

Homeless Response Updates

**Public Safety Committee
October 21, 2024**

Andrea Moore, Director Parks, Rec, Community Facilities

Lindsey Balinkie, Deputy Director Community Services

Kristin Hooker, Assistant City Prosecutor

Shawn Hought, Community Court Administrator

Public Safety and Urban Camping Ordinance Update

Kristin Hooker

Andrea Moore



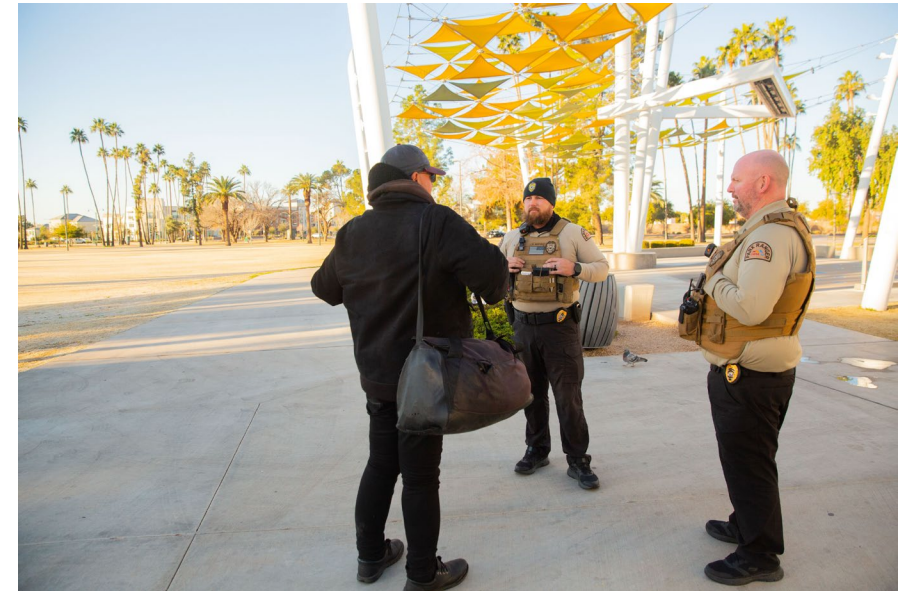
- The City of Mesa has been enforcing urban camping in accordance with *Martin V. Boise*, by first offering shelter beds, and then citing into community court, if a bed is refused.

- With the decision in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, from June 2024, cities are no longer *required* to offer shelter beds prior to citing someone with urban camping.

- However, the City of Mesa will still seek to provide services first before issuing a citation.

- The City of Mesa Code currently offers two ways the City can enforce urban camping or camping related activity:
 - Public Park Regulations – the "urban camping" prohibition is currently only located in the City Public Park Regulations and is limited to parks. Title 6, Chapter 10.
 - Prohibition Against Blocking the Public Right-of-Way – because urban camping is currently limited to parks, this can be used in certain circumstances in rights-of-way. Title 6, Chapter 1-17.

- The proposed updates to the Park Regulations, and creation of a new Urban Camping Ordinance, would expand the City's ability to enforce urban camping on other public property outside of the parks, in a manner similar to many other communities.
- This proposed update changes the class of misdemeanor for urban camping in Parks, and throughout the City, from a class 1 to a class 3 misdemeanor. Several neighboring cities, including Scottsdale, Phoenix, and Tucson, have also recently made this change to further align with *Grants Pass*.



Summary of Changes

Urban Camping Ordinance

1. Takes the concept of urban camping in the Parks Regulations and makes it applicable to other City property.
2. Revised definition of camping requires the establishment of temporary or permanent living accommodations similar to other communities.

Public Park Regulations

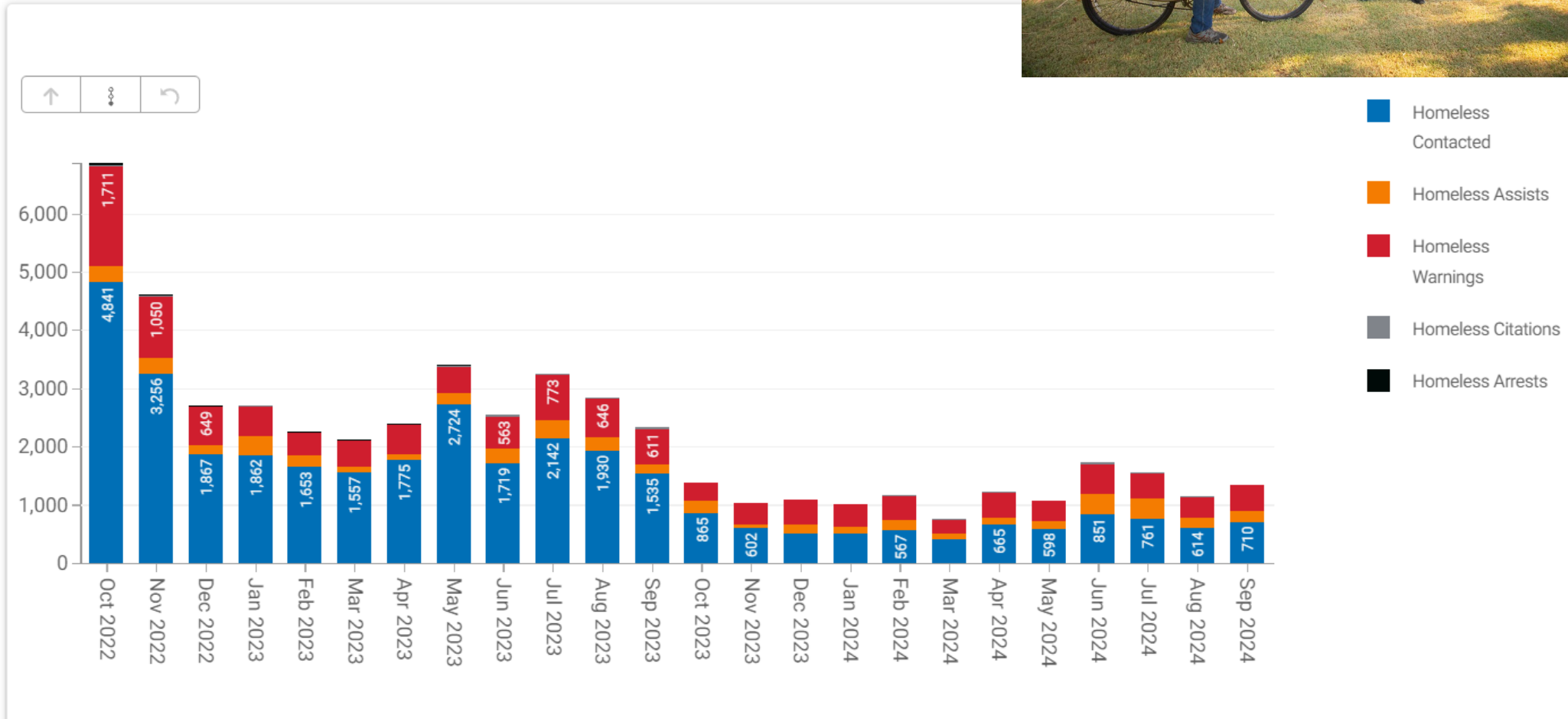
1. Modifies the Park Regulations to change some violations from Class 1 Misdemeanors to Class 3 Misdemeanors and Civil Violations. For example: Abandoning Items for Distribution, Shopping Carts, and Camping go from Class 1 to Class 3 Misdemeanors, and Littering, Unleashed non-aggressive dogs, and Ice Blocking go from Class 1 Misdemeanors to Civil Violations.
2. Also updates regulations on electric bikes, including allowing Class 1 Electric Bikes where pedestrians and human-powered devices are permitted

- Proactively seek and encourage frequent, positive contact with all park patrons
- Utilize available resources to support our homeless population, including referrals to “Off the Streets” program
- Hydration Campaign distributions
- Provide information and education promoting a positive park experience
- Keep parks and green spaces safe for all to use
- Embrace role as approachable leaders in the community throughout our city
- Progressive Enforcement to Maintain Park Safety:
 1. Start with positive explanation of park rules and other City codes
 2. Elevate to written warnings if needed
 3. Repeat and severe violations move to citations
 4. Community Court referrals used as appropriate to circumstance
 5. Mesa Police Department is relied upon for any circumstances that exceed the scope of duties for a Park Ranger



Homeless Interactions

Code, staffing, and programming changes are leading to positive change in the park system.



Community Court

Shawn Haught

- **Established in July 2018**
 - Address unhoused with pre-adjudicated offenses
 - Prevent cycle. Couple legal intervention with compassionate services
- **Navigators: Community Bridges (CBI)**
 - Assess, assist, and connect
- **Common Charges:** Trespass, drug paraphernalia, shoplifting, code/park
- **Referrals:** Police, Park Rangers, Prosecutor's Office, Defense Attorney, Judges
- **Court Directive:** goals to meet prior to next court date
 - Do something good for the community
- **4637 Participants:** meet their goals, housed, and employed (or other income)
 - Charges dismissed
 - Fines reduced



September 2024

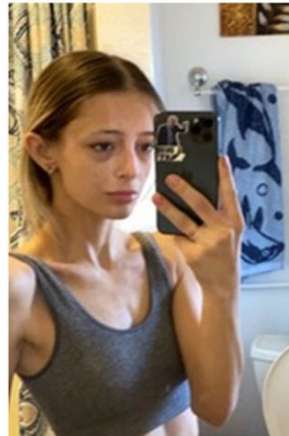
- 46 Housing services
- 77 IDs
- 33 Birth certificates
- 23 Social Security cards
- 11 Outpatient mental health services
- 24 Assistance in hospital/urgent care appointments
- 348 Peer counseling

Scottsdale, Chandler, Tucson & Phoenix

Court Successes

Natalie: 22, living in car and shed
18 months clean of meth, fentanyl, LSD
Works in per support for addiction recovery

Before



After



Court Awards



Office of Homeless Solutions

Lindsey Balinkie





- **Street Outreach Navigation**
- **Off the Streets Access**
- **Interdepartmental Collaboration**
- **Community Partner Coordination**

Questions?



mesa·az

backup slides

Emergency 911

For a crime in progress.

If you feel unsafe for any reason.

Someone is unstable, yelling/crying hysterically, using substance, or causing a disturbance.

Mesa PD Non-Emergency 480-644-2211

For non-emergency police questions.

To report an incident that has already happened.

Mesa Homeless Resource Line 480-644-HOPE (4673)

M-Th business hour response.
Non-emergency.

To refer anyone requesting services or resources.

For any other homelessness questions about getting/giving help.

Off the Streets Public Safety Hotline

24/7 Line
(Contact Deana Lopez for number)

For First Responders Only
PD/Fire/Parks

To access services/shelter for someone when enforcing urban camping, etc.

Encampment Reporting

Non-emergency pd
480-644-2211

Mesa Now App

Citylink

NEED HELP STAYING COOL?
Mesa has emergency assistance to help you beat the heat this summer

- Get help paying your electric utility bills
 - Mesa Electric (480) 644-6907
 - SRP (602) 236-8888
- Refill your water bottle for free
- Shelter from the heat at a cooling center
- And more

And don't forget to check on your neighbors this summer. Immediate heat relief information is available by calling 211. For a list of Mesa programs and resources visit mesaaz.gov/summerhelp

STAY COOL, STAY HYDRATED AND BE SAFE - TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE HEAT!




STAY COOL, STAY HYDRATED, BE SAFE



To beat the heat, please visit any of these locations:

DAY RESPITE CENTER

Services include air-conditioned space, water, rest areas, meals, navigation services, medical care, showers and more. Pets welcomed.

Resurrection Street Ministries
 1109 E. Main St.
 Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All locations open through September 30, 2024. For additional heat relief support including transportation to heat relief centers call 2-1-1 or visit hrn.azmag.gov.

COOLING CENTERS

Locations provide water and access to air-conditioned space.

MesaCAN
 635 E. Broadway
 Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Salvation Army
 Mesa Citadel Corps
 241 E. 6th St.
 Daily | 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 During excessive heat warnings
 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Allows leashed and well-behaved pets

Friends @ First Mesa
 First United Methodist Church
 15 E. 1st Ave.
 Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays
 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul
 Mesa Dining Room
 49 W. Broadway Rd.
 Daily | 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Outdoor hydration station provided at 7 a.m.

Terros Health
 1111 S. Stapley Dr.
 Monday - Thursday | 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Friday - Saturday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Day Respite Center: 1

Cooling Centers: 8

Hydration Stations: 9



Total Number of Visits

15,525

Pet Visits

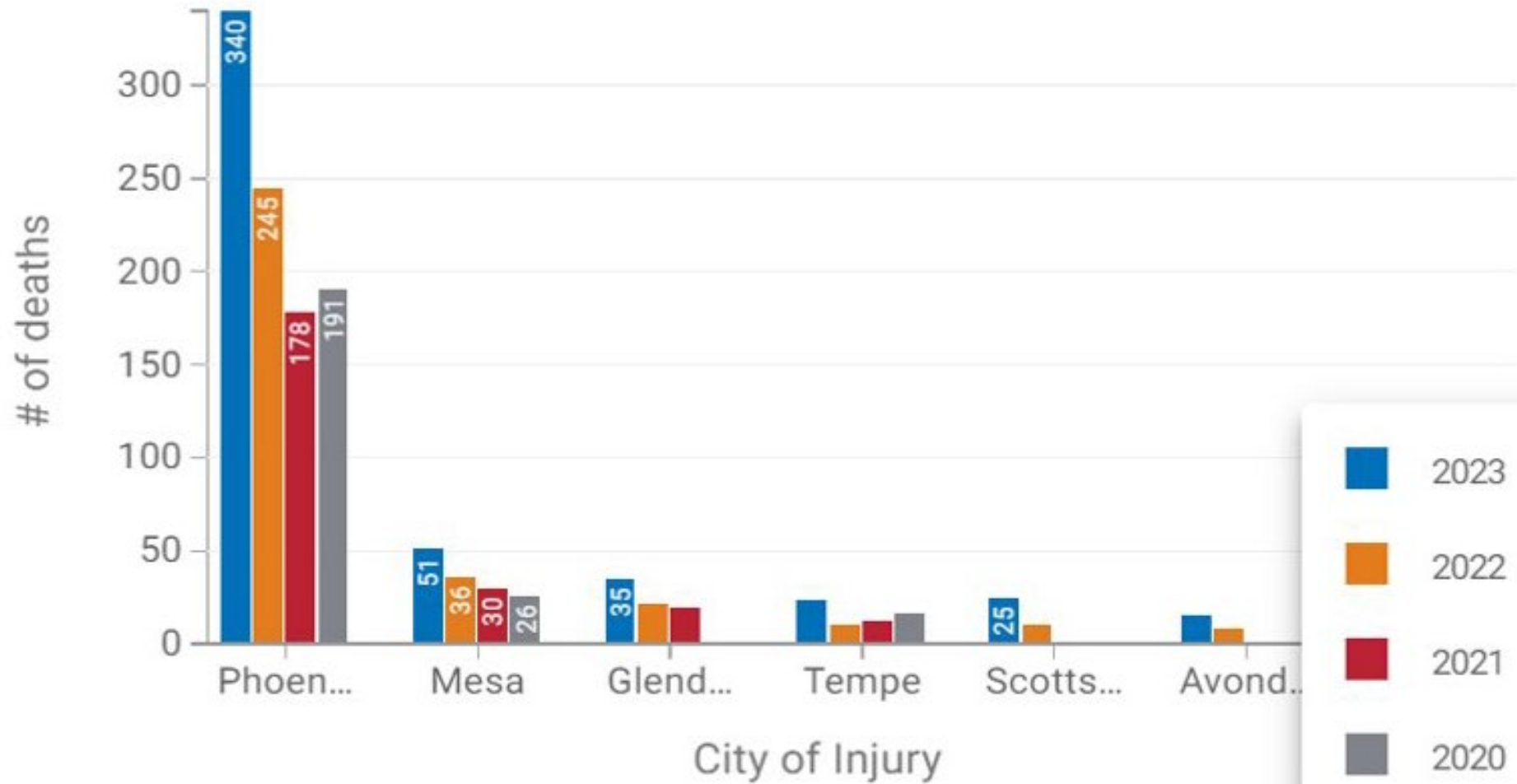
533

Water Bottles Served

77,671

Heat-related deaths by City

heat-related deaths determined by Maricopa County Health Dept



Total Confirmed

389

Heat Caused

225

Heat Contributed

164

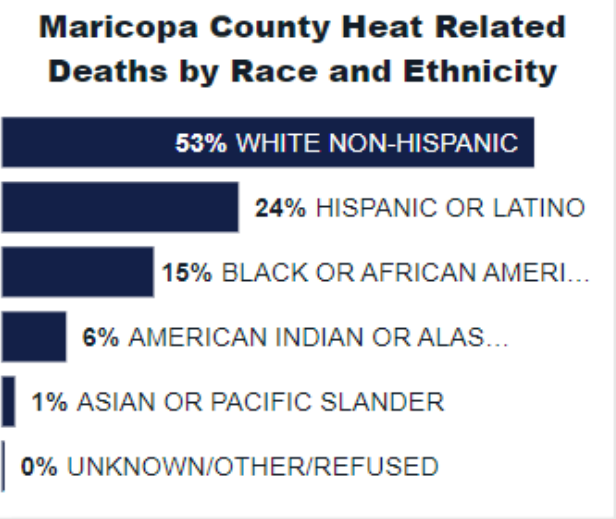
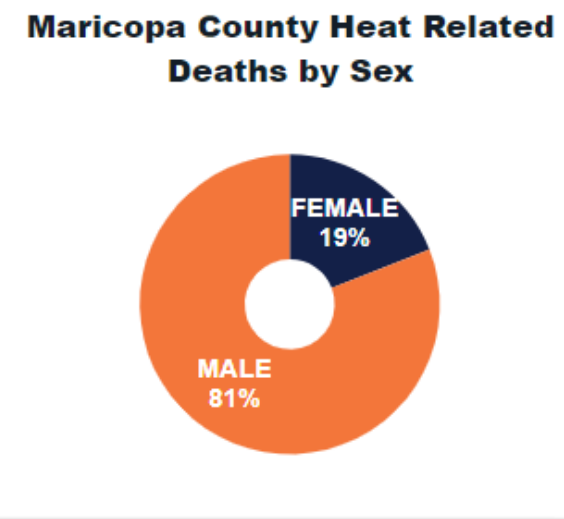
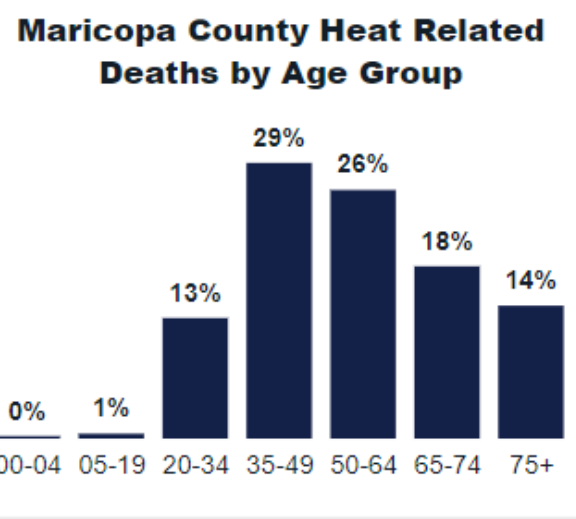
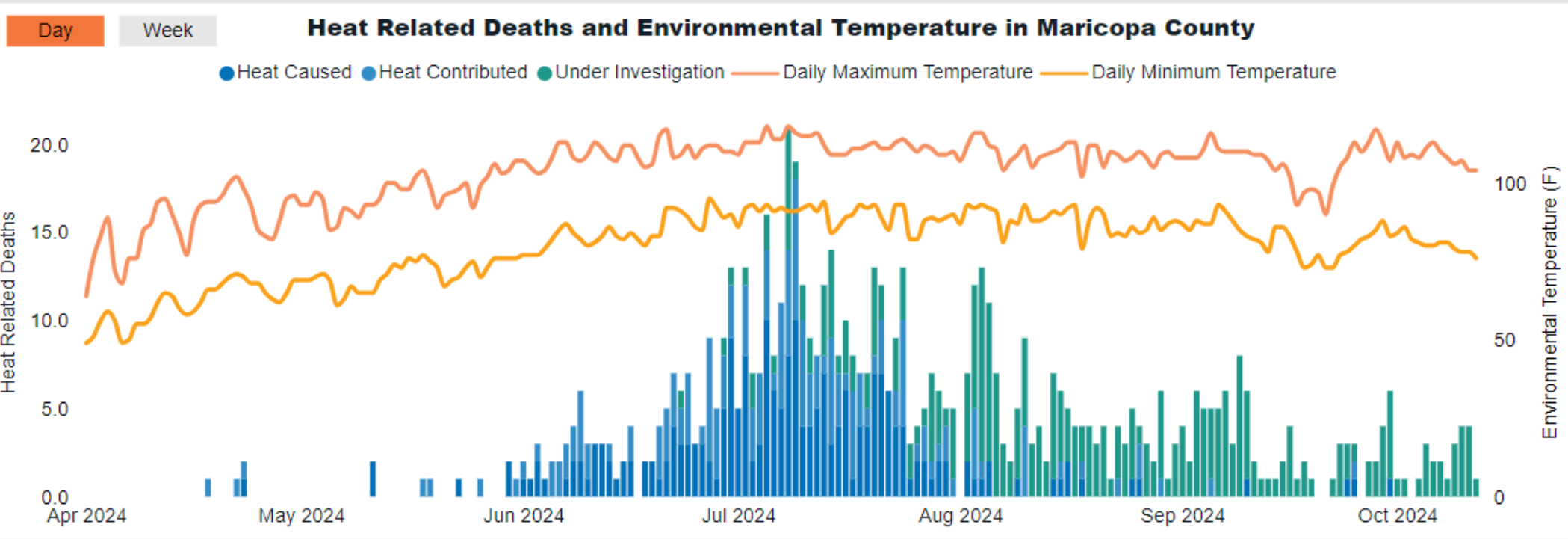
Under Investigation

292

2023 Heat Related Deaths as of Week Range: (10/06 - 10/12)

Total Confirmed: 425

Under Investigation: 257



Alcohol Use

12%

Drug Use

58%

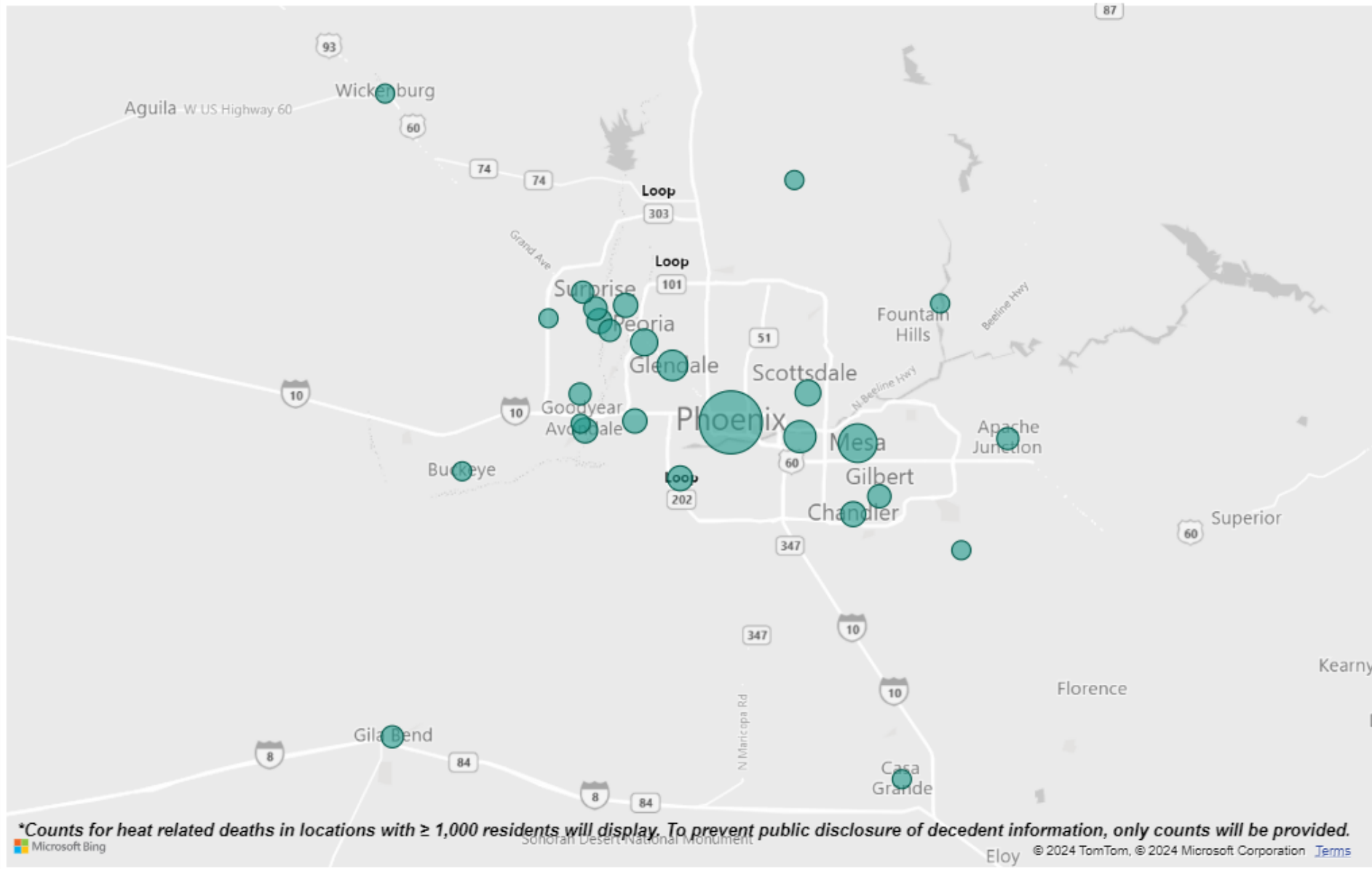
Unhoused

47%

City

Zip Code

Location of Injury for Heat Related Deaths by City in Maricopa County

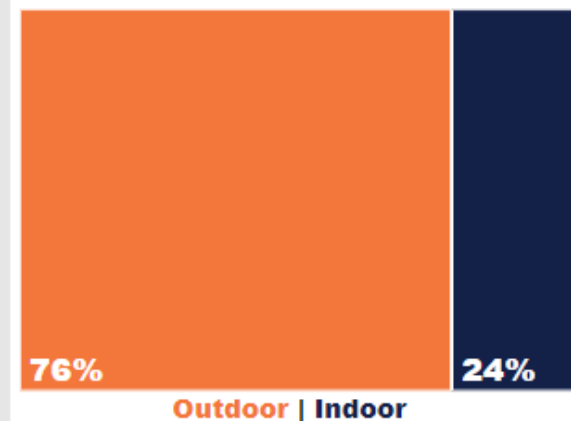


*Counts for heat related deaths in locations with $\geq 1,000$ residents will display. To prevent public disclosure of decedent information, only counts will be provided.

Microsoft Bing

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Maricopa County Heat Related Deaths by Location of Injury



Maricopa County Indoor Heat Related Death Details

AC Status	# of Indoor Deaths	% of Indoor Deaths
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AC Present	84	91.30%
Unknown	3	3.26%
Turned Off	16	17.39%
Non-	56	60.87%
No Electricity	9	9.78%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AC Not Present	8	8.70%
None	8	8.70%

- Program has existed for 4+ years in Mesa
- Temporary housing program for people experiencing homelessness
- Referrals from Mesa Police, Fire, Parks
- Allows City to provide services with urban camping enforcement
- Mesa's most vulnerable individuals are served
- Closed campus
- Case management to connect to services
- Rules and requirements
- Up to 90-day stay



Who we serve

- 2,616 clients
- 432 families
- 48% female
- 21% survivors of domestic violence
- 10% are aged 62+
- 70% successfully graduate

