SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

2022 HOMELESS 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 2022 Santa Cruz County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on February 28th, 2022. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 333 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

2022 SHELTERED/UNSHelterED POPULATION

- **23%** SHELTERED
  n=525
- **77%** UNSHelterED
  n=1,774

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS

- Santa Cruz County
  - 89%

CENSUS POPULATION: LONGITUDINAL TREND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2,299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AGE

- **4%** UNDER 18
- **10%** 18-24
- **86%** 25+

GENDER

- **66%** MALE
- **32%** FEMALE
- **1%** TRANSGENDER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- **82%** STRAIGHT
- **12%** BISEXUAL
- **3%** LESBIAN
- **2%** GAY
- **1%** OTHER

RACE

- **74%** WHITE
- **12%** BLACK
- **9%** MULTIPLE RACES
- **3%** AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE

ETHNICITY

- **39%** IDENTIFIED AS LATINX/HISPANIC

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

- **20%** HAD SOME FORM OF EMPLOYMENT
- **53%** WERE LOOKING FOR WORK
- **37%** WERE UNABLE TO WORK
- **10%** WERE NOT LOOKING FOR WORK

SPECIAL POPULATION DATA

- **22%** CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS
  - 921 Individuals
- **78%** NOT CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

- **7%** VETERANS
  - 332 Individuals
- **93%** NOT VETERANS

- **91%** FAMILIES
  - 50 Families with 158 Members
- **9%** NOT FAMILIES

- **3%** UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH
  - 222 Individuals
- **97%** NOT UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

- **34%** OF UNEMPLOYED WERE LOOKING FOR WORK
- **37%** OF UNEMPLOYED WERE UNABLE TO WORK
- **10%** OF UNEMPLOYED WERE NOT LOOKING FOR WORK

FOSTER CARE

- 39% of survey respondents have been in the foster care system.

JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

- **34%** of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison/juvenile hall in the past year.
- **30%** on probation/parole at the start of their most recent episode of homelessness

UNSHelterED POPULATION BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION

- **48%** TENT
- **38%** VEHICLE
- **14%** OUTDOORS/STREETS
- **<1%** ABANDONED BUILDING
**Primary Condition That Lead to Homelessness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eviction</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Job</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/ Separation/ Breakup</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol/ Drug Use</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness/ Medical Problem</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlord Raised Rent</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Episode of Homelessness**

- 27% are experiencing their first episode of homelessness

**Age at First Episode of Homelessness**

- Under 18: 17%
- 18-24: 17%
- 25+: 66%

**Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness**

- 1-30 Days: 6%
- 1-11 Months: 35%
- 1 Year or More: 59%

**Ways to Prevent Losing Housing**

- Employment Assistance: 73%
- Rent/ Mortgage Assistance: 50%
- Landlord Mediation: 45%
- Legal Assistance: 40%

**Self Reported Health**

- Drug or Alcohol Abuse: 67%
- Physical Disability: 57%
- Chronic Health Condition: 49%
- Psychiatric or Emotional Conditions: 39%
- PTSD: 35%
- HIV/AIDS Related Illness: 12%
- Traumatic Brain Injury: 10%

**Disabling Conditions**

- 77% of survey respondents reported having at least one disabling condition

**Government Services and Assistance**

- Of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits: 83%

**Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance**

- Don't want government assistance: 42%
- Don't think I am eligible: 26%
- Turned down: 26%
- Paperwork too difficult: 25%
- No ID: 17%
- Immigration issues: 8%

**Services Currently Accessing**

- Free Meals: 64%
- Bus Passes: 46%
- Health Services: 46%
- Shelter Day Services: 36%
- Mental Health Services: 30%
- Legal Services: 27%

**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**
  - 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.

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

*Only displaying top responses, all response data will be available in full report.

*Sourced from census data rather than survey data.

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

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2022, Santa Cruz County Homeless Census & Survey, Watsonville, CA.