



Homelessness Program Updates

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Point in Time Count

- Requirement to receive homeless assistance funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Conducted annually in Sonoma County since 2015 (no Count in 2021 due to COVID-19)
- The 2023 count occurred January 27, 2023, 5:00 AM to 10:00 AM.
- The report provides a snapshot of the number and demographics of those experiencing homelessness in the region on a given night
- It allows Sonoma County to track subpopulation trends, identify potential gaps in services, and informs future planning for homeless services

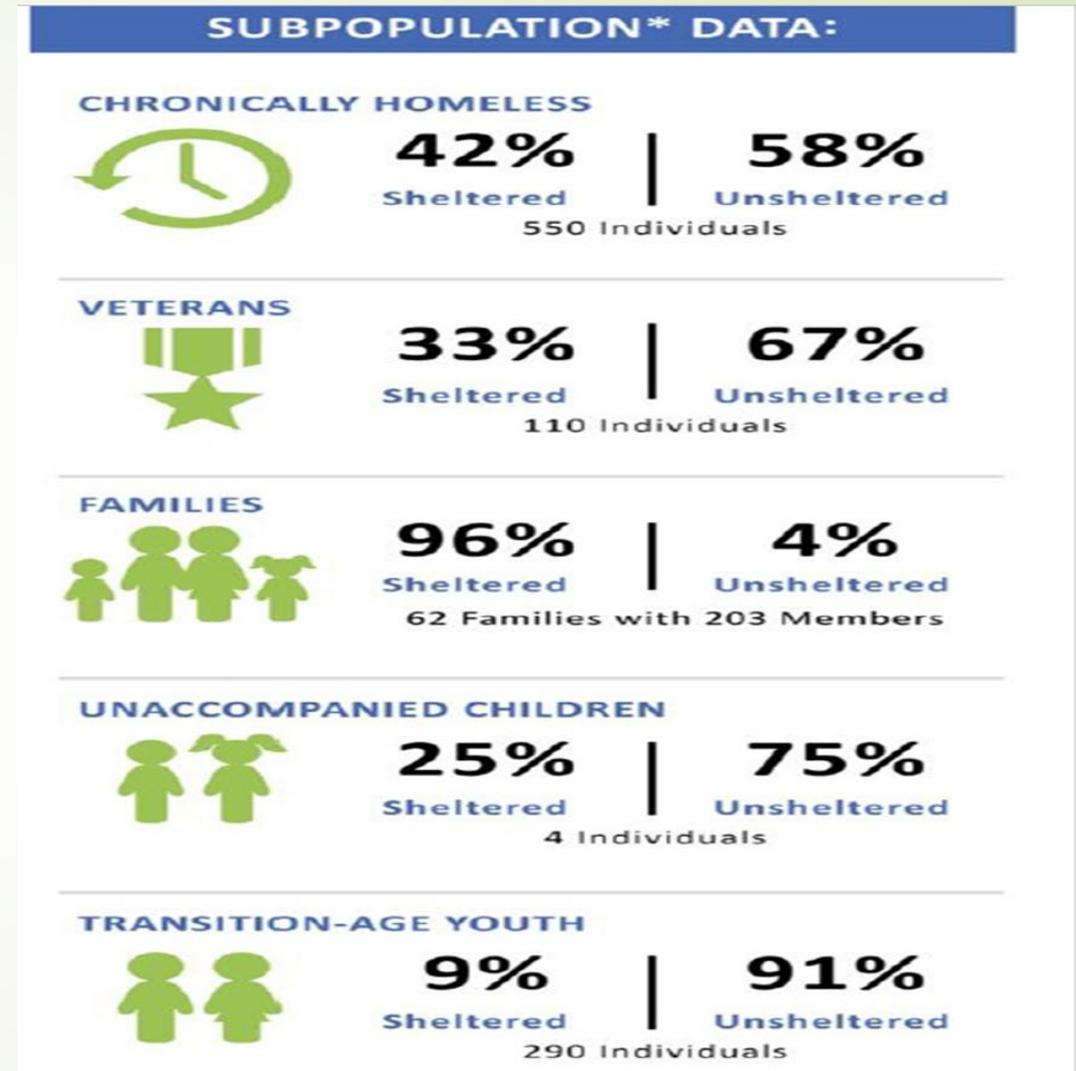
Results

Overall, there was a 21% decrease in homelessness in 2023, the largest decrease since 2015.



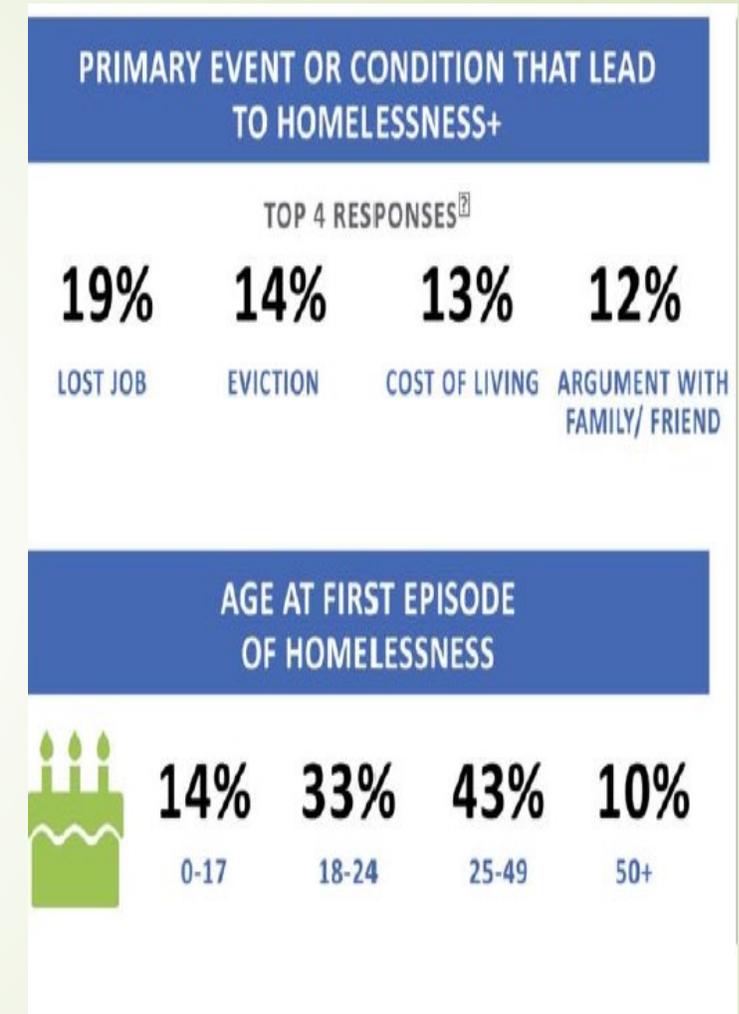
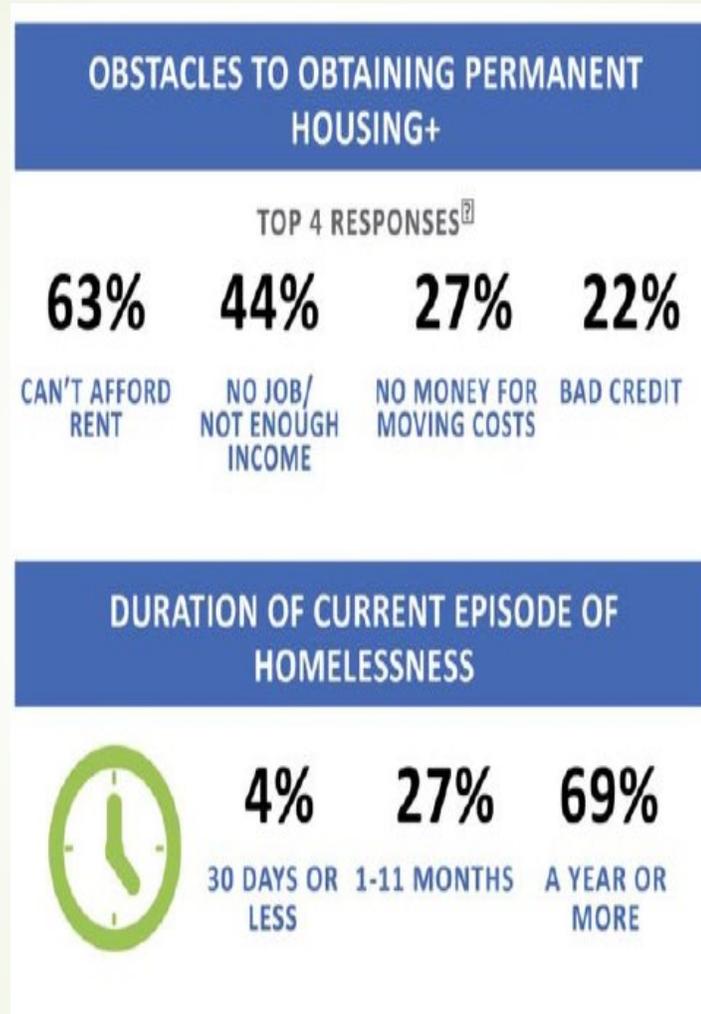
Subpopulations

- ▶ Key subpopulations tracked by HUD include chronically homeless, families, transition age youth ages 18-24/unaccompanied youth under 18, families, and veterans.
- ▶ All subpopulations saw significant decreases aside from families which saw a very modest increase, likely due to increased shelter capacity for families



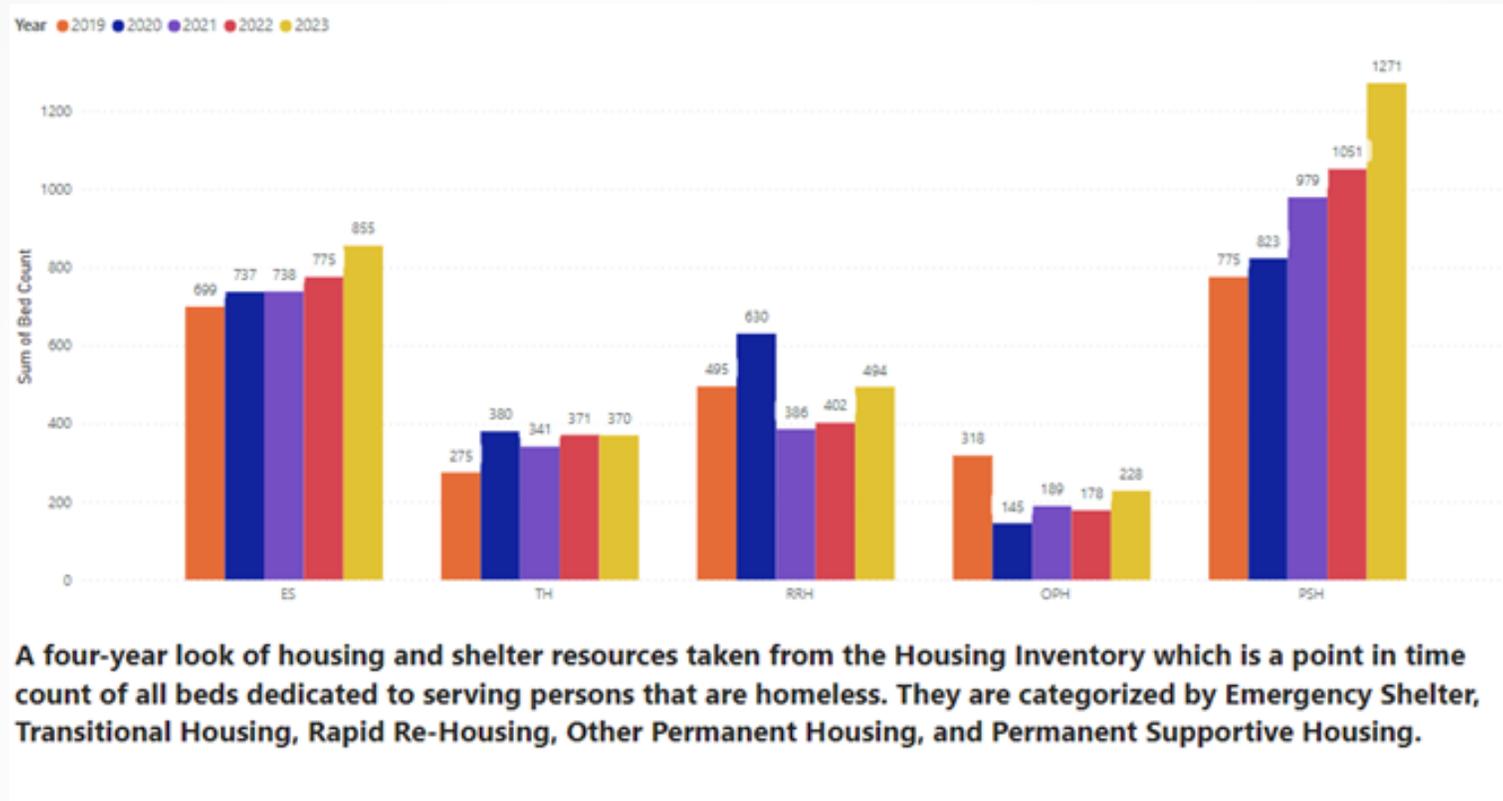
Causes of Homelessness and Obstacles to Obtaining Housing

- ➔ The primary cause of homelessness in 2023 was the loss of a job and the primary obstacle was rent. The age at first episode of homelessness as well as duration of current episode is displayed as well.



Jurisdictional Data (cities & unincorporated areas)

Area/Jurisdiction	Year of the PIT Count			Change from 2022 to 2023	
	2020	2022	2023	Amount	Percent
North Sonoma County	209	195	118	-77	-39%
Cloverdale	33	23	9	-14	-61%
Healdsburg	69	97	33	-64	-66%
Windsor	38	48	26	-22	-46%
Unincorporated	69	27	50	23	85%
South Sonoma County	597	768	500	-268	-35%
Cotati	37	85	15	-70	-82%
Petaluma	296	293	245	-48	-16%
Rohnert Park	248	369	210	-159	-43%
Unincorporated	16	21	30	9	43%
West Sonoma County	327	127	213	86	68%
Sebastopol	129	78	87	9	12%
Unincorporated	198	49	126	77	157%
Sonoma Valley	88	122	129	7	6%
Sonoma	61	81	40	-41	-51%
Unincorporated	27	41	89	48	117%
Santa Rosa	1,524	1,681	1,294	-387	-23%
Santa Rosa	1,461	1,658	1,160	-498	-30%
Unincorporated	63	23	134	111	483%
Undisclosed Location	-	-	12	12	N/A
Totals =	2,745	2,893	2,266	-627	-22%



Significant additions to housing supply locally (esp ES, PSH)



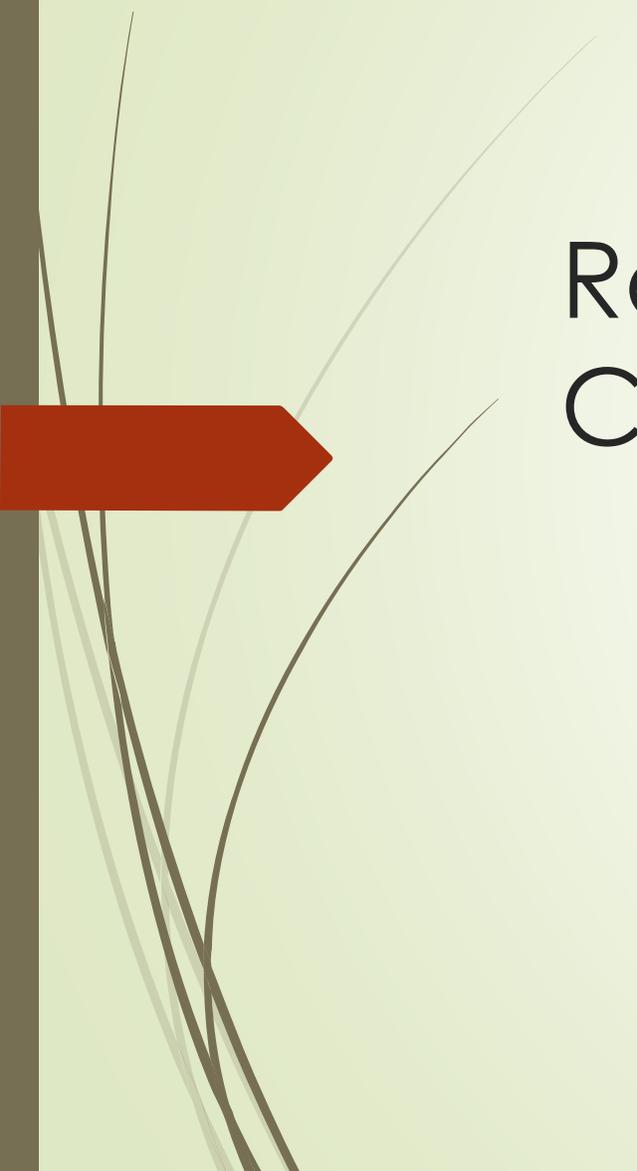
2023 PIT Count Takeaways

- ▶ Over 400 new beds added in past year (including shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing)
 - ▶ Project Homekey was critical in bringing many new beds online
- ▶ Increased coordination between CoC, County, and Cities
- ▶ Ease of impacts of COVID-19
- ▶ Still a significant ways to go to reach Functional Zero (where homeless is brief, one-time, and rare)



Resolution to Transfer Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Contract

- ▶ Moves contract from Community Development Commission (CDC) to Department of Health Services (DHS) as New CoC Lead Agency
- ▶ Future grants will come to DHS as Lead Agency
- ▶ Includes residual ESG-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funds from CDC to DHS



Replacing the Beds / Closing the ESS



Emergency Shelter Site Background

- ▶ Started late March 2023
- ▶ Goal was a six-month duration
 - ▶ SR Fire's interpretation of the Fire Code discourages longer-term use of tents as habitable structures.
 - ▶ Impacts to neighborhood, parkway, County employees, Permit Sonoma parking
 - ▶ Moving clients to housing has been challenging – group with extensive chronic homelessness (1+ year homeless with 1 or more disabling conditions)
 - ▶ Tents are not designed for long-term use.
- ▶ Over 100 persons in/out of shelter, multiple self-exits, 3 housing placements
 - ▶ Rules-based environment not for everyone
 - ▶ <5 forced exits for behavioral rule non-compliance
 - ▶ About 50-52 residents at ESS now (9-1-2023).

An aerial photograph showing a large, mostly undeveloped plot of land outlined in blue. The text '2.46 acres' is overlaid in the center of the plot. The plot is bounded by Russell Ave to the north and a road to the east. To the west, there is a parking lot with several vehicles. The surrounding area includes a paved road, some trees, and a building complex at the bottom of the frame.

Recommended Alternatives

- ▶ Maintain a presence at County Campus off of Russell Avenue
 - ▶ About 2.4 acres
 - ▶ Combine a Safe Parking site for RVs and/or trailers (up to 40) and longer-duration Tiny Homes (roughly 12 or more duplexes)
 - ▶ Total = 64-74 client beds
 - ▶ RFP for vendor – look for leveraging of funds
 - ▶ Requires some pavement material TBD, water and electrical utilities
 - ▶ Assume about a 2-year duration



Recommended Alternatives

- ▶ Change operations at Los Guilicos
 - ▶ GOAL: Pull back housing into LG Complex, longer-term infrastructure
 - ▶ Like Cal-Fire, refurbish 2 existing dorms (2 of the 4 remaining).
 - ▶ Work with Sonoma Public Infrastructure to do so.
 - ▶ Security delination for Cal-Fire
 - ▶ Total = up to 140 client beds (significant flexibility w/bunks)
 - ▶ Update / revise wildfire evacuation planning
 - ▶ RFP for Service Provider (out now)
 - ▶ Demobilize Pallet Shelter program when dorm renovations are complete, return to parking lot.



Summary Recommended Actions

- Receive a report on the January 27, 2023, Point in Time Count in Sonoma County.
- Adopt a resolution for the transfer of current grant agreements and any amendments thereto of State of California Emergency Solutions Grants, State of California Emergency Solutions Grants-Coronavirus from the Sonoma County Community Development Commission to the Sonoma County Department of Health Services as the new Continuum of Care Lead Agency.
- Adopt a resolution authorizing budgetary adjustments to the Department of Health Services fiscal year 2023 2024 adopted budget, increasing appropriations to reflect additional revenue in the amount of \$13,740,657, transferred from the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, and additional expenditures in the amount of \$13,456,409 to support the Department of Health Services Homelessness Division, Ending Homelessness Program.
- Approve initiating the replacement of the Emergency Shelter Site at the County Campus with a Safe RV Parking and Tiny Homes at a Russell Avenue Site and improving dormitories at Los Guilicos to replace the Los Guilicos Village.