

The 2021 Greater Hollywood Homeless Count

A grassroots effort by the People of Hollywood organized by
Hollywood 4WRD

April 13, 2021



You made this year count.

Thank you for volunteering, organizing, and analyzing to make sure everyone in Hollywood counts.

Hollywood 4WRD members who helped make the 2021 Grassroots Homeless Count a success:

- [The Center in Hollywood](#)
- [Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council](#)
- [Hang Out Do Good](#)
- [My Friend's Place](#)
- [Covenant House](#)
- [Saban Community Clinic](#)
- [SELAH Hollywood Chapter](#)
- [Kaiser Permanente](#)
- *Residents committed to ending homelessness*

Reach out to us at:

<https://hollywood4wrd.live/contact>



Overview

- Context
- Count Details
- Results
- Interpretation
- Next Steps



Greater Hollywood is an epicenter of unsheltered homelessness.

- **2,203 unshoused people** in 2020.
 - In some census tracts, 1-in-25 residents live on the street.
- Since not everyone is connected to services, **we need a visual count of unsheltered people*** to understand homelessness in Hollywood.

*Dwelling in places not meant for human habitation.

Everyone counts — especially now.

- COVID's unprecedented economic stresses and government responses could impact homelessness.
- COVID caused the Los Angeles Homelessness Services Authority (LAHSA) to **cancel** the official count.
- **Residents, service providers, and policymakers** need to know how 2020 changed homelessness and what that means for them now.

Hollywood 4WRD organized to ensure COVID did not set us back.

- We can **safely count everyone** in our community.
- **Hollywood 4WRD** can coordinate the providers, Neighborhood Councils, gov. representatives, faith groups, businesses, and residents to **make that happen.**
- The 2021 count is an early example of what we can **achieve together.**

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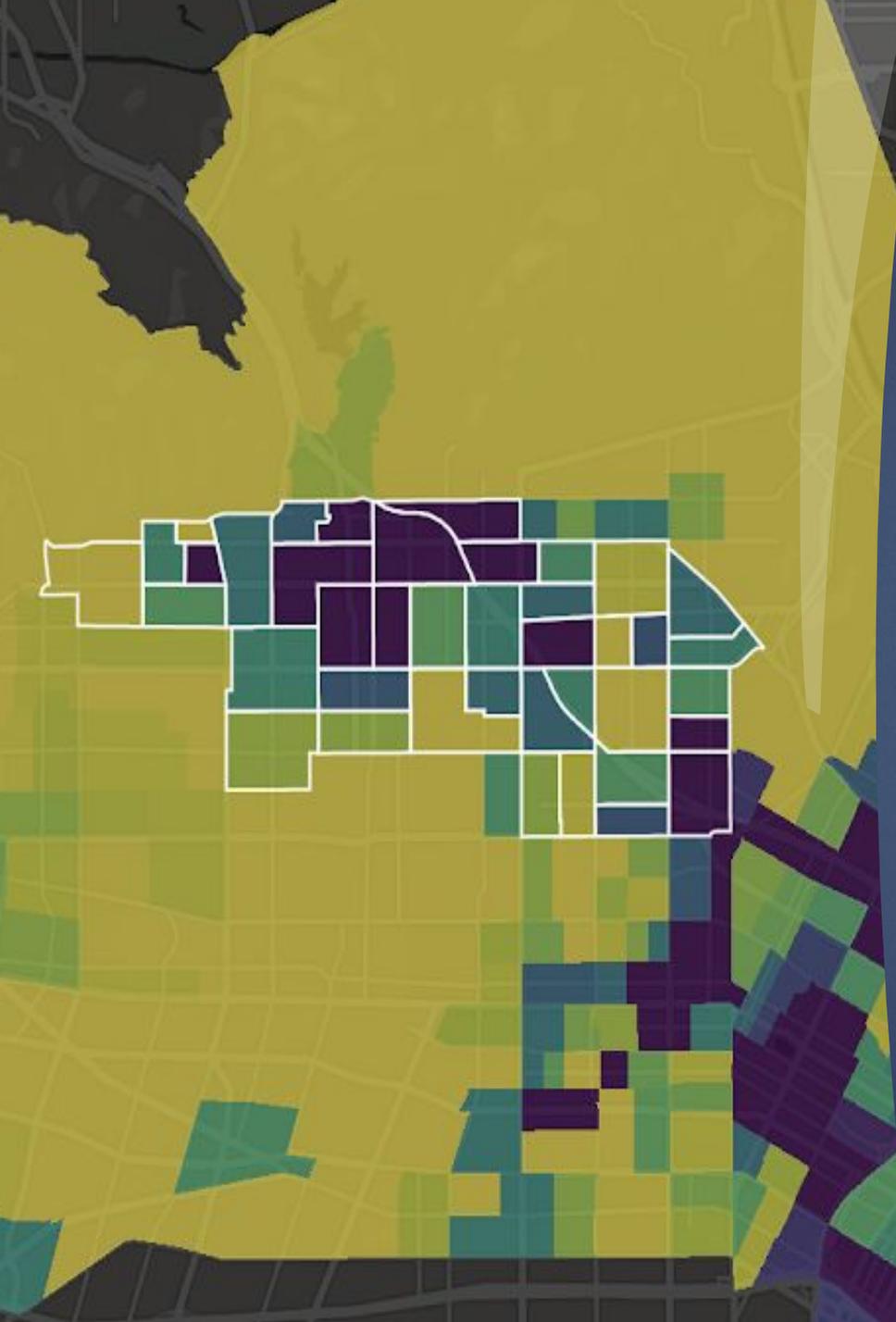




On February 25th, 2021,

Hollywood 4WRD coalition members mobilized volunteers to count every unsheltered person in Hollywood and East Hollywood.

- **Site:** *The Center in Hollywood*
- **Volunteers:** 90+ people counting from their cars or working on-site
- **Time:** 7.00 PM to 10.00 PM
- **Coordinators:** *The Center in Hollywood, Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council, Covenant House, My Friend's Place, Hang Out Do Good, Saban Community Clinic, Residents of Hollywood*



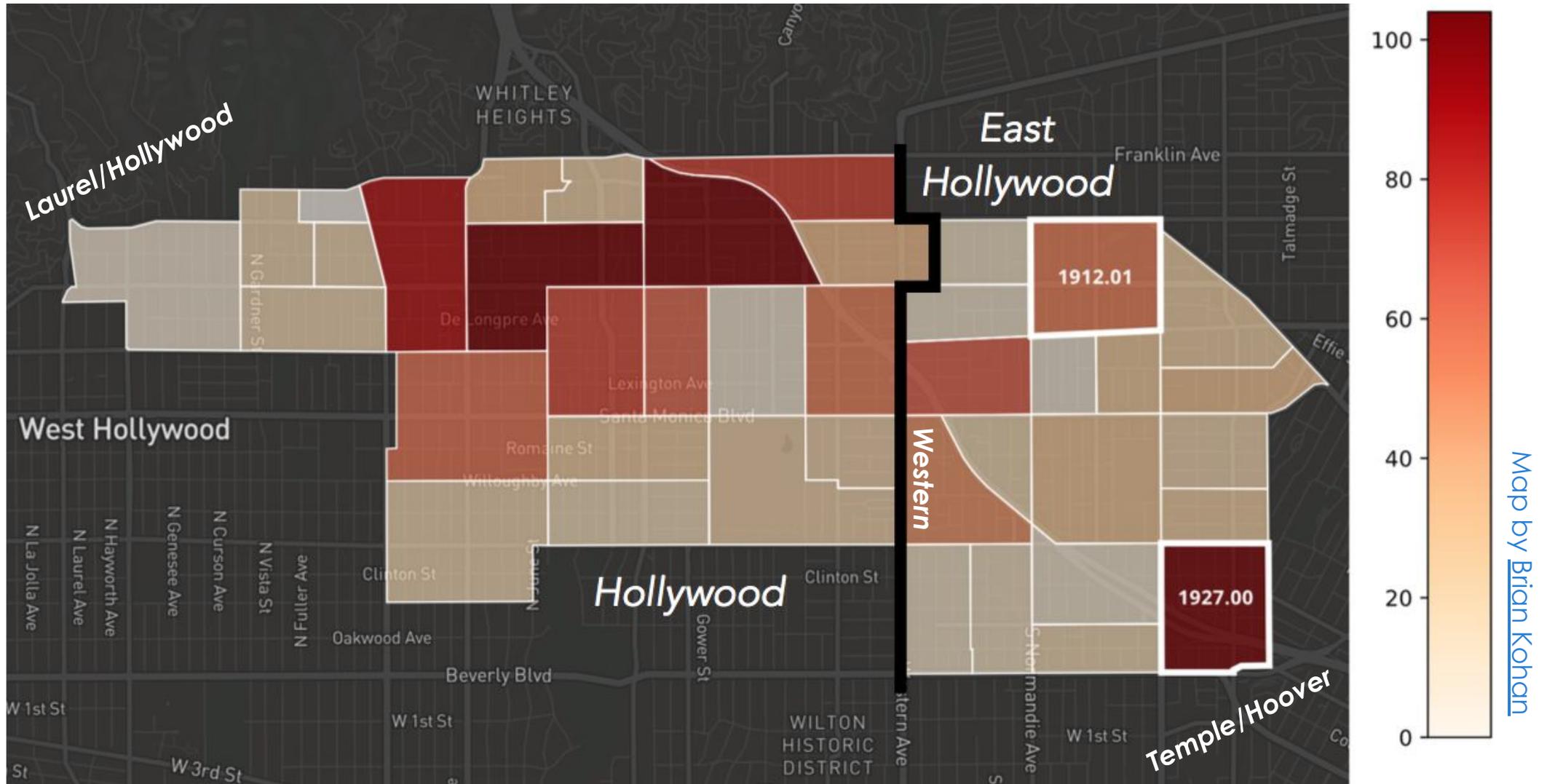
We counted Hollywood and East Hollywood

- 40 census tracts.
- 32 teams → **most tracts counted at least twice** to confirm results.

We followed LAHSA's Methodology

- Tallied **individuals** on the street plus **cars, vans, RVs, tents, and makeshift dwellings.**
- Results vetted by **USC/UCLA Homeless Count Methodology Team** – the same team LAHSA relies on to publish its annual count.

Scope



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We counted **fewer unsheltered people compared to 2020.**

- **We find a 12% decline in Greater Hollywood's adult unsheltered homeless population.**
 - **1,102** individuals + dwellings vs. **1,300** in January 2020.
 - Since multiple people may live in a dwelling, those data imply **1,513** total unsheltered people vs. **1,714** in 2020.

Counts of individuals fell by more than dwellings.

- The number of identified individuals fell by **30%**.
- The number of dwellings stayed roughly the same.

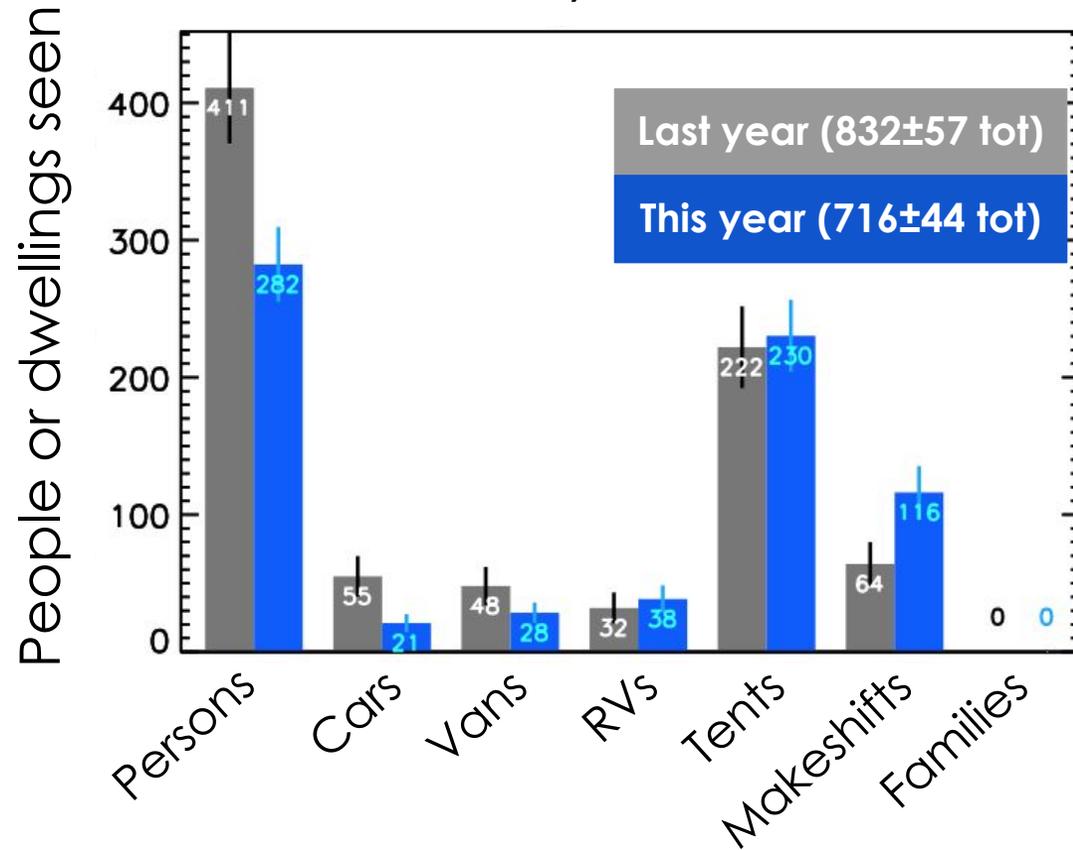
| | 2020 | 2021 | change |
|-------------|------|------|--------|
| Individuals | 575 | 401 | -30% |
| Dwellings | 731 | 705 | -4% |

Trends are similar in Hollywood and East Hollywood.

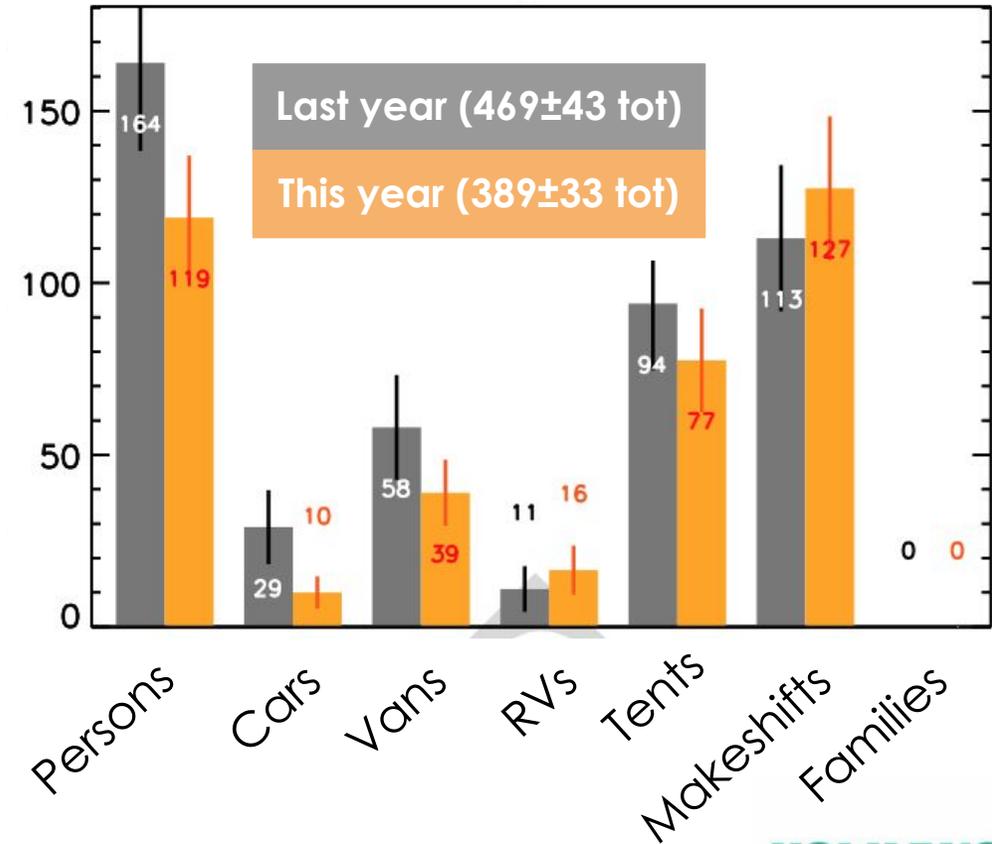
- We estimate a **10%** total drop in Hollywood's unsheltered population; **15%** in East Hollywood.
- **Both communities saw a similar 30% decline in individuals seen on the street.**

Identified individuals + dwellings vs. 2020

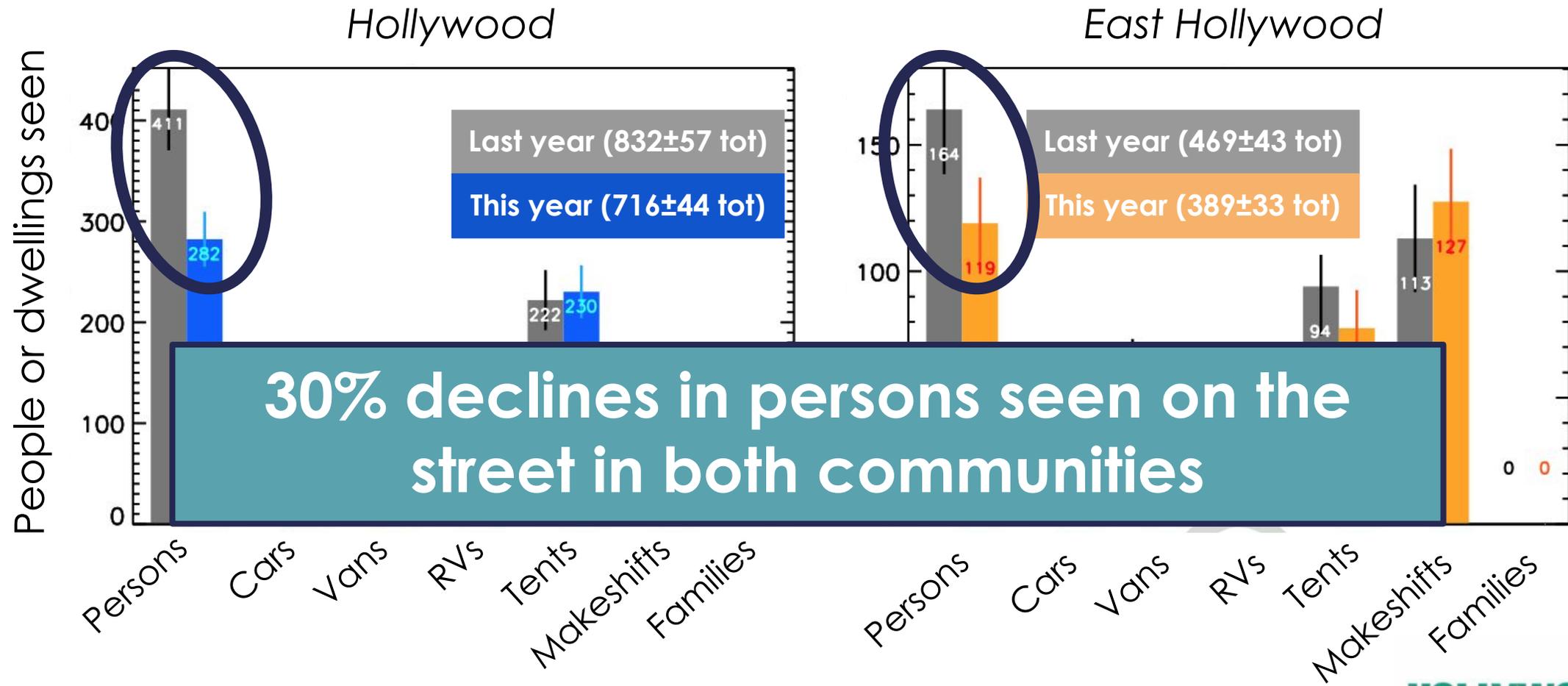
Hollywood



East Hollywood



Identified individuals + dwellings vs. 2020

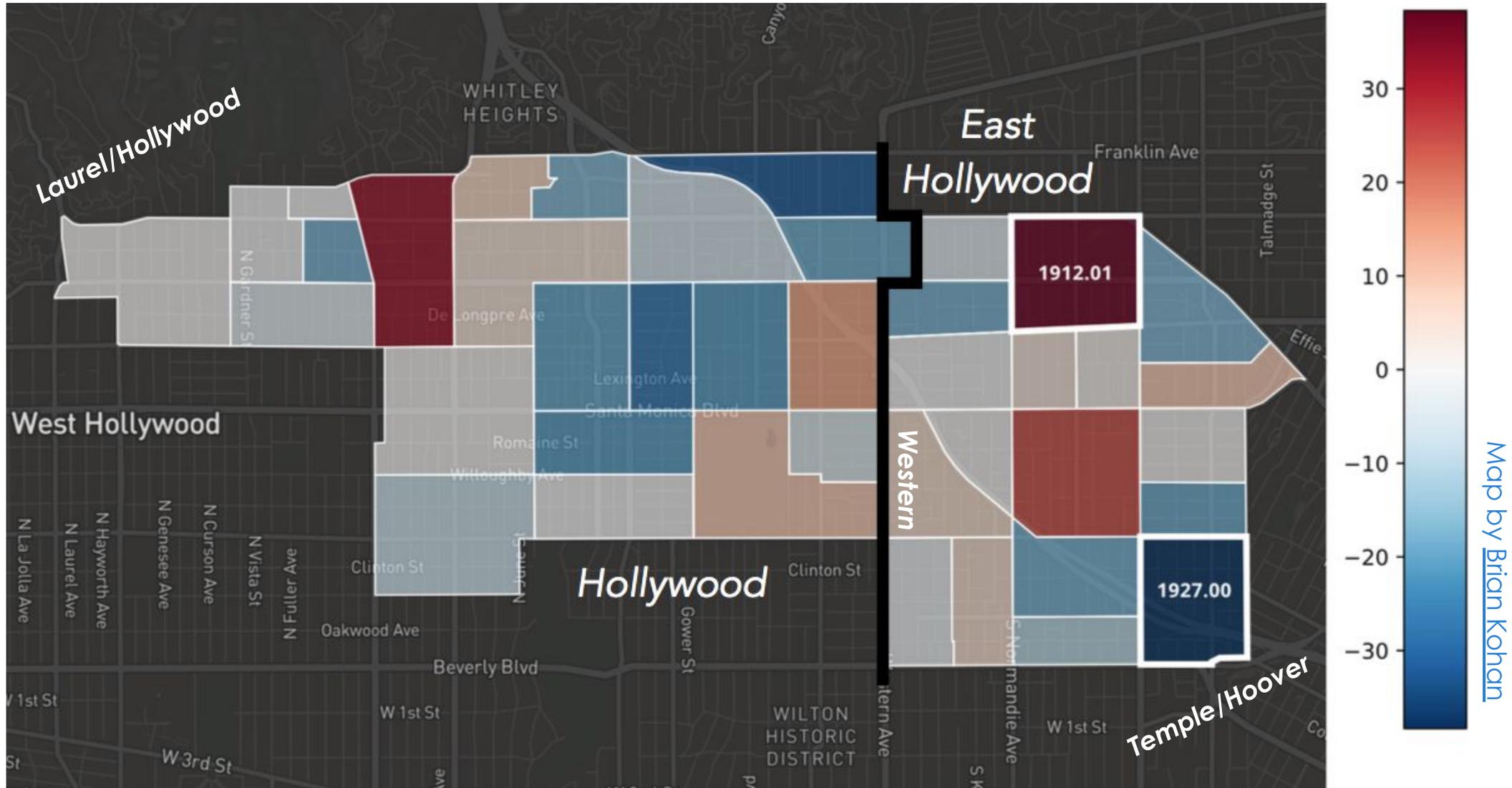


Counts, population estimates, and changes from 2020

| | Persons | Cars | Vans | RVs | Tents | Makeshifts | 2021 Total | 2020 Total | % change |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Hollywood | | | | | | | | | |
| Counts | 282 | 21 | 28 | 38 | 230 | 116 | 716 | 831 | - 14% |
| Inhabitants | 282 (28) | 32 (11) | 51 (14) | 56 (14) | 339 (29) | 196 (24) | 956 (94) | 1058 | -10% (9%) |
| Population share | 29% (3%) | 3% (1%) | 5% (1%) | 5% (1%) | 35% (3%) | 20% (3%) | - | - | - |
| East Hollywood | | | | | | | | | |
| Counts | 118 | 10 | 39 | 16 | 77 | 127 | 389 | 469 | -17% |
| Inhabitants | 118 (19) | 15 (8) | 70 (15) | 24 (9) | 115 (19) | 216 (23) | 557 (83) | 656 | -15% (12%) |
| Population share | 21% (3%) | 3% (1%) | 13% (3%) | 4% (2%) | 20% (3%) | 39% (4%) | - | - | - |

Parentheses denote 90% uncertainties. The total decline across both communities is 12%.

Tract-level changes

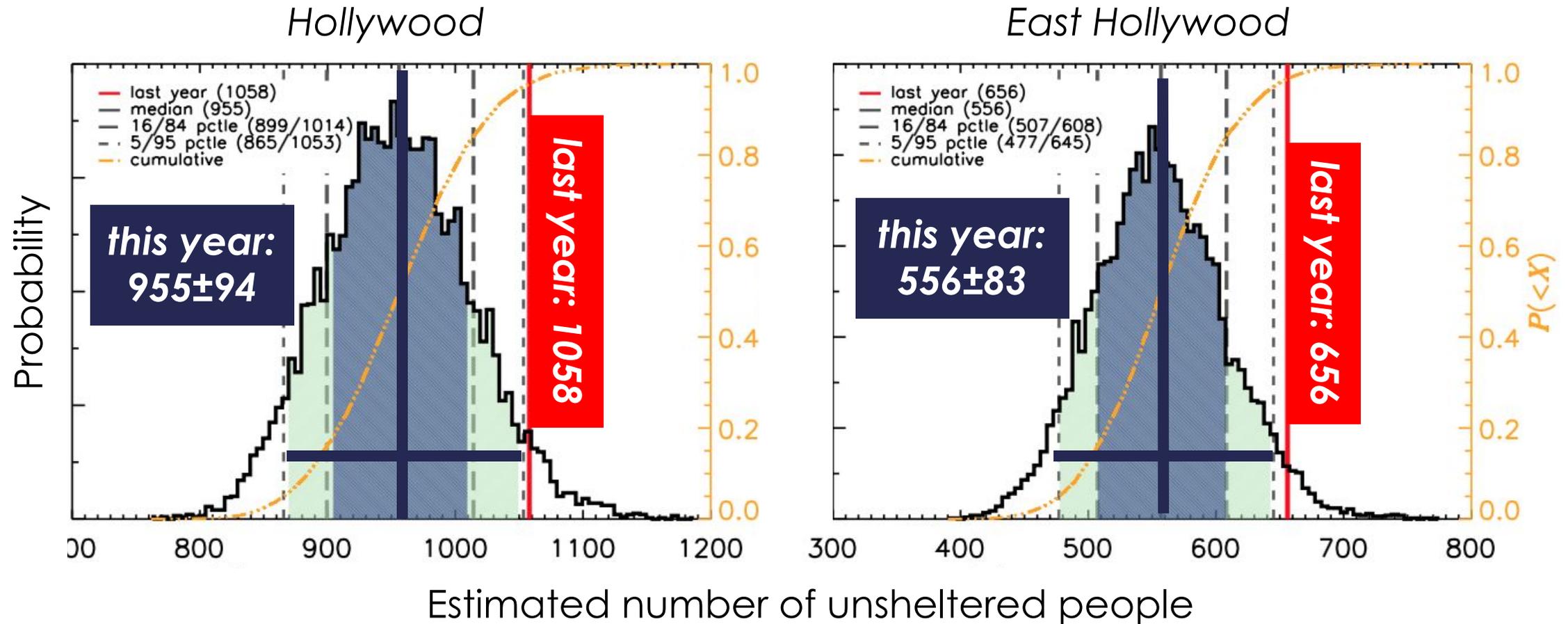


Understanding uncertainties gives us confidence in the result.

- Visual tally error: **±5%**—less than the **15%** change we find in individuals + dwellings.
 - Known because at least 2 teams counted most tracts.
- Total population error: **±9%** from uncertainties in dwelling occupancies—less than the **12%** change we find.*
 - We assumed the 2020 LAHSA SPA4/CD13 CVRTM weights, but independently verified tent occupancies.

*Uncertainties reflect 90% confidence.

We are >95% confident that Greater Hollywood's unsheltered population fell by **some** amount.



We used multiple cross-checks.

- Internal:
 - Surveys from different teams agree in each tract.
 - Tracts counted by volunteers or professionals show similar trends.
- External:
 - Tracts re-counted in subsequent days show consistent results.*
 - Independent data from **The Hollywood Partnership**—agree.†
 - Known Safe Parking spots cannot make-up the gap.
 - Tent occupancies verified by **SELAH Hollywood** outreach teams.‡
 - **Analysis vetted by USC/UCLA Homeless Count Methodology team.**

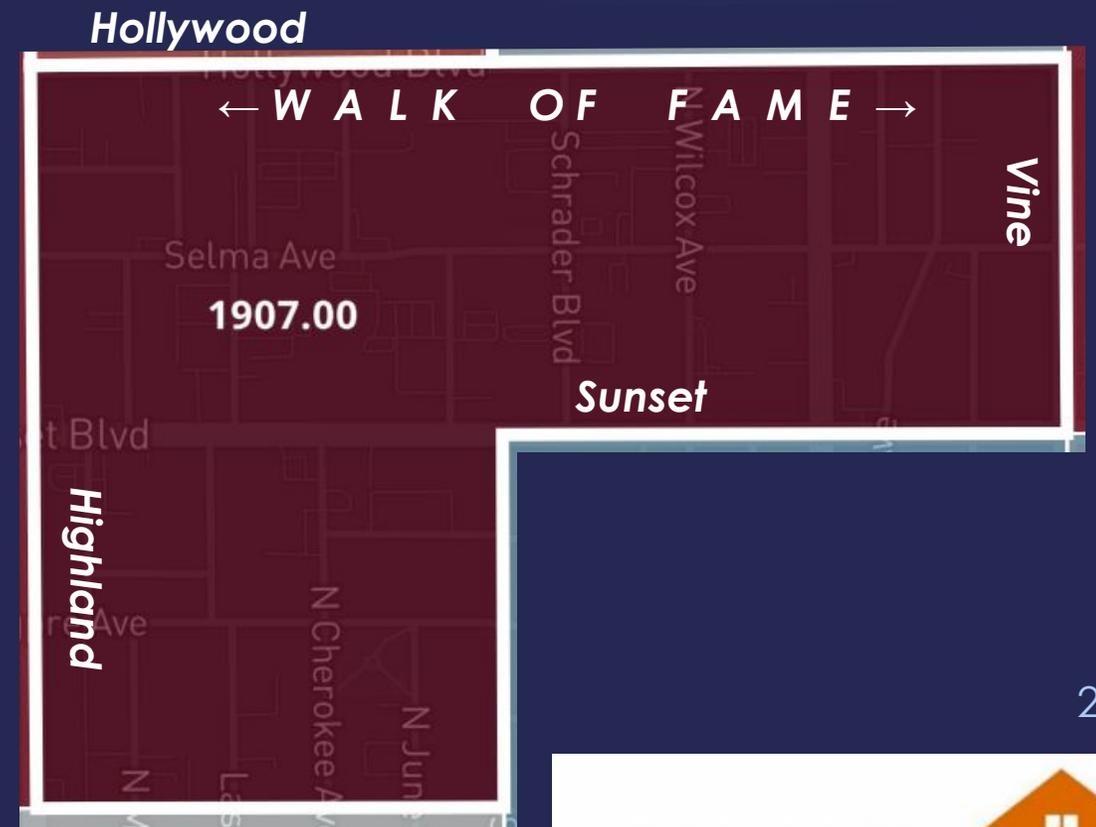
*Tracts 1901.00, 1912.01, 1927.00.

†Tract 1902.02 + recount of BID footprint.

‡1.5±0.2 ppl per tent vs 1.5±0.1 in 2020.

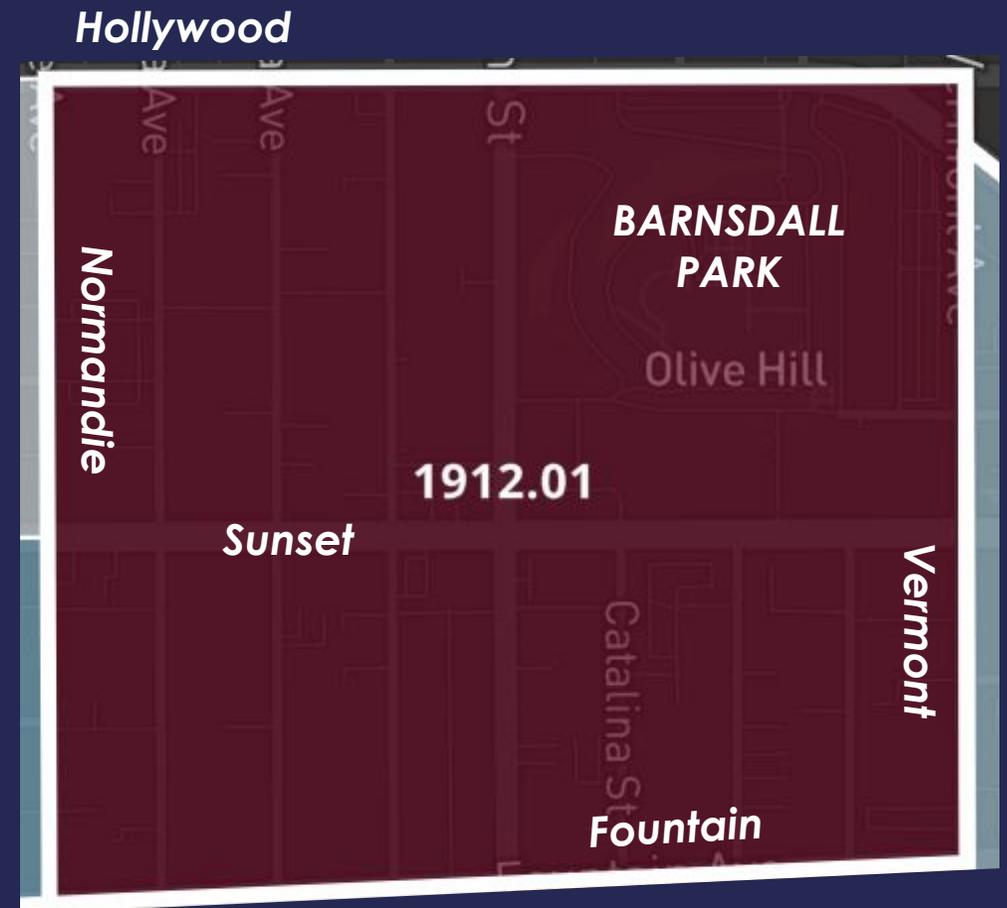
Tent visibility can make it feel like the unsheltered population grew.

- Despite overall decline, **tents doubled in 28% of tracts.**
 - 11 tracts; avg. 10 new structures.
- Includes **high-visibility areas:**
 - Walk of Fame/Central Hollywood
 - Barnsdall Pk/Vermont & Hollywood
- COVID-relaxed tent folding laws means **tents more visible.**



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Eviction freezes, *Project Roomkey*, Bridge Homes are promising.

- Existing systems might have housed all newly unhoused people if **eviction freezes** cut inflow by 10%.
 - Inflow may surge when evictions resume.
- **Project Roomkey** might account for ~half the change.
 - Greater Hollywood had 6.5% of LA County's unsheltered seniors in 2020, implying ~100 sheltered residents in 1608 active rooms.*
- **Bridge + permanent housing** added 150+ beds.
 - Accounts for decompression of pre-existing shelters.

**Project Roomkey limited to seniors + high-COVID-risk people experiencing homelessness.*

Other potential causes: relocations and deaths.

- People may have left Greater Hollywood but remain unsheltered elsewhere.
 - Mid City West and Silver Lake counts—bounding Greater Hollywood to the SW and E—may provide insights.
- A 33% rise in overdose deaths among unhoused Angelenos from Jan–July 2020 may have contributed.
 - Source: LA County Dept. of Public Health.

Caution! We do not know if homelessness decreased in total.

- We do not know how many people are **sheltered, but still unsheltered**.
 - HMIS/CES data will reveal this.
- We do not know how many people remain unsheltered in other parts of LA.
- **COVID restricted access to restaurants, libraries, social and health services, and sanitation facilities, making life worse for unsheltered people.**

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Our safe, efficient count can be a model for next year.

- Professional outreach teams counted harder-to-reach areas during the day.
- Volunteers participated in “pandemic pods”; drove all tracts; stayed in vehicles at all times.

In-n-Out Counts

- Drive-thru style check-in/-out: teams passed through *The Center in Hollywood’s* parking lot in lanes, receiving materials and instructions, and returning results on the fly.
- All teams pre-trained online before the event.
- Results input directly via Google Form; tally sheets served as back-ups.

You know the status of homelessness in Hollywood. Take the next step.

- Find resources for people at risk of becoming or currently experiencing homelessness at www.211la.org and www.FindHelp.org.
- Learn more about homelessness in LA:
 - [LAHSA presents the state of homelessness](#)
 - [Economic Roundtable. Locked-Out: Unemployment and Homelessness in the COVID Economy](#)
 - [LA Times: COVID-19 job losses will worsen L.A. homelessness by 2023, new report says](#)
 - [NAEH Racial Equities Resources](#)



Help Hollywood Move 4WRD!

Thank you for volunteering, organizing, and analyzing to make sure everyone in Hollywood counts.

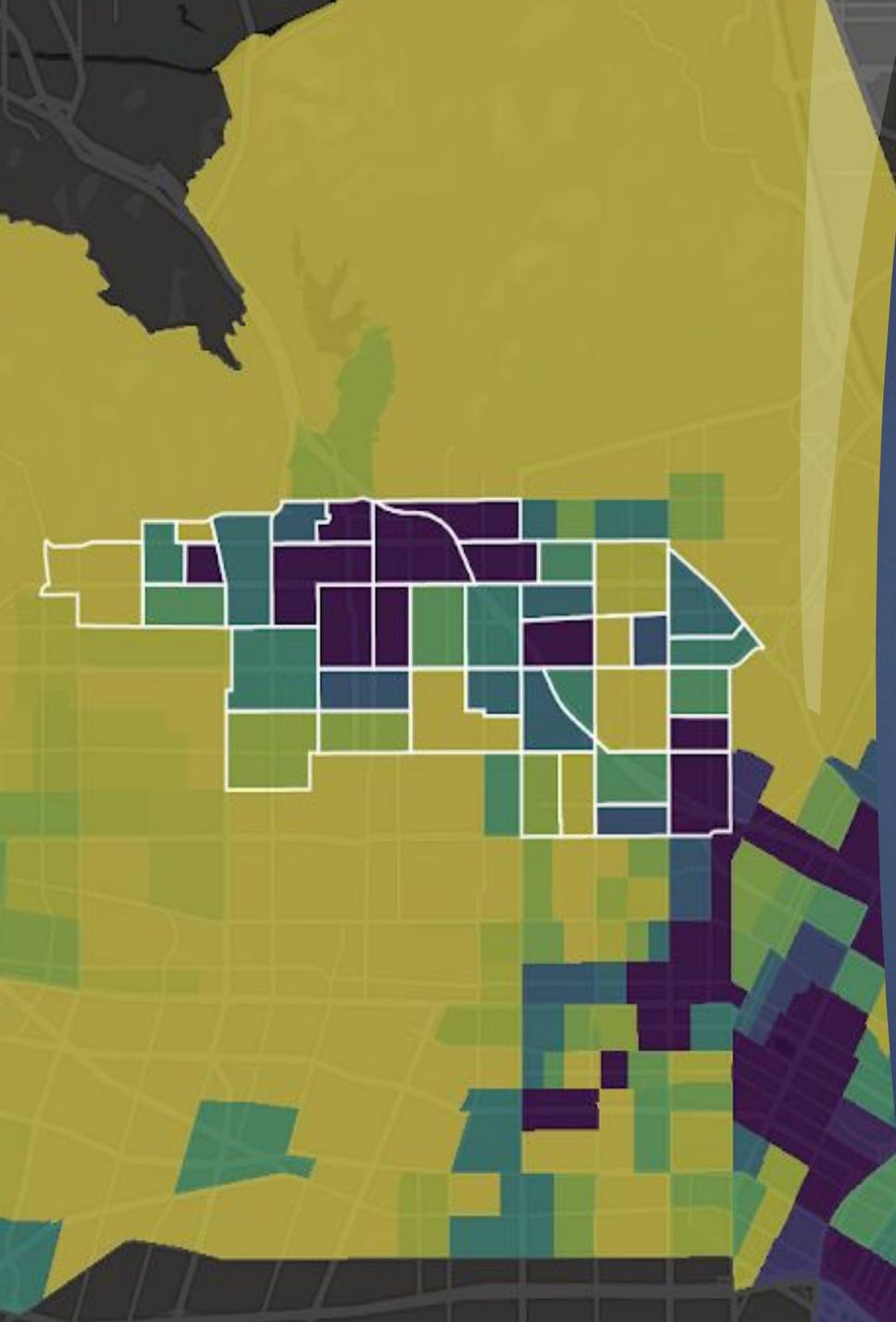
Join **Hollywood 4WRD's** members to build on their work with this year's successful count:

- [The Center in Hollywood](#)
- [Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council](#)
- [Hang Out Do Good](#)
- [My Friend's Place](#)
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Summary

- Using LAHSA's methods, we surveyed **all 40 census tracts** in Hollywood + E. Hollywood on 25 Feb 2021; most tracts were surveyed more than once.
- We counted **1,513 unsheltered people—a 12% decrease** from 2020.
- Counts of **individuals fell by 30%**; dwellings remained flat.
- **Tents doubled in 28% of tracts**, contributing to impressions that homelessness increased.
- Results were cross-validated, including by the **USC/UCLA Homeless Count Methodology Team**, which LAHSA relies on to publish its count.
- We developed protocols to count safely during COVID that can improve future counts.

Acknowledgements

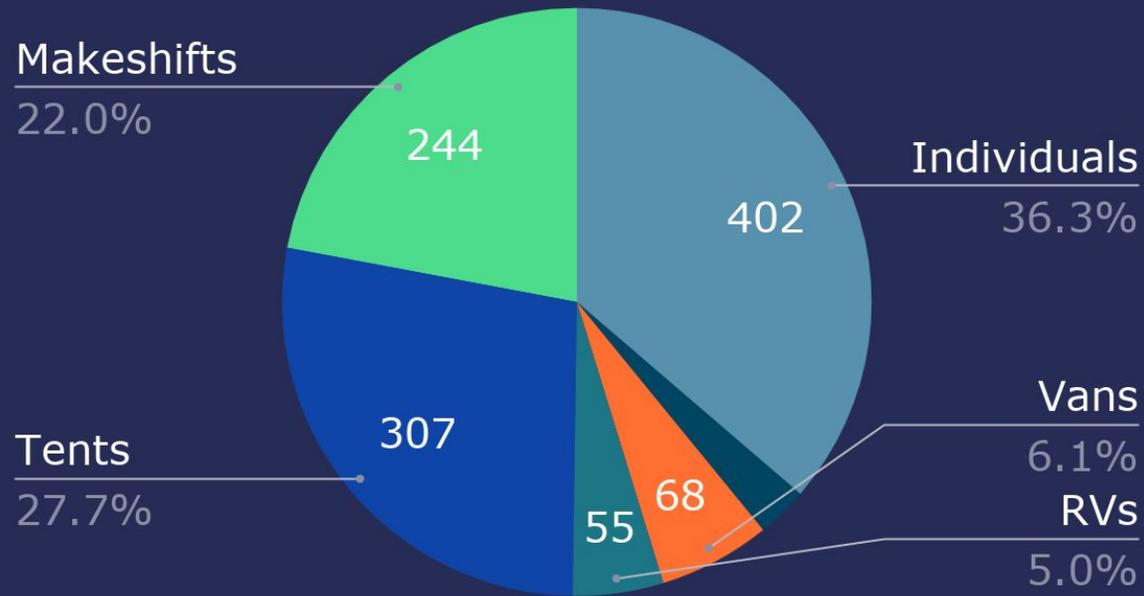
- **Hollywood 4WRD Founding Board:** *Angela Vorhees, Arnali Ray, Heather Carmichael, Kerry Morrison, Kris Larson, Louis Abramson, Mario Ceballos, Natalie Tear, Nathan Sheets, Rana Ghaban, Steve Fiechter*
- **Organizing Committee:** *Arnali Ray, David Gordon, Douglas Walker, Emily Kantrim, Heather Carmichael, Helen Eigenberg, Jackie Vorhauer, Josh Hoffman, La Toya Williams, Louis Abramson, Steve Fiechter*
- **Data collection:** *75+ amazing members of the Hollywood community*
- **Special data collection:** *Brian Kohan, Courtney Kanagi, Douglas Walker, Elyse Schwartz, Guido Merkins, Louis Abramson, Nick Semensky, Sandy Andres, Sarah Dickinson*
- **Site operations:** *Albert Andrade, Alex Sato, Arnali Ray, Brian Kohan, Emily Kantrim, Erin Casey, Heather Carmichael, Helen Eigenberg, Henry Perez, Jackie Vorhauer, Jason Brown, Khady Camara, Kinsey McCabe, La Toya Williams, Louis Abramson, Nicole Johnson-Farley, Patrick Mooney, Rome Loreda, Rhea Mac, Rudy Salinas, Thomas Mapp, Blessed Sacrament Church*
- **Communications:** *Jackie Vorhauer*
- **Data validation & visualization:** *Brian Kohan*
- **External review:** *Ben Henwood, Patricia St. Claire, Randall Kuhn, Stephanie Kwack, USC/UCLA Homeless Count Methodology Team*
- **Funding:** *Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council*



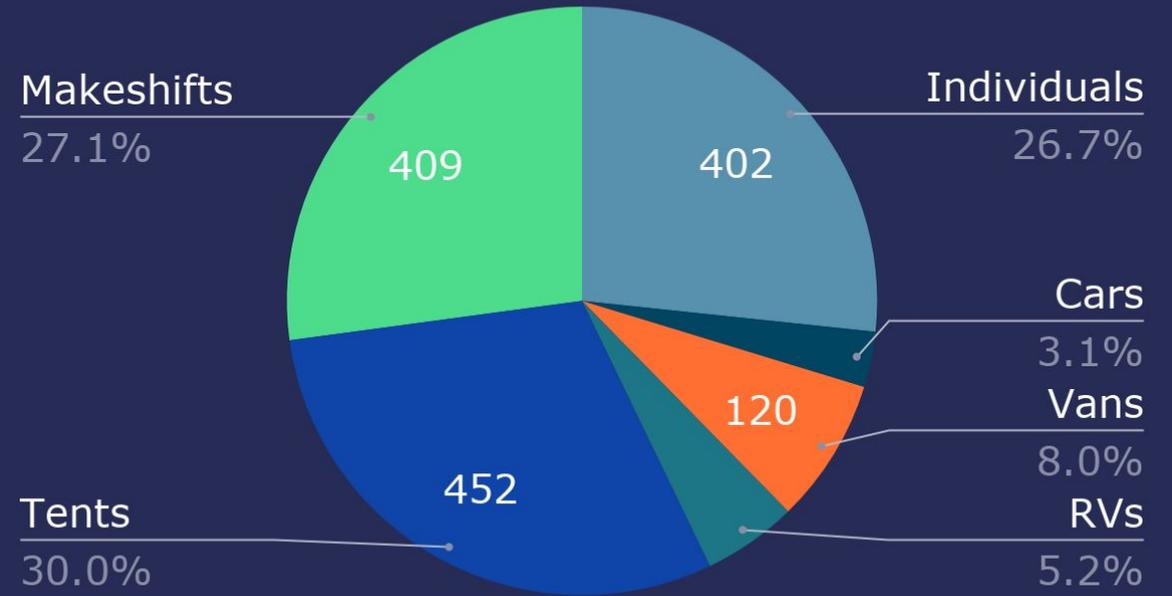
Extra Slides

2021 counts + population estimates

2021 Individual + Dwelling Counts



2021 Unsheltered Population



- Across Hollywood and East Hollywood, individuals are most commonly seen. However, more people live in tents and makeshift structures.

We used 2020 CVRTM* weights, but variations yield similar results.

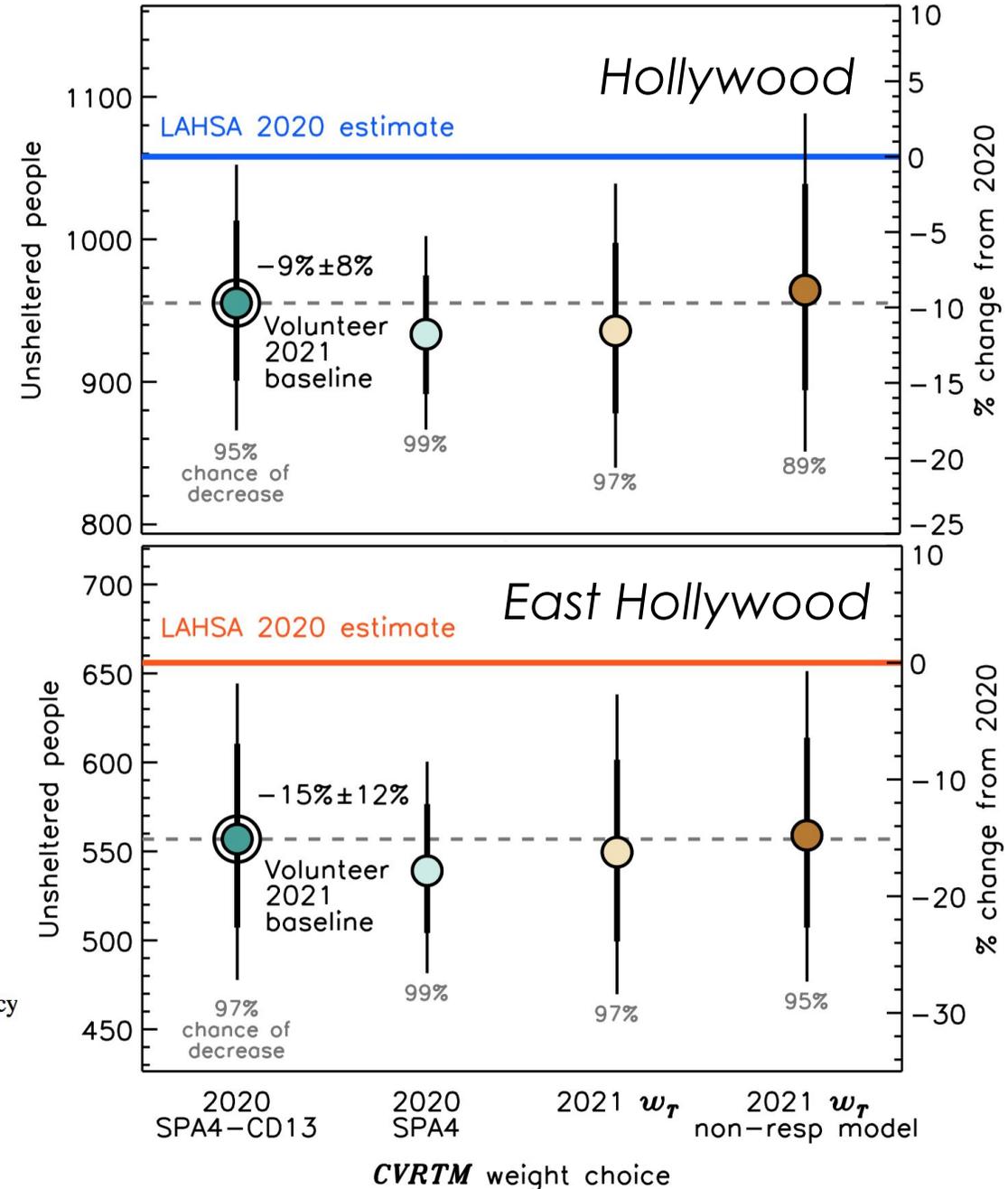
- [SELAH Hollywood](#) outreach teams surveyed 47 tents (38 responses), finding 1.5 ± 0.2 people per tent.
- SPA4-wide weights marginally **reduce** the baseline 2021 estimate.

Table 2: 2021 CVRTM Mean Occupancy Assumptions

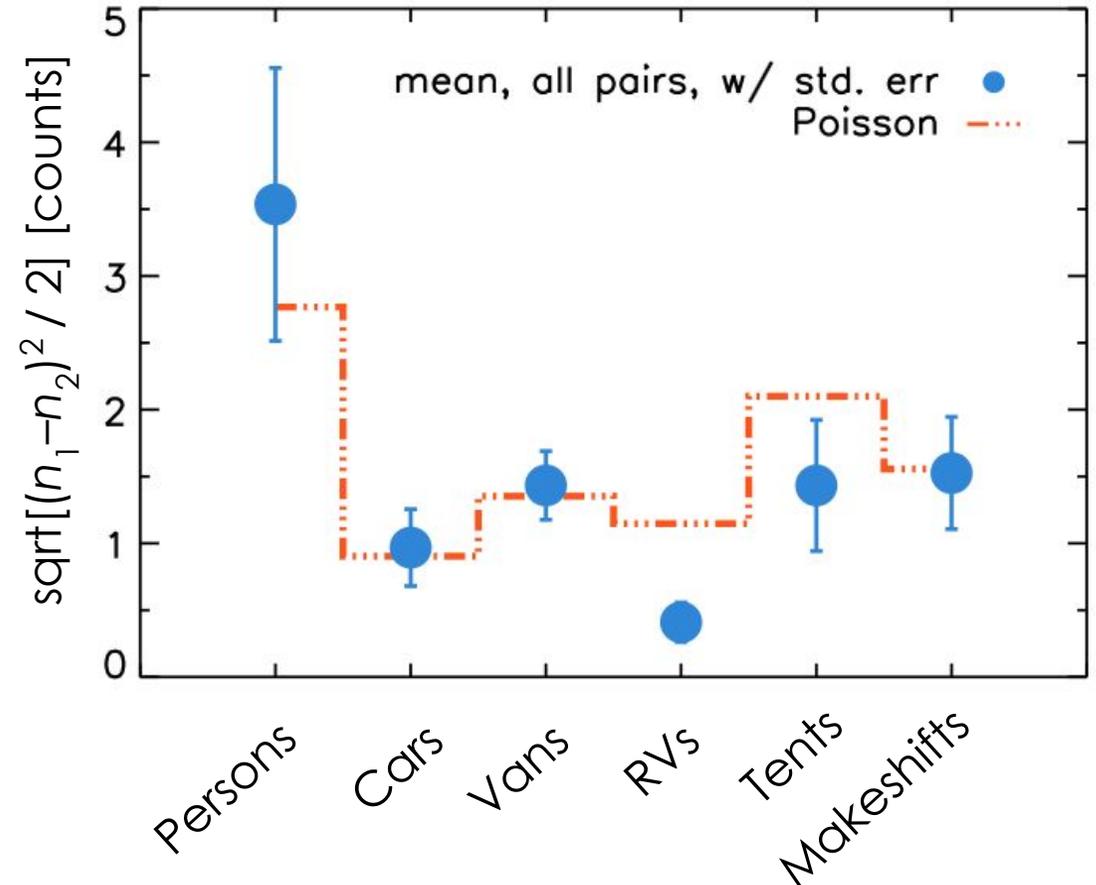
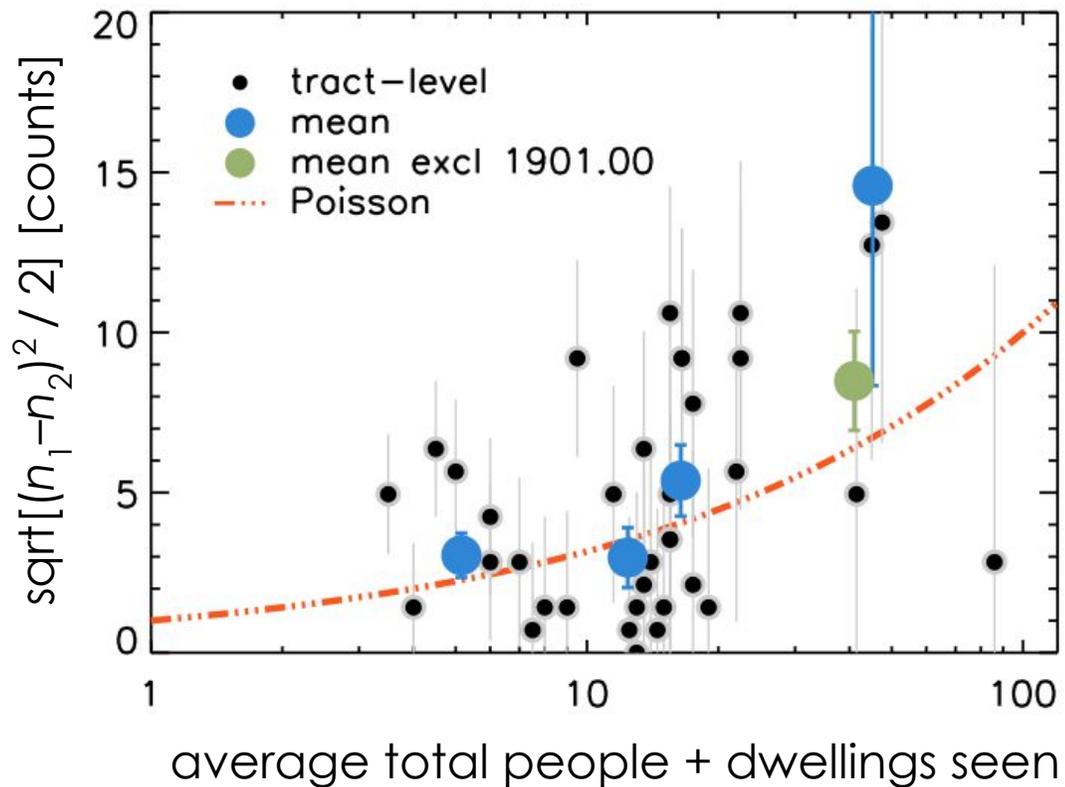
| | w_C | w_V | w_R | w_T | w_M |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2020 SPA4/CD13 | 1.51 ± 0.25 | 1.77 ± 0.42 | 1.42 ± 0.28 | 1.48 ± 0.11 | 1.68 ± 0.31 |
| 2021 w_T^a | – | – | – | 1.39 ± 0.14 | – |
| 2021 w_T non-resp model ^b | – | – | – | 1.51 ± 0.24 | – |
| 2020 SPA4 | 1.38 ± 0.11 | 1.68 ± 0.22 | 1.32 ± 0.15 | 1.45 ± 0.06 | 1.64 ± 0.16 |

The baseline scenario incorporating the is bolded. Dashes denote values identical to entries above them. ^aReflects occupancy data for 38 out of 47 tents surveyed in Hollywood. ^bAssumes 9 “non-responding” tents sheltered 0–4 occupants each.

*CVRTM (Cars, Vans, RVs, Tents, Makeshift Shelters)

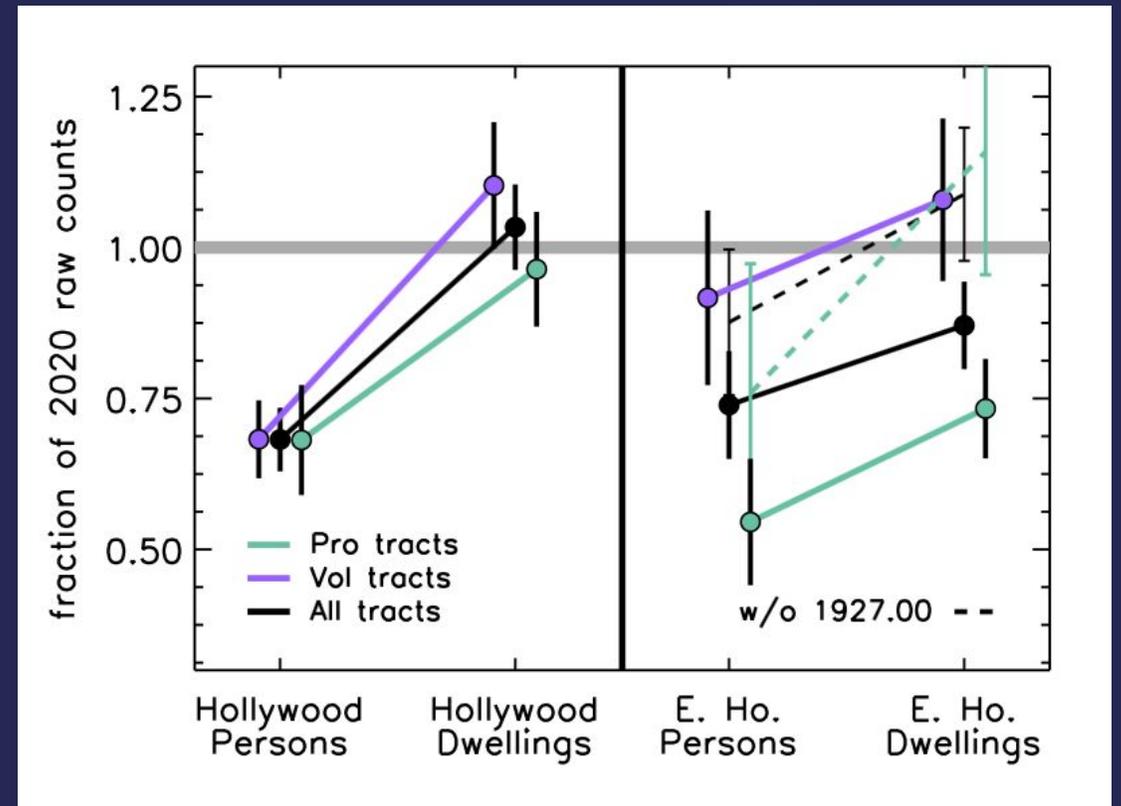


Inter-counter comparisons are consistent with random errors.



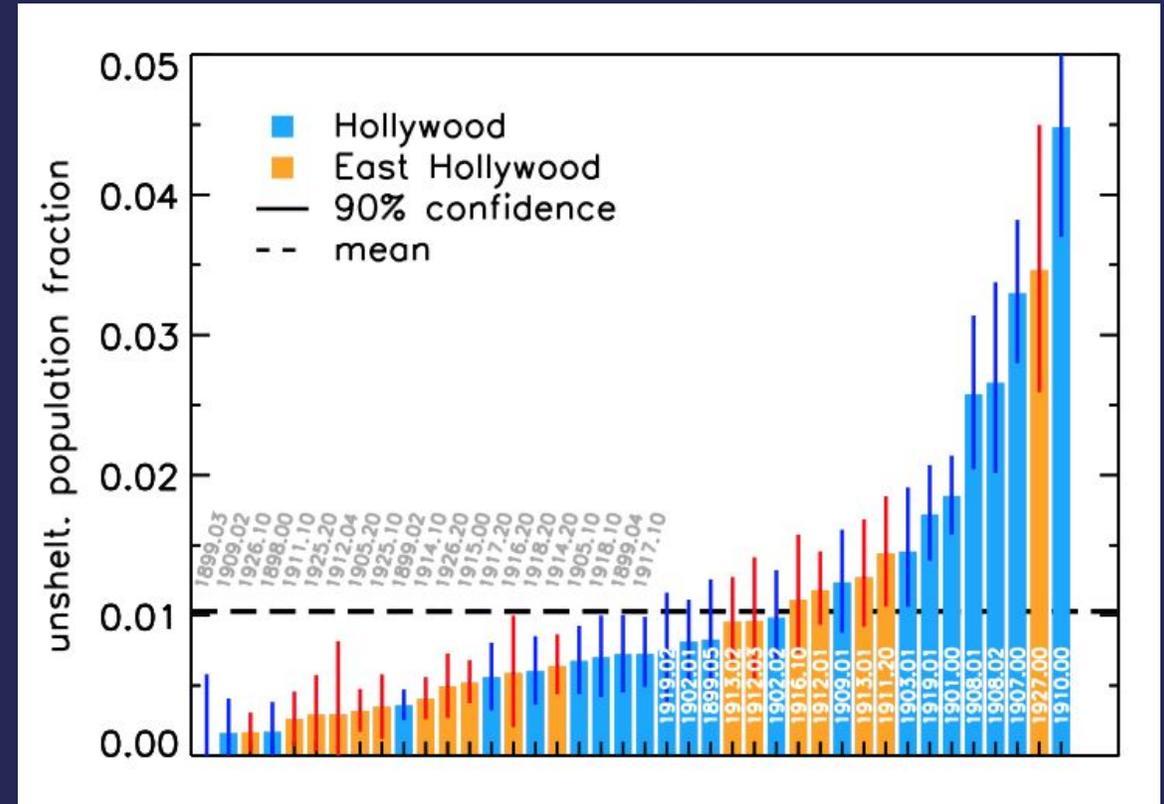
Volunteer- and pro-counted trends agree across communities.

- Hollywood and East Hollywood were ~independent datasets.
- Person/dwelling trends are similar in both, and in tracts counted by volunteers (in-car, night) and professionals (on-foot, day).



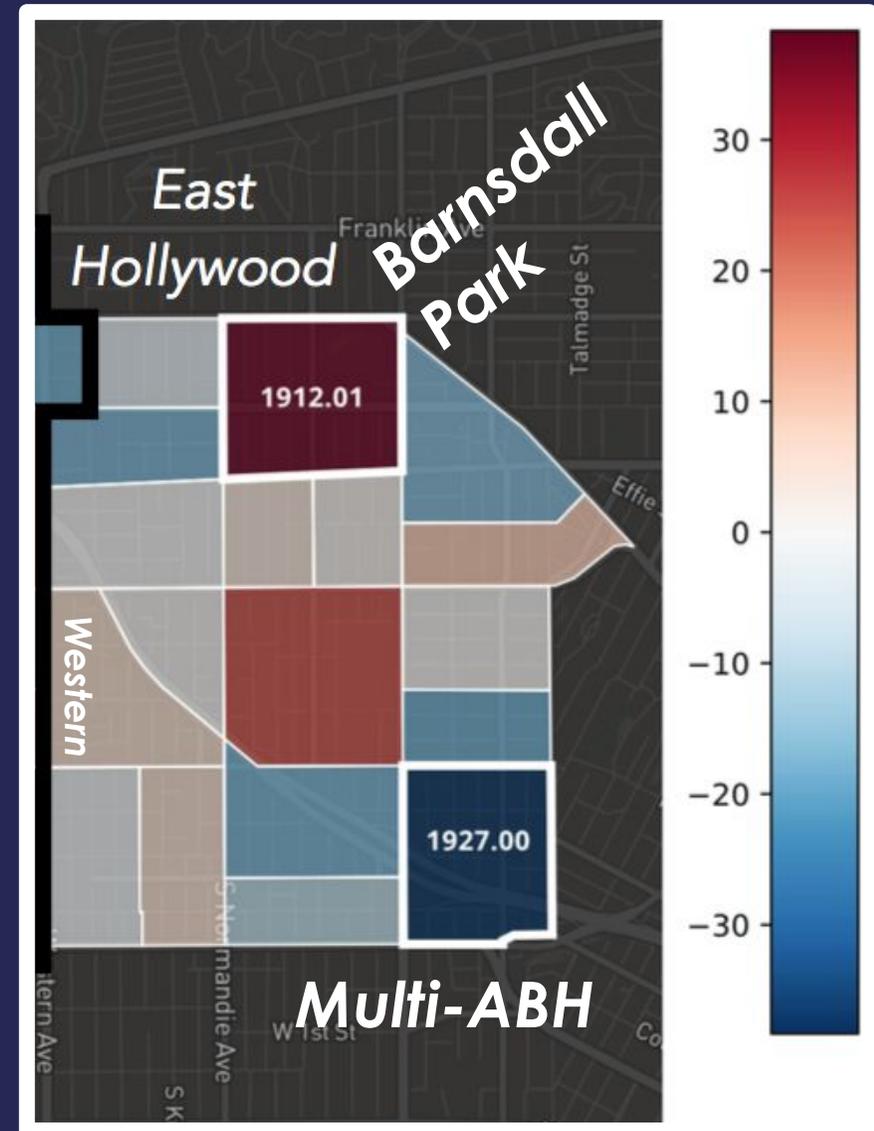
In some tracts, nearly 1-in-20 residents are unsheltered.

- 1% of people **lives on the street** in Greater Hollywood.*
 - 0.7%, citywide.
- In some places, **4.5% of residents are unsheltered.**
- Spatial inequity similar to income disparity in Rwanda, Philippines.



East Hollywood saw largest swings.

- The largest changes were both in East Hollywood.
- The tract containing Barnsdall Park grew by 40 people.
- The S.E. corner fell by over 120.
 - **Responsible for all of E. Hollywood's change.**
 - In catchment for 3 A Bridge Homes: Lafayette, YWCA/Lodi (Expansion), Riverside.



Map by Brian Kohan

Notable tracts

- 1901.00 – intercounter variance outlier
- 1907.00 – tent/person exact swap
- 1910.00 – most populous tract (170 ppl; Gower/US 101)
- 1899.03 – least populous tract (0 ppl; La Brea/Franklin)
- 1912.01 – largest gain (+40 people; SELAH++)
- 1927.00 – largest loss (-125 people)
- 1919.02 – counted 16 March
- 1925.20 – only volunteer singlet