuals per 100,000 people, and experienced a 16% increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023.
2. The Albuquerque, NM CoC reported 427 homeless individuals per 100,000 people, an 87% increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023.
3. The Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO CoC was the only Mountain West CoC to experience a decrease in homelessness (-7%) from 2022 to 2023.
4. In 2023, the Albuquerque, NM CoC recorded 174 unsheltered individuals per 100,000 people, with 41% of the homeless population unsheltered.
5. In the Mountain West, the Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO CoC reports the lowest rate of unsheltered individuals (51 per 100,000 people) in 2023.

Table 1 displays homeless estimates from six CoCs located in the Mountain West. The Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO CoC reports the lowest number of homeless individuals (176) per 100,000 people and the Albuquerque, NM CoC records the highest number of homeless individuals (427) per 100,000 people. The Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO CoC (-7%) reported the only decline in homelessness among Mountain West CoCs. The Albuquerque, NM CoC (+87%) reported the largest percent increase in homelessness between 2022 and 2023.

¹ Love, Hanna and Loh, Tracy Hadden. “Despite a national spike in homelessness, some US regions are finding solutions” (2024). *The Brookings Institution*. Retrieved from www.brookings.edu/articles/despite-a-national-spike-in-homelessness-some-us-regions-are-finding-solutions/.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Table 1: Homeless Estimates in Mountain West Continuums of Care (CoC), 2023

Continuums of Care (CoC)	Homeless Individuals per 100,000 People	Percent Change from 2022
Albuquerque, NM CoC	427	+87%
Metropolitan Denver, CO CoC	309	+46%
Las Vegas/Clark County, NV CoC	283	+16%
Phoenix, Mesa/Maricopa County, AZ CoC	212	+7%
Tucson/Pima County, AZ CoC	209	-1%
Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO CoC	176	-7%

* Adapted from “Despite a national spike in homelessness, some US regions are finding solutions” (2024). *The Brookings Institution*. Retrieved from www.brookings.edu/articles/despite-a-national-spike-in-homelessness-some-us-regions-are-finding-solutions/.

Table 2 displays unsheltered homeless estimates from six CoCs located in the Mountain West. The Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO CoC (51 per 100,000 people) reported the lowest ratio of unsheltered individuals while the Albuquerque, NM CoC (174 per 100,000 people) reported the highest number. The Metropolitan Denver, CO CoC reported the lowest percentage of unsheltered individuals (27%) while the Tucson/Pima County, AZ CoC reported the highest percentage (68%).

Table 2: Unsheltered Homeless Estimates in the Mountain West Continuums of Care by Percentage of Unsheltered, 2023

Continuums of Care (CoC)	Unsheltered Individuals per 100,000 People	Percentage of Homeless Population Unsheltered
Tucson/Pima County CoC	142	68%
Las Vegas/Clark County CoC	168	60%
Phoenix, Mesa/Maricopa County CoC	108	51%
Albuquerque CoC	174	41%
Metropolitan Denver CoC	85	27%
Colorado Springs/El Paso County CoC	51	29%

* Adapted from “Despite a national spike in homelessness, some US regions are finding solutions” (2024). *The Brookings Institution*. Retrieved from www.brookings.edu/articles/despite-a-national-spike-in-homelessness-some-us-regions-are-finding-solutions/.