



Point in Time Count Trends and Analysis — Homelessness and Disparity in San Joaquin County

An analysis of Point in Time Count data from 2017 to 2022 indicates a plateau in the number of homeless counted, and reveals disparities among certain demographic groups.

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Background

This report examines the Point in Time Counts of Homeless Persons conducted by the San Joaquin Continuum of Care in 2017 through 2022 in San Joaquin County. This analysis identifies meaningful trends, disparities that impact certain groups and subpopulations, and conclusions that can help our community better understand the Point in Time Counts and what they tell us about local homelessness. This information is intended to help us make better decisions in how we address homelessness as a community.

Executive Summary

Any analysis of the Point in Time Counts in 2021 and 2022 must acknowledge the dramatic impacts of COVID-19 and the public health emergency it created. Any interpretation of the numbers from 2021 and 2022 must account for this unique impact.

According to recent Point in Time Counts of the Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless in San Joaquin County, the number of people experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County peaked in 2019, and slightly declined between the counts in 2019 and 2022.

It is possible that this decline represents a true decrease in homelessness in San Joaquin County, as homelessness prevention efforts were significantly increased during 2020 and 2021. However, this reported decline could also be due to extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to: the impacts of COVID-19 reducing the number of volunteers and therefore impairing the effectiveness of the 2022 Point in Time Count, the impacts of COVID-19 continuing to drive people away from shelters and congregate environments, the count's reduced focus on outlying areas of the county that were more intensely surveyed in 2019, and the dispersal of several encampments prior to the 2022 count.

Regardless of the reasons for this decrease, the data clearly illustrate that homelessness remains a significant problem in San Joaquin County. But not all populations are equally impacted by homelessness.

The rate of "chronic homelessness" among the unsheltered population appears to be rising, echoing findings of the 2021 analysis. This suggests that individuals who are on the streets face more barriers than ever to escaping homelessness.

Homelessness impacts those who identify as Black more dramatically than any other racial or ethnic population in San Joaquin County. While only 8.3% of the county's population is Black, 26% of those in emergency shelters and transitional housing are Black, and 20% of those living on the street are Black.

Homelessness also has a huge impact on children: 34% of all Sheltered Homeless persons in the county are younger than 18. Homeless children are almost always found in households that include an adult caretaker. Nearly all homeless children are located in shelters and transitional housing and not on the streets. But the dire circumstances faced by children living in places not meant for human habitation demands that resources be readily available even if the number of children living on the streets is small.

Homelessness also has a disparate impact on single men, and on women-headed families. Men make up the majority of households who are both Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless, but an estimated 77% of all homeless households with children are headed by women indicating that women with children are a significant proportion of San Joaquin County's homeless population.

Military veterans are also slightly more likely to be homeless than their non-military counterparts.

Conclusion

The trends and disparities revealed by the past six Point-in-Time Counts should inform the response to homelessness in San Joaquin County. The San Joaquin Community Response to Homelessness Strategic Plan already envisions many of these responses, including:

- Expand homelessness prevention. Data from the 2022 Point-in-Time Counts and System Performance Report scorecards indicate a decline in overall homelessness and first-time homelessness that coincides with significant investment in homelessness prevention thanks to federal responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. While this correlation does not prove causation, homelessness prevention is a widely recognized, cost-effective strategy to reducing homelessness by preventing households from ending up in shelters and on the streets. ([Strategic Plan page 44](#))
- Expand permanent housing. Housing ends homelessness. Creating new permanent housing allows homeless persons to move out of shelters and off the streets into long-term stability. Current permanent supportive housing projects demonstrate superior success rates, but additional new permanent supportive housing capacity is needed to address the rising rate of chronic homelessness. Shelters and Coordinated Entry will only be effective if they are paired with exits to housing, and permanent housing projects provide those exits. ([Strategic Plan page 49](#))
- Expand emergency shelter. Low-barrier shelter space will create more capacity to bring unsheltered homeless persons indoors. To be effective, these shelters must be attractive to those on the streets and must meet their needs, so it is imperative that any new shelter space be community-oriented and accommodate pets, partners, possessions, and privacy. ([Strategic Plan page 41](#))
- Provide long-term support for those entering housing. Those who are homeless need long-term support in order to become successfully housed and avoid returns to homelessness. This support includes extended case management and long-term rent subsidy. ([Strategic Plan page 53](#))

In addition to the actions outlined by the Strategic Plan, this report also indicates that action should be taken to address inequity within San Joaquin County, including:

- Create responses to subpopulations that experience disparity in homelessness. Families with children that are headed by women, single men, Black persons, and military veterans are disproportionately likely to be homeless in San Joaquin County. Projects that address homelessness should be designed to provide support to these subpopulations, emphasizing equity, inclusion, cultural competency, and breaking barriers.

No single action or effort will make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. But the data in this examination of PIT Count data supports the conclusion that the broad variety of actions and approaches described by the San Joaquin Community Response to Homelessness Strategic Plan will address the unique and varied nature of our community's homeless population, and will have a positive and noticeable impact on homelessness in San Joaquin County.

Data and Analysis

Overall Number of Homeless Persons Counted

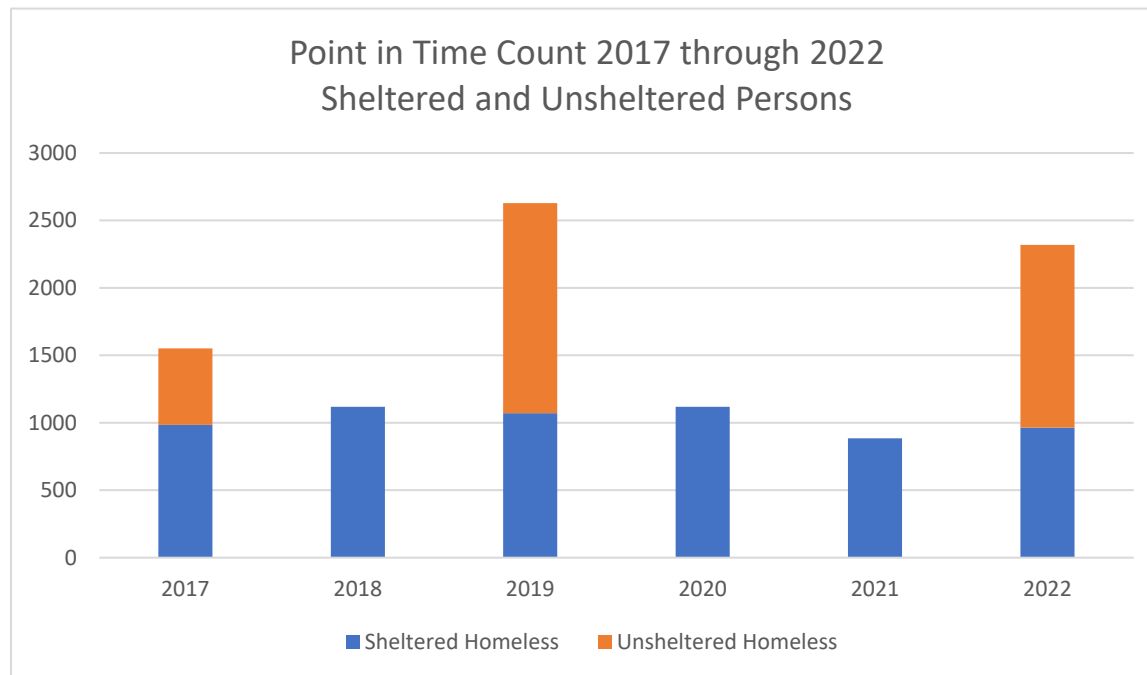


Figure 1.1

Underlying Data — Sheltered and Unsheltered PIT Counts

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Sheltered Count | 985 | 1,118 | 1,071 | 1,119 | 885 | 964 |
| Unsheltered Count | 567 | NA | 1,558 | NA | NA | 1,355 |
| Total Count | 1,552 | 1,118 | 2,629 | 1,119 | 885 | 2,319 |

Figure 1.2

Analysis — Overall Number of Homeless Persons Counted

Available data points indicate that the overall number of persons experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County peaked in 2019, and has declined since that peak. The number of unsheltered homeless people in San Joaquin County climbed significantly from 2017 to 2019, but dropped 13% between 2019 and 2022.

This could be due to a number of reasons:

The true number of homeless persons could have been reduced by increased intervention, including the development of more permanent housing units, more shelter beds, more transitional housing, and increased homelessness prevention efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the 2019 count, San Joaquin County, the San Joaquin Continuum of Care, and the City of Stockton have dedicated a

significant amount of federally- and state-funded resourced toward building permanent housing, expanding rapid re-housing, constructing new beds of emergency shelter, and investing in homelessness prevention (which was a significant part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and 2022).

Prevention efforts have likely had a significant impact on homelessness in 2022. In San Joaquin County the number of “first time homeless” who were enrolled in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program decreased by 33.98% from FY2018 – 2019 to FY2019 –2020, and by 9.9% from FY2019 – 2020 to FY2020 – 2021. It is likely that those gains held or continued into early 2022, as homelessness prevention efforts funded by the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan were still in effect throughout San Joaquin County into early 2022.

Future counts should be impacted even more by the expansion of emergency shelter beds in Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, and Tracy, as well as the development of more permanent housing in Stockton and the expansion of rapid re-housing throughout San Joaquin County.

There are also extenuating circumstances that could have reduced the number of unsheltered persons counted and produced a significant “under-count”:

The impacts of COVID-19 (specifically a surge during the count period in 2022) made it more difficult to identify unsheltered persons and convinced more people to avoid emergency shelters during that time period. A spike in the Omicron variant coincided with the conduct of the 2022 Point in Time Count, which may have driven people away from emergency shelters and negatively impacted the ability of count organizers to conduct a count that was as robust as the effort in 2019.

The unsheltered count in 2022 did not cover all areas of San Joaquin County to the same extent as the 2019 count, and so it is prudent to assume the 2022 count is an under-representation of the true number of unsheltered homeless individuals in the county. Extrapolation from the 2019 count suggests an additional 118 people would have expected to be counted in those “under-counted” areas, which would have produced a 2022 unsheltered count of 1,473 persons — which is significantly closer to the 2019 number.

Regardless of the reasons for the decrease in unsheltered persons counted between 2019 and 2022, the reported decrease in the number of homeless people counted appears to contradict the “eye test” of many residents; homelessness seems to be more visible in 2022 than in 2019.

In addition to the potential that there was in fact an increase in unsheltered homeless that is not reflected in the 2022 count, there are factors that could make homelessness to appear more prevalent than it actually is. That could include the disbandment of several large unsheltered homeless encampments. These encampments had concentrated unsheltered persons around a few locations, particularly in Stockton. The disbandment of these encampments may have led homeless individuals to disperse encampments over a wider area, leading to increased visibility of unsheltered homelessness without increasing the overall number of people who are homeless.

It should be noted that the sheltered portion of the 2022 Point in Time Count is less impacted by differences in methodology and data-gathering than the unsheltered count, as it is taken from the Homeless Management Information System. The drop in the number of sheltered homeless between 2020 and 2021 is mostly attributable to the impacts of COVID-19. An increase from 2021 to 2022 in the number of sheltered homeless from 2021 to 2022 can be attributed to the expansion of emergency

shelter and transitional housing beds, as well as individuals beginning to return to shelters as the perception at the time was that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic had passed.

Demographics — Race

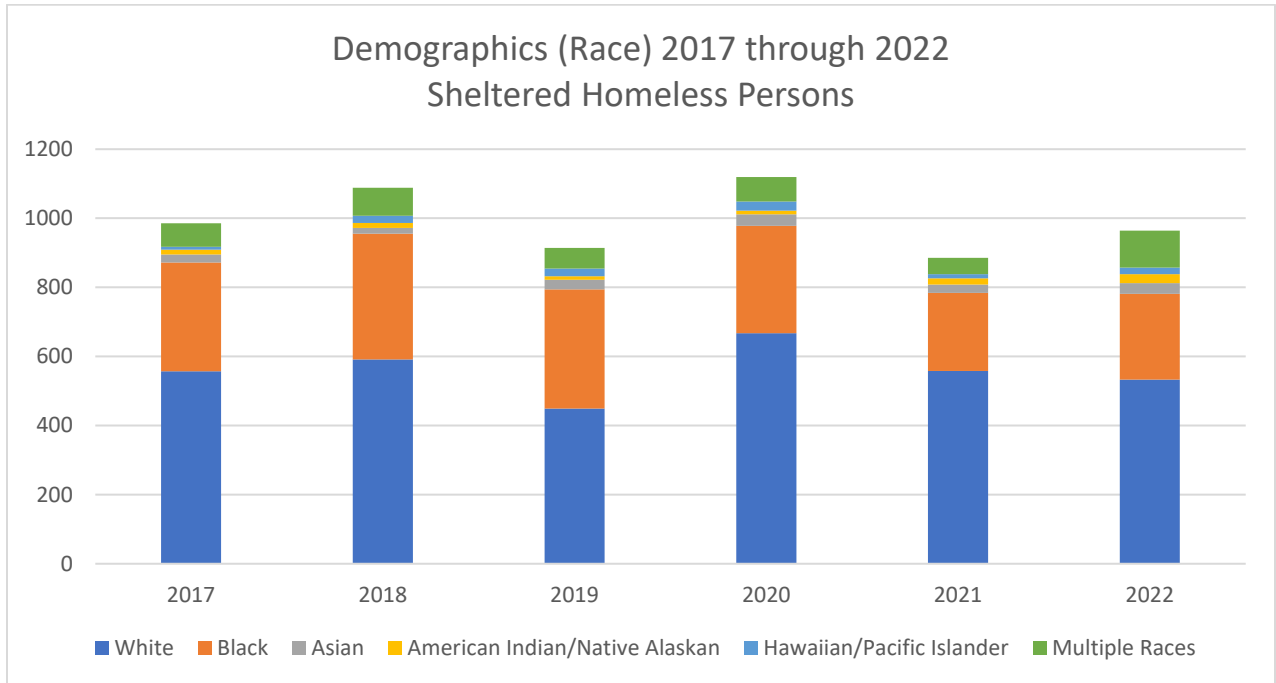


Figure 2.1

Underlying Data — Demographics – Race — Sheltered PIT Count

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| White | 63% | 59% | 42% | 60% | 63% | 55% |
| Black | 23% | 30% | 32% | 28% | 23% | 26% |
| Asian | 2% | 1% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% |
| Amer Indian/ Alaskan | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 3% |
| Hawaiian/Pac Islander | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 2% |
| Multiple Races | 7% | 6% | 6% | 6% | 5% | 11% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 0% | 1% | 19% | 0% | 0% | <1% |

Figure 2.2

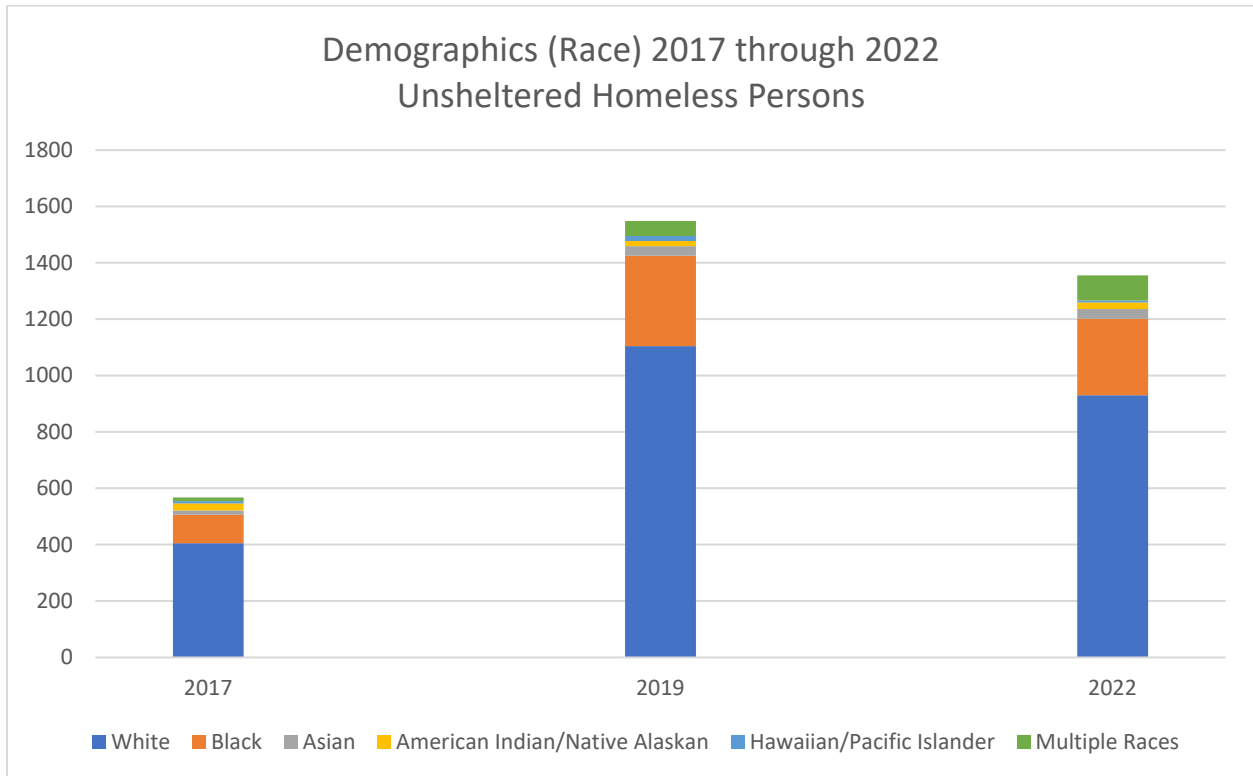


Figure 2.3

Underlying Data — Demographics – Race — Unsheltered PiT Count

| | 2017* | 2019* | 2022 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| White | 69% | 71% | 69% |
| Black | 17% | 21% | 20% |
| Asian | 3% | 2% | 3% |
| Amer Indian/ Alaskan | 2% | 1% | 2% |
| Hawaiian/Pac Islander | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Multiple Races | 7% | 7% | 7% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Figure 2.4

**Percentages do not add to 100% because some respondents answered yes to multiple races, and multiple races was not a distinct category de-duplicated for 2017 PIT Unsheltered Count*

Population Comparison — Race

| | Percent of Total San Joaquin County Population 2021* | Percent of Sheltered Homeless Population 2022 | Percent of Unsheltered Homeless Population 2022 |
|-------|--|---|---|
| White | 66.1 | 55 | 69 |
| Black | 8.3 | 26 | 20 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----|---|
| Asian | 17.4 | 3 | 3 |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 2.1 | 3 | 2 |
| Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 0.8 | 2 | 1 |
| Multiple Races | 5.5 | 11 | 7 |

Figure 2.4

**Total population percentages sourced from U.S. Census Bureau estimates July 1, 2021, (V2021)*

**2019 is used because it is the last year for which all information is available*

Analysis — Race

This data suggests racial disparity in San Joaquin County when it comes to homelessness.

Homelessness disproportionately impacts Black individuals in San Joaquin County. Black individuals comprise a larger percentage of the homeless population than they do of the overall countywide population, and the difference in this disparity is the largest for any racial group in the county. Individuals in San Joaquin County who are Black are more likely to experience homelessness than individuals of any other racial group, when judged by percentage of the population. This points to the need for the community and Continuum of Care to consider racial equity in its approach to addressing homelessness, including efforts to reduce barriers to accessing resources that could prevent or end homelessness.

One bright spot related to this disparity: Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing projects seem to be responding effectively to this apparent inequity.

A higher percentage of the Sheltered Homeless population identifies as Black than the percentage of the Unsheltered Homeless population that identifies as Black. This indicates that Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing projects are not presenting significant barriers of access to this population and is acting with some degree of competence. A similar situation is evident in regards to those who report being in more than one racial group. This evidence suggests that the service providers within San Joaquin County are taking positive steps to serve those communities that are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

The majority of homeless individuals in San Joaquin County is white, although the percentage of the Sheltered Homeless population that identifies as white is lower than the overall percentage of white individuals in San Joaquin County. White individuals make up a greater percentage of the Unsheltered Homeless population compared to the overall percentage of white individuals in the County.

Homelessness also significantly impacts individuals who identify as Native American/Alaska Native, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. No indication of disparity exists for these groups, as their rates of homelessness generally mirror their percentage of the overall countywide population. Further, the relatively small number of individuals reporting in these groups makes statistical evaluation difficult.

Meanwhile, the percentage of Asian individuals experiencing homelessness is consistently and significantly less than the percentage of Asian individuals in the overall countywide population.

The presence of disparity indicates the need to consider racial equity in communitywide decision-making. The community should ensure that homeless assistance projects are accessible to individuals of all backgrounds and that these projects are culturally competent so as to address the needs of specific communities impacted by that disparity. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring projects are aware

of this apparent disparity, are actively monitoring their own rates of service to certain racial subgroups compared to the overall population, and incorporate members of these populations into their service-delivery platforms.

Note: Consistent with the universal data reporting standards of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this report separately analyzes race and ethnicity data.

Demographics — Ethnicity

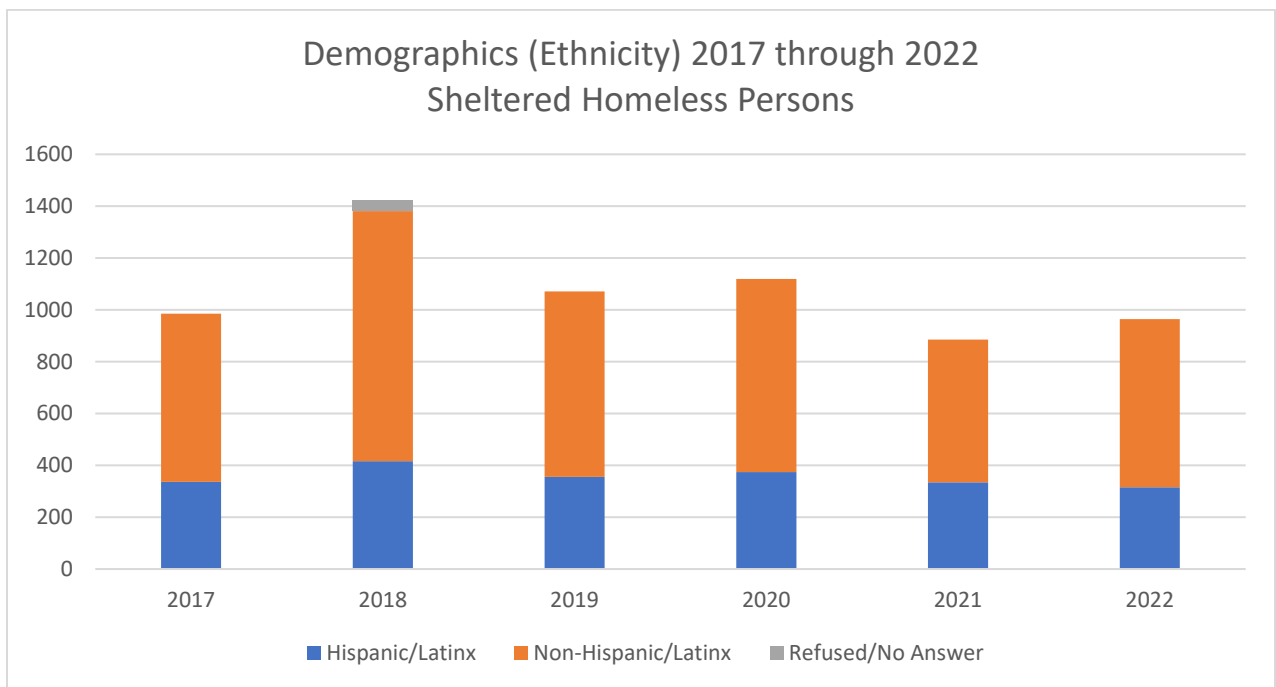


Figure 3.1

Underlying Data — Demographics – Ethnicity — Sheltered PiT Count

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Hispanic | 34% | 29% | 33% | 33% | 38% | 33% |
| Non-Hispanic | 66% | 68% | 67% | 67% | 62% | 67% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 0% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Figure 3.2

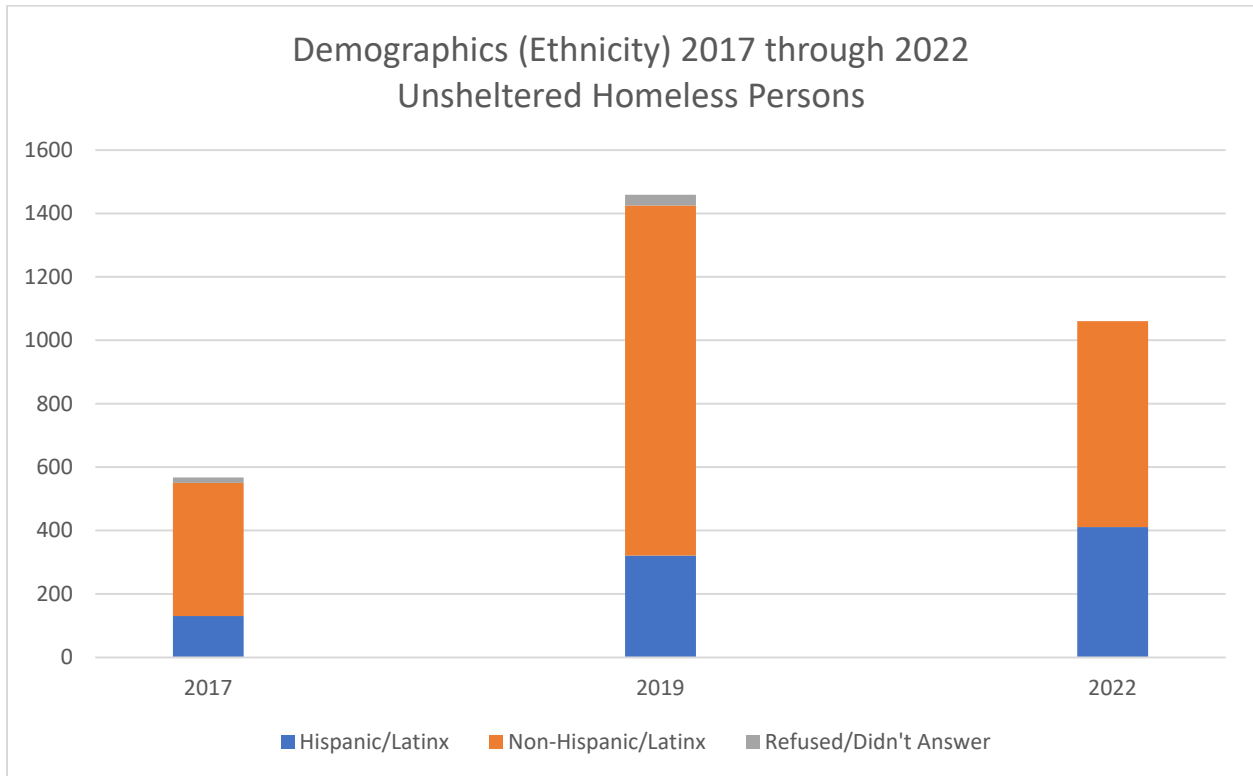


Figure 3.3

Underlying Data — Demographics – Ethnicity — Unsheltered PiT Count

| | 2017 | 2019 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Hispanic | 23% | 29% | 30% |
| Non-Hispanic | 74% | 71% | 70% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 3% | 0% | 0 |

Figure 3.4

Population Comparison — Ethnicity

| | Percent of Total San Joaquin County Population 2021* | Percent of Sheltered Homeless Population 2022 | Percent of Unsheltered Homeless Population 2022 |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| Hispanic/Latinx | 42 | 33 | 29 |
| Non-Hispanic | 58 | 67 | 71 |

Figure 3.5

*Total population percentages sourced from U.S. Census Bureau estimates July 1, 2021, (V2021)

* 2021 is used because it is the last year for which all information is available

Analysis — Ethnicity

The percentage of Hispanic individuals experiencing homelessness is significantly lower than the percentage of Hispanic individuals in the overall countywide population. Individuals in San Joaquin

County who are Hispanic are less likely to experience homelessness than individuals who are not Hispanic, when compared to their percentage of the overall population.

The percentage of the Sheltered Homeless population claiming Hispanic heritage has remained largely consistent through the six-year period documented by these Point in Time Counts. During that time period, the percentage of the Unsheltered Homeless population claiming Hispanic heritage has increased.

However, those who are Hispanic make up a smaller percentage of the homeless population than they do the overall countywide population, suggesting that homelessness has a reduced impact on those who identify as Hispanic.

Those who identify as Hispanic consistently make up about one-third of the sheltered homeless population, and slightly less than one-third of the unsheltered homeless population. There was an increase in the percentage of Hispanic individuals among the unsheltered homeless from 2017 to 2019 and again from 2019 to 2022.

Given the large Hispanic population in San Joaquin County, there remains a need for the community to ensure that homeless assistance projects are accessible to individuals of Hispanic backgrounds and that these projects are culturally competent so as to address the needs of this specific community. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring representation of persons with lived experience working in these projects, as well as providing resources to individuals who cannot easily communicate in the English.

Consistent with the universal data reporting standards of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this report separately analyzes race and ethnicity data.

Demographics — Gender

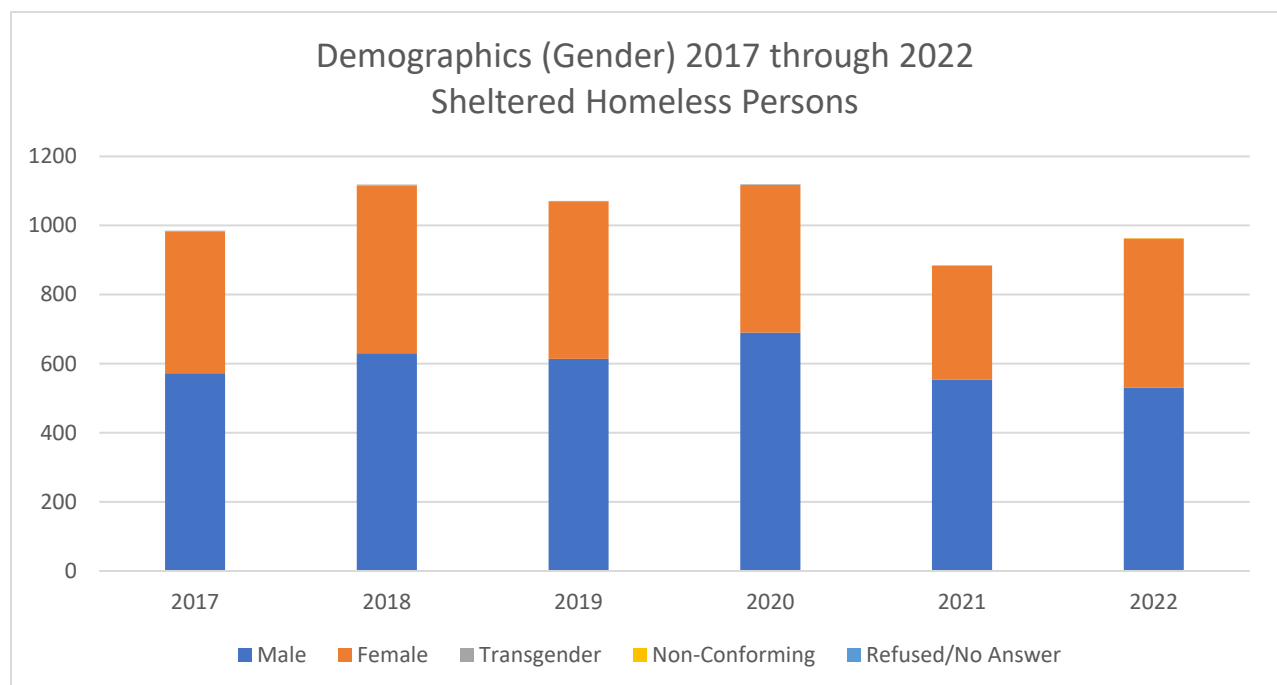


Figure 4.1

Underlying Data — Demographics – Gender — Sheltered PiT Count

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Male | 58% | 56% | 58% | 62% | 63% | 55% |
| Female | 42% | 44% | 42% | 32% | 37% | 45% |
| Transgender | <1% | <1% | <1% | <1% | 0% | 0% |
| Non-Conforming* | NA | NA | NA | 0% | <1% | <1% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Figure 4.2

* Not a category in demographics until 2020 PiT Count

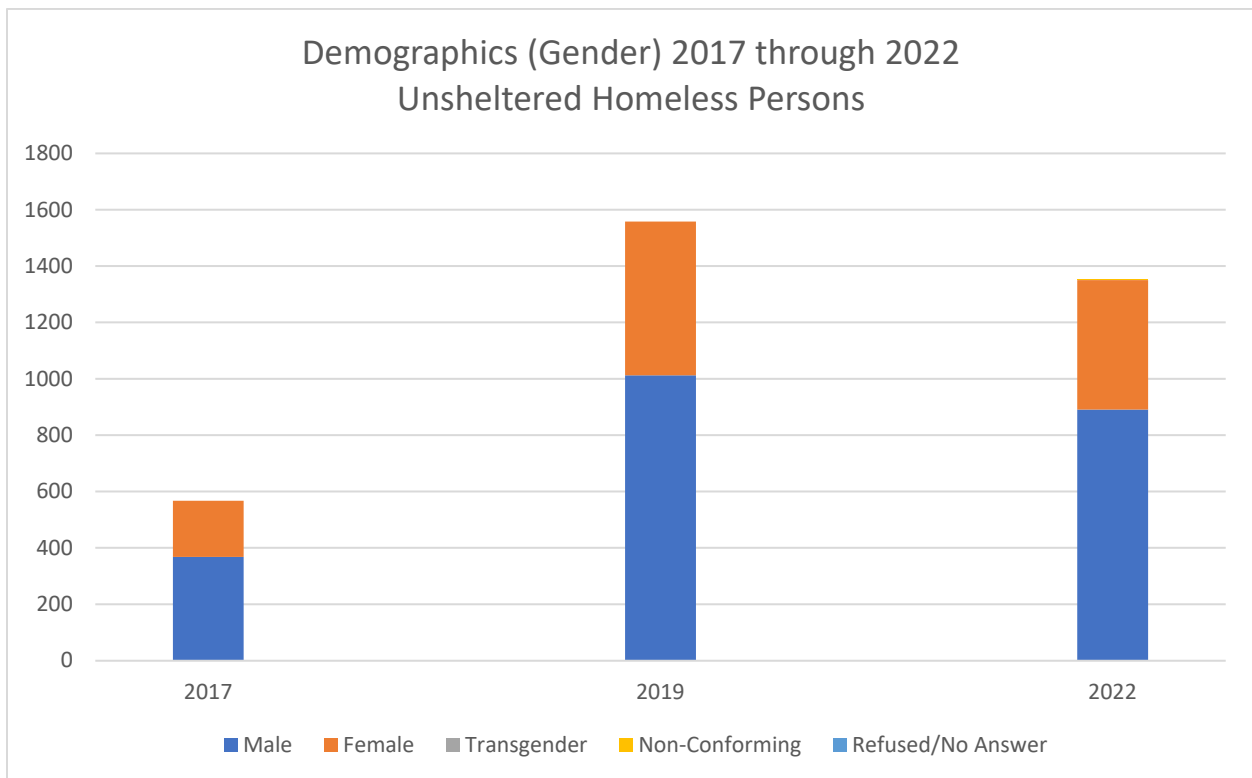


Figure 4.3

Underlying Data — Demographics – Gender — Unsheltered PiT Count

| | 2017 | 2019 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Male | 60% | 65% | 66% |
| Female | 40% | 35% | 34% |
| Transgender | 0% | 0% | <1% |
| Non-Conforming* | NA | NA | <1% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 0% | 0% | 0 |

Figure 4.4

* Not a category in demographics until 2020 PiT Count

Population Comparison — Gender

| | Percent of Total San Joaquin County Population 2021* | Percent of Sheltered Homeless Population 2022 | Percent of Unsheltered Homeless Population 2022 |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Male | 49.9% | 55% | 66% |
| Female | 50.1% | 45% | 34% |
| Transgender/Non-Conforming | Not Reported | <1% | <1% |

Figure 4.5

*Total population percentages sourced from U.S. Census Bureau estimates July 1, 2021, (V2021)

* 2021 is used because it is the last year for which all information is available

Analysis — Gender

This data indicates gender differences in San Joaquin County when it comes to homelessness.

Males are more likely to be homeless than females in San Joaquin County. The percentage of male individuals experiencing homelessness — both in unsheltered and sheltered environments — is higher than the percentage of male individuals in the overall countywide population.

However, the disparity between male and female homelessness differs between Sheltered and Unsheltered populations.

The gender profile of the Unsheltered Homeless population has remained largely consistent through the six-year period documented by these Point in Time Counts, with two-thirds of the unsheltered population being male and one-third being female (in 2022, 3 individuals reported as transgender or nonconforming).

The gender profile of the Sheltered Homeless population has fluctuated over the past 6 years. From 2017 to 2019, about 57% of those in shelters were male. But in 2020 and 2021, nearly 63% of those in shelters were male. The percentage of males in shelters dropped in 2022 to levels seen in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

However, among households with minor children, females tend to be the heads of households*.

This indicates that single males and females with minor children are over-represented in the homeless population, in comparison to the overall population of San Joaquin County. Data from sources such as the Housing Inventory Count show that the majority of emergency shelter beds in San Joaquin County serve one of these over-represented populations and that rapid re-housing projects funded by Continuum of Care dollars have targeted families with children, indicating the community has made significant data-driven investments in serving in-need subpopulations.

Transgender and Non-Conforming individuals, according to the data, do not comprise a significant percentage of San Joaquin County’s homeless population. Given this population’s vulnerability, it is still important to ensure projects and resources are able to adequately address the needs of this community.

**Source: HMIS Annual Performance Report from all emergency shelter, transitional housing, street outreach, and service-only projects on Jan. 29-30, 2019, shows 77% of adults in households with children are female.*

Demographics — Military Veteran

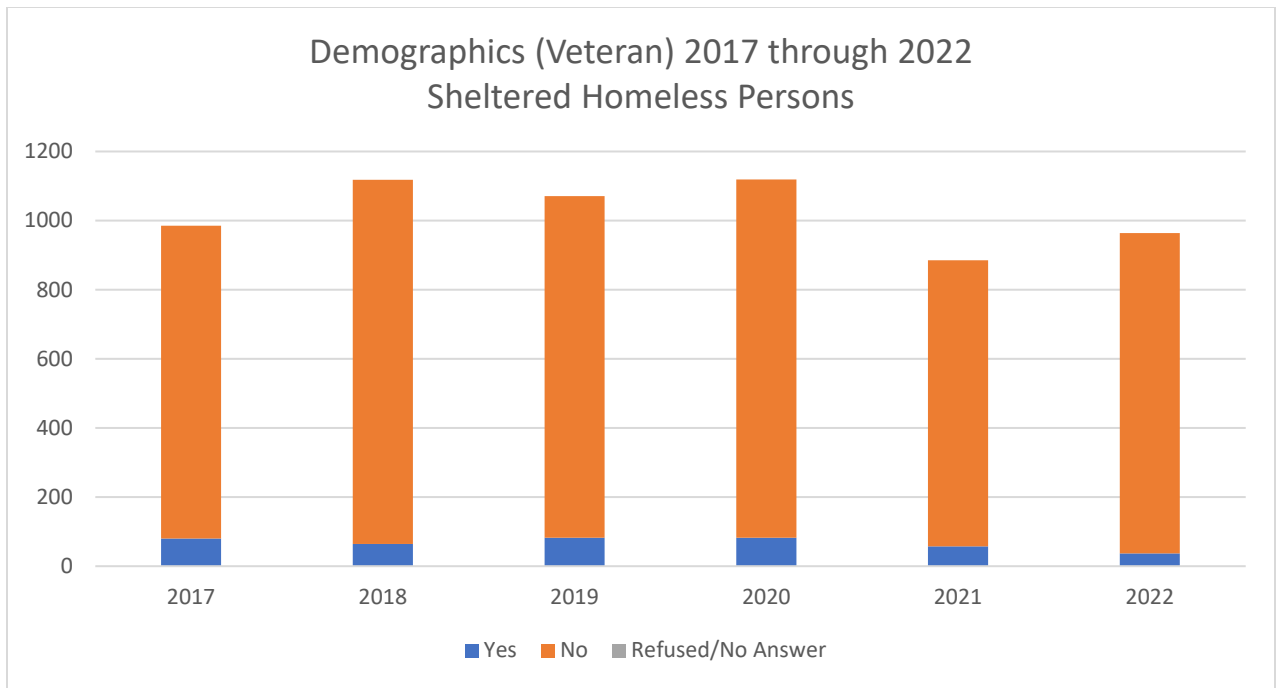


Figure 5.1

Underlying Data — Demographics – Veterans — Sheltered PiT Count

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Veteran | 8% | 6% | 8% | 7% | 6% | 4% |
| Non-Veteran | 82% | 94% | 92% | 93% | 94% | 96% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 0% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Figure 5.2

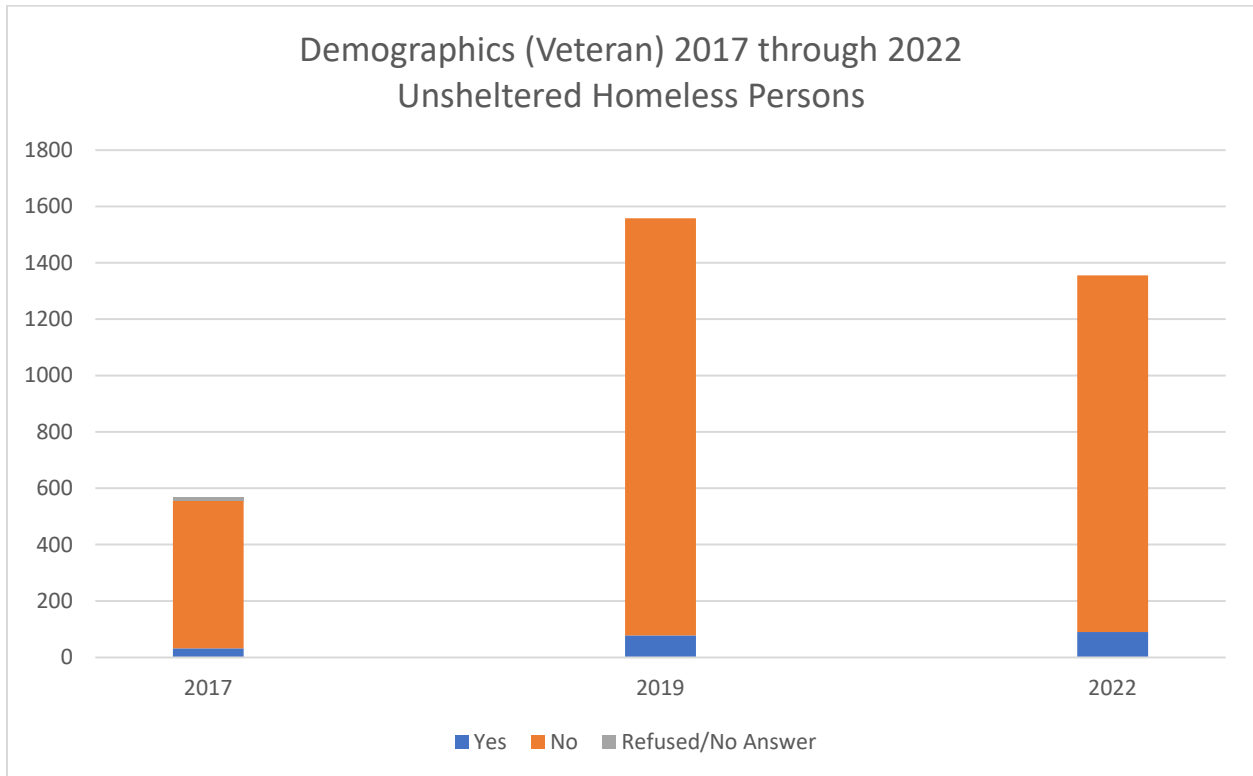


Figure 5.3

Underlying Data — Demographics – Veterans — Unsheltered PIT Count

| | 2017 | 2019 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Veteran | 6% | 5% | 7% |
| Non-Veteran | 93% | 95% | 93% |
| Refused/ No Answer | 1% | 0% | 0% |

Figure 5.4

Population Comparison — Veterans

| | Percent of Total San Joaquin County Population 2021* | Percent of Sheltered Homeless Population 2022 | Percent of Unsheltered Homeless Population 2022 |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| Veteran | 4% | 4% | 7% |
| Non-Veteran | 96% | 96% | 93% |

Figure 5.5

* 2021 is used because it is the last year for which all information is available; Calculation of military veterans in San Joaquin County is from an estimate of military veterans from 2016-2020 divided by the total county population in 2021.

Analysis — Veteran

Veterans are somewhat more likely to be homeless than non-veterans in San Joaquin County. Veterans account for 4% of those in shelters and 7% of those unsheltered on the street, and make up about 4% of the overall county population.

The percentage of Sheltered Homeless who are military veterans decreased slowly but consistently from 2019 through 2022. The percentage of the Unsheltered Homeless who are military veterans increased slightly from 2019 to 2022.

However, there are positive signs. New resources and projects specifically dedicated to assisting homeless military veterans have been prioritized, and a 48-unit veterans housing project is currently under construction.

Nearly all military veterans in San Joaquin County identify as single-person households.

Demographics — Children and Transition-Age Youth

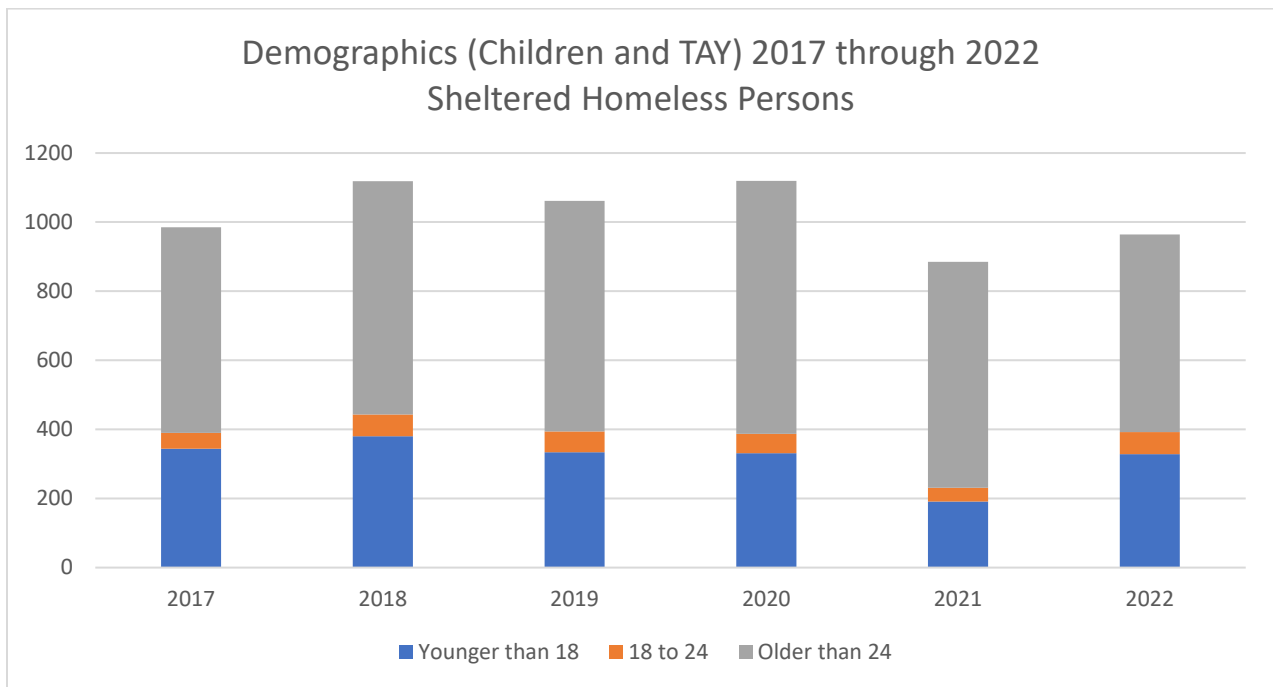


Figure 6.1

Underlying Data — Demographics – Children and Transition-Age Youth — Sheltered PiT Count

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Younger than 18 | 24% | 34% | 31% | 30% | 22% | 34% |
| 18 to 24 | 5% | 6% | 6% | 5% | 5% | 7% |
| Older than 24 | 61% | 60% | 63% | 65% | 73% | 59% |

Figure 6.2

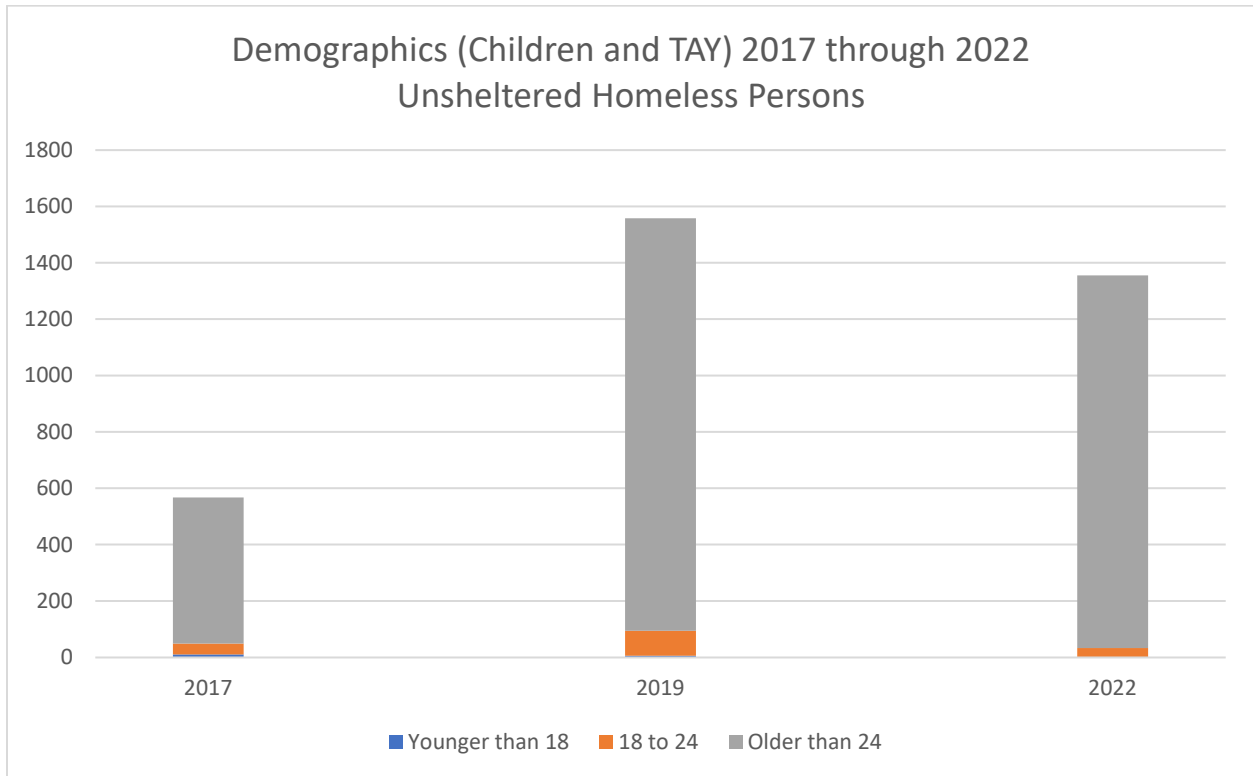


Figure 6.3

Underlying Data — Demographics – Children and Transition-Age Youth — Unsheltered PiT Count

| | 2017 | 2019 | 2022 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| Younger than 18 | 2% | <1% | <1% |
| 18 to 24 | 8% | 6% | 2% |
| Older than 24 | 90% | 94% | 97% |

Figure 6.4

Population Comparison — Children and Transition-Age Youth

| Children and TAY – Population Comparison | Percent of Total San Joaquin County Population 2021* | Percent of Sheltered Homeless Population 2022 | Percent of Unsheltered Homeless Population 2022 |
|--|--|---|---|
| Children (younger than 18) | 26.8% | 34% | <1% |
| Transition-Age Youth (18-24) | Not collected | 7% | 2% |
| Adults (older than 24) | Not collected | 59% | 97% |
| Adults (18 and older) | 73.2% | 66% | >99% |

Figure 6.5

* 2021 is used because it is the last year for which all information is available.

Analysis — Children and Transition-Age Youth

This data indicates that homelessness is a significant problem for children in San Joaquin County.

Children younger than 18 are a higher percentage of the Sheltered Homeless population than they are the overall countywide population. Minor children who are homeless are most often found in shelters and transitional housing environments, and in 2022 constituted a startling 34% of the Sheltered Homeless population.

Children who are homeless are almost always part of a household with an adult; in 2022, only 1 unaccompanied child younger than 18 was found on the streets, and only 2 unaccompanied children younger than 18 were found in transitional housing or shelters.

The percentage of Unsheltered Homeless Transition-Aged Youth has decreased from 8% in 2017 to a low of 2% of the unsheltered population in 2022; this decrease is despite a concerted effort in 2022 to target Transition-Aged Youth with a population-focused Point in Time Count effort. The percentage of the Sheltered Homeless population that is considered Transition-Aged Youth (those 18 to 24) has been largely the same over the past 6 years. While the U.S. Census does not track Transition-Age Youth in its demographic estimates for 2021 in San Joaquin County, other research indicates the TAY population is about 12% of the total countywide population. That would indicate that TAY make up a smaller percentage of the homeless population in San Joaquin County than the overall countywide population.

Available data indicates that adults make up virtually the entire Unsheltered Homeless population in San Joaquin County, and that there are relatively few children living in tents, in cars, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

However, outreach teams and service providers do routinely encounter children that are unsheltered homeless. Children are especially vulnerable to the dangers and hardships presented by unsheltered homelessness. This disproportionate impact on children requires that unsheltered children are a priority for any response to homelessness, and that service providers treat children discovered living in unsheltered situations as an emergency requiring immediate intervention.

Significant resources are dedicated locally to shelters and permanent housing projects that serve households with children as priority populations. These projects are important in order to respond to the high percentage of children among the homeless population in San Joaquin County.

Chronic Homelessness*

Chronic Homelessness is defined by Code of Federal Regulations 24-Part 578 as an individual or head of household that has a permanent disabling condition **and has been homeless for the past consecutive 12 months or has been homeless for a total of 12 months over 4 separate occasions during the past 3 years.*

** These graphs and charts represent the percentage of homeless persons counted who appear to meet the definition of “chronically homeless” based on the reporting mechanisms for Sheltered and Unsheltered Point in Time Counts.*

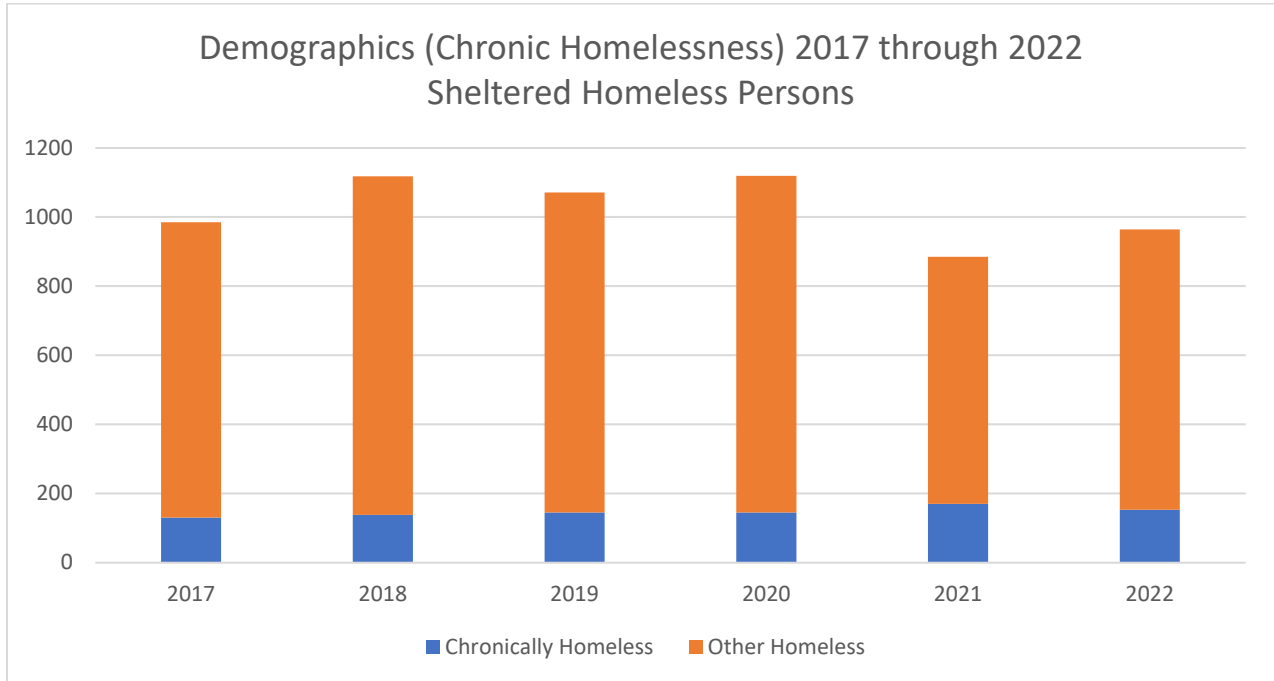


Figure 7.1

Underlying Data — Demographics – Chronically Homeless — Sheltered PiT Count*

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Yes | 13% | 12% | 14% | 13% | 19% | 16% |
| No | 87% | 88% | 86% | 87% | 81% | 84% |

Figure 7.2

**For Sheltered PiT, “chronic homelessness” data is drawn from the HMIS according to Code of Federal Regulations definitions and HUD-published HMIS Data Standards.*

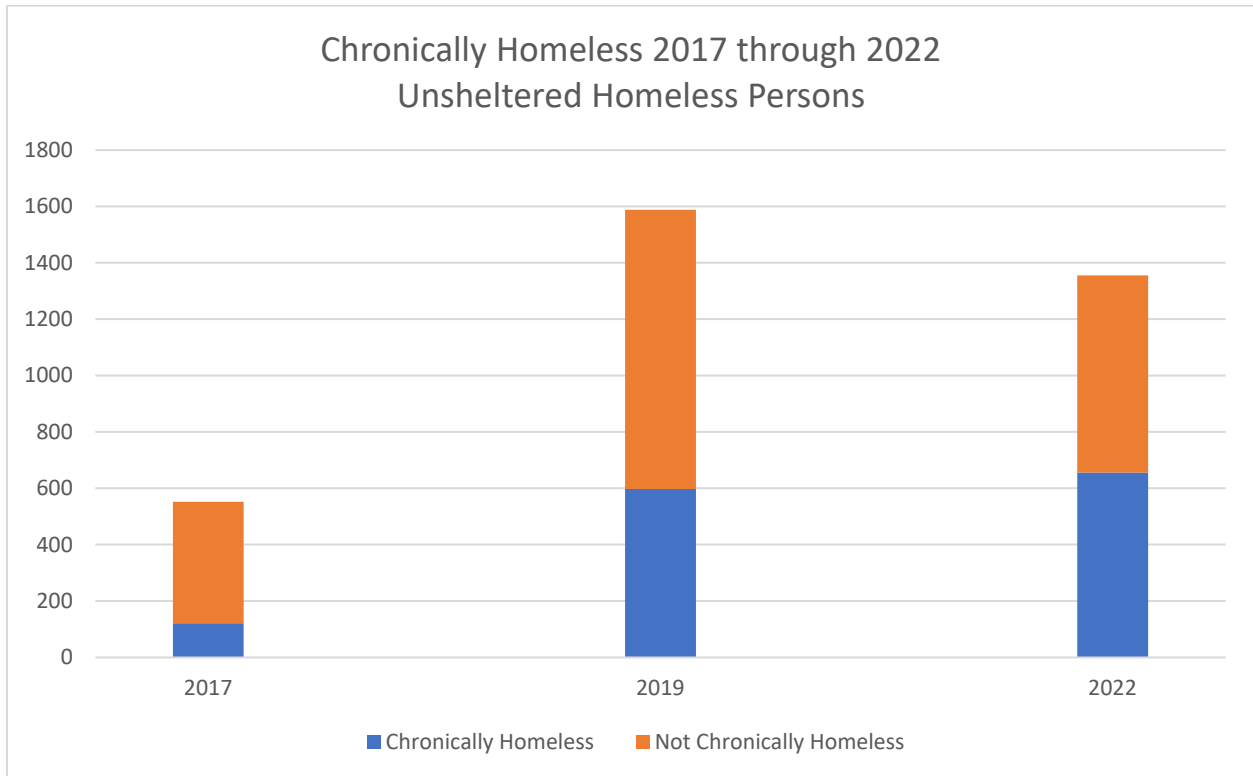


Figure 7.3

Underlying Data — Demographics – Chronically Homeless — Unsheltered PiT Count*

| | 2017 | 2019 | 2022 |
|-----|------|------|------|
| Yes | 22% | 38% | 42% |
| No | 78% | 62% | 58% |

Figure 7.4

* For Unsheltered PiT, “chronic homelessness” data is drawn from self-reports from interviewed homeless persons describing length of time homeless and presence of a disabling condition in order to estimate how many persons are chronically homeless according to Code of Federal Regulations definitions.

Population Comparison — Chronically Homeless

| Percent of Total San Joaquin County Population 2021 with disability* | Percent of Sheltered Homeless Population 2022 chronically homeless | Percent of Unsheltered Homeless Population 2022 chronically homeless |
|--|--|--|
| 8.5% | 16% | 42% |

Figure 7.5

* 2021 is used because it is the last year for which all information is available; Census information is only available for those younger than 65 with a disability — the percentage of individuals who both have a disabling condition and who meet the length of time homeless requirements to qualify as “Chronically Homeless” according to Code of Federal Regulations 24-Part 578 is much smaller than the percentage of people who only have a disabling condition.

Analysis — Chronically Homeless

Available data indicates that those who meet the definition of chronically homeless are more likely to be unsheltered than sheltered in San Joaquin County. This is not surprising, as those who are chronically homeless typically face the largest obstacles to obtaining housing and living in sheltered situations.

The data also show that chronic homelessness is increasing among persons who are living in places not meant for human habitation; in 2017 only 22% of those on the streets reported conditions consistent with chronic homelessness, which ballooned to 42% in 2022.

The proportion of chronically homeless persons who were residing in shelters peaked in 2021, at 19%, and decreased to 16% in 2022, indicating chronically homeless persons were more likely to be living on the streets in 2022 compared to 2019, placing them farther away from support services and housing opportunities.

Comparisons to the percentage of disabled individuals in the overall countywide population indicate that if a person is disabled and becomes homeless, they are likely to remain homeless. This is supported by the large percentage of the unsheltered homeless population that is chronically homeless.

However, it is possible that how the data is collected has an impact on this analysis. Data for chronic homelessness among the sheltered homeless is sourced from self-reporting, but is more likely to represent the actual condition of the individuals because the data is being collected by shelters and transitional housing providers through the Homeless Management Information System. In contrast, data for chronic homelessness among the unsheltered homeless is sourced from self-reporting, but is less likely to represent the actual condition of the individuals because the data is being collected in a one-time interview asking if the individual believes they have a disability and have been homeless for a certain length of time. This means that there are likely fewer people who meet the definition of chronic homelessness than is apparent through this data.

Definitions

Chronically Homeless

means an individual or family that is homeless and resides in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and has been homeless and residing in such a place for at least 1 year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years. The statutory definition also requires that the individual or family has a head of household with a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, posttraumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability. ([24 CFR 578](#))

COVID-19

means an infectious disease caused by the [SARS-CoV-2 virus](#). This term also refers to the public health emergency declared by many jurisdictions, including the State of California and San Joaquin County, with the intention of limiting the spread, morbidity, and mortality of the virus among the general population.

ES = Emergency Shelter

any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the [homeless](#) in general or for specific populations of the [homeless](#) and which does not require occupants to sign [leases](#) or occupancy agreements. ([24 CFR 576.2](#))

Other PH = Permanent Housing that is neither PSH or RRH

PH = Permanent Housing (includes Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing)

means community-based housing without a designated length of stay, and includes both [permanent supportive housing](#) and rapid rehousing. To be [permanent housing](#), the [program participant](#) must be the tenant on a lease for a term of at least one year, which is renewable for terms that are a minimum of one month long, and is terminable only for cause. ([24 CFR 578.3](#))

Point in Time Count

means [a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January](#). HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

PSH = Permanent Supportive Housing

means [permanent housing](#) in which supportive services are provided to assist [homeless](#) persons with a disability to live independently. ([24 CFR 578.3](#))

RRH = Rapid Re-Housing

tenant-based rental assistance that rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that may include the use of time-limited financial assistance and targeted supportive services. ([HUD Rapid Re-Housing Brief, published July 2014](#))

SH = Safe Haven*

supportive housing that meets the following:

- (1) Serves hard to reach [homeless](#) persons with severe mental illness who came from the streets and have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services;*
- (2) Provides 24-hour residence for eligible persons for an unspecified period;*
- (3) Has an overnight capacity limited to 25 or fewer persons; and*
- (4) Provides low-demand services and referrals for the residents. ([24 CFR 578.3](#))*

*There are no "Safe Haven" beds in San Joaquin County

Sheltered Homeless

means an individual or household that resides in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a Safe Haven

SO = Street Outreach

essential services necessary to reach out to unsheltered [homeless](#) people; connect them with [emergency shelter](#), housing, or critical services; and provide urgent, nonfacility-based care to unsheltered [homeless](#) people who are unwilling or unable to access [emergency shelter](#), housing, or an appropriate health facility. ([24 CFR 576.101](#))

Transition-Age Youth (TAY)

means adults who are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old

TH = Transitional Housing

housing, where all [program participants](#) have signed a lease or occupancy agreement, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of [homeless](#) individuals and families into [permanent housing](#) within 24 months or such longer period as HUD determines necessary. The [program participant](#) must have a lease or occupancy agreement for a term of at least one month that ends in 24 months and cannot be extended. ([24 CFR 578.3](#))

Unsheltered Homeless

means [an individual or household that resides in a place not fit for human habitation](#), including but not limited to a tent, vehicle, condemned building, on the street, under an overpass, etc.