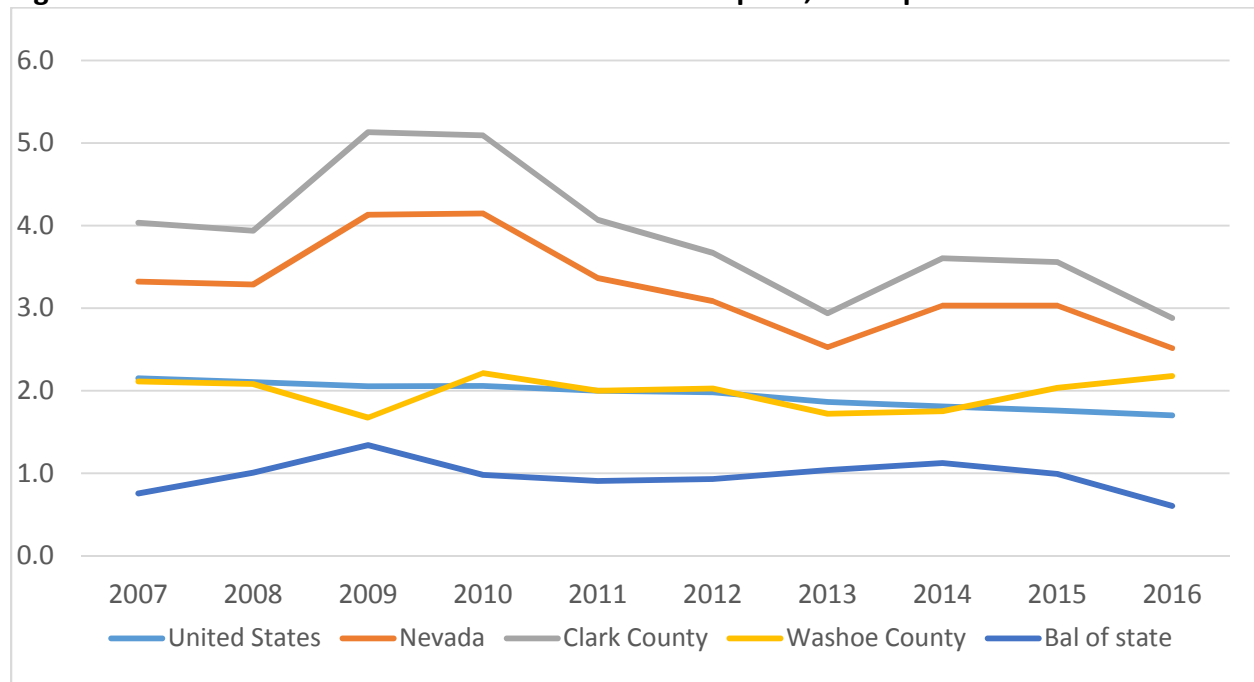


PIT Homeless Count Trend Graphs

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each Continuum of Care (CoC) in the country to carry out the Point-In-Time (PIT) count of the homeless sometime in the last week of January. The count is of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless as of a single night.ⁱ The count must be done biennially at a minimum. The HUD requirements allow each CoC to choose amongst several different methods of counting and some changes in definition and count protocol have occurred throughout the time period. By its nature, it is difficult to obtain a comprehensive count of people who do not have an established home and the numbers must be understood in that context. Nevertheless, looking back at the data over time and across regions is beneficial in understanding the bigger picture.ⁱⁱⁱⁱ

Figure 1 shows the time trend for total homeless PIT counts per 1,000 population by each of the Nevada CoCs, (Las Vegas/Clark County CoC (Clark County CoC), Reno/Sparks/Washoe County CoC (Washoe County CoC) and Nevada Balance of State CoC (Rural Nevada CoC), for Nevada as whole and for the U.S. from 2007 to 2016. Using a rate of Point-in-Time homeless count per thousand population helps to account for population increase or decrease and helps facilitate comparisons across regions. Nevada’s overall rate of homeless PIT count varied from 2.5 to 4.1 homeless per thousand population. There was an overall decrease in the rate of PIT homelessness from 2007 to 2016 of 24%. This was a faster rate of decrease than occurred in the U.S. as a whole which had a decrease of 21%. Throughout the period, rates of PIT homelessness were high in Nevada as compared to the national rate. For example, Nevada’s rate of PIT homelessness was 2.5 per 1,000 population in 2016 as compared to the national rate of 1.7 per thousand in 2016.

Figure 1. Trend in Total Homeless Point-in-Time Count per 1,000 Population

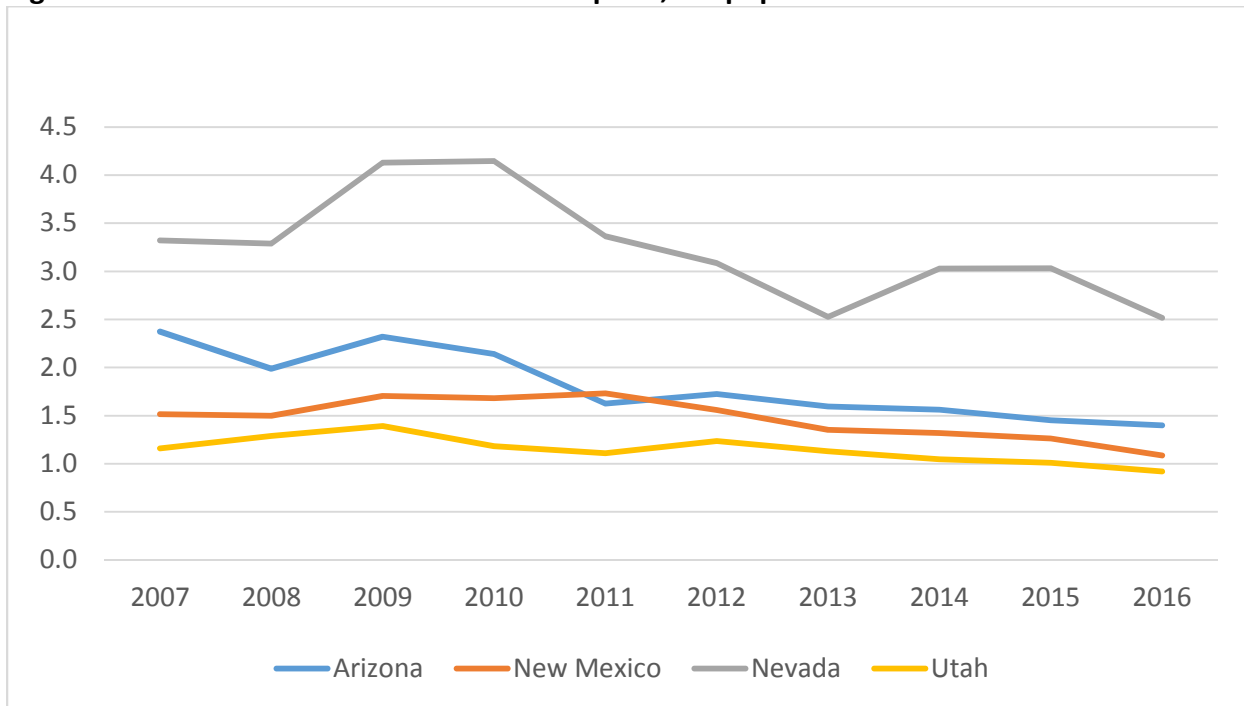


Sources: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts 2007 to 2016: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> downloaded 5-2-2017, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.All.html> accessed 5-2-2017, calculations by author.

PIT homelessness rates and trends varied across the three Nevada CoCs. Clark County had the highest rates over the period ranging from 2.9 to 5.1 as compared to 1.7 to 2.2 for Reno CoC and 0.6 to 1.3 for the Rural Nevada CoC. Clark County CoC recorded the largest drop in PIT homeless rates (24%). The rate increased by three percent in Washoe County and decreased 20% in the Balance of State. Washoe County PIT homelessness rates hovered near the national average but an uptick in rates occurred in the last two years.

Rural areas of the state face even greater challenges in obtaining an accurate count of the homeless. Resources for carrying out the count over a large land area with small population are limited. Some rural counties are unable to carry out a count every other year.^{iv} For these reasons the Rural Nevada CoC numbers are even more likely to underestimate the extent of homelessness.

Figure 2. Trend in Total Homeless PIT Count per 1,000 population for Southwestern States



Sources: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts 2007 to 2016: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> downloaded 5-2-2017, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.All.html> accessed 5-2-2017, calculations by author.

Figure 2 compares Nevada’s trend in PIT homelessness rates to nearby southwestern states. As can be observed, rates were high in Nevada as compared to other southwestern states. All regions experienced significant decreases in PIT homelessness rates over the period with Arizona decreasing 41%, New Mexico 28%, Nevada 24% and Utah 21%. Utah’s overall rate of PIT homelessness was the lowest throughout reaching 0.9 per 1000 in 2016.

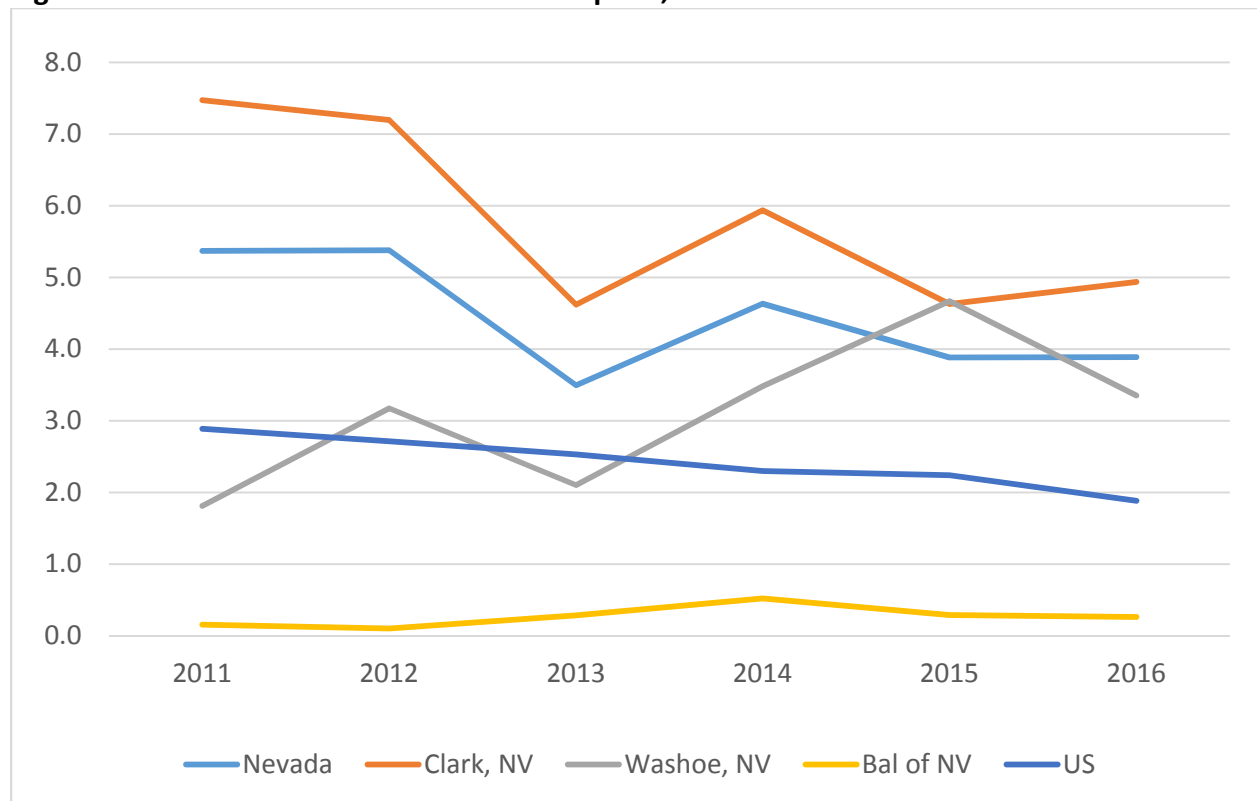
Veteran Homeless Trends

Veteran homelessness has been targeted for complete elimination by the Federal government.^v Target date for functional zero veteran homelessness was 2015. Functional zero homelessness was defined to

mean that a system is in place to house any veterans that might be homeless almost as soon as they become homeless. The system may be different in different communities. It does not necessarily imply that there would be zero homeless veterans for the PIT count. Las Vegas has become one of the communities that reduced veteran homelessness to functional zero.^{vi} In 2015 Las Vegas was able to place nearly 1,400 homeless veterans in permanent housing. Over a ninety day period the city was able to place more veterans in permanent housing (510) than were identified as newly homeless (396) during the same period.^{vii}

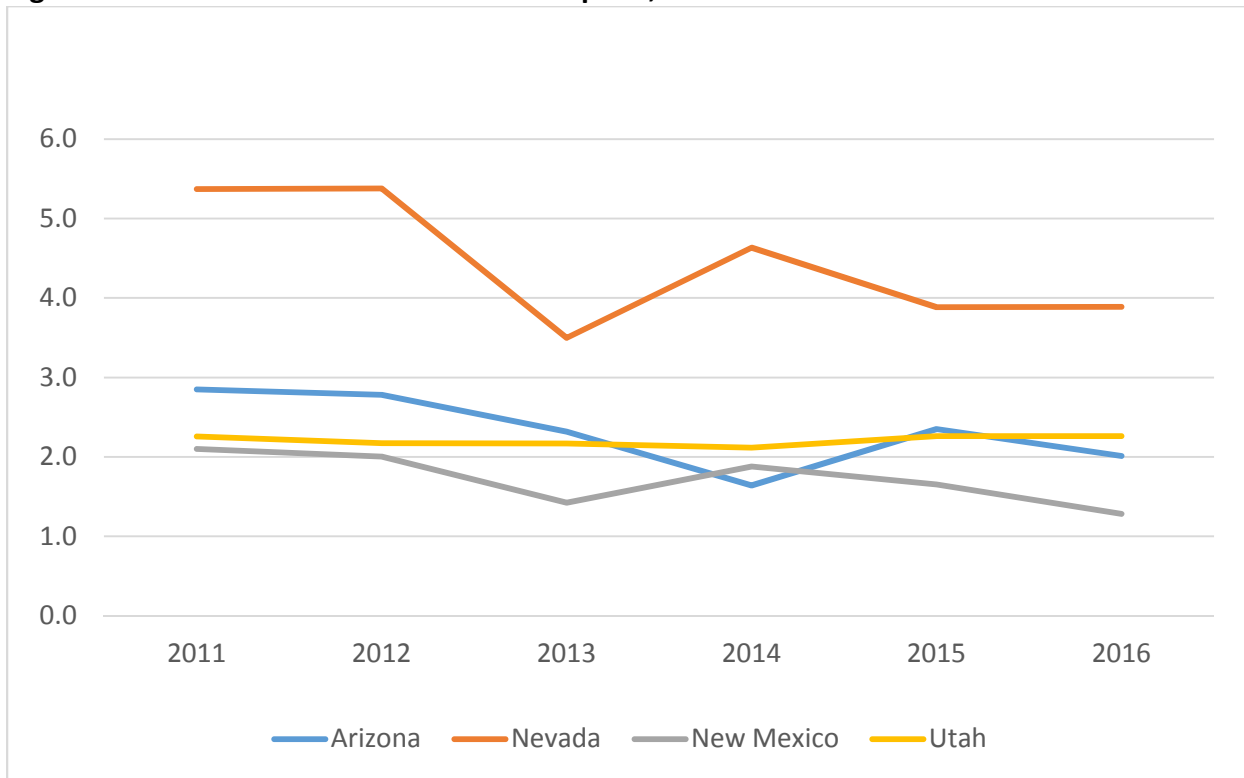
From 2011 to 2016 the rate of veteran PIT homelessness per 1000 veterans decreased 34% in Clark County as compared to 35% decrease in the U.S. as a whole. The rate of veteran PIT homelessness increased by 85% in Washoe County and by 69% in the Rural Nevada CoC. The rates throughout were higher in Clark Co and in Nevada as a whole as compared to US rates. In 2016, 1.9 veterans per thousand were found to be homeless at a given point in time at the national level, 4.9 per 1000 in Clark County and 3.4 in Washoe County.

Figure 3. Total Homeless Veteran PIT Count per 1,000 Veterans for Nevada CoCs



Sources: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts 2007 to 2016: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> downloaded 5-2-2017, U.S. Veterans Administration model VetPop2011 accessed 6-2-2014, calculations by author.

Figure 4 Total Homeless Veteran PIT Count per 1,000 Veterans for Southwestern States



Sources: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts 2007 to 2016: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> downloaded 5-2-2017, U.S. Veterans Administration model VetPop2011 accessed 6-2-2014, calculations by author

Figure 4 compares the rate and trend of veteran PIT homelessness across southwestern states for the period 2011 to 2016. The highest rates were experienced in Nevada and the lowest in New Mexico. Over the time period, rates decreased the most for New Mexico (39% decrease); Nevada and Arizona had similar decreases (28% and 29%) while Utah did not experience any appreciable change in its rate of veteran homelessness as measured by PIT counts.

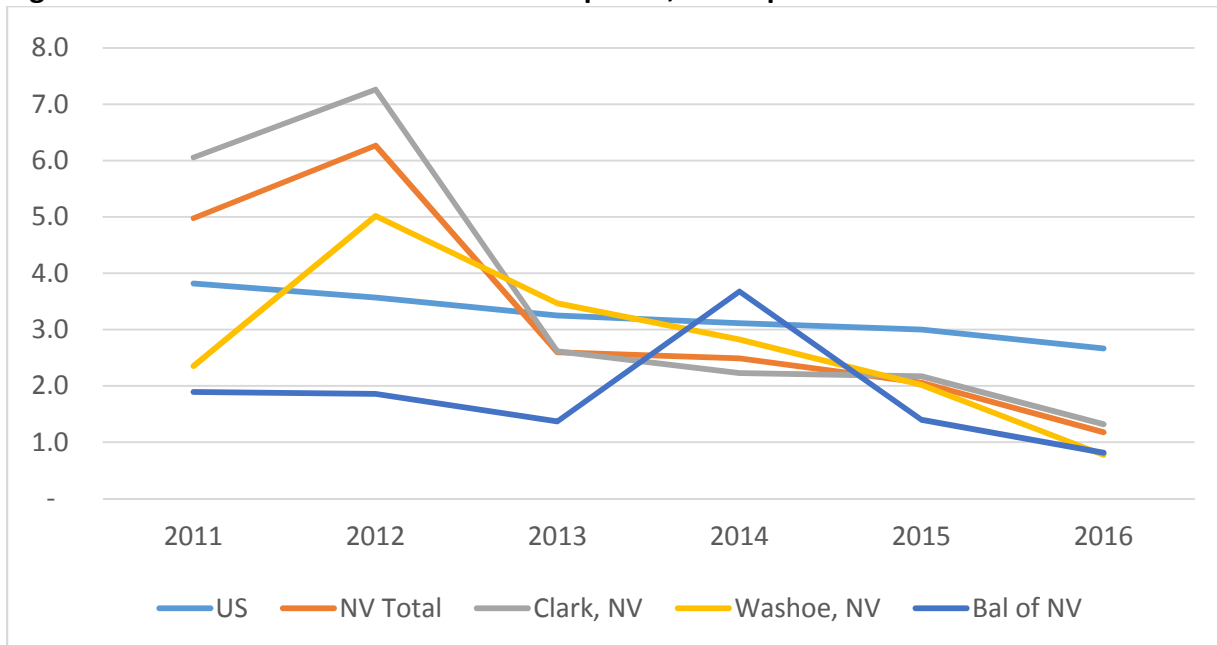
Chronic Homelessness Trends

Chronic homelessness is defined by HUD as an individual who is currently homeless, and has been continuously homeless for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least 12 months; and has a disability or as a family whose household head meets this definition.^{viii}

Recently, strong effort has been aimed at reducing chronic homelessness. Research over many decades has shown that chronic homelessness is more expensive for communities than providing permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families.^{ix}

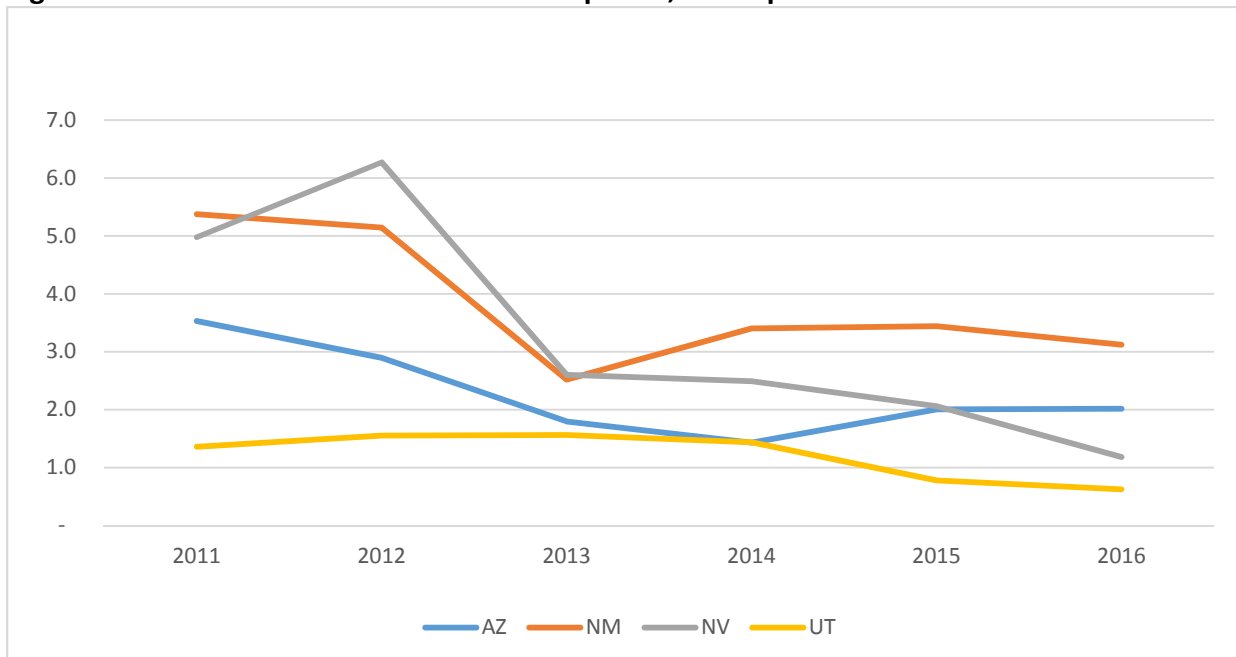
The rate of chronic homeless in the PIT count has decreased 78% from 6.1 per 10,000 population in 2011 to 1.3 per 10,000 population in 2016 in Clark Co. CoC. Washoe CoC also saw a sharp decrease of 67% from 2.4 to 0.8 per 10,000 population. The U.S. rate decreased more modestly by 30% from 3.8 per 10,000 to 2.7 per 10,000 population.

Figure 5. Total Chronic Homeless PIT Count per 10,000 Population for Nevada CoCs



Sources: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts 2007 to 2016: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> downloaded 5-2-2017, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.All.html> accessed 5-2-2017, calculations by author.

Figure 6. Total Chronic Homeless PIT Count per 10,000 Population for Southwest States



Sources: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts 2007 to 2016: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> downloaded 5-2-2017, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.All.html> accessed 5-2-2017, calculations by author.

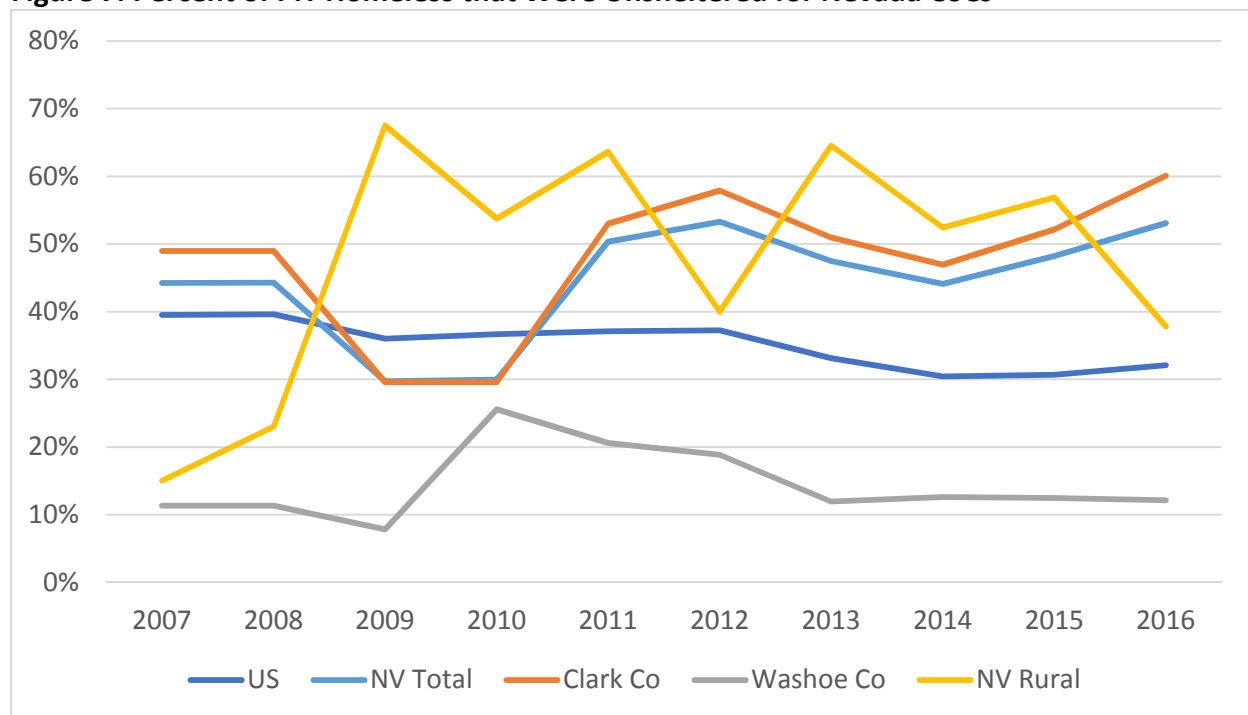
In comparing southwestern states, Nevada had the second lowest rate of chronic homelessness in 2016 with a rate of 1.2 per 10,000 population. Utah had the lowest rate at 0.6 homeless per 10,000 population. Over the period from 2011 to 2016, Nevada experienced the largest decrease in the rate at 78% while Utah's rate decreased by the second largest amount at 54%. Arizona and New Mexico's rates decreased by 43% and 42% respectively.

Percent Unsheltered

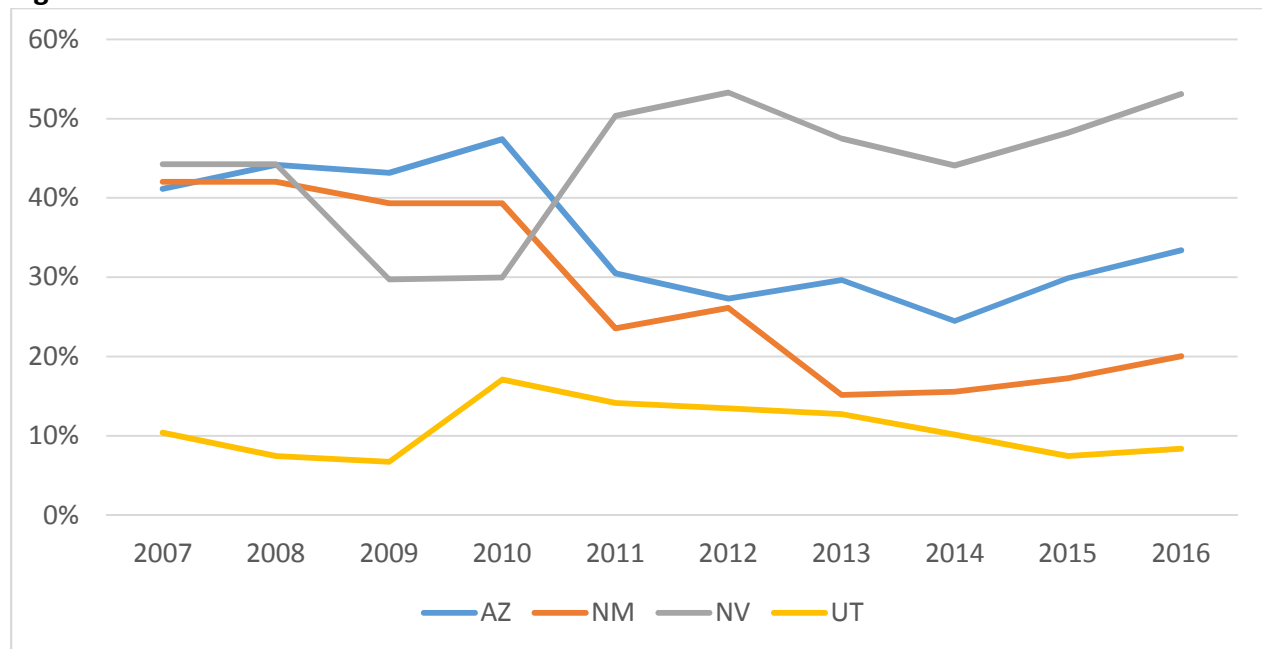
Sheltered homeless are those living in shelters for temporary living including homeless shelters, transitional housing and hotels and motels paid for by non-profit organizations or governments. Unsheltered homeless are people spending the night in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.

Nationally, the proportion of homeless found to be unsheltered on the night of the point in time count decreased from 40% to 32% from 2007 to 2016. Nevada CoCs proportion of unsheltered homeless increased over the same period. Clark County CoC proportion of unsheltered increased from 49% to 60%, Washoe County CoC from 11% to 12% and rural Nevada CoC from 15% to 38%.

Figure 7. Percent of PIT Homeless that Were Unsheltered for Nevada CoCs



Comparing the percentage of homeless who were unsheltered in various southwestern states, Utah had the lowest ranging from 7% to 17% over the 2007 to 2016 period. Nevada's proportion of unsheltered homeless started at about the same level as Arizona's and New Mexico's with 44% but increased to 53%. Arizona's proportion decreased to 33% and New Mexico's to 20%.

Figure 8. Percent of PIT Homeless that Were Unsheltered for Southwestern States

Sources: U.S. Housing and Urban Development Point in Time Counts 2007 to 2016: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> downloaded 5-2-2017, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/data-sets.All.html> accessed 5-2-2017, calculations by author.

Further detail on the components of homelessness in Nevada are available in the HUD PIT counts online at [HUD Exchange Homeless Population and Subpopulation Reports](#) and in the reports published by the CoCs, for example, see [Homeless PIT Reports](#).

ⁱ The PIT count is not the same as the estimate of total population that has experienced a bout of homelessness over the entire year. For annual estimates, the PIT count is adjusted upward by two factors, according to a standard HUD prescribed method. First, the number of homeless who became homeless in the last seven days multiplied by 51. Then the proportion of currently homeless who have experienced more than one homeless episode in the past year is used to adjust this number downward. These factors also vary.

ⁱⁱ Bitfocus, Inc. for Help Hope Home. 2016. Homeless Census and Survey 2016 Southern Nevada Comprehensive Report

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Housing and Urban Development. 2014. Point-in-Time Count Methodology Guide. <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/PIT-Count-Methodology-Guide.pdf> accessed May 8 2017.

^{iv} For example, see page 4 to 8 in A Study of Homeless in Rural Counties in Nevada: Rural Nevada Continuum of Care 2015 Point In Time Report.

^v See United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2015, Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, Washington D.C.

https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf

^{vi} <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/collaborative-leadership/mayors-challenge>

^{vii} https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Case_Study_Southern_Nevada.pdf

^{viii} Bitfocus, Inc. for Help Hope Home. 2016. Homeless Census and Survey 2016 Southern Nevada Comprehensive Report

^{ix} National Alliance to End Homelessness. Cost of Homelessness. See the citations at the end of the article.
http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/cost_of_homelessness