

APPENDIX 3: HOMELESS SURVEY DATA

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This Appendix provides a complete breakdown of the responses of all respondents to all the questions in the Homeless Survey. In these charts, the term “frequency” refers to the number of individuals who responded. There were 177 completed surveys, but every respondent did not respond to every question, thus the frequencies do not always total 177.

Note that the survey included interviews only with people who were unsheltered (living on streets, in vehicles, encampments and other places not meant for human habitation).

A. Location (Street, Park, Shelter, etc.)

1. Where did you sleep last night?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Outdoors	86	44.8%
Vehicle (car, van, camper, boat)	40	20.8%
Encampment	36	18.8%
Garage, attic or basement	13	6.8%
Bus, train station, airport	10	5.2%
Backyard, shed or barn	5	2.6%
Other	2	1.0%
Total	192	100.0%

B. Household Composition

2. Which of the following best describes your family or household?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Single adult (over age 18)	152	83.1%
Multiple adults (two or more adults and no children under 18)	20	10.9%
Family (one or more adults and at least one child under 18)	10	5.5%
Single Child (under 18)	0	0.0%
All-Child Family (two or more children under 18, no adults)	1	0.5%
Total	183	100.0%

C. Disability

3. Do you have any disabilities that limit your ability to get or keep a job or take care of personal matters?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	153	79.7%
No	39	20.3%
Total	192	100.0%

3a. Which of the following best describes your disability or disabilities?

Response	Yes		No		Declined to State	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Chronic health problems	66	47.1%	72	51.4%	2	1.4%
Alcohol and/or drug problems	103	72.5%	34	23.9%	5	3.5%
Mental health issues	51	36.7%	79	56.8%	9	6.5%
AIDS/HIV related illness	3	2.2%	125	93.3%	6	4.5%
Physical disability	72	51.8%	61	43.9%	6	4.3%
Developmental disability	22	16.1%	104	75.9%	11	8.0%

Question 3a allowed respondents to give multiple responses. The following provides an additional breakdowns of the numbers of disabilities reported by the survey respondents.

Number of Disabling Conditions Reported		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	39	20.3%
One	61	31.8%
Two	42	21.9%
Three	33	17.2%
Four	13	6.8%
Five	3	1.6%
Six	1	0.5%
Total	192	100.0%

D. Veteran Status

4. Have you served in the United States Armed Forces?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	21	10.9%
No	170	88.5%
Unsure	1	0.5%
Total	192	100.0%

4a. Were you ever called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	3.4%
No	165	94.8%
Unsure	3	1.7%
Total	192	100.0%

Some respondents served in either the USAF or in the Guard/Reserves

Response	Frequency	Percent
Served in either US Armed Forces or Guard/Reserves	21	10.9%
Did not serve in either USAF or Guard/Reserve (or unsure)	171	89.1%
Total	167	100.0%

4b. What years did you serve?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Before Sept. 7, 1980	16	76.2%
Sept. 7, 1980 or later	7	33.3%
Both	3	14.3%
Total	NA	NA

Question allowed for multiple responses. Percentages are based on 21 people who indicated they served in either Armed Forces or Reserves.

4c. Have you ever received health care or benefits from a VA center?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	52.4%
No	10	47.6%
Unsure	0	0.0%
Total	21	100.0%

4d. What services have you used?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Primary Care	6	28.6%
Emergency Room	10	47.6%
Residential Treatment	2	9.5%
Housing Assistance	1	4.8%
Other	1	4.8%
Total	21	100.0%

Question allowed for multiple responses. Percentages are based on 21 people who indicated they received services.

E. Length of Homelessness and Number of Episodes of Homelessness

5. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	70	36.8%
No	120	63.2%
Total	190	100.0%

5a. Have you been living in the streets or shelters continuously for a year or more?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	146	76.8%
No	44	23.2%
Total	190	100.0%

5b. In the past 3 years, how many different times have you stayed in a shelter or lived in the streets/cars/encampments?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 to 3 times	129	69.0%
4 or more times	58	31.0%
Total	187	100.0%

F. Chronic Homelessness

A chronically homeless person is defined by HUD as someone with a disability who has been homeless for a period of 12 months or longer or has been homeless for four times in the past three years. HUD recently expanded this definition to include families (previously it had only included single individuals).

The following tables present information on the group of respondents who indicated through their responses to Questions 3a, 5a and 5b that they were chronically homeless.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Chronically Homeless	126	65.6%
Not Chronically Homeless	66	34.4%
Total	192	100.0%

G. Geographic Location and Hometown

6. Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
San Mateo County	166	87.4%
Other County in California	19	10.0%
Out of State	5	2.6%
Total	190	100.0%

If in San Mateo County, what City?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Redwood City	40	27.0%
Pacifica	21	14.2%
South San Francisco	20	13.5%
San Mateo	18	12.2%
Half Moon Bay	13	8.8%
San Bruno	9	6.1%
San Carlos	5	3.4%
Daly City	5	3.4%
East Palo Alto	5	3.4%
Belmont	3	2.0%
Pescadero	2	1.4%
La Honda	2	1.4%
Menlo Park	2	1.4%
Brisbane	1	0.7%
Burlingame	1	0.7%
Loma Mar	1	0.7%
Total	190	100.0%

7. Is your hometown in San Mateo County?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	126	68.9%
No	57	31.1%
Total	183	100.0%

If yes, what City do you consider your hometown?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Redwood City	20	19.4%
San Mateo	18	17.5%
Half Moon Bay	12	11.7%
Pacifica	11	10.7%
South San Francisco	9	8.7%
San Carlos	8	7.8%
San Bruno	6	5.8%
East Palo Alto	4	3.9%
Daly City	3	2.9%
La Honda	3	2.9%
Foster City	2	1.9%
Belmont	1	1.0%

Pescadero	1	1.0%
Menlo Park	1	1.0%
Loma Mar	1	1.0%
El Granada	1	1.0%
Montara	1	1.0%
San Gregorio	1	1.0%
Total	103	100.0%

H. Prior Residence

8. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you...

Response	Frequency	Percent
Renting a home or apartment	90	48.6%
Living with relatives	36	19.5%
Staying with friends	30	16.2%
In jail or prison	10	5.4%
Living in a home owned by you or your partner	9	4.9%
Other	8	4.3%
In a treatment center	2	1.1%
In foster care	0	0.0%
Total	185	100.0%

I. Use of Services

9. Are you currently using any of the following services/ assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Free meals	134	69.8%
Food pantry	72	37.5%
Bus passes	65	33.9%
Health services	58	30.2%
Emergency shelter	33	17.2%
Mental health services	25	13.0%
Shelter day services	14	7.3%
Mental health services		
Jobs/vocational training	10	5.2%
Transitional housing	9	4.7%
Legal assistance	8	4.2%
Educational classes	6	3.1%
Life skills classes	4	2.1%
Other	9	4.7%
Not using services	21	10.9%
Total	NA	NA

Multiple response question

10. Where do you usually get your medical care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Emergency room	66	35.9%
San Mateo Medical Center/County General/CHOPE	40	21.7%
Community Clinic	16	8.7%
Mobile Health Van	12	6.5%
Coastside Clinic	7	3.8%
VA Hospital/Clinic	5	2.7%
Ravenswood Clinic	0	0.0%
Don't ever go	14	7.6%
Multiple responses	12	6.5%
Other	12	6.5%
Total	184	100.0%

J. Criminal Justice System Involvement

11. Are you currently on probation and/or parole?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes, probation	21	11.2%
Yes, parole	2	1.1%
Yes, both	3	1.6%
No	161	86.1%
Total	187	100.0%

K. Foster Care System Involvement

12. Were you ever in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	19	10.1%
No	169	89.9%
Total	188	100.0%

L. Domestic Violence

13. Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	31	16.3%
No	159	83.7%
Total	190	100.0%

M. Demographics

14. Which racial/ethnic group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasian	111	59.4%
Hispanic/Latino	35	18.7%
Black/African American	24	12.8%
Multi-ethnic	7	3.6%
Pacific Islander	4	2.1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	1.6%
Asian	3	1.6%
Total	187	100.0%

15. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Male	133	71.5%
Female	52	28.0%
Transgender	1	0.5%
Total	186	100.0%

Age of Respondents (based on reported date of birth)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Adult (over age 24)	191	93.2%
Youth (18-24)	14	6.8%
Child (under 18)	0	0.0%
Total	205	100.0%

N. Language

In which language was the interview conducted:

Response	Frequency	Percent
English	156	88.1%
Spanish	13	7.3%
English and Spanish	8	4.5%
Total	177	100.0%