

# Sacramento Homeless Count 2013

## Count and Survey Report

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*Prepared for*

Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency

In partnership with  
Sacramento Steps Forward

*By*

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**Focus Strategies** assists communities and organizations to reduce and end homelessness through systems of care analysis, planning, and policy and data analysis. Research and analysis areas of expertise include systems evaluation, performance measurement, resource investment for maximum impact, HMIS technical assistance, and homeless counts. For questions about this report, contact Megan Kurteff Schatz, Principal, at [megan@focusstrategies.net](mailto:megan@focusstrategies.net) or 916-949-9619.

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## Executive Summary

On any given night in Sacramento County, 2,538 people are homeless and about 4,998 people are homeless over the course of a year. Homeless people in Sacramento County are diverse: young and old, men and women, chronic and episodically homeless persons and families. Despite their differences, each homeless person is in need of safe and permanent housing. The 2013 Point-in-Time Count is a result of the commitment of Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency leadership, Sacramento Steps Forward, service providers, volunteers, and homeless people themselves.

By counting and surveying homeless people throughout the County, including those on the streets, in vehicles and in shelters, the Point-in-Time Count provides the only population data on literal homelessness in the community. This report represents the fifth such report in six years, and includes this year's results along with trend information since the last count and, where appropriate, over the last six years. The goal of these comparisons and presentations is to take a broader look at homelessness in Sacramento County.

Sacramento County's homeless population has shifted in size and some characteristics of the population have changed over the last six years. From 2007 – 2013, the big picture trends are promising. The 2013 count shows that homeless people comprise 0.17% of the total population of Sacramento County, continuing the downward trend from 2009 to 2011 (0.20% to 0.17%) after slight increases each year starting in 2007.<sup>1</sup> Given the size, density and income distribution in the County, this estimate is congruent with national figures and provides a reference point for 2013 results. Table 1 below shows the changes in the homeless population in Sacramento County since 2007.

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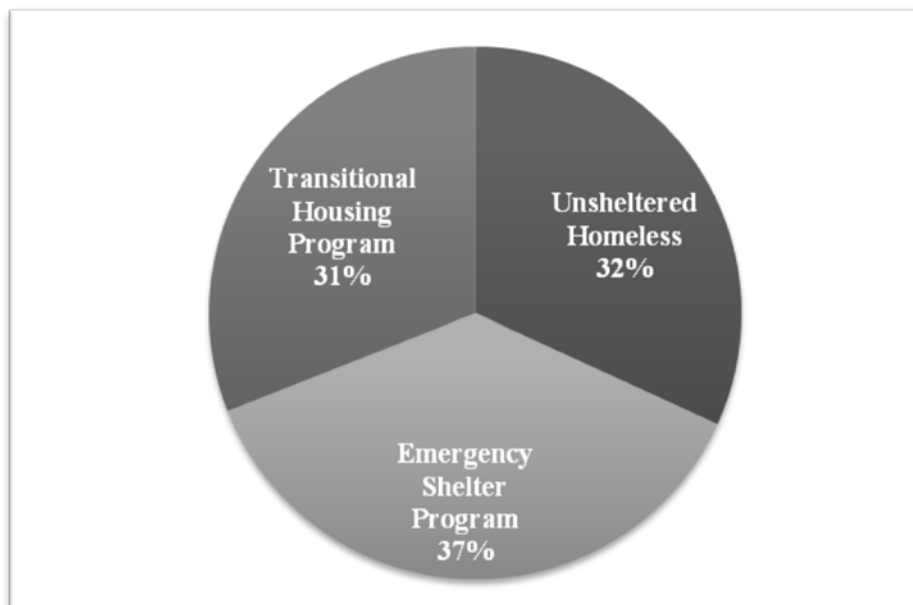
<sup>1</sup> Calculated using historic point-in-time count data and population data for Sacramento County from the 2012 CA Department of Transportation Economic Forecast. The California Economic Forecast. (2012, October). *California County Level Economic Forecast 2012-2040*. Retrieved June 3, 2013, from <http://www.dot.ca.gov>.

Table 1: Sacramento Homeless Population, 2007 – 2013

Year	Countywide Population	Homeless Population					
		Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	% of County Population
2007	1,388,086	1,447	59%	1,005	41%	2,452	0.18%
2008	1,400,939	1,412	53%	1,266	47%	2,678	0.19%
2009	1,411,403	1,606	57%	1,194	43%	2,800	0.20%
2011	1,430,537	1,403	59%	955	41%	2,358	0.16%
2013	1,460,215	1,752	69%	786	31%	2,538	0.17%

While the total homeless population has seen slight increases and decreases over time, unsheltered homelessness has steadily decreased by over 200 people since 2007, a 22% overall reduction. Of the 2,538 homeless persons counted in Sacramento County, approximately 31% are unsheltered and 69% are sheltered, whereas the national average is 40% unsheltered and 60% sheltered.<sup>2</sup>

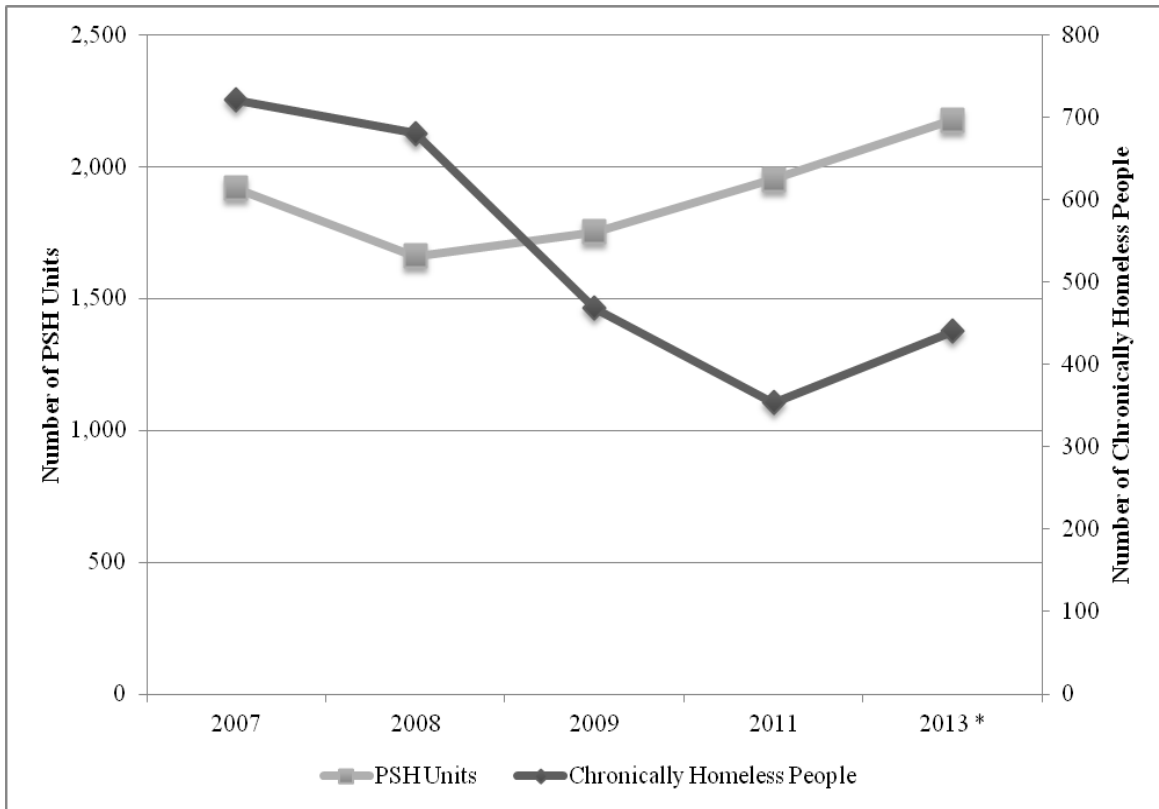
Figure 1: 2013 Homeless Population by Current Living Situation



<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2012 November). *Volume 1 of the 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report*.

In 2007, almost 30% of the homeless population was chronically homeless; in 2013, this dropped to 17%. The decline in chronically homeless persons is shown in Figure 2 in relation to the creation of new permanent supportive housing units in Sacramento.

Figure 2: Chronically Homeless Persons and PSH Units, 2007 – 2013



*\*PSH figures for 2013 are units on line as of the 2012 Housing Inventory Chart.*

In addition to providing an accurate count of the numbers of people experiencing homelessness at a given point in time, the count provides a deeper look into who is living homeless in Sacramento County. The results are sobering, but hopeful:

- 31% of homeless people in Sacramento County are unsheltered;
- 13% of homeless households include a minor child;
- 17% of homeless individuals are chronically homeless;
- 27% of homeless individuals are living with severe mental illness.

These figures, along with others presented in this report, are intended to help Sacramento County better respond to the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Several federal initiatives and requirements are calling for communities to shift from a homeless crisis system to a housing crisis resolution system. These systems will include measuring performance, funding what works, and delivering the needed amount of each intervention and program type. Homeless count data about population and characteristics are key pieces of the information needed to develop and right-size such a system.



## 1. Introduction to the Point-in-Time Count

At least once every two years the Sacramento community undertakes an effort to enumerate all of the people who are homeless within the county on a given evening. This effort, known as the Homeless Point-in-Time Count (Count), is congressionally-mandated for all communities that receive U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding for homeless programs. HUD's requirement includes a count of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless people, as well as the frequency of certain subpopulation characteristics among the homeless population. HUD requires that the Count be conducted during the last ten days in January. This year, the Sacramento Count was held on January 24. This is the fifth such count conducted in Sacramento since 2007.

The sheltered portion of the Count is extracted from data in the County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), operated by Sacramento Steps Forward, and includes all persons who occupied an emergency shelter or transitional housing bed on the night of the Count. The unsheltered portion of the Count is based on a one-evening count and survey, described below.

In addition to this report, Sacramento Steps Forward will publish a 2013 Homeless Count key findings & policy implications report highlighting the major findings of the 2013 Count and putting them in the context of local efforts to reduce homelessness. This more detailed companion report describes the methodology used to develop the estimates of the unsheltered population and complete the necessary tables for submission to HUD, provides explanation of the analytical and statistical processes used to establish the final totals, places the results in a national and regional context, and presents the full results.

## 2. Methodology and Background Information

The 2013 Sacramento County Point-in-Time Count is a public places count with sampling methodology, which is one of only two general methodologies appropriate for a jurisdiction of the size and urbanization of Sacramento County.<sup>3</sup> The public places with sampling methodology counts visibly homeless people in public places and then uses a statistical process to account for the geography not visited on the night of the count. The Sacramento County also integrates an interview of counted people to extrapolate characteristics of the unsheltered population.

Typically, homeless count enumerations undercount homeless people, because it is not possible to locate and count everyone (for example, people may be inside abandoned buildings, commercial buildings, or terrain too rough to cover completely on foot). Some homeless people may live and function entirely outside the knowledge of law enforcement, soup kitchens, or homeless services; these people are likely to not be counted during a one-day count using any methodology. An advantage to the geographic sampling methodology is that there is some information available about the extent of likely undercount from this methodology. In 2006, New York City conducted a study designed to test the accuracy of the geographic sampling methodology; they found that this approach successfully counted 85% of the total unsheltered homeless population during the Point-in-Time count.<sup>4</sup>

In the methodology used in Sacramento County since 2007, detailed information on known sleeping locations for homeless people is collected from local stakeholders and map boundaries are drawn to capture these spots and the areas immediately surrounding these locations. Each area was designated as a high-density or low-density area based on the density of homeless people expected to be found. High density areas were those areas that are likely to have at least 10 homeless people at the time of the count and can be fully

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<sup>3</sup>The other is a service-site based two stage cluster sample design, such as used by Alameda County. *Methodology and Background Information* [web log post]. Retrieved June 3, 2013 from [http://www.everyonehome.org/resources\\_homeless\\_count11\\_meth.html](http://www.everyonehome.org/resources_homeless_count11_meth.html).

<sup>4</sup>*HOPE 2008: The NYC Street Survey*. (n.d.). Retrieved June 3, 2013 from [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/downloads/pdf/hope08\\_results.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/downloads/pdf/hope08_results.pdf).

covered by a team during the count timeframe; the remainder of the areas was designated low density.

Trained volunteers were sent to all of the high density areas and to a representative sample of low density areas. Additional efforts were made in Sacramento County to count and survey homeless people along the riverbanks by sending larger ground Count teams to these areas and with aerial support from a Count team flying over in a helicopter. After the Count, a statistical process is applied to the count of the low density sample areas to account for areas not covered, and added to the count of the high; the sum is the countywide unsheltered Count.

Using the data from the street Count, the total derived number of unsheltered individuals for 2013 reported to HUD is 786. A total of 735 persons and sleeping locations (e.g. tents or vehicles) were observed during the count. A valid statistical technique was applied to the tally observed to generate an estimate of the total unsheltered population. The total number reported is higher than those directly observed because the methodology extrapolation process adds people for the lower density areas of the County that could not be covered. Only 51 people were added to the Count as a result of this process, reflecting a relatively low number of areas not surveyed by Count teams and a low number of homeless people in low density areas.

Concurrent with the Count, surveys were administered to counted persons (adults only) who were awake, willing, and able to participate. The survey collected additional information on where the respondent was living, demographics for the respondent and his/her family, disabilities, and the length of time that the person had been homeless. In the analysis, only unsheltered respondents were included (subpopulation data on sheltered homeless is collected separately in the sheltered portion of the count). The survey data was cleaned and used to establish the proportions of the unsheltered homeless population that meets the various subpopulation characteristics. Detailed information about how the data was parsed and analyzed is presented in Appendix D. These proportions are then projected across the

whole counted population, to compute the Count of unsheltered homeless persons in each subpopulation.

### 3. Presentation of the Data

In the 2011 report, many analyses were presented as tables with the number of people or households for each population or subpopulation, the percent of the population that was sheltered versus unsheltered, and the percentage change from 2009 to 2011. Many of the analyses in this report match those presentations. However, this year's report also includes:

- Population trend information, placing changes in the homeless population in the context of the population overall;
- Some analyses presented as increases or decreases in percentage points – more information included in the section below; and
- Trend information showing trends in homelessness over the last 6 years.

#### *Percent Change & Percentage Point Differences (Fun with Math)*

This report includes many presentations of “Percent Change” and many others as “Percentage Point Differences”. Each presentation was selected to provide the most meaningful information.

#### Percent Change

Percent change is the ratio of two values (new minus old, divided by old). This calculation simply looks at whether the number of people with a particular characteristic has changed since a prior count. For example, the total number of homeless persons with HIV/AIDS (Table 19, page 31) in 2011 was 50 and in 2013 was 39. The percent change, then is:

$$(39 - 50) \div 50 = -22\%$$

Percent change is a relative change – in this case, the number of persons who are homeless with HIV/AIDS decreased relative to the number of homeless people with HIV/AIDS in 2011. However, the proportion of the total homeless population with HIV/AIDS is relatively small, so this may not be the most meaningful comparison.

If the main point of a table or figure is to show a change from a prior count to the current count within living situations (shelter, transitional housing, and/or unsheltered people), then percent change in values is typically the appropriate calculation, because this is a comparison of one number to a prior number. For example, the number of people in emergency shelter was 584 in 2011 and 808 in 2013, or a percent change of -38%.

### Percentage Point Difference

This calculation shows differences in a given subpopulation from one Count to another in proportion to the total homeless population or total adult unsheltered homeless population. The change in proportion is calculated by the current Count proportion minus prior Count proportion. In many cases, it is more useful to examine change in this way. Looking again at the change in homeless people with HIV/AIDs (Table 19, page 31), the percent point difference is:

$$1.5\% - 2.1\% = -.6 \text{ percentage points}$$

Percentage of the total, or percentage point difference, is absolute change in the population – in this case, the rate of people with HIV/AIDS who are homeless increased in the homeless population overall by about one percentage point.

### Use and Implications

Both percent change and percent point difference of the population are useful calculations, and both have merit, depending on the relationship being analyzed. Because this report is set in the context of six years of homeless count data, many of the results are shown as percentage point changes so that relative changes within the homeless population are evident. In cases where the actual numeric changes or percent change best show the meaning of results, those data points are presented.

In order to help orient the reader, when percentage point change is used in a table, those columns are highlighted in orange. When percent point difference is used, those columns are highlighted in red.

## 4. Summary of Results

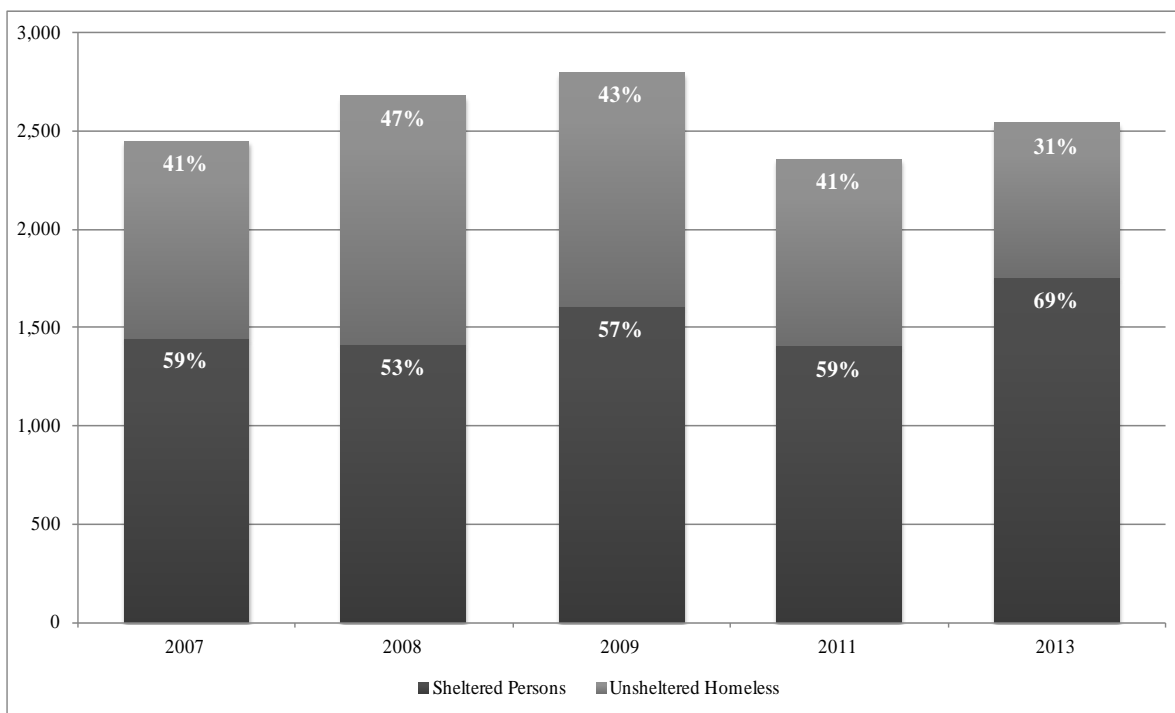
The 2013 Homeless Count answers the questions, “**How many homeless people are there in Sacramento County and what are some of their key characteristics?**” In January 2013, the Homeless Count and Survey found that 2,538 people experience homelessness in Sacramento County on any given night. It is also estimated that 4,998 people experience homelessness over the course of a year (refer to Appendix F for more information about the annual estimate and changes to this estimate since 2011).

The homeless population increased by 180 people from the 2011 count and by 86 people since the first count in 2007. However, this summary figure does not tell the whole story. The unsheltered homeless population decreased from 2011 to 2013 from 955 to 786 people, which is a meaningful reduction in unsheltered homelessness of almost 18%. Since 2007, the unsheltered homeless population has declined by 23% and the sheltered count increased from 1,447 to 1,752, an increase of 22%.

Table 2: Percent Change of All Homeless People by Current Living Situation, 2007 - 2013

<u>Current Living Situation</u>	2007	2008	2009	2011	2013	# Change, '07-'13	Percent Change, '07-'13
Emergency Shelter Programs	709	730	711	584	808	99	17.0%
Transitional Housing Programs	738	682	895	819	944	206	25.2%
<i>Subtotal Sheltered Persons</i>	<i>1,447</i>	<i>1,412</i>	<i>1,606</i>	<i>1,403</i>	<i>1,752</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>21.7%</i>
Unsheltered Homeless	1,005	1,266	1,194	955	786	-219	-22.9%
<b><i>ALL HOMELESS PEOPLE</i></b>	<b><i>2,452</i></b>	<b><i>2,678</i></b>	<b><i>2,800</i></b>	<b><i>2,358</i></b>	<b><i>2,538</i></b>	<b><i>86</i></b>	<b><i>3.6%</i></b>

**Figure 3: Change in Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2007 – 2013**



Roughly one third of the homeless population is in a household that consists of at least one adult and one minor child. People in unaccompanied children households, (households where all persons are 17 or younger,) are less than half of one percent of the total homeless population. People in households without minor children represent about 68% of the homeless population.

**Table 3: Homeless Population by Household Type**

	Number of People	Percent of all Homeless Persons
Households with at least one adult and one child under 18	801	31.6%
Households with only children under 18	8	0.3%
Households without children under 18	1,729	68.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



All but 5 of the 801 people in a household with at least one adult and one minor child are sheltered in either an emergency shelter program or a transitional housing program. Overall, 39% of people in family households are adults and 61% are children; this proportion carries through to both shelter and transitional housing programs.

Table 4: Children and Adults in Family Households by Living Situation

	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Unsheltered		Total	
<b>ALL PERSONS IN FAMILIES</b>	<b>373</b>		<b>423</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>801</b>	
<i>As a % of all homeless people</i>	<i>15%</i>		<i>17%</i>		<i>0.2%</i>		<i>31.6%</i>	
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Adults</b>	134	36%	173	41%	1	20%	308	38%
<b>Children</b>	239	64%	250	59%	4	80%	493	62%

More detailed tables with information about important characteristics of the homeless population are in Sections 6 and 7, “Key Findings” and “Demographics of Unsheltered Adults”.

## 5. Regional and National Context

The 2013 Sacramento County Point-in-Time Count of homeless persons is one piece in a larger effort to understand and plan for programs to assist the homeless in Sacramento County. Sacramento's homeless population and trends, presented in detail in sections 6 and 7 of this report, can best be understood in the context of national and regional homeless population counts and changes over time.

### *Comparison to Regional and National Data*

Considering the proportion of homeless persons in areas immediately surrounding Sacramento County, the 2013 results, while different than previous years, may be in line with decreasing count trends seen in California communities. The homeless counts of counties in California, their relative percent of the overall county population and countywide income and poverty information is shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: California County Homeless Counts: 2011 to 2013

	2011 Population	2011 PIT Count	% of People Homeless 2011	2013 Population	2013 PIT Count	% of People Homeless 2013		2007-2011 Median HH Income	% of Pop. Below Poverty
<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>1,430,537</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>1,460,215</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>0.17%</b>	↑	<b>\$56,553</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
<b>Alameda</b>	1,525,655	4,178	0.27%	1,546,108	4,264	0.28%	↑	\$70,821	11.8%
<b>Contra Costa</b>	1,061,132	4,274	0.40%	1,079,300	3,798	0.35%	↓	\$79,135	9.9%
<b>Marin</b>	254,114	886	0.35%	256,656	703	0.27%	↓	\$89,605	7.2%
<b>Orange *</b>	3,043,964	6,939	0.23%	3,096,336	4,251	0.14%	↓	\$75,762	10.9%
<b>Riverside</b>	2,226,552	4,321	0.19%	2,307,191	2,978	0.13%	↓	\$58,365	14.2%
<b>San Bernardino</b>	2,059,630	2,816	0.14%	2,106,217	2,321	0.11%	↓	\$55,853	16.0%
<b>San Diego</b>	3,131,254	9,020	0.29%	3,186,188	8,900	0.28%	↓	\$63,857	13.0%
<b>San Francisco **</b>	814,088	6,455	0.79%	826,754	6,436	0.78%	↓	\$72,947	12.3%
<b>San Mateo</b>	725,245	1,926	0.27%	732,324	1,995	0.27%	↑	\$87,633	7.0%
<b>Santa Barbara</b>	425,840	1,576	0.37%	430,882	1,462	0.34%	↓	\$61,896	14.2%
<b>Stanislaus</b>	518,481	1,409	0.27%	529,660	1,201	0.23%	↓	\$50,671	18.0%
<b>Ventura</b>	830,215	1,872	0.23%	841,591	1,715	0.20%	↓	\$76,728	9.9%

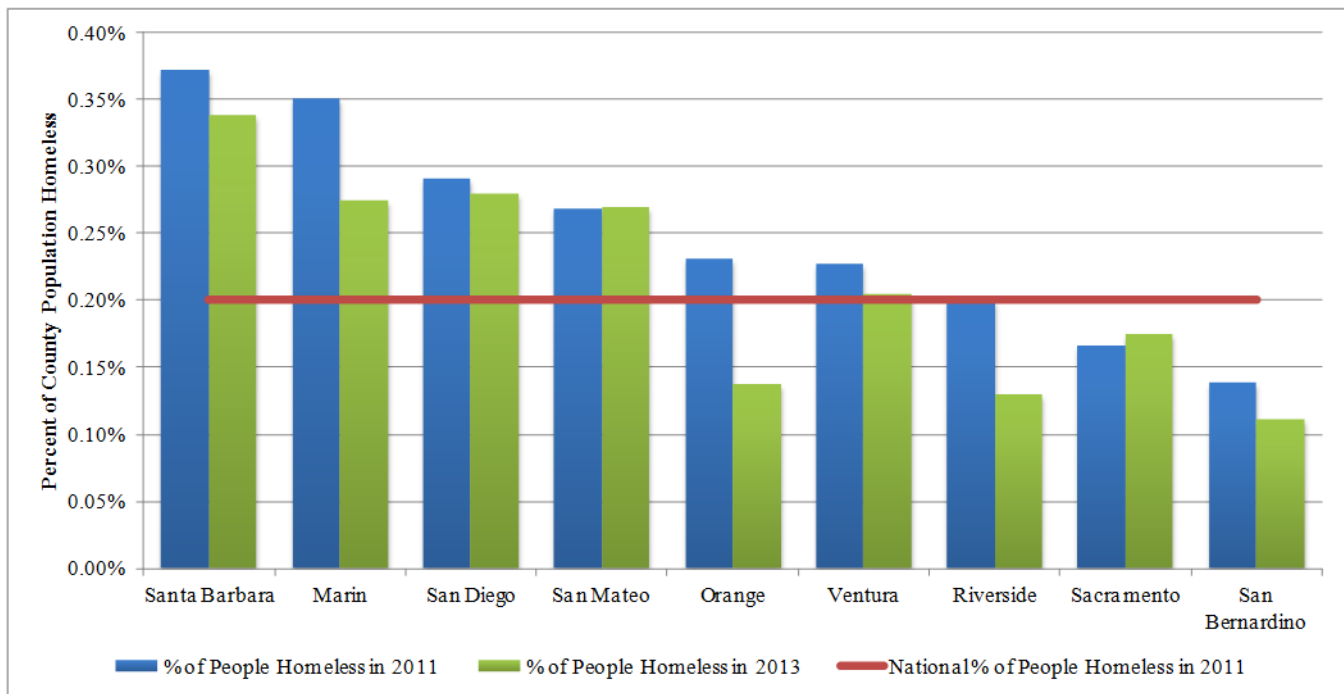
\* In 2013, the Orange County count methodology changed significantly, so the change from the count in '11 to '13 is not meaningful.

\*\* Note that San Francisco's Count includes people in jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers.

In general, communities with higher incomes had lower rates of homelessness in 2011 than communities with lower incomes, and this trend is holding for those communities reporting 2013 figures.

Figure 4 below shows that most communities in California that reported 2013 point-in-time results have seen declines in their homeless population as a percentage of overall population since 2011. While Sacramento saw a slight increase in the overall homeless population since 2011, the homeless rate is still well below the national average.

**Figure 4: Changes in Homeless Rates in California Counties, 2011-2013**



In 2011, at any Point-in-Time, there were 636,017 homeless people in the United States, or 0.2% of the total population.<sup>5</sup> Throughout the country, the homelessness rate varied widely from state to state and even among counties within states from as low as .08% to as high as .45% of the state population. The Sacramento County count has been and remains within this national range. California's rate of homelessness for 2011 was .36%; however this is inclusive of Los Angeles and San Francisco, which have homeless rates within the top ten of

<sup>5</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2012 January). See "The State of Homelessness in America 2012" from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, [http://b3cdn.net/naeh/9892745b6de8a5ef59\\_q2m6yc53b.pdf](http://b3cdn.net/naeh/9892745b6de8a5ef59_q2m6yc53b.pdf) for the count of homeless persons in 2011 and the US Census, <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-01.pdf> for the total population count in 2010.

all large US metropolitan areas.<sup>6</sup> The 2011 Sacramento County homeless count estimated a count of homeless persons of approximately .17% of the total population. The 2013 count is also in line with the national average, at .18% of the total population.

Table 6: Comparison of Sacramento County Homelessness to Homelessness Nationally<sup>7</sup>

	Percent of Population Homeless
<b>United States, 2011</b>	0.20%
<b>Sacramento County, 2011</b>	0.16%
<b>Sacramento County, 2013</b>	<b>0.17%</b>

### *Department of Education Homeless Count by Comparison*

The estimates and comparisons to national and regional figures above consider only counts of homeless people as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The HUD definition of homelessness for the purpose of homeless counts includes only people who are literally homeless – living unsheltered on the streets, in a vehicle or another place not fit for human habitation or in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. Persons living in institutional settings, including jail, prison and hospitals are not considered homeless, regardless of where they were living upon entering and regardless of where they will go upon release. Also excluded from the HUD definition are persons precariously housed, such as those who are “couch surfing” or living in motels.

Another commonly cited count of homelessness comes from the Federal Department of Education (DOE), which requires local education agencies to develop estimates of the numbers of homeless children and their families. While 2013 numbers are not yet available, in 2012, the Sacramento County Department of Education reported a total of 11,772 homeless children in the community. Unlike the HUD definitions, Department of Education

<sup>6</sup> [http://b.3cdn.net/naeh/9892745b6de8a5ef59\\_q2m6yc53b.pdf](http://b.3cdn.net/naeh/9892745b6de8a5ef59_q2m6yc53b.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Population figures for Sacramento County from the 2012 CA Department of Transportation Socio-Economic Forecast, [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/eab/socio\\_economic.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/eab/socio_economic.html)

numbers include people who are precariously housed – including those doubled up due to economic hardship. While precariously housed people certainly are struggling with poverty and housing instability, they are not without housing. The goal of HUD’s homeless count is to quantify the number of households who are literally homeless. The DOE count aims to enumerate the children in families whose education is impacted by housing instability and homelessness.

Both the counts are valid approaches to understanding the needs of special populations; however, given the different goals, methods and purposes, the different data points are not comparable. The Sacramento County Point-in-Time Homeless Count purposefully limits its scope to those who are literally homeless in a single 24-hour period and for whom housing is a measurable and specific solution.

## 6. Key Findings

The results of the Count and survey allow for a better understanding of who is experiencing homelessness in Sacramento County. At its core, the Count provides data as required by HUD to enumerate and describe the homeless population in the community. HUD requires this data in a two-part table about the local homeless population as part of the community's annual application for federal homeless funds. Part 1 of the table enumerates the Point-In-Time population, broken down by household type and by those that are sheltered and are unsheltered. Sheltered persons are those staying in an emergency shelter or transitional housing site the night before the unsheltered count. Data for those sheltered persons comes from the HMIS or from surveys provided by shelters and transitional housing programs who are not participating in HMIS.

Tables 7 and 8 below show the Point-in-Time enumeration and population characteristics as required by HUD. Tables 9 through 20 then show a more detailed analysis of these results, comparing them between household types and housing situations for a richer discussion.

Table 7: Part 1 of HUDs Final Table 2013

<b>Part 1: 2013 Homeless Populations</b>					
	Sheltered			Unsheltered	<i><b>TOTAL</b></i>
<b><u>Persons in Households with at least one Adult and one Child</u></b>	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Number of Households	108	140	0	1	<i><b>249</b></i>
Number of Persons (Adults and Children)	373	423	0	5	<i><b>801</b></i>
Number of Persons (Age 18 or under)	239	250	0	4	<i><b>493</b></i>
Number of Persons (Age 18 to 24)	28	57	0	0	<i><b>85</b></i>
Number of Persons (Over Age 24)	106	116	0	1	<i><b>223</b></i>
<b><u>Persons in Households with only Children</u></b>					
Number of Households	4	0	0	2	<i><b>6</b></i>
Number of One-Child Households	4	0	0	1	<i><b>5</b></i>
Number of Multi-Child Households	0	0	0	1	<i><b>1</b></i>
Number of Children in Multi-Child Households	0	0	0	3	<i><b>3</b></i>
<b>Subtotal Households with Children</b>					
	<b>112</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<i><b>255</b></i>
<b>Subtotal Persons in Households with Children</b>					
	<b>377</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<i><b>809</b></i>
<b><u>Persons in Households without Children</u></b>					
Number of Households	410	460	0	721	<i><b>1,591</b></i>
Number of Persons (Adults)	431	521	0	777	<i><b>1,729</b></i>
Number of Persons (Age 18 to 24)	14	73	0	54	<i><b>141</b></i>
Number of Persons (Over Age 24)	417	448	0	723	<i><b>1,588</b></i>
<b><u>All Households/All persons</u></b>					
<b><i>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</i></b>	<i><b>522</b></i>	<i><b>600</b></i>	<i><b>0</b></i>	<i><b>724</b></i>	<i><b>1,846</b></i>
<b><i>TOTAL PERSONS</i></b>	<i><b>808</b></i>	<i><b>944</b></i>	<i><b>0</b></i>	<i><b>786</b></i>	<i><b>2,538</b></i>

Part two of the HUD-required table (Table 8 below) provides information about the number of persons in specific homeless subpopulations, again broken down by sheltered and unsheltered. Information about sheltered homeless persons is extracted from the HMIS, while subpopulation information about unsheltered persons is derived from the street Count surveys, as described in Appendix H.

Table 8: Part 2 of HUDs Final Table 2013

<b>Part 2: 2013 Homeless Subpopulations</b>			
	Sheltered*	Unsheltered	<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>
Chronically Homeless Individuals	147	285	<b>432</b>
Chronically Homeless Families	3	0	<b>3</b>
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	8	0	<b>8</b>
Veterans	166	136	<b>302</b>
Female Veterans	18	3	<b>21</b>
Severely Mentally Ill	351	326	<b>677</b>
Chronic Substance Abuse	523	470	<b>993</b>
Persons with HIV/AIDS	15	24	<b>39</b>
Victims of Domestic Violence	220	284	<b>504</b>

*\*Includes persons in emergency shelters and transitional housing, except chronic homeless individuals and families includes only persons in emergency shelters.*

### *Comparison of Persons by Household Type and Living Situation*

There were 180 additional homelessness people counted in 2013 than in 2011. While persons in households without children have seen a miniscule increase, persons in households with at least one adult and one child increased by almost 200 people.



Table 9: Change in Number of All Homeless People by Household Type

<u>Household Type</u>	<b>Total (All Homeless People)</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b># Change</b>
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child	604	801	197
Persons in households with only children	27	8	-19
<b>Subtotal persons in households with children</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>178</b>
Persons in households without (minor) children	1,727	1,729	2
<b>TOTAL PERSONS</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>180</b>

Table 10 shows the distribution of persons in emergency shelters by household type. The proportion of homeless persons overall in emergency shelters has increased only slightly since 2011, by seven percentage points. As was the case in 2011, the population in shelters is almost evenly split between people in households with children and people in households without children, although 2013 saw a slight increase in people in households without children. It is important to note that the Winter Sanctuary program held 97 of those individuals in 2013; Winter Sanctuary was classified as unsheltered in 2011.

Table 10: Homeless People in Emergency Shelters by Household Type

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>% Point Difference</b>	
<b>TOTAL PERSONS IN EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAMS</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>7.07</b>	
<i>As % of total homeless population</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>32%</i>		
<b><u>Household Type</u></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Persons in households with children	297	51%	377	47%
Persons in households without (minor) children	287	49%	431	53%

While the overall proportion of homeless people in transitional housing programs has only increased slightly since 2011 (2.46 percentage points), the distribution of people in households with children has increased from 38% to 45% of the transitional housing population. Since 2011, a new transitional housing program for families was open with over 100 new beds.

**Table 11: Homeless People in Transitional Housing by Household Type**

	2011	2013	% Point Difference	
<b>TOTAL PERSONS IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>2.46</b>	
<i>As % of all homeless persons</i>	35%	37%		
<b>Household Type</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Persons in households with children</b>	309	38%	423	45%
<b>Persons in households without (minor)</b>	510	62%	521	55%

The proportion of homeless persons living unsheltered has declined by almost ten percentage points. However, the population remains predominantly adults, with only nine unsheltered people counted in households including children.

**Table 12: Change in Proportion of Unsheltered Homeless People by Household Type**

	2011	2013	% Point Difference	
<b>TOTAL UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PERSONS</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>-9.53</b>	
<i>As % of all homeless persons</i>	41%	31%		
<b>Household Type</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Persons in households with children</b>	25	3%	9	1%
<b>Persons in households without (minor) children</b>	930	97%	777	99%

While the tables above accurately show the number of people in different homeless situations, solutions to homelessness are at the household level. The 2,538 homeless people were counted in 1,846 households, including households with and without children. Table 13 below shows the distribution of household types by homeless living situation. Overall, 86% of homeless households are adult only households; of the 255 households that include a minor child, only three were unsheltered.

**Table 13: Homeless Households by Living Situation**

	Emergency Shelters		Transitional Housing		Unsheltered		Total	
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>522</b>		<b>600</b>		<b>724</b>		<b>1,846</b>	
<i>As % of all Homeless Households</i>	<b>28%</b>		<b>33%</b>		<b>39%</b>		<b>100%</b>	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult Only Households	410	79%	460	77%	721	100%	1,591	86%
Adult(s) & Child(ren) Households	108	21%	140	23%	1	0.1%	249	13%
Child Only Households	4	0.8%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%	6	0.3%

### *Chronic Homelessness*

Tables 14 through 15 examine the proportion of homeless persons and households that meet the HUD definition for chronically homeless. A chronically homeless individual is defined as an adult with a disabling condition who has been homeless (sheltered or unsheltered) for at least twelve consecutive months OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.<sup>8</sup> A chronically homeless family is composed of at least one adult and one child under 18 years old. In other words, an adult-only family that meets the disabling condition and length/episodes of homelessness criteria is *not* considered a chronically homeless family because there are no children under 18 in the family.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2007 September). *Defining Chronic Homelessness: A Technical Guide for HUD Programs*. Retrieved June 3, 2013 from <https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/DefiningChronicHomeless.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (25 January 2011). *The 2011 Point-in-Time Count of Homeless People: Frequently Asked Questions*. Retrieved June 3, 2013 from [http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2011PIT\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2011PIT_FAQs.pdf)

Since 2007, there has been a decrease in chronically homeless individuals by over twelve percentage points. The distribution of chronically homeless individuals among emergency shelters and unsheltered living situations has remained constant over time; in 2013 66% of chronically homeless individuals were unsheltered and 34% sheltered.

**Table 14: Change in Chronically Homeless Individuals by Living Situation '07-'13**

	2007		2008		2009		2011		2013		% Point Difference, 2007-2013
<b>TOTAL CHRONICALLY HOMELESS</b>	718		700		468		353		432		<b>-12.28</b>
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	29%		26%		17%		15%		17%		
<b>Living Situation</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
<b>Sheltered *</b>	215	30%	258	37%	191	41%	111	31%	147	34%	
<b>Unsheltered</b>	503	70%	442	63%	277	59%	242	69%	285	66%	

There were three chronically homeless families counted in emergency shelters; and none unsheltered. In 2011, there were no chronically homeless families accounted for in either emergency shelters or on the streets. Refer to Appendix D (Table 28) for further clarification of the chronically homeless family process to reach the below results.

Table 15: Proportion of Chronically Homeless Families by Current Living Situation

	Count of Families - 2011		Count of Families - 2013		% Point Difference
<b>TOTAL CH FAMILIES</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>		
<i>As % of all HHs</i>	<i>0.00%</i>		<i>0.16%</i>		
<b>Current Living Situation</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Sheltered **	0	0.0%	3	100.0%	
Unsheltered	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	

\*\*For all subpopulations (except chronically homeless individuals and families), “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

### *Other Homeless Subpopulations*

In addition to reporting on the number of people and households who are chronically homeless, HUD requires communities to examine the number of homeless veterans (including female veterans), and the numbers of homeless experiencing severe mental illness, chronic substance abuse, HIV/AIDs, and domestic violence. Tables 16 through 20 present the subpopulations by living situation.

Table 16 shows a very small decline in the number and percent of homeless veterans among the overall homeless population (less than one percentage point) from 2011 to 2013. More than half (55%) of homeless veterans are sheltered and 45% are unsheltered.

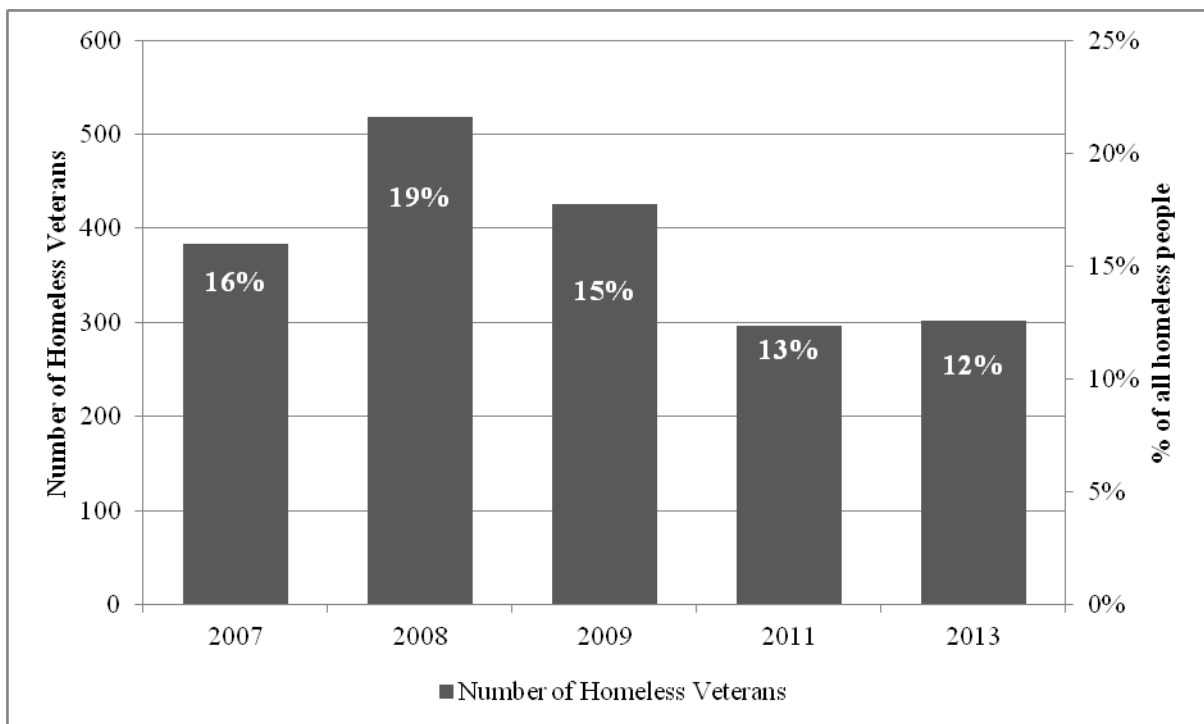
Table 16: Change in Homeless Veteran Population by Current Living Situation

	2011		2013		% Point Difference
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS VETERANS</b>	<b>297</b>		<b>302</b>		<b>-0.69</b>
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	<i>12.6%</i>		<i>11.9%</i>		
<b>Current Living Situation</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Sheltered*	116	39%	166	55%	
Unsheltered	181	61%	136	45%	

\*For all subpopulations (except chronically homeless individuals and families), “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

While the numbers of homeless veterans declined only slightly since 2011, Figure 6 below shows the decline in this population, both in raw numbers and as a percent of all homeless people since 2007.

Figure 5: Change in Homeless Veteran Population, 2007 – 2013



The number of severely mentally ill homeless people in 2013 increased, by less than 1 percentage point, from 2011. More than half (52%) of the homeless people living with severe mental illness are sheltered; the remaining 48% are unsheltered.

**Table 17: Change in Proportion of Severely Mentally Ill by Current Living Situation**

	2011		2013		% Point Difference
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH SMI</b>	<b>619</b>		<b>677</b>		<b>0.4</b>
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	<b>26%</b>		<b>27%</b>		
<b>Current Living Situation</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Sheltered*	310	50%	351	52%	
Unsheltered	309	50%	326	48%	

\*For all subpopulations (except chronically homeless individuals and families), “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

There are 993 homeless people who are living with chronic substance abuse issues, a slight increase of almost two percentage points since 2011. 523 of those individuals live in shelters, while 470 are unsheltered.

**Table 18: Change in Proportion of Chronic Substance Abuse by Current Living Situation**

	2011		2013		% Point Difference
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH CSA</b>	<b>967</b>		<b>993</b>		<b>-1.9</b>
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	<b>41%</b>		<b>39%</b>		
<b>Current Living Situation</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Sheltered*	590	61%	523	53%	
Unsheltered	377	39%	470	47%	

\*For all subpopulations (except chronically homeless individuals and families), “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

Just under two thirds of the homeless population with HIV/AIDS lives in an unsheltered environment. The remaining third live in either an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. The total population of persons with HIV/AIDS is relatively unchanged since 2011.

**Table 19: Change in Proportion of Persons with HIV/AIDS by Current Living Situation**

	2011		2013		% Point Difference
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS</b>	50		39		
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	2.1%		1.5%		
<b><u>Current Living Situation</u></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Sheltered*	20	40.0%	15	38.4%	
Unsheltered	30	60.0%	24	61.6%	

\*For all subpopulations (except chronically homeless individuals and families), “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

The proportion of the homeless population who are survivors of domestic violence has decreased slightly since 2011. A little more than half, or 56%, of the domestic violence survivors are unsheltered and 44% are sheltered.



**Table 20: Change in Proportion of Domestic Violence Survivors by Current Living Situation**

	2011		2013		% Point Difference
<b>TOTAL SURVIVORS OF DV</b>	<b>516</b>		<b>504</b>		<b>-2.0</b>
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	<b>22%</b>		<b>20%</b>		
<b><u>Current Living Situation</u></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Sheltered*	199	39%	220	44%	
Unsheltered	317	61%	284	56%	

\*For all subpopulations (except chronically homeless individuals and families), “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

## 7. Demographics of Unsheltered Adults

Tables Twenty-one through twenty-five provide demographic data on age, gender, race and ethnicity of the unsheltered population. Because only adults completed the surveys, these tables refer only to unsheltered adults. There were no children found in the Sacramento County. Statistical tests of significance were not performed on these demographic tables. The previous tables (in Section 6), which provide data required by HUD, are tested for statistical validity using confidence intervals, as shown in Appendix E. The following demographic tables are provided for local use and have not been further analyzed using statistical methods.

The average (mean) age of unsheltered adults is 44.8. The youngest person interviewed was 20 and the oldest was 81. The median provides a different ways to look at age distribution; the median is the middle ranked age.

Table 21: Age Mean and Median of Unsheltered Adults

<b>Age Mean and Median Statistics</b>					
<u>Age</u>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b># Change 09 - 13</b>	<b>Percent Change 09 - 13</b>
<b>Mean (years)</b>	43.3	44.8	44.8	1.5	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>Median (years)</b>	43	46	46	3	<b>6.5%</b>

Table 22 examines respondent ages in more detail and compares the age categories of unsheltered persons from 2009 to 2013. More than 60% of unsheltered persons in 2013 are between the ages of 25 and 59, although the next closest age group is those with an “unknown” age. Based on the observed ages recorded by volunteers in count teams, it is probably that the majority of those with an “unknown” age in the survey are between 25 and 59, which would bring the proportionate distribution of ages of unsheltered homeless persons in line with 2009 and 2011 findings.

Table 22: Change in Age of Unsheltered Homeless Persons, 2009 - 2013

<u>Age</u>	2009	% of total	2011	% of total	2013	% of total	Percent Change 09 - 13
16-24	57	4.8%	53	5.5%	27	3.4%	-1.3%
25-59	1,078	90.3%	803	84.1%	508	64.6%	-25.7%
60+	57	4.8%	99	10.4%	54	6.9%	2.1%
Unknown	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	197	25.1%	24.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Table 23 shows the breakdown of respondent genders. Roughly 70% of respondents are male, with 17% being females and the rest either transgender or unknown.

Table 23: Gender

<u>Gender</u>	Estimate of Unsheltered Homeless n=786	% of Unsheltered Homeless
Male	549	69.8%
Female	136	17.2%
Transgender	0	0.0%
Unknown	102	12.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table twenty-four and twenty-five below show the racial and ethnic distribution of the unsheltered population. HUD considers “Hispanic” to be an ethnicity and characteristics such as “Black”, “White” or “Asian” to be a race. However, 5% of respondents choose only an ethnicity and not a race; these respondents then are missing race data. The Hispanic only respondents are included in table 24a in order to illustrate all answer choices. Table 24b shows the racial distribution of the 728 people who identified a race, excluding Hispanic/Latino/Mexican, Don’t Know, Refused, and Unknown. The majority of unsheltered homeless reported White/Caucasian as their race with Black/African American as the second highest occurrence at 18.1%.

Table 24a: Change in Race (Multi-racial categories) of Homeless Persons, 2009 - 2013

<u>Race</u>	2009	% of total	2011	% of total	2013	% of total	Percent Change
Black/African American	318	26.6%	214	22.4%	132	16.8%	-9.8%
White/Caucasian	455	38.1%	372	39.0%	417	53.0%	14.9%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	230	19.3%	46	4.8%	34	4.3%	-15.0%
Asian	24	2.0%	20	2.1%	3	0.4%	-1.6%
Pacific Islander	10	0.8%	13	1.4%	10	1.3%	0.5%
Hawaiian	10	0.8%	3	0.3%	7	0.9%	0.0%
Multiple Races	*	*	175	18.3%	85	10.8%	*
Other Multi-Racial	29	2.4%	16	1.7%	41	5.2%	2.7%
Hispanic/Latino/Mexican	113	9.5%	89	9.3%	37	4.7%	-4.7%
Don't Know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%	0.4%
Refused	5	0.4%	7	0.7%	7	0.9%	0.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	1.3%	1.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Table 24b: Racial Distribution of Homeless Persons, 2013

<u>Race</u>	2013	% of total
Black/African American	132	18.1%
White/Caucasian	417	57.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	34	4.7%
Asian	3	0.5%
Pacific Islander	10	1.4%
Hawaiian	7	0.9%
Multiple Races	85	11.6%
Other Multi-Racial	41	5.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 25 shows the distribution of Hispanic ethnicity among the unsheltered. Roughly 11% of the unsheltered homeless are Hispanic/Latino; the majority of the Hispanics identified as Hispanic in addition to reporting a race (e.g. Hispanic Black or Hispanic White).

Table 25: Ethnicity (HUD categories)

<u>Ethnicity</u>	2009	% of total	2011	% of total	2013	% of total	Percent Change
Hispanic/Latino	113	9.5%	89	9.3%	88	11.2%	1.7%
Not Hispanic/Latino	1,076	90.1%	859	89.9%	678	86.2%	-3.9%
Don't Know	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%	0.4%
Refused	5	0.4%	7	0.7%	7	0.9%	0.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	1.3%	1.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,194	100.0%	955	100.0%	<b>786</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Demographically, homelessness in Sacramento County is generally comparable to national averages. While national data on the demographics of unsheltered persons is not collected (as it is not a required part of the PIT) the 2010 AHAR reports demographic trends of sheltered homeless persons. Nationally, approximately 62% of sheltered homeless are men and 38% are women; in Sacramento County, there are slightly more unsheltered men, and fewer women. As in Sacramento County, the majority of homeless people nationally identify as black or white. There are fewer Hispanics in Sacramento County's unsheltered homeless population than nationally (11% versus 16%), despite the larger proportion of Hispanics in the County's overall population (22%) as compared to the proportion of Hispanics in the U.S. population (16.7%).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2010). *The 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*. Retrieved June 3, 2012 from <https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/2010homelessassessmentreport.pdf>.

## 8. Conclusion and Suggested Improvements

Approximately .17% of people in Sacramento County experience homelessness, which is consistent with national data. Sixty-nine percent of homeless people on the night of the Count were sheltered.

There is a significant population of chronically homeless people and people in chronically homeless families (17% of the total homeless population), many of whom may need permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, or transition in place programs, to successfully move into and become stable in permanent housing.

The 2013 Point-in-Time Count reflects the efforts of Sacramento County to ensure that data on homelessness is accurate, precise and complete. The public places methodology requires an intensive planning effort from volunteers and staff and a large mobilization of volunteers on the day of the Count. The data from these counts is generally reliable and valid, and provides context and information from which to further develop the system of housing and services and appropriate interventions.

## Appendix A: Glossary

### **Unsheltered Homeless**

Survey respondents who indicated that they spent last night 1.2) The streets, a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train station, camping not in a designated campground, sleeping anywhere outside, or other place not meant for human habitation or 1.4) friend or family's garage, backyard, porch, shed or driveway were counted as unsheltered homeless.

### **Chronically Homeless Individual**

Survey respondent who indicated that they live alone, met chronicity (defined below), and are disabled.

### **Chronically Homeless Family**

Chronically homeless families are determined by the respondents' answers and consist of respondents who said they live with others so the family size is at least 2, live with someone under 18, meet chronicity, and is either disabled themselves or lives with an adult that is disabled. The chronicity requirement is only indicated for the respondent but it is assumed to be the same for anyone living with the respondent.

### **Chronicity**

Respondent indicated being homeless (i.e. living in a shelter, on the streets, a car, or in other places not meant for habitation) for the last 12 months or having been homeless at least 4 times in the past 3 years.

### **Disability**

Respondent is considered disabled if they said yes to any of the following: 6.A) I am physically disabled, 6.B) I am developmentally disabled, 6.C) I am disabled by mental illness, 6.D) I have tested positive for HIV/AIDS, 6.E) I am disabled by HIV/AIDS, 6.F) I regularly use alcohol, 6.G) I regularly use drugs, 6.I) I am disabled by something else. In the event that a comment was left by the respondent, Focus Strategies evaluated the comment and determined if the respondent was "disabled" by what was noted.

**Chronic Substance Abuse**

If the respondent answered “yes” to survey question 6.F) I regularly use alcohol and/or the respondent answered “yes” to survey question 6.G) I regularly use drugs they were counted as suffering from chronic substance abuse. (See Appendix H for full text of survey)

**Severely Mentally Ill**

Respondents who answered “yes” to survey question 6.C) I am disabled by mental illness were counted as severely mentally ill. (See Appendix H for full text of survey)

**Persons with HIV/AIDS**

Respondents who answered “yes” to survey question 6.D) I have tested positive for HIV/AIDS and/or survey question 6.E) I am disabled by HIV/AIDS were counted as persons with HIV/AIDS. (See Appendix H for full text of survey)



## Appendix B: Crosswalk between Survey Questionnaire & Results

The purpose of this crosswalk is to provide information about how subpopulation data and population characteristics were calculated and determined. The right side of the crosswalk shows the survey question number and corresponding answer choice that when chosen is an indicator of the variable on the left of the crosswalk.

Variables	Survey Questions & Valid Answer Choices
Unsheltered Homeless	1.1,1.2,1.3,1.4
Respondent Age and Household Composition	2.A-G
Chronicity (for chronically homeless individuals and families)	3. 12 Months or All of it/Entire Time, 4. 4 or More Times or All of it/Entire Time
Veteran	5. Yes
Domestic Violence	6. Yes 7. Yes
Disabled	8. A-H, I (Comments were examined and a determination of disabled or not was made)
Disabled (for Chronic homeless families where respondent meets chronicity but is not disabled)	9. Yes
Substance Abuse	8. F, G

## Appendix C: Discussion of Household Composition

In 2013, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) introduced new requirements that the Point-in-Time counts report on the number of persons in each household type by age category. In previous years, only total people by household type (not age categories) were required. This new requirement necessitated the collection of more detailed information on all the people in the respondent's household, including their age and relation to the respondent.<sup>11</sup> This shift created a change in the methodology of collecting and recording household composition. Homeless counts in the past asked about family size, and how respondents answered those questions was used to both enumerate and define families.

In this count, because of the HUD change, respondents were asked a number of questions about who is in their family, how old those people are, and whether they live with the respondent part or all of the time. Answers to these very different questions are now defining how families are understood.

Sacramento's methodology includes integrating the survey with the count, which ensures that the surveyed respondents are a subset of the homeless population. However, the survey respondents are not a random sample of those counted. The survey allows extrapolation of characteristics (such as veteran status, disabilities, etc.) that can be applied to the counted persons, but the actual number of homeless persons and households must be derived from the count, not from a subset of the population. With HUD's introduction of more detailed age requirements, new survey questions were introduced. The result is new information that suggests how homeless persons think about and account for their families is complex and worthy of additional consideration before the 2015 count.

These new survey questions were developed by experienced survey researchers and field tested before the count. The expectation was that the observed family compositions would fairly closely match the self-reported compositions, but the results suggest that field-testing

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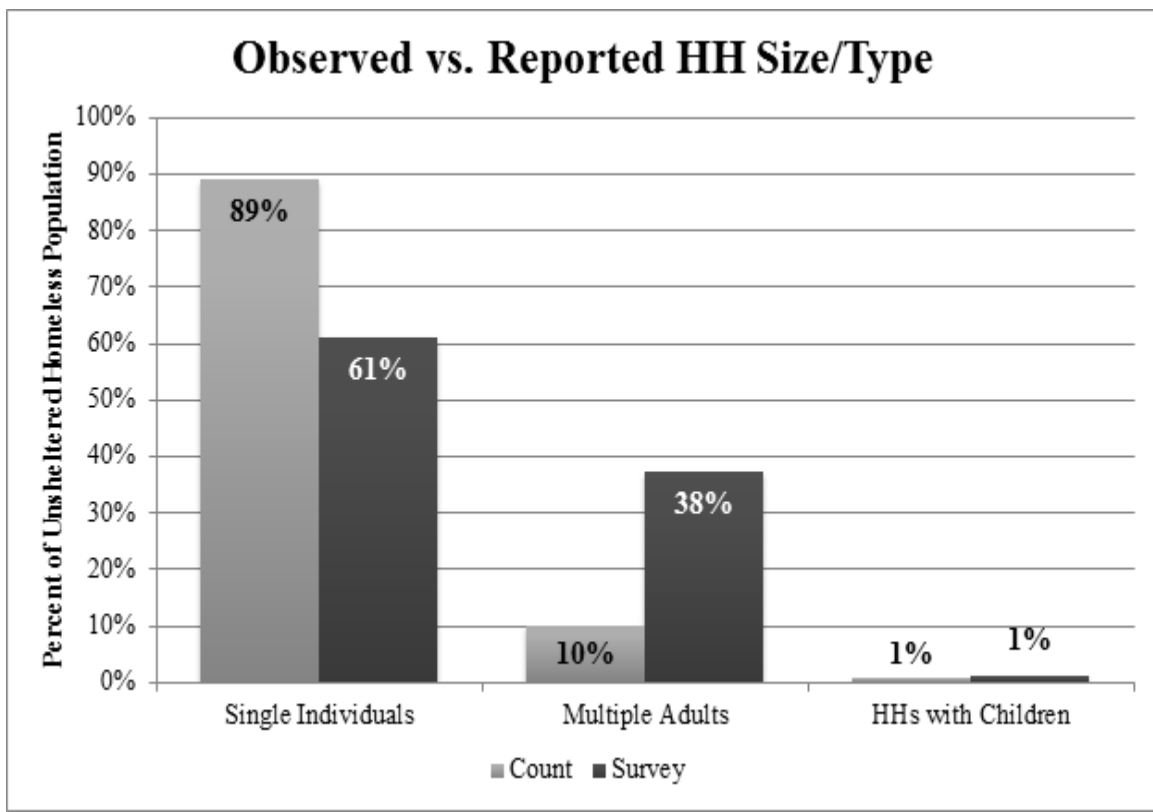
<sup>11</sup> See Question 2 of the Sacramento County Homeless Survey, found in Appendix H for details about the questions asked.

a mix of strategies and interviewing homeless people before the next count may yield more useful information about the actual composition of homeless families. Because the HUD requirements and the survey questions were new, the age and family type questions were also kept in the count form. In doing this, the research team was able to begin to understand differences between how volunteers observed families and how survey respondents accounted for families.

In general, count team volunteers observed primarily individuals and a very few small families and survey respondents often accounted for larger families. The possible reasons for these discrepancies include insufficient volunteer training, unclear questions and conditions during the count that made observation difficult (darkness, rain, etc.). While it is impossible to know if family types and ages captured in the count or the survey are more accurate, it may be appropriate to think more about the design of both the count tally form and survey for future counts.

The differences between observed family sizes in the count and reported family sizes in the survey are shown in figure 7 below. Because of these discrepancies, it was not possible to apply the survey data on family size and composition to the count data; observed count data was used to generate these data points. Given the size of families reported by respondents, it is possible that relying on observed family composition data may lead to an undercount of people experiencing homelessness in multi-adult households and family households.

Figure 6: Observed and Reported Household Size &amp; Type



There is inherent complexity in how people define and understand family composition. As a result, conducting research on family composition is challenging, particularly in brief encounters or surveys. The knowledge gained in this count about the ways in which interview question framing may lead to different understandings of family will be useful in informing revisions to the data collection processes.

## Appendix D: Mapping, Sampling and Data Processing Summary

The 2013 Homeless Point-in-Time Count for Sacramento County included two separate but related pieces: the street count and survey. This methodology has been consistently implemented since 2009; in 2007 the survey was separate from the count and in 2008 the integration of count and survey were piloted.

However, not all persons tallied in the Street Count are able to be surveyed and not all surveys that are begun are completed. An important piece of the methodology to establish a valid unsheltered dataset involves eliminating incomplete survey responses and those who are not unsheltered from the dataset. The mapping, sampling, data cleaning and data processing detailed below are vital to ensuring the validity of the data analysis.

### 1. Mapping Process & Creation of Random Sample

The first step in ensuring a statistically reliable dataset is to ensure that the areas to be canvassed are representative of the known locations where homeless people sleep and that volunteers are deployed to all of the high-density areas and a randomly ordered set of low density areas. Local experts were consulted to identify locations where homeless people are known to frequent. These local experts included homeless outreach workers, homeless service providers, recent and current homeless persons, and extensive outreach to law enforcement.

Once all the stakeholder input was gathered, the next step was designing the borders around designated areas that would be covered by volunteer Count teams on the morning of the count. The researcher's priority was to ensure that every identified portion of a map was enclosed within a designated area. When deciding where to place the borders of the designated areas, the researchers took many factors into consideration:

- First, any landscape barriers were considered, such as rivers and major freeways.
- Second, local experts often identified small areas in close proximity where homeless people were likely to be. In these cases, area boundaries were drawn to encompass

more than one highlighted area. This strategy was necessary to create a reasonable number of areas (if each highlighted street corner were an area, there would have been a hundred very small areas instead of a few dozen moderately sized areas). Encompassing small highlighted areas in proximity to each other meant that some areas were oddly shaped and/or difficult to cover in the given two-hour time frame.

- Third, major boulevards served as the primary locations where area borders were placed. A border was rarely placed directly through the middle of a main street, but rather slightly to the side so that the Count team would know to check *both sides* of that main street.
- Lastly, the researchers attempted to make each area a reasonable size, so that a Count team could comfortably cover their whole area in the given time period. When looking at the size of the areas on a map, it should be noted that while many of them contain numerous square miles, a large portion of the many of the areas was private and/or fenced-in property, and thus, the Count teams would not be able to cover that portion.

The primary priority throughout the mapping process is to ensure that *all* regions highlighted by the local experts were contained within the areas.

After the map boundaries were drawn, local volunteers tested the areas. The goals of the testing included:

- Ensuring the area was traversable in a three hour timeframe; and
- Noting any obstacles in the area that might make it difficult or dangerous to walk (such as fencing, muddy terrain, etc.); and
- Looking for signs of homeless encampments to confirm the feedback gathered in the initial map stages; and
- Providing recommended parking and navigation directions such that the teams could locate and cover the whole area in the early morning hours.

After pre-walk map testing, adjustments to the map borders based on tester feedback were made, including, in some cases, removal or merging of map areas. Once the borders of the

designated areas were finalized and maps were assigned to deployment centers, the researchers assigned either a high-density or a low-density label to each. The criteria used to assign these labels was the expected number of homeless people that would likely be found in the area during the early morning hours of the Count based on local experts' feedback.

A limited number of areas were labeled as high-density. With this methodology, a high-density label means that a particular area must be covered by a Count team. The low-density label on the other hand, means that the area will be part of the random sample. When assigning labels to the various areas, a general rule was applied: if expert opinion was that 10 or more homeless people were likely to be in a particular area, then the area was designated as high density. If an area was likely to have fewer than 10 people, then the area was designated as low density.

Next, a random sample was created for low density areas. The methodology relies on all of the high density areas being covered and at least enough of the low density areas to allow for a statistically significant extrapolation of the Count to other low density areas not canvassed.

## **2. Establishing the Unweighted Number of Persons Counted**

In addition to counting the number of people or tents/vehicles, the volunteer teams were also asked to estimate the age of the people observed, the gender of the people observed and whether the person appeared to be with a family group. Family groups were identified by volunteers in the field by circling individual observations thought to be part of a family group. During data entry, researchers made diligent efforts to ensure that the data as noted by volunteers was recorded correctly – when marks on tally sheets were illegible or contradictory, researchers reviewed margin notes for additional information. These cleaning efforts allowed for the most accurate count of data as recorded in the field.

However, there were a number of observations missing age and/or gender. Because age category is required to complete the HUD population tables, the researchers calculated an

assumed age for the 27% of the observations missing age. The researchers calculated the proportion of people in each age category for the 73% of the observations *with* an observed age and applied these proportions to the observations without an age.

In total, the volunteers counted 735 people on the night of the Count. Of the 735 people, 103 were observed to be in 46 family groups (including multiple adult groups and groups with adults and minor children); the remaining 632 people were observed on their own, as individuals, including one unaccompanied minor.

### **3. Weighting the Count to Account for All Known Areas**

Once the unweighted count of actual observations was recorded, a survey researcher applied statistical weights to the counts in the low density areas to account for areas not covered on the morning of the Count and generate the final estimates of the number of unsheltered homeless people. First, a distinction was made between the number of individuals counted in each high density area and those counted in low density areas. The consultants and researcher analyzed the data from the low density areas first.

Several estimates were developed that reflected the data required on the HUD form and included the following: Households with at least one adult and one child (total number of households, total number of persons and total number of persons under 18, between 18 and 24, and over 24); Households without children (total number of households, total number of persons and total number of persons between 18 and 24, over 24 and unknown); and Households with only children (total number of households, number of one-child households, number of multi-child households and number of children in multi-child households).

The consultants and researcher used a statistical process to generate the final estimates of the number of unsheltered homeless people. First, a distinction was made between the number of individuals counted in each high-density area and those counted in low-density areas. Of the 51 low-density areas that had the possibility of being sampled, volunteers



covered 43 areas, yielding a coverage rate of 84 percent. Worksheets were then created in Excel to display the total number of individuals counted within each of the 43 low-density areas.

Data from each low-density area was then passed on to the Ph.D. researcher, who utilized statistical analysis techniques to extrapolate the data. Several estimates were developed for the low density areas. The estimates reflected the data required on the HUD form and included the following: Households with at least one adult and one child (total number of households, total number of persons and total number of persons under 18, between 18 and 24, and over 24); Households without children (total number of households, total number of persons and total number of persons between 18 and 24, over 24 and unknown); and Households with only children (total number of households, number of one-child households, number of multi-child households and number of children in multi-child households).

Regardless of the particular estimate, the same process was followed. This process is described below using the total number of people counted.

Data were extracted to reflect the total number of individuals counted in each of the low-density areas. Following the formula found in Thompson's work (2002<sup>12</sup>), the sample mean was calculated (Equation 1).

$$\text{Equation 1: } \bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum y$$

In Equation 1,  $n$  is the number of areas sampled and  $y$  is the number of people in each sampled area. Using this equation, the average number of individuals found across the 43 sampled low-density areas was 6.349. (The sample variance and the variance of the mean were also calculated, the former being required for the latter. Both the sample variance and the variance of the mean are utilized below in Equation 3.)

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<sup>12</sup> Thompson, S. K. (2002). Sampling: Second Edition. Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

Equation 2 was used to calculate the estimate of individuals who would have been counted had all 51 sampling areas been observed. In equation 2,  $N$  represents the total number of low-density areas and  $y$  represents the sample mean found above (i.e., 6.349 people). Using Equation 2, it was estimated that 324 individuals would have been counted in the 51 low-density sampling areas.

$$\text{Equation 2: } \tau = N\bar{y}$$

The variance associated with the estimate was then calculated. The variance associated with the estimate is critical for determining the confidence intervals surrounding the estimate. Equation 3 was used to calculate the variance. In Equation 3,  $s^2$  represents the sample variance.

$$\text{Equation 3: } \text{var}(\tau) = N^2 \text{var}(\bar{y}) = N(N - n) \frac{s^2}{n}$$

Finally, the confidence intervals for the estimate of 324 individuals were calculated. Confidence intervals represent the range of values within which one can be sufficiently sure the true value lies. So for example, the 99% confidence interval for the total number of individuals who would have been counted if all low density areas were counted is between 268 and 380. This means that the researchers can be 99% sure that the “true” value of the number of homeless individuals is somewhere in that range. Equation 4 was used to calculate the confidence interval. In Equation 4,  $t$  is the value from a standard Student’s  $t$  distribution with  $n-1$  degrees of freedom.

$$\text{Equation 4: } CI = \tau \pm t \sqrt{N(N - n) \frac{s^2}{n}}$$

Once the confidence intervals were calculated for the low-density areas, the results from the high-density areas were simply added to those estimates in order to arrive at the final range of possible people, and the average of the low and high end of the range is the number that gets reported to HUD.

In our case, the 99% confidence interval estimated between 268 and 380. These were added to the number of people counted in high density areas, 462, for a total possible range of 730 to 842. The average of these numbers is 786, the number of unsheltered homeless people.

#### **4. Cleaning Survey Data**

In addition to the Count tally, volunteers completed 306 surveys of persons encountered during the count. After entering the data, the research team thoroughly reviewed and cleaned the data to arrive at a set of survey information from unsheltered homeless respondents. First, the researchers removed 59 surveys from respondents who refused to participate and thus, had no data in the respondent portion of the survey. Refusal could be for multiple reasons, including language barriers, lack of time or simply lack of interest. Next, researchers removed one survey that was incomplete and did not contain sufficient data to allow the researchers to ascertain the respondents housing status. After removing these incomplete and refused surveys, there were 246 surveys with sufficient data to determine housing status.

Of the 246 complete surveys, 14 indicated that they spent the prior night in a non-homeless living situation, including with friends/family, in an institution or a hotel/motel without a voucher. Consistent with the survey instructions, these surveys were stopped as it was assumed these respondents were not homeless. The researchers removed these surveys from the subset of 246 complete surveys to arrive at the 232 surveys of homeless respondents.

Table 26: Process of Reaching Final Survey Dataset

<b>Total Surveys Returned</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Step 1: Remove Refusals</i>	-59	-19.3%
<i>Step 2: Remove Incomplete Surveys</i>	-1	-0.3%
<b>SUBTOTAL “USEABLE” SURVEYS</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>80.4%</b>
<i>Step 3: Remove Surveys from non-Homeless</i>		
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	-1	-0.3%
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	-1	-0.3%
Living with Friends/Family	-10	-3.3%
Hotel/Motel (without a voucher)	-2	-0.7%
<b>FINAL SURVEY DATASET OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>75.8%</b>

Additional cleaning was conducted for question 2, which collected information on the respondent’s age, family composition and age of family members. While surveyors were trained to prompt at each question whether the relation is someone they would live with (versus just reporting how many siblings one had, for example), the data suggests that respondents did not always make this distinction.

## 5. Applying Survey Data to Count to Determine Subpopulation Characteristics

Using the subset of surveys of unsheltered respondents, the researchers were able to calculate the proportion of survey respondents who met certain subpopulation characteristics. Characteristics explored included not only the HUD required subpopulations (chronically homeless, HIV/AIDS, veterans, etc.) but also general demographic characteristics (age, gender, race, etc.). Because the survey was conducted concurrent with the count, the unsheltered survey respondents are a subset of all of the unsheltered persons counted. Therefore, it can be reliably assumed that the subpopulation characteristics of the survey respondents are comparable to all of the unsheltered persons counted.

To arrive at the count of persons in each subpopulation, the researchers applied the proportion of survey respondents meeting the particular characteristics to the weighted estimate of persons counted County-wide. While there were 232 surveys of unsheltered persons available to derive these proportions, because not every respondent fully answered all questions (e.g. they may have skipped only one or two questions, but the remaining data was useable) or because some subpopulation characteristics only apply to certain respondents (e.g. a veteran by definition must be an adult), the calculated proportion was only of those surveys of eligible respondents who gave a valid answer (don't know/refused is valid; missing is not valid). The table below shows the number of surveys used to calculate the proportions for each HUD sub-population characteristic.

Table 27: Number of Surveys Used for HUD Sub-populations

Subpopulation	Eligible Surveys with Non-Missing Answer	
	Number	Percent with Characteristic
Chronically Homeless Individuals	232	36.2%
Chronically Homeless Families <sup>13</sup>	90	0%
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families <sup>14</sup>	N/A	N/A
Veterans	225	17.3%
Female Veterans	225	0.4%
Severely Mentally Ill	229	41.5%
Chronic Substance Abuse	229	59.8%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	229	3.1%
Victims of Domestic Violence	227	36.1%

With the exception of chronically homeless families, all of the subpopulation data was a simple multiplication formula – percent of survey respondents meeting the characteristic multiplied by the total number of (weighted) persons counted. However, because the Count is primarily of individual people, this same logic incorrectly inflated the number of chronically homeless families and people in these families. As discussed in Appendix C of this report, the survey question on family composition produced different counts and sizes of families than were observed by volunteers on the night of the count.

<sup>13</sup> The “N” for chronically homeless families represents the number of surveys from respondents with family compositions including a minor child.

<sup>14</sup> Because of the many inconsistencies in the survey question on family composition (Q2), family composition was derived solely from count data. See Appendix C for more detail.

Table 28: Process of Chronically Homeless Families Results

<b>a</b>	Total unweighted observations of people	735
<b>b</b>	<i># Individual People</i>	632
<b>c</b>	<i># People in HHs of 2 or more</i>	103
<b>d</b>	Total individual HHs	632
<b>e</b>	Total HHs of 2+ people	46
<b>f</b>	% of multi-person HHs	6.78%
<b>g</b>	Total weighted Count of people	786
<b>h</b>	Total weighted individual HHs ( $g \times (d / (d + e))$ )	733
<b>i</b>	Total weighted multi-person HHs ( $g \times (e / (d + e))$ )	53
<b>j</b>	Total unsheltered surveys	232
<b>k</b>	Surveys of individuals	142
<b>l</b>	Surveys of persons in multi-person HHs	90
<b>m</b>	Surveys of CH families (subset of l)	0
<b>n</b>	Percent of surveyed HHs that are CH ( $m \div l$ )	0%
<b>o</b>	Number of people in CH families	0
<b>p</b>	Average size of CH families ( $o \div m$ )	0
<b>q</b>	Count of CH families ( $i \times n$ )	0
<b>r</b>	Count of people in CH families ( $p \times q$ )	0

## Appendix E: Statistical Process 2013 Final Chart

Statistical Process Chart 2013								
Updated 03-24-13								
Category		Statistical Estimate	99% CI Lower Estimate	99% CI Upper Estimate	Actual Count in High Density Areas	Absolute Low Number	Absolute High Number	<i>TOTAL</i>
<b><u>Households with at least one Adult and one Child</u></b>								
Number of Households	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	<i>1</i>
Total Number of Persons	4	5	0	9	0	0	9	<i>5</i>
number under 18	3	4	0	7	0	0	7	<i>4</i>
number 18-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<i>0</i>
number over 24	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	<i>1</i>
<b><u>Households without Children</u></b>								
Number of Households	245	291	239	342	429	668	771	<i>720</i>
Total Number of Persons	267	317	261	372	460	721	832	<i>777</i>
number 18-24	28	33	22	44	21	43	65	<i>54</i>
number over 24	163	193	156	230	314	470	544	<i>507</i>
unknown	76	90	71	109	125	196	234	<i>215</i>
<b><u>Households with only Children</u></b>								
Number of Households	1	1	0	2	2	0	4	<i>2</i>
one-child households	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	<i>1</i>
multi-child households	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	<i>1</i>
number of children in multi-child households	2	2	0	5	0	0	5	<i>3</i>
<b><u>Total</u></b>								
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>776</b>	<b><i>724</i></b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>842</b>	<b><i>786</i></b>



## Appendix F: Estimated Number of Homeless People Annually Based on Point-in-Time Count

In addition to establishing a point-in-time number of homeless persons, PIT data can be used to derive an estimate of the number of people who are homeless over the course of a year. From the 2013 PIT count, Sacramento County's annual homeless population is estimated to be 4,998 people. A formula created by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and The Urban Institute and approved by HUD was used to annualize the point-in-time count.<sup>15</sup> The steps involved in calculating the annual number used the formula with Sacramento data are presented below.

$$A + ((B * 365 / C) * (1 - D)) = \text{annual estimate}$$

A = total PIT count of currently homeless people

B = number of currently homeless adults and children who were counted *in emergency shelters only*

C = average LOS for all emergency shelters contributing people to the PIT count

D = total people with more than one stay / B (number counted in emergency shelters), the correction factor for more than one emergency shelter stay during a 12-month period, either returning to the same shelter or going to a different one

$$A = 2,538 \quad B = 808 \quad C = 49.7 \quad D = 473/808 = .5854$$

$$2538 + ((808 * 365 / 49.7) * (1 - .5854))$$

$$2538 + [(808 * 365 / 49.7) * (1 - .5854)]$$

$$2538 + [808 * 7.3441 * .4146]$$

$$2538 + 2460 = 4,998$$

$$\text{Annual Estimate} = 4,998$$

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<sup>15</sup> Martha R. Burt and Carol Wilkins. 2005. *Estimating the Need: Projecting from Point-in-Time to Annual Estimates of the Number of Homeless People in a Community and Using this Information to Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing*. Corporation for Supportive Housing. Retrieved June 3, 2013 from [www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org). <http://www.csh.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&PageID=3518&C:\CFusionMX7\verity\Data\dummy.txt>.

### Numbers Generated from HMIS for the Annualization Formula

The annualization formula requires an average length of time that homeless persons spend in shelter and how many persons have more than one shelter episode within a year. This information was taken from the HMIS system for nine shelter programs operating in the County. The following table shows the average lengths of stay for each program included in the analysis and the numbers of persons identified as having had more than one shelter stay within the 2012 calendar year.



### Comparing 2011 and 2013 Annual Estimates

Given that the point in time count did not increase substantially from 2011 to 2013, the increase in the annualized count in 2013 is primarily due to three changes in program and data collection.

1. In 2011, the average length of stay was calculated from taking the simple average for each provider's average length of stay. In contrast, weighted averages were used in 2013 to better reflect the relative size of different shelter programs.
2. In 2011, the Salvation Army Interim Care Program had an average length of stay being 367 which was 294 days greater than any other provider. Data cleaning since 2011 have corrected this and the Interim Care Program now has a more accurate length of stay of 31 days.
3. In 2011, the Winter Sanctuary program was not included in the annualization figures, as data for that program was not in HMIS. The Winter Sanctuary serves a large number of clients for (relatively) short periods of time, many of whom otherwise are unsheltered on the streets. Inclusion of this program calculates (more accurately) a larger number of people in the shelter system with multiple stays.

Table 30 below shows the differences in the 2011 and 2013, annualization calculations.

Table 30: Annualization Figures

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>
A. (total PIT #)	2,358	<b>2,538</b>
B. (PIT # for ES only)	584	<b>808</b>
C. (average length of stay)	87.9	<b>49.7</b>
D. (# people multiple stays / B)	198/584=.3390	<b>473/808 = .5854</b>
E. Annual Estimate	3,961	<b>4,998</b>

## Appendix G: Count Data Collection Tool and Instructions

### Sacramento Steps Forward Homeless Street Count 2013 - Tally Form

TEAM

#: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all Volunteers in the Team:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Use One Line Per Person, Circle Family Groups

A **Family Group** can be a single adult/couple with children OR two adults without children who appear to be a couple. Fill in ONE ROW for EACH individual in the family group and then circle the two or more rows that are included in that family group.

If you come across a car, tent, or RV, **DO NOT** attempt to count how many people are in there. Simply check the appropriate box in ONE row and move on. The researchers will account for the fact that, in many cases, it is likely that there is more than one person inside.

	Location of Observation	Age Group	Gender
		(If Age and/or Gender cannot be determined, then leave blank)	
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> River/Creek Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 12 or under <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25-64 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> River/Creek Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 12 or under <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25-64 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> River/Creek Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 12 or under <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25-64 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> River/Creek Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 12 or under <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25-64 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> River/Creek Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 12 or under <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25-64 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> River/Creek Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 12 or under <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25-64 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> River/Creek Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 12 or under <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25-64 <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+ <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F

## Sacramento Steps Forward Homeless Street Count, January 2013 INSTRUCTIONS AND PROTOCOLS FOR VOLUNTEER TEAMS COUNT FORM INSTRUCTIONS

### **Team Member Names**

Please fill in the names of all people in your team. PLEASE NOTE THAT NAMES WILL **NOT** BE PUBLISHED IN ANY REPORTS RESULTING FROM THIS COUNT. However, we hope to contact you to volunteer for the next count.

REMEMBER TO USE ONLY **ONE LINE PER PERSON!**

### **Location of Observation**

Check the box that describes the location where you are counting that homeless person. Please note that if you see a car, tent, or RV that is being used for permanent habitation and you are unable to clearly see how many inhabitants there are, then just check the car, tent, or RV box and leave the age and gender sections blank. If you are able to easily observe the number of people in a car, tent or RV, account for each person separately, but be sure to check the car, tent or RV box for each individual observed.

### **Age Group and Gender**

Please make your best guess if the age group and/or gender of the individual being counted is not clear. If the age or gender cannot be determined or if the person is part of a “default” number in a car, tent, or RV in which you cannot observe the number of occupants, then leave these sections blank.

### **Circling Family Groups**

If you see a family group standing, sitting, or sleeping next to each other, then mark ONE ROW for EACH person and then circle the two or more rows that make up the family group. Please keep in mind a family group **DOES NOT** HAVE TO INCLUDE CHILDREN. A Family Group can be two adults.

## PROTOCOLS FOR WHO TO COUNT

**Do not wake up or disturb any individual being counted** – Do not wake any sleeping individuals and do not ask people in cars, tents, or RVs to come out and talk with you. The exception to this rule is if law enforcement initiates communication, or if you announce yourself and the person exits their vehicle/tent. You should only announce yourself if people can see you approaching and/or if you think you might scare them as you approach. Remember that you are in their “living room” and so you want to avoid stepping right up next to their vehicle window or tent door.

**Count everyone that you see** – The only exceptions to this rule are: people who are clearly working (such as construction or road maintenance workers), cars that are driving by (cars and RVs that appear to be inhabited on a permanent basis must be stationary to allow for close observation by the team to determine if it should be counted), and people conducting ordinary business at 24-hr services (such as a gas station or grocery store). **Count everyone else, even if you doubt they are homeless.**

**Tents, Vehicles (Car or RV)** – If you see a tent or vehicle that appears to be permanently inhabited and you do not see people standing/sitting next to it or if you announce yourself and no one responds, then simply check the box and move to the next row (skipping age group and gender). Clues to know if there are people living inside include if the vehicle is on and running (this provides heat to the occupants) or if it is parked in a parking lot, behind a shopping center, or in an alley. If you do see people standing or sitting next to the tent or vehicle, then use one row for each individual and be sure to mark age group and gender.

**Confidentiality** - The count is confidential and anonymous. Please do not record any identifying information, particularly the names – or any part of a name – of the people you count, even if personal information is volunteered.



## Appendix H: Survey Data Collection Tool

### SACRAMENTO STEPS FORWARD HOMELESS COUNT SURVEY 2013

**READ TO RESPONDENT:**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm a volunteer with the County of Sacramento and Sacramento Steps Forward. We're conducting a short survey throughout the County. The survey gathers information that helps the community get funding for homeless services and housing. May we have a few minutes of your time?

We won't ask your name or other identifying information, and all of your responses are strictly confidential. Your honest response is important to help us keep the housing funds we have for Sacramento County. Your participation is voluntary. You may stop the interview at any time, or refuse to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable. When we are finished I have a small gift to thank you for your time.

If it's OK, I'll start the questions now. I need to read each one all the way through.

**FILL OUT THIS TABLE FOR EVERYONE YOU APPROACH. DO NOT READ TO RESPONDENT.**

<p>Survey Date: 01-24-2013</p> <p>Area Number:</p>	<p>If Interview Not Started, Why?</p> <p>( ) Minor child.....1</p> <p>( ) Refused (Did not want to participate).....2</p> <p>( ) Respondent Too Disabled.....3</p> <p>( ) Language Barrier.....4</p> <p>( ) Individual was Sleeping.....5</p> <p>( ) In a Tent.....6</p> <p>( ) In a Car.....7</p> <p>( ) In a building.....8</p> <p>( ) Other (fill in).....9</p> <hr/>
<p>Complete by Observation:</p> <p><b>Gender:</b></p> <p>( ) Male.....1</p> <p>( ) Female.....2</p> <p>( ) Other/Unknown.....3</p>	<p>If Language Barrier, Please Guess Which Language:</p> <p>( ) Spanish.....1</p> <p>( ) Asian.....2</p> <p>( ) Other.....3</p> <p>( ) Unknown.....4</p>

1. Where did you stay last night?

READ CHOICES UNTIL RESPONDENT SAYS "YES," IF YOU CHECK A BOX IN THE TOP TABLE, MOVE TO THE NEXT PAGE.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. <b>Shelter</b> for single adults or youth or families
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. The <b>streets, a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train station, camping not in a designated campground, sleeping anywhere outside</b> , or other place not meant for human habitation
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. <b>Hotel, motel</b> , or campground paid for <b>with emergency shelter voucher</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Friend or family's <b>garage, backyard, porch, shed, or driveway</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. <b>Transitional housing</b> for homeless adults, families or youth (where I pay rent and can live up to two years and receive services)
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Hospital, nursing facility, psychiatric hospital, or other mental health facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. <b>Jail, prison</b> or juvenile detention facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. <b>Permanent housing for formerly homeless</b> persons
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. <b>Foster care</b> home or foster care group home
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Substance abuse <b>treatment facility or detox</b> center
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. In a <b>friend or family member's</b> room, apartment, or house
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Other, Specify: _____

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED 1-12, PLEASE GO TO THE NEXT PAGE.

<input type="checkbox"/>	13. <b>Hotel or motel</b> paid for <b>without</b> emergency shelter voucher
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Room, apartment or house that you <b>rent</b> (subsidized or not)
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Apartment or house that you <b>own</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	16. REFUSED

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED 13-16 PLEASE STOP INTERVIEW NOW, THANK RESPONDENT FOR TIME, OFFER A GIFT.



2. These next questions are about the people in your immediate family. We need to count every person, and we need to know an age category for everyone. By immediate family, we mean the people who live with you now, some of the time or all of the time, so that if you moved to another residence, they would move with you. **PROMPT:** Remember that everything you tell us is confidential.

A	<p>Let's start with: Yourself, one (1) person.</p> <p>HOW OLD ARE YOU? _____</p> <p>MARK "1" BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE</p>	<p>___ 25 or older.....1          ___ 18 to 24.....2          ___ 17 or under.....3          DON'T KNOW.....98          REFUSED.....99</p>
B	<p>Do you currently live <b>alone</b> or <b>with others</b>, like a partner or other family members?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Alone.....1  <input type="checkbox"/> With other.....2  <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW.....98  <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED.....99</p>
C	<p>So, the total number in your immediate family is:</p> <p>IF RESPONDENT LIVES ALONE, MARK "1"</p>	<p><b>IF 1, GO TO Q#3</b></p> <p>_____ NUMBER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW.....98  <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED .....99</p>
<p>Now we need to know the age category for everyone in your immediate family.</p>		
D	<p>If you live with a spouse or partner, how old is that person?</p> <p>MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> NONE.....0          ___ 25 or older.....1          ___ 18 to 24.....2          ___ 17 or under.....3          DON'T KNOW .....98          REFUSED.....99</p>
E	<p>Your children, or your spouse's children How many children do you and your spouse have living with you in your immediate family, some of the time or all of the time?</p> <p>How many children are in each age group? MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE; TOTAL SHOULD EQUAL RESPONSE ABOVE</p>	<p>WRITE RESPONSE FOR TOTAL CHILDREN</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NONE.....0          ___ 25 or older.....1          ___ 18 to 24 .....2          ___ 17 or under.....3          DON'T KNOW 98          REFUSED 99</p>
F	<p>Brothers or sisters living with you How many in each age group? MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> NONE 0          ___ 25 or older.....1          ___ 18 to 24.....2          ___ 17 or under.....3          DON'T KNOW 98          REFUSED 99</p>
G	<p>Other relatives or friends living with you in your immediate family How many in each age group? MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> NONE 0          ___ 25 or older.....1          ___ 18 to 24.....2          ___ 17 or under.....3          DON'T KNOW 98          REFUSED 99</p>

3. How much of the last 12 months have you been homeless? By “homeless” I mean living in a shelter, on the streets, in a car, or in other places not meant for habitation.

**PROMPT:** Your best estimate is fine.

**MARK ONLY ONE**

DAYS \_\_\_\_\_  
 WEEKS \_\_\_\_\_  
 MONTHS \_\_\_\_\_  
 ALL OF IT / ENTIRE TIME..... 12  
 NONE OF THE LAST 12 MONTHS..... 0  
 DON'T KNOW ..... 98  
 REFUSED ..... 99

4. How many separate times in the past 3 years have you lived in a shelter, on the streets, in a car, or in other places not meant for habitation?

**PROMPT:** How many separate times?

**MARK ONLY ONE**

This is my first time.....1  
 2 to 3 times.....2  
 4 times or more .....4  
 All of it / entire time .....5  
 NONE ..... 0  
 DON'T KNOW ..... 98  
 REFUSED ..... 99

5. Have you ever served in the US Armed Forces, or were you ever activated, into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?

YES ..... 1  
 NO ..... 0  
 DON'T KNOW ..... 98  
 REFUSED ..... 99

**READ TO RESPONDENT: Now I have some personal questions regarding your experiences with disabilities and alcohol/drug use. Please remember that all your responses are kept confidential and anonymous.**

6. Did you leave your last place because of family violence, that is, because someone was hurting you or threatening to hurt you? That includes hurt or threatened by being kicked, hit, shoved, or beat up. It could also include being hurt or threatened with a knife or gun, or forced to have sex.

**PROMPT:** By someone in your family, inside the family.

YES (1)                      NO (2)                      DON'T KNOW (98)                      REFUSED (99)

7. Were you ever physically hurt or threatened by a spouse or partner or someone in your family?

**PROMPT:** By someone in your family, inside the family.

YES (1)                      NO (2)                      DON'T KNOW (98)                      REFUSED (99)

8. The next questions are about your health and any disabilities you may have. Which of these statements are true for you?

**PROMPT:** Is that true for you?

YES	NO	D.K.	REF
1	0	98	99

**MARK ALL THAT APPLY**

A. I am physically disabled				
B. I am developmentally disabled				
C. I am disabled by mental illness				
D. I have <u>tested positive</u> for HIV/AIDS				
E. I am <u>disabled</u> by HIV/AIDS				
F. I regularly use alcohol.				
G. I regularly use drugs.				
H. I have learning disabilities				
I. I am disabled by something else (write in comment below)				
RESPONDENT COMMENT, IF ANY				
_____				

**9. IF THE RESPONDENT LIVES ALONE, THEN SKIP THIS QUESTION:**

Is there another adult who lives with you who has a physical or developmental disability, a disabling mental illness, is disabled by HIV/AIDS, or regularly uses alcohol or drugs?

YES (1)                      NO (2)                      DON'T KNOW (98)                      REFUSED (99)



10. When you were a child, before the age of 18, were you ever placed in a foster home, a group home, or any other kind of institution? MARK ALL THAT APPLY

No, never .....0  
 A foster home .....1  
 A group home .....2  
 Another kind of Institution .....3  
 DON'T KNOW .....98  
 REFUSED .....99

11. For classification purposes, we'd like to know your racial background. Please tell me if you describe yourself as: MARK ALL THAT APPLY

Native Hawaiian .....1  
 Other Pacific Islander .....2  
 American Indian or Alaskan Native.....3  
 Asian .....4  
 Hispanic/Latino/Mexican .....5  
 White .....6  
 Black or African American .....7  
 Other .....8  
 What else? \_\_\_\_\_  
 DON'T KNOW .....98  
 REFUSED .....99

12. DO NOT READ TO RESPONDENT

If you could not get an answer about respondent's age, please make your own best guess:

( ) Under 18 years old (17 or younger).....1  
 ( ) 18 to 24 years.....2  
 ( ) 25 or older.....3

Thank you very much. We're done with our questions. We really appreciate your help.

OFFER THE RESPONDENT THE GIFT.

