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HOMELESSNESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT SET FOR JAN. 25

County, partners conduct annual snapshot of homeless persons

January 22, 2024 - Santa Cruz County's annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count will take place Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024. The annual PIT Count is vital to secure funding and support development of policies that will help resolve homelessness in Santa Cruz County.

The Count will take place countywide with the help of volunteers, including community members, those experiencing homelessness and staff from multiple city and County departments. Using an app-based data collection tool, volunteers will cover the entire county in one morning from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The visual count is one part of the overall PIT count process. It is followed-up with a community-wide survey of a sample of people experiencing homelessness and a review of local data on people living in shelters and transitional housing.

"The data from the annual PIT Count gives us essential insight into our community, providing important data that informs our effort to resolve homelessness in Santa Cruz County," said Robert Ratner, Director of the County of Santa Cruz Housing for Health Division. "We look forward to conducting the Count in January with a passionate and dedicated group of volunteers."

The annual Point-in-Time Count is a snapshot of homelessness on a single day and does not represent the full picture of homelessness in a community. To better understand the population and assess the progress of local programs and services to address homelessness, the County-led Housing for Health Partnership now conducts the count on an annual basis.

Communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of people experiencing homelessness to measure the local prevalence of this national issue. The Count approximates the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single day in each community and collects information on individuals and families

residing in places not meant for sleeping, emergency shelters, and transitional housing.

The [2023 PIT Count](#) revealed several key findings, including:

- A 21.5% decline in the number of people experiencing homelessness in the county.
- Of those experiencing homelessness, 79% were unsheltered.
- Nearly all unaccompanied minors and transition-age youth (adults less than 24 years old) experiencing homelessness were unsheltered.
- Persons of color are disproportionately impacted, with 44% of those surveyed identifying as Hispanic/Latino.

Prior Count data can be found at: [Point-in-Time \(PIT\) Counts \(housingforhealthpartnership.org\)](#)

NOTE: *If media wish to participate in the count, please contact Sheryl Norteye at Sheryl.Norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov to be paired with a team of volunteers.*

The Housing for Health Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homelessness service providers. It acts as the federally-designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the H4H Partnership.

