



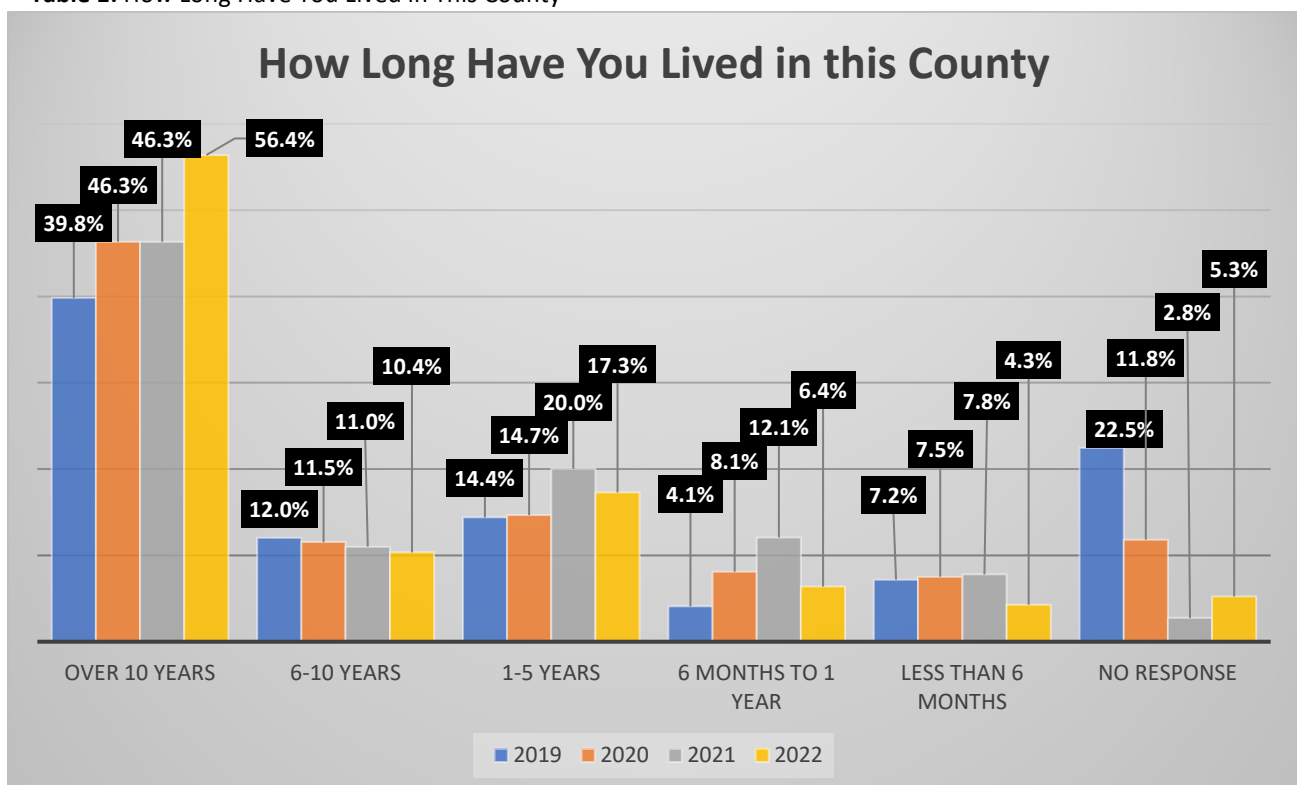
An Examination of Data Points: (1) Reported Length of Time lived in County and (2) Primary reported Reason for homelessness from the Point in Time Count (PIT).

This is a brief overview and examination of year over year responses to some of the PIT Count questions. This review is to examine whether the data indicates that the homeless population in our region consists of either residents or people passing through our area who may have chosen to stay. This analysis will also consider the data regarding the primary reasons for homelessness to see if they align with the common perception that drug abuse is one of the driving factors to homelessness impacting our area.

(1) Length of Time Lived in County

For this review, the responses to the PIT question “How long have you lived in this County” were examined for the PIT counts conducted in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Previous PIT counts conducted did not include this question.

Table 1: How Long Have You Lived in This County



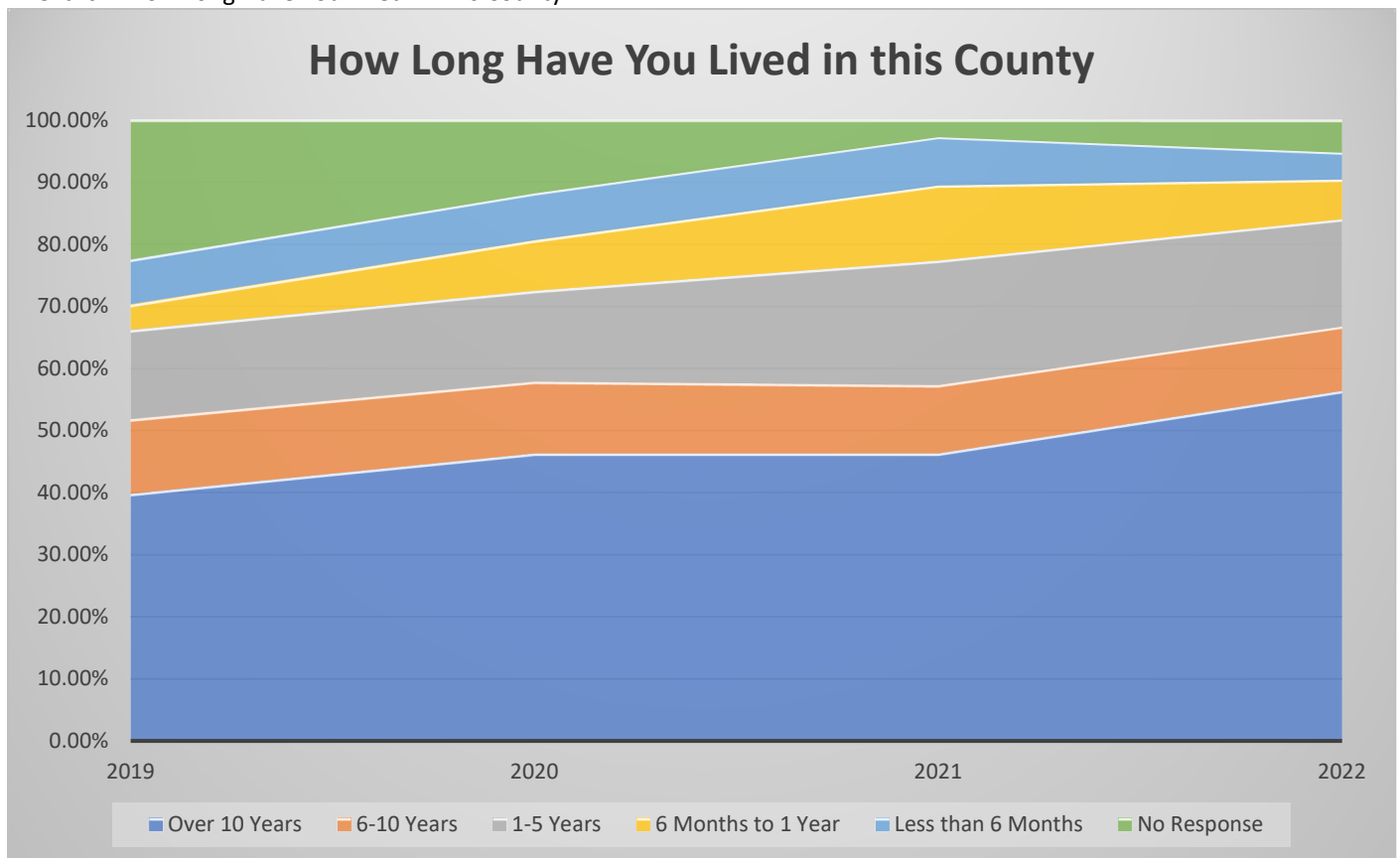
During the 2019 PIT Count 39.83% of people surveyed reported having lived within the county they were homeless in for over 10 years; whereas 51.83% of all people surveyed reported that they have lived within the county for a length of time greater than 5 years.

During the 2020 PIT Count 46.33% of people surveyed reported having lived within the county they were homeless in for over 10 years; whereas 57.87% of all people surveyed reported that they have lived within the county for a length of time greater than 5 years.

During the 2021 PIT Count 46.33% of people surveyed reported having lived within the county they were homeless in for over 10 years; whereas 57.34% of all people surveyed reported that they have lived within the county for a length of time greater than 5 years.

During the 2022 PIT Count 56.39% of people surveyed reported having lived within the county they were homeless in for over 10 years; whereas 66.74% of all people surveyed reported that they have lived within the county for a length of time greater than 5 years

Chart 1: How Long Have You Lived in This County



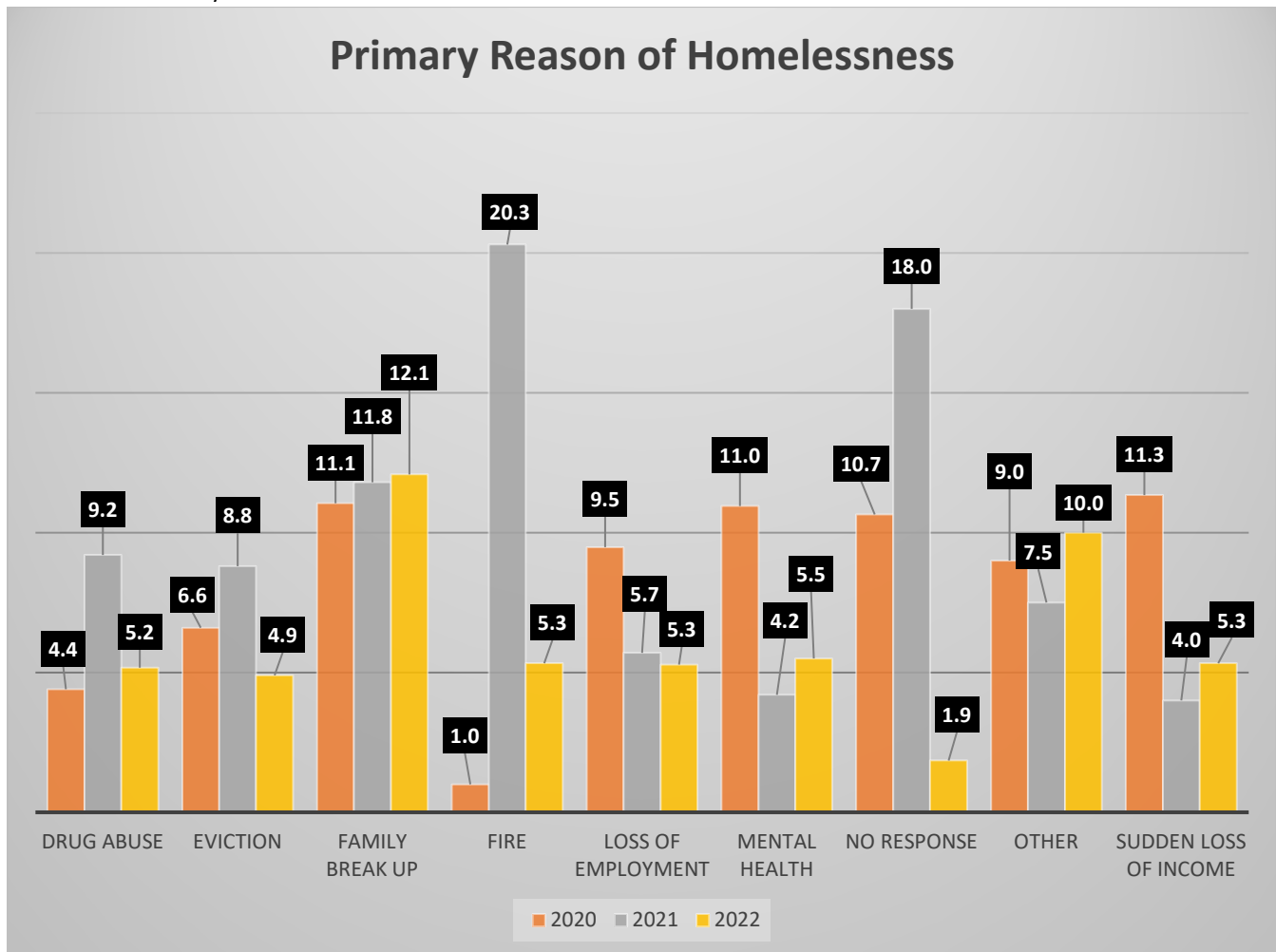
**The PIT Survey was updated in 2022 to include additional responses of Person refused and Other to the “How long have you lived in this County?” question. For the graphs on page one and two, the 2022 responses for person refused (1.65%), Other (3.19%), and No Response (0.44%) were combined to be displayed as No Response (5.25%)*

The data in **Chart 1** (above) uses the same data from the bar graph on **Table 1**, but each year is stacked on top of each other to show year over year changes. The data in **Chart 1** indicates that the number of people that had “No Response” to this question has reduced over time, while the number of people experiencing homelessness who have resided within a county for “Over 10 Years” has increased.

(2) Primary Reason of Homelessness

The responses to the PIT question “What is the primary reason of Homelessness?” were reviewed for the PIT counts conducted in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Previous PIT counts conducted did not include this question.

Table 2: Primary Reason for Homelessness



This Table includes the top five reason of homelessness for 2020, 2021, and 2022. Due to the top reasons changing each year this table also includes the responses for all three years for any answer that was in the top five during one of the years reviewed.

The top five responses during the 2020 PIT count were: Sudden loss of Income (11.34%), Family Break up (11.05%), Mental Health (10.95%), No Response (10.65%), and Loss of Employment (9.48%). The top five responses in 2020 represent 53.47% of all responses.

The top five responses during the 2021 PIT count were: Fire (20.3%), No Response (18%), Family Break up (11.8%), Drug Abuse (9.2%), and Eviction (8.8%). The top five responses in 2021 represent 68.1% of all responses.

The top five responses during the 2022 PIT count were: Family Break up (12.08%), Other (10.02%), Mental Health (5.50%), Fire (5.33%), and Sudden loss of Income (5.33%). The top five responses in 2022 represent 38.26% of all responses.

For the 2022 PIT count to represent at least 50% of the responses we would need to include the 6th, 7th, and 8th highest responses. Those responses were: Loss of Employment (5.28%), Drug Abuse (5.17%) and Eviction (4.9%). The top 8 responses for 2022 represent 53.61% of the total responses received.

While drug abuse was the 4th most common response for homeless during the 2021 PIT count, it came in as the 7th highest response in 2022 and was the 10th highest response during the 2020 PIT count.

The 2021 PIT count had a disproportionate amount of people indicate their primary cause of homelessness was due to wildfires. During the 2020 Calendar year our CoC experienced 28 fires counted as incidents on the Cal Fire Website. Our CoC had 260,716 acres of land burn in those 28 fires. Notable fires within the CoC include the Gold fire in Lassen (22,614 acres), the Sheep fire in Plumas (29,570 acres), the Zogg fire in Shasta (56,388 acres), the Loyalton fire in Sierra (47,029 acres), and the July Complex in Siskiyou and Modoc Counties which burned 83,261 acres of land.

Del Norte was the only CoC county that did not have a wildfire during 2020. That doesn't mean that they were not impacted by the wildfire season. Northern California experienced multiple wildfires that were not located within our CoC but were close enough that people may have been displaced into our counties. This includes fires in Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Yuba, Butte, Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado counties. The neighboring states of Oregon and Nevada both experienced significant wildfires during 2020 as well.

Northern Californian has lost a significant number of housing units to wildfires over the last few years. Development of new units and the replacement of destroyed units has not kept pace with the number of units destroyed each year. This has contributed to a lack of housing units available and an increase in housing cost for the counties within our CoC.

Anyone working in social services, or specifically with the homeless population, will likely acknowledge that drug abuse is a problem, and we need to take steps to address it. But our current data collected during the PIT count indicates that economic factors are a more significant cause of becoming homeless than drug abuse. Evictions, family break ups, loss of employment and a sudden loss of income all indicate that a lack of income and a lack of affordable housing options are the main contributors to homeless within our CoC.

The percentage of homeless individuals reporting that they have lived in the county over 10 years is increasing each year, and the percentage of people reporting drug abuse as the primary reason homelessness has fluctuated between 4% and 9% between 2020-2022. Overall, the data neither supports the conclusion that drug abuse is strongly correlated as a causal factor of homelessness, nor does it support the conception that there is an influx of transient individuals from outside of the community contributing to the incidence of homelessness in our region.

Appendix:

The Norcal CoC's PIT count reports can be found on the Norcal CoC website.

[Point-in-Time Reports | Shasta County California](#)

[2019-pit-report.pdf](#)

[2020-pit-report.pdf](#)

[2021-pit-report.pdf](#)

[2022-pit-report.pdf](#)