

Alameda Countywide Homeless Count & Survey Report

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EveryOne Home

by

Focus Strategies

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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 or 916-949-9619.

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Executive Summary

The Point-In-Time Count (“Count”) is an enumeration of the homeless population in Alameda County on the night of January 29, 2013. On that night, 4,264 people were homeless in Alameda County.

This report sets 2013 results in the context of the last 10 years, including:

- The rise in the overall County population,
- The income level and poverty rates in the County compared with the region,
- The development of permanent housing programs that impact population dynamics, and
- Ten years of Count and survey results.

The 2013 Count results indicate that Alameda County’s homeless population is smaller than might be expected given larger demographic and economic conditions and considering rates of homelessness in neighboring communities.

- From 2003 to 2013, *homelessness decreased from .35% to .28% of the Alameda County population*, a period in which the overall County population increased by 8% (pg. 22).
- Alameda County has the second highest poverty rate (12%) and lowest median income (just over \$70,000) compared with surrounding Bay Area counties. Despite this, *Alameda’s 2013 homeless population is equal to or less than neighboring, more affluent Counties*. (pg. 25-26)

From 2003 to 2013, the big picture trends are somewhat promising:

- *Homelessness decreased by over 800 people*, a 16% reduction. Homelessness increased very slightly from 2011; however, these results are statistically indistinguishable (pg. 29).
- The *proportion of unsheltered persons* to persons in shelter and transitional housing *remains comparable* to previous years (pg. 36).
- While the percent of unsheltered persons as a portion of the homeless population has remained constant (around 50%) since 2003, there has been a relative decrease in shelter capacity and *increase in permanent supportive housing stock, simultaneous to a reduction in the*

sheltered homeless count (from 2,459 to 1,927). This evolving set of programs is by definition related to a change in population dynamics (pg. 38).

Trends for some homeless subpopulations are encouraging:

- **22% of homeless individuals are chronically homeless** – this population has fluctuated slightly as a percent of the homeless population over the last ten years; 2013's rate is the lowest recorded level (pg. 40).
- **The number of homeless veterans has remained fairly consistent since 2007.** However, the number of homeless people who are veterans has declined since the first two counts in 2003 and 2005 by more than 200 people (pg. 44).
- **Homelessness for unsheltered women is declining.** In 2009, females made up 24% of the unsheltered homeless population; in 2013, women were just over 13% of the unsheltered population (pg. 55).

For the most part, results for homeless subpopulations are static or concerning:

- The **prevalence of severe mental illness among homeless people has risen** from 14% of the total homeless population to 26% in the past 10 years (pg. 46).
- The **proportion of homeless people living with chronic substance abuse issues** has remained roughly the same over the last 10 years (in 2003, 28% and in 2013, 30%), (pg. 48).
- **Domestic violence has increased from a low of 9% in 2005 to a high of 25% of homeless people in 2013.** Rates of surviving domestic violence have varied widely across the six Counts; 2013 reflects the highest rate to date (pg. 51).
- **10% of unsheltered homeless people are 61 years or older** (pg. 53).

The data and analysis in the following sections provide information about homelessness in Alameda County as it relates to the nation, California, and the Bay Area region. The 2013 Count report provides population figures, data on changes in the homeless population over time, homeless subpopulation characteristics, and demographic information on the unsheltered homeless population. In general, the news about homelessness in Alameda County is rather promising in the big picture, and trends among homeless subpopulations are varied.

1. Organization of the Report & Presentation of the Data

This report details the methodologies utilized to generate the results, provides the 2013 population and subpopulation data tables as required for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and offers some economic context and regional and national comparisons. The context is followed by an examination of changes in sub-populations since the 2011 Count and over the last decade since the first Count was conducted. Finally, Chapter 7 presents age, race and gender demographics of unsheltered homeless people.

2013 Data and Context

As in the 2011 report, many analyses are presented in tables with the number of people or households for each population or subpopulation, the percent of the population that is sheltered versus unsheltered, and the change from 2011 to 2013. Some of the analyses in this report match those presentations. However, this year's report also includes:

1. Population trend information, placing changes in the homeless population in the context of regional, state, and national data;
2. 2011 to 2013 comparisons of the subpopulations show the numeric change and difference in proportion of the total homeless population;
3. Information about trends in homelessness over the last 10 years.

Percent Change & Difference in the Proportion of Population

Tables in this report use both percent change and the difference in proportion of the total homeless population to describe change in populations over time. The difference between these two analyses, including when they are used, is described below.

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 25, page 50) in 2011 was 60 and in 2013 was 97. The percent change, then is:

$$(97 - 60) \div 60 = 62\%$$

Percent change is a relative change – in this case, the number of persons who are homeless with HIV/AIDS increased relative to the number of homeless people with HIV/AIDS in 2011.

Difference in the Proportion of the Population

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 25, page 50), the change in proportion is:

$$2.3\% - 1.4\% = .9 \text{ percentage points}$$

Percentage of the total, or percentage point change, 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.

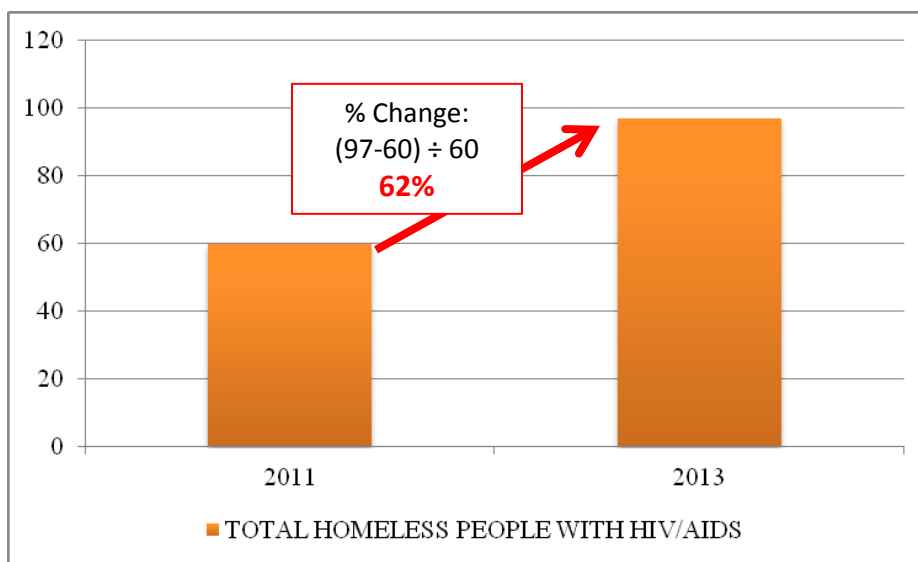
Use and Implications

Both percent change and difference in proportion of the population are useful calculations, and both have merit, depending on the relationship being analyzed. For the Alameda Countywide Count, the number of homeless persons in 2013 is not statistically different than the number of homeless persons in 2011. However, this result may not hold true across all portions of the homeless population, including subpopulations, demographic groups and distribution across family type and living situations. The confidence intervals for the population figures are quite wide, because homeless counts are an imprecise science. Smaller figures, such as subpopulations and demographic characteristics, can appear to vary significantly but the differences may not actually be statistically meaningful. Therefore, whenever appropriate, percentage points are shown (difference in proportion of the population from Count to Count) because subpopulation estimates are tempered by the more stable population estimates. Also, subpopulation and demographic trend information are best understood in the context of the homeless population overall – changes should be seen as

absolute changes in the population of homeless people.

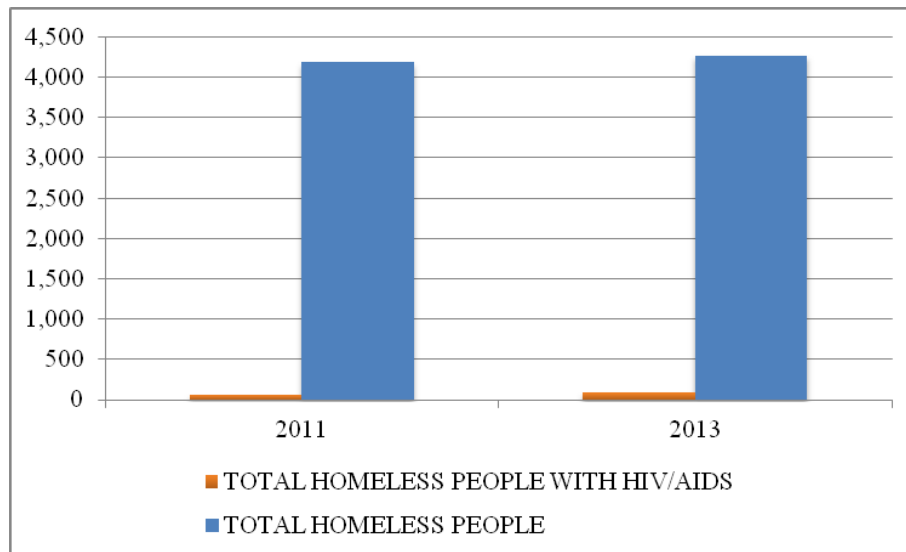
This report presents Count results over a ten year period, during which there were methodological implementation differences as well as shifts in definitions and HUD requirements. This context, coupled with the inherent challenge of pinpointing a population estimate for homeless people, leads to wide confidence intervals meaning that the true value (homeless population size) is within a fairly wide range. If we wish to look at changes over time, it is important to use the most stable estimate with the narrowest confidence intervals – the total population or total adult population estimates. Using difference in proportion of population allows for the population estimate to anchor and put in context subpopulation results which can vary widely, but frequently are not outside of confidence intervals from previous years. By contrast, using percent change to determine whether subpopulations in general have varied over the 10 years (e.g. there are now more or less people with serious mental illness who are homeless than there were in 2003) is not as defensible as looking at the proportion of the homeless population that has that status or characteristic.

As an example, Table 25 (page 50) presents data from 2011 and 2013 on homeless people with HIV/AIDS. The number of homeless people with HIV/AIDS has increased from 60 in 2011 to 97 in 2013. Understanding this relationship as a percent change would show a 62% increase in this subpopulation:

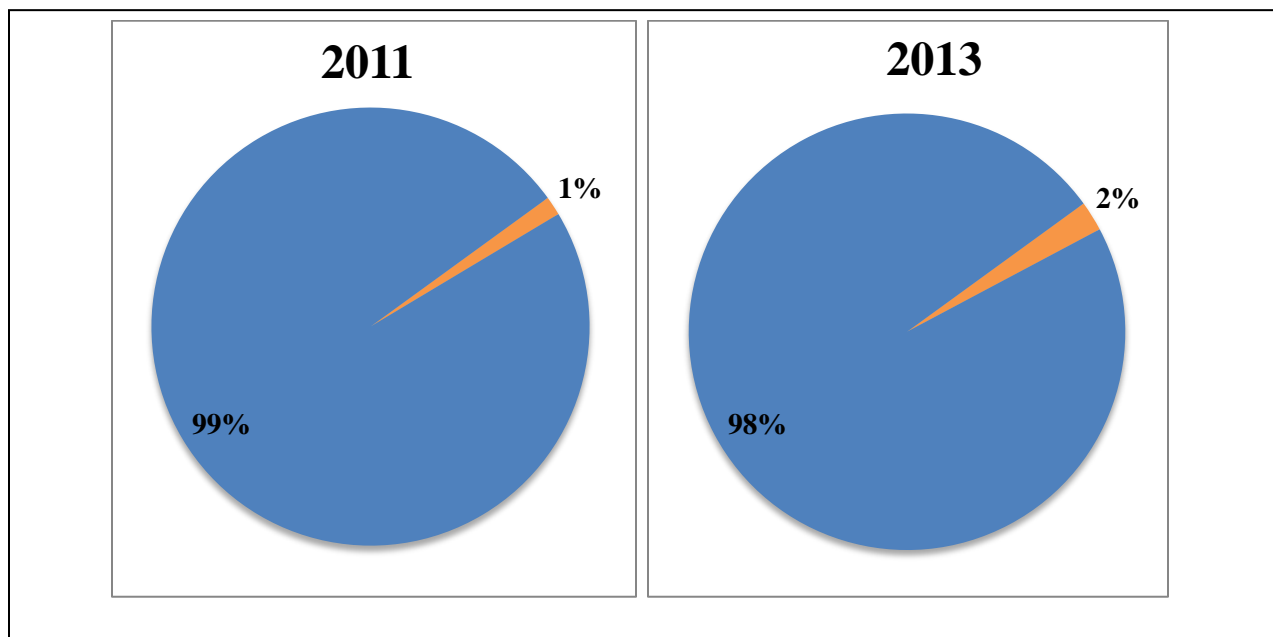


The bar graph above shows a steep increase in the numbers of people, but what this presentation

does not reveal is the size of the homeless population with HIV/AIDS relative to the homeless population, shown below:



Alternatively, looking at this same data as a difference in proportion of the homeless population allows for an understanding of the relative size of the subpopulation within the overall population over time. While the population has increased, homeless people with HIV/AIDS remain a very small portion of the homeless population.



Whereas the percent change in the count of homeless persons with HIV/AIDS is 62%, the

difference in proportion of population is about one percentage point (or one hundredth of the whole homeless population). In 2011, 1.4% of the homeless population had HIV/AIDS; in 2013, 2.3% of the homeless population had HIV/AIDS. This difference in the proportion of the population presentation of the results shows that the number of homeless people with HIV/AIDS has changed in the homeless population very slightly since 2011. Slight changes, especially given small subpopulation estimates, should be interpreted with caution.

Rounding

In most cases, whole numbers or decimals to the tenth place are presented for ease of reading. Occasionally, calculations presented in tables will appear to be off by 1, .1, or .01 due to rounding of the values in the underlying calculation and/or the result.

2. Methodology

Background Information

Once every two years EveryOne Home estimates the number of people within the county who are homeless 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 or scientifically-derived estimate 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 fieldwork for the Alameda County Count was conducted on January 30, reflecting the count of people who were homeless on January 29. This is the sixth such Count conducted in Alameda County since 2003.

The sheltered portion of the Count (persons residing in shelters and transitional housing within the county) is primarily extracted from data in the County's Homeless Management Information System, called InHOUSE and operated by the Alameda County Department of Housing and Community Development. InHOUSE includes data on persons who occupied a shelter or transitional housing bed on the night of the count. Any shelter or transitional housing program that does not participate in InHOUSE is independently surveyed for the count of people and the characteristics of those people on the night of the Count. The unsheltered portion of the Count is based on a one-evening count and survey, described below.

Methodology

The Alameda County unsheltered homeless Count uses a site-based survey methodology. Whereas the sheltered Count consists of the actual numbers of persons and households staying at shelters and transitional housing programs and their characteristics, the numbers of persons and households who are unsheltered on the survey night are *estimated*. The estimated Count of unsheltered homeless persons and households is completed using a survey conducted at four kinds of non-residential program sites serving low-income people, many of whom are homeless. Data presented in Tables 1 through 5 details the methodological process. These five tables describe the process of arriving at

the unweighted dataset; the number of surveys and respondents are not representative of the weighted numbers found in the result tables.

Persons to be surveyed for the unsheltered estimate are selected through what is known as a two-stage sample design. A list of hundreds of program sites within Alameda County serves as the sample “frame”, or the total possible program sites at which persons could be interviewed. This comprehensive list includes all known programs that commonly serve homeless persons: served meal programs (hot meal programs/soup kitchens), food pantries, drop-in centers and mobile outreach programs. The sample frame is also divided by the region of the County where the program is located or where the majority of the services are provided. At the first stage of the design, service program sites are selected from this list as the locations at which the surveys will be administered, with special care to select at least one program from each of the six county regions. Using this methodology, 39 sites were selected and 33 of those sites could participate. On the day of the survey, one of the sites opened and closed before the time they had reported they would open, meaning that despite agreeing to participate, no surveys were administered at this site. With this unexpected change, on the day of the survey, service users at 32 selected sites were sampled.

Based on the expected service counts on the day of the Count, each service program site is assigned a sampling interval to determine the proportion of service users at the particular site who will be approached for an interview; this is the second “stage” of the sample design. The two-stage sample design provides reliable estimates of the number of unsheltered homeless persons in the county and of selected subpopulations within the unsheltered homeless population. When the data are population-weighted and analyzed with a statistical program that accounts for the sample design, it is possible to calculate a reliable estimate with 95% confidence intervals.¹

Applying the second stage of the sample – the respondent selection intervals - a total of 2,387 persons were approached for interview at the 32 sites; however, not all interviews were completed. There were a variety of reasons that interviews were not completed, including simple refusal to

¹ A 95% confidence interval around an estimate means that there is a 95% probability that the true value for the population lies within the confidence interval. Confidence intervals show the range where a sample-derived value will fall 95% of the time, if you draw samples by the same method from the same population.

participate, ineligibility for interview due to age, and language and disability limitations. In a few cases, the survey was completed but the researchers were unable to determine from the responses whether respondents were housed or homeless and these surveys were also deemed “incomplete”. Table 1 below presents the reasons and frequencies for surveys being incomplete or unusable.

Table 1: Survey response by persons selected for interview

Persons Selected for Interview	Number of persons	Percent
Completed enough to determine housed or homeless	1,500	62.8%
Person approached for survey refused to participate	510	21.4%
Language barrier	213	8.9%
Person was a minor accompanied by an adult (ineligible for interview)	90	3.8%
Not enough time	57	2.4%
Not able to score housing status	11	0.5%
Respondent too disabled	6	0.3%
TOTAL	2,387	100.0%

As shown in Table 1, 1,500 people agreed to complete the survey and provided enough information for the researchers to determine housing status. Participation rates varied by site type; the number and percent of selected persons who were approached to participate in the survey at each type of interview site are presented in Table 2 below. Overall, two-thirds of the people approached completed the interview; only one-third refused or was found to be ineligible. Persons at drop-in centers and at mobile outreach locations were most likely to agree to participate in the survey.

Table 2: Non-respondents and participants, by type of interview site

Type of site		Non-Response vs. Completed Responses (up to Q7 of interview)		ALL PEOPLE APPROACHED FOR INTERVIEW	
		Non-Respondents	Completed Responses	#	%
Served Meal Programs	Persons	286	448	734	31%
	Percent at site	39%	61%		
Food Pantry	Persons	537	732	1,269	53%
	Percent at site	42%	58%		
Drop In Center	Persons	56	236	292	12%
	Percent at site	19%	81%		
Outreach locations	Persons	8	84	92	4%
	Percent at site	9%	91%		
ALL FOUR SITE TYPES	Persons	887	1,500	2,387	100%
	Percent	37%	63%		

Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish using a standardized survey questionnaire and trained interviewers.² All respondents are asked about their living situation the prior night and about their typical use of services. These two series of questions establish two key thresholds for the remaining data analysis: housing status and the population weights.

While the sample frame includes service locations and programs known to serve homeless persons and households, many service users are not literally homeless. For the unsheltered point-in-time count, paragraph 1.i of the federally-applicable definition of homelessness applies, which includes individuals and families: “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.”³, also referred to as a “place not meant for human habitation”. Because our objective was to collect data only on persons meeting this definition, when a respondent reported spending the previous night in a house

² The survey questionnaire can be found as Appendix F to this report.

³ Page 13 of the HUD PIT Data Submission Guidance.

<https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/2013HICandPITDataSubmissionGuidance.pdf>

or apartment, a permanent housing program, medical institution, or jail s/he was defined as housed, and the interview was concluded. If the person spent the last night in a shelter, temporary supportive housing (also known as transitional housing), on the streets or in a place not meant for human habitation, s/he was defined as homeless, and the interview continued.

Later analysis divided these respondents into sheltered homeless – those sleeping in a shelter or transitional housing – from the unsheltered homeless – those sleeping outdoors or in another place not meant for human habitation. Tables 3 and 4 below shows the numbers of interviewed persons who were determined to be housed or homeless and, if homeless, the numbers determined to be sheltered and unsheltered, by the type of interview site. A total of 1,500 persons were interviewed, almost 16% more than the 1,296 who were interviewed in 2011. More than 95% of persons served at a mobile outreach program were found to be homeless. In contrast, only 12% of persons served at food pantries were found to be homeless.

Table 3 Homeless vs. Housed Respondents selected for interview by type of interview site

		Housed	Homeless	<i>Total</i>
Served Meal Program	Number of persons	205	243	448
	% within Site Type	46%	54%	100%
Food Pantry	Number of persons	647	85	732
	% within Site Type	88%	12%	100%
Drop In Center	Number of persons	105	131	236
	% within Site Type	44%	56%	100%
Outreach	Number of persons	4	80	84
	% within Site Type	5%	95%	100%
<i>All interview sites</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>961</i>	<i>539</i>	<i>1,500</i>
	<i>Total percent</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Table 4: Sheltered vs. Unsheltered Homeless Respondents by type of interview site

	Sheltered		Unsheltered		All Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Served Meal Program	65	40%	178	47%	243	45%
Food Pantry	23	14%	62	16%	85	16%
Drop In Center	70	43%	61	16%	131	24%
Outreach	5	3%	75	20%	80	15%
<i>All interview sites</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>539</i>	<i>100%</i>

Once housing status was determined, the researchers used the first series of interview questions to determine the population weight to apply to each unsheltered homeless respondent. The interview collected information on how many days during the last week the respondent used or had contact with each type of program where interviews were conducted (i.e. meal programs, food pantries, drop-in centers or mobile outreach). This information was used to assign a weight to each unsheltered homeless respondent, based on the type of service program at which they were interviewed, the frequency of their reported use of all service types and the availability of known services in the region of the county in which they were interviewed. This weight allows the respondent to represent a specific number of the total population of unsheltered homeless people using eligible services in Alameda County. The number of people represented by the respondent is known as the “population weight”.

Table 5 below shows the numbers of selected persons at each site type who were determined to be unsheltered, before population weights were applied. Next, the table shows the average population weight applied to each respondent at each type of interview site, as well as the smallest and largest weights for unsheltered homeless persons. The next column shows the weighted estimated number of persons, and the last column shows the weighted percent of respondents at each type of interview site who were determined to be unsheltered on the night before their interview.

Table 5: Weighted Population Estimates Process^{4,5}

Site Type	Number of unsheltered persons interviewed	Average population weight	Minimum population weight	Maximum population weight	Weighted Estimated # of unsheltered service users	Weighted % of service users who were unsheltered
Served Meal Program	178	6.3534	2.3400	74.6700	1,131	39%
Food Pantry	62	4.5969	1.1500	24.5700	285	3%
Drop In Center	61	1.4850	1.1700	5.2300	91	11%
Outreach	75	2.9278	0.8000	24.9400	220	81%
TOTAL	376	4.5907	0.8000	74.6700	1,727	13%

New Data Fields and Changes to the Survey Instrument from Prior Counts

With HUD's introduction of more detailed age reporting 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. The new age and households questions may have impacted the estimates noted in this report, so caution is recommended in reviewing comparison to prior years. For more details, see Appendix A.

⁴ The unweighted numbers of respondents in the Table 5 are shown in gray cells and in smaller type because, in a complex survey sample design, unweighted numbers do not represent valid estimates of population size or proportions. However, the unweighted number of respondents can be important because very small numbers may not support reliable estimates for the population. The remainder of this report presents weighted population estimates.

⁵ Only adult service users were interviewed and only adults appear in Table 5. Numbers of minor children residing with those adults were estimated separately and added to the total population estimates later. Tables reporting the estimated total homeless population (in the introduction and next section of the report) include the estimated numbers of minor children.

3. Population Results

Table 6: Part 1 of HUDs Final Table 2013

Part 1: 2013 Homeless Populations	Household Type: Persons in Households with at least one Adult and one Child (under 18)			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	TOTAL
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	126	294	42	462
Number of Persons (Adults and Children)	366	758	218	1,342
<i>Persons 17 and under</i>	220	417	106	743
<i>Persons 18-24</i>	28	135	3	166
<i>Persons 25 and older</i>	118	206	109	433
	Household Type: Persons in Households with only Children			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	TOTAL
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	6	1	0	7
Number of Persons (Age 17 or under)	8	2	0	10
Subtotal Households with Children	132	295	42	469
Subtotal Persons in Households with Children	374	760	218	1,352
	Household Type: Persons in Households without Children (under 18)			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	TOTAL
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	535	249	1,462	2,246
Number of Persons (Adults)	540	253	2,119	2,912
<i>Persons 18-24</i>	63	66	140	269
<i>Persons 25 and older</i>	477	187	1,979	2,643
	Household Type: All Households/All persons			
	Sheltered		Unsheltered	TOTAL
	Emergency	Transitional		
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	667	544	1,504	2,715
TOTAL PERSONS	914	1,013	2,337	4,264

Table 7: Part 2 of HUDs Final Table 2013

Part 2: 2013 Homeless Subpopulations			
	Sheltered *	Unsheltered	TOTAL
Chronically Homeless Individuals **	171	760	931
Chronically Homeless Families ***	11	26	37
Persons in Chronically Homeless Families	29	94	123
Veterans	139	353	492
Female Veterans	9	11	20
Severely Mentally Ill	477	629	1,106
Chronic Substance Abuse	354	935	1,289
Persons with HIV/AIDS	25	72	97
Victims of Domestic Violence	381	665	1,046

* Includes persons in emergency shelters and transitional housing, except that chronically homeless individuals and families include only persons in emergency shelters.

** HUD defines a chronically homeless individual as an unaccompanied homeless adult living on the street or in a shelter who has a disabling condition and has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

*** A chronically homeless family is a family (including at least one minor child) with at least one adult member (18 or older) who has a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

4. Context and Comparisons to Regional, State and National Data

The 2013 Alameda County Point-in-Time Count of homeless persons is one piece of a larger effort to understand homelessness and develop the system that houses and serves homeless people in Alameda County. Reviewing the Alameda County Count in the context of the region, state and nation is an interesting lens through which to consider the results of the 2013 Count and the trends since 2003. Because communities select the methodology for their homeless Count that best suits the preferences and resources of their community, these results should be understood as approximations.

Alameda County is among the most populous ten counties in the State of California, with almost 1.6 million residents. In the past ten years, the overall population of Alameda County has grown by 6%, while the homeless population has declined by over 16%.

Table 8: Homelessness in Alameda County, 2003 – 2013⁶

Year	Total Population	Homeless Population	Homeless as % of Population
2003	1,461,030	5,081	0.35%
2005	1,448,905	5,129	0.35%
2007	1,476,401	4,838	0.33%
2009	1,503,827	4,341	0.29%
2011	1,525,655	4,178	0.27%
2013	1,546,108	4,264	0.28%

In 2011, during the nationwide January Point-in-Time Count, there were an estimated 636,017 homeless people in the United States, or 0.2% of the total United States population.⁷ Throughout the country, the homelessness rate varied widely from state to state from as low as .08% to as high

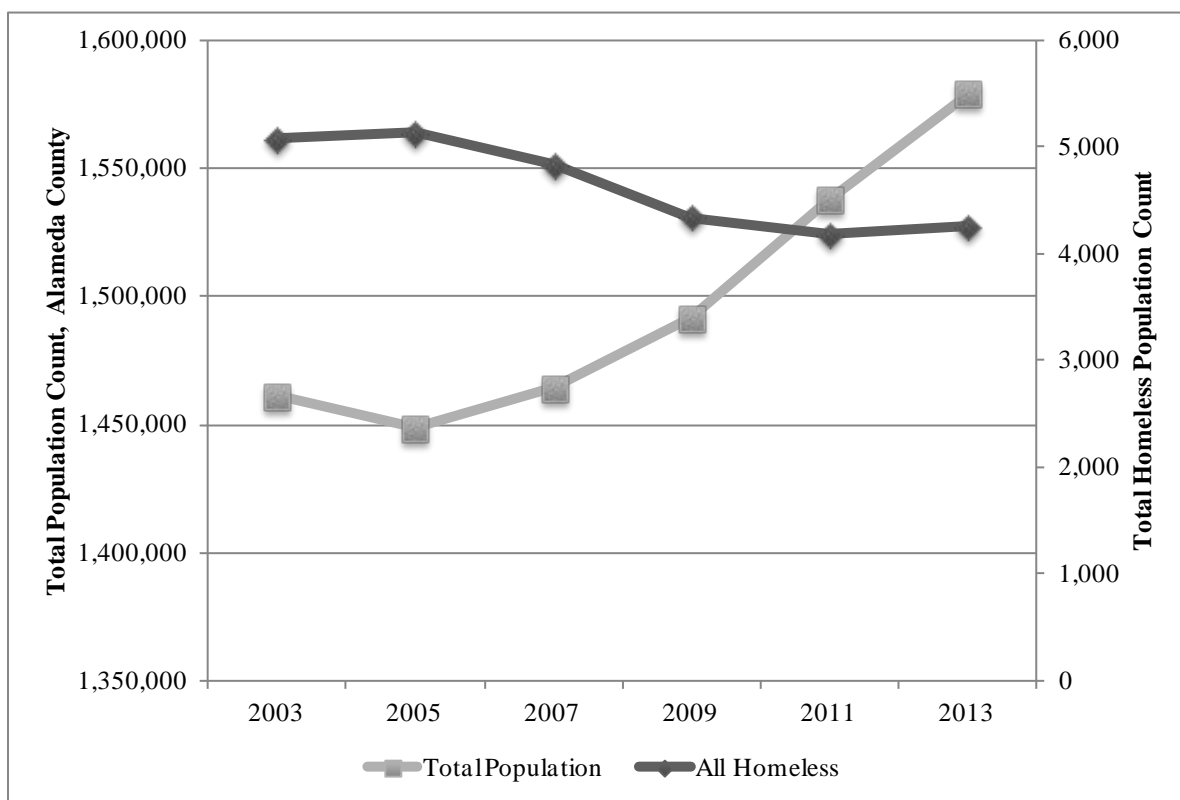
⁶ Total population figures for 2003 through 2005 are from the U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/historical/2000s/index.ht>. Total population numbers for 2007 through 2013 are from the California Department of Transportation: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/eab/socio_economic_files/2011/Alameda.pdf.

⁷ See “The State of Homelessness in America 2012” from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 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.

as .45% of the state population. The Alameda County Count has been and remains within this national range; the homeless population has declined from .35% in 2003 to .28% in 2013.⁸

In 2003, Alameda County estimated the homeless population at 5,081 people; in 2013, this estimate has dropped to 4,264 people. At the same time, the population of Alameda County grew by over 85,000 people, an increase of almost six percent. The shift in overall homelessness and corresponding increase in the countywide population is shown in Figure 1, below.

Figure 1: Shifts in Countywide and Homeless Populations: 2003 – 2013



With the exception of Los Angeles County and San Francisco County, which are among the ten communities with the largest homeless populations in the nation, the proportion of people in the County who are homeless in Alameda County is similar to many other California jurisdictions

⁸ See Table 8: Homelessness in Alameda County, 2003 – 2013 for more detail.

(Table 9).⁹ The majority of Counties report declines in their rate of homelessness since 2011; with the exception of Los Angeles, those that have had increases, including Alameda County, have been very small, .01% or less.

Table 9: California County Homeless Counts: 2011 to 2013¹⁰

	2011 Population	2011 PIT Count	% of People Homeless in 2011	2013 Population	2013 PIT Count	% of People Homeless in 2013	
Alameda	1,525,655	4,178	0.27%	1,546,108	4,264	0.28%	↑
Contra Costa	1,061,132	4,274	0.40%	1,079,300	3,798	0.35%	↓
Los Angeles	9,857,567	51,340	0.52%	9,927,173	58,423	0.59%	↑
Marin	254,114	886	0.35%	256,656	703	0.27%	↓
Orange	3,043,964	6,939	0.23%	3,096,336	4,251	0.14%	↓
Riverside	2,226,552	4,321	0.19%	2,307,191	2,978	0.13%	↓
Sacramento	1,430,537	2,358	0.16%	1,460,215	2,538	0.17%	↑
San Bernardino	2,059,630	2,816	0.14%	2,106,217	2,321	0.11%	↓
San Diego	3,131,254	9,020	0.29%	3,186,188	8,900	0.28%	↓
San Francisco *	814,088	6,455	0.79%	826,754	6,436	0.78%	↓
San Joaquin	693,589	2,641	0.38%	714,411	1,537	0.22%	↓
San Mateo	725,245	1,926	0.27%	732,324	1,995	0.27%	↑
Santa Barbara	425,840	1,576	0.37%	430,882	1,462	0.34%	↓
Stanislaus	518,481	1,409	0.27%	529,660	1,201	0.23%	↓
Ventura	830,215	1,872	0.23%	841,591	1,715	0.20%	↓

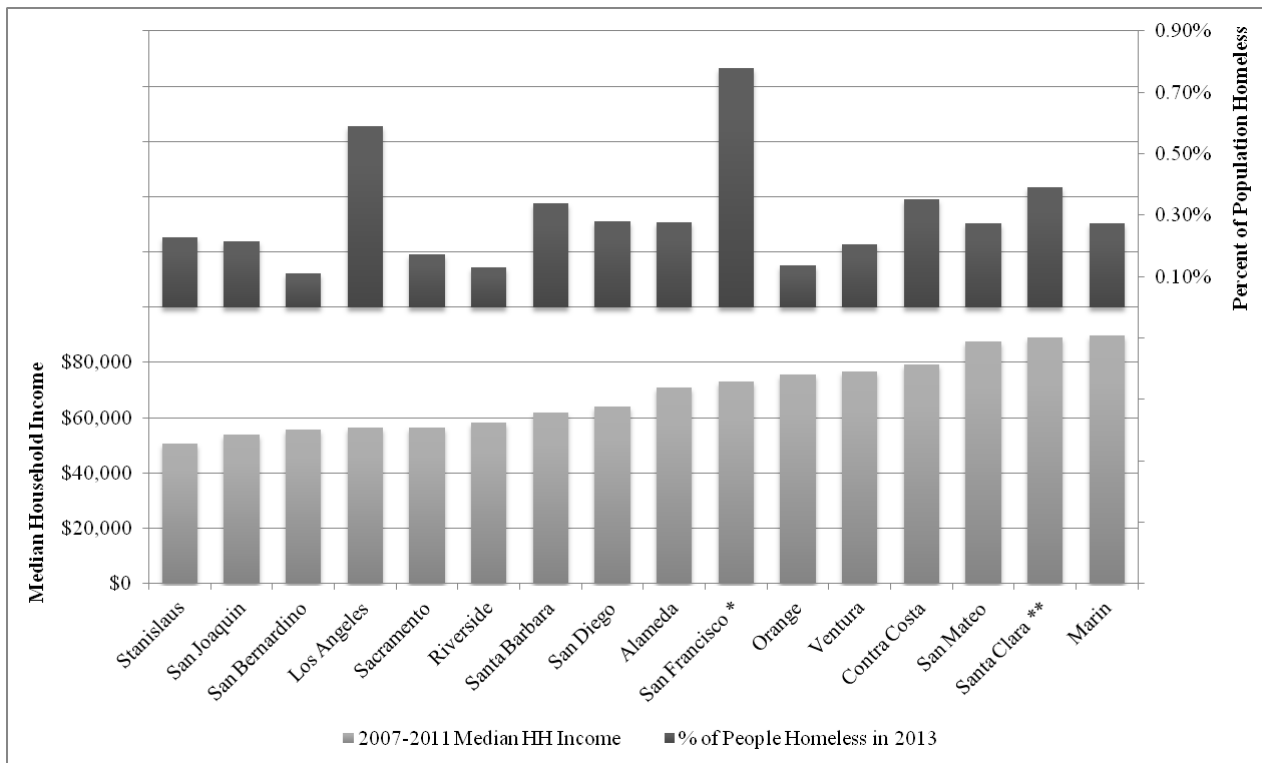
**Note that San Francisco's Count includes people in jails, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities.*

Figure 2 compares median household incomes (2007-2011) with rates of homelessness in select California counties. The graph below provides a general picture of the relationship between community income and homelessness rates. There is wide variety in the relationship between rates of homelessness, income and poverty across the state.

⁹ The State of Homelessness in America in 2012: A Research Report on Homelessness, published by NAEH, http://b.3cdn.net/naeh/9892745b6de8a5ef59_q2m6yc53b.pdf

¹⁰ Data for this table compiled by Focus Strategies from the CA Department of Transportation population counts for 2011 and projections for 2013 and local PIT count materials.

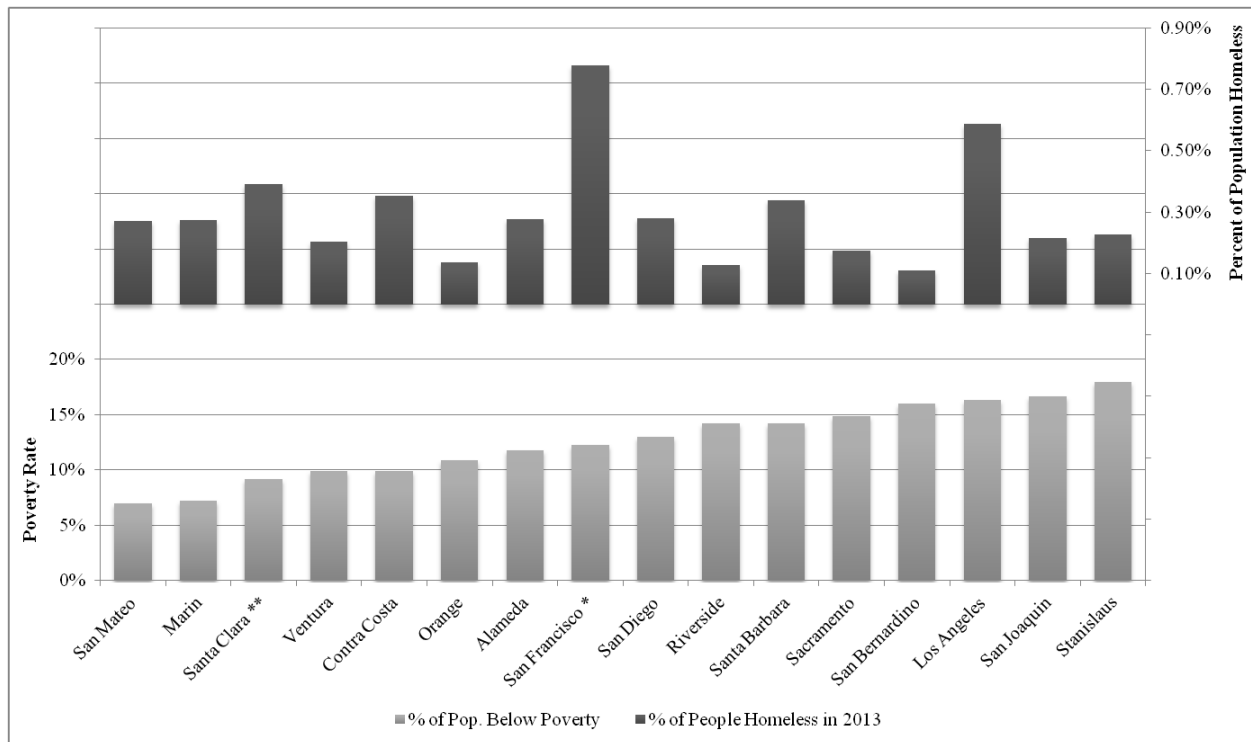
Figure 2: Median Incomes and 2013 Homeless Rates in California Counties



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

**Santa Clara percent of people homeless is from 2011, as their 2013 Count was not released as of printing.

Figure 3: Poverty and 2013 Homeless Rates in California Counties

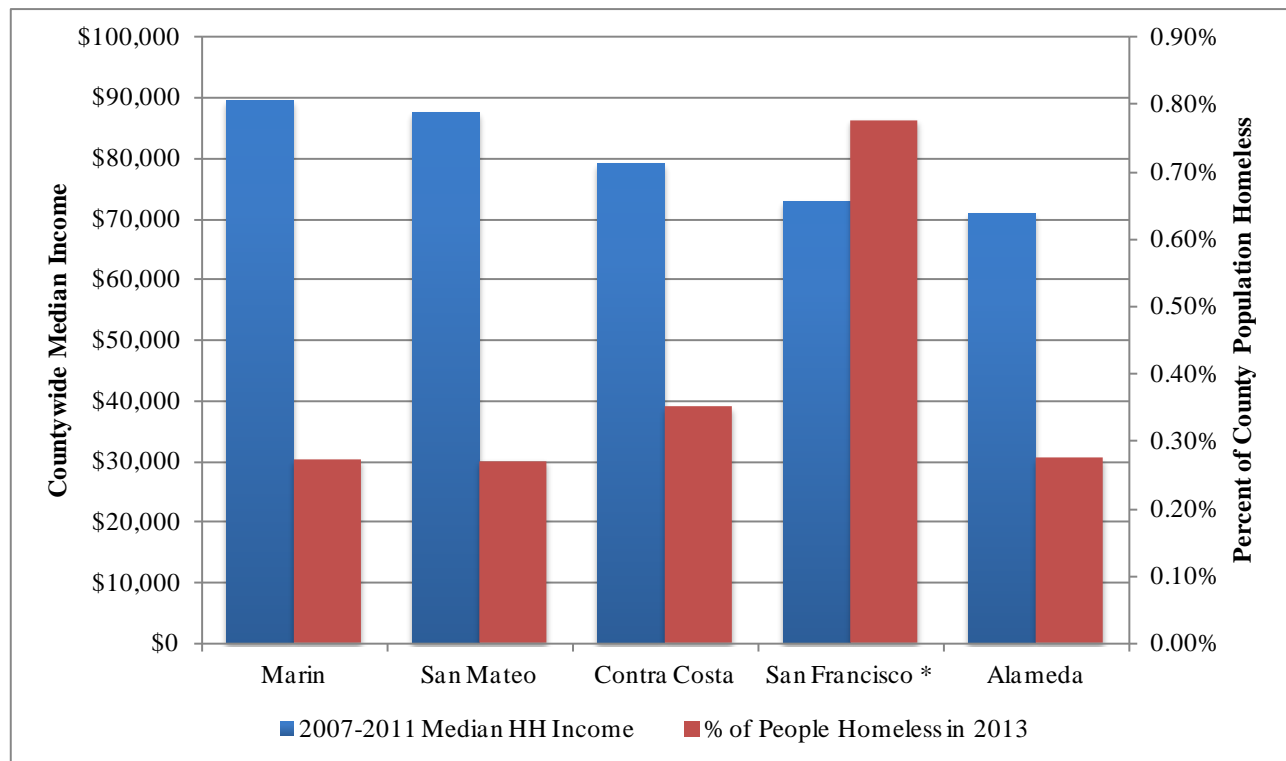


*Note that San Francisco's Count includes people in jails, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities.

**Santa Clara percent of people homeless is from 2011, as their 2013 Count was not released as of printing.

Looking at the Northern California counties surrounding Alameda who have reported 2013 PIT results (shown in Figure 4), as the median income of a County declined, the rate of homelessness increased. San Mateo and Marin Counties have the highest incomes and the lowest rates of homelessness. Contra Costa and San Francisco, which have lower incomes, have higher rates of homelessness (San Francisco numbers should be read with caution, given the extremely high population density in the County and given that their Count includes persons in institutions who are excluded from other Counts). However, Alameda, which has the lowest income of the five Counties, has a homeless rate almost equal to that of its more affluent neighbors San Mateo and Marin.

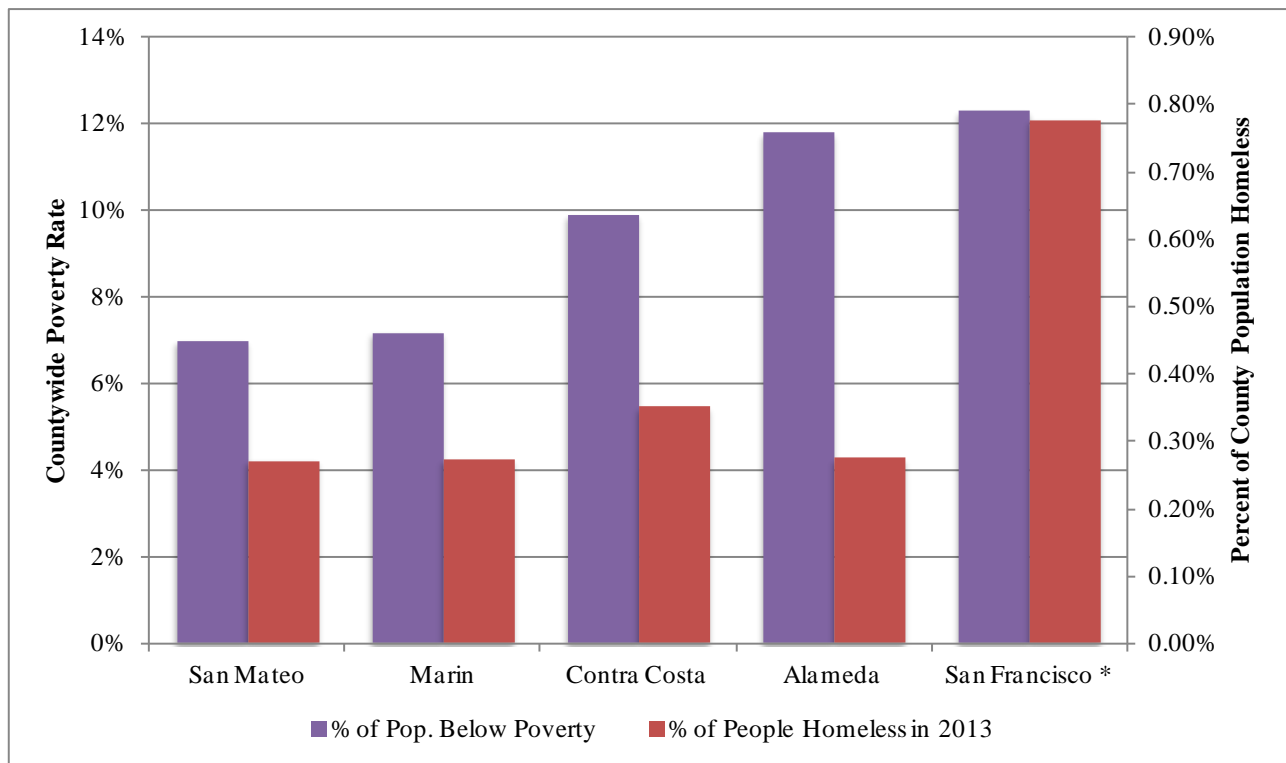
Figure 4: Median Incomes and 2013 Homeless Rates in California Bay Area Counties



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

In addition to the apparent relationship between income and homelessness rates in the surrounding region, there also appears to be a relationship between rates of poverty and homelessness. In these Bay Area communities, higher rates of poverty are associated with higher rates of homelessness. The exception is Alameda County, which again, has homeless rates similar to the more affluent communities of San Mateo and Marin. Despite having a poverty rate that is almost twice that of San Mateo and Marin, Alameda County's rate of homelessness is practically equal to these two communities. Alameda County's rate of homelessness is lower than expected given the rates of poverty and median household income.

Figure 5: Rates of Poverty and 2013 Homeless Rates in California Bay Area Counties



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

5. Population Changes: 2003 - 2013

The 2013 Alameda County Homeless Point-in-Time Count (Count) represents the sixth such Count in ten years. While policy and program changes at the federal and local level have influenced the design and analysis of the PIT over the years, the Count methodology has been consistent, allowing for trend analyses.

Tables 10 through 15 more deeply examine data drawn from Tables 6 and 7 in this report, the required HUD population and subpopulation tables. Where applicable, comparisons to similar results from past years are included to demonstrate changes over time. The sources for tables 10–26 and figures 6-13 are the homeless Count results and reports from 2003 – 2013.

Overall Homeless Population

The homeless population in Alameda County has declined by 817 people since 2003, which is a sixteen percent decline. Given the wide confidence intervals (as described in Section 1 and Appendix D), even this change is not significant enough to be statistically meaningful. In other words, homelessness estimates have decreased steadily over 10 years by 16%, but that change is insufficient to determine that the homeless population is smaller now than it was in 2003. Similarly, the 2013 Count of 4,264 people is a slight increase of just over two percent since 2011, and this result is statistically indistinguishable.

Table 10: Alameda County Homeless Population, 2003 - 2013

	Total Homeless Population	% Change Year to Year	% Change 2003 - 2013
2003	5,081	↑ .94%	↓ -16.08%
2005	5,129	↓ -5.67%	
2007	4,838	↓ -10.27%	
2009	4,341	↓ -3.75%	
2011	4,178	↑ 2.06%	
2013	4,264		

Homeless Population by Household Type

In 2013, HUD introduced new requirements for reporting homeless people by household type (these requirements are detailed in Appendix A). In order to accommodate these new requirements, the survey questions asking homeless people about the members of their family were changed, making comparison of household type to previous years' Counts not possible. In 2013, 68% of the homeless population was in a household without children and an estimated 32% were in a household with children. People in households with children include 10 people in child only households.

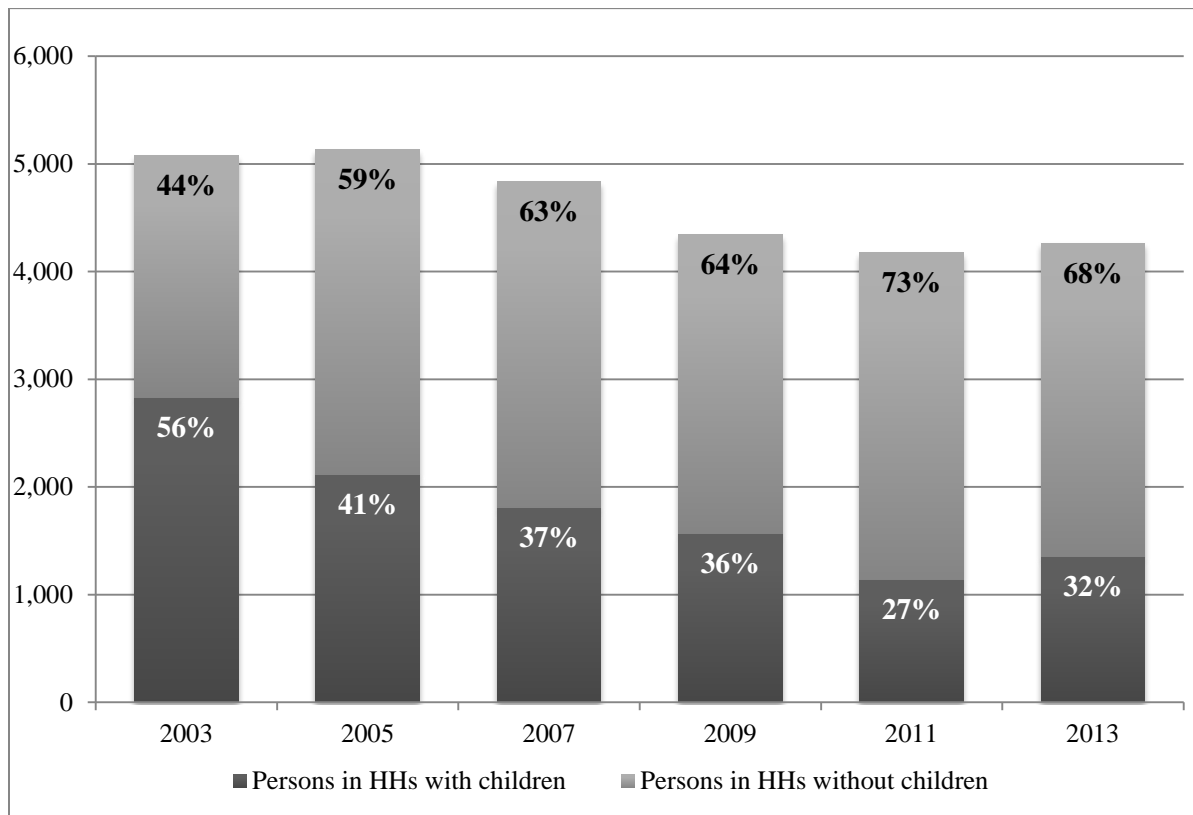
Table 11: Change in Homeless Population by Household Type

<u>Household Type</u>	2013	
	#	%
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child	1,342	31%
Persons in households with <u>only</u> children	10	0.2%
Persons in households without (minor) children	2,912	68%
<i>TOTAL PERSONS</i>	<i>4,264</i>	

The numbers of unsheltered homeless people by household type in 2013 are not comparable to prior years because of the change in survey questions. Since the questions and the context of the questions asked of respondents shifted significantly, whether changes from prior counts to 2013 reflect population shifts or merely a change in how respondents understood what was asked cannot be known without future field-testing and additional work with the survey questionnaire. Figure 6 and Tables 12-15 below show comparisons necessary for community reporting and planning purposes. Caution is recommended when interpreting the 2013 results in comparison to prior Count results. 2013 results should be understood as a new baseline.¹¹

¹¹ In 2013, new requirements for reporting people in homeless families were introduced, prompting a revision to previous years' survey questions. Appendix A provides details on these changes and the likely impacts on the Count estimates.

Figure 6: Proportion of Homeless Persons in Adult Only vs. Family Households, 2003 – 2013



Homeless Population by Living Situation

There has been small a decrease in the number of sheltered persons and a slight increase in the number of unsheltered persons since 2011. The top section of the table below refers to the two types of programs serving sheltered homeless people. The number of people in emergency shelters increased slightly (7%) but was offset by the slight decrease (9%) in the number of people in transitional housing. The unsheltered homeless population has increased by 6% since 2011.

Table 12: Change in Homeless Population by Current Living Situation

<u>Living Situation</u>	Total Homeless Population				% Change 2011 - 2013
	2011		2013		
	#	%	#	%	
Emergency Shelter Programs	852	20%	914	21%	7%
Transitional Housing Programs	1,114	27%	1,013	24%	-9%
<i>Subtotal Sheltered Persons</i>	<i>1,966</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>1,927</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>-2%</i>
Unsheltered Persons	2,212	53%	2,337	55%	6%
TOTAL PERSONS	4,178		4,264		

The majority of the increase in the proportion of homeless persons in emergency shelters since 2011 detailed in Table 13 below is composed of people in households with children. In 2011, persons in family households comprised 34% of the emergency shelter population, whereas in 2013, persons in family households composed 41% of the emergency shelter population. Overall, the sheltered population increased by one percentage point, or one one-hundredth, of the overall homeless population.

Table 13: Change in Homeless Population in Emergency Shelters (ES) by Household Type

Total Homeless Population in Emergency Shelters					
	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.
TOTAL PERSONS IN ES	852		914		1.0
<i>As % of all Homeless Persons</i>	20%		21%		
<u>Household Type</u>	#	%	#	%	
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child	293	34%	366	40%	
Persons in households with <u>only</u> children	3	0%	8	1%	
Persons in households without (minor) children	556	65%	540	59%	

There was a slight increase in persons in households with children living in transitional housing, but a larger decrease of persons in households without children in transitional housing since 2011. Overall, the proportion of homeless persons living in transitional housing decreased by almost three percentage points from 2011 to 2013.

Table 14: Change in Homeless Population in Transitional Housing (TH) by Household Type

Total Homeless Population in Transitional Housing					
	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.
TOTAL PERSONS IN TH	1,114		1,013		-2.9
<i>As % of all Homeless Persons</i>	27%		24%		
<u>Household Type</u>	#	%	#	%	
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child	703	63%	758	75%	
Persons in households with <u>only</u> children	0	0%	2	0%	
Persons in households without (minor) children	411	37%	253	25%	

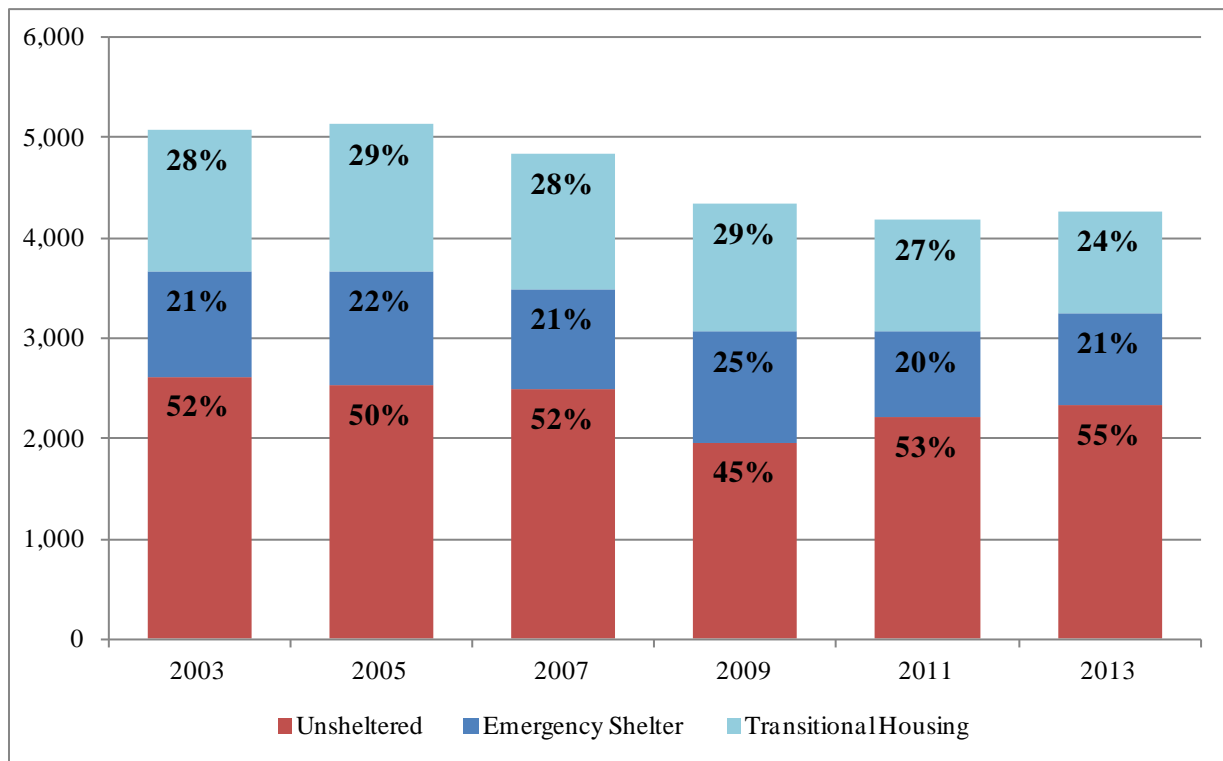
From 2011 to 2013, the population of unsheltered persons in households with children increased from six percent of the homeless population to nine percent. While the number of persons in households without children slightly increased, proportionally, they are less of the overall homeless population at 91%. Overall, the proportion of unsheltered people within the total homeless population increased by almost two percentage points.

Table 15: Change in Unsheltered Homeless Population by Household Type

Total Unsheltered Homeless Population					
	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.
<i>TOTAL UNSHELTERED PERSONS</i>	2,212		2,337		1.9
<i>As % of all Homeless Persons</i>	53%		55%		
<u>Household Type</u>	#	%	#	%	
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child	140	6%	218	9%	
Persons in households with <u>only</u> children	0	0%	0	0%	
Persons in households without (minor) children	2,072	94%	2,119	91%	

Figure 7 below shows the proportion of homeless people living in unsheltered situations, in emergency shelters and in transitional housing from 2003 to 2013. While 2013 has the largest proportion of unsheltered homeless people, it also has the lowest proportion of homeless people living in transitional housing.

Figure 7: Distribution of Homeless People by Living Situation, 2003 – 2013



Since 2003, the proportions of homeless people in the sheltered Count versus unsheltered persons have hovered around 50%. However, these results do not show the whole story about the relationship of homeless people staying in beds or units restricted to homeless people to unsheltered homeless people. A different and broader review includes housing programs that are required to house homeless persons.

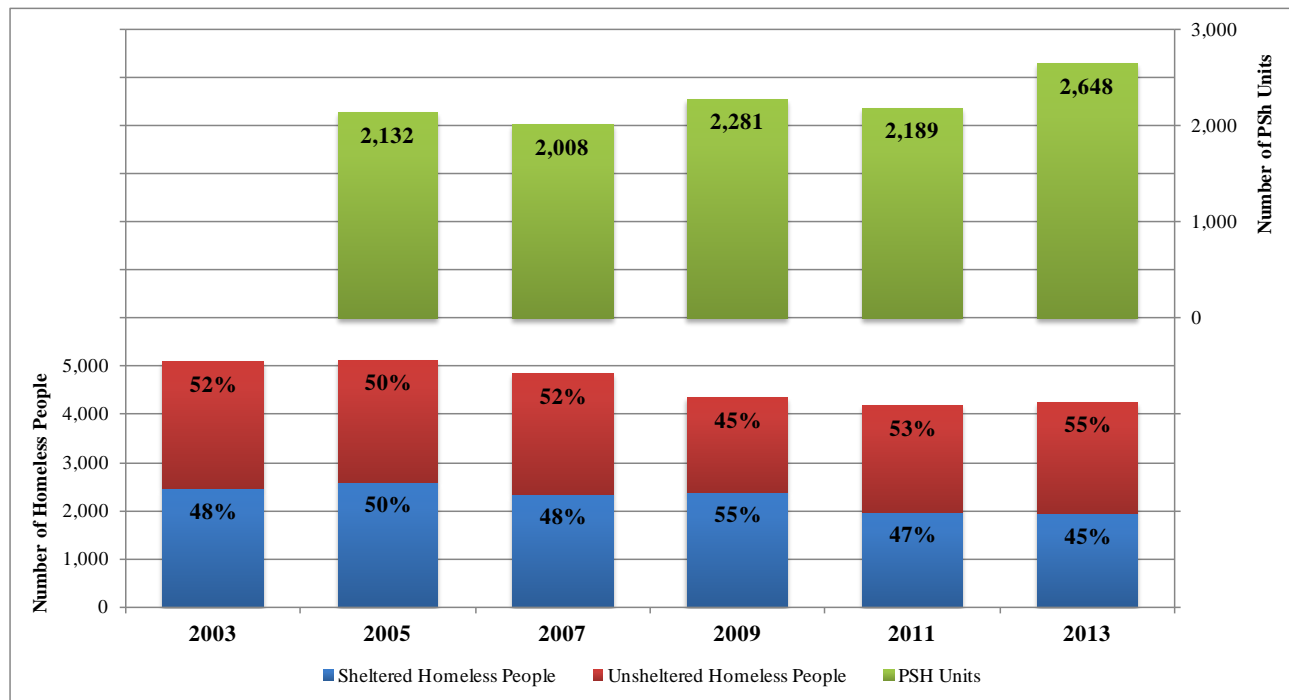
Over ten years, the homeless Count in Alameda County has remained methodologically consistent, including the definition of the sheltered population. Unsheltered homeless population estimates are bound by a careful definition of literal homelessness. By contrast, the sheltered component of the Count includes only homeless residential programs. Entry into certain permanent housing program types are specifically restricted to people who are literally homeless or in a program type included in the definition of the sheltered count. Since at least one program type – permanent supportive housing – is operating in Alameda County near qualifying population scale, the Count does not reflect the dynamics of movement in the homeless population fully, which is a primary aim of this report. Residential capacity matters, because the definition of sheltered persons includes those in

programs. Without the analysis below, the Count reflects the results of the 2013 Count compared with prior Counts, but not the meaning of the results in terms of population dynamics.

Alameda County added over 500 permanent supportive housing (PSH) beds over the last six years, as shown in Figure 8. This figure includes new permanent housing for formerly homeless persons over the ten year period. Please note the supportive housing figures are beds, or capacity, not people living in supportive housing. Assuming a modest vacancy rate, Figure 8 demonstrates that the portion of the homeless population in permanent supportive housing versus those sheltered (in emergency housing or transitional housing) flipped from 2007 to 2013. Because people in permanent housing are not part of the count, it is important to look at all the beds and units restricted to homeless people when considering homeless population trends.

Considering this broader group of people (a subset of formerly homeless people in PSH and currently homeless people), in 2007, 29% were living in PSH units and 36% in shelters or transitional housing; in 2013, 38% were living in PSH and 28% in shelters or transitional housing. In other words, while the percentage of unsheltered to sheltered persons has remained roughly the same, for ten years (as shown in Figure 7 above), the total number of people in sheltered situations has decreased.

Figure 8: Unsheltered vs. Sheltered Homeless People, 2003 – 2013



* In 2003, some subpopulation data was calculated using a community definition of homelessness, which was more expansive than the HUD definition, and included people living in precariously housed situation who were “at risk” of becoming homeless.

**PSH bed counts are not available for 2003.

6. Subpopulation Changes: 2003 - 2013

In addition to enumerating homeless people and families by family composition and living situation, Alameda County also reports on certain characteristics among the homeless population. Subpopulation data is generally collected by self-report from respondent. Mental illness and chronic substance abuse are assessed through a series of questions, rather than a simple yes or no type question. In general, certain characteristics may be under-reported due to stigma and/or the very personal nature of the information. Therefore, the data on the prevalence of subpopulations, including domestic violence and disabilities within the homeless population could be considered a lower bound estimate.

Chronically Homeless People and Families

931 of the 4,264 homeless people estimated in 2013, or 22%, are chronically homeless individuals (see page 20 for the definition of chronic homelessness). This result is a decrease of almost five percentage points since 2011. Approximately 18% of these persons are sheltered; the remaining 82% are unsheltered.

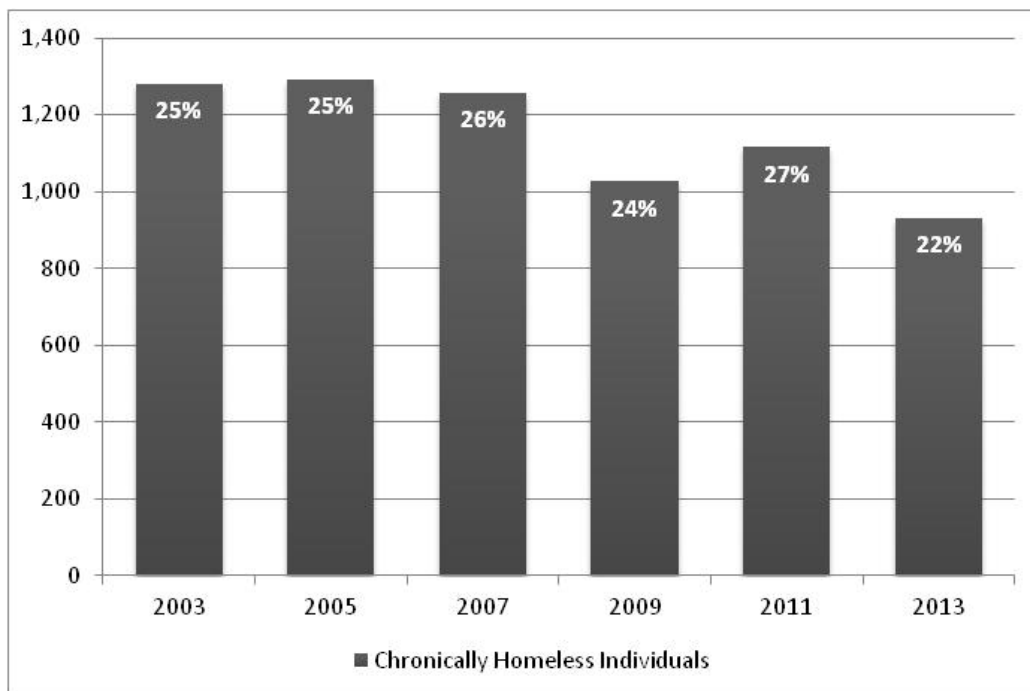
Table 16: Change in Chronically Homeless (CH) Individuals by Current Living Situation

	Total Chronically Homeless Individuals				Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.
	2011		2013		
TOTAL CH INDIVIDUALS	1,116		931		-4.9
<i>As % of all Homeless Persons</i>	27%		22%		
<u>Current Living Situation</u>	#	%	#	%	
Sheltered *	174	16%	171	18%	
Unsheltered	942	84%	760	82%	

*For chronically homeless individuals and families, “sheltered” includes only people in emergency shelter programs. For all other subpopulations, “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

Figure 9 below, shows the number of chronically homeless individuals since 2003 and the percentage of the overall Count that these figures represent. The number of chronically homeless individuals has decreased by nearly 350 people since 2003. The number of chronically homeless people as compared to the total homeless population is proportionally the lowest since reporting began (22%), but remains about a quarter of the homeless population.

Figure 9: Changes in % of Chronically Homeless Individuals in Homeless Population, 2003 – 2013



HUD began requiring a count of chronically homeless families in 2011; therefore there are no comparisons available prior to 2011. In 2013, HUD required not only a count of the number of chronically homeless families, but also a count of the people in those families. About one-third of chronically homeless families are sheltered, while about two-thirds are unsheltered, and the split of people in chronically homeless families matches those proportions. In 2011, the split between chronically homeless families in shelters and in unsheltered situations was quite different – 57% were sheltered and 43% were unsheltered. While this may appear to be a dramatic difference, the subpopulation numbers of chronically homeless families in both 2011 and 2013 are small enough that no conclusions can be drawn about the change in population size. In other words, the estimated

number of total chronically homeless families in both years is too small to determine whether there was a change in the size of the population. There were 98 chronically homeless families in 2011 and 37 in 2013. The proportion of chronically homeless family households (HH) in the entire homeless household population declined by just under two percentage points since 2011.

Table 17: Change in Chronically Homeless Families* by Current Living Situation

		Total Chronically Homeless Families		Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless HHs.
		2011	2013	
TOTAL CH FAMILIES		98	37	-1.7
<i>As % of all HHs</i>		3%	1%	
<u>Current Living Situation</u>	#	%	#	%
Sheltered **	56	57%	11	30%
Unsheltered	42	43%	26	70%

* Chronically Homeless Families are households that include at least one adult and at least one minor child.

**For chronically homeless individuals and families, “sheltered” includes only people in emergency shelter programs. For all other subpopulations, “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

Table 18: People in Chronically Homeless Families, 2013

People in Chronically Homeless Families *		
<u>Current Living Situation</u>	People in Families - 2013	
	#	%
Sheltered **	29	23.6%
Unsheltered	94	76.4%
TOTAL	123	100.0%

* Chronically Homeless Families are households that include at least one adult and at least one minor child.

**For chronically homeless individuals and families, “sheltered” includes only people in emergency shelter programs. For all other subpopulations, “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

The 931 chronically homeless individuals and 123 people in chronically homeless families together represent 25% of the total homeless population. However, homeless people in adult-only households who meet the disabling condition and chronicity components of the chronic homeless definition are not included in the HUD-defined chronically homeless households (Tables 6 and 7). . In part because household and family composition information was collected differently in 2013, additional analyses are included below, detailing all possible household types in which at least one member of the household is literally homeless, an adult, and has a disabling condition. Tables 19 and 20 below detail how many households and people meet these criteria from the sheltered and unsheltered population.

Table 19 shows that of the 169 unsheltered multiple adult (only) households, 109, or 65% of them include at least one chronically homeless individual. These 109 households are 12% of all unsheltered households with a chronically homeless adult. 2013 is the first year that persons meeting the chronically homeless definition were calculated by two household types, so there are no comparisons available to past years. In future Counts, it may be interesting to make this comparison, using 2013 as the baseline.

Table 19: Chronically Homeless Adult(s) by Household (HH) Type, Unsheltered Homeless 2013

	Single Adult HH		Multi-Adult HH		Family HH		All HH	
	#	% of HH type	#	% of HH type	#	% of HH type	#	% of all HH
HH with CH Adult	760	59%	109	65%	26	62%	895	60%
HH without CH Adult	533	41%	59	35%	16	38%	608	40%
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	1,293	100%	169	100%	42	100%	1,504	100%

Of the unsheltered multiple adult only households with a chronically homeless adult member, the majority are two-person households with the respondent and a partner, followed by respondents living with a partner and adult child(ren) and respondents living with adult child(ren). Additional information about unsheltered multiple adult only households is presented below.

Table 20: Unsheltered Multiple-Adult (Only) Households including at least one Chronically Homeless Person

HH Type	Households	
	#	%
Respondent Plus Partner Only	66	61%
Respondent Plus Partner & Adult Child(ren)	17	16%
Respondent Plus Adult Child(ren) Only	14	13%
Respondent Plus Other Mix of Adults	11	10%
TOTAL	109	100%

Homelessness among Veterans

The number of homeless veterans changed little since 2011; there was less than one percentage point decrease in this subpopulation as a whole. The table below shows that of the 492 homeless veterans, 72% are unsheltered, while 28% are sheltered.

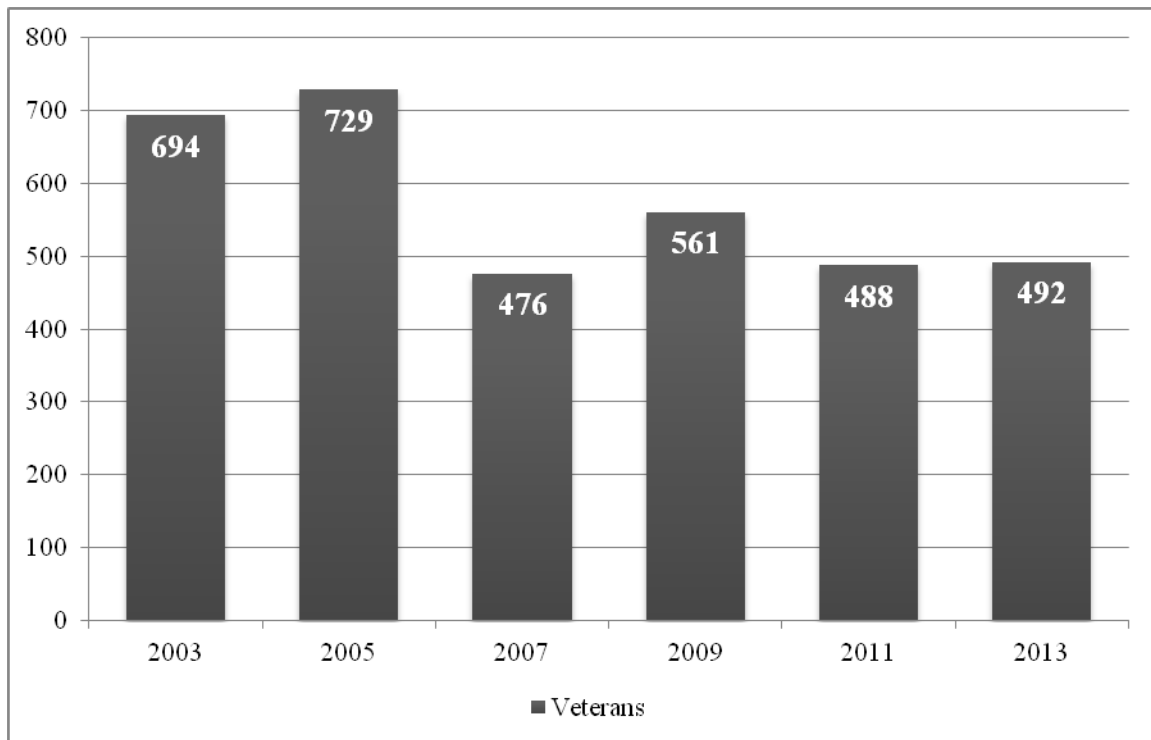
Table 21: Change in Homeless Veterans Population by Current Living Situation

	Total Homeless Veteran Population			
	2011	2013	Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.	
TOTAL HOMELESS VETERANS	488	492	-0.14	
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	11.7%	11.5%		
Current Living Situation	#	%	#	%
Sheltered*	143	29%	139	28%
Unsheltered	345	71%	353	72%

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

In the homeless veteran population since 2003, the proportion of veterans has hovered between ten and fourteen percent of the overall homeless population. However, the total number of homeless veterans has declined by over 200 people. In 2013, there were an estimated 492 homeless veterans.

Figure 10: Homeless Veteran Population, 2003 – 2013



Among the 492 homeless veterans, 20 (approximately four percent) are female veterans. Female veterans make up less than half a percent of the overall homeless population. Just under half of the female veterans are sheltered and just over half are unsheltered, as shown in Table 22 below.

Table 22: Female Veterans by Living Situation, 2013

TOTAL HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS	20	
<i>As % of all homeless persons</i>	0.47%	
<u>Current Living Situation</u>	#	%
Sheltered*	9	45%
Unsheltered	11	55%

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

Mental Illness and Homelessness

In 2011, there were 818 homeless people with severe mental illness (SMI); this number increased to 1,106 in 2013. This increase is substantial, reflecting a 6.4 percentage point increase. The increase is entirely in the unsheltered population.

Table 23: Change in Proportion of Homeless People with SMI by Current Living Situation

	Total Homeless Population with SMI			
	2011	2013	Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.	
TOTAL HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH SMI	818	1,106	6.4	
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	20%	26%		
<u>Current Living Situation</u>	#	%	#	%
Sheltered*	478	58%	477	43%
Unsheltered	340	42%	629	57%

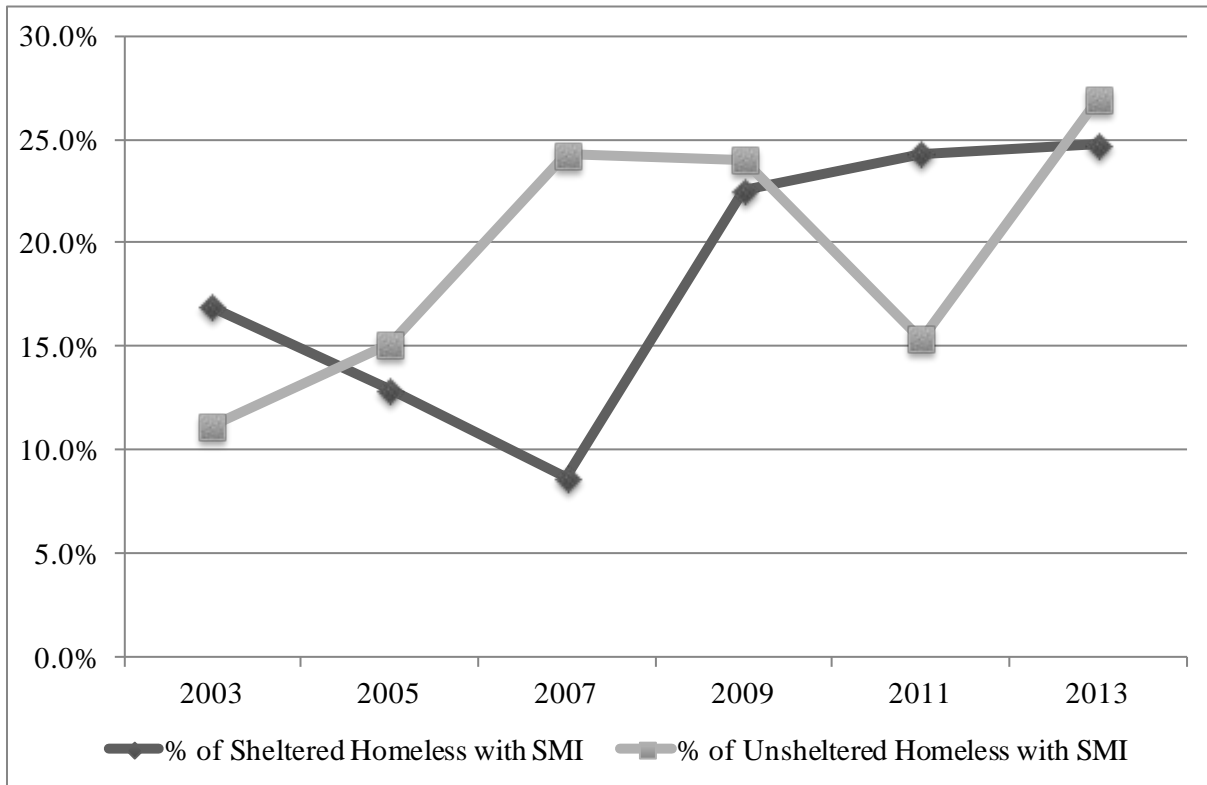
**For all subpopulations (except chronically homeless individuals and families), “sheltered” includes people in both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.*

The increase in the numbers of homeless persons with serious mental illness, most notably in the unsheltered population, is large. The proportion of serious mental illness among sheltered and unsheltered people in 2013 is practically identical: 25% of the total sheltered population (1,927) and 26% of the total unsheltered population (2,337) lives with a serious mental illness.

Looking at this population as a percent of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people over time shows some years (2005 and 2009) where this trend holds: the prevalence of SMI is about equal among sheltered and unsheltered people. However, there are other years (2007 and 2011) where there is a large discrepancy between sheltered and unsheltered populations in regards to the prevalence of serious mental illness.

Figure 11 below shows the living situation of homeless people with serious mental illness from 2003 to 2013. It is not clear why in some years a much higher proportion of this subpopulation is in sheltered situations compared with unsheltered situations.

Figure 11: Changes in Proportion of Homeless Population with SMI, 2003 – 2013



* In 2003, some subpopulation data was calculated from of a community definition of homelessness, which was more expansive than the HUD definition, and included people living in precariously housed situation who were “at risk” of becoming homeless.

Substance Abuse and Homelessness

The number of homeless people chronically abusing drugs or alcohol decreased by three and a half percentage points since 2011, but remained approximately one third of the homeless population. Similar to the proportions in 2011, about 73% of homeless people chronically abusing a substance are unsheltered, while 27% are sheltered.

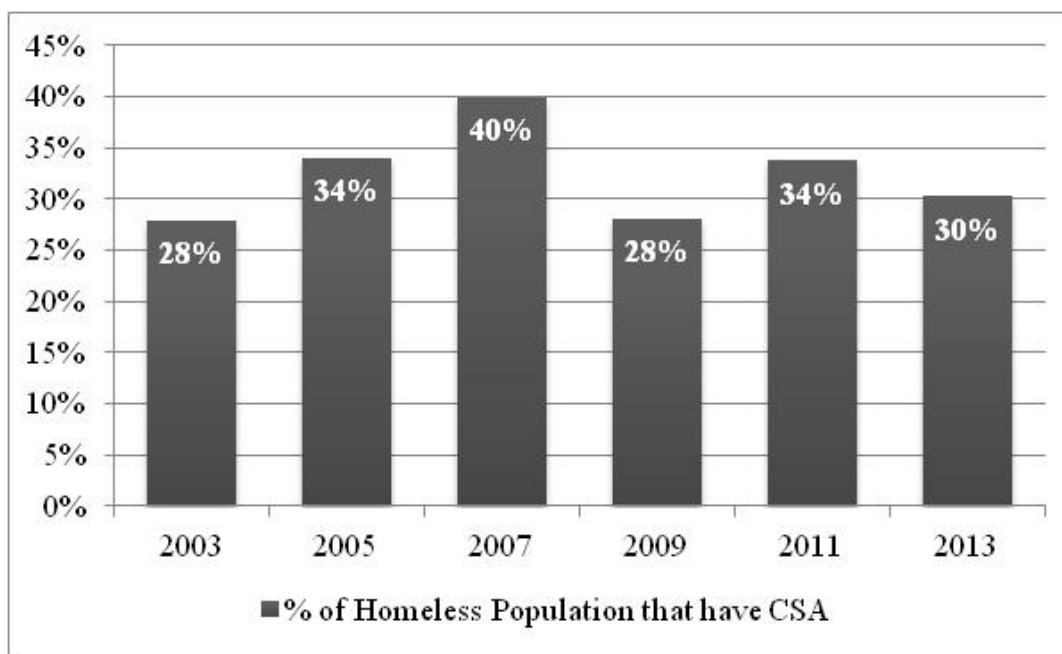
Table 24: Change in Proportion of People with Chronic Substance Abuse (CSA) by Current Living Situation

	Total Homeless Population with CSA			
	2011	2013	Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.	
TOTAL HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH CSA	1,408	1,289	-3.5	
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	34%	30%		
<u>Current Living Situation</u>	#	%	#	%
Sheltered*	347	25%	354	27%
Unsheltered	1,061	75%	935	73%

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

Over the past ten years, the proportion of the homeless population with a chronic substance abuse issue has risen and fallen, from a low of 28% in 2003 and 2009 to a high of 40% in 2007. The 2013 proportion of 30% is on the lower end of the trend over time.

Figure 12: Proportion of Homeless Persons with Chronic Substance Abuse, 2003 – 2013



* In 2003, some subpopulation data was calculated from of a community definition of homelessness, which was more expansive than the HUD definition, and included people living in precariously housed situation who were “at risk” of becoming homeless.

HIV/AIDS and Homelessness

The number of homeless persons with HIV/AIDS increased by less than one percentage point from 2011 to 2013; 97 homeless people, or two percent of the entire homeless population, is living with HIV/AIDS. The table below also shows that about 74% of persons with HIV/AIDS are unsheltered, while about 26% are sheltered.

Table 25: Change in Proportion of Persons with HIV/AIDS by Current Living Situation

Total Homeless Population with HIV/AIDS					
	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.
TOTAL HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS	60		97		
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	1.4%		2.3%		
<u>Current Living Situation</u>					
	#	%	#	%	
Sheltered*	18	30%	25	26%	
Unsheltered	42	70%	72	74%	

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

While the numbers of persons with HIV/AIDS has shifted over time, from a high of 157 in 2003 to a low of 60 in 2011, the proportion of the homeless population with HIV/AIDS has remained between one and three percent of the overall homeless population since the first count.

Domestic Violence and Homelessness

The number of homeless survivors of domestic violence increased seven and a half percentage points since 2011. However, in 2011, a more strict definition was applied to this subpopulation, counting only those people who reported they were currently fleeing domestic violence. In 2013, per the HUD definition, anyone who had ever experienced domestic violence was included in this subpopulation, which would include experiences violence that adults may have experienced as a child. Had the 2011 definition been applied to 2013 data, there would have only been 256 unsheltered victims of domestic violence counted, a statistically indistinguishable difference from the 2011 Count of 281 unsheltered persons.

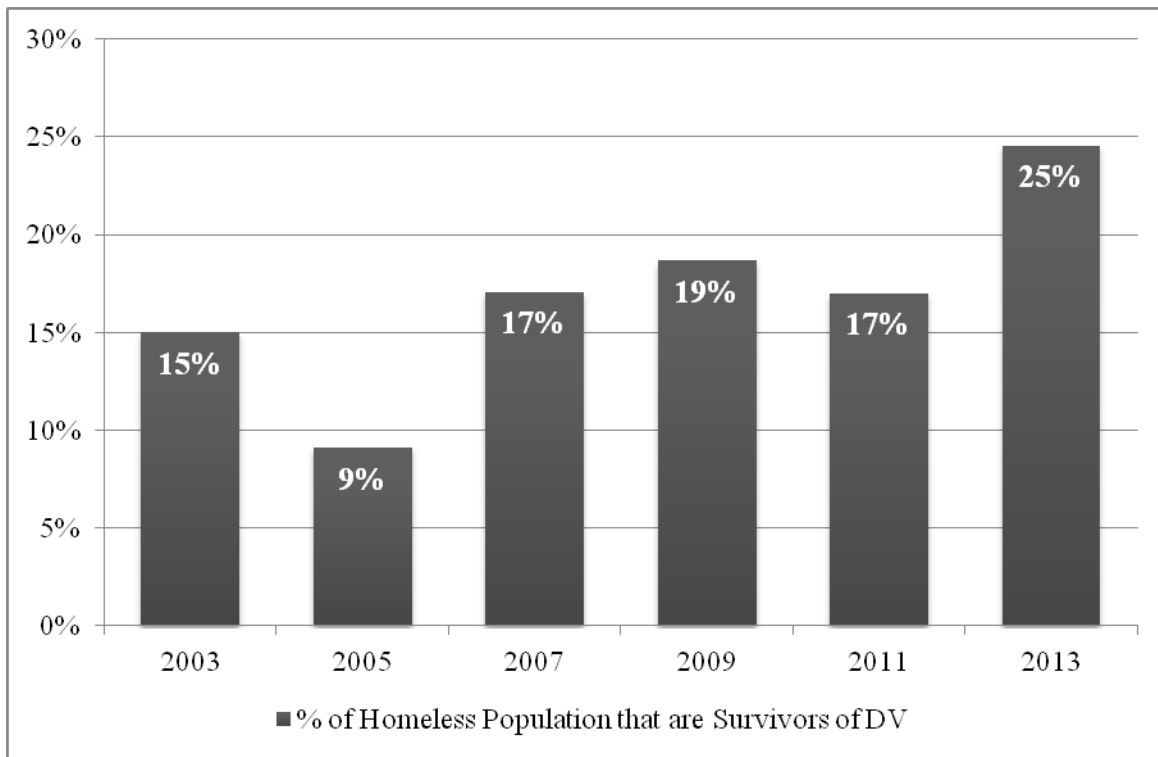
Table 26: Change in Proportion of Survivors of Domestic Violence by Current Living Situation

		Total Homeless Survivors of Domestic Violence			
		2011	2013	Difference in Proportion of Total Homeless Pop.	
TOTAL SURVIVORS OF DV		711	1,046	7.5	
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>		17%	25%		
<u>Current Living Situation</u>		#	%	#	%
Sheltered*		430	60%	381	36%
Unsheltered		281	40%	665	64%

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

The apparent change in the prevalence of domestic violence survivors in the homeless population from 2011 to 2013 reflects the shift in definition. However, prior to 2011, when the definition of domestic violence was aligned with the 2013 definition, the proportion of the homeless population experiencing domestic violence was lower than in 2013 by between 6 and 16 percentage points (2005 and 2009, respectively).

Figure 13: Percent of Homeless Population that are Domestic Violence Survivors, 2003 – 2013



**In 2003, some subpopulation data was calculated from of a community definition of homelessness, which was more expansive than the HUD definition, and included people living in precariously housed situation who were “at risk” of becoming homeless.*

7. Demographics of the Unsheltered Homeless Population

Tables 27 through 33 provide demographic data on age, gender, race, and ethnicity of the unsheltered population and compare the recent findings with those from the 2011 Count and, when applicable, to data from the 2009 report as well. With the exception of gender, demographic data reported on in 2003 was not consistently measured on people meeting the HUD homeless definition, rather, it was reported on people meeting a community definition of homelessness. Because numbers beyond the HUD-required tables are not available for 2005 and 2007, comparisons are possible back to 2009 on most demographic information.

Because only adults completed the surveys, those tables refer only to unsheltered adults 18 or older. Statistical tests of significance were not performed on the demographic tables, and confidence intervals were not generated. Confidence intervals would be needed to make statistical claims about differences. Based on past analyses of data from this population and with a similar survey sample size, we have found that statistically significant differences are generally results that vary more than 5%. Changes from Count to Count that are smaller than 5% (between subpopulation data points from Count to Count) are unlikely to be statistically significant and therefore the results should be understood as indistinguishable from the prior Count(s) results.

Age

After an increase from 2009 to 2011 in mean and median age by about 8.6%, the mean (average) age of unsheltered homeless has dropped back down to just over 47 years, comparable with the mean age of 46.6 in 2009. Median age is virtually unchanged from 2011, at 50 years, as compared to 51 years in 2011.

Table 27: Age Mean and Median of Unsheltered Adults

All Unsheltered Homeless People

<u>Age</u>	2009	2011	2013	# Change 09 - 13
Mean (years)	46.6	50.6	47.1	0.5
Median (years)	47	51	50	3

Respondents ages 41 to 60 are the largest known age group among the unsheltered homeless population. While it appears as if there has been a large decline in this age category in 2013, the majority of the 13% of respondents of “unknown” age are most likely in this category (see Appendix A for more information). Despite the uncertainty of the unknown age respondents, the changes detailed in Table 28 show an almost five percentage point rise in the proportion of younger adults (age 25-40) among the unsheltered homeless population since 2009 and a more than doubling of the proportion of unsheltered people in this age group since 2011. The proportion of homeless people over age 60 is unchanged from 2011, however there was a rise in people 61 years and older from 2009 to 2011. This age group has increased almost 7 percentage points since 2009, so 10% of unsheltered homeless people are 61+.

Table 28: Changes in Age of Homeless Persons, 2009-2013

All Unsheltered Homeless People							Difference in Proportion of Unsheltered Homeless Pop.
<u>Age</u>	2009		2011		2013		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
18-24	38	2%	21	1%	54	3%	0.8
25-40	358	22%	237	11%	454	26%	4.7
41-60	1,211	73%	1,630	77%	831	48%	-24.9
61+	50	3%	208	10%	168	10%	6.7
Unknown	0	0%	18	1%	219	13%	12.7
TOTAL	1,657	100%	2,114	100%	1,726	100%	

In 2011, Alameda County first began looking more deeply at the transition age youth homeless population, those people between the ages of 18 and 24. Transition age youth made up less than one percent of the homeless population in 2011, and it remains a very small portion of the homeless population in 2013, only 1.3%. However, whereas in 2011, the majority of the transition age youth were in the younger age category of 22-24, in 2013, this trend has reversed, and the majority of transition age youth are between the ages of 18 and 21. Given the very low number of transition

age youth overall, these percentages should be considered a starting point for future analyses rather than a meaningful result.

Table 29: Changes in Transition Age Youth Populations, 2011-2013

	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Unsheltered Homeless Pop.
TOTAL TRANSITION AGE YOUTH	21		54		
<i>As % of all homeless people</i>	0.50%		1.3%		
<u>Age Categories</u>	#	%	#	%	
18-21	2	10%	36	67%	
22-24	19	90%	15	28%	
Unknown *	0	0%	3	6%	

**Unknowns are respondents who indicated they were 18-24 (and therefore, a transition age youth), but did not give an exact age to allow further categorization.*

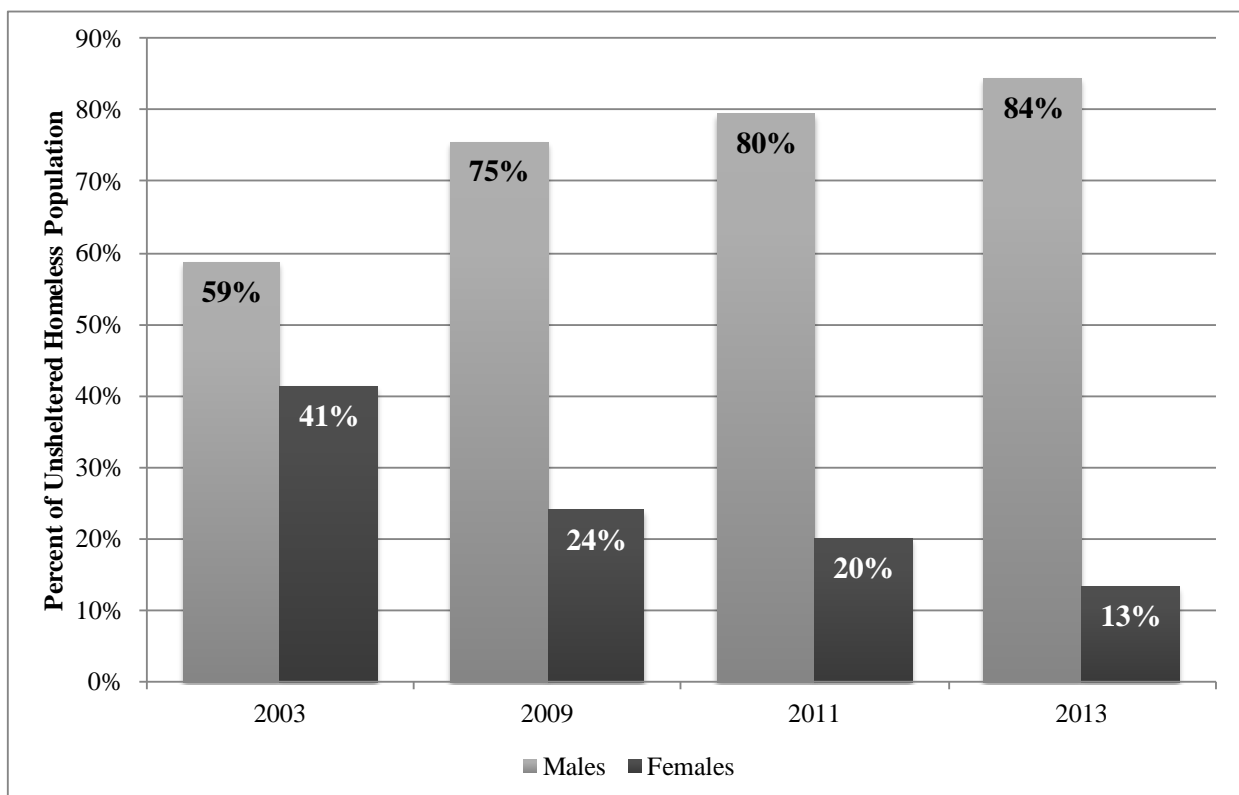
Gender

In 2011, almost 80% of the unsheltered homeless population was male, a five percentage point increase from 2009. In 2013, unsheltered men increased by another four percentage points compared to 2011 so that men are now 84% of the unsheltered population. Conversely, only 13% of the unsheltered population is female, a decline of almost eleven percentage points in four years. Eleven people identified as transgendered and 28 did not report gender.

Table 30: Changes in Gender of Homeless Persons, 2009-2013

All Unsheltered Homeless People							
Gender	2009		2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Unsheltered Homeless Pop.
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Male	1,251	75%	1,681	80%	1,457	84%	8.9
Female	398	24%	423	20%	230	13%	-10.7
Transgender	8	0%	1	0.05%	11	0.6%	0.2
Unknown	0	0%	9	0.4%	28	2%	1.6
TOTAL	1,657	100%	2,114	100%	1,726	100%	

Figure 14: Percent of Unsheltered Homeless Population, 2003 – 2013



Race

The distribution of race categories among unsheltered homeless people remains quite similar to 2011 figures. There was a slight increase in both Black/African Americans and White/American Indians. The largest decline was in “Other Multi-Racial” respondents, which dropped by over six percentage points but can probably be accounted for in the increase in “Unknown” races and other identified racial mixes.

Table 31: Changes in Race (Multi-racial categories) of Homeless Persons, 2011-2013

<u>Race</u>	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Unsheltered Homeless Pop.
	#	%	#	%	
Black/African American	789	37.3%	682	39.5%	2.19
White/Caucasian	823	38.9%	623	36.1%	-2.84
American Indian/Alaskan Native	63	3.0%	78	4.5%	1.54
Asian	22	1.0%	14	0.8%	-0.23
Pacific Islander	15	0.7%	25	1.4%	0.74
Black + White	1	0.0%	4	0.2%	0.18
Black + American Indian	37	1.8%	29	1.7%	-0.07
Black + Asian	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	-0.05
Black + Pacific Islander	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	-0.19
White + American Indian	79	3.7%	102	5.9%	2.17
White + Asian	11	0.5%	0	0.0%	-0.52
White + Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	3	0.2%	0.17
American Indian + Asian	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	-0.14
American Indian + Pac Islander	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.00
Asian + Pacific Islander	6	0.3%	0	0.0%	-0.28
Other Multi-Racial	162	7.7%	26	1.5%	-6.16
Unknown	98	4.6%	140	8.1%	3.48
TOTAL	2,114	100.0%	1,726	100.0%	

Table 32: Change in Race (HUD Categories) of Homeless Persons, 2011-2013

All Unsheltered Homeless People					
<u>Race</u>	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Unsheltered Homeless Pop.
	#	%	#	%	
Black/African American	789	37%	682	40%	2.2
White/Caucasian	823	39%	623	36%	-2.8
American Indian/Alaskan Native	63	3%	78	5%	1.5
Asian	22	1%	14	0.8%	-0.2
Pacific Islander	15	0.7%	25	1.4%	0.7
Other Multi-Racial	304	14%	164	10%	-4.9
Unknown	98	5%	140	8%	3.5
TOTAL	2,114	100.0%	1,726	100.0%	

Ethnicity

In 2013, just over seven percent of unsheltered adults identified as Hispanic/Latino, a slight decrease from the 9.5% in 2011. This includes people who identified *only* as Hispanic/Latino as well as people who identified one or more racial categories in addition to Hispanic/Latino. Those not identifying as Hispanic/Latino remained essentially equal to 2011, at approximately 85%.

Table 33: Change in Ethnicity (HUD Categories) of Homeless Persons, 2011-2013

All Unsheltered Homeless People					
<u>Ethnicity</u>	2011		2013		Difference in Proportion of Unsheltered Homeless Pop.
	#	%	#	%	
Hispanic/Latino	200	9%	122	7%	-2.4
Not Hispanic/Latino	1,816	86%	1,464	85%	-1.1
Unknown	98	5%	140	8%	3.5
TOTAL	2,114	100%	1,726	100%	

Appendix A. Composition of Homeless Households & Age Data

Composition of Homeless Households

For the first time, in the 2013 point-in-time count, HUD required detailed information on the ages of the people making up each household type. Prior to 2013, communities were required only to report the total number of people in each household type, not the ages of those people. With HUD's introduction of more detailed age reporting 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. The new age and households questions may have impacted the estimates noted in this report, causing a potentially skewed comparison to prior years.

These new survey questions were developed by experienced survey researchers and field tested before the count. The questions were designed with prompts to help the respondent accurately identify all of the people in their family they live with now and with whom they would choose to live with in a permanent housing situation. In general, survey respondents often accounted for larger families than they have in past years. Other communities who used these same questions yielded similar results; those that used a public places "street count" methodology had observed family size data from volunteer counters to compare against the family size data recorded in the survey. In these communities, it appears that the survey questions may have encouraged people to report who they wished to live with and not necessarily who they currently live with. This feedback from other communities can help shape modifications to the survey design for the next Count such that both comparable and accurate information can be collected.

The possible reasons for these discrepancies include insufficient volunteer interviewer training and/or unclear questions either in the 2013 survey and/or the 2011 survey. While it is impossible to know if family types and ages captured in the survey match how people would access services or housing or best reflect their current household composition, it may be appropriate to field-test a mix of strategies for interviewing homeless people before the next count. A different approach to family member questions may yield more useful information about both the actual composition of homeless families and the perceptions of unsheltered people regarding family composition.

There is inherent complexity in family composition, especially among homeless populations and it is difficult to thoroughly collect this information in brief encounters or surveys. However, the data collected in the Alameda County Count regarding family composition is consistent with the national and historical data on the unsheltered population. As HUD refines the data they are interested in on family homelessness and plans are made for future homeless counts, this information can be used to inform revisions to the data collection processes.

Age Data

From 2003 – 2011, respondents were asked to give their age and researchers later categorized respondents into age brackets. In 2013, respondents were asked both their precise age and then to confirm the age category they fell into. This change was made to accommodate new HUD requirements on reporting households by age of respondent and family members. Many surveyors and/or respondents choose to mark only one of these age indicators – thus there are 219 surveys with an age category but no precise age. The age categories in 2013 were: “17 and under”, “18 to 24” and “25 plus”. Any respondent indicating “25 plus” but no precise age, therefore, was categorized as “unknown” for purposes of comparing to 2011 data. All 219 people categorized as “unknown” were marked “25 plus”.

Future counts could benefit from field testing strategies for obtaining age data more comparable to prior count’s methodology. The goal should be to increase the incidence of precise age responses so that age data is robust for comparison purposes.

Appendix B. Definitional Shifts from 2003 to 2013

The table below presents changes to the implementation of the Count methodology over time and changes to the definitions of terms used in the Counts over time. These changes impact the meaning of results; a careful review of trend data should include an understanding of these shifts between different point-in-time Counts. Some of these changes were related to HUD guidance or rule changes and some were community driven.

Topic	Change
Methodology	<p><u>2005</u>: Estimated based on using a 2005 count of service users and applying the ratios of subpopulations from 2003</p> <p><u>2007</u>: Sampling frame not updated</p> <p><u>2011</u>: Sampling frame not updated</p>
Domestic Violence	<p><u>2003</u>: Included any person who had experienced domestic violence in the past 12 months.</p> <p><u>2005 – 2009</u>: Included any person who had <i>ever</i> experienced domestic violence.</p> <p><u>2011</u>: Included <u>only</u> persons who indicated they had left their last place of residence due to domestic violence.</p> <p><u>2013</u>: Included any person who had <i>ever</i> experienced domestic violence</p>
Chronic Homelessness	<p><u>2003 - 2005</u>: Included homeless persons living in transitional housing.</p>
Age	<p>Age categories have changed over time, such that people of the same age might be placed in different groups in different years. In some years, age was not reported outside of required HUD age categories.</p> <p><u>2003</u>: Age categories applied only to community definition of homelessness, ages not reported per HUD definition of homelessness</p> <p><u>2005</u>: No age data reported</p> <p><u>2011</u>: Age categories were 18-24; 25-40; 41-60; 61+</p> <p><u>2013</u>: Age categories were under 18; 18-24; 25 + (if exact age given, able to “fit” into 2009/2011 categories, but many without exact age in the 25+ coded as unknown)</p>

Appendix C. Sampling Methods and Construction of Weights

Sampling Methods and Construction of Weights

for the

2013 Alameda County Homeless Survey

by

Thomas Piazza

and

Yuteh Cheng

May 2013



1. Overview

1.1 Background of the Study

The 2013 Alameda County Homeless Count and Survey was designed to provide an estimate of the number of unsheltered homeless persons in Alameda County and to study the characteristics of such persons. This information was desired for purposes of planning and for reporting to funding agencies and informing local planning of services and housing. The 2013 survey was intended to complement data available on the Alameda County-wide population of residents of shelter and transitional housing services. These data have been recorded in a Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) in place at shelter and transitional housing services operating under contract with public agencies within Alameda County. Administrative data for other program sites were acquired on a one-time basis for the night of January 29, 2013. Survey estimates were considered adequate to generate information about **unsheltered** persons. These data can then be added to data from HMIS and other administrative records (representing **sheltered** homeless persons), to get a full perspective on homeless persons in the county. Another survey is planned for 2015.

The survey was organized and directed by EveryOne Home, including the training of field workers in data collection procedures. The fieldwork was carried out by community volunteers, employees of the county, of various cities within the county, and of homeless housing and service providers. Aspire Consulting LLC provided overall project management and training of EveryOne Home staff in project management and other tasks. EveryOne Home recruited and trained all volunteers, updated the sampling frame, scheduled volunteers, enrolled sites for fieldwork, and provided logistical support and project management. Focus Strategies and its subcontractors, Jean Norris, Yuteh Cheng and Thomas Piazza were contracted to design and select the survey sample, to clean and analyze the data, to create weights, and to report on the number and characteristics of the homeless population of Alameda County.

Thomas Piazza and Yuteh Cheng of the University of California, Berkeley, drew a sample of facilities that provided non-residential services to the homeless and gave to Focus Strategies a target sampling fraction for each selected site. They also created site-level weights, to compensate for

differences in selection probabilities and for differential non-response within sites. The final individual-level weights were created by Jean Norris.

1.2 Definition of the Target Population

The target population for the survey was all English-speaking or Spanish-speaking adults (aged 18 or over) who were served by meal service sites, food pantries, drop-in centers, and outreach programs in Alameda County that provide services to the homeless. The survey was focused on the housing status of people during the night of Tuesday, January 29, 2013. The interviews were conducted the following day, January 30, 2013.

1.3 General Design of the Sample

The sample was a stratified two-stage cluster sample. The first stage of the sample was a selection of facilities serving the homeless (and others). Prior to selection, facilities were stratified by location within the county and by type of service provided. Facilities were then selected from each stratum list with probability proportional to the estimated number of client contacts in a week.

Facilities selected at the first stage were assigned a target sampling fraction for the second stage of selection. Field workers were then sent to the facility to interview that proportion of the clients served that day. However, these sampling fractions could be, and were, changed. The fraction actually used (the number attempted divided by the number served that day) was recorded and was used for the construction of weights.

2. Sampling Procedures

2.1 Constructing the Sampling Frame

EveryOne Home assembled a list of all known facilities in the county that provided services to the homeless. Facilities known to be closed on the target date for the survey were set aside, for purposes of selection. The facilities were categorized by service type (meal service, food pantry, outreach, or drop-in program) and by location in the county (Oakland, South County, East County,

and Mid County; versus Berkeley, Emeryville, and Albany). This information was used to stratify the list of facilities prior to selection, so that a stratified selection could be made.

For each facility, information was also gathered about the number of client contacts per week. This latter number was then used as a measure of size for the first stage of selection, which was carried out with probability proportional to size. A few sites with less than 15 client contacts per week were excluded from the frame. The total number of estimated client contacts per week at all sites in the frame was 29,927 (excluding those set aside because they were known to be closed that day). The total number of estimated client contacts per week at the closed sites was 9,897.

2.2 Selection of Facilities

Three facilities were included with certainty in the sample, either because of their large size or their distinctive characteristics. The certainty selections were all in Oakland.

The remaining facilities were selected in the following manner: The list of facilities was first divided into four strata for the four service types. Then the facilities were substratified into the two major geographic areas (centered on Oakland and Berkeley, respectively). We then proceeded to select facilities from the list in each stratum with probability proportionate to size (PPS), where the measure of size was the estimated number of client contacts per week. For meal service sites, the number of client contacts was the number of meals served in an average week. For food pantries, drop-in centers, and outreach programs, the number of client contacts per week was estimated from the number of people served in the past. A total of 44 sites were selected in this manner from all of the strata.

After the 44 facilities had been selected, the order of the selected sites in each stratum was randomized. The first few sites in each stratum were designated as the initial sample, and the remaining selected sites were set as a reserve sample to be used as needed. Since the budget allowed for interviewing at 33 sites (including the three certainty sites), field work began with an initial 33 facilities. Some of the sites were not open or available for interviews or, so they were

replaced by taking the next site on the randomized list for that stratum. In some strata all of the reserve sites were exhausted, and no more sites were available. On the day of the fieldwork, two additional sites were unexpectedly closed and interviews were therefore conducted at 31 sites rather than 33.

2.3 Selection of Individual Clients

For each selected site, an initial selection interval was set. For example, at the St. Vincent de Paul food service the initial interval was set to 3 – meaning that one third of the clients that day were to be selected into the sample. For most other sites, the initial interval was set to 1 – meaning that all clients that day were to be selected. The actual selection intervals could be modified on-site by the project management team to account for the number of clients that day and the number of available interviewers. The actual sampling fraction for each site is calculated by dividing the number of clients selected and approached by the total number of clients served that day.

Field workers were sent to each selected facility, with instructions to interview the target proportion or number of clients. Selection of individuals was carried out by systematic random selection, applying a fixed interval to the queue of persons being served, after a random start. The selection interval actually used was recorded, and that information was used to construct the weights.

For the sites selected with certainty, the probability of selecting the site was 1. And therefore the overall probability of selection is the same as the probability of selecting individuals at each site:

$$P_{\text{cert}} = 1 / I_i \quad \text{(Equation 1)}$$

where I_i is the sampling interval at that site.

For the sites selected with PPS, the probability of selecting site i in stratum h was $a_h M_{hi} / T_h$, where a_h is the number of sites selected in that stratum (including reserve sites that were actually used), and M_{hi} is the estimated number of client contacts per week at site i in that stratum, and T_h is the total number of estimated client contacts in that stratum. The probability of selecting individuals at each site was $1 / I_{hi}$, where I_{hi} is the sampling interval at that site. The overall probability of selection for the PPS sites, therefore, was:

$$P_{hi} = a_h M_{hi} / T_h * 1 / I_{hi} \quad (\text{Equation 2})$$

This selection probability was used in the construction of the weights.

3. Calculation of Weights

A weight was calculated for each case in the data file. This weight compensated for differences in the probability of selection and for various levels of non-response. Each of the weighting factors will now be described.

3.1 Selection Probability

There are two factors accounting for differences in selection probability – the probability of selecting the particular facility, and the probability of selecting individuals served by that facility.

For the certainty sites, the probability of selection is given above in Equation 1. For the PPS sites, the probability of selection is given above in Equation 2.

The basic sampling weight is obtained by taking the inverse of the appropriate equation (either #1 or #2) for probability of selection. A few of the weights were trimmed, to exclude extreme differences between facilities. Some of the original estimates of clients served turned out to be erroneous, and the resulting weights needed to be adjusted to compensate for those errors.

3.2 Response Rate Adjustments

There were two levels of non-response that required weighting adjustments – non-response of entire sites, and non-response of individuals within selected sites.

Site-level non-response was due to several factors, most notably because they were not available on the target data collection day. Among the sites selected with PPS, the non-response varied by stratum. Response rates of the sites within strata varied from 80% to 100%. The respondents in strata with less than 100% site-level response rates were weighted up, to compensate for the non-

responding sites. The weighting factor for each stratum was the inverse of the site-level response rate. For example, a response rate of 80% produced a weighting factor equal to $1 / .80 = 1.25$. The site-level weighting factor was applied to the weight of every respondent who was interviewed in that stratum.

The second level of non-response was that of individuals within the selected sites. The field staff at each site selected a pre-defined proportion of the clients being served on that day, at that facility. The response rates within each site varied from 41% to 90%. To compensate for non-responders, the respondents at each site were weighted up. Once again, the weighting factor was the inverse of the proportion responding. This individual-level weighting factor was applied to the weight of every respondent who was interviewed at that site.

After the above factors were applied to the weight of every respondent, we compared the sum of the weights with the original estimates of weekly client contacts. The total of the originally estimated number of weekly service contacts for all the sites in the sampling frame was 39,851. The sum of the weights after adjusting for probability of selection and non-response was 30,194, a decrease of 24.2 percent. After adjusting for this level of weighting, therefore, we found that the number of service contacts per week had decreased substantially compared to the original estimates. However, in comparison with the previous Homeless Survey in 2011, the weighted sum of 30,194 is only about 6% lower than the weighted figure in that year.

The next level of weighting, described in the following section, is designed to convert the number of service contacts into the number of discrete individuals served.

3.3 Service Usage Factor

Some clients of the services provided by these sites use the services more frequently than other clients and consequently had more opportunities to be selected for an interview. For example, a person who eats four meals every week at one or another of the meal service sites included in the sampling frame had a four-time's greater chance to be selected into the sample on the interviewing

day than a person who eats only one meal a week at such a site. An additional weighting factor, referred to as the “service usage factor,” was designed to compensate for multiple opportunities of selection.

As part of the interview, each respondent provided information on the number of times per week he or she could have been selected for an interview during the week before the target day. This information included the number of days that a respondent ate a meal in the preceding week at a site in the County that serves the homeless population, and it included additional data on the number of times a respondent used food pantries, drop-in centers, and outreach programs during the week before the target day.

The responses to all of those questions were combined, in order to calculate an overall estimate of the relative availability of each respondent to have been selected into the sample. The number of contacts in the previous week were added together to get the overall estimate. The minimum value of this factor was 1.0, since everyone interviewed obviously had at least one chance to be selected into the sample. The maximum value of this factor was set to 7.0, since it was very unlikely that even very frequent users of these services could have been selected more than once per day for an interview.

This service usage factor is an indicator of the relative chance of each respondent to have been included in the sample. A respondent with a value of 4.0, for example, had double the chance of being included, compared to another respondent with a value of 2.0.

3.4 Creation of the Final Weight

The final weight for each case was the product of the weighting factors described above. The process can be summarized as follows.

- Start with a weight of 1.0
- Divide by the probability of selection (trimmed if necessary)
- Divide by the site-level response rate (expressed as a proportion)

- Divide by the response rate within the site (expressed as a proportion)
- Divide by the service usage factor

The result for each case is a number that corresponds to the estimated number of persons in the population represented by that case. For example, a final weight of 10 for a case would mean that there were 10 persons in the population estimated to have the characteristics of this particular case. The sum of the weights is an estimate of the total size of the population from which the sample was drawn.

4. Defining Strata and Clusters for Standard Errors

The sample for this study was a stratified cluster sample, not a simple random sample of individuals. Special procedures are therefore required to calculate standard errors and confidence intervals. Those procedures require that each respondent's stratum and cluster membership be known. We describe here how those fields in the data file were produced. The standard error calculations themselves were carried out by Jean Norris, using appropriate computer programs.

4.1 Strata for Standard Errors

Separate samples of sites were drawn within each of the two major parts of the county (centered on Oakland versus Berkeley) for each of the four types of services, resulting in eight major strata. The certainty sites in Oakland are also treated as separate strata (although the Oakland outreach services are represented only by the one certainly selection). There were ten separate strata in all.

Each record on the data file has a code to indicate which of the ten strata it was selected from. This is the variable to be used for the calculation of standard errors.

4.2 Clusters for Standard Errors

Each service facility or site was a primary sampling unit (PSU) or cluster, for purposes of sampling, and interviewing was successfully carried out at 31 sites. However, the largest sites were divided

up into random parts for purposes of calculating standard errors, in order to control the cluster sizes within strata. The Taylor series method of calculating standard errors requires that the cluster sizes within each stratum be of roughly the same size (such that the coefficient of variation of the size is less than .20). Those units created at random were used as the PSU's for purposes of calculating standard errors. The final division of sites into randomized units was carried out by Jean Norris.

The data record for each respondent contains a value (1, 2, 3, etc.) for the final PSU (cluster). The PSU codes are unique when combined with the stratum value of 1 - 10.

The final stratum and PSU variables were merged with the questionnaire data and the weights, to construct the final data file. They are available to analysts wishing to calculate standard errors and confidence intervals that take into account the design of the sample. The 2013 Homeless Count and Survey Report lists some confidence intervals in Appendix D of the final report.

Appendix D. Final Unsheltered Homeless Count Estimates with Confidence Intervals

	Number of Unsheltered Homeless People
Persons in households with at least one adult and one child	
Number of Persons	218
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	66
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	368
Persons 17 and under	106
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	49
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	162
Persons 18 to 24	3
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	0
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	5
Persons 25 and older	109
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	14
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	205
Persons in households with only children	
Number of Persons	0
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	NA
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	NA
Persons in households without (minor) children	
Number of Persons	2,119
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	1,508
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	2,729
Persons 18 to 24	140
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	32
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	246
Persons 25 and older	1,979
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	1,436
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	2,523
Total Persons	
Number of Persons	2,337
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	1,648
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	3,023

	Number of Unsheltered Homeless People
Chronically Homeless Individuals	
Number of Persons	760
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>513</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>1,006</i>
Chronically Homeless Families	
Number of Persons	26
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>38</i>
Veterans	
Number of Persons	93
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>139</i>
Female Veterans	
Number of Persons	11
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>21</i>
Severely Mentally Ill	
Number of Persons	629
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>430</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>827</i>
Chronic Substance Abuse	
Number of Persons	935
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>647</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>1,223</i>
Persons with HIV/AIDS	
Number of Persons	72
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>133</i>
Victims of Domestic Violence	
Number of Persons	665
<i>95%CI lower bound</i>	<i>444</i>
<i>95%CI upper bound</i>	<i>886</i>

Appendix E. Maximum Available Services Table

Region name	Oakland	Oakland	Berkeley	South	East	Mid-County	North	Other North*
Region code	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7*
City names	Oakland (Males)	Oakland (Females)	Berkeley	Fremont, Newark, Union City	Livermore (women + families), Dublin, Pleasanton	S Leandro, Castro Valley, Hayward, Unincorp. Areas	Emeryville, Albany, Alameda	Really on Oakland-Emeryville border
Q1: Soup Kitchen - Breakfast (B)	7	7	7	3	0	3.0	0	7
Q2: Soup Kitchen - Lunch (L)	7	7	7	5	2	5.0	0	7
Q3: Soup Kitchen - Dinner (D)	7	7	6	2	2	0.0	0	7
Q4: Food pantries (FP)	7	7	5	6	6	7.0	7	7
Q5: Drop-In Center (DIC)	5	6	7	0	0	3xMo	0	5male/6female
Q6: Mobile Outreach (O)	5	5	5	4	1	1.0	0	5
Shelter nights available (S)	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Max Service Use (did NOT spend night in a shelter)**								
Max Service Use	38	39	37	20	11	16.0	7	38M/39F
Max Service Use (DID spend previous night in a shelter)**								
Max Service Use	24	25	24	15	9	13.0	7	24M/25F

*Other North is a subset of North, and is coded as a "7" in its own column of data, so that the research team can sort these data during the Service Use data cleaning process. Note that in 2013, it turned out that only one site (id#47 ECAP in Emeryville) was in the North region and it was coded as "Other North" for Service Use Data cleaning processes.

**Emergency shelters are required to serve breakfast and dinner. In a 2003 survey, the vast majority of respondents who reported staying in an emergency shelter "last night" also reported that they had spent all 7 nights of the previous week in an emergency shelter. Therefore, in 2013 it is assumed that respondents who spent the previous night in an emergency shelter could not have received any of their breakfast and dinner meals at a Soup Kitchen. During data cleaning, all respondents in a shelter had their Q1: B and Q3: D set to 0 (zero).

Appendix F. Survey Questionnaire



EveryOneHome
Ending Homelessness
in Alameda County

SITE COORDINATOR READ TO RESPONDENT:

We're conducting a short survey of about 1,000 people using meal, food pantry, drop-in, and outreach services in the County. We do this survey every two years to help keep funding for programs serving low-income and homeless people. May we have ten minutes of your time today?

FILL OUT THIS FORM FOR EVERYONE:

SURVEY DATE: 01/ 30/ 2013

SITE COORDINATOR INITIALS ____ ____ ____

SITE ID # _____

PROGRAM NAME: _____

COMPLETE BY OBSERVATION:

GENDER:

- () MALE.....1
() FEMALE.....2
() OTHER/UNKNOWN.....3

RACE/ETHNICITY:

- () HISPANIC.....1
() WHITE.....2
() BLACK.....3
() ASIAN.....4
() OTHER/MIXED.....5

INTERVIEW NOT STARTED:

- () MINOR.....1
() REFUSED.....99
() LANGUAGE BARRIER SPANISH (1) ASIAN (2) OTHER (3) UNKNOWN (4)
() RESPONDENT TOO DISABLED.....2
() NOT ENOUGH TIME: [OPTIONAL EXPLANATION OF WHY] _____

SITE COORDINATOR COMMENT (OPTIONAL):

INTERVIEWER INITIALS: ____ ____ ____

INTERVIEWER READ TO RESPONDENT:

Hello, my name is _____. I'm a volunteer with Alameda County EveryOne Home.

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

I need to read each one all the way through.

I will start by asking about meals you ate at service sites in the last week.

- 1 Not counting any meals provided by a shelter program, how many days did you have breakfast at a soup kitchen or public dining room in the last 7 days? ____ DAYS
- 2 Not counting any meals provided by a shelter program, how many of the last 7 days did you have lunch at a soup kitchen or public dining room? ____ DAYS
- 3 Not counting any meals provided by a shelter program, how many of the last 7 days did you have dinner at a soup kitchen or public dining room? ____ DAYS
- 4 In the last seven days, how many days did you go to a food pantry? That's a place where you get a bag or a box of food to take away and prepare later. ____ DAYS
- 5 Over the last seven days how many days did you go to a drop-in center or a multi-service center? That is a place where you can go to in the day, talk to someone, get a cup of coffee, pick up messages, and use a phone, but not stay overnight. ____ DAYS
- 6 Over the last seven days how many days did an outreach worker offer to help you? Outreach workers are people from agencies who come to you at outdoor locations to hand out blankets or food, see if you are okay, or offer help. ____ DAYS

7. Where did you stay last night [THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 29th]?

- a. The **streets, a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/ train/BART station/ airport, anywhere outside**, or other place not meant for human habitation
- b. **Hotel, motel**, or campground paid for **by an agency, church, or other service provider**
 b1. What is the name of the hotel, motel or campground? _____
 b2. What city is it in? _____
- c. A **garage, backyard, porch, shed, or driveway**
- d. **Shelter** for single adults or youth or families
 d1. What is the shelter name? _____
 d2. What city is it in? _____
- e. **Transitional housing** for homeless adults, families or youth (where you pay rent and can live up to two years and receive services)
 e1. What is the name of the transitional housing program? _____
 e2. What city is it in? _____
- f. **Permanent housing for formerly homeless** persons (such as Shelter + Care, the Harrison Hotel, or UA Homes)
 f1. What is the name of the housing program? _____
 f2.. What city is it in? _____

- g. **Hotel or motel** paid for **by you or a family member**
 g1. What is the name of the hotel or motel? _____
 g2. What city is it in? _____
- h. In a **friend or family member's** room, apartment, or house
- i. **Room, apartment or house** that you **rent** (subsidized or not)
- j. **House, apartment or condo** that you **own**
- k. **Foster care** home or foster care group home
- l. **Hospital or nursing facility**
 l1. Have you been there for less than 30 days? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98
 l2. Were you on the streets or in a shelter before that? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98
- m. **Psychiatric hospital or other mental health facility**
 m1. Have you been there for less than 30 days? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98
 m2. Were you on the streets or in a shelter before that? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98
- n. **Jail, prison** or juvenile detention facility
 n1. Have you been there for less than 30 days? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98
 n2. Were you on the streets or in a shelter before that? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98
- o. Substance abuse **treatment facility or detox** center
 o1. Have you been there for less than 30 days? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98
 o2. Were you on the streets or in a shelter before that? No ... 0 YES ... 1 DON'T KNOW ... 98

If
g – o,
go to
page
9.

- p. Other
 p1. Specify **KIND OF THE PLACE** : _____
 p2. Specify **NAME OF THE PLACE** : _____
 p3. Specify **LOCATION OF THE PLACE** : _____
- q. DON'T KNOW. 98 r. REFUSED. 99

8. These next questions are about the people in your immediate family. We need to count every person, and I need to know an age category for everyone. By immediate family, I 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. If some of your immediate family is temporarily living in a separate shelter, please count them here.

PROMPT: Remember that everything you tell me is confidential.

A	Let's start with: Yourself, how old are you? _____ MARK "1" BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE	So, one (1) person ___ 25 or older.....1 ___ 18 to 24.....2 ___ 17 or under.....3 ___ DON'T KNOW.....98 ___ REFUSED.....99
B	In your family, are you alone or with others , like a partner, children, or other family members?	<input type="checkbox"/> Alone.....1 <input type="checkbox"/> With others 2 <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW 98 <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED 99
C	So, then the total number in your immediate family is:	_____ NUMBER <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW 98 <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED..... 99 If 1, GO TO Q#9

Now we need to know the **age category** for everyone else in your immediate family.

D	Your children, or your spouse's children that live with you some of the time or all of the time: how many in each age group? MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE 0 ___ 25 or older.....1 ___ 18 to 24.....2 ___ 17 or under.....3 ___ PREGNANT/ UNBORN 4 ___ DON'T KNOW98 ___ REFUSED99
E	A spouse or partner: how old is that person? MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't have one 0 ___ 25 or older.....1 ___ 18 to 24.....2 ___ 17 or under.....3 ___ DON'T KNOW 98 ___ REFUSED 99
F	Brothers or sisters living with you: how many in each age group? MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE 0 ___ 25 or older.....1 ___ 18 to 24.....2 ___ 17 or under.....3 ___ DON'T KNOW98 ___ REFUSED99
G	Other relatives or friends living with you in your immediate family: how many in each age group? MARK # BY AGE GROUP RESPONSE	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE 0 ___ 25 or older.....1 ___ 18 to 24.....2 ___ 17 or under.....3 ___ DON'T KNOW 98 ___ REFUSED99

9. How much of the last 12 months have you lived 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 1
 NONE OF THE LAST 12 MONTHS 2
 DON'T KNOW 98
 REFUSED 99

10. 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

11. Have you ever served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States?

PROMPT: Have you served in a full-time capacity in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard?

YES 1
 NO 0
 DON'T KNOW 98
 REFUSED 99

12. Were you ever called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?

PROMPT: For purposes other than training?

YES 1
 NO 0
 DON'T KNOW 98
 REFUSED 99

13. Did you leave your last place because your spouse or partner or someone else in your family was hurting you or threatening to hurt you? That includes hurt or threatened by being kicked, hit, shoved, or beat up, or 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 0
 DON'T KNOW 98
 REFUSED 99

14. Were you ever, either as a child or as an adult, physically hurt or threatened by a spouse or partner or someone in your family? That includes hurt or threatened by being kicked, hit, shoved, or beat up, or 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 0
 DON'T KNOW 98
 REFUSED 99

15. The next questions are about your health and any disabilities you may have. Which of these statements are true for you? **MARK ALL THAT APPLY**

	YES 1	NO 0	D.K. 98	REF. 99
A. I am physically disabled				
B. I am disabled by HIV/AIDS				
C. I have another long-term and serious medical				
C1. I am disabled by these serious health problems				
D. I have a developmental disability				
E. I have learning disabilities				
F. I am disabled by serious depression				
G. I am disabled by other mental illness				
H. I have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)				
I. I am disabled by something else				
J. RESPONDENT COMMENT, IF ANY _____				

16. Does another adult or adult child 18 or older in your immediate family have a disabling condition such as a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability or chronic physical illness or disability?

- YES 1
- NO 0 **GO TO Q#19**
- NOT APPLICABLE 2 **GO TO Q#19**
- DON'T KNOW 98
- REFUSED 99

17. How many <u>other</u> adults or adult children 18 or older in your immediate family have a disabling condition?	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW98 <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED 99
18. How many of those other adults or adult children 18 or older in your family with a disabling condition <u>are here with you today</u> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW98 <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED 99

19. Next, I'm going to ask you a few questions about alcohol use.

--	--	--	--



Remember, your answers are confidential and anonymous.

	YES 1	NO 0	D.K. 98	REF 99
PROMPT: I have to ask everyone the same questions.				
A. During the last 12 months, did you ever feel bad or guilty about your drinking				
B. During the last 12 months, did you ever have a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover				
C. During the last 12 months, did a friend or family member ever tell you about things you said or did while you were drinking that you could not remember				
D. During the last 12 months, did you fail to do what was normally expected of you because of drinking				
	<input type="checkbox"/> NO ALCOHOL USE 12+ MONTHS.....1			

20. The next few questions are about drug use. Remember, your answers are confidential and anonymous.

	YES 1	NO 0	D.K. 98	REF. 99
PROMPT: I have to ask everyone the same questions				
A. In the last 12 months, did you ever fail to do what was normally expected of you because of your use of drugs				
B. In the last 12 months, were you ever under the influence of drugs in a situation where you could get hurt, like driving, using knives or machinery, or anything else				
C. In the past 12 months, <u>because of drug use</u> , did you have any emotional or psychological problems, like feeling depressed, suspicious of people, paranoid, or having strange ideas				
D. In the past 12 months, was there a month or more when you spent a lot of time using drugs or getting over the effects				
E. In the past 12 months, were there <u>several times</u> when you used a lot more drugs than you intended or used drugs for a longer time than you meant to				
F. In the past 12 months, did you ever have to use more drugs than you used to, to get the same effect				
G. In the past 12 months, did you ever use drugs to keep from feeling sick when you stopped				
	<input type="checkbox"/> NO DRUG USE 12+ MONTHS.....1			

There are just a few more questions. To let us categorize respondents, would you tell me:

21. How do you describe your race or ethnicity?

MARK ALL THAT APPLY

- White/Caucasian 1
- Black/African American 2
- Hispanic/Latino 3
- Asian 4
- Pacific Islander 5
- American Indian/Alaskan Native 6
- Other 8

SPECIFY (OPTIONAL) : _____

- DECLINED TO STATE 99
- DON'T KNOW 98

22. How do you identify your gender?

- Male 1
- Female 2
- Transgender 3
- DECLINED TO STATE 99

READ TO RESPONDENT:

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

INTERVIEWER: PLEASE COMPLETE 23 AND 24 A - E.

23. If you could not get an answer about respondent's age, please make your own best guess:	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 or older.....1 <input type="checkbox"/> 18 to 24 years.....2 <input type="checkbox"/> 17 or younger.....3
---	---

24. INTERVIEWER OBSERVATIONS	YES 1	NO 0
A. WERE ALL QUESTIONS UNDERSTOOD AND ANSWERED?		
B. RESPONDENT WAS IMPAIRED BY DRUGS OR ALCOHOL		
C. RESPONDENT WAS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND QUESTIONS, MENTALLY DISABLED		
D. RESPONDENT BROKE OFF INTERVIEW ANY REASON GIVEN? _____ _____		
E. INTERVIEWER STOPPED INTERVIEW WHY? _____ _____		