



Office of the City Manager

June 4, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Re: Homeless Response Team Quarterly Data and Progress Report

This memo provides an update on the efforts of the Homeless Response Team (HRT), with a focus on efforts provided during the first quarter of calendar year 2024. In the past, the HRT has provided ad hoc reports after individual encampment interventions. Due to the fluid, iterative nature and growing complexity of the team's work, reporting at this level is no longer sustainable, nor does it fully capture the full breadth of the work. Moving forward, reporting will be provided in aggregate form on a quarterly basis, and will be accompanied by a data and progress report (see attached).

### **Overview of Homeless Response Team**

The Homeless Response Team is coordinated by the Neighborhood Services Division in the City Manager's office, which coordinates a multi-departmental effort to address all of the needs and impacts of the people who live, work or visit the area of a particular encampment. The effort also includes staff from Public Works, Health, Housing & Community Services, City Attorney's Office, Police, Fire and Parks, Recreation and Waterfront.

Concerns about encampments are reported by community members (often through 311), Councilmembers, merchants or City Staff – including Homeless Response Team (HRT). HRT staff will then assess the site for its impacts. Among the factors the City looks at are:

- Impact on sidewalks
- Neighborhood impact
- Health and safety concerns for those at the site or nearby
- Code violations
- Legal issues
- Outreach capacity
- Willingness to accept shelter
- Imminent dangers

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The HRT's next steps depend on circumstances. Imminent dangers, unavoidable conflicts or a growing list of impacts can each accelerate outreach and action. Coordinating housing or shelter for those interested is the desired goal, but also requires more time.

We recognize that there are always limits to resources. HRT coordinates with nonprofit partners and has direct access to every shelter in the Berkeley system. Shelter bed availability fluctuates daily. City staff capacity and availability also poses a constraint. When departments are short-staffed, a resolution may take more time to schedule.

Outreach also accompanies guidance. When there are concerns about health and safety concerns, notices are provided that not only document concerns, but also outline the specific violations.

### **Overview of HRT Actions: Q1 of Calendar Year 2024**

The HRT's primary mission is the implementation of the All Home Regional Action Plan, adopted in July, 2021 by the City Council as the city's strategic plan to address and dramatically reduce street homelessness. With this in mind, the Homeless Response Team holds itself to three primary goals:

1. *Our Residents are Sheltered.* The All Home Regional Action Plan seeks to reduce street homelessness by 75% through the provision of permanent and interim housing solutions. The HRT's primary objective is moving people from sidewalks to safety through meaningful outreach and service provisions.
2. *Dangerous encampments are not inevitable.* Even if people living in encampments are not interested in the shelter resources we have at our disposal, there are certain health and safety threats that must be mitigated—both for the health of the encampment residents themselves as well as the greater community.
3. *Our City is Clean.* Even if an encampment does not need to be resolved, people living unsheltered often have no place to throw away trash. Homeless encampments can also become magnets for illegal dumping. Our goal is to remove as much debris to keep our streets safe and clean as possible.

The attached Data and Progress Report demonstrates the following results:

- *Outcome 1: Our residents are sheltered*
  - We saw a 45% decrease in unsheltered homelessness between 2022 and 2024
  - We saw a 57% increase in sheltered homelessness between 2022 and 2024

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- When closing an encampment, offering noncongregate shelter increases the likelihood of acceptance by 34%
- 67% of HRT clients exit to emergency shelter (47%) or permanent housing (20%)
- *Outcome 2: Dangerous Encampments are not inevitable.*
  - Overall, the HRT has performed 109 encampment interventions, including 59 closures, 39 deep cleanings, and 11 RV closures.
  - The HRT focuses on historically redlined districts in Berkeley: 80% of all closures and cleanings have been conducted in West and South Berkeley
  - The HRT averages 2 notices per business day to address sidewalk concerns, street and/or median violations, park violations, encampment closure notices, deep cleaning, and stored belongings to encourage voluntary compliance without further intervention.
  - The majority of notices (73%) are action notices related to encampment closure, deep cleaning, or stored belongings.
- *Outcome 3: Our City is clean*
  - Working to address health and safety concerns for neighbors is a core issue. To that end, staff coordinated the safe removal of 8.92 tons of garbage and debris from the areas. While raw numbers can be hard to visualize, please see the attached photos, which help illustrate the extent of the work completed.
  - On average, we are seeing a 45% reduction of debris being picked up year over year as there are fewer problematic street encampments that need regular garbage service.

### **Client Success Story**

The participant had been homeless for over four decades and has been accessing shelter and services in the Berkeley Area for the last decade. He has multiple and complicated health issues. After five years of working with Tony Alcutt on the HRT, the participant was able to secure permanent housing in September 2022. With assistance from the HRT, he was able to get furniture for the apartment including a bedframe and coffee table. However, by March 2023, the participant was evicted. Despite this, he continued to work with the HRT team. In December 2023, the participant agreed to enter the Campus Motel. The participant has been working with his housing navigator and has worked on obtaining all the required documents needed to secure permanent housing again.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator ([jjacobs@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:jjacobs@berkeleyca.gov) or 510-981-5435).

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Attachment: Homeless Response Team: Quarterly Data and Progress Report, Q3 FY24

cc:

LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager  
Ann Cardwell, Deputy City Manager  
Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager  
Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront  
Scott Gilman, Interim Director, Health Housing and Community Services  
David Sprague, Chief, Berkeley Fire Department  
Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police, Berkeley Police Department  
Terrance Davis, Director, Public Works  
Jenny Wong, City Auditor  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager  
Farimah Brown, City Attorney



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Before and After of Adeline and Russell encampment closure on February 28, 2024



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Before and After of Ohlone Greenway Bike Path encampment closure on March 13, 2024

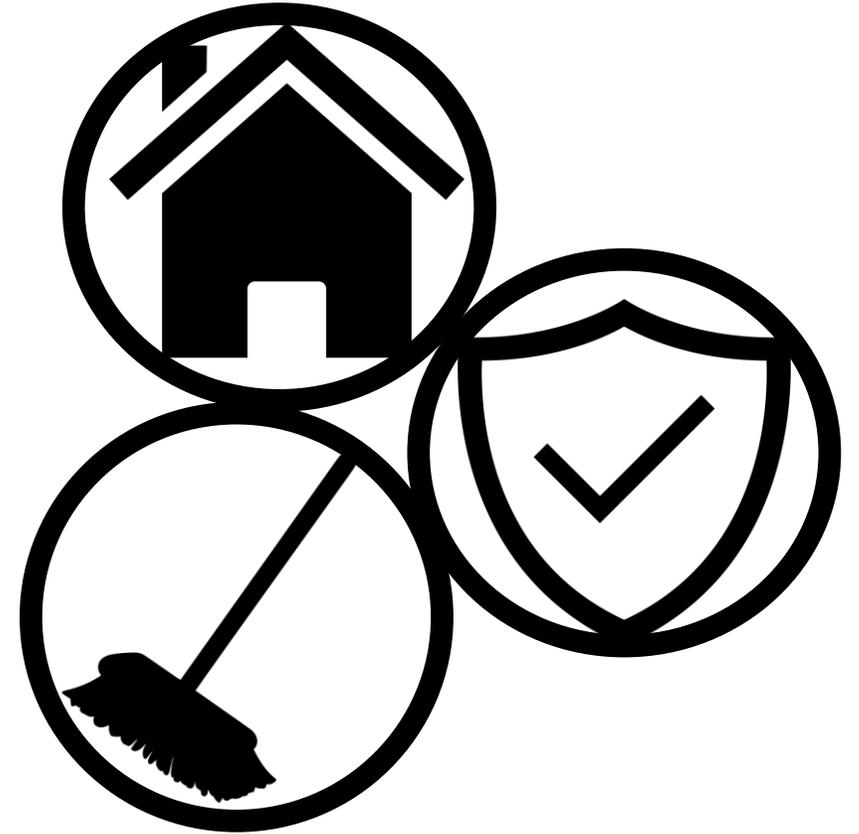


# HOMELESS RESPONSE TEAM QUARTERLY DATA AND PROGRESS REPORT

Jan - Mar, 2024

# OUTCOMES

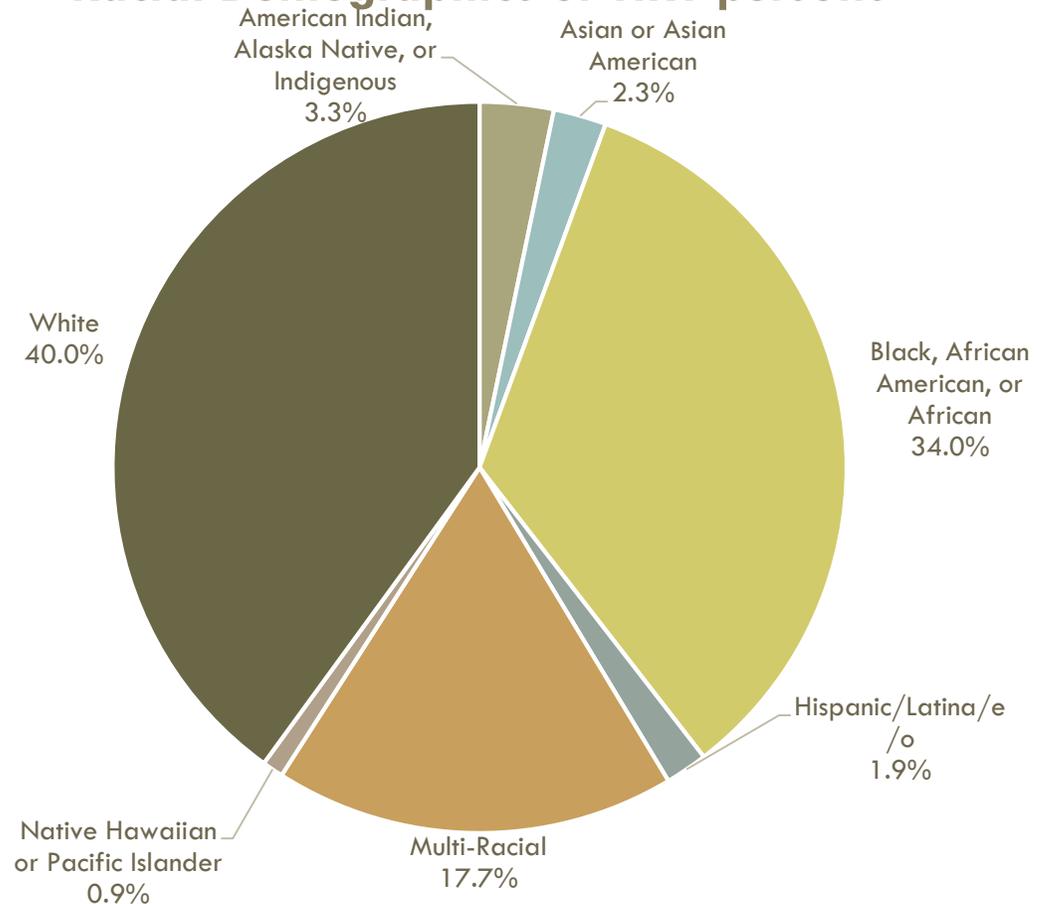
1. Our residents are sheltered.
2. Dangerous encampments are not inevitable.
3. Our City is clean.



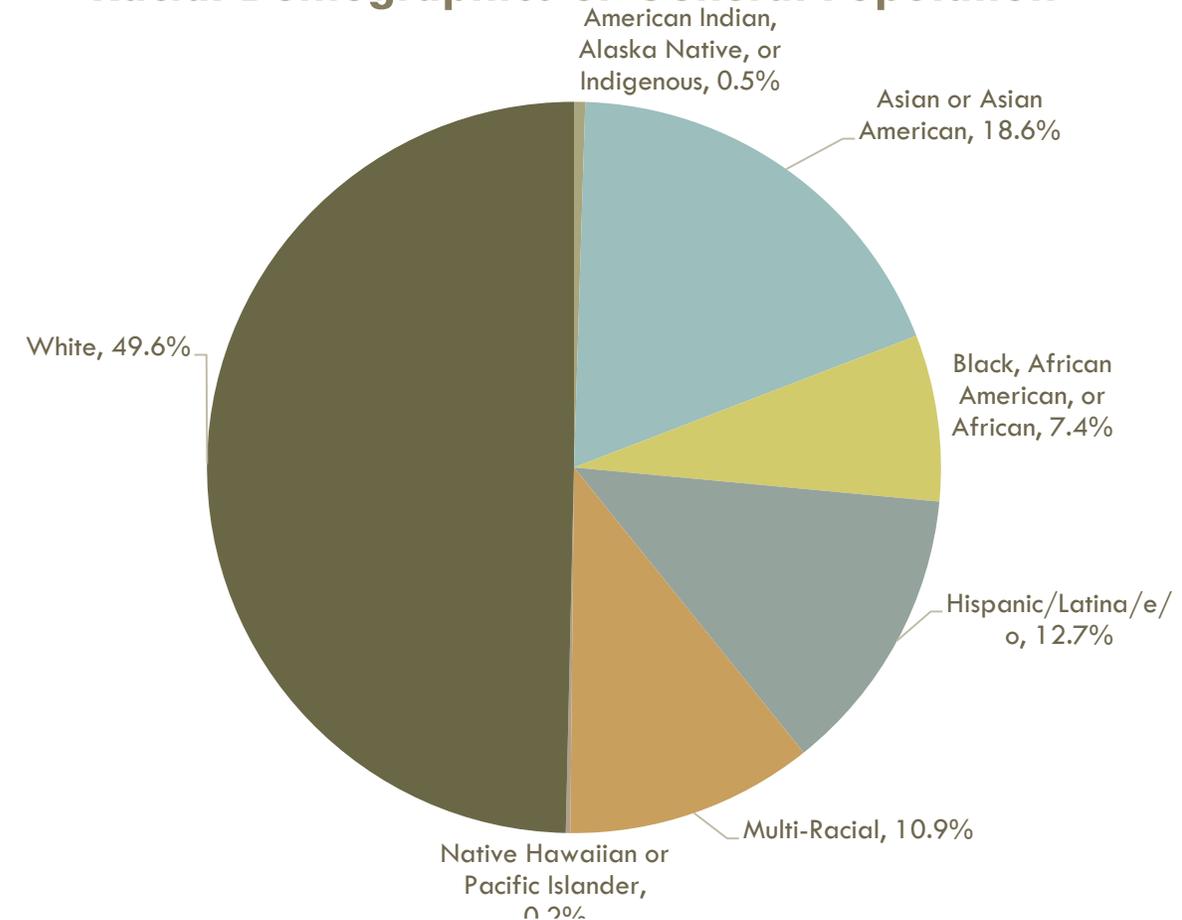
Outcome #1: People are sheltered

# HRT PERSONS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY BLACK & INDIGENOUS, MIRRORING THE HOMELESS POPULATION AT LARGE

## Racial Demographics of HRT persons



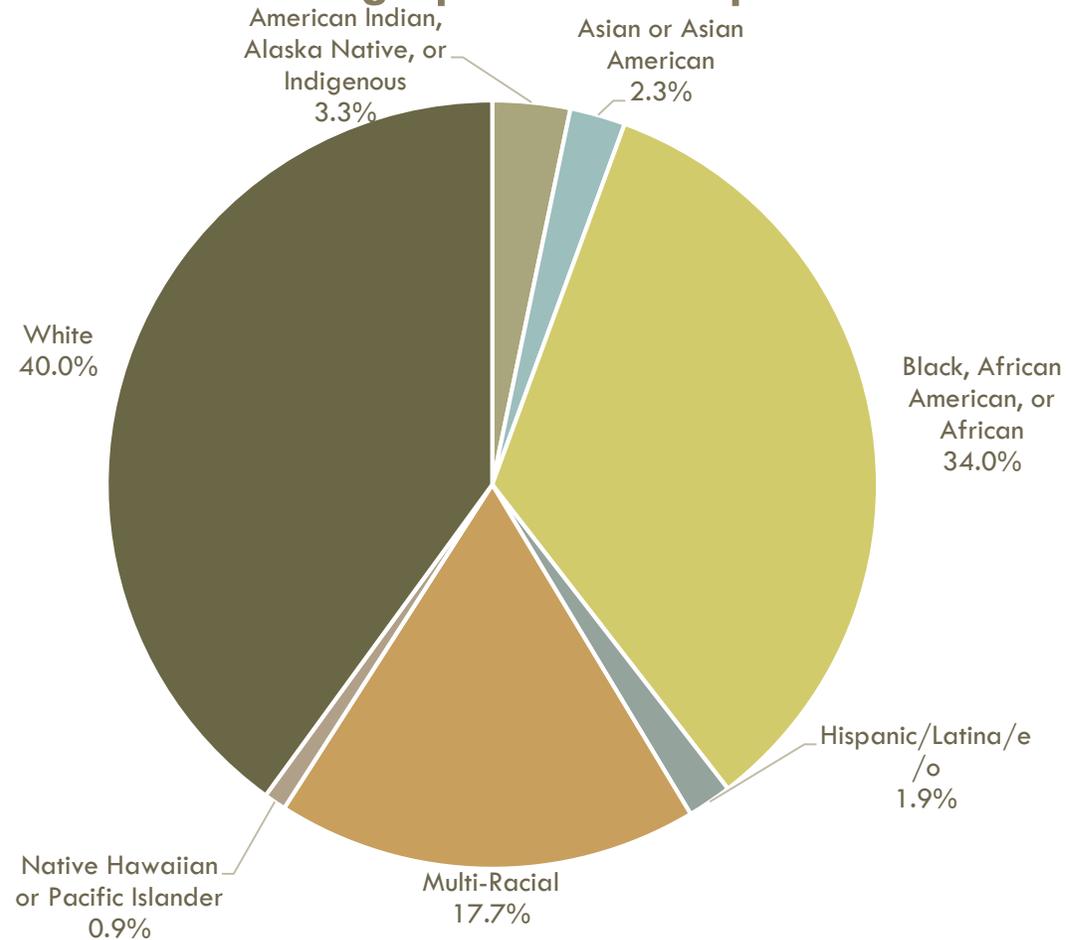
## Racial Demographics of General Population



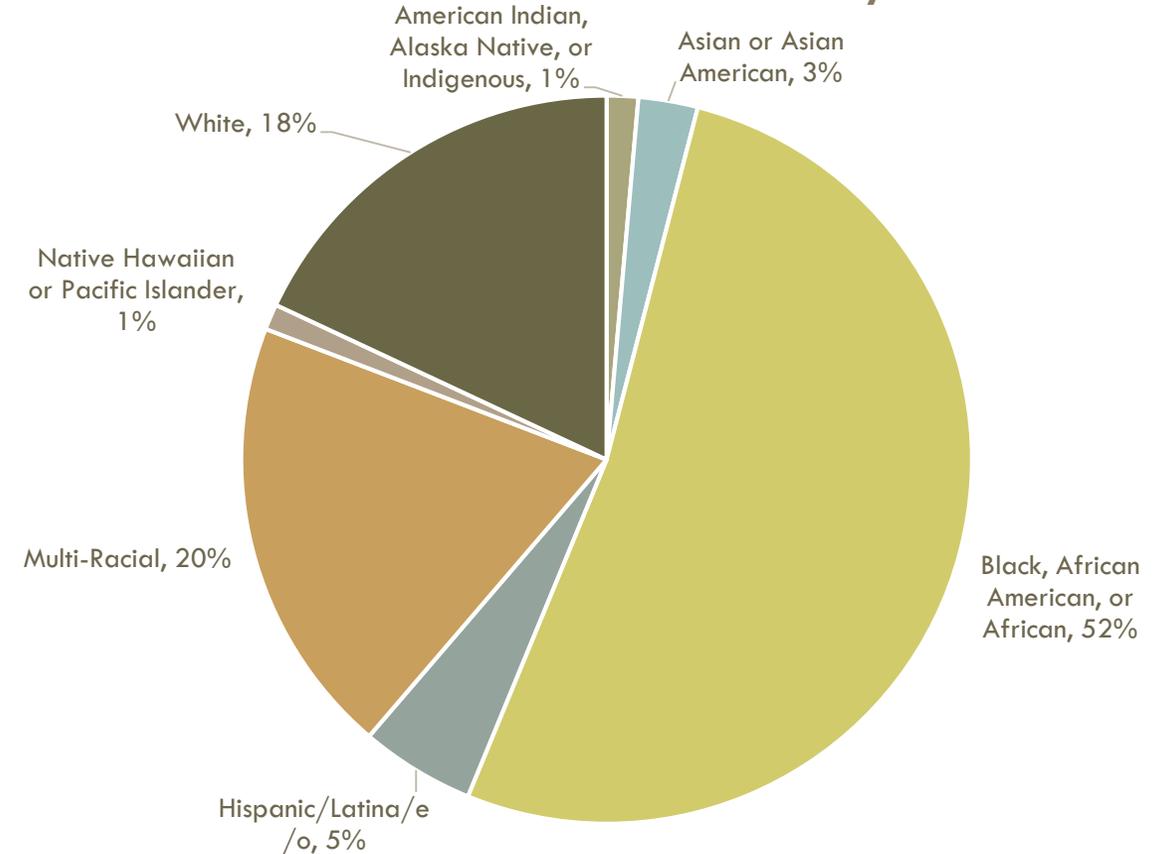
Outcome #1: People are sheltered

# HRT PERSONS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY BLACK & INDIGENOUS, MIRRORING THE HOMELESS POPULATION AT LARGE

### Racial Demographics of HRT persons

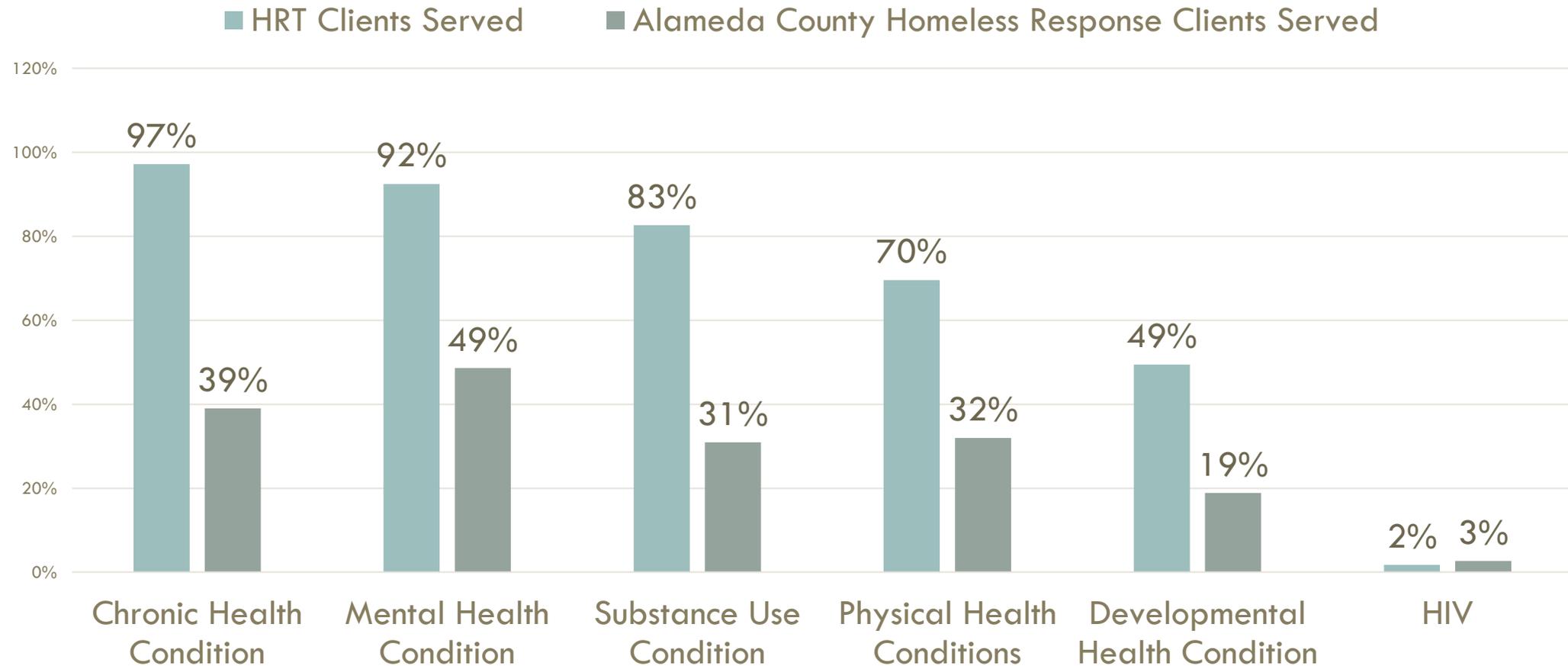


### Racial Demographics of persons Accessing Services in Alameda County



## Outcome #1: People are sheltered

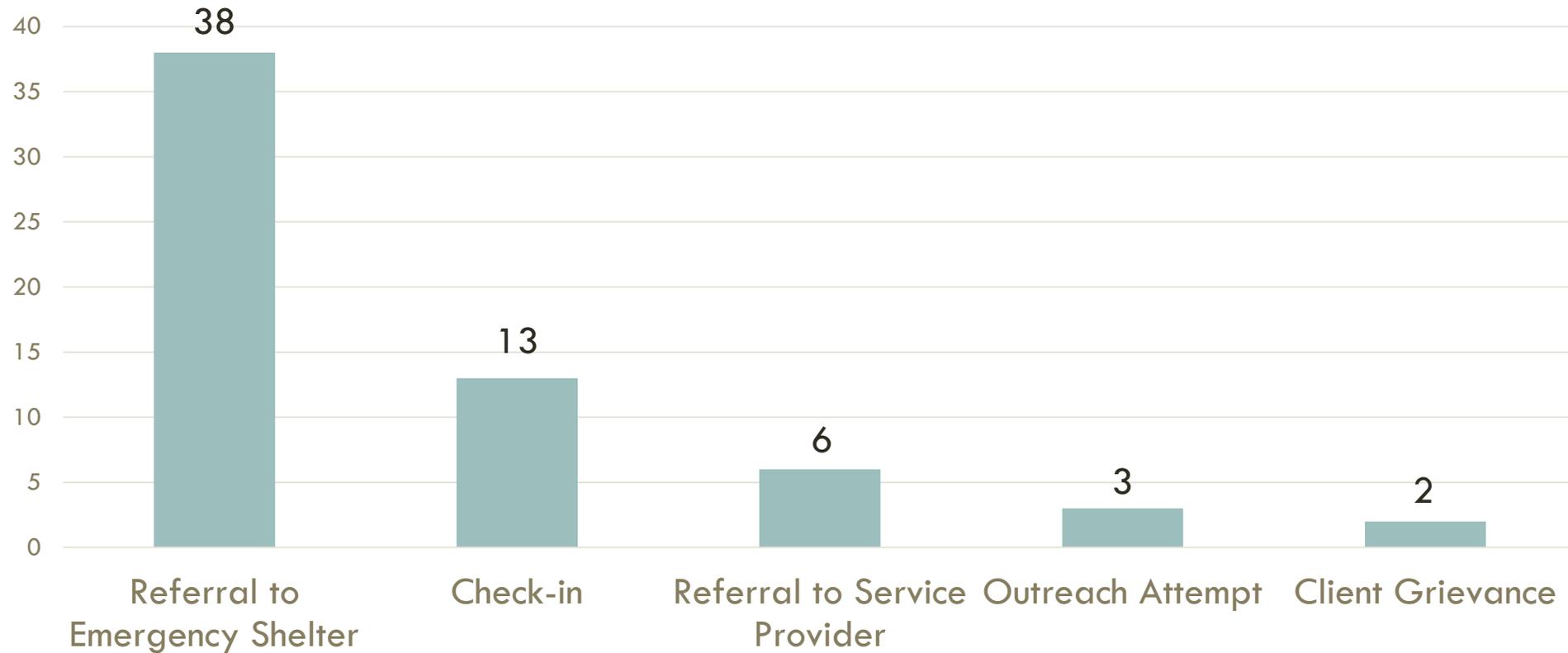
# THE HRT SERVES A DISPROPORTIONATELY VULNERABLE POPULATION



Outcome #1: People are sheltered

## THE HRT IS PREDOMINATELY REFERRING PEOPLE TO SHELTER

HRT Services Rendered, Jan – Mar 2024



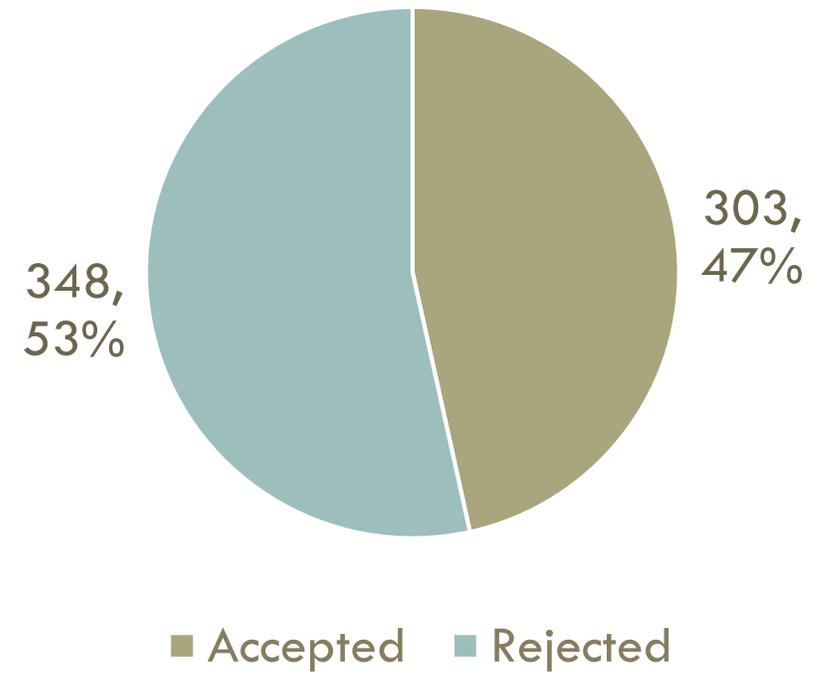
Outcome #1: People are sheltered

# LESS THAN 50% OF HRT PERSONS ACCEPT CONGREGATE SHELTER...

Number of shelter referrals provided to residents:



Shelter Acceptance Rate

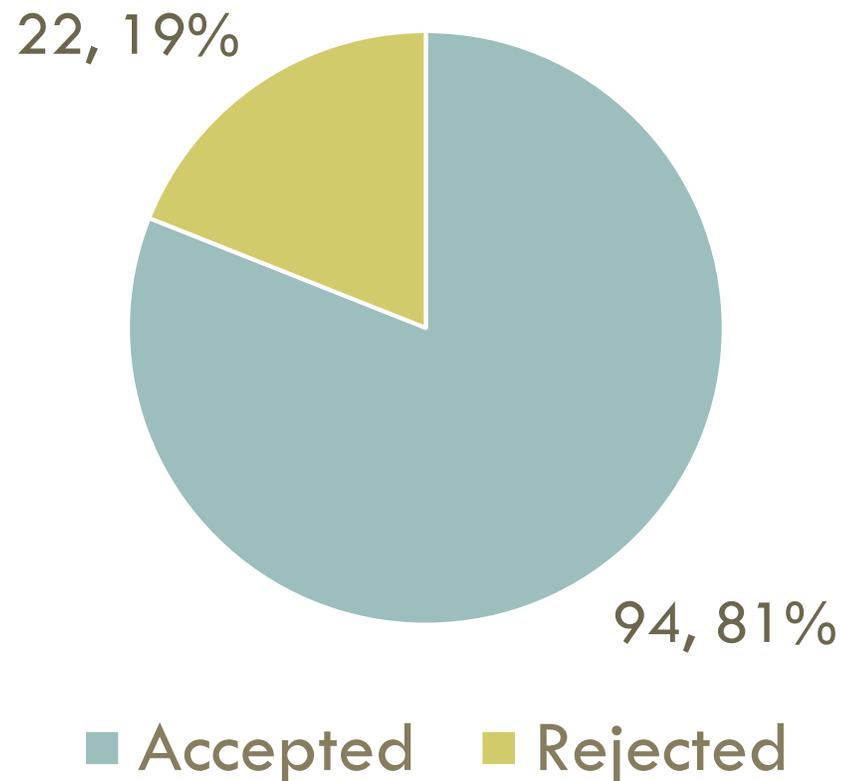


# ... BUT 81% ACCEPT NONCONGREGATE SHELTER DURING THE COURSE OF AN ENCAMPMENT CLOSURE

Noncongregate Shelter Offers and Acceptance

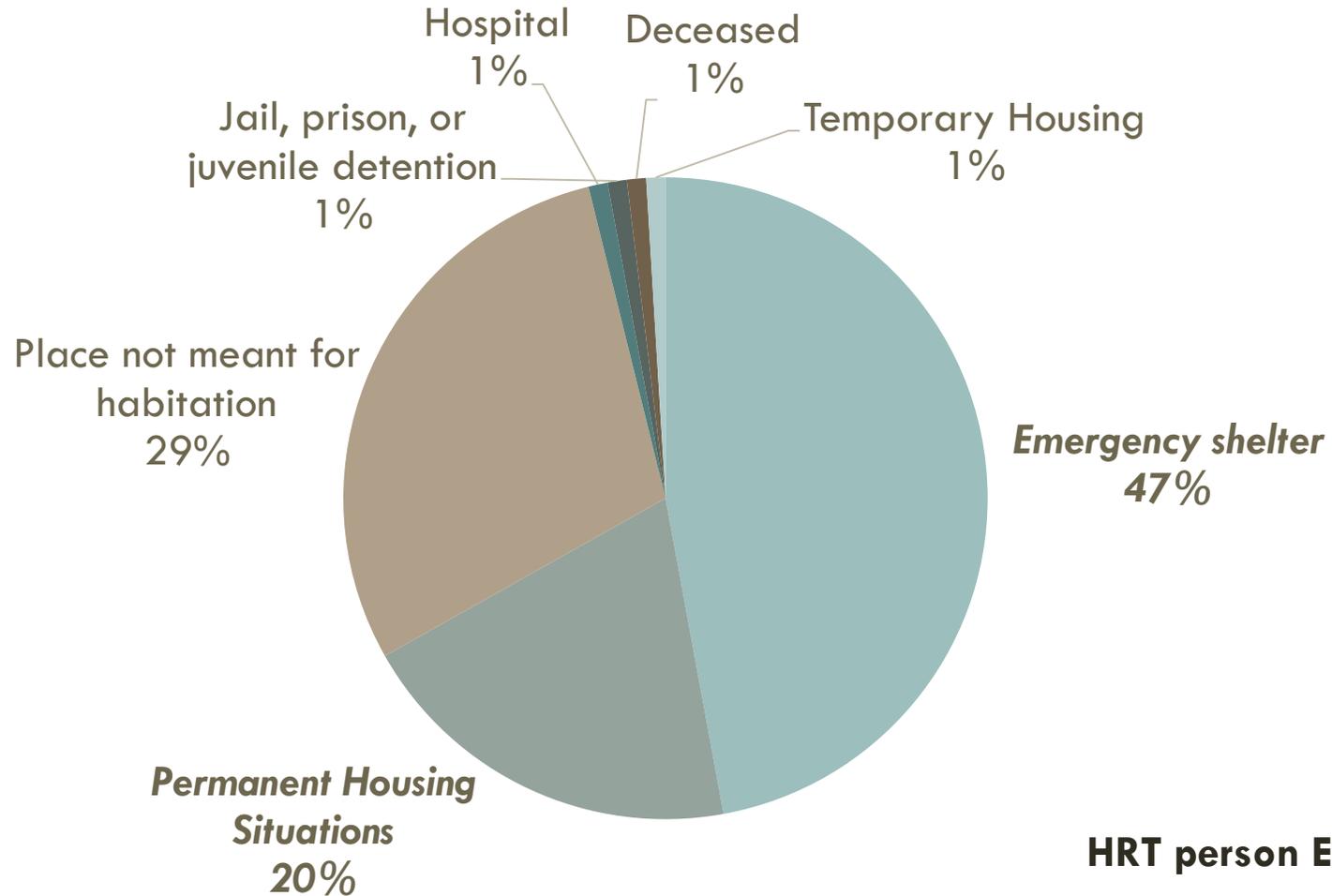


Noncongregate Shelter Offer Acceptance Rate



Outcome #1: People are sheltered

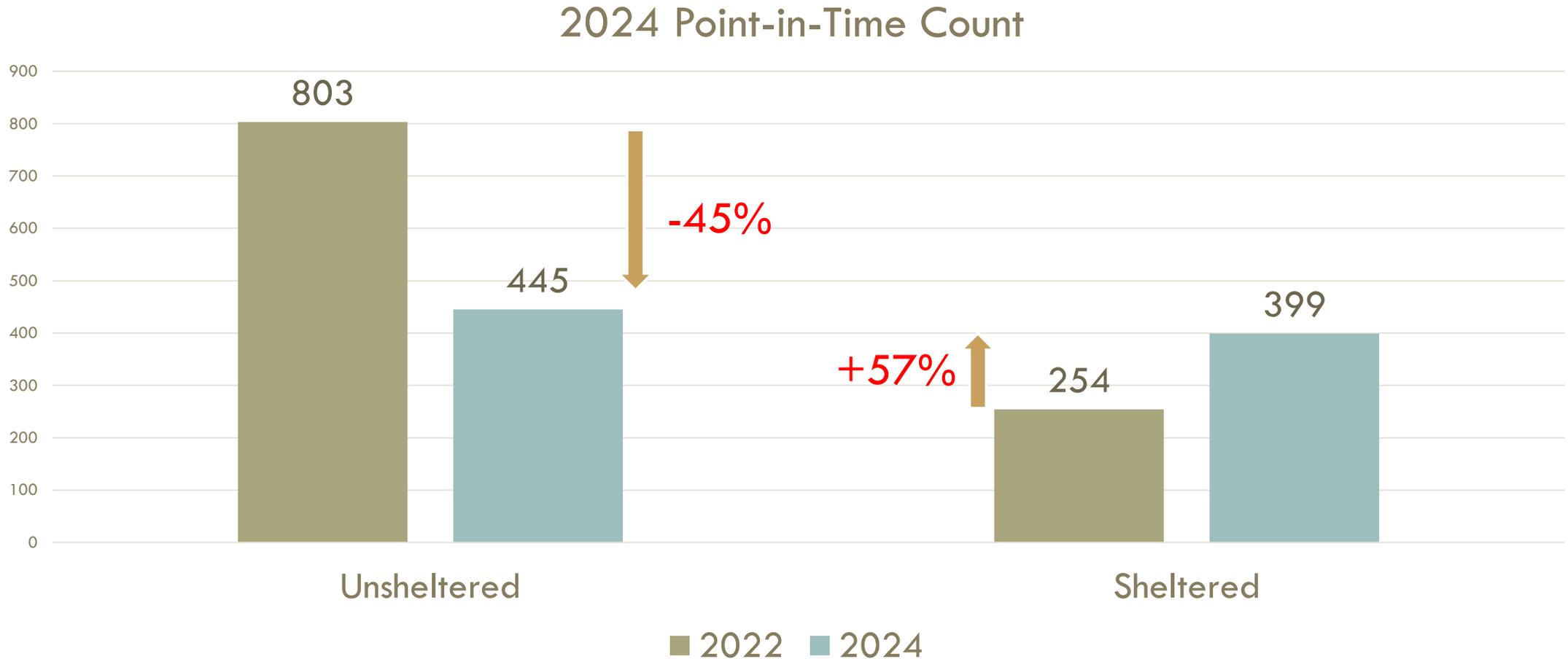
# 67% OF PEOPLE SERVED EXIT TO PERMANENT HOUSING OR SHELTER



**HRT person Exit Destinations**

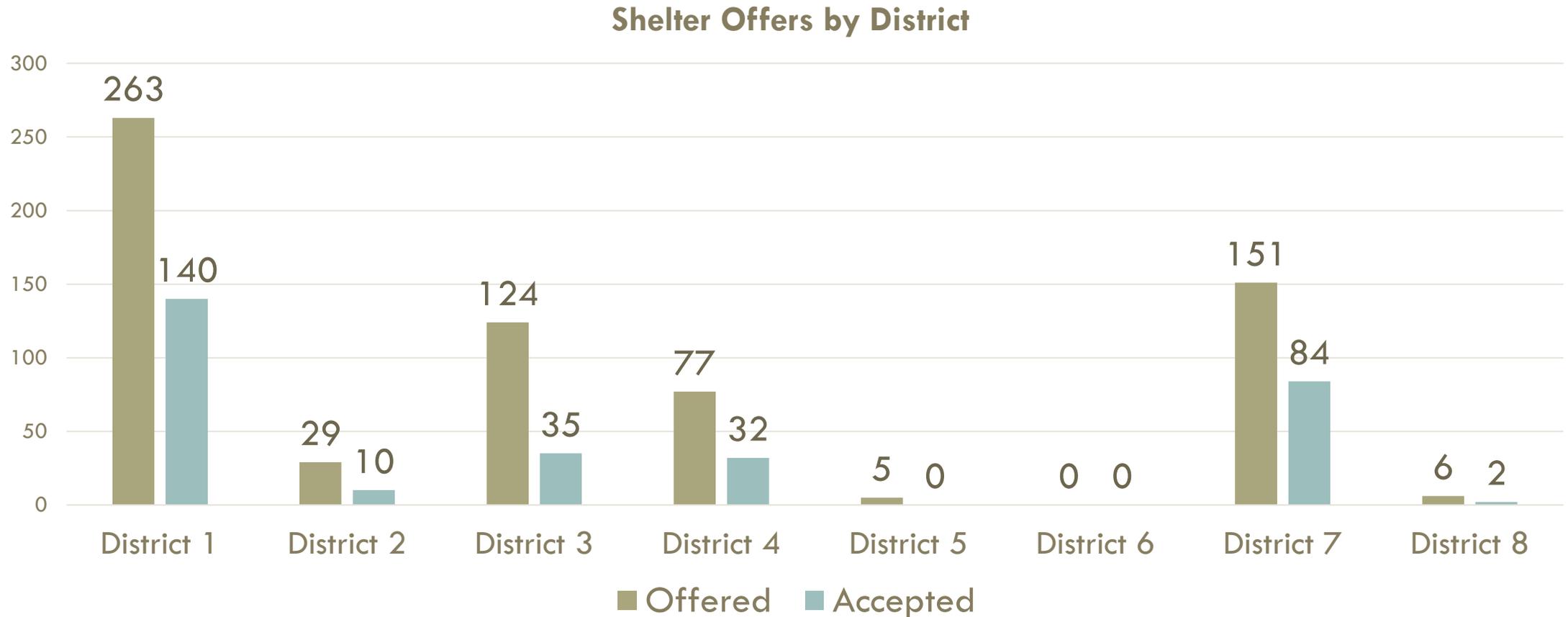
## Outcome #1: People are sheltered

# WE SAW A 45% DECREASE IN OUR UNSHELTERED HOMELESS POPULATION



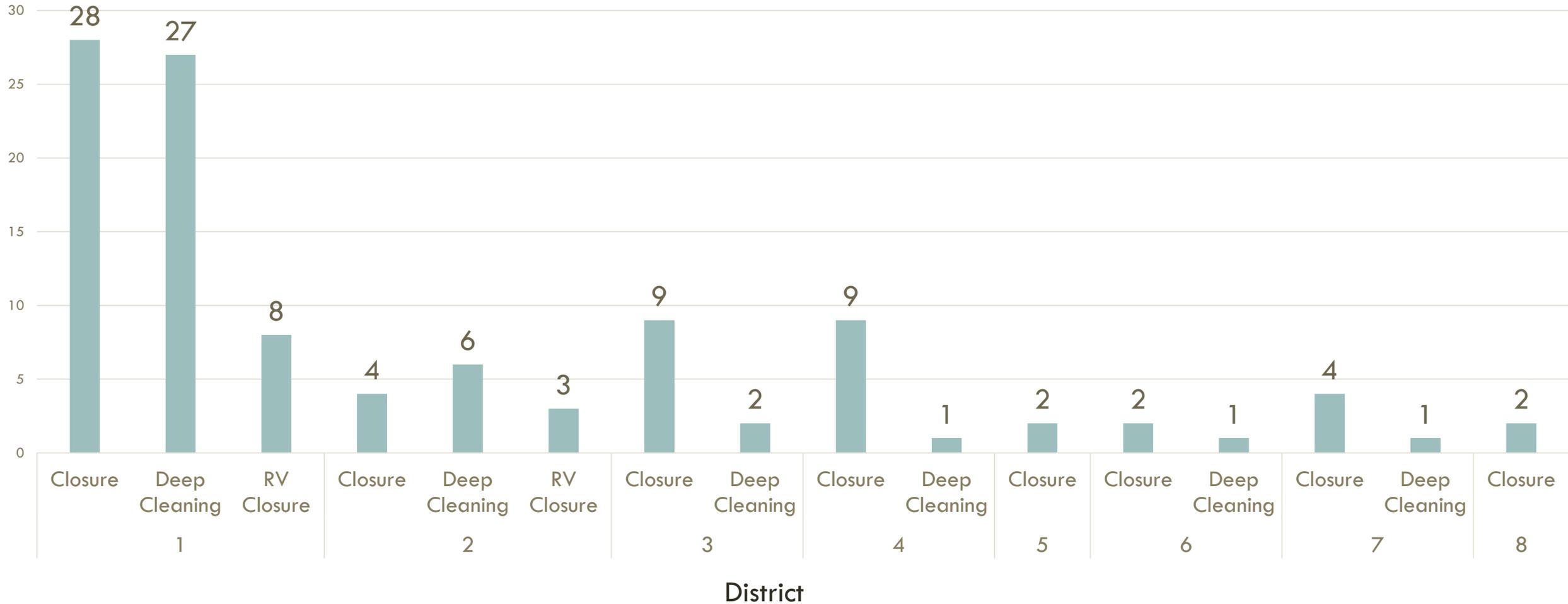
## Outcome #2: Dangerous encampments are not inevitable

## HRT FOCUSES ON HISTORICALLY REDLINED DISTRICTS IN BERKELEY



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# HRT FOCUSES ON HISTORICALLY REDLINED DISTRICTS IN BERKELEY

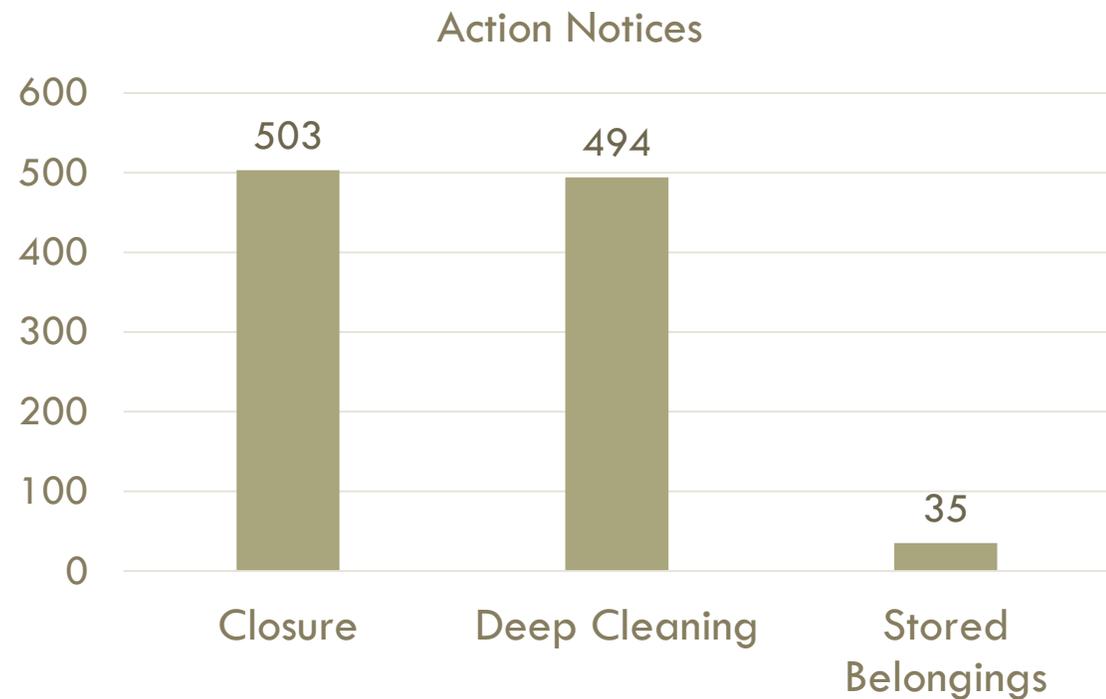
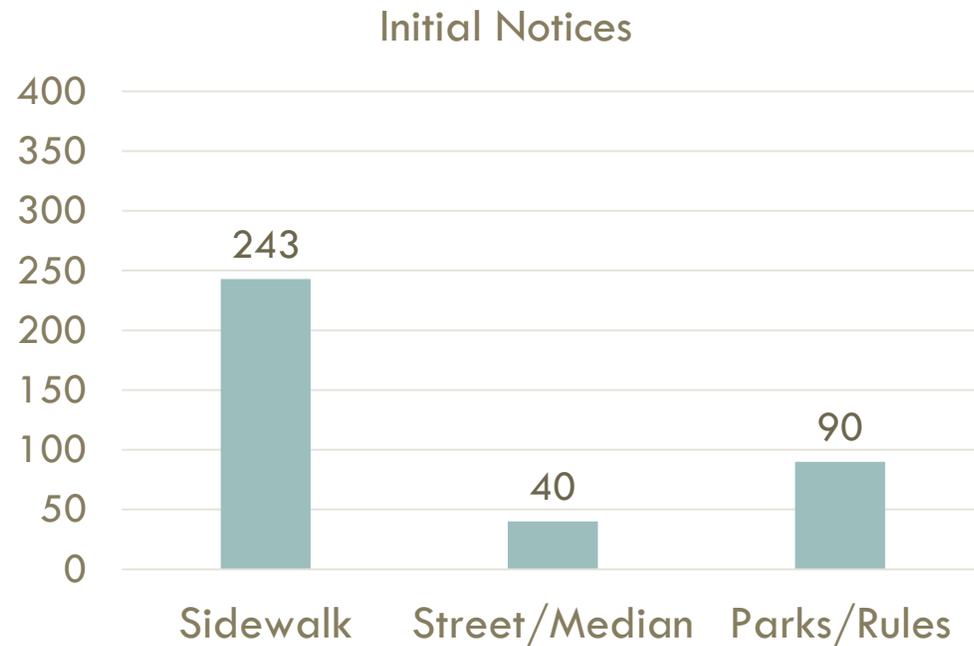


## Outcome #2: Dangerous encampments are not inevitable

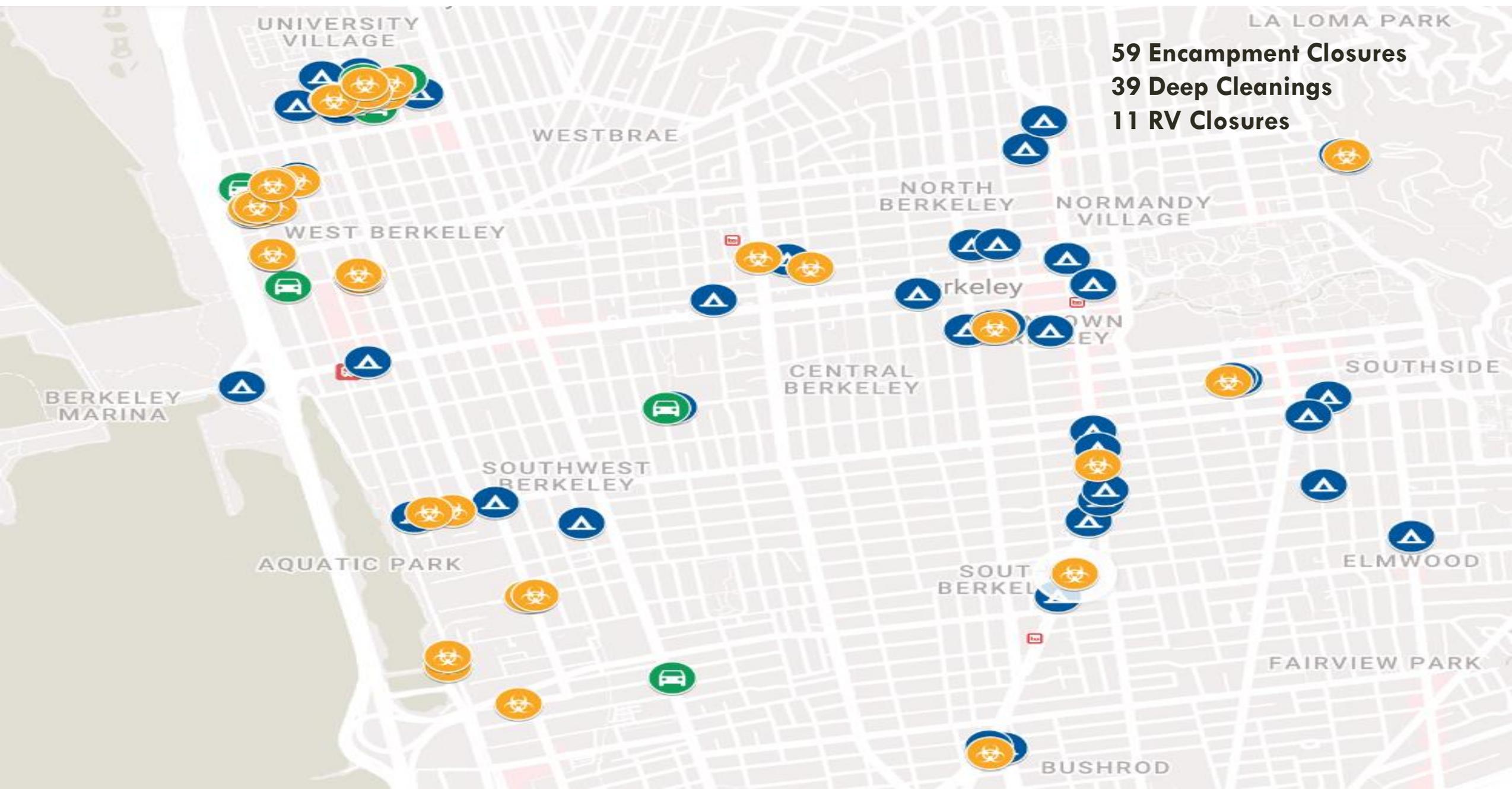
## HRT AVERAGES OVER 2 NOTICES PER BUSINESS DAY

### Number of notices given to tent encampments:

- 1,405 tents and structures were provided notices for the following reasons:



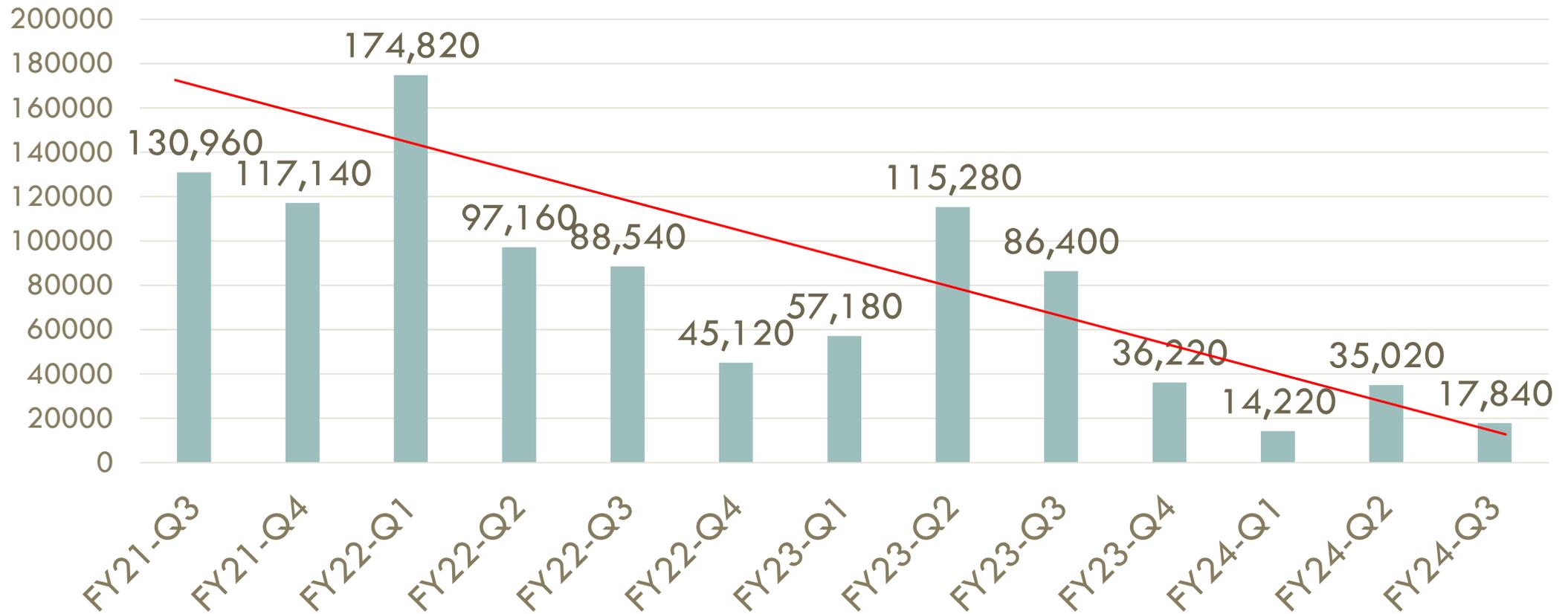
# Outcome #2: Dangerous encampments are not inevitable



### Outcome #3: Our City is Clean

## HRT DEEP CLEANINGS HAVE RESULTED IN LESS DEBRIS ON THE STREETS

Total Pounds Removed by Quarter



# THANK YOU

## Questions?

- Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager
  - [pradu@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:pradu@cityofberkeley.info)
- Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator
  - [jjacobs@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:jjacobs@cityofberkeley.info)