MARIN COUNTY 2024
HOMELESSNESS
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & REPORT

Prepared by
Applied Survey Research

ASR

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.

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Division of Homelessness and Coordinated 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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ASR
Helping People
Build Better Communities

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PIT COUNT LEAD

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 Consumer Representatives	St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin
Marin County Board of Supervisors	Side by Side Transition Age Youth
Marin County Community Development Agency	Women Helping All People

COUNT AND SURVEY COORDINATORS

Homeward Bound – Bailey Tiura, County Wide Survey Coordinator LaSaunda Tate Laurel Van de Velde	Downtown Streets Team – Zoe Neil Laurel Halvorson Jeremy Voda
Community Action Marin – Fatai Tokolahi Laurel Hill	Ritter Center, San Rafael – Ben Stein
West Marin County Outreach – Caren Gately Chloe Cook	Marin County Division of Homelessness and Coordinated Care – Cereza Barber

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNT AND SURVEY COORDINATOR

Community Action Marin – Valentina Bravo	Marin County Division of Homelessness and Coordinated Care – Cereza Barber
Side by Side TAY Space – 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 $5.7 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.

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.

Mill Valley, CA

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the 2024 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 2024 planning meetings were instrumental to ensuring the 2024 Marin Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2024 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.

Bolinas Bay

MARIN COUNTY
2024 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

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

The 2024 Marin County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 23rd, 2024. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 378 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness to collect additional demographic information.

MARIN HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
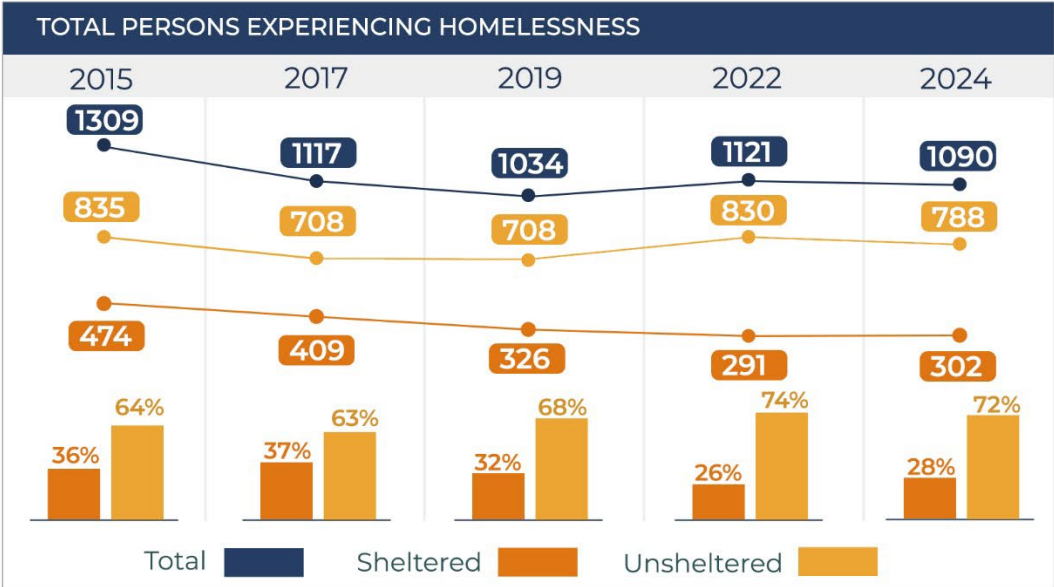Health, Well-being & Safety

ASR

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1,090

28% Sheltered
n=302

72% Unsheltered
n=788

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
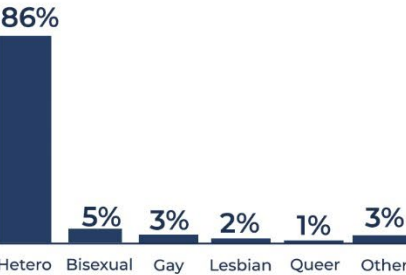
	2015	2017	2019	2022	2024
Total	1309	1117	1034	1121	1090
Unsheltered	835	708	708	830	788
Sheltered	474	409	326	291	302
Sheltered %	36%	37%	32%	26%	28%
Unsheltered %	64%	63%	68%	74%	72%

Legend: Total, Sheltered, Unsheltered

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE

<18	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
10%	11%	18%	19%	17%	17%	7%

GENDER

Man/Boy	Woman/Girl	Culturally Specific Identity	Transgender	Non-binary	Questioning	Different Identity	More than one gender
61%	38%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Hetero	Bisexual	Gay	Lesbian	Queer	Other
86%	5%	3%	2%	1%	3%

RACE/ ETHNICITY

- **2%** American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- **1%** American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **3%** Asian or Asian American
- **<1%** Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **17%** Black, African American, or African
- **1%** Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **21%** Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **1%** Middle Eastern or North African

- **<1%** Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **2%** Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- **<1%** Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **45%** White
- **2%** White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **2%** Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **3%** Multi-Racial (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)

DATA PORTRAITS

RESIDENCE PRIOR TO HOMELESSNESS

- 62% Marin County
- 28% Other CA County
- 10% Out of State
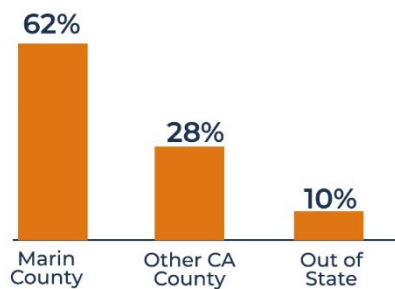
DURATION OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS

- 3% <7 Days
- 3% 8-30 Days
- 19% 1-6 Months
- 8% 7-11 months
- 67% 1 year or more
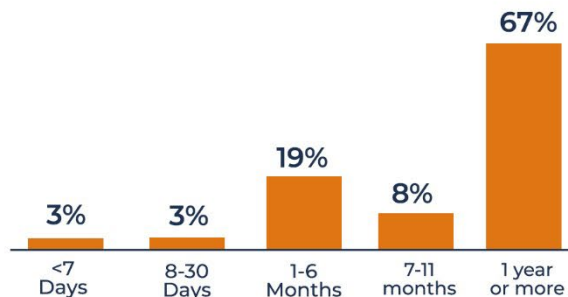
FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

27% of respondents reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

PRECIPITATING CAUSE THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS
(Top 5 Responses)

- **39%** Economic Issues
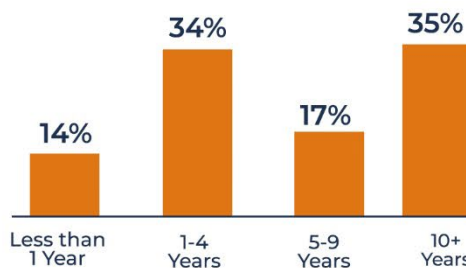- **20%** Mental Health Issues
- **18%** Personal Relationship Issues
- **14%** Substance Use Issues
- **10%** Incarceration

LENGTH OF TIME IN MARIN COUNTY

- 14% Less than 1 Year
- 34% 1-4 Years
- 17% 5-9 Years
- 35% 10+ Years

FOSTER CARE

10% of survey respondents have been in the foster care system
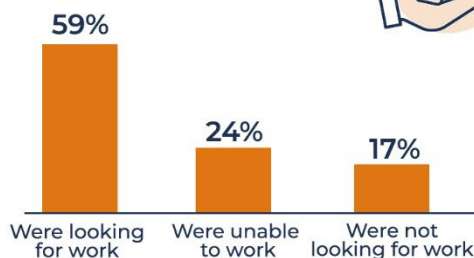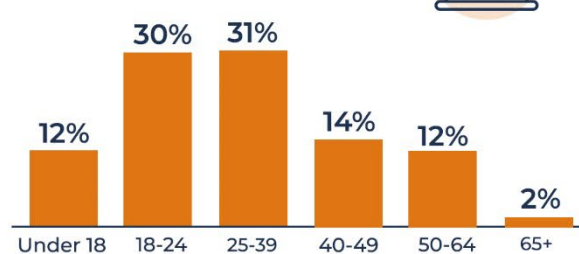
EMPLOYMENT STATUS

16% had some form of employment

9% of unemployed respondents were unable to work due to a disabling condition.

AMONG UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS

- 59% Were looking for work
- 24% Were unable to work
- 17% Were not looking for work

AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

- 12% Under 18
- 30% 18-24
- 31% 25-39
- 14% 40-49
- 12% 50-64
- 2% 65+

OLDER ADULTS

19% of respondents were aged 60+

COLLEGE EDUCATION

35% of respondents received at least some college education

SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION

39% Outdoors/ Streets

21% Vehicle

20% Shelter

15% Tent/ Encampment

2% Motel/ Hotel

2% Abandoned Building

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH

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

PSYCHIATRIC OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS

45% Report having a psychiatric or emotional condition

PTSD

41% Report having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE

38% Report having used drugs or alcohol

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION

31% Report having a chronic health condition

PHYSICAL DISABILITY

27% Report having a physical disability

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

16% Report having had a TBI

HIV/AIDS RELATED ILLNESS

4% Report having an HIV/ AIDS related illness

DISABLING CONDITION

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

23% of survey respondents report having at least one disabling condition

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Total ▮(navy) **Sheltered** ▮(orange) **Unsheltered** ▮(yellow)

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

TOTAL EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

	2020	2022	2024
Total	257	284	217
Sheltered	33% — 86	27% — 77	51% — 111
Unsheltered	67% — 171	73% — 207	49% — 106

VETERANS

TOTAL VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

	2020	2022	2024
Total	99	65	49
Sheltered	19% — 19	22% — 14	27% — 13
Unsheltered	81% — 80	78% — 51	73% — 36

FAMILIES

TOTAL FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

	2020	2022	2024
Total	54	73	64
Sheltered	93% — 50	62% — 45	69% — 44
Unsheltered	7% — 4	38% — 28	31% — 20

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN + TAY

TOTAL UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

	2020	2022	2024
Total	107	126	108
Sheltered	6% — 6	5% — 6	6% — 6
Unsheltered	94% — 101	95% — 120	94% — 101

SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

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

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

VETERANS

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

FAMILIES

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

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH YOUNG ADULTS

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

▫ Source: 2024 Marin County Homeless Survey, N=378

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

ASR

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2024 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 January 23, 2024, from approximately 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM and covered all 828 square miles of Marin County.[1] 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 2022, with the addition of special outreach to families, which may have resulted in an increase to the family count.

The methodology used for the 2024 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.**

Sausalito, CA

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[1] 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

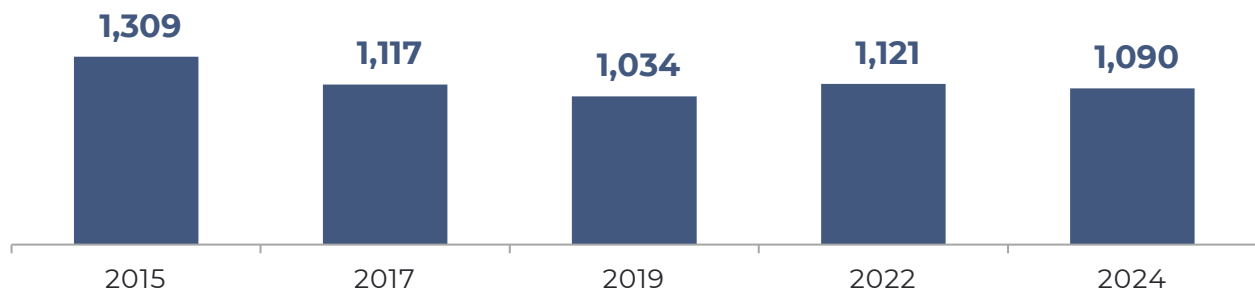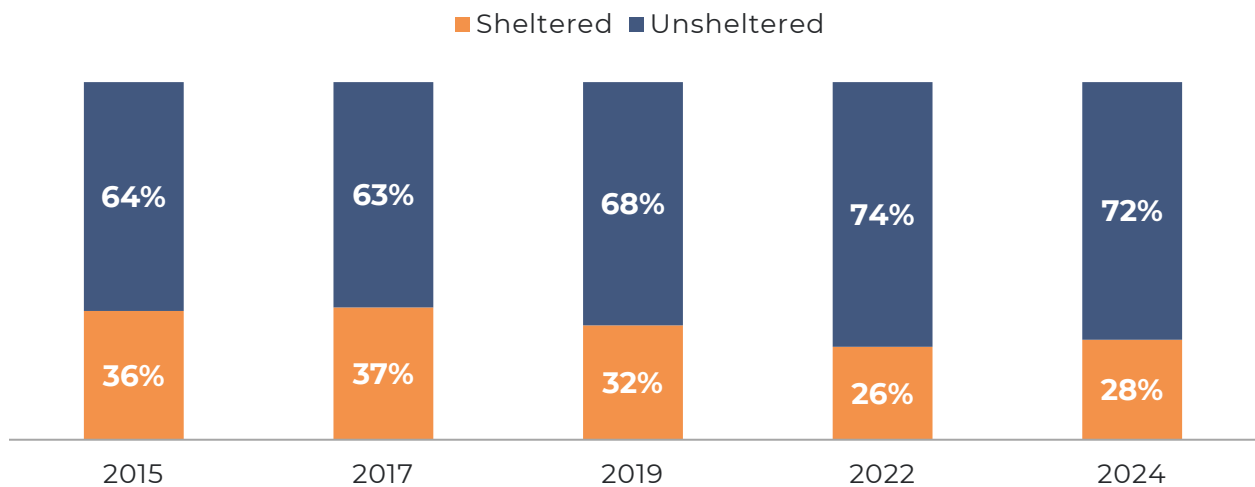**Figure 1. Total Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness, with Trend**

Year	Count
2015	1,309
2017	1,117
2019	1,034
2022	1,121
2024	1,090

Figure 2. Total Homeless Count Population, by Shelter Status

■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered

Year	Unsheltered	Sheltered
2015	64%	36%
2017	63%	37%
2019	68%	32%
2022	74%	26%
2024	72%	28%

	2015	2017	2019	2022	2024	22-24 % CHANGE
Sheltered	474	409	326	291	302	↑ 4%
Unsheltered	835	708	708	830	788	↓ 5%
Total	1,309	1,117	1,034	1,121	1,090	↓ 3%

Figure 3. Unsheltered Population by Jurisdiction

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED			SHELTERED			TOTAL		
	2019	2022	2024	2019	2022	2024	2019	2022	2024
NORTH MARIN	**147**	**234**	**202**	**163**	**115**	**114**	**310**	**349**	**316**
Novato	147	150	131	163	115	114	310	265	245
Unincorporated North Marin	*	84	71	0	0	0	*	84	71
CENTRAL MARIN	**269**	**320**	**325**	**94**	**107**	**62**	**363**	**427**	**387**
Fairfax	5	13	17	0	0	0	5	13	17
Corte Madera	39	3	3	0	0	0	39	3	3
Kentfield	*	2	4	*	0	0	*	2	4
Larkspur	28	9	4	0	0	0	28	9	4
Ross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Anselmo	20	11	7	0	0	0	20	11	7
San Rafael	161	241	264	94	107	62	255	348	326
Other Unincorporated Central Marin	16	41	26	0	0	0	16	41	26
SOUTHERN MARIN	**152**	**239**	**185**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**152**	**239**	**185**
Belvedere/ Tiburon	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Marin City	*	12	62	*	0	0	*	12	62
Mill Valley	8	38	4	0	0	0	8	38	4
Sausalito	25	97	35	0	0	0	25	97	35
Strawberry	*	12	11	*	0	0	*	12	11
Other Unincorporated Southern Marin	16	5	24	0	0	0	16	5	24
Richardson Bay Anchor Outs	103	75	43	0	0	0	103	75	43
WEST MARIN	**140**	**37**	**76**	**0**	**0**	**44**	**140**	**37**	**120**
Bolinas	*	16	47	*	0	44	*	16	91
Point Reyes Station	*	9	9	*	0	0	*	9	9
Other Unincorporated West Marin	140	12	20	0	0	0	140	12	20
OTHER	**--**	**--**	**--**	**69**	**69**	**82**	**69**	**69**	**82**
Domestic Violence Shelter	--	--	--	69	69	65	69	69	65
Scattered Site	--	--	--	*	*	17	0	0	17
Seasonal Shelter	--	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**708**	**830**	**788**	**326**	**291**	**302**	**1,034**	**1,121**	**1,090**

Note: Locations of domestic violence shelters remain undisclosed and are separated out into their own category.
Note: Scattered site was added as an option in 2024

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

Legend: ■ 0-17   ■ 18-24   ■ 25-34   ■ 35-44   ■ 45-54   ■ 55-64   ■ 65+

Shelter Status	0-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Sheltered	25%	7%	14%	15%	14%	15%	11%
Unsheltered	5%	13%	20%	21%	19%	17%	5%
Combined	10%	11%	18%	19%	17%	17%	7%
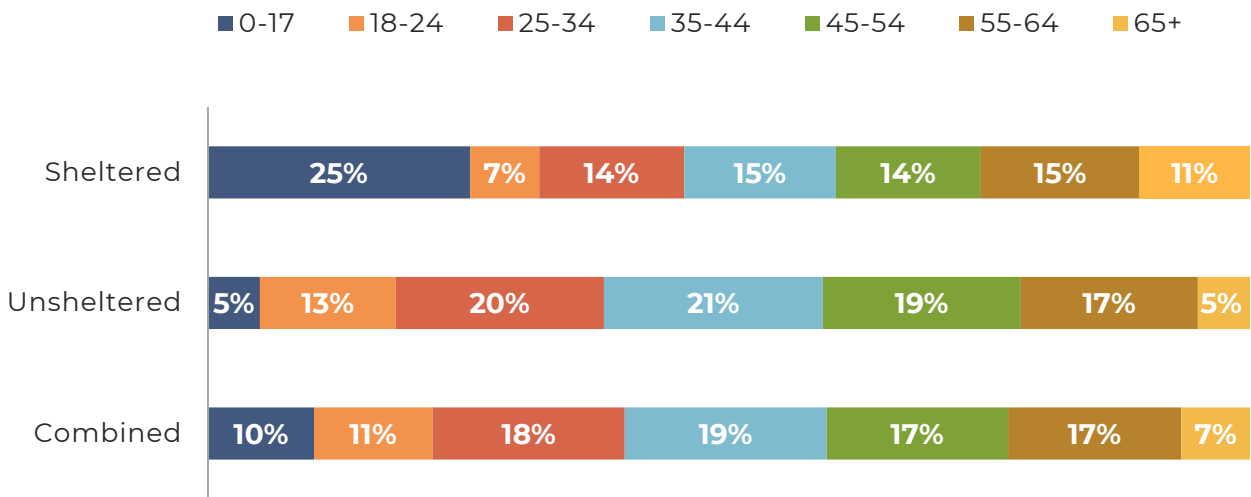
2024 Sheltered n=302; 2024 Unsheltered n=788
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. No comparison to prior years because data collected in 2022 used a different set of age ranges.

South Eliseo Permanent Housing

Sixty-one percent (61%) of the population identified as men and 38% identified as women.

Figure 5. Total Homeless Count Population, by Gender
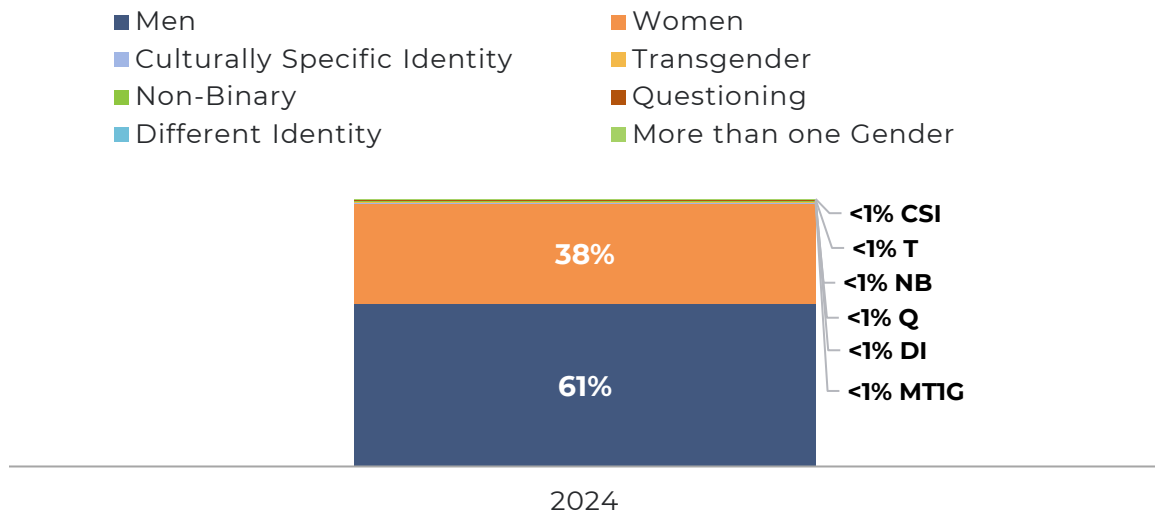
2024 n=1,090
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
* The response option" Questioning" was added in 2022.

Forty-seven percent (47%) of those experiencing homelessness identified as White, 29% of those enumerated identified as Hispanic/Latinx, and 18% identified as Black, African American, or African.

Figure 6. Total Homeless Count Population, by Race and Ethnicity
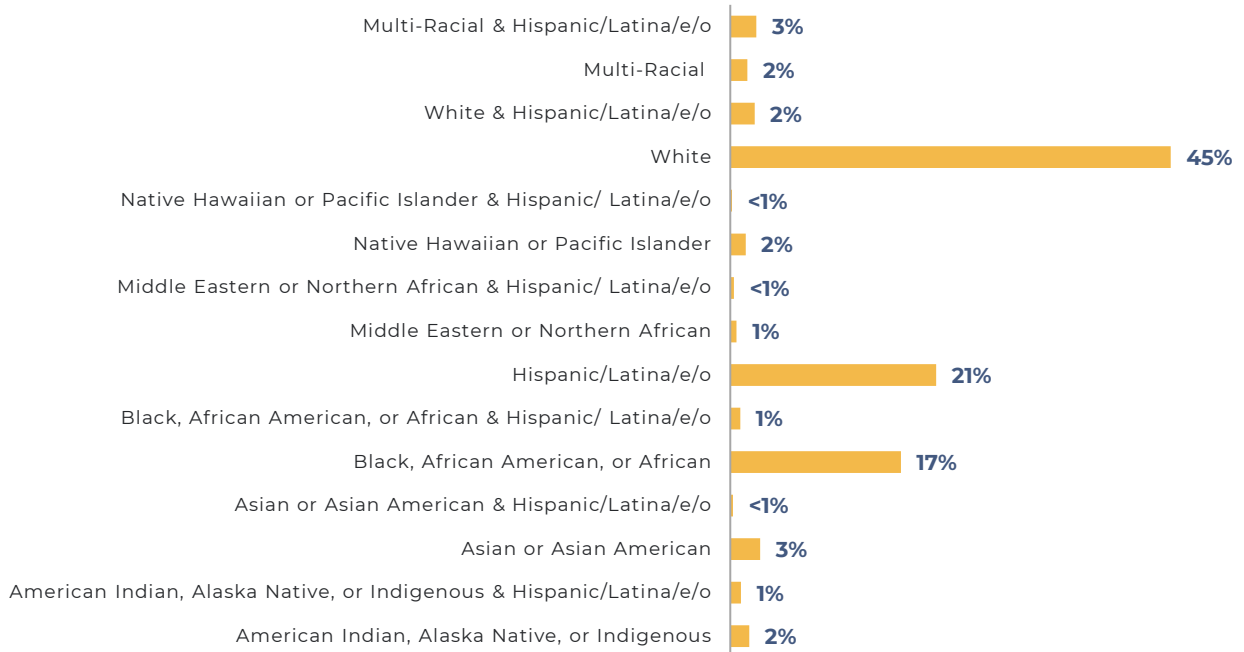
2024 n=1,090
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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 a decrease in the percentage of those experiencing chronic homelessness between 2022 and 2024, dropping from 25% in 2022 to 20% in 2024. It is estimated that 217 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness in January 2024, a 24% decrease from 2022 (284).

Figure 7. Chronically Homeless Census, with Trend
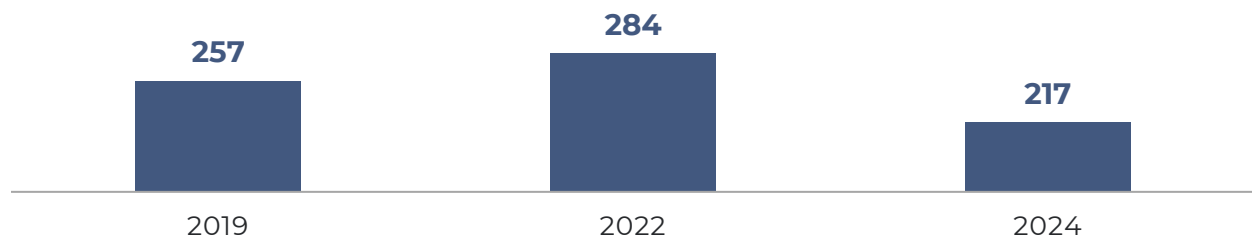
The proportion of those who were unsheltered decreased from 73% in 2022 to 49% in 2024.

Figure 8. Chronically Homeless Census, by Shelter Status
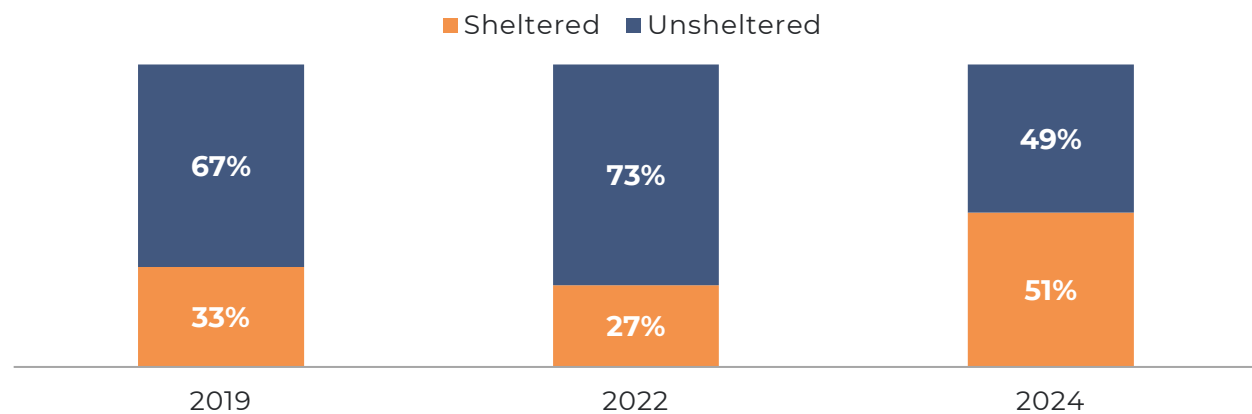
	2019	2022	2024	22-24 % CHANGE
Sheltered	86	77	111	↑ 44%
Unsheltered	171	207	106	↓ 49%
Total	257	284	217	↓ 24%

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.

The number of veterans in Marin County in 2024 dropped to 44 individuals down from 65 individuals in 2022.

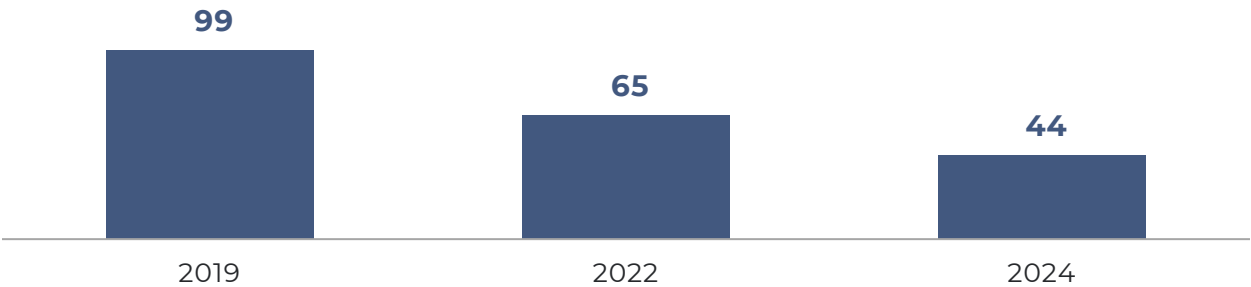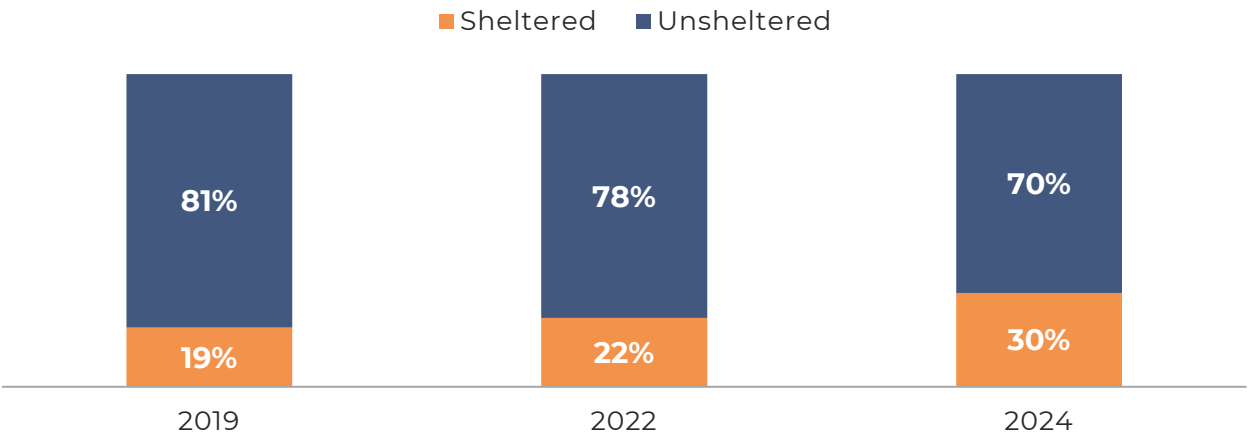**Figure 9. Total Number of Veterans, With Trend**

Figure 10. Veteran Census, by Shelter Status

	2019	2022	2024	22-24 % CHANGE
Sheltered	19	14	13	↓ 7%
Unsheltered	80	51	31	↓ 39%
Total	99	65	44	↓ 32%

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

National data from 2023 suggest that 29% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families with children.[2] Families with children are also more likely than childless adults to be in precariously housed situations such as being "doubled-up" or couch surfing, which do not meet the definition of homelessness required for the Point in Time Count. This year, there was an additional special outreach effort for families, which may have resulted in an increase to the family count.

Sixty-four (64) families with 204 family members were enumerated in Marin County in 2024. Forty-four (44) of these families were sheltered, with twenty (20) families unsheltered.

Figure 11. Families with Children Census, Total Family Members with Trend
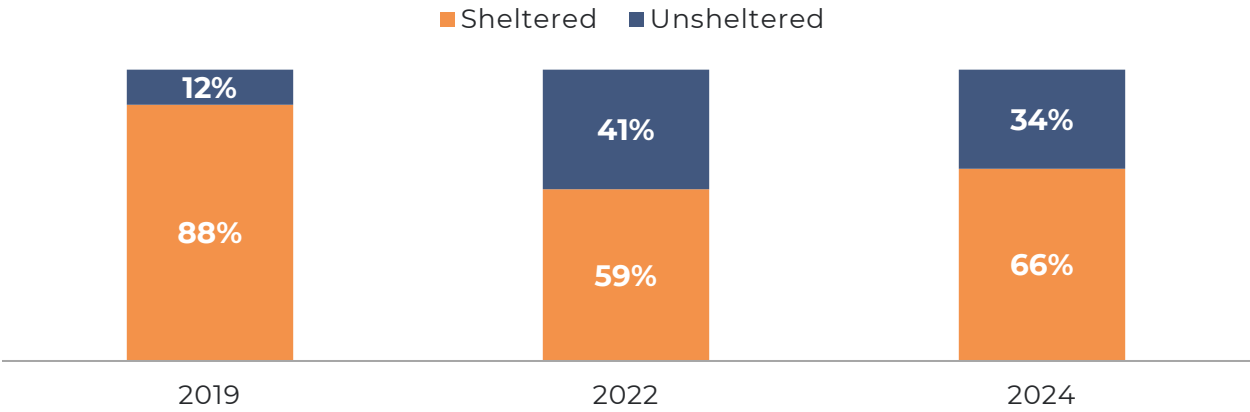
Year	Count
2019	147
2022	224
2024	204
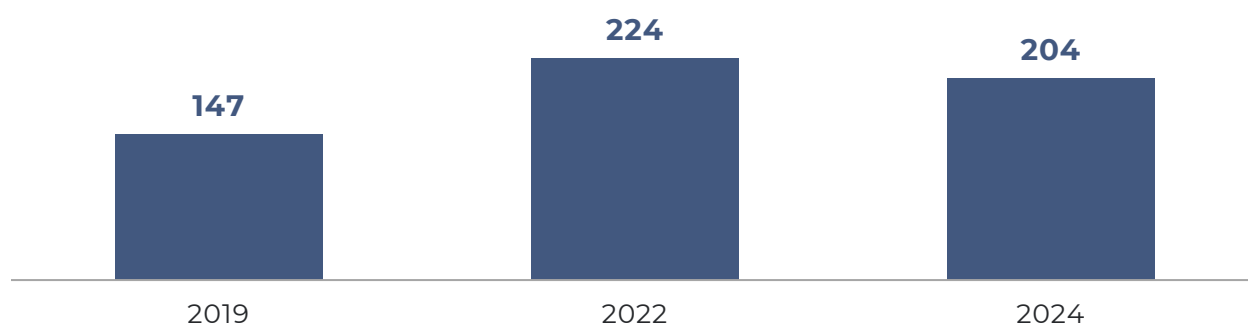
Figure 12. Families with Children Census, Number of Families with Trend

Year	Count
2019	54
2022	73
2024	64

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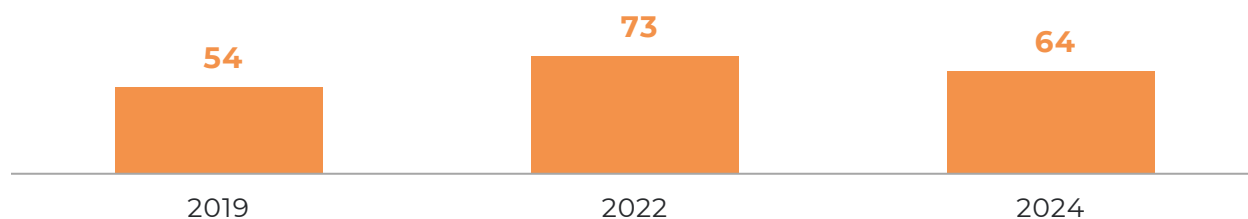
[2] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2023). The 2023 Annual Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. Retrieved May 2024 from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf

Figure 13. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Shelter Status

■ Sheltered   ■ Unsheltered

	2019	2022	2024
Unsheltered	12%	41%	34%
Sheltered	88%	59%	66%

2019 Family n=147; 2022 Family n=224; 2024 Family n=204

	2019	2022	2024	22-24 % CHANGE
Sheltered	50	45	44	↓ 2%
Unsheltered	4	28	20	↓ 29%
Total	54	73	64	↓ 12%

Marin Headlands

Figure 14. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Age

Legend: ■ 0-17 ■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-64 ■ 65+

Sheltered: 56% | 7% | 14% | 17% | 5%

Unsheltered: 51% | 4% | 17% | 20% | 4% | 1% | 1%

Combined: 54% | 6% | 15% | 18% | 5% | <1% | <1%
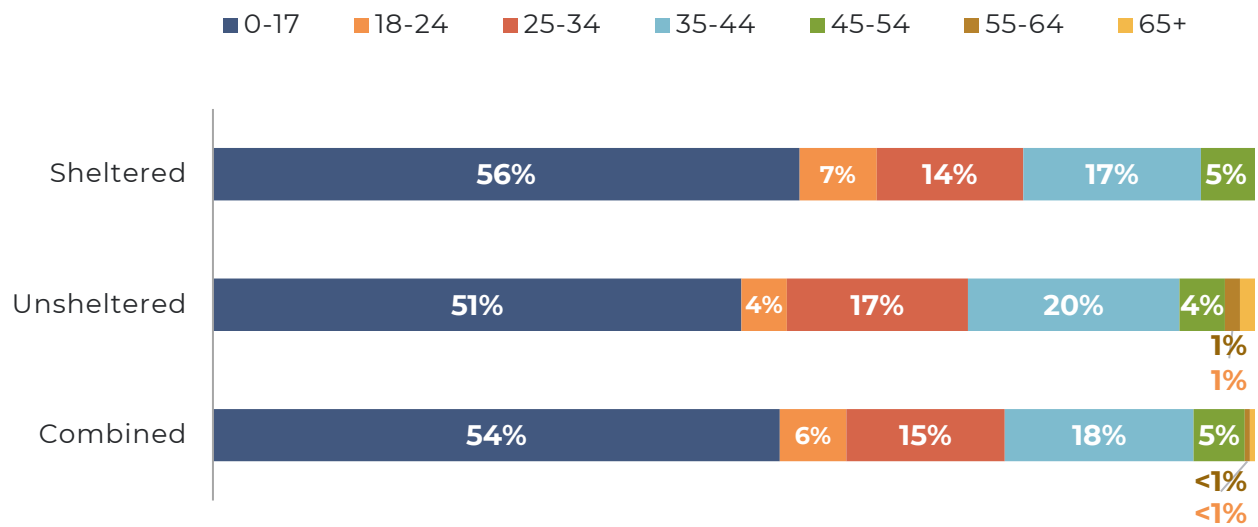
2024 Sheltered n= 135; 2024 Unsheltered n= 69
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. No comparison to prior years because data collected in 2022 used a different set of age ranges.
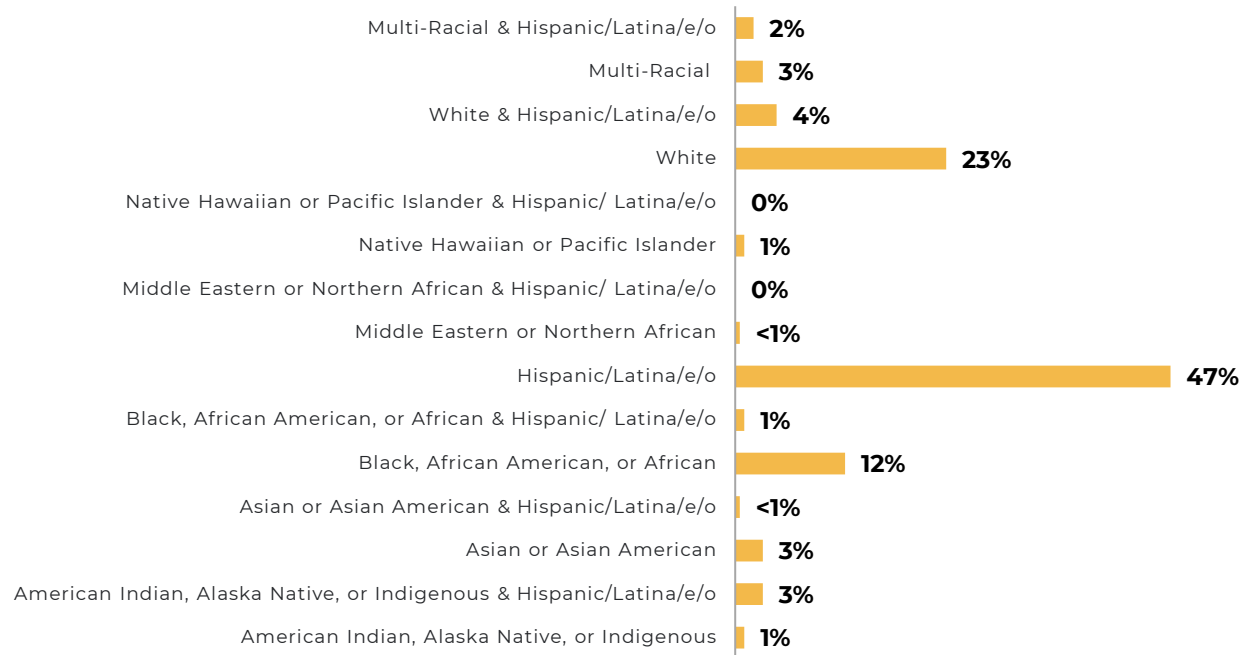
Figure 15. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Gender

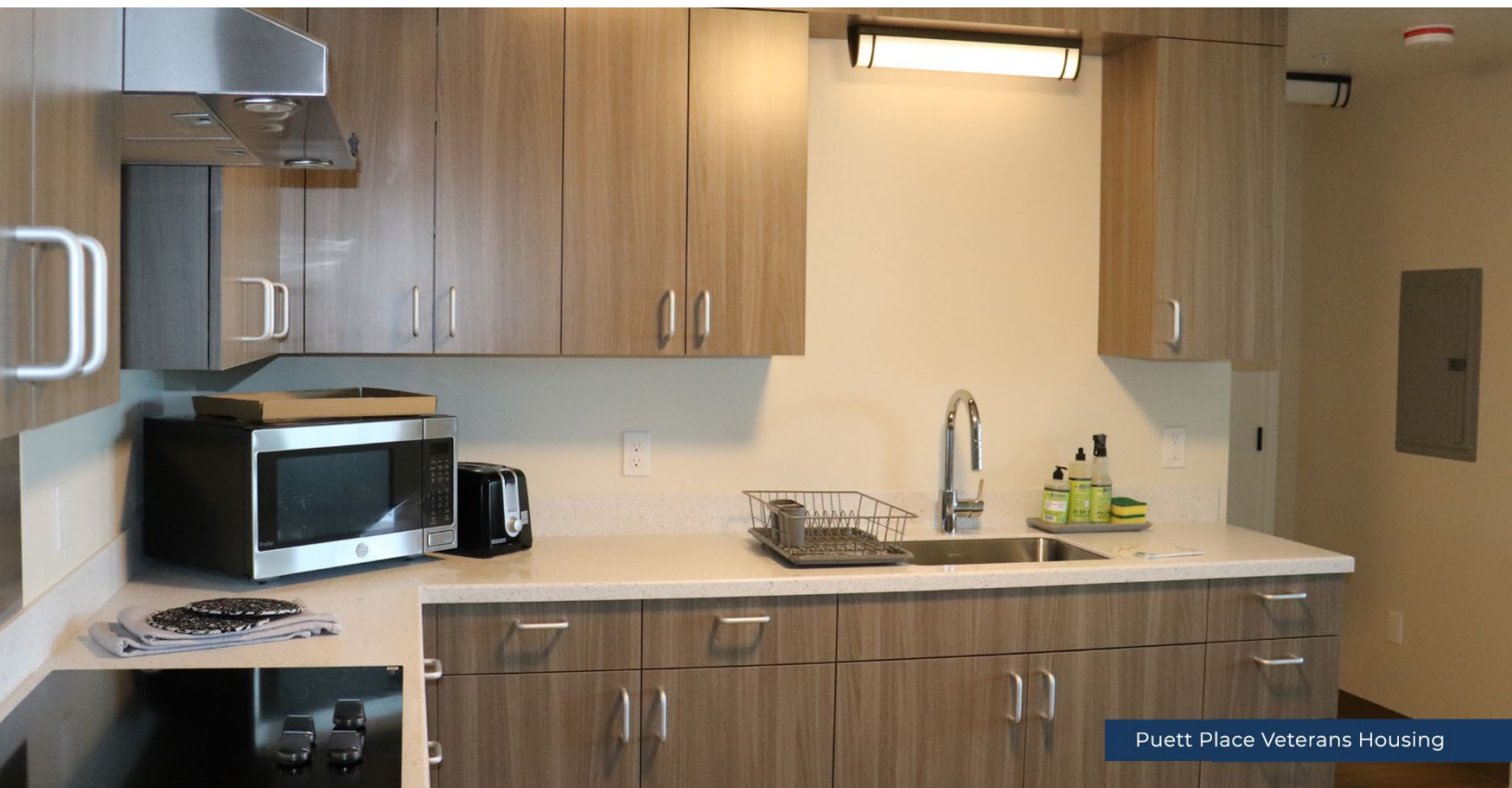Legend: ■ Male ■ Female ■ Transgender

2024: Female 50%, Male 49%, <1% T
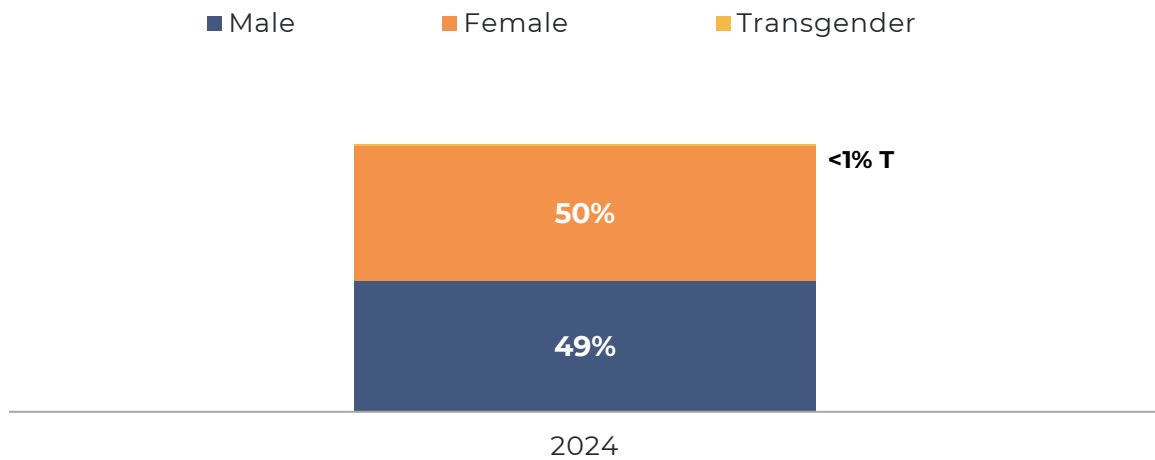
2024 n=204
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 16. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Race and Ethnicity

Category	Percentage
Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	2%
Multi-Racial	3%
White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	4%
White	23%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/ Latina/e/o	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%
Middle Eastern or Northern African & Hispanic/ Latina/e/o	0%
Middle Eastern or Northern African	<1%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	47%
Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/ Latina/e/o	1%
Black, African American, or African	12%
Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Asian or Asian American	3%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	3%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	1%

2024 n= 204
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Puett Place Veterans Housing

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

There were no unaccompanied children (under 18 years old) and 108 unaccompanied transition-age youth (age 18-24) enumerated, accounting for 10% of the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County. Six percent (6%) of transition-age youth experiencing homelessness were sheltered, with 94% unsheltered.

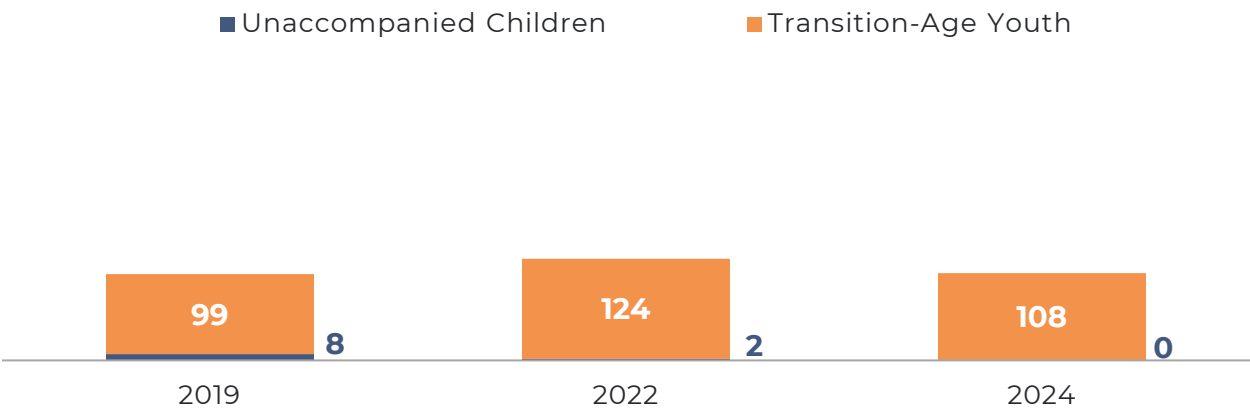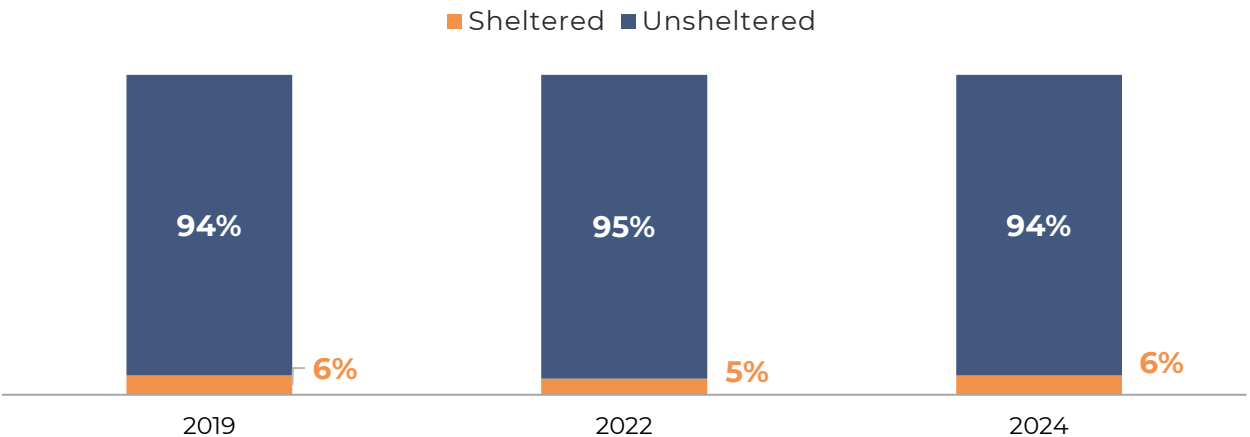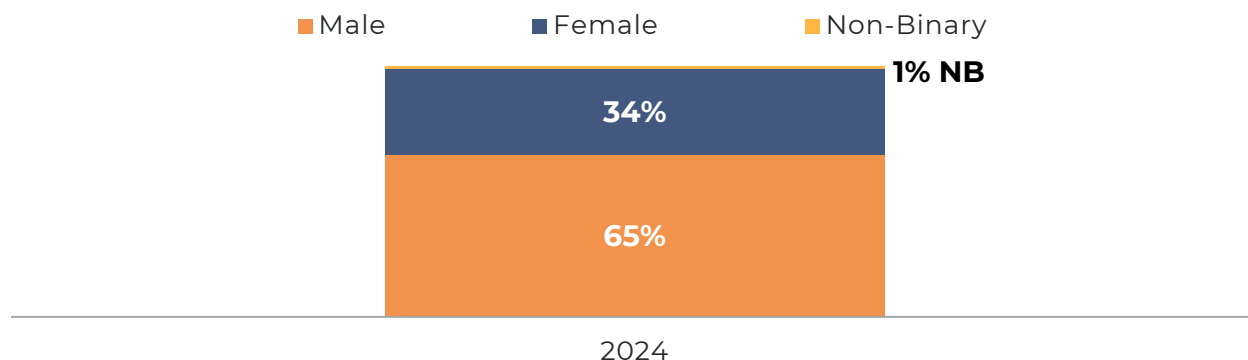**Figure 17. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, with Trend**

■ Unaccompanied Children   ■ Transition-Age Youth

2019	2022	2024
99 / 8	124 / 2	108 / 0

Figure 18. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, by Shelter Status

■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered

	2019	2022	2024
Unsheltered	94%	95%	94%
Sheltered	6%	5%	6%

	2019	2022	2024	22-24 % CHANGE
Sheltered	6	6	7	↑17%
Unsheltered	101	120	101	↓16%
Total	107	126	108	↓14%

Sixty-five percent (65%) of transition-age youth experiencing homelessness identified as men/boys, 34% identified as women/girls, and 1% identified as gender non-binary.

Figure 19. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, by Gender

■ Male   ■ Female   ■ Non-Binary

1% NB

34%

65%

2024

2024 Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth UC/TAY n=108

Figure 20. Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Census, by Race and Ethnicity

Category	Percent
Multi-Racial (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)	3%
Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	3%
White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	2%
White	47%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2%
Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0%
Middle Eastern or North African	1%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	17%
Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	1%
Black, African American, or African	18%
Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Asian or Asian American	1%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	2%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	2%

2024 Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=108
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

OLDER ADULTS 60+

Growth of older adults experiencing homelessness has risen along with the growth of the older adult population in the U.S..[3] Additionally, older adults living in shelters have higher rates of geriatric conditions than their non-homeless peers, which indicates a need for specialized care.[4]

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 the Point-in-Time Survey. HUD defines older populations as 65 years and older and requires reporting to this standard. The 60 years and older data below was calculated by weighing the survey results to estimate this alternative age classification.

Figure 21. Older Adults Survey
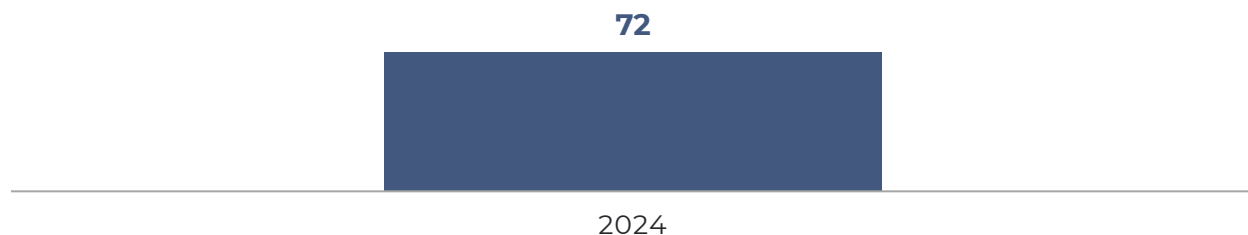
Source: 2024 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey

Figure 22. Older Adult Survey, by Shelter Status
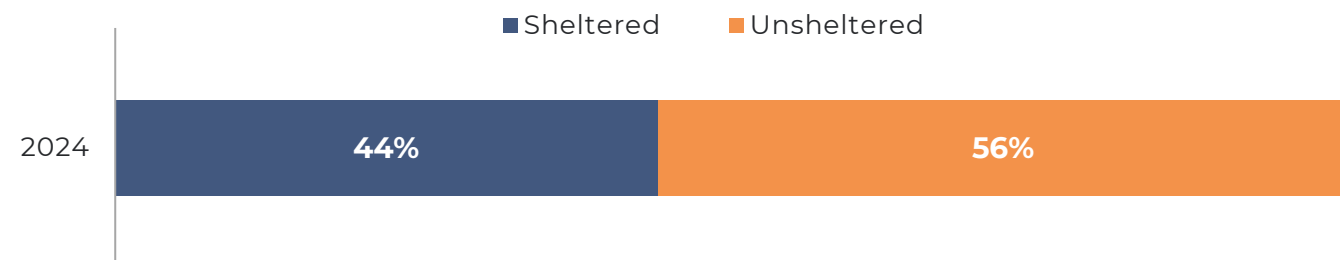
	2019	2022	2024	22-24 % CHANGE
Sheltered	7	1	32	3100%
Unsheltered	53	72	40	-44%
Total	60	73	72	-1%

Source: Marin County Point-in-Time Survey

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[3] CSH & Hearth (2011). Ending Homelessness among Older Adults and Elders through Permanent Supportive Housing. Retrieved 2017 from http://www.csh.org/
[4] 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
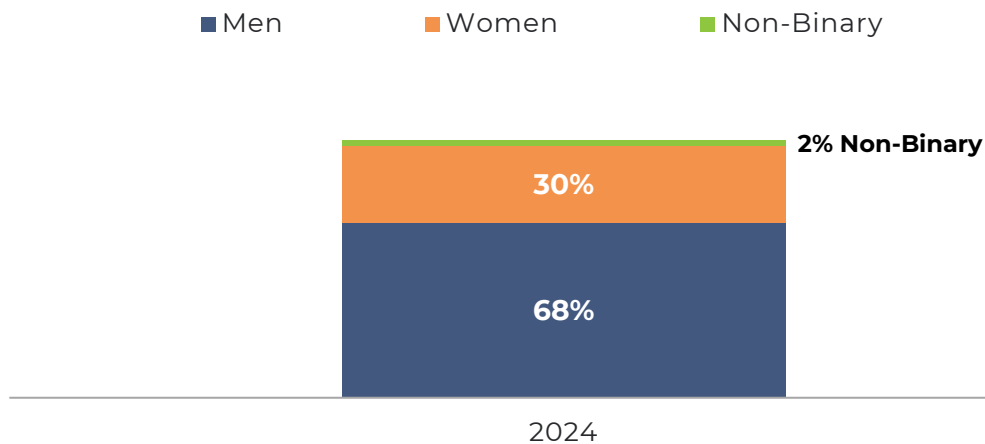
Figure 23. Older Adult Survey, by Age

Legend: ■ 60-64 ■ 65-69 ■ 70-74 ■ 75-79 ■ 80+

| 2024 | 53% | 40% | 1% | 3% | 3% |
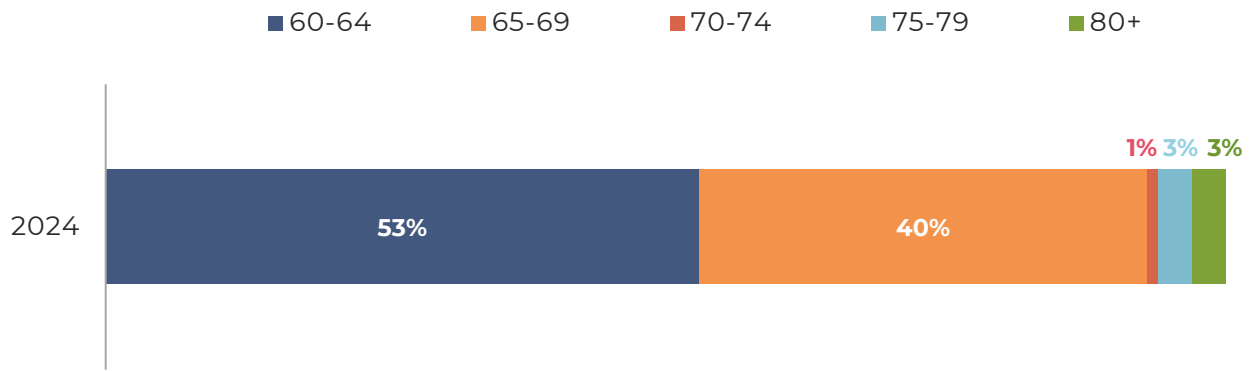
2024 Older Adults n=72
Source: 2024 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey

Figure 24. Older Adult Survey, by Gender

Legend: ■ Men ■ Women ■ Non-Binary

2% Non-Binary

30%

68%

2024

2024 Older Adults n=68
Source: 2024 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey
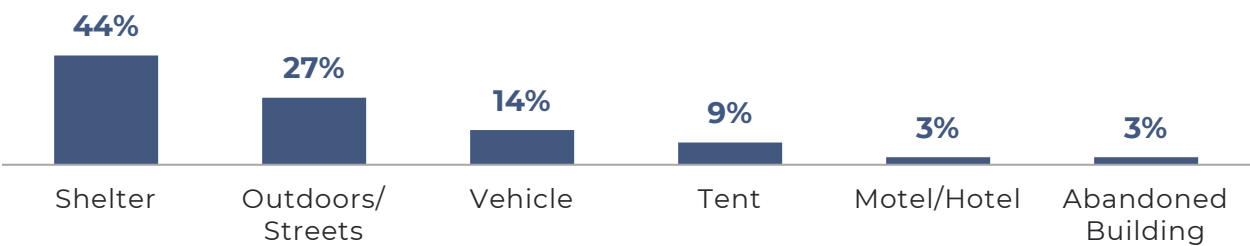
Figure 25. Older Adult Survey, by Race and Ethnicity

White	62%
Multi-Racial	15%
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	9%
Black, African American, or African	9%
Asian or Asian American	3%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	2%
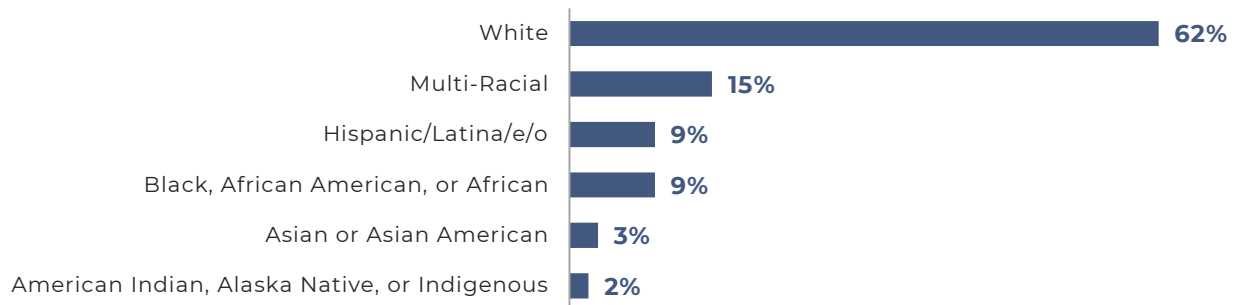
2024 Older Adults n=70

Figure 26. Older Adult Survey, by Total Time Without Housing

19% — Less than a year
39% — 1-5 years
15% — 6-10 years
27% — 11 years or more
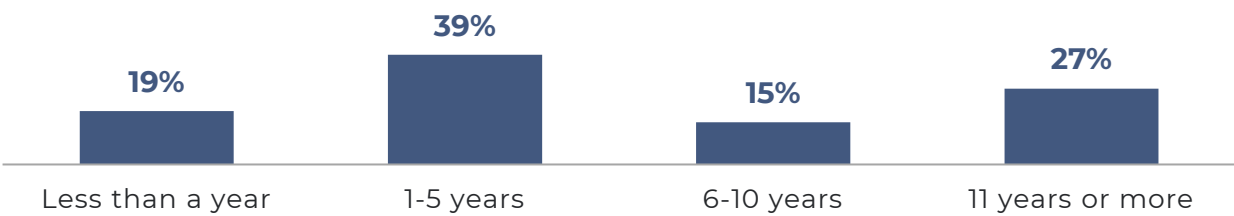
2024 Older Adults n= 67

Figure 27. Older Adult Survey, by Sleeping Location

44% — Shelter
27% — Outdoors/Streets
14% — Vehicle
9% — Tent
3% — Motel/Hotel
3% — Abandoned Building

2024 Older Adults n= 72

Mount Tamalpais Watershed

HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2024 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of homeless individuals starting February 7th and ending March 10th. This effort resulted in 378 complete and unique surveys.

Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 1,090 persons experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 378 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4.1% 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 4 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**.


Jonathan's Place

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. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents reported their current episode of homelessness was their first, a decrease from 41% in 2022.

Figure 28. First Time Homeless (Respondents Answering "Yes")

2019	2022	2024
30%	41%	27%
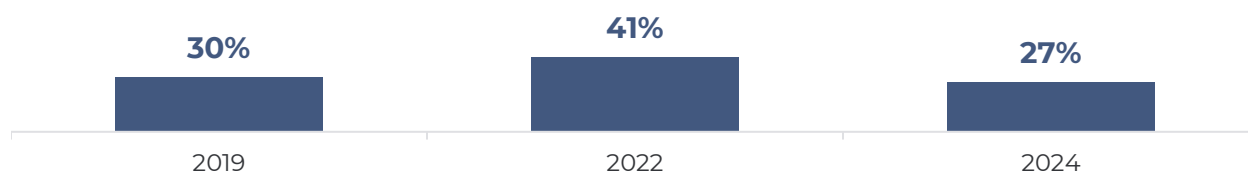
2019 n=351; 2022 n=329; 2024 n=369

Thirty-one percent (31%) of survey respondents reported becoming homeless for the first time between 25 and 39 years old, while 42% reported becoming homeless for the first time before age 25.

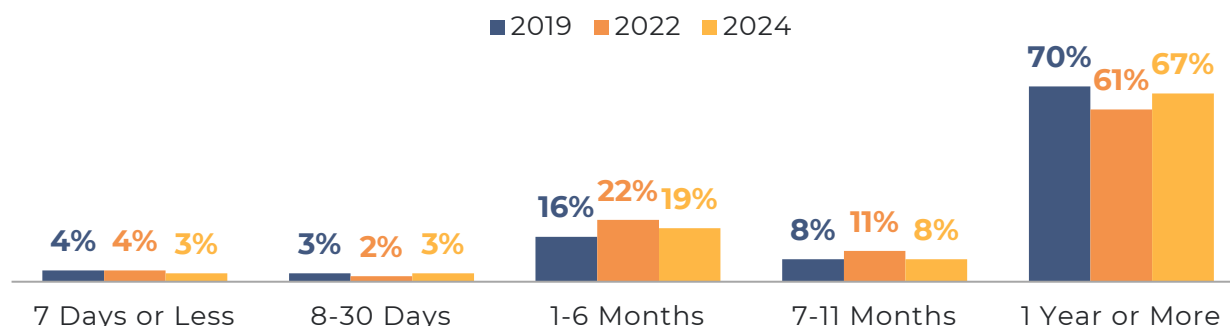**Figure 29. Age at First Experience of Homelessness**

■2022 ■2024

	0-17 Years Old	18-24 Years Old	25-39 Years Old	40-49 Years Old	50-64 Years Old	65 Years or Older
2022	16%	16%	29%	18%	19%	2%
2024	12%	30%	31%	13%	12%	2%
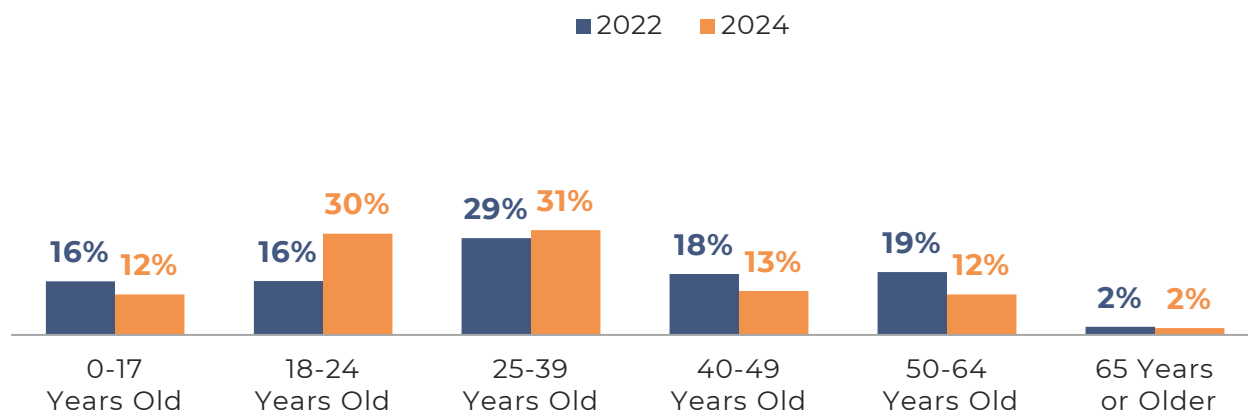
2022 n=328; 2024 n=362

DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more in 2024, an increase from 61% in 2022.

Figure 30. Length of Current Episode of Homelessness

Legend: ■ 2019 ■ 2022 ■ 2024

Category	2019	2022	2024
7 Days or Less	4%	4%	3%
8-30 Days	3%	2%	3%
1-6 Months	16%	22%	19%
7-11 Months	8%	11%	8%
1 Year or More	70%	61%	67%

2019 n=355; 2022 n=327; 2024 n=364

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. Forty-one percent (41%) of survey respondents reported they their current experience of homelessness had been the only occurrence in the past three years. Another 9% reported that, including the current episode, they had experienced homelessness six or more times.

**Figure 31. Recurrence of Homelessness in Past Three Years**

Category	Percentage
1 Time	41%
2 Times	30%
3 Times	13%
4 Times	6%
5 Times	1%
6 or More Times	9%
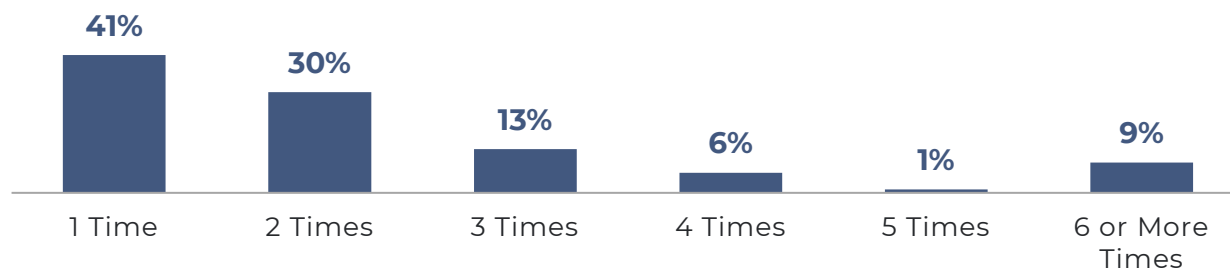
2024 n=368

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 2024, 62% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Marin County reported living in Marin at the time of their most recent housing loss, down from 78% in 2022. The 2024 Marin County decrease in residency is not unique to Marin, and is consistent with other Bay Area communities.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Figure 32. Place of Residence at Time of Housing Loss

62%	**23%**	**5%**	**10%**
Marin County	Other Bay Area County	Other CA County	Out of State
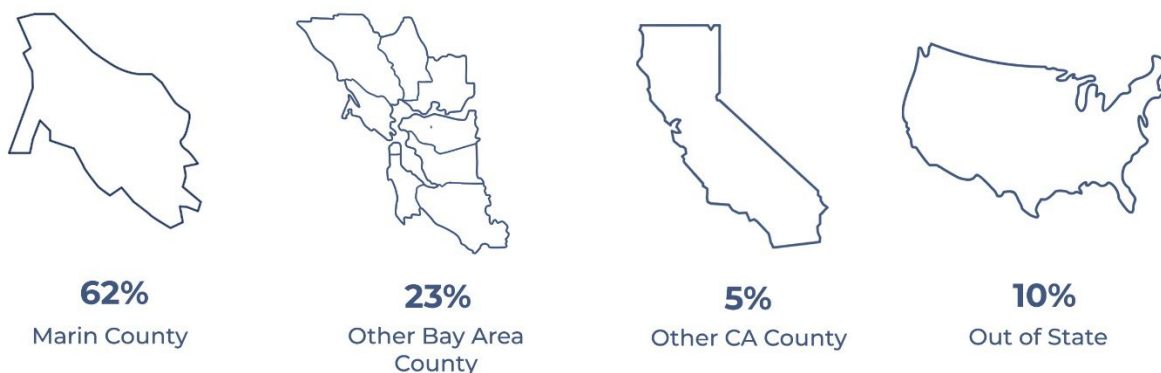
2022 n=324; 2024 n=361

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Figure 33. Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless (Top 5 Responses)

■2019 ■2022 ■2024

	A Home Owned or Rented by You or Your Partner	With Friends/Relatives	Jail or Prison	Motel/Hotel	Foster Care	Subsidized Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing
2019	43%	33%	5%	3%	2%	4%
2022	30%	29%	10%	8%	2%	5%
2024	32%	30%	9%	5%	5%	5%
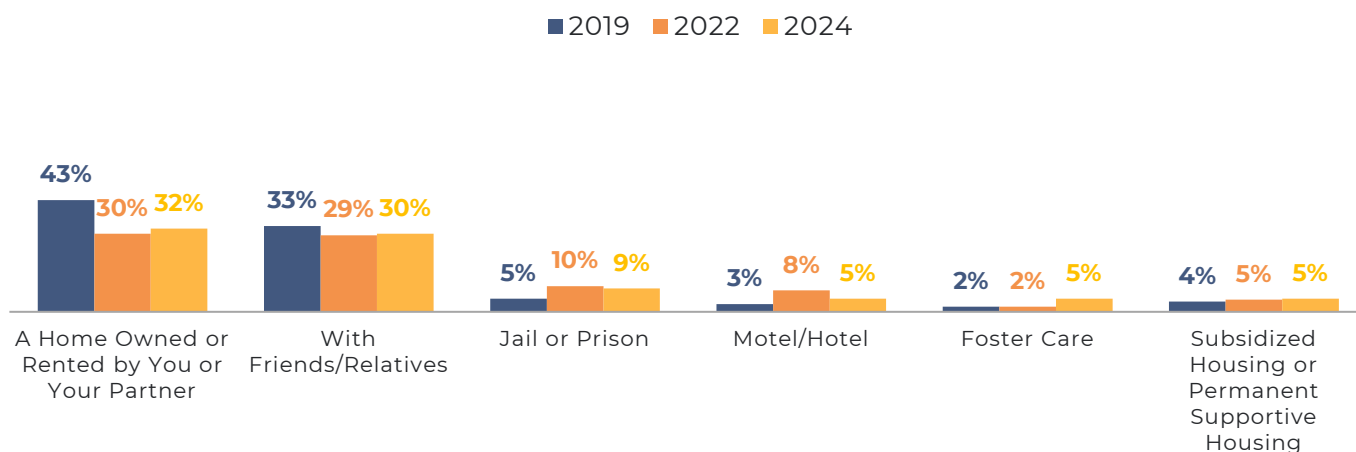
2019 n=343; 2022 n=316; 2024 n=348

SLEEPING LOCATION

Figure 34. Survey Respondents by Sleeping Location

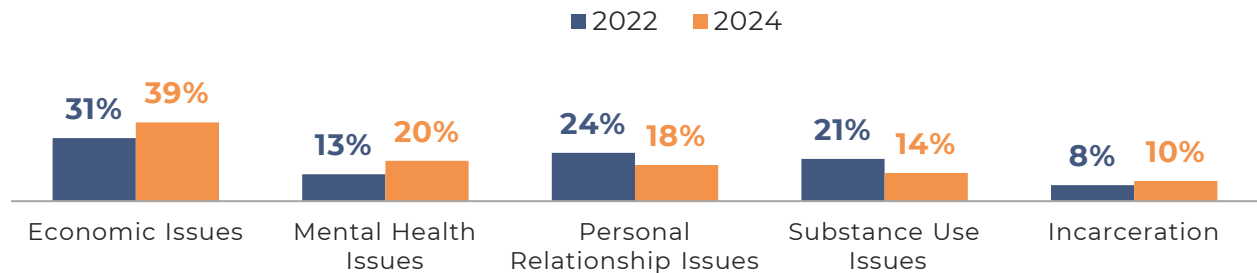| 39%	21%	20%	15%	2%	2%
Outdoors/Streets	Vehicle	Shelter	Tent	Motel/Hotel	Abandoned Building
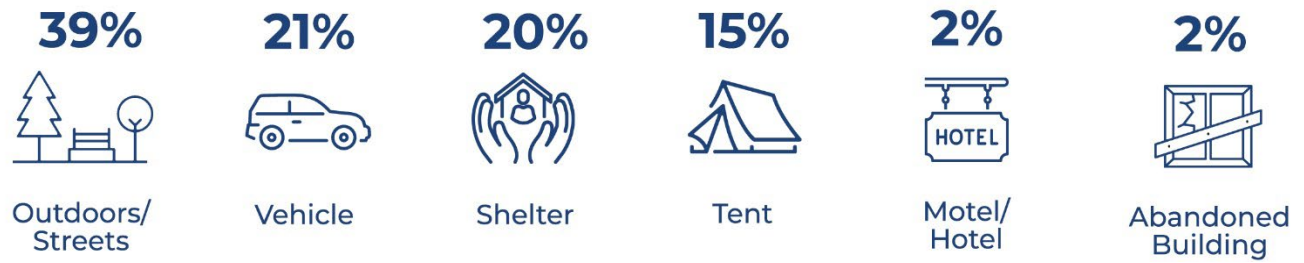
2024 n= 378
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Note: Survey results can vary from Census based data due to the nature of the survey being a sample of the population rather than the population as a whole..
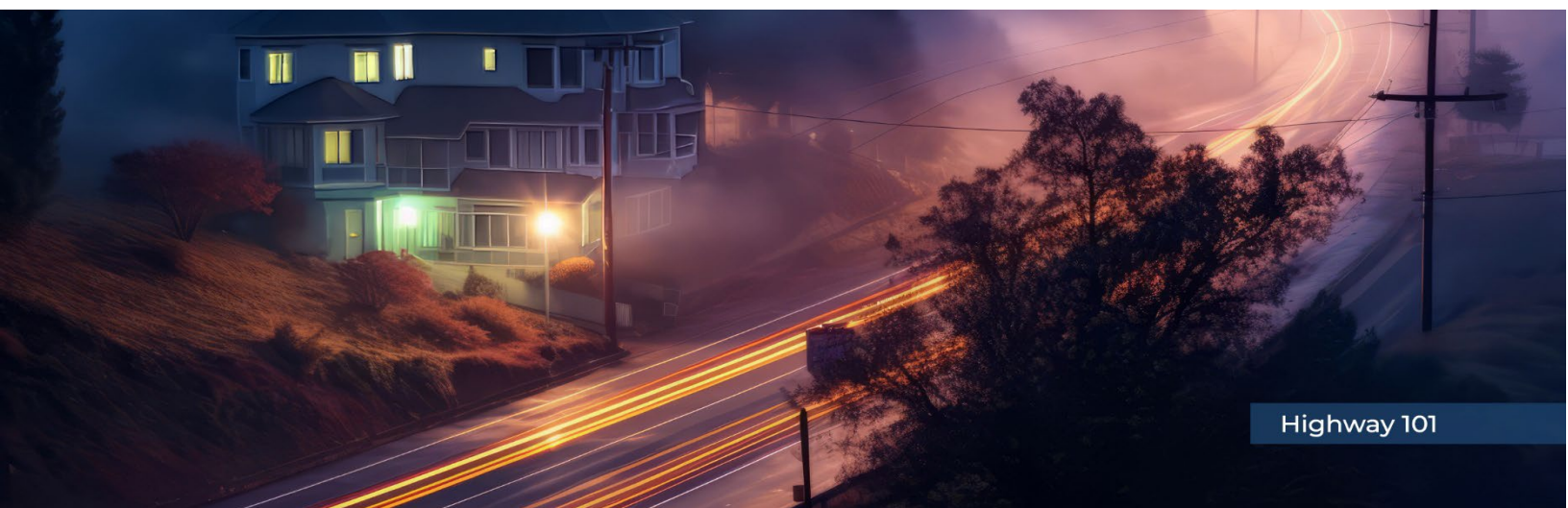
PRECIPITATING CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is caused by a lack of affordable and/or accessible housing. However, one circumstance may be identified as a precipitating cause of homelessness. The most frequently cited cause of homelessness was economic issues (39%), followed by mental health issues (20%) and personal relationship issues (18%).

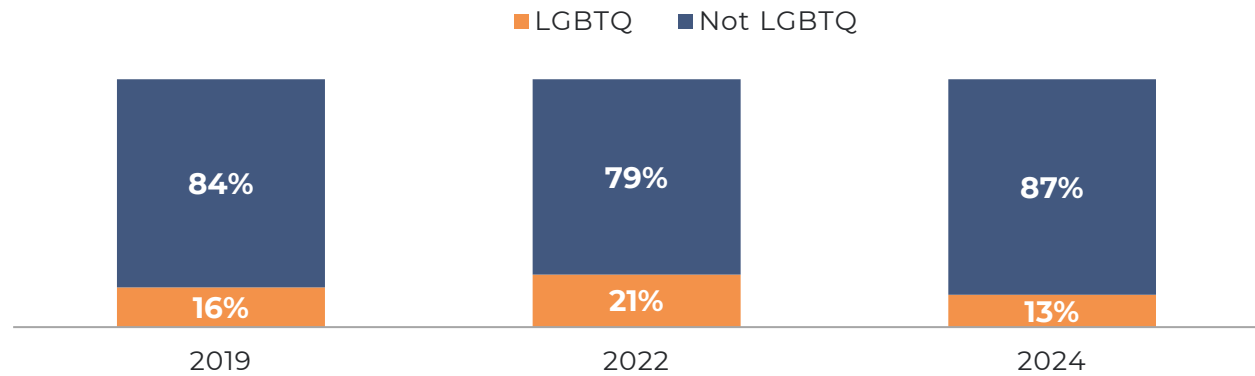**Figure 35. Precipitating Cause of Homelessness (Top 5 Responses)**

■ 2022 ■ 2024

	Economic Issues	Mental Health Issues	Personal Relationship Issues	Substance Use Issues	Incarceration
2022	31%	13%	24%	21%	8%
2024	39%	20%	18%	14%	10%

2022 n=321; 2024 n=351

Highway 101

L G B T Q +

Figure 36. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Legend: ■ LGBTQ   ■ Not LGBTQ

Year	Not LGBTQ	LGBTQ
2019	84%	16%
2022	79%	21%
2024	87%	13%

BREAKOUT OF LGBTQ+ RESPONDENTS						
	2019		**2022**		**2024**	
Gay	17%	10	17%	10	18%	9
Lesbian	9%	5	9%	5	14%	7
Queer	2%	1	2%	1	8%	4
Bisexual	45%	26	45%	26	39%	19
Transgender	7%	4	7%	4	6%	3
Gender Non-Conforming	0%	0	0%	0	8%	4
Other	28%	16	28%	16	18%	9

2019 LGBTQ+ n=360; Breakout n=58 respondents offering 63 responses; 2022 LGBTQ+ n=340, Breakout n=72 respondents offering 84 responses; 2024 LGBTQ+ n=378, Breakout n=49 respondents offering 56 responses
*Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.*

Novato, CA

HEALTH

The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is 25 years less than those in stable housing.[5] 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.[6]

Figure 37. Health Conditions

	2019	2022	2024
Psychiatric or Emotional Conditions	42%	45%	45%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	35%	41%	41%
Drug or Alcohol Use	28%	49%	38%
Chronic Health Problems	29%	24%	31%
Physical Disability	25%	28%	27%
Traumatic Brain Injury	14%	14%	16%
AIDS/HIV Related	1%	4%	4%
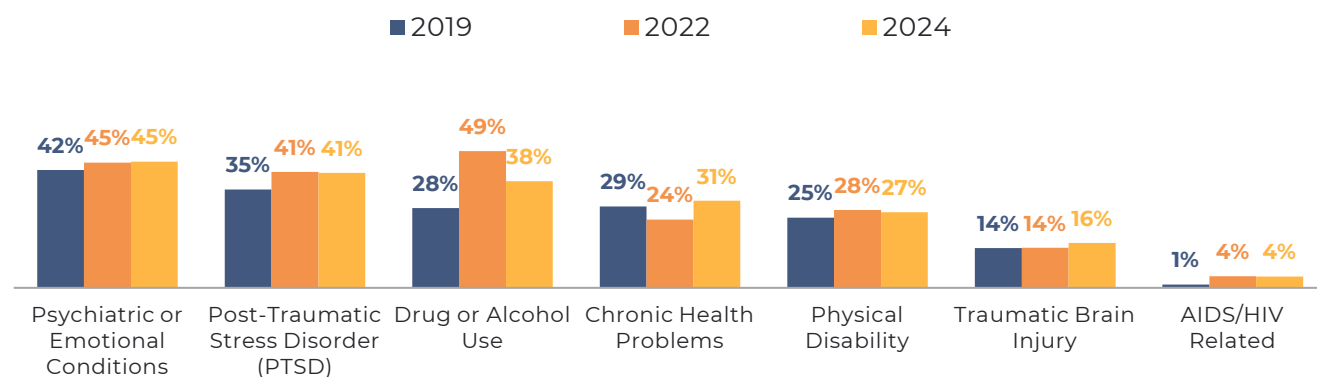
2019 n=308-330; 2022 n=269-296; 2024 n=305-322
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Point Reyes

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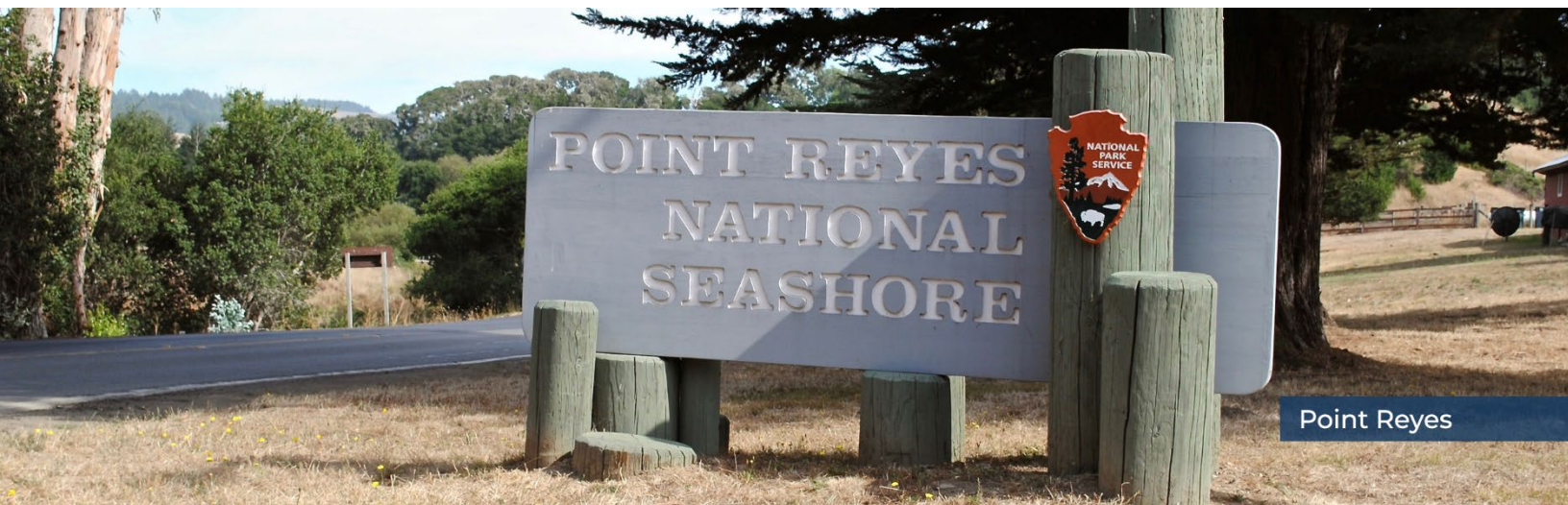
[5] O'Connell, JJ. (2005). Premature Mortality in Homeless Populations: A Review of the Literature. Nashville: National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc. Retrieved 2019 from http://sbdww.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/PrematureMortalityFinal.pdf.
[6] Sharon A. Salit, M. E. (1998). Hospitalization Costs Associated with Homelessness in New York City. New England Journal of Medicine, 338, 1734-1740.

FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least one-third of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.[7] 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, 10% of those experiencing homelessness had a history of foster care in Marin or other counties.

Figure 38. History of Foster Care

Legend: Yes (orange), No (blue)

Year	Yes	No
2022	15%	85%
2024	10%	90%
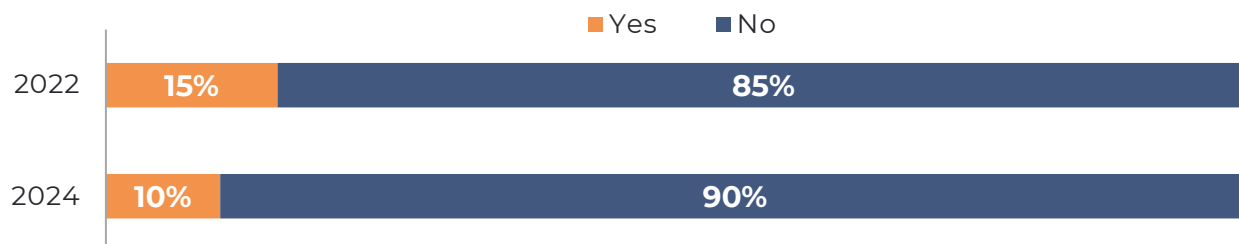
2022 n=308; 2024 n=339

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

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

Eleven percent (11%) of survey respondents reported they were currently experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse.[8]

Figure 39. Currently Experiencing Domestic Violence or Abuse

Legend: Yes (blue), No (orange)

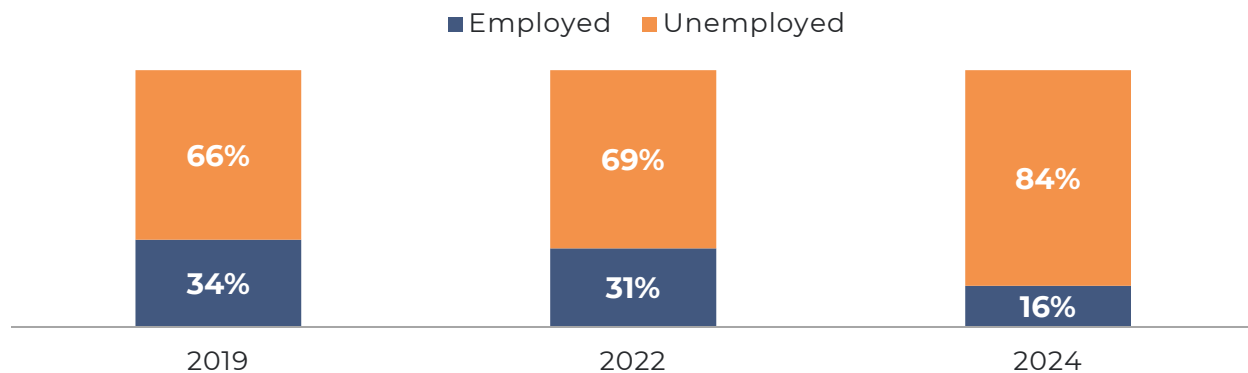| Year	No	Yes
2022	95%	5%
2024	89%	11%
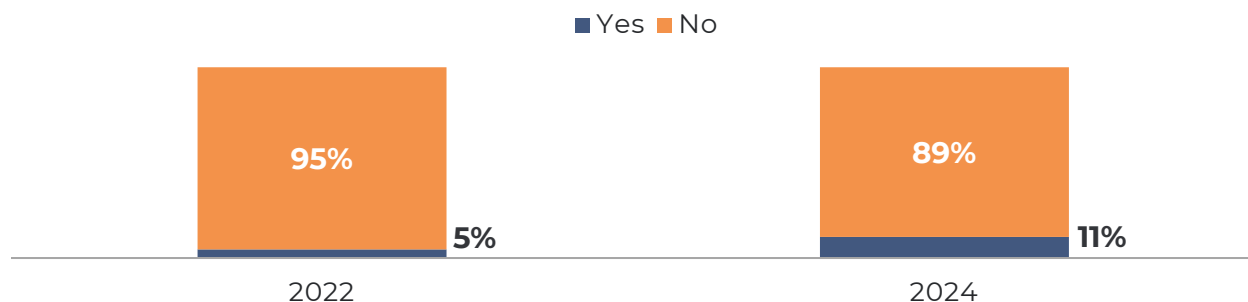
2022 n=285; 2024 n=283
Note: Please use caution when interpreting results due to small sample size

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[7] 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.
[8] These data include only those currently experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, not those who have a history of domestic violence.
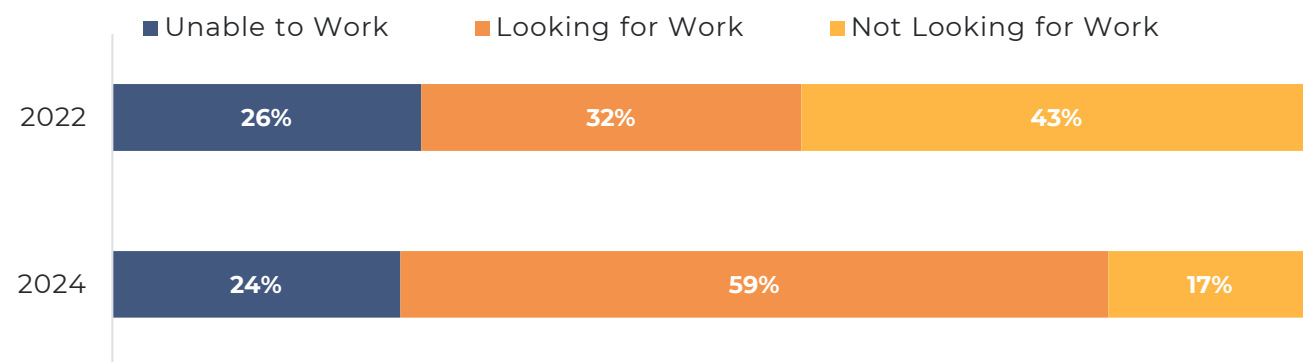
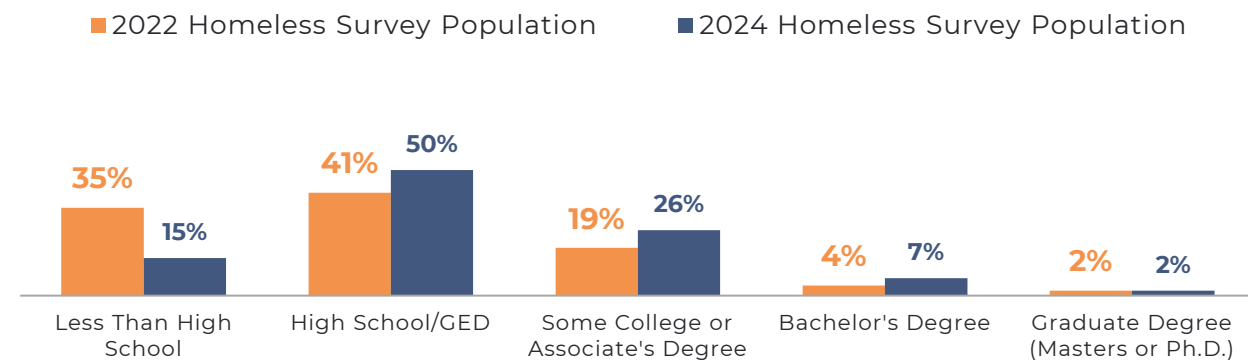# EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Figure 40. Employment Status

Legend: ■ Employed ■ Unemployed

Year	Unemployed	Employed
2019	66%	34%
2022	69%	31%
2024	84%	16%

2019 n=341; 2022 n=278; 2024 n=363

Figure 41. Job Search Status if Unemployed

Legend: ■ Unable to Work ■ Looking for Work ■ Not Looking for Work

Year	Unable to Work	Looking for Work	Not Looking for Work
2022	26%	32%	43%
2024	24%	59%	17%

2022 n=254; 2024 n=274

Figure 42. Educational Attainment

Legend: ■ 2022 Homeless Survey Population ■ 2024 Homeless Survey Population

	Less Than High School	High School/GED	Some College or Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate Degree (Masters or Ph.D.)
2022	35%	41%	19%	4%	2%
2024	15%	50%	26%	7%	2%

2022 n=309; 2024 n=356

CONCLUSION

The 2024 Marin County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying those experiencing homelessness. The 2024 Point-in-Time Count identified 1,090 persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County. This represents an 2.8% decrease from the count conducted in 2022.

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.

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

Between the 2022 and 2024 Point in Time Counts, Marin housed 280 of the most vulnerable chronically homeless residents of Marin in supportive housing, with more than 700 housed since the Coordinated Entry system was launched in 2017. 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 veterans to meet their unique needs.

The 2024 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:

ALL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN

- In 2024 there was a 4% increase in persons enumerated in shelters, and a 5% decrease in those who were unsheltered. Overall, the total number of persons experiencing homelessness enumerated in 2024 decreased by 3% since 2022.

- Thirteen percent (13%) reported being LGBTQ+, a decrease from 21% in 2022 and 16% in 2019.

- First time homelessness decreased from 41% in 2022 to 27% in 2024.

- Sixty-seven percent (67%) of survey respondents experienced homelessness for one year or more, up from 61% in 2022.

- Sixty-two percent (62%) of survey respondents were living in Marin County when they began experiencing homelessness, down from 78% in 2022.

- Like previous years, economic issues were the most frequently cited cause of homelessness (39%).

- Ten percent (10%) had a history of foster care.

SUBPOPULATIONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Those experiencing chronic homelessness decreased 24% to 217 individuals, with a 44% increase in sheltered and 49% decrease in unsheltered persons.

- There are fewer veterans experiencing homelessness, down 32% from 2022, and more veterans are being sheltered: 30% in 2024, up from 22% in 2022.

- The number of families experiencing homelessness decreased 12% from 2022, with the percentage of unsheltered families decreasing from 41% in 2022 to 34% in 2024.

- There were 0 unaccompanied children and 108 unaccompanied transition-age youth (age 18-24) enumerated, accounting for 10% of the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County.

- Fewer unaccompanied transition-age youth identified as Hispanic or Latinx, with 17% in 2024 compared to 22% in 2022.

- Older adults ages 60+ comprised 7% of the population experiencing homelessness with 44% sheltered and 56% unsheltered.

The 2024 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.

Sausalito, CA

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2024 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 2024 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 378 unique individuals conducted by approximately 20 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 2024 street count methodology followed an established, HUD-approved methodology used in the 2017, 2019, and 2022 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 2024 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 2024 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. All teams met at the deployment center after the count to ensure data was submitted properly.

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 2024, approximately 60 community volunteers, including outreach workers, service providers, and lived-experience guides participated in the general street count on January 23, 2024.

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. 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.

Approximately thirty 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

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 unique tract numbers 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 morning of January 23rd, police departments in certain jurisdictions in the county, and the Sheriff's Office, enumerated vehicles before the beginning of the street count. Additionally, one team of lived-experience Guides canvasses the county to capture occupied vehicles on the morning of January 23rd. 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 2024 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 2024 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 January 23, 2024. Additionally, Community Action Marin under the leadership of Valentina Bravo led multiple teams of youth as well as in coordination with the Side-by-Side teams in order to avoid duplication. A training was held at the youth deployment site prior to departure.

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 January 23, 2024.

Both HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly comingle 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 2024, two persons under the age of 25 were identified as duplicates, and removed from the data set.

SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the shelter and institution count is to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across 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 January 22, 2024. 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 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 378 unique individuals experiencing homelessness was conducted between February 7 and March 10, 2024 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, and causes of homelessness 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 and/or backpacks provided by Partnership Health Plan of California, were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2024 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 1,090 people experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 378 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/- 4.1% 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 2024 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.