

2013 Monterey County

# HOMELESS

P O I N T - I N - T I M E

# CENSUS & SURVEY



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Acknowledgements..... 3

Project Sponsors ..... 3

## Introduction ..... 4

## Count of Homeless Individuals..... 6

Total Population ..... 6

HUD-Prioritized Subpopulations ..... 10

Chronically Homeless Individuals & Families ... 10

Homeless Veterans..... 12

Homeless Families with Children ..... 13

Unaccompanied Homeless Children & Single

Transition Age Youth..... 14

## Characteristics & Experiences of Homeless Individuals ..... 15

Brief Snapshot of the Homeless Population..... 15

Race/Ethnicity..... 15

Employment..... 16

Foster Care..... 16

Digital Access..... 16

Prior to Becoming Homeless..... 17

Prior Place of Residence..... 17

Prior Living Accommodations ..... 18

Becoming Homeless..... 18

Causes of Homelessness..... 19

Episodes of Homelessness.....19

Length of Homelessness .....20

Health, Economic & Social Barriers.....21

HUD-Defined Disabling Conditions.....22

Obstacles to Securing Employment .....23

Obstacles to Securing Permanent Housing .....23

Violence & Criminal Justice .....24

Access to Support Services..... 25

Government Assistance.....26

Other Services and Assistance.....27

Access to Care.....27

Income ..... 28

## A Spotlight on Unaccompanied Homeless Children & Transition Age Youth ..... 30

## Conclusion..... 33

## Appendix I: Methodology..... 35

## Appendix II: Homeless Census Summary..... 41

## Appendix III: Definitions & Abbreviations ..... 42

## Appendix IV: Endnotes ..... 43

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The considerable talents and efforts of many individuals helped to ensure the success of this endeavor. Monterey County Department of Social Services, Monterey County Behavioral Health, the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, United Way Monterey County, and Applied Survey Research (ASR) would like to thank the many service providers who facilitated the process of homeless peer enumeration by recruiting census workers, assisted in the administration of surveys, and opened the doors of their facilities to host training sessions, deploy census workers, and distribute surveys. Finally, Monterey County, the United Way Monterey County, and ASR would like to thank the homeless census and survey workers, as well as the survey respondents, whose efforts are reflected throughout the findings of this report.

### Project Sponsors

Monterey County Department of Social Services, Monterey County Behavioral Health, and United Way Monterey County

### Project Committee

Yuri C. Anderson, United Way Monterey County ■ Kathy Damon, Coalition of Homeless Services Providers ■ Vincent Delgado, Community Human Services ■ Fatima Dias, United Way Monterey County ■ Brittany English, Dorothy's Place ■ Jody Gully, Interim, Inc. ■ Tom Melville, Coalition of Homeless Services Providers ■ Barbara L. Mitchell, Interim, Inc. ■ Cindy Parr, San Benito Homeless Coalition ■ Glorietta F. Rowland, Community Action Partnership & Monterey County Department of Social Services ■ Katherine J. Thoeni, Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services ■ Anne Wheelis, Monterey County Office of Education

### Applied Survey Research

ASR is a non-profit social research organization with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and research.

Project Director: Peter Connery

Primary Research Analysts & Authors:

Ken Ithiphol ■ Laura Connery

Research Analysts: Susan Brutschy ■ James Connery ■ John Connery ■ Amanda Gonzales ■ Samantha Green ■ Javier Salcedo

Graphic Design: Michelle Luedtke

### Training Centers, Deployment Sites & Survey Distribution Centers

First United Methodist Church, Salinas ■ Salinas Valley Community Church, Salinas ■ Salvation Army, Seaside ■ Shoreline Community Church, Monterey

## INTRODUCTION

Close to two million people in the United States experience homelessness each year.<sup>1</sup> For most, this is caused by the gap between income and the cost of housing. Yet for many, health conditions, mental illness, substance abuse, trauma, and lack of support services prevent them from obtaining stable housing.

Every two years, all jurisdictions across the United States receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for the homeless are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to conduct a point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons sometime during the last ten days of January. The data collected through these counts help the federal government and local jurisdictions better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Additionally, local jurisdictions use the findings of their point-in-time count to apply for federal funding for homeless programs. Monterey County currently receives \$1.9 million in federal funds for homeless services.

### Project Overview & Goals

Monterey County Department of Social Services, Monterey County Behavioral Health, United Way Monterey County, and the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers partnered with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey.

Together, they identified several important project goals:

- » To obtain an accurate count of the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the county;
- » To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds;
- » To enhance 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, and to track progress toward ending homelessness; and
- » To assess the status of specific subpopulations.

In this study, HUD's definition of homelessness for point-in-time counts was used. The 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.<sup>2</sup>

The methodology had three major components:

1. **Shelter Count:** A point-in-time count of the sheltered homeless population on the night of January 22, 2013, including those staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and hotels/motels using vouchers;
2. **Street Count:** A point-in-time count of the unsheltered homeless population on January 23, 2013 from approximately 6 a.m. to noon, including those living outdoors (on the street, in vehicles, in encampments); and
3. **Survey:** A qualitative survey of a representative sample of the homeless population, administered between March 5, 2013 and March 25, 2013.

For a detailed explanation of the methodology used for the 2013 Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey, please refer to Appendix I.

The results of both the census and survey presented in this report provide invaluable data about the size and characteristics of the homeless population in Monterey County. These data can help guide community-wide efforts to mitigate and end homelessness.

## COUNT OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

The 2013 point-in-time count included a complete enumeration of all sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons residing in Monterey County. The following section presents the results from the point-in-time count, including breakdowns by household type, age, gender, and geographic region. Additionally, an annual estimate is included to give an estimation of the number of unique persons who experience homelessness throughout a given year in Monterey County.

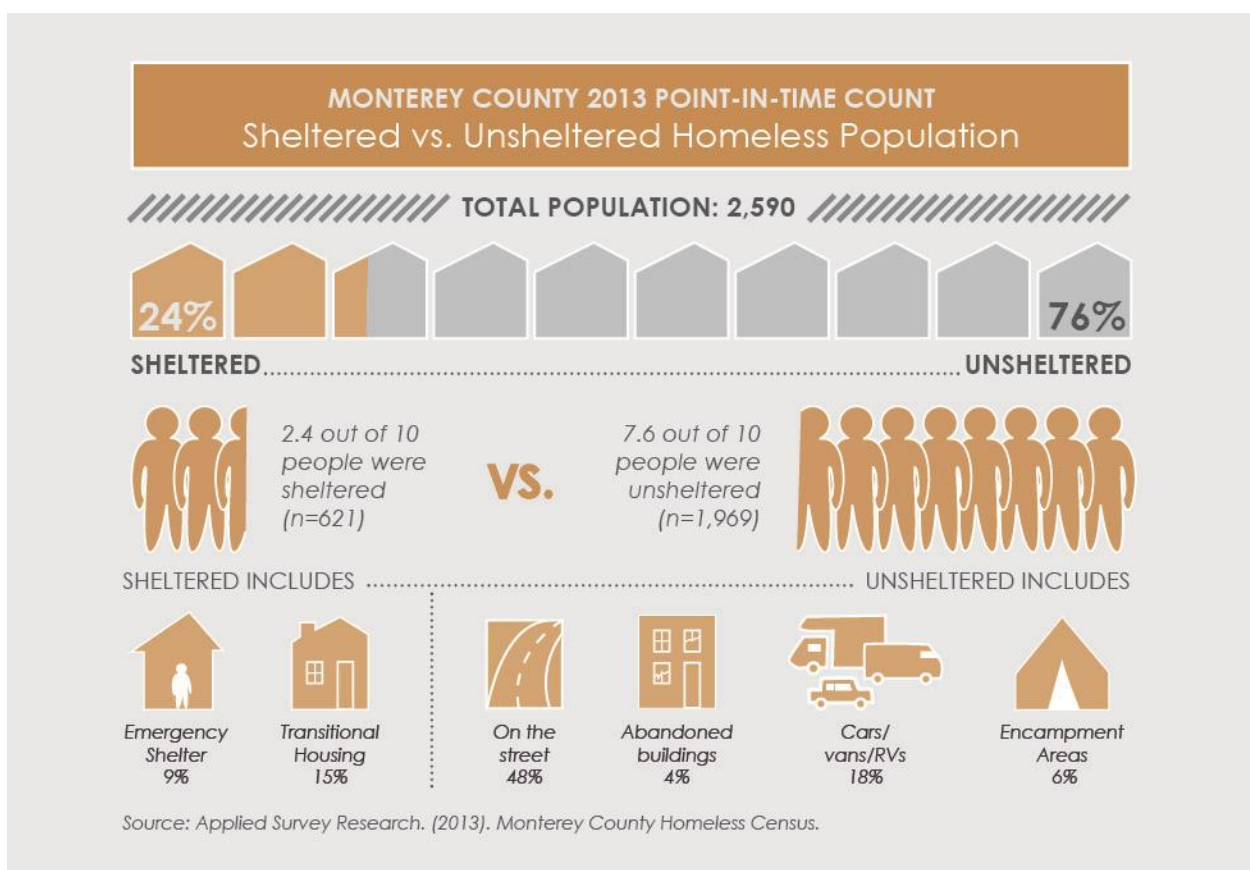
### Total Population

A total of 2,590 homeless individuals were counted in Monterey County on January 23, 2013, which represents a 3% increase from 2011. Of those counted in 2013, 76% were unsheltered, a 7% increase from 2011. The majority (78%) of the homeless population was comprised of people in households without children, while family households comprised 21% and households with only children (unaccompanied children under 18) represented less than 1% in 2013. When looking at the total homeless population by jurisdiction, 23% were counted in Monterey, 21% were in Salinas, 16% were in Marina, and 8% in Seaside.

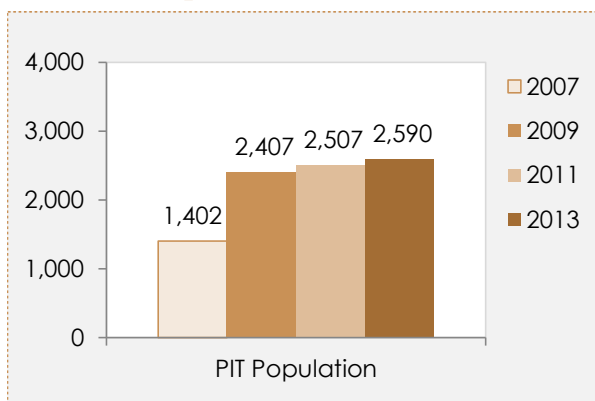
The total point-in-time population continued to increase from 2011 to 2013, as it has done every count since 2007. Between 2011 and 2013, there was a decrease in the number of homeless who were sheltered (49 people) and an increase in the unsheltered population (an additional 132 people).

As the homeless count on January 23, 2013 only provides a snapshot of Monterey County at one single point-in-time, it may not adequately reflect the number people experiencing homelessness at a different time of year nor may it reflect the number of people who access the homeless support system over a given year. Therefore, the Corporation for Supportive Housing's annual estimation formula was used to extrapolate the number of persons experiencing homelessness in Monterey County over the course of a year, which is important for program planning purposes. This estimate was 6,423 unique individuals experiencing homelessness in 2013, which represents nearly 2% of the overall population of 411,385 people in Monterey County.<sup>3</sup> The annual estimate is a multiplier of the point-in-time count and is dependent upon measuring lengths of homelessness. The 2013 annual estimate for Monterey County represents a 58% increase from the 2011 annual estimate. In 2013, there were increases seen in the newly homeless population and increases in length of homelessness, which both contributed to the overall increase of the annual estimate from 2011. For more information about how the annual estimate is calculated, please refer to the full methodology in Appendix I.

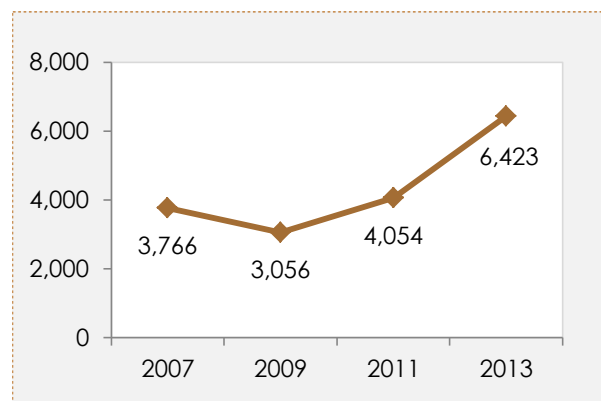




**Figure 1: Total Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Population**

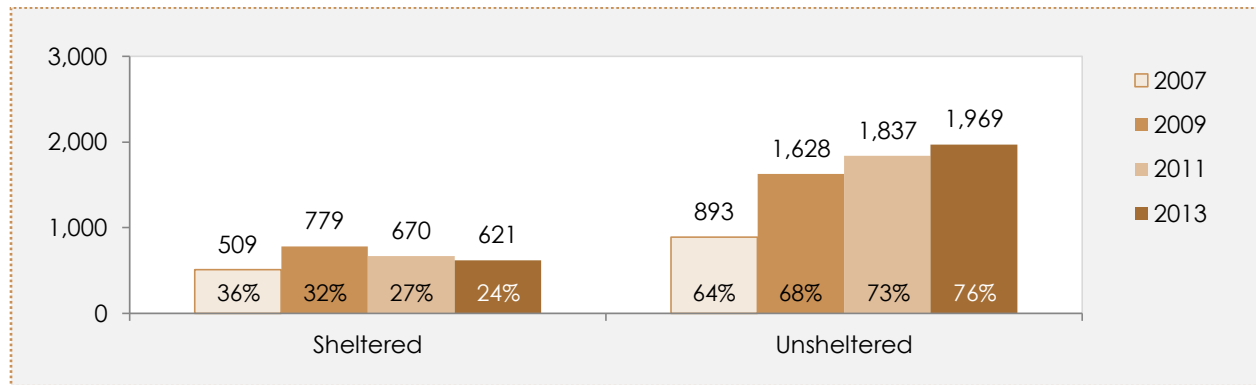


**Figure 2: Annual Estimate of Homelessness**



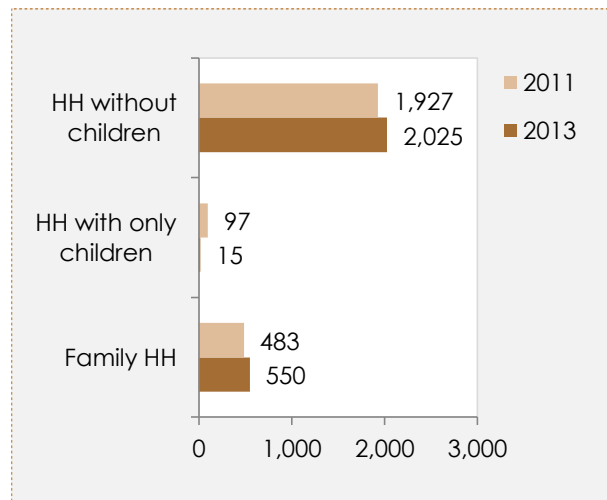
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey.  
 Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey.  
 Note: The 2007, 2011, and 2013 Homeless Census and Survey efforts were conducted by Applied Survey Research. The 2009 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey was conducted by Harder and Company Community Research.

**Figure 3: Total PIT Population by Shelter Status**

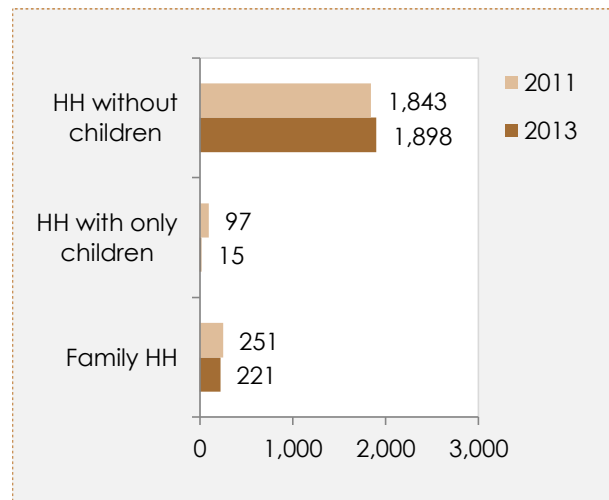


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census.  
Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Census.

**Figure 4: Total PIT Population by Household (HH) Type (Number of Persons)**

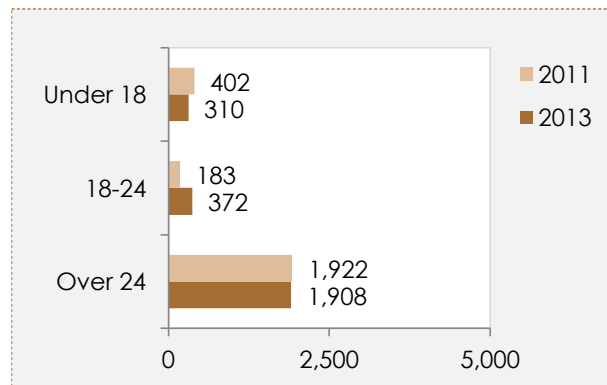


**Figure 5: Total PIT Population by Household Type (Number of Household Units)**

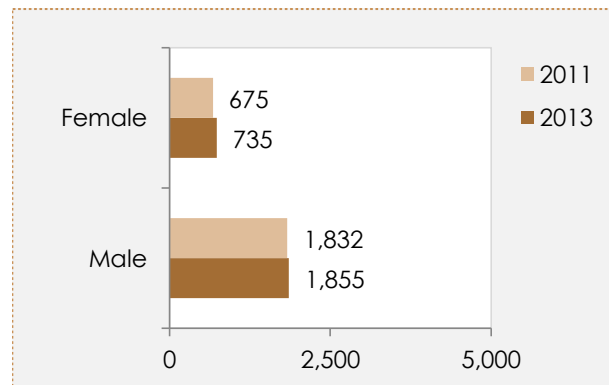


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census.

**Figure 6: Total PIT Population by Age Group**



**Figure 7: Total PIT Population by Gender**



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census.  
Note: The 18-24 age group in 2011 does not include persons in families.



**Figure 8: Total PIT Population by Jurisdiction**

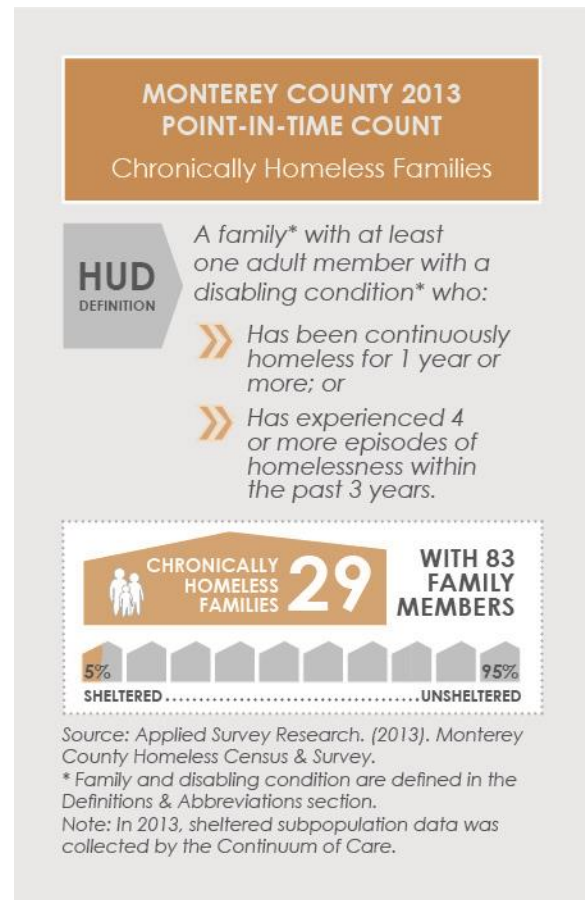
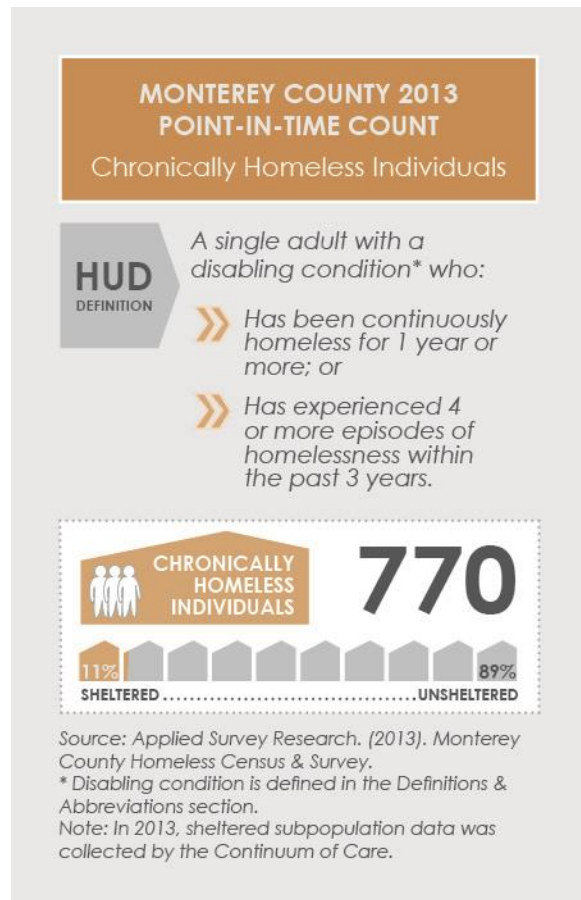
Jurisdiction	Sheltered			Unsheltered			Total		
	2011	2013	Net Change	2011	2013	Net Change	2011	2013	Net Change
<b>Incorporated</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>-74</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>-173</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>-247</b>
Monterey	13	76	+63	427	510	+83	440	586	+146
Salinas	141	128	-13	516	404	-112	657	532	-125
Marina	367	302	-65	76	117	+41	443	419	-24
Seaside	83	24	-59	46	171	+125	129	195	+66
Sand City	0	0	0	71	38	-33	71	38	-33
Gonzales	0	0	0	73	8	-65	73	8	-65
Pacific Grove	0	0	0	61	6	-55	61	6	-55
King City	0	0	0	33	6	-27	33	6	-27
Greenfield	0	0	0	99	0	-99	99	0	-99
Del Rey Oaks	0	0	0	25	0	-25	25	0	-25
Carmel	0	0	0	4	0	-4	4	0	-4
Soledad	0	0	0	2	0	-2	2	0	-2
<b>Unincorporated</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>+25</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>+91</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>+116</b>
Pajaro	66	91	+25	214	124	-90	280	215	-65
Prunedale	0	0	0	7	72	+65	7	72	+65
Other	0	0	0	183	299	+116	183	299	+116
<b>County Office of Education</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>-49</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>+132</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>+83</b>

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census.

## HUD-Prioritized Subpopulations

In order to move towards the goal of ending homelessness, the federal plan known as Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness identified four primary subpopulations upon which to focus: chronically homeless individuals and families, homeless veterans, homeless families, and unaccompanied homeless children (under 18) and transition age youth (18-24).<sup>4</sup> The following section of the report provides a summary of findings on the count of these homeless subpopulations. Data on chronic homelessness and homeless veterans represent a combination of: a) sheltered data submitted by shelter providers, and b) extrapolated unsheltered data based on the point-in-time count and a qualitative survey of a representative sample of homeless individuals in Monterey County, which is a HUD approved method for collecting this information. Based on the 2013 point-in-time count, and with a randomized survey sampling process, the 404 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire homeless population. While this is a widely acceptable confidence interval in social research, the survey data is limited by respondents' willingness to share personal information with surveyors. For more information about the survey process and protocol, please refer to Appendix I.

### Chronically Homeless Individuals & Families

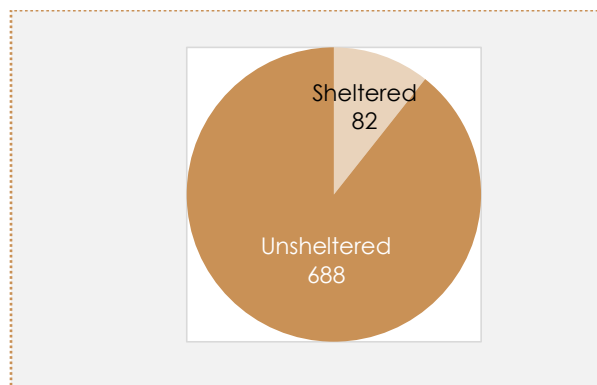


The mortality rate for those experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than the general population.<sup>5</sup> The public costs incurred by those experiencing extended periods of homelessness include emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and regular access to existing poverty and homeless services.<sup>6</sup>

There were an estimated 770 chronically homeless individuals living in Monterey County in 2013. The majority (89%) of chronically homeless persons were unsheltered. Additionally, there were a total of 29 chronically homeless families with 83 family members, 95% of whom were unsheltered.

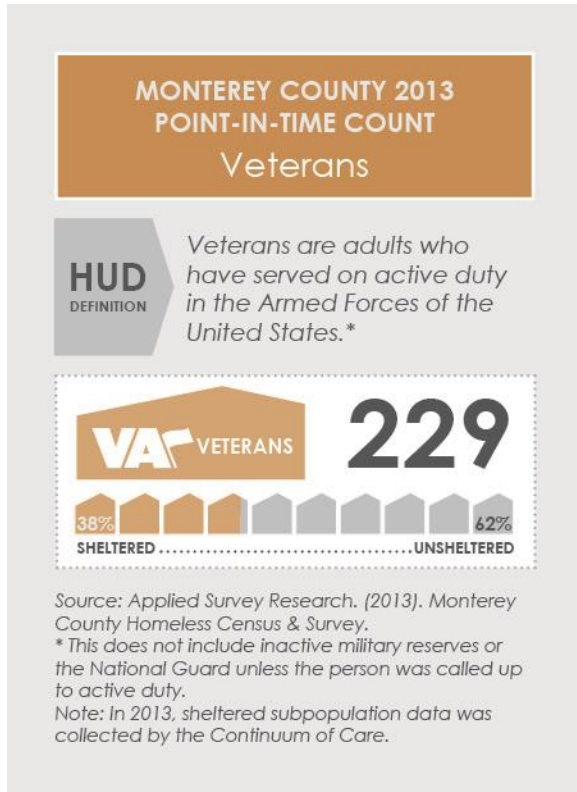
The number of chronically homeless individuals as a percentage of the total PIT homeless population in Monterey County in 2013 (30%) was double that of the nation in 2012 (16%).<sup>7</sup> The federal strategic plan to end homelessness includes a plan to end chronic homelessness by 2015 by focusing on permanent supportive housing for those with the greatest needs and barriers to housing stability.

**Figure 9: Estimated Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals (2013)**



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013).  
Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey.  
Note: In 2013, sheltered subpopulation data was collected by the Continuum of Care.

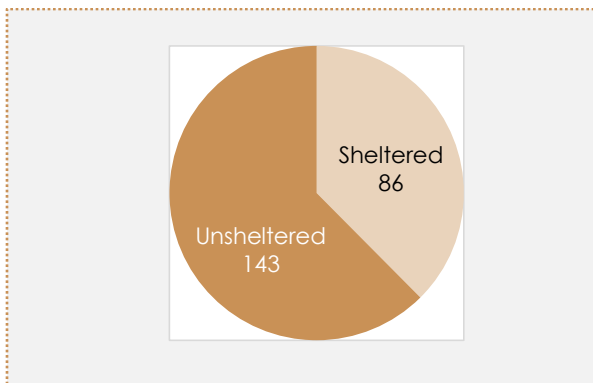
Homeless Veterans



Many U.S. veterans experience conditions which place them at an increased risk for homelessness. Veterans have higher rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, and substance abuse.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

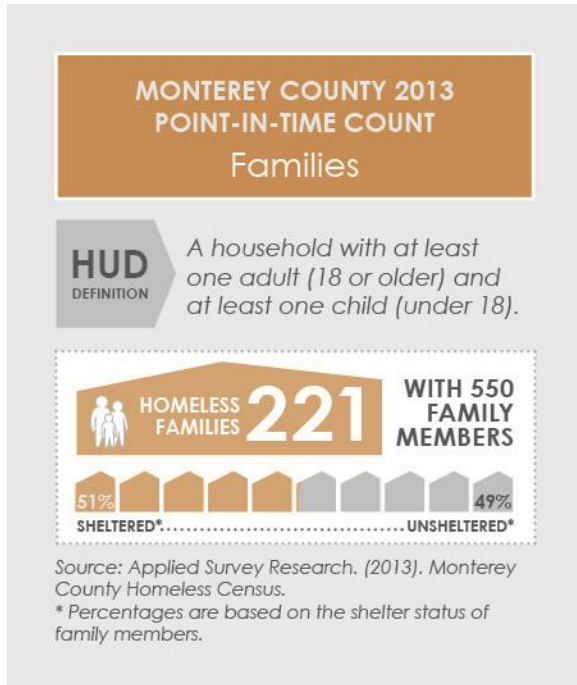
There were a total of 229 homeless veterans in Monterey County in 2013, which represents 10% of the adult homeless population, a smaller percentage than the national percentage in 2012 (13%).<sup>10</sup> Sixty-two percent of homeless veterans were unsheltered and 4% were female. Additionally, 33% of veterans were chronically homeless.

**Figure 10: Estimated Number of Homeless Veterans (2013)**



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey.  
 Note: In 2013, sheltered subpopulation data was collected by the Continuum of Care.

Homeless Families with Children

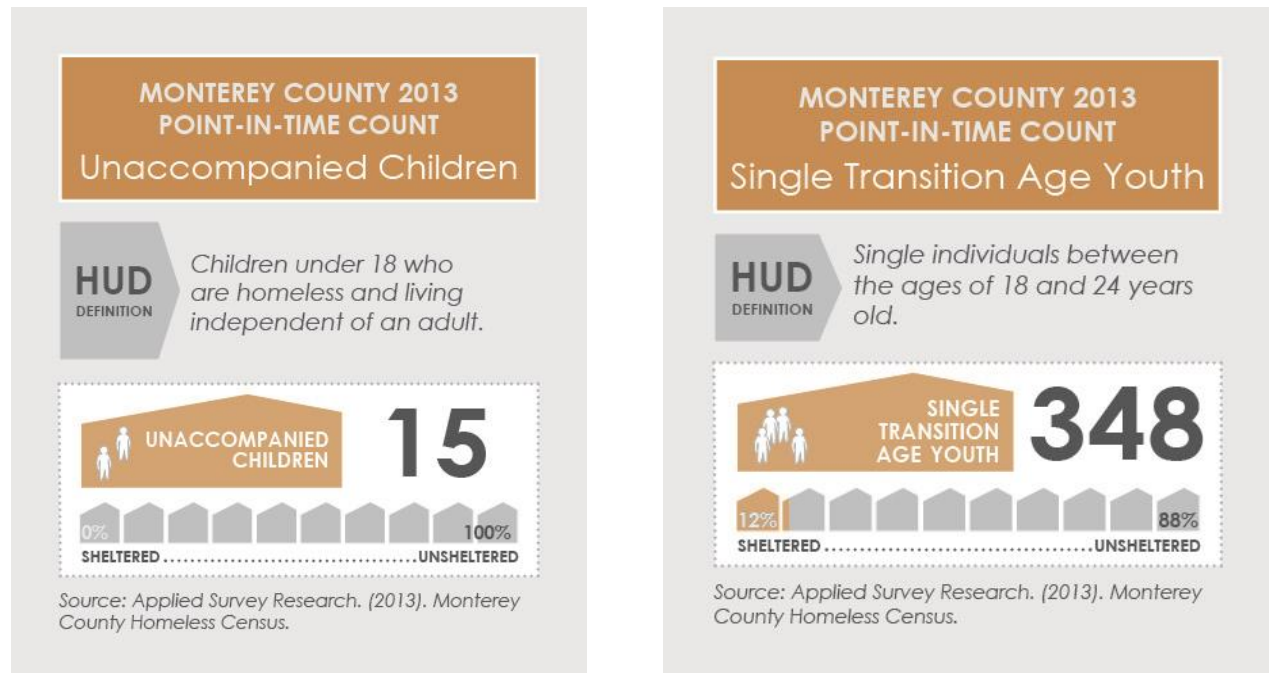


Children in families experiencing homelessness have increased incidences of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems, than children with consistent living accommodations.<sup>11</sup>

In Monterey County, there were 221 homeless families in 2013, which represent a total of 550 people. The number of people in families increased between 2011 and 2013, from 483 to 550 persons. In 2013, persons in families represented 21% of the overall homeless population, which was less than the national percentage (38%).<sup>12</sup> Similar to the upward trend in Monterey County, the number of persons in families experiencing homelessness nationally has increased by over 1% between 2011 and 2012.<sup>13</sup> It should be noted that these numbers do not include “double up” families who HUD excludes from their definition of homelessness, but are the most common form of family homelessness.



## Unaccompanied Homeless Children &amp; Single Transition Age Youth



While there is little documentation of the extent of homelessness among unaccompanied children and transition age youth, there is evidence to suggest a growing national subpopulation.<sup>14</sup> In Monterey County, there were a total of 15 unaccompanied homeless children under the age of 18 in 2013, a decrease from 97 unaccompanied homeless children identified in the 2011 count. Additionally, 348 single transition age youth were counted in Monterey County in 2013. Although 183 single transition age youth were counted in 2011, it is important to note that the 2011 and 2013 transition age youth counts are not directly comparable due to a more rigorous methodology to capture age information and estimate the number of transition age youth in 2013, including:

- » Age information and estimates for homeless individuals in additional unsheltered settings, such as encampments, vehicles, and abandoned buildings; and
- » Age information for sheltered and unsheltered adult members in family and non-family households.

In total, 363 unaccompanied homeless children and single transition age youth comprised 14% of the total point-in-time homeless population in Monterey County in 2013. The large majority (95%) of unaccompanied homeless children and transition age youth were unsheltered in 2013. In combination with persons in families under the age of 25, all (682) children and transition age youth (unaccompanied/single and those in families) comprised over a quarter (26%) of the total homeless population in 2013. For qualitative data on unaccompanied homeless children and transition age youth, please see the section, A Spotlight on Unaccompanied Children & Transition Age Youth.



## CHARACTERISTICS & EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

The following section provides an overview of the findings generated from a representative survey of homeless individuals in Monterey County. Included in this section is qualitative information about the homeless population, including causes and length of homelessness, previous and current living accommodations, and obstacles to obtaining permanent housing. The following section highlights qualitative data obtained from a survey of 404 homeless individuals in Monterey County in 2013. Trend data is also provided where appropriate.

### Brief Snapshot of the Homeless Population

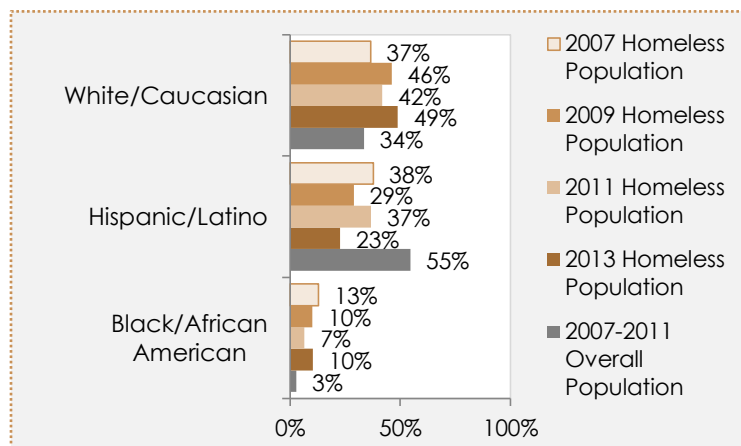
The race/ethnic distribution of homeless persons in Monterey County has changed from 2011 to 2013, with a higher percentage of White/Caucasian homeless in 2013 and a large decrease in the Hispanic/Latino homeless population from 2011. In comparison to the overall population of Monterey, there was a disproportionate number of White/Caucasian and African American persons experiencing homelessness.

The average age of the homeless population in Monterey County was 42 years old in 2013. Data also showed that 13% of the homeless population had been in foster care (an increase from 10% in 2011), 41% had a working cell phone, and 38% used the internet at least once a week.

While the unemployment rate for the overall population in Monterey County was 14% in January 2013, the unemployment rate among the homeless population was 85% (which represents a decrease from 88% in 2011).<sup>15</sup> Of those who were unemployed, 75% had been unemployed for one year or longer.

### Race/Ethnicity

**Figure 11: Race/Ethnic Distribution (Top 3 Responses)**

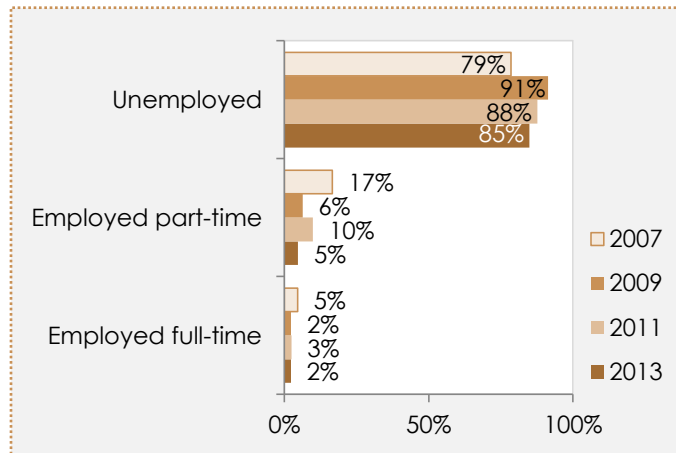


*N: 2007 homeless=401; 2009 homeless=386; 2011 homeless=485; 2013 homeless=404; 2007-2011 overall=411,385.*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. (2013). 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

Employment

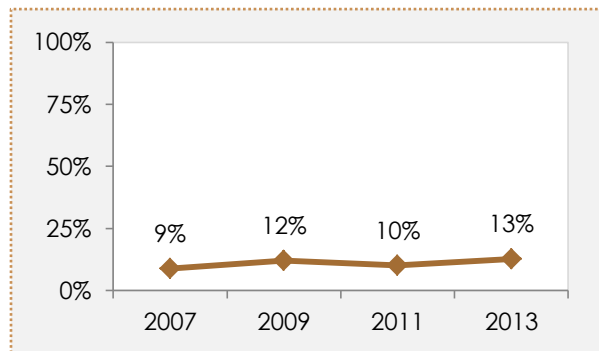
**Figure 12: Current Employment Status (Top 3 Responses)**



N: 2007=402; 2009=382; 2011=517; 2013=398  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.  
 Note: More response options were added in 2013.

Foster Care

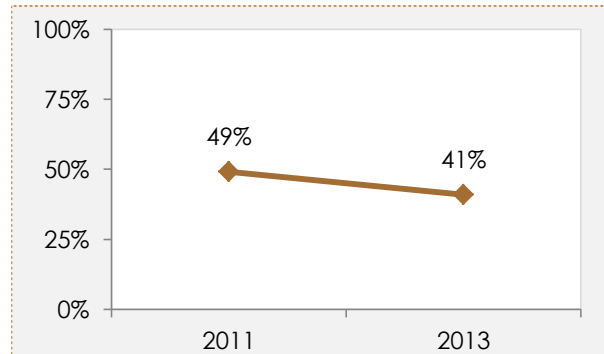
**Figure 13: Percent Who Have Ever Been in Foster Care**



N: 2007=396; 2009=363; 2011=491; 2013=403  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

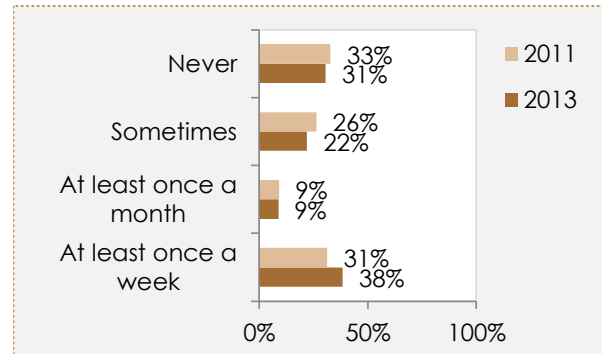
Digital Access

**Figure 14: Percent with a Working Cell Phone**



N: 2011=491; 2013=401  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

**Figure 15: Frequency of Internet Utilization**

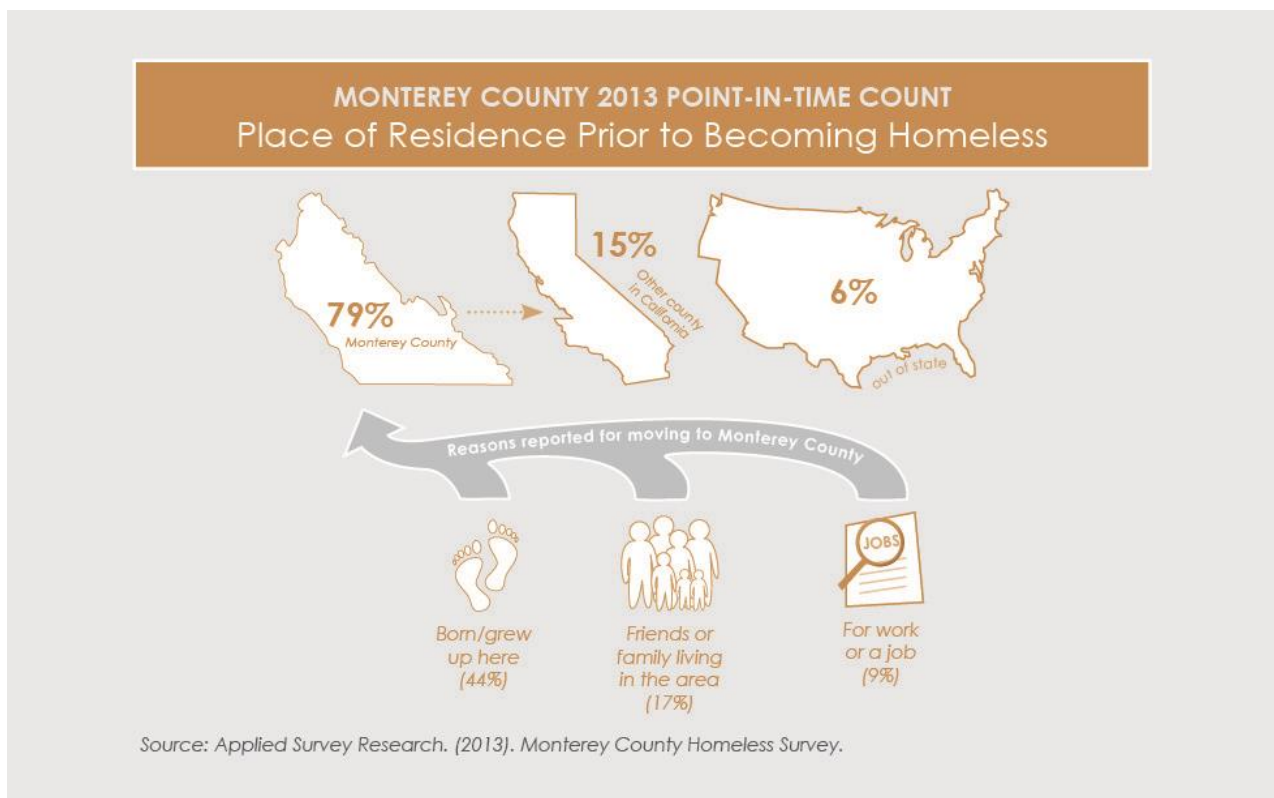


N: 2011=507; 2013=395

## Prior to Becoming Homeless

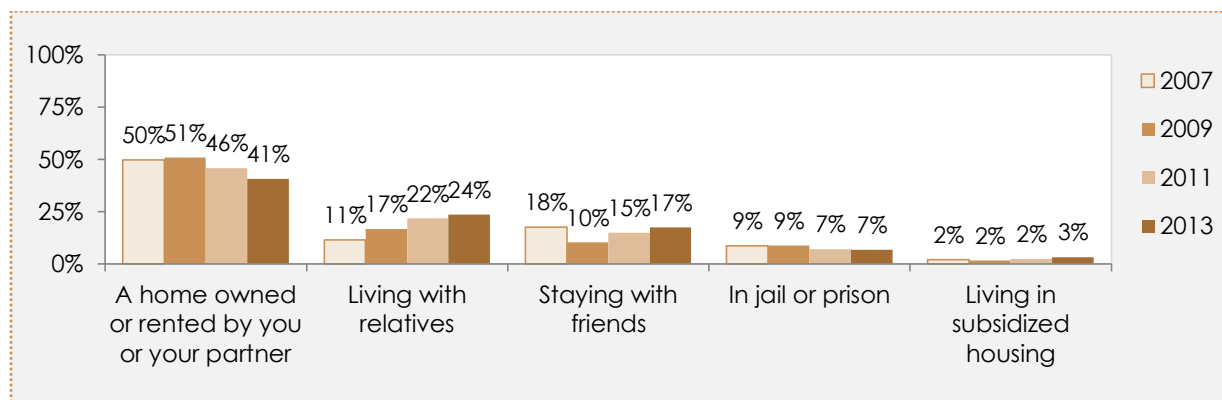
The majority (79%) of the homeless population were living in Monterey County when they became homeless, which is an increase from 72% in 2011. Of those, 55% had been living Monterey County for 10 years or more, which was a decrease from 65% in 2011 but similar to 2009 (53%). In terms of living accommodations prior to becoming homeless, 41% were living in a home owned or rented by them or their partner and 24% were living with friends/relatives (up from 11% in 2007). The steady increase of those previously living with friends/relatives reflects an increase in the number of persons who are living on the edge of homelessness.

### Prior Place of Residence



## Prior Living Accommodations

**Figure 16: Living Accommodations Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless (Top 5 Responses in 2013)**



N: 2007=395; 2009=377; 2011=514; 2013=380

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

## Becoming Homeless

An individual's experience with homelessness is often the result of multiple and compounding causes originating at both the individual and community level.<sup>16</sup>

In a struggling economy, many face financial vulnerability to homelessness.<sup>17</sup> Data showed that between 2009 and 2011, the primary causes of homelessness reported by the homeless population have stayed consistent, with the top response being job loss (26% in 2013).

The experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of residential instability for many homeless individuals. Individuals may fall in and out of homelessness as they piece together different subsistence strategies and housing opportunities, and data suggests that this is the case for many in Monterey County. When asked about the number of homeless episodes they have experienced in the past year, and in the past 3 years in a subsequent question, data showed an upward trend in the percentage who have experienced a previous episode and a downward trend in those experiencing homelessness for the first time. The percentage who were experiencing their first episode of homeless increased from 43% in 2011 to 66% in 2013. Nearly two-thirds (65%) had been homeless for a year or more, which was an increase from 59% in 2011.

Causes of Homelessness

**Figure 17: Primary Causes of Current Episode of Homelessness (Top 5 Responses)**

	2007	2009	2011	2013
1	Lost job (31%)	Lost job (33%)	Lost job (44%)	Lost job (26%)
2	Alcohol or drug use (24%)	Alcohol or drug use (15%)	Alcohol or drug use (39%)	Alcohol or drug use (20%)
3	Mental health issues (5%) Divorce/separation (5%)	Incarceration (7%)	Lost income (25%)	Divorce/separation/ breakup (14%)
4	Illness/medical problem (5%) Incarceration (5%)	Mental health issues (7%)	Conflict with family/housemates (15%)	Conflict with family/housemates (10%)
5	Landlord raised rent (4%)	Argument/family or friend asked you to leave (6%)	Family/domestic violence (12%)	Incarceration (7%)

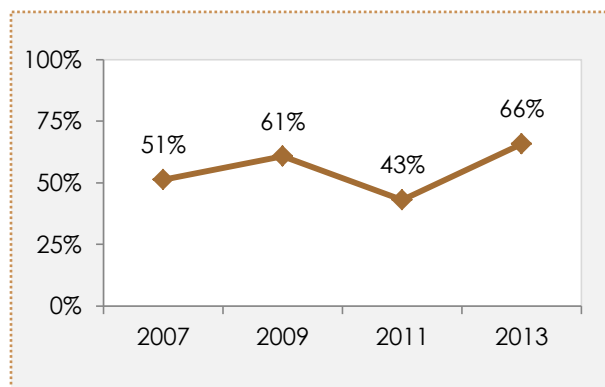
N: 2007=397; 2009=377; 2011=512; 2013=401

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Episodes of Homelessness

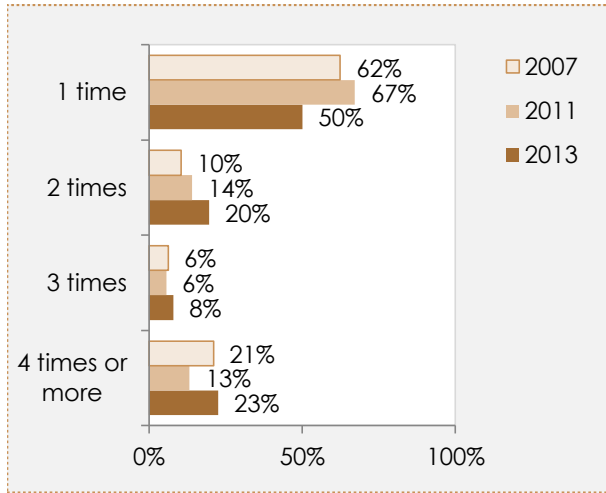
**Figure 18: Percent Whose Current Episode of Homelessness is the First Episode**



N: 2007=402; 2009=384; 2011=520; 2013=404

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey. Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

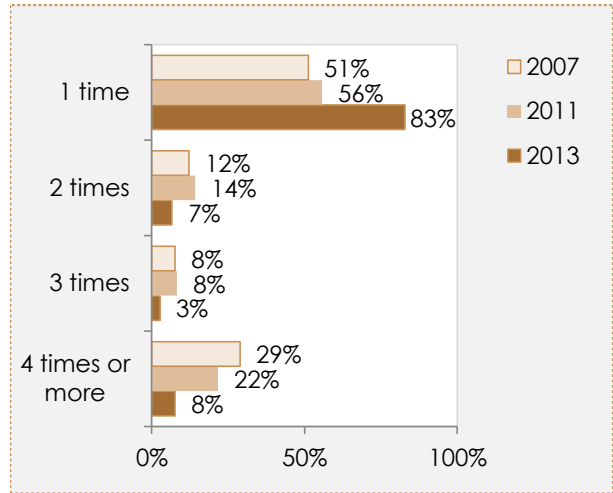
**Figure 19: Homeless Episodes in the Last 12 Months (Including This Current Time)**



N: 2007=402; 2011=520; 2013=404

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

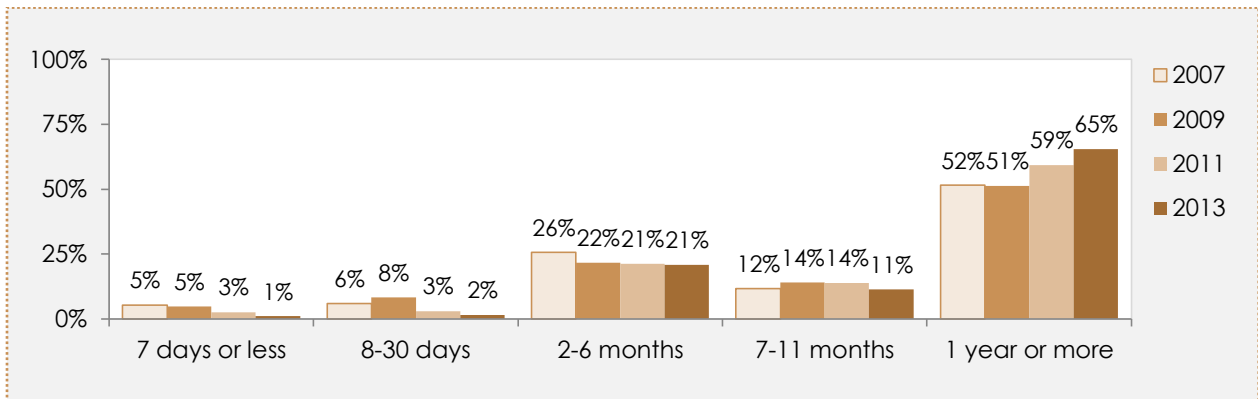
**Figure 20: Homeless Episodes in the Last 3 Years (Including This Current Time)**



N: 2007=402; 2011=520; 2013=404

### Length of Homelessness

**Figure 21: Length of Current Episode of Homelessness**



N: 2007=398; 2009=378; 2011=506; 2013=399

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.



## Health, Economic & Social Barriers

Qualitative data about the homeless population showed that individuals experience many health, economic, and social barriers while homeless. For instance, 68% of the homeless population self-reported having experienced at least one HUD-defined disabling condition.<sup>18</sup> An estimated 1,024 homeless individuals (40% of the homeless population) in Monterey County were currently experiencing a severe mental illness (including chronic depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or another mental illness such as bipolar or schizophrenia) in 2013 and 8% had been hospitalized for emotional problems in the past year. Additionally, an estimated 467 homeless individuals were experiencing substance abuse and 23 homeless individuals had HIV/AIDS, though local homeless service providers believe that the estimated number of homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS was an undercount due to the hesitancy to disclose personal information about this stigmatized medical condition.

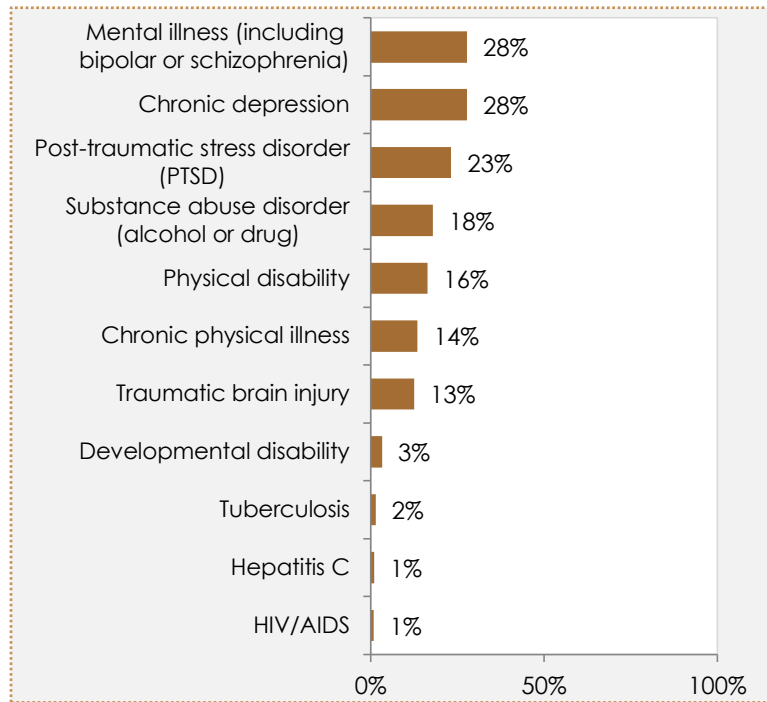
When asked about obstacles to securing permanent housing, the most commonly cited obstacles were associated with income. Sixty percent reported an inability to afford rent and 55% reported a lack of income or job as a circumstance preventing them from securing permanent housing. Additionally, 16% reported that they had a pet in 2013 and of those, 66% said their pet prevented them from receiving housing.

Safety and lack of sanctuary is another important issue for the homeless population. An estimated 80 homeless individuals were currently experiencing home/domestic violence or abuse, representing 3% of the homeless population.

Further, individuals leaving institutions face an increased risk for homelessness, finding greater barriers to employment and housing opportunities. At the same time, those experiencing homelessness are more susceptible to incarceration which creates additional legal and economic barriers to permanent housing. Over one-quarter (29%) of homeless individuals in Monterey County reported having spent at least one night in jail or prison in the past year, which was a decrease from 35% in 2011. Decreases were also seen in those who were on probation or parole at the time they became homeless and those who were currently on probation or parole.

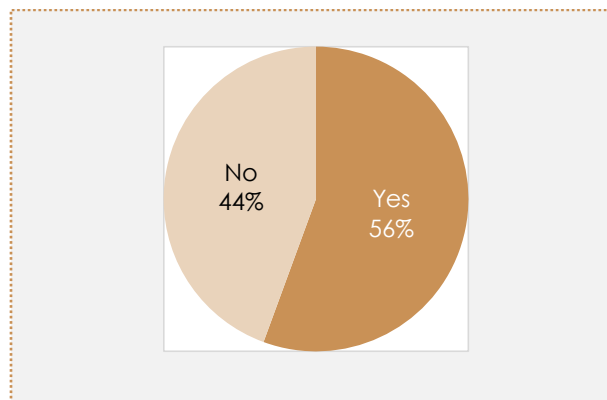
HUD-Defined Disabling Conditions

**Figure 22: Current Experiences with HUD-Defined Disabling Conditions (2013)**



N: 2013=392  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.  
 Note: The data in these figures are self-reported, and may be under-representation based on respondents' willingness to disclose this information.

**Figure 23: Percentage Who Indicated that These Conditions Limit Their Ability to Get a Job or Take Care of Personal Matters (2013)**



N: 2013=277  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.  
 Note: This question was only asked of those who reported having a disabling condition.

## Obstacles to Securing Employment

**Figure 24: Obstacles to Securing Employment (Top 5 Responses)**

	2007	2009	2011	2013
1	No transportation (31%)	Need education (78%)	No jobs (35%)	No transportation (29%)
2	No permanent address (30%)	No jobs (28%)	Alcohol/drug issue (27%)	Need education (27%)
3	No phone (26%)	No transportation (26%)	No phone (27%)	Need training (25%)
4	Need training (22%)	Need training (25%)	No transportation (27%)	No phone (22%)
5	No jobs (21%)	Need clothing (18%)	Need training (26%)	No jobs (20%)

N: 2007=308; 2009=346; 2011=447; 2013=329

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Note: "Obstacles to securing employment" was only asked of those who reported being unemployed.

## Obstacles to Securing Permanent Housing

**Figure 25: Obstacles to Securing Permanent Housing (Top 5 Responses)**

	2007	2009	2011	2013
1	Can't afford rent (49%)	No job/no income (53%)	No job/no income (65%)	Can't afford rent (60%)
2	No job/no income (48%)	Can't afford rent (52%)	Can't afford rent (59%)	No job/no income (55%)
3	No money for moving costs (29%)	No money for moving costs (30%)	No money for moving costs (35%)	No money for moving costs (32%)
4	No transportation (21%)	No transportation (17%)	Bad credit (17%)	Bad credit (25%)
5	Bad credit (20%)	Criminal record (14%)	No transportation (16%)	No transportation (16%)

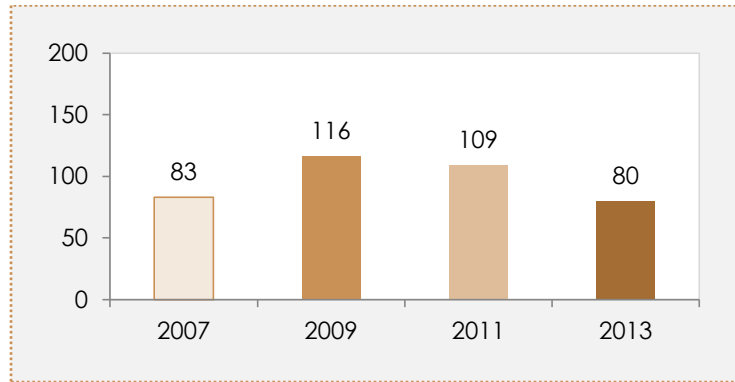
N: 2007=399; 2009=376; 2011=495; 2013=392

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

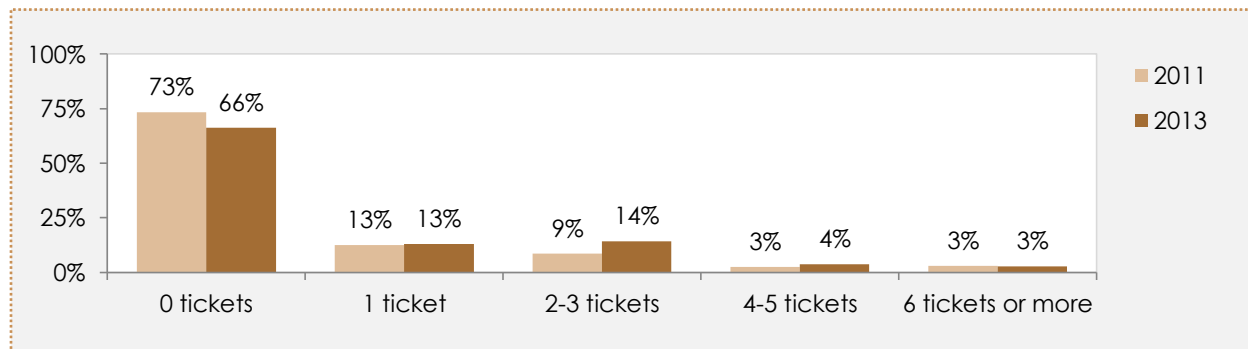
Violence & Criminal Justice

**Figure 26: Estimated Number of Homeless Individuals Experiencing Home/Domestic Violence or Abuse**



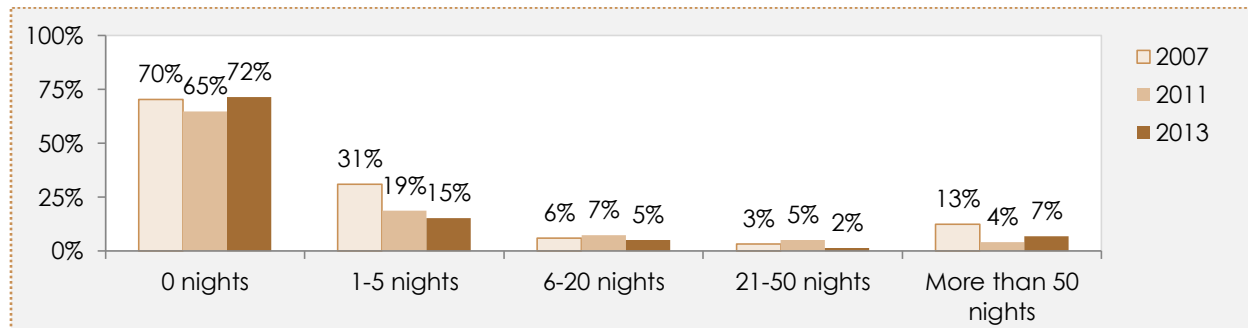
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Census & Survey. Note: In 2013, sheltered subpopulation data was collected by the Continuum of Care.

**Figure 27: Number of Tickets Received in the Past 12 Months for Parking Violations, Loitering, Trespassing, or Camping**

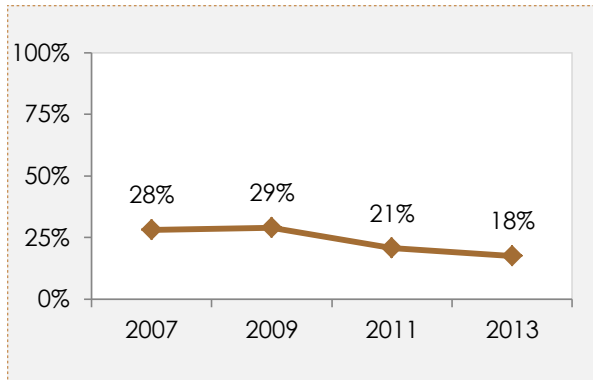


N: 2011=506; 2013=400  
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

**Figure 28: Nights Spent in Jail or Prison in the Last 12 Months**



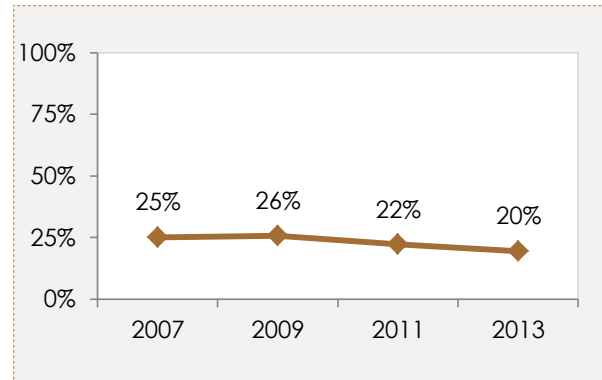
N: 2007=392; 2011=508; 2013=400  
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

**Figure 29: On Probation or Parole At the Most Recent Time of Becoming Homeless**

N: 2007=388; 2009=282; 2011=511; 2013=392

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

**Figure 30: On Probation or Parole Currently**

N: 2007=397; 2009=369; 2011=511; 2013=393

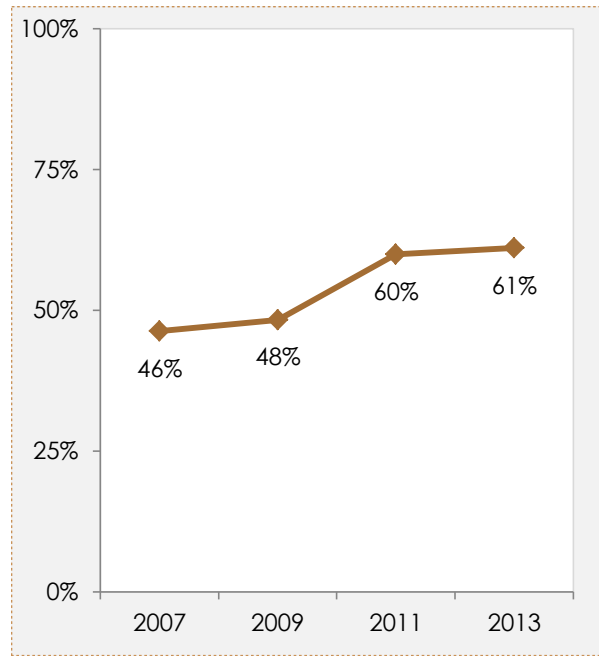
## Access to Support Services

Government assistance and homeless services programs work to enable the homeless community to obtain income and services. Sixty-one percent of homeless individuals reported receiving government assistance in 2013, an increase from 46% in 2007. Utilization of other services and assistance that were available also increased from 74% in 2011 to 82% in 2013. Free meals (73%) and shelter day services (41%) were the top services being used in 2013. When asked about what services were needed, dental care was the top need (68%), followed by eye care (53%), medical care (50%), and substance abuse treatment (29% up from 13% in 2011).

Without regular access to health care, homeless individuals not only suffer from longer hospitalizations, but also from preventable illness and a higher rate of premature death. It is estimated that when admitted to a hospital, those experiencing homelessness stay four days (or 36%) longer per hospital admission than non-homeless patients. One study found that the average life expectancy for a person without permanent housing was between 42 and 52 years, more than 25 years younger than the average person in the United States.<sup>19</sup> The percentage of homeless individuals who needed health care and been unable to receive it consistently increased from 26% in 2011 to 32% in 2013. The percentage of homeless individuals who had accessed the emergency room for any medical treatment in the past year increased from 44% in 2011 to 56% in 2013.

### Government Assistance

**Figure 31: Percent Receiving Government Assistance**



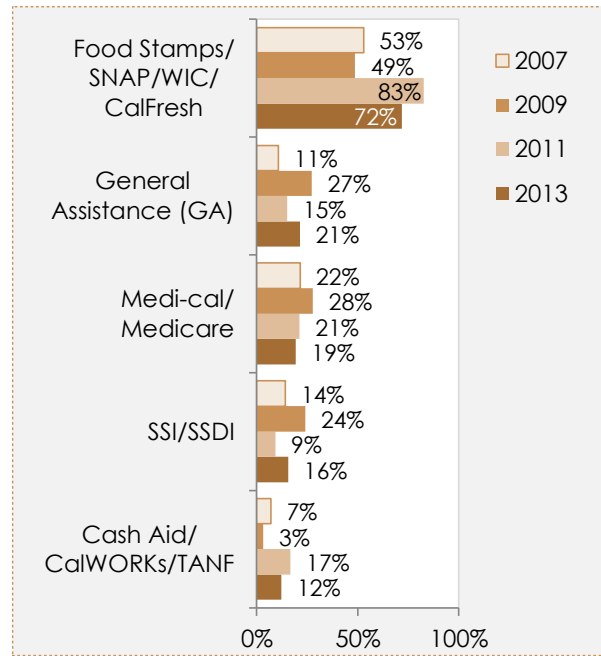
N: 2007=400; 2009=379; 2011=509; 2013=390

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Note: "Types of assistance received" was only asked of those who reported receiving some form of government assistance. The "Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh" and "Cash Aid/CalWORKs/TANF" response options were expanded in 2013 from "Food Stamps" and Cash Aid/CalWORKs" in previous years.

**Figure 32: Types of Government Assistance Received (Top 5 Responses in 2013)**



N: 2007=185; 2009=183; 2011=305; 2013=238

**Figure 33: Reasons for Not Receiving Government Assistance (Top 5 Responses)**

	2007	2009	2011	2013
1	Don't think I'm eligible (23%)	Don't think I'm eligible (31%)	Never applied (26%)	Don't have ID (31%)
2	Don't have ID (16%)	Never applied (23%)	Don't think I'm eligible (24%)	Don't think I'm eligible (25%)
3	No permanent address (15%)	Don't have ID (21%)	Don't need government assistance (17%)	Applied but waiting for response (21%)
4	Never applied (14%)	No permanent address (20%)	Immigration issues (11%)	No permanent address (18%)
5	Applied but waiting for approval (14%)	No transportation (17%)	Turned down (10%)	Turned down (16%)

N: 2007=208; 2009=194; 2011=195; 2013=107

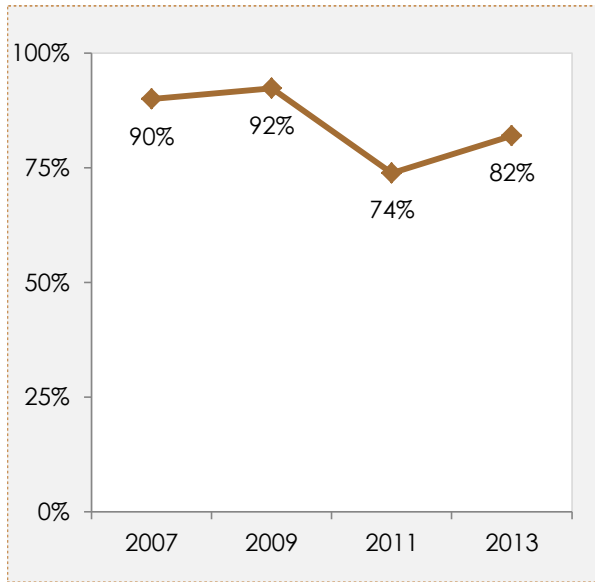
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.



Other Services and Assistance

**Figure 34: Percent Utilizing Other Services/Assistance**



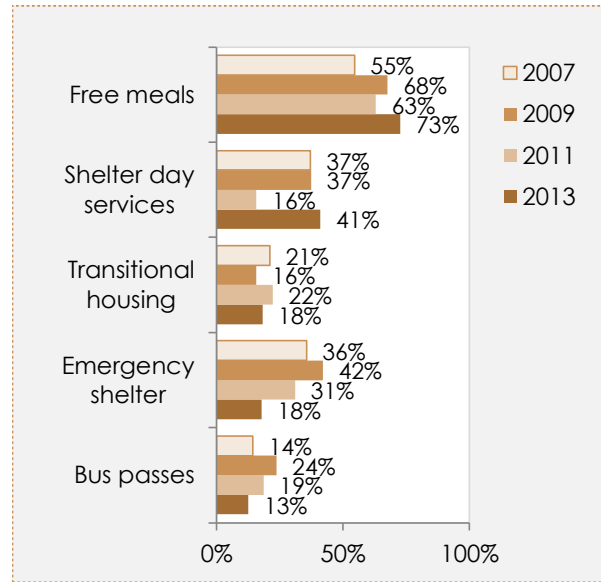
N: 2007=400; 2009=365; 2011=513; 2013=389

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Note: "Types of services/assistance received" was only asked of those who reported utilizing services/assistance.

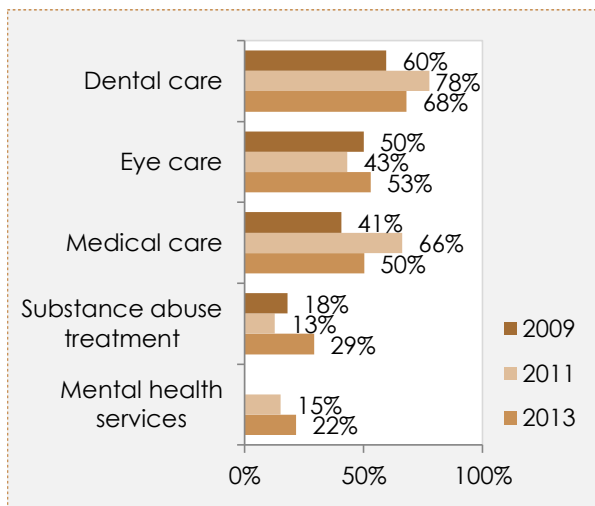
**Figure 35: Types of Other Services/Assistance Utilized (Top 5 Responses in 2013)**



N: 2007=360; 2009=337; 2011=379; 2013=319

Access to Care

**Figure 36: Current Need for the Following Services**

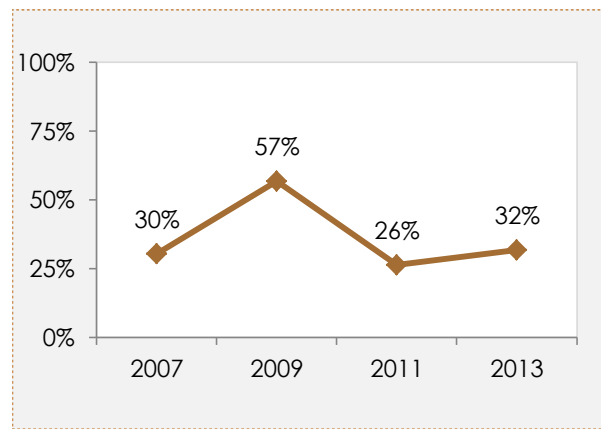


N: 2007=393; 2009=368; 2011=509; 2013=401

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

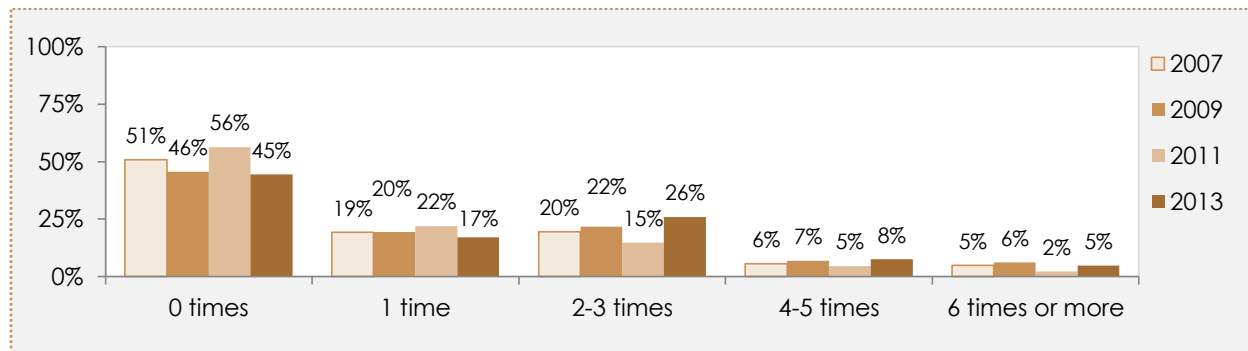
Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

**Figure 37: Percent Who Have Been Unable to Receive Needed Medical Care Since Becoming Homeless This Last Time**



N: 2007=393; 2009=368; 2011=509; 2013=401

**Figure 38: Number of Times Used the Emergency Room for Any Treatment in the Last 12 Months**

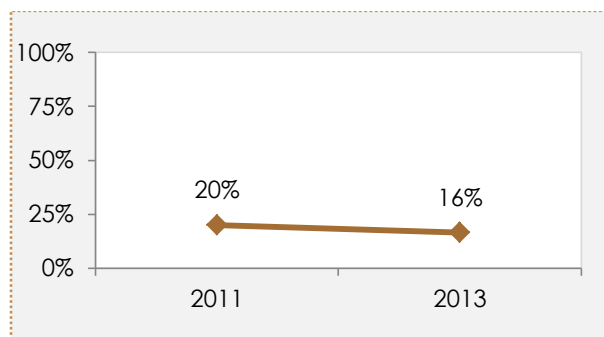


N: 2007=390; 2009=339; 2011=500; 2013=346

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

**Figure 39: Percent Who Have Received Mental Health Services or Medication for Their Mental Health in the Past 12 Months**



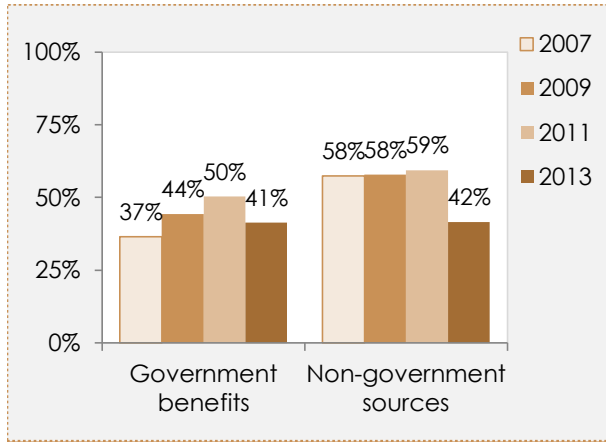
N: 2011=520; 2013=364

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

## Income

While the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guideline for one person is approximately \$958 per month in 2013, the self-sufficiency standard, a more realistic measure of income adequacy, in Monterey County was \$2,153 per month for a single adult in 2011. Between 2011 and 2013, there was a sharp decline in the homeless population reporting that they receive an income from non-government sources, from 59% to 42%. Of those, the average total monthly income from non-government sources was \$519 in 2013.

**Figure 40: Percent Receiving Income from Government Benefits & Non-government Sources**



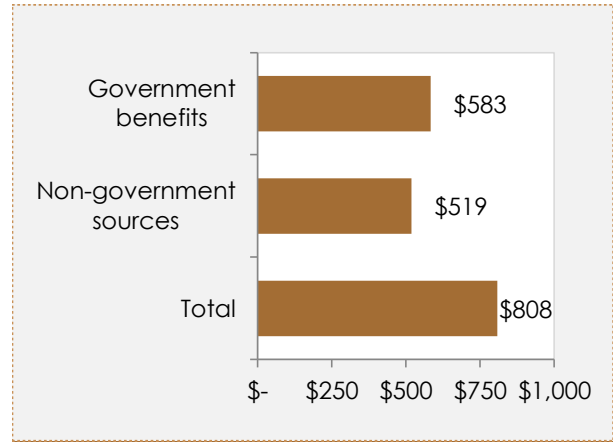
N, Government: 2007=391; 2009=339; 2011=515; 2013=404  
 N, Non-government: 2007=391; 2009=363; 2011=512; 2013=404

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Harder and Company Community Research (2009). Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Note: "Average total monthly income" was only asked of those who reported receiving an income from government benefits or other non-government sources.

**Figure 41: Average Total Monthly Income of Those Who Reported Receiving an Income (2013)**

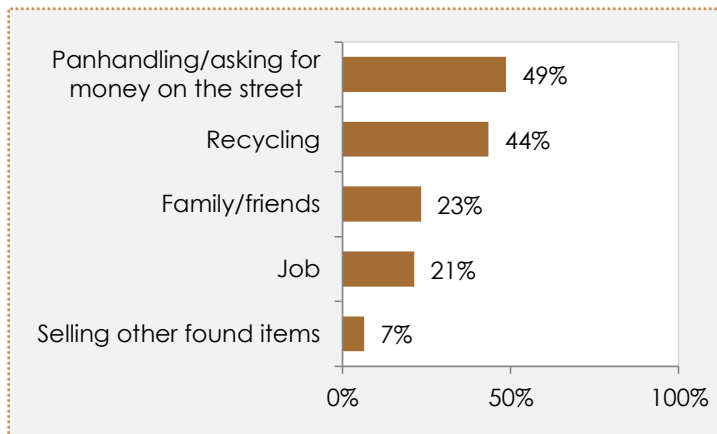


N, Government: 2013=59

N, Non-government: 2013=41

N, Total=70

**Figure 42: Non-government Sources of Income (2013)**



N: 2013=154

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013).

Monterey County Homeless Survey.

Note: "Non-government sources of income" was only asked of those who reported receiving an income from non-government sources.

## A SPOTLIGHT ON UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN & TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

Data on unaccompanied homeless children (under 18) and transition age youth (18-24) are extremely limited at both the local and national level. What little data are available suggest that the negative effects of homelessness on children are high and those children experiencing homelessness face even greater challenges than their adult counterparts. Homeless youth have a harder time accessing services, including shelter, medical care, and employment.<sup>20</sup> In order to better understand the experiences of this subpopulation, Monterey County has made great strides in collecting qualitative data about children and transition age youth experiencing homelessness through a targeted survey effort. Due to the small number of unaccompanied children (under 18) enumerated, no surveys were conducted with this age group. In addition to the full survey that all respondents completed, there was a special youth addendum survey page that youth (18-24) were asked to complete which covered topics specific to the experiences of this age group. The following section highlights qualitative data from 53 general surveys and 38 youth addendum surveys completed by transition age homeless youth in 2013.

### Brief Snapshot of the Homeless Transition Age Youth Population

- » **Sexual Orientation:** In 2013, respondents were asked to identify their sexual orientation for the first time because national research shows a higher prevalence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, or Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals, especially among homeless youth.<sup>21</sup> In Monterey County, nearly one in five (19%) transition age homeless youth (24 and younger) identified as LGBTQ (all of whom identified as bisexual), compared to 10% of the homeless population over the age of 24 who identified as LGBTQ.
- » **Education:** Forty-six percent had at least a high school diploma or GED, while 38% had less than a high school degree, and 16% had attended some college. Three percent were currently in school (down from 7% in 2011), and 74% would like to go back to school to further their education.
- » **Foster Care Experience:** Eight percent of youth were in foster care before becoming homeless.
- » **Homeless Parents:** Six percent reported that their parents were formerly homeless, and 10% reported that their parents were currently homeless.
- » **Contact with Parents/Family:** Over half (51%) of homeless youth reported having some contact with their parents or other adult family members and 19% reported having tried to move back in with their parents/family.
- » **Physical Health:** The majority (81%) reported that their general physical health was “good” or “very good” (up from 68% in 2011).

## Prior to Becoming Homeless

- » **Prior Place of Residence:** Thirty-nine percent were living in Monterey County at the time they became homeless most recently (a slight decrease from 43% in 2011), compared to 85% of the older adult population.
- » **Prior Living Accommodations:** Over half (52%) were living with relatives or friends immediately before becoming homeless.

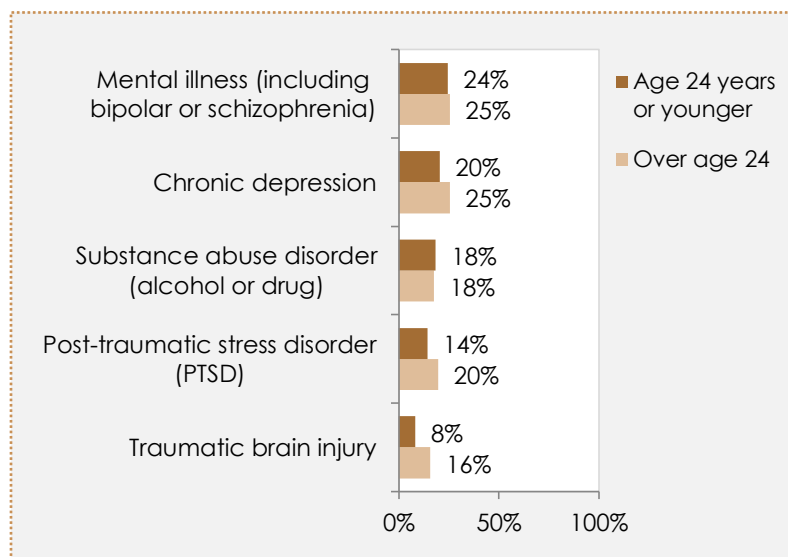
## Becoming Homeless

- » **Length of Homelessness:** Forty-nine percent of homeless youth indicated having been homeless for a year or more.
- » **Episodes of Homelessness:** A greater percentage of homeless youth reported experiencing a previous episode of homelessness (43%) than the older homeless adult population (33%).
- » **Cause of Homelessness:** The leading causes of homelessness among youth were: alcohol or drug use (31%), conflict with family/housemates (16%), and family/domestic violence (16%).

## Health & Social Barriers

- » **Disabling Conditions:** The most commonly reported disabling conditions experienced by homeless youth were: mental illness (25%) and chronic depression (20%).

**Figure 43: Youth Experience of HUD-Defined Disabling Conditions (Top 5 Conditions, 2013)**



*N, 24 years or younger: 2013=49*

*N, Over 24: 2013=343*

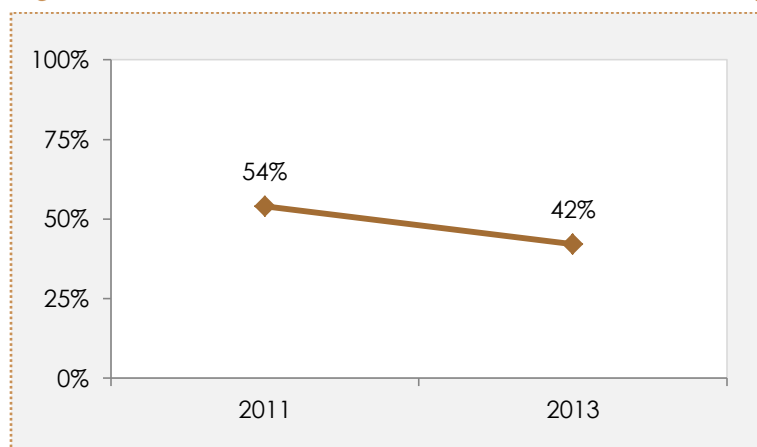
*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). Monterey County Homeless Survey.*

- » **Substance Use:** Eighteen percent of youth were currently experiencing substance abuse disorder. The top two primary drugs of choice among homeless youth were marijuana (81%) and alcohol (24%). Reasons for using drugs or alcohol included: for enjoyment (65%), to decrease pain (45%), to decrease anxiety (42%), to self-medicate (42%), and to make it through the day (36%).
- » **Perceived Safety:** When asked how safe they feel in their current living situation, 26% of homeless youth said they felt “very safe,” 49% reported feeling “somewhat safe,” and 26% reported that they felt “not at all safe.” Nearly one-third (31%) felt that their safety had been threatened at least one time in the past month.
- » **Interaction with Police:** Forty-two percent said they “always” or “very often” interact with police officers or sheriffs. Of those having had interaction with the police/sheriff, 16% said their most recent interaction was positive/helpful, while 40% said the interaction was negative/detrimental. The large majority (82%) of homeless youth reported having been harassed by police or law enforcement in the past 12 months.

## Support for Children & Youth

- » **Access to Services:** Nearly two-thirds (32%) of homeless youth reported that they “always” or “very often” access youth specific services.
- » **Social Supports:** Forty-two percent of homeless youth reported having an adult in the community that they can trust, down from 54% in 2011. Thirty-five percent reported having someone they can rely on for support in a time of crisis.

**Figure 44: Homeless Youth with an Adult in the Community They Can Trust**



*N: 2011=41; 2013=38*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013).  
Monterey County Homeless Survey.*



## CONCLUSION

The 2013 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey were performed using HUD-recommended practices for counting and surveying the homeless population. The 2013 point-in-time count identified 2,590 homeless individuals residing in Monterey County. This count, however, should be considered conservative since it is well known that even with the most thorough methodology, many homeless individuals stay in locations where they cannot be seen or counted by enumeration teams. Further, many women, families, and youth try to remain hidden for safety.

The 2013 point-in-time count reflects an 83 person increase from the 2011 count, and an 85% increase since 2007. The majority of homeless in Monterey County in 2013 were unsheltered (65%). Based on the 2013 point-in-time count and qualitative data, it is estimated that 6,423 unique persons experience homelessness over the course of a year in Monterey County, a 58% increase from the 2011 annual estimate.

The 2013 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey revealed a diverse population with many different needs; however, some consistent themes emerged from the results. Data showed that:

- » 79% were living in Monterey County at the time they became homeless;
- » The leading causes of homelessness were job loss (26%), alcohol/drug use (20%), and divorce/ separation/ breakup (14%);
- » 66% were experiencing homelessness for the first time;
- » Over two-thirds (65%) had been homeless for one year or more;
- » 68% had at least one disabling medical condition (such as a mental illness, chronic health problem, substance abuse);
- » 29% had a current need for substance abuse treatment;
- » 22% had a current need for mental health services;
- » A large majority (85%) were currently unemployed; and
- » 61% were receiving some form of government assistance.

Census and survey data also allowed for the estimation of subpopulations in Monterey County in 2013:

- » 770 chronically homeless persons (30% of the total PIT population);
- » 29 chronically homeless families (with 83 family members);
- » 229 homeless veterans (10% of the adult PIT population); and
- » 221 homeless families (with 550 family members, who represent 21% of the total PIT population).

A spotlight on unaccompanied homeless children and transition age youth (18-24) in 2013:

- » 363 unaccompanied homeless children and transition age youth were identified (14% of the total PIT population);
- » 95% were unsheltered;
- » 19% identified as LBGQTQ;

- 
- » 49% had been homeless for a year or more;
  - » 26% reported that they felt “not at all safe” in their current living situation;
  - » 42% had an adult in the community they could trust; and
  - » 35% had someone they could rely on for support in a time of crisis.

In summary, the homeless count and survey provided valid and useful data which helped create a more comprehensive picture of those experiencing homelessness in Monterey County in 2013. These efforts also built upon the 2007, 2009, and 2011 efforts and the compilation of comparable multi-year data on the experience of homelessness in Monterey County. The continued use of the same methodology will continue to allow Monterey County to track key indicators and gauge the changing conditions experienced by homeless individuals and families throughout the county.

It is hoped that the data presented in this report will be used by planning bodies of Monterey 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 Monterey 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 I: METHODOLOGY

The 2013 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey methodology had three major components:

1. **Shelter Count:** A point-in-time count of the sheltered homeless population on the night of January 22, 2013, including those staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and hotels/motels using vouchers;
2. **Street Count:** A point-in-time count of the unsheltered homeless population on January 23, 2013 from approximately 6 a.m. to noon, including those living outdoors (on the street, in vehicles, in encampments); and
3. **Survey:** A qualitative survey of a representative sample of the homeless population, administered between March 5, 2013 and March 25, 2013.

### Definition of Homelessness

In this study, HUD's definition of homelessness for point-in-time counts was used. The 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.<sup>22</sup>

### Shelter Count

The basic approach of the shelter count was to identify and contact agencies that temporarily house homeless people and request that those agencies send Applied Survey Research a count of the number of homeless persons housed in their programs on the night of January 22, 2013. In 2013, the participating shelters were determined by those listed on the Housing Inventory Chart reported to HUD. Participating agencies included Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Facilities. Shelter facilities reported their occupancies for the night of January 22nd to Applied Survey Research (ASR) by email, paper survey, or telephone call. Shelters provided general numbers as well as information on specific subpopulations.

### Street Count

To avoid potential duplicate counting of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons, it was imperative to enumerate during the narrow time frame when sheltered and unsheltered homeless do not co-mingle. In order to accomplish this, the street count was conducted from approximately 6:00 a.m. to noon. This early morning period was selected to increase visibility of the unsheltered homeless and so that the areas around shelters could be canvassed prior to shelter residents being out on the streets.

## Volunteer and Worker Recruitment

An enumeration effort of this magnitude only can be successful with the assistance of those who possess an intimate knowledge of the activities and locations of homeless people, as well as participation of other community members. Therefore, the recruitment and training of homeless persons and community volunteers to work as enumerators was an essential part of the street count methodology.

To work on the street count, prospective enumerators were required to attend a one-hour information and training session. Training sessions were held at multiple locations throughout the county during the week prior to the street count.

Homeless persons who completed the required training session were paid \$10.00 on the morning of the street count. Homeless workers were also paid \$10.00 per hour for their work on the count, and were reimbursed for any expenses (mainly transportation costs) they incurred during the hours they worked. In total, 41 homeless persons and 75 service providers and community volunteers participated in the street count.

## Street Count Teams

On the morning of the street count, two-person teams were created to enumerate designated areas of the county for the street count. Each team ideally was comprised of one trained volunteer and one trained homeless guide, and were provided with their assigned census tract map area, tally sheet, training guidelines, and other supplies. All accessible streets, roads, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traveled

by foot, bike, or car. No direct contact with enumerated homeless people was made during the census enumeration. Homeless enumerators were also instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets, if they were not going to be counted by the shelter count.

Upon their return, teams turned in their census tally sheets and were debriefed by the deployment captains. Observational comments and the integrity of the enumeration effort were reviewed and assessed. This review was primarily done to check for double-counting (i.e., counting a family as both family members and individuals) and to verify that every accessible road within the assigned area was enumerated. In approximately six hours, all 99 census tracts in Monterey County were enumerated.

## Targeted Count of Unaccompanied Children and Transition Age Youth

Unaccompanied children (under age 18) and transition age youth (18-24 years old) tend to be difficult to enumerate in the morning census, since they do not usually co-mingle with adults over the age of 24. For this reason, special youth enumeration teams consisting of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth were formed to enumerate unaccompanied homeless children and youth on the afternoon of January 23rd. These youth enumerators were given a general geographical area in Monterey County to count rather than specific census tract maps. A team of 6 youth enumerators counted in Monterey between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and one youth enumerated counted in Salinas between noon and 12:00 p.m.

## Safety Precautions

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Precautions were taken to prepare a safe environment in all deployment centers. Law enforcement districts were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. No official reports were received in regards to unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the street census in any area of the county.

## Survey

The survey of 404 homeless persons was conducted in order to yield qualitative data about the homeless community. The survey elicited information that allows for greater perspective on current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services. The survey findings also provide a measure of the changes in the composition of the homeless population.

In addition to the general survey, children and transition age youth 18-24 years old were given an additional page of survey questions, which asked specifically about their experience as homeless youth. In total, 38 youth surveys were conducted. These surveys were conducted by other homeless youth interviewers in order to maintain the peer-to-peer protocol.

Surveys were conducted by trained homeless interviewers (who were compensated at a rate of \$5.00 per completed survey) and service provider volunteers. Training sessions led potential interviewers through a comprehensive orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. Because of confidentiality and privacy issues,

service providers typically conducted the surveys administered within shelters.

## Survey Incentive

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. Due to the cold winter, warm socks were selected as the incentive for participation. These socks were easy to obtain and distribute, were thought to have wide appeal, and could be provided within the project budget.

## Survey Sampling

In order to select a random sample of respondents, survey interviewers were trained to employ a randomized “every third encounter” survey approach. Survey interviewers were instructed to approach the third person they encountered whom they considered to be an eligible survey respondent.<sup>23</sup> 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.

Strategic attempts were made 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, including recruiting survey workers from these subset groups.

In order to assure the representation of both the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population, survey quotas were created to reach individuals and heads of family households living in these programs.

**Figure 45: PIT Census Population versus Survey Sample (2013)**

Subgroup	Census	Survey
Sheltered	24%	27%
Persons in families	21%	10%
Transition age youth	14%	13%
Female	28%	39%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>404</b>

Based on the 2013 point-in-time count of 2,590 homeless persons in Monterey County, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 404 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the entire homeless population.

### Survey Administration

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. Overall, the interviewers experienced excellent cooperation from respondents.

In order 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, and length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey. Surveys that were considered invalid (duplicate, incomplete, or contained false responses) were removed from the sample.

Due to the sensitive nature of the survey, respondents were not required to answer every survey question and respondents were asked to skip questions that were not applicable. For this reason, the number of respondents for each survey questions may not equal the number of surveys.

**Figure 46: Survey Administration Details (2013)**

Survey Detail	Number
Survey distribution sites	2+1 for youth
Surveyors	12
General survey administered	405
Invalid general surveys	1
Valid general surveys	404
Spanish general surveys	11
General survey refusals	23
Valid youth surveys	38

### Annual Estimation

A point-in-time homeless count has an inherent bias of not capturing homeless persons who experience short episodes of homelessness during other times of the year. More people experience homelessness annually than can be counted at any given point-in-time, as people cycle in and out of homelessness. For example, someone may be homeless between February and May, and another person may become homeless between October and January. Counting only those persons found in a January census could under-represent those experiencing homelessness in the other months of the year.



Therefore, based on the survey responses of the 2013 survey, ASR used the annual estimate formula detailed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing to calculate an annual estimate of the number of homeless persons in Monterey County over the course of a year. This approach is the HUD-approved method for calculating the annual estimate of homeless persons based on the PIT count.

The equation for calculating the annual estimate is as follows:  $A + [(B \times 51) \times (1 - C)] = \text{Annual estimate}$

- » A = the PIT count of currently homeless people
- » B = the number of currently homeless people who 1) became homeless within the last 7 days, or 2) were already homeless, but entered the county's boundaries within the last 7 days; and
- » C = the proportion of currently homeless people who have experienced a previous homeless episode within the past 12 months.

It is important to note that prior to 2013, the annualize estimate did not include homeless individuals who had entered the boundaries of Monterey County within the 7 days prior to the survey.

The 2013 annual estimate for Monterey County represents a 58% increase from the 2011 annual estimate, which is due to the increase in newly homeless (homeless within the last 7 days), and a decrease in persons with multiple episodes of homelessness within the past year.

## Assumptions of Annual Estimation

The calculations used to project an annual estimate of homelessness are based on two very important assumptions.

1. The information gathered by the homeless survey is indicative of responses that would have been given at any other time during the year and is representative of the general diversity of the study area's homeless population.
2. The Point-in-Time census count is reasonably indicative of a count that would have been obtained at any other time during the year.

Service providers have supported these assumptions by indicating that the demand for services stayed relatively consistent over time. Additionally, the total number of homeless accessing services does not fluctuate to a great degree, although the proportion of sheltered versus unsheltered homeless does vary with the seasons.

Estimates of the number of people who experience homelessness in a given year are important for planning purposes and HUD reporting requirements. Because many homeless experiences are relatively short-term (i.e., less than a year), it is important to account for this phenomenon when determining the annual demand for homeless services.

Given the size of the survey sample, the statistical reliability of the projections, the undercount inherent in any homeless census, as well as the use of a HUD-approved annual estimate calculation, the project committee and ASR have determined

that this methodology was the most complete and accurate of all available approaches.

## Challenges & Limitations

### Census

There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as diverse and large as Monterey County. While homeless populations are usually concentrated around city emergency shelters and homeless service facilities, homeless individuals and families can also be found in suburbs, commercial districts, and outlying county areas that are not easily accessed by enumerators.

Homeless populations include many difficult-to-count subsets such as:

- » Persons who have children and therefore stay “under the radar” for fear of having to turn their children over to Child Protective Services;
- » Homeless children under 18 years old, who tend to keep themselves less visible than homeless adults;
- » Homeless people who live in isolated rural areas; and
- » Homeless people who sleep in structures unfit for human habitation (unconverted garages, sheds, shacks, etc.).

For a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not want to be seen, and make concerted efforts to avoid detection. In a non-intrusive, point-in-time, visual homeless enumeration, the methods employed, while academically sound, have inherent biases and shortcomings. Even with the assistance of dedicated homeless service providers and

currently or previously homeless census enumerators, the methodology cannot guarantee 100% accuracy.

This conservative approach is necessary to preserve the integrity of the data collected. Even though the 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 and provides valuable data for local and federal service agencies.

### Survey

The 2013 Monterey County Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. The survey is limited by respondents’ willingness to share personal experiences with surveyors. Using a peer interviewing methodology allows respondents to be more candid with their answers, and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information.

## APPENDIX II: HOMELESS CENSUS SUMMARY

Homeless Populations	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
<b>Households with at least one adult and one child</b>					
Total # of households	20	77		124	221
Total # of persons (all ages)	57	221		272	550
# of persons (under 18)	35	133		127	295
# of persons (18-24)	4	12		8	24
# of persons (over 24)	18	76		137	231
<b>Households with only children</b>					
Total # of households	0	0		15	15
# of one-child households	0	0		15	15
# of multi-child households	0	0		0	0
Total # of persons (under 18)	0	0		15	15
# of persons in multi-child households (under 18)	0	0		0	0
<b>Households without children</b>					
Total # of households	170	165	0	1,563	1,898
Total # of persons (18+)	170	173	0	1,682	2,025
# of persons (18-24)	24	17	0	307	348
# of persons (over 24)	146	156	0	1,375	1,677
<b>Total</b>					
Total # of households	190	242	0	1,702	2,134
Total # of persons (all ages)	227	394	0	1,969	2,590

Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
<b>Chronically Homeless Subpopulations</b>					
Chronically homeless individuals	82		0	688	770
Chronically homeless families (total # of families)	2		0	27	29
Chronically homeless families (total # of persons)	4		0	79	83
<b>Other Homeless Subpopulations</b>					
Veterans		86		143	229
Female veterans		4		6	10
Severely mentally ill		83		941	1,024
Chronic substance abuse		231		236	467
Persons with HIV/AIDS		12		11	23
Victims of domestic violence (optional)		64		16	80

## APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

**Chronic homelessness** is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as a single homeless individual, or a family with at least one adult member, with a disabling condition and who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

**Disabling condition**, for the purposes of this study, is defined as a physical or developmental disability, a chronic physical illness, a mental illness (including chronic depression, PTSD, bipolar, and schizophrenia), a chronic health problem (including Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, and HIV/AIDS), substance abuse disorder (alcohol or drug), or traumatic brain injury.

**Emergency shelter** is the provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility, or through the use of motel vouchers. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 30 days or less. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for victims and their children.

**Family** is defined by HUD as a household with at least one adult (18 or older) and one child (under 18)

**Homelessness** 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, and camping ground.

**HUD** is the abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Sheltered homeless individuals** are those homeless individuals who are residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities.

**Single individuals** refer to individuals in a non-family household.

**Transitional housing** facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is 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 and increase skill level, income, and self-determination, may be provided by the organization managing the housing program, or coordinated by the organization and provided by other public or private agencies.

**Unsheltered homeless individuals** are those homeless individuals who are living outdoors, including on the streets, in parks abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other outdoor place unfit for human habitation.

## APPENDIX IV: ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2010). *Opening doors: Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness*. Washington, D.C.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (December 2012). *Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons: Data Collection Guidance Version 1.1*.
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2013). *2009-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Opening Doors*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Annual Update 2012*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Annual Update 2012*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Annual Update 2012*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Opening Doors: Homelessness Among Veterans*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>9</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Opening Doors: Homelessness Among Veterans*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>10</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Annual Update 2012*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>11</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Opening Doors*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>12</sup> *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (Volume 1, 2012)*.
- <sup>13</sup> *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (Volume 1, 2012)*.
- <sup>14</sup> U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2013). *Opening Doors*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.usich.gov/>
- <sup>15</sup> State of California Employment Development Department. (2013). *Unemployment Rates (Labor Force)*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>
- <sup>16</sup> SAMHSA. (n.d.). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved January 2013, from Homeless Resource Center: <http://homeless.samhsa.gov>
- <sup>17</sup> SAMHSA. (n.d.). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved January 2013, from Homeless Resource Center: <http://homeless.samhsa.gov>
- <sup>18</sup> Disabling condition is defined in Definitions & Abbreviations section.
- <sup>19</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless. (September 2009). *Homelessness Among Elderly Persons*. Retrieved 2013 from <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/elderly.html>
- <sup>20</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless. (2011). *Homeless Youth Fact Sheet*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>
- <sup>21</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness. Retrieved on 4/25/2013 from: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/lgbtq-youth>.
- <sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (December 2012). *Housing Inventory Count and Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons: Data Collection Guidance Version 1.1*.
- <sup>23</sup> The survey method of systematically interviewing every  $n^{\text{th}}$  person encountered in a location is recommended by HUD in their publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*, Second Revision, January 2008, p. 37.