

**MARIN COUNTY 2026
HOMELESSNESS**
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & REPORT

ABOUT MARIN COUNTY HHS

The Marin County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the collaborative applicant for the Marin County Continuum of Care and oversees the Point-in-Time Count.

With 800+ employees, 40+ programs and services and 12+ locations, HHS is the largest department in the County of Marin, and it is the mission of HHS to promote and protect the health, wellbeing, self-sufficiency, and safety of all people in Marin.

HHS's vision, as outlined in the HHS Strategic Plan to Achieve Health and Wellness Equity, is that all in Marin flourish by:

- Operating as an anti-racist organization for services, programs, clients, staff, and partners.
- Being one integrated, coordinated, collaborative, non-siloed organization for clients, partners, and staff.
- Using data to inform our work, evaluate progress, and improve service quality.
- Giving all employees the opportunity to influence the organization and thrive in their pursuits.

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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

Marin County and ASR would like to thank the many service providers who offered their talents, time, and wisdom, particularly for their help recruiting count workers and assisting in the administration of surveys. Marin County and ASR would also like to thank the count and survey workers, including those with lived experience and community volunteers, and the survey respondents. Their efforts were vital in making the PIT Count a success.

PIT COUNT LEADS

Nikolas Brady, Derek Chin

Marin County Health and Human Services

MARIN COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) BOARD

Adopt A Family of Marin	Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers
Aging Action Initiative	Marin County Health and Human Services
Bucklew Programs	Marin County Office of Education
Center Point Inc.	Marin County Probation Department
Center for Domestic Peace	Marin County Veteran Services
Community Action Marin	Marin Housing Authority
Downtown Streets Team	Marin Organizing Committee
Homeward Bound of Marin	Ritter Center
Marin City Health & Wellness Center	San Rafael Police Department
Marin County Consumer Representatives	St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin
Marin County Board of Supervisors	Side by Side Transition Age Youth
Marin County Community Development Agency	Women Helping All People

COUNT AND SURVEY COORDINATORS

Homeward Bound – Bailey Tiura, County Wide Survey Coordinator	Marin County Probation – Fatai Tokolahi
Community Action Marin – Laurel Hill	Ritter Center, San Rafael – Ben Stein
West Marin County Outreach – Caren Gately Chloe Cook	West Marin Community Services – Freddy Camacho Oveido

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNT AND SURVEY COORDINATOR

Side by Side TAY Space – Laura Taylor	
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INTRODUCTION

Every two years, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of community members experiencing homelessness. Point-in-Time Counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as on people sleeping on the streets, or in cars, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation.

The Point-in-Time Count is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness and is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, the Marin County Continuum of Care (CoC) receives approximately \$5.9 million dollars annually in federal funding, a key source of funding for the county's homeless services.

This information ultimately helps the federal government to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Point-in-Time Census and Survey data also help to inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

ASR is a social research firm with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessment that has worked with Marin County on their Point-in-Time Counts since 2015.



PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the 2026 Marin Point-in-Time Count and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held planning meetings with local stakeholders, including representatives from the cities, County, and community-based service providers. The contributions of these individuals at the 2026 planning meetings were instrumental to ensuring the 2026 Marin Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2026 Marin Point-in-Time Census and Survey consisted of the following data collection components: (1) a point-in-time enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals and families, such as those sleeping outdoors, on the street, or in parks, tents, or vehicles, (2) a point-in-time enumeration of homeless individuals and families residing in temporary shelter, including emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities, (3) a specialized count of youth and young adults under the age of 25, (4) specific outreach to capture data on unsheltered families, and (5) an in-depth survey administered to unsheltered individuals in the weeks following the count.

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

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



MARIN 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 Marin County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 28th, 2026. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 419 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness to collect additional demographic information.



TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1,128



26%
Sheltered
n=297



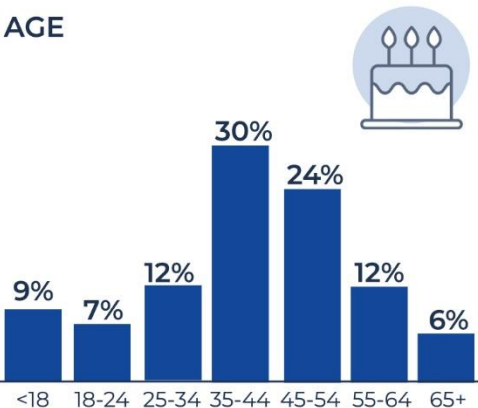
74%
Unsheltered
n=831

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

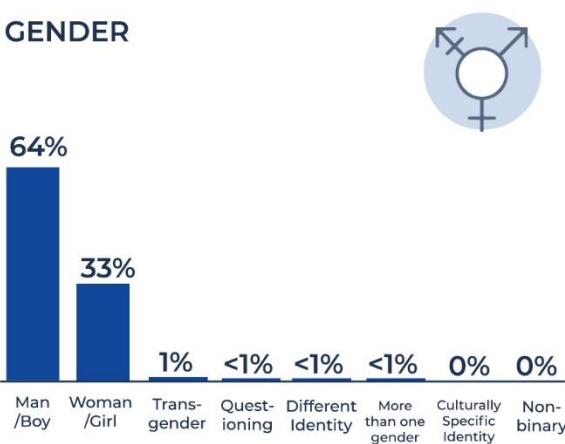


DEMOGRAPHICS

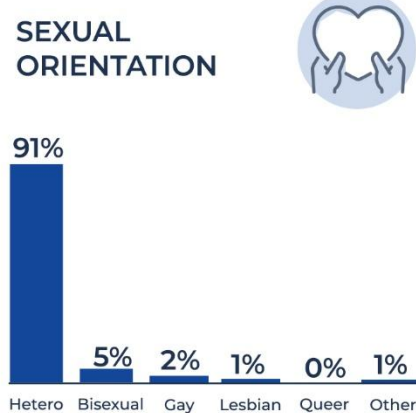
AGE



GENDER



SEXUAL ORIENTATION



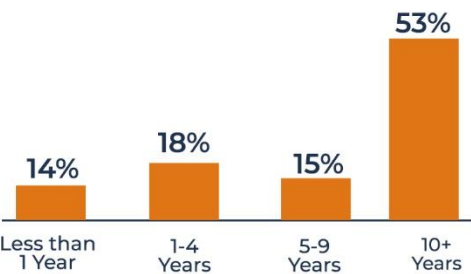
RACE/ ETHNICITY



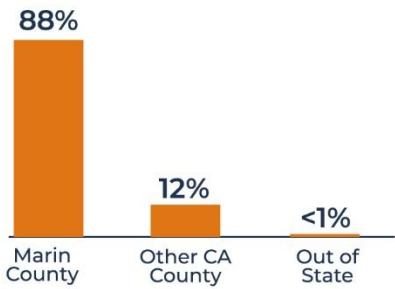
NOT HISPANIC/LATINA/E/O	HISPANIC/LATINA/E/O
1% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	<1% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
2% Asian or Asian American	<1% Asian or Asian American
15% Black, African American, or African	1% Black, African American, or African
<1% Middle Eastern or North African	0% Middle Eastern or North African
<1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
46% White	4% White
5% Multi Racial	1% Multi Racial
	25% Hispanic/Latina/e/o

DATA PORTRAITS

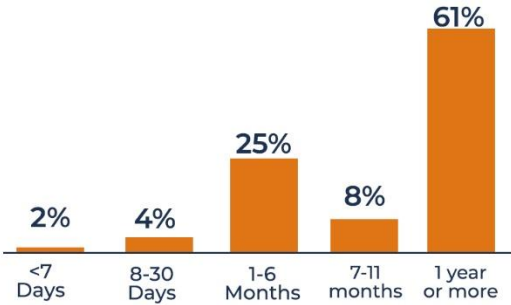
LENGTH OF TIME
IN MARIN COUNTY



RESIDENCE
PRIOR TO
HOMELESSNESS



DURATION
OF CURRENT
HOMELESSNESS



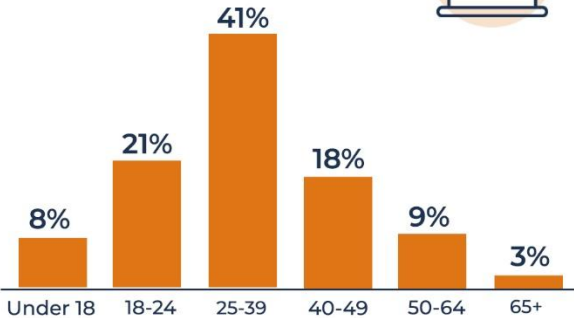
FIRST
EPISODE OF
HOMELESSNESS



62%

of respondents reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

AGE AT FIRST EPISODE
OF HOMELESSNESS



FOSTER
CARE



13%

of survey respondents have been in the foster care system

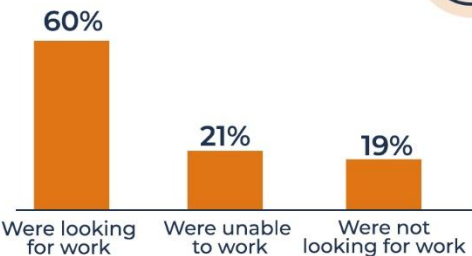
EMPLOYMENT
STATUS



24%
18%

had some form of employment
of unemployed respondents were unable to work due to a disabling condition.

AMONG UNEMPLOYED
RESPONDENTS



COLLEGE
EDUCATION



26%

of respondents received at least some college education

PRECIPITATING CAUSE THAT LEAD TO HOMELESSNESS

(Top 5 Responses)

Note: In 2026, this question was changed
from multiple response to single response



ECONOMIC ISSUES

56%



SUBSTANCE USE ISSUES

16%



PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP ISSUES

9%



MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

8%



INCARCERATION

5%



SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION

52%



Outdoors/
Streets

23%



Shelter

18%



Vehicle

4%



Tent/
Encampment

2%



Motel/
Hotel

<1%



Abandoned
Building

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH

DISABLING CONDITION

A disabling condition is defined by HUD as a developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person's ability to live independently but could be improved with stable housing.

58%



of survey respondents report having
at least one disabling condition

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

44%

Drug or
Alcohol
Use

31%

Psychiatric
or Emotional
Conditions

25%

PTSD

21%

Physical
Disability

21%

Chronic
Health
Condition

7%

Traumatic
Brain Injury

2%

HIV/AIDS
Related
Illness

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Total Sheltered Unsheltered

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



TOTAL EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



VETERANS



TOTAL VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



FAMILIES



TOTAL FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



TOTAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



OLDER ADULTS



TOTAL OLDER ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



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.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

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

FAMILIES

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

OLDER ADULTS

Individuals aged 60 years and older.



POPULATION BY JURISDICTION

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED			SHELTERED			TOTAL		
	2022	2024	2026	2022	2024	2026	2022	2024	2026
NORTH MARIN	234	202	174	115	114	111	349	316	285
Novato	150	131	124	115	114	111	265	245	235
Unincorporated North Marin	84	71	50	0	0	0	84	71	50
CENTRAL MARIN	320	325	369	107	62	66	427	387	435
Fairfax	13	17	5	0	0	0	13	17	5
Corte Madera	3	3	13	0	0	0	3	3	13
Kentfield	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
Larkspur	9	4	5	0	0	0	9	4	5
Ross	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
San Anselmo	11	7	8	0	0	0	11	7	8
San Rafael	241	264	319	107	62	66	348	326	385
Other Unincorporated Central Marin	41	26	18	0	0	0	41	26	18
SOUTHERN MARIN	239	185	76	0	0	0	239	185	76
Belvedere/Tiburon	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	6	2
Marin City	12	62	45	0	0	0	12	62	45
Mill Valley	38	4	7	0	0	0	38	4	7
Sausalito	97	35	7	0	0	0	97	35	7
Strawberry	12	11	3	0	0	0	12	11	3
Other Unincorporated Southern Marin	5	24	7	0	0	0	5	24	7
Richardson Bay Anchor Outs	75	43	5	0	0	0	75	43	5
WEST MARIN	37	76	212	0	44	39	37	120	251
Bolinas	16	47	63	0	44	39	16	91	102
Point Reyes Station	9	9	11	0	0	0	9	9	11
Other Unincorporated West Marin	12	20	138	0	0	0	12	20	138
OTHER	--	--	--	69	82	81	69	82	81
Domestic Violence Shelter	--	--	--	69	65	67	69	65	67
Scattered Site	--	--	--	*	17	14	0	17	14
Seasonal Shelter	--	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	830	788	831	291	302	297	1,121	1,090	1,128

Note: Locations of domestic violence shelters remain undisclosed and are separated out into their own category.

Note: Scattered site was added as an option in 2024

□ Source: 2026 Marin County Homeless Survey, N=419

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

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Marin County. It will be available August, 2026. Source: Applied Survey Research, 2026, Marin County Homeless Census & Survey, Watsonville, CA.



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

The 2026 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey included a complete enumeration of all unsheltered and publicly sheltered persons experiencing homelessness. The general unsheltered count was conducted during the early morning hours on January 28, 2026, and covered all 828 square miles of Marin County.¹ The shelter count was conducted on the previous evening and included all individuals staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and domestic violence shelters.

The methodology used for the 2026 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey is commonly described as a “blitz count” since it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. The count is conducted early in the morning before individuals sleeping outside have woken up and moved from their sleeping areas and before those in shelters have left. The result is an observation-based count of individuals and families who appear to be homeless.

The count is then followed by an in-person, representative survey, the results of which are used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the local homeless population. Information collected from the survey is used to fulfill HUD reporting requirements and to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts.

In a continuing effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, Marin County also conducted a dedicated youth count. For more information regarding the dedicated youth count, deduplication, and project methodology, please see [Appendix A: Methodology](#).



¹ Volunteers covered all publicly accessible roads and additional areas identified as “hot spots” in the planning process.

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN COUNTY

Figure 1. Total Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness, with Trend

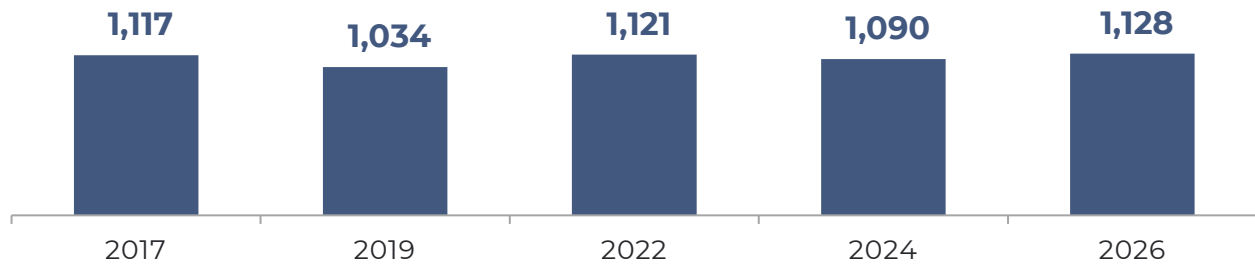
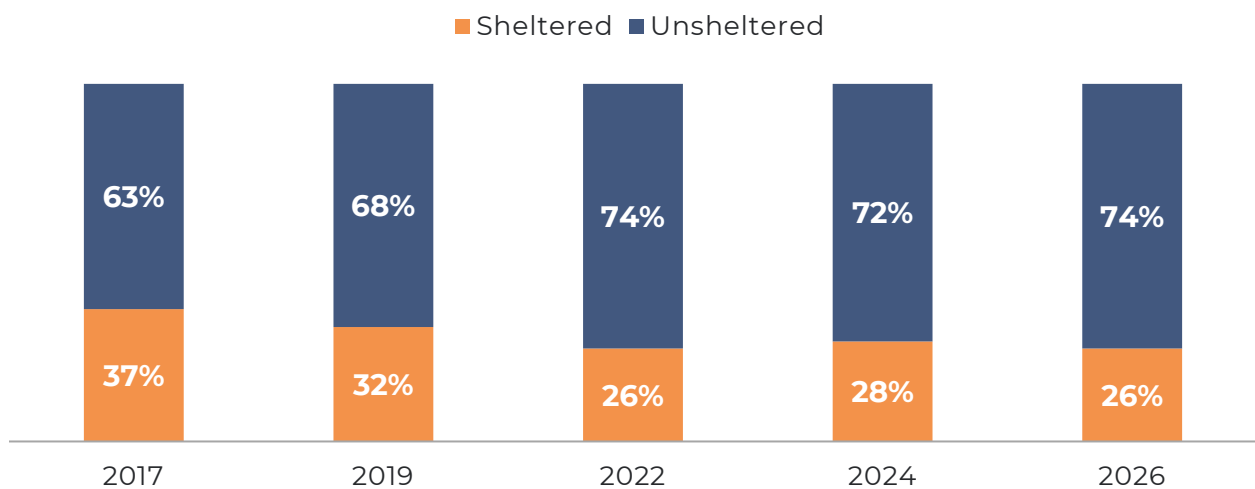
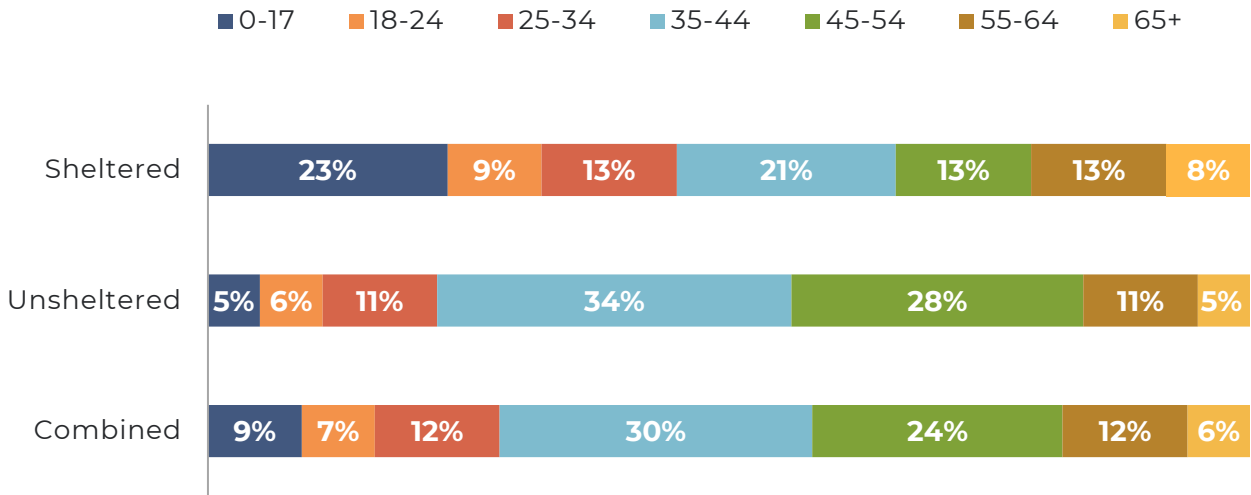


Figure 2. Total Homeless Count Population, by Shelter Status



	2017	2019	2022	2024	2026	24-26 % CHANGE
Sheltered	409	326	291	302	297	↓2%
Unsheltered	708	708	830	788	831	↑5%
Total	1,117	1,034	1,121	1,090	1,128	↑3%

Figure 3. Total Homeless Count Population, by Shelter Status and Age

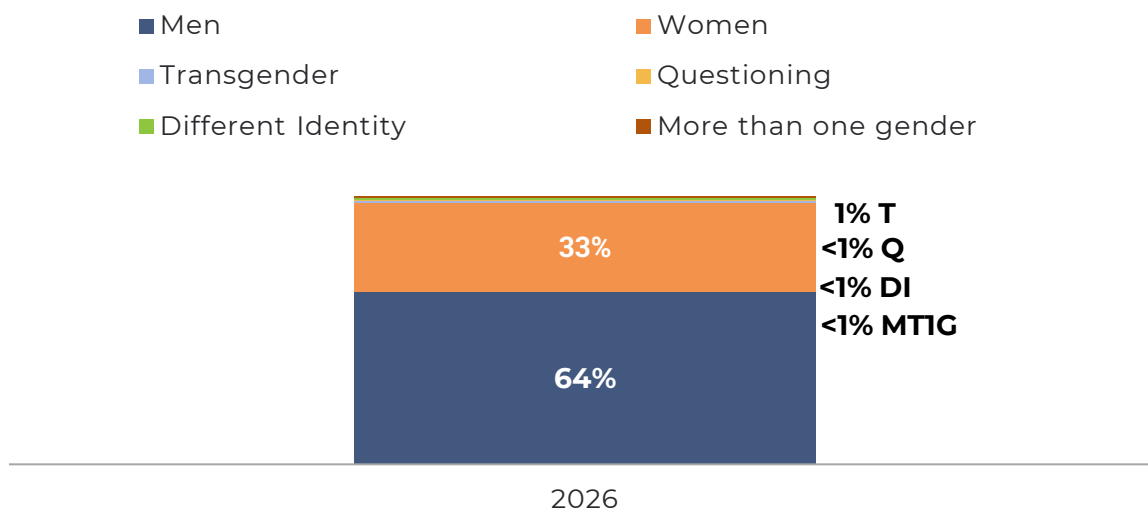


2026 Sheltered n=297; 2026 Unsheltered n=831
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding



Sixty-four percent (64%) of the population identified as men and 33% identified as women.

Figure 4. Total Homeless Count Population, by Gender



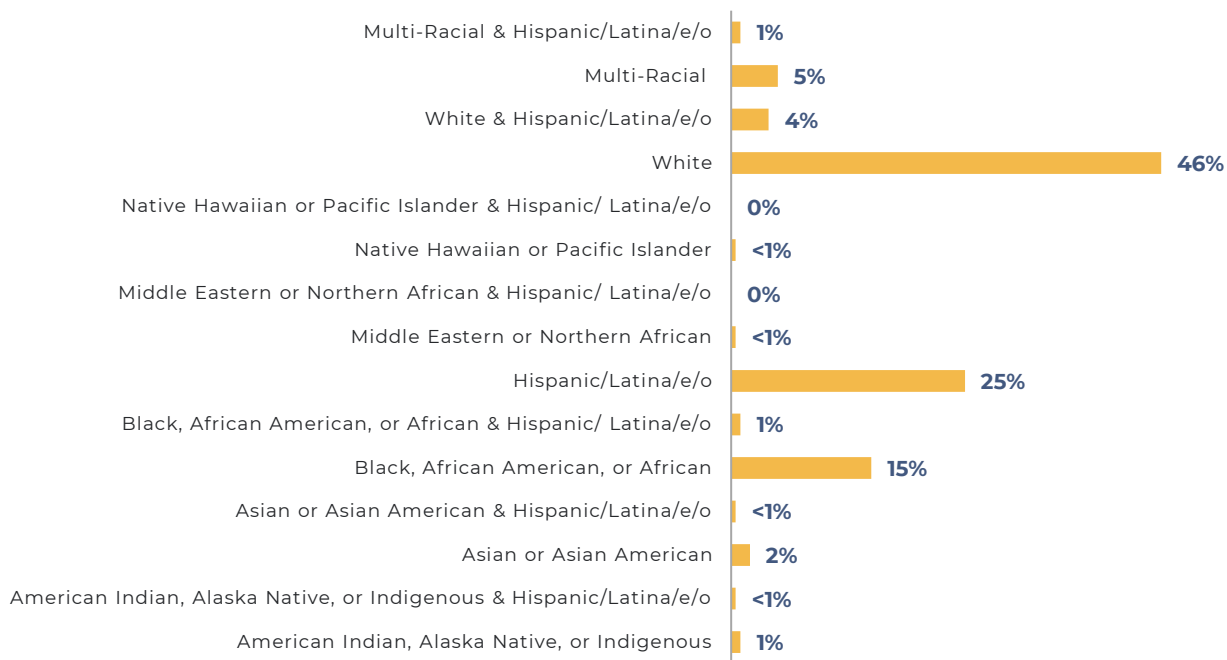
2026 n=1,128

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

*The response option "Questioning" was added in 2022.

Forty-six percent (46%) of those experiencing homelessness identified as White, 25% of those enumerated identified as Hispanic/Latinx, and 15% identified as Black, African American, or African.

Figure 5. Total Homeless Count Population, by Race and Ethnicity



2026 n=1,128

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

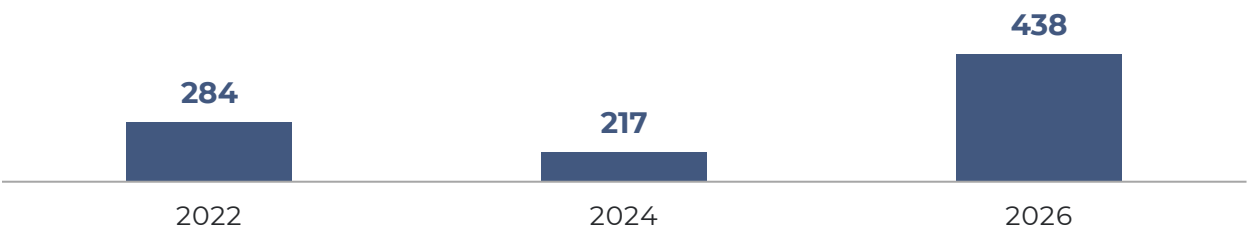
POINT-IN-TIME COUNT: SELECT POPULATIONS

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer—or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the last three years—and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as to families with children whose head of household meets the definition.

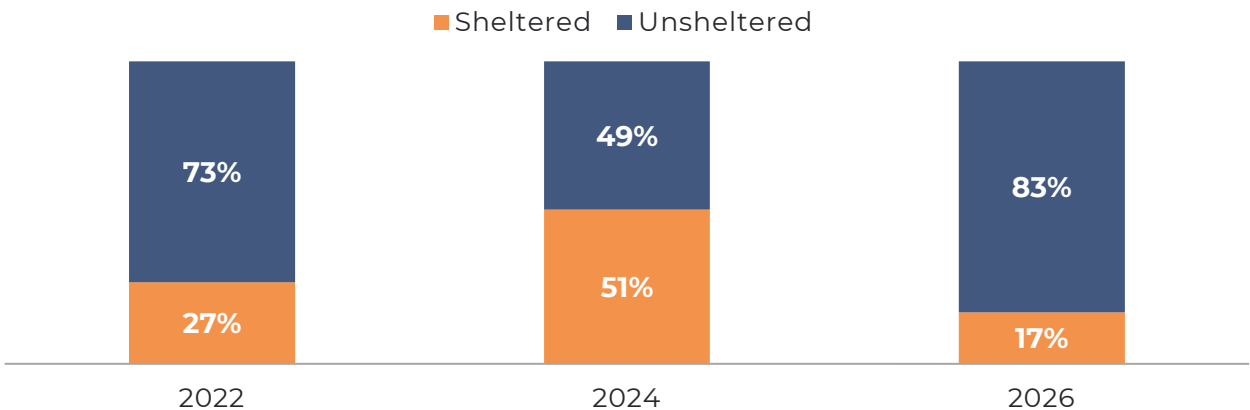
There was an increase in the percentage of those experiencing chronic homelessness between 2024 and 2026, rising from 20% in 2024 to 39% in 2026. It is estimated that 438 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness in January 2026.

Figure 6. Chronically Homeless Census, with Trend



The proportion of those who were unsheltered increased from 49% in 2024 to 83% in 2026.

Figure 7. Chronically Homeless Census, by Shelter Status



	2022	2024	2026	24-26 % CHANGE
Sheltered	77	111	76	↓ 32%
Unsheltered	207	106	362	↑ 242%
Total	284	217	438	↑ 102%

VETERANS

Many U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans experience higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance use disorders.

The number of veterans in Marin County in 2026 dropped to 11 individuals, down from 44 individuals in 2024.

Figure 8. Total Number of Veterans, With Trend

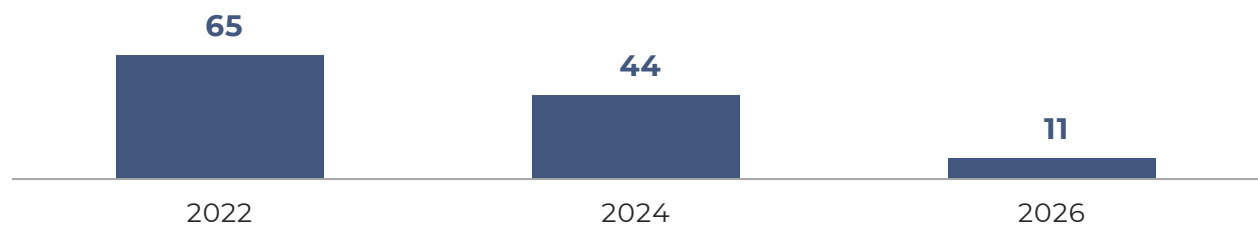
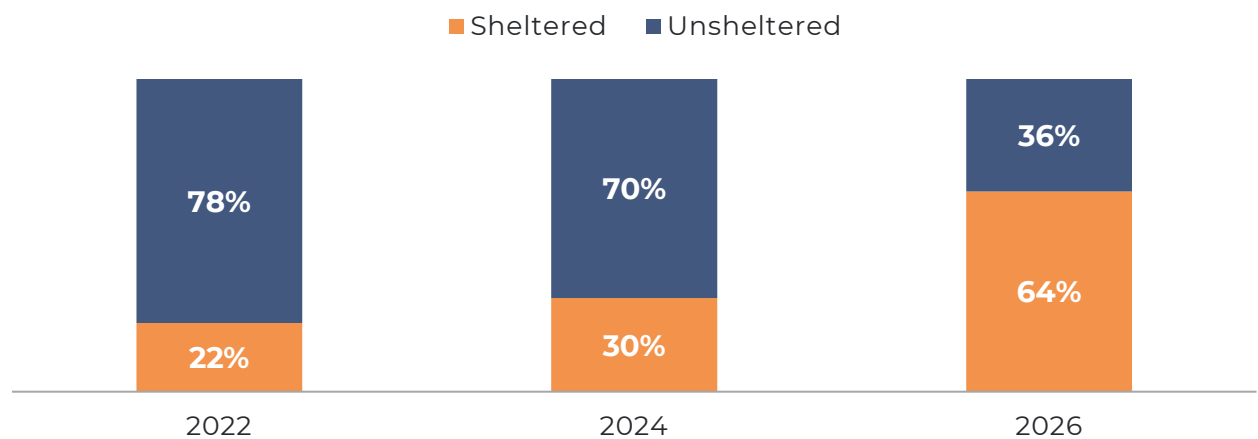


Figure 9. Veteran Census, by Shelter Status



	2022	2024	2026	24-26 % CHANGE
Sheltered	14	13	7	↓ 46%
Unsheltered	51	31	4	↓ 87%
Total	65	44	11	↓ 75%

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

National data from 2025 suggest that 31% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families with children.² Families with children are also more likely than childless adults to be in precariously housed situations such as being “doubled-up” or couch surfing, which do not meet the definition of homelessness required for the Point in Time Count. This year, there was an additional special outreach effort for families, which may have resulted in an increase to the family count.

Sixty (60) families with 216 family members were enumerated in Marin County in 2026. Thirty-nine (39) of these families were sheltered, with twenty-one (21) families unsheltered.

Figure 10. Families with Children Census, Total Family Members with Trend

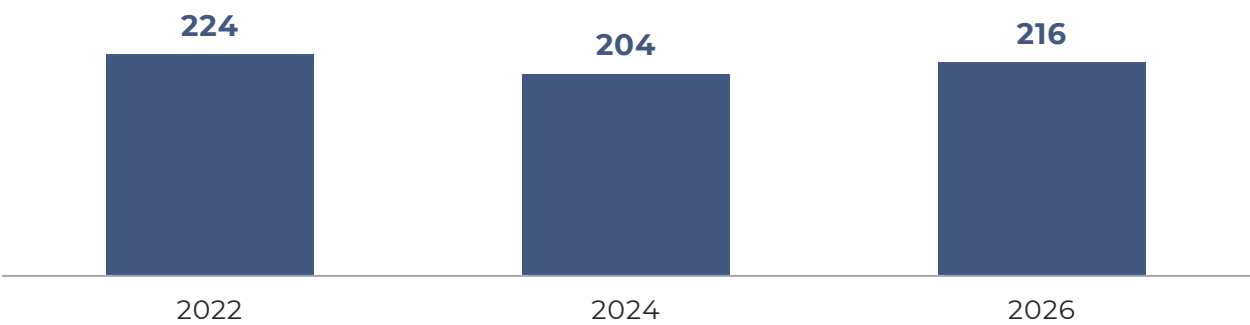
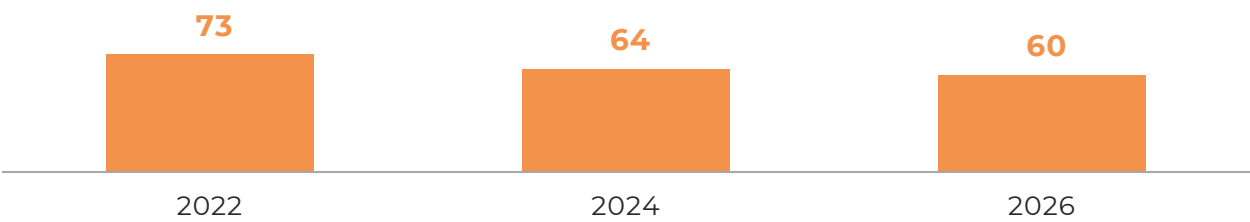
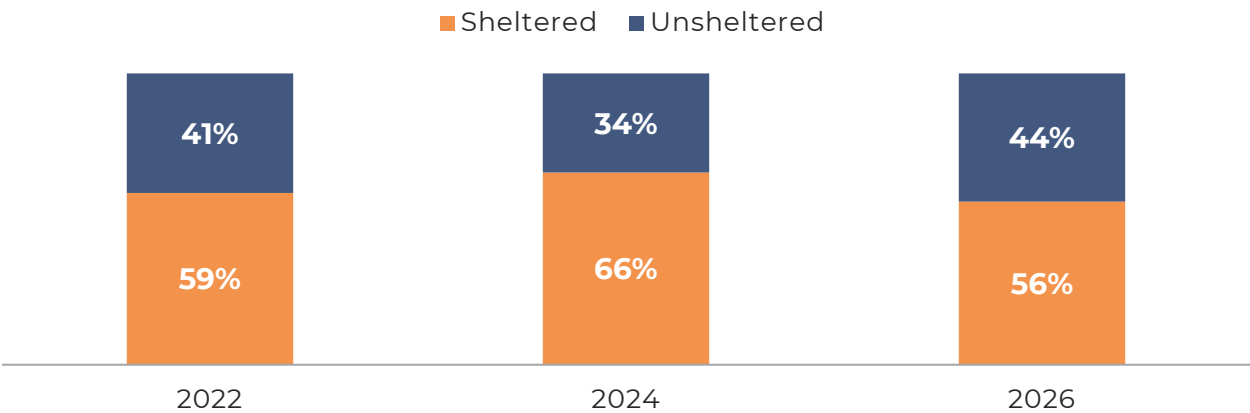


Figure 11. Families with Children Census, Number of Families with Trend



² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2026). The 2025 Annual Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. Retrieved July 2026 from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2025-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

Figure 12. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Shelter Status

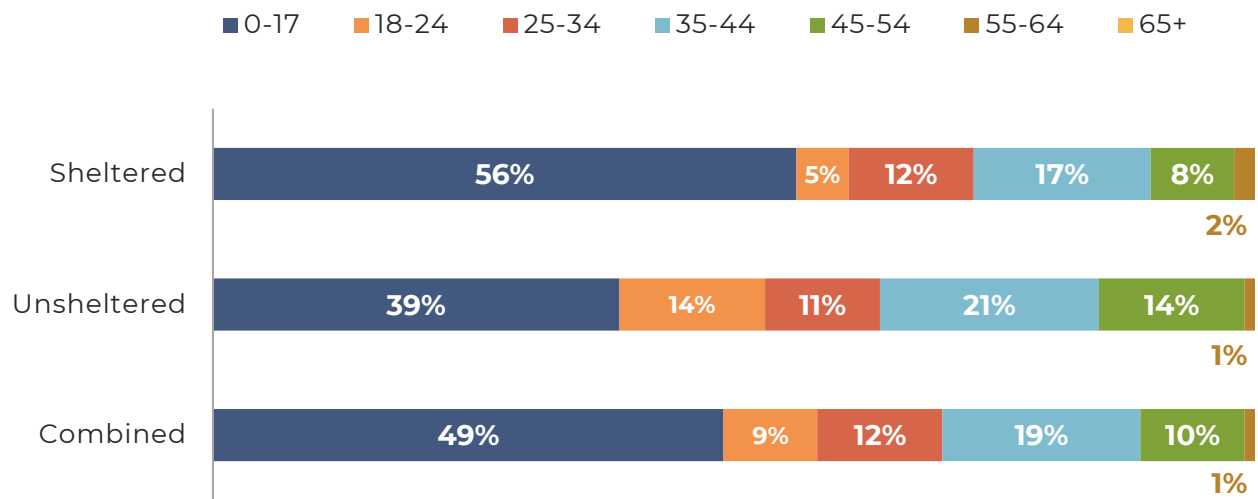


2022 Family n=224; 2024 Family n=204; 2026 Family n=216

	2022	2024	2026	24-26 % CHANGE
Sheltered	133	135	120	↓ 11%
Unsheltered	91	69	96	↑ 39%
Total	224	204	216	↑ 6%

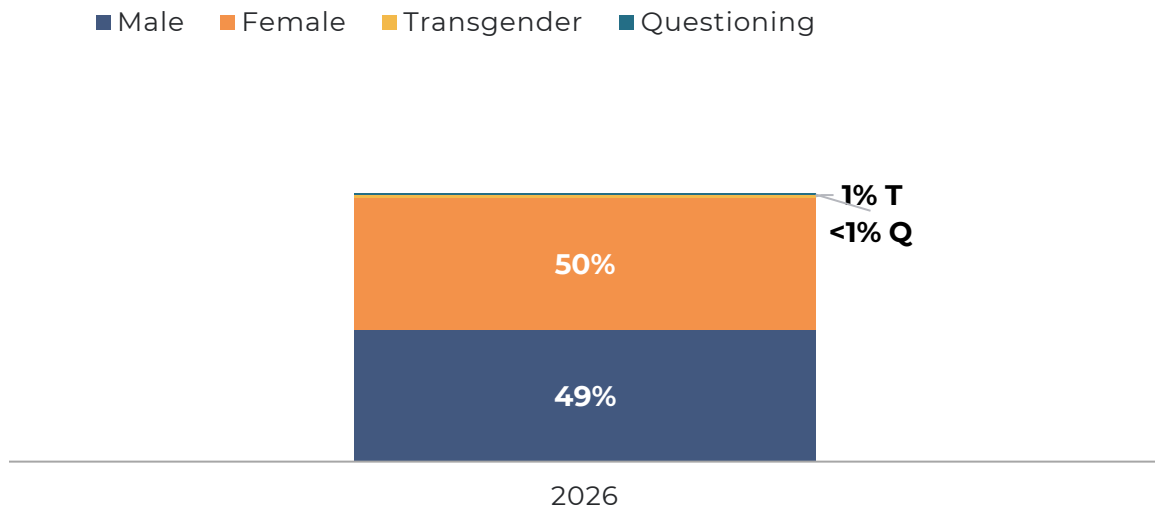


Figure 13. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Age



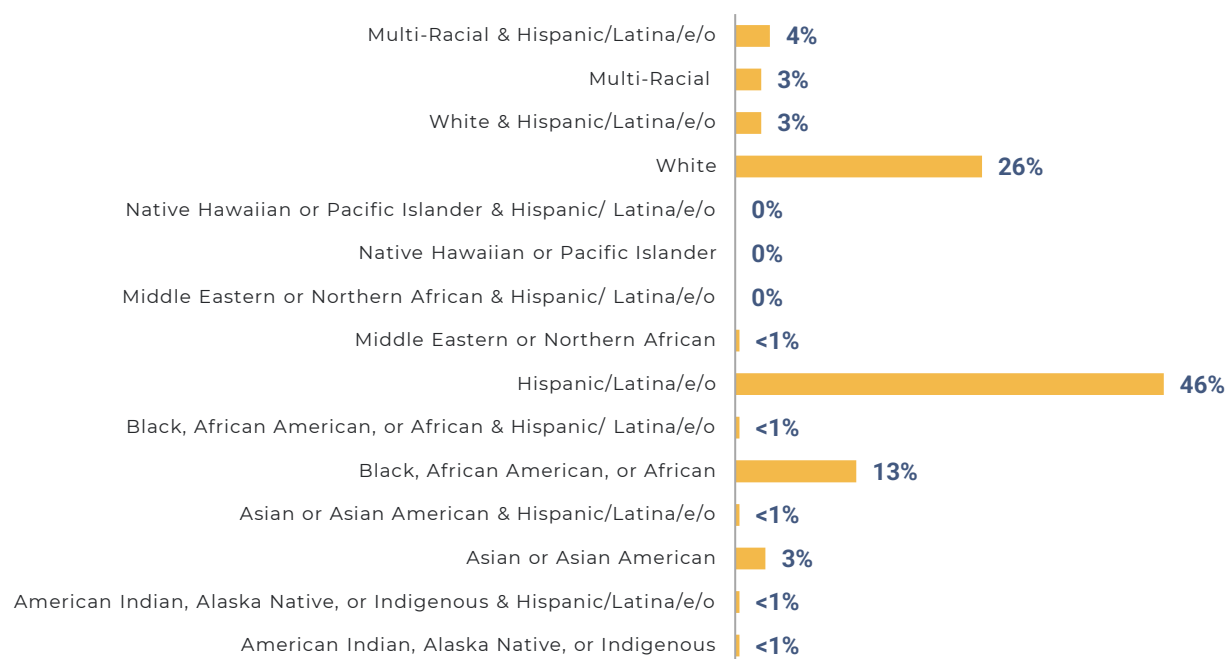
2026 Sheltered n=120; 2026 Unsheltered n=96
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 14. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Gender



2026 n=216
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 15. Individuals in Families with Children Census, By Race and Ethnicity



2026 n=216

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

There were two youth (under 18 years old) and 58 young adults (age 18-24) enumerated, accounting for 5% of the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County. Thirty-five percent (35%) of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness were sheltered, with 65% unsheltered.

Figure 16. Youth and Young Adults Census, with Trend

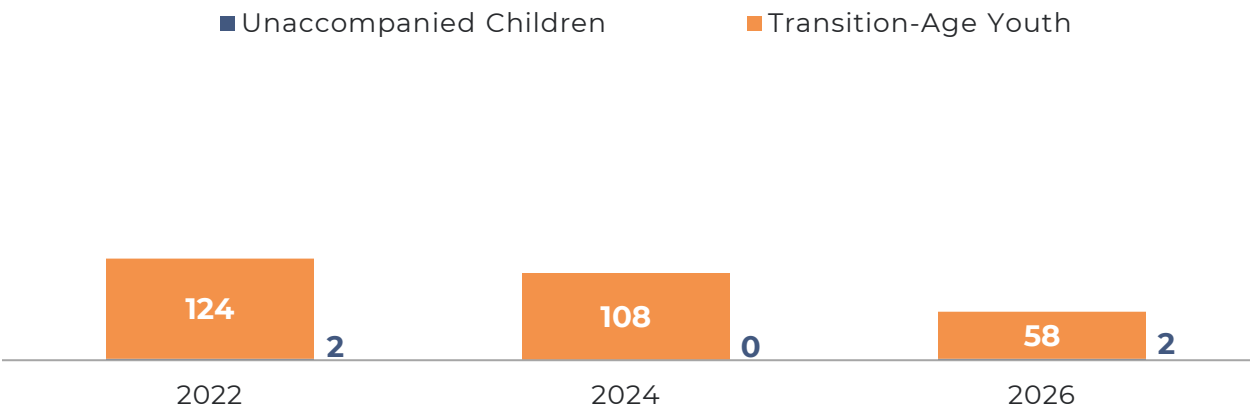
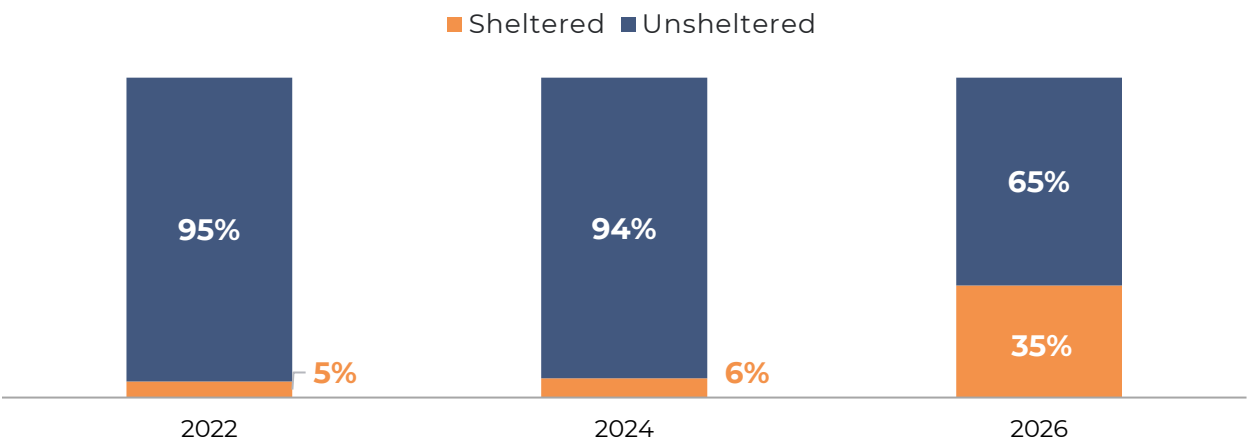


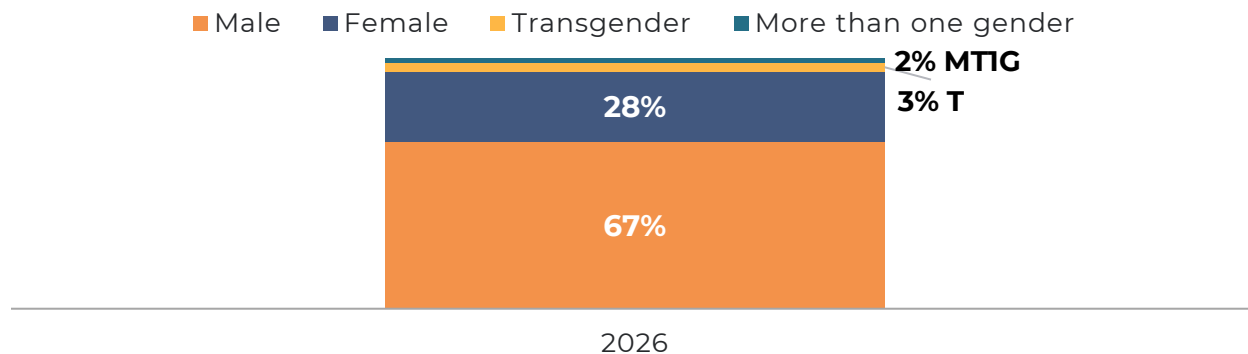
Figure 17. Youth and Young Adults Census, by Shelter Status



	2022	2024	2026	24-26 % CHANGE
Sheltered	6	7	21	↑ 200%
Unsheltered	120	101	39	↓ 61%
Total	126	108	60	↓ 44%

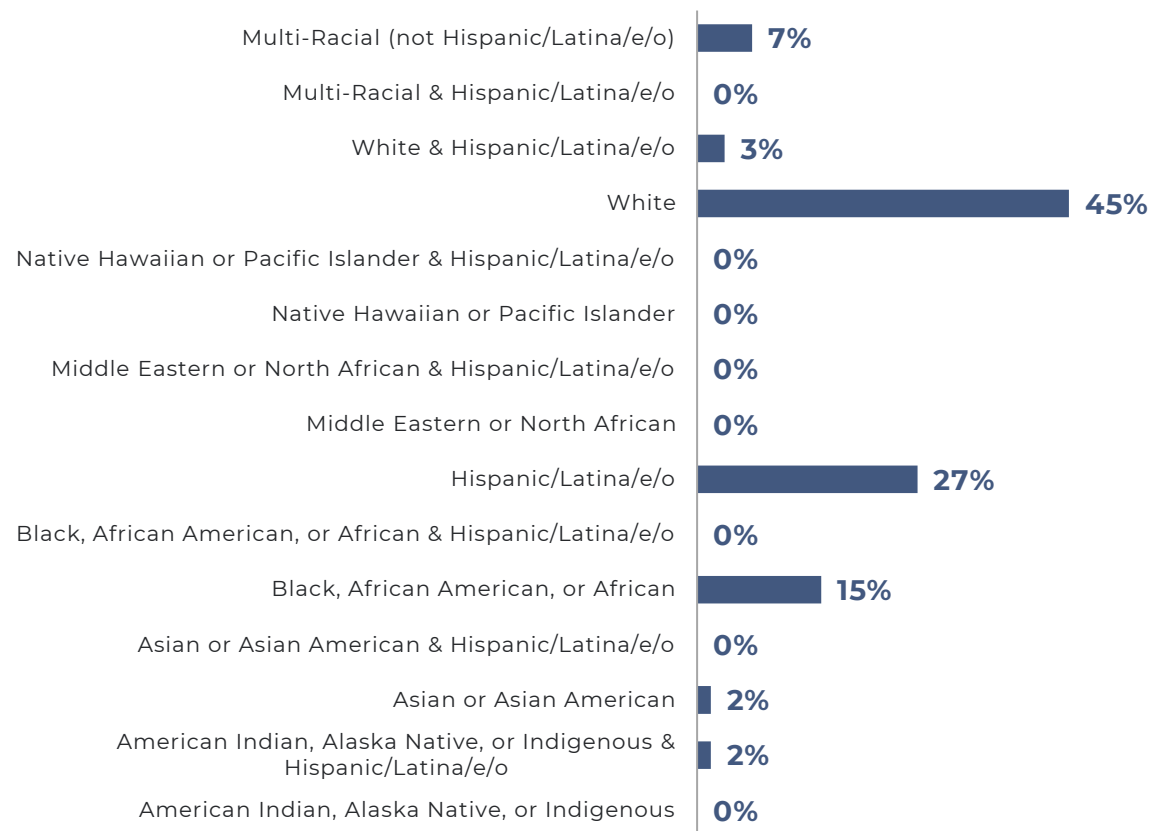
Sixty-seven percent (67%) of transition-age youth experiencing homelessness identified as men/boys, 28% identified as women/girls, 3% identified as transgender, and 2% identified as more than one gender.

Figure 18. Youth and Young Adults Census, by Gender



2026 Youth and Young Adults (YYA) n=60

Figure 19. Youth and Young Adults Census, by Race and Ethnicity



2026 Youth and Young Adults n=60

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

OLDER ADULTS 60+

The number of older adults experiencing homelessness has grown alongside the growth of the older adult population in the US.³ Additionally, older adults living in shelters have higher rates of geriatric conditions than their non-homeless peers, which indicates a need for specialized care.⁴

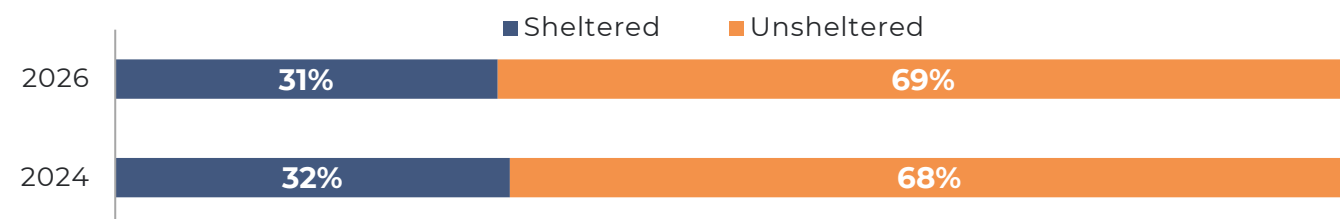
While older adults have not been identified as a specific subpopulation of interest by HUD, Marin County recognized the growing trend and initiated an effort to gather additional information on the population. The following section details the characteristics of adults ages 60 and older experiencing homelessness in Marin County.

In 2026, estimates of the unsheltered population aged 60 and older were calculated using a revised methodology. The unsheltered estimate was derived by applying the proportion of surveyed unsheltered respondents aged 60 and older to the total number of unsheltered adults identified during the count. Sheltered estimates use HMIS data to identify individuals 60 and over. Please see Appendix A: Methodology for more information. To support year-to-year comparisons, this report provides 2024 estimates using the same methodology.

Figure 20. Older Adults Estimate



Figure 21. Older Adult Estimate, by Shelter Status

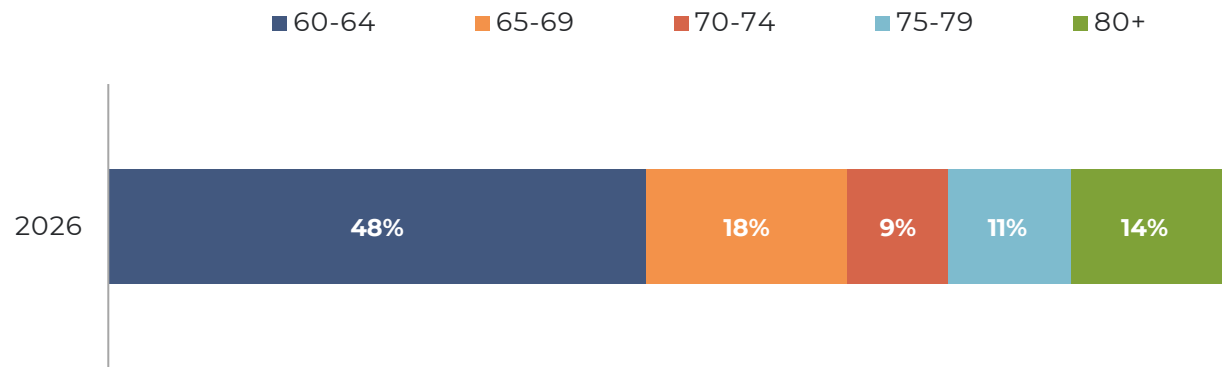


	2024	2026	24-26 % CHANGE
Sheltered	54	47	↓ 13%
Unsheltered	117	104	↓ 11%
Total	171	151	↓ 12%

³ CSH & Hearth (2011). Ending Homelessness among Older Adults and Elders through Permanent Supportive Housing. Retrieved 2017 from <http://www.csh.org/>

⁴ Rebecca T. Brown, Kaveh Hemati, Elise D. Riley, Christopher T. Lee, Claudia Ponath, Lina Tieu, David Guzman, Margot B. Kushel, Geriatric Conditions in a Population-Based Sample of Older Homeless Adults, The Gerontologist, Volume 57, Issue 4, August 2017, Pages 757–766, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnw011>

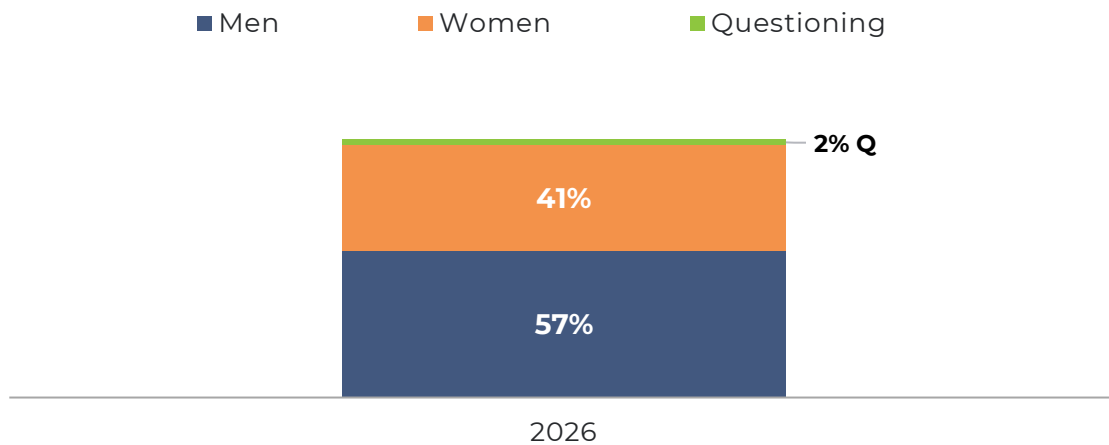
Figure 22. Older Adult Survey, by Age



2026 Older Adults n=44

Source: 2026 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey

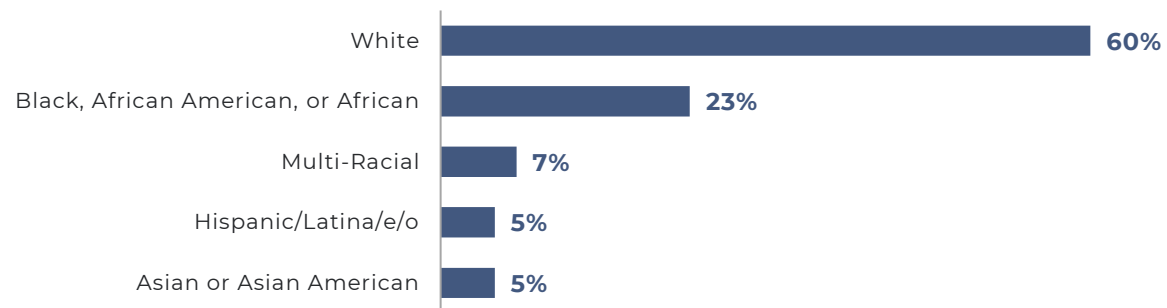
Figure 23. Older Adult Survey, by Gender



2026 Older Adults n=44

Source: 2026 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey

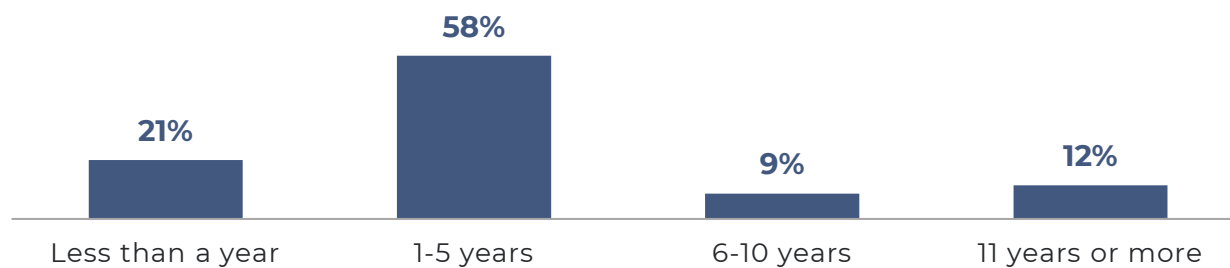
Figure 24. Older Adult Survey, by Race and Ethnicity



2026 Older Adults n=43

Source: 2026 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey

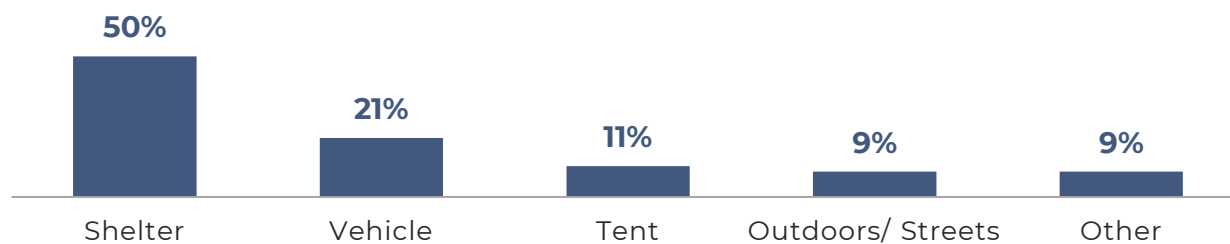
Figure 25. Older Adult Survey, by Total Time Without Housing



2026 Older Adults n=43

Source: 2026 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey

Figure 26. Older Adult Survey, by Sleeping Location



2026 Older Adults n=44

Source: 2026 Marin County Point-in-Time Survey



HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2026 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of homeless individuals starting February 17th and ending April 20th. This effort resulted in 419 complete and unique surveys.

Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 1,128 persons experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 419 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3.8% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire estimated population of persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be 95% certain that the results would be within 3.8 percentage points 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. Missing values were intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted. For more information regarding the survey methodology, please see [Appendix A: Methodology](#).



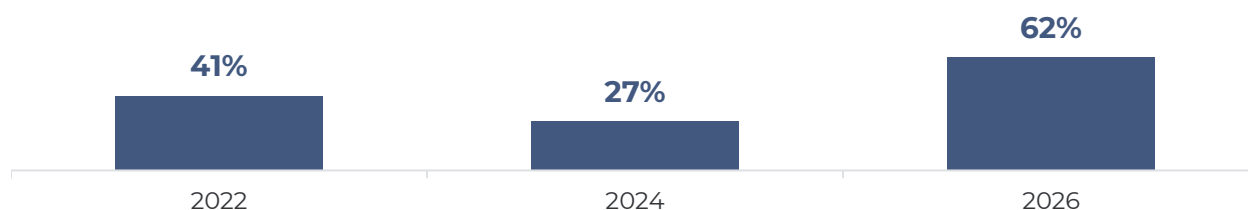
DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Unstable living conditions, poverty, housing scarcity, and many other issues often lead individuals to have multiple episodes of homelessness. For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability.

FIRST OCCURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents reported their current episode of homelessness was their first, an increase from 27% in 2024.

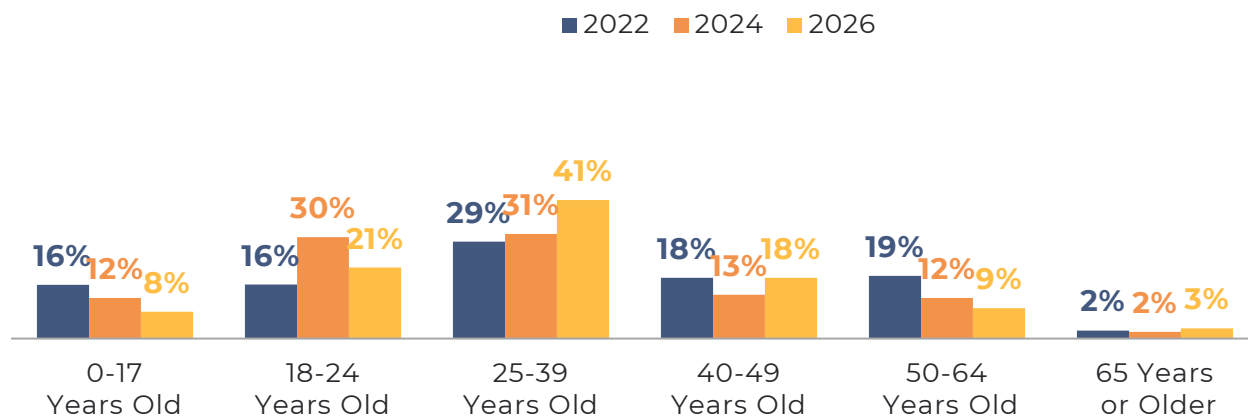
Figure 27. First Time Homeless (Respondents Answering “Yes”)



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=329; 2024 n=369; 2026 n=394

Forty-one percent (41%) of survey respondents reported becoming homeless for the first time between 25 and 39 years old, while 29% reported becoming homeless for the first time before age 25.

Figure 28. Age at First Experience of Homelessness

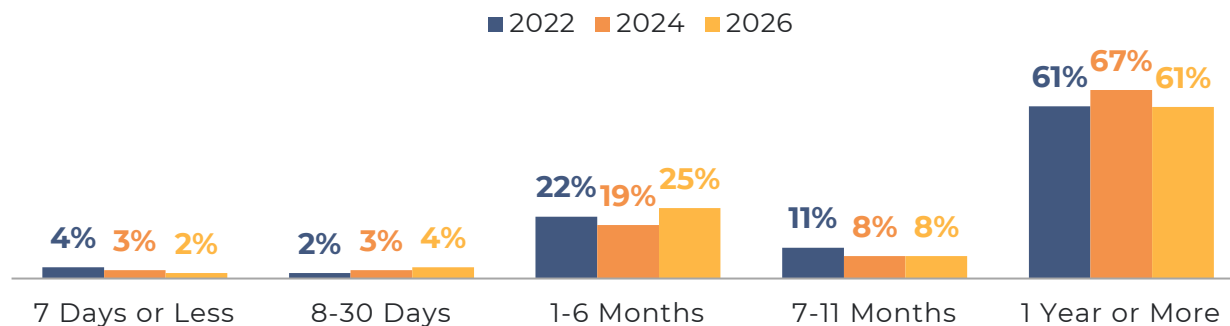


Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=328; 2024 n=362; 2026 n=403

DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

Sixty-one percent (61%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more in 2026, a decrease from 67% in 2024.

Figure 29. Length of Current Episode of Homelessness

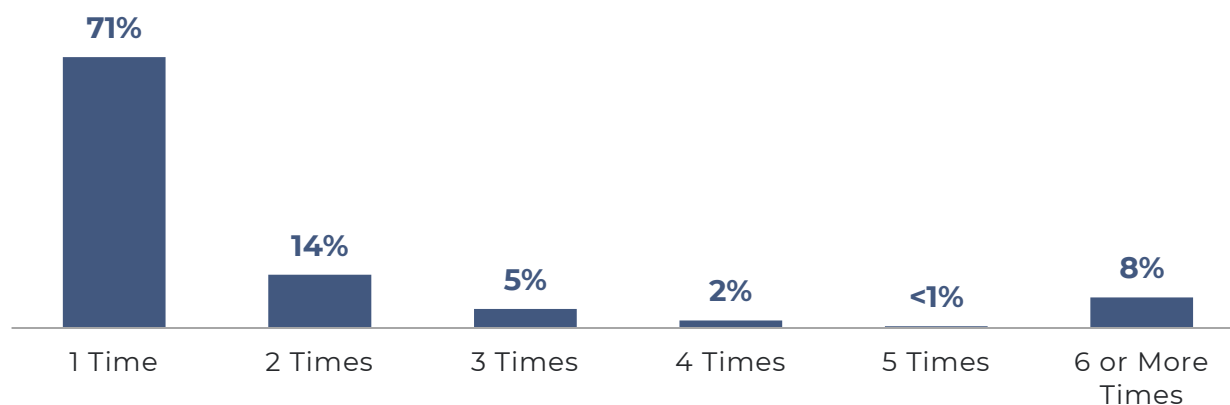


Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=327; 2024 n=364; 2026 n=405

RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

As people cycle in and out of stable housing, it becomes important to keep track of the number of times they experience literal homelessness. Seventy-one percent (71%) of survey respondents reported that their current experience of homelessness had been the only occurrence in the past three years. Another 8% reported that, including the current episode, they had experienced homelessness six or more times.

Figure 30. Recurrence of Homelessness in Past Three Years



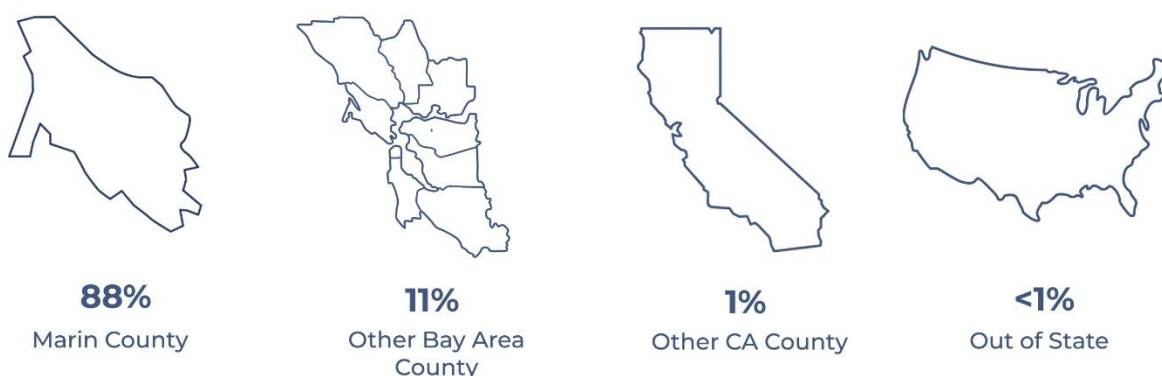
Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2026 n=389

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Knowing where individuals were living prior to their housing loss informs discussions regarding how local the homeless population is to the region. This information can also influence changes to available support systems if the Continuum of Care finds increasing numbers of individuals living locally before experiencing homelessness. In 2026, 88% of survey respondents experiencing homelessness in Marin County reported living in Marin at the time of their most recent housing loss, up from 62% in 2024.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

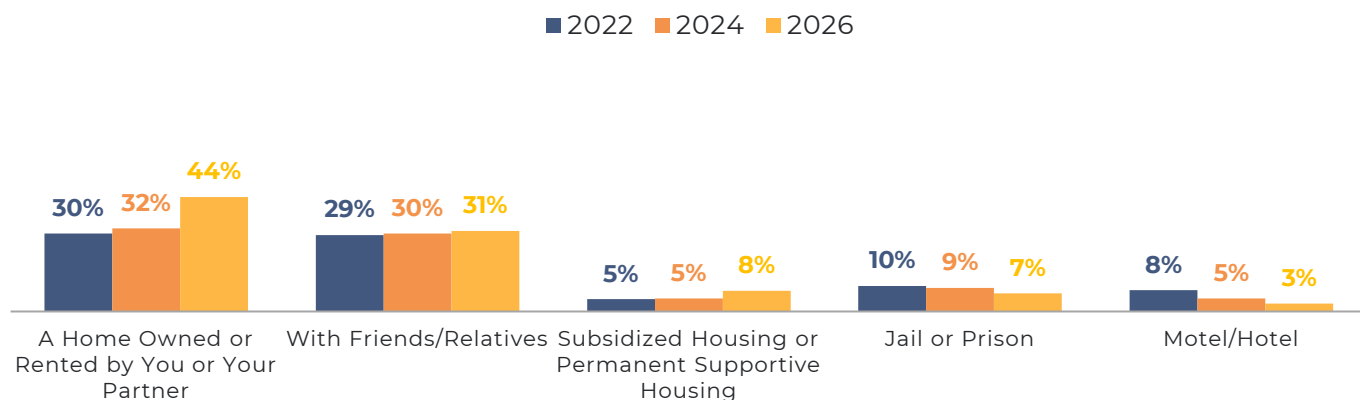
Figure 31. Place of Residence at Time of Housing Loss



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2024 n=361; 2026 n=400

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Figure 32. Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless (Top 5 Responses)



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=316; 2024 n=348; 2026 n=378

SLEEPING LOCATION

Figure 33. Survey Respondents by Sleeping Location



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2026 n=402

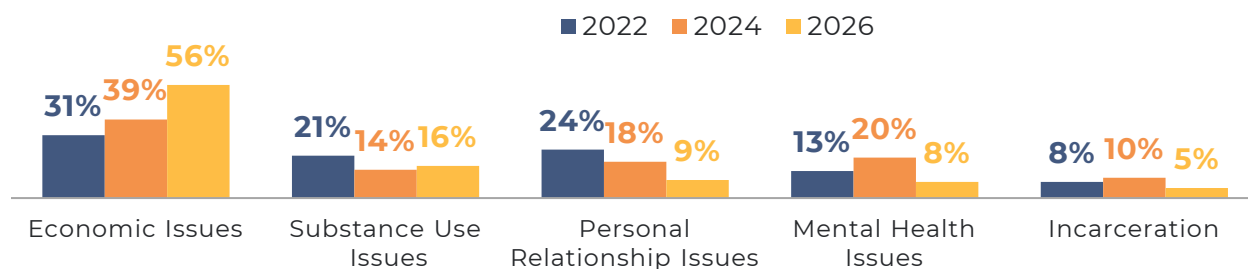
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Survey results can vary from Census based data due to the nature of the survey being a sample of the population rather than the population as a whole.

PRECIPITATING CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

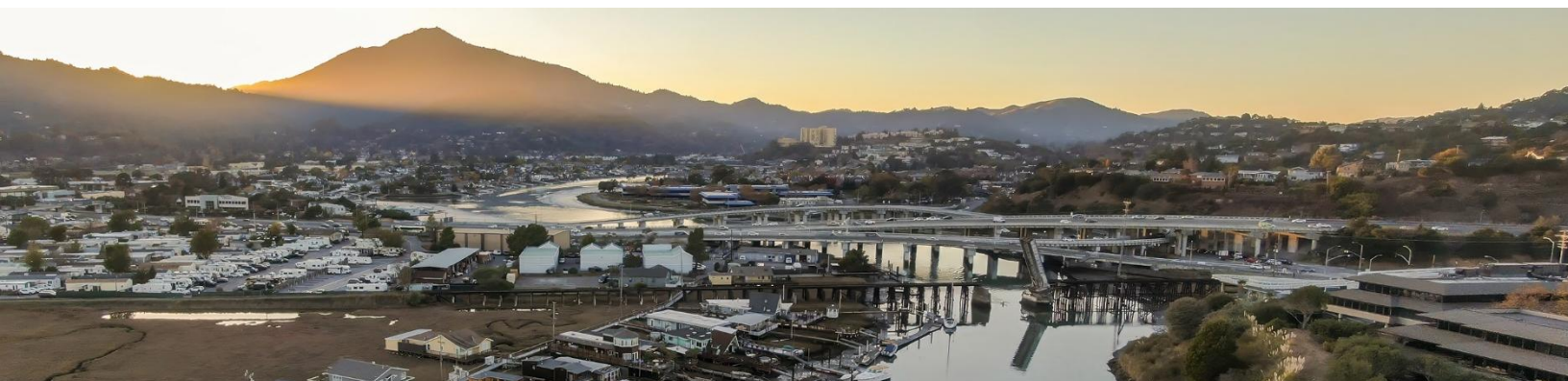
Homelessness is caused by a lack of affordable and/or accessible housing. However, one circumstance may be identified as a precipitating cause of homelessness. The most frequently cited cause of homelessness was economic issues (56%), followed by substance use issues (16%) and personal relationship issues (9%).

Figure 34. Precipitating Cause of Homelessness (Top 5 Responses)



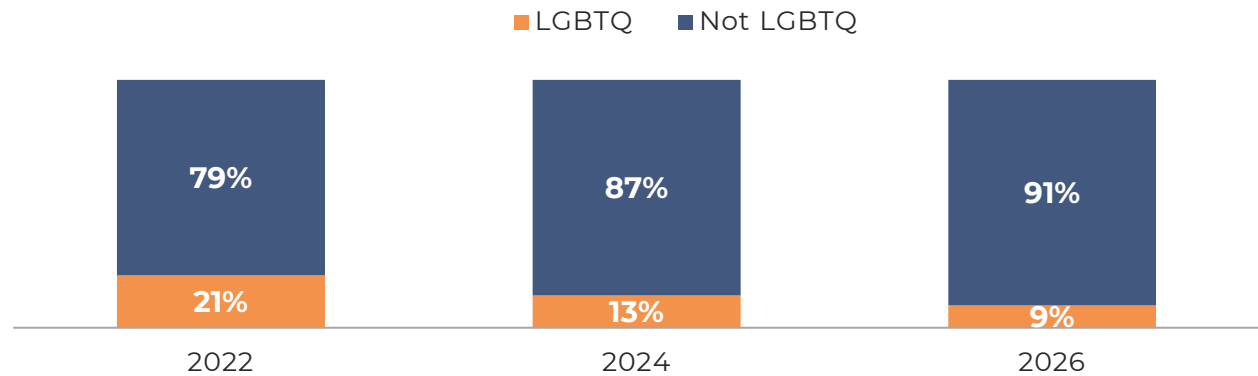
Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=321; 2024 n=351; 2026 n=385

Note: The question format was changed from a multiple-response format to a single-response format. Results should be interpreted with this change in mind when comparing findings across years.



L G B T Q +

Figure 35. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



BREAKOUT OF LGBTQ+ RESPONDENTS						
	2022		2024		2026	
Gay	17%	10	18%	9	24%	8
Lesbian	9%	5	14%	7	6%	2
Queer	2%	1	8%	4	0%	0
Bisexual	45%	26	39%	19	55%	18
Transgender	7%	4	6%	3	12%	4
Gender Non-Conforming	0%	0	8%	4	0%	0
Other	28%	16	18%	9	15%	5

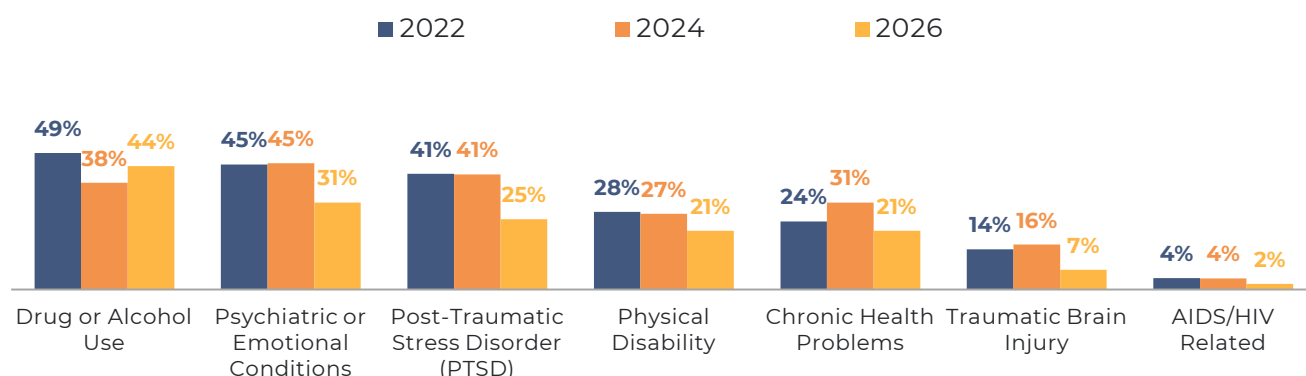
Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 LGBTQ+ n=340, 2024 LGBTQ+ n=378, 2026 LGBTQ+ n=419.
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.



HEALTH

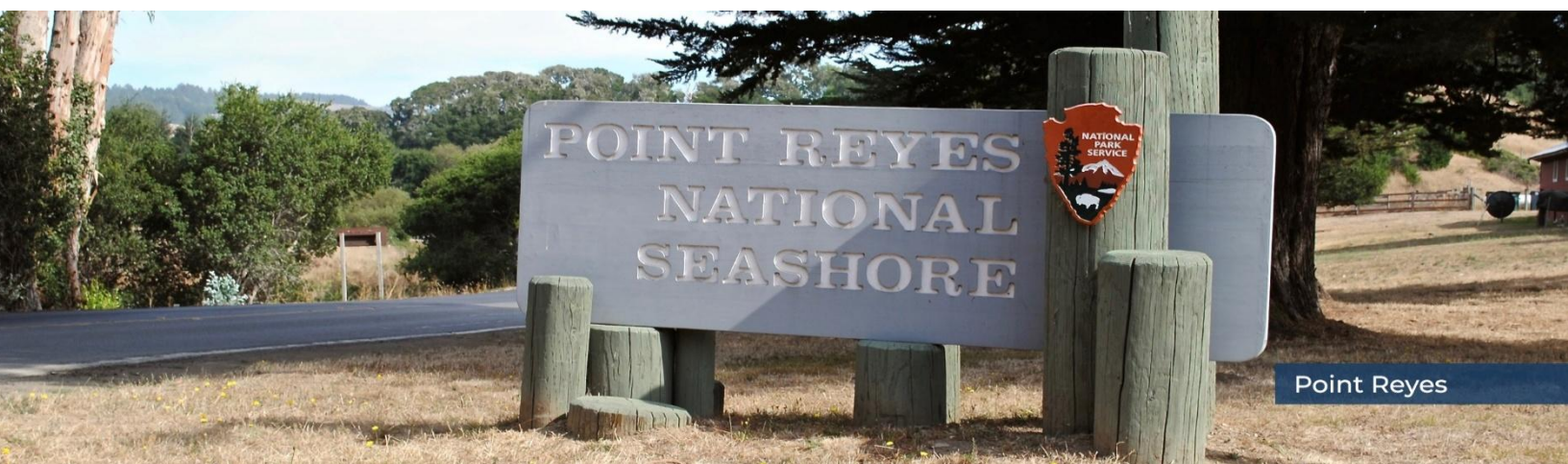
Non-elderly people who have experienced homelessness face a 3.5 times higher mortality risk than people who are housed, accounting for differences in demographic characteristics and geography.⁵ Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay five days (or 22%) longer per hospital admission than stably housed patients.⁶

Figure 36. Health Conditions



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=269-296; 2024 n=305-322; 2026 n=387-397

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



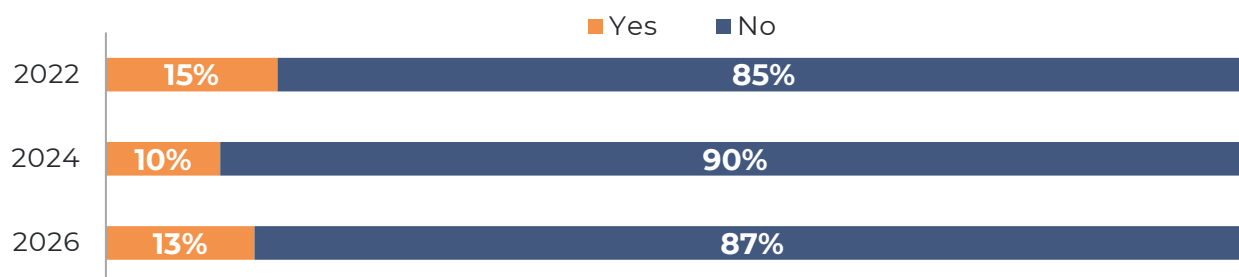
⁵ Ilina Logani, Bruce D. Meyer, and Angela Wyse (2023). The Mortality of the US Homeless Population. Retrieved 2025 from <https://bfi.uchicago.edu/insight/research-summary/the-mortality-of-the-us-homeless-population/?utm>

⁶ Maggie L. Shaw (2024). Homelessness Compounds Hospital Stay Challenges: Study Reveals Prolonged Discharge Struggles. American Journal of Managed Care, Retrieved 2025 from <https://www.ajmc.com/view/homelessness-compounds-hospital-stay-challenges-study-reveals-prolonged-discharge-struggles?utm>

FOSTER CARE

Nationally, it is estimated that at least one-third of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.⁷ In the state of California, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended care benefits as they transition into adulthood, up until their 21st birthday. Implemented since 2012, the aim of extended foster care is to assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from experiencing homelessness. In Marin County, 13% of those experiencing homelessness had a history of foster care in Marin or other counties.

Figure 37. History of Foster Care



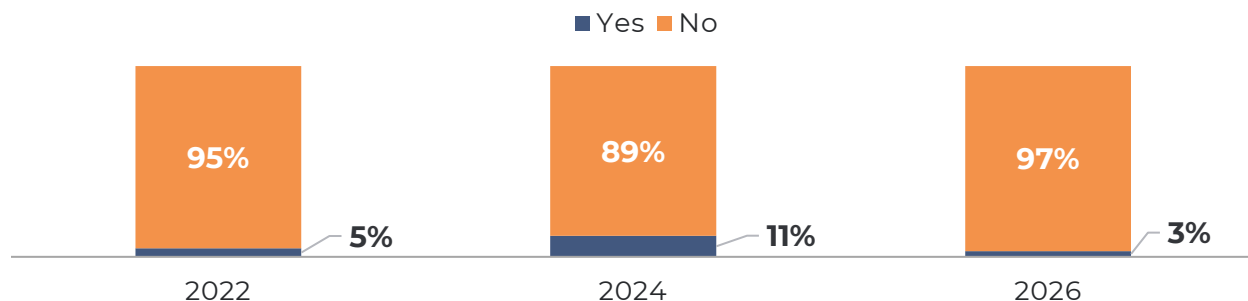
Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=308; 2024 n=339; 2026 n=406

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

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

Three percent (3%) of survey respondents reported they were currently experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse.⁸

Figure 38. Currently Experiencing Domestic Violence or Abuse



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=285; 2024 n=283; 2026 n=397

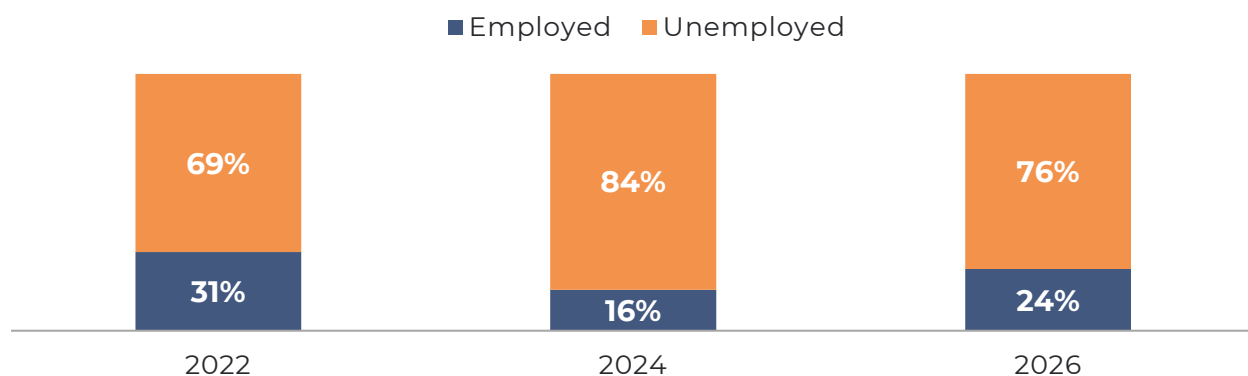
Note: Please use caution when interpreting results due to small sample size

⁷ Dworsky, A.; Napolitano, L.; and Courtney, M. (2013). Homelessness during the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood. Congressional Research Services, Am J Public Health. 2013 December; 103(Suppl 2): S318–S323. Retrieved 2018 from 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301455.

⁸ These data include only those currently experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, not those who have a history of domestic violence.

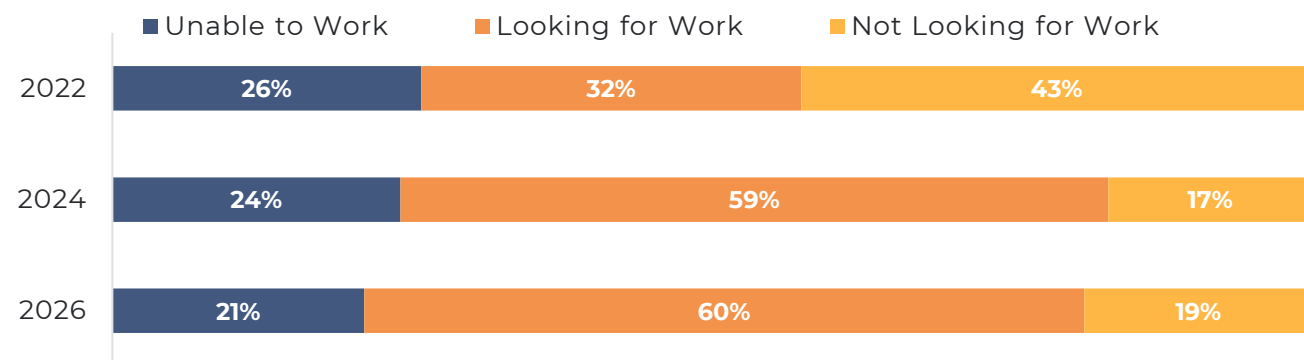
EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Figure 39. Employment Status



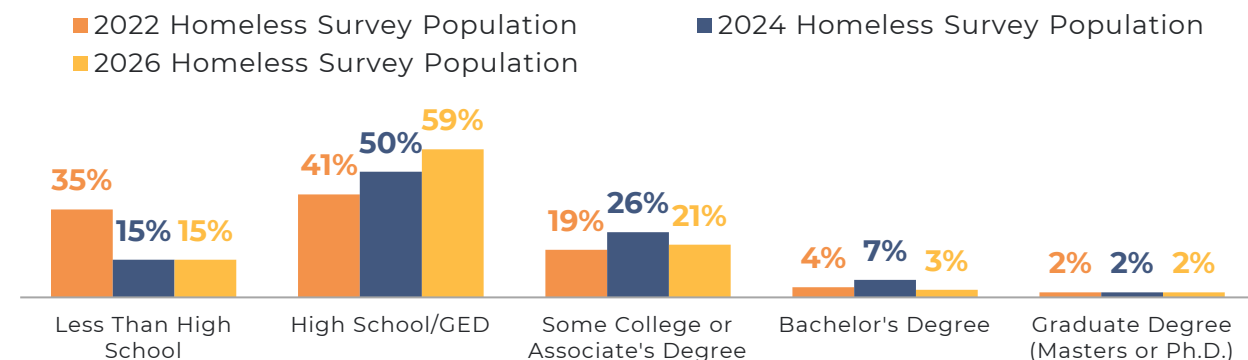
Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=278; 2024 n=363; 2026 n=392

Figure 40. Job Search Status if Unemployed



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=254; 2024 n=274; 2026 n=291

Figure 41. Educational Attainment



Marin County Point-in-Time Survey: 2022 n=309; 2024 n=356; 2026 n=395

CONCLUSION

The 2026 Marin County Homeless Count and Survey was performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying those experiencing homelessness. The 2026 Point-in-Time Count identified 1,128 persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County. This represents a 3.5% increase from the count conducted in 2024.

Marin County has implemented a system-wide approach to ending homelessness that includes adopting a Housing First model, prioritizing the most vulnerable people for housing, sharing data and working collaboratively client by client, and expanding cross-sector partnerships with nonprofits, hospitals, law enforcement, cities, and other partners.

Marin implemented the Housing First approach, an evidence-based practice, because it is the most effective way to address homelessness. Housing First addresses a person's housing need first, then surrounds them with support necessary to achieve stability and independence.

Between the 2024 and 2026 Point in Time Counts, Marin housed 197 of the most vulnerable chronically homeless residents of Marin in supportive housing, with more than 900 housed since the Coordinated Entry system was launched in 2017. Marin will continue to invest in evidence-based, permanent housing solutions, including housing-based case management paired with vouchers, and population-specific services for families, youth, and veterans to meet their unique needs.

The 2026 Marin County Homeless Count and Survey revealed a diverse population with many different trends and needs. There are many valuable insights into the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County for both the general population and subpopulations:

ALL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN MARIN

- In 2026 there was a 2% decrease in persons enumerated in shelters, and a 5% increase in those who were unsheltered. Overall, the total number of persons experiencing homelessness enumerated in 2026 increased by 3% since 2024.
- Nine percent (9%) reported being LGBTQ+, a decrease from 13% in 2024 and 21% in 2022.
- First time homelessness increased from 27% in 2024 to 62% in 2026.
- Sixty-one percent (61%) of survey respondents experienced homelessness for one year or more, down from 67% in 2024.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of survey respondents were living in Marin County when they began experiencing homelessness, up from 62% in 2024.
- Like previous years, economic issues were the most frequently cited cause of homelessness (56%).
- Thirteen percent (13%) had a history of foster care.

SUBPOPULATIONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Those experiencing chronic homelessness increased 102% to 438 individuals, with a 32% decrease in sheltered and 242% increase in unsheltered persons.
- There are fewer veterans experiencing homelessness, down 75% from 2024, and more veterans are being sheltered: 64% in 2026, up from 30% in 2024.
- The number of families experiencing homelessness decreased 6% from 2024, with the percentage of unsheltered families increasing from 31% in 2024 to 35% in 2026.
- There were 2 youth (under age 18) and 58 young adults (age 18-24) enumerated, accounting for 5% of the population experiencing homelessness in Marin County.
- There was an increase in youth and young adults identifying as Hispanic or Latinx, with 27% in 2026 compared to 17% in 2024.
- Adults ages 60+ comprised 13% of the population experiencing homelessness with 31% sheltered and 69% unsheltered.

The 2026 Marin County Homeless Count and Survey provides valid and useful data that help create a more comprehensive profile of those experiencing homelessness. The dissemination and evaluation of this effort will help the Continuum of Care and all Marin County service providers, advocates, and policy makers 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, Marin County remains committed to moving persons experiencing homelessness into permanent housing.



APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2026 Marin County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey was to produce a point-in-time estimate of people experiencing homelessness in Marin County, a region which covers approximately 828 square miles. The results of the street counts were combined with the results from the shelter count to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Marin County on a given night, using the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count. The subsequent, in-depth qualitative survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those counted. A more detailed description of the methodology follows.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS COUNT METHOD

The Point-in-Time Count methodology used in 2026 had five primary components:

- **General street count:** an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals between the hours of 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM;
- **Youth street count:** a targeted enumeration of unsheltered homeless youth under the age of 25 between the hours of 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM;
- **Shelter count:** an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals on the night before the street count;
- **Survey:** an in-person survey of 419 unique individuals conducted by 17 peer surveyors and direct service providers in the weeks following the general street count; and
- **Unsheltered families count:** a special outreach effort to enumerate families previously identified as unsheltered.

The general street count was designed to take place before most shelters released persons who slept at the shelter the previous night. In areas with shelters, the immediate area surrounding the shelter was prioritized to eliminate potential double counting of individuals. The 2026 street count methodology followed an established, HUD-approved methodology used in the 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2024 counts.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success and integrity of the count, many county and community agencies collaborated on community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical plans, methodological decisions, and interagency coordination efforts. ASR provided technical assistance for these aspects of the planning process. ASR has over two decades of experience conducting homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in the 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***.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless and housing service providers and advocates were valued partners in the planning and implementation of this count. Thanks to local efforts, the count included enumerators with a diverse range of knowledge, including expertise regarding areas frequented by homeless individuals, individuals living in vehicles, and persons residing in encampments. Community partners were also key in recruiting individuals with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the street count and survey efforts. Additionally, some lived experience volunteers from previous counts participated again to support the 2026 effort.

UNSHeltered 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 IMPROVEMENTS

The 2026 street count methodology followed an established, HUD-approved approach commonly called a blitz method followed by a sample survey. Very significantly, a change was made in the use of GPS enabled smartphones in data collection using an ESRI Survey123 application developed and customized by ASR to conform to HUD data collection requirements. Also, improvements were made in pre-count planning efforts to deploy Count teams virtually, wherever possible. All teams met at the deployment center after the count to ensure data was submitted properly.

Outreach organizations, program staff, county, and city staff, along with selected community members, worked with ASR staff to determine areas for enumeration from an interactive GIS planning map tool that enabled planning for complete coverage of the County with prioritization of high-density homeless routes to outreach staff and personnel with direct service experience.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in Marin County supported the county's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. In 2026, approximately 104 community volunteers, including outreach workers, service providers, and lived-experience guides participated in the general street count on January 28, 2026.

Volunteer and guide recruitment prioritized recruitment of established outreach service providers, others working directly in the community, and community volunteers who had participated in previous counts. Some lived experience persons were integrated into the effort by outreach staff as in previous PIT Count efforts, but this was selective and subject to compliance with public health requirements and recruitment largely by outreach programs.

These lived-experience guides were paid \$20 for reviewing the training video as well as \$20 per hour worked on the day of the count.

Approximately thirty count teams served as enumerators on the morning of the count, canvassing every census tract across the county in teams of two to three people to visually count homeless persons.

In order to participate in the Count, all volunteers and Guides were requested to view a 20-minute training video before the Count. Additionally, targeted virtual trainings were held for multiple groups throughout the county. Training covered all aspects of the Count including:

- definition of homelessness,
- how to identify homeless individuals,
- how to safely and respectfully conduct the Count, 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 and to Count only actively occupied vehicles, and
- other tips to help ensure an accurate and safe Count.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize other potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In census tracts with a high concentration of homeless encampments, specialized teams with knowledge of those encampments were identified and assigned to those areas. 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 deployed to enumerate designated census tracts of the county for the street Count. Each team was composed of any combination of outreach workers, lived experience Guides, program staff, service-experienced community volunteers and interested community volunteers with no service experience. Each team had a lead and prior to the Count were provided with their assigned census tract maps, smart phone access information and training, field observation tips and guidelines, including vehicle identification criteria. Teams were all assigned unique tract numbers 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 Marin County Survey123 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 census tracts.

ADDITIONAL ENUMERATIONS

Many people experiencing homelessness in Marin County reside in cars, vans, and RVs. To more accurately count the number of people living in vehicles on the morning of January 28th, police departments in certain jurisdictions in the county, and the Sheriff's Office, enumerated vehicles before the beginning of the street count. Additionally, one team of lived-experience Guides canvassed the county to capture occupied vehicles on the morning of January 28th. To avoid duplication with the general unsheltered count beginning at daybreak, the vehicular count ended at 5:00 AM, and the last four digits of all vehicle license plates were recorded so vehicles could be de-duplicated with data from the general street count. Additionally, a special team covered individuals living on vessels in Richardson Bay.

SUPPLEMENTAL YOUTH UNSHELTERED COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the 2026 dedicated youth count was to improve representation of youth and young adults under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness in the Point-in-Time Count. Many children and youth 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. Therefore, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION

As in all years, planning for the 2026 supplemental youth count included homeless youth service providers and youth with lived experience of homelessness. Local service providers identified locations where youth experiencing homelessness were known to congregate and recruited youth currently experiencing homelessness with knowledge of where to locate homeless youth to serve as guides for the count. Late afternoon and early evening enumeration were the ideal times recommended by advocates to conduct the youth count.

Side-by-Side Transitional Age Youth took the lead on doing pre-count strategizing on count locations and in recruiting youth to work as peer enumerators in addition to youth service provider staff members who accompanied and transported the youth around the county on January 28, 2026. A training was held at the youth deployment site prior to departure.

Youth workers were paid \$20 per hour for their time, including time spent in reviewing the training video prior to the count. Youth and youth service provider staff members were trained on where and how to identify youth experiencing homelessness as well as how to record the data.

It was determined that youth experiencing homelessness would be more prominent on the street during daylight hours rather than in the early morning when the general count was conducted. The youth count was conducted from approximately 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM on January 28, 2026.

Both HUD and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly commingle 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.

As with the general street count, the Survey123 smart phone application was used by the youth count team to capture the data.

STREET COUNT DE-DUPLICATION

Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and de-duplicated by assessing location, gender, and age. In 2026, there were no duplicates.

SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the shelter and institution count is to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across Marin County. These data are vital to gaining an accurate, overall count of the homeless population and understanding where people experiencing homelessness receive shelter.

DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of sheltered homelessness for Point-in-Time Counts was used. This definition includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide a temporary living arrangement.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The homeless occupancy of shelters in Marin County was collected for the night of January 27, 2026. All shelter data were gathered either directly from the shelter or from Marin County's Homeless Management Information System.

CHALLENGES

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as large and geographically diverse as Marin County. Point-in-Time Counts are "snapshots" that quantify the size of the homeless population at a given point during the year. Hence, the count may not be representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the homeless population seasonally or over time.

The inability to better integrate persons with lived experience as route Guides was a challenge though mitigated by an increased use of outreach staff.

For a variety of reasons, people experiencing homelessness generally do not wish to be seen and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts

are, an undercount of the homeless population will result, especially of hard-to-reach subpopulations such as families and youth.

The methods employed in a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, for example:

- It is difficult to identify persons experiencing homelessness who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation.
- Families with children experiencing homelessness often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or in makeshift shelters.

Even though the Point-in-Time Count is most likely to be an undercount of the homeless population, the methodology employed—coupled with the homeless survey—is the most comprehensive approach available and results in a minimum number of persons experiencing homelessness at a single point in time.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

A survey of 419 unique individuals experiencing homelessness was conducted between February 17 and April 20, 2026 to yield qualitative data about people experiencing homelessness in Marin County. These data 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, and causes of homelessness 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 by peer survey workers with lived homeless experience. Like the general count, training videos were used to train surveyors. Some virtual training sessions were facilitated by ASR, Marin 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. Peer 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. McDonalds gift cards were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2026 homeless survey. The incentives were easy to distribute, had wide 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 1,128 people experiencing homelessness, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 419 valid surveys represented a confidence interval of +/- 3.8% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Marin County.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless 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. Since 2009, the ASR survey methodology has prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of currently homeless surveyors.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an “every third encounter” survey approach. Survey workers were instructed to approach every third person they considered to be an eligible survey respondent. 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.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable in the 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 Marin County Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, a smaller number of surveys were conducted among transition-age youth than in previous years.

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported. However, using a peer 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. Further, service providers and county staff members recommended individuals who would be the best suited to conducting interviews and these individuals received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. Service providers and county staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or contained false responses were not accepted.

Due to a smaller number of survey respondents aged 60 and older (n=44), estimates for this population subgroup are subject to a higher margin of error than estimates for the overall population. While the survey data provides valuable insight into the characteristics of older adults experiencing homelessness, the smaller sample size limits the precision of subgroup-level estimates and increases the potential for variability.

ESTIMATION OF THE POPULATION AGED 60 AND OLDER

Beginning with the 2026 Point-in-Time Count, the methodology used to estimate the size of the unsheltered population aged 60 and older was revised to improve transparency and interpretability. HUD defines older populations as 65 and older, while local Marin leadership expands this category to include adults 60 and older.

Previous reports relied on weighted survey estimates. Under the revised approach, the proportion of unsheltered survey respondents aged 60 and older is applied to the total number of unsheltered adults identified during the count. This produces an estimate that is more directly aligned with the observed count while continuing to leverage survey data to estimate the age distribution of the unsheltered population.

Estimates of the sheltered population aged 60 and older were developed using Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data for both 2024 and 2026. HMIS records allow individuals to be identified by age at the time of the Point-in-Time Count, providing a direct count of sheltered individuals aged 60 and older.

To maintain comparability across reporting years, this report recalculates the 2024 estimates of the population aged 60 and older using the revised methodology. As a result, the 2024 estimate in this report differs from that published previously and should not be directly compared with figures reported in earlier publications that used the weighted survey approach.

APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Chronic homelessness – Defined by HUD as an unaccompanied individual or head of a family household with a disabling condition who has either continuously experienced homelessness for a year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months in the past three years.

Disabling condition – Defined by HUD as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual's ability to live independently; a developmental disability; or HIV/AIDS.

Emergency shelter – Temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, either in a shelter facility or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 180 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

Family – A household with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18.

Homeless – Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter 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.

HUD – Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Precariously housed – A person who is staying with the household because they have no other regular or adequate place to stay due to a lack of money or other means of support.

Sheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single individual – An unaccompanied adult 18 or older.

Young adults – Young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Transitional housing – Housing in which homeless individuals may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services, which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination, may be provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Youth – Children under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Unsheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.