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. In an effort to better track trends, Sonoma County has opted in to an annual unsheltered count.

The 2016 Sonoma County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 29, 2016. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 605 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

**HOMELESS CENSUS SEVEN-YEAR TREND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3,247</td>
<td>3,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,539</td>
<td>2,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,280</td>
<td>4,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3,107</td>
<td>3,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,906</td>
<td>2,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHELTERED INCLUDES:**

- 20% Emergency Shelter
- 14% Transitional Housing

**UNSHELTERED INCLUDES:**

- 29% On the street
- 7% Abandoned buildings
- 20% Cars/ Vans/ RVs
- 10% Encampment Areas

**AGE**

- Under 18: 11%
- 18-24: 20%
- 25+: 69%

**GENDER**

- Men: 67%
- Women: 32%
- Transgender: 1%

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

- White: 62%
- Multi-racial: 20%
- Black or African American: 8%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 8%

**FOSTER CARE**

- (respondents that have ever been in the system)
- 19%

**HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- 28% of respondents

**FIRST TIME HOMELESSNESS**

- Yes: 35%
- No: 65%

- 28% of those experiencing homelessness for the first time had been homeless for one year or more

**DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS**

- 8% 30 days or less
- 39% 1-11 months
- 53% 1 year or more

**RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS**

- Sonoma County: 82%

**LENGTH OF TIME IN SONOMA COUNTY**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 year</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4 years</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 years</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years or more</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING**

- Couldn't afford rent: 67%
- No job/income: 52%
- No housing availability: 24%
- No money for moving costs: 24%
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.

52% of survey respondents reported a disabling condition.

HEALTH CONDITIONS
- Drug or alcohol abuse (42%)
- Psychiatric or emotional conditions (39%)
- Physical disability (20%)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (26%)
- Chronic health problems (28%)
- Traumatic brain injury (13%)
- AIDS/HIV related (4%)

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

INCARCERATION
35% spent at least 1 night in jail in the past 12 months.

INCOME

75% of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would want safe, affordable permanent housing were it available.

YES!

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

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

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

74% of respondents reported receiving government benefits

26% reported they were NOT receiving any government benefits

SUBPOPULATION DATA

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
- 699 Individuals
- 21% Sheltered
- 79% Unsheltered

VETERANS
- 274 Individuals
- 20% Sheltered
- 80% Unsheltered

FAMILIES
- 156 Families with 389 members
- 95% Sheltered
- 5% Unsheltered

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN
- 97 Individuals
- 0% Sheltered
- 100% Unsheltered

TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH
- 566 Individuals
- 11% Sheltered
- 89% Unsheltered

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.

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

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

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

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

SUMMARY

These data provide a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness in Sonoma County on January 29, 2016. 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.

For more detail or to view the comprehensive report, please visit www.appliedsurveyresearch.org.