



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



**2022 SAN MATEO COUNTY**  
**One Day Homeless Count and Survey**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**JUNE 2022**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This executive summary provides an overview of key results from the 2022 San Mateo County One Day Homeless Count and Survey (“count”). The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) coordinates the count in collaboration with community and County partners. The 2022 count was conducted in the early morning hours of February 24, 2022, and in-depth surveys were collected over the course of the following week. Approximately 400 volunteers consisting of community-based providers, members of the public, City and County staff, and community expert guides conducted observational counts and surveys of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in each census tract in the County. The County conducts the count every two years, although the 2021 count was postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19.

The results of the count provide one source of data, among many others, to help the County and its partners assess how best to serve homeless households and assist them with returning to housing as quickly as possible. The results are also submitted to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, which compiles data from homeless counts nationwide. The count provides data that helps inform policymakers and providers about the homeless population and trends over time.

## Number of People Experiencing Homelessness

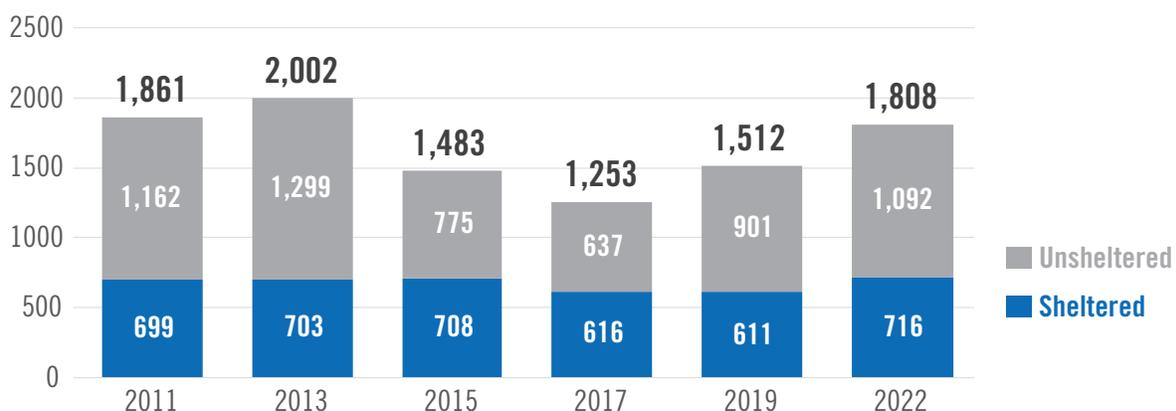
The 2022 count found that there were **1,808 people experiencing homelessness in San Mateo County on the night of February 23, 2022**. This number includes:

- **1,092 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness** staying on streets, in cars, in recreational vehicles (RVs), or in tents
- **716 people experiencing sheltered homelessness** staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs

This finding of 1,808 people experiencing homelessness is higher than the counts in 2015, 2017, and 2019, but lower than the counts in 2011 and 2013. The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in 2022 is an increase of 191 (21%) compared to 2019. The number of people staying in shelters in 2022 is an increase of 105 (17%) compared to 2019.

The chart below shows the number of people experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, from the One Day Counts from 2011 to 2022.

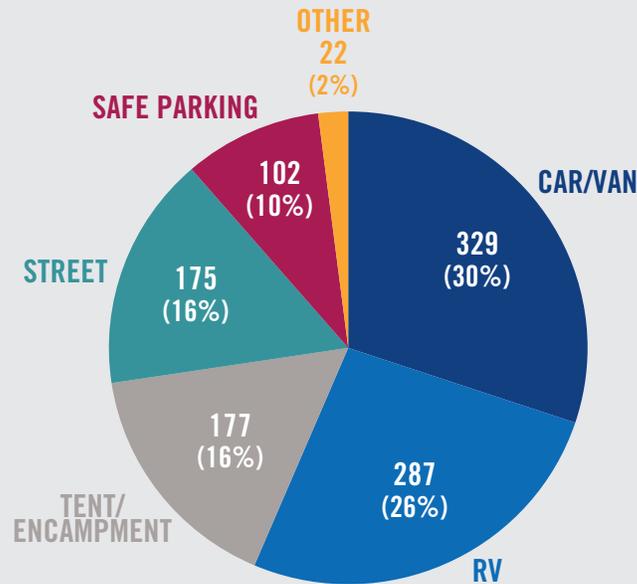
**CHART 1. One Day Homeless Count Over Time**



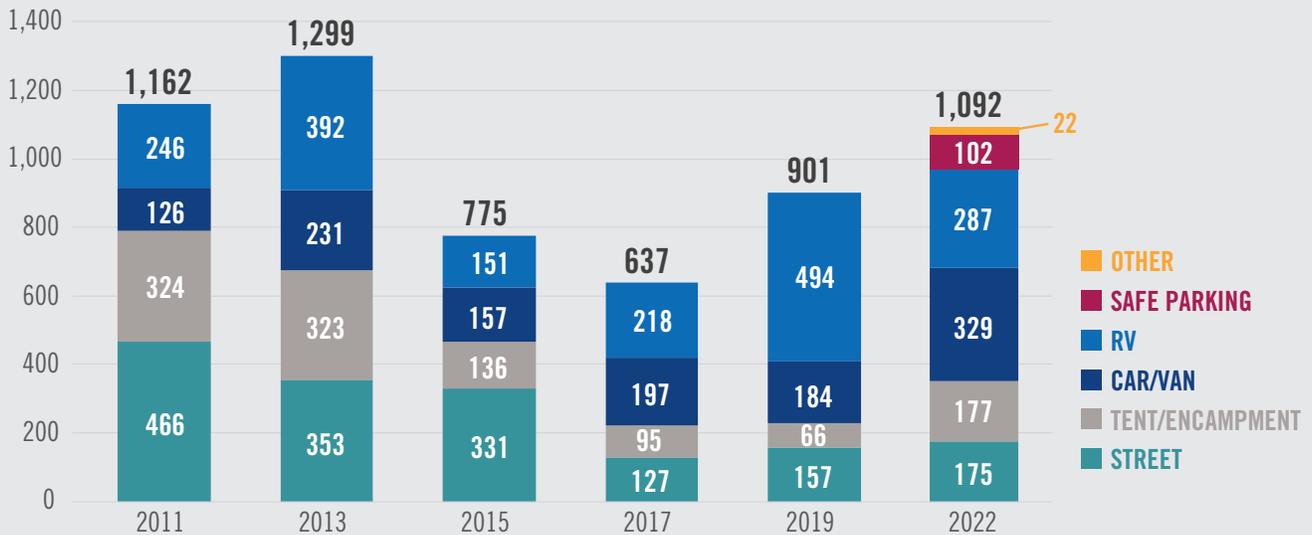
## Unsheltered Sleeping Locations

The chart below shows the categories of sleeping locations for individuals who were unsheltered on the night of the count.

**CHART 2. Locations of Unsheltered Persons in 2022 Count\***



**CHART 3. Unsheltered Homeless Count Over Time\***



\*“Safe Parking” is a type of program that serves people who are residing in their vehicles. The program includes a safe designated place to stay in their vehicle as well as supportive services to assist the residents with working on returning to housing. At the time of the 2019 and earlier counts, there were no Safe Parking programs in San Mateo County, and as of the 2022 count, there were two Safe Parking programs which both serve people living in RVs.

\*“Other” includes abandoned buildings, boats, and other types of vehicles/structures that are not captured under Safe Parking, RV, and Car/Van. Enhanced data collection tools in the 2022 count allowed for improved tracking of these type of other unsheltered situations, compared to previous years.

## Geographic Information

The following table summarizes the geographic locations of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness reflected in the counts from 2011 to 2022.

<b>CHART 4. Unsheltered Homeless Count by Jurisdiction</b>						
<b>City</b>	<b>2011 Count</b>	<b>2013 Count</b>	<b>2015 Count</b>	<b>2017 Count</b>	<b>2019 Count</b>	<b>2022 Count</b>
Atherton	1	0	1	0	1	3
Belmont	1	43	11	3	7	13
Brisbane	0	34	21	19	4	6
Burlingame	3	13	7	21	25	10
Colma	1	7	3	1	8	1
Daly City	44	27	32	17	66	49
East Palo Alto	385	119	95	98	107	169
Foster City	0	7	0	6	4	4
Half Moon Bay	41	114	84	43	54	68
Hillsborough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menlo Park	72	16	27	47	27	56
Millbrae	1	21	8	7	9	9
Pacifica	95	150	63	112	116	161
Portola Valley	16	2	0	1	0	0
Redwood City	233	306	223	94	221	245
San Bruno	14	98	8	26	12	63
San Carlos	9	10	20	28	30	14
San Francisco International Airport	9	5	1	3	21	14
San Mateo	68	103	82	48	74	60
South San Francisco	122	172	55	33	42	42
Unincorporated	47	46	32	30	73	105
<i>Coastside</i>	-	-	22	22	60	62
<i>Central</i>	-	-	0	0	0	0
<i>North</i>	-	-	0	3	6	7
<i>South</i>	-	-	10	5	7	36
Woodside	0	6	2	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>1,092</b>

## Conclusion

The overall finding from the count is that 1,808 individuals were experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, which represents an increase of 20% from 2019 to 2022. This total is higher than the previous three counts from 2015 through 2019, but lower than the counts in 2011 and 2013.

The County and its partners continue to respond to ongoing and emerging challenges such as housing affordability and the impacts of COVID-19.

The County and its partners have expanded homeless services in recent years, including expansions in shelters, as well as expansions in homeless outreach services, rapid rehousing services, and enhancing connections between health services and homeless services. The County is also working on additional non-congregate shelter that will open later this year, including the Navigation Center and Stone Villa Shelter, which will both provide additional shelter capacity to provide safe shelter along with intensive support services to help residents move into permanent housing.

In addition, the County recently launched its Working Together to End Homelessness initiative, bringing together a wide array of stakeholders to collaborate on innovative strategies to provide housing and services to people experiencing homelessness. More information on Working Together to End Homelessness is available at [SMCEndingHomelessness.org](https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/center-homelessness).

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\* Published by the San Mateo County Human Services Agency. Data analysis by Focus Strategies.  
For more information, please visit <https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/center-homelessness>.