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Women in Progress: The curated multimedia web portal that aids unhoused women and children to better healthcare, shelters, and legal aid through interactive maps

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Master's project

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Fall 2022

Jeremy Rue, Koci Hernandez

Graduate School of Journalism

Women in Progress: The curated multimedia web portal that aides unhoused women and children to better healthcare, shelters, legal aid through interactive maps

Abstract

Women in progress is a platform that serves to aid women in low-income housing, homeless or unsheltered to services, aid and free programs in the bay area for them to thrive and find safety and success. The platform will serve as a directory for female and non-binary people to find safe spaces and information on where to go and seek whatever they are looking for. The website will firstly heavily focus on pre and post natal healthcare for women in the Bay Area who do not have the resources to have safe reproductive healthcare, and direct them to centers and doctors that are willing to help them without any form of financial struggle on the patients part. There are a lot of factors that don't allow women to take care of their reproductive health, one of them being immigration fear. Many women that do not have a legal representative fear for their immigration stance and job safety when looking for government funded programs that do exist to help them and their health. Because of this, many shelters in the area have specific educational programs. The Women's health center in Berkeley shut down in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and lack of funds. Because homelessness within women and lack of resources and safety intertwine in public discourse, it is important to create a space where females and non-binary people can thrive and build correct wellbeing for themselves and their communities. Through digital inclusivity and looking into ways to create equal technological opportunities, WIP hopes to bring more information and education on all the topics aforementioned.

Women in Progress in the sphere of multimedia will serve as a platform that will work on the many mediums available to showcase the living situation for many unsheltered people in Berkeley, and the impact the shelters have had on many lives. Through audio, video, articles and interactive maps, WIP will explore all the different ways it is possible to tell a story and convey agency. Agency through information, digital inclusivity, and resources from the Bay Area communities.

Homelessness, Unsheltered people in the Bay Area Data

Between 2009 and 2012, Alameda County, where Berkeley is located, there was a 22% increase in homelessness.

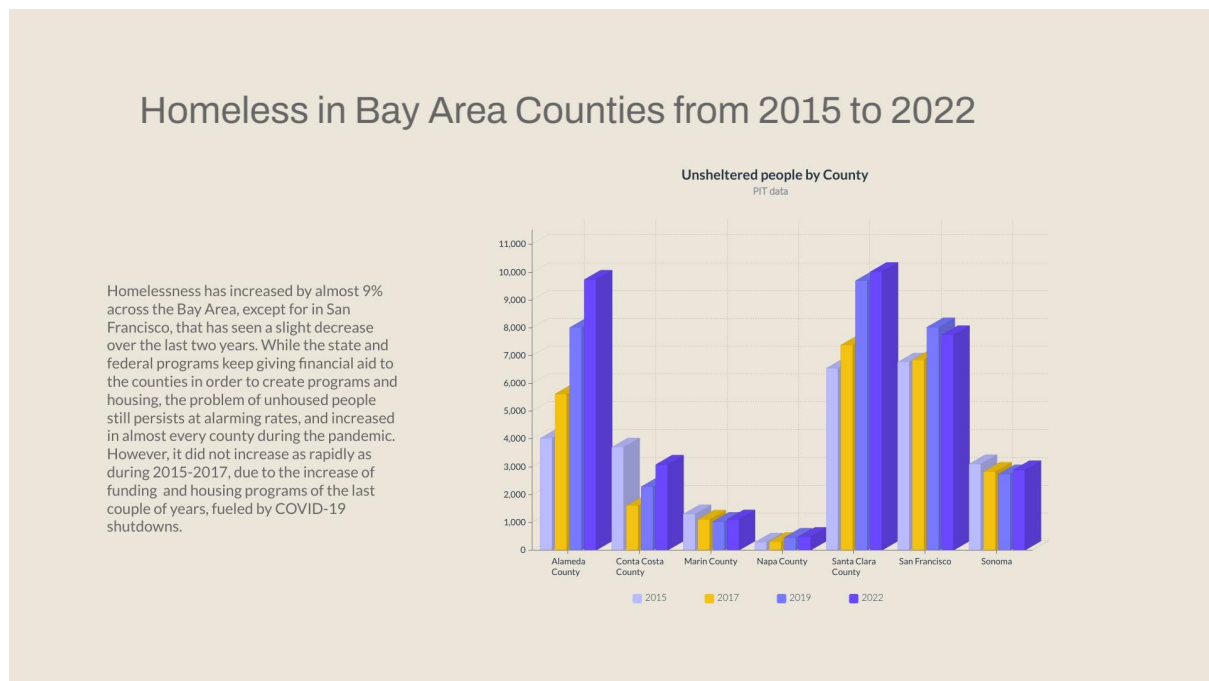
The way this research is constructed is through PIT (point in time). The US department of Housing and Urban Development requires that the cities that receive federal funding for services provided to homeless communities conduct research on the levels of homelessness once every two years. The PIT count of San Francisco has been held in February 2022.

Here is some of the data gathered:

According to Sf gov.com, and under the PIT count, 7754 people are experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Of those people over 3,300 stay in shelters.

These are some of the many reasons why recent electoral debate had as a main focus homeless shelters and housing. There are two, mostly distinct views on the problem: while

some view housing the unsheltered beneficial, others believe the housing market and neighborhood value and safety will decrease in the area surrounding such housing infrastructures, and if they were to happen, more security and safekeeping should be ensued and paid for by the government. Definitely a hot button issue, mayors and council members across the state had various opinions depending on the political party- but there is so much work still to be done.



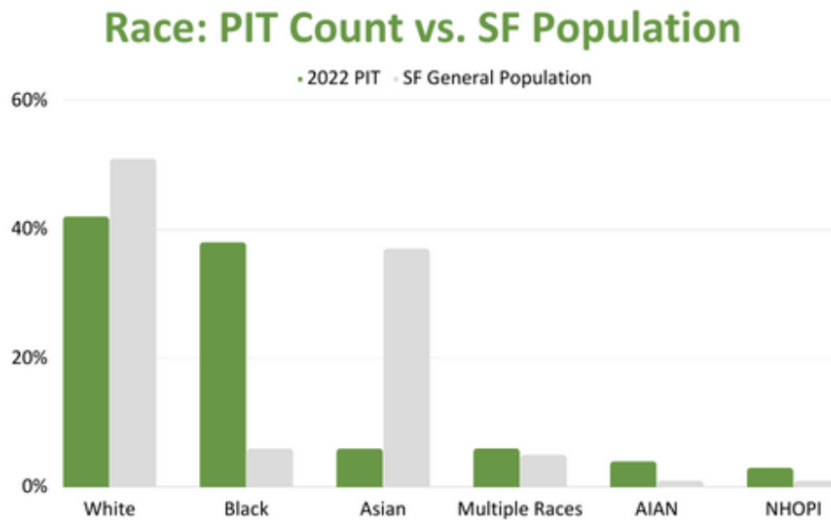
Homelessness and gender

The data regarding gender and race is a large part of the discourse surrounding homelessness, especially when marginalized groups and women are left to violence and abuse on the streets. In a recent study on homelessness and women in the Bay Area by the National Resource Center on Domestic violence, 92% of women experience violence within being unsheltered. During the pandemic, many state and federal programs funded housing for many unsheltered people. This aided to a heavy decrease in unsheltered homelessness. According to PIT data, in 2022, the people in shelters in San Francisco are 18% more than in 2019. The rise corresponds to a 24% increase in available shelter beds. However, this is largely due to the pandemic effort from the government to create available housing. But now that the pandemic aid is over, many fear housing problems and subsequent lack of resources and aid will increase again.

Homelessness and Race

When it comes to homelessness and race, as in so many parts of American life, factors like race, religion and ethnicity determine the probability of disadvantages in housing and being unsheltered. While numerically the largest amount of homeless people are white, historically, less access to healthcare, higher incarceration rates, lower income and higher unemployment rates have led people of color to be more likely to experience being homeless. Looking at PIT data on Race and Ethnicity in San Francisco, while White people are underrepresented in homelessness (where there are more white people in the Sf general population and housed than homeless), Black, African American, Native American, African and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander people are in fact over represented, as they

constitute 38% of the total homeless population, compared to their part in the general population, at 6%.



AIAN = American Indian or Alaska Native | NHOPI = Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

The website

womeninprogressbayarea.com

- Prenatal Healthcare
- Directory of Healthcare practitioners
- Shelters for women-specific services
- Shelters for prenatal healthcare services
- Motherhood funding programs

Prenatal healthcare directory

1. [Access Reproductive Justice Helpine California](#)
 - Public insurance programs (Medi Cal)
 - They can refer you to organizations that can help with other issues such as Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Drug Addiction, Homelessness, Child Care and Job Discrimination
 - They provide funding towards abortions, transportation, lodging assistance, child care and meal money
 - Peer Counseling

- Advocacy

These services are for:

Anyone who is traveling to California or lives in California. Age, income, gender, insurance or immigration status does not matter.

They also have a hotline for Spanish speakers. Additional languages are available with interpreters.

Call:

In English 1-800-376-4636

En Español 1-888-442-2237

2. Sutter Health, San Francisco CA (CPMC pacific heights)
Sutter Health Clinic is located in San Francisco, and it is a Health center as well as hospital. This is the biggest Sutter Health center in the Bay Area, and provides general health check ups as well as reproductive healthcare screenings and care. While some treatments can be costly, Sutter Health has a MediCal center within its building, located on the 2nd floor, through which your MediCal program gives you access to certain screenings, exams and consultations.
If you don't have Medical, Sutter Health also offers [e-classes](#) for pre and post partum reproductive education and health on their website, free of charge.
3. Women's Drop in Center Berkeley
Services include: Hot meals, groceries, psychological and legal support, personal hygiene products and diapers. By appointment only, so call before hand to schedule an appointment. Open from 2-4 pm. If additional support is needed, they provide housing facilities across the bay area, upon availability.
4. Immigration Center for Woman and Children
A non-profit organization that provides free and affordable immigration services. If you have a question or would like a free legal consultation on your immigration status and your child's immigration status, the Immigration center can give you free counseling and even indicate pro-bono representation near you.
5. [Santa Clara Health Center, Santa Clara CA](#)
Part of the Sutter Health center hospitals, the Santa Clara center is the biggest center in the Santa Clara area for pre and post natal care specialized in Gynecology, Reproductive healthcare and Pediatric care, where women can seek advice, consultations and get check ups and exams if they are enrolled in Medical. If not, the center gives access to free e-classes.
6. [Mission Bernal's Women's clinic in San Jose, CA](#)
Part of Sutter Health Centers, Mission Bernal specializes in Gynecologists, Pre and Post partum care. Medical is accepted here. Additionally, they offer a free consultation during pregnancy to all California citizens. Call ahead for an appointment or visit them, walk ins are accepted.
7. East Bay Community Law Center

Legal services and policy advocacy for people in low-income financial situations and young law school students willing to learn and educate. They offer free legal counseling and law training for students.

8. [Berkeley Free Clinic](#)

A community focused clinic that gives people access to healthcare information, resources and tools to educate ourselves to better health and for any question or concern. It is a non profit organization and the system is a do-it-yourself. Because of COVID-19 prevention, walk ins are a little more restricted. It is better to call the free number to get virtual counseling or book an appointment. Healthcare services include:

- TB Tests
- UTI testing and treatment
- Peer counseling
- STI screenings and treatment
- Healthcare insurance referrals and information
- Dental and eye check ups

9. Women's building, San Francisco CA

Community Center dedicated women's education, arts and legal consultation as long as general information. Walk ins are accepted, and it is a free space with lots of resources for women and children.

INSERT VIDEO

Prenatal Healthcare tools and healthcare in the Bay Area-

What is Medical?

Medical is the Medicaid program of California. It gives access to people with financial low incomes to medical and dental health care.

People who are eligible-

People under the age of 21

People over the age of 65

Pregnant

HIV patients

Us Citizen, Legal Alien,

In a nursing or immediate care home

Blind or disabled

Additionally, if you are in one of these programs, you are eligible for Medical.

If you still aren't sure whether you can get Medical or not, you can use this [Medical calculator](#).

Where do we go Berkeley, CA

Where do we go offers unsheltered people sleeping bags, tents, sleepwear and stoves and are open everyday.

Legal Aid

Bay Area Legal Aid, San Jose, CA

Legal consultation center that provides Pro-Bono representation, along with free legal services for people in low-income households or in various different departments of labor.

Where do we go Berkeley, CA

Where do we go is a non profit homeless advocacy group that not only offers practical resources to unsheltered people, but also free legal consultations and free legal work referrals.

Immigration Center for Women and Children

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East Bay community Law Center

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La Casa de las Madres

Center dedicated to Domestic Violence and women in situations of psychological and financial distress. It is a shelter for women and children, with free counseling and legal referrals.

Shelters for women

1. Oakland Elizabeth House

By appointment only, this is a transitional housing center for women who are pregnant or have children. They offer free counseling on housing options too. Please call to set up an appointment.

2. YEAH!

Youth Engagement Advocacy in Housing is an emergency shelter housing project for the youth. They provide housing to young people in low income financial distress. Walk ins are welcome.

3. La Casa de las Madres

A shelter for women and children since 1976, La casa de las madres offers safety to mothers and women with low income financial situations, victims of abuse and domestic violence and aids women with counseling, sheltering and food. Their hotline is operated on a 24 hour schedule for any questions.

4. [Life Moves, San Mateo](#)

Life Moves is a transitional family housing center that accommodates women, children and fathers and gives access to tools and resources for

5. A Friendly Manor, Oakland

Day drop in center that offers women hot meals, laundry service, free undergarments and a place to rest and feel safe. They also offer transitional housing programs for seniors and women above the age of 55.

6. [Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond](#) CA

Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond CA

One of the biggest Missions in the Bay Area, the Bay Area rescue mission offers shelter, food, care and transitional housing, as well as discipleship to more than 300 unhoused people each day. They also have a food pantry, and have a community outreach program as well as a life transformation program. It is also easy to volunteer through their website, just create an account and send your COVID-19 vaccine attestation.

7. Dorothy Day House, Berkeley
House shelter providing housing, food and general care to those in need. A staple of the Berkeley area, been open since 29 years, it hosts around 50 people per day. For men and women. Drop ins are welcome.
8. St. Vincent the Paul Society, Oakland
Housing shelter for women and children, with clean housing and fresh, gourmet meals. They serve over 50 people a day. Be sure to get there as early as possible.

Bibliography

<https://hsh.sfgov.org/get-involved/2022-pit-count/>
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11914346/more-people-became-unhoused-across-the-bay-area-over-last-3-years-except-in-sf>
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<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/>
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<https://www.berkeleyfreeclinic.org/>
https://covenanthousecalifornia.org/yeah-shelter/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAvqGcBhCJARIsAFQ5ke4F7Vjl_h1u6O6lGckWnRz11G1fCtbIk3DWrtB-tuJGKi8JrqpDn2caAq0wEALw_wcB
<https://www.bayarearescue.org/>

Anissa shares her story

“Some days, I was hoping I wouldn’t wake up. Then God led me here.”

Anissa grew up in Oakland during the 1980’s, and her childhood brings tears to her eyes as she recalls the happiness and care-free life she lead. “My mom was always so careful with me, she taught me everything there was to know about being strong.” Growing up in Oakland at the time wasn’t easy, but her and her mom lived surrounded by a connected community, where their struggles were everybody’s struggles. “At the time, the sense of solidarity made us feel safe everywhere we went, no matter the neighborhood or environment.”

This all came to halt for her when in 1992 her mother passed away after getting cancer, a moment that changed her life significantly. "I remember when my mom started getting sick, and it came over her like a tsunami. She wasn't getting better, and she feared for me and what I would have done with my life after her inevitable passing." Anissa's mother had stage 4 cancer at the lymphnodes, which then expanded into her blood, becoming leukemia. She had to endure 4 cycles of chemotherapy and some radiotherapy, but her body wasn't strong enough to finish the last cycle.

While her mother's desires were for her to finish college, because of the extreme financial burden of the therapies, she felt she needed to help her mother and immediately dropped out to find a job. While her job at the supermarket didn't help sufficiently economically speaking, it was helping pay the increasing housing bills and some of her mother's medical bills. When her mother passed, she was left with debt and a mortgage to pay off. "I cannot even begin to describe my grieving process, and all the financial troubles. Before I could even rest and truly get in a healing space, I was hooked on drugs. I thought it was the only way to cope- numb myself of the pain of losing my mother and possibly lose my house. I didn't have a degree or a future, I felt like it was the only easy choice."

She then had to deal with a pregnancy, which led to even more difficult health problems. When she lost her house, she turned to her faith and knocked on every door of every person who could help her. "At the time, there were only a couple of shelters, and people looked at unhoused women with children as shameless and disgusting individuals. There was so much hate compared to now. I tried every friend- after a while, I was seen as a burden. I understand living in other people's homes is not ideal, but what was I supposed to do? The drugs had driven me to hate myself and my son, who was 4 when we became officially homeless." When she found out about the Women's building, she finally found peace.

"I prayed every night for me and my son's safety. One morning, I stumbled across this community and I never looked back."

Anissa has been part of the Women's Building community in San Francisco for over 15 years now, and is one of the founding members of the educational and arts collectives within the building. "I came here with nothing and built my purpose, gave my life and other people's lives meaning by presence and hard work. I'm very proud of who I am today." Her son has just graduated college and is ready to start his career in engineering, and we couldn't be more happy to have listened to her story and were able to share it.

Video projects: <https://vimeo.com/777253162>

<https://vimeo.com/777284160>

The Website homepage

Welcome Edit site Customize 1 New Caching Insights WPForms Need help? Site Status: Live Howdy, carolina_galbiati

WELCOME **INTERACTIVE MAP**

Women in Progress

A WEBSITE DEDICATED TO THE UNHOUSED WOMEN OF THE BAY AREA A CURATED GUIDE TO HEALTH, SHELTER AND LEGAL SAFETY

READ INSPIRING STORIES HERE

The Women's Building, San Francisco

Welcome to The Women's Building_1.mov
Th Carolina Galbiati's Building
3543 18th Street #8
01:09

The Women Drop-In Center in Berkeley, CA

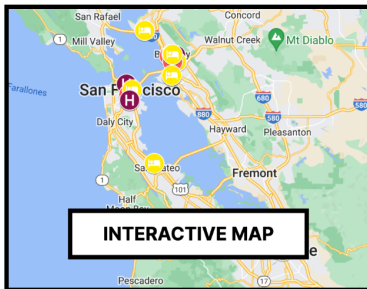
Women's Daytime Drop-in Berkeley_2
Carolina Galbiati
Tonva 03:48

**HAPPY PLACES...
get ready!**
Find legal aid, shelters, day care and reproductive healthcare centers – keep scrolling!

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But now that the pandemic aid is over, many fear housing problems and subsequent lack of resources and aid will increase again.

SEE MORE DATA



ALL ARTICLES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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find programs
find legal aid
resources and
tools

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progress
programs
data
maps

latest post

Data research on Homelessness in the Bay Area

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Pre and Post Partum Healthcare Directory

All of the Resources for mothers and mothers-to-be in the Bay Area

Prenatal healthcare directory- CLICK ON THE TITLE TO ACCESS WEBSITE

1. [Access Reproductive Justice Helpine California](#)

- Public insurance programs (Medi-Cal) questions

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- Public insurance programs (Medi-Cal) questions
- They can refer you to organizations that can help with other issues such as Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Drug Addiction, Homelessness, Child Care, and Job Discrimination
- They provide funding for abortions, transportation, lodging assistance, child care, and meal money
- Peer Counseling
- Advocacy

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3. Women's Drop-in Center Berkeley

Site Status: Live

Howdy, carolina_galbiati



Services include Hot meals, groceries, psychological and legal support, personal hygiene products, and diapers. By appointment only, so call beforehand to schedule an appointment. Open from 2-4 pm. If additional support is needed, they provide housing facilities across the bay area, upon availability.

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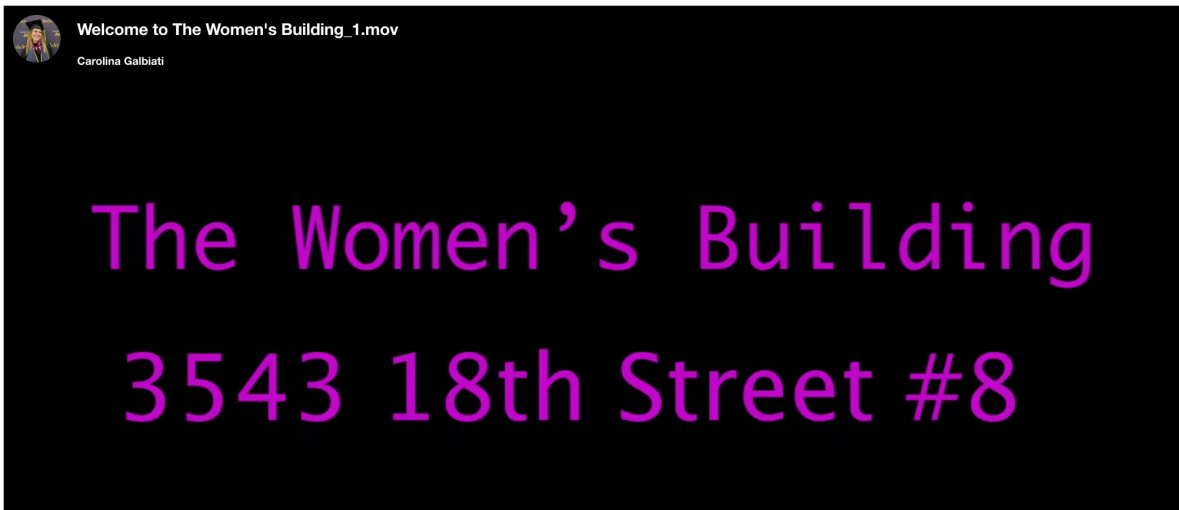
STI screenings and treatment

Healthcare insurance referrals and information

Dental and eye checkups

9. Women's Building, San Francisco, CA

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The Women's building is a community Center dedicated to women's education, arts, and legal consultation as long as general information and legal referrals. Walk-ins are accepted, and it is a free space with lots of resources for women and children. Within the center, women can find safety and solidarity with lots of different programs to choose from. Their drop-in hours are from 10 am until 4 pm, every day. Help over the phone is available until 4 pm.

ALL OF THESE ADDRESSES, with descriptions, geotags, and contact sheets are found in the interactive map on our website. See other posts for Legal Aid and Shelters around you.

Prenatal Healthcare tools and healthcare in the Bay Area-

What is MediCal?

Medical is the Medicaid program of California. It gives access to people with financial low incomes to medical and dental health care.

Legal Aid and Shelter Information

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Where do we go Berkeley, CA

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Visit our interactive map for locations or click the title of each paragraph for website

Data research on Homelessness in the Bay Area

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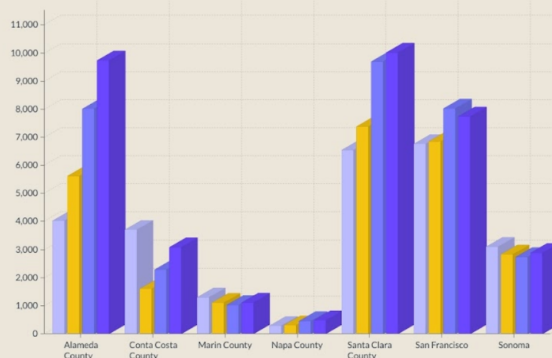
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Homeless in Bay Area Counties from 2015 to 2022

Unsheltered people by County
PIT data



Homelessness has increased by almost 9% across the Bay Area, except for in San Francisco, that has seen a slight decrease over the last two years. While the state and federal programs keep giving financial aid to the counties in order to create programs and housing, the problem of unhoused people still persists at alarming rates, and increased in almost every county during the pandemic. However, it did not increase as rapidly as during 2015-2017, due to the increase of funding and housing programs of the last couple of years, fueled by COVID-19 shutdowns.

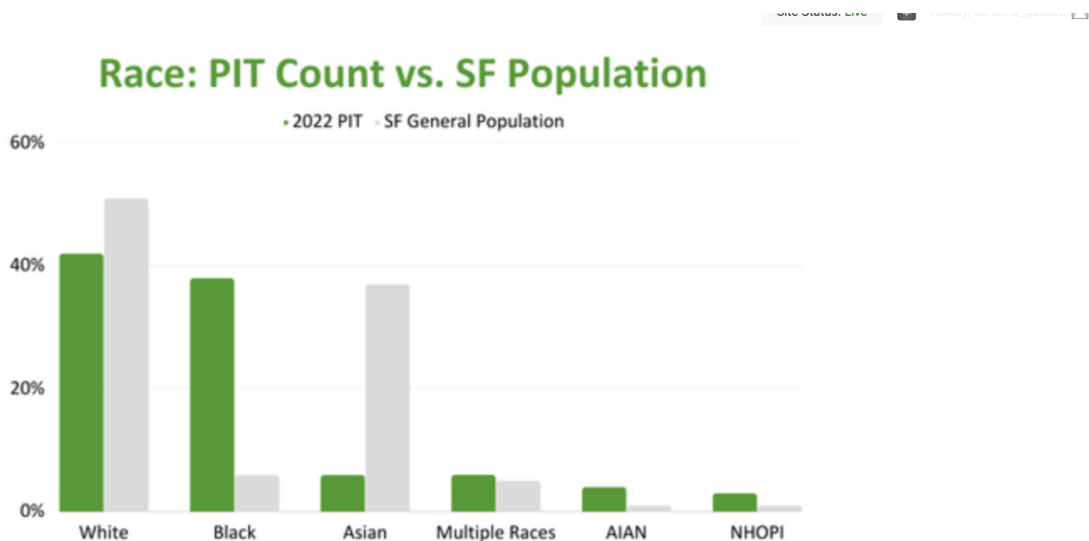
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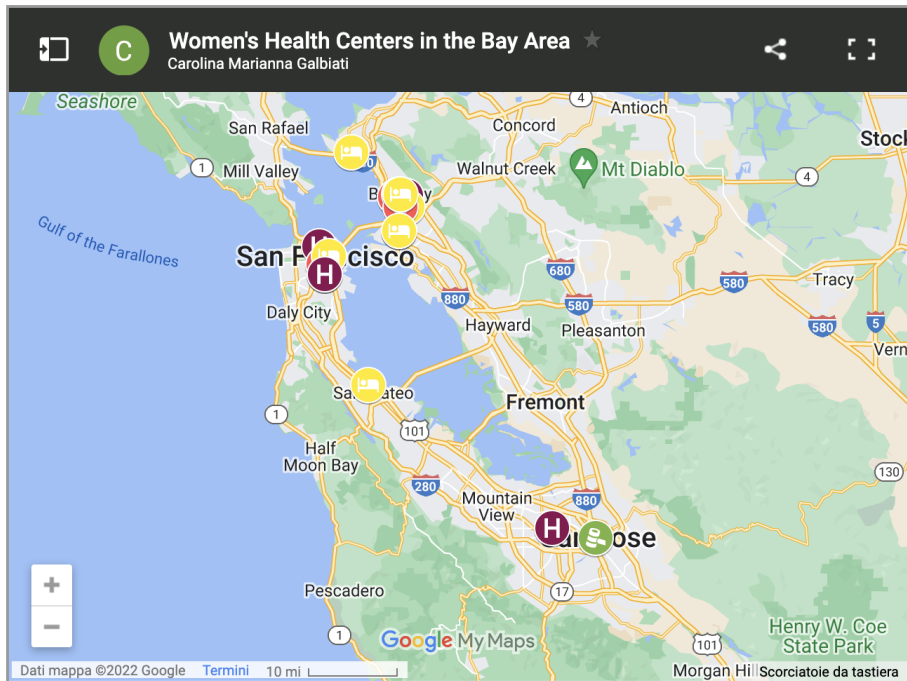
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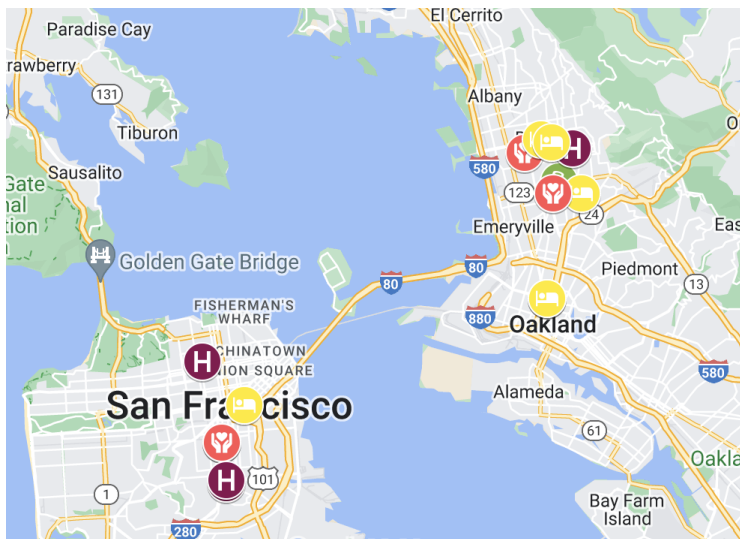
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The best care for women and children in the bay area



Webpage 4: The Interactive Map



Legend:

H- Hospitals and Healthcare

Yellow Bed- Best women and children's shelters

Green- Legal Aid and Immigration centers for women and children

Pink- Day Care and Female care centers