SANTA CLARA COUNTY

2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to assessment needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses.

HOUSING INSTABILITY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (HIRD)

Vice President: Peter Connery

Department Director: Samantha Green

Project Lead: John Connery

Department Coordinator: Christina Connery

Research Analysts: Connie Chu, Marissa Jaross, Paige Combs, Jenna Gallant, Audra Eads, Heather Hazen

Graphic Design and Layout: Michelle Luedtke and Molly Stene

LOCATIONS

Central Coast:
55 Penny Lane, Suite 101
Watsonville, CA 95076
tel 831-728-1356

Bay Area:
1871 The Alameda, Suite 180
San José, CA 95126
tel 408-247-8319

www.appliedsurveyresearch.org

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Acknowledgements

The 2017 Santa Clara County Census & Survey planning team would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who contributed to this project. The participation of community volunteers and partner agencies is critical to the success of the count. Hundreds of community volunteers, city and county employees, and local community-based organizations assisted with all aspects of the count, from the initial planning meetings, to the night of the count, to the publication of this report.

ASR would like to give special thanks to the individuals experiencing homelessness who acted as surveyors and guides during the count. Without their dedication and knowledge, the Santa Clara County Census and Survey would not be able to conduct these efforts. They provide access and knowledge about the community that is unobtainable without their support. These individuals took time from their day to participate in this effort and we owe them thanks.

Project Planning Committee

Chris Malcom, Erin Stanton, Leila Qureishi, Michelle Covert, Vanessa Beretta

Point-In-Time Jurisdictional Funders

City of Campbell
City of Cupertino
City of Gilroy
City of Los Altos
Town of Los Altos Hills
Town of Los Gatos
City of Milpitas
City of Monte Sereno
City of Morgan Hill
City of Mountain View
City of Palo Alto
City of San José
City of Saratoga
City of Santa Clara
City of Sunnyvale
County of Santa Clara

Other Acknowledgements

The following organizations were involved in the planning and data reporting process: Abode, Bill Wilson Center, Bitfocus, Destination:Home, City of San Jose, City of Sunnyvale, County Office of Supportive Housing, Diocese of San José, Gardner Family Health Network, HACSC, HomeFirst, Housing Choices Coalition, PATH, Sacred Heart Community Services, Santa Clara University, SCCOE, and St. Joseph's Family Center.

The following locations acted as deployment centers and we are very thankful for their participation and support during the count: Bill Wilson Drop-In Center, Emmanuel House, Salvation Army, Gilroy Compassion Center, City Team Ministries, Southside Community Center, West Valley Community Services, and Opportunity Health Center.

Introduction

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community, and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as people sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

The biennial Point-in-Time Census is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Continuums of Care report the findings of their local Point-in-Time Census in their annual funding application to HUD, which ultimately help the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Count data also help to inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

The Santa Clara County Continuum of Care (SCC CoC) worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey. ASR is a social research firm with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessment. ASR has partnered with the county since 2007, maintaining the same methodology and thus ensuring as much consistency as possible, from one year to the next.

The Homeless Census and Survey has two primary components: a point-in-time enumeration of unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness and a comprehensive survey sampling of people experiencing homelessness.

The 2017 census was a comprehensive community effort. With the support of approximately 132 individuals with lived experience of homelessness, 215 community volunteers, staff from various city and county departments, and law enforcement, the entire county was canvassed between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and noon on January 24 and 25, 2017. Because of the size of Santa Clara County, the count is spread over two days, with interstate 880 serving as the dividing line between day 1 and day 2. This resulted in a peer-informed visual count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families residing on the streets, in vehicles, makeshift shelters, encampments and other places not meant for human habitation. Shelters and facilities reported the number of homeless individuals and families who occupied their facilities on the night of January 24, 2017.

The SCC CoC also conducted a specialized count of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth under the age of 25 years old. This dedicated count is part of a nationwide effort, established and recommended by HUD, to improve our understanding of the scope of youth homelessness. Trained youth enumerators who are currently or recently have experienced

homelessness conducted the count in targeted areas where young people experiencing homelessness were known to congregate.[1] This is an important year for national data on young people experiencing homelessness, as HUD will use 2017 youth count results as a baseline for measuring progress toward ending youth homelessness by 2020.

In the weeks following the street count, an in-depth survey was administered to 587 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals. The survey gathered basic demographic details as well as information on service needs and utilization.

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in the Santa Clara CoC on two nights in January. Special attention is given to specific subpopulations, including chronically homeless individuals, veterans, families, unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and transition-age youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

To better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time, results from previous years (including 2013 and 2015) are provided where available and applicable.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the 2017 Santa Clara County Census and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held regular planning meetings with city and county officials. These officials were drawn from city and county departments with experience in issues facing the population experiencing homelessness and many had participated in past counts. These individuals comprised the 2017 Planning Committee, and were instrumental to ensuring the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2017 Planning Committee worked towards several important project goals:

- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds;
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population;
- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population since the 2015 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey, and to track progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions; and
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, unaccompanied children, transition-age youth, and those who are chronically homeless.

This report is intended to assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local, state, and federal government in gaining a better understanding of the population currently

[1] Significant deduplication efforts were made in 2017 to ensure unaccompanied children and youth were not captured in both the youth and general street count efforts. For more information on these efforts and the overall count methodology, please see Appendix 1.

experiencing homelessness, measuring the impact of current policies and programming, and planning for the future.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

In this study, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count is used. This definition includes individuals and families:

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement; or
- With a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

This definition does not include people living in unstable housing situations such as “couch surfing” or staying in motels or hotels.

Point-In-Time Census

The 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey included a complete enumeration of all unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons. The general street count was conducted on January 24 and 25, 2017 from approximately 5:30 a.m. to noon and covered all of the 1,307 square miles of Santa Clara County. The shelter count was conducted on the night of January 24, 2017, and included all individuals staying in: emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities for the homeless, and domestic violence shelters. The general street count and shelter count methodology were similar to those used in 2015, with some moderate improvements.

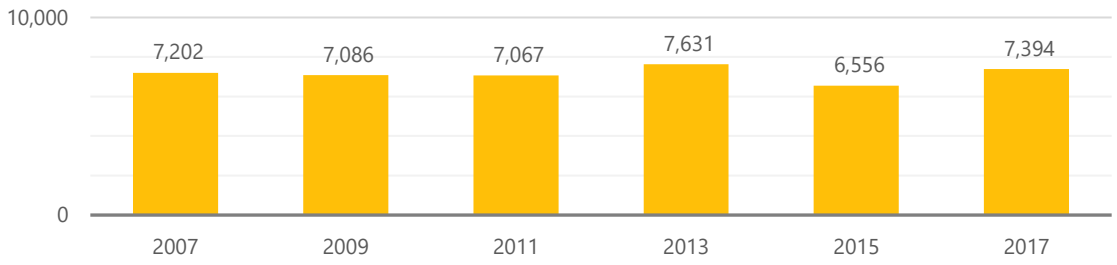
The methodology used for the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey is commonly described as a "blitz count" since it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. In Santa Clara County the result of this method is an observation based count of individuals and families who appear to be homeless. The count is then followed by an in-person representative survey used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the local homeless population. Information collected from the survey is used to fulfill HUD reporting requirements, and to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts.

In a continuing effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, Santa Clara County also conducted a dedicated youth count similar to the one conducted in 2015. The dedicated youth count methodology was improved in 2017 to better ensure that unaccompanied children and transition-age youth were not double counted in both the general street and youth, to involve youth input and knowledge from the very beginning, and to make sure that more area was covered. For more information regarding the dedicated youth count, deduplication, and project methodology, please see Appendix 1.

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey found a total of 7,394 individuals experiencing homelessness on the night January 24th and 25th. This represents an increase of 13% since 2015.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND, SANTA CLARA COUNTY

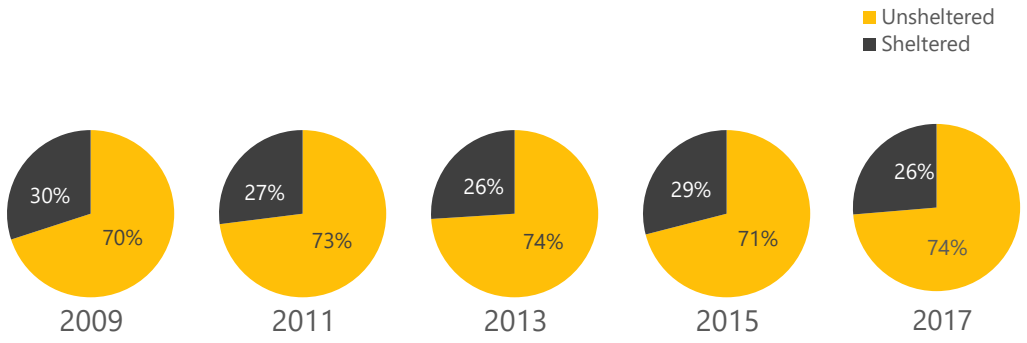


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2007-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS, SHELTERED VS. UNSHELTERED

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 3. TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	'15-'17 % CHANGE
Sheltered	2,103	1,898	1,957	1,929	1,946	1%
Unsheltered	4,983	5,169	5,674	4,627	5,448	17%
Total	**7,086**	**7,067**	**7,631**	**6,556**	**7,394**	**13%**

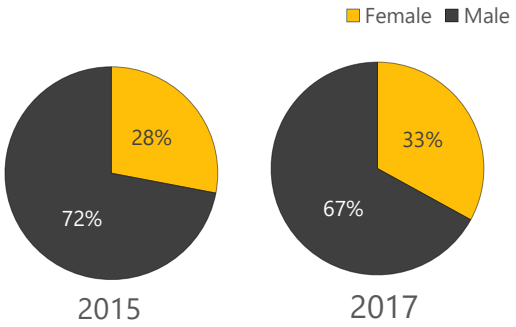
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2009-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY JURISDICTION AND SHELTER STATUS

	UNSHELTERED		SHELTERED		TOTAL		
JURISDICTION	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017	'15-'17 % CHANGE
Total Incorporated	4,204	5,259	1,817	1,775	6,021	7,034	17%
City of Campbell	53	94	0	0	53	94	77%
City of Cupertino	50	127	23	0	73	127	74%
City of Gilroy	179	295	260	427	439	722	64%
City of Los Altos	18	6	0	0	18	6	*
Town of Los Gatos	1	52	0	0	1	52	*
City of Milpitas	122	66	0	0	122	66	-46%
City of Monte Sereno	1	0	0	0	1	0	*
City of Morgan Hill	81	388	0	0	81	388	379%
City of Mountain View	271	411	5	5	276	416	51%
City of Palo Alto	203	256	16	20	219	276	26%
City of San José	2,810	3,231	1,253	1,119	4,063	4,350	7%
City of Santa Clara	150	199	227	73	377	272	-28%
City of Saratoga	10	12	0	0	10	12	*
City of Sunnyvale	255	122	33	131	288	253	-12%
Total Unincorporated	423	189	77	113	500	302	-40%
Confidential Locations	NA	NA	35	58	35	58	66%
Total	**4,627**	**5,448**	**1,929**	**1,946**	**6,556**	**7,394**	**13%**

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
**Note: Percentage change was not calculated for jurisdictions with less than 50 individuals.*

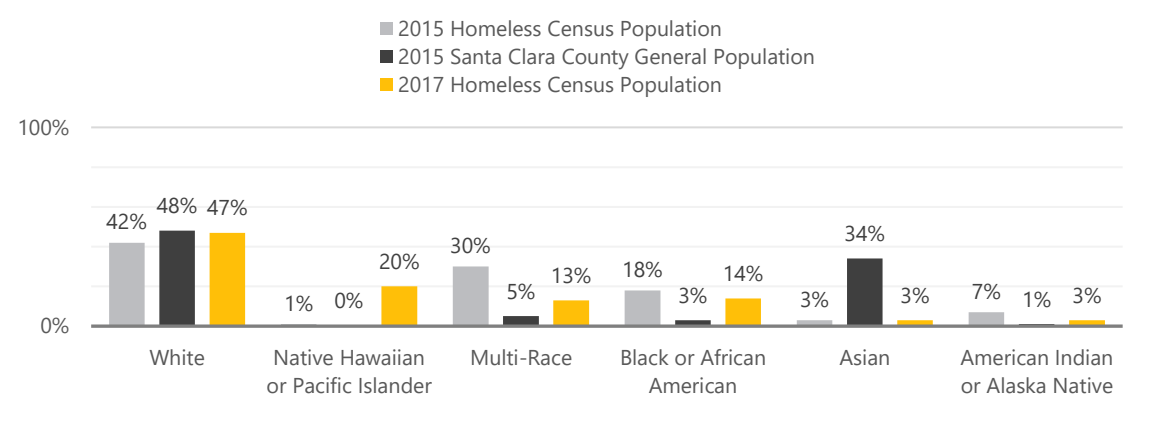
FIGURE 5. TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER



	2017			
	FEMALE	MALE	TRANS-GENDER	TOTAL
Sheltered				
Persons in family households	450	329	0	779
Persons in non-family households	282	881	4	1,167
Unsheltered				
Persons in family households	153	143	0	296
Persons in non-family households	1,519	3,620	13	5,152
Total	**2,404**	**4,973**	**17**	**7,394**

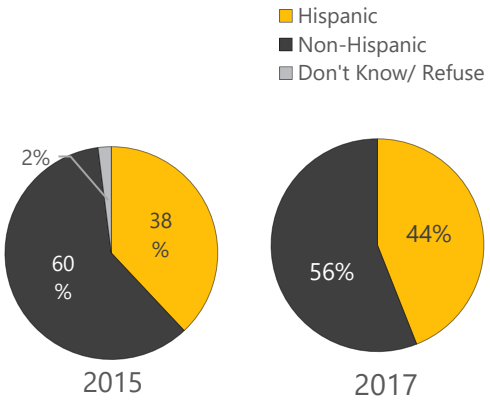
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 6. TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



2015 n=6,556; 2017 n= 7,394
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
U.S. Census Bureau. (January 2017). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 7. TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY HISPANIC/NON-HISPANIC



2015 N=6,556; 2017 N=7,394
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Homeless Survey Findings

The methodology used for the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census is described by HUD as a "blitz count and survey" in that it is conducted by numerous people over a very short period of time in an effort to avoid duplicate enumeration. The census is followed by a face-to-face representative survey. Importantly, the survey sample is then used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the county's homeless population and subpopulations for the purposes of HUD reporting and local service delivery and strategic planning. The results of the "blitz" census, combined with the survey, are used to provide estimates of the number of people affected by a given experience, while the survey provides the foundational data elements for the characteristics discussed in the following section of the report.

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey. Surveys were administered to a sample of homeless individuals in the weeks following the census. This effort resulted in 587 complete and unique surveys. Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 7,394 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 587 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Santa Clara County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be confident that the results would be within four percentage points of the current results.

In order to respect respondent privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values are intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara, respondents were asked basic demographic questions including age, gender, sexual orientation, and race/ethnicity.

AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Eight percent (8%) of survey respondents were under the age of 25 at the time of the survey. Twenty-three percent (23%) were between the ages of 25 and 40, 61% were between the ages of 41 and 60, and 9% were 61 years or older.

FIGURE 8. SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY AGE

Age Group	2015	2017
Less than 18 Years	1%	<1%
18-24 Years	12%	7%
25-30 Years	7%	7%
31-40 Years	20%	16%
41-50 Years	25%	27%
51-60 Years	26%	34%
61 Years or More	9%	9%

2015 n: 952; 2017 n: 587
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

GENDER AND AGE

Over one-third of survey respondents (34%) identified as female, 64% as male, and 1% as transgender. One percent did not identify as male, female, or transgender. Among the female population, 3% indicated that they were currently pregnant.

More than half (54%) of survey respondents indicated they were men and between the age of 25 and 60, followed by women in the same age group (28%).

FIGURE 9. GENDER BY AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

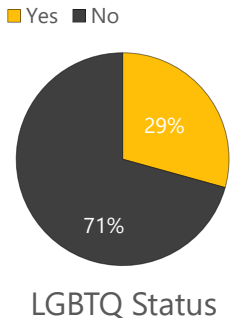
Gender	0-24	25-60	61 and Older
Male	5%	54%	5%
Female	2%	28%	3%
Transgender	1%	1%	0%
Other	1%	0%	0%

2017 n: 586
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Sexual Orientation

While there are limited data available on the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals experiencing homelessness, nationwide data available suggest LGBTQ individuals experience homelessness at higher rates, especially those under the age of 25. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of homeless survey respondents identified as LGBTQ in 2017. Of those respondents, 76% identified as bisexual, 9% lesbian, 7% gay, 7% transgender, and 5% identified with another gender or sexual orientation.

FIGURE 10. SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND LGBTQ IDENTITY



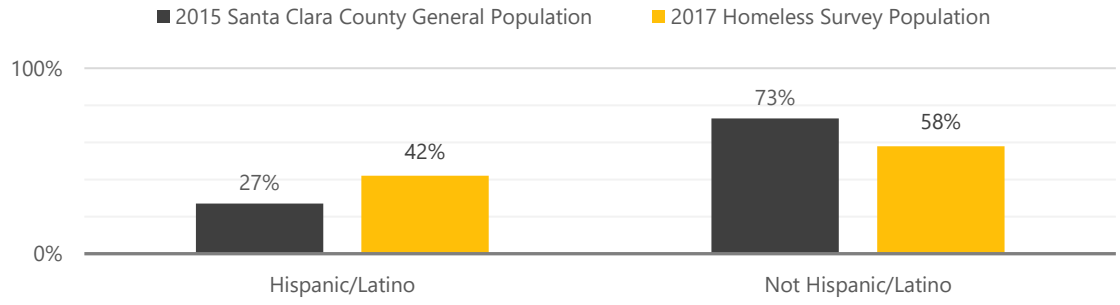
Breakout of Respondents Answering Yes	%	n
Gay	7%	12
Lesbian	9%	16
Bisexual	76%	130
Transgender	7%	12
Queer	1%	1
Other	5%	9

LGBTQ 2017 n= 587; Breakout n=172 respondents offering 180 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Race/Ethnicity

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity in two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. When asked if they identified as Hispanic or Latino, more than half (58%) of homeless survey respondents reported they did not identify as Hispanic or Latino. In comparison to the general population of Santa Clara County, a higher percentage of homeless respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino (42% compared to 27%).

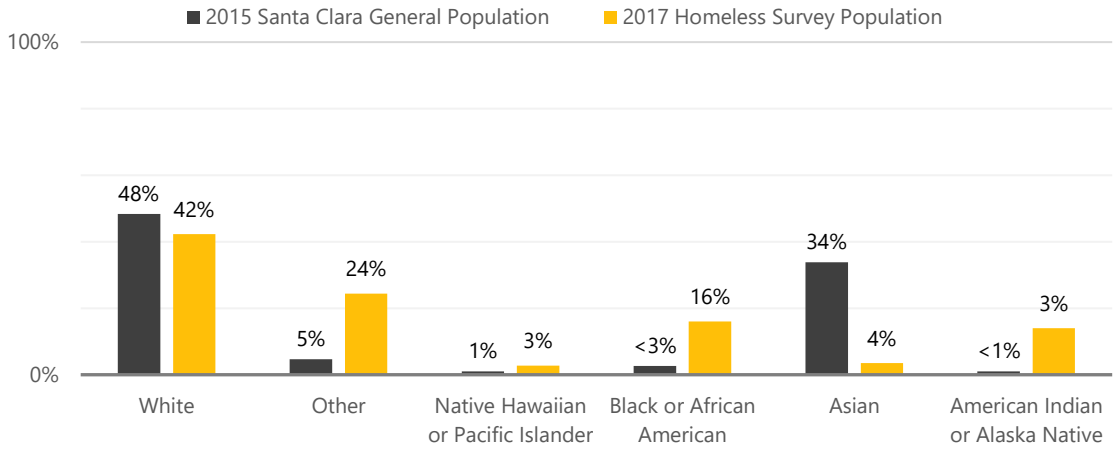
FIGURE 11. HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY



2017 n = 577
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
U.S. Count Bureau. (April 2015). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates. Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from https://factfinder.census.gov.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

In regards to racial identity, differences between the general population and those experiencing homelessness were more distinct. A much higher proportion of homeless survey respondents identified as Black or African-American (16% compared to 3%), whereas a very small percentage of the homeless survey population identified as Asian when compared to the general population (4% compared to 34%).

FIGURE 12. RACE



2017 n = 521
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
U.S. Count Bureau. (April 2015). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates. Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from https://factfinder.census.gov.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

History of Foster Care

It has been estimated that one in five former foster youth experience homelessness within four years of exiting the foster care system.[2] In the State of California, foster youth are now eligible to receive services beyond age 18. Transitional housing and supportive services for youth between 18-24 are provided with the hope that these additional supports, implemented in 2012, will assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from becoming homeless.

In 2017, 12% of respondents reported a history of foster care, lower than in 2015 (16%). The percentage of youth under the age of 25 who had been in foster care was much higher than adults over the age of 25 (45% compared to 10%).

FIGURE 13. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

2017 n: 566
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

[2] Fernandes, AL. (2007). Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics, Programs, and Emerging Issues. Congressional Research Services, January 2007, http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/general/detail/1451.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Where individuals lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have lived since impacts the way they seek services, as well as their ability to access support from friends or family. Previous circumstances can also point to gaps in the system of care, and reveal opportunities for systemic improvement and homeless prevention.

Survey respondents reported many different living accommodations prior to becoming homeless, although most lived in or around Santa Clara County with friends or family, or on their own in a home or apartment.

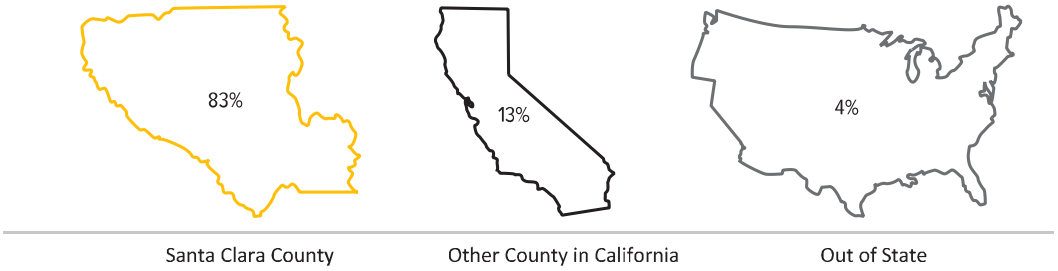
PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Knowing where individuals were living before they most recently lost their housing informs discussions regarding how local the homeless population is to the region. This information can also influence changes to available support systems if the Continuum of Care finds increasing numbers of individuals living locally before experiencing homelessness.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents reported living in Santa Clara County at the time they most recently became homeless, similar to 2015 (84%). Among these respondents, over half (61%) had lived in Santa Clara County for 10 or more years; five percent (5%) had lived in Santa Clara for less than one year.

Four percent (4%) of respondents reported living out of state at the time they lost their housing, and 13% reported living in another county in California.

FIGURE 14. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS



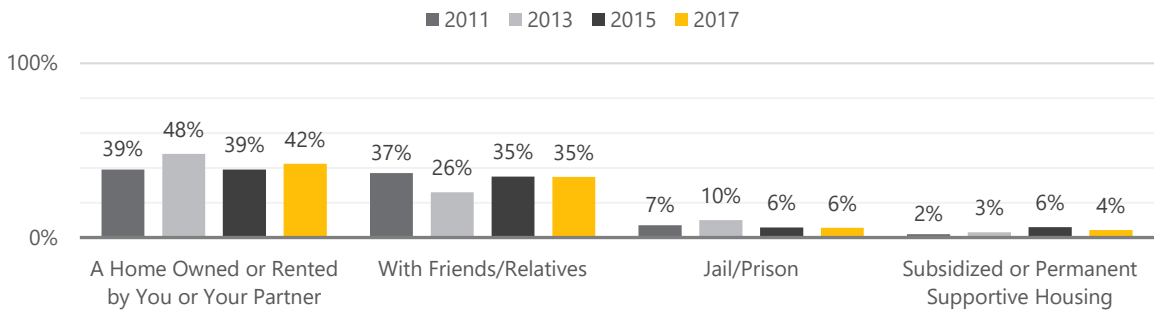
2017 n=580
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Prior Living Arrangements

Similar to previous place of residence, the type of living arrangements of individuals were in prior to experiencing homelessness provides a look into what types of homeless prevention services might be offered to help individuals maintain their housing.

Forty-two percent (42%) of survey respondents reported living in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner prior to becoming homeless, slightly higher than 2015 (39%). Thirty-five percent (35%) reported living with friends or relatives, similar to 2015. Six percent (6%) reported they were living jail or prison, and four percent (4%) were staying in a subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing unit. Three percent (3%) of respondents reported they were in a hospital or treatment facility immediately prior to becoming homeless.

FIGURE 15. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS



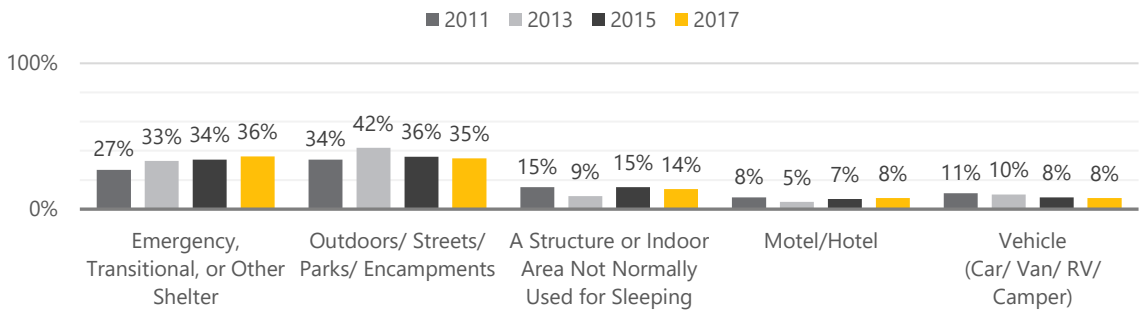
2011 n= 1,004; 2013 n= 811; 2015 n= 886; 2017 n= 575
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2011-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Current Living Arrangements

While basic information on where individuals were observed during the general street count effort is collected, survey respondents are also asked about their usual nighttime accommodations. Understanding the types of places individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts.

Thirty-six percent (36%) reported staying in a public shelter (emergency shelter, transitional housing facility, or an alternative shelter environment). Over one-third (35%) of survey respondents reported currently living outdoors, either on the streets, in parks, or in encampment areas. Fourteen percent (14%) reported sleeping in public buildings, foyers, hallways, or other indoor locations not meant for human habitation, 8% were staying in a hotel or motel, and 8% were staying in a vehicle.

FIGURE 16. USUAL PLACES TO SLEEP AT NIGHT



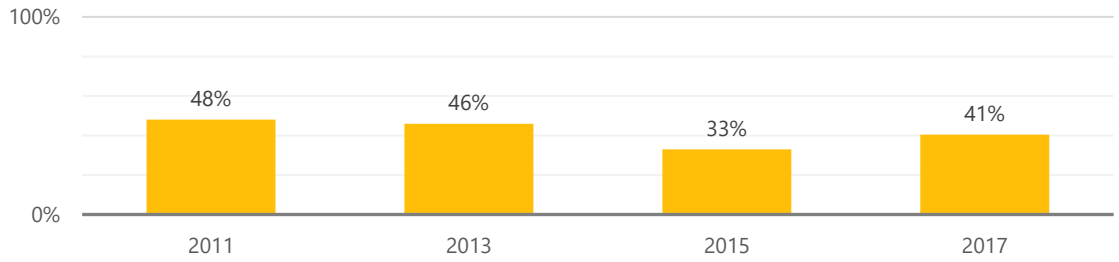
2011 n= 1,012; 2013 n= 850; 2015 n= 926; 2017 n= 587
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2011-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: 2013 response option specified that motel/hotel was paid for by an agency.

DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Many individuals who experience homelessness will several episodes over time. As some relapse and fall out of stable housing, it becomes important to keep track of the number of times they experience literal homelessness.

Unstable living conditions, poverty, housing scarcity, and many other issues often lead to individuals returning to homelessness. For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability. More than half (60%) of 2017 survey respondents reported they had experienced homelessness previously.

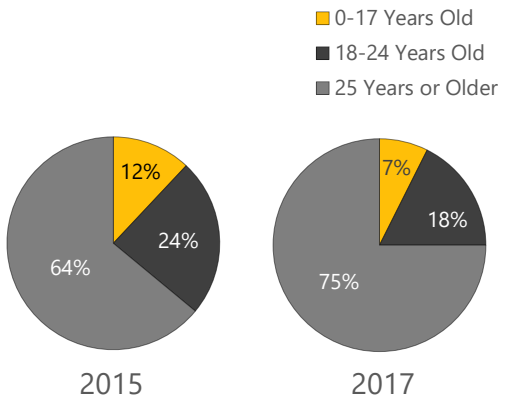
FIGURE 17. FIRST TIME HOMELESS (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING "YES")



2011 n= 1,009; 2013 n= 855; 2015 n= 937; 2017 n= 585
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2009-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

In an effort to better understand the experiences and age distribution of those experiencing homelessness, respondents were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness. In response, 7% of respondents reported that they were under the age of 18, 18% reported they were between the ages of 18 and 24, and 75% reported they were 25 or older.

FIGURE 18. AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

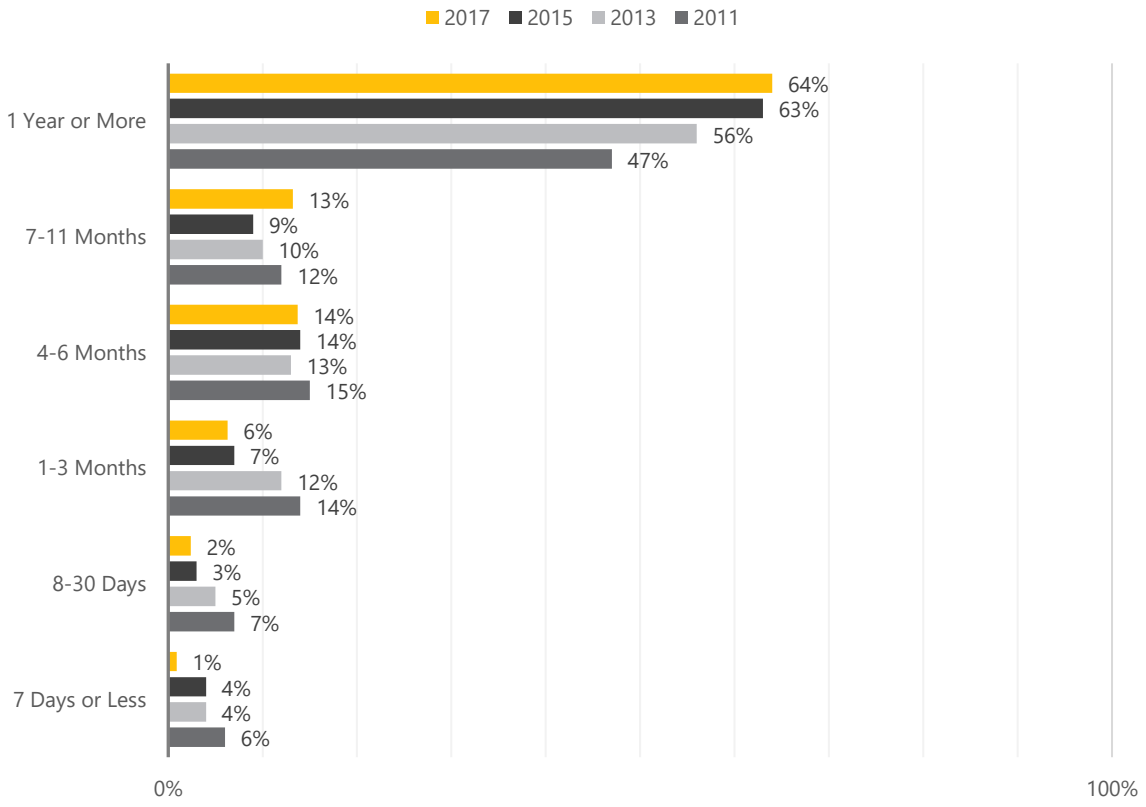


2015 n: 913; 2017 n; 557
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Duration of Homelessness

When asked how long they had been homeless, over two-thirds (64%) of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more. These findings are similar to 2015, when 63% of respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more.

FIGURE 19. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



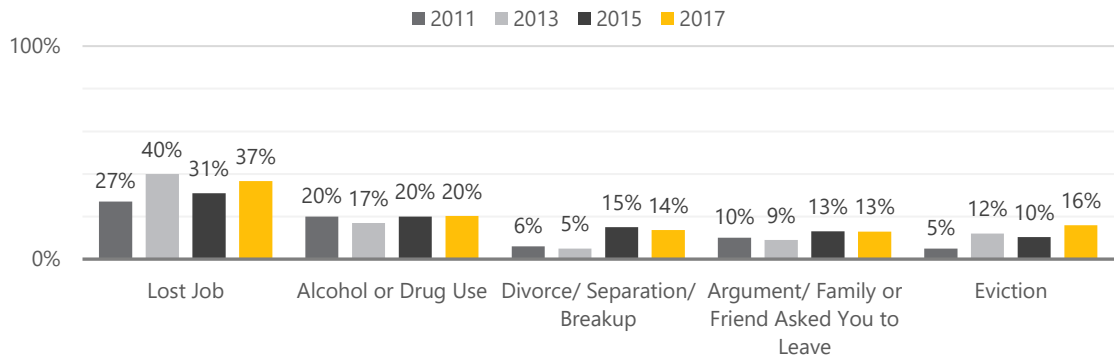
2011 n= 992; 2013 n= 836; 2015 n= 911; 2017 n= 585
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

The primary cause of an individual's inability to obtain or retain housing is difficult to pinpoint, as it is often the result of multiple and compounding causes.

Over a third (37%) of survey respondents reported job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness, while twenty percent (20%) cited drug or alcohol use. Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents indicated eviction as the primary cause of their homeless, a much higher rate than in previous years. Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents reported a divorce or separation as the primary cause of their homelessness.

FIGURE 20. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS



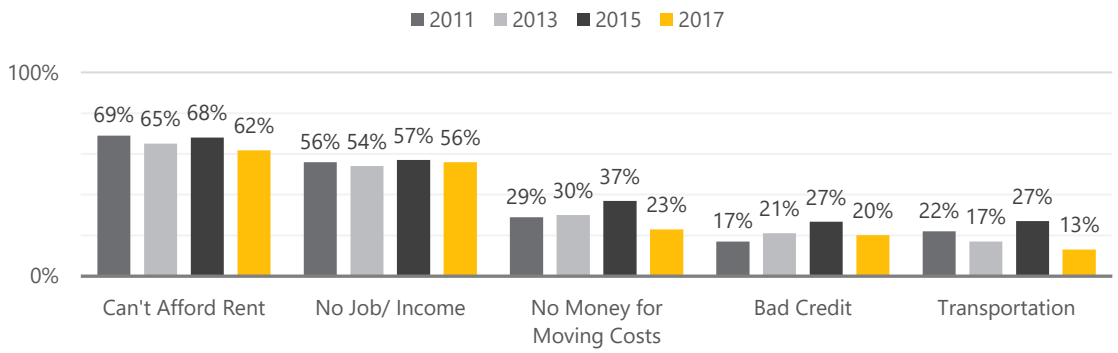
2011 n: 997; 2013 n= 818 respondents offering 1,029; 2015 n= 920 respondents offering 1,326 responses; 2017 n= 580 respondents offering 793 responses.
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2011-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

Many who are experiencing homelessness face significant barriers in obtaining permanent housing. These barriers can range from housing affordability and availability to accessing the economic and social supports (e.g. increased income, rental assistance, case management) needed to access and maintain permanent housing. An inability to secure adequate housing can lead to an inability to address other basic needs, such as healthcare and adequate nutrition.

Survey respondents were asked what prevented them from obtaining housing. The majority (62%) reported that they could not afford rent. Over one half (56%) reported a lack of job or income, followed by 23% who reported that they had no money for moving costs, and 20% who reported bad credit as an obstacle to obtaining permanent housing.

FIGURE 21. OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING



2011 n= 999 respondents offering 2,412 responses; 2013 n= 774 respondents offering 1,831 responses; 2015 n= 896 respondents offering 3,012 responses; 2017 n= 571 respondents offering 1,382
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2011-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

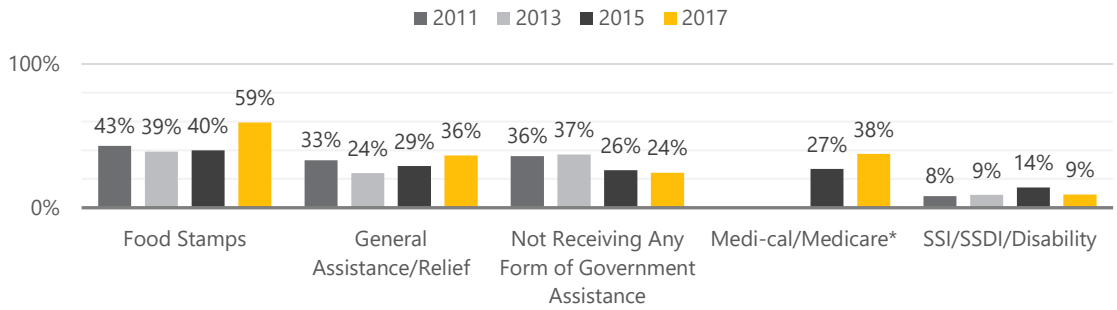
Santa Clara County provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support. However, many eligible individuals and families do not apply for services; many believe that they do not qualify for assistance. Connecting homeless individuals and families to these support services creates a bridge to mainstream support services and prevents future housing instability.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

There are a variety of forms of government assistance available to individuals experiencing homelessness. However, knowledge of services available, understanding of eligibility requirements, and perceived stigma of receiving governmental assistance can all impact the rate at which eligible individuals access these benefits.

Nearly two thirds (76%) of survey respondents in 2017 reported they were receiving some form of government assistance.

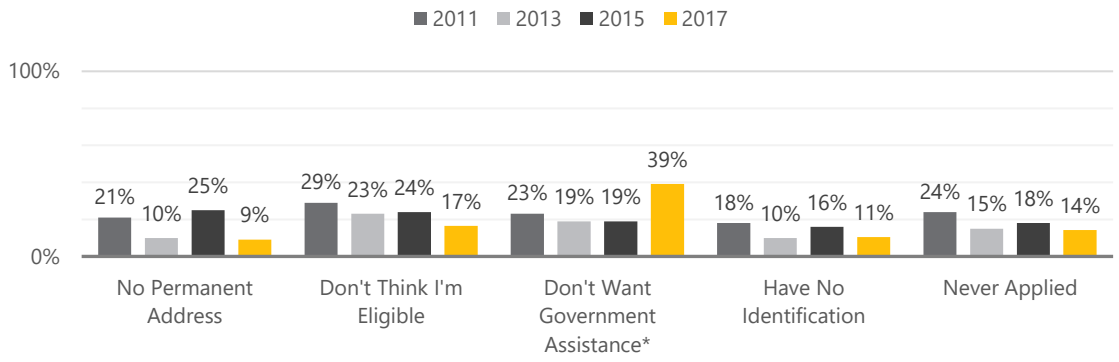
FIGURE 22. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED



2011 n= 989 respondents offering 1,316 responses; 2013 n= 811 respondents offering 1,004 responses; 2015 n= 883 respondents offering 1,363 responses; 2017 n= 557 respondents offering 1,011 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2011-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.
** Medi-Cal/Medicare was added as a response option in 2015.*

Of those who reported they were not receiving any form of government support, the greatest percentage reported they did want government assistance (39%), at a rate much higher than similar respondents in 2015 (19%). Seventeen percent (17%) did not think they were eligible (a decrease from 24% in 2015).

FIGURE 23. REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



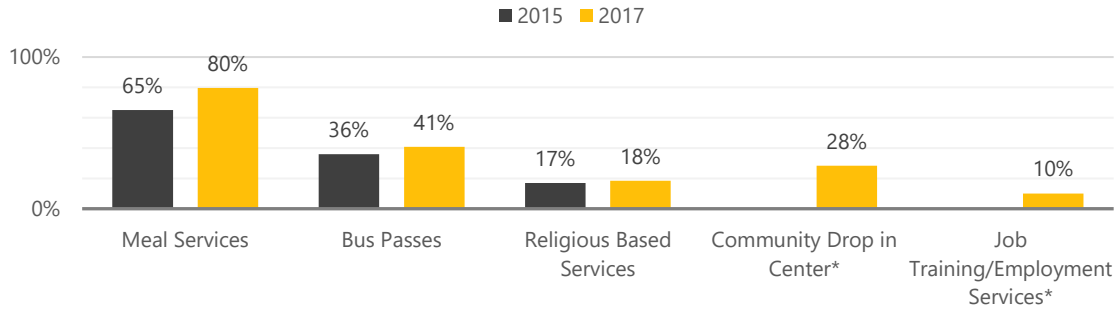
2011 n= 341 respondents offering 630 responses; 2013 n= 289 respondents offering 382 responses; 2015 n= 206 respondents offering 335 responses; 2017 n= 133 respondents offering 164
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2011-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.
**In 2013 the response option changed from "do not need" to "do not want," which was an option in 2011.*

Services and Programs

In addition to government assistance, there are numerous community-based services and programs available to individuals experiencing homelessness. These services range from day shelters and meal programs to job training and healthcare.

The majority of respondents reported using meal services (80%). Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents reported utilizing bus pass services, while approximately one in five respondents reported using religious based services. In 2017, two new options were offered to respondents; twenty-eight percent (28%) of respondents reported using community drop in centers, while 10% reported using job training/employment services.

FIGURE 24. SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE



2015 n= 875 respondents offering 1,960 responses; 2017 n= 570 respondents offering 1,247
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.
** Community drop in center and job training/employment services response were added in 2017*

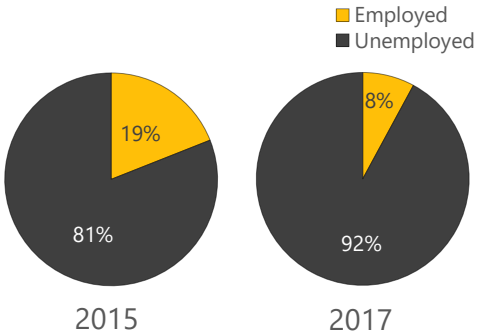
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

While the majority of survey respondents reported being unemployed, a number reported part-time or full-time work; many were receiving an income, either public or private. Despite some income, data suggest that employment and income were not enough to meet basic needs.

The unemployment rate in Santa Clara County in January 2017 was at 3.6%, slightly down from 4.7% during the same period in 2015.[3] It is important to recognize that the unemployment rate represents only those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment. It does not represent all joblessness, nor does it address the types of available employment. The unemployment rate among homeless survey respondents was 92%, an increase from 81% in 2015. Fifty-five percent (55%) of unemployed respondents indicated that they were currently looking for work, 23% indicated they were currently unable to work, and nearly a quarter (22%) of respondents were currently not looking for work

Income from all sources varied between those with regular employment and those who were unemployed. Over one-third (37%) of unemployed respondents reported an income of $99 or less per month, in comparison to 7% of those who were employed. Unemployed income is typically from government services, benefits, recycling, or panhandling. Overall income for those with employment was higher than those without. For example, 40% of employed respondents reported making $750 or more per month, compared to 16% of unemployed respondents.

FIGURE 25. EMPLOYMENT AND MONTHLY INCOME



	2017 EMPLOYED		2017 UNEMPLOYED	
	%	n	%	n
$0-$99	7	3	37	186
$100-$449	26	11	39	199
$450-$749	28	12	9	44
$750-$1,099	14	6	10	51
$1,100-$1,499	14	6	4	20
$1,500-$3,000	12	5	2	8
More than $3,000	0	0	<1%	2

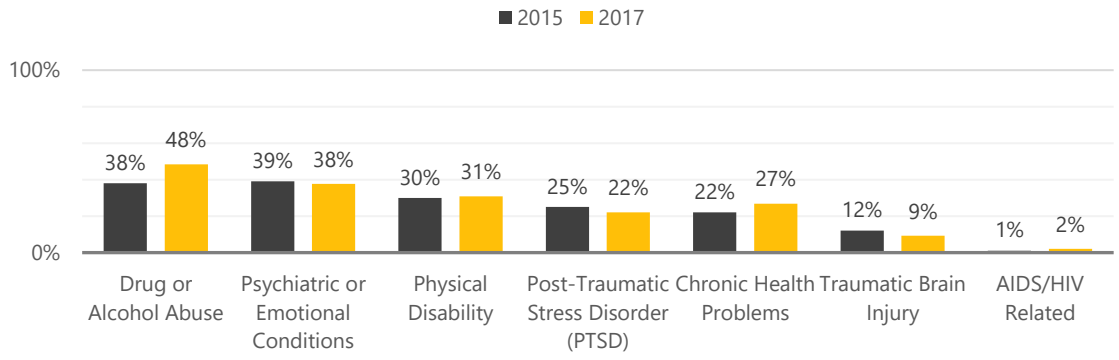
2017 employment status n: 560; Income employed n: 43; Income unemployed n: 510
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Respondents were challenged by this income question and the low response for employed income is subject to a high margin of error.

[3] State of California Employment Development Department. (2017). Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). Retrieved 2017 from http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

HEALTH

The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is 25 years less than those in stable housing. Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay four days (or 36%) longer per hospital admission than non-homeless patients.[4] Drug or alcohol abuse among survey respondents was higher in 2017 than in 2015 (48% compared to 38%). Similarly, chronic health problems were cited more frequently in 2017 than in 2015 (27% and 22%, respectively).

FIGURE 26. HEALTH CONDITIONS



2015 n: 880-902; 2017 n: 548-570
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

[4] Sharon A. Salit, M. E. (1998). *Hospitalization Costs Associated with Homelessness in New York City*. New England Journal of Medicine, 338, 1734-1740.

DOMESTIC/PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

Histories of domestic violence and partner abuse are prevalent among individuals experiencing homelessness, and can be a primary cause of homelessness for many. Survivors often lack many of the financial resources required for housing due to a limited employment history or dependable income. Three percent (3%) of all survey respondents reported currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse. When asked about experiences throughout their lifetime, 21% reported domestic/partner violence or abuse, a lower percentage of respondents than in 2015 (27%).

Domestic violence varied by gender, with 7% of female respondents reporting current experiences of domestic violence, compared to less than 1% of male respondents. Looking at domestic violence across the lifetime, 35% of female and 13% of male respondents reported previous experiences of domestic violence.

FIGURE 27. HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2017 n=575
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

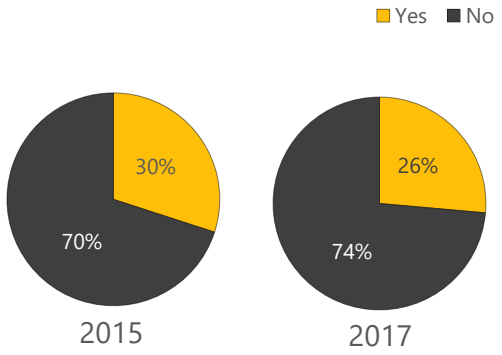
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Homelessness and incarceration are often correlative. Individuals without stable housing are at greater risk of criminal justice system involvement, particularly those with mental health issues, veterans, and youth. Individuals with past incarceration face significant barriers to exiting homelessness due to stigmatization, and policies that affect both their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.[5]

INCARCERATION

When asked if they had spent a night in jail or prison in the last 12 months, approximately one in four (26%) survey respondents reported that they had, similar to 2015 findings (30%). Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents reported being on probation or parole at the time of the survey. Eight percent (8%) of respondents indicated they had accessed re-entry services.

FIGURE 28. SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



2015 n= 903; 2017 n= 573
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

[5] Greenberg, GA, Rosenheck, RA. (2008). Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study. Psychiatr Serv, 2008 Feb;59(2): 170-7.

HUD Defined Subpopulations

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness in the United States. In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs. These four subpopulations include: individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families, and unaccompanied children and transition-age youth. Consequently, these subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness.

The following sections examine each of these four subpopulations, identifying the number and characteristics of individuals included in the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Of the 587 surveys completed in 2017, the results represent 257 chronically homeless individuals, 49 homeless veterans, 19 individuals in homeless families,[6] 42 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth. Surveys were completed in unsheltered environments, shelters, and transitional housing settings.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years, *and* also has a long-term disabling condition. This definition applies to individuals as well as heads of household who meet the definition.

The chronically homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations on the street; the mortality rate for those experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than the general population.[7] Data from communities across the country show that public costs incurred by those experiencing extended periods of homelessness include emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and regular access

6 Homeless families are somewhat underrepresented in Santa Clara's Homeless Survey data due sample execution issues. The majority of homeless families in Santa Clara are currently residing in shelters and transitional housing facilities. In 2017, shelter staff reported difficulties completing surveys of families, due to a variety of reasons.

7 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2010). Supplemental Document to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: June 2010. Retrieved 2017 from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/BkgrdPap_ChronicHomelessness.pdf

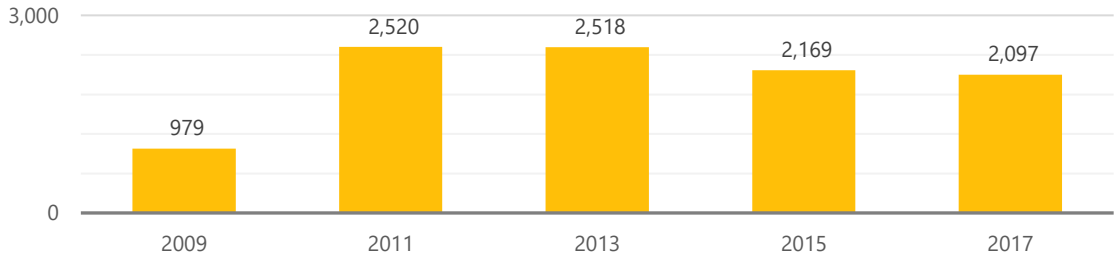
to social supports and homeless services. These combined costs are often significantly higher than the cost of providing individuals with permanent housing and supportive services.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that roughly 22% of the national homeless population, or 77,486 individuals, was chronically homeless in 2016.[8] Chronic homelessness has been on the decline in recent years, as communities across the country increase the capacity of their permanent supportive housing programs and prioritize those with the greatest barriers to housing stability. While the national decrease in chronic homelessness seems promising, federal budget constraints limit the amount of money available to support housing programs and services. As a result, *Opening Doors*, which began with a plan to end chronic homelessness by 2016, has extended the goal to 2017.[9]

Chronically Homeless Individuals

There were a total of 2,097 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, the lowest total since 2013. Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness made up 28% of the total homeless population.

FIGURE 29. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND

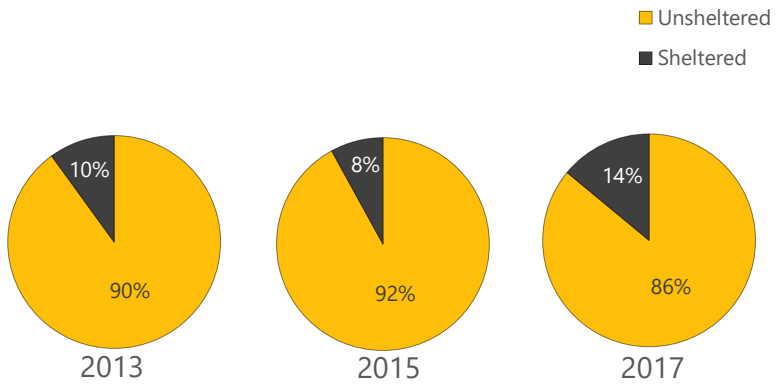


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2009-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

8 Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2017 from https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf

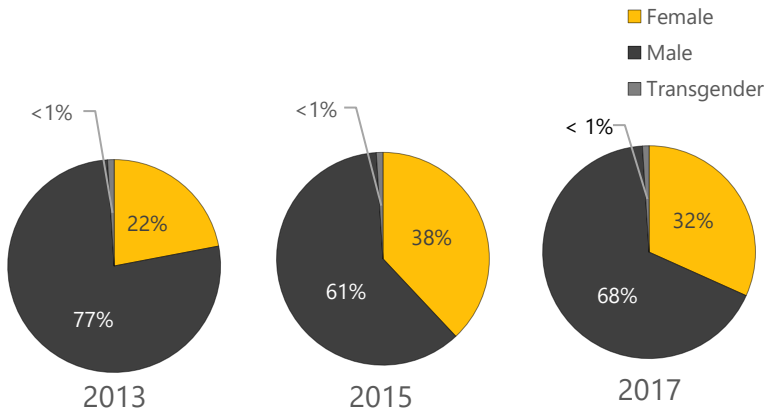
9 Cavallaro, E. (2017). Ending Chronic Homelessness, Now in 2017. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Retrieved 2017 from http://www.endhomelessness.org

FIGURE 30. CHRONIC HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



2013 n= 2,518; 2015 n= 2,169; 2017 n= 2,097
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 31. TOTAL CHRONIC HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER

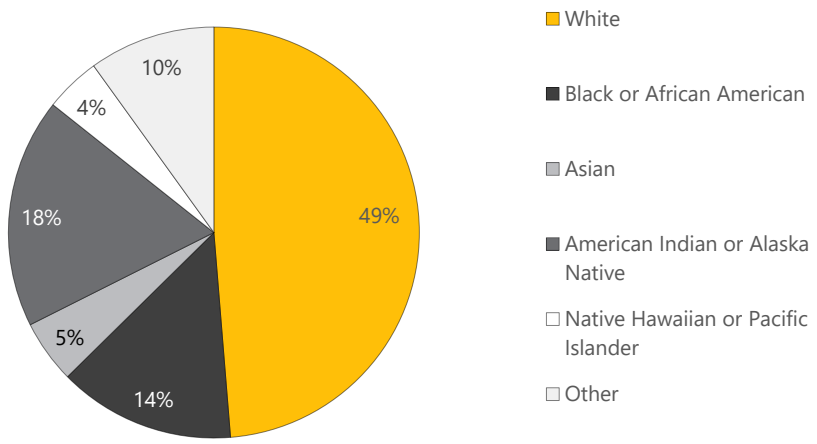


2013 n= 2,518; 2015 n= 2,169; 2017 n= 2,097
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Demographics of Chronically Homeless Survey Respondents

The majority of chronically homeless survey respondents identified as male (68%), and at a slightly higher rate than the non-chronically homeless population (61%). A similar percentage of chronically homeless respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino compared to non-chronically homeless respondents (42% and 43%, respectively). Eight percent (8%) of chronically homeless respondents identified as veterans, similar to the non-chronic population.

FIGURE 32. RACE AMONG PERSONS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

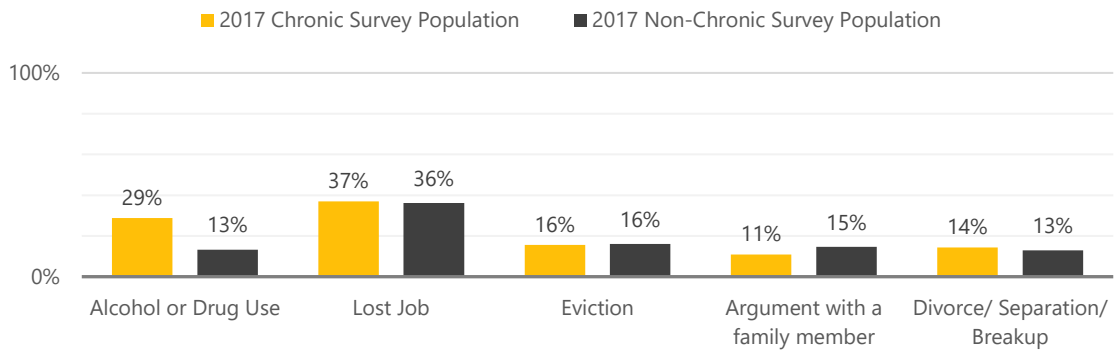


Chronic n= 225
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Those Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Over one-third (37%) of chronically homeless survey respondents stated job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness, similar to 35% of respondents in 2015. Eleven percent (11%) of chronically homeless respondents cited an argument with a family member as the primary cause of their homelessness, compared to 15% of non-chronically homeless survey respondents.

FIGURE 33. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



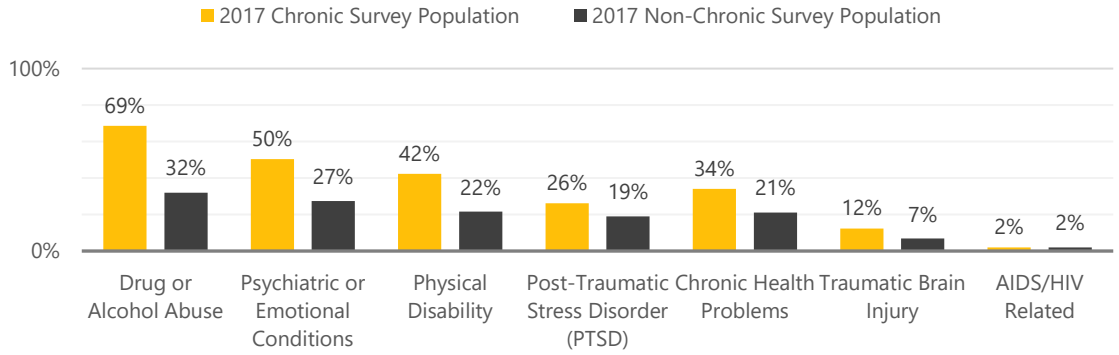
Chronic Survey Population= 257 respondents offering 391 responses; Non-Chronic Survey Population= 323 respondents offering 402 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Health Conditions Among Those Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

The definition of chronic homelessness requires a disabling condition, and many respondents reported experiencing multiple physical or mental health conditions. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of chronically homeless survey respondents reported alcohol or substance use, 50% reported an emotional or psychiatric health condition, and 42% reported a physical disability.

In general, higher rates of health conditions were reported among those who were chronically homeless compared to their non-chronically homeless counterparts.

FIGURE 34. HEALTH CONDITIONS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



Chronic Survey Population: 239-255; Non-Chronic Survey Population: 309-318
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Access to Services Among Those Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

A lower percentage (10%) of chronically homeless respondents reported they were not using any local homeless services such as food and shelter services, compared to 17% of those who were not chronically homeless.

Sixteen percent (16%) of chronically homeless respondents reported they were not using government assistance, a decrease from 26% in 2015. Sixty-three percent (63%) reported receiving CalFresh (food stamps), 42% received Medi-Cal/Medicare, and 38% received General Assistance (GA).

Of chronically homeless respondents who were not receiving government services, nearly half (46%) reported that they did not want government assistance. Twenty percent (20%) reported never having applied.

Incarceration Among Those Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

A similar percentage of chronic and non-chronic homeless respondents (26% and 27%, respectively) reported they had spent one or more nights in jail or prison in the 12 months prior to the survey. Seventeen percent (17%) of chronically homeless survey respondents reported being on probation or parole at the time of the survey, similar to the non-chronic population (15%).

VETERANS

Many U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans experience higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance abuse. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters, and often remain on the street for extended periods of time.

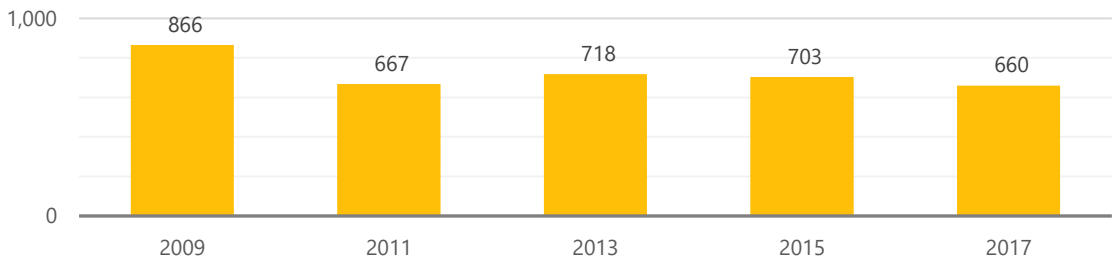
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits can involve different forms of financial assistance, including monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, health care, education, and housing benefits. In addition to these supports, the VA and HUD partner to provide additional housing and support services to veterans' currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Between 2009 and 2016, there has been a 48% decrease in the number of homeless veterans nationwide. According to data collected during the national 2016 Point-in-Time Count, 39,471 veterans experienced homelessness across the country on a single night in January 2016.[10]

HOMELESS VETERAN STATUS

There were 660 veterans identified during the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census, the lowest number among the six cycles of the census.

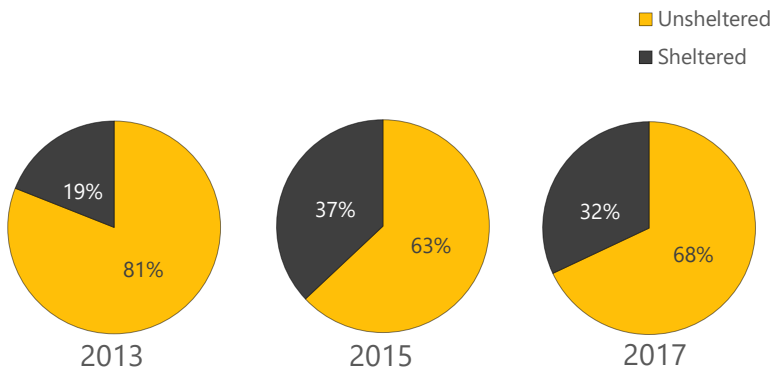
FIGURE 35. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2009-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

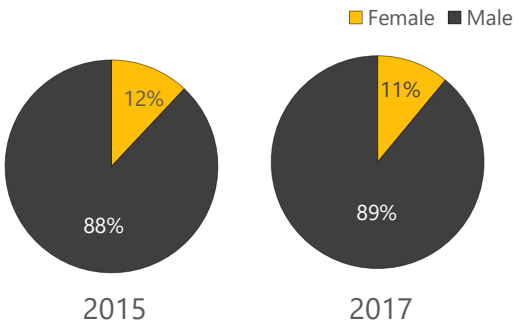
[10] Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2017). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2017 from https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2014-AHAR-Part1.pdf

FIGURE 36. HOMELESS VETERAN CENSUS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



2013 n= 718; 2015 n= 703; 2017 n= 660
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 37. TOTAL HOMELESS VETERAN CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER

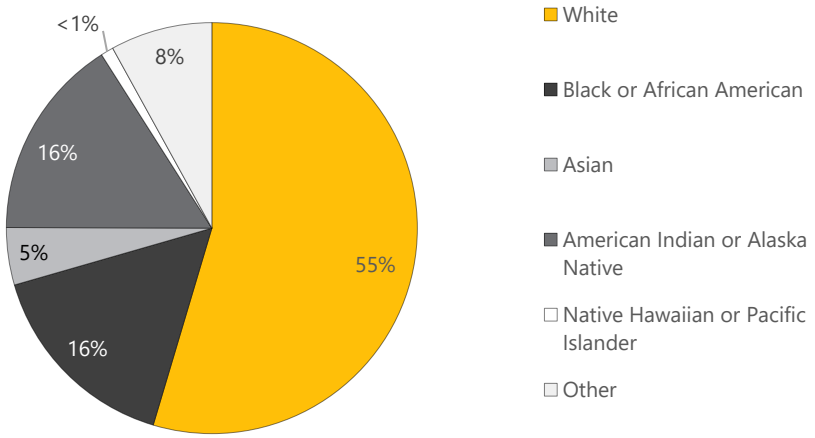


2015 n= 703; 2017 n= 660
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Demographics of Homeless Veterans

The majority of veteran homeless individuals identified as male (88%), higher than the non-veteran homeless population (62%). A similar percentage of veteran homeless respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino compared to non-veteran homeless respondents (43% and 42%, respectively).

FIGURE 38. RACE AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS

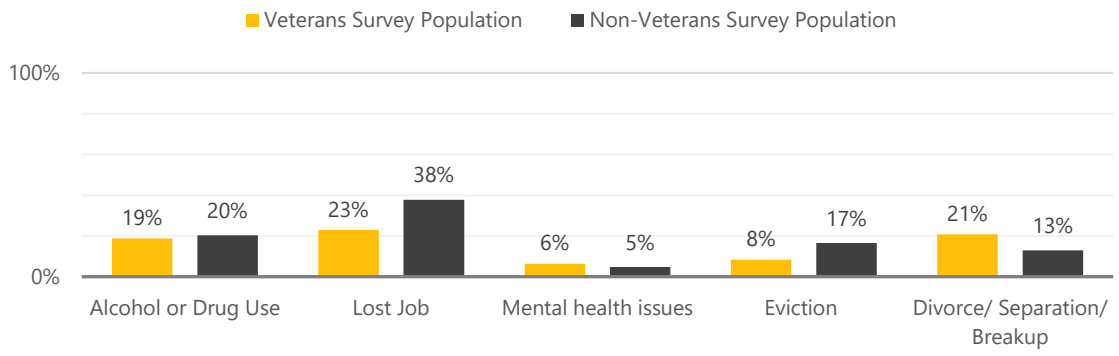


Veteran n= 44
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Those Homeless Veterans

The most frequently cited cause of homelessness among veterans job loss, representing 23% of veteran survey respondents. Twenty-one percent (21%) reported divorce, separation or breakup as the primary cause of their homelessness, a notably higher rate when compared to the non-veteran population (13%). Alternatively, 8% of veteran respondents cited eviction as a primary cause of their homelessness, lower than the 17% of non-veteran survey population.

FIGURE 39. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS, VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN COMPARISON

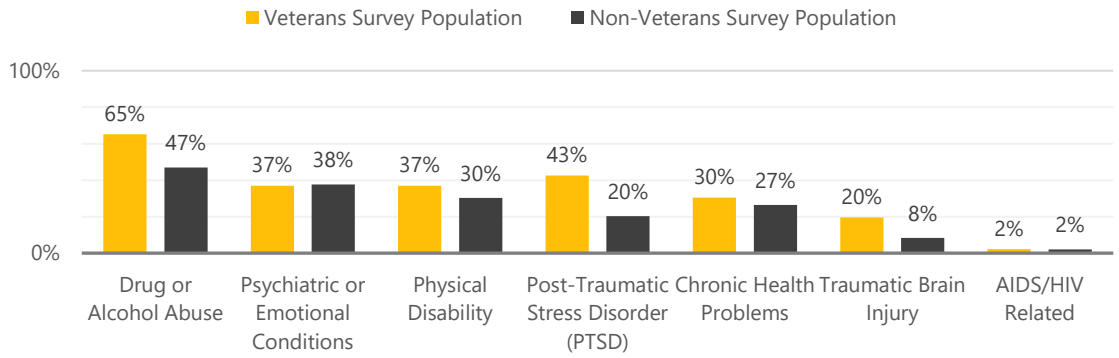


Veterans Survey Population n= 48 respondents offering 59 responses; Non-Veteran Survey Population n= 532 respondents offering 734 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Disabling Conditions Among Homeless Veterans

Forty-one percent (41%) of both veteran survey respondents and non-veteran survey respondents both reported having one or more disabling conditions.

FIGURE 40. HEALTH CONDITIONS, VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN COMPARISON



Veterans Survey Population n= 45-47; Non-Veteran Survey Population n= 503-524
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Access to Services Among Veterans

Overall, the number of veterans connected to any form of government assistance was higher than the non-veteran population, 84% compared to 75%.

When asked about the specific services they are receiving, the most frequent responses were Food/Stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh (41%) and General Assistance (23%). Twenty-seven percent (27%) of veteran survey respondents reported using a veteran specific benefit.

Incarceration Among Homeless Veterans

Among those who are incarcerated, veterans are more likely than non-veterans to be first time offenders, to have committed a violent offense, and to have longer prison sentences. Veterans who are incarcerated may also face the loss of various VA benefits during this time.[11]

A higher percentage of veterans (35%) reported having spent a night in jail in the last 12 months when compared to non-veterans (26%).

[11] Military Benefits. (2014). Incarcerated Veterans. Retrieved 2014 from http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/incarcerated-veterans.html.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

National data from 2016 suggest that 35% of all persons experiencing homelessness are persons in families. Very few families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, as public shelters serve 90% of homeless families in the United States; this is a significantly higher proportion of the population compared to other subpopulations, including unaccompanied children and transition-age youth. Data on families experiencing homelessness suggest that they are not much different from families in poverty.

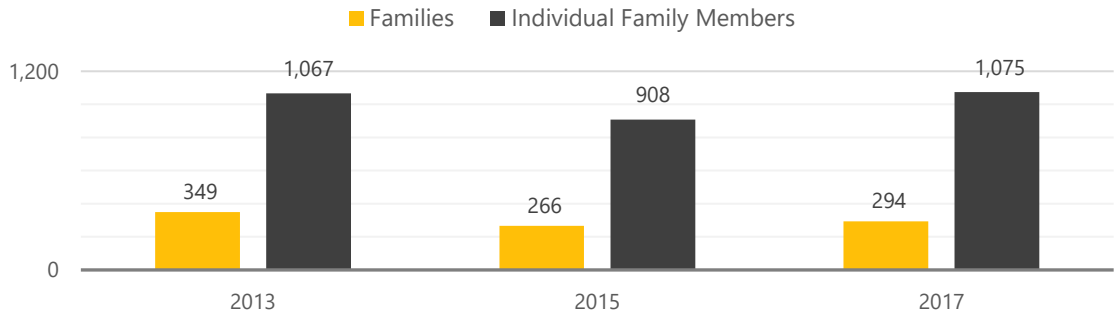
The risk of homelessness is highest among households headed by single women and families with children under the age of six.[12] Children in families experiencing homelessness have increased incidence of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems than children with consistent living accommodations.[13]

HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

There were a total of 294 families with children experiencing homelessness in 2017, a higher number than 2015, but a lower number than 2013. There were a total of 1,075 individuals living in these families. Twenty-eight percent of families were unsheltered, an increase from previous years. The greatly increased inclusion of data from McKinney-Vento representatives from the many participating school districts is one possible reason for this shift.

2017 saw the largest increase in participation in the history of the Census from local school representatives, thanks to the County Office of Education (COE). McKinney-Vento representatives have unparalleled access into families experiencing homelessness, a population that is difficult to enumerate without their help. While not all districts participated, far more participated than in past years, providing increased access to a frequently overlooked population. McKinney-Vento representatives also gather data on families that do not meet the federal definition of homelessness used in this count, or where it cannot be determined whether they meet the definition. These families are frequently staying in unconverted garages, hotels or motels, or other areas on private property that enumeration teams are unable to access.

FIGURE 41. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS, WITH TREND

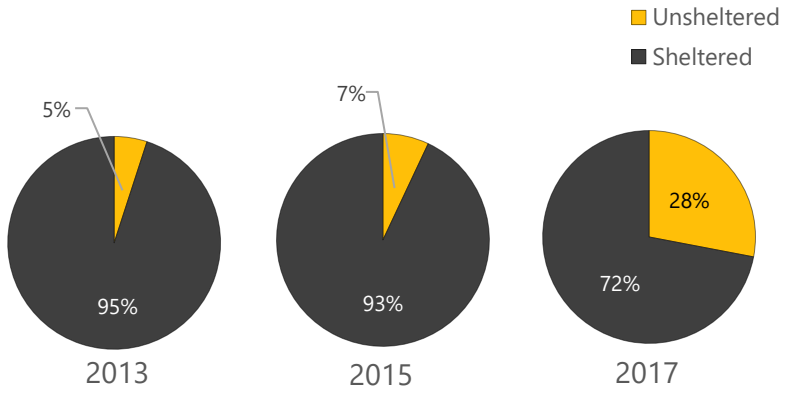


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

[12] U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Characteristics and Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Retrieved 2015 from http://aspe.hhs.gov/

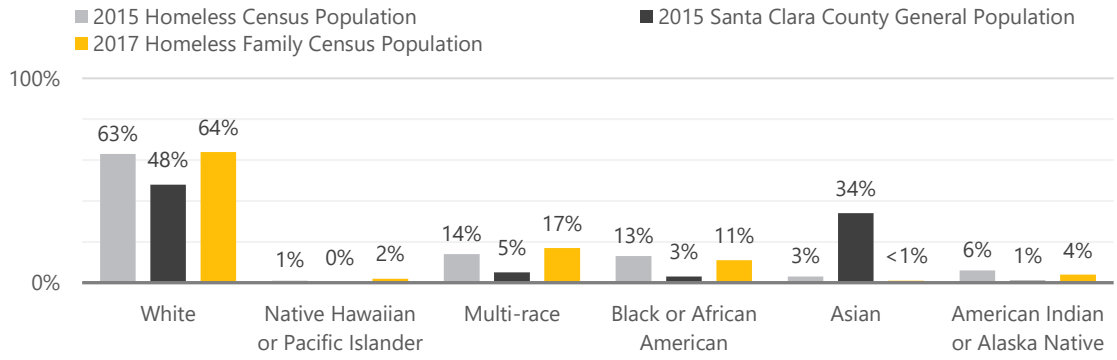
[13] U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015). Opening Doors. Retrieved 2015 from http://www.usich.gov/

FIGURE 42. PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS IN HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, BY SHELTER STATUS



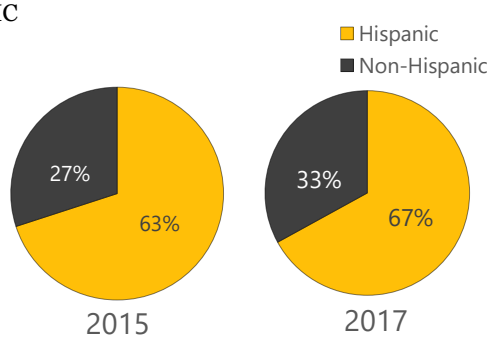
2013 n=1,067; 2015 n=908; 2017 n=1,075
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 43. INDIVIDUALS IN HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



2015 n=908; 2017 n= 1075
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2016). American Community Survey 2014 1-Year Estimates. Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from http://factfinder2.census.gov.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 44. INDIVIDUALS IN HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, CENSUS POPULATION BY HISPANIC/NON-HISPANIC



2015 n=908; 2017 n=1,075
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Demographics of homeless families with children

A small number of individuals in homeless families with children participated in the Santa Clara County Survey, a total of 19 respondents.[14] Seventy-four percent (74%) of survey respondents in families identified as female, a higher percentage than survey respondents not in families (33%).

Domestic Violence Among Families Experiencing Homelessness

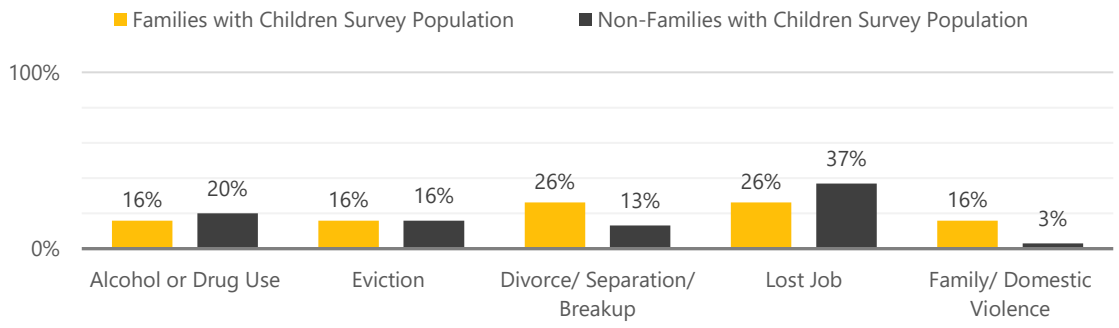
Thirty-three percent (33%) of individuals in families with children reported experiencing domestic violence in the past, and 6% reported they were currently experiencing domestic violence at the time of the survey.

[14] Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to small number of surveys conducted with homeless individuals in families with children

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Homeless Families with Children

Sixteen percent (16%) of survey respondents in families with children reported family or domestic violence as the primary cause of their homelessness, higher than non-family homeless respondents. Divorce, breakup and separation was also a much more common response among homeless families with children than non-families experiencing homelessness (26% compared to 13%).

FIGURE 45. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON

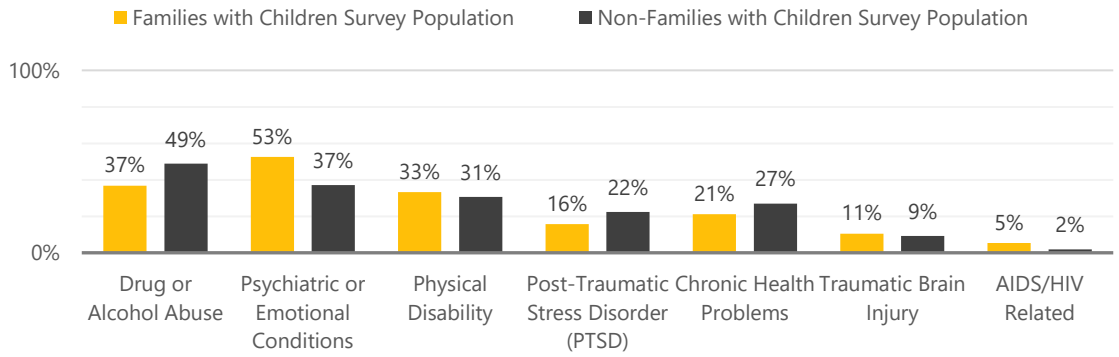


Family Survey Population n= 19 respondents offering 37 responses; Non-Family Survey Population n= 561 respondents offering 756 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Health Conditions Among Homeless Families with Children

Among homeless families with children, a psychiatric or emotional condition was the most frequent health condition cited (53%). Alcohol or drug abuse was less common among homeless families than among all other survey respondents (37% and 49%, respectively).

FIGURE 46. HEALTH CONDITIONS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN COMPARISON



Family Survey Population n= 18-19; Non-Family Population n= 529-551
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Recurrence and Length of Homelessness Among Families with Children

Forty-seven percent (47%) of individuals in families with children reported experiencing homelessness for the first time, compared to 40% of non-family survey respondents. Seventy-seven percent of families had been experiencing homelessness for more than 6 months and 42% reported they were living in a home owned or rented by themselves or a partner prior to becoming homeless. Twenty-six percent had been staying with friends or family before experiencing homelessness, while 15% were staying in a hotel or motel.

Government Assistance for Homeless Families with Children

More than 94% of respondents reported receiving some form of government assistance. Approximately three-quarters reported that they were receiving CalFresh (food stamps) (72%) and receiving Medi-Cal/MediCare (72%).

UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Due to the often hidden nature of youth homelessness, there are limited data available on unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness. Although largely considered an undercount, current federal estimates suggest there are 35,686 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth on the streets and in public shelters across the country.[15] Young people experiencing homelessness have a harder time accessing services, including shelter, medical care, and employment due to the stigma of their housing situation, lack of knowledge of available resources, and a dearth of services targeted to young people.[16]

In 2012, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness amended the federal strategic plan to end homelessness to include specific strategies and supports to address the needs of unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth. As part of this effort, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development placed increased focus on gathering data on unaccompanied homeless children and youth during the Point-in-Time Census.

Santa Clara County implemented a dedicated youth census and survey in 2013 to improve data on unaccompanied children and youth in the county. These efforts were replicated in 2015. In 2017, efforts at enumerating unaccompanied youth and transition-age youth were expanded. This led to an increase in the number of enumeration teams, better training and preparation for those teams, increased participation from program staff, and expanded coverage of the areas youth frequent in Santa Clara County.

The following section provides an overview of the findings on unaccompanied children and youth identified in the Santa Clara County's general point-in-time census, as well as in the specific youth census.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Homelessness among children and transition-age youth is a difficult problem to identify. Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth are less likely to be found among the adult population experiencing homelessness, preferring locations and times of day that make traditional efforts at enumeration difficult. Accordingly, a separate youth count effort was put in place, relying on knowledge gathered from youth currently experiencing homelessness as well as their participation in the count itself.

In 2017, the youth census effort, combined with the general count, identified 2,530 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness. This represents an increase of slightly more than 175% since 2015, and is nearly twice the amount of the next largest total identified (1,063 in 2013). Some caution must be used when interpreting this increase. While youth homelessness is on the rise nationally, the improved youth census effort represents a significant percentage of the overall increase in homelessness in Santa Clara County.

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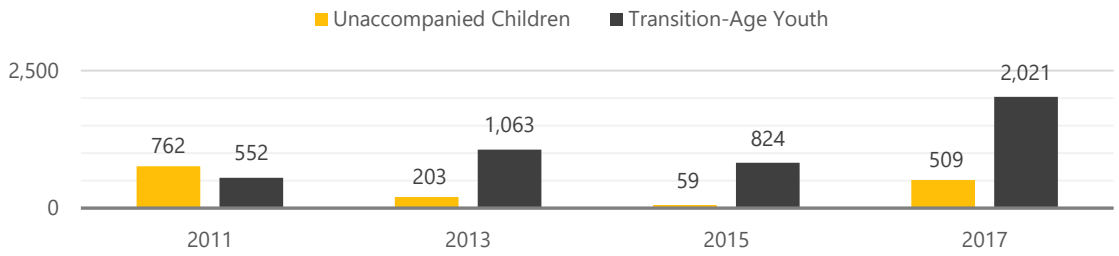
[15] Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2017 from https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf

[16] National Coalition for the Homeless. (2011). Homeless Youth Fact Sheet. Retrieved 2011 from http://www.nationalhomeless.org.

FIGURE 47. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS, WITH TREND

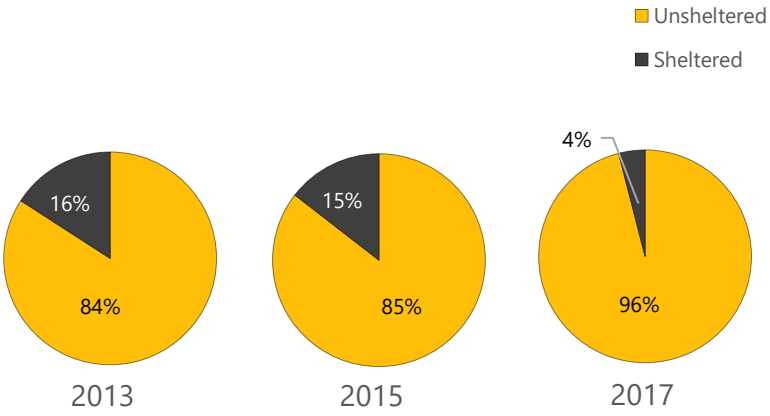


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2011-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 48. UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH POPULATION ESTIMATES

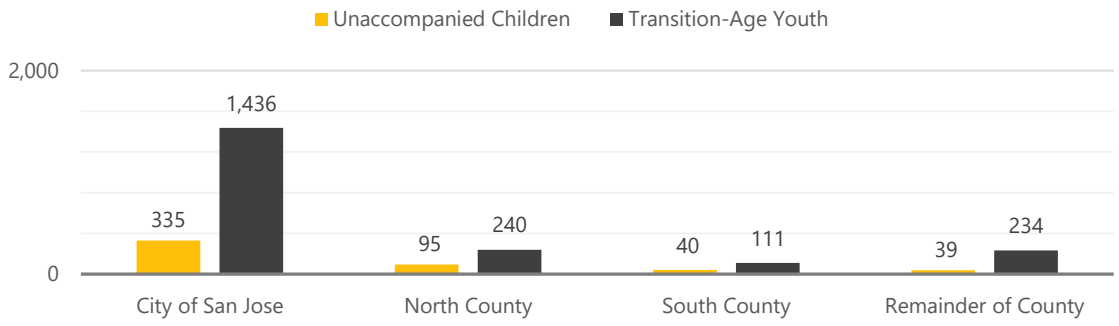
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 49. UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH CENSUS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS



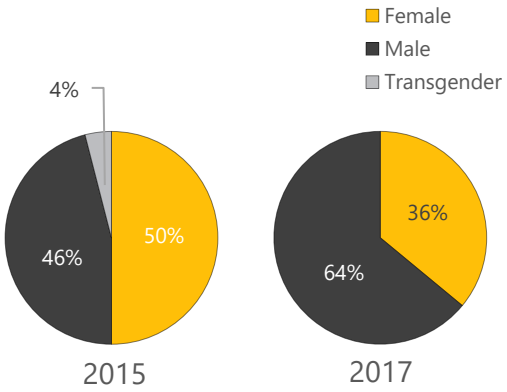
2013 n=1,266; 2015 n= 883; 2017 n=2,530
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 50. UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH CENSUS POPULATION BY REGION



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

FIGURE 51. UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER



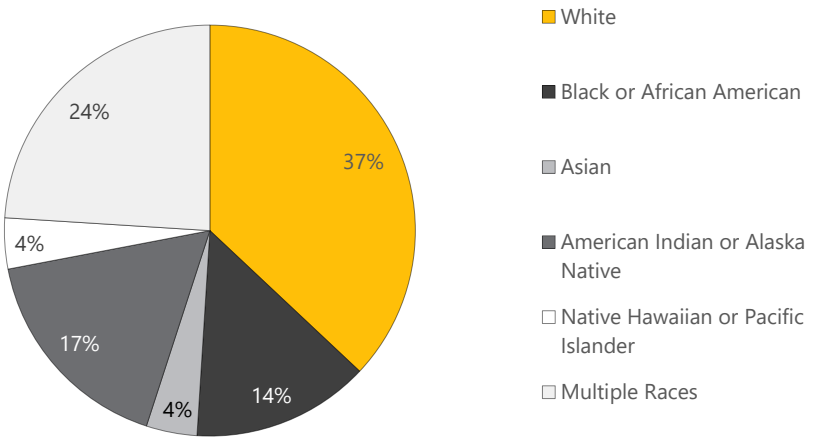
2015 n= 944; 2017 n= 2,530
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Demographics of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age Youth

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of youth survey respondents under the age of 25 identified as male, similar to the general population (64%). Five percent (5%) indicated that they do not identify as male, female, or transgender.

Forty-one percent (41%) of youth respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino, similar to 42% of respondents 25 years and over. The highest reported race among youth respondents was White (37%), although this was a significantly lower percentage compared to the adult survey population (47%).

FIGURE 52. RACE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

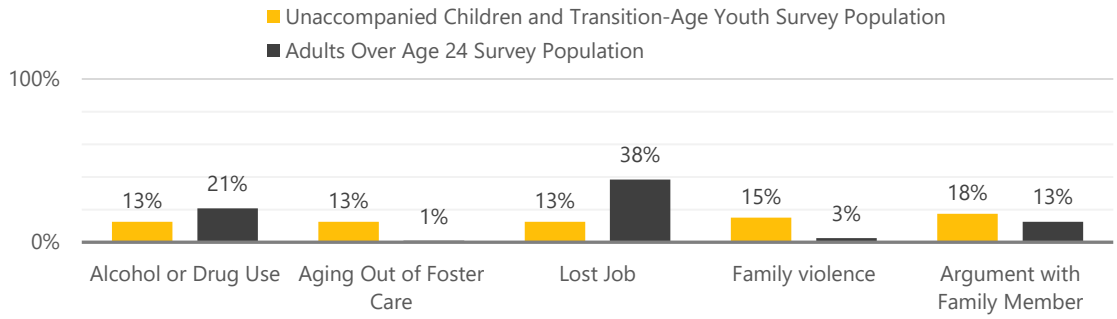


Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n= 2,530
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age Youth

Homeless youth survey respondents reported some differences in cause of homelessness compared to respondents age 25 years and over. Unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth were more likely to cite family violence, an argument with a family member, and aging out of foster care as the primary cause of their homelessness.

FIGURE 53. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS, UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH AND ADULTS OVER AGE 24 COMPARISON

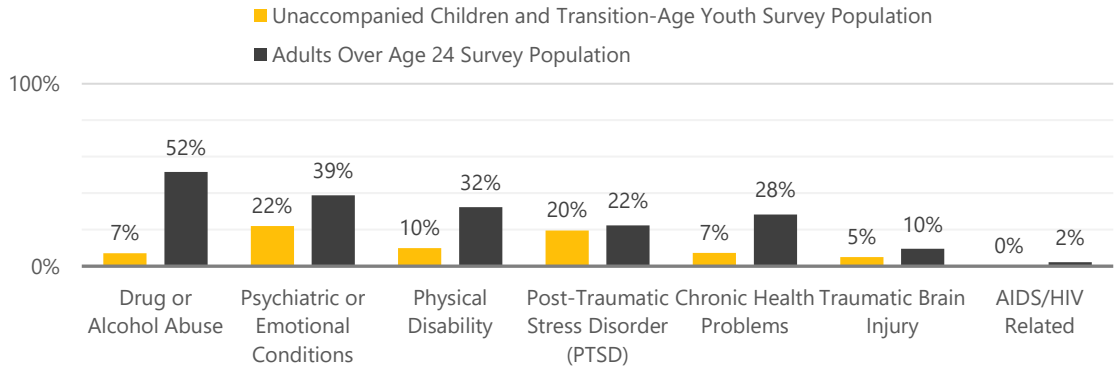


Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Survey Population n: 40 respondents offering 48 responses; Adults Over Age 24 Survey Population n:540 respondents offering 745 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Health Conditions Among Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age Youth

Though better than the general homeless population, health is still an issue for homeless youth. Homeless youth still struggled with psychiatric or emotional conditions (22%) as well as experiencing PTSD (20%).

FIGURE 54. HEALTH CONDITIONS, UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH AND ADULTS OVER AGE 24 COMPARISON



Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Survey Population n: 40-42; Adults Over Age 24 Survey Population n: 508-529
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Services and Social Support Networks Among Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth

Forty-nine percent (49%) of youth survey respondents reported not currently receiving any government assistance, compared to 23% of adult homeless survey respondents. Similarly, youth respondents indicated they were less likely than adult respondents to access any type of services or assistance; seventy-seven percent (77%) of youth respondents reported receiving services compared to eighty-seven percent (87%) of adult respondents.

Foster Care Among Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age Youth

Nearly half (45%) of youth respondents reported they had been in the foster care system, and 13% of all youth respondents cited aging out of foster care as the primary cause of their homelessness.

FIGURE 55. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE, UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Survey Population n=42
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey.

Conclusion

Between 2015 and 2017, Santa Clara County and its provider partners have made significant investments and reforms to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness, moving more people off of the streets and into housing. However, point-in-time data indicate an increased number of individuals experiencing homelessness when compared to 2015. There can be many reasons for the increase, including macroeconomic concerns and difficulties finding locations to live. Additionally, it is worthwhile to compare the increase in Santa Clara County's population to nearby counties, as well as to similarly sized counties across the country.

One large component of the increase stemmed from the numbers of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness enumerated in this year's count. Homelessness among youth is a different phenomenon than homelessness among adults, and the ability of communities to understand the actual scope of the issue has lagged behind traditional methods of measuring homelessness. As that understanding has improved, so too have methods of enumeration, leading to youth being enumerated when they would have been missed in past years. Recognizing the increased prevalence of youth homelessness nationwide, HUD has declared that 2017 will be the baseline number of youth homelessness for comparison in future years, and hopes to drive more funding and support towards ending youth homelessness.

There have been a number of accomplishments and improvements from 2015. Veterans experiencing homelessness and chronically homeless individuals have benefited from increased outreach and program efforts and have seen their numbers decrease. The data from the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey can help educate the public, service providers, and policymakers on how to best serve the homeless population and help ensure that homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time event. Numerous studies show that prevention, Housing First initiatives, and supportive services are the first steps in ending homelessness, and Santa Clara County is working diligently to develop these systems of change while addressing the interim needs of people currently unhoused.

Appendix 1: Methodology

Overview

The purpose of the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey is to produce a point-in-time estimate of people who experience homelessness in Santa Clara County, a region that covers approximately 1,304 square miles. The results of the street count were combined with the results from the shelter count to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County on any given night. The subsequent survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those enumerated on the night of the count. A more detailed description of the methodology follows.

Components of the Homeless Census Method

The 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey methodology had three primary components:

- The general street count between the hours of 5:30am to noon on January 24th and 25th – an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals
- The youth street count between the hours of 3 pm and 8 pm – a targeted enumeration of unsheltered youth under the age of 25 on the 24th
- The shelter count was conducted on the night of the 24th, the evening before the 24th – an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs

The unsheltered and sheltered homeless counts were coordinated to occur within the same time period in order to minimize potential duplicate counting of homeless persons. The youth count does not take place at the same time as the adult count, leading to the importance of de-duplication efforts. Whenever youth teams and general teams presented data on youth in the same census tracts, youth data was prioritized.

STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

Definition

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homelessness for Point-in-Time Counts is used. This definition includes individuals and families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground. HUD's definition of homelessness does not include those living in "double-up" or "couch surfing" situations, those staying with friends/family on a temporary basis, those who are happened to be staying a hotel or motel for the night, those in jail, or those admitted into a hospital.

Research Design

The methodology used for the 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey is commonly described as a "blitz count and survey" since it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. As this method is conducted in Santa Clara County, the result is an observation based count of individuals and families who appear to be homeless. The count is then followed by an in-person representative survey, the results of which are used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the local homeless population. Information collected from the survey is used to fulfill HUD reporting requirements, and to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts.

Continuing the same methodology from past efforts in Santa Clara County is an important part of the count methodology, and allows for relevant comparisons across the many years of the count. Accordingly, there were few changes to the methodology in 2017. Under advisement of the Planning Committee, a start time 30 minutes earlier than in 2015 was adopted. Five focus groups were held with individuals experiencing homelessness, so that "hot spots" could be identified and noted on maps for teams on count day.

Volunteer and Guide Recruitment

Many individuals who live and/or work in Santa Clara County turned out to support efforts to enumerate the local population experiencing homelessness. More than 215 community volunteers and city and county staff participated in the 2017 general street count. The volunteer recruitment effort was led by the Planning Committee and was greatly aided by numerous shelters and day programs from throughout the county. Extensive outreach efforts were conducted, targeting local non-profits that serve the homeless and local volunteer programs, as well as other individuals who may be interested in participating in the count.

The Planning Committee sent a press release informing the community about the count and making an appeal for volunteer participation approximately two weeks before the count. Volunteers registered to participate, and received additional details on the count via a dedicated email account monitored and staffed by Applied Survey Research (ASR) support staff.

To recruit guides, shelters and day programs from throughout the county were asked to identify individuals experiencing homelessness with considerable knowledge of where to find individuals experiencing homelessness on the street, how to find encampments, how to identify if vehicles were being used as sleeping locations, and how to identify situations where safety was a concern. Additionally, shelter and program staff were asked to recommend guides who were reliable and interested in the process. All guides were paid for their time, earning $15 per hour worked, including a mandatory one-hour training that was held in the days before the count.

Street Count Teams

Teams were typically comprised of at least two individuals, one volunteer from the community and one guide who was generally an individual currently experiencing homelessness. Each team was assigned 1-4 census tracts as their assignment, depending on the size of the tracts. Teams were responsible for covering all areas that are accessible by the public, including parks, streets, business fronts, and wherever the guide believed there may be individuals experiencing homelessness. Teams were encouraged to have their community volunteer drive their vehicle, while the guide acted as a navigator and enumerator during the process. All teams were given a brief refresher training before heading out into the field.

Safety Precautions

Safety is of the upmost importance during the count, and every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Information regarding potentially dangerous encampment areas or other locations was shared when appropriate. Techniques for avoiding potentially dangerous situations were shared. The observational nature of the count was emphasized, which has been found to be highly successful in minimizing potentially dangerous situations in the past. Volunteers were given guidance on how to act when canvassing encampment areas, as well as how to respect a population that was likely to be sleeping. Additionally, the knowledge and experience of guides were valuable for safety reasons, and volunteers and teams were encouraged to listen to their guide when they give suggestions regarding safety. No safety incidents were reported to the research team.

Street Count Deployment

To achieve complete coverage of the county within the timeframe, the planning team identified six locations to serve as deployment centers on the morning of the count. Deployment centers were spread around the county, to give teams convenient locations from which to meet and then head to their assigned locations. Each deployment center was assigned a number of enumeration routes, also based on location, to assure timely deployment of enumeration teams into the field. Volunteers and guides were assigned deployment centers based on preference and the need to make sure that each center had the appropriate number of teams.

Targeted Street Outreach - Youth

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly co-mingle with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. It was determined that homeless youth would be more prominent on the street during afternoon and early evening hours, rather than in the early morning when the general count was conducted. The youth count was conducted from approximately 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on January 24, 2017. Youth worked in teams of at least two to four youth, with teams coordinated and accompanied by at least two youth street outreach workers. One team was solely responsible for the South County area, one for the Palo Alto/North County area, and three teams were responsible for covering the San José /Central Santa Clara County area.

Targeted Street Outreach – Encampments

The City of San José and Santa Clara County have explored numerous service and outreach initiatives related to the burgeoning growth of encampments in urban locations near waterways, public works, and other general urban open space areas. The City of San José, in particular, funds a homeless outreach and engagement program with outreach worker staff dedicated to linking encamped homeless to services and housing. These teams frequent encampments and build relationships that encourage participation in local homeless service initiatives, whether it is housing or other supportive services.

Larger encampment areas in the City of San José were identified during a focus group with outreach staff prior to the census count and special teams of outreach workers, familiar with these areas, were organized to count those residing in these larger encampments on the dates of the count. Targeted encampment areas were identified on general street count maps, and homeless persons residing in those encampments were counted by the outreach workers rather than the census street teams. The result was the most comprehensive profile of homeless encampments in San José, using similar methods to past years. However, not all encampments in Santa Clara County were covered by outreach teams and general count

teams, when outside the areas covered by outreach teams, would enumerate when appropriate.

Targeted Street Outreach - Vehicles

Identifying individuals residing in vehicles is difficult during the morning hours of the census count. By the time the sun rises, those residing in vehicles have often moved on to more remote locations or have found places where they blend in. North Santa Clara County recognized the need for targeted outreach and provided a dedicated outreach worker to enumerate vehicles prior to sunrise.

Census Undercount

For a variety of reasons, individuals experiencing homelessness generally do not want to be located, and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts are, an undercount of those experiencing homelessness will persist at varying levels, especially of hard-to-reach subpopulations such as unsheltered families, undocumented individuals, and unaccompanied children and youth.

The methods employed in a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers and individuals with lived experience, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, including:

- It is difficult to identify persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation.
- Individuals residing in isolated rural areas that are difficult to access or otherwise identify for the purposes of the count.
- Individuals whose physical appearance differs from traditional visual cues associated with people experiencing homelessness can be mistaken for housed individuals. This is especially true of unaccompanied children and youth, who often “hide in plain sight” and present similarly to their housed peers.
- Families with children experiencing homelessness often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or makeshift shelters.

By counting the minimum number of individuals experiencing homelessness during a given point-in-time, the count methodology is conservative and therefore most likely results in an undercount of certain unsheltered individuals. A margin of error on the final count is not available, though the data presented is to be considered a minimum estimate. However, this conservative approach is necessary to preserve the integrity of the data collected. Even though the census is most likely an undercount of the population experiencing homelessness, the methodology employed is the most comprehensive approach available and provides invaluable data for local and federal service agencies.

SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY

Goal

The goal of the shelter count was to gain an accurate count of the number of homeless persons who were being temporarily housed in shelters across Santa Clara County.

Data Collection

To collect data on individuals staying in shelters on the night of January 24th, ASR worked with BitFocus, the HMIS system administrators for Santa Clara County. BitFocus collected data on all emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and Safe Havens operating in

the county. Data was collected on household status, age, gender, race and ethnicity, veteran status, chronic status, and if individuals had certain health conditions. There were a small, limited number of shelters that do not participate in the HMIS system. To gather their data, ASR collected the same data using a web-based system of reporting.

Efforts to Include School District Data

Significant efforts were made to include data from all school districts within Santa Clara County. ASR and partners from the county met with district representatives to prepare them for the count and train them in data collection procedures. District representatives were trained to call all families that met the HUD definition of homelessness and ask where they had been staying on the night of the count. That information was then included in the appropriate census tract. Twelve out of thirty-two school districts were included, a large increase from past years. Other districts were not able to participate due to a heavy workload.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Planning and Implementation

The survey of 587 homeless persons was conducted in order to yield qualitative data about the homeless community in Santa Clara County. These data are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application, and are important for future program development and planning. The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, length and recurrence of homelessness, usual nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by homeless workers and shelter staff who were trained by Applied Survey Research. Training sessions led potential interviewers through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Homeless survey workers were compensated at a rate of $7 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily collected if an incentive gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks were given as an incentive for participating in the 2017 Homeless Survey. The socks were easy to obtain and distribute, were thought to have wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. This approach enabled surveys to be conducted at any time during the day. The gift proved to be successful, and was widely accepted among survey respondents.

Survey Sampling

Based on a point-in-time estimate of 7,394 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 587 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Santa Clara County.

The 2017 survey continued the practice from 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015 of a survey that was an integration of previous approaches and was administered in shelter/transitional housing facilities and on the street. Individuals residing in emergency shelters were reached through street surveys during the day when emergency shelters were closed.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence victims, and families. One way to increase the participation of these groups was to recruit peer survey workers. Like past surveys, the 2017 survey also prioritized a peer-

to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of currently homeless surveyors.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were trained to employ an "every third encounter" survey approach. Survey workers were instructed to approach every third person they encountered whom they considered to be an eligible survey respondent. If the person declined to take the survey, the survey worker could approach the next eligible person they encountered. After completing a survey, the randomized approach was resumed. It is important to recognize that while efforts are made to randomize the respondents, it is not a random sample methodology.

Data Collection

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that these responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

Data Analysis

To avoid potential duplication of respondents, the survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth, so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, and length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey.

Survey Administration Details

- The 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Survey was administered by the trained survey team in the weeks following the count.
- In all, the survey team collected 587 unique surveys

Survey Challenges and Limitations

The 2017 Santa Clara County Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, a lesser number of surveys were conducted among transitional housing residents than in previous years. There may be some variance in the data that the homeless individuals self-reported. However, using a peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers and city and county staff members recommended individuals who would be the best to conduct interviews and they received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.

There were a few challenges in collecting surveys and survey data throughout Santa Clara County. First and foremost was the weather and its impact. The series of storms that impacted Santa Clara County and the Bay Area during the survey period caused a variety of difficulties related to data collection. Surveyors repeatedly mentioned difficulties finding enough respondents because many were not in their normal sleeping locations due to weather related movement. Staff members at participating shelters and programs frequently mentioned the added difficulties that the inclement weather contributed, specifically dealing with the large influx of families experiencing homelessness after flooding drove dozens of families to seek shelter, necessitating the creation of a temporary shelter for families that had to be staffed by shelter staff.

Appendix 2: Definitions & Abbreviations

Chronic homelessness – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an unaccompanied individual or head of a family household with a disabling condition who has either continuously experienced homelessness for a year or more, or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Disabling condition – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual's ability to live independently; a developmental disability; or HIV/AIDS.

Emergency shelter – The provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 90 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

Family – A household with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18.

Homeless – Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

HUD – Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Sheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single individual – An unaccompanied adult over the age of 18.

Transition-age-youth – Young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Transitional housing – Housing in which homeless individuals may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services – which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination –may be provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Unaccompanied children – Children under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Unsheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

Appendix 3: Survey Questions

2017 Santa Clara Housing Survey

Interview Date: _____ **Neighborhood or City:** _____

Refusals: _____ (tally)

Interviewer's Name: _____

Shade Circles Like This--> ●
Not Like This--> ⊗ ✓

Section A: Demographics

1. What are your initials?

First _____ **Middle** _____ **Last** _____

2. What is your birth date?

Month _____ **Day** _____ **Year** _____

3. What is your gender?
   - O Male O Female O Transgender
   - O Do not identify as male, female or transgender
4. Are you Hispanic or Latino?
   - O Yes O No O Don't know
5. Which racial group do you identify with most? (Shade all that apply)
   - ☐ White ☐ Black or African American ☐ Asian
   - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Other
   - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
6. Do you consider yourself...?
   - ☐ Straight ☐ Lesbian ☐ Bisexual
   - ☐ Gay ☐ Queer ☐ Other: _____
7. Are you currently pregnant?
   - O Yes O No O Don't know
8. Have you ever been in foster care?
   - O Yes O No O Don't know

Section B: Veterans Status

1. Have you served in the U.S. Armed Forces? (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard)
   - O Yes O No O Don't know

   1b. When did you serve? From_____ to _____
2. Were you ever called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?
   - O Yes O No O Don't know
3. Have you ever received health care or benefits from a VA (Veterans Administration) center?
   - O Yes O No O Don't know
4. What is your discharge status?
   - O Honorable O Dishonorable
   - O General O Don't know
   - O Other than honorable O Does not apply
5. Is anyone else in your household a Veteran?
   - O Yes O No O Don't know

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Section C: Accomodation

1. Where were you staying on the night of January 24th? (Shade 1)
   - O Backyard or storage structure
   - O Outdoors/streets/parks/tent
   - O Transitional housing
   - O Motel/hotel
   - O Emergency shelter
   - O A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, foyer, hallway) or unconverted garage
   - O Public facility (train station, transit center, bus depot)
   - O Van
   - O Automobile/car
   - O Camper/RV
   - O Abandoned building/squat
   - O Encampment
   - O Other: _____

   1a. How many people, including yourself, usually stay there? _____
2. Is this the first time you have been homeless?
   - O Yes O No
3. How long have you been homeless this current time? (Shade 1)
   - O 7 days or less O 4-6 months O 1 year
   - O 8-30 days O 7-11 months O More than 1 year
   - O 1-3 months
4. How many different times have you been homeless in the past 3 years, including this current time? (Shade 1)
   - O 1 time O 3 times O 5 times
   - O 2 times O 4 times O 6 or more times
5. Have you been living in an emergency shelter and/or on the streets (including bus stations, underpasses, encampments, abandoned buildings, etc.) for the past year (12 months) or more?
   - O Yes O No
6. In addition to right now, how long would you say you have stayed in these kinds of places (total) in the past 3 years?

   Days_____ Weeks _____ Months_____ Years_____
7. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?
   - O 0-17 years old O 25-59 years old
   - O 18-24 years old O 55 years or older
8. Do you have a pet (currently living with you)?
   - O Cat O Dog O Other O None

Section D: Household Members

1. How many people are in your household, excluding yourself? _____
2. Do you have any children under age 18? O Yes O No O Don't know
3. Are all of your children under 18 currently living with you? O Yes O No O Don't know
4. Do you live alone or with other household members? O Alone ==> Please skip to Section E
   O Other household members

I am going to ask you a few questions about the people in your household that were staying with you on January 24th. I'll ask about each person, one at a time. In order for us to keep track of who we are talking about I am going to ask you for the first and last initial of each person.

What are their initials?	(A) F ___ L ___	(B) F ___ L ___	(C) F ___ L ___	(D) F ___ L ___	(E) F ___ L ___	(F) F ___ L ___
5. How are they related to you?						
Child	O	O	O	O	O	O
Spouse	O	O	O	O	O	O
Non-married partner	O	O	O	O	O	O
Other family member	O	O	O	O	O	O
Other non-family member	O	O	O	O	O	O
6. How old are they?						
Under 18	O	O	O	O	O	O
18 - 24	O	O	O	O	O	O
25 or older	O	O	O	O	O	O
7. How do they identify their gender?						
Male	O	O	O	O	O	O
Female	O	O	O	O	O	O
Transgender	O	O	O	O	O	O
Don't identify as male, female, or transgender	O	O	O	O	O	O
8. Are they Hispanic or Latino?						
Yes	O	O	O	O	O	O
No	O	O	O	O	O	O
Don't know	O	O	O	O	O	O
9. Which racial group do they identify with most? (Shade all that apply)						
White	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Black or African American	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Asian	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
American Indian or Alaska Native	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Don't know	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section E: Residency

1. Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless? (Shade 1)

O Santa Clara County O Other County in CA O Out of State

2. How long have you lived in Santa Clara County? (Shade 1)

O Less than 1 year O 1-4 years O 5-9 years O 10 years or more

3. Immediately before you became homeless, where were you living? Shade 1)

O A home owned or rented by you or your partner
O Subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing
O Hospital or treatment facility
O A home owned or rented by friends/relatives
O Juvenile Justice Facility
O Foster care
O Jail or prison
O Motel/hotel
O Other: _____

Section F: Cause and Prevention

1. What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness? (Shade1)

O Lost job
O Eviction
O Foreclosure
O Incarceration
O Alcohol or drug use
O Illness/medical problem
O Divorce/separation/break up
O Landlord raised rent
O Argument with family or friend who asked you to leave
O Spousal/partner violence
O Family violence
O Mental health issues
O Hospitalization/treatment
O Aging out of foster care
O Other: _____
O Don't know
O Probation/parole restrictions

2. What might have prevented you from becoming homeless? (Shade all that apply)

☐ Mental health services
☐ Health insurance/services
☐ Legal assistance
☐ Alcohol/drug counseling
☐ Transportation benefits
☐ Help accessing benefits
☐ Employment assistance
☐ Rent/mortgage assistance
☐ Case management after leaving hospital/jail/prison/juvenile justice facility
☐ Other: _____

3. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing? (Shade all that apply)

☐ Can't afford rent
☐ No job/not enough income
☐ No money for moving costs
☐ No housing available
☐ No transportation
☐ Having children
☐ Criminal record
☐ No ID/Paperwork
☐ Medical/health issues
☐ Bad credit
☐ Eviction record
☐ Immigration issues
☐ Restrictions from probation/parole
☐ Housing process is too difficult
☐ Child care costs
☐ Other: _____

4. If you are not using any type of shelter service, why not? (Shade all that apply)

☐ They are full
☐ They are far away
☐ They are too crowded
☐ Germs
☐ Bugs
☐ I can't stay with my partner/family
☐ I can't stay with my friends
☐ There is nowhere to store my stuff
☐ There are too many rules
☐ They don't accept my pet

5. If affordable permanent housing became available tomorrow, would you accept it ?

O Yes O No O Don't know

Section G: Income and Employment

1. What is your total monthly income from all sources?

O $0-$99 O $450-$749 O $1,100-$1,499 O More than $3,000
O $100-$449 O $750-$1,099 O $1,500-$3,000

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2a. What is your current employment status? (Shade 1)

O Unemployed
O Employed full-time
O Employed part-time
O Employed seasonal/sporadic
==> Skip to Section H

2b. Are you currently...

O Unable to work
O Looking for work
O Not looking for work

Section H: Health

1. Do you experience any of the following:

2. Does it keep you from holding a job, living in stable housing or taking care of yourself?

a. Any chronic health problem or medical condition(diabetes, cancer)	O Yes O No O Refuse	O Yes O No O Refuse
b. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	O Yes O No O Refuse	O Yes O No O Refuse
c. Any psychiatric or emotional conditions (depression, schizophrenia)	O Yes O No O Refuse	O Yes O No O Refuse
d. A physical disability	O Yes O No O Refuse	O Yes O No O Refuse
e. A traumatic brain injury to your brain from a bump, blow or wound to the head?	O Yes O No O Refuse	O Yes O No O Refuse
f. Drug or alcohol abuse (including prescription drugs not prescribed for you)	O Yes O No O Refuse	O Yes O No O Refuse
g. An AIDS or an HIV related illness?	O Yes O No O Refuse	O Yes O No O Refuse

3. If you live with a spouse, a significant other or parent, do any of the following conditions prevent them from maintaining work or housing? (Shade all that apply)

O Chronic health problem
O PTSD
O Drug or alcohol abuse
O Dementia/Alzheimers
O Physical disability
O Traumatic brain injury
O Psychiatric or emotional condition
O Developmental disability
O HIV/AIDS
O None of the above

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H8 C6

4. Are you currently experiencing home/domestic violence or abuse?

O Yes O No O Decline to state

5. Have you ever been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by a relative, or another person you have stayed with (spouse, partner, sibling, parent)?

O Yes O No O Decline to state

6. Do you recieve any disability benefits such as Social Security Disability Income, or Veterans Disability Benefits?

O Yes O No O Decline to state

7. Where do you usually go for medical care?

O VHHP/Homeless Clinic/Mobile Van O Emergency Roo
O Primary care O VA Hospital/clinic O None of the ab

8. How many times have you seen the same medical provider in the last 12 months? _____ times

9. Have you taken the VI-SPDAT/Coordinated Entry?

O Yes O No O Don't know

Section I: Services and Assistance

1. Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance? (Shade all that apply)

O Free meals
O Bus passes
O Job training/employment services
O Community drop in center
O Legal assistance
O Immigration services
O Behavioral health services
O Religious based services
O Outreach services
O Other: _____
O Not using any services

2. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance? (Shade all that apply)

O General Assistance (GA)/CAAP
O Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh
O Any VA Disability Compensation
O Other Veterans benefits (GI, Health)
O Social Security
O SSI/SSDI/Disability
O Medi-cal/Medicare
O CalWORKs/TANF
O Not receiving any form of government assistance

3. If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not? (Shade all that apply)

O Don't think you are eligible
O Don't have ID
O No permanent address
O Never applied
O Benefits were cut-off
O Immigration issues
O Paperwork too difficult
O Don't know where to go
O Turned down
O Applied and waiting for response
O Other: _____
O Don't want government assistance

Section J: Criminal Justice System

1. Have you spent a night in jail in the <u>last 12 months</u>? O Yes O No

2. Are you currently on probation or parole? O Yes O No

3. Have you accessed re-entry services? O Yes O No

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

ASR