Every two years in January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of their homeless population to gain a better understanding of the individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness, and to apply for federal funding for homeless programs.

The 2013 Santa Clara County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 29th and 30th, 2013. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 856 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

**Sheltered Includes:**
- Emergency Shelter 12%
- Transitional Housing 13%
- Safe Haven <1%

**Unsheltered Includes:**
- On the street 31%
- Abandoned buildings 9%
- Cars/vans/RVs 16%
- Encampment Areas 19%

**Ethnicity (Top 4 Responses):**
- Hispanic 31%
- White 28%
- Black 22%
- Multi-ethnic 6%

**First Time Homelessness:**
- Yes (46%)
- No (54%)

**Obstacles to Securing Permanent Housing:**
- No job/income 54%
- Bad Credit 21%
- No money for moving costs 30%
- No housing availability 18%

**93%** of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would want affordable permanent housing were it available.
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.

**WHAT MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED RESPONDENTS’ HOMELESSNESS (TOP 4 RESPONSES)**

- Employment Assistance: 42%
- Rent/Mortgage Assistance: 34%
- Mental Health Services: 24%
- Alcohol/Drug Counseling: 21%

**DISABLING CONDITIONS**

- Mental illness*: (53%)
- Substance abuse (17%)
- Chronic physical illness (12%)
- Physical disability (14%)
- Developmental disability (4%)

* Mental illness includes PTSD, depression, and other mental illnesses including bipolar and schizophrenia.

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

**INCARCERATION**

- 28% spent at least 1 or more nights in jail or prison in the past 12 months.

**EMERGENCY ROOM USE**

- 49% in the past 12 months
- 35% 1-3 times
- 16% 4+ times

**SERVICES & ASSISTANCE**

**Government Services received (Top 3 Responses)**

- Calfresh, WIC, or food stamps: 61%
- General Assistance: 38%
- General Assistance: 15%

**Reasons for NOT receiving government services (Top 3 Responses)**

- Don't need government assistance: 19%
- Don't think you are eligible: 23%
- Never applied: 15%

**PANHANDLING**

- $5.90 per day is the average income for those survey respondents who reported panhandling.

**Summary**

These data provide a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County on January 29th and 30th. It provides a basic estimation of the number and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness on any given night in order to inform future service planning and provisioning efforts.