

The goal of this analysis is to understand shelter intake and outcomes in the context of human vulnerability when faced with crisis.

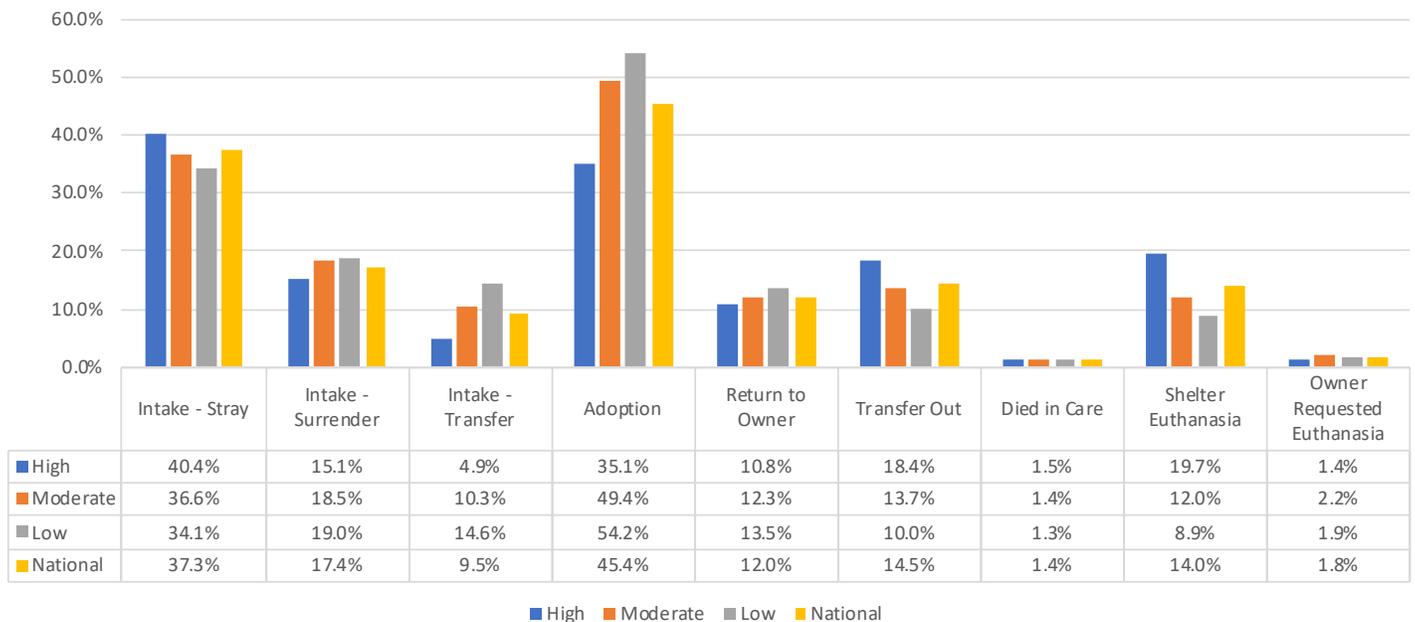
The shelter data included in this analysis is based on the Best Friends Animal Society 2019 national dataset. Vulnerability is determined using the [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index](#), a tool that indicates levels of vulnerability for human suffering and financial loss in the event of a disaster (natural or man-made) using 15 variables that fall under the themes of socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, race/ethnicity/language and housing/transportation. Vulnerability percentiles have been grouped as high (70th percentile and above), moderate (40th to 60th percentile) and low (30th percentile and below) for this analysis.

Data Insights

- Only 29.0% of the nation's total population lives in high vulnerability counties, yet 53.4% of the nation's total animals killed occurs in these counties.
- A higher percentage of the nation's net intake¹ occurs in high vulnerability counties (38.9%) than in moderate or low vulnerability counties (35.8% and 25.4%, respectively).
- Strays make up a higher rate of intake in high vulnerability counties (40.4%) than in the nation overall (37.3%).
- Animals are transferred out of shelters in high vulnerability counties at a higher rate (18.4%) than in the nation overall (14.5%), while animals are transferred into shelters in low vulnerability counties at a higher rate (14.6%) than in the nation overall (9.5%).
- In high vulnerability counties, the rate of adoptions is 35.1%, which is significantly lower than the national rate of 45.4%.
- A lower percentage of animals taken in are returned to their owners in high vulnerability counties (10.8%) than in low vulnerability counties (13.5%) and the nation overall (12.0%).
- Moderate and low vulnerability counties have higher rates of owner-requested euthanasia outcomes (2.2% and 1.9%, respectively) than high vulnerability counties (1.4%).

¹Net intake is total intake less transfers, to prevent double-counting of the same animal.

Rates of intakes and outcomes by type



Top Five Priority States

- In **California**, 88.7% of total shelter animals killed are in high vulnerability counties, which make up 57.3% of the state's population.
- In **Texas**, 66.8% of total shelter animals killed are in high vulnerability counties, while 59.6% of Texas' population is in high vulnerability counties.
- In **North Carolina**, 53.8% of total shelter animals killed are in high vulnerability counties, but only 31.0% of the population lives in those counties.
- In **Florida**, 38.4% of the total shelter animals killed are in high vulnerability counties, while only 25.1% of the population lives in those counties. (Florida has a higher percentage of animals killed in moderate vulnerability counties than the other top states.)
- In **Louisiana**, although only 58.8% of the population lives in high vulnerability counties, 80.5% of the shelter animals killed are in those counties.

