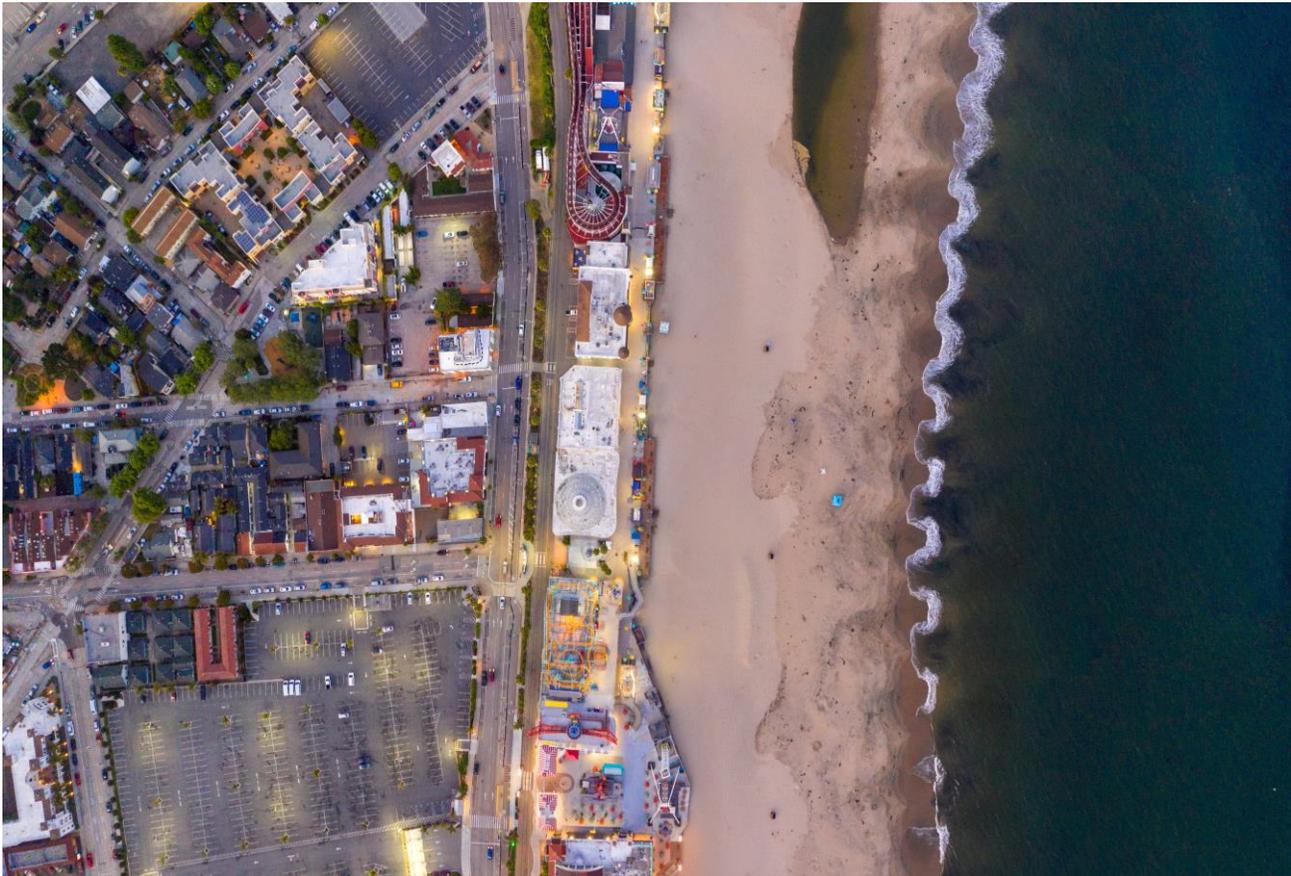


# 2022 COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## HOMELESS COUNT AND SURVEY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

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REPORT BY Applied Survey Research

## ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to the assessment of needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	3
Table of Figures .....	3
Introduction .....	6
Point-in-Time Count .....	11
Homeless Survey Findings .....	15
Conclusion.....	36
Appendix A: Methodology .....	37
Appendix B: Definitions & Abbreviations .....	43
Appendix C: Figure Sources .....	45

## TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Total Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness.....	12
Figure 2: Total Homeless Population by Shelter Status.....	12
Figure 3: Total Homeless Population by Shelter Status and Jurisdiction .....	13
Figure 4: Total Homeless Population by Gender .....	13
Figure 5: Total Homeless Census Population by Race .....	14
Figure 6: Homeless Census Population by Ethnicity.....	14
Figure 7: Gender Identity.....	15
Figure 8: Sexual Orientation and LGBTQ+ Identity .....	16
Figure 9: History of Foster Care .....	17
Figure 10: First Time Experiencing Homelessness ("Yes" Respondents).....	17
Figure 11: Age at First Experience of Homelessness .....	18
Figure 12: Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness .....	18
Figure 13: Place of Residence at Time of Housing Loss .....	19
Figure 14: Time Lived in Santa Cruz County Prior to Homelessness .....	19
Figure 15: Living Arrangements Prior to Experiencing Homelessness (Top Five Responses).....	20
Figure 16: Primary Cause of Homelessness (Top Five Responses) .....	20
Figure 17: Support Needed to Obtain Permanent Housing (Top Five Responses).....	21
Figure 18: Government Assistance Received (Top Five 2022 Responses).....	22
Figure 19: Reasons for Not Receiving Government Assistance .....	22
Figure 20: Services or Assistance Usage .....	23
Figure 21: Employment.....	23
Figure 22: Health Conditions .....	24
Figure 23: Location of Health Care .....	24
Figure 24: Currently Experiencing Domestic Violence.....	25
Figure 25: History of Domestic Violence .....	25
Figure 26: Spent a Night in Jail or Prison in the Last 12 Months .....	26
Figure 27: On Probation or Parole When Homelessness Occurred.....	26
Figure 28: Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Chronic Homelessness.....	27
Figure 29: Chronically Homeless Census Population by Shelter Status.....	28
Figure 30: Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals by Shelter Status.....	28

Figure 31: Primary Cause of Homelessness, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison .....29

Figure 32: Health Conditions, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison .....29

Figure 33: Government Assistance Received, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison.....30

Figure 34: Spent a Night in Jail in the Past Year, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison.....30

Figure 35: Total Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness.....31

Figure 36: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status .....31

Figure 37: Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status.....32

Figure 38: Primary Cause of Homelessness, Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparison .....32

Figure 39: Health Conditions .....33

Figure 40: Total Number of Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness .....33

Figure 41: Individuals in Families by Shelter Status.....34

Figure 42: Total Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age Youth .....34

Figure 43: Transition-Age Youth by Shelter Status .....35



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The considerable talents and efforts of many individuals helped ensure the success of this endeavor. The County of Santa Cruz and ASR would like to thank county and jurisdiction staff, community stakeholders, and the many service providers who facilitated the process of homeless outreach and peer enumeration by recruiting and organizing count workers and distributing surveys. Finally, the County of Santa Cruz and ASR would like to thank survey respondents, experiences and needs are reflected throughout the findings of this report.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

At least every two years, typically during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts approximate the number of people experiencing homelessness in each community and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing. This includes persons sleeping on the streets, in cars, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation (the unsheltered). In an effort to better track trends and align with federal recommendations, Santa Cruz County opted to conduct a biennial unsheltered count beginning in 2005.

The 2021 count did not take place in Santa Cruz County and most other jurisdictions due to safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 Santa Cruz County count took place on February 28, 2022 rather than the end of January due to additional COVID-19 precautions in response to the Omicron variant surge. The County of Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz County Continuum of Care (CoC), known locally as the Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP), intend to conduct the count on an annual basis going forward.

The PIT Count is currently the only source of nationwide data on both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It is required by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, the H4HP receives approximately \$5.2 million dollars annually in federal funding, a key source of funding for the county's housing and services programs for people experiencing homelessness.

The CoC reports the findings of its local PIT Count annually to HUD, though the unsheltered count component is required in odd-ending years only. The reported findings help the federal government to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. PIT Count and Survey data also help to inform local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

The County of Santa Cruz worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count and Survey. ASR is a social research firm based in Santa Cruz County with extensive experience in homeless enumeration (census counts) and needs assessment and has been the principal researcher for Santa Cruz County PIT counts and surveys since 2000.

The Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count consists of three primary components:

1. Point-in-time, visual enumeration of unsheltered persons and families experiencing homelessness, including those sleeping outdoors, on the street, or in parks, tents, or vehicles.
2. Point-in-time enumeration of persons and families experiencing homelessness in temporary shelter, including emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities.
3. A comprehensive sample survey of the characteristics of persons and families experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered locations.

The 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count was a comprehensive community effort. With the support of over 75 persons, including those experiencing homelessness, community volunteers, staff from multiple city and county departments, and law enforcement, the entire county was canvassed between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. on February 28, 2022. This resulted in a peer-informed visual count of unsheltered persons and families experiencing homelessness residing on the streets and in vehicles, makeshift shelters, encampments, and other places not meant for human habitation. Specialized outreach teams also canvassed more remote areas of the County including certain rural locations in Aptos, the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), and Pajaro River levee areas. Shelters and transitional housing facilities reported the number of unsheltered persons and families who occupied their facilities on the night of February 27, 2022.

A supplemental count of unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and transition-age youth between the ages of 18-24, was conducted on the same day in the afternoon hours. This specialized count was designed to improve the understanding of the scope of youth homelessness, as youth are frequently undercounted in the general unsheltered morning count effort. Trained youth enumerators, who currently or recently experienced homelessness, conducted the count in specific areas where youth experiencing homelessness were known to congregate.

In the weeks following the February 28th street count, an in-depth survey was administered to 333 unsheltered and sheltered individuals. The survey gathered basic demographic details as well as information on service needs and utilization.

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County on a single night in February. Unstably-housed persons living without assistance in hotel/motels, doubled-up situations, or temporarily in a jail or hospital are not included in this effort. Special attention is given to special populations, including chronically homeless persons, veterans, families, unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and transition-age youth 18-24. To better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time, results from previous years are provided where available and applicable.

The data presented in this report has four separate sources which are inter-related but distinct from one another.

1. Observation-only data of unsheltered persons and families from PIT-day canvassing of all census tracts in Santa Cruz County
2. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) sourced data for PIT-prior evening shelter occupancy and shelter resident characteristics
3. Survey data from a representative sample of persons experiencing homelessness in sheltered and unsheltered places
4. Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) data sourced and cross-referenced from all of the above sources

## [Project Overview and Goals](#)

ASR held planning meetings in the fall of 2021 to reflect the experience and expertise of the community with local stakeholders. Participants were drawn from City and County departments, community-based service organizations, and other interested stakeholders. They joined the 2022 Project Team (staff from Santa Cruz County's Human Services Department) in planning for the PIT count. These representatives were instrumental to ensuring the county's 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2022 Project Team worked toward several important project goals:

- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population since the 2019 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count and Survey, and to track progress toward ending homelessness.
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, unaccompanied children, transition-age youth, and those who are chronically homeless.
- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds.
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population.
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions.

This report is intended to assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local, state, and federal governments in gaining a better understanding of the persons currently experiencing homelessness, measuring the impact of current policies and programming, and future planning efforts.

## FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

For the purposes of this report, the HUD definition of homelessness from Category 1 of the HEARTH Act is used. This definition includes individuals and families:

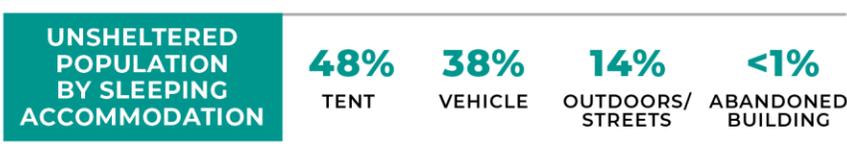
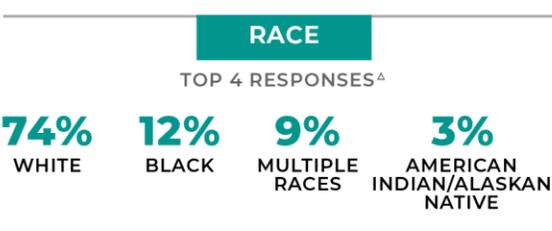
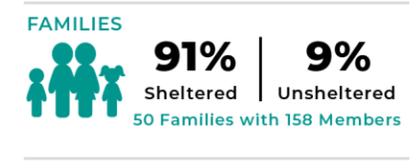
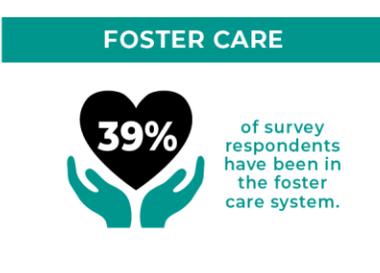
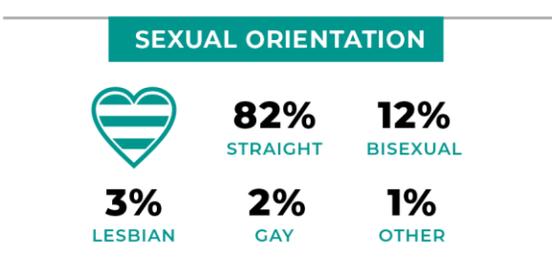
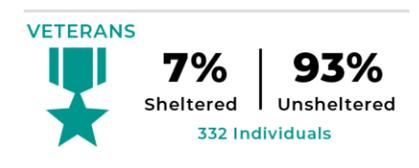
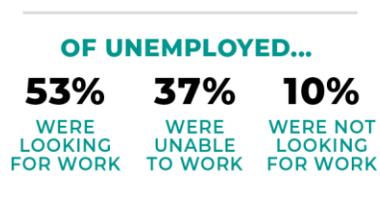
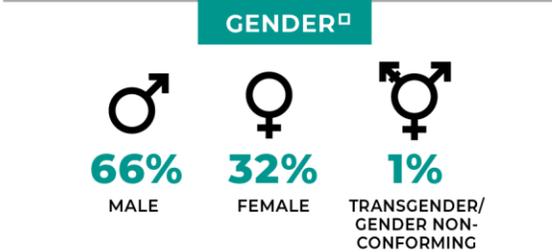
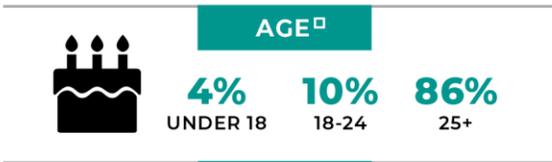
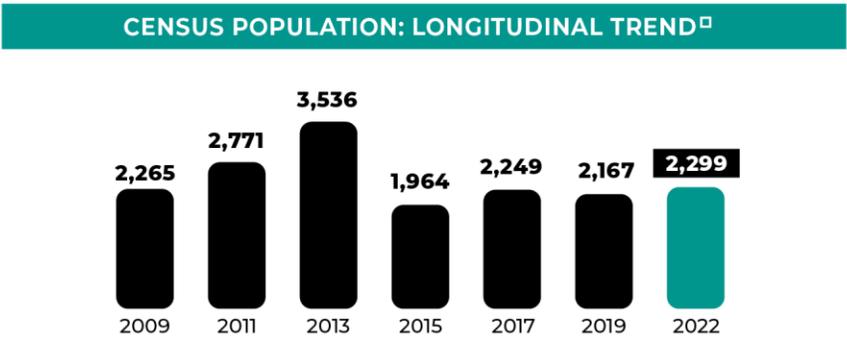
- Living in a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelters designated to provide a temporary living arrangement; or
- With a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

## 2022 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

Every two years, typically during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2022 Santa Cruz County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on February 28th, 2022. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 333 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.



### PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS+

TOP 6 RESPONSES<sup>Δ</sup>

<b>37%</b> EVICTION	<b>33%</b> LOST JOB
<b>9%</b> DIVORCE/ SEPARATION/ BREAKUP	<b>9%</b> ALCOHOL/ DRUG USE
<b>8%</b> ILLNESS/ MEDICAL PROBLEM	<b>6%</b> LANDLORD RAISED RENT

### FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



### AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



### DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



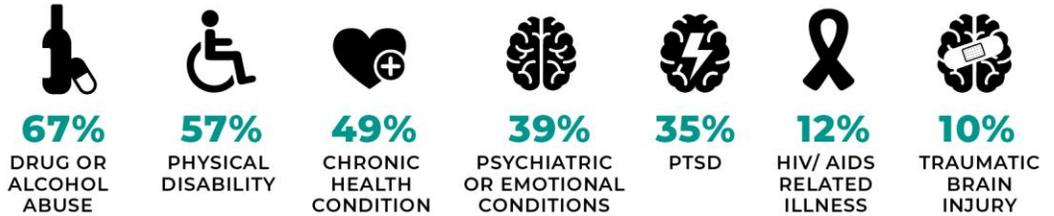
### WAYS TO PREVENT LOSING HOUSING+

TOP 4 RESPONSES<sup>Δ</sup>



### SELF REPORTED HEALTH+

Current health conditions that may affect the housing stability or employment of those experiencing homelessness.

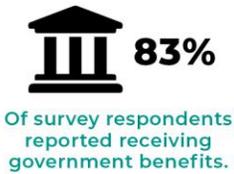


### DISABLING CONDITIONS

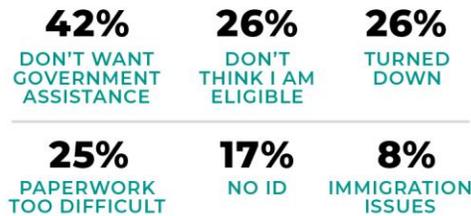


A disabling condition is defined by HUD as a developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person's ability to live independently but could be improved with stable housing.

### GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE



### REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING ANY GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE+ Top 6 Responses<sup>Δ</sup>



### SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING+ Top 6 Responses<sup>Δ</sup>



### \*SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

#### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

An individual with one or more disabling conditions or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:

- » Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- » Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.

#### VETERANS

Persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

#### FAMILIES

A household with at least one adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one child member (persons under 18).

#### UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH YOUNG ADULTS

Youth under the age of 18 and young adults from the ages of 18 to 24 years old (TAY) who are experiencing homelessness and living without a parent or legal guardian.

+ Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.  
<sup>Δ</sup> Only displaying top responses, all response data will be available in full report.  
<sup>▫</sup> Sourced from census data rather than survey data.  
 Note: Some percentages have been rounded so total percentage will equal 100%.

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2022, Santa Cruz County Homeless Census & Survey, Watsonville, CA.

# POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count and Survey includes data on unsheltered individuals as well as those in publicly or privately funded shelters. The general street count was conducted on February 28, 2022 from approximately 5:00AM to 10:00AM and covered all of Santa Cruz County. The shelter count was conducted on the previous evening (persons registered in a shelter the night of February 27) and included all individuals staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and domestic violence shelters. While most parts of the count and survey effort were methodologically similar to previous years, some changes were made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those include the adoption of a customized data collection app for smartphones, virtual and limited deployment sites, and recommendations that teams self-form for safety, compatibility, and social distancing when appropriate.



# NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

There were 2,299 persons experiencing homelessness identified by the PIT Count in Santa Cruz County in 2022. This represents a 6% increase from 2019. Slightly more than three quarters (77%) of persons experiencing homelessness were unsheltered, nearly the same percentage as in 2019.

Figure 1: Total Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

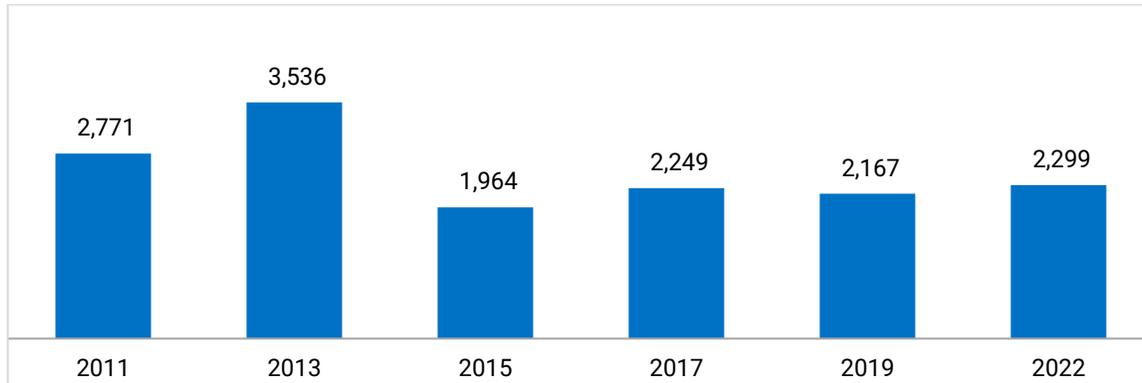
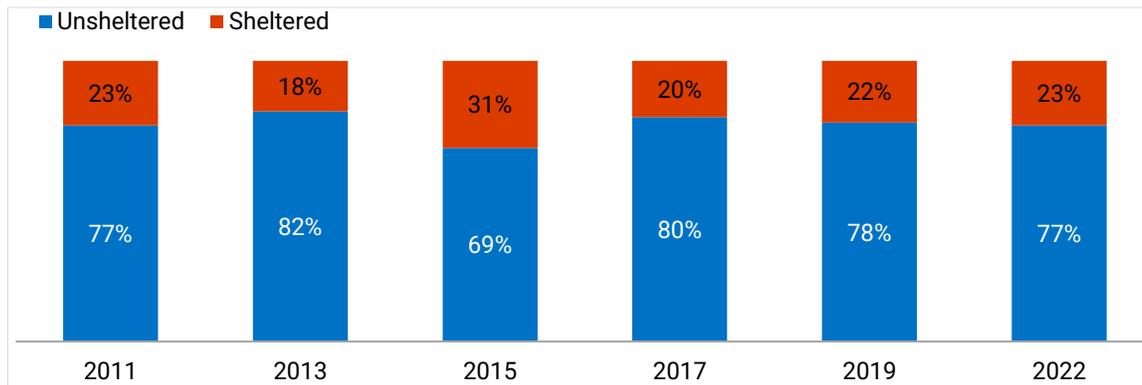


Figure 2: Total Homeless Population by Shelter Status



2011 n=2,771, 2013 n=3,536, 2015 n=1,964, 2017 n=2,249, 2019 n=2,167, 2022 n=2,299

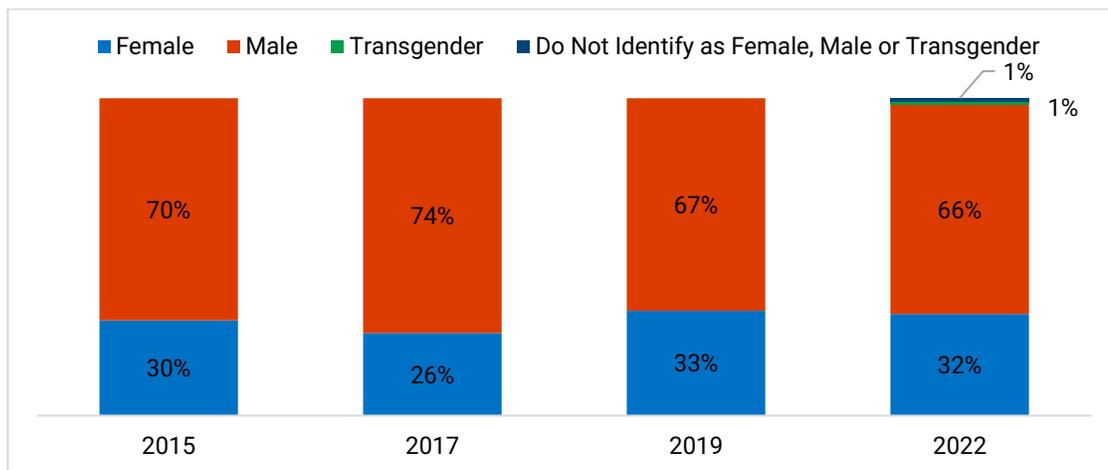
Figure 3: Total Homeless Population by Shelter Status and Jurisdiction

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED		SHELTERED		TOTAL		
	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022	19-22 NET CHANGE
<b>Total Incorporated</b>	1,132	1,363	445	525	1,577	1,888	20%
City of Capitola	6	35	0	0	6	35	*
City of Santa Cruz	865	1,058	332	381	1,197	1,439	20%
City of Scotts Valley	4	48	0	0	4	48	*
City of Watsonville	257	222	113	144	370	366	-1%
<b>Total Unincorporated/ Confidential Scattered Site</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>-23%</b>
<b>Total County Office of Education</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-80%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>6%</b>

Note: Percentage change is not calculated for jurisdictions with fewer than 20 persons.

## TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION BY GENDER

Figure 4: Total Homeless Population by Gender

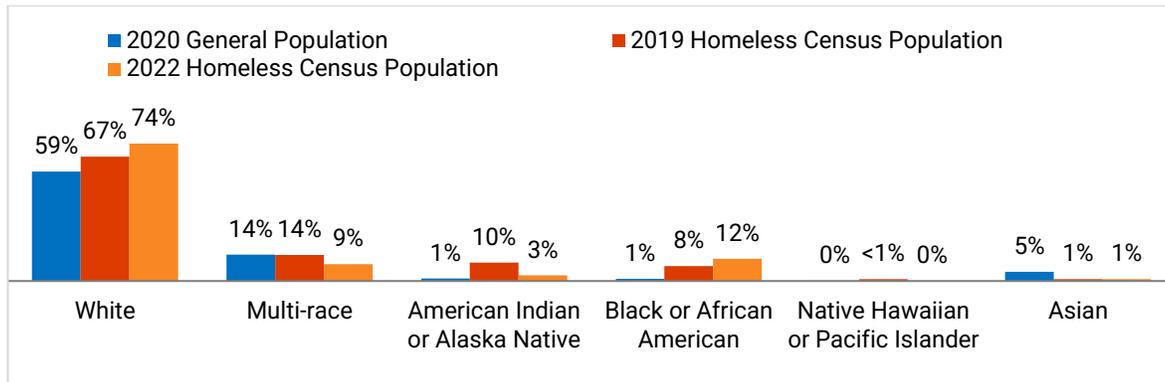


2017 n=2,249, 2019 n=2,167, 2022 n=2,299

## TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Persons identifying as white made up 74% of the PIT population, up from 67% in 2019. Persons identifying as Black or African American rose to 12% in 2022, far greater than the 1% of the general population in the county. Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latinx were 39% in 2022, a slight increase from 33% in 2020.

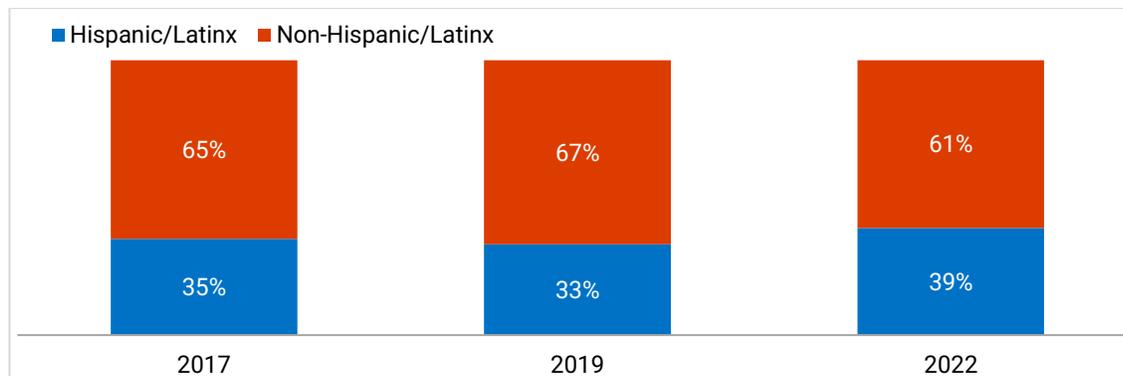
Figure 5: Total Homeless Census Population by Race



2020 General Population n=270,861, 2019 n=2,167, 2022 n=2,299

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

Figure 6: Homeless Census Population by Ethnicity



2017 n=2,249, 2019 n=2,167, 2022 n=2,299

# HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of homeless individuals between February 28 and March 28, 2022. This effort resulted in 333 unique surveys.

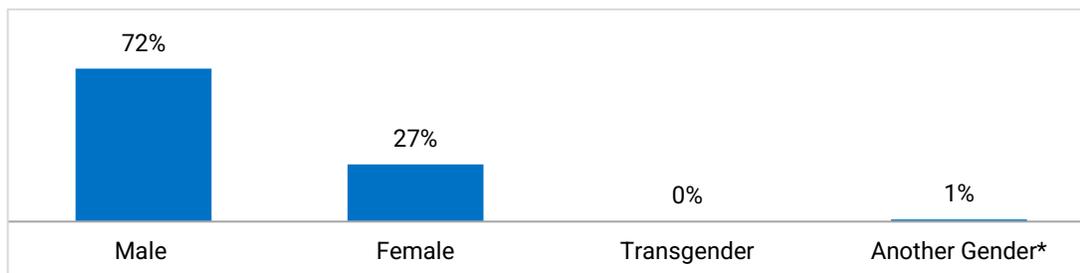
Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 2,299 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 333 valid surveys represent a margin of error of +/- 5%, with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire estimated population of persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within five percentage points of the reported results.

To respect respondent privacy and ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, survey respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values were intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted. For more information regarding the survey methodology, please see Appendix A: Methodology.

## GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Almost three quarters (72%) of survey respondents identified as male, 27% identified as female, and the remainder identified as another gender. Slightly less than one-fifth (18%) identified as something other than heterosexual when asked their sexual orientation, similar to previous years.

*Figure 7: Gender Identity*



2022 n=331

\*Includes respondents whose individual gender categories represent <1% of the total, including Genderqueer; Gender non-conforming; Non-binary; Do not identify as male, female, or transgender; and other not listed.

Figure 8: Sexual Orientation and LGBTQ+ Identity

	2017	2019	2022
	%	%	%
<b>LGBTQ+ STATUS</b>			
Yes	13%	16%	18%
No	87%	84%	82%
<b>BREAKOUT OF RESPONDENTS ANSWERING YES</b>			
Gay	21%	17%	12%
Lesbian	9%	10%	15%
Queer	2%	40%	0%
Bisexual	23%	14%	68%
Transgender	7%	0%	1%
Other/Don't Identify	43%	24%	1%

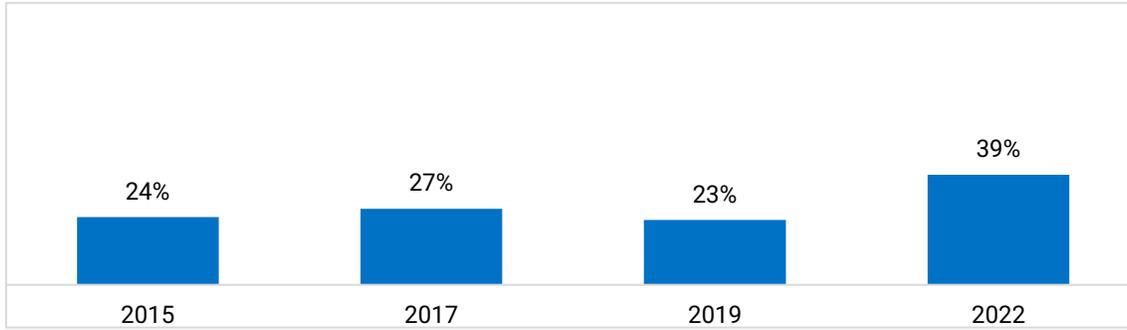
LGBTQ+ 2015 n=344; Breakout n=44 respondents offering 46 responses; LGBTQ+ 2017 n=459; Breakout n=72 respondents offering 75 responses; LGBTQ+ 2019 n=399, Breakout n=78 respondents offering 88 responses; LGBTQ+ 2022 n=25 Breakout n=59 respondents offering 59 responses  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.



## **FOSTER CARE**

In 2022, 39% of survey respondents in Santa Cruz County indicated a history of foster care, a substantial increase from 2019 and previous years.

*Figure 9: History of Foster Care*

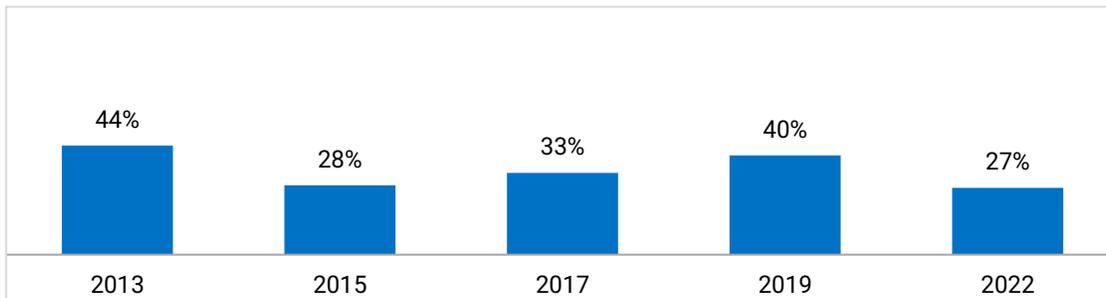


2013 n=364, 2015 n=344, 2017 n=447, 2019 n=377, 2022 n=314

## **ONSET, AGE AND DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS**

The percentage of survey respondents who were experiencing their first episode of homelessness decreased from 40% in 2019 to 27% in 2022.

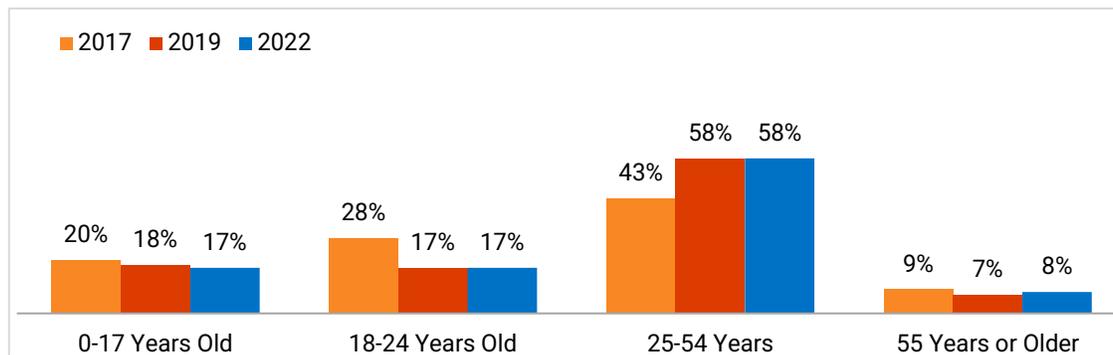
*Figure 10: First Time Experiencing Homelessness ("Yes" Respondents)*



2011 n=496, 2013 n=369, 2015 n=343, 2017 n=459, 2019 n=386, 2022 n=329

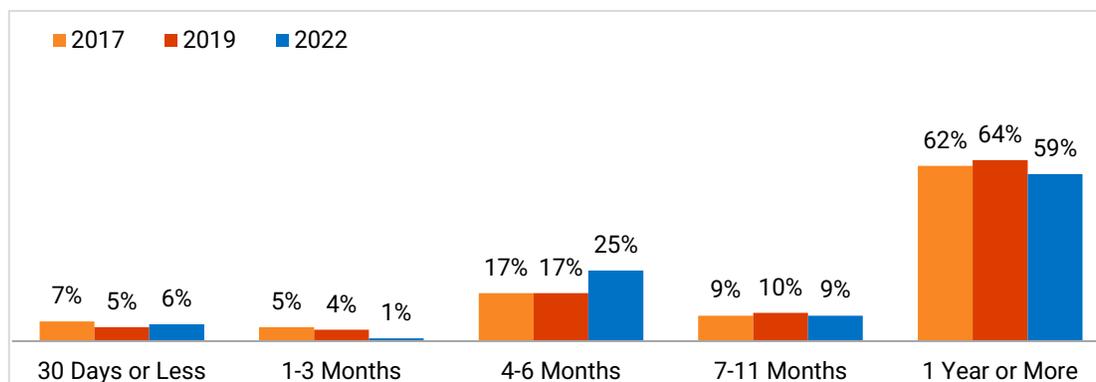
Sixty-six percent of survey respondents reported being over the age of 25 when they first experienced homelessness, similar to 2019 when it was 65%. Eight percent of respondents were over the age of 55 when they first experienced homelessness.

Figure 11: Age at First Experience of Homelessness



2017 n=459, 2019 n=393, 2022 n=332

Figure 12: Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness

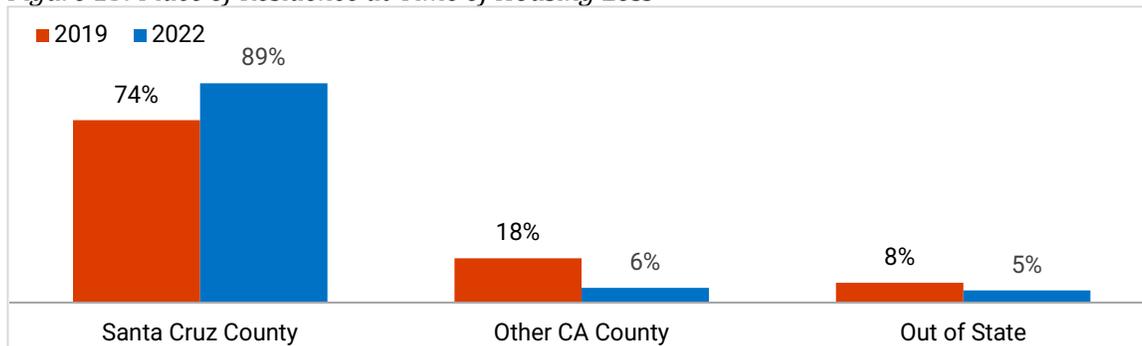


2017 n=459, 2019 n=396, 2022 n=331

## PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The percentage of survey respondents who indicated they had lived in Santa Cruz County before losing their housing rose from 74% in 2019 to 89% in 2022. Forty-three percent of respondents indicated they had been living in the North County area, 15% indicated living in the Central County area, and 31% indicated they had lived in the South County area.

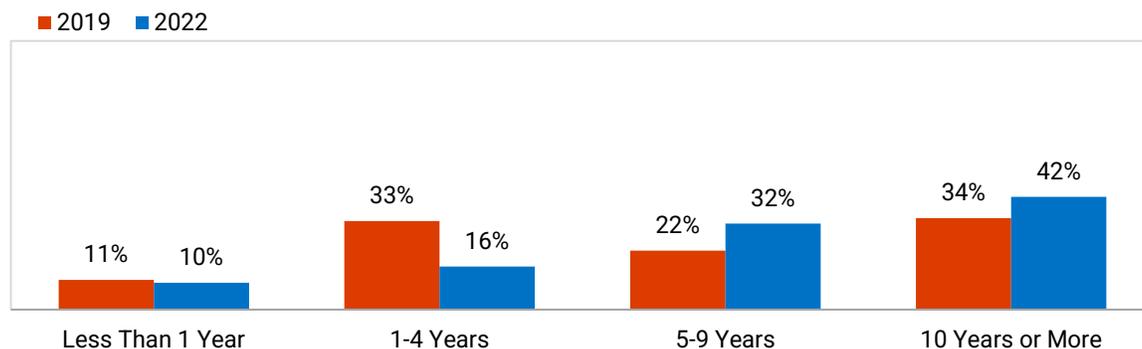
Figure 13: Place of Residence at Time of Housing Loss



2019 n=383, 2022 n=314

Forty-two percent of respondents indicated living in Santa Cruz County for at least 10 years before their current episode of homelessness, an increase from 34% in 2019.

Figure 14: Time Lived in Santa Cruz County Prior to Homelessness

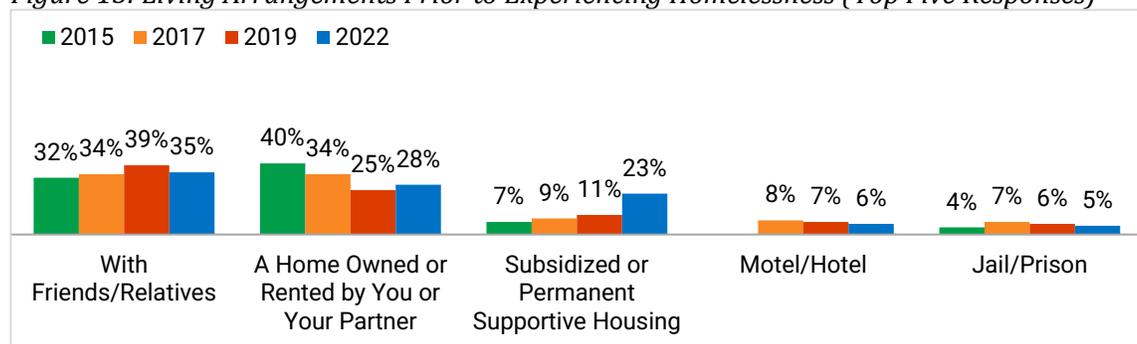


2019 n=371, 2022 n=305

## PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Similar to previous years, just over a third of survey respondents (35%) indicated they were living with friends or family prior to becoming homeless, while 28% stated they were staying in a home rented or owned by themselves or their partner. Persons staying in subsidized or permanent supportive housing prior to becoming homeless increased from 11% in 2019 to 23% in 2022.

Figure 15: Living Arrangements Prior to Experiencing Homelessness (Top Five Responses)



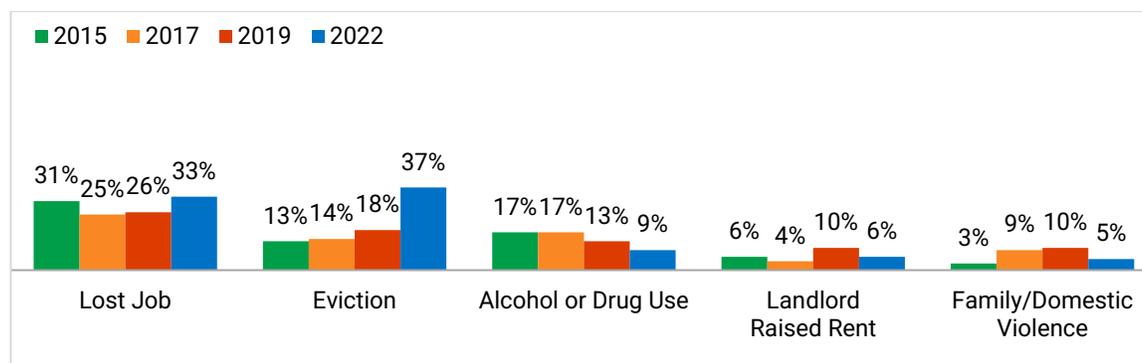
2015 n=332, 2017 n=447, 2019 n=370, 2022 n=314

Note: Response option "Motel/Hotel" was added in 2017 and do not have comparisons in past years. "Permanent Supportive Housing" option was added in 2015.

## PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

The most common response when survey respondents were asked about the primary cause of their homelessness was eviction, with 37% of respondents choosing that response, a notable increase from 18% in 2019. The second most common cause of homelessness amongst survey respondents was the loss of a job, with 33% indicating it was the primary cause of their homelessness. Five percent (5%) of homeless survey respondents said their episode of homelessness was caused by COVID-19.

Figure 16: Primary Cause of Homelessness (Top Five Responses)



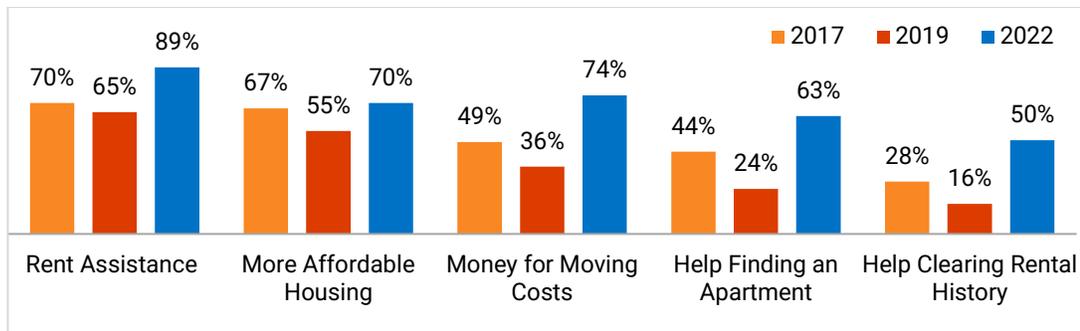
2015 n=336 respondents offering 404 responses, 2017 n=451 respondents offering 599 responses, 2019 n=385 offering 539 responses, 2022 n=322 respondents offering 426 responses.



## **SUPPORT NEEDED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING**

Rental assistance was the most common (89%) response when survey respondents were asked what kind of support they needed to obtain permanent housing. Nearly three quarters of respondents (74%) reported that they needed money for moving costs to obtain permanent housing, while 70% of respondents reported that an increase in the availability of affordable housing would support their desire for permanent housing. Respondents reported needing additional support in all categories compared to 2019 results.

*Figure 17: Support Needed to Obtain Permanent Housing (Top Five Responses)*



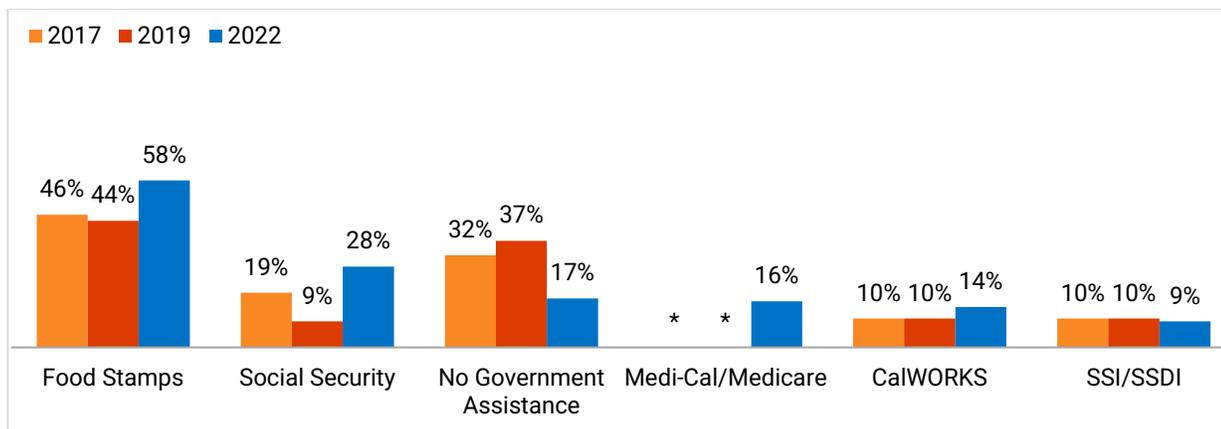
2022 n=315 respondents offering 1,718 responses

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

In 2022, 83% of survey respondents indicated that they received government benefits. The most common form of governmental assistance that survey respondents indicated receiving was food stamps (58%), an increase from 44% in 2019. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of survey respondents reported receiving social security, a significant increase from 9% in 2019. Fewer respondents reported not receiving governmental benefits, falling from 37% in 2019 to 17% in 2022.

Figure 18: Government Assistance Received (Top Five 2022 Responses)



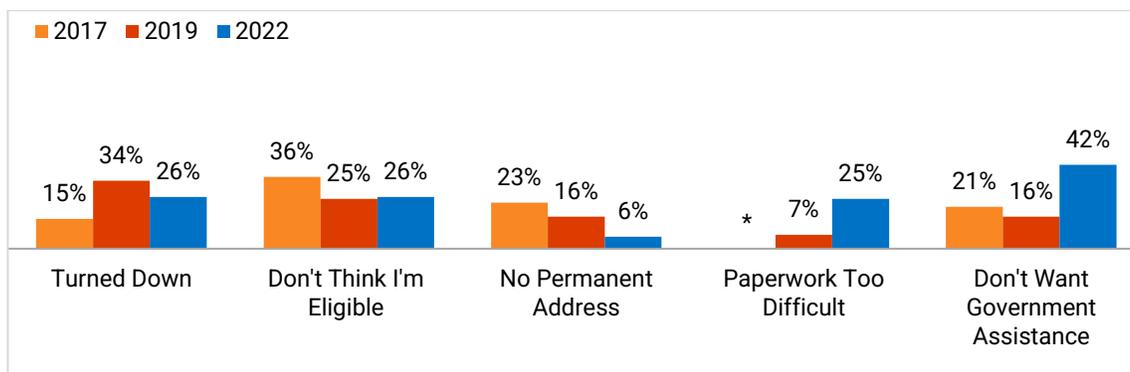
2015 n=310 respondents offering 357 responses; 2017 n=443 respondents offering 540 responses; 2019 n=372 respondents offering 418 responses; 2022 n=316 respondents offering 505 responses

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

\*Medi-Cal/Medicare was not a response option until 2022

Forty-two percent of individuals who said they weren't receiving government benefits reported not wanting any government assistance, a significant increase from 2019 (16%).

Figure 19: Reasons for Not Receiving Government Assistance



2017 n=124; 2019 n=134 respondents offering 191 responses; 2022 n=53 respondents offering 90 responses

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

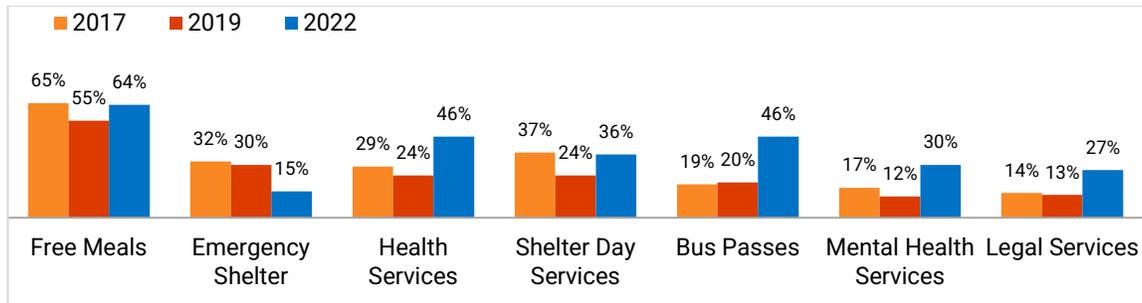
\*Paperwork too difficult added in 2019

## SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

In addition to government assistance, there are numerous community-based services and programs that serve persons experiencing homelessness. These services range from day shelters and meal programs to job training and health care.

Usage of free meals was the most common form of assistance received by survey respondents, increasing from 55% in 2019 to 64% in 2022. Nearly half (46%) of survey respondents reported using health services and bus passes, followed by shelter day services (36%) and mental health services (30%).

Figure 20: Services or Assistance Usage



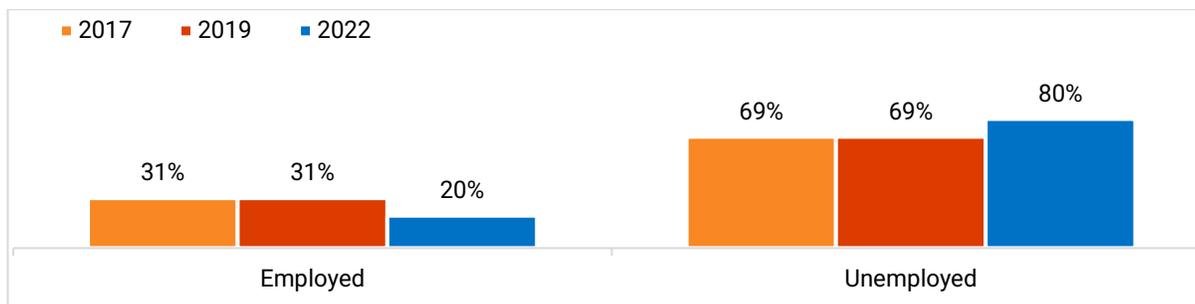
2013 n=352 respondents offering 1,035 responses; 2015 n=298 respondents offering 604 responses; 2017 n=447 respondents offering 1219 responses; 2019 n=364 respondents offering 801 responses; 2022 n=314 respondents offering 1,014 responses

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

## EMPLOYMENT

While the majority of survey respondents reported being unemployed (80%), one-fifth (20%) reported part-time or full-time work. The percentage of survey respondents who were employed, whether full, part, or seasonal employment, fell from 31% in 2019 to 20% in 2022. Of those who were unemployed, 53% said they were looking for work, 37% said they were unable to work, and 10% replied they were not looking for work.

Figure 21: Employment



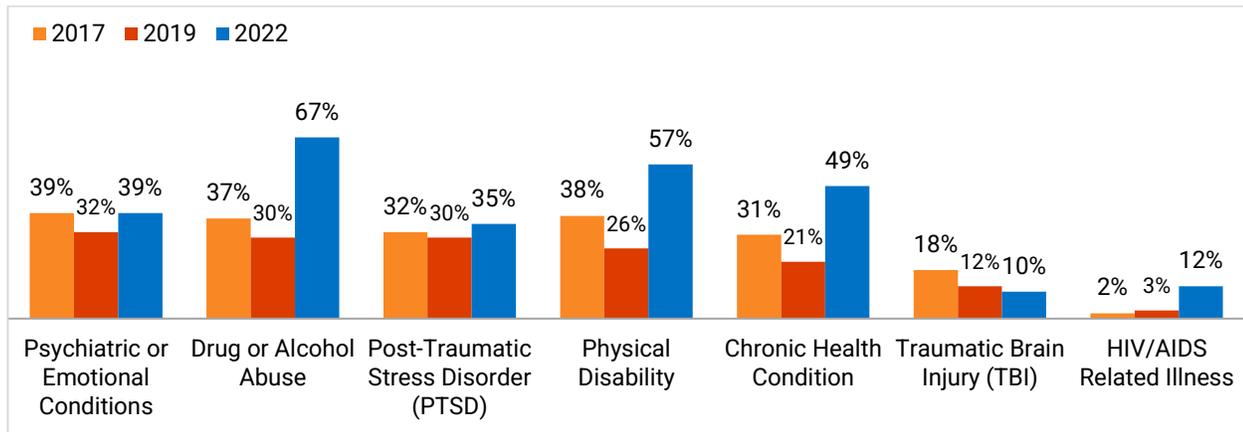
2015 employment status n=326; 2017 employment status n=452; 2019 n=312; 2022 n=310

## HEALTH CONDITIONS

Health conditions were worse in almost every category for respondents in 2022. Over three-quarters (77%) of survey respondents reported at least one disabling condition. The largest change was amongst those experiencing

a substance use disorder, which rose significantly from 30% in 2019 to 67% in 2022. Fifty-seven percent of respondents were experiencing a physical disability, an increase from 26% in 2019, while those suffering from chronic health problems increased from 21% in 2019 to 49% in 2022. It's worth noting that 12% of respondents were experiencing AIDS/HIV related illness, an increase from 3% in 2019.

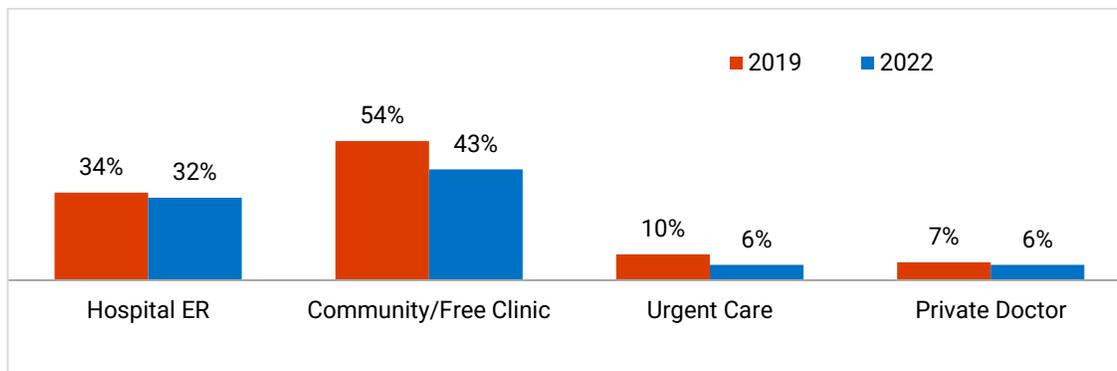
Figure 22: Health Conditions



2015 n=327-335; 2017 n=11-179; 2019 n=399; 2022 n=332  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Nearly one third (32%) of respondents indicated they received care at a hospital emergency room, followed by 43% who received care at a clinic.

Figure 23: Location of Health Care

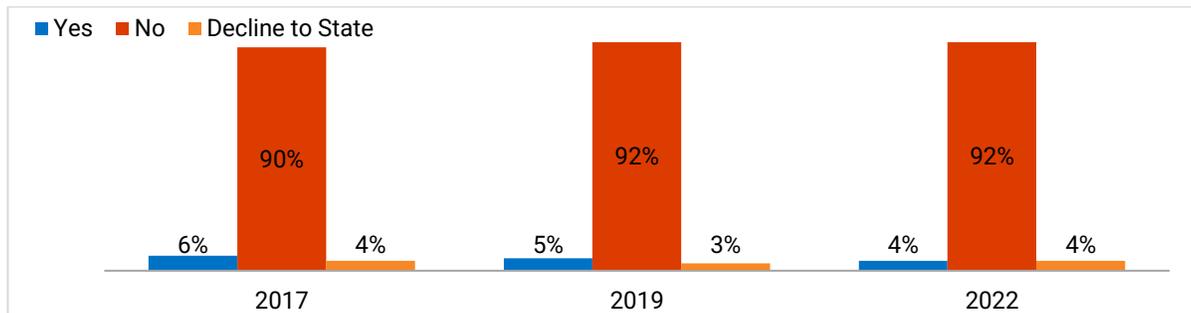


2019 n=377; 2022 n= 293

# DOMESTIC PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

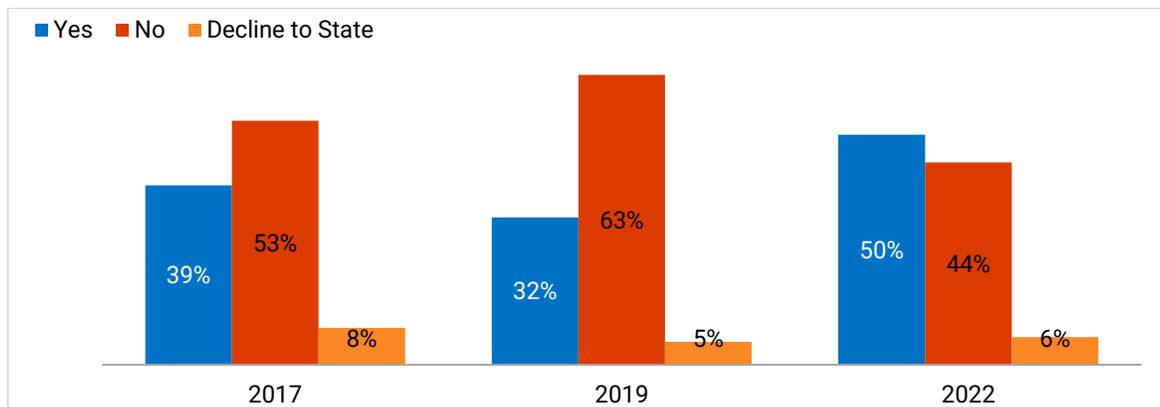
Four percent (4%) of survey respondents indicated they were currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse at the time of the survey, while half of survey respondents indicated they had experienced domestic violence at some point in their life. Five percent of respondents indicated domestic/partner violence or abuse was the cause of their homelessness.

Figure 24: Currently Experiencing Domestic Violence



2017 n=439; 2019 n=377; 2022 n=293

Figure 25: History of Domestic Violence



2017 n=439; 2019 n=378; 2022 n=306

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The percentage of survey respondents who indicated they had spent at least one night in jail or prison over the last 12 months rose slightly from 28% in 2019 to 34% in 2022. Twenty-nine percent of respondents indicated they were on probation or parole when they most recently became homeless.

Figure 26: Spent a Night in Jail or Prison in the Last 12 Months

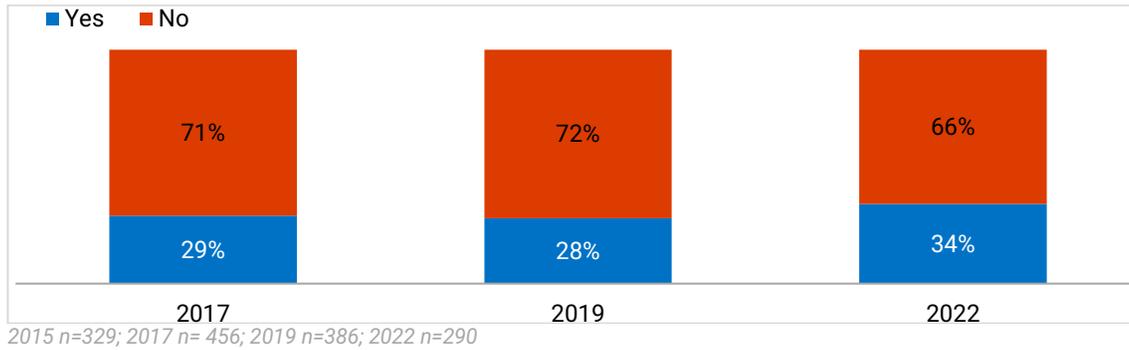
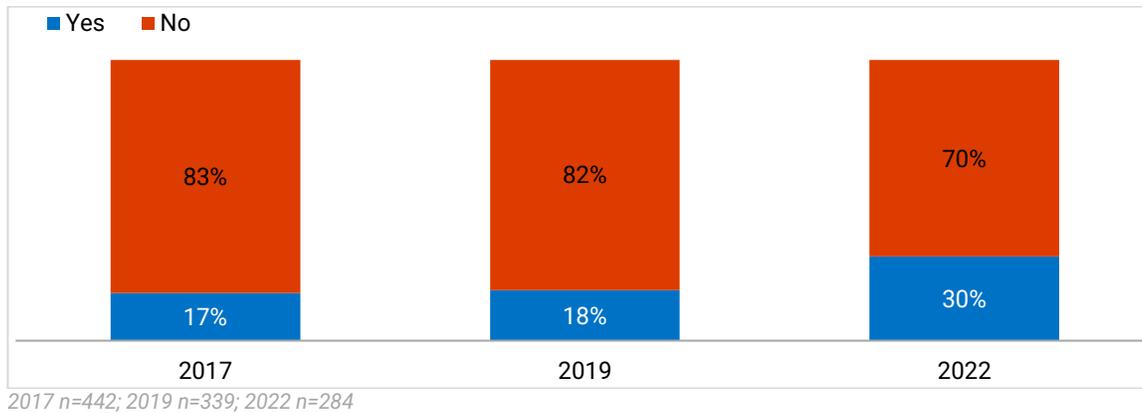


Figure 27: On Probation or Parole When Homelessness Occurred



# HUD DEFINED SPECIAL POPULATIONS

*Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness among all populations in the United States.

To adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs, including:

- Chronic homelessness among people with disabilities
- Veterans and their families
- Families with children
- Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth.

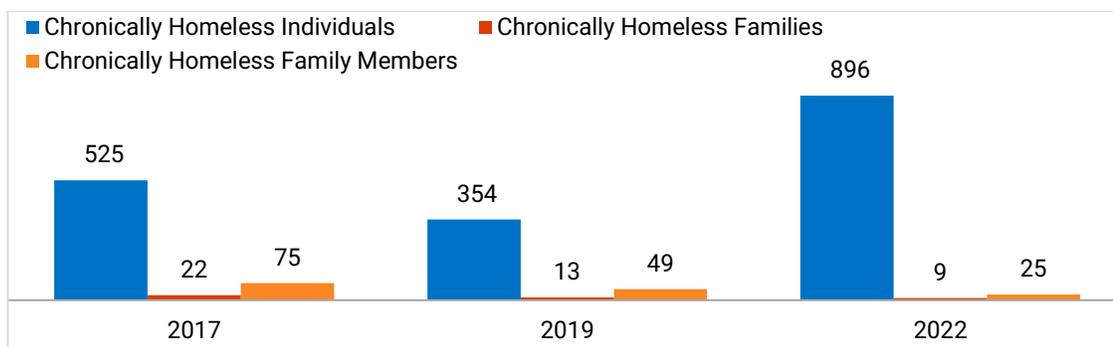
The following sections examine each of these four subpopulations, identifying the number and characteristics of individuals included in the 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey.

## HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines chronic homelessness as an individual with one or more disabling conditions, or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition, who has been continuously homeless for one year or more and/or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past three years.

Data from communities across the country show significant public costs associated with long-term homelessness among people with disabilities. Significant health care, criminal justice, and human service costs are incurred while individuals remain homeless. HUD reported that roughly 21% of the national homeless population of 120,323 individuals was chronically homeless in 2020.<sup>1</sup> In 2022, 921 persons were experiencing chronic homelessness in Santa Cruz County, or roughly 40% of the community’s PIT homeless population, a notable increase from 2019 (19%).

*Figure 28: Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Chronic Homelessness*



<sup>1</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2020). *Annual Assessment Report to Congress*. Retrieved 2022 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6291/2020-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us/>

Figure 29: Chronically Homeless Census Population by Shelter Status

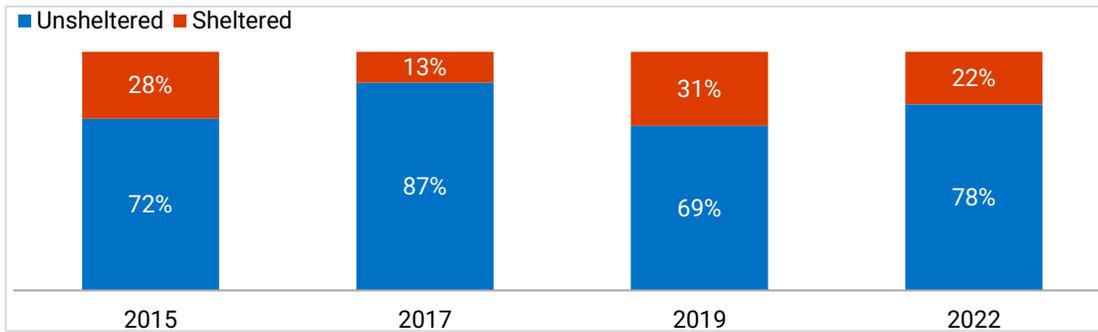


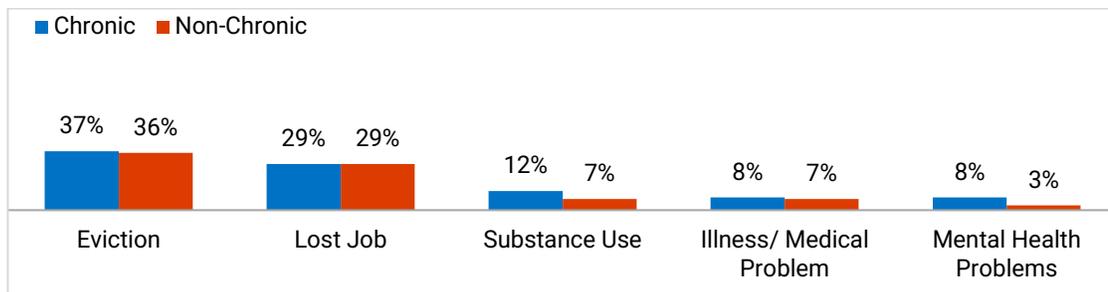
Figure 30: Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals by Shelter Status

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022	2019-2022 % CHANGE
Sheltered	69	165	77	123	193	57%
Unsheltered	920	417	523	280	718	156%
Total	989	582	600	403	921	129%

## PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

The primary reasons that persons experiencing chronic homelessness reported for becoming homeless closely mirrored those of the non-chronic population. Similar to the non-chronic homeless population, eviction (37%) and the loss of a job (29%) were the two most common responses persons experiencing chronic homelessness gave as the primary cause of their homelessness.

Figure 31: Primary Cause of Homelessness, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison

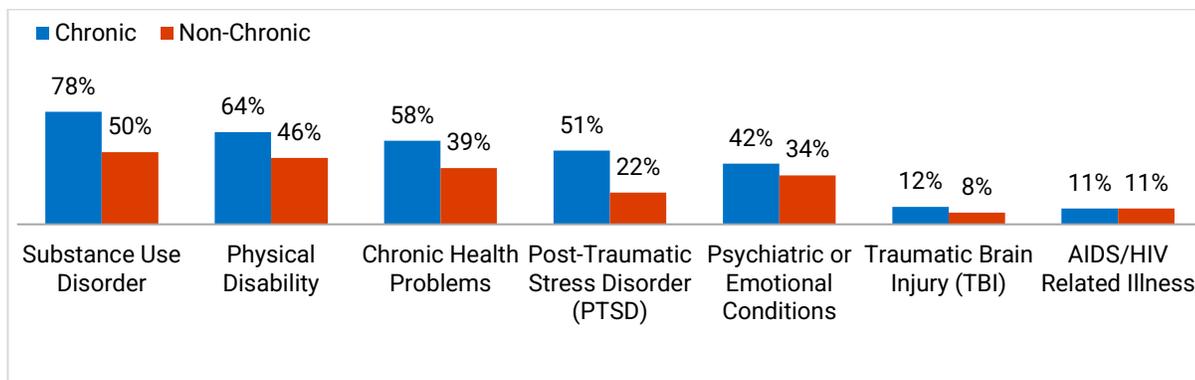


Chronic Survey Population n=129, non-Chronic Survey Population n=193

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Seventy-eight percent of persons experiencing chronic homelessness reported a substance use disorder compared to 50% of the non-chronic population.

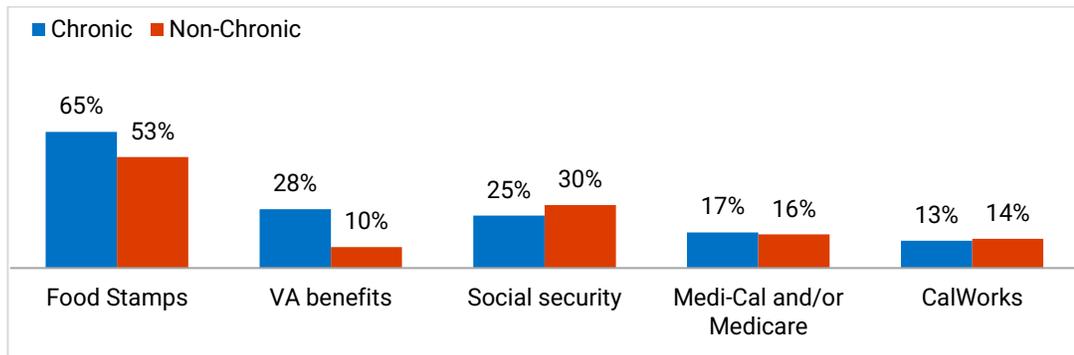
Figure 32: Health Conditions, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison



Chronic n=130; non-Chronic n=202

Food stamps was the most commonly utilized form of government assistance by persons experiencing chronic homelessness at 65%, followed by VA benefits (28%), and social security (25%).

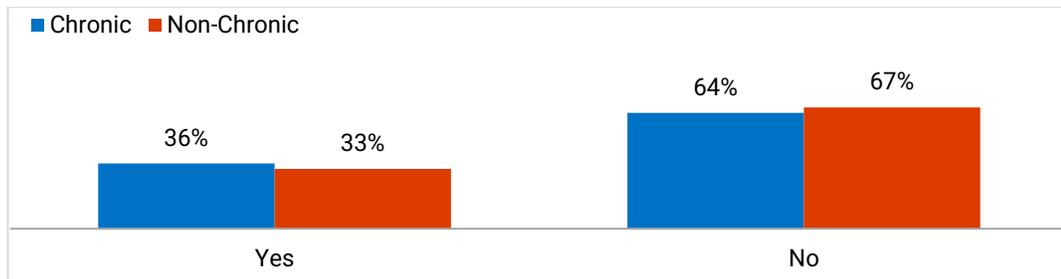
Figure 33: Government Assistance Received, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison



Chronic n=127; non-Chronic n=189

Thirty-six percent of persons experiencing chronic homelessness reported they had spent a night in jail in the past year

Figure 34: Spent a Night in Jail in the Past Year, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison



Chronic n=118; non-Chronic n=172

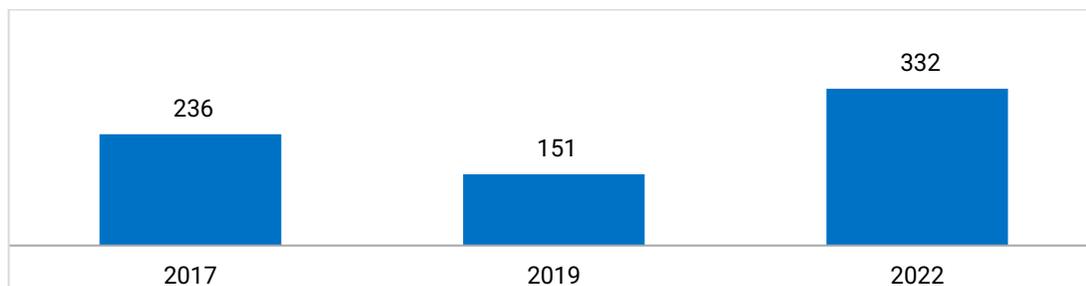
## VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans frequently experience higher rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance use disorders when compared to the non-veteran population.

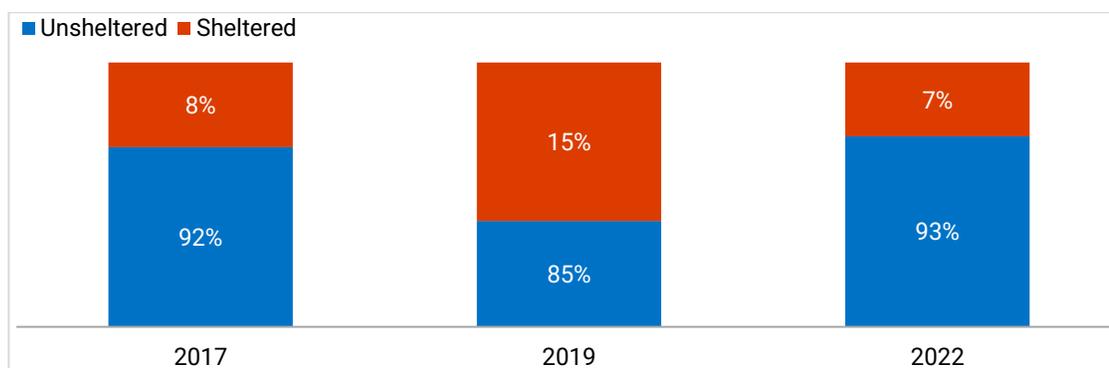
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits include financial assistance, such as monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, health care, education, and housing assistance. In addition to these supports, the VA and HUD partner to provide housing and support services to veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness more than doubled in 2022 when compared to 2019, increasing to 332 veterans, nearly all of whom (93%) were unsheltered.

*Figure 35: Total Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness*



*Figure 36: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status*



2017 n=236; 2019 n=151; 2022 n=332

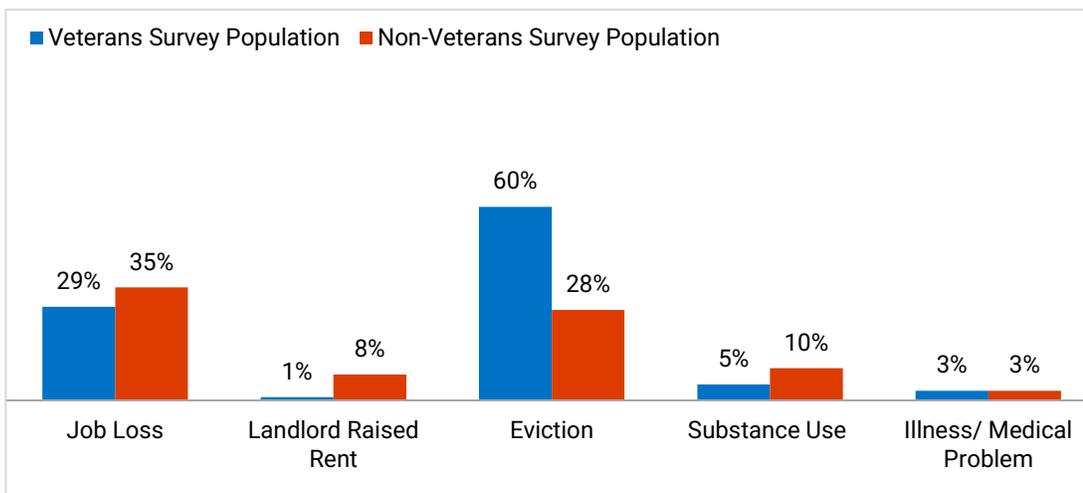
Figure 37: Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022	19-22 % CHANGE
Sheltered	52	42	19	23	22	-4%
Unsheltered	343	113	217	128	310	105%
Total	395	155	236	151	332	120%

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

The primary cause of homelessness for veterans was eviction (60%), more than twice the percentage of the non-veteran population at 28%. The second most common cause for veterans was the loss of a job, at 29%, slightly less than the non-veteran population at 35%.

Figure 38: Primary Cause of Homelessness, Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparison

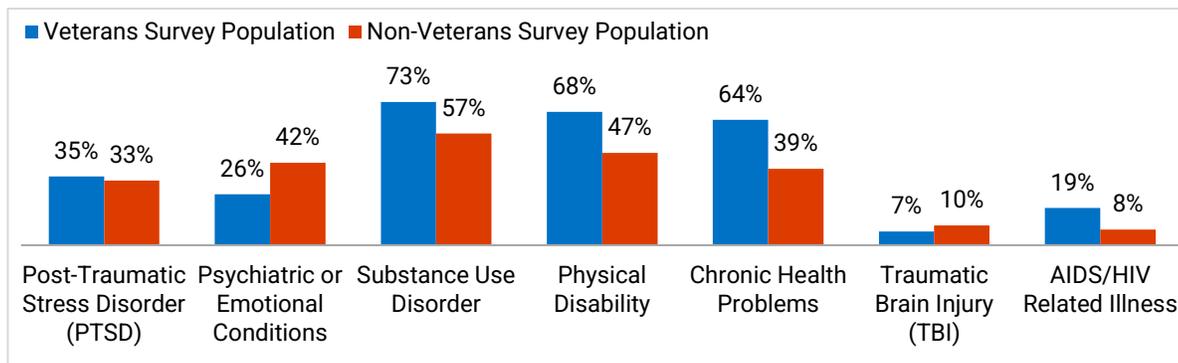


Veterans Survey Population n=92 Non-Veterans Survey Population n=222  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100%

## HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Veterans experiencing homelessness had higher rates of some medical conditions when compared to their non-veteran peers, including substance use disorder (73% vs 57%), physical disability (68% vs 47%), and chronic health problems (64% vs 39%).

Figure 39: Health Conditions



Veteran survey population n =94 ; Non-veteran survey population n =236  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The number of families, and the total number of persons in those families, decreased from 122 families with 419 persons in 2019 to 50 families with 158 persons in 2022. In 2022, 91% of families experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County were sheltered, compared with 47% in 2019.

Figure 40: Total Number of Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness

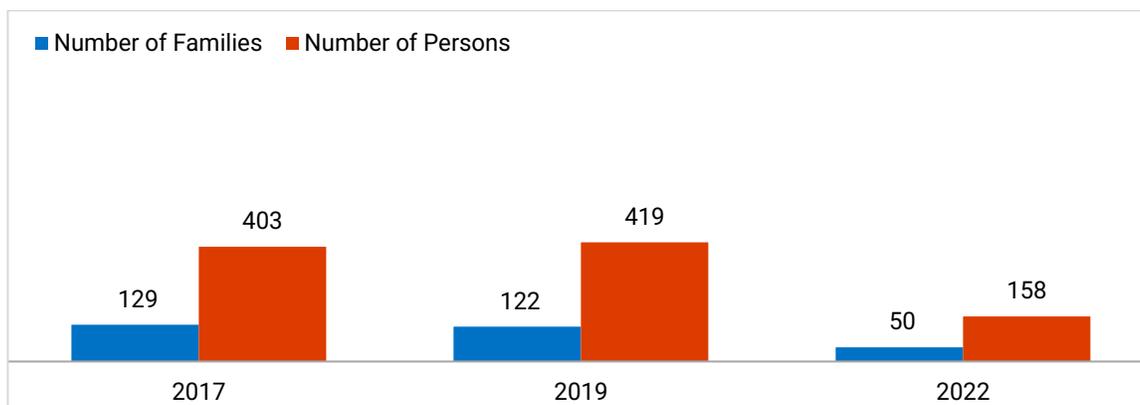
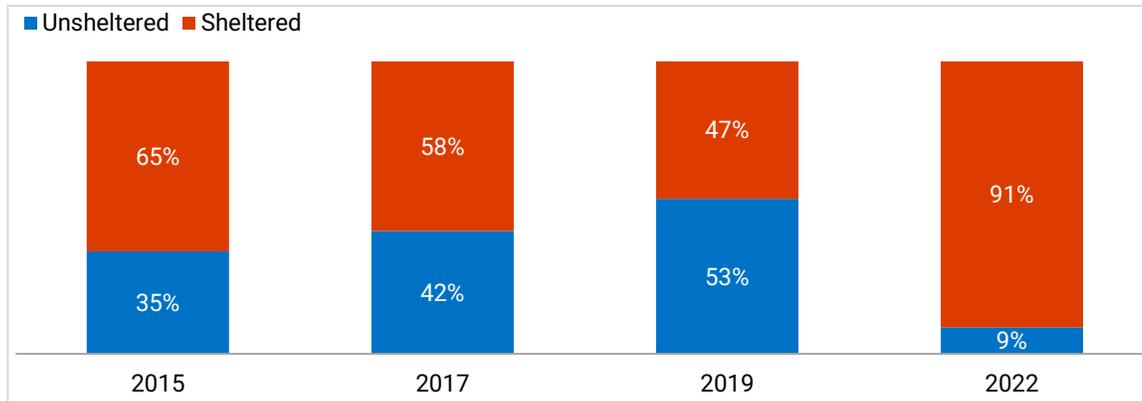


Figure 41: Individuals in Families by Shelter Status



## UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Unaccompanied children are defined as persons under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and, if they have children of their own, are not sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Transition-age-youth are defined as persons between the ages of 18 and 24 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and, if they have children of their own, are not sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren). There were 222 transition-age youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness in 2022, a decrease of 64% from 2019 when there were 569 TAY. In 2022 there were no unaccompanied children under 18. Nearly all TAY (97%) were unsheltered.

Figure 42: Total Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age Youth

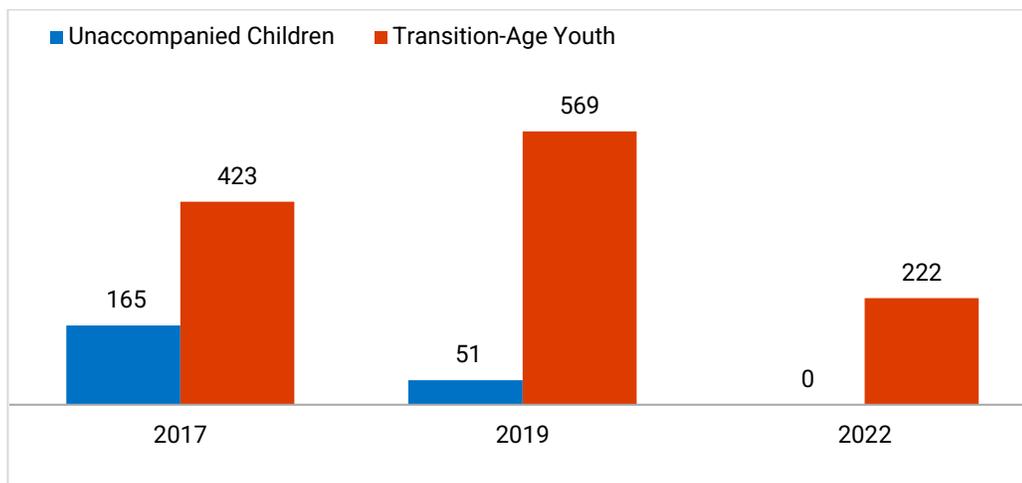
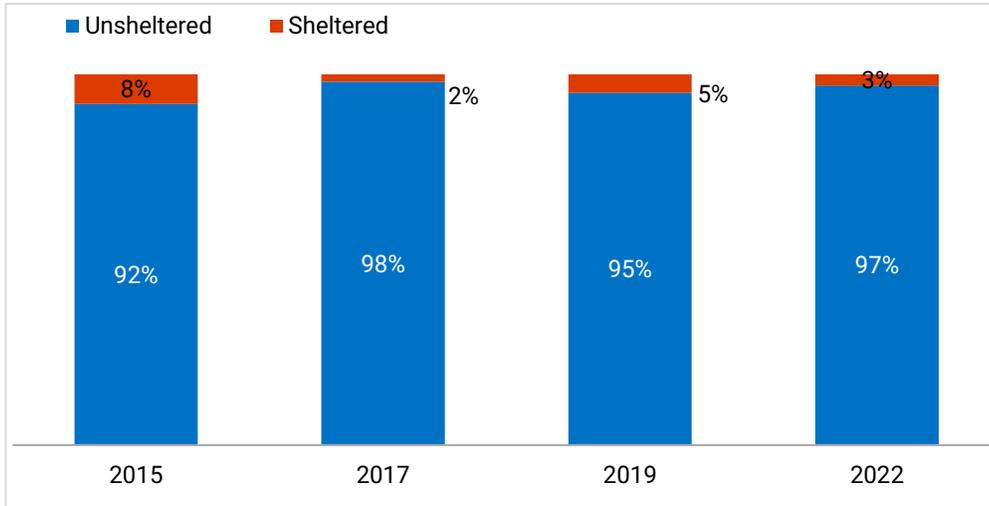


Figure 43: Transition-Age Youth by Shelter Status



# CONCLUSION

The 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying the homeless population. Despite a COVID-19-related delay from 2021 to 2022, and a further, shorter delay from January to February, homeless service providers, outreach staff, and persons with lived experience came together in February 2022 to canvas the entire county for the PIT count. Data summarized in this report provide valuable insights into the unique and diverse experiences of homelessness in Santa Cruz County. A few highlights from the report include:

The PIT Count identified a total of 2,299 persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County in 2022, an increase of 6% from the count conducted in 2019.

- Slightly more than three-quarters (77%) of persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County were unsheltered, living in places not intended for human habitation, which is about the same as in 2019.
- Slightly less than one-third (27%) of homeless survey respondents indicated they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, a decrease from 2019. Nearly all (89%) of survey respondents indicated they were living in a home in Santa Cruz County before they experienced homelessness, an increase from 2019.
- Five percent (5%) of homeless survey respondents said their episode of homelessness was caused by COVID-19. The most common causes of homelessness were eviction (37%) and the loss of a job (33%).
- When asked what assistance would be most helpful toward securing housing, assistance with rent was chosen by the vast majority of respondents (89%), followed by money for moving costs (74%), and more affordable housing (70%).
- Homeless survey respondents most frequently reported having the following health conditions: substance use disorder (67%), physical disability (57%), and chronic health conditions (49%). The percentage of respondents who reported having AIDS/HIV related illness increased from 3% in 2019 to 12% in 2022.
- The estimated counts of the four HUD-identified subpopulations in Santa Cruz County were:
  - chronically homeless individuals/families with one or more disabling conditions and continuous experience with homelessness for a year or more, or four episodes totaling 12 months within three years (921 persons)
  - homeless veterans (332)
  - members of homeless families with children (158)
  - Unaccompanied children and Transition-Age Youth (222)

The 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless Count and Survey provides valid and useful data that help create a comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness. Data presented in this report fulfill federal reporting requirements for the CoC, and will inform outreach, service planning, and policy decision-making by local planning bodies.

There are still many challenges to ending homelessness in Santa Cruz County. The dissemination and evaluation of this report will help the CoC, and all Santa Cruz County stakeholders, continue to produce and refine constructive and innovative solutions to end homelessness. Through creative and effective housing programs and services, Santa Cruz County remains committed to preventing people from becoming homeless and helping those experiencing homelessness to move quickly into permanent housing.

# APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

## OVERVIEW

The 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless Census and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices and definitions of homelessness. The primary purpose of the census and survey was to produce a point-in-time estimate of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

### Components of the Homeless Census & Survey

The 2022 PIT Census and Survey had five components:

- **General Street Count:** A morning no contact, visual observation-only count of unsheltered persons and families experiencing homelessness on February 28, 2022. This count occurred from approximately 5:00 AM to 10:00 AM and included those sleeping outdoors on the street; at bus and train stations; in parks, tents, and other makeshift shelters; in vehicles and abandoned properties; and other locations not meant for human habitation. The general street count was designed to take place while shelter occupants were still indoors.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of persons and families staying at publicly and privately-operated shelters on the night of February 27, 2022, the night before the general street count. Shelter data was gathered either from Santa Cruz County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or directly from the shelter provider.
- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth:** An afternoon count of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth on February 28, 2022. This count occurred from approximately 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM and was led by special youth teams who canvassed areas where youth and young adults were known to congregate. Upon completion, data from this targeted count was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure duplicate counts were removed.
- **Targeted County Office of Education Street Count of Students and Their Families:** A count of previously-identified unsheltered homeless students and their families conducted by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) for the night of February 27, 2022, in conjunction with participating school districts. Demographic and geographic detail from the COE count was compared to census data to ensure duplicate counts were removed.
- **Homeless Survey:** In-person interviews with 333 unique sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness were conducted by peer surveyors between February 28 and March 28, 2022. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Census estimates, particularly for special populations, and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the demographics and experiences of homeless persons and families.

### THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success and integrity of the count, the county government, other local jurisdictions, and community agencies collaborated on community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical plans, methodological decisions, and interagency coordination efforts. ASR provided technical assistance for these aspects of the planning process.

## Changes Due to COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 related public health risks, the organizing team decided, with support from the County Public Health office, to limit transmission risk and encourage social distancing. As a result of significant expansion of outreach services by jurisdictional and local community organizations, the organizing team felt that appropriate, safe, and thorough outreach could be achieved. Outreach staff as the primary enumerators could be used in the field rather than a lived experience guide-centric effort used in previous PIT counts. Some persons with lived experience could be integrated into outreach teams, as in previous PIT count efforts, as allowed by public health requirements.

## **STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY**

### **DEFINITION**

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used:

- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train stations, airport, or camping ground.

### **METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS**

The 2022 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved approach commonly called a blitz method followed by a sample survey. Very significantly, a change was made in the use of GPS enabled smartphones in data collection, using an ESRI *Survey 123* application developed and customized by ASR to conform to HUD data collection requirements and comply with COVID-19 safety precautions established by the planning team. Improvements were made in pre-planning efforts to deploy count teams remotely, wherever possible using an online GIS route planning tool integrated into the volunteer sign-up process, thereby avoiding the need for centralized deployment centers where COVID-19 transmission risks would be greater.

Outreach organizations, county and city staff, along with community members, selected areas for enumeration from an interactive GIS planning map tool that enabled planning for complete coverage of the County, with prioritization of high-density homeless routes to outreach staff and personnel with direct service experience.

### **VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT**

As noted above, there was a planned effort to reduce the number of persons directly involved in field work and outreach in the 2022 PIT count due to COVID-19 safety concerns. In 2022, over 75 outreach workers, community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count.

Outreach and program staff limited recruitment of persons with lived experience to act as guides, and in some cases embedded reporters. Homeless guides were paid \$20 to participate in an online training, as well as \$20 per hour worked on the days of the count.

Volunteers and guides were required to view a 20-minute training video before the count that covered:

- definition of homelessness,
- identification of persons experiencing homelessness,
- safely and respectfully conducting the count, using the smart phone app, and accessing the smartphone app training video,

- using route maps to ensure full coverage of assigned areas,
- tips to identify vehicles in which persons may be residing and other information to facilitate an accurate and safe count.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. Specialized teams with knowledge of specific encampments were assigned to census tracts with known high concentrations of homeless encampments. Enumeration teams were advised to take every safety precaution possible, including bringing flashlights and maintaining a respectful distance from those they were counting.

## LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION

On the morning of the street count, teams of two or more persons deployed to enumerate designated areas of the county. Each team was composed of any combination of outreach workers, lived experience guides, program staff, and service experienced community volunteers. Each team had a lead and was provided with their assigned census tract maps, smart phone access information and training and field observation tips and guidelines, including vehicle identification criteria, prior to the count. Teams were assigned a unique team number and instructed to text a central PIT count dispatch center to confirm they were enroute and on task for enumeration of their route assignment areas.

All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traversed by foot or car. The Santa Cruz County *Survey 123* smartphone app was used to record the number of homeless persons observed in addition to basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center volunteers verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count; the phone number was recorded on the volunteer deployment assignment sheet. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas.

To ensure the privacy of persons experiencing homelessness was respected and enumeration teams remained safe, teams were asked to conduct observation-only counts and not have any contact with persons experiencing homelessness. When they encountered a structure or vehicle that they believed to be inhabited, teams had the option to indicate that it was inhabited but that the number or the demographic detail (age and gender) of its inhabitants could not be determined. Only actively occupied places were eligible to be included in the count effort. To determine the number of inhabitants of these dwelling types, ASR uses the data from survey respondents and then extrapolates that to all cases where the number of inhabitants was unknown. In order to assign demographic details to those individuals, ASR uses count data on confirmed cases identified during the PIT to extrapolate data on gender and age.

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION COUNT

In the days following the street count, representatives from seven school districts called households known to have recently experienced homelessness to ascertain where they stayed on the night of count. This is a significant effort, as school districts may have hundreds of calls to make to ensure that families counted fit the HUD definition of homelessness and were, in fact, experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. Using demographic and geographic detail, data gathered by the school districts were compared to count data to check for duplication.

# UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

## GOAL

The goal of the 2022 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth (TAY) count was to accurately represent unaccompanied children and transition-age youth in the Point-in-Time Count. Because HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly come along with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth, they recommend that communities count youth at times when they can be seen rather than during traditional enumeration times. Because many youth and young adults experiencing homelessness do not use homeless services, are unrecognizable to adult street count volunteers, and may be in unsheltered locations that are difficult to find, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth.

## RESEARCH DESIGN

Planning for the 2022 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth count included homeless youth service providers and persons between the ages of 18 and 24, with lived experience of homelessness. Local service providers identified locations where unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness were known to congregate and recruited transition-aged youth experiencing homelessness or prior lived experience knowledge of those areas to serve as guides for the count. Late afternoon and early evening were recommended by advocates as the best time to conduct the youth count. Youth workers were paid \$20 for time spent both in training and the actual count.

## DATA COLLECTION

It was determined that homeless unaccompanied children and transition-age youth would be more prominent on the street during daylight hours rather than in the early morning when the general count was conducted. Youth worked in teams of two to four, with teams coordinated and supervised by street outreach workers.

## STREET COUNT DE-DUPLICATION

Data from the unaccompanied children and TAY count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age; two persons under the age of 25 were identified as duplicates and removed from the data set.

# SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

## GOAL

The goal of the shelter count is to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily staying in shelters across Santa Cruz County. This data is vital to gaining an accurate overall count of the homeless population.

## DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of sheltered homelessness for Point-in-Time Counts was used. This definition includes persons and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter

designated to provide a temporary living arrangement. The definition does not include people living in publicly-supported managed camps.

## DATA COLLECTION

To collect data on individuals staying in shelters, ASR worked with BitFocus, the HMIS system administrator for Santa Cruz County. BitFocus collected data on all emergency shelters and transitional housing programs operating in the county. Data was collected on household status, age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran and chronic status, and whether individuals had certain health conditions. ASR collected this data from shelters that do not participate in the HMIS system using a web-based reporting system.

## CHALLENGES

Point-in-Time Counts are “snapshots” that quantify the size of the homeless population at a given point during the year. Hence, the count may not be representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the homeless population seasonally or over time. The COVID-19 pandemic was an especially challenging issue faced by the PIT count planning committee for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the Omicron variant surge that peaked in the last two weeks of January 2022, necessitating a delay in the count until the end of February. The inability to better integrate persons with lived experience as route guides was a challenge, though mitigated by an increased use of outreach staff.

The methods employed in a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The data collected through the survey are used for the HEARTH Act funding application and for future program development and planning. The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, duration and recurrence of homelessness, nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open- and closed-ended, and multiple response questions.

Surveys were conducted by peer survey workers with lived experience of homelessness. Training sessions were facilitated by ASR. Potential surveyors had a comprehensive orientation that included project background information as well as detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Peer survey workers were compensated at a rate of \$10 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks and gift cards were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2022 homeless survey. The socks and gift cards were easy to distribute, had wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. The incentives proved to be widely accepted among survey respondents.

## SURVEY SAMPLING

Based on a Point-in-Time Count estimate of 2,299 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 333 valid surveys represented a margin of error of +/-5%, with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County. The 2022 survey was administered in shelters, transitional housing facilities, and on the street. To ensure the representation of transitional housing residents, who can be underrepresented in a street-based survey, survey quotas were created to reach individuals and heads of family households living in these programs.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals in a variety of geographic locations and demographic groups such as homeless unaccompanied children and TAY, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence survivors, and families. Quotas were used for geographic locations, unaccompanied children and transition-age youth, and shelter residents.

To reduce implicit bias, during the recruitment and training of surveyors, every attempt was made to recruit capable persons who represented a broad range of experiences and backgrounds, though full elimination of bias is beyond the scope of this effort. Since 2009, the ASR survey methodology has prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of surveyors currently or recently experiencing homelessness.

To increase randomization of respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an “every third encounter” survey approach. Survey workers were instructed to approach every third person they considered to be an eligible survey respondent. If the person declined to take the survey, the survey worker could approach the next eligible person they encountered. After completing a survey, the randomized approach was resumed.

## DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure respondents felt comfortable regardless of the location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that their responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any single individual.

## DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents’ initials and date of birth to avoid duplication without compromising the respondents’ anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate potential duplicates. This process examined respondents’ date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to survey questions. Outlier surveys were examined and eliminated if thought to be inauthentic.

## SURVEY DATA AND PIT COUNT DATA

Survey data is used throughout the report and submissions to HUD. PIT enumeration teams collect a limited number of data points (dwelling type, age, and gender) and have options to include persons seen while still being unsure of demographic detail (this is to ensure the privacy of the persons being enumerated, as well as the safety of both parties). For reporting around demographic details, including race, ethnicity, gender, and age, a combination of survey data, sheltered data collected via HMIS, and PIT count data is used. Survey data is used to extrapolate data on race and ethnicity for all persons, and to account for situations where PIT enumeration teams

were unable to collect data on age and gender. That data is then combined with sheltered data from HMIS to allow for a complete picture of demographics for all persons identified during the PIT count.

## SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The 2022 Santa Cruz County Homeless Survey strives to be a representative sample of the homeless experience through geographic and shelter-based quotas. Bias in respondent selection by surveyors is a major training theme and all attempts are made to minimize. However, we do realize that the diversity of the homeless experience is significant and our ability to profile this can always be improved. The survey methods and rules of engagement, though constantly evolving, are essentially the same over time so longitudinal data has good methodological consistency.

The smaller the subpopulation, the harder to ensure it receives accurate representation during the survey process. For example, finding families experiencing homelessness presents a challenge and can lead to underrepresentation in the survey results. The same applies to youth and young adults, though care is taken to ensure that youth surveyors are involved, to increase the response rate of youth survey respondents. Locating and surveying individuals who identify as transgender, have a sexual orientation other than heterosexual, are experiencing specific health conditions such as AIDS/HIV related illness and TBI, and others can be challenging and may not be fully represented in this process.

There may be some variance in the information that persons experiencing homelessness self-reported. A peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce uneasiness of revealing personal information.

## APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

**Chronic homelessness** – Defined by HUD as an unaccompanied individual or head of a family household with a disabling condition who has either continuously experienced homelessness for a year or more, or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months, in the past three years.

**Disabling condition** – Defined by HUD as a developmental disability, AIDS/HIV related illness, or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person’s ability to live independently but could be improved with stable housing.

**Emergency shelter** – Defined by HUD as any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for persons experiencing homelessness in general or for specific populations of persons experiencing homelessness, and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

**Family** – A household with at least one adult age 18+ and one child under the age of 18.

**Homeless** – Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings— a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

**HUD** – Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Sheltered homeless individuals** – Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

**Single individual** – An unaccompanied adult, age 18 or over.

**Transition-age youth (TAY)** – Persons between the ages of 18 and 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

**Transitional housing** – Housing in which individuals and families experiencing homelessness may live and receive supportive services for a period of up to two years. Supportive services—which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination—may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure, several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

**Unaccompanied children** – Children under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent, presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

**Unsheltered homeless individuals** – Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

## APPENDIX C: FIGURE SOURCES

**All Point in Time Count Data:** The figure source for the data is *Applied Survey Research, (2005-2019) Santa Cruz Homeless Census and Survey*.

**All Homeless Survey Findings:** The figure source for the data is *Applied Survey Research, (2005-2022) Santa Cruz Homeless Census and Survey*.

**All Subpopulation Data:** The figure source for the data is *Applied Survey Research, (2005-2022) Santa Cruz Homeless Census and Survey*.

**All U.S. Census Data:** The figure source for the data is *Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). American Community Survey 2020 DEC Redistricting Data. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=0500000US06087&y=2020>*