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

The 2015 Sonoma County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 23, 2015. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 609 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

**HOMELESS CENSUS SIX-YEAR TREND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Shelters (n=1037)</th>
<th>Unsheltered (n=2070)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3,247</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,539</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3,107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHELTERED INCLUDES:**

- Emergency Shelter: 20%
- Transitional Housing: 13%

**UNSHELTERED INCLUDES:**

- On the street: 33%
- Abandoned buildings: 3%
- Cars/Vans/RVs: 11%
- Encampment Areas: 20%

**AGE**

- Under 18: 8%
- 18-24: 21%
- 25+: 71%

**GENDER**

- Men: 61%
- Women: 38%
- Transgender: 1%

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- White: 61%
- Latino: 18%
- Black or African American: 6%
- Multi-racial: 8%

**HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- 33% of respondents

**FIRST TIME HOMELESSNESS**

- Yes: (39%)
- No: (61%)

- 32% of those experiencing homelessness for the first time had been homeless for one year or more

**DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS**

- 30 days or less: 7%
- 1-11 months: 48%
- 1 year or more: 45%

**RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS**

- Sonoma County: 86%

**LENGTH OF TIME IN SONOMA COUNTY**

- (of those living in Sonoma County at time of homelessness)

- Less than 1 year: 12%
- 1-4 years: 17%
- 5-9 years: 13%
- 10 years or more: 58%

**OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING**

- Couldn’t afford rent: 67%
- No job/income: 57%
- No housing availability: 30%
- No money for moving costs: 30%
**What is a disabling condition?**

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

**HEALTH CONDITIONS**
- Drug or alcohol abuse (33%)
- Psychiatric or emotional conditions (37%)
- Physical disability (30%)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (25%)
- Chronic health problems (27%)
- Traumatic brain injury (8%)
- AIDS/HIV related (2%)

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

**INCARCERATION**

29% spent at least 1 night in jail in the past 12 months.

**INCOME**

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

**SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE**

Government services received (Top 3 Responses)
- Food Stamps 47%
- None of them 34%
- SSI/SSDI 15%

Reasons for NOT receiving government services (Top 3 Responses)
- Don’t think you are eligible 40%
- Don’t want government assistance 33%
- Never applied 21%

**SUBPOPULATION DATA**

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**
- 702 Individuals
- 16% Sheltered
- 84% Unsheltered

**VETERANS**
- 217 Individuals
- 37% Sheltered
- 63% Unsheltered

**FAMILIES**
- 127 Families with 367 members
- 94% Sheltered
- 6% Unsheltered

**UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN**
- 48 Individuals
- 0% Sheltered
- 100% Unsheltered

**TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**
- 630 Individuals
- 6% Sheltered
- 94% Unsheltered

**SUMMARY**

These data provide a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness in the Sonoma County on January 23, 2015. It provides a basic estimation of the number and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness on any given night in order to inform future service planning and provisioning efforts.