Every two years, 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 2019 Santa Cruz County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 31st, 2019. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 399 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

### Census Population: Longitudinal Trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unsheltered Population</th>
<th>Sheltered Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3,789</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2,265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,771</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3,536</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,964</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Residence Prior to Homelessness

- **Santa Cruz County**: 74%
- **Under 18**: 14%
- **18-24**: 27%
- **25+**: 59%

### Gender

- **Male**: 67%
- **Female**: 33%
- **Transgender**: <1%

### Sexual Orientation

- **Straight**: 80%
- **Bisexual**: 8%
- **Lesbian**: 4%
- **Gay**: 3%
- **Other**: 5%

### Race

- **White**: 67%
- **Multi-racial**: 14%
- **Latino/Hispanic**: 33%
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native**: 10%
- **Black**: 8%

### Ethnicity

- **Top Responses**: 67%

### Employment Status

- **31%** Employed
- **69%** Unemployed
- **52%** Unable to Work
- **35%** Looking for Work
- **13%** Not Looking for Work

### Unemployment Status

- **52%** Unemployed
- **35%** Looking for Work
- **13%** Not Looking for Work

### Justice System Involvement

- **28%** of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison/juvenile hall in the past year.

### Foster Care

- **23%** of survey respondents have been in the foster system.

### Subpopulation Data

- **Chronically Homeless** | 403 Individuals
  - **31%** Sheltered
  - **69%** Unsheltered

- **Veterans** | 151 Individuals
  - **15%** Sheltered
  - **85%** Unsheltered

- **Families** | 122 Families with 419 Members
  - **47%** Sheltered
  - **53%** Unsheltered

- **Unaccompanied Children** | 51 Individuals
  - **49%** Sheltered
  - **51%** Unsheltered

- **Transition-Age Youth** | 569 Individuals
  - **5%** Sheltered
  - **95%** Unsheltered
Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness*

Top 6 Responses

- 26% Lost Job
- 18% Eviction
- 13% Alcohol or Drug Use
- 10% Family/Domestic Violence
- 10% Landlord Raised Rent
- 9% Divorce/Separation/Breakup

First Episode of Homelessness

40% of survey respondents indicated their current episode of homelessness was their first.

Age at First Episode of Homelessness

18% 0-17
17% 18-24
65% 25+

Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness

5% 30 Days or Less
31% 1-11 Months
64% 1 Year or More

Ways to Obtain Permanent Housing*

Top 4 Responses

- 65% Rental Assistance
- 55% More Affordable Housing
- 36% Money for Moving Costs
- 24% Help Finding an Apartment

Self-Reported Health+

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

- 32% Psychiatric/Emotional Conditions
- 30% Alcohol & Drug Use
- 30% Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- 26% Physical Disability
- 21% Chronic Health Problems
- 12% Traumatic Brain Injury
- 3% HIV/AIDS Related Illness

Disabling Conditions

39% of survey respondents reported having at least one 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.

Services and Assistance

63% of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance+

Top 6 Responses

- 34% Turned Down
- 25% Don’t Think I’m Eligible
- 16% Don’t Want Government Assistance
- 16% No Permanent Address
- 12% No ID
- 10% Never Applied

Services Currently Accessing+

Top 6 Responses

- 55% Free Meals
- 30% Emergency Shelter
- 24% Health Services
- 24% Shelter Day Services
- 20% Bus Passes
- 13% Legal Services

*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%.
\[\text{Only displaying top responses, all response data will be available in full report.}\]
\[\text{\textcircled{\textbullet} Sourced from census data rather than survey data.}\]
\[
\text{Note: Some percentages have been rounded so total percentage will equal 100%.}
\]
\[\text{The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County. It will be available summer 2019.}\]
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2019, Santa Cruz County Homeless Census & Survey, Watsonville, CA.