City of Berkeley Homelessness System Gap Analysis

Berkeley City Council

Zoe Klingmann | July 9, 2024
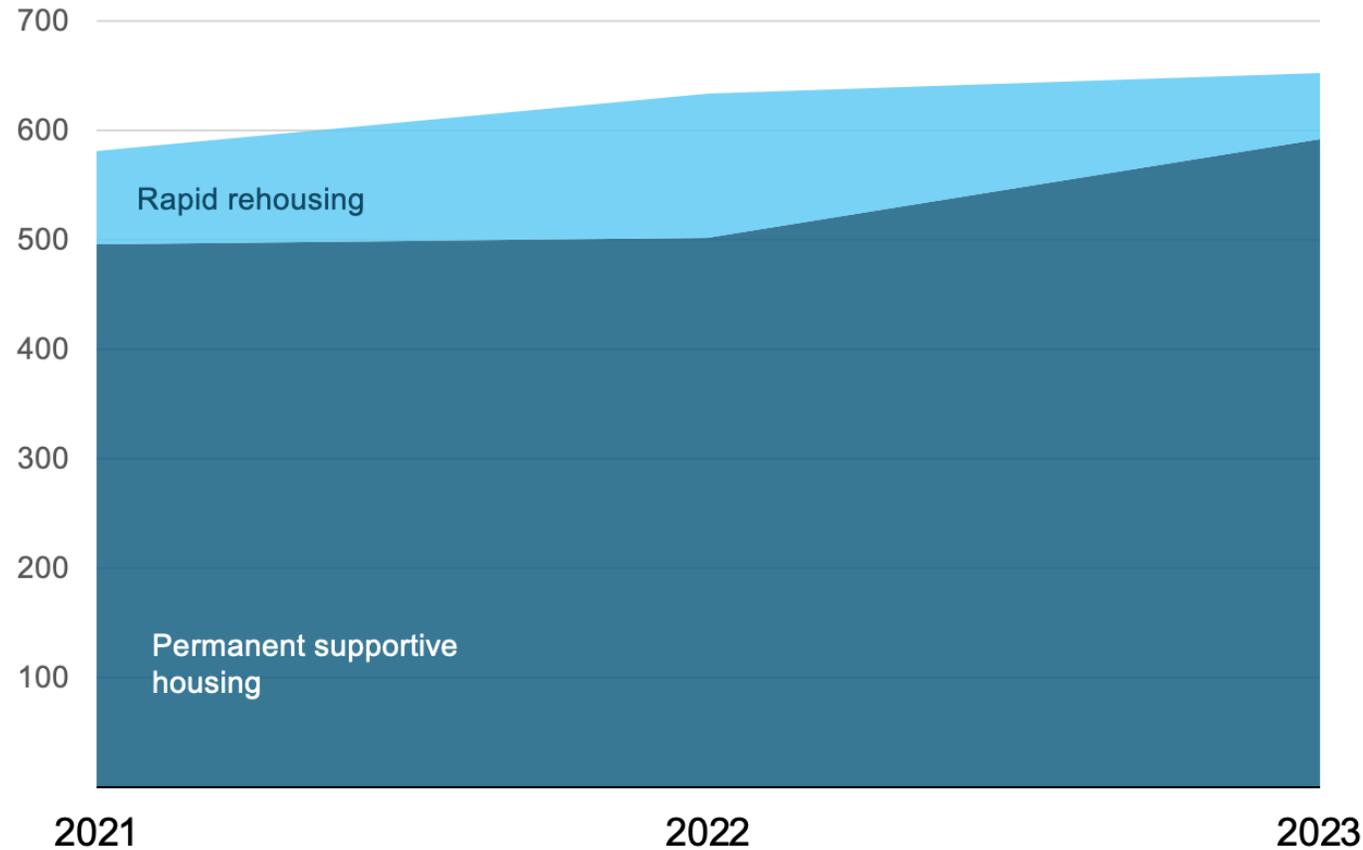
Project background

- City Council signed onto the All Home Regional Action Plan (RAP) with goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness by 75 percent

- Core concept of RAP is "system flow": We need investments in prevention, interim housing/shelter, *and* permanent housing

- Report makes recommendations for how City should prioritize funding to align with RAP

Road map

1. *Berkeley's system of care*

2. *Current system needs*
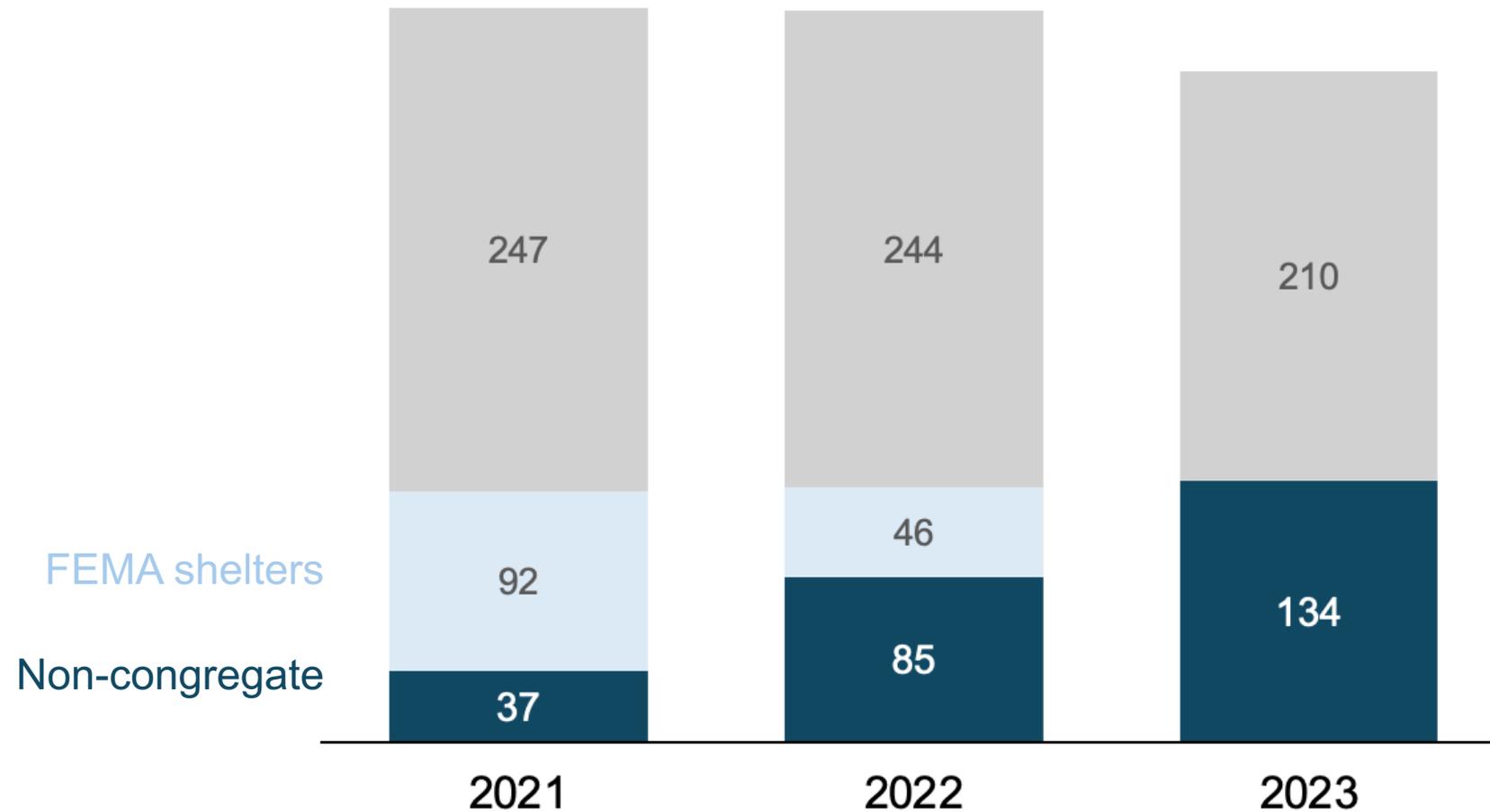
3. *Future system needs*

Background: Berkeley's system of care

Berkeley has made major progress in recent years, including adding nearly 100 PSH beds

Point-in-time count of permanent housing beds and shelter beds in the last week of January of each year. RRH inventory based on project stays. Source: 2021–2023 HIC

...and tripling non-congregate shelter capacity

FEMA shelters

Non-congregate

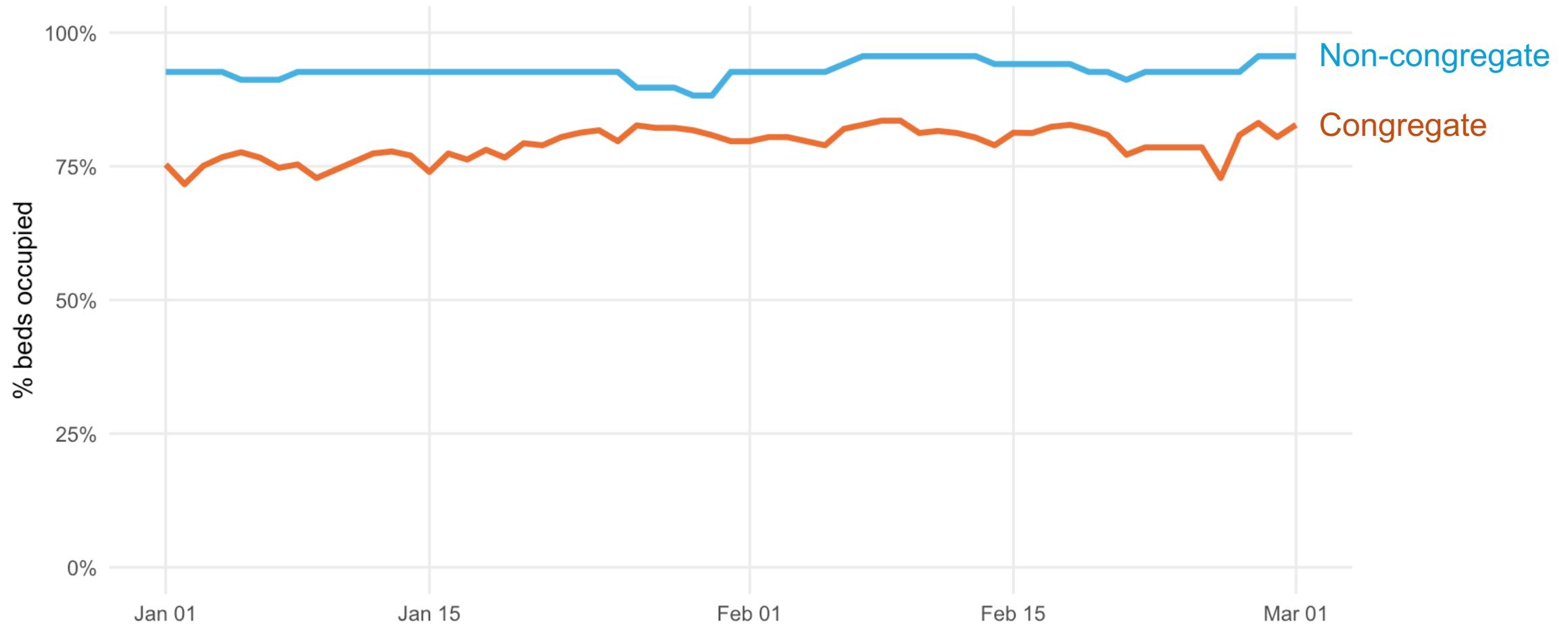|	2021	2022	2023
(gray)	247	244	210
FEMA shelters	92	46	
Non-congregate	37	85	134

Point-in-time count of permanent housing beds and shelter beds in the last week of January of each year. RRH inventory based on project stays. Source: 2021–2023 HIC

Non-congregate shelters consistently have higher bed utilization rates

Berkeley shelter utilization rates, January to February 2024. Source: HMIS weekly housing census

New resources → progress

- 2024 Point-in-Time Count vs. 2022 count
  - 20% reduction in people experiencing homelessness
  - 45% reduction in <u>unsheltered</u> homelessness

- Other data points:
  - According to service data, more people accessing shelter in Berkeley
  - Compared to pre-pandemic, fewer are exiting Berkeley services to homelessness & more are exiting to permanent housing
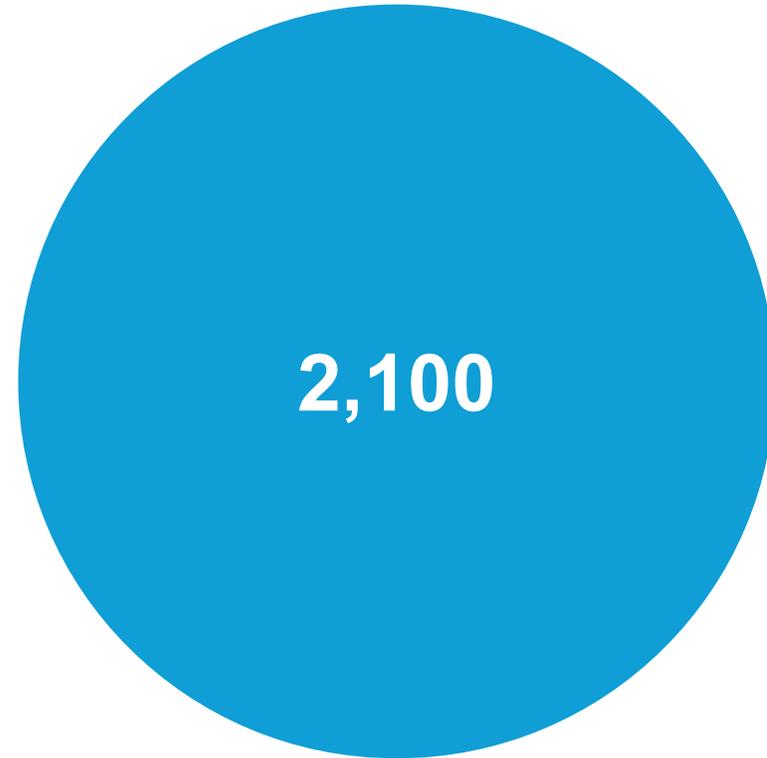
Current system needs

2,000 people access homelessness services in Berkeley over the course of the year
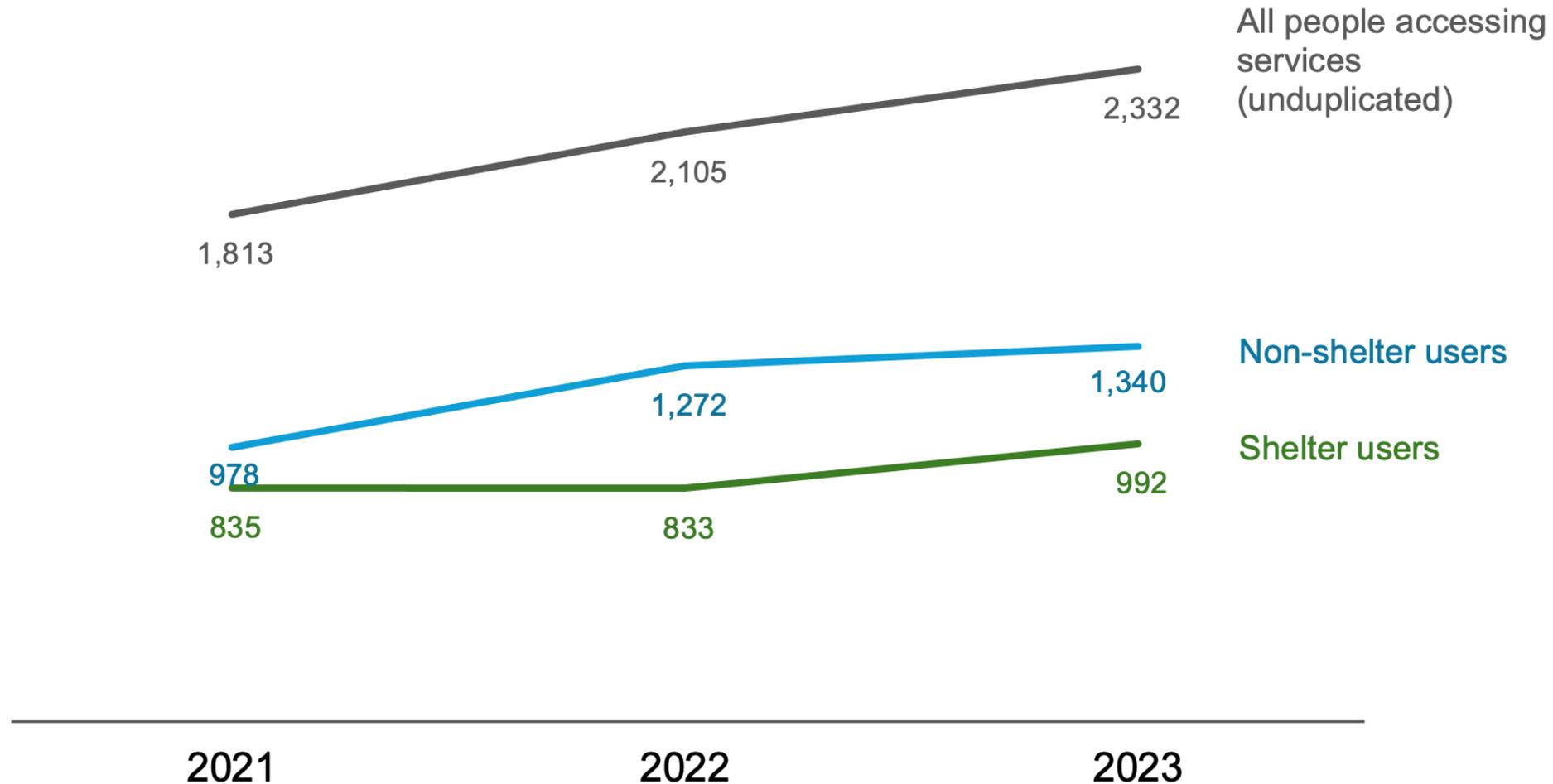
In 2022:

1,035

people experienced homelessness on a given night

2,100

people experienced homelessness over the course of the year

2022 PIT count; 2022 service access from HMIS

More people are accessing services in Berkeley

All people accessing services (unduplicated)

2,332

2,105

1,813

Non-shelter users

1,272

1,340

978

Shelter users

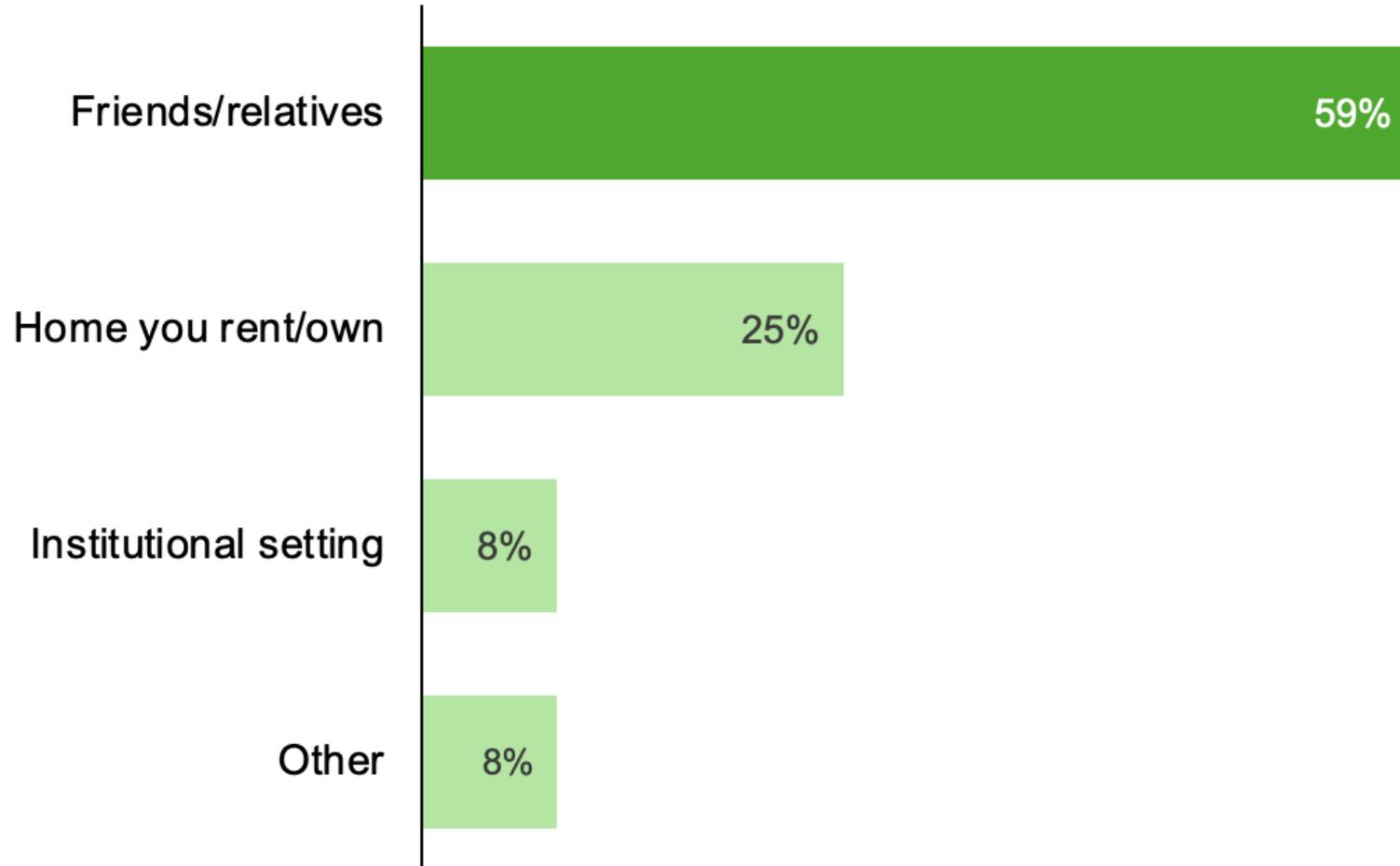835

833

992

2021

2022

2023

Unduplicated count of literally homeless people accessing services in Berkeley. Source: HMIS

More people are entering homelessness system than exiting

Estimated inflows to and outflows from homelessness in Berkeley during calendar year 2023. Source: HMIS

Most people report that they were last housed with friends and family, not a formal lease

Friends/relatives	59%
Home you rent/own	25%
Institutional setting	8%
Other	8%

Reported last residence before becoming homeless among Berkeley respondents. Source: 2022 PIT

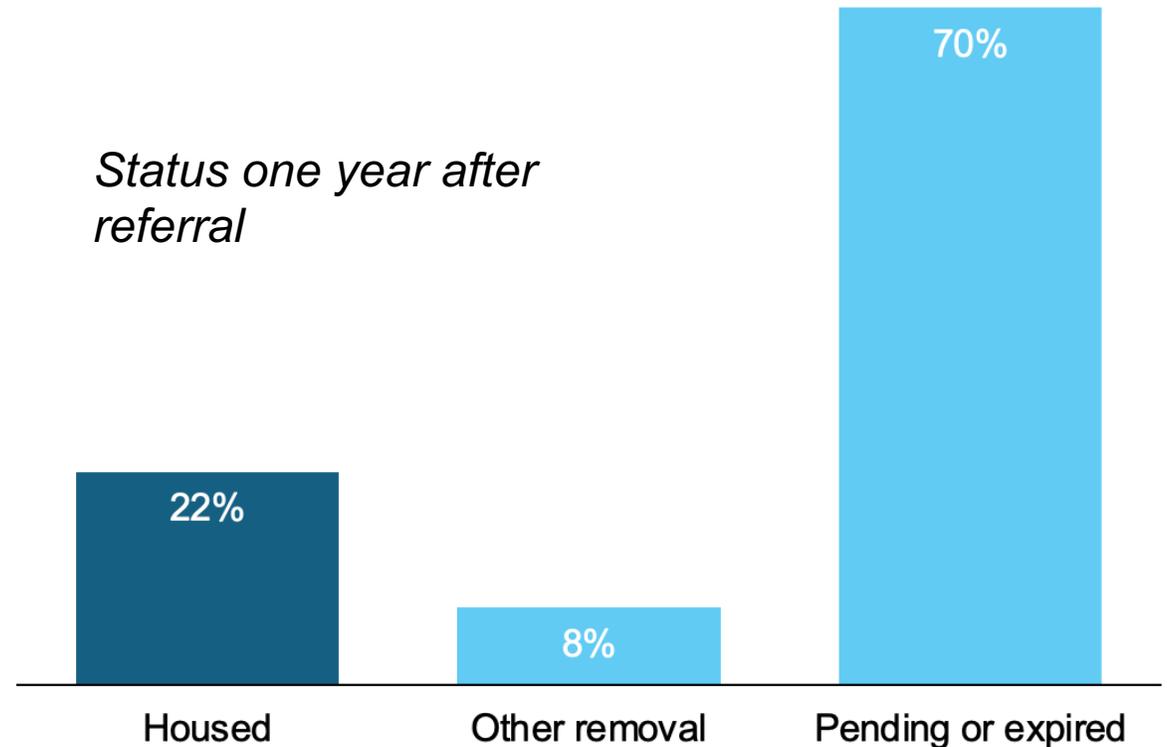# People on the housing queue wait a long time for housing

Average time on queue before getting housed:

280

days

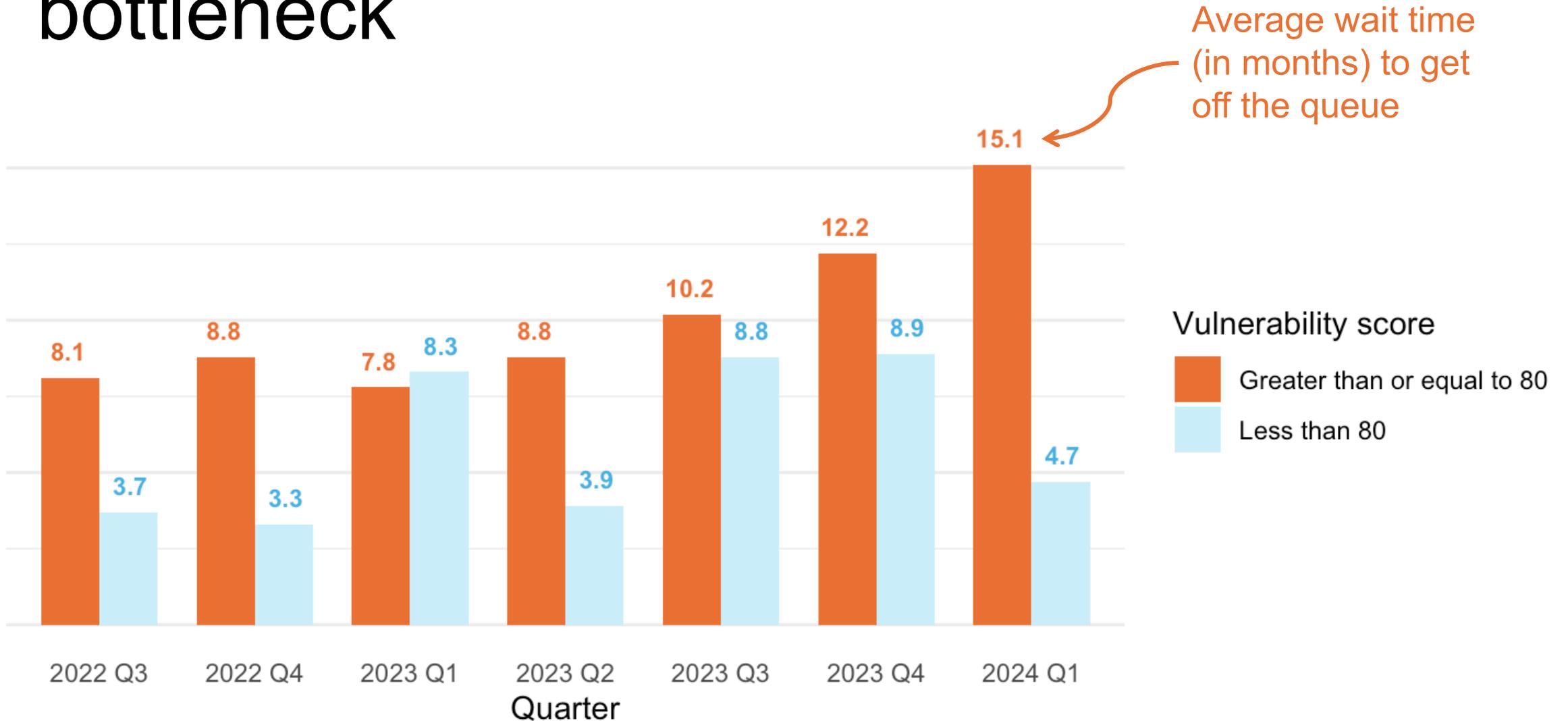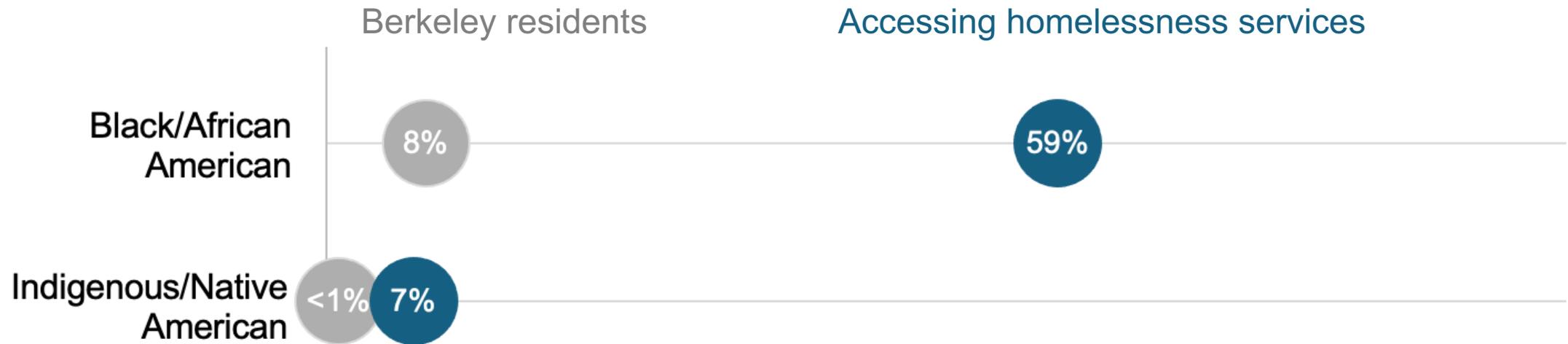(more than nine months)

Status one year after referral

Housed: 22%

Other removal: 8%

Pending or expired: 70%

Average wait time in months for people removed from queue; Status 365 days after referral was made, July 2022 – March 2024. Source: HMIS

Vulnerable people are stuck in a bottleneck

Average wait time (in months) to get off the queue

Vulnerability score

- Greater than or equal to 80 (orange)
- Less than 80 (light blue)

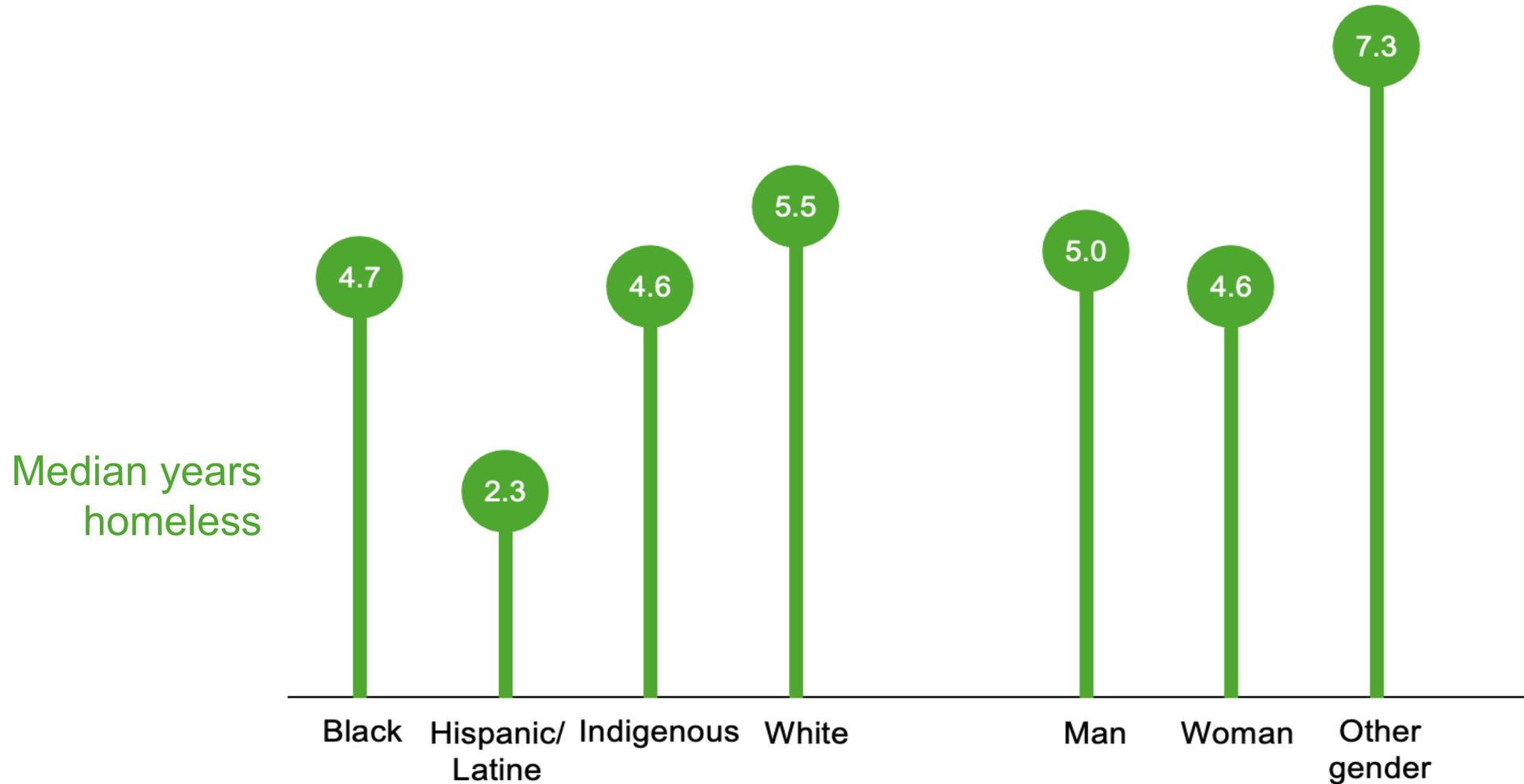| Quarter	Greater than or equal to 80	Less than 80
2022 Q3	8.1	3.7
2022 Q4	8.8	3.3
2023 Q1	7.8	8.3
2023 Q2	8.8	3.9
2023 Q3	10.2	8.8
2023 Q4	12.2	8.9
2024 Q1	15.1	4.7

Average wait time in months for people removed from queue during quarter (calendar years). Source: HMIS

Racial inequality is stark

Berkeley residents   Accessing homelessness services

Black/African American — 8% / 59%

Indigenous/Native American — <1% / 7%

Demographics of people experiencing homelessness during 2023, compared to Berkeley residents in the 2023 ACS.
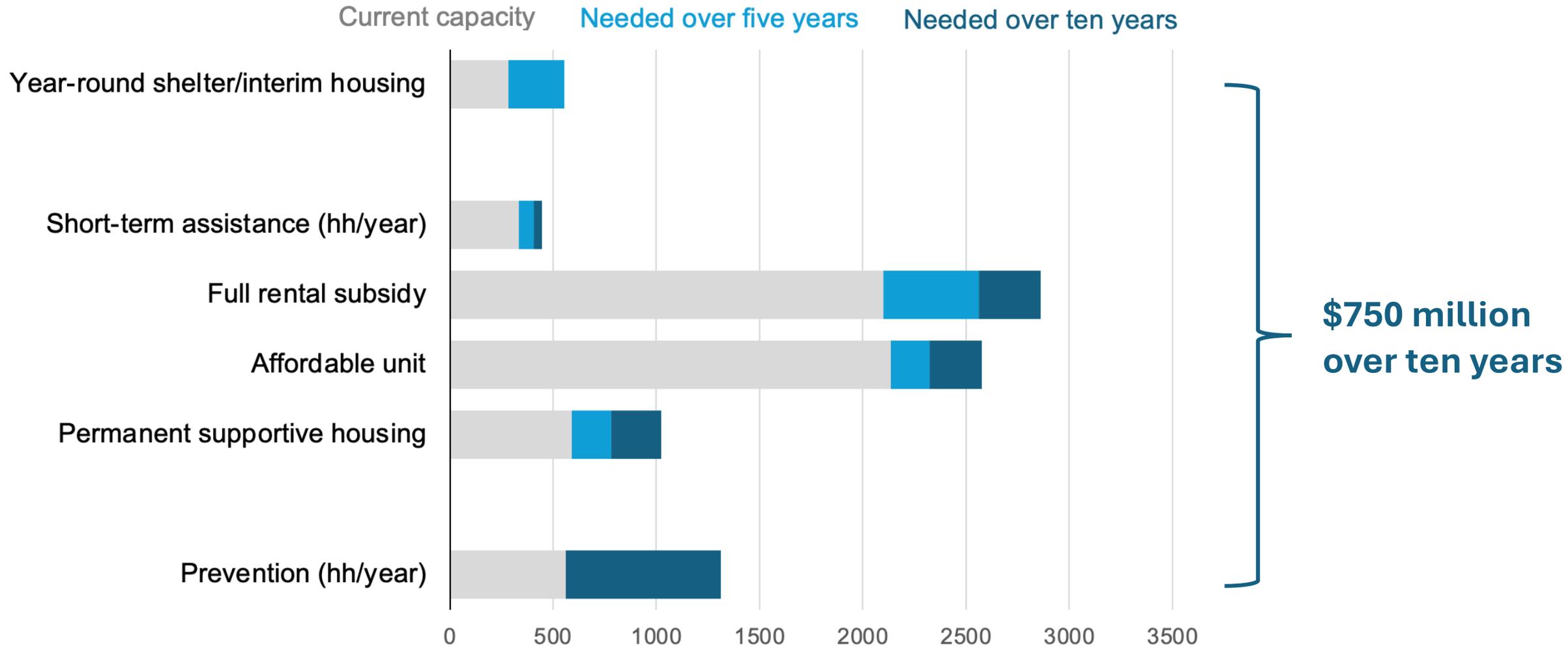*Source: HMIS; US Census Bureau American Community Survey*

People of color are especially overrepresented among people homeless for shorter periods

Median years homeless

Black	Hispanic/Latine	Indigenous	White	Man	Woman	Other gender
4.7	2.3	4.6	5.5	5.0	4.6	7.3

Median length of time in years between self-reported date episode started and Jan.1, 2024, among people accessing services during 2023

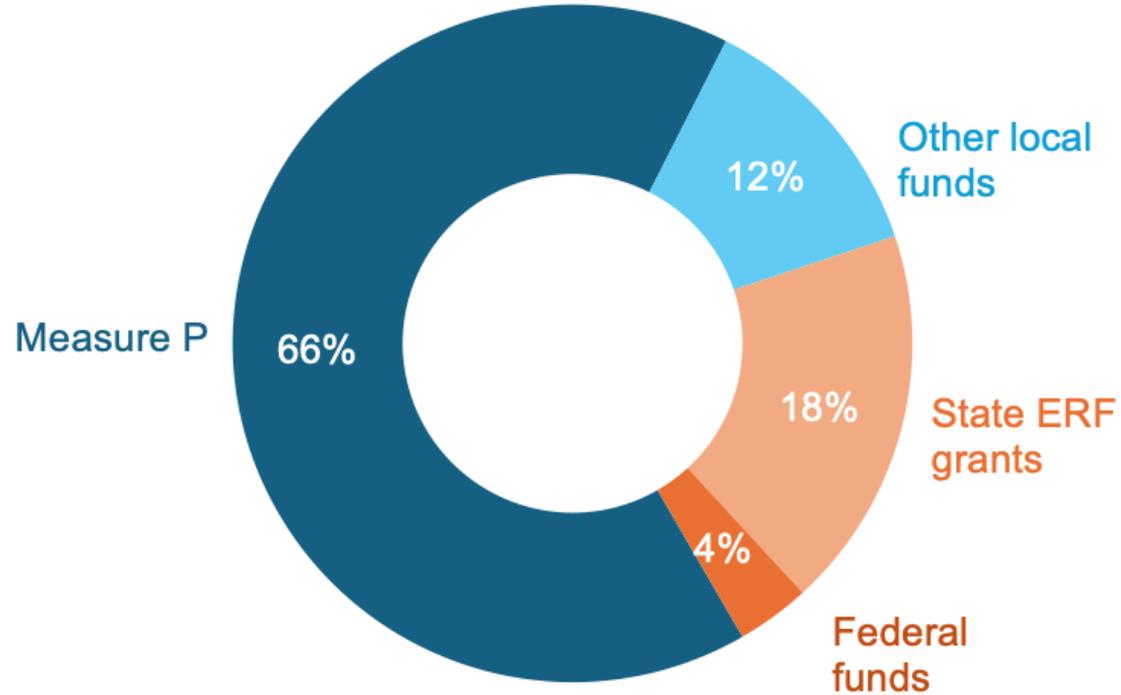# Projected system needs

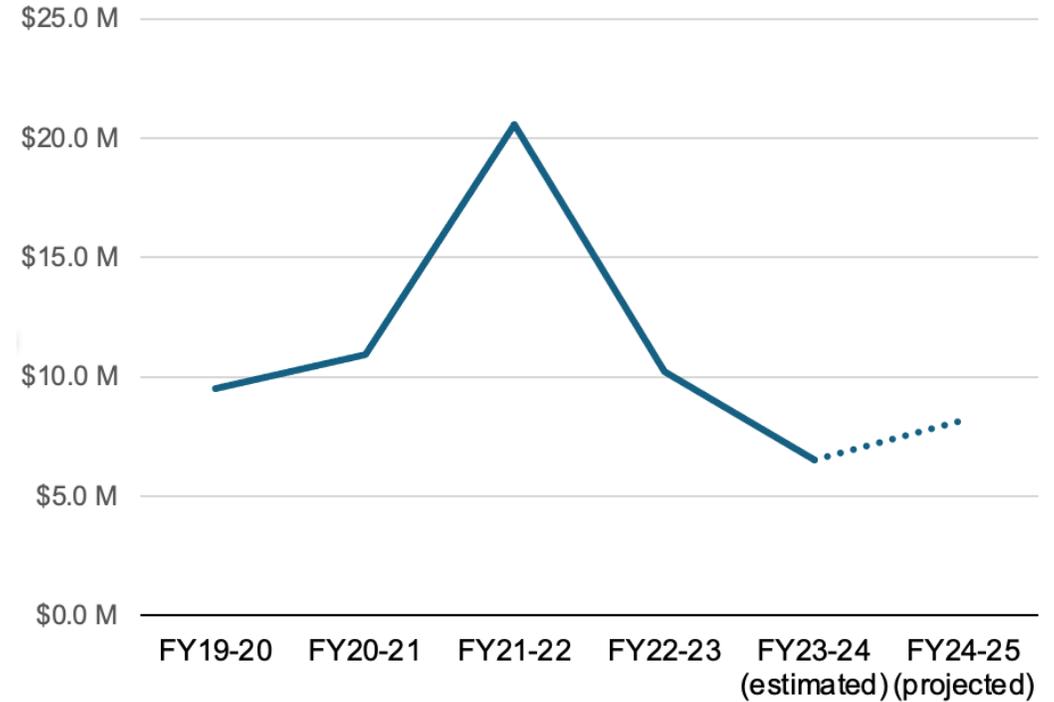Projected capacity to achieve 75 percent reduction in unsheltered homelessness

Source: All Home HGA

Berkeley faces a fiscal cliff

Homelessness services fund sources (FY24)

Measure P 66%
Other local funds 12%
State ERF grants 18%
Federal funds 4%

Measure P revenues, FY20–25

$25.0 M
$20.0 M
$15.0 M
$10.0 M
$5.0 M
$0.0 M

FY19-20 · FY20-21 · FY21-22 · FY22-23 · FY23-24 (estimated) · FY24-25 (projected)

Source: City budget documents

Recommendations

- Look for ways to maintain + increase funding for these programs

- Double down on non-congregate shelter/interim housing

- Continue funding permanent supportive housing (PSH)

- Invest in more targeted homelessness prevention

Projected system needs