

HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

A CRISIS OUTPACING OUR COUNTRY'S GROWTH

On a single night in January **2007**, the federal government counted **647,258 homeless people** in the USA.

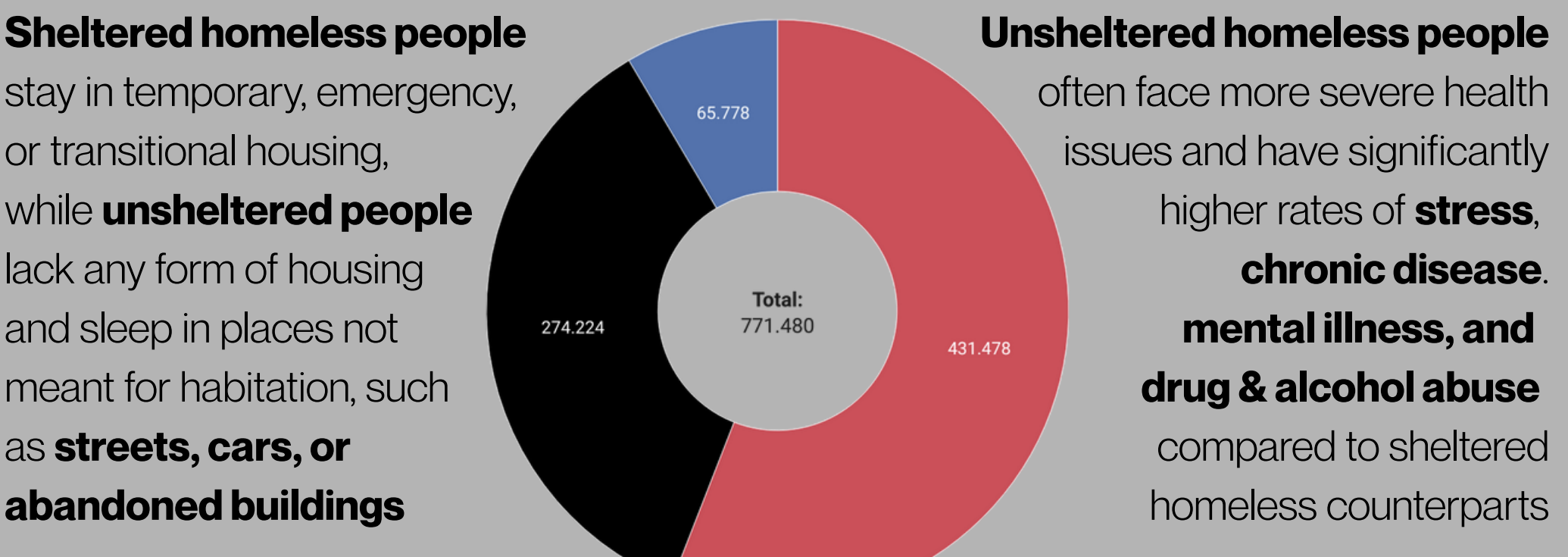
1 IN 465 OR...
21 IN EVERY 10,000 RESIDENTS

By **2024**, that number had climbed to **771,480 homeless people** - roughly the population of a major U.S city like Seattle.

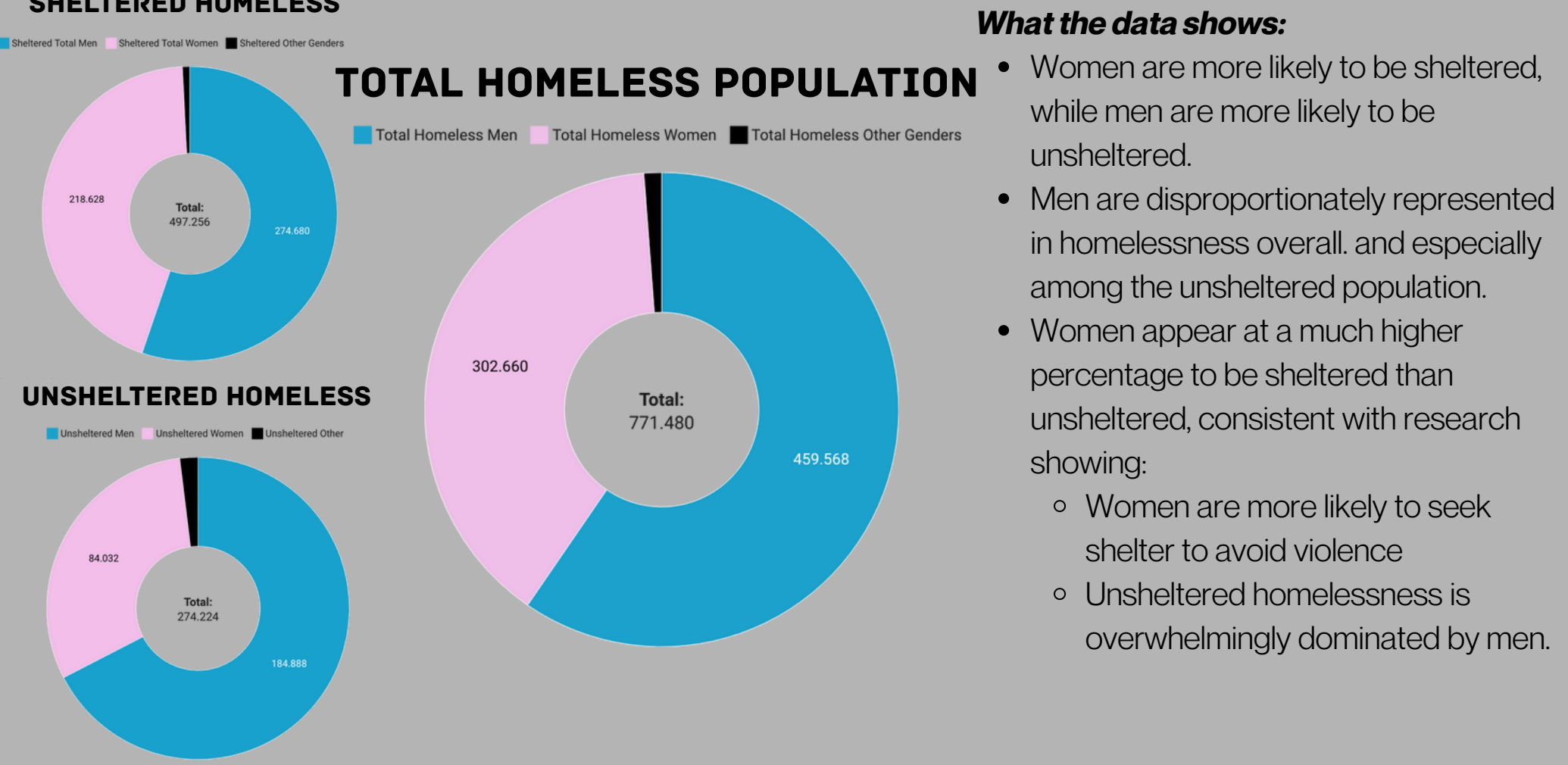
1 IN 441 OR...
23 IN EVERY 10,000 RESIDENTS

That sounds like “less than 1%” of the American population, but it actually represents more than **124,000 additional people without a home** on a single night.

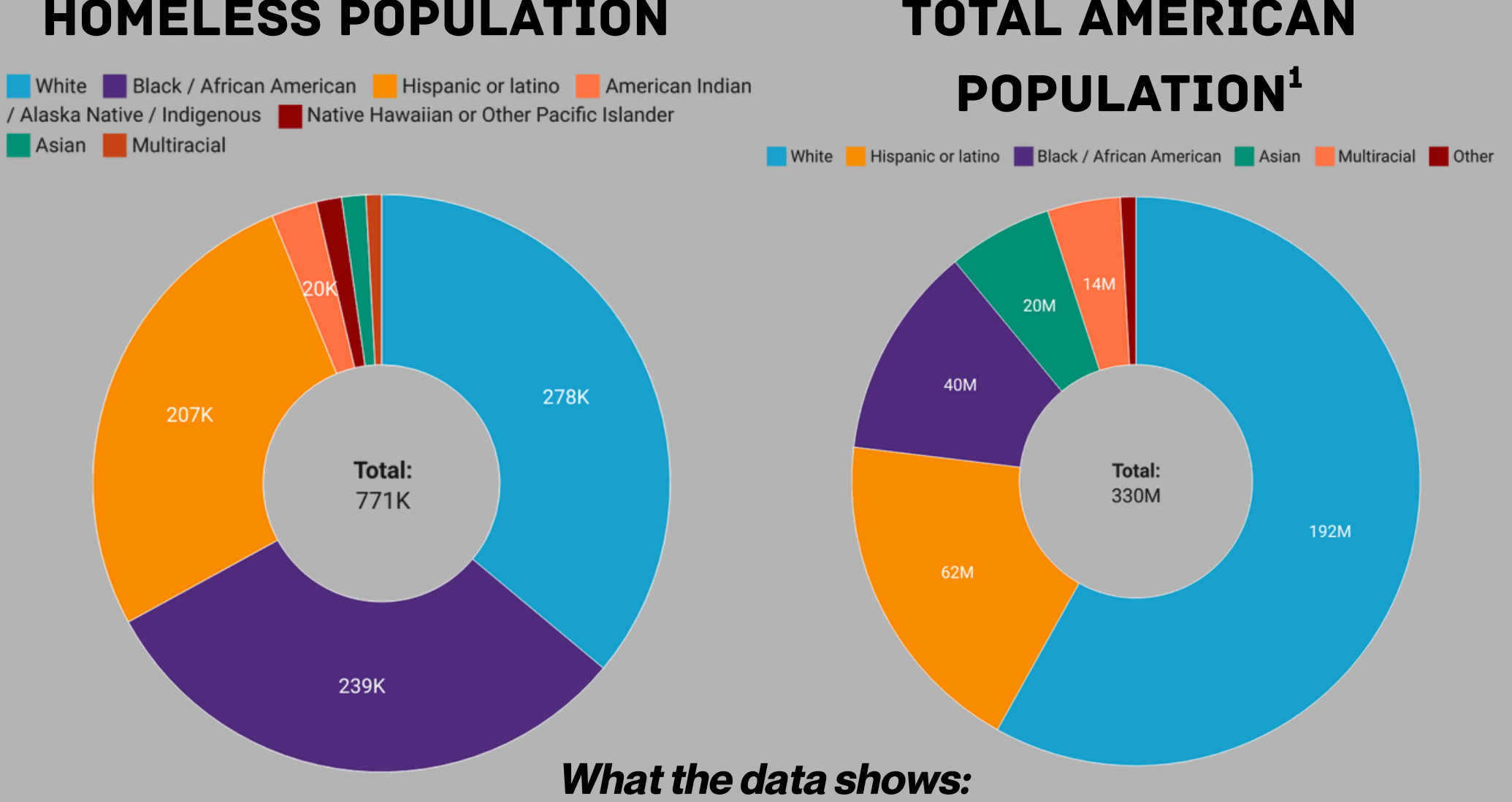
SHELTERED VS UNSHELTERED



SHELTERED / UNSHELTERED BY GENDER



HOMELESSNESS BY RACE

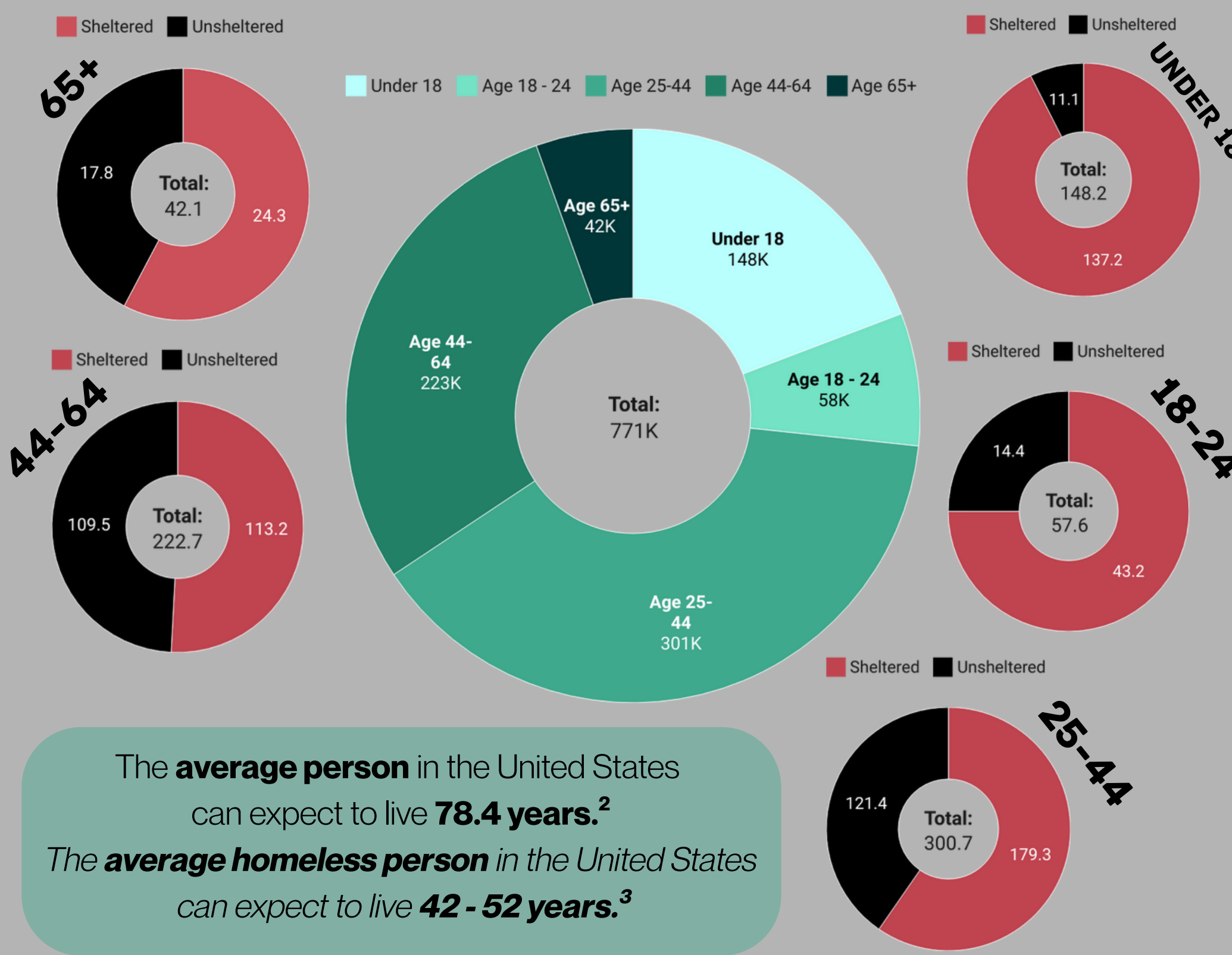


Black / African American people make up **12%** of the American population, and **31%** of the homeless population. **1 in every 167 Black / African American people** in America are homeless.

Asian people make up **6%** of the American population, and **1.3%** of the homeless population. **1 in every 1,886 Asian people** in America are homeless.

Compared to the national average, where **1 in every 441 people** in America are homeless.

HOMELESSNESS BY AGE



The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** reports that there are nearly **150,000 homeless children** in the United States. Other sources, such as the **National Center for Homeless Education** claim that the real number of homeless children is **1.2 Million⁴**, a figure **8 times greater than what the USHUD reports...**

NOTES & SOURCES

The homelessness data used in this project comes from the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual Point-in-Time (PiT) Count** and **Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS)** data sets - the federal government's most comprehensive and standardized sources for tracking homelessness nationwide. There are key limitations to this data set.

The PIT Count **occurs on a single night every January**. Therefore, people who cycle in and out of homelessness, stay temporarily with friends or family, sleep in vehicles, live in rural or hidden locations, or avoid contact with volunteers, may not be counted. Marginalized groups - such as youth and women fleeing domestic violence - are underrepresented. **Despite this, HUD's methodology remains the national standard for understanding large-scale trends in American homelessness.**

Every datapoint in this project, unless indicated otherwise, was made using USHUD's PIT data from 2024. This visualization was made using datavrapper, with the final document being made in *Canva*.

This project was created with no political intention. Most Americans know someone who has been or will be homeless. Data used in this project *vastly underestimates* the true numbers of homelessness.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. "P2 Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race." data.census.gov. Retrieved June 15, 2025.
² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Life Expectancy." National Center for Health Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/life-expectancy.htm>.
³ University of Pennsylvania, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. "The Older Middle-Aged Homeless Population Is Growing and Dying at High Rates." <https://ldi.upenn.edu/our-work/research-updates/the-older-middle-aged-homeless-population-is-growing-and-dying-at-high-rates/>.
⁴ National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH). "Nationwide: More Children Live in the State of Homelessness Than in Most American States." <https://endhomelessness.org/resources/sharable-graphics/nationwide-more-children-live-in-the-state-of-homelessness-than-in-most-american-states/>.
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count Data Sets. 2024. HUD Exchange. <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/point-in-time-pit-counts/>