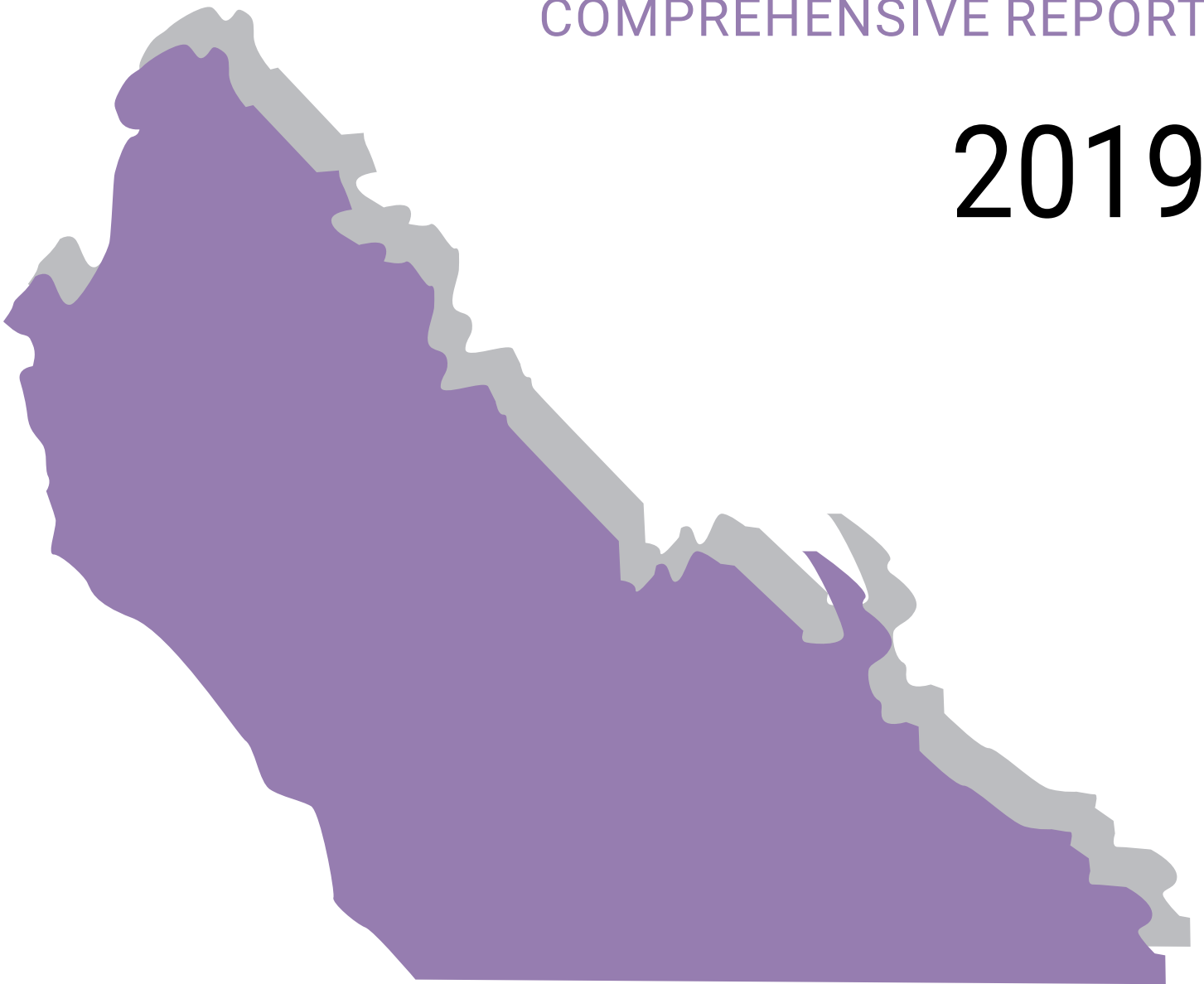

Monterey County

HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

2019



REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

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

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Coalition of Homeless Service Providers

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Catholic Charities
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula
The Gathering Place

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Introduction

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

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide homeless services, Continuums of Care (CoC) across the country report the findings of their local Point-in-Time count in their annual funding application to HUD. Currently, the Monterey County CoC receives approximately \$1,802,763 dollars annually in federal funding.

The Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Census 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 the same as the larger effort, and the findings summarized in this report represent a subset of the CoC-wide results.

Monterey County has partnered with ASR to conduct its Point-in-Time Census since 1999, maintaining a similar methodology, thus ensuring as much consistency as possible from one year to the next. ASR is a locally based social research firm that has over 19 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 Homeless Census 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 2019 Planning Committee and were instrumental to ensuring the 2019 Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Census and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2019 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

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

This report is intended to assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local, state, and federal governments in:

- Gaining a better understanding of the population currently experiencing homelessness;
- Measuring the impact of current policies and programming; and
- Making informed decisions around community strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

In this study, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count 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

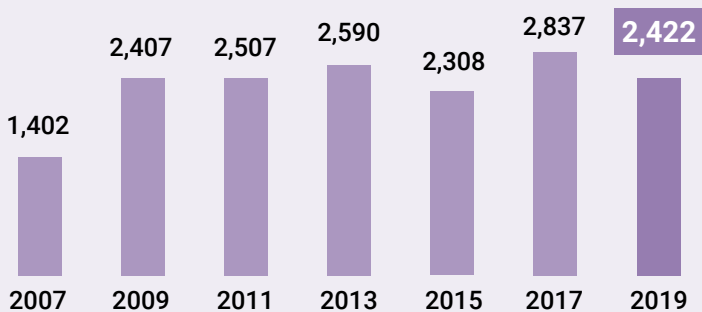
Homeless Census & Survey

2019 Executive Summary

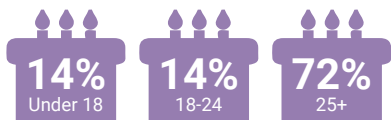
Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2019 Monterey County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 31st, 2019. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 450 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

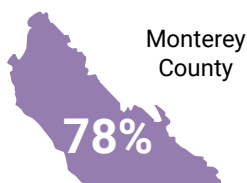
Census Population: Longitudinal Trend



Age



Residence Prior to Homelessness



Gender

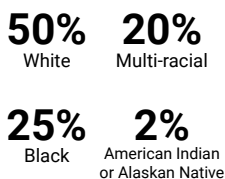


Sexual Orientation



Race

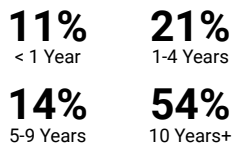
Top Responses^a



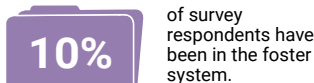
Ethnicity



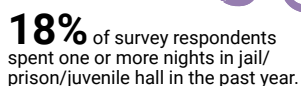
Length of Time in Monterey County



Foster Care



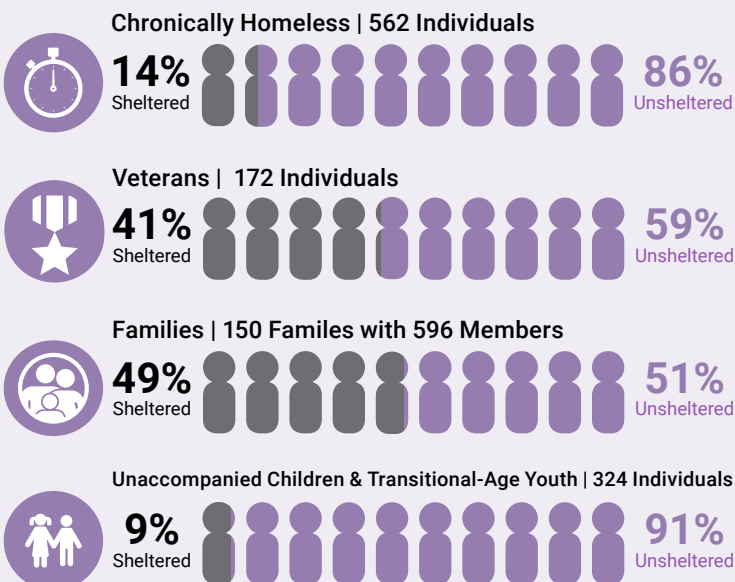
Justice System Involvement



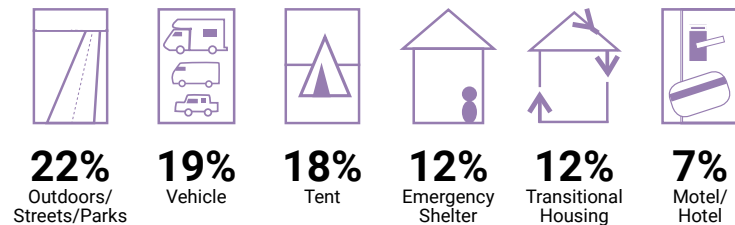
2019 Sheltered/ Unsheltered Population



Subpopulation* Data



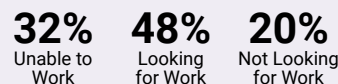
Accommodation on Count Night



Employment Status

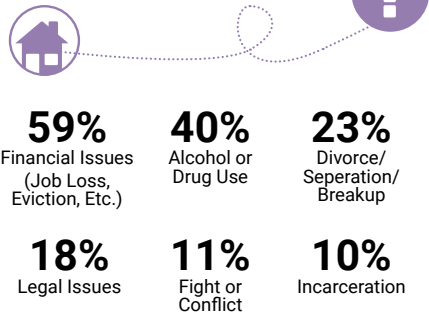


Unemployment Status



Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness*

Top 6 Responses^Δ

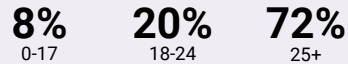


First Episode of Homelessness



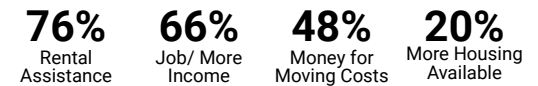
55% of survey respondents indicated their current episode of homelessness was their first.

Age at First Episode of Homelessness

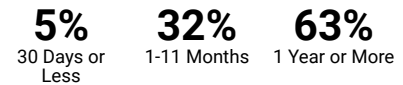


Ways to Obtain Permanent Housing*

Top 4 Responses^Δ



Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness



Self-Reported Health*

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



44%

Depression



45%

Alcohol & Drug Use



27%

Physical Disability



25%

Chronic Health Problems



PTSD

23%

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder



19%

Other Psychiatric/Emotional Conditions



10%

Traumatic Brain Injury



1%

HIV/AIDS Related Illness

Disabling Conditions

58% of survey respondents reported having at least one disabling condition.



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

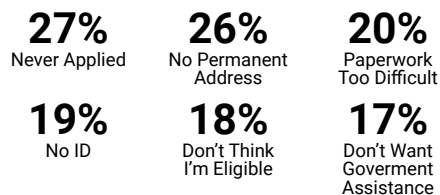
Services and Assistance



61% of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance*

Top 6 Responses^Δ



Services Currently Accessing*

Top 6 Responses^Δ



*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 2019.

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2019, Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey, Watsonville, CA.



Point-in-Time Census

The 2019 Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Census represents a complete enumeration of all sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. It consisted of two primary components:

- **General Street Count:** An early morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 31, 2019. 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.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately-operated shelters on January 30, 2019. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

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

- **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 31, 2019.
- **Targeted County Office of Education (COE) Street Count of K-12 Students and Their Families:** A count of unsheltered homeless students and their families reported by the Monterey County Office of Education for the night of January 30, 2019.
- **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview of sheltered and unsheltered individuals conducted by peer surveyors in the weeks following the general street count. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Census estimates.

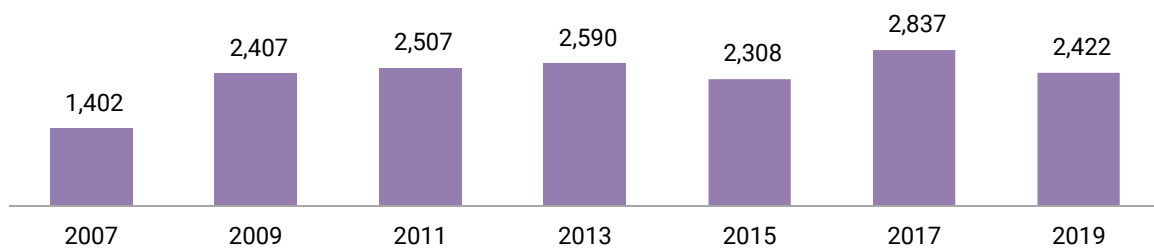
This section of the report provides a summary of the results of the Point-in-Time Census. For comparison, results from prior years are provided to better understand the trends and characteristics of homelessness over time.

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

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN MONTEREY COUNTY

The 2019 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey found a total of 2,422 persons experiencing homelessness on January 31, 2019, similar to the results for the last 10 years. This represents, however, a 15% decrease from 2017 and is the second 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 2019 homeless census effort.

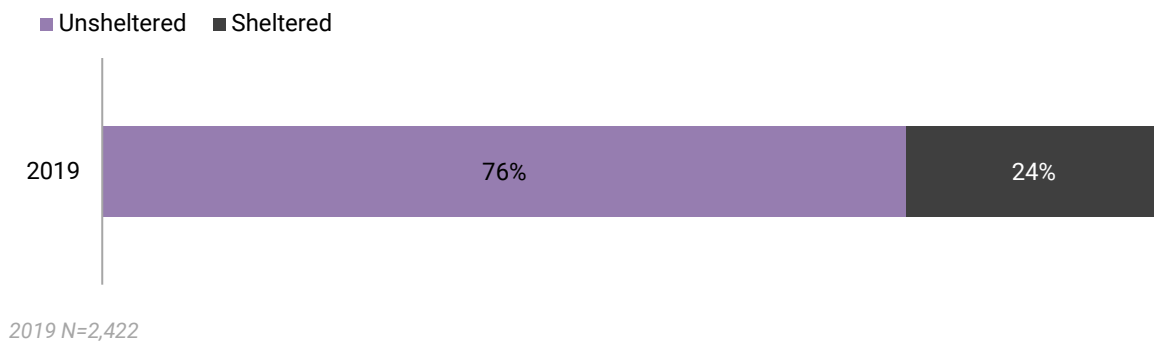
FIGURE 1. TOTAL POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



TYPE OF SHELTER

The majority (76%) 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 24% 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.

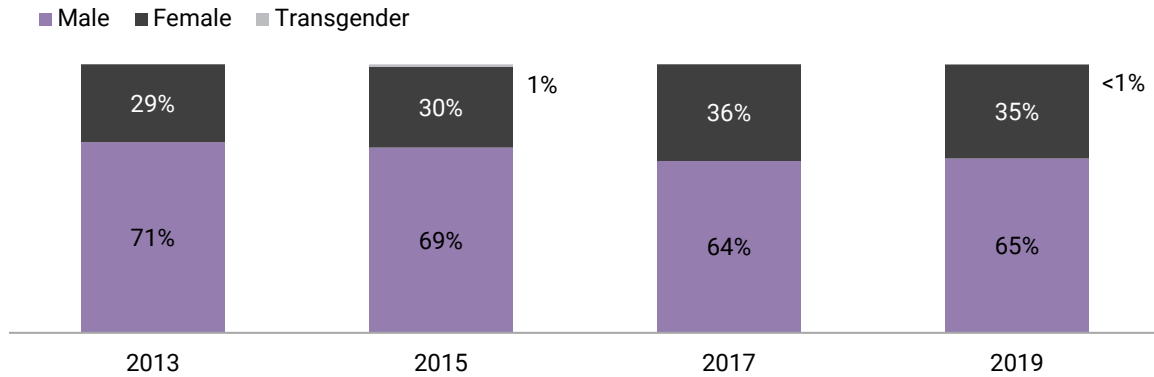
FIGURE 2. HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

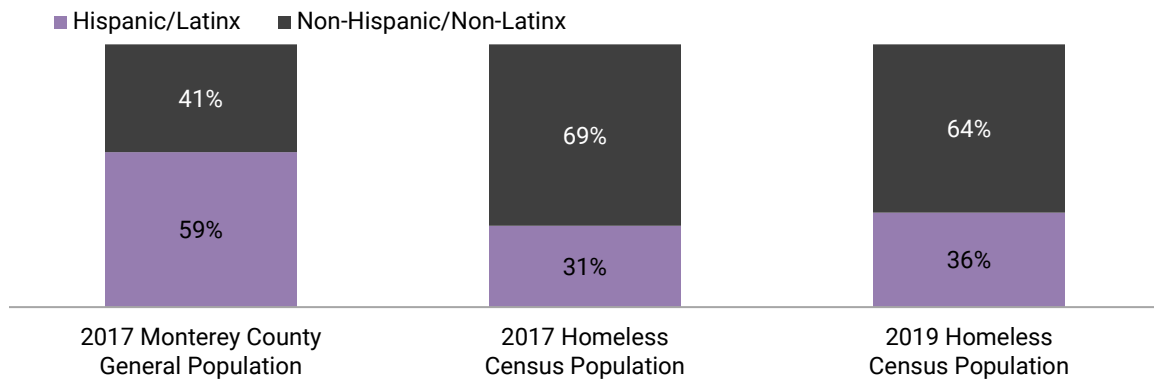
About two-third (65%) of homeless individuals were male, 35% were female, and less than 1% were transgender. Thirty-six percent (36%) indicated that they were of Hispanic/Latinx origin, which was much lower than the general population of Monterey County (59%). In terms of racial identity, 50% identified as White, 25% identified as Black/African American, and 20% identified as multi-race/other. A much higher proportion of homeless individuals identified as Black/African-American than the general population (25% compared to 3%, respectively).

FIGURE 3. HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER



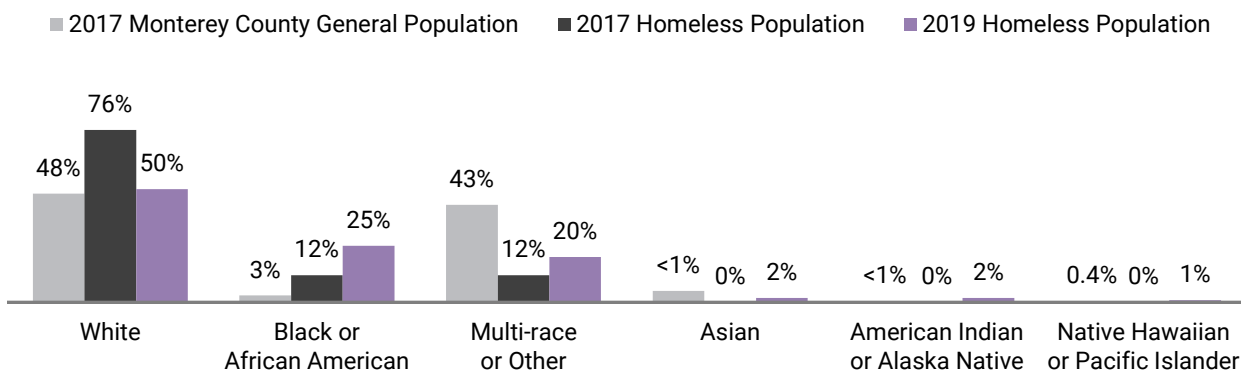
2013 N=2,590; 2015 N=2,308; 2017 N=2,837; 2019 N=2,422
 Note: Transgender was not a response option in 2013.

FIGURE 4. HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY HISPANIC OR LATINX ORIGIN



General Population: 2017 N=437,907
 Homeless Census Population: 2017 N=2,837; 2019 N=2,422

FIGURE 5. POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



General Population: 2017 N=437,907
 Homeless Census Population: 2017 N=2,837; 2019 N=2,422

JURISDICTIONAL BREAKDOWN

The 15% decrease in homelessness across Monterey County was mirrored across its sheltered and unsheltered populations. Of the jurisdictions in the county, Seaside and Soledad were the only two to see increases, rising 86% and 169% from 2017 to 2019. Salinas saw a decrease of 13%, while Marina saw a small decrease of just 3%.

FIGURE 6. HOMELESS POPULATION BY JURISDICTION

JURISDICTION	UNSHeltered			SHeltered			TOTAL			'17-'19 % Change
	2015	2017	2019	2015	2017	2019	2015	2017	2019	
Total Incorporated	1,300	1,692	1,492	601	724	560	1,901	2,416	2,052	-15%
Monterey	306	292	167	31	46	37	337	338	204	-40%
Salinas	634	1,097	976	233	264	206	867	1,361	1,182	-13%
Marina	68	51	98	230	356	261	298	407	396	-3%
Seaside	152	40	126	107	58	56	259	98	182	86%
Sand City	55	31	8	0	0	0	55	31	8	*
Gonzales	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	21	*
Pacific Grove	13	35	14	0	0	0	13	35	14	*
King City	4	0	27	0	0	0	4	0	27	*
Greenfield	2	6	14	0	0	0	2	6	14	*
Del Rey Oaks	55	111	0	0	0	0	55	111	0	*
Carmel	6	16	6	0	0	0	6	16	6	*
Soledad	5	13	35	0	0	0	5	13	35	169%
Total Unincorporated	330	421	338	77	0	32	407	419	370	-12%
Pajaro	144	14	10	77	0	32	221	14	42	*
Prunedale	8	16	50	0	0	0	8	16	50	*
Other	178	391	278	0	0	0	178	391	278	-29%
Total	1,630	2,113	1,830	678	724	592	2,308	2,837	2,422	-15%

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 2019 Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Census Homeless Survey component. As previously mentioned, an in-depth survey was administered in the weeks following the Point-in-Time census to collect basic demographic details as well as information including service needs and utilization. Surveys were administered between January 31 and February 28, 2019 to a randomized sample of individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness.

The Homeless Survey effort resulted in 450 unique, complete, and valid surveys. Based on the Point-in-Time count of 2,422 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process employed, these surveys should represent a confidence interval of +/-4.2% 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 4.2% points of the current results.

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

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

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

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

AGE

Seven percent (7%) of survey respondents were under the age of 25 at the time of the 2019 survey. While the age breakdowns below are based on sampling, they may not represent the complete age distributions of the population experiencing homelessness. They do, however, help highlight some general shifts in the age profiles of the population. Thirty-two percent (32%) 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	2015	2017	2019
Less than 18 Years	1%	1%	0%
18-24 Years	9%	12%	7%
25-30 Years	17%	14%	9%
31-40 Years	30%	23%	23%
41-50 Years	20%	27%	21%
51-60 Years	15%	15%	28%
61 Years or More	8%	8%	12%

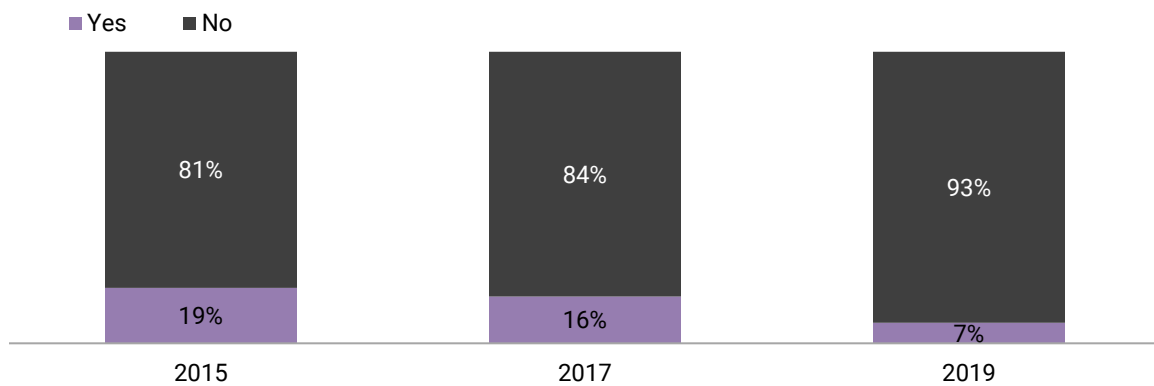
2015 N=344; 2017 N=654; 2019 N=450

GENDER AND LGBTQ+ IDENTITY

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of survey respondents identified as male, 36% identified as female, and <1% identified as gender non-conforming (i.e., didn't identify as male, female or transgender). No respondents identified as transgender in 2019. Among female respondents, 4% indicated that they were currently pregnant.

While there are limited data available on the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ+) individuals experiencing homelessness, available nationwide data suggest that LGBTQ+ individuals experience homelessness at higher rates than the general population, especially those under the age of 25. Seven percent (7%) of homeless survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+ in 2019. Of these respondents, over half (56%) identified as bisexual, 16% identified as gay, and 16% identified as lesbian.

FIGURE 8. SURVEY RESPONDENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+



LGBTQ+ Identity: 2015 N=444; 2017 N=654; 2019 N=450

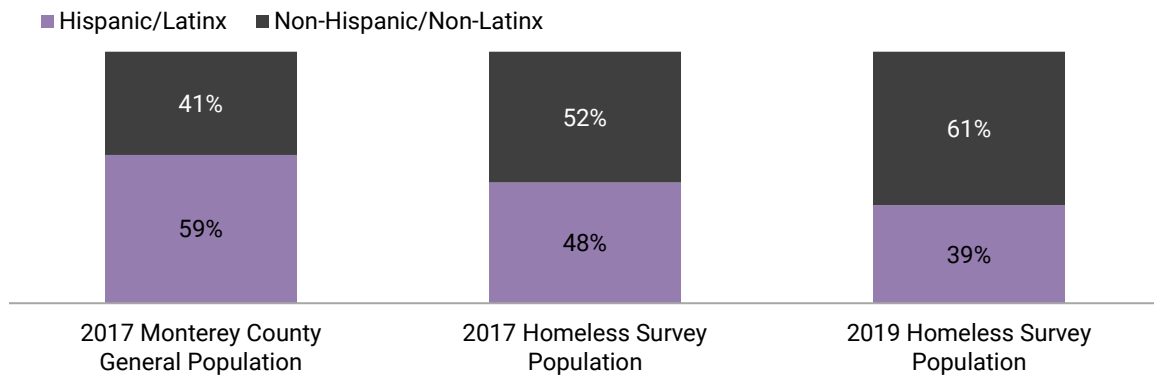
Note: Due to the small number of respondents, a breakout section of respondents chosen sexual orientation is not available.

RACE/ETHNICITY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity in two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. When asked if they identified as Hispanic or Latinx, well over one-third (39%) of homeless survey respondents indicated they did in 2019, a smaller percentage compared to the general population of Monterey County (59%) and a continuation of the downward trend seen in 2017.

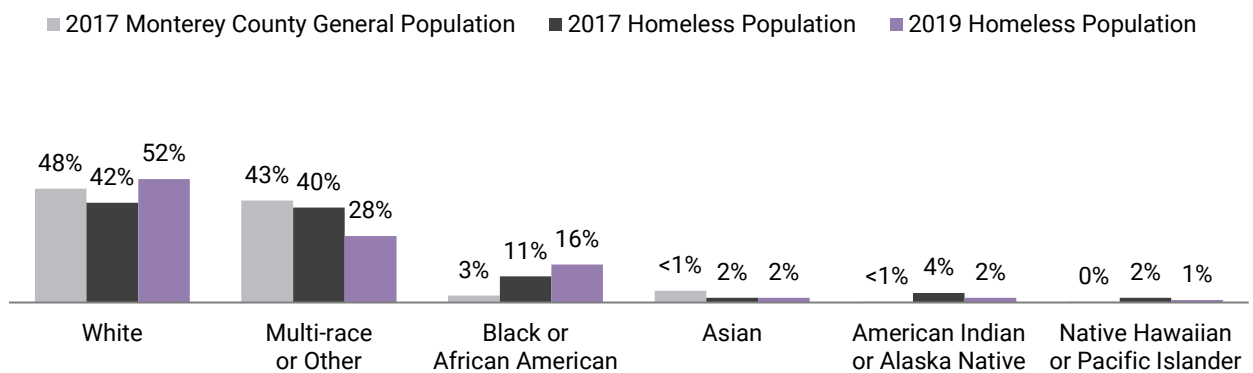
Regarding racial identity, more than half (52%) of respondents identified as White in 2019, similar to the general population (48%). However, a much higher proportion of homeless respondents identified as Black/African-American than in the general population (16% compared to 3%).

FIGURE 9. SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY HISPANIC OR LATINX ORIGIN



General Population: 2017 N=437,907
Homeless Survey Population: 2017 N=621; 2019 N=442

FIGURE 10. SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY RACE



General Population: 2017 N=437,907
Homeless Survey Population: 2017 N=617; 2019 N=383

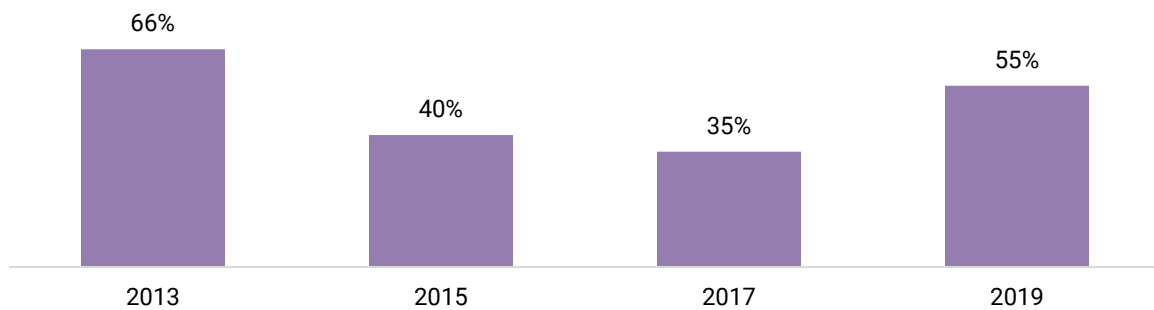
INCIDENCE AND DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

Unstable living conditions, poverty, housing scarcity, and many other issues often lead to individuals experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness. For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability and poverty.

FIRST INCIDENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

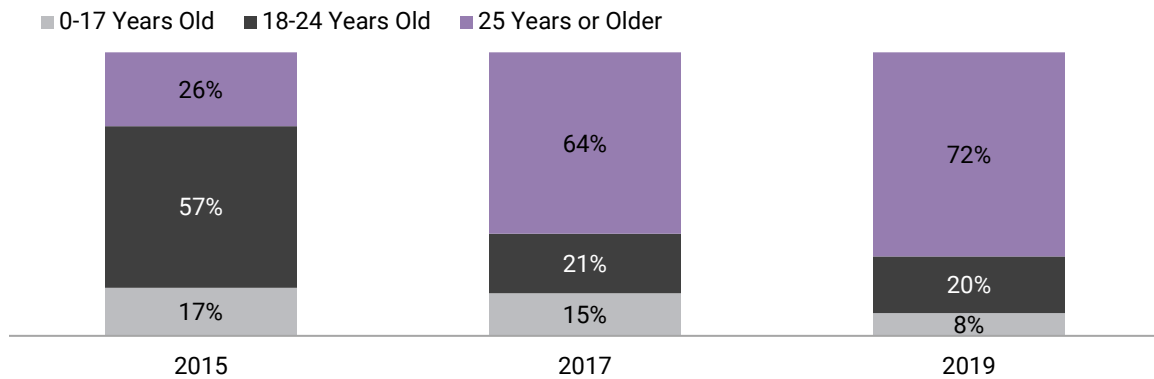
Of those surveyed in 2019, over half (55%) reported that the current episode of homelessness was their first time experiencing homelessness, representing a large rate of increase over 2017 and reversing the downward trend from previous years. Respondents were also asked their age at the time they experienced homelessness for the first time. In response, the majority (72%) reported they were 25 years or older, while 20% 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



2013 N=404; 2015 N=427; 2017 N=652; 2019 N=444

FIGURE 12. AGE WHEN EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME

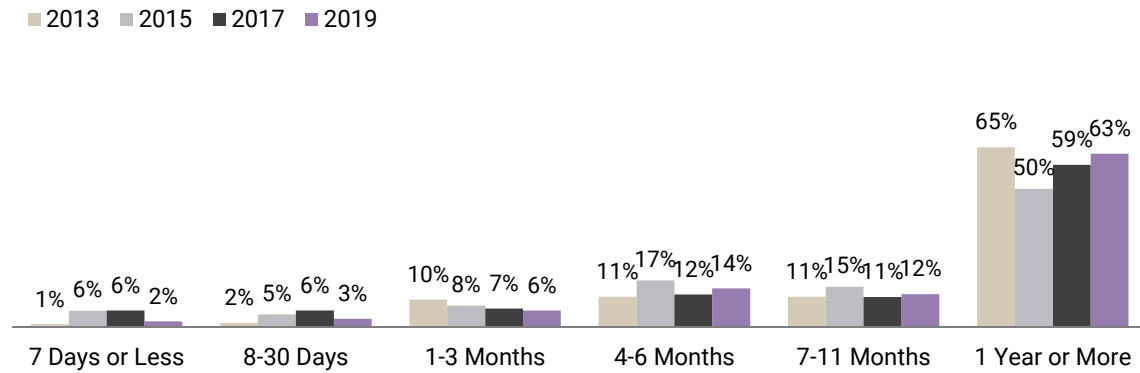


2015 N=427; 2017 N=634; 2019 N=448

DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

When asked about the duration of their current episode of homelessness, nearly two-thirds (63%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or longer. These findings are similar to 2017, when 59% of respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more.

FIGURE 13. DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



2013 N=399; 2015 N=438; 2017 N=652; 2019 N=447

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.

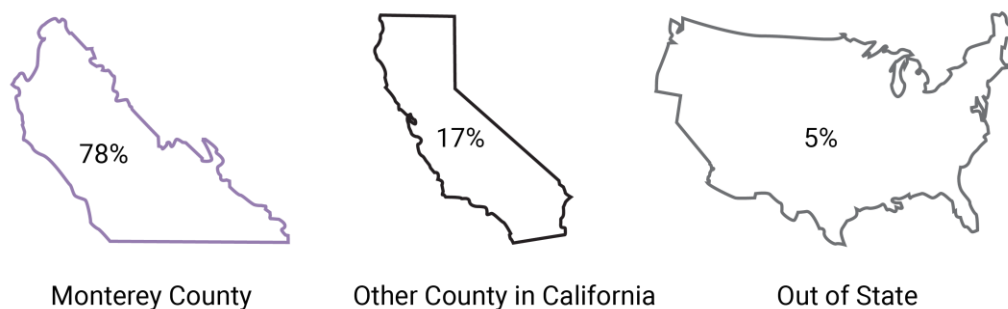
PLACE OF RESIDENCE

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 2019 survey revealed that the majority (78%) of respondents reported they were living in Monterey County at the most recent time they became homeless, similar to 2017 (83%). Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents reported they were living in another county in California, and 5% reported they were living out of state.

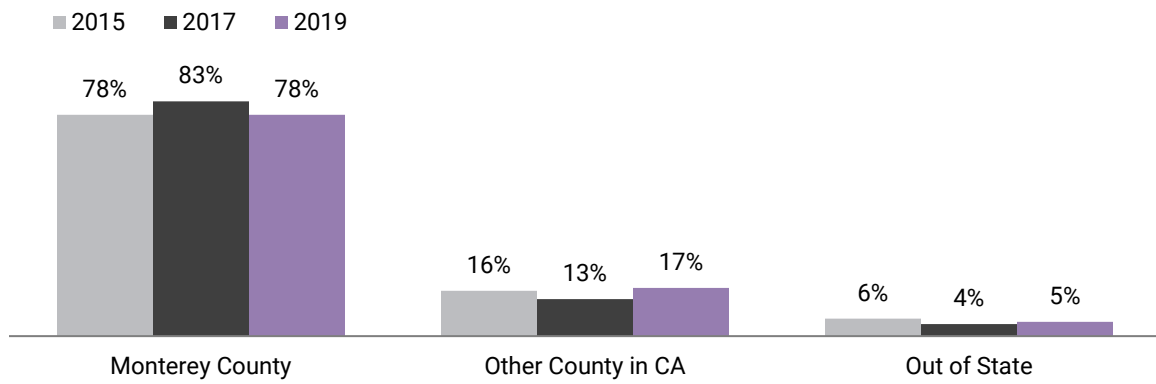
When asked how long they had lived in Monterey County, more than two-thirds (68%) responded 5 years or longer, while 11% indicated they had resided in Monterey County for less than one year.

FIGURE 14. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT RECENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



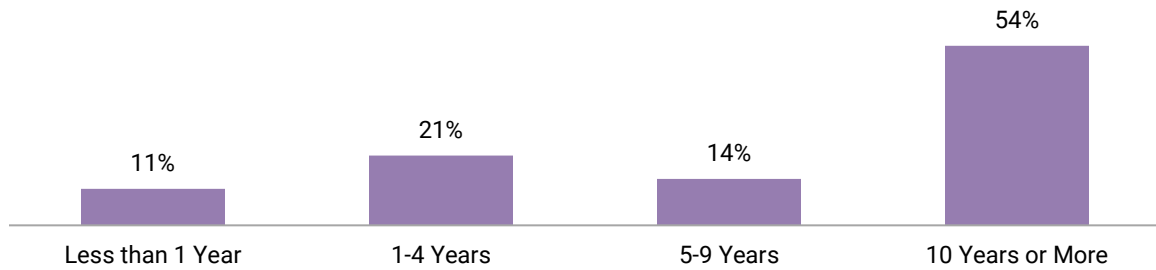
2019 N=446

FIGURE 15. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



2015 N=435; 2017 N=642; 2019 N=446

FIGURE 16. LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN MONTEREY COUNTY



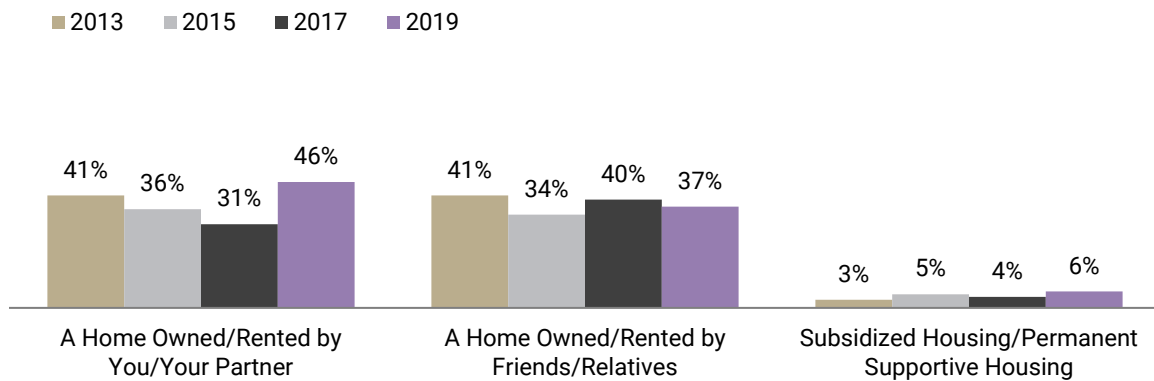
2019 N=429

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

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

Just under half (46%) of survey respondents reported they were living in a home owned or rented by them or their partner prior to becoming homeless, much higher than reported in 2017 (31%). Thirty-seven percent (37%) reported they were living with friends or relatives and 6% reported they were staying in subsidized or permanent supportive housing.

FIGURE 17. PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS (TOP RESPONSES IN 2019)



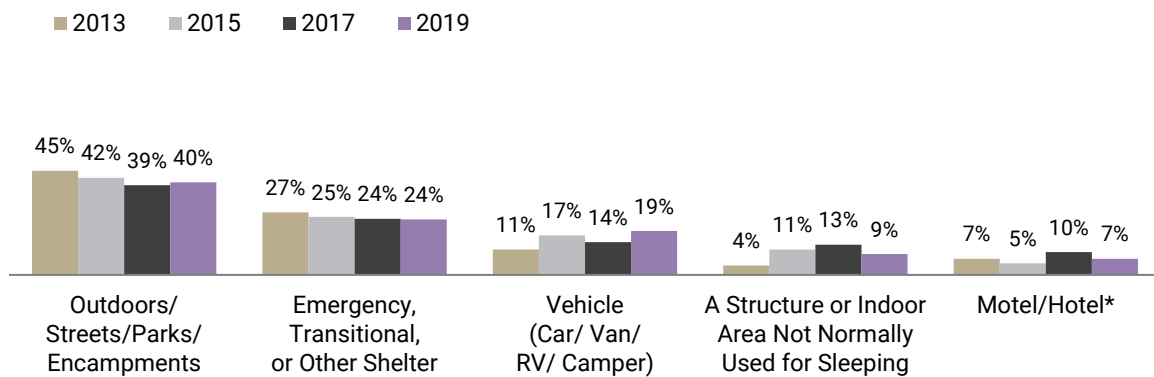
2011 N=514; 2013 N=380; 2015 N=423; 2017 N=623; 2019 N=439

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 individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts.

Forty percent (40%) of survey respondents reported currently living outdoors, either on the streets, in parks, or in encampment areas. Twenty-four percent (24%) reported currently staying in a shelter or transitional housing, and 19% reported staying in a vehicle, one of the larger living arrangement increases.

FIGURE 18. CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS



2011 N=512; 2013 N=402; 2015 N=435; 2017 N=654; 2019 N=450

* 2013 response option specified that motel/hotel was paid for by an agency.

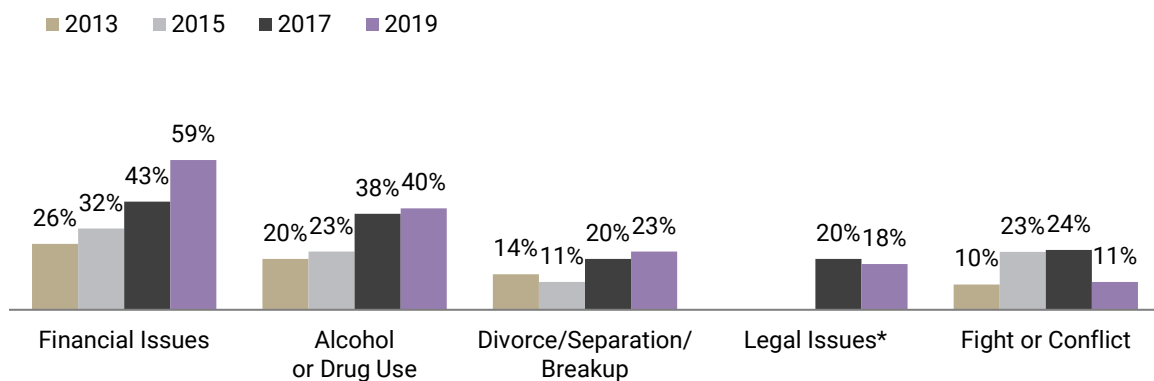
CAUSES AND OBSTACLES OF HOMELESSNESS

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-nine percent (59%) 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. Almost 40% cited alcohol or drug use, 23% cited a divorce/separation, and 18% cited legal issues.

FIGURE 19. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP RESPONSES IN 2019)



2011 N=512 respondents offering 977 responses; 2013 N=401 respondents offering 440 responses; 2015 N=434 respondents offering 687 responses; 2017 N=631 respondents offering 1,336 responses; 2019 N=445 respondents offering 908 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

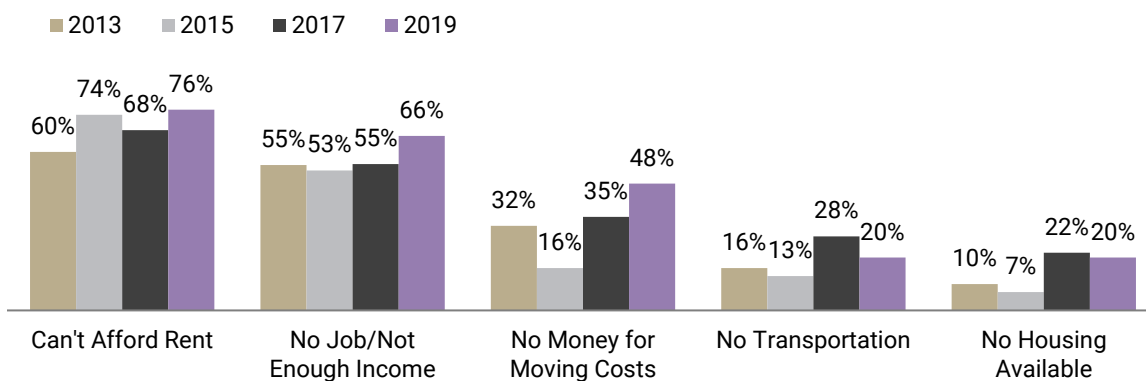
* Legal issues was added as a response option in 2017.

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 76% of survey respondents, suggesting housing affordability and poverty issues as key obstacles. This was followed by 66% who reported a lack of job or not enough income, and 48% who said they had no money for moving costs.

FIGURE 20. OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING (TOP RESPONSES IN 2019)

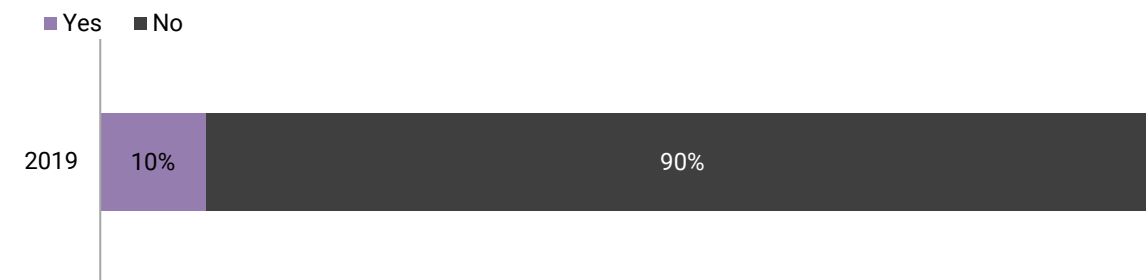


2011 N=495 respondents offering 1,138 responses; 2013 N=392 respondents offering 892 responses; 2015 N=430 respondents offering 1,021 responses; 2017 N=628 respondents offering 1,806 responses; 2019 N=445 respondents offering 1,313 responses. Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

One in ten (10%) respondents indicated that they had been in foster care sometime in their lifetime, slightly lower than in 2017 (13%).

FIGURE 21. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE



2019 N=435

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.

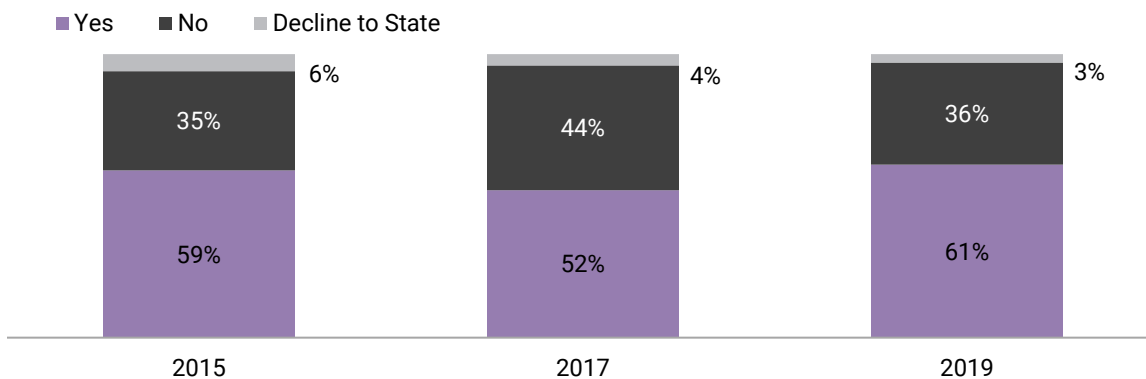
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

There are various forms of government assistance available to individuals experiencing homelessness. However, usage of this assistance is impacted by knowledge of services available, and understanding of eligibility requirements.

Sixty-one percent (61%) of survey respondents reported in 2019 that they were receiving some form of government assistance (e.g., Social security, Food Stamps, Disability, Medi-Cal, CalWorks, VA benefits), a higher percentage than in 2017 (52%). This may be influenced by the increasing number of older persons experiencing homelessness.

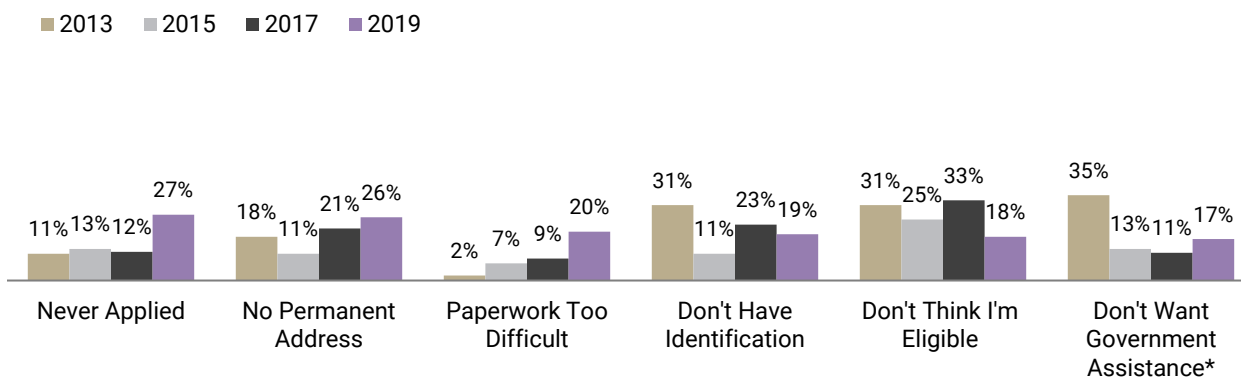
Of those who reported they were not receiving any form of government support (36%), the greatest percentage communicated that they never applied (27%). Twenty-six percent (26%) indicated they didn't have a permanent address and 20% thought that the paperwork was too difficult.

FIGURE 22. RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



2015 N=438; 2017 N=642; 2019 N=439

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



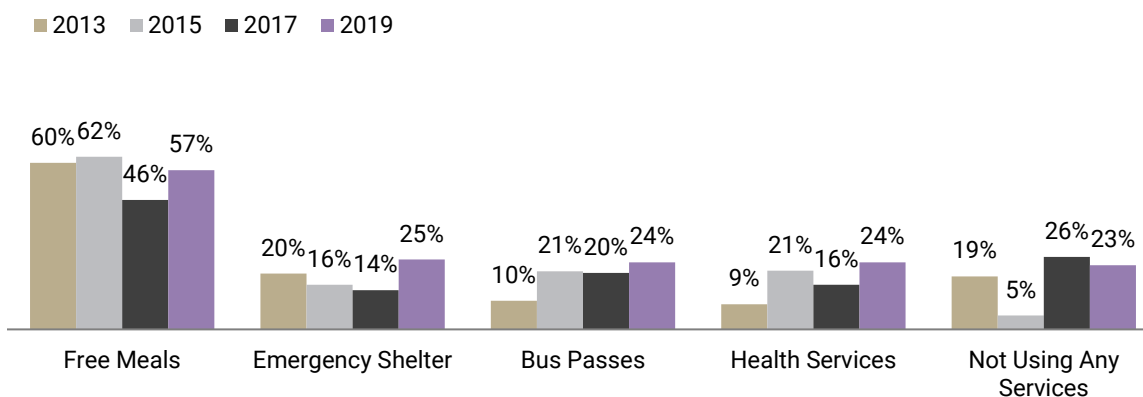
2011 N=195 respondents offering 469 responses; 2013 N=107 respondents offering 171 responses; 2015 N=138 respondents offering 190 responses 2017 N=280 respondents offering 421 responses; 2019 N=158 respondents offering 249 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.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

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

In addition to government assistance, there are numerous community-based services and programs available to persons experiencing homelessness. These services range from day shelters and meal programs to job training and healthcare.

The majority (77%) of survey respondents in 2019 reported they were accessing non-government forms of services and assistance. The most frequently cited types of assistance respondents reported accessing were meal services (57%), emergency shelter (25%), bus passes (24%), and health services (24%).

FIGURE 24. RECEIPT OF SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE (TOP RESPONSES)



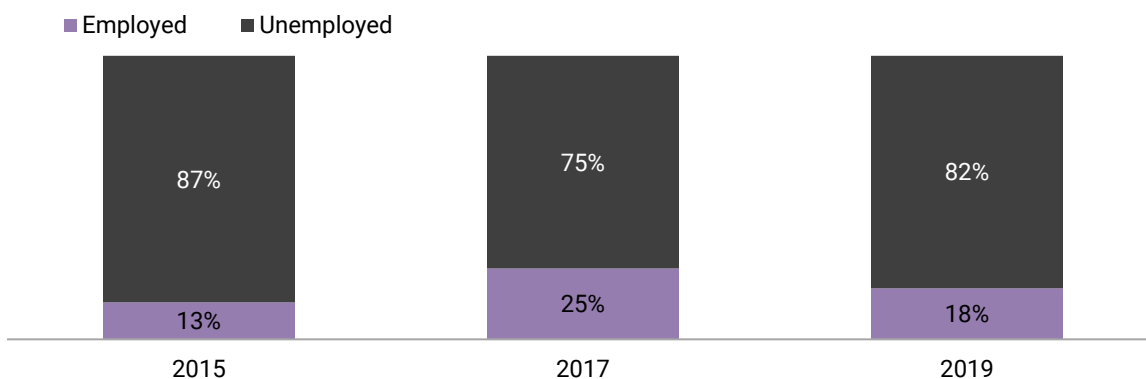
2011 N=379 respondents offering 713 responses; 2013 N=319 respondents offering 369 responses; 2015 N=427 respondents offering 923 responses; 2017 N=614 respondents offering 1,206 responses.; 2019 N=442 respondents offering 992 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The unemployment rate in Monterey County in January 2019 was at 10%, down slightly from 11% in January 2017.¹ 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 82%, an increase from 75% in 2017. Forty-eight percent (48%) of unemployed respondents indicated that they were currently looking for work, 20% indicated they were not, and 32% indicated they were currently unable to work. While the majority (82%) of survey respondents reported being unemployed, a number reported having part-time or seasonal/sporadic employment (15%) and even full-time employment (3%). 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, 77% were making less than \$1,100 monthly, and, unsurprisingly, even more unemployed survey respondents (90%) were making less than \$1,100 monthly. Typically, income for unemployed homeless individuals comes from government benefits, recycling, and panhandling.

FIGURE 25. EMPLOYMENT STATUS



2015 N=326; 2017 N=593; 2019 N=441

FIGURE 26. MONTHLY INCOME BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED		
	2015	2017	2019	2015	2017	2019
Less Than \$750	42%	44%	49%	86%	79%	74%
\$750-\$1,099	17%	23%	28%	10%	11%	16%
\$1,100-\$1,499	22%	16%	15%	3%	8%	9%
\$1,500 or More	20%	17%	8%	0%	1%	2%

2015 N=194; 2017 N=586; 2019 N=404

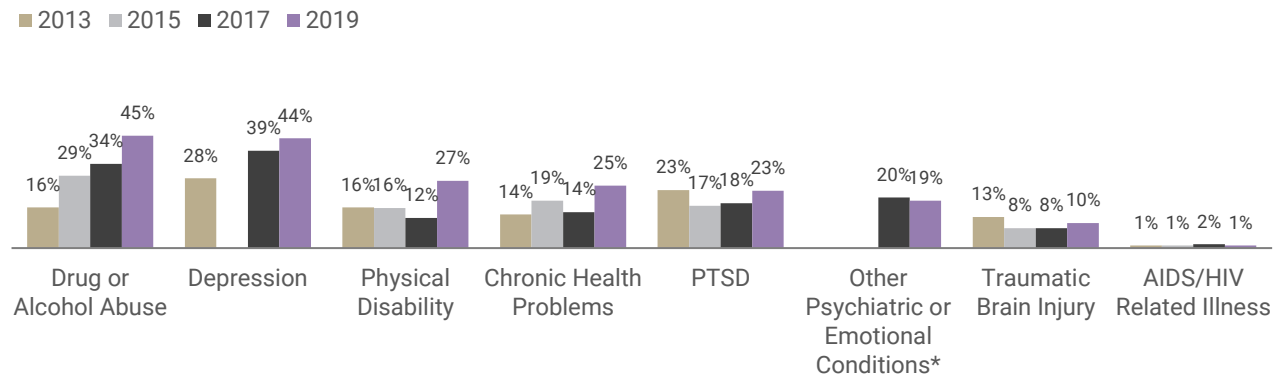
¹State of California Employment Development Department. (2019). Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). Retrieved from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and can often endure longer hospitalizations. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay four days, or 36%, longer per hospital admission than non-homeless patients.²

The top health conditions survey respondents reported experiencing in 2019 were: drug/alcohol abuse (45%); depression (44%); a physical disability (27%); and chronic health problems (25%). Virtually all of the health conditions showed increases from previous survey efforts.

FIGURE 27. HEALTH CONDITIONS



2013 N=392 2015 N=502; 2017 N=654; 2019 N=450

* Other psychiatric or emotional conditions was added as a response option in 2017. Depression was not a response option in 2015.

² Sharon A. Salit, M. E. (1998). Hospitalization Costs Associated with Homelessness in New York City. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 338, 1734-1740.

DOMESTIC/PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

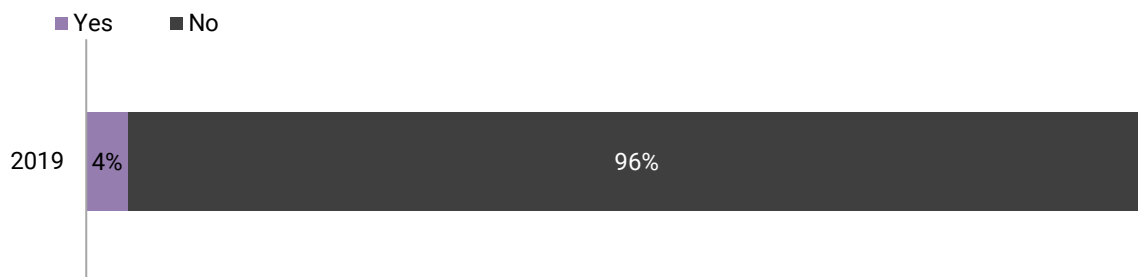
Histories of domestic violence and partner abuse are prevalent among individuals experiencing homelessness and can be the primary cause of homelessness for many. Survivors often lack the financial resources required for housing, as their employment history or dependable income may be limited.

Four percent (4%) 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, 26% indicated that they have.

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



FIGURE 29. CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE



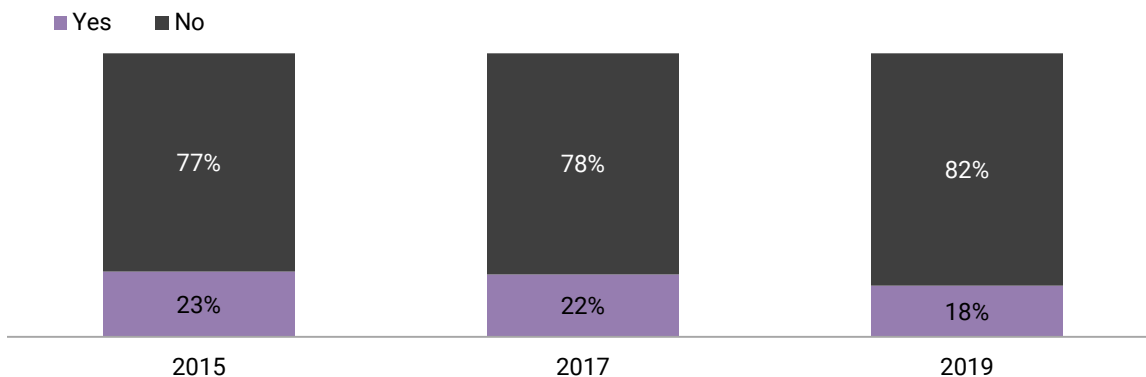
N=450

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Homelessness and incarceration are often correlative. 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 stigmatization and policies affecting their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.³

Nearly one in five (18%) survey respondents reported that they had spent a night in jail or prison in the past year, similar to 2017 findings (22%). Further, 11% of respondents reported having been on probation/parole at the time they became homeless, and 12% 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

³ Greenberg, GA, Rosenheck, RA. (2008). Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study. *Psychiatric Services*, 2008 Feb;59(2): 170-7.



Subpopulations

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.



PERSONS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

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

The chronically homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations on the street; the mortality rate for those experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than that of the general population.⁴ Data from communities across the country reveal that public costs incurred by those experiencing extended periods of homelessness include emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and regular access to social supports and homeless services. These combined costs have been proven in multiple studies to be significantly higher than the cost of providing individuals with permanent housing and supportive services.

In 2017, HUD reported that 86,962 individuals, representing 24% of the overall homeless population, were experiencing chronic homelessness.⁵ Chronic homelessness has been on the decline in recent years as communities across the country increase the capacity of their permanent supportive housing programs and prioritize those with the greatest barriers to housing stability and poorest actuarial assessment.

⁴ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2010). Supplemental Document to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: June 2010. Retrieved 2017 from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/BkgrdPap_ChronicHomelessness.pdf

⁵ Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2018 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

ESTIMATES OF INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

There were a total of 562 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in 2019, representing 23% of the overall Point-in-Time count of the homeless population in Monterey County and a 7% reduction from 2017. The percentage of people experiencing chronic homelessness is very close to the national average. An overwhelming majority (86%) of chronically homeless individuals were unsheltered.

FIGURE 31. CHRONICALLY HOMELESS SUBPOPULATION

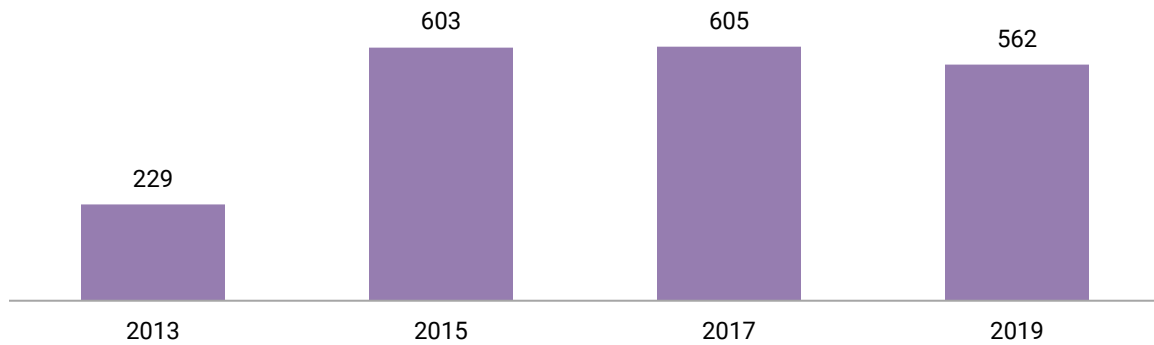
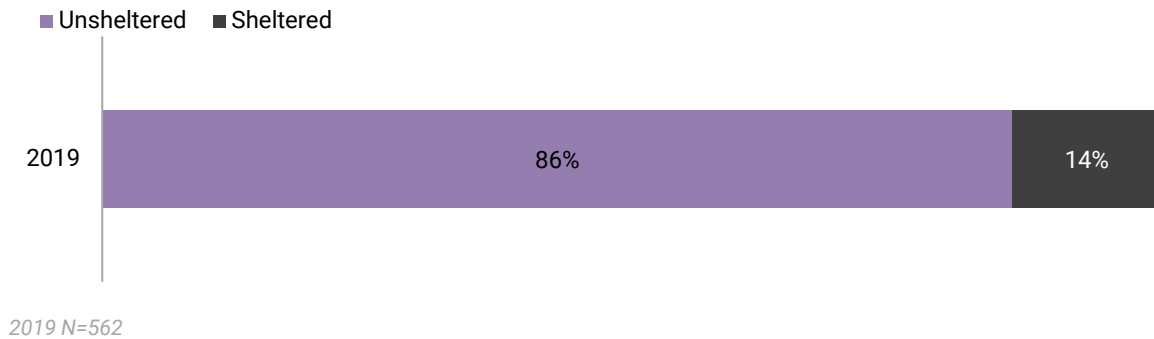


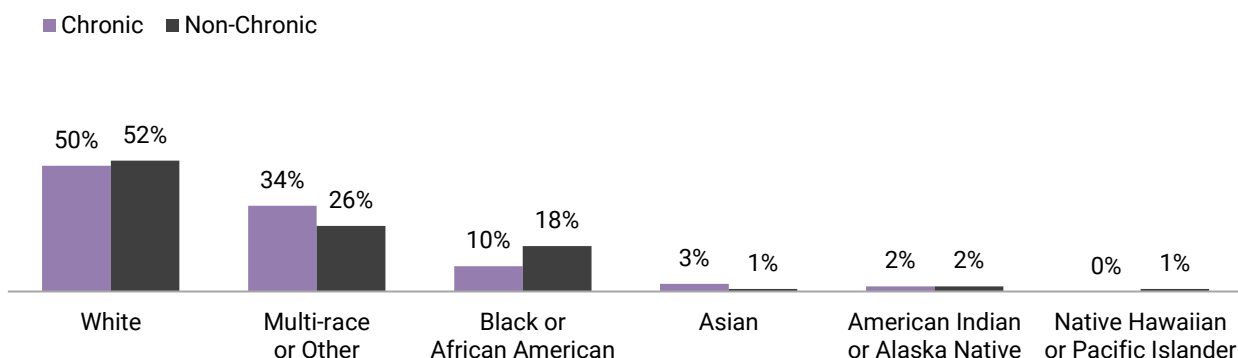
FIGURE 32. CHRONICALLY HOMELESS SUBPOPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS RESPONDENTS

The majority (72%) of chronically homeless survey respondents identified as male, higher than the non-chronically homeless population (60%). Similarly, a higher percentage of chronically homeless respondents identified as Hispanic or Latinx (45%) compared to non-chronically homeless respondents (36%). Most chronically homeless respondents identified as White (50%), Black/African American (10%), or multi-race/other (34%).

FIGURE 33. CHRONICALLY HOMELESS RESPONDENTS BY RACE

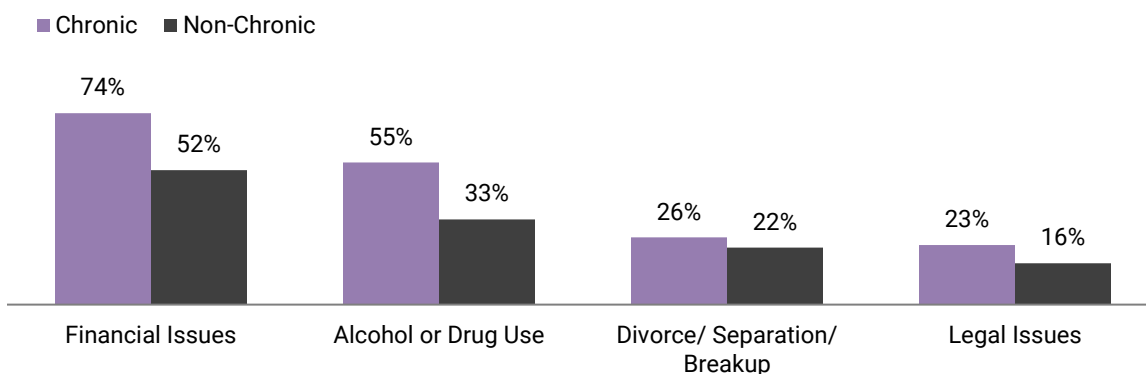


2019 Chronic N=105; 2019 Non-Chronic N=278

CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS RESPONDENTS

Financial issues (e.g., job loss, eviction) constituted the most frequently cited cause of homelessness among chronically homeless survey respondents (74%), but were a less commonly cited cause among survey respondents who were not chronically homeless (52%). The next most frequently cited responses among those who were chronically homeless were alcohol/drug use (55%) and a divorce/separation (26%).

FIGURE 34. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP RESPONSES)



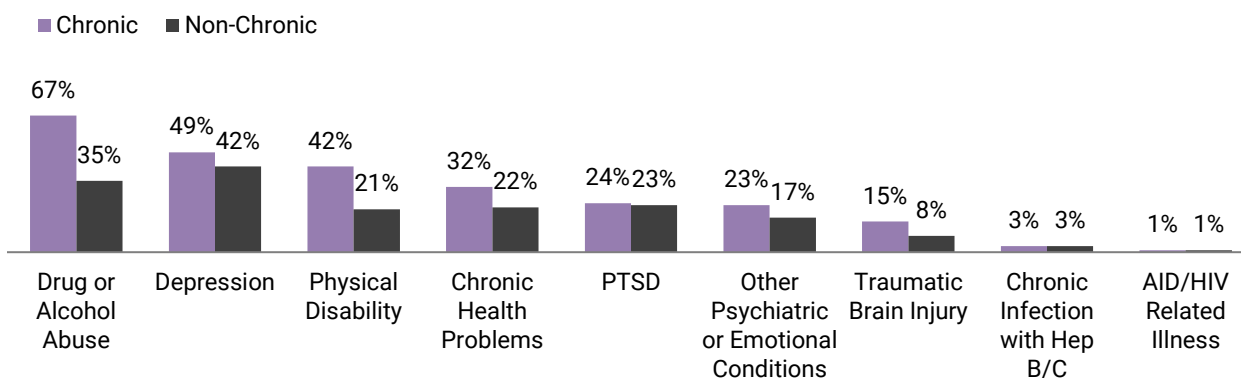
2019 Chronic N=137 respondents offering 315 responses; 2019 Non-Chronic N=308 respondents offering 593 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

To meet the definition of chronic homelessness, an individual must be experiencing at least one disabling condition. Therefore, higher rates of health conditions were reported among those who were chronically homeless compared to their non-chronically homeless counterparts.

Of the survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness, two-thirds (67%) reported experiencing drug/alcohol abuse, 49% reported experiencing depression, 42% reported experiencing a physical disability, and 32% reported experiencing chronic health problems.

FIGURE 35. HEALTH CONDITIONS



2019 Chronic N=137; 2019 Non-Chronic N=313



VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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

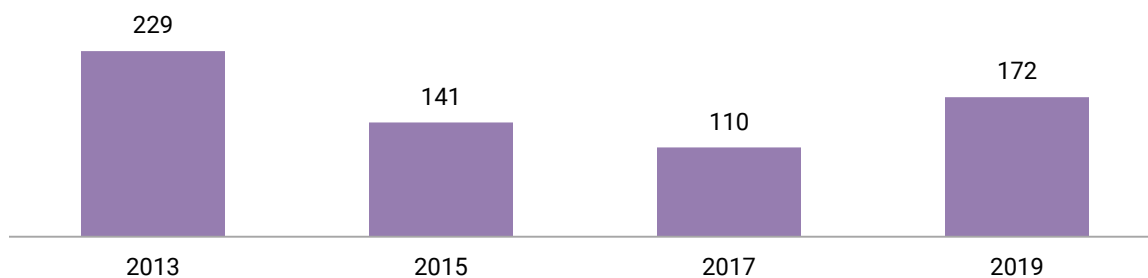
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits can involve different forms of financial assistance, including monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, health care, education, and housing benefits. In addition to these supports, the VA and HUD partner to provide additional housing and support services to veterans currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homeless.

Between 2007 and 2018, there has been a 38% decrease in the number of homeless veterans nationwide. According to data collected during the national 2016 Point-in-Time Count, 39,471 veterans experienced homelessness across the country on a single night in January 2016.⁶

ESTIMATES OF VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

One hundred and seventy-two (172) veterans experiencing homelessness were identified in Monterey County in 2019, representing 7% of the total Point-in-Time homeless population. The 2019 estimate of homeless veterans is the highest it has been since 2013 and a 56% increase over 2017's veteran estimate. Further, the majority (59%) of veterans experiencing homelessness in 2019 were unsheltered.

FIGURE 36. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



⁶ Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2017 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2014-AHAR-Part1.pdf>

FIGURE 37. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY SHELTER STATUS

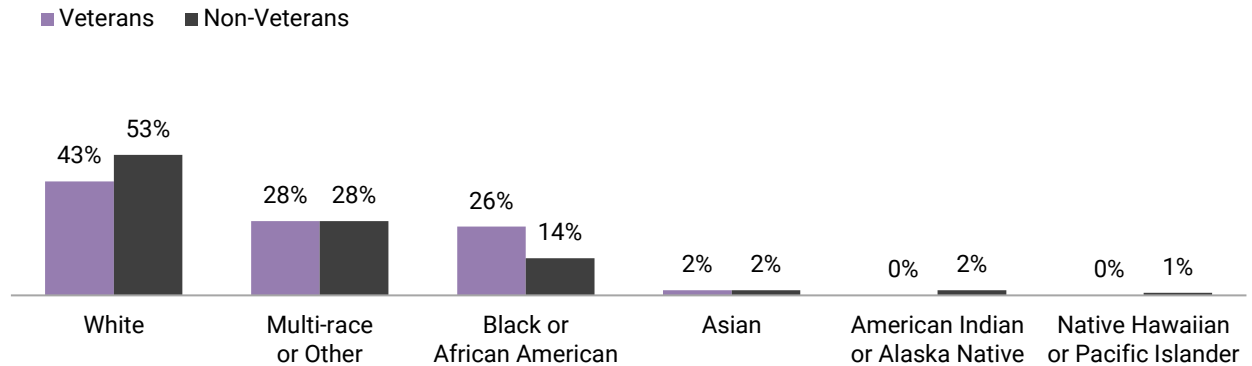


2019 N=172

DEMOGRAPHICS OF VETERAN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

A large majority (90%) of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as male and 21% identified as Hispanic or Latinx. In terms of racial identity, 43% identified as White, while 26% identified as Black/African American and 28% as multi-race or other.

FIGURE 38. VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY RACE

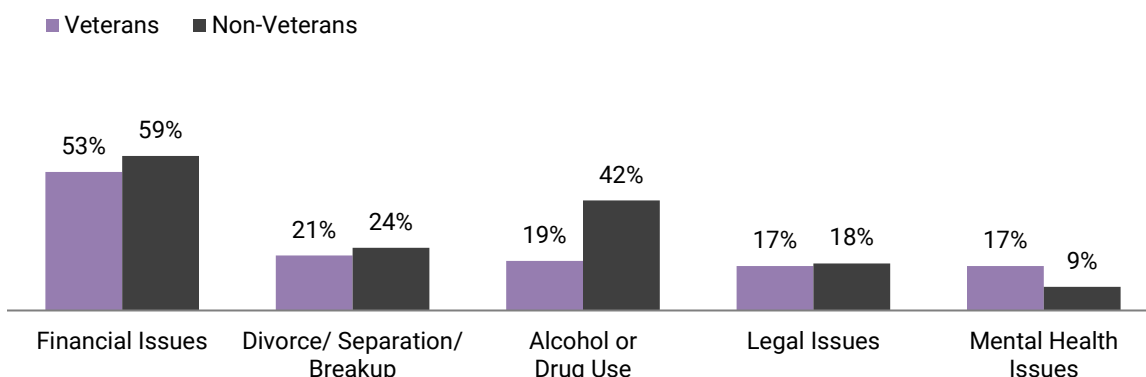


2019 Veterans N=46; 2019 Non-Veterans N=336

CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERAN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Financial issues were the most frequently cited cause of homelessness among veterans experiencing homelessness, reported by 53% of respondents. Additionally, 21% cited a divorce/separation and 19% cited alcohol/drug use as what led them to experience homelessness. Surprisingly, despite the higher rates of health issues (see below) these were not cited as “primary causes” of homelessness by respondents.

FIGURE 39. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP RESPONSES)



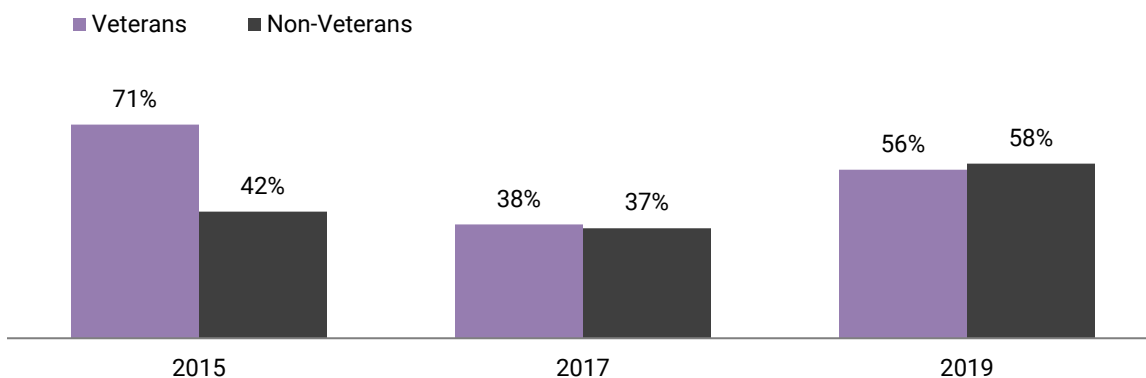
2019 Veterans N=47; 2019 Non-Veterans N=397
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG VETERAN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Over half (56%) of veterans experiencing homelessness reported having one or more disabling conditions, similar to their non-veteran counterparts (58%) representing a major increase over the 2017 rate of 38%. This represents an increase from 2017, when 38% of veterans and 37% of non-veterans reported having one or more disabling conditions.

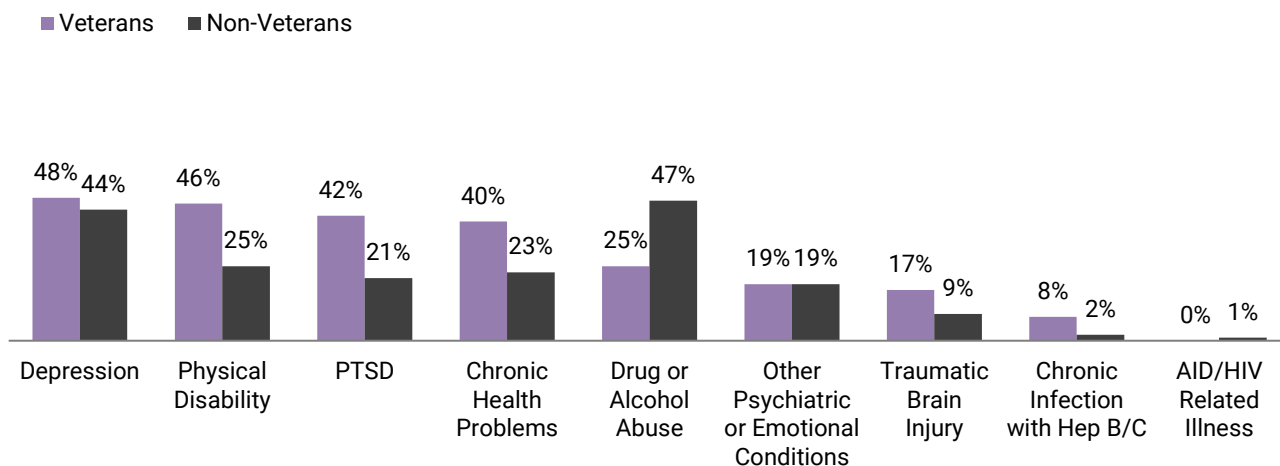
The most commonly reported condition reported by veterans experiencing homelessness was depression (48%). This was followed by a physical disability (46%), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD (42%), and chronic health problems (40%).

FIGURE 40. EXPERIENCE OF ONE OR MORE DISABLING CONDITIONS



2019 Veterans N=48; 2019 Non-Veterans N=401

FIGURE 41. HEALTH CONDITIONS



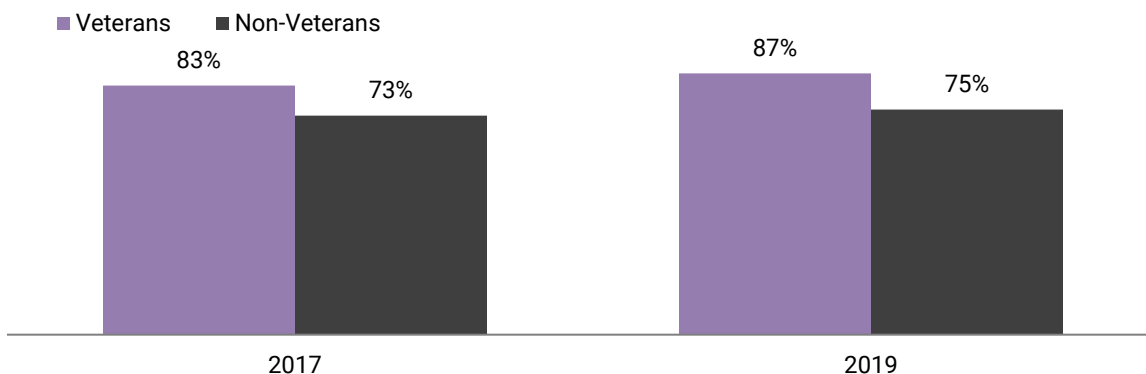
2019 Veterans N=48; 2019 Non-Veterans N=401

ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG VETERAN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The percentage of veterans experiencing homelessness connected to any form of government assistance (70%) was higher than that of non-veteran respondents (60%).

In addition, 87% of veteran respondents indicated they were accessing local, non-government services and assistance, an increase from 83% reported in 2017. The most common services/assistance that veteran respondents reported accessing in 2019 were free meals (50%), transitional housing (50%), bus passes (37%), and health services (35%).

FIGURE 42. RECEIPT OF NON-GOVERNMENT SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE



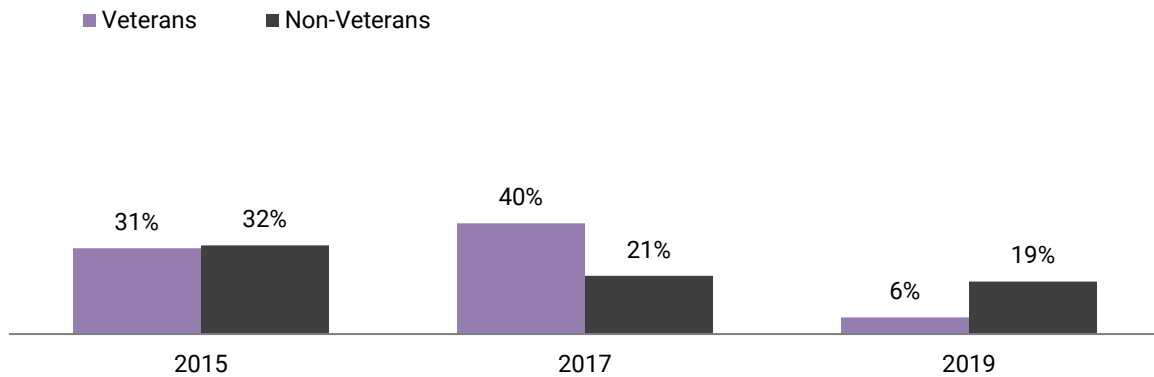
2017: Veterans N=36; Non-Veterans N=578; 2019: Veterans N=46; Non-Veterans N=395

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT AMONG VETERAN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Nationally, among those who are incarcerated, veterans are more likely than non-veterans to be first time offenders, to have committed a violent offense, and to receive longer prison sentences. Veterans who are incarcerated may also face the loss of various VA benefits during this time.⁷

Among homeless survey respondents, 6% of veterans reported having spent a night in jail in the year prior to the 2019 survey, a big decrease from 40% reported in 2017.

FIGURE 43. SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



2015: Veterans N=34; Non-Veterans N=409; 2017: Veterans N=35; Non-Veterans N=594; 2019: Veterans N=47; Non-Veterans N=397

⁷ Military Benefits. (2014). Incarcerated Veterans. Retrieved 2017 from <http://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-benefits/incarcerated-veterans.html>.



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

National data from 2017 suggest that 33% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families.⁸ Very few families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, as public shelters serve 90% of homeless families in the United States; this is a significantly higher proportion of the population compared to other subpopulations, including youth and young adults. Data on families experiencing homelessness suggest that they are not much different from other families living in poverty.

Nationally, the majority of homeless families are households headed by single women and families with children under the age of six.⁹ Children in families experiencing homelessness have increased incidence of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems than children with stable living accommodations.¹⁰

⁸ U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). The 2017 Annual Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. Retrieved 2018 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

⁹ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Characteristics and Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Retrieved 2015 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/>

¹⁰U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015). Opening Doors. Retrieved 2015 from <http://www.usich.gov/>

ESTIMATES OF FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

There were a total of 150 families consisting of 596 individual family members experiencing homelessness in Monterey County in 2019.¹¹ This represents around 25% of the total homeless population and is a 46 person increase from the 2017 count, and is the highest the count has been. While this is an increase, it must be read in the context of increased participation from the Monterey County Office of Education, allowing for a large increase in the number of districts who shared data and made follow up calls to identify families experiencing homelessness. Ten of the twenty four school districts in the county participated in 2019, when just 1 had participated in past years. The HUD PIT count definition was applied in the collection of this increased family data and not the previously mentioned McKinney-Vento Act definition.

There were 150 families with 596 family members experiencing homelessness in them. Families experiencing homelessness represented 25% of the Point-in-Time homeless population. Just less than half (49%) of families experiencing homelessness were sheltered, while the remaining 51% were unsheltered.

FIGURE 44. INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SUBPOPULATION

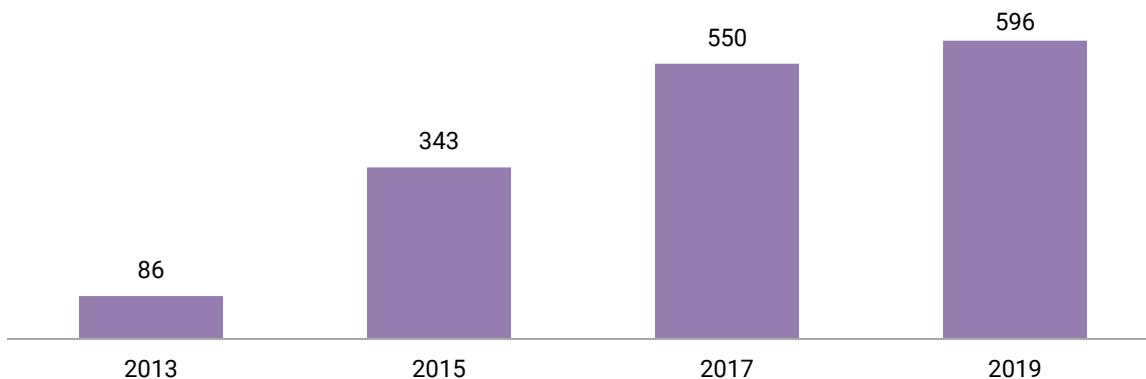


FIGURE 45. FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SUBPOPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



¹¹ There is a significant population of homeless families in “double-up” situations. These families may or may not fall within the HUD PIT count definition of homelessness and could not be identified due to their typical location on private property.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF FAMILY RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

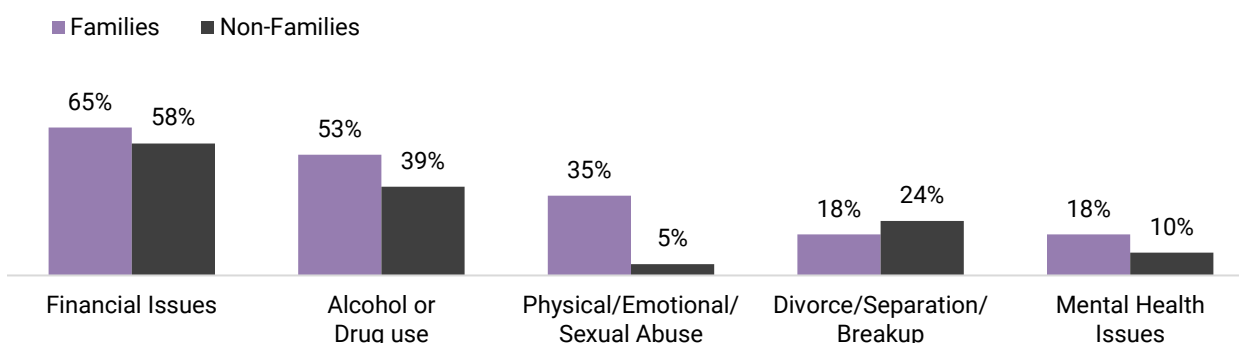
A small number of family members (a total of 17 respondents) completed a survey. Due to this small sample size, caution should be used when interpreting these data. We did not foresee this large increase and were not able to retroactively increase our quota of family survey respondents.

CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AND EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE AMONG FAMILY RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The top three causes of homelessness reported by families experiencing homelessness were financial issues, such as job loss, eviction, etc. (65%), alcohol/drug use (53%), and physical/emotional/sexual abuse (35%). Lower percentages of non-families cited these same causes.

Further, 65% of respondents with families reported that in their lifetime, they have been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused by a relative or another person you have stayed with. This is compared to 25% of non-family respondents who reported the same.

FIGURE 46. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP RESPONSES)

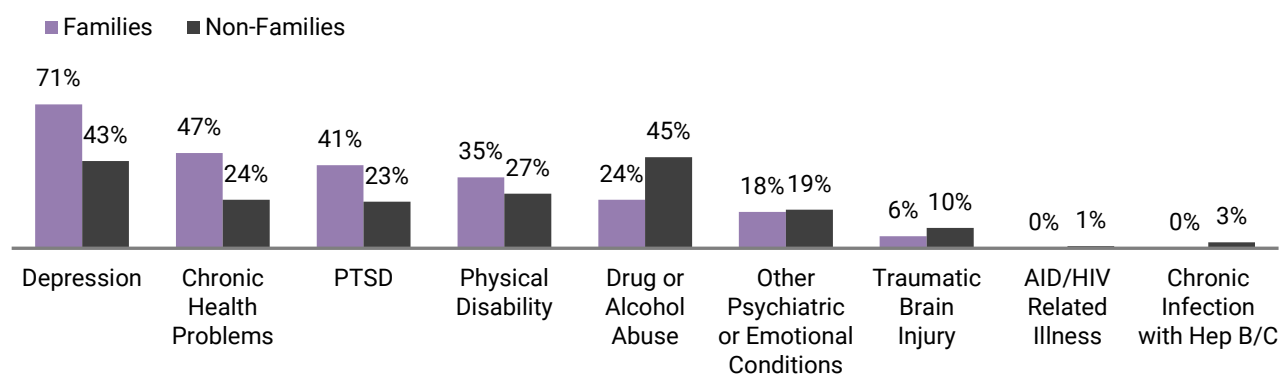


2019 Families N=17 respondents offering 41 responses; 2019 Non-Families N=428 respondents offering 867 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG FAMILY EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Among respondents with children, depression was the most frequently reported health condition (71%), followed by chronic health problems (47%) and PTSD (41%). Much smaller percentages of non-family respondents cited these same three causes.

FIGURE 47. HEALTH CONDITIONS



2019 Families N=17; 2019 Non-Families N=433



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Due to the challenges of street outreach and access to youth experiencing homelessness, limited data are available on children and youth experiencing homelessness. Although largely considered an undercount, nationwide estimates from 2017 suggest there are at least 40,799 children and youth on the streets and in public shelters, an increase of 14% over 2016.¹² This increase may be due, in part, to the focus on unaccompanied children and youth during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count, which served as a nationwide baseline year.

In 2012, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness amended the federal strategic plan to end homelessness to include specific strategies and supports to address the needs of youth and young adults. As part of this effort, HUD placed increased focus on gathering data on youth and young adults during the Point-in-Time Count. The results of this effort contribute to HUD's initiative to measure progress toward ending youth homelessness by 2020.

Young people experiencing homelessness have a harder time accessing services, including shelter, medical care, and employment. This is due to many issues including the stigma of their housing situation, lack of knowledge of available resources, and a dearth of services targeted to young people.¹³

¹² U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). The 2017 Annual Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. Retrieved 2018 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

¹³ National Coalition for the Homeless. (2011). Homeless Youth Fact Sheet. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>.

ESTIMATES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness among unaccompanied children (<18 years old) and youth (18-24 years old) is a difficult problem to identify. Children and youth are less likely to be found among the adult population experiencing homelessness, preferring locations and times of day that make traditional efforts of enumeration difficult. Accordingly, a separate youth count effort was developed with HUD and best practice methods, relying on knowledge gathered from youth currently experiencing homelessness as well as peer participation in the count itself.

In 2019, the general shelter and street counts, combined with the targeted youth count, documented 324 children and youth under age 25 experiencing homelessness.¹⁴ This represents 13% of the total Point-in-Time homeless population in Monterey County, and a 47% decrease since 2017. In 2019, an overwhelming majority (91%) of the enumerated youth and young adults were unsheltered.

FIGURE 48. CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

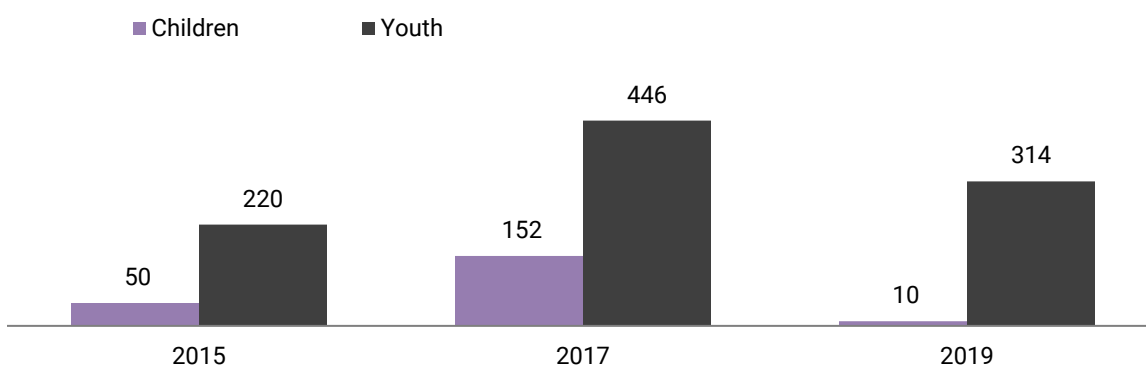
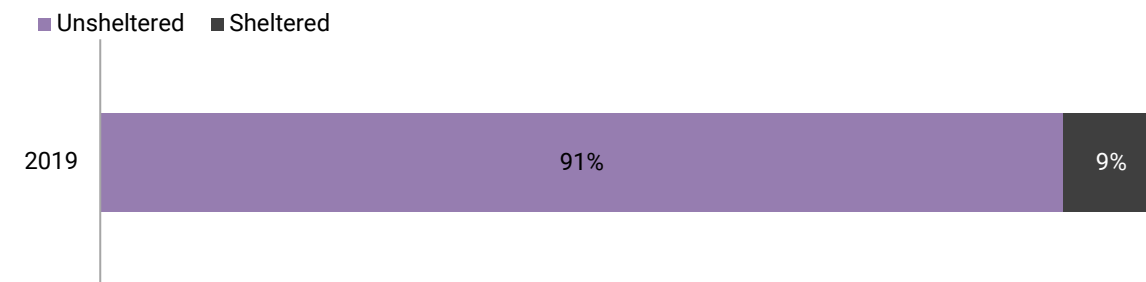


FIGURE 49. CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY SHELTER STATUS



2019 N=324

¹⁴ There is a significant population of youth and young adults in “double-up” situations. These youth and young adults may or may not fall within the HUD PIT count definition of homelessness and could not be identified due to their typical location on private property.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

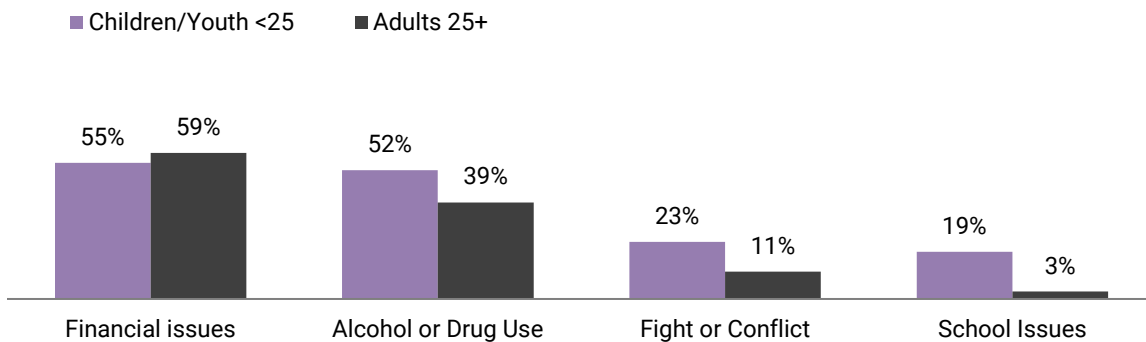
A small number of unaccompanied children and youth (a total of 31 respondents) completed a survey. Due to this small sample size, caution should be used when interpreting these data.

Data from the 2019 survey showed that 61% of children and youth respondents identified as male and over one-third (35%) identified as being of Hispanic/Latinx origin. In terms of racial identity, 52% identified as White, 8% as Black/African American, and 40% as multi-race or other.

CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The most commonly reported causes of homelessness among children and youth under 25 years of age were financial issues (55%), alcohol/drug use (52%), fight/conflict (23%), and school issues (19%).

FIGURE 50. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP RESPONSES)

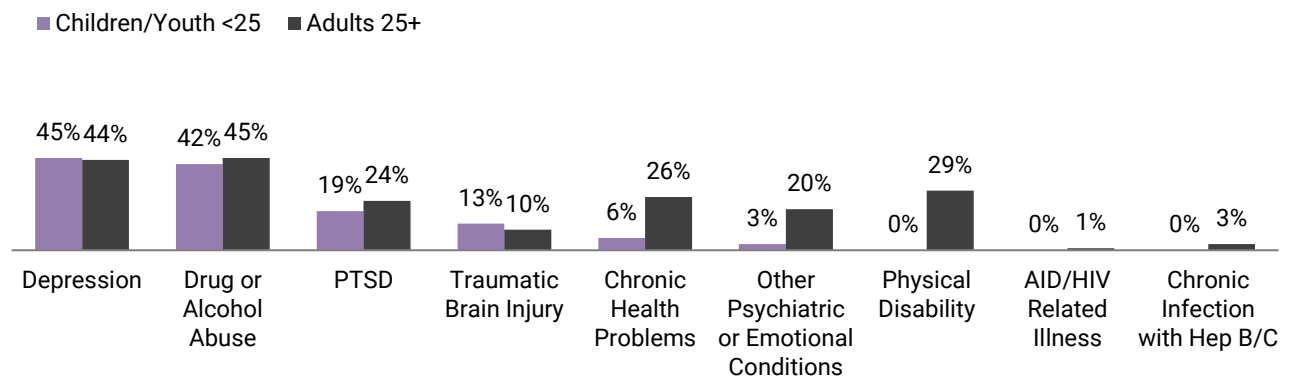


2019 Youth/Young Adults N=31 respondents offering 70 responses; 2019 Adults N=414 respondents offering 838 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

While homeless children and youth tend to have fewer health conditions than the general homeless population, health concerns are still an issue among young people experiencing homelessness. Forty-five percent (45%) of child and youth respondents under age 25 reported experiencing depression, 42% reported experiencing drug/alcohol abuse, and 19% reported experiencing PTSD.

FIGURE 51. HEALTH CONDITIONS



2019 Youth/Young Adults N=31; 2019 Adults N=419

INSTITUTIONAL INVOLVEMENT AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Nationally, it is estimated that at least one-third of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.¹⁵ In the state of California, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended care benefits as they 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 2019, about one in ten (10%) of youth/young adult respondents reported they had been in the foster care system, and 3% indicated that aging out of foster care was the primary cause of their homelessness.

System involvement with the criminal justice system is also notable with unaccompanied children and transition aged youth; 19% of child and youth respondents indicated that they had spent a night in jail in the past year, and 10% indicated currently being on probation or parole. Post-Discharge planning from both foster care and the criminal justice system pose major challenges for youth experiencing homelessness.

¹⁵ Dworsky, A.; Napolitano, L.; and Courtney, M. (2013). Homelessness During the Transition From Foster Care to Adulthood. Congressional Research Services, Am J Public Health. 2013 December; 103(Suppl 2): S318–S323. Retrieved 2018 from 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301455.



Conclusion

The 2019 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 2,422 persons experiencing homelessness in Monterey County in 2019, a decrease of 15% from the count conducted in 2017.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) persons experiencing homelessness in Monterey County were unsheltered, living outdoors or in places not intended for human habitation.
- Over half (55%) of homeless survey respondents indicated they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, while 63% had been homeless for one year or longer.
- When asked what their biggest obstacles to obtaining permanent housing were, the top most common responses were: inability to afford rent (76%), lack of a job/income (66%), and lack of money for moving costs (48%).
- Homeless survey respondents also reported having these health conditions: drug/alcohol abuse (45%), depression (44%), a physical disability (27%), and chronic health problems (25%).
- The estimated counts of the four HUD-identified subpopulations in Monterey County were: chronically homeless individuals with one or more disabling condition (562 persons and 23% of the homeless population), homeless veterans (172 and 7% of the population), members of homeless families with children (596 and 25% of the population), and unaccompanied children and youth under age 25 years (324 and 13% of the population).

In summary, the 2019 Monterey County Homeless Census 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

The Monterey County Point-in-Time Homeless Census and Survey was designed and implemented as part of the broader CoC-wide effort. Therefore, the research methodology and infrastructure that supported the effort was the same across Monterey County.

The 2019 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices and using HUD's definition of homelessness. The primary purpose was to produce a point-in-time estimate of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Monterey County, a region which covers approximately 3,281 square miles. The results of several components were combined to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night. A detailed description of these components follows.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

The methodology used in the 2019 Point-in-Time Census and Survey had five components:

- 1) **General Street Count:** A morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 31, 2019. This occurred from approximately 4:30 AM to 10:00 AM, and included those sleeping outdoors on the street; at bus and train stations; in parks, tents, and other makeshift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned 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.
- 2) **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on January 30, 2019. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.
- 3) **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 31, 2019. 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. Upon completion, data from this targeted count was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure that any possible duplicate counts were removed.
- 4) **Targeted COE Street Count of K-12 Students and Their Families:** (A count of previously-identified unsheltered homeless students and their families conducted by the Monterey County Office of Education for the night of January 30, 2019.) Again, data was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure that any possible duplicate counts were removed.

- 5) **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview with 450 unique sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals conducted by peer surveyors between January 31 and February 28, 2019 in Monterey County. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Census estimates, and then used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the demographics and experiences of homeless individuals.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success and integrity of the count, many county and community agencies collaborated on community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical plans, methodological decisions, and interagency coordination efforts. ASR provided technical assistance for these aspects of the planning process. ASR has over 19 years of experience conducting homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in the HUD publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*, as well as in the Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago publication, *Conducting a Youth Count: A Toolkit*.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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

STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

DEFINITION

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

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

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2019 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved methodology used counts since 2007, with the addition of dedicated youth outreach in each of those years and a very significant improvement in profiling families through the cooperation of County school districts. Also, improvements were made in profiling the aging population in the County through improved outreach and awareness.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT

Many individuals who live and/or work in the county supported the effort to enumerate the local homeless population. In 2019, over 130 community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count.

Extensive outreach efforts were conducted, including outreach to local non-profits and volunteer agencies that serve individuals experiencing homelessness. Local shelters and service providers recruited and recommended the most knowledgeable and reliable homeless individuals to participate in the count. Homeless guides were paid \$15 for attending an hour-long training as well as \$15 per hour worked on the days of the count.

Volunteers and guides served as enumerators on the morning of the count, canvassing the county in teams to visually count homeless persons. County, city, and ASR staff supported each of the two dispatch

centers in Salinas and Seaside, greeting volunteers and guides, distributing instructions, maps, and supplies to enumeration teams, and collecting data sheets from returning teams.

In order to participate in the count, all volunteers and guides were requested to attend an hour-long training before the count. Trainings were held in multiple locations throughout the county. Training covered all aspects of the count, including the definition of homelessness, how to identify homeless individuals, potential locations where homeless individuals may congregate, how to safely and respectfully conduct the count, how to use the tally count sheets and maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered, as well as other tips to help ensure an accurate count. If individuals were unable to attend a training in person, a YouTube training video was also made available.

STREET COUNT DEPLOYMENT CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of the county within the morning timeframe, the planning team identified five areas for the placement of deployment centers on the morning of the count. Deployment centers were located at the Labor Council building in Salinas and Martinez Hall in Marina. Volunteers selected their dispatch center at the time of registration based on their familiarity with the area or their convenience. The planning team determined the enumeration routes and assigned them to the dispatch center closest or most central to the coverage area to facilitate the timely deployment of enumeration teams into the field.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In census tracts with a high concentration of homeless encampments, specialized teams with knowledge of those encampments were identified and assigned to those areas. Enumeration teams were advised to take every safety precaution possible, including bringing flashlights and maintaining a respectful distance from those they were counting.

LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION

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 was generally composed of at least one trained volunteer and one trained homeless guide, and provided with their assigned census tract maps, tally sheets, training guidelines, and other supplies. On the morning of the Count there was a light rain that stopped around daybreak. It is unknown how this inclement weather may have affected the count.

All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traversed by foot or car. Homeless enumerators were instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets for the street count if they were not going to be counted by the shelter count. Dispatch center volunteers provided each team with tally sheets to record the number of homeless persons observed in addition to basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment log sheet. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas.

COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION COUNT

In the days following the Street Count, representatives from seven school districts called households known to have recently experienced homelessness to ascertain where they stayed on the night of count. This is a significant effort, as many school districts have hundreds of calls to make to ensure that families counted fit the HUD definition of homelessness and were, in fact, experiencing homelessness on the night(s) of the count.

In 2017, 1 school participated in the COE count, while 10 participated in the 2019 COE Count. This leads to a large increase in the number of families experiencing homelessness that were identified in this year's count. This is a population that would not have been identified without participation from the COE and their inclusion this year resulted in an increase in the population of families experiencing homelessness. Because of their inclusion this year, caution must be used when comparing this year's results to past years.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the 2019 dedicated youth count was to improve representation of unaccompanied homeless children and youth under the age of 25 in the Point-in-Time Count. Unaccompanied children and youth are not persons under the age of 25 who are not with a part of a family. 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 2019 supplemental youth count included homeless youth service providers and youth with lived experience of homelessness. Local service providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate and recruited youth and young adults currently experiencing homelessness with knowledge of where to locate homeless youth to serve as guides for the count. Late afternoon and early evening enumeration were the ideal times recommended by advocates to conduct the youth count.

A focus group was held with currently and previously homeless youth to identify areas to canvass for the supplemental youth count.

Youth workers were paid \$15 per hour for their time, including time spent in training prior to the count. Youth and youth service provider staff members were trained on where and how to identify homeless youth as well as how to record the data.

DATA COLLECTION

It was determined that homeless youth would be more prominent on the street during daylight hours rather than in the early morning when the general count was conducted. Youth worked in teams of two to four, with teams coordinated by youth street outreach workers. The youth count was conducted from approximately 3pm 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.

STREET COUNT DE-DUPLICATION

Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age. In total, 4 persons under the age of 25 were identified as duplicates and removed from the data set.

SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the shelter and institution count is to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across the county. These data are vital to gaining an accurate, overall count of the homeless population and understanding where homeless persons receive shelter.

DEFINITION

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

RESEARCH DESIGN

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

DATA COLLECTION

To collect data on individuals staying in shelters, ASR worked with the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers. The Coalition collected data on all emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and Safe Havens operating in the county. Data was collected on household status, age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic status, and if individuals had certain health conditions.

CHALLENGES

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as large and diverse as Monterey County. Point-in-Time Counts are "snapshots" that quantify the size of the homeless population at a given point during the year. Hence, the count may not be representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the homeless population seasonally or over time.

For a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not wish to be seen and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts are, an undercount of the homeless population will result, especially of hard-to-reach subpopulations such as families and youth.

The methods employed in a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities. For example:

It is difficult to identify homeless persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation.

Homeless families with children and unaccompanied homeless children and youth often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or in makeshift shelters.

Even though the Point-in-Time Count is most likely to be an undercount of the homeless population, the methodology employed, coupled with the homeless survey, is the most comprehensive approach available.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The data collected through the survey are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important for future program development and planning. The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, duration and recurrence of homelessness, nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by peer survey workers with lived homeless experience. Training sessions were facilitated by ASR, County staff, and community partners. Potential interviewers were led through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information as well as detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Peer survey workers were compensated at a rate of \$7 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2019 homeless survey. The socks were easy to distribute, had 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 2,422 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 450 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/-4.2% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Monterey County.

The 2019 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. Since 2009, the ASR survey methodology has prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of currently homeless surveyors.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an “every third encounter” survey approach. Survey workers were instructed to approach every third person they considered to be an eligible survey respondent. If the person declined to take the survey, the survey worker could approach the next eligible person they encountered. After completing a survey, the randomized approach was resumed.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that these responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any single individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other survey questions.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The 2019 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 interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers and county staff members recommended individuals who would be the best suited to conducting interviews and these individuals received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. Service providers and county staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.



Appendix B: Definitions & Abbreviations

Chronic homelessness – Defined by HUD as an unaccompanied individual or head of a family household with a disabling condition who has either continuously experienced homelessness for a year or more, or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months, in the past three years.

Disabling condition – Defined by HUD as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, PTSD, or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual’s ability to live independently; a developmental disability; or HIV/AIDS.

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

Family – A household with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18. This includes youth 18-24 who are parents.

Homeless – Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

HUD – Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

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

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

Transitional housing – Housing in which homeless individuals may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services – which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination – may be provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Unaccompanied children – Children under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Unaccompanied Youth – Young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

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



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Appendix D: Figure Sources

All Point in Time Count Data: The figure source for the data is Applied Survey Research, (2007-2019) Monterey Homeless Census and Survey.

All Homeless Survey Findings: The figure source for the data is Applied Survey Research, (2007-2019) Monterey Homeless Census and Survey.

All Subpopulation Data: The figure source for the data is Applied Survey Research, (2007-2019) Monterey Homeless Census and Survey.

All U.S. Census Data: The figure source for the data is Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). American Community Survey 2017 1-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.



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