# 2026 MONTEREY COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS

*Katrina McKenzie, Executive Officer*



THE COALITION
OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

# WHY DO WE DO THE POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT?

- Requirement of 24 C.F.R. Part 578
- Funding and Resource Allocation
- Program Planning & Evaluation
- Policy Development
- Awareness and Advocacy
- Trend Analysis

# 2026 CENSUS

- January 29, 2026 Sheltered Count
- January 30, 2026 Unsheltered Count
  - 150+ Volunteers
  - Services Providers
  - City & County Staff
  - Community Members
  - 4:30 AM - 11:00 AM

# FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR PIT

- 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.

TOTAL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS **2,073**

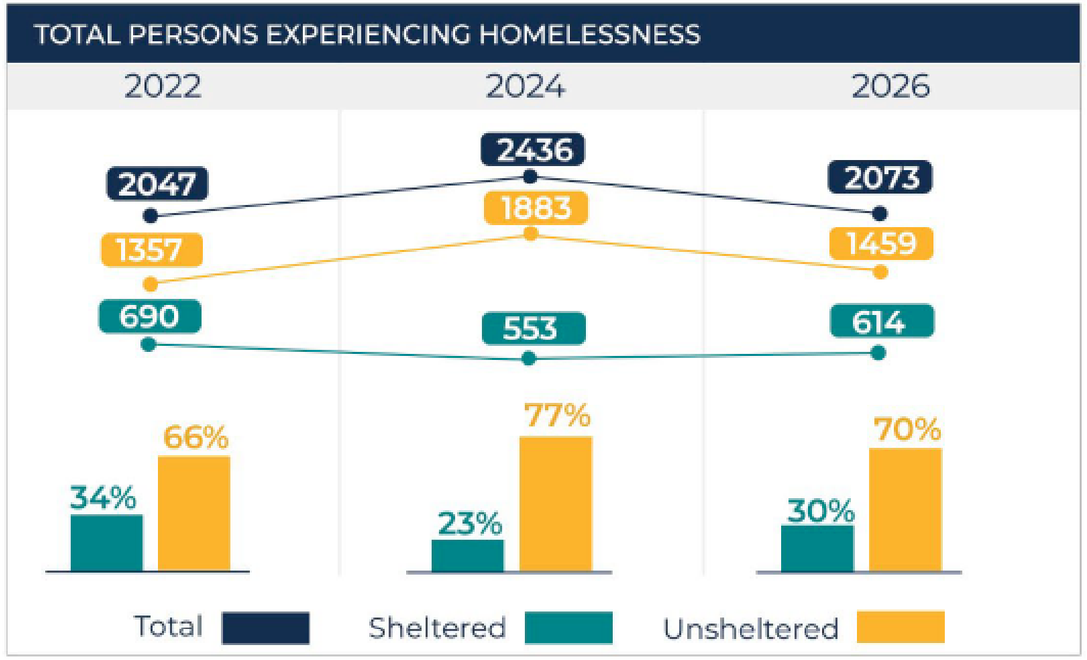


**30%**
Sheltered
n=614



**70%**
Unsheltered
n=1,459

**Monterey County experienced a 15% decrease in overall homelessness and a 23% reduction in unsheltered homelessness.**

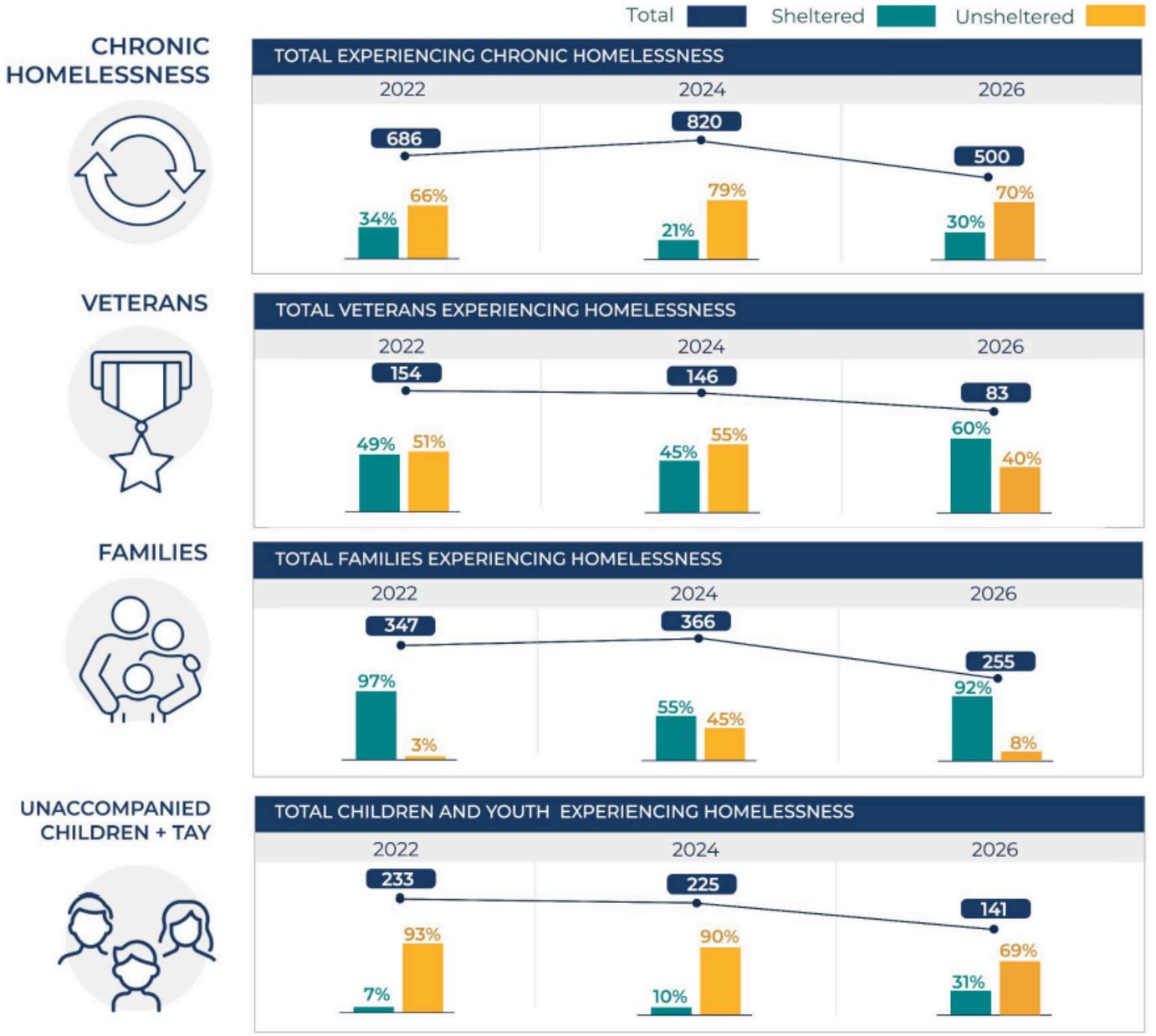



THE COALITION
OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

# POINT IN TIME COUNT BY JURISDICTION

| | UNSHELTERED | | | SHELTERED | | | TOTAL | | | '24 - '26 % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JURISDICTION | 2022 | 2024 | 2026 | 2022 | 2024 | 2026 | 2022 | 2024 | 2026 | |
| **Total Incorporated** | **1,089** | **1,440** | **1,336** | **652** | **553** | **614** | **1,741** | **1,993** | | |
| Monterey | 74 | 141 | 164 | 27 | 80 | 72 | 101 | 221 | 236 | 7% |
| Salinas | 777 | 949 | 967 | 288 | 267 | 282 | 1,065 | 1,216 | 1,249 | 3% |
| Marina | 81 | 65 | 38 | 275 | 97 | 149 | 356 | 162 | 187 | 15% |
| Seaside | 90 | 140 | 66 | 62 | 79 | 69 | 152 | 219 | 135 | -38% |
| Sand City | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | * |
| Gonzales | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | * |
| Pacific Grove | 29 | 52 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 52 | 33 | -37% |
| King City | 18 | 8 | 28 | 0 | 30 | 29 | 18 | 38 | 57 | 50% |
| Greenfield | 2 | 21 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 19 | * |
| Del Rey Oaks | 2 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 3 | * |
| Carmel | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | * |
| Soledad | 12 | 45 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 12 | 45 | 21 | * |
| **Total Unincorporated** | **268** | **443** | **123** | **38** | **0** | **0** | **306** | **443** | **123** | **-72%** |
| **Total** | **1,357** | **1,883** | **1,459** | **690** | **553** | **614** | **2,047** | **2,436** | **2,073** | **-15%** |

There have been significant decreases in all subpopulations which can be contributed to strategic investments in projects that prioritize serving individuals who fall under these categories.

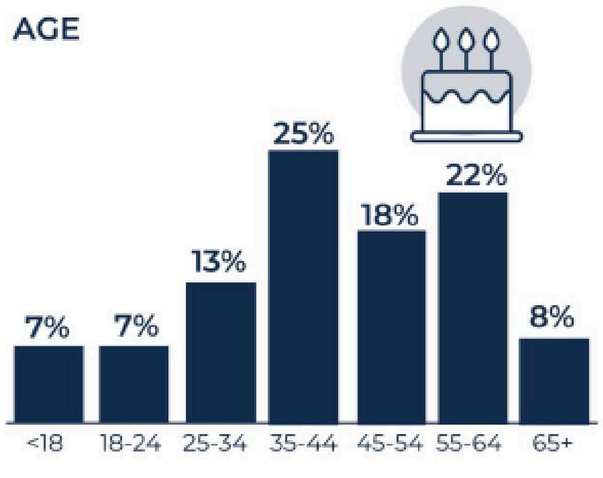


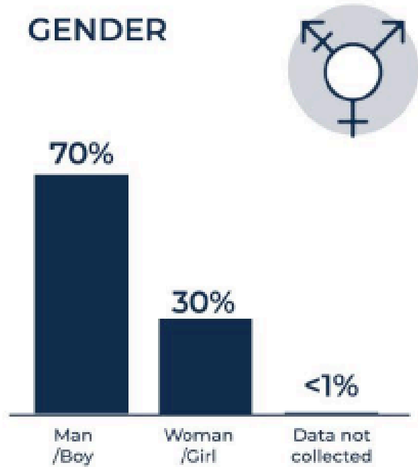

THE COALITION
OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

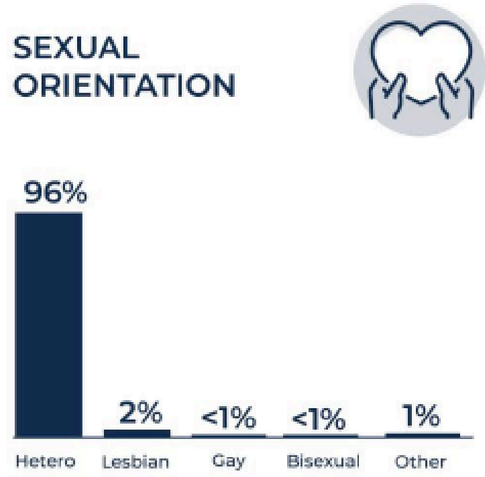
**Nearly one-third of the population is over the age of 55, a slight increase from 2024.**

**70% of the population identified as a man.** (Note: HUD recently changed the gender categories.)

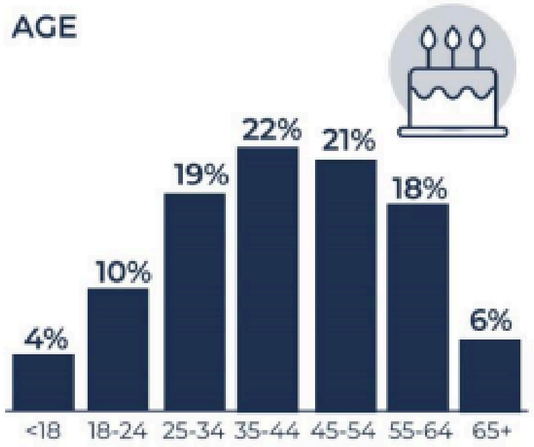
## 2026

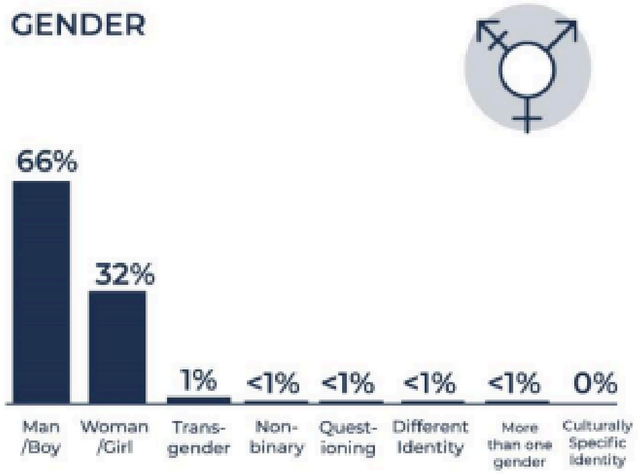


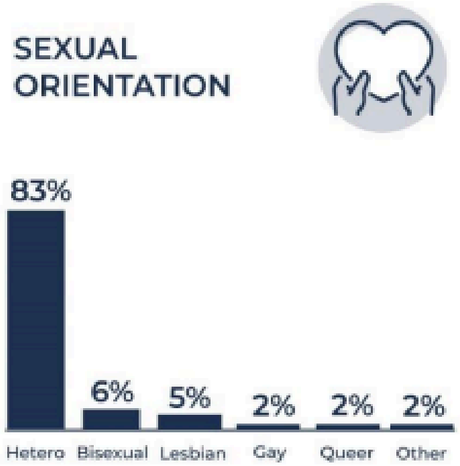




## 2024



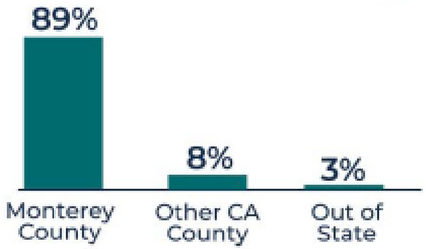




THE COALITION
OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

The region is making progress in serving individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness; however, there was an increase in people experiencing homelessness for the first time.

## 2026

### RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS




### DURATION OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS




### FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

**60%**

Reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

## 2024

### RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS




### DURATION OF CURRENT HOMELESSNESS




### FIRST EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS

**23%**

Reported their current episode of homelessness as being their first

THE COALITION OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

There was a notable decrease in individuals experiencing homelessness who were also justice involved.

## 2026

### JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVED

**19%** of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison/ juvenile hall in the past year.

**10%** on probation/parole at the start of their most recent episode of homelessness

### SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION



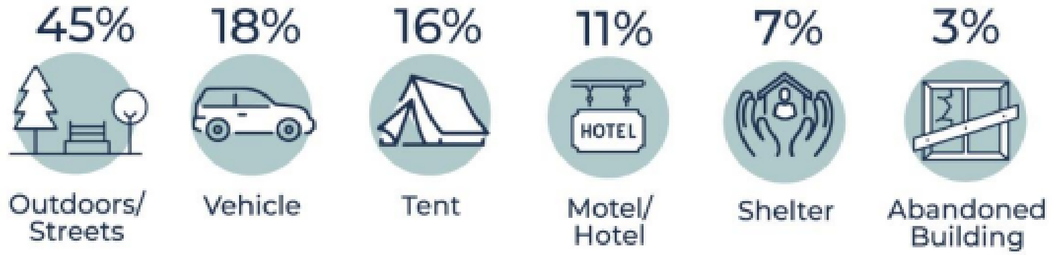

## 2024

### JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVED

**26%** of survey respondents spent one or more nights in jail/prison/ juvenile hall in the past year.

**20%** on probation/parole at the start of their most recent episode of homelessness

### SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION




THE COALITION
OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

**Health condition rates remained generally consistent; however, in 2024, 52% of survey respondents reported having a disabling condition.**

## SELF-REPORTED HEALTH

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

### SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER



**46%**

Report having a substance use disorder

### DEPRESSION



**43%**

Report having depression

### PTSD



**36%**

Report having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

### PHYSICAL DISABILITY



**30%**

Report having a physical disability

### CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION



**27%**

Report having a chronic health condition

### PSYCHIATRIC OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS



**26%**

Report having a psychiatric or emotional condition

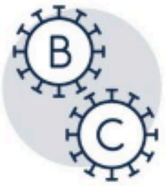
### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY



**20%**

Report having had a TBI

### CHRONIC INFECTION with HEPATITIS B or C




**4%**

Report having a chronic infection

### HIV/AIDS RELATED ILLNESS



**1%**

Report having an HIV/AIDS related illness

### DISABLING CONDITION

**65%**



of survey respondents report having at least one disabling condition

THE COALITION
OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

All surveyed individuals reported receiving some form of government assistance, except for the 26% who reported barriers related to their immigration status.

## 74%

Of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

**2026**

### SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING* (TOP 3 RESPONSES)

- 23% — Contact with Outreach Worker
- 10% — Transitional Housing
- 8% — Shelter Day Services

### REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE*
(TOP 6 RESPONSES)




## 60%

Of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits.

**2024**

### SERVICES CURRENTLY ACCESSING* (TOP 4 RESPONSES)

- 23% — Contact with Outreach Worker
- 14% — Emergency Shelter
- 7% — Transitional Housing
- 6% — Job Training/ Employment Assistance

### REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE*
(TOP 6 RESPONSES)




THE COALITION
OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

# CONCLUSION

# BUILDING A MORE CONNECTED SYSTEM OF CARE

MCOE offers housing navigation and rental deposits. Hope Housing offers transitional housing to families in recovery.

Coordinated the PIT Count to improve data quality and reduce duplication. Launched a coordinated approach to serve those on the Pajaro River.

Increased focus on housing outcomes and closing system gaps. Housing Authority authorized 1000 Housing Choice Vouchers.




Targeted encampment resolution strategies offered viable options for people to receive services.

Lightfighter Village opened in 2025 with 64 studio apartments and 7 two-bedroom apartments.

Prop 47 and CalAIM's Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative strengthen coordinated reentry from jail and prison.

# EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON THE HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Funding uncertainty, rising need, and changing federal rules may challenge local progress.

### HUD prioritizes interim housing and services only projects over permanent housing interventions

For the first time in 13 years, HUD CoC funding prioritizes interim housing and services over permanent housing options. National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates 97,000 people will lose their housing status under these changes.

### HUD issued a Proposed Rule that could end prorating rents for mixed immigration status households

National Low Income Housing Coalition states that the proposal could affect nearly 80,000 people, including about 37,000 children, if finalized and implemented.

### Homelessness among older adults is increasing.

Older adults are often less able to increase income or re-enter the workforce, making long-term housing subsidies essential for many. As Social Security benefits fail to keep pace with rising housing and living costs, seniors are increasingly at risk of falling into homelessness.

### Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention funding is at risk every year.

The State has not yet committed to ongoing HHAP funding and reduced the program by $100 million in the 2026–2027 budget. Future funding is also becoming increasingly tied to local jurisdictions' Housing Element compliance and Prohousing Designation status.

### HR1 will disporportionately impact people experiencing homelessness.

People experiencing homelessness generally do not have stable mailing addresses to receive recertification notices. Additionally, people experiencing chronic homelessness may experience difficulties meeting the expanded work requirements .

# WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

Priority actions (present and future) to reduce homelessness and improve system outcomes

01

**Improve hospital discharges**

Reduce hospital readmission by coordinating discharge into shelter system

02

**Continued focus on unsheltered homelessness**

County and City of Salinas partnered on an Encampment Resolution Funding application

03

**Leverage Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) housing opportunities**

Identify data-sharing opportunities and improve referrals between systems of care



04

**Increase Permanent Supportive Housing options**

Approx. 100 units of PSH opened in 2026. Supportive housing for parenting youth in early stages of development.



05

**Slow down the pipeline into homelessness**

Identify resources for homelessness prevention and diversion services

06

**Serve individuals living in their vehicles**

Identify housing focused safe parking opportunities


QUESTIONS?