

# 2022 MONTEREY COUNTY

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## HOMELESS COUNT AND SURVEY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

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REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

## ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

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

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## Count Coordination Agency

Coalition of Homeless Service Providers	Grant Tuioti, <i>Lead Data Analyst</i>
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Monterey County Department of Social Services	San Benito County Health and Human Services
Monterey County Behavioral Health	Coalition of Homeless Service Providers

**Thank you to all volunteers who came to count with us! Thank you to all Coalition of Homeless Services Providers member agencies that participated in the 2022 Point in Time Count. Without your support this report would not be possible.**

## Special Thanks to:

Access Support Network <sup>1,2</sup>	Interim <sup>1,2</sup>
City of King <sup>2</sup>	Monterey County Behavioral Health <sup>1,2</sup>
City of Pacific Grove <sup>2</sup>	Monterey County Department of Social Services <sup>1,2</sup>
City of Salinas / SORT Team <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Monterey County Office of Education <sup>3</sup>
City of Seaside <sup>2</sup>	Office of Supervisor Luis Alejo <sup>2</sup>
Community Homeless Solutions <sup>1,3</sup>	San Benito County Community Services and Workforce Development <sup>1,2,3</sup>
Community Human Services <sup>1,2</sup>	San Benito County Health and Human Services <sup>1,2</sup>
CSUMB Community Health Engagement <sup>1,2,3</sup>	All Law Enforcement Agencies that participated in the Point in Time Count <sup>2</sup>
Dorothy's Place <sup>1,2</sup>	Everyone with Lived Experience who served as guides, volunteers, and/or surveyors <sup>1,2,3</sup>
Downtown Streets Team <sup>1,2</sup>	

<sup>1</sup>These Volunteers/Organizations/Outreach Teams were instrumental in the pre-deployment preparation of the 2022 PIT Count.

<sup>2</sup>These Volunteers/Organizations/Outreach Teams were instrumental in overseeing the implementation of the 2022 PIT Count

<sup>3</sup>These Volunteers/Organizations/Outreach Teams were instrumental in collecting the survey data needed for this report

**CHSP would like to highlight and thank the following individuals for going above and beyond in their efforts to help make this count possible:**

Lauren Suwansupa	Tim Heavin
Kayshla Lopez	Cliford Andrews
Andi Anderson	Christina Soto
Enrique Arreola	Anastacia Wyatt

# 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 count in their annual funding application to HUD. Currently, the Monterey County CoC receives annual federal funding.

The Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey was designed and implemented as part of the broader CoC-wide effort across Monterey and San Benito Counties. Therefore, the research methodology and infrastructure that supported the Monterey County effort was consistent and uniform throughout the continuum, and the findings summarized in this report represent the Monterey County subset of the CoC-wide results. San Benito County results, whose results were included in the CoC homeless data exchange (HDX) submission to HUD, are reported in a separate executive summary format. Significantly, this research effort in 2022 was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and is the only comprehensive sheltered and unsheltered count conducted since 2019. The 2021 unsheltered PIT was postponed to the end of January 2022 due to COVID-19 safety concerns. The 2022 effort was also conducted at the tail end of the Omicron COVID-19 surge which further challenged outreach efforts.

Monterey County has partnered with ASR to conduct its Point-in-Time (PIT) Count since 1999, maintaining a similar yet continually improving data collection methodology. This helps ensure consistency from one count to the next. ASR is a locally based social research firm that has over 23 years of experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessments, having conducted over

100 comprehensive homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Our 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 Homeless 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 comprised the 2022 Planning Committee and were instrumental to ensuring the 2022 Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2022 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds;
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population;
- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population and track the community's progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall issues surrounding homelessness and generate support for constructive solutions; and
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, youth, young adults, and those who are chronically homeless.

- 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

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

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

It should be noted that the broader definition of homelessness defined by the McKinney-Vento Act and used by K-12 school districts includes persons and families living in “double-up” situations as well as hotels and motels. However, this definition could not be used for purposes of this report.



# MONTEREY COUNTY

## 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.

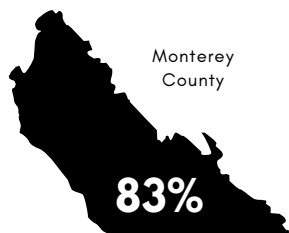
The 2022 Monterey County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 27th and 28th, 2022. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 287 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

### 2022 SHELTERED/ UNSHELTERED POPULATION

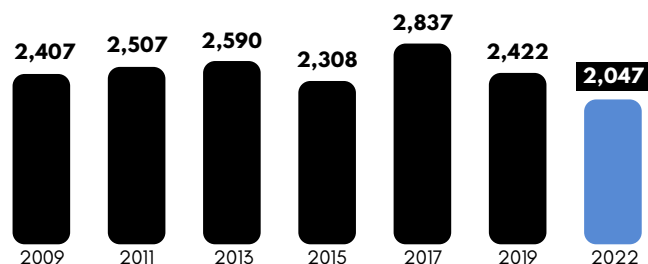
**34%**  
SHELTERED  
n=690

**66%**  
UNSHELTERED  
n=1,357

### RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS



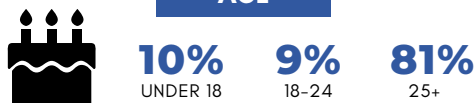
### CENSUS POPULATION: LONGITUDINAL TREND



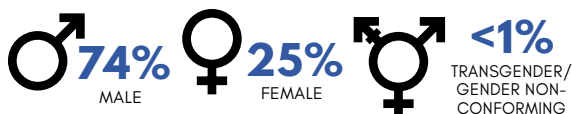
### LENGTH OF TIME IN MONTEREY COUNTY



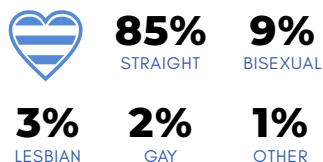
### AGE



### GENDER



### SEXUAL ORIENTATION



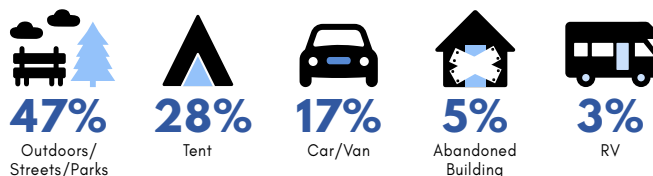
### ETHNICITY



### RACE

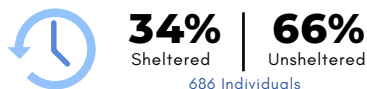


### ACCOMODATION ON COUNT NIGHT



### SUBPOP DATA:

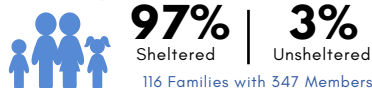
#### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS



#### VETERANS



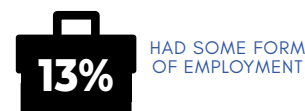
#### FAMILIES



#### UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN & TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH



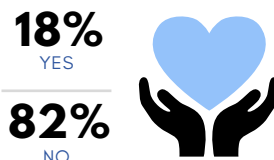
### EMPLOYMENT STATUS



### OF UNEMPLOYED...



### FOSTER CARE

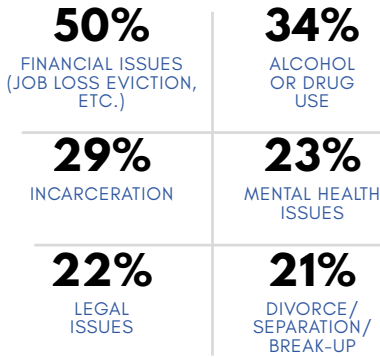


### COVID-19

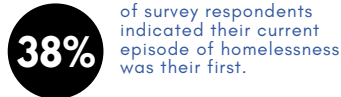


## PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS+

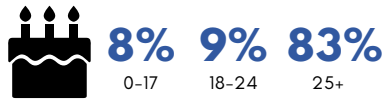
TOP 6 RESPONSES



## FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



## AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

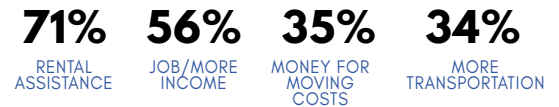


## DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



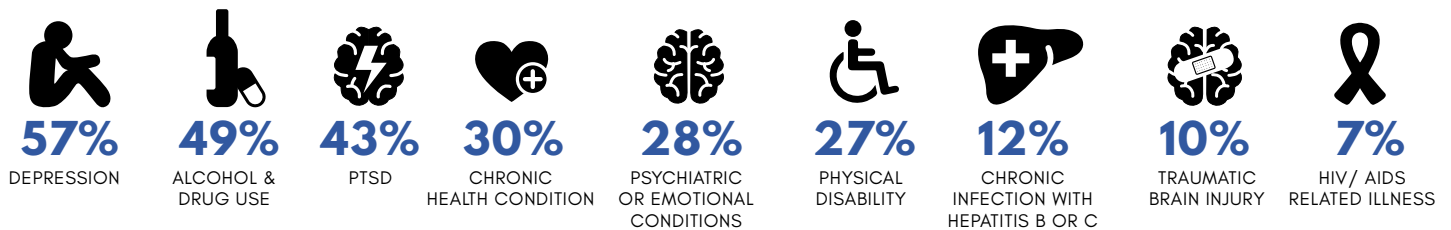
## OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING+

TOP 4 RESPONSES



## SELF REPORTED HEALTH+

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

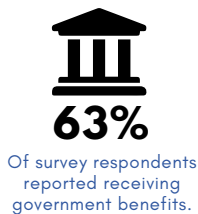


## DISABLING CONDITIONS

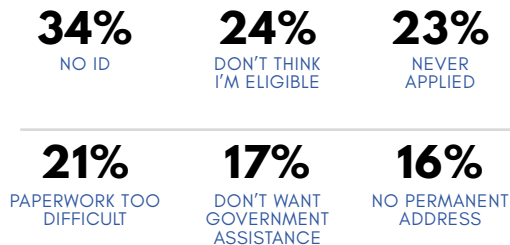


A disabling condition is defined by HUD as a developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person's ability to live independently but could be improved with stable housing.

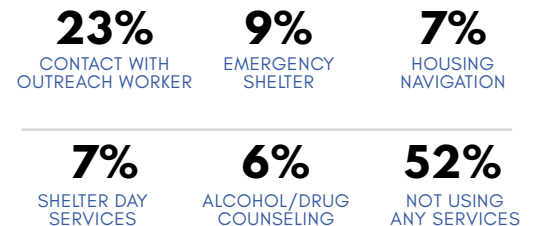
## GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE



## REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING ANY GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE+ Top 6 Responses



## SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING+ Top 6 Responses



## \*SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

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

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

### VETERANS

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

### FAMILIES

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

### UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Youth under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old (TAY) 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 will be available in full report.  
Note: Some percentages have been rounded so total percentage will equal 100%.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Monterey. It will be available summer 2022.

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



# POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2022 Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Count represents a complete enumeration of all sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness at a specified date and time. It consisted of two primary components:

- **General Street Count:** An early morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 27th and 28th, 2022. Two days were needed due to the utilization of program-based outreach staff who were the primary enumerators used in lieu of lived experience guides who served as outreach experts in previous efforts. These outreach teams focused on those sleeping outdoors on the street; at bus and train stations; in parks, tents, and makeshift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned properties.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately-operated shelters on January 27, 2022. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

The Point-in-Time Census also included the following supplemental and important component:

- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Young Adults:** An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied children under 18 and unaccompanied youth 18-24 years old on January 27, 2022. This is considered a best practice in order to better profile this age group who are more challenging to enumerate in the traditional PIT count process.
- **County Office of Education Student Information System (SIS) Unsheltered Homeless Report for K-12 Students:** SIS is a database managed by every school district in Monterey County. One of the measures recorded in this database is homelessness status.

It is important to note that historically a targeted County Office of Education (COE) Street Count of K-12 Students and their families was conducted as part of the PIT count. For the 2022 PIT count the SIS report was used instead due to staffing limitations at the COE.

Although the COE Street Count of K-12 students and their families was not conducted as part of the PIT Count this year, at the end of this report SIS unsheltered homelessness information provides context related to the prevalence of youth and family homelessness.

This COVID-19 impact to the comprehensiveness of our report should be considered in reviewing longitudinal data.

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

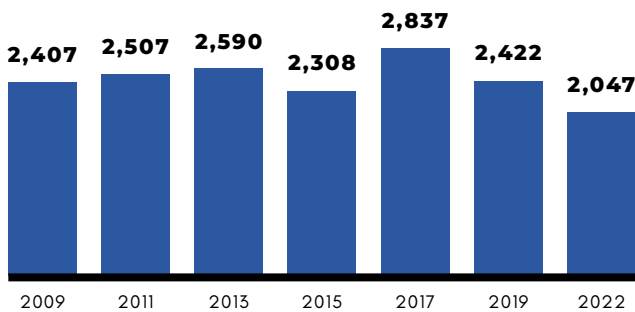
For more information regarding the research methodology, please see *Appendix A: Methodology*.



## NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN MONTEREY COUNTY

The 2022 Monterey County Homeless Count and Survey found a total of 2,047 persons experiencing homelessness during the 2022 count, similar to the results for the last 10 years. This represents, however, a 15% decrease from 2019 and is the lowest point-in-time count in the last decade. It is also notable in the wake of significant increases seen in the Bay Area communities of Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Francisco counties. Neighboring Santa Cruz County experienced a slight decrease of 4% in their 2022 homeless Count effort.

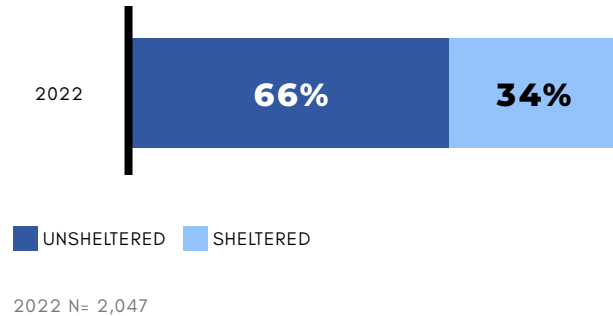
**Figure 1: TOTAL POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



### TYPE OF SHELTER

The majority (66%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in Monterey County were unsheltered, sleeping on the streets, in abandoned buildings, vehicles, and encampment areas and in other places deemed unfit for human habitation. The remaining 34% of the population resided in shelters, either emergency shelters or transitional housing. Permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing shelter data is not included in the PIT data reporting per HUD.

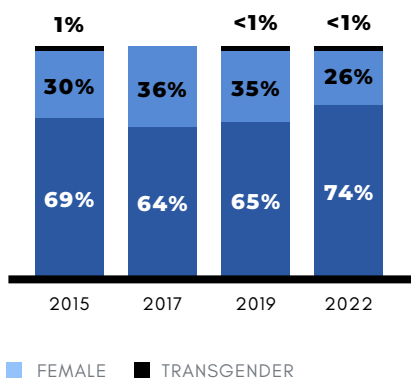
**Figure 2: HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS**



## CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

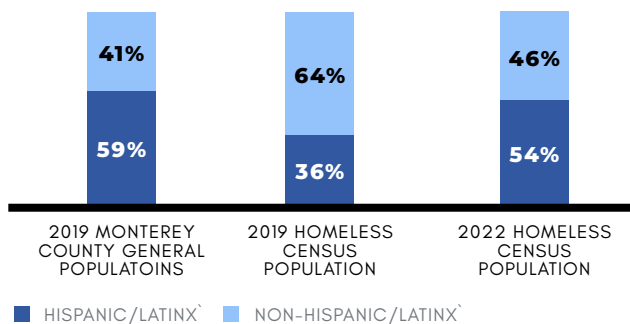
About three-quarters (74%) of homeless individuals were male, 26% were female, and less than 1% were transgender. Fifty-four percent (54%) indicated that they were of Hispanic/Latinx origin, which was lower than the general population of Monterey County (59%). In terms of racial identity, 64% identified as White, 13% identified as Black/African American, and 6% identified as multi-race/other, or American Indian respectively.

**Figure 3: HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER**



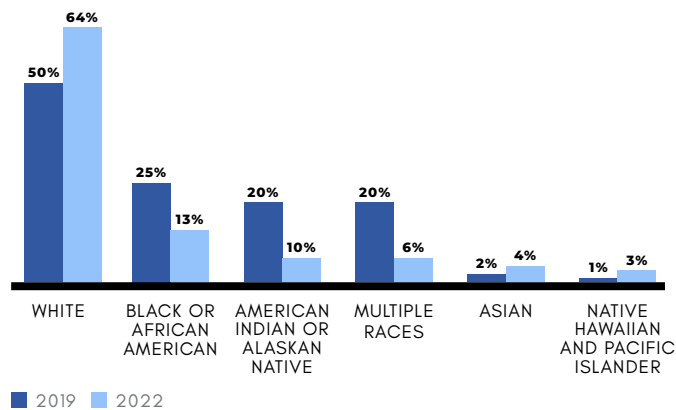
2015 N=2,308; 2017 N=2,837; 2019 N=2,422; 2022 N= 2,047

**Figure 4: HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION BY HISPANIC OR LATINX ORIGIN**



Homeless Count Population: 2019 N=2,422; 2022 N= 2,047

**Figure 5: POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION BY RACE**



Homeless Count Population: 2019 N=2,422; 2022 N= 2,047



## JURISDICTIONAL BREAKDOWN

Of the jurisdictions in the County, the City of Monterey saw the largest decrease of 50% from 2019 to 2022.

**Figure 6: HOMELESS POPULATION BY JURISDICTION**

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED			SHELTERED			TOTAL			'19-'22 % change
	2017	2019	2022	2017	2019	2022	2017	2019	2022	
Total Incorporated	1,692	1,492	1,089	724	560	652	2,416	2,052	1,741	-15%
Monterey	292	167	74	46	37	27	338	204	101	-50%
Salinas	1,097	976	777	264	206	288	1,361	1,182	1,065	-10%
Marina	51	98	81	356	261	275	407	396	356	-10%
Seaside	40	126	90	58	56	62	98	182	152	-16%
Sand City	31	8	3	0	0	0	31	8	3	*
Gonzales	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	*
Pacific Grove	35	14	29	0	0	0	35	14	29	*
King City	0	27	18	0	0	0	0	27	18	*
Greenfield	6	14	2	0	0	0	6	14	2	*
Del Rey Oaks	111	0	2	0	0	0	111	0	2	*
Cornel	16	6	1	0	0	0	16	6	1	*
Soledad	13	35	12	0	0	0	13	35	12	*
Total Unincorporated	421	338	268	0	32	38	419	370	306	-17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,113</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>-15%</b>

\*Note: % change was not calculated when jurisdiction was below 25 individuals.

# HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the 2022 Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Count Homeless Survey component. As previously mentioned, an in-depth geographically representative survey was administered in the weeks following the Point-in-Time Count to collect basic demographic details as well as information including service needs and utilization. Surveys were administered between January 29 and March 31, 2022, to a randomized sample of individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness.

The Homeless Survey effort resulted in 287 unique, complete, and valid surveys. Based on the Point-in-Time count of 2,047 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process employed, these surveys should represent a confidence interval of +/-5.4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire Point-in-Time homeless population in Monterey County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within 5.4% of the current results.

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

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

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Three percent (3%) of survey respondents were under the age of 25 at the time of the 2022 survey. Thirty-six percent (36%) were between the ages of 25 and 40, and 61% were 41 years or older reflecting an aging trend since 2015 which has been notable throughout Monterey County in recent years.

Figure 7: SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY AGE

AGE GROUP	2017	2019	2022
< 18 Years	1%	0%	0%
18-24 Years	12%	7%	3%
25-30 Years	14%	9%	9%
31-40 Years	23%	23%	27%
41-50 Years	27%	21%	31%
51-60 Years	15%	28%	20%
61 Years or Older	8%	12%	10%

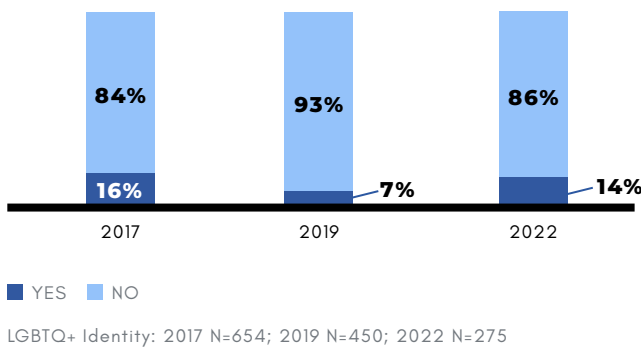
2017 N=654; 2019 N=450; 2022 N=287

## GENDER AND LGBTQ+ IDENTITY

Over half (55%) of survey respondents identified as male, 43% identified as female, and 2% identified as gender non-conforming, questioning, or a gender not singularly female or male. Among female respondents, two survey respondents indicated that they were currently pregnant.

Fourteen percent (14%) of homeless survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+ in 2022, up from 7% in 2019. Of these respondents, two-thirds (66%) identified as bisexual.

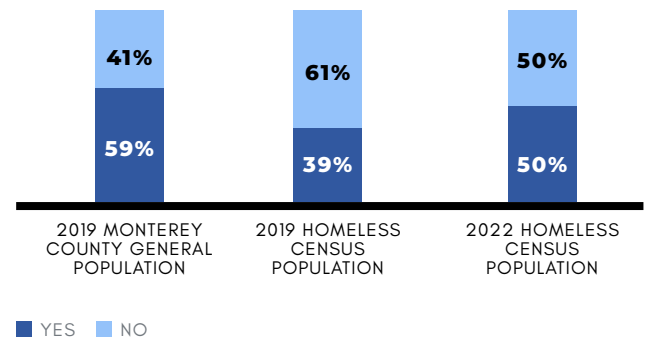
**Figure 8: SURVEY RESPONDENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+**



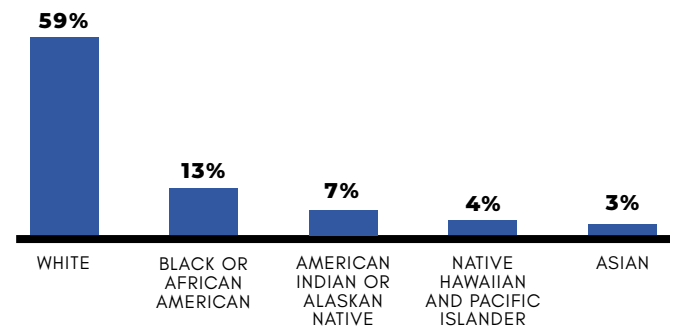
## RACE/ETHNICITY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity in two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Count. When asked if they identified as Hispanic or Latinx, half (50%) of homeless survey respondents indicated they did in 2022, a smaller percentage compared to the general population of Monterey County (59%) but an increase from 39% from 2019 survey respondents.

**Figure 9 HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY HISPANIC OR LATINX ORIGIN**



**Figure 10: SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY RACE**



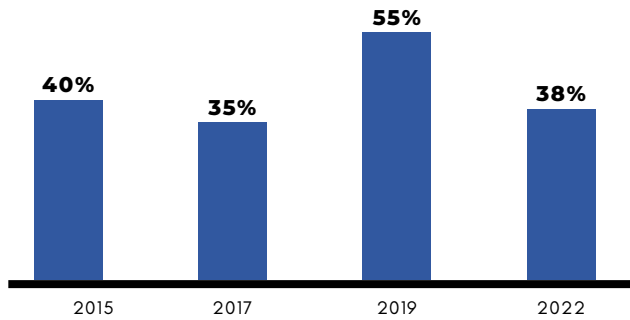
Homeless Survey Population: 2022 N=252  
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

# INCIDENCE AND DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

## FIRST INCIDENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

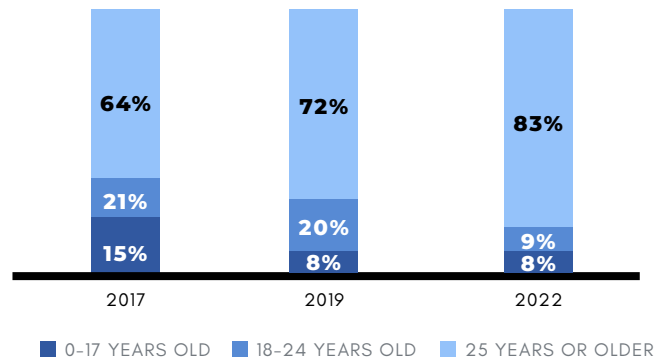
Of those surveyed in 2022, over one-third (38%) reported that the current episode of homelessness was their first-time experiencing homelessness, representing a decrease from 2019 but similar to 2015 and 2017. Respondents were also asked their age at the time they experienced homelessness for the first time. In response, the majority (83%) reported they were 25 years or older, while 9% reported between the ages of 18 and 24 years and 8% reported they were under the age of 18. First time experiences of homelessness are increasing with age.

**Figure 11: CURRENT EPISODE IS THE FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



2015 N=427; 2017 N=652; 2019 N=444; 2022 N=284

**Figure 12: AGE WHEN EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

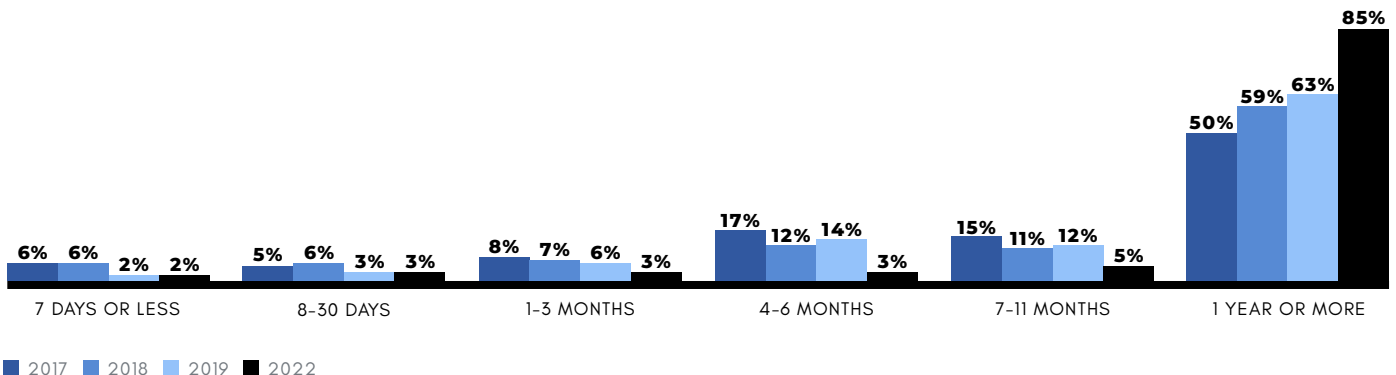


2017 N=634; 2019 N=448; 2022 N=285

## DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

When asked about the duration of their current episode of homelessness, the vast majority (85%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or longer, representing a substantial increase from 63% in 2019 indicating they had been homeless for a year or more.

**FIGURE 13: DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS**



2015 N=438; 2017 N=652; 2019 N=447; 2022 N=284

## LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Where individuals lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have lived since impact the way they seek services, as well as 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.

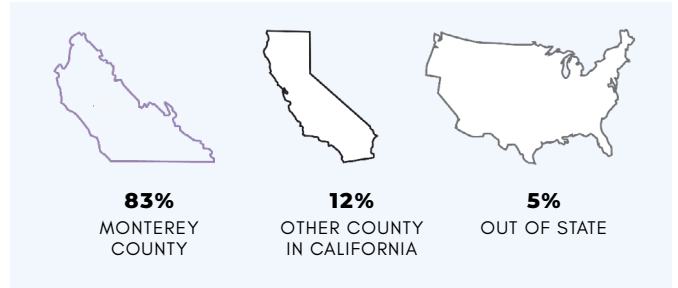
### PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Knowing where individuals were living prior to their housing loss informs discussions regarding how much of the homeless population is local to the region. This information can also influence changes to available support systems if the CoC finds increasing numbers of individuals living locally before experiencing homelessness.

The 2022 survey revealed that the majority (83%) of respondents reported they were living in Monterey County at the most recent time they became homeless, twelve percent (12%) of respondents reported they were living in another county in California, and 5% reported they were living out of state.

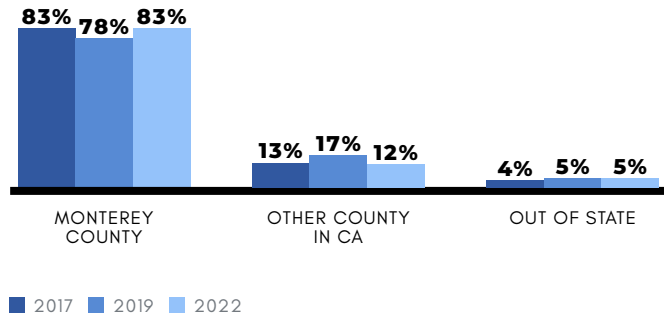
When asked how long they had lived in Monterey County, nearly two-thirds (64%) responded 10 years or longer, while 6% indicated they had resided in Monterey County for less than one year.

FIGURE 14: PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT RECENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



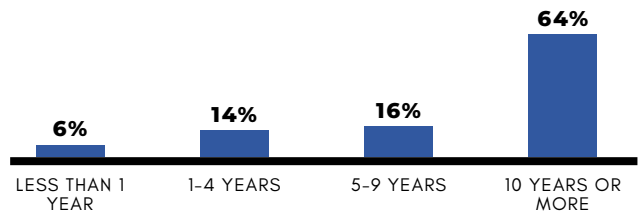
2022 N=286

Figure 15: PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



2017 N=642; 2019 N=446; 2022 N=286

Figure 16: LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN MONTEREY COUNTY



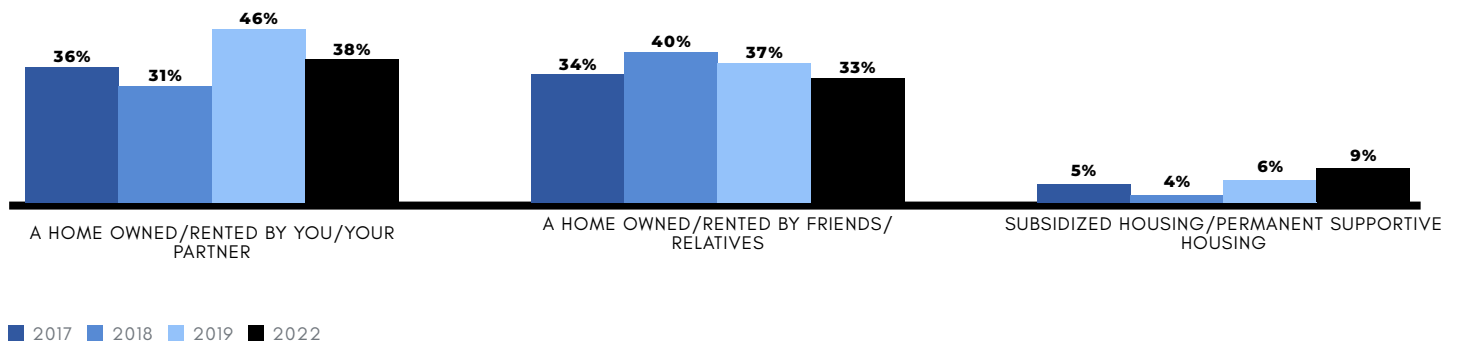
2022 N=249



## PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Just over a third (38%) of survey respondents reported they were living in a home owned or rented by them or their partner prior to becoming homeless, lower than what was reported in 2019 (46%) but similar to 2015 and 2017. Thirty-seven percent (33%) reported they were living with friends or relatives and 9% reported they were staying in subsidized or permanent supportive housing.

Figure 17: PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS (TOP RESPONSES IN 2022)



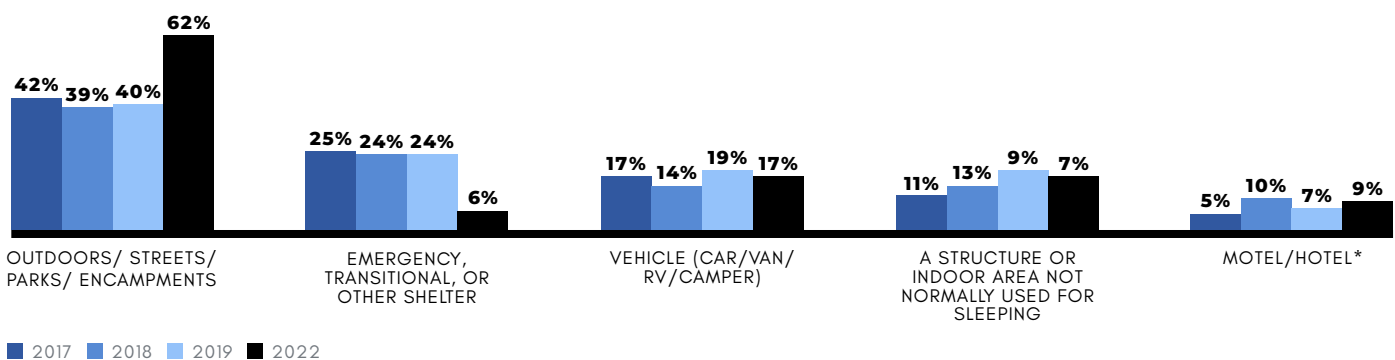
2015 N=423; 2017 N=623; 2019 N=439; 2022 N=266

## CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

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

Sixty-two percent (62%) of survey respondents reported currently living outdoors, either on the streets, in parks, or in encampment areas, a substantial increase over previous years. Six percent (6%) reported currently staying in a shelter or transitional housing, and 17% reported staying in a vehicle.

FIGURE 18: CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS



2011 N=512; 2013 N=402; 2015 N=435; 2017 N=654; 2019 N=450; 2022 N=276  
 \* 2013 response option specified that motel/hotel was paid for by an agency.

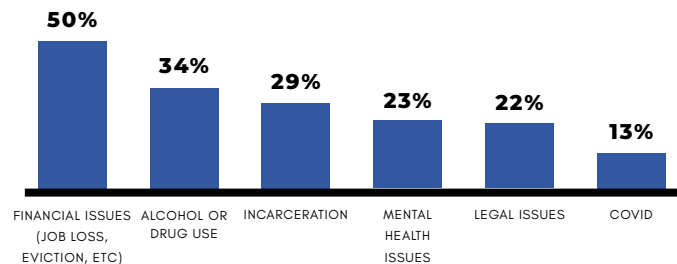
# CAUSES AND OBSTACLES OF HOMELESSNESS

## CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

The primary cause of a person’s inability to obtain or retain housing can be difficult to pinpoint, as it is often the result of multiple compounding causes. An inability to secure adequate housing can also lead to an inability to address or obtain other basic needs, such as healthcare and adequate nutrition.

Fifty percent (50%) of survey respondents self-reported financial issues (job loss, eviction, etc.) as the primary cause of their homelessness, a significant increase in economic related causes from previous years. Over a third 34% cited alcohol or drug use, 29% cited incarceration, and 23% cited mental health issues. Respondents were also asked if the primary cause of homelessness identified below were in any way related to the COVID-19 pandemic, 13% of respondents indicated yes.

**FIGURE 19: PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS**



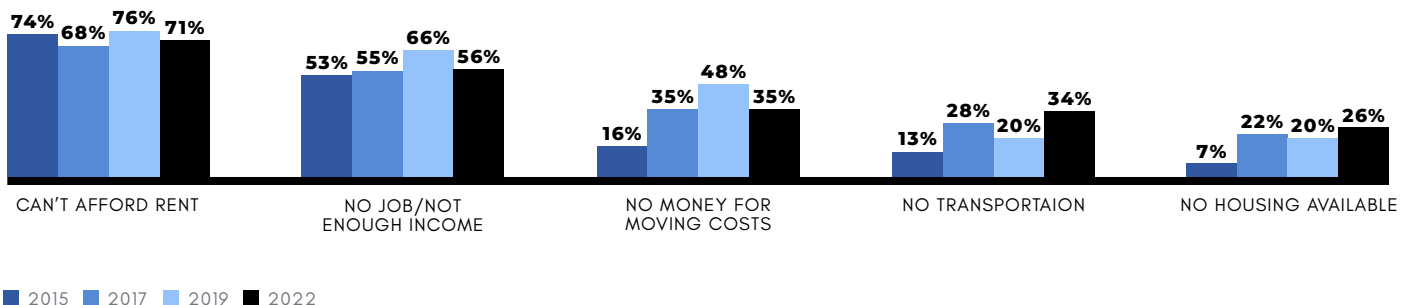
2022 N= 280 respondents offering 659 responses  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

## OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING

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

When asked what prevented them from obtaining housing, the most common response was “can’t afford rent,” reported by 71% of survey respondents, suggesting housing affordability and poverty issues as key obstacles. This was followed by 56% who reported a lack of job or not enough income, and 35% who said they had no money for moving costs. Survey respondents were asked if they have received a housing voucher of any kind in the last 12 months, 10% of all respondents revealed they had, although only 21% of those respondents reported that they were able to successfully use the housing voucher.

**FIGURE 20: OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING (TOP RESPONSES IN 2022)**

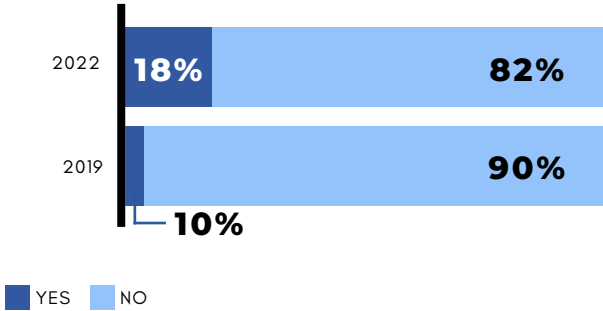


2015 N=430 respondents offering 1,021 responses; 2017 N=628 respondents offering 1,806 responses; 2019 N=445 respondents offering 1,313 responses; 2022 N=275 respondents offering 935 responses  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

## HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

Nearly one in five (18%) respondents indicated that they had been in foster care sometime in their lifetime, higher than in 2019 (10%).

Figure 21: HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE



2019 N= 435 2022 N=267

## SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

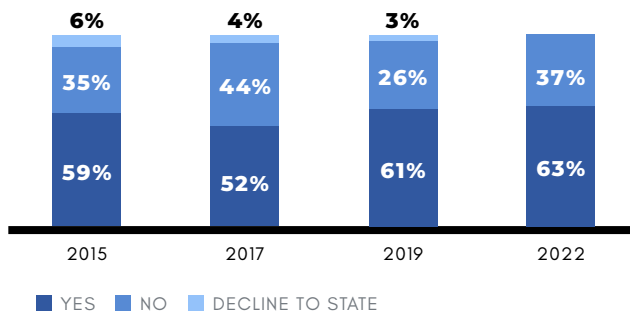
Monterey County provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal, state, and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support. However, many individuals and families do not apply for services, as many believe that they are ineligible for assistance. Connecting homeless individuals and families to these support services creates a bridge to mainstream support services and can help prevent future housing instability.

### GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Sixty-three percent (63%) of survey respondents reported in 2022 that they were receiving some form of government assistance (e.g., social security, Food Stamps, Disability, Medi-Cal, CalWorks, VA benefits), a similar percentage than in 2019 (61%).

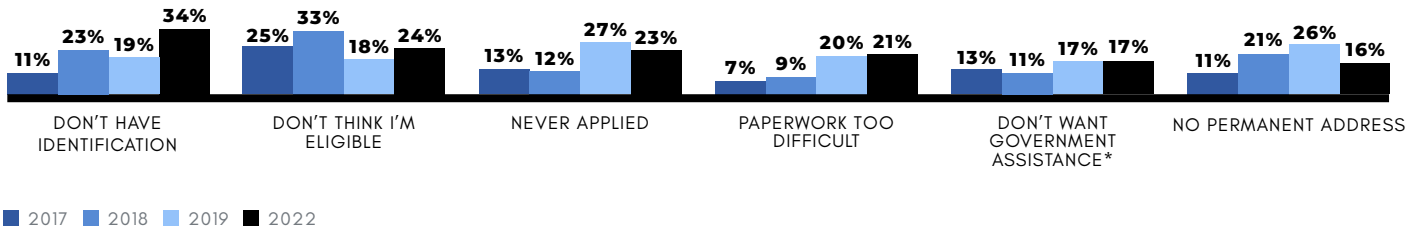
Of those who reported they were not receiving any form of government support (37%), the greatest percentage communicated that they lacked identification (34%) a large increase from 19% in 2019. Twenty-four percent (24%) indicated they didn't think they were eligible.

Figure 22: RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



2017 N=642; 2019 N=439; 2022 N=253

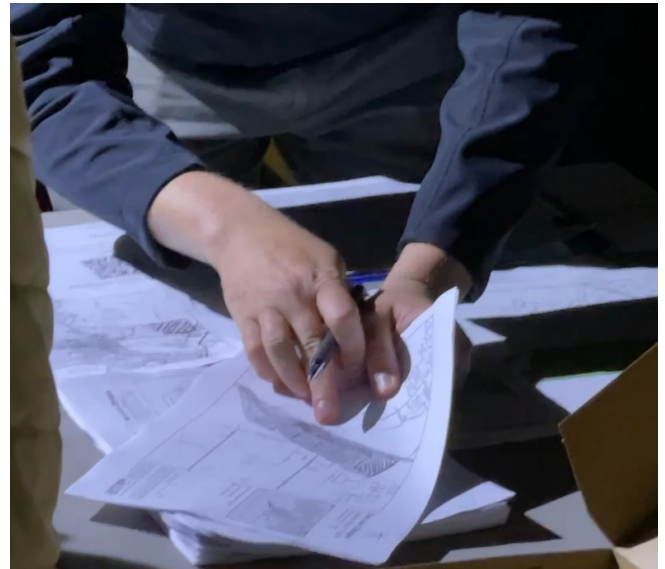
**FIGURE 23: REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (TOP RESPONSES)**



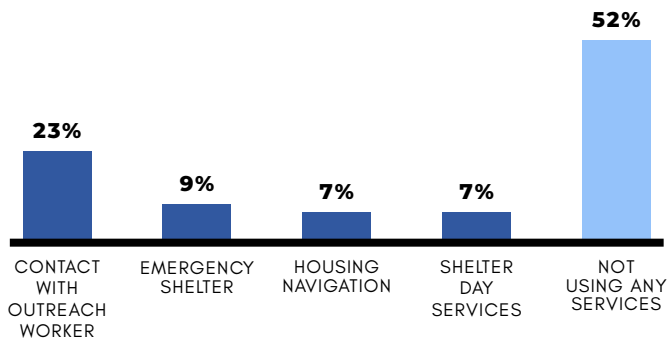
2011 N=195 respondents offering 469 responses; 2013 N=107 respondents offering 171 responses; 2015 N=138 respondents offering 190 responses; 2017 N=280 respondents offering 421 responses; 2019 N=158 respondents offering 249 responses; 2022 N= 116 respondents offering,206 responses  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.  
 \* Response option changed in 2015 from "don't need" to "don't want."

**SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

Slightly less than half (48%) of survey respondents in 2022 reported they were accessing non-government forms of services and assistance. The most frequently cited types of assistance respondents reported was contact with an outreach worker (23%), emergency shelter (9%), housing navigation (7%), and shelter day services (7%). Having a pet is often viewed as a barrier for individuals to access services. Among survey respondents, 34% indicated they have a pet, and among those with pets 61% identified their pet as a service animal. When asked what services might be beneficial, 38% mentioned dental care, 31% medical care, 30% eye care, 21% mental health services, and 17% substance abuse treatment.



**Figure 24: RECEIPT OF SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE, 2022 (TOP RESPONSES)**



2022 N= 269 respondents offering 325 responses



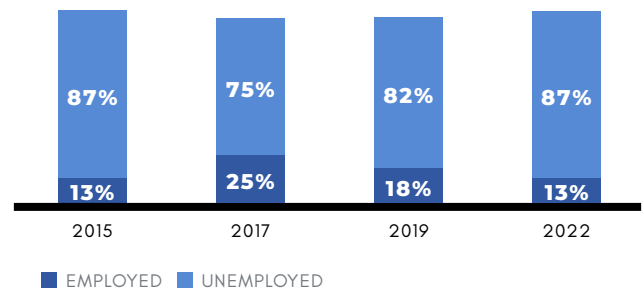
## EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The overall unemployment rate in Monterey County in January 2022 was at 9%, down slightly from 10% in January 2019<sup>1</sup>. 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.

The unemployment rate among homeless survey respondents was 87%, an increase from 82% in 2019. Fifty-four percent (54%) of unemployed respondents indicated that they were currently looking for work, 22% indicated they were not, and 24% indicated they were currently unable to work. While the majority (87%) of survey respondents reported being unemployed, a number reported having part-time or seasonal/sporadic employment (10%) and even full-time employment (3%). Eleven respondents (5%) indicated they were employed in the agriculture sector and four respondents (2%) were employed in the hospitality sector.

Income data is important to help determine affordability thresholds for those seeking housing and the developers of new housing solutions. Although some respondents reported having income, data suggests that employment and income were not enough to meet basic needs. For example, of the employed homeless survey respondents, 95% were making less than \$1,100 monthly, and almost all unemployed survey respondents (99%) were making less than \$1,100 monthly. Most commonly, income for unemployed homeless individuals comes from government benefits, recycling, and panhandling.

Figure 25: EMPLOYMENT STATUS



2017 N=593; 2019 N=441; 2022 N=260

Figure 26: MONTHLY INCOME BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED		
	2017	2019	2022	2017	2019	2022
<b>Less Than \$750</b>	44%	49%	74%	79%	74%	86%
<b>\$750-\$1,099</b>	23%	28%	21%	11%	16%	13%
<b>\$1,100-\$1,499</b>	16%	15%	0%	8%	9%	1%
<b>\$1,500 or More</b>	17%	8%	6%	1%	2%	0%

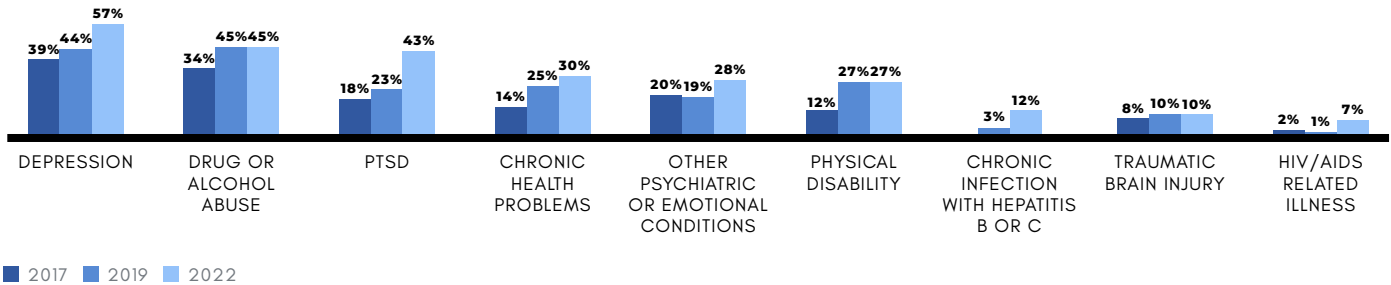
2017 N=586; 2019 N=404; 2022 N= 257

<sup>1</sup>State of California Employment Development Department. (2019). Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). Retrieved from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>.

## HEALTH CONDITIONS

Virtually all of the health conditions showed increases from previous survey efforts, with mental health related issues clearly increasing the most over previous years. The top health conditions survey respondents reported experiencing in 2022 was depression (57%) a sizable increase from 39% in 2017 and 44% in 2019. Drug and Alcohol abuse was the second most cited response in 2022 (49%). PTSD also saw a dramatic increase from 23% in 2019 to 43% in 2022.

FIGURE 27: HEALTH CONDITIONS



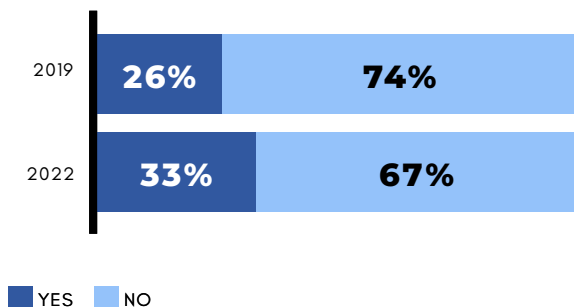
2013 N=392 2015 N=502; 2017 N=654; 2019 N=450; 2022 N=270  
 \* Other psychiatric or emotional conditions was added as a response option in 2017.  
 Chronic infection with hepatitis B or C added in 2019

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR 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.

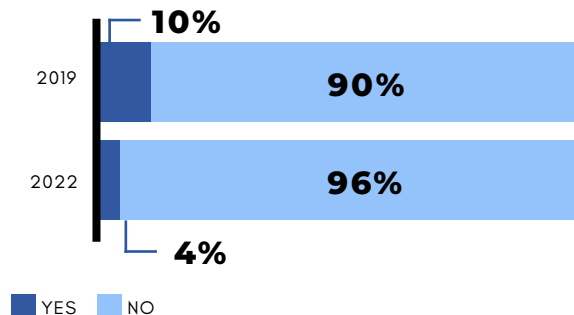
Ten percent (10%) of survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse. When asked about experiences of ever being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused by a relative or another person they had stayed with (spouse, partner, sibling, parent) in their lifetime, 33% indicated that they have similar percentages to previous years.

FIGURE 28: HISTORY OF BEING PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY OR SEXUALLY ABUSED



2019 N=431; 2022 N=243

FIGURE 29: CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR SEXUAL ABUSE



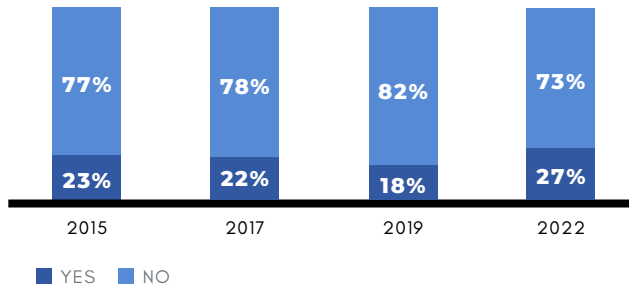
2019 N=450; 2022 N=245

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Individuals without stable housing are at greater risk of criminal justice system involvement, particularly those with mental health issues, substance abuse issues, veterans, and youth. Also, individuals with a history of incarceration face significant barriers to exiting homelessness due to issues affecting their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.<sup>2</sup>

Over one quarter (27%) of survey respondents reported that they had spent a night in jail or prison in the past year, up from 2017 findings (22%) and 2019 findings (18%). Twenty-three (23%) of respondents reported having been on probation/parole at the time they became homeless, and 25% indicated currently being on probation/parole.

**Figure 30: SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS**



2015 N=429; 2017 N=629; 2019 N=445; 2022 N=274



<sup>2</sup>Greenberg, GA, Rosenheck, RA. (2008). Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study. *Psychiatric Services*, 2008 Feb;59(2): 170-7.

# SELECTED 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:

1. Individuals with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness;
2. Veterans experiencing homelessness;
3. Families with children experiencing homelessness; and
4. Children and youth under age 25 years experiencing homelessness.

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

## INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Figure 31: CHRONICALLY HOMELESS SUBPOPULATION

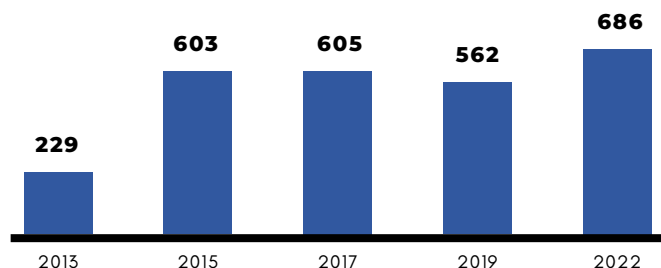
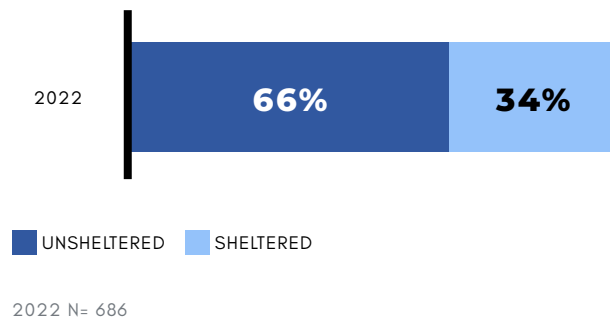
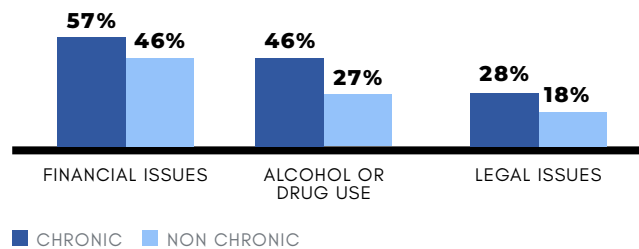


Figure 32: CHRONICALLY HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



## CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS RESPONDENTS

Figure 33: PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP 3 RESPONSES)



2022 Chronic N= 107 respondents offering 296 responses; 2022 Non-Chronic N= 173 respondents offering 363 responses  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.



## ESTIMATES OF VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Figure 34: VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

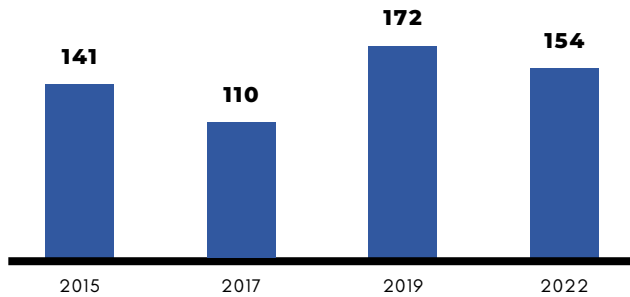
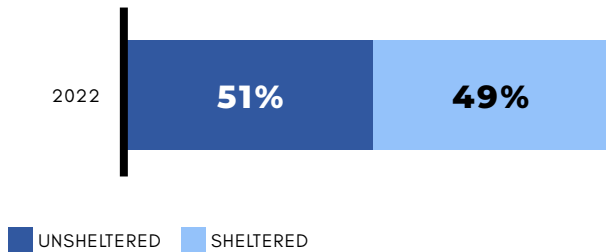


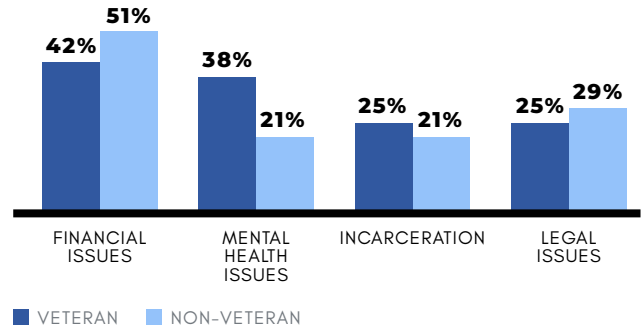
Figure 35: VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY SHELTER STATUS



2022 N= 154

## CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Figure 36: PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP 4 RESPONSES)



2022 Veteran N= 24 respondents offering 51 responses; 2022 Non-Veteran N= 256 respondents offering 608 responses  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

## ESTIMATES OF INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Figure 37: INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESS SUBPOPULATION

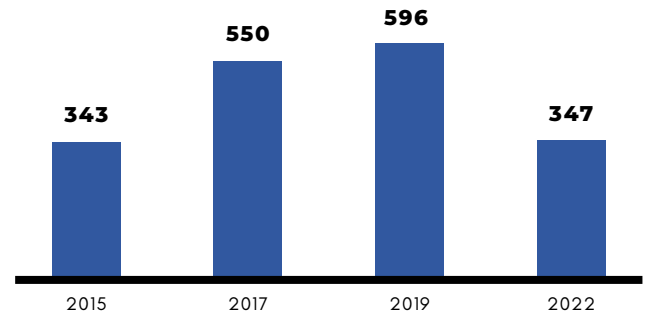
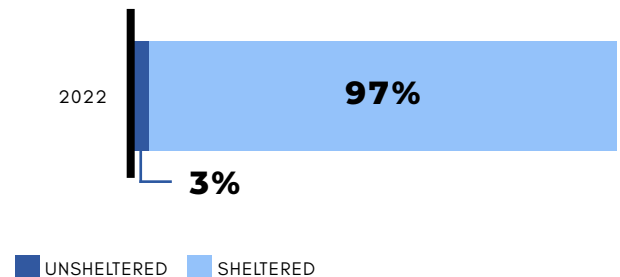


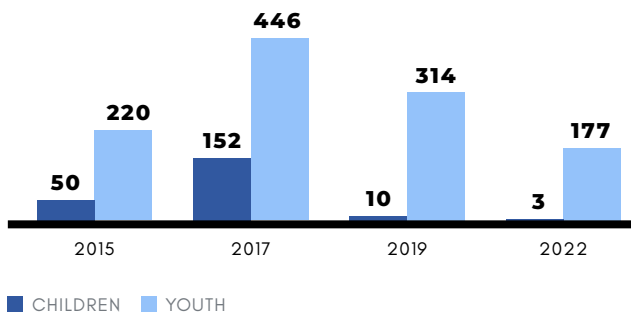
Figure 38: FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SUBPOPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



2022 N= 347

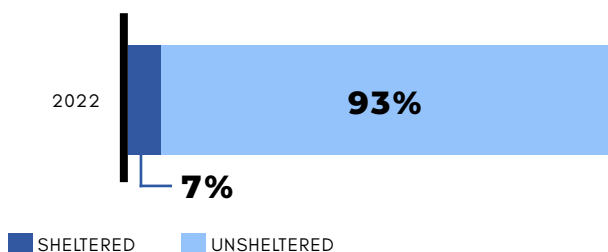
## CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS\*

**Figure 39: CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



Note: this selected population was significantly affected by our COVID-19 impacted inability to work with school districts and the Family Resource Centers in 2022's PIT effort.

**Figure 40: CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SUBPOPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS**



2022 N=233  
this selected population was significantly affected by our COVID-19 impacted inability to work with school districts and the Family Resource Centers in 2022's PIT effort.

## SUPPLEMENTAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH/FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS DATA

In previous Point-In-Time count efforts, targeted outreach was done with Monterey County Office of Education to conduct a count of previously identified unsheltered homeless students and their families to establish a PIT count for the night of the count. These data were carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure that any possible duplicate counts were removed.

For the 2022 PIT count data from the Student Information System (SIS) was used instead to provide further context into children and youth/families experiencing homelessness. The State of California requires the County Office of Education to submit the annual SIS data to the CalPads

database. Part of this submission includes data about homeless youth in each school district. 491 students were identified as being homeless at least once during the school year.

**Figure 41: TOTAL STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



Data pulled January 27, 2022

The Monterey County Office of Education uses the following criteria to determine if a youth is homeless:

- If the living situation is not fixed, regular or adequate they are considered homeless.

The data is collected by each district in two primary ways. These include a housing questionnaire and referrals from within the school itself. The questionnaire is given once a year and at the end of each year it resets. Additionally at any time teachers or other outreach workers identify a student that may be homeless they can refer the case to the representative in each district for an assessment.

When a student is identified as homeless, they are marked in the system for the entire school year. Even if the student's status is resolved after being identified as homeless the system will consider them homeless until the re-assessment during the next school year. The County Office of Education for Monterey County includes an unsheltered classification that includes a residence for homeless individuals that is not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, campgrounds, trailer parks, bus and train stations, or persons abandoned in the hospital.

Unlike in previous years, where district leads contacted these persons to confirm the nighttime accommodations, we only used the SIS report. Due to the change in methodology, the total number from the SIS report is not included in the official PIT count submitted to HUD.

Nonetheless it is important to note that assuredly this accounts for some of the decreases seen in the children and youth/families experiencing homelessness numbers.



# CONCLUSION

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

- The Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified a total of 2,047 persons experiencing homelessness in Monterey County in 2022, a 15.5% decrease from 2019 (2,422). Importantly, unsheltered families could not be profiled in 2022 effectively due to COVID-19 and therefore the decrease should be viewed within this context.
- Two-thirds (66%) persons experiencing homelessness in Monterey County were unsheltered, living outdoors or in places not intended for human habitation.
- Over a third (38%) of homeless survey respondents indicated they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, while 85% had been homeless for one year or longer.
- The biggest obstacles to obtaining permanent housing were: inability to afford rent (71%), lack of a job/income (56%), and lack of money for moving costs (35%).
- Respondents reported significant health conditions: depression (57%), drug/alcohol abuse (49%), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (43%), and chronic health problems (30%).
- Results for the four HUD select populations in Monterey County were: chronically homeless individuals (686 persons), homeless veterans (154 persons), members of homeless families with children (347 persons), and unaccompanied children and youth under age 25 years (233 persons).

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

There are still many challenges to overcome in achieving the goal of eliminating homelessness in Monterey County and helping homeless individuals and families access necessary services and support. The dissemination and evaluation of this effort will help the CoC, and all Monterey County stakeholders continue to produce and refine constructive and innovative solutions to end homelessness and make it a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence. Through innovative and effective housing programs and services, Monterey County remains committed to moving homeless persons into permanent housing.

# APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

## OVERVIEW

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The Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey was designed and implemented through a collaborative CoC-wide effort that included County, city, and community-based organizations. COVID-19 related safety and public health issues were a key issue and concern in planning from both a process and staffing perspective.

The 2022 Monterey County Homeless 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 Monterey County, a region which covers approximately 3,281 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 COUNT & SURVEY

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

#### **General Street Count:**

A morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 27 and January 28, 2022. Two days were used to conduct the count because of limited resources and participants on the enumeration teams due to COVID-19. Generally, the Salinas and Monterey Peninsula were enumerated on the first day and the southern areas of the county and north sections of the County on the second day. This occurred from approximately 4:30 AM to 10:00 AM and 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. The general street count was designed to take place before shelter occupants were released. In areas with shelters, the immediate area surrounding the shelter was prioritized to eliminate potential double counting of individuals.

#### **General Shelter Count:**

A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on January 27, 2022. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

#### **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults:**

An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied youth under 18 and young adults 18-24 years old on January 27 and January 28, 2022. This occurred from approximately 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM and was led by special youth teams who canvassed specific areas where unaccompanied children and youth were known to congregate. Additionally, youth service providers contacted various clients known to be experiencing homelessness to inquire about their nighttime accommodations on the day of the count. 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.

#### **Homeless Survey:**

An in-person interview with 287 unique sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals conducted by peer surveyors between January 31 and March 15, 2022, in Monterey County. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Count estimates, and then used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the demographics and experiences of homeless individuals.

**Community Involvement:**

Local homeless and housing service providers and advocates were valued partners in the planning and implementation of this count. Due to COVID-19 and the public health risks, the organizing team made the decision, supported by the County Public Health office, to limit participation levels in the count by the public and by persons currently experiencing homelessness out of COVID-19 transmission concerns. As a result of significant expansion of outreach services by jurisdictional and local community organizations, the organizing team felt that appropriate, safe, and thorough outreach could be achieved by using outreach staff as the primary enumerators in the field. Some lived experience persons could be integrated into the effort by outreach staff as in previous PIT count efforts, but this would be selective and subject to compliance with public health requirements.

**STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY****Definition:**

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

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

**Methodological Improvements:**

The 2022 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved approach commonly called a blitz method followed by a sample survey. Very significantly, a change was made in the use of a GPS enabled smartphone in data collection using an ESRI Survey 123 application developed and customized by ASR to conform to HUD data collection requirements and as a tool to verify the compliance with COVID-19 safety precautions established by the planning team. Also, improvements were made in pre-planning efforts to deploy outreach teams virtually, wherever possible, thereby avoiding the need for centralized deployment centers where COVID-19 transmission risks would be greater. Outreach

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

**Volunteer and Guide Recruitment**

As noted above, there was a planned effort to reduce the number of persons directly involved in field work and outreach in the 2022 PIT count due to COVID-19 safety concerns. In 2022, over 80 outreach workers, community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count.

Outreach and program staff did limited recruitment of persons with lived experience to act as guides in order to conduct the count in 2022. Homeless guides were paid \$20 per hour worked on the days of the count.

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
- other tips to help ensure an accurate and safe count.

### **Safety Precautions**

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In Count 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.

COVID-19 safety precautions, eligibility to participate in the count was limited to persons who were vaccinated. Proof of vaccination, however, was not a requirement. The planning committee deferred to local county, city, and organizational COVID-19 compliance and engagement.

### **Logistics of Enumeration**

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

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

### **County Office of Education Count**

For the first year in several PIT counts the project team was unable to conduct a telephone count of children and families experiencing homelessness as registered through the McKinney Vento program in their local school district. This is a significant effort and could not be accomplished due to COVID-19 staffing impacts in the school districts and insufficient personnel. This is likely a significant missing element of the 2022 PIT count.

### **Unaccompanied 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 volunteers, and may be in unsheltered locations that are difficult to find. Therefore, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth.

### **Research Design**

As in all years, planning for the 2022 supplemental youth count included homeless youth service providers. Local service providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate and. Late afternoon and early evening enumeration were the ideal times recommended by advocates to conduct the youth count.

In 2022, enhancement to the youth count effort included youth serving agencies being able to contact youth via telephone from drop-in center lists and other sources they had of youth with unstable housing. These youth were contacted and their sleeping status on the night of the count was evaluated for PIT count reporting eligibility.

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**

The youth count was conducted by youth service providers from approximately 2pm to 7pm in the Salinas and Monterey areas.

HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly come along with homeless adults and are not easily

identified by non-youth. For this reason, these agencies accept and recommend that communities count youth at times when they can be seen rather than during traditional enumeration times.

Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age.

## **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 primarily by outreach staff workers and individuals with lived homeless experience. Training sessions were facilitated by ASR, County staff, and community partners. Potential interviewers were led through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information as well as detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Survey workers were compensated at a rate of \$10 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks 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

2,047 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 287 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/-5.4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Monterey County.

The 2022 survey was administered in shelters, transitional housing facilities, and on the street. In order to ensure the representation of transitional housing residents, which can be underrepresented in a street-based survey, survey quotas were created to reach individuals and heads of family households living in these programs.

Strategic attempts were also made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless 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.

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.

### **Survey Challenges and Limitations**

The 2022 Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, finding families experiencing homelessness presents a challenge and can lead to underrepresentation in the survey results. The same applies to unaccompanied children and youth, though care is taken to ensure that youth surveyors are involved, to increase the response rate of youth survey respondents.

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported, however, using a peer-centric interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Service providers and county staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.

