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

The 2017 Santa Cruz County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 22, 2017. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 459 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

### Census Population: Longitudinal Trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population

- 20% Sheltered
- 80% Unsheltered

### Subpopulation Data*

- **Chronically Homeless | 600 Individuals**
  - 13% Sheltered
  - 87% Unsheltered
- **Veterans | 236 Individuals**
  - 8% Sheltered
  - 92% Unsheltered
- **Families | 129 Families with 403 members**
  - 58% Sheltered
  - 42% Unsheltered
- **Unaccompanied Children | 165 Individuals**
  - 2% Sheltered
  - 98% Unsheltered
- **Transition-Age Youth | 423 Individuals**
  - 2% Sheltered
  - 98% Unsheltered

### Residence Prior to Homelessness

- 13% Yes
- 87% No

### Foster Care

- 27% of survey respondents that have ever been in the system

### First Homelessness Episode

- 33% Yes
- 67% No

of the population experiencing homelessness were under the age of 25 the first time they first experienced homelessness

### Age at First Episode of Homelessness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-54</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sexual Orientation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesbian</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Foster Care

- 27% of survey respondents that have ever been in the system

For those not living in Santa Cruz when they experienced homelessness, 52% have been here for 5 or more years

### Residence Prior to Homelessness

- 13% Yes
- 87% No

### Foster Care

- 27% of survey respondents that have ever been in the system

For those not living in Santa Cruz when they experienced homelessness, 52% have been here for 5 or more years

### Length of Time in Santa Cruz County

- 68%
- 9%
- 13%
- 19%
- 59%

### Foster Care

- 27% of survey respondents that have ever been in the system

For those not living in Santa Cruz when they experienced homelessness, 52% have been here for 5 or more years
Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness
- 7% 30 days or less
- 31% 1-11 months
- 49% 1 year or more

Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness (Top 6 Responses)
- 25% Lost job
- 17% Alcohol or drug use
- 14% Eviction
- 10% Argument with a family member
- 9% Illness/medical problem
- 9% Family Violence

Obtaining Permanent Housing Opportunities (Top 4 Responses)
- 70% Rental assistance
- 67% More affordable housing
- 49% Money for moving costs
- 44% Help finding an apartment

What is a disabling condition?
55% of survey respondents reported a disabling condition

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

Health Conditions
- 39% Psychiatric or emotional conditions
- 32% Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- 18% Traumatic brain injury
- 38% Physical disability
- 31% Chronic health problems
- 2% AIDS/HIV related
- 38% Drug or alcohol abuse

Employment Status
- 31% Employed
- 69% Unemployed
If Unemployed, Currently...
- 43% Unable to work
- 43% Looking for work
- 14% Not looking for work

Reasons for Not Receiving Government Assistance (Top 4 Responses)
- 36% Don’t think they are eligible
- 29% Never applied
- 23% Don’t have ID
- 32% of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits

Services Currently Accessing (Top 4 Responses)
- 64% Free meals
- 46% Food stamps
- 3% Shelter day services
- 38% Emergency shelter

Justice System Involvement
29% had spent a night in jail in the previous 12 months

*Subpopulation Definitions

Chronically Homeless
An individual with a disabling condition or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:
- Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.

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

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

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

Transition-Age Youth
Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.