Every year in the County of Sonoma, volunteers and guides gather together to conduct a count of persons experiencing homelessness.

The 2020 Sonoma County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on February 28th, 2020. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 444 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>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2020 Sheltered/ Unsheltered Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n=1,043</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=1,702</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Subpopulation Data

- **Chronically Homeless** | 508 Individuals
  - 40% Sheltered
  - 60% Unsheltered
- **Veterans** | 139 Individuals
  - 35% Sheltered
  - 65% Unsheltered
- **Families** | 80 Families with 235 Members
  - 97% Sheltered
  - 3% Unsheltered
- **Unaccompanied Children** | 59 Individuals
  - 8% Sheltered
  - 92% Unsheltered
- **Transition-Age Youth** | 245 Individuals
  - 18% Sheltered
  - 82% Unsheltered
- **Older Adults** | 648 Individuals
  - 59% Sheltered
  - 41% Unsheltered

### Residence Prior to Homelessness

- 88% Sonoma County

### Length of Time in Sonoma County

- 7% < 1 Year
- 15% 1-4 Years
- 14% 5-9 Years
- 64% 10 Years+

### Foster Care

- 14% of adult survey respondents have been in the foster care system.
- 28% of youth survey respondents have been in the foster care system.

### Education

- 73% of transition-age youth survey respondents have received a GED or graduated from high school.

### Employment Status

- 12% Full Time
- 12% Part Time
- 43% Unable to Work
- 36% Looking for Work
- 21% Not Looking for Work

### Race

- 64% White
- 19% Multi-racial
- 6% Hispanic
- 9% Asian
- 1% Native Hawaiian or Alaska Native

### Ethnicity

- 73% Latinx/Hispanic
- 18% Multi-racial
- 6% Asian
- 6% White
- 1% Native Hawaiian or Alaskan Native
First Episode of Homelessness
31% indicated their current episode of homelessness was their first.

History of Domestic Violence
39% reported they had experienced domestic violence.

Sex Trade Involvement
15% traded sex for money or a place to stay.
4% have a history of being trafficked.

Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness*
Top 4 Responses*
- 22% Lost Job
- 15% Argument with Family/Friend
- 16% Alcohol or Drug Use
- 10% Fire

Age at First Episode of Homelessness
- 17% 0-17
- 31% 18-24
- 33% 25-49
- 19% 50+

Obstacles to Permanent Housing*
Top 4 Responses*
- 70% Can’t Afford Rent
- 50% No Job/Not Enough Income
- 31% No Money for Moving Costs
- 20% No Housing Available

Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness
- 10% 30 Days or Less
- 21% 1-6 Months
- 9% 7-11 Months
- 62% 1 Year or More

Self-Reported Health*
Current health conditions that may affect the housing stability or employment of those experiencing homelessness.
- 36% Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- 40% Psychiatric/Emotional Conditions
- 23% Physical Disability
- 29% Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- 23% Chronic Health Problems
- 10% Traumatic Brain Injury
- 1% HIV/AIDS Related Illness

Disabling Conditions
40% of survey respondents said they had at least one disabling condition.

Interest in Permanent Housing
84% of survey respondents said they would like affordable permanent housing if it became available soon.

Government Services and Assistance
77% of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance*
Top 6 Responses*
- 15% Don’t Think I’m Eligible
- 52% Don’t Want Government Assistance
- 10% No Permanent Address
- 7% Don’t Have ID
- 8% Don’t know where to go
- 12% Never Applied

Non-Government Services Currently Accessing*
Top 6 Responses*
- 53% Free Meals
- 35% Bus Passes
- 34% Emergency Shelter
- 27% Shelter Day Services
- 27% Health Services
- 21% Mental Health 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 & Transition-Age Youth (TAY)
Children under the age of 18 and young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old (TAY) who are experiencing homelessness and living without a parent or legal guardian.

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