Mendocino County
Homeless Services
Continuum of Care

MENDOCINO COUNTY 2024
HOMELESSNESS
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & REPORT

Updated August 29, 2024

Prepared by
Applied Survey Research

ASR

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The considerable efforts of many individuals, organizations, and government agencies helped ensure the success of the 2024 Homeless Point-in-Time Count. The Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care is grateful to the people, agencies, organizations, and community members who partner together to make homelessness for individuals and families in Mendocino County rare, brief, and non-recurring. We would like to thank the many staff, partner agencies, volunteers, residents of the shelters, and fellow community residents experiencing unsheltered homelessness who participated in the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and survey administration, as well as the survey respondents themselves. This work is reflected throughout the findings of this report. We are particularly grateful to the leadership and staff at the following organizations for their assistance with all aspects of this report:

Supporting Organizations	
Adventist Health	Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria
City of Fort Bragg	City of Point Arena
City of Ukiah	City of Willits
Community Development Commission of Mendocino Co. & Housing Authority	Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Ford Street Project	Geo Group, Inc.
Guidiville Indian Rancheria	Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester Rancheria	MCAVHN Care and Prevention Network
Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center	Mendocino County Office of Education
Mendocino County Youth Project	Nation's Finest
Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority	Pinoleville Pomo Nation
Potter Valley Tribe	Project Sanctuary
Redwood Community Services	Redwood Valley Little River of Pomo Indians of the Redwood Valley Rancheria
Round Valley Indian Tribes	Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation
Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians	State Council of Developmental Disabilities
Veteran's Administration	Yokayo Tribe of Indians

INTRODUCTION

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It is required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care board is responsible for the management of the PIT Count. It also coordinates planning and service delivery on a countywide basis to support general and special population shelter and supportive services funding from HUD, the State, and many other sources.

The following is a summary of data findings from the 2024 Mendocino County PIT Count conducted on the morning of January 24, 2024. Shelter data was based on sleeping locations from the night of January 23, 2024. Utilizing a location-based application, short surveys were administered to individuals and families residing on the streets and in vehicles, makeshift shelters, encampments, and other places not meant for human habitation throughout the County. Non-responsive observed persons were documented and included in the Count totals as well.

Point Arena Lighthouse

MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the 2024 Mendocino County Point-in-Time Count and Survey. PIT Count data were gathered on the morning of January 24, 2024. A total of 73 interviews with homeless individuals were conducted and over 144 observations without interviews were documented. To gain a greater understanding of the experiences of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Mendocino County, respondents were asked basic demographic questions including age, gender, race, and ethnicity. Respondents were not required to respond to all survey questions to respect their privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated.

Tribal Lands and the PIT Count

In years past, PIT Count organizers and volunteers have not felt confident in their ability to effectively document the prevalence of homelessness on sovereign Tribal Lands throughout the County. This year, in order to improve our collective understanding and outcomes, the PIT Count Planning Team contacted local Tribal Nations and Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority, which were eager to help in this effort and work closely with the PIT organizing team to train and coordinate teams of Tribal Members and Leaders to canvas Tribal Land throughout Mendocino County.

Planning maps with layer displays of Tribal Land borders and US Census Tracts were used to develop Tribal PIT Count planning maps for Tribal Surveyor Teams to canvass. All known areas within Mendocino County were enumerated ranging from the Cahto and Round Valley Tribes in the North to the Hopland and Yokayo Tribes in the South to the Manchester Band on the Coast. Tribal Members familiar with the local areas surveyed the land and documented persons and vehicles known to be inhabited by persons experiencing homelessness. This local knowledge and access enabled Mendocino PIT Count teams the ability to include many vehicles of persons who were experiencing homelessness who previously would not have been reported.

The participation of Tribal Leadership in the PIT Count enabled the County to more effectively document the prevalence of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who identify as Native American, Alaska Native, or Indigenous. Newly collected data and other system performance measures show this demographic may represent as many as 37% of the homeless population in Mendocino County. Special thanks to the organizing skills and participation of Priest Martinez of the Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority for all his help in achieving this component of the PIT Count

A New Baseline

We believe that the following factors significantly impacted our PIT results and report in 2024:

1. Retention of a professional consultant: For the first time in over a decade, the Mendocino County CoC retained the services of a professional consultant to assist with planning, data collection, and analysis. The introduction of an experienced professional brought new and different techniques of analysis and strategies of estimation.

2. As noted above, strengthened partnerships with Tribal Nations increased our collective ability to assess homelessness in and around Tribal areas with a thoroughness and sensitivity we hadn't been able to achieve in many years.

3. For the first time, our PIT team sought specific information from our school district partners about families experiencing unsheltered homelessness. As a result, our indicators for family homelessness have remained consistent despite significant focus on reducing family homelessness.

In conclusion, although we note and acknowledge that unsheltered homelessness appears to have increased since the 2023 PIT Count, we believe that the factors described above contributed to a more accurate and comprehensive count than we've enjoyed in the recent past. The disruption of the pandemic, an influx of new opportunities to address and assess homelessness, and variation in counting methodologies have contributed to an unstable data collection environment in the past five years or so. To that end, we consider 2024 to be a baseline year for the PIT Count experience in Mendocino County. We look forward to being able to analyze and understand our own data in a more robust and useful manner as we move forward toward our collective goal of ending homelessness in our communities. .

For more information regarding the survey methodology, please see the [Research Notes](#).
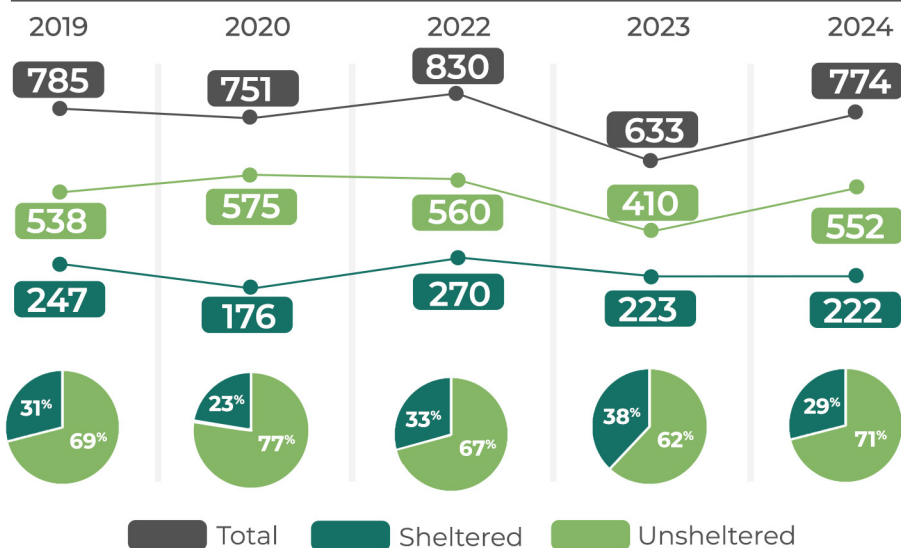

Pudding Creek Tressle

2024 MENDOCINO COUNTY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

Mendocino County
Homeless Services
Continuum of Care

Every two years HUD requires 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 Mendocino CoC completes a Point-in-Time Count annually. The 2024 Mendocino Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 24th to identify where people stayed the night of January 23rd. A survey was administered to 73 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experiences and characteristics.
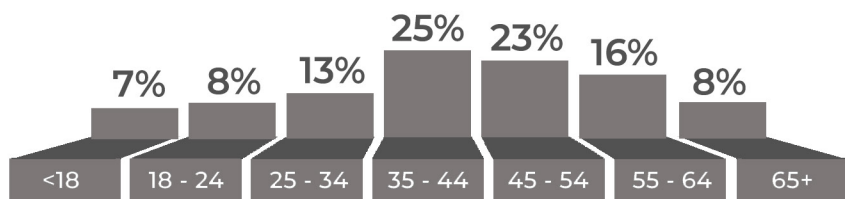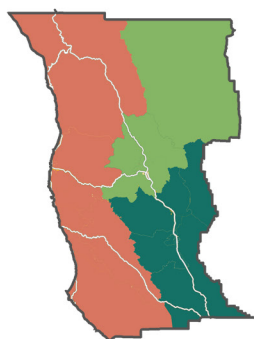
TOTAL POPULATION LONGITUDINAL TREND

	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
Total	785	751	830	633	774
Unsheltered	538	575	560	410	552
Sheltered	247	176	270	223	222

Pie charts (Sheltered / Unsheltered):
- 2019: 31% / 69%
- 2020: 23% / 77%
- 2022: 33% / 67%
- 2023: 38% / 62%
- 2024: 29% / 71%

Legend: Total | Sheltered | Unsheltered

2024 SHELTERED/UNSHELTERED POPULATION

29% Sheltered N = 222

71% Unsheltered N = 552

2024 POPULATION BY AGE

<18	18 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+
7%	8%	13%	25%	23%	16%	8%

2024 UNSHELTERED POPULATION BY REGION

Region	Count	%
Coast	121	22%
Inland North	216	39%
Inland South	215	39%
Total	552	100%

SPECIAL POPULATION DATA
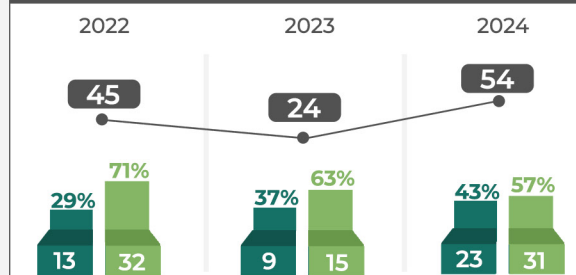Legend: Sheltered | Unsheltered

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

	2022	2023	2024
Total	177	144	154
Sheltered	71% — 126	70% — 101	60% — 93
Unsheltered	29% — 51	30% — 43	40% — 61

VETERANS

	2022	2023	2024
Total	19	14	19
Sheltered	68% — 13	43% — 6	63% — 12
Unsheltered	32% — 6	57% — 8	37% — 7
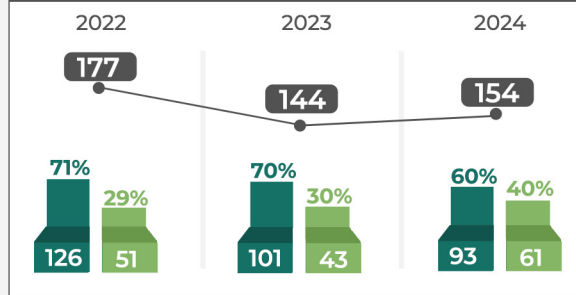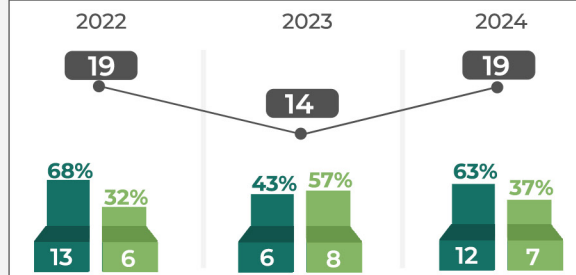
UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

	2022	2023	2024
Total	45	24	54
Sheltered	29% — 13	37% — 9	43% — 23
Unsheltered	71% — 32	63% — 15	57% — 31

FAMILIES

OF FAMILY UNITS

	2022	2023	2024
Total	38	29	30
Sheltered	92% — 35	100% — 29	80% — 24
Unsheltered	8% — 3	0% — 0	20% — 6

OF FAMILY MEMBERS

	2022	2023	2024
Total	115	73	92
Sheltered	92% — 106	100% — 73	74% — 68
Unsheltered	8% — 9	0% — 0	26% — 24
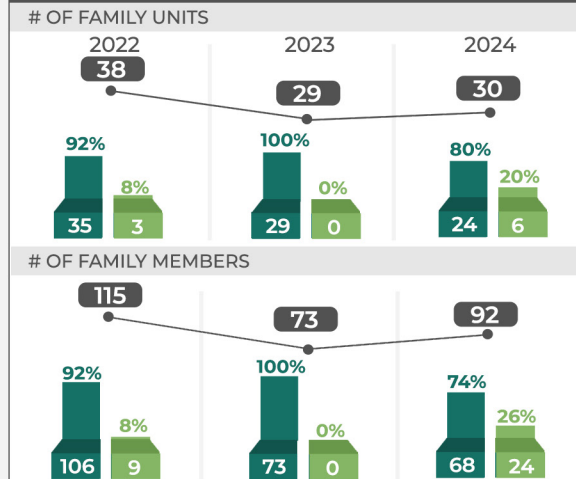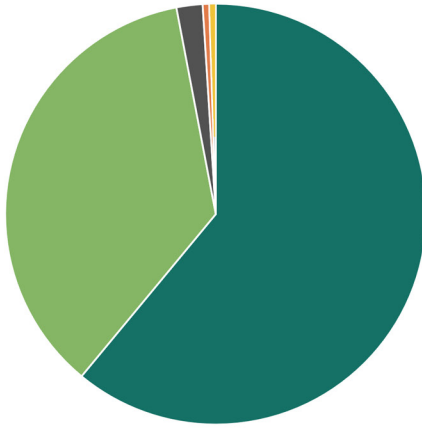
GENDER

- **61%** Man/Boy
- **36%** Woman/Girl
- **2%** More than one gender
- **<1%** Non-binary
- **<1%** Transgender

RACE & ETHNICITY

- **37%** American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- **1%** American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **1%** Black, African American, or African
- **2%** Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **<1%** Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- **<1%** Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **53%** White
- **4%** White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **<1%** Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- **2%** Multi-Racial (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)

UNSHELTERED SURVEY DATA   N= 73 | Margin of error 10%

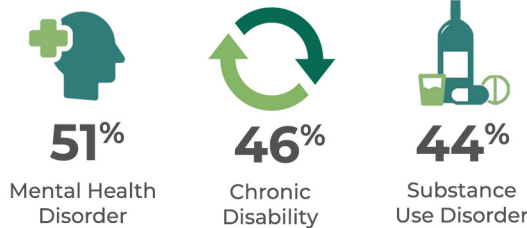### AGE AT FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

7% Under 18

9% 18 - 24

84% 25+
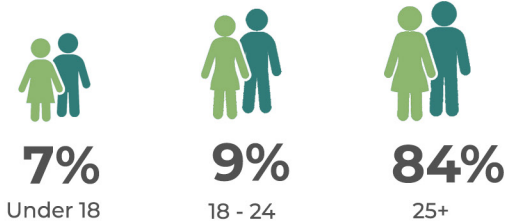
UNSHELTERED POPULATION BY SLEEPING LOCATION

40% Outdoors/ Streets

29% Tent

26% Vehicle

5% Abandoned Building

FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS
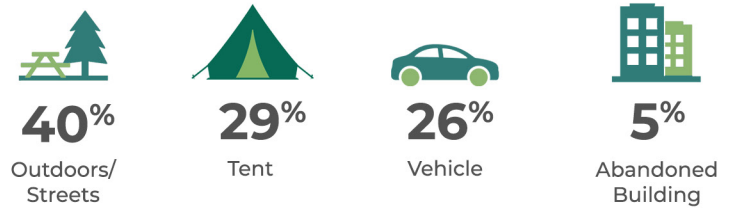
34% are experiencing their first episode of homelessness

SELF REPORTED HEALTH*

51% Mental Health Disorder

46% Chronic Disability

44% Substance Use Disorder

DISABLING CONDITIONS

37% of survey respondents reported having at least one disabling condition

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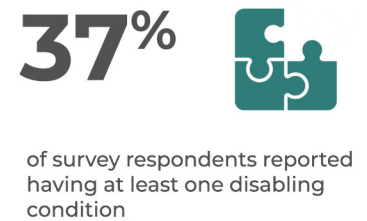
SUBPOPULATION DEFINITIONS

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.

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* Only displaying top responses, all responsive data will be available in full report.

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

DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION

The number of individuals counted in the 2024 Mendocino County Point-in-Time Count was 774.

This was a 22% increase over the number of individuals counted in 2023 (633).

Figure 01

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS COUNTED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT*

	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
	785	751	830	633	774
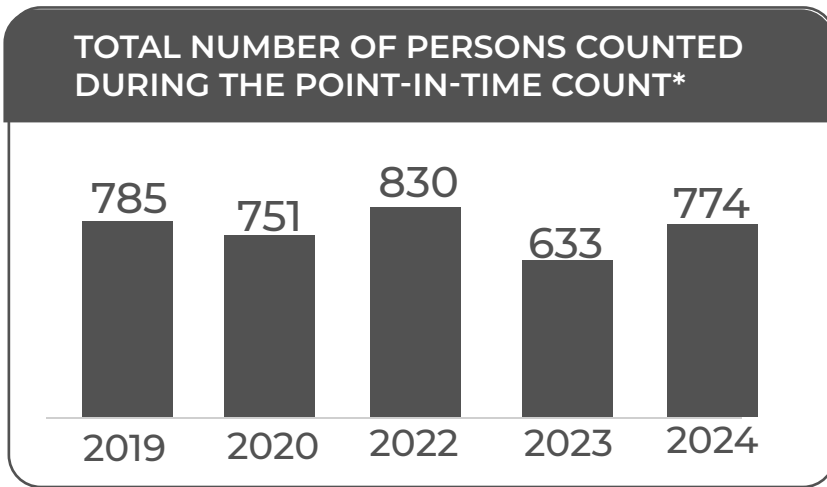
*2021 data is unavailable as an unsheltered count was not conducted due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Figure 02

TOTAL NUMBER OF 2024 PERSONS COUNTED BY SHELTER STATUS

29% Sheltered
71% Unsheltered

n = 774
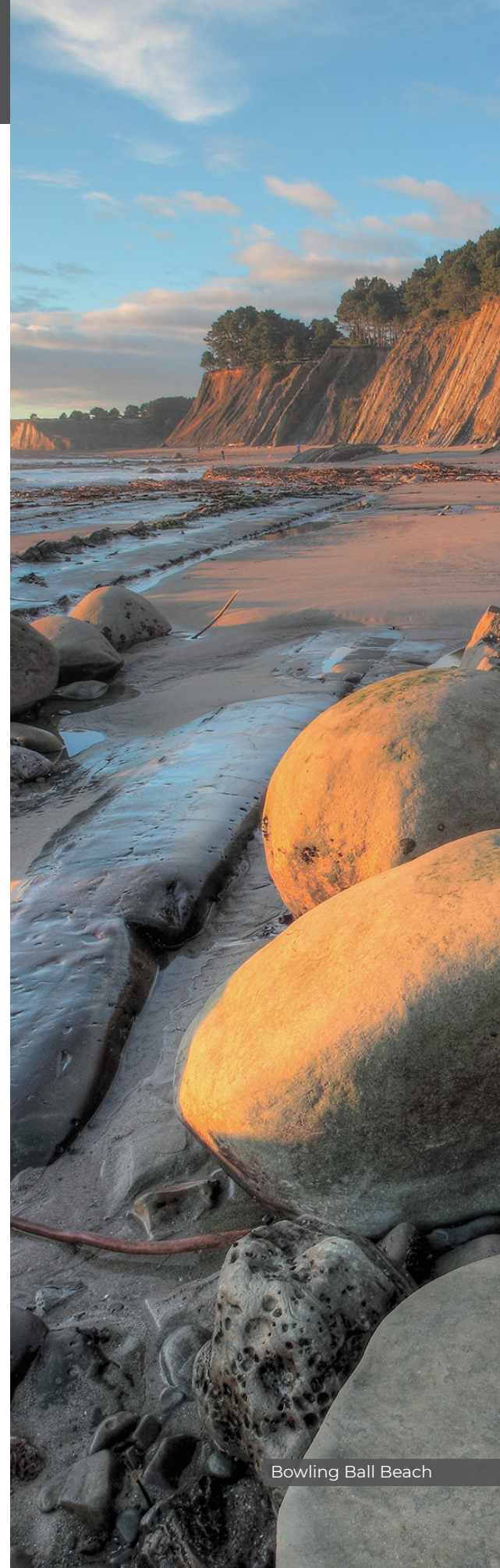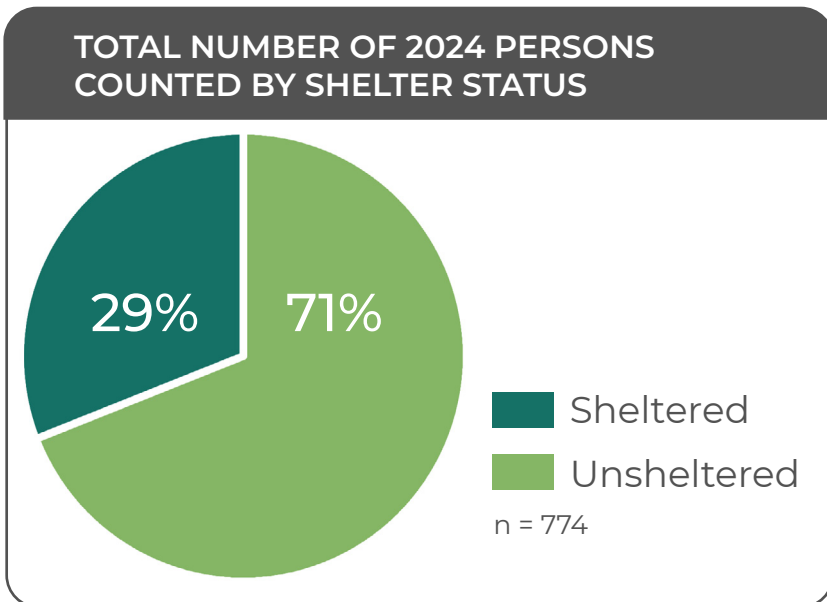
Bowling Ball Beach

Figure 03

TOTAL POPULATION LONGITUDINAL TRENDS 2019-2024

| 2019 | 2020 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |

Total: 785, 751, 830, 633, 774

Unsheltered: 538, 575, 560, 410, 552

Sheltered: 247, 176, 270, 223, 222

Total · Unsheltered · Sheltered

AGE

Approximately 8% of persons enumerated during the PIT Count were between the ages of 18 and 25, while 85% were 25 or older. There is an emerging trend of those experiencing homelessness at age 55 or older. In 2024, 24% of people experiencing homelessness were aged 55 and over, a slight increase from 2023 (21%)

Figure 04

TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE 2024

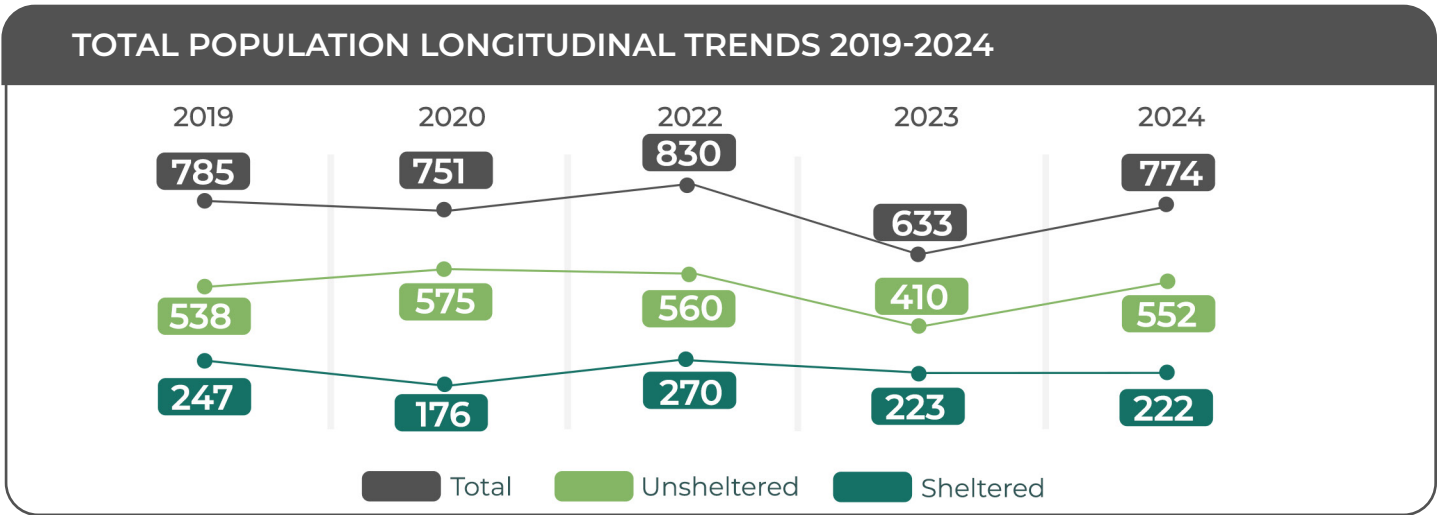|	<18	18 - 24	25 - 34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Percent	7%	8%	13%	25%	23%	16%	8%
N	N=51	N=62	N=104	N=194	N=181	N=121	N=61

Figure 05

UNSHELTERED POPULATION BY AGE 2024

	<18	18 - 24	25 - 34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Percent	3%	5%	15%	29%	26%	14%	6%
N	N=15	N=30	N=84	N=162	N=146	N=80	N=35

Figure 06

SHELTERED POPULATION BY AGE 2024
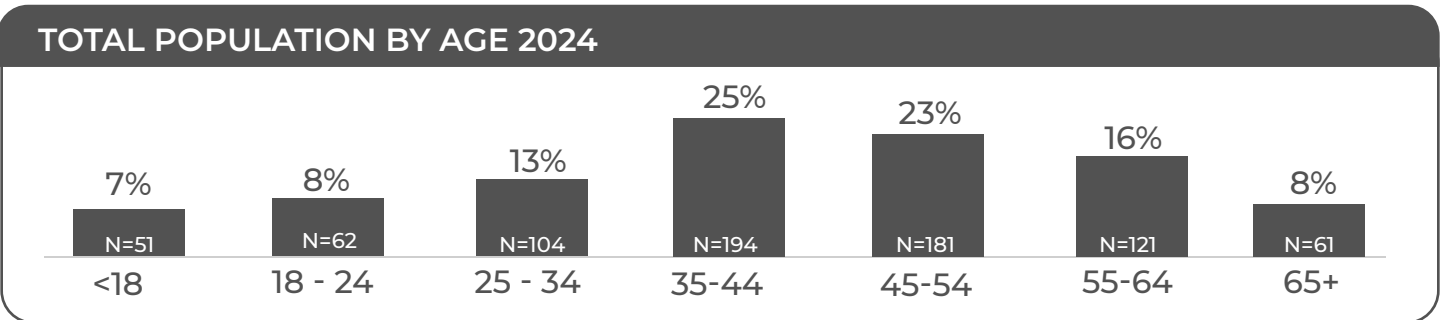
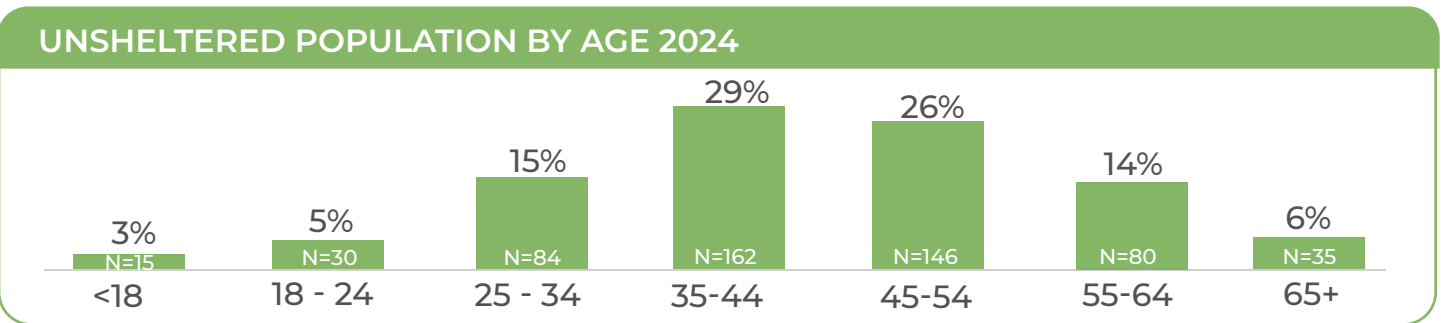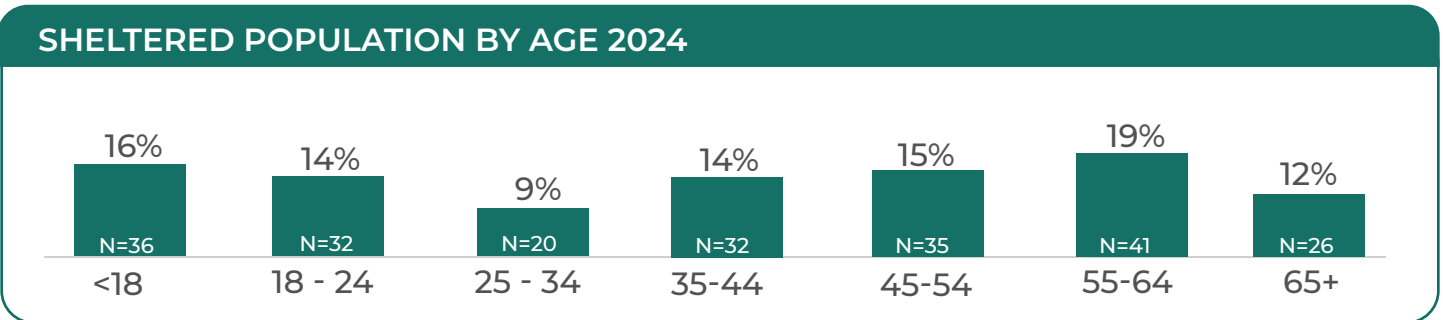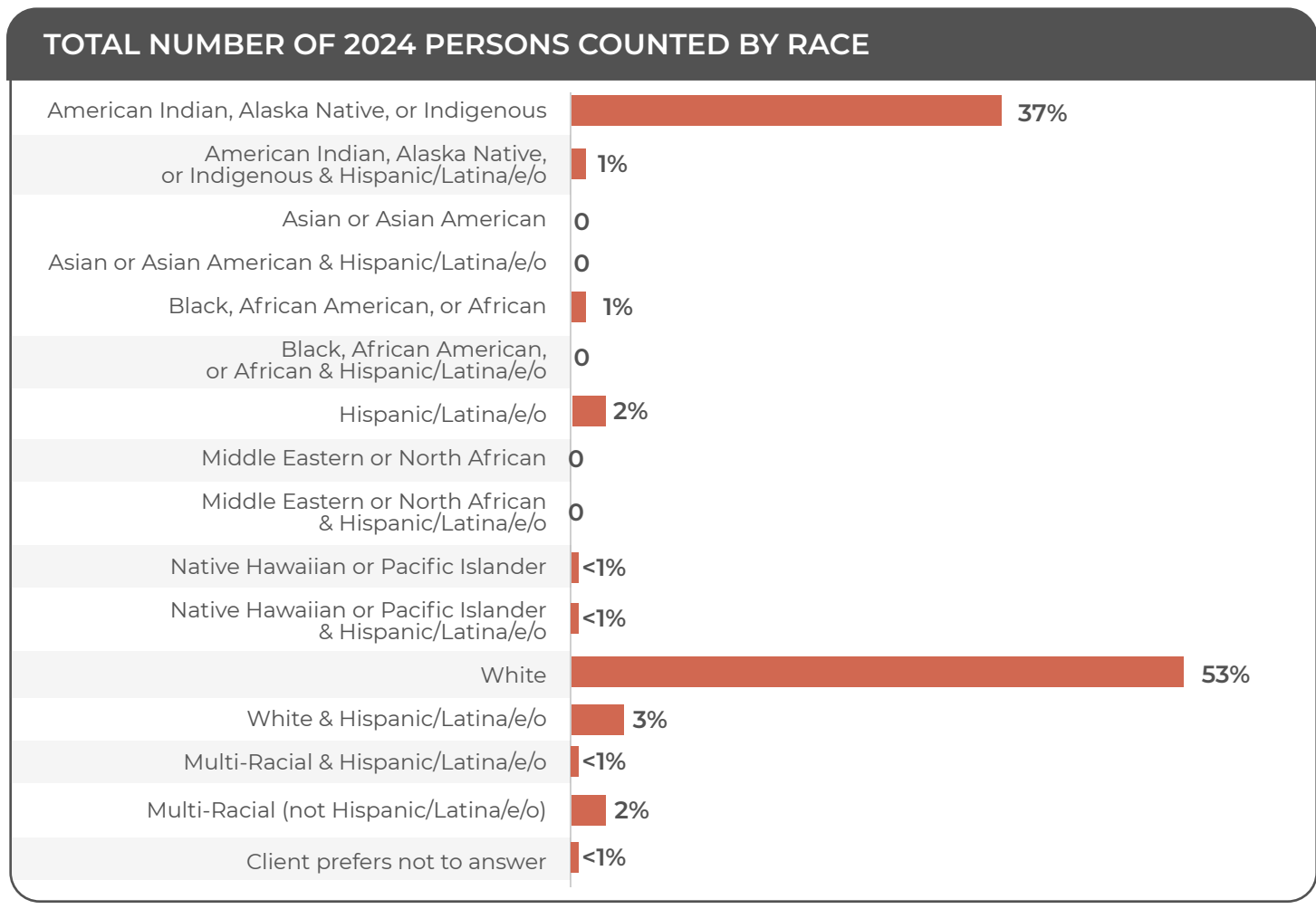|	<18	18 - 24	25 - 34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Percent	16%	14%	9%	14%	15%	19%	12%
N	N=36	N=32	N=20	N=32	N=35	N=41	N=26

Skunk Train

RACE & ETHNICITY

A majority of the population identified as White (53%). Thirty-seven percent (37%) identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, or indigenous. Two percent (2%) identify as Hispanic/Latina/e/o.

Figure 07

TOTAL NUMBER OF 2024 PERSONS COUNTED BY RACE

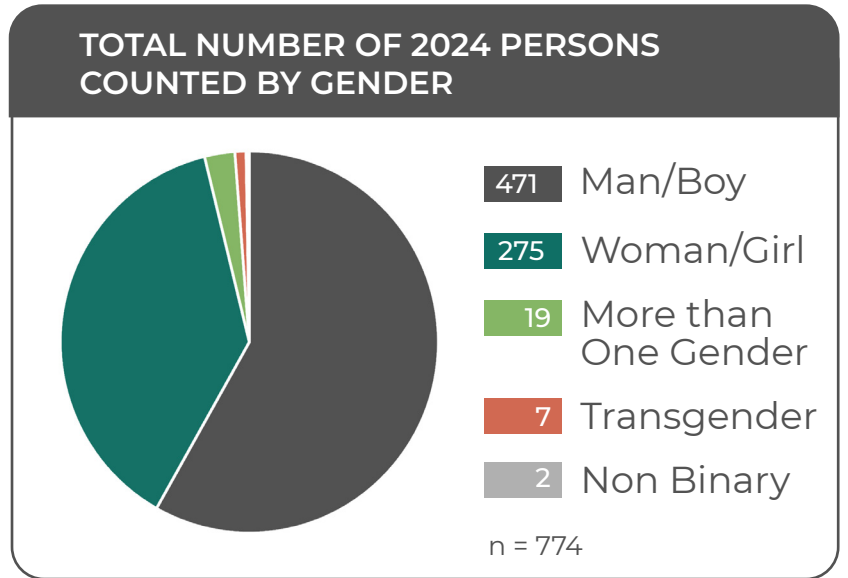| Race	Percent
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	37%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	1%
Asian or Asian American	0
Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0
Black, African American, or African	1%
Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	2%
Middle Eastern or North African	0
Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
White	53%
White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	3%
Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	<1%
Multi-Racial (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)	2%
Client prefers not to answer	<1%

GENDER

Over three-fifths (61%) of the population identified as male, while 36% identified as female. Four percent identified as transgender, non-binary, or more than one gender.
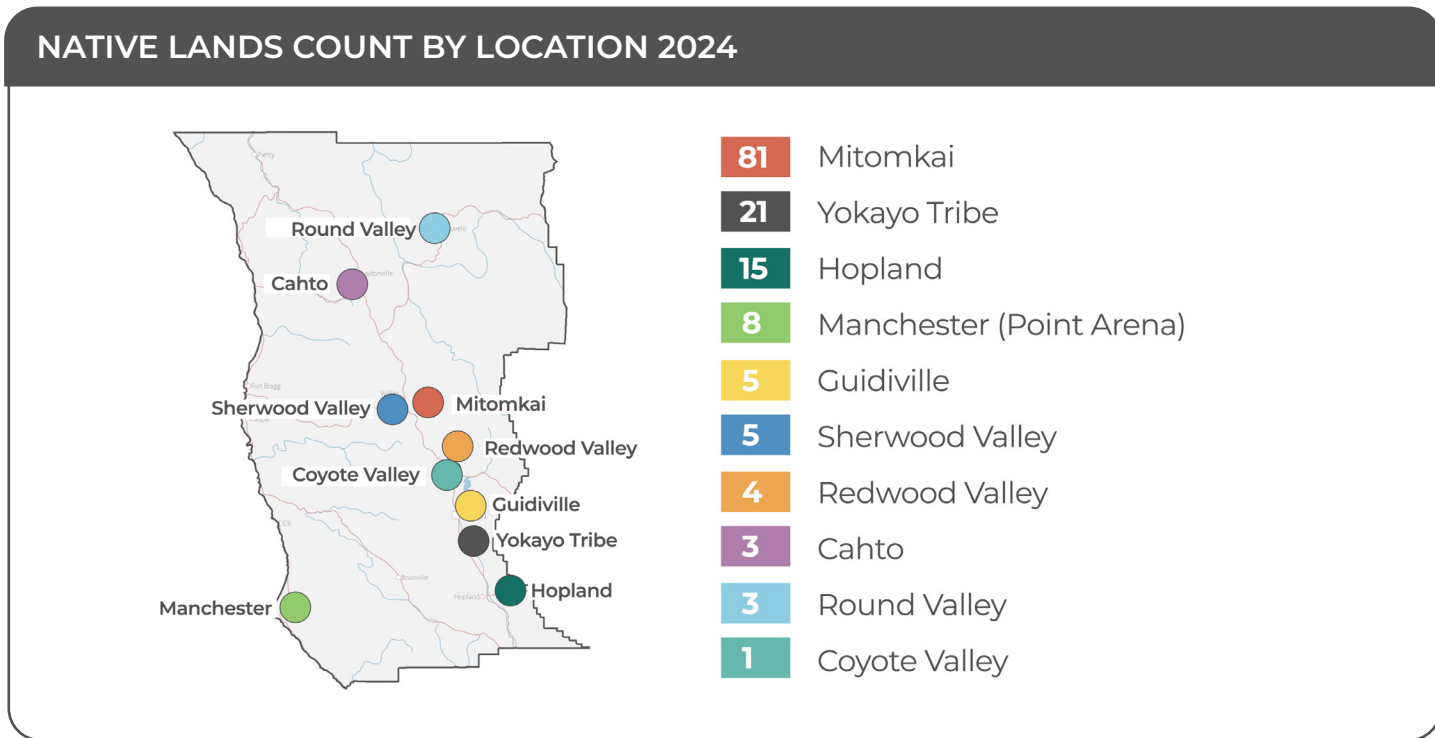
Figure 08

TOTAL NUMBER OF 2024 PERSONS COUNTED BY GENDER

471	Man/Boy
275	Woman/Girl
19	More than One Gender
7	Transgender
2	Non Binary

n = 774

Ukiah, CA

NATIVE LANDS COUNT BY LOCATION

The following table identifies the Tribal Lands on which people experiencing unsheltered homelessness were identified.
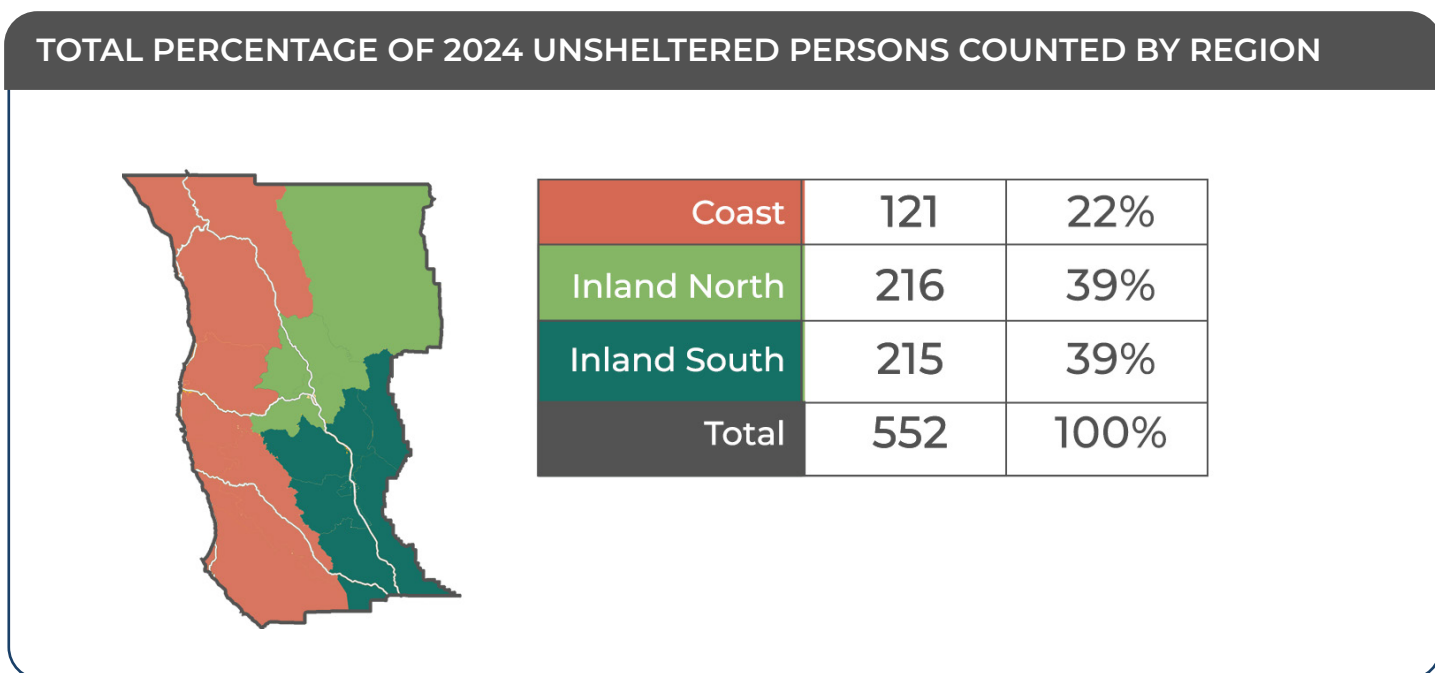
Figure 9

NATIVE LANDS COUNT BY LOCATION 2024

Count	Location
81	Mitomkai
21	Yokayo Tribe
15	Hopland
8	Manchester (Point Arena)
5	Guidiville
5	Sherwood Valley
4	Redwood Valley
3	Cahto
3	Round Valley
1	Coyote Valley

TOTAL UNSHELTERED POPULATION BY REGION

The following table displays the PIT Count results in a more regional context.

Figure 10

TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF 2024 UNSHELTERED PERSONS COUNTED BY REGION

Region	Count	Percentage
Coast	121	22%
Inland North	216	39%
Inland South	215	39%
Total	552	100%

UNSHELTERED SURVEY DATA

A survey was administered to unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in order to profile their experience and characteristics. The data presented on pages 13 and 14 reflects responses gathered from 73 unsheltered individuals with a margin of error of 10%.

EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

For many, their current episode of homelessness is their first, while many others experience multiple episodes throughout their lives.
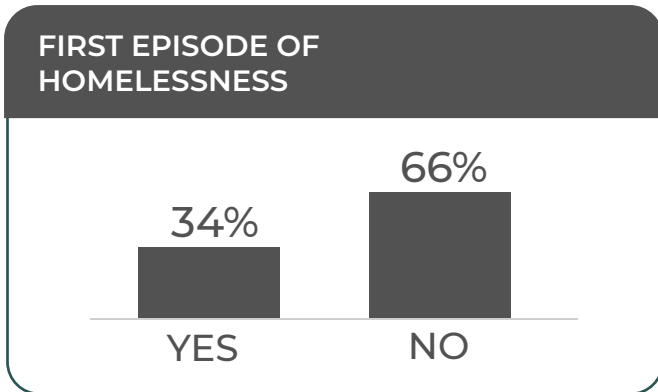
Figure 11

FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

66%
34%
YES   NO

Figure 12

OVERALL NUMBER OF HOMELESS EPISODES

75%
25%
0-3 EPISODES   4 + EPISODES

Figure 13

LENGTH OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS

53%
25%   22%
LESS THAN 1 YEAR   1 TO 2 YEARS   MORE THAN 2 YEARS

Figure 14

UNSHELTERED RESPONDENTS BY SLEEP LOCATION

40%
29%   26%
5%
OUTDOORS   TENT OR MAKESHIFT SHELTER   VEHICLE   ABANDONED BUILDING
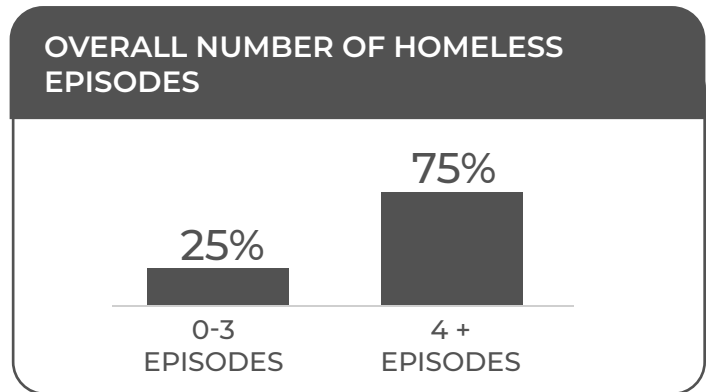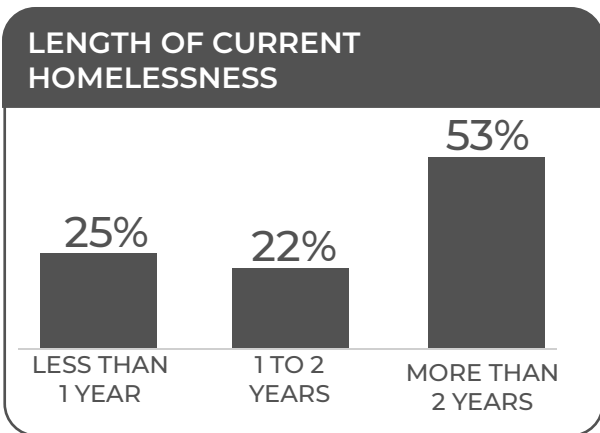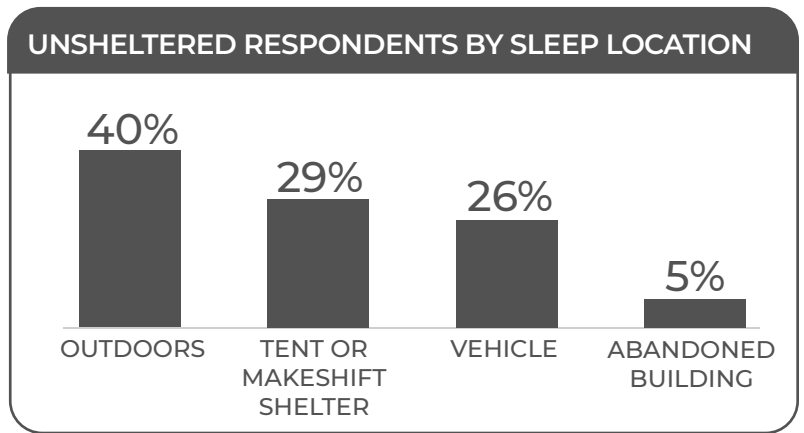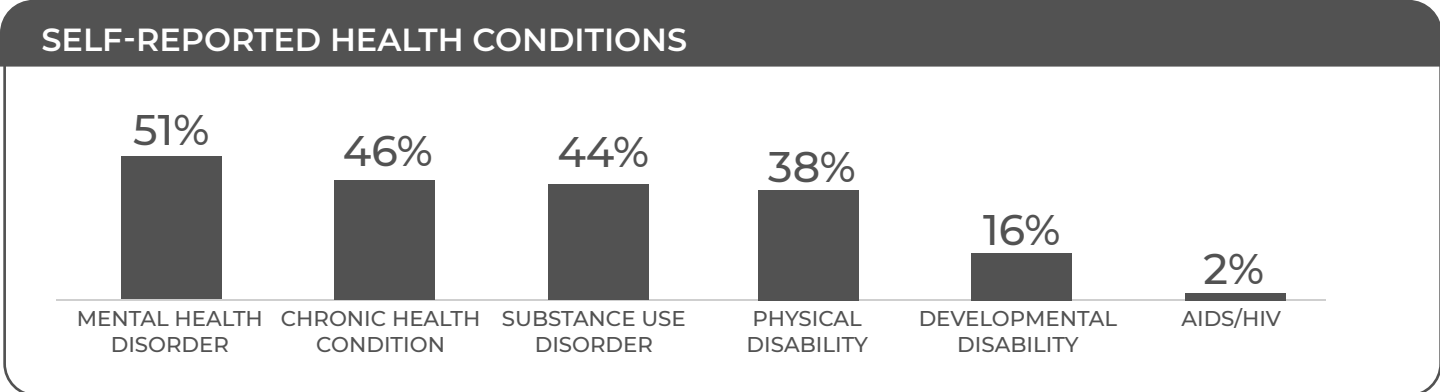
Fort Bragg, CA

HEALTH

The poor health of many who experience homelessness is both a cause and consequence of their lack of housing. Mental, behavioral and physical health issues are well documented in our survey.

Figure 15

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH CONDITIONS

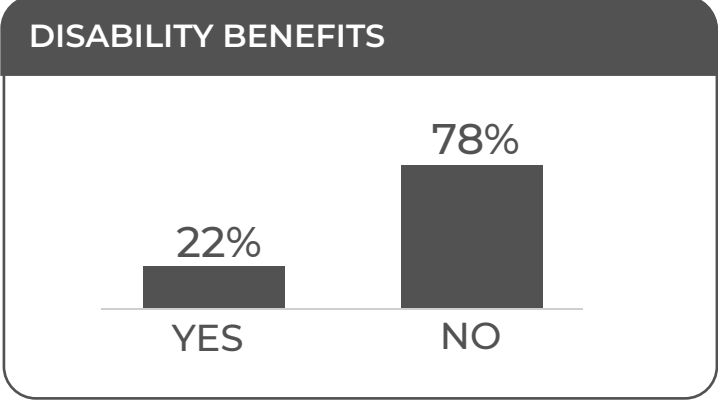| MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER	CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER	PHYSICAL DISABILITY	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY	AIDS/HIV
51%	46%	44%	38%	16%	2%

DISABILITY

Despite the prevalence of the many disabling conditions above, the percentage and number of persons receiving disability payments is relatively low.
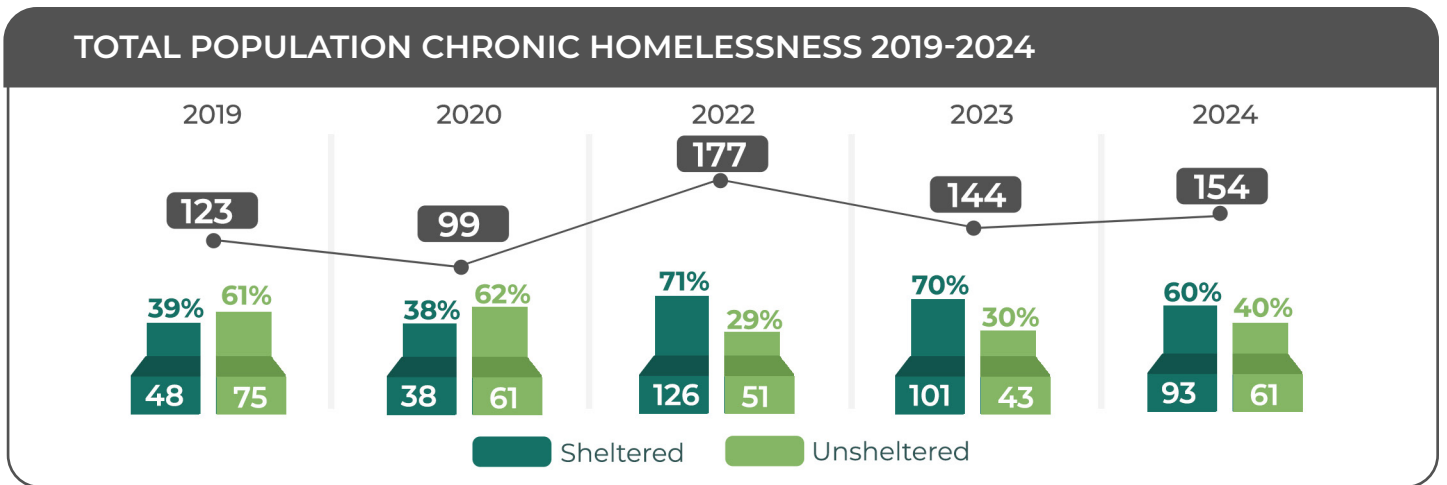
Figure 16

DISABILITY BENEFITS

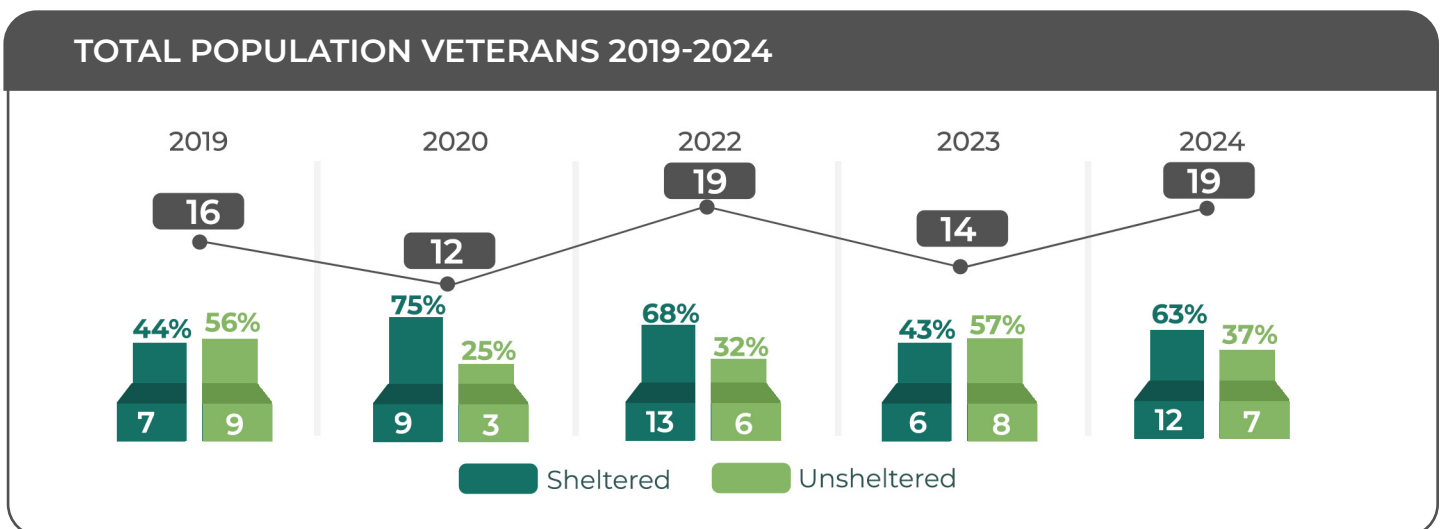| YES	NO
22%	78%

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Chronic homelessness is a category that requires multi-episodic or yearlong homelessness combined with a disabling health condition that prohibits independent living. Twenty percent of persons experiencing homelessness in Mendocino are considered chronic, a decrease from 2023 (23%).

Figure 17

TOTAL POPULATION CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS 2019-2024

	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
Total	123	99	177	144	154
Sheltered	39% / 48	38% / 38	71% / 126	70% / 101	60% / 93
Unsheltered	61% / 75	62% / 61	29% / 51	30% / 43	40% / 61

Sheltered ■ Unsheltered ■

VETERANS

Figure 18

TOTAL POPULATION VETERANS 2019-2024

	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
Total	16	12	19	14	19
Sheltered	44% / 7	75% / 9	68% / 13	43% / 6	63% / 12
Unsheltered	56% / 9	25% / 3	32% / 6	57% / 8	37% / 7

Sheltered ■ Unsheltered ■
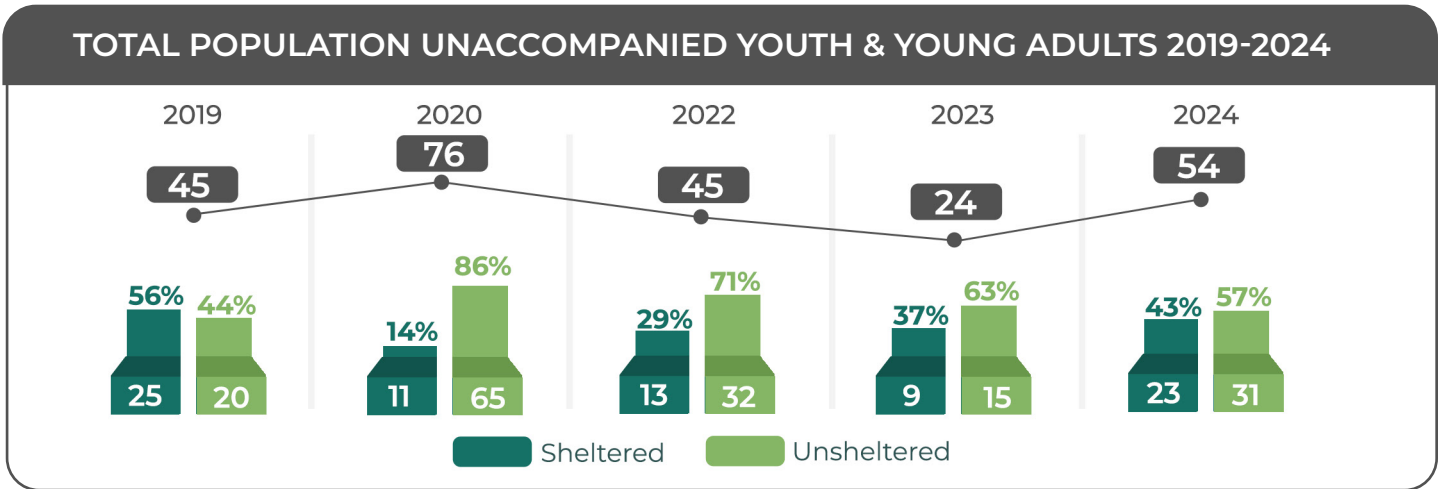
UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

As in previous years, the number of unaccompanied homeless youth is relatively small.

Figure 19

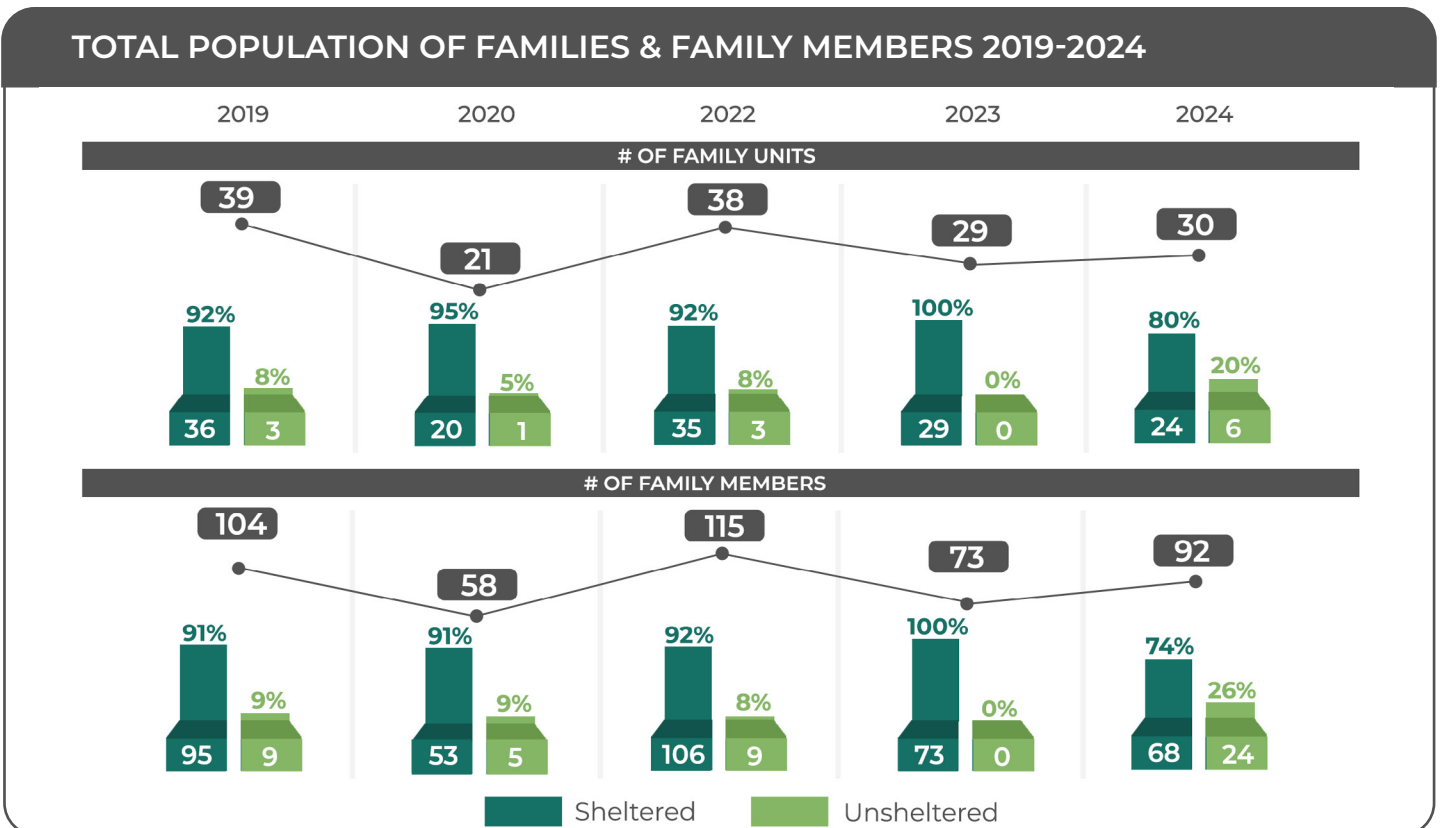## TOTAL POPULATION UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS 2019-2024

	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
Total	45	76	45	24	54
Sheltered	56% — 25	14% — 11	29% — 13	37% — 9	43% — 23
Unsheltered	44% — 20	86% — 65	71% — 32	63% — 15	57% — 31

Legend: ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered

FAMILIES

The number of families enumerated in the PIT Count is consistent with previous years.

Figure 20

TOTAL POPULATION OF FAMILIES & FAMILY MEMBERS 2019-2024

	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
# OF FAMILY UNITS					
Total	39	21	38	29	30
Sheltered	92% — 36	95% — 20	92% — 35	100% — 29	80% — 24
Unsheltered	8% — 3	5% — 1	8% — 3	0% — 0	20% — 6
# OF FAMILY MEMBERS					
Total	104	58	115	73	92
Sheltered	91% — 95	91% — 53	92% — 106	100% — 73	74% — 68
Unsheltered	9% — 9	9% — 5	8% — 9	0% — 0	26% — 24

Legend: ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered
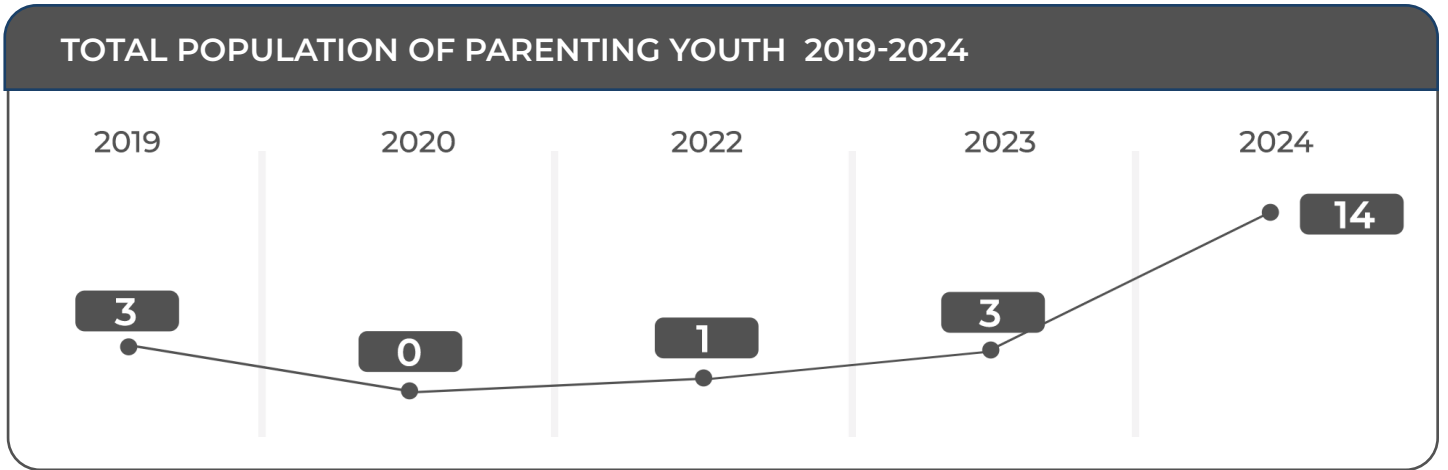
PARENTING YOUTH

This is a HUD reporting category for young families where the parent is under 25 years of age and there is an under 18 child.

Figure 21

TOTAL POPULATION OF PARENTING YOUTH 2019-2024

2019	2020	2022	2023	2024
3	0	1	3	14

Mendocino Headlands State Park

RESEARCH NOTES

The PIT Count was conducted under the direction of the County with independent teams organized by local agencies and County and jurisdictional staff in Mendocino County. Applied Survey Research was contracted to provide technical support for the project including development and management of the Simtech-based smartphone survey app and production of the summary report data. Data development of the survey results was completed by the staff at Applied Survey Research including the HDX data for the unsheltered component of the HUD submission. The Housing Inventory Chart and the corresponding shelter component of the HUD HDX data submission were completed by County staff.

Mendocino County PIT Count staff organized surveyor recruitment and trainings to support the Count. Approximately 140 persons participated and were trained on the usage of the smartphone PIT survey app and proper conduct and procedures for administering the survey. The survey was conducted primarily between the hours of 7:30 am and noon on January 24, 2024, in unsheltered locations throughout the County. Coverage and deployment organization was consistent with prior years with deployment sites in Ukiah, Willits, and Ft. Bragg. Indian reservations, rancherias, and closely surrounding areas were enumerated primarily by Native American enumerators who were authorized to canvas native lands and who deployed in pre-arranged locations on the morning of the Count. Priest Martinez, ESS Manager of the Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority acted as deployment captain and organized the PIT Count in Tribal areas.

Unsheltered family data is commonly under-reported due to surveyor inability to access these families. Recent HUD notices have approved calling family waitlist names to determine their housing status and family profile but that could not be accomplished with current list and staffing availability.

Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age are also under-reported during the PIT Count survey process due, in part, to outreach shortfalls but also to the more common experience of youth "couch-surfing" which is not a HUD-allowable sleeping condition to be included as experiencing homelessness. McKinney-Vento liaisons at school districts in Mendocino County verified the sleeping locations of students as required by HUD for the specific date window of the PIT Count (2/24 – 3/10/2024) and contributed data on seven families.

Local VA Staff contacted all Veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness they have engaged and completed surveys with seven Veterans over the telephone.

A best practice in homeless PIT Counts is the participation and contribution of persons with lived homeless experience in the effort. This was accomplished successfully in Ft. Bragg, Ukiah, and the Tribal areas. Surveyors with lived experience were paid $20 per hour in cash for their efforts on behalf of the PIT Count.

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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