

Date: July 1, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *TBM*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Homeless Services Update: 2022 Point-in-Time Homeless Count Results

Homelessness impacts every sector of our community and continues to be the subject of study, evaluation, and planning since before the inaugural Point-in-Time Homeless Count (Count) in 2003. This memorandum provides the results of the 2022 Count and a comparative analysis with the 2020 Count.

The 2022 Count was the first count post-pandemic with plans for the City of Long Beach (City) to resume doing an annual count to understand trends and changes in who is experiencing homelessness in Long Beach. The Count remains one of the most valuable tools that allows the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and local communities the ability to assess homelessness at national and local levels. The Count allows trend analyses on the scope of homelessness regionally and across the nation. The Count is also a community-wide effort that provides an opportunity for residents and local businesses to actively contribute and learn about people who are experiencing homelessness and gain an understanding of the resources available to address homelessness in Long Beach.

Between the 2020 and 2022 Count, the City has greatly increased in staffing, resources, and programs for people experiencing homelessness. At the time of the 2020 Count, the Homeless Services Bureau was a division under the Department of Health and Human Services, with a staff of approximately 25 people. In the last two years, the division transitioned to a bureau, staffing has grown to 80 positions, with an additional 15 contracted staff to support maintenance, case management at Project RoomKey sites and security.

Similarly, in the past three years, the budget for funding homeless related services has increased from an annual budget of approximately \$10 million to a budget that is nearing \$80 million with the likelihood of increasing over the coming years. The increased budget includes funding for homeless prevention, outreach and access services, capital improvement projects, permanent housing subsidies, interim and permanent housing service and operating funds, employment services, coordination of the system, and the administration for both contracted and directly operated funding.

The Homeless Services Bureau has expanded funding for homeless prevention services which include financial assistance along with case management for households that are at the highest risk of homelessness and need supportive services beyond just financial assistance. The City has also received and provided more than \$50 million in Emergency Rental Assistance in addition to the homeless prevention programming through homeless services. The City has utilized \$81 million of Long Beach Recovery Act (LB Recovery Act) funding for programs that

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provide vital upstream safety nets to stem people from falling into homelessness including family and youth services, basic needs, rental assistance, and employment support for those searching for jobs.

Homeless Count Methodology

The 2022 Count was conducted in the early hours of February 24, 2022, with the help of 250 volunteers consisting of community-based providers, members of the public, legislative offices, and City staff. This was the largest number of volunteers the City has had in conducting a homeless count in 17 years and we look for opportunities to expand volunteers in coming years to provide further opportunities and improve the overall experience. Teams led by experienced leads fanned out on foot and by car conducting surveys and visual counts of people experiencing homelessness throughout Long Beach. The increase of volunteers and City staff allowed for comprehensive coverage of the 51 map segments of Long Beach.

Prior to the count, all volunteers were required to attend an online orientation session that provided training for the electronic count application and engagement techniques during the survey process. Training is a priority to ensure consistent data collection throughout all map areas, ensuring safety practices in the field, and to provide support and training for experienced map leads. Teams deployed to the field were provided with a 30-question survey that asked demographic information, subpopulation information, length and circumstances of homeless experience, cause of homelessness, and previous engagement in services, all to get an accurate picture of the demographic needs and experiences of people in Long Beach. For people who were not willing to complete a demographic survey but displayed clear indications of experiencing homelessness, a visual count was conducted. No identifying information was collected during the survey process; rather, key demographic information was used to create a unique identifier. This unique identifier was used to de-duplicate survey respondents that may have been surveyed in other locations during the count process, such as shelters, service sites, and food programs. All persons who completed a demographic survey were offered a gift card for food as an appreciation/compensation of their time. All responses collected were based on a self-report by survey respondents. The Homeless Services Bureau continues to improve the count data collection methodology, to provide more insights to the population. Through the incorporation of technology, we have been able to improve the timeliness and accuracy of data collected through utilizing an online application.

The Count process is designed to ensure comprehensive coverage of the 52-square miles of Long Beach. In the days leading up to the Count, the Outreach Team conducted a specialized count with focus in areas that are hard to reach and have safety concerns for the volunteers while canvassing Long Beach to validate the accuracy of Hot Spot Guides. For the 2022 count, the Homeless Services Bureau and the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) completed thorough coverage of all specialized areas with the increase of outreach capacity. The Homeless Services Bureau identified hot spots where people were encamped or were known to congregate to ensure volunteer teams knew key locations to visit. On the day of the Count, the teams were organized in small groups of three to four people with an experienced map lead that consisted of outreach team members, first responder (Police or Fire), and agency partners. Through many years of conducting counts, the Homeless Services Bureau has learned that it

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is more effective to have small groups of three to four which allow for volunteers to engage with people more effectively without causing fear or concerns to the person(s) experiencing homelessness. Moreover, the design of the teams is intentional to include key roles that have specific expertise and training working in the field. This is critical to engaging with the unsheltered population.

In addition, for the 2022 Count, the Homeless Services Bureau focused on training to better count people who were living in their vehicles. Volunteers were trained to spot key signs that would indicate someone is living in a vehicle, as well as follow up surveys were conducted to gauge for accuracy, potential duplication, and learning of potential differing demographics for persons living in their vehicle. This methodology change accounts for a significant increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness living within their vehicles. The Homeless Services Bureau also worked to add additional surveying locations with Long Beach City College and Cal State University of Long Beach to better count student/youth homelessness.

Summary of Key Findings

The 2022 Count reflects an increase in homelessness in our community. A complex combination of personal, social, and economic factors has led to this increase, and the pandemic exacerbated these factors. During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, most providers significantly reduced in-person services. State Public Health Orders and CDC guidance reduced shelter capacity, set quarantine procedures that impacted shelter access, and changed the way communities engaged with encampments. To reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in jails, people were released, often without places to live. At one point, the Multi-Service Center (MSC) was one of the only access points providing intake for services in Long Beach.

In addition to the reduction in shelter and treatment services, the pandemic caused a significant increase in unemployment, family disruption and domestic violence, and a reduction in access to other health services due to fear of the COVID-19 virus. Rents and housing costs have increased significantly while wages have been stagnant. These are strains in areas that have been identified as being key factors leading to homelessness.

The 2022 Count determined that there were 3,296 persons experiencing homelessness in Long Beach on the morning of February 24, 2022, and were comprised of:

- **1,801 unsheltered persons living on streets** or other locations not meant for human habitation
- **485 unsheltered persons living in cars, vans, and RVs**
- **1,009 sheltered persons** living in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

Count volunteers saw a continuing trend of a significant number of persons being either uninterested or unresponsive to completing a demographic survey. This year we had 1,519 (66 percent) of people identified during the Count decline a survey compared to 532 people in 2020 and 395 in 2019. The 768 people that completed all or part of the demographic survey is a

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significant sample size, however it does slightly reduce the confidence in the accuracy of the demographics of who is experiencing homelessness in Long Beach. Upon declining to participate in the survey, teams were trained to count by visual observation to ensure the overall number of people.

Street Count: Unsheltered and Other Service Sites

The street count involves two components: canvassing of the 51 map segments covering the 52-square miles of Long Beach, and canvassing Other Service Sites (OSS). OSS are non-residential locations where persons experiencing homelessness may be located on the day of the Count. OSS locations typically include supportive service agencies, including the coordinated entry hubs at the Multi-Service Center and Mental Health America's The Village, churches and food banks, medical clinics, and the transit mall.

The unsheltered count of people not residing in vehicles reflects a 22 percent increase in the number of individuals residing on the streets. Due to the change in methodology, it is difficult to get a good measure of the increase of people living within vehicles from 2020 to 2022. The increase, along with a broader dispersion of the population across Long Beach, may contribute to a heightened awareness of street homelessness in our community.

Sheltered Count Results

The 2022 Count reflects a 123 percent increase in the sheltered population compared to 2020. The increase in number reflects both efforts to create long-term interim housing spaces for people as they work towards permanent housing goals as well as efforts to provide temporary spaces for people who were experiencing homelessness who would be high risk if they were to contract COVID-19. Additionally, this 123 percent increase is also done at a time that there has been a reduced capacity within most shelters to ensure that people staying in congregate shelters are doing so in as safe a manner as possible.

In October of 2020, the City opened its first City-owned shelter at the Atlantic Bridge Community which has a capacity of 125 beds but operating at 83 beds during the pandemic. Through Project HomeKey, the City was able to purchase what was previously the Best Western at 1725 Long Beach Blvd., and has operated the site as 99 rooms of non-congregate shelter for those with underlying medical conditions. The County of Los Angeles purchased what used to be the Holiday Inn at 1133 Atlantic Avenue and the Motel 6 at 5665 E. 7th Street, contributing an additional 175 beds of non-congregate shelter.

Long Beach has also leased two motels through the Project Roomkey program utilizing FEMA reimbursement to provide non-congregate shelter for persons with underlying health conditions for an additional 70 rooms of non-congregate shelter. Through funding opportunities, Long Beach has also expanded its motel voucher program to support vulnerable people as well as people who are in the process of getting enrolled into another shelter program. The Homeless Services Bureau has motel vouchered up to 60 people at a time through this program.

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In addition to the additional shelter spaces that have been added over the last two years, the City has also increased its outreach capacity and efforts and has seen growing success in engaging people to try our shelter system. We have seen increasingly high utilization of the available shelter beds within the City. In 2020, the census of shelter beds showed an occupancy rate of 71 percent, in 2021 there was an occupancy rate of 75 percent, however when adjusting for decompression and Isolation and Quarantine beds for persons who were COVID-19 positive the occupancy rate was at 86 percent, with most vacancy coming from specialized treatment and domestic violence beds.

Underlying Conditions of Homelessness

During the Count, the teams collected information regarding reasons contributing to homelessness as well as health and behavioral health information and experiences with trauma and violence. All responses are self-reported, and respondents were able to identify multiple responses that they felt contributed to their current episode of homelessness. The most common reason given was unemployment or financial reasons (43.7 percent) followed closely by family or relationship problems (27.1 percent).

Rental prices in Long Beach over the past 10 years surged with an average studio in that period going from under \$700 per month to a current average rent of \$1,450, meaning that for a single person to not pay more than 50 percent of their income to rent they would need to work a full-time job that pays at least \$20 an hour. For many people on a fixed income such as Social Security Disability there are no market rate apartments within Long Beach that can be afforded without sharing housing or receiving a housing subsidy. As rents continue to rise at the current pace, they are increasing far faster than incomes of our lowest income earners in Long Beach it is likely that the city will see more people being pushed into homelessness.

The Homeless Services Bureau chose to add multiple new questions to the demographic survey to better understand the prevalence and impacts of adverse childhood experiences, medical issues, and experiences of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In looking at childhood experiences we asked about parental and guardian abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse as well as if they had experience time in foster care.

Answers to these questions truly highlighted the amount of trauma, violence, mental illness and physical illness in our homeless population. This year, more than 1,200 people (40 percent) experiencing homelessness report serious mental illness, and 951 (34 percent) report substance use issues. More than 500 people (24 percent) suffer from a traumatic brain injury and a similar number have a developmental disability. These conditions can make it very difficult to access and maintain employment and housing.

More than one-third (38 percent) identified experiencing at least one type of violence and (8 percent) identified having experienced three or more types of violence. Of those surveyed, 210 were fleeing violence when they became homeless. Someone who has eight or more adverse childhood experiences has over a 30 percent chance of experiencing homelessness in their lifetime compared to 1 percent for someone with zero adverse childhood experiences. As a

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community there is a need to find ways to support people's mental health and trauma as they lead to further complex impacts as we support people as they are experiencing homelessness.

Moving Forward

The City continues to be innovative in its approach to bringing additional services and housing to our unhoused residents. The COVID-19 pandemic had major impacts for people in our city, and particularly on the service systems designed for people experiencing homelessness. It caused disruption in access to essential social and health services, but also focused funding on increasing interim and permanent housing, homelessness prevention, and outreach. Looking forward, the Homeless Services Bureau is focusing on:

- Bringing services to our unhoused community members through new mobile MSC units, REACH teams, and partnerships with mobile health clinics
- Investing in interim and permanent housing models including motel purchases, modular housing (tiny homes), and subsidized housing specifically for people at-risk or experiencing homelessness
- Designing policies and programs that focus on expanding low-income and affordable housing in Long Beach
- Seeking out landlords who will participate in the housing choice voucher program to increase permanent housing availability
- Partnering with Los Angeles County to increase and streamline access to mental health and substance use services
- Investigating long-term, sustainable funding streams for services and supports
- Investing in re-entry services to ensure people released from incarceration have housing opportunities
- Expanding partnerships and coordination through City, County and State departments as well as private partnerships such as managed care providers

The focus areas listed above are important to addressing people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. But it is just as essential to invest in our children, families and communities to break the cycle of homelessness. These efforts include investing in:

- Quality, easily accessed early childhood programming
- Strengthening and supporting families
- Youth mentoring and internships
- Workforce development
- Mental health, substance misuse and trauma prevention
- Nutrition security and health care access

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- After school programs and community schools
- The overall strengthening of communities
- Health and racial equity efforts, working to reduce disparities in health, social and housing outcomes

The City believes that the only way to successfully address homelessness is for all of our systems and communities to work together.

The Health and Human Services Department and its many City and community partners are committed to addressing and ending homelessness in Long Beach. Currently, we are seeking landlords to take subsidized housing vouchers. We have approximately 400 people experiencing homelessness with voucher in-hand seeking permanent housing. They will have ongoing case management and supports available as part of their housing. If 400 people can be housed, this would reduce our homeless population by nearly 20 percent. Interested landlords should call the Housing Authority at 562-570-5352. In addition, we are seeking motels to take motel vouchers. Interested motels should contact Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager (paul.duncan@longbeach.gov).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (562) 570-4016.

ATTACHMENT: CITY OF LONG BEACH 2022 HOMELESS COUNT

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2022

CITY OF LONG BEACH

2022 Homeless Count

2022 Homeless Count and Survey
City of Long Beach

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



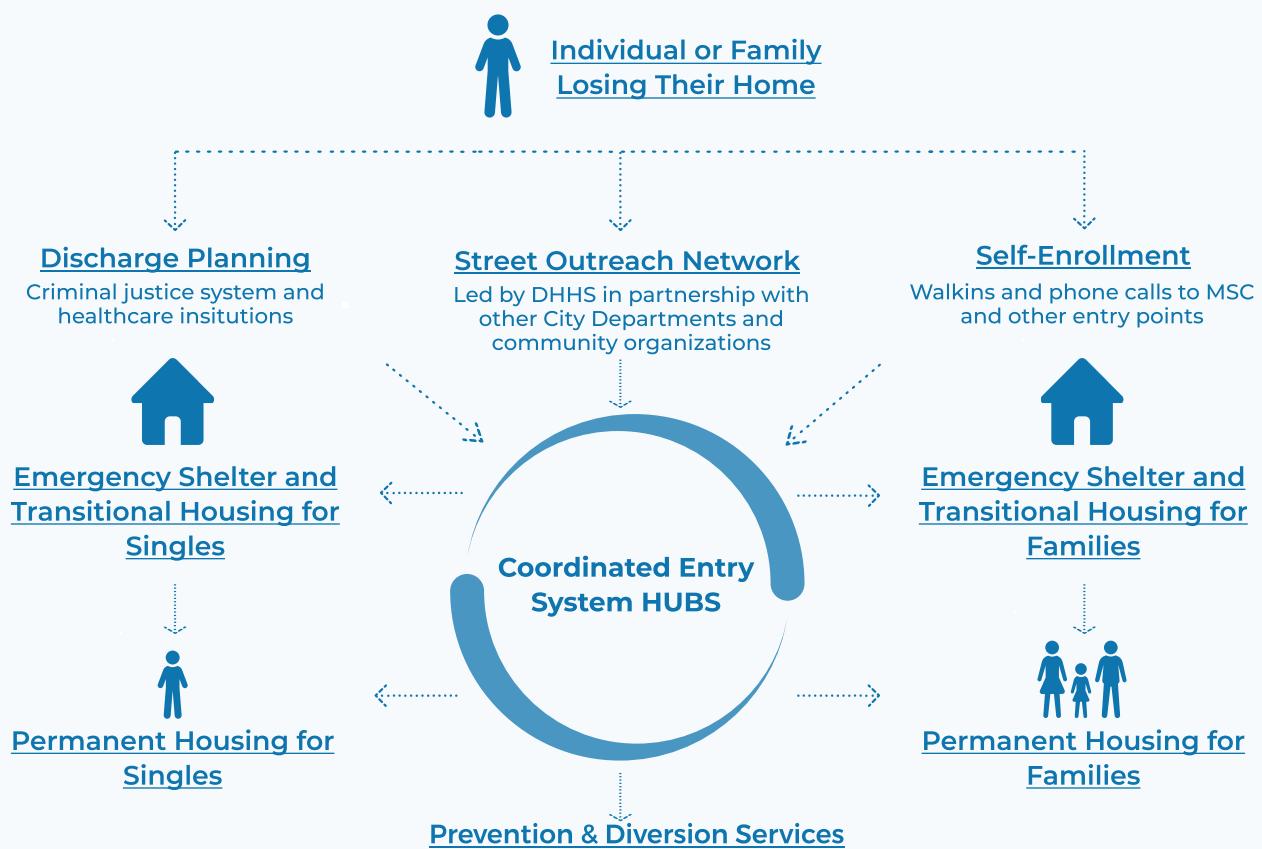
INTRODUCTION

The City has a robust system of care to address the diverse needs of our community members experiencing homelessness. The Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC), made up of over 80 service partners, brings together vital resources to serve people experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Services Bureau, as part of the City's Health and Human Services Department, is the lead for the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC).

The Long Beach Health Department stands by a Housing First model, which means providing access as quickly as possible to a stable setting without sobriety or health treatment compliance; self-determination; the belief that people's lives will improve with support and a stable place; individualized and person-driven supports; and social and community integration.

Additional practices that the CoC utilizes to support at-risk or households experiencing homelessness include:

- Individualized delivery of services that are grounded in evidence-based practices for households experiencing and at risk of homelessness.
- Integrating key partners into the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure a holistic approach to accessing and receiving services.
- Coordinated intakes and application processes linked to supportive services and financial assistance programs.
- Interdepartmental and interjurisdictional coordination among government departments to utilize expertise and resources to address homelessness in a systematic way.



POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT INFORMS THE CITY'S SYSTEM OF CARE

The PIT Count is a nationwide count of people experiencing homelessness living within a given community on a single night in February. This count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the state of California in order to receive funding to address homelessness.

The City of Long Beach's CoC receives these grants and finds it is vital to better understand the trends, issues and demographics of our fellow community members experiencing homelessness.

By engaging fully in this annual count, we can provide better data to service providers, government entities and community members so we can continue to work together on developing effective and appropriate homeless interventions in the City of Long Beach.



SETTING THE CONTEXT

The 2022 PIT Count reflects a significant increase in homelessness in our community. A complex combination of personal, social and economic factors has led to this increase, and the pandemic exacerbated these factors. During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, most providers significantly reduced in-person services. State Public Health Orders and CDC guidance reduced shelter capacity, set quarantine procedures that impacted shelter access and changed the way communities engaged with encampments. To reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in jails, people were released, often without places to live. At one point, the Multi-Service Center (MSC) was one of the only access points providing intake for services in Long Beach.

In addition to the reduction in shelter and treatment services, the pandemic caused a significant increase in unemployment, family disruption and domestic violence and a reduction in access to other health services due to fear of the COVID-19 virus. Rents and housing costs have increased significantly while wages have been stagnant. These are strains in areas that have been identified as being key factors leading to homelessness.

The City of Long Beach has responded from many angles – setting up temporary housing structures, purchasing and leasing motels, running isolation and quarantine locations, keeping the winter shelter open for more than two years, hiring mental health clinicians for the MSC, launching the REACH teams and providing ongoing outreach and case management throughout the pandemic.

Additionally, the City passed an eviction moratorium, provided income supports to people and businesses and is launching a re-entry program to help people transition to the workforce and be connected to housing after incarceration.



Increase in Interim Housing

530 beds

60 beds

2020

2022

AT A GLANCE

The 2022 PIT Count was conducted in the early hours of February 24, 2022, with the help of about 250 volunteers consisting of community-based providers, members of the public and City staff.



3,296

people were experiencing homelessness on the morning of Feb. 24, 2022

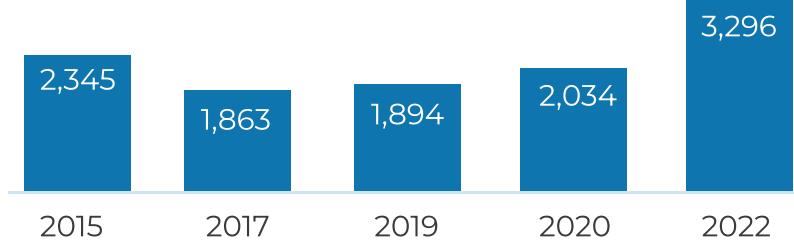


1,282

(39%) were experiencing chronic homelessness*

*Chronic homelessness: having frequently experienced homelessness 1+ year and having a disabling condition

Population over time



2,287

(69%) Unsheltered

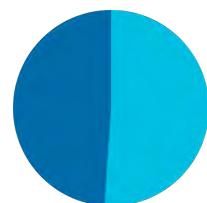


1,009

(31%) Sheltered

47%

reported that this is their first episode of homelessness



**123%
increase**

since 2020 in the number of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered



II. 2022 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SURVEY RESULTS

Overview of findings generated from the survey component of the 2022 Long Beach Homeless Point in Time Count & Survey

DEMOGRAPHICS

2022 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SURVEY RESULTS

~30%

of people surveyed
are 55 and older

~71%

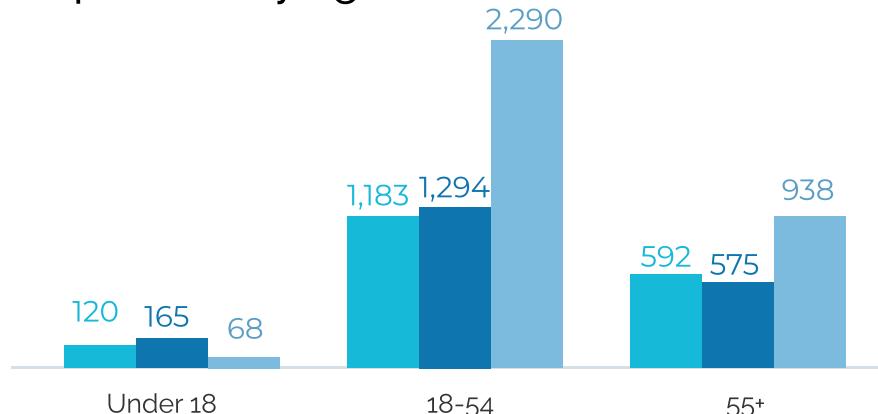
of people surveyed
are Male

~3X

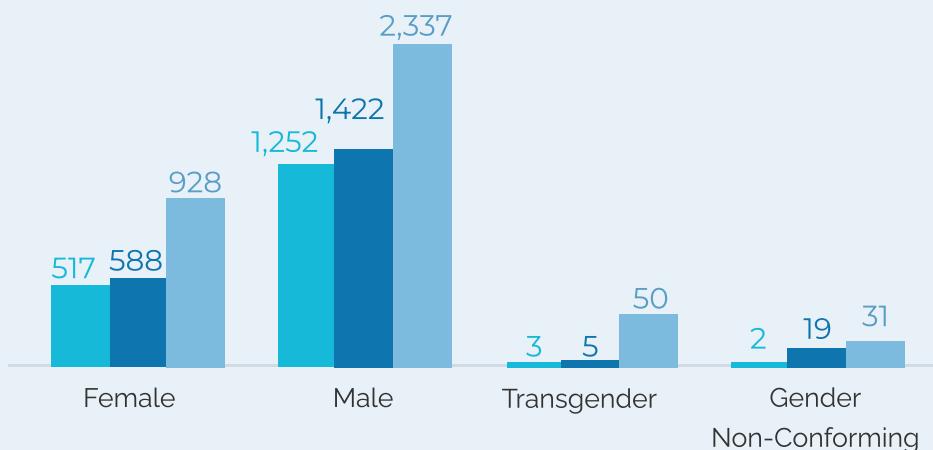
more likely for Black,
Indigenous and Pacific
Islander communities to
experience homelessness
than other communities

2019 2020 2022

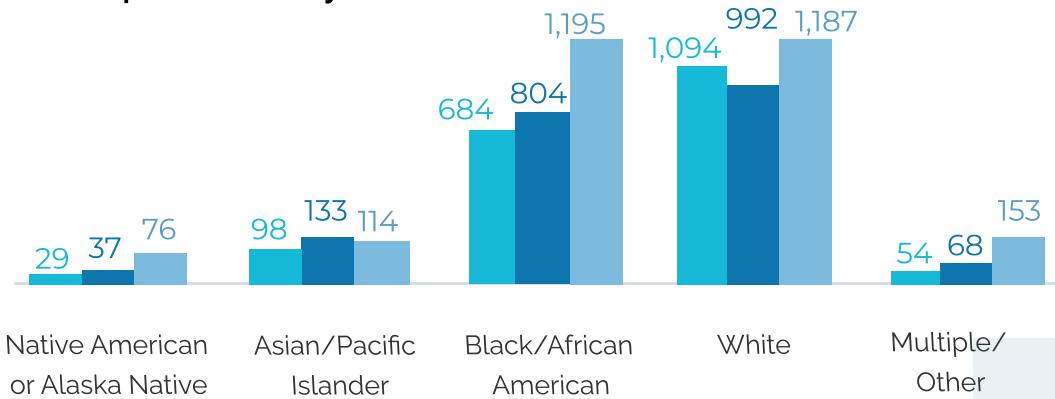
Population by Age



Population by Gender



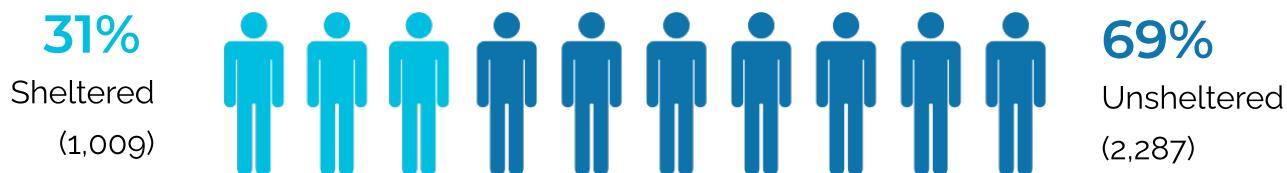
Population by Race



SHELTERED & UNSHELTERED

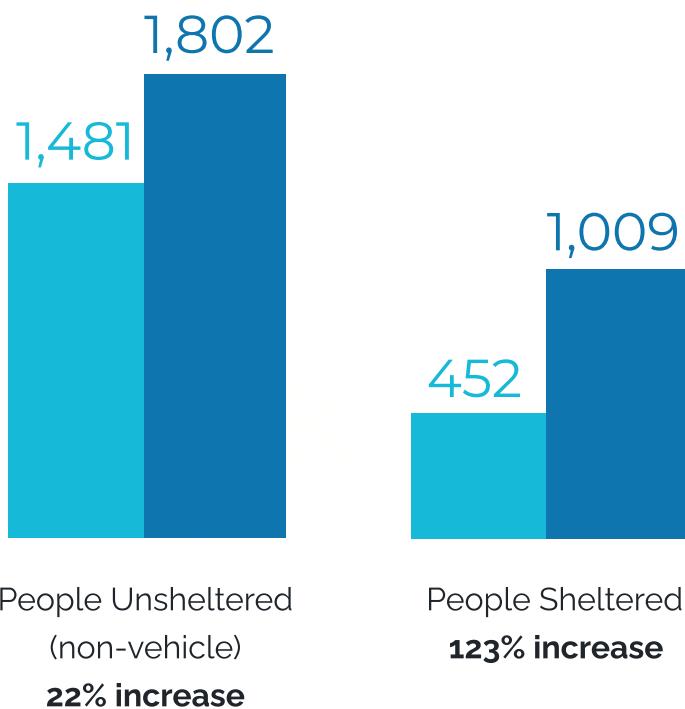
2022 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SURVEY RESULTS

2022 Sheltered Vs. Unsheltered



The 2022 PIT Count reflects a 22% increase in the unsheltered street count. The number of people who are in interim housing increased by 123%.

■ 2020 ■ 2022



21%

of unsheltered people are living in a vehicle (car or RV)

Increases in those sheltered was made possible by:

- The opening of the Atlantic Bridge Housing (125 beds)
- Purchase of a Project Homekey hotel (101 beds)
- Lease of Project Roomkey motels (75 beds)
- Expanded motel vouchers

FIRST TIME AND CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

2022 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SURVEY RESULTS

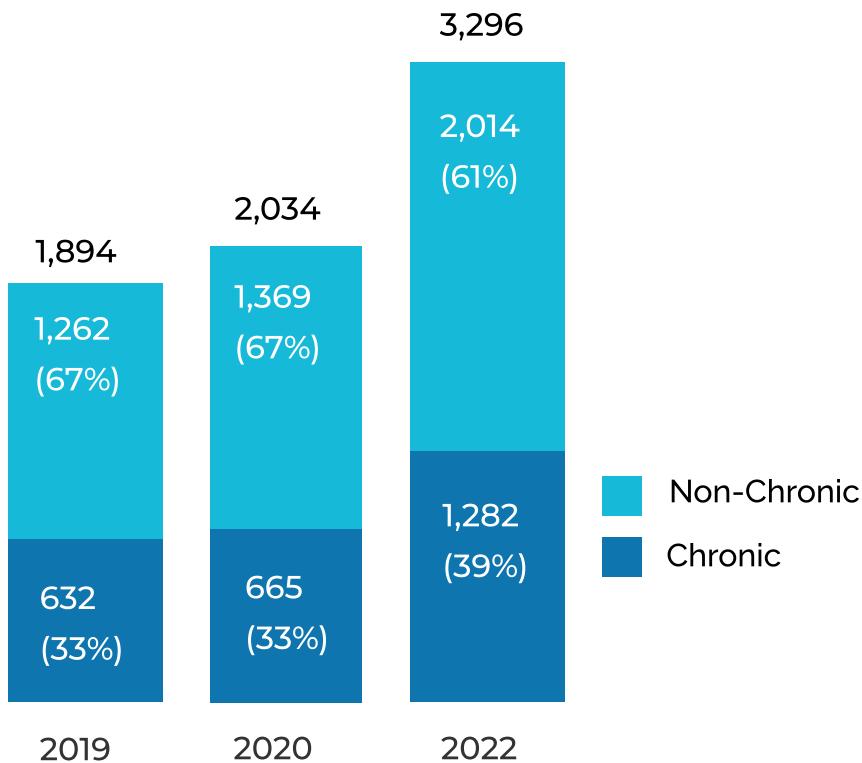
First Homelessness Episode

47%
of survey respondents are experiencing homelessness for the first time



53%
of survey respondents reported that this is not their first time experiencing homelessness

2019 - 2022 Chronic Homelessness



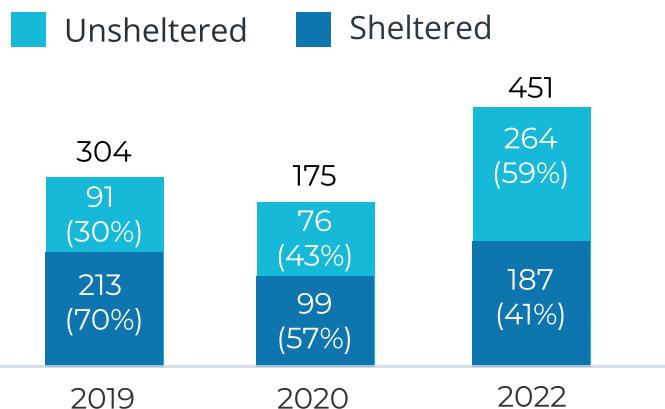
171%

increase since 2020 in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness who are living in interim housing (from 80 to 217)

SUBPOPULATIONS

2022 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SURVEY RESULTS

Veterans - Sheltered Vs. Unsheltered



Our continuous efforts coordinating services with the Veteran Affairs and partner agencies to house veterans has led to more veterans getting into permanent housing.

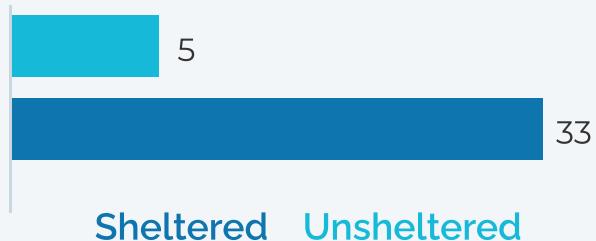
48%

increase in veteran homelessness from 2019 to 2022

The number of unsheltered veterans increased from 76 in 2020 to 264 in 2022

87% of homeless families in Long Beach are sheltered

Families With Children - 2022



LGBTQ+



10.7%

are LBGTQIA+

Students



4.9%

are students

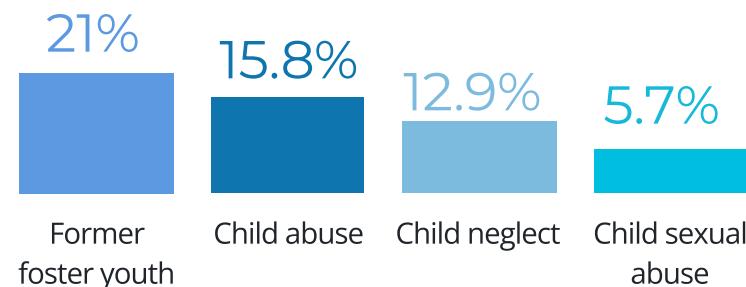
THE UNDERLYING CONDITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

2022 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SURVEY RESULTS

Many people experiencing homelessness have underlying long-term trauma, mental health or substance use concerns or other health conditions, such as a traumatic brain injury. These conditions impair cognitive functioning and makes living in unsupported housing and holding a job much more difficult. Long Beach saw a dramatic increase in the number of people experiencing these conditions, as well as family disruptions, in the 2022 PIT Count, and the pandemic exacerbated these conditions.

Past Histories Of Violence/Trauma

Adverse Childhood Experiences



People with eight or more adverse childhood experiences have a more than 30% chance of becoming homeless in their lifetime compared to 1% for those with no adverse experiences.



645

people (38%) identified experiencing at least one type of violence in their lives

210

were fleeing violence when they became homeless

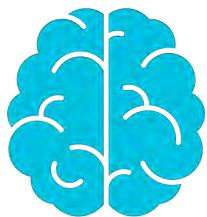


480

were formerly in foster care



Health & Behavioral Health



24%
have a traumatic
brain injury (556)

23%
have a
developmental
disability (519)

1,214
people interviewed have a
severe mental illness
(a 143% increase)

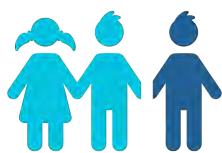
951
have a substance
use disorder
(a 70% increase)



36%
have a physical
disability (826)

31%
have a chronic medical
condition (704)

Family Disruption



27%
said they became homeless due
to family disruption or
relationship problems

Financial



Nearly 44%
said they became homeless
due to unemployment or
financial reasons, an increase
from 35% in 2020.

Rent Increase

Average Studio

\$700

2012

\$1450

2022

In the past 10 years, rents have
doubled for a studio apartment in
Long Beach.

Race & Homelessness

Governments have a long history of policies and practices that have negatively impacted the Black, Latino, Cambodian and other communities of color. These communities within Long Beach generally have higher rates of poverty and lower rates of home ownership. Black, Indigenous and Pacific Islander communities in our city also experience disproportionately higher rates of homelessness. If Long Beach were able to eliminate these disproportionalities homelessness rates for communities of color were similar as whites, **859** fewer people would be experiencing homelessness for a **26%** reduction of the overall count.

OUTREACH SERVICES AND REACH

2022 DEMOGRAPHICS AND SURVEY RESULTS

Outreach Services

Our Outreach Network Team includes the Health Department, Long Beach Police Department, Long Beach Fire Department, Quality of Life teams and community-based organizations. Together they make ~2,000 contacts per year. It generally takes many contacts with a person on the street to build trust and relationship before they will engage in services.

Number of Outreach Staff

■ 2020 ■ 2022



Services Offered

- Health and behavioral health supports
- Interim and permanent housing connections
- Workforce development
- Assistance with benefits
- Assistance with resolving legal issues
- Showers/mail
- Support for reunifying with family or friends

Restorative Engagement To Achieve Collective Health (REACH)

REACH teams are specialized teams that increase access to mental and physical health services as well as housing and case management resources. They are comprised of a mental health clinician, public health nurse and outreach workers.

In the past year, the Homeless Services Bureau responded to 567 requests for services and engaged with more than 1,800 people.



III. COUNT METHODOLOGY



CLB COUNT METHODOLOGY FOR DATA COLLECTION

The 2022 PIT Count was conducted in the early hours of February 24, 2022, with the help of about 250 volunteers consisting of community-based providers, members of the public and City staff. Teams led by experienced guides fanned out on foot and by car conducting surveys of people experiencing homelessness throughout Long Beach. The number of volunteers participating is critical to ensuring the map segments that cover the entire City have comprehensive coverage.



The PIT Count process is designed to ensure comprehensive coverage of the 52 square miles of Long Beach. In the days leading up to the PIT Count, Outreach Teams conduct a specialized count that focuses in areas that are hard to reach and have safety concerns for the volunteers. Hot spot guides provide well-known areas of congregation for volunteer teams. On the day of the PIT Count, the teams were organized in small groups of three or four people with an experienced map lead that consists of outreach team, first responders (Police or Fire) and agency partners. Volunteer teams were provided hygiene supplies and snacks to hand out as well as incentive gift cards for people completing the demographic survey. All of the preparation, team design and incentives are critical to engaging with people who are unsheltered and getting an accurate count.

Prior to the PIT Count, all volunteers were required to attend an orientation session that provided training for the survey on the electronic application, engagement techniques and recommendations for the survey process. Training is a priority to ensure consistent data collection throughout all map areas, ensure safety practices in the field and to provide support to trained and experienced map leads. Teams sent out to the field are provided with a 20-question survey that asks demographic information, subpopulation information, length and circumstances of homeless experience, cause of homelessness, previous engagement in services and determines if the count is confirmed through a survey or a visual count. All responses collected are based on a self-report by survey respondents. The Homeless Services Bureau continues to improve the count data collection methodology, to provide more insights to the population.

CLB COUNT METHODOLOGY FOR DATA ANALYSIS

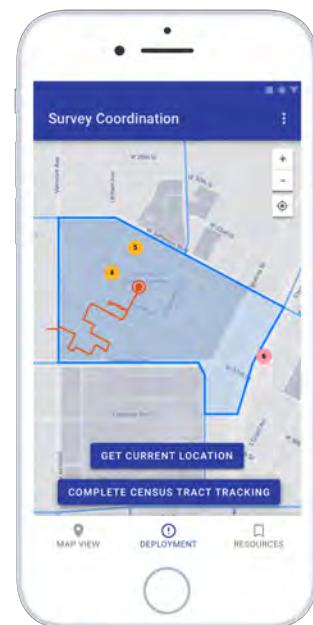


In 2022, PIT Count volunteers conducted an all-electronic count, using a custom-built application, for the first time. The app allowed volunteers to gather survey responses and included a real-time map to track all of the teams. This allowed for a streamlined count process for collection and analysis. Additionally, use of an electronic application eliminated the potential of error in data interpretation and transfer from paper surveys. Another key data element of using the electronic application was the ability to geo-locate the position of all surveys. This made administering and monitoring the count much easier and streamlined.

Once the PIT Count had been completed, data were compiled into an Excel document for analysis. For shelter programs, reports were generated from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and confirmed by the agency or generated by agencies that do not participate in HMIS. Through unique identifiers created by key demographic questions, any flagged duplicative surveys were removed.

To improve the accuracy of recorded visual counts, additional surveying was conducted by outreach staff to estimate the rate of user error as well as estimate the frequency that there might be multiple people living within a car, van and RV. These were then used to make final adjustments of visual account numbers to get the most accurate estimate possible. Demographics for the portion of visual counts was based upon sampling and the demographic surveys completed.

The Long Beach Count methodology and analysis was based upon best practices incorporated throughout the country as well as lessons learned from past PIT Counts. There are significant challenges that exist with capturing how many people are experiencing homelessness and Long Beach continues to find ways to improve and ensure our estimate is as accurate as possible.



IV. LOOKING FORWARD

LOOKING FORWARD

The City of Long Beach continues to innovate to bring additional services and housing to our city's unhoused. The COVID-19 pandemic had major impacts for people in our city, and particularly on the service systems designed for people experiencing homelessness. It caused disruption in access to essential social and health services but also focused funding on increasing interim and permanent housing as well as for prevention and outreach. Looking forward, The Homeless Services Bureau is focusing on:

- Bringing services to our unhoused community members through new mobile MSC units, REACH teams, and partnerships with mobile health clinics.
- Investing in interim and permanent housing models including motel purchases, modular housing (tiny homes), subsidized housing specifically for people at-risk or experiencing homelessness, and designing policies and programs focusing on expansion of low-income and affordable housing in the City.
- Seeking landlords to participate in the housing choice voucher program to increase permanent housing availability
- Partnering with Los Angeles County to increase and streamline access to mental health and substance use services.
- Investigating long-term, sustainable funding streams for services and supports
- Investing in reentry services to ensure people released from incarceration have housing opportunities.
- Expanding partnerships and coordination through city, county and state departments as well as private partnerships including managed care providers.



The focus areas listed above are important to addressing people at-risk or experiencing homelessness now. It is also essential to invest in our children, families and communities to break the cycle of homelessness and ensure that we are stemming the tide in the future. These efforts include investing in:

- Quality early childhood programming to create greater access
- Strengthening and supporting families
- Youth mentoring and internships
- Workforce development
- Mental health, substance misuse and trauma prevention
- Nutrition security and health care access
- Afterschool programs and community schools
- The overall strengthening of communities
- Health and racial equity efforts, working to reduce disparities in health, social and housing outcomes

The City believes that the only way to successfully address homelessness is if all of our systems and communities work together. It will take a strong commitment and it will take time.



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