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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS+</th>
<th>(37%) EVICTION</th>
<th>(33%) LOST JOB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOP 6 RESPONSES+</td>
<td>9% DIVORCE/SEPARATION/BREAKUP</td>
<td>9% ALCOHOL/DRUG USE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILLNESS/MEDICAL PROBLEM</td>
<td>6% LANDLORD RAISED RENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(27%) Are experiencing their first episode of homelessness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS</td>
<td>(17%) UNDER 18</td>
<td>(17%) 18-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DURATION OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS</td>
<td>(6%) 1-30 DAYS</td>
<td>(35%) 1-11 MONTHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAYS TO PREVENT LOSING HOUSING+</td>
<td>(73%) EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE</td>
<td>(50%) RENT/MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SELF REPORTED HEALTH+**

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

- \(67\%\) DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE
- \(57\%\) PHYSICAL DISABILITY
- \(49\%\) CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION
- \(39\%\) PSYCHIATRIC OR EMOTIONAL ILLNESS
- \(35\%\) PTSD
- \(12\%\) HIV/AIDS RELATED ILLNESS
- \(10\%\) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

**DISABLING CONDITIONS**

77\% 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.

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE**

- \(83\%\) Of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.
- \(42\%\) DON'T WANT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE
- \(26\%\) DON'T THINK I AM ELIGIBLE
- \(26\%\) TURNED DOWN
- \(25\%\) PAPERWORK TOO DIFFICULT
- \(17\%\) NO ID
- \(8\%\) IMMIGRATION ISSUES

**REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING ANY GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE+**

- \(64\%\) FREE MEALS
- \(46\%\) BUS PASSES
- \(46\%\) HEALTH SERVICES
- \(36\%\) SHELTER DAY SERVICES
- \(30\%\) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- \(27\%\) LEGAL SERVICES

**SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING+**

\(83\%\) Of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

**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.

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+ 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.