

# Sacramento Homelessness COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

## Weekly Progress Report

Brought to you in partnership by Sacramento County, City of Sacramento, Sacramento Steps Forward and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

**May 7, 2021**

Welcome to the bi-weekly report highlighting progress and highlights of the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team's response efforts as part of the **Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan**. Unless otherwise indicated, this report includes **actions and information to date through Monday, May 3rd**.

---

### *Re-Housing*

---

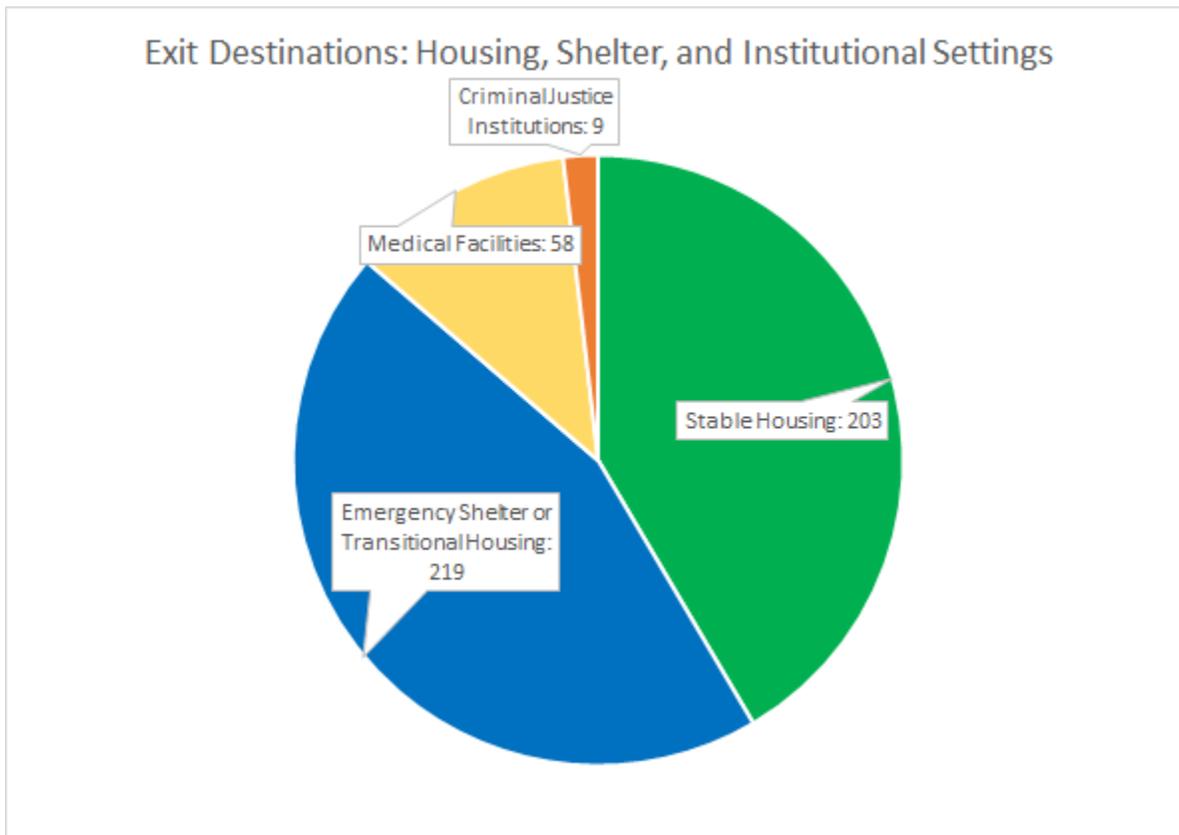
*Our COVID-19 response remains focused on permanent solutions as we work toward our ambitious goal of rapidly moving most households from the COVID-19 shelters into permanent housing with support for ongoing stability or with interim housing and shelters as an alternative when that is not possible.*

Sacramento's COVID-19 shelters opened in April 2020. **A year into COVID-19 sheltering**, and eight months since the focus of sheltering shifted to rehousing shelter guests, hundreds of households have moved into housing so far, and the Response and Rehousing Team has continued to learn valuable lessons to help inform efforts to house as many more shelter guests as possible before the COVID-19 shelter program ends.

**Below is information about the destinations of COVID-19 shelter guests who have exited over the course of the past year, as well as progress toward housing for those guests who remain in the shelter program.** Future progress reports will include updated exit and housing progress data.

## Exits to Housing, Shelter, and Institutional Settings

As of April 19, 2021, 976 total individuals have exited the COVID-19 shelters since they opened in April 2020. Of those, **489 individuals (50%) have exited to the following known destinations: stable housing;<sup>1</sup> temporary housing or shelter destinations** such as emergency shelter or transitional housing programs; **hospitals or other medical facilities** (including psychiatric facilities or substance use treatment or detox facilities); or criminal **justice institutions**.



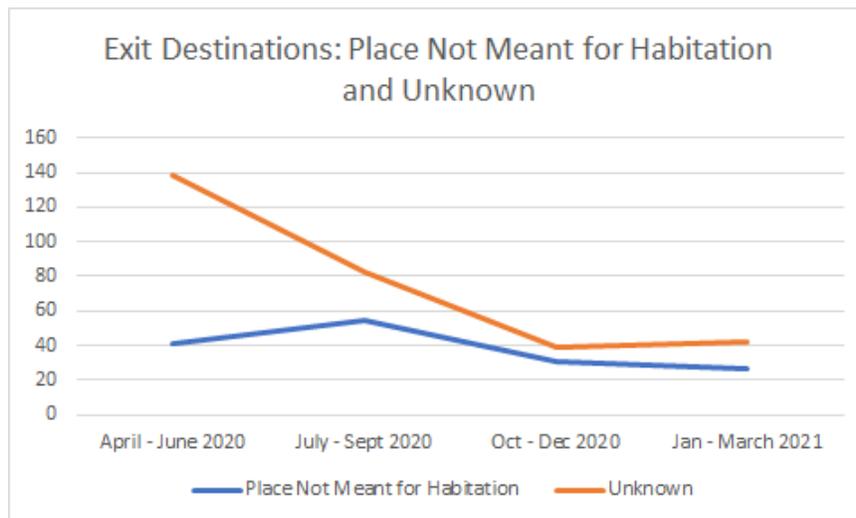
## Exits to Unknown Destinations or Places Not Meant for Habitation

Of the 976 total individuals who have exited the COVID-19 shelters since they opened in April 2020, 156 have exited to places not meant for habitation and 331 have exited to unknown destinations. There are a few important things to note about those individuals and exits:

**Exits to places not meant for habitation and unknown destinations decreased significantly after the sheltering program's initial few months.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Since this April 19th data pull, an additional 30+ individuals have exited the COVID-19 shelters into stable housing.

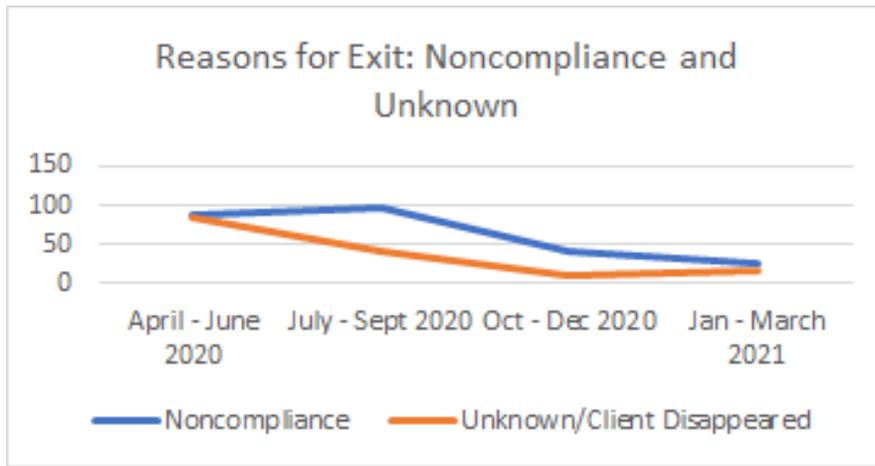


- **54% of those who have exited to places not meant for habitation did so during the first five months of shelter operations, before the COVID-19 Response Rehousing effort launched.** The monthly average of exits to places not meant for habitation since the rehousing effort began in September 2020 is nearly half what it was before the rehousing effort began.
- **Over 40% of those who exited to unknown destinations did so during the first three months of shelter operations:** April-June 2020. From July 2020 onward, the monthly average of exits to unknown destinations is less than half what it was during those initial three months.

The primary reasons for individuals exiting to unknown locations or places not meant for habitation have been clients disappearing without communicating they were leaving, and noncompliance<sup>2</sup> (i.e., unwillingness to follow shelter program or motel rules, criminal activity, or destruction of property). **Both non-compliance and clients exiting without indicating their reasons for leaving have decreased significantly over time, especially since rehousing efforts launched in September 2020.**

---

<sup>2</sup> The COVID-19 shelter program seeks to be as low barrier as possible, and, with the exception of acts of violence, no behavior or activity, even if it violates hotel or program rules, results in an immediate exit. Exits for non-violent noncompliance are a last resort. Shelter guests are only exited for noncompliance after routine, repeated breaking of rules (e.g., smoking in motel rooms, harassing other guests, inviting outside guests who are disruptive) and only after repeated conversations with the guest, reminders of rules, and attempts at problem-solving to prevent the issue from recurring.



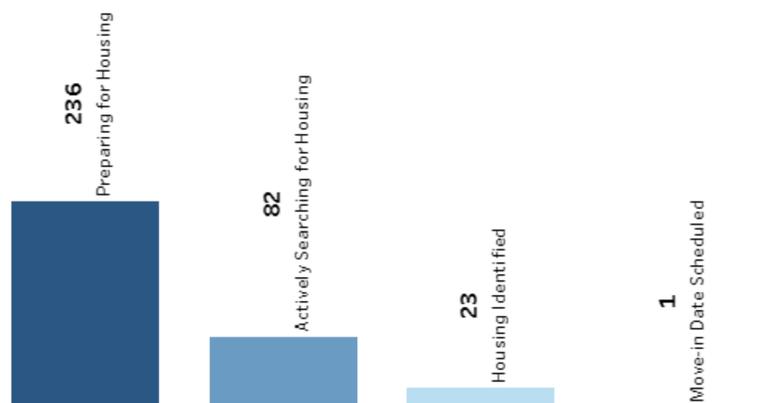
- **32% of those who have exited to unknown destinations** either disappeared or did not provide a reason for exiting, **the vast majority of whom (70%) left during the initial three months** of the sheltering program.
- **54% of the total exits to either unknown destinations or places not meant for habitation have resulted from non-compliance by the shelter guest and a third of all exits resulting from non-compliance occurred during the initial three months of the sheltering program.**

In addition to the exits described above, a total of 16 COVID-19 shelter guests have passed away since April 2020.

### Current Shelter Guests

Shelter guests continue to work with re-housing programs or onsite navigators to identify and progress along pathways to permanent housing.

- **As of May 6, 2021, there are 342 individuals in the COVID-19 shelters**, all of whom are either connected to a rehousing program or have on-site support from a rehousing navigator to provide assistance in preparing for housing and exploring housing options.
- **Of those 342 individuals, 82 are actively searching for housing, 23 have identified housing, and 1 has a move-in date scheduled.**



*“Preparing for Housing” includes critical steps such as collecting needed documentation or preparing other information necessary to establish eligibility for certain housing programs and resources or to increase the likelihood of successful applications for private market housing, among other things. Providers and navigators work directly with clients to support these activities.*

Support for re-housing providers working with clients in COVID-19 shelters continues to assist providers to accelerate and monitor progress toward housing, including:

- Ongoing, regular case conferencing by program
- Bi-weekly meetings of Program Leads and providers to share progress and challenges, as well as strategies and resources intended to help support guests as they move toward housing. Meeting topics have included presentations on:
  - SHRA’s Landlord Incentive Program
  - Goodwill’s job training program
  - Permanent Supportive Housing: Eligibility and Required Documentation
  - Sacramento County In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)
  - Higher Level Behavioral Health Care options
  - Rehousing tip and strategies from housing navigators for exploring and securing private market housing
  - Client engagement and relationship-building strategies

---

## *Isolation/Quarantine*

---

*As an emergency response to COVID-19, medically supported isolation care centers, and preventative quarantine care centers have been temporarily funded to provide safe places for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+, symptomatic or otherwise highly vulnerable.*

- **Medically supported isolation units remain available** at one of the COVID-19 shelters to provide a safe place for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+ to stay and receive medical supervision.
- Since the last of these reports, **the timeline for the continued operation of preventative quarantine care sites has been extended through August 2021.**

The total number of rooms available currently and the number of individuals/households served since April 8, 2020 through May 3, 2021 are as follows:

<p>Medically Supported Isolation Care Center</p>  <p>15 rooms available</p> <p>Total of 375 individuals/328 HH served thru 5/3/2021</p>	<p>Preventative Quarantine Care Center</p>  <p>357 rooms available</p> <p>Total of 1,356 individuals/1,115 HH served thru 5/3/2021</p>
--	---

*\*Total unduplicated individuals served since 4/8/20: 1,367.*

---

## ***COVID Vaccines and Testing***

---

### **Vaccine Planning and Distribution**

*County Public Health is coordinating vaccine distribution for persons experiencing homelessness and is utilizing the Johnson and Johnson single-dose and the Moderna 2-dose vaccine for vaccination efforts for persons experiencing homelessness.*

**As of May 3, 2021, a total of 1,412 people experiencing homelessness have received vaccination doses** by the Public Health Department Vaccination Partnership:

- 1,190 have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine
- 222 have received at least one dose of the Moderna vaccine

Public Health and SSF are working with partner volunteer organizations to identify people experiencing homelessness to act as trusted leaders within encampments and shelters to continue to carry the COVID-19 prevention and mitigation message, particularly around building vaccine confidence. Vaccine ambassador trainings are being held to build capacity with advocates, peers, and staff that work with people experiencing homelessness.

## Testing

*County Public Health in partnership with medical partners continue with robust COVID-19 testing at shelters, encampments and isolation/quarantine care centers with the goal of being able to do widespread testing to ensure the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness.*

**As of Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, a total of 6,907 COVID-19 tests had been administered to people experiencing homelessness** at shelters, encampments, quarantine care centers, and Loaves and Fishes, **57 of which returned positive results and 6,850 of which returned negative results.** Testing has continued in March and April and we anticipate having updated numbers to share in a future report.

---

### *Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors*

---

*This strategy is focused around providing coordinated support to people who are unsheltered to remain safely in place per CDC guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19.*

Since efforts began April 8th, County Department of Health Services (DHS) has installed 58 handwashing stations and 52 toilets in 40 locations; water has been regularly delivered to encampments throughout the County. Sanitation stations and water delivery will continue through June 2021. After June 30, jurisdictions may choose to continue services in their geographic area.