

2022

# COUNTY OF MARIN

POINT-IN-TIME REPORT  
ON HOMELESSNESS

Census and Survey Results

## MARIN COUNTY

HOMELESS COUNT & SURVEY  
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

2022



## ABOUT MARIN COUNTY HHS

The Marin County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the collaborative applicant for the Marin County Continuum of Care and oversees the Point-in-Time Count.

With 650+ employees, 40+ programs and services and 12+ locations, HHS is the largest department in the County of Marin, and it is the mission of HHS to promote and protect the health, wellbeing, self-sufficiency, and safety of all people in Marin.

HHS's vision, as outlined in the HHS Strategic Plan to Achieve Health and Wellness Equity, is that all in Marin flourish by:

- Becoming an anti-racist organization for services, programs, clients, staff, and partners
- Being one integrated, coordinated, collaborative, non-siloed organization for staff and clients
- All employees have the opportunity to influence the organization and thrive in their pursuits
- All residents can live their most happy, healthy, safe, and self-sufficient best lives.

**Health & Human Services Director:** Benita McLarin

**Division of Homelessness and Whole Person Care:**

- **Project Manager:** Carrie Sager
- **Director:** Gary Naja-Riese

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## ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

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

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Marin County and ASR would like to thank the many service providers who offered their talents, time, and wisdom. Their support in facilitating the process of homeless peer enumeration by recruiting count workers and assisting in the administration of surveys ensured this enumeration was a success. Finally, Marin County and ASR would like to thank the homeless count and survey workers, including those with lived experience and community volunteers, as well as the survey respondents, whose efforts are reflected throughout the findings of this report.

## PROJECT COORDINATOR

Carrie Ellen Sager

*Marin County Health and Human Services*

## MARIN COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) BOARD

Adopt A Family of Marin	Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers
Aging Action Initiative	Marin County Health and Human Services
Buckelew Programs	Marin County Office of Education
Center Point Inc.	Marin County Probation Department
Center for Domestic Peace	Marin County Veteran Services
Community Action Marin	Marin Housing Authority
Downtown Streets Team	Marin Organizing Committee
Homeward Bound of Marin	Ritter Center
Marin City Health & Wellness Center	San Rafael Police Department
Marin County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services	St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin
Marin County Board of Supervisors	Side by Side Transitional Age Youth
Marin County Community Development Agency	Women Helping All People

## COUNT AND SURVEY COORDINATORS

City of San Rafael

*Special thanks to Lynn Murphy*

Community Action Marin

*Special thanks to Laurel Hill & Fatai Tokolahi*

Homeward Bound of Marin, Novato

*Special thanks to LaSaunda Tate, Laurel te Velde & Hanna McCarthy*

Downtown Streets Team

*Special thanks to Karen Strolia & Laurel Halvorson*

Ritter Center, San Rafael

*Special thanks to Sehrish Khan & Colin Jablonski*

## YOUTH & FAMILY COUNT AND SURVEY COORDINATOR

Adopt A Family

*Special thanks to Jasmine Martinez*

Homeward Bound of Marin

*Special thanks to Patty Duran & Shikira Porter*

Marin County Health and Human Services

*Special thanks to Chely Cañas*

Side by Side TAY Space

*Special thanks to Laura Taylor*

# INTRODUCTION

Every two years, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of community members experiencing homelessness. 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, or in cars, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation.

The Point-in-Time Count is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness and is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, the Marin County Continuum of Care (CoC) receives approximately \$4.95 million dollars annually in federal funding, a key source of funding for the county's homeless services.

This information ultimately helps the federal government to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Point-in-Time Census and Survey data also help to inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

Marin County worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2022 Marin Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey after the count that had been scheduled for late January 2021 was postponed due to COVID-19. ASR is a social research firm with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessment that has worked with Marin County on their Point-in-Time Counts since 2015.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the 2022 Marin Point-in-Time Count and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held planning meetings with local stakeholders, including representatives from the cities, County, and community-based service providers. The contributions of these individuals at the 2022 planning meetings were instrumental to ensuring the 2022 Marin Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2022 Marin Point-in-Time Census and Survey consisted of the following data collection 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, (2) a point-in-time enumeration of homeless individuals and families residing in temporary shelter, including emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities, (3) a specialized count of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth under the age of 25, (4) specific outreach to capture data on unsheltered families, and (5) an in-depth survey administered to unsheltered individuals in the weeks following the count.

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

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide 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.



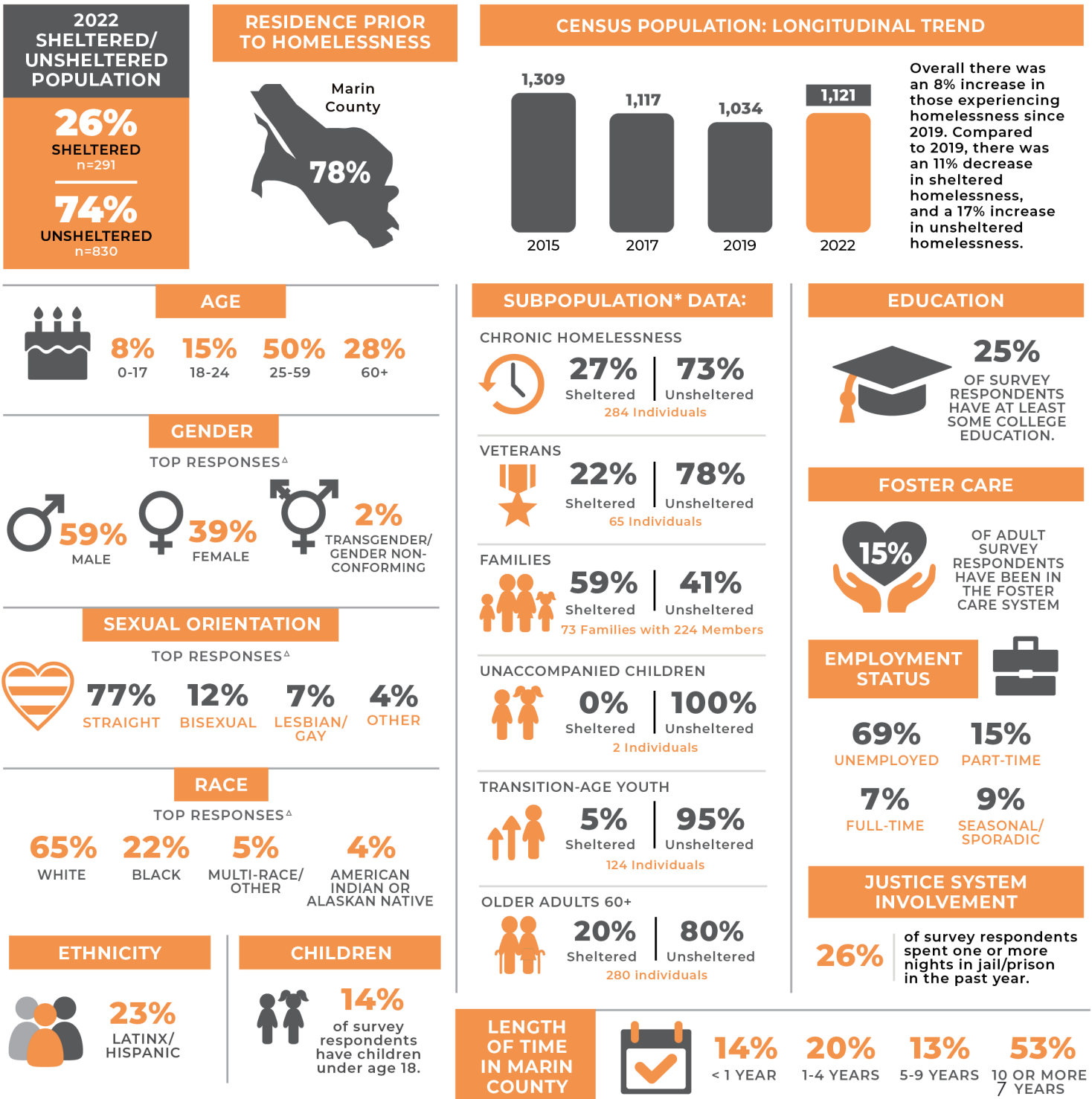
# MARIN COUNTY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2022 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

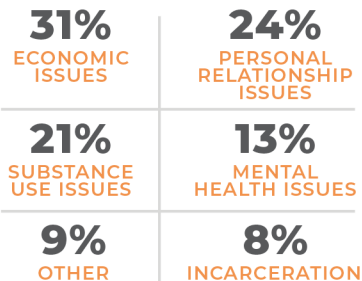
Every two years, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2022 Marin County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on February 17, 2022. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 359 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.



## PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS+

TOP 6 RESPONSES<sup>Δ</sup>



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**5%** | reported they were currently experiencing domestic violence

## DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



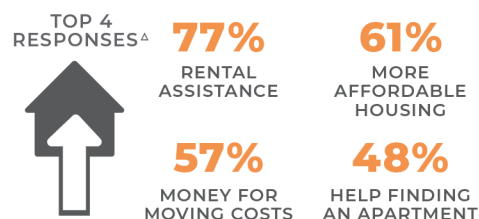
## FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



## AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



## HELP NEEDED TO OBTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING+



## SELF REPORTED HEALTH+

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



## DISABLING CONDITIONS



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.

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

**63%** of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits

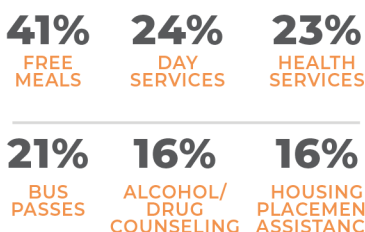
## COVID-19

**64%** HAVE RECEIVED A COVID-19 VACCINE

**14%** SAID THAT THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF THEIR HOMELESSNESS WAS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING+

TOP 6 RESPONSES<sup>Δ</sup>



## SERVICES REQUESTED+

TOP 6 RESPONSES<sup>Δ</sup>



## \*SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

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

- Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.

### VETERANS

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

### FAMILIES

A household with at least one adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one child member (persons under 18).

### UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Children under the age of 18 and young adults ages 18 through 24 Transition-Age Youth who are experiencing homelessness and living without a parent or legal guardian.

+ Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.

Δ Only displaying top responses.

Note: Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Marin County. It is available at [housingfirst.marinhhs.org/point-time-count](https://housingfirst.marinhhs.org/point-time-count)

Source: Burr, J., Click, K., Salcedo, J., & Nybank, J. (2022). 2022 County of Marin Point-in-Time Report on Homelessness.



# POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2022 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey included a complete enumeration of all unsheltered and publicly sheltered persons experiencing homelessness. The general unsheltered count was conducted on February 17, 2022, from approximately 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM and covered all 828 square miles of Marin County.<sup>1</sup> The shelter count was conducted on the previous evening and included all individuals staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and domestic violence shelters. The general unsheltered and shelter count methodology were similar to those used in 2019, with the addition of special outreach to families, which may have resulted in an increase to the family count.

The methodology used for the 2022 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey is commonly described as a “blitz count” since it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. The count is conducted early in the morning before individuals sleeping outside have woken up and moved from their sleeping areas and before those in shelters have left. The result is an observation-based count of individuals and families who appear to be homeless.

The count is then followed by an in-person, representative survey, the results of which are used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the local homeless population. Information collected from the survey is used to fulfill HUD reporting requirements and to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts.

In a continuing effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, Marin County also conducted a dedicated youth count. For more information regarding the dedicated youth count, deduplication, and project methodology, please see *Appendix A: Methodology*.

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<sup>1</sup> Volunteers covered all publicly accessible roads and additional areas identified as “hot spots” in the planning process.

# NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN COUNTY

Figure 1. Total Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness, with Trend

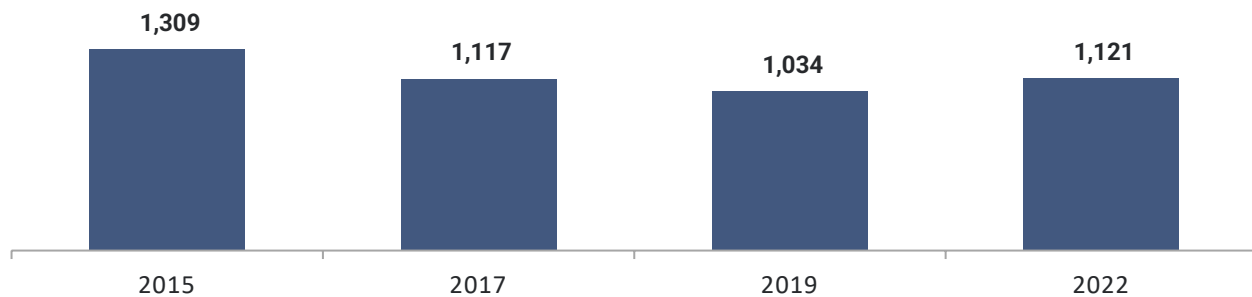
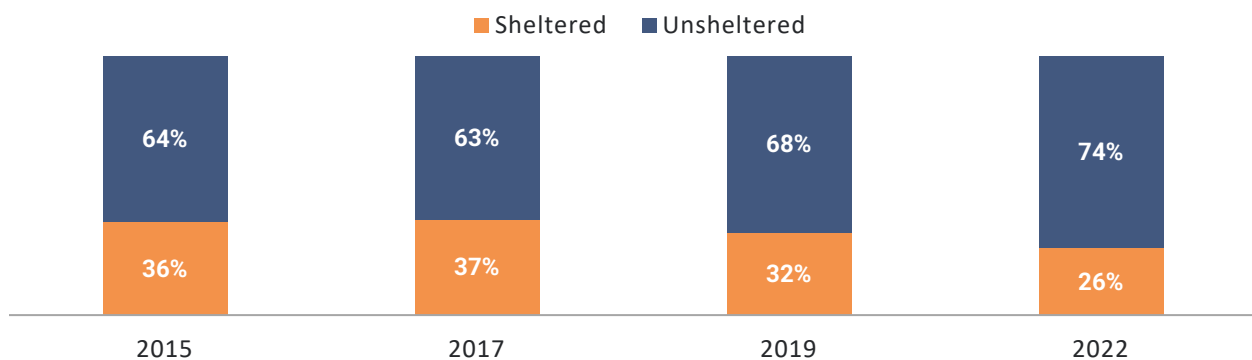
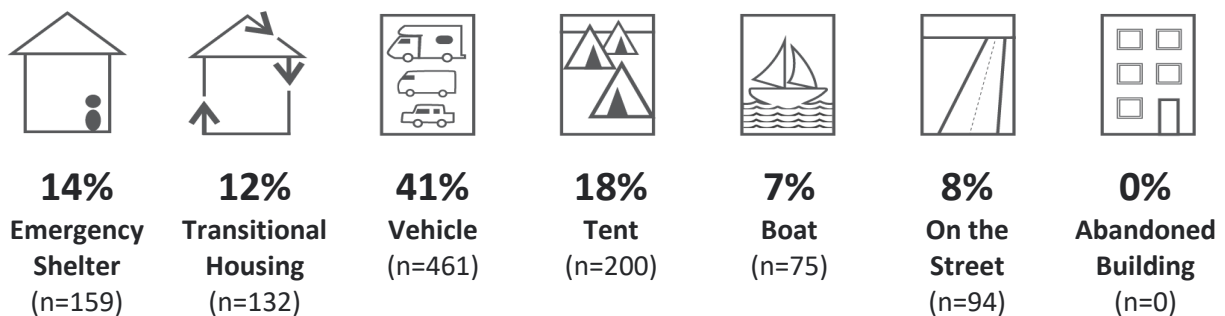


Figure 2. Total Homeless Count Population, by Shelter Status



	2015	2017	2019	2022	19 22 % CHANGE
<b>Sheltered</b>	474	409	326	291	↓ 11%
<b>Unsheltered</b>	835	708	708	830	↑ 17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>1,121</b>	↑ 8%

Figure 3. Place of Residence on the Night of the Count



2022 n= 1,121

The number of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness increased in all regions of the county except for West Marin. The 2021 vehicle count saw a significant decrease in West Marin from 2019, suggesting a decrease from the 2019 number, likely as a result of enforcing side-of-the-road parking bans; however, the difference may also be due to an undercount exacerbated by the nature of the homeless community in West Marin and the nature of rural homelessness, which can make it difficult to find people. The West Marin count was conducted by outreach staff familiar with the area, who were also able to distinguish between people experiencing homelessness and campers/surfers avoiding campground fees. Outreach staff estimate that the true number in West Marin is around 40. The sheltered number decreased by 11% from 2019 to 291 persons in 2022. Although the sheltered number decreased, the unsheltered number increased by 17% from 2019 to 830 persons in 2022.

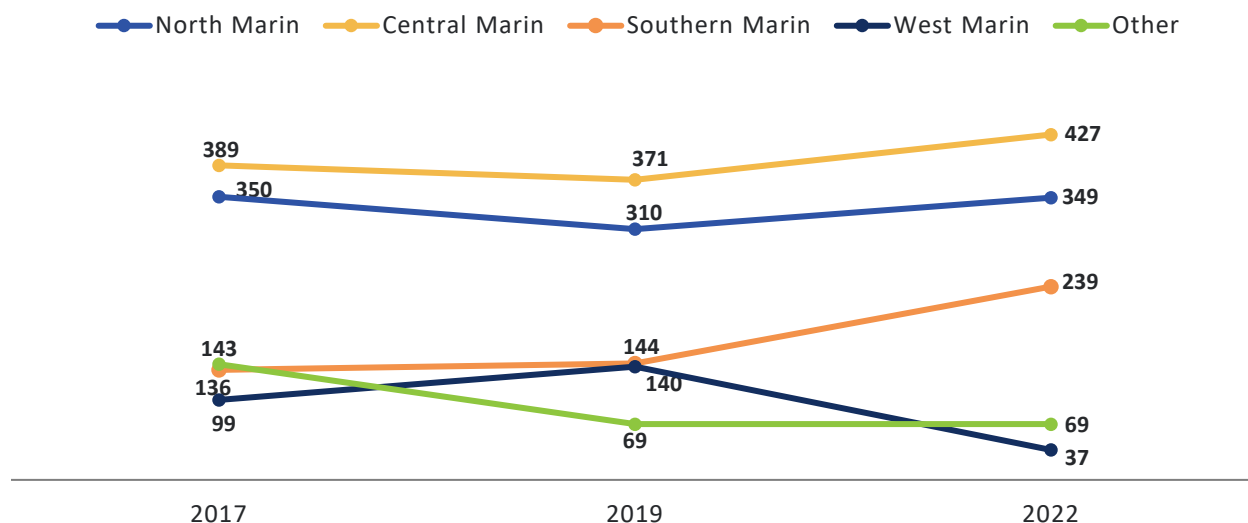
Figure 4. Total Homeless Count Population, by Jurisdiction and Shelter Status

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED			SHELTERED			TOTAL		
	2017	2019	2022	2017	2019	2022	2017	2019	2022
<b>NORTH MARIN</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>349</b>
Novato	169	147	150	181	163	115	350	310	265
Unincorporated North Marin	*	*	84	0	0	0	*	*	84
<b>CENTRAL MARIN</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>427</b>
Fairfax	13	5	13	0	0	0	13	5	13
Corte Madera	26	39	3	0	0	0	26	39	3
Kentfield	*	*	2	*	*	0	*	*	2
Larkspur	2	28	9	0	0	0	2	28	9
Ross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Anselmo	2	20	11	0	0	0	2	20	11
San Rafael	233	161	241	85	94	107	318	255	348
Other Unincorporated Central Marin	17	16	41	0	0	0	17	16	41
<b>SOUTHERN MARIN</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>239</b>
Belvedere/ Tiburon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marin City	*	*	12	*	*	0	*	*	12
Mill Valley	11	8	38	0	0	0	11	8	38
Sausalito	36	25	97	0	0	0	36	25	97
Strawberry	*	*	12	*	*	0	*	*	12
Other Unincorporated Southern Marin	14	16	5	0	0	0	14	16	5
Richardson Bay Anchor Outs	86	103	75	0	0	0	86	103	75
<b>WEST MARIN</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>37</b>
Bolinas	*	*	16	*	*	0	*	*	16
Point Reyes Station	*	*	9	*	*	0	*	*	9
Other Unincorporated West Marin	99	140	12	0	0	0	99	140	12
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>
Domestic Violence Shelter	--	--	--	89	69	69	89	69	69
Seasonal Shelter	--	--	--	54	0	0	54	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>1,121</b>

Note: Locations of domestic violence shelters remain undisclosed and are separated out into their own category.

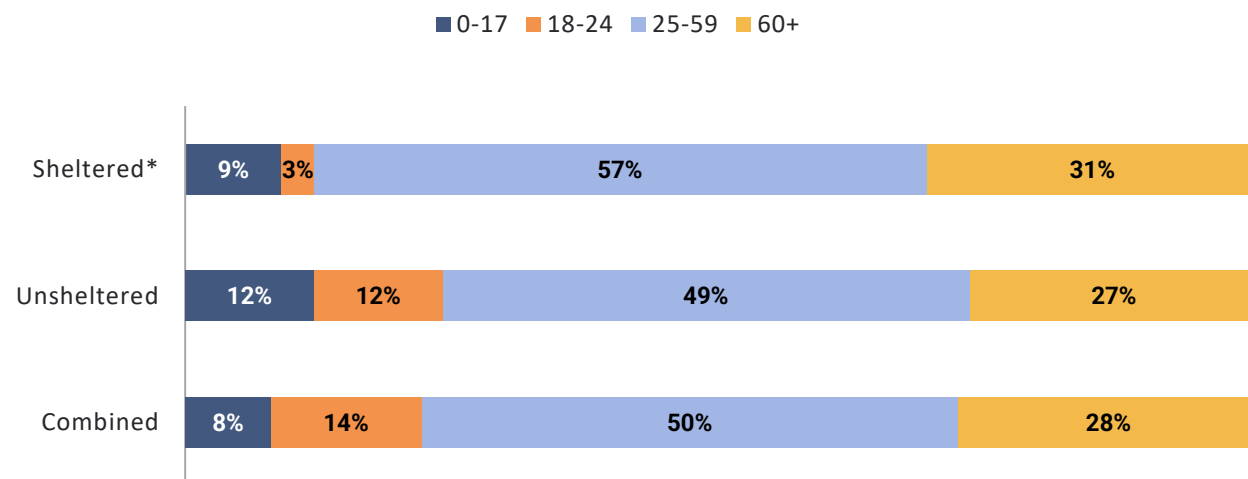
\* In 2022, areas previously categorized as Novato were assigned to Unincorporated North Marin; the areas of Marin City and Strawberry were pulled out of Other Unincorporated Southern Marin; the area of Kentfield was pulled out of Other Unincorporated Central Marin; the areas of Bolinas and Point Reyes Station were pulled out of Other Unincorporated West Marin.

Figure 5. Total Homeless Count Population, by County Region



Age can be an indicator of services needed. Twelve percent (12%) of the sheltered population was under the age of 25, while approximately one-quarter (24%) of the population experiencing unsheltered homelessness was under age 25. When looking at the older population, 31% of sheltered and 27% of unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness were age 60 or older.

Figure 6. Total Homeless Count Population, by Shelter Status and Age



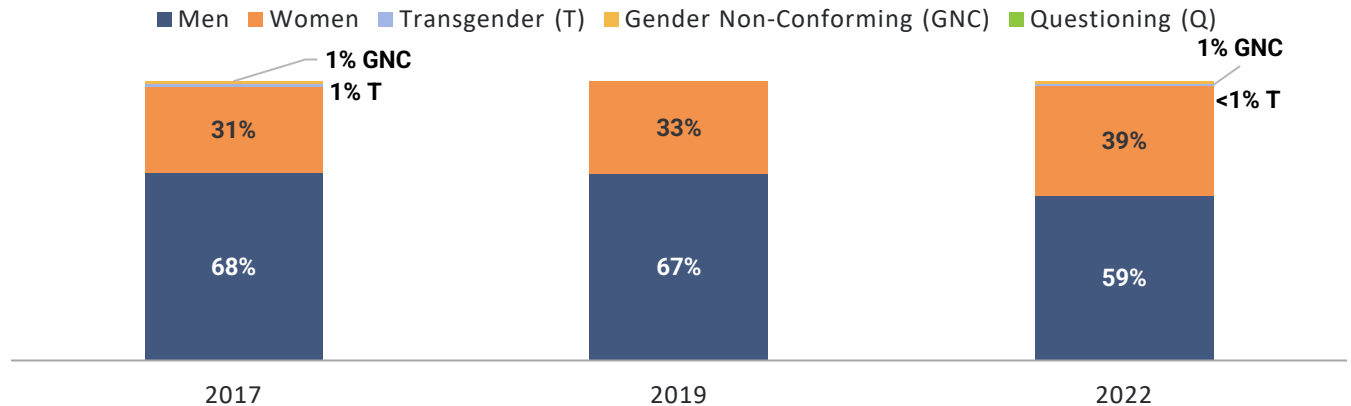
2022 Sheltered n=181; 2022 Unsheltered n=830

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. No comparison to prior years because data collected in 2022 used a different set of age ranges.

\* Sheltered data does not include Domestic Violence programs, Gilead House or CalWORKs or SVDP hotel/motels.

The gender of those experiencing homelessness in Marin County shifted slightly from 2019, with 59% of the population identifying as men and 39% identifying as women.

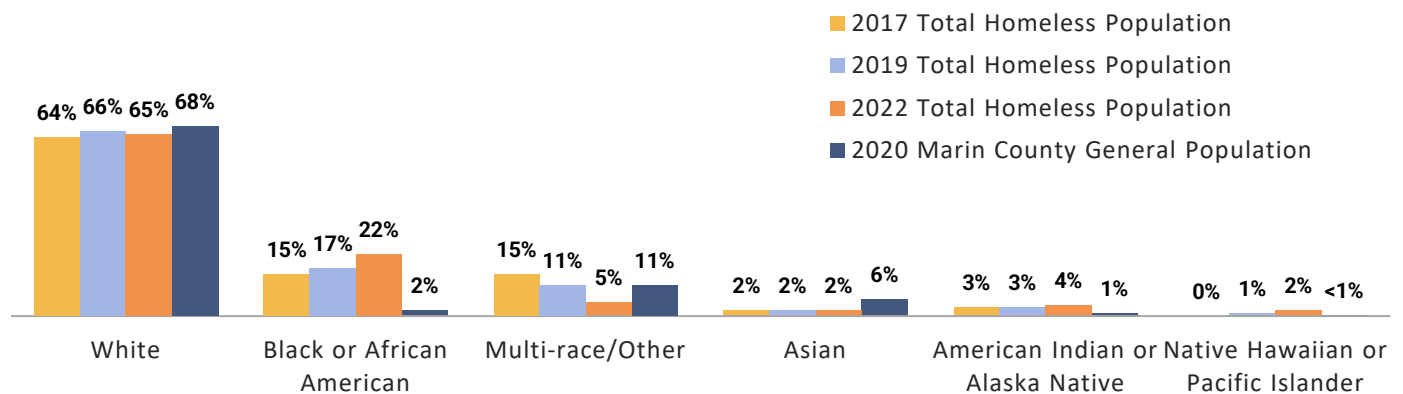
Figure 7. Total Homeless Count Population, by Gender



2017 n=1,117; 2019 n=1,034; 2022 n=1,121  
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.  
 \* The response option "Questioning" was added in 2022.

In comparison with the general population of Marin County, those identifying as Black or African American were significantly overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While only 2% of the general population identifies as Black or African American, 22% of those experiencing homelessness identified as such. Twenty-three percent (23%) of those enumerated identified as Hispanic/Latinx, compared to 19% of the general Marin County population.<sup>2</sup>

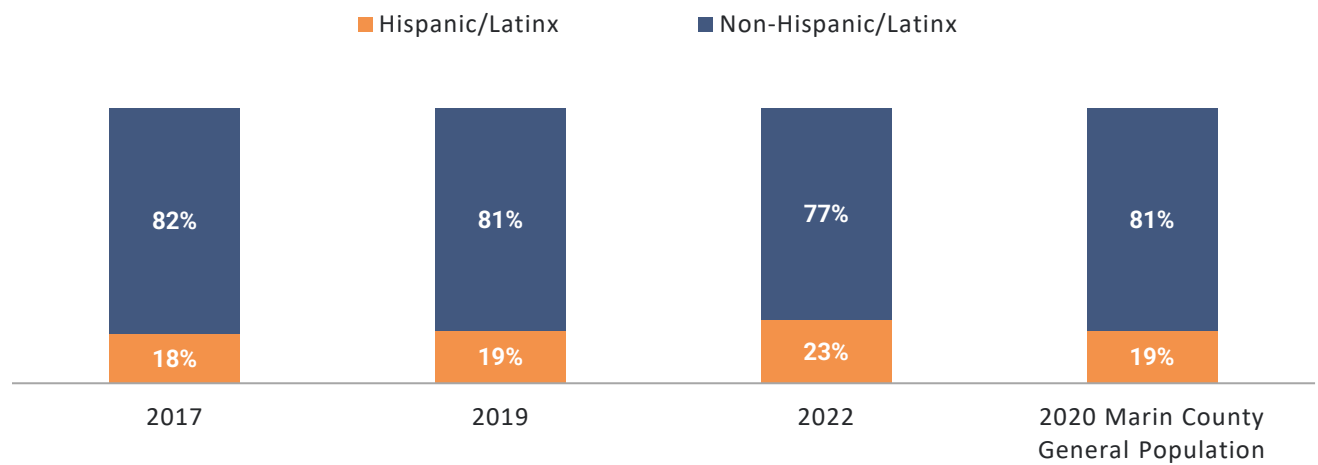
Figure 8. Total Homeless Count Population, by Race



2022 n=1,121  
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P1: Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0500000US06041&y=2020&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>

Figure 9. Total Homeless Count Population, by Ethnicity



2017 n=1,117; 2019 n=1,034; 2022 n=1,121; 2020 General Marin County Population n=262,321



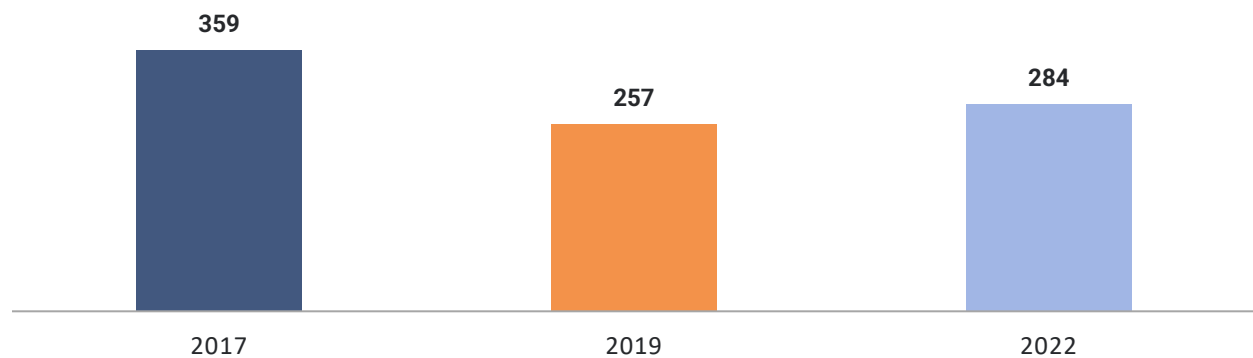
# POINT-IN-TIME COUNT: SELECT POPULATIONS

## Chronically Homeless

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer—or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the last three years—and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as to families with children whose head of household meets the definition.

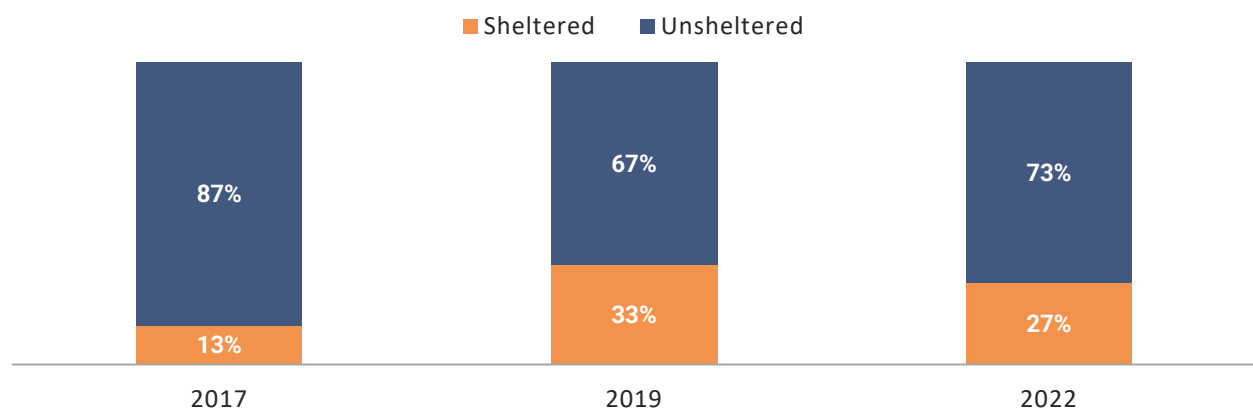
There was no change in the percentage of those experiencing chronic homelessness between 2019 and 2022, remaining steady at 25% in 2022; it is estimated that 284 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness in January 2022. Though the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness increased slightly from 2019, chronic homelessness is still 20% below 2017 numbers.

Figure 10. Chronically Homeless Census, with Trend



The proportion of those who were unsheltered increased from 67% in 2019 to 73% in 2022.

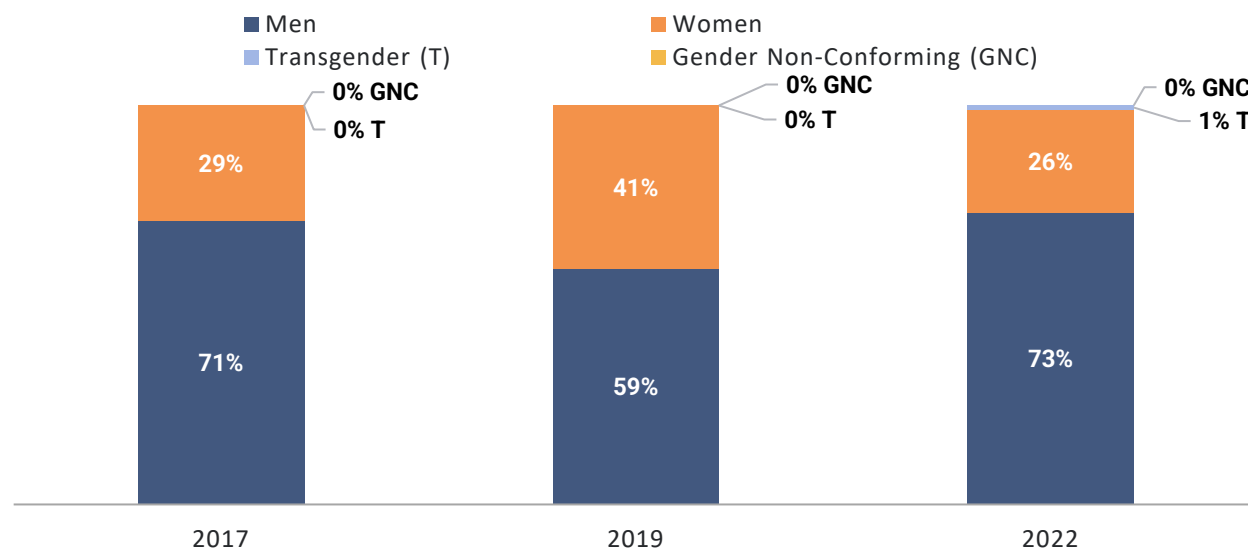
Figure 11. Chronically Homeless Census, by Shelter Status



	2017	2019	2022	19 22 % CHANGE
Sheltered	42	86	77	↓ 10%
Unsheltered	287	171	207	↑ 25%
Total	359	257	284	↑ 11%

The majority (73%) of the population experiencing chronic homelessness identified as men in 2022, up from 59% in 2019. The proportion of women experiencing chronic homelessness decreased to 26% in 2022.

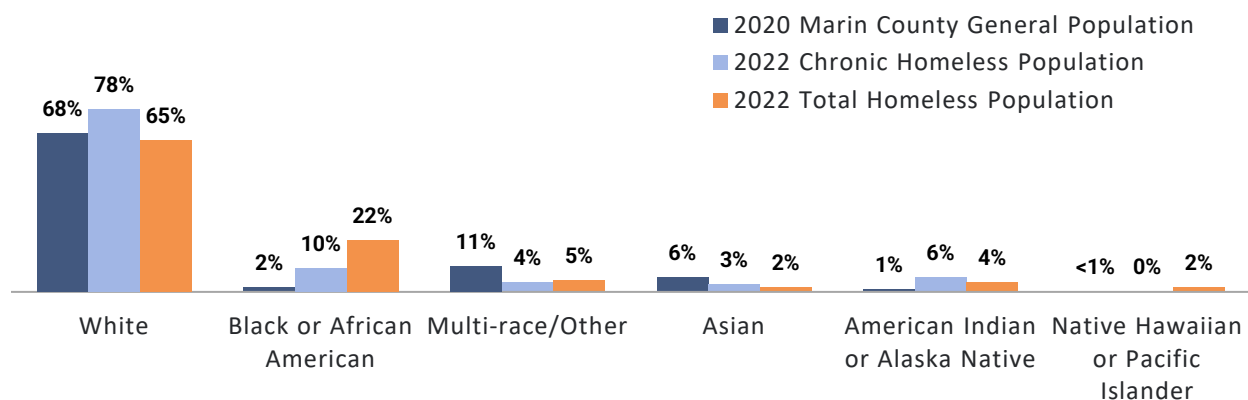
Figure 12. Chronically Homeless Census, by Gender



2019 Chronic n=75; 2022 Chronic n=85

As among the overall population experiencing homelessness, people of color were disproportionately represented in the chronically homeless population. Ten percent (10%) of the chronically homeless population identified as Black or African American compared to 2% of the general population, and 6% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native compared to 2% of the general population.

Figure 13. Chronically Homeless Census, By Race<sup>3</sup>



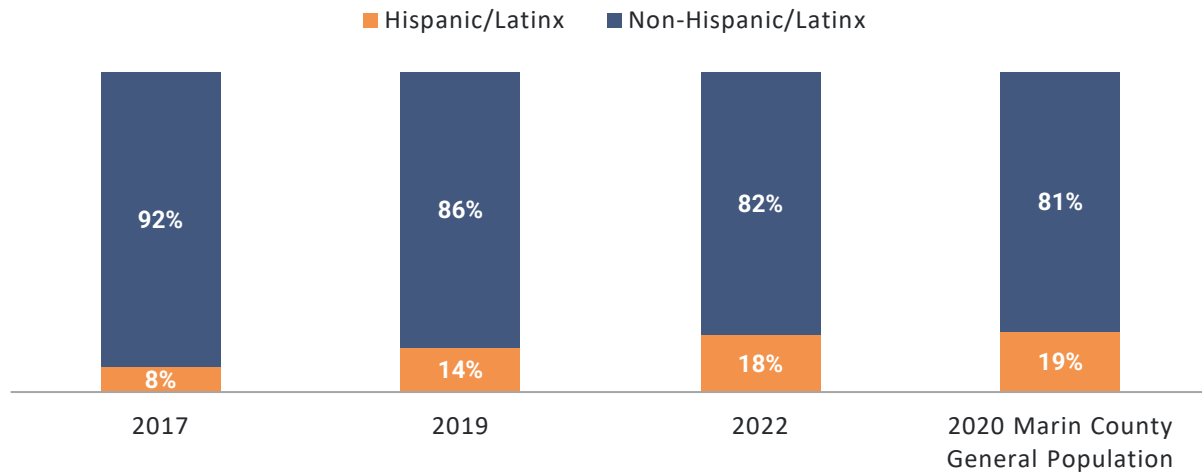
2022 Chronic n=72

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

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P1: Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0500000US06041&y=2020&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>

Those identifying as Hispanic or Latinx increased to 18% of the chronically homeless population, similar to the general Marin County population at 19%.

Figure 14. Chronically Homeless Census, by Ethnicity<sup>4</sup>



2019 Chronic n=70; 2022 Chronic n=79; 2020 Marin County General Population n=262,321

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ethnicity&g=0500000US06041&y=2020>

## Veterans

Many U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans experience higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance use disorders. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters, and often remain on the street for extended periods of time.

The number of veterans in Marin County in 2022 dropped to 65 individuals down from 99 individuals in 2019.

Figure 15. Total Number of Veterans, With Trend

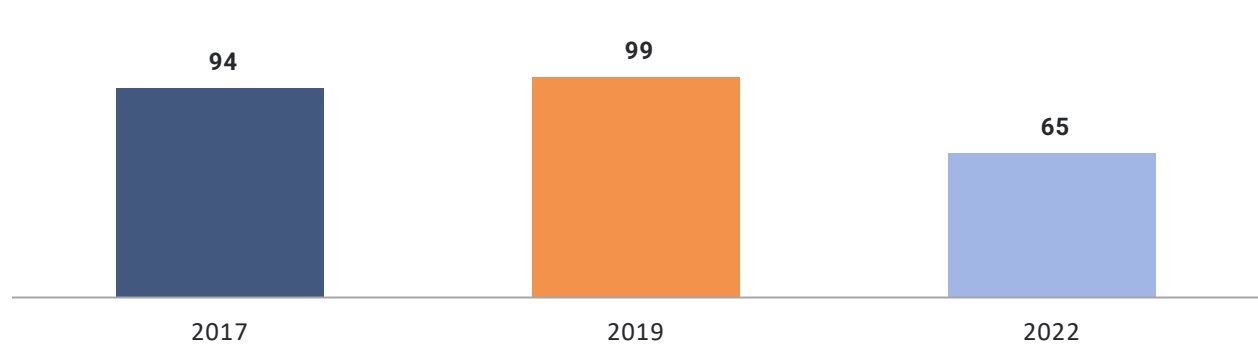
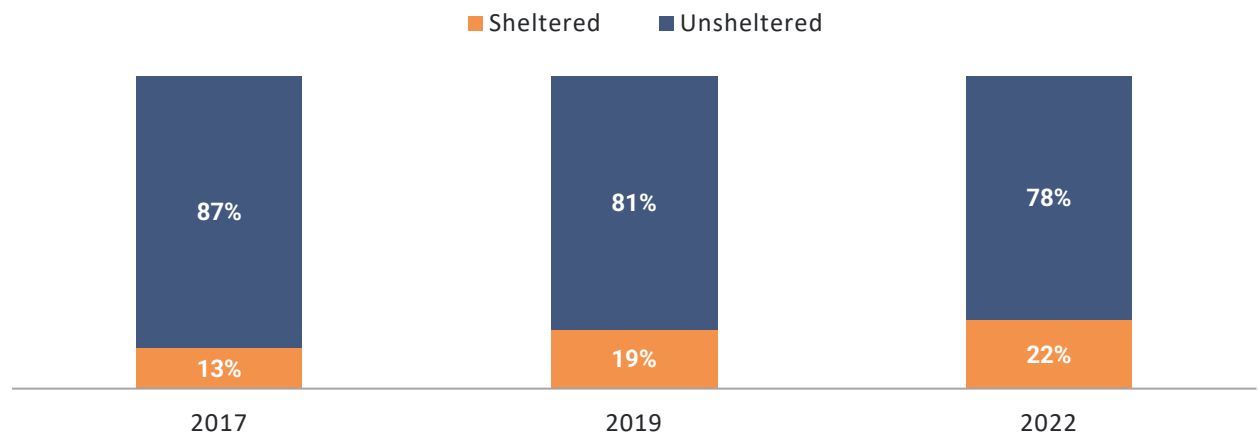


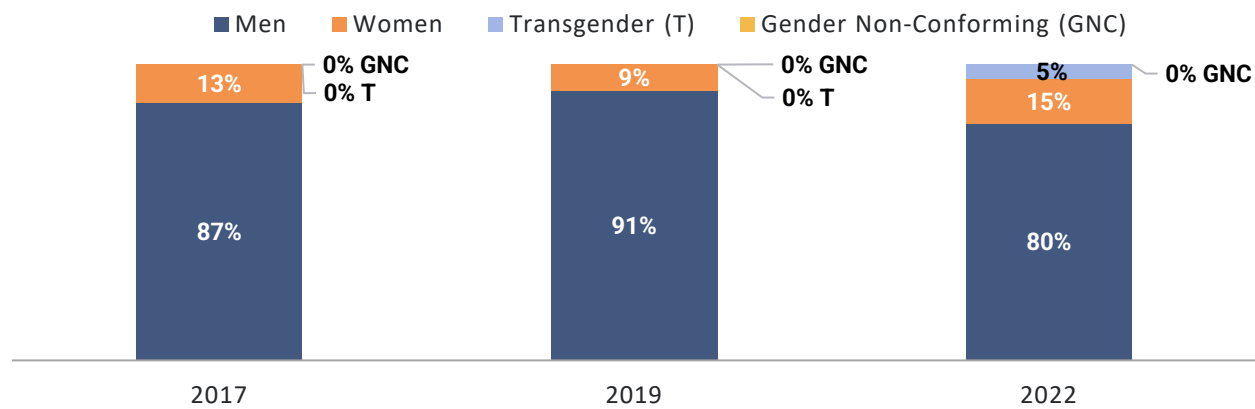
Figure 16. Veteran Census, by Shelter Status



	2017	2019	2022	19 22 % CHANGE
<b>Sheltered</b>	27	19	14	↓ 26%
<b>Unsheltered</b>	67	80	51	↓ 36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>↓ 34%</b>

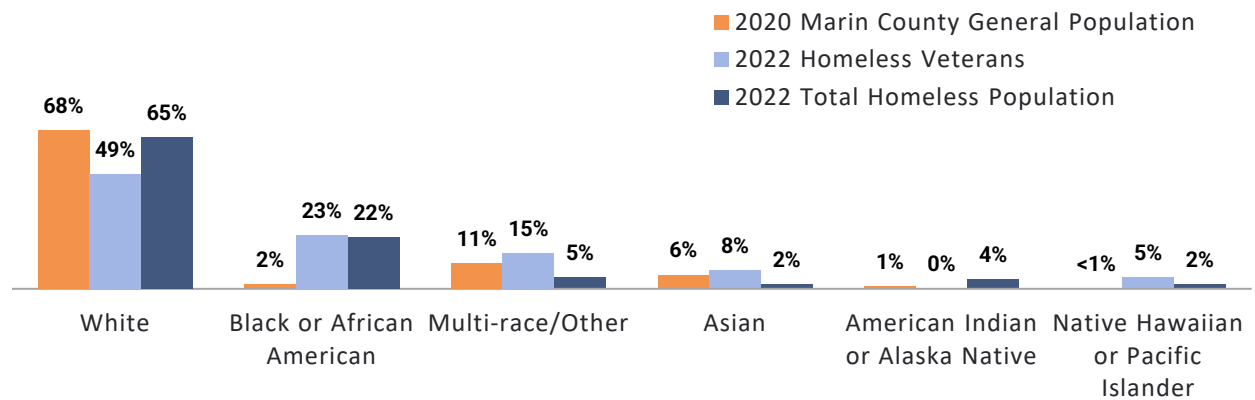
The number of women veterans experiencing homelessness increased from 9% of veterans experiencing homelessness in 2019 to 15% in 2022.

Figure 17. Veteran Census, by Gender



2019 Veterans n=99; 2022 Veterans n=65

Figure 18. Veteran Census, by Race<sup>5</sup>

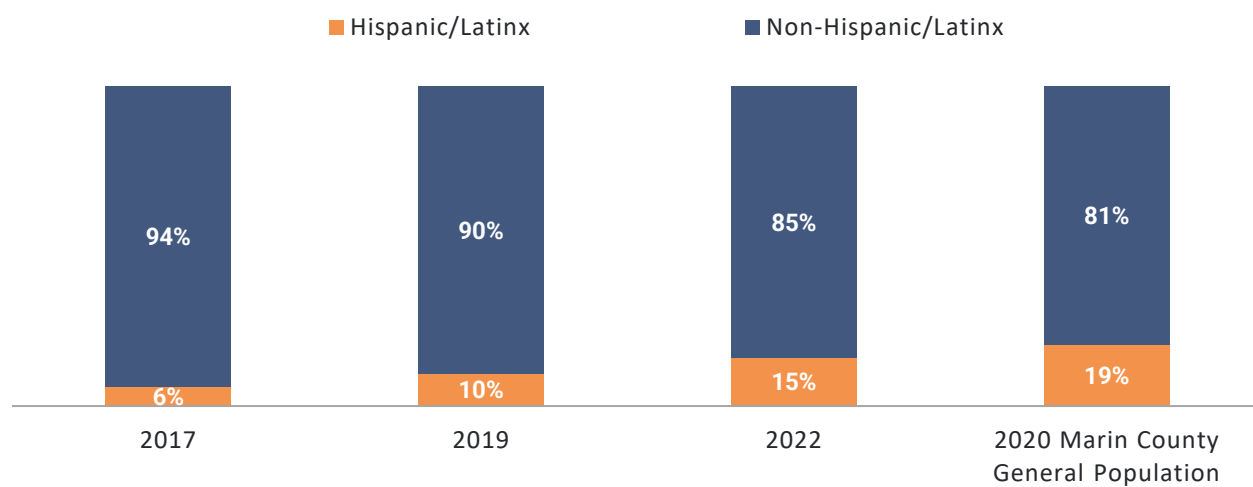


2022 Veterans n=65

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

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P1: Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0500000US06041&y=2020&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>

Figure 19. Veteran Census, by Ethnicity<sup>6</sup>



2019 Veterans=99; 2022 Veterans n=65; 2020 Marin County General Population n=262,321

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ethnicity&g=0500000US06041&y=2020>



## Families with Children

National data from 2020 suggest that 30% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families.<sup>7</sup> There is also a significant population of precariously housed families in “doubled-up” situations who cannot be counted for the Point-in-Time Count. These families may be staying with other families or may be unsheltered on private property and may not fall within the definition of homelessness used for the Point-in-Time Count.

Seventy-three (73) families with 224 family members were enumerated in Marin County in 2022. Forty-five (45) of these families were sheltered, with twenty-eight (28) families counted on the street.

Figure 20. Families with Children Census, Total Family Members with Trend

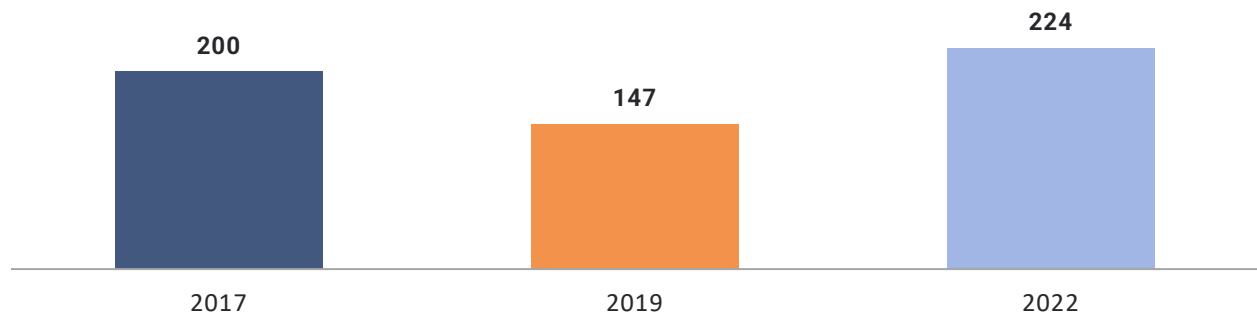
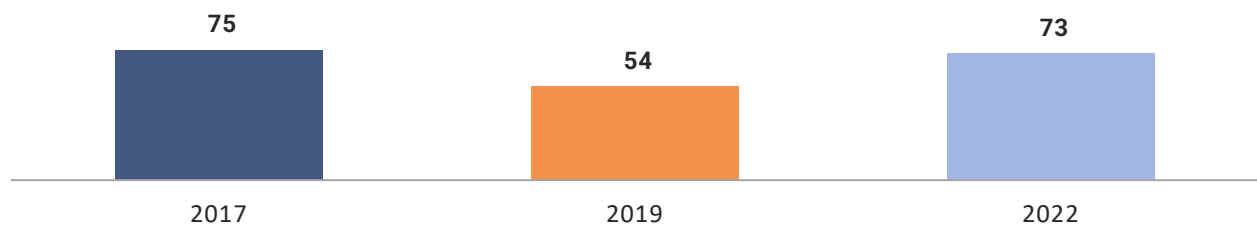
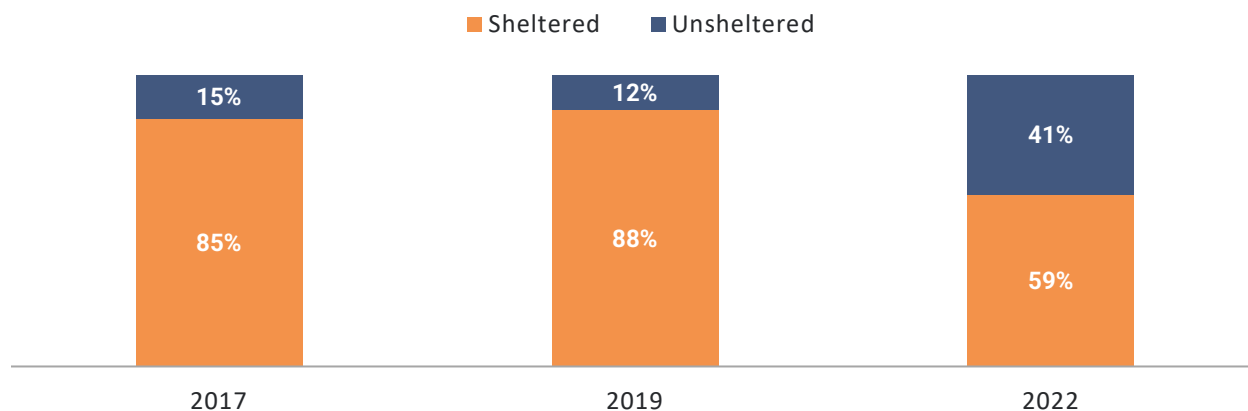


Figure 21. Families with Children Census, Number of Families with Trend



<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2020). The 2020 Annual Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

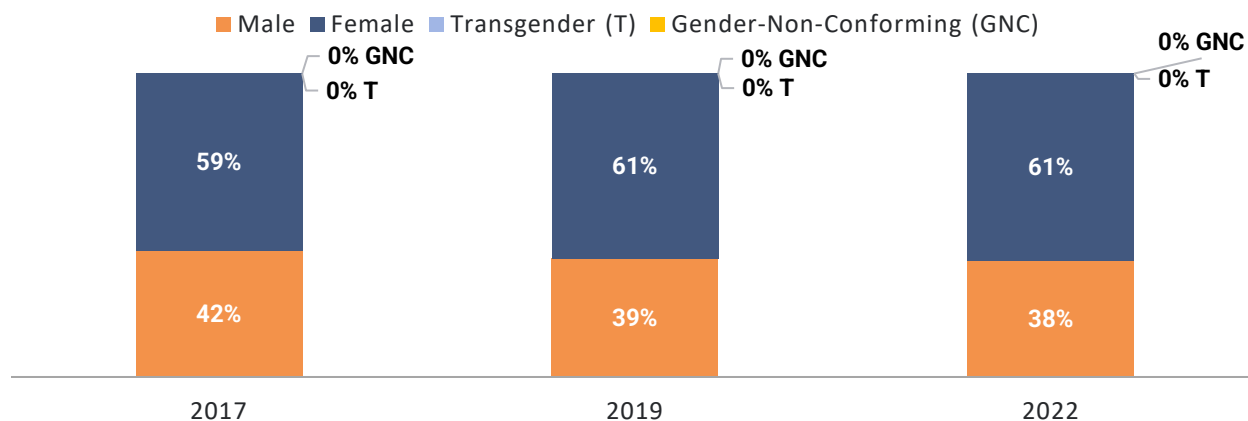
Figure 22. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Shelter Status



2017 Family n=200; 2019 Family n=147; 2022 Family n=224

	2017	2019	2022	19-22 % CHANGE
<b>Sheltered</b>	67	50	45	↓ 10%
<b>Unsheltered</b>	8	4	28	↑ 600%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>↑ 35%</b>

Figure 23. Individuals in Families with Children Census, by Gender

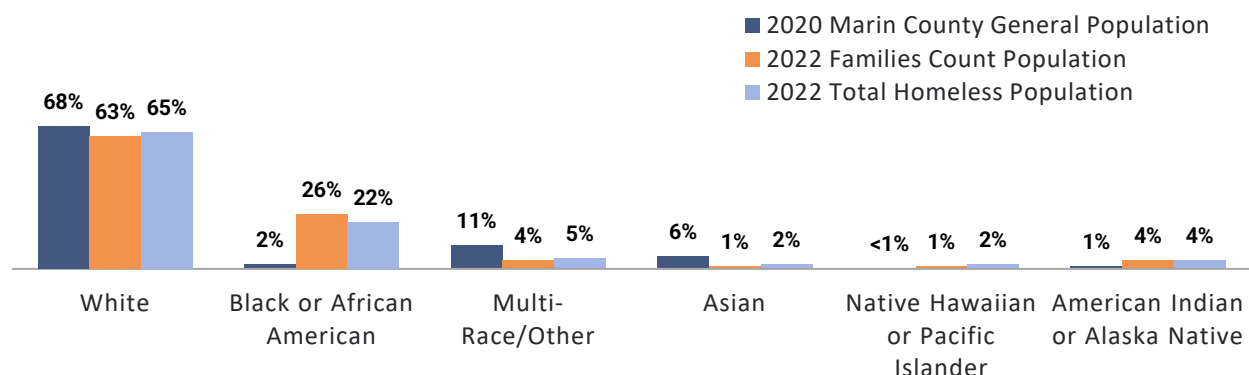


2017 Family n=200; 2019 Family n=147; 2022 Family n=224

Individuals in homeless families with children were more likely to be people of color than the general population of Marin County. Twenty-six percent (26%) of individuals in families experiencing homelessness identified as Black or African American, compared with 2% of the general Marin County population. Those in families identifying as Hispanic or Latinx remained the same when compared to

2019, with 44% identifying as Hispanic/Latinx, significantly higher than the 19% of the general Marin County population.<sup>8</sup>

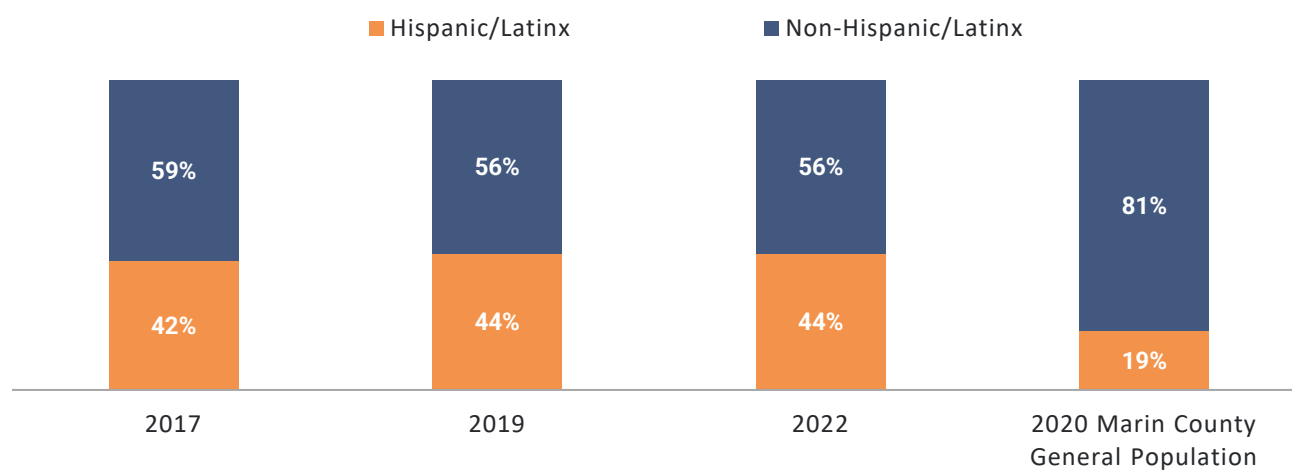
Figure 24. Individuals in Families with Children Census, by Race<sup>9</sup>



2022 Family n=224

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

Figure 25. Individuals in Families with Children Census, by Ethnicity<sup>10</sup>



2017 Family n=200; 2019 Family n=147; 2022 Family n= 224; 2020 Marin County General Population n=262,321

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ethnicity&g=0500000US06041&y=2020>

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P1: Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0500000US06041&y=2020&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ethnicity&g=0500000US06041&y=2020>

## Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth

There were two unaccompanied children (under 18 years old) and 124 unaccompanied transition-age youth (age 18-24) enumerated, accounting for 11% of the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County. Down slightly from years past, 5% of children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness were sheltered, with 95% unsheltered.

Figure 26. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, with Trend

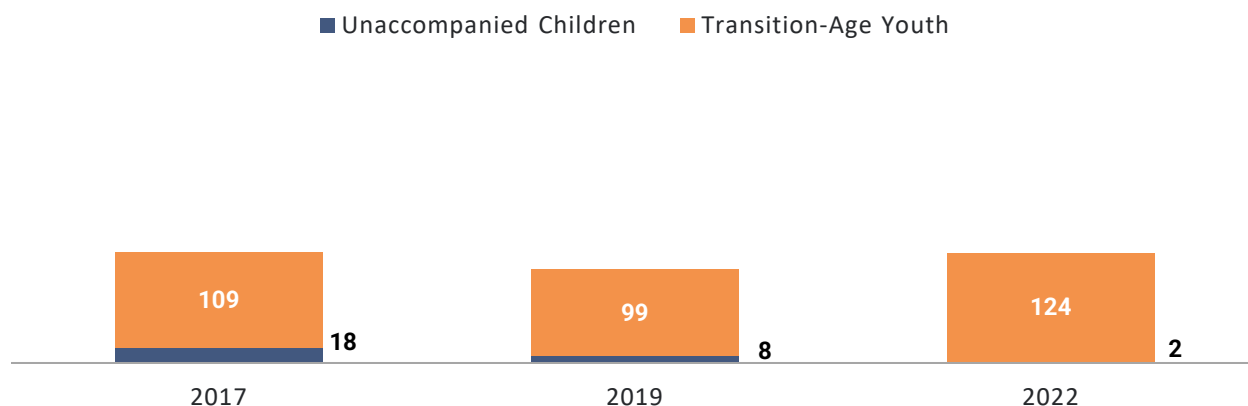
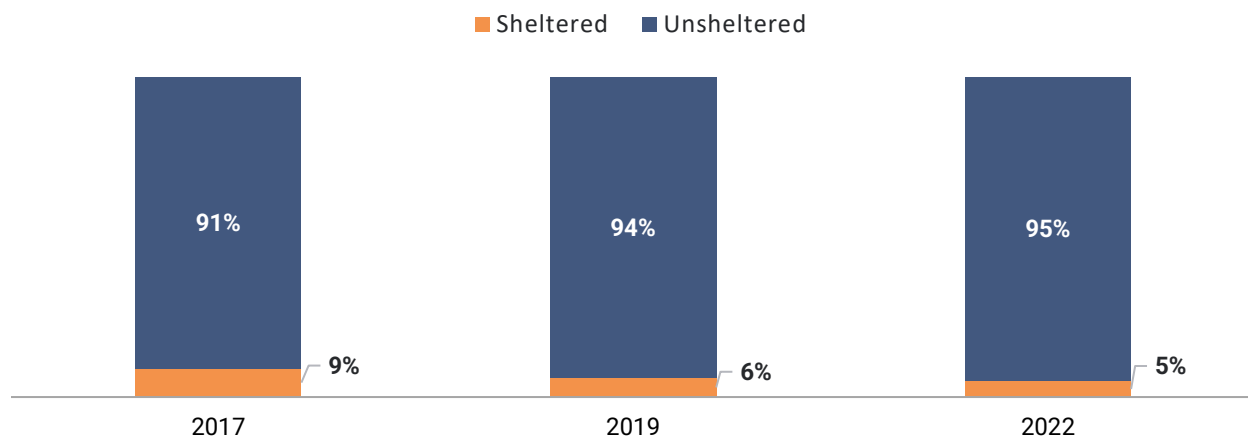


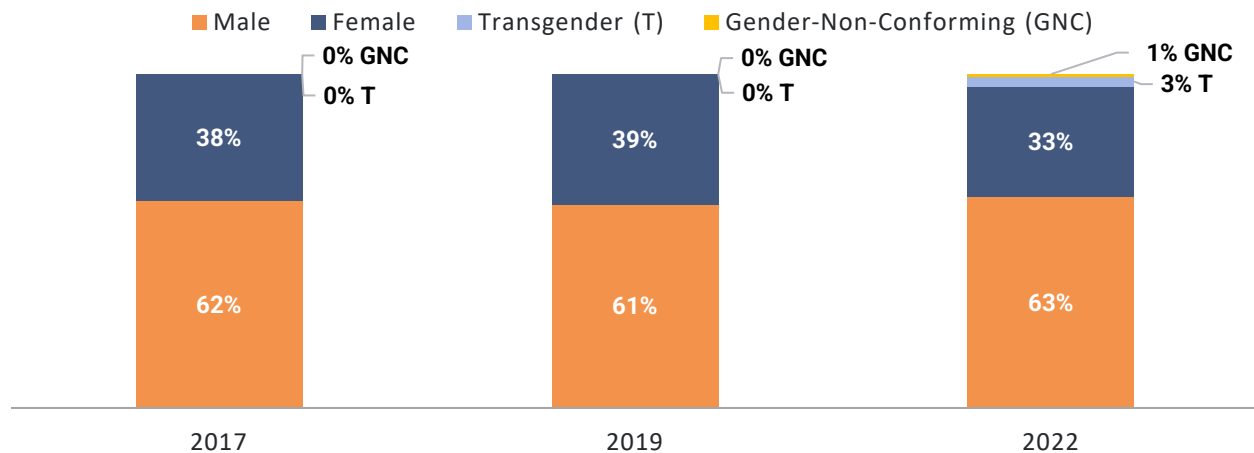
Figure 27. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, by Shelter Status



	2017	2019	2022	19 22 % CHANGE
<b>Sheltered</b>	12	6	6	0%
<b>Unsheltered</b>	115	101	120	↑ 19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>126</b>	↑ 18%

Sixty-three percent (63%) of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness identified as men/boys, while 33% identified as women/girls, 3% identified as transgender, and 1% identified as a gender not singularly female or male.

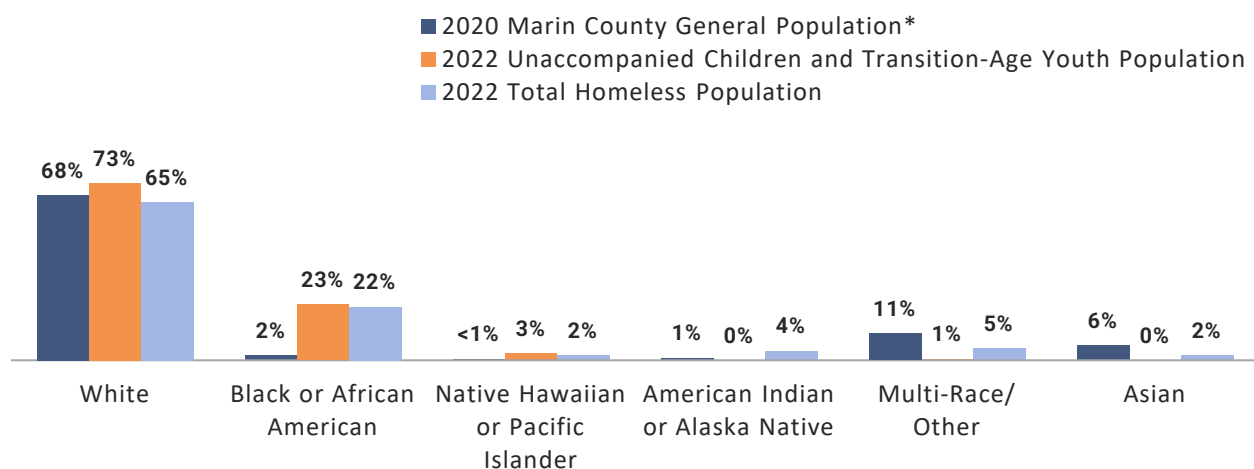
Figure 28. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, by Gender



2017 Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth (UC/TAY) n=127; 2019 UC/TAY n=107; 2022 UC/TAY n=126

Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth were the only subpopulation to have a higher percentage identify as White (73%) than the general Marin County population (65%). Black or African American unaccompanied children and transition-age youth were also overrepresented, at 23% compared to only 2% of the general Marin County population. The number of youth identifying as Hispanic or Latinx decreased, down from 29% in 2019 compared to 22% in 2022.

Figure 29. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, by Race<sup>11</sup>



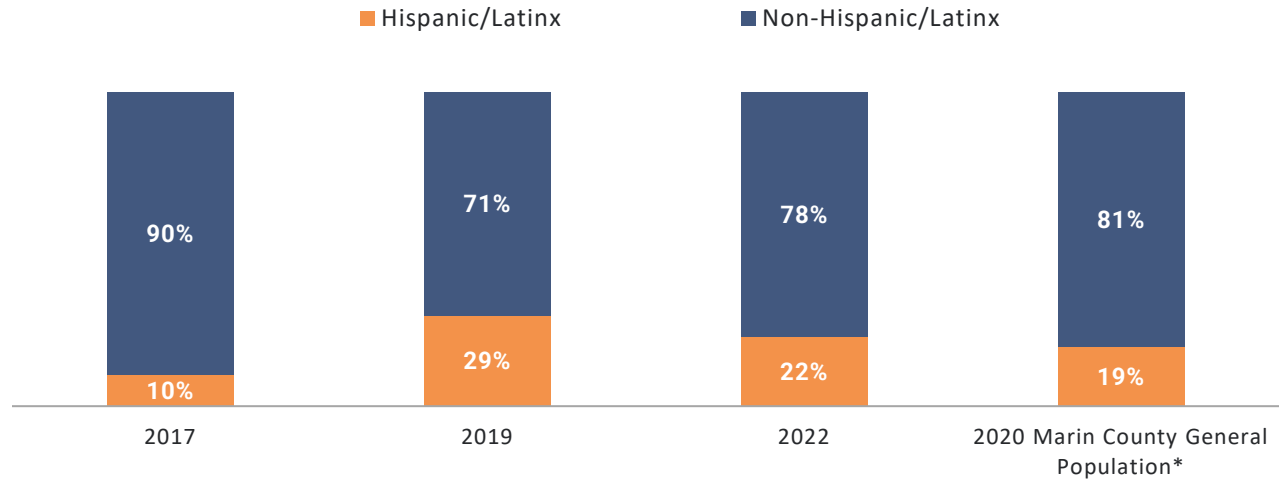
2022 Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=126

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

\* General population data is not specific to the ages of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P1: Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=05000000US06041&y=2020&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>

Figure 30. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, by Ethnicity<sup>12</sup>



2017 Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth (UC/TAY) n=127; 2019 UC/TAY n=107; 2022 UC/TAY n=126; 2020 Marin County General Population n=262,321

\* General population data is not specific to the ages of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ethnicity&g=0500000US06041&y=2020>



## Older Adults Age 60+

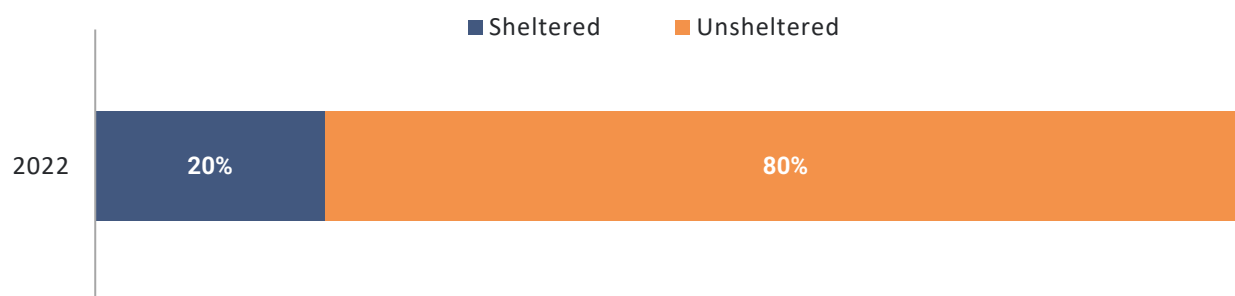
Growth of older adults experiencing homelessness has risen in accordance with the overall growth of the population in the U.S. Because older adults experiencing homelessness have unmet mental health, substance use, and physical health needs, their mortality rates are higher than that of the general population.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, older adults living in shelters have higher rates of geriatric conditions than their non-homeless peers, which indicates a need for specialized care.<sup>14</sup>

While older adults have not been identified as a specific subpopulation of interest by HUD, Marin County recognized the growing trend and initiated an effort to gather additional information on the population. The following section details the characteristics of adults ages 60 and older experiencing homelessness in Marin County.

For this subpopulation, data is sourced from both the Point-in-Time Census and Survey.

In 2022 there were 280 older adults ages 60 and over experiencing homelessness enumerated. One-fifth (20%) were sheltered and 80% were unsheltered.

Figure 31. Older Adult Census, by Shelter Status



2022 Older Adults n=280

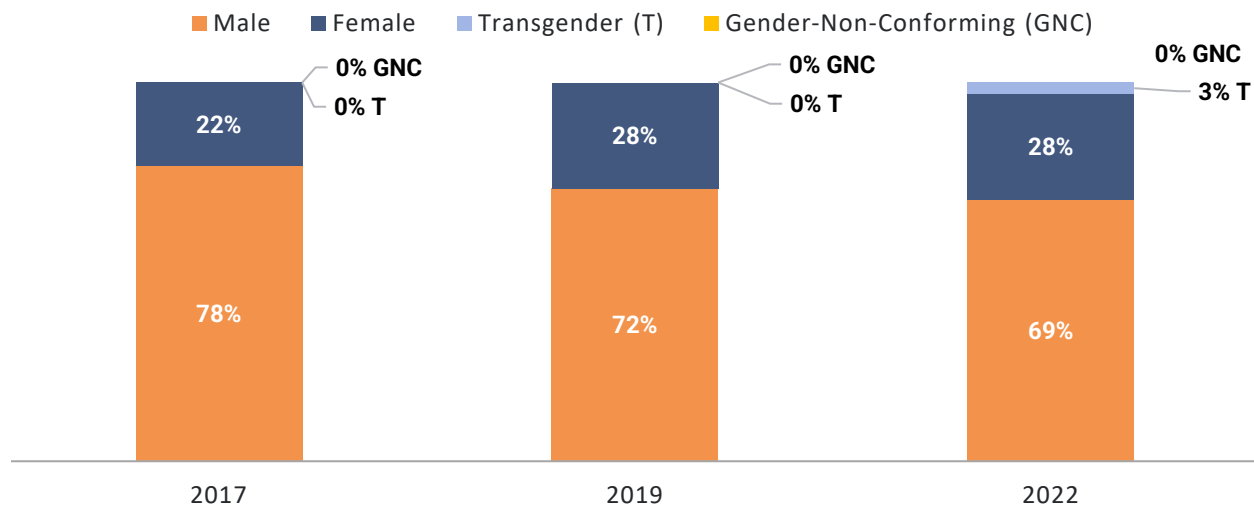
Source: 2022 Marin County Point-in-Time Census

<sup>13</sup> CSH & Hearth (2011). Ending Homelessness among Older Adults and Elders through Permanent Supportive Housing. Retrieved 2017 from <http://www.csh.org/>

<sup>14</sup> Rebecca T. Brown, Kaveh Hemati, Elise D. Riley, Christopher T. Lee, Claudia Ponath, Lina Tieu, David Guzman, Margot B. Kushel, Geriatric Conditions in a Population-Based Sample of Older Homeless Adults, *The Gerontologist*, Volume 57, Issue 4, August 2017, Pages 757–766, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnw011>

The older adult population predominantly identified as men (69%), with 28% identifying as women and 3% identifying as transgender.

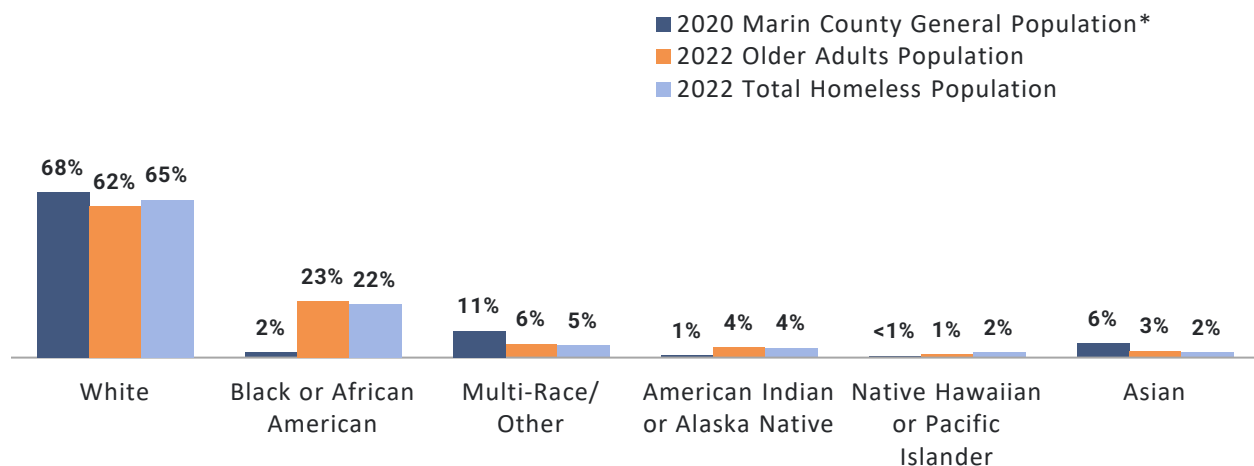
Figure 32. Older Adult Census, by Gender



2017 Older Adults n=60; 2019 Older Adults n=57 2022 Older Adults n=68  
Source: 2022 Marin County Survey

Black or African Americans were overrepresented in the older adult population, representing 23% of the population, while 62% of older adults identified as White. Only two percent (2%) of older adults identified as Hispanic or Latinx, compared to 19% of the general Marin County population.

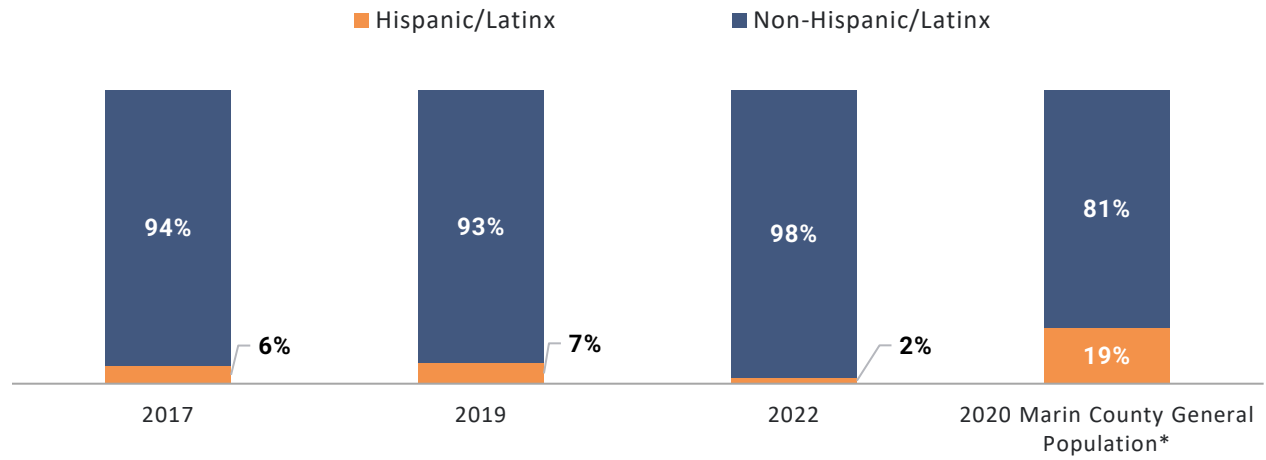
Figure 33. Older Adult Census, by Race<sup>15</sup>



2022 Older Adults n=58  
\* General population data is not specific to older adults ages 60+.  
Source: 2022 Marin County Survey

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P1: Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?g=0500000US06041&y=2020&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.P1>

Figure 34. Older Adult Census, by Ethnicity<sup>16</sup>



2017 Older Adults n=60; 2019 Older Adults n=56; 2022 Older Adults n=59

\* General population data is not specific to older adults ages 60+.

Source: 2022 Marin County Survey

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census 2020 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171). Table P2: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race. Retrieved August 2022 from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ethnicity&g=0500000US06041&y=2020>

# Homeless Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2022 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of homeless individuals between March 7 and April 4, 2022. This effort resulted in 359 complete and unique surveys.

Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 1,121 persons experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 359 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 2.9% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire estimated population of persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within 3 percentage points of the current results.

In order to respect respondent privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. 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*.

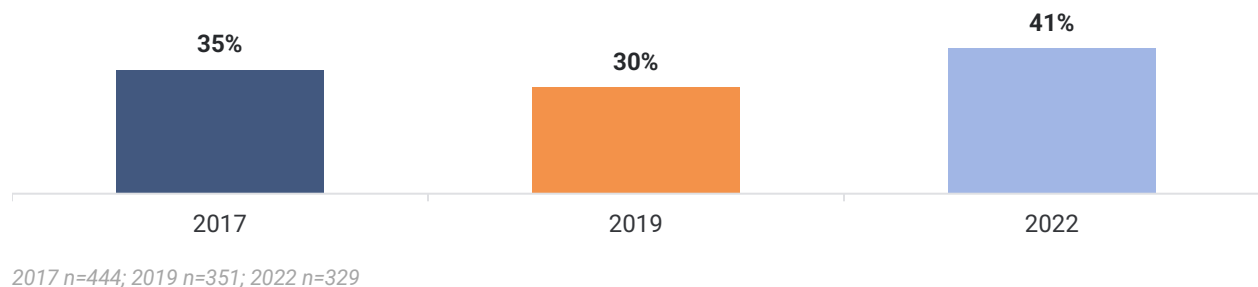
# DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

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

## First Occurrence of Homelessness

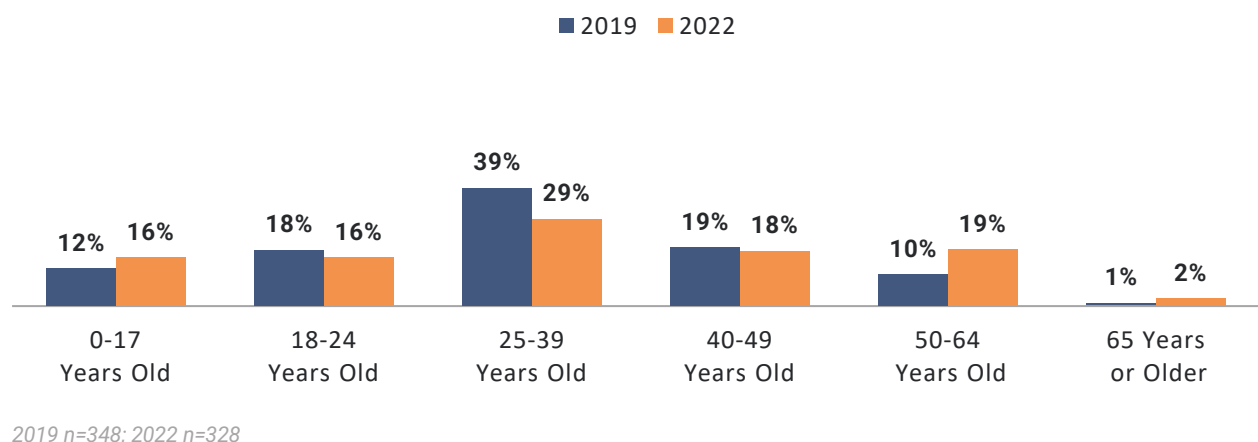
Many individuals who experience homelessness will do so numerous times and for varying lengths of time. Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents reported their current episode of homelessness was their first, an increase from 30% in 2019.

Figure 35. First Time Homeless (Respondents Answering “Yes”)



Twenty-nine percent (29%) of survey respondents reported becoming homeless for the first time between 25 and 39 years old, while 32% reported becoming homeless for the first time before age 25.

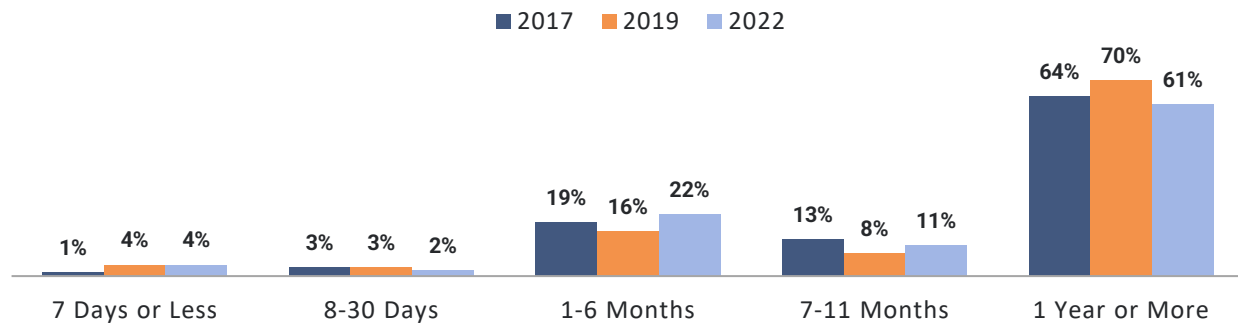
Figure 36. Age at First Experience of Homelessness



## Duration of Homelessness

Sixty-one percent (61%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more in 2022, a decrease from 70% in 2019.

Figure 37. Length of Current Episode of Homelessness



2017 n=438; 2019 n=355; 2022 n=327

## Recurrence of Homelessness

As people cycle in and out of stable housing, it becomes important to keep track of the number of times they experience literal homelessness. Over half (55%) of survey respondents reported that their current experience of homelessness had been the only occurrence in the past three years. Another 12% reported that, including the current episode, they had experienced homelessness six or more times.

Figure 38. Recurrence of Homelessness in Past Three Years

2022 n=318

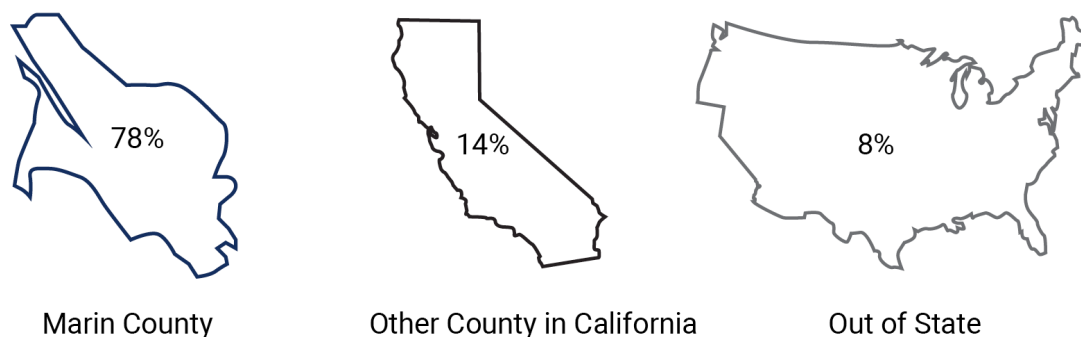


## LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Knowing where individuals were living prior to their housing loss informs discussions regarding how local the homeless population is to the region. This information can also influence changes to available support systems if the Continuum of Care finds increasing numbers of individuals living locally before experiencing homelessness. In 2022, 78% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Marin County reported living in Marin at the time of their most recent housing loss, up from 73% in 2019. The 2022 percentage is consistent with previous years pre-2019 and other Bay Area communities.

### Place of Residence

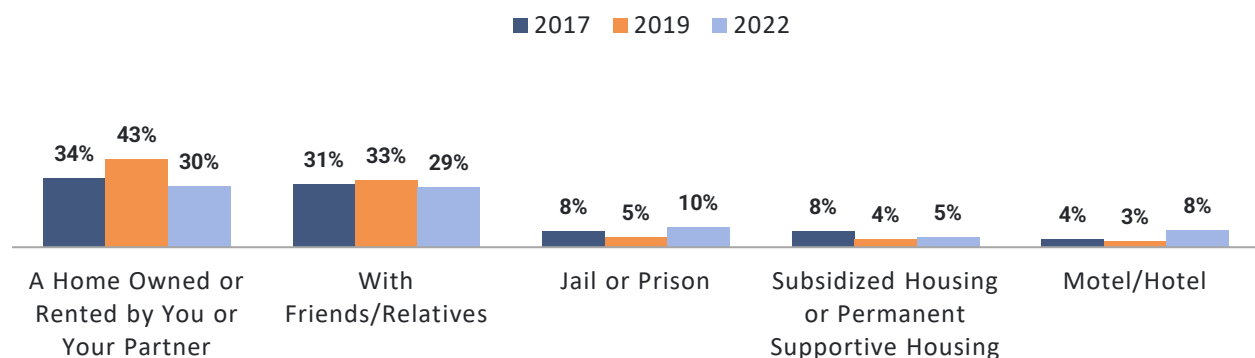
Figure 39. Place of Residence at Time of Housing Loss



2017 n=436; 2019 n=356; 2022 n=324

### Prior Living Arrangements

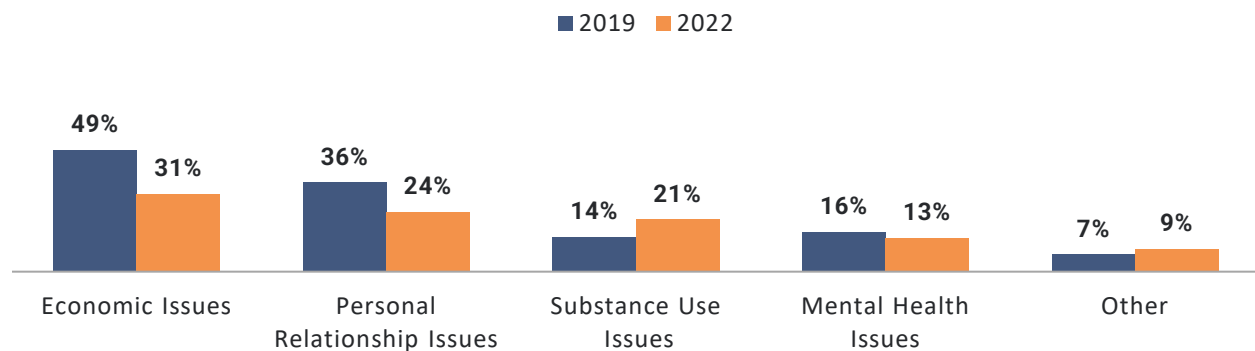
Figure 40. Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless (Top 5 Responses)



2017 n=427; 2019 n=343; 2022 n=316

# PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

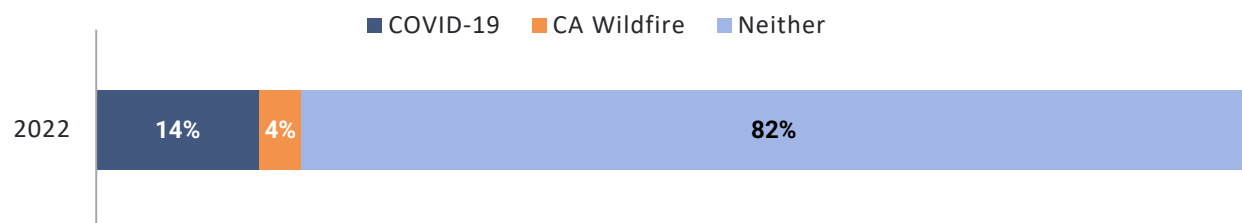
Figure 41. Primary Cause of Homelessness



2019 n=353; 2022 n=321

Considering current issues including COVID-19 and prevalence of wildfires in California, a question was added to the survey to determine the impact of these issues on the causes of homelessness. The majority (82%) indicated that neither issue impacted their primary cause of homelessness, but 14% did indicate that their primary cause of homelessness was related to COVID-19.

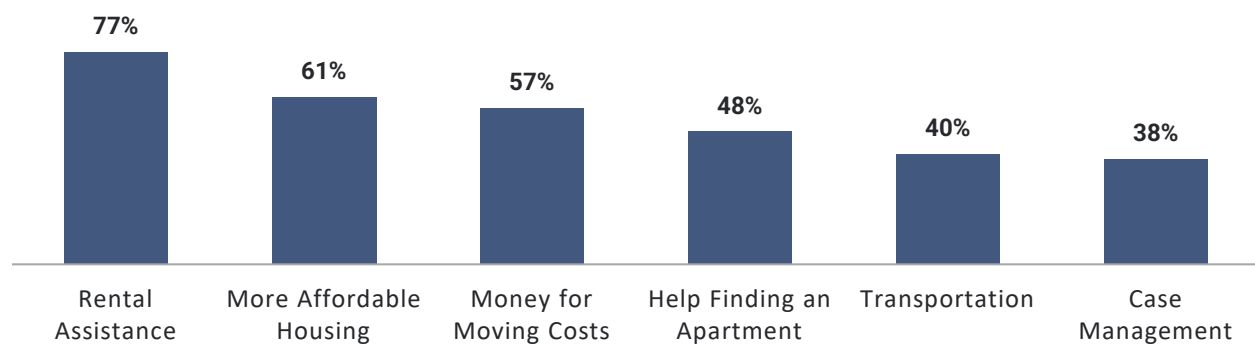
Figure 42. Impacts of COVID-19 and California Wildfires



2022 n=281

## Obtaining Permanent Housing

Figure 43. Assistance Needed to Obtain Permanent Housing

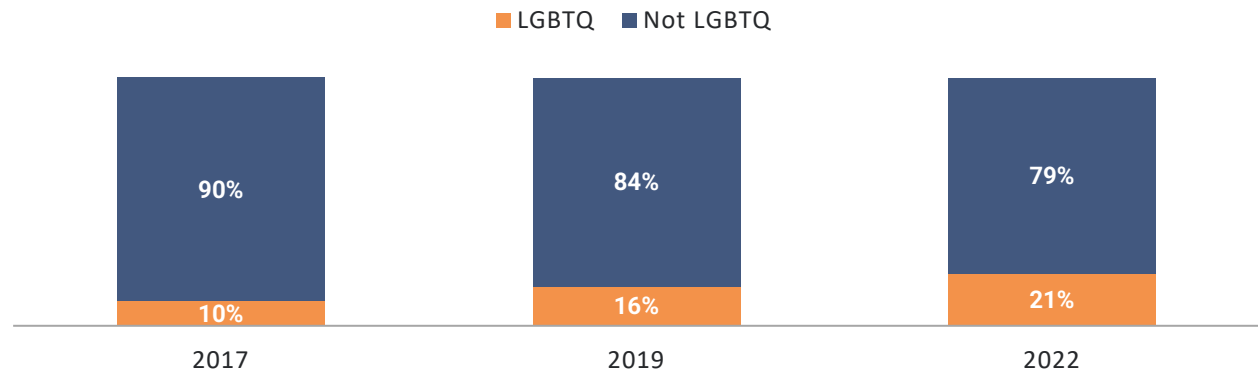


2022 n=294

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

# L G B T Q +

Figure 44. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



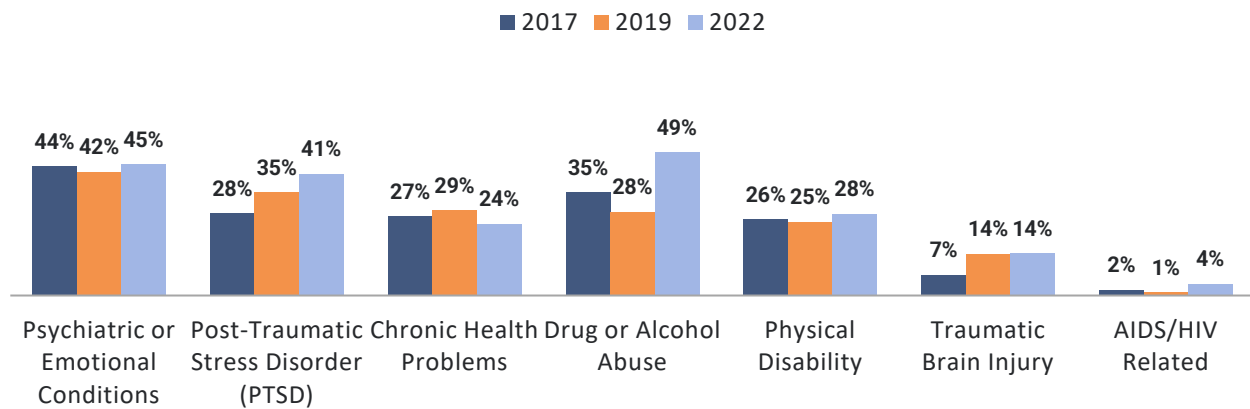
BREAKOUT OF LGBTQ+ RESPONDENTS						
	2017		2019		2022	
Gay	20%	9	17%	10	17%	12
Lesbian	20%	9	9%	5	14%	10
Queer	0%	0	2%	1	6%	4
Bisexual	42%	19	45%	26	51%	37
Transgender	0%	0	7%	4	8%	6
Gender Non-Conforming	<1%	1	0%	0	4%	3
Questioning*	--	--	--	--	4%	3
Other	18%	8	28%	16	13%	72

2017 LGBTQ+ n=457; Breakout n=45 respondents offering 45 responses; 2019 LGBTQ+ n=360; Breakout n=58 respondents offering 63 responses; 2022 LGBTQ+ n=340, Breakout n=72 respondents offering 84 responses  
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.  
 \* Questioning was added as a response option in 2022.

# HEALTH

The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is 25 years less than those in stable housing.<sup>17</sup> Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay four days (or 36%) longer per hospital admission than stably housed patients.<sup>18</sup>

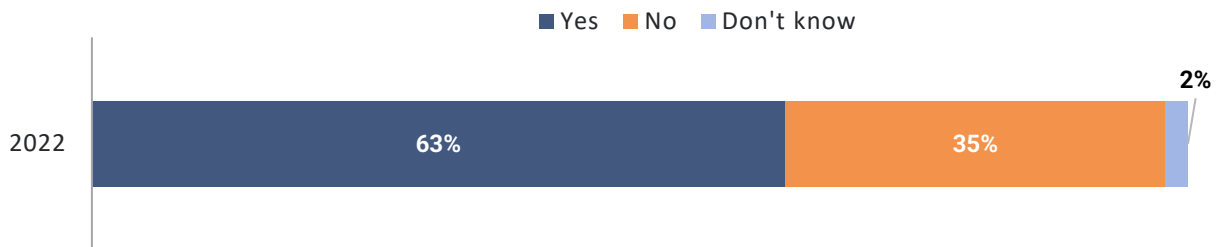
Figure 45. Health Conditions



2017 n=445; 2019 n=360; 2022 n=340

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

Figure 46. Vaccinated for COVID-19

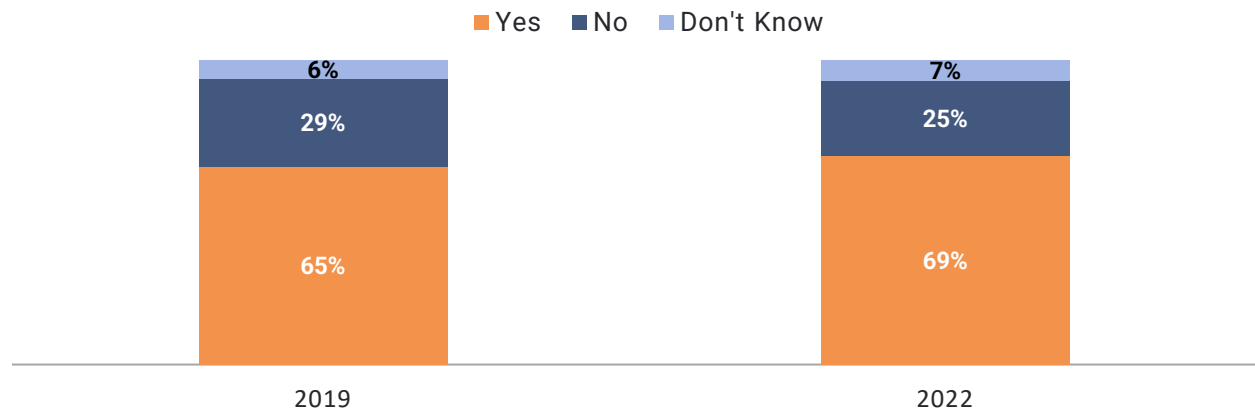


2022 n=289

<sup>17</sup> O'Connell, J.J. (2005). Premature Mortality in Homeless Populations: A Review of the Literature. Nashville: National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc. Retrieved 2019 from <http://sbdww.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/PrematureMortalityFinal.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> Sharon A. Salit, M. E. (1998). Hospitalization Costs Associated with Homelessness in New York City. New England Journal of Medicine, 338, 1734-1740.

Figure 47. Medical Insurance



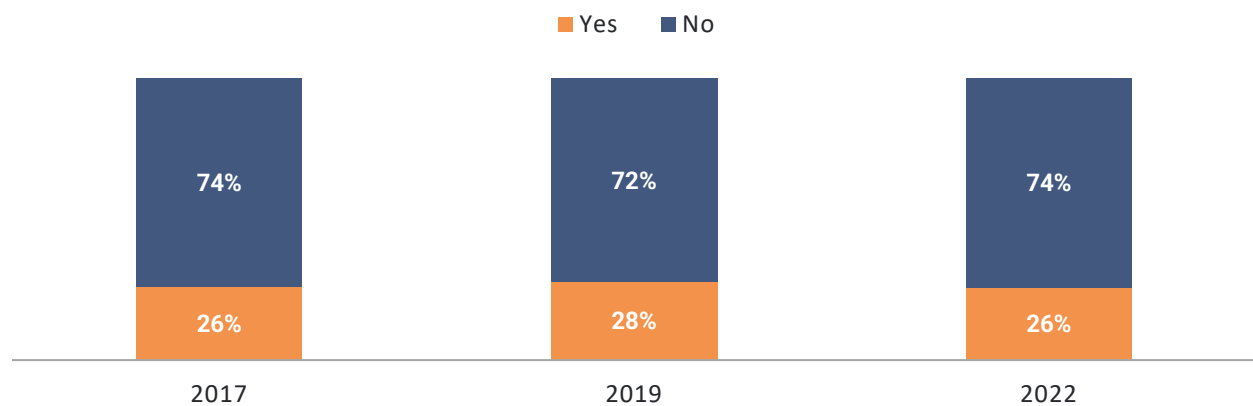
2019 n=344; 2022 n=295

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Individuals without stable housing are at a greater risk of criminal justice system involvement, particularly those with mental health issues, veterans, and youth. Individuals with past incarceration face significant barriers to exiting homelessness due to stigmatization and policies affecting their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.<sup>19</sup>

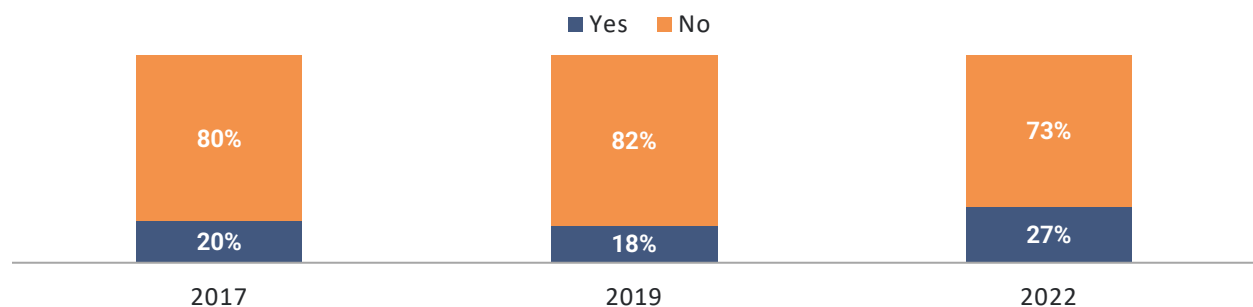
Twenty-six percent (26%) of respondents had spent a night incarcerated in the past year, a slight decrease from 28% in 2019. Conversely, the number of those on probation or parole increased to 27% in 2022 from 18% in 2019.

Figure 48. Incarcerated at Least One Night in the Last 12 Months



2017 n=444; 2019 n=347; 2022 n=305

Figure 49. Currently on Probation or Parole



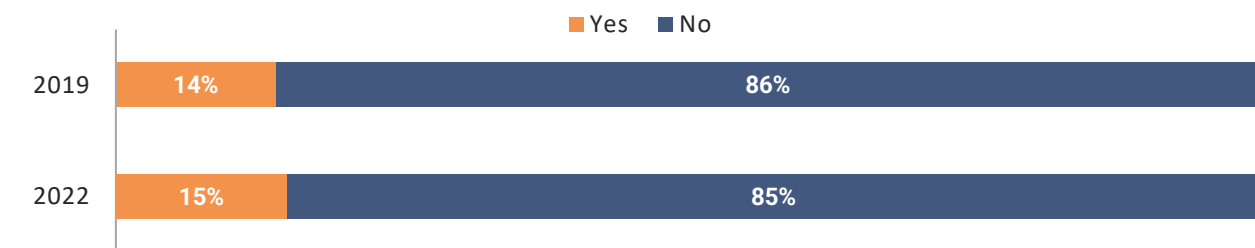
2017 n=444; 2019 n=339; 2022 n=301

<sup>19</sup> Greenburg, GA, Rosenheck, RA. (2008), Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study. Psychiatric Services, 2008 Feb; 59(2): 170-7.

## FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least one-third of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.<sup>20</sup> In the state of California, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended care benefits as they transition into adulthood, up until their 21st birthday. Implemented since 2012, the aim of extended foster care is to assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from experiencing homeless. In Marin County, 15% of those experiencing homelessness had a history of foster care in Marin or other counties.

Figure 50. History of Foster Care



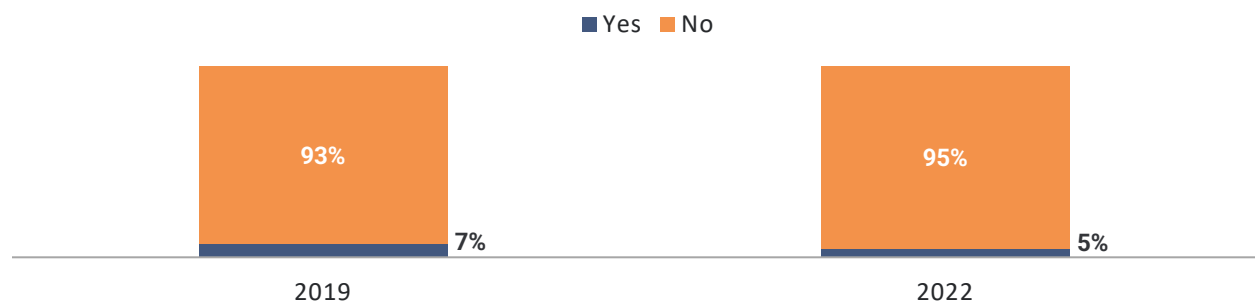
2019 n=343; 2022 n=308

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

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

Five percent (5%) of survey respondents reported they were currently experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse.<sup>21</sup> Of those individuals, 54% were women, 39% were men, and 8% were transgender.

Figure 51. Currently Experiencing Domestic Violence or Abuse



2019 n=331; 2022 n=285

Note: Please use caution when interpreting results due to small sample size

<sup>20</sup> Dworsky, A.; Napolitano, L.; and Courtney, M. (2013). Homelessness during the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood. Congressional Research Services, Am J Public Health. 2013 December; 103(Suppl 2): S318–S323. Retrieved 2018 from 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301455.

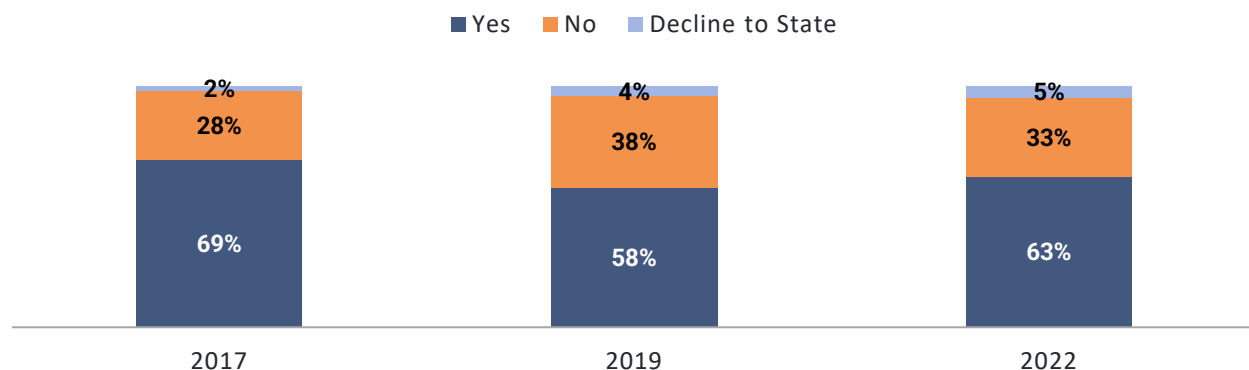
<sup>21</sup> These data include only those currently experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, not those who have a history of domestic violence.

## SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

Marin County provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal, state, and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support. However, many individuals and families do not apply for services, as many believe that they are ineligible for assistance. Connecting homeless individuals and families to these support services creates a bridge to mainstream support services and can prevent future housing instability.

### Government Assistance

Figure 52. Receiving Government Assistance such as Social Security, Food Stamps, Disability, CalWORKs, VA benefits



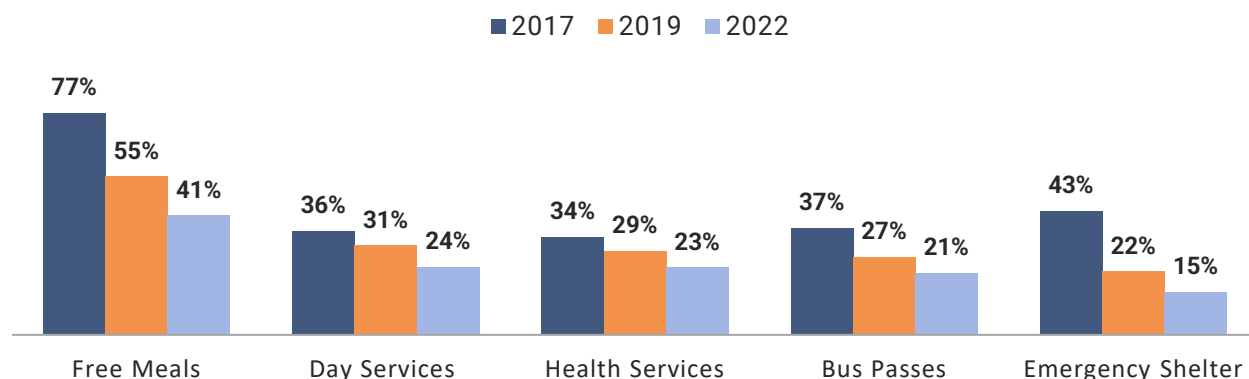
2017 n=415; 2019 n=328; 2022 n=301

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

### Services and Programs

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

Figure 53. Services or Assistance Received (Top 5 Responses)

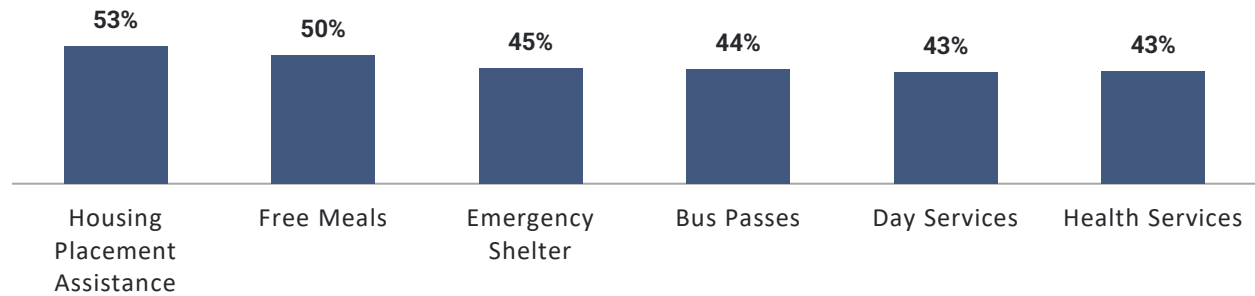


2017 n=439 respondents offering 1,326 responses; 2019 n=334 respondents offering 849 responses; 2022 n=309 respondents offering 690 responses

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



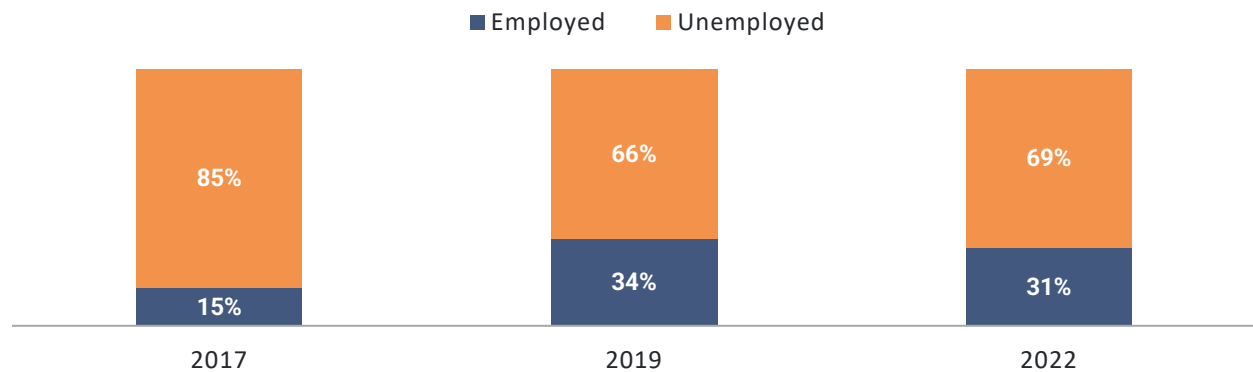
Figure 54. Services or Assistance Requested (Top 6 Responses)



2022 n=285 respondents offering 1,273 responses  
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

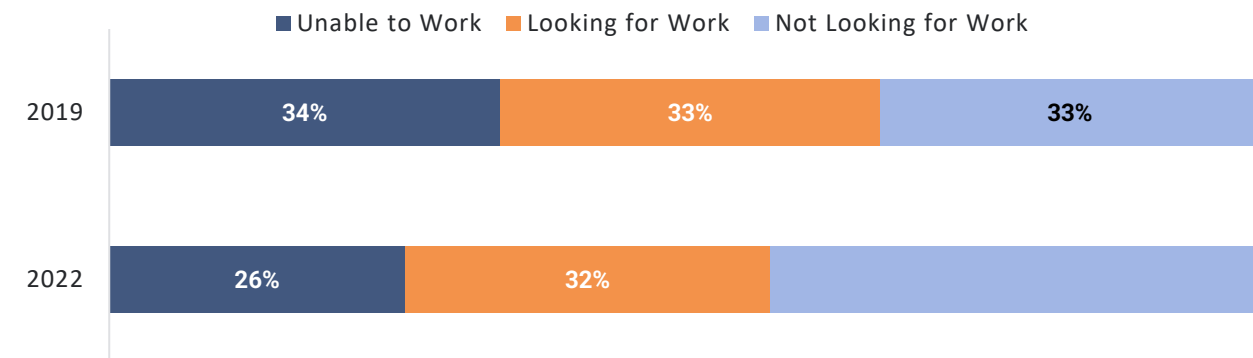
# EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Figure 55. Employment Status



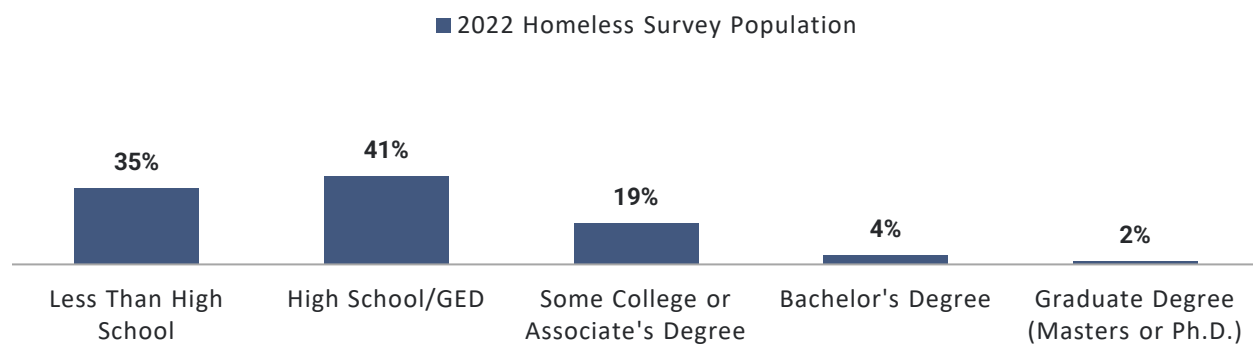
2017 n=428; 2019 n=341; 2022 n=278

Figure 56. Job Search Status if Unemployed



2019 n=214; 2022 n=254

Figure 57. Educational Attainment



2022 n=309

# CONCLUSION

The 2022 Marin County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying those experiencing homelessness. The 2022 Point-in-Time Count identified 1,121 persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County. This represents an 8.4% increase from the count conducted in 2019.

Marin County has implemented a system-wide approach to ending homelessness that includes adopting a Housing First model, prioritizing the most vulnerable people for housing, sharing data and working collaboratively client by client, and expanding cross-sector partnerships with nonprofits, hospitals, law enforcement, cities, and other partners. Additionally, many COVID-19 emergency housing solutions were implemented to limit the impact of the pandemic on the homeless population.

Marin implemented the Housing First approach, an evidence-based practice, because it is the most effective way to address homelessness. Housing First recognizes a person's housing need first, then surrounds them with support necessary to achieve stability and independence.

Between the 2019 and 2022 Point in Time Counts, Marin housed 285 of the most vulnerable chronically homeless residents of Marin in supportive housing, with more than 500 housed since the Coordinated Entry system was launched in 2017. While these placements, combined with major investments in rapid rehousing and emergency rental assistance, lessened the impact of the COVID pandemic, Marin still saw an 8.4% overall increase in homelessness, driven by skyrocketing rents, inflation, and widening income inequality. Marin will continue to invest in evidence-based, permanent housing solutions, including five new permanent supportive housing sites, housing-based case management paired with vouchers, and population-specific services for families, youth, and vets to meet their unique needs.

The 2022 Marin County Homeless Count and Survey revealed a diverse population with many different trends and needs. There are many valuable insights into the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County for both the general population and subpopulations:

## GENERAL POPULATION EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- In 2022 there was an 11% decrease in persons enumerated in shelters, and a 17% increase in those who were unsheltered. Overall, the total number of persons experiencing homelessness enumerated in 2022 increased by 8% since 2019.
- Twelve percent (12%) of the sheltered population was under the age of 25, compared to 24% of the unsheltered population under the age 25. When looking at the older population, 31% of sheltered and 27% of unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness were age 60 or older.
- Compared to the general population, those who are Black or African American were overrepresented in the overall population and all of the identified subpopulations. Black or African Americans make up only 2% of the general population in Marin County, but 22% of the overall homeless population.
- Twenty-one percent (21%) reported being LGBTQ+, an increase from 16% in 2019 and 10% in 2017.
- First time homelessness increased from 30% in 2019 to 41% in 2022.
- Sixty-one percent (61%) of survey respondents experienced homelessness for one year or more, down from 70% in 2019.

- Over three-quarters (78%) of survey respondents were living in Marin County when they began experiencing homelessness, up from 73% in 2019.
- Like previous years, economic issues were the most frequently cited cause of homelessness (31%).
- Fourteen percent (14%) reported that their primary cause of homelessness was related to COVID-19 and 4% reported their primary cause of homelessness was related to California wildfires.
- Seventy-seven percent (77%) cited a need for rental assistance to get into permanent housing.
- Twenty-six percent (26%) had spent at least one night in jail or prison over the past year remaining steady from previous years at 26% in 2017 and 28% in 2019.
- Fifteen percent (15%) had a history of foster care.
- Fifty-three percent (53%) desired housing placement assistance, up from 42% in 2019.
- Just over one-quarter (26%) reported being unable to work, a decrease from 34% in 2019.
- Sixty-three percent (63%) reported having received the COVID-19 vaccine.

## **SUBPOPULATIONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

- Those experiencing chronic homelessness increased 11% to 284 individuals, with a 10% decrease in sheltered and 25% increase in unsheltered persons.
- The percentage of women who chronically experience homelessness decreased to 26% from 41% in 2019.
- There are fewer veterans experiencing homelessness, down 34% from 2019, and more veterans are being sheltered: 22% in 2022, up from 19% in 2019.
- Four-fifths (80%) of veterans were cisgender male, 15% cisgender female, and 5% transgender.
- Black and Multi-race veterans were overrepresented when compared to the general population of Marin County, with 23% Black veterans compared to 2% of the general population, and 15% of Multi-race veterans compared to 11% of the general population.
- The number of families experiencing homelessness increased 35% from 2019, with the percentage of unsheltered families increasing from 12% in 2019 to 41% in 2022.
- Twenty-six percent (26%) of homeless individuals in families identified as Black or African American compared to 2% of the general Marin County population. Individuals in families identified as Multi-race/Other were also overrepresented 11% as compared with 7% of the general Marin County population.
- There were 2 unaccompanied children and 124 unaccompanied transition-age youth (age 18-24) enumerated, accounting for 11% of the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County.
- Fewer unaccompanied children and unaccompanied transition-age youth identified as Hispanic or Latinx, with 22% in 2022 compared to 29% in 2019.
- Older adults ages 60+ comprised 12% of the population experiencing homelessness with 20% sheltered and 80% unsheltered.

- Only 2% of older adults identified as Hispanic or Latinx.

The 2022 Marin County Homeless Count and Survey provides valid and useful data that help create a more comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness. The dissemination and evaluation of this effort will help the Continuum of Care and all Marin County service providers, advocates, and policy makers continue to produce and refine constructive and innovative solutions to end homelessness and make it a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence. Through innovative and effective housing programs and services, Marin County remains committed to moving persons experiencing homelessness into permanent housing.

# APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2022 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey was to produce a point-in-time estimate of people experiencing homelessness in Marin County, a region which covers approximately 828 square miles. The results of the street counts were combined with the results from the shelter count to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County on a given night, using the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count. The subsequent, 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.

### Components of the Homeless Count Method

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

- **General street count:** an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals between the hours of 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM;
- **Youth street count:** a targeted enumeration of unsheltered homeless youth under the age of 25 between the hours of 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM;
- **Shelter count:** an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals on the night before the street count;
- **Survey:** an in-person survey of 359 unique individuals conducted by approximately 25 peer surveyors and direct service providers in the weeks following the general street count; and
- **Unsheltered families count:** a special outreach effort to enumerate families previously identified as unsheltered.

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 2022 street count methodology followed an established, HUD-approved methodology used in the 2015, 2017, and 2019 counts

### The Planning Process

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

### Community Involvement

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

individuals with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the street count and survey efforts. Additionally, some lived experience volunteers from previous counts participated again to support the 2022 effort.

## 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 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 2022 street count methodology followed an established, HUD-approved approach commonly called a blitz method followed by a sample survey. Very significantly, a change was made in the use of GPS enabled smartphones in data collection using an ESRI Survey 123 application developed and customized by ASR to conform to HUD data collection requirements. Also, improvements were made in pre-Count planning efforts to deploy Count teams virtually, wherever possible, thereby avoiding the need for centralized deployment centers where COVID-19 transmission risks would be greater.

Outreach organizations, program staff, county, and city staff along with selected community members worked with ASR staff to determine areas for enumeration from an interactive GIS planning map tool that enabled planning for complete coverage of the County with prioritization of high-density homeless routes to outreach staff and personnel with direct service experience.

### Volunteer and Guide Recruitment and Training

Many individuals who live and/or work in Marin County supported the county's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. In 2022, approximately 100 community volunteers, including outreach workers, service providers, and lived-experience guides participated in the general street count on February 17, 2022.

Due to the COVID-19 safety concerns, volunteer and guide recruitment prioritized recruitment of established outreach service providers, others working directly in the community, and community volunteers who had participated in previous counts. In 2022, there was intentional decrease in the total number of count participants compared to previous years. Teams were self-selected and created by people who work together or were in the same social pods to minimize COVID-19 risk and transmission. Some lived experience persons were integrated into the effort by outreach staff as in previous PIT Count efforts, but this was selective and subject to compliance with public health requirements and recruitment largely by outreach programs. These lived-experience guides were paid \$20 for reviewing the training video as well as \$20 per hour worked on the day of the count.

Forty-three count teams served as enumerators on the morning of the count, canvassing every census tract across the county in teams of two to three people to visually count homeless persons.

In order to participate in the Count, all volunteers and Guides were requested to view a 20-minute training video before the Count. Additionally, targeted virtual trainings were held for multiple groups throughout the county. Training covered all aspects of the Count including:

- definition of homelessness,
- how to identify homeless individuals,

- how to safely and respectfully conduct the Count, how to use the smart phone app and also access the smartphone app training video,
- how to use the route maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered,
- tips to identify vehicles and to Count only actively occupied vehicles, and
- other tips to help ensure an accurate and safe Count.

## **Safety Precautions**

In addition to the implementation changes developed to maximize safe participation as it related to COVID-19, every effort was made to minimize other potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In census tracts with a high concentration of homeless encampments, specialized teams with knowledge of those encampments were identified and assigned to those areas. Enumeration teams were advised to take every safety precaution possible, including bringing flashlights and maintaining a respectful distance from those they were counting.

## **Logistics of Enumeration**

On the morning of the street Count, teams of two or more persons deployed to enumerate designated census tracts of the county for the street Count. Each team was composed of any combination of outreach workers, lived experience Guides, program staff, service-experienced community volunteers and interested community volunteers with no service experience. Each team had a lead and prior to the Count were provided with their assigned census tract maps, smart phone access information and training, field observation tips and guidelines, including vehicle identification criteria. Teams were all assigned a unique team number and were instructed to text a central PIT Count dispatch center to confirm they were enroute and on task for enumeration of their route assignment.

All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traversed by foot or car. The Marin County Survey 123 smartphone app was used to record the number of homeless persons observed in addition to basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the Count and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment assignment sheet. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned census tracts.

## **Additional Enumerations**

Many people experiencing homelessness in Marin County reside in cars, vans, and RVs. To more accurately count the number of people living in vehicles on the night of February 16th, police departments in each jurisdiction in the county, and the Sheriff's Office, enumerated vehicles overnight before the beginning of the street count. Additionally, one team of lived-experience Guides canvasses the county to capture occupied vehicles on the night of the February 16<sup>th</sup>. To avoid duplication with the general unsheltered count beginning at daybreak, the vehicular count ended at 5:00 AM, and the last four digits of all vehicle license plates were recorded so vehicles could be de-duplicated with data from the general street count. Additionally, special teams covered individuals living on vessels in Richardson Bay.



# SUPPLEMENTAL YOUTH UNSHELTERED COUNT METHODOLOGY

## Goal

The goal of the 2022 dedicated youth count was to improve representation of unaccompanied children and youth under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness in the Point-in-Time Count. Many children and youth experiencing homelessness do not use homeless services, are unrecognizable to adult street count volunteers, and may be in unsheltered locations that are difficult to find. Therefore, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth.

## Research Design and Data Collection

As in all years, planning for the 2022 supplemental youth count included homeless youth service providers and youth with lived experience of homelessness. Local service providers identified locations where youth experiencing homelessness were known to congregate and recruited youth currently experiencing homelessness with knowledge of where to locate homeless youth to serve as guides for the count. Late afternoon and early evening enumeration were the ideal times recommended by advocates to conduct the youth count.

Side-by-Side Transitional Age Youth took the lead on doing pre-count strategizing on count locations and in recruiting three youth to work as peer enumerators in addition to three youth service provider staff members who accompanied and transported the youth around the county on February 17, 2022.

Youth workers were paid \$20 per hour for their time, including time spent in reviewing the training video prior to the count. Youth and youth service provider staff members were trained on where and how to identify youth experiencing homelessness as well as how to record the data.

It was determined that youth experiencing homelessness would be more prominent on the street during daylight hours rather than in the early morning when the general count was conducted. The youth count was conducted from approximately 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM on February 17, 2022.

Both HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly come along with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. For this reason, these agencies accept and recommend that communities count youth at times when they can be seen rather than during traditional enumeration times.

As with the general street count, the Survey123 smart phone application was used by the youth count team to capture the data.

## Street Count De-Duplication

Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age. In 2022, none of the counts for persons under the age of 25 were identified as duplicates or removed from the data set.

# SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

## Goal

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

## Definition

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

## Research Design

The homeless occupancy of shelters in Marin County was collected for the night of February 16, 2022. All shelter data were gathered either directly from the shelter or from Marin County's Homeless Management Information System.

# CHALLENGES

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

The COVID-19 pandemic was an especially challenging issue faced by the PIT Count planning committee for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the Omicron variant surge that peaked in the last two weeks of January 2022. The inability to better integrate persons with lived experience as route Guides was a challenge though mitigated by an increased use of outreach staff.

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

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

- It is difficult to identify persons experiencing homelessness who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation.
- Families with children experiencing homelessness often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or in makeshift shelters.

Even though the Point-in-Time Count is most likely to be an undercount of the homeless population, the methodology employed—coupled with the homeless survey—is the most comprehensive approach available and results in a minimum number of persons experiencing homelessness at a single point in time.

# SURVEY METHODOLOGY

## Planning and Implementation

A survey of 359 unique individuals experiencing homelessness was conducted between March 7 and April 4, 2022 to yield qualitative data about people experiencing homelessness in Marin County. These data are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important for future program development and planning.

The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, duration and recurrence of homelessness, nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by peer survey workers with lived homeless experience. Like the general count, training videos were used to train surveyors. Some virtual training sessions were facilitated by ASR, Marin staff, and community partners. Potential interviewers were led through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information as well as detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Peer survey workers were compensated at a rate of \$10 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. McDonalds gift cards, and in some cases socks, were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2022 homeless survey. The incentives were easy to distribute, had wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. The incentives proved to be widely accepted among survey respondents.

### **Survey Sampling**

Based on a Point-in-Time Count estimate of 1,121 people experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 359 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/- 2.9% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Marin County.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence survivors, and families. One way to increase the participation of these groups was to recruit peer survey workers. Since 2009, the ASR survey methodology has prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of currently homeless surveyors.

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

### **Data Collection**

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

### **Data Analysis**

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

## **Survey Challenges and Limitations**

The 2022 Marin County Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, a smaller number of surveys were conducted among transition-age youth than in previous years.

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported. However, using a peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers and county staff members recommended individuals who would be the best suited to conducting interviews and these individuals received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. Service providers and county staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.

# APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS 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.

**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 people 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.

**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.

**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.

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