

SAN FRANCISCO

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT COMMUNITY REPORT 2026

Prepared By | SimtechSolutions, inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements 3
Executive Summary 5
Local Context 6
Introduction 10
Infographic: 2026 PIT Count Findings 12
Household Composition 13
Family Households 14
Adult-only Households 15
Geographic Distribution 16
Age 18
Gender 20
Race 21
Health & Wellness 23
Key Subpopulations 24
- Chronic Homelessness 25
- Veterans 27
- Unaccompanied Youth 28
- Parenting Youth 29

Community Survey Findings 30
Youth Community Survey Findings 33
Appendix A: Count Methodologies 36
Appendix B: Supplemental Data 42
Appendix C: 2026 Survey Instruments 45

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- San Francisco Department of Public Health
- San Francisco Department of Public Works
- San Francisco Mayor's Office
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
- San Francisco Human Services Agency
- San Francisco Housing Authority
- San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs
- San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- San Francisco Police Department
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department
- San Francisco Sheriff's Office
- San Francisco Unified School District
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of Veterans Affairs
- US Park Police

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- 3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic
- Abode Services
- Ahsing
- Asian Women's Resource Center
- Lutheran Social Services of Norcal
- Lyric
- Mary Elizabeth Inn
- Mercy Housing

- Asian Women's Shelter
- Bayview Hunters Point Foundation for Community Improvement
- Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services
- Brilliant Corners
- California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC)
- Catholic Charities
- Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
- Chinatown Community Development Center
- Chinese Hospital
- Community Forward SF
- Compass Family Services
- Conard House
- Crestwood
- Curry Senior Center
- Edgewood Center for Children and Families
- Episcopal Community Services
- Felton Institute
- First Place for Youth
- Five Keys Charter Schools & Programs
- Glide Community Housing
- Hamilton Families
- HealthRIGHT 360
- Heluna Health
- Homeless Prenatal Program
- HomeRise
- Hospitality House
- Huckleberry Youth Programs
- Insight Housing
- Institute on Aging
- La Casa de Las Madres
- Larkin Street Youth Services
- Metropolitan Fresh Start House
- Mission Action
- Mission Housing Development Corporation
- Mission Neighborhood Centers
- Mt. St. Joseph, St. Elizabeth
- North Beach Citizens
- Openhouse
- Phatt Chance Community Services
- Positive Resource Center
- Progress Foundation
- Providence Foundation
- Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness
- Raphael House
- Reality House West
- Salvation Army
- San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living
- San Francisco Community Health Center
- San Francisco VA Health Care System
- Sequoia Living
- SF SafeHouse
- Swords to Plowshares
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Tenderloin Housing Clinic
- Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
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Finally, we thank the staff of HSH for leading, assisting, and consulting on project methodology, survey development, street count operations, data entry coordination, and presentation of findings.

SAN FRANCISCO
2026 POINT IN TIME COUNT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) are federally required each January to assess homelessness and available housing resources. As the name implies, the PIT Count offers a snapshot of a single point in time. The results guide policy decisions along with state and federal funding for homelessness services.

The San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) oversees these activities. In 2026, HSH partnered with Simtech Solutions to conduct the PIT Count.

On the night of January 28, 2026, a total of 7,973 people experiencing homelessness were counted, representing a 4% decrease from 2024. There was a notable increase in the number of people sheltered at the time of the count, with 57% of those counted residing in shelter.

Notable population shifts from the PIT Count include:

- The share of people counted who were sheltered increased from 48% in 2024 to 57% in 2026, the highest rate on record for San Francisco's PIT Count and a sign that expanded shelter capacity is reaching more people.
- The number of homeless family households rose 15%. Seventy-four percent of family households were in shelter. Individuals in those households numbered 1,474, including 773 children. The number of people in family households increased 34%.
- Veteran homelessness dropped sharply, from 587 veterans in 2024 to 327 in 2026. The 44% decrease was driven primarily by a reduction in the unsheltered population. Despite this progress, 64% of veterans counted remained unsheltered.

In coordination with the PIT Count, San Francisco conducted a community-specific survey of people experiencing homelessness. Survey responses revealed several notable findings:

- Thirty-seven percent of those surveyed reported experiencing homelessness for the first time, a significant increase from 22% in 2024.
- The percent of people identifying as LGBTQ+ dropped from 31% in 2024 to 17% in 2026.
- Fifty-six percent of people surveyed lived in San Francisco prior to becoming homeless.
- The most commonly-used government benefit was food stamps (SNAP), which 63% of respondents reported receiving, followed by Medi-Cal/Medicare at 55%. Receipt increased since 2024, when these were reported by 48% and 24% of people respectively.
- Sixty-eight percent of adults reported at least one disability. Mental health disorders affected 45% of survey respondents. Also common were chronic health issues at 38% and physical disability at 32%.

LOCAL CONTEXT

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count provides a critical snapshot of homelessness in our community. Additional information in this section about San Francisco and our local homelessness response system adds important context to the 2026 count findings.

Drivers of homelessness

Housing affordability challenges and growing economic inequality in the Bay Area, along with other factors, have led to consistently high levels of homelessness in San Francisco. A history of structural racism and housing discrimination disparately impacts people of color, resulting in a significantly higher risk of homelessness.

Lack of affordable housing and sharp rent increases continue to push more people into homelessness as housing costs outpace wage growth. According to the **National Low Income Housing Coalition**, as of September 2026, residents of San Francisco's metropolitan area must earn an hourly wage of $67.53 (over three times the local minimum wage) to afford a two-bedroom apartment. San Francisco also faces a severe shortage of affordable housing, with only 44 affordable and available rental units per 100 extremely low-income households.

Local strategy

Home by the Bay, San Francisco's equity-driven plan to prevent and end homelessness, has set strategic direction for the local homelessness response system since July 2023. Since its publication, San Francisco developed an equity addendum identifying racial and other inequities in the homelessness response system, setting targeted equity goals, and establishing a framework to measure progress over time. Also published were separate addendums addressing the specific need of homeless youth and families.

San Francisco aims to transform its health and homelessness response through Mayor Daniel Lurie's vision for **Breaking the Cycle**, launched in March 2025. This initiative drives system-level reforms to get people off the street, into shelter and treatment, and on the path to stability. Breaking the Cycle builds on the foundation of Home by the Bay and brings strong cross-departmental collaboration and accountability to yield lasting reforms.

Recent highlights

These strategies have resulted in expanded system capacity: in the period since the 2024 PIT Count and HIC, there was a net increase of 687 shelter beds and 2,306 beds in housing dedicated to people experiencing homelessness. Expansion of housing and shelter resources is one potential reason the 2026 PIT Count demonstrated a decrease in overall homelessness (down 4% since 2024) and finds more of the homeless population is in shelter than ever before.

Among the new resources are 155 beds in programs for people experiencing homelessness who are recovering from substance use disorder (as of summer 2026). Thirty-six percent of homeless adults reported a substance use disorder in the 2026 count.

Complementing these efforts, San Francisco is reducing unsheltered homelessness by improving coordination among street outreach teams and expanding relocation assistance. Journey Home, a newly expanded and strengthened relocation assistance program, provides safe, voluntary support to anyone who wants to reconnect with loved ones in stable housing outside San Francisco. In the two years prior to the 2026 count, Journey Home reunited almost 400 people with their friends or family members.

An innovative collaboration across ten City departments is creating new pathways for people living in large vehicles to exit homelessness. The Large Vehicle Refuge Permit program had led to 170 households moving into permanent housing as of August 2026. Because many residents of large vehicles are families with children, this program is an important way the homelessness response system provides support to the growing number of homeless families.

Public and nonprofit partners are also focused on providing effective supports for youth experiencing homelessness. In the two years between the 2024 count and the 2026 count, over 650 youth moved into permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing programs dedicated for this age group. The number of youth living on the street dropped precipitously in the 2026 PIT Count, driven in part by a methodology changed that reduced potential for duplicate counting of youth. While some of the change reflects improved accuracy, public and nonprofit providers have also worked to expand supports for youth experiencing homelessness in the two years since the 2024 count.

The work ahead

The positive trends in this report reflect progress in helping people exit homelessness. However, we must continue to strengthen and improve the homelessness response system.

More than 23,000 people experience homelessness in San Francisco over the course of a year, far more than can be served by available housing resources. For every person HSH places into housing, an estimated four people enter the homelessness response system. Many people resolve their homelessness without HSH's assistance, but others face significant barriers to stable housing and need more intensive support.

To meet these challenges, we must strengthen homelessness prevention, connect people to the right services quickly, reduce wait times for housing, and improve transparency and accountability. We must also do more to reach people who face the greatest barriers to housing and services, which will require addressing policies, practices, and systems that contribute to disproportionate rates of homelessness.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

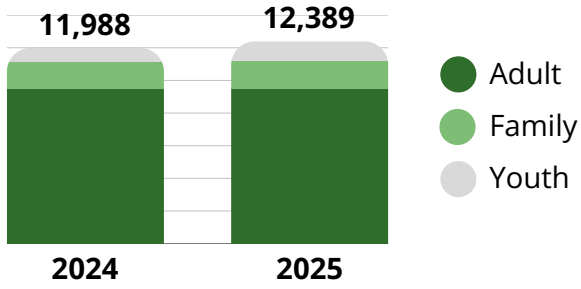
Six components of San Francisco's homelessness response system align to solve homelessness equitably. The system's goal is to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

OUTREACH

Various street outreach teams in San Francisco engage and develop relationships with people living outside. Outreach workers assess people's needs and goals and connect them to services both inside and outside the homelessness response system.

216,000
encounters in 2024 and 2025 by SF street outreach teams

12,000 households assessed for housing annually



COORDINATED ENTRY

Coordinated entry is the "front door" to the homelessness response system. It is designed to assess, prioritize, and match people experiencing homelessness to housing efficiently and consistently.

HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVING

Housing problem solving diverts or rapidly exits people from homelessness. The foundation is a creative, strengths-based conversation that helps people explore all safe housing options available to them. Interventions can include housing location assistance, flexible financial assistance, family reunification, and travel and relocation support.

Problem solving helped
1,500
households resolve homelessness in 2024 and 2025

7,500 households received prevention assistance in 2024 and 2025

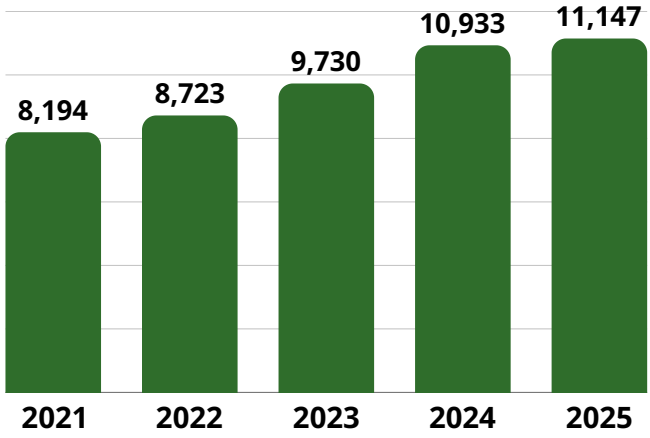
PREVENTION

Prevention programs funded by HSH and Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOHCD) reduce inflow into the homelessness response system. Assistance can include one-time payments or longer-term assistance to cover a wide range of needs related to securing or retaining housing for households at risk of homelessness.

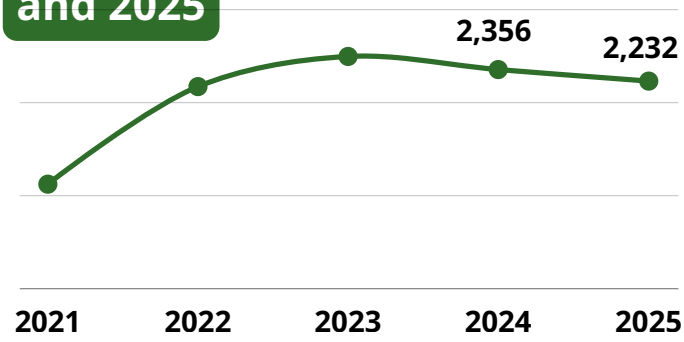
SHELTER

Shelter programs provide temporary places for people to stay while accessing other services to support a permanent exit from homelessness. These programs include transitional housing and emergency shelter programs, like navigation centers and temporary hotel vouchers.

11,000 people were sheltered each year in 2024 and 2025



2,300 households per year moved into HSH housing in 2024 and 2025



HOUSING

Housing programs provide permanent solutions to homelessness through subsidies and housing placements for adults, families, and youth.

INTRODUCTION

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a federally required estimate of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) coordinates the PIT Count across San Francisco in partnership with City departments, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board, homeless service providers, people with lived experience, and other local stakeholders. The count is conducted in accordance with requirements established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Continuums of Care (CoC) receiving federal homelessness funding.

The primary goals of the 2026 PIT Count and Survey are to:

- Meet federal reporting requirements and support San Francisco's continued eligibility for federal homelessness funding;
- Measure changes in the size and characteristics of the population experiencing homelessness over time;
- Provide information to support policy makers and service providers in planning and implementing services that meet local needs;
- Better understand the characteristics and experiences of key subpopulations, including families, youth and young adults, veterans, and people experiencing chronic homelessness;
- Conduct the PIT count using methods that support data quality, consistency, and the health and safety of all participants.

This report presents data reported to HUD in accordance with federal requirements, as well as findings from San Francisco-specific survey questions and supplemental data collection. Interactive dashboards are available on SF.gov for further exploration of PIT Count results and trends.

Point-in-Time Count & Survey

The 2026 PIT Count reflects homelessness as of the night of January 28, 2026. The PIT Count consists of two primary components:

- **Unsheltered Count**: The unsheltered count is required at least once every two years. This includes those sleeping outdoors or in other locations not designated for habitation, including streets, parks, tents, makeshift shelters, vehicles, and abandoned properties. The unsheltered count was conducted in the early morning hours of January 29, 2026. Nearly 700 registered participants supported the count using Simtech Solutions' Counting Us mobile application to record observations.
- **Sheltered Count**: The sheltered count is conducted annually and includes people staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven programs dedicated to people experiencing homelessness. The sheltered count is conducted through administrative data submitted by program providers.

The PIT Count includes survey questions to help collect information on the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered settings. Survey questions are asked during unsheltered count when possible, and within shelters during the weeks following the night of the PIT count. The survey represents a sample of the total sheltered and unsheltered population experiencing homelessness.

Federal definitions of homelessness

The PIT Count uses HUD's federal definition of homelessness. This definition includes individuals and families:

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); 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.

As the PIT Count represents a snapshot of homelessness on a single night according to federal standards, it does not capture everyone who experiences all forms of homelessness or housing instability throughout the course of a year.

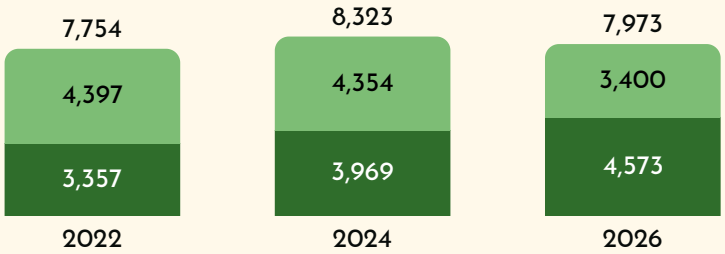
The City and County of San Francisco uses an expanded definition of homelessness which includes persons who are "doubled-up" in the homes of family or friends; individuals staying in jails, hospitals, or rehabilitation facilities who are otherwise homeless; and families living in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units. Additional data to help understand homelessness in settings not included in the PIT Count reported to HUD is included in Appendix B: Supplemental Point-in-Time Count Data.

The PIT Count is one of several data sources San Francisco used to understand homelessness. San Francisco also relies on Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other data sources to understand patterns of homelessness and engagement with the homelessness response system over time.

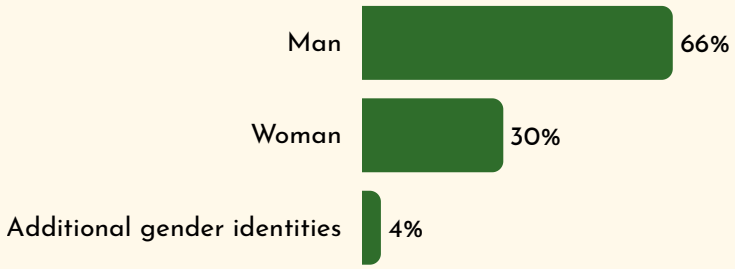
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2026 PIT COUNT FINDINGS

Results are from all people experiencing homelessness counted during the Point-in-Time Count

POPULATION TREND



GENDER IDENTITIES



SHELTER STATUS



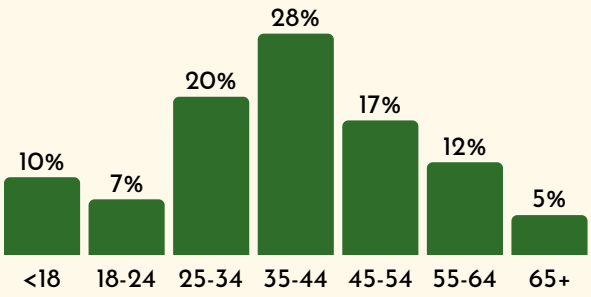
HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Adult-Only
6,486 people in 6,244 households (81%)
54% Sheltered

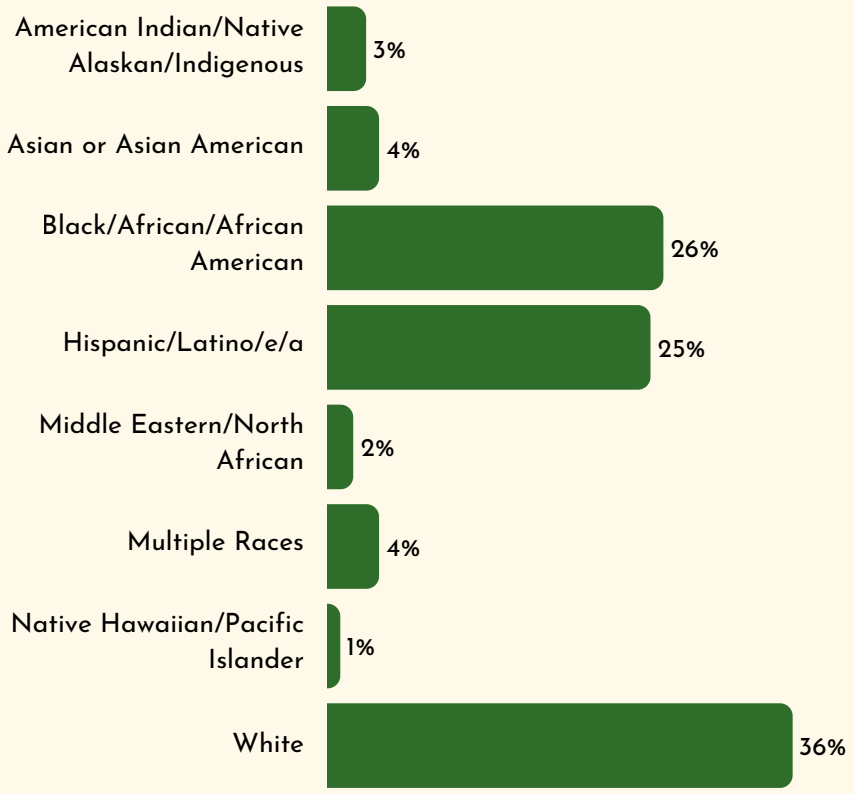
Families
1,474 people in 465 households (18%)
74% Sheltered

Child-Only (<18)
13 people in 13 households (<1%)
54% Sheltered

AGE RANGES



RACIAL IDENTITIES



"Middle Eastern/North African" included as response option starting in 2024. "Hispanic/Latino/e/a" includes people who selected that ethnicity with no other race. People selecting "Hispanic/Latino/e/a" ethnicity along with another race are counted in the category for that race or in "Multiple Races" if applicable.

SELECT SUBPOPULATIONS

Chronically Homeless
3,498 people (44%)
60% Sheltered

Unaccompanied Youth & Young Adults (<25)
441 people (6%)
70% Sheltered

Veterans
327 people (4%)
36% Sheltered

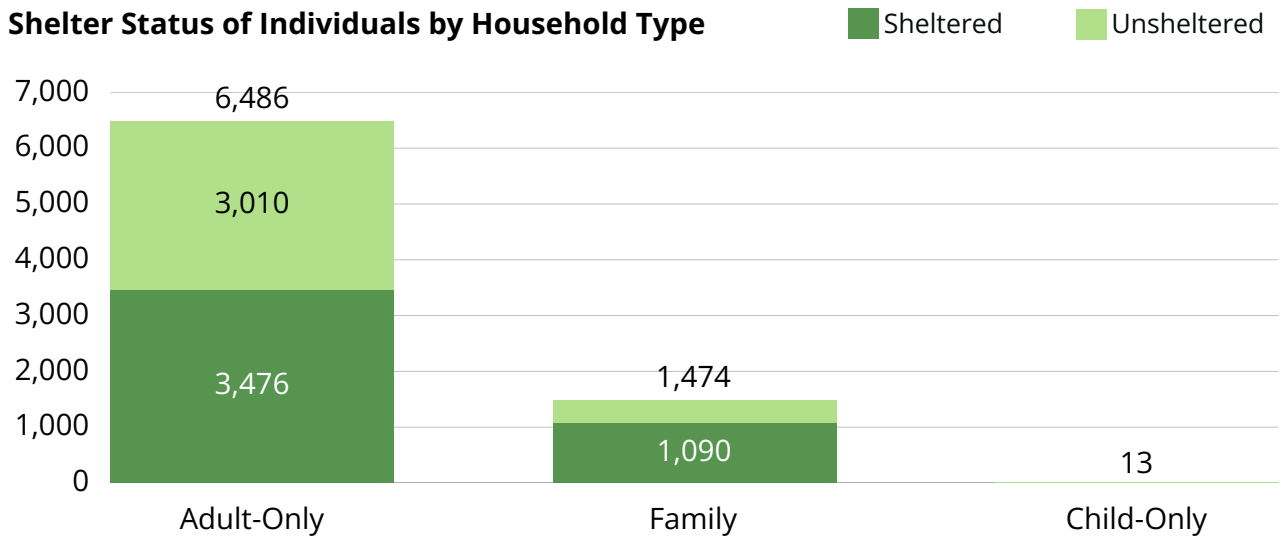
Older Adults (55+)
1,366 people (17%)
67% Sheltered

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

HUD requires communities report the PIT Count across three household types: households with adults only, households with at least one adult and one child (cited as families in this report), and households comprised of only children under 18. A household may consist of one or more people.

People in adult-only households accounted for 81% of people experiencing homelessness in 2026 (6,486 of 7,973). An additional 1,474 people (18% of the population experiencing homelessness) were from 465 family households with at least one adult and one child. People in child-only households account for 0.2% of people experiencing homelessness.

Family households were more likely to be in shelter on the night of the count than other household types. Seventy-four percent of people living in families were sheltered, compared to 57% of all people experiencing homelessness.



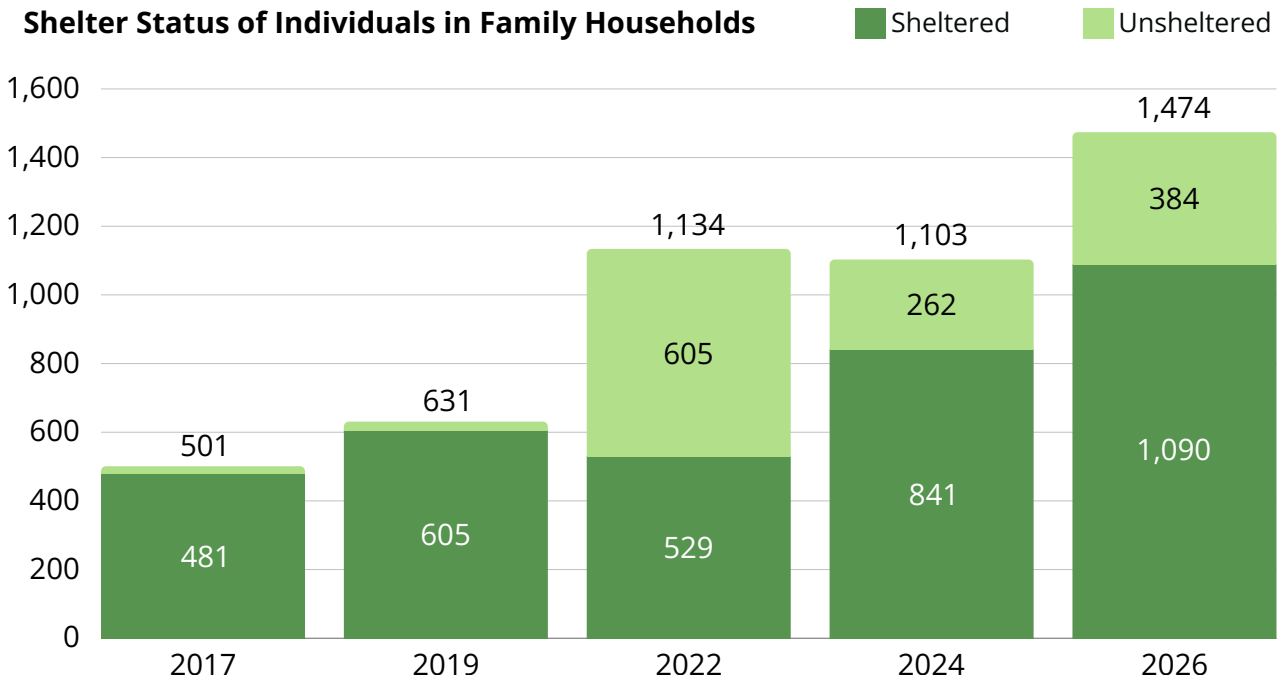
HOUSEHOLD TYPE & AGE GROUP	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
People in Adult-Only Households	**3,476**	**3,010**	**6,486**
Adults 25+	3,165	2,864	6,029
Youth 18-24	311	146	457
People in Family Households	**1,090**	**384**	**1,474**
Adults 25+	415	165	580
Youth 18-24	86	35	121
Children under 18	589	184	773
People in Child-Only Households	**7**	**6**	**13**

FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

The number of family households experiencing homelessness rose 15% between 2024 and 2026, from 405 to 465, while the number of people in family households increased 34% from 1,103 to 1,474. Since the 2022 PIT Count, the number of family households experiencing homelessness in San Francisco has more than doubled, from 205 to 465.

Most family households were sheltered on the night of the 2026 PIT count. Nearly three in four families were in sheltered settings, while 120 families (with 384 individuals) were unsheltered. See Appendix A for information about local strategies for counting unsheltered families, which were adjusted in 2022 to improve data on this population.

The average household size for families experiencing homelessness was 3.2 people per family, with an average of 1.7 children each. Children under age 18 accounted for 773 people, or 52% of all people in family households. There were also 121 youth age 18-24 living in these households, reflecting 8% of all people in families.



YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2017	184	6	190
2019	196	12	208
2022	178	27	205
2024	275	130	405
2026	345	120	465

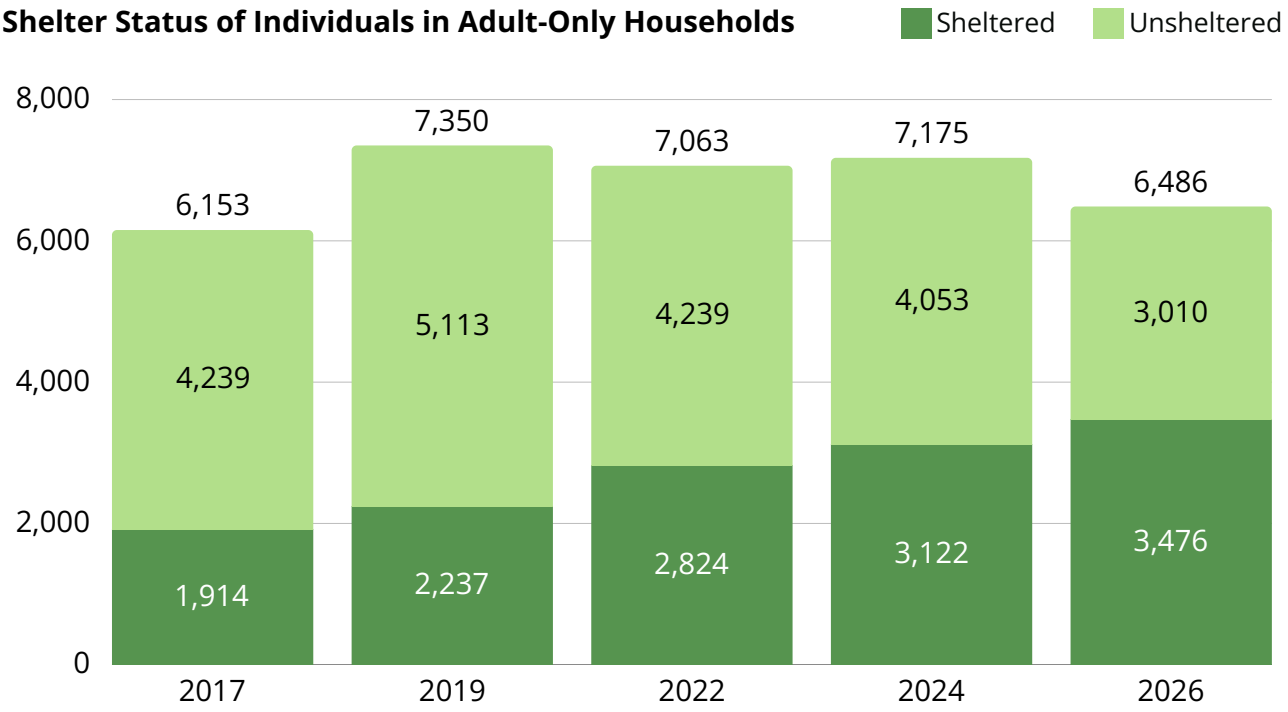
ADULT-ONLY HOUSEHOLDS

Over 80% of people experiencing homelessness were adults in households without children.

The number of people in adult-only households staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing has increased steadily over the past five PIT Counts. In 2026, 3,476 adults in households without children were sheltered, an 82% increase from 1,914 in 2017. The share of the adult-only population that was sheltered has also increased over this period, from 31% in 2017 to 44% in 2024 and 54% in 2026.

The 2026, 3,010 people in adult-only households were identified as unsheltered, the lowest number recorded in the past five PIT counts. Unsheltered adults accounted for 46% of the adult-only population, marking the first time in the past five counts that the majority of adults counted were sheltered.

Shelter Status of Individuals in Adult-Only Households



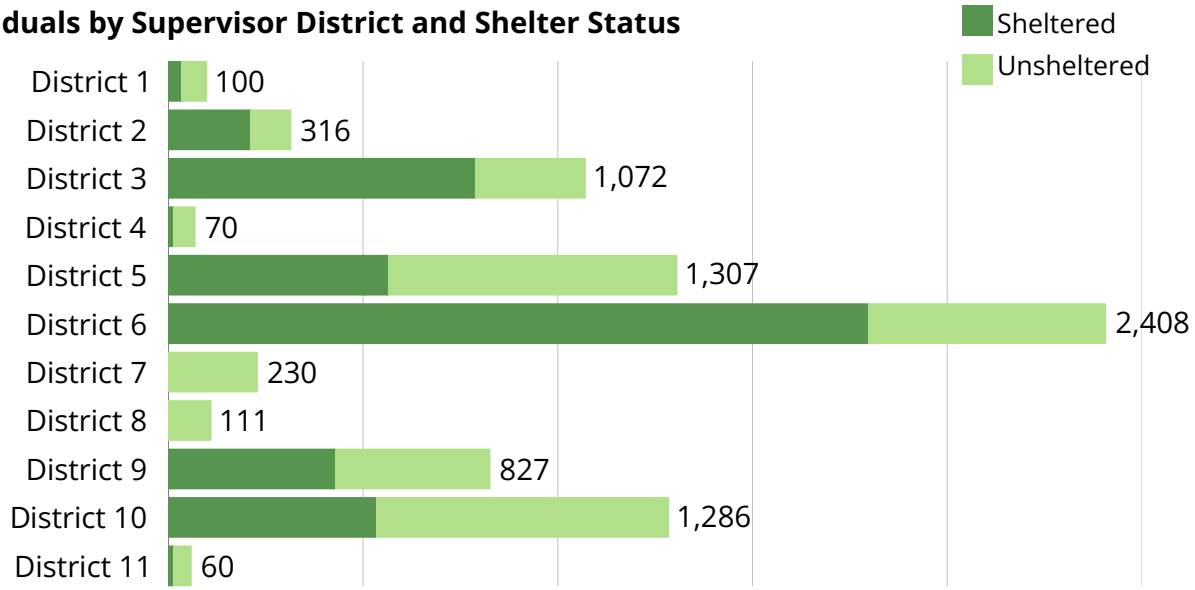
YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2017	1,914	4,239	6,153
2019	2,237	5,113	7,350
2022	2,824	4,239	7,063
2024	3,122	4,053	7,175
2026	3,476	3,010	6,486

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In San Francisco, Board of Supervisor Districts 5, 6, and 10 had the largest populations of people experiencing homelessness. Districts 3 and 6 had the largest sheltered populations, and Districts 5 and 10 had the highest numbers of unsheltered individuals.

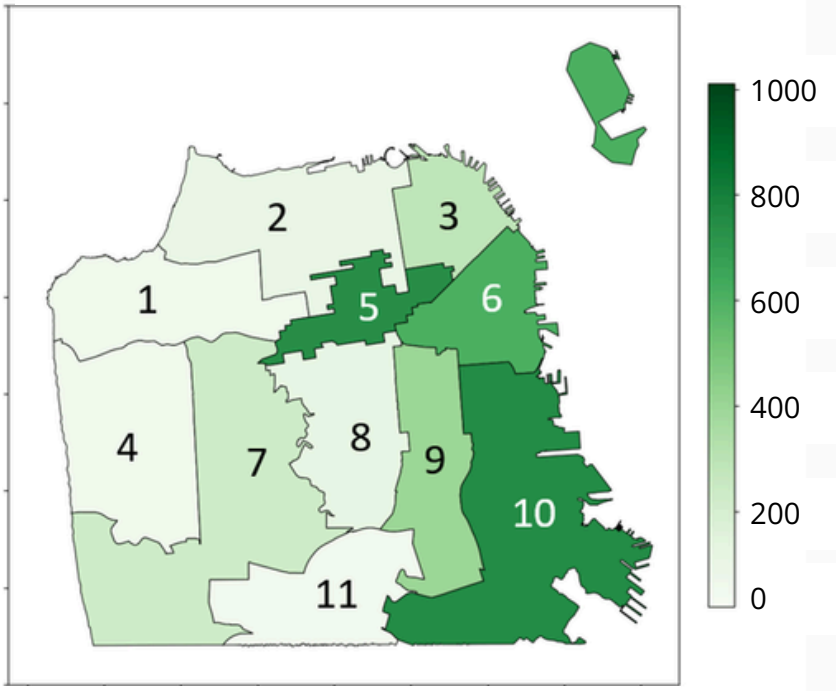
Domestic Violence shelters' locations are kept confidential to protect their clients. Clients in these shelters and scattered site shelters that are not connected to any specific district are tracked outside of the district totals.

Individuals by Supervisor District and Shelter Status

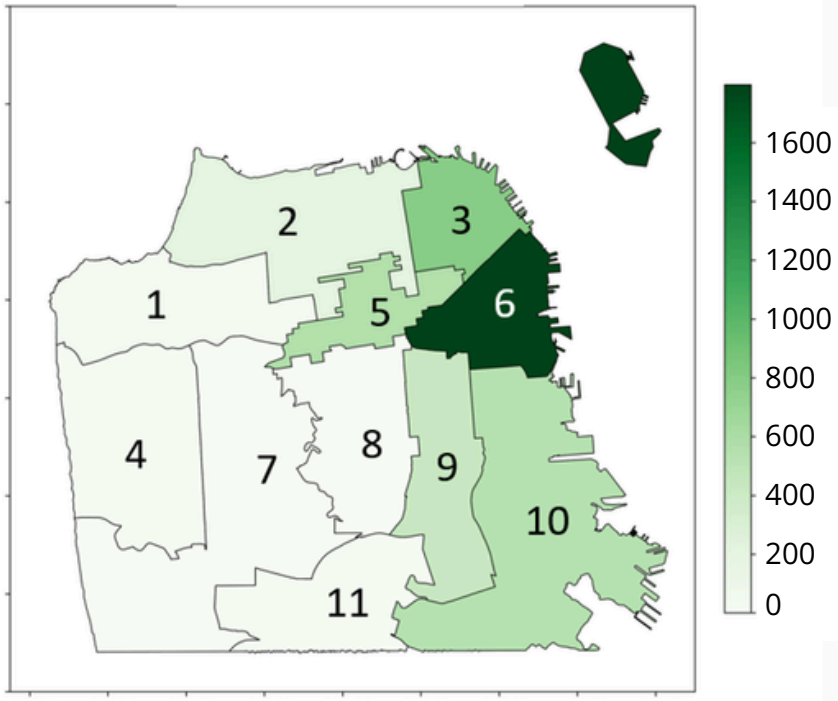


SUPERVISOR DISTRICT	UNSHELTERED	SHELTERED	TOTAL
District 1	65	35	100
District 2	105	211	316
District 3	284	788	1,072
District 4	56	14	70
District 5	742	565	1,307
District 6	611	1,797	2,408
District 7	230	0	230
District 8	111	0	111
District 9	397	430	827
District 10	752	534	1,286
District 11	47	13	60
Confidential / Scattered Site	--	186	186

Unsheltered Individuals by Supervisor District



Sheltered Individuals by Supervisor District

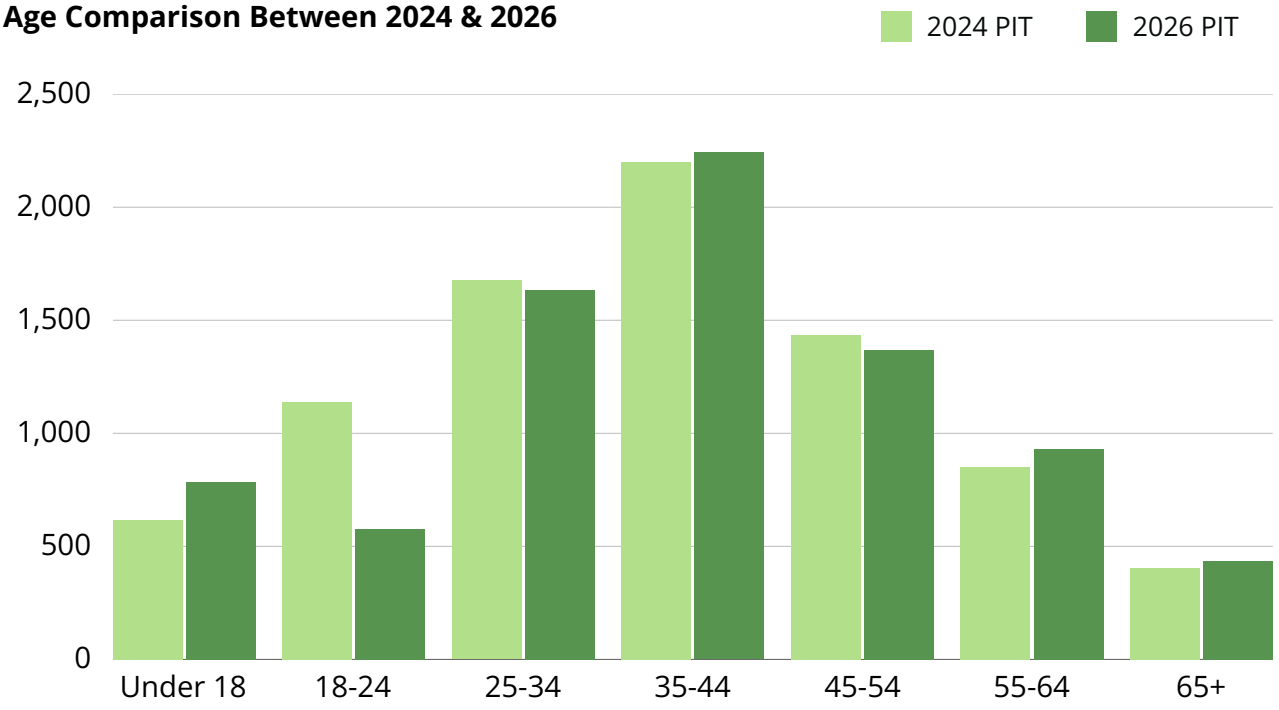


AGE

Between the 2024 and 2026 counts, the total homeless population decreased 4% from 8,323 to 7,973. The largest change by age was among young adults age 18 to 24, decreasing 49%, from 1,137 to 578. Most of the decline observed was in the unsheltered population.

By contrast, the number of children under 18 experiencing homelessness rose 27% from 618 to 786. The number of adults age 55 and older also increased, rising 9% since 2024.

Age Comparison Between 2024 & 2026

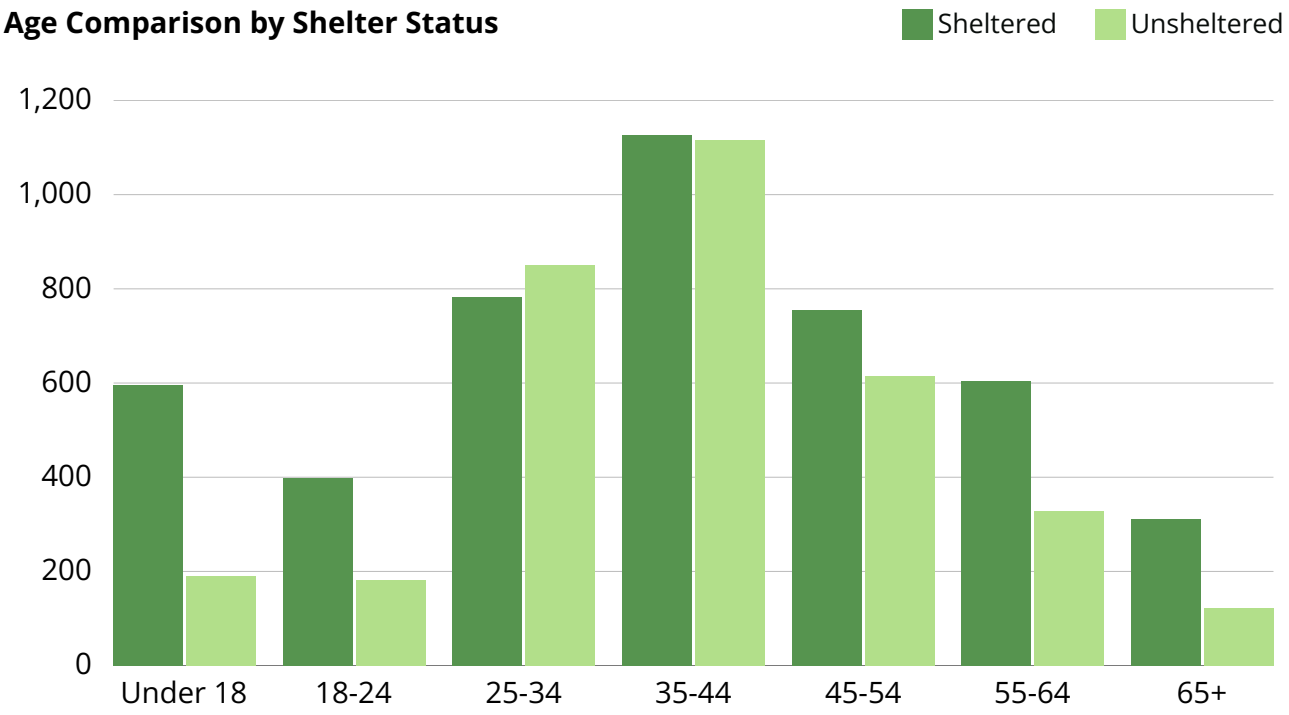


AGE RANGE	2024 PIT	2026 PIT
Under 18	618	786
18-24	1,137	578
25-34	1,676	1,633
35-44	2,201	2,242
45-54	1,435	1,368
55-64	850	932
65+	406	434

Twenty-eight percent of the homeless population was 35 to 44, making it the largest age group of people experiencing homelessness. Seventeen percent of people experiencing homelessness were 55+. The number of adults 55+ rose by 9% since the 2024 count.

Youth and young adults ages 24 and under and seniors 55 and older are more likely to be sheltered than other adults, at 73% and 67% respectively compared to 51% of adults aged 24 to 55.

Age Comparison by Shelter Status



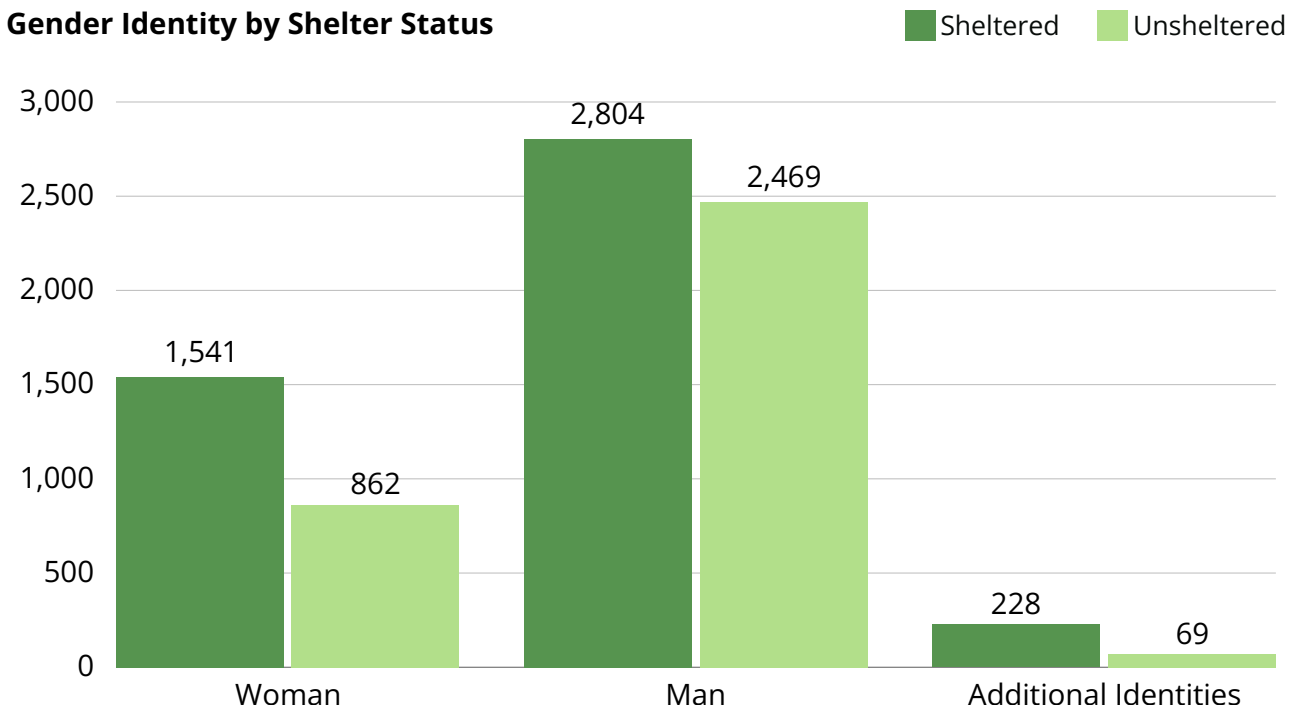
AGE RANGE	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
Under 18	596	190	786
18-24	397	181	578
25-34	782	851	1,633
35-44	1,127	1,115	2,242
45-54	754	614	1,368
55-64	605	327	932
65+	312	122	434

GENDER

Men accounted for the majority of people experiencing homelessness in 2026, representing 5,273 people or 66%. Men outnumbered women in both the sheltered and unsheltered counts. By comparison, men represent 51% of San Francisco's general population,[1] indicating that men were disproportionately represented among people experiencing homelessness.

Women accounted for 2,403, or 30%, of the population experiencing homelessness. Women represented a larger share of people in families, where 56% identified as female.

An additional 297 people, or just under 4% of the of the population experiencing homelessness, did not identify as a man or woman. This included 1% who identified as transgender and 3% who identified as non-binary, questioning, a different identity or more than one gender.



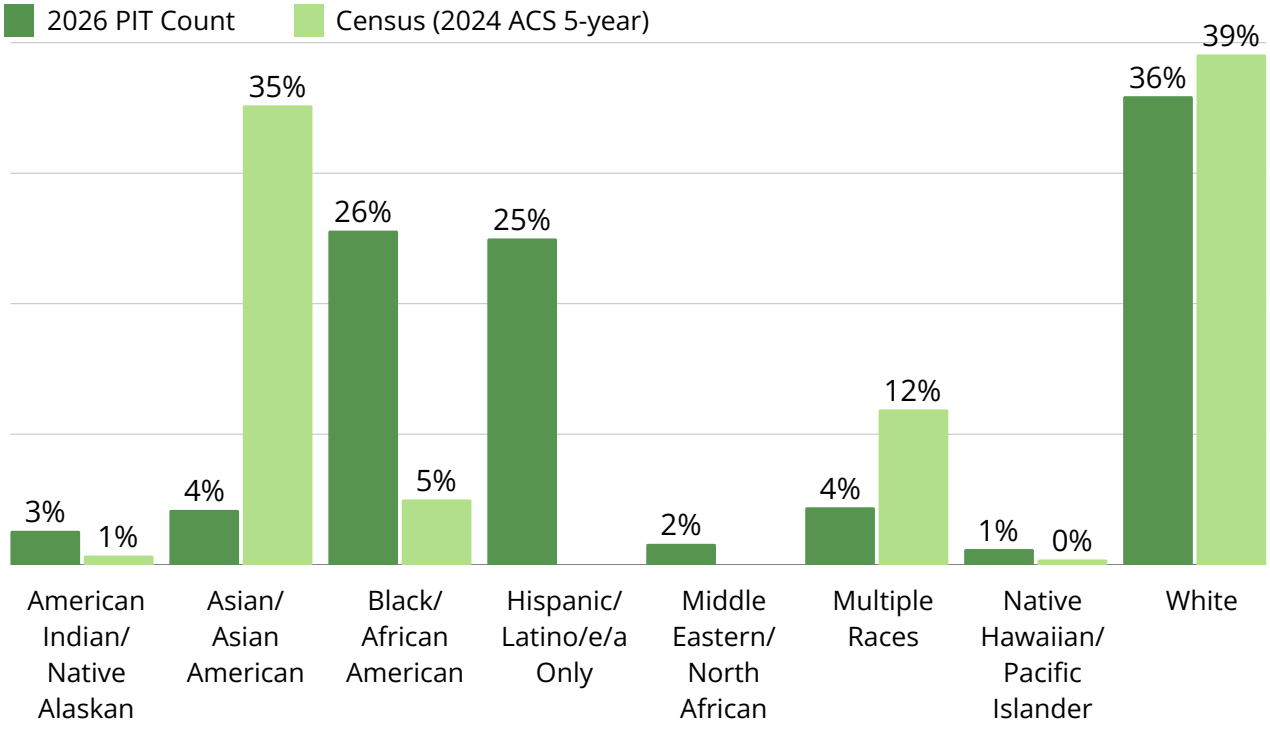
GENDER	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
Woman	1,541	862	2,403
Man	2,804	2,469	5,273
Additional Identities	228	69	297

1. *2024 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates)*

RACE

Substantial racial and ethnic disparities were evidenced in the 2026 PIT Count. Black or African American people are significantly overrepresented, constituting 5% of the general population[2] while accounting for 26% of people experiencing homelessness. In addition, 33% of people counted identified as Hispanic/Latina/e/o compared with approximately 17% of the San Francisco general population. San Franciscans in American Indian/Native Alaskan/Indigenous or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities also faced starkly disproportionate rates of homelessness, with rates four to five times average.

Race/Ethnicity Compared to San Francisco Population



Comparisons between the PIT Count and US Census data should be interpreted with caution given differences in data collection. Beginning in 2024, HUD combined race and ethnicity into a single data element and allows for respondents to select multiple options. US Census does not collect Middle Eastern and North African identities, allows for respondents to select "some other race," and only collects Hispanic or Latino Origin as an ethnicity in a separate question.

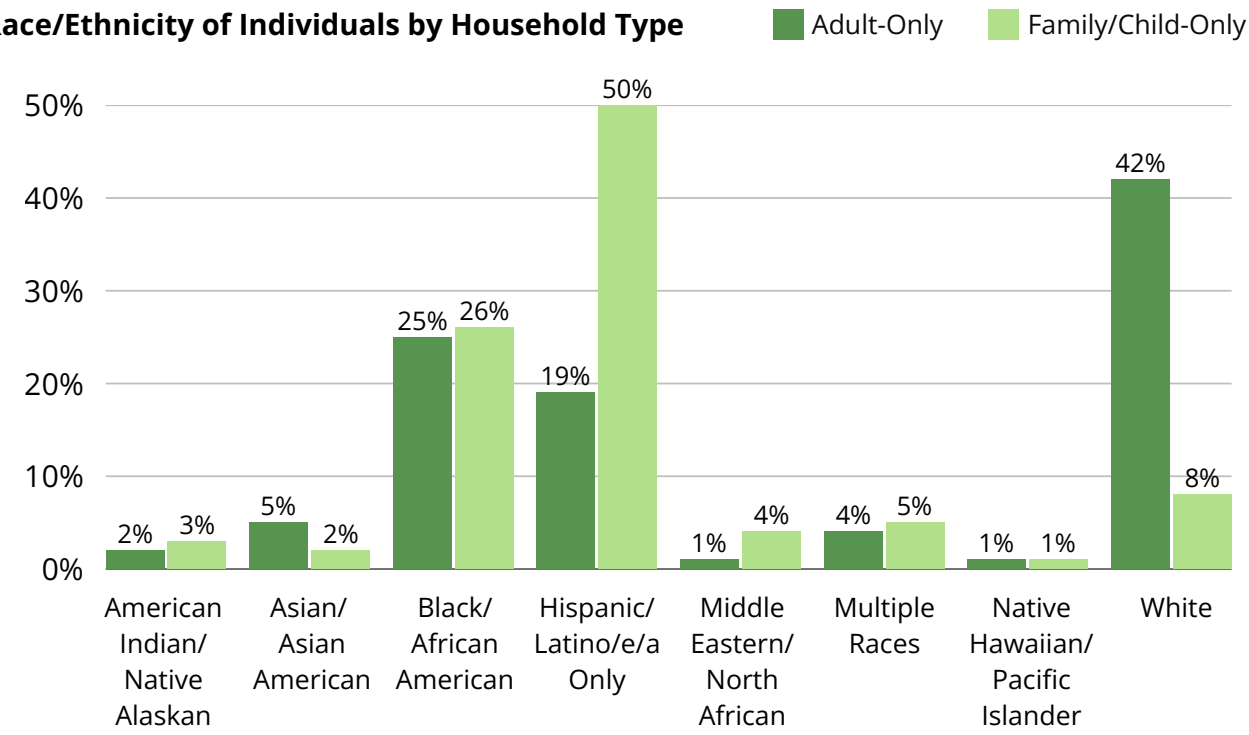
Additionally, 8% of census responses identified as a different race not listed. For these reasons, percentages do not total 100%.

2. *2024 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates)*

Of people experiencing homelessness in adult-only households, people who identified as white represented the largest share, accounting for 42%. Black or African American people make up a further 25% of this population.

Conversely, people in family and child-only households were much more likely to be Hispanic/Latino/e/a, comprising 59% of of people in family and child-only households (50% of those who identify solely as Hispanic/Latino/e/a without any other race selection). Black or African American people made up 26% of those in these households.

Race/Ethnicity of Individuals by Household Type



RACE/ETHNICITY	IN ADULT-ONLY HOUSEHOLDS	IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	IN CHILD-ONLY HOUSEHOLDS	TOTAL
American Indian/Native Alaskan/Indigenous	157	49	0	206
Asian/Asian American	306	26	0	332
Black/African American	1,651	390	4	2,045
Hispanic/Latino/e/a Only	1,222	732	4	1,958
Middle Eastern/North African	62	61	1	124
Multiple Races	277	74	0	351
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	73	21	0	94
White	2,738	120	4	2,862

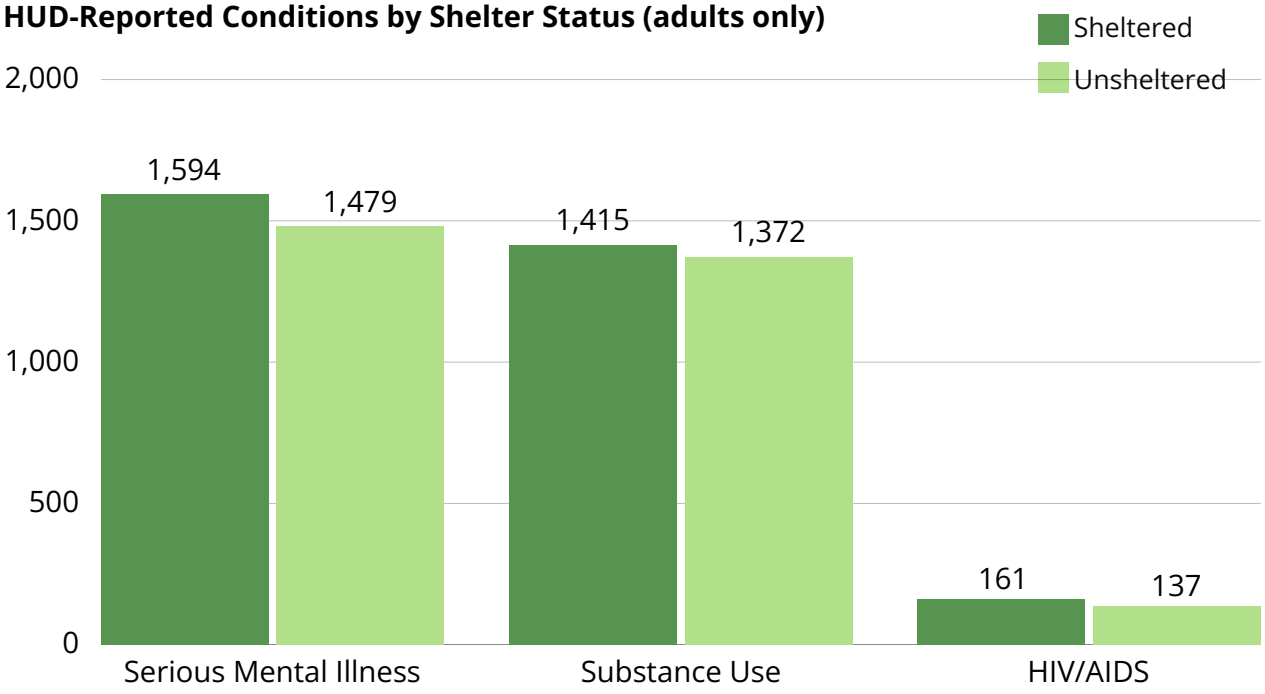
HEALTH & WELLNESS

Without regular access to safe and stable housing, many individuals also lack access to healthcare, experience preventable illness, and endure longer hospitalizations than those who have safe and stable housing. A disabling condition, which homelessness can worsen, can also keep a person from finding work and holding onto stable housing.

HUD requires that the PIT Count collect data on certain disabling conditions if they are long-term and impair the person's ability to hold a job or live independently. The three conditions are serious mental illness, substance use, and HIV/AIDS-related illness. Serious mental illness and substance use were commonly reported in San Francisco, affecting 3,073 and 2,787 adults respectively.

San Francisco's survey considers a broader set of disabilities not reported to HUD, including those that are not long-term or impair a person's ability to hold a job or live independently. Survey responses reveal that chronic health issues and physical disabilities are also very common among people experiencing homelessness, affecting around one in four adults.

HUD-Reported Conditions by Shelter Status (adults only)



CONDITION	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
Serious Mental Illness	1,594	1,479	3,073
Substance Use	1,415	1,372	2,787
HIV/AIDS	161	137	298

KEY SUBPOPULATIONS

Federal, state, and local homeless policy features distinctive strategies targeted at key subpopulations:

1

People experiencing chronic homelessness

2

Veterans

3

Unaccompanied youth and parenting youth





CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

A chronically homeless person is someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the last three years, and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as people in family households.

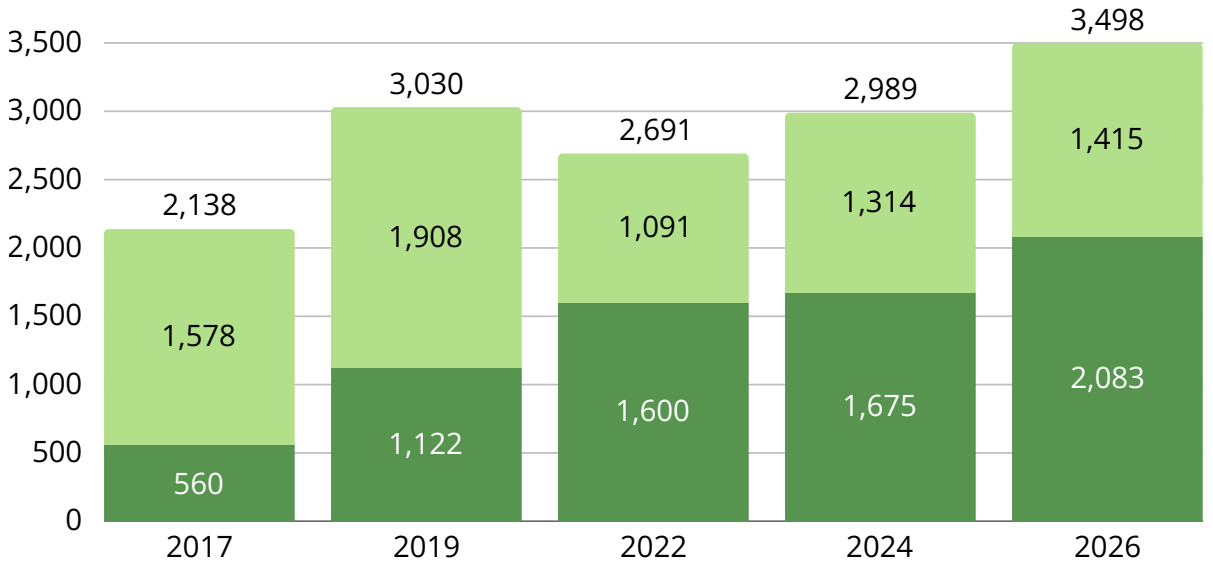
The chronically homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness. Their mortality rate is four to nine times higher than that of the general population.[3] People who are chronically homeless tend to have more emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and need for social support and homeless services.

Just under one-quarter of all homeless individuals nationwide were experiencing chronic homelessness as of HUD's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR). In San Francisco, 3,498 (44%) people were chronically homeless in the 2026 count, compared with 2,989 (36%) in 2024. Of those counted in 2026, 2,083 were staying in shelter and 1,415 were unsheltered, a reversal from earlier years when most chronically homeless residents were unsheltered.

Chronic homelessness was more common for people families with children. In San Francisco, 447 of the 701 (64%) adults in family households were chronically homeless.

3. *USICH. 2010. Supplemental Document to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.*

Chronic Homelessness Over Time



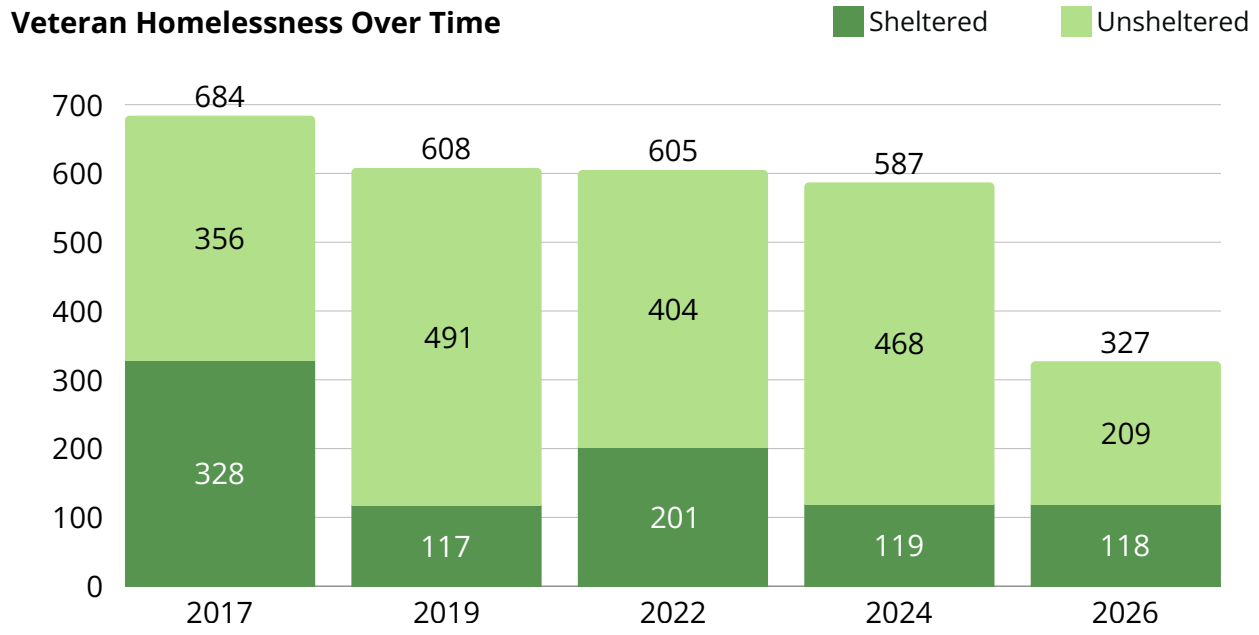
YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2017	560	1,578	2,138
2019	1,122	1,908	3,030
2022	1,600	1,091	2,691
2024	1,675	1,314	2,989
2026	2,083	1,415	3,498

VETERANS

US veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans have higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, and substance use. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters and remain unsheltered for extended periods.[4] The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services, and the VA and HUD partner to provide additional housing and support services to veterans currently homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In San Francisco's 2026 count, 327 (4%) people identified as veterans, with 209 unsheltered and 118 staying in shelter. This figure was down significantly from 587 (7%) in 2024. Veteran homelessness has fallen steadily from a high of 684 in 2017.

Twenty-one percent of homeless veterans were experiencing chronic homelessness, totaling 55 veterans in shelters and 119 unsheltered veterans.



YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2017	328	356	684
2019	117	491	608
2022	201	404	605
2024	119	468	587
2026	118	209	327

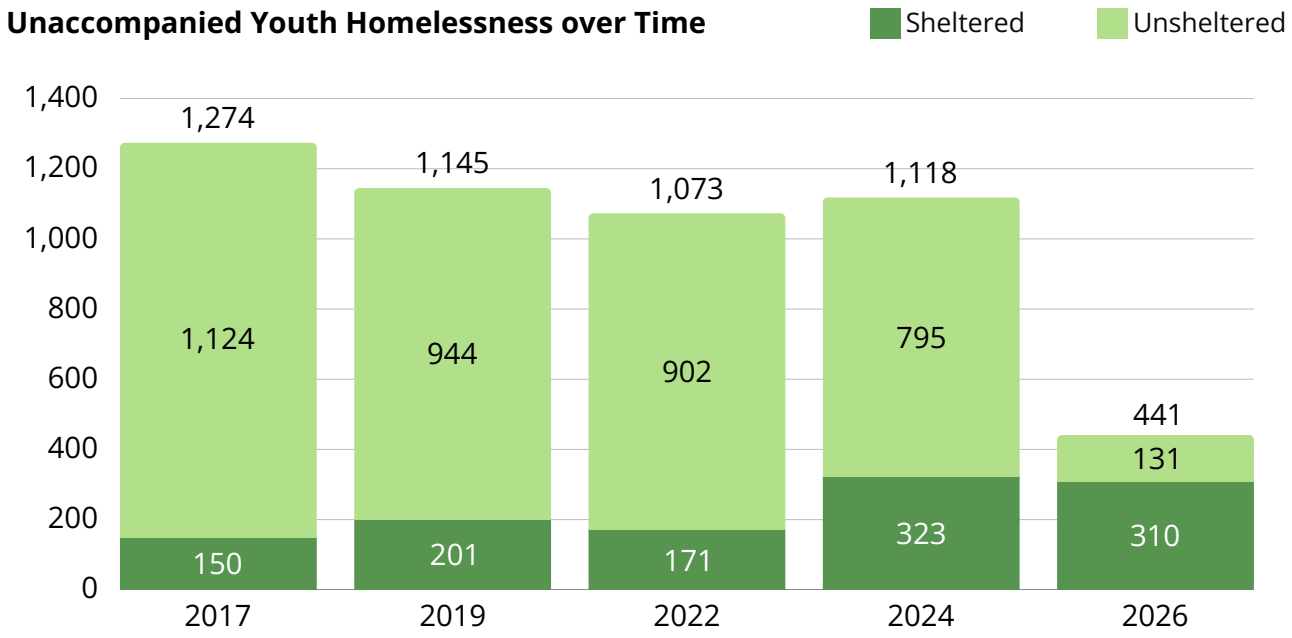
4. Olenick M, Flowers M, Diaz VJ. (2015). US veterans and their unique issues: enhancing health care professional awareness. Adv Med Educ Pract. 6:635-9.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

Children and young adults under age 25 who have no parent or guardian present are termed unaccompanied youth. Young people experiencing homelessness have more difficulty accessing services, including shelter, medical care, and employment. Potential reasons for this include the stigma of their housing situation, lack of knowledge of available resources, and a lack of services targeted to young people.

Although largely considered an undercount, nationwide estimates from 2024[5] suggest there are more than 38,000 unaccompanied youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness and in public shelters. In 2026, San Francisco counted 441 unaccompanied youth under the age of 25, down from 1,118 in 2024, a decline of roughly 61%. Almost all unaccompanied youth were age 18-24.

Seventy percent of unaccompanied youth were in shelter, with 143 of the 310 sheltered youth staying in transitional housing. The number of unsheltered youth dropped from prior years, in which the majority of unaccompanied youth population were unsheltered.



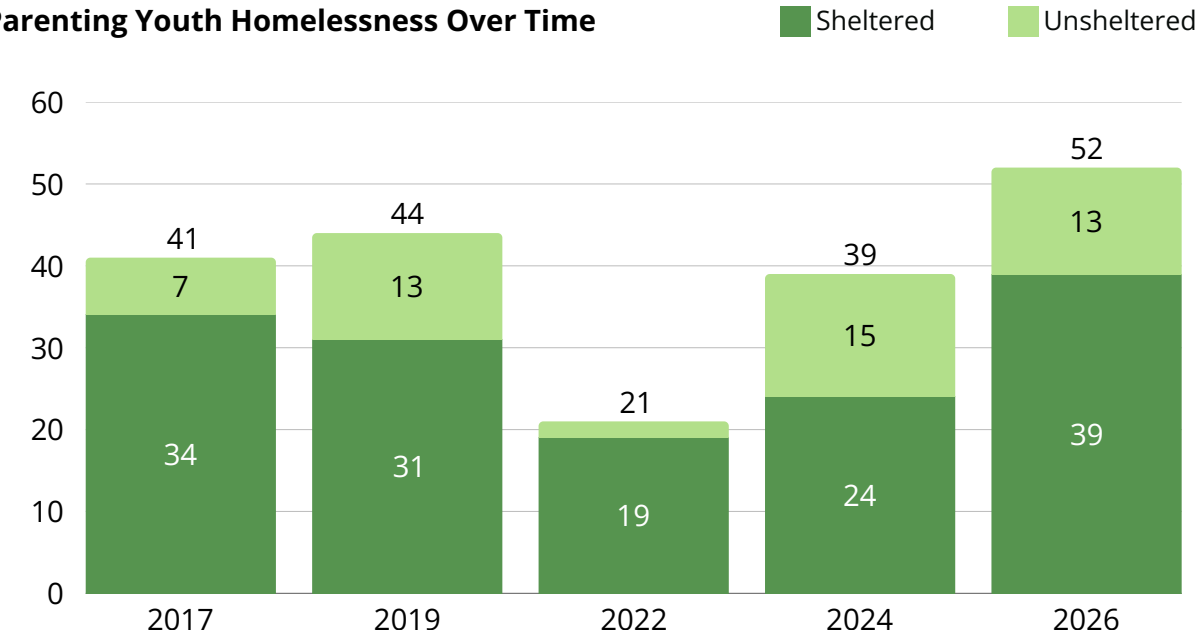
YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2017	150	1,124	1,274
2019	201	944	1,145
2022	171	902	1,073
2024	323	795	1,118
2026	310	131	441

5. *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2026). HUD Releases 2024 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part1*

PARENTING YOUTH

Youth who are parenting while experiencing homelessness face challenges beyond those of their peers, and this subgroup is consistently small. The total has fluctuated over time, dipping to 21 in 2022 before rising to 52 in 2026, the highest count in the past decade, with 39 of the 2026 total in shelter and 13 unsheltered.

Parenting Youth Homelessness Over Time



YEAR	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2017	34	7	41
2019	31	13	44
2022	19	2	21
2024	24	15	39
2026	39	13	52



COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

San Francisco's 2026 Point-in-Time Count included additional survey questions to capture the lived experiences of people counted during the census. Findings here reflect responses from 1,674 people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness who took the survey, including 103 young adults who completed an addendum on issues specific to youth homelessness. All questions were optional, and percentages reported here are based on the number of people who answered the question.

Residency and history with homelessness

Among adults surveyed, more than half (59%) had been experiencing their current episode of homelessness for a year or longer. Thirty-seven percent said this was their first time experiencing homelessness.

Fifty-six percent were living in San Francisco immediately before becoming homeless, while 44% came from outside the city. Among those who moved to San Francisco after becoming homeless, the most common reasons were accessing homeless services (32%), seeking work (18%), reconnecting with family or friends (16%), and having traveled and simply stayed (9%). Sixty-two percent had lived in the city fewer than five years before becoming homeless most recently.

Needs and barriers

Eighty percent of adult respondents reported being unemployed, and among those identifying barriers to work, disability (27%), health issues (21%), and inability to work (19%) were the most frequently cited. Sixty-eight percent of all adult respondents reported at least one disabling condition and 41% reported fleeing domestic violence. Forty-six percent of respondents reported experiencing a food shortage in the four weeks before the survey.

Service engagement

When asked about government assistance, respondents said they most commonly received food stamps/SNAP (63%) and Medi-Cal or Medicare (55%). Fewer received cash assistance such as General Assistance/CAAP (19%) or disability benefits (10%).

Emergency shelter (58%) and free meals (57%) were commonly used local services. Respondents also reported frequent engagement with the homelessness response system, with 87% having stayed in a shelter, 84% having visited an access point, and 84% having been assessed for housing.

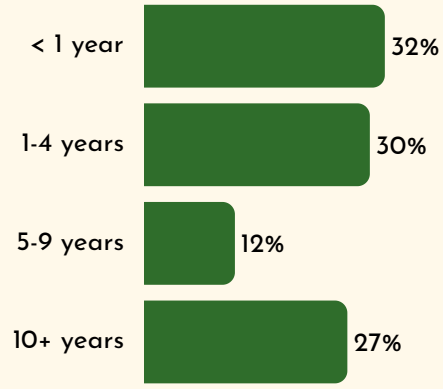
SAN FRANCISCO
2026 PIT COUNT SURVEY RESULTS

Results are from 1,674 surveys with people experiencing homelessness

RESIDENCE PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS
1,117 responses

Within San Francisco	Outside of San Francisco
56%	44%

TIME IN SAN FRANCISCO BEFORE BECOMING HOMELESS MOST RECENTLY
581 responses



REASON FOR COMING TO SAN FRANCISCO
533 responses

Accessing Homeless Services	Seeking Work	Family or Friends	Traveled and Stayed
32%	18%	16%	9%

LENGTH OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS EPISODE
1,174 responses

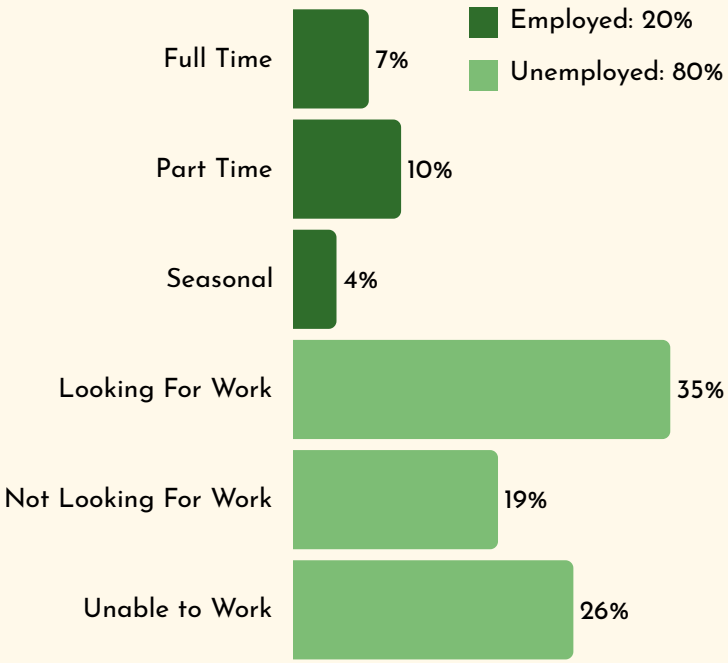
Less than 1 year	More than 1 year
41%	59%

SELF-REPORTED DISABLING CONDITIONS

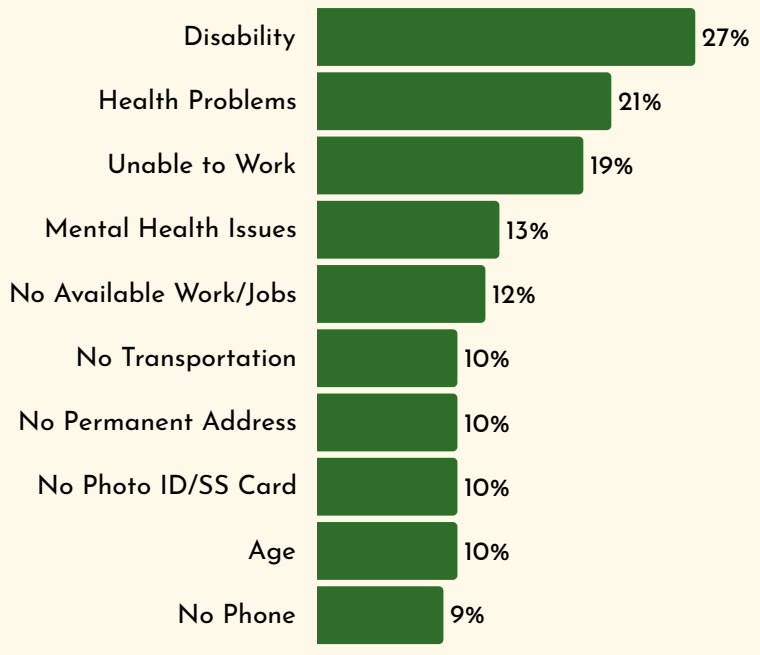
Any Disabling Condition*	Chronic Health Issues	Physical Disability	Serious Mental Illness	Substance Use Disorder	Developmental Disability	HIV/AIDS Related Illness
68%	38%	32%	45%	36%	21%	3%

**Respondents who reported at least one disabling condition*

EMPLOYMENT STATUS
1,142 responses



TOP 10 EMPLOYMENT HINDRANCES
778 responses



Respondents may select multiple items

SAN FRANCISCO
2026 PIT COUNT SURVEY RESULTS

Results are from 1,674 surveys with people experiencing homelessness

CURRENTLY ON PROBATION / PAROLE
1,114 responses

YES 7% | NO 93%

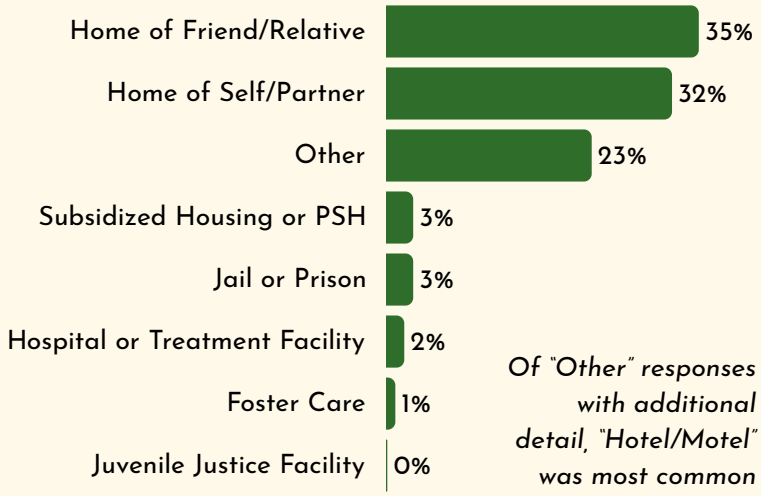
ON PROBATION / PAROLE WHEN MOST RECENTLY BECAME HOMELESS
1,074 responses

YES 10% | NO 90%

FOOD SHORTAGE LAST 4 WEEKS
938 responses

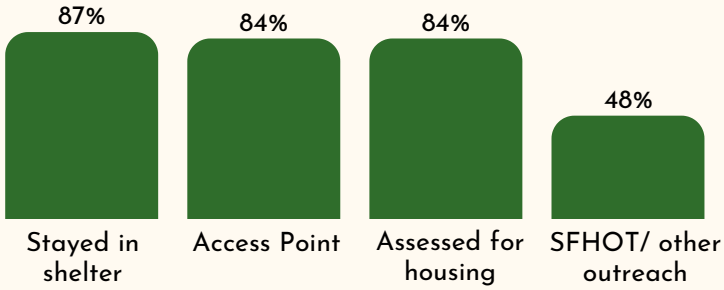
YES 46% | NO 54%

LIVING SITUATION BEFORE HOMELESSNESS
1,144 responses



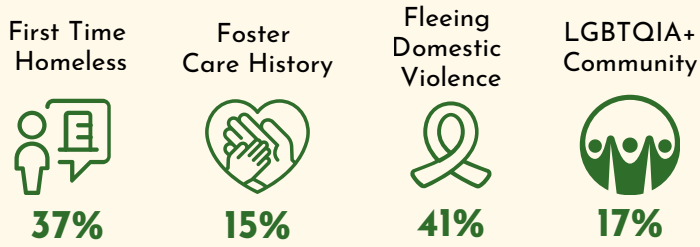
Of "Other" responses with additional detail, "Hotel/Motel" was most common

ENGAGEMENTS WITH HOMELESSNESS SERVICES
1,086 responses

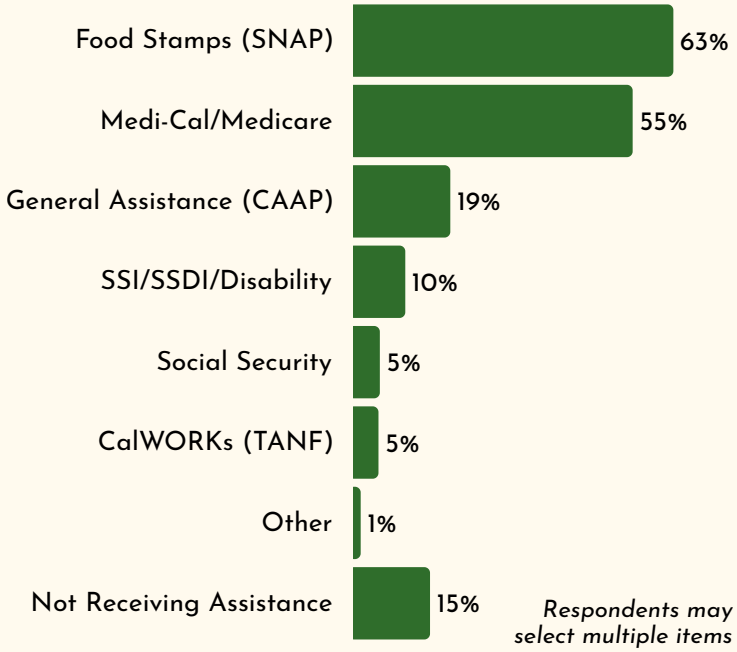


Respondents may select multiple items

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

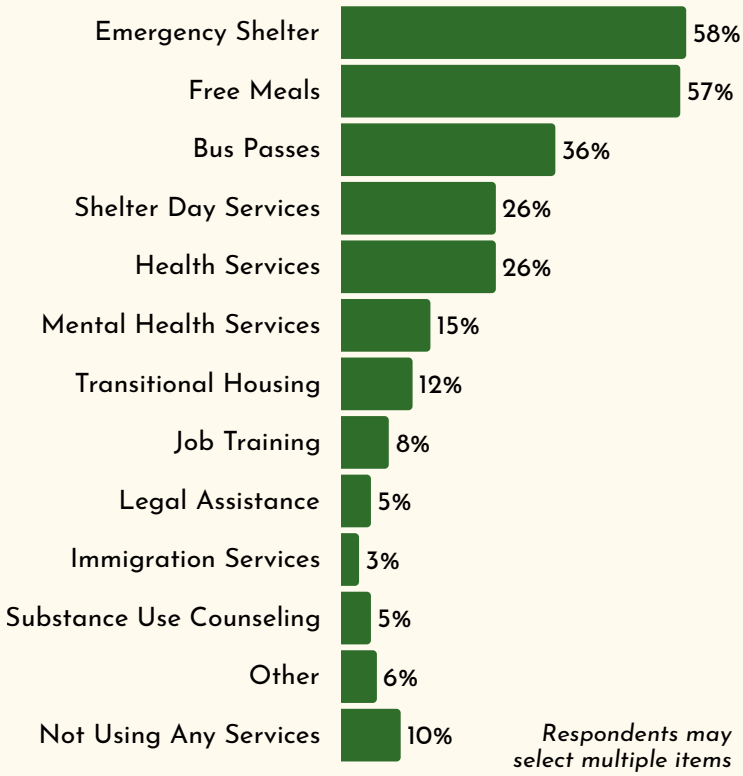


GOVERNMENT ASSASTANCE RECEIVED
1,092 responses



Respondents may select multiple items

OTHER SERVICES/ASSISTANCE RECEIVED
1,125 responses



Respondents may select multiple items

YOUTH COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

The youth addendum survey asked 103 young people experiencing homelessness about additional barriers and experiences with homelessness.

Causes of homelessness

Emotional abuse (58%) and financial issues (53%) were the most frequently cited reasons for youth homelessness, followed by conflicts with parents or guardians (48%) and mental health issues (43%).

Experiences while homeless

Of youth respondents who reported being a victim of crime, the most common experiences were assault (69%), burglary (53%), and robbery (51%) were the most common experiences. Lack of transportation, not knowing where to go, and lacking documentation were each cited by roughly three in ten youth as barriers to accessing services. Twenty-six percent described their living situation as unsafe.

Assets and opportunities

Despite these challenges, youth respondents expressed relative optimism with 79% expecting to find stable housing. Just under half of youth respondents (48%) reported completing high school as their highest level of education, and 45% reported being currently employed.



SAN FRANCISCO
2026 PIT YOUTH ADDENDUM SURVEY RESULTS

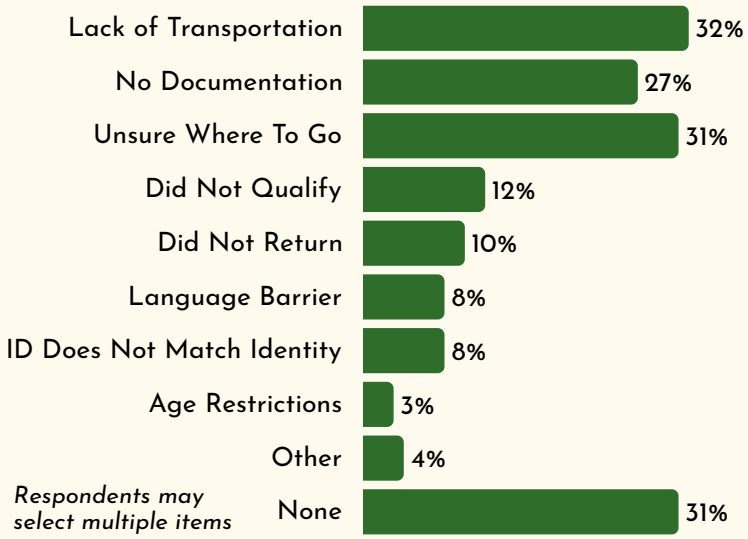
Results are from 103 surveys with youth experiencing homelessness

REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS
81 responses

Health Issues	Financial Issues	Parent or Guardian Issues	Abuse
43%	53%	48%	58%

Respondents may select multiple items

BARRIERS TO SERVICES
78 responses



Respondents may select multiple items

EXPERIENCES OF CRIME
45 responses

Victims of Any Crime*: 44%

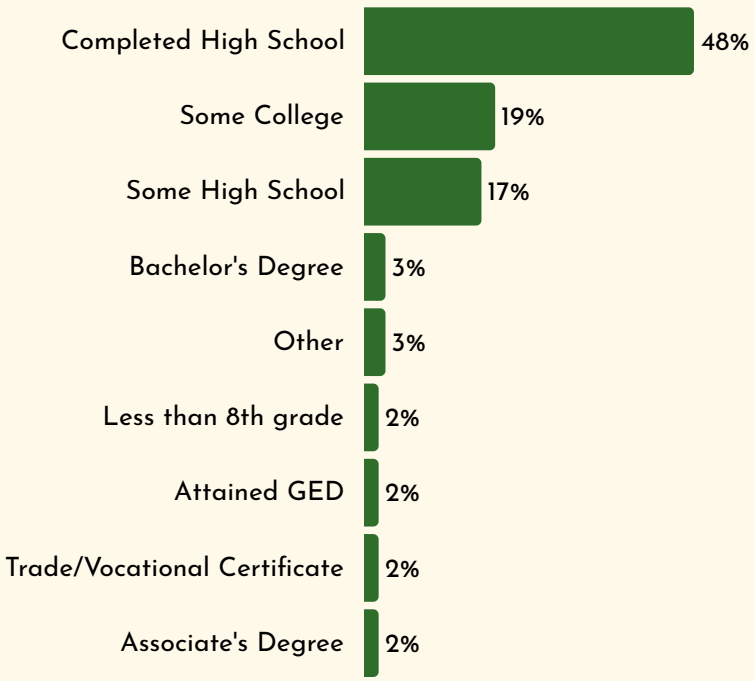
Burglarized	Robbed	Assaulted	Other
23%	22%	30%	13%

**Respondents reported being victimized by at least one crime*

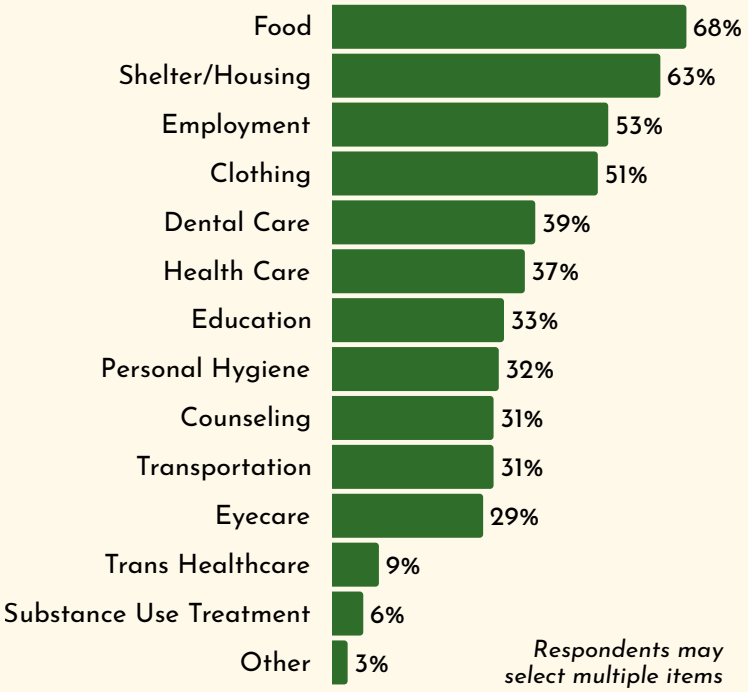
KEY YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS

Employed	Expect Stable Housing	Juvenile Justice History	Stay in SF Year-Round	Exchanged Sex/ Drugs for Housing	Unsafe Living Situation
45%	79%	19%	91%	28%	26%

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION
88 responses



CURRENT NEEDS
87 responses



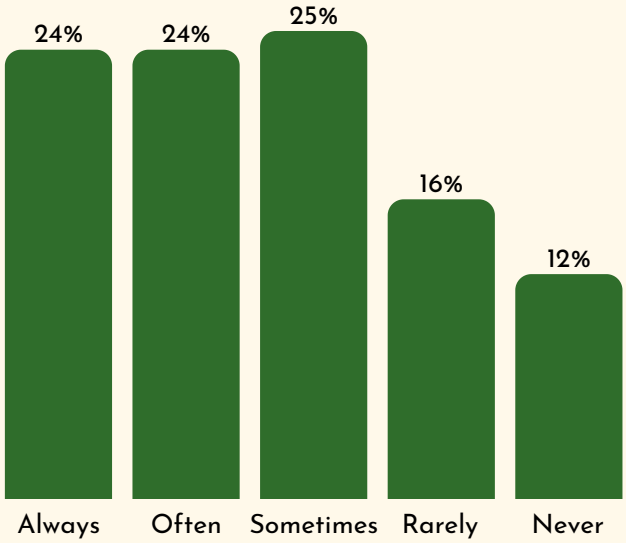
Respondents may select multiple items

SAN FRANCISCO
2026 PIT YOUTH ADDENDUM SURVEY RESULTS

Results are from 103 surveys with youth experiencing homelessness

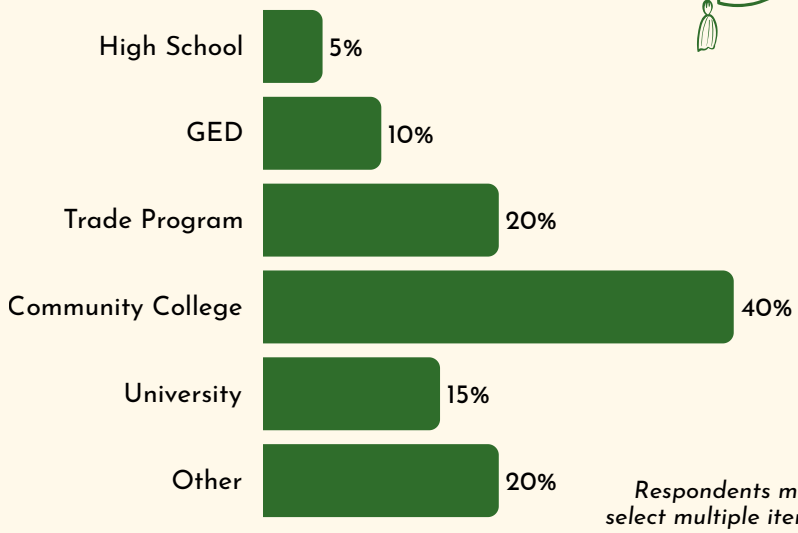
FREQUENCY OF YOUTH SERVICES USAGE

90 responses



CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

40 responses



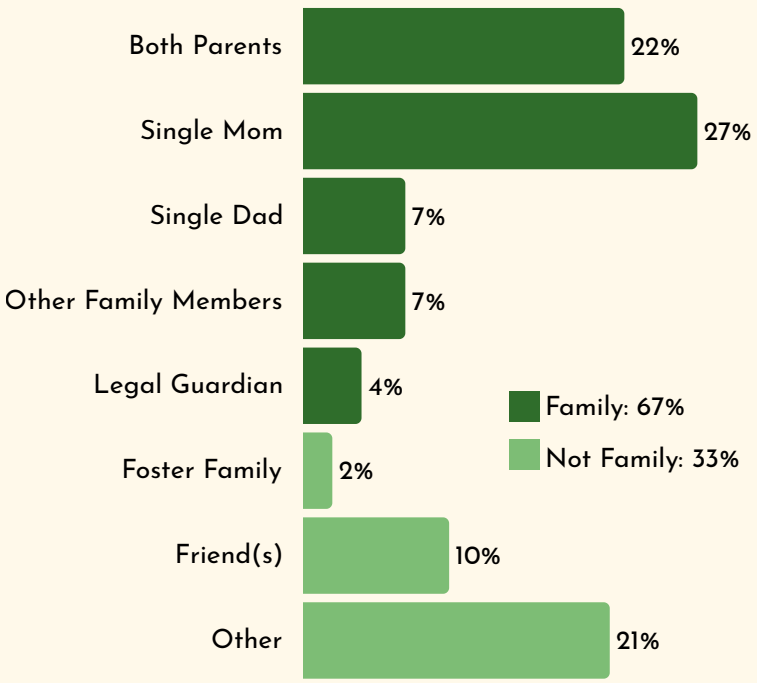
Respondents may select multiple items

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Never Contact Family	Tried Living with Family	Homeless Parents	Stay with Same People	Have Supportive Adult
14%	**23%**	**16%**	**48%**	**57%**

LIVING SITUATION PRIOR TO HOMELESSNESS

90 responses

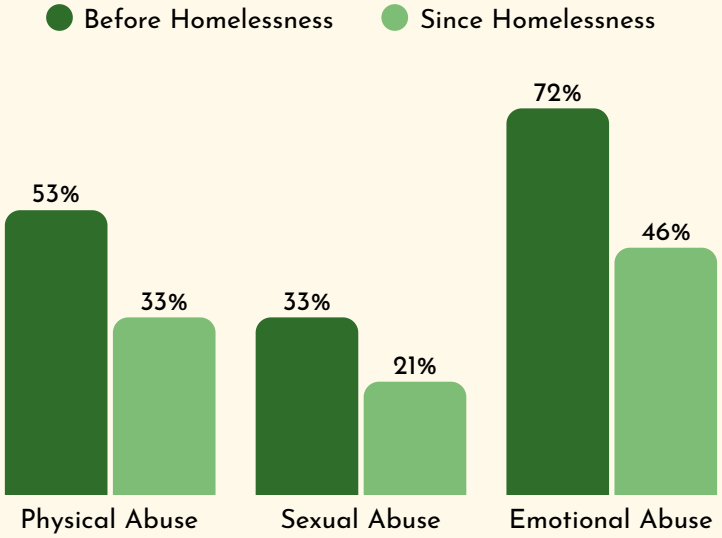


PHYSICAL HEALTH

87 responses

Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor
26%	**41%**	**28%**	**5%**

ABUSE EXPERIENCES



APPENDIX A: COUNT METHODOLOGIES

Sheltered count

Per HUD guidance, the sheltered count included people who, on the night of January 28, 2026, were residing in publicly or privately operated shelters across San Francisco that were designated to provide temporary living arrangements for people experiencing homelessness. These facilities include emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe haven facilities (no safe haven facilities were operating in San Francisco the night of the count).

The majority of data for the sheltered count was pulled from the ONE System, San Francisco's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). For the small number of shelter programs that do not maintain client information in the ONE System, program staff submitted aggregate data via an online form administered by HSH. Prior to finalizing the count, HSH staff reviewed ONE System and form data to identify inconsistent or potentially erroneous data entry and worked with service providers to make corrections. HSH staff then used HUD's 2024 Point-in-Time Count Extrapolation Tool to extrapolate any remaining missing demographic information.

Unsheltered count

The unsheltered count was a community-wide canvass during the morning of January 29, 2026 concentrated between the hours of 5AM and 10AM. Survey teams were assigned to coverage areas spanning the entire geography of San Francisco. Assignments took into account surveyors' preferences and familiarity with specific neighborhoods, including work in those areas as outreach workers or community-based service providers. In areas where people experiencing homelessness were most likely to be encountered, assigned geographies were smaller to allow for sufficient coverage. In addition, in the seven days after the count, HSH conducted limited counts in locations that required additional attention.

This year, San Francisco used a survey-first methodology to maximize direct engagement with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Surveyors completed full interviews when possible, collecting more demographic and household information than would be available through observational counts alone.

When direct engagement was declined, infeasible, or unsafe, surveyors made observational tallies instead. They also tallied vehicles and makeshift shelters that showed indicators of use as temporary living situations. When possible, these tallies were matched to the known vehicles and tents of unsheltered households with information available in the ONE System to create survey-equivalent records. Otherwise, Simtech Solutions, Inc's PIT Count Report Generation Tool applied locally derived weighting factors to estimate the number of people in each vehicle or makeshift shelter. Additional information about post-count HMIS data matching and the methodology for weighting factors are provided in subsequent sections.

Surveyors used Simtech Solutions Inc.'s Counting Us mobile application to navigate assigned areas and collect observations and survey responses in standard formats. The application supported real-time submission monitoring to ensure all geographic areas were covered.

Surveyors directly interviewed 373 people on January 29, 2026, and subsequent matching to client records in the ONE System increased the number of people with available demographic information to 796, representing more than 20% of the estimated unsheltered population.

For unsheltered people who were not directly interviewed or connected to existing administrative data, client characteristics were estimated based on information collected from others in similar living situations. Households living in large vehicles were analyzed separately from the rest of the unsheltered population because they were highly represented in administrative data and more likely to have different characteristics than the general unsheltered population.

Surveyor recruitment and training

This year's methodology placed an increased emphasis on direct engagement with people experiencing homelessness. Accordingly, recruitment of surveyors for the unsheltered count focused on City-contracted outreach teams, service providers, City staff, and people with lived experience of homelessness. In total, almost 700 people registered as surveyors for the unsheltered count.

Surveyors attended an hour-long online webinar to receive training on count tools and methods. In advance of the count, they were directed to review a resource page featuring the surveyor field guide, instructions for using Counting Us, how-to videos, and training materials. The page also offered education about cultural humility, compassionate listening, and trauma-informed interviewing. The morning of the event, surveyors had an opportunity to ask final questions and were equipped with field guides, maps, and small care packages to distribute as incentives to people who engaged in the survey.

Survey administration

During the unsheltered count, surveyors invited people who appeared to be unsheltered to participate in a survey unless engagement was unsafe or impossible due to logistical or time constraints. Prior to administering any survey, interviewers explained its purpose and that participation was voluntary and confidential and would not affect eligibility for services. Participants were encouraged to be candid and assured that they could skip questions for any reason. Survey participants received small packages of hygiene supplies or snacks as a sign of appreciation.

Surveyors used the Simtech Solutions Inc.'s Counting Us mobile application to conduct 373 surveys. Data on an additional 423 people staying in vehicles and and tents was derived from the ONE System. Survey responses and data from the the ONE System were used to extrapolate characteristics for the observation-only portion of the unsheltered population.

In addition to collecting demographic and household characteristics for federal reporting, San Francisco collects community survey questions during the PIT Count process to better understand the experiences and needs of people experiencing homelessness. These addition questions are provided for local analysis and not submitted to HUD.

Community survey questions were administered during the unsheltered PIT Count survey. These community survey questions were also administered in the weeks following the count to people staying in shelters or transitional housing programs and large vehicle residents. Surveys post-count were administered by case managers using the ONE System. Because client demographics, homelessness history, and other characteristics were already available in ONE System client records, these questions did not need to be asked again.

HSH partnered with 25 homeless service programs to administer community survey questions post-count. Programs were identified to participate based on the size and subpopulations served to achieve broad representation of the homeless population. A total of 878 unique clients were asked community survey questions through this process in addition to the surveys conducted during the unsheltered count.

In both the unsheltered and sheltered surveys, supplemental survey questions focused on the experiences of youth aged 18-24. Due to the extent and sensitivity of youth survey questions, the youth surveys were not administered by general surveyors. Instead, these surveys were administered only by youth with lived experience of homelessness recruited for this purpose or by surveyors with specialized experience working with youth experiencing homelessness. Youth survey participants were offered a $25 gift card in recognition of the survey's additional questions. A total of 103 unique youth aged 18-24 completed the youth survey addendum.

Post-count HMIS data matching

HSH used existing ONE System records to support reporting on unsheltered families and individuals living in large vehicles. This post-count data matching allowed for improved data completeness and integrity without asking people to repeat information they had already provided when accessing services.

When observing large and oversized vehicles, surveyors recorded identifying information including permit numbers from San Francisco's Large Vehicle Refuge Permit program. These permits provide temporary parking relief for people living in large vehicles while they connect to housing and services. Permit information helped HSH match vehicles observed during the count to existing client information in the ONE system.

For families experiencing unsheltered homelessness, HSH partnered with Compass Family Services and Catholic Charities to contact families known to be unsheltered within the previous 90 days. Families who confirmed their sleeping situation and location the night of the count were matched to observations by surveyors during the count where possible.

Together, these efforts allowed HSH to report detailed demographic and household information for 423 people living primarily in vehicle settings that would otherwise have been estimated through extrapolation.

Deriving estimated counts of people living in vehicles and makeshift shelters

The Counting Us Vehicle/Structure Tally feature was used to count vehicles and makeshift shelters that appear to be serving as temporary living situations.

1. An average count of people sleeping in each vehicle and makeshift shelter type is derived from survey responses to the question of "Including yourself, how many people are sleeping in this location?" That question is asked of anyone who responds to the "Where did you sleep during the night of the count?" question with any living situation that is a type of vehicle or makeshift shelter. For types of vehicles or makeshift shelters with three or fewer people surveyed, the average is instead derived from national counts across the 8 regions that used Counting Us for the 2026 count. In San Francisco, national averages were used for the "Boat" and "Other" types.

Type	Average People
Boat	1.6
Car	1.6
Makeshift shelter	1.9
Other	1.9
RV	1.8
Tent	3.25
Van	1.6

2. In adherence to HUD guidance, these structures are only included in the count estimates if the answer to the question "Please indicate whether or not the vehicle or structure appears to be actively being used or if it appears abandoned" is not "Appears Abandoned." RVs are counted if the selected answers under "Please provide details on the condition of the RV" include "Occupants do not have access to sewer, water, and electricity" and do not include "RV appears to be in good working order and is suitable for habitation."

3. The averages derived in step 1 are multiplied by the counts from step 2 to derive an estimated total count of persons per vehicle or makeshift shelter type.

4. The estimates for each vehicle and structure type are added together to create a total estimated count of people living in vehicle or makeshift shelter.

Methodology changes

The 2026 PIT Count introduced several changes to improve the collection of information about people experiencing homelessness, reduce duplicate counting, and make greater use of existing client information.

Early Morning Count and Survey-Based Approach: Unlike prior counts, which primarily relied on visual observations conducted during late evening hours, the 2026 count took place in the early morning to allow survey teams to speak directly with people experiencing homelessness. The earlier hours also provided greater visibility for surveyors and reduced potential safety concerns associated with late-night activity in certain areas.

Integration of Youth Counting Efforts: In prior years, youth-focused counting teams were deployed separately to locations that overlapped with general counting routes. Given multiple teams conducted visual observation-based counts in overlapping areas, duplicate observations were difficult to accurately identify and remove. In 2026, HSH continued to work with youth providers and young people with lived experience to identify important locations and routes, but integrated youth-focused participants into the general counting teams to reduce the risk of counting the same individual more than once.

Expanded Use of Surveys and Existing Client Records: Survey teams sought to interview people experiencing unsheltered homelessness during the count, while case managers conducted additional surveys with people in shelters and living in vehicles in the weeks following the count. HSH also used existing ONE System records to supplement demographic and household information for federal reporting, reducing the need to ask clients questions they had already answered.

Community Engagement and Counting Teams: HSH continued to work with community organizations, service providers, and City agencies to discuss street conditions, methodology changes, and considerations for difficult to count subpopulations. HSH also worked with the Local Homeless Coordinating Board to establish a subcommittee on the PIT Count and host community feedback sessions. In 2026, counting teams drew more heavily on City staff and contractors, including outreach workers, street ambassadors, community benefit district personnel, and transit agency staff. Case managers from community-based organizations played an important role in conducting post-count surveys in shelters and for people living in large vehicles.

Challenges and limitations

PIT Counts provide an important snapshot of homelessness on a single night, but no counting method can identify every person experiencing homelessness. People sleeping in vehicles, moving between locations, or sleeping in less visible places can be particularly difficult to identify.

In 2026, the shift to an early morning count introduced new considerations for identifying people experiencing homelessness. As schools, workplaces, and service centers began opening, people were more likely to be moving between locations or difficult to distinguish from other members of the public. Providers signaled concerns that families traveling to school, young people sleeping in less visible locations, and people reporting to work presented particular challenges. HSH worked with service providers to position counting teams near key service locations, but some individuals may have been missed or counted more than once as they moved between areas. HSH will continue working with providers to assess how the timing of the count may affect the visibility of different populations.

Technical difficulties also impacted the day-of operations. Some counters were unable to retrieve route assignments as planned in the mobile application, delaying deployment and resulting in the need to reassign routes the morning of the count. These challenges highlighted opportunities to extend planning timelines, strengthen testing and training, and ensure backup procedures for future counts.

Changes in methods and the increased use of administrative records may also impact comparisons between years, particularly for demographic and client characteristics. Although HSH sought to collect information from a broad range of people experiencing homelessness, survey participants do not constitute a fully random or representative sample.

For these reasons, changes in PIT Count findings should be interpreted with consideration of methodological differences between years and alongside other sources of information, including administrative data from the ONE System.

APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

The Point-in-Time Count is a federal requirement and uses the HUD definition of homelessness. It counts only:

- Individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide a temporary living arrangement; or
- Individuals and families 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.

The PIT Count does not capture all situations of homelessness that San Francisco's homelessness response system serves. Local services support people staying in institutions such as jails, hospitals, or residential treatment facilities who were homeless before entering; people temporarily staying with friends or family or as guests in permanent supportive housing (PSH); and families living in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units or overcrowded housing.

Temporary arrangements such as couch surfing or doubling up with others are particularly difficult to identify and quantify. To provide a broader picture of homelessness in San Francisco, HSH works with City agencies and community partners to compile supplemental data on people in institutional settings and other indicators of homelessness among families. These figures provide additional context but do not represent a comprehensive count of people experiencing homelessness outside the PIT Count

Supplemental shelter count

HSH conducted a supplemental count of people experiencing homelessness who, on the night of the count, were residing in temporary settings not included in the official Point-in-Time Count, such as jails, hospitals, and residential treatment facilities. An estimated 1,454 additional people were homeless at the time they entered these settings. Although they were not included in the PIT Count per HUD definitions, they will likely qualify for homeless services upon exit.

Measure	2019	2022	2024	2026
All persons	1,773	1,238	980	1,454
Persons in adult or minor-only households	1,748	1,172	919	1,364
Family households	11	36	25	39
Persons in family households	25	66	66	90

Almost 500 more people were counted in 2026 than in 2024. This is likely due in part to increased capacity in these settings to serve people experiencing homelessness and also because HSH received a higher response rate to the survey than in prior years.

A total of 49 hospitals, residential treatment centers, and other overnight programs responded to HSH's online form, an increase from the 39 hospitals and overnight programs which responded in 2024. As a result, 926 people were counted in these programs, a 45% increase from the 510 counted in 2024.

There were 528 inmates in San Francisco County jails identified as otherwise homeless on the night of the 2026 PIT Count. This represents a 12% increase from the 470 homeless inmates identified in 2024.

The following types of facilities were surveyed for the supplemental shelter count:

- **Hospitals:** Under the coordination of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, staff from individual hospitals collected the number of persons who were self-identified as homeless in their facilities on the night of January 28, 2026. These counts exclude people in inpatient mental health units, who are counted in residential treatment facilities.
- **Overnight programs:** The San Francisco Department of Public Health and local agencies assisted in collecting counts of self-identified homeless persons staying in residential treatment centers and other overnight programs not specifically designated for homeless persons (such as mental health facilities, acute crisis or treatment centers, or detox facilities) on the night of January 28, 2026.
- **Jail:** The San Francisco Sheriff's Office provided data on inmates in county jail on the night of January 28, 2026, and the number experiencing homelessness at the time of arrest.

These methods have important limitations. While multiple attempts are made to contact each facility, survey responses are optional and the results are not exhaustive. As most of these programs are not funded by HUD and are not exclusively or explicitly dedicated to serving homeless individuals, providers may not identify the homeless status of patients and clients at entry in a manner consistent with HUD or San Francisco definitions.

Data from San Francisco Unified School District

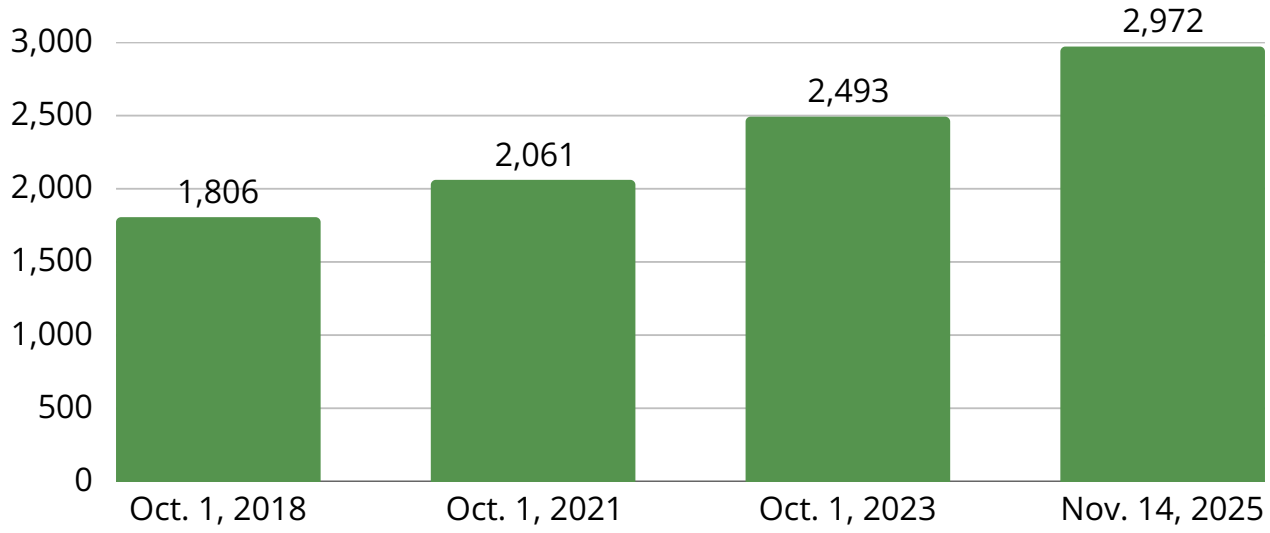
In addition to the supplemental shelter count, HSH considers data from local schools. The US Department of Education requires that school districts receiving McKinney-Vento funds report on homeless students that "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." This definition is more expansive than the HUD definition and may include families that are "doubled-up" or living in motels/hotels.

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) collects information on an ongoing basis throughout the school year for McKinney-Vento Act compliance.

Figures presented here reflect data as of the beginning of the school year (November 14th in 2025 and October 1st of each prior year). Though these figures may count some children who are also included in official PIT Count figures, this serves as an important source of information and a key indicator of progress on reducing family homelessness.

SFUSD Students Experiencing Homelessness

McKinney-Vento Act Definition



Families in SRO units or doubled up

San Francisco uses a broader definition than the federal government of homeless living situations for families with minor children. Locally, families are considered to be experiencing homelessness if they live in single room occupancy (SRO) housing or in overcrowded housing with one or more additional households. Data on families in these situations is challenging to collect comprehensively and for a given night.

In the year preceding the 2026 count, HMIS data indicates that 603 unique family households identified that they were staying in the room, apartment, or house of a friend or family member. This is a 24% increase over the 487 family households identified in this manner in the year prior to the 2024 PIT Count.

San Francisco's Coordinated Entry assessment for families asks about current living situation and offers "San Francisco Single Room Occupancy (SRO) unit" as a response option. In the year preceding the 2026 count, only one out of 931 family assessments selected this response, which may indicate that few families in this living situation are seeking services through HSH. The SRO Families United Collaborative, a partnership of five community-based organizations, reported in 2020 that 431 families lived in SROs in Chinatown, Mission, Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods.

APPENDIX C: 2026 SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Unsheltered Survey

UNSHELTERED SURVEY: SCREENER		
#	**Question**	**Response Options**
1	Have you already been interviewed today for the Point in Time Count?	Yes; No **If the client answered "Yes," the survey ended automatically.**
2	Where did you sleep last night (1/28/2026)?	Abandoned building; Under a bridge / overpass; Jail; Bus/Train station; Vehicle / RV; Motel/Hotel; Emergency shelter; Transitional housing; Outdoor encampment; House or apt — rent/own; Treatment program; Park; Hospital; Street or Sidewalk; w/ friend or family (couch surfing); Other **If the client did not respond with an unsheltered situation, the survey ended automatically.**
2a	[Conditional] What type of vehicle or structure are you sleeping in?	Car; Boat; Abandoned Building; Camper/RV; Tent; Van; Makeshift Shelter; Other
2c	[Conditional] Including yourself, how many people are sleeping in this vehicle or structure?	[Numeric]
2d	[Conditional] If in an RV or Large Vehicle with an SFMTA LVRP Permit Number visible, please enter the Permit Number.	[4 digit input — numeric, may begin with 0]
2e	Are you interested in emergency shelter?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person refuses to answer
3a	What is your first name?	[Text]
3b	What is your last name?	[Text]
3c	If hesitant, ask "What are your initials?"	[Text]

UNSHELTERED SURVEY: DEMOGRAPHICS		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
4	What gender do you identify with? (select all that apply)	[Multi-select] Woman; Man; Culturally Specific identity (e.g., Two-Spirit); Transgender; Non-Binary; Questioning; Different Identity; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
4a	[Conditional] If Different Identity, please specify	Text box
5	What is your date of birth?	[Date]; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
5a	[Conditional] If did not answer date of birth, how old are you?	[Numeric]
5b	[Conditional] If did not answer age, what age range do you fall into?	<5; 5-12; 13-17; 18-24; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65+
6	What is your race? (select all that apply)	[Multi-select] American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous (Specify Tribe optional); Asian or Asian American; Black, African American, or African; Hispanic/Latina/o; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; White; Other; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
7	Which of these options best describes your sexual orientation?	Lesbian; Gay; Bisexual; Queer; Straight; Other Identity; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
8	Have you ever been in foster care?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
9	Are you a veteran? (served in the US Armed Forces OR been called into duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist)	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer

UNSHELTERED SURVEY: HOMELESSNESS HISTORY		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
10	Is this the first time you have been homeless?	Yes; No; Person Doesn't Know; Person prefers not to answer
11	How long have you been homeless this time? Only include time you spent staying in shelters and/or on the streets.	0 to 3 months; 4 to 6 months; 7 to 11 months; 12 to 23 months; 24 to 35 months; 36 months or more
12	[Conditional to #10] How many separate times have you lived in a shelter, on the streets, or in a car in the past 12 months?	1 time; 2 times; 3 times; 4 times; 5 times; 6 or more times
13	[Conditional to #10] How many months did you stay in shelters, on the streets, or in a car over the past 3 years?	0 to 3 months; 4 to 6 months; 7 to 11 months; 12 to 23 months; 24 to 35 months; 36 months or more
14	[Conditional to #10] How many separate times have you lived in a shelter, on the streets, or in a car in the past 3 years?	Fewer than 4 times; 4 or more times; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
15	How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?	0-17 years old; 18-24 years old; 25 years or older

UNSHELTERED SURVEY: RESIDENCY		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
16	Where were you housed when you last became homeless?	San Francisco; Alameda County; Contra Costa County; Marin County; Napa County; San Mateo County; Santa Clara County; Solano County; Sonoma County; Other CA County; Other State; Other Country
16a	[Conditional] How long were you housed in San Francisco before becoming homeless most recently?	0 to 6 months; 7 to 11 months; 1-4 years; 5-9 years; 10+ years
16b	[Conditional] What was the primary reason you came to San Francisco?	Family / friends here; For a job / seeking work; LGBTQ community / acceptance; To access homeless services and/or benefits; Was traveling / visiting and remained here; Other
17	Immediately before you became homeless, where were you living?	A home owned or rented by you or your partner; Foster care; Subsidized housing or PSH; A home owned or rented by friends / relatives; Hospital or treatment facility; Juvenile justice facility; Jail or prison; Other

UNSHELTERED SURVEY: HEALTH		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
18	Do you have a Substance Use Disorder?	No; Alcohol use disorder; Drug use disorder; Both Alcohol and Drug use disorders; Person Doesn't Know; Person prefers not to answer
18a	[Conditional] If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
19	Do you have a Chronic Health Condition?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
19a	[Conditional] If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
20	Do you have a Mental Health Disorder?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
20a	[Conditional] If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
21	Do you have a Physical Disability?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
21a	[Conditional] If yes, is this a long-term disability that impairs your ability to hold a job or live independently?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
22	Do you have a Developmental Disability?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
23	Are you living with HIV or AIDS?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
24	Are you currently experiencing homelessness due to fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer; Data not collected
25	Have you ever experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer

UNSHELTERED SURVEY: JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
26	How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison in the past 12 months?	[Numeric]
27	Are you currently on probation or parole?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
28	Were you on probation or parole at the time you most recently became homeless?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
UNSHELTERED SURVEY: EMPLOYMENT		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
29	What is your current employment status?	Employed full-time; Employed part-time; Employed seasonal/sporadic; Looking for work; Unable to work; Not looking for work
29a	[Conditional] If you are unemployed, what is keeping you from employment? Select all that apply.	[Multi-select] Age; Unable to work; No phone; Disability; Health problems; Criminal record; No transportation; Alcohol/drug issue; Need education/training; Mental health issues; No work permit; No permanent address; No available work/jobs; Need clothing/showering facilities; No photo ID / social security card; Don't want to work; Other

UNSHELTERED SURVEY: SERVICES		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
30	Have you had any of the following engagements with the homelessness response system?	[Multi-select] Met with SFHOT or other homeless outreach worker; Met with an Access Point; Stayed in shelter; Assessed for housing; Person Doesn't Know / Refused
31	In the past 4 weeks have you experienced a food shortage?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
32	Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance? Select all that apply.	[Multi-select] Emergency shelter; Transitional housing; Free meals; Bus passes; Job training / employment services; Shelter day services; Legal assistance; Immigration services; Health services; Mental health services; Alcohol / drug counseling; Other; Not using any services
33	Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance? Select all that apply.	[Multi-select] General Assistance (GA) / CAAP / CAPI; Food Stamps / SNAP / WIC / CalFresh; Any VA Disability Compensation; Other Veterans benefits (GI, health); Social Security; SSI / SSDI / Disability; Medi-Cal / Medicare / Covered California; CalWorks / TANF; Child support or survivor benefits; Unemployment; Not receiving government benefits
33a	[Conditional] If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not? Select all that apply.	Don't think you are eligible; Don't have ID; No permanent address; Never applied; Benefits were cut off; Immigration issues; Paperwork too difficult; Don't know where to go; Turned down; Applied and waiting for response; Other; Don't want government assistance

Sheltered Survey

In addition to surveys administered to sheltered clients, surveys administered to unsheltered people who participated in HSH's case management program for large vehicle residents used this format. The sheltered survey was administered using the ONE System and includes fewer questions because it was supplemented by additional information available in the ONE System for enrollees in shelter and large vehicle case management programs. Information clients previously provided in the ONE System is aligned with omitted survey questions

SHELTERED SURVEY: HOMELESSNESS HISTORY		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
1	How many separate times have you lived in a shelter, on the streets, or in a car in the past 12 months?	1 time; 2 times; 3 times; 4 times; 5 times; 6 or more times
2	How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?	0-17 years old; 18-24 years old; 25 years or older

SHELTERED SURVEY: RESIDENCY		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
3	Where were you housed when you last became homeless?	San Francisco; Alameda County; Contra Costa County; Marin County; Napa County; San Mateo County; Santa Clara County; Solano County; Sonoma County; Other CA County; Other State; Other Country
3a	[Conditional] How long were you housed in San Francisco before becoming homeless most recently?	0 to 6 months; 7 to 11 months; 1-4 years; 5-9 years; 10+ years
3b	[Conditional] What was the primary reason you came to San Francisco?	Family / friends here; For a job / seeking work; LGBTQ community / acceptance; To access homeless services and/or benefits; Was traveling / visiting and remained here; Other
4	Immediately before you became homeless, where were you living?	A home owned or rented by you or your partner; Foster care; Subsidized housing or PSH; A home owned or rented by friends / relatives; Hospital or treatment facility; Juvenile justice facility; Jail or prison; Other

SHELTERED SURVEY: DEMOGRAPHICS		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
5	Have you ever been in foster care?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
SHELTERED SURVEY: JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
6	How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison in the past 12 months?	[Numeric]
7	Are you currently on probation or parole?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
8	Were you on probation or parole at the time you most recently became homeless?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
SHELTERED SURVEY: EMPLOYMENT		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
9	What is your current employment status?	Employed full-time; Employed part-time; Employed seasonal/sporadic; Looking for work; Unable to work; Not looking for work
9a	[Conditional] If you are unemployed, what is keeping you from employment? Select all that apply.	[Multi-select] Age; Unable to work; No phone; Disability; Health problems; Criminal record; No transportation; Alcohol/drug issue; Need education/training; Mental health issues; No work permit; No permanent address; No available work/jobs; Need clothing/showering facilities; No photo ID / social security card; Don't want to work; Other

SHELTERED SURVEY: SERVICES		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
10	In the past 4 weeks have you experienced a food shortage?	Yes; No; Person doesn't know; Person prefers not to answer
11	Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance? Select all that apply.	[Multi-select] Emergency shelter; Transitional housing; Free meals; Bus passes; Job training / employment services; Shelter day services; Legal assistance; Immigration services; Health services; Mental health services; Alcohol / drug counseling; Other; Not using any services
12	Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance? Select all that apply.	[Multi-select] General Assistance (GA) / CAAP / CAPI; Food Stamps / SNAP / WIC / CalFresh; Any VA Disability Compensation; Other Veterans benefits (GI, health); Social Security; SSI / SSDI / Disability; Medi-Cal / Medicare / Covered California; CalWorks / TANF; Child support or survivor benefits; Unemployment; Not receiving government benefits
12a	[Conditional] If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not? Select all that apply.	Don't think you are eligible; Don't have ID; No permanent address; Never applied; Benefits were cut off; Immigration issues; Paperwork too difficult; Don't know where to go; Turned down; Applied and waiting for response; Other; Don't want government assistance

Youth Survey Addendum

YOUTH ADDENDUM: SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
1	Does your age prevent you from receiving any of the following? (Select all that apply)	[Multi-select] Permanent housing; Employment; Emergency shelter; Transitional housing; Government assistance
2	In the past 12 months, how often have you accessed youth specific services?	Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Often; Always
3	Did any of the following contribute to your homelessness? (Select all that apply)	[Multi-select] Emotional abuse; Physical abuse; Sexual abuse; Addiction; Mental health issues; School issues; Pregnancy; Gender identity/expression; Legal issues; Financial issues; Fight or conflict with parents/guardians; Parent/guardian moved or relocated; Parent/guardian became ill or died; Gang violence/activity; Other
4	What are your current needs? (Select all that apply)	[Multi-select] Food; Clothing; Personal hygiene; Education; Health care; Dental care; Eyecare; Trans Healthcare; Shelter/Housing; Transportation; Job Training/Employment; Substance use treatment; Counseling/Mental health care; Other
5	Have you recently experienced any of the following issues trying to get help or access services in the community? (Select all that apply)	[Multi-select] Lack of transportation; Did not have an ID or personal document; Did not know where to go for help; Did not qualify for the service I wanted; Did not follow through or return for services; Language barrier; Could not access/find services for people my age; I have not experienced any issues; Did not have chosen name/gender reflected in ID/personal documents; Some other reason

YOUTH ADDENDUM: EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
6	Are you enrolled in school or an education/training program?	High school; GED certificate program; Trade/technical/vocation program; Community college; Four year college or university; Other
7	What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Less than 8th grade; Some high school; Completed high school (diploma); Attained an Associate's Degree; Attained a Bachelor's Degree; Attained a GED; Attained a trade/vocational certificate; Completed some college courses; Other
8	Do you currently have a job, paid internship or other type of employment?	Yes; No
YOUTH ADDENDUM: HOUSING		
#	**Question**	**Responses**
9	Do you expect to have stable housing in the next 12 months?	Yes; No
10	Before becoming homeless, did you live with:	Both parents; Single mom; Single dad; Step parent(s); Other family members; Friend(s); Foster family; Juvenile hall or other institution; Group Home; Legal guardian; Roommates; Other
11	How often do you have contact with your parents or other family members?	At least once a week; A few times a month; A couple times a year; Once every few years; Never
12	Are your parents currently homeless?	No; Yes, Mother; Yes, Father; Yes, Mother and Father
13	Have you tried to move back in with your parents/family?	Yes; No
14	How many nights in the past 2 weeks have you stayed in the homes of friends/family?	[Numeric]
15	Do you usually stay with the same person/people?	Yes; No

YOUTH ADDENDUM: HEALTH AND SAFETY		
#	Question	Responses
16	How safe do you feel in your current living situation?	Very safe; Pretty safe; A little unsafe; Very unsafe
17	How many times in the past 30 days has your safety been threatened?	[Numeric]
18	How would you rate your general physical health?	Very good; Good; Acceptable; Poor; Very poor
19a	Since becoming homeless, how often do you experience Physical abuse?	Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Very often; Always
19b	Since becoming homeless, how often do you experience Sexual abuse?	Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Very often; Always
19c	Since becoming homeless, how often do you experience Emotional abuse?	Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Very often; Always
20a	Before becoming homeless, how often did you experience Physical abuse?	Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Very often; Always
20b	Before becoming homeless, how often did you experience Sexual abuse?	Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Very often; Always
20c	Before becoming homeless, how often did you experience Emotional abuse?	Never; Rarely; Sometimes; Very often; Always
21	In the past 12 months, have you been…	[Multi-select] Burglarized (having someone break into your space or take your property); Robbed (having something taken by threat of violence); Assaulted or physically attacked; Victim of other crime
22	Before you were 18, were you involved in the justice system?	Yes; No
23	Do you stay in this County year round?	Yes; No
24	If no, what is the primary reason you leave the County?	[Text]
25	Have you traded sex and/or drugs for a place to stay?	[Multi-select] Sex; Drugs; Neither
26	Do you have a supportive adult in the Bay Area?	Yes; No