

Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative



University of California  
San Francisco

# The Benioff Homelessness & Housing Initiative Webinar Series

10/11/2023



# Toward a New Understanding

The California Statewide Study of  
People Experiencing Homelessness

June 2023

Benioff Homelessness  
and Housing Initiative



University of California  
San Francisco



# NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF ALL AMERICANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS LIVE IN CALIFORNIA—

[unhousedca.org](https://unhousedca.org)



# Panelists



Margot Kushel, MD  
*BHHI Director*



Tiana Moore, PhD  
*BHHI Policy Director*



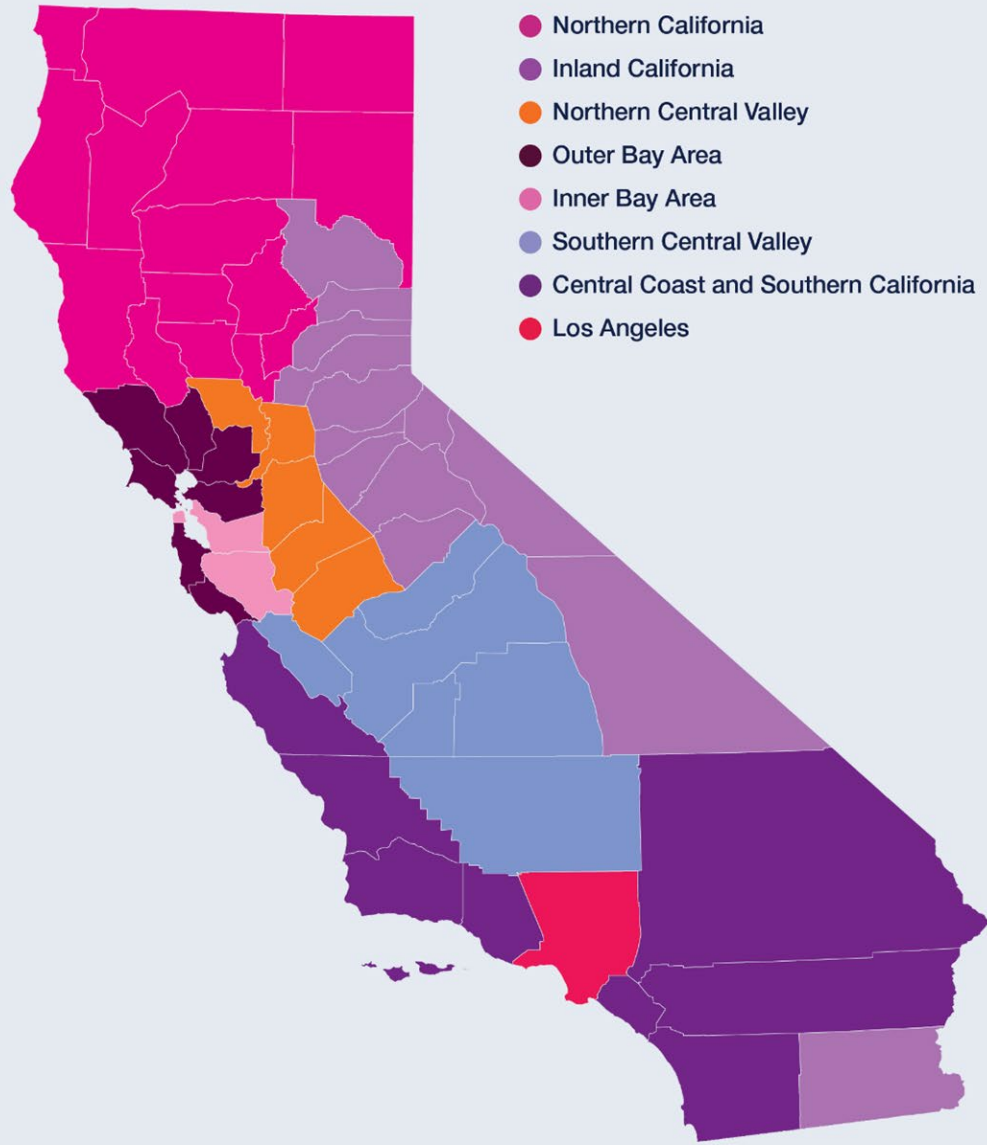
Kara Young Ponder, PhD  
*BHHI Community  
Engagement & Racial  
Justice Director*



Sage Johnson  
*BHHI Lived  
Expertise Advisory  
Board Southern  
California Co-Chair*

# Overview of the Study







# Community Engagement & Participation





# Lived Expertise Advisory Board *Statewide*



**Dez Martinez**



**Ludmilla Bade**



**DeForrest  
Hancock**



**Sage Johnson**



**Dontae Lartigue**



**Jesica Giannola**



**Priest Martinez**



**Claudine Sipili**



**Robynne Rose-  
Haymar**

# Policy and Practice Advisory Board *State, National*

**Ali Sutton**

*Chief Program Officer*

**Tipping Point Community**

**Bobby Watts**

*Chief Executive Officer*

**National Health Care for the Homeless Council**

**Brenda Grealish**

*Executive Officer*

**California Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health**

**Corrin Buchanan**

*Deputy Secretary for Policy and Strategic Planning*

**California Health & Human Services Agency**

**Cynthia Nagendra**

*Director of Strategy*

**SF Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH)**

**Jamie Almanza**

*Executive Director*

**Bay Area Community Services**

**Janey Rountree**

*Executive Director*

**California Policy Lab at UCLA**

**Jennifer Loving**

*Executive Director*

**Destination: Home**

**Joy Moses**

*Director, Homelessness Research Institute*

**National Alliance to End Homelessness**

**Maria Rodriguez-Lopez**

*Deputy Director*

**Kings County Human Services Agency**

**Nan Roman**

*Former President and CEO*

**National Alliance to End Homelessness**

**Nicole Sager**

*Executive Director*

**Yurok Indian Housing Authority**

**Omar Passons**

*Deputy City Manager*

**City of San Jose**

**Patti Prunhuber**

*Senior Staff Attorney, Housing*

**Justice in Aging**

**Richard Cho**

*Senior Advisor for Housing and Services*

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

**Va Lecia Adams Kellum**

*\*President and CEO*

**St. Joseph Center**

**William Snow**

*Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs*

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

*\*Position during board service*

# Findings

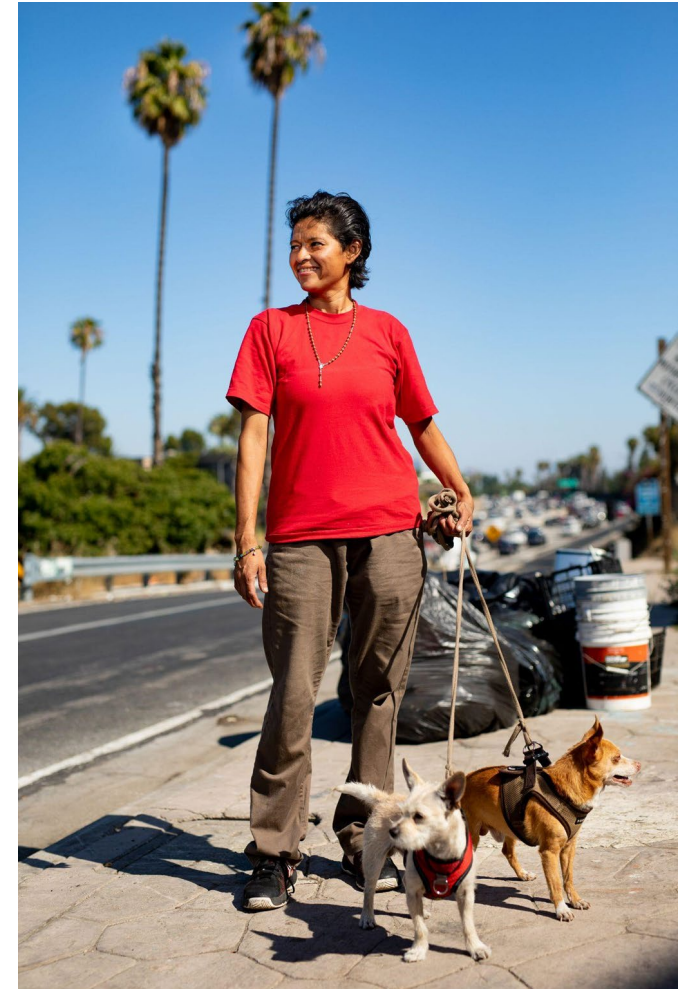




I've met some really good people [out here]...  
Everybody out there in the real world is one  
paycheck away from being homeless.

CASPEH Participant

# Who Experiences Homelessness in California



# 48%

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Of single homeless adults in CA  
are 50 or older

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Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative  
[homelessness.ucsf.edu/CASPEH](https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/CASPEH)

# Gender Identities of CASPEH Participants





# 9 IN 10 PARTICIPANTS

Lived in in California when they lost their housing.



**People Experiencing Homelessness in CA are from CA**

<https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/CASPEH>





# 3 IN 4 PARTICIPANTS

Live in the same county as they lost their housing.



**People Experiencing Homelessness in CA are from CA**

<https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/CASPEH>



The rent's so high in this town. It's unbelievable...  
If you had a minimum wage job you cannot pay  
your rent, and no one would let you in on a  
minimum wage job. You couldn't get a place.  
There's no way.

CASPEH Participant

# Pathways to Homelessness



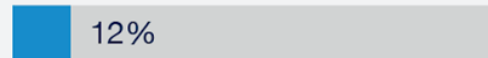
## Median Monthly Income, Housing Costs, Housing Tenure, and Advance Notice Before Homelessness for Leaseholders and Non-Leaseholders

Participant Type	Monthly Income Prior to Homelessness (IQR)	Monthly Cost of Last Housing (IQR)	Housing Tenure	Warning Before Losing Housing
All Participants	\$960 (\$220-\$2,100)	\$375 (\$0-\$800)	1 year	5 days
Non-leaseholders	\$950 (\$221-\$2,000)	\$200 (\$0-\$500)	1 year	1 day
Leaseholders	\$1,400 (\$700-\$2,600)	\$700 (\$350-\$1,100)	3 years	10 days

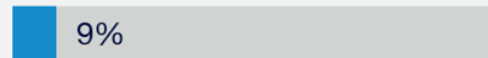
## Primary Reasons for Leaving Last Housing, All Participants

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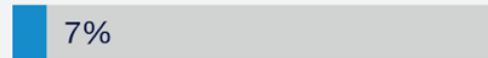
Lost or reduced income



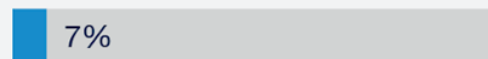
Conflict among residents



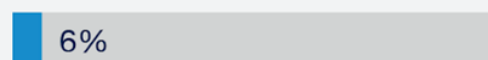
Didn't want to impose/wanted own space



Conflict with property owner



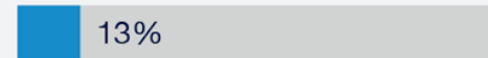
Someone else became sick, disabled, or died



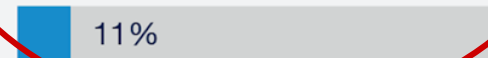
## Primary Reasons for Leaving Last Housing, Non-leaseholders

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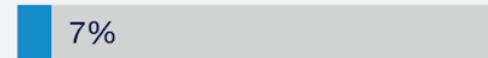
Conflict among residents



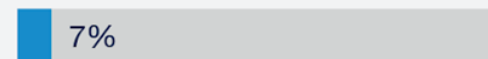
Didn't want to impose/wanted own space



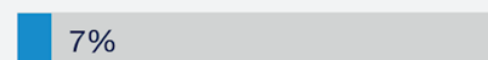
Conflict with property owner



Building sold or foreclosed; owner/primary leaseholder change



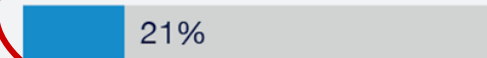
Someone else became sick, disabled, or died



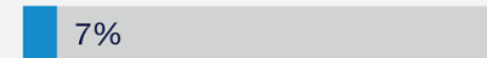
## Primary Reasons for Leaving Last Housing, Leaseholders

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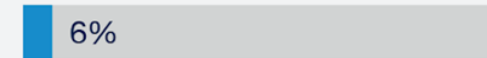
Lost or reduced income



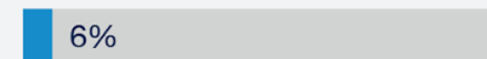
Conflict with property owner



Someone else became sick, disabled, or died



Violence or abuse in the household



Breakup between residents



# Participant Report of Effect of Hypothetical Homelessness Prevention Interventions

● \$300-\$500/month shallow subsidy   ● \$5,000-\$10,000 one-time payment   ● Housing voucher





Most of the time we're running around, trying to figure out where we're going to sleep at night or how we're going to be housed, or it's about to start raining soon. And we worry about that. We're not worried about going to the doctors or going to see somebody or going to get help with our mental state.

CASPEH Participant

# Experiences During Homelessness





# Self-Reported Fair or Poor Health Status by Age

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All



18-24 years



25-49 years



50+ years



## Emergency Department Visits in the Last Six Months by Age

● 1 visit ● 2 visits ● 3+ visits

All



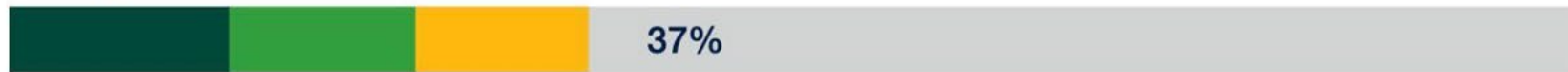
18-24 years



25-49 years

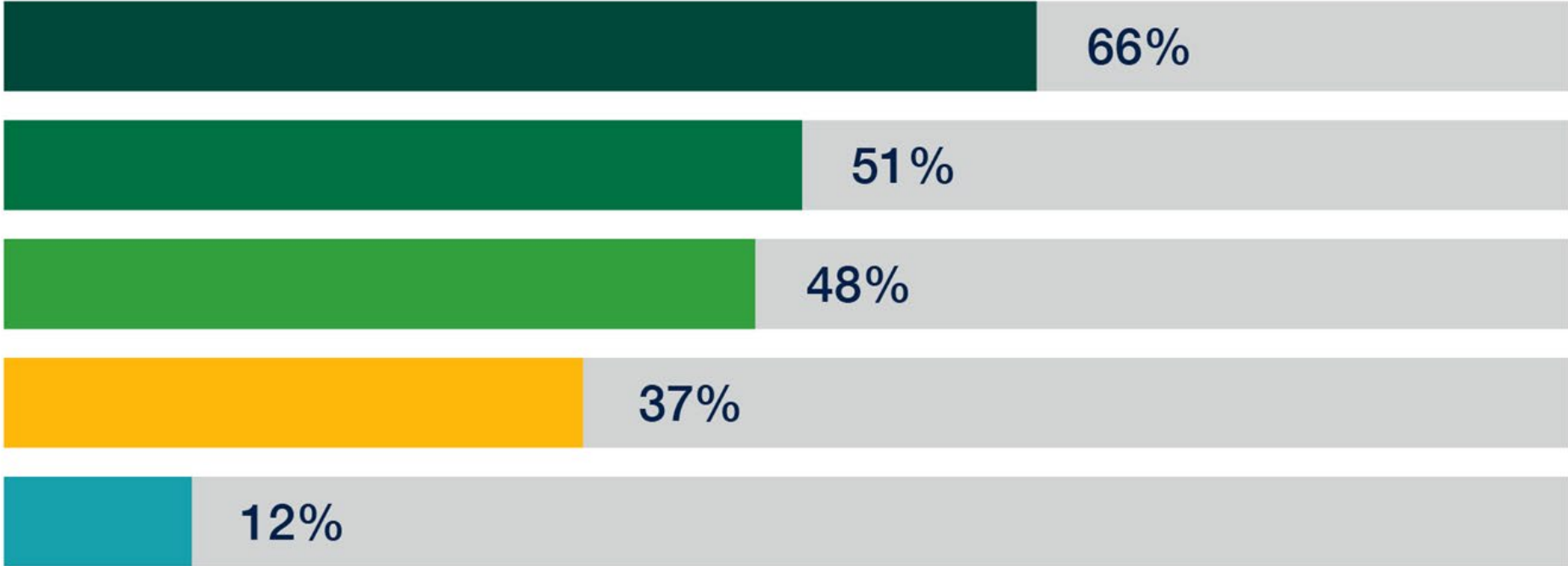


50+ years



# Current Self-Reported Mental Health Conditions

- Any mental health condition
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Trouble remembering, concentrating, or understanding
- Hallucinations



# Current, Regular Substance Use

- Any substance 3+ a week
- Amphetamines 3+ times a week
- Cocaine 3+ times a week
- Opioids 3+ times a week





For the most part, the drugs that I do, I stay up, I stay focused and it keeps me with the numb attitude. It keeps me out of reality. And when you're sober, you come back to reality and that \*\*\* hurts. You feel it more when you're sober. To tell you the truth, I think sober, [for] some people it's worse. That might be the worst thing for them, being on these streets, being sober. I think me and my situation, I think the choice, the little drugs that I do do, it really helps me. It keeps me sane... I can't do this. I can't deal with always being harassed by the police. I can't deal with the normal citizens that got places to stay, that have 9-to-5's, that's taking care of their kids... I can't. I can't be normal around them if I'm sober.

CASPEH Participant

# Barriers and Facilitators of Returns to Housing





There's just not enough resources out there for people who want to get out of being unhoused... You kind of just seem like you're stuck there. Even if you're trying to get a job, like you have to have an address. And, if you don't have an address, you can't get a job. If you can't get a job, you can't stop being unhoused.

CASPEH Participant

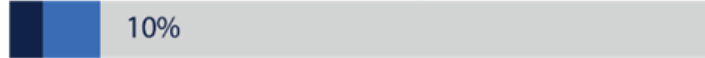
# Key Barriers to Housing

Impacts ability to obtain housing ● A little ● A lot

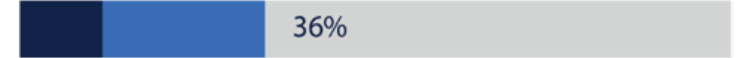
I can't afford housing



I have children that stay with me



I have a record with the criminal justice system



Housing I can afford is far or unsafe



I have a pet



I have problems with my credit history or past evictions



My family or friends are not able to have me live with them



I experience discrimination when I try to rent a place





Participant Report of Effect of Hypothetical Interventions to Support Returns to Housing

● Help a little ● Help a lot

\$300-\$500 dollars/month shallow subsidy



\$5,000-\$10,000 one-time payment



Housing voucher



Housing navigation



# Policy Recommendations



Overview

STATEWIDE PROGRESS ON HOMELESSNESS

California State Assembly