



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Alameda County Prevents Much Larger Increase In Homelessness During Pandemic**

**Media inquiries to:**

Katie Haverly, [khaverly@everyonehome.org](mailto:khaverly@everyonehome.org), 510-473-8643 Ext 105

*While the nine counties of the Bay Area are sharing their own preliminary PIT count numbers independently, they have also collaborated on a [regional press release](#) in recognition of the regional nature of this issue, to provide context for each county's numbers and details about each county's plans for release.*

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(Alameda County, CA) - Alameda County staved off what could have been a catastrophic increase in homelessness over the last three years, according to preliminary results from the first official count of people experiencing homelessness since the start of the pandemic.

On February 22, 2022, the Alameda County PIT (Point in Time) Count numbers show a 22% increase in homelessness since 2019 a total of 9,747 people experiencing homelessness countywide, including 2,612 sheltered and 7,135 unsheltered.

While there was an increase in homelessness, Alameda County previously experienced a 20% increase in homelessness each year. This shows a marked slow-down since 2019, demonstrating that the investments and policies enacted across the county significantly reduced the number of people newly entering homelessness.

The data reflects that the increase in homelessness is primarily driven by a 39% increase in occupied vehicles (3918 people total living in vehicles, 2318 in cars/vans and 1600 in RVs) and a 53% increase in individuals enrolled in shelter programs since 2019 (902 people) as a result of Federal, State and local resources for temporary shelters for COVID safety precautions and an influx of additional shelter accommodations. Traditional congregate shelters continue to operate at reduced capacity, with several hundred beds offline due to COVID safety measures.

The full report will be complete by mid-July and will include detailed information on the count and survey results of people experiencing homelessness, jurisdictional and demographic breakdowns and survey results such as health conditions, residency before homelessness, employment status, and what people say could have prevented their homelessness.

The preliminary findings provide support for the direct correlation between investment and policy with the reduction in homelessness. Across our county, key stakeholders agree that additional investment is required to end and prevent homelessness.

“This count reflects the effects of the pandemic. It was delayed a year and a lot of measures and one time funding came in from the Federal and State governments that focused on keeping people housed, but still both sheltered and unsheltered populations have increased. Alameda County has a plan to alleviate homelessness, and now is the time to provide resources for the plan through long-term investment in housing for our very low-income citizens” said Moe Wright, Chair of the Leadership Board of EveryOne Home, the collective impact initiative that facilitates the Alameda County Continuum of Care.

“It is abundantly clear that this Count mattered more than previous tallies. Our cities were faced with the biggest confluence of crises we’ve seen in years - having to respond to the combination of a historic health pandemic while supporting thousands of people on the street without a home to shelter in place. Our local heroes went into overdrive to care for and support our unhoused neighbors in Alameda County while our leaders on the federal, state, and local levels deployed creative, nimble and record high resources into our homeless system. This is a teachable moment recognizing that we now have a roadmap on how resources, if invested to scale, can end and prevent homelessness in our County,” said Chelsea Andrews, Executive Director of EveryOne Home, the collective impact initiative that facilitates the Alameda County Continuum of Care.

“We know how to solve homelessness,” said Tomiquia Moss, Founder and CEO of All Home, a regional organization dedicated to ending homelessness and housing insecurity for people with extremely low incomes. “Programs like Roomkey and Homekey, as well as eviction moratoria and emergency rental assistance programs have changed the game, and there’s no going back—it’s time to lean in, finish the job, and end the suffering on our streets.”

“This data will help us address homelessness, which is key to making sure that everyone in our county lives in a thriving community. We saw during the pandemic that

working together and taking bold action \*can\* bring people home. Homes solve homelessness - so let's keep investing in housing solutions. Alameda County's Measure A1, providing homes for almost 1,000 formerly unhoused people, and Project HomeKey, show that we can make progress if our resources and priorities are aligned” said Gloria Bruce, Executive Director of East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO).

“From Albany to Piedmont to Oakland, not one city in District 5 is untouched by the reality of homelessness. Although the rate of increase in the number of individuals counted has slowed, any increase is unacceptable. And, we know this number would be far greater were it not for safeguards – such as eviction moratoriums – that were set in place to help those struggling as a result of the pandemic and ongoing economic recovery. That being said, this real-time data is incredibly important to inform the County as it works to provide critical services to the unhoused and support them in securing shelter and permanent housing” shared Supervisor Carson, District 5.

“The 2022 Point in Time Count data is crucial to finding lasting solutions when fighting homelessness. The pandemic created no new data in three years, and we know there are more people vulnerable to becoming unsheltered. We must implement programs using an equity lens to keep people housed, sustained, and lower the risk for homelessness in Alameda County”, added Supervisor Richard Valle, District 2.

“We had to scramble during the pandemic to assist people in shelters and outside, and we were able to offer temporary housing with healthcare services to over 5,000 additional people in these challenging circumstances, and many of them have moved to housing. Unfortunately, these efforts fall short of what is needed, especially as federal assistance has waned. Far too many people are still living outdoors in unacceptable conditions, and we need a lot more housing,” said Kerry Abbott, Director of Homeless Care and Coordination for the county. “We have invested in proven solutions informed by people who have been homeless, but we need so much more. For as many people as we have housed, more have lost their housing in this extremely high-priced market, and that invariably impacts people of color the most, especially African Americans in this county.”

“Today’s data release captures the progress we’ve made as a region and the stark challenges we face by affirming what we all see and feel right now: Too many of our neighbors continue to live unsheltered and unconnected to the safety and services they deserve. Although Oakland made clear progress in reducing outdoor street homelessness and doubling our shelter capacity since the last PIT Count, we know more investments are needed to end California’s greatest crisis. As Chair of the [CA Big City Mayors](#) and [Mayors & CEOs for US Housing Investment](#), I’ll continue to fight for

more resources from the State and Federal Government. Behind this data are stories of personal triumph and systemic success – we must urgently invest what is needed to bring these successes to scale and end the moral outrage of homelessness” said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

“The Point in Time Count reflects the incredible work we are doing in Berkeley to lift people out of homelessness: despite a pandemic causing financial hardship for many, homelessness went down 5% in Berkeley to 1,057 individuals since the last count in 2019. I want to thank Berkeley voters for approving Measure P in 2018. This resource is being used to fund services that are truly making an impact in people's lives,” said Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín. “Despite these successes, there is much more work to be done. Countywide, homelessness has gone up 22%, showing that we need a regional approach to truly make a difference. Under the Alameda County Home Together Community Plan, cities are collaborating to apply successes, such as those that have been realized in Berkeley, at a countywide level.”

“It has been three years since the last Point in Time count, during which we’ve experienced an unprecedented pandemic, and therefore anticipated an increase in unsheltered homelessness in our community,” stated Fremont Mayor Lily Mei. “The recent PIT count validates the continued need for permanent affordable housing, as well as programs and services to help stabilize Fremont community residents living outside and specifically in vehicles. Fremont will continue to advocate for work on regional solutions to this issue and for much needed funding to help support our response to this challenge.”

“Over the past three years, Hayward has invested over \$15 million to address homelessness. Today, we see a 22% reduction in homelessness since 2019. The 2022 Point-in-Time data is an opportunity to illustrate the critical importance of targeted investment in services, shelter, and housing to make homelessness rare, one-time, and brief. With sustainable and dedicated funding, we can continue to reduce homelessness in Hayward and beyond” stated Hayward Mayor Barbara Halliday. “There is still more work to be done. We continue to see disproportionately higher rates of homelessness among black and native households. We are proud of our stronger than ever partnership with Alameda County and our 13 neighbor Cities, and we look forward to continued state and local investment as we move forward with this vital work.”

“The data collected by the Point-in-Time count helps determine federal and state funding, as well as critical funding that Alameda County and the City of Alameda receive to implement programs and employ tools aimed at ending homelessness. These include providing supportive social services and employing a “housing first” model. The

Alameda City Council has made it a priority to increase available housing and minimize barriers to accessing housing because housing is a human right.” shared Alameda City Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft.

"For me, each number in the 2022 Point-in-Time Count represents a person, their story, and the needed social services that enable them to thrive in our community. My City Council colleagues and I have prioritized programs and services that address this crisis in our community. The City continues to provide funding to non-profit organizations that provide critical services such as food, a warm shower and outreach and engagement services that center the needs of folks represented in this data. We’ve also redoubled our focus on serving our most vulnerable residents through the new stand-alone Human Services Department and our recent efforts to purchase a hotel and convert it into a navigation center. We also support faith-based organizations in their pursuit of building tiny homes on their properties. My emotions are pulled by the number of residents that do not have permanent housing. That said, I am confident my City Council colleagues and City staff are making strides to meet the needs of this vulnerable population” shared San Leandro Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter.

“The City of Newark supports the mission of EveryOne Home to end homelessness in Alameda County. The 2022 Point In Time Count assists us in connecting viable resources to those individuals unsheltered and at risk “ shared Newark Mayor Alan L. Nagy.

“During an unprecedented time, the City was able to work across agencies throughout Alameda County and local service providers to prevent a much larger increase in homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergency investments made through the use of emergency federal, state, and local funds and eviction moratoriums helped to limit the impact of homelessness on the City’s residents. The City will continue to work on identifying reliable, ongoing funding sources to support our most vulnerable populations” shared Union City Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci.

A press conference will be held Monday May 16, 2022 at 10:30 AM over zoom to share key findings from the Count and address questions from the media.

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81156119909?pwd=MUVJTmY0aTAzZlZlZkM3pKZlZxUW9rQT09#success>

Meeting ID: 811 5611 9909

Passcode: 649216

**PIT Count:** Biennial, point-in-time counts are conducted once every two years by communities across the country and is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. It is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions that are receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, Alameda County receives more than \$41 million in HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, a key source of funding for the county's permanent housing and services for the homeless.

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