

# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

## HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2015

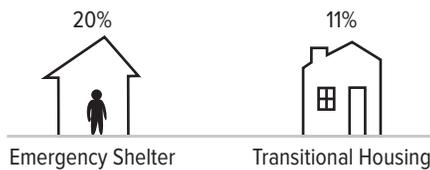
Every two years in January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of their homeless population to gain a better understanding of the individuals and families who are currently experiencing homelessness.

The 2015 Santa Cruz County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 22, 2015. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 344 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

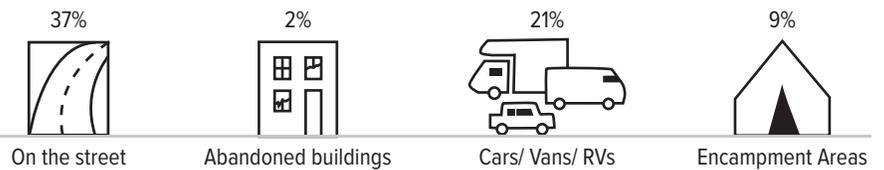
#### HOMELESS CENSUS ELEVEN-YEAR TREND



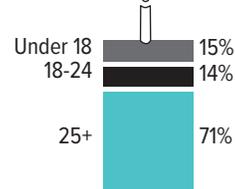
#### SHELTERED INCLUDES:



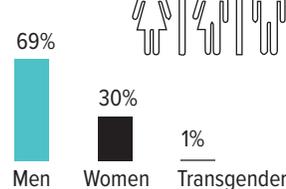
#### UNSHELTERED INCLUDES:



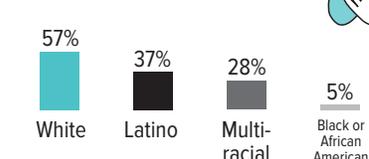
#### AGE



#### GENDER



#### RACE/ETHNICITY (TOP 4 RESPONSES)



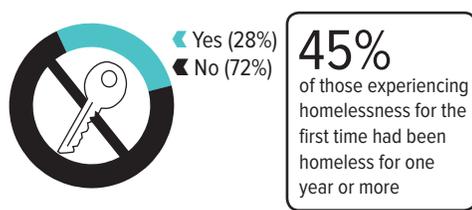
#### FOSTER CARE (respondents that have ever been in the system)

24%

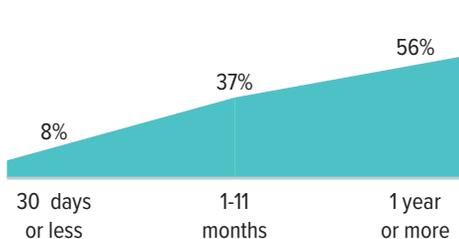
#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (currently experiencing)

23 individuals

#### FIRST TIME HOMELESSNESS



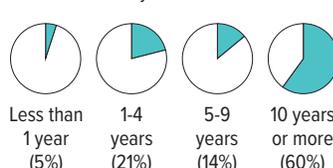
#### DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS



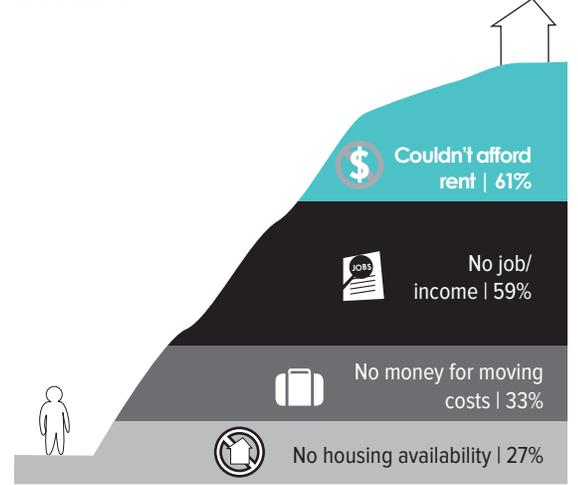
#### RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS



#### LENGTH OF TIME IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY (of those living in Santa Cruz County at time of homelessness)



#### OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING



# What is a health condition?

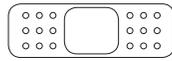
A health condition is defined here as a physical disability, mental illness, chronic depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability.

**53%**  
of survey respondents reported a health condition.

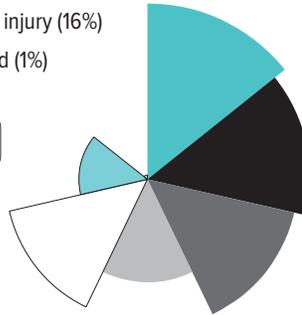


## HEALTH CONDITIONS

- Drug or alcohol abuse (41%)
- Psychiatric or emotional conditions (38%)
- Physical disability (35%)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (24%)
- Chronic health problems (33%)
- Traumatic brain injury (16%)
- AIDS/HIV related (1%)

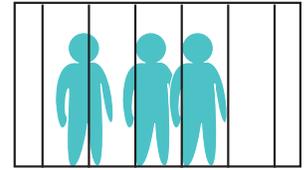


*Note: Multiple response question, numbers will not total to 100%.*



## INCARCERATION

**32%**  
spent at least 1 or more nights in jail or prison in the past 12 months.



## INCOME



is the amount that 44% of respondents reported as their total monthly income.

**86%**  
of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would want safe, affordable permanent housing were it available.

**YES!**

## SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

Government services received  
*(Top 3 Responses)*



Food Stamps



None of them



SSI/SSDI

Reasons for NOT receiving government services  
*(Top 3 Responses)*



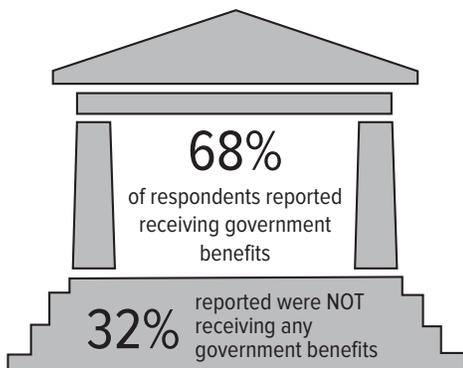
Never applied



Don't think you are eligible



No permanent address



## SUBPOPULATION DATA

### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS



512 Individuals



30 Families with 70 members

An adult with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult member with a disabling condition who:

- » Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- » Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.

### VETERANS



155 Individuals



Veterans are persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

### FAMILIES



144 Families with 481 members



A household with at least one adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one child member (persons under 18).

### UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN



30 Individuals



"Unaccompanied Children" are children under the age of 18 who are homeless and living independent of a parent or legal guardian.

### TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH



242 Individuals



Homeless youth are defined as individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.

## SUMMARY

These data provide a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness in the Santa Cruz County on January 22, 2015. The report 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.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Santa Cruz County Homeless Census & Survey. Watsonville, CA. For more detail or to view the comprehensive report, please visit [www.appliedsurveyresearch.org](http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org).