

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded in 1980 on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to assessment of needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses.

Project Manager: Peter Connery

Senior Data Analyst: James Connery, John Connery, Javari Fairclough, and Alex Werner

Graphic Design and Layout: Jamie Norton, Single Chair Studio

ABOUT HOUSING FOR HEALTH

Housing for Health is the agency serving as the federally-designated Continuum of Care for the County of Santa Cruz. H4H works with ASR to oversee and manage the PIT Count, working with agencies and all local jurisdictions to coordinate and facilitate the large community effort. Their mission is to drive strong collaborative action to ensure all residents within Santa Cruz County have stable, safe, and healthy places to live.

Housing for Health Project Lead: Sheryl Norteye



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The considerable talents and efforts of many people helped ensure the success of this endeavor. The County of Santa Cruz and ASR thank county and jurisdiction staff, community members, and service providers for facilitating homeless outreach and peer enumeration. Their efforts in recruiting and organizing count workers, as well as distributing surveys, were instrumental. Finally, the County of Santa Cruz and ASR would like to thank survey respondents, whose experiences and needs are reflected throughout the findings of this report.

SUPPORTERS

Abode Services	Monarch Services
Association of Faith Communities of Santa	Nation's Finest
Cruz	
City of Santa Cruz	People First of Santa Cruz County
Community Action Board Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz County Housing for Health
Encompass Community Services	Santa Cruz County Lived Expertise Action Board
Front St. Inc.	Santa Cruz County Youth Lived Expertise Action Board
Homeless Garden Project	Santa Cruz Public Libraries
Housing Matters	Stepping Up Santa Cruz
Mental Health Client Action Network	United Way of Santa Cruz County
Miller Maxfield, Inc.	University of California Santa Cruz



ASR Santa Cruz County 2025 Homelessness Point-In-Time Count

INTRODUCTION

The County of Santa Cruz typically conducts a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of all persons experiencing homelessness every year - during the last 10 days of January (this year on January 30, 2025). PIT Counts approximate the number of persons experiencing homelessness in each community and collect information on persons and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing and unsheltered situations including on the streets, in cars, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation (the unsheltered). The federal government requires communities to conduct a PIT Count every 2 years; however, the County of Santa Cruz has elected to conduct the counts annually.

The PIT Count is the only source of point-in-time data reporting both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness nationwide. The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all jurisdictions receiving federal funding for housing and services for persons and families experiencing homelessness to conduct a PIT Count. The Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) receives approximately \$7 million annually in HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, a key source of funding for the county's housing and services programs for persons experiencing homelessness.

The CoC reports the findings of its local PIT Count annually to HUD, though the unsheltered count component is required every other year. The reported findings help the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Data from the PIT Count and Survey help inform local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

The County of Santa Cruz partnered with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count and Survey. ASR is a social research firm based in Santa Cruz County with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessment and has been the principal researcher for Santa Cruz County PIT counts and surveys since 2000.

The Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count consists of three primary components:

- 1. Point-in-time visual enumeration of unsheltered persons and families experiencing homelessness, including those sleeping outdoors, on the street, or in parks, tents, or vehicles.
- 2. Point-in-time enumeration of persons and families experiencing homelessness in temporary shelter, including emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities.
- 3. A sample based survey of the characteristics of persons and families experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered locations.

The 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count was a comprehensive community effort. With the support of about 85 persons, including those experiencing homelessness, community volunteers, staff from multiple city and county departments, the entire county was canvassed between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on January 30, 2025. This effort yielded a peer-informed visual count of persons and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Specialized outreach teams canvassed more remote areas of the County. Shelters and transitional housing facilities reported the number of persons and families who occupied their facilities on the night of January 29, 2025.

A supplemental count of unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and transition-age youth (TAY) between the ages of 18 to 24 was conducted in the afternoon of January 30th, 2025. This specialized count was designed to improve the understanding of the scope of youth homelessness, as youth are frequently undercounted during the unsheltered morning count effort. Trained youth enumerators, who currently or recently experienced homelessness, conducted the count in specific areas where youth experiencing homelessness were known to congregate.

In the weeks following the January 30th street count, an in-depth survey was administered to 426 persons experiencing unsheltered and sheltered homelessness. The survey gathered basic demographic details and information on service needs and utilization.

This report provides data on the number and characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County on a single night in January. Unstably-housed persons living without assistance in hotel/motels, doubled-up situations (living temporarily with family/friends due to lack of housing), or temporarily in a jail or hospital are not included in the PIT count. The report provides focused analysis on special populations, including chronically homeless persons, veterans, families, unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and TAY aged 18-24. To better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time, results from previous PIT counts are provided where available and applicable.

The data presented in this report has four separate sources which are inter-related but distinct from one another:

- 1. Observation-only data of unsheltered individuals and families from PIT-day canvassing.
- 2. PIT-eve shelter and transitional housing occupancy and resident data sourced from HMIS.
- 3. In-depth survey data from a representative sample of sheltered and unsheltered individuals.
- 4. Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) data, cross-referenced with the above sources.



PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

ASR held multiple planning meetings in the fall of 2024 to attain local community members' experience and the local unhoused community's expertise. At these meetings, participants from City and County departments, community-based service organizations, persons experiencing homelessness, and other interested community members joined the 2025 Project Team (staff from the Santa Cruz County Human Services Department) in planning for the PIT count. These participants were instrumental in ensuring the county's 2025 Homeless PIT Count and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The Santa Cruz County Human Services Department and Applied Survey Research team's project goals for the 2025 PIT Count and survey were:

- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population and to track progress toward ending homelessness.
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, unaccompanied children, TAY, and those who are chronically homeless.
- To preserve existing federal homeless services funding and enhance capacity to secure new resources.
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan, implement and expand the range of housing opportunities to meet the needs of people-atrisk of or currently experiencing homelessness
- To increase public awareness of housing and homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions.

This report is intended to help achieve the above-described goals.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

The HUD definition of homelessness from Category 1 of the HEARTH Act is used in this report. This definition includes persons and families:

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

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



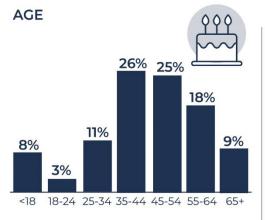


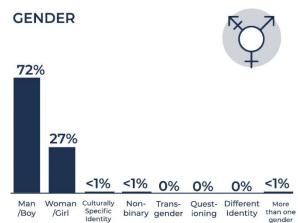
24% Sheltered

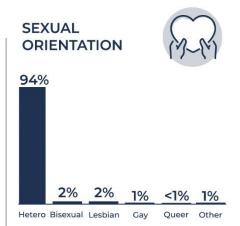
Unsheltered n=1,122



DEMOGRAPHICS







RACE/ ETHNICITY

3% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous

American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o

<1% Asian or Asian American

0% Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o

7% Black, African American, or African

1% Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o

31% Hispanic/Latina/e/o

Middle Eastern or North African

0% Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latina/e/o

49% White

4% White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o

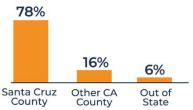
1% Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o

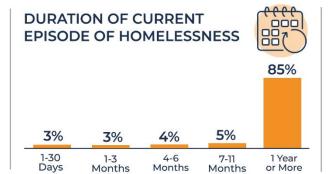
2% Multi-Racial (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)

DATA PORTRAITS "

RESIDENCE AT THE TIME THEY BECAME HOMELESS





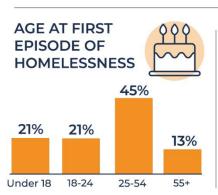


FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

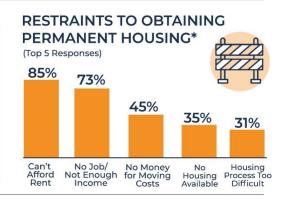


40%

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







EMPLOYMENT STATUS



of survey respondents had some form of employment

AMONG UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS 54% 30% 16% Were looking for work to work looking for work

FOSTER CARE

21%



of survey respondents have foster care involvement

JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVED



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



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

SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION



61%



12%



% **2**%



1%

Outdoors/ Streets



Tent

Vehicle



Motel/ Hotel

Abandoned Building

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH®

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

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.





of survey reposdents report having at least one disabling condition

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE ^o



83%

of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING* (TOP 6 RESPONSES)

67% (i)

Medi-Cal/ Medicare



Food Stamps



11%

Social Security



10%

General Assistance



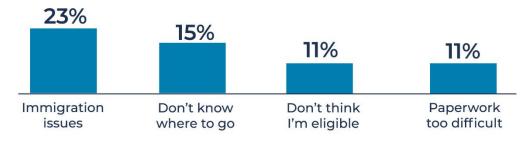


SSI/SSDI/ Disability



None

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



SPECIAL POPULATIONS

CHRONIC





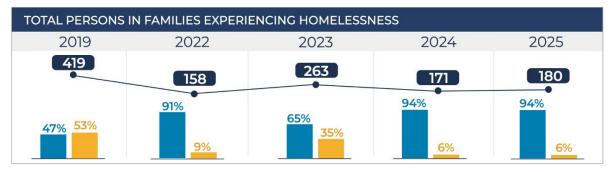
VETERANS





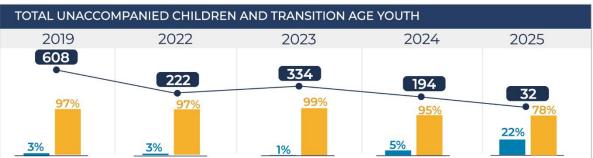
FAMILIES





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 quardian.

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



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

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

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless PIT Count and Survey includes data on unsheltered persons as well as those in publicly or privately funded shelters or transitional housing programs. The general street count was conducted on January 30, 2025, from approximately 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM and covered all of Santa Cruz County. The shelter count, conducted the night of January 29, 2025, included all persons occupying emergency shelters, transitional housing, and domestic violence shelters.



NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Figure 1: Total Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

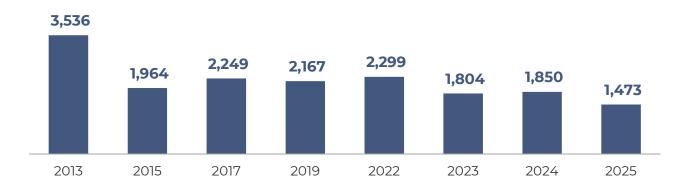
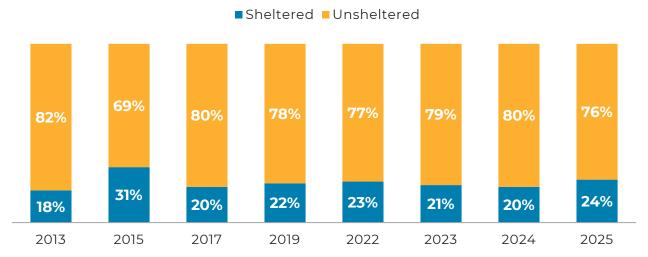


Figure 2: Total Homeless Count Population, by Shelter Status



2013 n=3,536; 2015 n=1,964; 2017 n=2,249; 2019 n=2,167; 2022 n=2,299; 2023 n=1,804; 2024 n=1,850; 2025 n=1,473 Note: Data from 2020 and 2021 omitted due to COVID-19 related count skips



Figure 3: Total Homeless Population by Shelter Status and Jurisdiction

	UNSHELTERED		SHELTERED		TOTAL		
JURISDICTION	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	24-25 NET CHANGE
Total Incorporated	1,061	924	365	351	1,426	1,275	-11%
City of Capitola	50	71	0	0	50	71	42%
City of Santa Cruz	384	612	275	250	659	862	31%
City of Scotts Valley	44	7	0	0	44	7	-84%
City of Watsonville	583	234	90	101	673	335	-50%
Total Unincorporated/ Confidential Scattered Site*	302	198	0	0	302	198	-34%
Total County Office of Education	122	0	0	0	122	0	-
Total	1,485	1,122	365	351	1,850	1,473	-20%

^{*} Confidential/scattered site data are confidential due to privacy considerations.

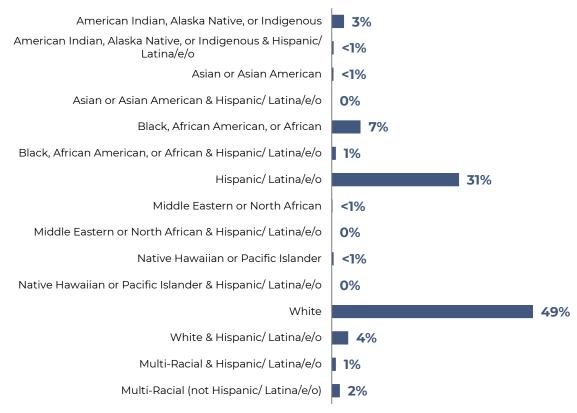
Note: In past years, County Office of Education location data was vague. This year's more precise data allowed individuals to be assigned to exact locations.

Note: Please see Appendix A for a description about how County Office of Education information is collected Note: Percentage change is not calculated for low numerical values.



TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION BY RACE AND **ETHNICITY**

Figure 4: Total Homeless Census Population, by Race



2025 PIT Count n=1,473

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Note: HUD has changed how race/ethnicity is collected in the PIT Count, and comparison to previous years is not recommended.



HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of homeless persons between February 5 and March 5, 2025, resulting in 426 valid and complete surveys.

Based on the 1,473-person PIT Count, a randomized survey process produced 426 valid responses. This sample yields a margin of error of ± 4% at a 95% confidence level when generalizing to the entire estimated homeless population in Santa Cruz County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within four percentage points of the reported results.

To respect respondent privacy and ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, survey respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values were intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted. For more information regarding the survey methodology, please see **Appendix A: Methodology.**

GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Seventy-nine percent (79%) of survey respondents identified as male, 21% identified as female, and less than 1% identified as a Culturally Specific Identity. Approximately 92% of survey respondents identified as heterosexual when asked about their sexual orientation, an increase from previous years.

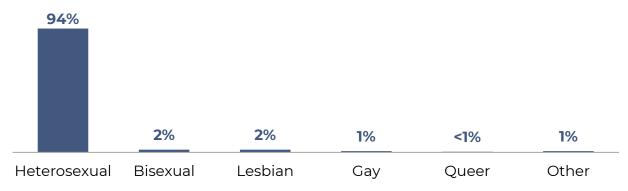




2025 n = 425

*Includes respondents whose individual gender categories represent <1% of the total, including Questioning, Culturally Specific Identity, Non-binary, Do not identify as male, female, or transgender; and other not listed.

Figure 6: Sexual Orientation

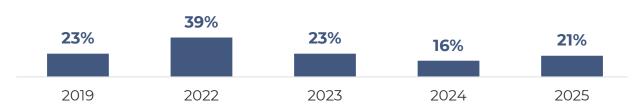


2025 n=418

FOSTER CARE

In 2025, 21% of survey respondents in Santa Cruz County indicated a history of foster care involvement, an increase from 16% in 2024.

Figure 7: History of Foster Care

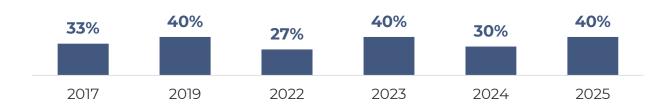


2019 n=377; 2022 n=314; 2023 n=391; 2024 n=370; 2025 n=425

ONSET, AGE, AND DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

The percentage of survey respondents who were experiencing their first episode of homelessness increased from 30% in 2024 to 40% in 2025.

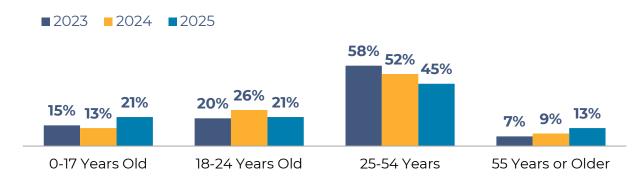
Figure 8: First Time Experiencing Homelessness ("Yes" Respondents)



2017 n=459; 2019 n=386; 2022 n=329; 2023 n=410; 2024 n=395; 2025 n=422

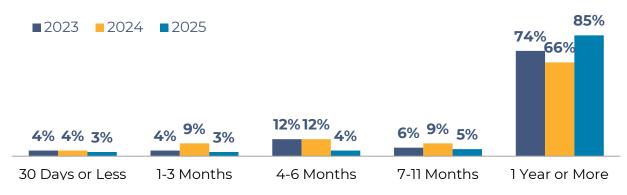
Fifty-eight percent of survey respondents reported being over the age of 25 when they first experienced homelessness. Twenty-one percent of respondents were under the age of 18 when they first experienced homelessness. Eighty-five percent of respondents reported that their current stint of homelessness has lasted a year or more.

Figure 9: Age at First Experience of Homelessness



2023 n=404; 2024 n=394; 2025 n=423

Figure 10: Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness



2023 n=408; 2024 n=393; 2025 n=423



PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The percentage of survey respondents who indicated they were living in Santa Cruz County at the time they lost their housing decreased from 86% in 2024 to 78% in 2025. Fifty-two percent of respondents indicated they had been living in the northern Santa Cruz County at the time they became unhoused, 4% indicated living in the central part of the county, and 22% indicated living in south county prior to becoming homeless.

■2023 **■**2024 **■**2025 86% 78% **75%** 16% 15% 10% 10% 6%

Figure 11: Place of Residence at Time of Housing Loss

2023 n=395; 2024 n=388; 2025 n=426

Santa Cruz County

Seventy percent of respondents indicated living in Santa Cruz County for at least 10 years before their current episode of homelessness, an increase from 63% in 2024.

Other CA County

Out of State

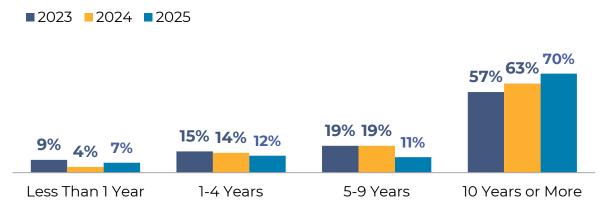


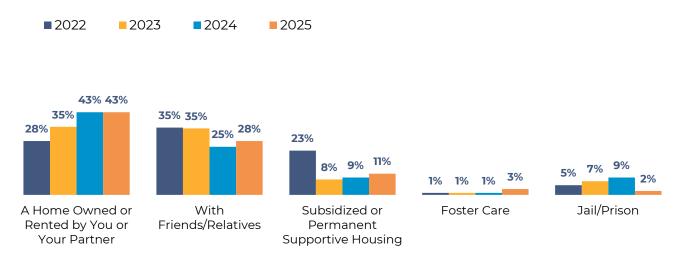
Figure 12: Time Lived in Santa Cruz County Prior to Becoming Homelessness

2023 n=382; 2024 n=362; 2025 n=426

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2025, 43% of respondents reported living in a home rented or owned by themselves or a partner prior to experiencing homelessness, consistent with 2024 (43%). Meanwhile, 28% reported living with friends or family, up slightly from 25% in 2024.

Figure 13: Living Arrangements Prior to Experiencing Homelessness (Top Five Responses)

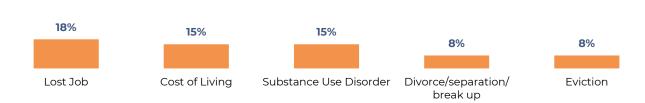


2022 n=314; 2023 n=379; 2024 n=369; 2025 n=420

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

The most common response when survey respondents were asked about the primary cause of their homelessness was the loss of a job (18%). The second most common cause of homelessness amongst survey respondents was the cost of living (15%).

Figure 14: Primary Cause of Homelessness 2025 (Top Five Responses)



2023 n=399 respondents offering 646 responses; 2024 n=390 respondents offering 675 responses; 2025 n=426 * Note: Cost of living was added as a response option in 2025 Note: Beginning in 2025, respondents were asked only to shade one

SUPPORT NEEDED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING

Can't afford rent (85%) was the most common response when survey respondents were asked what keeps them from obtaining permanent housing. Over seventy percent of respondents (73%) reported that a job or an increase in income would support their ability to attain permanent housing, while 45% of respondents reported they needed money for moving costs to obtain permanent housing. Thirty-one percent (31%) cited system complexity as a barrier.

Can't afford rent No job/not enough income Mo money for moving costs available is too difficult

Figure 15: Constraints to Obtaining Permanent Housing (Top Five Responses)

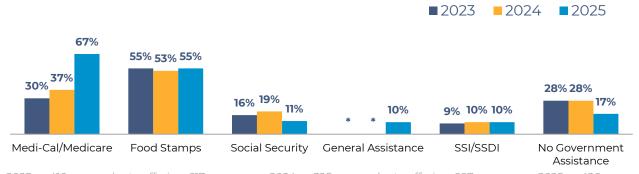
2025 n=426 respondents offering 1,666 responses; Note: Multiple responses allowed; percentages sum to >100

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

In 2025, 83% of survey respondents indicated that they received some form of governmental benefit, an increase from 72% in 2024.

The most common benefit was Medi-Cal/Medicare (67%, up from 37% in 2024). Additionally, 55% received food stamps (up from 53% in 2024). Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents reported not receiving governmental benefits, a decrease from 28% in 2024.





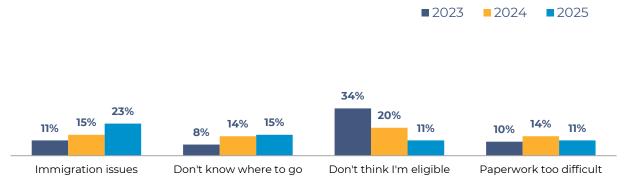
2023 n=416 respondents offering 617 responses; 2024 n=395 respondents offering 607 responses; 2025 n=426 respondents offering 736 responses

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

^{*} Note: General Assistance was added as a response option in 2025

Twenty-three percent of survey respondents reported they weren't receiving government benefits because of immigration issues, an increase from 2024 (15%).

Figure 17: Reasons for Not Receiving Government Benefits (Top Four Responses)



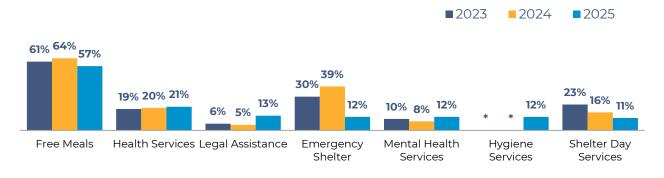
2023 n=101 respondents offering 146 responses; 2024 n=96 respondents offering 137 responses; 2025 n=124 respondents offering 169 responses

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

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Usage of free meals was the most common form of assistance received by survey respondents, decreasing from 64% in 2024 to 57% in 2025. The second most frequently used assistance were health services (21%), followed by legal assistance (13%), emergency shelter (12%) and mental health services (12%).

Figure 18: Service Usage (Top Seven Responses)



2023 n=381 respondents offering 835 responses; 2024 n=364 respondents offering 743 responses; 2025 n=426 respondents offering 817 responses

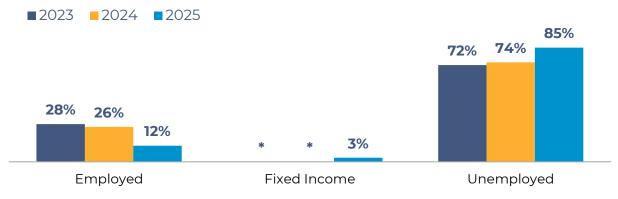
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

* Note: Hygiene Services were added as a response option in 2025

EMPLOYMENT

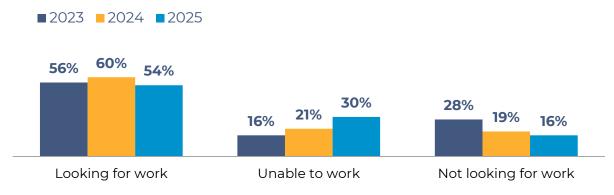
While the majority of survey respondents reported being unemployed (85%), 12% reported seasonal, sporadic, part or full-time work, and 3% reported a fixed income. This represents a decrease from 26% to 12% of employed respondents in 2024. Of those who were unemployed, 54% said they were looking for work, 30% said they were unable to work, and 16% replied they were not looking for work.

Figure 19: Employment



2023 n=380; 2024 n=367; 2025 n=419

Figure 20: Among Unemployed Respondents...



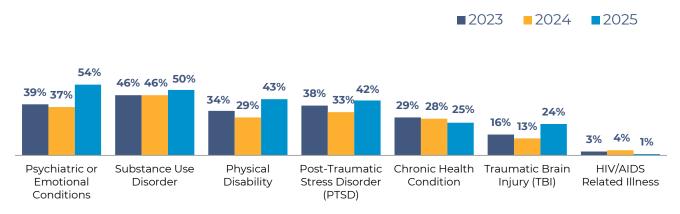
2023 n=239; 2024 n=207; 2025 n=361

^{*} Note: Fixed Income was added as a response option in 2025. It is defined as a consistent, regular source of income that does not vary significantly over time, such as SSI, SSDI, veterans benefits, etc...

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Three-quarters (75%) of survey respondents reported at least one disabling condition. The percentage of respondents reporting a psychiatric or emotional condition increased from 37% in 2024 to 54% in 2025, persons reporting a physical disability increased from 29% in 2024 to 43% in 2025, and those suffering from a traumatic brain injury increased from 13% in 2024 to 24% in 2025.

Figure 21: Health Conditions



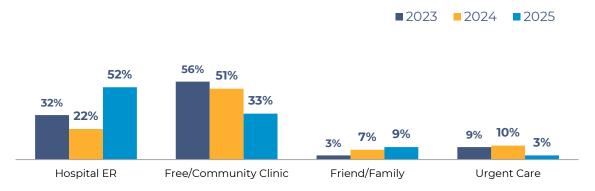
2023 n=383-402; 2024 n=362-373; 2025 n=408-419

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

Note: Substance use disorder (SUD) is defined as a treatable mental disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications. Symptoms can be moderate to severe, with addiction being the most severe form of SUD.

Over half (52%) of respondents indicated they received care at a hospital emergency room, a large increase from 2024 (22%). Thirty-three percent (33%) of respondents received care at a community or free clinic, a large decrease from 2024 (51%).

Figure 22: Location of Health Care (Top Four Responses)

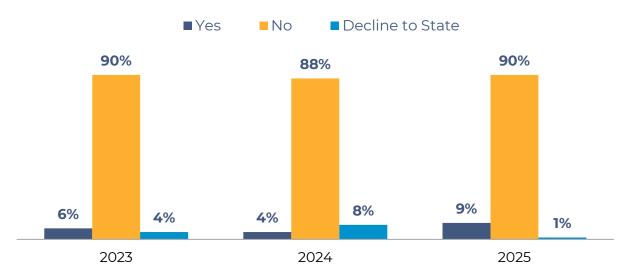


2023 n=383 respondents offering 460 responses; 2024 n=368 respondents offering 402 responses; 2025 n=395 Note: Beginning in 2025, respondents were asked only to shade one

DOMESTIC PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

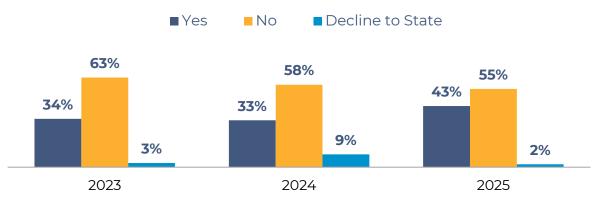
Nine percent (9%) of survey respondents indicated they were currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse at the time of the survey, while 43% of survey respondents indicated they had experienced domestic violence at some point in their life. Six percent of respondents indicated domestic/partner violence or abuse was the cause of their homelessness.

Figure 23: Currently Experiencing Domestic Violence



2023 n=390; 2024 n=381; 2025 n=426

Figure 24: History of Domestic Violence

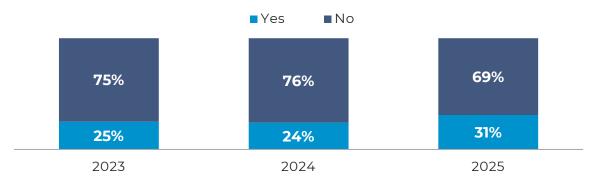


2023 n=387; 2024 n=381; 2025 n=426

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

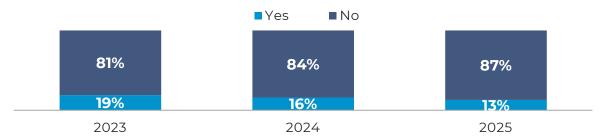
Thirty-one percent (31%) of survey respondents indicated they had spent at least one night in jail or prison over the last 12 months, an increase from 24% in 2024. Thirteen percent of respondents indicated they were on probation or parole when they most recently became homeless, a decrease from 16% in 2024.

Figure 25: Spent a Night in Jail or Prison in the Last 12 Months



2023 n=406; 2024 n=389; 2025 n=423

Figure 26: On Probation or Parole When Homelessness Occurred



2023 n=372; 2024 n=339; 2025 n=418

HUD DEFINED SPECIAL POPULATIONS

All In: 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.

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

- Persons experiencing chronic homelessness
- Veterans and their families
- Families with children
- Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth.

The following sections examine each of these four subpopulations as identified in Santa Cruz County during the 2025 Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey.

HOUSEHOLDS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

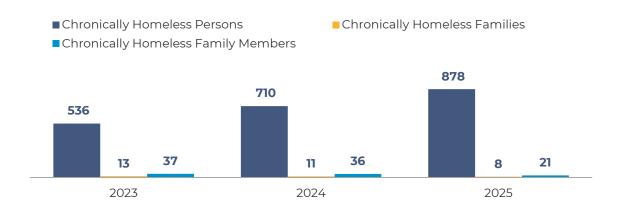
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines chronic homelessness as an individual with one or more disabling conditions, or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition, who has been continuously homeless for one year or more and/or has experienced four or more episodes totaling 12 months or more of homelessness within the past three years.

Data from communities across the country show significant public costs associated with long-term homelessness among people with disabilities. Significant health care, criminal justice, and human service costs are incurred while persons remain homeless. In 2024, HUD reported that roughly 152,585 people were chronically homeless nationally. In 2025, 878 individuals (60% of the PIT population) were chronically homeless—up from 38% (710 persons) in 2024.



Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2024). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2025 from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/ahar/2024-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-

Figure 27: Total Number of Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness



Approximately eighty-five percent (85%) of the chronically homeless population was unsheltered, an increase from 79% in 2024.

Figure 28: Chronically Homeless Population by Shelter Status

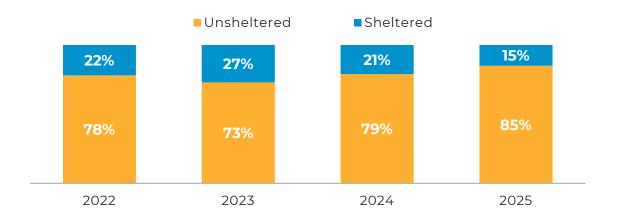


Figure 29: Number of Chronically Homeless Persons by Shelter Status

	2023	2024	2025	2024-2025 % CHANGE
Sheltered	153	148	134	-9%
Unsheltered	420	562	744	32%
Total	573	710	878	24%

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG THOSE **EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

Substance use disorder (17%) and the loss of a job (17%) were the two most common responses people experiencing chronic homelessness gave as the primary cause of their homelessness.

Figure 30: Primary Cause of Homelessness, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison *

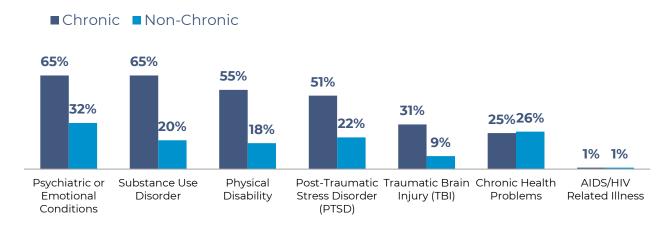




Chronic Survey Respondent Population n=232; non-Chronic Survey Respondent Population n=128

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

Figure 31: Health Conditions, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison

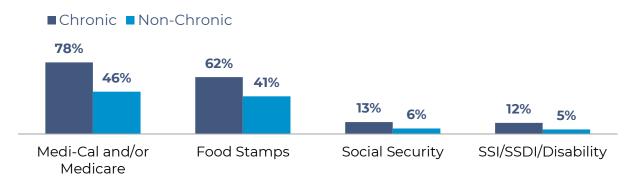


Chronic n=271-281; non-Chronic n=136-140

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

^{*} Note: Beginning in 2025, respondents were asked only to shade one

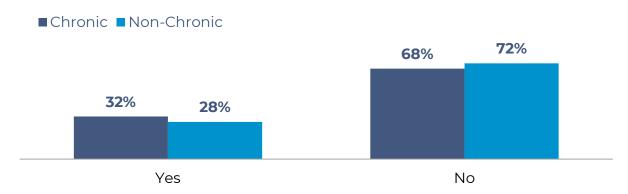
Figure 32: Government Assistance Received, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison



Chronic n=283; non-Chronic n=143 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Thirty-two percent of people experiencing chronic homelessness reported they had spent a night in jail in the past year as compared to 28% of people experiencing nonchronic homelessness.

Figure 33: Spent a Night in Jail in the Past Year, Chronic and Non-Chronic Comparison



Chronic n=281; non-Chronic n=142



VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans often face higher rates of PTSD, TBI, sexual assault, and substance use disorders than non-veterans, increasing their homelessness risk.

The total number of homeless veterans remained virtually unchanged: 72 in 2024 vs. 71 in 2025. Seventy-two percent of veterans were unsheltered.

Figure 34: Total Number of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

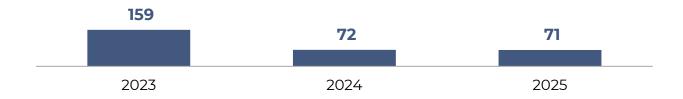
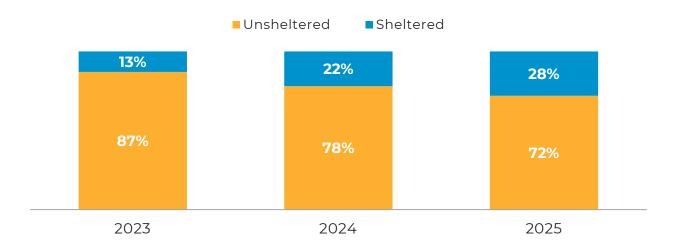


Figure 35: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status



	2023	2024	2025	2024-2025 % CHANGE
Sheltered	20	16	20	25%
Unsheltered	139	56	51	9%
Total	159	72	71	-1%

2023 n=159; 2024 n=72; 2025 n=71

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

There was an increase in families experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County, from 52 families with 171 persons in 2024 to 52 families with 180 persons in 2025. In 2025, 94% of families experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County—49 out of 52—were sheltered.

Figure 36: Total Number of Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness

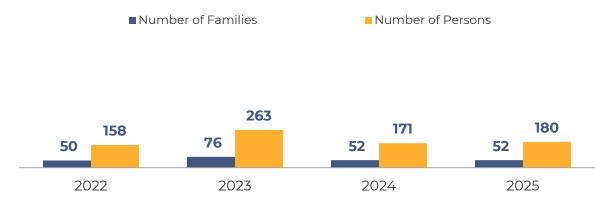
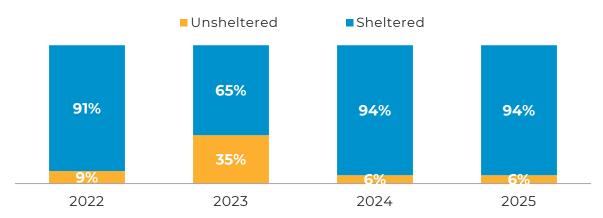


Figure 37: Persons in Families by Shelter Status



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024-2025 % CHANGE
Sheltered	143	172	161	169	25%
Unsheltered	15	91	10	11	9 %
Total	158	263	171	180	-1%

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH **EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

Unaccompanied children are defined as persons under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and, if they have children of their own, are not sleeping in the same place as their child(ren).

Transition-age youth (TAY) are defined as persons between the ages of 18 and 24 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and, if they have children of their own, are not sleeping in the same place as their child(ren). There were 24 transition-age youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness in 2025, a large decrease from 194 TAY in 2024. In 2025 there were eight unaccompanied children under 18, an increase from 0 in 2024. Seventy-eight percent (78%) were unsheltered.

Figure 38: Total Number of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age Youth

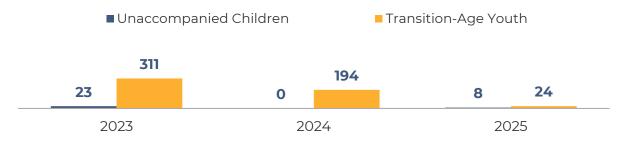
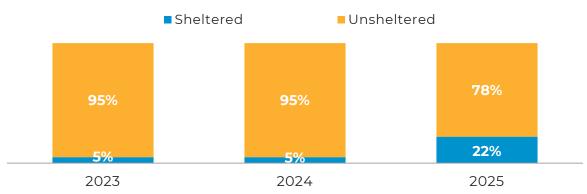


Figure 39: Transition-Age Youth by Shelter Status



2025 Unsheltered Transition-Age Youth n=19; 2025 Sheltered Transition-Age Youth n=5

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Santa Cruz County PIT Count and Survey followed HUD-recommended practices. Outreach staff, volunteers, and persons with lived experience came together in January 2025 to canvas the entire county for the PIT count. Data summarized in this report provide valuable insights into the unique and diverse experiences of homelessness in Santa Cruz County. A few highlights from the report include:

The PIT Count identified a total of 1,473 persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County in 2025, a decrease of 20% from the overall count conducted in 2024.

- Total Count: 1,473 persons experiencing homelessness (-20% from 2024).
- Shelter Status: 76% unsheltered
- First-Time Homelessness: 40% of survey respondents (up 10 percentage points).
- Place of Origin: 78% living in Santa Cruz County when housing lost (↓ 8 percentage points).
- **Primary Causes:** Job loss (18%), cost of living (15%).
- Assistance Needs: Rent assistance (85%), job opportunities (73%), moving costs (45%).
- Health Conditions: 54% psychiatric/emotional; 50% SUD; 43% physical disability; AIDS/HIV falls to 1%.
- Time Lived in Santa Cruz County: 10 years or more (70%).
- Special Populations: 878 chronically homeless (60% of PIT), 71 veterans, 180 persons in families, 32 children and TAY.

The 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless Count and Survey provides a comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness within the county. Data presented in this report fulfill federal reporting requirements for the CoC and will inform outreach, service planning, and policy decisions by local planning bodies.

Santa Cruz County remains committed to preventing homelessness and rapidly moving those experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. Dissemination and evaluation of this report will help the CoC and County stakeholders refine solutions to end homelessness.

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVFRVIFW

The 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUDrecommended practices and definitions of homelessness. The primary purpose of the count and survey was to produce a point-in-time estimate of persons and families experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS COUNT & SURVEY

The 2025 PIT Count and Survey had five components:

- General Street Count: A no contact, visual observation-only count of unsheltered persons and families experiencing homelessness on January 30, 2025, from approximately 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM. The count included people sleeping in 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 stations, or camping ground. The general street count was designed to take place while shelter occupants were still indoors.
- General Sheltered Count: A nighttime count of persons and families staying at publicly and privately-operated shelters and transitional housing programs on the night of January 29, 2025, the night before the general street count. Shelter data was gathered either from Santa Cruz County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or directly from the shelter provider.
- Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth: A count of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth on January 30, 2025. This count occurred from approximately 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM and was led by special youth teams who canvassed areas where youth and young adults were known to congregate. Upon completion, data from this targeted count was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure duplicate counts were removed.
- Targeted County Office of Education Street Count of Students and Their Families: This count includes previously identified unsheltered homeless students and their families conducted by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) for the night of January 29, 2025, in conjunction with participating school districts. Demographic and geographic detail from the COE count was compared to the general count data to identify and remove duplicate counts.
- Survey: In-person interviews with 426 unique sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness were conducted by peer surveyors between February 5 and March 5, 2025. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Count estimates, particularly for special populations, and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the demographics and experiences of homeless persons and families.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success and integrity of the count, The Housing for Health partnership led the project with collaborations from other local jurisdictions and community-based organizations on community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical plans, methodological decisions, and interagency coordination efforts. ASR provided technical assistance for these aspects of the planning process.

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 2025 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved approach commonly called a blitz method followed by a sample survey. Very significantly, this is the third year of using GPS enabled smartphones in data collection, using an ESRI Survey 123 application (GPS-enabled mobile data collection tool) developed and customized by ASR to conform to HUD data collection requirements. Improvements were made in preplanning efforts to deploy count teams both remotely and from deployment sites, wherever possible using an online GIS route planning tool integrated into the volunteer sign-up process.

Outreach organizations, County and city staff, along with community members, selected areas for enumeration from an interactive GIS planning map tool that enabled planning for complete coverage of the county, with prioritization of regions with known high numbers of people experiencing homelessness to outreach staff and personnel with direct service experience.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT

In 2025, about 85 outreach workers, community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count.

This year, outreach and program staff expanded efforts to recruit and involve individuals with lived experience of homelessness to serve as guides. Guides were paid \$20 to participate in a PIT Count training, as well as \$20 per hour worked on the day of the count.

Volunteers and guides were required to view a 20-minute training video before the count that covered:

- Definition of homelessness.
- Identification of persons experiencing homelessness,
- Guidance on safely and respectfully conducting the count, using the smart phone app, and accessing the smartphone app training video,
- Using route maps to ensure full coverage of assigned areas,
- Tips to identify vehicles in which persons may be residing and other information to facilitate an accurate and safe count.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. Specialized teams with knowledge of specific encampments were assigned to census tracts with those encampments. 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 deployed to enumerate census tracts in the county. Each team was composed of any combination of outreach workers, lived experience guides, program staff, and community volunteers. Each team had a lead and was provided with smart phone access information, and training and field observation tips and guidelines, including vehicle identification criteria at the deployment sites prior to the count. Teams were instructed to meet at one of the deployment sites before and after enumeration to sign in and pick up census tract maps and check receipt of data post count. Dispatch center volunteers verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count; the phone number was recorded on the volunteer deployment assignment sheet.

All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traversed by foot or car. The Santa Cruz County Survey 123 smartphone app was used to record the number of homeless persons observed in addition to basic demographic and location information. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas.

To ensure the privacy of persons experiencing homelessness was respected and enumeration teams remained safe, teams were directed to conduct observation-only counts and not have any contact with persons experiencing homelessness. When they encountered a structure or vehicle that they believed to be inhabited, teams could indicate that it was inhabited but that the number or the demographic detail (age and gender) of its inhabitants could not be determined. Only actively occupied places were eligible to be included in the count effort. Teams marked such locations as 'occupiedunknown' in the app, and survey data were used to estimate occupant characteristics. ASR uses count data on confirmed cases identified during the PIT to extrapolate data on gender and age to estimate the demographics of persons counted.

COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION COUNT

In the days following the street count, representatives from several school districts called households known to have recently experienced homelessness to ascertain where they stayed on the night of count. Participating school districts include:

- Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD)
- Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS)
- Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District
- Pacific Elementary School District
- Adult Education

This is a significant effort, as school districts may 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 of the count. Using demographic and geographic detail, data gathered by the school districts were compared to count data to check for duplication.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the 2025 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth (TAY) count was to accurately represent unaccompanied children and transition-age youth in the Point-in-Time Count. Because many children and TAY 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, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth. In this regard, HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recommend that communities count youth at times when they can be seen rather than during traditional enumeration times.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Planning for the 2025 unaccompanied children and TAY count included homeless youth service providers and persons between the ages of 18 and 24, with lived experience of homelessness. Local service providers identified locations where unaccompanied children and TAY experiencing homelessness were known to congregate and recruited TAY experiencing or with lived experience of homelessness and knowledge of those areas to serve as guides for the count. Late afternoon and early evening were recommended by advocates as the best time to conduct the youth count. Youth workers were paid \$20 per hour for time spent both in training and the actual count. Youth worked in teams of two to four, with teams coordinated and supervised by street outreach workers.

STREET COUNT DE-DUPLICATION

Data from the unaccompanied children and TAY count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age.

SHELTERED COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the sheltered count is to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily staying in shelters and transitional housing programs across Santa Cruz County.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the following HUD definition of sheltered homelessness for Point-in-Time Counts was used: persons and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter or transitional housing programs designated to provide a temporary living arrangement. Persons living in publicly-supported managed camps are not considered sheltered under this definition.

DATA COLLECTION

To collect data on persons staying in shelters and transitional housing programs, ASR worked with BitFocus, the HMIS system administrator for Santa Cruz County, to collect data from all emergency shelters and transitional housing programs operating in the county. Data collected from the shelters and transitional housing programs included participants' household status, age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, duration and recurrence of homelessness, chronic homeless status, and health conditions. Data from shelters that do not participate in HMIS was collected using a web-based reporting system.

CHALLENGES

Point-in-Time Counts are "snapshots" that quantify the size of the homeless population in a specific area at a given point during the year. Hence, the count is not representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the homeless population seasonally or over

The methods employed in a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated service providers, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. It can be difficult to identify persons staying in dense vegetation or in locations that are hard to reach. Persons staying in vehicles take steps to minimize the visibility of their sleeping situation, making it another population that can be hard to identify. As enforcement agencies increase their sweeps, persons experiencing homelessness are forced to find sleeping locations that are increasingly hidden.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The survey elicited information from respondents including gender, family status, military service, duration and recurrence of homelessness, nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open- and closed-ended, and multiple response questions.

Surveys were conducted by peer survey workers with lived experience of homelessness. Survey workers completed training sessions facilitated by ASR. Potential surveyors had a comprehensive orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Peer survey workers were compensated at a rate of \$10 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Gift cards were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2025 homeless survey because they are easy to distribute, have wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget.

SURVEY SAMPLING

Based on a Point-in-Time Count estimate of 1,473 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 426 valid surveys represented a margin of error of +/-4%, with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

The 2025 survey was administered in shelters, transitional housing facilities, and outside. Survey quotas were created to ensure appropriate representation of persons and heads of families staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing residents.

Strategic attempts were made to reach persons in a variety of geographic locations and demographic groups such as homeless unaccompanied children and TAY, minority ethnic groups, veterans, domestic violence survivors, and families. Quotas were used for geographic locations, unaccompanied children and transition-age youth, and shelter and transitional housing residents.

To reduce implicit bias, during the recruitment and training of surveyors, every attempt was made to recruit capable persons who represented a broad range of experiences and backgrounds. Since 2009, the ASR survey methodology has prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of surveyors currently or recently experiencing homelessness. We prioritize surveyors who have experienced homelessness as they can better relate to and understand the population they are surveying.

To increase randomization of respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an "every third encounter" 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 "every third encounter" approach was resumed.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure respondents felt comfortable regardless of the location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that their responses would be framed as general findings, kept confidential, and not traceable to any single individual. Participants received a \$10 gift card for completing the survey

DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth to avoid duplication without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate potential duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of survey question responses. Outlier surveys were examined and eliminated if thought to be inauthentic.

SURVEY DATA AND PIT COUNT DATA

Survey data is used to extrapolate data on race and ethnicity for all persons, and to account for situations where PIT enumeration teams were unable to collect data on age and gender. That data is combined with data from HMIS on shelter and transitional housing participants to provide a complete demographic picture for all persons identified during the PIT count.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The 2025 Santa Cruz County Homeless Survey strives to be a representative sample of the homeless experience through geographic and shelter-based quotas. Bias in respondent selection by surveyors is a major training theme and all attempts are made to minimize. The diversity of the homeless experience is significant and our ability to profile this can always be improved. The survey methods, though constantly evolving, are essentially the same over time so longitudinal data has good methodological consistency.

The smaller the subpopulation, the harder it is to ensure it is accurately represented during the survey process. For example, finding families and youth and TAY experiencing homelessness presents a challenge and can lead to underrepresentation in the survey results. Locating and surveying persons who identify as transgender, have a sexual orientation other than heterosexual, are experiencing specific health conditions such as AIDS/HIV related illness and TBI, among others can be challenging and may not be fully represented in the survey process.

There may be some variance in the information that persons experiencing homelessness self-reported. A peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow respondents to be more candid with their answers and help reduce uneasiness of revealing personal information.

This year, ASR transitioned from using paper surveys to administering surveys electronically. As a result of this shift, we observed changes in response patterns for certain questions. These percentage shifts may be attributed to differences in how respondents interact with electronic surveys compared to paper formats, including variations in accessibility and response behavior. This change in format should be considered when interpreting year-over-year comparisons. For example, in previous years, a question asking about the primary cause of homelessness was designed as a single response question, but many respondents would choose more than one answer on the paper version of the survey. However, using electronic version of the survey allowed the survey to accept only one answer.

APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS AND 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.
CoC	A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that coordinates housing and supportive services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The CoC is responsible for assessing local needs, managing a coordinated entry system, overseeing data collection through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and applying for federal funding to support homelessness response programs.
Disabling condition	Defined by HUD as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, 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	Temporary accommodation for persons experiencing homelessness, 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.
Н4НР	The Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) is the HUD-designated Continuum of Care for Santa Cruz County. It coordinates the regional homelessness response, manages data and housing referrals, and allocates federal and state funding in partnership with local governments, service providers, and community members.
HDX	The Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) is a web-based platform developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Continuums of Care (CoCs) to submit data on homelessness. It is used to report critical information such as Point-in-Time (PIT) counts, Housing Inventory Counts (HIC), System Performance Measures, and Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) data. HDX supports national and local efforts to track homelessness trends, evaluate program performance, and inform funding decisions.

HEARTH Act	The HEARTH Act, enacted in 2009, reauthorized and revised the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to strengthen the federal response to homelessness. Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the HEARTH Act emphasizes prevention, rapid rehousing, and coordinated community systems. It consolidated funding streams, introduced performance-based measures, and established Continuums of Care (CoCs) as the lead entities responsible for coordinating local homelessness response systems.
HMIS	The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a federally mandated, secure database used by Continuums of Care (CoCs) to collect and manage data on individuals and families experiencing homelessness. HMIS tracks client interactions with housing and service programs, supports coordinated entry, and generates required reports for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Point-in-Time counts, System Performance Measures, and funding applications.
HUD	Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Persons Experiencing Homelessness	Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes persons 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.
PIT	The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual survey conducted by Continuums of Care (CoCs) to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the PIT Count includes both sheltered and unsheltered populations and provides critical data for understanding local trends, informing policy, and securing federal funding.
Sheltered homeless persons	Persons who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.
Single individual	An unaccompanied adult over the age of 18.
Transition-age youth (TAY)	Young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Transitional housing	Housing in which homeless Persons 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).
Unsheltered homeless persons	Persons who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.