SAN FRANCISCO HOMELESS COUNT AND SURVEY

2022 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

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

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2022 POINT IN TIME COUNT: LOCAL CONTEXT

Every two years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all communities receiving federal funding for homeless services conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of people experiencing homelessness. The PIT Count is the primary source of nationwide data on homelessness and identifies people living in unsheltered and sheltered settings.

The PIT Count provides a critical snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in our community and is useful for measuring trends over time. Additionally, the PIT Count Increases our understanding of local needs, impacts funding for homeless services and meets federal reporting requirements, and informs program and policy decisions. While this report is critical, it does not take into account the changes, investments, and innovations happening locally. HSH has drafted this forward to share some of the local context that has impacted the findings of the 2022 PIT Count and the changes we have seen since the last count in 2019.

The increasing housing affordability challenges and growing economic inequality in the Bay Area, along with other factors, have led to consistently high levels of homelessness in San Francisco over the last decade. The severe lack of affordable housing and sharp increases in rent continue to push more people into homelessness each year because housing costs have rapidly outpaced wage growth. One study found that residents of San Francisco's metropolitan area must earn an hourly wage of $61.50, the equivalent of 4.1 full-time jobs at minimum wage, to afford a two-bedroom fair market rent apartment.[1] San Francisco also faces a severe shortage of affordable housing, with only 33 affordable and available rental units per 100 extremely low-income households.[2] A history of structural racism and housing discrimination has disparately impacted People of Color, resulting in significant over-representation in people experiencing homelessness. To address this crisis, San Francisco has nearly tripled the budget of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) since its founding in 2016 to support significant program growth and reduce disparities.

Since the 2019 PIT Count, HSH has focused on equitably expanding homelessness services. The Department's service expansion has primarily relied on the influx of local dollars from the Our City, Our Home (OCOH) Fund which San Francisco voters created in 2018 through the Proposition C ballot measure. OCOH funds became available for the City to spend in fiscal year 2020-21. In fiscal year 2021-22, OCOH funds comprised $299 million of HSH's $667 million budget. In fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24, HSH anticipates that OCOH will fund over a third of the Department's budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated existing challenges for the City's unhoused people and low-income populations at risk of homelessness. However, the Mayor's Homelessness Recovery Plan has

[1] National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2022). *Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing*. Retrieved from https://nlihc.org/oor

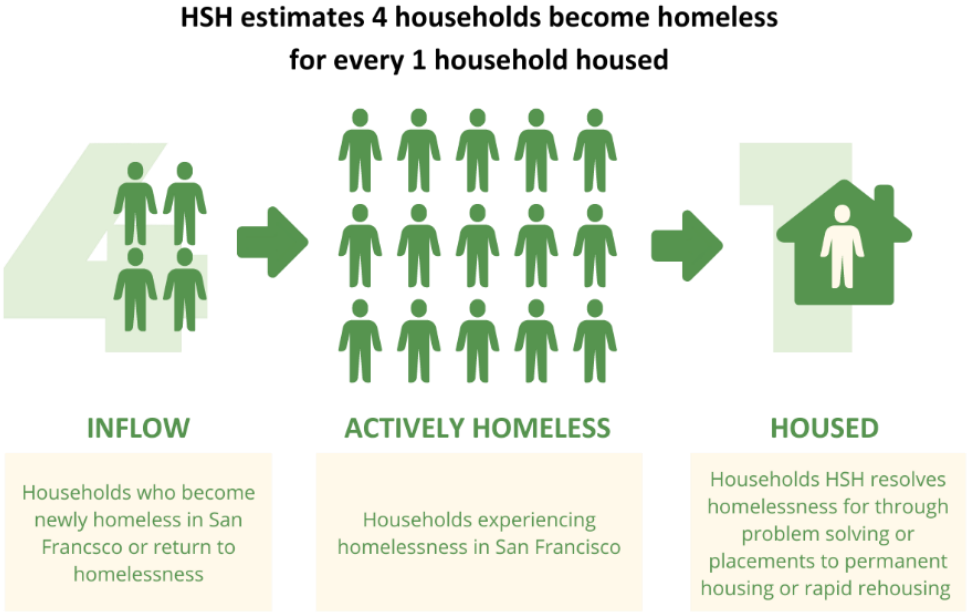
[2] National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2021). *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Rental Homes*. Retrieved from https://nlihc.org/gap

guided the City's response to COVID-19 to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents. The Plan has leveraged the new OCOH, state and federal funding for an unprecedented increase in housing, shelter and homelessness prevention resources. The decreases in the 2022 PIT Count – 3.5% in overall homelessness and 15% in unsheltered homelessness - show the initial returns of the City's investments in these resources.

Exits from Homelessness

Between the 2019 and 2022 Point-in-Time Counts, HSH helped more people than ever before in a three-year window exit homelessness through housing, prevention, or reunification with support systems. Over 8,000 households exited homelessness from January 2019 to January 2022 through Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Prevention and Problem Solving interventions (including relocation assistance).

However, HSH's placements to housing have not been able to keep pace with inflow of people who become newly homeless or return to homelessness throughout the year. HSH estimates that while 7,754 homeless individuals were observed on the night of the PIT Count, as many as 20,000[i] individuals may experience homelessness in San Francisco over the course of a full year. Analysis of these figures suggest that for every household San Francisco is able to permanently house through its Homelessness Response System, approximately four households become homeless. When the need exceeds available local resources, households unable to resolve homelessness on their own may need to leave San Francisco or remain homeless for long periods of time.



A SYSTEMIC RESPONSE TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS

The City launched the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) in 2016 to coordinate a systemic response to homelessness. In partnership with people experiencing homelessness, services

providers, and community partners, the Department shelters and houses over 15,000 homeless and formerly homeless people each day through the Homelessness Response System.

Advancing Equity and Reducing Disparities

People of Color experience homelessness at disproportionately high rates as a result of historical and structural racism and failed policies across many systems, including discrimination in housing, health, education, employment, and criminal justice.

HSH and its community partners continue to become more intentional in advancing equity across the Homelessness Response System for overrepresented and underserved populations and to both ensure that homeless programs and systems are not contributing to disparate outcomes by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity and are reducing disparities by establishing goals focused on advancing equity.

To guide the City's homelessness response with a focus on equity, HSH hired the Department's first Chief Equity Officer and published its first HSH Racial Equity Action Plan in 2021. The Department has taken various other steps in 2022 to help ensure equity is a central factor in our decision-making and programming, including:

- Developing equity goals and setting benchmarks to reduce disparities as part of the Department's process of developing a city-wide five-year strategic plan to respond to homelessness in San Francisco;
- Engaging people with lived experience of homelessness, particularly people who are over-represented and underserved, in the design and evaluation of programs and systems;
- Engaging with a BIPOC provider working group; and
- Focusing on data reporting that provides insight on the demographics of the populations HSH serves, including publishing a dashboard on the demographics of Coordinated Entry and the housing process.

Since 2019, the Department has started several initiatives to improve equity in the Homelessness Response System. These projects include:

- Targeted scattered-site investments to provide permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness in Bayview Hunters Point, a neighborhood that has been historically marginalized and underserved and has high rates of homelessness among Black or African-American people;
- Administration of Emergency Housing Vouchers, over 40% of which were targeted to people who are experiencing homelessness in Bayview Hunters Point;
- A new Access Point focused on the Latinx community opening in the Mission District in fiscal year 2022-23;
- The new Taimon Booton Navigation Center, focused on serving the transgender and gender non-conforming community;
- An investment of significant resources in fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to advance the goal of ending transgender homelessness; and
- Securing a housing demonstration grant focused on reducing racial disparities in the justice and homelessness systems.

The Homelessness Response System

There are six core components of the City's Homelessness Response System: Outreach, Coordinated Entry, Problem Solving and Prevention, Temporary Shelter, Housing, and Housing Ladder. These components are aligned to solve homelessness for people in need in an equitable way. The system's goal is to makes homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. Since 2019, HSH has expanded services in each of the core components of the Department's work.

Outreach

The San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT) connects the most vulnerable individuals living outside with available and appropriate resources within the Homelessness Response System through outreach, engagement, and case management.

Over the past two years, the City has launched new Street Response Teams that work with paramedics, clinicians, and people with lived experience to address behavioral health, overdoses, or other urgent needs of primarily unsheltered individuals in San Francisco. Street Response Teams are dispatched through 911 and provide an alternative to police response. The teams engage and connect with the most vulnerable people and provide them with coordinated care and centralized access to services. Street Response Teams include:

- EMS-6
- Street Crisis Response Team
- Street Overdose Response Team
- Street Wellness Response Team

SFHOT is part of the Street Wellness Response Team, which responds to unhoused people in need of a wellbeing check and connects them to available resources. Visit the Citywide Healthy Streets page for more information on the Street Response Teams.

Coordinated Entry

Coordinated Entry (CE) is the foundation of San Francisco's Homelessness Response System, serving as the "front door" for connecting households experiencing homelessness to the resources needed to resolve their housing crisis. Since the full launch of CE in 2019, CE has expanded to serve adults, families and youth through 11 geographically diverse Access Points throughout the City.

Additionally, in 2019 HSH launched the Access Point Partner Program so partners in the public health space could conduct Housing Primary Assessments in their existing settings and workflows. The Mental Health SF team identified initial Access Partners as key stakeholders that could help improve the rate of CE engagement with people with serious mental illnesses. These partners can leverage their existing skill sets and relationships with that population to improve the accuracy of the Housing Primary Assessment scores for that population. The San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team also serves as an Access Partner.

As part of HSH's Strategic Planning process, the Department launched a Coordinated Entry Reform and Evaluation process in 2022. This process examines the current CE framework and process through an equity lens to determine what needs to be changed, added, or eliminated. HSH will develop recommendations and strategies for a re-design of Coordinated Entry by November 2022. The Department will also develop an ongoing implementation plan based on input from multiple stakeholder groups, including nonprofit providers, clients, and City staff.

Problem Solving

Problem Solving provides opportunities to prevent people from entering the Homelessness Response System, to help them exit the Homeless Response System quickly, and to redirect people who can resolve their homelessness without the need for ongoing support.

Since 2019, the City has made significant investments in the expansion of Problem Solving services, including flexible financial assistance, targeted homelessness prevention, and reunification. In fiscal year 2021-22, HSH helped approximately 800 households resolve their homelessness through Problem Solving and over 600 households diverted through homelessness prevention.

Especially with the impact of COVID-19, targeted homelessness prevention has been a critical tool to support households at imminent risk of homelessness to remain stably housed. HSH partnered with All Home to launch a regional prevention collaboration. The Department also partnered with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to launch a citywide Prevention System during the height of the pandemic. In the spring of 2022, the City launched the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). This program will provide ongoing rental relief for households facing imminent eviction following the sunset of state and federal rental relief programs stood up during the pandemic. As of August 2022, HSH's partners had disbursed $5.6 million to over 1,000 households through the ERAP program.

Temporary Shelter

Shelter provides temporary places for people to stay while accessing other services to support a permanent exit from homelessness. Since 2019, HSH has expanded its traditional shelter portfolio and opened new program models. These changes were driven in part by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the onset of the pandemic, congregate shelter capacity decreased by almost 70% due to public health guidance. The City responded quickly by opening new non-congregate program models.

San Francisco's shelter system capacity increased by 24% (a net increase of 829 beds) between the 2019 and 2022 PIT Counts, as reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). This investment in resources helped contribute to the 15% decline in unsheltered homelessness in the City.

Navigation Centers: This expansion included three new Navigation Centers, which are low-barrier shelters that focus on connecting clients to housing resources. In 2021, HSH opened the first Navigation Center to serve Transitional Age Youth and a new Navigation Center serving adults in the Bayview. In April 2022, after the HIC Count, HSH opened the first Navigation Center dedicated to serving transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) clients.

Shelter-in-Place (SIP) Hotels: As part of the response to COVID-19, the City leveraged state and federal emergency funding to provide non-congregate shelter in hotels to over 3,700 guests. At the program's

peak, the SIP hotels provided 2,288 rooms across 25 hotel sites. The program includes onsite wraparound services from the Department of Public Health and the Human Services Agency, such as medical and behavioral health, in-home support services, and benefits enrollment. This combination of services has helped many guests stabilize. The program began winding down in June 2021 and will end in 2022.

While the initial intent of the SIP program was to provide a safe place for people experiencing homelessness who were most vulnerable to the virus to shelter in place, the program provided a unique opportunity for the city to permanently house some of the most vulnerable individuals from shelters and the street. As of August 2022, HSH has transitioned over 1,200 guests from the SIP hotel program into housing, and several hundred more will be permanently rehoused by the end of 2022.

Non- and Semi-Congregate Shelter: Drawing on the lessons of the SIP hotels, HSH has focused on expanding non-congregate and semi-congregate shelter options. These shelter types are more appropriate and attractive options for many unsheltered people.

At the time of the PIT Count, this expansion included:

- A non-congregate trailer program with 116 RV/trailers opened in the spring of 2020 as part of the COVID-19 response.
- A non-congregate cabin pilot program with 70 units.
- A new non-congregate family shelter with 59 units, including designated emergency units available 24/7 to families.
- Three hotel-based non-congregate emergency shelters providing approximately 300 units of shelter.

Two additional non- and semi-congregate shelter sites opened in the summer of 2022 providing approximately 430 additional shelter beds. A second cabin site is in the planning phase as of summer 2022.

Safe Sleep and Vehicle Triage Centers: The City also added Safe Sleep and Vehicle Triage Centers to the portfolio of available resources. These resources are considered unsheltered living situations per HUD's latest guidance and are not included in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). However, they are valuable resources to increase the overall capacity of HSH's system of care and to provide options to populations with unique needs.

- **Vehicle Triage Centers** provide a safe place for people to stay in their vehicles while accessing services. The 2022 PIT Count found 24% of unsheltered homeless individuals were observed sleeping in vehicles, and 8% of unsheltered survey respondents indicated sleeping in vehicles. There is a continued need for resources to serve this population of people who are unlikely to leave their vehicles to stay in more traditional shelter options while working toward a permanent exit to homelessness.

  To meet this need, HSH piloted a Vehicle Triage Center program from 2019 to 2021 that offered guests a safe place to stay in or store their vehicle while accessing services. Following the success of that pilot, HSH opened a second Vehicle Triage Center in a highly impacted area in

the Bayview in January 2022 with a total capacity of 130 spots. The Department is actively seeking a second site to serve the west side of the city.

- At **Safe Sleep** sites, people sleep in tents at a safe distance from each other at sites that are off the public sidewalk and offer services. The City stood up Safe Sleep sites as part of the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the height of the pandemic when shelter capacity decreased, these sites provided a safe, clean place for people to sleep and access services and sanitation. Safe Sleep can also be a good resource for people who are not yet ready to move inside. At the program's peak, five sites operated with over 250 tent slots. As of August 2022, the City plans to maintain two sites with approximately 55 tent spaces.

Housing and Housing Ladder

Through the Mayor's Homelessness Recovery Plan, San Francisco has invested in the largest expansion of supportive housing in 20 years. Housing provides permanent solutions to homelessness through subsidies and housing placements for adults, families and youth. HSH's portfolio of affordable housing includes:

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** site-based and scattered-site permanently subsidized long-term housing with supportive services.
- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH):** time-limited rental assistance and services in scattered-site units.
- **Housing Ladder:** opportunities for tenants who have stabilized in supportive housing to move to subsidized housing inside or outside the Homelessness Response System with lower levels of support services.

Between the 2019 and 2022 Housing Inventory Counts, the City's stock of active housing for people experiencing homelessness expanded by 2,895 beds, a 25% increase. This increase includes 1,618 PSH beds and 1,277 RRH beds.

Site-Based PSH: As part of the Mayor's Homelessness Recovery Plan, HSH leased or acquired 2,918 units of Permanent Supportive Housing since July 2020 that were under contract with a non-profit provider by June 2022. An additional 274 units have also been approved for acquisition. Many of these units had not yet opened at the time of the PIT and are not reflected in 2022 HIC.

Drawing on lessons from the Shelter-in-Place hotels, HSH is expanding partnerships with other agencies like the Department of Public Health and the Human Services Agency at PSH programs. These agencies provide wrap-around services like nursing and in-home support services (IHSS) with daily activities like bathing and cooking. This additional support helps tenants in PSH remain stably housed.

Scattered-Site PSH: HSH has expanded scattered-site PSH to provide housing options for lower-acuity households with geographic equity across the City. In 2020, the Department launched the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool. In this program, tenants use subsidies to live in private-market units that the City has identified through partnerships with landlords and nonprofits. HSH is currently working to implement over 1,700 units of FHSP. In 2021, San Francisco received 906 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) from the federal government's American Rescue Plan that HSH is distributing in partnership with the San Francisco Housing Authority. The Department anticipate San Francisco will receive another round of federally funded vouchers in 2022.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH): By leveraging local tax subsidy (Prop C) funding, HSH has provided extensions to RRH subsidies to give households more time to stabilize following the pandemic. HSH also increased funding for the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) RRH program, the Rising Up campaign, that will serve 400 TAY. Building off the adult RRH program pilot, in FY21-22 HSH expanded the adult RRH program to serve 350 single adults.

Housing Ladder: Housing Ladder supports existing tenants of Permanent Supportive Housing to enter the next chapter of their journey out of homelessness and opens units in the existing portfolio. Since the 2019 PIT Count, HSH opened a new Housing Ladder site that provides 59 units to adult households that have stabilized and need less intensive support services to maintain their housing. Over the next two fiscal years, HSH will serve at least 70 households with minor children through the new Family Housing Ladder program.

Next Steps

The City plans to build on the progress made under HSH's first Five-Year Strategic Framework and the Mayor's Homelessness Recovery Plan in our second Five-Year Strategic Framework that will be published in December 2022. This framework will guide HSH, our nonprofit partners, and our city partners as we work on addressing homelessness over the next five years.

Thank you to Applied Survey Research, our staff, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board and our volunteers for their work on the 2022 Point in Time Count. This data will continue to inform our strategies for preventing and ending homelessness in San Francisco.

[i] These figures are estimated based on analyses of administrative data in HSH's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and data aggregated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, as well as annual projections from the PIT Count and PIT Survey using methodology developed by CSH in their 2005 publication "Estimating the Need" (retrievable at www.csh.org/resources/estimating-the-need/) and subsequent adjustments suggested by the Economic Roundtable in 2018's "Estimating the Annual Size of the Homeless Population in Los Angeles Using Point-In-Time Data" (retrievable at https://economicrt.org/publication/estimating-the-annual-size-of-the-homeless-population/).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2022 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey planning team would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who contributed to this project. The participation of outreach workers, currently and formerly homeless individuals, and partner agencies was critical to the success of the count. Over 150 outreach workers and people with lived experience of homelessness, 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.

The San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB), the coordinating body for the San Francisco Continuum of Care, provided oversight for the 2022 Homeless Count project. We thank the members of the LHCB for their valued input and guidance. Meetings of the LHCB also served as a forum for stakeholder and community input on the project.

Thank you to the many city and federal partners who supported the 2022 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count, including:

- SF Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- U.S. Park Police
- California Highway Patrol
- CalTrans
- SF Department of Public Health
- SF Human Services Agency
- SF Police Department
- SF Recreation & Parks Department
- SF Municipal Transportation Agency
- SF Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs
- SF Public Utilities Commission
- SF Sheriff's Department
- SF Unified School District

We thank Mayor London Breed and Shireen McSpadden, Executive Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), for their leadership in this effort. We thank Supervisor Connie Chan, Supervisor Shamann Walton, Supervisor Catherine Stefani, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor Gordon Mar, Supervisor Hillary Ronen, SF Community College Board Member Thea Selby, California Assemblymember Phil Ting, and representatives from Mayor London Breed's office, Supervisor Aaron Peskin's office, Supervisor Dean Preston's office, Supervisor Ahsa Safai's office, Former Supervisor Matt Haney's office, California State Senator Scott Wiener's office, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla's office, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office, the Coalition on Homelessness, and All Home for participating in the count.

We thank Larkin Street Youth Services, Third Street Youth Center and Clinic, and Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 Community School for providing use of their facilities as dispatch centers on the night of the count.

We thank Five Keys Charter Schools and Programs, Homeless Youth Alliance, Larkin Street Youth Services, San Francisco LGBT Community Center, and the Third Street Youth Center and Clinic who assisted with the recruitment, training, and oversight of the youth count enumerators.

We appreciate the following organizations that provided data for the shelter count:

Participating Organizations

3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic · Abode Services · Asian Women's Resource Center · Asian Women's Shelter · At the Crossroads · Bayview Hunters Point Foundation for Community Improvement · Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services · Bridge Housing · Brilliant Corners · Catholic Charities · Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice · Chinatown Community Development Corporation · Chinese Hospital · Community Forward SF · Community Housing Partnership · Compass Family Services · Conard House · CPMC · Curry Senior Center · Dignity Health · Dolores Street Community Services · The Epiphany Center · Episcopal Community Services · Federal Emergency Management Agency · First Place for Youth · Five Keys Charter Schools and Programs · Gene Friend Recreation Center · Glide Community Housing · GP/TODCO Inc. · Hamilton Families · HealthRIGHT 360 · Homeless Prenatal Program · Homeless Youth Alliance · Homerise · Hospitality House · Huckleberry Youth Alliance · Kaiser Permanente · La Casa de Las Madres · Larkin Street Youth Services · The Latino Commission · LGBT Center · Lutheran Social Services of Northern California · Mary Elizabeth Inn · Mercy · Metropolitan Fresh Start House · Mission Housing Development Corporation · North Beach Citizens · Openhouse · Phatt Chance Community Services · PRC Baker Places · Progress Foundation · Providence Foundation · Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness · Raphael House · Reality House West · Recovery Survival Network · The Salvation Army · San Francisco Housing Authority · San Francisco VA Health Care System · Sequoia Living · SF Department of Public Health · SF HOT · SF SafeHouse · St. James Infirmary · St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Francisco · Sutter Health · Swords to Plowshares · Tenderloin Housing Clinic · Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation · UCSF Citywide · UCSF Health · United Council of Human Services · Urban Alchemy · Westside Community Services · Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital

Teams of trained, current and formerly homeless surveyors administered surveys on the streets of San Francisco and at various service locations. We thank them for their excellent work. We also thank Code Tenderloin, Downtown Streets Team, Homeless Youth Alliance, and Larkin Street Youth Services for their support in recruiting these surveyors.

Finally, we thank the staff of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) for providing feedback and assistance throughout the project on many aspects, including project methodology, survey development, participation in the count, data entry coordination, review of this report, and the presentation of findings.

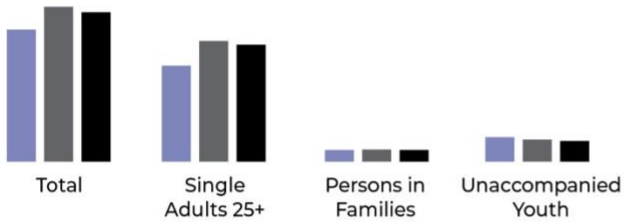
SAN FRANCISCO

2022 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

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 2022 City and County of San Francisco Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on February 23rd, 2022. San Francisco was canvassed by teams of volunteers. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 768 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals in order to profile their experiences and characteristics.

2017-2022 HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION

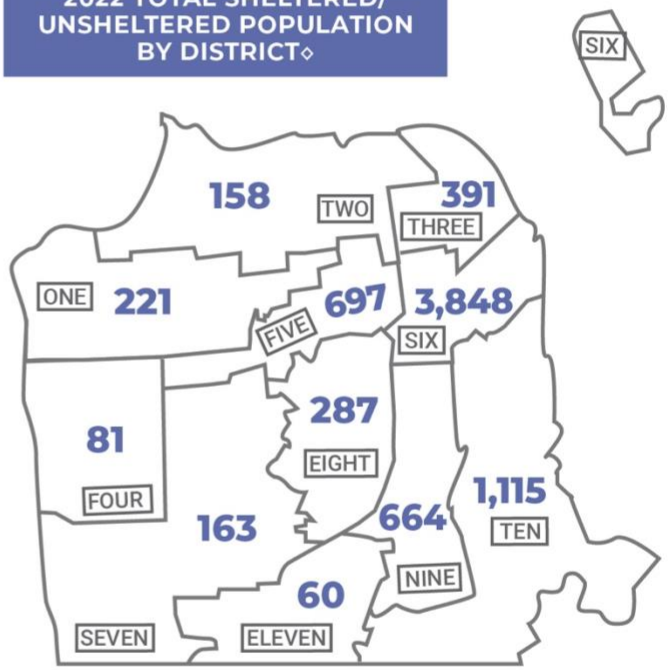


	Total	Single Adults 25+	Persons in Families	Unaccompanied Youth
2017	6,858	4,983	601	1,274
2019	8,035	6,259	631	1,145
2022	7,754	6,067	605	1,073

2022 SHELTERED/ UNSHELTERED POPULATION

43% SHELTERED n=3,357 | **57%** UNSHELTERED n=4,397

2022 TOTAL SHELTERED/ UNSHELTERED POPULATION BY DISTRICT◇



CONFIDENTIAL/SCATTERED SITE: **69**

HOUSEHOLD BREAKDOWN

SINGLE ADULTS

40% Sheltered | **60%** Unsheltered

7,063 Individuals in 6,138 Households

FAMILIES

87% Sheltered | **13%** Unsheltered

205 Families with 605 Members

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

5% Sheltered | **95%** Unsheltered

86 Minors in 64 Households

AGE

5% UNDER 18 YEARS

13% 18-24 YEARS

81% 25 YEARS+

LGBTQ+ STATUS

28% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED AS LGBTQ+

SELECT POPULATIONS▪

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

59% Sheltered | **41%** Unsheltered

2,691 Individuals

VETERANS

33% Sheltered | **67%** Unsheltered

605 Individuals

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

16% Sheltered | **84%** Unsheltered

1,073 Individuals

GENDER

62% MALE

34% FEMALE

3% TRANSGENDER

1% GENDER NON-CONFORMING (i.e not exclusively female or male)

ETHNICITY

30% IDENTIFIED AS HISPANIC/LATINO

RACE

43% WHITE

38% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN

6% MULTIPLE RACES

6% ASIAN

4% AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE

3% NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR ANOTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER

COVID-19

17% SAID COVID-19 WAS RELATED TO THE CAUSE OF THEIR HOMELESSNESS

RESIDENCE PRIOR TO HOMELESSNESS

AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

18% UNDER 18 YEARS | **31%** 18-24 YEARS | **51%** 25 YEARS+

FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

23% of survey respondents reported currently experiencing homelessness for the first time

DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

12% 30 DAYS OR LESS | **30%** 1-11 MONTHS | **59%** A YEAR OR MORE

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS+

TOP 6 RESPONSES△

21% LOST JOB	**14%** EVICTION	**12%** ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE
9% ARGUMENT WITH FAMILY OR FRIEND	**7%** MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	**7%** INCARCERATION/ PROBATION AND PAROLE RESTRICTIONS

OBSTACLES TO PERMANENT HOUSING+

TOP 5 RESPONSES△

39% CAN'T AFFORD RENT	**24%** NO JOB/NOT ENOUGH INCOME	
17% NO MONEY FOR MOVING COSTS	**16%** HOUSING PROCESS TOO DIFFICULT	**15%** NO HOUSING AVAILABLE

SELF REPORTED HEALTH+

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

52% DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE

38% POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

36% PSYCHIATRIC OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS

22% CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEM

21% PHYSICAL DISABILITY

13% TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

8% AIDS/HIV RELATED ILLNESS

DISABLING CONDITIONS

39% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS REPORTED HAVING AT LEAST ONE DISABLING CONDITION

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.

LENGTH OF TIME IN SAN FRANCISCO

17% <1 Year | **32%** 1-4 Years | **16%** 5-9 Years | **35%** 10 Years+

JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

23% of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison in the past year

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

63% of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits

BENEFITS CURRENTLY ACCESSING+ TOP 5 RESPONSES△

40% Food Stamps/ SNAP/WIC/ CalFresh | **24%** GA/ CAAP/ CAPI | **15%** Medi-Cal/ Medicare Covered California | **11%** SSI/SSDI/ Disability | **7%** Social Security

FOSTER CARE

23% of survey respondents have been in the foster care system

▪SELECT POPULATION 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

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

+ Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.
Δ Only displaying top responses, all response data are available in full report.
◇ The map displays data per 2012 Supervisorial District lines.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Note: Information on population counts, household breakdowns, age, select populations, gender, race, and ethnicity combine information from the PIT Survey and administrative data systems. All other data points reflect PIT Survey results.

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
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2022, San Francisco Homeless Count & Survey, Watsonville, CA.

INTRODUCTION

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all receiving federal funding to provide homeless services, Continuums of Care (CoC) across the country report the findings of their local Point-in-Time (PIT) count in their annual funding application to HUD. Currently, the San Francisco CoC receives approximately $51 million dollars annually in federal funding.

Significantly, this research effort in 2022 was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and is the first full sheltered and unsheltered count since 2019. Like many communities, San Francisco sought an exception from HUD to postpone the 2021 unsheltered PIT count until 2022 due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns. In addition, the 2022 count took place at the end of February 2022 rather than the standard requirement to conduct the count at the end of January 2022. San Francisco was granted permission from HUD to postpone the count one month due to low staff capacity and public health concerns resulting from the COVID-19 Omicron variant surge.

San Francisco has partnered with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct its Point-in-Time Census since 2009, maintaining a similar methodology to ensure as much consistency as possible from one year to the next. ASR is a locally based social research firm that has over 23 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 standard process HUD publication*, A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People,* as well as in the Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago publication, *Conducting a Youth Count: A Toolkit.*

Project Overview And Goals

In order for the 2022 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held planning meetings with local community members. These community members were drawn from City and County departments, community-based service providers, and other interested and informed stakeholders. These individuals were instrumental to ensuring the 2022 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2022 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey planning team 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;
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, youth, young adults, and those who are chronically homeless; and
- To conduct the PIT count in such a manner that the health and safety of all participants was a primary operational consideration and all County Public Health recommended practices were followed in field work associated with the PIT count.

Federal Definition of Homelessness for Point-in-Time Counts

This study uses the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count. This definition includes individuals and families:

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); 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.

The City and County of San Francisco uses an expanded definition of homelessness which includes persons who are "doubled-up" in the homes of family of friends; individuals staying in jails, hospitals, or rehabilitation facilities; and families living in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units. Historically, the City has made an effort to include individuals in these living situations by surveying known jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities to identify individuals believed to otherwise be homeless; persons "doubled-up" and families living in SROs have not been included due to the difficulty of reaching these populations comprehensively and accurately. This data is included in *Appendix B: Supplemental Point-in-Time Count Data.*

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2022 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count and Survey represents a complete enumeration of all sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. It consists of two primary components:

- **General Street Count[1]:** A nighttime count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on February 23, 2022, from approximately 8:00 p.m. to midnight. This included those: sleeping outdoors on the street; at bus and train stations; in parks, tents, and makeshift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned properties. Individuals staying in safe sleep sites and safe parking sites were included and considered as unsheltered per HUD guidance.
- **General Shelter Count:** A count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on the night of February 23, 2022. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and domestic violence shelters. Shelter-in-Place (SIP) hotel and trailer sites launched as part of San Francisco's COVID-19 response were included.

The Point-in-Time Count and Survey also included the following supplemental and important components:

- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Young Adults[2]:** A nighttime count of unsheltered unaccompanied children under 18 and unaccompanied youth 18-24 years old on February 23, 2022 from approximately 8:00 p.m. to midnight.
- **Targeted Waitlist Count of Unsheltered Families:** A count of families who were identified as unsheltered or unstably housed and eligible to be categorized as unsheltered per the HUD definition used for the count, verified by Compass Family Services for the night of February 23, 2022.
- **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview of sheltered and unsheltered individuals conducted by outreach surveyors in the weeks following the general street count. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Count estimates.

This section of the report provides a summary of the results of the Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Results from prior years are provided to better understand the trends and characteristics of homelessness over time.

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

[1] For safety reasons, Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach were counted on the subsequent morning of February 24th and McLaren Park in the afternoon. See Appendix A: Methodology for details.

[2] For safety reasons, Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Ocean Beach, Lake Merced, and Park Merced/Lakeside were counted on the morning of February 23rd. See Appendix A: Methodology for details.

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

On February 23, 2022, there were 7,754 people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, a 3% decrease over the 2019 Point-in-Time Count. The total number of unsheltered persons counted was 4,397. Of the 3,357 individuals included in the shelter count, 87% (2,933 people) were in emergency shelter programs while 13% (424 persons) were residing in transitional housing programs on the night of the count.

Persons in families with children, including the minor children, represented eight percent (8%) of the total population counted in the Point-in-Time Count, while 91% were individuals without children. In total, 5% of those counted on February 23, 2022, were under the age of 18, 13% were between the ages of 18-24, and 81% were over the age of 25.

Figure 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2017-2022

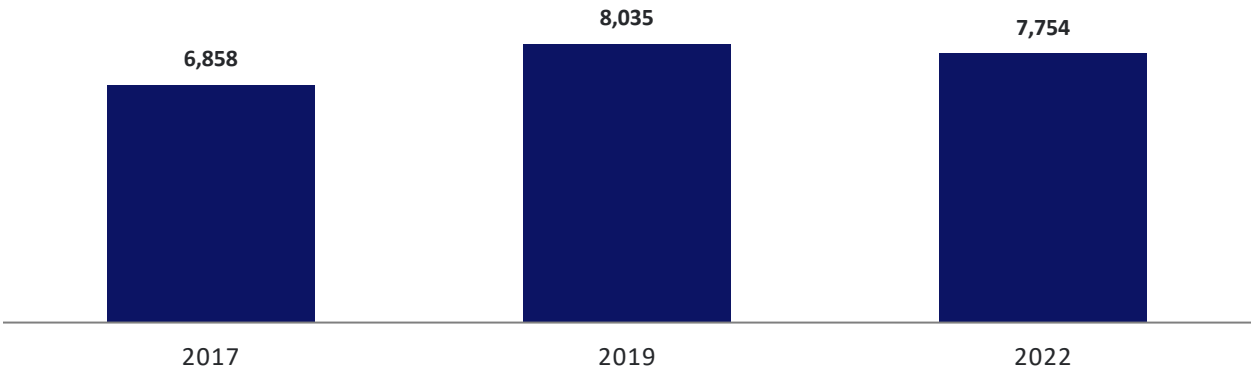
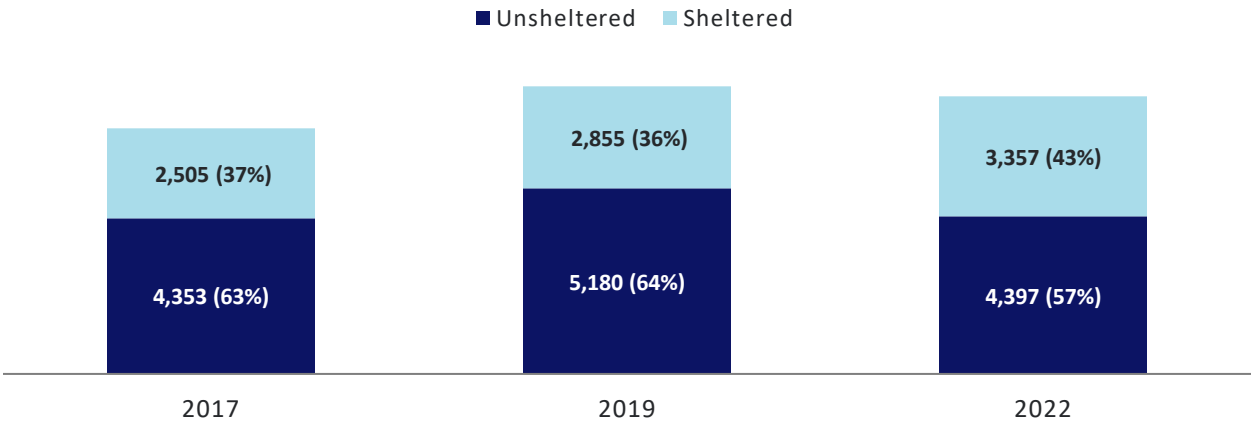


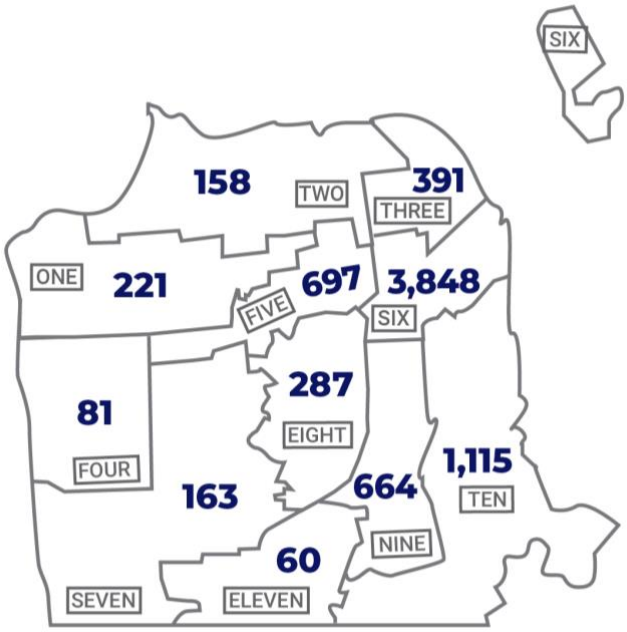
Figure 2. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY SHELTER STATUS, 2017-2022



TOTAL NUMBER OF UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED HOMELESS PERSONS BY DISTRICT

The 2022 San Francisco Homeless Count data are presented below, organized by the 11 City and County Supervisorial Districts in San Francisco.

Figure 3. UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED POINT-IN-TIME COUNT RESULTS BY DISTRICT



Note: An additional 69 persons were residing in confidential or scattered site sheltered locations in San Francisco on the night of the Point-in-Time Count.
Note: The map displays data per 2012 Supervisorial District lines.

Figure 4. COMPLETE HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT POPULATION BY DISTRICT AND SHELTER STATUS, 2017-2022

	2017			2019			2022		
District	**Sheltered**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**	**Sheltered**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**	**Sheltered**	**Unsheltered**	**Total**
1	61	370	431	41	204	245	26	195	221
2	0	53	53	0	171	171	49	109	158
3	65	293	358	63	278	341	215	176	391
4	0	31	31	0	34	34	13	68	81
5	230	143	373	180	183	363	353	344	697
6	1,601	1,723	3,324	1,666	1,990	3,656	1,952	1,896	3,848
7	17	74	91	27	141	168	4	159	163
8	24	236	260	22	295	317	106	181	287
9	242	281	523	386	257	643	142	522	664
10	107	1,101	1,208	313	1,528	1,841	428	687	1,115
11	0	48	48	0	99	99	0	60	60
Confidential/ Scattered Site Locations in SF	158	0	158	157	0	157	69	0	69
Total	**2,505**	**4,353**	**6,858**	**2,855**	**5,180**	**8,035**	**3,357**	**4,397**	**7,754**
% of Total	**37%**	**63%**	**100%**	**36%**	**64%**	**100%**	**43%**	**57%**	**100%**

Note: The table displays data per 2012 Supervisorial District lines.
Note: All of Golden Gate Park is included in the District 1 reporting for 2017 and 2019.

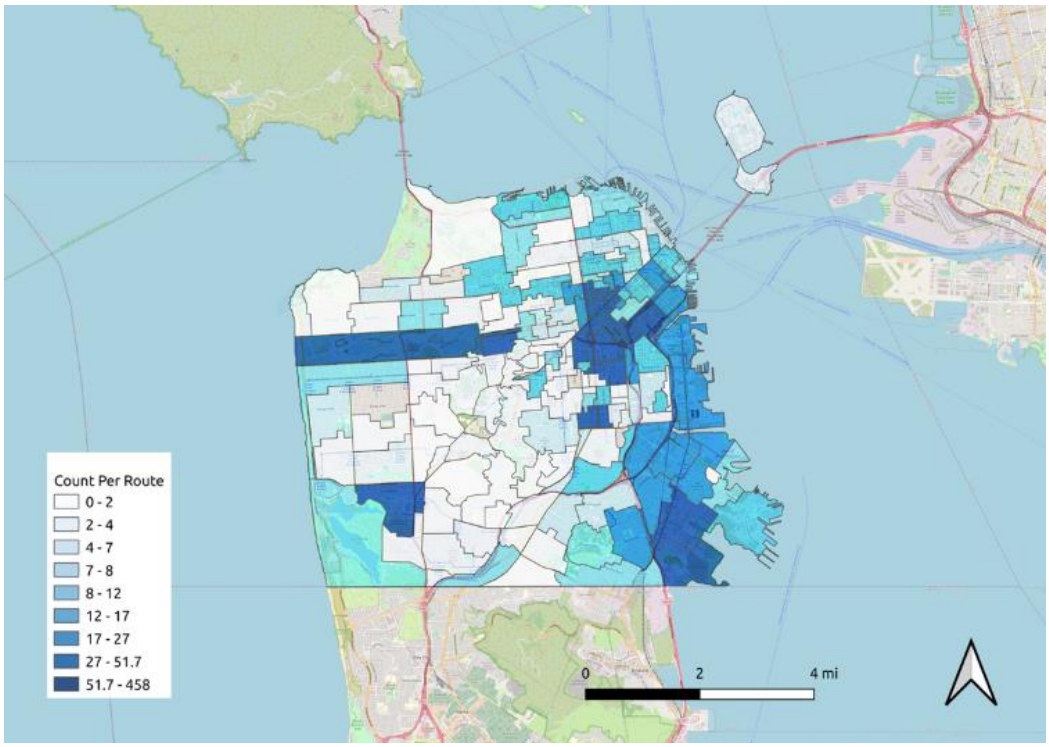
Figure 5. COMPLETE HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT POPULATION BY DISTRICT, 2017-2022

Figure 6. TOTAL UNSHELTERED HOMELESS POPULATION IN GOLDEN GATE PARK, 2017-2022

	2017	2019	2022
Golden Gate Park	313	83	183

The map below depicts homeless population density by census tract, according to the 2022 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count.

Figure 7. COMPLETE HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT POPULATION BY CENSUS TRACT



HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2022 San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered between March 4 and March 25, 2022, to a randomized sample of individuals experiencing homelessness. This effort resulted in 768 complete and unique surveys.

Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 7,754 persons experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 768 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3.5% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be confident that the results would be within 3.5 percentage points of the current results. It should be noted that for the sheltered population, data from direct surveys to homelessness providers and data from San Francisco's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) were combined to meet the HUD reporting requirements of the sheltered population. The count, demographic information and household compositions of unsheltered persons were primarily reported from survey data and basic observational data.

To respect respondent privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to answer all survey questions. Missing values are intentionally omitted from the survey analysis. Therefore, the total number of responses for each question do not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

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

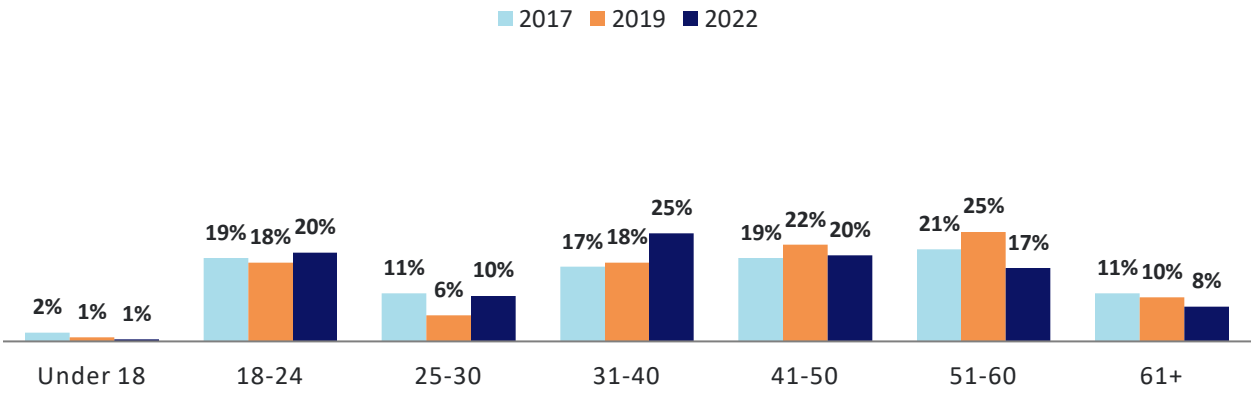
SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

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

Age

One percent (1%) of survey respondents were under 18 years old and 20% were between 18 and 24 years old. Ten percent (10%) of respondents were 25 to 30 years old, 25% were 31 to 40 years old, 20% were 41 to 50 years old, 17% were 51 to 60 years old, and 8% were 61 or older.

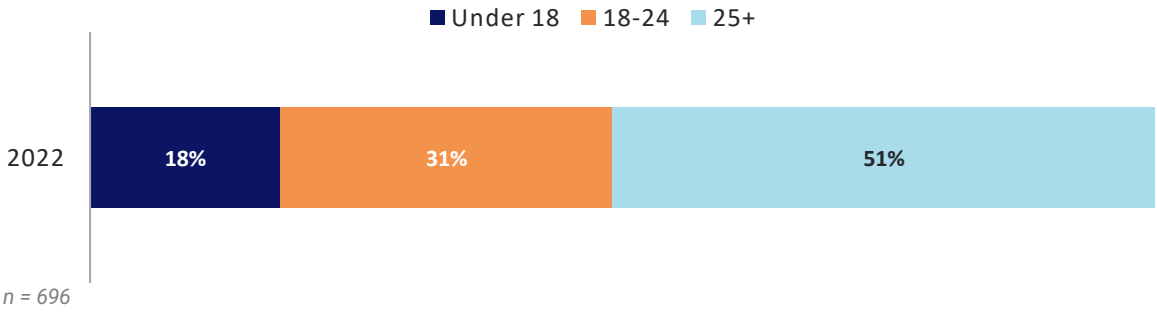
Figure 8. SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY AGE



2017 n = 1,104; 2019 n = 1,054; 2022 n = 767
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

In an effort to better understand the experiences and age distribution of those experiencing homelessness, respondents were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness. Eighteen percent (18%) reported first experiencing homelessness as a child under 18 years old. Thirty-one percent (31%) first experienced homelessness as a young adult between 18 and 24 years old, and over half (51%) were age 25 or older.

Figure 9. AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

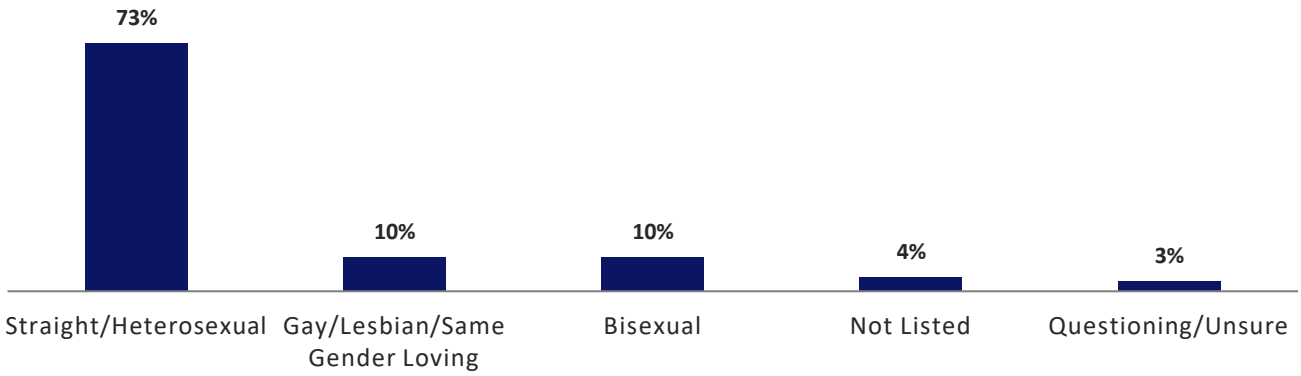


n = 696

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Seventy-three percent (73%) of survey respondents identified their sexual orientation as straight/heterosexual. Ten percent (10%) identified as gay, lesbian, or same gender loving, and 10% as bisexual. Four percent (4%) identified with a sexual orientation not listed in the survey, while 3% reported that they were questioning or unsure of their sexual orientation at the time of the survey.

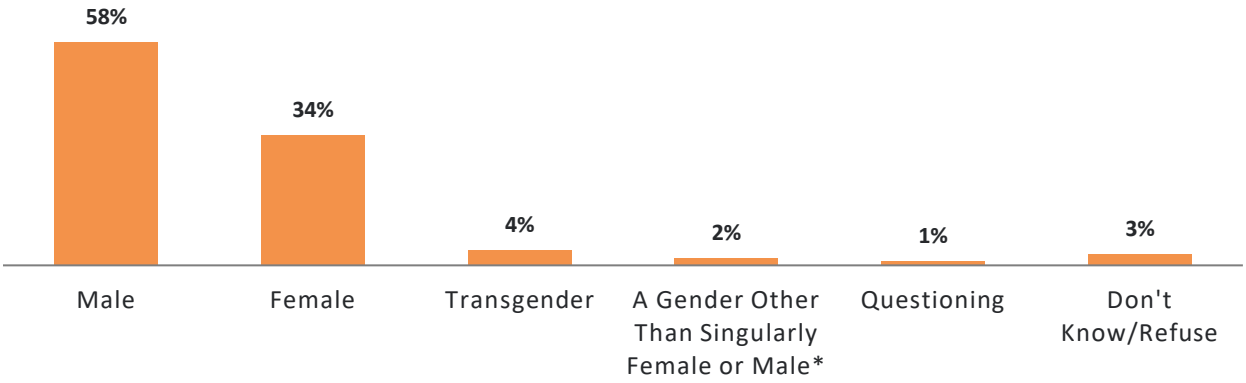
Figure 10. SEXUAL ORIENTATION



n = 654

When asked about their gender identity, the majority (58%) of survey respondents identified as male. Over one-third (34%) identified as female, 4% as transgender, 2% as a gender other than singularly female or male (e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender), and 1% were questioning their gender identity at the time of the survey.

Figure 11. GENDER IDENTITY

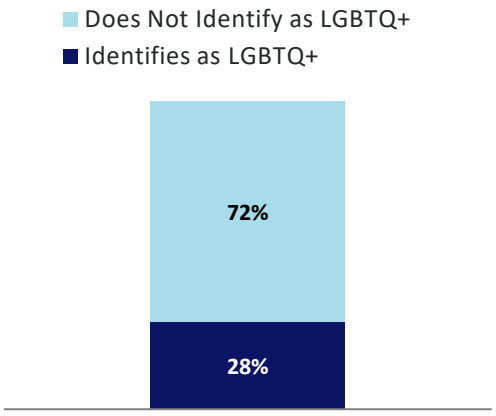


n = 745
**(e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender)*
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Available survey data reveal that young people who identify as LGBTQ+ represent up to 40% of the approximately 4.2 million youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in the United States. LGBTQ+ young people also face higher levels of adversity than their non-LGBTQ+ peers, including discrimination and physical violence.[3] It is estimated that 12% of San Francisco's population identifies as LGBTQ+;[4] 28% of survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+. Among survey respondents identifying as LGBTQ+, 31% identified as gay, lesbian, or same gender loving; 29% as bisexual; 15% as transgender; 6% as a gender other than singularly female or male (e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender); 10% as questioning or unsure; and 2% as questioning.

Compared to all survey respondents who did not identify as LGBTQ+, respondents who identified as LGBTQ+ were more likely to report having experienced domestic violence (46% compared to 21%). Respondents who identified as LGBTQ+ also reported a higher incidence of HIV or AIDS related illness (14% compared to 4%). LGBTQ+ respondents were also more likely to report first experiencing homelessness as a youth or young adult than non-LGBTQ+ survey respondents (53% and 48% respectively).

Figure 12. SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY



LGBTQ+ Status n = 767; Breakout of LGBTQ+ Respondents n = 218
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

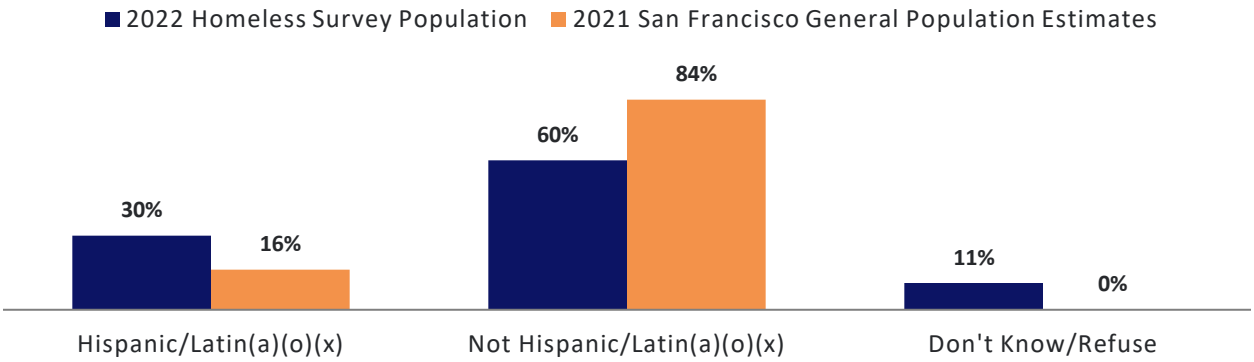
BREAKOUT OF RESPONDENTS ANSWERING YES		
Sexual Orientation	**%**	**n**
Gay/Lesbian/Same Gender Loving	31%	67
Bisexual	29%	64
Questioning/Unsure	10%	22
Other	12%	27
Gender Identity	**%**	**n**
Transgender	15%	32
A Gender Other Than Singularly Female or Male (e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender)	6%	13
Questioning	2%	4

[3] Morton, M.H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (2018). Missed Opportunities: LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
[4] City and County of San Francisco, Office of the Controller (May 2019). 2019 San Francisco City Survey Report. Retrieved from https://sfcontroller.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Auditing/City%20Survey%202019%20-%20Report.pdf

Ethnicity and Race

Similar to the U.S. Census, HUD gathers data on race and ethnicity via two separate questions. Thirty percent (30%) of survey respondents identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x); a higher rate when compared to the general population of San Francisco (16%)[5]. This represents a significant increase since 2019, when 18% of survey respondents identified as Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x).

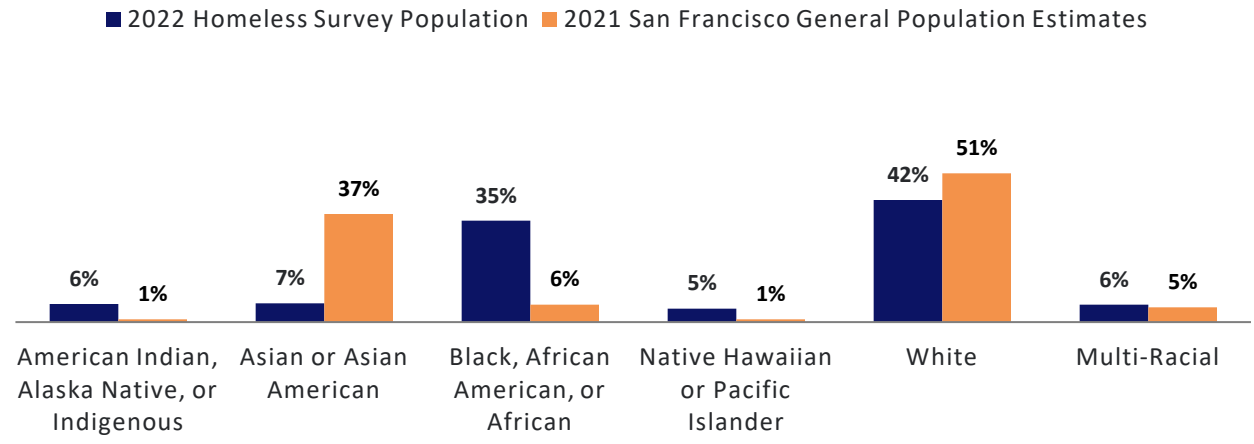
Figure 13. HISPANIC OR LATIN(A)(O)(X) ETHNICITY



Homeless Survey Population n = 603
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

When asked about their racial identity, greater differences between those experiencing homelessness and population estimates from the U.S. Census emerged[6]. A much higher proportion of survey respondents identified as Black, African American, or African (35% compared to 6%), a much lower proportion of survey respondents identified as Asian or Asian American (7% compared to 37%), and a lower percentage identified as White (42% compared to 51%). Most survey respondents identified as either White (42%) or Black, African American, or African (35%).

Figure 14. RACE



Homeless Survey Population n = 613
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

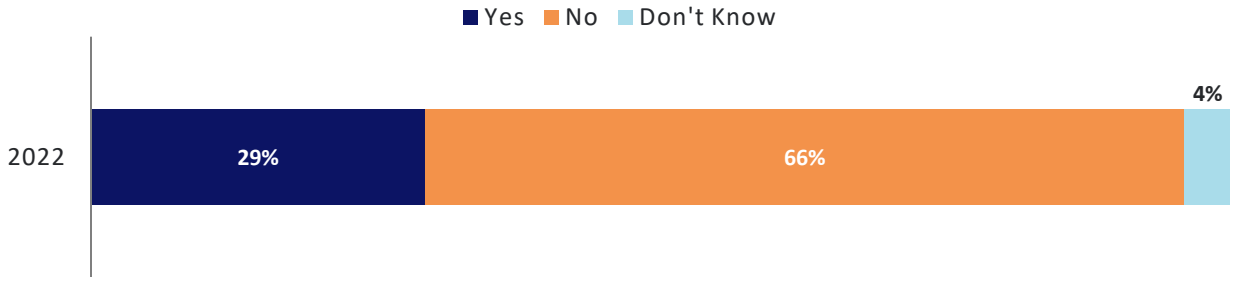
[5] United States Census Bureau. (2021). Population Estimates, July 1, 2021 – San Francisco, CA. Quick Facts.
[6] United States Census Bureau. (2021). Population Estimates, July 1, 2021 – San Francisco, CA. Quick Facts.

History of Foster Care

Nationally, it is estimated that at least one-third of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.[7] In the state of California, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended care benefits during their transition into adulthood, up until their 21st birthday. Implemented since 2012, the aim of extended foster care is to assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from experiencing homeless.

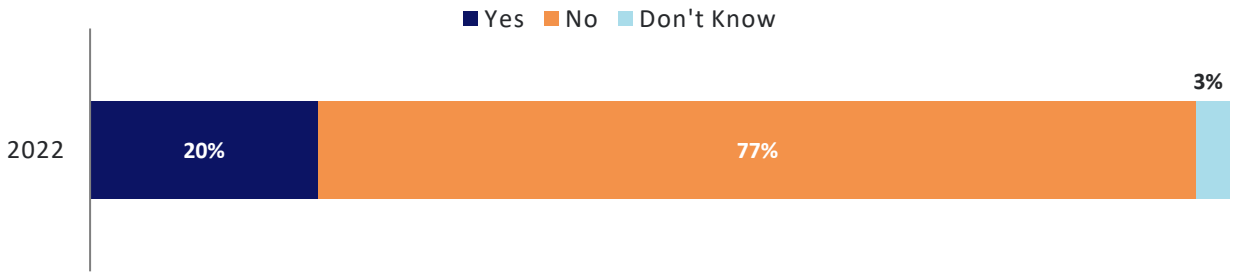
In San Francisco, 22% of all survey respondents reported a history of foster care, similar to survey findings in 2019 (18%). The percentage of youth under the age of 25 who had been in foster care was higher than adults aged 25 and older; 29% compared to 20%.

Figure 15. YOUTH UNDER 25 WITH FOSTER CARE EXPERIENCE



n = 140
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 16. ADULTS AGE 25+ WITH FOSTER CARE EXPERIENCE



n = 578

[7] Dworsky, A;, Napolitano, L.; and Courtney, M. (2013). Homelessness During the Transition From Foster Care to Adulthood. Congressional Research Services, Am J Public Health. 2013 December; 103(Suppl 2): S318–S323. Retrieved 2018 from 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301455.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Where individuals lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have lived since impacts how they seek services and their ability to access support from friends or family. Previous circumstances can also point to gaps in the system of care and to opportunities for systemic improvement and homelessness prevention services.

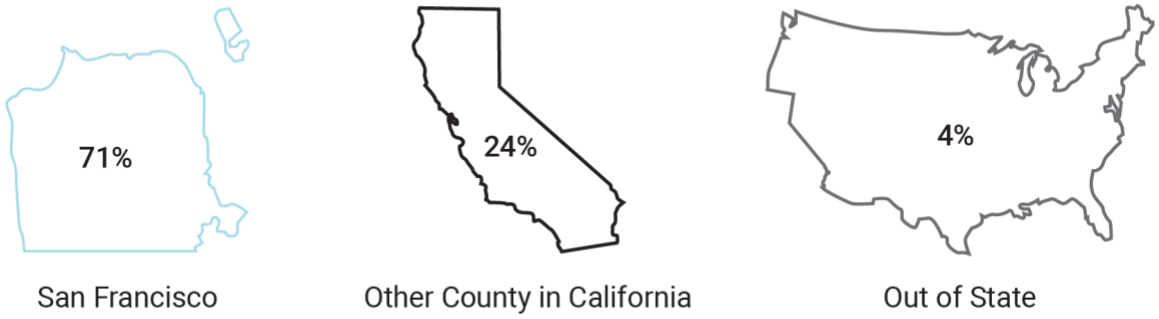
While survey respondents reported many different living accommodations prior to becoming homeless, most reported living in or around the San Francisco Bay Area with friends, family, or on their own in a home or apartment.

Place of Residence

Seventy-one percent (71%) of respondents reported living in San Francisco at the time they most recently became homeless. Of those, over one-third (35%) reported living in San Francisco for 10 or more years. Seventeen percent (17%) reported living in San Francisco for less than one year.

Four percent (4%) of respondents reported living out of state at the time they became homeless. Twenty-four (24%) reported living in another county within California. The California counties in which respondents reported living at the time they most recently became homeless included Alameda County (7%), Marin (3%), Napa County (2%), San Mateo (2%), and Santa Clara (2%).

Figure 17. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS



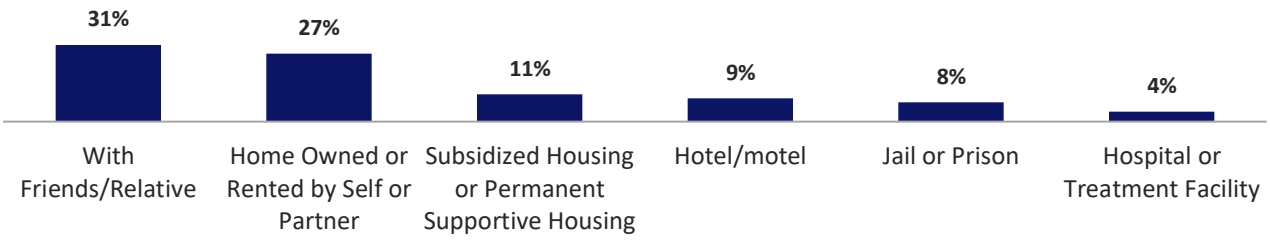
n = 706
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Prior Living Arrangements

Similar to previous place of residence, the type of living arrangements maintained by individuals before experiencing homelessness can influence what types of homeless prevention services might be offered to help individuals maintain their housing.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents reported living in a home owned or rented by themselves or a partner immediately prior to becoming homeless. Thirty-one percent (31%) reported staying with friends or family. Eleven percent (11%) reported living in subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing, and 9% were staying in a hotel or motel. Eight percent (8%) of respondents reported they were in a jail or prison immediately prior to becoming homeless, while 4% were in a hospital or treatment facility, 3% were living in foster care, and 1% were in a juvenile justice facility.

Figure 18. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (TOP SIX RESPONSES IN 2022)



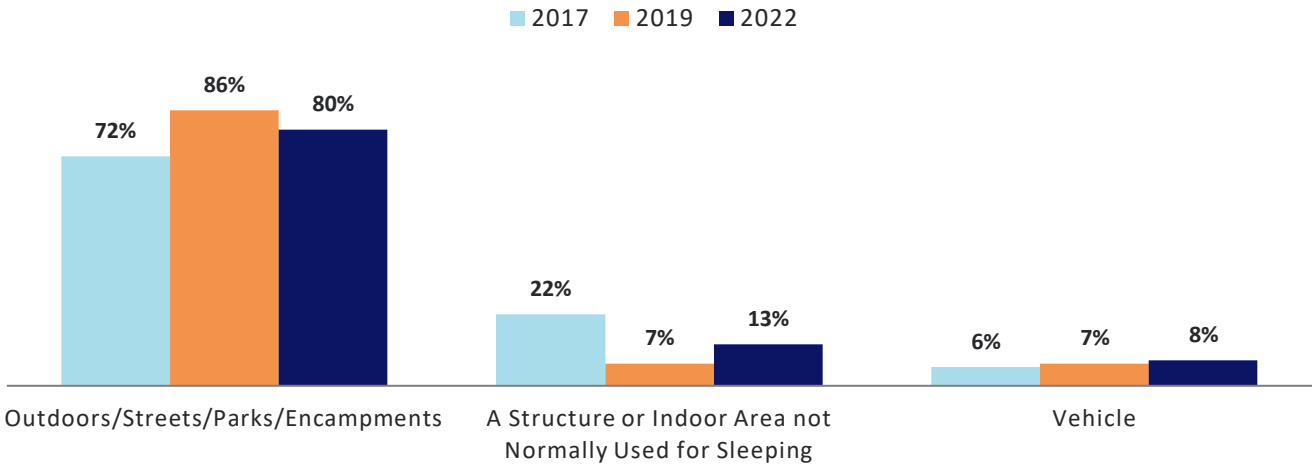
n = 636
Note: Not all response options are displayed above. Survey offers 9 response options. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Current Living Arrangements of Unsheltered Survey Respondents

While basic information on where individuals were observed during the general street count is collected, survey respondents are also asked about their usual nighttime accommodations. Understanding the types of places in which individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts.

The majority (80%) of respondents who were unsheltered reported living outdoors at the time of the survey. Thirteen percent (13%) reported sleeping in public buildings, foyers, hallways, or other indoor locations not meant for human habitation, and 8% reported sleeping in a vehicle.

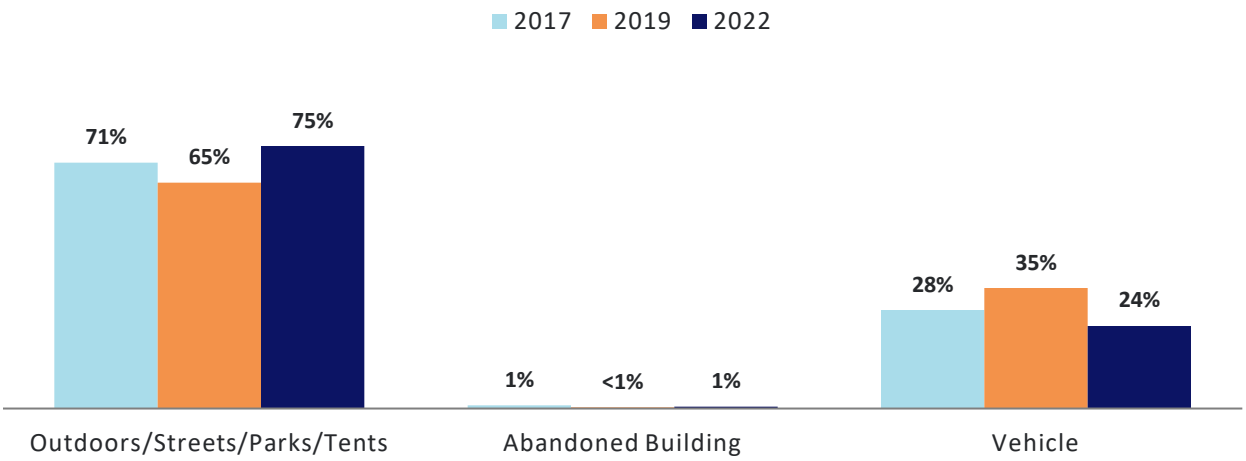
Figure 19. USUAL PLACES TO SLEEP AT NIGHT FOR UNSHELTERED SURVEY RESPONDENTS



2017 n = 967; 2019 n = 736; 2022 n = 506
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

The current living arrangements of unsheltered survey respondents contrast with the location types of individuals observed during the general street count. While 24% of persons identified during the street count were sleeping in vehicles, a notably lower percentage of unsheltered persons surveyed report sleeping in vehicles. This discrepancy between the survey and the street count results may reflect challenges in sampling people living in vehicles in the survey or in accurately estimating the number of people living in vehicles. Survey respondents also report sleeping in structures or indoor areas not normally used for sleeping at a higher rate than observed in the general street count, which may reflect difficulties in visually observing this population during the night of the count. See Appendix A for more information on our methodology and challenges.

Figure 20. TOTAL UNSHELTERED HOMELESS POPULATION BY LOCATION TYPE PER STREET COUNT

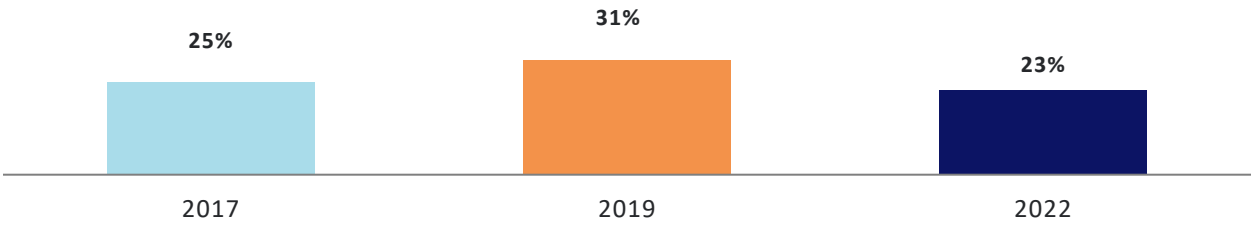


2017 n = 4,353; 2019 n = 5,180; 2022 n = 4,397
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Unstable living conditions, poverty, housing scarcity, and many other issues often lead individuals to fall in and out of homelessness. For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability. Seventy-seven (77%) of survey respondents reported experiencing prior episodes of homelessness.

Figure 21. FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESS (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING "YES")

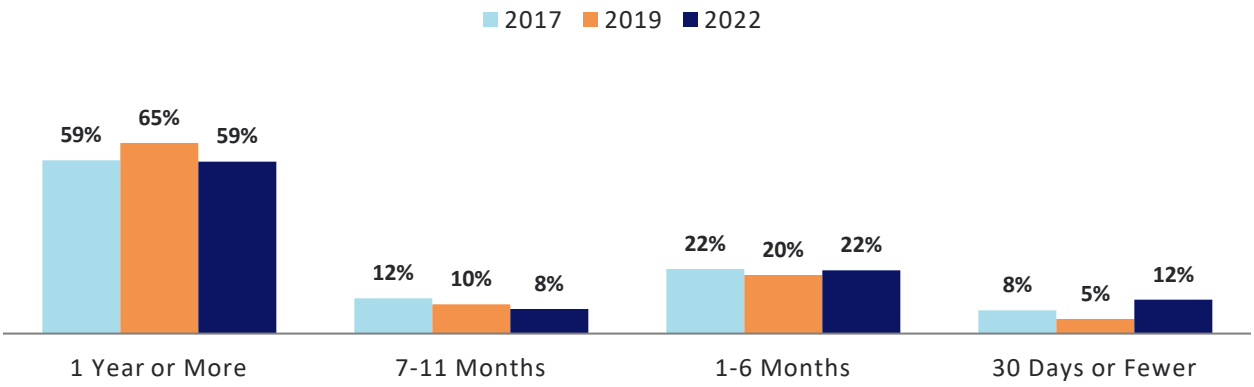


2017 n = 1,095; 2019 n = 1,011; 2022 n = 723

Duration of Homelessness

Regarding their current episode of homelessness, over half of respondents (59%) reported experiencing homelessness for a year or more at the time of the survey, a decrease from 2019 (65%). Twelve percent (12%) reported experiencing homelessness for less than one month. Among the 23% of respondents who reported experiencing homelessness for the first time, 42% had been homeless for a year or more and 12% had been homeless for less than a month.

Figure 22. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



2017 n = 1,095; 2019 n = 1,042; 2022 n = 707
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Recurrence of Homelessness

Many individuals who experience homelessness will do so numerous times, as people often cycle in and out of stable housing. Recurring homelessness is also an indicator of the homeless assistance and housing system's ability to address individuals' needs for stable, permanent housing.

Twenty percent (20%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness more than once in the past year. One-third (33%) of respondents reported experiencing four or more episodes of homelessness over the past three years.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

Widespread homelessness is the result of a severe shortage in affordable housing, a widening gap between rising housing costs and stagnant wages, and an insufficient safety net for individuals with disabling conditions. Though these drivers are structural and systemic, individuals often have one or multiple major events or factors that precipitate their homelessness. An inability to secure adequate housing can lead to an inability to address other basic needs, such as health care and adequate nutrition.

Over one-fifth (21%) of respondents identified job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness. Fourteen percent (14%) reported eviction. Twelve percent (12%) identified drugs or alcohol, 9% reported an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave, and 7% cited mental health issues as the primary cause of their homelessness.

In an effort to better understand immediate precipitants of homelessness, survey respondents were asked a follow-up question to identify if the primary cause of their homelessness was related to the COVID-19 pandemic or a California wildfire. Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents attributed their homelessness to the COVID-19 pandemic and 3% to a California wildfire.

Figure 23. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP SIX RESPONSES EACH YEAR)

2017	%	2019	%	2022	%
Lost Job	22%	Lost Job	26%	Lost Job	21%
Alcohol or Drug Use	15%	Alcohol or Drug Use	18%	Eviction	14%
Eviction	12%	Eviction	13%	Alcohol or Drug Use	12%
Argument with Family or Friend Who Asked You to Leave	13%	Argument with Family or Friend Who Asked You to Leave	12%	Argument with Family or Friend Who Asked You to Leave	9%
Divorce/Separation/ Breakup	10%	Mental Health Issues	8%	Mental Health Issues	7%
Mental Health Issues	6%	Incarceration	7%	Incarceration/Probation and Parole Restrictions	7%

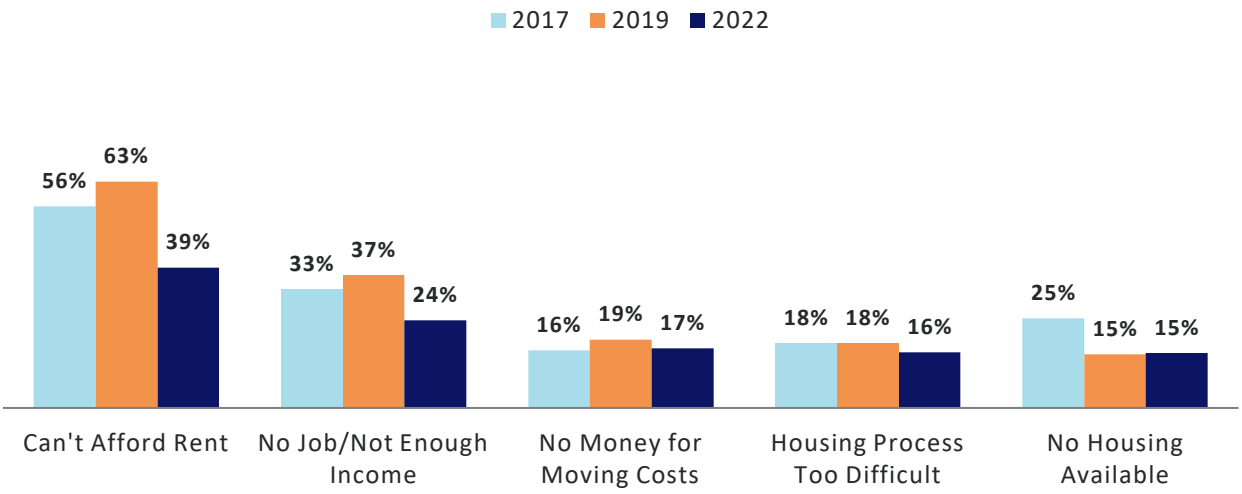
2017 n = 1,073; 2019 n = 1,039; 2022 n = 706
Note: Not all response options are displayed above. Survey offers 18 response options. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

Many individuals experiencing homelessness face significant barriers in obtaining permanent housing. These barriers can range from housing affordability and availability to accessing economic and social supports (e.g., increased income, rental assistance, and case management) needed to access and maintain permanent housing.

Respondents were asked what prevented them from obtaining housing. Over one-third (39%) reported that they could not afford rent. Nearly one-quarter (24%) reported a lack of job or enough income, followed by 17% who cited having no money for moving costs. Most other respondents reported a mixture of other income or access related issues, such as difficulty with the housing process (16%) and lack of housing available (15%).

Figure 24. OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING (TOP FIVE RESPONSES EACH YEAR)



2017 n = 1,056; 2019 n = 1,032; 2022 n = 689
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

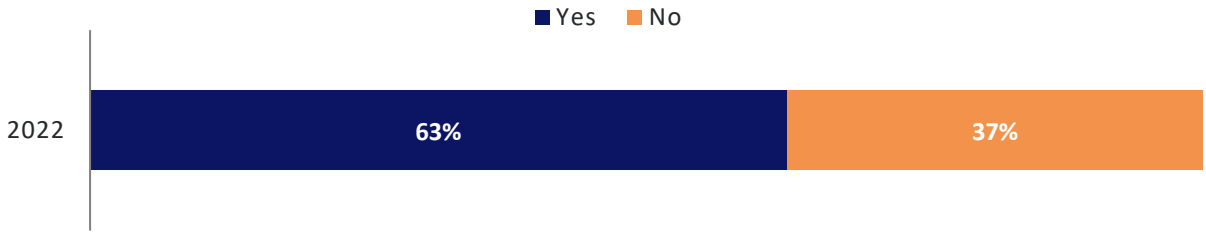
The City and County of San Francisco provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through local, state, and federal funding sources. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support.

Government Assistance

There are various forms of government assistance available to persons experiencing homelessness. However, usage of these supports is impacted by knowledge of services available, understanding of eligibility requirements, and perceived stigma of receiving governmental assistance.

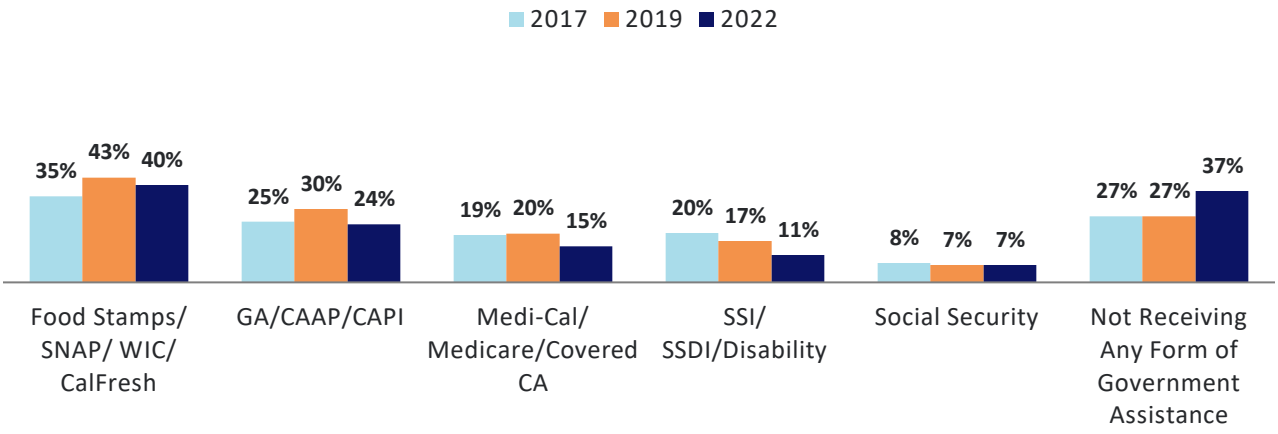
Although the majority (63%) of respondents in 2022 reported they were receiving some form of government assistance, this was a decrease from 73% in the 2017 and 2019 surveys. The largest percentage of respondents (40%) reported receiving CalFresh (food stamps) and/or WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children). Nearly one-quarter (24%) of respondents reported receiving County Adult Assistance Program (CAAP) or General Assistance (GA) benefits. Eleven percent (11%) reported receiving SSI, SSDI, Disability or non-veteran disability benefits.

Figure 25. RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



n = 653

Figure 26. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED (TOP SIX RESPONSES EACH YEAR)

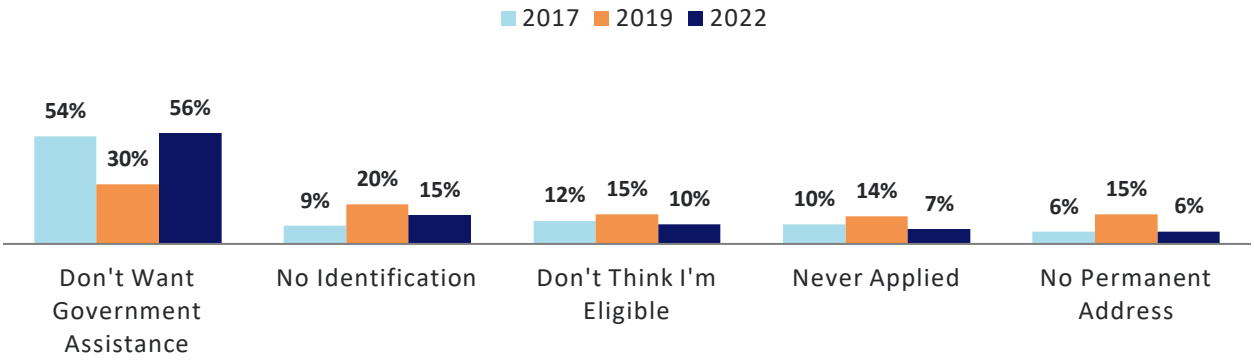


2017 n = 999; 2019 n = 1,017; 2022 n = 653
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Among those reporting not receiving government benefits, 56% reported not wanting government assistance. Ten percent (10%) did not think they were eligible for services, 7% reported they had never applied, 4% had applied and were waiting for a response, and 4% reported being turned down. Three percent (3%) reported that their benefits had been cut off.

Respondents also reported challenges applying for benefits; 15% reported not having the required identification, 6% reported no permanent address to use on their application, and 4% reported that the paperwork was too difficult. Four percent (4%) cited immigration issues as a barrier, and 4% reported they did not know where to go to seek assistance.

Figure 27. REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (TOP FIVE RESPONSES EACH YEAR)



2017 n= 259; 2019 n = 259; 2022 n = 227
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Services and Programs

In addition to government assistance, there are numerous community-based services and programs available to individuals experiencing homelessness. These services range from drop-in resource centers and meal programs to job training and health care.

Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents reported using free meal services. Over one-quarter (29%) reported using emergency shelter services. Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents reported using transitional housing. Thirteen percent (13%) reported using shelter day services and 12% reported using health services. Over one-quarter (29%) of respondents reported they were not using any services.

Figure 28. SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE (TOP FIVE RESPONSES EACH YEAR)

2017	%	2019	%	2022	%
Free Meals	52%	Free Meals	66%	Free Meals	41%
Emergency Shelter	39%	Emergency Shelter	44%	Emergency Shelter	29%
Health Services	25%	Health Services	30%	Transitional Housing	16%
Mental Health Services	19%	Mental Health Services	17%	Shelter Day Services	13%
Bus Passes	18%	Bus Passes	16%	Health Services	12%

2017 n = 1,037; 2019 n = 1,015; 2022 n = 642
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

While the majority of survey respondents reported being unemployed, 17% reported full-time, part-time, or sporadic employment and many indicated earning some form of income.

Employment

The unemployment rate in San Francisco in February 2022 was 3 percent.[8] It is important to recognize that the unemployment rate represents only those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment. It does not represent all joblessness, nor does it address the types of available employment. In 2022, the jobless rate for homeless survey respondents was 83%, with 32% unemployed and looking for work, 32% not looking for work, and 20% unable to work. Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents reported working full-time, part-time, or with seasonal, temporary, or sporadic employment, compared to 11% in 2019.

All jobless respondents are asked to identify barriers to employment. In 2022, the primary barriers cited included an alcohol or drug issue (23%), no permanent address (21%), no phone (18%), and no identification (15%). Further, 14% of respondents cited a disability, 14% a lack of transportation, 12% mental health issues, and 12% a lack of available work or jobs. Twenty-one (21%) of respondents reported that they did not want to work.

Figure 29. OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT (TOP FIVE RESPONSES EACH YEAR)

2017	%	2019	%	2022	%
No Transportation	36%	No Permanent Address	28%	Alcohol/Drug Issue	23%
No Permanent Address	36%	Disability	24%	No Permanent Address	21%
Need Education or Training	22%	Alcohol or Drug Use	19%	Don't Want to Work	21%
No Jobs	16%	Health Problems	18%	No Phone	18%
Don't Want to Work	13%	No Transportation	16%	No Photo ID or Social Security Card	15%

2017 n = 45; 2019 n = 904; 2022 n = 586
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

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

Income

Income from all sources varied between employed and unemployed survey respondents, but overall income was higher among those who were employed. Nearly half (48%) of unemployed respondents reported an income of $99 or less per month, in comparison to 6% of those who were employed. Alternatively, 45% of employed respondents reported making $1,100 or more per month, compared to 10% of unemployed respondents.

Figure 30. EMPLOYMENT AND MEAN MONTHLY INCOME EACH YEAR

	2017		2019		2022	
	Employed	**Unemployed**	**Employed**	**Unemployed**	**Employed**	**Unemployed**
$0-$99	13%	33%	11%	36%	6%	48%
$100-$449	4%	18%	10%	24%	14%	17%
$450-$749	26%	16%	23%	15%	24%	17%
$750-$1,099	16%	24%	20%	18%	10%	8%
$1,100-$1,499	24%	6%	22%	4%	22%	6%
$1,500-$3,000	15%	3%	13%	2%	15%	2%
More than $3,000	2%	<1%	1%	1%	8%	2%

2017 Employed n = 137, 2017 Unemployed n = 917; 2019 Employed n = 116, 2019 Unemployed n = 891; 2022 Employed n = 108, 2022 Unemployed n = 518
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

HEALTH

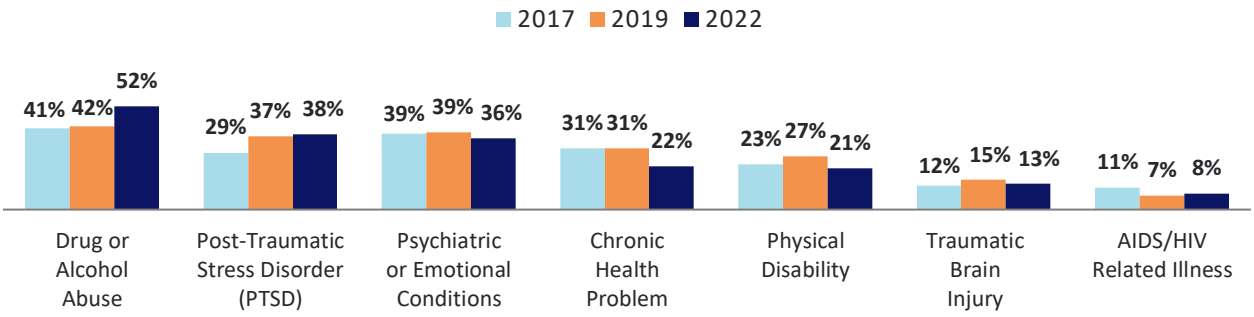
The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is up to 36 years shorter than the general population.[9] Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness are hospitalized at disproportionate rates for mental health needs, HIV/AIDS treatment and drug or alcohol use when compared to the general public.[10]

Health Conditions

Sixty percent (60%) of respondents reported living with one or more health conditions. These conditions included chronic physical illnesses, physical disabilities, chronic substance use, and severe mental health conditions. Thirty-nine (39%) of respondents reported their condition limited their ability to hold a job, live in stable housing, or take care of themselves.

The most frequently reported health condition was drug or alcohol abuse (52%, which represents a 10 percentage point increase from 2019), followed by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (38%) and psychiatric or emotional conditions (36%). Twenty-two percent (22%) reported living with a chronic health problem, 21% a physical disability, 13% a traumatic brain injury, and 8% an AIDS or HIV related illness.

Figure 31. HEALTH CONDITIONS

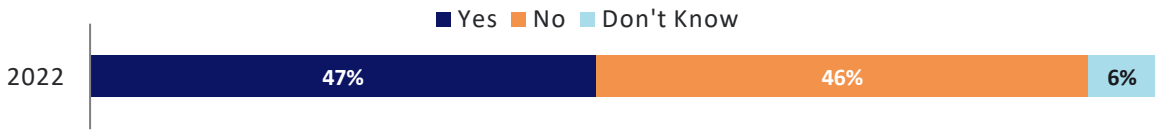


2017 n = 1,027-1,061; 2019 n = 1,054; 2022 n = 754-764
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Food Security

Over half (51%) of respondents reported experiencing a food shortage in the four weeks prior to the survey, compared to 59% in 2019.

Figure 32. FOOD SHORTAGE IN THE PAST FOUR WEEKS



n = 636
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

[9] Koachanek, M.A., et al. (2017). Mortality in the United States, 2016. NCHS Data Brief, no 293. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db293.pdf.
[10] Reese, P. (2019). California Hospitals See Massive Surge in Homeless Patients. Kaiser Health News. Retrieved from https://californiahealthline.org/news/california-hospitals-see-massive-surge-in-homeless-patients/

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PARTNER ABUSE

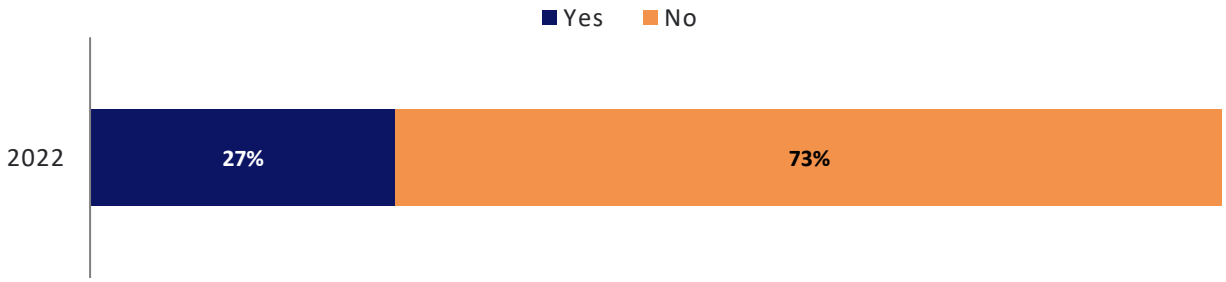
Histories of domestic violence and partner abuse are prevalent among individuals experiencing homelessness and can be the primary cause of homelessness for many. Survivors often lack the financial resources required for housing, as their employment history or dependable income may be limited.

Eight percent (8%) of all survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse. Twenty-three percent (23%) of all respondents reported experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse during their lifetime.

Domestic violence varied by gender, with 12% of transgender respondents and 20% of respondents who identified with a gender other than singularly female or male (e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender) reporting current experiences of domestic violence, compared to 7% of males and 10% of females. Looking at domestic violence across the lifetime, 75% of questioning and 55% of respondents who identified with a gender other than singularly female or male (e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender) reported previous experiences of domestic violence, compared to 36% of female respondents, 33% of transgender respondents and 15% of male respondents.

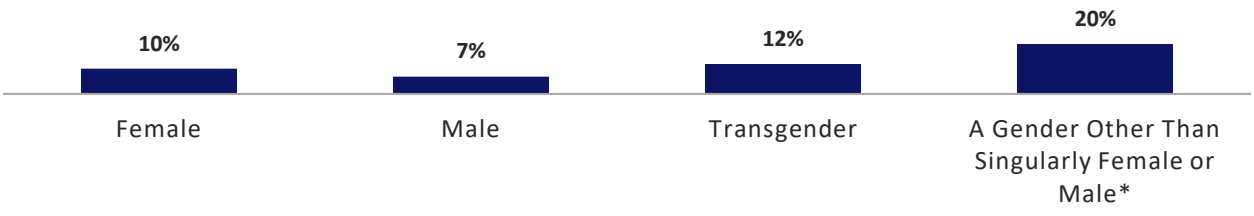
Among those who experienced domestic violence, 14% cited a lost job as the primary cause of their homelessness. Among individuals in families, 38% had experienced domestic violence, 40% of whom attributed their homelessness to an argument with family or friends who asked them to leave.

Figure 33. EXPERIENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING LIFETIME



n= 558

Figure 34. CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, BY GENDER



n = 659
**(e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender)*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

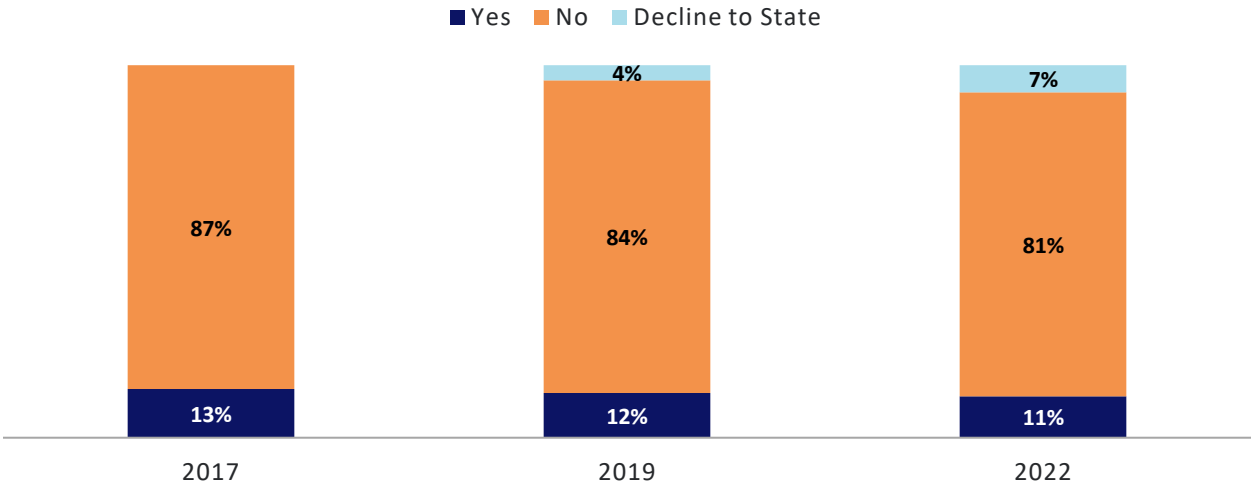
Homelessness and incarceration are often correlative. One study indicates that formerly incarcerated individuals are almost ten times more likely to be homeless than the general public. [11]

Incarceration

Twenty-three percent (23%) of survey respondents reported spending at least one night in jail or prison within the previous 12 months compared to 25% in 2019 and 20% in 2017.

Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents reported being on probation or parole at the time of the survey. Similarly, 11% of respondents were on probation or parole at the time they most recently became homeless.

Figure 35. ON PROBATION OR PAROLE AT ONSET OF HOMELESSNESS



2017 n = 1,039; 2019 n = 1,001; 2022 n = 628
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

[11] Prison Policy Initiative. (2018). Nowhere to Go: Homelessness among Formerly Incarcerated People. Retrieved from https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html

SELECT 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:

- Chronic homelessness among people with disabilities;
- Veterans;
- Families with children; and
- Unaccompanied children and transitional-age youth.

Consequently, these subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness.

The following section examines the number and characteristics of persons included in each of these four subpopulations during the 2022 San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey.

Prevalence of Chronic Homelessness

Self-reported information in the Point-in-Time Count Survey related to health conditions and homelessness history is used to estimate the size of San Francisco's chronically homeless population. Based on these survey responses, an estimated 2,691 people (or 35% of the homeless population) were experiencing chronic homelessness in San Francisco on February 23, 2022, an 11% decrease since 2019. People experiencing chronic homelessness are more likely to be sheltered, with 59% sheltered compared to 43% of the total homeless population.

The majority (98%) of people experiencing chronic homelessness were adults without children. Persons in families comprised 2% of all persons experiencing chronic homelessness. Five percent (5%) of chronically homeless persons were estimated to be unaccompanied youth under 25 years old.

Figure 36. CHRONICALLY HOMELESS POPULATION ESTIMATES BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, 2017-2022

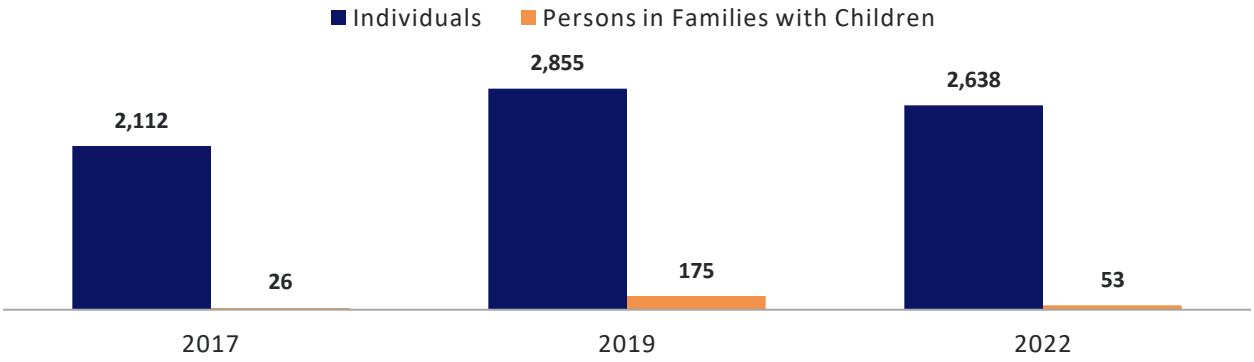
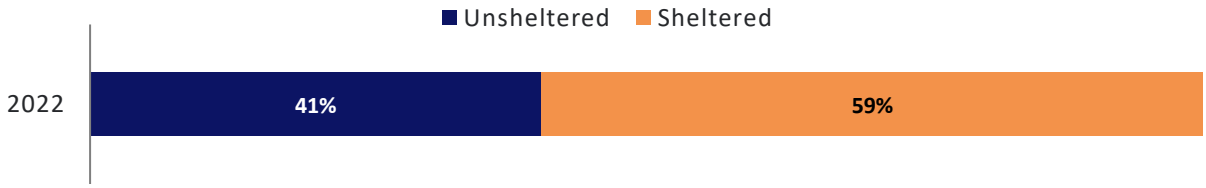
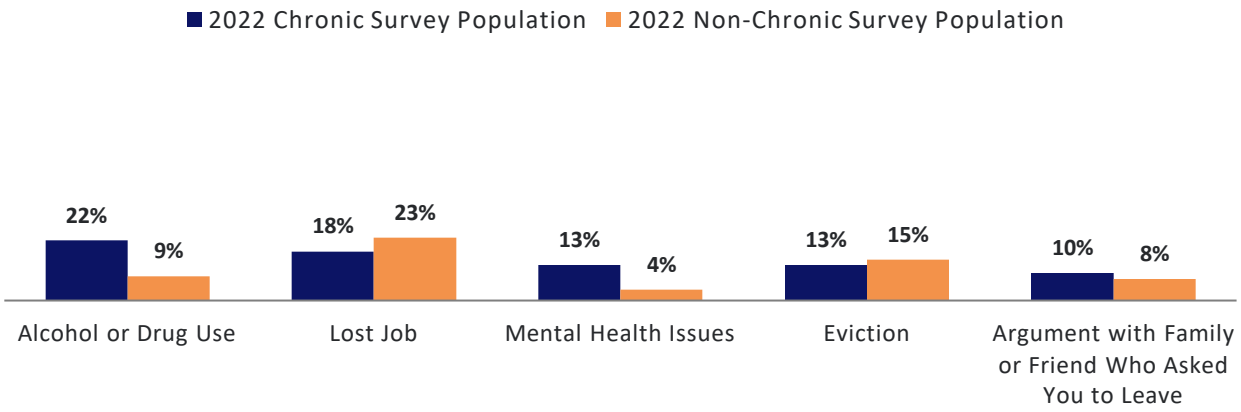


Figure 37. INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS, BY SHELTER STATUS



n = 2,691

Figure 38. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON (TOP FIVE RESPONSES IN 2022)

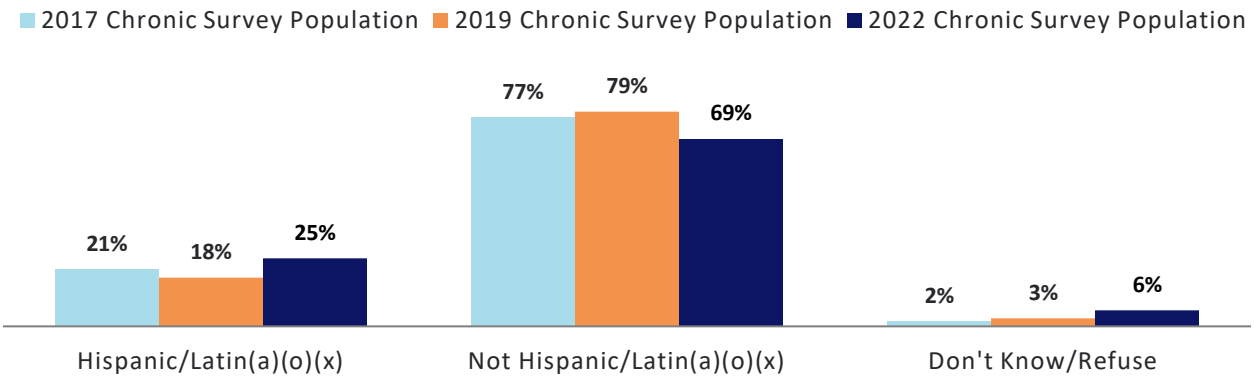


Chronic n = 171; Non-Chronic n = 535
Note: Not all response options are displayed above. Survey offers 18 response options. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Demographics of Survey Respondents Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

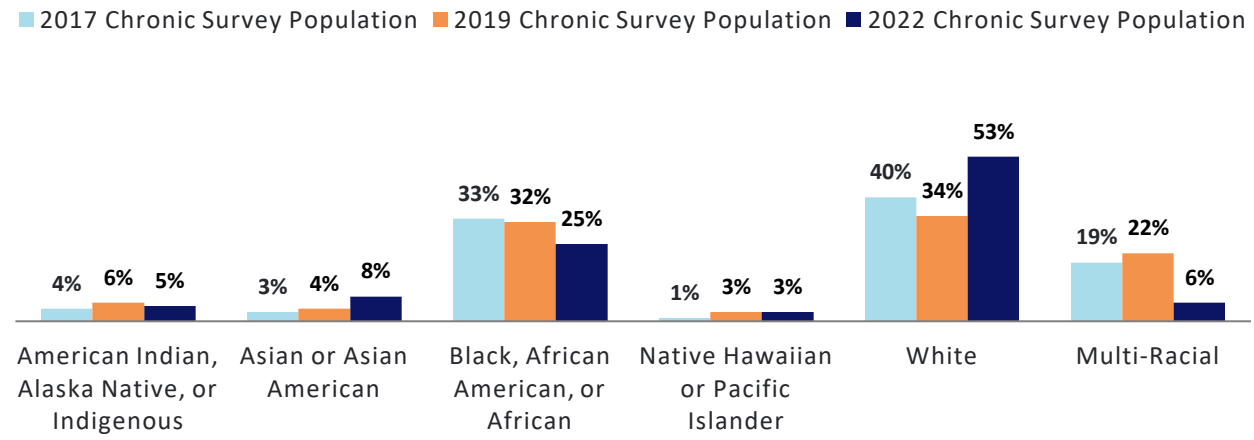
The majority of chronically homeless survey respondents identified as male (61%), compared to 59% of non-chronically homeless survey respondents. A lower percentage (25%) of chronically homeless respondents identified as Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x) compared to non-chronically homeless respondents (31%). Chronically homeless respondents identified as White at a higher rate than non-chronically homeless respondents (53% compared to 38%), and identified as Black, African American, or African at a lower rate (25% compared to 38%). Six percent (6%) of chronically homeless respondents identified as Multi-Racial.

Figure 39. ETHNICITY AMONG PERSONS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



2017 n = 322; 2019 n = 334; 2022 n = 146

Figure 40. RACE AMONG PERSONS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

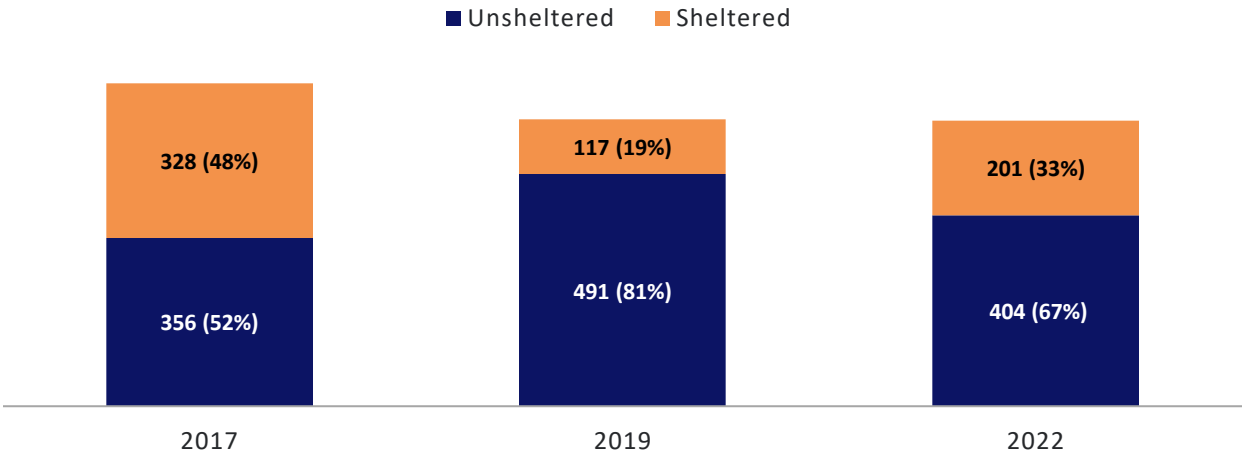


2017 n = 335; 2019 n = 339; 2022 n = 154
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Note: 2017 and 2019 data includes respondents who identified as "Other", which is no longer a response option in 2022.

Prevelance of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

In 2022, there were an estimated 605 veterans experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of veterans surveyed during the Point-in-Time Count were unsheltered. Veterans were more likely to be sheltered in 2022 at a rate of 33% compared to 19% in 2019, and the total number of sheltered veterans increased by 72% from 2019 to 2022.

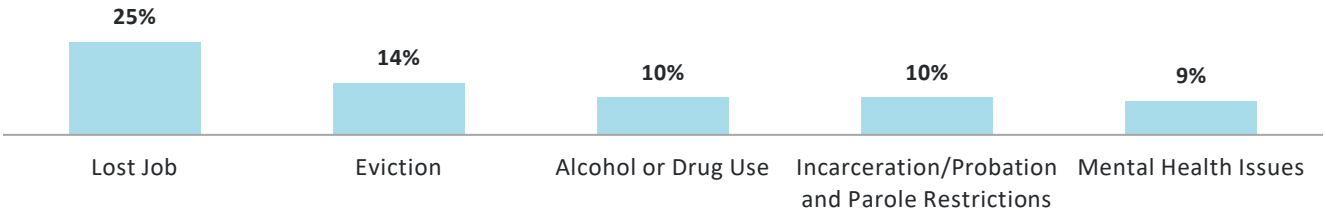
Figure 41. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY SHELTER STATUS, 2017-2022



Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans

The most frequently cited cause of homelessness among veterans was job loss (25%), followed by eviction (14%), alcohol or drug use (10%), incarceration or probation and parole restrictions (10%), and mental health issues (9%).

Figure 42. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES IN 2022)



n = 69
Note: Not all response options are displayed above. Survey offers 18 response options. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Prevelance of Families With Children Experiencing Homelessness

There were 605 persons in 205 families identified during the 2022 count, similar to the 631 persons in 208 families identified in 2019. There were 19 families headed by a young parent between the ages of 18 and 24. Eighty-seven (87%) of families were residing in shelters or transitional housing programs.

Figure 43. NUMBER OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2017-2022

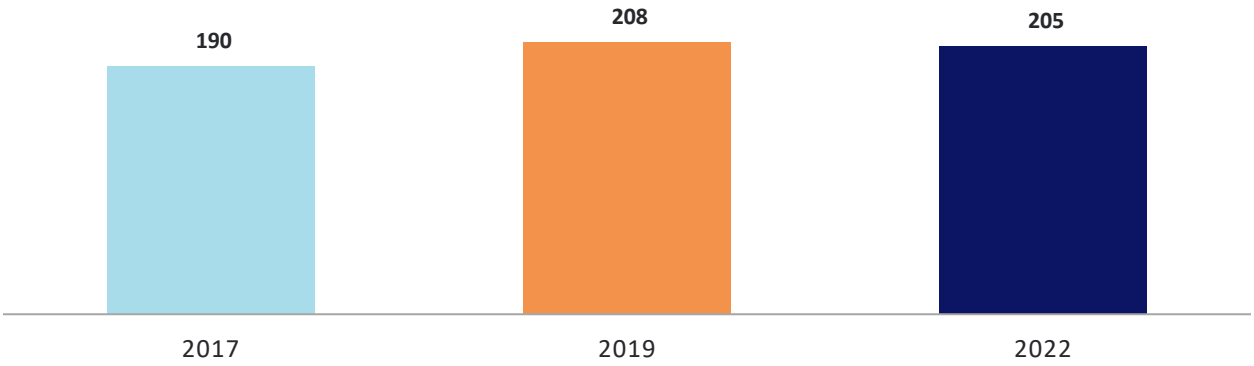
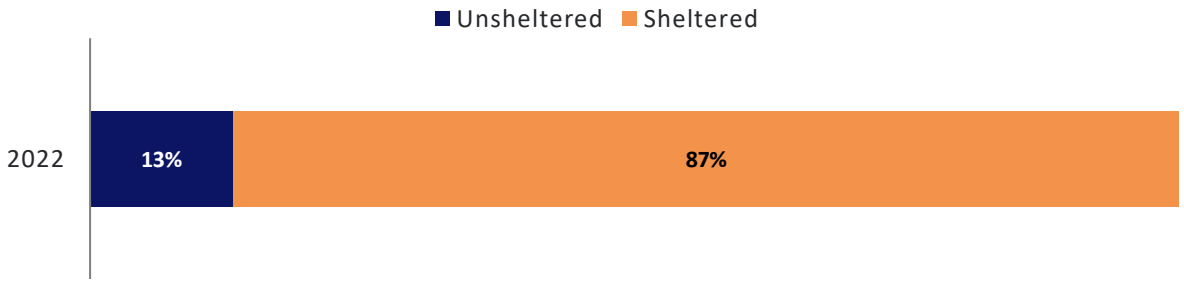


Figure 44. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, BY SHELTER STATUS



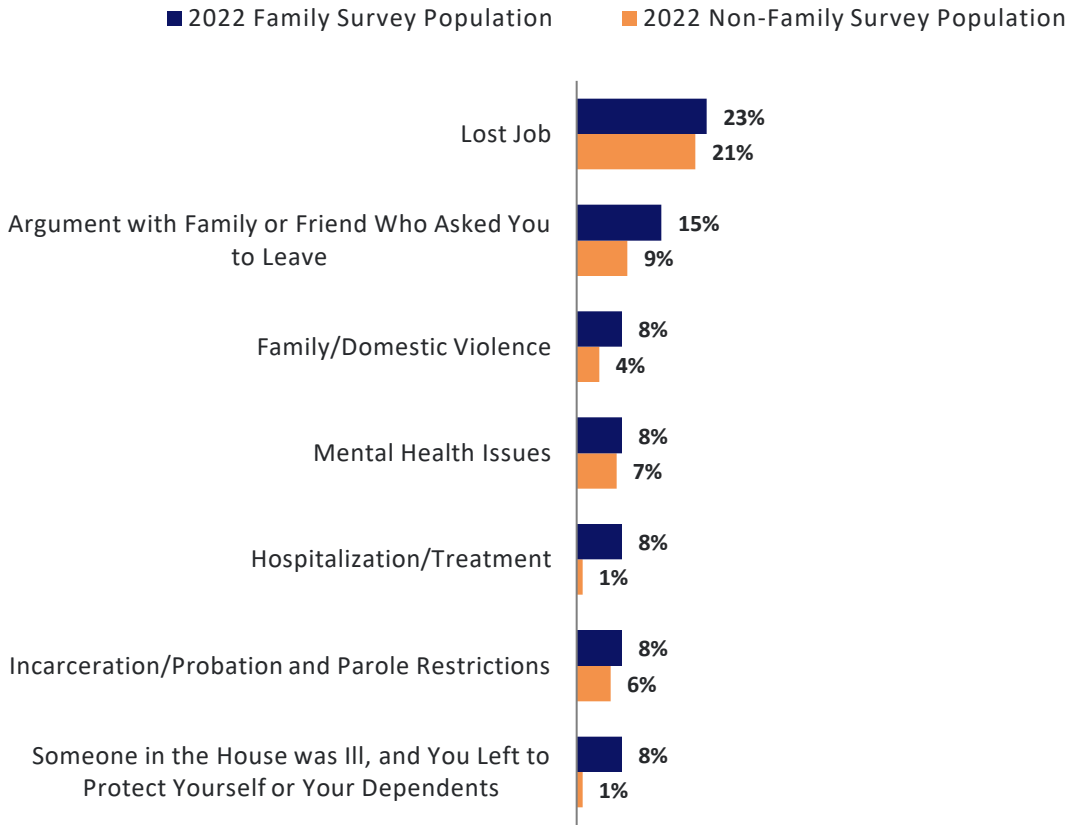
n = 205 Families with 605 Family Members

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Families with Children

The most frequently cited cause of homelessness among survey respondents in families was job loss (23%). Fifteen percent (15%) reported an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave. Respondents in families attributed their homelessness to domestic violence at twice the rate of single individuals (8% compared to 4%).

Over one-quarter (27%) of respondents in families reported experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime, while 14% indicated experiencing domestic violence at the time of the survey.

Figure 45. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN (TOP 3 RESPONSES IN 2022)



Families n = 13; Non-Families n = 693
Note: Not all response options are displayed above. Survey offers 18 response options. Percentages may not add up to 100.
Note: Results are based on a small sample size but consistent with previous years.

Prevlance of Unaccompanied Children and Transitional-Age Youth (TAY) Experiencing Homelessness

There were 1,073 unaccompanied children and transitional-age youth identified during the 2022 Point-in-Time Count, a 6% decrease from the 1,145 counted in 2019. Among unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, 987 were transitional-age youth between 18 and 24 years old while 86 were unaccompanied children under 18 years old. Eighty-three percent (83%) of transitional-age youth and 95% of unaccompanied children were unsheltered.

Figure 46. NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, 2017-2022

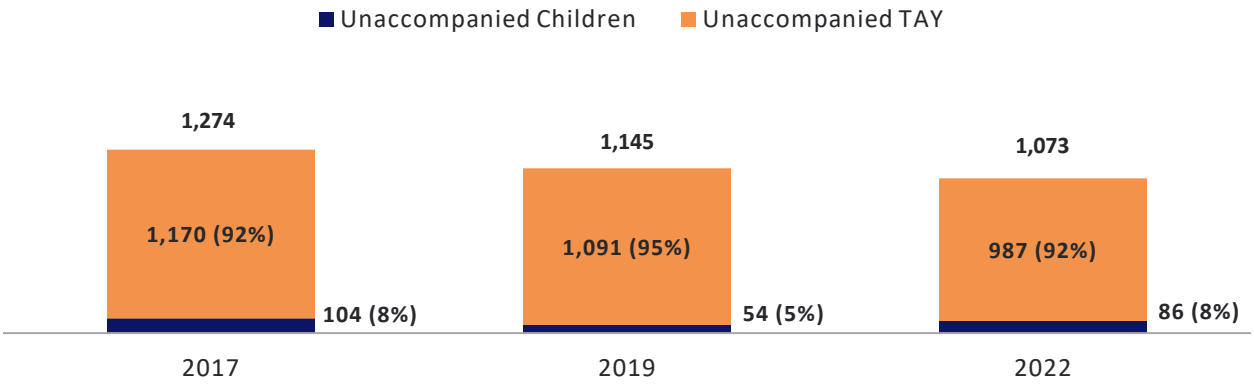
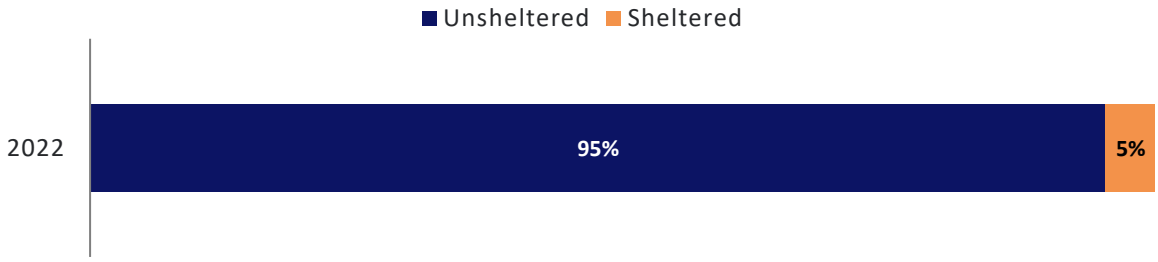
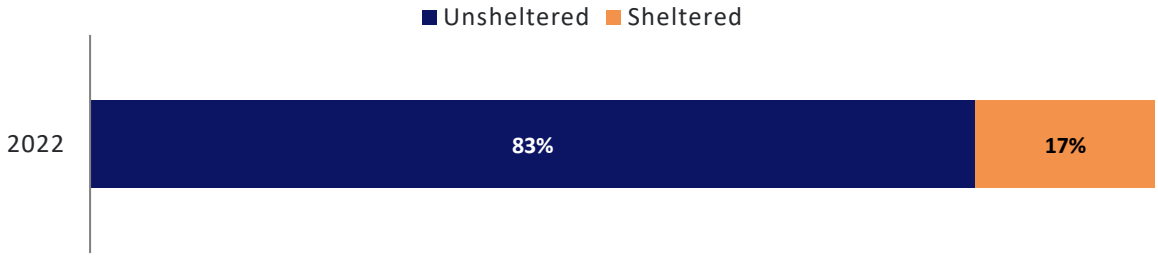


Figure 47. UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



n = 86

Figure 48. UNACCOMPANIED TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

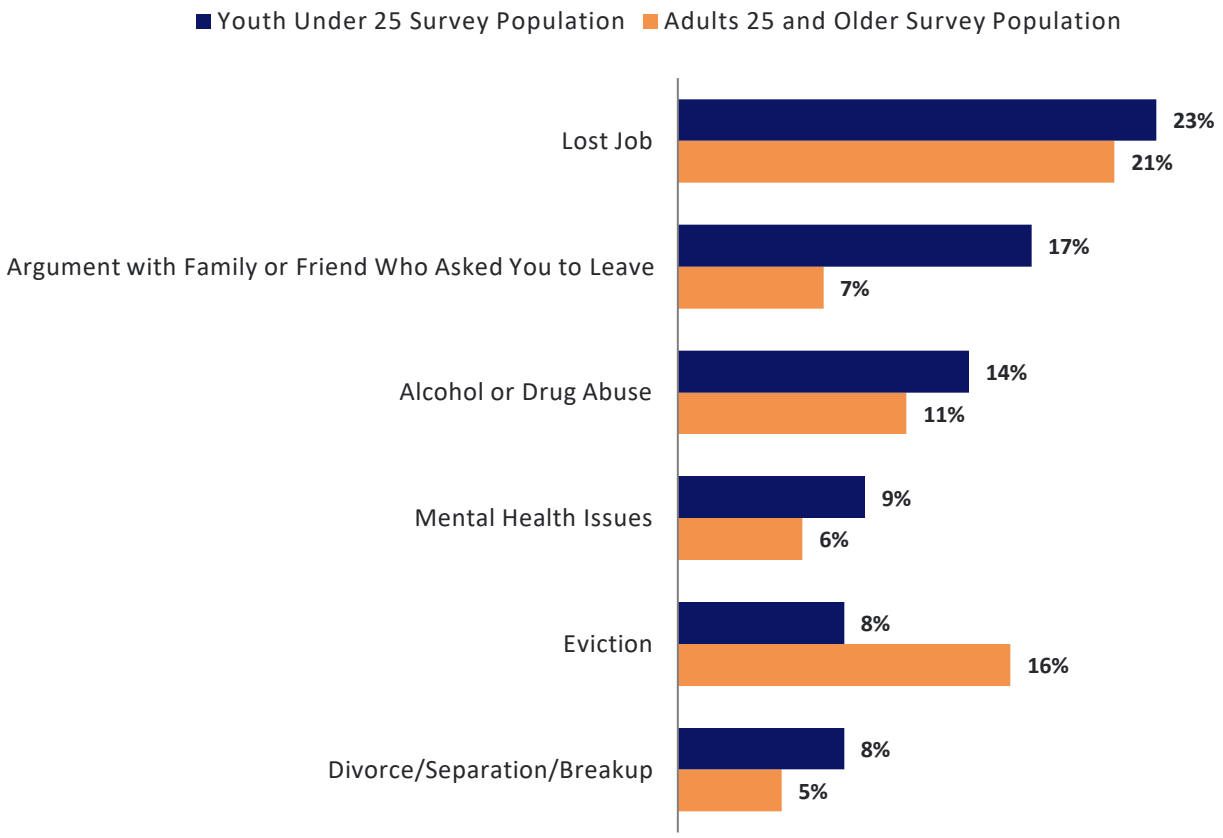


n = 987

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transitional-Age Youth

Youth survey respondents reported some differences in cause of homelessness compared to respondents 25 years or older. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of youth reported a job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness, compared to 21% of individuals over 25. Fewer reported an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave as the primary cause of their homelessness compared to that of adults; 17% compared to 7%, respectively.

Figure 49. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH AND ADULTS 25 AND OLDER (TOP SIX RESPONSES IN 2022)



Youth Under 25 n = 132; Adults 25 and Older n = 574
Note: Not all response options are displayed above. Survey offers 18 response options. Percentages may not add up to 100.

2022 San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey Report

The preceding section provides an overview of San Francisco HUD reported data on unaccompanied children and youth. The *2022 San Francisco Youth Homeless Count and Survey* report contains additional information on the number of unaccompanied children and transitional-age youth counted in the Point-in-Time Count using the City of San Francisco's expanded definition of homelessness, as well as additional information gathered in the youth focused survey effort. The report can be accessed online at hsh.sfgov.org.

CONCLUSION

The 2022 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying the homeless population. The 2022 Count was especially notable for being conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to safely engage the community in the middle of a public health crisis. The project team was able to stay consistent with methods used in previous PIT counts yet introduce several enduring innovations, including a GPS-enable smart phone application and interactive online route planning and management, adding value and accuracy to the effort. Additionally, the count planning team took a large step in reorienting the staffing of teams to include homeless outreach staff and persons with lived experience to complement the volunteer-centric approach used in previous years. This added valuable expertise into the street count process and will be a key component of future efforts.

Data summarized in this report provide many valuable insights about the unique and diverse experiences of homelessness in San Francisco. Key insights gleaned through the Count and Survey include:

- The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness decreased 15% from 2019 to 2022. This decrease corresponds with a significant increase in housing and shelter resources.
- Total homelessness (sheltered and unsheltered) decreased by 3.5% from 2019 to 2022, with a 9% reduction in homeless households.
- Over 49% of respondents experienced homelessness for the first time when they were under the age of 25. Twenty-two percent (22%) of all surveyed had a history of foster care. Data suggests the importance of earlier intervention in prevention efforts.
- The top two self-reported reasons for homelessness were economic with losing employment and eviction as top responses.
- Health issues continue to be a prevalent problem with 39% having a disabling condition and very high rates of mental health issues and substance use issues (52%).
- There was an 18% increase in people living in shelter from 2019 to 2022. This corresponds with a substantial increase of 24% in available shelter beds.
- The number of chronically homeless people decreased by 11% from 2019 to 2022, and the population was less chronically homeless in 2022 at a rate of 35% compared to 38% in 2019.
- Homeless families decreased by 1% since 2019, and parenting youth households decreased 47% since 2019.

In summary, the 2022 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey provides valid and useful data that plays a critical role in developing a more comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness. Data presented in this report fulfill federal reporting requirements for the Continuum of Care, and will continue to inform service planning, and policy decision-making by local planning bodies over the year to come.

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey was designed and implemented through a collaborative CoC-wide effort that included various City departments and community-based organizations. COVID-19 related safety and public health issues were a key concern in planning from both a process and staffing perspective as we prioritized caution with the need for accurate, complete, and comparable information about the homeless population.

The 2022 San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices and using HUD's PIT Count definition of homelessness. The goal was to produce a point-in-time estimate of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, a region which covers approximately 47 square miles. Several primary data collection components were integrated 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 and Survey

The methodology used in the 2022 Point-in-Time Count and Survey had four components:

- **General Street Count:** A nighttime count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and midnight on February 23, 2022; at Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the morning of February 24; and at McLaren Park between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the afternoon of February 24. This included those sleeping outdoors on the street; at transit stations; in parks, tents, and other makeshift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned or public properties, like parking garages and related locations. Individuals staying in safe sleep sites and safe parking sites were included and considered as unsheltered per HUD guidance.
- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults:** A nighttime count of unsheltered unaccompanied youth under 18 and young adults 18-24 years old on February 23, 2022 between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and midnight, and at Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Ocean Beach and Lake Merced between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on the morning of February 23. This was led by special youth teams 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.
- **General Shelter Count:** A count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on the night of February 23, 2022. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and domestic violence shelters. Shelter-in-Place (SIP) hotel and trailer sites launched as part of San Francisco's COVID-19 response were included.
- **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview with 768 unique sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals conducted by peer surveyors between March 4 and March 25, 2022 throughout San Francisco. 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 City departments 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. Their work is featured as a best practice in the HUD publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People.*, as well as in the Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago publication, *Conducting a Youth Count: A Toolkit*.

Community Involvement

Local homeless and housing service providers and advocates were valued partners in the planning and implementation of this count. The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB), the lead entity of San Francisco's Continuum of Care, was invited to comment on the methodology and subsequently approved it. The planning team was comprised of staff from HSH and consultants from ASR. Throughout the planning process, the planning team requested the collaboration, cooperation, and participation of several government agencies and nonprofit providers that regularly interact with homeless individuals and possess considerable expertise relevant to the count.

COVID-19 Adjustments

The planning team remained in close consultation with the San Francisco Department of Public Health and monitored guidance from HUD and the CDC throughout the PIT count planning process in order to prioritize the safety of people experiencing homelessness, staff, and volunteers during the continued COVID-19 pandemic. HSH further coordinated with other Bay Area CoCs to develop and follow best practices to ensure both a safe and accurate count. Several adjustments were made, and new protocols adopted to adapt to the new circumstances.

In prior PIT count years, the street count was conducted primarily by hundreds of volunteers from the general public. PIT count teams were often assigned on-site during an in-person kick-off training on the night of the count. In 2022, the planning team made the decision, in consultation with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission by limiting the team size and number of enumerators used. Teams were also asked to self-identify teammates they would work in close contact with to reduce interaction across households.

Additionally, a strategic goal of HSH and the LHCB was to integrate more skilled homeless outreach workers and more persons with lived experience of homelessness into the street count effort. The planning team worked with the City and County of San Francisco and various nonprofit outreach partners to recruit homeless outreach workers as enumerators. People with lived experience were also recruited by outreach workers to join their enumeration teams and received a financial incentive for their participation. This led to a significantly higher rate of skilled and experienced enumerators who were able to canvas the city with fewer participants. A small number of volunteer teams were recruited from the general public, including city staff, to ensure full coverage.

Participation standards stipulated COVID-19 vaccination though proof was not mandated. Local department and agency public health and safety guidelines were followed, and health and safety protocols were distributed to all enumerators and surveyors in advance as part of their training materials. Masks and other PPE were required and made available for all enumerators, surveyors, and survey participants. Finally, in order to reduce the need for physical interaction between participants, a

mobile application was used (see "Methodological Improvements" below) to replace paper tally sheets, trainings were conducted virtually, and training materials were disseminated digitally.

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.

Methodology

Consistent with previous years, the 2022 street count methodology followed an established, HUD-approved approach commonly called a "blitz" method followed by a sample survey. This method combines a complete census to enumerate the total homeless population while applying a non-random, convenience sampling approach to generate necessary demographic information from the PIT survey.

As in 2019, gender estimates for unsheltered individuals were extrapolated from self-reported survey data. Observation-based gender data from the app-based tally sheet were only used for the purposes of deduplication. Age estimates for unsheltered individuals continued to be derived from street count observations.

Enumeration Team Recruitment and Training

In 2022, the planning team outreached to nonprofit partners throughout the city with staff expertise in homeless service provision and street outreach. Nonprofit partners and program staff were also encouraged to recruit persons with lived experience to act as experienced guides on enumeration teams. Homeless guides were paid $20 for online training as well as $20 per hour worked on the day of the count.

Over 100 outreach workers and homeless guides participated in the general street count. A limited recruitment of additional volunteers was targeted towards city staff and staff of nonprofits homeless service providers. Approximately 50 volunteers were recruited to assist with lower-density routes and ensure enough coverage for a complete census.

In order to participate in the count, all volunteers and guides were requested to view a 20-minute training video before the count. Additionally, targeted trainings were held for multiple groups throughout the county who were able to convene a large enough group of attendees. Training covered all aspects of the count:

- definition of homelessness;
- how to identify homeless individuals;
- how to conduct the count safely and respectfully;
- how to use the smart phone app and also access the smartphone app training video;
- how to use the route maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered;
- tips to identify vehicles; and
- other tips to help ensure an accurate and safe count.

Safety Precautions

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Parks considered too big or densely wooded to inspect safely and accurately in the dark on the night of the count were enumerated by outreach teams on the mornings of February 23 and 24 and on the afternoon of February 24. Outreach workers were accompanied by SF Park Rangers in Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Park on the morning of February 24 followed by McLaren Park in the afternoon. Dedicated youth outreach teams enumerated Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Ocean Beach, Lake Merced and Park Merced/Lake on the morning of February 23. The majority of parks, however, were deemed safe and counted on the night of the count. 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

On the morning of the street count, teams of two persons and no more than three people were created to enumerate designated areas of San Francisco for the street count. Each team, typically any combination of outreach workers, lived experience guides and program staff, was provided with their assigned PIT route maps, access information and training materials for the smartphone application, and field observation tips and guidelines, including vehicle identification criteria. Each team was assigned a unique team number and instructed to text a central PIT count dispatch center to confirm they were on route and on task for enumeration of their route assignments.

All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated routes were traversed by foot or car. The San Francisco Survey 123 smartphone app was used to record the number of homeless persons observed in addition to basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center staff also verified that teams had started their route assignments and checked out as soon as their routes were completed, and all data had been entered in the Survey 123 smartphone app. Teams covered the entirety of their assigned areas.

Multipliers

As in 2019, updates were made to multipliers for persons living in tents, cars, RVs, and vans. Since the number of persons residing in tents and vehicles is not always visible to general street count teams on the night of the Point-in-Time count, a multiplier is applied to tents and vehicles where the number of persons was unknown. In 2022, the tent multiplier was derived from a March 2022 survey conducted by SF HOT in districts throughout San Francisco, along with responses in the 2022 PIT survey regarding living situation and household size. Due to the logistical difficulties and safety concerns involved in engaging individuals living in vehicles, a large-scale survey of individuals living vehicles could not be easily obtained. Vehicle multipliers were updating using information from the 2022 PIT survey, the 2019 PIT survey, as well as data on homeless households living in vehicles collected for a 2019 Vehicle Triage Center pilot program.

Methodological Improvements

In 2022, a significant change was made in the transition from paper tally sheets to a mobile application to complete the general street count and youth street count. Enumerators used GPS-enabled smartphones to submit data in a mobile application called ESRI Survey 123 developed and customized

by ASR. This new process limited the need to exchange physical materials, met HUD's data collection requirements, and met HUD's COVID-19 safety recommendation.

Also, improvements were made in pre-planning efforts to assign and deploy enumeration teams virtually, thereby avoiding the need for centralized deployment centers where COVID-19 transmission risks would be greater. Outreach organizations and program staff were able to select routes for enumeration from an interactive GIS planning map tool that enabled planning for complete coverage of San Francisco. High-density homeless routes were prioritized for outreach workers and personnel with direct service experience alongside people with lived experience of homelessness, while general volunteers assisted with low-density routes. Outreach workers were encouraged to select routes they had familiarity within their regular street outreach work to leverage their expertise on specific locations observed when counting.

Unsheltered Family Count

Unsheltered families are a challenging population to visually identify during the street count and have long been suspected as an undercounted population. For the first time, the planning team was able to develop a new process to improve the accuracy of the unsheltered family count. HSH produced a by-name list of families recently identified as in need of shelter or prioritized for housing per HMIS data and enlisted the support of Compass Family Services to call and verify the housing status of households on the night of February 23, 2022. This process contributed to the count of unsheltered families in 2022 and shows promise for future efforts to better determine the prevalence of unsheltered family homelessness in San Francisco.

Point-in-Time Count Challenges and Limitations

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as large and diverse as San Francisco. 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 methods employed in a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Many factors may contribute to potential undercounts. For example:

- It is difficult to identify homeless persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation.
- Homeless families with children and unaccompanied homeless children, individuals and youth often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or in makeshift shelters.
- Weather can impact a homeless person's likelihood of seeking a hotel, friend or family member's home, or other shelter source for a given evening.

In addition, HUD requires the Count to represent homelessness between sunset and sunrise. San Francisco conducts the bulk of its count between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and midnight, but there may be differences observed in other time windows.

YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

The goal of the 2022 dedicated youth count was to improve representation of unaccompanied homeless children and youth 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

teams, 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

Since 2013, 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.

As in past counts, the locations corresponded to areas in the neighborhoods of the Haight, Mission, Tenderloin, Union Square, Castro, the Panhandle, Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Ocean Beach, Lake Merced, Park Merced/Lakeside areas, the Bayview, and the Embarcadero. Service providers familiar with the map areas identified in each neighborhood were asked to recruit currently homeless youth to participate in the 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

Youth worked in teams of two to three, with teams coordinated by youth street outreach workers. The youth count was conducted at the same time as the general street count, from 8:00 p.m. to midnight on February 23, 2022. Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Ocean Beach, Lake Merced and Park Merced/Lakeside were also covered by youth count teams between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on February 23.

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.

SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

Goal

The goal of the shelter count is to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across San Francisco. 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 shelters designated to provide temporary living arrangement, such as emergency shelters, transitional housing, or Safe Haven facilities.

Research Design

The occupancy of emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and safe haven programs with beds dedicated to individuals experiencing homelessness was documented for the night of February 23, 2022. Information was collected for programs operating in San Francisco and reportable per HUD guidance. Data was collected on household type, age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic status, and if individuals had certain health conditions.

Data Collection

To collect data on individuals staying in shelters, ASR worked with HSH staff. HSH collected data on all emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and Safe Havens operating in San Francisco. Where possible, data on clients served in temporary housing situations was pulled from HSH's administrative data systems: the Online Navigation and Entry (ONE) System, San Francisco's HUD-compliant Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); and the SF COVID-19 Placement Tool, a database developed by RTZ Systems for SIP hotel shelter bed management.

Shelter programs that do not maintain client enrollment data in either the ONE system or the SF COVID-19 Placement Tool were asked to submit data. A dedicated staff person from each facility submitted their data for clients served on the night of February 23, 2022, via a web-based Shelter Count Survey administered by HSH. A designated staff person provided the count for each of these facilities; clients were not interviewed. For these programs, all persons experiencing homelessness were included in the Point-in-Time Count per HUD reporting requirements.

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 who were referred by local service providers. Training sessions were facilitated by ASR 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. In 2022, training materials and instructions included health and safety protocols to limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and face masks and hand sanitizers were provided to survey workers and surveyors as needed. Survey workers were compensated at a rate of $10 per completed survey.

Consistent with prior years, 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 and in some cases McDonalds gift certificates were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2022 Homeless Survey. The socks and cards were easy to distribute, had broad 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 7,754 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 768 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/-3.5% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Francisco.

The 2022 survey was administered in shelters, transitional housing facilities, and on the street. Strategic attempts were also made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless children and 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. The planning team worked closely with local service providers to identify their places of expertise and had survey locations correspond to the neighborhoods of peer survey workers.

As in past counts, the locations corresponded to areas in the neighborhoods of the Haight, Mission, Tenderloin, Union Square, Castro, the Panhandle, Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Ocean Beach, Lake Merced, Park Merced/Lakeside areas, the Bayview, and the Embarcadero. Service providers familiar with the map areas identified in each neighborhood were asked to recruit currently homeless youth to participate in the count. This was especially successful this year with the greater number of lived experience surveyors that were employed in 2022.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an "every third encounter" survey approach. 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. In more remote cases where respondents were sparser this survey interval was modified.

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. This left 768 valid surveys for analysis. Due to the sensitive nature of the survey, respondents were not required to answer every survey question, and respondents were asked to skip questions that were not applicable. For this reason, the number of respondents for each survey question may not total 768.

Survey Methodology Changes

To align with the new HUD FY2022 HMIS data standards, the race, ethnicity, and gender questions and the response options were updated, ensuring comparability with HMIS data. The following updates were made to the Point-in-Time Count Survey:

- **Race:** Changed question to "What race or races do you identify with?" in 2022. Respondents were able to self-identify with one or more of five different racial categories – Asian or Asian American; American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous; Black, African American, or African; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and White. Previous versions asked, "Which racial group do you identify with most?" and required respondents to select one answer from six options – Asian; American Indian or Alaska Native; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; White; and Other.
- **Ethnicity:** Changed question to "What ethnicity do you identify with?" in 2022. Respondents were asked to identify themselves as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) or non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x). Previous versions asked, "Are you Hispanic or Latino?".
- **Gender:** Changed question to "What gender do you identify with?" in 2022. Respondents were able to self-identify with one or more of five different gender categories – A gender other than singularly

female or male (e.g., non-binary, gender fluid, agender, culturally specific gender); female; male; transgender; and questioning. Previous versions asked, "What is your gender?" and required respondents to select one answer from five options – female; genderqueer/gender non-binary; male; transgender; and not listed.

Additionally, in an effort to better understand recent drivers of homelessness, survey respondents were asked if the primary cause of their homelessness was related to the COVID-19 pandemic or a California wildfire.

Survey Challenges and Limitations

The 2022 San Francisco Homeless Survey methodology relies heavily on self-reported data collected from peer surveyors. While self-report allows individuals to represent their own experiences, self-reported data are often more variable than clinically reported data. However, using a peer-to-peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow respondents to be more candid with their answers and to help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers recommended individuals who would be the best suited to conducting interviews and these individuals received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. Service providers also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted; the process included reviewing individual surveys submitted by surveyors and assessing patterns in survey responses for inconsistencies.

In 2022, COVID-19 presented additional challenges in recruiting and staffing survey efforts. As a result, the total number of valid survey responses collected was slightly lower than prior years. However, this only slightly reduced the margin of error of responses from +/-3% in 2019 to +/-3.5% in 2022 with a 95% confidence interval.

It is worth noting that while surveys are distributed to a broad geography, specific survey quotas were not set to represent the shelter status of respondents. The two previous counts in 2017 and 2019 resulted in 75% unsheltered respondents and 25% sheltered respondents while the 2022 effort yielded 85% unsheltered and 15% sheltered. This difference in 2022 was almost exclusively in a lower number of emergency shelter respondents as the transitional shelter respondents were consistent with previous years. Historically, unsheltered survey responses and emergency shelter survey responses have been very similar. The research team does not believe that weighting response data is warranted and the survey responses in the report are representative of the total population.

It is important to recognize that variations between survey years may result from shifts in the demographic profiles of surveyors and accessibility to certain populations. Survey confidence intervals presented indicate the level of variability that may occur from year to year when interpreting findings. While every effort was made to collect surveys from a random and diverse sample of sheltered and unsheltered individuals, the hard-to-reach nature of the population experiencing homelessness prevents a true random sampling. Recruitment of diverse and geographically dispersed surveyors was prioritized. However, equal survey participation across all populations may be limited by the participation and adequate representation of subpopulations in planning and implementation processes. This includes persons living in vehicles, who are historically difficult to enumerate and survey.

Consequently, survey data and data derived from survey responses may shift from year to year. It is for this reason Point-in-Time Count data should be used in conjunction with other community sources of data on individuals and families experiencing homelessness to gather a comprehensive understanding of the community.

APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTAL POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA

SUPPLEMENTAL SHELTER COUNT

The official Point-in-Time Count uses the HUD definition of homelessness, which includes individuals and families:

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter 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.

Historically, the City and County of San Francisco has expanded this definition to include persons who were "doubled-up" in the homes of family or friends; individuals staying in jails, hospitals, or residential facilities who are otherwise homeless; and families living in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units.

Information on homeless individuals residing in jails, hospitals, and residential treatment facilities was gathered to provide broader context to the scope of homelessness experienced in San Francisco. The following table summarizes the total number of additional persons counted using the more expansive local definition of homelessness.

	San Francisco Supplemental Point-in-Time Count Numbers		
	2017	**2019**	**2022**
Total number of persons	**641**	**1,773**	**1,238**
Total number of individuals	624	1,748	1,172
Total number of families	8	11	36
Total number of persons in families	17	25	66

Fewer individuals were reported as homeless upon entrance to these sites in 2022 with an overall reduction of 30%. However, the number of homeless families increased in 2022, primarily attributable to residential treatment centers and alternative sentencing program sites dedicated to women and children.

SUPPLEMENTAL SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

Goal

The goal of the supplemental shelter count is to better understand the extent of the population currently residing in temporary institutional settings that may otherwise be homeless. These institutional settings are not reportable according to HUD requirements for the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Point-in-Time Count.

Scope

For the purposes of the supplemental count, the San Francisco Supplemental Point-in-Time Count includes data from jails, hospitals, and residential treatment facilities. Due to challenges identifying and locating families living in SROs and persons "doubled-up" in the homes of family or friends, these individuals are not included in the scope of this count.

Research Design

The following types of facilities were identified for inclusion the San Francisco Supplemental Point-in-Time Count:

- **Residential Treatment Facilities:** The San Francisco Department of Public Health and local agencies assisted in collecting counts of self-identified homeless persons staying in various residential treatment centers not specifically designated for homeless persons (e.g. mental health facilities, acute crisis or treatment centers, detox facilities, etc.) on the night of February 23, 2022.
- **Jail:** The San Francisco Sheriff's Department provided data on inmates who were in County Jail on the morning of February 23, 2022, and provided the number of persons who were experiencing homelessness at the time of arrest. The method for gathering jail data is explained further below.
- **Hospitals:** The San Francisco Department of Public Health assisted with the coordination of obtaining count numbers from hospitals. Staff from individual hospitals collected the number of persons who were self-identified as homeless in their facilities on the night of February 23, 2022. The numbers reported for the hospitals did not duplicate the inpatient mental health units.
- **Isolation and Quarantine Beds:** In 2022, the City and County of San Francisco operated hotel sites for certain populations with COVID-19 to recover. Beds exclusively dedicated to homeless clients were reported in HUD's Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Count, but homeless individuals served in beds otherwise not exclusively dedicated to homeless individuals are represented here.

For the City and County of San Francisco's expanded definition of homelessness, appropriate staff at hospitals and treatment centers were identified prior to the Point-in-Time Count and asked to complete the online shelter count survey detailing the number of homeless individuals they served on the night of February 23, 2022. A total of 61 hospital and residential treatment programs were represented in the supplemental count in 2022 accounting for 860 homeless persons identified. Three additional programs were surveyed but not reachable.

To obtain data from the county jails, HSH worked closely with the Sheriff's Office. As in previous years, the Sheriff's Department generated a list of all inmates in county jail facilities on the night of February 23, 2022. Demographic information including age, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, and veteran status (self-reported) were pulled from the Sheriff's Department's administrative data system (JMIS). In 2019, this data was further validated through a follow-up survey conducted by the Sheriff's Department to ask questions regarding living situation prior to arrest. Due to staffing challenges during the winter surge of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, this survey was not conducted in 2022 and all data reflect information from the JMIS.

In 2022, 366 inmates in San Francisco county jails were identified as homeless compared to 472 homeless inmates identified in 2019. While this represents a 22% decrease in the total number of homeless inmates identified compared to 2019, the rate of homelessness amongst inmates was higher (43% compared to 35%) as the total jail population reduced from 1,366 to 842.

Challenges and Limitations

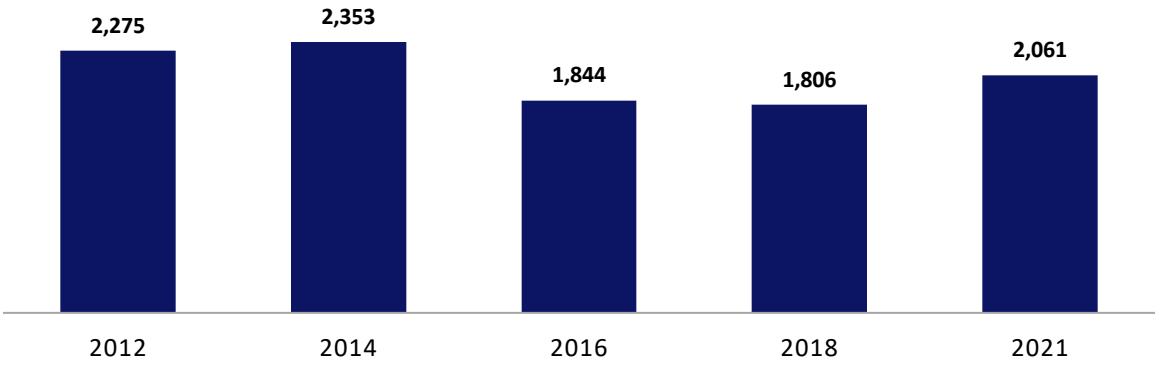
Ensuring comprehensive representation of all relevant publicly and privately funded programs throughout the City remains a challenge each year. The supplemental count relies on the cooperation of many agencies not otherwise dedicated to homelessness or contracted through the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

As most of these programs are not funded by HUD CoC grant programs and are not exclusively or explicitly dedicated to serving homeless individuals, it can be challenging to ensure that all agencies are identifying the homeless status of patients and clients at entry in a manner consistent with HUD or San Francisco definitions. Improved training and guidance in future counts may help to maximize the accuracy of the data collected.

SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT DATA

In addition to the supplemental shelter count, HSH considers data from local schools. The U.S. Department of Education requires that school districts receiving McKinney-Vento funds report on homeless children that "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." [12] This definition is more expansive than the HUD PIT count definition and includes families that are doubled-up or living in motels/hotels as homeless. SFUSD's data reflect information collected on an ongoing basis throughout the schoolyear to meet the broader definition above for McKinney-Vento Act (MVA) compliance. The figures below reflect data as of October 1st of each year to roughly align with the beginning of the school years. Though these figures are more expansive than HUD's definition of homelessness for the PIT count and capture a broader time-frame than a single night, this serves as an important source of information and a key indicator of progress on reducing family homelessness.

Figure 50. NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SFUSD EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (MVA DEFINITION)



[12] California Department of Education. Definition of Homeless. Retrieved from https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/homelessdef.asp#:~:text=The%20McKinney%2DVento%20Act%20defines,hardship%2C%20or%20a%20similar%20reason

FAMILIES IN SRO UNITS OR DOUBLED UP

Data on families living in SRO units and individuals who are "doubled-up" is challenging to collect comprehensively and for a given night. While HUD does not count families in these living situations in the PIT Count, HSH serves these families per our local definition of homelessness and considers other data sources that may represent the scope of this population.

The SRO Families United Collaborative, a partnership of five community-based organizations, reported in 2020 that 431 families lived in SROs in Chinatown, Mission, Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods.[13] In addition, San Francisco's Housing Primary Assessment for families asks a question related to current living situation where "San Francisco Single Room Occupancy (SRO) unit" is a response option. In the year preceding the Point in Time Count, only one family of 931 assessments conducted selected this response option, which may indicate that few families in this living situation are seeking services through HSH.

Families "doubled up" and renting small spaces or rooms in the private market are also challenging to identify clearly in HMIS data. In the Housing Primary Assessment for families, respondents may indicate their current living situation is "With another family (excluding your parents or adult children) in a housing unit in SF and is not being asked to leave." In addition, clients with a program enrollment in the HMIS system are asked to identify their current living situation in accordance with HUD HMIS data standards. Families doubled up are likely to respond as:

- "Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment or house"
- "Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment, or house"

Over the course of the year preceding the PIT from February 23, 2021 to February 23, 2022, HMIS data indicates that 487 family households identified with one of the living situations cited above.

[13] San Francisco Controller's Office. SRO Families United Collaborative. Retrieved from https://sfcontroller.org/sites/default/files/Our%20City%2C%20Our%20Home/5c.i.%20Families%20in%20SROs%20Presentation.pdf

APPENDIX C: GENERAL SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISON

		2017	2019	2022
Age	Less than 18 years	2%	1%	1%
	18 - 24 years	19%	18%	20%
	25 - 30 years	11%	6%	10%
	31 - 40 years	17%	18%	25%
	41 - 50 years	19%	22%	20%
	51 - 60 years	21%	25%	17%
	61 years or more	11%	10%	8%
What gender do you identify with?[14]	Female	33%	35%	34%
	Male	61%	59%	58%
	Transgender	5%	4%	4%
	A Gender Other Than Singularly Female or Male (e.g., Non-Binary, Gender Fluid, Agender, Culturally Specific Gender)	--	--	2%
	Questioning	--	--	1%
	Don't know/Refuse	--	--	1%
	Not Listed	0%	1%	--
	Genderqueer/Gender Non-Binary	1%	1%	--

[14] Survey question changed in 2022. Previous version asked, "What is your gender?" The answer choices to this question were also modified to align with HUD data collection standards on gender identity.

What ethnicity do you identify with? [15]	Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	22%	18%	30%
	Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	75%	79%	60%
	Don't know/Refuse	3%	3%	11%
What race or races do you identify with? [16]	American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	3%	5%	6%
	Asian or Asian American	4%	5%	7%
	Black, African American, or African	34%	37%	35%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2%	2%	5%
	White	35%	29%	42%
	Multi-Racial	--	--	6%
	Other	22%	22%	--
If you identify as LGBTQ+, what gender do you identify with? Do you consider yourself…? [17]	Bisexual	41%	26%	29%
	Gay/Lesbian/Same Gender Loving	39%	50%	31%
	Other	11%	7%	12%
	Questioning/Unsure	--	--	10%
	Transgender	9%	13%	15%
	A Gender Other Than Singularly Female or Male (e.g., Non-Binary, Gender Fluid, Agender, Culturally Specific Gender)	--	--	6%
	Questioning	--	--	2%
	Queer	11%	--	--
	Genderqueer/Gender Non-Binary	--	3%	--

[15] Survey question changed in 2022. Previous version asked, "Are you Hispanic or Latino?" The answer choices to this question were also modified to align with HUD data collection standards on ethnicity.
[16] Survey question changed in 2022. Previous version asked, "Which racial group do you identify with most? (shade all)" The answer choices to this question were also modified to align with HUD data collection standards on race.
[17] Survey questions changed in 2022. Previous version asked, "Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?" The answer choices to these questions were also modified to align with HUD data collection standards on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Have you ever been in foster care?	Yes	19%	18%	22%
	No	81%	80%	75%
	Don't know	--	2%	3%
Do you experience any of the following?	Any chronic health problem or medical condition	31%	31%	22%
	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	29%	37%	38%
	Any psychiatric or emotional condition	39%	39%	36%
	A physical disability	23%	27%	21%
	A traumatic brain injury	12%	15%	13%
	Drug or alcohol abuse	41%	42%	52%
	An AIDS or HIV related illness	11%	7%	8%
How long have you been homeless this current time?	7 days or less	3%	2%	7%
	8 – 30 days	5%	3%	5%
	1 – 3 months	6%	5%	5%
	4 – 6 months	15%	15%	17%
	7 – 11 months	12%	10%	8%
	1 year	12%	13%	13%
	More than 1 year	47%	52%	46%
Is this the first time you have been homeless?	Yes	25%	31%	23%
	No	75%	69%	77%

What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness? [18]	Lost job	22%	26%	21%
	Eviction	12%	13%	14%
	Foreclosure	2%	1%	2%
	Incarceration/Probation and Parole Restriction	7%	7%	7%
	Alcohol or drug use	15%	18%	12%
	Illness/medical problem	7%	6%	3%
	Divorce/separation/break up	10%	5%	6%
	Landlord raised rent	4%	5%	4%
	Argument with family or friend who asked you to leave	13%	12%	9%
	Family/domestic violence	5%	5%	4%
	Mental health issues	6%	8%	7%
	Hospitalization/treatment	2%	1%	2%
	Aging out of foster care	1%	1%	1%
	Reduced work hours	--	--	3%
	Lost child care	--	--	<1%
	Someone in the house was ill, and I left to protect myself or my dependents	--	--	1%
	Other	8%	7%	8%
	Don't know/Decline to state	6%	5%	17%

[18] In 2022, the answer choices to this question were modified to align with local data collection standards on primary cause of homelessness.