



MONTEREY COUNTY



# HOMELESS

POINT-IN-TIME CENSUS & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

# 2015

REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

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

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# Introduction

Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of their homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community. Communities collect information on individuals and families sleeping in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as people sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

These biennial Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for homeless individuals and families.

Jurisdictions report the findings of Point-In-Time Counts in their annual funding application to HUD, and the data collected help the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. The biennial Point-in-Time counts are the primary source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

The Coalition of Homeless Services Providers (CHSP), a Continuum of Care serving Monterey and San Benito Counties, has worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2015 Monterey Homeless Count and Survey. ASR is a non-profit social research firm with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and research.

The Monterey County homeless count had two primary components: a Point-in-Time enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals and families (those sleeping outdoors, on the street, in parks, or in vehicles, etc.) and a Point-in-Time enumeration of homeless individuals and families who have temporary shelter (those staying in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or using stabilization rooms).

The 2015 Monterey County Point-in-Time Count was a county-wide effort. With the support of community volunteers and homeless individuals led by the planning team, the entire county was canvassed between daybreak and 12:30 PM on January 28, 2015. This resulted in a visual count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families residing in unsheltered locations. Shelters reported the number of homeless individuals and families who occupied their facilities on the same evening.

Monterey conducted a dedicated count of unaccompanied children and youth under the age of 25 years old on the afternoon of January 28, after the general unsheltered count. This dedicated count was part of a nationwide effort, established and recommended by HUD, to better understand the scope of youth homelessness. The youth count was conducted between the hours of 12 PM and 6 PM, later in the day when unaccompanied children and youth were more likely to be visible on the street. Special youth events were also held in the Salinas and Monterey areas to encourage youth to be counted. The youth count was conducted by trained youth enumerators who were or had recently experienced homelessness and youth events were organized by homeless youth and youth service providers.<sup>1</sup>

In the weeks following the street count, an in-depth survey was administered to 444 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals of all ages. The survey gathered basic demographic details as well as information on service needs and utilization.

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Monterey County on a single night. Special attention was given to specific subpopulations including people experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, families, unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and transition-age youth, also known as Transitional Age Youth (TAY), between the ages of 18 and 24 years.

To better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time, results from previous years, including 2011 and 2013, are provided where available and applicable.

## **FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS**

In this study, HUD's definition of homelessness for Point-in-Time counts was used. The definition includes:

- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals), or
- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.<sup>2</sup>

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1 Significant deduplication efforts were made in 2015 to ensure unaccompanied children and youth were not captured in both the youth and general street count efforts. For more information on these efforts and the overall count methodology, please see Appendix 1.

2 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (December 2012). Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons: Data Collection Guidance Version 1.1.



## PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

The 2015 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds;
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population;
- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population since the 2013 Monterey Homeless Count and Survey, and to track progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions; and
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations including, veterans, families, unaccompanied children under 18, transitional age youth, and those who are chronically homeless; and
- To increase outreach efforts to profile underserved communities in North and South Counties.

This report is intended to assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local, state, and federal government, by helping them to gain a better understanding of the population currently experiencing homelessness, measure the impact of current policies and programming, and plan for the future.





# Point-In-Time Census

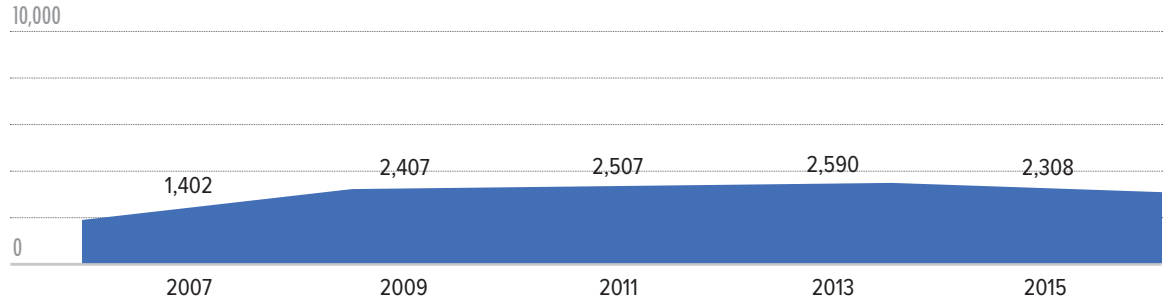
The 2015 Point in Time count included a complete enumeration of all unsheltered and publicly sheltered homeless persons. The general street count was conducted on January 28, 2015, from approximately daybreak to 12:30 PM and covered all accessible areas of Monterey County. The shelter count was conducted on the evening of Tuesday, January 27, 2015, and included all individuals staying in: emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and domestic violence shelters. The general street count and shelter count methodology were similar to those used in previous years.

In a sustained effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, Monterey County conducted a dedicated youth count. The dedicated youth count methodology was altered in 2015 to include youth count events in the Salinas and Monterey areas.

## NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN MONTEREY COUNTY

The number of individuals counted in the 2015 general street count and shelter count was 2,308. Compared to 2013, this was a decrease of 282 individuals, or just under 11%, when 2,590 homeless individuals were counted. The Point-in-Time count has steadily increased from 2007 to 2013. The 2015 count marked the first time the county experienced a decrease in documented homelessness during the biennial enumeration.

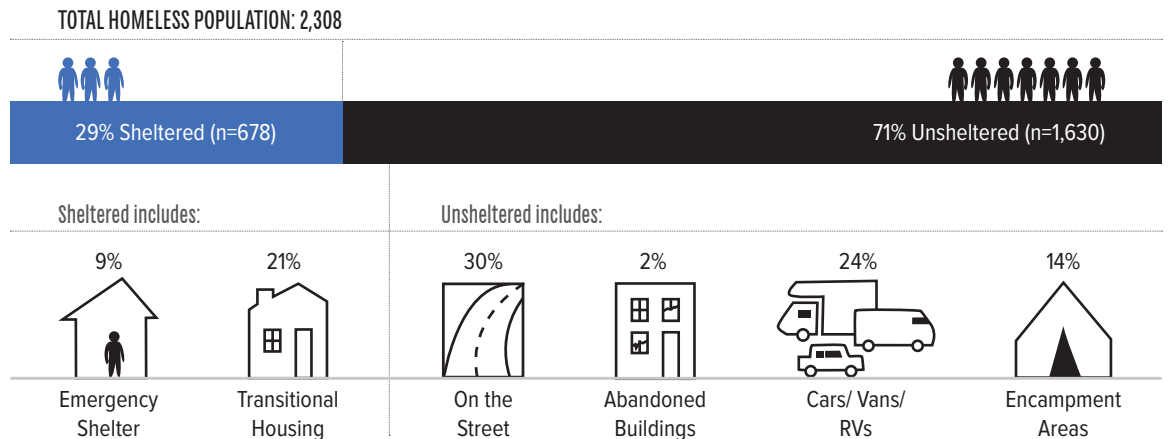
**FIGURE 1.** TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND DATA



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.  
 Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey. San Francisco, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2007). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.

Approximately 71% of all individuals counted in the 2015 Monterey County Point-in-Time Count were unsheltered, a decrease from 76% in 2013. Of the 678 individuals counted in the shelter count, 478 persons (71%) were in transitional housing, while 29% were housed in emergency shelter.

**FIGURE 2.** TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.

Note: Totals may equal more than 100% due to rounding.

### TOTAL NUMBER OF UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED HOMELESS PERSONS, BY JURISDICTION

As in previous years, Monterey and Salinas had the greatest number of unsheltered homeless individuals. Based on data from the 2015 General Count, 58% of the unsheltered population was identified in Salinas or Monterey. Another 9% of the unsheltered population was identified in Seaside, while 4% were identified in Marina. The jurisdictional data shows clear changes and potential movement from the peninsula to the Salinas area. Additionally, it should be noted that the 2015 County Office of Education (COE) data was not included due to the inability of school districts to validate PIT count accommodation status on the night before the count. This impact to the overall count could represent the entire difference from 2013.

**FIGURE 3.** TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY JURISDICTION

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED			SHELTERED			TOTAL		
	2013	2015	NET CHANGE	2013	2015	NET CHANGE	2013	2015	NET CHANGE
Total Incorporated	1,260	1,300	40	530	601	71	1,790	1,901	111
Monterey	510	306	-204	32	31	-1	542	337	-205
Salinas	404	634	230	128	233	105	532	867	335
Marina	117	68	-49	302	230	-72	419	298	-121
Seaside	171	152	-19	68	107	39	239	259	20
Sand City	38	55	17	0	0	-	38	55	17
Gonzales	8	0	-8	0	0	-	8	0	-8
Pacific Grove	6	13	7	0	0	-	6	13	7
King City	6	4	-2	0	0	-	6	4	-2
Greenfield	0	2	2	0	0	-	0	2	2
Del Rey Oaks	0	55	55	0	0	-	0	55	55
Carmel	0	6	6	0	0	-	0	6	6
Soledad	0	5	5	0	0	-	0	5	5
Total Unincorporated	495	330	-165	91	77	-14	586	407	-179
Pajaro	124	144	20	91	77	-14	215	221	6
Prunedale	72	8	-64	0	0	-	72	8	-64
Other	299	178	-121	0	0	-	299	178	-121
County Office of Education*	214	0*	-214	-	-	-	214	0	-214
Total	1,969	1,630	-339	621	678	57	2,590	2,308	-282

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.

Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.

Note (\*): In 2013, the total count included 214 homeless individuals from the McKinney-Vento database of the Monterey County Office of Education. In 2015, this data could not be verified for the night of the PIT count and therefore, per HUD unsheltered street count guidelines, the McKinney-Vento homeless students were not included in the overall count number for Monterey County. Please see the Appendix 1 Section on Methodology for further information.







# Homeless Survey Findings

The following section provides an overview of the findings generated from a representative survey of homeless individuals in Monterey County. Included in this section is information about the homeless population, including causes and length of homelessness, previous and current living accommodations, and obstacles to obtaining permanent housing. The following section highlights qualitative data obtained from a survey of 444 homeless individuals in Monterey County in 2015. Trend data is also provided where appropriate and/or available.

The following table is a brief overview of the census population and the survey population.

**FIGURE 4. SURVEY AND CENSUS POPULATIONS**

	COUNT POPULATION	SURVEY POPULATION
Age 18-24	8%	9%
Families*	15%	25%
Sheltered	29%	24%
Total Population	2,308	444

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Note (\*): Families surveyed indicate a single survey respondent who is part of a family.

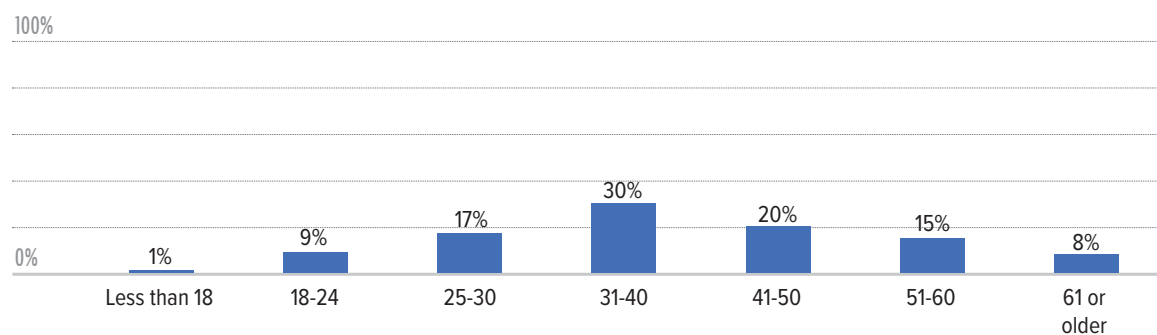
### SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of homeless residents in Monterey County, respondents were asked basic demographic questions including age, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

#### AGE

Less than 1% reported they were under the age of 18, 9% were between the ages of 18-24, and 90% reported they were over the age of 25.

**FIGURE 5. AGE (SURVEY)**

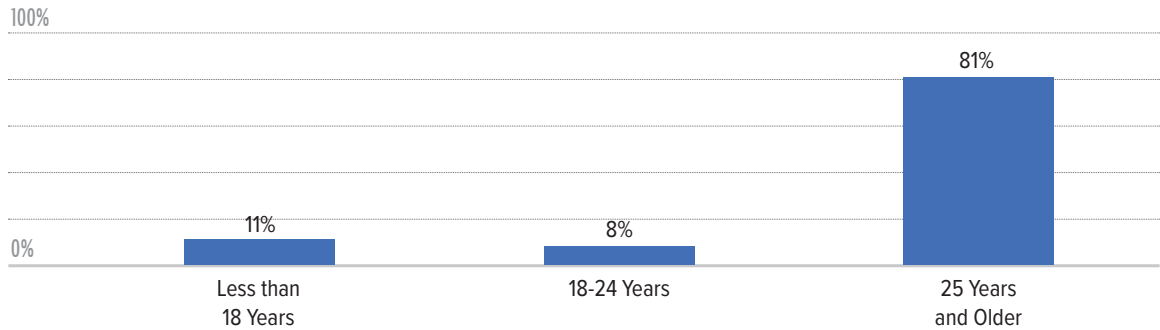


2015 n:444

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

The above age breakdowns are based on survey data only. The census observational age breakdowns describe the population in the following manner.

**FIGURE 6. AGE (CENSUS)**



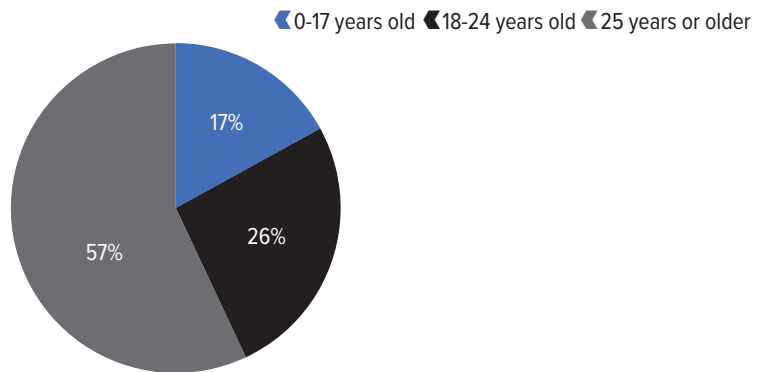
2015 n:2,308

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.

**EXPERIENCE WITH HOMELESSNESS**

Respondents were asked how old they were the first time they experienced homelessness: 43% reported they were under the age of 25 and 57% reported they were over the age of 25.

**FIGURE 7. AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS**



2015 n:427

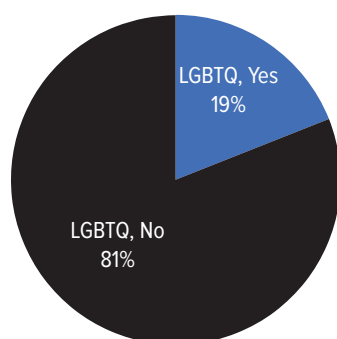
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

## GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Slightly less than half of survey respondents (49%) identified as male, 50% female, and 1% transgender. Nineteen percent of homeless survey respondents identified as LGBTQ in 2015. Of those, 37% identified as bisexual, 29% lesbian, 17% gay, 7% queer and 5% transgender.

Respondents who identified as LGBTQ were less likely to report they were experiencing homelessness for the first time (28%). They were also more likely to have been without housing for less than a year (54%). They were more likely (45% vs. 38%) to report a disabling health condition. A higher percentage of LGBTQ respondents report drug or alcohol abuse (36%), compared to 28% of respondents who did not identify as LGBTQ. LGBTQ respondents also reported higher incidence of HIV or AIDS related illness (4% compared to less than 1%).

**FIGURE 8.** SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND LGBTQ IDENTITY



Breakout of Respondents Answering Yes	%	n
Gay	17%	14
Lesbian	29%	24
Queer	7%	6
Bisexual	37%	30
Transgender	5%	4
Other	10%	8

LGBTQ n:444; Breakout n: 82 respondents offering 86 responses

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

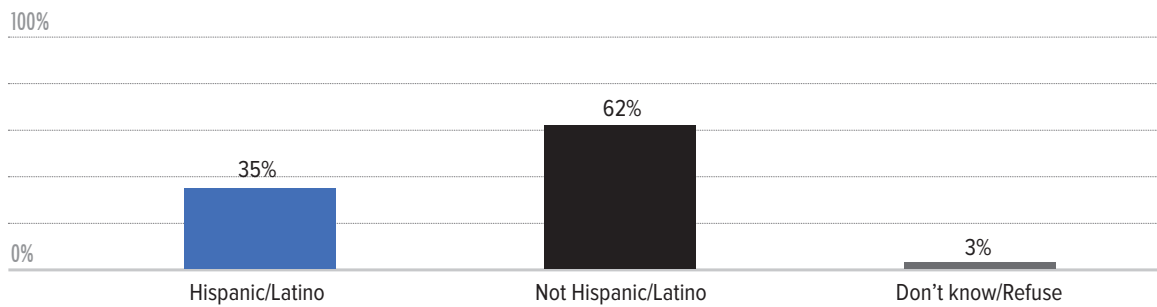
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity in two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census. When asked about their ethnicity 62% of homeless survey respondents reported they were not Hispanic or Latino. In regards to race, 47% identified as White, 15% Black or African-American, 2% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 2% Asian, 2% American Indian or Alaskan Native and 32% reported “other” or multi-racial.

There are disparities between racial and ethnic groups as represented in the general population and those experiencing homelessness. In comparison to the general population of Monterey, a slightly higher percentage of respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino (56% compared to 35%). In terms of race, a much higher population of survey respondents identified as Black or African-American, 15% compared to 4%. Forty-seven percent of homeless respondents identified as White, compared to 78% of the general population.

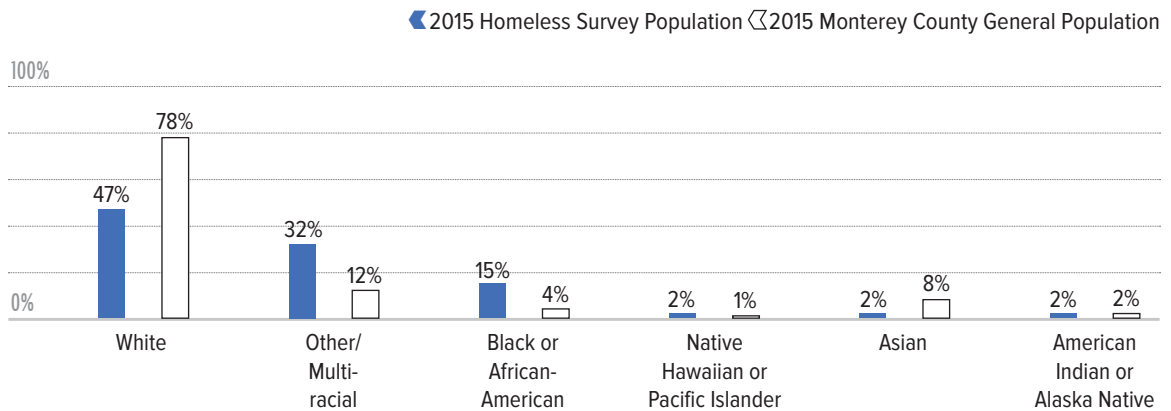
**FIGURE 9. HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY**



2015 n:431

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

**FIGURE 10. RACE**



2015 n:419

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 U.S. Census Bureau. (April 2015). American Community Survey 2011-2013 3-Year Estimates. Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

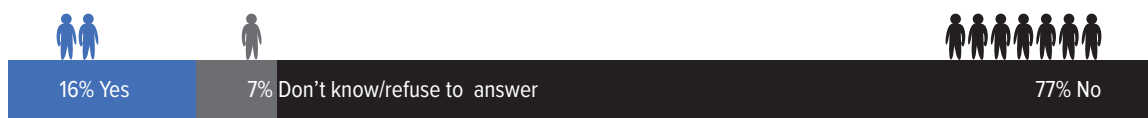
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

### FOSTER CARE

It has been estimated that one in four former foster youth experience homelessness within four years of exiting the foster care system.<sup>3</sup> In the State of California, foster youth are now eligible to receive services beyond age 18. Transitional housing and supportive services for youth 18-24 are provided by two programs, Transitional Housing Placement-Foster Care for youth 18-21 and Transitional Housing Placement-Plus for youth ages 18-24. It is hoped that these additional supports, implemented since 2012, will assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from becoming homeless.

In 2015, 16% of respondents reported a history of foster care, higher than in both 2013 and 2011 (13% and 10% respectively). One percent of respondents reported they were living in foster care immediately before becoming homeless. One percent of respondents reported aging out of foster care was the primary cause of their homelessness.

FIGURE 11. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE



2015 n:423

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

<sup>3</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2012). Amendment 2012, Opening Doors: Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. Washington: D.C.



## LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

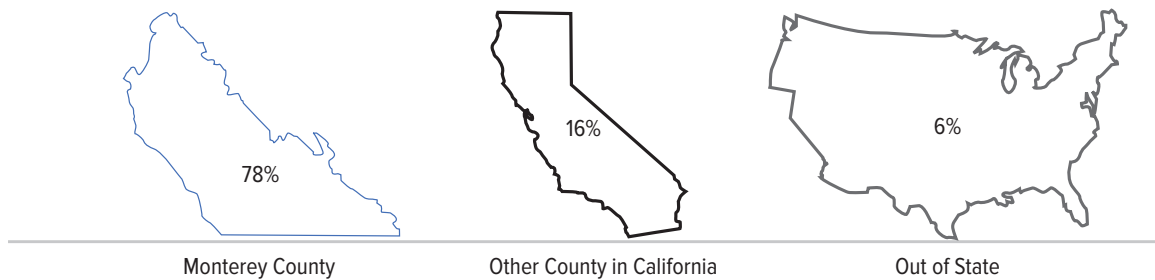
Individual and family social networks affect the way in which an individual seeks services as well as their ability to access support from friends or family is affected by where they lived prior to experiencing homelessness. Previous circumstances can also point to gaps in the system of care and opportunities for systemic improvement and homeless prevention. Survey respondents reported many different living accommodations prior to becoming homeless, although most lived in or around Monterey County with friends, family, or on their own in a home or apartment.

### PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Seventy-eight percent of residents reported they were living in Monterey County at the time they most recently became homeless, about the same as 2013 when 79% reported they were living in Monterey County at the time they became homeless. Of those who were living in Monterey County, over half (57%) had lived in the county for 10 years or more. Seven percent had lived in Monterey for less than one year.

Sixteen percent of respondents reported they were living in a neighboring county when they became homeless, while 6% reported they were living out of state.

**FIGURE 12.** PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS



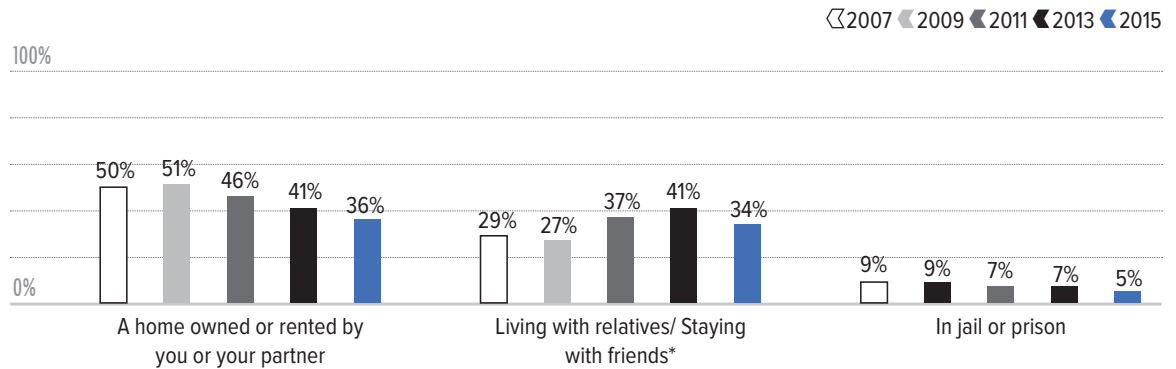
2015 n:435

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

**PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS**

Thirty-six percent of respondents reported staying in a home owned or rented by themselves or a partner prior to becoming homeless, similar to 2013, (41%). Thirty-four percent reported living with friends or relatives, down from 41% in 2013. Five percent of respondents reported they were in a jail/prison facility immediately prior to becoming homeless.

**FIGURE 13. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS THIS TIME (TOP THREE RESPONSES)**



2007 n: 395; 2009 n: 377; 2011 n:514; 2013 n:380; 2015 n:423

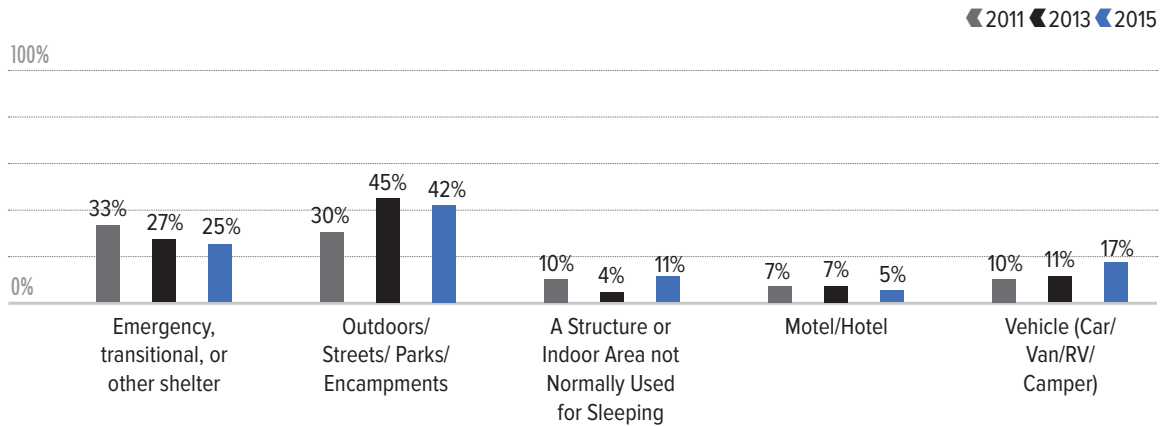
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey. San Francisco, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2007). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Note: Response options recalculated for comparability with 2015 data.

**CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS**

Nearly half of survey respondents reported currently living outdoors, either on the streets, in parks or encampment areas (42%). One quarter reported staying in a public shelter (emergency shelter, transitional housing facility or alternative shelter environment). Seventeen percent of survey respondents reported that they lived in vehicles (camper, car, van or RV). Eleven percent of respondents reported they were sleeping in foyers, hallways or other indoor areas not meant for human habitation.

**FIGURE 14. USUAL PLACES TO SLEEP AT NIGHT**



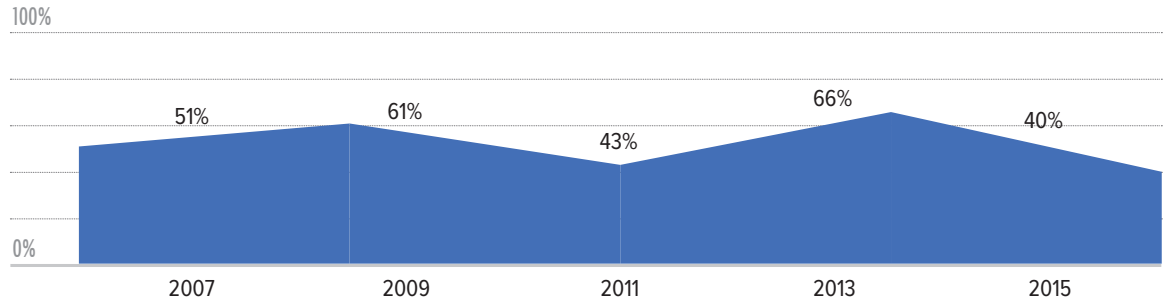
2011 n:512; 2013 n:402; 2015 n:435

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

### DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Unstable living conditions often lead to falling in and out of homelessness. Almost two-thirds (60%) of 2015 respondents reported they had experienced homelessness previously. For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability.

**FIGURE 15.** PERCENT WHOSE CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS IS THE FIRST EPISODE



2007 n: 402; 2009 n: 384; 2011 n:520; 2013 n:404; 2015 n:444

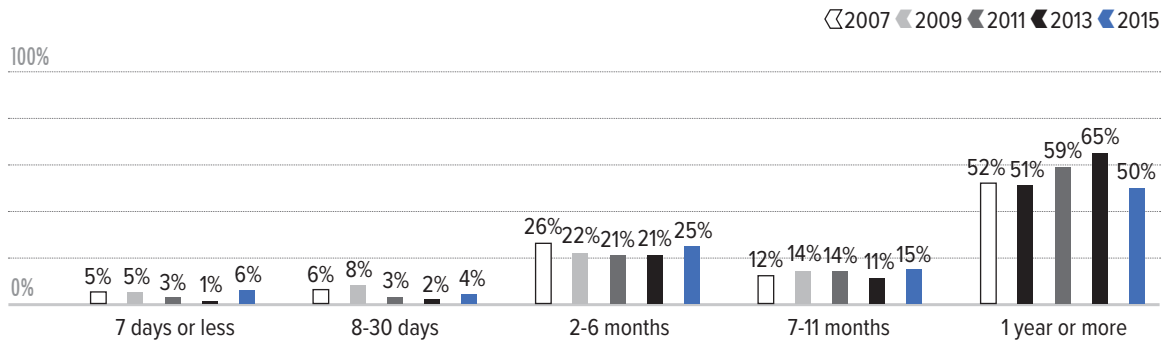
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). *Monterey County Homeless Survey*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). *Monterey County Homeless Survey*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). *Monterey County Homeless Survey*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). *Monterey County Homeless Survey*. San Francisco, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2007). *Monterey County Homeless Survey*. Watsonville, CA.

**DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS**

Half of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for a year or more, a decrease from 2013 (65%) but similar to 2007 and 2009 (52% and 51%, respectively). One in eleven had been homeless for less than one month, higher than in 2013 (3%). It is notable that 6% of respondents had been homeless 7 days or less which suggests a need for prevention services and potentially a larger number of persons who experience homelessness over a year or for many short periods of time.

Two percent of respondents reported they had experienced homelessness four or more times in the past year. When asked how many times they had been homeless in the past three years, 12% reported they had been homeless four or more times.

**FIGURE 16. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS**



2007 n:398; 2009 n:378; 2011 n:506; 2013 n: 399; 2015 n: 438

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey. San Francisco, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2007). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

## PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

The primary cause of an individual's homelessness is not always clear. It is often the result of multiple and compounding causes, including economic, personal, behavioral and physical health.

One-third (32%) of survey respondents reported job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness. Twenty-three percent reported drugs or alcohol, higher than the 20% reported in 2013. Another 23% reported an argument with a family member who asked them to leave, 20% reported eviction and 11% reported divorce, separation, or breakup as the primary cause of their current episode of homelessness.

Respondents were also asked what prevented them from obtaining housing. The greatest percentage (74%) reported they could not afford rent. Most other respondents reported a mixture of other income or access related issues, such as lack of access to jobs/income (53%), bad credit (20%). Sixteen percent of respondents reported no money for moving costs as preventing them from obtaining housing, and 13% reported a lack of transportation.

**FIGURE 17.** PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Lost Job (31%)	Lost Job (33%)	Lost Job (44%)	Lost Job (26%)	Lost Job (32%)
Alcohol or Drug Use (24%)	Alcohol or Drug Use (15%)	Alcohol or Drug Use (39%)	Alcohol or Drug Use (20%)	Argument with family or friends (23%)
Mental health issues (5%) Divorce/separation (5%)	Incarceration (7%)	Lost income (25%)	Divorce/separation/breakup (14%)	Alcohol or Drug Use (23%)
Illness/medical problems (5%) Incarceration (5%)	Mental health issues (7%)	Conflict with family/housemates (15%)	Conflict with family/housemates (10%)	Eviction (20%)
Landlord raised rent (4%)	Argument/family or friend asked you to leave (6%)	Family/domestic violence (12%)	Incarceration (7%)	Divorce/separation/breakup (11%)

2007 n: 397 (single response option this year); 2009 n: 377 (data provided from an outside source); 2011 n: 512 respondents offering 977 responses; 2013 n: 401 respondents offering 440 responses; 2015 n: 434 respondents offering 687 responses

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey. San Francisco, CA.

Applied Survey Research. (2007). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Note: Multiple response question (Years 2011, 2013, 2015). Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Caution should be used when comparing data across years due to changes in question format.

## OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING

FIGURE 18. OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Can't afford rent (49%)	No job/no income (53%)	No job/no income (65%)	Can't afford rent (60%)	Can't afford rent (74%)
No job/no income (48%)	Can't afford rent (52%)	Can't afford rent (59%)	No job/no income (55%)	No job/no income (53%)
No money for moving costs (29%)	No money for moving costs (30%)	No money for moving costs (35%)	No money for moving costs (32%)	Bad credit (20%)
No transportation (21%)	No transportation (17%)	Bad credit (17%)	Bad credit (25%)	No money for moving costs (16%)
Bad credit (20%)	Criminal record (14%)	No transportation (16%)	No transportation (16%)	No transportation (13%)

2007 n:399 respondents offering 812 responses; 2009 n:376 (data provided from an outside source); 2011 n:495 respondents offering 1,138 responses; 2013 n:392 respondents offering 892 responses; 2015 n:430 respondents offering 1,021 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey. San Francisco, CA.

Applied Survey Research. (2007). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

Note: Caution should be used when comparing data across years due to changes in question format.

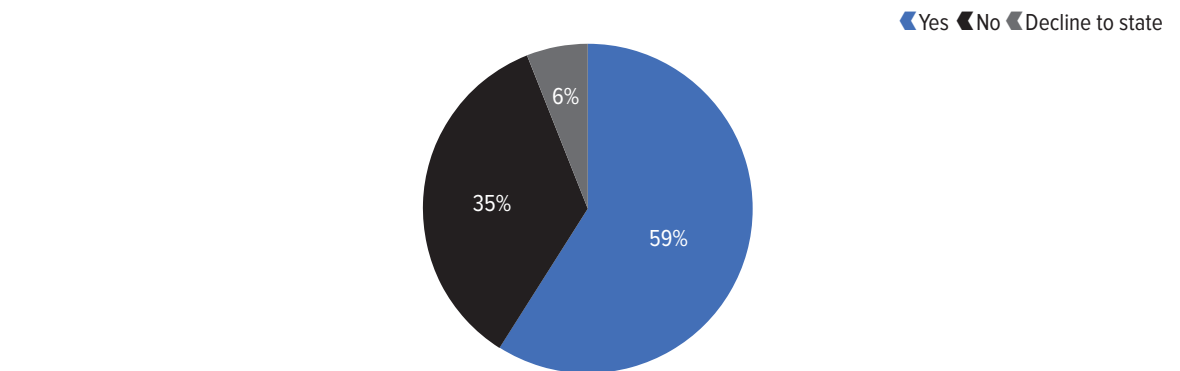
## SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

Monterey County provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain benefits and support. However, many individuals and families do not apply for services. Many believe that they do not qualify or are ineligible for assistance. Connecting homeless individuals and families to these support services helps them create the bridge to mainstream support services and helps to prevent future housing instability.

### GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Nearly 60% of respondents in 2015 reported they were receiving some form of government assistance. Of those who reported they were not receiving any form of government support, the greatest percentage report they did not think they were eligible (25%). Seventeen percent did not want government assistance, 13% reported they had never applied, 13% had applied and were turned down, and 11% reported they do not have the identification required to apply.

FIGURE 19. PERCENT RECEIVING ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



2015 n:438

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.



**FIGURE 20.** REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

2007	2009	2011	2013	2015
Don't Think I'm Eligible (23%)	Don't Think I'm Eligible (31%)	Never Applied (26%)	Don't have ID (31%)	Don't Think I'm Eligible (25%)
Don't have ID (16%)	Never Applied (23%)	Don't Think I'm Eligible (24%)	Don't Think I'm Eligible (25%)	Don't want government assistance (17%)
No permanent address (15%)	Don't have ID (21%)	Don't need government assistance (17%)	Applied but waiting for response (21%)	Never Applied (13%)
Never Applied (14%)	No permanent address (20%)	Immigration issues (11%)	No permanent address (18%)	Turned down (13%)
Applied but waiting for approval (14%)	No transportation (17%)	Turned down (10%)	Turned down (16%)	Don't have ID (11%)

2007 n:208 respondents offering 308 responses; 2009 n:194; 2011 n:195 respondents offering 469 responses; 2013 n:107 respondents offering 171 responses; 2015 n:138 respondents offering 190 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey. San Francisco, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2007). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

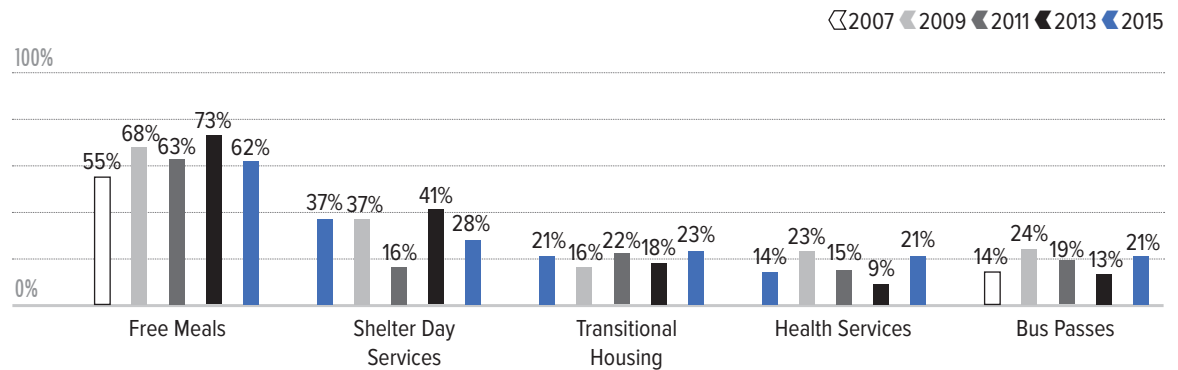
Note: Caution should be used when comparing data across years due to changes in question format.

**SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

When asked whether or not they are receiving services, 95% of survey respondents reported using some sort of assistance or service. Of the services being used, the most common response was meal services (62%), a slight decrease from 2013 (73%). Shelter services were also commonly used with 68% of respondents using emergency shelter, transitional housing, or shelter day services.

Twenty-one percent of respondents reported using health services, 9% were using mental health services, and 9% were using behavioral health services (drug and alcohol counseling). Five percent of respondents reported they were not using any services.

**FIGURE 21. SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE (TOP FIVE RESPONSES IN 2015)**



2007 n:360 respondents offering 490 responses; 2009 n:337; 2011 n:379 respondents offering 713 responses; 2013 n:319 respondents offering 369 responses; 2015 n:427 respondents offering 923 responses.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Harder and Company Community Research. (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey. San Francisco, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2007). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

Note: Caution should be used when comparing data across years due to changes in question format.

## EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

While the majority (81%) of homeless survey respondents reported being unemployed, some had part-time or full-time work. Many were receiving an income, either public or private. Yet, data suggest that employment and income were not enough to meet basic needs.

### EMPLOYMENT

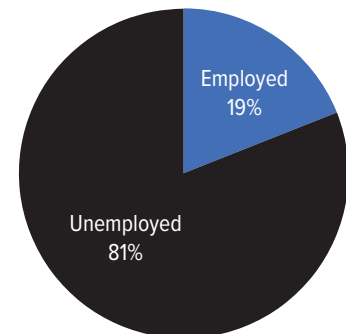
The unemployment rate in Monterey in January 2015 was 12%, down from 15% in the same period in 2013.<sup>4</sup> It is important to recognize that the unemployment rate represents only those who are unemployed and actively seeking employment. It doesn't represent all joblessness. The unemployment rate for homeless respondents was 81%, slightly lower than in 2013, 85%. Of those respondents that were unemployed, 48% reported that they were looking for work, 29% were unable to work, and 23% were not looking for work. Of those who were employed, 51% were employed part-time, 45% full-time and 4% were employed seasonally or sporadically.

### INCOME

Income, from all sources, varied between those with regular employment and those who were unemployed. Thirty-five percent of unemployed respondents reported an income of less than \$99 per month, in comparison to 8% of those who were employed. Unemployed income is typically from government services, benefits, recycling, or panhandling. While overall income for those with employment was higher than those without, for example 32% of employed respondents reported making \$100-\$449 per month, and an additional 19% were making \$450-\$749.

FIGURE 22. EMPLOYMENT AND MEAN MONTHLY INCOME

	EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYED	
	%	n	%	n
\$0-\$99	8%	6	35%	117
\$100-\$449	6%	5	32%	108
\$450-\$749	28%	22	19%	65
\$750-\$1,099	17%	13	10%	32
\$1,100-\$1,499	22%	17	3%	11
\$1,500-\$3,000	17%	13	1%	4
More than \$3,000	3%	2	0%	1



2015 employment status n:417; Income employed n:78; Income unemployed n:338

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

<sup>4</sup> State of California Employment Development Department. (2013). Unemployment Rates (Labor Force). Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>

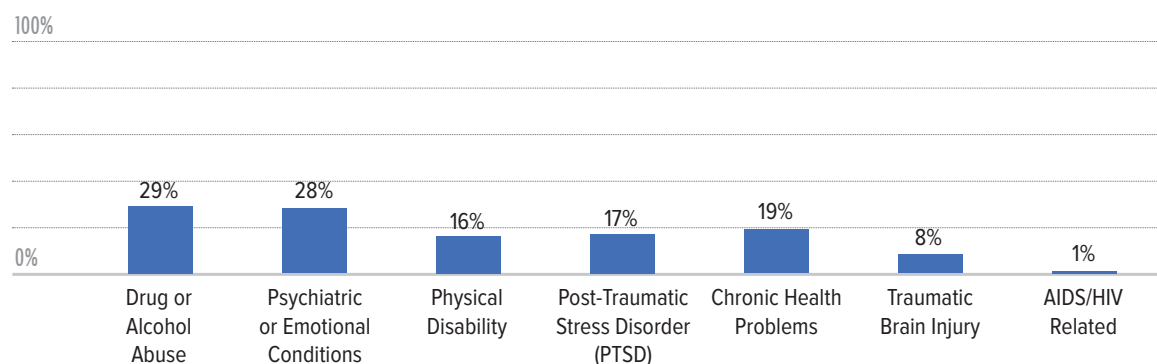
## HEALTH

The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is 25 years less than those in stable housing. Without regular access to health care, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations. Without stable housing, health interventions are more challenging and difficult to sustain. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay four days (or 36%) longer per hospital admission than non-homeless patients.<sup>5</sup>

### PHYSICAL ILLNESS AND DISABILITIES

The most frequently reported health condition was drug or alcohol abuse (29%), followed by psychiatric or emotional conditions (28%). Sixteen percent reported a physical disability. One percent of respondents reported having AIDS or an HIV related illness.

FIGURE 23. HEALTH CONDITIONS



*Drug or alcohol abuse n:427; Psychiatric or emotional conditions n:432; Physical disability n:421; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) n:430; Chronic health problems n:430; Traumatic Brain Injury n:426; AIDS/HIV related n:425*

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

<sup>5</sup> Sharon A. Salit, M. E. (1998). Hospitalization Costs Associated with Homelessness in New York City. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 338, 1734-1740.

## DOMESTIC/PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) now recommends asking about physical, emotional, or sexual abuse over a lifetime. Four percent of all survey respondents reported they were experiencing domestic/partner violence or abuse at the time of the survey, an increase from 3% in 2013. When asked about experiences across the lifetime, 31% reported domestic/partner violence or abuse. This lifetime data point was recommended by HUD and reflects and acknowledges the lingering effects of abuse.

Domestic violence varied by gender. Forty percent of female respondents reported having experienced domestic violence, compared to 22% of men. Nine percent of all respondents reported domestic/partner violence as a primary cause of their homelessness; however, when looking at homeless respondents in families, that percentage jumped to 12%.

FIGURE 24. HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



2015 n:425

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

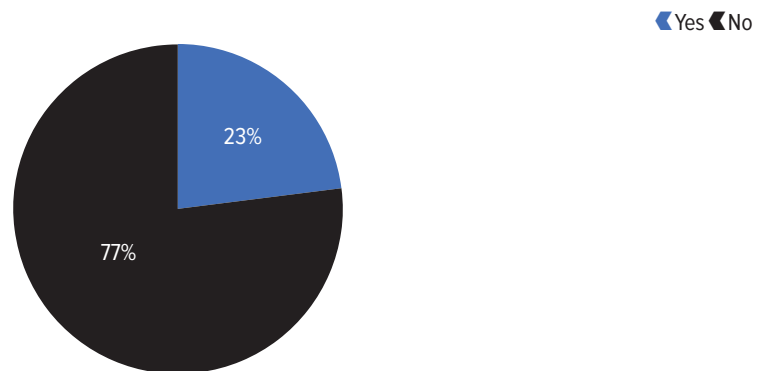
## CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Individuals recently released from the criminal justice system often face housing challenges that may contribute to their homelessness.

### INCARCERATION

Eighteen percent of respondents reported they were on probation or parole at the time of the survey, similar to 2013. Fourteen percent of 2015 respondents reported they were on probation or parole prior to their homelessness. As in previous years, around 23% of survey respondents had spent at least one night in jail or prison in the 12 months prior to the survey.

FIGURE 25. SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



2015 n:429

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.





# Homeless Subpopulations

*Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness in the United States. In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identified four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs: persons experiencing chronic homelessness, homeless veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied children (<18) and transition-age youth (18-24).

The following section details the number and characteristics of individuals included in the Monterey Point-in-Time Count and Survey who meet the definition of each subpopulation. Of the 344 surveys completed in 2015, the results represent 102 chronically homeless individuals, 35 homeless veterans, 112 individuals in homeless families, and 38 unaccompanied children and transition-age-youth. Surveys were completed in unsheltered environments and transitional housing settings. Emergency shelter respondents were interviewed in a street setting.

## CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years and also has a condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as adult household members.

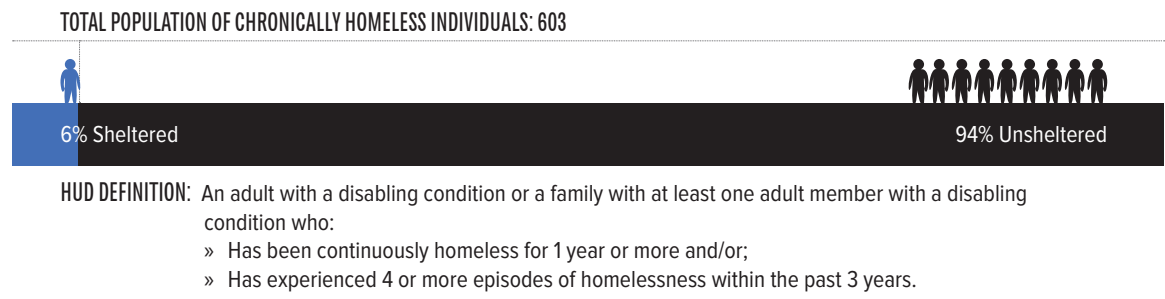
The chronically homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations on the street; the mortality rate for those experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than the general population. Data from communities across the country has shown that the public costs incurred by those experiencing extended periods of homelessness include emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and regular access to social supports and homeless services. These combined costs are often significantly higher than the cost of providing individuals with permanent housing and supportive services.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) reported that roughly 15% of the national homeless population was chronically homeless in 2014, for a total of 84,291 chronically homeless individuals.<sup>5</sup> Chronic homelessness has been on the decline in recent years, as communities across the country increase the capacity of permanent supportive programs and prioritize those with the greatest barriers to housing stability. While the decrease in national chronic homelessness seems promising, federal budget constraints have limited the amount of money available to support housing programs and services. As a result, *Opening Doors*, which began with a goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2015, has been extended until 2017.<sup>6</sup>

### PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

There were a total of 603 chronically homeless individuals in Monterey County in 2015, a 22% decrease from 770 in 2013. This represents over 26% of the total population. The data from this year's Point-in-Time count and survey indicate that there were no chronically homeless families in Monterey County, a drop from 29 in 2013.

**FIGURE 26.** CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS POPULATION ESTIMATES



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). *Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey*. Watsonville, CA.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015). Annual Update 2014. Retrieved 2015 from <http://www.usich.gov/>

<sup>6</sup> Cavallaro, E. (2015). Ending Chronic Homelessness, Now in 2017. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Retrieved 2015 from <http://www.endhomelessness.org>

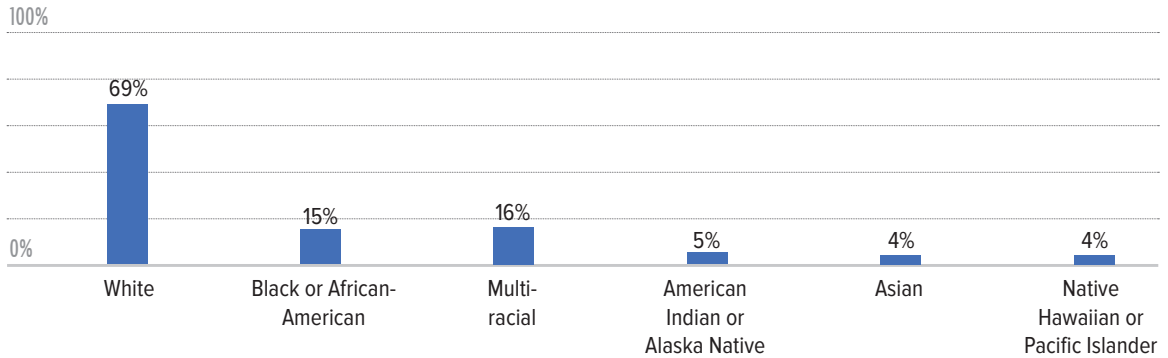


**DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gathers data on race and ethnicity in two separate questions, similar to the U.S. Census.

Sixty-nine percent of chronically homeless individuals identified as White, followed by 15% who identified as Black or African-American. Twenty-seven percent of the chronically homeless population identified as Hispanic or Latino. Sixty-seven percent of chronically homeless individuals were male.

**FIGURE 27. RACE AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

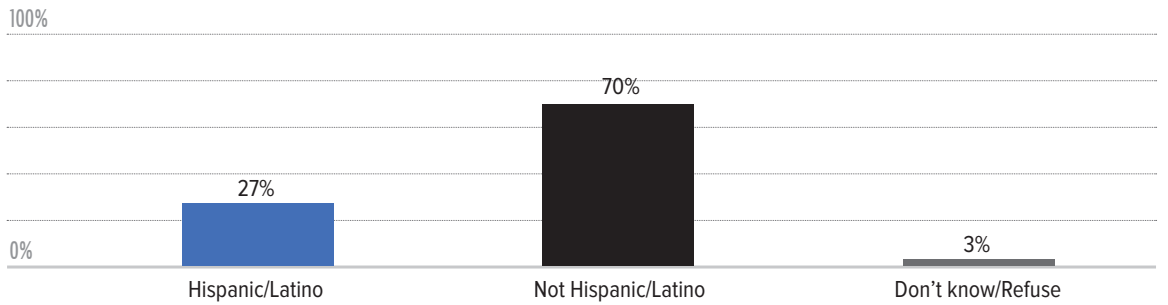


2015 n:92

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

**FIGURE 28. HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**



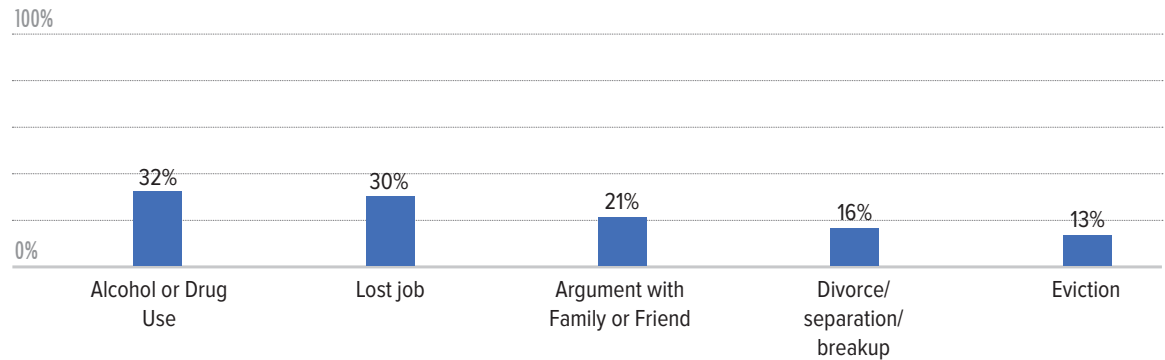
2015 n:100

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Alcohol or drug abuse (32%) and the loss of a job (30%) were the most common responses among the chronically homeless when asked what the primary event or condition that led to their homelessness was. Twenty-one percent of chronically homeless individuals stated an argument with family or a friend led to their homelessness, 16% indicated it was a divorce, separation or break, and 13% stated an eviction led to their homelessness.

**FIGURE 29.** PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES) AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



2015 n:101 respondents offering 167 responses

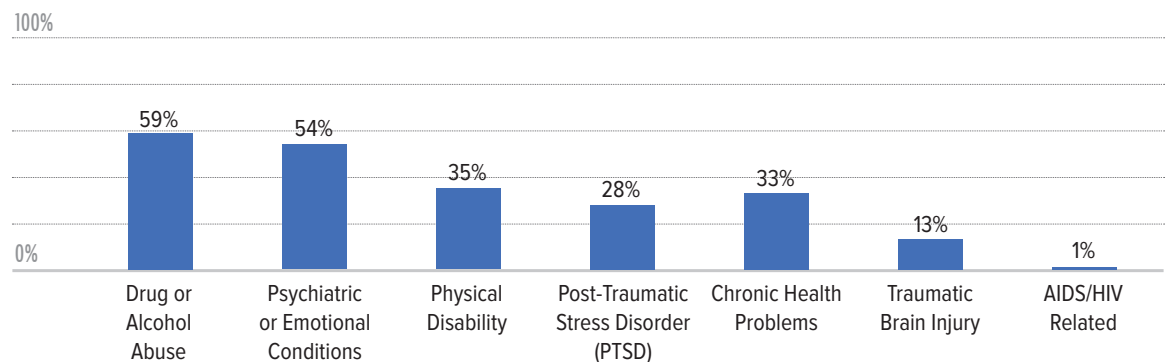
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

### HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

By definition, a chronically homeless individual is experiencing at least one disabling condition. Fifty-nine percent of the chronically homeless were experiencing drug or alcohol abuse, 54% have psychiatric or emotional conditions, and 35% have a physical disability.

**FIGURE 30.** HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



Drug or alcohol abuse n:101; Psychiatric or emotional conditions n:101; Physical disability n:98; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) n:102; Chronic health problems n:102; Traumatic Brain Injury n:101; AIDS/HIV related n:101

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

### **EMERGENCY ROOM USE AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

Fifty-eight percent of the chronically homeless population had been to the Emergency Room at least once in the last 12 months. This is a higher percentage than the non-chronically homeless respondents, of which 31% had used the Emergency Room at least once in the last 12 months.

### **ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

A higher percentage of chronically homeless respondents compared to the non-chronically homeless population reported using homeless services for free meals (81% compared to 56%, respectively) and shelter day services (34% compared to 26%). Twenty-five percent of the chronically homeless were using bus passes and 17% were accessing health services.

Only 6% of the chronically homeless were not receiving any form of government assistance. Of those 6%, 18% said it was because they never applied, 14% did not have an ID to apply with, and 14% did not think there were eligible.

### **INCARCERATION AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

Thirty-eight percent of the chronically homeless had been arrested at least once in the past 12 months, while only 19% of the non-chronically homeless population had been arrested at least once in the same time frame.

## HOMELESS VETERAN STATUS

Many U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans have higher rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), sexual assault and substance abuse. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters and often remain on the street for extended periods of time.

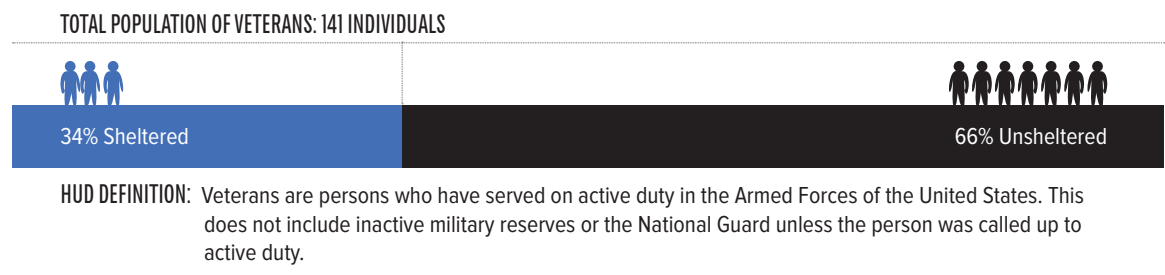
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits can include different forms of financial assistance, including monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, health care, education, and housing benefits. In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

Between 2009 and 2014, there has been a 33% decrease in the number of homeless veterans nationally. While communities are only required to conduct unsheltered Point-in-Time counts every two years, data are reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annually. According to data collected by HUD during the 2014 Point-in-Time Count, it was estimated that 49,933 veterans experienced homelessness on a single night in January 2014.<sup>7</sup>

## NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS

The estimated number of homeless veterans in Monterey County decreased in 2015. There were an estimated 141 homeless veterans in 2015, a 38% decrease from the 229 in 2013. Homeless veterans are now just over 6% of the total homeless population, the lowest level in all years of measurement. Sixty-six percent of these veterans were living unsheltered on the streets in 2015, similar to the 62% that were unsheltered in 2013. Due to a small number of veteran survey respondents (35), caution must be used when interpreting results.

**FIGURE 31. HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATION ESTIMATES**



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey. Watsonville, CA.

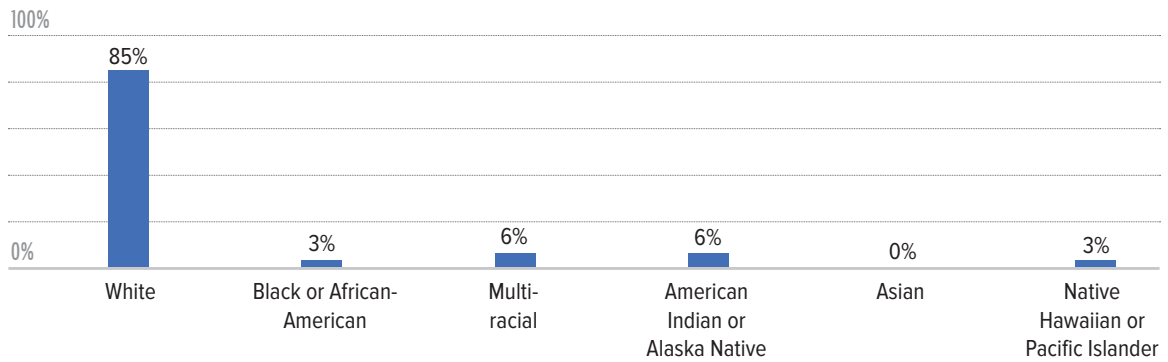
<sup>7</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2015). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2015 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2014-AHAR-Part1.pdf>

**DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS VETERANS**

The majority of homeless veteran survey respondents identify as White (85%), compared to 50% of the non-veteran homeless population. Seventeen percent of the veteran survey respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino. Sixty-nine percent of the veteran homeless population were living in Monterey County when they became homeless, less than the non-veteran population at 79%.

Fifty-one percent of homeless veterans were living in a home owned or rented by them or their partner immediately before becoming homeless, a greater amount than the 35% of non-veteran respondents. The other main housing accommodations before becoming homeless among the veteran population were a home owned or rented by friends or relatives (17%) or a subsidized or permanent supportive housing arrangement (14%).

**FIGURE 32. RACE AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS**

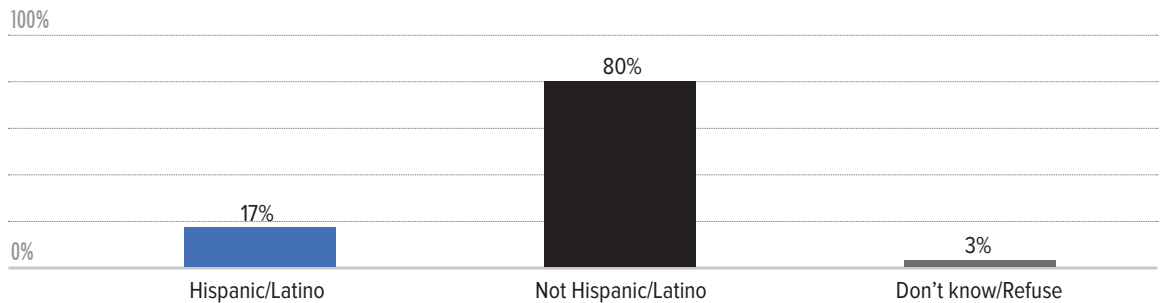


2015 n:34

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

**FIGURE 33. HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS**



2015 n:35

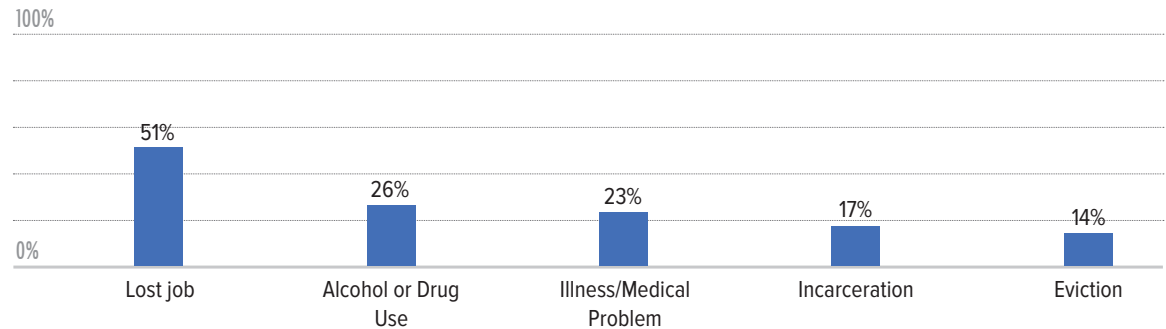
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.



### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS

Just over fifty percent of homeless veterans reported the loss of a job to be the primary event or condition that led to the current episode of homelessness. The other causes were alcohol or drug use (26%), illness or medical problem (23%), incarceration (17%) and eviction (14%).

**FIGURE 34.** PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES) AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS



2015 n:35 respondents offering 66 responses

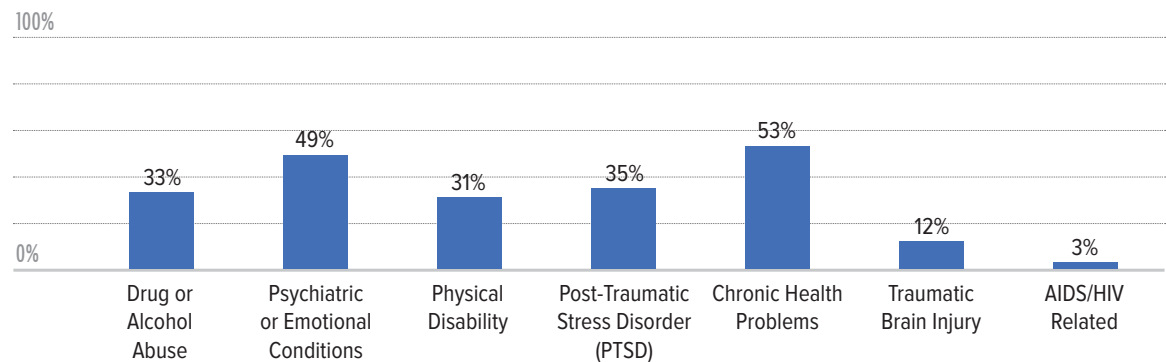
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

### HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS

Fifty-four percent of homeless veterans reported having a disabling condition, while only 38% of non-veterans reported having a disabling condition. Forty-nine percent of homeless veterans reported experiencing a psychiatric or emotional disability, compared to 26% of the non-veteran homeless population. Thirty five percent of homeless veterans have PTSD, and 33% report abusing drug or alcohol.

**FIGURE 35.** HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS



Drug or alcohol abuse n:33; Psychiatric or emotional conditions n:33; Physical disability n:32; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) n:34; Chronic health problems n:34; Traumatic Brain Injury n:33; AIDS/HIV related n:32

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

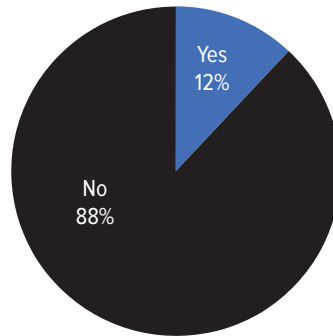
### ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS

Sixty-five percent of homeless veterans reported receiving some form of governmental assistance. The most accessed benefits by the veteran homeless population are transitional housing services (56%), free meals (41%), and health services (38%). Amongst those who did not receive any benefits, one third stated it was because they did not have a permanent address and one third stated it was because they were turned down for services.

### INCARCERATION AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS

When asked if they had spent a night in jail in the last 12 months, 12% of homeless veteran respondents indicated they had, which is half as many compared to non-veteran homeless respondents. Twenty-one percent of veteran homeless respondents reported being on probation or parole when they most recently became homeless.

**FIGURE 36.** A NIGHT SPENT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS



2015 n:34

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

## HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

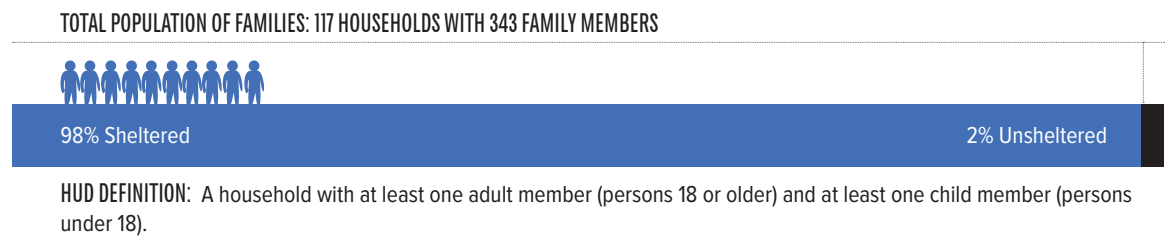
National data from 2014 suggest that 37 percent of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families. Very few families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered. Public shelters serve 90% of homeless families in the United States, a significantly higher proportion of the population compared to other subpopulations, including unaccompanied youth. Data on homeless families suggest that they are not much different from families in poverty.

The risk of homelessness is highest among single female-headed households and families with children under the age of 6.<sup>8</sup> Children in families experiencing homelessness have increased incidence of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems than children with consistent living accommodations.<sup>9</sup>

### NUMBER OF HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

There were 117 total families with 343 individual persons experiencing homelessness in Monterey County in 2015, representing just under 15% of the total homeless population. The majority of these families were sheltered; only 2 families including 7 individuals were unsheltered. This is a decrease from 221 families with 550 individual persons in 2013.

**FIGURE 37. HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN POPULATION ESTIMATES**



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). *Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey*. Watsonville, CA.

### DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

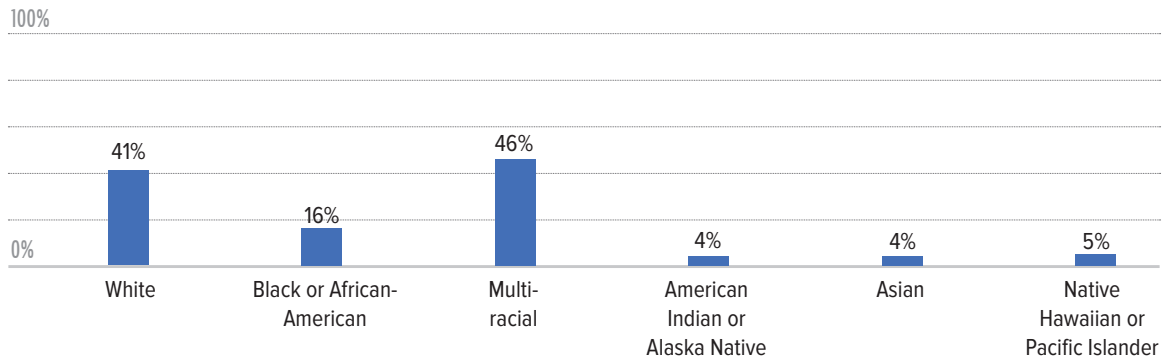
According to survey responses from homeless families, 41% identified as White, followed by 16% Black or African-American. Fifty-six percent of homeless families identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, while a lower percentage (28%) of households composed of a single person identified as Hispanic or Latino.

8 U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). *Characteristics and Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/>

9 U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Opening Doors*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>



**FIGURE 38. RACE AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

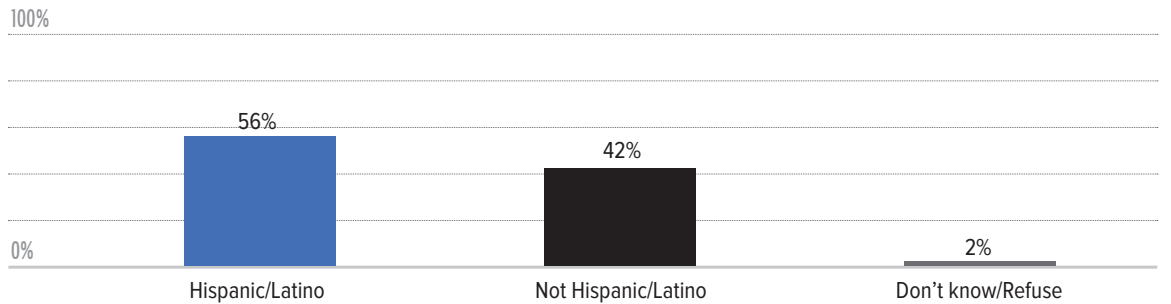


2015 n:110

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

**FIGURE 39. HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**



2015 n:110

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

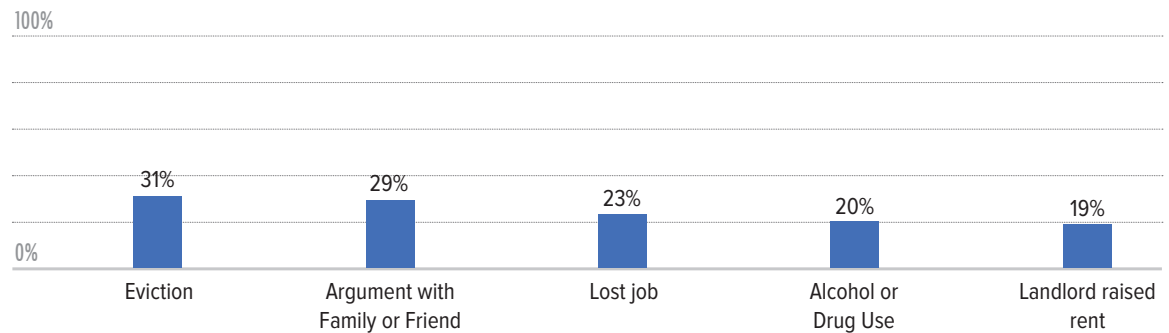
**PLACE OF RESIDENCE AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Ninety percent of homeless families indicated that they were living in Monterey County when becoming homeless for the most recent time, compared to 79% in 2013.

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESS AMONG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

When asked about the cause of their homelessness, 31% of families stated it was due to eviction and 30% indicated it was caused by an argument with a family or friend who asked them to leave. Virtually all family respondents (98%) said they were not currently experiencing home/domestic violence or abuse, 36% reported they had been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused by a relative or person they had stayed with prior to homelessness, and 8% declined to state. Only 12% of respondents reported family violence being a primary cause of their homelessness.

**FIGURE 40.** PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES) AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



2015 n:110 respondents offering 189 responses

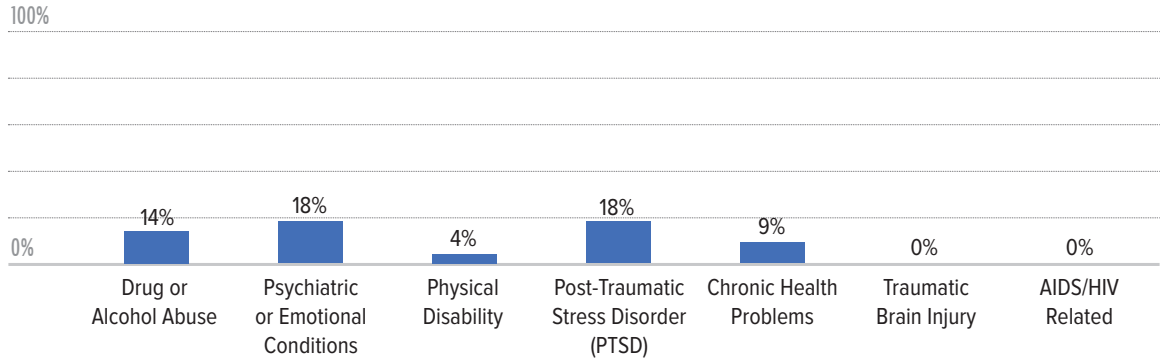
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

**HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Twenty-two percent of respondents in homeless families were experiencing at least one disabling condition, and the most common were PTSD (18%), a psychiatric or emotional condition (18%), and drug or alcohol abuse (14%).

**FIGURE 41. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**



*Drug or alcohol abuse n:110; Psychiatric or emotional conditions n:112; Physical disability n:110; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) n:111; Chronic health problems n:111; Traumatic Brain Injury n:109; AIDS/HIV related n:109*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.*

*Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*

## UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

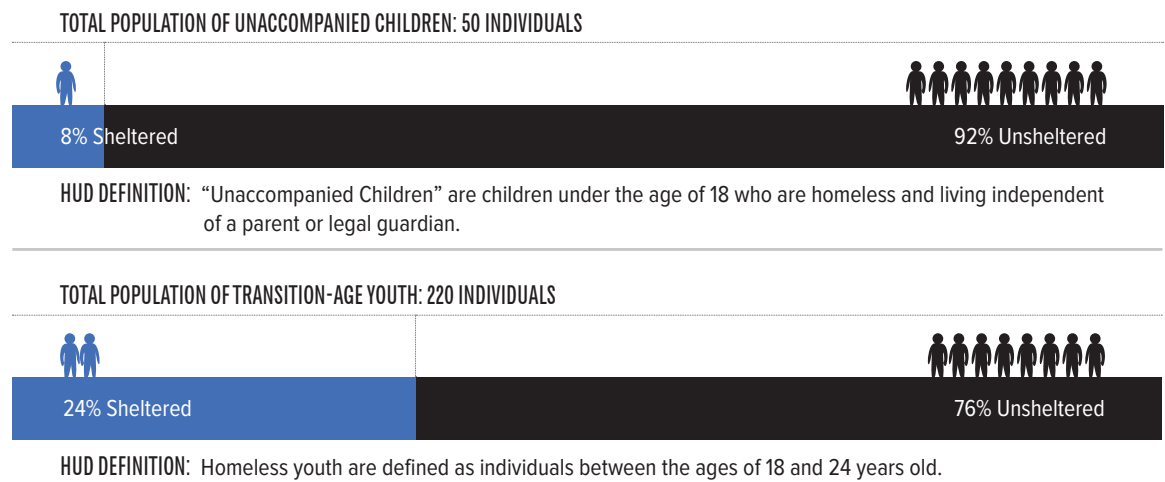
There are limited data available on homelessness among unaccompanied children and transition-age youth nationally and locally. Current federal estimates suggest there are 45,205 children and youth on the streets and in public shelters. Homeless youth have a harder time accessing services, including shelter, medical care, and employment.

In 2012, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness amended the federal strategic plan to end homelessness to include specific strategies and supports to address the needs of unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth. As part of this effort, HUD placed an increased interest in gathering data on unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth during Point-in-Time counts. There were a total of 38 youth surveys in 2015, a difference from 53 surveys in 2013. There were 15 separate one page add-on surveys that apply to a few questions which is a low sample number, so those findings cannot be made generalizable and will be acknowledged in the section being discussed.

### PREVALENCE OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

There were 50 unaccompanied children living on the streets of Monterey County and 220 transition age youth (18-24) living on the streets or just under 12% of the total homeless population. In 2013 there were 348 transition-age youth and 15 unaccompanied children experiencing homelessness, representing an increase in the number of unaccompanied youth and a decrease in transition-age youth in 2015. Due to a small number of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth survey respondents (38), caution must be used when interpreting these results.

**FIGURE 42.** UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH POPULATION ESTIMATES

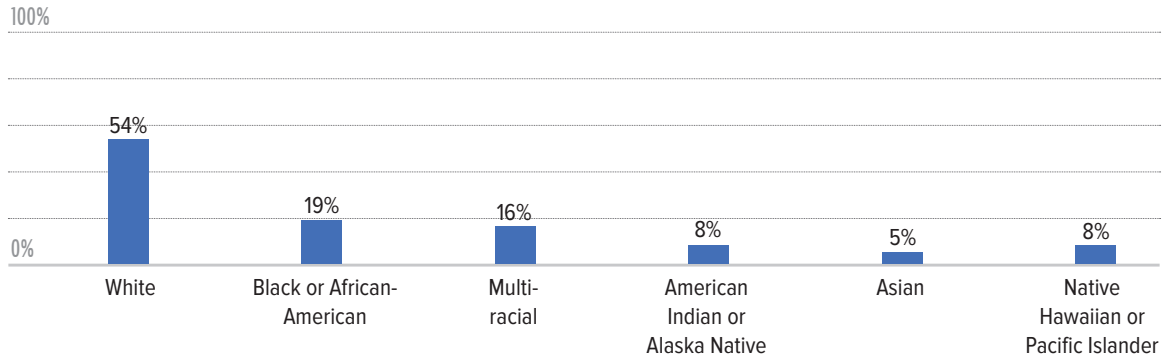


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey. Watsonville, CA.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

When asked what race they identify as, 54% of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth identified as White, followed by 19% a African-American. Thirty percent identified as Hispanic/Latino as their ethnicity. Fifty percent identified as male, and 5% identified as Transgender.

**FIGURE 43. RACE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

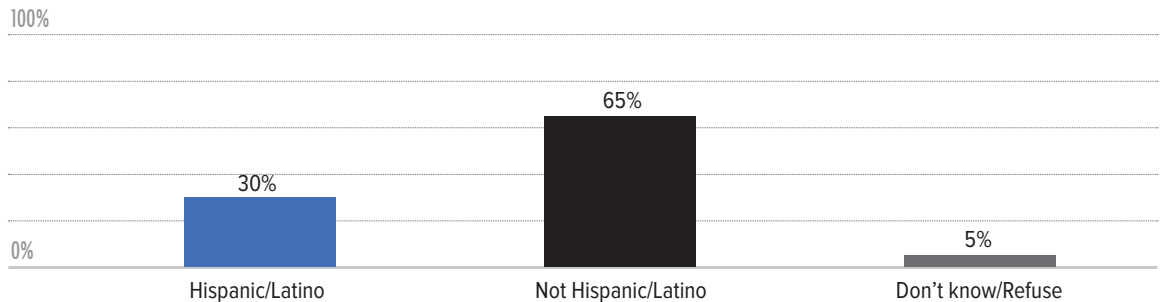


2015 n:37

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

**FIGURE 44. HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**



2015 n:37

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Fourteen percent of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth reported having been in foster care, which is less than the adult population who reported 17% in foster care.

**FIGURE 45. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE-YOUTH**



2015 n:37

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

**EDUCATION AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

Forty-seven percent of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth had not completed high school, and none had completed college. Seventy-three percent of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth reported not currently being enrolled in school. This question is sourced from the one page youth addendum survey with only 15 respondents.

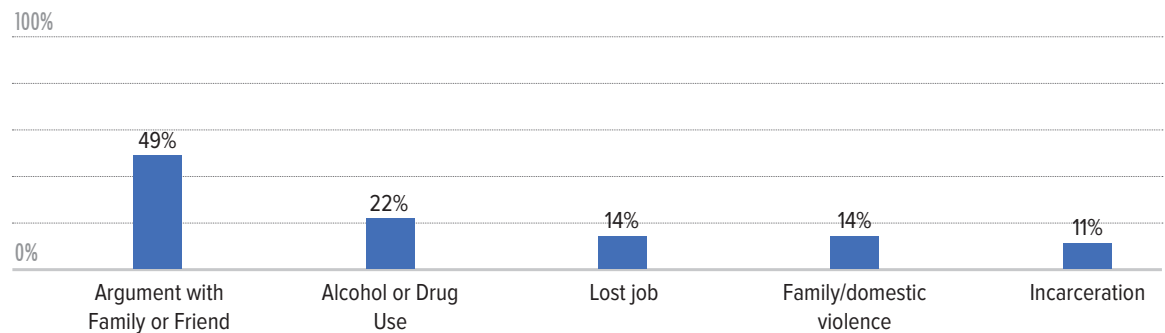
**PLACE OF RESIDENCE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

Roughly the same percentage of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth (81%) had been living in Monterey County before becoming homeless as the general population of persons (78%) experiencing homelessness.

**PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

Forty-nine percent of youth survey respondents reported an argument with family or friends lead to them becoming homeless, more than twice the amount of the non-youth population (20%). Twenty-two percent stated it was alcohol or drug abuse that lead to their homelessness, and 14% stated it was family/domestic violence.

**FIGURE 46. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES) AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**



2015 n:37 respondents offering 55 responses

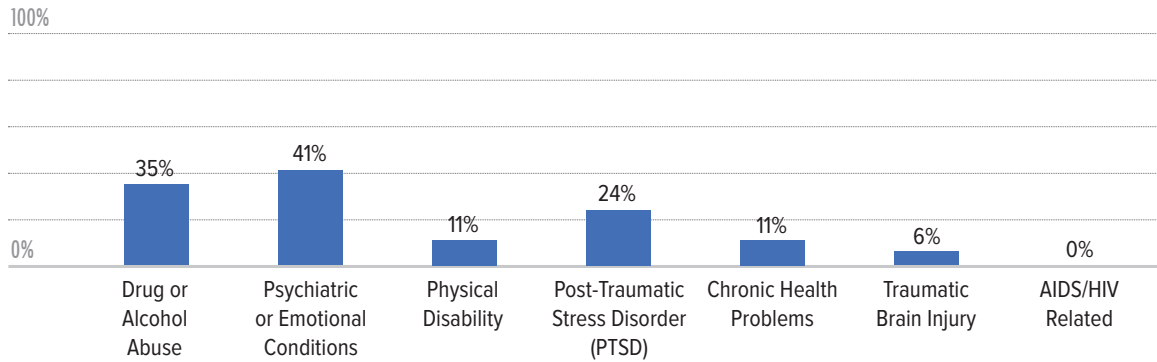
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

**HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

Of the 15 survey respondents, 40% of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth rated their general physical health as “good” and 40% rated it as fair. This number is down from 2013 where more youth rated their health as “very good.” However, the 2015 number is only referring to a sample of 15.

**FIGURE 47. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**



*Drug or alcohol abuse n:37; Psychiatric or emotional conditions n:37; Physical disability n:36; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) n:37; Chronic health problems n:35; Traumatic Brain Injury n:36; AIDS/HIV related n:37*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.*

**VIOLENCE AND CRIME AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

Thirty-five percent of youth respondents reported spending at least one night in jail in the last 12 months, more than the general adult population at 22%.







# Conclusion

The 2015 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey was another exceptional community-wide effort to profile the extent and characteristics of homelessness in Monterey and San Benito Counties. The results of the 2015 Monterey County homeless census indicate there are 2,308 homeless persons, a 282 person reduction (11%) since the last study in 2013 where 2,590 persons were found. The 2015 San Benito County homeless census found 651 homeless persons, a 286 person increase (78%) from the 365 persons found in 2013. While the Monterey County decrease from 2013 was just under 11%, the findings did not include Monterey County Office of Education (COE) McKinney-Vento reporting due to the inability to validate housing status on the eve of the count (a very specific HUD requirement). In 2013 COE data represented 214 persons, or a little over 8% of the 2013 result. McKinney-Vento data from 2014-2015 was higher than in 2012-2013 indicating a school based, validated count may have actually been higher in 2015. San Benito's increase was, in large part, the result of a significantly more robust homeless census outreach effort and the very active participation of the San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency.

While there was relatively little change in the overall number of homeless in Monterey County, there appear to be changes in the locations of homeless persons with movement from the Peninsula area to the greater Salinas area. The addition of the Salinas Emergency Family Winter Shelter and excellent outreach in Salinas were contributing factors to this trend. The County continues to have a high percentage of unsheltered homeless (71%) and there continues to be large percentages of persons living in vehicles (24%), encampments (14%), and openly on the street (30%). Hispanics represent 35% of the homeless population according to our survey and other minorities appear to be over-represented in comparison to the general population. A majority (78%) claim Monterey as their residence prior to their homelessness with 70% having been renters or lived with friends or family. Health is a major issue for the County's homeless with 39% stating they have a disabling condition. A large percentage of respondents (35%) were not receiving any government benefits. Homeless respondents reported they were not choosing to be homeless,

as 81% stated they would accept safe, permanent and affordable housing if available. Foster care history among the homeless remains at a high rate (16%) and just under 12% of the homeless population are unaccompanied children or transition-age youth (<25 years old). Two sub-population categories showed improvement from 2013; veteran populations have decreased from 229 in 2013 to 141 in 2015, and the number of chronically homeless individuals has dropped from 770 in 2013 to 603 in 2015.

In summary, there have been a number of accomplishments and improvements from 2013 yet there continue to be many challenges and negative trends to address. The data in the 2015 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey can help educate the public, service providers, and policy makers on how to best serve the homeless population and help ensure that homelessness is a rare, brief and one-time event. Study after study shows that prevention, Housing First and supportive services are the first steps in ending homelessness and Monterey County is working diligently to develop these systems of change. In the interim, there is a lot of work to be done to address the immediate needs of the 1,630 persons who are unsheltered and in need of assistance.



# Appendix 1: Methodology

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2015 Monterey Homeless Point-in-Time Census & Survey was to produce a Point-in-Time estimate of people who experience homelessness in Monterey County. The results of the street count were combined with the results from the shelter and institution count to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Monterey County on a given night. The subsequent, in-depth qualitative survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those counted. A more detailed description of the methodology follows.

## COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS CENSUS METHOD

The Point-in-Time count methodology had three primary components:

- The general street count between daybreak and 12:30 PM – an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals
- The youth street count between the hours of 12 PM and 6 PM – a targeted enumeration of unsheltered youth under the age of 25. A youth “Live Count” event in Monterey and Salinas was also included in our effort to get better participation from this group.
- The shelter count for the night before the street count – an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals.

The unsheltered and sheltered homeless counts were coordinated to occur within the same time period in order to minimize potential duplicate counting of homeless persons.

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success of the count, many county and community agencies collaborated in community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistics planning, methodological decision-making, and interagency coordination efforts. Applied Survey Research (ASR), a non-profit social research firm, provided technical assistance with these aspects of the planning process. ASR has over 16 years of experience conducting homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in HUD's publication: *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless service providers and advocates have been active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of this and previous homeless counts. The planning team worked closely with the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers which represents both Monterey County and San Benito County. The Coalition invited feedback and discussion on the methodology in order to have a county-wide endorsement of the count.

## INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The planning team was led by the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers. All agencies Applied Survey Research worked with were part of the Coalition, including the San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency.

## STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

### DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used:

- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

### METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2015 street count methodology followed a mature, HUD approved methodology used since the first Monterey report conducted by Applied Survey Research in 1999. Since then the methodology used has followed the same structure with improvements each count. Up until 2011 all areas of the county were fully canvassed by adult community volunteers and service providers, with no additional outreach by youth. In 2013, the dedicated youth outreach helped to develop a clearer picture of the extent of youth homelessness. Changes were made to the youth count in 2015 in order to have a more comprehensive canvass of youth homelessness in Monterey County. A clearer picture of the youth count methodology can be found in a following section.

The 2015 count made a greater effort to cover the South County region by having dedicated volunteers and teams in that area on the day of the count. The day of the count also had veteran teams to ensure inclusion of the veteran homeless individuals. Finally, a special outreach effort was made to find families and persons in out-buildings in the greater Salinas area through relationships with the Salinas Winter Shelter and Family Resource Center.

## VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in Monterey turned out to support the County's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. To have a successful enumeration effort of this magnitude, it is crucial to have volunteer and homeless persons who have an intimate knowledge of the local areas. Approximately 50 homeless individuals and 105 community volunteers participated in the 2015 general street count. Outreach efforts were conducted, targeting local nonprofits that serve the homeless and local volunteer programs. A California State University, Monterey Bay professor had almost 20 of his students volunteer on the day of the count. Local shelters and service providers recruited the most knowledgeable and reliable homeless individuals to participate in the count. Homeless persons were paid \$10 for the training that they received prior to the count. They were also paid \$10 for each hour they spent out on the day of the count.

All homeless individuals and volunteers who participated in the count were asked to attend a one hour training prior to the day of the count. Trainings were held in multiple locations throughout the county. This training covered all aspects in the count, including the definition of homeless and how to recognize homeless individuals, potential locations homeless individuals may be located at and how to safely and respectfully approach the area, how to use the tally sheets and maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered. A reminder briefing was also held just prior to deployment on the day of the count.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Every volunteer participated in a training session that educated individuals on how to enumerate the homeless without any contact. High-volume areas and encampments were covered by specifically trained teams who were comfortable with the areas. Enumeration teams were advised to take all safety precautions possible, including bringing flashlights and maintaining safe distance from those they were counting. Local law enforcement was made aware of the count but they were not brought in to actively participate. No official reports were received regarding unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the street count in any area of the county.

## STREET COUNT DISPATCH CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of Monterey County within the four-hour timeframe, the planning team identified three areas for the placement of dispatch centers on the night of the count in Marina, Salinas, and Soledad as well as a dedicated north county outreach team covering Royal Oaks/Pajaro and Castroville. Volunteers selected their dispatch center at the time of registration, based on familiarity with the area or convenience. The planning team divided up the enumeration routes and assigned them to the dispatch center closest or most central to the coverage area, to facilitate the timely deployment of enumeration teams into the field.

## LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION

On the morning of the street count, two or more person teams were created to enumerate designated areas of the county for the street count. Each team was ideally composed of one trained volunteer and one trained homeless guide, and were provided their assigned census tract map area, tally sheet, training guidelines and other supplies. All accessible streets, roads, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traveled by foot or car. No direct contact with enumerated homeless people was typically made during the census enumeration. Homeless enumerators were also instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets for the street count if they were not going to be counted by the shelter count. Dispatch center volunteers provided each team with tally sheets to record the number of homeless persons observed and basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment log sheet. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas, staying out for as long as it took to cover every part of the census tract.

## DATA LIMITATIONS

While significant efforts were made by the Monterey County Office of education to include data on homeless children in schools, time constraints and resources prevented these efforts by the McKinney-Vento district liaisons. The County Office of Education gathers information on homeless children at the beginning of the school year to provide assistance to children through McKinney Vento programs and funding. Based upon August enrollment data, 7,170<sup>10</sup> homeless children are estimated to live in the county. The majority of these students (6,203) are “doubled-up” and live with family or friends so they do not typically fall under HUD’s narrow PIT count definition of homelessness. In addition to the “double-up” students, there are 469 children who were “sheltered” in public or private homeless facilities and therefore likely included in the shelter count reporting. There were also 216 students living in motel/hotels. Lastly, there are a reported total of 498 unsheltered students. Unfortunately due to the timing of school intake and limitations to verifying the location of the children on the specific night of the January Point-in-Time Count, these numbers cannot be included in the overall number of homeless individuals in Monterey County.

## YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

### GOAL

The goal of the 2015 dedicated youth count was similar to that of the initial 2013 youth count. The count was developed in order to be more inclusive of unaccompanied homeless children and youth, under the age of 25. Many homeless children and youth do not use homeless services, are unrecognizable to adult street count volunteers, and may be in unsheltered locations that are more difficult to find. Therefore, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching youth. In 2015, the goal was to not only reproduce the work that was accomplished in 2013 but to improve and expand upon the process.

### RESEARCH DESIGN

As in 2013, planning for the 2015 supplemental youth count included youth homeless service providers. Local providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate. Local service providers also identified youth currently experiencing homelessness with knowledge of where to locate and enumerate youth experiencing homelessness.

It has been recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness that youth do not commonly come with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. For this reason, they have accepted and recommended that communities count youth at times when they can be seen, rather than during general outreach times. There were two separate locations that the youth count was coordinated out of, Salinas and Monterey, as well as two separate techniques used, a street count where enumerators canvassed the streets and an event where homeless youth were invited to come and eat food and receive giveaways.

<sup>10</sup><http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/793/homeless-students-residence/table#fmt=1210&loc=320&tf=79&ch=1132,1133,1134,1135&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>



Community Health Services' Safe Place, located in Monterey, hosted one of two events on the day of the count to try to draw youth to one area in order to count them there. The idea of hosting an event on the day of the homeless youth count came from "We Count". We Count provides technical assistance to communities throughout California in their effort to promote a more thorough and complete youth count for homeless youth and young adults during the Point-in-Time count process. The other event in Salinas was led by a volunteer of Peacock Acres, an organization that provides support and services for foster youth. Both events started at 12 PM, and there were anonymous sign-in forms at the entrance where the youth note where they had stayed the night before. This process allowed Applied Survey Research to determine if the youth were unsheltered or not.

In addition to counting the youth at the event, there were a few homeless youth who were willing to assist on the day of the count. They arrived at each of the event locations by 12 PM in order to make a plan of where to go. Monterey had one team of two youth and a volunteer driver, and Salinas had one team of a youth and a volunteer driver. Each team pre-identified "hot-spot" areas where they knew homeless youth were likely to hang out, so their drivers took them to each of those locations for enumeration. In order to prevent duplication, the youth stayed at the event for an hour to get an idea of who was there and then knew not to count that youth if seen on the streets. Youth workers were paid \$10 per hour for their time, including the training conducted prior to the count. Youth were trained on where and how to identify homeless youth as well as how to record the data.

#### **DATA COLLECTION**

It was determined that homeless youth would be more prominent on the street during daylight hours, rather than in the evening when the general count was conducted. The youth count was conducted from approximately 12 PM to 6 PM on January 28, 2015, the same time the youth events were being held.

### **SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY**

#### **GOAL**

The goal of the shelter and institution count was to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across Monterey County. These data were vital to gaining an accurate overall count of the homeless population and understanding where homeless persons received shelter.

#### **DEFINITION**

- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).

#### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

All shelter data were collected by the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers in conjunction with their HMIS provider, Community Technology Alliance. They gathered the data from HMIS, and in addition there were five shelters not included in the HMIS database where the Coalition provided data.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The survey of 444 homeless persons was conducted in order to yield qualitative data about the homeless community in Monterey County. These data are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important for future program development and planning. The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, length and recurrence of homelessness, usual nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by homeless workers and shelter team members, who were trained by Applied Survey Research. Training sessions led potential interviewers through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Homeless workers were compensated at a rate of \$5 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily collected if an incentive gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks were given as an incentive for participating in the 2015 homeless survey. This approach enabled surveys to be conducted at any time during the day. The gift proved to be a great incentive and was widely accepted among survey respondents.

### SURVEY ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

- The 2015 Monterey Homeless Survey was administered by the trained survey team between February 11, 2015 and March 19, 2015.
- In all, the survey team collected 444 unique surveys.

### SURVEY SAMPLING

Based on the Point-in-Time count of homeless persons with a randomized survey sampling process, the 444 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Monterey County.

The 2015 survey was administered in both transitional housing facilities and on the street. Emergency shelter response were gathered during the street surveys. 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. Individuals residing in emergency shelters were reached through street surveys during the day when emergency shelters were closed.

Strategic attempts were made to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence victims, and families. One way to increase the participation of these groups was to recruit peer surveys workers. The 2015 survey prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of currently homeless surveyors.



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

#### **DATA COLLECTION**

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

#### **DATA ANALYSIS**

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

#### **SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS**

The 2015 Monterey County Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, a greater number of surveys were conducted with a head of household family member. This was partially the result of the success of the family Family Emergency Shelter in Salinas. With their quota as well as the increased access to unsheltered families in the Salinas area. However, this provided an increased number of respondents living in families and provided a more comprehensive understanding of the overall population. Youth responses were fewer than desired due to a higher refusal rate.

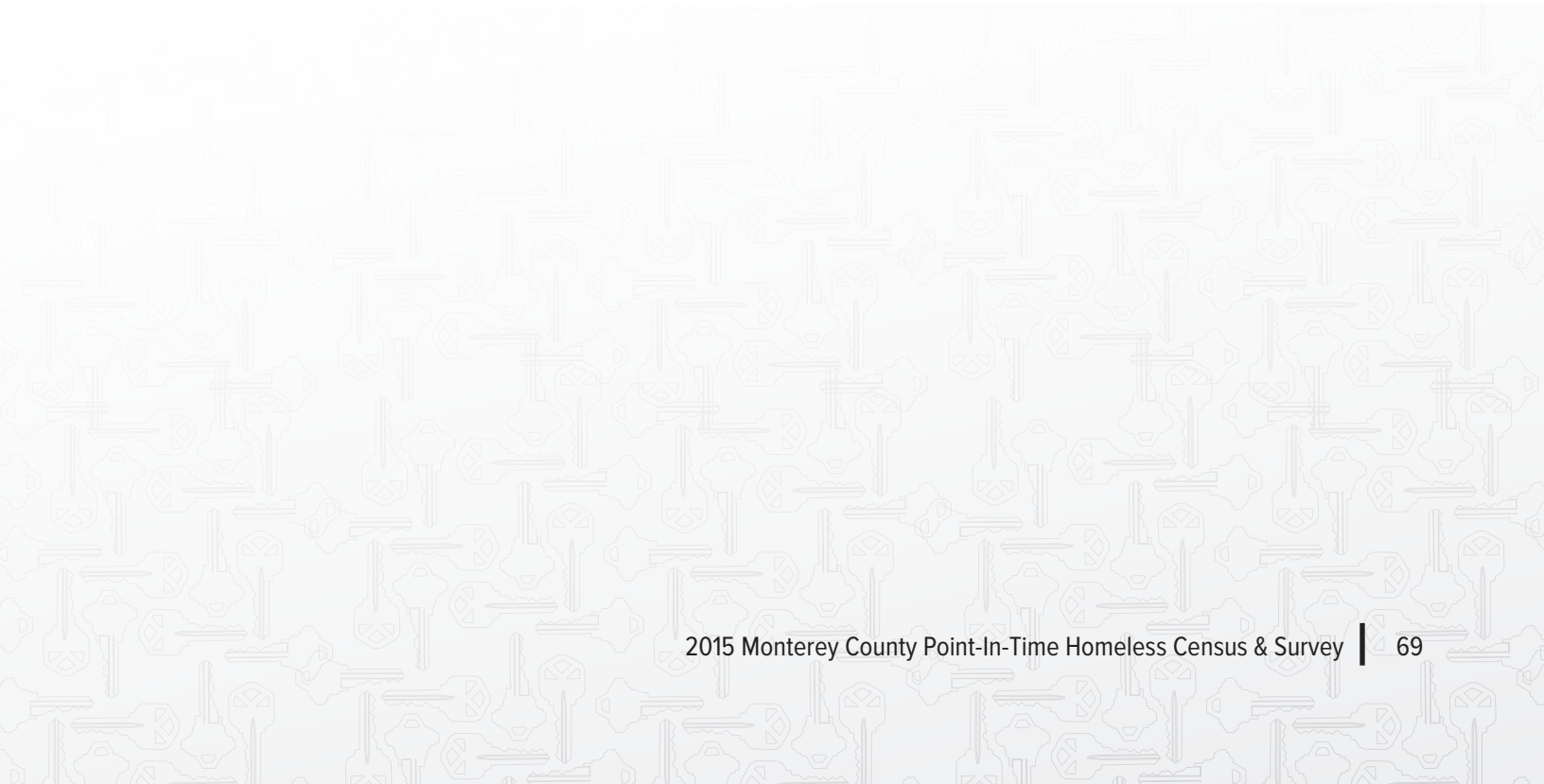
There may be some variance in the data that homeless individuals self-reported. However, using a peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers and County staff members recommended individuals who would be the best to conduct interviews and they received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. The service providers and County staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.

Additionally, youth were reluctant to participate in the survey due to their privacy concerns and general reasons. Outreach staff who normally have better access to many mental health and behavioral health clients were also challenged because of their caseload.





# Appendix 2: Definitions & 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.”
- **Disabling condition**, for the purposes of this study, is defined as a physical disability, mental illness, depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability.
- **Emergency shelter** is the provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility, or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 90 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for victims and their children.
- **Family** is defined as a household with at least one adult and one child under 18.
- **Homeless** under the category 1 definition of homelessness in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.
- **HUD** is the abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- **Sheltered homeless individuals** are those homeless individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.
- **Single individual** refers to an unaccompanied adult or youth.
- **Transition-Age Youth (TAY)** refers to an unaccompanied youth aged 18-24 years.
- **Transitional housing** facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is housing in which homeless individuals may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services – which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination – may be provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.
- **Unaccompanied** refers to children under the age of 18 who do not have a parent or guardian present.
- **Unsheltered homeless individuals** are those homeless individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.



MONTEREY COUNTY

# HOMELESS

POINT-IN-TIME CENSUS & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

# 2015

