

SONOMA COUNTY

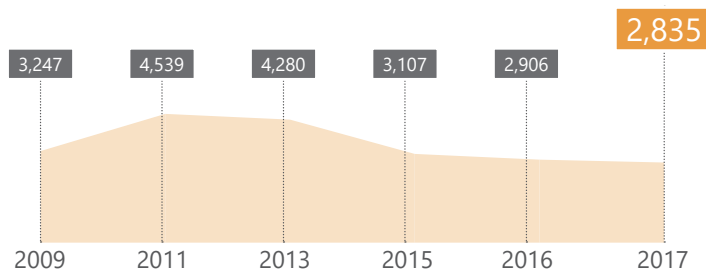
2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

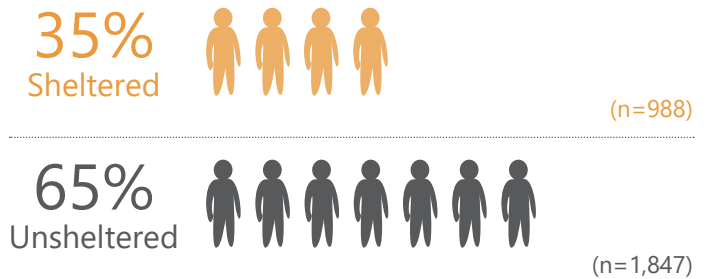
Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2017 Sonoma County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 26, 2017. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 687 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

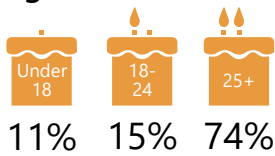
Census Population: Longitudinal Trend



2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population

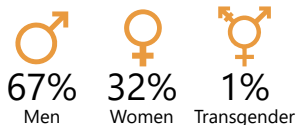


Age



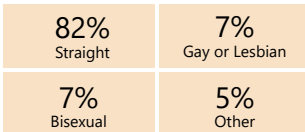
Gender

(Top 3 Responses)



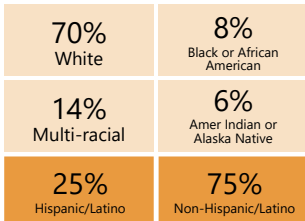
Sexual Orientation

(Top 4 Responses)

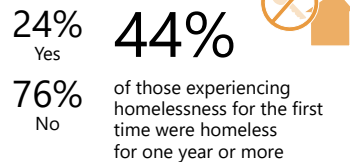


Race

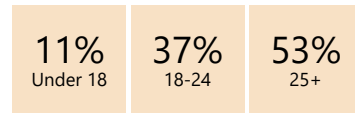
(Top 4 Responses)



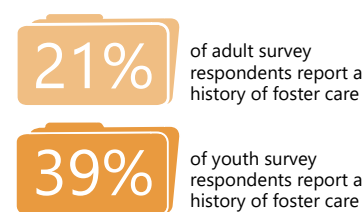
First Homelessness Episode



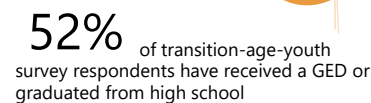
Age at First Episode of Homelessness



Foster Care



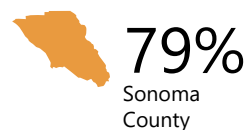
Educational Attainment



Subpopulation Data*

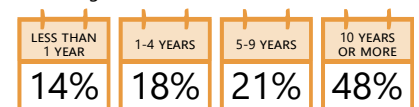


Residence Prior to Homelessness



Length of Time in Sonoma County

(of those living in Sonoma County prior to becoming homelessness)



Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness



9%
30 days or less

34%
1-11 months

59%
1 year or more

Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness

(Top 6 Responses)



24% Lost job	19% Argument with family/friend	18% Alcohol or drug use
15% Eviction	12% Divorce/separation/breakup	8% Landlord raised rent

Interest in Permanent Housing

74%

of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would want to move into safe, affordable permanent housing were it available



Obstacles to Permanent Housing

(Top 4 Responses)



71% Can't afford rent	39% No job/not enough income
27% No housing availability	21% No money for moving costs

What is a disabling condition?



41%

of survey respondents reported 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.

Health Conditions

Current health conditions affecting housing stability or employment.

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



38%

Drug or Alcohol Abuse



29%

Psychiatric or Emotional Conditions



19%

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder



19%

Physical Disability



18%

Chronic Health Problems



9%

Traumatic Brain Injury



3%

AIDS/HIV Related Illness

Employment



Employment Status

9% Employed full-time

25% Employed part-time

8% Employed seasonal/sporadic

58% Unemployed

If Unemployed, Currently...

29% Unable to work

41% Looking for work

30% Not looking for work

Services and Assistance



82%

of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits

Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance

(Top 6 Responses)

30% Don't want gov't assistance	25% Don't think I am eligible
24% Never applied	22% No permanent address
18% Don't have an ID	12% Paperwork too difficult

Services Currently Accessing

(Top 6 Responses)

68% Free meals	51% Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh
39% Medi-Cal/Medicare	37% Bus passes
34% Shelter day services	19% Mental health services

*Subpopulation Definitions

Chronically Homeless

An individual with a disabling condition or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:

- » Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- » Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years, totalling 12 months.

Veterans

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

Families

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

Unaccompanied Children

Children under the age of 18 who are homeless and living without a parent or legal guardian.

Transition-Age Youth

Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County. It can be found at <http://sonoma-county-continuum-of-care.wikispaces.com/>

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Sonoma County Homeless Census & Survey. Watsonville, CA.