

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

2025 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

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

The 2025 Santa Cruz County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 30, 2025. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 426 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.



TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

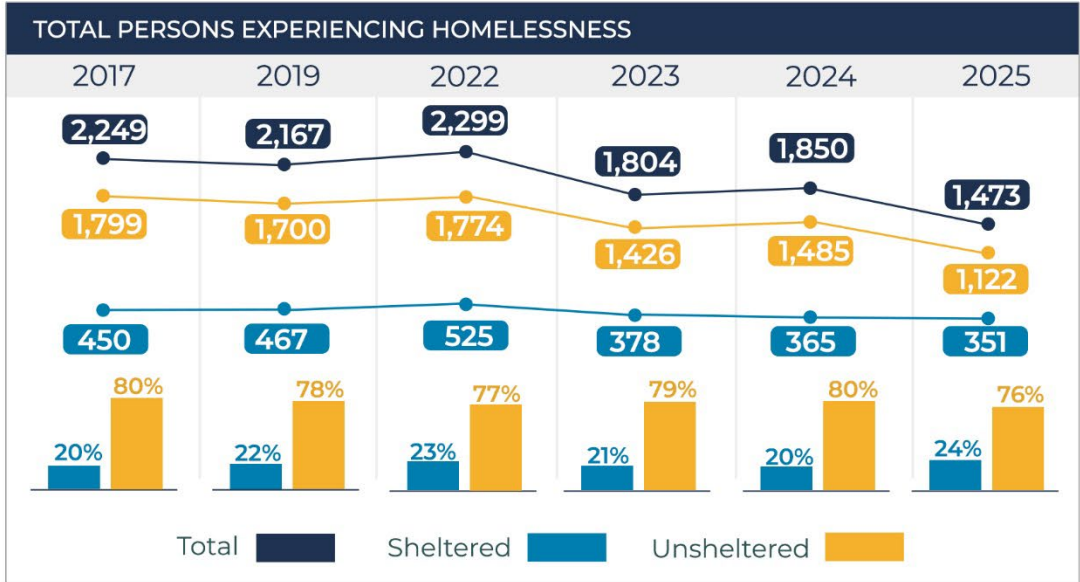
1,473



24%
Sheltered
n=351

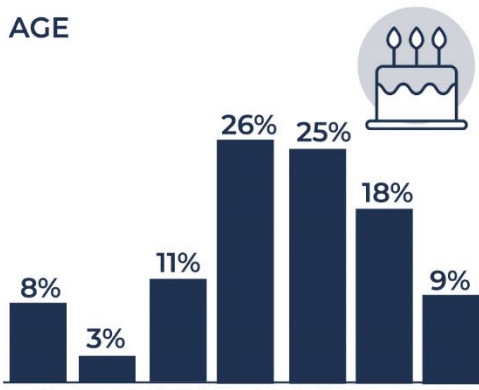


76%
Unsheltered
n=1,122

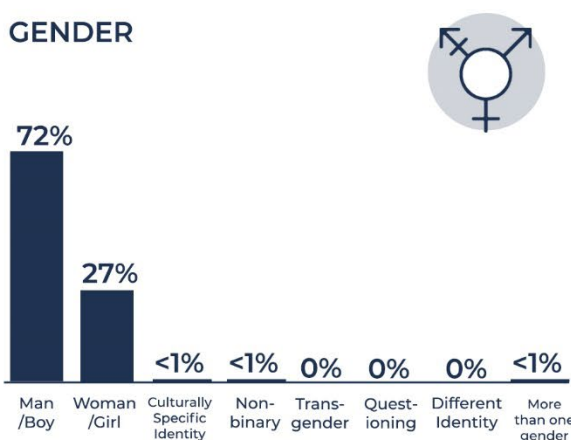


DEMOGRAPHICS

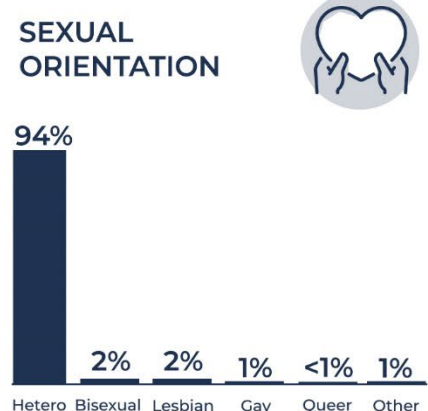
AGE



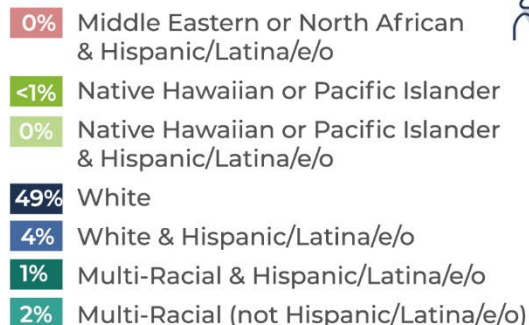
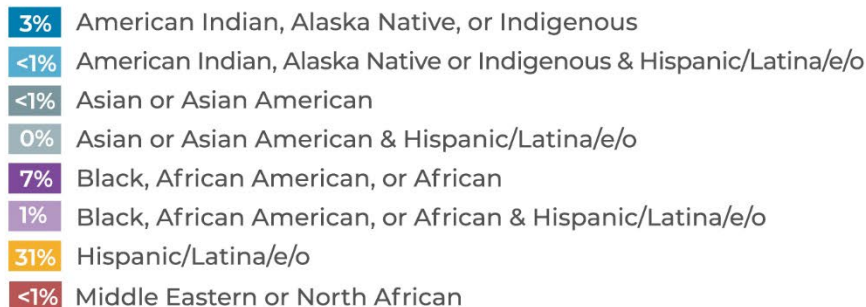
GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

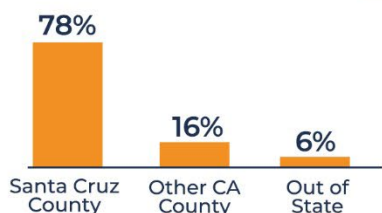


RACE/ ETHNICITY

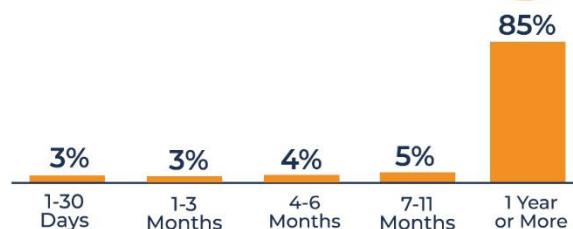


DATA PORTRAITS ²

RESIDENCE AT THE TIME THEY BECAME HOMELESS



DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



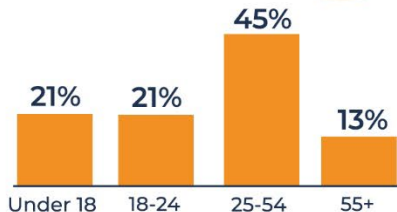
FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



40%

of survey respondents reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



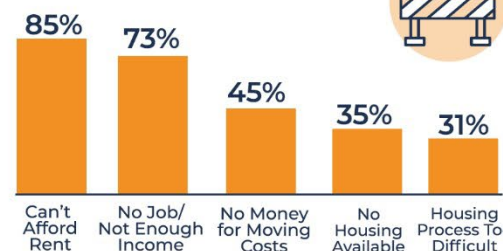
PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS*

(Top 5 Responses)



RESTRAINTS TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING*

(Top 5 Responses)



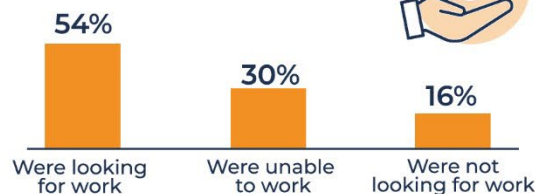
EMPLOYMENT STATUS



12%

of survey respondents had some form of employment

AMONG UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS



FOSTER CARE



21%

of survey respondents have foster care involvement

JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVED



31%

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

13%

of survey respondents reported being on probation/parole at the start of their most recent episode of homelessness

SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION



SELF-REPORTED HEALTH^a

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

PSYCHIATRIC
OR EMOTIONAL
CONDITIONS



54%

Report having a psychiatric or emotional condition

SUBSTANCE
USE
DISORDER



50%

Report having a substance use disorder

PHYSICAL
DISABILITY



43%

Report having a physical disability

PTSD



42%

Report having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

CHRONIC
HEALTH
CONDITION



25%

Report having a chronic health condition

TRAUMATIC
BRAIN
INJURY



24%

Report having had a TBI

HIV/AIDS
RELATED
ILLNESS



1%

Report having an HIV/AIDS related illness

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.

75%



of survey respondents report having at least one disabling condition

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE^a



83%

of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING* (TOP 6 RESPONSES)

67%



Medi-Cal/
Medicare

55%



Food
Stamps

11%



Social
Security

10%



General
Assistance

10%



SSI/SSDI/
Disability

17%



None

REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE* (TOP 4 RESPONSES)

23%



Immigration
issues

15%



Don't know
where to go

11%



Don't think
I'm eligible

11%



Paperwork
too difficult

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Total Sheltered Unsheltered

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



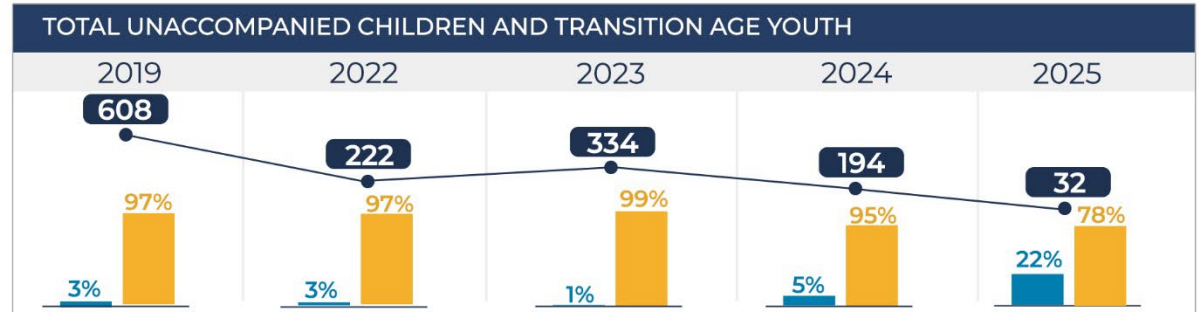
VETERANS



FAMILIES



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN + TAY



SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

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

- Has been continuously homeless for one year or more and/or;
- Has experienced four or more episodes totaling 12 months or more of homelessness within the past three years

VETERANS

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

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

□ Source: 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless Survey, N=426

* Multiple response question, percentages may not add up to 100%

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 Santa Cruz County. It will be available July, 2025. Source: Applied Survey Research, 2025, Santa Cruz County Homeless Census & Survey, Watsonville, CA.

