

Homelessness in Sacramento County: Results from the 2017 Point-in-Time Count

A report prepared by
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For
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Executive Summary

Every two years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires local communities to conduct a census of all individuals experiencing homelessness in their region—called the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count—during one night at the end of January. This extensive countywide effort to estimate the local homeless population provides a snapshot of nearly all individuals and families staying at emergency/transitional shelters in the county, as well as those sleeping outside, in tents or vehicles and under bridges. In addition to fulfilling a HUD funding requirement, the PIT Count is a detailed and timely information source for local stakeholders and the broader community to assess the state of homelessness in their region.

Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) is the lead agency of the Sacramento Continuum of Care, and has held the responsibility of conducting the PIT Count for the past several years. In December 2016, SSF commissioned researchers at *California State University, Sacramento* (CSUS) to supervise and enhance the methodology of the 2017 PIT, as well as provide a thorough analysis of the data collected. This report summarizes some of the key findings and recommendation from the 2017 PIT Count.

Analyses of the various data collected on January 25th, 2017, point to some general conclusions about the state of homelessness in Sacramento County:

1. The county has experienced an increase in the number of individuals and families who confront homelessness on a nightly basis.
 - Since 2015, we estimate a real growth in nightly homeless of approximately 30% (from 2,822 to 3,665).
 - The majority of homeless (56%) in the county are sleeping outdoors (unsheltered), a dramatic change in proportion from previous PIT counts.
 - Indeed, there has been more pronounced growth among homeless who are unsheltered and sleeping outdoors (from 1,111 to 2,052; or 85% increase).
2. Because of the disproportionate increase in unsheltered homeless—individuals who tend to have higher and more immediate needs than those in a shelter or transitional housing—the 2017 PIT also saw sharp rise of particular at-risk groups.
 - Approximately 31% of the homeless in Sacramento County are chronically homeless—have experienced prolonged bouts of housing instability and are disabled—which is a substantial increase from the 18% rate reported in 2015.

- We also found a 50% increase in the number of homeless veterans since 2015 (313 to 469).
 - Notably, these estimates suggest that the majority of homeless veterans are unsheltered (69%).
3. Some populations saw little to no change, or even a decrease, since 2015. However, it is unclear whether these decreases may reflect, in part, undercounting of difficult to engage subpopulations.
- The 2017 PIT indicated a 20% decrease in the number of young adults (transitional aged youth) that experienced homelessness on the night of the count since 2015 (242 vs 303).
 - Transitional age youth often experience episodic periods of homelessness, which is likely to be missed in a single-point design study like the PIT.
 - The number of reported homeless families with children declined by 25% between 2015 and 2017 (186 vs. 227).
 - The vast majority (95%) of homeless families are found in shelters or in transitional housing, where they comprise over a third (36%) of all homeless that use shelters.
4. Because the PIT count methodology incorporates hundreds of surveys with individuals not using the shelter system, this report also offered a unique glimpse into the experiences of people who are homeless and sleeping outdoors. Results from the 2017 survey point to a number of notable findings on subpopulations, a few of which include:
- Individuals who reported continuous homelessness tended to be substantially older and were often encountered in encampments near the American River Parkway, in contrast to younger homeless who were interviewed nearer downtown Sacramento.
 - Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness were more likely to suffer from PTSD than other unsheltered individuals (54% compared to 46%), as well as more likely to have a mental condition of any type (64% compared to 57%).
 - Older individuals – between 55 and 64 – indicated as chronically homeless were likely (a 70% chance) to report a military past (veteran status) and suffer from a disabling medical condition.

While the significant increases in homelessness in Sacramento County are concerning, the report discusses four key contextual factors that likely contributed, at least partially, to these larger estimates in the 2017 PIT.

Improved methodology

CSUS refined the sampling strategy by which geographic zones were selected for volunteers to canvas on the night of the 2017 PIT. This resulted in a more representative selection of canvassed zones, and in particular included areas of South Sacramento that were likely under-sampled in previous years. Greater care was also given in 2017 to provide volunteers clear routing directions, to ensure that the entire geographic areas were canvassed. We estimate that the improved methodology contributed to approximately 15% greater efficiency in the 2017 estimates; as such, we estimate that the 2015 count of all persons experiencing homelessness would have been approximately 6% larger if the same methodologies had been implemented that year.¹

Severe weather and flooding

Between December 2016 and January 2017, Sacramento County, and Northern California in general, experienced torrential rainstorms, which resulted in severe flooding throughout the region. Notably, the American River rose to historic levels and flooded many of the riverbank areas that some groups experiencing homelessness use to camp, particularly in the unincorporated parts of the county. The extreme weather conditions likely contributed to significant migration of some homeless communities from more rural parts of the county to the urban center of Sacramento. This was evident by reports of several volunteers who described densely packed “tent communities” in non-flooded parts of the park, particularly near the Garden Highway. Notably, the number of tents recorded by volunteers in 2017 was almost three times the number reported in 2015 (363 vs. 133). Moreover, geo-spatial analysis of the count data indicated a clear pattern of high concentrations of homeless near unflooded parts of the American River. While it is difficult to estimate how many of these individuals in tents would have likely been undercounted under normal conditions, it is reasonable to assume that a significant number were included in the 2017 PIT due to their weather based migration.

¹ The 2017 PIT included a broader set of sampled zones than in previous years, particularly in southern parts of the city of Sacramento. These zones yielded approximately 14.7% of the total count for unsheltered homeless in 2017. By rough approximation, one could assume that the 2015 estimate of 948 unsheltered homeless, which omitted these zones, effectively represented only 85.3% of the total unsheltered homeless that year. Dividing the 948 total by its effectiveness rate of 85.3% suggests the 2015 total unsheltered population was approximately 1,111 ($\frac{948}{85.3\%} = 1,111$). Readers should note that these omitted zones would have only impacted the unsheltered count, and not the sheltered count, which would have remained the same at 1,714. In total the adjusted 2015 count would have been approximately 2,822 ($1,111 + 1,711 = 2,822$) or 6% higher than the 2,659 reported.

Growth in homelessness in the state

The rise in homelessness between 2015 and 2017 in Sacramento County is consistent with similar increases recently reported across the state. At the time of this writing, a number of communities have reported significant increases between their 2015 and 2017 estimates for persons experiencing homelessness on a nightly basis:

- 39% increase reported in Alameda County (5,629 vs. 4,040).
- 76% increase reported in Butte County (1,983 vs. 1,127).
- 23% increase reported in Los Angeles County (57,794 vs. 44,359).

Trends of homelessness in Sacramento County are generally consistent with the broader patterns of homelessness in California. For example:

- The high proportion of homeless found sleeping outside in Sacramento (56%) is consistent with California's overall average of 66% unsheltered homeless.
- Sacramento's rate of chronic homelessness of 31% is close in range to California's rate of 25%.
- The majority of homeless veterans in the county are unsheltered (69%), consistent with the state average of 66%.

These statewide trends reflect a confluence of social and economic factors, and highlight that homelessness is a local community issue, but one that is likely affected by broad dynamic trends.

Housing market conditions

Given the recent sharp increases in rental rates in Sacramento and the low stock of affordable housing units in the area, the growth in the number of persons experiencing homelessness is consistent with trends reported by other communities across the country with tight housing market conditions. Analyses of national PIT data have found that rental housing market factors – particularly housing costs – are the strongest predictors of homelessness across the communities. In particular, the proportion of residents in these communities who spend more than 30% of their total income on housing was strongly predictive of the overall homelessness rate in the region. These findings are telling given recent reports by the Sacramento Housing Alliance that 4 out of 10 residents in Sacramento spend over 50% of their monthly income on housing (SHA, 2016).

The report concludes by suggesting a number of recommendations to improve the methodology and implementation of future PIT studies in the county. Although extensive efforts were undertaken to improve the geographic sampling of the 2017 PIT count, in future years further measures could improve the efficiency and accuracy of the PIT count. These include increased data sharing with local law enforcement agencies, using technology to increase survey response rates, greater engagement with youth populations, and additional training of survey volunteers. In addition, future efforts could seek to discover rates of homelessness among LGBTQ populations as well as to better understand the factors that contribute to homelessness in Sacramento County.

Finally, the report discusses some general conclusions about community needs that the above findings identify. These include the need for more Emergency Shelter beds, Permanent Supportive Housing programs in the county, and affordable housing options for residents. While these recommendations are not in of themselves new, or unknown by most homeless service providers and advocates, the findings of this report likely highlight a new level of severity for these issues in Sacramento County.

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Introduction

Every two years Sacramento County and its incorporated cities undertake an extensive effort to estimate the number of individuals in the region who experience homelessness. This effort, known as the Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, is congressionally mandated for communities to receive federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). To adhere to HUD requirements, communities participate in a systematic data collection process to estimate the total number of individuals staying at an emergency/transitional shelter or sleeping outside (i.e., sheltered vs. unsheltered) during one night at end of January. In addition to counting the number of individuals experiencing homelessness encountered outside during the PIT night, HUD encourages communities to collect in-person surveys of these individuals in order to gain further insight into demographic characteristics of these populations. HUD also requires communities to report on specific subpopulations among the homeless, including veterans, transitional age youth, and groups experiencing chronic patterns of housing instability.

In addition to fulfilling a HUD funding requirement, the PIT Count is a detailed and timely information source for local stakeholders and the broader community to assess the state of homelessness in their region. As the PIT count methodology incorporates hundreds of surveys with individuals not using the shelter system, it offers a unique glimpse into the experiences of homeless persons sleeping outdoors, or in locations not suitable for human habitation. Though the PIT is just one “snapshot” of homelessness in the community, and admittedly an imperfect one, the study nonetheless provides stakeholders a broad picture of homelessness and the level of need in Sacramento in 2017. This report summarizes some of the key findings from the 2017 PIT Count and provides recommendations for future PIT counts.

Collaborative Effort

The PIT study requires a high level of coordination and planning between a number of homeless service providers and advocates, city officials, law enforcement, and hundreds of community volunteers. Because of this high level of collaboration, PIT Counts are traditionally facilitated by a community’s *Continuum of Care* (CoC) lead agency—a HUD designation for a central agency in the community that helps coordinate homelessness programs receiving federal funding. As the lead agency of the Sacramento CoC, *Sacramento Steps Forward* (SSF) has held the responsibility of conducting the PIT Count for the past several years. In December 2016, SSF commissioned researchers at *California State University, Sacramento* (CSUS) to improve upon the methodology of the 2015 PIT and to enhance the analysis of the data collected (see methodology section for more detail). While SSF retained primary responsibility of the 2017 PIT and its coordination (e.g., outreach efforts, training of volunteers, deploying teams, etc.), the CSUS research team provided oversight of the methodological design of the study, and conducted all the analyses presented in this report. However, it should be emphasized that the 2017 PIT was a true community effort, reflecting the work of hundreds of stakeholders, volunteers and CSUS students.

Report Roadmap

The goal of this report is to provide community members with a general understanding of the key findings from the 2017 Sacramento PIT Count (hereinafter referred simply as the 2017 PIT) as well as to highlight contextual factors to consider in light of these findings. The report also points to some general conclusions about the level of need in the community and provides recommendations for future PIT Counts. Given these goals, the report is organized in the following five sections:

Section 1 summarizes the research design of the 2017 PIT, focusing primarily on the specific methodologies employed by CSUS (as opposed to logistics and coordination facilitated by SSF). Here, we provide a brief summary of how data from the *Homeless Management Information System* (HMIS) was analyzed to estimate the number of individuals using shelters during the night of the count. A more detailed summary is provided with respect to the unsheltered design, where we discuss the mapping and sampling strategies CSUS used to identify the specific geographic areas that were canvassed by volunteers on the night of the count. We also overview the enumeration (counting) and survey processes deployed, and discuss how the survey data was statistically weighted to the count data in the final stage of analysis. Finally, we provide an overview of some of the limitations of the analysis and some of the likely biases to consider.

Section 2 presents general findings of the 2017 PIT, including a detailed exploration into the substantial growth of these estimates compared to previous years (between 35%-85% since 2015). Three primary factors we address are the improved 2017 methodology, the severe flooding that preceded this year's count, and the ongoing economic conditions likely exacerbating housing insecurity in Sacramento. Lastly, we present breakdowns of overall demographics and household characteristics of unsheltered individuals interviewed on the night of the count.

Section 3 provides further analysis of a selection of subpopulations that are at higher risk for experiencing homelessness. Specifically, we present detailed data on individuals who are chronically homeless, veterans, and transition aged youth. We also present data on several groups and circumstances associated with higher risk of experiencing homelessness (e.g., former foster youth, domestic violence etc.).

Section 4 presents a geo-spatial analysis of the 2017 PIT data, and reports on how the population of unsheltered homeless is likely distributed across the county. Specifically, we estimate an approximate number of unsheltered homeless within each incorporated city in the county, and within the surrounding unincorporated area. We also present maps of the projected homeless in Sacramento County to investigate geographical trends in where these individuals reside. In this section, we present an adjusted, less conservative, estimate of homelessness in Sacramento that incorporates additional SSF data collected outside of the PIT, as well as extrapolated estimates from unsampled regions of the County.

Section 5 summarizes the general trends that the 2017 PIT uncovered, and highlights policy recommendations according to the authors (CSUS). We also discuss our methodological recommendations for future PIT Counts in Sacramento.

Section 1 Methodology

Per HUD requirements, the PIT count is technically a *census* of all individuals in the county experiencing homelessness on a single night in late January. This means that CoCs are required to account for all individuals experiencing homelessness who are residing in emergency shelters or transitional housing on the night of the PIT. In addition, CoCs are responsible for conducting a robust canvassing of all areas in their regions where unsheltered homeless are likely to be sleeping on the same night. HUD also requires that CoCs provide demographic estimates of specific homeless subpopulations in their community (e.g., the number of homeless families, veterans and chronically homeless, and the respective composition of each group in terms of race, gender and age). Because of these various requirements, multiple methods are used in producing the ultimate homeless count for the region. Below, we introduce the sheltered homeless count method that is organized by SSF before presenting a more detailed report on the sampling methods used by CSUS for the unsheltered count.

Estimating Sheltered Homeless

Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) provided estimates of all individuals and households residing in an emergency shelter or transitional housing on the night of the count. SSF accomplished this by aggregating data from its *Homeless Management Information System* (HMIS)—a client database SSF coordinates for all HUD-funded and county-funded homeless service providers.

- HMIS records for the night of January 25th were compiled and analyzed by SSF in the weeks following the PIT count.
 - Some homeless programs in Sacramento County are not funded by HUD and consequently do not contribute data into HMIS. To account for individuals who used these programs on January 25th, SSF coordinated a separate manual reporting process to collect this data, which was incorporated into HMIS in the weeks following the PIT count.
- HMIS data captures all of the HUD-required information for persons and households residing in a shelter or transitional housing on the night of the count.
 - This includes demographic characteristics of all individuals, and their homelessness history.

Estimating Unsheltered Homeless

CSUS estimated the number of unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness (those sleeping outside of a shelter on the night of the count) using a combination of fielding and survey methodologies recommended by HUD. In general, these methodologies called for the use of local experts to first define geographical areas where homeless people are likely to sleep. CSUS used this information to map out deployment zones for volunteers to canvas on the night of the count. On the night of the count, volunteer teams traveled to each sampled zone where they visually enumerated (i.e., counted) homeless individuals encountered, and attempted to survey individuals who were awake and willing to be

interviewed. Because volunteers are deployed after shelters have stopped their intakes for the night, it is assumed that all homeless individuals encountered are unsheltered homeless.

We elaborate on the specifics of this unsheltered methodology by summarizing each of the four components below:

1. Mapping & Sampling
2. Canvassing & Enumerating
3. Survey Interviews
4. Survey Cleaning and Analysis

Mapping & Sampling

Pre-Mapping. In the month prior the 2017 PIT, SSF worked with various community stakeholders to identify “known areas” and locations where individuals experiencing homelessness may be sleeping during the night. While CoCs sometimes collect this information several months before the count, SSF had decided in the Fall of 2016 to compile and update this mapping information much closer to time of the actual 2017 PIT. This was done given concerns of SSF staff that homeless encampments move frequently, rendering mapped locations out of date by the time of the PIT count (i.e., areas mapped in November are likely to be out of date by late January, according to SSF staff).

- Between December 2016 and January 2017, SSF collected and compiled information from 38 different local entities and organizations that have regular contact with the homeless (such as outreach teams, service providers, homeless advocates, local businesses, county representatives and law enforcement agencies; see Acknowledgment for a complete list).
- In total, SSF provided CSUS detailed geospatial mapping data on approximately 1,000 locations (e.g., specific street intersections, overpasses, parking lots) where homeless encampments, sleeping bags, or sleeping individuals had been spotted.

In addition, CSUS analyzed data provided by the Sacramento Sheriff's Department that tracked calls for service related to homeless activity (transient-related calls for service) during the three months prior to the count. CSUS also analyzed data from the previous 2015 PIT, including maps and count statistics provided by SSF. Using these data sources, CSUS identified locations where at least 5 homeless-related calls had been made in the three months prior the 2017 Count or at least 5 homeless individuals had been found in the 2015 PIT Count.

Combining both sets of information, CSUS next overlaid the resulting spatial data with the pre-established 84 sampling zones used in the 2015 PIT. Given time constraints, CSUS had anticipated, and hoped, to use as many of the pre-established zones of 2015 as possible. However, analysis of the 2015 zones, and their correlation with the 2017 mapping data revealed the following:

- Only 25 out of the 84 zones from 2015 contained 5 or more calls for service

- Many of the 2015 zones located along the American River Parkway were not accessible in January 2017 due to recent flooding
- Some locations in South Sacramento that contained a high number of mapping data points were insufficiently covered by the 2015 zones

Given these results, CSUS decided to keep 25 of the previously used 2015 zones unchanged while slightly modifying an additional 16 (moving or re-aligning their boundaries so that they would be accessible in 2017). In addition, CSUS generated 104 new possible zones to improve the geographic breadth of the potential sample, as well as to better align zones with the 2017 mapping data. These new zones were approximately 150 square acres (somewhat consistent with the 2015 zones), took into consideration physical barriers that would hinder volunteer access, and contained at least 5 of the 2017 mapping data points. In total, CSUS identified 145 possible sampling zones for the 2017 PIT.

- This sampling universe of 145, non-overlapping, geographic areas contained:
 - 19 “Hot Zones” where 15 or more individuals were anticipated to reside
 - 119 “Warm Zones” where 6-14 individuals were anticipated to reside
 - 7 “Cold Zones” where 1-5 individuals were anticipated to reside

Sampling. CSUS sought to refine the sampling strategy of the 2017 PIT to include a broader breadth of geographic zones for volunteers to canvas on the night of the count. CSUS anticipated that volunteer teams would be able to canvas between 75-80 zones out of the 145 possible. To maximize the efforts of the anticipated 300-400 volunteers, CSUS stratified the sampling by the following method:

- All “Hot Zones” were automatically sampled
 - 19 “Hot Zones” located in and around Carmichael, Rancho Cordova, Arden-Arcade, Downtown Sacramento, Midtown-East Sacramento, South Sacramento, and areas near the American River
- All Warm Zones within Priority Regions were automatically sampled
 - SSF and CSUS designated 4 Priority Regions, to ensure sufficient coverage in areas where warm zones were clustered, or in areas that may have been insufficiently sampled in previous years.
 - All warm zones within each Priority Region were automatically included in the sample, such as those in Downtown Sacramento (18 zones), South Sacramento (15 zones), Citrus Heights (5) and Elk Grove(6)²

² For 2017 there were 6 zones mapped in and around Elk Grove, compared to 7 in 2015, and 5 zones mapped in and around Citrus Heights, compared to 1 in 2015. Law enforcement guided volunteer teams in Citrus Heights

- Randomly Selected Warm & Cold zones
 - A total of 16 zones were randomly selected from the remaining areas
 - These zones were in Tahoe Park, Oak Park, Land Park, Del Paso Heights, Rosemont, and the Antelope area.

A total of 80 zones were sampled out of the 145 possible, and volunteers were ultimately sent to 72 of these zones on the night of January 25th, 2017. The resulting sample included all of the hot spot locations identified in the mapping process and incorporated a broad representation of areas throughout the county, some of which may have been under sampled in previous years. Moreover, other areas of Sacramento County not covered in the 72-zone sample were separately canvassed by either SSF staff or local law enforcement immediately before or after the 2017 PIT. These areas included:

- City of Folsom
 - CSUS designed 4 general zones where SSF staff were deployed on the weekend after the 2017 PIT (January 27th, 2017).
- City of Galt
 - Due to its small size, and distance from the deployment center³, the city of Galt was not included in the sampling universe of potential deployment zones for January 25th. However, SSF staff traveled to Galt on the night following the 2017 PIT (January 26th) and canvassed particular locations identified by law enforcement as areas where homeless reside.
- City of Isleton
 - Similar to Galt, CSUS did not generate zones for Isleton or include it in the universe of sampled areas. Nonetheless, SSF staff worked with the City Clerk's office and identified specific locations to canvass on the night following the count (also on January 26th).
- Capitol Downtown Area
 - The *Downtown Sacramento Partnership* conducts its own census count of the homeless each year in the downtown block area surrounding the state capitol. Because of their experience conducting this count, and familiarity with where individuals sleep, DSP conducted its own census of homeless on the morning of January 25th.

The enumeration (count) data collected at these separately canvassed locations were generally low (with the exception of the Capitol Downtown Area) and were excluded from most of the analyses presented in this report, including the official tally presented to HUD. This was primarily due to methodological concerns regarding the lack of survey data at these locations, which would have complicated the

³ All volunteer teams were deployed from the County of Sacramento Department of Human Assistance (DHA) at 1725 28th Street in Downtown Sacramento.

demographic analysis of the broader sample.⁴ However, the data is included in the final extrapolated homelessness count for the County presented in this report (See Section 4).'

Canvassing and Enumerating

In the weeks prior to the 2017 PIT, SSF conducted a series of training workshops required of all volunteers. The two-hour sessions reviewed the protocols of canvassing, mapping directions, and the enumeration and survey instruments to be used. A separate vendor assisted SSF in recruiting and coordinating volunteers for these training sessions, which were attended by approximately 360 community volunteers.

CSUS provided SSF a total of 80 canvassing maps for volunteer teams to use on the night of the count. Each map included general driving directions to the sampled zone, and specific routing instructions for volunteers to follow. Based on feedback from SSF, CSUS attempted to provide as much visual detail as possible in maps and direction to help volunteer teams navigate their respective location and sufficiently cover the sampled areas.

With respect to the enumeration (count) tool, volunteers were instructed to count every individual that they encountered during their canvassing route, with some minor exceptions consistent with HUD guidelines.⁵ The enumeration tool directed volunteers to record each homeless person *individually*, where each row in the form corresponded to each individual observed. However, volunteers were also instructed to note when individuals were standing, sitting, or sleeping next to each other, and designate these individuals as being members of a single household. Volunteers were also asked to record demographic characteristics of all individuals they encountered (age, gender and race). These data provided a baseline of broad estimates of the underlying characteristics – for instance age categories were “Under 18”, “TAY”, or “Over 25”, and some racial/ethnic distinctions were more difficult to make for individuals counted at night. Finally, volunteers were asked to record the number of cars, tents and RVs they encountered that they suspected were being used for permanent habitation by a group or

⁴ As is discussed below, demographic data of unsheltered homeless was captured through the use of surveys, which were conducted with a sub-group of individuals counted on the night of the count (n=168). Results from the surveys were extrapolated to the broader count sample of unsheltered homeless (n=2,052) using a two-level statistical weight based on the location of the survey and the household size. Because the additional sites did not have survey data, their inclusion in the demographic analyses would have introduced higher levels of uncertainty in the calculated estimates. Moreover, the canvassing methodology employed in these location likely differed from those used in other areas, introducing other unknown biases.

⁵ Per HUD guidelines volunteers were instructed to count every person they observed, even if they doubted the individual's homeless status. The only exceptions to this rule were persons: who are clearly working (e.g., construction or road maintenance workers), who are conducting ordinary business at a site that provides 24-hrs services (such as a gas station or grocery store), or who are driving by (cars and RVs must be stationary to be counted).

individual.⁶ Volunteers were generally instructed not to disturb or wake individuals during their canvassing, and consequently were encouraged not to collect individual-level data of persons inside a vehicle or tent. The exception was if individuals in tents or vehicles greeted the volunteers, in which case volunteers could record the specific individuals encountered. During the analysis stage, CSUS estimated that each car and tent corresponded to approximately two homeless individuals on average (unless otherwise noted by volunteers), while RVs corresponded to three individuals.

In total, volunteers filled out approximately 450 enumeration forms across the 72-zone sample, and reported 1,558 individual data points (including 363 tents, 117 cars, and 30 RVs); as discussed in Section 2 this was approximated to 2,052 unsheltered individuals. In the weeks following data collection, volunteer CSUS students assisted with entering the data into an online database and CSUS analysts then checked the data for consistency.

Survey Interviews

In addition to providing a general count of those in the community experiencing homelessness, HUD requires that CoCs estimate the general demographic composition of the local homeless population (e.g., age, race, gender, etc.), and that they report on the prevalence of certain conditions and subpopulations (e.g., homeless who have a disability, are chronically homeless, etc.). While background information on sheltered homeless is readily available in HMIS, for *unsheltered homeless* these estimates are more difficult to accurately assess with just a visual counting process. For this reason, HUD recommends that in-person surveys be administered to a subpopulation of unsheltered homeless during the PIT, the responses from which can be extrapolated to the broader unsheltered population (i.e., using the demographic composition of survey respondents as an approximation of the demographic composition of all unsheltered).

The 2017 PIT survey instrument was inspired from HUD guidelines and templates, and incorporated questions from the 2015 Sacramento County PIT. CSUS revised the survey instrument to reduce the page length of the paper survey, minimize redundancy, and simplify the wording of some questions. CSUS also explored options of administering the surveys electronically (either through smartphones or tablets) but decided against using these mechanisms given time and logistic constraints.

Generally speaking, the 2017 survey instrument collected information on respondents':

- Demographics (such as their race, age, and gender/transgender status)⁷

⁶ When volunteers encountered parked vehicles, they were asked to look for clues of habitation such as: the vehicle was on and running with the windows partially open, the windows were fogged over, the vehicle was parked in a lot behind a shopping center, or in an alley.

⁷ In 2016 HUD introduced new guidelines for the 2017 PIT with respect to how respondents should be asked about their gender status, and whether they identify as male, female, transgender or don't identify with any of these categories.

- Sleeping location (e.g., street, tent in the woods, car etc.)
- Involvement in the military (e.g., veteran status, use of veteran benefits, etc.)
- Number of times and duration they have been homeless (e.g., first time homeless)
- Disabilities and other life conditions (e.g., mental health status, etc.)
- Household size (i.e., broadly defined as the number of “people who live with you now or most of the time”)
- First two letters of their first and last name⁸

Volunteers were trained to approach every adult who was awake during the PIT count (not in a tent or vehicle) and invite him or her to complete a set of screener questions that assessed their housing status (see Appendix for survey prompt). A \$10 McDonald’s Gift Card was offered as an incentive to respondents who completed the screener and, if qualified, the subsequent survey. Volunteers were instructed to provide the incentive regardless if the participant completed the survey or not, and were encouraged to let respondents stop the survey at any time. For respondents residing in a group/family, the survey instrument included duplicates of every question for up to five members of a household (additional forms were provided to volunteers if households were larger than five). Volunteers were trained to ask each respondent one set of questions at a time, completing each section of the survey, before asking the same questions to the next respondent.

Survey Cleaning and Analysis

After the data were collected, SSF provided CSUS a total of 201 paper surveys. In the weeks following the 2017 PIT, CSUS recruited the help of student volunteers to compile and enter the data into a database, similar to the enumeration form process (i.e., each survey was entered two times into an online system and analysts then checked these final entries for consistency). Preliminary analysis of the 201 survey packets revealed 158 completed surveys and 43 partially or incomplete surveys. Ten of the partially complete surveys contained enough data to be included in the final analysis, increasing the total to 168 useable surveys.

Missing data varied slightly by responses; generally speaking demographic data for head of households were completed by 90% to 98% of respondents (2% to 10% missing), while for more sensitive questions (disability status, mental health, experiences with domestic violence) the rate varied between 87% and 93% (7% to 13% missing data). This was generally a strong level of completed data given the challenging settings in which volunteers conducted the surveys (i.e., outside in the middle of the night).

⁸ To reduce the risk of including respondents who may have completed the survey with multiple volunteer teams (i.e., duplicated response), the survey asked respondents for the first two letters of their first name and last name (as well as month and day they were born) to generate unique identifiers for each survey, in way that minimized like. In 2017, CSUS found no evidence of duplicated responses.

Because missing responses indicated no gender, racial or age bias (specific demographic groups were not more likely to omit responses), CSUS excluded non-responses when calculating proportions of specific question responses, and applied these proportion to the overall sample.

For other members of the household, however, missing data was more prevalent, particularly in the end of the survey where more sensitive questions were asked. Demographic questions were completed by 90% to 94% of the second household respondents, but more sensitive questions were completed by only 50% to 70% of these individuals. Generally, answer integrity seemed to deteriorate as more members in the household were asked more questions. Because of these issues, CSUS sometimes inputted missing values from the responses provided from the head of household. Overall, however, these data issues were minimal as 90% of the respondents were in households with two or fewer members.

Survey Weights. As discussed above, surveys were designed to estimate the size of specific subpopulations among the total enumerated unsheltered population (N=2,052). In previous Sacramento County PIT counts, researchers simply calculated proportions from specific demographic responses in the survey and applied them as estimated proportions of the unsheltered population (i.e., because 18% of the 266 survey respondents in 2015 were indicated as chronically homeless, it was assumed that 18% of the unsheltered population was chronically homeless). However, this method requires the data fit a number of specific characteristics to ensure accuracy; characteristics that are rarely met with extrapolated census data (for instance, that there is little variation in population averages and that these data are normally distributed).⁹

In 2017, CSUS attempted to improve upon the methodology by calculating weights for each survey response based on two primary characteristics: the region in which the survey was administered and the household size of those individuals surveyed. To accomplish this, CSUS established five Regions within the county that were likely to have internally consistent populations, including a Downtown Sacramento Region and a region that followed the length of the American River. These characteristics were chosen as they had nearly 100% response rates in both headcount and survey data, and were the most accurate data collected from the headcounts (as discussed earlier, few demographic characteristics collected during the enumeration process had perfect accuracy). Surveys were then matched to the PIT headcount, and weighted so that the overall household distribution and the overall geographic distribution of the surveys and counts varied by no more than 5%. These weights were trimmed for

⁹ Additionally, this proportional weighting hinders accuracy of the data on subpopulation groups. Following the above example, if 18% of respondents reported spending three years homeless and 18% reported having a disabling condition, this method assumes that 18% of the respondents (and therefore 18% of the population) are chronically homeless. However, the 18% who are disabled and 18% with extended periods homeless are not necessarily the same individuals – as such the 18% chronic population statistic is an inaccurate characteristic of the underlying population. By weighting individual survey responses, CSUS alleviated a significant source of this type of response bias.

consistency and then applied to all of the demographic data from the completed surveys to provide expected percentages for each count response.

Limitations

As with any research project, the 2017 PIT has some limitations that the reader should consider. First, it is important to note that the definitions of homelessness used by HUD, and operationalized in the 2017 PIT, do not capture all forms of housing insecurity occurring in the community. For example, a young person “couch surfing” in a friend’s living room, or multiple families needing to “double up” in a single two-bedroom apartment represent real forms of housing instability that are nonetheless missed by the official definitions of homelessness.

Similarly, it is likely that some groups were undercounted in the unsheltered count of the 2017 PIT; while researchers attempted to achieve a census of all individuals experiencing homelessness in the community, some individuals may undoubtedly be missed by volunteer teams.

- Some groups, like transitional age youth, as well as youth under 18, may attempt to intentionally avoid canvassing teams. Indeed, HUD has encouraged communities during the last two years to improve their methodology for canvassing young people, precisely because of a documented reluctance among vulnerable youth to talk and engage with adults in the community.
 - This year SSF took concerted efforts to collaborate with service providers, advocates, and even transitional age youth themselves to help identify locations and areas of the city where unaccompanied may congregate at night.
 - Youth interviewers were also hired by SSF in hopes of increasing the number of surveys completed by this age group.
 - Even with these efforts, however, estimates for youth may be lower than their actual representation in the community.
- While homeless families with children are more likely to be found in shelters than outdoors (particularly compared to other homeless groups, like single adult males), it is assumed that unsheltered families are often undercounted in the PIT methodology. In particular, it has been reported that families are more likely than other groups to use a car or RVs for shelter, as opposed to sleeping outside or in a tent. Because volunteers are trained not to approach and disturb occupants of these vehicles, there is often incomplete data for researchers to extrapolate an accurate estimate of families sleeping in these situations.

Readers should also be mindful that survey responses, from which most of the demographic data on unsheltered homeless are captured, likely reflect some biases in the data collection process. First, there is the bias of self-selection; respondents self-selected to participate in the survey, and may have different

motivations to do so. Though researchers assume a certain level of error in their estimates,¹⁰ which captures some of these selection biases, it is likely that some groups are less likely than others to participate in a survey study. Secondly, it is important to keep in mind that all of the information provided by respondents is self-reported. Individuals may be reluctant to disclose high-risk behaviors to a stranger, including drug use, emotional and physical disabilities, and instances of domestic violence. Additionally, it is impossible for the volunteer team to independently verify this self-reported information. This is important to remember, as our estimates can only be as accurate as the survey responses on which they are based on.

Finally, as with any statistical imputation method, the mechanism of weighting surveys is inherently imperfect as it attempts to predict a large universe of behavior from a small amount of information. However, weighting mechanisms have a long history of use for such extrapolation (e.g. national polls based on a survey of a few thousand individuals) and the CSUS research team has advanced training and experience with these methods.¹¹

¹⁰ Another source of error is the fact that 2017 saw a significant decrease in the number of completed surveys relative to the count population as compared to previous years. In 2015, researchers reported 266 completed surveys out of the 948 unsheltered individuals enumerated (a ratio of 3.5 individuals per survey completed). In 2017, only 168 surveys were completed out of the 2,052 unsheltered individuals counted (a ratio of 12.2 individuals per survey). This may have contributed to less efficiency and more error in demographic estimates than in previous years— particularly for sparsely populated subgroups, such as those individuals with HIV. Nonetheless, CSUS is confident that the estimates approximate real growth in the overall homeless population as well as the primary subpopulations analyzed in this report.

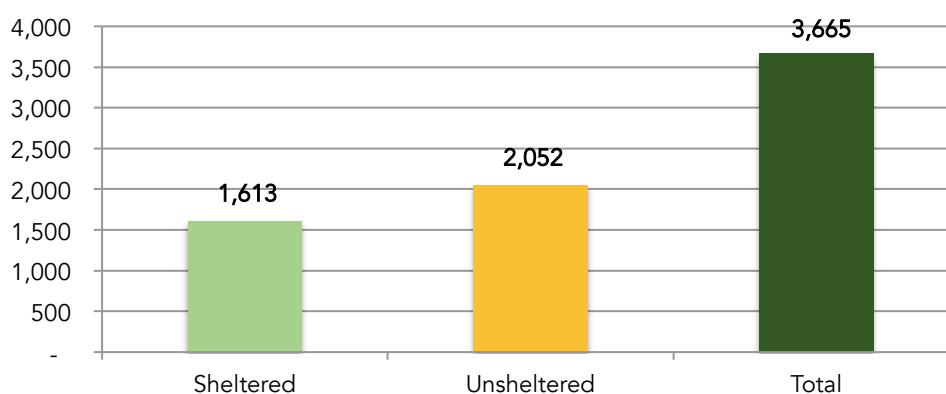
¹¹ Members of the CSUS research team have been trained in statistical weighting for surveys through a partnership with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Section 2 General Findings

Nightly Estimates

On a single night in January 2017, a total **1,613 individuals** accessed emergency shelters or transitional housing across Sacramento County. In addition, it is estimated that a total **2,052 individuals** were sleeping outside or in a location not suitable for extended human habitation (e.g., tents by the river, automobiles, or trailers). Combined, these numbers suggest that approximately **3,665** people in Sacramento County experience homelessness on any given night in 2017.

Figure 1:
2017 PIT Estimates of Total Homeless



Examining these estimates more closely indicates that on January 25th:

- Only 44% of the homeless in the county (1,613 out of 3,665) were *sheltered*
 - 26% accessed emergency shelters (n= 947)
 - 18% accessed transitional housing (n=643)
- In contrast, 56% of all homeless (2,052 out of 3,665) were *unsheltered*
 - 29% were sleeping outside (1,058 out of 3,665)
 - 18% were sleeping in tents (an estimated 687 individuals in 335 tents)
 - 8% were sleeping in cars (an estimated 307 individuals in 139 vehicles)

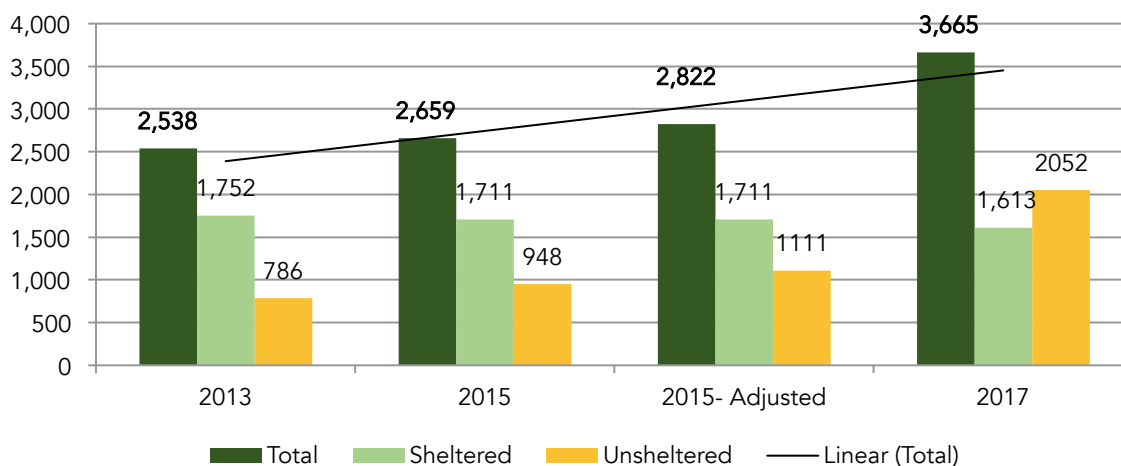
Changes Over Time

The 2017 PIT estimate of 3,665 individuals in Sacramento County experiencing homelessness on a nightly basis represents a substantial increase compared to previous PIT estimates, and is likely the highest estimate on record.

- Overall, there was a 38% increase in total homeless from the 2015 PIT (3,665 vs. 2,659), and a 42% increase from the 2013 PIT (2,538).

As figure 2 shows, the increase is most substantial with respect to unsheltered homeless sleeping outside. Indeed, the ratio of unsheltered to sheltered homeless has dramatically changed from recent years; in prior PIT studies, unsheltered homeless were estimated to be approximately half the size of the sheltered population, but in 2017 the unsheltered population exceeded the sheltered population by a quarter.

Figure 2:
PIT Estimates over Time



- Between 2015 and 2017 the number of unsheltered homeless grew from 948 to 2,052 (a 110% increase).

There are various factors contributing to the substantial increase in homelessness in Sacramento County, including improved methodology. Specifically, CSUS refined the sampling strategy by which geographic zones were selected for volunteers to canvas on the night of the 2017 PIT (see Section 1). This resulted in a more representative selection of canvassed zones, and in particular included areas of South Sacramento that were likely under sampled in previous years. Greater care was also given in 2017 to provide volunteers clear routing directions, to ensure that entire geographic areas were canvassed. We estimate that the improved methodology contributed to approximately 15% greater efficiency in the 2017 estimates; roughly speaking we estimate that 2015 estimates of unsheltered homeless would have been

approximately 6% larger if the same methodologies had been implemented.¹² Taking into consideration this adjusted-2015 estimate suggests:

- The *real* growth in total homeless in Sacramento County was approximately 30% between 2015 and 2017 (3,665 vs. 2,822).
- The *real* growth in unsheltered homeless in Sacramento County was approximately 85% between 2015 and 2017 (2,052 vs. 1,111).

Context to Consider

The *real numbers* of individuals experiencing homelessness in the county are undoubtedly even higher than the 2017 PIT estimates, particularly given the limitations and narrow definitions of homelessness assumed in the study design.¹³ Nonetheless, the above estimates are useful to consider as a standard barometer of relative change in homelessness; assuming that PIT studies are implemented generally consistently from year to year, their results likely capture relative change in the homeless population over time. It is clear that even considering the adjustments in methodologies in 2017, homelessness has likely increased in Sacramento County by at least a third (30%).

A reported rise in the number of homeless is often met with concern by the public, who may worry about the number of homeless migrating from other communities, the effectiveness of current programs, and public safety in general. While these are important issues to consider, the authors of this report nonetheless believe it is important to consider the rise of homelessness in the context of the following contributing factors:

Severe weather and flooding

Between December 2016 and January 2017, Sacramento County, and Northern California in general, experienced torrential rainstorms, which resulted in severe flooding throughout the region. Notably, the American River rose to historic levels and flooded many of the riverbank areas that some homeless use to camp, particularly in the unincorporated parts of the county. Indeed, in the week prior the 2017 PIT CSUS had to adjust or abandon many of the geographic zones in the American River Park used in prior

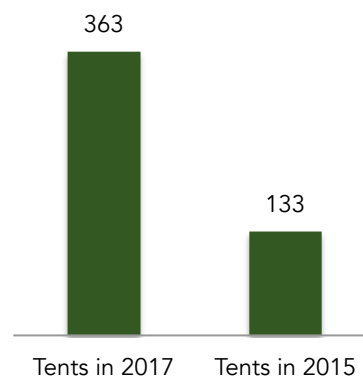
¹² The 2017 PIT included a broader set of sampled zones than in previous years, particularly in southern parts of the city of Sacramento. These zones yielded approximately 14.7% of the total count for unsheltered homeless in 2017. By rough approximation, one could assume that the 2015 estimate of 948 unsheltered homeless, which omitted these zones, effectively represented only 85.3% of the total unsheltered homeless that year. Dividing the 948 total by its effectiveness rate of 85.3% suggests the 2015 total unsheltered population was approximately 1,111 ($\frac{948}{85.3\%} = 1,111$). Readers should note that these omitted zones would have only impacted the unsheltered count, and not the sheltered count, which would have remained the same at 1,714. In total the adjusted 2015 count would have been approximately 2,822 (1,111+1,711) or 6% larger than the reported 2,659.

¹³ In section 4 of this report we consider other data sources and statistical approaches to provide a less-conservative estimate of homelessness within each of the seven incorporated cities in the county. This includes extrapolating estimates from un-sampled regions of the county (estimating the predicted number of homeless that could have been encountered in regions not-canvassed on January 25th) and incorporating data collected beyond the time parameters of the PIT study design.

PIT studies due to severe flooding. The extreme weather conditions likely contributed to significant migration of some homeless communities from more rural parts of the county to the urban center of Sacramento. This was evident by reports of several volunteers who described densely packed “tent communities” in non-flooded parts of the park, particularly near the Garden Highway. Notably,

- The number of tents recorded by volunteers in 2017 was almost three times the number reported in 2015 (363 vs. 133).
 - The additional 230 tents in 2017 represented an additional 460 homeless individuals.
 - These additional individuals account for approximately 47% of the total change in homelessness between 2015 and 2017 (470 out of the 941 increase in adjusted unsheltered).

Figure 3:
Tents Reported in 2017 vs. 2015



- It is likely that individuals in many of these tents generally reside in areas of the American River that are not typically canvassed in PIT studies. But due to flooding and their subsequent migration, these individuals were more likely to be counted in the 2017 PIT than in previous years. While it is difficult to estimate how many of these individuals would have likely been undercounted under normal conditions, it is reasonable to assume that a significant number were included in the 2017 PIT due to their weather based migration.

Growth in homelessness in the state

California has the largest homeless population in the US; approximately a quarter of all people experiencing homelessness in the country reside in the state (AHAR, 2015). The state also has the highest proportion of chronically homeless individuals—individuals with a disability who have experienced prolonged periods of housing instability. These statewide trends reflect a confluence of social and economic factors, such as the high cost of living, dearth of affordable housing and a high poverty rate. They also highlight that homelessness is a local community issue, nonetheless affected by broad statewide dynamics. This is important to consider in light of the above reported increases in the 2017 PIT estimates. Indeed, the rise in homelessness between 2015 and 2017 in Sacramento County is consistent with similar increases recently reported across the state. At the time of this writing, a number of communities have reported significant increases between their 2015 and 2017 estimates for nightly homeless:

- 39% increase reported in Alameda County (5,629 vs. 4,040).
- 76% increase reported in Butte County (1,983 vs. 1,127).

- 23% increase reported in Los Angeles County (57,794 vs. 44,359).
- Little change reported in Yolo County (482 vs. 490).
- Little change in San Francisco County (7,499 vs. 7,539).

While not all communities have made their PIT findings public at this time, these early reports suggests that HUD will likely find—after aggregating all the PIT data— a significant increase of homelessness in California overall, if not the country itself.

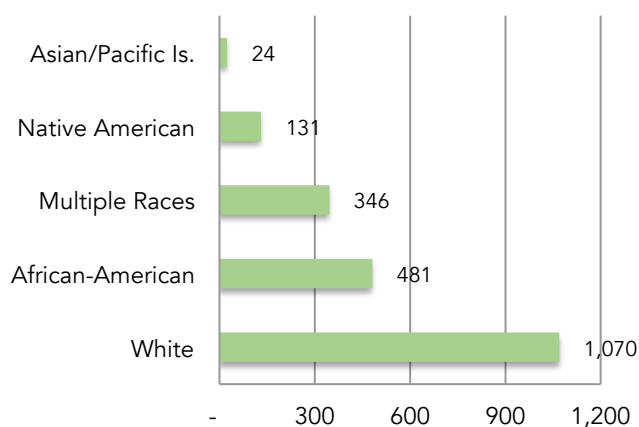
Housing Market

As discussed above, housing market conditions, and in particular the dearth of affordable housing in the region, should be considered as an important contextual factor to the rise in homelessness in Sacramento County. Indeed, researchers from the US Dept. of Veteran’s Affairs recently published a complex analysis of PIT data aggregated from hundreds of communities across the county, and found that rental housing market conditions were the most important factors affecting homelessness, above and beyond other factors associated with the poverty rate such as drug use and crime (Byrne et. al 2013). Their analysis confirms previous findings that rental housing market factors, particularly housing costs, are the strongest predictors of homelessness across communities. Specifically, their analysis suggests that the proportion of residents who spend more than 30% of their total income on housing was strongly predictive of the overall homelessness rate in a community. These findings are telling given recent reports by the Sacramento Housing Alliance that 4 out of 10 residents in Sacramento spend over 50% of their monthly income on housing (SHA, 2016). Given the recent sharp increases in rental rates in Sacramento, and the low stock of affordable housing units in the area, the growth of the homeless population is consistent with trends reported by other communities across the county with tight housing market conditions.

Figure 4: Racial Identity of Unsheltered Homeless

Demographics of Unsheltered Homeless

On the night of the count, volunteers conducted a total of 168 survey interviews with individuals who were homeless and not sleeping in a shelter. Results from these surveys¹⁴ indicate that a large majority of unsheltered homeless were male (74%) and Non-Hispanic (82%). With respect to race, approximately half identified as White (52%), and a quarter as African American (23%). The remaining respondents identified as either multi-racial (17%), or Native American (6%); very few identified as Asian or Pacific-Islander (less than 2% combined).



¹⁴ As discussed in Section 1, results from the 168 surveys were used to extrapolate the overall demographic composition of all unsheltered homeless encountered on January 25th (N=2,052). Towards this end, CSUS computed a two-stage statistical weight for each survey to improve the accuracy of this extrapolation (see Section 1).

In terms of age, the average respondent was approximately 42 years old. As the figure below shows, however, there was a wide distribution in reported age; respondents were almost evenly distributed between the age groups of 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, and 55-64. There were also a small, but notable number of very young adults 18-24 (7%).

Figure 5:
Age of Unsheltered Homeless

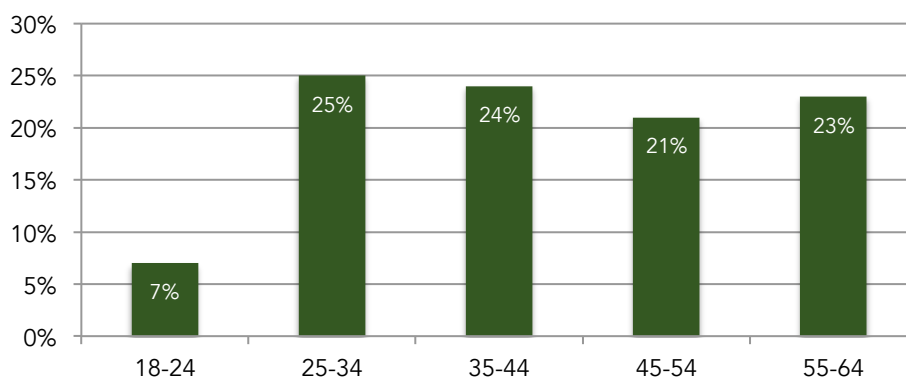


Table 1 on the next page presents the overall demographic estimates for unsheltered homeless, as well as compares these estimates to the composition of homeless who accessed shelters on the night of the 2017 PIT (provided by the HMIS system). These comparisons suggest that some groups were more likely to be sleeping outdoors on the night of the PIT than others. For example:

- Males were more likely to be unsheltered than sheltered (e.g., 74 % vs. 57%).
- Homeless who identified as Native American (6% vs. 3%) or Multi-Racial (17% vs. 9%) were more likely to be unsheltered than sheltered.
- Individuals who met definitions of chronically homeless were almost twice as likely to be unsheltered than sheltered (39% vs. 20%).

More generally, comparing the total homeless population to the demographic composition of Sacramento County (US Census, 2015) indicates that some groups experience housing insecurity at a disproportionate rate. These include:

- Men (who only represent 49% of the county but comprise 66% of all homeless).
- African Americans (who represent 10% of the county but comprise 30% of all homeless).
- Native Americans (who represent 1% of the county but comprise 5% of all homeless)

- Individuals who identify as multi-racial (who only represent 6% of the county but comprise 13% of all homeless)

It is important to note that other groups also experience higher levels of homelessness, such as LGBT youth, veterans and women with children (groups that we examine further in the next section). Moreover, even though some groups have a lower relative likelihood of becoming homeless, individuals from these groups are not immune to these experiences. These include:

- Women (who represent 51% of the county but comprise only 32% of people experiencing homelessness).
- Individuals who identify as White (who represent 64% of the county but comprise only 50% of people experiencing homelessness).
- Individuals who identify as Asian American (who represent 16% of the county but comprise only 1% of people experiencing homelessness)

Table 1. 2017 PIT Demographic Characteristics			
	Unsheltered (N=2,052)	Sheltered (N=1,613)	Total Homeless (N=3,665)
Gender			
Male*	1,517 (74%)	918 (57%)	2,435 (66%)
Female	488 (24%)	681 (42%)	1,169 (32%)
Transgender or Other	47 (2%)	14 (1%)	61 (2%)
Ethnicity			
Hispanic/Latino*	370 (18%)	286 (18%)	656 (82%)
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,682 (82%)	1,327 (82%)	3,009 (82%)
Race			
White	1,070 (52%)	747 (46%)	1,817 (50%)
Black/African American	481 (23%)	643 (40%)	1,124 (31%)
Asian	14 (1%)	10 (1%)	24 (1%)
American Indian/Native	131 (6%)	48 (3%)	179 (5%)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	10 (1%)	21 (1%)	41 (1%)
Multi-Racial*	346 (17%)	144 (9%)	490 (13%)
Chronically Homeless	802 (39%)	323 (20%)	1,126 (31%)
*Statistically significant at $p \leq .10$			

Section 3 Subpopulations

In this section we delve deeper into the survey results of the 2017 PIT and report on specific homeless subpopulations, including the chronically homeless, veterans, and transitional aged youth. We also summarize survey results that highlight particular risk factors associated with experiencing homelessness, such as being a victim of domestic violence and interaction with the foster care system.

As discussed in the methods section, much of the information that we use to report on persons sleeping outdoors (unsheltered homeless) is derived from the 168 survey interviews conducted by volunteers on the night of the count. Unlike the visual count data collected by volunteers, survey interviews captured detailed and personal demographic information from a subsample of respondents. The results of these surveys were extrapolated to the total unsheltered population (N=2,052) using a two-level statistical weight (weighted to the count data based on the location in which the interview was conducted, and the household composition reported by the respondent).

Readers should note that these estimates contain a certain level of statistical imprecision; lack of perfect and complete survey data on every person/household experiencing homelessness means that estimates are an approximation of the true number in the community.¹⁵ As elaborated in the methods section, there may also be biases in the survey results given that most of information is self-reported, and some groups may have been more likely than others to decline an interview. Despite these shortcomings, the survey results provide a unique glimpse into the situations facing the unsheltered homeless population in Sacramento County. To assist readers, we report each estimate in this section with a corresponding margin of error, which approximates a general range of possible values that the real number lays within to a 90% confidence level.

Chronically Homeless

HUD designates individuals as *chronically homeless* if they meet two conditions, one pertaining to the length of time an individual has been homeless and the other to suffering from one of a potential group of disabilities. Specifically, a chronically homeless person:

- Has been continuously homeless for over a year; OR has had four (4) or more episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.
- AND they have a physical, developmental or mental disability that hinders their ability to maintain gainful employment.

¹⁵ The statistical power of the extrapolation tool was based primarily on the variation and response rates of the underlying (survey) data. For many responses, the estimates were fairly precise with little missing data. However, this was not the case with smaller population groups – especially groups such as families with children and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. For these reasons, CSUS chose to focus our analysis on the subgroups and at-risk behaviors with the most data, and took care to examine the underlying distribution of this data for aberrant behavior.

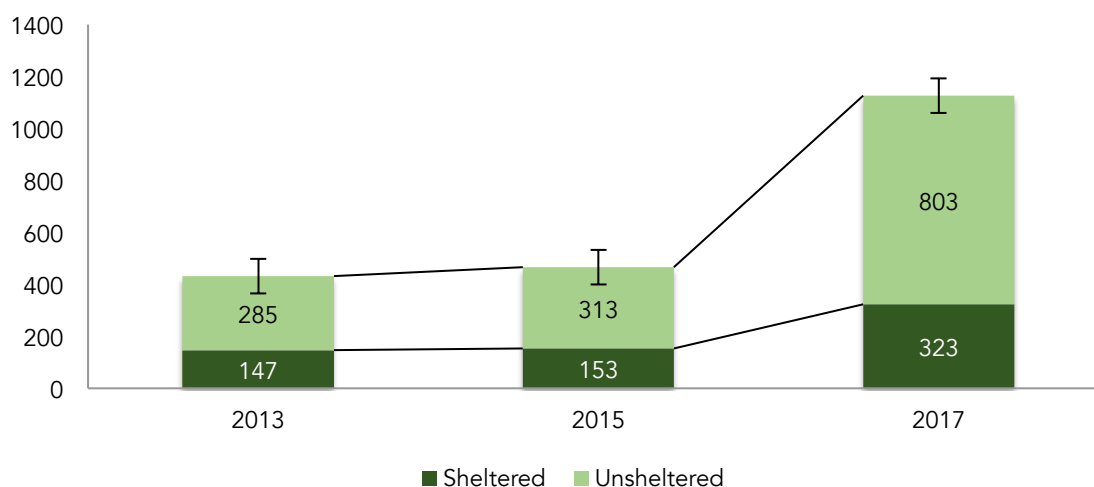
In addition, in 2015 HUD clarified that all individuals within a household should be considered chronically homeless if the head of household meets the above criteria

Individuals who experience chronic patterns of homelessness can often have complex mental health and physical disabilities, which complicate their transition into stable housing (NAEH, 2015). Moreover, chronic homelessness can deteriorate one's well being, and lead to disproportionate use of emergency resources. Because of these issues, there have been deliberate efforts by the federal government to reduce, if not end, chronic homelessness (NAEH, 2015). Reflective of these efforts, HUD has reported a steady decline in chronic homelessness around the country since 2007 (the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness has declined by approximately third), though more recently California saw a slight rise in unsheltered and chronically homeless (AHAR, 2016). Indeed, California sadly still retains one of the highest rates of chronic homelessness in the country (approximately 25% of homeless experience chronic patterns of housing instability). Moreover, California reports the highest proportion of chronically homeless sleeping on the streets (87%) (AHAR, 2016).

The 2017 PIT indicates that a total **1,126** individuals in Sacramento County experienced chronic patterns of homelessness in January (or approximately 31% of the 3,665 total homeless population).

- As the figure below shows, this represents a substantial increase from 2015, when only 18% of the homeless population was indicated as chronically homeless (466 out of 2,659).

Figure 6:
Estimates of Chronically Homeless across Sacramento 2013-2017 PIT counts
(Sheltered vs. Unsheltered)



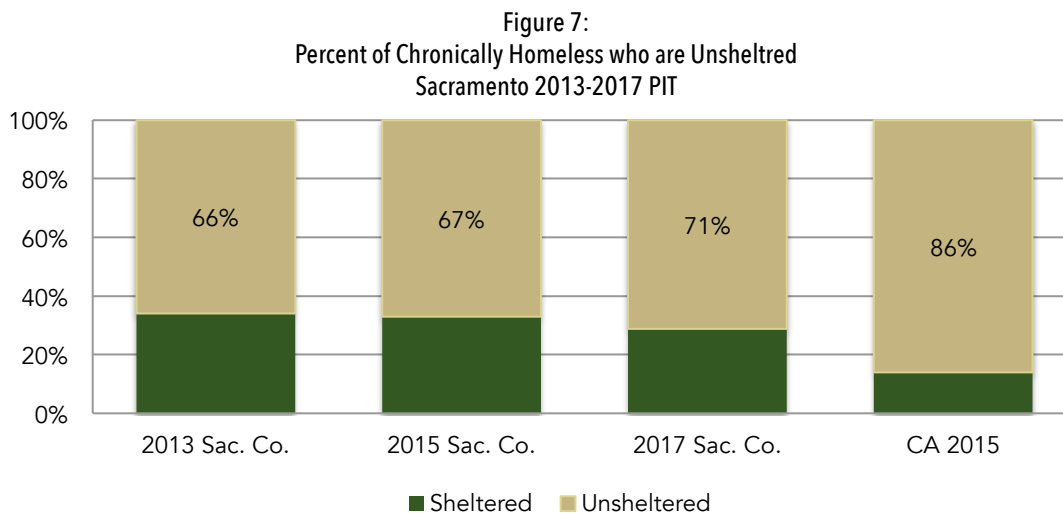
- This suggests that the number of people who are chronically homeless has more than doubled in recent years in Sacramento County.

- The largest increase in the last two years was among people experiencing chronic homelessness and *sleeping outside* on the night of the count.
 - The number of people who were chronically homeless and unsheltered increased from 313 individuals in 2015 to **803** (with a margin of +/- 67) in 2017.
- The number of people who were indicated as chronically homeless but *sheltered* on the night of the count also experienced a similar, though less steep, growth/
 - Chronically homeless individuals who were sheltered increased from 153 to **323**, between 2015 and 2017.

Despite the substantial increase in the number of people in Sacramento experiencing chronic patterns of homelessness, the *proportion* of this group that sleeps outdoors has remained relatively constant during the last several years.

- In 2015 approximately 65% of people experiencing chronic patterns of homelessness were reported unsheltered in Sacramento (153 out of 466). This is similar to the approximately 71% of chronically homeless who were found outside in 2017 (801 out of 1,125).

This high rate of *unsheltered* chronic homelessness in Sacramento also seems consistent with broader patterns of unsheltered homeless across the state, as discussed above. Specifically, the 31% rate of chronically homeless reported in 2017 is slightly closer to the overall 25% rate of chronically homeless in California (29,178 out 115,738) than the 18% rate reported in 2015 (AHAR, 2016).



Analysis of surveys conducted with individuals who were unsheltered and indicated as chronically homeless show that they share some demographic characteristics with the broader unsheltered population in Sacramento. For example:

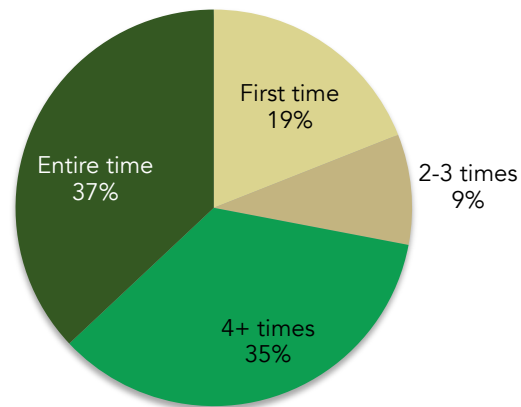
- The sizable majority of chronically homeless were male (75%), as were most unsheltered homeless (74%).
- Approximately half of all unsheltered homeless, including chronically homeless, identified as White (52%).
- Given the racial composition of Sacramento County (see Section 1) a disproportionate percentage of both unsheltered, and chronically homeless were people of color (48%)
- A little less than half (46%) of all chronically homeless were 45 years old or older, similar to many unsheltered groups.

Other survey responses suggest that the chronically homeless in Sacramento are comprised of both individuals who are *continuously* homeless as well as individuals who move regularly back and forth into homelessness. For example, when asked how many times they had been homeless in the last three years:

- Approximately a fifth of respondents indicated as chronically homeless (19%) reported that this was their “first time homeless,” within the last three years, and that they had been homeless for over a year.
 - Among these first-time homeless, the average number of months homeless was 22.5 months.
 - Two-thirds of these first-time homeless claimed that they had been *continuously* homeless for over 16 months.

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Unsheltered Chronic Homeless vs. All Unsheltered Homeless		
	Chronic Unsheltered (N=803)	All Unsheltered (N=2,052)
Gender		
Male	75%	74%
Female	25%	24%
Transgender or Other	0%	2%
Race		
White	52%	52%
Black/African American	21%	23%
Asian	1%	1%
American Indian/Native	8%	6%
Hawaiian/ Pacif Islander	1%	1%
Multi-Racial	18%	17%
Age		
18-24	8%	7%
25-34	26%	25%
35-44	20%	24%
45-54	24%	21%
55-65	22%	23%
65+	0%	0%

Figure 8:
Number of times homeless during the past 3yrs
Among Chronically Homeless (N=803)

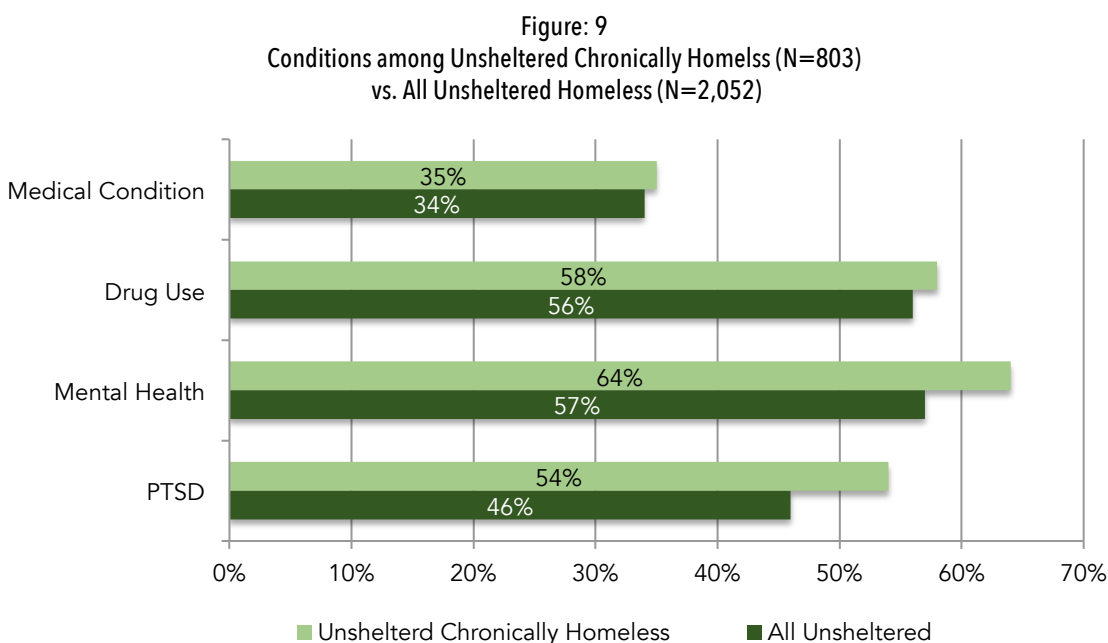


- Approximately 10% of respondents reported that they had been homeless two to three times in the past three years.
 - On average these episodes of homelessness averaged 7 to 11 months, according to respondents.
- Approximately 35% of respondents described experiencing homelessness “four or more times” during the past three years.
 - When asked to add all the times they had been homeless across these episodes, respondents reported that they had been homeless 12 to 24 months (average of 18.1 months).
- The remaining respondents (approximately 37%) reported that they had been homeless the “entire time” over the last three years.

More generally, 67% of people indicated as chronically homeless reported being continuously homeless close to two years, while 35% percent indicated more episodic periods of housing instability (i.e., “four or more times”) during this time. These groups likely face different challenges and life situations, and highlight the need for various types of housing interventions. Indeed, individuals who reported continuous homelessness tended to be substantially older and were often encountered in encampments near the American River Parkway, in contrast to younger homeless who were interviewed nearer downtown Sacramento.¹⁶ Older individuals indicated as chronically homeless – between 55 and 64 – were also more likely (a 70% probability) to report a military past (veteran status) or suffer from a disabling medical condition.

¹⁶ 25-34 year olds had a 60% chance of reporting that they sleep on the “street or sidewalk,” while 55-64 year olds were as likely to report sleeping in the “woods or encampments

As the figure below shows, people indicated as chronically homeless were also more likely to report suffering from PTSD than the other unsheltered homeless (54% compared to 46%), and more likely to indicate a mental health condition (64% compared to 57%).



In addition to asking about their various afflictions, the survey also directly asked respondents to identify the specific condition that prevents them from working. Individuals indicated as chronically homeless most commonly cited a disabling mental health condition (55%), followed by a physical disability (33%), or ongoing medical condition (33%) that kept them from finding work. Additionally, 27% said they couldn't work because of a substance abuse problem.

Among veterans who reported chronic periods of homelessness, PTSD and ongoing medical conditions (such as a traumatic brain injury) were the most commonly cited disabilities preventing them from work. As we discuss next, the substantial growth in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness seemed interrelated with the rise of chronic homelessness more broadly in the community.

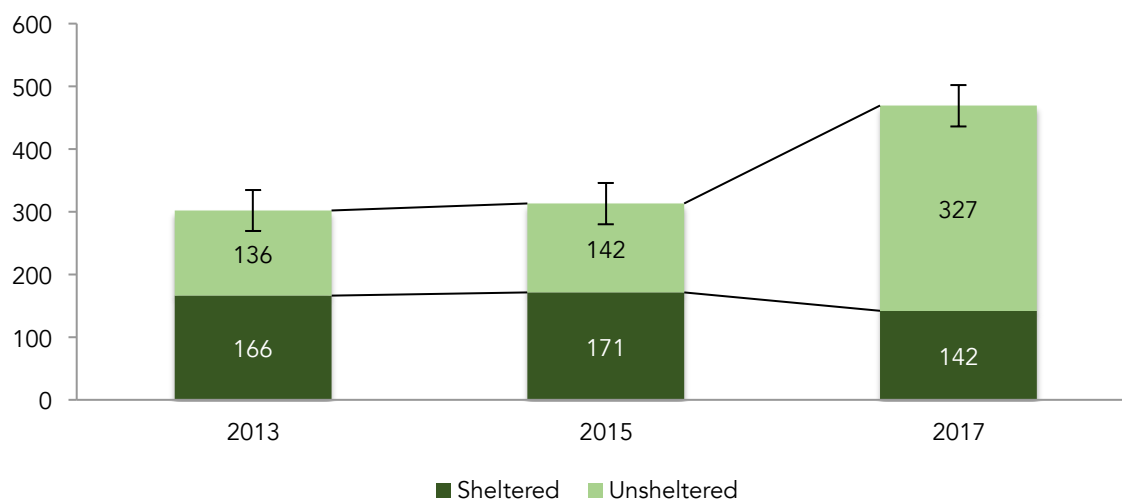
Veterans

Although rates of homelessness among veterans have recently declined in the United States (as much as 47% in the last six years; AHAR 2016), individuals with a military background remain at higher risk of homelessness than civilian populations (NAEH, 2016). The effects of trauma, difficulty re-adjusting to civilian life, and higher rates of substance use, are all thought to contribute to the difficulties of obtaining employment and affordable housing (NAEH, 2016; Tsai & Rosenheck, 2015). Like chronic homelessness, the rate of veteran homelessness in California is one of the highest in the country (approximately 8%, or 9,612 out of 118,142). Moreover, homeless veterans in California are more likely to be sleeping outdoors than in other parts of the country; two-thirds (65%) of homeless veterans in the country are typically found in shelters, but in California the rate is closer to 44% (AHAR, 2016).

The 2017 PIT indicates that **469** veterans in Sacramento County experienced homelessness (approximately 13% of the 3,665 total homeless).

- As the figure below shows, this represents a 50% increase in absolute numbers from 2015, when 313 of the homeless population were identified as veterans. Even with this increase the relative percentage of veterans in 2015 (12% out of 2,659) is approximately equal to the 13% found in 2017
- An estimated **327** veterans (with a margin of error of +/- 33 individuals) were unsheltered in 2017, compared to the **142** encountered in shelters.

Figure 10:
Estimates of Veteran Homelessness across 2013-2017 Sacramento PIT counts
(Sheltered vs. Unsheltered)



- Since 2013 the number of veterans in shelters decreased by 17%, while the number of unsheltered veterans more than doubled.

- Approximately 70% of Veterans were unsheltered in the 2017 PIT, compared to 45% in 2015.

These figures suggest homeless veterans in Sacramento County are now more likely to be unsheltered than sheltered.

With respect to the broader demographic composition of all homeless veterans (both sheltered and unsheltered), most were non-Hispanic, white males over 40 years old. Veterans tended to be older than other homeless, and more likely to report long continuous periods of homelessness (as opposed to episodic).¹⁷ Most were also more likely to report sleeping by themselves as opposed to in a group.

Comparing the demographic composition of sheltered to unsheltered homeless veterans indicates that non-White veterans were more likely to be sleeping outdoors (unsheltered) than homeless veterans who identified as White.

- Specifically, Hispanic veterans (23% vs. 11%), American Indian/Native American veterans (13% vs. 1%), and individuals who identified as Multi-Racial (13% vs. 6%) were all more likely to be unsheltered than sheltered.
- Female veterans were also more likely to be sleeping outside than in a shelter (24% vs. 8%), as well as veterans who identified as transgender.
- In contrast, African Americans were more likely to be in a shelter than sleep outdoors (12% vs. 33%).

In addition to these demographic differences, the most salient contrast between sheltered and unsheltered veterans was the self-reported level of chronic homelessness

In particular, survey results suggest that 57% of veterans who were unsheltered were chronically homeless at the time of the 2017 PIT (compared to 18% of sheltered homeless veterans).

Table 3. Demographic Characteristics of Sheltered Veterans vs. Unsheltered Veterans		
	Unsheltered (n=327)	Sheltered (n=142)
Gender		
Male	73%	92%
Female*	24%	8%
Transgender or Other*	3%	0%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino*	23%	11%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	77%	89%
Race		
White	59%	57%
Black/African American*	12%	33%
Asian	3%	1%
American Indian/Native *	13%	1%
Hawaiian/ Pacif. Islander	0%	1%
Multi-Racial*	13%	6%
Chronically Homeless*	57%	18%
*Statistically significant at $p \leq .10$		

¹⁷ Over 65% of veterans interviewed were between 35 and 54, and many reported being homeless for over 36 months. Given this, it is likely that many of the veterans are years out of their service period and have been homeless on multiple occasions. This is borne out in the data, in that veterans are roughly twice as likely to have reported being homeless 4 or more times in the past year than other homeless groups.

Even among other unsheltered groups, veterans reported the highest rate of chronic homelessness.

Interestingly, veterans and non-veteran group reported similar duration times for being homeless.

- Approximately 28% of veterans had been homeless for 12 months or less, compared to 22% of the total homeless population.
- 60% of both veterans and non-veterans had been homeless for three or more years.

However, veterans reported more significant health and disability challenges than other homeless populations, in particular severe conditions that prevented them from employment and which contributed to their higher rates of chronic homelessness.

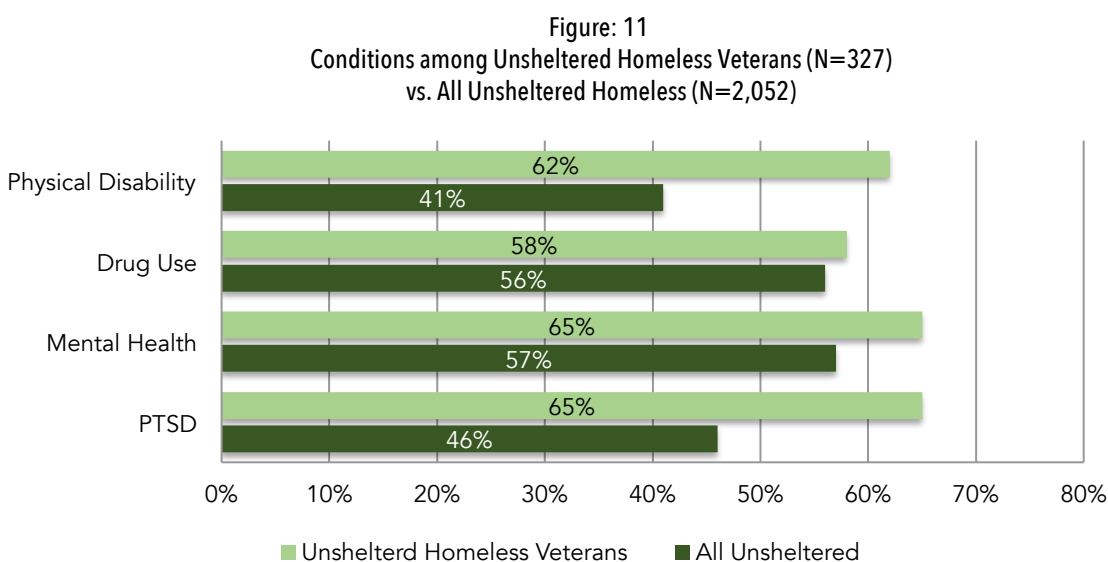
- 65% of veterans reported a mental or physical disability, compared to 57% and 41% among other unsheltered individuals.
- Though a relatively high percentage of survey respondents indicated they suffered from PTSD (46%) in 2017, this proportion was considerably higher for veterans (65%).
- In addition, while 55% of unsheltered veterans reported suffering from a medical condition – compared to 34% of other unsheltered homeless – there was a significantly greater chance among veterans (90%) that they would cite the medical condition as preventing them from working.
- Veterans who reported suffering from PTSD were also very likely to indicate suffering from a traumatic brain injury (90% chance) and to report being homeless for the first time (80% chance).

More generally, it is clear that veterans report significantly higher rates of debilitating conditions – which are major factors underpinning their higher rate of chronic homelessness. Despite these high level of needs, however, only 26% said they access VA facilities.

Table 4. Time Homeless and Reported Disabilities Among Veterans Experiencing Homelessness	
	Unsheltered (N=327)
Time homeless	
1-5 Months	18%
6-11 Months	10%
12-17 Months	6%
18-23 Months	3%
24-29 Months	0%
30-35 Months	3%
36+ Months	60%
Afflictions	
Severe Physical Disability	36%
Severe Medical Condition	55%
Severe Mental Health	31%
Traumatic Brain Injury	54%
PTSD	65%
Drug Use	56%
Severe Drug Use	13%
Chronically Homeless	57%

Examining correlations between survey results, in conjunction with how respondents reported their demographic status, revealed other notable relationships:

- Veterans who reported living primarily in the woods had a 80% chance to also report living alone and more than a 95% chance to say they were between 55-64. These older veterans were more likely to report regular drug use (72%) and report being chronically homeless (67%).¹⁸
- In contrast, veterans that reported living on the streets had a 52% chance of being between 25-34 and a 63% chance of being homeless between 1-6 months.
- Younger veterans were also more likely to be homeless for the first time (a 90% chance for those between 25-34) and to be living in a two-person household (65% chance). Female veterans, on the other hand, were often found in two-person households with a non-veteran (90% chance). They are also often homeless for the first time (60% chance) while male veterans are more likely to be homeless the entirety of the previous three years (69% chance).



¹⁸ This could be one explanatory factor for the significant increase in the unsheltered veteran status, as more volunteers in 2017 were sampling less-densely populated areas of Sacramento County than in previous years due to the flooding mentioned earlier.

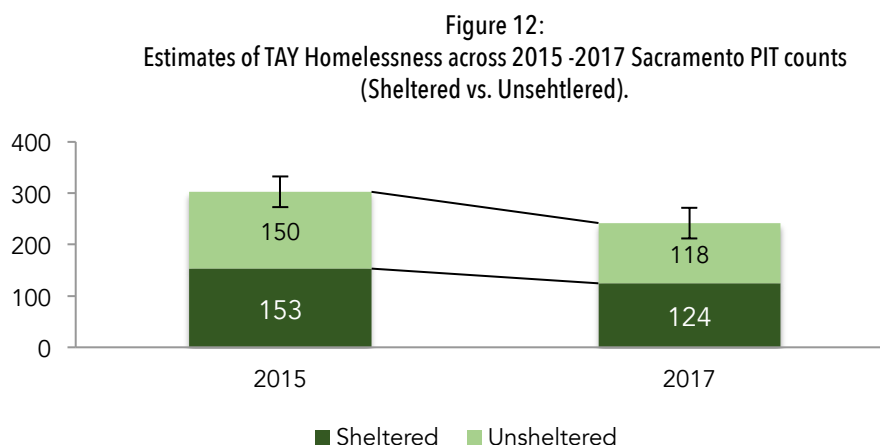
Transitional Age Youth

Early adulthood—roughly defined as the age period between 18 and 25—is a time when young people navigate a number of life transitions related to their changing status as adults. During a relatively short phase of the life course, young people manage multiple changes with respect to their housing, education, employment, relationships, partnerships, family as well as cognitive development. Because many of these transitions occur under uncertain and changing circumstances, young adults often experience heightened levels of stress and instability during this phase of life. A growing body of research shows that how well a young person manages this transitional period has far-reaching consequences throughout the life course—consequences related to socioeconomic status, family structure and well being (Shanahan 2000; Hayward & Gorman 2004). In addition, many young people today rely on financial and social supports from their families and social networks for extended periods of time.

Policymakers and researchers have recently emphasized, however, that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds (particularly those who have experienced conflict and/or maltreatment from their families) often have few social and economic resources to draw upon during this turbulent and critical phase of life. Young adults who face such social disadvantages (generally categorized as “transitional age youth”—or TAY) are much more likely to experience housing insecurity and struggle to maintain stable income (Osgood, Foster & Courtney 2010). Moreover, if a transitional age youth becomes homeless they are less likely to pursue their education/career ambitions, and maintain gainful employment (Courtney 2009). They are also, unfortunately, more at risk to experience incarceration, victimization and diminished wellbeing (Osgood et al. 2010).

The 2017 PIT indicates that **242** *transitional age youth* (TAY) in Sacramento County experienced homelessness (approximately 6% of the 3,665 total homeless).

- As the figure below shows, this represents a 20% decrease from 2015, when 303 of the homeless population were identified as TAY (11% out of 2,659).



- Both sheltered and unsheltered TAY showed significant decline between 2017 and 2015
 - An estimated **118** unaccompanied TAY (with a margin of error of +/- 30 individuals) were unsheltered in 2017, which is a 21% decline from the 150 reported in 2015.
 - An estimated **124** young adults were indicated in shelters and transitional housing, which is a 19% decline from the 153 reported in 2015.
- However, because of the small size of this group, and the relative large margin of error, the decrease in unsheltered TAY may be modest.

While these trends are positive, and potentially illustrative of progress being made in Sacramento County toward addressing youth homelessness, there is also a strong likelihood that these estimates may be undercounts. One issue is simply the fact young adults are much more likely to experience episodes of homelessness, as opposed to *continuous* periods. Single point-in-time designs are inherently biased toward over-sampling individuals with longer periods of homelessness (as they more likely to be homeless during the time of the study). Another methodological concern is that young people experiencing housing instability often “couch surf” with friends, which is a form of housing instability not captured by the PIT design. Homeless youth are also reportedly less likely to be found in typical homeless locations frequented by adults, or to engage with adult volunteers more generally.¹⁹

With respect to surveys completed by transitional aged youth, the following patterns emerged:

- The majority of young adults reported having some sort of mental illness (54%) or PTSD (64%), even though physical disabilities (12%), medical disabilities (7%), and drug use (19%) are all significantly lower than the general unsheltered population (41%, 34%, and 56% respectively).
- Twenty-two percent (22%) of transitional age youth had been homeless 4 or more different times.
- Ninety-one percent (91%) of transitional age youth had been homeless for the last three years.

¹⁹ Because of these reasons HUD has encouraged CoCs to target their efforts to collect additional, and more accurate information, on the number of young adults experiencing homelessness in their respective communities. Towards this end, SSF has collaborated with local advocacy and service organizations that work explicitly with homeless young adults, to improve outreach to this population as well as to enhance canvassing during the PIT. In 2017 SSF also hired TAY individuals to participate in the count and conduct surveys with their peers. While methodologies are still improving, HUD has announced that estimates reported on the 2017 PIT will serve as the baseline, initial comparison year to assess progress that communities make toward addressing youth homelessness.

Other Risk Factors

Responses from the PIT survey also highlighted a number of interrelated risk factors associated with experiencing or complicating homelessness, such as interaction with the foster care system, being a victim of domestic violence, and families with children. In this section, we briefly review some of the key findings from the survey that shed light on these experiences in the context of Sacramento County.

Former Foster Youth

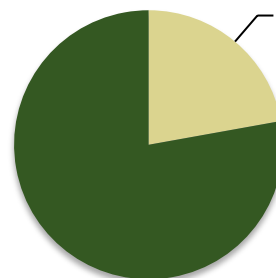
Young people aging out of the foster care system often fit the definition of a transitional-age youth facing various social disadvantages (Osgood, Foster & Courtney 2010). Foster youth often lack access to stable family and social networks, and many have complex needs related to trauma and past maltreatment (Courtney 2009). While California has made considerable progress extending support to young people transitioning out of the foster care system (e.g., passage of Assembly Bill 12) former “system youth” still face elevated risk for experiencing homelessness during young adulthood and beyond. One often cited PIT study in Minnesota (Wilder, 2006) estimated that nearly half of the homeless population in the state had some experience in the foster care system. While estimates of homelessness among foster youth vary widely, past PIT studies have suggested between 20% to 30% of homeless individuals have interacted with the child welfare system.

In the 2017 PIT survey, 22% of respondents identified themselves as having experience in the foster care system (estimate 455 out of 2,052).

Examining the survey results from these individual revealed the following:

- Homelessness was experienced at a variety of ages by former foster youth. While 30% were aged 34 or younger, 60% were 35 years or older.
 - More than half, 58% had been homeless for the past three years
 - Approximately one-third (33%) had been homeless four or more times in the past three years.
- The vast majority of unsheltered homeless former foster youth were male (85%).
- The majority of unsheltered homeless former foster youth were White (57%), with the next highest percentages multi-racial (15%) and African-American (12%).
- Almost one-half (49%) of unsheltered homeless former foster youth were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Figure 13:
Former Foster Youth
Former Foster youth
455
22%



- More than one-half (56%) of former foster youth were dealing with a mental health disorder

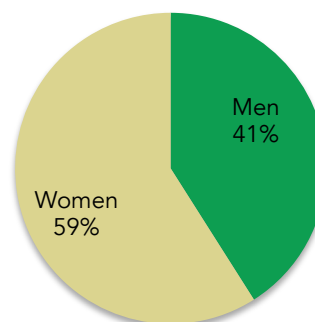
Victims of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is common in the United States (NCADV, 2015). Victims of domestic violence are susceptible to homelessness because of missed work, job loss, and behavioral, physical, or mental health issues related to the abuse (NCADV, 2015). It is also assumed that individuals fleeing a domestic violence situation face precarious housing options, as their departure from their home was often abrupt and unplanned.

In the 2017 PIT survey, 4% of responses indicated that they had left their last place due to violence from a partner or family member (estimate of 90 out of 2,052).

- While a slight majority of victims of domestic violence were women (59%), a sizable percentage was men (41%).
- Approximately half of victims of domestic violence reported a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or some sort of physical disability (52%), while a majority reported suffering from some sort of mental disability (69%).
- A majority (67%) of victims of domestic violence reported experiencing homelessness for the entirety of the previous three years.

Figure 14:
Victims of Domestic Violence by Gender (n=90)



Victims of domestic violence are more likely than the general homeless population to report at-risk behaviors across all measures, which demonstrates that these individuals are – as expected – a particularly high-needs group. On average, victims of domestic violence are 6% more likely to report suffering from mental, physical, or medical disabilities (including PTSD) than those who were not victims of domestic violence.

Families with Children

Though homelessness in the US has shown substantial decline in the last ten years—with perhaps some notable exceptions this year in California—the number of homeless families with children has not followed this broader trend. In particular, single-headed households with 2-3 children have seen some modest increases during the past decade. Accounting for homeless families, however, remains methodologically difficult. Like transitional aged youth, this population is likely undercounted in the unsheltered portion of the count.

The 2017 PIT indicates that **186** families with at least one child in Sacramento County experienced homelessness in January, and the vast majority of these families stayed in shelters.

- 180 families, comprising of a total 572 individuals, were in shelters or transitional housing on January 25
 - Families represented 36% of all homeless accessing shelters in 2017, which is a slight decline from 2015, when they represented 45% of the shelter population.
- Considering both sheltered and unsheltered families (of which there were very few) indicates there has been a 25% decrease in the number of families from 2015, when 238 homeless families were reported (10% out of 2,659).
- The 589 individuals in these families represent approximately 16% of the 3,665 total homeless.
- The majority of homeless families were single-parent families, with an average of 2 or more children. However, there was insufficient survey data from families to explore further demographic statistics.

As was the case in 2015, 95% of homeless families in 2017 were reported from the shelter HMIS data; only 6 homeless families with children were identified during the unsheltered count in 2017. Researchers from the previous 2015 PIT employed a day-after service approach in an effort to record more homeless families leaving shelters on the day following the night count, but researchers reported only 5 additional families overall (11 total unsheltered families were recorded that year). While the day-after service was not possible in 2017 due to logistic challenges, it is not apparent that this had much substantial impact on estimates.

While it is reasonable to assume that homeless families make concerted efforts to stay in shelters as opposed to sleeping outdoors, it is nonetheless likely that the PIT methodology is systematically undercounting unsheltered families staying in vehicles and tents. In particular, volunteers are trained not to attempt interviews with individuals in parked cars or groups sleeping in their tents. While these guidelines are reasonable precautions, as well as courteous, they undoubtedly bias survey estimates. Future PIT researchers may want to consider a different sampling approach, or conduct a separate study to estimate the proportion of tents and cars that are, on average, occupied by families.

Section 4 Geo-Spatial Analysis of the 2017 PIT

In this section we present a geo-spatial analysis of the 2017 PIT data, and report how the unsheltered homeless population is likely distributed across the county. Specifically, we estimate an approximate number of unsheltered homeless within each incorporated city in the county, and within the surrounding unincorporated areas. We also provide GIS maps of the distribution of unsheltered homeless across Sacramento County more broadly. For these analyses, we incorporate additional information beyond what was collected on the night of the 2017 PIT. Supplemental data include:

- Additional count data collected the same week as the 2017 PIT, but not on the same night.
- Extrapolated estimates for 70 regions not sampled on the night of the 2017 PIT

Incorporating this information allows us to broaden our 2017 PIT estimates to cover areas that were not canvassed by volunteers on the night of the count. However, readers should note that these analyses are based on statistical extrapolation as opposed to the census methodology of the PIT, and are therefore more speculative in nature than other results presented (see Appendix for a summary of the enumeration process). Nonetheless, the following results provide an additional general depiction of how homelessness is distributed across the county as can be seen in the following table and figures.

Estimates by City

We first present the estimated distribution of unsheltered homeless across the county; the below chart shows the estimated proportion of unsheltered homeless by city (dark green bar), in contrast to an area's relative population proportion (tan color bar) (Census, 2015). In addition, the table on the following page provides the specific estimates by city, as well as the different data sources included in these estimates.

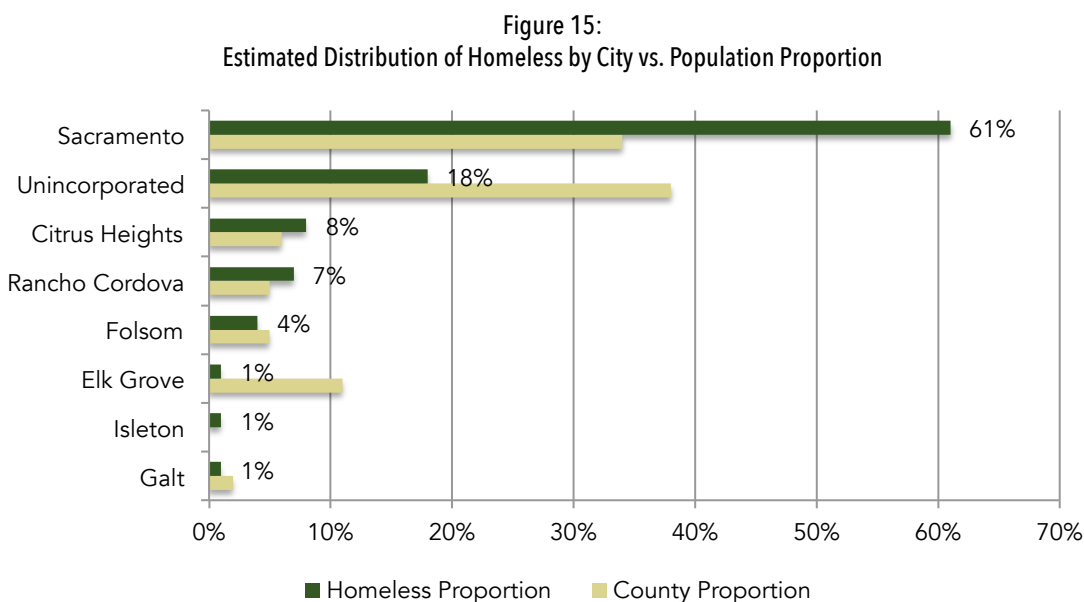


Table 5.
City Estimates

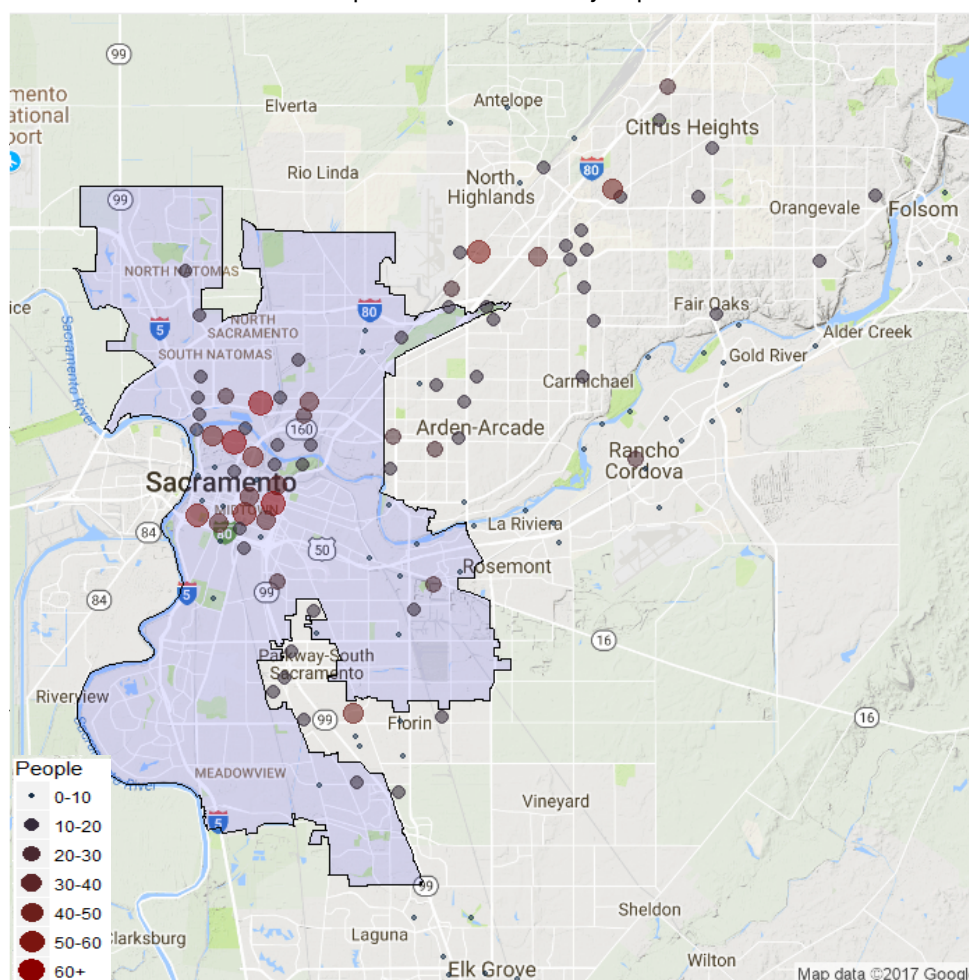
Area	2017 PIT Count	Extrap. Count	Post PIT Count	Total Count	Margin of Error ²⁰	Homeless Prop.	County Prop.
Citrus Heights	188	51	0	239	+/- 28	8%	6%
Elk Grove	18	22	0	40	+/- 4	1%	11%
Folsom	0	118	4	122	+/- 6	4%	5%
Galt	0	0	5	5	-	0%	2%
Isleton	0	0	5	5	-	0%	>1%
Rancho Cordova	76	136	0	212	+/- 25	7%	5%
Sacramento	1,400	284	95	1,779	+/- 101	61%	34%
Unincorporated	370	162	0	532	+/- 55	18%	38%
Total	2052	773	109	2,934	+/- 121	100%	100%

Unsurprisingly, the areas with the largest percentages of county population (Sacramento and the Unincorporated Areas) also saw the largest percentages of homeless (61% and 18%, respectively). Interestingly, these percentages are almost exact inverses in terms of their relationship to the actual population percentages – about twice as many homeless are found in downtown (with a population share of 34%), while about half as many homeless are found in the unincorporated areas (with a population share of 38%). Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, and Folsom had homeless populations roughly equal to their county population shares, as did Galt and Isleton (though these numbers are insignificant). While the results from Sacramento City and the unincorporated areas are not surprising – many more volunteers were sent to zones in downtown than in the unincorporated areas, and downtown is much easier to traverse – it is not immediately clear why Elk Grove has such a smaller homeless population relative to its county population. This will be an interesting finding to keep in mind for future PIT counts.

²⁰ Since the extrapolated counts are formed by using single regional averages, there is less variation in the predicted scores than the actual scores. Therefore, these margins are not actually as accurate as those reported for the sampled scores.

GIS Maps

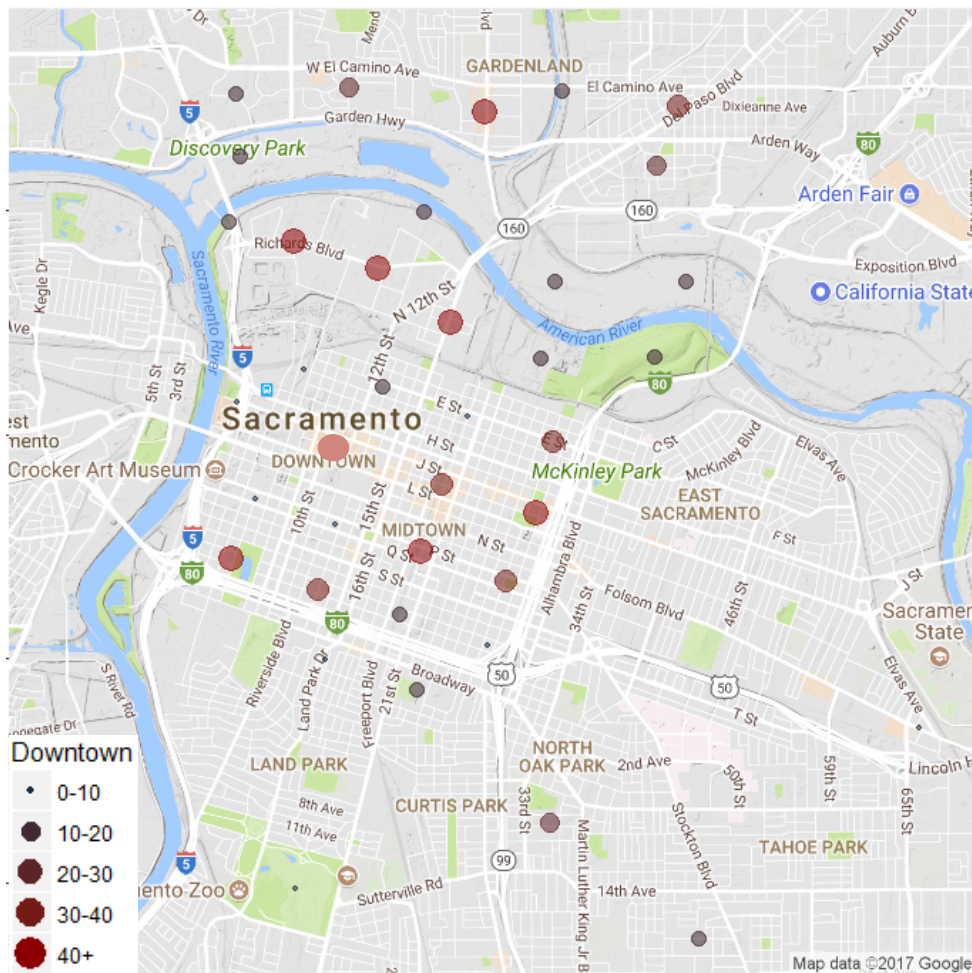
Figure 15:
Spatial Distribution County Map



As with most spatially defined data, one of the best mechanisms for understanding patterns in homeless population density is through GIS mapping. The above map provides a clear picture of many of the trends we have discussed throughout this report. In this image, the light blue outlined space is the Sacramento City boundaries, while the counted (and estimated) populations are represented by a color and size gradation – so that the larger bright red circles represent high-density zones and the smaller grey and black circles represent low-density zones.

As previously mentioned, Sacramento and the surrounding areas saw a record-breaking winter weather system that caused severe flooding – especially around the cresting American River. The map shows that, especially in the length between Rosemont and Folsom, volunteers found very few homeless in most of the areas situated next to the river. Indeed, with the exception of Rancho Cordova, spatial patterns strongly suggest that homeless individuals were pushed north into the less densely populated unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. In future PITs, it is expected that many more homeless individuals will return to areas near the river – a trend that will be particularly interesting to investigate.

Figure 16:
Spatial Distribution Downtown Sacramento Map



Focusing on downtown Sacramento, one can also clearly see concentrations of individuals being pushed further north and south from the river's edge. This is especially true near Discovery Park and the State Fairgrounds – two areas that saw the largest impact from the floods. The areas near Richards Boulevard and El Camino Avenue saw significant numbers of homeless individuals in tents, which further illustrates the impact of the flooding on migrating homeless communities. It is also evident a large portion of the homeless population in Sacramento is found in the midtown corridor, and along the main highways. In the midtown corridor, specifically between K and Capitol and from 23rd to 26th streets, there are four large churches for homeless individuals to find shelter. Between P and R streets from 19th to 23rd there are also large warehouses and structures under which homeless individuals can find shelter – particularly near the Safeway, the Light Rail stop, and the Sacramento Bee offices. As expected, there is a dense population of homeless individuals near the Capitol and Caser Chavez park. Along the main highways, there are a number large parking structures beneath the overpasses as well as sections between X and Broadway that see little regular foot traffic. These areas are ideal spaces for homeless individuals to take shelter during inclement weather.

Extrapolated vs. Sampled Zones

Interestingly, the extrapolated data suggests that many of the zones that were not sampled on the night of the 2017 PIT would have yielded relatively low count numbers if they had been; many extrapolated zones yielded relatively few additional homeless compared to the actual zones sampled. About a quarter of the non-sampled zones had extrapolated values of 0 or 1. In other words, the analysis suggests that the 72 zones for the 2017 PIT likely accounted for the majority of potential homeless in Sacramento County. Even though more zones could have been deployed (if more volunteers were present), there is likely a decline in the “return on investment” for researchers to sample a large collection of zones for the PIT. While the PIT Count would benefit from more volunteers and more covered zones, it is unlikely that having more than 100 sampled zones on the night of the PIT would provide significant new information on the distribution of homeless individuals in the county.

Section 5 Conclusions and Recommendations

In this last section of the report, we review the overall findings of the 2017 PIT and draw parallels between trends found in Sacramento County and those reported across the state. We also briefly review the methodological changes and challenges of the 2017 PIT, and suggest recommendations for the 2019 PIT. Lastly, we discuss recent trends in Sacramento County – particularly trends in the housing market – which may be correlated with the reported increase in homelessness in the area. We believe these data, in conjunction with the 2017 PIT findings, point to a number of issues to consider for policy makers, services providers, and others interested in reducing homelessness in Sacramento.

In this 2017 PIT report, we found a significant increase in the number of residents in Sacramento County who experienced homelessness on a nightly basis.

- Since 2015, we estimate a real growth in nightly homelessness of approximately 30% (from 2,822 individuals to 3,665), with a more pronounced growth among people who are experiencing homelessness and sleeping outdoors (from 1,111 to 2,052; or 85% increase).

Because of the disproportionate increase in unsheltered homeless—individuals who tend to have higher and more immediate needs than those in a shelter or transitional housing—the 2017 PIT also saw a sharp rise of particular at-risk groups.

- We estimate that approximately 31% of the homeless in Sacramento County are chronically homeless (that is, they have experienced prolonged bouts of housing instability and are disabled), which is a substantial increase from the 18% rate reported in 2015. Most of this growth, however, was among chronically homeless who sleep outdoors, who are the majority in this group (803 out of 1,126).
- We also found a 50% increase in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness since 2015 (313 to 469). Notably, our estimates suggest that the majority of homeless veterans are unsheltered (69%).

While the overall significant increases in homelessness in 2017 are concerning, the patterns of homelessness found in Sacramento County are nonetheless consistent with statewide trends reported in 2015.

- The proportion of the unsheltered population estimated by the 2017 PIT (56%) aligns with California’s 2015 average of 66%.
- Similarly, the 2017 the rate of chronic homelessness (31%) is closer to the 25% California rate than the 18% reported in 2015.
- The proportion of unsheltered veterans (69%) found in 2017 is also more consistent to the state average of 66% than what was reported in 2015 (47%).

And while the majority of communities have yet to release their 2017 reports, the few that have indicate similar increases in homelessness since 2015 as found in Sacramento County: 39% increase in Alameda County, 76% increase in Butte County, and a 23% increase in Los Angeles County.

In this report, we also discussed a number of contextual factors that likely contributed to the general increase in estimates. These include improvements in methodology, but also severe weather and flooding that likely resulted in significant migration of homeless encampments to areas more regularly sampled in the Sacramento PIT Counts. Indeed, the spatial analysis of the 2017 PIT data show clear patterns of concentration of homeless in areas near the American River Parkway that were not flooded.

In contrast to the general upward trend, we also report that some populations saw little change in the 2017 PIT. Estimates for transitional age youth (TAY) declined slightly as did those from families with children (approximately 20% each), but the relatively small sizes of these two populations make them difficult to assess accurately from year-to-year (small errors in counting have a relatively larger impact estimating those groups). In addition, TAY and families are also methodologically difficult to capture with the PIT methodology of sampling and canvassing. Nonetheless, it is notable that these two groups did not increase, while other subpopulations did, and that declines were present in both the sheltered and unsheltered count.

As the PIT count methodology incorporates hundreds of surveys with individuals not using the shelter system, this report also offered a unique glimpse into the experiences of persons sleeping outdoors. Results from the 2017 survey point to a number of notable findings on subpopulations, including:

- People experiencing chronically periods of homelessness are more likely to suffer from PTSD than the general unsheltered homeless group (54% compared to 46%), and more likely to have a mental condition of any type (64% compared to 57%).
- Older individuals indicated as chronically homeless – between 55 and 64 – had a 70% chance to also be a veteran or report suffering from a disabling medical condition.
- Veterans experiencing homelessness were more likely to report a mental or physical disability than other groups (65% compared to 41%-57%). While 46% of unsheltered homeless reported suffering from PTSD, this number was 65% for veterans. Veterans and those suffering from PTSD had a 90% chance of reporting difficulty finding a job due to their chronic condition.
- The majority of TAY individuals also indicated some sort of mental illness (54%) or PTSD (64%), even though physical disabilities (12%), medical disabilities (7%), and drug use (19%) are all significantly lower than the general unsheltered population (41%, 34%, and 56% respectively).
- 22% of respondents identified themselves as having experience in the foster care system (estimate 455 out of 2,052). Interestingly, most of these individuals (65%) were older than 35,

though some were also young adults. Among former foster youth, almost half (49%) reported suffering from PTSD.

Methodology Recommendations

Given our experiences conducting the 2017 PIT analyses, the CSUS team suggests the following methodological changes for future PIT counts.

- 1. Increase data sharing with local law enforcement.** In 2017, CSUS used “calls for service” data provided by the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department to establish PIT sampling zones within the unincorporated regions of the county. Making use of this additional data allowed researchers to more accurately predict where individuals experiencing homelessness might be found on the night of the PIT count. Similar data from the Sacramento City Police Department (and other incorporated cities) could be useful to supplement future PIT pre-mapping stages.
- 2. Use technology to increase survey response rates.** It is notoriously difficult to survey individuals experiencing homelessness and sleeping outdoors, both due to the challenges of interviewing someone in a difficult situation, but also the obstacle of recording data accurately at night. By carrying tablets or electronic devices, volunteers would have a better and easier tool for documenting responses data in a systematic way. They could also use these devices to better record where individuals are counted with GPS coordinates. Having this data automatically stored electronically would also result in considerable efficiency in the data analysis stage of the project, as well as improve the overall accuracy of results.
- 3. More engagement with youth populations.** Transition age youth (TAY) who experience homelessness face a unique set of risk factors. Accurate data on the TAY community in Sacramento PIT, however, continues to be limited. Despite efforts this year to engage homeless youth through volunteer training and hiring of youth surveyors, it is likely that this group may have been significantly undercounted. Moreover, some of the 2017 surveys done with youth showed some inconsistencies, which limited our ability to fully analyze this data. As we discuss below, we recommend that all surveys, including those with youth, be administered by a subset of volunteers who receive additional training in survey methods (these could include specific youth volunteers, county social workers, or CSUS MSW students). In addition, SSF and researchers should continue to work and collaborate with advocacy and service organizations to explore better ways to identify areas where homeless youth reside. While methodologies are still improving, it should be noted that HUD has announced that estimates reported on the 2017 PIT will serve as the baseline, initial comparison year to assess progress that communities make toward addressing youth homelessness.
- 4. Additional training of surveyors.** Our estimates and analyses of specific subpopulations (such as the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness or who are veterans) are only as accurate as the surveys collected. As discussed above, some of the surveys in 2017 showed

inconsistencies, which challenged our analysis of specific subpopulations. Moreover, the overall number of survey responses (N=168) relative the counted data (N=2,052) is a significant concern for the Sacramento County PIT. While volunteer groups are given some training in approaching homeless individuals and administering these surveys, it is reasonable to assume that some volunteers were not comfortable conducting surveys with individuals experiencing homelessness. For these reasons, we recommend that SSF designate a specific subset of volunteers to conduct surveys on the next PIT. This specific subset of volunteers could receive additional training in survey methods as well as on how to engage vulnerable individuals more generally. Moreover, we recommend SSF consider recruiting individuals who have experience in the social service fields (such as county social workers) as well as graduate students at CSUS (i.e., CSUS MSW students). CSUS could also provide additional training in survey methods. Finally, we recommend that surveys also be administered within shelters themselves on the night of the county, to improve the comparative analyses of sheltered vs. unsheltered groups.

With respect to the survey tool itself, we recommend the following topics be included that go beyond those suggested by HUD guidelines.

5. **LGBTQ Population.** The survey tool currently does not ask about LGBTQ status, as no questions directly ask about a respondent's sexuality (though HUD did include new questions this year about transgender status and gender identity). It is well known that LGBTQ persons, especially youth, face a unique set of circumstances in regards to high-risk factors and transience. While there are some complications in asking respondents about intimate details, such questions can be done sensitively and with respect. Specifically, researchers and SSF could consult with a local organization like the Gender Health Center and/or the CARES clinic, to design specific prompts and protocols to explore these issues.
6. **Reason for Homelessness and Transience.** The significant increase in homelessness is difficult to explain without further data about how and why individuals found themselves experiencing housing instability on the night of the PIT count. Some of this information is already collected through the assessments conducted by SSF Navigators, and could be explored through an analysis of HMIS data. But some of these issues could also be explored further with PIT surveys that ask respondents to self-identify factors that contributed to their homelessness (e.g., medical bills/conditions, rent, unemployment, mental health etc.). While these factors are likely interrelated and difficult to unpack, the PIT instrument could ask respondents to simply respond to a set of Likert-style questions about the various factors that contributed to their state of homelessness (e.g., a 5-point scale where 1=Strongly Agree and 5=Strong Disagree).

Relatedly, the rise of homelessness in a community often raises questions about where the homeless individuals come from; there can often be a public perception that most homeless are transients who have come from other communities. This reflects, in part, a stigma towards homeless that views them as "inherent outsiders" of the community, even though many if not most might be lifelong residents of Sacramento. Research on this issue suggests that some

individuals experiencing housing instability do travel as way to cope with their situation and are in search of opportunities (Rahimian, Wolch, and Koegel 1992), but research in metropolitan areas suggests that this encapsulates a small percentage (e.g., 10%-20%) of the overall homeless population (Parker and Dykema, 2013). As there is little data on this issue itself in Sacramento County, the PIT survey could ask respondents about the length in time that they have lived in area and how often they might move from location and location. More than just addressing the perception of homelessness, these questions could shed light on the different needs and circumstances that homeless in the community are experiencing, and the various resources they may have available to them in the county. Indeed, research on transient and non-transient homeless suggests that these groups may be facing substantially different circumstances (Gray, Chau, Huerta, and Frankish, 2011).

Policy Needs

Finally, the overall findings of the 2017 PIT point to some clear needs in the community. These reflect:

- ✓ **The need for more Emergency Shelter capacity**

The sharp increase in unsheltered homeless and particularly those who have experienced longer periods of housing instability than the past, likely speaks to lacking service capacity issues within Sacramento's emergency shelter system. Since the collection of this data both the city of Sacramento and county (as well as others) have made efforts to increase access to emergency shelter for individuals, which this reports suggest is a critical issue. On January 25th approximately 3,665 individuals experienced homelessness, compared to the approximate 1,200-1,400 emergency shelter beds available that night in the county.

- ✓ **The need for more Permanent Supportive Housing**

While increasing access to temporary shelter is important, survey results suggest that almost a third of individuals sleeping outdoor have complex mental and physical needs that complicate their transition into stable housing. While these individuals would benefit from a quicker transition to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs—"housing first" programs designed to help individuals who are disabled and chronically homeless—the large number of 1,126 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the county likely also exceeds PSH capacity. It is telling that two-thirds of chronically homeless report being homeless longer than 36 months, which could reflect excessive waiting periods for PSH. And while a large proportion of these individuals indicated that they had severe mental health challenges (and in particular PTSD), these issues are unlikely to improve in the absence of stable, permanent housing.

- ✓ **The need for more Affordable Housing**

Analyses of national PIT data have found that rental housing market factors – particularly housing costs – are the strongest predictors of homelessness across communities (Byrne et. al 2013). In particular, the proportion of residents in communities who spend more than 30% of their total income on housing was strongly predictive of the overall homelessness rate in the region. These

findings are telling given recent reports by the Sacramento Housing Alliance that 4 out of 10 residents in Sacramento spend over 50% of their monthly income on housing (SHA, 2016). Given the recent sharp increases in rental rates in Sacramento, and the low stock of affordable housing units in the area, the growth of the homeless population is consistent with trends reported by other communities across the county with tight housing market conditions. Though addressing the need for affordable housing is complex and multifaceted, it is clear that more, continued, attention needs to be paid to this issue. Indeed, affordable housing is not a new concern, or one that is unknown by most homeless service providers and advocates, but findings of this report likely highlight a new level of severity for these issues in Sacramento County. Housing costs play a critical role in the prevalence of homelessness in a community. While it is important to highlight the high prevalence of mental health and physical needs among some homeless groups (such as the estimated 31% chronically homeless in the county), it is equally important to remember that not every person experiencing homelessness faces these challenges. Indeed the results of this report suggest most people experiencing homelessness do not have a severe mental health, physical disability or substance abuse problem, but are likely confronting a life crisis in the context of very few viable housing options. Moreover, all groups of homeless, including those with more serious challenges, would be helped by better access to affordable housing in our community.

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Appendix

HUD Data Tables

Table 1
Total ALL Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Total		
Total Number of Households	747	473	1,220	1,435	2,655
Total Number of Persons	977	636	1,613	2,052	3,665
Number of Children (under age 18)	212	151	363	7	370
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	46	78	124	118	242
Number of Persons (over age 24)	719	407	1,126	1927	3,053

Gender

Female	422	259	681	488	1,169
Male	545	373	918	1,517	2,435
Transgender	10	4	14	47	61

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	812	515	1,327	1,682	3,009
Hispanic/Latino	165	121	286	370	656

Race

White	414	333	747	1,070	1,817
Black or African-American	402	241	643	481	1,124
Asian	6	4	10	14	24
American Indian or Alaska Native	25	23	48	131	179
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12	9	21	10	31
Multiple Races	118	26	144	346	490

Chronically Homeless

Total number of persons	323	0	323	803	1,126
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Table 2
Persons in Households with at least one Adult and one Child

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Total		
Total Number of Households	100	80	180	6	186
Total Number of Persons	330	242	572	17	589
Number of Children (under age 18)	209	151	360	7	367
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	18	22	40	0	40
Number of Persons (over age 24)	103	69	172	10	182

Gender

Female	214	151	365	7	372
Male	116	90	206	10	216
Transgender	0	1	1	0	1
Don't Identify as male, female, or transgender	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	259	190	449	4	453
Hispanic/Latino	71	52	123	13	136

Race

White	414	333	747	3	185
Black or African-American	170	105	275	6	281
Asian	1	2	3	0	3
American Indian or Alaska Native	10	8	18	0	18
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3	6	9	6	15
Multiple Races	72	13	85	2	87

Table 3
Persons in Households with only Children

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Total		
Total Number of Households	3	0	3	0	3
Number of Children (under age 18)	3	0	3	0	3

Gender

Female	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0
Transgender	3	0	3	0	3
Don't Identify as male, female, or transgender	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1	0	1	0	1
Hispanic/Latino	2	0	2	0	2

Race

White	2	0	2	0	2
Black or African-American	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	1	0	1	0	1

Table 4
Persons in Households without Children

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Total		
Total Number of Households	644	393	1,037	1,429	2,466
Number of Persons (Adults)	644	394	1,038	2,035	3,073
Number of Persons (18-24)	28	56	84	118	202
Number of Persons (over age 24)	616	338	954	1,917	2,871

Gender

Female	208	108	316	481	797
Male	429	283	712	1,507	2,219
Transgender	7	3	10	0	10
Don't Identify as male, female, or transgender	0	0	0	47	47

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	552	325	877	1,678	2,555
Hispanic/Latino	92	69	161	357	518

Race

White	338	225	563	1,067	1,630
Black or African-American	232	136	368	475	843
Asian	5	2	7	14	21
American Indian or Alaska Native	15	15	30	131	161
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9	3	12	4	16
Multiple Races	45	13	58	344	402

Table 5
Unaccompanied Youth Households

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Total		
Total Number of Households	31	56	87	98	185
Total number of unaccompanied “youth”	31	56	87	118	205
Number of unaccompanied <i>children</i> (under 18)	3	0	3	0	3
Number of unaccompanied <i>young adults</i> (18- 24)	28	56	84	118	202

Gender

Female	8	16	24	39	63
Male	21	39	60	79	139
Transgender	2	1	3	0	3
Don’t Identify as male, female, or transgender	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	25	45	70	78	148
Hispanic/Latino	6	11	17	40	57

Race

White	13	25	39	59	97
Black or African-American	14	30	44	39	83
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1	2	0	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	3	0	3	20	23

Table 6
Total Veteran Households

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Total		
Total Number of Households	64	78	142	276	418
Total Number of Veterans	64	78	142	327	469

Gender

Female	2	9	11	80	91
Male	62	69	131	238	369
Transgender (male to female)	0	0	0	9	9
Transgender (female to male)	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	56	70	126	251	377
Hispanic/Latino	8	8	16	76	92

Race

White	40	41	81	194	275
Black or African-American	17	30	47	39	86
Asian	0	1	1	10	11
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1	2	43	45
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	2	2	0	2
Multiple Races	6	3	9	41	50

Chronically Homeless

Total number of persons	25	0	25	185	210
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Extrapolating process

To extrapolate the number of homelessness in areas not canvassed, CSUS generated a formula that calculated the difference between expected and actual count numbers within each sampled zone (i.e., the difference between what CSUS expected volunteers to report and what volunteers actually reported). As discussed in Section 1, CSUS had used pre-mapping data (e.g., information from community stakeholders and law enforcement regarding possible sleeping locations for the homeless) to generate 145 possible sampling zones in the county. CSUS had also used this information to calculate an expected number of homeless likely to be found within each zone on the night of the count (these expected values allowed CSUS to stratify the sampling by “cold,” “warm” and “hot” zones). Additionally, CSUS separated the zones into five “regions”: Downtown, East Sacramento, River, North Sacramento, and South Sacramento.

As anticipated, there was significant variation in count data between the five established regions, and so we used this additional information to calculate five separate extrapolation formulas for each regional part of the county. The general formula for extrapolating a predicated actual count for un-sampled zones was then simply:

$$Y_{Predicted\ Actual} = X_{Average\ Region\ Diff} + X_{Expected}$$

Using this formula to predict unsampled zone counts resulted in a small number of zones that were given scores beyond two standard deviations above the mean predicted score, while some zones indicated predicted values below zero. Because these results skewed the calculated standard error, some zones were replaced with either a value of 0 (for those zones with negative predicted value) or with the average predicted value for the broader region where the zone was located (for those more than two standard deviations from the mean). For both the sampled and unsampled zones, there was an average of 15 zones per region – providing a reliable distribution of the spatial data (though there were no unsampled zones downtown, as all of these zones were automatically selected for the count). On average, the differences between expected and actual count numbers in the sampled zones was 7.2, with a margin of error of 3.9. The following table presents the average regional breakdowns for sampled scores and extrapolated scores

Zone	Sampled Average	Sampled Margin of Error	Unsampled Average	Unsampled Margin of Error
Downtown Region	25.6 (n=14)	5.9	-	-
East Region	6.9 (n=10)	2.7	1.1 (n=20)	0.8
North Region	16.9 (n=19)	3.2	13.2 (n=21)	0.6
River Region	27.5 (n=8)	6.7	17.15 (n=10)	0.8
South Region	11.1 (n=19)	2.4	7.2 (n=10)	0.9

Enumeration Instructions

SSF Point-in-Time Homeless Count 2017 Count Form INSTRUCTIONS AND PROTOCOLS FOR VOLUNTEER TEAMS

Team Member Names

Please indicate your team-map number on every count form used. Also, make sure to write out the complete names of all the people in your team on each form. **Please note:** volunteer names will not appear in any published reports. However, we may need to contact you if we have to clarify something.

One line per Person

Remember to count each homeless persons *individually*, by reporting one person per line. That is, each row in your form will correspond to each individual you observe.

The exception is if you encounter a car, tent or RV that you suspect is being used for permanent habitation by a group, but you can not easily/accurately count the number of individuals inside. In this case you should indicate "number unknown" in the first the column (e.g., checking off the boxes for location type and "unknown #") and leave all other boxes unchecked in that row. If you are able to easily observe the number of people in a car, tent or RV, report each person separately in a different row.

Counting Family Groups

If you observe a family group standing, sitting, or sleeping next to each other, you will still report each person individually (again, ONE ROW for EACH person). But to designate these separate observations as a single household, please circle the two or more rows that make up the family group. **Please note:** a family group does not need to include children; a family group can be two adults.

Age Group, Gender and Race

Please make your best guess for each person's age grouping, gender, race and ethnicity. If you are unsure, then check "not sure" for the respective box.

PROTOCOLS FOR WHO TO COUNT

Do not wake up or disturb any individual being counted

Do not wake any sleeping individuals. If you encounter people in cars, tents, or RVs do not ask them to come out and talk with you, unless law enforcement initiates communication. You should only announce yourself in these situations if people can see you approaching and/or if you think you might scare them as you approach. Remember that you are in their "living room" and so you want to avoid stepping right up next to their vehicle window or tent door.

Count everyone that you see

Count everyone you observe, even if you doubt they are homeless. The only exceptions to this rule are:

- ✓ People who are clearly working (e.g., construction or road maintenance workers)
- ✓ Cars that are driving by (cars and RVs must be stationary to be counted)
- ✓ People conducting ordinary business at 24-hr services (such as a gas station or grocery store).

Tents, Vehicles (Car or RV)

If you see a tent or vehicle that appears to be permanently inhabited and you do not see people standing/sitting next to it or if you announce yourself and no one responds, then simply check the location type and the "unknown #" box, and move to the next row (skipping age group and gender). Clues that people may be living inside a vehicle include: the vehicle is on and running; the windows are partially open; the windows are fogged over; the vehicle is parked in a lot behind a shopping center, or in an alley. If you do see people standing or sitting next to the tent or vehicle, then use one row for each individual and be sure to mark age group and gender.

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

MAP/TEAM #: _____

Names of all Team Volunteers:

	Location	Age	Gender	Race	Ethnicity
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> unknown #	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> TAY 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25+ <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> unknown #	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> TAY 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25+ <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> unknown #	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> TAY 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25+ <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> unknown #	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> TAY 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25+ <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> unknown #	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> TAY 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 25+ <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure

Please remember: 1) One line per person 2) Circle family units after counting and 3) Start a new sheet if there isn't enough lines for all family members.

Survey Instrument

2017 SSF PIT Unsheltered Night Survey Final Draft

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____:AM/PM

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer with Sacramento Steps Forward. We are conducting a survey to better understand homelessness in our community and improve programs. If you participate, I have a small gift for you. Your participation is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential. You can choose to skip any question and your answers will not affect your eligibility for services, or be shared with anyone outside of our team. I need to read each question all the way through. Can I have about 10 minutes of your time? Check [] if participant agrees.

[If interview ends early, check the reason below]

☐ Lost
Interest

☐ Became
Frustrated

☐ Language Barrier, if so what language: _____

☐ Other _____

1. Where will you sleep tonight?

[Do not read categories, select only one]

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street or sidewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter | } Stop
interview
& offer
gift |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle (car, van, RV, truck) | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Motel/hotel | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned building | <input type="checkbox"/> House or apartment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus, train station, airport | <input type="checkbox"/> Jail, hospital, treatment
program | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under bridge/overpass | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woods or outdoor encampment | | |

2. Did another volunteer or survey worker already ask you these same questions about where you will stay tonight?

- ☐ Yes [Stop interview & offer gift]
☐ No
☐ Don't Know /Refused

All of your answers to these questions will be completely confidential. But to make sure we are not interviewing people more than once, can I ask you for the first 2 letters of your first and last name, and the day and month you were born?

3a. The first 2 letters of your first name?

_____ ☐ Refused

3b. The first 2 letters of your last name?

3c. Month & day of your birth?

The next set of questions ask about you and the people in your household who will also stay with you in the same location tonight. By household, I mean the people who live with you now or most of the time.

4a. Including yourself, how many are there in your household that will also stay with you tonight?

_____ If more than 5 members attach additional Household Question sheets and check this box []

4b. Including yourself how many are adults (18 years old or older)?

4c. How many are under 18 years old?

Household Demographic Questions

I'm going to ask a few demographic questions about you and members of your household. To help me keep track, can you please tell me the ages of everyone, starting with yourself, then going from oldest to youngest?

	Self	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
5a. How old are you/is everyone?		[Oldest]			
[If respondent is hesitant to answer, estimate general age in 5b; if age is provided SKIP to 6]					
5b. Are you/they? [Read responses]	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 + <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 + <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 + <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 + <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 + <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
6. How is this person related to you?	Self	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Other Family <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Married Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Non-Family _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Other Family <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Married Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Non-Family _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Other Family <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Married Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Non-Family _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Other Family <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Married Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Non-Family _____
[For the remaining demographic questions, first ask respondent to answer questions 7-12 for themselves. Then return to these questions for other household members in order of oldest to youngest. If other members are present and +18, ask each person individually]					
7. Are you/they Hispanic or Latino?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
8. What is your/their race? You can choose more than one of the following. [Read first 5 categories]	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
9. What is your gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Don't identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Don't identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Don't identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Don't identify as Male, Female, or Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender <input type="checkbox"/> Don't identify as Male, Female, or Transgender

	Self	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
10. Is this your/their first time homeless?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
11. How many separate times in the past 3 years have you/they lived in a shelter, on the streets, or in a car?	<input type="checkbox"/> My first time <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 3 Times <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Times or + <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	<input type="checkbox"/> My first time <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 3 Times <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Times or + <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	<input type="checkbox"/> My first time <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 3 Times <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Times or + <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	<input type="checkbox"/> My first time <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 3 Times <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Times or + <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	<input type="checkbox"/> My first time <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 3 Times <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Times or + <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused
12. If you add up all the times you/they have been homeless in the last 3 years, how many weeks /months would that be?	____Weeks ____Months <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	____Weeks ____Months <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	____Weeks ____Months <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	____Weeks ____Months <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused	____Weeks ____Months <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Time <input type="checkbox"/> DK/Refused

[If respondent is in a household, return to questions 7-12 for other members, in order of oldest to youngest]

Sensitive Questions

Some of these next questions touch on sensitive topics (and are only for the adults in your group). We can skip questions you don't feel comfortable answering, but I'm going to just list a couple different situations and you tell me "Yes" or "No" if any apply to you. You can also say "Not sure" or "Don't Know." Again, this survey is confidential and your answers will not affect your eligibility for services or programs. But what you share may help to improve programs in our community.

[Ask questions 13-29 only to adults; leave blank if member is under 18. Repeat questions 13-29 per adult.]

	Self	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
13. Have you served in any branch of the US Armed Forces*?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adult REF

[*Armed Forces=Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard]

[If question 13 is Yes, SKIP to question 16]

14. Were you ever called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
15. Have you ever received health care benefits from a Veterans Administration medical center?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF

	Self	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
16. Did you* ever receive special education services (special ed.) while in school for more than 6 months?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
[*= If asking about other members substitute "Did this person" or "Does this person" ...]					
17. Do you* have a developmental disability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
[Clarifying Prompt: Like ADHD, autism, cerebral palsy, or other developmental delays?]					
18. Do you* have a physical disability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
19. Do you* drink alcohol or use non-medical drugs ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
[Clarifying Prompt: Non-medical means using an illegal drug or a drug without a prescription]					
20. Do you* have an ongoing medical condition, such as diabetes, cancer, or heart disease?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
21. Do you* have a psychiatric or emotional condition such as major depression or schizophrenia?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
22. Do you* have a traumatic injury to the brain?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
23. Do you* have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
24. Do you feel any of the situations we just discussed keep you from holding a job or living in stable housing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
[If question 24 is No, SKIP question 25 and go to question 26]					

	Self	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
25. Which ones keep you from holding a job or living in stable housing? [Mark all the general conditions that apply]	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric/emotional condition <input type="checkbox"/> Medical condition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/> Develop. disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric/emotional condition <input type="checkbox"/> Medical condition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/> Develop. disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric/emotional condition <input type="checkbox"/> Medical condition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/> Develop. disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric/emotional condition <input type="checkbox"/> Medical condition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/> Develop. disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric/emotional condition <input type="checkbox"/> Medical condition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/> Develop. disability
We're almost done; just have a few questions left for you.					
26. Do you* receive any disability benefits such as SSI, SSDI, or Veteran's Disability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
27. Do you* have AIDS or an HIV-related illness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
28. Did you leave your last place because a partner or someone else in the family was hurting or threatening to hurt you	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF
29. Before age 18, were you ever placed in a foster home or a group home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> DK/REF

[Repeat questions 13-27 for each adult-member of the household]

Those are all the questions I have for you. We realize that some of the topics covered are personal and can be difficult to think and talk about. We appreciate your willingness to participate tonight.

Thank you for taking the survey!

Student Contributors

We greatly appreciate the work of our 28 student contributors from Social Work, Sociology and Criminal Justice, who made this project possible.

- Social Work:
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