

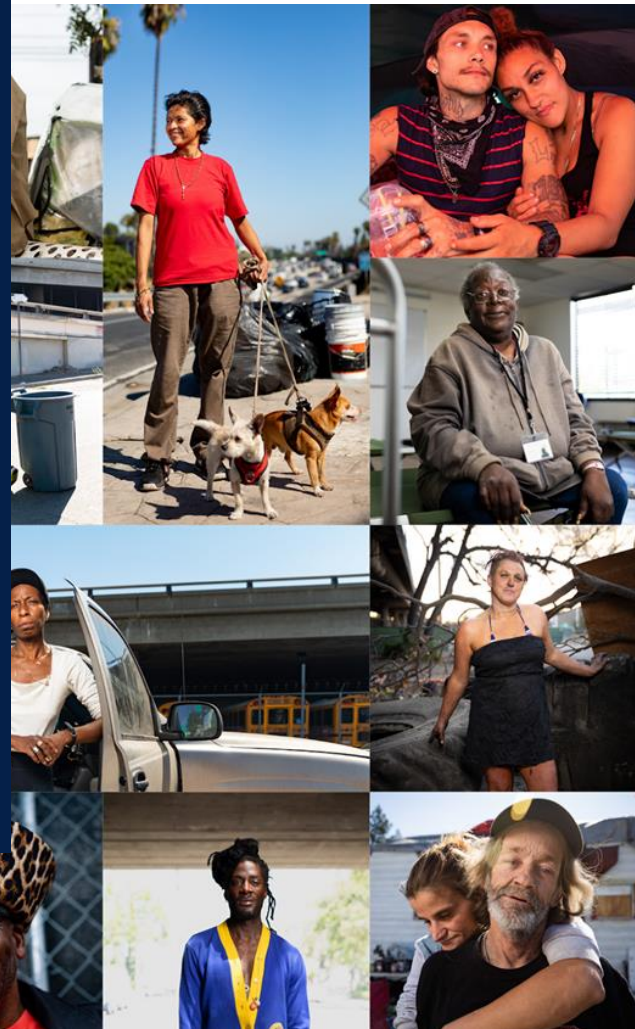
Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative



University of California
San Francisco

Homelessness: Overcoming Myths with Facts

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Toward a New Understanding

The California Statewide Study of
People Experiencing Homelessness

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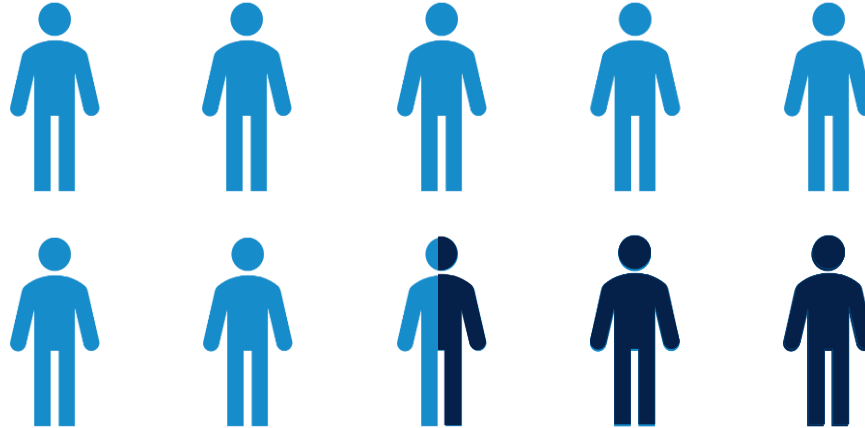
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California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness | marquesel@ucsfbhhi.org
homelessness.ucsf.edu/CSFHH

People Experiencing Homelessness in CA are Californians

- 90% of participants were last housed in California
- 75% of participants were last housed in their current county





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- **26%** reported a Black racial identity (vs. 7% statewide)
- **12%** reported Native American, Alaskan Native or Indigenous identity (vs. 3% statewide)
- **35%** reported a Latina/o/x identity

Median Age: 47

(range 18-89)

48% of single adults
were 50+

41% of this group
first became homeless
at 50 or older



Episode Length and Chronic Homelessness

- **22 months** median length of current episode of homelessness
- **36%** met federal criteria for chronic homelessness

- Entrances into homelessness:
 - Institutional settings: **19%**
 - Housed: Non-leaseholders: **49%**
 - Housed: Leaseholders: **32%**

Income and Housing Costs Prior to Homelessness

- All:
 - Median monthly household income: **\$960**
- Non-leaseholders:
 - Median monthly household income: **\$950**
 - 43% of non-leaseholders did not pay rent
 - Median monthly housing costs (among those who paid rent): **\$450**
- Leaseholders:
 - Median monthly household income: **\$1400**
 - Median monthly housing costs: **\$700**

Places slept most in past 6 months:

78% Unsheltered

- 21% Vehicle
- 57% Non-vehicle

22% Sheltered



- **41%** indicated there was a time they wanted shelter, but were unable to access it during current episode

- **45%** reported poor or fair health
- **60%** of participants had at least one chronic health condition
- **34%** reported a difficulty with an activity of daily living

- In the past 6 months
 - **38%** visited the ED
 - **21%** had an inpatient hospitalization for physical health

In their lifetime:

- **25%** reported a PTSD diagnosis
- **31%** attempted suicide
- **27%** experienced a psychiatric hospitalization
 - **44%** of these experienced it after their first instance of homelessness

- **35%** used illicit drugs 3x week or more during current episode
 - 31% methamphetamines
 - 11% opioids
 - 3% cocaine

- **9%** current heavy episodic alcohol use (weekly)

Of participants who reported current, regular illicit drug use or weekly heavy episodic alcohol use:

- **21%** currently want treatment, but are unable to access it

48% reported EITHER

- Current regular illicit drug use (**35%**)
- Current heavy episodic alcohol use (weekly) (**9%**)
- Current hallucinations (**12%**) or
- Recent psychiatric hospitalization (**5%**)

Policy Recommendations

- Increase access to affordable housing options
- Use Housing First Methods
- Provide supports to match behavioral health needs
- Expand targeted prevention
- Increase household incomes
- Increase outreach and service delivery during homelessness
- Embed a racial equity approach in homeless system service delivery

Project Welcome Home: Evidence for PSH

- Randomized controlled trial of Permanent Supportive Housing program (Santa Clara County)
- Target population: chronically homeless, highest users of services
- Intervention included:
 - Permanently subsidized housing
 - Intensive case management
 - Skilled staff
 - Voluntary services
 - Medical care



Raven, Niedzwiecki, & Kushel. (2020) A randomized trial of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with high use of publicly funded services. *Health Services Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.13553>

- Approached 426 people
- 423 enrolled (only one eligible refused)
- In two years prior to enrollment, on average:
 - 5 inpatient stays
 - 19 ED visits
 - 5 Psych ED visits
 - 3+ jail stays

Raven, Niedzwiecki, & Kushel. (2020) A randomized trial of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with high use of publicly funded services. *Health Services Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.13553>

Successful at keeping people housed

- **86%** housed (at recent follow-up, **91%**)
 - Compared to **20.1%** in control group
- Housed for **93%** of 4 year follow-up
- Avg. **2.5 months** for participants in the intervention to find housing
- **70%** moved
 - Average 2x

Raven, Niedzwiecki, & Kushel. (2020) A randomized trial of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with high use of publicly funded services. *Health Services Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.13553>

Main outcomes for healthcare utilization

- Outpatient mental health treatment
 - **37.3** times a year (compared to **19.7** in the "usual care" group)
- Psychiatric emergency visits
 - **1.3** visits per year (compared to **1.9** in the "usual care" group)

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- The experience of homelessness is harrowing and traumatic
- People experiencing homelessness deserve the safety and security of home
- People with significant behavioral health disabilities deserve to be housed and can succeed in housing
- Housing First is effective, but needs to be scaled and resourced



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