

Optional Project: Homelessness in United States

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Description

Homelessness in United States has always been a big issue. It continues to destabilize families and communities across the country. Even after several policy considerations by the government it seems to be a prevalent problem in our society. With ever growing inflation and higher cost of living there are multiple states affected economically. Housing instability is an inevitable reality for families in US. In order to write this research article, I have collected different datasets from three states where homelessness is a known problem: New York, Texas, and California. According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness here are some findings:

- For California: As of January 2020, California had an estimated **161,548** experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of that Total, **8,030** were family households, **11,401** were Veterans, **12,172** were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and **51,785** were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.
- For Texas: As of January 2020, Texas had an estimated **27,229** experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of that Total, **1,912** were family households, **1,948** were Veterans, **1,408** were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and **4,033** were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.
- For New York: As of January 2020, New York had an estimated **91,271** experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of that Total, **15,151** were family households, **1,251** were Veterans, **3,072** were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and **7,515** were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

Methods for Data Analysis

I started reading about homelessness and what causes people to become homeless.

- What factors I need to address?
- Data collection – by collecting datasets from three different states
- Cleaning up data using data cleaning techniques
- Setting my key performance indicators like I want to understand three factors the most:
 - a. Household Income
 - b. Educational Attainment
 - c. Unemployment
- Use Tableau as a data visualization tool
- Interpret what is the data telling me
- Start to build the story of what is happening in each state



Analysis of Data

I analyzed data from different datasets and created visualizations to further understand the cause for homelessness. I started out with a pie chart of homelessness in all the US counties. After putting together, the pie chart I compiled a list of all the counties with largest number of homeless people. The counties with largest homeless population were in New York, Texas, and California.

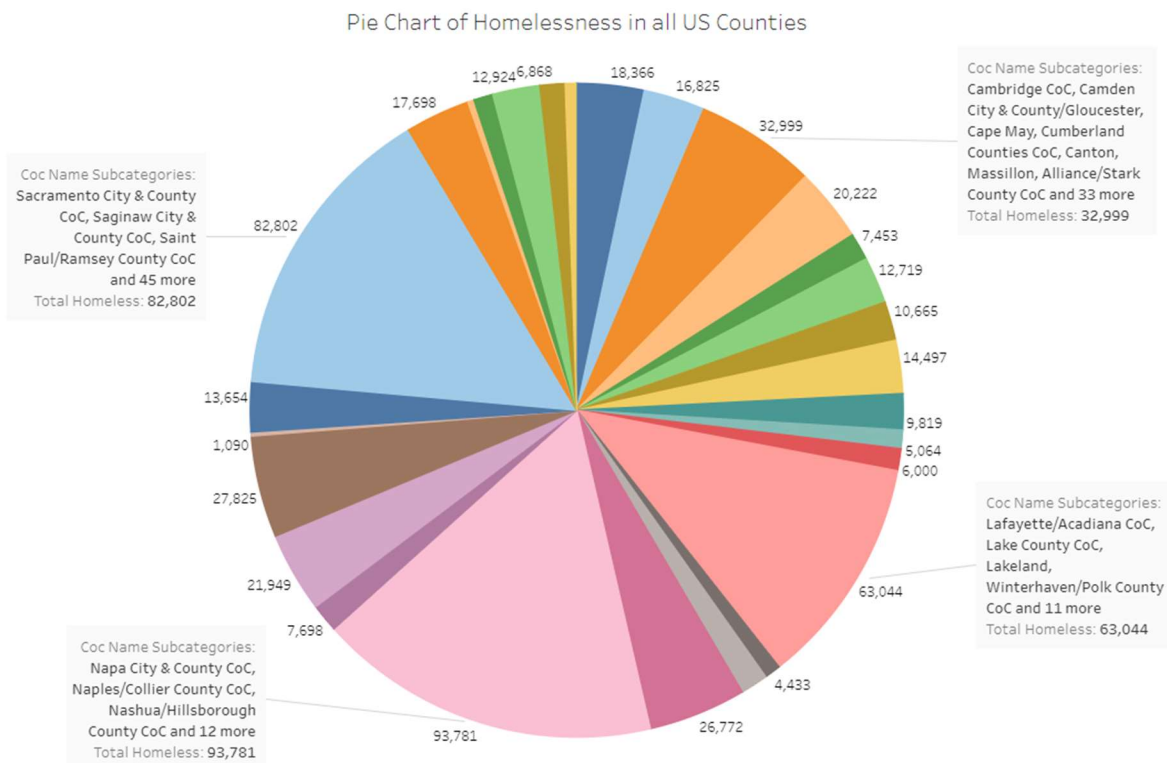


Figure 1: Pie Chart of Homelessness divided by all US Counties

Summary On Findings

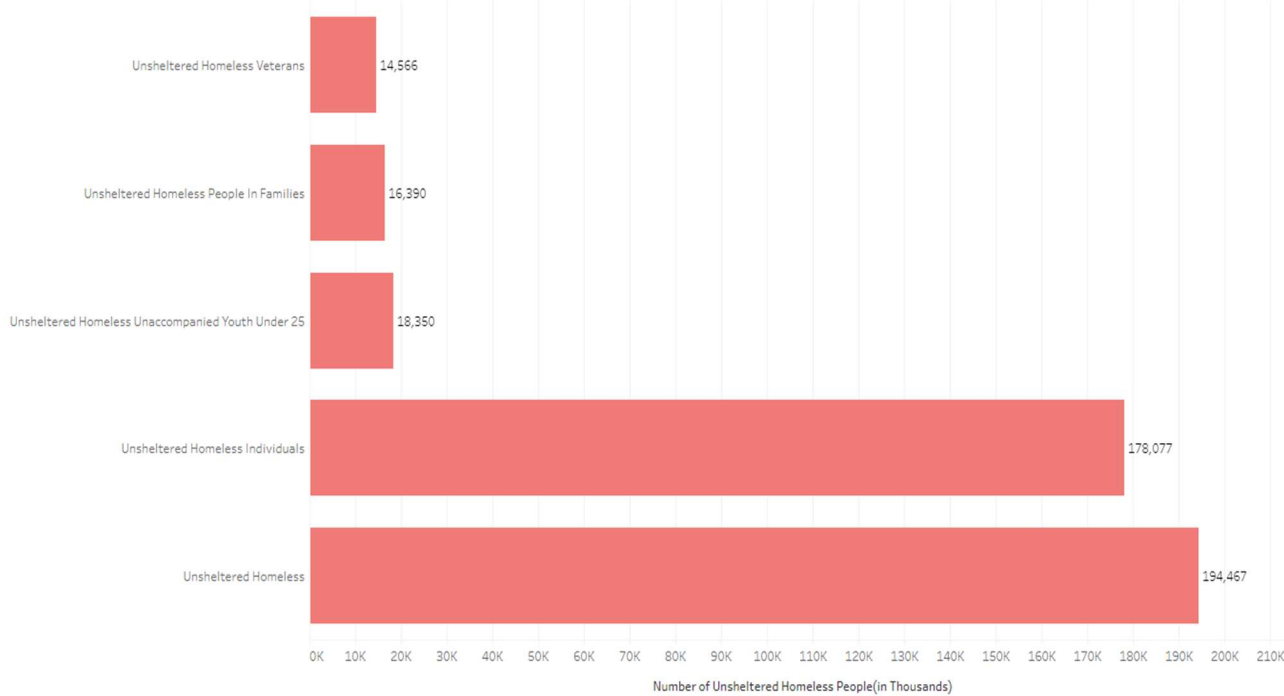
When we compare the number of Unsheltered Homeless People in New York with the total number of Homeless People in New York we see that New York has one of the highest rates of homelessness in US. Here are some key findings:

- Over 12,000 families, including more than 25,000 children, were living in New York City shelters in December 2015.
- Over two-thirds of people living in New York City’s shelter system—more than 44,000 people—were parents and their children.



- There is an immediate need for better supporting families before, during, and after homelessness to better educate themselves, finding employment and then maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Number of Unsheltered Homeless People in New York



Number of Homeless People in New York

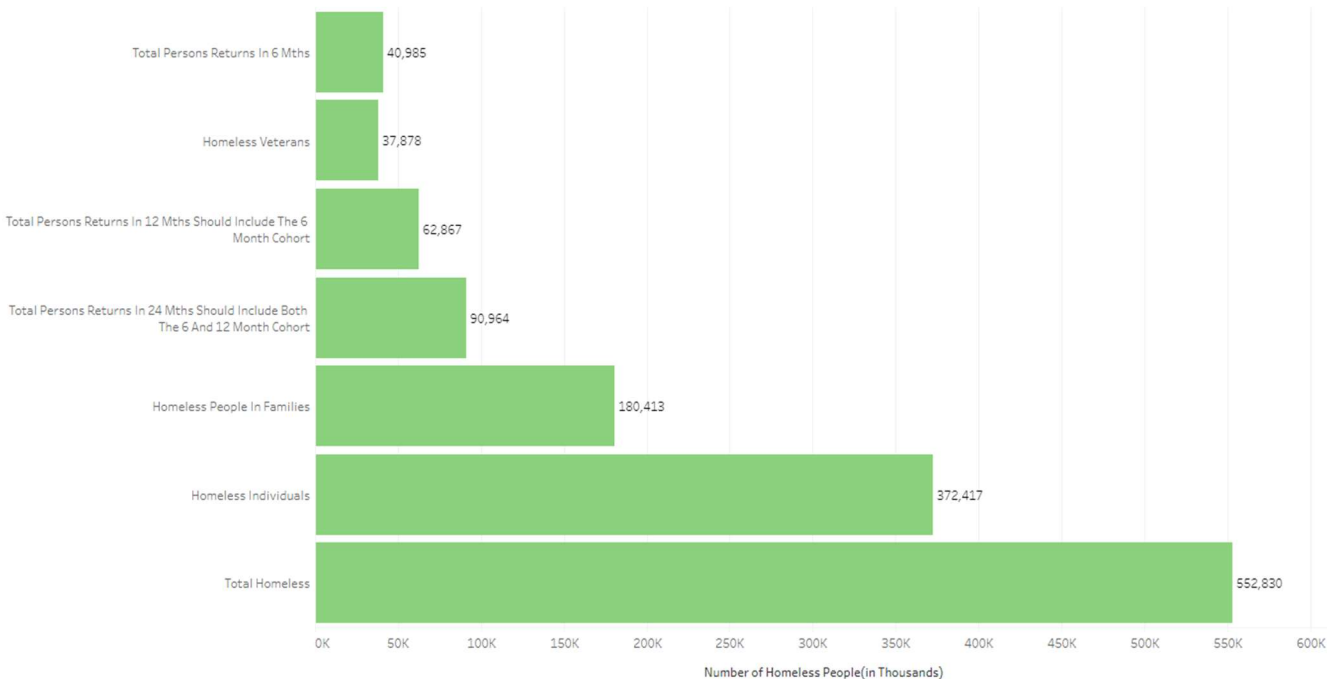


Figure 2 and 3: Comparison of Homelessness in Unsheltered Homelessness vs Overall Homelessness in New York



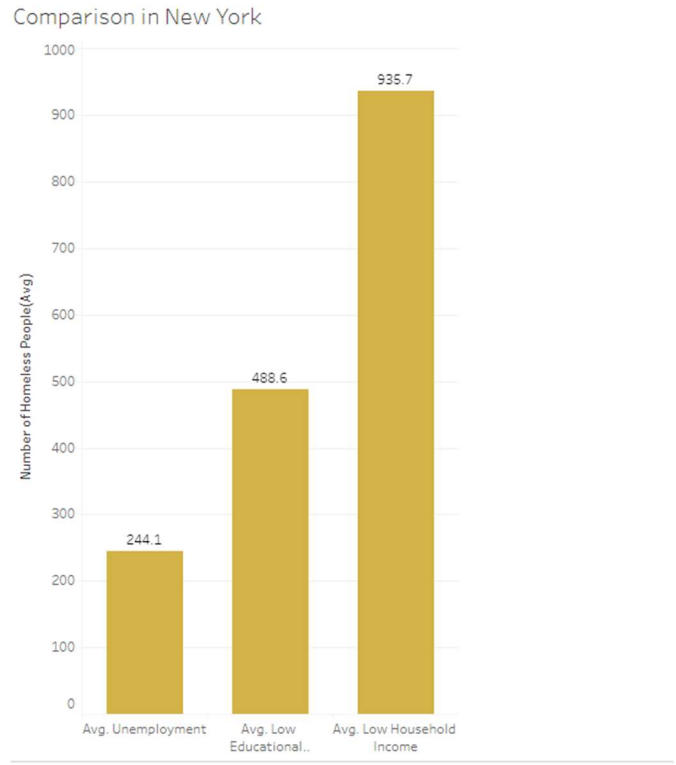


Figure 4: Comparison of several factors for homelessness in New York

Above is the average of homeless people in New York and the average of the causes for homelessness. We can see that most people are homeless in New York because of low household income and New York being one of the most expensive states in the country. Hence, there is a dire need for government to help growing number of families struggling to survive. Figure 5 illustrates the number of people exited homelessness using the resources provided by US government.

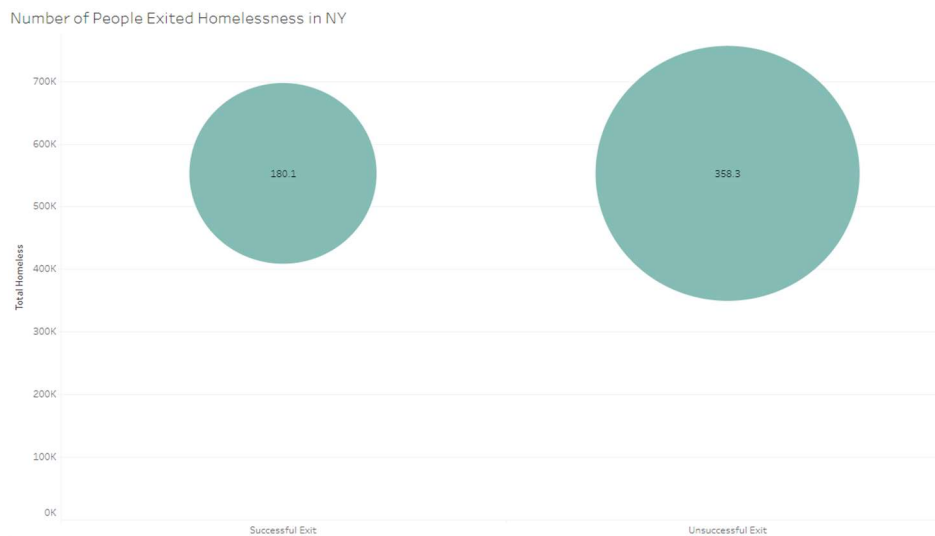


Figure 5: Number of People Exited Homelessness in New York



There is a wide-spread demographics of homelessness distribution in Texas. Figure 6 shows that the highest number of homelessness is in people who are non-Hispanic, not a veteran and white people. Additionally in Figure 7 we notice that in Texas people have addiction issues as well along with the other three main homeless factors.

Homeless Distribution in Texas

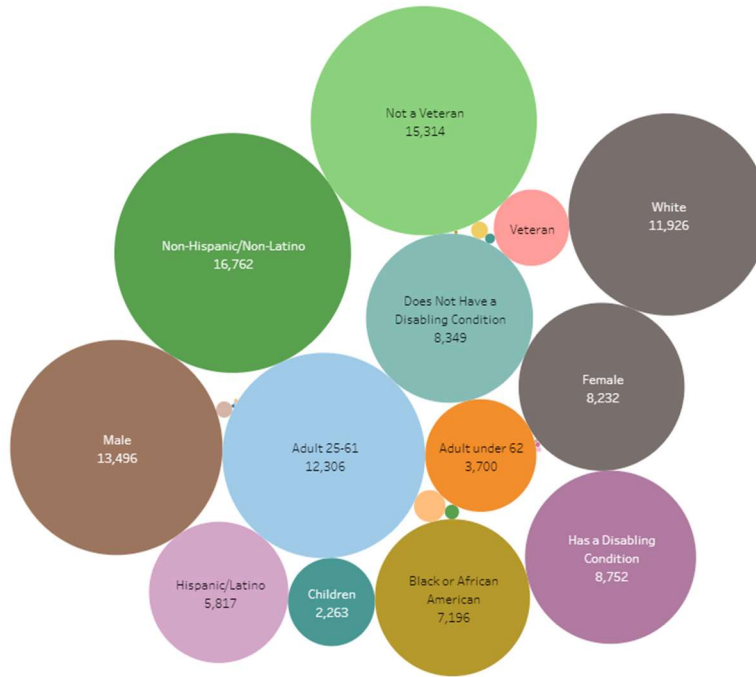


Figure 6: Homeless People Distribution in Texas

Comparison in Texas

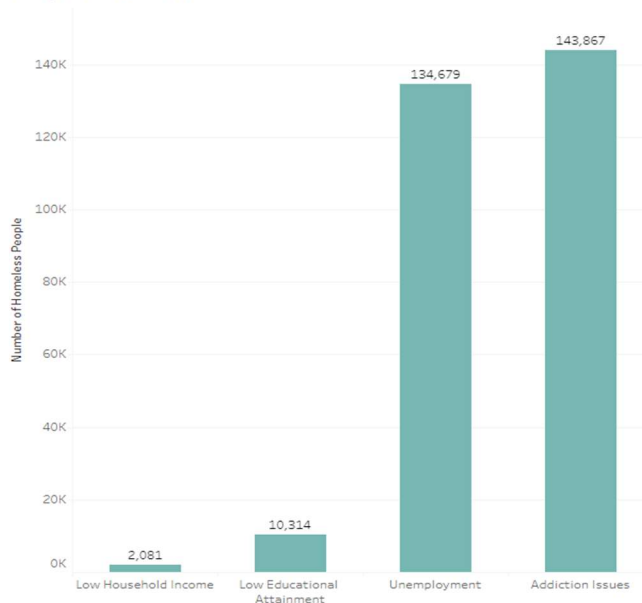


Figure 7: Comparison of several factors for homelessness in Texas



In the state of California when we look at the data, we see trend of numbers going up and down when we compare the three main factors of homelessness. The highest number of homelessness occurred in 2021-2022 with 19,500 people homeless due lower household income. In Figure 8 we can see that 2,388 people are homeless due to lack of education and 12, 942 people are homeless due to unemployment.

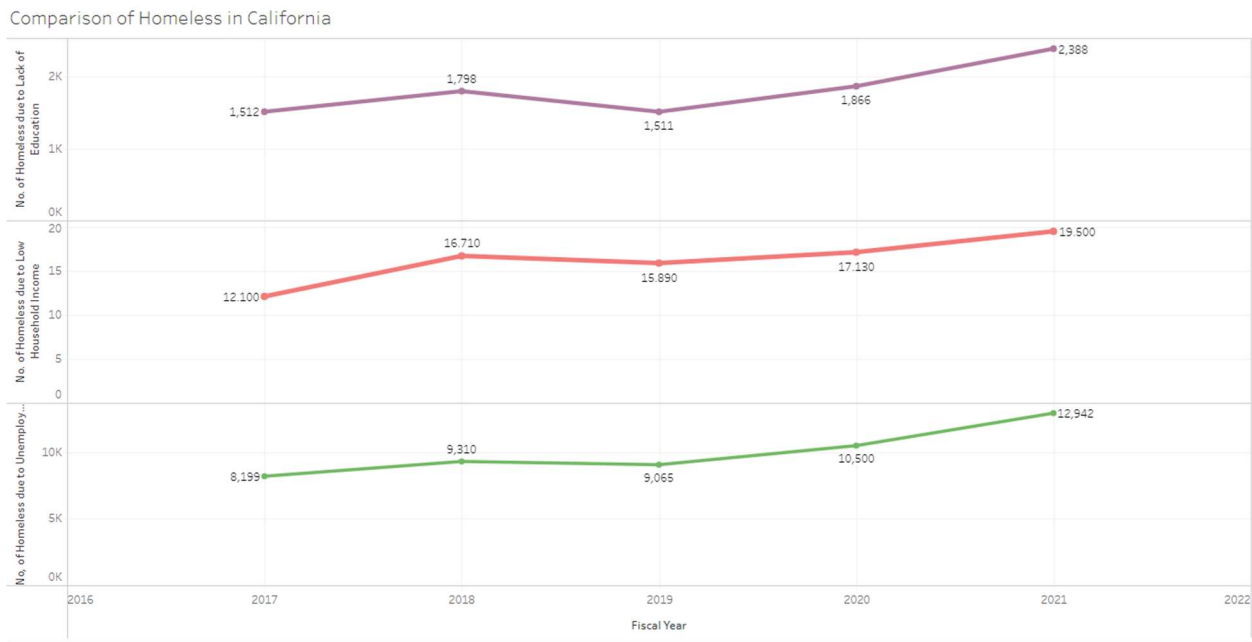


Figure 8: Comparison of several factors for homelessness in California

Due to high numbers of homelessness in California, I analyzed more into the data and saw that California has been doing a good job in making sure there are more rooms available for homeless than rooms occupied in 2022. However, there are more trailers requested than delivered in 2022.

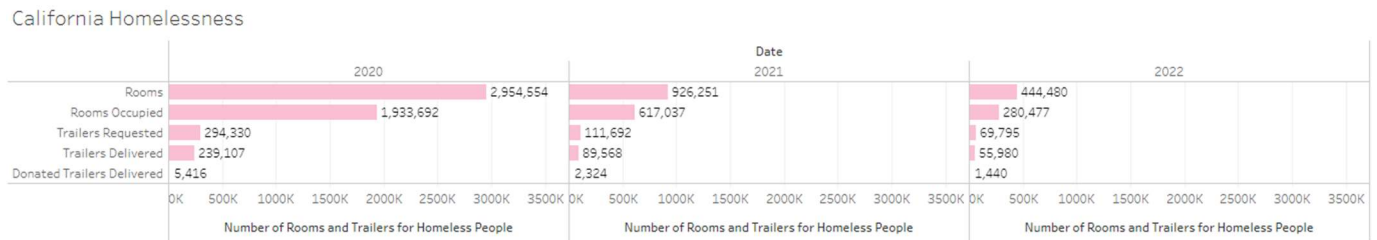


Figure 9: Resources provided by California for Homeless people



Number of Rooms Occupied in California

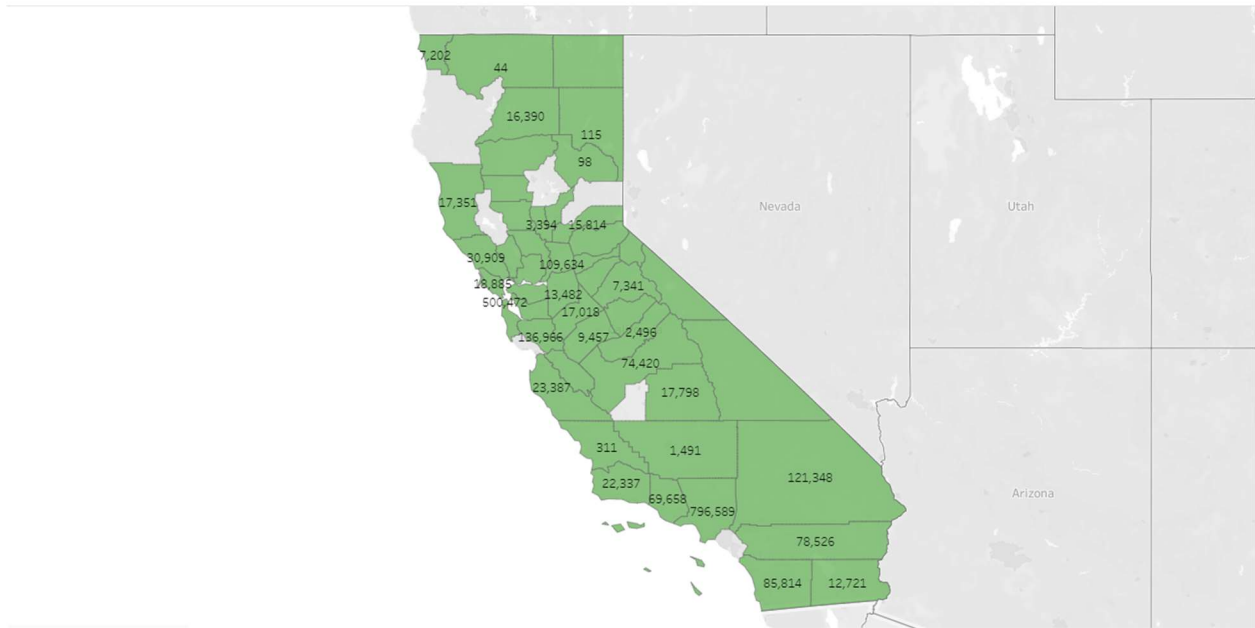


Figure 10: Number of Rooms occupied in California by Homeless people



Work Cited

- “California Homelessness Statistics.” United States Interagency Council of Homelessness, USICH, 1 Jan. 2020, www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ca.
- “Texas Homelessness Statistics.” United States Interagency Council of Homelessness, USICH, 1 Jan. 2020, www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/tx.
- “New York Homelessness Statistics.” United States Interagency Council of Homelessness, USICH, 1 Jan. 2020, www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ny.

