TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

SUBMITTED BY: JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

PREPARED BY: Chuck Flacks, Homelessness Services Coordinator

SUBJECT: County of Santa Barbara Presentation on 2025 Point-in-Time Count

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation by the County of Santa Barbara's Community Services Department on the results from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, during the last ten days of January, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities across the country to conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community and collect information about individuals and families residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing, sleeping on the streets and encampments, in vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation at this specific point in time.

The data from the PIT is broken down by city and a host of other demographics and shared with the public in an annual report presented by the County of Santa Barbara's Community Services Department's Housing and Community Development Division.

DISCUSSION:

The results from the 2025 PIT illustrate a marked increase in homelessness for the City of Goleta, specifically for people living in vehicles. The County staff from the Housing and Community Development Division will provide a presentation with detailed analysis of both the PIT observations and ongoing efforts to end homelessness (Attachment 1).

It is important to note that, while very valuable from a trend standpoint, the PIT is a single moment's once-a-year observation of people experiencing homelessness collected by volunteers. The City of Goleta tracks the number and status of people experiencing

homelessness through both the County of Santa Barbara's Homelessness Management Information System, and a staff-generated by-name list.

LEGAL REVIEW BY: Isaac Rosen, City Attorney

APPROVED BY: Robert Nisbet, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1.   Update on Homelessness by the County of Santa Barbara

Attachment 1

2025 Goleta Presentation

Update on Homelessness

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA | GOLETA CITY COUNCIL

JULY 15, 2025

COUNTY *of* **SANTA BARBARA**
HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Agenda

- Key trends in homelessness for 2024

- 2025 Point in Time count

- System-wide data trends

COUNTY *of* SANTA BARBARA
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Data Sources

County staff consider all data sources when developing response strategies.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Our most reliable source of real-time data.
- The Coordinated Entry System (CES) uses this system as the basis for matching and referrals to housing.
- HMIS users receive ongoing training and technical support from County staff.
- Provides a comprehensive look at system efficiencies and bottle-necks.
- Is considered the system of record for HUD data reporting.

Point in Time Count (PIT)

- Required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- A snapshot of homelessness on a single night during the last 10 days in January.
- When possible, information is collected by volunteers and agency staff.
  - This information is extrapolated across all observational counts.
- A great way to get the community involved and raise awareness of homelessness.
- Produces "sound bite" style data that is easily used to determine future funding levels and communicate with the public.
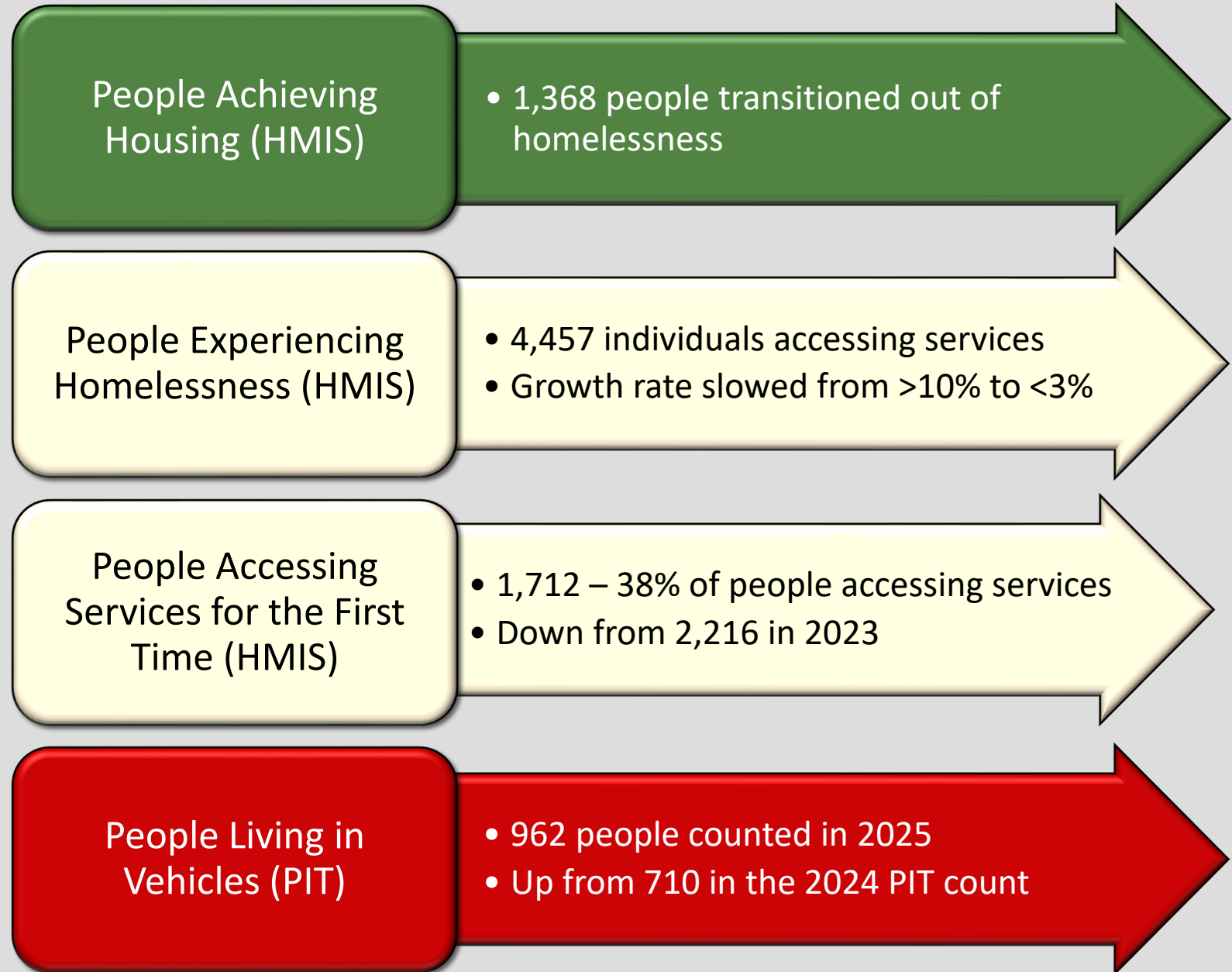
Key Trends

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Key Trends in the County-wide Homelessness Response System

People Achieving Housing (HMIS)
- 1,368 people transitioned out of homelessness

People Experiencing Homelessness (HMIS)
- 4,457 individuals accessing services
- Growth rate slowed from >10% to <3%

People Accessing Services for the First Time (HMIS)
- 1,712 – 38% of people accessing services
- Down from 2,216 in 2023

People Living in Vehicles (PIT)
- 962 people counted in 2025
- Up from 710 in the 2024 PIT count
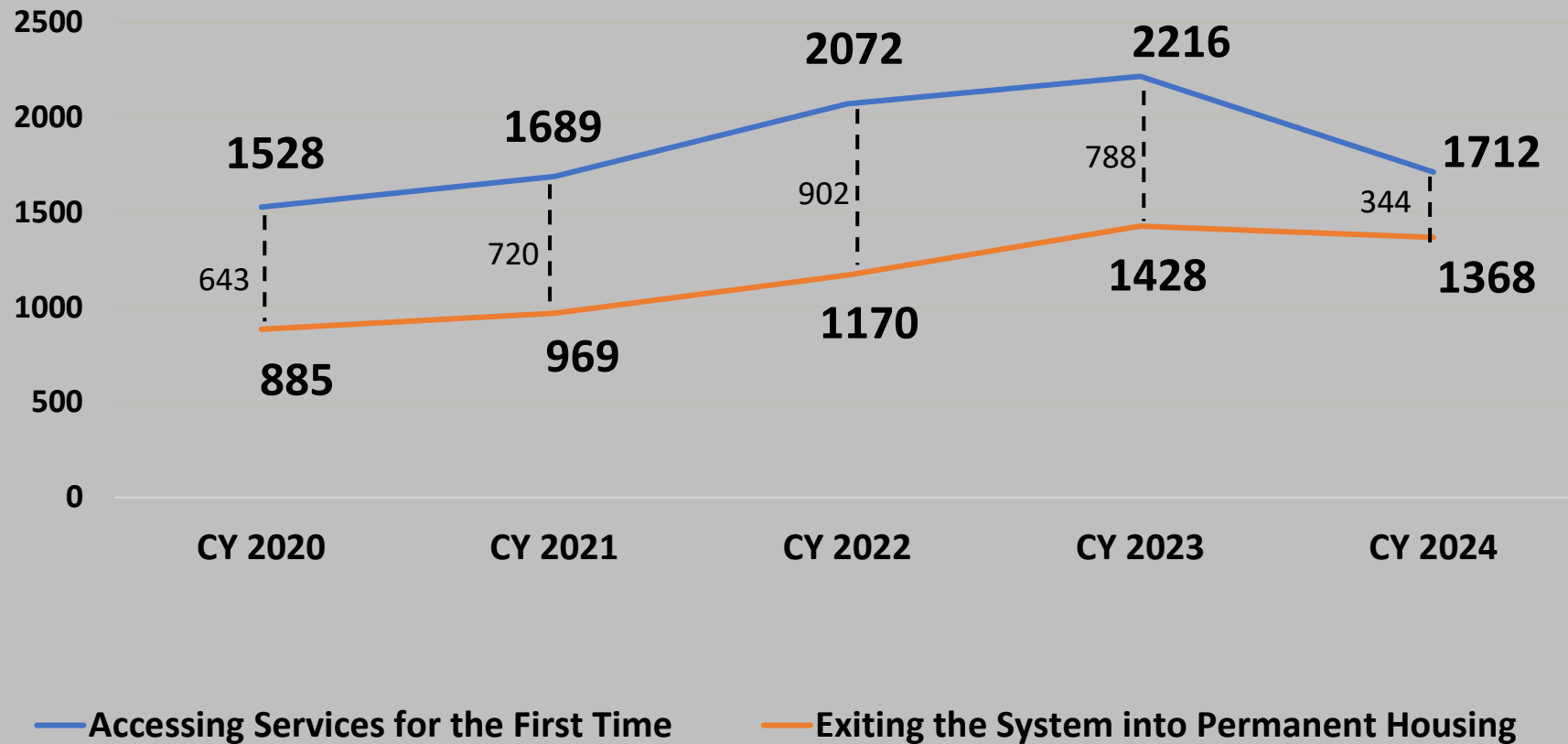
Number of People Accessing Services
The *known* "total homeless"
HMIS

- The *growth rate* in the number of people accessing services has slowed year over years.

- The *total number* of people *counted as homeless* continues to rise, especially those living in vehicles.

- The number of people experiencing homelessness represents about 1% of the total County population.

Those Newly Accessing Services vs Those Exiting to Housing
HMIS

Chart data:

	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024
Accessing Services for the First Time	1528	1689	2072	2216	1712
Exiting the System into Permanent Housing	885	969	1170	1428	1368
(gap)	643	720	902	788	344

— Accessing Services for the First Time   — Exiting the System into Permanent Housing

- When these lines intersect, our community will approach "functional zero," or where entries equal or fall below exits.
  - Most of the growing subpopulation of vehicular homeless is not included here.

- The top blue line only reflects individuals who reported experiencing homelessness for the first time in the calendar year indicated – a subset of the numbers on the previous slide

Recent Successes

Encampment Response

- Resolved 102 encampments, 100 people entering shelter, and 64 people obtaining housing.
- 151 individuals connected to services in the first 10 months of CERF 3.

Two New Interim Housing Facilities

- 359 people served, including 275 experiencing chronic homelessness.
- 56 people have achieved permanent housing.

Permanent Housing

- Buena Tierra opened its doors to permanently house 60 households in August 2024.

Additional Services

- Hedges House of Hope kitchen opening.
- It is now providing lunch and dinner for residents at local interim housing facilities – about 330 meals per day.
- Provides culinary jobs skills training to residents.
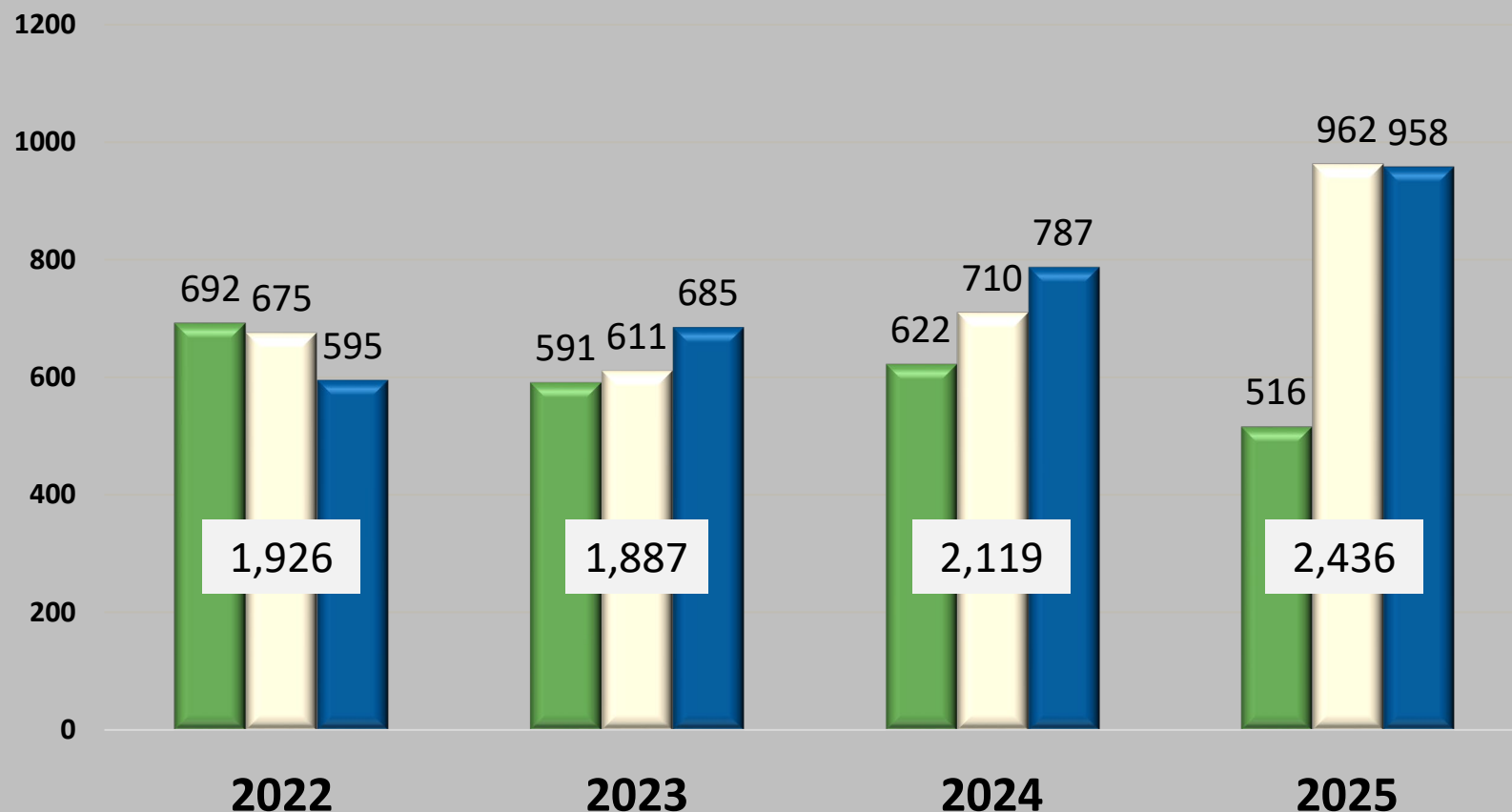
2025 Point in Time Count

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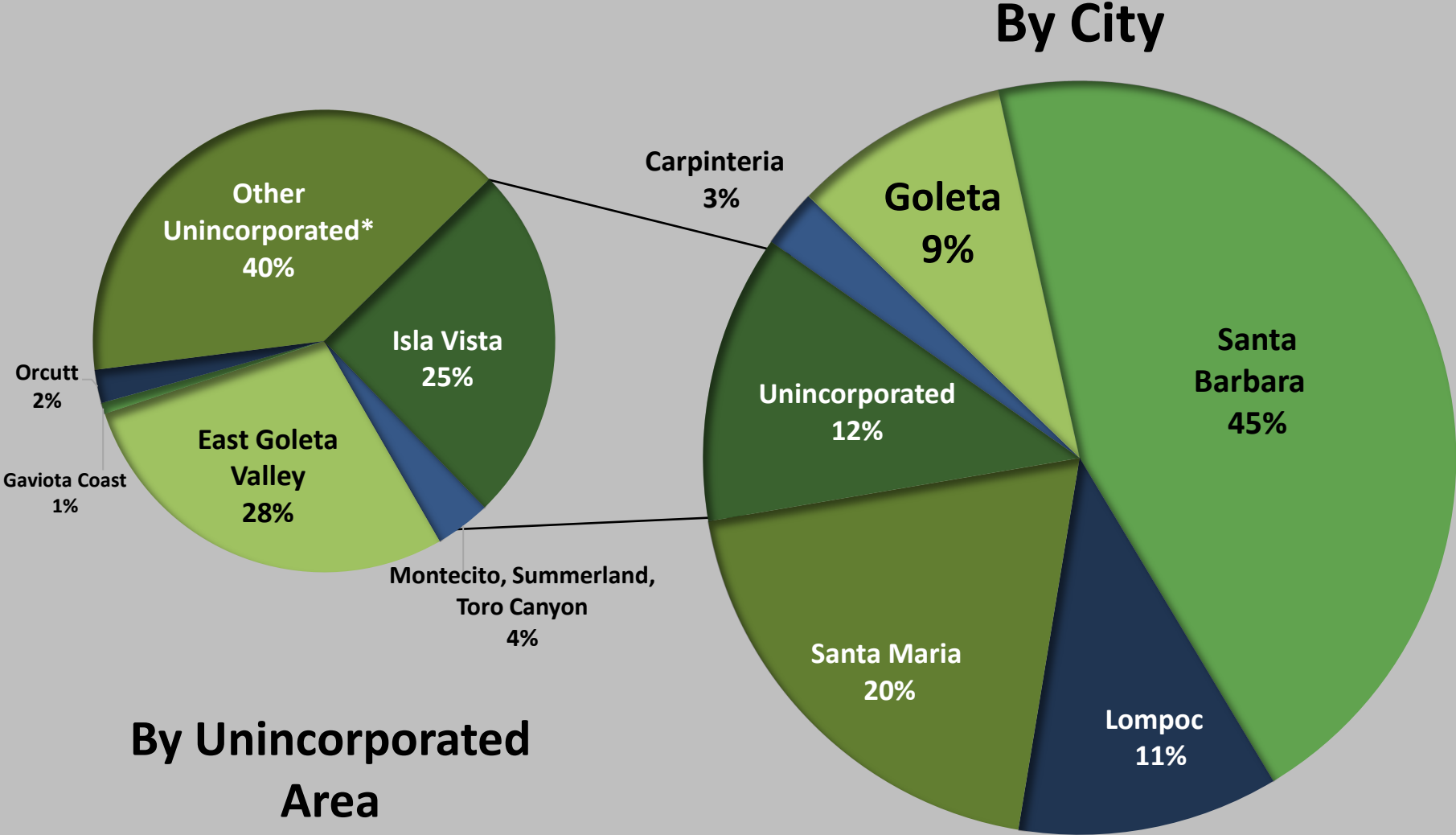
Point in Time Count Trends

Chart legend: Unsheltered (green), Vehicular (cream), Sheltered (blue)

Year	Unsheltered	Vehicular	Sheltered	Total
2022	692	675	595	1,926
2023	591	611	685	1,887
2024	622	710	787	2,119
2025	516	962	958	2,436

- The number of people living **sheltered increased by 61%** since 2022.

- The number of people living **unsheltered decreased by 25%** from 2022.

- People **living in their vehicles increased 42%** since 2022.

- Overall, the people counted on the night of **the PIT has increased 24%** over the past 4 counts.

- PIT Count results should be kept in context of larger, more comprehensive data base.

PIT Count Geographic Distribution

By City

By Unincorporated Area

- The cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, and Goleta comprise 30% of the total county population and 54% of the unhoused population.

- The City of Goleta has 7% of the total county population and 9% of the unhoused population.

- These charts include sheltered, unsheltered, and vehicular homelessness. Vehicular homelessness makes up a larger proportion of the count in South County than in North County.

By Unincorporated Area chart:
- Other Unincorporated* 40%
- Carpinteria 3%
- Isla Vista 25%
- Orcutt 2%
- Gaviota Coast 1%
- East Goleta Valley 28%
- Montecito, Summerland, Toro Canyon 4%

By City chart:
- Goleta 9%
- Santa Barbara 45%
- Unincorporated 12%
- Santa Maria 20%
- Lompoc 11%

*This count includes Bridgehouse and Rainbow Village, which are outside Lompoc city limits.

Goleta Observations
PIT

2024

2025

Legend
Red Dot - Individual Interview
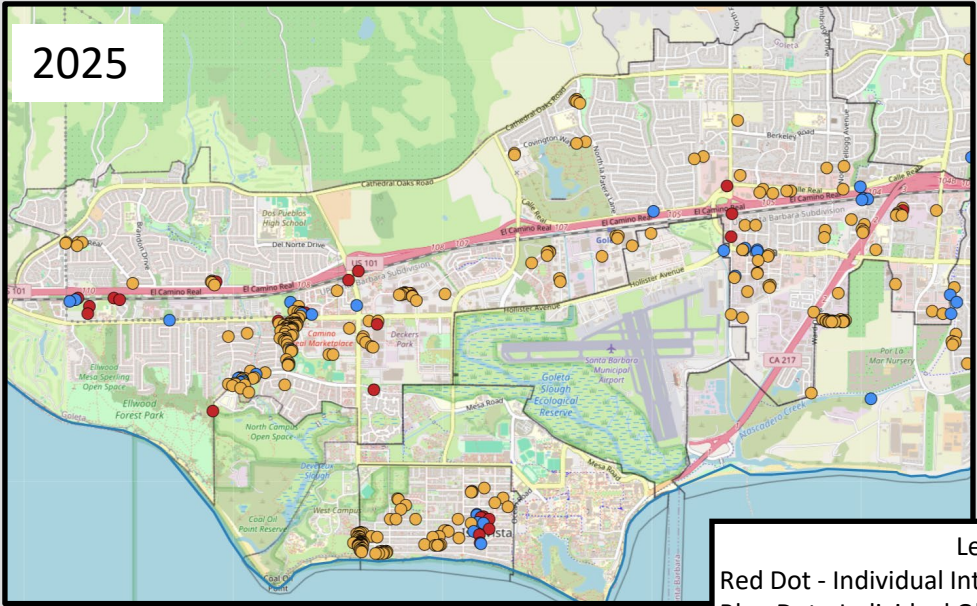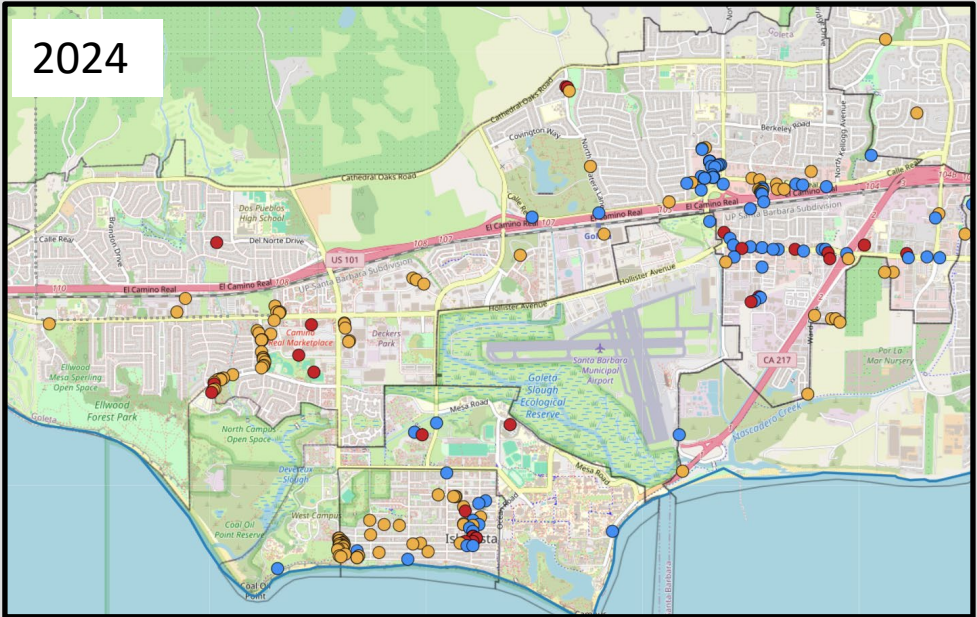Blue Dot - Individual Observation
Yellow Dot - Single Vehicle

- There was, once again, a decrease in the number of people counted near the Camino Real Marketplace.

- There was a decrease in the number of unsheltered people in the residential area north of the 101 near Fairview, but an increase in people living in their vehicles in the same area.

- There was a decrease in unsheltered in Old Town Goleta, but an increase in vehicles in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Sleeping Location	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change from '24-'25
Sheltered*	0	5	7	0**	10**	+100%
Unsheltered	53	44	29	66	47	-28%
Vehicle	113	42	100	82	160	+95%
Total	166	91	136	148	217	+46%

*2022 and 2023 reflect those sheltered in Goleta hotels as part of COVID response programs.
**Turner Foundation Thrive House for youth

Point in Time Count by City

- The number of people living in their vehicles is nearly **twice** the number of people living outside.

- However, based on available data, people living in vehicles are not accessing the homeless service system at the same rate as people living outside.
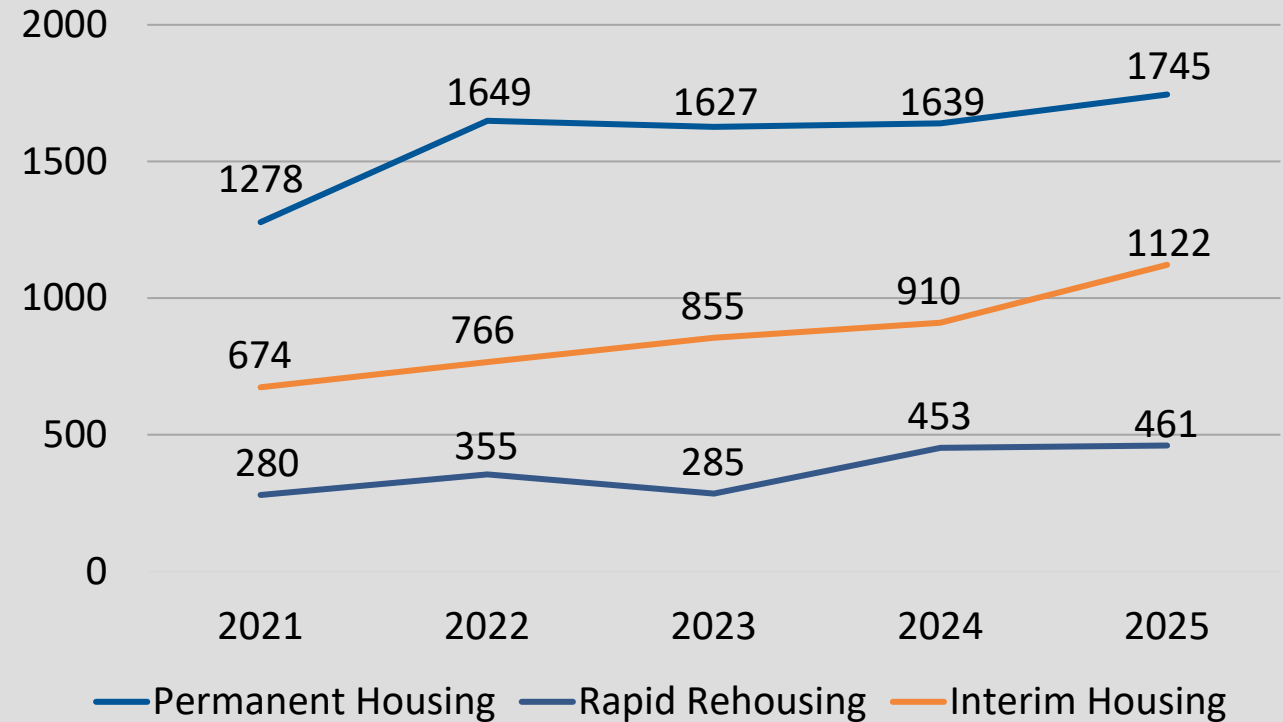

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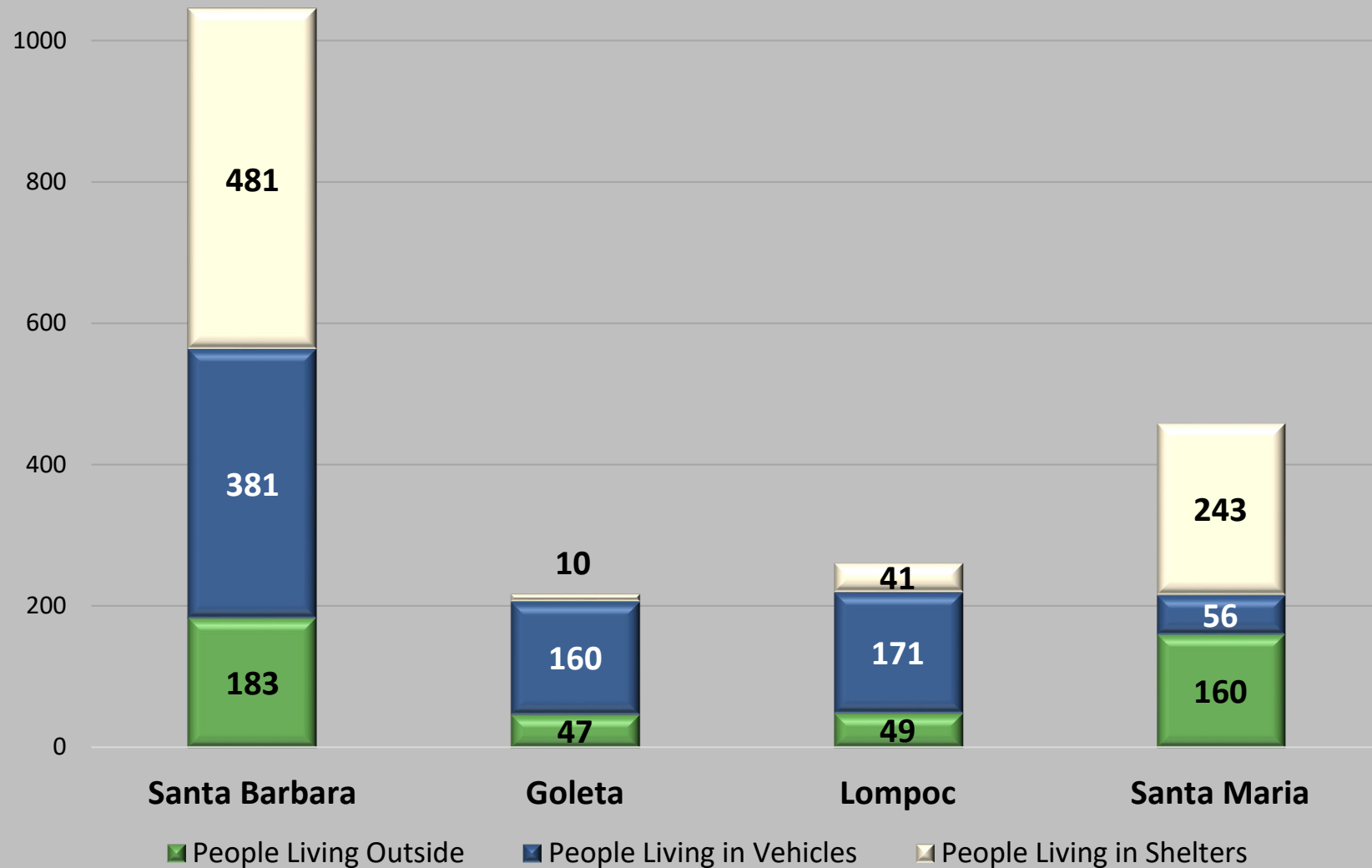
System Wide Data Trends

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The Housing Inventory Count

- Is conducted concurrently with the Point in Time count.

- Counts the number of beds dedicated to unhouse people.

- 106 Permanent beds were added between 2024 and 2025 (467 Permanent beds added since 2022).

- 212 Interim Housing beds were added between 2024 and 2025 (448 added since 2022).

Permanent Housing: 1278 (2021), 1649 (2022), 1627 (2023), 1639 (2024), 1745 (2025)
Interim Housing: 674 (2021), 766 (2022), 855 (2023), 910 (2024), 1122 (2025)
Rapid Rehousing: 280 (2021), 355 (2022), 285 (2023), 453 (2024), 461 (2025)

— Permanent Housing — Rapid Rehousing — Interim Housing

System-wide Data Trends

- **Decrease in Veteran Homelessness (HMIS):**
  - 2024 – 90 people
  - 2025 – 51 people

- **Increase in Families (PIT)**:
  - 2024 – 125 households
  - 2025 – 146 Households
  - Many of the families counted were living in vehicles.

- **Increase in Transitional Aged Youth (18-24) (PIT):**
  - 2024 – 78 people
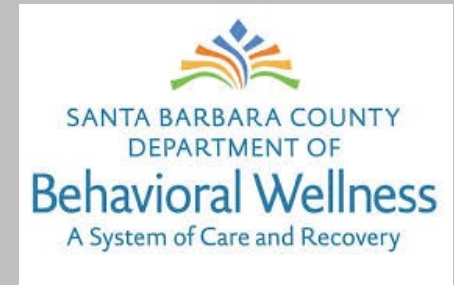 - 2024 – 127 people

- **Increase in Seniors (55+) (PIT)**:
  - 2024 – 720 (34% of those counted)
  - 2025 – 911 (37% of those counted)
    - *26% of people living in the County are over the age of 55.*

- **Increase in length of time a person is in the system (PIT):**
  - 2024 – 97 days
  - 2025 – 133 days
    - *Unhoused includes Interim Housing stays.*

Thank you to all our partners!

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Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara County **PUBLIC** **Health** DEPARTMENT

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF **Behavioral Wellness**
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Fighting for our future, one kid at a time

SANTA BARBARA County Education Office
Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent

NEW BEGINNINGS COUNSELING CENTER

THE SALVATION ARMY

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

CITY OF LOMPOC GATEWAY TO THE STARS INCORPORATED AUGUST 13, 1888

COUNTY of SAN LUIS OBISPO

And so many more!

Thank You

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