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

The 2013 Santa Cruz County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 22th, 2013. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 369 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

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**HOMELESS CENSUS NINE-YEAR TREND**

- 2005: 3,293
- 2007: 2,789
- 2009: 2,265
- 2011: 2,771
- 2013: 3,536

- Sheltered: 18%
- Unsheltered: 82%

**SHELTERED INCLUDES:**
- Emergency Shelter: 11%
- Transitional Housing: 7%

**UNSHeltered INCLUDES:**
- On the street: 44%
- Abandoned buildings: 2%
- Cars/vans/RVs: 28%
- Encampment Areas: 8%

**AGE**
- 25+: 63%
- 18-24: 25%
- Under 18: 12%

**GENDER**
- Men: 66%
- Women: 32%
- Transgender: 2%

**ETHNICITY (TOP 4 RESPONSES)**
- White: 43%
- Hispanic: 35%
- Multi-ethnic: 6%
- Black: 5%

**FOREST CARE (respondents that have ever been in the system)**
- 15%

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (currently experiencing)**
- 129 individuals

**FIRST TIME HOMELESSNESS**
- Yes (44%)
- No (56%)

**DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS**
- 30 days or less: 6%
- 1-11 months: 43%
- 1 year or more: 51%
- 2013: 34%
- 2011: 54%

**RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS**
- Santa Cruz County: 72%

**OBSERStacleS tO SecurIng permanent housing**
- No job/income: 65%
- Couldn’t afford rent: 59%
- No money for moving costs: 46%
- Bad Credit: 20%

Top 3 reasons others moved to Santa Cruz County:
- Job opportunities-seeking work: 46%
- Family/friends are here: 34%
- Passing through: 8%

38% of those experiencing homelessness for the first time had been homeless for one year or more.

39% of those experiencing homelessness for the first time had been homeless for one year or more.
1.8 people out of 10 were sheltered (n=641) VS. 8.2 people out of 10 were unsheltered (n=2,895)

Unsheltered Homeless Census Population by Jurisdiction

TOTAL INCORPORATED: 1,415 PERSONS
- City of Capitola: 1 Person | Less than 1%
- City of Santa Cruz: 892 Persons | 31%
- City of Scotts Valley: 25 Persons | 1%
- City of Watsonville: 497 Persons | 17%

TOTAL UNINCORPORATED: 1,372 PERSONS
- Aptos/Rio del Mar: 218 Persons | 8%
- Live Oak/Twin Lakes/Opal Cliffs: 687 Persons | 24%
- North Coast: 30 Persons | 1%
- San Lorenzo Valley: 159 Persons | 6%
- Soquel/Santa Cruz Mountains: 159 Persons | 6%
- South County: 141 Persons | 5%

If all the 2,895 unsheltered homeless persons in Santa Cruz County were to line up for a shelter bed, the line would stretch for one mile.
What is a disabling condition?

A disabling condition is defined here as a physical disability, mental illness, chronic depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability.

68% of survey respondents reported a disabling condition.

DISABLING CONDITIONS

- Mental illness* (55%)
- Substance abuse (26%)
- Physical disability (20%)
- Chronic physical illness (17%)
- Developmental disability (3%)

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

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

WHAT MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED RESPONDENTS’ HOMELESSNESS (TOP 4 RESPONSES)

- Employment Assistance
- Rent/ Mortgage Assistance
- Alcohol/ Drug Counseling
- Mental Health Services

INCARCERATION

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

EMERGENCY ROOM USE

- 55% Never
- 34% 1-3 times
- 11% 4+ times

SERVICES & ASSISTANCE

- Government services received (Top 3 Responses)
  - Food stamps
  - Medi-Cal/ Medicare
  - General Assistance

- Income Gap
  - 31% reported NOT receiving any government benefits
  - Income
    - Respondent’s Income: $250/mo
    - Self-Sufficiency Standard: $2,689/mo

Reasons for NOT receiving government services (Top 3 Responses)

- Don’t need government assistance
- Don’t think you are eligible
- No permanent address

PANHANDLING

$4.90 per day is the average income for those survey respondents who reported panhandling

Summary

These data provide a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County on January 22nd. It provides a basic estimation of the number and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness on any given night in order to inform future service planning and provisioning efforts.