

2023 Stanislaus County Homeless Point-In-Time Count

Executive Summary

Background

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to conduct a Point-In-Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness. The goal is to measure the prevalence of homelessness in communities across the country.

The PIT count is an unduplicated count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. With the help of volunteers, the count is organized by the Stanislaus Community System of Care (CSOC) made up of local governments, non-profit organizations, and homeless providers.

HUD also requires a count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night.

The count data is critical to determine the scope of homelessness, define existing resources, and identify any gaps in services in Stanislaus County.

When was the PIT Count?

The Sheltered Count was conducted on the evening of Wednesday, January 25, 2023, and the Unsheltered Count on Thursday, January 26, 2023.

The Sheltered Count is a count of individuals or families under temporary living arrangements that include congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels/motels paid for by charitable organizations or federal, state, and local government programs.

The Unsheltered count is a count of individuals experiencing homelessness out on the streets who are unsheltered. These are people staying outdoors in streets, parks, abandoned buildings, or in their vehicles.

What are the 2023 PIT Count Findings?

The PIT count identified 1,790 households totaling 2,091 homeless individuals in Stanislaus County. Out of the 2,091 individuals, 45% (949) were unsheltered, living on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation, compared to last year's unsheltered count of 946.

The sheltered count showed 1,142 individuals in Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing, of which 922 stayed in Emergency Shelters. This is a 32% increase (701) from the 2022 count due to the increased State and Federal funding used for hotel/motel vouchers.

The count found 220 individuals staying in Transitional Housing units, which is very consistent compared to the 210 we reported last year.

More information collected from this 2023-snapshot survey can be found on the attached Homeless Point-In-Time Count Data Summary.

The PIT Count Data and the Stanislaus County State of Emergency

On January 9, 2023, a local State of Emergency was proclaimed in Stanislaus County. Extreme weather conditions had caused widespread flooding, evacuations, and road closures across the county.

The California Office of Emergency Services Operations Center had reported that unsheltered people living in low-lying areas and riverbeds would be at significant risk.

The data indicates that these conditions pushed some of our homeless population into shelters and shelter services, something they may not have otherwise wanted to do.

The PIT Count Data and State Funding

California Assembly Bill 977, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2021, mandated state homeless programs to start entering data into the Homeless Management Information System, known as HMIS, by January 1, 2023. Many of these programs provided flexible funding that community partners used for sheltering through the use of hotel or motel vouchers.

As a result, these voucher programs increased the Emergency Shelter count, which kept homeless individuals and families off the streets.

The PIT Count and Volunteers

With the Covid-19 pandemic behind us, CSOC trained 302 PIT volunteers and had a 76% participation rate for both the shelter and unsheltered count, which was a huge success, compared to the 2022 PIT count.

Last year, Stanislaus County experienced a COVID-19 transmission surge, which forced the count to be rescheduled to the end of February. As a result, CSOC had a 49% loss in volunteers that had initially registered to assist in the January count but chose not to participate in February.

What are the Next Steps?

The data has been submitted to HUD and will be shared with community stakeholders in Stanislaus County.



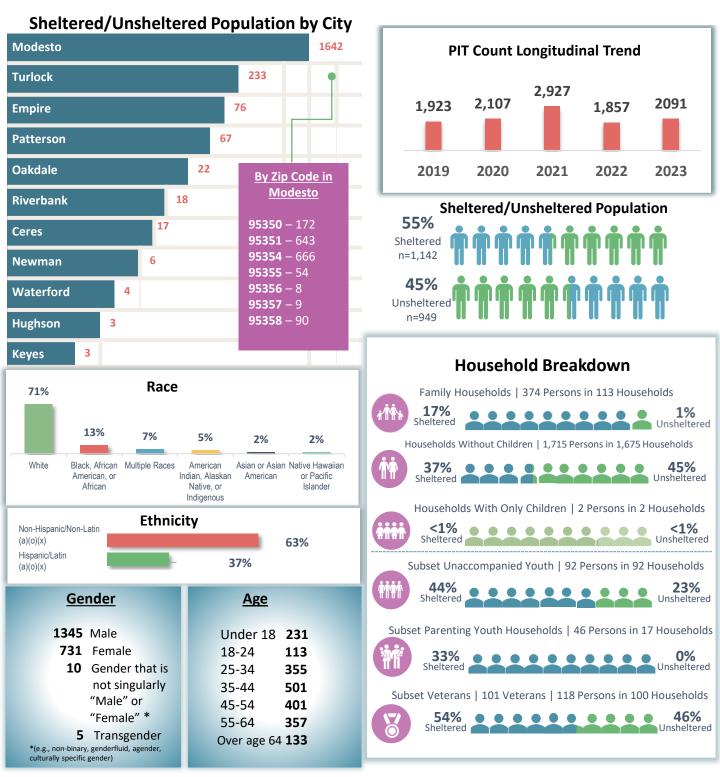
2023 Stanislaus County

Homeless Point-in-Time Count/Executive Summary



Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, the U.S. Department of Housing & Community Development asks communities across the country to conduct a comprehensive count of people experiencing homelessness in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local community. Stanislaus County conducts the count every year.

The 2023 Stanislaus County Point-in-Time (PIT) Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 26, 2023. Questionnaires were administered to unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness to profile their experience and characteristics. A total of 2,091 people, including children, experienced homelessness in Stanislaus County.



1760 = Actual response counts are based solely on clients interviewed and responses given.
1871 = Clients Unsheltered and in Emergency Shelter, does not include those in Transitional Housing 1530 = Adults Only

