

Merced County Continuum of Care

2020 Homeless Count and Survey Summary Report

June 2020

I. Executive Summary

A. Total Number of Homeless Persons

There were 636 adults and children persons who were homeless on Thursday, January 30, 2020. In 2019, 607 adults and children were counted. A comparison of these two counts reveals that 29 more persons were counted in 2020, which represents an increase of 4.8%.

Table 1. Comparison of 2019 and 2020 Homeless Counts

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2019 Homeless Count	322	285	607
2020 Homeless Count	323	313	636
Difference:	+1 (0.0%)	+28 (+9.8%)	+29 (+4.8%)

Of the 636 persons counted, 313 adults and 0 children were unsheltered and 257 adults and 66 children were sheltered.

It is important to note that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) limits the count to persons who are defined as

- Homeless persons living in a place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans (these persons must be counted as unsheltered); and
- Persons living in emergency shelters and transitional housing projects (these persons must be counted as sheltered).

II. Unsheltered Persons

HUD requires the total number of unsheltered persons to be broken down by the following homeless subpopulation categories for the unsheltered adult population except for chronically homeless families and families:

- Chronically Homeless Families;
- Chronically Homeless Individuals;
- Ethnicity;
- Families;
- Men;

- Persons with HIV/AIDS;
- Persons with Mental Illness;
- Race;
- Single Individuals;
- Substance Users;
- Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18;
- Veterans;
- Victims of Domestic Violence;
- Women; and
- Youth Ages 18 – 24.

Of the 313 persons counted as unsheltered, 313 adults and 0 children were unsheltered.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total unsheltered adult population by gender.

Table 2. Unsheltered Adults by Gender

Gender (Adults Only):	#	%
Male	225	72.0
Female	88	28.0
Transgender	0	0.0
Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0.0
Total:	313	100

The next table provides a breakdown of the total unsheltered adult population by ethnicity. Concerning ethnicity, HUD only requires that Hispanics or Latinos be noted. However, the Merced CoC included Southeast Asian ((Hmong, Cambodian, Taiwanese, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.).

Table 3. Unsheltered Adults by Ethnicity

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
Hispanic or Latino	125	39.9
Southeast Asian	13	0.4
All Others	175	59.7
Total:	313	100

The following table provides a breakdown of the total unsheltered adult population by race.

Table 4. Unsheltered Adults by Race

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
African American or Black	32	10.3
American Indian or Alaska Native	16	4.9
Asian	22	7.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	1.0
White	196	62.7
Multiple Races or Other	44	14.1
	312	100
Total:	313	100

The next table breaks down the total number of unsheltered adults by subpopulations based on the information gathered by the homeless count instrument, which included questions that were asked of each unsheltered adult counted.

Table 5. Unsheltered Adults by Selected Subpopulations

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
Total Unsheltered Adults:	313	100
Families	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18	4	1.1
Veterans	10	3.3
Youth Age 18 to 24	15	4.7
Seniors age 62+	15	4.7

Table 6: Estimates of Unsheltered Subpopulations

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
Total Unsheltered Adults:	313	100
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0.0
Chronically Homeless Persons	145	46.3
Persons with Developmental Disabilities	86	27.5
Persons with HIV/AIDS	8	2.5
Persons with Serious Mental Health Problems	74	23.8
Persons with Physical Disabilities	153	48.8

Substance Users (on-going problem)	82	26.3
Victims of Domestic Violence	86	27.5
Currently experiencing homelessness because you are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking	12	3.8

III. Sheltered Persons

As required by HUD, the sheltered count included the number of persons and households sleeping in emergency shelters (including seasonal shelters), transitional housing, and Safe Haven programs (of which the County has none) that were listed on the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). In addition, any persons staying in hotels or motels as a result of receiving a voucher from a social service agency were included in the sheltered count per HUD's instructions if the voucher program was listed on the HIC.

HUD encourages the use of Homeless Management Information Services (HMIS) data to generate sheltered counts and subpopulation data for programs with 100% of beds participating in HMIS. Thus, HMIS was used to gather the total number of occupied beds and the number of persons that provided a total number of sheltered persons and a breakdown by subpopulation for nearly all sheltered programs.

Table 9. Total Shelter Count by Program

Facility	Program:	Total # of Persons
Shelters:		
Community Action Agency	D Street Shelter	53
Merced County Human Services Agency	Motel Vouchers	80
Merced County Rescue Mission	Hope Respite Care	14
Merced County Rescue Mission	Room at the Inn Shelter	5
Merced County Rescue Mission	Winter Warming Center	2
Valley Crisis Center	Domestic Violence Shelter	9
Sub-Total:		163
Transitional Housing:		
Community Social Model Advocates	Hobie House	19
Community Social Model Advocates	Tranquility Village	22
Merced County Mental Health	Parsons House	3
Merced County Rescue Mission	Bridge to Hope – Los Banos	8
Merced County Rescue Mission	Bridge to Hope – Merced	8
Merced County Rescue Mission	Hope for Men	24

Merced County Rescue Mission	Hope for Women	11
Merced County Rescue Mission	Hope Respite Care	6
Merced County Rescue Mission	Transition to Hope	44
Valley Crisis Center	Domestic Violence Transitional Hg	15
Sub-Total:		160
Total:		323

The table above reveals that approximately half —163 persons or 50.5% of the sheltered population were in shelters and approximately half—160persons, or 49.5% were in transitional housing programs.