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 Sonoma County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 25th, 2019. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 2,951 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>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3,247</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,539</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3,107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,906</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,835</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2,969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,951</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2019 Sheltered/ Unsheltered Population

- **34%** Sheltered (n=994)
- **66%** Unsheltered (n=1,957)

### Residence Prior to Homelessness

- **87%** Sonoma County
- **9%** Under 18
- **19%** 18-24
- **57%** 25-54
- **15%** 55+

### Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-54</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genderqueer/ Non-Binary</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sexual Orientation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queer</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesbian/Gay</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-racial</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan Native</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino/ Hispanic</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan Native</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Educational Attainment

- 66% of transition-age youth survey respondents have received a GED or graduated from high school.

### Employment Status

- **8%** Full Time
- **8%** Part Time
- **36%** Unable to Work
- **17%** Unemployed
- **7%** Seasonal/Sporadic
- **78%** Unemployed
- **6%** Looking for Work
- **24%** Not Looking for Work

### Subpopulation* Data

- **Chronically Homeless | 675 Individuals**
  - **80%** Unsheltered
- **Veterans | 210 Individuals**
  - **68%** Unsheltered
- **Families | 87 Families with 279 Members**
  - **9%** Unsheltered
- **Unaccompanied Children | 117 Individuals**
  - **97%** Unsheltered
- **Transition-Age Youth | 540 Individuals**
  - **93%** Unsheltered
- **Older Adults | 455 Individuals**
  - **62%** Unsheltered

### Foster Care

- **17%** of adult survey respondents have been in the foster care system.
- **21%** of youth survey respondents have been in the foster care system.

### Employment Status

- **36%** Unemployed
- **17%** Unemployed
- **7%** Seasonal/Sporadic
- **24%** Not Looking for Work

### If Unemployed, Currently...

- **36%** Unable to Work
- **8%** Part Time
- **36%** Unable to Work
- **24%** Not Looking for Work
### First Episode of Homelessness

- **30%** indicated their current episode of homelessness was their first.
- **44%** of those respondents were homeless for one year or more.

### History of Domestic Violence

- **34%** reported they had experienced domestic violence.

### Sex Trade Involvement

- **16%** traded sex for money or a place to stay.
- **7%** have a history of being trafficked.

### Self-Reported Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol &amp; Drug Abuse</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric/Emotional Conditions</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Disabling Conditions

- **42%** of survey respondents reported having at least one disabling condition.

### Interest in Permanent Housing

- **89%** of survey respondents said they would like affordable permanent housing if it became available soon.

### Government Services and Assistance

- **31%** Don’t Think I’m Eligible
- **24%** Don’t Want Government Assistance
- **12%** Don’t Have ID
- **11%** Applied and Waiting for Response
- **11%** Never Applied

### Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance

- **15%** No Permanent Address

### Non-Government Services Currently Accessing

- **60%** Free Meals
- **44%** Bus Passes
- **40%** Emergency Shelter

### Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event or Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lost Job</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument with Family/Friend</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol or Drug Use</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eviction</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Age at First Episode of Homelessness

- **17%** 0-17
- **33%** 18-24
- **36%** 25-49
- **14%** 50+

### Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness

- **9%** 30 Days or Less
- **34%** 1-11 Months
- **57%** 1 Year or More

### Obstacles to Permanent Housing*

- **68%** Can’t Afford Rent
- **48%** No Job/Not Enough Income
- **25%** No Money for Moving Costs
- **24%** No Housing Available

### Chronicity of Homelessness

- **23%** Lost Job
- **16%** Abandonment
- **12%** Alcohol or Drug Use
- **10%** Eviction

### Top 4 Responses

- **∆** Only displaying top responses.

### Note:

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

### *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.

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Source: Applied Survey Research, 2019, Sonoma County Homeless Census & Survey, San Jose, CA.
In January 2019, Sonoma County and ASR implemented a representative, telephone-based household survey to understand the impacts of the fall 2017 fires. A total of 1,132 valid surveys were conducted in this additional assessment of unstably housed and fire-affected populations.

These data are intended to assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local and state governments in gaining a better understanding of how the 2017 fires affected the county at large and the characteristics of those who are not homeless but lack a residence of their own.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County. It will be available in late summer 2019.

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2019, Sonoma County Homeless Census & Survey, San Jose, CA.