

2022 CITY OF SAN JOSE



HOMELESS COUNT AND SURVEY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

REPORT BY ASR

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 assessment of needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses.

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The 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey planning team would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who contributed to this project. The participation of community volunteers and partner agencies is critical to the success of both the count and survey efforts. Hundreds of community volunteers, city and county employees, and local community-based organizations assisted with all aspects of the count, from the initial planning meetings to the night of the count and to the publication of this report. This year's count was especially difficult, as COVID-19 presented many challenges to successful completion of the count. After a yearlong postponement due to the pandemic, the count had to be pushed back a month, to February, with just a few weeks' notice.

ASR would like to give special thanks to the individuals currently experiencing homelessness who acted as surveyors and guides during the count. Without their dedication and knowledge, the Homeless Census and Survey team would not have been able to conduct these efforts. They provided access and knowledge about the community that would have been unobtainable without their support. These individuals took time out of their day to participate in this effort and we owe them thanks.

Project Planning Committee

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Point-In-Time Jurisdictional Funders

- City of Campbell
- City of Cupertino
- City of Gilroy
- City of Los Altos
- Town of Los Altos Hills
- Town of Los Gatos
- City of Milpitas
- City of Monte Sereno
- City of Morgan Hill
- City of Mountain View
- City of Palo Alto
- City of San José
- City of Saratoga
- City of Santa Clara
- City of Sunnyvale
- County of Santa Clara

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The following organizations were involved in the planning and data reporting process:

- Abode
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- PitStop
- Destination: Home
- PATH
- Downtown Streets Team (DST)
- Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Housing Authority Santa Clara
- Sunnyvale Community Services

INTRODUCTION

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, communities and cities across the United States conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These biennial Point-in-Time Counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community and collect information on individuals and families residing in temporary shelters and places not meant for human habitation, and ultimately help the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide.

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide homeless services, Continuums of Care (CoC) across the country report the findings of their local Point-in-Time Census in their annual funding application to HUD. Currently, the Santa Clara County CoC receives approximately \$26 million dollars annually in federal funding with the majority of that funding going to efforts within the City of San José.

The City of San José Point-in-Time Homeless Census and Survey was designed and implemented as part of the broader Santa Clara county-wide effort. Therefore, the research methodology and infrastructure that supported the San José effort was the same as Santa Clara County, and the findings summarized in this report represents a subset of the county-wide results.

The City of San José and Santa Clara County have partnered with ASR to conduct the Point-in-Time Count since 2007, maintaining a similar methodology and thus ensuring as much consistency as possible from one year to the next. ASR is a social research firm that has over 22 years of experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessment, having conducted homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in the HUD publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the Homeless Census and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held planning meetings with local community members and representatives from the city and county. Planning input and engagement ideas solicited and considered from city and county departments, community-based service providers, and other interested stakeholders. These individuals comprised the 2022 Planning Committee and were instrumental to ensuring the 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey were thought to accurately reflect the needs and concerns of the City of San Jose broader community.

The 2022 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- 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 measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population and track the community's progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions; and
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, unaccompanied children, transition-age youth, and those who are chronically homeless.
- Gain a better understanding of the population currently experiencing homelessness;
- Measure the impact of current policies and programming; and

- Make informed decisions with respect to strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

In this study, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count is used. This definition includes individuals and families:

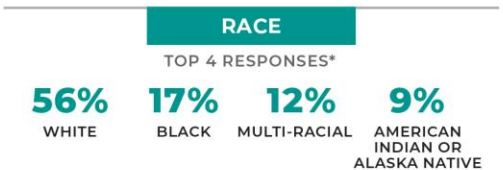
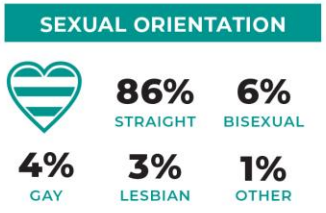
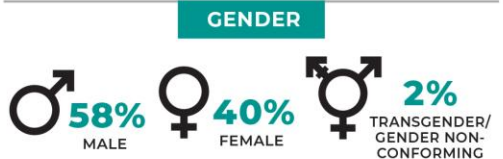
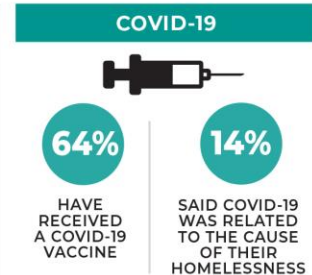
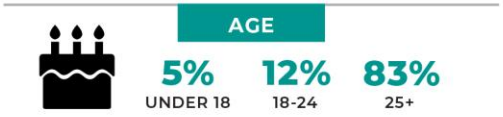
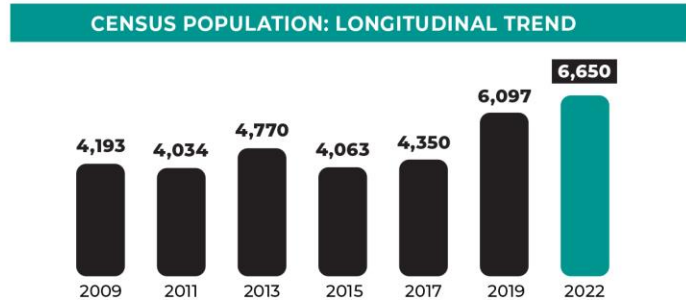
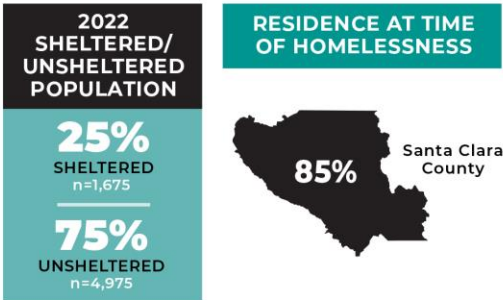
- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement; or
- With a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park,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

CITY OF SAN JOSE

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 City of San José Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on February 23rd and 24th, 2022. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 549 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.



AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS



FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



INTEREST IN PERMANENT HOUSING

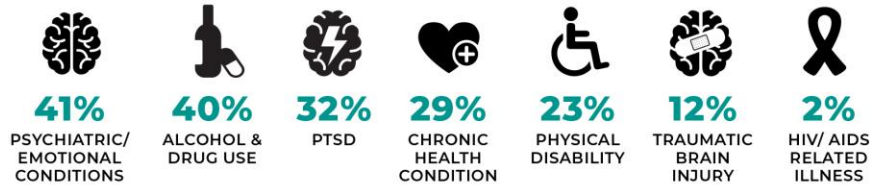


BARRIERS TO PERMANENT HOUSING+



SELF REPORTED HEALTH+

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

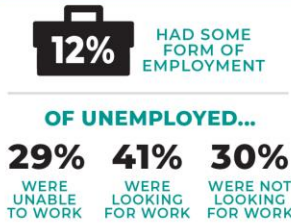


DISABLING CONDITIONS

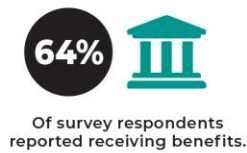


A disabling condition is defined by HUD as a developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person's ability to live independently but could be improved with stable housing.

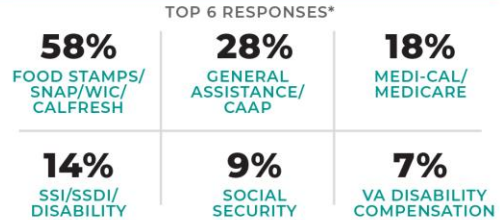
EMPLOYMENT STATUS



SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE



SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING+



△ 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 between the ages of 18 and 24 years old (YAY) who are experiencing homelessness and living without a parent or legal guardian.

+ Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.
* Only displaying top responses, all response data will be available in full report.
Note: Some percentages have been rounded so total percentage will equal 100%.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in the City of San José. It will be available in late summer 2022.
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2019, Santa Clara County Homeless Census & Survey, Watsonville, CA.

POINT-IN-TIME CENSUS

The 2022 City of José and Santa Clara County Point-in-Time Homeless Census represented a complete enumeration of all sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. It consisted of the following primary components:

- **General Street Count:** A morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on February 23-24, 2022. This included those sleeping outdoors on the street; at bus and train stations; in parks, tents, and other make-shift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned properties.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately-operated shelters on the night of February 22, 2022. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.
- **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview of sheltered and unsheltered individuals conducted by peer surveyors in the weeks following the general street count. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Census estimates.

The Point-in-Time Census also included the following supplemental components:

- **Targeted Street Count of Youth and Young Adults:** An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied youth (individuals under 18) and young adults (individuals 18-24) on February 23, 2022.
- **Targeted COE Street Count of Students and Their Families:** A count of unsheltered homeless students and their families reported by the Santa Clara County Office of Education for the night of February 23, 2022.

This section of the report provides a summary of the results of the Point-in-Time Census. For comparison, results from prior years are provided in order to better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time. For more information regarding the research methodology, please see *Appendix A: Methodology*.



NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The San José Homeless Census and Survey found a total of 6,650 persons experiencing homelessness on February 23-24, 2022, a 9% increase from 2019 and the highest the number has been during the last 15 years. There were more homeless individuals who identified as male (64%) than female (34%), transgender (2%), and gender non-conforming (<1%).

Figure 1: TOTAL POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN JOSÉ

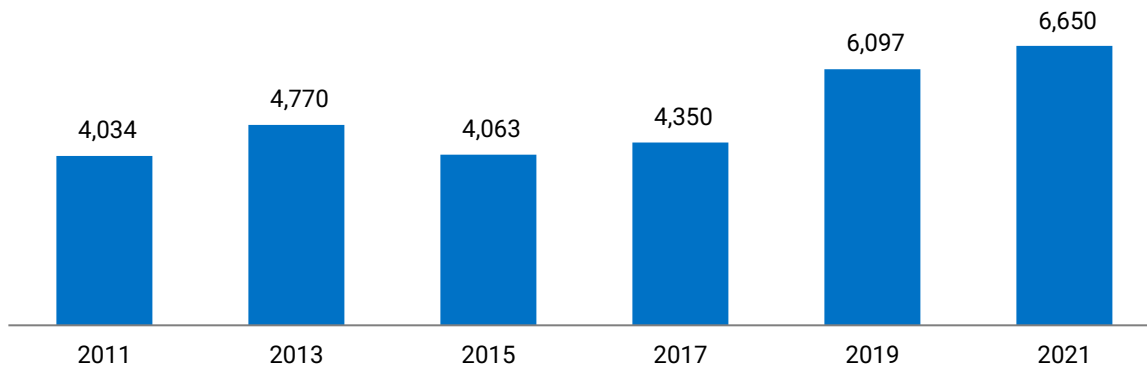
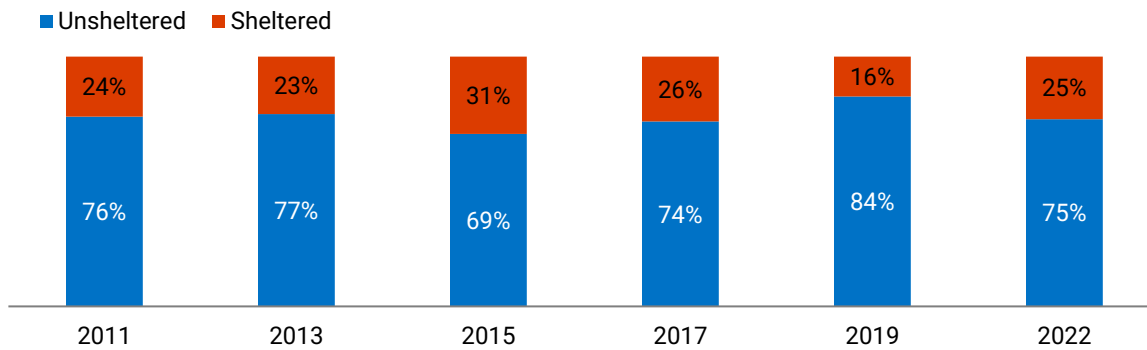
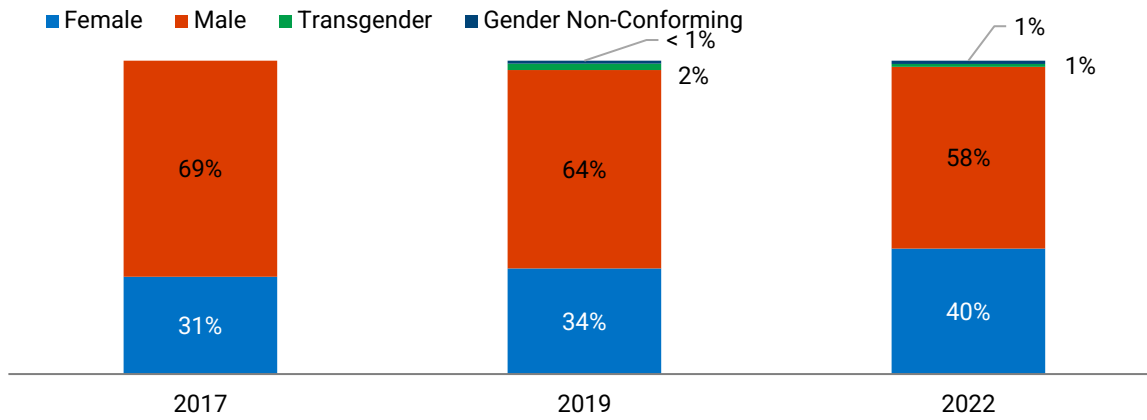


Figure 2: POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS – LONGITUDINAL



	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022	2019 - 2022 NET CHANGE
Sheltered	977	1,110	1,253	1,119	980	1,675	+71%
Unsheltered	3,057	3,660	2,810	3,231	5,117	4,975	-3%
Total	4,034	4,770	4,063	4,350	6,097	6,650	+9%

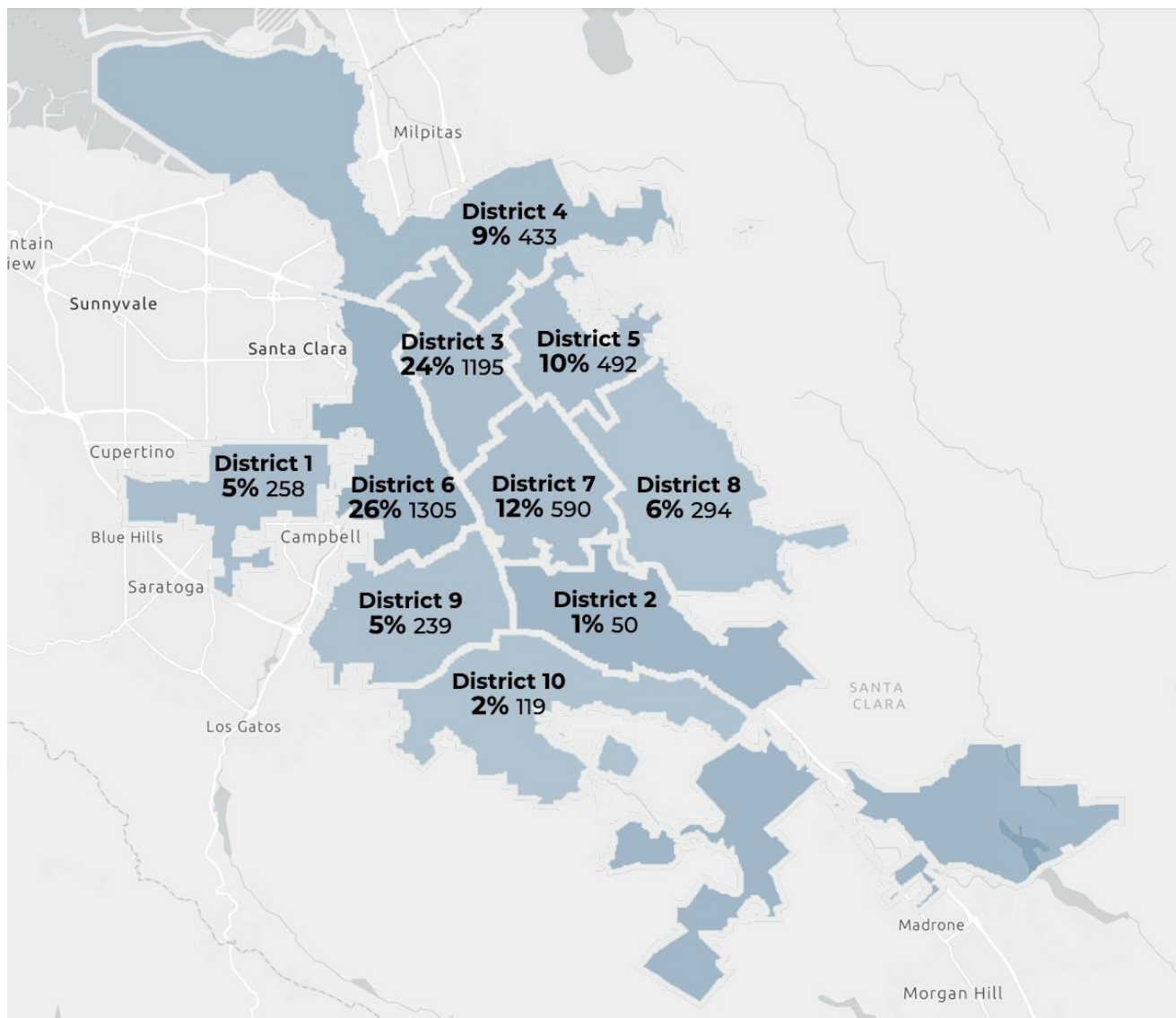
Figure 3: POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS POPULATION BY GENDER



2017 N=4,350; 2019 N=6,097; 2022 N=6,650

Note: in 2015 and 2017, individuals identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming were less than 1% of the population.

Figure 4: POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS POPULATION BY SAN JOSÉ CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT



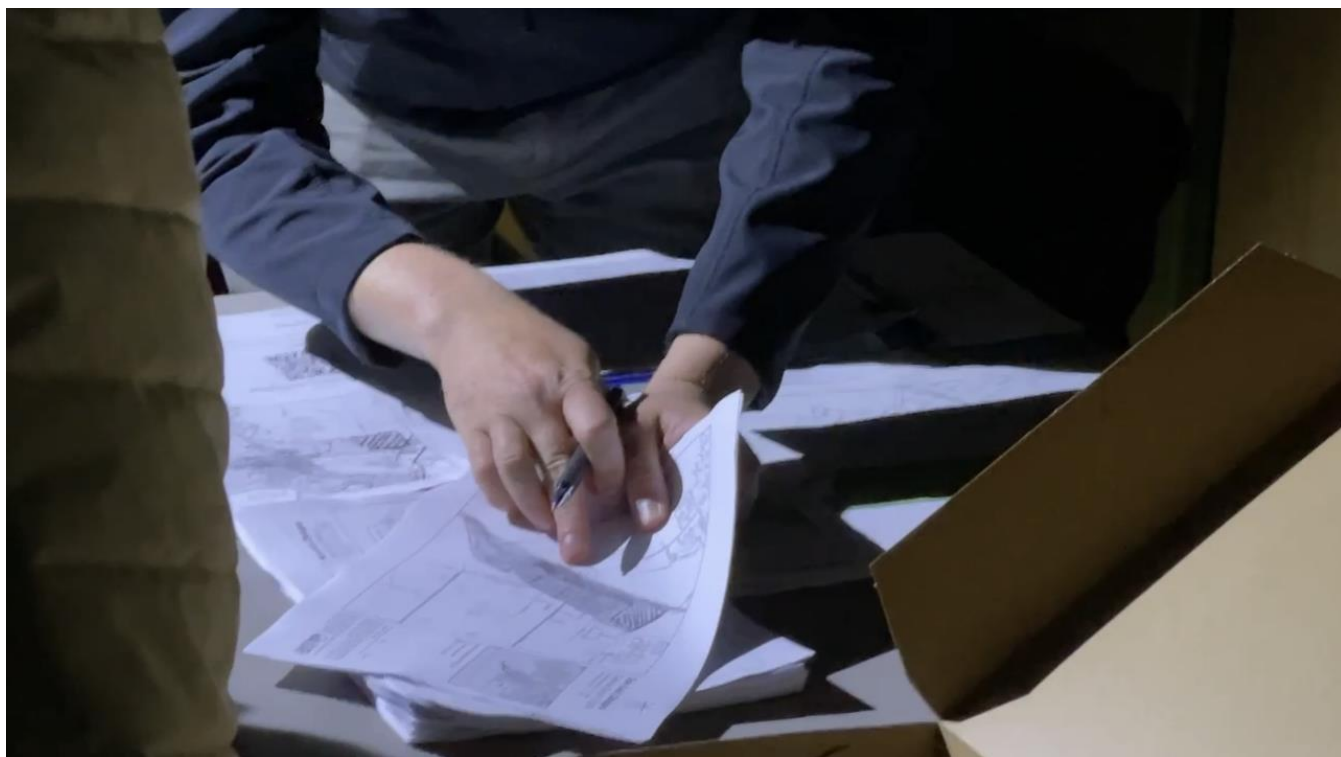
HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the Homeless Survey component. In the weeks following the Point-in-Time Census, an in-depth survey was administered to collect basic demographic details as well as information on service needs and utilization. Surveys were administered between March 1 and March 31, 2022 to a randomized sample of individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness.

The Homeless Survey effort resulted in 549 unique, complete, and valid surveys collected in the City of San José. Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 6,739 homeless persons in the City of San José, with a randomized survey sampling process, these surveys represent a margin of error of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire Point-in-Time homeless population in San José. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within 4% points of the current results.

In order to respect respondent privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Therefore, any missing values were intentionally omitted from the survey results and the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

For more information regarding the research methodology, please see *Appendix A: Methodology*.



SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the City of San José, respondents were asked basic demographic questions including age, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

Age

Age was a component of the street and shelter census as well as the survey effort. The unsheltered age reporting to HUD is in the following categories only – under 18, 18-24 and 25 and over. Survey age is captured from the sample of the overall population and is considered to be more accurate than visual assessments of age done during the census. Surveys, however, are not administered to children (u18) and therefore age distribution shown below is to be considered to be representative (randomized) for the adult population of persons experiencing homelessness only.

Figure 5: SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY AGE

AGE GROUP	2017	2019	2022
Less than 18 Years	<1%	1%	<1%
18-24 Years	11%	14%	15%
25-30 Years	7%	6%	9%
31-40 Years	13%	14%	18%
41-50 Years	24%	22%	20%
51-60 Years	37%	30%	23%
61 Years or More	8%	13%	15%

2017 N=331; 2019 N=925; 2022 N=548

Note: Individuals under the age of 18 are extremely difficult to identify when conducting street surveys and their response rate above reflects that difficulty.



Gender

Nearly three-fifths (59%) of survey respondents identified as male, 39% identified as female, 1% identified as transgender, and <1% did not identify as male, female, or transgender.

Among the female respondents, 2% indicated that they were currently pregnant.

LGBTQ+ Identity

Fourteen percent (14%) survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+ in 2022, up from 12% in 2019. The following chart shows a further breakdown of those LGBTQ+ respondents.

Figure 6: LGBTQ+ Survey Respondents by Identity

LGBTQ+ IDENTITY	2019	2022
Bisexual	47%	40%
Lesbian	24%	24%
Gay	18%	26%
Transgender	13%	8%
Other	7%	8%
Queer	3%	3%

2019 N=114 respondents offering 128 responses; 2022 N=78 respondents offering 84 responses

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

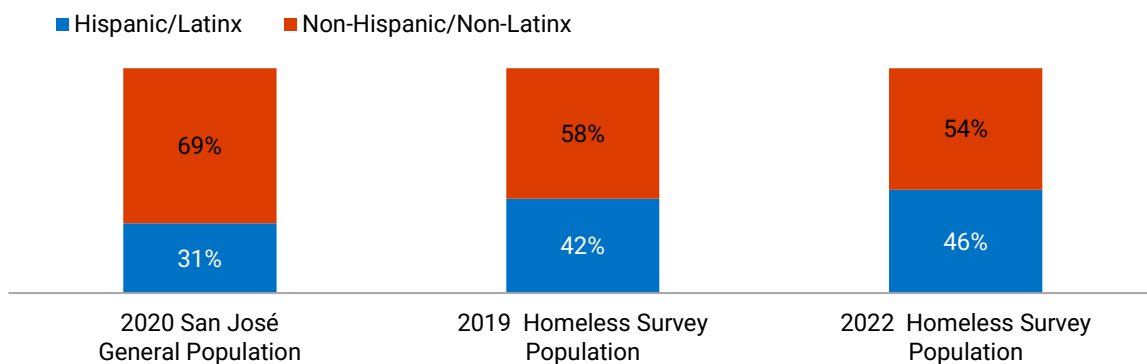


Race/Ethnicity

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity in two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. When asked if they identified as Hispanic or Latinx, more than half (54%) of homeless survey respondents reported they did not identify as Hispanic or Latinx in 2022. In comparison to the general population of San José, a higher percentage of homeless survey respondents identified as Hispanic or Latinx (46% homeless respondents compared to 31% in the general population).

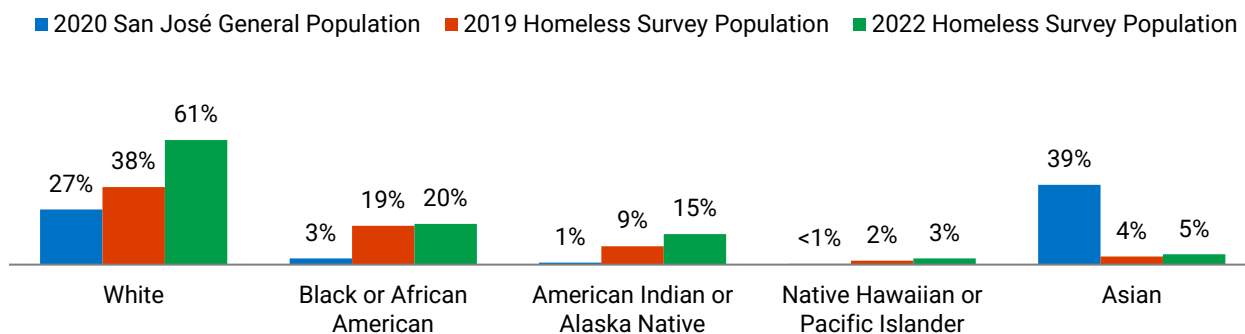
In regard to racial identity, differences between the general population and those experiencing homelessness were more distinct. A much higher proportion of homeless survey respondents identified as Black or African-American when compared to the general population (20% compared to 3%), whereas a smaller percentage of the homeless survey population identified as Asian (5% compared to 39%). It is worth noting the increase in individuals who identified as white in 2022 compared to 2019 (61% compared to 38%).

Figure 7: SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY HISPANIC OR LATINX ORIGIN



San José General Population: 2020 N=1,013,240
Homeless Survey Population: 2019 N=877, 2022 N=

Figure 8: SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY RACE

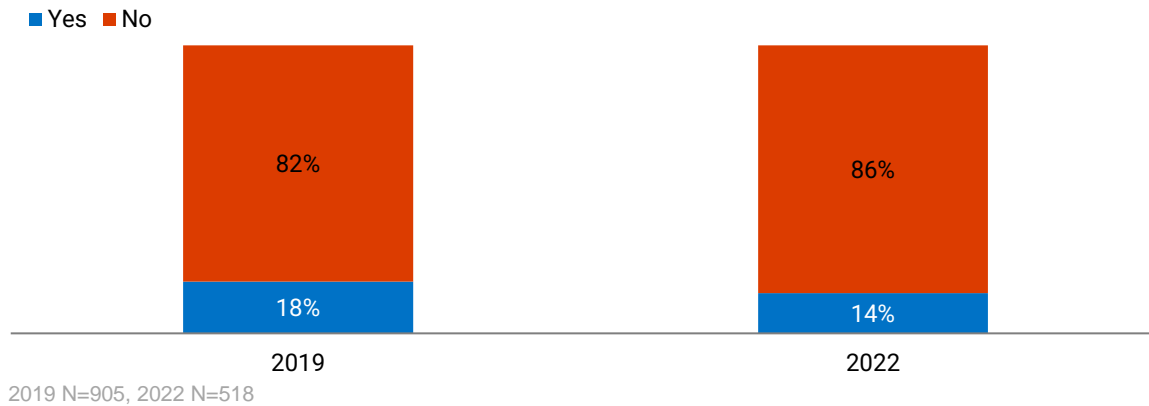


San José General Population: 2020 N=1,013,240
Homeless Survey Population: 2019 N=847, 2022 N=482
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100

History of Foster Care

In 2022, 14% of survey respondents reported a history of foster care, lower than in 2019 (18%).

Figure 9: HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE



Recurrence of Homelessness

For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability. Of those surveyed in 2022, 35% reported that their current episode of homelessness was their first time experiencing homelessness.

Respondents were also asked how old they were when they experienced homelessness for the first time. In response, 11% of respondents reported that they were under the age of 18, 28% reported they were between the ages of 18 and 24, and 61% reported they were 25 years or older.

Figure 10: CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS IS THE FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

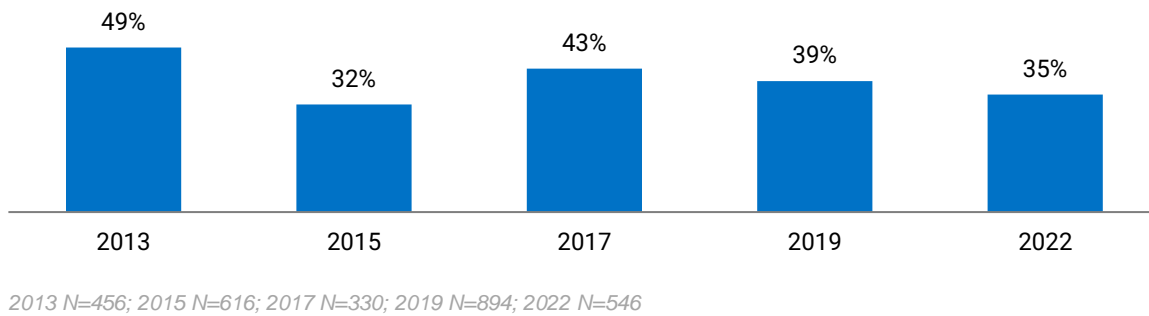
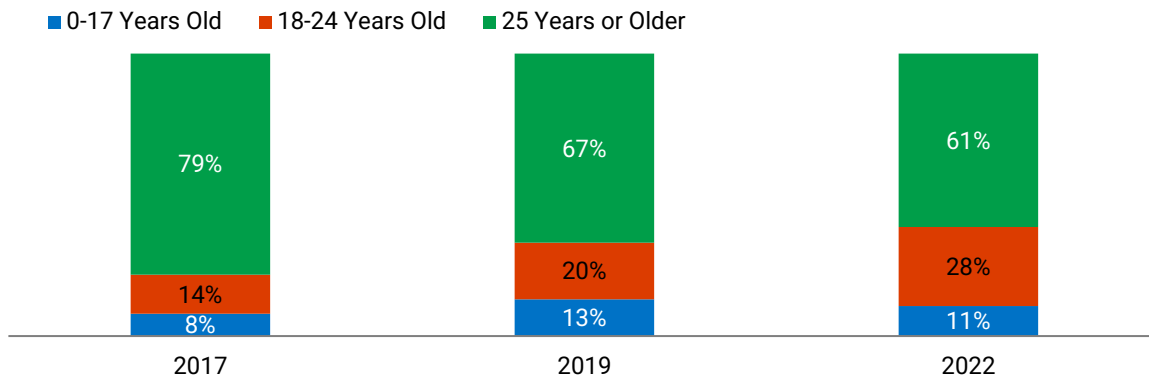


Figure 11: AGE WHEN EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME

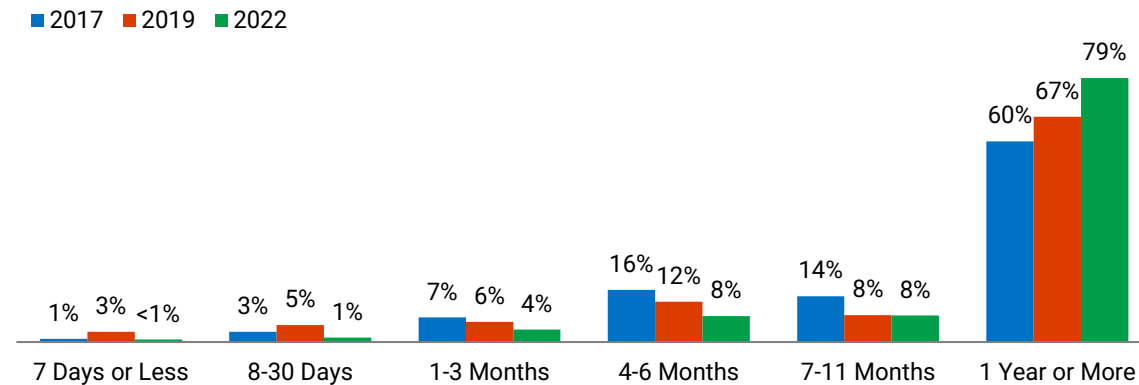


2017 N=320; 2019 N=906; 2022 N=547

Duration of Homelessness

When asked about the duration of their current episode of homelessness, almost four-fifths (79%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more. This finding represents an upward trend in the duration of homeless which was also seen in other Bay Area communities in 2022.

Figure 12: LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



2013 N=449; 2015 N=602; 2017 N= 330; 2019 N=910; 2022 N=542

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

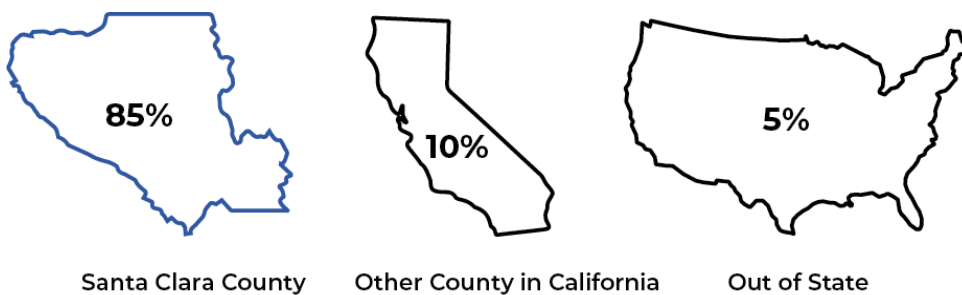
Survey respondents reported many different living accommodations prior to becoming homeless, although most lived in the City of San Jose or around Santa Clara County with friends or family, or on their own in a home or apartment.

Place of Residence

The majority (85%) of respondents reported living in Santa Clara County at the most recent time they became homeless, an increase from 2019. Among these respondents, 86% had lived in Santa Clara County for 5 or more years, while 4% had lived in Santa Clara County for less than one year.

Ten (10%) of respondents reported they were living in another county in California, and 5% reported they were living out of state.

Figure 13: PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS

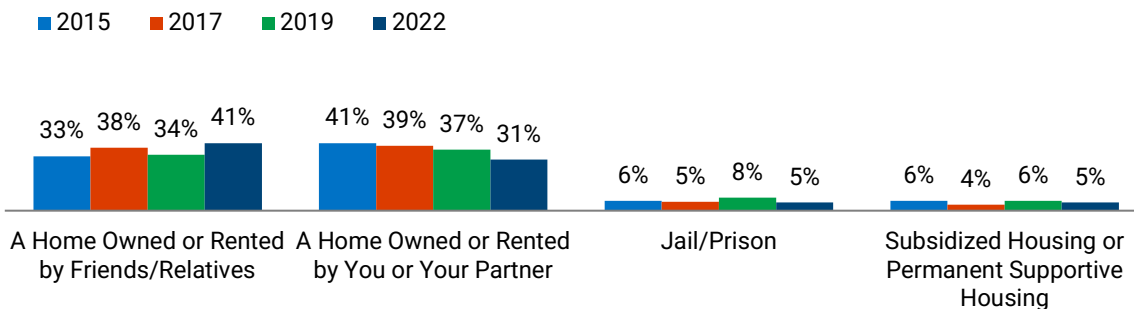


2022 N=549

Prior Living Arrangements

Thirty-one percent (31%) of survey respondents reported living in a home owned or rented by them or their partner prior to becoming homeless, a decrease from 2019 (37%). Forty-one percent (41%) reported they were living with friends or relatives, 5% reported they were in jail or prison, and 5% were staying in subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing.

Figure 14: LIVING ARRANGEMENTS JUST PRIOR TO EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (TOP RESPONSES IN 2022)



2015 N=590; 2017 N=323; 2019 N=896 2022 N=528

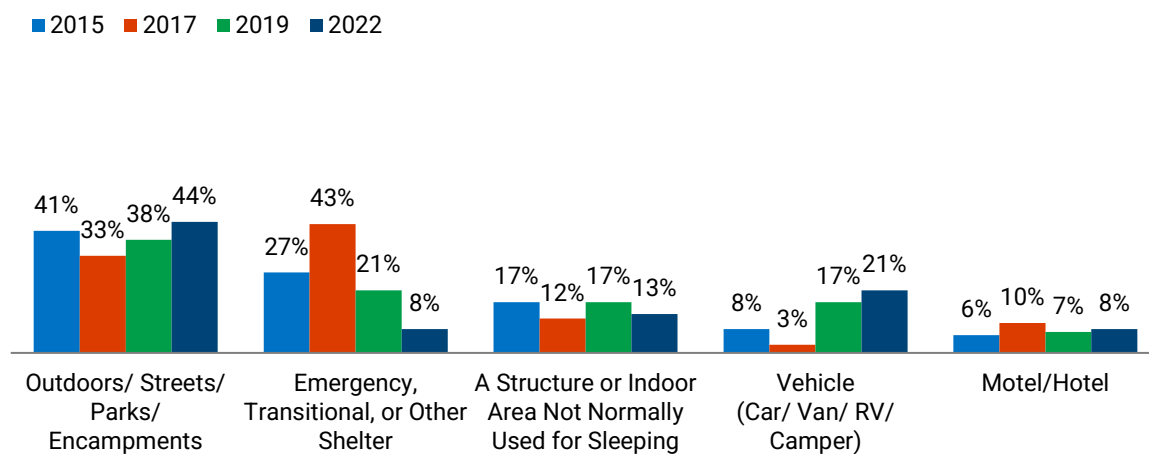
Current Living Arrangements

While basic information on where individuals were observed during the general street count effort was collected, survey respondents were still asked about their usual nighttime accommodations. Understanding the types of places homeless people are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts.

Forty-four percent (44%) of survey respondents reported currently living outdoors, either on the streets, in parks, or in encampment areas. Eight percent (8%) reported currently staying in a shelter or transitional housing, 13% reported staying in a structure/area not normally used for sleeping, and 21% reported staying in a vehicle.

Data on living arrangements based on the PIT count data was unavailable due to technical issues. While survey data provide data on living arrangements, this year’s survey was not administered in as many shelters in the past, in part based on concerns relating to Covid. Data on persons staying in shelters should be read with caution.

Figure 15: CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS



2013 N=452; 2015 N=609; 2017 N=331; 2019 N=925, 2022 N=

Note: The “Other option” was 6% in 2022.

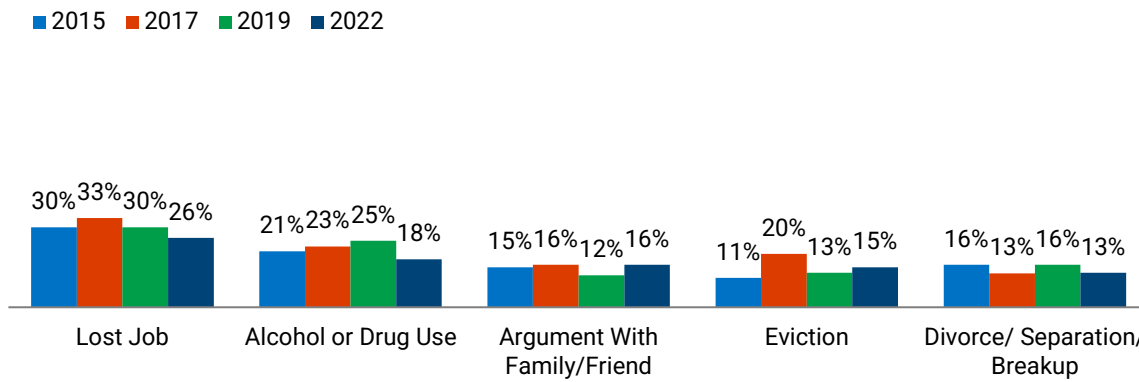
Persons Residing in Encampment Areas

There were 1,652 persons experiencing homelessness who were identified as staying in encampment areas in 2022, representing a decrease of 7% from 2019 when 1,792 persons were identified as staying in encampments.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

Twenty-six percent (26%) of survey respondents self-reported job loss as their primary cause of homelessness, while 18% cited alcohol or drug use, 16% cited an argument with a family member or friend, 15% cited eviction, and 13% cited a divorce or separation.

Figure 16: PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP RESPONSES IN 2022)

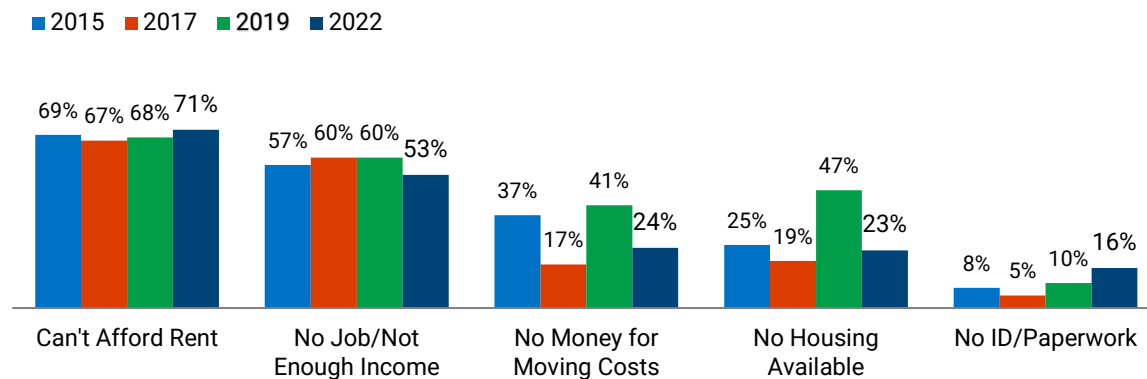


2015 N=611 respondents offering 897 responses; 2017 N=329 respondents offering 463 responses; 2019 N=915 respondents offering 1,337 responses; 2022 N= respondents offering responses

Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

When asked what has prevented them from obtaining housing, the most common response was “can’t afford rent,” reported by 71% of survey respondents. This was followed by 53% who reported a lack of job or sufficient income, 24% who reported not having enough money for moving costs (significantly lower than the 41% reported in 2019), and 23% who said that there isn’t housing available.

Figure 17: OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING (TOP RESPONSES IN 2022)



2015 N=593 respondents offering 2,001 responses; 2017 N=324 respondents offering 724 responses; 2019 N=907 respondents offering 3,100 responses; 2022 N=541 respondents offering 1,459 responses

Note: “No Housing Available” was added as a response option after 2013.

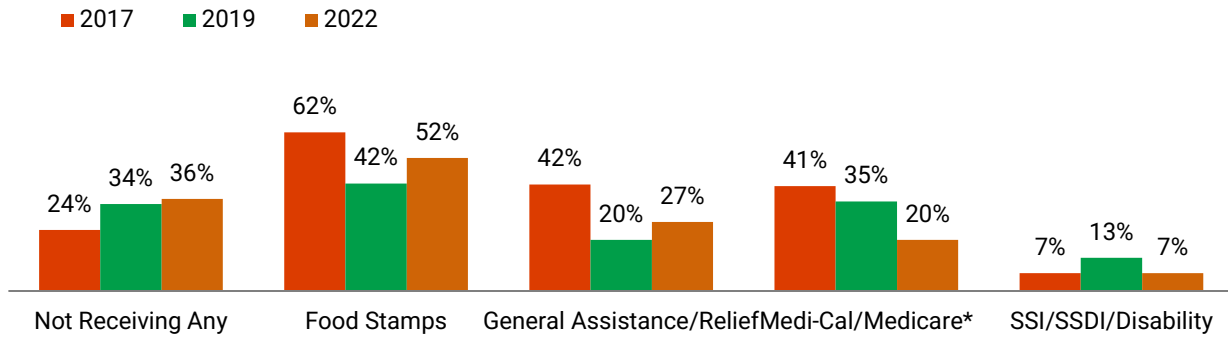
SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

The City of San José provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal, state and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support.

Government Assistance

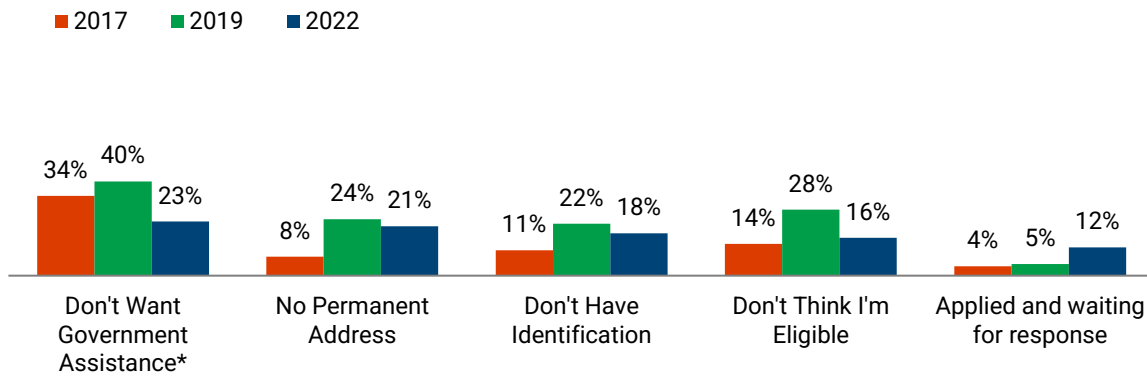
Slightly less than two-thirds (64%) of survey respondents reported in 2022 that they were receiving some form of government assistance though the receipt of assistance was generally down. Of those who reported they were not receiving any form of government support, the greatest percentage reported they did not want government assistance (23%).

Figure 18: RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (TOP RESPONSES IN 2022)



2017 N=315 respondents offering 586 responses; 2019 N=885 respondents offering 1,401 responses; 2022 N=519 respondents offering 790 responses

Figure 19: REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (TOP RESPONSES IN 2020)

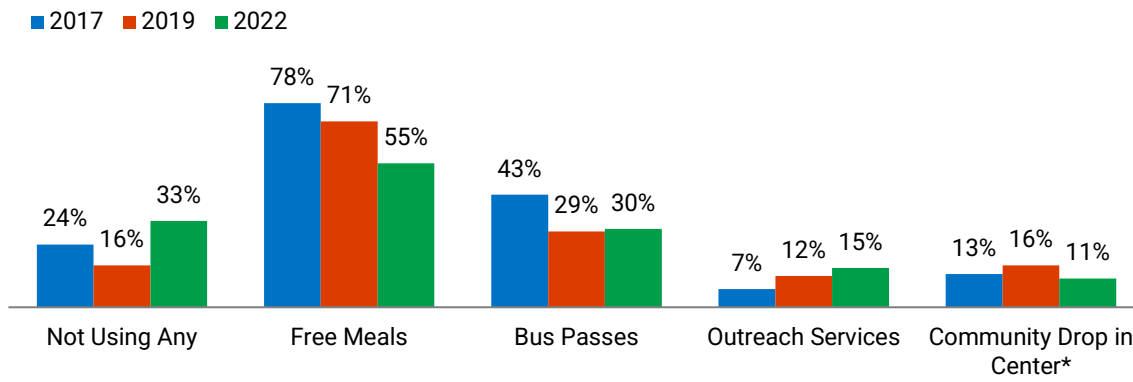


2017 N=74 respondents offering 86 responses; 2019 N=295 respondents offering 507 responses; 2022 N=357 respondents offering 510 responses

Services and Programs

A majority (67%) of survey respondents in 2022 reported they were accessing other services and assistance beyond government aid, a decrease from 2019. The most frequently cited types of assistance respondents reported accessing were meal services (55%), bus passes (30%), and outreach services (15%).

Figure 20: RECEIPT OF OTHER SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE (TOP RESPONSES IN 2022)



2017 N=323 respondents offering 648 responses; 2019 N=899 respondents offering 1,678 responses; 2022 N= 527 respondents offering 951 responses

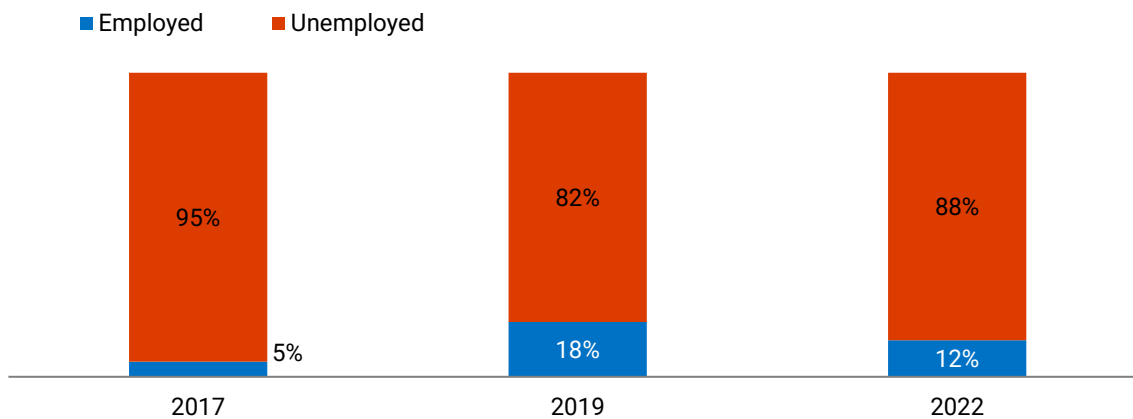


EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The unemployment rate in the San José-Sunnyvale metropolitan area in January 2022 was at 3.4%, slightly up from 3.1% in January 2019.¹ It is important to recognize that the unemployment rate represents only those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment.

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of survey respondents experiencing homelessness indicated they were unemployed, an increase from 82% in 2019. Forty-one percent (41%) of unemployed respondents indicated that they were currently looking for work, 30% indicated they were not, and 29% indicated they were currently unable to work. While the majority (88%) of survey respondents reported being unemployed, some reported having part-time or having sporadic employment (9%) and full-time employment (3%).

Figure 21: EMPLOYMENT STATUS



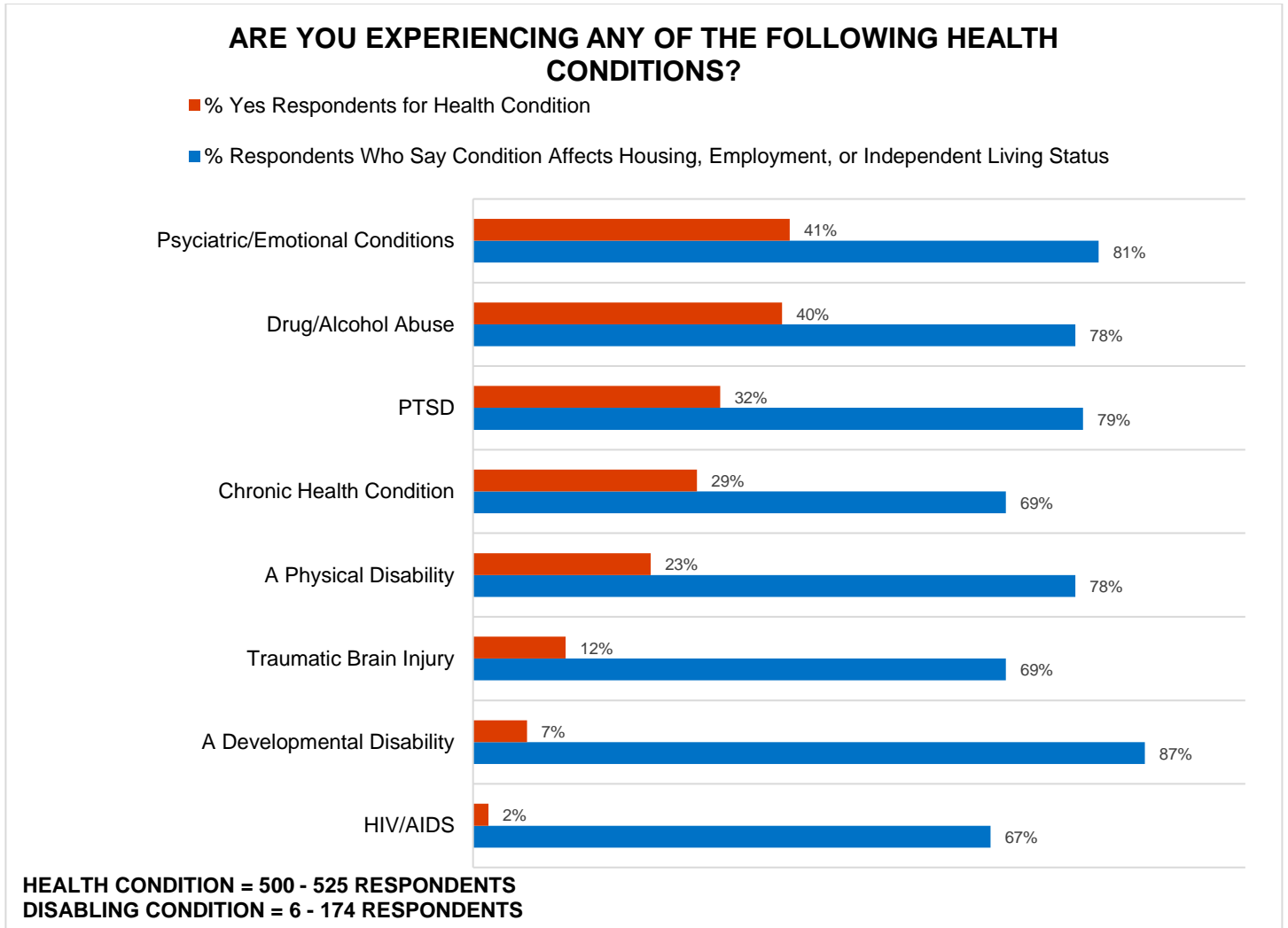
2015 N=626; 2017 N=310; 2019 N=897; 2022 N=523

¹State of California Employment Development Department. (2022). Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). Retrieved from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>.

HEALTH

The top health conditions survey respondents reported experiencing in 2022 were: a psychiatric or emotional condition, such as depression and schizophrenia (41%); drug/alcohol abuse (40%), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD (32%).

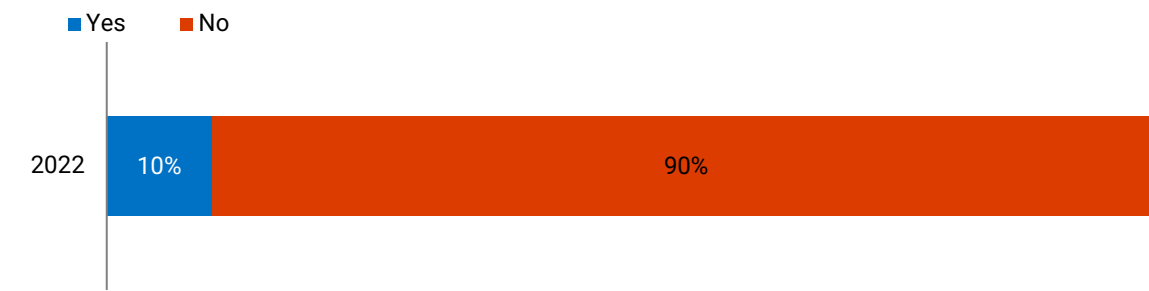
Figure 22: HEALTH CONDITIONS



DOMESTIC/PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

A history of domestic violence and partner abuse are prevalent among individuals experiencing homelessness and can be the primary cause of homelessness for many. Ten percent (10%) of all survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse. When asked about experiences of ever being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused by a relative, or another person they have stayed with (spouse, partner, sibling, parent) in their lifetime, 30% indicated that they have been.

Figure 23: CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC OR PARTNER VIOLENCE



2022 N=533

Figure 24: HISTORY OF BEING PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, OR SEXUALLY ABUSED BY A RELATIVE, OR ANOTHER PERSON WITH WHOM THEY HAVE STAYED



2022 N=499

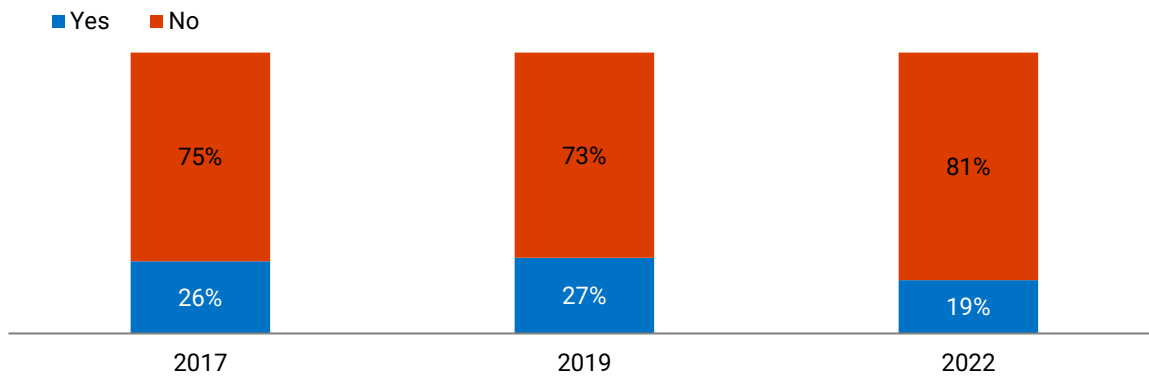
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Homelessness and incarceration history are often related. Also, criminal history and the general lack of available reentry services increases the likelihood of an experience of homelessness for the formerly incarcerated.

Incarceration

When asked if they had spent a night in jail or prison in the last 12 months, 19% of survey respondents reported that they had, a decrease from 2019 (27%). Eleven percent (11%) of respondents also reported being on probation or parole at the time of the survey.

Figure 25: SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



2015 N=593; 2017 N=326; 2019 N=875; 2022 N=516



HUD 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. In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs, including:

- Individuals with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness;
- Veterans experiencing homelessness;
- Families with children experiencing homelessness; and
- Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

These special populations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness. The following sections examine each of these four subpopulations.



INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

HUD defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer—or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the last three years—and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as heads of household who meet the definition.

Estimates of Individuals Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

There were a total of 1,906 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in 2022, representing 28% of the overall Point-in-Time homeless population in San José. This is a 23% increase over 2019’s chronically homelessness and reflects both the growth in length of time experiencing homelessness and growth in the prevalence of disabling health conditions. The percentage of persons experiencing chronic homelessness who were sheltered in San José increased from 15% to 19% between 2019 and 2022.

Figure 26: INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

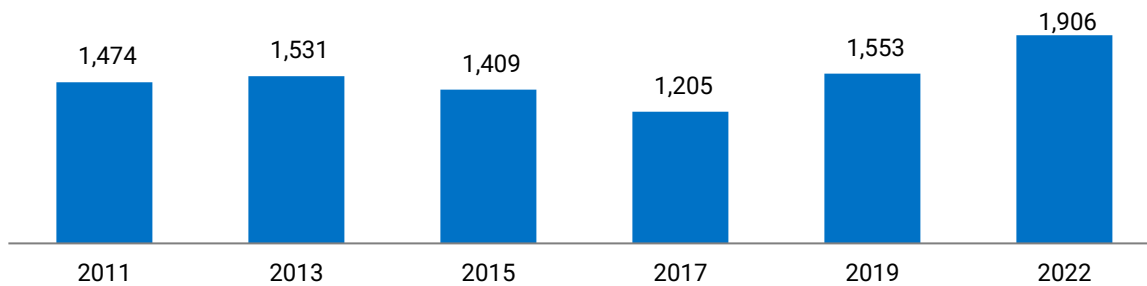
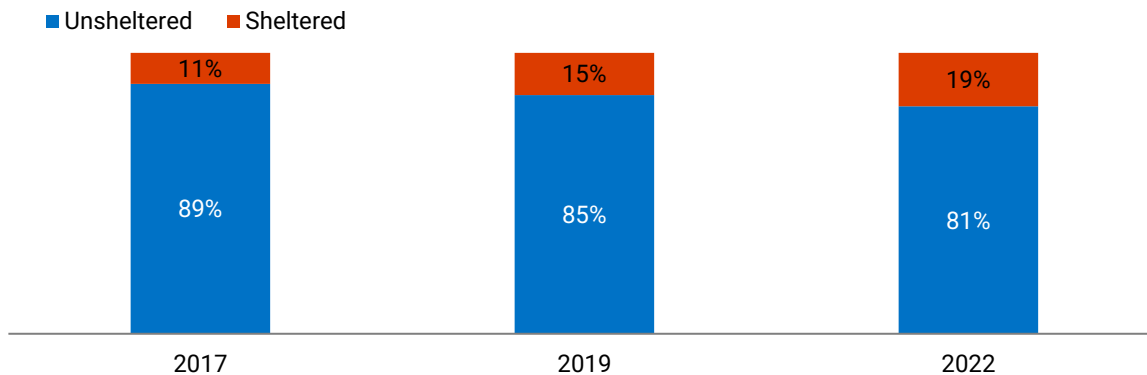


Figure 27: POPULATION EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

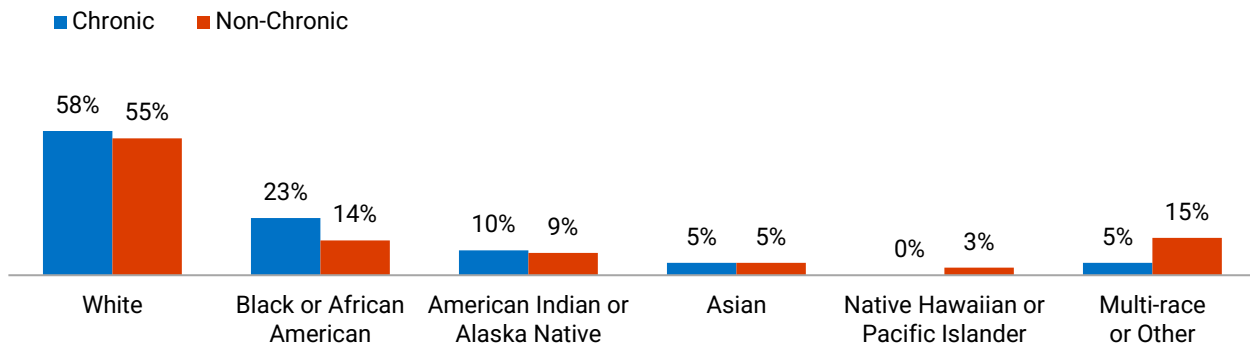


2017 N=1,205; 2019 N=1,553; 2022 N=1,906

Demographics of Survey Respondents Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

The majority (60%) of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as male, a decrease from 2019 (70%). A similar percentage of respondents experiencing chronic homelessness identified as Hispanic or Latinx (43%), compared to non-chronically homeless respondents (45%).

Figure 28: SURVEY RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS BY RACE

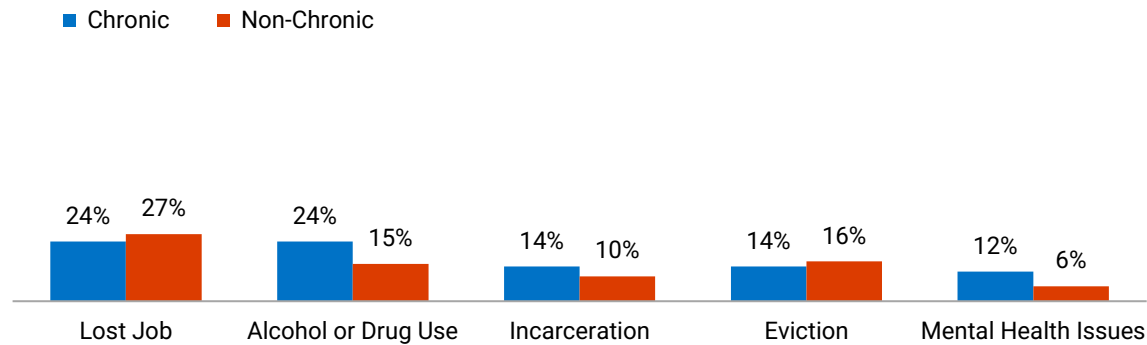


Chronic N=130; Non-Chronic N=311
 2017 N=; 2019 N=231; 2022 N=160

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Respondents Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Lost job was the most common cause of homelessness cited by survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness (24%), slightly less than the not chronically homeless population (27%). The next most frequently cited responses were alcohol or drug use (24%) and incarceration (14%).

Figure 29: PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS



Chronic N=161 respondents offering 246 responses; Non-Chronic N=385 respondents offering 538 responses

VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Many U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans experience higher rates of Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance abuse. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters, and often remain on the street for extended periods of time.

Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

There were 336 veterans experiencing homelessness identified in San José in 2022, representing 5% of the total Point-in-Time homeless population. Seventy-nine percent (79%) were unsheltered, while 21% were sheltered.

Figure 30: VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

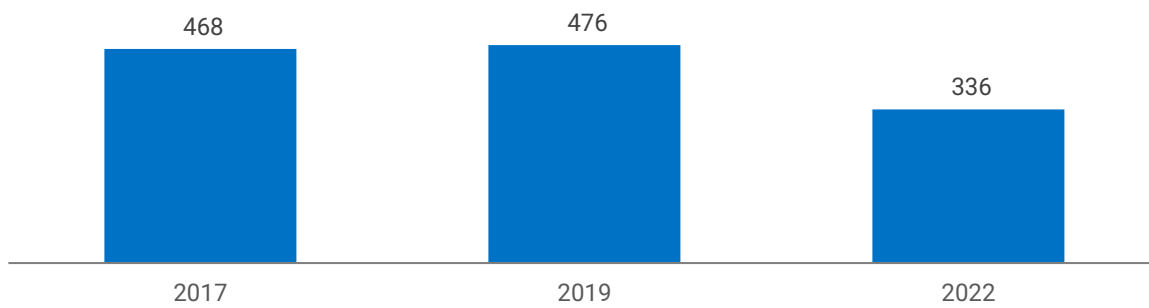
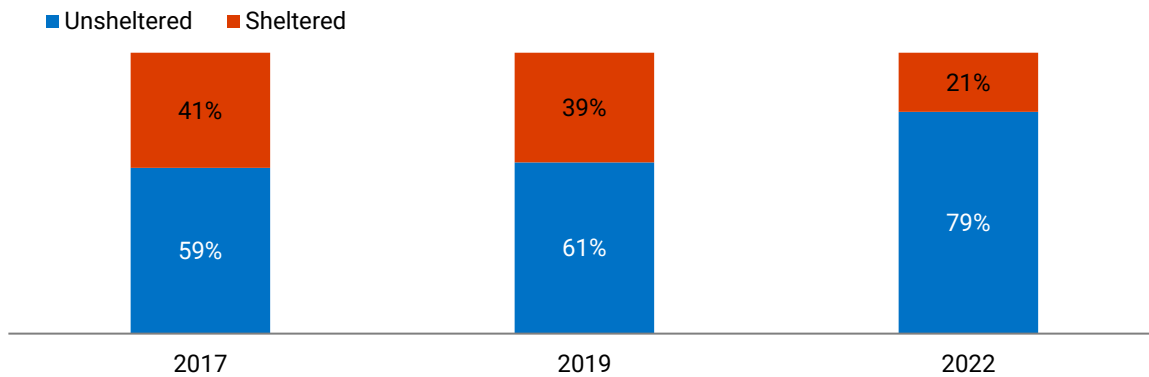


Figure 31: VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY SHELTER STATUS

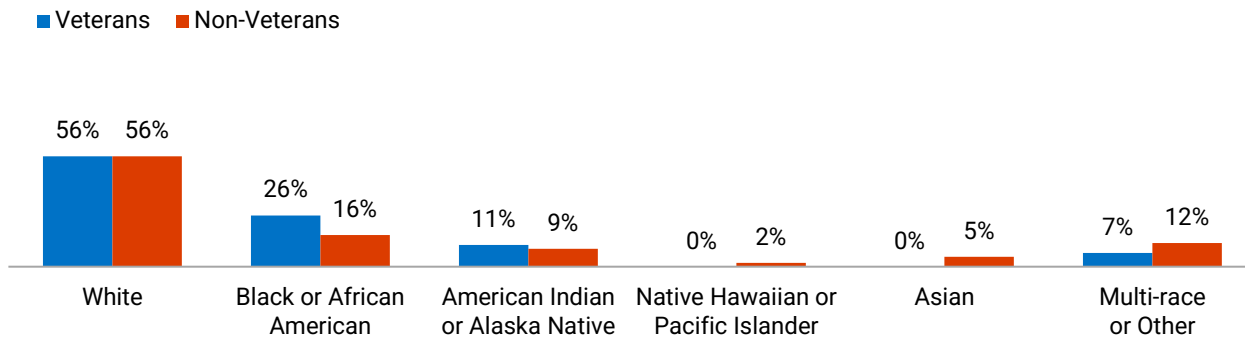


2015 N=500; 2017 N=468; 2019 N=476; 2022 N=336

Demographics of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

A large majority (87%) of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as male, ten percent (10%) identified as female, and 3% identified as transgender. In terms of racial identity, well over half (56%) identified as White, while 26% identified as Black/African American and another 11% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native.

Figure 32: VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY RACE



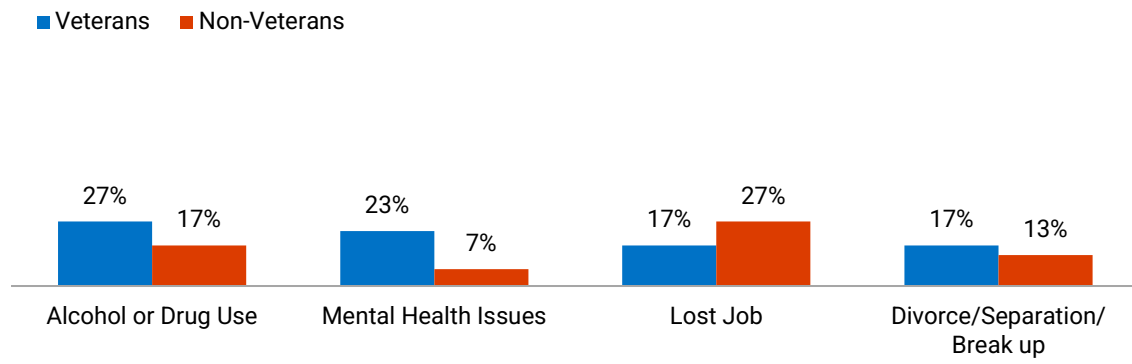
Veterans N=27; Non-Veterans N=411



Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans

Veterans cited alcohol or drug use as the cause of their homelessness more often than non-veterans (27% vs. 17%, respectively), as well as mental health issues (23% vs. 7%, respectively).

Figure 33: PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

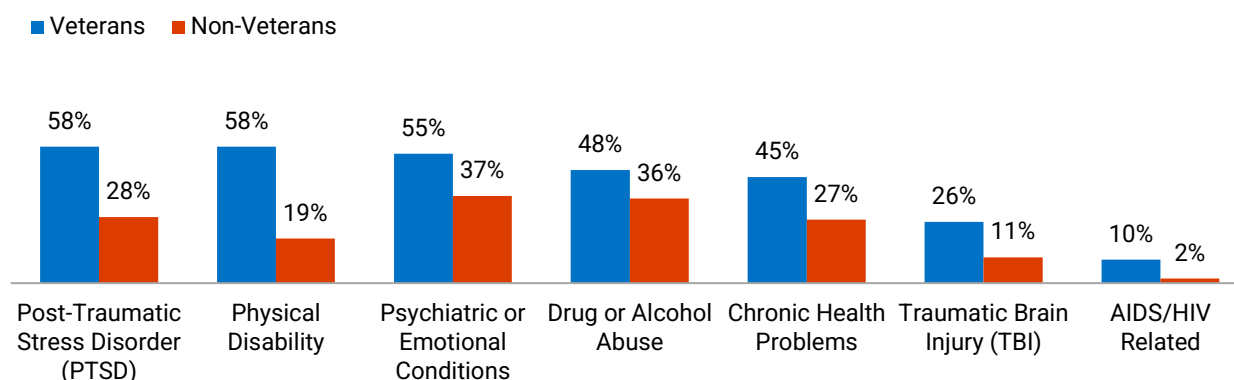


Veterans N=30 respondents offering 46 responses; Non-Veterans N=513 respondents offering 733 responses

Disabling Conditions Among Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

In general, veterans experiencing homelessness reported higher rates of health conditions than their non-veteran counterparts, with exception of psychiatric/emotional conditions. The most commonly reported condition homeless veterans reported experiencing was PTSD (58%) and physical disability (58%), a psychiatric or emotional condition (55%), drug/alcohol abuse (48%), and chronic health problems (45%). All of these health conditions were experienced more often amongst veterans than non-veterans.

Figure 34: HEALTH CONDITIONS



Veterans N=31; Non-Veterans N=520

FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

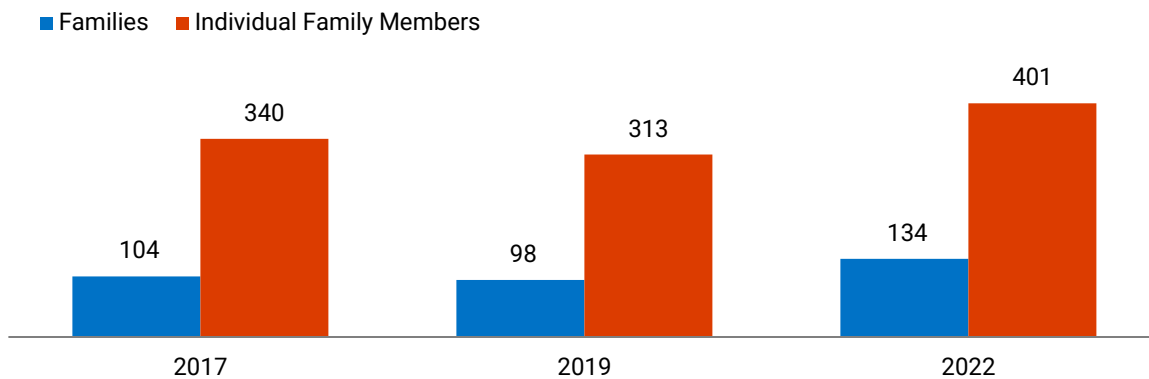
Very few families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered by the definition of homelessness that are used for the purposes of the PIT count. School districts in the City of San José use the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, a more expansive definition of homelessness than used in the PIT count. The McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness includes individuals and families who are doubled up, couch surfing, staying in

hotel/motels, and other living arrangements that are not included in the HUD-mandated definition of homelessness. Data indicates that there are far more families experiencing homelessness under the McKinney-Vento definition than the HUD-mandated definition. Also, HUD requires that shelter status be validated for the night of the count while school district homeless student status is assessed typically in the fall of the previous calendar year of the count.

Estimates of Families Experiencing Homelessness

There were a total of 134 families consisting of 401 individual family members experiencing homelessness in San José in 2022. The families experiencing homelessness subpopulation represented 6% of the Point-in-Time homeless population. The majority (94%) of homeless families reported in the PIT count were sheltered, while the remaining 6% were unsheltered.

Figure 35: FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



Demographics of Families Experiencing Homelessness

Female family members accounted for 59% of the families experiencing homelessness subpopulation, while males accounted for 35%. In terms of racial identity, 47% of family members experiencing homelessness identified as White, while 20% identified as Black/African American.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

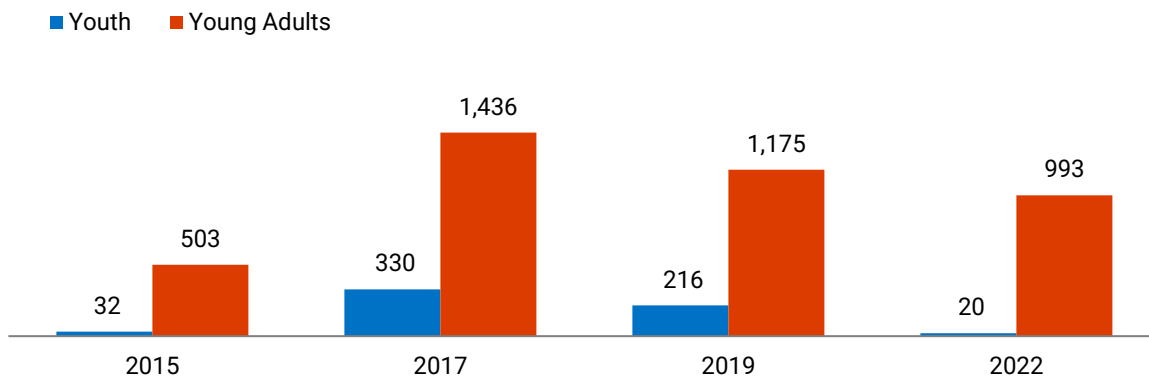
Youth are individuals under the age of 18, while young adults are individuals who are between the ages of 18-24. All youth in this category are unaccompanied and not with a parent or adult relative (in a family).

Estimates of Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

Homelessness among youth and young adults is a difficult problem to identify. Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness are less likely to be found among the adult population experiencing homelessness, preferring locations and times of day that make traditional efforts at enumeration difficult due to living in many different unstable housing situations such as couch surfing, hotel/motel sharing, and non-traditional unsheltered locations. This is especially true in more urban communities like San Jose. Accordingly, a separate youth count effort was put in place, relying on knowledge gathered from youth currently experiencing homelessness as well as their participation in the count itself.

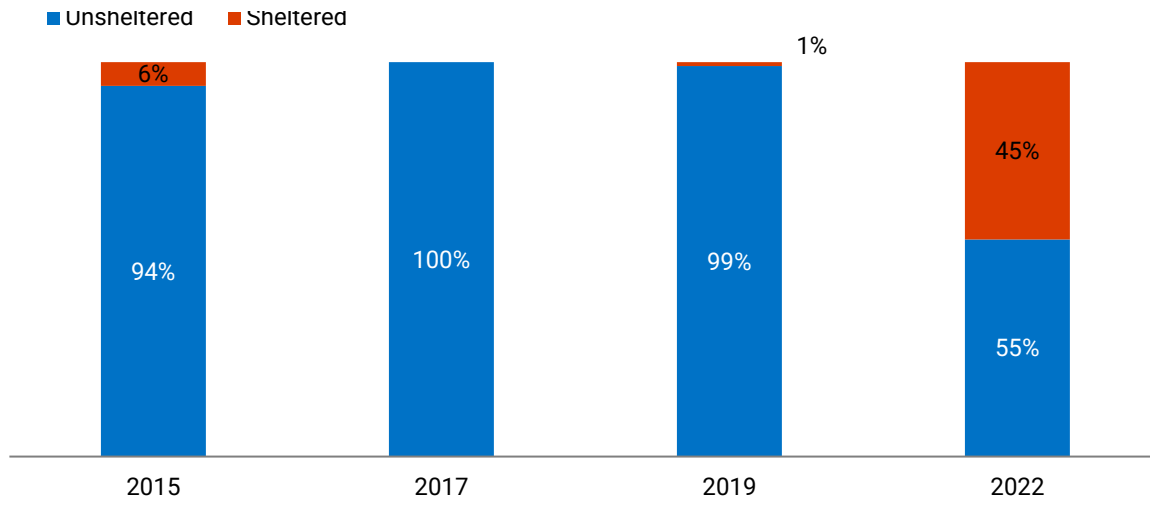
The 2022 Point-in-Time count identified 1,013 youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in San José. This represents an 27% decrease since 2019. Please see the methodology section for further information regarding this decrease and the methodological calculation changes which contributed to it. In 2022, the majority (79%) of youth and young adults were unsheltered. The youth and young adults experiencing homelessness subpopulation represents fifteen percent (15%) of the overall homeless population in the City of San José.

Figure 36: YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



Note: In 2019, methodology in calculating the numbers of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness changed. While the change was a small one, please use caution when comparing 2017 to 2019. For further information regarding the methodology change, please see Appendix A.

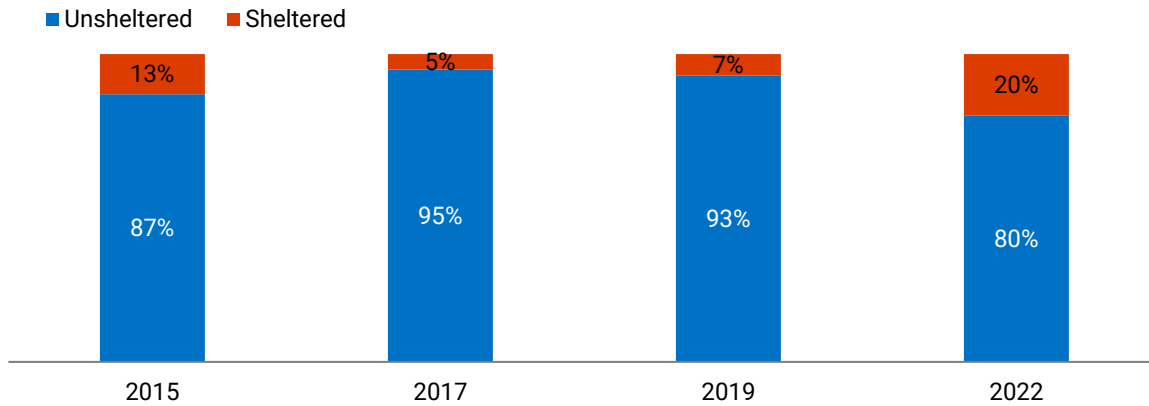
Figure 37: Youth Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status



2015 N=32; 2017 N=330; 2019 N=216; 2022 N=20



Figure 38: YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY SHELTER STATUS

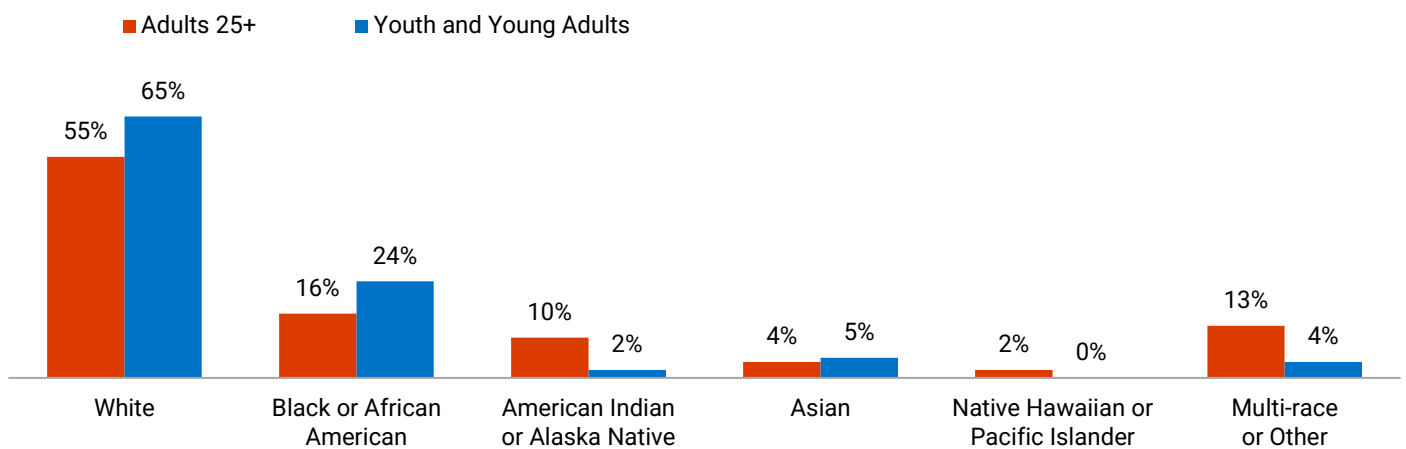


2015 N=503; 2017 N=1,436; 2019 N=1,175; 2022 N=993

Demographics of Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

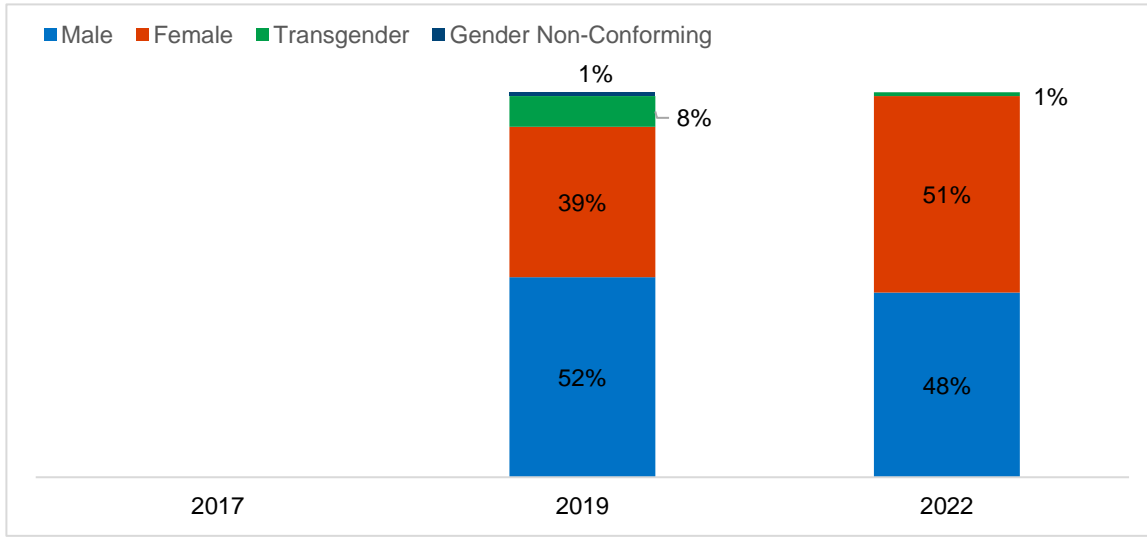
Over half (51%) of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness identified as female, 48% identified as male, and 1% identified as transgender. Racially, 65% identified as White, 24% as Black/African American, and 5% as Asian.

Figure 39: YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS BY RACE



Youth and Young Adults N=55; Adults 25+ N=386

Figure 40: YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY GENDER

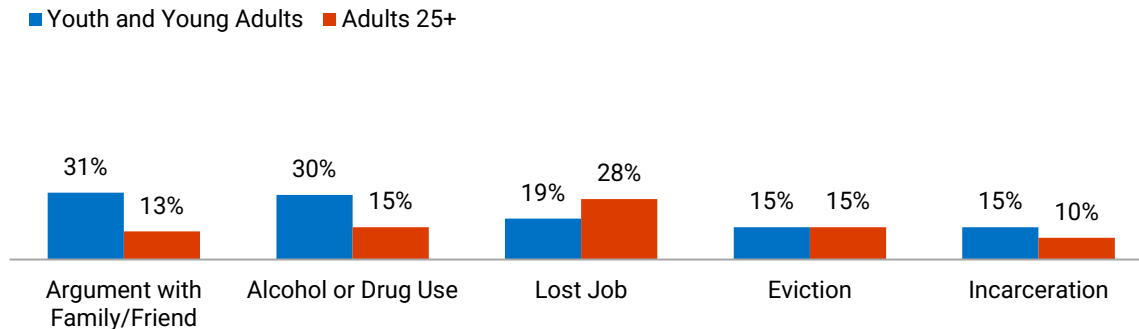


2017 N=; 2019 N=134; 2022 N=84

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Youth and Young Adults

The most commonly reported causes among youth and young adults were an argument with family or a friend (31%), alcohol/drug use (30%), lost job (19%), and eviction (15%).

Figure 41: PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

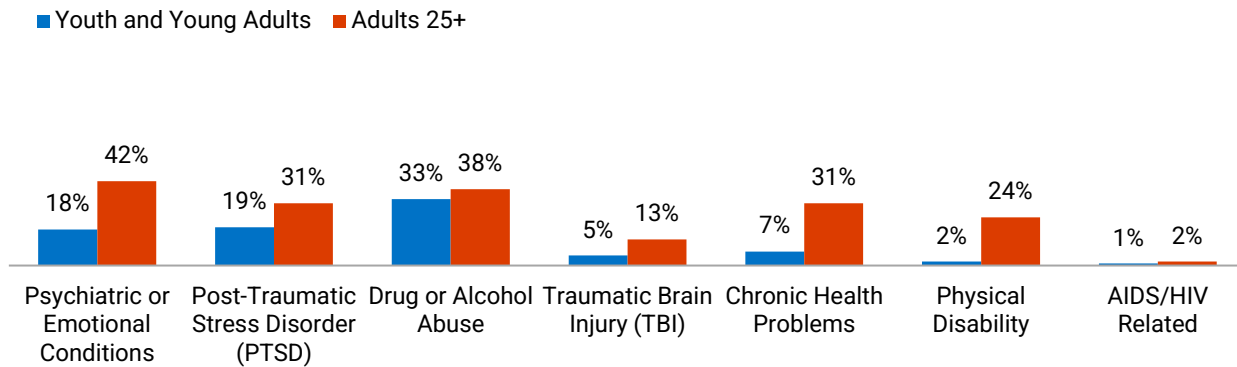


Youth and Young Adult N=81 respondents offering 125 responses; Adults N=465 respondents offering 659 responses

Health Conditions Among Youth & Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

Thirty-three percent (33%) of respondents under age 25 reported drug/alcohol abuse, 19% reported experiencing PTSD, and 18% reported psychiatric or emotional conditions.

Figure 42: HEALTH CONDITIONS



Youth and Young Adult N=84 Adults 25+ N=470



CONCLUSION

The 2022 City of San José Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying the homeless population. Data summarized in this report provide many valuable insights about the unique and diverse experiences of homelessness in the City of San José. A few data highlights include:

- The Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified a total of 6,650 persons experiencing homelessness in the City of San José in 2022, an increase of 9% from the previous count conducted in 2019.
- More than three in four (75%) persons experiencing homelessness in the City of San José were unsheltered, living in places not intended for human habitation, an improvement from 2019's unsheltered percentage of 84%. Sheltered status increased from 16% in 2019 to 25% in 2022 reflecting significant enhancements to shelter capacity in the City.
- Respondents who had been homeless for a year or longer for their current episode of homelessness increased from 67% in 2019 to 79% in 2022, continuing an upward trend in the length of homeless episodes.
- Continuing previous data results, 85% of survey respondents had stable housing in Santa Clara County when they experienced their current episode of homelessness
- The biggest obstacles to obtaining permanent housing were the affordability of rent (71%), a lack of a job/income (53%), and a lack of money available for moving costs (24%).
- Homeless survey respondents also reported having these health conditions: a psychiatric or emotional condition (42%); drug/alcohol abuse (36%), and PTSD (31%).
- The estimated counts of the four HUD-identified subpopulations in the City of San José were: chronically homeless individuals with one or more disabling condition (1,906 persons and 28% of the overall homeless population), homeless veterans (476 and 7% of the overall homeless population), 401 members of 134 families with children under 18 experiencing homelessness and 6% of the overall homeless population), and unaccompanied youth and young adults (1,013 and 15% of the overall homeless population).
- While the Covid-19 pandemic posed challenges to conducting the count, including a delay from 2021 to 2022 and from January 2022 to February 2022, local community members joined with outreach and advocate staff to successfully conduct the PIT count. New safety procedures and adoption of phone based data collection allowed count participants to stay safe, while increased usage of trained and knowledgeable staff ensured data collection remained accurate.

In summary, the 2022 City of San José Homeless Count and Survey provides valid and useful data that help create a more comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness. Data presented in this report fulfill federal reporting requirements for the CoC, and will continue to inform outreach, service planning, and policy decision-making by local planning bodies over the year to come.

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

The San José Point-in-Time Homeless Census and Survey was designed and implemented as part of the broader county-wide effort. Therefore, the research methodology and infrastructure that supported the effort was the same as Santa Clara County, which is detailed below.

Overview

The 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices and using HUD's definition of homelessness. The primary purpose was to produce a point-in-time estimate of individuals and families experiencing homelessness the City of San Jose, a city which covers approximately 182 square miles. The results of several components were combined to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night. A detailed description of these components follows.

Components of the Homeless Census & Survey

The methodology used in the 2022 Point-in-Time Census and Survey had five components:

1. **General Street Count:** A morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on February 23rd and 24th 2022. This occurred from approximately 4:30 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; and in vehicles and abandoned properties. In order to canvass all areas within the City of San Jose, the general street count was spread over two days with interstate 880 serving as the dividing line between day 1 where the vast majority of the City was canvassed and day 2, the 24th was used to enumerate some areas of north, south and east San Jose that were unable to be covered on day 1, the 23rd. The general street count was designed to take place before shelter occupants were released. In areas with shelters, the immediate area surrounding the shelter was prioritized to eliminate potential double counting of individuals.
2. **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on February 23rd 2022. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens. All shelter data were gathered either from Santa Clara County's Homeless Management Information System or directly from the shelter.
3. **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Youth:** An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied children under 18 and transition-age youth 18-24 years old on February 23rd 2022. This occurred from approximately 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM and was led by a special youth team who canvassed specific areas where unaccompanied children and youth were known to congregate. Upon completion, data from this targeted count was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure that any possible duplicate counts were removed.
4. **Targeted COE Street Count of Students and Their Families:** A count of previously-identified unsheltered homeless students and their families conducted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education in participating school districts for the night of February 23, 2022. Again, data was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure that any possible duplicate counts were removed.
5. **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview with 549 unique sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals conducted by peer surveyors between February 23rd and March 31, 2022 in San José. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Census estimates, and then used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the demographics and experiences of homeless individuals.

The Planning Process

To ensure the success and integrity of the count, many county 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. ASR has over 23

years of experience conducting homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Our work is featured as a best practice in the HUD publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*.

Community Involvement

Local homeless and housing service providers and advocates were valued partners in the planning and implementation of this count. Thanks to local efforts, the count included enumerators with a diverse range of knowledge, including expertise regarding areas frequented by homeless individuals, individuals living in vehicles, and persons residing in encampments. Community partners were also key in recruiting individuals with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the street count and survey efforts.

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.
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Methodological Improvements

The 2022 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved methodology used counts since 2007, with the addition of dedicated youth outreach in each of those years. In 2022 substantial changes were made to improve data collection methods for greater accuracy and to accommodate the public health considerations needed to accommodate a safe count amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The PIT count of 2021 was postponed due to public health considerations and was further postponed from late January 2022 to the end of February 2022 due to concerns about the Omicron surge. Social distancing standard recommended by the Santa Clara Public Health Department challenged organizers with a new approach to the regional PIT day deployment centers used in the past. A virtual deployment system was developed in conjunction with a pre-count, route assignment system driven by online, interactive GIS mapping tools enabling planners to assign PIT count routes to outreach teams, jurisdictional staff and other interested community members and stakeholders who were familiar with the target population. The result was a complete canvassing of the entire City with GPS documentation and data entry of all observation information needed for HUD reporting.

Volunteer and Guide Recruitment

Many individuals who live and/or work in Santa Clara County supported the county's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. In 2022, over 250 community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count.

Extensive outreach efforts were conducted, including outreach to local non-profits and volunteer agencies that serve individuals experiencing homelessness. Due to COVID-19 considerations, a decision was made to work with the enhanced outreach infrastructure of the City of San Jose, both city staff and contracted outreach workers. This included some knowledgeable and reliable lived experience guides to participate in the count under the supervision of outreach staff. Homeless guides were paid \$20 for viewing an hour-long training as well as \$20 per hour worked on the days of the count.

In order to participate in the count, all participants were requested to view an online training video before the count. Training covered all aspects of the count, including the definition of homelessness, how to identify homeless individuals, potential locations where homeless individuals may congregate, how to safely and respectfully conduct the count, how to use the smartphone observation survey app and maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered, as well as other tips to help ensure an accurate count.

Street Count Deployment

To achieve complete coverage of the county within the morning timeframe planners worked with ASR to pre-assign PIT day routes to agencies and teams who were most familiar and able to canvas the area accurately. High density census tracts from previous counts and current information from street teams was gathered and planners pre-assigned City route tracts to outreach agencies to enumerate on the day of the count. For less dense areas, some jurisdictional staff and community members were enlisted to cover routes. On the count day all team leaders were instructed to contact a central dispatch that they were on their assigned routes and contacted them again when they were complete with their assignment.

Safety Precautions

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In census tracts with a high concentration of homeless encampments, specialized teams with knowledge of those encampments were identified and assigned to those areas. 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

Dispatch center volunteers provided each team with smartphone app support (ESRI's Survey 123 app) to record the number of homeless persons observed in addition to basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment log sheet. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas and call in with any questions or concerns they had. Central dispatch was also able to monitor teams during the count and view observations in real time.

YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

Goal

The goal of the 2022 dedicated youth count was to improve representation of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults under the age of 25 in the Point-in-Time Count. 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. Therefore, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth.

Research Design

As in all years, planning for the 2022 supplemental youth count included homeless youth service providers and youth with lived experience of homelessness. Local service providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate and recruited youth and young adults currently experiencing homelessness with knowledge of where to locate homeless youth to serve as guides for the count. Late afternoon and early evening enumeration were the ideal times recommended by advocates to conduct the youth count.

A focus group zoom call was held with currently and previously homeless youth to identify areas to canvass for the supplemental youth count. Youth workers were paid \$20 per hour for their time, including time spent in training prior to the count. Youth and youth service provider staff members were trained on where and how to identify homeless youth as well as how to record the data.

Data Collection

It was determined that homeless 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 by youth street outreach workers.

HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly congregate with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. For this reason, these agencies accept and recommend that communities count youth at times when they can be seen rather than during traditional enumeration times.

Street Count De-Duplication

Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age. In total, 24 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 and institution count is to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across the City. These data are vital to gaining an accurate, overall count of the homeless population and understanding where homeless persons receive shelter.

Definition

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

Research Design

All shelter data were gathered either directly from the shelter or from Santa Clara County's Homeless Management Information System.

Data Collection

To collect data on individuals staying in shelters, ASR worked with BitFocus, the HMIS system administrators for Santa Clara County. BitFocus collected data on all emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and Safe Havens operating in the county. Data was collected on household status, age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic status, and if individuals had certain health conditions. There were a small, limited number of shelters that do not participate in the HMIS system. To gather their data, ASR collected the same data using a web-based system of reporting.

Efforts to Identify Families

Significant efforts were made to include data from all school districts within Santa Clara County. ASR and partners from the county met with district representatives to prepare them for the count and train them in data collection procedures. District representatives were trained to call all families that met the HUD definition of homelessness and ask where they had been staying on the night of the count.

Participation from school districts was not as extensive in 2022 when compared to previous years especially with the distractions of the COVID-19 impacts on school resources and schedules. This had an impact on the number of

unsheltered families that were identified in this year's count. In 2022, 9 schools participated in the COE count, while only 7 participated in the 2019 COE Count.

Street enumeration teams are also asked to look for families experiencing homelessness. In order to qualify as a family, there must be an adult with a child under the age of 18. If they identify any families experiencing homelessness, demographic details (age, gender, number of family members, dwelling type) are then compared to the COE count to determine if any are duplicates, which are then removed.

CHALLENGES

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as large and diverse as the City of San Jose. 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. COVID-19 was a huge challenge and affected all planning and outreach efforts. While city outreach staff provided considerable field expertise, most agree that more persons with lived experience would have helped the enumeration effort.

For a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not wish to be seen and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts are, an undercount of the homeless population will result, especially of hard-to-reach subpopulations such as families and youth. Even though the Point-in-Time Count is most likely to be an undercount of the homeless population, the methodology employed—coupled with the homeless survey—is the most comprehensive approach available.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Planning and Implementation

The data collected through the survey are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important 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-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by peer survey workers with lived homeless experience. Training sessions were facilitated by ASR, Santa Clara County staff, and community partners. Potential interviewers were led through 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 gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2019 homeless survey. The socks 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 6,650 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 549 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/-4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing

the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness the City of San Jose.

The 2022 survey was administered in shelters, transitional housing facilities, and on the street. In order 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 also made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence survivors, and families. One way to increase the participation of these groups was to recruit peer survey workers. Since 2009, the ASR survey methodology has prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of currently homeless surveyors.

In order to increase randomization of sample 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 that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that these 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 so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents’ anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents’ date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other survey questions.

Survey Challenges and Limitations

The 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, finding families experiencing homelessness presents a challenge and can lead to underrepresentation in the survey results. In 2022, the number of survey respondents living in families was low enough that displaying their survey results were unstable and could lead to misinterpretation of the data. 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.

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported. However, using a peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers and county staff members recommended individuals who would be the best suited to conducting interviews and these individuals received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. Service providers and county staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.

APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Chronic homelessness – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 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 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual’s ability to live independently; a developmental disability; or HIV/AIDS.

Emergency shelter – The provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 180 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

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

Homeless – Under the 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, including 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.

Precariously housed – A person who is staying with the household because they have no other regular or adequate place to stay due to a lack of money or other means of support.

Sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness– Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single individual – An unaccompanied adult over the age of 18.

Young adults – Young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old 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 homeless individuals may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. 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 or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Unaccompanied youth – 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 individuals experiencing homelessness – Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.