2022 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY



one COUNTY one FUTURE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The considerable talents and efforts of many individuals helped ensure the success of this endeavor. The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC and the County of Santa Barbara would like to thank the many service providers who facilitated the process by recruiting count volunteers and encouraging staff to participate. Santa Barbara County and The Continuum would like to thank the survey volunteers and agency staff. Over 500 people signed up on the website prior to the count and over 400 people signed-in to canvass on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Additional volunteers assisted with volunteer recruitment and organizing sock and supply drives. Finally, without the willingness of our unhoused neighbors to participate, the Point in Time survey would not yield the meaningful information that informs our work. Their contribution is reflected throughout the findings of this report.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thanks to the many state, local, faith-based and private organizations who contributed financially to this effort.

PROJECT COORDINATORS

Kimberlee Albers, County of Santa Barbara
Kanika Mahajan, County of Santa Barbara
Jett Black-Maertz, County of Santa Barbara

SANTA MARIA/SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

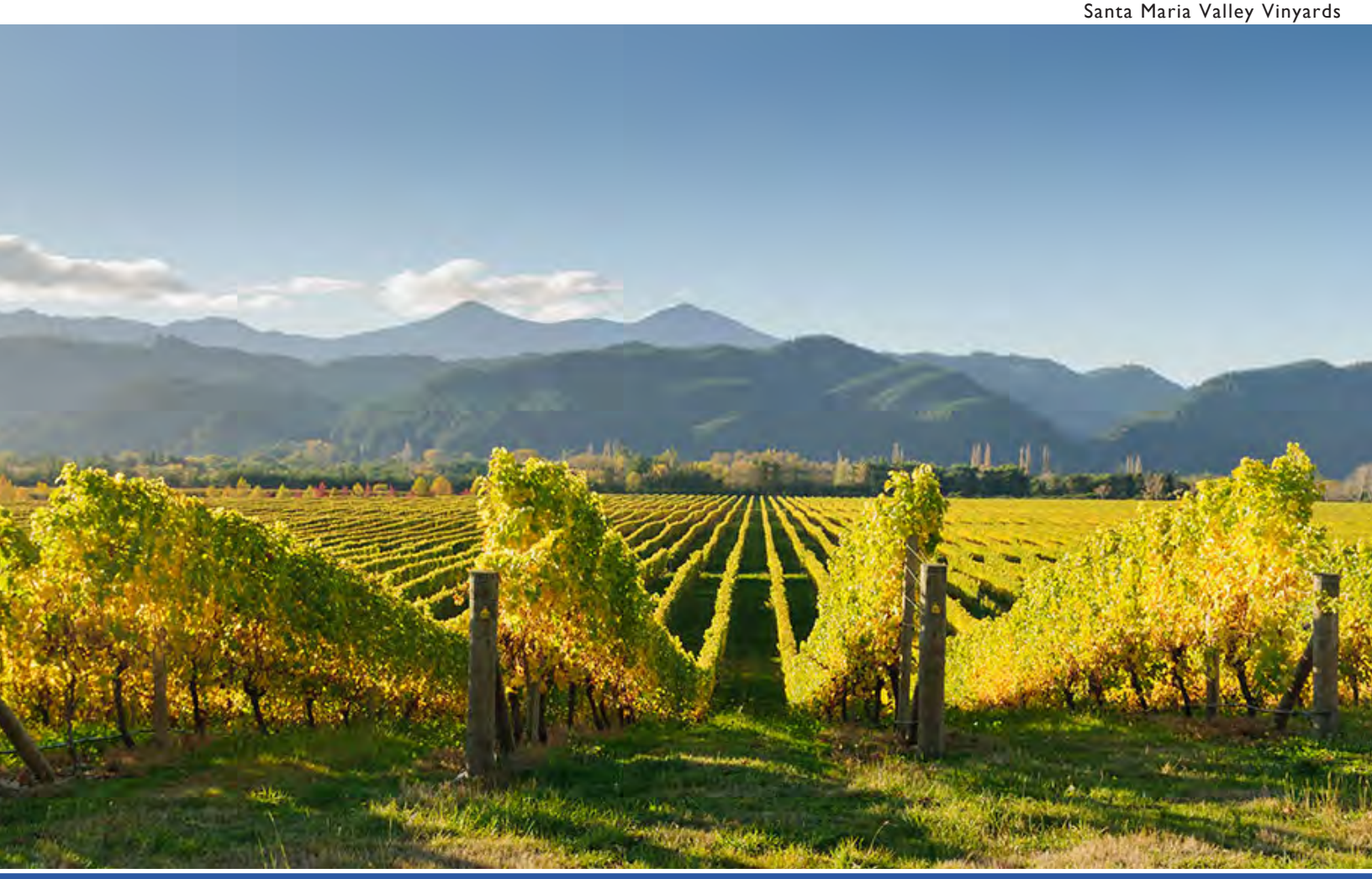
The Continuum of Care (CoC) is a comprehensive, county-wide group of dedicated service providers, public sector employees, and community members working together to leverage national, state, and local resources to end homelessness in our community. The geography of the CoC encompasses the area within Santa Barbara County, including eight incorporated cities, and all unincorporated areas. The CoC Board leads the CoC in preventing and ending homelessness through the leadership of diverse stakeholders.

Name	Organization
Noel Lossing	Child Welfare Services
Steve Delira	Family Service Agency
Sylvia Barnard	Good Samaritan
George Chapjian	County of Santa Barbara - Community Services Dept.
Rob Fredericks	Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara
John Polanskey	Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara
Glenn Bacheller	Social Venture Partners
Jonathan Castillo	PATH Santa Barbara
Liz Stotts	City of Santa Barbara
Wayne Mellinger	Lived Experience
Deanna Vallejo	Santa Barbara Foundation
Ralph Barbosa	Healthcare for the Homeless, Public Health
Rick Gulino	People's Self Help Housing
Kristine Schwarz	New Beginnings Counseling Center
Liz Snyder	Dignity Health
Gordon Auchincloss	Retired Chief Assistant District Attorney
Carlos Soto	Youth
Claudia Dato	City of Goleta
Chanel Ovalle	City of Lompoc
Rosie Rojo	City of Santa Maria
Elizabeth Adams	Santa Barbara County Education Office
Rosie Rojo	City of Santa Maria
Erin Wilson	Unitarian Society
Kristin Flickinger	Pacific Pride Foundation
Alice Gleghorn	N/A
Edwin Weaver	Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley
Marilyn Simon-Gursek	Domestic Violence Solutions
Rebecca Segundo	University of California, Santa Barbara

DEPLOYMENT SITES

- Carpinteria: Carpinteria Veterans Memorial Building
- Goleta Area: Goleta Valley Community Center
- Isla Vista: Isla Vista Community Service District
- Lompoc: Veterans Memorial Building (VFW)
- Solvang: People Helping People
- Santa Barbara East: Franklin Community Center
- Santa Barbara West: Christ Presbyterian Church
- Santa Maria: Minami Center

Santa Maria Valley Vinyards





INTRODUCTION

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These Point-in-Time Counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community and collect information about individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as about people sleeping on the streets, in vehicles, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation. The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC) made the decision in 2019 to conduct the PIT annually, in order to more closely track shifts in population, demographics, and areas of occupation.

Due to a surge in local Coronavirus cases, the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care was grants an extension from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct the count on February 23rd, 2022. Thanks to the flexibility of logistics center hosts, providers, and hundreds of volunteers the CoC was able to successfully complete the count on the new date.

The Point-in-Time Count is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and is required by HUD of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, the Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care receives approximately $2.5 million dollars annually in federal funding, which is a key source of funding for the county's homeless services.

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 planning for the future.

Continuums of Care report the findings of their local Point-in-Time Count annually to HUD. This information ultimately helps the federal government to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Point-in-Time Count and survey data also help inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

A specialized count of both unaccompanied children and transition-age youth aged 24 and younger was conducted the afternoon of the same day. This dedicated count was designed to improve the understanding of the scope of youth homelessness. Trained youth enumerators conducted the count and administered surveys in specific areas where homeless youth were known to congregate. The results of this effort contributed to HUD's initiative to measure progress toward ending youth homelessness.

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County on a single night in February. Special attention was given to specific subpopulations, including chronically homeless persons, veterans, families, and transition-age youth between the ages of 18 and 24. To better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time, results from previous years (2019-2021) are provided where available and applicable.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In 2019, the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care voted to conduct a full Point in Time Count annually using an identical strategy for 3 consecutive years. In 2019, Applied Survey Research (ASR) was contracted to assist in developing a local strategy based on best practices employed across many CoCs. Due to a surge in Coronavirus cases, the 2021 Unsheltered Count was not conducted. Using this previously developed methodology, Santa Barbara County worked in conjunction with the CoC to conduct the 2022 Santa Barbara County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), which is a count of all beds dedicated to people experiencing homelessness was conducted on the same night.

Flowers in Lompoc Valley



The Santa Barbara County Homeless Point-in-Time Count consists of two primary components:

(1) A point-in-time enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals and families, such as those sleeping outdoors, on the street, or in parks, tents, or vehicles; and

(2) A point-in-time enumeration of homeless individuals and families residing in temporary shelter, including emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities using data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and self-reporting from non-HMIS participating agencies.

The 2022 Santa Barbara County Homeless Point-in-Time Count was a comprehensive community effort. With the support of numerous community volunteers, agency staff, and staff from various city and county departments used census maps to canvass the entire county (with the exception of the Channel Islands) between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on February 23, 2022. An emcampment specific count was conducted between 9 and 12pm, and a youth specific count was conducted between 2:30 and 5:30/ This resulted in a volunteer and expert-informed visual count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families residing on the streets and in vehicles, makeshift shelters, encampments, and other places not meant for human habitation. Shelters and transitional housing facilities also reported the number of homeless individuals and families who occupied their facilities on the night prior to the day of the count. Short surveys were also administered to 1,028 unsheltered and sheltered individuals and families. These surveys gathered basic demographic details necessary to report to HUD.

A count of persons residing in vehicles was extension of the unsheltered, general street count. With the help of the New Beginnings Safe Parking Program, known parking locations were specifically visited and counted. When observing vehicles, volunteers were trained looked for certain indications to determine if the vehicle was occupied:

- Is the vehicle in disrepair (holes, broken windows, flat tires, removed or broken siding);
- Does the vehicle's occupant(s) have access to sewer, water, and electrical connections;
- Is the vehicle parked in an unusual place, including non-vehicle designated lots, non-residential areas, or areas where vehicles are not allowed to park;
- Is the vehicle clearly occupied?

Volunteers were instructed not to interact with the vehicle in anyway. Instead, they noted the make, model, and last 4 digits of the license plate. The were also asked to note why they believed the vehicle to be occupied. This was used for deduplication as well as to estimate the number of people occupying the vehicle. It was estimated that 1.02 people on average occupy a car, while an average of 1.2 people would occupy an RV.

FEDERAL DEFINITIONS

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

- Sheltered individuals and families: "living in a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)"; or,
- Unsheltered individuals and families: "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"

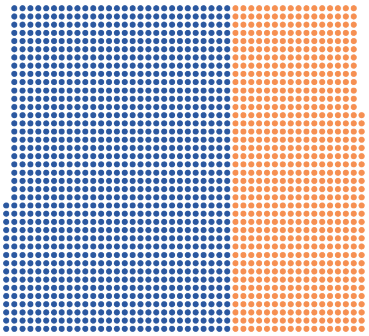
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

2022 HOMELESS POINT-IN TIME COUNT & SURVEY

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These Point-in-Time Counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as on people sleeping on the streets, in cars, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation.

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TOTAL COUNT OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

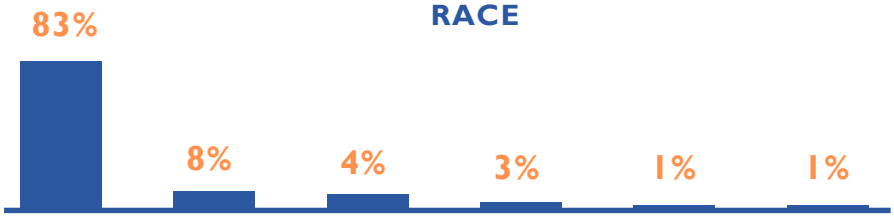


1,962
TOTAL

70% UNSHELTERED

30% SHELTERED

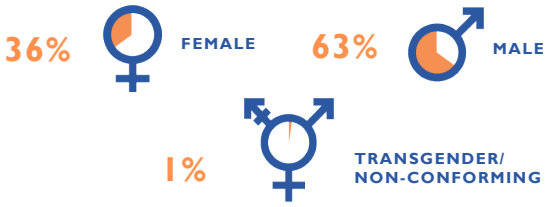
RACE



AGE

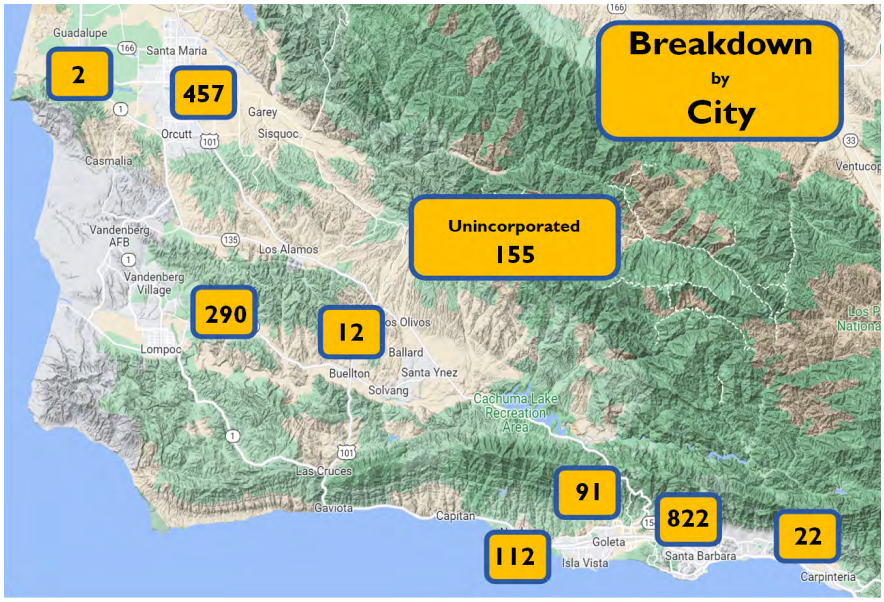


GENDER BREAKDOWN

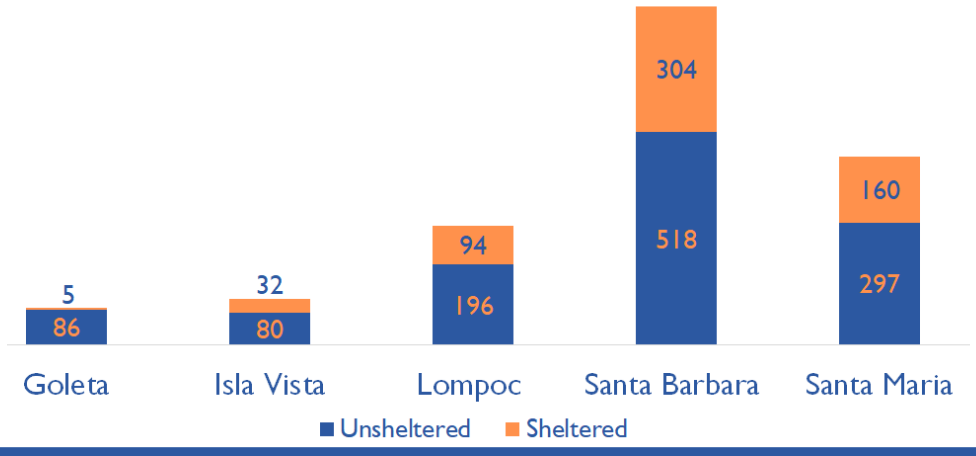


SUBPOPULATION DATA

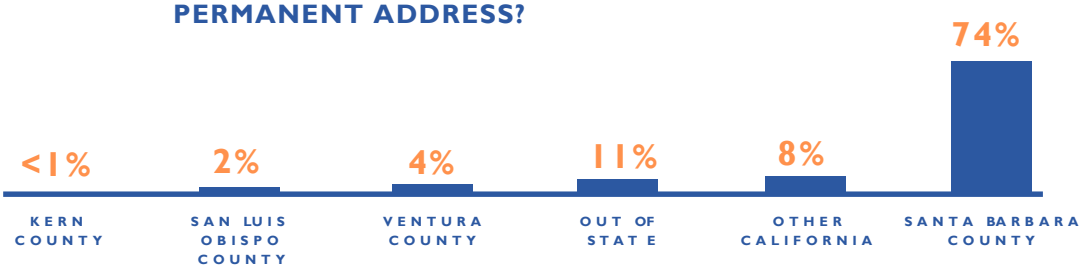




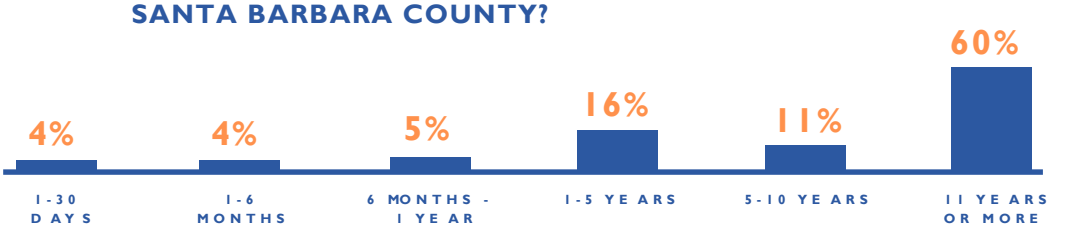
SHELTERED POPULATION BY CITY



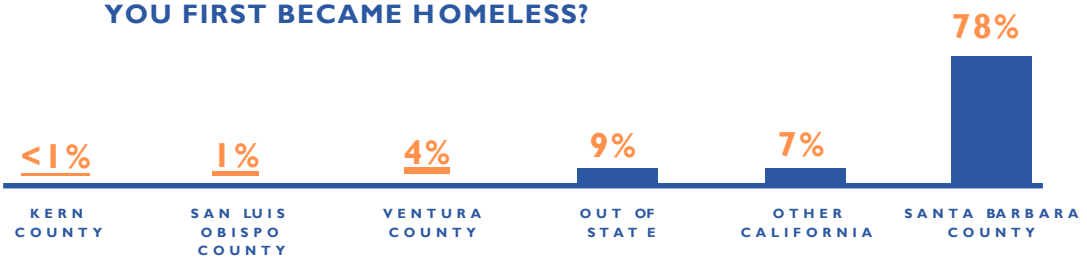
LOCALISM: WHERE WAS YOUR MOST RECENT PERMANENT ADDRESS?



LOCALISM: HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY?



LOCALISM: WHERE WERE YOU LIVING WHEN YOU FIRST BECAME HOMELESS?



HEALTH CONDITIONS

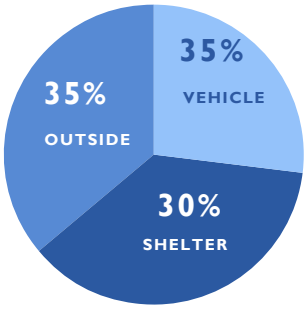
- **39%** MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY
- **29%** CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION
- **31%** SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- **.3%** HIV/ AIDS RELATED ILLNESS
- **26%** PHYSICAL DISABILITY
- **10%** DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

FIRST TIME HOMELESS

41% YES

59% NO

SLEEPING LOCATION ON NIGHT OF COUNT



MONTHS HOMELESS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS

17%	0-6 MONTHS
7%	7-11 MONTHS
29%	1-3 YEARS
47%	3+ YEARS

15%

OF UNSHELTERED RESPONDENTS REPORTED HOMELESSNESS DUE TO IMPACTS OF COVID-19

NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE ON EVENING OF COUNT:

644	0	102	355	964	551
EMERGENCY SHELTER (ES) BEDS	SAFEHAVEN (SH) BEDS	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH) BEDS	RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH) BEDS	PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH) BEDS	OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING (OPH) BEDS

TOTAL BEDS:

2,623



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

Isla Vista

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from 2022 Santa Barbara County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered using Simtech's Counting Us phone app to a randomized sample of homeless individuals on February 23, 2022. This effort resulted1,028 complete and unique surveys include add unsheltered surveys to sheltered surveys.

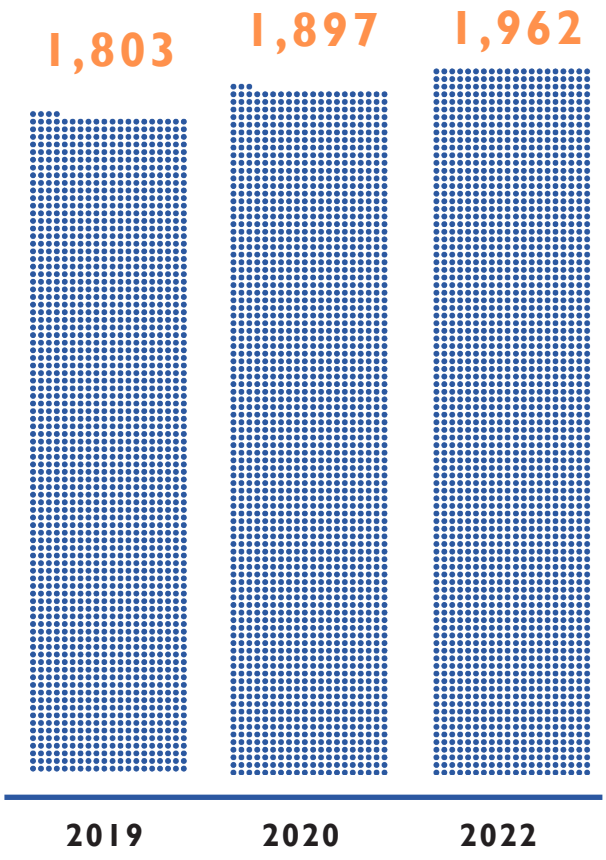
The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the 2022 Santa Barbara County Point-In-Time count was 1,962. The 2022 Point-In-Time count showed a slight increase of 4% from the number of individuals counted in the 2020 Point in Time count (1,897). The 2022 methodology was similar to the methods used to conduct the 2019 and 2020 Point in Time counts (due to the Coronavirus pandemic, an unsheltered count was not conducted in 2021). It should be noted that the methodology used in the 2019-2022 counts are different from the methodology used in previous counts. Therefore, for fair and accurate comparisons in trends the graphs shows the 2019 and later data comparisons. Each graph indicates the total number from which the percentages are calculated. All the percentages are rounded to the nearest integer.

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

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS DURING THE GENERAL POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT WITH TREND

The number of individuals counted in the 2022 Santa Barbara Point-in-Time Count was 1,962. This was a slight increase in the number of individuals counted in 2020 (1,897).

Figure 1:



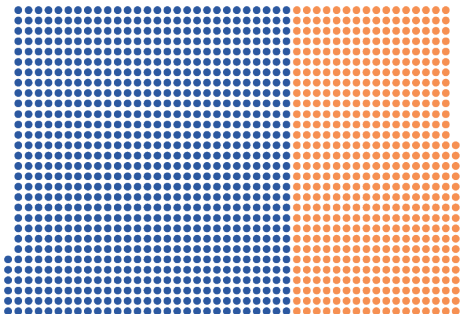
SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED STATUS

1,962

Total Count

Over two-thirds (70%) of homeless individuals enumerated were unsheltered, while 30% were sheltered.

Figure 2:



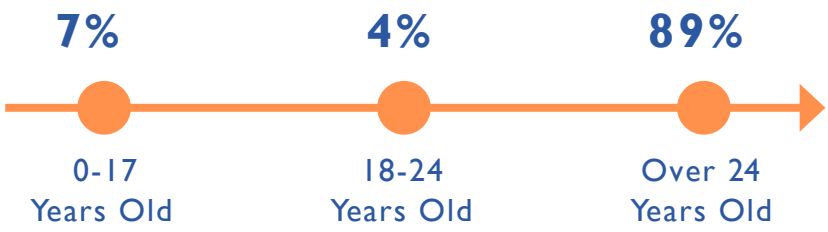
70% Unsheltered

30% Sheltered

AGE

A majority (85%) of homeless individuals enumerated were over 24 years old. Five percent (5%) were transitional age youth between the ages of 18 and 24 and 10% were youth under the age of 18.

Figure 3:

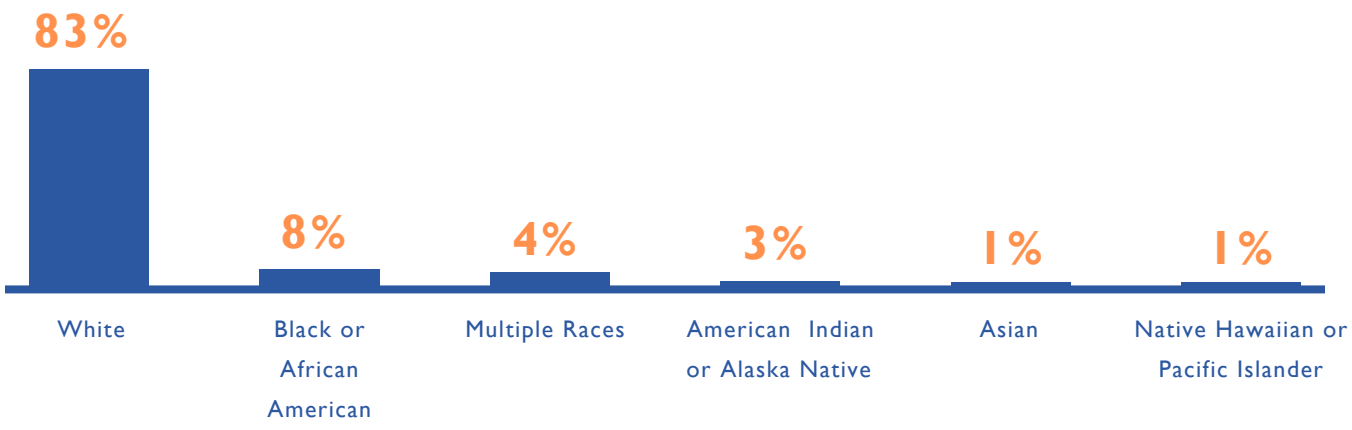


2022 N=1,962

RACE

A majority of homeless individuals enumerated identified as White (83%), which is higher than the general population at 50%*. Eight percent (8%) identified as Black or African-American which is higher than the general population at two percent (2%)*. Four percent (4%) identified as multi-racial, while three percent (3%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. One percent (1%) identified as Asian, and one percent (1%) identified as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

Figure 4:



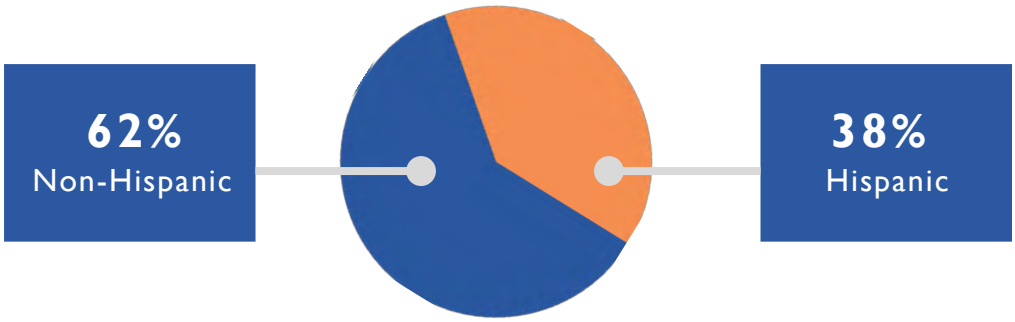
2022 N=1,962

*Source: data.census.gov

ETHNICITY

A majority of survey respondents (62%) identified as Non-Hispanic, while 38% identified as Hispanic. These numbers were slightly less than the general population* (57% and 43%, respectively).

Figure 5:



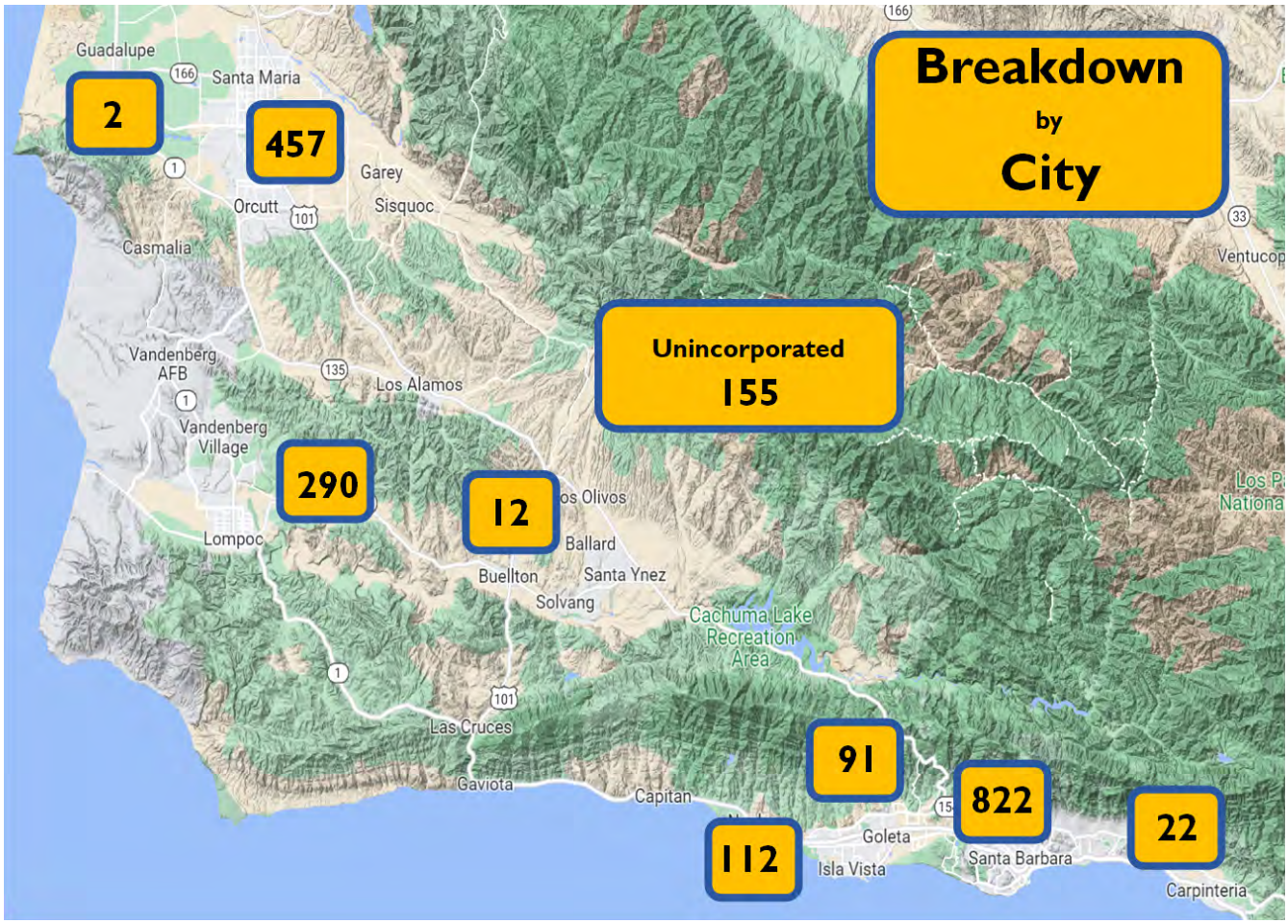
2022 N=1,962

*Source: data.census.gov

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIMEHOMELESS COUNT BY CITY

Almost half (42%) of homeless individuals enumerated lived in the city of Santa Barbara, while 23% lived in Santa Maria. Fourteen percent (14%) lived in Lompoc, and five percent (5%) lived in Goleta. Six percent (6%) of homeless individuals lived in Isla Vista, while one percent (1%) lived in Carpinteria or Summerland. Less than one percent (<1%) lived in Montecito, Guadalupe, Orcutt, and the Santa Ynez Valley.

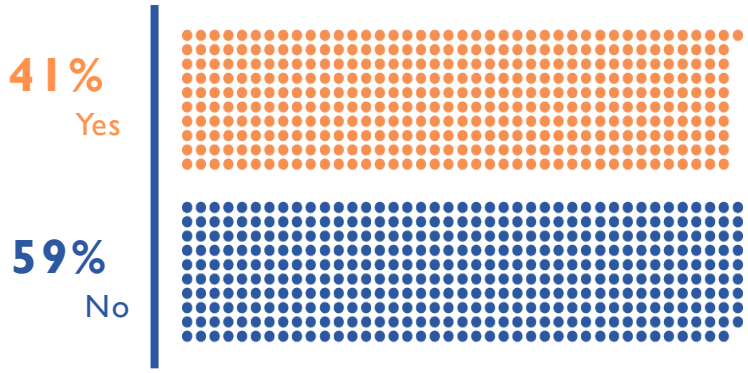
Figure 6:



FIRST TIME HOMELESS

Approximately 41% of survey respondents indicated this was their first experience of homelessness, which is slightly less than the 59% who indicated this was not their first time experiencing homelessness.

Figure 7:

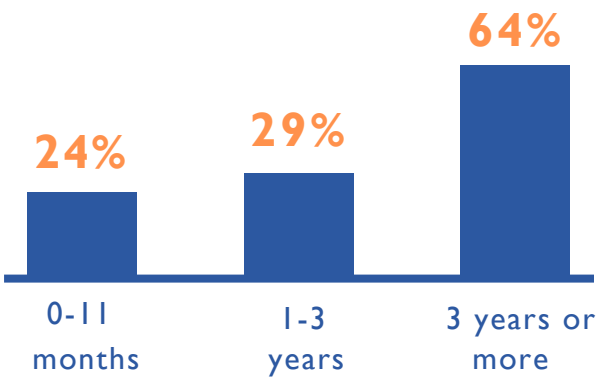


2022 N=303

HOW LONG HOMELESS

When asked about the duration of time individuals were homeless, 64% of the population in the Point-In-Time count reported that they had been homeless for three years or more. Twenty four (24%) indicated that they had been recently homeless, between 0 to 11 months, and 29% indicated they had been experiencing homelessness for 1-3 years. Please note these were direct survey questions and we have included data from the unsheltered population living outdoors, on streets, etc. that could answer this question.

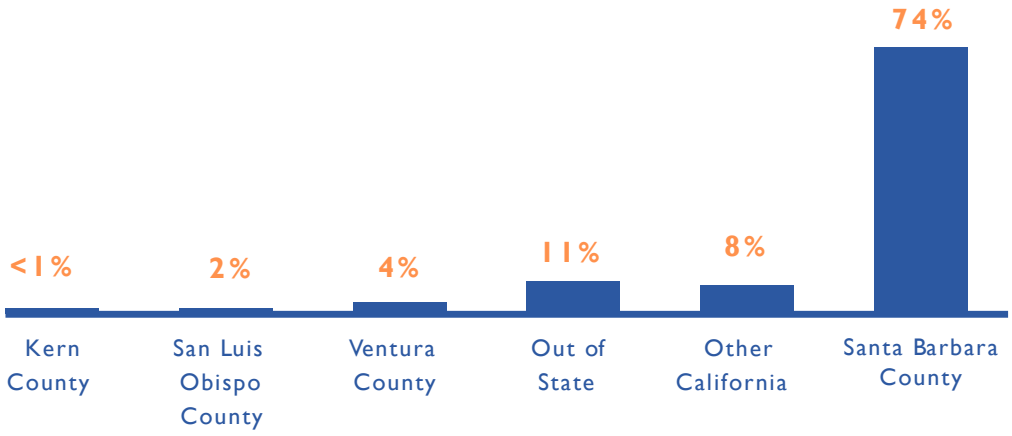
Figure 8:



2022 N=309

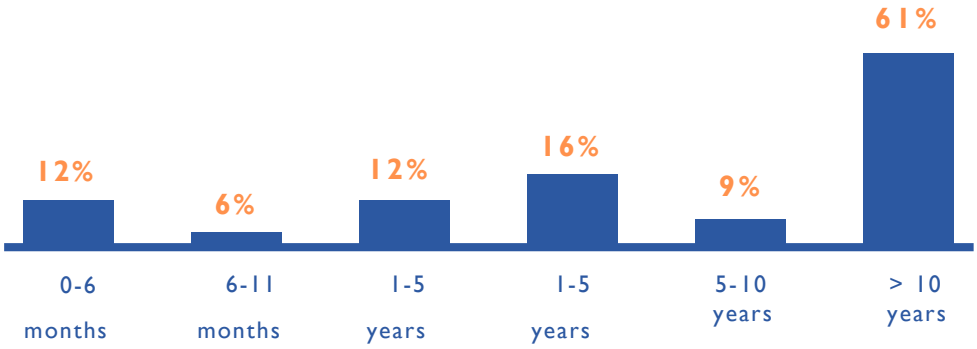
LOCALISM

Figure 9:



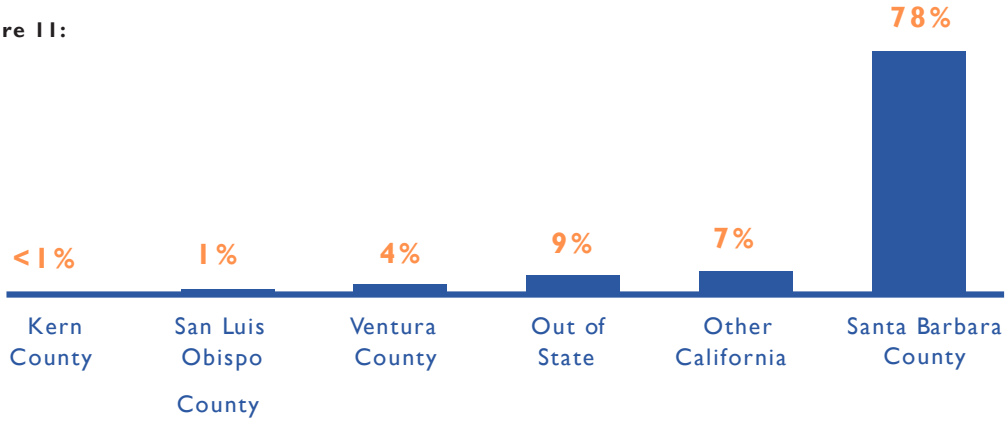
WHERE WAS YOUR MOST RECENT PERMANENT ADDRESS?

Figure 10:



HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY?

Figure 11:

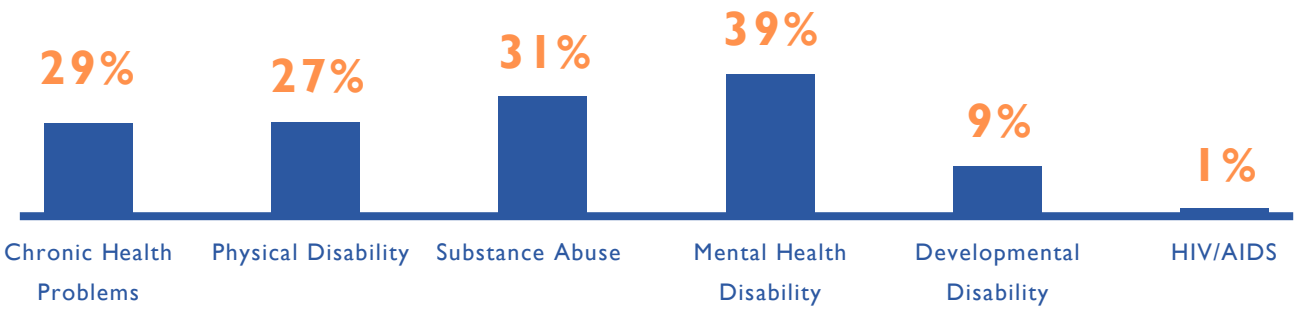


WHERE WERE YOU LIVING WHEN YOU FIRST BECAME HOMELESS?

DISABLING CONDITIONS

Twentynine (29%) of individuals reported having a chronic health condition, with 27% reporting having a physical disability. 31% reported substance abuse issues, 39% reported having a mental health disability, and approximately 9% reported having a developmental disability. One percent (1%) reported having an HIV/AIDS related illness.

Figure 12:

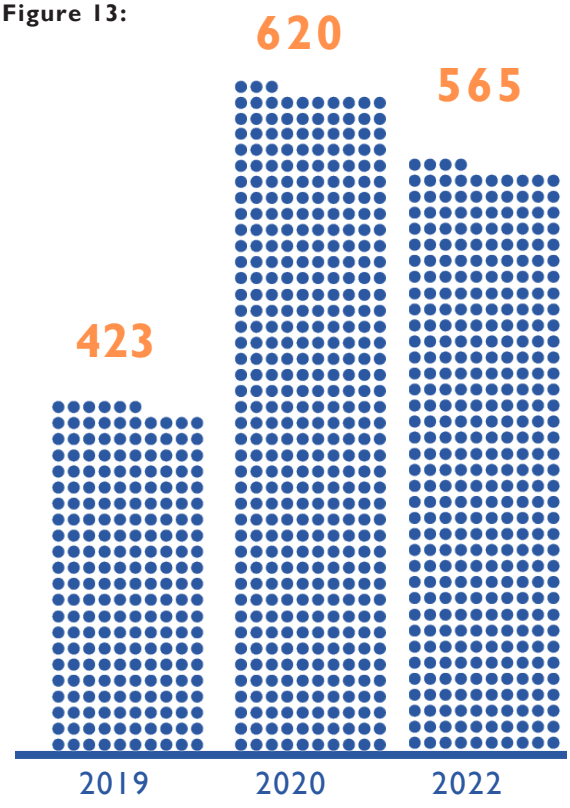


N=905 Adult clients in non-housing projects in HMIS PIT night

CHRONIC HOMELESS POPULATIONS

There were 565 chronically homeless individuals in Santa Barbara County in 2022, Compared to 2019 where 23% of the homeless population counted was chronic this percentage has increased.

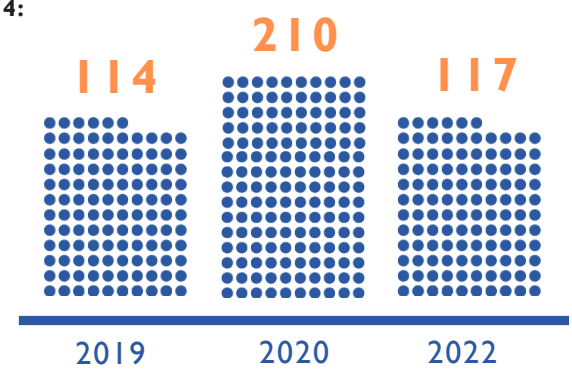
Figure 13:



HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATION ENUMERATION

The number of homeless veterans in Santa Barbara County decreased to 117 in 2022.

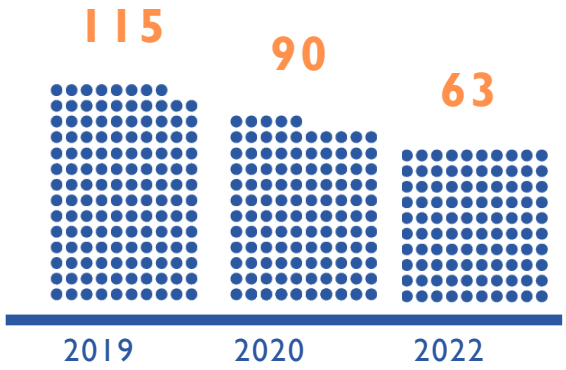
Figure 14:



FAMILIES ENUMERATED DURING THE PIT COUNT

There were 63 families identified during the 2022 count, less than the 190 families identified in 2020. 89% of families identified during the 2022 Point-in-Time Count were residing in shelters or transitional housing programs.

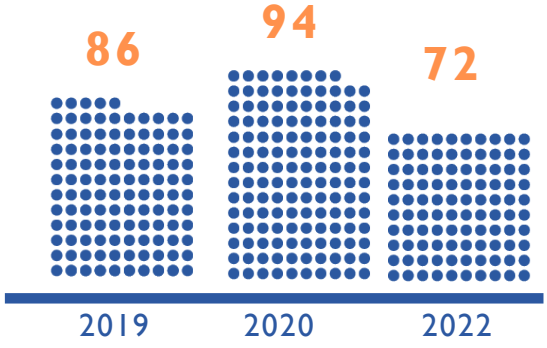
Figure 15:



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH POPULATION

There were 72 unaccompanied children and transitional-age youth identified during the 2022 Point-in-Time Count.

Figure 16:



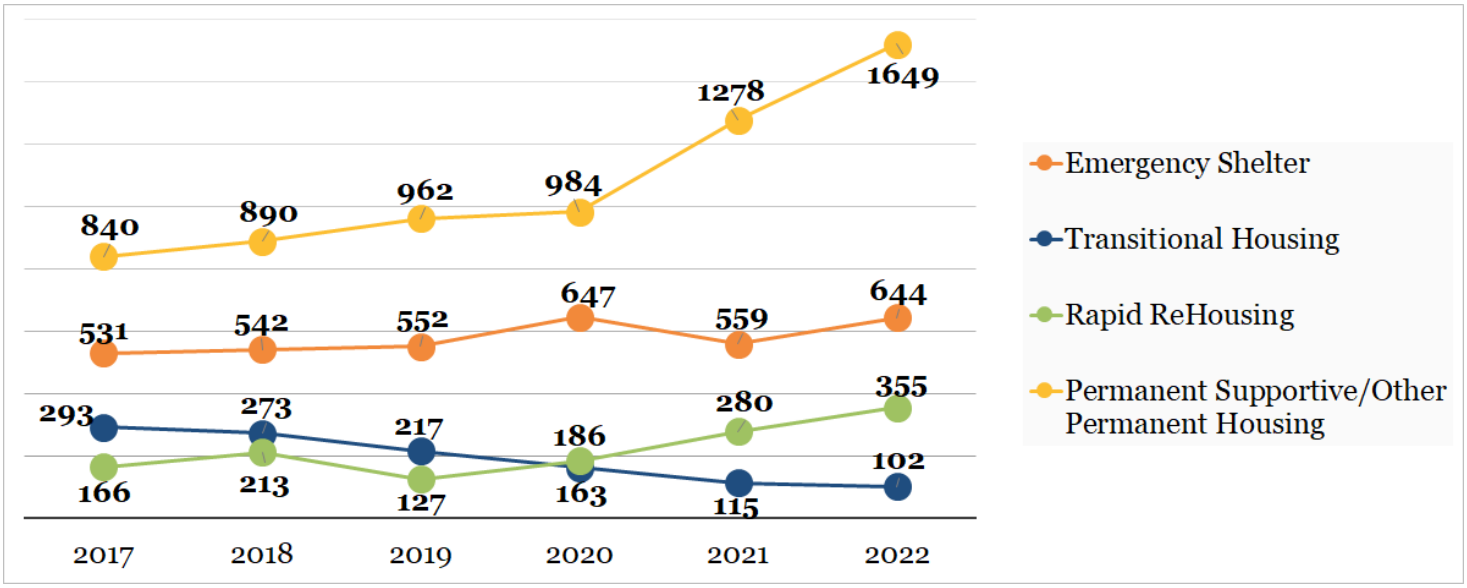
HOUSING INVENTORY CHART

The Housing Inventory Chart reports significant progress in increasing the number of beds for permanent housing by 80% between 2017 and 2022.

The addition of Residences at Depot Street in 2020 and the addition of the Emergency Housing Voucher Program in 2021 were the largest projects to increase the number of permanent housing beds. Other projects including Hedges House of Hope, West Cox Cottages, Homekey Studios and Heath House have also contributed beds to the Continuum of Care. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds are represented by the number of persons having moved into a rental unit with RRH financial assistance and support services.

Across the Continuum of Care, there were another 415 persons enrolled in RRH programs were looking for a unit to rent on the night of February 22, 2022. State and federal funding for transitional housing has decreased over the past few years and therefore the number of beds has decreased.

Transitional housing must meet a specific definition to be included in the HIC, most notable persons residing in transitional housing dedicated to persons experiencing homelessness contribute 30% of their income toward occupancy. Some transitional housing programs have converted beds to permanent housing or residential treatment programs including Hope House and Recovery Way Home in Lompoc, TC House in Santa Maria and portions of Hospitality House in Santa Barbara.





APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2022 Santa Barbara County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey was to produce a point-in-time estimate of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County, a county that covers approximately 2,745 square miles. The results of the street counts were combined with the results from the shelter counts to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County on a given night, using the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count. An in-depth qualitative survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those counted. A more detailed description of the methodology follows.

Carpinteria Bluffs



COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS COUNT METHOD

The Point-in-Time Count methodology used in 2022 had four primary components:

- General street count: an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals between the hours of 5:00AM to 8:30AM;
- Youth street count: a targeted enumeration of unsheltered homeless youth under the age of 25 between the hours of 2:30 PM and 5:30 PM;
- Shelter count: an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals on the night before the street count;
- Survey: an in-person survey of encampments, unsheltered, and sheltered individuals conducted by outreach workers and volunteers on the same day as the general street count

The general street count was designed to take place before most shelters released persons who slept at the shelter the previous night. In areas with shelters, the immediate area surrounding the shelter was prioritized to eliminate potential double counting of 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.

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 a key component in recruiting individuals with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the street count and survey efforts.

UNSHELTERED 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 neither designed for nor ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, airports, or camping grounds.

METHODOLOGICA L IMPROVEMENTS

The 2022 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved methodology used in PIT counts throughout the country, with the addition of a dedicated youth count. the CoC once again used the Counting Us mobile phone app, which is designed to automate the collection of data for the homeless census Point-in-Time Count and Survey. The Counting Us app allows volunteers to record both observational and survey data in the field, even without cell phone coverage. The data collected is available in real time, is easily accessed via the Counting Us website. There was also increased outreach and contact with those living in encampments by trained outreach worked. Location data from Fulcrum mapping software was used to facilitate coverage.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in Santa Barbara County supported the county's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. Twelve volunteer trainings were held throughout Santa Barbara County prior to the count and survey. In total, over 400 community volunteers participated in the general street count on February 23, 2022.

Volunteers and agency staff served as enumerators on the morning of the count, canvassing the county in teams to visually count homeless persons. Volunteers, service providers, and staff supported each of the seven dispatch centers (Carpinteria, Goleta, Isla Vista, Lompoc, Solvang, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria) greeting volunteers and guides, distributing instructions, maps and supplies to enumeration teams.

In order to participate in the count, all volunteers were required to download the Counting Us mobile application on their phone. Prior to the count, they were encouraged to practice using the app in test mode and to familiarize themselves with the survey questions. On the morning of the count, staff reviewed how to record observational data into the app, how to access the app while in areas without cell phone coverage, and how to problem solve if needed. Staff also reviewed the definition of homelessness, how to identify homeless individuals, potential locations where homeless individuals may be located, how to safely and respectfully conduct the count, and provided maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered, as well as other tips to help ensure an accurate 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. Enumeration teams were given specific COVID safety protocol, including maintaining a respectful distance from those people they were counting. The following are the enhanced COVID safety precautions for 2022:

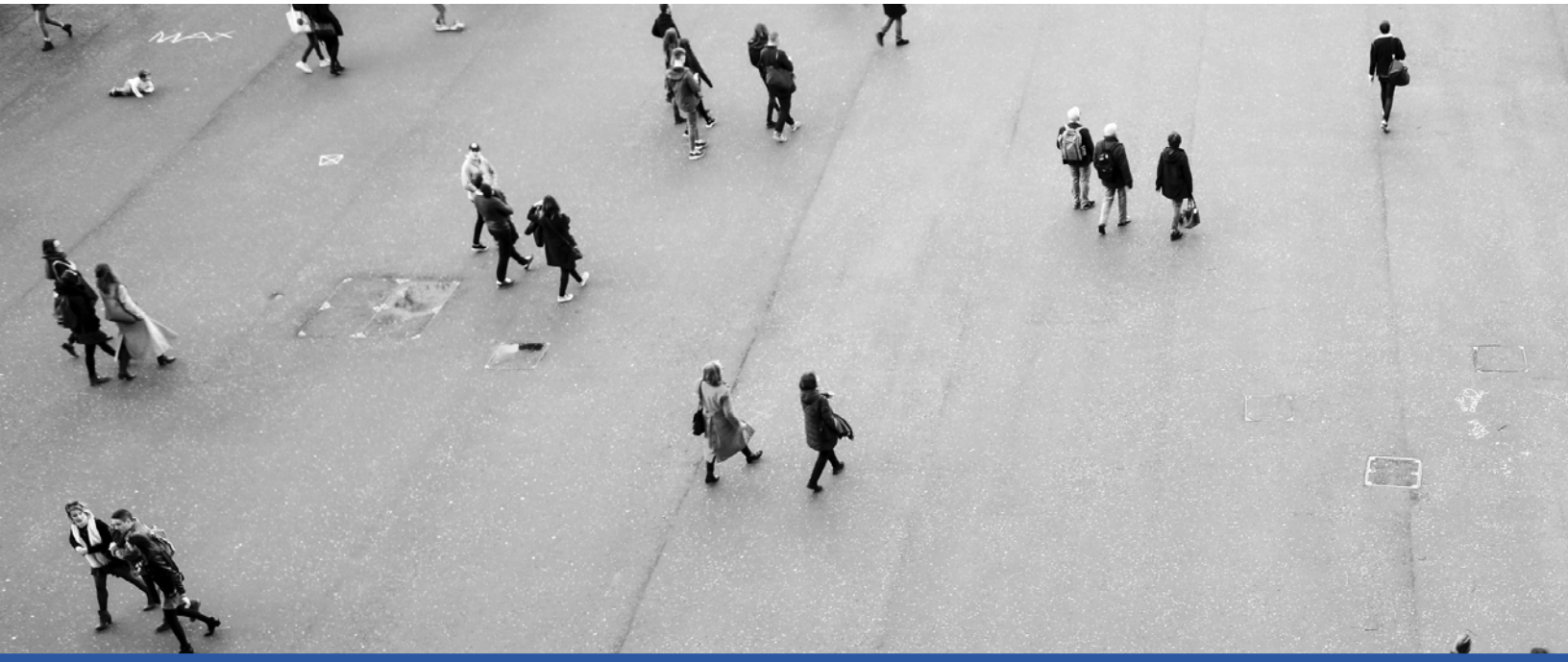
- Volunteers were encouraged to sign up in teams with people they already interact with (households, colleagues, friends);
- Individuals not part of a group were be matched in teams based on the comfort level indicated at sign up and were required to provide proof of vaccination;
- To avoid a large gathering, groups were be deployed as they arrive at their assigned logistics center;
- Masks and hand sanitizer were required and available.

UNSHELTERED COUNT LOGISTICS CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of the county within the allotted timeframe, the planning team identified seven areas for the placement of dispatch centers on the morning of the count: Carpinteria, Goleta, Isla Vista, Lompoc, Solvang, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria. 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.

LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION AND SURVEY

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 two trained volunteers and provided with their assigned census tract maps, training guidelines, and other supplies. One person from each team was designated to record entries into the Counting Us app (to avoid duplication), while other team members were designated drivers or observers relaying information to the recorder. All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traversed either by foot or by car. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas.



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The surveys were conducted on the morning of February 23, 2022 to yield qualitative data about people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County. These data are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important for both future program development and planning.

The survey collected information such as gender, family status, military service, duration and recurrence of homelessness, nighttime accommodations, 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 shelter staff and enumeration teams on the evening prior to and the day of the count. The Counting Us mobile phone application was used to collect the survey data. A short training session on the Counting Us app was facilitated by the staff at each dispatch center, which included reviewing survey questions, how to access surveys while out of cell phone range, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive gift was offered to each respondent to show appreciation for their time and participation. A significant number of socks, cereals bars, hygiene kits, $5 McDonald's gift cards and 2-1-1 cards cards were obtained. These were distributed as part of the Point-in-Time Count and Survey, and they were easy to distribute, had wide appeal, and could be provided within the constraints of the project budget. The incentives were widely accepted among survey respondents.

DATA COLLECTION

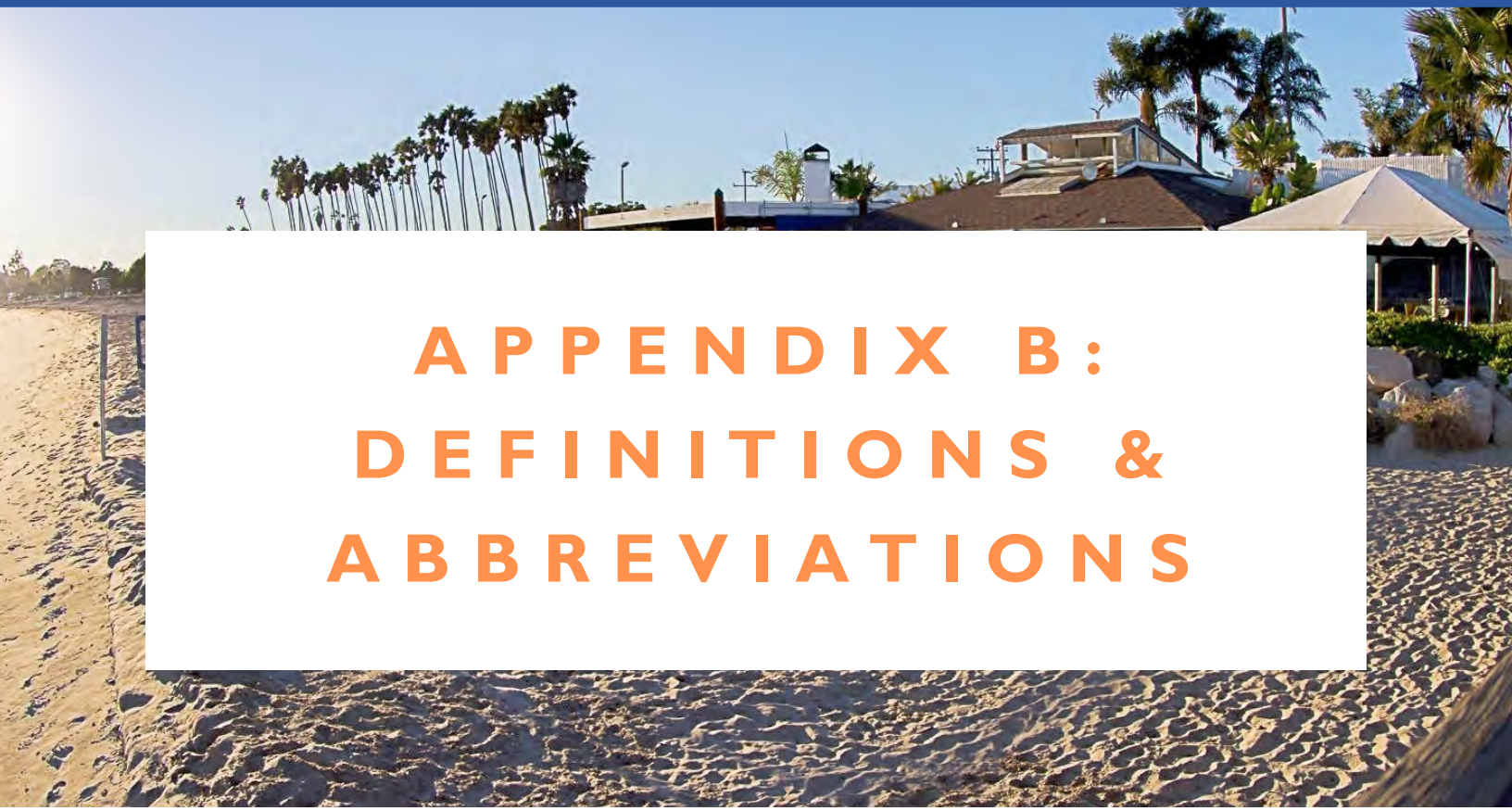
Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where they were being surveyed. The interviewers were trained to approach the survey respondents in a trauma-informed way by first introducing themselves and explaining why they were there. 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, location, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other survey questions.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted. Missing values are 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.



APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Chronic homelessness – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 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 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 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 – 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.

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.

Transition-age 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).

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).

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.