

HOUSING SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS AT-
RISK OF HOMELESSNESS, ESPECIALLY
THOSE WITH SOCIAL & MEDICAL NEEDS

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES HOME SAFE

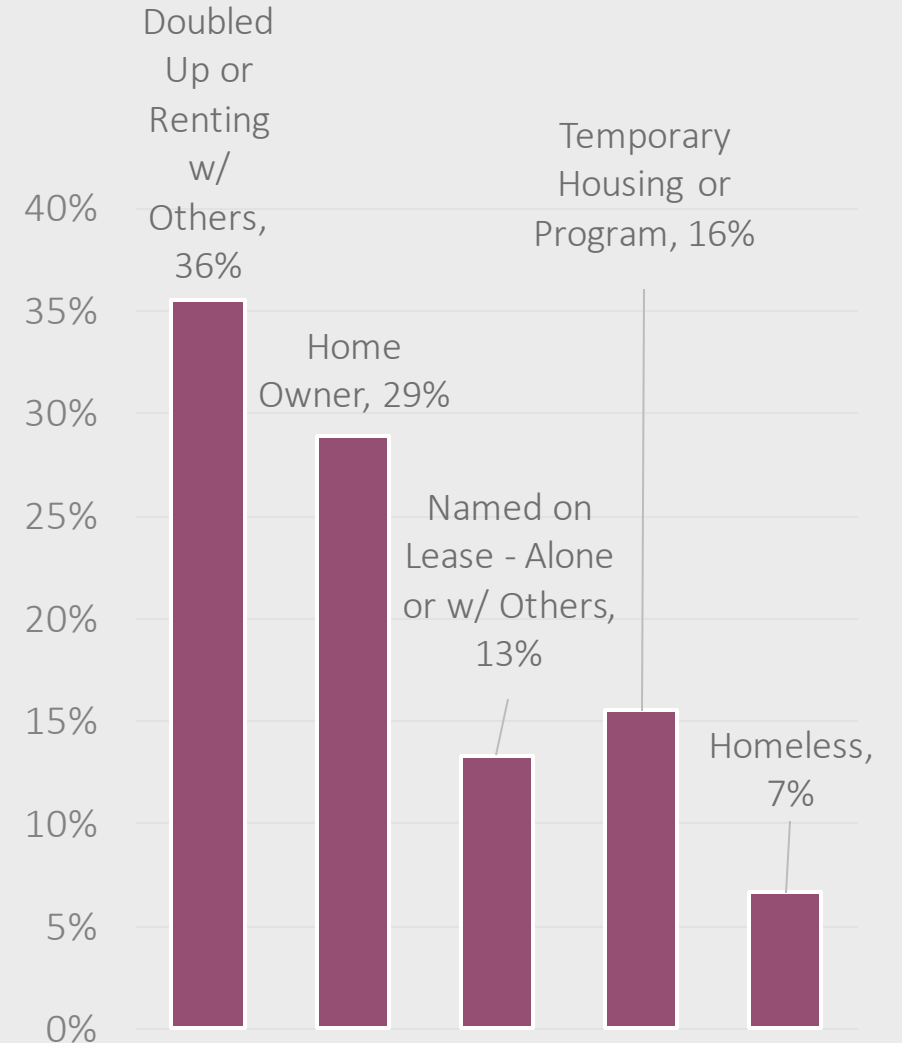
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Home Safe Participants, 2019 - 2022

- Locally, 142 clients served
- Average age of 71
- 52% identify as female
- 93% were **at-risk** of homelessness when referred to APS – **not already experiencing unsheltered homelessness**
- Self neglect: 68%; non-financial abuse by other: 50%, 23% financial abuse by other

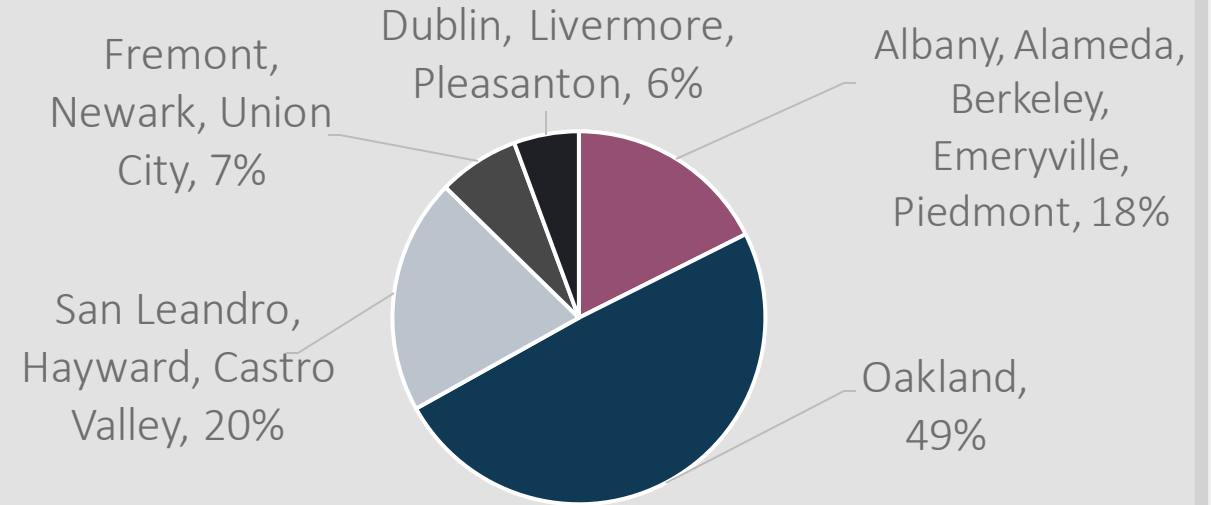
Living Arrangements when Referred to Home Safe



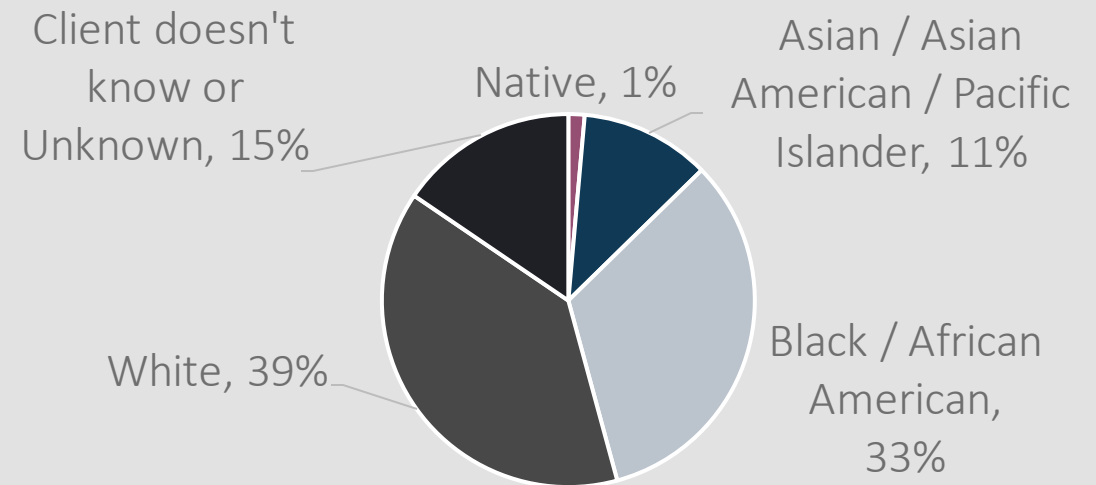
Participant Trends

- Serving clients in every community, reflecting inequities and diversity
- Most common interventions: Clean Out of Unsafe / Unhealthy living conditions, and Rental Assistance or Emergency Housing
- APS helps client move from being vulnerable or in crisis, to progressively more desirable states of being stable, safe, or thriving.

Participants' Locations (n=142)



Participants' Race (n=142)



Case Example: Recently Widowed with Unaffordable Rent

Juanita Perez is 58 years-old, with one adult daughter. Her husband recently died. She and her husband were living in an apartment, but the loss of his income means she can no longer cover rent. She has received an eviction notice from her landlord. Her daughter reached out to the county, which referred Juanita to Home Safe. The APS program has identified the housing risk during intake and screening, reached out to Juanita, and the Home Safe contractor is providing housing-related case management.

APS Home Safe staff refers her to get assistance with applying for public benefits. Juanita is not evicted but the housing subcontractor continues to work with her to locate cheaper housing and get other resources. Ultimately, Juanita needed to move in with her adult daughter. Her case is referred to the coordinated entry system, but she is not considered very high acuity.

At her six-month and twelve-month follow-ups, done by the Home Safe contractor, Juanita was stable, still residing with her daughter and looking for other options.

**Coordinated
Entry System**

Yes – after Home Safe Enrollment

**(Five)
Interventions**

Rent Back-pay,
External
Housing Navigation,
Relocation Assistance,
Enhanced
Case Management, Other
(Landlord Mediation),

(One) Referral

Assistance with Benefits

Home Safe Interventions by Service Provider

Interventions (WIC Div. 9 Pt. 3 Ch. 14, Sec. 15771)	APS	Legal Assistance for Seniors	Day Break	Felton
(A) An assessment of an individual’s housing needs, including a housing plan to assist the individual in meeting those needs, consistent with the service plan developed by APS	●	●	●	●
(B) Navigation or search assistance to recruit landlords and assist individuals in locating affordable or subsidized housing.	●		●	✘
(C) Enhanced case management , including motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care, to help the individual recover from elder abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.			●	●
(D) Housing-related financial assistance , including assistance with rental, security deposit, utility payments, and moving costs, and interim housing assistance while housing navigators are actively seeking permanent housing options.	●		●	✘
(E) Housing stabilization services , including ongoing landlord engagement, case management, public systems assistance, legal services, tenant education, eviction protection, credit repair assistance, life skills training, heavy cleaning, and conflict mediation with landlords, neighbors, and families.	●	● (Eviction Protection)	●	●
(F) If the individual requires supportive housing, referral to the local homeless continuum of care for long-term services promoting housing stability.	✘	●	✘	✘
(G) Referrals and coordination of services to access mental or behavioral health assistance , as necessary or appropriate.			●	●

● = existing capability

✘ = launching in 2023

If interested in referring an elder or vulnerable adult:

- Services are for the entire county – extending to every city, community, district, and homeless services region in Alameda County – and Housing First applies:
 - if needed, services can be used help get or keep someone housed, even as they are still moving through the APS Intake and Screening process, which can span days.
- Eligibility for APS hinges on multiple elements, including the right to self-determination:
 - APS must determine if the individual’s vulnerability is being exploited. A client must be experiencing a defined vulnerability and a resulting functional impairment, combined with an inability to protect one’s own interests in the face of an alleged protection issue.[°]
 - If a client with decision-making capacity chooses to be homeless as a lifestyle choice, and if they continue to obtain essentials (food, clothing, medical care) and manage their moneys, then allegations of self-neglect related to their lack of housing would be unfounded.
- Privacy protections for APS clients make the program seem mysterious, even to mandated reporters and service providers, and present challenges to the local coordinated entry, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and APS programs tasked with implementation and administration.

[°] Beginning in 2022, disability and functional impairment include being admitted in-patient in a hospital or acute care setting; APS Expansion under AB 135 (2021).

Thank you!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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Alameda County Social Services Agency

