



SAN JOAQUIN
CONTINUUM OF CARE

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY 2026 HOMELESSNESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & REPORT

Prepared by
Applied Survey Research



ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded in 1980 on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to assessment needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2026 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey planning team would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who contributed to this project. The participation of community volunteers and partner agencies is critical to the success of both the count and survey efforts. Hundreds of community volunteers, city and county employees, and local community-based organizations assisted with all aspects of the count, from the initial planning meetings to the night of the count and the publication of this report.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

San Joaquin County Public Health Department	San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services
San Joaquin County Administrators Office	SJCares
City of Stockton	City of Tracy
City of Lodi	City of Manteca
City of Stockton Police Department	City of Tracy Police Department
City of Manteca Police Department	Prevail
Lodi Committee on Homelessness	Insight Housing Project
The Children's Home of Stockton	Catholic Charities
St. Mary's Community Services	San Joaquin County Human Services Agency
San Joaquin Continuum of Care	Uplift All Foundation

INTRODUCTION

As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuums of Care (CoC) across the country must report the findings of their local Point-in-Time count as part of the annual federal funding renewal process. Currently, the San Joaquin County CoC receives annual federal funding.

ASR is a locally based social research firm that has over 23 years of experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessments, having conducted over 100 comprehensive homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Our work is featured as a best practice in the standard process HUD publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*, as well as in the Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago publication, *Conducting a Youth Count: A Toolkit*.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the Homeless Count and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held planning meetings with local community members. These community members were drawn from City and County departments, community-based service providers, and other interested and informed stakeholders. These individuals comprised the 2026 Planning Committee and were instrumental to ensuring the 2026 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2026 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds;
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population;
- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population and track the community's progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions; and
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, youth, young adults, and those who are chronically homeless;
- To conduct the PIT count in such a manner that the health and safety of all participants was a primary operational consideration, and all County Public Health recommended practices were followed in field work associated with the PIT count.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

In this study, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count was used. This definition includes individuals and families:

- Living in supervised, publicly or privately operated, shelters designated to provide temporary living arrangements; 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.

It should be noted that the broader definition of homelessness defined by the McKinney-Vento Act and used by K-12 school districts includes persons and families living in “double-up” situations as well as hotels and motels. However, this definition could not be used for purposes of this report.



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

2026 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

Every two years, typically during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2026 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 27, 2026. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 271 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics.



SAN JOAQUIN
CONTINUUM OF CARE



NOTE: The count methodology changed in 2024 to reflect new and emerging guidance on PIT count processes nationwide. Please use caution when making comparisons to 2022 and earlier count findings.

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

3,306

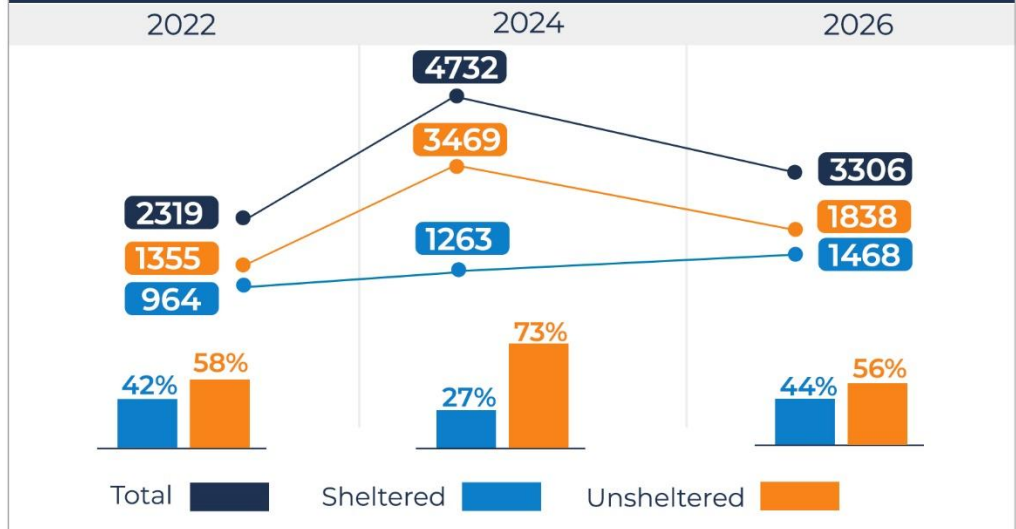


44%
Sheltered
n=1,468



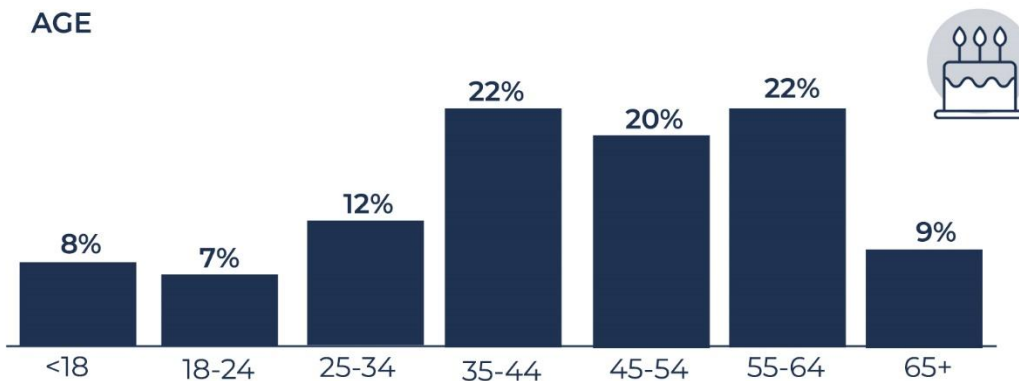
56%
Unsheltered
n=1,838

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

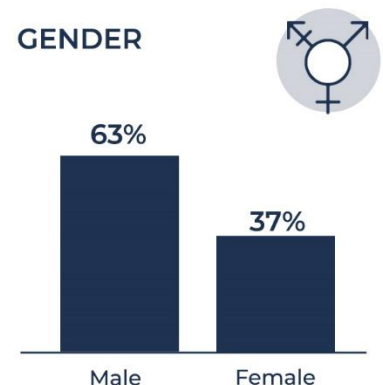


DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE



GENDER

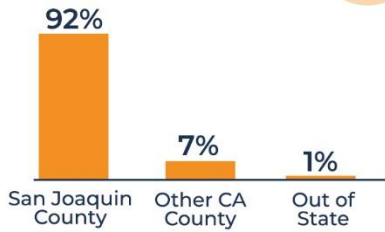


RACE/ ETHNICITY

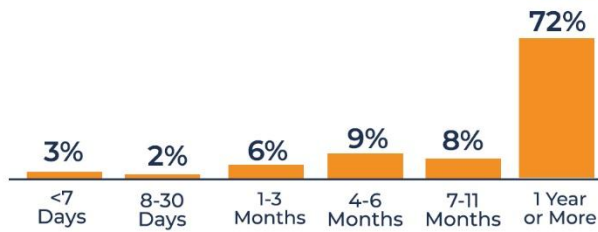


DATA PORTRAITS

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS



DURATION OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS



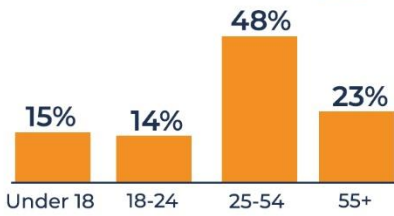
FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



48%

Reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



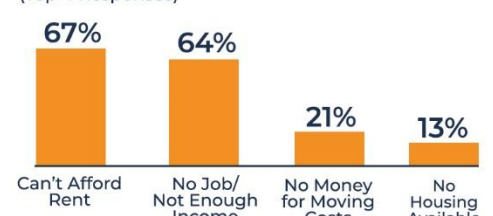
PRIMARY CONDITION THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS*

(Top 6 Responses)



WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM PERMANENT HOUSING*

(Top 4 Responses)



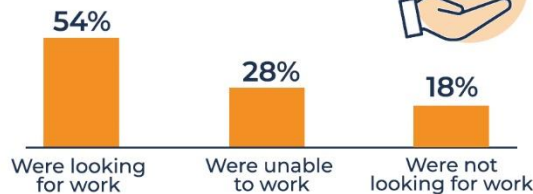
EMPLOYMENT STATUS



13%

had some form of employment

AMONG UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS



FOSTER CARE



18%

of survey respondents have been in the foster care system

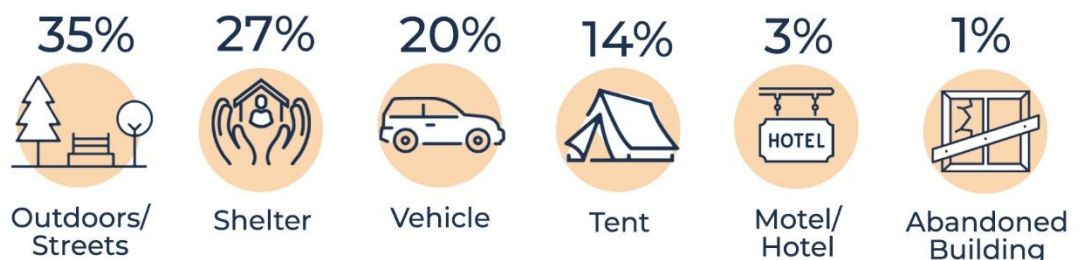
JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVED



19%

of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison/juvenile hall in the past year.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING LOCATION



SELF-REPORTED HEALTH[□]

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

PSYCHIATRIC
OR EMOTIONAL
CONDITIONS



46%

Report having a psychiatric or emotional condition

CHRONIC
HEALTH
CONDITION



43%

Report having a chronic health condition

DRUG OR
ALCOHOL
ABUSE



40%

Report having abused drugs or alcohol

PHYSICAL
DISABILITY



39%

Report having a physical disability

PTSD



38%

Report having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

TRAUMATIC
BRAIN
INJURY



18%

Report having had a TBI

HIV/AIDS
RELATED
ILLNESS



1%

Report having an HIV/AIDS related illness

DISABLING CONDITION

A disabling condition is defined by HUD as having a long-continuing condition, related to a qualifying physical disability, chronic and debilitating illness, behavioral health condition, traumatic brain injury, or developmental disability.

59%



of survey respondents report having at least one disabling condition

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE[□]



88%

Of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING* (TOP 5 RESPONSES)

59%



Free Meals

29%



Health Services

28%



Emergency Shelter

24%



Shelter Day Service

17%



Bus Passes

5%



None

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE CURRENTLY ACCESSING* (TOP 5 RESPONSES)

70%



Food Stamps

59%



Medi-cal/Medicare

10%



SSI/SSDI/Disability

9%



Social Security

6%



General Assistance

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Total Sheltered Unsheltered

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



VETERANS



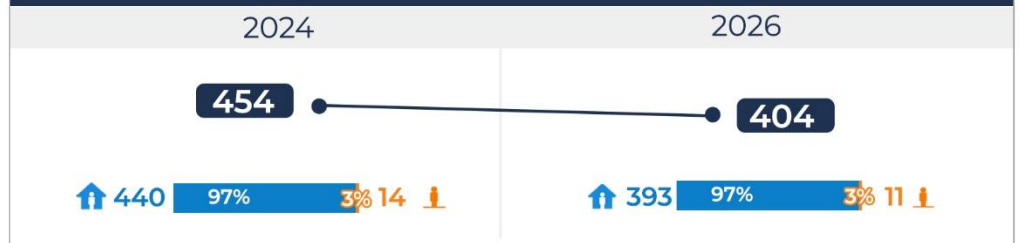
TOTAL VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



FAMILIES



TOTAL FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN + TAY



TOTAL UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION AGE YOUTH



SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

An individual with one or more disabling conditions, or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition, who:

- Has been continuously homeless for one year or more and/or;
- Has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past three years.

VETERANS

Persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

FAMILIES

A household with at least one adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one child member (persons under 18).

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH YOUNG ADULTS

Youth under the age of 18 and young adults from the ages of 18 to 24 years old (TAY) who are experiencing homelessness and living without a parent or legal guardian.

Source: 2026 San Joaquin County Homeless Survey, N=271

* Multiple response question, percentages may not add up to 100%

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

KEY FINDINGS

The 2026 Point-in-Time Count reflects continued progress in reducing homelessness across several key measures. The following findings highlight notable trends observed since the previous count:

- Total number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased 43%, from 249 in 2024 to 141 in 2026.
- Total number of people in families experiencing homelessness decreased 11%, from 454 in 2024 to 404 in 2026.
- Total number of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness decreased 22%, from 304 in 2024 to 237 in 2026.
- The unemployment rate among homeless survey respondents decreased from 96% in 2024 to 87% in 2026. Among unemployed respondents, 54% reported they were currently looking for work, 18% reported they were not, and 28% reported they were unable to work.
- The percentage of survey respondents who had spent a night in jail or prison during the previous 12 months decreased from 24% in 2024 to 19% in 2026.
- The total number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness increased 10%, from 1,078 in 2024 to 1,191 in 2026, highlighting an area where additional efforts remain needed.

The findings presented here provide a high-level overview of some of the changes since the 2024 Point-in-Time Count. The sections that follow examine these and other results in greater detail, offering a comprehensive analysis of homelessness trends, demographic characteristics, and the experiences of people experiencing homelessness to help inform local planning, policy, and service delivery.



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2026 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count represents a complete enumeration of all sheltered and unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness at a specified date and time. It consisted of two primary components:

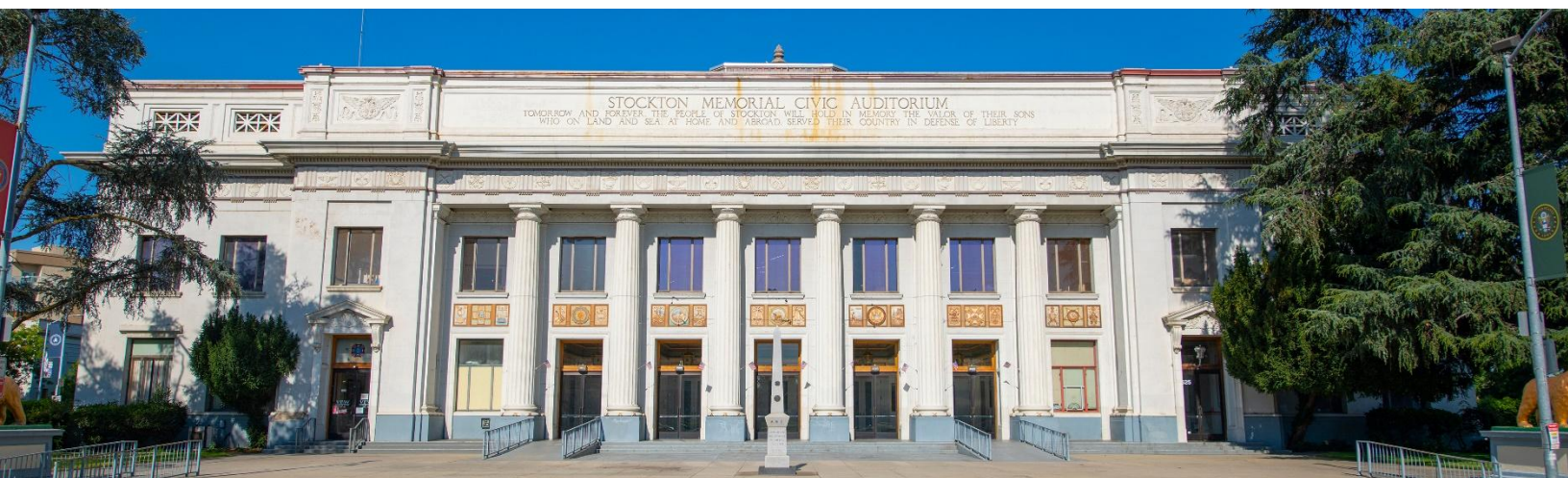
- **General Street Count:** An early morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 27th, 2026. Trained outreach teams, program staff from local city and county agencies, community volunteers, and persons experiencing homelessness spread across the county between 5am and 11am to count all persons experiencing homelessness.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately-operated shelters on January 26, 2026. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

The Point-in-Time Count also included the following supplemental and important component:

- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Young Adults:** An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied children under 18 and unaccompanied youth 18-24 years old on January 27, 2026. This is considered a best practice in order to better profile this age group who are more challenging to enumerate in the traditional PIT count process.

This section of the report provides a summary of the results of the Point-in-Time Count. For comparison, results from prior years are provided to better understand the trends and characteristics of homelessness over time.

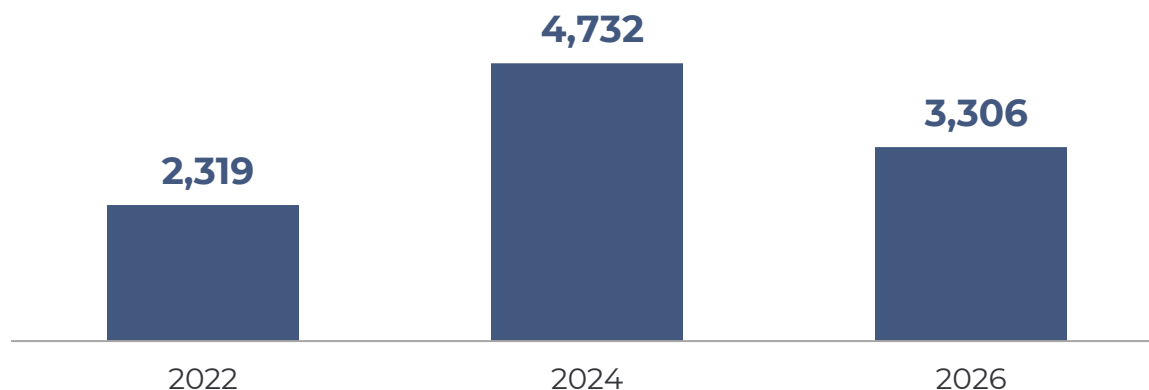
For more information regarding the research methodology, please see [Appendix A: Methodology](#).



NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

The 2026 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey found a total of 3,306 persons experiencing homelessness, which represents a 30% decrease from 2024.

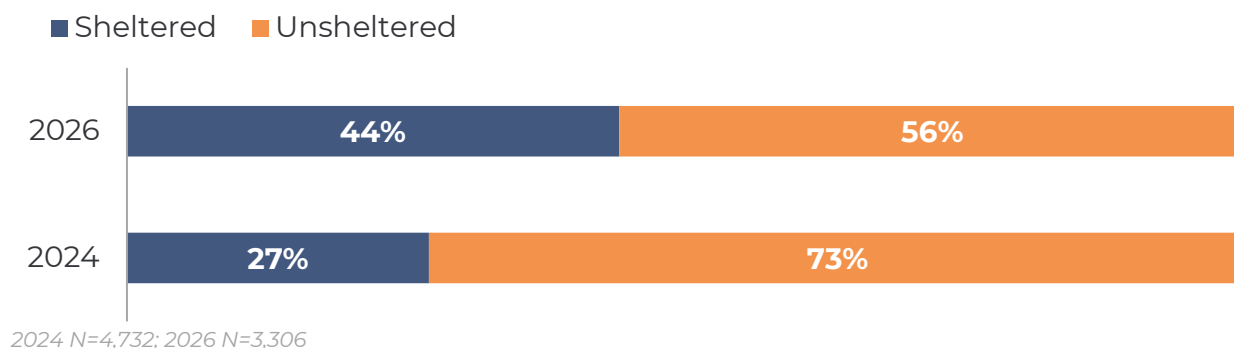
Figure 1: Total Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness



Type of Shelter

The majority (56%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County were unsheltered, sleeping on the streets, in abandoned buildings, vehicles, and encampment areas and in other places deemed unfit for human habitation. The remaining 44% of the population resided in shelters, either emergency shelters or transitional housing. Permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing shelter data is not included in the PIT data reporting per HUD.

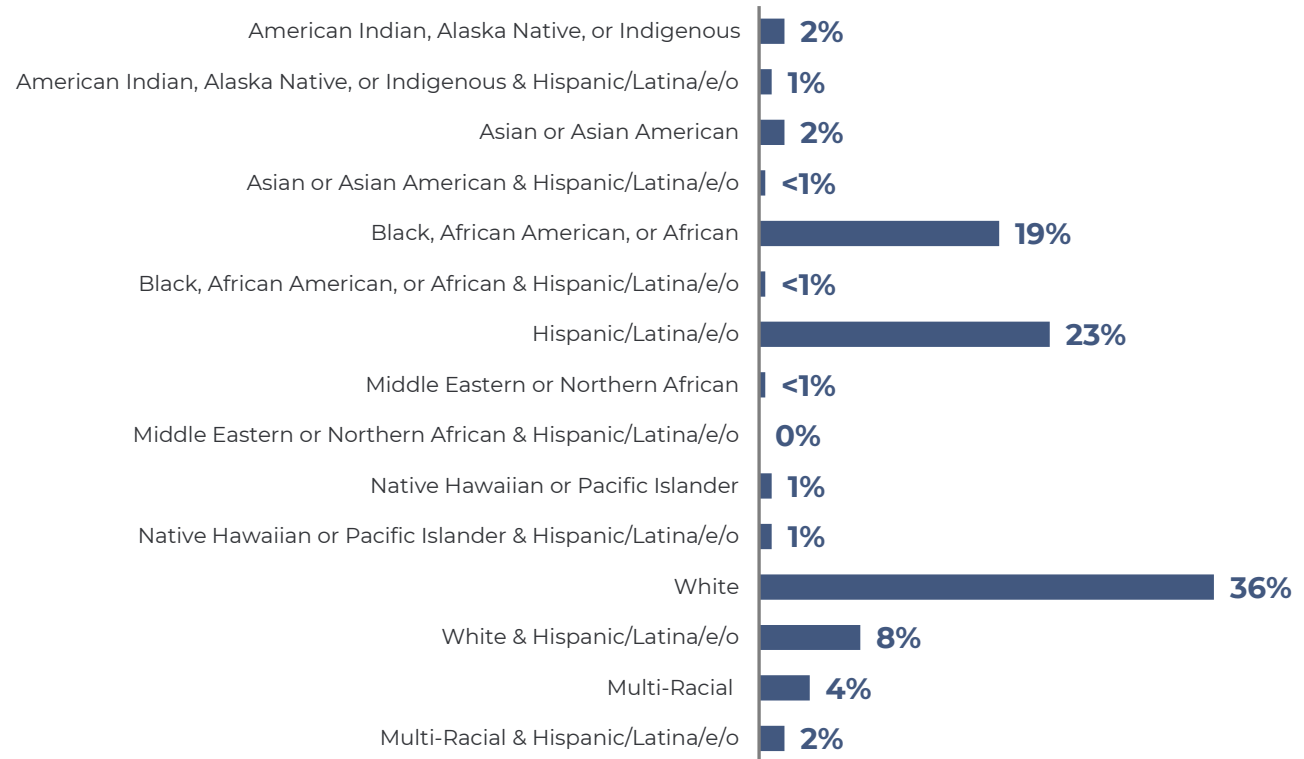
Figure 2: Homeless Count Population by Shelter Status



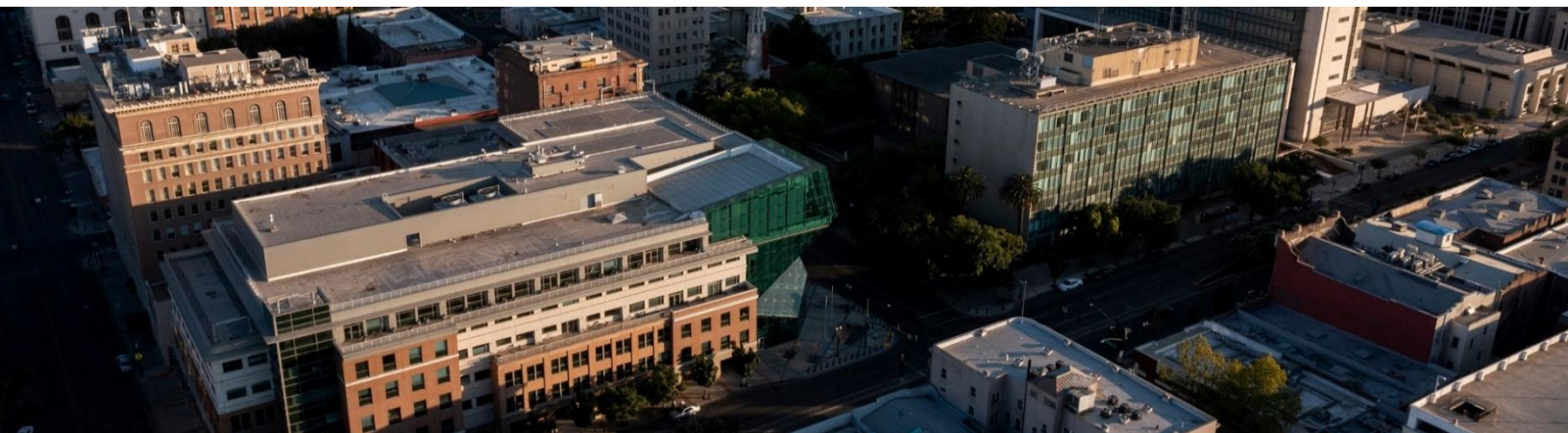
Characteristics of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Thirty-six percent (36%) of persons experiencing homelessness identified as White, 23% identified as Hispanic/Latina/e/o, and 19% identified as Black, African American, or African.

Figure 3: 2026 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Population by Race



Homeless Count Population: 2026 N=3,306



Jurisdictional Breakdown

Figure 4: 2026 Homeless Population by Jurisdiction

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED	SHELTERED	TOTAL
Total Incorporated	1,649	918	2,550
Stockton	1,250	600	1,850
Manteca	120	117	237
Tracy	125	86	211
Lodi	133	115	248
Lathrop	0	0	0
Ripon	2	0	2
Escalon	2	0	2
Total Unincorporated	206	494	700
Scattered Sites	0	56	56
Total	1,838	1,468	3,306



HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the 2026 San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count Homeless Survey component. As previously mentioned, an in-depth geographically representative survey was administered in the weeks following the Point-in-Time Count to collect basic demographic details as well as information including service needs and utilization. Surveys were administered between February 1 and March 15, 2026, to a randomized sample of individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness.

The Homeless Survey effort resulted in 271 unique, complete, and valid surveys. Based on the Point-in-Time count of 3,306 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process employed, these surveys should represent a confidence interval of $\pm 5.7\%$ with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire Point-in-Time homeless population in San Joaquin County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within 5.7% of the current results.

In order to respect respondent privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Therefore, any missing values were intentionally omitted from the survey results and the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted. Don't know and refusals were omitted from the response percentage calculations.

Percentages presented in this section are based on responses from individuals who completed the Point-in-Time survey and may differ from percentages based on the full PIT enumeration effort. Because the survey represents a subset of the overall population identified during the count, some percentages will naturally vary between the two data sources. These differences are expected and reflect the distinct methodologies and populations represented by the PIT Count and the survey.

For more information regarding the research methodology, please see [Appendix A: Methodology](#).



DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Age

Eight percent (8%) of survey respondents were under the age of 25 at the time of the 2026 survey. Thirty-three percent (33%) were between the ages of 25 and 44, and 59% were 45 years or older. All results were similar to the previous count.

Figure 5: Survey Respondents by Age 

AGE GROUP	2024	2026
Less than 18 Years	<1%	0%
18-24 Years	6%	8%
25-34 Years	6%	10%
35-44 Years	24%	23%
45-54 Years	25%	23%
55-64 Years	23%	26%
65 Years or More	15%	10%

2024 N= 624; 2026 N=247

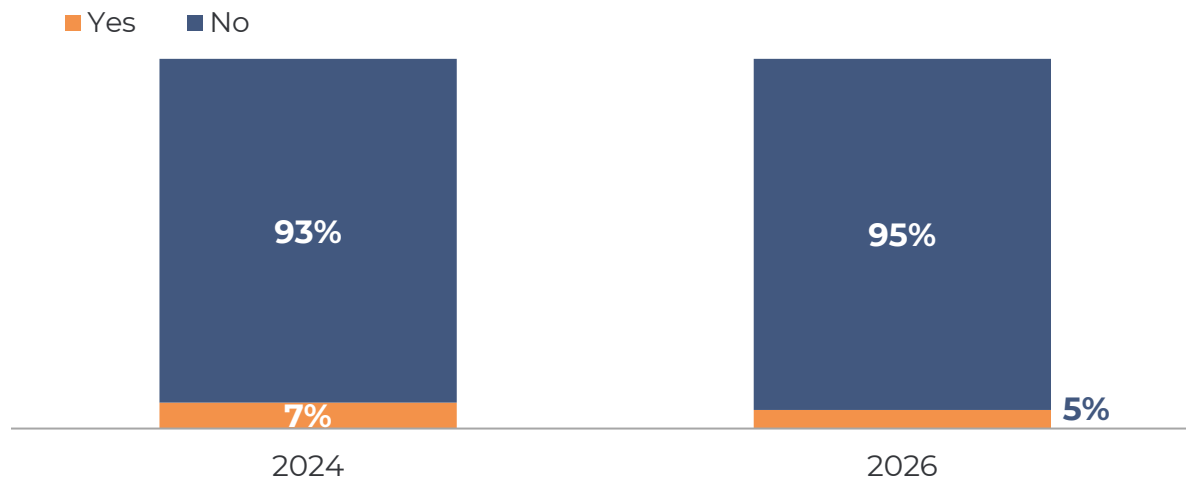


Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Gender and LGBTQ+ Identity

Two-thirds (63%) of survey respondents identified as male, 37% identified as female. Among female respondents, 2% indicated that they were currently pregnant. Five percent (5%) of homeless survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+ in 2026. Of these respondents, thirty-three percent (33%) identified as bisexual.

Figure 6: Survey Respondents Who Identify as LGBTQ+ 



2024 N=609; 2026 N=250

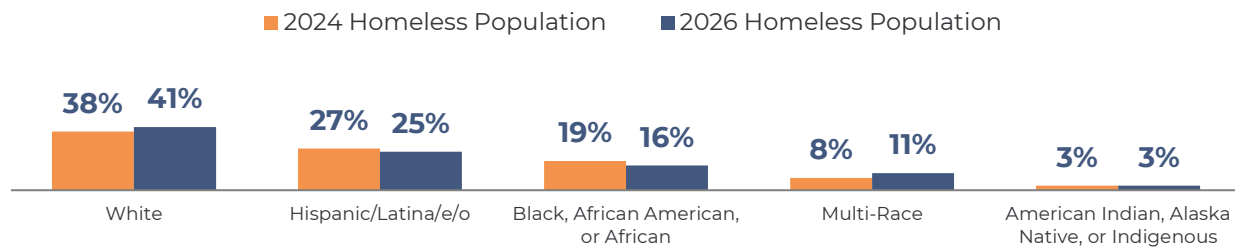


Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Race/Ethnicity

When asked about race and ethnicity, forty-one percent (41%) of homeless survey respondents identified as White, 25% identified as Hispanic/Latina/e/o, and 16% identified as Black, African American, or African in 2026.

Figure 7: Survey Respondents by Race (Top 5 Responses) 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=613; 2026 N=246

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

INCIDENCE AND DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

First Incidence of Homelessness

Of those surveyed in 2026, forty-eight percent (48%) reported that their current episode of homelessness was their first-time experiencing homelessness. Respondents were also asked their age at the time they experienced homelessness for the first time. In response, the majority (71%) reported they were 25 years or older, while 14% reported between the ages of 18 and 24 years and 15% reported they were under the age of 18.

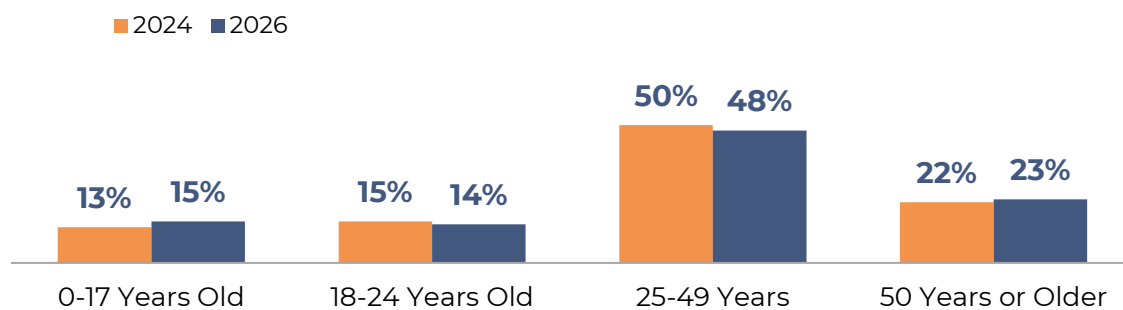
Figure 8: Current Episode Is the First Time Experiencing Homelessness 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=618; 2026 N=248

 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Figure 9: Age When Experienced Homelessness for the First Time 📋



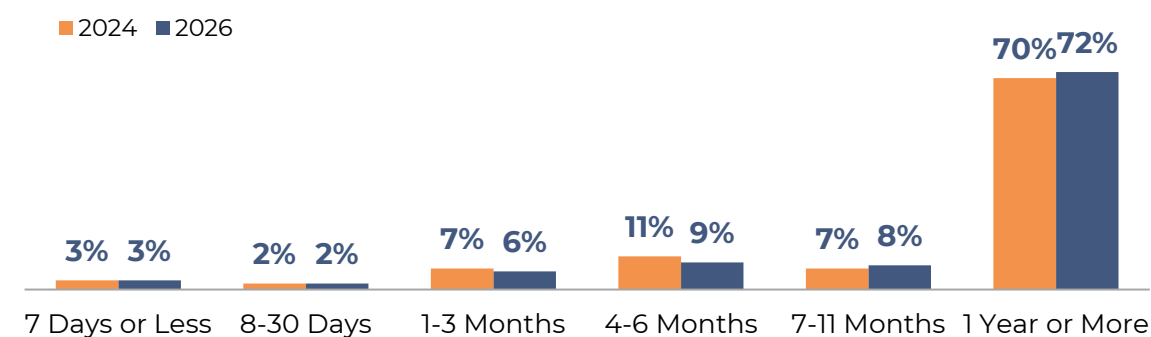
Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=598; 2026 N=248

📋 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Duration of Homelessness

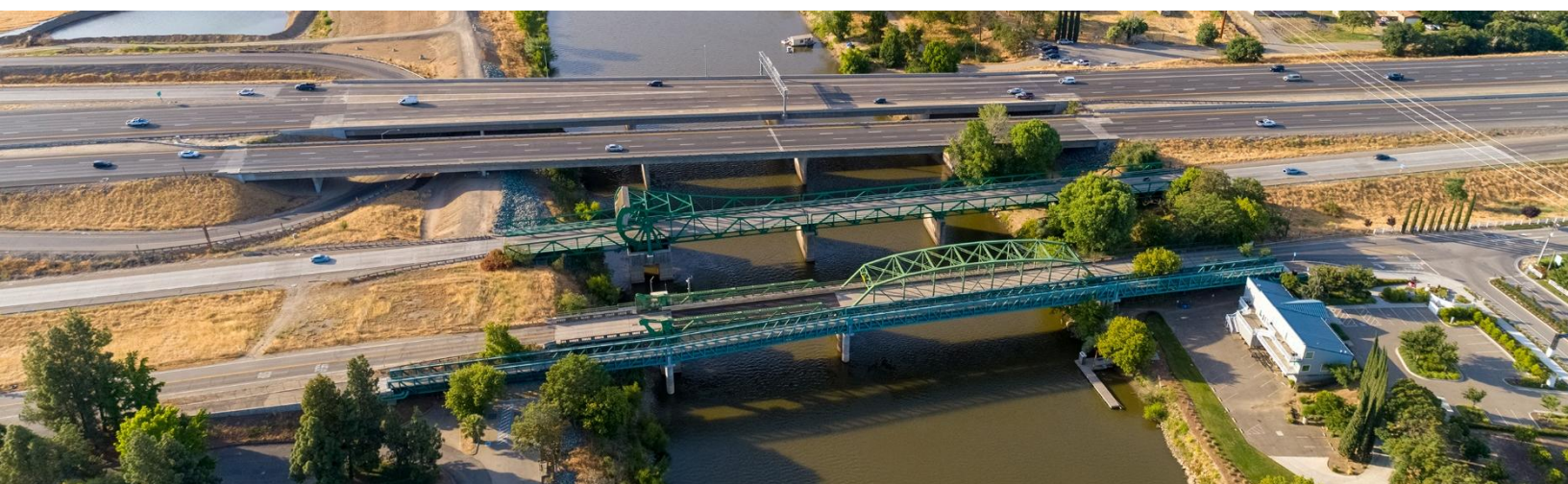
When asked about the duration of their current episode of homelessness, the majority (72%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or longer.

Figure 10: Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness 📋



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=621; 2026 N=250

📋 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.



LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Where individuals lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have lived since impact the way they seek services, as well as their ability to access support from friends or family. Previous circumstances can also point to gaps in the system of care and to opportunities for systemic improvement and homelessness prevention.

Place of Residence

Knowing where individuals were living prior to their housing loss informs discussions regarding how much of the homeless population is local to the region. This information can also influence changes to available support systems if the CoC finds increasing numbers of individuals living locally before experiencing homelessness.

The 2026 survey revealed that the vast majority (92%) of respondents reported they were living in San Joaquin County at the most recent time they experienced homelessness. Seven percent (7%) of respondents reported they were living in another county in California, and 1% reported they were living out of state.

When asked how long they had lived in San Joaquin County, twenty-eight percent (28%) responded 5 years or longer, while 26% indicated they had resided in San Joaquin County for less than one year.

Figure 11: Place of Residence at Recent Episode of Homelessness 



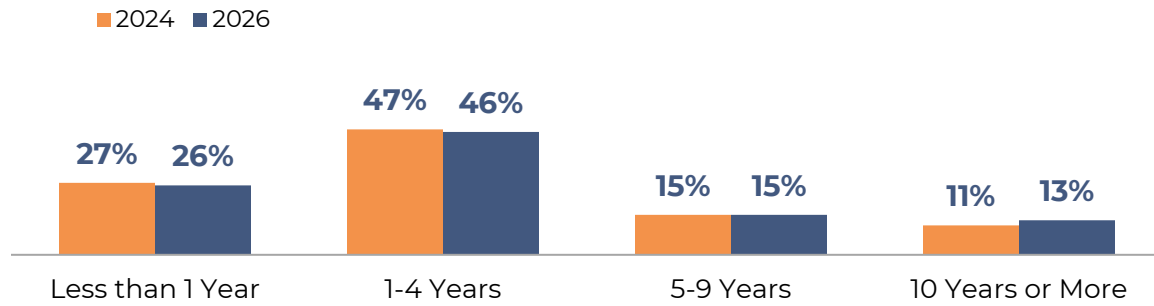
2026 N=249



Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.



Figure 12: Length of Time Homeless in San Joaquin County 📋



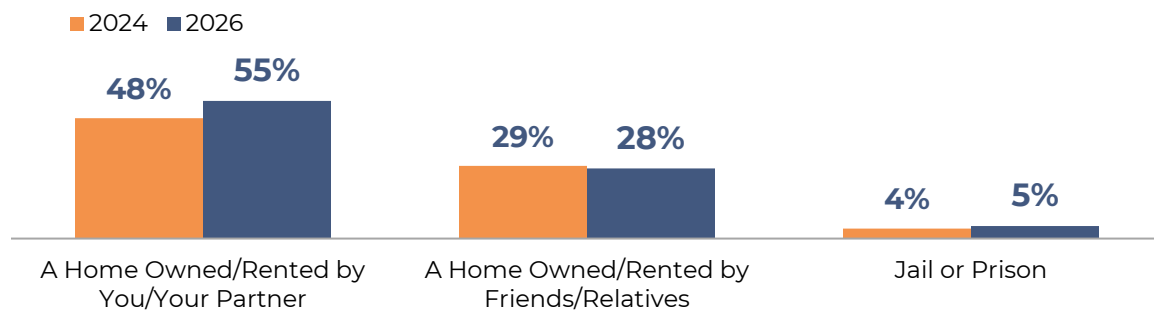
Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=593; 2026 N=246

📋 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Prior Living Arrangements

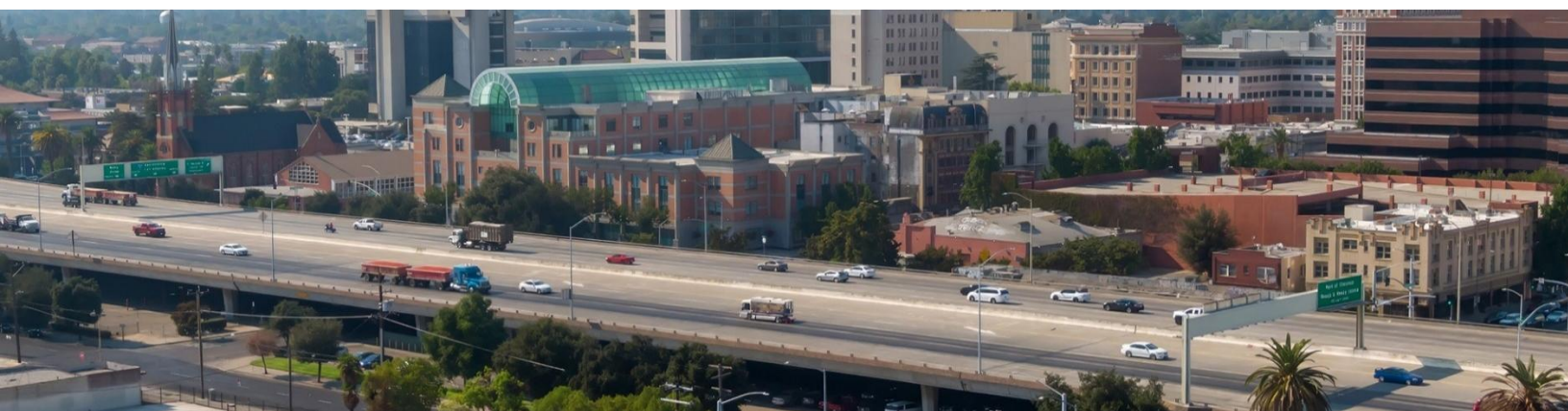
Over half (55%) of survey respondents reported they were living in a home owned or rented by them or their partner prior to experiencing homelessness. Twenty-eight percent (28%) reported they were living with friends or relatives and 5% reported they were staying in jail or prison.

Figure 13: Prior Living Arrangements (Top Three Responses in 2026) 📋



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=590; 2026 N=239

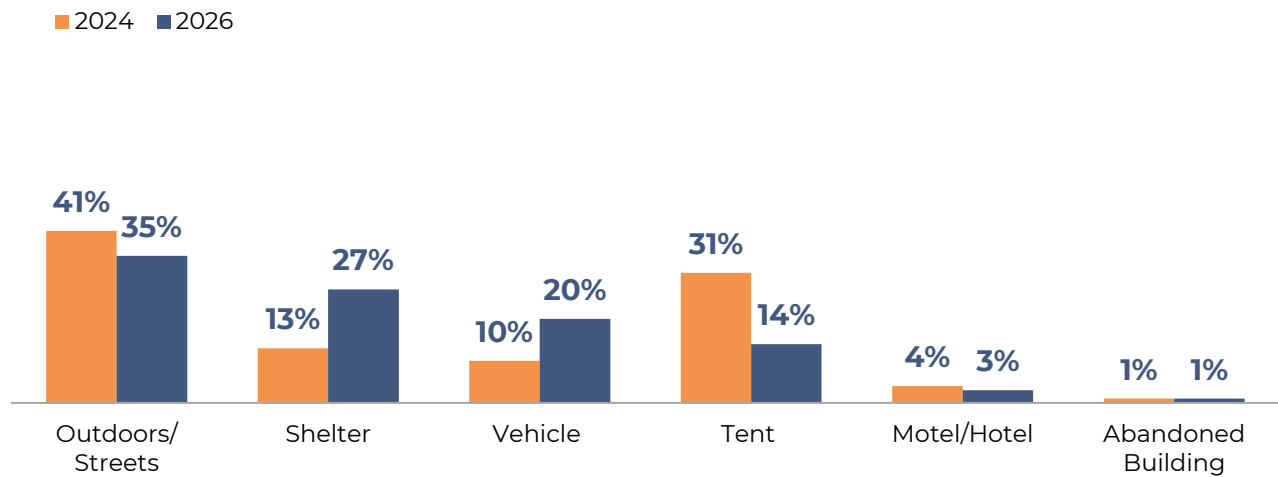
📋 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.



Current Sleeping Location

Understanding the types of places individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts. Thirty-five percent (35%) of survey respondents reported currently sleeping outdoors, on the streets. Twenty-seven percent (27%) reported currently staying in a shelter or transitional housing. Twenty percent (20%) reported staying in a vehicle, and 14% reported staying in a tent.

Figure 14: Survey Respondents by Sleeping Location 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=624; 2026 N=249

 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.



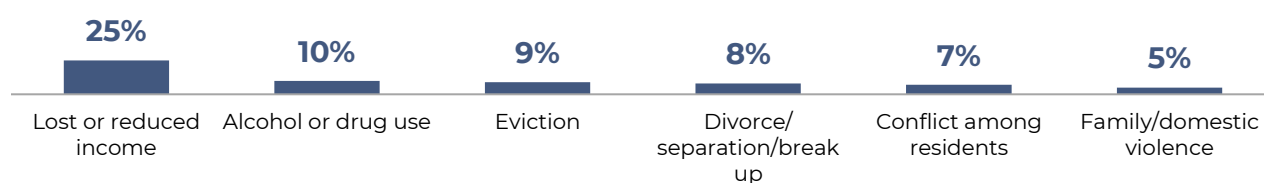
CAUSES AND OBSTACLES OF HOMELESSNESS

Causes of Homelessness

The primary cause of a person's inability to obtain or retain housing can be difficult to pinpoint, as it is often the result of multiple compounding causes. An inability to secure adequate housing can also lead to an inability to address or obtain other basic needs, such as healthcare and adequate nutrition.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of survey respondents self-reported lost or reduced income as the primary cause of their homelessness. Ten percent (10%) cited alcohol or drug use, 9% cited eviction, and 8% cited divorce/separation/break up.

Figure 15: Primary Cause of Homelessness (Top Six Responses) 



Homeless Survey Population: 2026 N=242

Note: This question was revised from a multiple-response question to a single-response question.

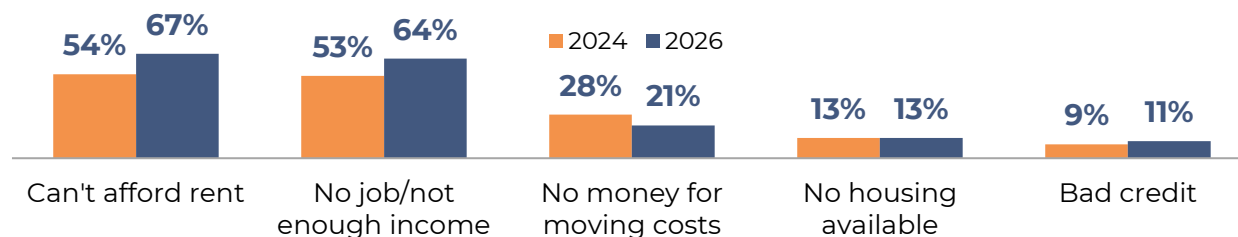
 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

Many individuals experiencing homelessness face significant barriers to obtaining permanent housing. These barriers can range from housing affordability and availability to accessing the economic and social supports (e.g., increased income, rental assistance, and case management) needed to secure and maintain permanent housing.

When asked what prevented them from obtaining housing, the most common response was "can't afford rent," reported by 67% of survey respondents, suggesting housing affordability and poverty issues as key obstacles. This was followed by 64% who reported a lack of job or not enough income, and 21% who said they had no money for moving costs.

Figure 16: Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing (Top Responses in 2026) 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=600 respondents offering 1,418 responses; 2026 N=255 respondents offering 578 responses

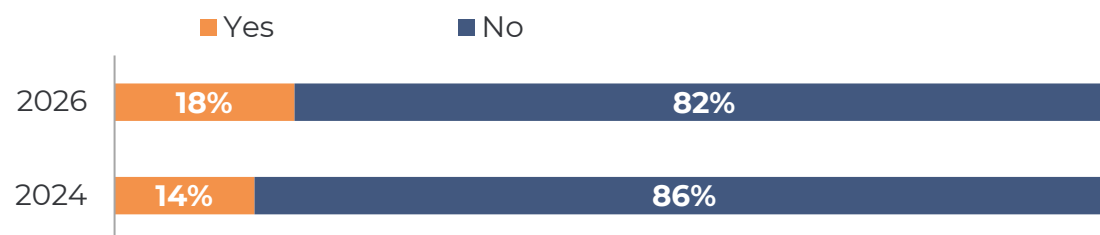
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents indicated that they had been in foster care sometime in their lifetime.

Figure 17: History of Foster Care 📋



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N= 606; 2026 N=253

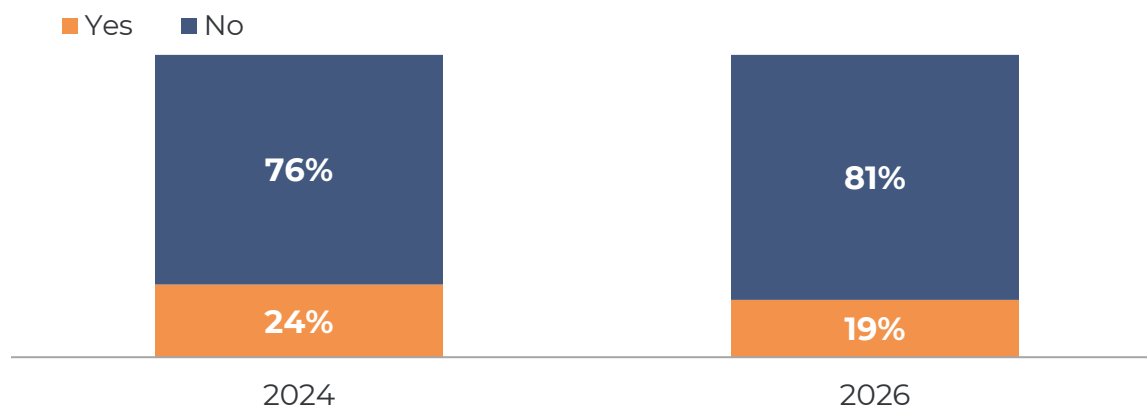
📋 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Individuals without stable housing are at greater risk of criminal justice system involvement, particularly those with mental health issues, substance abuse issues, veterans, and youth. Also, individuals with a history of incarceration face significant barriers to exiting homelessness due to issues affecting their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.¹

Nineteen percent (19%) of survey respondents reported that they had spent a night in jail or prison in the past year. Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondents reported having one or more encounters with law enforcement in the past year.

Figure 18: Spent a Night in Jail or Prison in the Last 12 Months 📋



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=539; 2026 N=249

📋 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

¹ Greenberg, GA, Rosenheck, RA. (2008). Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study. Psychiatric Services, 2008 Feb;59(2): 170-7.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

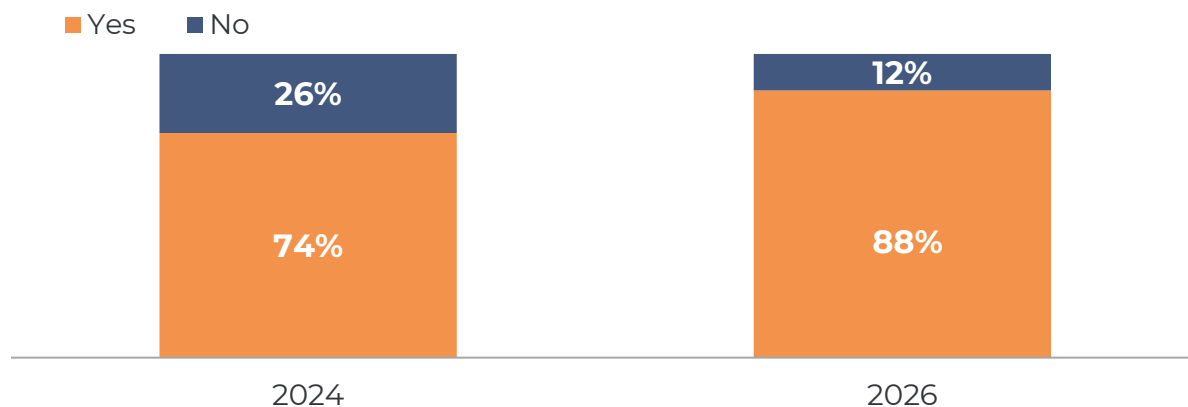
San Joaquin County provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal, state, and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support. However, many individuals and families do not apply for services, as many believe that they are ineligible for assistance. Connecting homeless individuals and families to these support services creates a bridge to mainstream support services and can help prevent future housing instability.

Government Assistance

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of survey respondents reported that they were receiving some form of government assistance (e.g., social security, CalFresh, Disability, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, VA benefits).

Of those who reported they were not receiving any form of government support (12%), the greatest percentage didn't think they were eligible (33%).

Figure 19: Receipt of Government Assistance 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=624; 2026 N=253

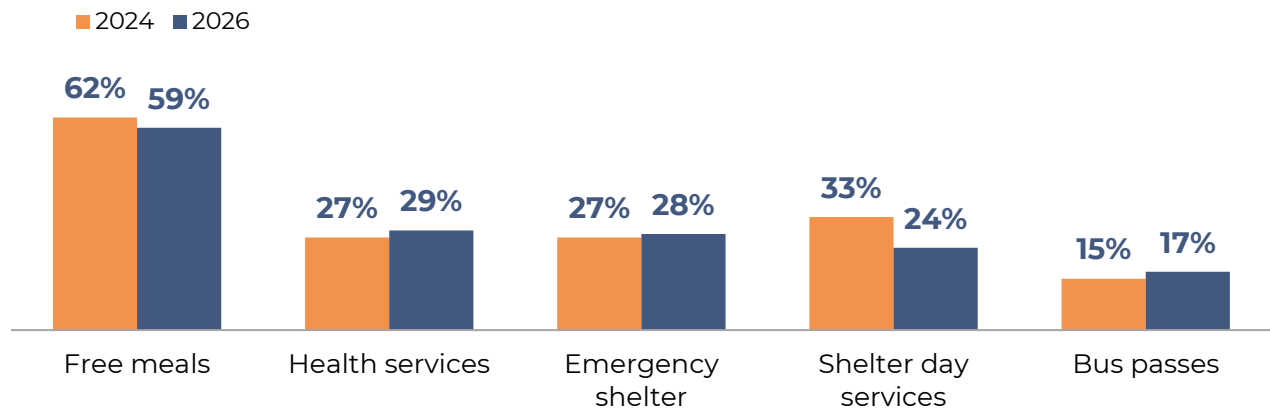
 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.



Services and Programs

Eighty-five percent (85%) of survey respondents in 2026 reported they were accessing non-government forms of services and assistance. The most frequently cited types of assistance respondents reported were free meals (59%), health services (29%), emergency shelter (28%), and shelter day services (24%). Having a pet is often viewed as a barrier for individuals to access services. Among survey respondents, 28% indicated they have a pet.

Figure 20: Services Currently Accessing (Top Responses in 2026) 📋

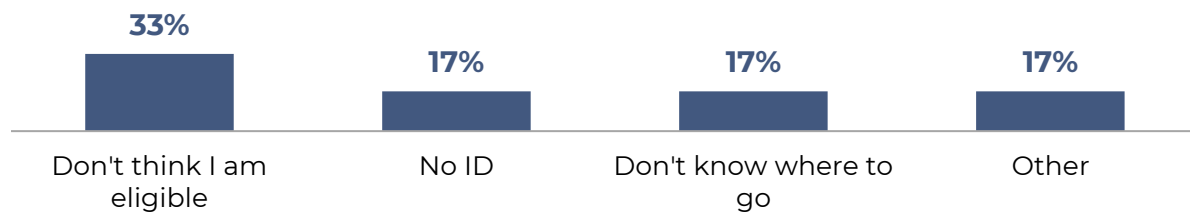


2026 N=253 respondents offering 551 responses



Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Figure 21: Reasons for Not Receiving Government Assistance (Top 4 Responses) 📋

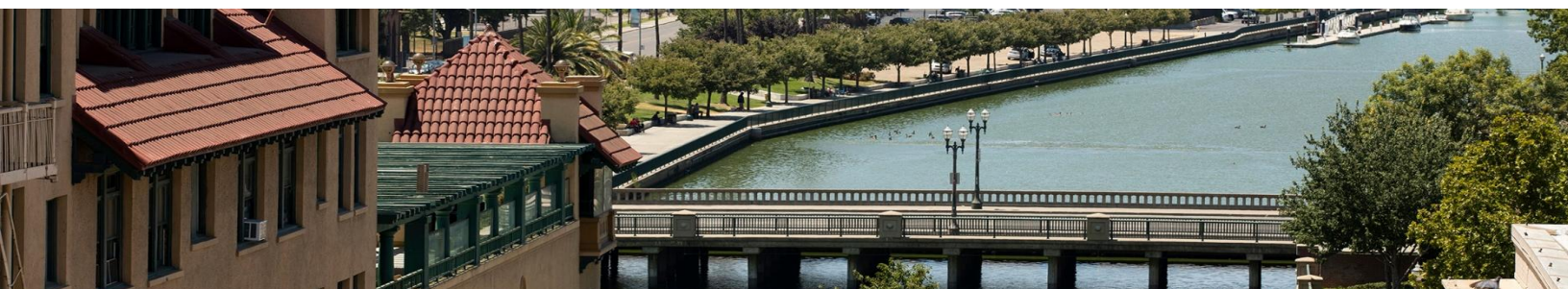


Homeless Survey Population: 2026 N=30 respondents offering 40 responses

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.



Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.



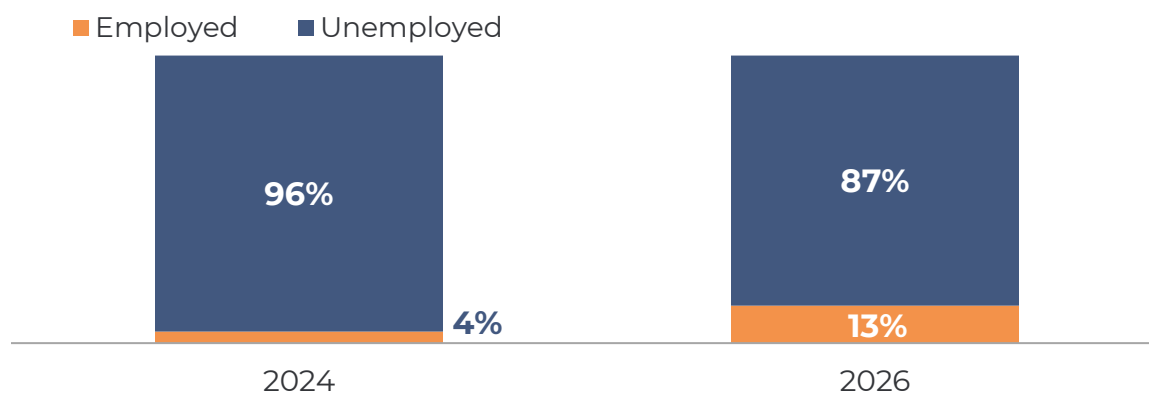
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The unemployment rate in San Joaquin County in February 2026 was at 6.8%, down from 7.6% in February 2024.² It is important to recognize that the unemployment rate represents only those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment. It does not represent all joblessness, nor does it address the types of available employment.

The unemployment rate among homeless survey respondents was 87%. Fifty-four percent (54%) of unemployed respondents indicated that they were currently looking for work, 18% indicated they were not, and 28% indicated they were currently unable to work.

These findings reflect the Continuum of Care's increased emphasis on supporting long-term housing stability through employment, economic opportunity, and self-sufficiency among people experiencing homelessness.

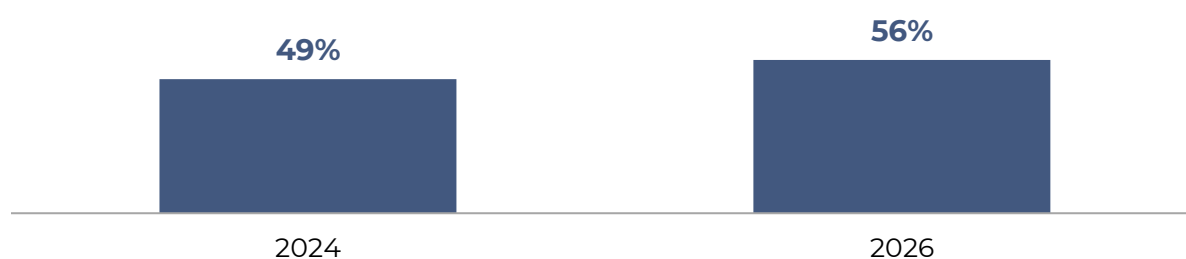
Figure 22: Employment Status 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=579; 2026 N=244

 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Figure 23: Currently looking for work 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=442; 2026 N=200

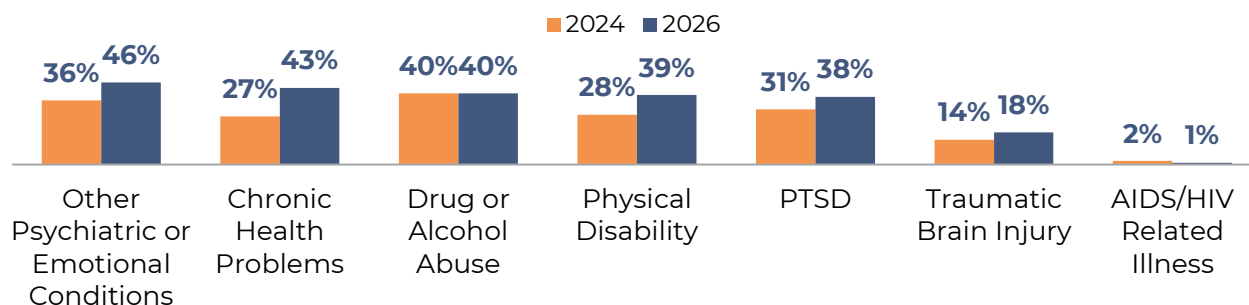
 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

²State of California Employment Development Department. (2026). Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). Retrieved from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

The top health conditions survey respondents reported experiencing in 2026 was psychiatric or emotional conditions (46%). 'Chronic health problems' was the second most cited response in 2026 (43%).

Figure 24: Health Conditions 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=572-588; 2026 N=238-245



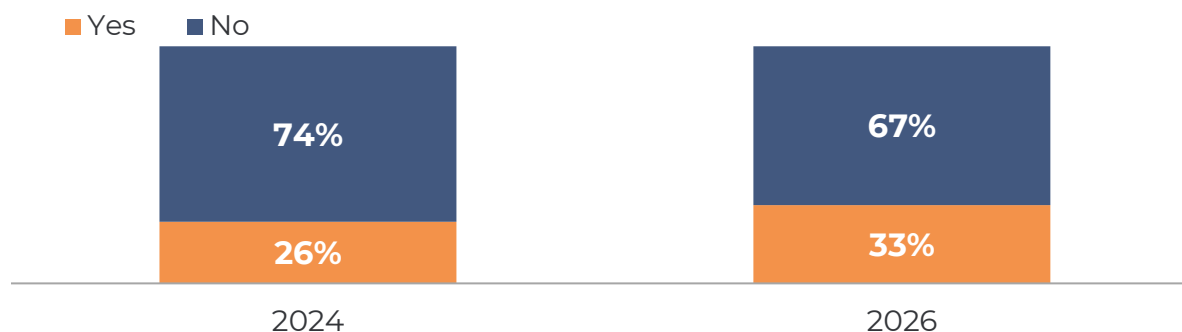
Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

DOMESTIC PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

Histories of domestic violence and partner abuse are prevalent among individuals experiencing homelessness and can be the primary cause of homelessness for many. Survivors often lack the financial resources required for housing, as their employment history or dependable income may be limited.

Two percent (2%) of survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse. When asked about experiences of ever being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused by a relative or another person they had stayed with (spouse, partner, sibling, parent) in their lifetime, 33% indicated that they have.

Figure 25: History of Being Physically, Emotionally or Sexually Abused 

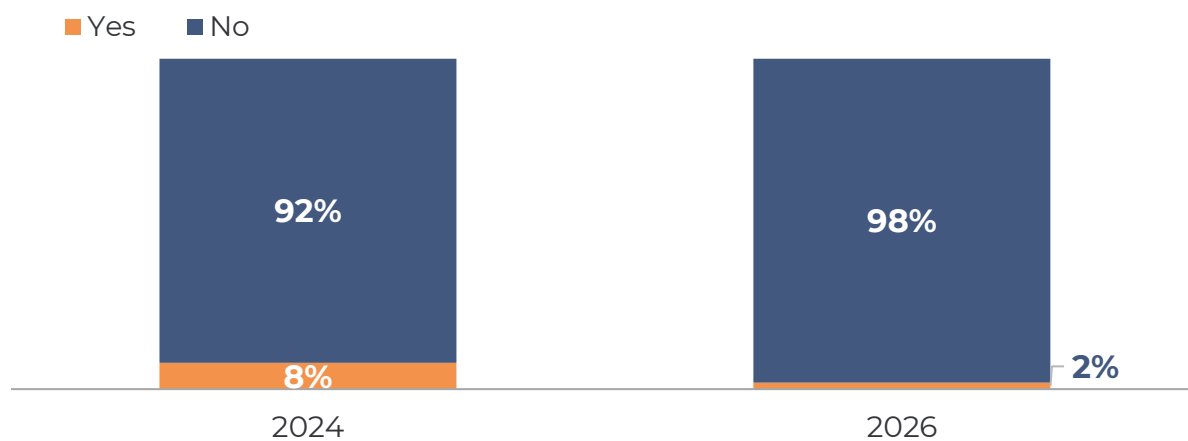


Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=557; 2026 N=239



Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.

Figure 26: Currently Experiencing Physical, Emotional or Sexual Abuse 



Homeless Survey Population: 2024 N=578; 2026 N=247

 Question comes from survey respondents, which is separate from Count results.



SELECTED POPULATIONS

Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness among all populations in the United States.

In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs, including:

- Individuals with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness;
- Veterans experiencing homelessness;
- Families with children experiencing homelessness; and
- Children and youth under age 25 years experiencing homelessness.

These subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness. The following sections examine each of these four subpopulations.

INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Figure 27: Chronically Homeless Subpopulation

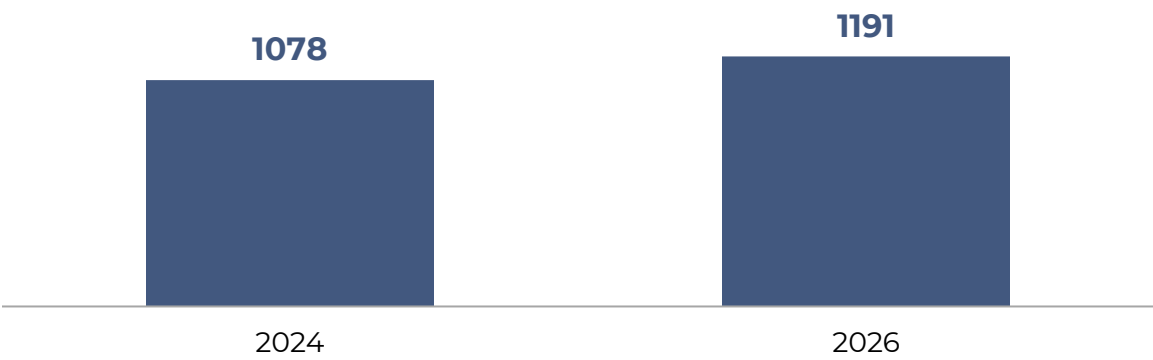
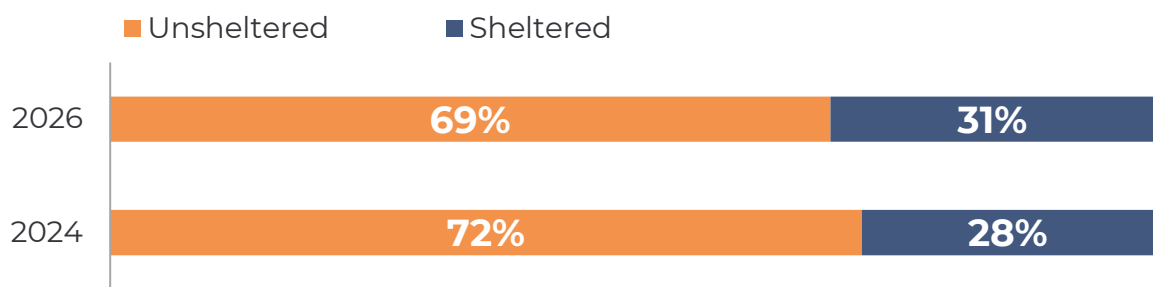


Figure 28: Chronically Homeless Subpopulation by Shelter Status



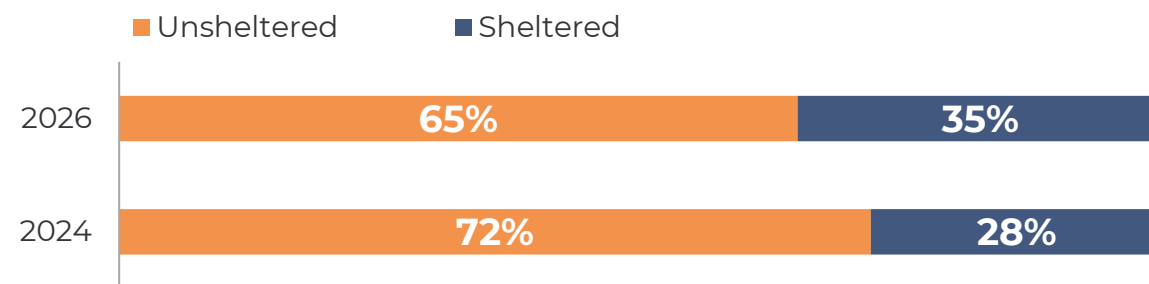
2024 N=1,078; 2026 N=1,191

ESTIMATES OF VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Figure 29: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness



Figure 30: Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Shelter Status



2024 N=249; 2026 N=141

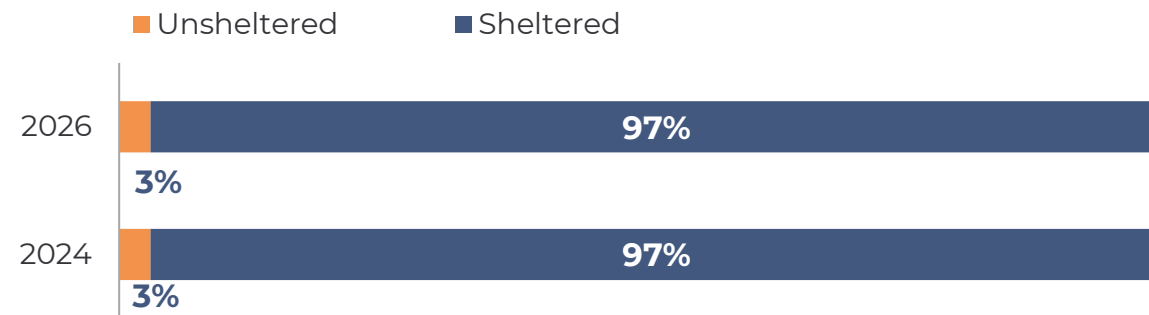


ESTIMATES OF INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Figure 31: Individuals in Families Experiencing Homelessness Subpopulation



Figure 32: Families Experiencing Homelessness Subpopulation by Shelter Status



2024 N=454; 2026 N=404

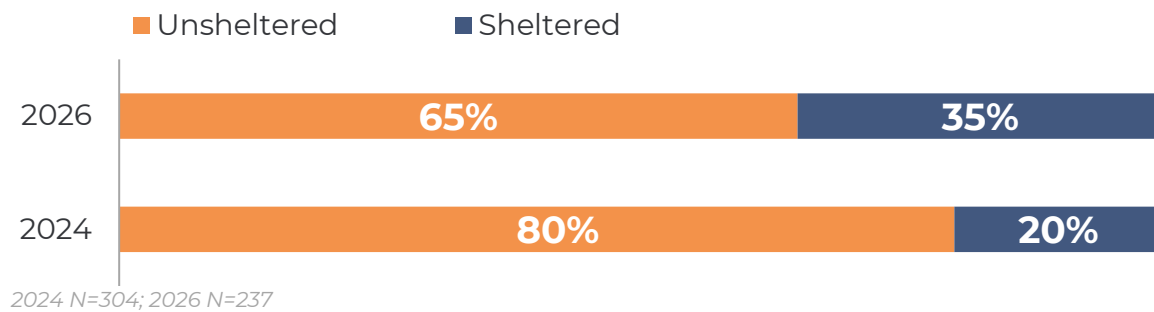


ESTIMATES OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TAY

Figure 33: Unaccompanied Children and TAY Experiencing Homelessness Subpopulation



Figure 34: Unaccompanied Children and TAY Subpopulation by Shelter Status



CONCLUSION

The 2026 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying the homeless population. Data summarized in this report provide many valuable insights about the unique and diverse experiences of homelessness in San Joaquin County. A few data highlights include:

- The Point-in-Time Homeless Count identified a total of 3,306 persons experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County in 2026.
- Fifty-six percent (56%) persons experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County were unsheltered, living outdoors or in places not intended for human habitation.
- Forty-eight percent (48%) of homeless survey respondents indicated they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, while 72% had been homeless for one year or longer.
- The biggest obstacles to obtaining permanent housing were: inability to afford rent (67%), lack of a job/income (64%), and lack of money for moving costs (21%).
- Respondents reported significant health conditions: psychiatric or emotional conditions (46%), chronic health problems (43%), drug or alcohol abuse (40%), and physical disabilities (39%).
- Results for the four HUD select populations in San Joaquin County were: chronically homeless individuals (1,191 persons), homeless veterans (141 persons), members of homeless families with children (404 persons), and unaccompanied children and youth under age 25 years (237 persons).

In summary, the 2026 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey provides valid and useful data that help create a more comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness. Data presented in this report fulfill federal reporting requirements for the CoC, and will continue to inform outreach, service planning, and policy decision-making by local planning bodies over the years to come.

There are still many challenges to overcome in achieving the goal of eliminating homelessness in San Joaquin County and helping homeless individuals and families access necessary services and support. The dissemination and evaluation of this effort will help the CoC, and all San Joaquin County stakeholders continue to produce and refine constructive and innovative solutions to end homelessness and make it a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence. Through innovative and effective housing programs and services, San Joaquin County remains committed to moving homeless persons into permanent housing.

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The San Joaquin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count and Survey was designed and implemented through a collaborative CoC-wide effort that included County, city, and community-based organizations.

The 2026 San Joaquin County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices and using HUD's PIT Count definition of homelessness. The goal was to produce a point-in-time estimate of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County, a region which covers approximately 3,281 square miles. Several primary data collection components were integrated to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night. A detailed description of these components follows.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

The methodology used in the 2026 Point-in-Time Count and Survey had several main components:

- **General Street Count:** A morning count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families on January 27, 2026. This occurred from approximately 5 AM to 11:00 AM and included those sleeping outdoors on the street; at transit stations; in parks, tents, and other makeshift shelters; and in vehicles and abandoned or public properties, like parking garages and related locations. The general street count was designed to take place before shelter occupants were released. In areas with shelters, the immediate area surrounding the shelter was prioritized to eliminate potential double counting of individuals.
- **General Shelter Count:** A nighttime count of homeless individuals and families staying at publicly and privately operated shelters on January 26, 2026. This included those who occupied emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.
- **Targeted Street Count of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth:** An afternoon count of unsheltered unaccompanied youth under 18 and young adults 18-24 years old on January 27, 2026. This occurred from approximately 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM and was led by special youth teams who canvassed specific areas where unaccompanied children and youth were known to congregate. Additionally, youth service providers contacted various clients known to be experiencing homelessness to inquire about their nighttime accommodations on the day of the count. Upon completion, data from this targeted count was carefully reviewed against the results from the general street count to ensure that any possible duplicate counts were removed.
- **Homeless Survey:** An in-person interview with 271 unique sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals conducted by peer surveyors between February 4 and March 19, 2026, in San Joaquin County. Data from the surveys were used to refine the Point-in-Time Count estimates, and then used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the demographics and experiences of homeless individuals.

STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used:

- *An individual or family 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 stations, airport, or camping ground.*

METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

The 2026 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved approach commonly called a blitz method followed by a sample survey. For this count, data was collected using GPS enabled smartphone and the accompanying ESRI Survey 123 application developed and customized by ASR to conform to HUD data collection requirements. Outreach organizations, program staff, county, and city staff along with selected community members were able to select areas for enumeration from an interactive GIS planning map tool that enabled us to plan for complete coverage of the County with prioritization of high-density homeless routes to outreach staff and personnel with direct service experience. Areas of the county that were believed to have little to no incidence of homelessness were given to teams that had less experience working with persons experiencing homelessness.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT

In 2026, over 125 outreach workers, community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count.

Outreach and program staff did recruitment of persons with lived experience to act as guides in order to conduct the count in 2026. Homeless guides were paid \$20 per hour worked on the days of the count.

In order to participate in the count, all volunteers and guides were requested to view a 20-minute training video before the count. Training covered all aspects of the count:

- definition of homelessness
- how to identify homeless individuals
- how to conduct the count safely and respectfully, how to use the smart phone app and also access the smartphone app training video
- how to use the route maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered
- tips to identify vehicles
- other tips to help ensure an accurate and safe count.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In Count tracts with a high concentration of homeless encampments, specialized teams with knowledge of those encampments were identified and assigned to those areas. In some areas, law enforcement was nearby or actively involved in the counting process. Enumeration teams were advised to take every safety precaution possible, including bringing flashlights and maintaining a respectful distance from those they were counting.

LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION

On the morning of the street count, teams of two or more persons were created to enumerate designated areas of the county for the street count. Each team, typically consisted of a combination of outreach workers, lived experience guides, program staff and service experienced community volunteers. Each team had a lead and were provided with their assigned Count tract maps, smart phone access information and training, field observation tips and guidelines, including vehicle identification criteria. Teams were all assigned a unique team number and were instructed to text a Central PIT count dispatch center to confirm they were enroute and on task for enumeration of their route assignment.

All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traversed by foot or car. The San Joaquin County Survey 123 smartphone app was used to record the number of homeless persons observed in addition to basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment assignment sheet. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas.

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH COUNT METHODOLOGY

The goal of the 2026 dedicated youth count was to improve representation of unaccompanied homeless children and youth under the age of 25 in the Point-in-Time Count. Many youth and young adults experiencing homelessness do not use homeless services, are unrecognizable to adult street count volunteers, and may be in unsheltered locations that are difficult to find.

RESEARCH DESIGN

As in all years, planning for the 2026 supplemental youth count included homeless youth service providers. Local service providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate. Advocates identified late afternoon and early evening as the optimal times for conducting the youth count.

Youth service provider staff members were trained on where and how to identify homeless youth as well as how to record the data.

DATA COLLECTION

The youth count was conducted by youth service providers from approximately 2pm to 7pm in the San Joaquin County area. HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly come in with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. For this reason, these agencies accept and recommend that communities count youth at times when they can be seen rather than during traditional enumeration times.

Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The data collected through the survey are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important for future program development and planning. The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, duration and recurrence of homelessness, nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted primarily by outreach staff workers and individuals with lived homeless experience. Training sessions were facilitated by ASR, County staff, and community partners. Potential interviewers were led through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information as well as detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Survey workers were compensated at a rate of \$10 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks and in some cases McDonalds gift certificates were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2026 homeless survey. The socks and cards were easy to distribute, had broad appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. The incentives proved to be widely accepted among survey respondents.

SURVEY SAMPLING

Based on a Point-in-Time Count estimate of 3,306 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 271 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of $\pm 5.7\%$ with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County.

The 2026 survey was administered in shelters, transitional housing facilities, and on the street. In order to ensure the representation of transitional housing residents, which can be underrepresented in a street-based survey, survey quotas were created to reach individuals and heads of family households living in these programs.

Strategic attempts were also made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless children and youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence survivors, and families. One way to increase the participation of these groups was to recruit peer survey workers.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an “every third encounter” survey approach. If the person declined to take the survey, the survey worker could approach the next eligible person they encountered. After completing a survey, the randomized approach was resumed. In more remote cases where respondents were sparser this survey interval was modified.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that these responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any single individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

The survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other survey questions.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The 2026 Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, finding families experiencing homelessness presents a challenge and can lead to underrepresentation in the survey results. The same applies to unaccompanied children and youth, though care is taken to ensure that youth surveyors are involved, to increase the response rate of youth survey respondents.

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported, however, using a peer-centric interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Service providers and county staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.