

# COVID-19 Alternative Housing

The City's response to COVID-19 includes establishing the COVID-19 Alternative Housing Program to provide emergency, temporary housing and shelter options for individuals who are directly affected by the coronavirus, or who are at high risk of adverse impacts if they contract the virus. The City is using private hotel rooms as well as a variety of other types of facilities to establish safe spaces for residents to isolate, quarantine, or shelter in place.

COVID-19 ALTERNATIVE HOUSING				
Hotel Units			Congregate Beds	
Total Hotel Units Acquired	Total Hotel Units Active*	Total Hotel Units Occupied	Total Congregate Beds Active	Total Congregate Beds Occupied
2,741	2,156	1,026	195	48

\* Alternative Housing sites need to be prepared for use in COVID-19 response prior to activation, resulting in a difference between acquired and activated units.

# Priority Populations

The City has several priority populations for COVID-19 Alternative Housing:

## COVID-Positive and PUIs

**Individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 or people “under investigation” (PUIs) without a space to safely isolate or quarantine.**

While most in this group may be experiencing homelessness, others live in single room occupancy hotels (SROs), skilled nursing facilities, board and care facilities, or other environments where they are unable to safely self-isolate.

## COVID-Status Unknown

**Asymptomatic individuals experiencing homelessness, many of whom are classified as “vulnerable.”**

Consistent with CDC guidance for safe spacing of beds in congregate settings, the City is moving asymptomatic individuals from existing congregate shelters or the street into alternative housing to safely shelter in place. Individuals over the age of 60 and/or those with certain health conditions are prioritized.

## COVID-Recovered

**Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 and require a safe space to shelter in place.**

Most individuals in this group are experiencing homelessness, either sheltered or unsheltered, and, per public health guidance, should remain separate from individuals whose COVID status is still unknown to prevent the spread of the virus.

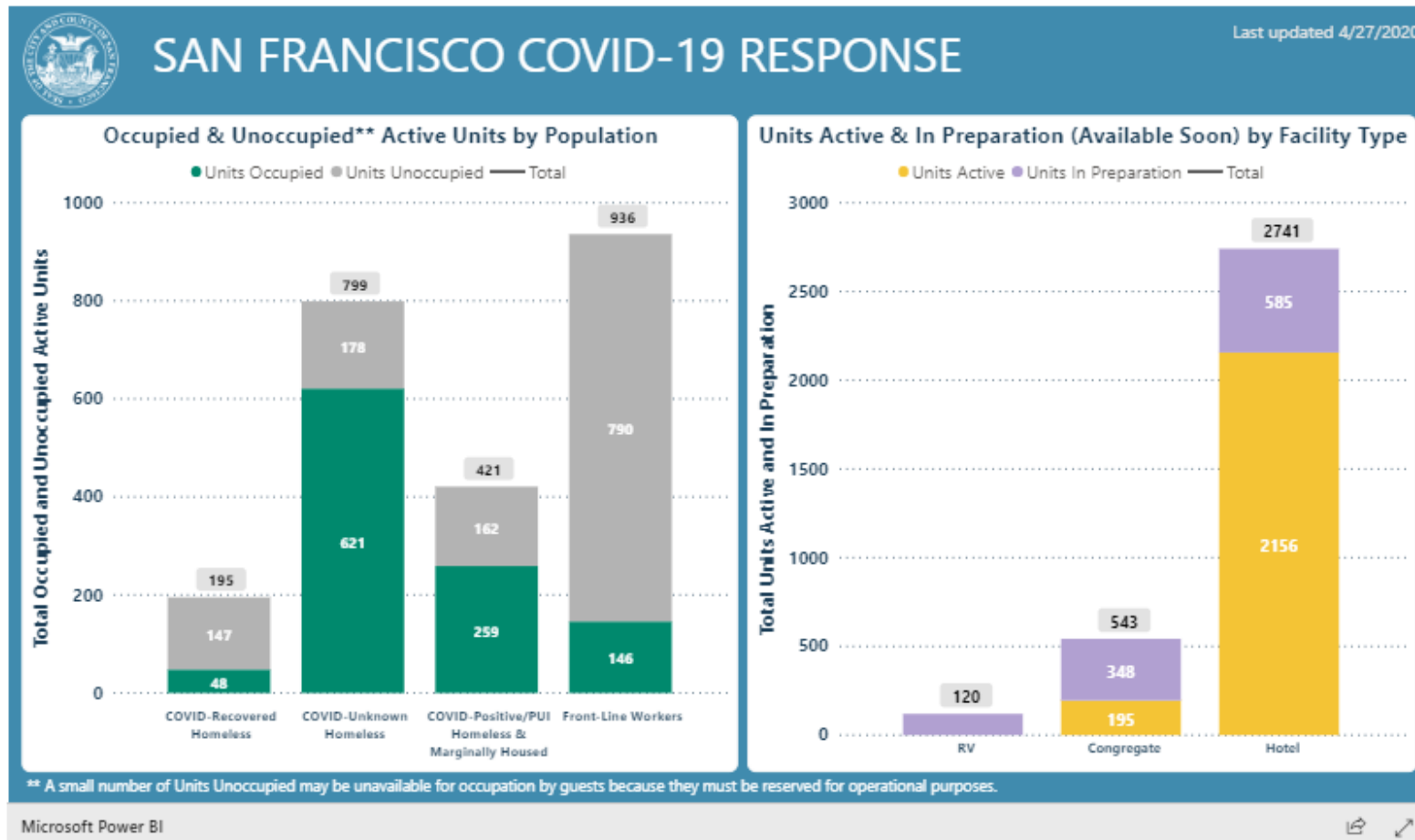
## Front-Line Workers

**Front-line City workers and City-contracted workers.**

Workers may be healthy, diagnosed with COVID-19, or PUIs. They may work outdoors, in the community, or in a hospital/clinical setting and face a high level of on-the-job exposure to COVID-19. Beds may be used as respite or as an option for safe isolation.

# COVID-19 Alternative Housing Capacity

The City has established a variety of COVID-19 Alternative Housing options, including private hotels, congregate sites, trailers and recreational vehicles (RVs). Many sites have on-site medical and behavioral health staff as needed for guests. Public health and human service officials assess and determine the most appropriate housing option and on-site services to meet the needs of the different populations.



### **Site Usage and Flow**

There is a flow into and out of sites used for individuals isolating with COVID-19. When people with COVID-19 recover from the disease, the City can transfer them from sites with on-site medical care to non-medical sites or back to their own homes, thereby freeing up space needed for the next wave of COVID-19 and PUI patients. The City is using hotel rooms and congregate spaces for people with COVID-19 and those who have recovered.

For asymptomatic people experiencing homelessness, the City is actively developing new sites to ensure the most vulnerable have safe spaces to shelter in place for the duration of the emergency. Sites for this purpose include hotels and Trailer/RV sites.

Front-line workers may access hotel sites for a two-week respite period, thus ensuring a regular flow into and out of the sites designated for this purpose.

### **Demographics by Population Served**

The data below provides demographic information for individuals accessing the City's COVID-19 Alternative Housing Program. The filters at the top of the table display demographics based on the setting where individuals are served.



# SAN FRANCISCO COVID-19 RESPONSE

Click the buttons below to see information on the current residents at each site type procured by the City in response to COVID-19:

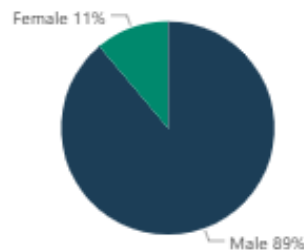
Sites for COVID-Recovered Homeless

Sites for COVID-Unknown Homeless

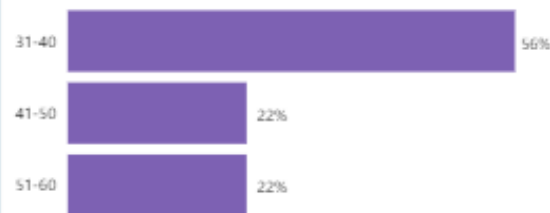
Sites for COVID-Positive/PUI Homeless & Marginally Housed

Sites for Front-Line Workers

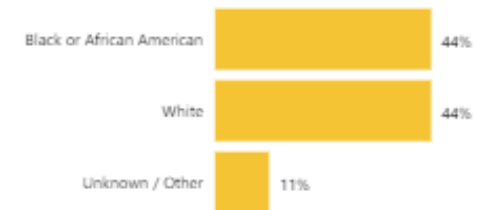
## COVID-Recovered: Gender



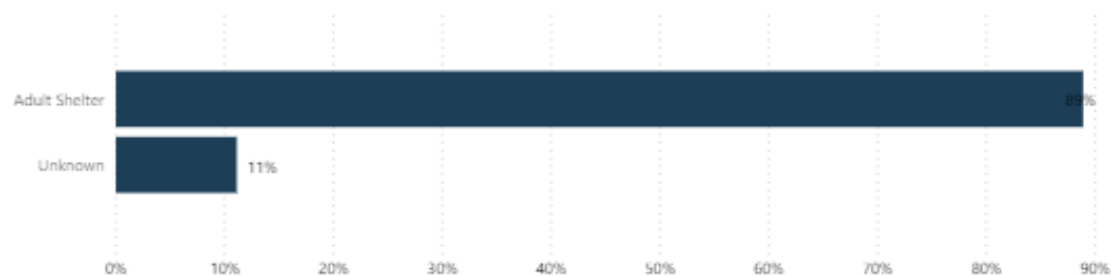
## COVID-Recovered: Age



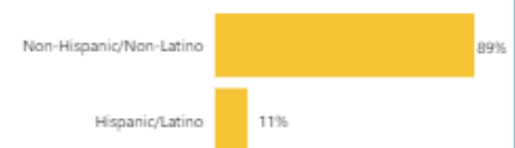
## COVID-Recovered: Race



## COVID-Recovered: Prior Living Situation



## COVID-Recovered: Ethnicity



Microsoft Power BI



COVID-Positive/PUI data tracked by an internal DPH Database

COVID-Unknown and Recovered data tracked by an internal HSH Database

Front-Line Worker data tracked by an internal EOC Database



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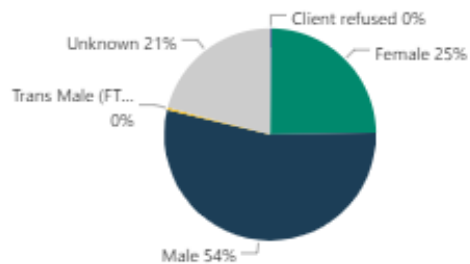
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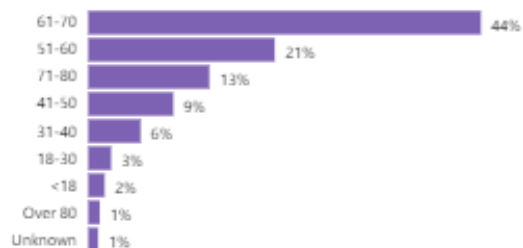
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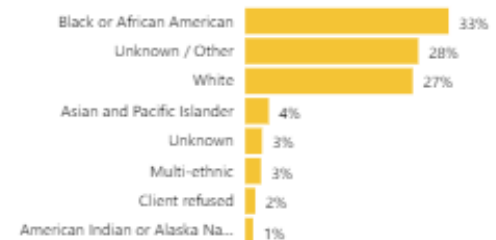
## COVID-Unknown: Gender



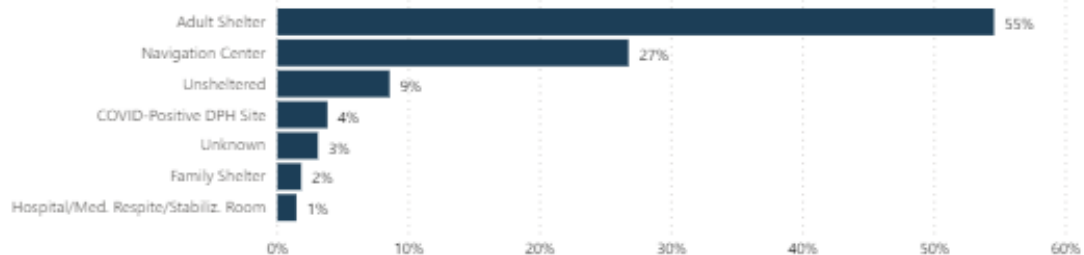
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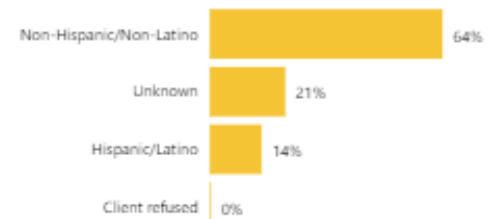
## COVID-Unknown: Race



## COVID-Unknown: Prior Living Situation



## COVID-Unknown: Ethnicity



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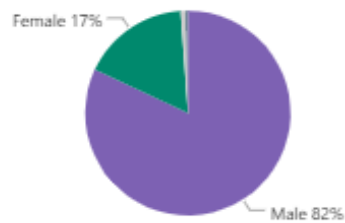
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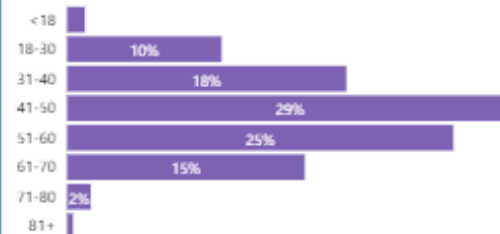
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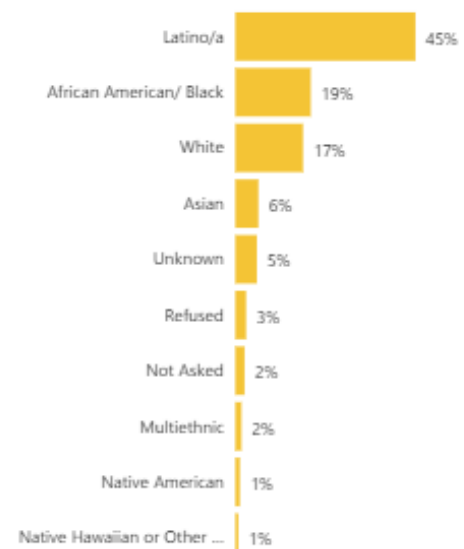
## COVID-Positive: Gender



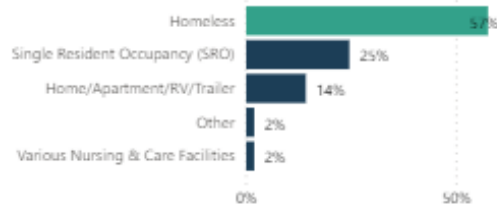
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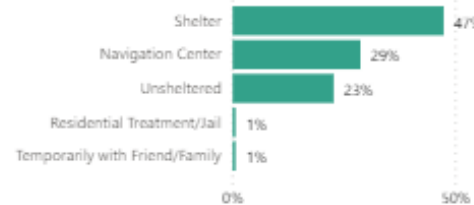
## COVID-Positive: Race/Ethnicity



## COVID-Positive: Previous Living Situation



## COVID-Positive: Homeless Living Situation Details



Microsoft Power BI



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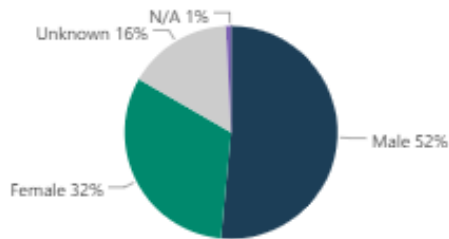
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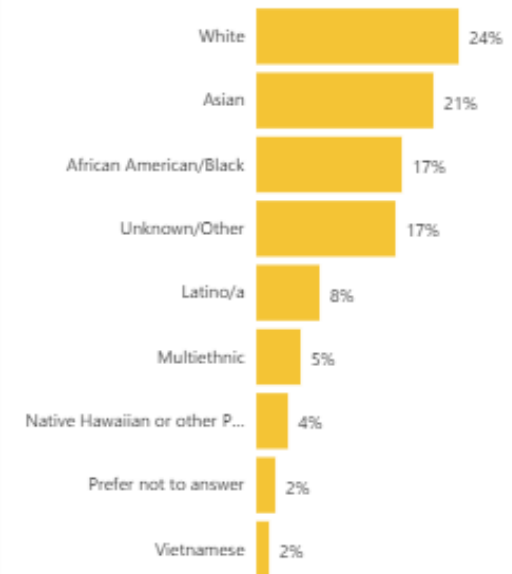
## Front-Line: Gender



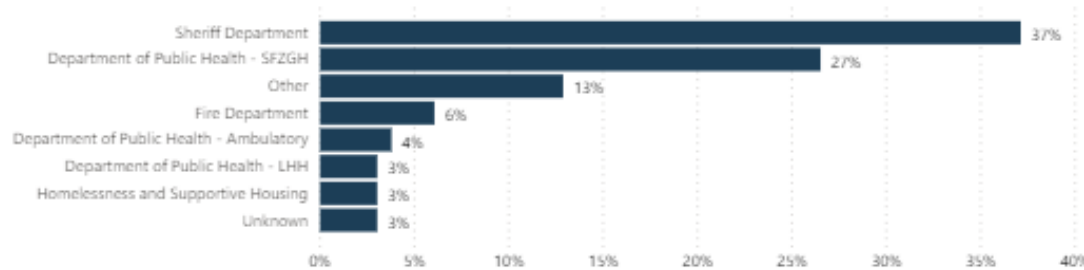
## Front-Line: Age

Age Data Coming Soon

## Front-Line: Race/Ethnicity



## Front-Line: Department or CBO of Origin



Microsoft Power BI



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## Assessing Unmet Needs for COVID-19 Alternative Housing

*Front-line Worker Sites: current COVID-19 Alternative Housing supply is sufficient*

*COVID-Positive and PUI Sites: current COVID-19 Alternative Housing supply is sufficient*

The need for additional COVID-19 Alternative Housing sites can be influenced by external factors. For example, an outbreak in a congregate homeless shelter or a large-scale testing initiative may create a new surge in need for isolation sites for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 who are homeless or marginally housed. Subsequently, while some of these individuals could return home after isolating, individuals who are homeless will need a safe shelter option that is separate from asymptomatic individuals who may still be at risk of contracting COVID-19.

### *Sites for Vulnerable Persons Experiencing Homelessness:*

- **Sheltered:** current COVID-19 Alternative Housing supply is sufficient
- **Unsheltered:** estimated 3,500 individuals meeting vulnerability criteria

The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) has followed CDC guidance to safely space the beds within existing homeless shelters, and as part of that effort has moved individuals into COVID-19 alternative housing sites to shelter in place with appropriate spacing. These individuals are reflected in the data presented above.

Asymptomatic people experiencing homelessness who are 60 or older or have been diagnosed with a COVID-vulnerable medical condition are prioritized for placement into a hotel room to safely shelter in place. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) has followed CDC guidance to safely space the beds within existing homeless shelters, and as part of that effort has moved nearly all vulnerable individuals who want to move into COVID-19 Alternative Housing sites. These individuals are reflected in the data presented above.

While HSH estimates there are approximately 3,500 unsheltered individuals meeting the vulnerability criteria, some people experiencing homelessness will prefer to remain on the street or within HSH's Temporary Shelter sites (shelters and/or navigation centers) despite the efforts of nonprofit service providers, the Homeless Outreach Team, Shelter Health and street-based health care providers.

### *Sites for Individuals who are Marginally Housed: unknown need for COVID-19 Alternative Housing*

Individuals living in single-room occupancy hotels (SROs) often share bathrooms, kitchens and other common areas. In the event of a COVID-19 case detected in a specific SRO, the Department of Public Health's Contact Tracing and Epidemiology teams will make a case-by-case determination of which residents should be offered space at a COVID-19 Alternative Housing site.

## Housing Pipeline

The City is developing a variety of hotel, congregate, and RV/trailer options to fulfill emergency sheltering needs. The Human Services Agency (HSA) solicited interest from hotels in March 2020 and over 80 hotels responded. See the data above for the current pipeline of sites under contract. Additionally, the City is actively negotiating new contracts with hotel executives daily, with a focus on hotels:

- with less than 150 rooms, because these are programmatically easier to manage, and
- with ventilation systems where air does not travel between rooms, to diminish the risk of clients infecting each other.

Many hotels are interested in working with the City on COVID-19 Alternative Housing, though some preferred to only provide services to front-line workers. As programmatic needs change over the course of the City's response to COVID-19, new types of hotels may be needed, and the City may need to explore whether and how to use larger hotel sites or find others not currently in the pipeline.

The City continues to work with hotels through a voluntary contracting process, and has not taken any steps to commandeer hotels at this time.