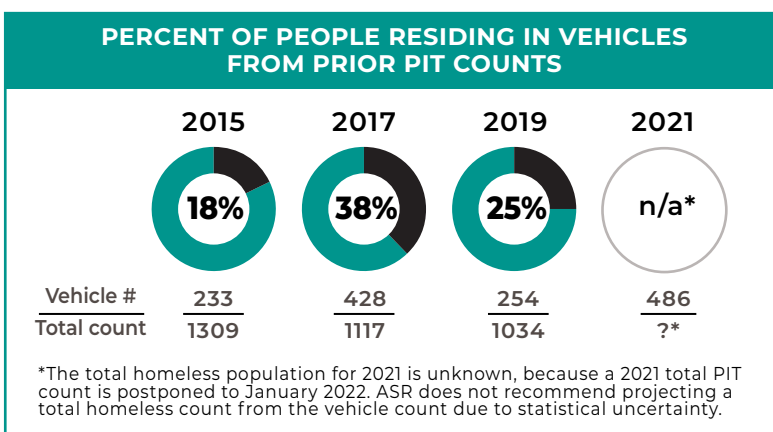
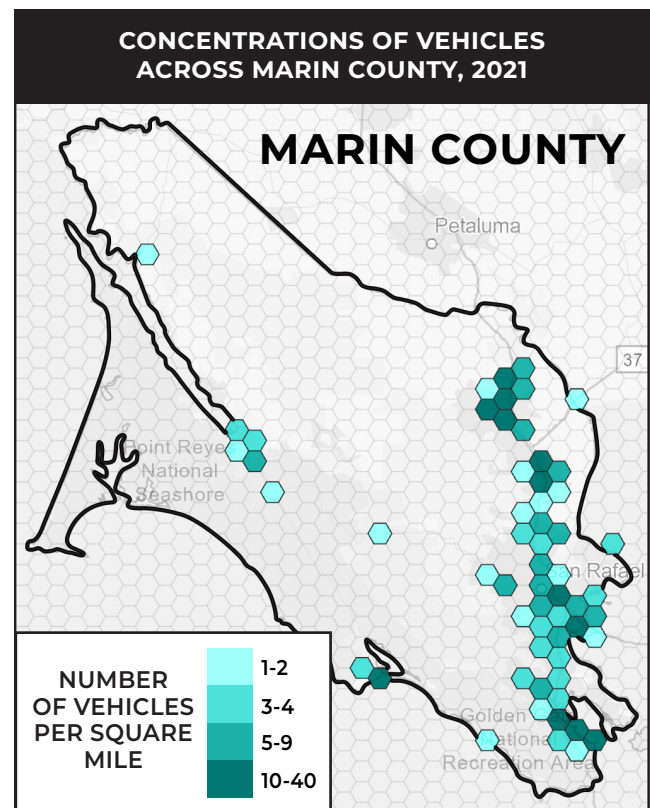
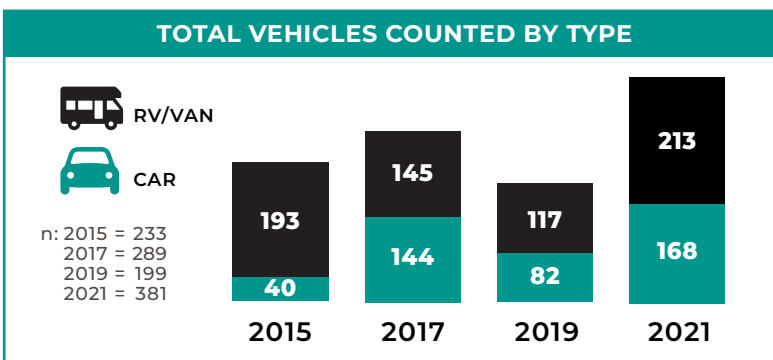
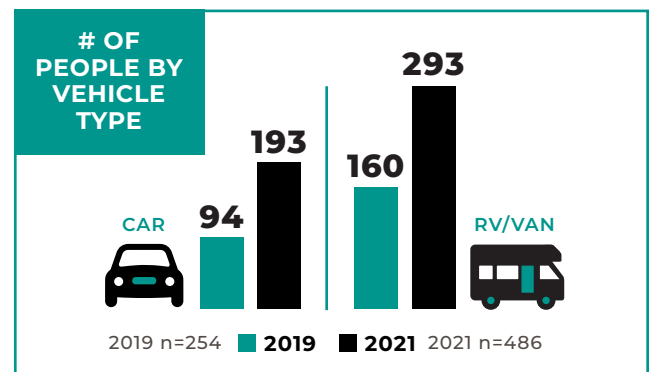
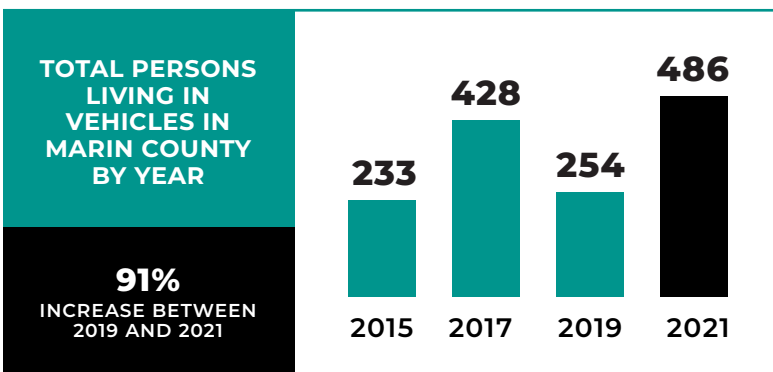


# MARIN COUNTY

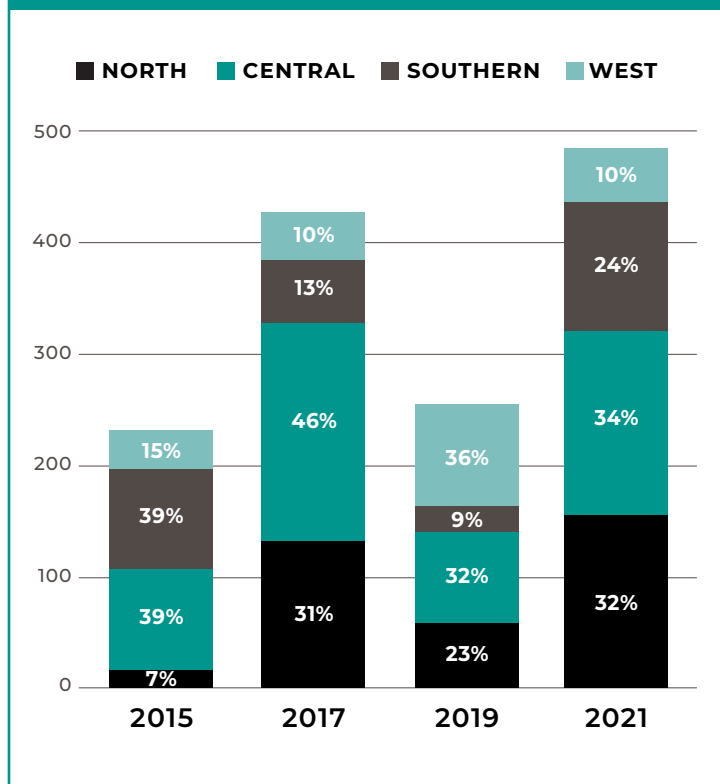
## 2021 HOMELESS VEHICLE COUNT

On February 25, 2021, a special team of 41 people composed of local law enforcement, homeless outreach staff, and persons with lived vehicle experience canvassed Marin County to help determine the current prevalence of people living in vehicles. As a result of social distancing and public health safety precautions for the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) unsheltered Count and Survey was postponed to the end of January 2022. However, in the continuing effort to monitor homelessness and progress towards its elimination, the Marin County Continuum of Care decided that it would be safe to conduct a vehicle count to at least partially help understand the current state of homelessness locally.

This report provides data regarding the number and some characteristics of people experiencing homelessness and residing in vehicles in Marin County over a long day on February 25, 2021. To better understand the trends of vehicular homelessness in Marin County over time, results from 2015, 2017, and 2019 are provided where available and applicable. The percentage increase in the number of persons experiencing homelessness in vehicles does not correlate to an equivalent increase in the overall number of persons experiencing homelessness that are typically reported in the biennial Point-in-Time (PIT) count report. Persons experiencing homelessness in vehicles represent an important component of the total PIT count result and is best understood in conjunction with a full count of all unsheltered and sheltered persons experiencing homelessness, currently planned for late January 2022.



## PERCENT OF PEOPLE LIVING IN VEHICLES BY REGION, 2015-2021



Regional assignments of some unincorporated vehicle locations is based on known distribution data.

## TOTAL PEOPLE LIVING IN VEHICLES BY JURISDICTION

JURISDICTION	TOTAL			
	2015	2017	2019	2021
<b>North Marin</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>154</b>
Novato	16	130	44	97
Other North Marin	0	4	14	57
<b>Central Marin</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>166</b>
Corte Madera	0	12	0	5
Larkspur	2	2	3	15
San Anselmo	0	0	15	7
San Rafael	79	154	58	127
Other Central Marin	10	29	6	12
<b>Southern Marin</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>117</b>
Marin City	8	9	9	13
Mill Valley	7	11	5	15
Sausalito	49	17	2	71
Belvedere/Tiburon	17	1	0	0
Other Southern Marin	10	18	6	18
<b>West Marin</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>49</b>
Bolinas	0	27	13	23
Point Reyes Station	1	7	12	13
Other West Marin	34	7	67	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>486</b>

# VEHICLE COUNT | METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the 2021 Marin County Homeless Vehicle Count was to produce a point-in-time estimate of people experiencing homelessness while residing primarily in their vehicles in Marin County.

## 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. Marin County planning partners worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2021 Marin County Vehicle Count.

## 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 individuals living in vehicles. Community partners were also key in recruiting persons with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the count.

## COUNT FIDELITY AND SUPPORT

ASR staff supported all enumerators leading into and throughout the count period. Preparation efforts included count recruitment, distributing instructions, identifying coverage areas, and providing supplies to enumeration individuals and teams. One-on-one training along with two live, virtual training sessions were provided to prepare enumerators and ensure fidelity to the count methodology. Training covered all aspects of the count, how to identify homeless individuals residing in vehicles, how to safely and respectfully conduct the count, how to use the tally count sheets and smartphone app to capture count data, as well as other tips to help ensure an accurate count. Post-count, ASR staff collected and verified data with each of the enumerators.



## CAPTURING THE DATA

To capture the data, vehicle count enumerators utilized either a paper tally sheet or a smartphone app named **Survey123**. The tools collected the same information, including:

The smartphone app was well received and considered very usable by those that utilized it for the count.

- vehicle type
  - basic demographic information on vehicle occupants where applicable
  - the last four digits of the license plate or vehicle description where required\*
  - general location
- \*License plate information and location were collected for the sole purpose of ensuring the same vehicles were not counted twice by the different teams.

## COMPONENTS TO THE COUNT METHOD:

- Enumerators communicated with ASR staff when deploying for the count and upon returning.
- This was a no-contact, observation count that prioritized respect and privacy for those being counted.
- Enumerators utilized HUD approved recommendations for identifying occupied vehicles that were likely to be primary residences.
- Coverage areas and count times were determined in partnership with enumerators, utilizing their knowledge of local vehicle residency norms and patterns.
- Safety was prioritized in all aspects of the count including general count guidelines like bringing flashlights and maintaining a respectful distance from those they counted, as well as COVID-19 prevention measures.

## RESEARCH NOTES:

- Like previous Point-in-Time Counts, the vehicle count was a visual, no contact enumeration.
- Previous counts did capture those residing in vehicles, but the nature of singular focus on counting vehicles probably resulted in a more thorough count of vehicles compared to previous years and the count window was a full day rather than the more common 4-6 hour window.
- Unlike other Point-in-Time Counts in Marin County, this count was hot spot oriented. Rather than canvassing the county by census tract, the vehicle count utilized various teams at varying optimal hours to cover much of the county. Some rural and forested areas were not covered when local knowledge determined it was not necessary.
- Enumerators captured the last four digits of the vehicle license plates or a vehicle description paired with approximate location to allow analyst to deduplicate the data and verify individual counts. Approximately 83 counts were eliminated from our reporting total because of this deduplication effort and consideration.

## RESOURCE INFORMATION

### Looking for Help?

*If you've been sleeping on the streets or in your car for two weeks or longer:*

**INDIVIDUALS:** Call the Coordinated Entry Line at (415) 491-2559

**FAMILIES:** Call Homeward Bound of Marin at (415) 457-2115

**FOR A LIST OF RESOURCES PLEASE VISIT**  
<https://www.marinhhs.org/information-assistance>

Seniors and people with disabilities can call the Information and Assistance line at  
**(415) 473-INFO**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Marin County and ASR would like to acknowledge the wisdom and efforts of the individuals involved that made this count possible. This includes those that participated in count planning, the service providers who supported the process of homeless peer enumeration by recruiting count workers, and all individuals that participated in the count itself.

Special thank you to the following for their participation:

**Project Coordinator:** Carrie Ellen Sager, Marin County Health & Human Services

- CARE Team, Community Action Marin
- City of Novato
- City of San Rafael
- Central Marin Police Authority
- Downtown Streets Team
- Fairfax Police Department
- Homeward Bound of Marin
- Marin County Sheriff's Office
- Marin Housing Authority
- Mill Valley Police Department
- North Marin Community Services
- Novato Police Department
- Ritter Center
- San Rafael Police Department
- Sausalito Police Department

