

LAUNCH HOUSING CAPITAL CITIES
HOMELESSNESS INDEX 2023

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APPENDIX: CITY PROFILE SAN FRANCISCO, UNITED STATES



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San Francisco's housing market is one of the most expensive in the United States. According to Demographia's Housing Affordability Index, San Francisco was ranked 86 (out of 92 housing markets in 8 countries).¹

The critical shortage of affordable housing along with increasing rents is at the core of entrenched and rising homelessness. It has been estimated that there is a deficit of almost 121,000 affordable rental units for the poorest households in the San Francisco metropolitan area.² Among low-income renters in the San Francisco metropolitan area, 84% struggled financially, paying more than 30% of their income on rent. As a result, they faced day-to-day uncertainty, instability, financial hardship, as well as the risk of homelessness. According to evidence, homelessness increases faster where rental affordability costs beyond the 30% income benchmark.³

San Francisco's latest point-in-time homelessness count, which took place just prior to the pandemic, recorded 21,142 people experiencing homelessness in 2020. Shockingly, the majority of these people were destitute on the streets (almost 70%), experiencing what is officially termed 'unsheltered' homelessness. This is in stark contrast to the remaining Index cities, where roughly 5% of people who were homeless were sleeping rough. When population differences are accounted for, San Francisco has the highest rate of rough sleeping of all the index cities.

At the state level, in 2021, the Californian Government committed to an historic \$12 billion investment to address the homelessness crisis. However, in the recent 2022 state budget, advocates emphasise that funding for affordable housing and homelessness for the 2022-23 financial year fell by nearly \$7 billion compared with the previous financial year, despite a healthy budget surplus of \$97.5 billion.⁴ The housing crisis has been years in the making, with the greatest impact felt by the poorest and most vulnerable residents. Overall, the scale of investment is not enough to match the scale of need.⁵

The first Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the United States was launched in 2010, which led to an overall 10% drop in homelessness. A new Federal Strategic Plan is due in 2022.⁶ Meanwhile, a Housing Supply Action Plan, announced by the Biden administration in May 2022, aims to close the gap in housing supply in five years.⁷

Geographical area

San Francisco is located in the state of California, on the west coast of the United States. The city (and county) of San Francisco was home to an estimated 873,965 people in 2020.

The San Francisco Metropolitan Statistical Area encompasses five counties: San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and San Mateo. In 2020, it was home to an estimated 4,709,220 people, making it the twelfth most populated metropolitan area in the United States.⁸

The broader San Francisco Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) forms the basis for the data presented in this city profile. The following terms are used interchangeably: San Francisco MSA, San Francisco region, and San Francisco metropolitan. Where data was not able to be sourced, the smaller geographical area of San Francisco County has been referenced instead.⁹



1 Demographia International Housing Affordability, 2021 Edition, <http://www.demographia.com/dhi2021.pdf>

2 <https://nlihc.org/gap/state/ca>

3 Homelessness Rises Faster Where Rent Exceeds a Third of Income, 2018, <https://www.zillow.com/research/homelessness-rent-affordability-22247/>

4 <https://www.housingca.org/news-media/statements/housing-ca-releases-2022-23-state-budget-summary-analysis/>

5 <https://www.housingca.org/news-media/statements/housing-ca-releases-2022-23-state-budget-summary-analysis/>

6 <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>

7 <https://www.usich.gov/news/president-biden-announces-historic-new-actions-to-ease-the-burden-of-housing-costs>

8 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco

9 <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/sanfranciscocountycalifornia>

Definition of rough sleeping and homelessness

Homelessness in the United States (U.S.) is defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which refers to circumstances where an individual or family can find themselves without any shelter, or in emergency accommodation, or in specialist homelessness services.

Criteria for determining homelessness status cover four specific categories: literally homeless; imminent risk of homelessness; homeless under other Federal statutes; and fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence.¹⁰

1. literally homeless (any individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence, such as those living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for habitation);
2. imminent risk of homelessness (any individual or family facing imminent loss of their primary night-time residence within 14 days, and with no alternative housing, and lack support networks or resources needed to obtain housing);

3. homeless under other Federal statutes such as the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act* (any unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment); and
4. any individual or family fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, has no other residence, and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Population and ratio of rough sleeping and homelessness

Estimates of people experiencing homelessness are based on point-in-time counts that take place every year in January (winter). These counts, mandated by the federal government) are undertaken by Continuums of Care (COC) which are local agencies responsible for the coordination and provision of homelessness programs for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. COCs represent areas that range from major cities, counties, metropolitan areas or an entire state. In 2020, there were close to 400 COCs across the United States. The provision of homelessness supports and services in New York City is represented by one large COC.¹¹

Point-in-time snapshots only provide an estimate of the minimum number of people sleeping rough (unsheltered homelessness), given that not everyone living without shelter will be visible. Point-in-time counts have been criticised by advocates and academic researchers for being a 'significant undercount of the actual number of unsheltered' people experiencing homelessness.¹² Nevertheless, point-in-time counts are the only source of data on the prevalence of homelessness across the United States.¹³

Additionally, [Table 1](#) presents the numbers of people sleeping rough sleeping based on a point-in-time count which took place during one night in January 2020, across the San Francisco metropolitan area. Given that the count occurred prior to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, the figures do not reflect the impact of the pandemic on homelessness numbers, which may have changed markedly.¹⁴

- On that January night in 2020, around 14,670 people were estimated to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness (or sleeping rough), which equates to a rate of rough sleeping of at least 309 people per 100,000 San Francisco residents.
- The number of people sleeping rough in the San Francisco metropolitan area remained relatively consistent over a 12-month period, although it was marginally lower (0.4%) in 2020 than in 2019.

¹⁰ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1974/criteria-and-recordkeeping-requirements-for-definition-of-homeless/>

¹¹ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

¹² <https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/basic-facts-about-homelessness-new-york-city-data-and-charts/>

¹³ https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019HIRDReport_SanFrancisco_FinalDraft-1.pdf

¹⁴ The 2020 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Part 1: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness, January 2021; available at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

Table 1. Rough sleeping (point-in-time)

	San Francisco MSA
Number estimated unsheltered (sleeping rough) (2020)	14,671 people*
Rate of rough sleeping per 100,000 residents	308.9 people

Source:

* Total unsheltered based on PIT counts for the 5 CoCs15 in San Francisco MSA (2020) (<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>):

- CA-501: San Francisco CoC
- CA-502: Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC
- CA-505: Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC
- CA-507: Marin County CoC
- CA-512: Daly/San Mateo County CoC

2020 total estimated population: 4,749,008 based on population counts of the 5 counties that comprise the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley MSA (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_statistical_areas):

- Alameda County (Pop = 1,682,353)
- Contra Costa County (Pop = 1,165,927)
- San Francisco County (Pop = 873,965)
- San Mateo County (Pop = 764,442)
- Marin County (Pop = 262,321)

Overall homelessness

[Table 2](#) shows the types of sheltered homelessness experienced by people on a single night in January 2020, as well as the number sleeping rough (unsheltered).

- It was estimated that more than 21,100 people were experiencing homelessness in the San Francisco metropolitan area in 2020, resulting in an overall homelessness rate of 445 people per 100,000 San Francisco residents, more than two and a half times the national rate (175 per 100,000).¹⁶
- What is especially disturbing is that more people were unsheltered than were sheltered in emergency or temporary accommodation on the one night in January in 2020. More than two-thirds of people estimated to be homeless in the San Francisco metropolitan area experienced unsheltered homelessness (or sleeping rough). That’s nearly 15,000 people destitute on the streets, parks, tents, or cars. This contrasts dramatically with the general 5% recorded for most of the cities profiled.
- Overall homelessness increased by 1.2% over a 12-month period (2019 to 2020).

Table 2. Types of homelessness (point-in-time)(2020)

	San Francisco MSA
Number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (rough sleeping)	14,671 (69.4%)
Number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness	6,471 (30.6%)
Total number of people estimated experiencing homeless	21,142 (100%)*
Rate of homelessness per 100,000 residents	445.2 residents

Source:

* Homelessness figures based on PIT counts for the 5 CoCs in San Francisco MSA (2020) (<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>):

- CA-501: San Francisco CoC
- CA-502: Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County CoC
- CA-505: Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC
- CA-507: Marin County CoC
- CA-512: Daly/San Mateo County CoC

15 Continuums of Care (CoC) are local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state; CoCs conduct the point-in-time counts of homelessness <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

16 <https://www.security.org/resources/homeless-statistics/>

Structural factors affecting homelessness

Social and affordable housing

San Francisco is experiencing a homelessness crisis, largely driven the lack of social and affordable housing.¹⁷ A healthy rental housing market provides affordable housing that is diverse and inclusive of a range of income levels. But the gap in affordable housing has been growing over the past decades, with both social housing and the private rental market failing to respond to the housing needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged households, including people experiencing homelessness.

Rent affordability and homelessness are linked. Low-income households that pay more than 30% of income on housing are defined as 'cost burdened', or 'severely cost burdened' if they pay more than 50%.¹⁸ As research shows, where this occurs, the rate of homelessness increases faster.¹⁹

[Table 3](#) presents the stock of social and affordable housing and the proportion of low-income renter households in rental stress (cost burdened), in the San Francisco MSA.

- Social housing comprised 40,000 dwellings, just 2.2% of total housing dwellings in San Francisco, much lower than the OECD average (7%).²⁰ Social housing plays an important particularly where the private rental market does not provide affordable homes for the poorest households.²¹
- The number of private rental listings affordable to the poorest households in San Francisco is unknown, but available evidence shows that there is a shortfall of around 120,900 affordable rental dwellings for the poorest households.²²
- Of a total 179,909 low-income renter households in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward²³ area, 84% were in rental stress (cost burdened), that's 151,124 households who were struggling financially because of housing costs, leaving less money for essentials such as food, health care, education and other needs. It is an important indicator of housing insecurity.²⁴

Table 3. Social and affordable housing measure

	San Francisco MSA
Number of social housing rented dwellings (% of total dwellings, 2019)	40,000 (2.2%)*
Number of private rental listings affordable for low-income households (< \$25,000 U.S.)	Not available
% of low-income households in rental stress (paying 30% or more of income on housing (2020))	84.0%**

Sources:

* Calculation: 40,000 units owned by public housing authority as % of 1,810,522 total housing units (Table DP04), American Housing Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/data/interactive/ahstablecreator.html?s_areas=41860&s_year=2019&s_tablename=TABLE17&s_bygroup1=20&s_bygroup2=18&s_filtergroup1=1&s_filtergroup2=1 and https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Housing%3AHousing%20Units%3AOwner%2FRenter%20%28Householder%29%20Characteristics&g=310XX00US41860&tid=ACSDP5Y2020_DP04.

** National Low Income Housing Coalition, figure for San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward (metro area), <https://nlihc.org/gap/state/ca>.

17 https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019HIRDReport_SanFrancisco_FinalDraft-1.pdf

18 <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-featd-article-081417.html>

19 Homelessness Rises Faster Where Rent Exceeds a Third of Income, 2018, <https://www.zillow.com/research/homelessness-rent-affordability-22247/>

20 PH4.2 SOCIAL RENTAL HOUSING STOCK, 2020, available at: <https://www.oecd.org/els/family/PH4-2-Social-rental-housing-stock.pdf>

21 <https://www.oecd.org/social/social-housing-policy-brief-2020.pdf>

22 <https://nlihc.org/gap/state/ca>

23 <https://nlihc.org/gap/state/ca>

24 https://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/Housing-Needs-and-Trends-Report-2018.pdf

Level of income and poverty

Homelessness and poverty are connected. Without adequate levels of income, access to affordable housing becomes problematic, especially for low-income households who bear the burden of the housing crisis. Limited financial resources mean fewer options and increased vulnerability to housing instability and homelessness.

According to the 2019 point-in-time count, which was focused just on the city of San Francisco, 73% of people estimated to be homeless were receiving government assistance. It was also reported that 63% were unable to access housing because they could not afford the rent, an increase of 15 percentage points since 2015.²⁵

Table 4 shows the average cost of rental housing for the larger San Francisco metropolitan area, as well as income levels and poverty rates. Data indicate the extent of financial vulnerability, instability and the risk of homelessness for the poorest residents.

- The average rent in the San Francisco metro area was almost US\$800 per week, the highest in the country. The area also recorded the highest median household income, which was more than one-and-a-half times the amount for the United States (US\$1,452)²⁶, and almost six times the weekly median income for low-income households (US\$429).

- The cost of renting in the San Francisco metropolitan area was expensive, accounting for 32% of the median weekly household income in the San Francisco metropolitan area; but the disparity between rent and income was most acute for low-income households with an average income that was insufficient to afford a typical rental, falling short by \$347.
- While the poverty rates for San Francisco's residents, including children, were below what was recorded for the United States (12.8%), poverty impacted the lives of 396,651 residents, including 85,006 children (21%) under 18 years of age. It means that these residents were living in financial hardship, struggling each day to cover the cost of basic necessities of food, clothing, health, education; and with housing instability and homelessness an ever-present risk, especially in the event of an unexpected expense.

Table 4. Indicator measure (2020)

	San Francisco (MSA)
Average weekly rent (Feb, 2020)	\$776.00*
Median weekly household income (2020)	\$2,417.00**
Average weekly household income – bottom 20% income distribution (2020)	\$429.00***
Poverty rate (2020)	8.5%+
Poverty rate – children (0-17 years) (2020)	9.3%+

Sources:

- * <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/aug/12/housing-renter-affordable-data-map>.
- ** Based on median income of USD \$116,005 per annum, Table S1901: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&q=310XX00US41860>.
- *** Table B1908: Mean Household Income of Quintiles, American Community Survey, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B19081%3A%20MEAN%20HOUSEHOLD%20INCOME%20OF%20QUINTILES&t=Income%20and%20Earnings&q=0100000US.%243100000&tid=ACSDT1Y2021.B19081>.
- + Poverty rates and numbers, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&q=310XX00US41860&tid=ACSS1Y2020.S1701>.

²⁵ https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019HIRDReport_SanFrancisco_FinalDraft-1.pdf (p.23)

²⁶ Based on median household income nationally of US\$69,717 per annum, Table S1901, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&tid=ACSS1Y2021.S1901>

Family Violence

Family violence is an underlying cause of homelessness. Among families with children experiencing homelessness in San Francisco, 32% had reported previous experiences of domestic violence.²⁷

As shown in [Table 5](#), data was not available for the San Francisco MSA; instead, figures refer to the number of family violence crimes (including domestic violence) reported in San Francisco County, an area with a population of almost 874,000 people in 2020:

- Overall, the rate of family violence was 695 crimes per 100,000 population, based on more than 6,000 police reports for a 12-month period; it is an indication of the many families who were at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Table 5. Family violence measure

	San Francisco County
Number of family violence reported crimes (2020)	6,074*
Number of reported family violence crimes per 100,000 population	695.0**

Sources:

* Reported to police, <https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/SFPDDomesticViolenceDataReport2019and2021-20220127.pdf>.

** Calculation based on 2020 population for San Francisco County: 873,965 people, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sanfranciscocountycalifornia,sanfranciscocitycalifornia/PST045221>.

²⁷ https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019HIRDReport_SanFrancisco_FinalDraft-1.pdf (p.30)

POLICY CONTEXT



Rough sleeping and homelessness

Federal legislation to tackle housing and homelessness was first introduced in 1987, titled the Stewart B. McKinney Homelessness Assistance Act.²⁸ In 2000, it was renamed the McKinney-Vento Act, and in 2009, this was amended to the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act.²⁹ In 2010, the first Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was launched³⁰; with a new Plan due in 2022.³¹

Between 2010 and 2016, there was close to a 10% reduction in homelessness overall. Among families, homelessness fell by 30% and among veterans, it was 50%.³² However, since then, the trend has reversed and homelessness is again on the rise across the United States. There has, for example, been a 21% increase in the numbers of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness between 2014 and 2019.³³ It is now the case that more people experience homelessness living on the streets and in subways than in emergency shelters or other temporary accommodation.³⁴

In 2021, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US Interagency Council on Homelessness launched a joint initiative to tackle the homelessness crisis. Titled: *House America: An All-Hands-On-Deck-Effort to Address the Nation's Homelessness Crisis*, the program promotes a whole-of-government commitment in an effort to tap into the significant resources and funding opportunities

available through the American Rescue Plan.³⁵ Specific targets include rehousing 100,000 households experiencing homelessness using a Housing First approach, and, increasing the supply of affordable housing by 20,000 new units by 31 December 2022.³⁶

In 2021, the state of California had the highest number of people (151,278) experiencing homelessness in the United States (estimated at 552,830 people). The government of California has committed to an historic investment of around \$12 billion over two years to address the homelessness crisis, with promises to develop at least 46,000 new housing units, and a commitment to end family homelessness within five years.³⁷

Specific targets include:

- \$7 billion for additional Homekey³⁸ acquisitions.
- \$1.75 billion to build thousands of affordable homes.
- \$447 million to address student homelessness.
- \$150 million to stabilize and rehouse Project Roomkey clients.³⁹

Ending family homelessness with \$3.5 billion invested in new rental support, housing and shelter resources, specifically:

- \$1.85 billion in new housing for homeless families.
- \$1.60 billion in rental support and homeless prevention for families.
- \$40 million in grants to local governments

28 https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nycccoc/downloads/pdf/CoC101_2021_FINAL.pdf

29 <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/five-ways-hearth-act-changed-homelessness-assistance>

30 <https://www.usich.gov/about-usich/>

31 <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>

32 <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>

33 https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH-Expanding-the-Toolbox.pdf

34 <https://www.usich.gov/fsp>

35 https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_American_Rescue_Plan_Guide.pdf

36 https://www.hud.gov/house_america

37 <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HOMELESSNESS-CRISIS-FACT-SHEET.pdf>

38 Established in March 2020, Project Roomkey provided temporary hotel shelter for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/housing-programs/project-roomkey>

39 <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HOMELESSNESS-CRISIS-FACT-SHEET.pdf>

Investment in social and affordable housing

Across California there is a deficit of 1,003,595 affordable rental dwellings for the poorest residents. Additionally, almost 1,165,000 low-income households were experiencing financial hardship because of the cost of rent.⁴⁰

As part of the Californian Government's \$12 billion plan, 300,000 people will be provided with housing stability.⁴¹

California's *Roadmap Home 2030*, is a 10-year plan to develop affordable homes and end homelessness across the state. In addition to ending homelessness, a key objective is the construction of 1.2 million new affordable dwellings.⁴² While the Californian Government's \$12 billion investment aims to provide housing stability to around 300,000 people⁴³, it is only a fraction of what is needed for affordable housing.⁴⁴

As noted, 'the scale of investment in affordable housing [needs to] meet the scale of need'.⁴⁵ However, analysis of California's recent 2022 state budget states that '...while good in part, [the budget] falls short on the whole'.⁴⁶ Largely, because despite a healthy projected budget surplus (\$97.5 billion), funding for affordable housing and homelessness for the 2022-23 financial year fell by nearly \$7 billion compared with the previous financial year.⁴⁷

40 <https://nlihc.org/gap/state/ca>

41 <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HOMELESSNESS-CRISIS-FACT-SHEET.pdf>

42 <https://roadmaphome2030.org/app/uploads/2021/03/The-Roadmap-Home--Executive-Summary.pdf>

43 <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HOMELESSNESS-CRISIS-FACT-SHEET.pdf>

44 <https://www.housingca.org/news-media/statements/housing-ca-releases-2022-23-state-budget-summary-analysis/>

45 <https://www.housingca.org/news-media/statements/housing-ca-releases-2022-23-state-budget-summary-analysis/>

46 <https://www.housingca.org/news-media/statements/housing-ca-releases-2022-23-state-budget-summary-analysis/>

47 <https://www.housingca.org/news-media/statements/housing-ca-releases-2022-23-state-budget-summary-analysis/>

48 <https://news.caloes.ca.gov/project-roomkey-impact-to-date-and-looking-ahead/>

49 <https://news.caloes.ca.gov/project-roomkey-impact-to-date-and-looking-ahead/>

50 <https://www.chcs.org/resource/californias-project-roomkey-a-homelessness-and-covid-19-innovation-snapshot/>

51 https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CA-H2H-Case-Study_7-19-21.pdf

52 https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CA-H2H-Case-Study_7-19-21.pdf

53 <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HOMELESSNESS-CRISIS-FACT-SHEET.pdf>

Responding to homelessness and the COVID-19 pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the state of California designed Project Roomkey, a program that provided temporary shelter in hotels and motels throughout the state for thousands of Californians who were experiencing homelessness to them safe from the pandemic. In the first year of operation, more than 42,000 people who were homeless were able to isolate and quarantine safely.

Project Roomkey was hailed as 'a great success, protecting thousands of lives during the pandemic'.⁴⁸ Project Roomkey also proved to be effective as a pathway to longer-term housing. For example, as of July 2021 data show that 33,141 people exited Project Roomkey, with 6,710 (20%) moving into permanent housing.⁴⁹

Specifically, Project Roomkey focused on:

- Self-isolation for individuals who were asymptomatic but at high risk of negative health outcomes from COVID-19;
- A safe space for people to quarantine while awaiting COVID-19 test results; and
- A safe space to quarantine for people who had tested positive but did not need to be hospitalised.⁵⁰

Building on the success of Project Roomkey, Homekey is California's key initiative focused on the provision of permanent housing.⁵¹ With funding of \$846 million, the State of California acquired hotels and motels to accommodate people experiencing homelessness. By the latter half of 2020, more than 6,000 housing units were created in 94 separate properties, with 5,000 of these units reserved to become permanent housing.⁵²

According to a government factsheet, Project Roomkey and Homekey did more to address the crisis in homelessness and housing in the course of one year than any other efforts undertaken in the past decades. The success of these two programs have seen them scaled up to become national models⁵³