Every two years in January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of their homeless population to gain a better understanding of the individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness, and to apply for federal funding for homeless programs.

The 2013 Santa Clara County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 29th and 30th, 2013. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 856 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

### Homeless Census Nine-Year Trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Census Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>7,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>7,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>7,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>7,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7,631</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sheltered Includes:

- Emergency Shelter: 12%
- Transitional Housing: 13%
- Safe Haven: <1%

### Unsheltered Includes:

- On the street: 31%
- Abandoned buildings: 9%
- Cars/vans/RVs: 16%
- Encampment Areas: 19%

### Gender

- Men: 67%
- Women: 32%
- Transgender: 2%

### Ethnicity (Top 4 Responses)

- Hispanic: 31%
- White: 28%
- Black: 22%
- Multi-ethnic: 8%

### Foster Care (respondents that have ever been in the system)

- 16%

### First Time Homelessness

- Yes (46%)
- No (54%)

52% of those experiencing homelessness for the first time had been homeless for one year or more.

### Duration of Homelessness

- 30 days or less: 13%
- 1-11 months: 41%
- 1 year or more: 47%

### Obstacles to Securing Permanent Housing

- No job/income: 54%
- No money for moving costs: 30%
- Bad Credit: 22%
- No housing availability: 18%

93% of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would want affordable permanent housing were it available.
A disabling condition is defined here as a physical disability, mental illness, chronic depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability.

**Disabling Conditions**

- Mental illness* (53%)
- Substance abuse (17%)
- Chronic physical illness (12%)
- Physical disability (14%)
- Developmental disability (4%)

* Mental illness includes PTSD, depression, and other mental illnesses including bipolar and schizophrenia.

Note: Multiple response question, numbers will not total to 100%.

**What is a disabling condition?**

64% of survey respondents reported a disabling condition.

**What might have prevented respondents’ homelessness (top 4 responses)**

- Employment Assistance 42%
- Mental Health Services 34%
- Rent/Mortgage Assistance 24%
- Alcohol/Drug Counseling 21%

**Incarceration**

- 28% spent at least 1 or more nights in jail or prison in the past 12 months

**Services & Assistance**

- Calfresh, WIC or food stamps 61%
- General Assistance 38%
- SSI/SSDI 38%

**Reasons for NOT receiving government services (top 3 responses)**

- Don’t need government assistance 19%
- Income Gap 15%
- Don’t think you are eligible 23%

**Panhandling**

- $5.90 per day is the average income for those survey respondents who reported panhandling

**Summary**

These data provide a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County on January 29th and 30th. It provides a basic estimation of the number and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness on any given night in order to inform future service planning and provisioning efforts.