



SAN JOAQUIN
CONTINUUM OF CARE

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY 2024 HOMELESSNESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & REPORT

Prepared by
Applied Survey Research



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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
INTRODUCTION	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT	11
HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS	15
CONCLUSION	32
APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY	33

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2024 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey planning team would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who contributed to this project. The participation of community volunteers and partner agencies is critical to the success of both the count and survey efforts. Hundreds of community volunteers, city and county employees, and local community-based organizations assisted with all aspects of the count, from the initial planning meetings to the night of the count and the publication of this report.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

City of Stockton	Health Plan of San Joaquin
Health Net	San Joaquin Continuum of Care
San Joaquin County	

INTRODUCTION

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all receiving federal funding to provide homeless services, Continuums of Care (CoC) across the country report the findings of their local Point-in-Time count in their annual funding application to HUD. Currently, the San Joaquin County CoC receives annual federal funding.

ASR is a locally based social research firm that has over 23 years of experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessments, having conducted over 100 comprehensive homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Our work is featured as a best practice in the standard process 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*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the Homeless Count and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held planning meetings with local community members. These community members were drawn from City and County departments, community-based service providers, and other interested and informed stakeholders. These individuals comprised the 2024 Planning Committee and were instrumental to ensuring the 2024 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2024 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds;
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population;
- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population and track the community's progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions; and
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, youth, young adults, and those who are chronically homeless;
- To conduct the PIT count in such a manner that the health and safety of all participants was a primary operational consideration, and all County Public Health recommended practices were followed in field work associated with the PIT count.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

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

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelters 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.

It should be noted that the broader definition of homelessness defined by the McKinney-Vento Act and used by K-12 school districts includes persons and families living in “double-up” situations as well as hotels and motels. However, this definition could not be used for purposes of this report.



SAN JOAQUIN 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 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 29, 2024. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 624 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.



SAN JOAQUIN
CONTINUUM OF CARE



NOTE: There has been a large methodological change from 2022 to 2024. Please use caution when interpreting these results.

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

4,732

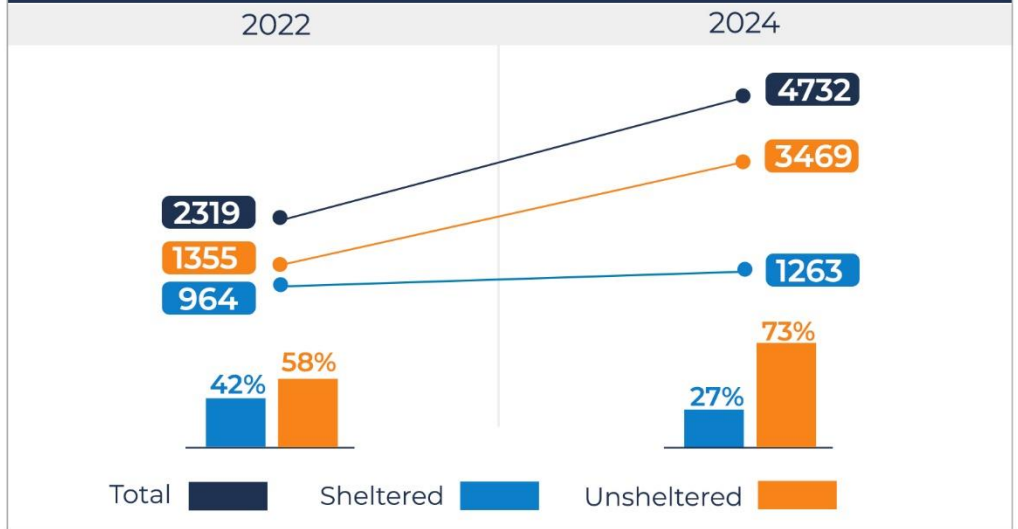


27%
Sheltered
n=1,263



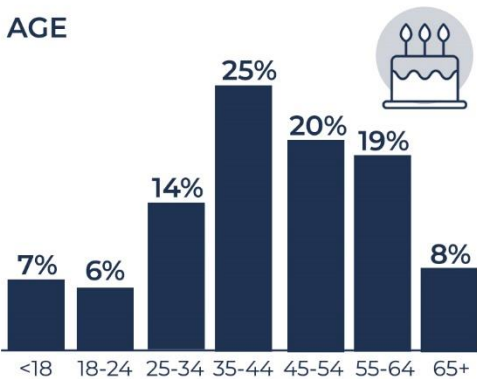
73%
Unsheltered
n=3,469

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

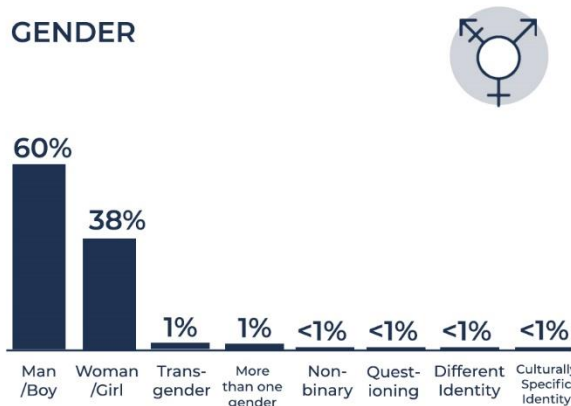


DEMOGRAPHICS

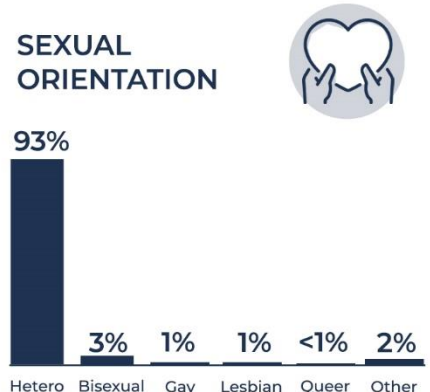
AGE



GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION



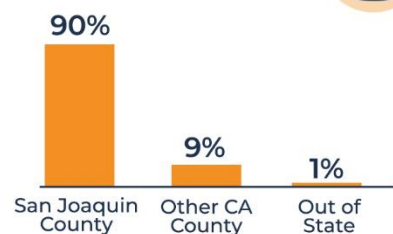
RACE/ ETHNICITY



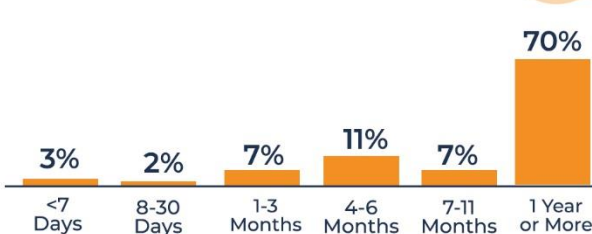
- 3% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- 1% American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- 2% Asian or Asian American
- <1% Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- 19% Black, African American, or African
- 1% Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- 23% Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- <1% Middle Eastern or North African
- 0% 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
- 36% White
- 7% White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- 3% Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- 3% Multi-Racial (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)

DATA PORTRAITS

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS



DURATION OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS



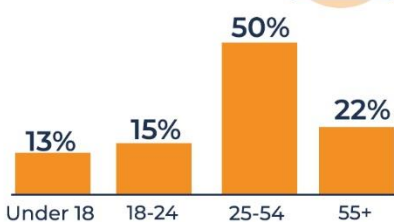
FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



44%

Reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



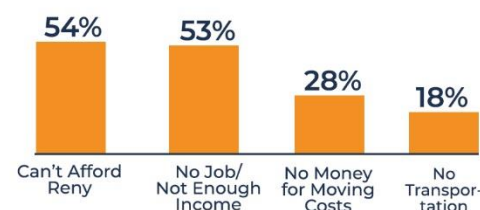
PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS*

(Top 6 Responses)



WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM PERMANENT HOUSING*

(Top 4 Responses)



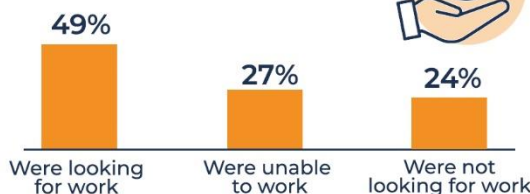
EMPLOYMENT STATUS



4%

had some form of employment

AMONG UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS



FOSTER CARE



14%

of survey respondents have been in the foster care system

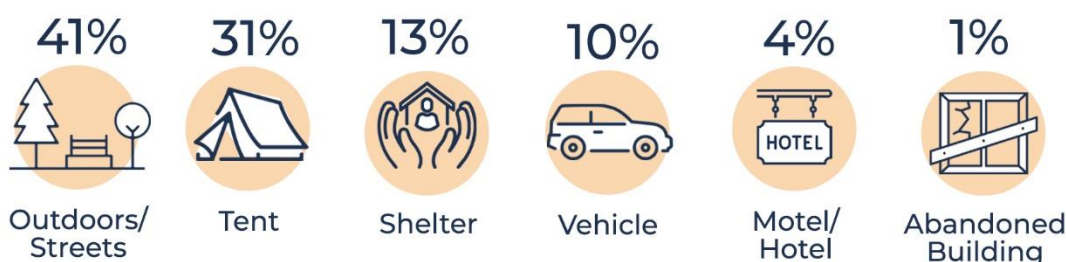
JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVED



24%

of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison/ juvenile hall in the past year.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING LOCATION



SELF-REPORTED HEALTH¹

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

DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE



40%

Report having abused drugs or alcohol

PSYCHIATRIC OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS



36%

Report having a psychiatric or emotional condition

PTSD



31%

Report having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

PHYSICAL DISABILITY



28%

Report having a physical disability

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION



27%

Report having a chronic health condition

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY



14%

Report having had a TBI

HIV/AIDS RELATED ILLNESS



2%

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.

38%



of survey respondents report having at least one disabling condition

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE²



74%

Of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING* (TOP 5 RESPONSES)

62%



Free Meals

33%



Shelter Day Service

27%



Emergency Shelter

27%



Health Services

20%



None

REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE* (TOP 5 RESPONSES)

26%



Don't think I'm eligible

16%



Don't want government assistance

16%



No ID

12%



No Permanent Address

12%



Never Applied

SPECIAL POPULATIONS



CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS
2024 TOTAL

1078



28% Sheltered
n=300



72% Unsheltered
n=778



VETERANS
2024 TOTAL

249



21% Sheltered
n=52



79% Unsheltered
n=197



FAMILIES
2024 TOTAL

454



97% Sheltered
n=440



3% Unsheltered
n=14



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN + TAY
2024 TOTAL

304



20% Sheltered
n=62



80% Unsheltered
n=242

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 San Joaquin County Homeless Survey, N=624
* Multiple response question, percentages may not add up to 100%

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

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2024 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count represents a complete enumeration of all sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness at a specified date and time. It consisted of two primary components:

- **General Street Count:** An early morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 29th, 2024. Trained outreach teams, program staff from local city and county agencies, community volunteers, and persons experiencing homelessness spread across the county between 5am and 11am to count all persons experiencing homelessness.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately-operated shelters on January 28, 2024. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

The Point-in-Time Count also included the following supplemental and important component:

- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Young Adults:** An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied children under 18 and unaccompanied youth 18-24 years old on January 29, 2024. This is considered a best practice in order to better profile this age group who are more challenging to enumerate in the traditional PIT count process.

This section of the report provides a summary of the results of the Point-in-Time Count. For comparison, results from prior years are provided to better understand the trends and characteristics of homelessness over time.

For more information regarding the research methodology, please see [Appendix A: Methodology](#).

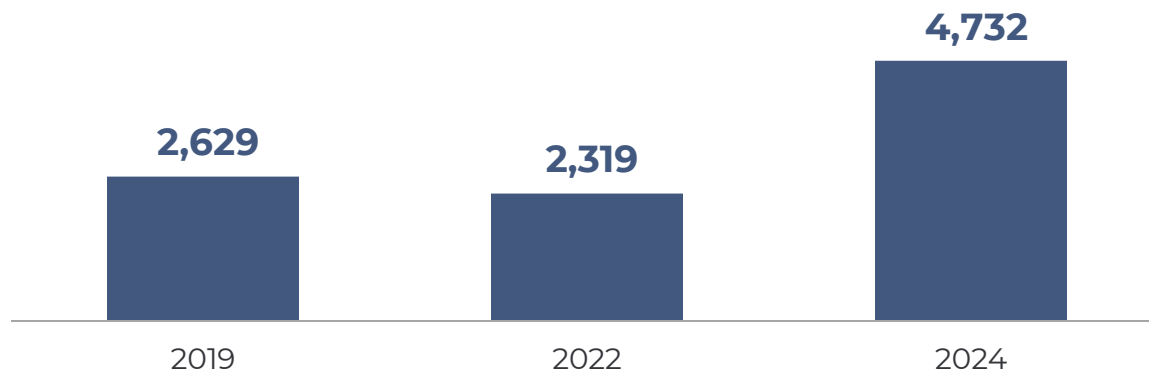


NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

The 2024 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey found a total of 4,732 persons experiencing homelessness, which represents a 104% increase from 2022.

Please take caution when interpreting these results, as there has been significant methodological changes from 2022 to 2024.

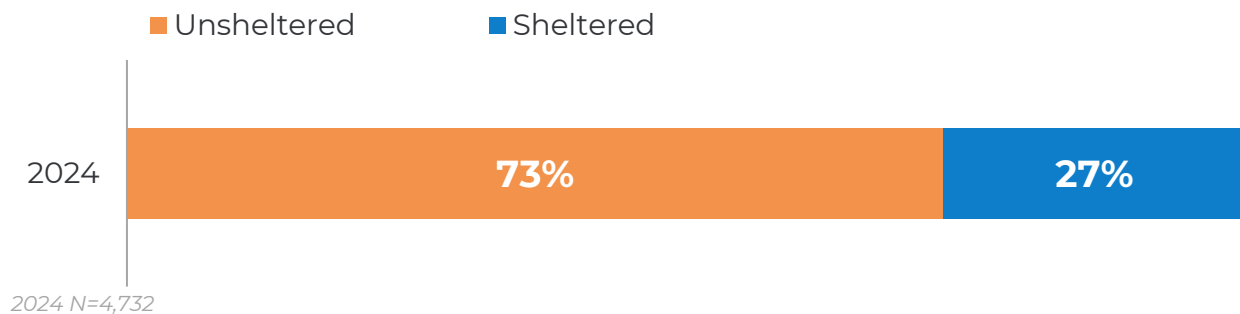
Figure 1: Total Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness



Type of Shelter

The majority (73%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County were unsheltered, sleeping on the streets, in abandoned buildings, vehicles, and encampment areas and in other places deemed unfit for human habitation. The remaining 27% of the population resided in shelters, either emergency shelters or transitional housing. Permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing shelter data is not included in the PIT data reporting per HUD.

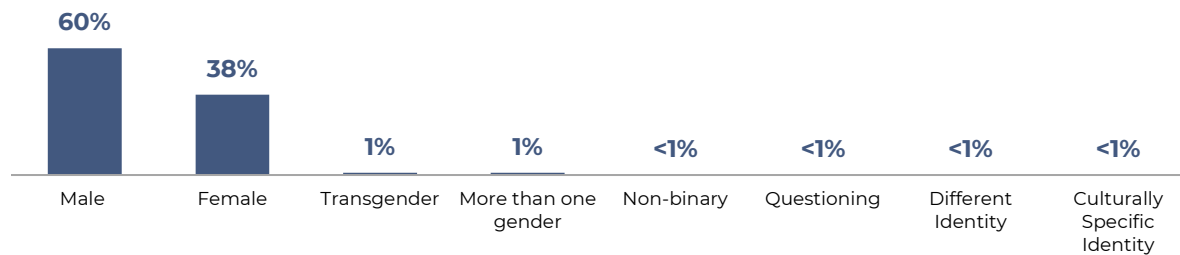
Figure 2: Homeless Count Population by Shelter Status



Characteristics of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

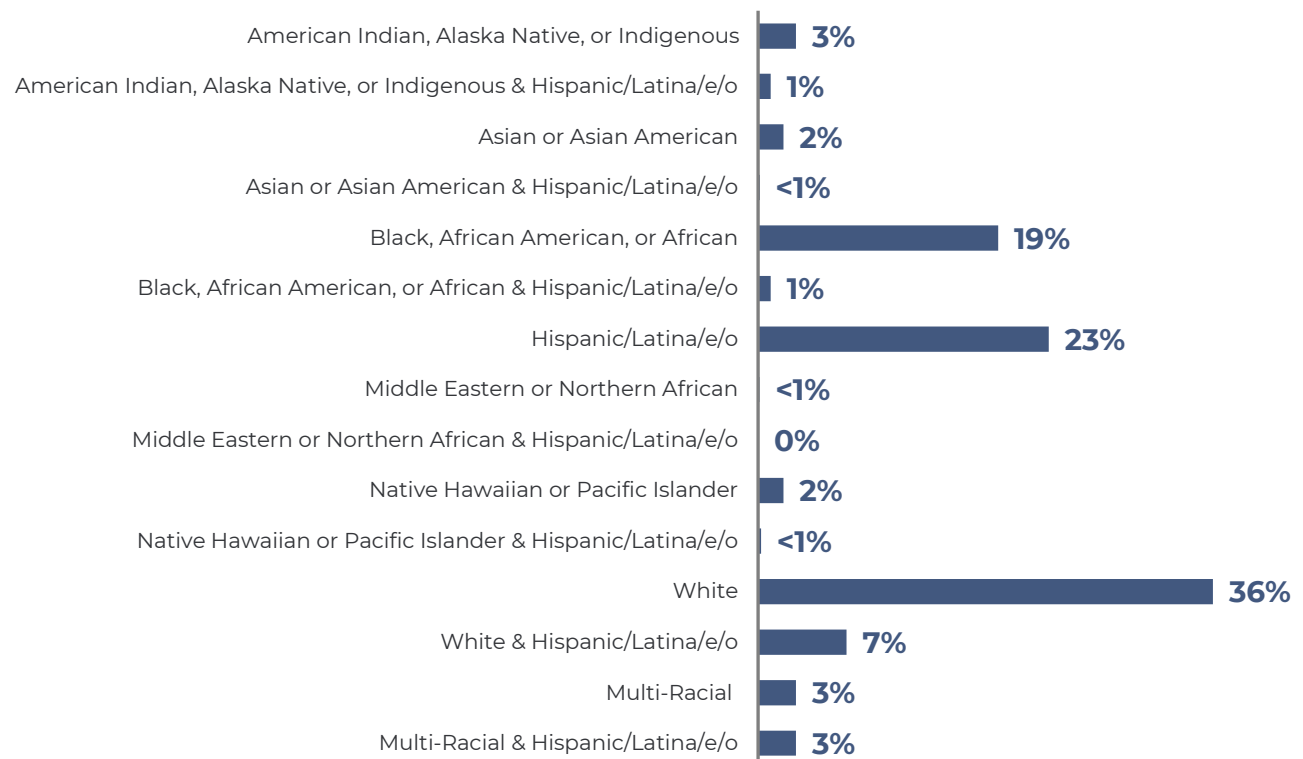
Three-fifths (60%) of homeless individuals were male, 38% were female, 1% were transgender, and 1% were more than one gender. In terms of racial identity, 36% identified as White, 23% identified as Hispanic/Latina/e/o, and 19% identified as Black, African American, or African.

Figure 3: Homeless Count Population by Gender



2024 N=4,732

Figure 4: Point-in-Time Homeless Count Population by Race



Homeless Count Population: 2024 N=4,732

Jurisdictional Breakdown

There was a 104% increase in homelessness across San Joaquin County between 2022 and 2024.

Figure 5: 2024 Homeless Population by Jurisdiction

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED	SHELTERED	TOTAL
Total Incorporated	3,082	867	3,949
Stockton	2,451	545	2,996
Manteca	235	70	305
Tracy	102	98	200
Lodi	262	154	416
Lathrop	10	0	10
Ripon	21	0	21
Escalon	1	0	1
Total Unincorporated	387	365	752
Scattered Sites	0	31	31
Total	3,469	1,263	4,732



HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the 2024 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count Homeless Survey component. As previously mentioned, an in-depth geographically representative survey was administered in the weeks following the Point-in-Time Count to collect basic demographic details as well as information including service needs and utilization. Surveys were administered between January 29 and March 4, 2024, to a randomized sample of individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness.

The Homeless Survey effort resulted in 624 unique, complete, and valid surveys. Based on the Point-in-Time count of 4,732 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process employed, these surveys should represent a confidence interval of +/-3.7% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire Point-in-Time homeless population in San Joaquin County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within 3.7% 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. Therefore, any missing values were intentionally omitted from the survey results and the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted. Don't know and refusals were omitted from the response percentage calculations.

For more information regarding the research methodology, please see [Appendix A: Methodology](#).



DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Age

Six percent (6%) of survey respondents were under the age of 25 at the time of the 2024 survey. Thirty percent (30%) were between the ages of 25 and 40, and 63% were 41 years or older.

Figure 6: Survey Respondents by Age

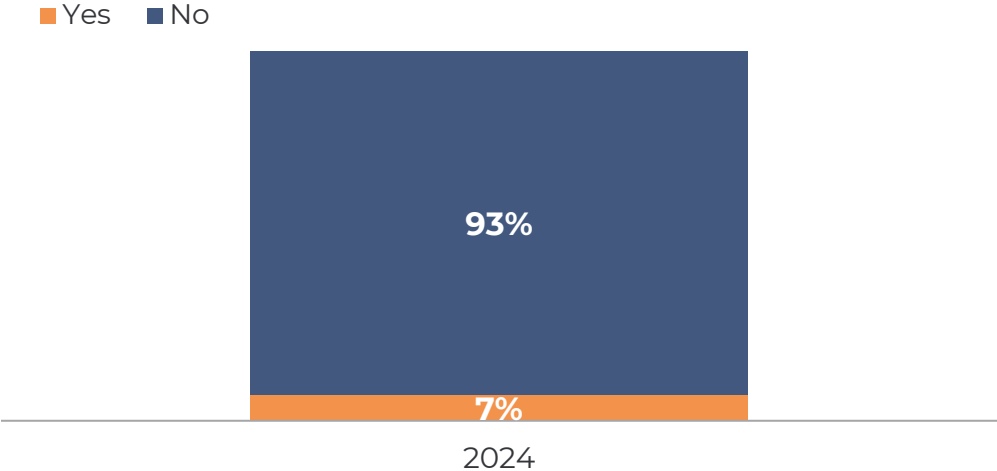
AGE GROUP	2024
Less than 18 Years	<1%
18-24 Years	6%
25-30 Years	6%
31-40 Years	24%
41-50 Years	25%
51-60 Years	23%
61 Years or More	15%

2024 n=624

Gender and LGBTQ+ Identity

Two-thirds (66%) of survey respondents identified as male, 34% identified as female, and 1% identified as gender non-binary, transgender, a different identity, or a culturally specific identity. Among female respondents, 6% indicated that they were currently pregnant. Seven percent (7%) of homeless survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+ in 2024. Of these respondents, forty-one percent (41%) identified as bisexual.

Figure 7: Survey Respondents Who Identify as LGBTQ+

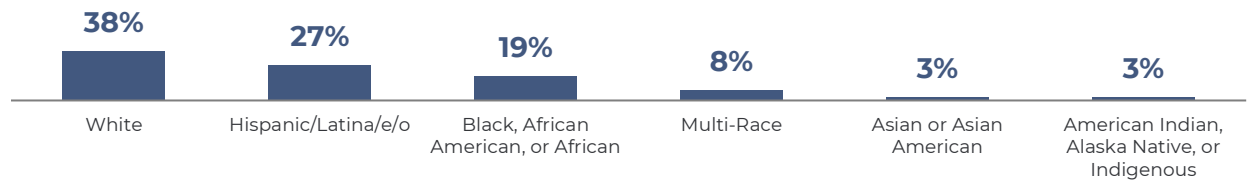


2024 n=609

Race/Ethnicity

When asked about race and ethnicity, thirty-eight percent (38%) of homeless survey respondents identified as white, 27% identified as Hispanic/Latina/e/o, and 19% identified as Black, African American, or African in 2024.

Figure 8: Survey Respondents by Race (Top 6 Responses)



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=613

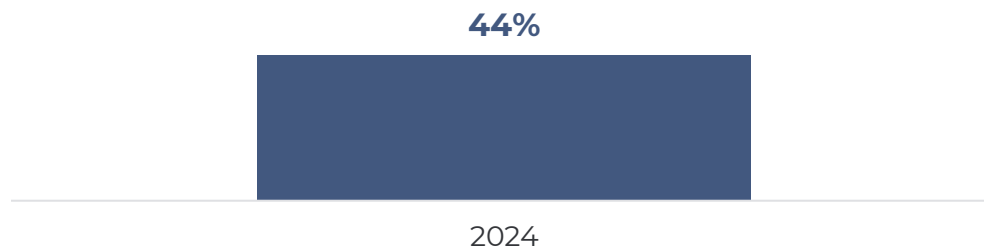
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

INCIDENCE AND DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

First Incidence of Homelessness

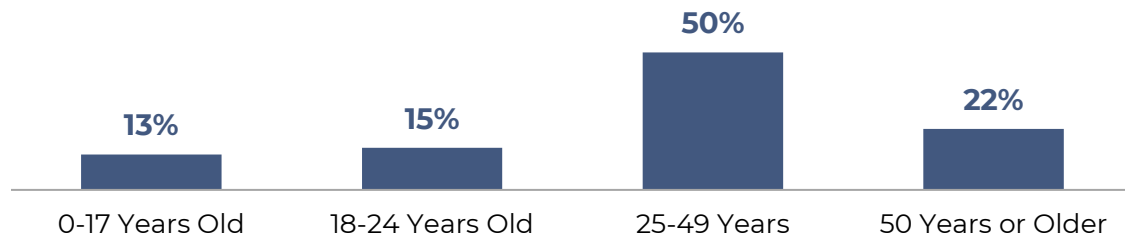
Of those surveyed in 2024, forty-four percent (44%) reported that the current episode of homelessness was their first-time experiencing homelessness. Respondents were also asked their age at the time they experienced homelessness for the first time. In response, the majority (72%) reported they were 25 years or older, while 15% reported between the ages of 18 and 24 years and 13% reported they were under the age of 18.

Figure 9: Current Episode Is the First Time Experiencing Homelessness



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=618

Figure 10: Age When Experienced Homelessness for the First Time

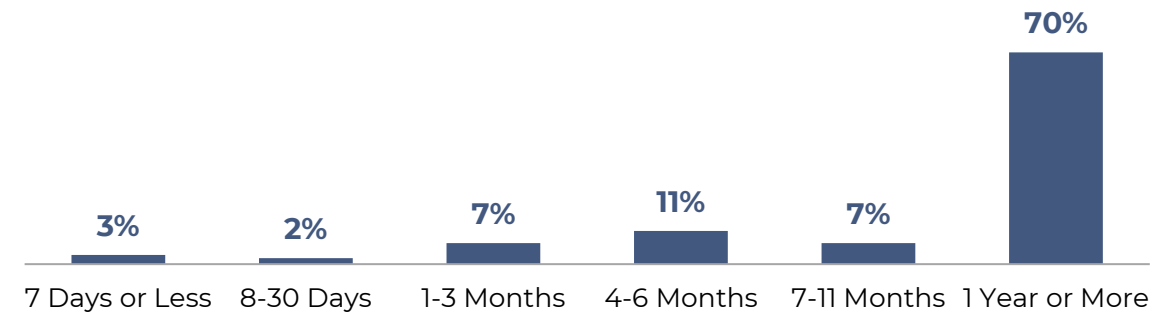


Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=598

Duration of Homelessness

When asked about the duration of their current episode of homelessness, the majority (70%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or longer.

Figure 11: Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=621



LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Where individuals lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have lived since impact the way they seek services, as well as their ability to access support from friends or family. Previous circumstances can also point to gaps in the system of care and to opportunities for systemic improvement and homelessness prevention.

Place of Residence

Knowing where individuals were living prior to their housing loss informs discussions regarding how much of the homeless population is local to the region. This information can also influence changes to available support systems if the CoC finds increasing numbers of individuals living locally before experiencing homelessness.

The 2024 survey revealed that the vast majority (90%) of respondents reported they were living in San Joaquin County at the most recent time they experienced homelessness. Nine percent (9%) of respondents reported they were living in another county in California, and 1% reported they were living out of state.

When asked how long they had lived in San Joaquin County, twenty-six percent (26%) responded 5 years or longer, while 27% indicated they had resided in San Joaquin County for less than one year.

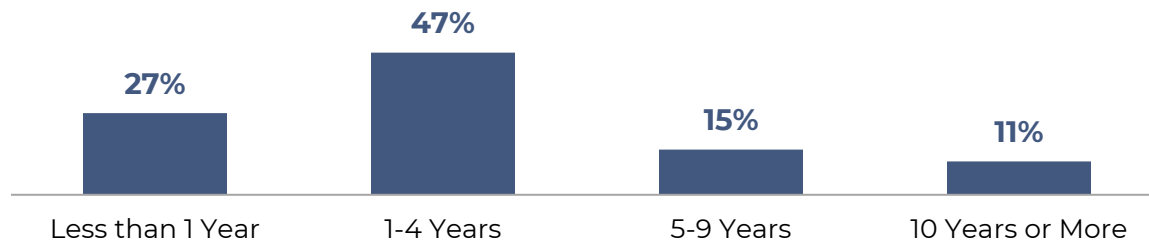
Figure 12: Place of Residence at Recent Episode of Homelessness



2024 N=614



Figure 13: Length of Time in San Joaquin County

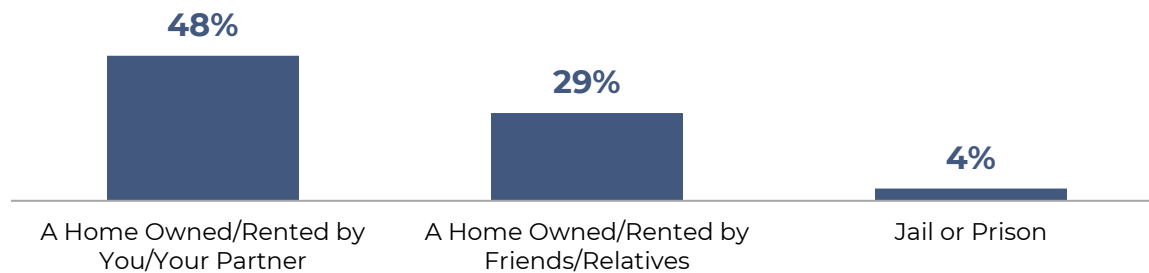


Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=593

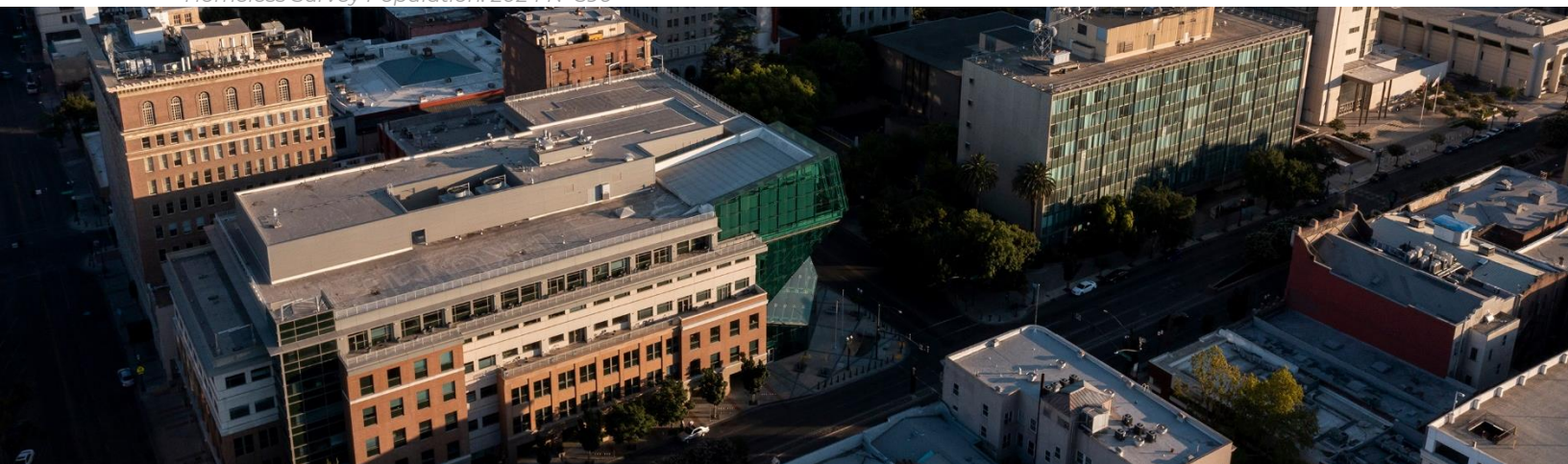
Prior Living Arrangements

Just under half (48%) of survey respondents reported they were living in a home owned or rented by them or their partner prior to becoming experiencing homelessness. Twenty-nine percent (29%) reported they were living with friends or relatives and 4% reported they were staying in jail or prison.

Figure 14: Prior Living Arrangements (Top Three Responses in 2024)



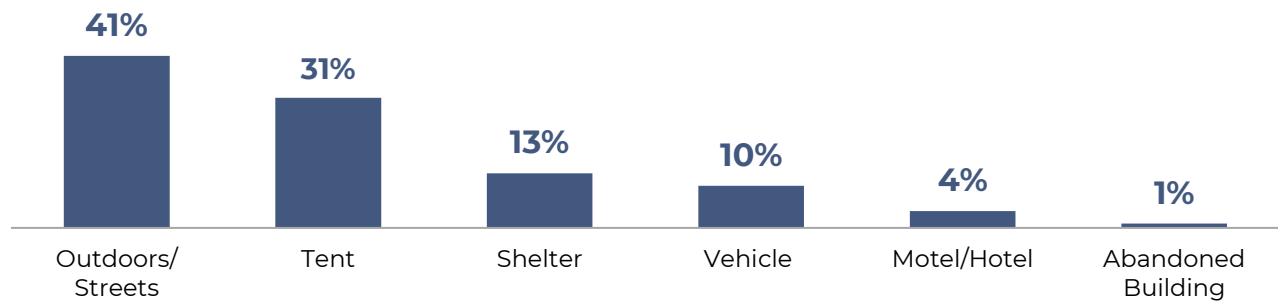
Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=590



Current Sleeping Location

Understanding the types of places individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts. Forty-one percent (41%) of survey respondents reported currently sleeping outdoors, on the streets. Thirty-one percent (31%) reported currently sleeping in tents. Thirteen percent (13%) reported currently staying in a shelter or transitional housing, and 10% reported staying in a vehicle.

Figure 15: Survey Respondents by Sleeping Location



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=624



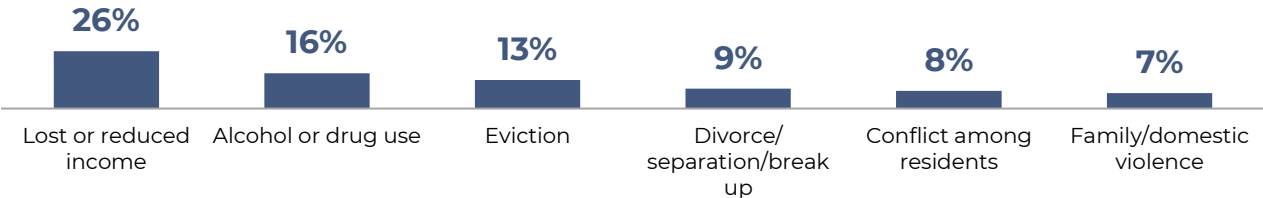
CAUSES AND OBSTACLES OF HOMELESSNESS

Causes of Homelessness

The primary cause of a person’s inability to obtain or retain housing can be difficult to pinpoint, as it is often the result of multiple compounding causes. An inability to secure adequate housing can also lead to an inability to address or obtain other basic needs, such as healthcare and adequate nutrition.

Twenty-six percent (26%) of survey respondents self-reported lost or reduced income as the primary cause of their homelessness. Sixteen percent (16%) cited alcohol or drug use, 13% cited eviction, and 9% cited divorce/separation/break up.

Figure 16: Primary Cause of Homelessness (Top Six Responses)



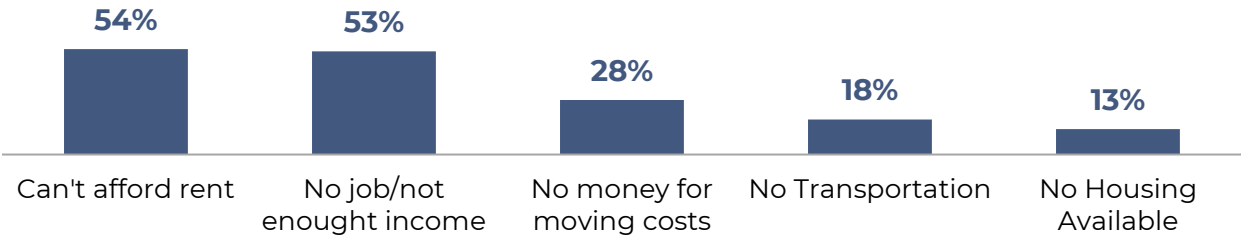
*Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=606 respondents offering 690 responses
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.*

Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

Many individuals experiencing homelessness face significant barriers to obtaining permanent housing. These barriers can range from housing affordability and availability to accessing the economic and social supports (e.g., increased income, rental assistance, and case management) needed to secure and maintain permanent housing.

When asked what prevented them from obtaining housing, the most common response was “can’t afford rent,” reported by 54% of survey respondents, suggesting housing affordability and poverty issues as key obstacles. This was followed by 53% who reported a lack of job or not enough income, and 28% who said they had no money for moving costs.

Figure 17: Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing (Top Responses in 2024)

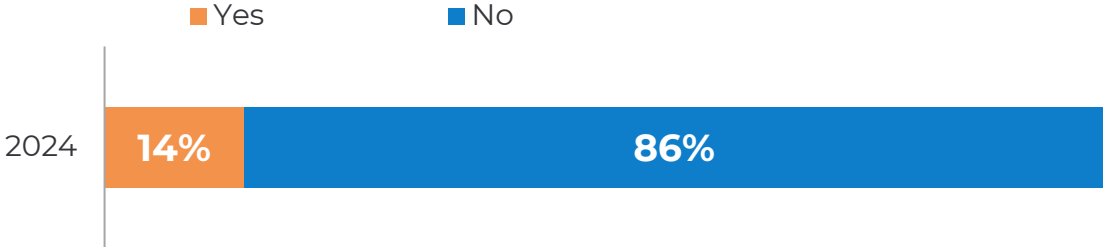


*Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=600 respondents offering 1,418 responses
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.*

HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents indicated that they had been in foster care sometime in their lifetime.

Figure 18: History of Foster Care



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=606

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

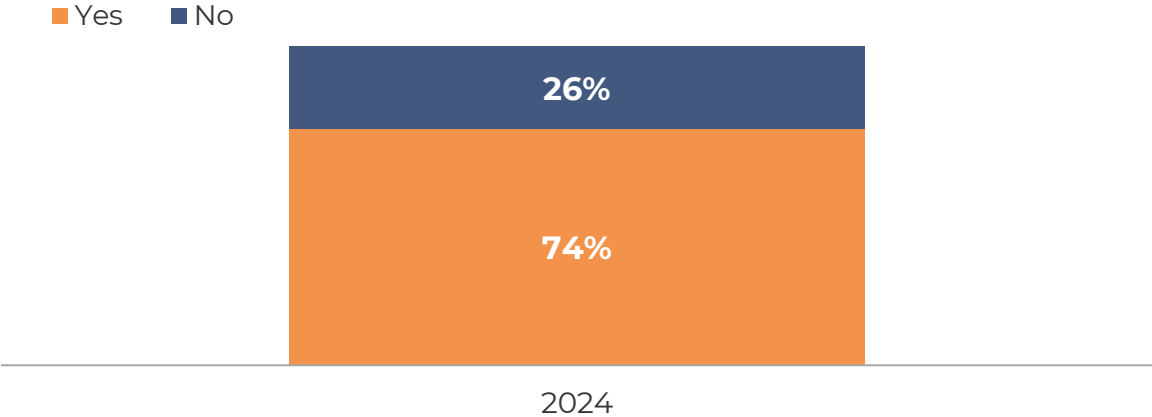
San Joaquin County provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal, state, and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support. However, many individuals and families do not 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 help prevent future housing instability.

Government Assistance

Seventy-four percent (74%) of survey respondents reported in 2024 that they were receiving some form of government assistance (e.g., social security, Food Stamps, Disability, Medi-Cal, CalWorks, VA benefits).

Of those who reported they were not receiving any form of government support (26%), the greatest percentage didn't think they were eligible (26%). Sixteen percent (16%) indicated that they didn't have an ID.

Figure 19: Receipt of Government Assistance

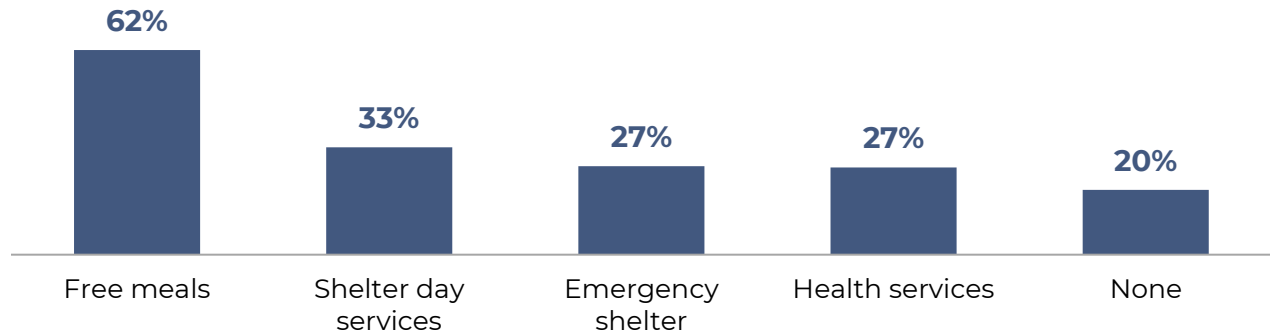


Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=624

Services and Programs

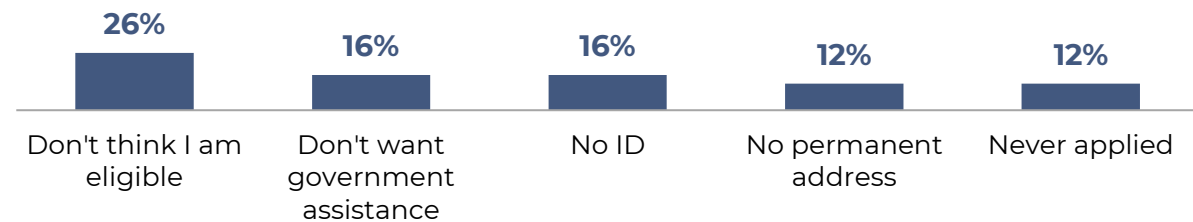
Slightly less than half (48%) of survey respondents in 2024 reported they were accessing non-government forms of services and assistance. The most frequently cited types of assistance respondents reported was free meals (62%), shelter day services (33%), emergency shelter (27%), and health services (27%). Having a pet is often viewed as a barrier for individuals to access services. Among survey respondents, 34% indicated they have a pet, and among those with pets 45% indicated they had two or more pets.

Figure 20: Services Currently Accessing, 2024 (Top Responses)



2024 N=556 respondents offering 1,175 responses

Figure 21: Reasons for Not Receiving Government Assistance (Top 5 Responses)



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=101 respondents offering 136 responses
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

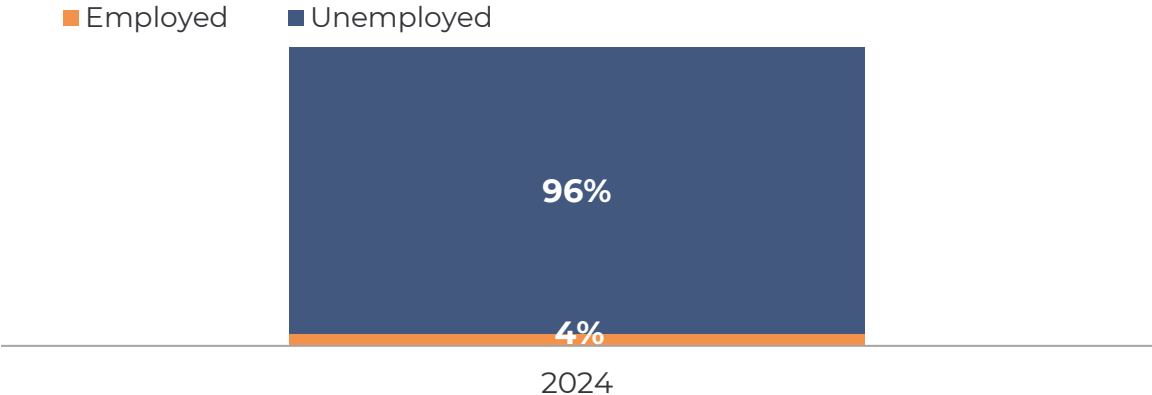


EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The unemployment rate in San Joaquin County in February 2024 was at 8%, up from 6% in February 2022.¹ It is important to recognize that the unemployment rate represents only those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment. It does not represent all joblessness, nor does it address the types of available employment.

The unemployment rate among homeless survey respondents was 96%. Forty-nine percent (49%) of unemployed respondents indicated that they were currently looking for work, 24% indicated they were not, and 27% indicated they were currently unable to work.

Figure 22: Employment Status

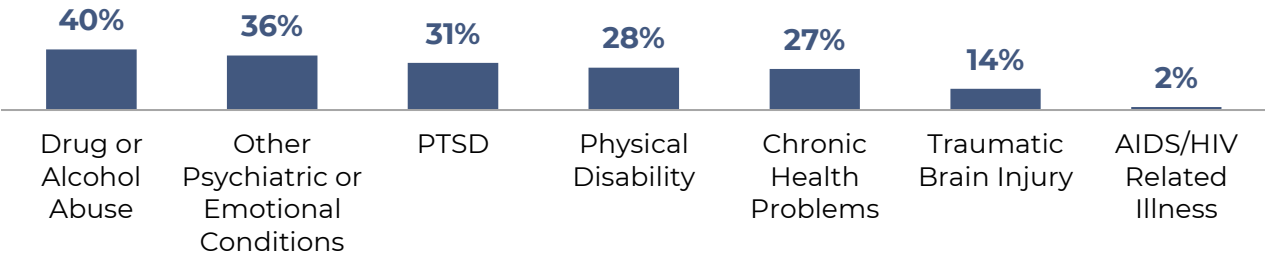


Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=579

HEALTH CONDITIONS

The top health conditions survey respondents reported experiencing in 2024 was drug or alcohol abuse (40%). Other psychiatric or emotional conditions was the second most cited response in 2024 (36%).

Figure 23: Health Conditions



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=572-588

¹State of California Employment Development Department. (2019). Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). Retrieved from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>.

DOMESTIC PARTNER 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.

Eight percent (8%) of survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse. When asked about experiences of ever being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused by a relative or another person they had stayed with (spouse, partner, sibling, parent) in their lifetime, 26% indicated that they have.

Figure 24: History of Being Physically, Emotionally or Sexually Abused

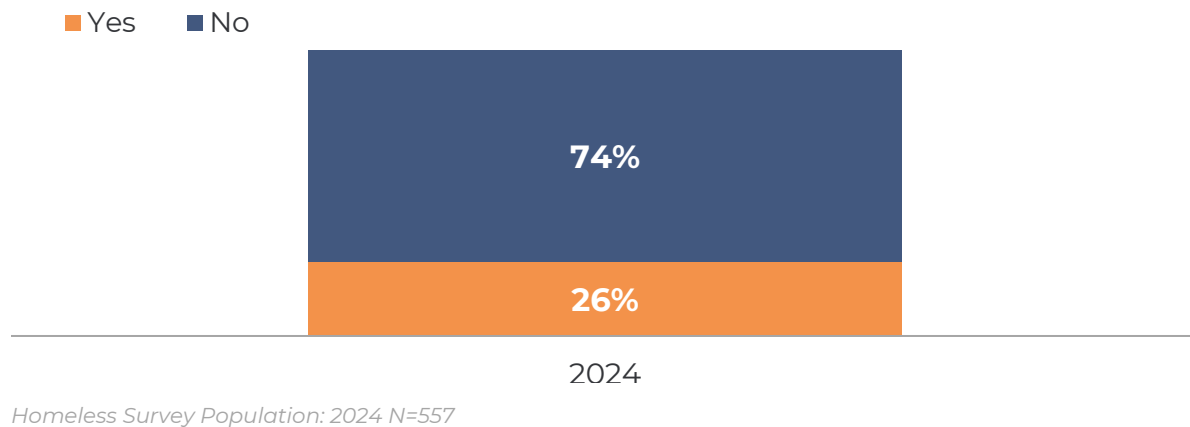
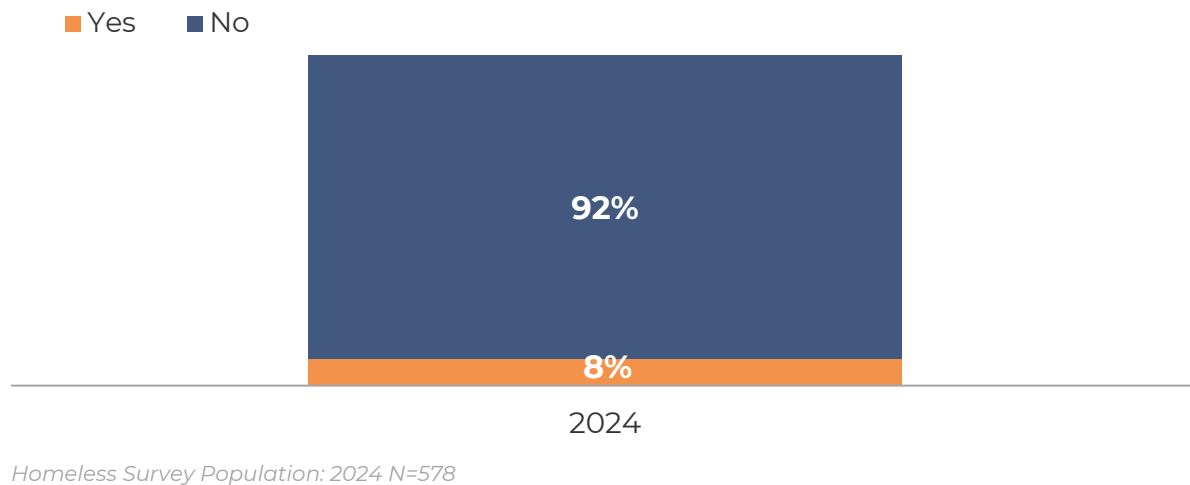


Figure 25: Currently Experiencing Physical, Emotional or Sexual Abuse

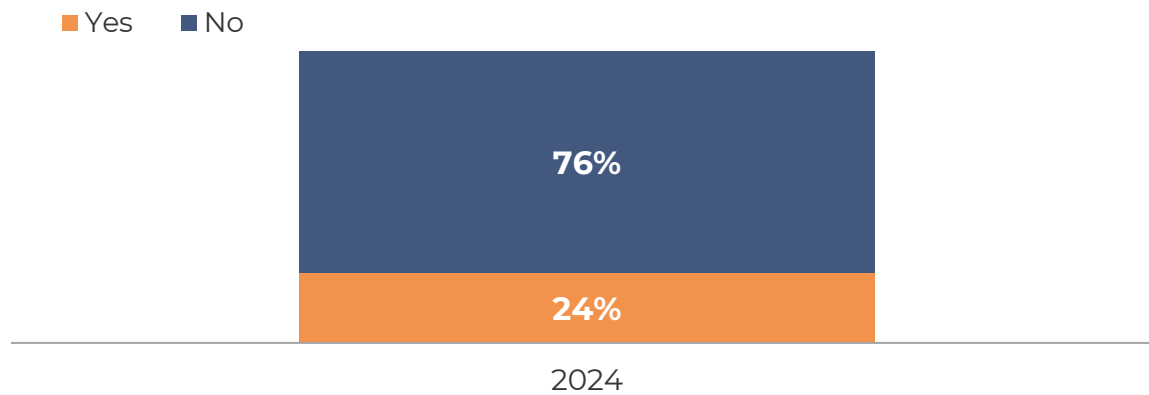


CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Individuals without stable housing are at greater risk of criminal justice system involvement, particularly those with mental health issues, substance abuse issues, veterans, and youth. Also, individuals with a history of incarceration face significant barriers to exiting homelessness due to issues affecting their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.²

Just under one quarter (24%) of survey respondents reported that they had spent a night in jail or prison in the past year. Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents reported having one or more encounters with law enforcement in the past year.

Figure 26: Spent a Night in Jail or Prison in the Last 12 Months



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=539



² Greenberg, GA, Rosenheck, RA. (2008). Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study. *Psychiatric Services*, 2008 Feb;59(2): 170-7.

SELECTED POPULATIONS

Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness among all populations in the United States.

In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs, including:

- Individuals with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness;
- Veterans experiencing homelessness;
- Families with children experiencing homelessness; and
- Children and youth under age 25 years experiencing homelessness.

These subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness. The following sections examine each of these four subpopulations.

INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Figure 27: Chronically Homeless Subpopulation

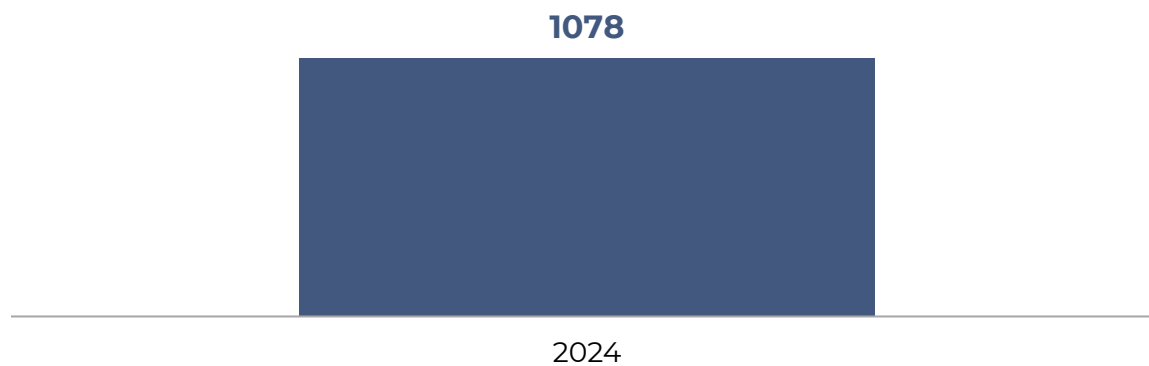
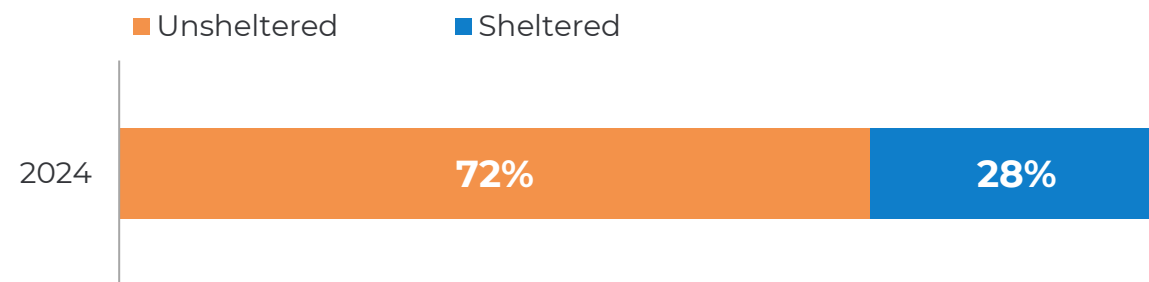


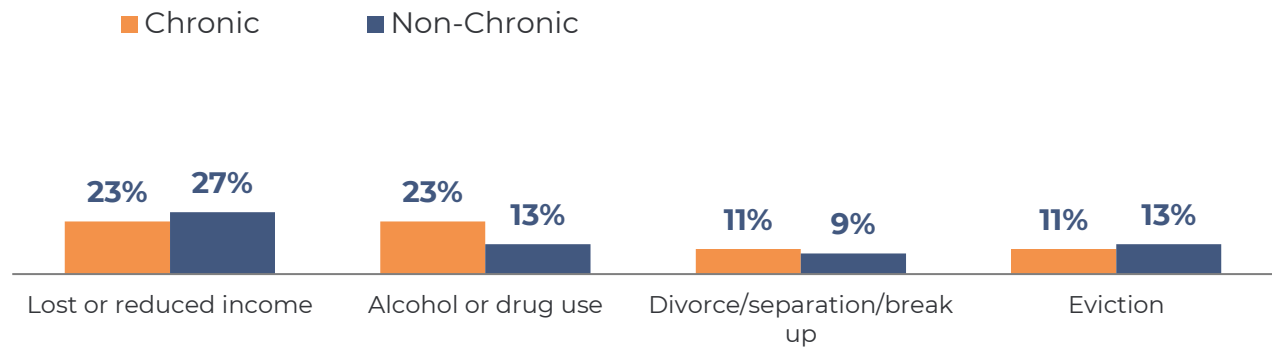
Figure 28: Chronically Homeless Subpopulation by Shelter Status



2024 N=1,078

Cause of Homelessness Among Chronically Homeless Respondents

Figure 29: Primary Cause of Homelessness (Top 4 responses)



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 Chronic N=142 respondents offering 168 responses; 2024 Non-Chronic N=464 respondents offering 522 responses

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



ESTIMATES OF VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Figure 30: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

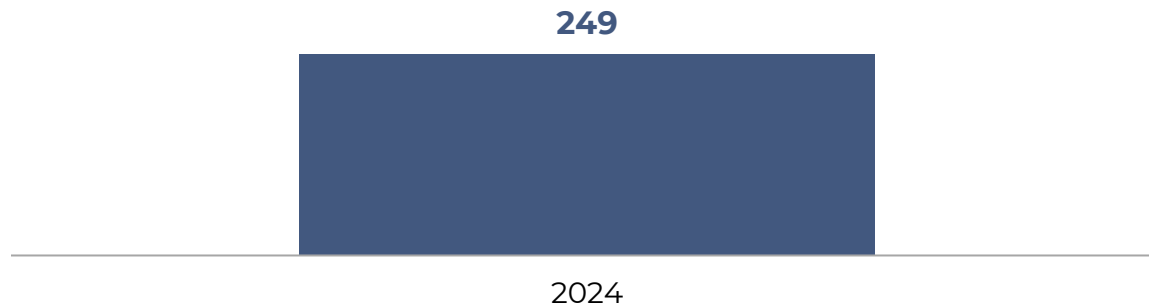
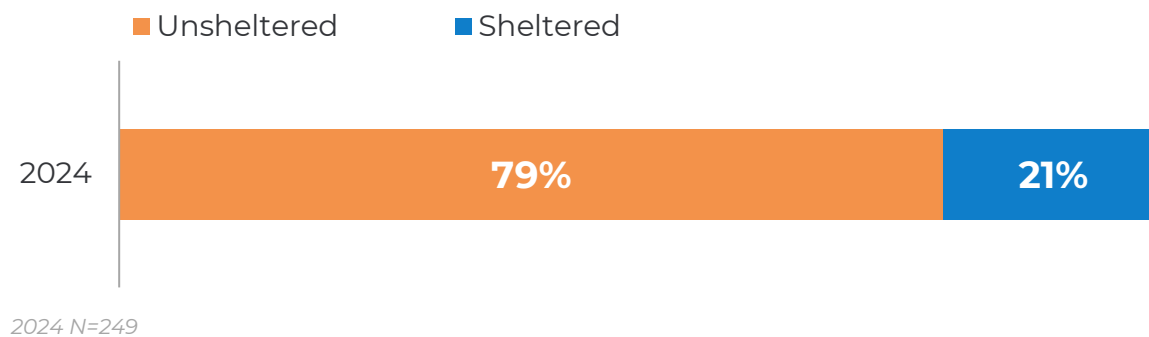
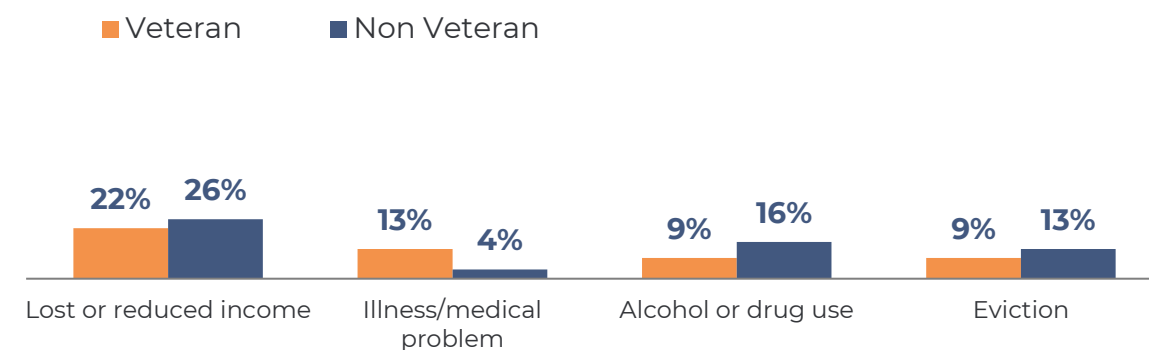


Figure 31: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status



Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

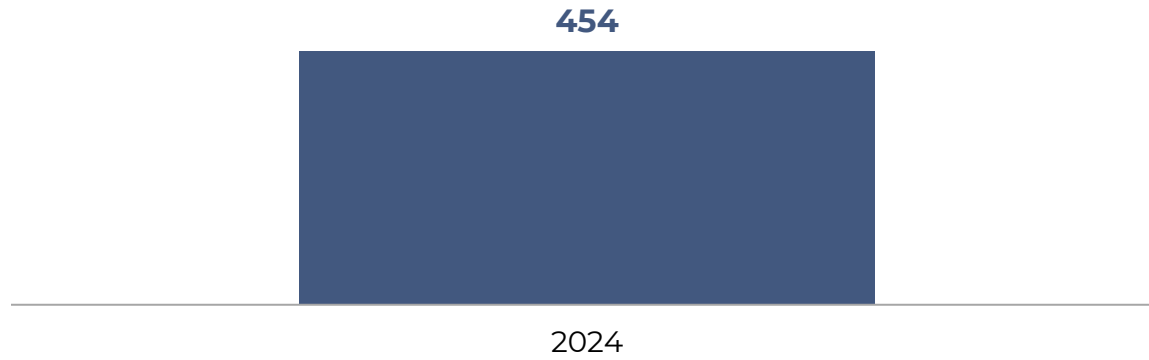
Figure 32: Primary Cause of Homelessness (Top 4 Responses)



2024 Veteran N=32 respondents offering 35 responses; 2024 Non-Veteran N=573 respondents offering 654 responses
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

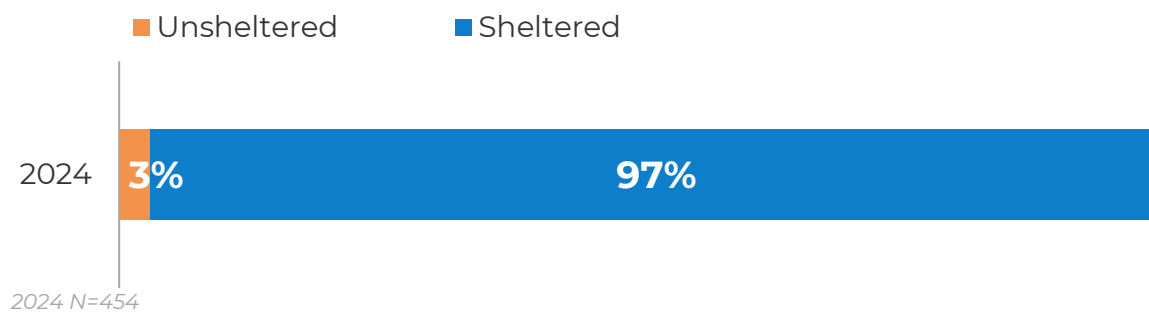
ESTIMATES OF INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Figure 33: Individuals in Families Experiencing Homelessness Subpopulation



Chronic n=136; non-Chronic n=253

Figure 34: Families Experiencing Homelessness Subpopulation by Shelter Status



ESTIMATES OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TAY

Figure 35: Unaccompanied Children and TAY Experiencing Homelessness Subpopulation

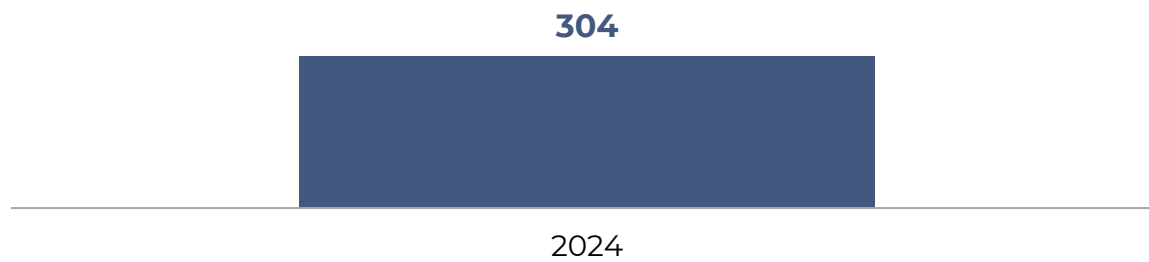
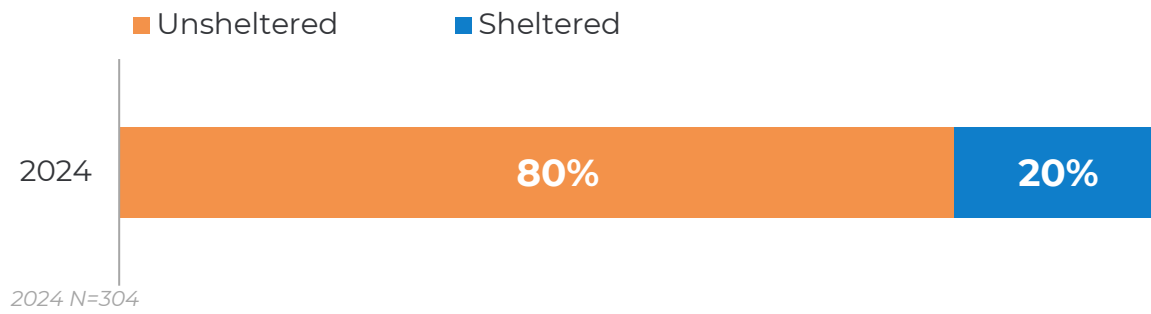


Figure 36: Unaccompanied Children and TAY Subpopulation by Shelter Status



CONCLUSION

The 2024 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying the homeless population. Data summarized in this report provide many valuable insights about the unique and diverse experiences of homelessness in San Joaquin County. A few data highlights include:

- The Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified a total of 4,732 persons experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County in 2024.
- Almost three-quarters (73%) persons experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County were unsheltered, living outdoors or in places not intended for human habitation.
- Forty-four percent (44%) of homeless survey respondents indicated they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, while 70% had been homeless for one year or longer.
- The biggest obstacles to obtaining permanent housing were: inability to afford rent (54%), lack of a job/income (53%), and lack of money for moving costs (28%).
- Respondents reported significant health conditions: drug/alcohol abuse (40%), psychiatric or emotional conditions (36%), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (31%), and chronic health problems (27%).
- Results for the four HUD select populations in San Joaquin County were: chronically homeless individuals (1,078 persons), homeless veterans (249 persons), members of homeless families with children (454 persons), and unaccompanied children and youth under age 25 years (304 persons).

In summary, the 2024 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey provides valid and useful data that help create a more comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness. Data presented in this report fulfill federal reporting requirements for the CoC, and will continue to inform outreach, service planning, and policy decision-making by local planning bodies over the years to come.

There are still many challenges to overcome in achieving the goal of eliminating homelessness in San Joaquin County and helping homeless individuals and families access necessary services and support. The dissemination and evaluation of this effort will help the CoC, and all San Joaquin County stakeholders 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, San Joaquin County remains committed to moving homeless persons into permanent housing.

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey was designed and implemented through a collaborative CoC-wide effort that included County, city, and community-based organizations. COVID-19 related safety and public health issues were a key issue and concern in planning from both a process and staffing perspective.

The 2024 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices and using HUD's PIT Count definition of homelessness. The goal was to produce a point-in-time estimate of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County, a region which covers approximately 3,281 square miles. Several primary data collection components were integrated to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night. A detailed description of these components follows.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

The methodology used in the 2024 Point-in-Time Count and Survey had several main components:

- **General Street Count:** A morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 29, 2024. This occurred from approximately 5 AM to 11:00 AM and included those sleeping outdoors on the street; at transit stations; in parks, tents, and other makeshift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned or public properties, like parking garages and related locations. The general street count was designed to take place before shelter occupants were released. In areas with shelters, the immediate area surrounding the shelter was prioritized to eliminate potential double counting of individuals.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on January 28, 2024. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.
- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth:** An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied youth under 18 and young adults 18-24 years old on January 29, 2024. This occurred from approximately 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM and was led by special youth teams who canvassed specific areas where unaccompanied children and youth were known to congregate. Additionally, youth service providers contacted various clients known to be experiencing homelessness to inquire about their nighttime accommodations on the day of the count. Upon completion, data from this targeted count was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure that any possible duplicate counts were removed.
- **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview with 624 unique sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals conducted by peer surveyors between January 29 and March 4, 2024, in San Joaquin County. Data from the survey were used to refine the Point-in-Time Count estimates, and then used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the demographics and experiences of homeless individuals.

STREET 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 INFORMATION

The 2024 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved approach commonly called a blitz method followed by a sample survey. For this count, data was collected using GPS enabled smartphone and the accompanying ESRI Survey 123 application developed and customized by ASR to conform to HUD data collection requirements. Outreach organizations, program staff, county, and city staff along with selected community members were able to select areas for enumeration from an interactive GIS planning map tool that enabled us to plan for complete coverage of the County with prioritization of high-density homeless routes to outreach staff and personnel with direct service experience. Areas of the county that were believed to have little to no incidence of homelessness were given to teams that had less experience working with persons experiencing homelessness.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT

In 2024, over 100 outreach workers, community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count.

Outreach and program staff did recruitment of persons with lived experience to act as guides in order to conduct the count in 2024. Homeless guides were paid \$20 per hour worked on the days of the count.

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 trainings were held for multiple groups throughout the county who were able to convene a large enough group of attendees. Training covered all aspects of the count:

- definition of homelessness
- how to identify homeless individuals
- how to conduct the count safely and respectfully, 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
- other tips to help ensure an accurate and safe count.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In Count tracts with a high concentration of homeless encampments, specialized teams with knowledge of those encampments were identified and assigned to those areas. In some areas, law enforcement was nearby. 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 were created to enumerate designated areas of the county for the street count. Each team, typically consisted of a combination of outreach workers, lived experience guides, program staff and service experienced community volunteers. Each team had a lead and were provided with their assigned Count 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 San Joaquin 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 areas.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH COUNT METHODOLOGY

The goal of the 2024 dedicated youth count was to improve representation of unaccompanied homeless children and youth under the age of 25 in the Point-in-Time Count. Many youth and young adults 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. locations that are difficult to find, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth.

RESEARCH DESIGN

As in all years, planning for the 2024 supplemental youth count included homeless youth service providers. Local service providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate and. Late afternoon and early evening enumeration were the ideal times recommended by advocates to conduct the youth count.

Youth service provider staff members were trained on where and how to identify homeless youth as well as how to record the data.

DATA COLLECTION

The youth count was conducted by youth service providers from approximately 2pm to 7pm in the San Joaquin area. HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly congregate 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.

Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The data collected through the survey 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 primarily by outreach staff workers and individuals with lived homeless experience. Training sessions were facilitated by ASR, County 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. 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. Socks and in some cases McDonalds gift certificates were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2024 homeless survey. The socks and cards were easy to distribute, had broad 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 4,732 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 624 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/- 3.7% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County.

The 2024 survey was administered in shelters, transitional housing facilities, and on the street. In order to ensure the representation of transitional housing residents, which can

be underrepresented in a street-based survey, survey quotas were created to reach individuals and heads of family households living in these programs.

Strategic attempts were also made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless children and 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.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an “every third encounter” survey approach. 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. In more remote cases where respondents were sparser this survey interval was modified.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter 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 Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, finding families experiencing homelessness presents a challenge and can lead to underrepresentation in the survey results. The same applies to unaccompanied children and youth, though care is taken to ensure that youth surveyors are involved, to increase the response rate of youth survey respondents.

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported, however, using a peer-centric 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. 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.