

AUSTIN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

OCTOBER 23, 2023

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OVERVIEW

1. Provide an overview of homelessness in Austin
2. Highlight the impact on Austin Public Library (APL)
3. Discuss services for homeless and vulnerable populations

AUSTIN AT A GLANCE

Unsheltered vs. Sheltered: At least 6,197 people experienced homelessness in Austin or Travis County on a single day in May 2023. This number combines both unsheltered homelessness (people sleeping in tents, cars, abandoned buildings, and other places not meant to live in) and sheltered homelessness (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other short-term indoor settings).

Length of Homelessness: A significant percentage of the homeless population in Austin has experienced long-term or chronic homelessness, defined as being homeless for over a year or experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness.

Causes of Homelessness: Factors contributing to homelessness in Austin include a shortage of affordable housing, economic instability, mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and domestic violence.

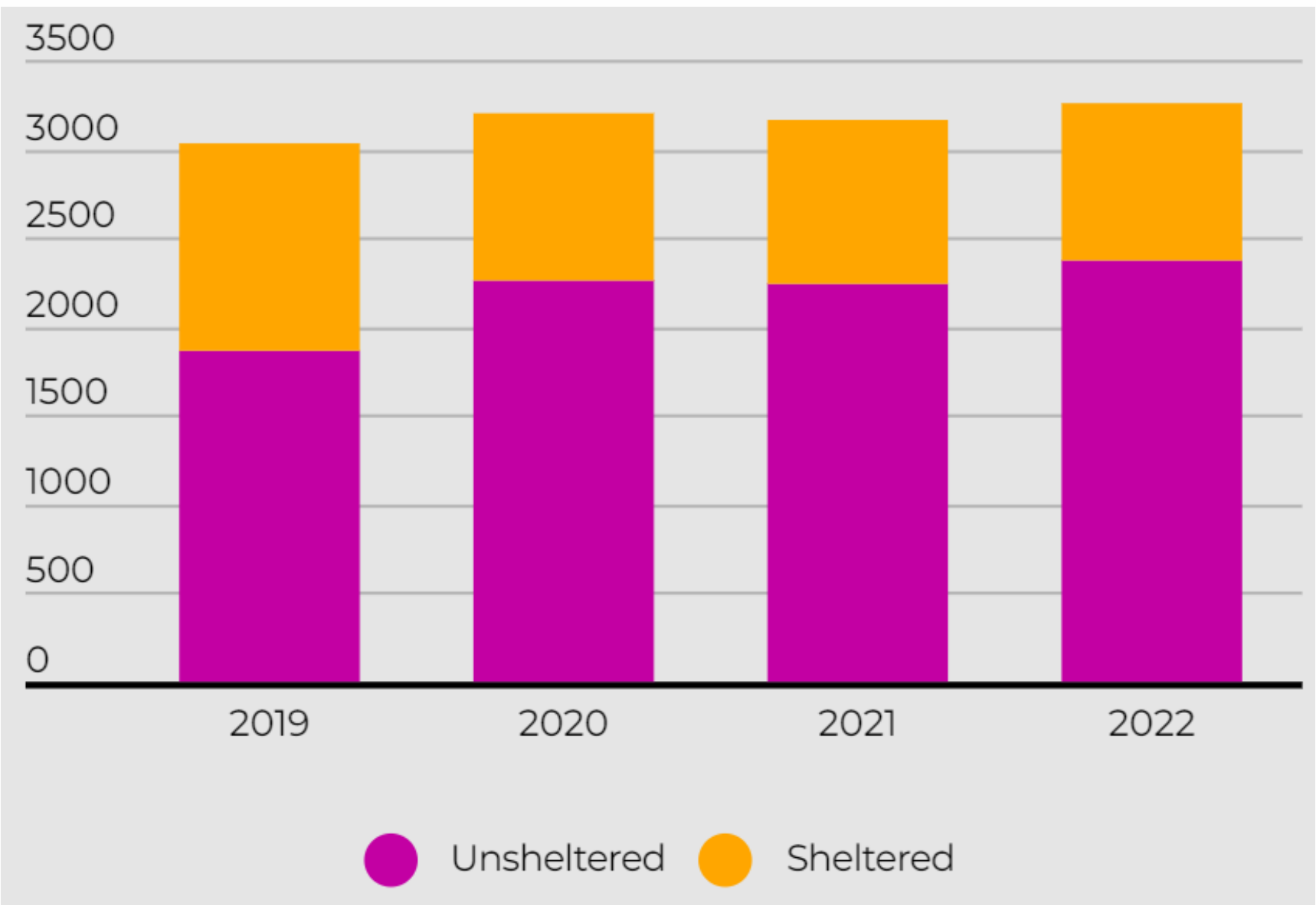
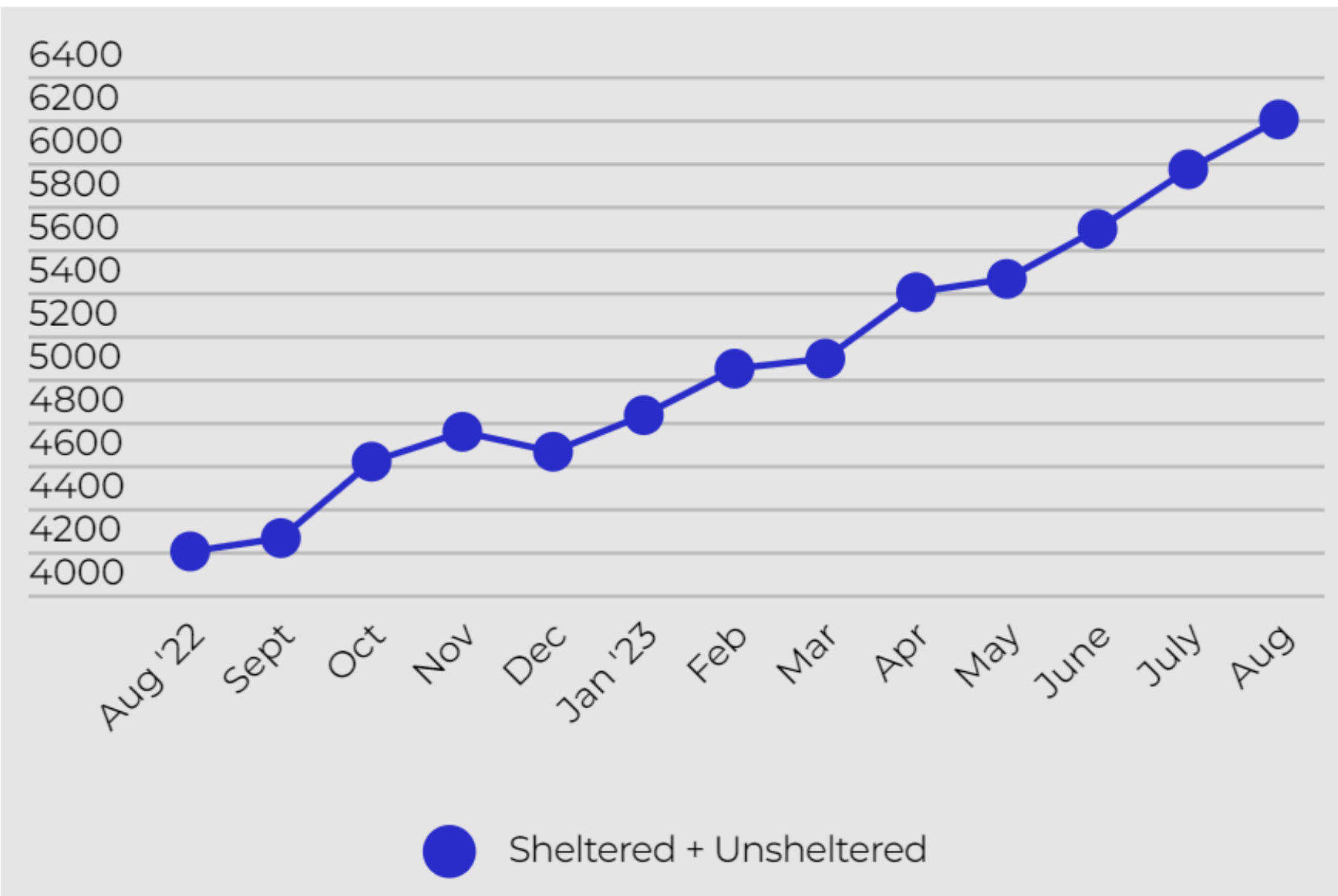
AUSTIN AT A GLANCE



HRS Dashboard | by ECHO

This dashboard allows users to explore key Austin / Travis County Homelessness Response System (HRS) measures and metrics to gain a better understanding ...

github.io



THE NUMBER OF UNHOUSED PEOPLE HAS **GROWN 7.4%** IN AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY SINCE 2019.

THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ESTIMATES TRAVIS COUNTY'S TOTAL POPULATION HAS **INCREASED ABOUT 10.5%** IN THE SAME TIME FRAME.

<https://www.austinecho.org/about-echo/homelessness-in-austin/>

AUSTIN AT A GLANCE

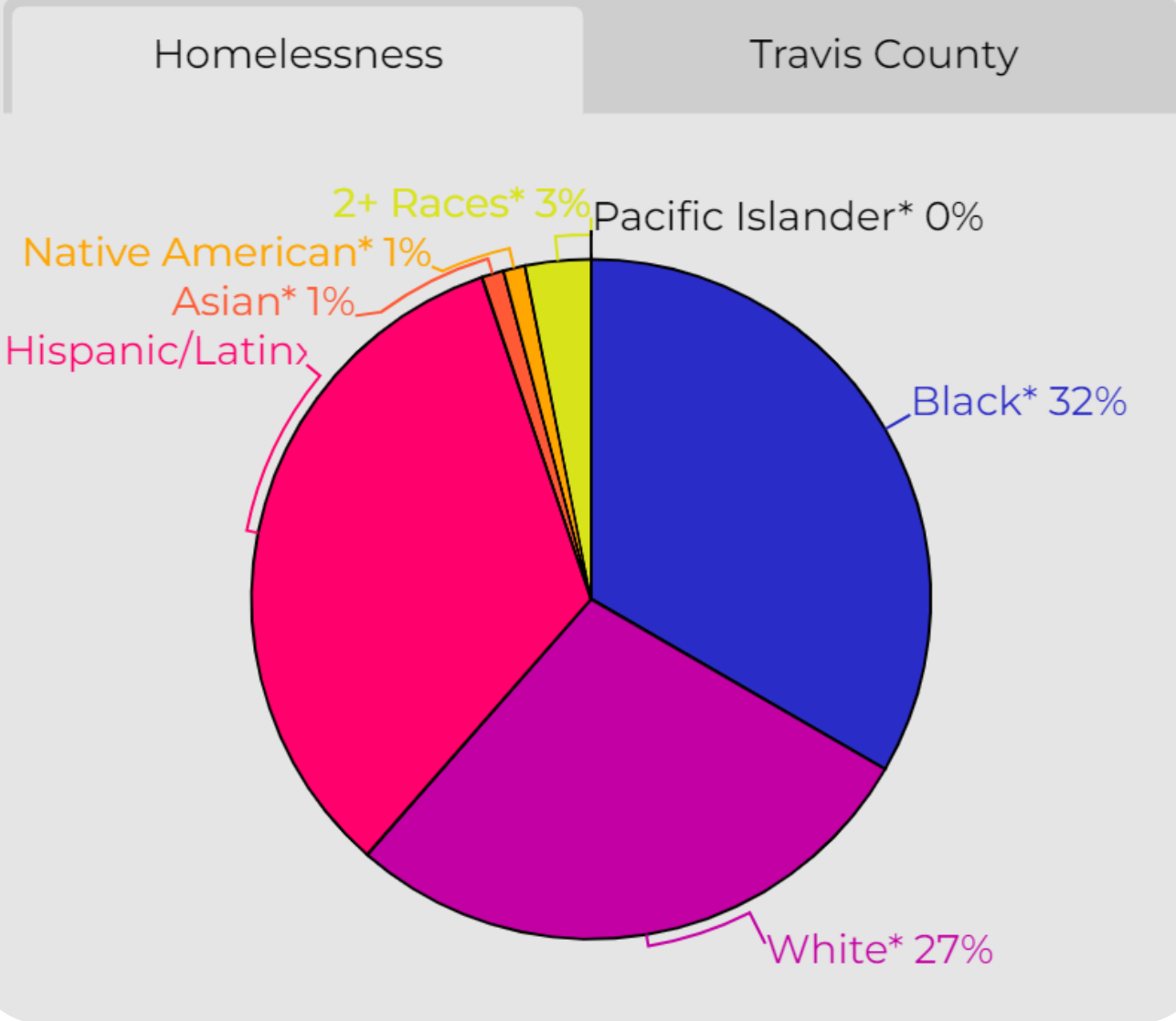


HRS Dashboard | by ECHO

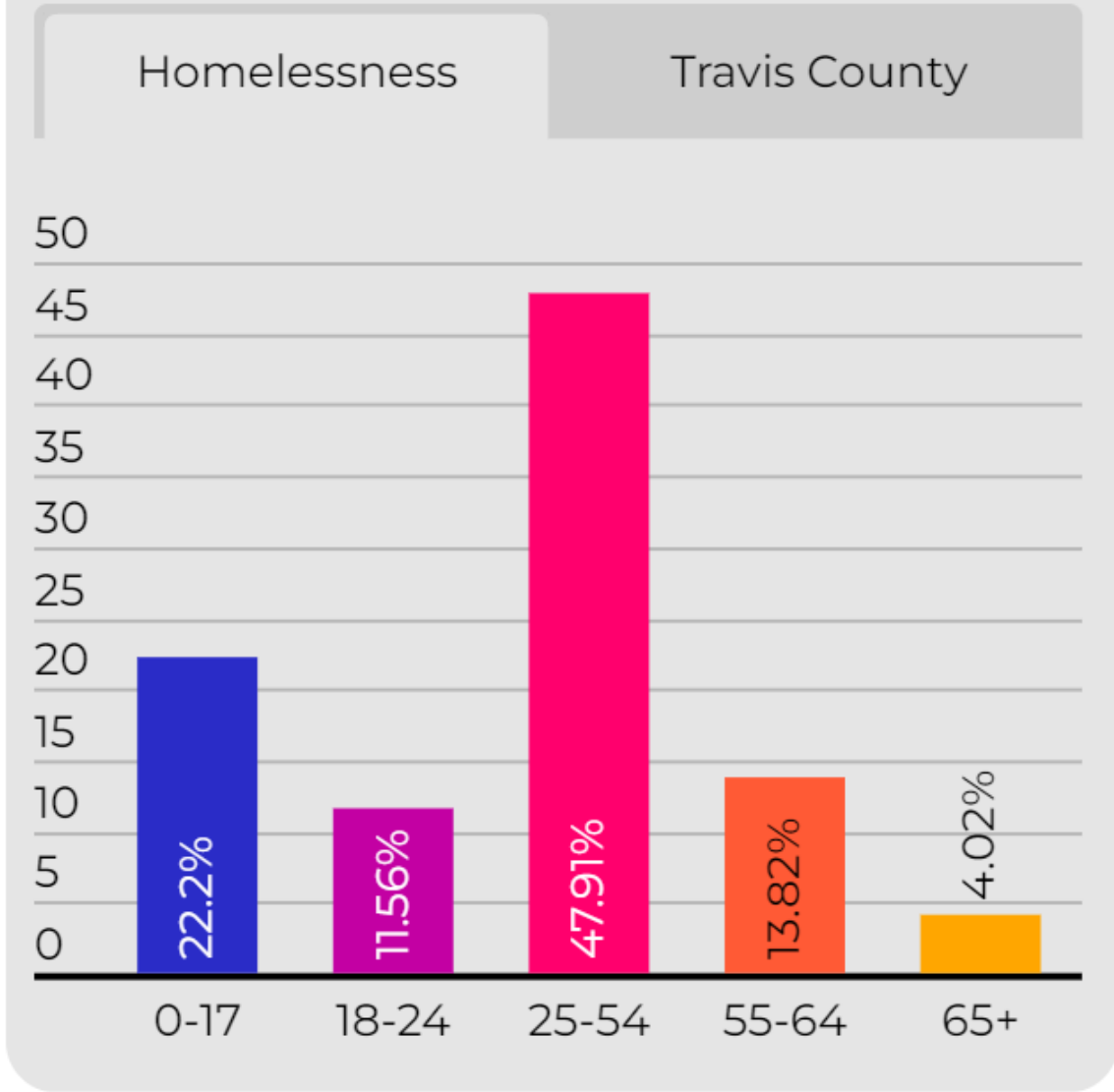
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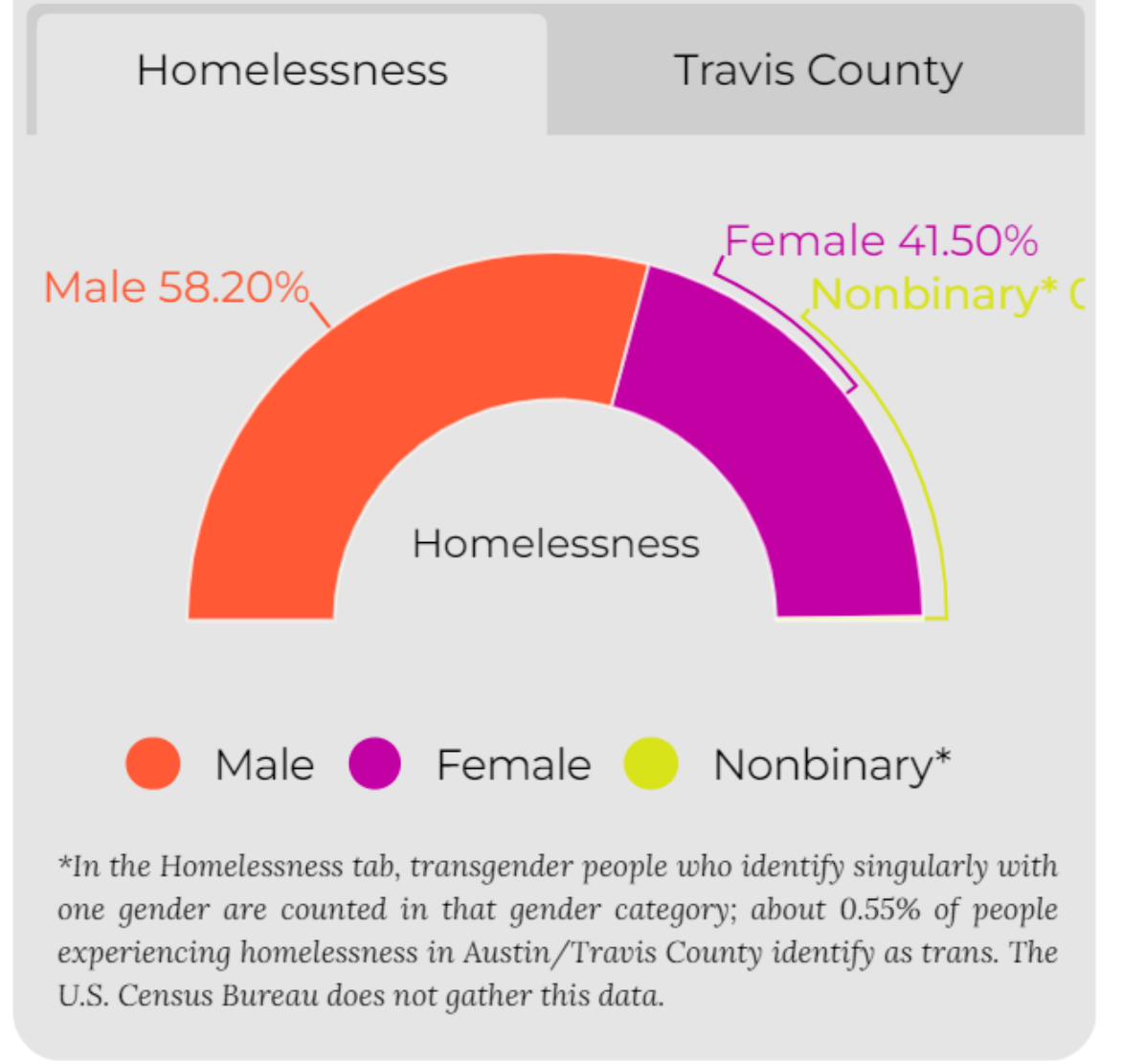
Race & Ethnicity



Age



Gender Identity

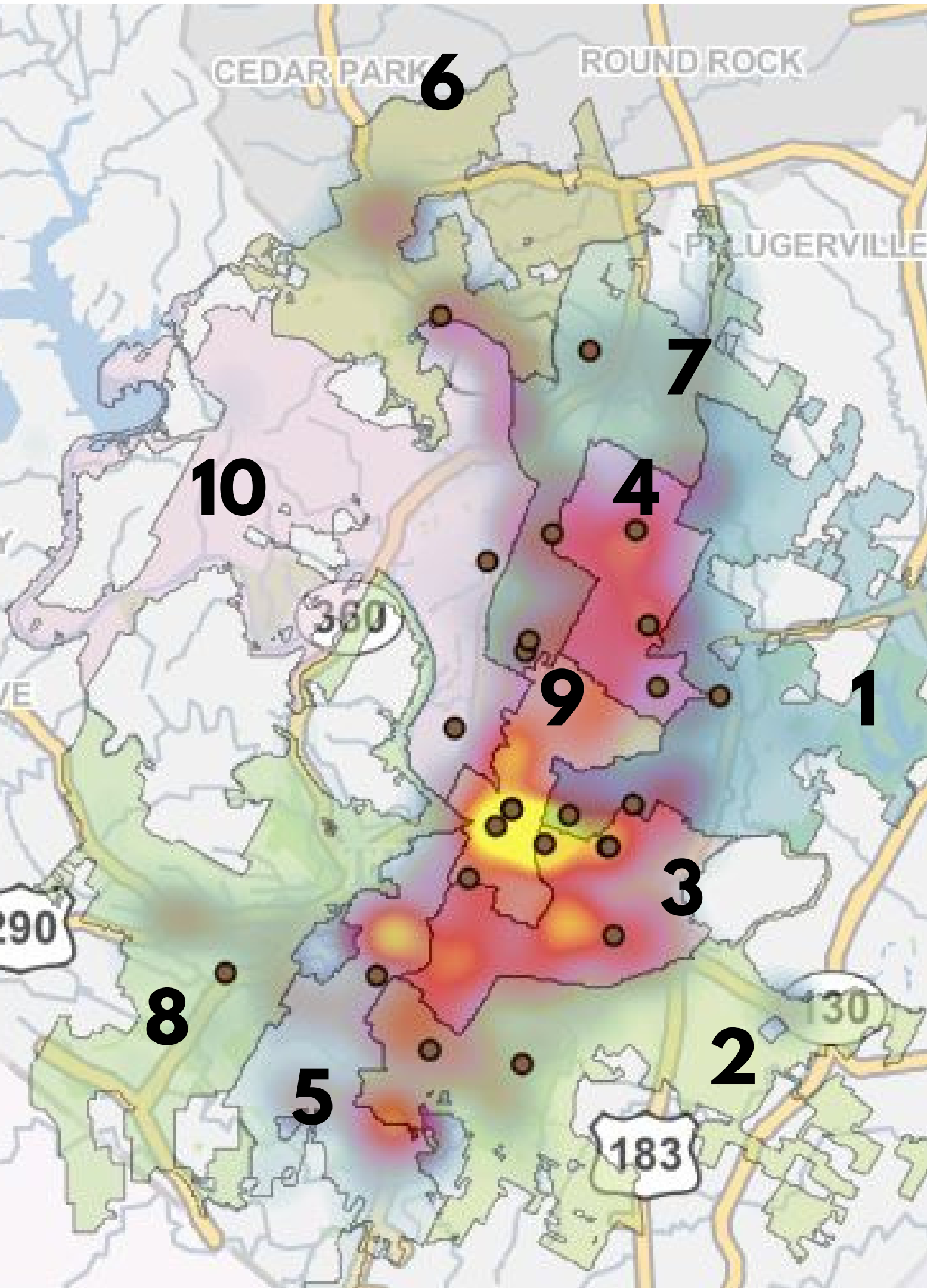


VULNERABLE POPULATIONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Families with Children
- Youth and Young Adults
- Seniors
- Individuals with Mental Health Conditions
- Substance Abuse and Addiction
- Veterans
- LGBTQ+ Youth
- Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers:
- People with Disabilities
- Immigrants
- Sex Trafficking Survivors



IMPACT ON APL



HIGH NEED AREAS

DISTRICT 9

CENTRAL LIBRARY
HISTORY CENTER/FAULK

DISTRICT 3

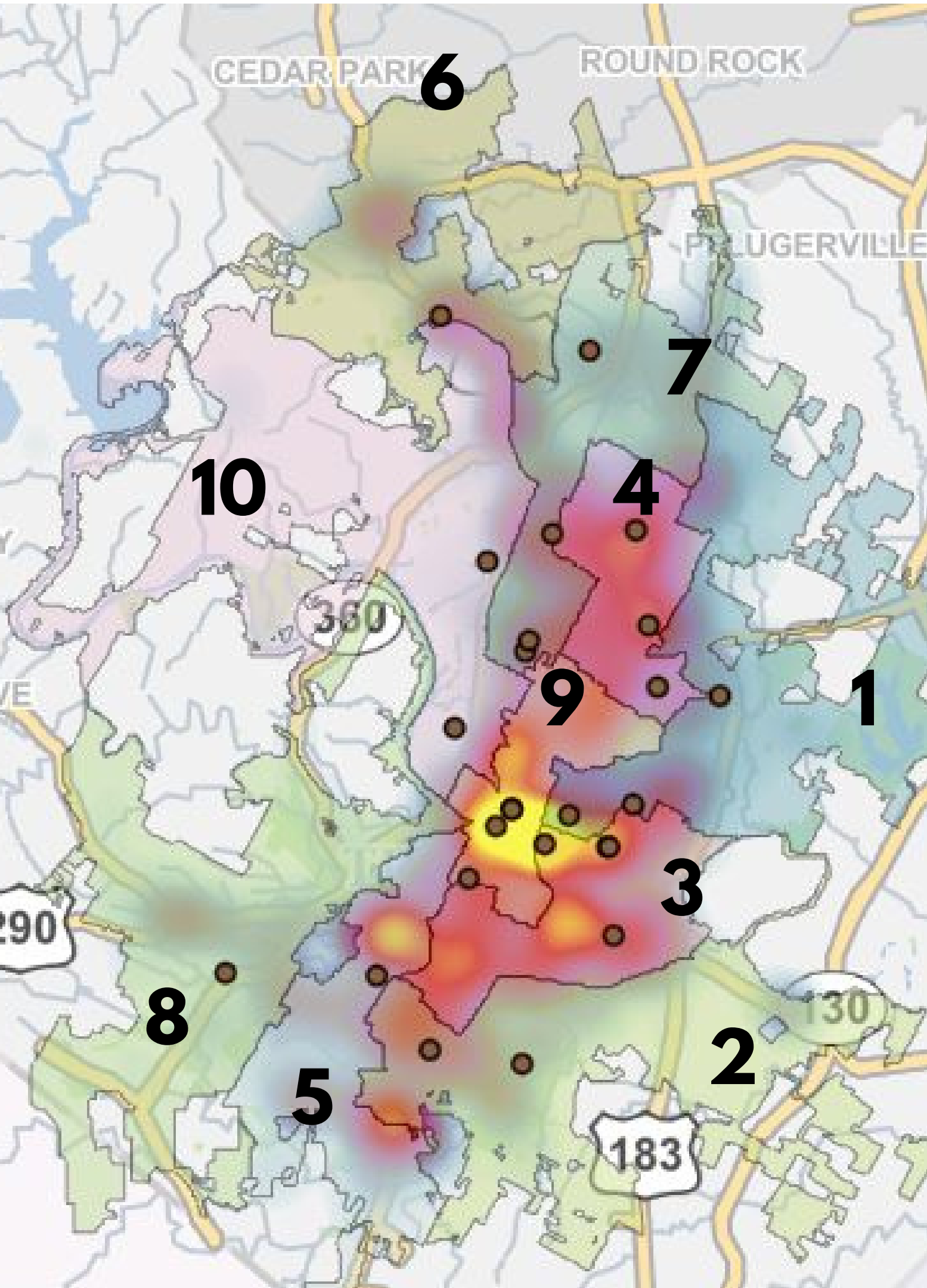
TERRAZAS
CEPEDA
RUIZ

DISTRICT 1

CARVER

DISTRICT 4

LITTLE WALNUT CREEK
ST. JOHN



CHALLENGES FACED BY LIBRARY

- Increased demand for services
- Balancing resource allocation
- Managing security and conflicts
- Space limitations
- Maintaining a welcoming atmosphere
- Limited capacity for comprehensive support services
- Staff training needs
- Community perception and support
- Increased maintenance demands
- Coordination with partners
- Advocacy for policy changes

DAILY CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Safe and Stable Shelter
- Basic Hygiene Facilities
- Regular Meals
- Healthcare and Medication
- Safety and Security
- Legal Documentation
- Employment and Income
- Education and Skill-building Opportunities
- Clothing and Personal Items
- Access to Technology and Communication
- Legal Assistance
- Social Support and Community
- Privacy and Dignity



SERVICES FOR HOMELESS POPULATION

SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Homeless Outreach and Support Programs:

Collaborating with local shelters and service providers to offer on-site support, resource referrals, and assistance (pop up resource clinics, outreach to housing, integral care).

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

Coordinating with community partners for information on local mental health services, support groups, and resources for coping with mental health challenges (Black Men's Health Clinic, Sunrise Navigation, Central Health).

Social Service Navigation:

Providing trained staff or partnering with social workers to assist individuals in accessing available services and benefits.



LIBRARY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Computer and Internet Access:

Offering free computer use and internet access for job searches, online applications, communication, and accessing social services. Library card holders can check out laptops and hotspots or use computers at branch locations.

Job and Skill-Building Workshops:

Organizing workshops on resume building, interview preparation, job searching, and skill development to help individuals gain employment (job portal, innovation lab workshops, training.)

Education and Literacy Programs:

Offering tutoring, literacy classes, and educational resources to support personal development and increase employment opportunities (ESL classes, computer classes, digital navigators).

Access to Legal Resources:

Providing information on legal rights, access to legal aid, and resources for navigating legal challenges (legal classes and clinics).

The screenshot displays the Austin Public Library's Job Portal. At the top, the library's logo is on the left, and a search bar with the text "Find books and more" and a "Search" button is on the right. Below the search bar, there are links for "Catalog", "Website", and "Advanced Catalog Search". A blue navigation bar contains links for "Catalog", "We Recommend", "Virtual Library", "About", "Events", "Locations", "Youth", and "Ask Us". A yellow banner below the navigation bar states: "All APL locations will be closed on Friday, October 20th, for a Staff Development Day". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Job Portal", lists various services: "Get an Email Address", "Create Your Resumé", "Write Your Cover Letter", "Search for Jobs", "Prepare for Interviews", "Get Job Coaching", "Explore Careers", "Explore Skills & Training", "Explore Resources for Diverse Populations", "Know Your Rights & Benefits", "Understanding Unemployment", and "Crisis Support". A blue button labeled "Request a Job Coach" is at the bottom of this list. The right column features a large image of two hands shaking, with the text "Portal de empleo" overlaid. Below the image, the title "Job Portal" is followed by a paragraph explaining that the portal was created during the COVID-19 Pandemic to help the Austin community. A blue button labeled "español" is next to this paragraph. At the bottom of the right column, there is a list of services with icons and expandable buttons: "Get an Email Address", "Create Your Resumé", "Write Your Cover Letter", "Search for Jobs", "Prepare for Interviews", "Get Job Coaching", "Explore Careers", "Explore Skills & Training", "Explore Resources for Diverse Populations", "Know Your Rights & Benefits", "Understanding Unemployment", and "Crisis Support".

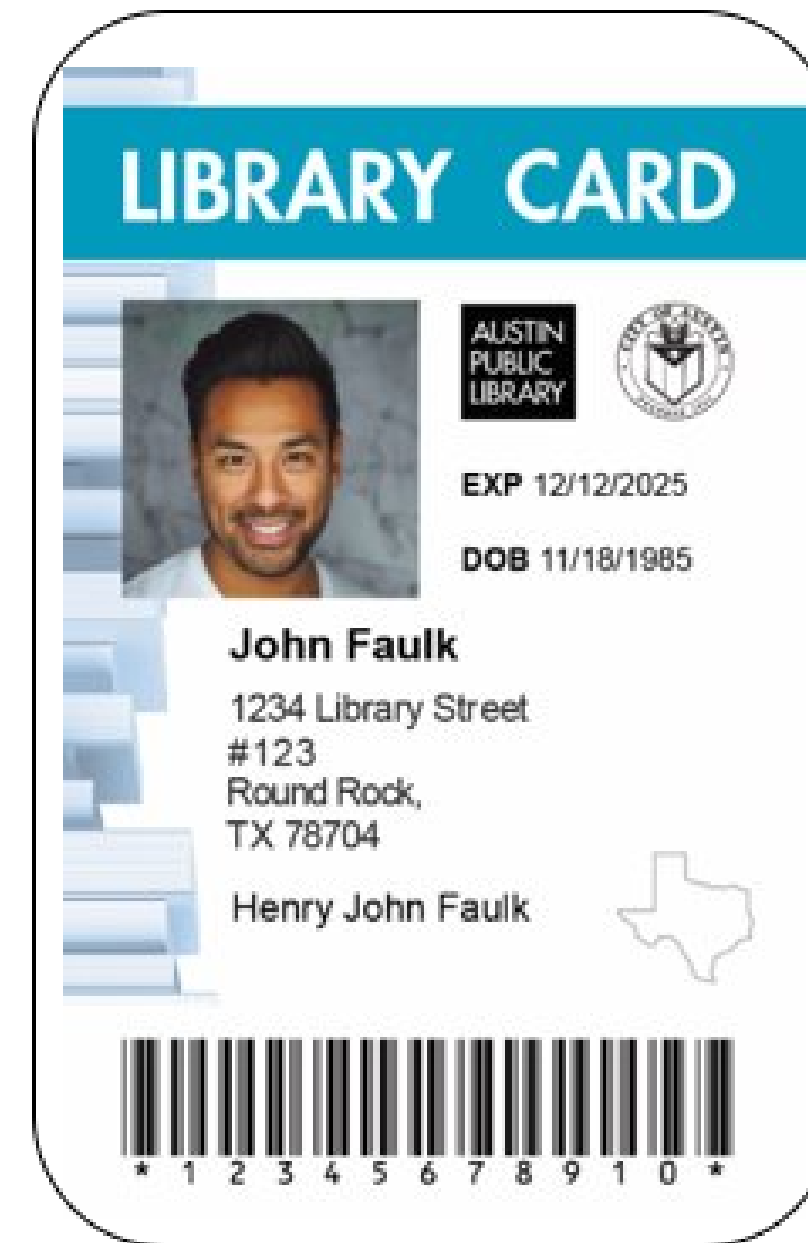
PILOTS AND IMPACT PROJECTS

Enhanced Library Cards

- More locations being added
- Meeting with existing and future partners Nov - December.
- Additional staff trained to issue ELC.

Downtown Austin Community Court Mobile Clinic

- Pilot to offer intensive case management and voluntary walk-in services for individuals experiencing homelessness at 3 APL locations.
- Locations include Terrazas, Ruiz, and Millwood.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. As the applicant, I assume full responsibility for the use of this card and all charges incurred by its use. To minimize cardholder liability, I will give immediate notice to **512-974-7475** if card is lost or stolen or if there is a change of address.
2. This card is the property of, and established and issued by the City of Austin according to the rules of the Austin Public Library.
3. This card may be cancelled, invalidated and/or modified without notice and shall be surrendered upon request (Mail to: P.O. Box 2287, Austin, TX 78768).

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library.austintexas.gov/enhanced

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS



THANK YOU!

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