



Stand with Survivors. End Domestic Violence.

PRESS RELEASE: Beyond the Numbers: Marin's Homelessness Data Highlights Critical Links Between Housing Stability and Survivor Safety

Center for Domestic Peace highlights the connection between housing stability, safety, and the experiences often hidden from traditional homelessness data.

SAN RAFAEL – The release of Marin County's 2026 Point-in-Time Count (PIT) offers an important opportunity to better understand homelessness in our community and the experiences that may not always be visible in the data.

The report identified 1,128 people experiencing homelessness in Marin County, a modest increase from 2024. Women represent one-third of the county's homeless population, and half of all people experiencing homelessness within families are female. The report also found that 56% of respondents identified economic issues as the primary cause of homelessness and that 62% reported experiencing homelessness for the first time.

For Center for Domestic Peace, the findings underscore the important relationship between housing stability, economic security, and personal safety.

"Housing is more than a roof overhead. For many survivors, it is the foundation that makes safety possible," said Tara Peterson, Executive Director of Center for Domestic Peace. ***"When people have stable housing and economic security, they are better positioned to rebuild their lives, protect their children, and move forward free from violence. The Point-in-Time Count gives us valuable data, but it also reminds us to consider the experiences that may not always be fully reflected in traditional homelessness measures, including the challenges faced by many survivors, women, and families."***

While the PIT report found that 3% of respondents reported currently experiencing domestic violence or abuse, the report notes that point-in-time counts do not capture everyone experiencing housing instability. Survivors of

domestic violence frequently rely on temporary housing arrangements, stay with friends or family, or remain in unsafe situations while seeking options that protect their safety and financial stability. National research has consistently identified domestic violence as a leading cause of homelessness among women and children, highlighting the important connection between survivor safety, economic stability, and access to housing.

Many survivors do not appear in traditional homelessness data because they are staying temporarily with family or friends, moving frequently to remain safe, or navigating a complex path toward long-term stability. Their experiences remind us that homelessness and housing insecurity exist along a broader continuum than many people realize.

The report's findings regarding economic hardship are also notable. Economic instability was identified as the leading reported cause of homelessness, reinforcing the challenges many Marin residents face related to housing costs, income insecurity, and financial pressure.

For survivors, economic abuse can contribute to those challenges. Restricted access to income, damaged credit, employment interference, and housing instability are common barriers that can affect a survivor's ability to achieve both safety and independence.

The report further found that homelessness in Marin is overwhelmingly local, with 88% of respondents reporting they lived in Marin County prior to becoming homeless.

The 2026 PIT Count also highlighted encouraging progress, including significant reductions in veteran homelessness, youth and young adult homelessness, and family homelessness, demonstrating the impact of coordinated community efforts and targeted interventions already underway throughout Marin County.

"One of the most encouraging aspects of this report is the progress it reflects," Peterson said. "The findings demonstrate what can happen when public agencies, nonprofit organizations, service providers, and community partners work together around shared goals. As a community, we should recognize those successes while continuing to deepen our understanding of the experiences that are not always fully reflected in traditional data."

Center for Domestic Peace remains committed to working alongside community partners to ensure survivors and their children have access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to achieve both safety and stability. Continued investment in affordable housing, survivor-centered

services, economic empowerment programs, and coordinated community responses will be critical to ensuring that all Marin residents have the opportunity to build safe, stable futures.

About Center for Domestic Peace

Center for Domestic Peace is Marin County's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence through prevention, intervention, advocacy, shelter, counseling, legal services, and community education. Since 1977, the organization has worked to create a community where every individual and family can live free from violence and fear.

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