

2009 SONOMA COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS AND SURVEY



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Introduction

In order to apply for Federal funding for homeless programs, as well as to get a better understanding of the current homeless population, the Sonoma County Community Development Commission and the Sonoma County Continuum of Care Planning Group worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey. ASR is a non-profit social research firm based in Santa Cruz, California, with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and research.



Family Support Center - 465 "A" Street
A multi-service shelter for children and their families, serving up to 150 people daily

Photo Credit: Michael Amsler for Catholic Charities

During the early morning hours of January 23, 2009, the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census took place. The Census had two components: a Street Count – a point-in-time enumeration of unsheltered homeless people; and a Shelter and Institution Count – a point-in-time enumeration of sheltered homeless people. The entire county was canvassed from four deployment locations, including Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Healdsburg, and Guerneville. In order to capture the number of homeless people staying in shelters, an online Survey went out to every shelter in the county. These shelter data were collected for the night of January 22nd, 2009, to capture the number of individuals who would not be out on the street during the morning of the Census.

In addition to the County-wide Homeless Census, an in-depth 30 question Survey was administered in the weeks following the Census to 600 sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals. The Survey was designed to yield quantitative and qualitative data about the homeless population in Sonoma County.

The methodology employed in the 2009 study was significantly different from previous homeless counts conducted in Sonoma County and represents the state of the art in such studies, having been profiled in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's *Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People* (2008). The results presented in this report will provide invaluable data regarding the number and characteristics of homeless persons in Sonoma County, and will set a new baseline to support County and Statewide efforts to mitigate and end homelessness.

The Census and Survey data presented within this report will further profile likely causes and contributing factors to homelessness in Sonoma County. These data will support evaluation of current strategies, as well as the development of new approaches by the County of Sonoma and all of its municipal governments as they address homelessness within their communities. Additionally, these data are considered vital to the success of Sonoma County's *10-Year Homeless Action Plan*.

***These data are considered vital
to the success of Sonoma
County's 10-Year Homeless
Action Plan.***

Project Purpose and Goals

In 2001, the United States government adopted a national goal to end homelessness in ten years.¹ Furthermore, the U.S. Congress required that governments receiving federal funds under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act must conduct regular point-in-time counts of their homeless populations. For these reasons, and most importantly, to obtain more accurate and useful data, the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, in partnership with the county's nine cities and the Sonoma County Continuum of Care Planning Group,² undertook this homeless Census and Survey.

The 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey Project Committee identified several important project goals:

- To increase public awareness of homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions.
- To provide a measure of the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population.
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the homeless.
- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds.

The results of this research will assist service providers, policy makers, funding sources, and local, state, and federal governments to better understand and plan for the needs of the homeless population by examining current statistics in various geographical contexts. It is hoped that the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey will help policy makers and service providers more effectively develop services and programs to serve the county's homeless population.

The Homeless Census and Survey will help policy makers and service providers more effectively develop services and programs to serve the county's homeless population.

¹ The White House Domestic Policy Council, *New Freedom Initiative: A Progress Report*, Chapter 3, 2004.

² The Sonoma County Continuum of Care Planning Group is a broad-based consortium of public and private agencies organized to plan homeless services and to manage the annual application for competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funds. Hosted by the Sonoma County Community Development Commission in partnership with the Cities of Santa Rosa and Petaluma, the Sonoma County Continuum of Care Planning Group is the author of Sonoma County's *10-Year Homeless Action Plan* and initiates projects and working groups to meet that plan's ambitious goals.

Executive Summary

The Number of Homeless Persons in Sonoma County

The 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Count was performed using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-recommended practices for counting homeless persons. This comprehensive study included a field enumeration and field Surveys.

- ✓ **The overall HUD recognized point-in-time homeless population of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC) enumerated in the point-in-time count was 3,247 people.**
- ✓ **A total of 2,222 unsheltered homeless people were enumerated on streets within the 86 Census tracts of Sonoma County.³**
- ✓ **There were a total of 1,025 sheltered homeless people who were counted in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities.**
- ✓ **An additional 43 homeless people were housed in jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities, but they do not meet HUD's homeless definition for the point-in-time count.**
- ✓ **A total of 354 homeless youth under the age of 18 were counted (11%).**
- ✓ **Based on Survey results, it is estimated that there were approximately 65 homeless seniors over the age of 60 years old in the overall homeless population.**



Photo Credit: Michael Amsler for Catholic Charities

Figure 1: 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Enumeration

Census Components	Findings
Street enumeration	2,222
Shelter enumeration	1,025
Jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities	43
Total Count	3,290
Total HUD Approved Count	3,247

Using the above major data components and the results of 600 Surveys of homeless persons in Sonoma County, ASR generated detailed demographic and lifestyle profiles of homeless people in Sonoma County. The 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey yielded data regarding the frequency and length of homeless episodes, which was used to calculate an annual estimate of the number of people who experience homelessness in a year.

³ For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of an unsheltered homeless person was used: someone who is either living on the streets, or in a vehicle, encampment, abandoned building, unconverted garage, or any other place not normally used or meant for human habitation.

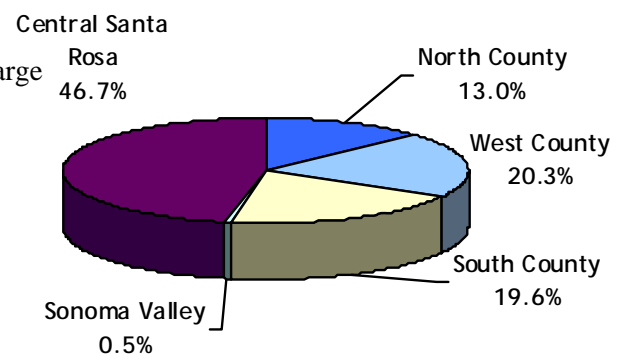
- ✓ **ASR used a HUD-recommended formula, which produced an annual estimate of 7,883 persons in Sonoma County who are estimated to experience homelessness at some point in 2009⁴.**
 - Based on the American Community Survey population profile, this annual estimate of homelessness represented 1.7% of Sonoma County's total population of 463,544 people.⁵

Geographical Breakdown of Homeless Persons

- ✓ **13% of all homeless people were located in North County.**
 - This includes the Cities of Cloverdale and Healdsburg, the Town of Windsor, and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

- ✓ **20% were located in West County.**
 - This includes the City of Sebastopol and the large unincorporated areas of West County.

- ✓ **South County had a total of 20% of the homeless population.**
 - This includes the Cities of Rohnert Park, Cotati, Petaluma, and the surrounding unincorporated areas.



- ✓ **47% of the overall homeless population was located in Central Santa Rosa.**
 - This includes the City of Santa Rosa and nearby unincorporated areas.

- ✓ **Less than 1% of the homeless population was found in Sonoma Valley.**
 - This includes the City of Sonoma and the unincorporated areas of the Sonoma Valley.

⁴ This number is based on data from the Survey which asked about length of homelessness from the previous year (2008).

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009.

A Profile of Homeless Persons

Of the 3,247 homeless people identified in the 2009 point-in-time count, 32% were in shelter facilities and 68% were unsheltered. This highlights the importance of combined street-based and shelter-based enumerations, versus only shelter-centered enumeration efforts.

The following is an overview of the profile of homelessness based on the Survey results:

- ✓ **53% of Survey respondents reported that this was their first episode of homelessness.**
- ✓ **47% of all homeless Survey respondents had been homeless for a year or more.**
- ✓ **24% of all Survey respondents reported having children, who were either living with them or not.**
 - Of the respondents with children, 40% had children under the age of 18 living with them.
- ✓ **Whites/ Caucasians comprised 66% of Survey respondents, Hispanic/Latino respondents comprised 14%, American Indian/Alaskan Native respondents comprised 8%, and Black/African Americans comprised 6% of Survey respondents.**
- ✓ **64% of all respondents were over the age of 30.**
- ✓ **14% of respondents were under the age of 18.**
- ✓ **Approximately 67% of homeless Survey respondents were male, and 33% were female.**
- ✓ **42% of all Survey respondents aged 25 years and up had received their high school diploma or equivalent as their highest level of education.**
- ✓ **14% of all Survey respondents were working either full or part time.**
- ✓ **37% of respondents reported that they *sometimes* get enough to eat on a daily basis and 51% reported that they usually get enough to eat on a daily basis.**
- ✓ **12% of respondents reported that they do not get enough to eat on a daily basis.**
- ✓ **69% of respondents cited not being able to afford rent as the biggest obstacle to securing permanent housing.**
- ✓ **53% of respondents reported that they were not receiving any money from government sources.**
- ✓ **42% of respondents were receiving less than \$1000 per month from government sources.**

47% of Survey respondents had been homeless for a year or more.

The Daily Condition of Homeless Persons – Survey Results

All qualitative data about homelessness in this report were derived from direct Surveys of a random sample of homeless persons. As with all Surveys of this nature, results were potentially biased by memory recall issues, though a review of the data did not indicate that this was a significant issue. Additionally, for critical profile interest areas such the prevalence of disabling conditions, the research design relied on self-described and self-defined responses. This is an approved method in homeless qualitative profiling due to the limitations in connecting homeless persons to their clinical profiles.

Length of Homelessness

- 39% of Survey respondents had been homeless for less than six months.
- 18% of respondents had been homeless for 1-2 years.
- 22% of Survey respondents had been homeless for more than three years.

Frequency of Homelessness

- 85% of Survey respondents had been homeless only one time in the past year (their current period of homelessness).
- 18% of Survey respondents had been homeless the entire 12 months in the last year.

Usual Sleeping Arrangements

- 37% of Survey respondents usually slept outdoors (on the streets or in encampments).
- 8% of respondents reported living in a vehicle (a car, van, or camper).
- 16% of respondents were living in an indoor area not normally used for human habitation (an abandoned building, backyard storage structure, public facility, unconverted garage/attic/basement, and a place in a house not normally used for sleeping).
- 18% usually slept in a transitional housing facility and 15% usually slept in an emergency shelter.

Unemployment

- 86% of Survey respondents were unemployed. This is compared to a 9% unemployment rate for Sonoma County during the month of February⁶.
- 42% of unemployed respondents cited “no jobs” as the top barrier to employment.
- 30% reported not having transportation as a barrier to employment.

Accessing Government Assistance

- 37% of respondents were receiving Food Stamps, 27% were receiving Medi-Cal/Medi-Care assistance.
- 43% of respondents were not receiving any form of government assistance. 31% of these respondents reported that they did not think they were eligible for any assistance.



⁶ State of California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, 2009.

Medical Care

- Since they became homeless, 35% of respondents needed medical care and were unable to receive it.
- 40% of respondents reported that they usually go to a hospital emergency room when they need medical attention.

Health Conditions⁷

- 30% of respondents were experiencing a mental illness at the time of the Survey.
- 53% of respondents were currently experiencing depression.
- 27% of respondents were experiencing a physical disability.
- 3% of respondents were currently experiencing an HIV/AIDS related illness.
- 21% of respondents were experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at the time of the Survey.
- 10% of respondents were experiencing a developmental disability.

Addiction Issues

- 42% of respondents were experiencing some form of substance abuse (either drug abuse, alcohol abuse, or both).
- 50% of Survey respondents had at least one parent or caregiver who abused alcohol or drugs when they were a child.

Military / Veterans Status

- 13% of adult Survey respondents were veterans of the United States Armed Forces.
- Of the veteran respondents, 34% were disabled as a result of their military service.

Prison and Foster Care Transitions

- 19% of Survey respondents were on probation or parole when they most recently became homeless.
- 18% of Survey respondents were in the foster care system as youth.

Domestic Violence

- 12% of Survey respondents were currently experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse.
- Of those respondents who were currently experiencing domestic/ partner violence, 19% indicated that domestic violence was the primary reason for homelessness.

HIV/AIDS

- 3% of survey respondents were experiencing HIV/AIDS related illnesses.
- Compared to Sonoma County's general population of 0.24% with HIV/AIDS,⁸ HIV/AIDS is very over represented in the homeless population.

⁷ Please note that depression by itself was not considered criteria for the respondent to be considered "severely mentally ill" () despite the seriousness of this condition. Severely mentally ill was defined by the respondent's claim of mental illness or having experienced PTSD.

⁸ The Press Democrat, *Two Alarming AIDS Trends in Sonoma County*, retrieved on April 24, 2009 from <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090415/ARTICLES/904159858?Title=Two-alarming-AIDS-trends-in-Sonoma-County>.

The Primary Reasons for Becoming Homeless

Just as we must rely on Survey respondents' self-definitions of disabling conditions, we rely on their self-perceptions as to the causes of their homelessness. While most Survey respondents were very candid and self-aware, it was difficult to determine, for example, if job loss was caused by substance abuse or was a consequence of it. The data speak for themselves and are consistent with other communities.

- ✓ **Overall, Survey respondents most frequently cited loss of job or unemployment (34%) as the primary event or condition that led to their current episode of homelessness.**

34% of respondents cited loss of job or unemployment as the primary event or condition that led to their current episode of homelessness.

- Of those respondents who cited loss of job as the primary event that led to their homelessness, 68% had been homeless for less than one year.
- ✓ **Other common causes of homelessness were alcohol or drug use (16%), an argument or family or friends who asked them to leave (8%), and family or domestic violence (7%).**

Figure 2: Primary Reasons for Homelessness

Reason	% of Total
Lost job (unemployment)	34.0%
Alcohol or drug use	16.4%
Argument / family or friend asked you to leave	7.5%
Family / domestic violence	7.2%
Illness or medical problem	5.2%
Mental health issues	5.0%
Landlord sold/stopped renting or re-used property	4.5%
Divorce or separated	2.7%
Incarceration	2.3%
Landlord raised rent	2.2%
Don't know / decline to state	1.8%
Disagreement with landlord/tenants	1.5%
Lost home I owned through foreclosure	1.3%
Other reasons	8.1%
Total Respondents	597

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

A Profile of Homeless Youth

Traditional homeless census and survey methods significantly under-represent homeless youth. Sonoma County and the research team acknowledged this shortcoming and designed a targeted outreach effort to count and survey unaccompanied homeless youth throughout the County. Ninety-two unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 18 were identified and 140 surveys of youth under the age of 21 were administered by youth advocates and trained peer interviewers.

- ✓ **59% of youth Survey respondents under the age of 18 reported that they lived with others, while only 34% of the adult respondents over the age of 21 reported that they lived with others.**
- ✓ **80% of youth Survey respondents between the ages of 13 and 21 had been living in Sonoma County before they became homeless, compared to 76% of adult respondents over the age of 21.**
- ✓ **25% of youth Survey respondents between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their primary cause of homelessness was an argument with a family/friend that resulted in them being asked to leave the house. This was the response for only 2% of adult respondents over the age of 21.**
- ✓ **20% of youth Survey respondents between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their primary cause of homelessness was family/ domestic violence, compared to only 3% of adult respondents over the age of 21.**
- ✓ **63% youth Survey respondents between the ages of 13 and 21 were not using any government services, compared to 37% of adult respondents over the age of 21.**
 - 45% of youth Survey respondents between the ages of 13 and 21 did not think they were eligible to receive government services, compared to 24% of adult respondents over the age of 21.
- ✓ **12% of youth respondents ages 13-21 indicated that they had children, regardless of whether their child/children were living with them. This is compared to 28% of adult respondents over the age of 21.**
- ✓ **Higher percentages of youth respondents, compared to adult respondents, were experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse (20% and 9%, respectively), HIV/AIDS related illnesses (5% and 2%), a development disability (18% and 7%), alcohol abuse (37% and 31%), and drug abuse (47% and 26%).**
- ✓ **A much smaller percentage of youth ages 13-21 years indicated that they usually get enough to eat on a daily basis (33%), compared to adult respondents ages 22 and older (57%).**

33% of youth respondents reported that they usually get enough to eat on a daily basis.

Chronically Homeless

A profile of the chronically homeless was obtained from the data gathered from the homeless Survey. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines a chronically homeless person as:

An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been:

- *Continually homeless for one year or more; or*
- *Has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.*

It should be noted that “a disabling condition” includes physical, mental and developmental disabilities, as well as alcoholism, drug addiction, depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), HIV/AIDS, or a chronic health condition.

- ✓ **Of the 3,247 homeless persons identified, 979 (30%) could be considered chronically homeless⁹.**
 - The 2008 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, found that 18% of all homeless people nationwide were chronically homeless.¹⁰
- ✓ **82% of chronically homeless respondents were unsheltered.**
- ✓ **80% of chronically homeless respondents had two or more disabling conditions.**
- ✓ **72% of chronically homeless respondents were currently experiencing depression.**
- ✓ **45% of chronically homeless respondents were not using any government services.**
- ✓ **63% of chronically homeless respondents were experiencing substance abuse.**

⁹ Chronically homeless people staying in transitional housing facilities do not fit HUD’s definition, so they are excluded from this analysis.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, *The Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*, 2008.

Summary

The 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey revealed a diverse population with many different needs. The homeless Survey showed that the typical homeless person was living in Sonoma County at the time they became homeless, had been homeless for less than a year, and were receiving some form of government assistance (if not income). Additionally, 76% of respondents indicated they had some disabling condition and 27% were experiencing some form of physical disability. Veterans represented 13% of the homeless Survey population over the age of 18.

76% of respondents indicated they had some disabling condition.

The point-in-time street and shelter Census identified 3,247 homeless people in Sonoma County.



Photo Credit: Sharon Galindo Photography

This count, however, should be considered conservative since it is well known that even with the most thorough methodology, many homeless individuals stay in locations where they cannot be found.

Key causes of homelessness included economic factors such as job loss or unemployment. Approximately 34% of homeless respondents reported a lost job as the primary reason they became homeless. Eighty-six percent (86%) of Survey respondents stated that they were currently unemployed. More than 16% of Survey respondents reported that the primary cause of their homelessness was due to an alcohol or drug issue. Approximately 42% of all homeless respondents were experiencing alcohol or drug abuse, again highlighting the critical importance of integrated health services.

Homeless Census Findings

To accurately enumerate Sonoma County’s homeless population, a point-in-time Census was conducted of:

- Unsheltered homeless people, including those found on streets, in vehicles/campers, in makeshift shelters (such as tents), abandoned buildings, and encampments; and
- Sheltered homeless people occupying emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, and those using vouchers to stay in motels or hotels



Photo Credit: Sharon Galindo Photography

In this study, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD’s) definition of homelessness – taken from Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I, §10302(a) of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations based on the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act – was used. The definition is:

- *An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and*
- *An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:*
 - *A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), or*
 - *An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or*
 - *A public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.*

Certain homeless persons are excluded from this definition, including:

- Unsheltered homeless who were “doubled-up” in their family’s or friend’s home;
- Sheltered homeless in jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities;
- Homeless youth who were living in rehabilitation facilities or hospitals as a result of their parent’s illness.

In this report, the results illustrate the unsheltered and sheltered homeless Census findings that fit HUD’s definition (reported in the 2009 McKinney Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application). However, data for the excluded populations were also collected and are mentioned in this report, although they are not reported in the 2009 Continuum of Care (CoC) funding application.

Other people absent from this report include homeless persons living in highly inaccessible places such as areas where safety issues prevented enumerators from entering, and remote forest areas. Finally, some specific groups – such as youths, families, and the migrant homeless – who tend not to be as visible among the general homeless population, are challenging to enumerate and were likely undercounted. Though challenging, ASR and its partners have tried to minimize any undercount or misrepresentation. Where the authors believe the enumeration and methodology may have resulted in an undercount or over count, it is so stated.

Number and Characteristics of Homeless People

The point-in-time street count was conducted on January 23, 2009 from approximately 5:00 am to 10:00 am. Census enumerators canvassed all 86 U.S. Census Tracts in the County. Shelters and institutions in the County reported their occupancies for the night before their areas were enumerated. Additionally, because unaccompanied youth tend not to co-mingle with the adult



homeless population, special youth enumeration teams consisting of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth were formed to enumerate unaccompanied homeless youth. Youth teams, supervised by youth outreach coordinators, enumerated known youth areas in the afternoon/early evening hours, with special attention paid to avoid duplication. They found considerably more unaccompanied homeless youth than were found in the general street Census effort; therefore the research team

felt there was little worry of duplication. The youth enumerated by these special teams were assigned tract locations post-facto and were integrated into the jurisdictional breakdowns.

The number of homeless persons occupying emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, and institutional housing were enumerated in conjunction with the street count. While the number of people in rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, jails, and hotels is reported below, HUD does not include them in the point-in-time enumeration summary reported in the McKinney Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application.

- ✓ **A total of 3,247 homeless people were counted in the 2009 Sonoma County point-in-time Census.**
 - 68% of these people (2,222) were unsheltered. This number included the individuals counted on the street, as well as the number of people estimated to be living in the cars, vans, RVs, tents, encampments, and abandoned buildings that were counted.
 - 32% of these were sheltered (1,025). This number included the individuals occupying emergency shelters, transitional housing, and hotels (using vouchers).
- ✓ **Of the homeless people counted, 71% were men and 29% were women.**
- ✓ **11% of the homeless people counted were youth under the age of 18 (either living on their own or within families). This represents a total of 354 youth.**
 - Youth under the age of 18 comprised 4% of the unsheltered homeless population, and 26% of the sheltered population.
- ✓ **People in families accounted for 15% of the homeless population.**
 - Families made up 0.3% of the unsheltered homeless population,¹¹ and 47% of the sheltered population.

11% of the homeless population were youth under the age of 18. People in families made up 15% of the homeless population.

¹¹ For the unsheltered count, a group of homeless individuals were determined to be a family if the grouping included at least one child estimated to be under the age of 18 who was accompanied by at least one adult.

- ✓ **Approximately 51% of all unsheltered homeless people were living in cars, vans, RVs, abandoned buildings, and encampments.¹²**
- ✓ **Among the sheltered population, the number of people who were housed in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities were almost equal, with 49% and 51% respectively.**

Figure 3: Homeless Census Population¹³

Setting	Men*	Women*	Youth	Total People	Percent of Total
Unsheltered	1,574	559	89	2,222	68.4%
Single individuals	759	230	87	1,076	48.4%
Individuals in families	2	2	2	6	0.3%
Individuals in cars, vans, RVs	416	167	-	583	26.2%
Individuals in encampments	228	92	-	320	14.4%
Individuals in abandoned buildings	169	68	-	237	10.7%
Sheltered	489	271	265	1,025	31.6%
Emergency shelters	262	151	91	504	49.2%
Single individuals	197	125	5	327	-
Individuals in families	65	26	86	177	-
Transitional housing	227	120	174	521	50.8%
Single individuals	134	82	0	216	-
Individuals in families	93	38	174	305	-
Totals	2,063	830	354	3,247	100.0%
% of Totals	63.5%	25.6%	10.9%	100.0%	

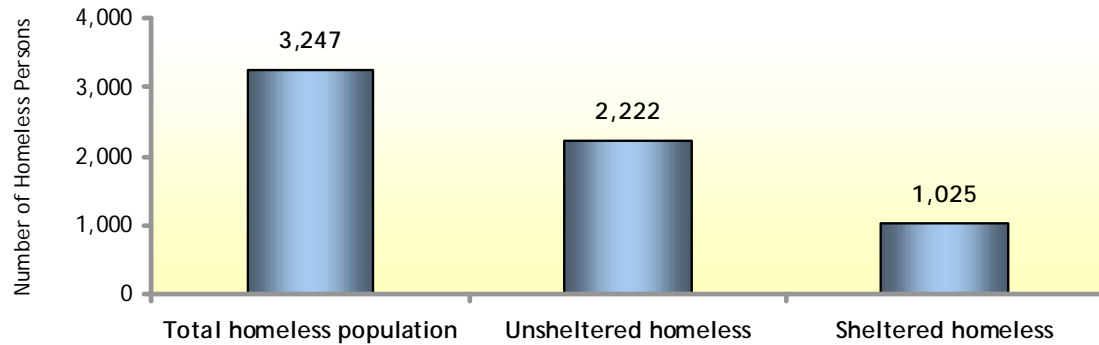
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census, 2009.

* The gender of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons could not always be determined. For these calculations, the gender of "unknown" persons was determined based on the percentage of known male and female persons identified.

¹² This number was estimated using results from the Sonoma County Homeless Survey. In the Survey, homeless individuals living in vehicles, tents, or encampments reported the total number of people who usually live there, and the average number of people living in each of these settings was calculated. This average was multiplied by the number of vehicles, tents, or encampments recorded during the Census, for an estimate of the total number of people in these settings.

¹³ Homeless people staying in rehabilitation facilities and hospitals/jails are not considered homeless by HUD, therefore they are not included in the calculations throughout this report.

Figure 4: Number of Homeless (Sheltered and Unsheltered) in Sonoma County



Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Jurisdictional Breakdown

Total of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homeless People by City

The following tables show the total number of unsheltered and sheltered homeless people enumerated in Sonoma County by city jurisdiction.

Figure 5: Homeless Census Population Total (Sheltered and Unsheltered) by City and Family Status

Jurisdiction	Individuals	People in Families	Total people	Percent of Total
Cloverdale	4	5	9	0.3%
Cotati	26	0	26	0.8%
Healdsburg	95	24	119	3.7%
Petaluma	280	138	418	12.9%
Rohnert Park	74	23	97	3.0%
Santa Rosa	1,084	293	1,377	42.4%
Sebastopol	19	2	21	0.6%
Sonoma	6	0	6	0.2%
Town of Windsor	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Incorporated	1,588	485	2,073	63.8%
Total Unincorporated¹⁴	1,171	3	1,174	36.2%
Totals	2,759	488	3,247	100.0%

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census, 2009.

¹⁴ The Unincorporated numbers include the lower Russian River and rural areas of West County, North County, and Sonoma Valley.

Total of Unsheltered Homeless People by City

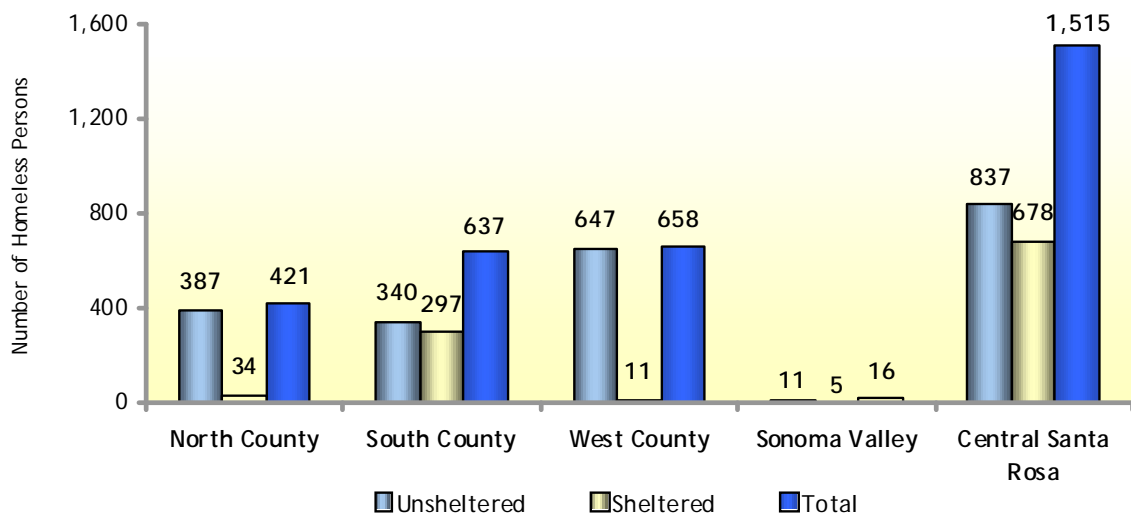
Figure 6: Unsheltered Homeless Census Population Total by City and Family Status

Jurisdiction	Individuals	People in Families	Total people	Percent of Total
Cloverdale	0	0	0	0.0%
Cotati	20	0	20	0.9%
Healdsburg	94	0	94	4.2%
Petaluma	148	3	151	6.8%
Rohnert Park	73	0	73	3.3%
Santa Rosa	699	0	699	31.5%
Sebastopol	19	0	19	0.9%
Sonoma	1	0	1	0.0%
Town of Windsor	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Incorporated	1,054	3	1,057	47.6%
Total Unincorporated	1,162	3	1,165	52.4%
Totals	2,216	6	2,222	100.0%

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census, 2009.

Regional Breakdown

Figure 7: Number of Homeless (Sheltered and Unsheltered) By Region in Sonoma County



Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census, 2009.

Countywide Annual Estimation

A point-in-time homeless enumeration has an inherent bias of not capturing information about homeless persons who experience short episodes of homelessness during other times of the year. More people experience homelessness annually than can be counted at any given point in time. In any year, people will cycle in and out of homelessness. For example, someone may be homeless between February and May, and another person may become homeless between October and December. Counting only the homeless person found in a December Census could under-represent the experience of the homeless person in the February to May timeline.



Therefore, based on the Survey responses of the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey, ASR used the annualization formula detailed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing to calculate an annual estimate of the number of homeless people in Sonoma County over the course of a year. This approach is the HUD-approved method for calculating the annual estimate of homeless people based on the Point-in-Time count. The following is an explanation of the annualization calculation.

Three factors were used to determine the annual estimate¹⁵:

- A = The Point-in-Time count of currently homeless people (found in the street and shelter count)
- B = The number of currently homeless people who became homeless within the last 7 days; and
- C = The proportion of currently homeless people who have experienced a previous homeless episode within the past 12 months.

The equation for calculating the annual estimate: $A + [(B*51)*(1-C)] = \text{Annual estimate}$

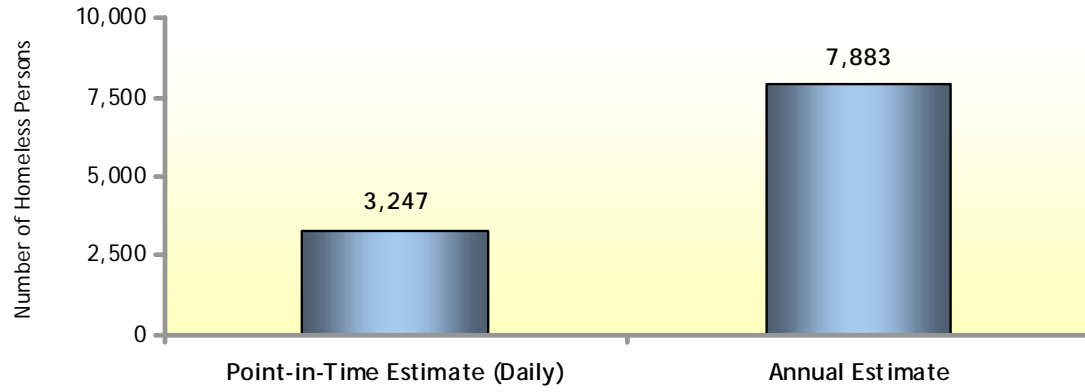
- For Sonoma County: $3,247 + [(107*51)*(1 - 0.1517)] = 7,882.89 \approx 7,883$ people

- ✓ **The annual estimate for the number of homeless people in Sonoma County was 7,883 people.**
- ✓ **Based on the American Community Survey population profile, this annual estimate of homelessness represented 1.7% of Sonoma County's total population of 463,544 people.¹⁶**

¹⁵ Burt, Martha and Wilkins, Carol. *Estimating the Need: Projecting from Point-in-Time to Annual Estimates of the Number of Homeless People in a Community and Using this Information to Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing*. Corporation for Supportive Housing. March 2005.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009.

Figure 8: Point-in-Time and Annual Estimate of Homelessness in Sonoma County



Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey, 2009.

Homeless Survey Findings

The following section provides an overview of the findings generated from the Sonoma County Homeless Survey. A total of 600 valid Surveys were administered during early February 2009. Approximately 5% of these Surveys were conducted in Spanish. Missing values have been intentionally omitted from the Survey results, and all Survey results display valid percentages only. *Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not necessarily equal the total number of Surveys.* A detailed explanation of the methodology used for the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey can be found in Appendix I. A copy of the Survey instrument, as well as a complete list of Survey questions and responses, can be found in Appendices III and IV, respectively.

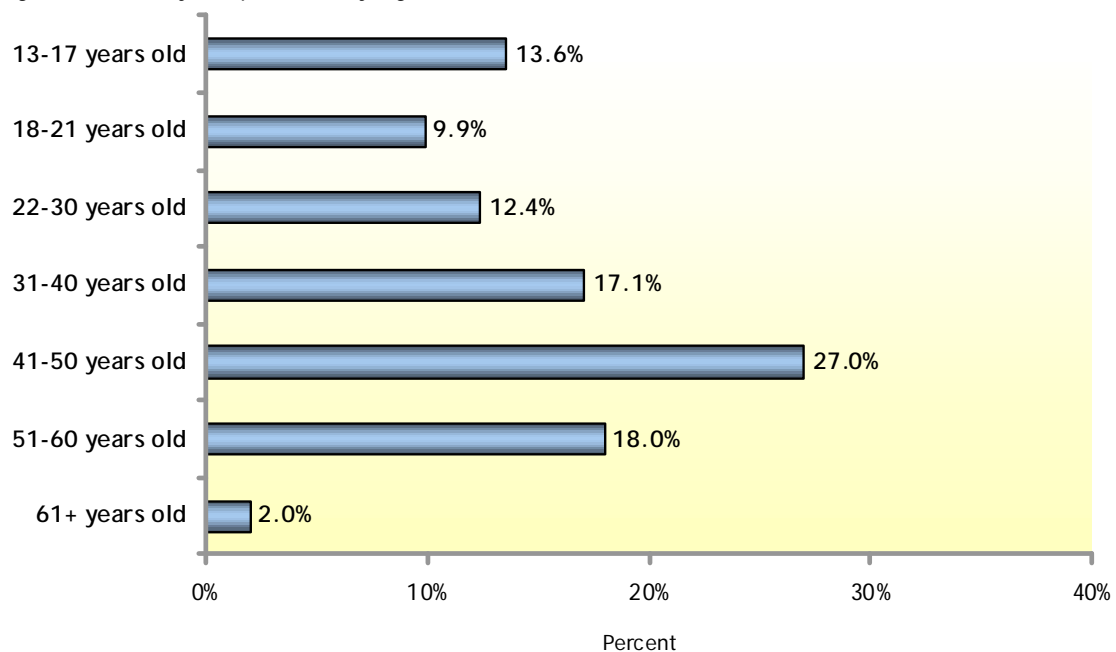
Demographics

In order to measure the diversity of homeless residents in Sonoma County, respondents were asked to answer several demographic questions pertaining to their age, gender, ethnicity, and military service.

Age

- ✓ **The highest percentage of Survey respondents (27%) were between 41 and 50 years of age.**
- ✓ **Approximately 14% of respondents were youth under the age of 18.**

Figure 9: Survey Respondents by Age



N = 596

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Gender

- ✓ **Male respondents accounted for 67% of the total homeless Survey population, while female respondents accounted for 33%.**
 - Additionally, there were a total of 5 transgender respondents, which accounted for less than 1% of Survey respondents.
- ✓ **In the overall County population, 49% of residents were men and 51% were women, demonstrating an over-representation of men in the homeless population and an under-representation of women in the homeless population.¹⁷**

Ethnicity

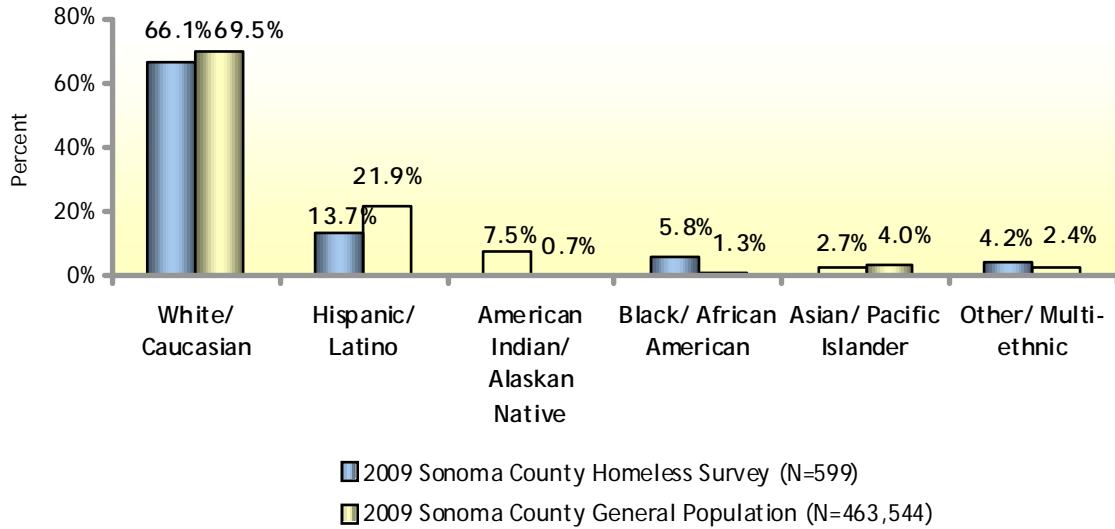
- ✓ **66% of homeless Survey respondents identified their racial/ethnic group as White/ Caucasian.**
- ✓ **14% of homeless Survey respondents were of Hispanic or Latino decent.**
- ✓ **8% of Survey respondents identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native decent.**
- ✓ **6% of homeless Survey respondents were Black/ African American.**
- ✓ **In the overall 2009 Sonoma County population, 70% of residents were White/ Caucasians, 22% were Hispanics/Latinos, 1% were Black/African American, and less than 1% were American Indian and Alaskan Native, demonstrating an over-representation in the homeless population of the American Indian/Alaskan Native population and Black/African American population and an under-representation of the Hispanic/Latino and White/ Caucasian populations.¹⁸**



¹⁷ Sonoma County General Population data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009.

¹⁸ Sonoma County General Population data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009.

Figure 10: Respondents by Ethnicity (Top 4 Ethnicities)



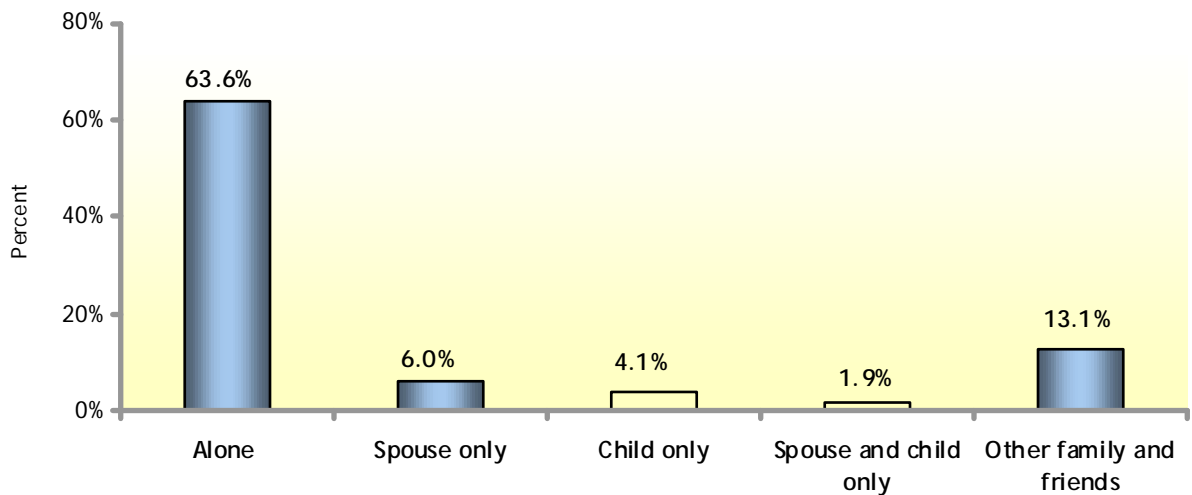
Sonoma County General Population data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009.

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Living Status

- ✓ **64% of Survey respondents indicated they were living alone at the time of the Survey.**
- ✓ **13% were living with other family members (not a spouse or child) and friends. 6% of respondents were living with a spouse and 4% were living with a child. 2% of respondents were living with a spouse and child.**

Figure 11: With Whom Do Respondents Live?



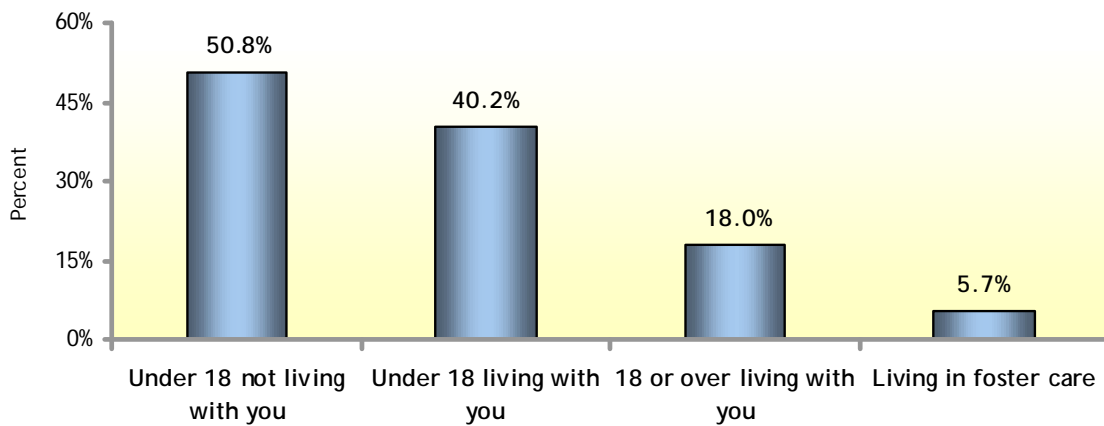
N= 588

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Homeless Families With Children

- ✓ **24% of all respondents reported that they had children, living with them or not.**
- ✓ **Of those respondents with children, 40% were living with children under the age of 18 living with them and 18% of respondents were living with children over the age of 18.**
- ✓ **51% of Survey respondents with children reported that they had children under the age of 18 who were not living with them.**
- ✓ **Of those respondents with children under the age of 18 living with them, 60% had one child living with them and 33% had two children living with them.**

Figure 12: Respondents With Children



Multiple response question with 122 respondents offering 140 responses.

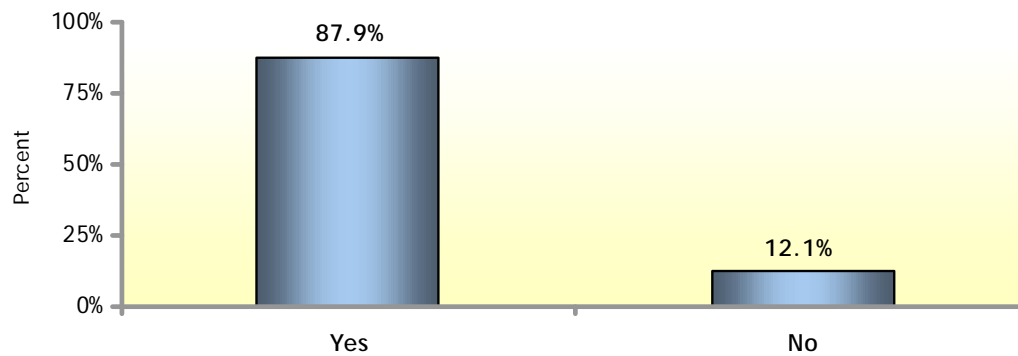
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

Child Education

- ✓ **88% of respondents with school-aged children indicated their children were attending school.**
- ✓ **12% stated their children were not attending school.**

Figure 13: If Respondents' Children Are Old Enough, Are They In School?



N=33

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Foster Care

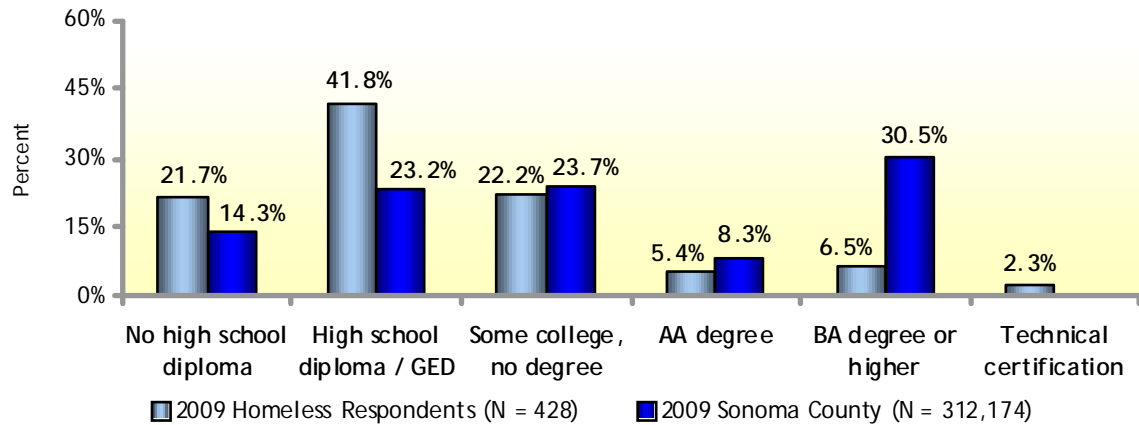
- ✓ **Of the respondents who indicated they had children, regardless of whether the child lived with them, 6% reported they had one or more child in foster care.**
- ✓ **18% of all Survey respondents reported that they had been in the foster care system.**

Educational Attainment

- ✓ **22% of Survey respondents over the ages of 25 indicated they did not have a high school diploma or GED, compared to 14% of people in the overall County population.¹⁹**
- ✓ **42% of Survey respondents over the ages of 25 had a high school diploma or GED as their highest level of education, compared to 23% of the overall County population.**
- ✓ **7% had Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 31% of people in the overall County population.**

¹⁹ Sonoma County General Population data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009.

Figure 14: Highest Level of Education Completed (Respondents Ages 25 and Over)



Sonoma County General Population data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 3-Year Estimates, 2009.

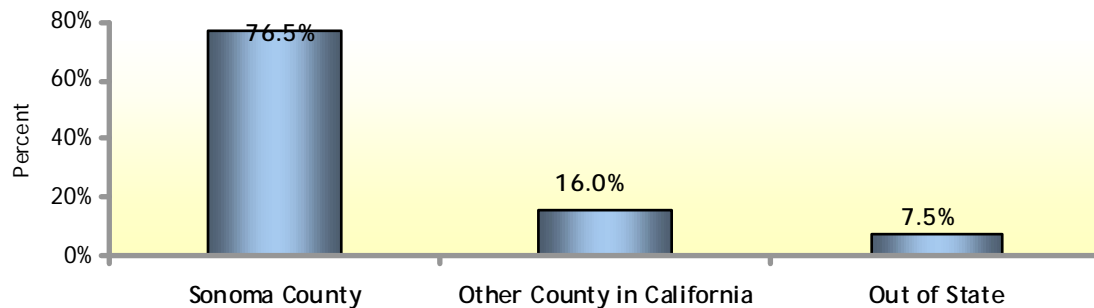
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Note: Sonoma County data for "Technical certification" is not available.

County Residency

- ✓ **The majority of Survey respondents (77%) indicated they had been living in Sonoma County at the time they became homeless.**

Figure 15: Where Respondents Were Living at the Time They Most Recently Became Homeless



N= 600

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

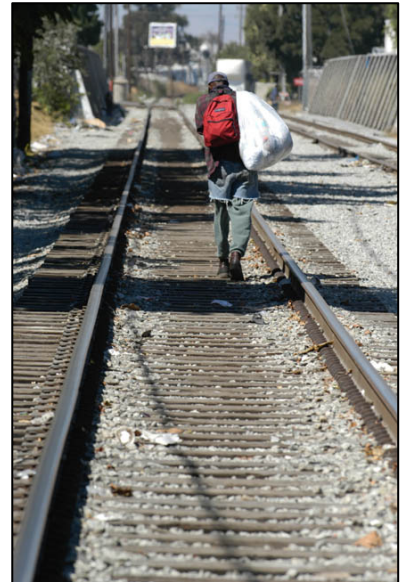
- ✓ **Of these Survey respondents who indicated they had been living in Sonoma County at the time they became homeless, the majority (58%) had been living in the County for more than 10 years before they became homeless.**

Profiles of Homelessness

Profiles of homelessness vary greatly among respondents. While many respondents were experiencing homelessness for the first time, or had been homeless for just a few months, others had been homeless repeatedly or for extended periods of time. Characteristics such as usual nighttime sleeping arrangements, the use of government assistance or treatment programs, and causes for homelessness differed from respondent to respondent.

The economic crisis seems to have made it more difficult to end one’s homelessness. The lack of job availability was a cited by 42% of unemployed Survey respondents as a barrier to employment. The lack of employment was cited by 56% of respondents as a barrier to attaining permanent housing.

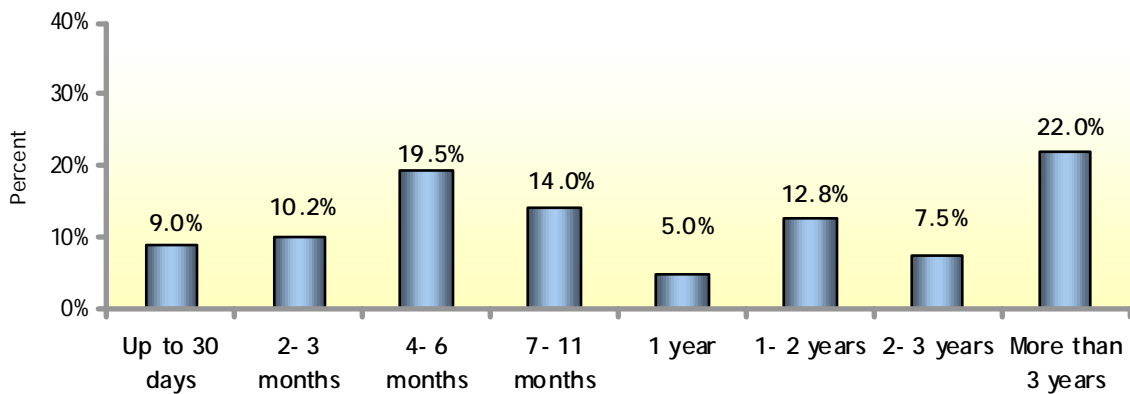
To track the impact of the mortgage crisis on homelessness, the 2009 Survey queried respondents about foreclosure as a cause of homelessness. There were a total of 8 respondents who cited losing their home to foreclosure as the primary cause to their homelessness. The relatively small number of responses citing foreclosure indicates that it may be too soon to see the effects of the mortgage crisis on the homeless population.



Length of Homelessness

- ✓ **The majority of respondents (53%) had been homeless for less than one year.**
- ✓ **18% of respondents had been homeless for 1 to 2 years.**
- ✓ **22% of respondents had been homeless for more than 3 years.**

Figure 16: Length of Homelessness Since Last Permanent Housing Situation



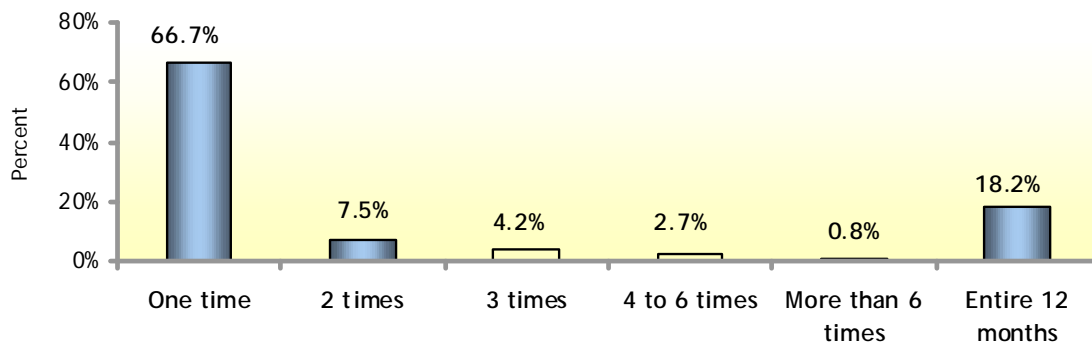
N = 600

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Recurrence of Homelessness

- ✓ **85% of respondents indicated that they had been homeless only once (their current period of homelessness) in the past 12 months. This includes respondents who had been homeless the entire 12 month period.**
- ✓ **8% of respondents indicated that this was their second episode of homelessness in the past twelve months, while 4% stated that this episode of homelessness was their third in the past year.**
- ✓ **18% of respondents had been homeless for the entire 12 month period.**

Figure 17: In the Last 12 Months, Number of Times Respondents Have Been Homeless, Including This Current Time



N= 600

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

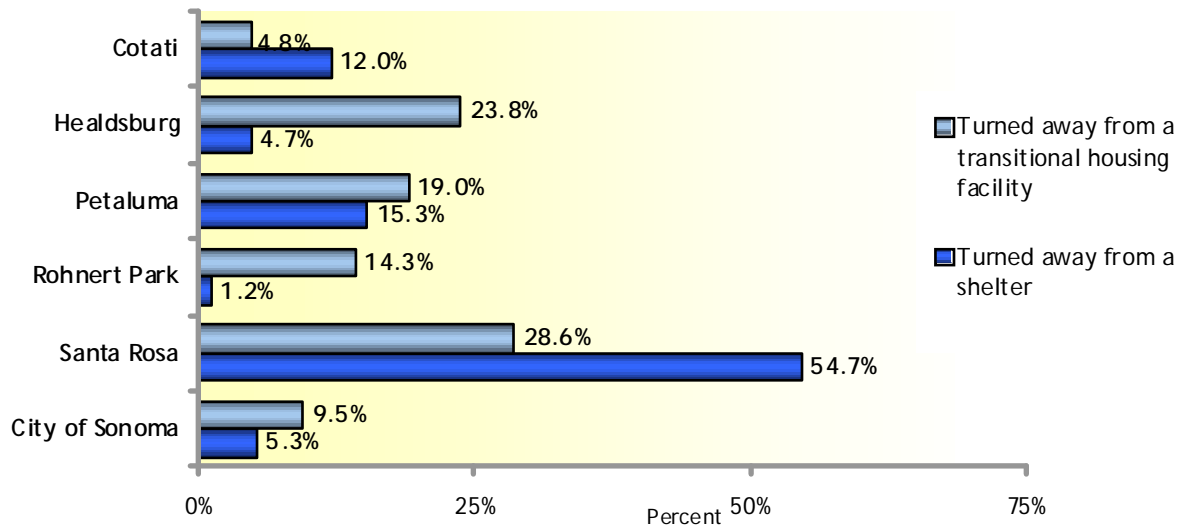
Usual Nighttime Accommodations

- ✓ **37% of Survey respondents were living outdoors (on the street, in parks, or in encampments).**
- ✓ **An additional 8% of respondents reported living in some type of vehicle (automobile, van, or camper).**
 - Of those respondents who usually slept in a vehicle, 57% had received no citations for illegal camping/sleeping in a vehicle, while 30% had received 1-2 citations, 10% had received 3-4 citations, and 3% had received over 5 citations for illegal camping/sleeping in a vehicle.
- ✓ **16% were living in an indoor area not normally used for human habitation (an abandoned building, backyard storage structure, public facility, or unconverted garage/attic/basement).**
- ✓ **35% of all respondents were living in shelters (including emergency shelters, transitional housing, or another type of shelter).**
- ✓ **An additional 3% of respondents usually slept in a hotel or motel.**

Shelter Use

- ✓ **The majority of respondents (68%) reported that they had not been turned away from staying at a shelter or transitional housing facility in the last 30 days.**
- ✓ **29% of respondents were turned away from staying at a shelter, while 4% had been turned away from staying at a transitional housing program in the last 30 days.**

Figure 18: Respondents Who Had Been Turned Away From a Shelter or Transitional Housing Facility by City



N = 191

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

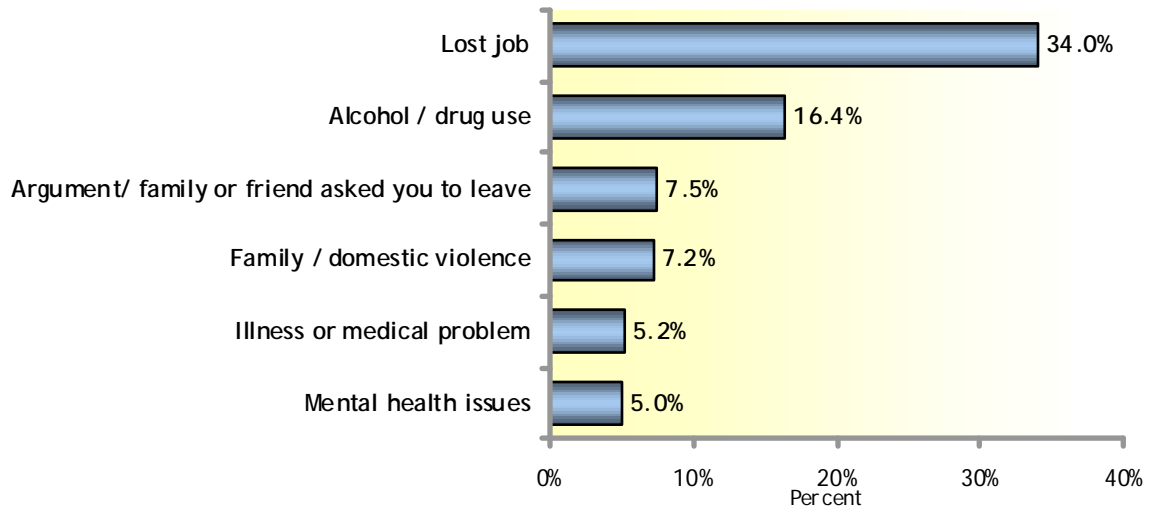
Access to Food

- ✓ **51% of respondents reported that they usually get enough to eat on a daily basis.**
- ✓ **37% of respondents reported that they *sometimes* get enough to eat on a daily basis.**
- ✓ **12% of respondents reported that they do not get enough to eat on a daily basis.**

Primary Causes of Homelessness

- ✓ **34% of respondents indicated the loss of their job was the primary cause of their homelessness.**
- ✓ **16% of Survey respondents cited alcohol or drug use as the primary cause of their homelessness.**

Figure 19: Primary Event or Condition That Led to Current Episode of Homelessness (Top 6 Responses)



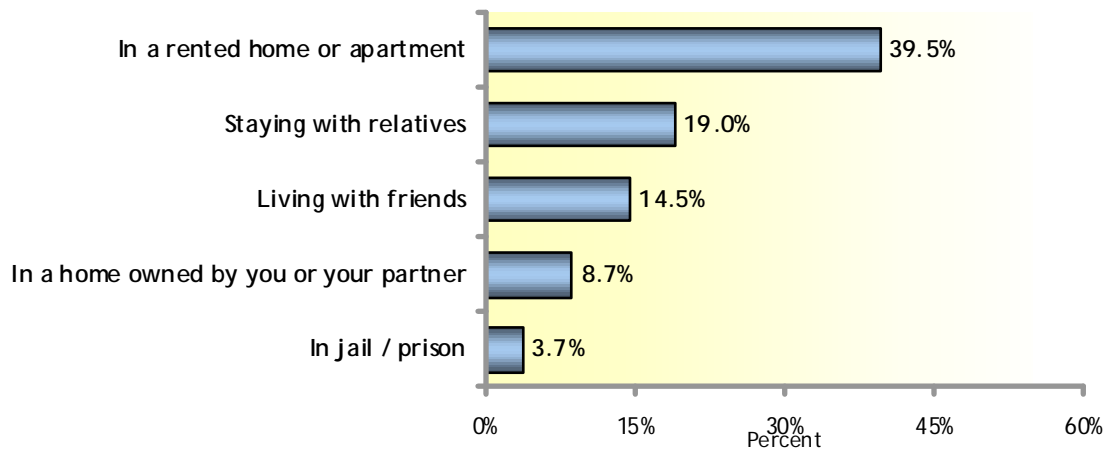
N = 597

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Previous Living Arrangements

- ✓ **40% of homeless respondents indicated they were renting a home or apartment prior to becoming homeless.**

Figure 20: Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless This Last Time (Top 5 Responses*)



N=600

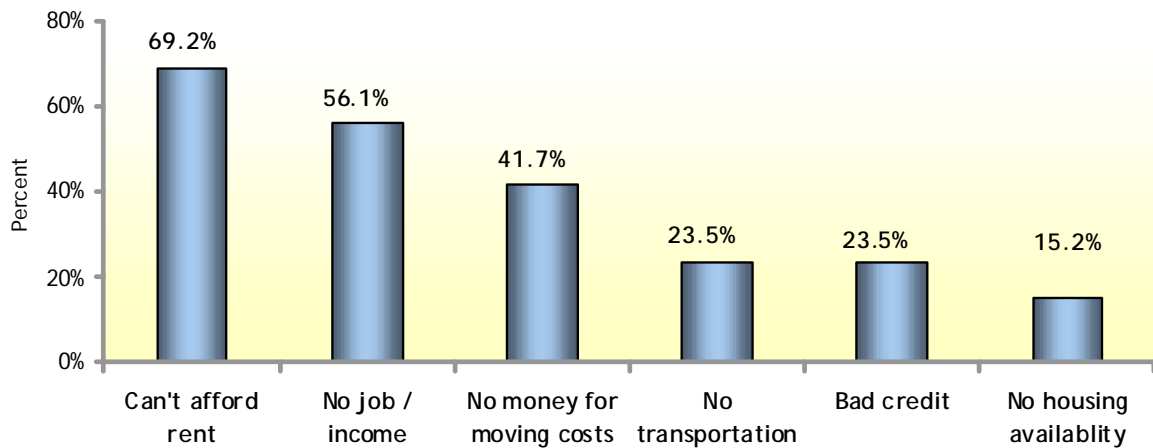
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

* Of response options given; does not include the response "other."

Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

- ✓ **The biggest obstacle to securing permanent housing was not being able to afford rent, cited by 69% of all respondents.**
- ✓ **56% indicated that they had no job or no income, which prevented them from obtaining housing.**
- ✓ **42% said they had no money for moving expenses, such as security deposit and first/last month's rent.**
- ✓ **24% cited a lack of transportation.**

Figure 21: Circumstances That Are Preventing Respondents From Living In Permanent Housing (Top 6 Responses)



Multiple response question with 597 respondents offering 1640 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

Sources of Income

The self-sufficiency standard is a measure of income adequacy that calculates how much income working adults need to meet their family's basic needs without subsidies.²⁰ The self-sufficiency standard for a single person in Sonoma County is an income of \$1,998 per month.²¹

As shown previously, a lack of income – whether from the loss of a job, being unable to find a job, or for a multitude of other reasons – has a great impact on homeless people in Sonoma County. While some respondents were able to earn income from employment, others were receiving income from sources such as public assistance, disability benefits, or panhandling. However, many respondents were receiving little to no income from either government or private sources.

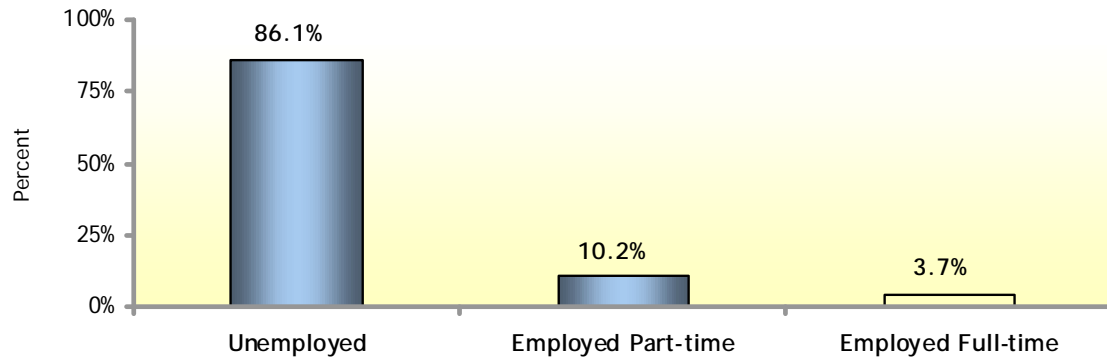
Employment Status

- ✓ **An overwhelming majority of respondents (86%) indicated that they were not currently employed at the time of the Survey.**
- ✓ **14% were employed either full or part-time.**
 - The three top fields of employment for employed respondents were: service industries, construction, and seasonal labor, which were each cited by 14 respondents.

²⁰ Wider Opportunities for Women and Californians for Family Economic Self Sufficiency (CFESS) and Equal Rights Advocates, 2009.

²¹ Ibid.

Figure 22: Employment Status of Respondents



N=596

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

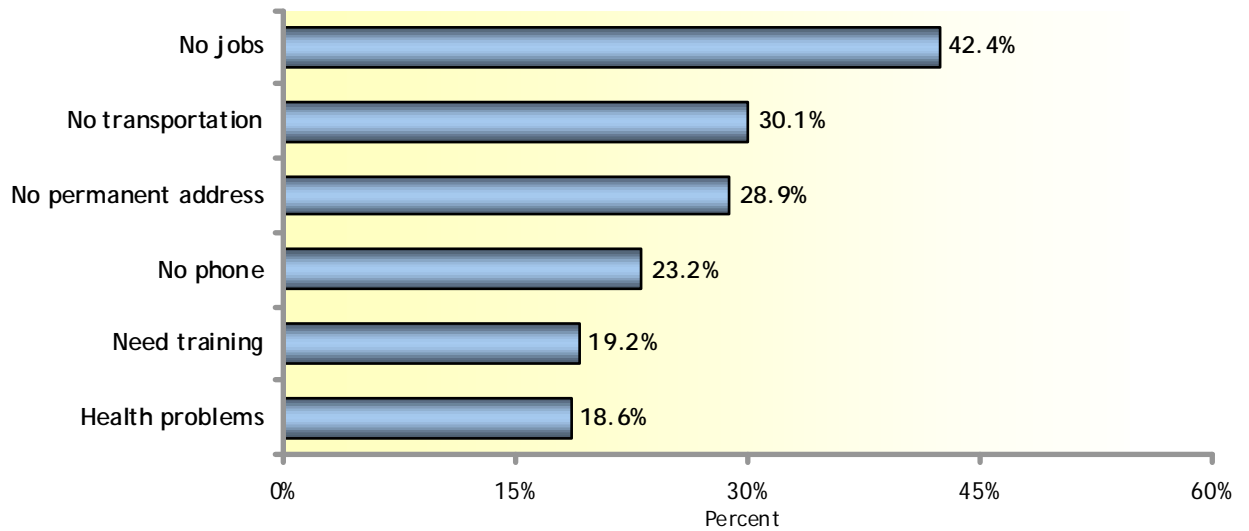
Barriers to Employment

Of those unemployed, the top barriers to employment were:²²

- ✓ **The top response was no jobs, cited by 42% of unemployed respondents.**
- ✓ **30% reported not having transportation.**
- ✓ **29% reported not having a permanent address.**
- ✓ **23% indicated not having a phone was a barrier.**
- ✓ **19% indicated the need for training was preventing them from securing employment.**
- ✓ **19% reported that health problems were a barrier to securing employment.**

²² These responses were not mutually exclusive.

Figure 23: Barriers to Employment (Top Responses)



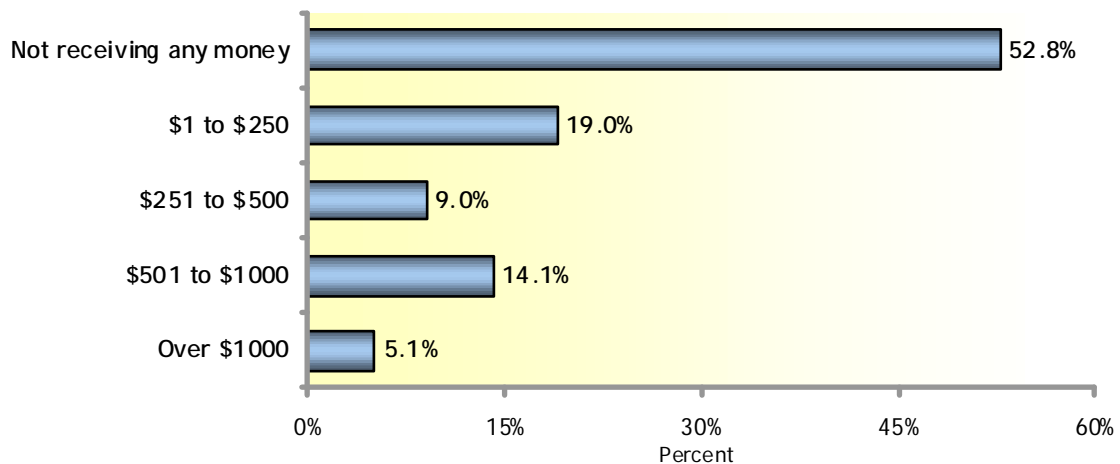
Multiple response question with 505 respondents offering 1486 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Income from Government Sources

- ✓ **53% of all respondents indicated that they were not receiving any money from government sources.**
- ✓ **19% of respondents said they were receiving between \$1 and \$250 per month.**
- ✓ **9% were receiving between \$251 and \$500 per month, 14% were receiving between \$501 and \$1000 per month, and 5% of respondents received over \$1000 per month from government sources.**

Figure 24: Total (gross) Monthly Income from all Government Sources



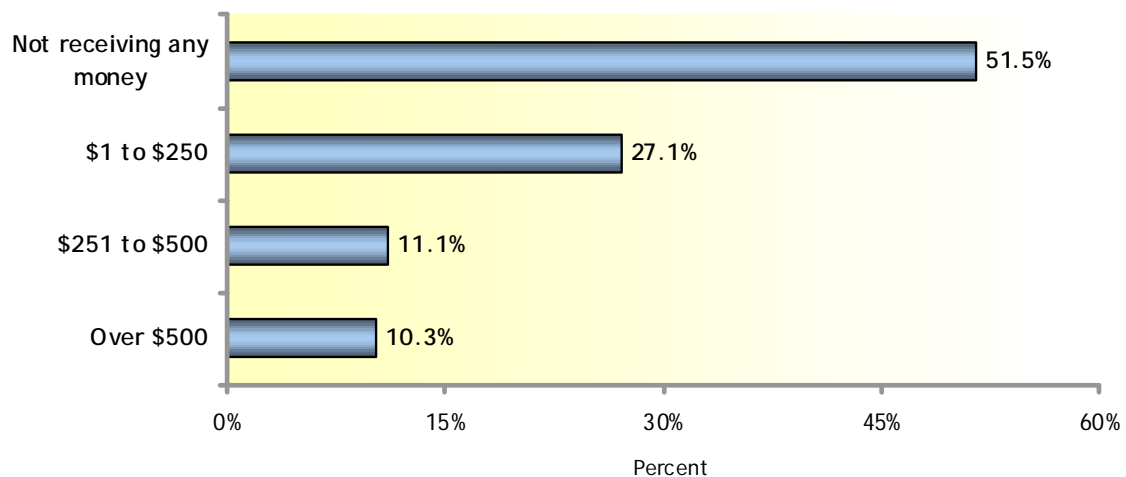
N = 589

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Income from Private Sources

- ✓ **52% of the respondents were receiving no income from private sources.**
- ✓ **27% received between \$1 and \$250 per month from non-Government sources.**
- ✓ **11% received between \$251 and \$500 per month.**
- ✓ **10% received more than \$500 from other sources in the last month.**

Figure 25: Total (Gross) Monthly Income from all Non-Government Sources



N = 584

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Accessing of Government Services and Homeless Programs

Government assistance and homeless programs work to enable the homeless community to obtain income and services. Many homeless people do not apply for these programs, or do not feel they qualify for aid.

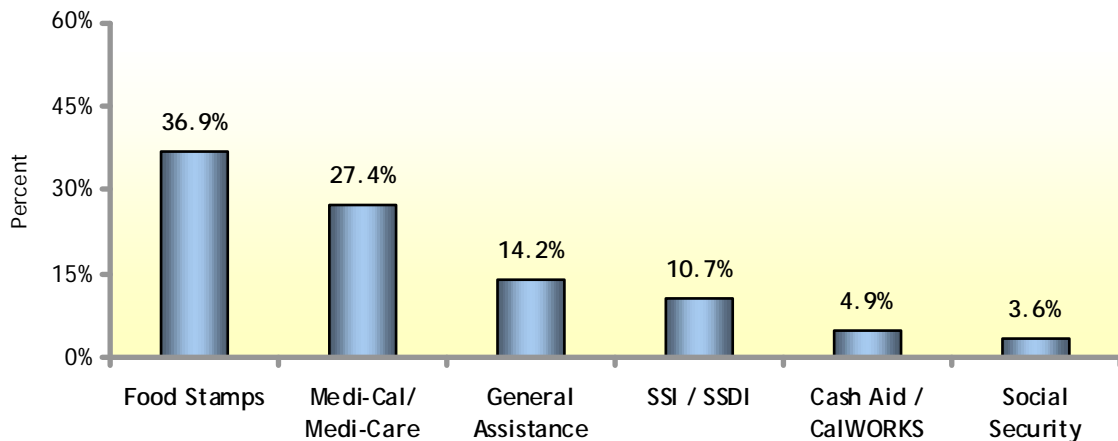
Government Services

- ✓ **57% of respondents reported using government services, while 43% reported not using government services.**

Types of Governmental Services

- ✓ **37% of respondents who were using government services reported that they were receiving Food Stamps.**
- ✓ **27% were receiving Medicaid or Medicare benefits.**
- ✓ **14% received General Assistance.**
- ✓ **11% were receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or (Social Security Disability Insurance) SSDI.**

Figure 26: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Receiving Any of the Following Forms of Government Assistance



Multiple response question with 577 respondents offering 854 responses.

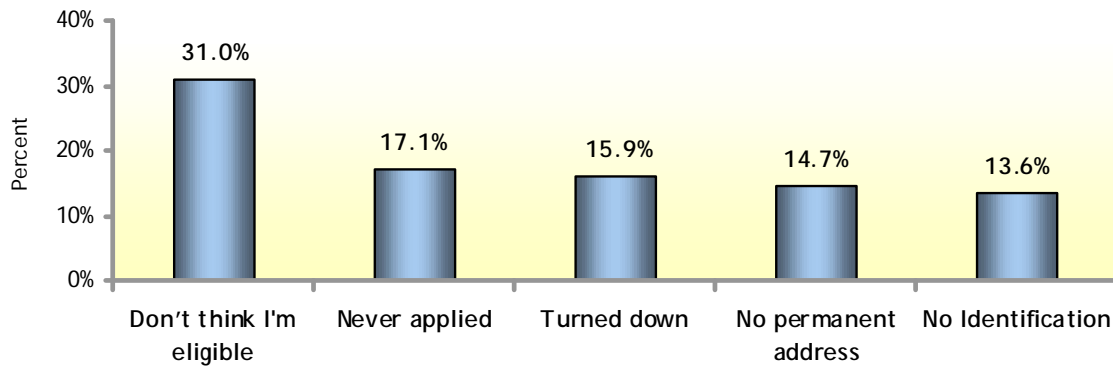
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

Reasons for Not Using Government Services

- ✓ **Of the respondents not using government services, 31% did not think they were eligible.**
- ✓ **17% of the respondents not using government services had never applied, while 16% had been turned down.**

Figure 27: Reasons for not Using Government Services (Top 5 Responses)

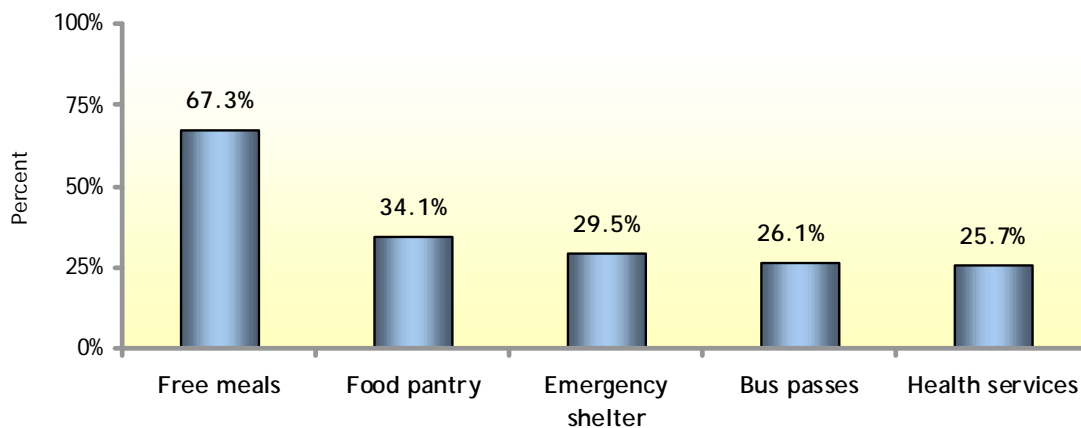


Multiple response question with 258 respondents offering 450 responses.
 Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.
 Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

Other Services and Programs

- ✓ **67% indicated they received free meals, and 34% reported that they used food pantries.**
- ✓ **30% of respondents used emergency shelters, 24% used shelter day services and 15% of respondents used transitional housing facilities.**
- ✓ **26% of respondents utilized bus passes.**
- ✓ **26% used health services and 16% used mental health services.**
- ✓ **12% of respondents used drug/alcohol counseling.**
- ✓ **8% of respondents were not using any services.**

Figure 28: Services or Assistance Used by Respondents (Top 5 Responses)



Multiple response question with 587 respondents offering 1622 responses.
 Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.
 Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

Medical Care and Health Conditions

Access to health care is vital to general well being. While many Sonoma County residents struggle with the high costs of health care, homeless residents are particularly vulnerable to many unique challenges regarding their health.

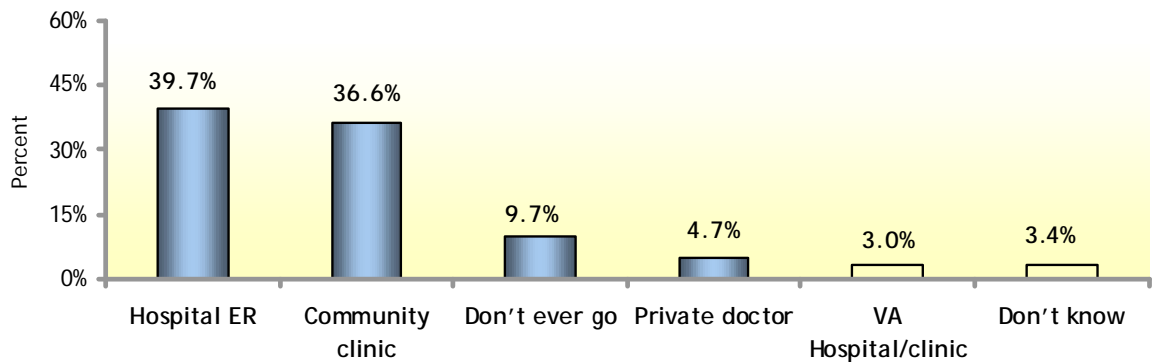
Access to Medical Care

- ✓ **35% of homeless respondents stated that since they became homeless they have needed medical care but were unable to receive it.**

Source of Medical Care

- ✓ **40% of Survey respondents reported that they usually go to a hospital emergency room (ER) when they need medical attention.**
- ✓ **37% indicated that they usually go to a community clinic for medical care.**
- ✓ **10% reported that they don't ever go for medical care.**

Figure 29: Where Respondents Usually Get Medical Care (Top 5 Responses) and Percentage of Those Who Don't Ever Go



N=595

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Chronic Health Conditions

- ✓ **27% of homeless Survey respondents indicated they were experiencing chronic health problems at the time of the Survey.**
- ✓ **72% of respondents were not experiencing a chronic health condition.**

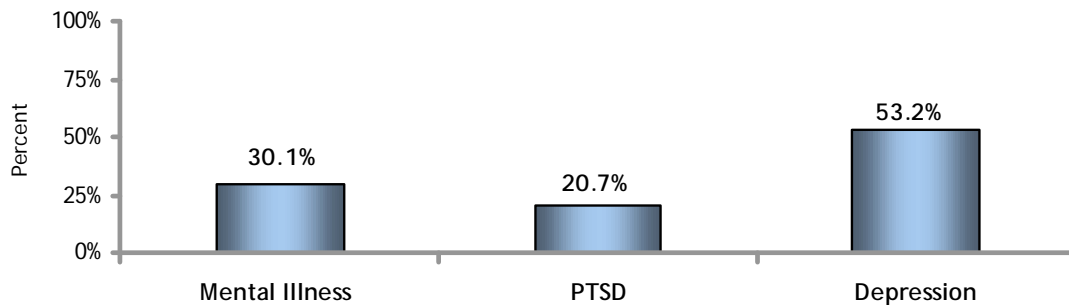


Mental Health

It is commonly believed that many homeless residents experience poor mental health or depression. Therefore, Survey respondents were asked about their mental health including mental illness, depression, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of a traumatic event. A traumatic event typically involves the potential for death or serious injury resulting in intense fear, helplessness, or horror.²³

- ✓ **Overall, 30% of respondents were experiencing a mental illness at the time of the Survey.**
- ✓ **53% of all respondents were experiencing depression.**
- ✓ **21% of respondents were experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.**
- ✓ **Of those respondents experiencing a mental health issue, 25% were receiving mental health services.**

Figure 30: Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing a Mental Health Issue



Mental Illness N= 581, PTSD N= 564, Depression= 583

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Note: These responses are not mutually exclusive.

HIV and AIDS

- ✓ **3% of the Survey population stated they were experiencing HIV or AIDS or related illnesses.**
 - Compared to 0.24% of the general population of Sonoma County with HIV/AIDS,²⁴ the homeless population with HIV/AIDS is significantly over represented.

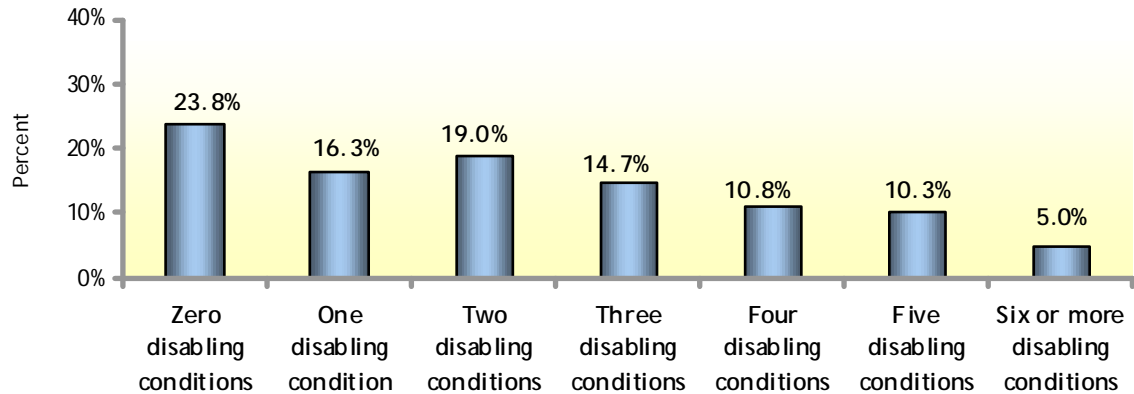
²³ National Center for PTSD Fact Sheet retrieved on April 11, 2009 from http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/ncdocs/fact_shts/fs_lay_assess.html.

²⁴ The Press Democrat, *Two Alarming AIDS Trends in Sonoma County*, retrieved on April 24, 2009 from <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090415/ARTICLES/904159858?Title=Two-alarming-AIDS-trends-in-Sonoma-County>.

Disabling Conditions²⁵

- ✓ **76% of Survey respondents had at least one disabling condition.**

Figure 31: Number of Co-occurring Disabling Conditions Among Homeless Population



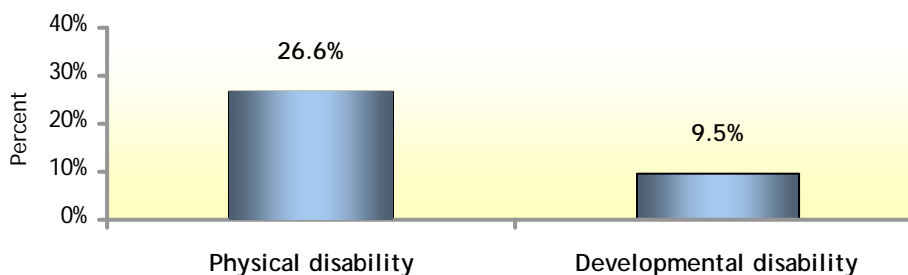
N = 600

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Physical and Mental Disabilities

- ✓ **27% of respondents indicated experiencing a physical disability at the time of the Survey.**
- ✓ **10% of respondents reported having a developmental disability.²⁶**
- ✓ **4% reported having both types of disabilities.**

Figure 32: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing a Disability



Physical disability N= 580, Developmental disability N= 550

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

²⁵ Disabling conditions are: physical disabilities, mental illness, depression, domestic/partner violence or abuse, chronic health problems, AIDS/HIV related illness, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), developmental disability, drug abuse, and alcohol abuse.

²⁶ A developmental disability is a chronic condition that significantly limits a person's ability to speak, hear, walk, learn or perform fundamental tasks.

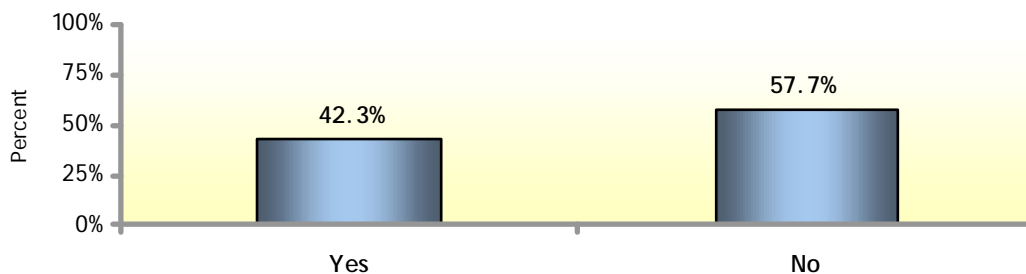
Addiction Issues

Substance use (use of alcohol, drugs, or both) was the second-most cited cause of homelessness among the homeless Survey population in Sonoma County. Furthermore, many of the homeless respondents said they were experiencing alcohol or drug abuse at the time the Survey was administered. Note that the responses from the Survey regarding alcohol and drug use are not mutually exclusive. Approximately 42% of all homeless respondents were experiencing alcohol or drug abuse, again highlighting the critical importance of integrated health services.

Substance Abuse

- ✓ **42% of homeless Survey respondents reported they were experiencing substance abuse (either drug abuse, alcohol abuse, or both).**
 - 33% of homeless respondents indicated they were experiencing alcohol abuse at the time of the Survey.
 - 31% of Survey respondents stated they were experiencing drug abuse at the time of the Survey.
- ✓ **12% of the respondents who were currently experiencing substance abuse were receiving alcohol/drug counseling services.**
- ✓ **21% of the respondents who were currently experiencing substance abuse cited alcohol or drug use as the primary event or condition that led to their homelessness.**

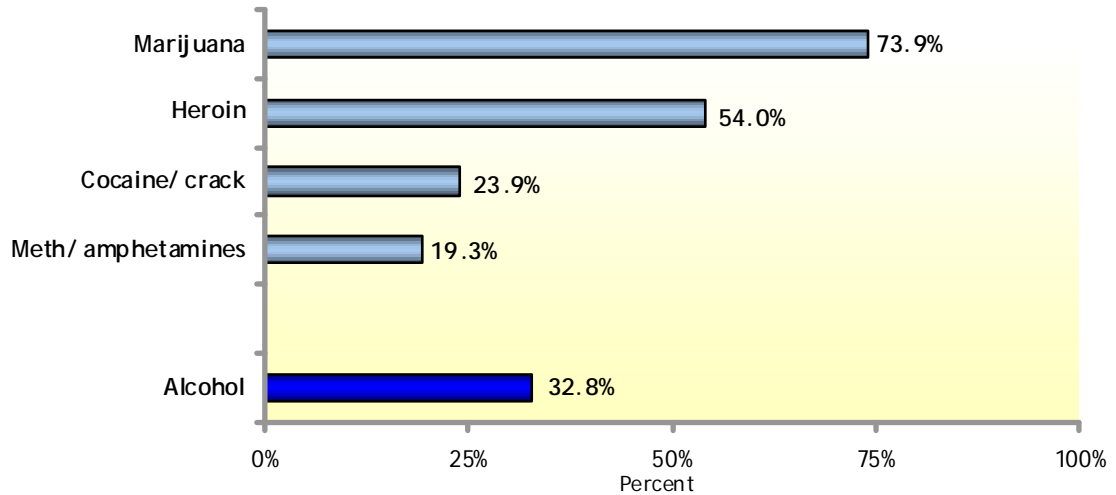
Figure 33: Percentage of Respondents Who Indicated They Were Currently Experiencing Substance Abuse



N=600

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Figure 34: Percentage of Respondents Who Indicated They Were Currently Experiencing Drug Abuse by Type of Substance Used and Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing Alcohol Abuse



Type of Drug Used N= Multiple response question with 176 respondents offering 301 responses.

Alcohol Abuse N= 580.

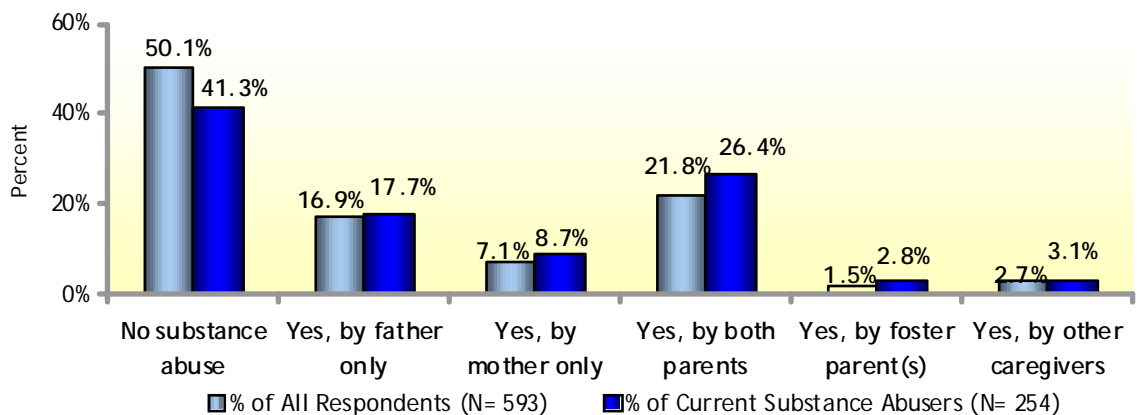
Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Note: These response options were not mutually exclusive.

Substance Abuse by Parent/ Primary Caregiver

- ✓ 50% of respondents reported that their parents or primary caregivers did not abuse alcohol or drugs when they were a child.
- ✓ 22% of respondents reported that both parents abused alcohol or drugs when they were a child.

Figure 35: Percentage of Respondents and Current Substance Abusers Who Indicated Their Parent or Primary Caregiver Abused Alcohol or Drugs When They Were a Child



Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness²⁷

- ✓ Of those respondents who were experiencing substance abuse, 29% were not experiencing any mental health issues.
- ✓ Of those respondents who were experiencing substance abuse, 30% had one mental health issue.
- ✓ Of those respondents who were experiencing substance abuse, 31% had two mental health issues.
- ✓ Of those respondents who were experiencing substance abuse, 9% were experiencing all three mental illness conditions.

Military / Veterans Issues

Military Service

- ✓ 13% of adult survey respondents had served in the United States Armed Forces.
- ✓ 57% of adult veteran respondents were unsheltered.
- ✓ 43% of adult veteran respondents were staying in shelters.
- ✓ 34% of adult veteran respondents were disabled as a result of their service.
- ✓ 31% of adult veteran respondents reported that they were currently experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Prison and Foster Care Transitions

The transition from prison to society, or from foster care to a state of independence, can be a difficult one. Survey results indicate that many homeless people are struggling with these transition issues.

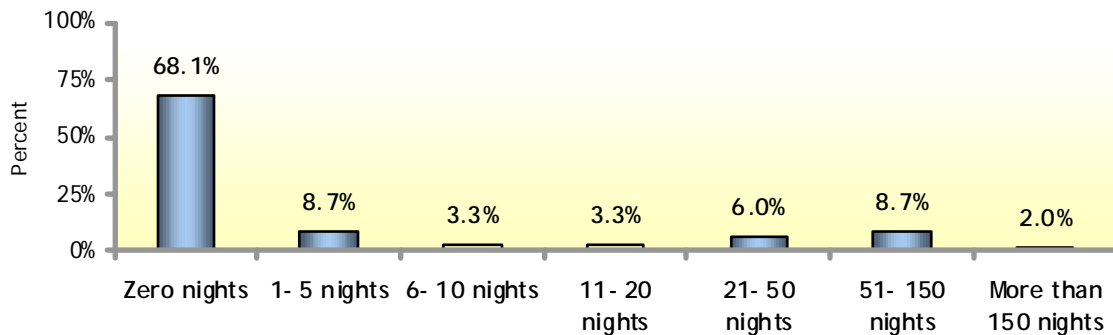


²⁷ Mental Illness is defined as self-defined mental illness, depression, and/or PTSD.

Nights in Jail or Prison

- ✓ **The majority of respondents (68%) stated that they had not spent any nights in jail or prison in the last year.**
- ✓ **15% of respondents reported spending between 1 and 20 nights in jail or prison in the last year.**
- ✓ **17% spent more than 20 nights incarcerated in the last year.**

Figure 36: Number of Nights Spent in Jail/Prison in the Last Year



N=552

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Currently on Probation or Parole

- ✓ **20% of respondents reported currently being on probation or parole.**
- ✓ **19% of respondents reported being on probation or parole when they became homeless this last time.**

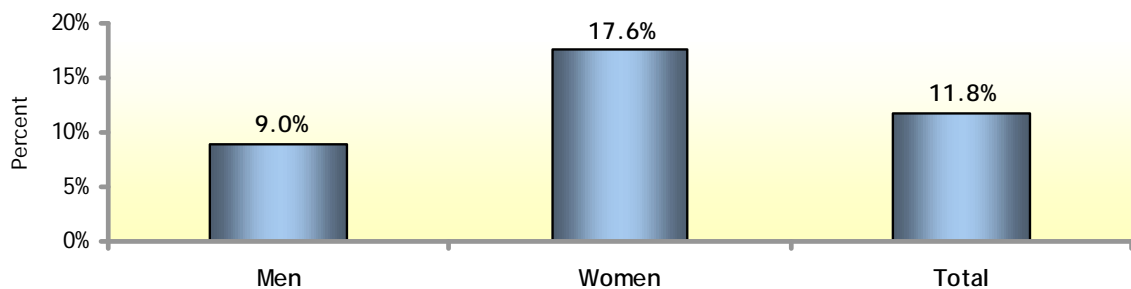
Transition from Foster Care

- ✓ **18% of respondents reported being in foster care at some point in their lives before they turned 18.**
- ✓ **1% of Survey respondents said that aging out of the foster care was the primary event that led to their homelessness.**

Domestic Violence

- ✓ **12% of all respondents indicated experiencing domestic violence at the time of the Survey.**
- ✓ **18% of female respondents stated they were experiencing domestic violence.**
 - National statistics show that 22% of adult women and 7% of adult men experience physical forms of intimate partner violence at least once during their lives.²⁸
- ✓ **9% of males indicated experiencing domestic violence.**
- ✓ **Of the respondents who indicated they were experiencing domestic violence, 19% indicated that domestic violence was the primary reason for their homelessness.**

Figure 37: Respondents Currently Experiencing Domestic/Partner Violence or Abuse (By Gender)



N= 552

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Head Trauma

Members of the Sonoma County Continuum of Care Planning Group were interested in the prevalence of head trauma within the homeless population. It was noted that in counseling a number of clients with disabling conditions had experienced head trauma at some point in their lives. A question was posed to measure this phenomenon as an opportunity to further research this issue.

- ✓ **42% of Survey respondents reported that they had been knocked out by something other than drugs or alcohol.**

²⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Intimate Partner Violence, retrieved on April 21, 2009 from <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/IntimatePartnerViolence/>.

Chronic Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines chronic homelessness as:

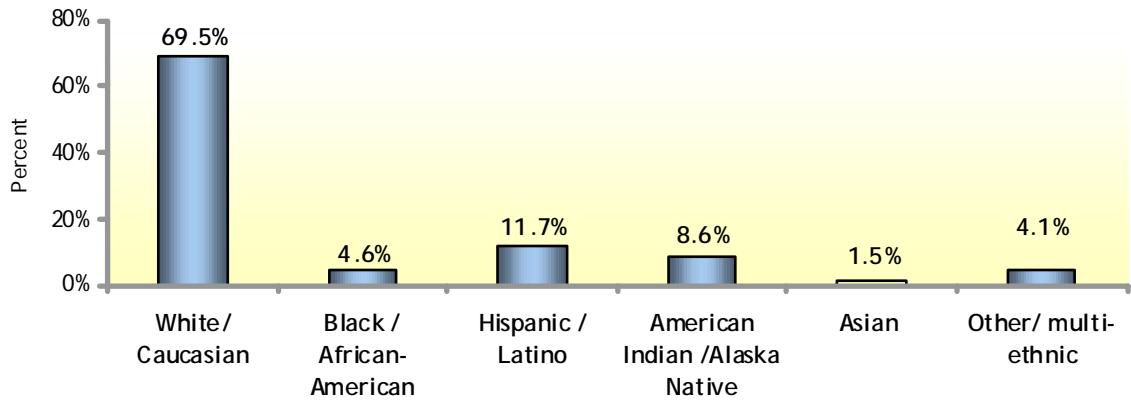
An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been:

- *Continually homeless for one year or more, or*
- *Has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.*

For the purposes of this study, a “disabling condition” can be defined as a physical or mental disability (such as mental illness or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), depression, alcohol or drug addiction, HIV/AIDS, chronic health conditions or a developmental disability.

- ✓ **Of the 600 homeless persons interviewed, approximately 33% (197 respondents) could be considered chronically homeless.**
- ✓ **It is estimated that on any given night, Sonoma County had a chronically homeless population of approximately 979 persons (30% of the overall point-in-time homeless population).**
 - The chronically homeless Survey results were used to project approximately how many people are chronically homeless in Sonoma County at a given point in time.
 - It should be noted that this figure is derived from the population of homeless persons who are eligible to be considered chronically homeless by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; therefore the chronic homeless population includes only those homeless persons who are individuals, unsheltered or in emergency shelters, and does not include those in transitional housing, jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities, or anyone in a family. Similarly it does not include anyone who has been homeless for more than a year and is not disabled.
- ✓ **82% of the Survey respondents who were considered chronically homeless were unsheltered.**
- ✓ **74% of chronically homeless Survey respondents were male.**
- ✓ **The majority of chronically homeless people were White/ Caucasian (70%). 12% of chronic homeless respondents were Hispanic/ Latino, 9% were American Indian/ Alaskan Native, and 5% were Black/ African American.**

Figure 38: Chronically Homeless Population by Ethnicity

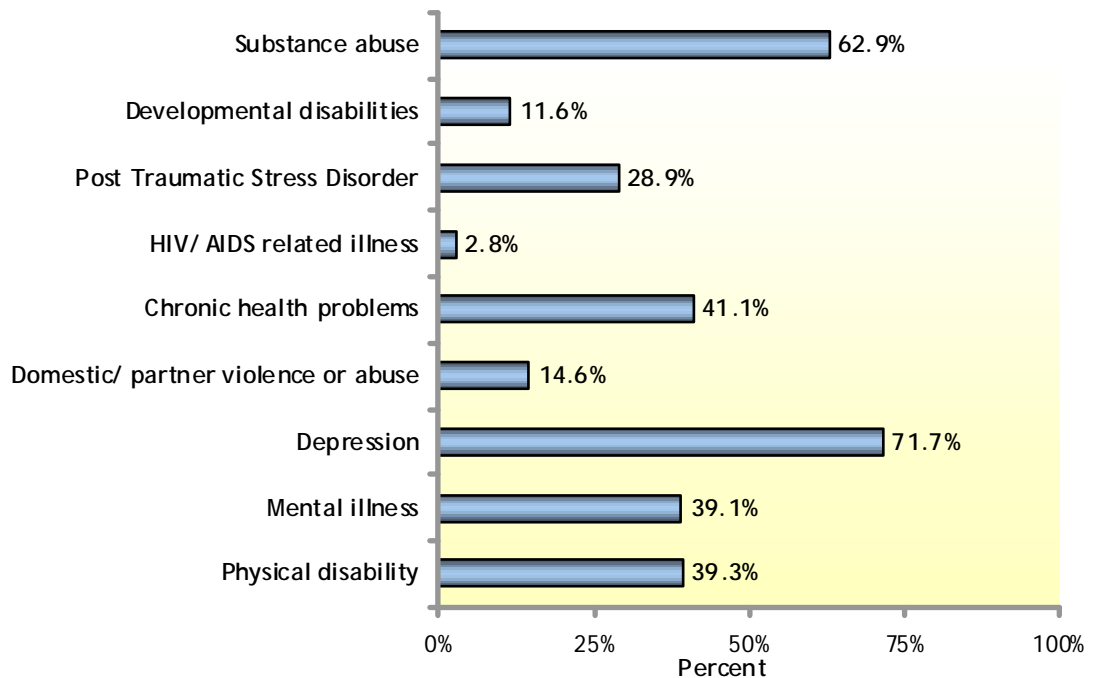


N = 197

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

- ✓ **72% of the chronically homeless Survey respondents reported they were currently experiencing depression. Additionally, 39% of chronically homeless Survey respondents identified as being physically disabled, and 39% were experiencing a mental illness.**
- ✓ **63% of the chronically homeless Survey respondents reported they were experiencing substance abuse.**

Figure 39: Percentage of Chronically Homeless Population Who Were Currently Experiencing the Following Conditions

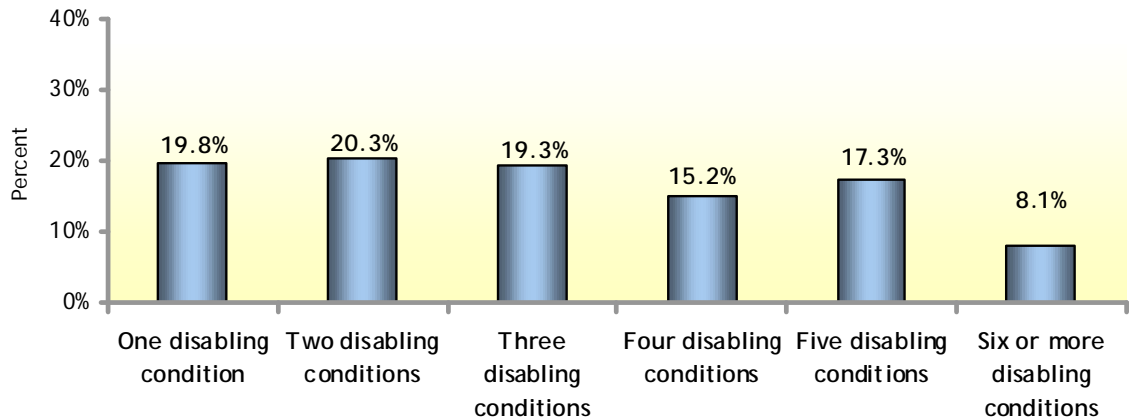


Substance Abuse N= 403, Developmental disabilities N= 550, PTSD N= 564, HIV/AIDS N= 558, Chronic health problems N = 581, Domestic/ Partner violence N= 554, Depression N= 583, Mental illness N= 581, Physical disability N= 580.

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

- ✓ **45% of chronically homeless Survey respondents were not using any government services.**
 - The top services used by the chronically homeless were food stamps (used by 31% of chronically homeless respondents), Medi-Cal/Medi-Care (used by 28%), SSI/SSDI (used by 16%), and General Assistance (used by 12%).
- ✓ **80% of chronically homeless respondents had 2 or more disabling conditions.**

Figure 40: Chronically Homeless Population by Number of Co-occurring Disabling Conditions



N = 600

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey, 2009.

Homeless Youth Census and Survey Findings

One of the great challenges in homeless census planning is customizing the data collection strategy to fit the diversity of people who are homeless. Of particular interest to the Sonoma County Community Development Commission and the Sonoma County Continuum of Care Planning Group was the experience and prevalence of unaccompanied homeless youth. Experience in homeless enumerations has shown that the outreach efforts that best capture the street homeless for the adult homeless population are typically not successful in measuring the homeless youth experience. Homeless youth and advocates unanimously inform us that they do not typically congregate with homeless adults. Therefore, strategies that are successful for counting and surveying the general homeless population are frequently not feasible for homeless youth. This evaluation was confirmed in discussions with local homeless advocates and youth who were consulted for the study.



In order to more accurately profile homeless youth in Sonoma County, a special youth outreach plan was developed for the Census and Survey. This plan was developed in conjunction with local youth advocates and attempted to represent the entire county, including the Lower Russian River area, from our staff locations in Santa Rosa and Petaluma. The plan had the following key elements:

- Recruit and train homeless youth for both the Census and Survey
- Conduct the Census in the late afternoon to optimize finding local youth
- Use youth-only (no adult partner) teams to enumerate homeless youth
- Use youth interviewers to survey homeless youth
- Supervise youth Census and Survey workers with youth advocates
- Analysis of homeless youth Census data to avoid general Census duplication

Homeless Youth Recruitment and Training

Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) of Santa Rosa was the key partner in the homeless youth Census and Survey for the Santa Rosa and Lower Russian River areas. Youth were trained by ASR and SAY staff to meet the data collection standards of the project. Fourteen youth were trained at a 90 minute orientation for the Census, the majority of whom participated in Census activities. This included Santa Rosa youth who were experienced in the greater Santa Rosa area and some youth who lived in and knew the Lower Russian River area. Additionally, a smaller team of four youth were recruited in Petaluma through COTS to count unaccompanied homeless youth in the Petaluma area. While youth were scheduled to enumerate in youth only teams, community and agency volunteers were assigned to drive them to areas where homeless youth were likely to congregate.

For the Survey, a smaller team of interviewers was developed. In the Santa Rosa area and Lower Russian River region, three interviewers were trained in survey administration and quota management. Two interviewers were homeless youth and one was an outreach worker for SAY. In Petaluma, two homeless youth who had participated in the Census were trained to administer surveys and transportation and local supervision was arranged. The enthusiasm of the youth interviewers was excellent and cooperation was outstanding.

Youth Street Census Findings

In discussions with the Homeless Census planning team and youth advocates, it was determined that the youth component of the street Census would occur on the afternoon of January 23, 2009, the same day as the general Census. Everyone agreed that a daybreak enumeration would miss most homeless youth and the late afternoon, after school hours to early evening, would be the best time to send out the youth teams. From deployment sites in Santa Rosa and Petaluma, volunteer and agency drivers shuttled youth teams to malls, parks, downtown areas, encampments, abandoned buildings and other outdoor areas to count unaccompanied homeless youth.



Youth Census teams were asked to identify homeless youth from general youth (which they said they could easily do) and categorize them to the best of their ability in age categories under the age of 18, 18- 22, and 23- 27. The definition of “youth” is elusive and while HUD defines it as under 18, local youth and service providers describe a more expansive age range. The homeless youth age cohort in Sonoma County appears to generally be in the 13-27 year old range, according to youth involved in our planning. While the age of 27 is older than what is usually described as “youth,” it is important to be sensitive to local interpretations and Sonoma County youth generally agreed with this definition. It was also noted that this cohort does not commonly come along with “adult” homeless and the likelihood of duplicate counting was minimal due to the different enumeration locations and absence of youth and adult socialization. This was partially confirmed by the fact that our general daybreak Census yielded only one homeless youth under 18 while the afternoon Census found 86 unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 18. Duplicate counting, therefore, was not an issue.

Individuals between the ages of 18-27 identified in the youth Census were not included in the youth reporting, but were instead added to the general unsheltered Census results. Our youth enumerators were all confident that these persons would not have been seen in a daybreak count, otherwise the youth would have been captured as well. The research team felt that while duplication was possible for “adults” found in the youth Census, it was unlikely to be significant. We could find no method to confirm, but feel that the 187 “adults” in the youth cohort were not counted in the daybreak general Census.

Figure 41: Homeless Youth Street Census Findings

Age and Gender Category	Total People	Percent of Total
Male youth under the age of 18	45 ²⁹	16.1%
Male youth ages 18- 22	96	35.2%
Male youth ages 23- 27	10	3.6%
Female youth under the age of 18	42	15.4%
Female youth ages 18- 22	74	27.1%
Female youth ages 23- 27	7	2.6%
Totals	273	100.0%

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census, 2009.

Youth Survey Findings

The following section provides an overview of the findings generated from youth respondents of the Sonoma County Homeless Survey. As noted above, currently or formerly homeless youth were trained to administer the survey and asked to specifically target homeless youth. Youth surveys were administered in shelters and unsheltered environments. Homeless youth interviewers were asked to outreach to youth under 22 years old. Surveys captured the birthday of respondents to enable categorization by age group in the analysis. Interviewers were trained to follow the standard random respondent selection protocol where every 3rd homeless youth encountered was approached to participate in the survey. A \$5.00 value response incentive was offered to respondents and it greatly enhanced participation.

In total, 140 surveys were administered to homeless youth 13-21 years of age, with 81 surveys administered to youth 13-17 and 59 surveys to youth 18-21 (Note: this includes surveys from the general survey effort as well). Based on our finding of 87 unsheltered, unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 18 in the street Census, the survey findings of youth under the age of 18 have a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of +/- 2.9%. We are unable to calculate this for youth 18-21 years of age because we do not have a way to calculate how many homeless there are in this age group.

The following section highlights the results of surveys administered to unaccompanied homeless youth ages 13-21. A comparative analysis was performed reviewing the results of youth between the ages of 13-17, 18-21, 13-21, and 22 and older. This analysis was very illuminating and clearly shows how the homeless youth experience is different from the homeless adult population.

Because the survey results have been broken down into different age categories, the adult results presented in this section will be different than the general results presented throughout the report. The results of this analysis follow and a complete review of all youth responses to the survey can be found in Appendix V of the report. As mentioned previously in the general survey findings section, please note that missing values have been intentionally omitted from the Survey results, and all Survey results display valid percentages only.

²⁹ This includes one youth counted during the general street Census.

Figure 42: Age Categories of Homeless Survey Findings

Category	Age Group
Youth respondents	13-21 years older
Adult respondents	22 and older

Race/ Ethnicity

- ✓ **51% of youth Survey respondents between the ages of 13-21 were White/ Caucasian, while 70% of adult Survey respondents identified as White/ Caucasian.**
- ✓ **16% of youth Survey respondents were Hispanic/ Latino compared to 13% of adult Survey respondents.**

Gender

- ✓ **58% of youth Survey respondents were male, compared to 69% of adult survey respondents.**
- ✓ **41% of youth Survey respondents were female, compared to 30% of adult survey respondents.**
 - This shows that females are more represented in the youth survey population than in the adult survey population. On the other hand, male survey respondents are less represented in the youth survey population than in the adult survey population.

Educational Attainment

- ✓ **The majority (63%) of youth respondents had less than a high school diploma as their highest level of education. This is compared to 19% of adult respondents.**
- ✓ **24% of youth respondents had a high school diploma/GED as their highest level of education, compared to 42% of adult respondents.**

24% of youth respondents had a high school diploma/GED as their highest level of education.

Living Status

- ✓ **49% of youth Survey respondents reported that they lived alone, while 66% of adult survey respondents reported the same.**
- ✓ **51% of youth Survey respondents reported that they lived with others, compared to 34% of adult respondents.**

Usual Nighttime Accommodations

- ✓ **11% of youth Survey respondents reported that they usually sleep in an unconverted garage/ attic / basement, while only 3% of adult Survey respondents reported this as their usual sleeping location.**
- ✓ **16% of youth Survey respondents reported that they usually sleep in an encampment, while only 6% of adult Survey respondents reported sleeping in an encampment as their usual sleeping location.**
- ✓ **4% of youth Survey respondents reported that they usually sleep in an emergency shelter, while 18% of adult Survey respondents reported the same.**
- ✓ **Similarly, 4% of youth Survey respondents reported that they usually sleep in a transitional housing facility, while 22% of adult Survey reported the same.**

Recurrence of Homelessness

- ✓ **72% of youth Survey respondents reported that this was their first time being homeless, compared to 48% of adult Survey respondents.**
- ✓ **13% of youth Survey respondents reported they had been homeless two or more times in the last 12 months, compared to 6% of adult Survey respondents.**
- ✓ **8% of youth Survey respondents reported that they had been homeless the entire 12 months of the past year, compared to 21% of adult Survey respondents.**

Length of Homelessness

- ✓ **16% of youth Survey respondents reported that they had been homeless for less than 30 days since they last lived in a permanent housing situation, compared to 7% of adult Survey respondents.**
- ✓ **40% of youth Survey respondents reported that they had been homeless between 2 and 6 months, compared to 27% of adult Survey respondents for the same time frame.**
- ✓ **24% of youth Survey respondents had been homeless for 1 year or more, compared to 54% of adult Survey respondents.**

- Not surprisingly, youth respondents had been homeless for a shorter period of time than adult respondents.

24% of youth Survey respondents had been homeless for 1 year or more.

County Residency

- ✓ **80% of youth Survey respondents were living in Sonoma County when they became homeless, compared to 76% of adult respondents.**
- ✓ **84% of youth Survey respondents and 83% of adult respondents had lived in Sonoma County for three years or more before becoming homeless.**

Previous Living Accommodations

- ✓ **48% of youth Survey respondents were living with relatives before they became homeless, compared to 10% of adult Survey respondents.**

Primary Causes of Homelessness

- ✓ **25% of youth Survey respondents reported that their primary cause of homelessness was an argument with family or friend/ was asked to leave. This was the response for only 2% of adult respondents.**
- ✓ **20% of youth Survey respondents reported that their primary cause of their homelessness was family/ domestic violence, compared to only 3% of adult respondents.**

25% of youth Survey respondents reported that their primary cause of homelessness was an argument with family/friend or was asked to leave their house.

Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

- ✓ **70% of youth Survey respondents reported that not being able to afford rent was keeping them from getting permanent housing, compared to 69% of adult respondents.**
 - Responses from youth were remarkably similar to responses from adults in every response option to this question.

Access to Food

- ✓ **A much smaller percentage of youth respondents indicated that they usually get enough to eat on a daily basis (33%), compared to adult respondents (57%).**
- ✓ **57% of youth respondents and 31% of adult respondents indicated that they sometimes get enough.**
- ✓ **10% of youth respondents and 13% of adult respondents indicated that they do not usually get enough to eat on a daily basis.**

Government Services

- ✓ **63% youth Survey respondents were not using any government services, compared to 37% of adult respondents.**
- ✓ **28% of youth Survey respondents were using Food Stamps compared to 40% of adult Survey respondents.**

Reasons for Not Receiving Government Services

- ✓ **45% of youth Survey respondents did not think they were eligible to receive government services, compared to 24% of adult respondents.**
- ✓ **24% of youth Survey respondents did not know where to go to sign up for government services, compared to 5% of the adult respondents.**
 - An overall lack of awareness seemed to have been the main reason that youth respondents were not receiving government services.

Employment Status

- ✓ **A smaller percentage of youth respondents were unemployed at the time of the survey (83%), compared to the adult survey population (87%).**
 - Fifteen percent (15%) of youth respondents were employed part-time and 2% were employed full-time.

Barriers to Employment³⁰

- ✓ **60% of youth respondents cited the lack of jobs as a major barrier to employment, compared to 48% of adult respondents.**
- ✓ **27% of youth respondents cited the need for education as a barrier, compared to 12% of adult respondents.**
 - This highlights the high value youth respondents placed on education as an important asset in obtaining employment.
- ✓ **Other common barriers to employment cited by youth respondents included the need for training (19%), alcohol/drug issues (15%), no work permit/Social Security number (14%), and no transportation (14%).**

60% of youth respondents cited the lack of jobs as a major barrier to employment.

³⁰ Responses to this question were not mutually exclusive.

Income from Government and Private Sources

- ✓ A greater percentage of youth respondents indicated that they were receiving no monthly income from Government sources, compared to adult respondents (75% compared to 46%, respectively).
- ✓ 41% of youth respondents indicated that they did not have any monthly income from private, non-Government sources. This is compared to 55% of adult respondents.

Homeless Families with Children

- ✓ 12% of youth respondents indicated that they had children, regardless of whether their child/children were living with them. This is compared to 28% of adult respondents.

Foster Care

- ✓ Similar percentages of youth and adult respondents indicated that they had been in foster care in their lifetime (21% compared to 18%, respectively).
- ✓ 8 youth respondents had been living in foster care before they became homeless.

21% of youth respondents indicated that they had been in foster care in their lifetime.

Prison/ Jail Experience

- ✓ A smaller percentage of youth respondents (27%) had spent at least one night in jail or prison during the last 12 months, compared to adult respondents (33%).
- ✓ In addition, a greater percentage of adult respondents (23%) indicated that they were currently on probation or parole at the time of the survey, compared to youth respondents (10%).
- ✓ 11% of youth respondents and 21% of adult respondents indicated that they were on probation or parole at the time they most recently became homeless.

Medical Care

- ✓ Similar percentages of youth and adult respondents indicated that they have needed medical care since the last time they became homeless, but have been unable to receive it (32% and 36%, respectively).
- ✓ A greater percentage of youth respondents indicated that they usually get medical care from a hospital emergency room (50%), compared to adult respondents (37%).

- ✓ Conversely, a greater percentage of adult respondents reported usually going to a community clinic for medical attention (40%), compared to youth respondents (27%).

Health Conditions

- ✓ About 7% of youth respondents reported that they were experiencing a physical disability at the time of the survey, compared to 32% of adult respondents.
- ✓ Greater percentages of youth respondents, compared to adult respondents, were experiencing HIV/AIDS related illnesses (5% and 2%), and a developmental disability (18% and 7%).
- ✓ 30% of youth respondents indicated that they had been knocked out by something other than drugs or alcohol in their lifetime, compared to 46% of adult respondents.
- ✓ Conversely, smaller percentages of youth respondents, compared to adult respondents, were experiencing chronic health problems (12% and 31%, respectively), and were getting prescription medication (22% and 32%).
- ✓ Similar percentages of youth and adult respondents indicated that they were experiencing a mental illness (28% and 31%, respectively), Depression (49% and 54%), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (19% and 21%).

Domestic Violence

- ✓ Greater percentages of youth respondents, compared to adult respondents, were experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse (20% and 9%, respectively).

20% of youth respondents were experiencing domestic/ partner violence or abuse.

Substance Abuse

- ✓ 57% of youth respondents were experiencing substance abuse (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) compared to 38% of the adult Survey population.
 - 62% of youth respondents between the ages of 13-17 were experiencing substance abuse.
- ✓ Higher percentages of youth respondents, compared to adult respondents, were experiencing alcohol abuse (37% and 31%, respectively), and drug abuse (47% and 26%).
 - Of those who were experiencing drug abuse, 83% of youth respondents and 68% of adult respondents were using marijuana. This is followed by youth and adult respondents who were using heroin (50% and 56%, respectively), cocaine/crack (24% for both), and meth/amphetamines (24% and 16%).³¹

³¹ These responses are not mutually exclusive.

Conclusion and Upcoming Research

The 2009 Sonoma County Census and Survey provided valid and useful data regarding the homeless community in Sonoma County. The 2009 Sonoma County Census and Survey was performed by using HUD-recommended practices for counting the homeless population. Future enumeration efforts will naturally benefit from the body of work completed in this report. Datasets that were developed for the first time will only have to be updated and further refined.

It is hoped that this report, and the findings contained within, will be useful to the planning bodies of Sonoma County and its municipal jurisdictions. It is also hoped that this report will be disseminated to other jurisdictions and educational research institutions in order to gain feedback on the methodologies used and results obtained for the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey. By sharing and evaluating this enumeration effort and its results, the



homeless support network in Sonoma County will be able to produce constructive and innovative solutions to a problem that obviously affects many people in this region.

Appendix I: Homeless Census and Survey Methodology

Overview

The purpose of the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey was to produce an estimate of the number of people in Sonoma County who experience homelessness. The results of the street count were combined with the results from the shelter and institution count to produce the total number of homeless people in Sonoma County. A more detailed description of the methodology used for the homeless count follows.

Components of the Homeless Count Method

The Census methodology had two components:

- The Street Count – an enumeration of unsheltered homeless people; and
- The Shelter and Institution Count – an enumeration of sheltered homeless people.

Street Count Methodology

Definition

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of an unsheltered homeless person was used: someone who is either living on the streets, or in a vehicle, encampment, abandoned building, garage, or any other place not normally used or meant for human habitation.

Research Design

Sonoma County covers approximately 1,576 square miles. The logistics for conducting a point-in-time street count of homeless people in a county this large required the enumeration to be well thought out. The unsheltered and sheltered homeless counts were coordinated to occur within the same time period in order to minimize the potential effect of duplicate counting. The purpose of the street count was to conduct an enumeration of unsheltered homeless people over a specific measure of time.

Volunteer and Worker Recruitment

An enumeration effort of this magnitude can only be successful with the assistance of those who possess an intimate knowledge of the activities and locations of homeless people. Therefore, the recruitment and training of homeless people to work as enumerators was an essential part of the street count methodology. A homeless Census cannot be successful without the assistance of these individuals. Previous research has shown that homeless people, teamed with staff members from homeless service agencies, can be part of a productive and reliable work force.

To work for the street count, prospective enumerators were required to attend one 2-hour information and training session. Six training sessions were held at multiple locations throughout Sonoma County in the week prior to the street count. Information and training sessions were attended primarily by homeless people, staff from homeless service agencies, and staff from Sonoma County. The techniques and methods used to identify and enumerate unsheltered homeless people were reviewed during these training sessions.

Homeless persons who completed the required training session were paid \$20.00 on the morning of the street count. Homeless workers were also paid \$10.00 per hour for their work the morning of the Census, and were reimbursed for any expenses (mainly for transportation costs) they incurred during the hours they worked. Upwards of 175 homeless people, homeless service providers, city and county workers, and community volunteers were recruited and trained.

Figure 43: *Street Count Homeless Guide and Volunteer Participation*

	Homeless Guides		Community Volunteers		Total	
	Number Trained	Number Participated	Number Trained	Number Participated	Number Trained	Number Participated
Overall	68	73	80	82	148	155
Youth	24	16	2	3	26	19
Total	92	89	82	85	174	174

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census, 2009.

Street Count Teams

On the mornings of the Census, two-person teams were created to enumerate a selected area of the County for the street count. A team was ideally composed of one volunteer and one homeless person who had attended a training and information session. Given the expertise each team member brought to working in the field, the “volunteer/homeless worker” teamwork concept was especially beneficial for the street count.

Street count teams were provided with Census tract maps of their assigned areas, Census tally sheets, a recap of the Census training documents and techniques, and other supplies. Prior to deployment, volunteers and workers were provided with a brief review of how not to disturb homeless people or anyone else encountered during the street Census. On the morning of January 23rd, all 86 Census tracts were enumerated.

Safety Precautions

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Precautions were taken to prepare a safe environment in all deployment centers. Law enforcement districts were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. No official reports were received in regards to unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the street count in any area of the County.

Street Count Deployment

There were a total of four deployment locations on the morning of the count. These deployment centers were located in: Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Guerneville, and Healdsburg. The county’s 86 Census tracts were divided between these four locations based on the Census tract location. The

enumeration started at 5 am and lasted till about 10 am, when the final street count teams returned from covering their assigned tract. This early morning enumeration was selected in order to avoid shelter count duplication and to increase the visibility of the street homeless.

Volunteers were used to transport homeless workers and to and from assigned Census tracts (although some homeless workers did provide their own transportation). All accessible streets, roads, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traveled by foot, bike, or car. Homeless persons were counted and tallied according to these observed categories:

Individuals:	Family Members:	Notations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Male • Adult Female • Youth (under age 18) • Undetermined gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Male • Adult Female • Youth (under age 18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles (cars, vans, RV's, campers, etc.) • Encampments • Abandoned Buildings • People reported by park ranger

Homeless enumerators were also instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets for the street count. However, they were only instructed to do so if they were not going to be counted during a shelter or institutional Census.

Upon their return, teams turned in their Census tally forms and were debriefed by the deployment captains. Observational comments and the integrity of the enumeration effort were reviewed and assessed. This was done to check for double-counting (i.e. counting a family as family members and individuals) and to verify that every accessible road within the assigned area was enumerated.

No direct contact with enumerated homeless people was made during the Census enumeration. To avoid potential duplication of unsheltered and sheltered homeless, it was imperative to enumerate during the narrow timeframe when sheltered and unsheltered homeless do not co-mingle—before sheltered homeless would be out on the street for the day. Administering the Survey in conjunction with the Census would have taken up too much of this narrow timeframe, thereby increasing the likelihood of duplication between the street and sheltered homeless, and jeopardizing the accuracy of the Census. Thus, observation-only enumeration strategies were employed during the Census, and the Survey component of this project began after the Census was completed.

Additionally, because unaccompanied youth tend to be difficult to enumerate since they do not frequently co-mingle with the adult homeless population, special youth enumeration teams consisting of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth were formed to enumerate unaccompanied homeless youth. They originated from two homeless youth programs and each was given general geographic boundaries to follow instead of Census tract maps. These teams counted at different times of the day when homeless youth are most likely to be visible, between 2pm and 6pm. They enumerated unaccompanied homeless youth under age 18 and 18-27 year old homeless adults who associate in the same circles. The teams kept track of the location of the homeless youth by recording the nearest intersection to where youth were found.

Although any homeless enumeration is vulnerable to an undercount, all of the people, vehicles or encampments tallied during the point-in-time street count were visually observed by enumerators. By reporting only what was observed, ASR and its partners are highly confident that the street count results are as accurate and as valid as possible. There are no means to ensure that those enumerated were actually members of the homeless population. However, when potential enumerators were polled during the training sessions, most trainees indicated they would have no difficulty in telling the difference between an unsheltered homeless person and a member of the general public. This reiterates the importance of including homeless individuals as part of the street Census teams, since they have knowledge and expertise about their homeless community that volunteers often times lack.

Shelter and Institution Count

Goal

The goal of the shelter and institution (S&I) count was to gain an accurate count of the number of persons who were homeless who were being temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across Sonoma County. These data were vital to gaining an accurate overall count of the homeless population and understanding where homeless persons received shelter.

Data Collection

The basic approach was to identify and contact as many agencies as possible that temporarily housed homeless people and request that those agencies fill out an online Survey to report the number of homeless individuals and families they sheltered on the night of January 22nd, 2009. The support and participation from a broad range of agencies, both public and private, was needed to complete the shelter and institution count. These agencies included:

- Shelters (emergency and transitional),
- Jails/police departments,
- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities,
- Hospitals, and
- Agencies that housed homeless people with motel vouchers and other agencies.

These institution types were included in the count because they were most likely to temporarily house persons who were homeless.

The S&I count began by first identifying and collecting contact information for all agencies in the county that provided temporary shelter to homeless people from the Sonoma County Continuum of Care. These agencies included: shelters, jails, drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, and agencies that provide motel vouchers to homeless people. Shelter facilities then reported their occupancies for the night prior to the Census to Applied Survey Research. ASR went through a verification process with the data that was collected in order to ensure that the Survey was filled out appropriately. The finalized data was also compared to the known capacities of each program to make sure that there were not any discrepancies.

Homeless Census Challenges and Assumptions

Challenges

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as diverse and large as Sonoma County. While homeless populations are usually concentrated around city emergency shelters and homeless service facilities, homeless individuals and families can also be found in suburbs, commercial districts, and outlying county areas that are not easily accessible by enumerators. Homeless populations include numerous subsets such as:

- Chronically homeless persons who may or may not access social, health, or shelter services.
- Persons living in vehicles who relocate every few days.
- Persons who have children and therefore stay “under the radar” for fear of having to turn their children over to Child Protective Services.
- Homeless youth, who tend to keep themselves less visible than homeless adults.
- Homeless people who live in isolated rural areas.
- Homeless people who sleep in unfit structures.

Census Undercount

Due to a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not want to be seen, and make concentrated efforts to avoid detection. What we do know is that regardless of how successful our outreach effort is, we will undercount the homeless population, especially hard-to-reach subpopulations such as unaccompanied youth and families.

In this non-intrusive, point-in-time, visual homeless enumeration, it should be noted that the methods employed, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers and currently or previously homeless Census enumerators, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, for example:

- Homeless youth are suspected to keep a distance from the general homeless population, for their own safety.
- Likewise, homeless families with children will more likely seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the street, in vehicles, or makeshift shelters.
- It can be difficult to identify homeless persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, or recreational vehicles.
- Homeless individuals who live deep in forest areas, which are very hard to reach by enumeration teams.

By counting the minimum number of homeless persons on the street at a given time, the homeless Census methodology is conservative and therefore most likely results in an undercount of homeless with immigration issues, some of the working homeless, families, and street youth. This conservative approach is necessary to preserve the integrity of the data collected. It is noteworthy that, even though the Census is most likely to be an undercount of the homeless population, the methodology employed, coupled with the homeless Survey data to inform the acknowledged undercount, is the most comprehensive approach available.

Assumptions of Annual Estimation

The calculations used to project an annual estimate of homelessness are based on two very important assumptions.

- The information gathered in the homeless Survey is indicative of responses that would have been given at any other time during the year and is representative of the general diversity of the study area's homeless population.
- The point-in-time Census count is reasonably indicative of a count that would have been obtained at any other time during the year.

Service providers have supported these assumptions by indicating that the demand for services stayed relatively consistent over time. Additionally, the gross number of homeless accessing services does not fluctuate to a great degree, although the proportion of sheltered versus unsheltered homeless does vary with the seasons.

Estimates of the number of people who experience homelessness in a given year are important for planning purposes and HUD reporting requirements. Because many homeless experiences are relatively short-term (less than a year), it is important to account for this phenomenon when determining the annual demand for homeless services.



The non-intervention unsheltered census observation method practiced in our research effort resulted in a large number of persons (1,319) whose gender could not be determined. This included people in cars, vans, RVs, and encampments where survey-based multipliers were used. In order to more easily compare sheltered and unsheltered data and compare to the general population of Sonoma County, gender assignments were made based on the gender results of the observed unsheltered homeless population. These gender ratios are consistent with previous Sonoma County research efforts and are comparable to other similar communities in California.

Given the size of the Survey sample (600), the statistical reliability of the projections, the undercount inherent in any homeless Census, as well as the use of a HUD-approved turnover rate calculation, the Project Committee and Applied Survey Research has determined that this methodology was the most complete and accurate of all available approaches.

Survey Methodology

Planning and Implementation

The 600-person Survey of homeless persons was conducted in order to yield quantitative and qualitative data about the homeless community in Sonoma County. These data were used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and is important for future homeless 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 both current and in the future. Survey findings also provide a baseline for future homeless studies.

Surveys were conducted by homeless workers and service provider volunteers who were trained by Applied Survey Research. Training sessions led potential interviewers through a detailed and lengthy orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Because of confidentiality and privacy issues, service providers typically conducted the Surveys that were administered in shelters. No self-administered Surveys were accepted to maintain a standardized and consistent protocol.

Homeless workers were compensated at a rate of \$5.00 per each completed Survey. Further, it was determined that Survey data would be more easily collected if an incentive gift was offered to Survey respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. A \$5.00 face value pre-paid phone card or a \$5.00 grocery gift card was selected as an incentive to participate in the Survey. These cards 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 done at anytime during the day. The gift proved to be a great incentive and was widely accepted among Survey respondents.

Survey Sampling

In order to select a random sample of homeless Survey respondents, Survey workers were trained to employ a randomized “every third encounter” Survey approach. Survey workers were instructed to approach the third person they encountered whom they considered to be an eligible Survey respondent.³² 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.

The Survey workers also maintained a record of the number of refusals, in order to generate a Survey response rate. Overall, the response rate was 92%. While this is an excellent response rate, we should note that the non-responders could potentially be significantly different from those who did respond. We attempted to minimize bias through the use of the randomized sampling strategy.

³² The Survey method of systematically interviewing every n th person encountered in a location is recommended by HUD in their publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*, Second Revision, January 2008, p. 37.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals of various subset groups such as homeless youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence victims, and families, including recruiting Survey workers from these subset groups. As part of the youth homeless enumeration effort, a team of homeless youth was trained to administer Surveys to other homeless youth.

Trained homeless interviewers administered Surveys to the “street” homeless. These workers were used as interviewers because they were familiar with the conditions, challenges, and likely locations of homeless persons, and they would therefore be more likely to obtain Survey question responses from the homeless respondents. This peer-to-peer approach may also encourage more candid responses by lessening the suspicion or apprehension of the respondent and helping to build rapport between the Survey worker and respondent. Interviewers were asked to inquire if the homeless person had already taken the Survey, and if not, if they were willing to do so, knowing there was a “thank you” gift at the completion of the Survey. Workers were also asked to remain unbiased at all times, make no assumptions or prompts, keep all responses anonymous and confidential, and ask all questions, but allow respondents to skip any question they did not feel comfortable answering.

Surveys were also administered in shelters and transitional housing programs. In order to assure the representation of transitional housing residents, who can be underrepresented in a street-based Survey, Survey quotas were created to reach individuals and heads of family households living in these programs. Ten transitional housing programs throughout Sonoma County, including domestic violence-, family-, veteran-, and youth-focused programs, participated in the Survey effort. Typically, program staff conducted those Surveys. The same Survey was used in both shelter and street environments. Altogether, approximately 65% of all Survey respondents were unsheltered homeless, and the remaining 35% were sheltered homeless. This gives an accurate representation of the findings from the street and shelter Censuses, as 68% of all homeless persons identified were unsheltered and 32% of all homeless persons identified were sheltered.

Based on a point-in-time estimate of approximately 3,247 homeless persons, the 600 valid Surveys represent a confidence interval of $\pm 4\%$ with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the Survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Sonoma County, given the random sampling approach used.

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.

Overall, the interviewers experienced excellent cooperation from respondents. This was likely influenced by the fact that nearly all of the street interviewers were homeless workers who had previously been, or were now, fellow members of the homeless community. Another reason for interview cooperation may have been the gift of the pre-paid phone card or grocery card, which was given to respondents upon the completion of the interview.

Data Analysis

In order 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 potential duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the Survey. It was determined that 8 Surveys were duplicates. This left 600 valid Surveys for analysis.

Survey Challenges and Limitations

The Sonoma County Homeless Survey does not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. However, as mentioned above, based on a point-in-time estimate of approximately 3,247 homeless persons, the 600 valid Surveys represent a confidence interval of $\pm 4\%$ with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the Survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Sonoma County. These confidences can be




applied to the Survey findings because the Survey was randomly administered, with the Survey workers approaching every third eligible person to administer the Survey.

In self reporting Survey research, as was conducted by this Survey, there is always some room for misrepresentation. Since there is no mechanism to separate truth from fiction in Survey responses, it is important to make every effort to elicit the most truthful responses from interviewees. 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. It should be noted that the responses provided for this Survey are consistent based on reviews by service providers who:

- Selected reliable interviewers who had attended a training and received a training completion certificate; and
- Reviewed the Surveys and ensured quality responses.

Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted, and the interviewer was not compensated.

Appendix II: Census Instruments

	2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census		
Street Count Tally Sheet			
Map #: _____			
Deployment Location: _____ Date _____			
Team Member 1: _____	Deployment Location Phone # _____ OR _____		
Team Member 2: _____			
Team Member 3: _____	Team Captain: _____		
Tally INDIVIDUALS ONLY in top columns.			
# of Individual Men	# of Individual Women	# Undetermined Gender	# of Individual Youth under 18
Tally FAMILIES ONLY in lower columns. Families are defined as at least one minor child/youth (under 18 years) AND one adult male and/or adult female. If more than 6 families, use back of sheet.			
Family Units	# of Men	# of Women	Youth under 18 years old
Family 1			
Family 2			
Family 3			
Family 4			
Family 5			
Family 6			
When the Number of People are Unknown, Tally # of VEHICLES AND ENCAMPMENTS ONLY here			Additional Notes
# of cars with sleeping occupants			
# of Vans or RVs with electrical or water connections			
# of Encampments with people			
# of Abandoned Buildings with people			
# of Persons reported by Park Ranger			
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2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census

Youth Street Count Tally Sheet

Team Member 1: _____
Team Member 2: _____

Team Member 3: _____
Team Member 4: _____

Cross streets and city	Male under 18	Male 18-22	Female under 18	Female 18-22	Undetermined Gender under 18	Undetermined Gender 18-22

Appendix III: Survey Instrument

1550024704

(Office use)

2009 Sonoma County Homeless Survey

REFUSALS _____ (Office use) _____ Interview Date: _____

Interviewer's (Your) Name: _____

Neighborhood or city: _____

Respondent's Initials: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Interviewer: Read question & answers to the respondent)

Shade Circles Like This--> ●

Not Like This--> ⊗

1. What is your birth date?

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

(Office use) (Office use) (Office use)

2. Which racial / ethnic group do you identify with the most? (Shade only 1)

White/Caucasian American Indian/Alaskan Native

Black/African American Asian

Hispanic/Latino Pacific Islander

Other/Multi-ethnic

3. How do you identify yourself?

Male Female Transgender

4. Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces (regular military, National Guard, or military reserve unit)?

Yes (Ask question 4a)

No (Skip to question 5)

4a. Were you disabled as a result of your military service?

Yes No

5. Do you live alone without family, partner, or friends?

Yes (Skip to question 6)

No (Ask question 5a)

5a. Do you live with: (Shade all that apply)

Spouse or partner Other family member(s)

Child/children Friend(s)

Parent or legal guardian Other

6. Where do you usually stay at night, since you have been homeless? (Shade only 1)

Outdoors/streets/parks A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, living room, etc.)

Unconverted Garage/attic/basement Emergency shelter

Backyard or storage structure Public facilities (train station, bus depot, transit center, etc.)

Motel/hotel Transitional housing

Automobile Other shelter

Van Other _____

Camper Encampment

Abandoned building

How many people, including yourself, usually stay there? _____

(Ask question 6a)

How many people live there? _____

6a. How many citations have you received in the last 12 months for illegal camping or sleeping in a vehicle?

0 1 2 3 4 5+

7. In the last 30 days, have you ever tried to stay at an emergency shelter or a transitional housing facility in Sonoma County and been turned away?

Yes, a shelter

Yes, a transitional housing program

No

8. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

Yes (Skip to question 9)

No (Continue with questions 8a and 8b)

8a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)

One time 3 times 5 times More than 6 times

2 times 4 times 6 times Entire 12 months

8b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)

One time 3 times 5 times More than 6 times

2 times 4 times 6 times Entire 3 years

9. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation? (Shade only 1)

7 days or less 4 months 8 months 12 months

8-30 days 5 months 9 months 1-2 years

2 months 6 months 10 months 2-3 years

3 months 7 months 11 months More than 3 years

10. Where were you living right before you most recently became homeless? (Shade only 1)

Sonoma County (Ask question 10a)

Other County in California (Skip to question 11)

Out of state (Skip to question 11)

10a. How long had you lived in Sonoma County before becoming homeless? (Shade only 1)

7 days or less 4 - 6 months 3 - 5 years

8-30 days 7 - 11 months 6 - 10 years

1 - 3 months 1 - 2 years More than 10 years

11. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you living: (Shade only 1)

In a home owned by your partner In subsidized housing

In a rented home/ apartment In jail or prison

With friends In a hospital

With relatives In a treatment facility

In a motel/hotel Other

In foster care

12. What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness? (Please choose the main reason). (Shade only 1 response)

Lost job Hospitalization/ treatment prog

Evicted because landlord sold/ stopped renting / re-used property or lost property to foreclosure Argument/family or friend asked you to leave

Landlord raised rent Incarceration

Alcohol or drug use Got too old for foster care

Illness or medical problem Divorced or separated

Mental health issues Hurricane Katrina

Other natural disaster/flood etc.

Family/ domestic violence Other _____

Disagreement with landlord/tenants Don't know / decline to state

Lost the home I owned through foreclosure

Lost disability status

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

Can't afford rent No transportation

No job / no income Bad credit

No money for moving costs (security deposit, first and/or last month rent) Eviction record

No housing availability Criminal record

Size of family Don't want to

Alcohol or drug use Other _____

3154024706

(Office use)

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / SSDI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Stamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Service-connected VA disability compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal /Medi-Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-service-connected VA disability pension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Aid /CalWORKS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other veterans' benefits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WIC | <input type="checkbox"/> Other governmental assistance (State disability benefits, workers compensation, unemployment etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security | |

(If yes to any of these, go to question 15)

I am not currently receiving any of these *(Ask question 14a)*

14a. If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not? (Shade all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't think I'm eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> I have applied for one or more of these services, and I am currently waiting for approval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have no identification | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know where to go |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No permanent address | <input type="checkbox"/> Turned down |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Will apply soon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never applied | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't need government assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits were cut off | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration issues | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper work too difficult | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm afraid my children will be taken away from me | |

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Health services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free meals | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food pantry | <input type="checkbox"/> Jail/ prison re-entry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus passes | <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Care/ group home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job training | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/ drug counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Not using any services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter day services | |

16. Are you currently employed? (Shade only 1)

- No, unemployed *(Continue with question 16a)*
 Yes, part time *(Skip to question 16b)*
 Yes, full time *(Skip to question 16b)*

16a. What is keeping you from getting employment? (Shade all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need education | <input type="checkbox"/> No permanent address |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need training | <input type="checkbox"/> No transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Need clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> No tools for trade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No shower facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> No work permit (No S.S. #) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No phone | <input type="checkbox"/> No photo identification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't want to work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> No jobs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/ drug issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal record | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/ partner doesn't want me to work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No child care | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

(Skip to question 17)

16b. Is your employment: (Shade all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal labor | <input type="checkbox"/> In manufacturing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In farming/ agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Your own small business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In service industries | <input type="checkbox"/> In another sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In construction | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |

17. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all Government benefits? (County, State, Federal monies) (Shade only 1)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zero | <input type="checkbox"/> \$251 - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1501 - \$2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$501 - \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$151 - \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1001 - \$1500 | |

18. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all non-Government sources? (Job, panhandling, recycling, etc.)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zero | <input type="checkbox"/> \$251 - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1501 - \$2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$501 - \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$151 - \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1001 - \$1500 | |

19. Do you have any children (living with you or not)?

- Yes *(Ask question 19a and 19b)*
 No *(Skip to question 20)*

19a. Do you have any children: (Shade all that apply)

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 or over living with you | How many? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In foster care | How many? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 not living with you | How many? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 living with you | How many? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

19b. If your children are between ages 5 and 18 and living with you, are they enrolled in school?

- Yes No

20. Were you ever in foster care? (Before your 18th birthday, were you ever removed from your home by the state, county, or court and sent to live with people other than your mother or father?)

- Yes No

21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

- Yes No

22. Where do you usually get medical care? (Shade only 1)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital emergency room | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/ family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VA Hospital/ Clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't ever go |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private doctor | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

23. How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison during the last 12 months?

_____ nights

--	--	--	--

 (Office use)

24. Are you currently on probation or parole?

- Yes No

25. Were you on probation or parole when you most recently became homeless?

- Yes No

26. Are you currently experiencing any of the following:

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 26a. Physical disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26b. Mental illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26c. Depression | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26d. Domestic/ partner violence or abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26e. Chronic health problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26f. AIDS/ HIV related illness | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26g. Getting prescription medication | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26h. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26i. Developmental disability (A chronic condition that significantly limits a person's ability to speak, hear, see, walk, learn, or perform fundamental tasks) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26j. Alcohol abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
| 26k. Drug abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined to state |
- (If yes, continue with 26k.i)*

26k.i. What substances do you use? (Shade all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marijuana | <input type="checkbox"/> Meth/ amphetamines | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cocaine/ crack | <input type="checkbox"/> Heroin | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 6th Grade | <input type="checkbox"/> AA degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than high school diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> BA degree or above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma/ GED | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Certificate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, no degree | |

28. Do you usually get enough to eat on a daily basis?

- Yes Sometimes No

29. Did your parents or primary caregiver abuse alcohol or drugs when you were a child? (Shade only 1)

- No
 Yes, father only Yes, mother only Yes, both parents
 Yes, foster parent(s) Yes, other caregiver

30. Have you ever been knocked out by something other than drugs or alcohol?

- Yes No

**Encuesta de Personas Desamparadas del 2009
del condado de Sonoma**

7946000578 (Office use)

RECHAZOS _____ (Office use) _____ Fecha de la Entrevista: _____

Nombre del Entrevistador: _____ (Entrevistador: Lea la pregunta y las opciones de respuesta al entrevistado)

Vecindario-lugar: _____ (Office use)

Iniciales del Entrevistado: 1 Nombre _____ 2 Nombre _____ Apellido _____

**Marque los círculos así--> ●
y NO así--> ⊗**

1. Cuál es su fecha de nacimiento?
Mes _____ Día _____ Año _____
(Office use) (Office use) (Office use)

2. A qué grupo étnico/raza considera Ud. que pertenece? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 Blanco/Caucásico Nativo Americano/Nativo de Alaska
 Negro/Afroamericano Asiático
 Hispano/Latino Islas del Pacífico
 Otro/Multi-étnico

3. Como se identifica usted?
 Hombre Mujer Transgénero

4. Es Ud. veterano de las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos? (Milicia Regular, Guardia Nacional, o en una unidad militar como Reservista)
 Sí (Siga con la pregunta 4a)
 No (Vaya a la pregunta 5)

4a. Esta Ud. discapacitado como resultado de su servicio militar?
 Sí No

5. Vive Ud. solo, es decir sin familia, pareja o amigos?
 Sí (Vaya a la pregunta 6)
 No (Siga con la pregunta 5a)

5a. Actualmente Ud. vive con: (Marque las que apliquen)
 Esposo(a)/pareja Otros miembros de la familia
 Con hijo/hijos Amigo(s)
 Padres o guardián legal Otro

6. Donde se queda Ud. generalmente en las noches? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 Al aire libre/calles/parques Un lugar en una casa que normalmente NO se utiliza para dormir (cocina, sala, etc.)
 Garaje/ático/sótano sin modificación Refugio de emergencia
 Patio o estructura de bodega Lugares públicos (estación de tren/bus, centro de tránsito, etc.)
 Motel/hotel Hogar de paso/transitorio
 Vehículo Otro tipo de refugio
 Van Otro _____
 Camper Campamento
 Edificio abandonado Otro _____
 Cuántas personas incluyendo Ud. se quedan ahí? _____
 Cuánta gente vive allí? _____
 (Vaya a la Pregunta 6a)

6a. Cuántas infracciones ha recibido en los últimos 12 meses por acampar de manera ilegal o por dormir en un vehículo?
 0 1 2 3 4 5+

7. En los últimos 30 días ha intentado tener acceso a un refugio u hogar de paso/ transición en el condado de Sonoma y le han negado el servicio?
 Sí, un refugio
 Sí, un hogar de paso/transitorio
 No

8. Es la primera vez que ha estado sin hogar/desamparado?
 Sí (Vaya a la pregunta 9)
 No (Siga con la pregunta 8a y 8b)

8a. En los últimos 12 meses cuántas veces, incluyendo esta, ha sido una persona sin hogar? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 Una vez 3 veces 5 veces Mas de 6 veces
 2 veces 4 veces 6 veces Todos los 12 meses

8b. En los últimos 3 años cuántas veces, incluyendo esta, ha sido una persona sin hogar? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 Una vez 3 veces 5 veces Mas de 6 veces
 2 veces 4 veces 6 veces Todos los 3 años

9. Hace cuanto ha estado sin hogar desde la última vez que vivió en un hogar permanente? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 7 días o menos 4 meses 8 meses 12 meses
 8 -30 días 5 meses 9 meses 1-2 años
 2 meses 6 meses 10 meses 2-3 años
 3 meses 7 meses 11 meses Mas de 3 años

10. Donde estaba viviendo la última vez que se convirtió en persona sin hogar? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 Condado de Sonoma (Siga con la pregunta 10a)
 Otro condado de California (Vaya a la pregunta 11)
 En otro Estado (Vaya a la pregunta 11)

10a. Cuanto tiempo había vivido en el Condado de Sonoma antes de convertirse en persona sin hogar? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 7 días o menos 4 - 6 meses 3 - 5 años
 8 - 30 días 7 - 11 meses 6 - 10 años
 1 - 3 meses 1 - 2 años Mas de 10 años

11. Inmediatamente antes de convertirse en persona sin hogar esta última vez, Usted estaba... : (Marque solo 1 resp.)
 Viviendo en un lugar suyo o de su pareja Viviendo en un hogar subsidiado
 Rentando casa/apto En la cárcel/prisión
 Viviendo con amigos En un hospital
 Viviendo con familiares Centro de rehabilitación
 En un motel/hotel Otro
 En un foster care

12. Cuál piensa Ud. que fue el principal evento o situación que lo llevó a su actual condición de persona sin hogar? (Escoja la principal razón. Marque solo 1 respuesta)
 Perdió el trabajo Hospitalización/prog. tratamiento
 El dueño vendió la vivienda/ no fue rentada más/ re-uso propiedad o perdió vivienda por falta de dinero Pelea con familiar/amigo que le pidió que se vaya
 Incremento de la renta Edad de salida del foster care
 Uso de alcohol o drogas Se separó o divorció
 Enfermo o problema médico Huracán Katrina
 Asuntos de salud mental Otro desastre natural/ incendio/ inundación, etc.
 Violencia doméstica/familiar
 Desacuerdo con el dueño/vecinos Otro _____
 Perdió su casa por falta de dinero No sabe / no quiere declarar
 Perdió beneficios por ya no ser discapacitado

13. Qué es lo que le impide poder tener un lugar para vivir de manera permanente? (Marque las que apliquen)
 No puede pagar la renta Sin transporte
 Sin trabajo / ingresos Mal crédito
 Costos iniciales de renta (depósito de seguridad, pago del primer y/o último mes de renta) Historia de desalojo
 No hay disponibilidad de vivienda Historia de crimen judicial
 Tamaño de familia No desea hacerlo
 Uso de alcohol o drogas Otro _____

7886000571

(Office use)

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14. Actualmente recibe alguna de las siguientes formas de asistencia gubernamental? (Marque las que apliquen)

- Asistencia General
- Estampillas para alimentos
- Medi-Cal /Medi-Care
- Cash Aid /CalWORKS
- WIC
- Seguro Social
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / SSDI
- Service-connected VA disability compensation
- Non-Service-connected VA disability pension
- Otros beneficios de veterano
- Otro tipo de asistencia del gobierno (Compensación laboral, desempleo, beneficios del Estado por incapacidad, etc.)

(Si responde alguna de estas, vaya a la pregunta 15)

- No recibo actualmente ninguna de estas
- (Siga con la pregunta 14a)

14a. Si no recibe ningún tipo de asistencia gubernamental, por que no? (Marque las que apliquen)

- No cree que es elegible
- No tiene identificación
- Sin dirección permanente
- No tiene transporte
- Nunca ha aplicado
- Beneficios fueron recortados
- Asuntos de inmigración
- Papeleo muy difícil
- Tengo miedo que me quiten a mis hijos
- He aplicado a uno o más de estos servicios, y estoy esperando la aprobación
- No sabe a donde ir
- Se lo han negado
- Va a aplicar pronto
- No requiere asistencia del gobierno
- Otro _____

15. Recibe actualmente alguna de las siguientes formas de servicios/asistencia? (Marque las que apliquen)

- Refugio de emergencia
- Hogar de paso transitorio
- Alimentos gratis
- Food Pantry
- Pases para el bus
- Entrenamiento laboral
- Consejería para Alcohol / Drogas
- Servicios diarios de refugio
- Asistencia legal
- Servicios de salud
- Servicios de salud mental
- Board & Care/ group home
- Otro _____
- No usa ningún servicio

16. Esta Ud. actualmente empleado? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)

- No, desempleado (Siga con la pregunta 16a)
- Si, tiempo parcial (Vaya a la pregunta 16b)
- Si, tiempo completo (Vaya a la pregunta 16b)

16a. Que es lo que lo detiene para poder estar empleado? (Marque las que apliquen)

- Necesita educación
- Necesita entrenamiento
- Necesita vestuario
- No tiene lugar para bañarse
- No tiene teléfono
- Problemas de salud
- Está discapacitado
- Asuntos de alcohol/drogas
- Historia de crimen judicial
- No tiene quien le cuide a sus hijos
- No tiene dirección permanente
- No tiene transporte
- Sin herramientas para trabajar
- Sin permiso de trabajo (Sin S.S. #)
- Sin documento de identificación
- No desea trabajar
- No hay trabajos
- Esta retirado/jubilado
- Espos(a) no quiere que trabaje
- Otro _____

(Vaya a la pregunta 17)

16b. El tipo de empleo que tiene es: Marque las que apliquen)

- Trabajo en función de la estación
- Agricultura/ labores de campo
- Industria de servicios
- Construcción
- Manufactura
- Tiene su propio negocio
- En otro sector
- Ninguno de los anteriores

17. Cuál es el ingreso total mensual que recibe por parte de todas las organizaciones del Gobierno? (Condado, Estado, Federal) (Marque solo 1 respuesta)

- Cero
- \$1 - \$150
- \$151 - \$250
- \$251 - \$500
- \$501 - \$1000
- \$1001 - \$1500
- \$1501 - \$2000
- Mas de \$2000

18. Cuál es el ingreso total mensual que recibe por parte de otras fuentes distintas al gobierno? (Trabajo, mendigando, reciclaje, etc.) (Marque solo 1 respuesta)

- Cero
- \$1 - \$150
- \$151 - \$250
- \$251 - \$500
- \$501 - \$1000
- \$1001 - \$1500
- \$1501 - \$2000
- Mas de \$2000

19. Tiene Ud hijos (viviendo o no con usted)?

- Si (Siga con la pregunta 19a y 19b)
- No (Vaya a la pregunta 20)

19a. Tiene Ud hijos que : (Marque las que apliquen)

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tienen 18 años o más y viven con Ud. | Cuántos? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estan en foster care | Cuántos? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tienen menos de 18 años y no viven con Ud | Cuántos? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tienen menos de 18 años y viven con Ud | Cuántos? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

19b. Si sus hijos están entre las edades 5-18 y viven con usted, ellos están en la escuela?

- Si
- No

20. Alguna vez estuvo en un foster care o albergue temporal? (Pensando cuando era menor de 18 años, fue usted removido de su hogar por el estado, el condado o una corte y enviado a vivir con personas que no eran su madre o su padre?)

- Si
- No

21. Desde que esta sin hogar esta última vez, ha necesitado atención médica y no le ha sido posible recibirla?

- Si
- No

22. Generalmente donde obtiene atención médica? (Marque solo 1 respuesta)

- Sala de emergencia de Hospital
- Hospital/ clínica para veteranos
- Clínica comunitaria
- Doctor privado
- Amigos / familiares
- Nunca he ido
- Otro _____
- No sabe

23. Cuántas noches ha pasado en la cárcel o prisión en los últimos 12 meses?

_____ noches

--	--	--	--

(Office use)

24. Esta usted actualmente en probación o parole?

- Si
- No

25. Estaba Ud. en probación o parole la última vez que se convirtió en persona sin hogar?

- Si
- No

26. Esta Ud. experimentando actualmente alguna de las siguientes situaciones?

- 26a. Discapacidad física Si No No desea responder
- 26b. Enfermedad mental Si No No desea responder
- 26c. Depresión Si No No desea responder
- 26d. Violencia doméstica o familiar Si No No desea responder
- 26e. Problemas crónicos de salud Si No No desea responder
- 26f. Enfermedades asociadas al SIDA/HIV Si No No desea responder
- 26g. Obtiene prescripciones médicas Si No No desea responder
- 26h. Desorden de estrés post traumático Si No No desea responder
- 26i. Discapacidad de desarrollo (Una condición crónica que imita la habilidad de una persona para hablar, oír, mirar, aprender, o realizar tareas fundamentales) Si No No desea responder
- 26j. Abuso de alcohol Si No No desea responder
- 26k. Abuso de drogas Si No No desea responder

(Si respondió si, continúe con la pregunta 26k.i)

26k.i. Cuales sustancias consume? (Marque las que apliquen)

- Marihuana
- Cocaina/ crack
- Metamfetamina
- Heroína
- Otro _____

27. Cuál es el mayor nivel educativo alcanzado?

- Menos del sexto grado
- No terminó secundaria
- Diploma de secundaria/GED
- Algo de College, sin título
- Graduado de AA
- Graduado de BA o superior
- Certificado técnico

28. En general, tiene suficiente para comer todos los días?

- Si
- A veces
- No

29. Sus padres o guardianes primarios abusaron en el uso de alcohol o drogas cuando usted era un niño?

- No
- Si, padre solamente
- Si, madre solamente
- Si, ambos padres
- Si, padres de foster
- Si, otro guardian

30. Ha utilizado para intoxicarse elementos distintos a las drogas o el alcohol?

- Si
- No

Appendix IV: Overall Survey Results

1. Age

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 13 years	0	0.0%
13-17 years	81	13.6%
18-21 years	59	9.9%
22-30 years	74	12.4%
31-40 years	102	17.1%
41-50 years	161	27.0%
51-60 years	107	18.0%
More than 60 years	12	2.0%
Total	596	100.0%

2. Which racial / ethnic group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/ Caucasian	396	66.1%
Black/ African American	35	5.8%
Hispanic/Latino	82	13.7%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	45	7.5%
Asian	9	1.5%
Pacific Islander	7	1.2%
Other/Multi-ethnic	25	4.2%
Total	599	100.0%

3. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Male	398	66.6%
Female	195	32.6%
Transgender	5	0.8%
Total	598	100.0%

4. Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces? (*Respondents ages 18 and older*)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	67	13.1%
No	444	86.9%
Total	511	100.0%

4a. Were you disabled as a result of your military service? *(Respondents ages 18 and older)*

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	22	33.8%
No	43	66.2%
Total	65	100.0%

5. Do you live alone without family, partner, or friends?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	370	62.1%
No	226	37.9%
Total	596	100.0%

5a. Do you live with:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Spouse or partner	53	24.8%
Child/ children	49	22.9%
Parent or legal guardian	9	4.2%
Other family member(s)	25	11.7%
Friend(s)	56	26.2%
Other	67	31.3%

Multiple response question with 214 respondents offering 259 responses.

6. Where do you usually stay at night?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Outdoors/ streets/ parks	173	29.1%
Transitional housing	107	18.0%
Emergency shelter	87	14.6%
Encampment	49	8.2%
Unconverted Garage/ attic/ basement	30	5.1%
A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, living room, etc)	24	4.0%
Backyard or storage structure	21	3.5%
Automobile	17	2.9%
Motel/hotel	16	2.7%
Camper	16	2.7%
Van	15	2.5%
Other shelter	13	2.2%
Abandoned building	12	2.0%
Public facilities	6	1.0%
Other	8	1.3%
Total	594	100.0%

6a. How many citations have you received in the last 12 months for illegal camping or sleeping in a vehicle?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0	34	56.7%
1	9	15.0%
2	9	15.0%
3	5	8.3%
4	1	1.7%
5+	2	3.3%
Total	60	100.0%

6aa. How many people live/stay there?

	Automobile	Abandoned building	Encampment	Van/ RV
1	61.5%	16.7%	37.5%	29.1%
	8	2	18	7
2	38.5%	16.7%	27.1%	20.8%
	5	2	13	5
3	0.0%	25.0%	8.3%	25.0%
	0	3	4	6
4	0.0%	8.3%	6.3%	16.7%
	0	1	3	4
5	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	4.2%
	0	0	3	1
6	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	4.2%
	0	0	1	1
7	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%
	0	0	1	0
8	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%
	0	0	2	0
10	0.0%	8.3%	4.2%	0.0%
	0	1	2	0
12	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	0	1	0	0
15	0.0%	8.3%	2.1%	0.0%
	0	1	1	0
20	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	0	1	0	0
Mean	1.36	6.75	3.18	2.63
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	13	12	48	24

7. In the last 30 days, have you ever tried to stay at a shelter or transitional housing facility in Sonoma County and been turned away?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes, a shelter	170	28.6%
Yes, a transitional housing program	21	3.5%
No	404	67.9%
Total	595	100.0%

8. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	319	53.2%
No	281	46.8%
Total	600	100.0%

8a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	400	66.7%
2 times	45	7.5%
3 times	25	4.2%
4 times	8	1.3%
5 times	7	1.2%
6 times	1	0.2%
More than 6 times	5	0.8%
Entire 12 months	109	18.2%
Total	600	100.0%

8b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	370	61.7%
2 times	47	7.8%
3 times	37	6.2%
4 times	17	2.8%
5 times	15	2.5%
6 times	7	1.2%
More than 6 times	29	4.8%
Entire 3 years	78	13.0%
Total	600	100.0%

9. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	20	3.3%
8 -30 days	34	5.7%
2 months	36	6.0%
3 months	25	4.2%
4 months	35	5.8%
5 months	32	5.3%
6 months	50	8.3%
7 months	19	3.2%
8 months	18	3.0%
9 months	22	3.7%
10 months	17	2.8%
11 months	8	1.3%
12 months	30	5.0%
1-2 years	77	12.8%
2-3 years	45	7.5%
More than 3 years	132	22.0%
Total	600	100.0%

10. Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Sonoma County	459	76.5%
Other County in California	96	16.0%
Out of state	45	7.5%
Total	600	100.0%

10a. How long had you lived in Sonoma County before becoming homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	9	2.0%
8- 30 days	3	0.7%
1 - 3 months	10	2.2%
4 - 6 months	15	3.3%
7 - 11 months	7	1.5%
1 - 2 years	32	7.0%
3 - 5 years	45	9.9%
6 - 10 years	73	16.0%
More than 10 years	262	57.5%
Total	456	100.0%

11. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you living:

Response	Frequency	Percent
In a rented home/ apartment	237	39.5%
With relatives	114	19.0%
With friends	87	14.5%
In a home owned by you/ partner	52	8.7%
In jail or prison	22	3.7%
In a motel/ hotel	21	3.5%
In foster care	9	1.5%
In subsidized housing	8	1.3%
In a treatment facility	5	0.8%
In a hospital	3	0.5%
Other	42	7.0%
Total	600	100.0%

12. What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Lost job	203	34.0%
Alcohol or drug use	98	16.4%
Argument/ family or friend asked you to leave	45	7.5%
Family/ domestic violence	43	7.2%
Illness or medical problem	31	5.2%
Mental health issues	30	5.0%
Landlord sold/ stopped renting or re-used property	27	4.5%
Divorced or separated	16	2.7%
Incarceration	14	2.3%
Landlord raised rent	13	2.2%
Don't Know / decline to state	11	1.8%
Disagreement with landlord/tenants	9	1.5%
Lost the home I owned through foreclosure	8	1.3%
Got too old for foster care	5	0.8%
Hospitalization/ treatment program	5	0.8%
By choice	5	0.8%
Legal problems/ issues	3	0.5%
Bad environment	3	0.5%
Can't afford enough money for housing	3	0.5%
Other natural disaster/fire/flood etc.	2	0.3%
Lost disability status	2	0.3%
Death in Family	1	0.2%
Hurricane Katrina	0	0.0%
No Jobs Available	0	0.0%
Other	20	3.4%
Total	597	100.0%

13. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Can't afford rent	413	69.2%
No job / no income	335	56.1%
No money for moving costs	249	41.7%
No transportation	140	23.5%
Bad credit	140	23.5%
No housing availability	91	15.2%
Alcohol or drug use	82	13.7%
Criminal record	49	8.2%
Don't want to	47	7.9%
Eviction record	44	7.4%
Trying / Still applying	7	1.2%
Too young / don't want to stay in foster home	6	1.0%
Size of family	4	0.7%
Health Issues/ Disabled	4	0.7%
Other	29	4.9%

Multiple response question with 597 respondents offering 1640 responses.

14. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Food Stamps	213	36.9%
Medi-Cal / Medi-Care	158	27.4%
General Assistance	82	14.2%
SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / SSDI	62	10.7%
Cash Aid /CalWORKS	28	4.9%
Social Security	21	3.6%
WIC	12	2.1%
Service-connected VA Disability Compensation	8	1.4%
Other veteran's benefits	3	0.5%
Non service connected VA disability pension	2	0.3%
Other governmental assistance	19	3.3%
I am not currently receiving any of these	246	42.6%

Multiple response question with 577 respondents offering 854 responses.

14a. If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Don't think I'm eligible	80	31.0%
Never applied	44	17.1%
Turned down	41	15.9%
No permanent address	38	14.7%
Have no identification	35	13.6%
Will apply soon	33	12.8%
Don't know where to go	30	11.6%
No transportation	29	11.2%
Don't need government assistance	25	9.7%
I have applied for one or more of these services, and I am currently waiting for approval	19	7.4%
Benefits were cut off	18	7.0%
Immigration issues	13	5.0%
Paper work too difficult	11	4.3%
Too young	9	3.5%
I'm afraid my children will be taken away from me	0	0.0%
Other	25	9.7%

Multiple response question with 258 respondents offering 450 responses.

15. Are you currently using any of the following services/ assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Free meals	395	67.3%
Food pantry	200	34.1%
Emergency shelter	173	29.5%
Bus passes	153	26.1%
Health services	151	25.7%
Shelter day services	138	23.5%
Mental health services	96	16.4%
Transitional housing	90	15.3%
Alcohol/ drug counseling	73	12.4%
Not using any services	46	7.8%
Job training	44	7.5%
Legal assistance	26	4.4%
Outreach	11	1.9%
Jail / prison re-entry	5	0.9%
Board & Care / Group home	5	0.9%
Other counseling	5	0.9%
Other	11	1.9%

Multiple response question with 587 respondents offering 1622 responses.

16. Are you currently employed?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No, unemployed	513	86.1%
Yes, part time	61	10.2%
Yes, full time	22	3.7%
Total	596	100.0%

16a. What is keeping you from getting employment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No jobs	214	42.4%
No transportation	152	30.1%
No permanent address	146	28.9%
No phone	117	23.2%
Need training	97	19.2%
Health problems	94	18.6%
Need clothing	86	17.0%
Alcohol /drug issues	86	17.0%
Disabled	83	16.4%
Need education	76	15.0%
No shower facilities	64	12.7%
No tools for trade	56	11.1%
No photo identification	50	9.9%
Criminal record	38	7.5%
Don't want to work	35	6.9%
No work permit (No S.S. #)	29	5.7%
Too young	7	1.4%
Spouse/partner doesn't want me to work	6	1.2%
No child care	5	1.0%
Retired	5	1.0%
In school	5	1.0%
Mental Health Problems	2	0.4%
Other	33	6.5%

Multiple response question with 505 respondents offering 1486 responses.

16b. Is your employment:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Seasonal labor	14	17.5%
In service industries	14	17.5%
In construction	14	17.5%
In another sector	7	8.8%
In farming / agriculture	4	5.0%
In manufacturing	3	3.8%
Your own small business	2	2.5%
None of these	26	32.5%

Multiple response question with 80 respondents offering 84 responses.

17. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all Government benefits?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	311	52.8%
\$1 - \$150	38	6.5%
\$151 - \$250	74	12.6%
\$251 - \$500	53	9.0%
\$501 - \$1000	83	14.1%
\$1001 - \$1500	19	3.2%
\$1501 - \$2000	10	1.7%
Over \$2000	1	0.2%
Total	589	100.0%

18. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all non-Government sources?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	301	51.5%
\$1 - \$150	123	21.1%
\$151 - \$250	35	6.0%
\$251 - \$500	65	11.1%
\$501 - \$1000	26	4.5%
\$1001 - \$1500	21	3.6%
\$1501 - \$2000	8	1.4%
Over \$2000	5	0.9%
Total	584	100.0%

19. Do you have any children, living with you or not?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	141	23.9%
No	450	76.1%
Total	591	100.0%

19a. Do you have any children who are?

Response	Frequency	Percent
18 or over living with you	22	18.0%
In foster care	7	5.7%
Under 18 not living with you	62	50.8%
Under 18 living with you	49	40.2%

Multiple response question with 122 respondents offering 140 responses.

19a1. How many children 18 or over are living with you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One child	11	57.9%
Two children	4	21.1%
Three children	3	15.8%
Four children	1	5.3%
Five children	0	0.0%
Six or more children	0	0.0%
Total	19	100.0%

19a2. How many children in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One child	3	60.0%
Two children	1	20.0%
Three children	0	0.0%
Four children	0	0.0%
Five children	0	0.0%
Six or more children	1	20.0%
Total	5	100.0%

19a3. How many children under 18 are not living with you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One child	34	59.6%
Two children	12	21.1%
Three children	6	10.5%
Four children	4	7.0%
Five children	0	0.0%
Six or more children	1	1.8%
Total	57	100.0%

19a4. How many children under 18 are living with you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One child	27	60.0%
Two children	15	33.3%
Three children	3	6.7%
Four children	0	0.0%
Five children	0	0.0%
Six or more children	0	0.0%
Total	45	100.0%

19b. If your children are between ages 5 and 18 and living with you, are they enrolled in school?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	29	87.9%
No	4	12.1%
Total	33	100.0%

20. Were you ever in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	109	18.4%
No	482	81.6%
Total	591	100.0%

21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	205	34.9%
No	383	65.1%
Total	588	100.0%

22. Where do you usually get medical care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hospital emergency room	236	39.7%
VA Hospital/ Clinic	18	3.0%
Community clinic	218	36.6%
Private doctor	28	4.7%
Friends/ family	6	1.0%
Don't ever go	58	9.7%
Other	11	1.8%
Don't know	20	3.4%
Total	595	100.0%

23. How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison during the last 12 months?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 nights	376	68.1%
1 – 5 nights	48	8.7%
6 – 10 nights	18	3.3%
11 – 20 nights	18	3.3%
21 – 50 nights	33	6.0%
51 – 150 nights	48	8.7%
More than 150 nights	11	2.0%
Total	552	100.0%

24. Are you currently on probation or parole?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	120	20.3%
No	472	79.7%
Total	592	100.0%

25. Were you on probation or parole at the time you most recently became homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	111	18.8%
No	478	81.2%
Total	589	100.0%

26. Are you currently experiencing any of the following:

	Yes	No	Declined to state
26a. Physical disability	26.6%	71.9%	1.6%
	154	417	9
26b. Mental illness	30.1%	67.6%	2.2%
	175	393	13
26c. Depression	53.2%	44.9%	1.9%
	310	262	11
26d. Domestic/partner violence or abuse	11.7%	87.4%	0.9%
	65	484	5
26e. Chronic health problems	26.9%	71.6%	1.5%
	156	416	9
26f. AIDS/HIV related illness	3.0%	94.6%	2.3%
	17	528	13
26g. Getting prescription medication	29.8%	69.6%	0.7%
	172	402	4
26h. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	20.7%	77.5%	1.8%
	117	437	10
26i. Developmental disability	9.5%	89.3%	1.3%
	52	491	7
26j. Alcohol abuse	32.8%	65.5%	1.7%
	190	380	10
26k. Drug abuse	30.5%	65.0%	4.5%
	182	388	27

26ki. What substances do you use?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Marijuana	130	73.9%
Heroin	95	54.0%
Cocaine/ crack	42	23.9%
Meth/ amphetamines	34	19.3%

Multiple response question with 176 respondents offering 301 responses.

27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 6 th Grade	29	4.9%
Less than high school diploma	174	29.3%
High school diploma/ GED	222	37.4%
Some college, no degree	104	17.5%
AA degree	26	4.4%
BA degree or above	29	4.9%
Technical Certificate	10	1.7%
Total	594	100.0%

28. Do you usually get enough to eat on a daily basis?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	302	51.1%
Sometimes	218	36.9%
No	71	12.0%
Total	591	100.0%

29. Did your parents or primary caregiver abuse alcohol or drugs when you were a child?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No	297	50.1%
Yes, father only	100	16.9%
Yes, mother only	42	7.1%
Yes, both parents	129	21.8%
Yes, foster parent(s)	9	1.5%
Yes, other caregiver	16	2.7%
Total	593	100.0%

30. Have you ever been knocked out by something other than drugs or alcohol?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	250	42.0%
No	345	58.0%
Total	595	100.0%

Appendix V: Survey Results by Age Group

2. Which racial / ethnic group do you identify with the most?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
White/ Caucasian	49.4%	54.2%	51.4%	70.3%
	40	32	72	320
Black/ African American	11.1%	6.8%	9.3%	4.8%
	9	4	13	22
Hispanic/ Latino	14.8%	18.6%	16.4%	13.0%
	12	11	23	59
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	7.4%	8.5%	7.9%	7.5%
	6	5	11	34
Asian	4.9%	5.1%	5.0%	0.4%
	4	3	7	2
Pacific Islander	4.9%	0.0%	2.9%	0.7%
	4	0	4	3
Other/ Multi-ethnic	7.4%	6.8%	7.1%	3.3%
	6	4	10	15
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	455

3. How do you identify yourself?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Male	51.9%	66.1%	57.9%	69.2%
	42	39	81	314
Female	48.1%	32.2%	41.4%	30.0%
	39	19	58	136
Transgender	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	0.9%
	0	1	1	4
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	454

4. Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	0.0%	5.1%	2.1%	14.2%
	0	3	3	64
No	100.0%	94.9%	97.9%	85.8%
	81	56	137	388
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	452

4a. Were you disabled as a result of your military service?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	0.0%	66.7%	66.7%	32.3%
	0	2	2	20
No	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	67.7%
	0	1	1	42
Total	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	0	3	3	62

5. Do you live alone without family, partner, or friends?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	40.7%	60.3%	48.9%	66.0%
	33	35	68	299
No	59.3%	39.7%	51.1%	34.0%
	48	23	71	154
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	58	139	453

5a. Do you live with:

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Spouse or partner	12.5%	40.9%	21.4%	26.6%
	6	9	15	38
Child/ children	4.2%	13.6%	7.1%	30.8%
	2	3	5	44
Parent or legal guardian	12.5%	9.1%	11.4%	0.7%
	6	2	8	1
Other family member(s)	33.3%	18.2%	28.6%	3.5%
	16	4	20	5
Friend(s)	45.8%	45.5%	45.7%	16.8%
	22	10	32	24
Other	14.6%	22.7%	17.1%	37.8%
	7	5	12	54
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	48	22	70	143

6. Where do you usually stay at night?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Outdoors/ streets/ parks	21.0%	27.1%	23.6%	30.8%
	17	16	33	139
Automobile	2.5%	6.8%	4.3%	2.4%
	2	4	6	11
Unconverted Garage/ attic/ basement	12.3%	8.5%	10.7%	3.3%
	10	5	15	15
Backyard or storage structure	8.6%	1.7%	5.7%	2.9%
	7	1	8	13
Abandoned building	3.7%	1.7%	2.9%	1.8%
	3	1	4	8
Motel/hotel	8.6%	1.7%	5.7%	1.6%
	7	1	8	7
A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen,	11.1%	3.4%	7.9%	2.9%
	9	2	11	13
Emergency shelter	3.7%	3.4%	3.6%	18.0%
	3	2	5	81
Transitional housing	0.0%	10.2%	4.3%	22.4%
	0	6	6	101
Other shelter	1.2%	1.7%	1.4%	2.4%
	1	1	2	11
Public facilities	3.7%	3.4%	3.6%	0.2%
	3	2	5	1
Encampment	13.6%	18.6%	15.7%	6.0%
	11	11	22	27
Other	0.0%	3.4%	1.4%	1.3%
	0	2	2	6
Van	2.5%	5.1%	3.6%	2.2%
	2	3	5	10
Camper	7.4%	3.4%	5.7%	1.8%
	6	2	8	8
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	451

6a. How many citations have you received in the last 12 months for illegal camping or sleeping in a vehicle?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
0	61.5%	30.0%	47.8%	62.2%
	8	3	11	23
1	7.7%	30.0%	17.4%	13.5%
	1	3	4	5
2	30.8%	10.0%	21.7%	10.8%
	4	1	5	4
3	0.0%	20.0%	8.7%	8.1%
	0	2	2	3
4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
	0	0	0	1
5+	0.0%	10.0%	4.3%	2.7%
	0	1	1	1
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	13	10	23	37

7. In the last 30 days, have you ever tried to stay at a shelter or transitional housing facility in Sonoma County and been turned away?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes, a shelter	22.2%	16.9%	20.0%	31.0%
	18	10	28	140
Yes, a transitional housing program	3.7%	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%
	3	2	5	16
No	74.1%	79.7%	76.4%	65.5%
	60	47	107	296
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	452

8. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	81.5%	59.3%	72.1%	47.6%
	66	35	101	217
No	18.5%	40.7%	27.9%	52.4%
	15	24	39	239
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	456

8a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
One time	86.4%	69.5%	79.3%	62.9%
	70	41	111	287
2 times	4.9%	13.6%	8.6%	7.2%
	4	8	12	33
3 times	3.7%	5.1%	4.3%	4.2%
	3	3	6	19
4 times	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
	0	0	0	8
5 times	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
	0	0	0	7
6 times	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	0	0	0	1
More than 6 times	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
	0	0	0	5
Entire 12 months	4.9%	11.9%	7.9%	21.1%
	4	7	11	96
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	456

8b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
One time	88.9%	64.4%	78.6%	56.8%
	72	38	110	259
2 times	2.5%	8.5%	5.0%	8.6%
	2	5	7	39
3 times	1.2%	6.8%	3.6%	7.0%
	1	4	5	32
4 times	4.9%	1.7%	3.6%	2.6%
	4	1	5	12
5 times	0.0%	3.4%	1.4%	2.9%
	0	2	2	13
6 times	1.2%	3.4%	2.1%	0.9%
	1	2	3	4
More than 6 times	0.0%	5.1%	2.1%	5.7%
	0	3	3	26
Entire 3 years	1.2%	6.8%	3.6%	15.6%
	1	4	5	71
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	456

9. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
7 days or less	3.7%	1.7%	2.9%	3.5%
	3	1	4	16
8 -30 days	16.0%	8.5%	12.9%	3.3%
	13	5	18	15
2 months	7.4%	8.5%	7.9%	5.5%
	6	5	11	25
3 months	7.4%	0.0%	4.3%	4.2%
	6	0	6	19
4 months	7.4%	3.4%	5.7%	5.9%
	6	2	8	27
5 months	9.9%	5.1%	7.9%	4.4%
	8	3	11	20
6 months	12.3%	16.9%	14.3%	6.6%
	10	10	20	30
7 months	3.7%	6.8%	5.0%	2.6%
	3	4	7	12
8 months	3.7%	5.1%	4.3%	2.6%
	3	3	6	12
9 months	4.9%	1.7%	3.6%	3.7%
	4	1	5	17
10 months	4.9%	5.1%	5.0%	2.2%
	4	3	7	10
11 months	1.2%	3.4%	2.1%	1.1%
	1	2	3	5
12 months	1.2%	5.1%	2.9%	5.7%
	1	3	4	26
1-2 years	13.6%	15.3%	14.3%	12.5%
	11	9	20	57
2-3 years	1.2%	6.8%	3.6%	8.8%
	1	4	5	40
More than 3 years	1.2%	6.8%	3.6%	27.4%
	1	4	5	125
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	456

10. Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Sonoma County	82.7%	76.3%	80.0%	75.7%
	67	45	112	345
Other County in California	12.3%	11.9%	12.1%	16.9%
	10	7	17	77
Out of state	4.9%	11.9%	7.9%	7.5%
	4	7	11	34
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	456

10a. How long had you lived in Sonoma County before becoming homeless?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
7 days or less	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%
	0	0	0	9
8- 30 days	1.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.6%
	1	0	1	2
1 - 3 months	1.5%	4.5%	2.7%	2.0%
	1	2	3	7
4 - 6 months	0.0%	4.5%	1.8%	3.5%
	0	2	2	12
7 - 11 months	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
	0	0	0	7
1 - 2 years	13.4%	6.8%	10.8%	5.8%
	9	3	12	20
3 - 5 years	13.4%	11.4%	12.6%	9.0%
	9	5	14	31
6 - 10 years	19.4%	6.8%	14.4%	16.6%
	13	3	16	57
More than 10 years	50.7%	65.9%	56.8%	57.7%
	34	29	63	198
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	67	44	111	343

11. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you living:

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
In a home owned by you/ partner	0.0%	3.4%	1.4%	10.7%
	0	2	2	49
In a rented home/ apartment	16.0%	18.6%	17.1%	46.3%
	13	11	24	211
With friends	11.1%	20.3%	15.0%	14.3%
	9	12	21	65
With relatives	58.0%	33.9%	47.9%	10.3%
	47	20	67	47
In subsidized housing	2.5%	0.0%	1.4%	1.3%
	2	0	2	6
In jail or prison	2.5%	3.4%	2.9%	3.9%
	2	2	4	18
In a hospital	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
	0	0	0	3
In a treatment facility	1.2%	3.4%	2.1%	0.4%
	1	2	3	2
Other	1.2%	10.2%	5.0%	7.7%
	1	6	7	35
In a motel/hotel	1.2%	1.7%	1.4%	4.2%
	1	1	2	19
In foster care	6.2%	5.1%	5.7%	0.2%
	5	3	8	1
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	456

12. What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Lost job	13.6%	24.1%	18.0%	38.8%
	11	14	25	176
Landlord raised rent	1.2%	3.4%	2.2%	2.2%
	1	2	3	10
Alcohol or drug use	7.4%	13.8%	10.1%	18.5%
	6	8	14	84
Illness or medical problem	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.8%
	0	0	0	31
Mental health issues	1.2%	3.4%	2.2%	5.5%
	1	2	3	25
Family/ domestic violence	29.6%	6.9%	20.1%	3.3%
	24	4	28	15
Incarceration	1.2%	3.4%	2.2%	2.4%
	1	2	3	11
Got too old for foster care	1.2%	5.2%	2.9%	0.2%
	1	3	4	1
Divorced or separated	1.2%	1.7%	1.4%	3.1%
	1	1	2	14
Lost the home I owned through foreclosure	1.2%	0.0%	0.7%	1.5%
	1	0	1	7
Don't Know / decline to state	3.7%	1.7%	2.9%	1.5%
	3	1	4	7
Other	1.2%	0.0%	0.7%	4.2%
	1	0	1	19
Landlord sold/stopped renting or re-used property	8.6%	3.4%	6.5%	4.0%
	7	2	9	18
Hospitalization/ treatment program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
	0	0	0	5
Argument/family or friend asked you to leave	24.7%	24.1%	24.5%	2.4%
	20	14	34	11
Other natural disaster/fire/flood etc.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
	0	0	0	2
Disagreement with landlord/tenants	2.5%	3.4%	2.9%	1.1%
	2	2	4	5
Hurricane Katrina	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0	0	0
Lost disability status	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	0.2%
	0	1	1	1

12. What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness? Cont.

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
No Jobs Available	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0	0	0
Death in Family	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	0	0	0	1
By choice	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	0.9%
	0	1	1	4
Legal problems/issues	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
	0	0	0	3
Bad environment	1.2%	1.7%	1.4%	0.2%
	1	1	2	1
Can't afford enough money for housing	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
	0	0	0	3
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	58	139	454

13. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Can't afford rent	67.9%	72.9%	70.0%	68.9%
	55	43	98	312
Other	7.4%	1.7%	5.0%	4.6%
	6	1	7	21
Size of family	2.5%	0.0%	1.4%	0.4%
	2	0	2	2
Alcohol or drug use	12.3%	16.9%	14.3%	13.5%
	10	10	20	61
Health Issues/ Disabled	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
	0	0	0	4
Trying / Still applying	1.2%	1.7%	1.4%	1.1%
	1	1	2	5
Too young / Don't want to stay in foster home	6.2%	1.7%	4.3%	0.0%
	5	1	6	0
No job / no income	44.4%	66.1%	53.6%	57.2%
	36	39	75	259
No money for moving costs	24.7%	44.1%	32.9%	44.8%
	20	26	46	203
No housing availability	16.0%	10.2%	13.6%	15.9%
	13	6	19	72
No transportation	7.4%	16.9%	11.4%	27.4%
	6	10	16	124
Bad credit	2.5%	11.9%	6.4%	28.9%
	2	7	9	131
Eviction record	0.0%	6.8%	2.9%	8.8%
	0	4	4	40
Criminal record	1.2%	10.2%	5.0%	9.3%
	1	6	7	42
Don't want to	13.6%	5.1%	10.0%	7.3%
	11	3	14	33
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	59	140	453

14. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of government assistance?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
General Assistance	8.8%	10.2%	9.4%	15.6%
	7	6	13	68
Social Security	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	4.6%
	1	0	1	20
Other governmental assistance	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%
	0	0	0	19
Non service connected VA disability pension	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
	0	0	0	2
Food Stamps	20.0%	39.0%	28.1%	39.5%
	16	23	39	172
Medi-Cal /Medi-Care	10.0%	16.9%	12.9%	31.7%
	8	10	18	138
Other veteran's benefits	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
	0	0	0	3
SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / SSDI	0.0%	3.4%	1.4%	13.6%
	0	2	2	59
Cash Aid /CalWORKS	2.5%	3.4%	2.9%	5.5%
	2	2	4	24
I am not currently receiving any of these	72.5%	49.2%	62.6%	36.6%
	58	29	87	159
WIC	2.5%	1.7%	2.2%	2.1%
	2	1	3	9
Service-connected VA Disability Compensation	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	1.6%
	0	1	1	7
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	435

14a. If you are not receiving any government assistance, why not?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Don't think I'm eligible	58.6%	17.2%	44.8%	24.1%
	34	5	39	41
Will apply soon	13.8%	17.2%	14.9%	11.8%
	8	5	13	20
Don't need government assistance	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%	11.2%
	4	2	6	19
Paper work too difficult	8.6%	6.9%	8.0%	2.4%
	5	2	7	4
Immigration issues	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%	4.1%
	4	2	6	7
I'm afraid my children will be taken away from me	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	0	0	0	0
Other	1.7%	6.9%	3.4%	12.9%
	1	2	3	22
Too young	15.5%	0.0%	10.3%	0.0%
	9	0	9	0
Have no identification	15.5%	17.2%	16.1%	11.8%
	9	5	14	20
No permanent address	3.4%	6.9%	4.6%	19.4%
	2	2	4	33
No transportation	5.2%	10.3%	6.9%	12.9%
	3	3	6	22
Never applied	15.5%	13.8%	14.9%	18.2%
	9	4	13	31
Benefits were cut off	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.6%
	0	0	0	18
I have applied for one or more of these services, and I am currently waiting for approval	0.0%	27.6%	9.2%	6.5%
	0	8	8	11
Don't know where to go	32.8%	6.9%	24.1%	5.3%
	19	2	21	9
Turned down	6.9%	17.2%	10.3%	18.8%
	4	5	9	32
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	58	29	87	170

15. Are you currently using any of the following services/ assistance?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Emergency shelter	20.0%	18.6%	19.4%	32.4%
	16	11	27	144
Mental health services	16.3%	25.4%	20.1%	15.1%
	13	15	28	67
Other	2.5%	0.0%	1.4%	1.8%
	2	0	2	8
Not using any services	15.0%	15.3%	15.1%	5.4%
	12	9	21	24
Transitional housing	3.8%	6.8%	5.0%	18.7%
	3	4	7	83
Food pantry	23.8%	28.8%	25.9%	36.9%
	19	17	36	164
Jail / prison re-entry	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
	0	0	0	5
Board & Care / Group home	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	0.9%
	0	1	1	4
Other counseling	6.3%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%
	5	0	5	0
Outreach	7.5%	8.5%	7.9%	0.0%
	6	5	11	0
Free meals	76.3%	69.5%	73.4%	65.3%
	61	41	102	290
Bus passes	31.3%	15.3%	24.5%	26.8%
	25	9	34	119
Job training	12.5%	3.4%	8.6%	7.2%
	10	2	12	32
Alcohol/ drug counseling	6.3%	18.6%	11.5%	12.8%
	5	11	16	57
Health services	20.0%	25.4%	22.3%	26.8%
	16	15	31	119
Shelter day services	16.3%	22.0%	18.7%	25.0%
	13	13	26	111
Legal assistance	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	5.6%
	0	1	1	25
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	444

16. Are you currently employed?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
No, unemployed	85.0%	79.7%	82.7%	87.2%
	68	47	115	395
Yes, part time	12.5%	18.6%	15.1%	8.8%
	10	11	21	40
Yes, full time	2.5%	1.7%	2.2%	4.0%
	2	1	3	18
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	453

16a. What is keeping you from getting employment?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Need education	31.3%	17.6%	26.5%	11.7%
	20	6	26	26
No transportation	9.4%	23.5%	14.3%	40.8%
	6	8	14	91
No tools for trade	0.0%	2.9%	1.0%	13.5%
	0	1	1	30
No work permit (No S.S. #)	18.8%	5.9%	14.3%	6.3%
	12	2	14	14
Don't want to work	21.9%	2.9%	15.3%	5.4%
	14	1	15	12
No jobs	57.8%	64.7%	60.2%	48.4%
	37	22	59	108
No child care	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
	0	0	0	3
Retired	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
	0	0	0	1
Other	1.6%	8.8%	4.1%	5.4%
	1	3	4	12
Alcohol /drug issues	9.4%	26.5%	15.3%	17.0%
	6	9	15	38
No photo identification	12.5%	8.8%	11.2%	13.5%
	8	3	11	30
Need training	17.2%	23.5%	19.4%	19.3%
	11	8	19	43
Spouse/partner doesn't want me to work	1.6%	0.0%	1.0%	2.2%
	1	0	1	5

16a. What is keeping you from getting employment? Cont.

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Mental Health Problems	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
	0	0	0	2
Too young	10.9%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
	7	0	7	0
In school	7.8%	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%
	5	0	5	0
Need clothing	4.7%	14.7%	8.2%	21.1%
	3	5	8	47
No shower facilities	0.0%	8.8%	3.1%	20.2%
	0	3	3	45
No phone	3.1%	8.8%	5.1%	31.4%
	2	3	5	70
Health problems	3.1%	11.8%	6.1%	25.6%
	2	4	6	57
Disabled	1.6%	8.8%	4.1%	23.3%
	1	3	4	52
Criminal record	4.7%	14.7%	8.2%	7.2%
	3	5	8	16
No permanent address	12.5%	8.8%	11.2%	38.6%
	8	3	11	86
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	64	34	98	223

16b. Is your employment:

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Seasonal labor	41.7%	16.7%	29.2%	12.7%
	5	2	7	7
In farming / agriculture	16.7%	8.3%	12.5%	1.8%
	2	1	3	1
In service industries	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	18.2%
	2	2	4	10
In construction	8.3%	25.0%	16.7%	18.2%
	1	3	4	10
In manufacturing	0.0%	8.3%	4.2%	3.6%
	0	1	1	2
Your own small business	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%
	0	0	0	2
In another sector	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.7%
	0	0	0	7
None of these	41.7%	25.0%	33.3%	30.9%
	5	3	8	17
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	12	12	24	55

17. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all Government benefits?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Zero	78.5%	69.0%	74.5%	46.4%
	62	40	102	208
\$1 - \$150	11.4%	8.6%	10.2%	5.1%
	9	5	14	23
\$151 - \$250	7.6%	12.1%	9.5%	13.6%
	6	7	13	61
\$251 - \$500	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%
	0	0	0	53
\$501 - \$1000	2.5%	8.6%	5.1%	16.7%
	2	5	7	75
\$1001 - \$1500	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	3.8%
	0	1	1	17
\$1501 - \$2000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
	0	0	0	10
Over \$2000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	0	0	0	1
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	79	58	137	448

18. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all non-Government sources?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Zero	38.8%	44.1%	41.0%	54.6%
	31	26	57	241
\$1 - \$150	30.0%	18.6%	25.2%	20.0%
	24	11	35	88
\$151 - \$250	10.0%	6.8%	8.6%	5.2%
	8	4	12	23
\$251 - \$500	18.8%	23.7%	20.9%	8.2%
	15	14	29	36
\$501 - \$1000	2.5%	5.1%	3.6%	4.8%
	2	3	5	21
\$1001 - \$1500	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	4.3%
	0	1	1	19
\$1501 - \$2000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
	0	0	0	8
Over \$2000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
	0	0	0	5
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	441

19. Do you have any children, living with you or not?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	8.8%	16.9%	12.2%	27.5%
	7	10	17	123
No	91.3%	83.1%	87.8%	72.5%
	73	49	122	325
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	448

19a. Do you have any children who are?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
18 or over living with you	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.2%
	0	0	0	21
In foster care	14.3%	10.0%	11.8%	4.8%
	1	1	2	5
Under 18 not living with you	57.1%	60.0%	58.8%	50.0%
	4	6	10	52
Under 18 living with you	28.6%	30.0%	29.4%	42.3%
	2	3	5	44
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	7	10	17	104

19b. If your children are between ages 5 and 18 and living with you, are they enrolled in school?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	90.6%
	0	0	0	29
No	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	9.4%
	1	0	1	3
Total	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	1	0	1	32

20. Were you ever in foster care?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	25.0%	15.3%	20.9%	17.6%
	20	9	29	79
No	75.0%	84.7%	79.1%	82.4%
	60	50	110	369
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	448

21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	33.8%	30.5%	32.4%	35.5%
	27	18	45	158
No	66.3%	69.5%	67.6%	64.5%
	53	41	94	287
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	445

22. Where do you usually get medical care?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Hospital emergency room	53.8%	44.1%	49.6%	36.7%
	43	26	69	166
VA Hospital/ Clinic	0.0%	3.4%	1.4%	3.5%
	0	2	2	16
Community clinic	23.8%	30.5%	26.6%	39.6%
	19	18	37	179
Private doctor	2.5%	3.4%	2.9%	5.3%
	2	2	4	24
Friends/ family	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	1.1%
	0	1	1	5
Don't ever go	16.3%	8.5%	12.9%	8.8%
	13	5	18	40
Other	0.0%	3.4%	1.4%	1.8%
	0	2	2	8
Don't know	3.8%	5.1%	4.3%	3.1%
	3	3	6	14
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	452

23. How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison during the last 12 months?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
0 nights	74.4%	71.4%	73.1%	66.6%
	58	40	98	277
1 - 5 nights	15.4%	7.1%	11.9%	7.7%
	12	4	16	32
6 - 10 nights	3.8%	1.8%	3.0%	3.4%
	3	1	4	14
11 - 20 nights	1.3%	5.4%	3.0%	3.4%
	1	3	4	14
21 - 50 nights	3.8%	7.1%	5.2%	6.3%
	3	4	7	26
51 - 150 nights	0.0%	7.1%	3.0%	10.3%
	0	4	4	43
More than 150 nights	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	2.4%
	1	0	1	10
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	78	56	134	416

24. Are you currently on probation or parole?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	8.8%	11.9%	10.1%	23.1%
	7	7	14	104
No	91.3%	88.1%	89.9%	76.9%
	73	52	125	346
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	450

25. Were you on probation or parole at the time you most recently became homeless?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	11.3%	10.2%	10.8%	21.1%
	9	6	15	94
No	88.8%	89.8%	89.2%	78.9%
	71	53	124	352
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	446

26a. Physical disability

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	2.5%	12.1%	6.5%	32.4%
	2	7	9	142
No	96.3%	86.2%	92.0%	66.0%
	77	50	127	289
Declined to state	1.3%	1.7%	1.4%	1.6%
	1	1	2	7
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	438

26b. Mental illness

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	25.0%	32.8%	28.3%	30.5%
	20	19	39	134
No	73.8%	67.2%	71.0%	66.7%
	59	39	98	293
Declined to state	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	2.7%
	1	0	1	12
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	439

26c. Depression

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	47.5%	51.7%	49.3%	54.4%
	38	30	68	240
No	51.3%	46.6%	49.3%	43.5%
	41	27	68	192
Declined to state	1.3%	1.7%	1.4%	2.0%
	1	1	2	9
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	441

26d. Domestic/partner violence or abuse

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	26.3%	10.5%	19.7%	9.2%
	21	6	27	38
No	71.3%	89.5%	78.8%	90.1%
	57	51	108	373
Declined to state	2.5%	0.0%	1.5%	0.7%
	2	0	2	3
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	57	137	414

26e. Chronic health problems

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	6.3%	20.7%	12.3%	31.4%
	5	12	17	138
No	92.5%	79.3%	87.0%	66.7%
	74	46	120	293
Declined to state	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	1.8%
	1	0	1	8
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	439

26f. AIDS/HIV related illness

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	5.0%	5.2%	5.1%	2.4%
	4	3	7	10
No	91.3%	93.1%	92.0%	95.4%
	73	54	127	398
Declined to state	3.8%	1.7%	2.9%	2.2%
	3	1	4	9
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	417

26g. Getting prescription medication

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	20.0%	24.1%	21.7%	31.9%
	16	14	30	139
No	78.8%	75.9%	77.5%	67.4%
	63	44	107	294
Declined to state	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%
	1	0	1	3
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	436

26h. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	16.3%	22.4%	18.8%	21.3%
	13	13	26	90
No	82.5%	77.6%	80.4%	76.5%
	66	45	111	323
Declined to state	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	2.1%
	1	0	1	9
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	422

26i. Developmental disability

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	16.3%	20.7%	18.1%	6.6%
	13	12	25	27
No	82.5%	79.3%	81.2%	92.2%
	66	46	112	376
Declined to state	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%
	1	0	1	5
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	408

26j. Alcohol abuse

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	42.5%	30.5%	37.4%	31.4%
	34	18	52	137
No	56.3%	66.1%	60.4%	67.3%
	45	39	84	294
Declined to state	1.3%	3.4%	2.2%	1.4%
	1	2	3	6
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	437

26k. Drug abuse

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	50.6%	41.4%	46.8%	25.6%
	41	24	65	116
No	42.0%	55.2%	47.5%	70.3%
	34	32	66	319
Declined to state	7.4%	3.4%	5.8%	4.2%
	6	2	8	19
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	81	58	139	454

26ki. What substances do you use?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Marijuana	87.8%	76.0%	83.3%	67.9%
	36	19	55	74
Cocaine/ crack	22.0%	28.0%	24.2%	23.9%
	9	7	16	26
Meth/ amphetamines	17.1%	36.0%	24.2%	16.5%
	7	9	16	18
Heroin	39.0%	68.0%	50.0%	56.0%
	16	17	33	61
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	41	25	66	109

27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Less than 6th Grade	6.3%	10.2%	7.9%	4.0%
	5	6	11	18
Less than high school diploma	78.8%	42.4%	63.3%	18.8%
	63	25	88	85
High school diploma/ GED	12.5%	39.0%	23.7%	41.9%
	10	23	33	189
Some college, no degree	2.5%	8.5%	5.0%	21.3%
	2	5	7	96
AA degree	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%
	0	0	0	24
BA degree or above	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.4%
	0	0	0	29
Technical Certificate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
	0	0	0	10
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	451

28. Do you usually get enough to eat on a daily basis?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	31.3%	34.5%	32.6%	56.8%
	25	20	45	255
Sometimes	57.5%	56.9%	57.2%	30.5%
	46	33	79	137
No	11.3%	8.6%	10.1%	12.7%
	9	5	14	57
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	58	138	449

29. Did your parents or primary caregiver abuse alcohol or drugs when you were a child?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
No	30.0%	35.6%	32.4%	55.6%
	24	21	45	250
Yes, father only	21.3%	22.0%	21.6%	15.6%
	17	13	30	70
Yes, mother only	11.3%	6.8%	9.4%	6.4%
	9	4	13	29
Yes, both parents	25.0%	30.5%	27.3%	20.0%
	20	18	38	90
Yes, foster parent(s)	5.0%	1.7%	3.6%	0.9%
	4	1	5	4
Yes, other caregiver	7.5%	3.4%	5.8%	1.6%
	6	2	8	7
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	450

30. Have you ever been knocked out by something other than drugs or alcohol?

	13-17 years	18-21 years	13 - 21 years	22 years or more
Yes	20.0%	42.4%	29.5%	45.6%
	16	25	41	206
No	80.0%	57.6%	70.5%	54.4%
	64	34	98	246
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	80	59	139	452

Appendix VI: Summary for the Continuum of Care Application

The purpose of the following summaries is to provide local jurisdictions with consolidated information to facilitate the completion of the application for Continuum of Care (CoC) funds. The following summaries are based directly upon the results discussed in the body of the report. Please note that the information on the sheltered homeless populations and subpopulations contained in the tables below reflects only those people counted in emergency shelters and transitional housing. Under the HUD definition of homelessness, those housed in jails, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, or who are living “doubled-up” in a house do not qualify as homeless.

Homeless Population

The following table details the results of the 2009 Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey. The results are broken down by sheltered versus unsheltered status.

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
1. Number of Households <i>with</i> Dependent Children	59	104	2	165
1a. Total Number of Persons in Households <i>with</i> Dependent Children	177	305	6	488
2. Number of Households <i>without</i> Dependent Children ¹	306	214	2,142	2,662
2a. Total Number of Persons in Households <i>without</i> Dependent Children	327	216	2,216	2,759
Total (lines 1a + 2a)	504	521	2,222	3,247

¹Number of Households without dependent children is an estimate based on Survey results.

Homeless Subpopulations

The following table further breaks down the Census data into subpopulations. These data are based on both the homeless Census and data from the homeless Survey. The results in the below chart are estimates, calculated by applying the Survey results to the Census population.

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
1. Chronically Homeless	57 ¹	922	979
2. Severely Mentally Ill	285	866	1,151
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	159	1,199	1,358
4. Veterans	109	267	376
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS	11	87	98
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	69	311	380
7. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18 years of age)	5	87	92

¹ “Sheltered” Chronically Homeless Subpopulations include persons in emergency shelter only.

Appendix VII: Definitions and Abbreviations

Chronic Homelessness is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years."

Disability, for the purposes of this study, is defined as physical or mental illness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), developmental disability, alcohol or drug abuse, depression, HIV/AIDS, or chronic health problems.

Emergency shelter is the provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility, or through the use of motel vouchers. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 30 days or less. Domestic violence shelters are considered emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for victims and their children.

Family member refers to either an adult with a child, or a child who is accompanied by an adult.

Family unit is either an adult couple or a single adult with a child present.

Homeless Persons, according to the Stewart B. McKinney Act of 1987, are people who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and have a primary nighttime residence that is either a public or private shelter, an institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private location that is not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

HUD – United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Individual refers to an unaccompanied adult or child.

Sheltered persons are those homeless who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs operated by the Sonoma County Continuum of Care.

Transitional housing facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is housing in which homeless persons 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.

Unsheltered persons are those homeless who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation. Generally, those not utilizing Sonoma County operated emergency or transitional housing shelters are considered unsheltered.

Appendix VIII: Volunteer Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following individuals who volunteered their time and contributed their considerable talents and efforts to the count. Their participation was truly critical to the success of the count. We apologize in advance if we have left anyone out.

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<i>Daniel Lennox</i>	<i>L. Thomas Benton</i>	<i>Silvia Acevedo</i>
<i>Danielle Niemi</i>	<i>Larry Lakes</i>	<i>Steve Cuevas</i>
<i>Danielle Burlison</i>	<i>Loretta Binder-Wheeler</i>	<i>Steve Birdlebough</i>
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