



DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELESSNESS AND
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

SAN FRANCISCO 2024 HOMELESSNESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & REPORT

Prepared by
Applied Survey Research



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2024 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, meets federal reporting requirements, and informs program and policy decisions. While this report provides critical information on the current homeless population, it does not account for 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 2024 PIT Count and the changes we have seen since the last count in 2022.

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 \$64.60, the equivalent of 3.6 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 32 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.

Between the 2022 and 2024 Point-in-Time Counts, HSH helped people exit homelessness at a faster rate than ever before. Over 7,500 clients exited homelessness through permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and housing problem solving interventions including flexible financial assistance and family reunification services. In addition, the City of San Francisco provided emergency financial assistance for over 7,000 households at risk of homelessness through prevention programs.

However, the exits from homelessness that HSH supported have not been able to keep pace with the inflow of people who become newly homeless or return to homelessness throughout the year. While 8,323 homeless individuals were observed on the night of the PIT Count, more than 20,000 people seek homeless services in San Francisco over the course of a full year. These figures suggest that for every person HSH is able to exit from homelessness through its Homelessness Response System, approximately three people become homeless. When the need exceeds available local resources, people unable to resolve homelessness on their own may remain homeless for long periods of time.

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

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

Since the 2022 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. In fiscal year 2023-24, OCOH funds comprised 33% of HSH’s budget. In fiscal year 2024-25, OCOH will fund 38% of the Department’s budget.



To guide the City’s homelessness response with a focus on equity, in April 2023 the City released the five-year strategic plan “Home by the Bay: An Equity-Driven Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in San Francisco”, which calls for strategic investments in the quality and quantity of services to meet the plan’s goals. The plan was developed with input from over 700 stakeholders, including approximately 350 people with lived experience of homelessness. The plan calls for strategic investment in quality and quantity of services in order to meet the goals laid out in the plan, including the goal to reduce racial inequities and other disparities across the homelessness response system.

Since 2022, the Department has made progress on several initiatives to ensure equity is a central factor in our decision-making and programming, including:

- Developed and delivered a racial equity training series for all staff addressing racism;
- Held in-person trainings in partnership with the Office of Transgender Initiatives for over 650 individual service providers to affirm housing access and programs for TGNCI+ clients;
- Launched a public dashboard that provides insight on the demographics of the households at various stages of the Coordinated Entry and housing process;
- Targeted scattered-site housing investments, including 40% of the federal Emergency Housing Vouchers, dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness in the Bayview-Hunters Point area, a neighborhood that has been historically marginalized and underserved and has high rates of homelessness among Black or African American people;
- Opened a new Coordinated Entry Access Point in the Mission District focused on serving the Latinx community through culturally competent services;
- Launched the Youth Homeless Response Provider Committee, a planning and engagement structure for TAY providers to collaborate and determine current and future systems supporting youth experiencing homelessness; and
- Secured a housing demonstration grant focused on reducing racial disparities in the justice and homelessness systems.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

There are six components of the homelessness response system that align to solve homelessness for people in need in an equitable way. The system's goal is to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

OUTREACH

Outreach engages and develops relationships with people currently living outside. Outreach workers assess people's needs and goals and connect people to crisis interventions, shelter, health and behavioral health care, permanent housing, and other services and opportunities both inside and outside of the homelessness response system.

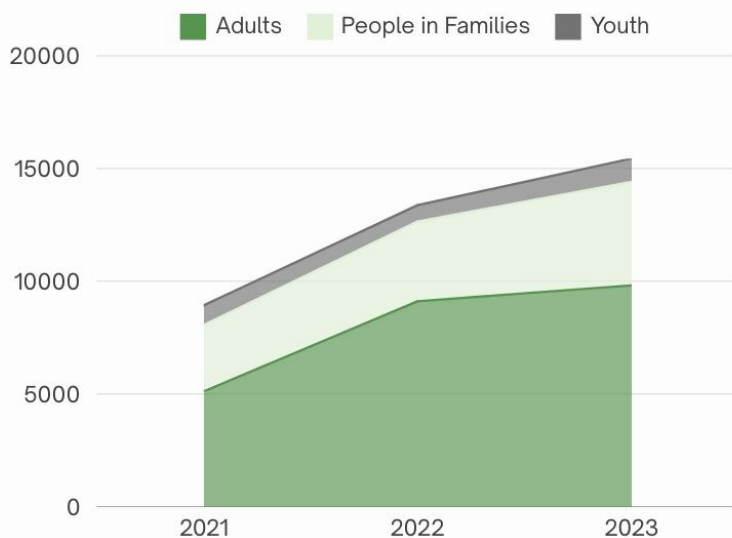
75,000+ outreach
encounters in 2022
and 2023



COORDINATED ENTRY

Coordinated Entry is the "front door" for connecting households experiencing homelessness to the resources needed to resolve their housing crisis.

Number of People Newly Enrolled in
Coordinated Entry Programs Each Year



HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVING

Housing problem solving interventions are embedded across the homelessness response system to divert or rapidly exit people from homelessness. The foundation of problem solving is a creative, strengths-based conversation that helps people explore all safe housing options available to them. Interventions can include: housing location assistance, flexible financial assistance, family reunification, and travel and relocation support.

1,900+ households
resolved their
homelessness through
problem solving in
2022 and 2023



PREVENTION

Prevention programs are critical to reducing the overall inflow into the homelessness response system, particularly among groups overrepresented in homelessness. Prevention assistance can include one-time payments or longer-term assistance to cover a wide range of potential needs related to securing or retaining housing for households at risk of homelessness.

2,500+ at-risk households
were provided with
prevention assistance by
HSH in 2022 and 2023



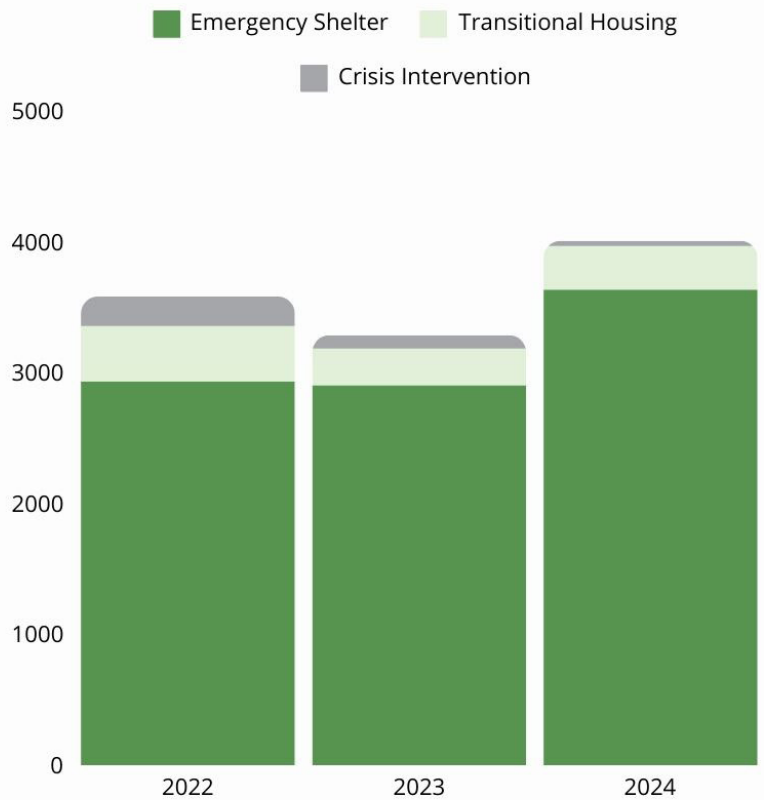
SHELTER AND CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Shelter and crisis intervention programs provide temporary places for people to stay while accessing other services to support a permanent exit from homelessness. Since 2018, San Francisco has expanded shelter capacity by 60%, and in 2023, HSH launched the adult shelter reservation waitlist to improve access to shelters. On the night of the Point-in-Time count, January 30, 2024, San Francisco had over 4,400 beds dedicated to sheltering people experiencing homelessness.

Some programs offer overnight amenities like security, showers, food services, and case management but do not meet HUD’s definition of shelter. HSH categorizes these programs as crisis interventions. On the night of the 2024 PIT Count, HSH's crisis intervention program consisted of 39 safe parking spaces.

The graphic to the right shows the number of people in shelter or crisis interventions settings on the night of the PIT Count over the past three years.

Point-in-Time Count of People Served by Shelter and Crisis Intervention Programs

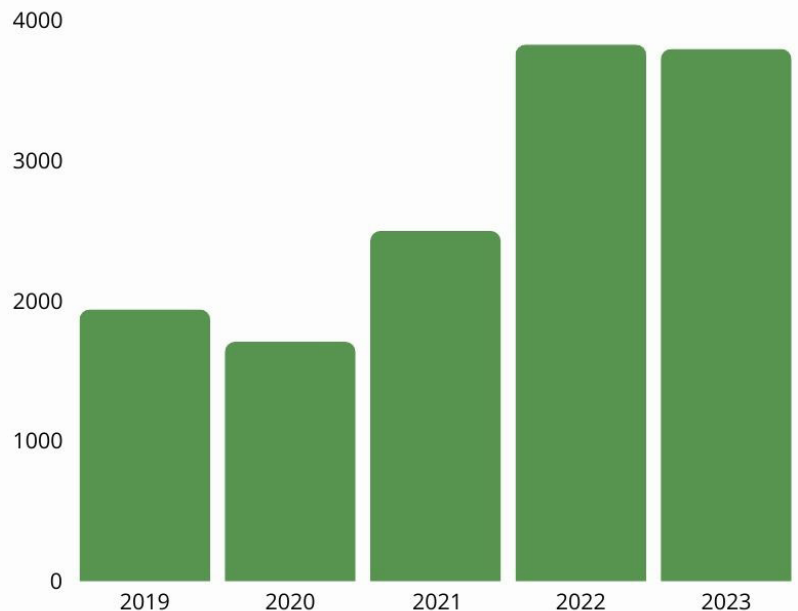


HOUSING

Housing programs provide permanent solutions to homelessness through subsidies and housing placements for adults, families and youth.

On the night of January 30, 2024, San Francisco had over 16,500 permanent housing beds. San Francisco has housed more than 15,000 people since 2018, and in 2023 decreased vacancies in site-based permanent supportive housing by 25%.

Number of People Housed Annually





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2024 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 2024 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 2024 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count, including:

SF Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH)	SF Human Services Agency
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	SF Police Department
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	SF Recreation & Parks Department
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)	SF Municipal Transportation Agency
U.S. Park Police	SF Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs
California Highway Patrol	SF Public Utilities Commission
CalTrans	SF Sheriff's Department
SF Department of Public Health	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 Joel Engardio, Supervisor Dean Preston, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor Hillary Ronen, Jason Pu (Regional Administrator) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mayor London Breed, Board members Megan Rohrer, Jonathan Butler, Katharine Albright, Christin Evans, Joaquin Guerrero, Bevan Dufty, Sharky Laguana, and Joanne Hayes-White a representative from the staff of Laphonza Butler 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

Hamilton Families, Huckleberry Youth Programs, Larkin Street Youth Services, Salvation Army, SF SafeHouse, Raphael House, Homeless Prenatal Program, Swords to Plowshares, Bay View Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services, Metropolitan Fresh Start House, Dolores Street Community Services, HomeRise, Asian Women's Shelter, Episcopal Community Services (ECS), La Casa de Las Madres, North Beach Citizens, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Five Keys Charter Schools & Programs, Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness, Positive Resource Center (PRC), Community Forward SF, Department of Public Health, Providence Foundation, Hospitality House, Bayview Hunters Point Foundation for Community Improvement, 3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic, San Francisco Community Health Center, Urban Alchemy, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, Compass Family Services, Asian Women's Resource Center, WeHope, Berkeley Food and Housing Project, Acceptance Place, Adult Residential Tx, Adult WM, Ashbury House, Avenues, Baker Street House, Cameo House, Carroll House, Chinese Hospital, Clay St, Cortland House, CPMC- Davies Campus, CPMC- Mission Bernal Campus, CPMC- Van Ness Campus, Dore Residence, Dorine Loso House, Ferguson Place, Friendship House, Grove Street House, Jelani Family Residential Step-Down, Jo Ruffin Place, Joe Healy Medical Detox, La Amistad, La Posada, Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, Medical Center In-Patient, Mission Bay Campus, Mount Zion Campus, Parnassus Campus, Progress House, Robertson Place, Rypins House, San Jose Place, Shrader House, The Epiphany Center- Adult Recovery Program, The Epiphany Center- Broderick House, Zuckerburg 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 the Gubio Project, St. Vincent de Paul, Downtown Streets Team, Urban Alchemy, SFHOT, 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.



INTRODUCTION

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of those 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 \$62 million dollars annually in federal funding.

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 2024 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 2024 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2024 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 is a primary operational consideration.

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 or 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 & SURVEY

The 2024 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: A nighttime count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 30, 2024, 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 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 January 30, 2024. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and domestic violence shelters.

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

Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Young Adults³: A nighttime count of unsheltered unaccompanied children under 18 and unaccompanied youth 18-24 years old on January 30, 2024 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 January 30, 2024.

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.

³For safety reasons, Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Ocean Beach, Lake Merced, and Park Merced/Lakeside were counted on the morning of January 30th. See Appendix A: Methodology for details.

SAN FRANCISCO

2024 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

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

The 2024 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 30th. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 956 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS:

8,323



48%
Sheltered
n= 3,969



52%
Unsheltered
n=4,354

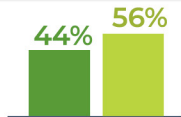
HOUSEHOLD BREAKDOWN

Sheltered
Unsheltered

SINGLE ADULTS AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AGED 18-24



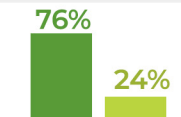
7175 adults in
6666 households



FAMILIES



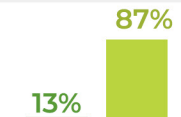
405 families with
1103 members



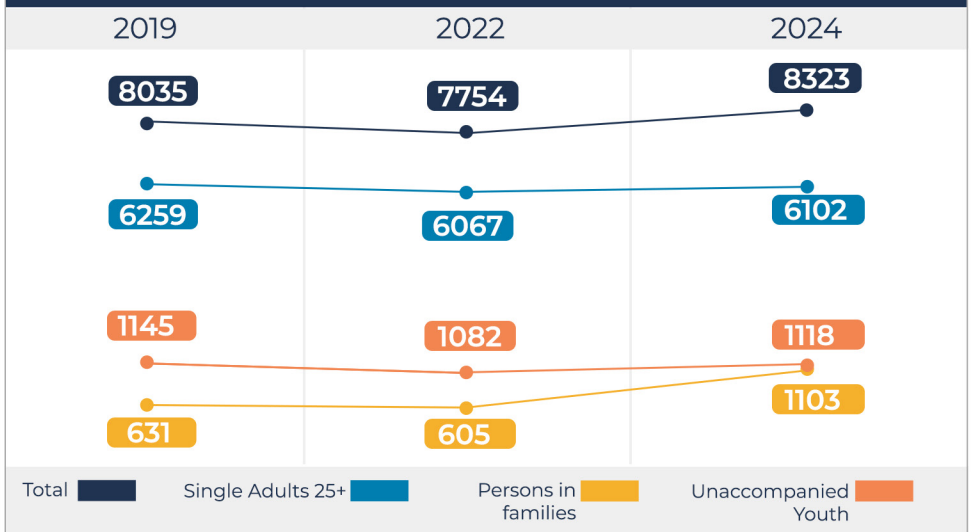
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS



45 minors in
40 households

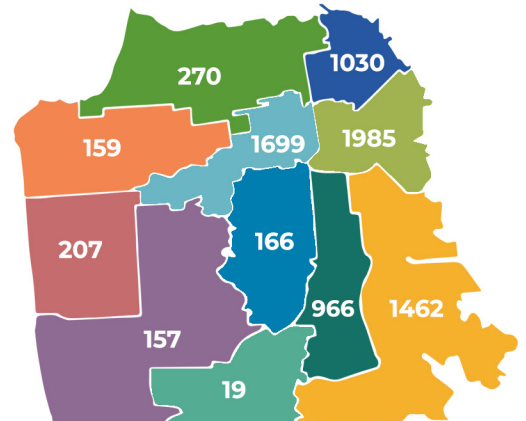


TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



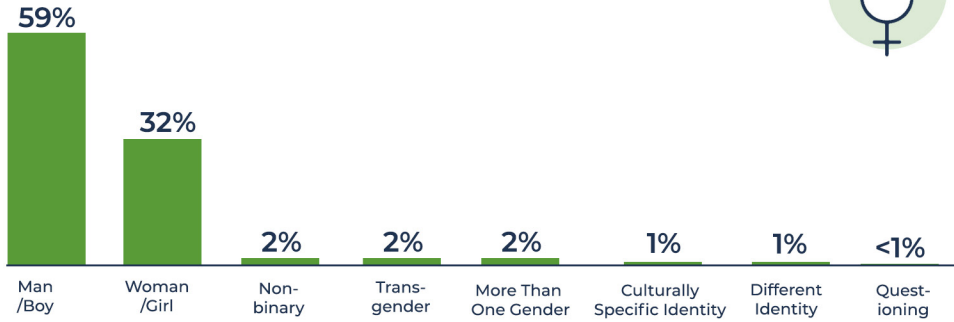
TOTAL POPULATION BY DISTRICT

District	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
1	29	130	159
2	143	127	270
3	775	255	1030
4	14	193	207
5	724	975	1699
6	1219	766	1985
7	0	157	157
8	24	142	166
9	386	580	966
10	452	1010	1462
11	0	19	19
Confidential/Scattered Site	203	--	203
Total	3969	4354	8323

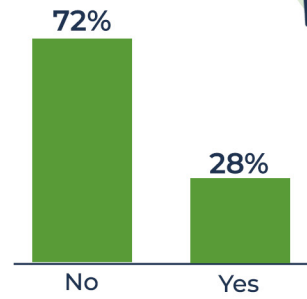


DEMOGRAPHICS

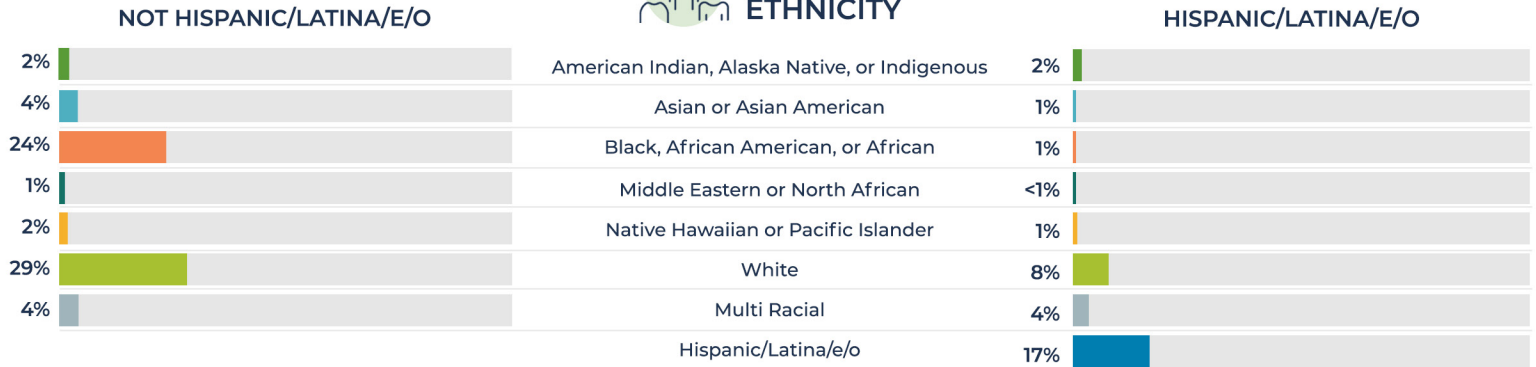
GENDER



LGBTQ+ STATUS

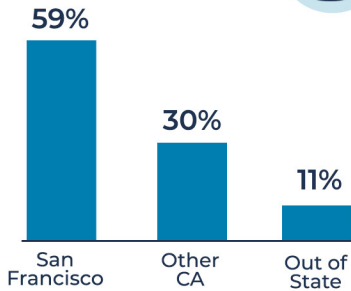


RACE/ ETHNICITY

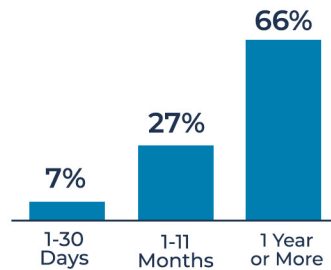


DATA PORTRAITS [□]

LOCATION WHERE LAST HOUSED



DURATION OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS



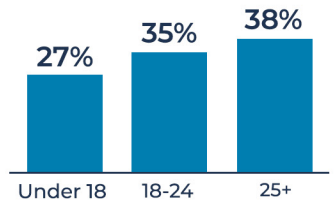
FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



22%

Reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS

(Top 6 Responses)



22%

Lost Job

19%

Alcohol/ Drug Use

14%

Eviction

11%

Argument with family/friend who asked you to leave

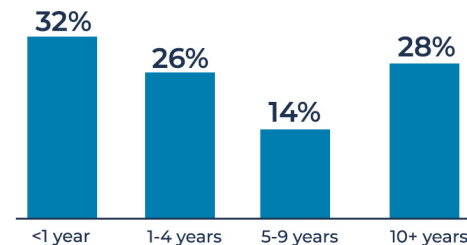
9%

Divorce/ separation/ break up

7%

Illness/ Medical Issues

LENGTH OF TIME HOUSED IN SAN FRANCISCO BEFORE MOST RECENTLY BECOMING HOMELESS



JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVED



32%

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

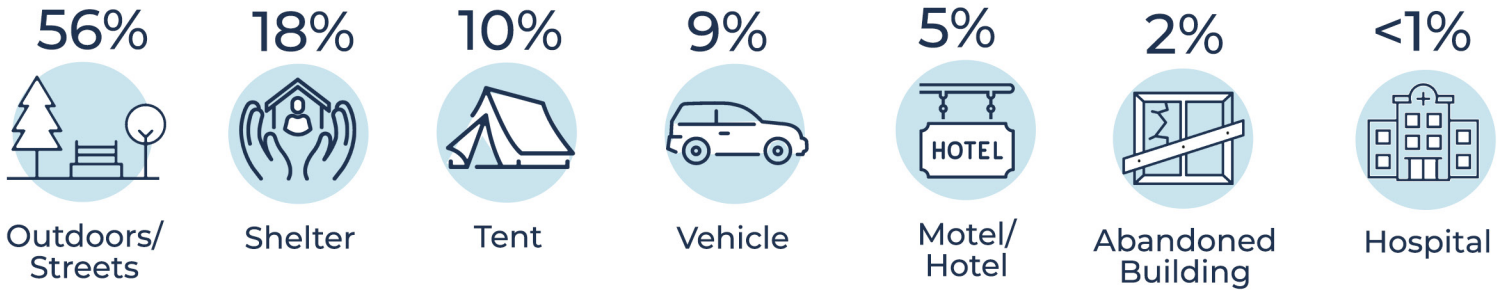
FOSTER CARE



26%

of survey respondents have been in the foster care system

SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION



SELF-REPORTED HEALTH [□]

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

DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE



51%

Report having abused drugs or alcohol

PHYSICAL DISABILITY



29%

Report having a physical disability

CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEM/ CONDITION



42%

Report having a chronic health problem/condition

PSYCHIATRIC OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS



51%

Report having a psychiatric or emotional condition

HIV/AIDS RELATED ILLNESS



6%

Report having an HIV/AIDS related illness

RECEIVED SPECIAL EDUCATION



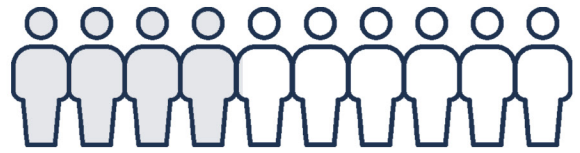
17%

Report having received special education

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.

42%



of survey respondents report having at least one disabling condition

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE [□]



69%

of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING (TOP 5 RESPONSES)

48%



Food Stamps/ SNAP/WIC/ CalFresh

25%



General Assistance (GA)/CAAP/CAPI

24%



Medi-Cal/ Medicare/ Covered CA

10%



SSI/SSDI/ Disability

6%

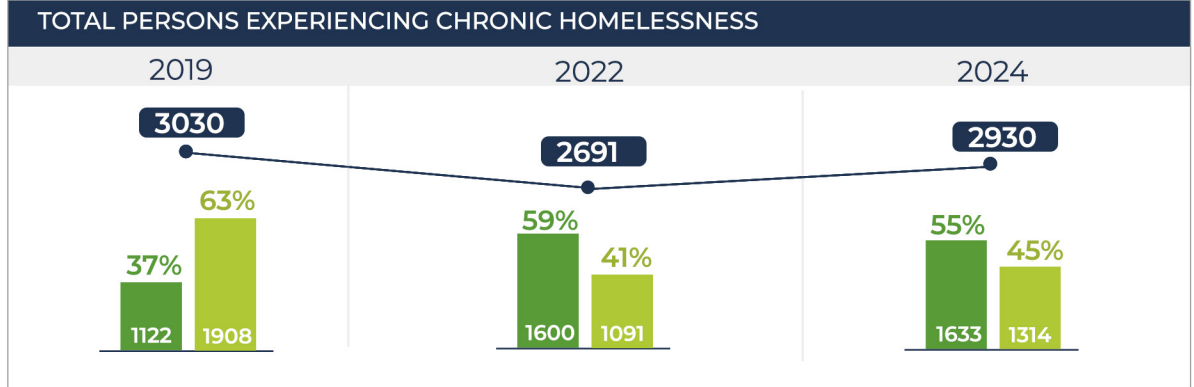


Social Security

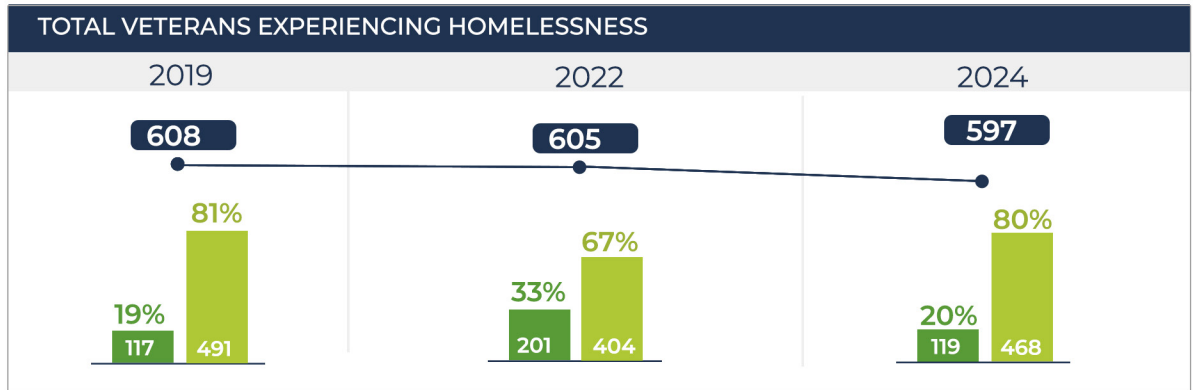
SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Total Sheltered Unsheltered

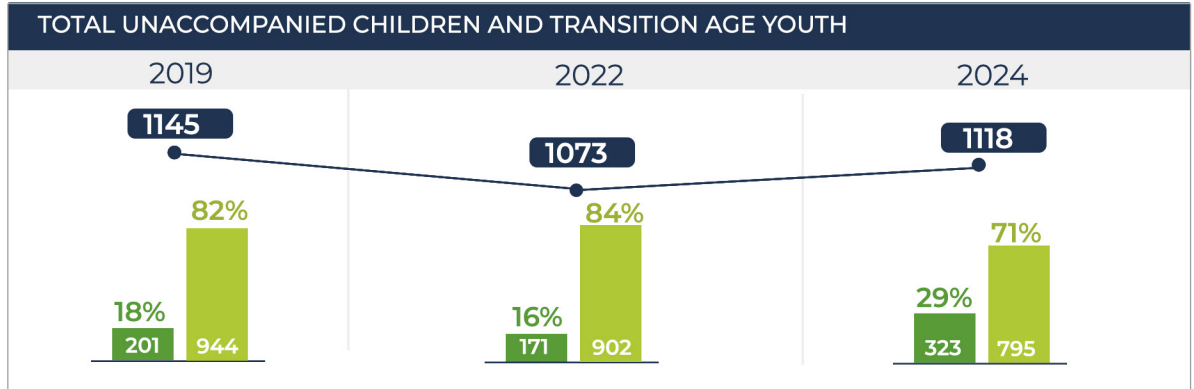
CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



VETERANS



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN + TAY



SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

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

- Has been continuously homeless for one year or more and/or;
- Has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past three years.

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.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH YOUNG ADULTS

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

+ Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.
 * Only displaying top responses, all responsive data will be available in full report.
 □ Source: 2024 San Francisco Homeless Survey, N=956

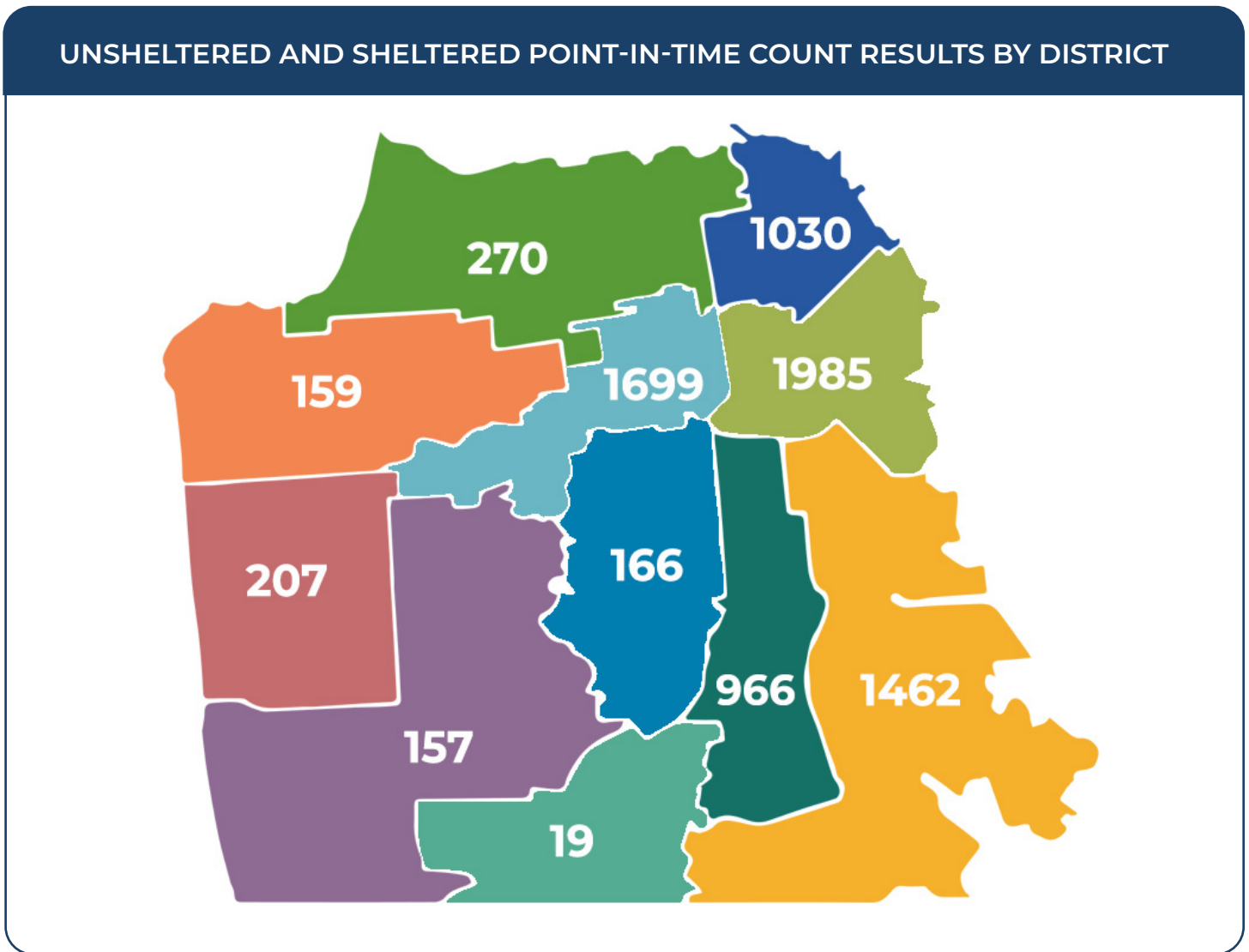
Note: Some percentages have been rounded so total percentage will equal 100%.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT FINDINGS

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED HOMELESS PERSONS BY DISTRICT

The 2024 San Francisco Homeless Count data are presented below, organized by the 11 City and County Supervisorial Districts in San Francisco.

Figure 01



Note: An additional 203 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 2022 Supervisorial District lines.

Figure 02

COMPLETE HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT POPULATION BY DISTRICT AND SHELTER STATUS, 2022-2024

District	2022			2024			Total % Change
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	From 2022 to 2024
1	26	92	118	29	130	159	35%
2	188	149	337	143	127	270	-20%
3	357	189	546	775	255	1030	89%
4	13	127	140	14	193	207	48%
5	722	1225	1947	724	975	1699	-13%
6	1308	993	2301	1219	766	1985	-14%
7	0	226	226	0	157	157	-31%
8	0	162	162	24	142	166	2%
9	248	598	846	386	580	966	14%
10	428	567	995	452	1010	1462	47%
11	4	69	73	0	19	19	-74%
Confidential/ Scattered Site Locations in SF	63	0	63	203	0	203	222%
Total	3,357	4,397	7,754	3,969	4,354	8,323	7%
% of Total	43%	57%	100%	48%	52%	100%	N/A

Note: The table displays data per 2022 Supervisorial District lines.
 * There were a large number of scattered site based shelter beds utilized on the night of the PIT.

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

On January 30, 2024, there were 8,323 people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, a 7% increase over the 2022 Point-in-Time Count. The total number of unsheltered persons counted was 4,354, a 1% decrease since 2022 and a 16% decrease since 2019. Of the 3,969 individuals included in the shelter count, 92% (3,644 people) were in emergency shelter programs while 8% (325 persons) were residing in transitional housing programs on the night of the count.

Persons in families with children, including households with only children, represented 14% of the total population counted in the Point-in-Time Count, while 86% were households without children. In total, 7% of those counted on January 30, 2024, were under the age of 18, 14% were between the ages of 18-24, and 79% were over the age of 25.

Figure 03

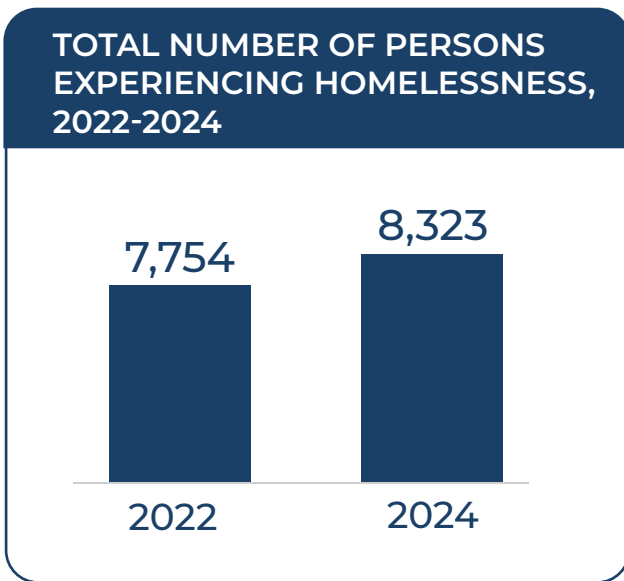
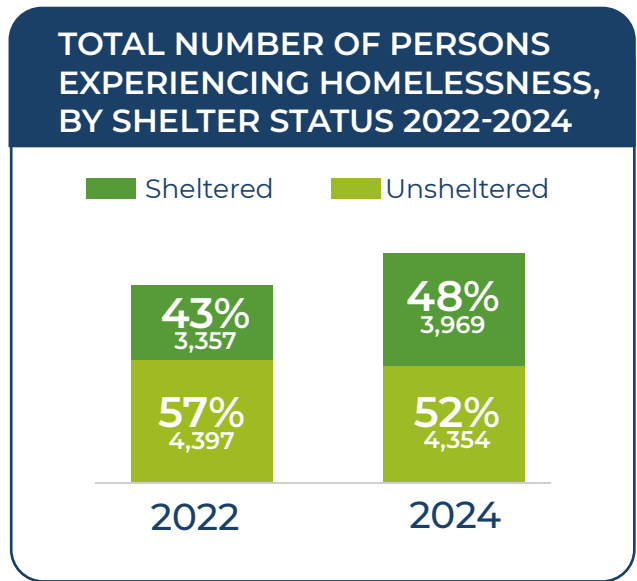


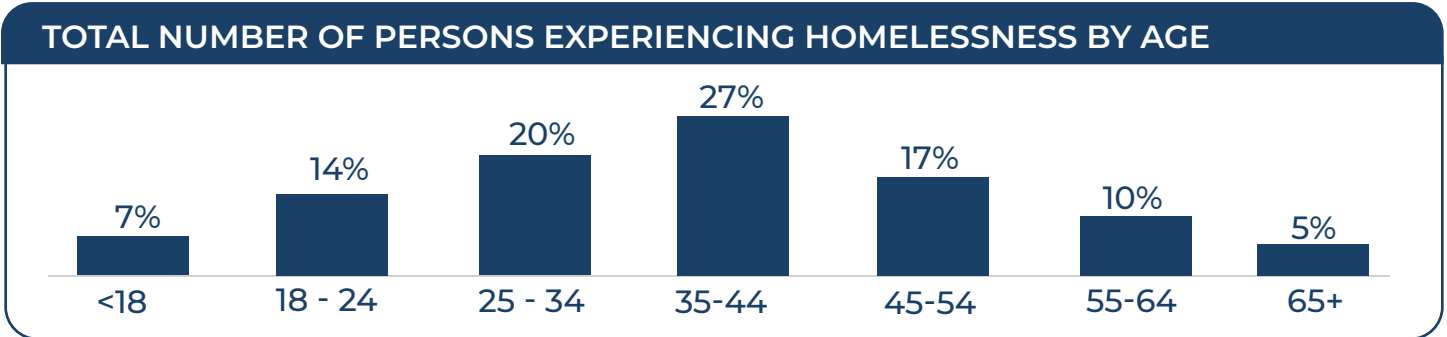
Figure 04



AGE

Seven percent (7%) of people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco were under 18 years old and 14% were between 18 and 24 years old. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents were 25 to 34 years old, 27% were 35 to 44 years old, 17% were 45 to 54 years old, 10% were 55 to 64 years old, and 5% were 65 or older.

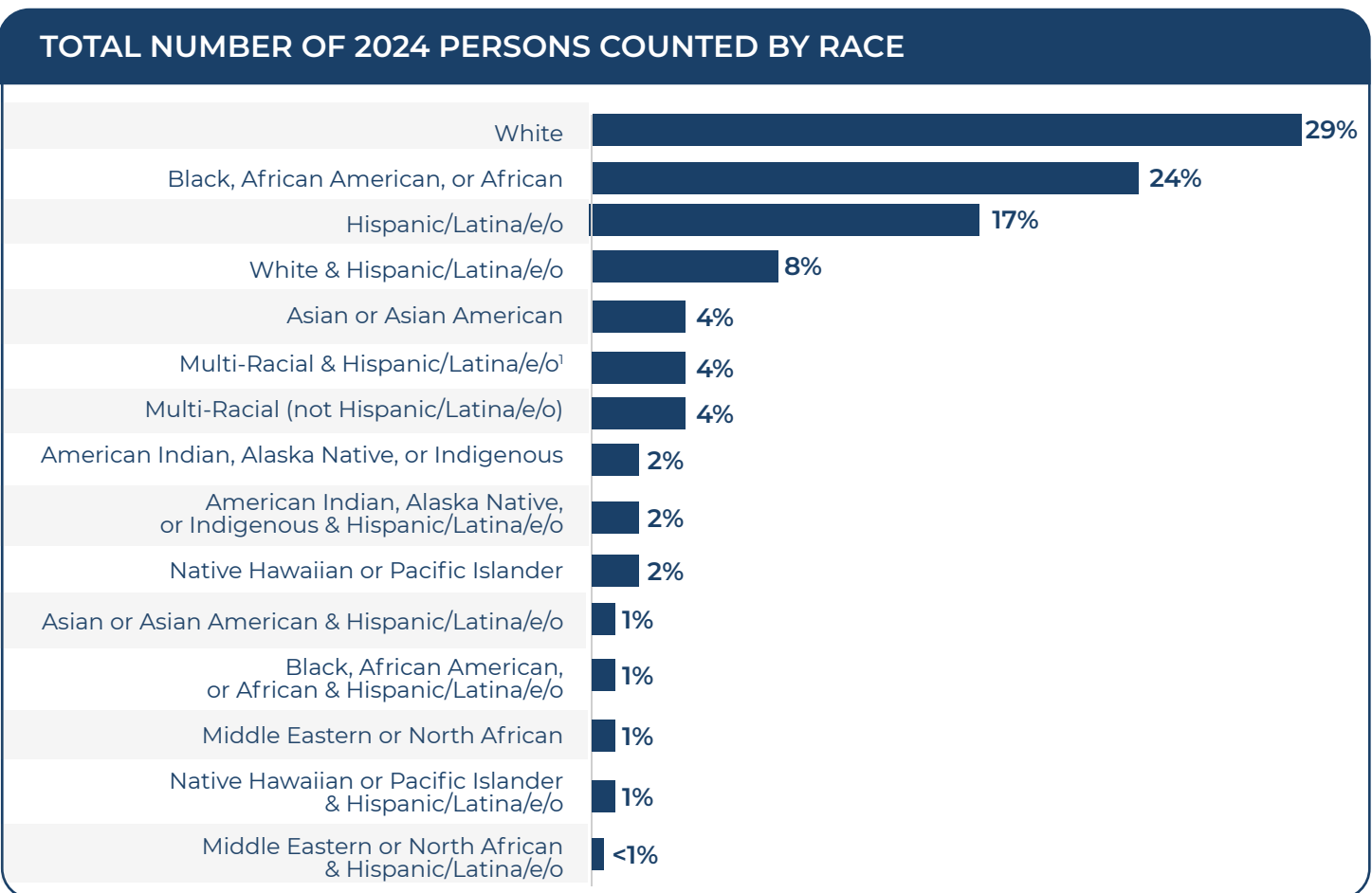
Figure 05



RACE & ETHNICITY

When considering racial identity, 29% of persons experiencing homelessness identified as White, 24% identified as Black, African American, or African. Thirty-four (34%) of people experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic/Latina/e/o or Hispanic/Latina/e/o and another race.

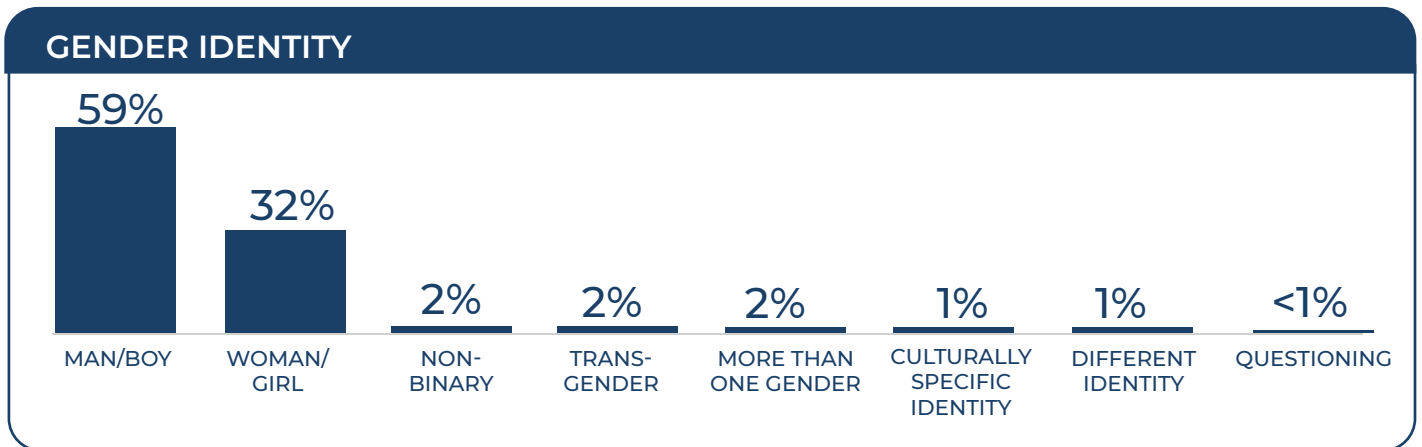
Figure 06



Homeless Survey Population n = 8,323

When asked about their gender identity, the majority (59%) identified as men. Thirty-two percent (32%) identified as women, 2% identified as non-binary, 2% identified as transgender, 2% identified as more than one gender, 1% identified as a culturally specific identity, 1% were a different identity, and less than one percent were questioning.

Figure 07



n = 8,323



HOMELESSNESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2024 San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered between February 20 and March 26, 2024, to a randomized sample of individuals experiencing homelessness. This effort resulted in 956 complete and unique surveys.

Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 8,323 persons experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 956 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3% 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 percentage points of the current results. It should be noted that for the sheltered population, data from direct surveys to homeless service providers and data from San Francisco's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) were combined to meet the HUD reporting requirements. 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.

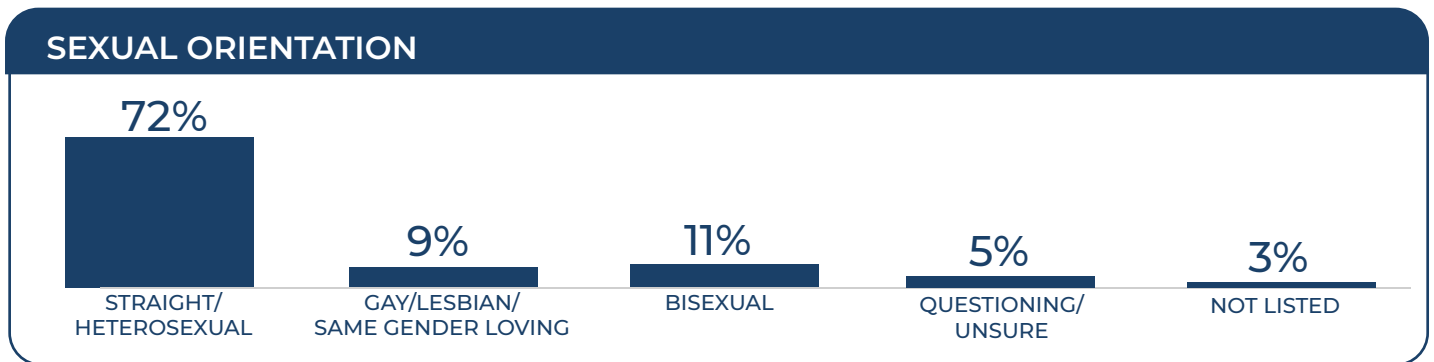


SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Seventy-two percent (72%) of survey respondents identified their sexual orientation as straight/heterosexual. Nine percent (9%) identified as gay, lesbian, or same gender loving, and 11% as bisexual. Three percent (3%) identified with a sexual orientation not listed in the survey, and 5% reported that they were questioning or unsure of their sexual orientation at the time of the survey.

Figure 08



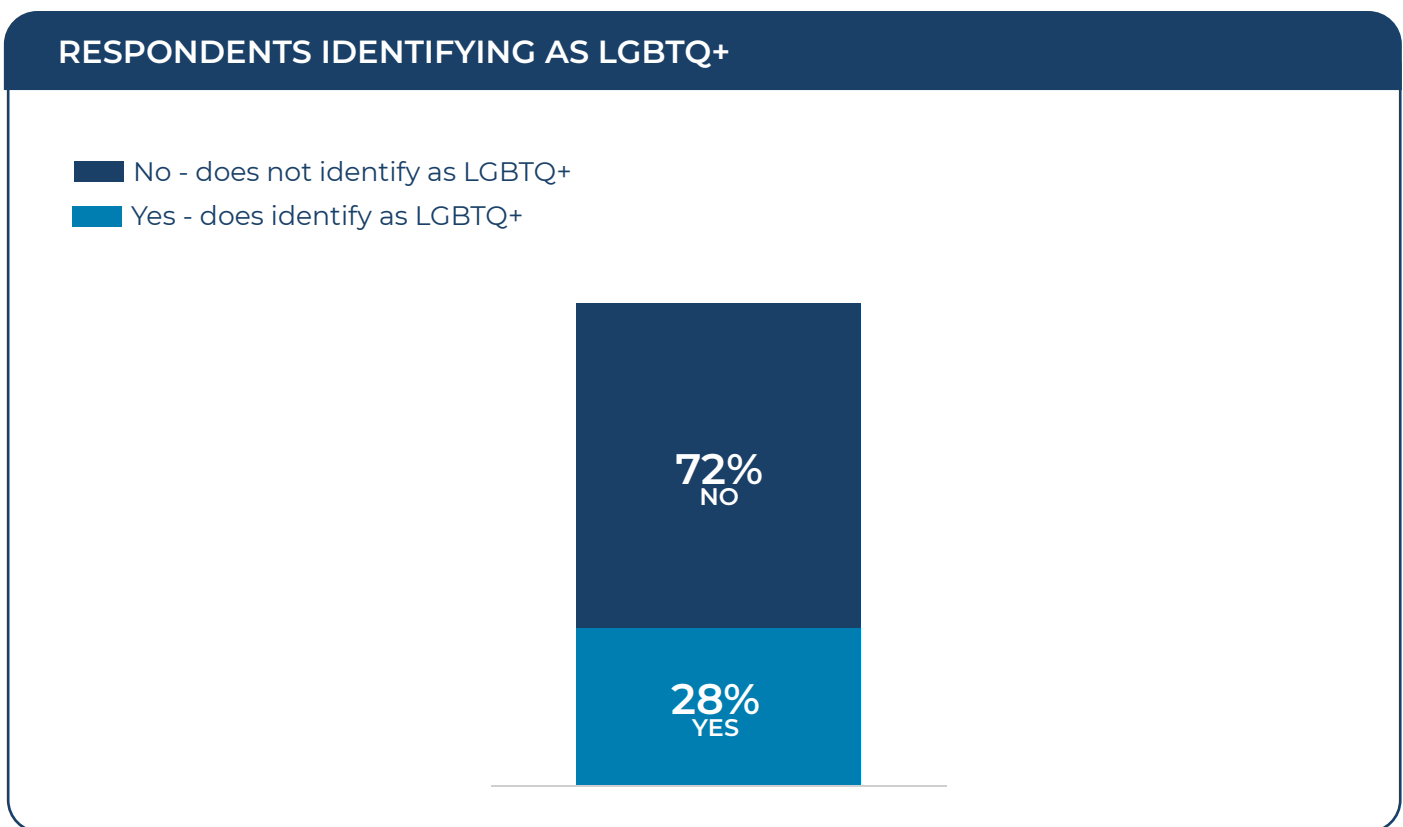
n = 895



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. San Francisco's homeless population is disproportionately LGBTQ+. While approximately 12% of the city's overall population identifies as LGBTQ+⁵, 28% of those surveyed within the homeless community identify as LGBTQ+.

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.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 09



LGBTQ+ Status n =895

⁴Morton, M.H., Samuels, G. M., Dworsky, A., & Patel, S. (2018). Missed Opportunities: LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in America. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

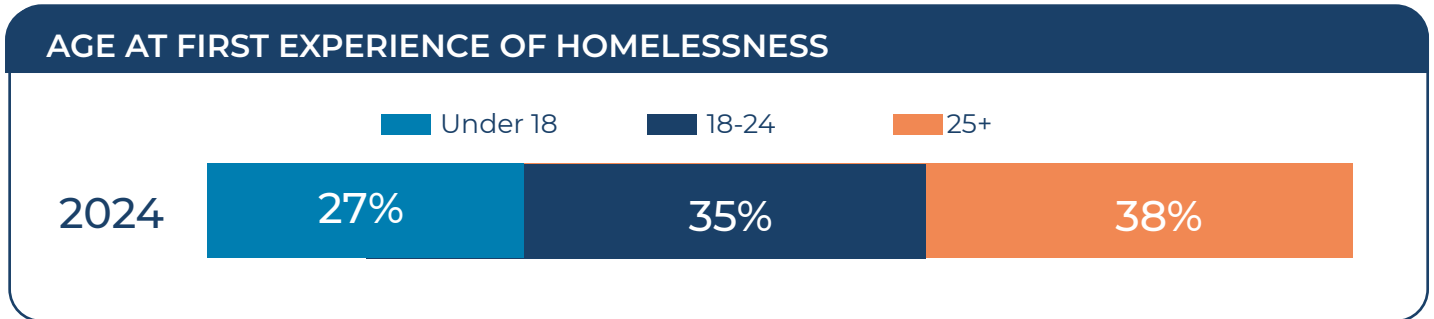
⁵City and County of San Francisco, Office of the Controller (May 2019). 2019 San Francisco City Survey Report. Retrieved from <https://sfcontroller.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Auditing/City%20Survey%202019%20-%20Report.pdf>

SURVEY PROFILES

AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE

Twenty-seven percent (27%) reported first experiencing homelessness as a child under 18 years old. Thirty-five percent (35%) first experienced homelessness as a young adult between 18 and 24 years old, 38% were age 25 or older.

Figure 10



n = 919

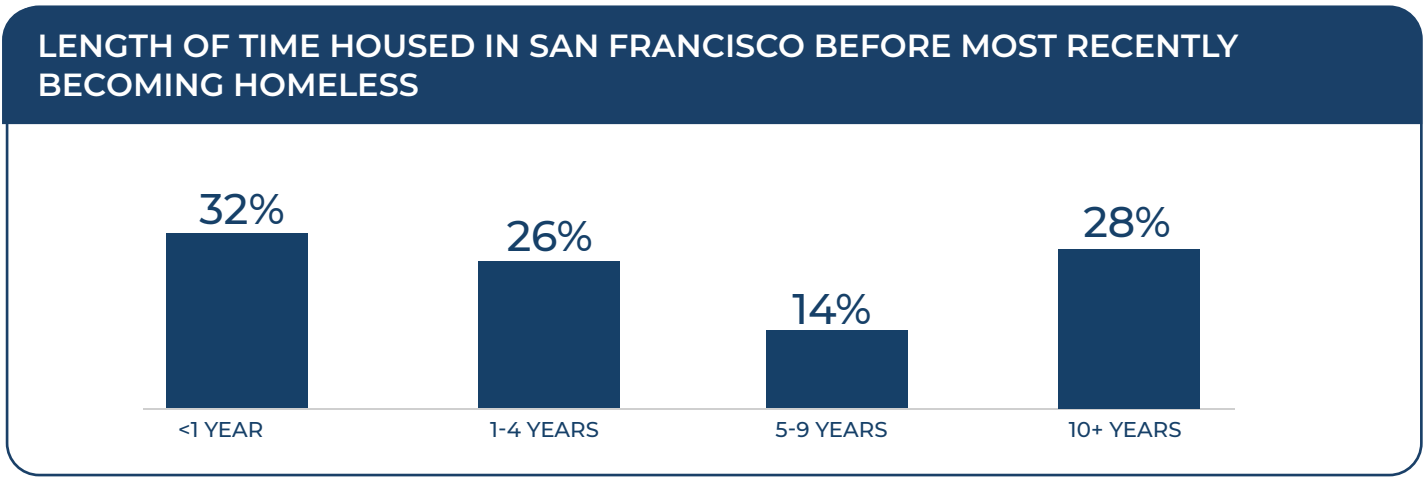


RESIDENCY

Where persons have lived since experiencing homelessness 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.

Twenty-eight percent (28%) reported living in San Francisco for 10 or more years. Thirty-two percent (32%) reported living in San Francisco for less than one year.

Figure 11



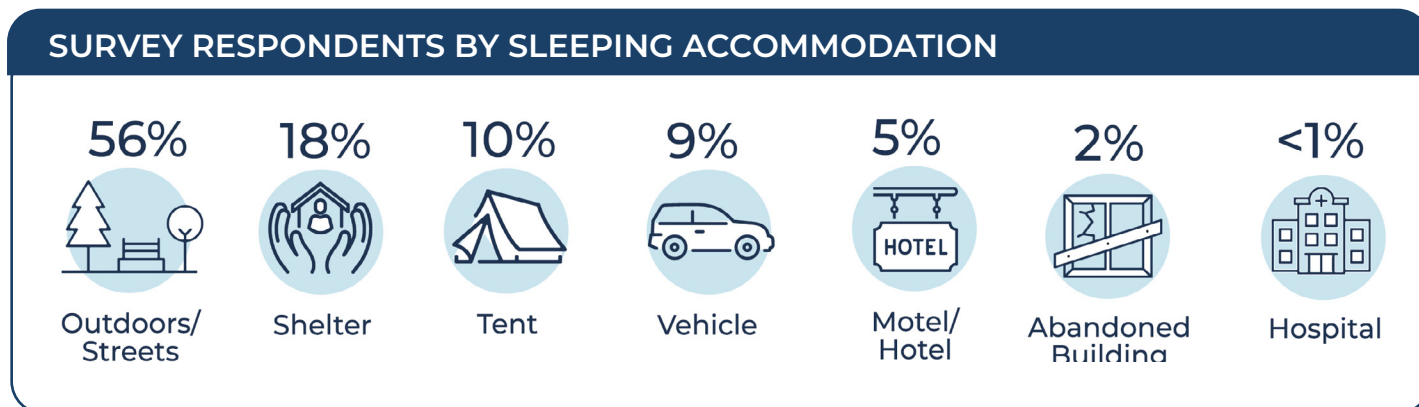
n = 414



CURRENT SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Understanding the types of places in which individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts. The majority (56%) of respondents who were unsheltered reported living on the street outdoors at the time of the survey. Eighteen percent (18%) reported staying in a shelter, 10% reported sleeping in a tent, and 9% reported that they were staying in a vehicle.

Figure 12

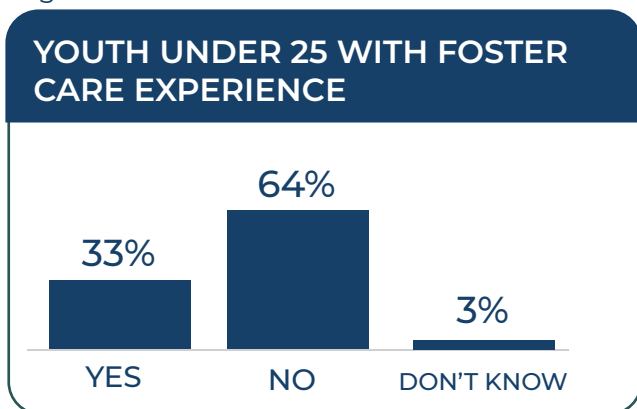


HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least one-third of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.⁶ 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 homelessness.

In San Francisco, 26% of all survey respondents reported a history of foster care, similar to survey findings in 2022 (22%). Thirty-three percent (33%) of survey respondents under age 25 and 24% of survey respondents over age 25 also reported a history of foster care.

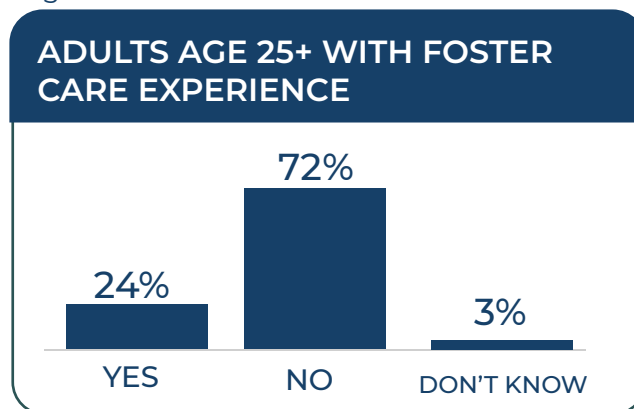
Figure 13



n = 142

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

Figure 14



n = 752

⁶Dworsky, 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.

HEALTH

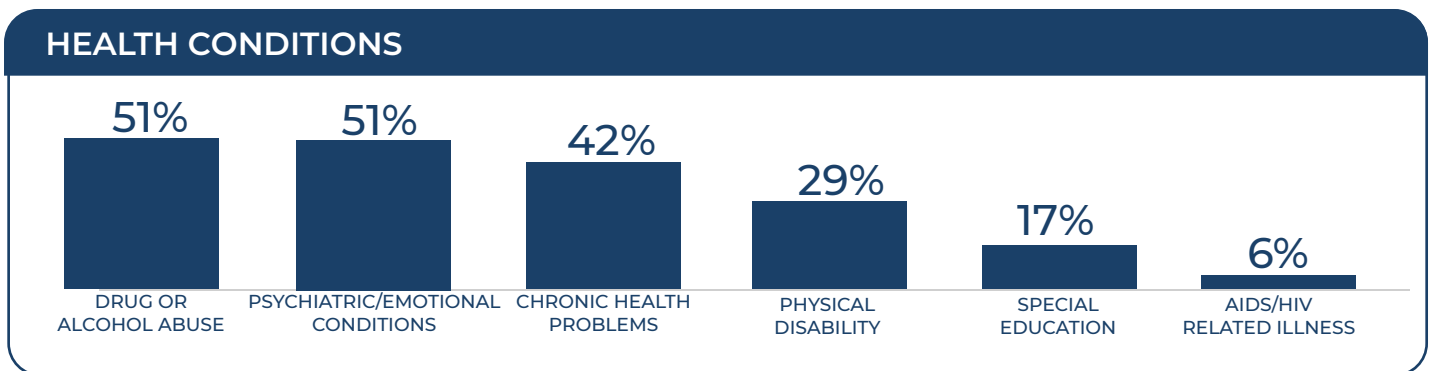
The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is up to 17.5 years shorter than the general population.⁷ Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations. It is estimated 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.⁸

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Sixty-seven percent (67%) 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. Forty-two percent (42%) 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 (51%, which represents a 1 percentage point decrease from 2022), followed by psychiatric or emotional conditions (51%) and chronic health problems (42%). Twenty-nine percent (29%) reported living with a physical disability, 17% special education services, and 6% an AIDS or HIV related illness.

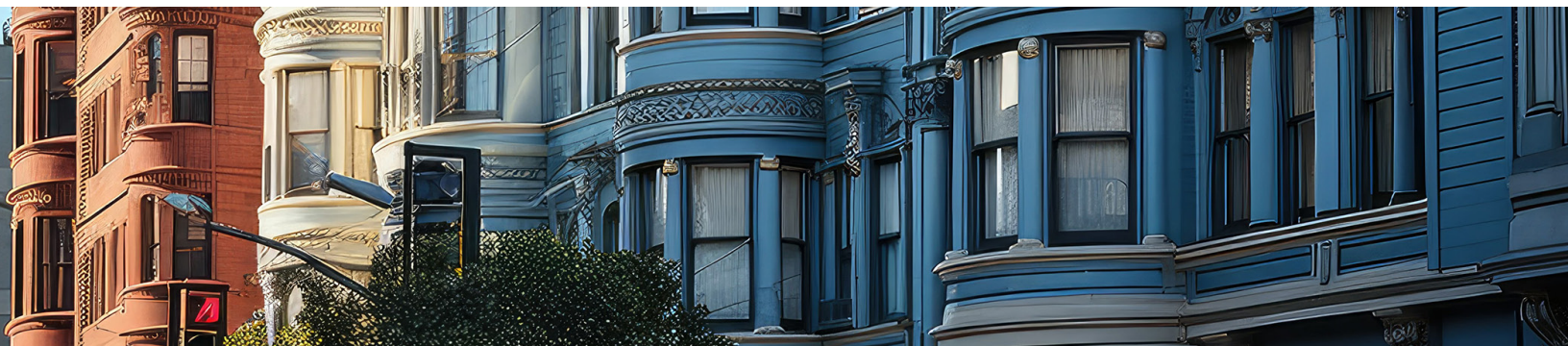
Figure 15



2019 n = 1,054; 2022 n = 754-764; 2024 n = 813-845
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

⁷Romaszko, J., Cymes, I., Dragańska, E., Kuchta, R., & Glińska-Lewczuk, K (2017). Mortality among the homeless: Causes and meteorological relationships. PloS One, 12(12), e0189938, Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5739436/>

⁸Reese, 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/>



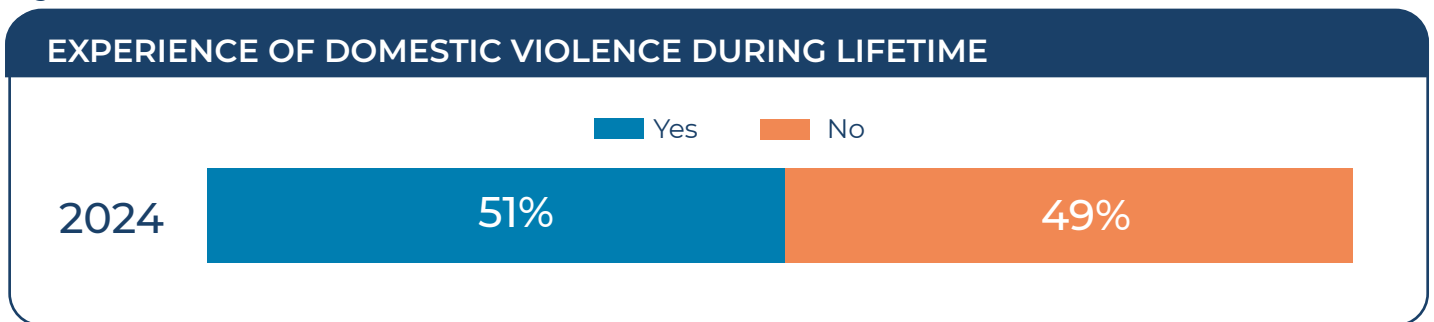
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PARTNER ABUSE

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.

Twenty percent (20%) of all survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse. Fifty-one percent (51%) of all respondents reported experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse during their lifetime.

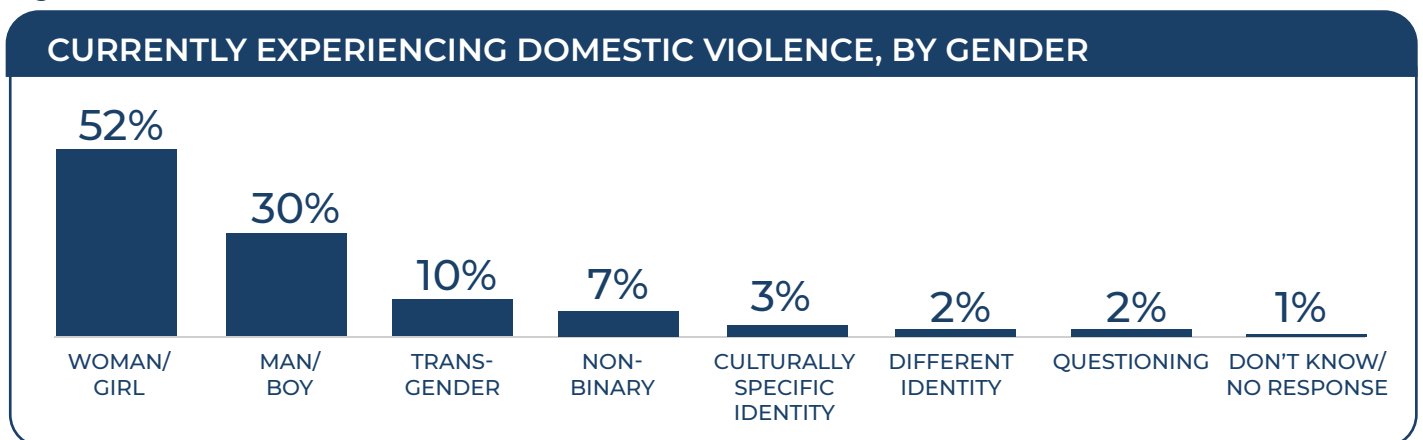
People who identify as women are more likely to be currently experiencing domestic violence. Fifty-two percent (52%) of people who reported that they were currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse identified as women.

Figure 16



n = 820

Figure 17



n = 144 respondents offering 154 responses

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



PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

Widespread homelessness is the result of a severe affordable housing shortage, 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 (22%) of respondents identified job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness. Nineteen percent (19%) identified alcohol or drug use. Fourteen percent (14%) reported eviction, 11% reported an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave, and 9% cited a divorce, separation, or break up as the primary cause of their homelessness.

Figure 18

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP SIX RESPONSES EACH YEAR)					
2019	%	2022	%	2024	%
Lost Job	26%	Lost Job	21%	Lost Job	22%
Alcohol or Drug Use	18%	Eviction	14%	Alcohol or Drug Use	19%
Eviction	13%	Alcohol or Drug Use	12%	Eviction	14%
Argument with Family or Friend Who Asked You to Leave	12%	Argument with Family or Friend Who Asked You to Leave	9%	Argument with family or friend who asked you to leave	11%
Mental Health Issues	8%	Mental Health Issues	7%	Divorce/separation/break up	9%
Incarceration	7%	Incarceration/ Probation and Parole Restrictions	7%	Mental health issues	7%

2019 n = 1,039; 2022 n = 706; 2024 n = 908

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

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

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

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

- Chronic homelessness;
- 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 2024 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 unsheltered chronically homeless population. HMIS data was used to calculate San Francisco’s chronically homeless sheltered population. An estimated 2,989 people (or 36% of the homeless population) were experiencing chronic homelessness in San Francisco on January 30, 2024, an 11% increase since 2022. People experiencing chronic homelessness are more likely to be sheltered, with 56% sheltered compared to 48% of the total homeless population.

The majority (97%) of people experiencing chronic homelessness were adults without children. Persons in families comprised 3% of all persons experiencing chronic homelessness. Less than one percent (<1%) of chronically homeless persons were estimated to be in households with only children.

Figure 19

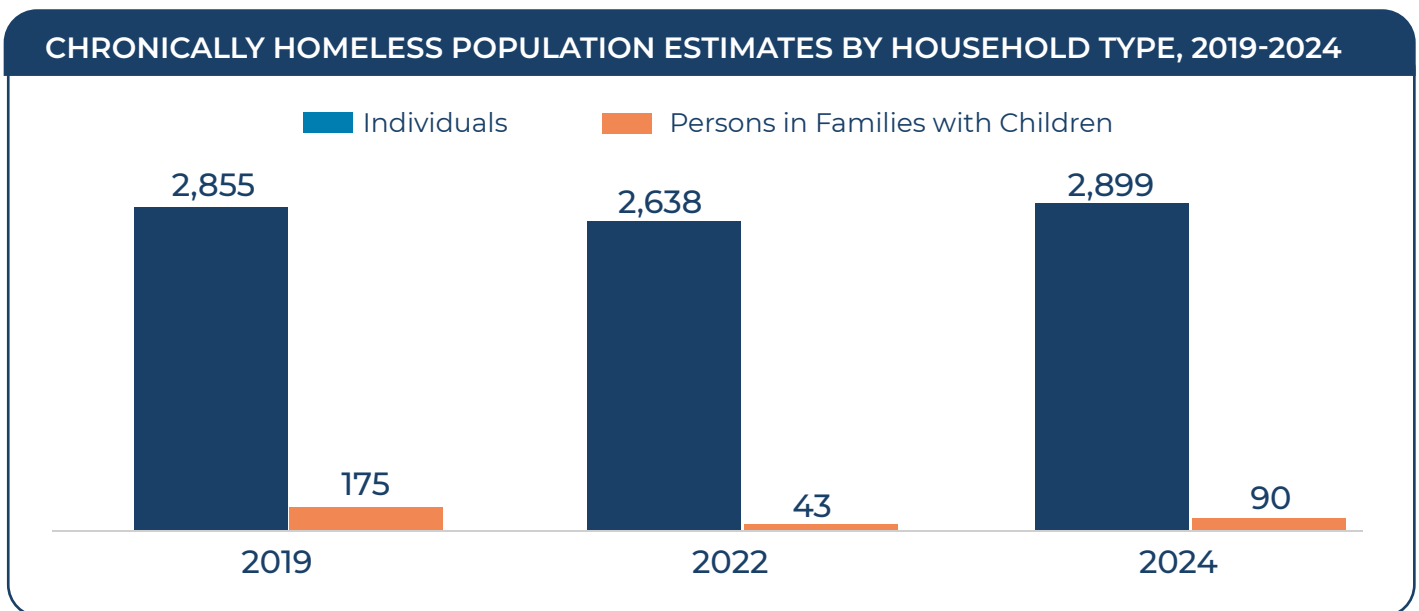


Figure 20



n = 2,989

PREVALENCE OF VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

In 2024, there were an estimated 587 veterans experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Eighty percent (80%) of veterans surveyed during the Point-in-Time Count were unsheltered. Veterans were less likely to be sheltered in 2024 at a rate of 20% compared to 33% in 2022, and the total number of sheltered veterans decreased by 41% from 2022 to 2024.

Figure 21

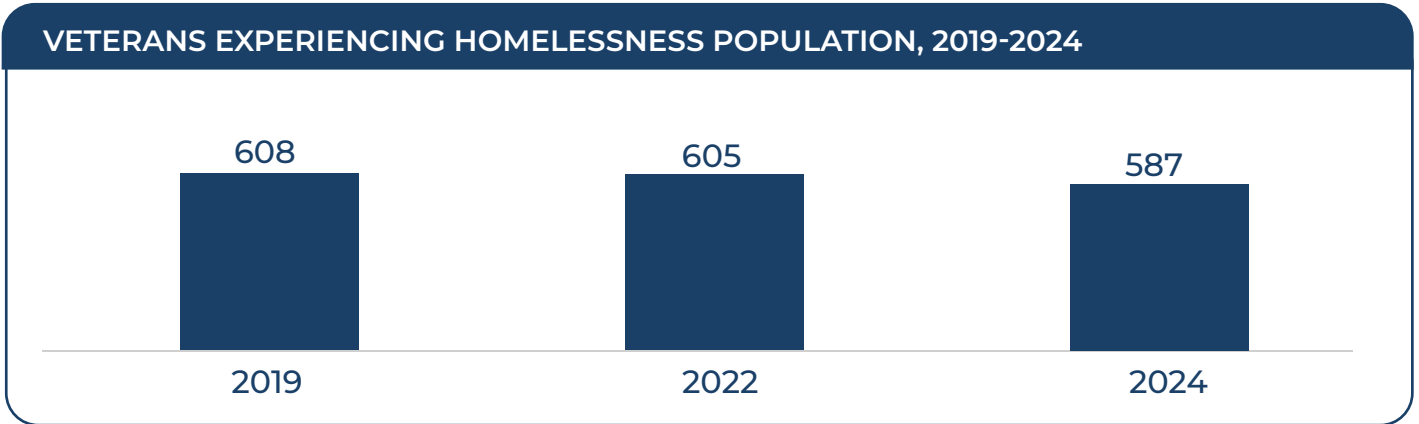
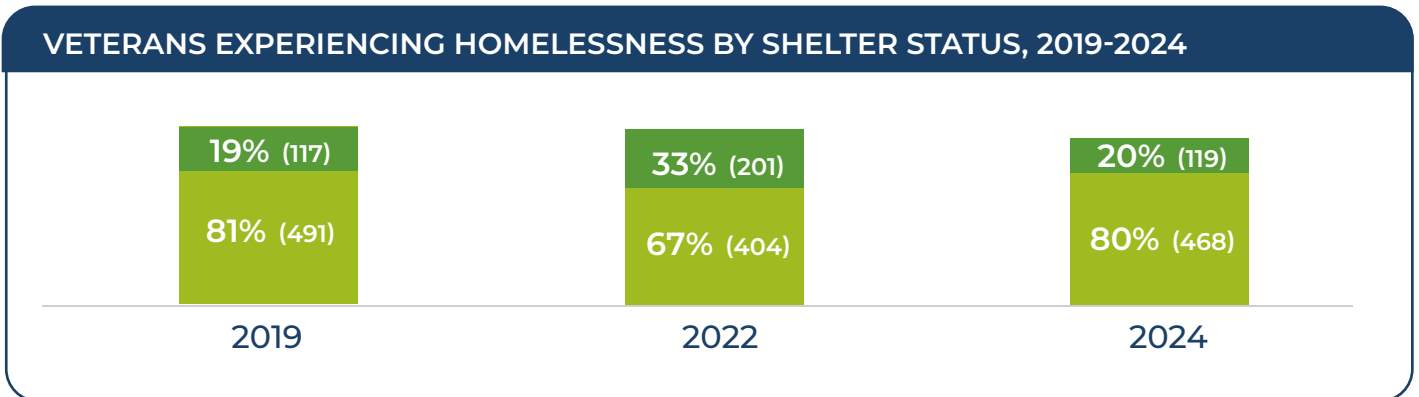


Figure 22



2019 n = 608, 2022 n = 605, 2024 n = 587



PREVALENCE OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Overall there were 1,103 persons in 405 families identified during the 2024 count, a significant increase from the 605 persons in 205 families identified in 2022. Of those, 1,025 people in 373 families have a head of the household that is over 25 years old, and 78 people in 32 families are from youth parenting households. New targeted efforts to better identify homeless families were introduced in 2024.

HSH partnered with family providers to conduct an early morning count of people living in vehicles in known hot spot areas. This effort also allowed for more direct interaction with people living in vehicles, allowing for the identification of families in vehicles that may have otherwise been assumed as occupied by adults only. Additionally, following the night of the count, family providers called families that recently engaged with the homelessness response system to verify the housing status of their household on the night of January 30, 2024 and collected details necessary to deduplicate against observations made during the general count.

In addition to efforts to more accurately enumerate unsheltered families, San Francisco experienced a rise in families residing in shelters across the city. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of families were residing in shelters or transitional housing programs.

Figure 23

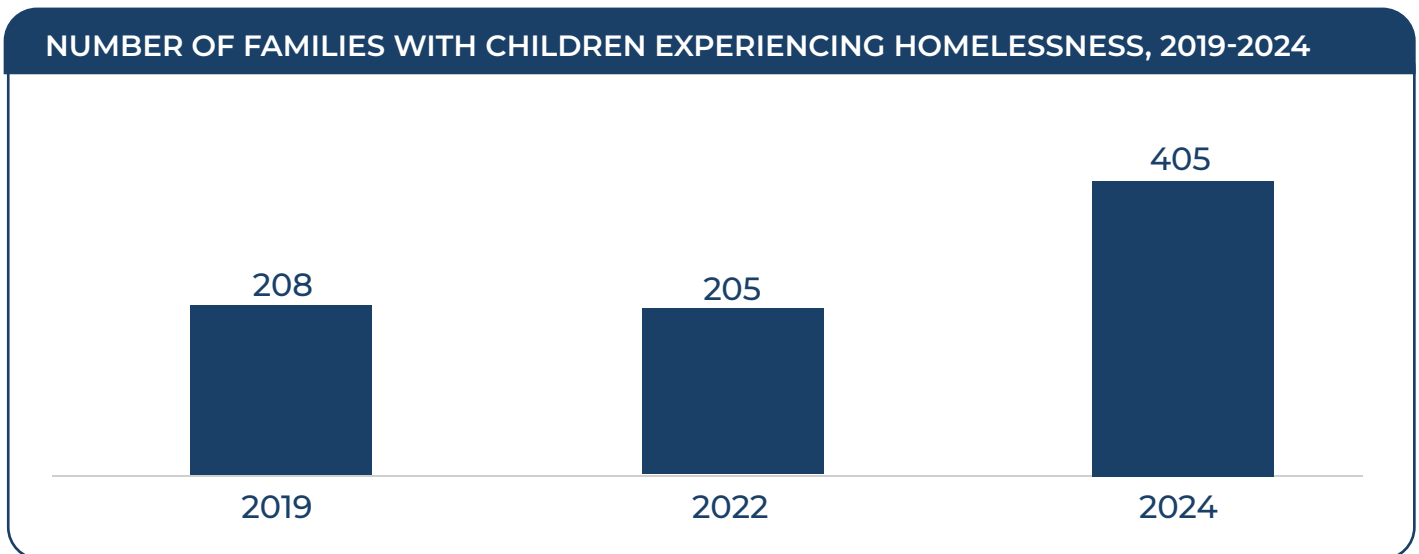
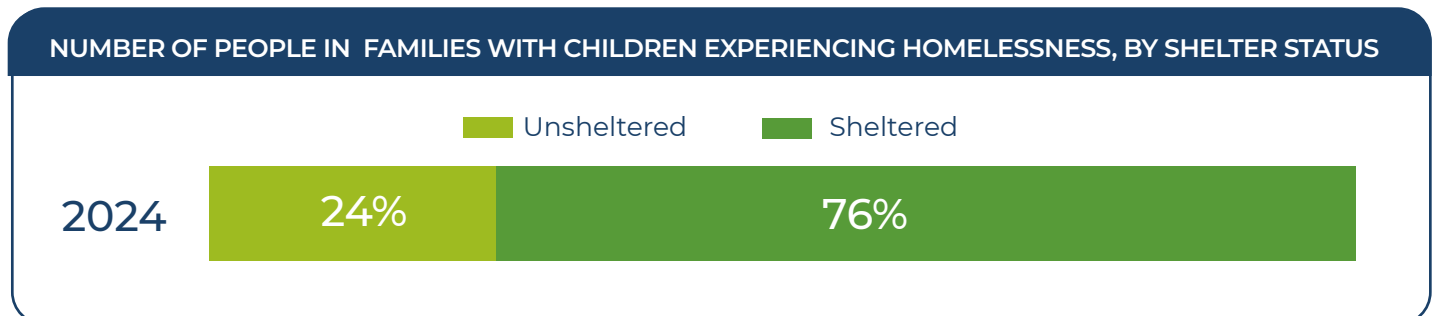


Figure 24



n = 405 Families with 1,103 Family Members

PREVALENCE OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH (TAY) EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

There were 1,118 unaccompanied children and transitional-age youth identified during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, a 4% increase from the 1,073 counted in 2022. Among unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, 1,073 were transitional-age youth between 18 and 24 years old while 45 were unaccompanied children under 18 years old. Seventy percent (70%) of transitional-age youth and 87% of unaccompanied children were unsheltered.

Figure 25

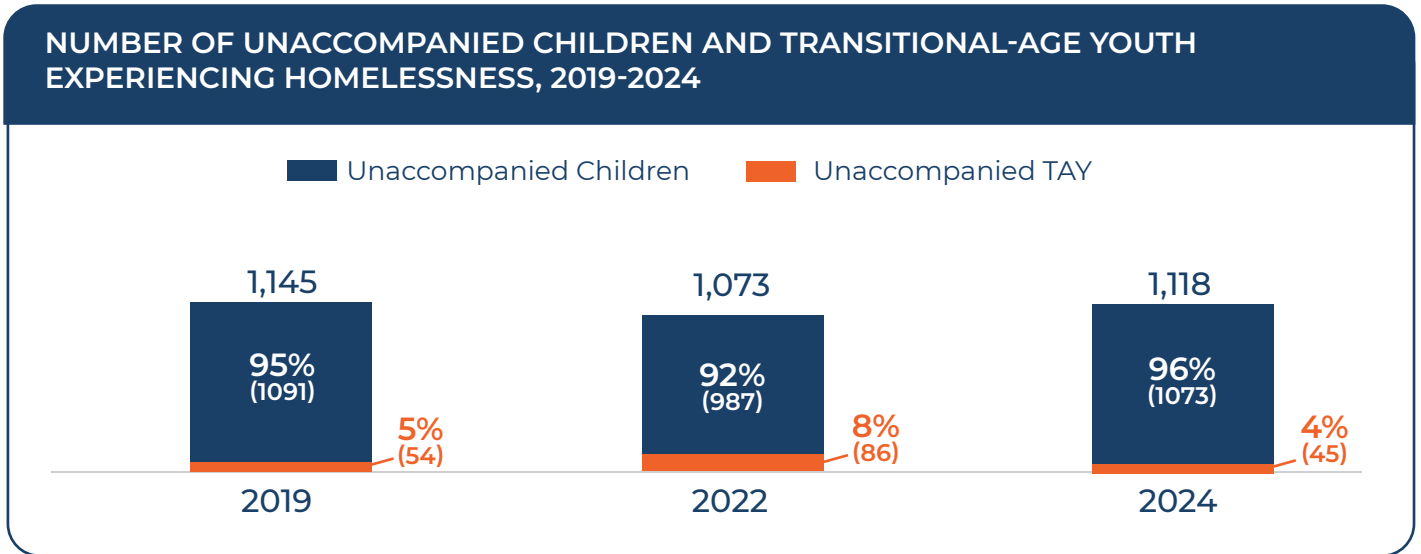
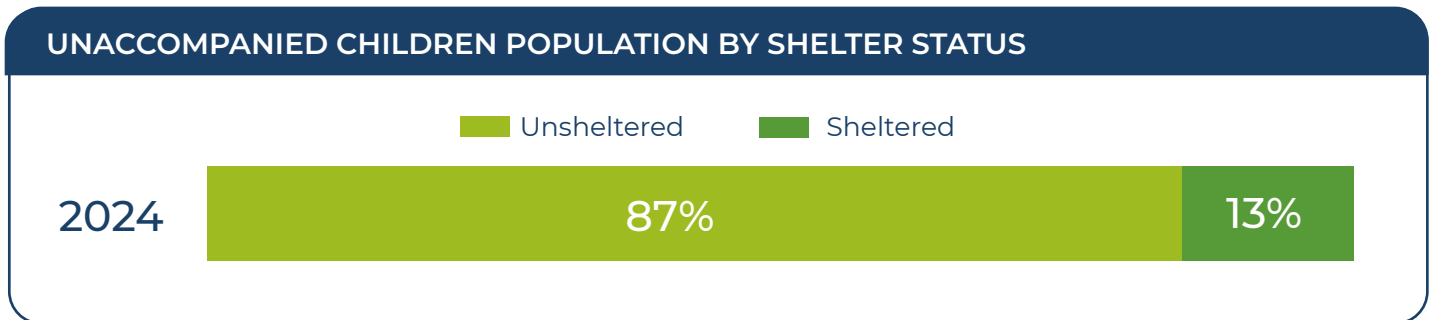
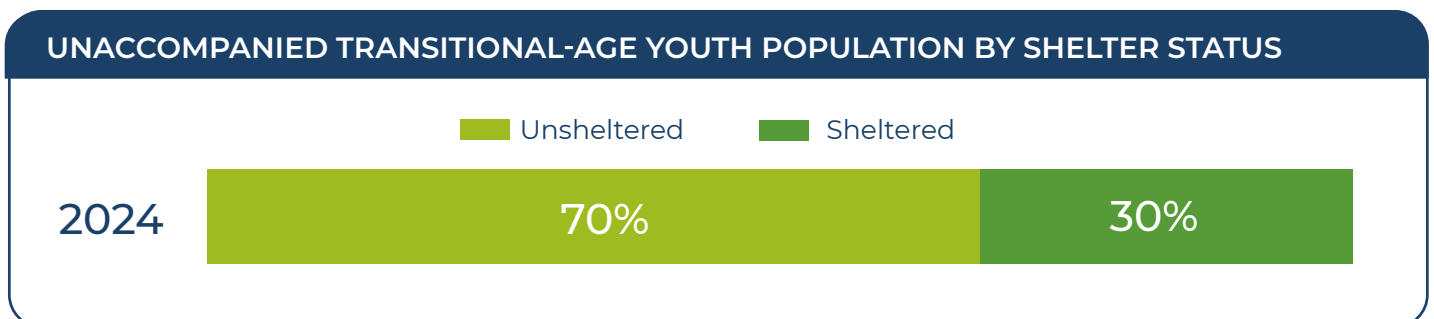


Figure 26



n = 45

Figure 26



n = 1,073

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 in 1980 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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