San Francisco
Homeless Count & Survey
2019 Executive Summary

Every two years, 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 2019 City and County of San Francisco Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 24, 2019. The entire county was canvassed by teams of volunteers. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 1,054 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals in order to profile their experiences and characteristics.

2015-19 Homeless Count Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Single Adults 25+</th>
<th>Persons in Families</th>
<th>Unaccompanied Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6,775</td>
<td>4,702</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6,858</td>
<td>4,983</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>1,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>8,035</td>
<td>6,259</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>1,145</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2019 Sheltered/ Unsheltered Population

- **Sheltered**: n=2,855
- **Unsheltered**: n=5,180

Subpopulations*

- **Chronically Homeless**: 3,030 Individuals
  - 37% Sheltered
  - 63% Unsheltered

- **Homeless Veterans**: 608 Individuals
  - 19% Sheltered
  - 81% Unsheltered

- **Unaccompanied Youth**: 1,145 Individuals
  - 18% Sheltered
  - 82% Unsheltered

Gender

- 59% Male
- 35% Female
- 4% Transgender
- 1% Genderqueer/ Gender Non-Binary

LGBTQ+ Status

- 73% No
- 27% Yes

Race/ Ethnicity

- 29% White
- 37% Black
- 22% Multi-racial
- 18% Latinx
- 79% Non-Latinx
- 3% Don’t Know/ Refuse

Household Breakdown

- **Single Adults**: 7,350 Individuals in 6,790 Households
  - 30% Sheltered
  - 70% Unsheltered

- **Families**: 208 Families with 631 Members
  - 96% Sheltered
  - 4% Unsheltered

- **Unaccompanied Youth**: 1,145 Individuals in 980 Households
  - 18% Sheltered
  - 82% Unsheltered

CONFIDENTIAL/ SCATTERED SITE: 62

*Subpopulations include individuals who are under 18 years old, unaccompanied youth, homeless veterans, and individuals with a disability.

GOLDEN GATE PARK 171
FOURTH\nEIGHT\nNINE\nSIX\nTEN
CONFIDENTIAL/ SCATTERED SITE: 62
**Self-Reported Health**

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

- **Alcohol & Drug Use**: 42%
- **Psychiatric/Emotional Conditions**: 39%
- **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**: 37%
- **Chronic Health Problems**: 31%
- **Physical Disability**: 27%
- **Traumatic Brain Injury**: 15%
- **HIV/AIDS Related Illness**: 7%

**Disabling Conditions**

- 69% of survey respondents reported that at least one of their health conditions was disabling.

**Residence Prior to Homelessness**

- 70% of survey respondents reported that their residence prior to homelessness was in San Francisco.

**Justice System Involvement**

- 25% of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison/juvenile hall in the past year.

**Foster Care**

- 18% of survey respondents have been in the foster system.

**Services & Assistance**

- 73% of survey respondents reported receiving benefits.

**Unemployment**

- 89% of survey respondents were currently unemployed.

**Benefits Currently Accessing**

- 43% Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh
- 30% GA/CAAP/CAPI
- 20% MediCal/Medicare
- 17% SSI/SSDI
- 7% Social Security
- 2% CalWorks/TANF

**Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness**

- 5% 30 Days or Less
- 30% 1-11 Months
- 65% 1 Year or More

**Age at First Episode of Homelessness**

- 15% Under 18
- 30% 18-24
- 55% 25+

**Length of Time in San Francisco**

- 15% < 1 Year
- 26% 1-4 Years
- 17% 5-9 Years
- 43% 10 Years+

**Obstacles to Permanent Housing**

- 63% Can't Afford Rent
- 37% No Job/Income
- 19% No Money for Moving Costs
- 18% Housing Process too Difficult
- 15% No Housing Available

**Primary Cause of Homelessness**

Top 6 Responses*

- 26% Lost Job
- 18% Alcohol or Drug Use
- 13% Eviction
- 12% Argument with Family/Friend
- 8% Mental Health Issues
- 7% Incarceration

**First Episode of Homelessness**

- 31% of survey respondents reported currently experiencing homelessness for the first time.

**First Episode of Homelessness**

- Top 6 Responses*

- 26% Lost Job
- 18% Alcohol or Drug Use
- 13% Eviction
- 12% Argument with Family/Friend
- 8% Mental Health Issues
- 7% Incarceration

**Obstacles to Permanent Housing**

Top 5 Responses*

- 63% Can't Afford Rent
- 37% No Job/Income
- 19% No Money for Moving Costs
- 18% Housing Process too Difficult
- 15% No Housing Available

**Notes**

- *Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.
- Δ Only displaying top responses, all response data are available in the full report.

For more information about the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the efforts to address homelessness in San Francisco, please visit [HSH.SFGov.org](http://HSH.SFGov.org).