

**SOLANO
City-County Coordinating Council**

MEMBERS

Elizabeth Patterson
Chair
Mayor, City of Benicia

John Vasquez
Vice Chair
*Supervisor, Solano
County, District 4*

Thom Bogue
Mayor, City of Dixon

Harry Price
Mayor, City of Fairfield

Norman Richardson
Mayor, City of Rio Vista

Pete Sanchez
*Mayor, City of Suisun
City*

Len Augustine
Mayor, City of Vacaville

Bob Sampayan
Mayor, City of Vallejo

Erin Hannigan
*Supervisor, Solano
County, District 1*

Monica Brown
*Supervisor, Solano
County, District 2*

Jim Spering
*Supervisor, Solano
County, District 3*

Skip Thomson
*Supervisor, Solano
County, District 5*

SUPPORT STAFF:

Birgitta Corsello
*Solano County
Administrator's Office*

Michelle Heppner
*Solano County
Administrator's Office*

Daryl Halls
*Solano Transportation
Authority*

Jim Lindley
City of Dixon

AGENDA

August 10, 2017

Location - Solano County Water Agency, Berryessa Room,
810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, CA.

***7:00 P.M. Meeting**

PURPOSE STATEMENT – City County Coordinating Council

“To discuss, coordinate, and resolve City/County issues including but not necessarily limited to land use, planning, duplication of services/improving efficiencies, as well as other agreed to topics of regional importance, to respond effectively to the actions of other levels of government, including the State and Federal government, to sponsor or support legislation at the State and Federal level that is of regional importance, and to sponsor or support regional activities that further the purpose of the Solano City-County Coordinating Council.”

*** Time set forth on agenda is an estimate. The August 10 City-County Coordinating Council meeting will start after the water agency meeting and may start between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

ITEM

AGENCY/STAFF

I. CALL TO ORDER (7:00 p.m.)
Roll Call

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (7:00 p.m.)

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (7:05 p.m.)

Pursuant to the Brown Act, each public agency must provide the public with an opportunity to speak on any matter within the subject matter of the jurisdiction of the agency and which is not on the agency's agenda for that meeting. Comments are limited to no more than 5 minutes per speaker. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during public comment period although informational answers to questions may be given and matter may be referred to staff for placement on future agenda.

This agenda shall be made available upon request in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42U.S.C.Sec12132) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal.Govt.Code Sec.54954.2) Persons requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation should contact Jodene Nolan, 675 Texas Street, Suite 6500, Fairfield CA 94533 (707.784.6108) during regular business hours, at least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes for May 11, 2017 (Action Item) Chair Patterson

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Receive a legislative update (Verbal Report)
(7:05 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.)

Presenters: Michelle Heppner, Legislative, Intergovernmental, and Public Affairs Officer, Solano County, Karen Lange, Partner, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih Inc., and Nancy Bennett, League of California Cities

2. Receive an update from STA on flood vulnerabilities and rising sea levels
(7:25 p.m. – 8:25 p.m.)

Presenter: Robert Macaulay, Planning Director,
Solano Transportation Authority

3. Cap Solano / Continuum of Care Implementation Strategies Plan & Results of Homeless Point in Time Count (8:25 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Presenter: Carolyn Wylie, Deputy Managing
Director, HomeBase

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VII. CCCC CLOSING COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT: The next City-County Coordinating Council meeting will be held on November 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Solano County Water Agency – Berryessa Room, 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203, Vacaville, CA

Future Items for Upcoming Meeting:

- Federal Policies and Budget and the Affordable Care Act
- State and Federal Legislative Platform
- Solano County Park District
- Travis Sustainability Study
- AB 403 Foster Care System Changes (November)
- Bay Area Air Quality Control District Cap Rules on Air Quality – Eric Stevenson
- Delta Protection Commission – Sea Level Rise
- Solano – City Planners – Flood Safe Program

**CITY-COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL
May 11, 2017 Summary Meeting Minutes**

The May 11, 2017 meeting of the Solano City-County Coordinating Council was held in the Berryessa Room at the Solano County Water Agency located at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Ste. 303, Vacaville, CA 95688.

I. Roll and Call to Order

Members Present

Elizabeth Patterson, Chair	Mayor, City of Benicia
John Vasquez, Vice Chair	Solano County Board of Supervisors (District 4)
Thom Bogue	Mayor, City of Dixon
Harry Price	Mayor, City of Fairfield
Len Augustine	Mayor, City of Vacaville
Bob Sampayan	Mayor, City of Vallejo
Erin Hannigan	Solano County Board of Supervisors (District 1)
Monica Brown	Solano County Board of Supervisors (District 2)
Jim Sperring	Solano County Board of Supervisors (District 3)

Members Absent

Norm Richardson	Mayor, City of Rio Vista
Pete Sanchez	Mayor, City of Suisun City
Skip Thomson	Solano County Board of Supervisors (District 5)

Staff to the City-County Coordinating Council Present:

Birgitta Corsello	County Administrator, Solano County
Michelle Heppner	Legislative Officer, CAO, Solano County
Tammi Ackerman	Office Assistant III, CAO, Solano County

Guest Speakers and Other Staff Present

Karen Lange	Partner, Shaw Yoder Antwih, Inc.
Tina Chechourka	Volunteer Coordinator, Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL)
Robert Eyler	President, Economic Forensics
Sandy Person	President, Solano Economic Development Corporation
Sean Quinn	Project Manager, Solano Economic Development Corp.
Robert Macaulay	Director of Planning, Solano Transportation Authority

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting of the City-County Coordinating Council was called to order at 6:33 pm.

1. Salute to the Flag

Mayor Patterson led in the Salute to the Flag.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Supervisor Vasquez and seconded by Mayor Price. Agenda approved by 9-0 vote.

III. Opportunity For Public Comment

No public comments were received.

IV. Consent Calendar

A motion to approve the March Minutes was made by Mayor Sampayan and seconded by Supervisor Brown. Minutes approved by 9-0 vote.

V. Discussion Calendar

1. Receive a legislative update on the Governor's May Revision to his 17/18 Proposed State Budget and Transportation Package.

Karen Lange, Partner, Shaw Yoder Antwih, Inc., spoke regarding the Governor's May budget revision that was released May 11, 2017. She began with the termination of the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) and the impact of the return of In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) maintenance and effort responsibilities and the coordinated care initiative back to the counties. She stated the Governor's administration has worked on mitigating this large impact of \$623 million to California counties for the last four months and has a new cost sharing proposal to reduce the initial impact. She noted this will be phased in over the next four fiscal years, with general fund support of \$400 million in FY17/18, \$330 million FY18/19, \$200 million FY19/20 and \$150 million for FY20/21, reducing the impact to California counties to an estimated \$141 million in the year one, \$129 million in year two, \$230 million in year three and \$251 million in year four. Ms. Lange added that this will have a different impact on Solano County as the County has a higher IHSS usage, and is a County Medical Service Provider (CMSP) County. She also noted that the program costs are increasing due to increased use of the program, minimum wage increases and overtime changes. Ms. Lange added that the first year cost to Solano County is expected to be \$1.5-2 million. She noted that the Governor decided to continue funding the \$500 million to the CalWORKS Child Care Program, and that there is still fighting regarding revenues collected from cigarette taxes, with doctors and dentists on the side of increased Medi-Cal reimbursement rates versus the Governor's utilizing the funds for other projects.

Ms. Lange talked of the closure of the Sonoma Development center the end of next year with 350 residents requiring relocation (around a dozen to Solano County). She noted the governor is proposing to spend more money on crisis services, particularly a mobile crisis team, to help assist with the increased need. She reported that the transportation bill package passed; revenues will start to flow in November with the diesel and fuel tax increase and rise in January with the VLF increase. She noted the Governor also increased funding for Propositions 47 and 57. It was reported that after a couple of good revenue months, April was down 18 billion from what was expected, the revenue is still increasing, but decelerating, causing concern going into final budget negotiations.

Supervisor Spring asked what percentage of residents in Solano County are receiving county services. Birgitta Corsello responded that approximately 25% (between 1 in 4 to 1 in 3) receive services from Health and Social Services, including in home health care, health care, dental care, job training, food stamps, and child care support. Ms. Corsello noted that the in home health care program in Solano County is predominantly provided by family members for those that are physically and/or mentally disabled and need care. These services include health care, basic personal care and home care (meals and cleaning). She emphasized the population that became eligible for these services greatly increased after the Affordable Care Act and noted that there has also been an increase in seniors who are aging in place and seniors who are relocating as the housing market in the Bay Area prices them out of their ability to stay. The concept of the program was to keep people in their homes instead of in institutions or convalescent homes. Ms. Corsello stated the impact of the return of the IHSS to Solano County for

the 17/18FY (our share of the \$623 million) would have been around \$8 million with the program still growing an estimated increase of \$2 million for the FY 17/18. The \$8 million dollar amount exceeds the growth of the County's property tax for the entire year. The funds from the state will be phased in over the next four years to help lessen the immediate impact. She clarified the CMSP, noting that it is a program involving 35 counties in California in which a percentage of the sales tax goes to those counties to help secure medical/dental services.

Ms. Corsello went on to discuss the closing of the Sonoma Developmental Center, noting that the residents will be mainstreamed back into the counties they had come from, 15 from Solano County. Mayor Patterson expressed concern that first responders would take the brunt of the impact from the relocated residents and that this did not seem to be a constructive solution to the problem. Ms. Corsello noted that the County H&SS staff agrees, with the number already in jail, on the street, in the crisis units and the emergency rooms, the new need for housing and wraparound care is a concern. Mayor Patterson questioned the communication with the families or the coordination of care. Ms. Lange responded that when they return they will be assigned to a Regional Center that will handle the connection and that a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) will be opening in Santa Rosa. These centers have a higher reimbursement rate and longer appointment times for special needs patients. She stated before the residents are returned to their home counties, there must be a complete plan in place including acquiring special housing and stable medical care.

Ms. Lange also reported on SB649, effecting local government discretion on where small cell phone towers can be placed for 5G deployment and SB182 which addresses if drivers for transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft should have a business license in the city where they live or the city where they work. It was reported that the Housing Accountability Act is going through some heavy amendments. Mayor Augustine inquired regarding an update on AB1250, which addresses cost benefit studies for contracted personal services. Ms. Lange noted that the threshold amount has been increased from \$5,000 to \$5,000,000 and Ms. Corsello commented that the League of California Cities is taking point on this bill.

2. Solano County Volunteer Center (Action Item)

Tina Chechourka, Volunteer Coordinator, Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) gave a presentation on the new Solano County Volunteer Center, a web based system that links nonprofits and government agencies with volunteers. She noted the platform connects volunteers directly to the causes they care about, with opportunities across the service spectrum, including: health, mental health care, human services, basic needs, animals, elderly, youth organizations, environmental groups, art, recreation, and County and City volunteer opportunities. Ms. Chechourka explained that the website is a two-sided portal with an agency side and a volunteer side. The agency side allows the agency seeking volunteers to post their cause, mission statement, volunteer opportunities, photos, links and requirements (age, background, experience). The agency designates a manager, one or two people, who can enter volunteer needs on the portal side and once approved will be posted to the website. The volunteers can sign up in just five easy steps on the user friendly volunteer side, selecting the volunteer opportunities that match their interests. She demonstrated the website, SolanoVolunteers.org, walking through the volunteer sign up process and explaining the click through calendar feature which automatically updates as opportunities are added and removes expired events. Ms. Chechourka noted there are currently 26 agencies registered on the website with new agencies and volunteers being added daily. It was noted that volunteers are not listed on the site and that once volunteers are matched with their interests, emails will be sent notifying them of new opportunities.

Ms. Corsello added that Ms. Chechourka has office hours in Fairfield, on the sixth floor of the government center. She noted this is the same nationally supported system used by Napa and Marin counties and that the program is free to both agencies and volunteers (funded by the County). Ms. Chechourka added that the Napa and Marin websites have been active for the last five years and have over 600 volunteers and more than 70 agencies.

Ms. Chechourka noted that an informational video was being produced and will be made available to the cities to add to their government channels and websites. She requested the council reach out to nonprofits and volunteers and encourage them to sign up to create a robust website. Several mayors expressed approval for the new program and Ms. Chechourka will be presenting the new volunteer program at upcoming city council meetings.

3. Moving Solano Forward II Wrap-up

Dr. Robert Eyler, President, Economic Forensics

Sandy Person, President, Solano Economic Development Corporation

Sean Quinn, Project Manager, Solano Economic Development Corporation

Dr. Robert Eyler, President, Economic Forensics began the final presentation for Moving Solano Forward II. The major takeaways he would like to emphasize: 1) Identified sites for attraction and expansion of businesses, 2) Financial tools to make the development less burdensome on developers and municipalities, and 3) Identified traded sectors. He noted that a focus on manufacturing is key combined with traded sectors; industry looking outside Solano County for a marketplace and reducing the number of skilled outbound commuters. He noted they have identified 3600 acres of potential sites (207 sites) for attracting new businesses and expansion. Of these, 1000 acres are Tier 1, ready to build, and 2600 acres are Tier 2 and Tier 3, requiring some infrastructure improvements with 90% of the Tier 1 sites identified as small sites. He reported 70% of the Solano County economy is effected by five traded sectors; 1) Food and Beverage Manufacturers (\$810 Million), 2) Biotech (\$1.28 Billion), 3) Logistics (\$1.47 Billion, 4) Travis Air Force Base (\$1.69 Billion), and 5) Advanced Materials (\$2.23 Billion). He commented that Healthcare affects another 10-12% of the economy and growth will be pulled along as the other sectors grow. He stated the whole idea is to move Solano forward.

Sean Quinn, Project Manager, Solano Economic Development Corporation continued the presentation noting three key areas; 1) Taking the identified sites and making them more competitive, this includes highlighting 20 featured sites selected by Don Schjeldahl, corporate site selector, on the website. 2) Strengthening a shared purpose economic and research analysis, partnership and tools. He noted this will include partnership with the county, cities, workforce and education. 3) Building a consensus based economic development strategy. He stated this is noted in task 2.4. Mr. Quinn discussed the new extensive and data rich website, noting that it is based on economic development standards and includes the 207 sites as well as the 20 featured sites. He noted that Don Schjeldahl also completed an evaluation of our community based on an economic standpoint showing the good and areas to work on. He commented on a new manufacturers group being formed, a model for the creation of significant industry groups and the new marketing campaign style guide for the entire County, noting that Benicia is already utilizing the guide.

Sandy Persons, President, Solano Economic Development Corporation spoke regarding the spirit of the initiative. She expressed kudos to the county for recognizing the need for a county wide strategy. She noted this initiative is strongly focused on business attraction, with no single industry dominating, the first such focus in the last 7 years.

She stated that many of the strategies have already been implemented and should generate results that can be seen and measured. She noted that the Solano EDC needs to restructure and transition to align with the new key strategy focus of attracting new business. Ms. Persons announced she will be stepping down as the new focus will now require a lot of travel to different counties and trade shows. She added that Solano EDC has prepared a one-year tactical plan and a five-year strategic plan based on refocus and strategy. She mentioned the budget request has been increased for both private and public sectors. The budget request is \$.40 per capita from each city and \$100,000 from Solano County. She noted that Solano EDC has formed an investment committee to increase private sector funding with positive initial results. Solano EDC is proposing a MOU with each city, highlighting the unique hierarchy of each city's priorities. She commented on her weekly briefs and the need to keep all parties informed. She noted the website will have a soft open July 1st and will kick off the new marketing campaign.

Sean Quinn commented regarding the Solano EDC transition and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) which is required by the US Economic Development in order to access federal funds. He asked that the 4C's accept the Moving Solano Forward II project as complete. He requested that the county and the cities commit to the maintenance of the plan and the tools. He noted that Solano EDC will return to the 4C's quarterly or semi-annually each year with updates and measurable results.

Mayor Sampayan asked how this information could be accessed. Ms. Person's responded that the link to the final report is available online. Mr. Quinn noted that the website is what brings this whole project to life, where all the linkage and strategy comes together. Supervisor Spering inquired how many binders were produced. Mr. Quinn responded that five binders were produced, two of which will be delivered to the County.

Mayor Patterson requested a vote to accept the final report on the Moving Solano Forward II project as complete and develop a time to report back to the 4C's. Mayor Augustine approved the motion with appreciative comments. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 9-0 vote. Comments of support for the initiative were expressed by several members.

4. Receive an update on flood vulnerabilities and rising sea levels

Robert Macaulay, Director of Planning, Solano Transportation Authority gave a brief update on the flood vulnerabilities and rising sea levels. He noted that an action item was brought to the STA Board to get the STA's perspective on the issue. Three key areas for flooding concern were discussed: SR 37 at Mare Island, I-80 in central Fairfield adjacent to the Westbound truck scales and SR 84/River Road. The Public Works Director expressed concerns that we should seek outside dollars for flood issues instead of focusing on transportation funds which could negatively impact road repairs. Mr. Macaulay discussed the invitation to the Bay Area Regional Collaborative Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) project to develop a project in each county to address sea level rise. He noted the deadline for submitting projects has been extended to the fall and that he is working to obtain a date.

After some discussion, it was requested that a contact person or group be identified to be the coordinator for the project submitted. Birgitta Corsello suggested it should involve all seven Cities, the County, the Water Agency and the Land Trust. More discussion ensued on the merits of the Land Trust and the need to work together to gain the most advantageous project funding. It was noted that other counties are more organized as they already have a flood control board to initiate these requests. It was commented the subject will be brought up at the next City Managers Meeting.

VI. Announcements

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Berryessa Room at the Solano County Water Agency located at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Ste. 303, Vacaville, CA 95688.

**SOLANO
City County Coordinating Council
Staff Report**

Meeting of. (Date) August 10, 2017

Agency/Staff: Michelle Heppner, Solano County
Administrator's Office and Karen Lange, Shaw,
Yoder, Antwih Inc.

Agenda Item No: V.1

Title /Subject: Verbal Legislative Update

Background: At each CCCC meeting, staff provides a legislative update to keep members informed of activities at the State and Federal level.

Discussion: The Legislature is on summer recess from July 21 to August 21 and will return to complete their final four weeks of the first half of the two legislative session. Going into the final four weeks, it is anticipated that the Legislature will try to close out a parks bond for the ballot, a housing streamlining and funding bill, and an expenditure plan for the recently-extended cap-and-trade program.

In addition, an update on other legislation of interest will be provided.

Recommendation: Receive update on legislative matters of concern

**SOLANO
City County Coordinating Council
Staff Report**

Meeting of. August 10, 2017

Agency/Staff: STA, Robert Macaulay

Agenda Item No: V.2

Title /Subject: Solano Flood Management and Sea Level Rise Activities

Background:

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) contacted the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) to assist them in setting up a presentation on sea level rise impact scenarios, including mapping of impacted areas. Their request was to have a countywide forum for Solano County departments of public works, planning and hydrological experts to provide input on their 10 sea level rise scenarios. Subsequently, STA staff identified a Caltrans-led state planning effort on the same topic. These will have a potential impact on the emerging planning efforts on the SR 37 corridor, related to a Design Alternative Assessment that MTC and the four North Bay Transportation Authorities have initiated with a focus on flood protection, sea level rise and transportation improvements. In addition, the County of Solano completed a Sea Level Rise Strategic Program document in 2011 and it is in various stages of implementation.

On May 1, the BCDC and MTC sent out an invitation to numerous transportation and land use parties inviting them to participate in an umbrella program dealing with these issues. The program is titled Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) Bay Area. The first ART Regional Working Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21st.

Discussion:

One of the primary facilities facing both near-term and long-term inundation issues is SR 37. In Solano County, the Mare Island interchange was closed for multiple days in early 2017 due to storm-caused flooding. Other inundation risks come from future storms, unusually high tides, higher sea levels, or any combination of these. This roadway also suffers from continual congestion that typically lasts for five or more hours per day on weekdays, and exists on weekends. The congestion typically adds 20 minutes to the duration of the west-bound morning commute. (In Sonoma County, the eastbound backup lasts for seven hours and adds 60 to 80 minutes to the commute). SR 37 also traverses through an area of tremendous environmental value and sensitivity.

To address these issues, STA has partnered with the county transportation authorities in Napa, Marin and Sonoma counties to develop a multi-pronged approach to identify and address the issues along the SR 37 corridor.

The other involved counties have more established policies for dealing with flood water

and sea level rise issues. In contrast, Solano County does not have a comprehensive strategy, a set of guiding principles, or a designated lead agency to address these issues. At the direction of the STA Board, a task group has been established as part of the SR 37 project approach to identify guiding principles for improvements to the SR 37 corridor. The task group's work is expected to be completed by April of 2018, and many of the principles for the SR 37 corridor could be applicable to other flood management and sea level rise projects in Solano County.

STA continues to be involved in the ART project, and will have staff at the September 21st meeting.

Concurrently, the Measure AA parcel tax includes three projects of immediate interest to Solano County, as detailed below.

1. *Restoration, management and monitoring of wetlands and other shoreline habitat, including the mouth of Spring Branch Creek, and installation and management of public trails.* This project may be able to be combined with State funding for improvements to Grizzly Island Road to create a bike lane out to the first bridge.
2. *Establishment of improved water circulation in the marshes to the south of Highway 37 along the north edge of San Pablo Bay between Port Sonoma at the Petaluma River to Mare Island in Vallejo, to improve habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, and reduce mosquito production.* May help fund projects related to SR 37 improvements.
3. *Environmental phase (CEQA/NEPA) for the SR 37 sea-level rise and flood protection project; Project would provide integrated flood protection and sea-level rise adaptation by elevating the current SR 37 infrastructure to withstand future seal-level rise and storm surges; The project limits are SR 37 from SR 80 to SR 101. Project would include elevation of the roadway and storm surge protections that would improve flood protection levees, berms, etc. and would protect vital wetland and marsh habitat. The project would also benefit wildlife, and accommodate shoreline public access by integrating 17 miles of bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure along a modified Highway 37 corridor between Vallejo and Novato.*

STA will continue to work with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to ensure that Solano projects are considered for, and receive, Measure AA funding.

Recommendation:

Information.

Attachments:

- A. ART Regional Working Group Meeting on Thursday, September 21st Invitation
- B. Measure AA Project Map

Good Morning!

The Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) Bay Area Project team would like to invite you to the kick-off Regional Working Group meeting on Thursday, September 21st, 1 – 4 pm at 375 Beale St. in San Francisco. This project addresses the immediate need to develop a more comprehensive regional understanding of threats posed by climate change and sea level rise across the Bay Area, and identify opportunities to respond with appropriate adaptation strategies. The ART Bay Area Team, comprising the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), Caltrans, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), is looking forward to partnering with the Regional Working Group to ensure the region's critical needs are captured, and that we successfully identify and prioritize adaptation strategies that can be funded and implemented to make the Bay Area more resilient to climate change. The Team will be working with the recently launched Resilient by Design challenge (<http://www.resilientbayarea.org/>), to make sure these regional efforts leverage opportunities for information and resource sharing, and advance our collective resilience goals.

The success of this project relies on Regional Working Group members offering their experience as members of our communities and representatives of organizations with knowledge of key issues such as transportation, housing, natural areas and public health. RWG members will work closely with the project team to:

- help define what resilience means for the region and develop resilience goals that will help to guide the ART Bay Area project;
- share information on critical areas that need to be protected from sea level rise and flooding;
- provide input at key project milestones as regionally critical issues and findings are highlighted;
- help guide the project team in developing adaptation actions for the region that prioritize and protect our most vulnerable communities and assets from flooding;

The RWG will hold meetings every two to three months over the 2.5-year project. Meetings will be held around the Bay Area and will be accessible online. Working group members will also be asked to review preliminary documents and findings and provide local expertise to assist the Project Team.

Please connect us with others who may be interested in joining by forwarding this email and asking that they register for updates here: <http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/art-bay-area-working-group-registration/>.

In addition to the Regional Working Group, the ART Bay Area team will establish subregional working groups later this Fall, that will convene stakeholders at the subregional scale to delve deeper into issues and findings specific to those areas around the Bay. We are eager to connect with you and look forward to your participation.

A detailed agenda to follow closer to the meeting date. Please feel free to contact me with questions by email or phone: lindy.lowe@bcddc.ca.gov, 415-352-3642.

Best regards,

Lindy Lowe, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Allison Brooks, Bay Area Regional Collaborative
Richard Fahey, Caltrans -District 4
Krute Singa, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

For more information about ART Bay Area

The ART Bay Area project will conduct a regional vulnerability assessment of the Bay Area's transportation infrastructure, Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) as identified in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (Plan Bay Area), and vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. This 2.5-year project is funded through a grant from Caltrans and the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA). Learn more

at: <http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/project/art-bay-area/>



- Anticipated Restoration Project
- Anticipated Levee Project
- 2 Ft Sea Level Rise
- 4 Ft Sea Level Rise
- Developed

MAY 2017

Examples of Projects Anticipated to be Eligible for Restoration Authority Grants

August 16, 2017

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Solano City-County Coordinating Council



SOLANO
City County Coordinating Council
Staff Report

Meeting of August 10, 2017

Agency/Staff:
Carolyn Wylie, Deputy Managing Director,
HomeBase (CAP Solano JPA Staff)
Samantha Green, Project Manager, ASR
Marissa Jaross, Research Analyst II, ASR

Agenda Item No: V.3

Title /Subject: Solano County Point-in-Time Count Briefing

Background:

The Community Action Partnership of Solano, Joint Powers Authority (CAP Solano JPA) released the results of the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and Survey for 2017 on July 14, 2017. The PIT count is conducted at least biannually in Solano and is a requirement to receive homeless assistance funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The last PIT Count was conducted in 2015. The PIT Count uses HUD's definition of homelessness, which includes persons living in shelters and places not meant for human habitation, but excludes persons who are living doubled up with others due to economic hardship or those living in RV or trailer parks. Annual school data on family homelessness and other counts use broader definitions of homelessness.

The PIT Count provides a snapshot of the number and demographics of those experiencing homelessness in the region on a given night, but is not designed to be a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness nor a comprehensive count of all homeless persons served over the course of a year. This snapshot allows Solano to track trends concerning subpopulations, identify potential gaps in services and inform future planning, which is important for the implementation of the current Regional Strategic Plan in Solano County.

The 2017 PIT Count process included an enumeration of unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons in Solano County. The unsheltered census was conducted on January 24, 2017 from approximately 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and covered all of Solano County. The shelter census was conducted on the previous evening and included individuals staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities.

Discussion:

The population counted in Solano County who met the HUD definition of homelessness in a single 24-hour period in January 2017 was 1232, a 14% increase from 1082 in 2015.

Though the overall PIT count shows an increase in homelessness, it is important to note that several methodological improvements resulted in a more thorough census this year:

- The addition of targeted encampment and "hot spot" counting;
- The addition of a specialized, separate youth count; and
- Flooding in the area that led some, previously hidden, homeless individuals to seek safety in more visible areas allowing them to be counted.

The PIT count was also a comprehensive community effort this year. With the support of 30 individuals with lived experience of homelessness, 81 community volunteers, law enforcement, and staff from various city and county departments, the entire county was canvassed. Solano County additionally included a youth-specific count targeted to youth under age 25 this year, the first of its kind in Solano County.

In 2016, HUD estimated that nationwide roughly 22% of the homeless population was considered chronically homeless. Chronic Homelessness is defined by HUD as “An individual with a disabling condition or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:

- Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years with the total time equaling a year or more.”

In Solano County, the 2017 PIT Count data suggests that a large percentage of the homeless population, approximately 35%, is considered chronically homeless. The reported chronically homeless population has grown from 223 in 2015 to 434 in 2017.

- Over half (59%) report that their current episode of homelessness has lasted for a year or more; and
- 62% report experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness.

While the number of those experiencing chronic homelessness in Solano County rose in 2017 according to PIT data, it is important to note the ongoing role that California's high cost of living plays in perpetuating barriers to exiting homelessness. Many Bay Area Counties are experiencing ongoing, year over year increases in rental rates, as well as in their PIT Counts. In Solano County, data collected through the CAP Needs Assessment shows that the rate of poverty and number of rent burdened households increased between 2014 and 2015. Amongst respondents, approximately 38% were experiencing homelessness for the first time. This indicates an opportunity to help prevent first-time homelessness by providing for additional prevention services in Solano County.

The data suggests that the homeless population in Solano County also has significant service needs, even amongst those not meeting the HUD definition of chronic homelessness:

- Nearly half of all respondents (48%) reported psychiatric or emotional conditions;
- 24% reported having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder;
- 41% reported substance abuse; and
- 62% of report having a disabling condition that impedes their ability to live independently.

This indicates the need for ongoing support and maintenance of a high quality Coordinated Entry System in Solano County to best match those experiencing homelessness with the appropriate level of service. For some, such as those facing first-time homelessness, that may be through prevention assistance and/or diversion to other resources. For those with high needs and/or high service utilization, it may be through a low-barrier “Housing First” approach. Of those surveyed, 91% reported an interest in moving into safe, affordable, permanent housing if it were available to them. This indicates the need for not only use of a low-barrier and Housing First approach, but for increased permanent housing and permanent supportive housing resources.

The full PIT report, an Executive Summary, and an FAQ document with additional information is provided here for additional information regarding the 2017 PIT Count.

Recommendation: Accept the report and consider working with the CAP Solano JPA to resource Regional Strategic Planning efforts and, in particular, target identified areas including:

- **Supporting the ongoing development and maintenance of a high quality Coordinated Entry System in Solano County;**
- **Developing additional homelessness prevention resources and interventions;**
- **Bolstering the availability of low-barrier housing options of all types; and**
- **Developing additional permanent housing and permanent supportive housing resources.**

SOLANO COUNTY

2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

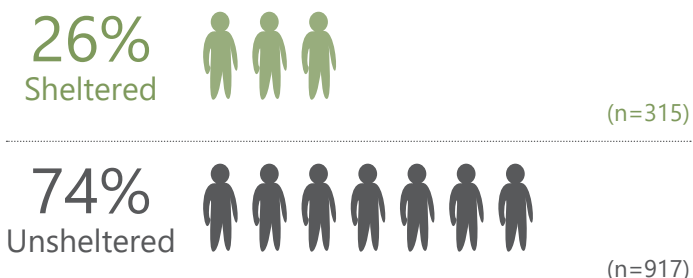
Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2017 Solano County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 24, 2017. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 439 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

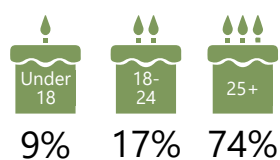
Census Population: Longitudinal Trend



2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population

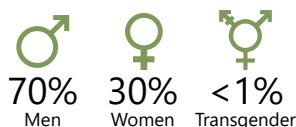


Age



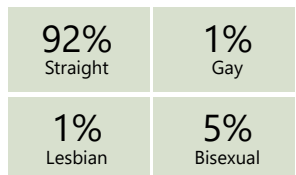
Gender

(Top 3 Responses)



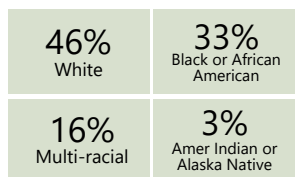
Sexual Orientation

(Top 4 Responses)



Race/Ethnicity

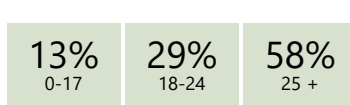
(Top 4 Responses)



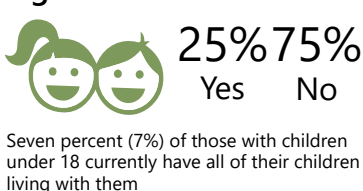
First Homelessness Episode



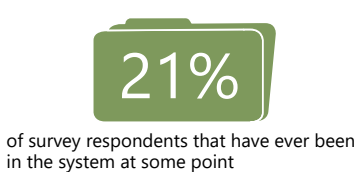
Age at First Episode of Homelessness



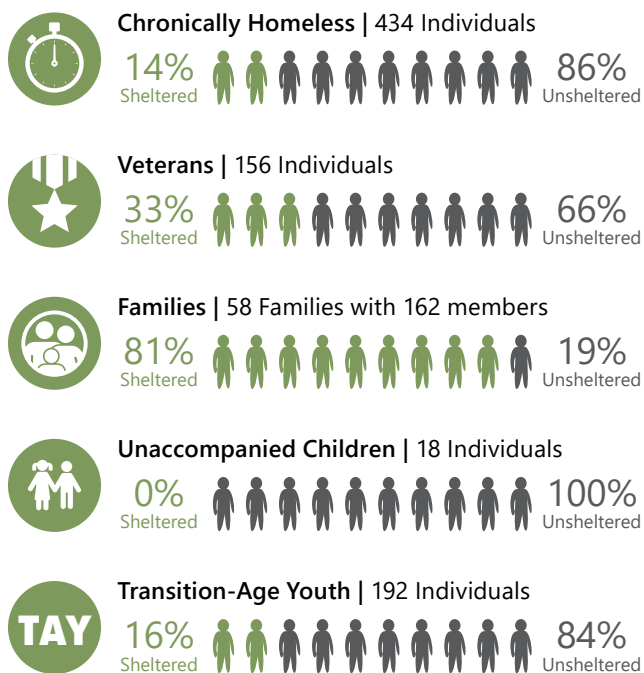
Have Children Under Age 18



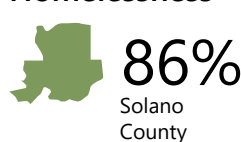
Foster Care



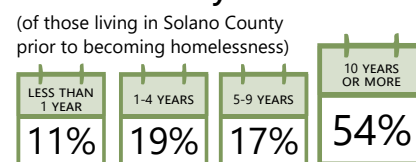
Subpopulation Data*



Residence Prior to Homelessness



Length of Time in Solano County



Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness



7%
30 days or less

35%
1-11 months

59%
1 year or more

Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness

(Top 6 Responses)



20% Lost job	17% Eviction	15% Substance Use Issues
12% Mental Health Issues	10% Argument with Family or Friend	9% Illness/Medical Problem

Interest in Permanent Housing

91%

of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would want to move into safe, affordable, permanent housing were it available



What Might Have Prevented Homelessness

(Top 4 Responses)

47% Employment Assistance	46% Rent/Mortgage Assistance
31% Alcohol/Drug Counseling	27% Mental Health Services

What is a disabling condition?



62%

of survey respondents reported a disabling condition

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

Health Conditions

Current health conditions affecting housing stability or employment.

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



48%

Psychiatric or emotional conditions

PTSD

24%

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder



8%

Traumatic brain injury



26%

Physical disability



32%

Chronic health problems



2%

AIDS/HIV related



41%

Drug or alcohol abuse

Employment



Employment Status

3% Employed full-time

12% Employed part-time

2% Employed seasonal/ sporadic

84% Unemployed

If Unemployed, Currently...

43% Unable to work

46% Looking for work

12% Not looking for work

Services and Assistance



70%

of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits

Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance (Top 6 Responses)

26% Don't Think I'm Eligible	21% Don't Want Government Assistance
17% No Permanent Address	15% Applied and Waiting for a Response
14% Never Applied	12% Don't have ID

Other Services Accessed (Top 6 Responses)

58% Free Meals	43% Emergency Shelter
37% Day Services	37% Health Services
22% Bus Passes	22% Mental Health Services

*Subpopulation Definitions

Chronically Homeless

An individual with a disabling condition or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who:

- » Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
- » Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years with the total time equaling a year or more.

Veterans

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

Families

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

Unaccompanied Children

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

Transition-Age Youth

Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Solano County. It can be found at housingfirstsolano.org.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census & Survey. Watsonville, CA.



SOLANO COUNTY

2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to assessment needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses.

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Acknowledgements

The 2017 Solano Census and Survey planning team would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who contributed to this project. The participation of community volunteers and partner agencies is critical to the success of the census. Volunteers provided local knowledge and the transportation necessary to cover the entirety of Solano County. The steering committee provided insight, community input, and oversight. Local shelters and partner agencies provided recommendations for knowledgeable and reliable homeless guides, in addition to integral information regarding vulnerable populations and their locations.

Thanks must be given to the following individuals for their time and effort throughout the Solano County Census and Survey: Tamara Colden, Daniel DelMonte, John Evalle, Pastor Raleigh Galgan, Shannon Gravier, Joshua Johnson, Marie Libeson, John Melis, Paul Newman, Father Mack Olson, Nicola Parr, Sandy Rose, Patrick Stasio, Keetra Welling, and Carolyn Wylie.

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We appreciate the following programs and sites that provided data and helped with the Solano County shelter data collection: Benicia CAC, Caminar, Christian Help Center, CINOH, Community Action North Bay, First Place for Youth, Heather House, John's Place – Southern Solano Alcohol Council, Opportunity House, Mission Solano, and Renaissance.



Introduction

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These censuses measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing, people sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

The biennial Point-in-Time Census is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, the Solano County Continuum of Care (CoC) receives more than \$1.2 million in federal funding, a key source of funding for homeless services in Solano County.

Continuums of Care report the findings of their local Point-in-Time Census in their annual funding application to HUD, which ultimately help the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Census data also help to inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

Solano County has worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2017 Solano Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey. ASR is a social research firm with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessment.

The Solano County Homeless Point-in-Time Census has two primary components: a point-in-time enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals and families (those sleeping outdoors, on the street, in parks, or vehicles, etc.) and a point-in-time enumeration of homeless individuals and families residing in temporary shelter (e.g., emergency shelter or transitional housing).

The 2017 Solano County Homeless Point-in-Time Census was a comprehensive community effort. With the support of 30 individuals with lived experience of homelessness, 81 community volunteers, law enforcement, and staff from various city and county departments, the entire county was canvassed between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. on January 24, 2017. This resulted in a peer-informed, visual count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families residing on the streets, in vehicles, makeshift shelters, encampments and other places not meant for human habitation. Shelters and facilities reported the number of homeless individuals and families who occupied their facilities on the previous evening of January 23.

Solano County also conducted a specialized census of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth under the age of 25. This dedicated census is part of a nationwide effort, established and recommended by HUD, to improve our understanding of the scope of youth homelessness. Trained youth enumerators who currently or recently experienced homelessness conducted the census in focused areas where young people experiencing

homelessness were known to congregate.¹ This is an important year for national data on young people experiencing homelessness, as HUD will use 2017 youth census results as a baseline for measuring progress toward ending youth homelessness by 2020.

In the weeks following the unsheltered census, an in-depth survey was administered to 439 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals of all ages. The survey gathered basic demographic details as well as information on service needs and utilization.

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Solano County on a single night in January. Special attention is given to specific subpopulations, including chronically homeless, veterans, families, unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and transition-age youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

To better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time, results from previous years, including 2015, are provided where available and applicable.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME CENSUSES

In this study, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Census is used. This definition includes individuals and families:

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement; or
- With a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND GOALS

In order to for the 2017 Solano County Point-in-Time Census and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held regular planning meetings with local community members. These community members were drawn from city and county departments, community-based service providers, and other interested stakeholders. These individuals comprised the 2017 Planning Committee, and were instrumental to ensuring the 2017 Solano County Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey reflected the needs and concerns of the community.

The 2017 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population;
- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population since the 2015 Solano County Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey, and to track progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions;
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, unaccompanied children, transition-age youth, and those who are chronically homeless; and

¹ Significant deduplication efforts were made in 2017 to ensure unaccompanied children and youth were not captured in both the youth and general unsheltered census efforts. For more information on these efforts and the overall census methodology, please see Appendix 1.

-
- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds.

This report is intended to assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local, state, and federal government in gaining a better understanding of the population currently experiencing homelessness, measuring the impact of current policies and programming, and planning for the future.



Point-In-Time Census

The 2017 Solano Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey included a complete enumeration of all unsheltered and publicly sheltered homeless persons. The general unsheltered census was conducted on January 24, 2017 from approximately 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and covered all 907 square miles of Solano County.² The shelter census was conducted on the previous evening and included all individuals staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities. The general unsheltered and shelter census methodology were similar to those used in 2015.

The methodology used for the 2017 Solano County Homeless Point-in-Time Census is commonly described as a “blitz count” because it is conducted by a large team over a very short period of time. As this method is conducted in Solano County, the result is an observation based census of individuals and families who appear to be homeless. The census is then followed by an in-person representative survey, the results of which are used to profile and estimate the condition and characteristics of the local homeless population. Information collected from the survey is used to fulfill HUD reporting requirements, and to inform local service delivery and strategic planning efforts.

In a continuing effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, Solano County also conducted a dedicated youth census similar to the one conducted in 2015. The dedicated youth census methodology was improved in 2017 to better ensure unaccompanied children and transition-age youth were not included in both the general unsheltered census and youth unsheltered census. For more information regarding the dedicated youth unsheltered census, deduplication, and project methodology, please see Appendix 1.

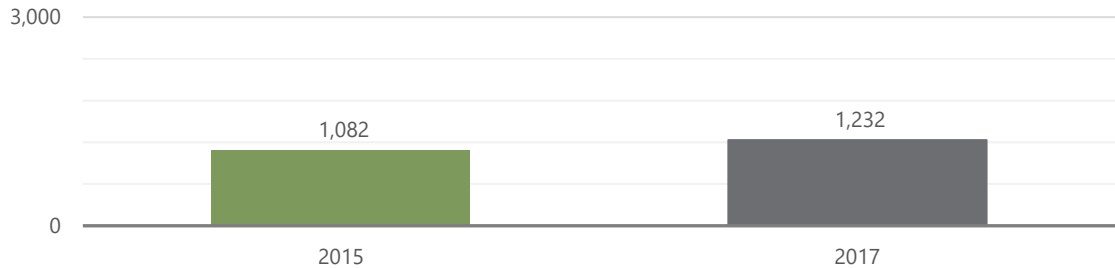
² Volunteers covered all publicly accessible roads and additional areas identified as “hot spots” in the planning process.

NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN SOLANO COUNTY

TOTAL POPULATION

Point-in-Time Census data from 2017 shows a 14% increase in the total number of persons experiencing homeless in Solano County compared to 2015. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the population were unsheltered in 2017, similar to 2015.

Figure 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED STATUS

Of the 1,232 total persons enumerated during the 2017 Solano County Point-in-Time Census, 132 persons (11%) were staying in a shelter, 183 persons (15%) were staying in a transitional housing program, and 917 persons (74%) were living on the street, in abandoned buildings, in encampment areas, or in vehicles.

Figure 2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Figure 3. WHERE WERE YOU STAYING ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 23?



2017 n=439

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Persons in families increased slightly since 2015, representing 13% of the 2017 Homeless Census population. Eighty-one percent (81%) of those persons in families were enumerated in shelters and 19% were enumerated on the street or in abandoned buildings, vehicles, or encampments. Additionally, adults 18-24 also increased from 11% of the population in 2015 to 17% in 2017.

Figure 4. HOMELESS CENSUS RESULTS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND AGE GROUP

	2015					2017				
	CHILDREN UNDER 18	ADULTS 18-24	ADULTS 25+	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL	CHILDREN UNDER 18	ADULTS 18-24	ADULTS 25+	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Sheltered	45	17	225	287	27%	75	45	195	315	26%
Households with children	45	5	47	97	9%	75	14	42	131	11%
Persons in non-family households	0	12	178	190	18%	0	31	153	184	15%
Unsheltered	17	100	678	795	73%	38	164	715	917	74%
Households with children	8	1	8	17	2%	20	3	8	31	3%
Persons in non-family households	9	99	670	778	72%	18	161	707	886	72%
Total	62	117	903	1,082	--	113	209	910	1,232	--
Percent	6%	11%	83%	--	100%	9%	17%	74%	--	100%

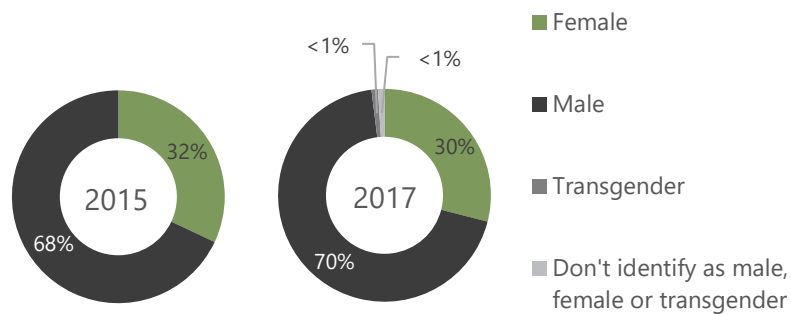
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Seventy percent (70%) of the population experiencing homelessness was male in 2017. This was a slightly higher proportion than in 2015 and is reflective of neighboring communities and national data. Interestingly, 74% of the unsheltered population was male, while males made up 59% of the sheltered population.

Figure 5. TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER

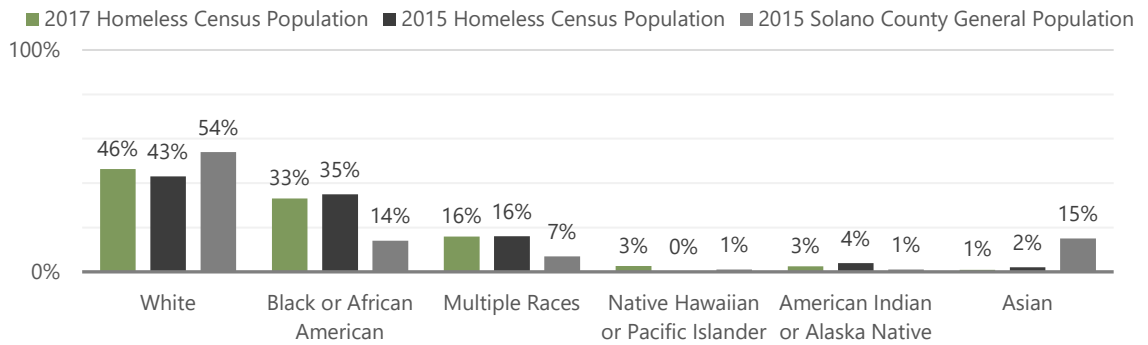


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

2015 n=1,082; 2017 n=1,232

Non-White ethnicities were overrepresented in the homeless population compared to the general population of Solano County. Thirty-three percent (33%) of those experiencing homelessness identified as Black or African American, compared to 14% of the general population.

Figure 6. TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



2015 n=1,082; 2017 n=1,232

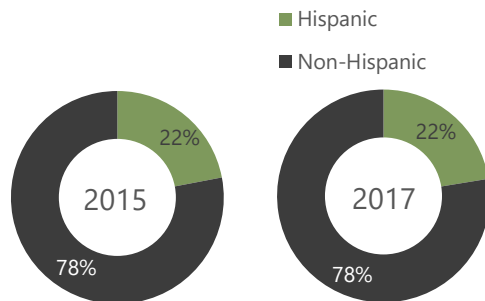
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

The proportion of those who identified as Hispanic or Latino did not change from 2015, staying at 22%.

Figure 7. TOTAL HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY HISPANIC/NON-HISPANIC



2015 n=1,082; 2017 n=1,232

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Homeless Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the 2017 Solano County Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey. Surveys were administered to a randomized sample of homeless individuals between February 7 and February 14, 2017. This effort resulted in 439 complete and unique surveys. Based on a Point-in-Time Census of 1,232 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 439 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3.75% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Solano County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be confident that the results would be within 3.75 percentage points of the current results.

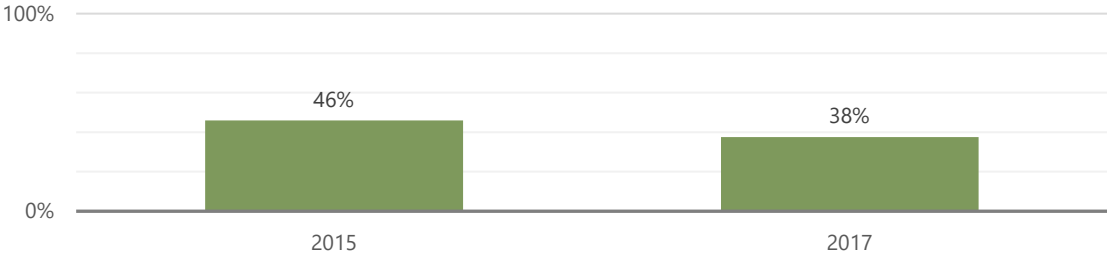
In order to respect respondent privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values are intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

DURATION OF HOMELESSNESS

Unstable living conditions, poverty, housing scarcity, and many other issues often lead to individuals falling in and out of homelessness. For many, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of survey respondents were experiencing homelessness for the first time, lower than in 2015 (46%).

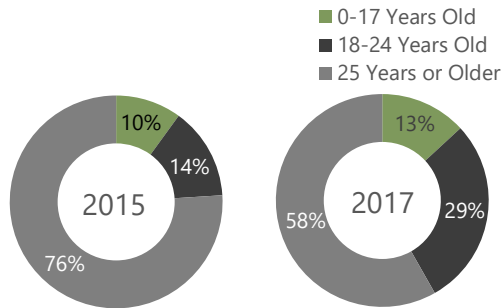
Figure 8. FIRST TIME HOMELESS (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING “YES”)



2015 n=355; 2017 n=436
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

While 22% of the population enumerated in 2017 was under age 25, 42% of survey respondents reported they were under 25 the first time they experienced homelessness. This has implications for how the community connects with children and persons in families during the census and survey and how everyday outreach and information about county services is distributed.

Figure 9. AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

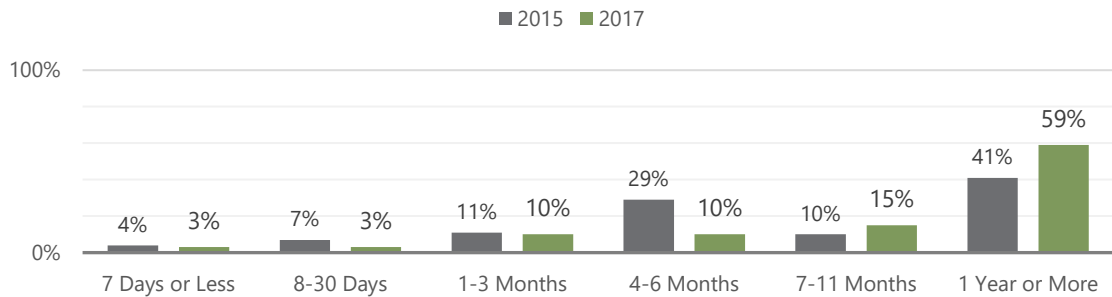


2015 n=350; 2017 n=434

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

In 2017, 59% of survey respondents reported they had been homeless for one year or more; this was up from 41% in 2015. A lower percentage reported they had been homeless for 4-6 months, becoming homeless in late summer/early fall, in 2017 compared to 2015 (10% and 29%, respectively).

Figure 10. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



2015 n=354; 2017 n=433

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Where individuals lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have lived since impacts the way they seek services, as well as their ability to access support from friends or family. Previous circumstances can also point to gaps in the system of care, and opportunities for systemic improvement and homeless prevention.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Knowing where individuals were living before they lost their housing informs discussions regarding how local the homeless population is to Solano County. This information can also influence changes to available support systems if the Continuum of Care finds increasing numbers of individuals living locally before experiencing homelessness.

Eighty-six percent (86%) of survey respondents reported they were living in Solano County at the time they most recently became homeless, 12% were from another California county, and 2% were living out of state.

Figure 11. WHERE WERE YOU LIVING AT THE TIME YOU MOST RECENTLY BECAME HOMELESS?



2017 n=436

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Respondents were also asked how long they had been living in Solano County. More than half (54%) had been in the county for 10 years or more. Eleven percent (11%) had been in the community for less than a year.

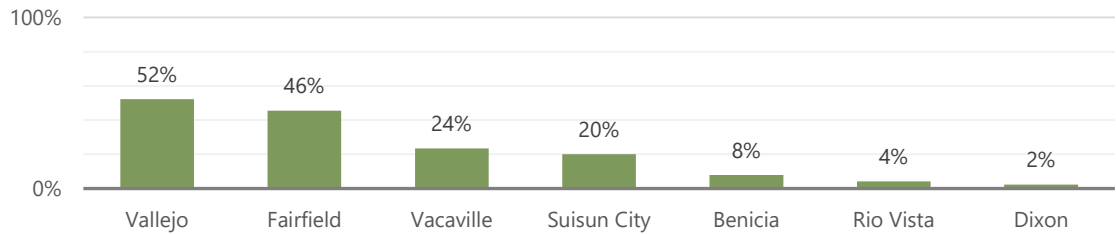
Figure 12. LENGTH OF TIME IN SOLANO COUNTY

2017 n=429

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Respondents were asked which cities within Solano County they had slept in during the 12 months prior to the study. Many respondents reported staying in multiple cities, primarily those cities with the highest population density and access to services. Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondents reported they had stayed in Vallejo in the past year, 46% had stayed in Fairfield, and 24% had stayed in Vacaville.

Figure 13. CITIES SLEPT IN DURING THE PAST YEAR



2017 n=425

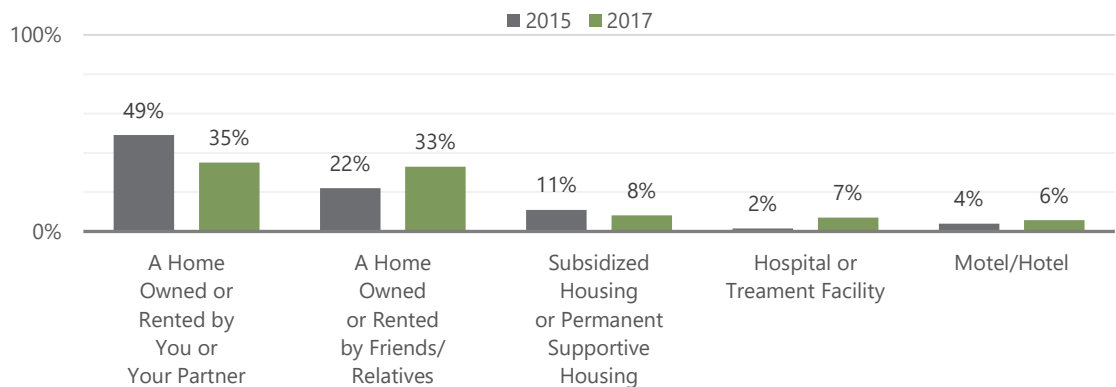
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Similar to previous place of residence, the type of living arrangements maintained by individuals before experiencing homelessness can influence what types of homeless prevention services might be offered to help individuals maintain their housing.

A third (33%) of respondents reported they were staying in the home of a friend or family member in 2017, up from 22% in 2015. A smaller percentage reported they were staying in their own home prior to homelessness in 2017 compared to 2015 (35% and 49% respectively).

Figure 14. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS THIS TIME



2015 n=343; 2017 n=428

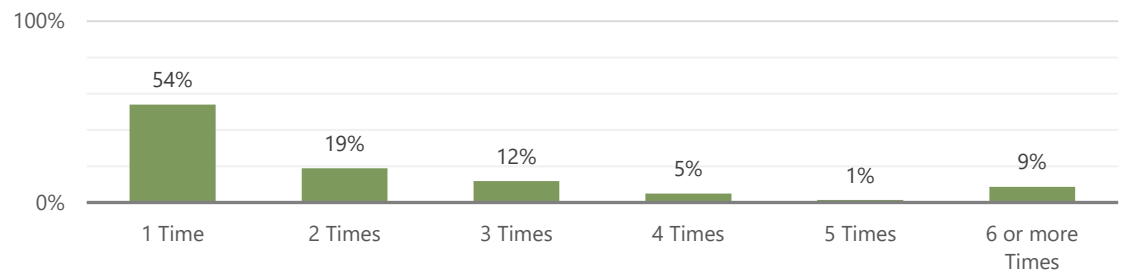
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Many individuals who experience homelessness will do so numerous times, as people often cycle in and out of stable housing. Recurring homelessness is also an indicator of the homeless assistance and housing systems ability to address individuals' needs for stable, permanent housing.

Fifty-four percent (54%) stated they had experienced homelessness just once in the past three years, however 15% of those surveyed said they had been homeless four to six times in the past 3 years.

Figure 15. SEPARATE EPISODES OF HOMELESSNESS IN LAST 3 YEARS



2017 n=436

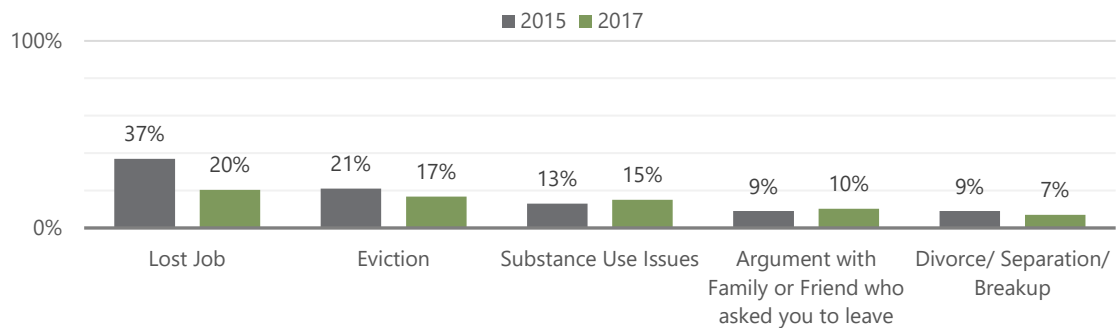
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

The primary cause of an individual’s inability to obtain or retain housing is often difficult to pinpoint, as it is often the result of multiple and compounding causes. However, an inability to find adequate housing can lead to an inability to address other basic needs, such as healthcare and adequate nutrition.

While job loss remained the number one reported cause of homelessness in 2017, the percentage of respondents decreased from 37% to 20%. Responses were more diverse in 2017, and a slightly higher percentage reported substance abuse as the primary cause of their homelessness (15% compared to 13% in 2015).

Figure 16. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)



2015 n=352 respondents offering 472 responses; 2017 n=436 respondents offering 516 responses
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING

Many individuals experiencing homelessness face significant barriers in obtaining permanent housing. These barriers can range from housing affordability and availability to accessing the economic and social supports (e.g. increased income, rental assistance, and case management) needed to obtain and maintain permanent housing.

In 2017, nearly half (47%) of respondents reported employment assistance might have helped to prevent their homelessness. Other economic assistance was also cited by a number of respondents, as were mental and behavioral health services.

Figure 17. WHAT MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED YOU FROM BECOMING HOMELESS?

2017 n=431
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.
 Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100. Data are not comparable to 2015 due to a change in response options.

SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

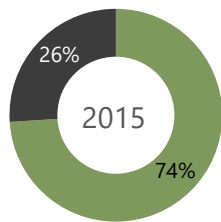
Solano County provides services and assistance to those currently experiencing homelessness through federal and local programs. Government assistance and homeless services work to enable individuals and families to obtain income and support. However, many individuals and families do not apply for services. Many believe that they do not qualify or are ineligible for assistance. Connecting homeless individuals and families to these support services creates a bridge to mainstream support services and prevents future housing instability.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

There are a variety of forms of governmental assistance available to individuals experiencing homelessness. However, knowledge of services available, understanding of eligibility requirements, and perceived stigma from receiving governmental assistance can all impact the rate at which eligible individuals access these supports.

Seventy percent (70%) of those surveyed were receiving government assistance, while 29% of respondents reported not receiving assistance. Twenty-one percent (21%) of those who reported they were not receiving services reported they were not interested. However, 26% of respondents reported they were not receiving assistance for the following reasons: 26% believed they were not eligible, 17% had no permanent address, and 12% had no identification. Fifteen percent (15%) had applied for assistance and were awaiting a response.

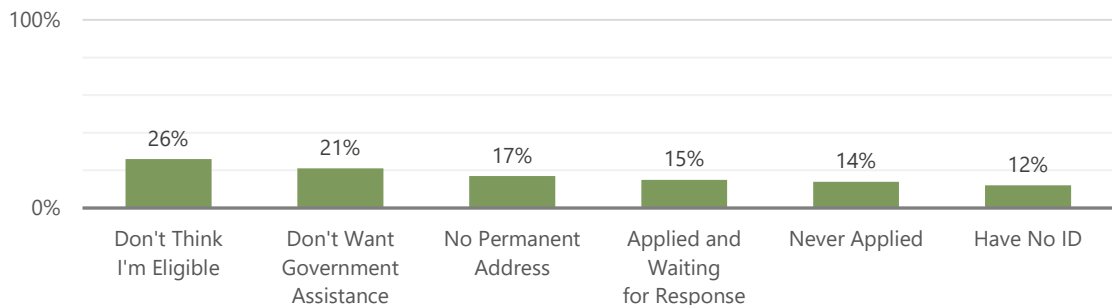
Figure 18. PERCENT RECEIVING ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



2015 n=327; 2017 n=438

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Figure 19. REASONS FOR NOT RECEIVING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE



2017 n=110

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

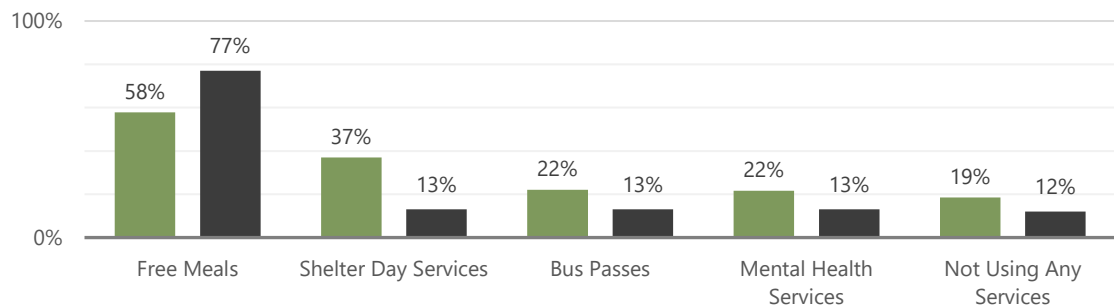
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

In addition to governmental assistance, there are numerous community-based services and programs made available to individuals experiencing homelessness. These services range from day shelters and meal programs to job training and healthcare. Types of services used in Solano County were free meals, emergency shelter, shelter day services, bus passes, and mental health services.

A higher percentage of 2017 respondents reported they were not using any local services in 2017 compared to 2015 (19% and 12% respectively). In 2017, 58% of respondents reported accessing free meal programs, down from 77% in 2015. Thirty-seven percent (37%) reported accessing day shelter services, compared to 13% in 2015.

Figure 20. ACCESS TO OTHER SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE



2015 n=301 respondents offering 457 responses; 2017 n=422 respondents offering 1,177 responses

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

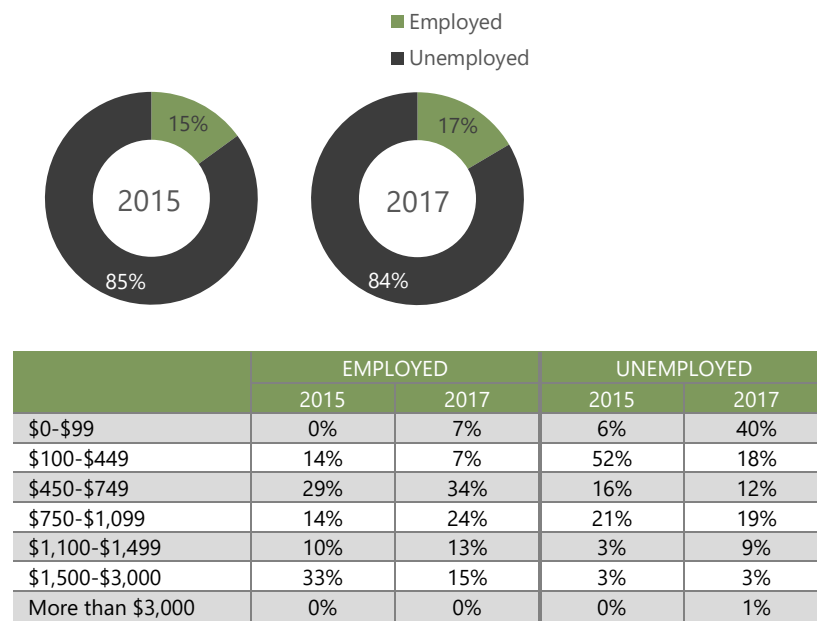
Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME, AND EDUCATION

While the majority of survey respondents reported being unemployed, a number reported part-time or full-time work, and many were receiving an income, either from public or private sources. Despite some income, data suggest that employment and income were not enough to meet basic needs.

Seventeen percent (17%) of survey respondents reported employment in 2017, similar to 2015. While those who were employed reported slightly higher incomes than those who were unemployed, they were not making enough to support stable housing and other living expenses.

Figure 21. EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME



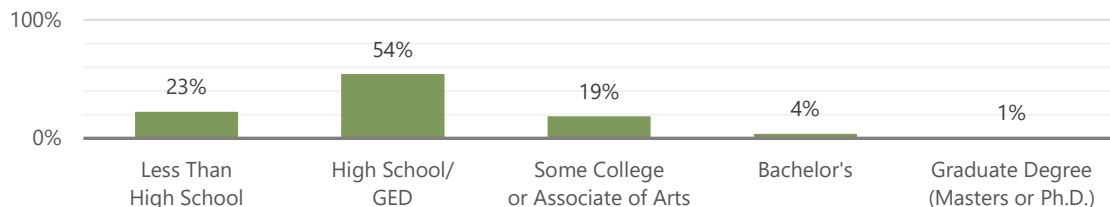
2015 employment status n=315; 2015 Income employed n=21; 2015 Income unemployed n=103; 2017 employment status n=431; 2017 Income employed n=71; 2017 Income unemployed n=360

Note: Employed includes those with part-time, seasonal, and full time employment.

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents reported they did not have a high school diploma or GED. Yet, nearly one-quarter (24%) had completed some form of higher education.

Figure 22. HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ACHIEVED



2017 n=426

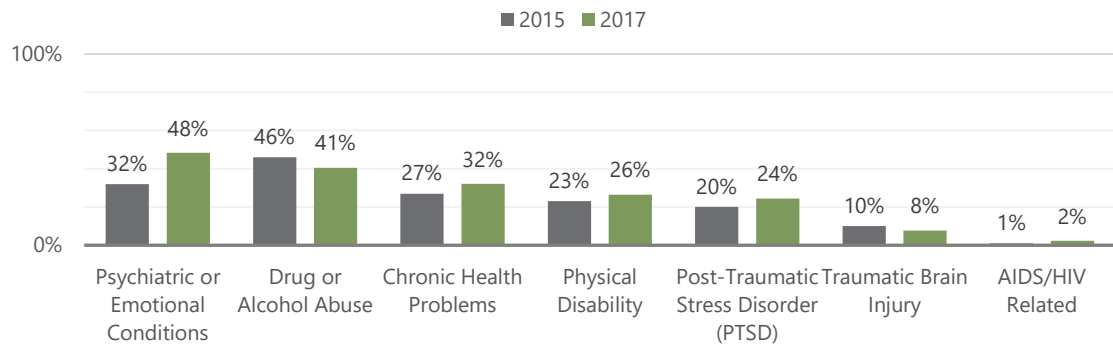
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

HEALTH

The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is 25 years less than those in stable housing. Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations. It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay four days (or 36%) longer per hospital admission than non-homeless patients.³ In Solano County, individuals reported that the following health conditions keep them from holding a job, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves: HIV/AIDS related illnesses, drug or alcohol abuse, physical disabilities, chronic health problems or medical conditions, and psychiatric or emotional conditions.

Nearly half (48%) of respondents reported psychiatric or emotional conditions, and 24% reported PTSD. Forty-one percent (41%) reported substance abuse. Compared to 2015, a higher percentage of respondents reported psychiatric or emotional conditions and chronic health problems.

Figure 23. HEALTH CONDITIONS



2015 n=339-348; 2017 n=439

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

³ Sharon A. Salit, M. E. (1998). Hospitalization Costs Associated with Homelessness in New York City. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 338, 1734-1740.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR PARTNER ABUSE

Histories of domestic violence and partner abuse are prevalent among individuals experiencing homelessness and can be the primary cause of homelessness for many. Survivors often lack many of the financial resources required for housing, as their employment history or dependable income may be limited.

The percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness in Solano County who indicated they had experienced domestic violence or partner abuse was 28%. Of those individuals, 32% were sheltered and 66% were unsheltered.

Figure 24. HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



2017 n=132

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

FOSTER CARE HISTORY

Nationally, it is generally estimated that at least 20% of foster youth experience homelessness after exiting care.⁴ In the state of California, many foster youth are eligible to receive extended care benefits as they transition into adulthood, up until their 21st birthday. Implemented in 2012, the aim of extended foster care is to assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from experiencing homelessness.

Ninety survey respondents (21%) reported being in the foster care system at some point in their lives. Of those 90 individuals, 67% were unsheltered on the night of the Point-in-Time Census.

Figure 25. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE



2017 n=90

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

⁴ Fernandes, AL. (2007). Runaway and Homeless Youth: Demographics, Programs, and Emerging Issues. Congressional Research Services, January 2007, <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/general/detail/1451>.

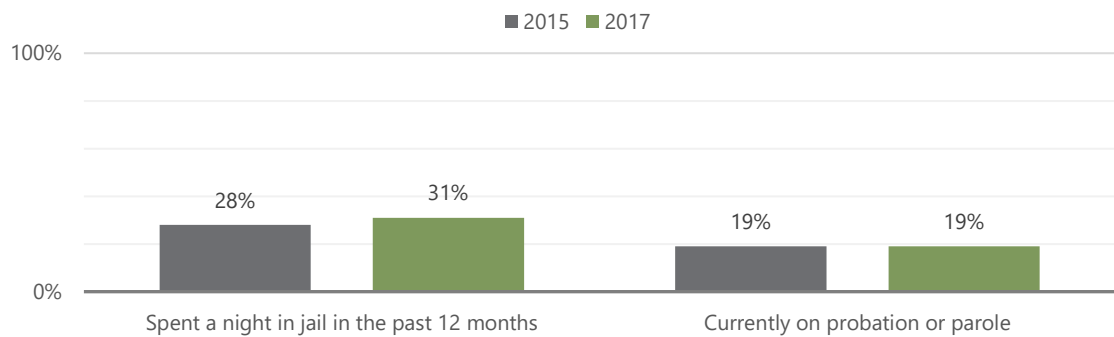
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Homelessness and incarceration are often correlative. Individuals without stable housing are at greater risk of criminal justice system involvement, particularly those with mental health issues, veterans, and youth. Individuals with past incarceration face significant barriers to exiting homelessness due to stigmatization and policies affecting their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.⁵

INCARCERATION

When asked if they had spent a night in jail or prison in the last 12 months, 31% of respondents experiencing homelessness responded they had spent at least 1 night in jail or prison. Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents reported they were on probation or parole at the time of the study.

Figure 26. SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



2015 n=316-338; 2017 n=431-433

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census

⁵ Greenberg, GA, Rosenheck, RA. (2008). Jail Incarceration, Homelessness, and Mental Health: A National Study. *Psychiatry Serv.* 2008 Feb;59(2): 170-7.

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Solano County, respondents were asked basic demographic questions including age, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Survey respondents ranged from age 14 to 85. Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents were under the age of 25, 40% were between 25 and 40, and 38% were 41 and older.

Figure 27. SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY AGE

Age Group	2015	2017
Less than 18 Years	1%	4%
18-24 Years	5%	19%
25-30 Years	14%	14%
31-40 Years	16%	26%
41-50 Years	21%	21%
51-60 Years	36%	13%
61 Years or More	7%	3%

2015 n=360; 2017 n=439

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

A total of 35 survey respondents identified as lesbian, gay, queer, bisexual, transgender, or other.

Figure 28. SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND LGBTQ IDENTITY

	2015		2017	
	%	n	%	n
LGBTQ Status				
Yes	8%	29	8%	34
No	92%	331	92%	392
BREAKOUT OF RESPONDENTS ANSWERING YES				
Gay	14%	4	11%	4
Lesbian	48%	14	14%	5
Queer	0%	0	0%	0
Bisexual	31%	9	63%	22
Transgender	0%	1	9%	1
Other	3%	1	9%	3

2015 LGBTQ n=360; 2015 Breakout n=29 respondents offering 29 responses;

2017 LGBTQ n=439; 2017 Breakout n=35 respondents offering 37 responses

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.



Subpopulations

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness in the United States. In order to adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identifies four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs. Consequently, these subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness.

The following sections examine each of these four subpopulations: chronic homelessness, veteran homelessness, homeless families with children, and unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth. They will identify the number and characteristics of individuals included in the 2017 Solano County Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years that total one year, *and* also has a condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as heads of households.

The chronically homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations on the street; the mortality rate for those experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than that of the general population.⁶ Data from communities across the country show that public costs incurred by those experiencing extended periods of homelessness include emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and regular access to social supports and homeless services. These combined costs are often significantly higher than the cost of providing individuals with permanent housing and supportive services.

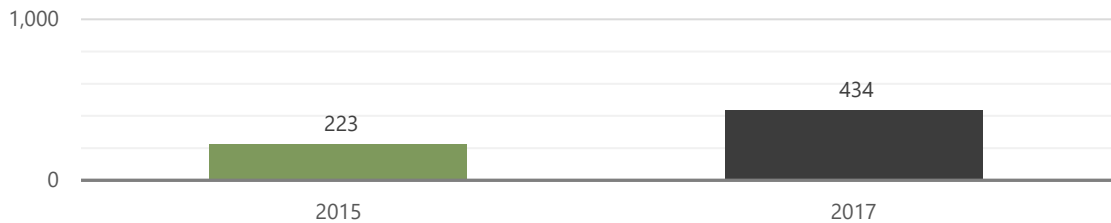
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that roughly 22% of the national homeless population, or 77,486 individuals, was chronically homeless in 2016.⁷ Chronic homelessness has been on the decline in recent years as communities across the

⁶ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2010). Supplemental Document to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: June 2010. Retrieved 2017 from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/BkgrdPap_ChronicHomelessness.pdf

⁷ Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2017 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

country increase the capacity of their permanent supportive housing programs and prioritize those with the greatest barriers to housing stability. While the national decrease in chronic homelessness seems promising, federal budget constraints limit the amount of money available to support housing programs and services. As a result, *Opening Doors*, which began with a plan to end chronic homelessness by 2016, has extended the goal to 2017.⁸

Figure 29. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Figure 30. CHRONIC HOMELESS POPULATION ESTIMATES



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Figure 31. CHRONIC HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

	2015	2017	15-17 NET CHANGE
Sheltered	9	60	+ 51
Unsheltered	214	374	+ 160
Total	223	434	+ 211

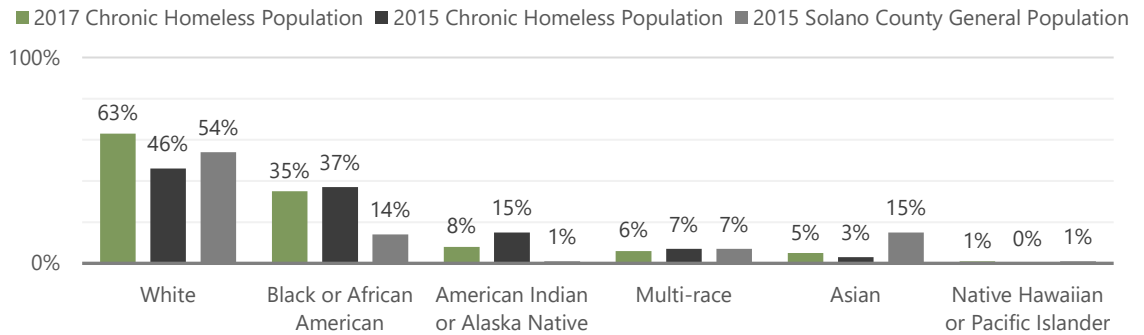
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

⁸ Cavallaro, E. (2017). Ending Chronic Homelessness, Now in 2017. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Retrieved 2017 from <http://www.endhomelessness.org>

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

The race of survey respondents experiencing chronic homelessness generally aligned with those of the general population, with 63% White, 35% Black or African American, and 5% Asian.

Figure 32. CHRONIC HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



2017 Chronic n=133; 2015 Chronic n=76

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

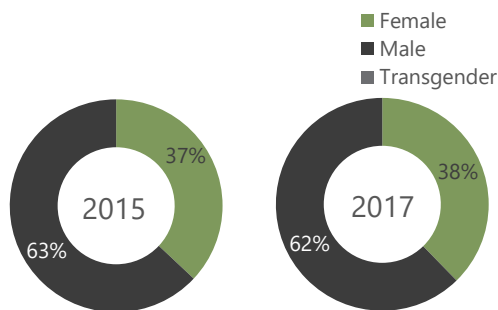
U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS

Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

A slightly higher proportion of the chronically homeless population was female compared to the overall population experiencing homelessness (38% compared to 30%). This proportion differed slightly from that of 2015 when over one-third (37%) of those experiencing chronic homelessness identified as female.

Figure 33. CHRONIC HOMELESS CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER

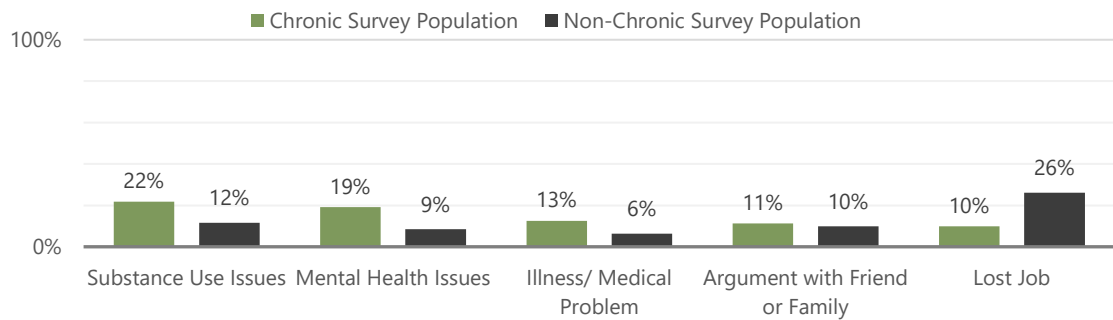


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Among individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, 22% reported their primary cause of homelessness was substance use issues, followed closely by mental health issues (19%). This differs significantly from the general population of people experiencing homelessness, in that over a quarter reported becoming homeless due to job loss.

Figure 34. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



2017 Chronic n=152; 2017 Non-Chronic n=284

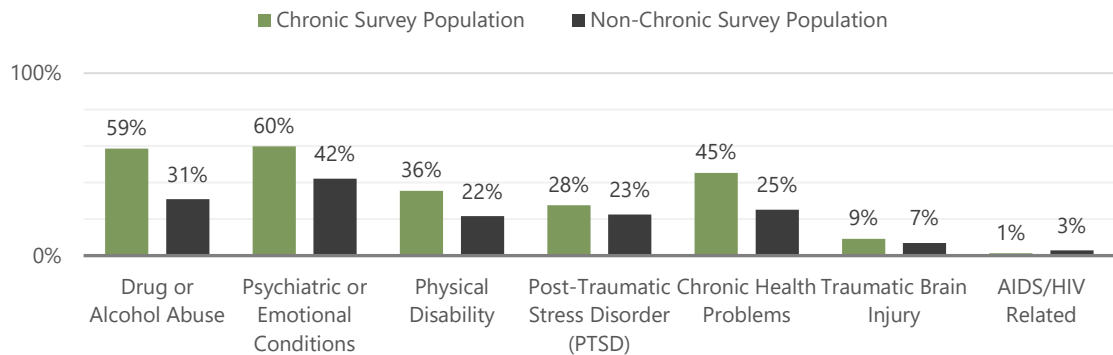
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Those experiencing chronic homelessness reported suffering from higher rates of almost every health condition than non-chronically homeless survey respondents, particularly drug or alcohol abuse (59% versus 31%). Additionally, 60% of those experiencing chronic homelessness reported having a psychiatric or emotional condition, and 45% reported chronic health problems.

Figure 35. HEALTH CONDITIONS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



2017 Chronic n=152; 2017 Non-Chronic n=287

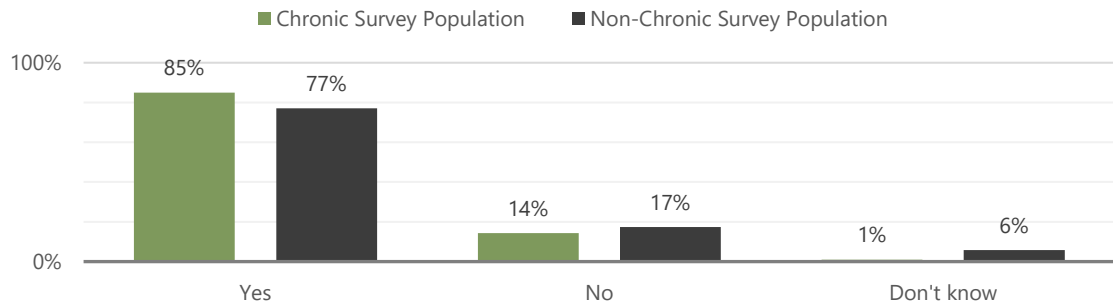
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

MEDICAL INSURANCE AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Eighty-five percent (85%) of those experiencing chronic homelessness had medical insurance, while 14% did not.

Figure 36. MEDICAL INSURANCE, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



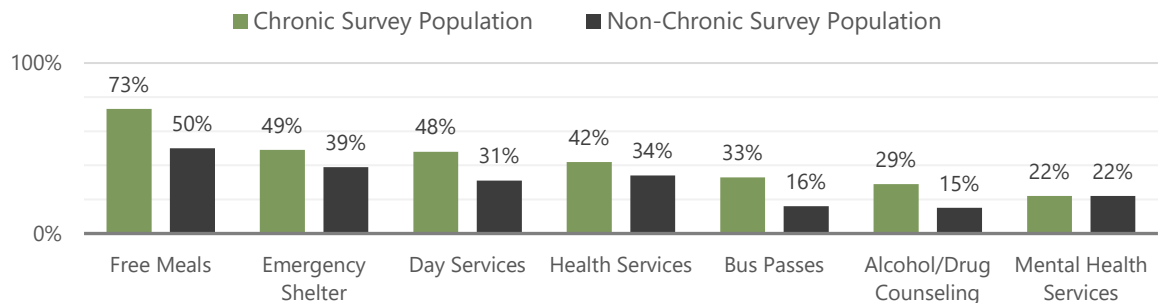
2017 Chronic n=133; 2017 Non-Chronic n=243

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Of those experiencing chronic homelessness, 73% receive free meals, almost half (49%) use emergency shelters and/or day services (48%), and 42% use health services.

Figure 37. SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



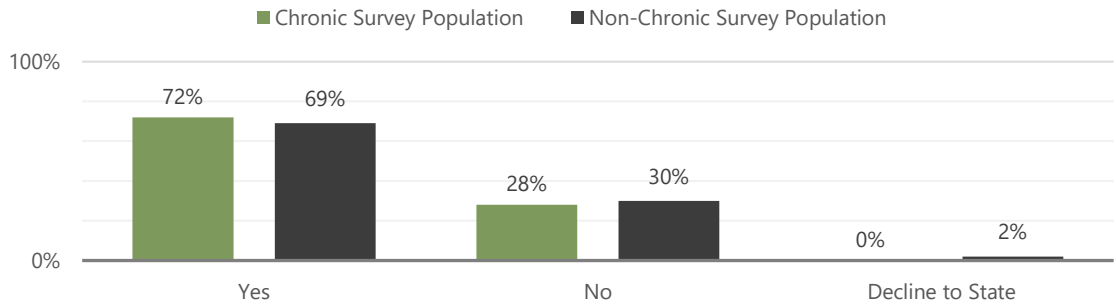
2017 Chronic n=147; 2017 Non-Chronic n=275

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of chronically homeless reported receiving some form of government assistance, which includes social security, food stamps (CalFresh), disability, CalWORKS, and Veterans Affairs benefits.

Figure 38. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



2017 Chronic n=152; 2017 Non-Chronic n=286

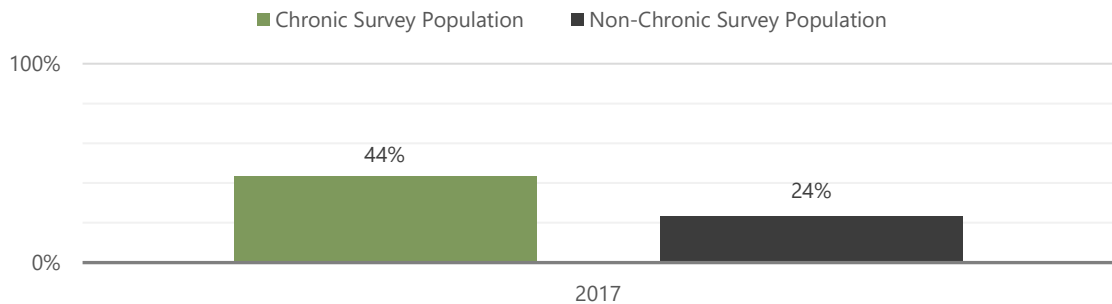
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

INCARCERATION AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

While about a quarter (24%) of non-chronically homeless respondents stated they had spent a night in jail in the past year, 44% of those experiencing chronic homelessness had spent at least one night in jail in the past year.

Figure 39. NIGHT SPENT IN JAIL IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, CHRONIC AND NON-CHRONIC COMPARISON



2017 Chronic n=151; 2017 Non-Chronic n=280

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

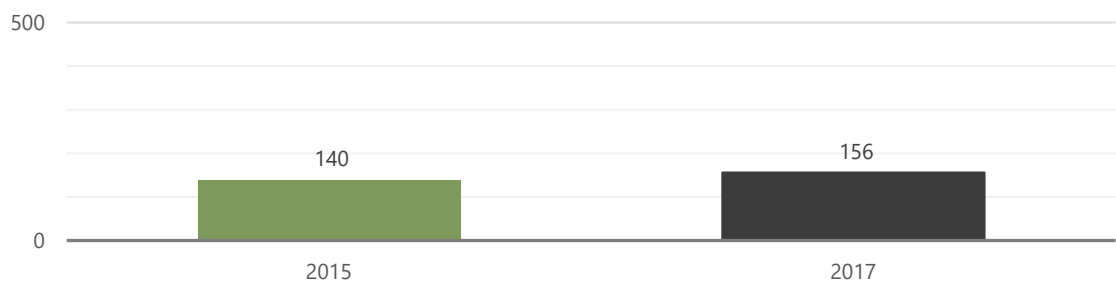
HOMELESS VETERANS

Many U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Veterans experience higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance abuse. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters, and often remain on the street for extended periods of time.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits can involve different forms of financial assistance, including monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, health care, education, and housing benefits. In addition to these supports, the VA and HUD partner to provide additional housing and support services to veterans currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homeless.

Thirteen percent (13%) of the total homeless population were veterans, with two thirds unsheltered on the night of January 23rd.

Figure 40. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Figure 41. HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATION ESTIMATES

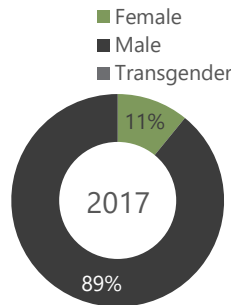


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS VETERANS

The majority of homeless veterans were male (89%).

Figure 42. HOMELESS VETERAN CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER

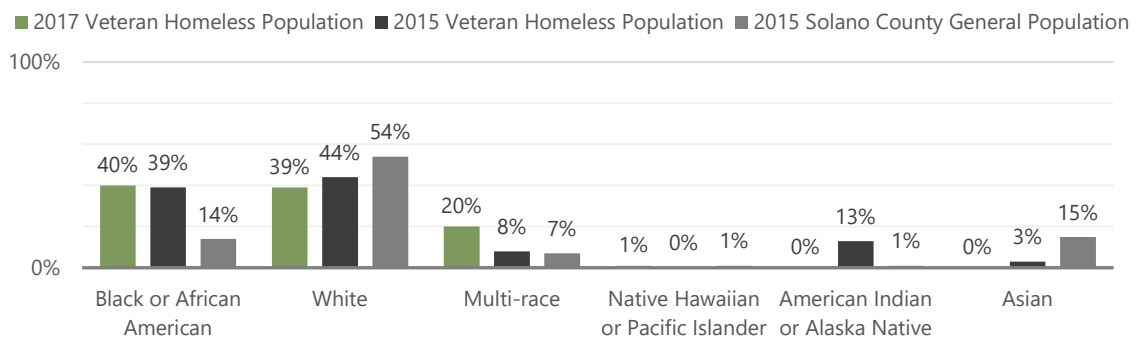


2017 Veterans n=156

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

As with the overall population experiencing homelessness, a higher percentage identified as Black or African American (40%), and multi-race (20%) compared to the general population of Solano County.

Figure 43. HOMELESS VETERAN CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



2017 Veterans n=156; 2015 Veterans n=39

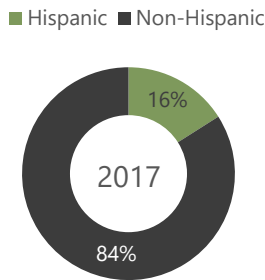
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Sixteen percent (16%) of veterans experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Figure 44. HOMELESS VETERAN CENSUS POPULATION BY HISPANIC/NON-HISPANIC



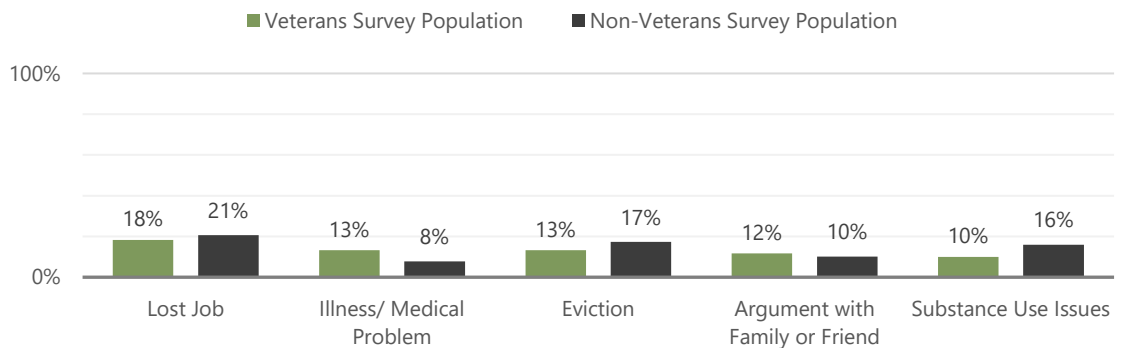
2017 n=156

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2016-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG THOSE HOMELESS VETERANS

The top five primary causes of homelessness among veterans were lost job (18%), illness or medical problem (13%), eviction (13%), an argument with a family member or friend (12%), and substance use issues (10%). This is comparable to the non-veteran survey population that stated their primary causes of homelessness to be lost job (21%), eviction (17%), substance use issues (16%), mental health issues (13%), and arguments with family or a friend (10%).

Figure 45. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN COMPARISON



2017 Veterans n=60; 2017 Non-Veterans n=376

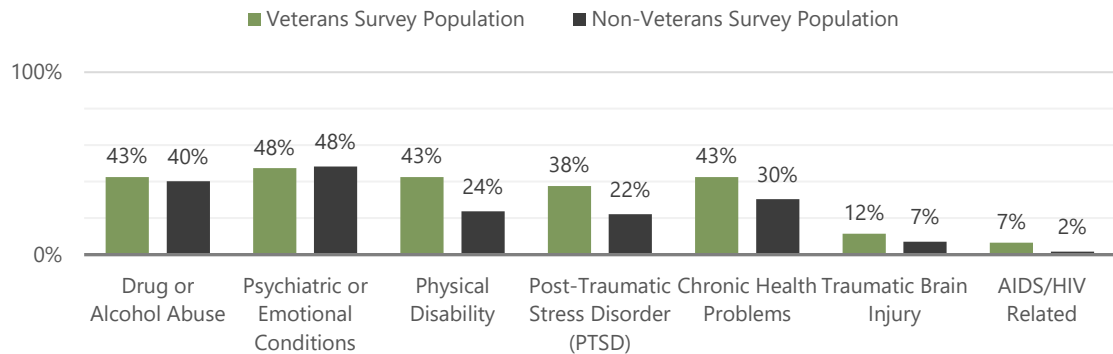
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS

Veterans experiencing homelessness experienced health issues at or above the level of non-veterans. They experienced the following conditions at a much higher rate than their non-veteran counterparts: physical disabilities (43% versus 24%), post-traumatic stress disorder (38% versus 22%), and chronic health problems (43% versus 30%).

Figure 46. HEALTH CONDITIONS, VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN COMPARISON

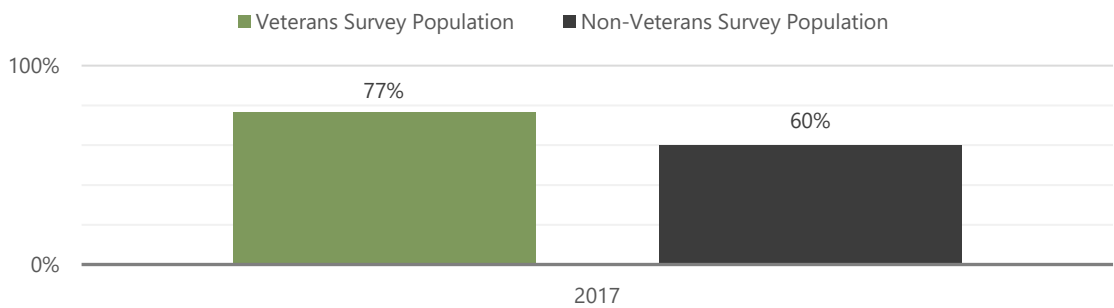


Veterans n=61; Non-Veterans n=378

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

Figure 47. DISABLING CONDITIONS, VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN COMPARISON



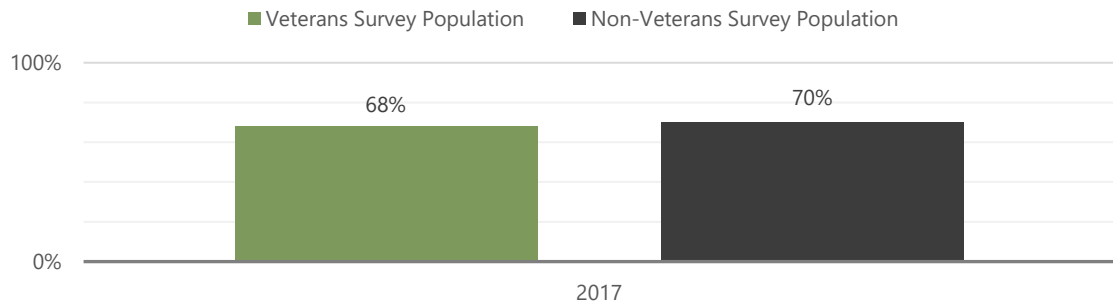
2017 Veterans n=61, Non-Veterans n=378

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

ACCESS TO SERVICES AMONG VETERANS

Veteran and non-veteran survey respondents experienced similar levels of accessing government services (68% and 70%, respectively).

Figure 48. ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES, VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN COMPARISON



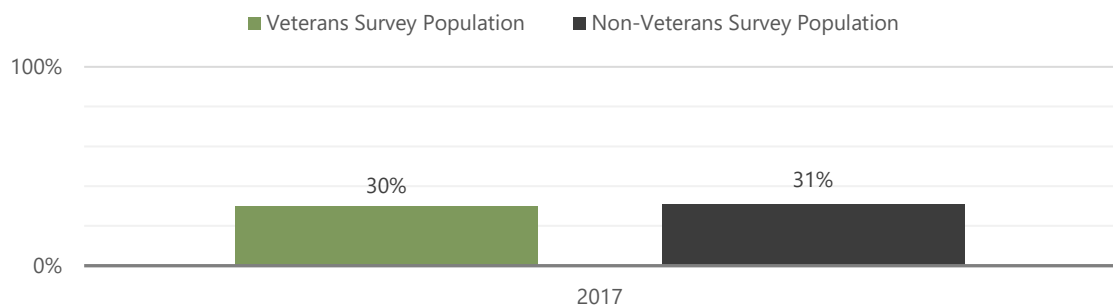
Veterans n=60; Non-Veterans n=378
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

INCARCERATION AMONG HOMELESS VETERANS

Among those who are incarcerated, veterans are more likely than non-veterans to be first time offenders, to have committed a violent offense, and to have longer prison sentences. Veterans who are incarcerated may also face the loss of various VA benefits during this time.⁹

Thirty percent (30%) of veterans reported they had spent at least one night in jail or prison in the prior year, similar to the non-veteran population.

Figure 49. NIGHT SPENT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, VETERAN AND NON-VETERAN COMPARISON



2017 Veterans n=60; Non-Veterans n=371
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

⁹ Military Benefits. (2014). Incarcerated Veterans. Retrieved 2014 from <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/incarcerated-veterans.html>.

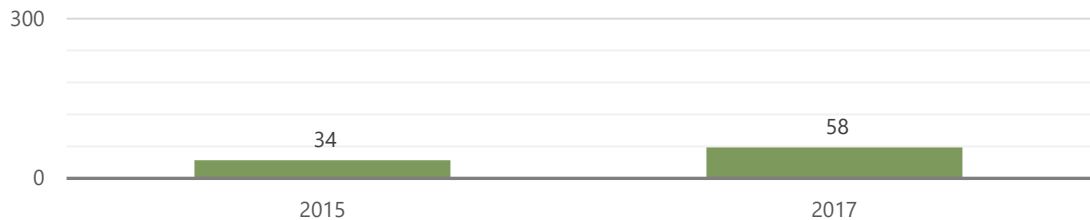
HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

National data from 2016 suggest that 35% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families. Very few families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, as public shelters serve 90% of homeless families in the United States; this is a significantly higher proportion of the population compared to other subpopulations, including unaccompanied children and transition-age youth. Data on families experiencing homelessness suggest that they are not much different from families in poverty.

The risk of homelessness is highest among households headed by single women and families with children under the age of six.¹⁰ Children in families experiencing homelessness have increased incidence of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems than children with consistent living accommodations.¹¹

The 2017 Solano Point-in-Time Census enumerated 58 families with 162 family members. Eighty-one percent (81%) of families experiencing homelessness were sheltered.

Figure 50. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Figure 51. HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN POPULATION ESTIMATES



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: There is a significant number of persons in homeless families who are in a "double-up" situation that may or may not fall within the HUD PIT count definition of homelessness that could not be identified due to their typical location on private property.

¹⁰ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Characteristics and Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Retrieved 2015 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/>

¹¹ U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015). Opening Doors. Retrieved 2015 from <http://www.usich.gov/>

Figure 52. HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN CENSUS POPULATION BY SHELTER STATUS

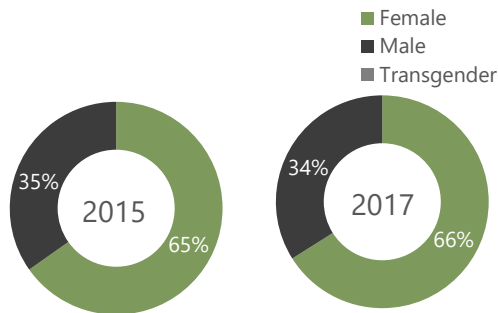
	2015	2017	15-17 NET CHANGE
Sheltered	97	131	+ 34
Unsheltered	17	31	+ 14
Total	114	162	+ 48

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Sixty-six percent (66%) of persons in families were female in 2017, as most families were headed by single women.

Figure 53. HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER

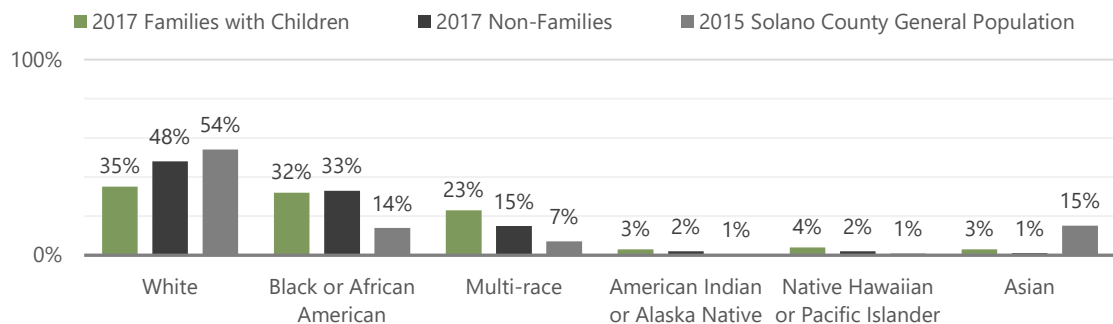


2015 n=23; 2017 n=162

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Thirty-five percent (35%) of homeless families with children were White, an underrepresentation compared to the general population. Additionally, 32% were Black or African American and 23% were of two or more races, both of which were overrepresentations compared to the general population.

Figure 54. HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



2017 Families with Children n=162; 2017 Non-Families n=1,070

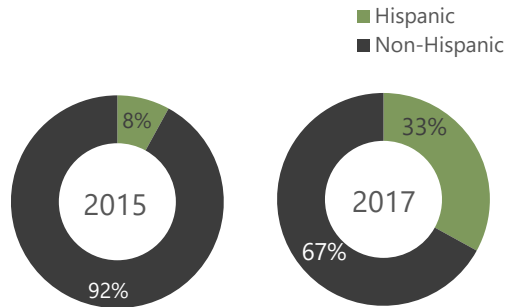
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

One-third (33%) of persons in families experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic/Latino in 2017, compared to 8% in 2015.

Figure 55. HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN POPULATION BY HISPANIC/NON-HISPANIC



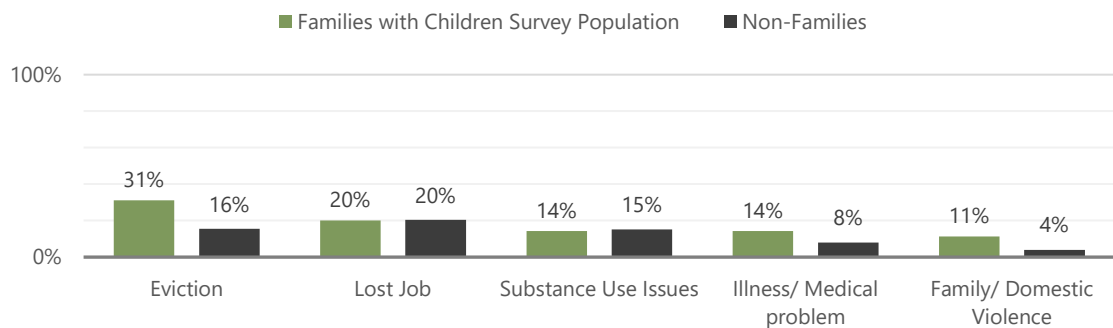
2015 n=24; 2017 n=162

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Families with children experiencing homelessness reported eviction (31%) as the top reason why they became homeless, followed by job loss (20%), substance use (14%), and medical issues (14%).

Figure 56. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES COMPARISON



Families with Children n=35; Non-Families n=401

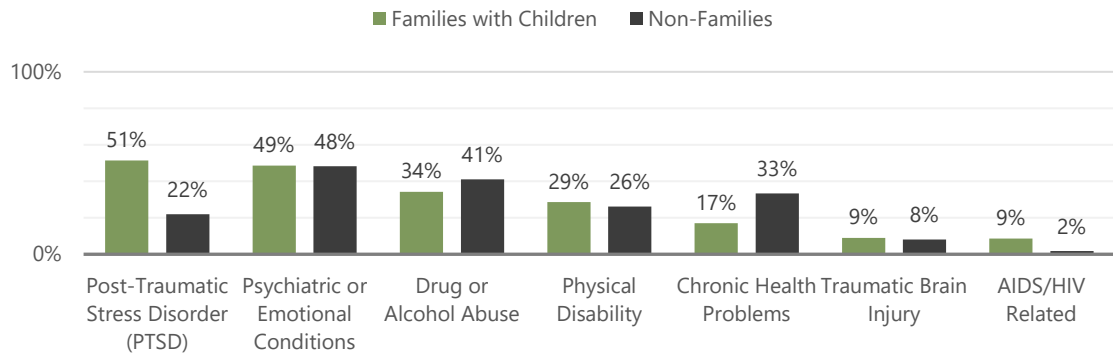
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Over half of survey respondents in families with children reported having post-traumatic stress disorder (51%), and 49% reported having a psychiatric or emotional condition.

Figure 57. HEALTH CONDITIONS, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND NON-FAMILIES COMPARISON



Families with Children n=35; Non-Families n=404

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

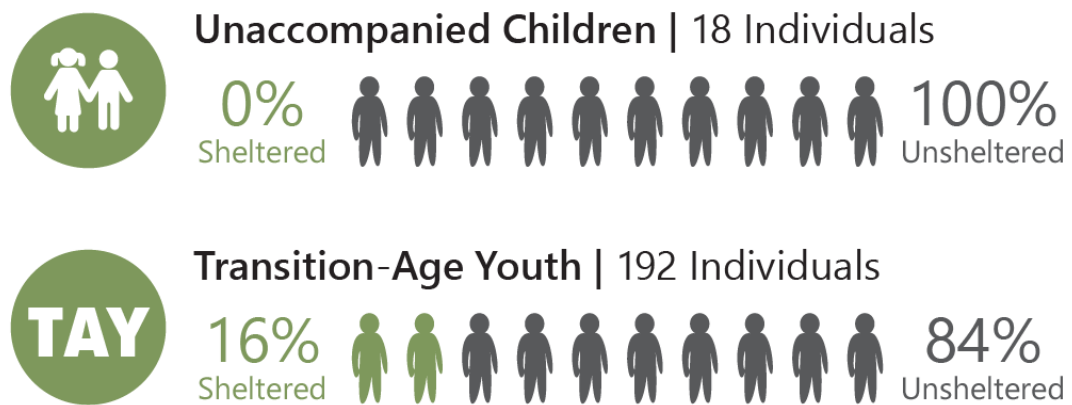
UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Due to the often hidden nature of youth homelessness, there are limited data available on unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness. Although largely considered an undercount, current federal estimates suggest there are 35,686 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth on the streets and in public shelters.¹² Young people experiencing homelessness have a harder time accessing services including shelter, medical care, and employment. This is due to the stigma of their housing situation, lack of knowledge of available resources, and a dearth of services specific to young people.¹³

In 2012, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness amended the federal strategic plan to end homelessness to include specific strategies and supports to address the needs of unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth. As part of this effort, the Department of Housing and Urban Development placed increased focus on gathering data on unaccompanied homeless children and youth during the Point-in-Time Census.

Eighteen unaccompanied children and 192 transition-age youth were enumerated during the 2017 Solano Point-in-Time Census.

Figure 58. UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH POPULATION ESTIMATES BY SHELTER STATUS

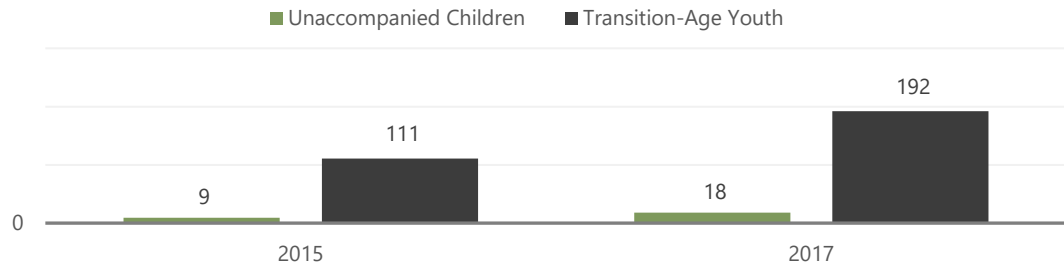


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

¹² Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2017 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

¹³ National Coalition for the Homeless. (2011). Homeless Youth Fact Sheet. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>.

Figure 59. NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS CENSUS WITH TREND

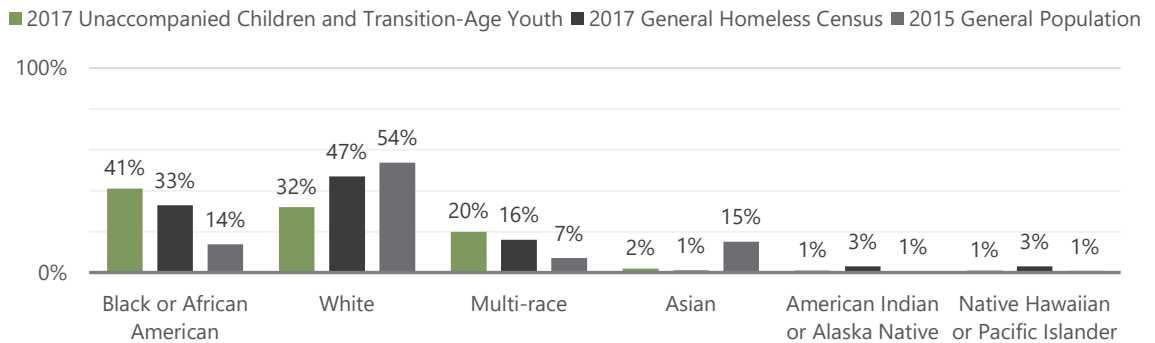


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Forty-nine percent (49%) of unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth were Black or African American and 48% were White.

Figure 60. UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE



2017 Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=210; 2017 General Homeless Census n=1,214

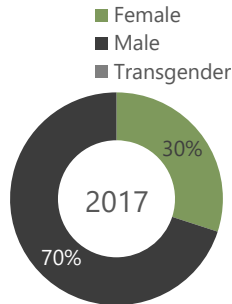
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2017). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Seventy percent (70%) of unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth were male and 30% were female.

Figure 61. UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH CENSUS POPULATION BY GENDER



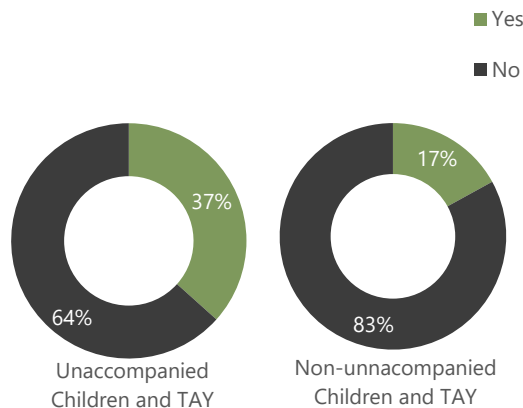
2017 n=210

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013-2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

FOSTER CARE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth have been in foster care at some point. In the general population of survey respondents, 17% reported a history of foster care.

Figure 62. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE, UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH COMPARISON



Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=85; Non-unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=345

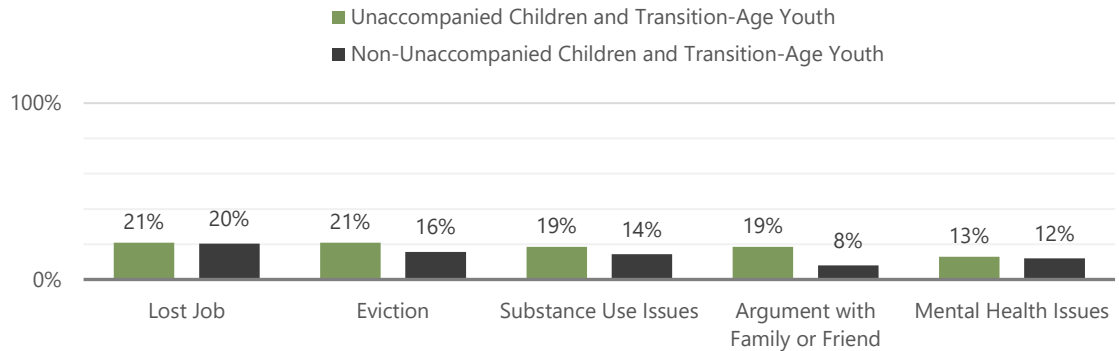
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth reported becoming homeless due to job loss (21%), eviction (21%), substance use issues (19%), arguments with family or a friend (19%), and mental health issues (13%).

Figure 63. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES), UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH COMPARISON



Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=86; Non-Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=350

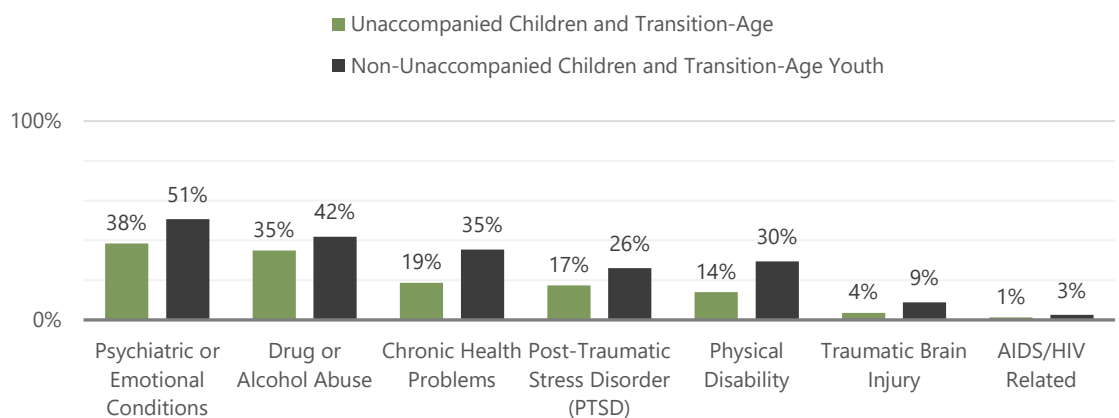
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth reported fewer health conditions than the general survey population, with 14% experiencing a physical disability, 17% reporting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and 19% experiencing chronic health problems.

Figure 64. HEALTH CONDITIONS, UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH AND NON-UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH COMPARISON



Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=86; Non-Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=353

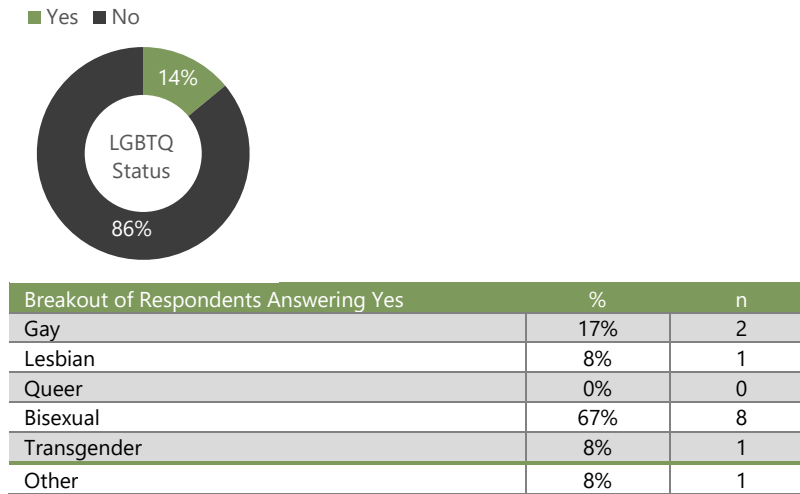
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND LGBTQ IDENTITY

Fourteen percent (14%) of unaccompanied children and transition-age youth identified as gay, lesbian, queer, bisexual, or transgender. Among those, the majority identified as bisexual (67%).

Figure 65. SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND LGBTQ IDENTITY AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH



Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=86; LGBTQ Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth Breakout n=12 offering 13 responses

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Solano County Homeless Census.

Note: Multiple response question. Percentages may not add up to 100.



Conclusion

On the morning of January 24, 2017, community members, community based organization staff, city and county employees, and people experiencing homelessness themselves fanned out through the whole of Solano County to enumerate the homeless individuals within its boundaries. This enumeration should be considered conservative, because despite the most thorough methodology, many individuals experiencing homelessness go to great lengths to remain undetectable.

Some of the results detailed in this report include:

- The Point-in-Time census found 1,232 individuals experiencing homelessness living in Solano County in 2017;
- 74% of the population were living unsheltered;
- 86% of respondents reported living in Solano County before becoming homeless;
- There were 434 chronically homeless individuals in Solano County (35% of the total homeless population);
- There were an estimated 156 veteran homeless individuals (13% of the total homeless population);
- There were 58 families, with 162 family members experiencing homelessness;
- 70% of individuals were receiving some form of government assistance; and
- 84% of homeless individuals were unemployed.

While survey and demographic data from the 2017 Homeless Census and Survey largely mirrors those found in 2015, there was a 14% increase in homelessness in Solano County. Despite a higher number of individuals served by county shelters, the proportion of those living on the streets remained the same. Yet, many individuals reported they were connected to services and providers.

There are many challenges to overcome in order to eliminate homelessness in Solano County. Individuals and families experiencing homelessness show there is a need for increased affordable housing, job training, mental health services, knowledge and availability of government services, and services dedicated to the needs of particular subpopulations, including youth.

However, this report also includes strengths to build upon: 84% of all homeless families were sheltered, the number of homeless veterans is relatively low, over half the population receives free meals, and there are few unaccompanied homeless children.

ASR hopes the data presented in this report will be used by planning bodies of Solano County and other agencies and organizations within the county to inform additional outreach, service

planning, and policy decision-making over the next two years as they work to address homelessness. By sharing and evaluating this enumeration effort and results, the support network in Solano County will be better able to produce constructive and innovative solutions to a problem that is clearly growing and has serious ramifications for the long term public health of its community members.



Appendix 1: Methodology

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2017 Solano Homeless Point-in-Time Census & Survey was to produce a Point-in-Time estimate of people who experience homelessness in Solano, a region that covers approximately 907 square miles. The results of the unsheltered census were combined with the results from the shelter and institution census to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Solano County on a given night. The subsequent, in-depth qualitative survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those enumerated. A more detailed description of the methodology follows.

COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS CENSUS METHOD

The Point-in-Time census methodology had three primary components:

- The general unsheltered census between daybreak and 10 AM: an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals
- The youth unsheltered census between 3 PM and 7 PM: a focused enumeration of unsheltered youth under the age of 25
- The shelter census for the night before the unsheltered census: an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals

The unsheltered and sheltered homeless censuses were coordinated to occur within the same time period in order to minimize potential duplicate counting of homeless persons.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success of the census, many county and community agencies collaborated in community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical planning, methodological decision-making, and interagency coordination efforts. Applied Survey Research (ASR), a social research firm, provided technical assistance with these aspects of the planning process. ASR has over 18 years of experience conducting homeless censuses and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in HUD's publication: *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless service providers and advocates were active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of this homeless census. The planning team was led by Applied Survey Research who worked with the following organizations throughout the census and survey process:

the City of Vacaville, Community Action North Bay, Congressman John Garamendi's Office, Epiphany Church, First Place for Youth, HomeBase, Mission Solano, Solano County Health and Social Services, Solano County Office of Education, Travis Air Force Base, and Valley Church. Applied Survey Research invited feedback and discussion on the methodology in order to have a county-wide endorsement of the census

UNSHeltered CENSUS METHODOLOGY

DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used:

- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in Solano turned out to support the county's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. To have a successful enumeration effort of this magnitude, it is crucial to have volunteers and homeless persons who have an intimate knowledge of the local areas. Thirty homeless individuals and 81 community volunteers participated in the 2017 general unsheltered census. Outreach efforts were conducted with local nonprofits that serve homeless individuals and local volunteer programs. Local shelters and service providers recruited the most knowledgeable and reliable homeless individuals to participate in the unsheltered census. Homeless persons were paid \$15 an hour for the training that they received. They were also paid \$15 for each hour they spent out on the day of the unsheltered census.

All homeless individuals and volunteers who participated in the unsheltered census were asked to participate in a training review on the day of the unsheltered census. This training covered all aspects in the unsheltered census, including the definition of homelessness and how to recognize homeless individuals, potential locations homeless individuals may be located at and how to safely and respectfully approach them, and how to use the tally sheets and maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Volunteers were encouraged to attend a training session that educated individuals on how to enumerate the homeless without making any contact. High-volume areas and encampments were covered by specialty teams that were comfortable with the areas. Enumeration teams were advised to take all safety precautions possible, including bringing along flashlights and maintaining distance from those they were enumerating. Local law enforcement was made aware of the unsheltered census and participated on special teams in Vacaville and Fairfield. These special teams enumerated previously identified unsafe areas. No official reports were received noting unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the unsheltered census in any area of the county.

UNSHeltered CENSUS DEPLOYMENT CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of Solano County within the allotted timeframe, the planning team identified three main regions from which to deploy enumerators: Vacaville, Fairfield, and Vallejo. Volunteers selected their deployment center at the time of registration, based on familiarity with the area or convenience. The planning team divided up the enumeration routes based on census tracts and assigned them to the deployment center closest or most central to the coverage area in order to facilitate the timely deployment of enumeration teams

into the field. Benicia, Rio Vista, and Dixon were deployed from the closest regional deployment center.

LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION

On the morning of the unsheltered census, teams of two or more were created to enumerate designated areas of the county for the unsheltered census. Each team was ideally composed of one trained volunteer and one trained homeless guide, and they were provided with their assigned census tract map area, tally sheet, training guidelines and other supplies. In some cases where safety concerns were high, public safety personnel were the sole enumerators on the team. All accessible streets, roads, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traveled by foot or car. Typically, no direct contact with enumerated homeless persons was made during the census enumeration. Homeless enumerators were also instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets for the unsheltered census if they were not going to be enumerated by the shelter census. Deployment center coordinators provided each team with tally sheets to record the number of homeless persons observed and basic demographic and location information. Deployment center volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the census and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment log sheet. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas, staying out for as long as it took to cover each tract.

In the communities of Vallejo, Rio Vista, and Dixon, no law enforcement or Code Enforcement personnel participated in the enumeration. In Vacaville, teams consisting of member of both the Code Enforcement outreach team and the Vacaville Police Department enumerated the more active locations and encampments. The majority of Fairfield was enumerated by general census teams, with some high volume areas and encampments covered by the Fairfield Police Department's homeless outreach team.

COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION CENSUS

In the days after the January 24th Point-in-Time Census, representatives from Fairfield Suisun Unified School District and Benicia Unified School District called families known to have recently experienced homelessness to ascertain their whereabouts on the night of January 23rd.

A total of seventeen families were contacted in the week after the census. Thirteen families participated in the brief survey, four families could not be reached, and zero refused to take the survey. All of the participants had children under the age of eighteen.

Out of thirteen families, four families confirmed they were residing in vehicles and one family was staying in a garage on the night of January 23rd, therefore meeting the requirements for the Point-in-Time Census. Additionally, two families were living in transitional housing, and therefore were included in the Point-in-Time Census through shelter data collection. Of the remaining six families, two were staying in a hotel or motel, two were doubled up, and two were living in their own apartment or house.

POINT-IN-TIME UNDERCOUNT

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as large and diverse as Solano County. Point-in-Time Censuses are "snapshots" that quantify the size of the homeless population at a given point during the year. Hence, the census may not be representative of fluctuations and compositional changes in the homeless population seasonally or over time.

For a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not want to be seen, and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Regardless of how successful outreach efforts are, an

undercount of the homeless population will result, especially of hard-to-reach subpopulations such as families and youth.

In a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration, the methods employed, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, for example:

- It is difficult to identify homeless persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, recreational vehicles, abandoned buildings, or structures unfit for human habitation.
- Homeless families with children often seek opportunities to stay on private property, rather than sleep on the streets, in vehicles, or makeshift shelters.

Even though the Point-in-Time Census is most likely to be an undercount of the homeless population, the methodology employed, coupled with the homeless survey, is the most comprehensive approach available.

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Solano County Point-in-Time Census methodology was expanded and improved in 2017, resulting in a more thorough census of persons experiencing homelessness in Solano County. Changes to the methodology included increased community input, engagement, and local hot spotting efforts. Many counties across the Bay Area saw increases in homeless populations in 2017. While many people attribute these increases to recent increased in the cost of housing and low vacancy rates, those contributing conditions go beyond the purview of the Point-in-Time Census reporting.

Locally, other factors affected the Solano Point-in-Time Census. Police officers that work with homeless populations in Fairfield and Vacaville met with researchers before the census to map areas with a high concentration of encampments or those that would not be safe for regular community volunteers. The day of the census, the same police officers enumerated those predetermined areas. Additional factors that affected the census was the youth unsheltered census effort that identified larger numbers of youth than were enumerated in 2015, as well as flooding in the weeks prior to the census that caused previously hidden populations to seek safety in more visible areas. These combined factors resulted in a higher overall census in 2017.

YOUTH UNSHELTERED CENSUS METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The youth unsheltered census was developed to be more inclusive of homeless children and youth under the age of 25. Many homeless children and youth do not use homeless services, are unrecognizable to adult unsheltered census volunteers, and may be in unsheltered locations that are difficult to find. Therefore, traditional unsheltered census efforts are not as effective in reaching youth. 2017 was a baseline year for enumerating youth, with the goal to improve upon youth census techniques used across the United States in 2015 and have a successful enumeration of the homeless youth in Solano County. This method is strongly recommended by HUD and is a special expertise of ASR.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recognize that youth do not commonly come with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. For this reason, they have accepted and recommended that communities enumerates youth at times when they can be seen, rather

than during general outreach times. This process takes a different planning technique than used for the adult unsheltered census.

Planning for the 2017 supplemental youth unsheltered census included youth homeless service providers. First Place for Youth recruited youth currently experiencing homelessness to attend a focus group in December 2016 to identify locations where youth experiencing homelessness were known to congregate. This group also determined the best time to enumerate youth was between 3 and 7 PM.

The youth unsheltered census began at 3 PM out of the youth-specific deployment center at First Place for Youth, with three teams comprised of two youth and one to two supervisors. They canvassed pre-determined “hot spots” in Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo. Youth workers were paid \$15 per hour for their time, including the training conducted prior to the census. Youth were trained on where and how to identify homeless youth as well as how to record the data.

SHELTER CENSUS METHODOLOGY

GOAL

The goal of the shelter census was to gain an accurate enumeration of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across Solano County. These data were vital to gaining an accurate overall enumeration of the homeless population and understanding where homeless persons received shelter.

DEFINITION

- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).

RESEARCH DESIGN

All shelter data were collected by HomeBase’s Solano team. Shelters reported the number of individuals they had sleeping at their shelter the night before the census (January 23) to avoid duplication. They also reported basic demographic information.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The survey of 439 homeless persons was conducted in order to yield qualitative data about the homeless community in Solano County. These data are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important for future program development and planning. The survey elicited information such as gender, family status, military service, length and recurrence of homelessness, usual nighttime accommodations, causes of homelessness, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by homeless workers and shelter team members, who were trained by Applied Survey Research. Training sessions led service providers and potential interviewers through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Homeless workers were compensated at a rate of \$7 per completed survey.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily collected if an incentive gift was offered to respondents in appreciation for their time and participation. Socks were given as an incentive for participating in the 2017 homeless survey. The socks were easily obtained and distributed, were thought to have wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget. This approach enabled surveys to be conducted at any time during the day. The gift proved to be a great incentive and was widely accepted among survey respondents.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

- The 2017 Solano Homeless Survey was administered by the trained survey team between February 7, 2017, and February 24, 2017.
- In all, the survey team collected 439 unique surveys using a stratified quota sample based on shelter status, shelter location, and geography.

SURVEY SAMPLING

Based on the Point-in-Time Census of homeless persons with a randomized survey sampling process, the 439 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3.73% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Solano County.

The 2017 survey was administered in both transitional housing facilities and on the street. In order to ensure the representation of transitional housing residents, who can be underrepresented in a street-based survey, survey quotas were created to reach individuals and heads of family households living in these programs. Individuals residing in emergency shelters were reached through street surveys during the day when emergency shelters were closed.

Strategic attempts were made via a stratified quota sample to reach individuals in various geographic locations and of various subset groups such as homeless youth, minority ethnic groups, military veterans, domestic violence victims, and families.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were asked to employ an “every third encounter” survey approach. Survey workers were instructed to approach every third person they encountered whom they considered to be an eligible survey respondent. If the person declined to take the survey, the survey worker could approach the next eligible person they encountered. After completing a survey, the randomized approach was resumed. It is important to recognize that while efforts are made to randomize the respondents, it is not a random sample methodology. This is a challenging approach in a small and geographically diverse survey population, but surveyors did their best to follow the sampling plan and reduce selection bias.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where the survey occurred. During the interviews, respondents were encouraged to be candid in their responses and were informed that these responses would be framed as general findings, would be kept confidential, and would not be traceable to any one individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

To avoid potential duplication of respondents, the survey requested respondents’ initials and date of birth, so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents’ anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents’ date of birth, initials,

gender, ethnicity, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

There may be some variance in the data that the homeless individuals self-reported. However, using a peer interviewing methodology is believed to allow the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. Further, service providers and County staff members recommended individuals who would be the best to conduct interviews and they received comprehensive training about how to conduct interviews. The service providers and County staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.



Appendix 2: Definitions and Abbreviations

Chronic homelessness – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an unaccompanied individual or head of a family household with a disabling condition who has either continuously experienced homelessness for a year or more, or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Disabling condition – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual's ability to live independently; a developmental disability; or HIV/AIDS.

Emergency shelter – The provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 90 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

Family – A household with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18.

Homeless – Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

HUD – Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Sheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single individual – An unaccompanied adult over the age of 18.

Transition-age youth (TAY) – Young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Transitional housing – Housing in which homeless individuals may live up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. Supportive services – which help promote residential stability, increased skill level or income, and greater self-determination – may be

provided by the organization managing the housing, or coordinated by that organization and provided by other public or private agencies. Transitional housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site, or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

Unaccompanied children – Children under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Unsheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.



SOLANO COUNTY
2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT





SOLANO COUNTY

2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

- The PIT Count is conducted at least biannually in Solano County; the last count was conducted in January of 2015.
- This year, the unsheltered census occurred on January 24, 2017, from approximately 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.; the shelter census was conducted on the previous evening in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities.
- It is a requirement to receive homeless assistance funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

- The PIT Count provides a snapshot of the number and demographics of those experiencing homelessness in the region on a given night.
- It allows Solano County to track trends concerning subpopulations, identify potential gaps in services and informs future planning for homeless services.
- It is an important tool for the implementation of the current Regional Strategic Plan in Solano County.

Point-in-Time Definition of Homelessness

- **Sheltered:**

An individual or family living in a supervised public or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements (emergency shelters, transitional housing, and hotels or motels paid for by charitable organizations or government entities).

- **Unsheltered:**

An individual or family with a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

- **Excluded persons:**

“Doubled-up”, non-HIC shelters, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, private property, unsafe areas

Methodology

- **Census**
 - Observation-only *general* street count
 - Observation-only *youth* street count
 - Shelter Count
- **Survey**
 - Representative sample (N=439), confidence interval +/- 3.73% (95%)
 - Shelter staff and peer administered
- **Analysis and Reporting**
 - Census data = empirical
 - Sub-population data derived from survey sample
 - Federal reporting standards



Solano City-County Coordinating Council
Photo credit: Kimberly K. Fu

Methodological Improvements

- **Special Deployments**
 - Fairfield Police Department pre-assignments
 - Vacaville Code Enforcement & Police Department
 - Travis Air Force Base
 - Fairfield outreach workers (Berkeley F&H)
- **Youth Count**
 - Focus group to pre-determine “hot spots”
 - Increased participation
- **Other Factors**
 - Flooding

Results: 2017

Census Population: Longitudinal Trend



2015 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population



2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population



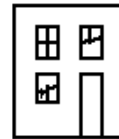
16%
Emergency
Shelter



13%
Transitional
Housing



30%
On the Street



4%
Abandoned
Buildings



11%
Vans/ Cars/ RVs



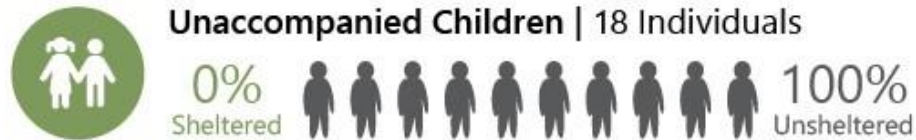
6%
Encampments

Geographic Distribution Trend

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED		SHELTERED		TOTAL		
	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017	15-17 NET CHANGE
Incorporated	684	826	287	252	971	1078	+107
Benicia	36	11	4	0	40	11	-29
Dixon	11	17	12	12	23	29	+6
Fairfield	166	423	178	133	344	556	+212
Rio Vista	19	3	0	0	19	3	-16
Suisun City	13	30	8	0	21	30	+9
Vacaville	79	117	43	32	122	149	+27
Vallejo	360	225	42	75	402	300	-102
Unincorporated/ Scattered Site	111	91	0	63	111	154	+43
Total	795	917	287	315	1,082	1,232	+150

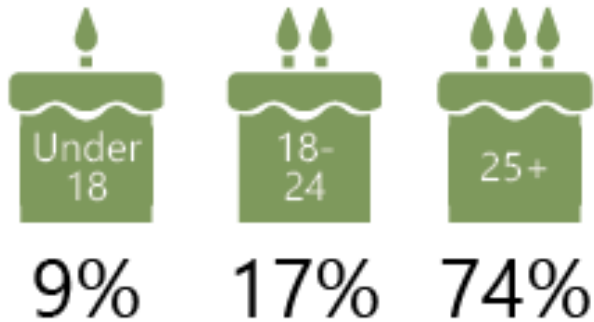
Subpopulation Data

Subpopulation Data*

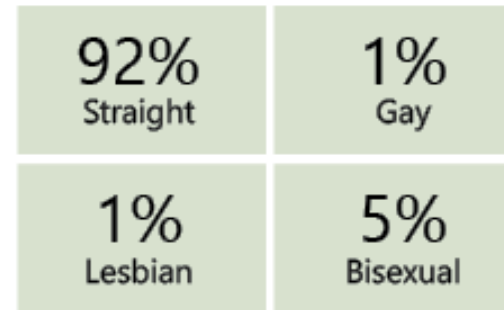


Profiles

Age



Sexual Orientation (Top 4 Responses)



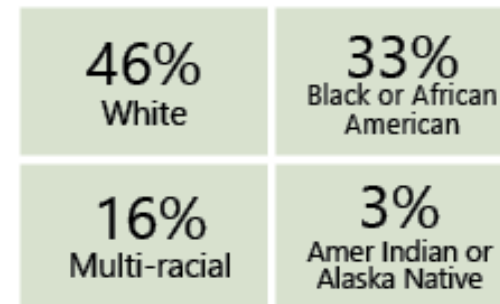
Gender

(Top 3 Responses)



Race/Ethnicity

(Top 4 Responses)



Profiles

Residence Prior to Homelessness



Length of Time in Solano County

(of those living in Solano County prior to becoming homeless)



Have Children Under Age 18



Seven percent (7%) of those with children under 18 currently have all of their children living with them

First Homelessness Episode



Those experiencing homelessness for the first time who were homeless for one year or more

51%

Age at First Episode of Homelessness



Foster Care



of survey respondents that have ever been in the system at some point

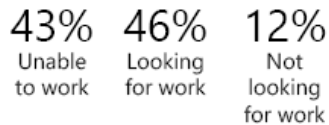
Profiles

Employment

Employment Status

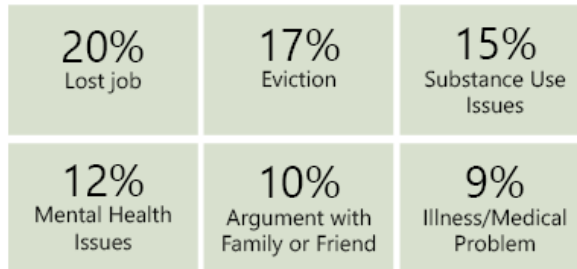


If Unemployed, Currently...



Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness

(Top 6 Responses)



Interest in Permanent Housing

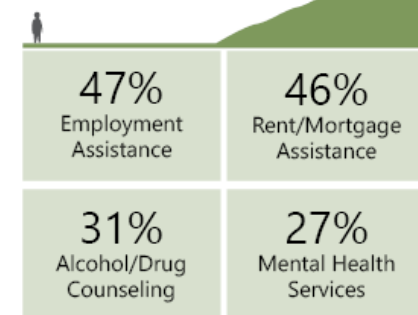
91%

of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would want to move into safe, affordable permanent housing were it available



What Might Have Prevented Homelessness

(Top 4 Responses)



Profiles

What is a disabling condition?



62%

of survey respondents reported a disabling condition

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

Health Conditions

Current health conditions affecting housing stability or employment.

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



48%

Psychiatric or emotional conditions

PTSD

24%

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder



8%

Traumatic brain injury



26%

Physical disability



32%

Chronic health problems



2%

AIDS/HIV related



41%

Drug or alcohol abuse

Profiles

Services and Assistance



70%

of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits

Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance (Top 6 Responses)

26%
Don't Think I'm Eligible

21%
Don't Want Government Assistance

17%
No Permanent Address

15%
Applied and Waiting for a Response

14%
Never Applied

12%
Don't have ID

Services Currently Accessing (Top 6 Responses)

58%
Free Meals

43%
Emergency Shelter

37%
Day Services

37%
Health Services

22%
Bus Passes

22%
Mental Health Services

What Does This Mean for Solano County?

- Data indicates the need for a particular focus on:
 - Resourcing of the Regional Strategic Plan to address homelessness across Solano County;
 - Ongoing development and maintenance of a high quality Coordinated Entry System;
 - Development of additional homelessness prevention resources and interventions;
 - Bolstering the availability of low-barrier housing options of all types; and
 - Need for development of additional permanent housing resources in Solano County.

Thank You

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