



SAN FRANCISCO



**HOMELESS**

UNIQUE YOUTH COUNT & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

**2015**

REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

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*Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a nonprofit, 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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# Acknowledgments

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The San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB), the coordinating body for San Francisco's Continuum of Care, provided oversight for the 2015 San Francisco Unique Homeless Youth Count and Survey. We thank the members of the LHCB for their valued input and guidance. Meetings of the LHCB also served as a forum for stakeholder and community input on the project.

In particular, we would like to mention the following individuals for their time and effort: Mayor Edwin Lee, Trent Rhorer, Steve Arcelona, Joyce Crum, Daryl Higashi, Bevan Dufty, Sam Dodge, John Murray, Megan Owens Faught, Brenda Meskan, Rann Parker, and Ali Schlageter. This project could not have happened without the support of the Homeless Youth Service Providers who assisted in the planning and recruitment of youth surveyors and count workers.

#### YOUTH SERVICE AGENCIES

- Larkin Street Youth Services
- At the Crossroads
- Homeless Youth Alliance
- Young Community Developers, Inc.
- LYRIC

We thank the team of trained currently and formerly homeless youth who conducted the street count and administered surveys on the streets of San Francisco and at various service locations throughout San Francisco.

We also thank the staff of the Planning Unit of the Human Services Agency for providing feedback and assistance to the team throughout the project including the design and production of maps for the unsheltered count, project methodology, survey development, review of this report, and the presentation of findings.

Megan Owens Faight, Local Homeless Coordinating Board Policy Analyst and Ali Schlageter, Youth Programs Coordinator provided coordination and support for this project. Applied Survey Research conducted data analysis and writing.





# Introduction

Every two years, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of their homeless population during the last ten days of January, in order to assess the situation of individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness, and to apply for federal funding to support the homeless service programs that support them.

The Point-in-Time Count provides an opportunity to address gaps in understanding and knowledge. In 2013, it was recognized that little was known about the population of youth under the age of 25 in the City of San Francisco. Since that time, San Francisco has conducted a dedicated homeless youth count, in conjunction with its general Point-in-Time Count efforts.

In order to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) asked all communities conducting Point-in-Time Counts to gather information on the number and characteristics of unaccompanied children (under 18) and youth (ages 18-24) starting in 2013. Communities were encouraged to conduct targeted youth counts. San Francisco rose to this challenge, using best practice strategies for outreach and the enumeration of homeless youth.

The 2013 and 2015 Unique Point-in-Time Count of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition-Age-Youth were conducted as part of the broader Point-in-Time Count of all unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons living in San Francisco. In 2015, the targeted youth street count was conducted on the evening of January 29, 2015 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. overlapping the time and location of the general count. It focused on areas of San Francisco where youth were known to congregate. Golden Gate Park was counted between the hours of roughly 11 a.m. and 2p.m., to ensure the comfort and safety of youth counting the area.

The general street count was also conducted on January 29, 2015 from approximately 8 p.m. to midnight and covered all 47 square miles of San Francisco. Golden Gate Park was counted the following morning, January 30, 2015 to ensure the comfort and safety of outreach workers

counting the area. A shelter count was conducted the evening of January 29, 2015 and included all individuals staying in: emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, domestic violence shelters, and institutional settings.

### **FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS**

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

This narrow definition of homelessness is in contrast to the considerably broader definition adopted by the City and County of San Francisco. The definition of homelessness in San Francisco expands HUD's definition to include individuals who were "doubled-up" in the homes of family or friends, staying in jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities, families living in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units, and in sub-standard or inadequate living conditions including overcrowded spaces. While this data is beyond the scope of this project, information on those residing in jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation facilities were gathered and are included in this report where applicable.

### **PROJECT PURPOSE AND GOALS**

The 2015 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- Meet the challenge of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to include children and youth in 2015 Point-in-Time Count of homeless persons
- Define the extent of homelessness among unaccompanied children and youth in San Francisco
- Identify lead agencies and create a sustainable structure for counting and surveying unaccompanied homeless children and youth in San Francisco
- Identify the primary causes of homelessness, patterns of service usage, and programing needs among unaccompanied homeless children and youth

It is hoped that the results of the research will assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local and federal governments to better understand the homeless youth population. The intent of the Unique Homeless Youth Count and Survey is to help policy makers and service providers more effectively develop services and programs to serve this population in San Francisco.



# Point-In-Time Count

The 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Count included a complete enumeration of all unsheltered and publicly sheltered homeless persons in San Francisco. The general street count was conducted on January 29, 2015 from approximately 8 p.m. to midnight and covered all 47 square miles of San Francisco. The shelter count was conducted on the same evening and included all individuals staying in: emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, domestic violence shelters, jails, hospitals and treatment facilities. The general street count and shelter count methodology were similar to those used in 2013.

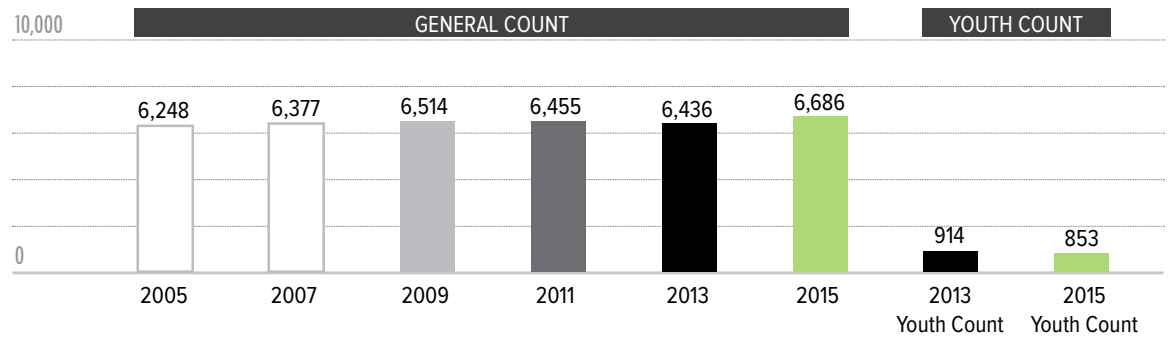
In a sustained effort to improve data on the extent of youth homelessness, San Francisco conducted a dedicated Youth Count similar to the one conducted in 2013. The dedicated Youth Count was conducted on the same date as the general Point-in-Time Count. It is a supplemental count conducted only in the areas where homeless youth tend to congregate and conducted by homeless youth peers. The Youth Count methodology is intended to improve the quality of data about homeless youth, as this population can be especially difficult for volunteers to identify. For the first time in 2015, the Youth Count was also conducted in the evening, like the General Count to maximize deduplication. Additional deduplication efforts were made to ensure unaccompanied children and transitional -age-youth counted by youth had not already been counted by General Count volunteers.

## NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

On the night of January 29, 2015, a total of 7,539 homeless individuals were counted in the City of San Francisco. Of those, 1,569 were unaccompanied children and transition-age-youth (TAY). While the overall number of people counted in the Point-in-Time Count increased between 2013 and 2015, the number of unaccompanied children and youth declined.

In 2013, the Unique Youth Point-in-Time Count resulted in 914 unaccompanied children and youth being included in the count. In 2015, the Unique Youth Point-in-Time Count resulted in 853. This decrease was in part due to a strict deduplication method employed in 2015, which resulted in the exclusion of 88 unaccompanied children and transition-age-youth. While this change in methodology accounts for a significant change in the Unique Youth Point-in-Time Count, it does not fully account for the overall decrease in the number of unaccompanied children and youth counted 2015.

**FIGURE 1. UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT TREND**



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). *San Francisco Homeless Count*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). *San Francisco Homeless Count*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2011). *San Francisco Homeless Count*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2009). *San Francisco Homeless Count*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2007). *San Francisco Homeless Count*. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2005). *San Francisco Homeless Count*. Watsonville, CA.

As mentioned previously unaccompanied children and transition-age-youth were identified in both the General Count and Youth Count. In 2015, even after deduplication ,which subtracted youth who were potentially counted in the General Count, the Youth Count identified a higher proportion of the total unaccompanied children and youth included in the total Point-in-Time Count than did General Count efforts. In 2015, unaccompanied children and transitional-age-youth represented 1,569 of the 7,539 people counted in the Point-in-Time Count. In 2013, unaccompanied children and youth accounted for 1,902 of the 7,350 individuals counted in the City of San Francisco.

**FIGURE 2.** HOMELESS CENSUS RESULTS ON UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE-YOUTH BY SOURCE

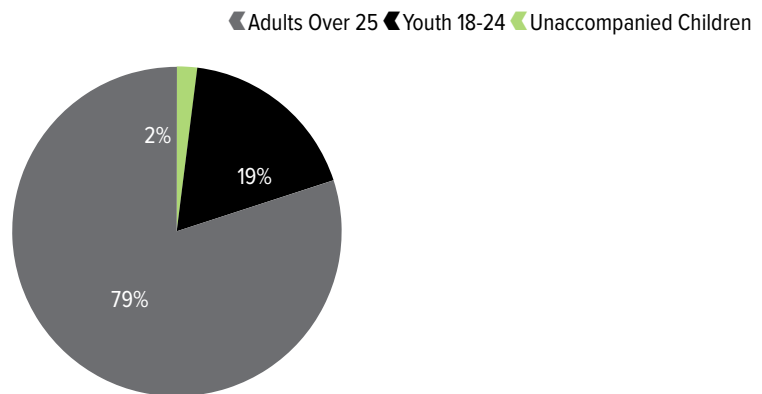
	2013	2015
Identified through Youth Count effort	914	850
Identified though General Point-in-Time Count effort	988	719
Total Number of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age-Youth	1,902	1,569
Overall Homeless Point-in-Time Count	7,350	7,569
Percent of Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age-Youth	26%	21%

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.  
Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.

Note: Total Youth Count data include two transitional-age-youth and one child in a family. While they were enumerated by youth, these individuals are treated as families.

Unaccompanied children and youth represented 21% of all homeless individuals counted in San Francisco on January 29, 2015. This was a slight decrease from 2013, when unaccompanied children and youth represented 26% of the population. While homelessness among unaccompanied children and youth appears to have declined slightly, it is important to note that one in five individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of San Francisco is an unaccompanied child or transition-age-youth under the age of 25.

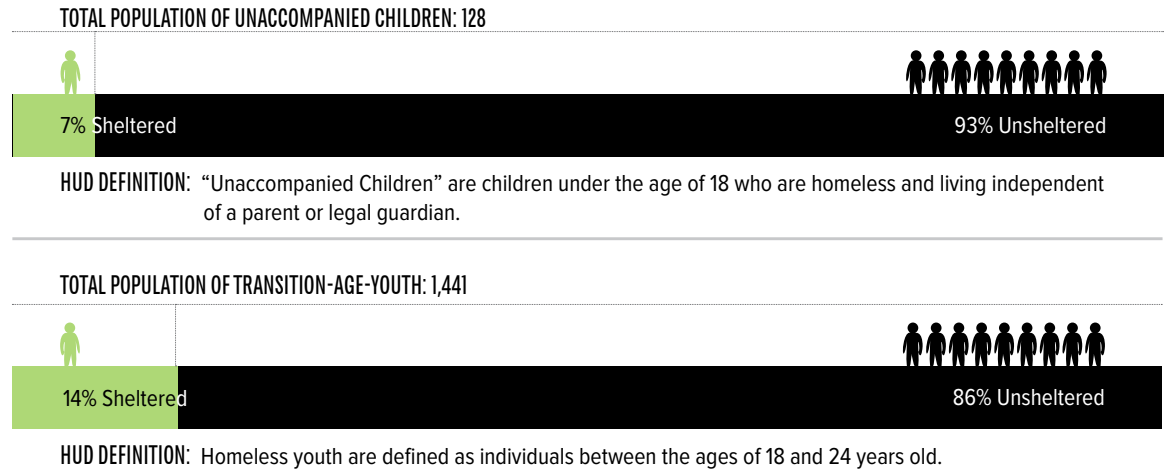
**FIGURE 3.** POINT-IN-TIME COUNT AGE DISTRIBUTION



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.

Of the 1,569 unaccompanied children and youth included in the Point-in-Time Count, 128 were under the age of 18. In 2015, 7% of unaccompanied children under the age of 18 were counted in City shelters, as were 14% of transitional age youth.

**FIGURE 4. UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE-YOUTH POPULATION ESTIMATES**



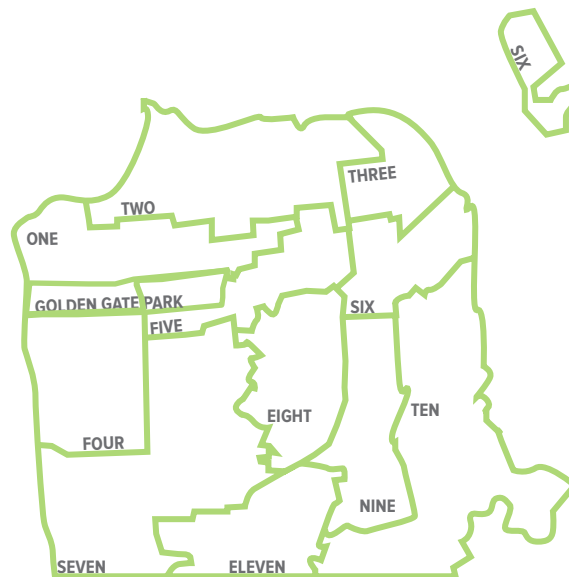
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). *San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey*. Watsonville, CA.

Note: Ninety-three transitional age youth (18-24) and three unaccompanied children were counted in residential programs that fall outside the definition of homelessness for HUD. In 2015, 1,348 youth and 125 unaccompanied children met the HUD definition of homelessness.

While the general Point-in-Time efforts cover the entire city, dedicated Youth Count efforts focus in specific neighborhoods of San Francisco where unaccompanied children and youth are known to congregate. Youth Count workers focused on counting only those in the targeted age group but covered the same map areas as those covered in the general street count. In 2015, Youth Count efforts resulted in unaccompanied children and youth counted in Districts 5, 6, 8, and 9 as well as areas of Golden Gate Park, which spans areas of Districts 1 and 5.

Efforts were made to count unaccompanied children and transition-age-youth in District 10 which included the Bayview neighborhood. Due to a shooting in the area a few days prior to the count, methods were altered which limited youth outreach. Youth Count peer enumerators counted one precinct in the Bayview on the evening of Point-in-Time Count, which resulted in two transitional-age-youth included in the count. However the peer team was accompanied by an adult volunteer enumerator and was the only count team to cover the precinct; therefore, the two transitional -age -youth were included in the General Count data. Transitional-age-youth in Districts 9 and 10 were represented in other efforts. In the weeks following the count, youth surveyors in the neighborhood were able to complete 20 surveys with homeless youth from the Bayview.

FIGURE 5. MAP OF SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICTS





In comparison to 2013 data, the greatest decrease in the Youth Count was seen in Golden Gate Park. This reduction was largely the result of deduplication efforts implemented in 2015. For more information on deduplication efforts, please see Appendix 1.

**FIGURE 6.** TOTAL UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED SAN FRANCISCO HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME YOUTH COUNT POPULATION BY DISTRICT AND FAMILY STATUS (2013 AND 2015)

DISTRICT	2013				2015			
	INDIVIDUALS	PERSONS IN FAMILIES	TOTAL PERSONS	% OF TOTAL	INDIVIDUALS	PERSONS IN FAMILIES	TOTAL PERSONS	% OF TOTAL
1	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
2	4	0	4	<1%	0	0	0	0%
3	203	0	203	22%	0	0	0	0%
4	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
5*	82	0	82	9%	182	0	182	21%
6*	219	0	219	24%	352	3	355	42%
7	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
8*	68	0	68	7%	159	0	159	19%
9*	53	11	64	7%	34	0	34	4%
10	4	0	4	<1%	0	0	0	0%
11	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%
Confidential/ Scattered Site Locations in San Francisco	63	0	63	7%	0	0	0	0%
Golden Gate Park*	207	0	207	23%	123	0	123	14%
Total	903	11	914	100%	850	3	853	100%
% of Total	99%	1%	100%	-	100%	<1%	100%	-

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.

Note: 2013 data were recoded to show separate data on Golden Gate Park, in 2013 these data were shown with data in Districts 1 and 5.

Note: \*Denote areas of San Francisco where Youth Count efforts took place.

The table below details the impact of the targeted Youth Count in each supervisorial district. The Unique Youth Point-in-Time Count affected the number of individuals counted in Districts 5, 6, 8, and 9.

**FIGURE 7.** TOTAL UNSHELTERED AND SHELTERED HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION BY DISTRICT AND FAMILY STATUS (2015)

DISTRICT	GENERAL COUNT				YOUTH COUNT			
	INDIVIDUALS	PERSONS IN FAMILIES	TOTAL PERSONS	% OF TOTAL	INDIVIDUALS	PERSONS IN FAMILIES	TOTAL PERSONS	% OF TOTAL
1	48	29	77	1%	0	0	0	0%
2	60	0	60	1%	0	0	0	0%
3	242	0	242	4%	0	0	0	0%
4	7	0	7	<1%	0	0	0	0%
5*	192	118	310	5%	182	0	182	21%
6*	3,487	349	3,836	57%	352	3	355	42%
7	29	0	29	0%	0	0	0	0%
8*	163	20	183	3%	159	0	159	19%
9*	313	63	376	6%	34	0	34	4%
10	1,255	17	1,272	19%	0	0	0	0%
11	123	7	130	2%	0	0	0	0%
Confidential/ Scattered Site Locations in San Francisco	11	24	35	1%	0	0	0	0%
Golden Gate Park*	129	0	129	2%	123	0	123	14%
Total	6,059	627	6,686	100%	850	3	853	100%
% of Total	91%	9%	100%	-	100%	<1%	100%	-

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.

Note: \*Denote areas of San Francisco where Youth Count efforts took place.

Forty-one percent (41%) of unsheltered unaccompanied children and transitional-age-youth were identified in District 6, 14% were identified in District 5, and 11% were identified in Golden Gate Park (Districts 1 and 5). The table below details the geographic distribution of unsheltered unaccompanied children and transitional-age-youth counted during the Point-in-Time Count.

**FIGURE 8.** UNSHELTERED TRANSITIONAL-AGE-YOUTH AND UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN BY SOURCE AND DISTRICT (2015)

DISTRICT	GENERAL COUNT		YOUTH COUNT		TOTAL	
	TRANSITIONAL-AGE-YOUTH 18-24	UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN <18	TRANSITIONAL-AGE-YOUTH 18-24	UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN <18	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
1	6	0	0	0	6	<1%
2	12	0	0	0	12	1%
3	36	2	0	0	38	3%
4	0	0	0	0	0	0%
5*	9	1	160	22	192	14%
6*	184	17	311	41	553	41%
7	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
8*	19	1	155	4	179	13%
9*	28	4	32	2	66	5%
10	136	3	0	0	139	10%
11	24	0	0	0	24	2%
Golden Gate Park*	27	3	104	19	153	11%
Total	482	31	764	89	1,363	100%
% of Total	35%	2%	56%	7%	100%	-

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.

Note: \*Denote areas of San Francisco where Youth Count efforts took place.



# Homeless Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the 2015 San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Surveys were administered after the completion of the Point-in-Time Count, between February 1 and February 19, 2015. Surveys were administered by peer surveyors.

With a population of 1,569 unaccompanied children and youth under the age of 25, the survey sample of 175 youth represents a 95% confidence interval with a +/- 7% margin of error. Data are presented on both the adult and youth survey populations where available.

## SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

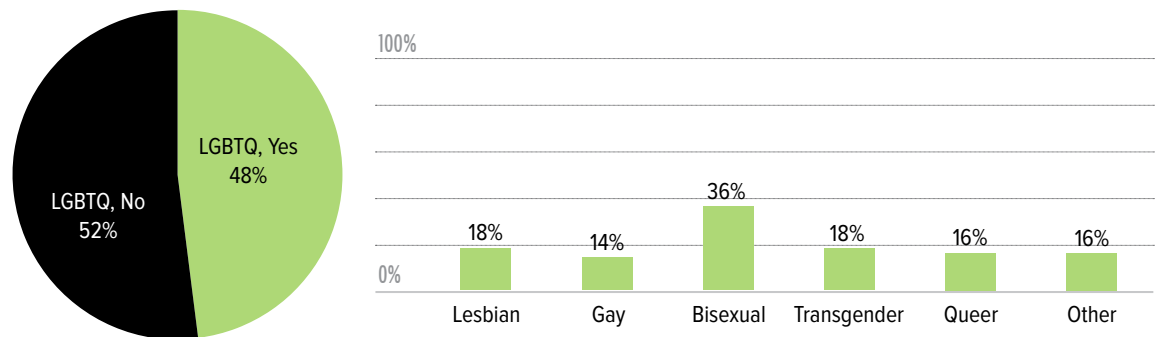
### GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The gender breakdown of homeless youth was similar to that of the general homeless population. More than half (58%) identified as male and 34% identified as female. Eight percent (8%) of youth identified as transgender, which was higher than the older adult population (4%).

It has been estimated that nationally 20% of homeless youth self-identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ), a disproportionately higher percentage than in the general population (10%). Among homeless youth respondents in San Francisco, 48% identified as LGBTQ. This was higher than in 2013 when 28% of the population identified as LGBTQ.

Among those who identified as LGBTQ in 2015, 36% identified as bisexual, 32% gay or lesbian, 16% queer and 18% transgender. Sixteen percent (16%) of LGBTQ respondents reported an alternative sexual identity.

**FIGURE 9. SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND LGBTQ IDENTITY**



2015 n:84

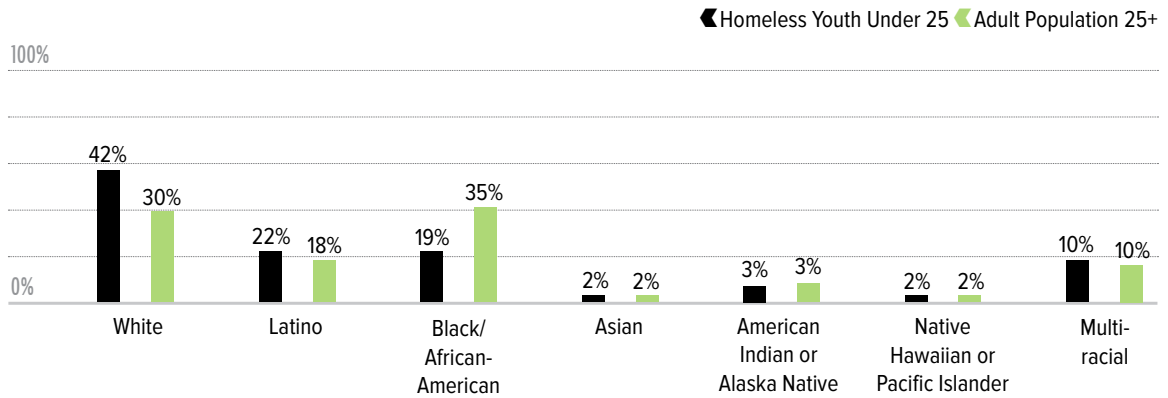
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

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

**RACE AND ETHNICITY**

Forty-two percent (42%) of homeless youth survey respondents identified as White, compared to just 30% of homeless adults 25 and older. Twenty-two percent (22%) of youth identified as Hispanic or Latino, similar to the 18% of adults 25 and older. A lower percentage of homeless youth identified as Black or African American, 19% compared to 34% of adults 25 and older.

**FIGURE 10. HOMELESS POPULATION BY RACE AND AGE**



Homeless Youth n:175; Adult n: 833

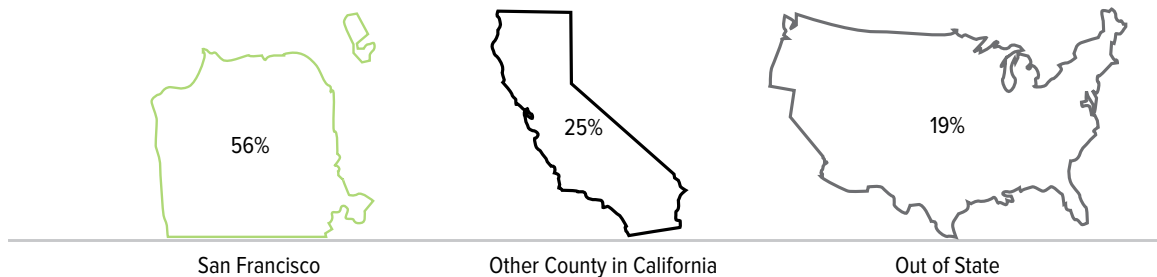
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Note: In 2015 race/ethnicity was asked as two questions, similar to the U.S. Census, however data have been analyzed to include both race and ethnicity.

**RESIDENCY**

More than half of youth survey respondents reported they were living in San Francisco at the time they most recently became homeless (56%). Nineteen percent (19%) moved to San Francisco from out of state, compared to 8% of respondents over age 25. Eighty-two percent (82%) of 2015 youth respondents reported staying in San Francisco year round, this was up from 60% of 2013 respondents.

**FIGURE 11. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT THE TIME OF HOUSING LOSS**



2015 n:172

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

While homeless youth may move more often than other youth, many 18 to 24 year olds move around. Census Bureau data on the general population of transitional-age-youth in San Francisco showed that 39% had moved at least once in the prior year. Of those who had moved, 72% moved within the state of California, 17% reported moving from out of state, and 11% reported moving from another country.<sup>1</sup>

### PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

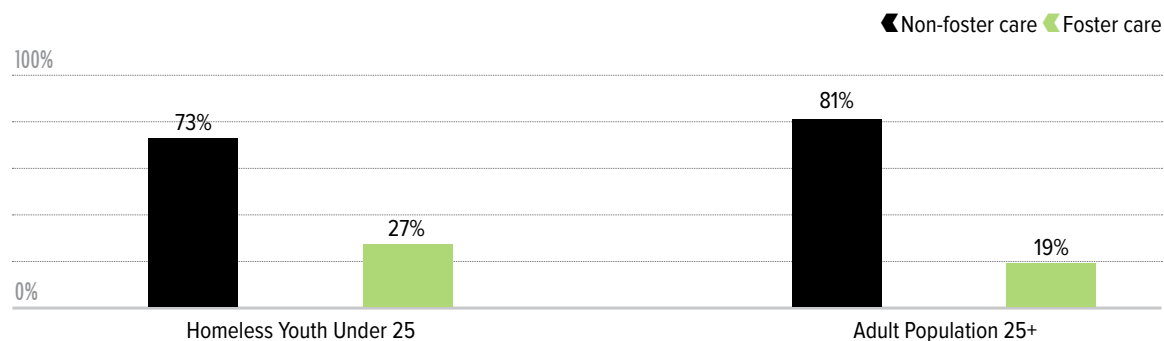
Twenty-one percent (21%) of homeless youth reported they had lived with both parents prior to experiencing homelessness, 16% lived with a single mother and 10% a single father. Four percent (4%) reported living with a stepparent and 13% another family member. Seven percent (7%) of youth reported living with a foster family, and two percent (2%) in a group home. Three percent (3%) of youth reported they were in juvenile hall prior to becoming homeless.

### HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

It has been estimated that one in four former foster youth experience homelessness within four years of exiting the foster care system.<sup>2</sup> In the State of California, foster youth are now eligible to receive services beyond age 18. Transitional housing and supportive services for youth 18-24 are often referred to as Transitional Housing Placement-Plus (THP-Plus). While this program is relatively new, implemented since 2012, it is hoped that these additional supports will prevent homelessness for youth exiting the foster care system.

Twenty-seven percent (27%) of youth reported a history of foster care. Based on Point-in-Time Count data this is an estimated 389 homeless youth in San Francisco. Nine percent (9%) of youth with a history of foster care reported they were living in foster care immediately before becoming homeless, yet less than 5% of youth with a foster history reported aging out of foster care as the primary cause of their homelessness. Respondents were not asked where they were living while in care, however 56% of youth with a foster care history reported they were living in San Francisco at the time they became homeless, an estimated 228 youth.

**FIGURE 12. EXPERIENCE WITH FOSTER CARE**



Homeless Youth n:160; Adult n: 736

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

1 U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). 2009-2013 ACS 5-year PUMS data. Retrieved 2015 from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

2 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2012). Amendment 2012, Opening Doors: Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. Washington: D.C.

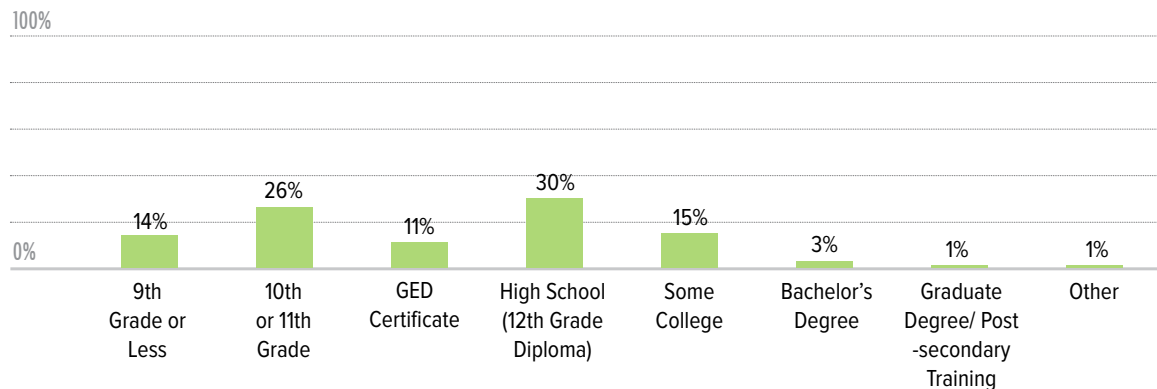


## EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE-YOUTH

While the majority of youth respondents were between the age of 18 and 24 years old. Forty percent (40%) reported they had not completed high school or received a GED. This is compared to 8% of the general population of youth 18 to 24 in the City of San Francisco. Forty-one percent (41%) of homeless youth respondents had completed high school or received a GED, compared to 61% of the general youth population. While 31% of the general population of youth in San Francisco report having an Associates degree or higher, 3% of homeless youth had completed college, and 1% held a graduate degree. Fifteen percent (15%) reported they has attended some college.<sup>3</sup>

**FIGURE 13.** EDUCATION ATTAINMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE-YOUTH



2015 n:151

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). *San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey*. Watsonville, CA.

Note: Percentages may add to more than 100% due to rounding.

Youth who are delayed in obtaining their first job are less likely to progress in their career, and are more likely to earn less, and experience delayed benefits such as health care and retirement. Many people who experience extended joblessness during youth may retain work that is beneath their capabilities as older adults. They are often seen by prospective employers as lacking basic skills and experience.<sup>4</sup> Sixteen percent (16%) of homeless youth reported they had a job, paid internship or other type of employment. This was much lower than the 52% of the general population of youth 18-24 in San Francisco who reported some form of employment.<sup>5</sup>

3 U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). 2009-2013 ACS 5-year PUMS data. Retrieved 2015 from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

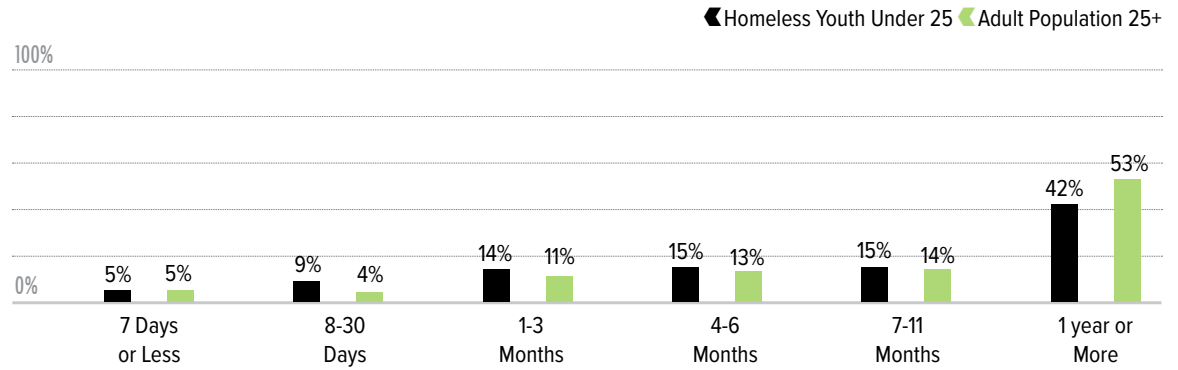
4 Ferguson, K. Youth Society. *Employment Status and Income Generation Among Homeless Young Adults Results from a Five-City, Mixed-Methods Study*. September 2012 vol. 44 no. 3 385-407

5 U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). 2009-2013 ACS 5-year PUMS data. Retrieved 2015 from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

### DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

For many youth, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability. Youth may experience homelessness multiple times as they assemble different subsistence strategies and housing opportunities. For this reason youth were asked how long they had experienced homelessness this current time. Forty-two percent (42%) of youth reported they had been homeless for one year or more. Fourteen percent (14%) had been without housing for fewer than 30 days.

**FIGURE 14.** LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



Homeless Youth n:173; Adult n: 834

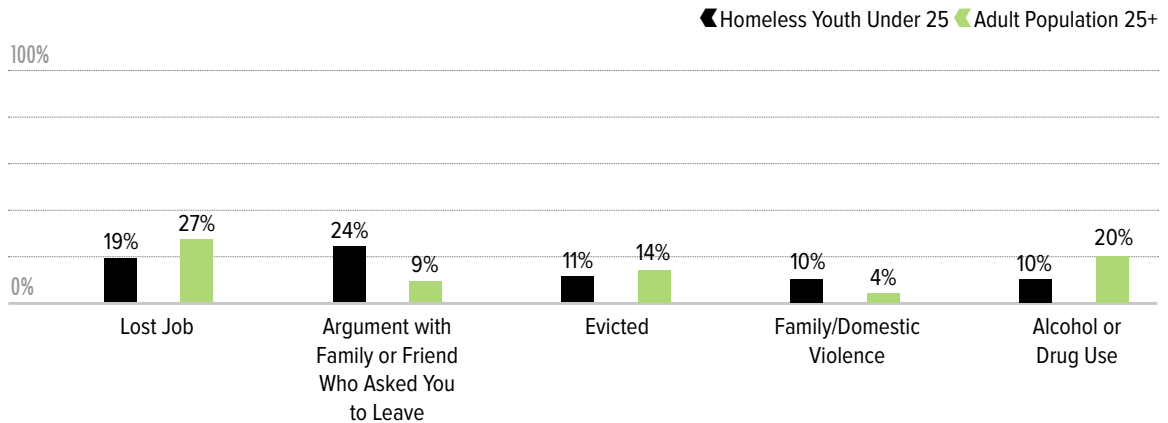
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Despite their young age, more than half of homeless youth reported they had experienced multiple episodes of homelessness. Forty-five percent (45%) reported they were experiencing homelessness for the first time, compared to 28% of adult respondents.

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

Homeless youth survey respondents reported similar causes of homelessness to those 25 and older. The most frequently reported cause of homelessness among youth was an argument with a friend or family member who asked them to leave (24%). Nineteen percent (19%) of youth cited job loss as the primary cause of homelessness, down from 28% of youth respondents in 2013. A higher percentage of youth respondents (10%) reported domestic violence as the primary cause of their homelessness, as compared to those ages 25 and older (4%).

**FIGURE 15.** PRIMARY CAUSE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

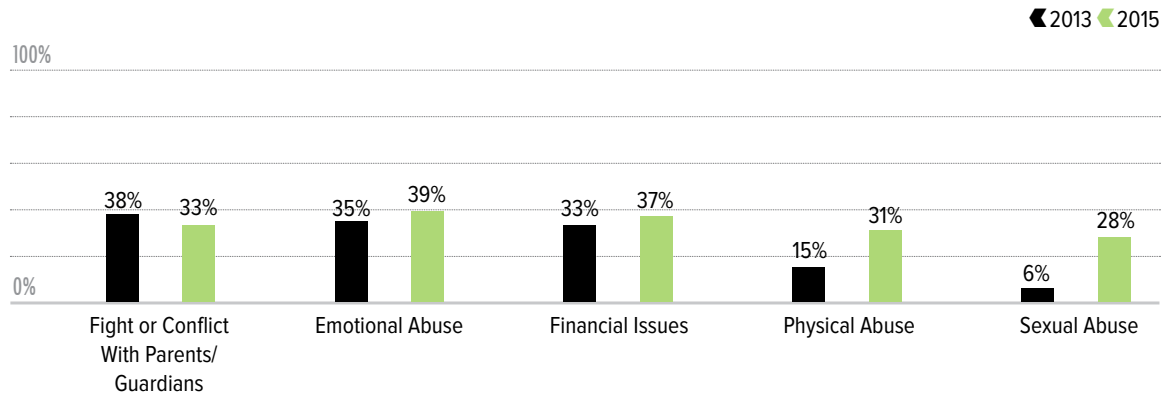


Homeless Youth n:170; Adult n: 823

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

In addition to asking about the primary cause of their homelessness, youth were asked to identify other contributing causes of their homelessness. The most frequent response in 2015 was emotional abuse (39%), followed by financial issues (37%). Thirty-three percent (33%) of youth reported a fight or conflict with their parents/guardian contributed to their homelessness. Thirty-one percent (31%) of youth reported physical abuse and 28% sexual abuse. While not one of the top five responses, 15% of youth reported their sexual identity contributed to their homelessness.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)



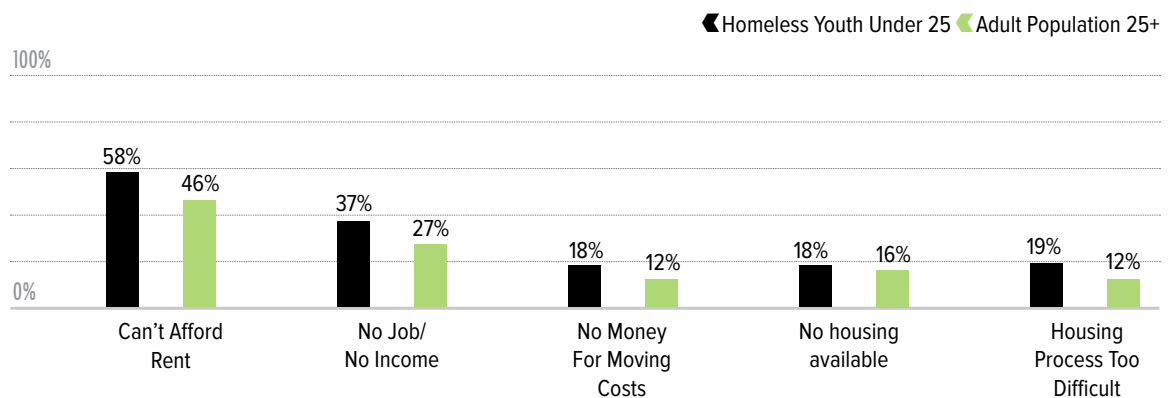
2013 n:173; 2015 n:131

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

### OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING

More than half (52%) of youth reported they did not expect to obtain stable housing within the 12 months following the survey. When asked about barriers to housing, the primary barriers cited by survey respondents pointed to financial challenges. The inability to afford rent was most often reported by both youth and adult respondents (58% and 46%). Thirty-seven percent (37%) of youth and 27% of adults reported their lack of income was preventing them from obtaining permanent housing. Eleven percent (11%) of youth reported they did not want housing.

**FIGURE 16.** OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)



*Homeless Youth n:169 respondents offering 404 responses; Adult n:796 respondents offering 1,405 responses*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.*

### EXPERIENCES WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Homeless youth often interact with law enforcement more frequently than the general population due to their experiences on the street. Some homeless youth are involved in the criminal justice system and it is that experience which places them at greater risk for homelessness by creating barriers to employment and housing.

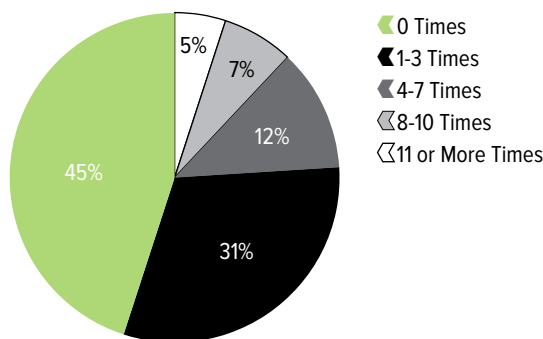
Thirty-three percent (33%) of youth reported they had been involved with the justice system before turning 18. While 19% were on probation or parole at the time of the survey, only 16% reported being on probation or parole prior to experiencing homelessness. Eight percent (8%) of youth reported incarceration was the primary cause of their homelessness and 15% reported their criminal record was preventing them from obtaining housing.

**SAFETY AND WELL-BEING**

While many homeless youth engage in criminal activity, research suggests they are more likely to be the victims of crime rather than the perpetrators.<sup>6</sup> In San Francisco more than one in four youth reported they did not feel safe in their current living situation, higher than in 2013 when one in ten youth reported feeling unsafe.

In addition to feeling unsafe, more than half of youth respondents reported their safety had been threatened one or more times in the month prior to the survey. This was up from 38% in 2013.

**FIGURE 17. SAFETY THREATENED IN THE PAST 30 DAYS**



2015 n:147

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

**ILLICIT ACTIVITY**

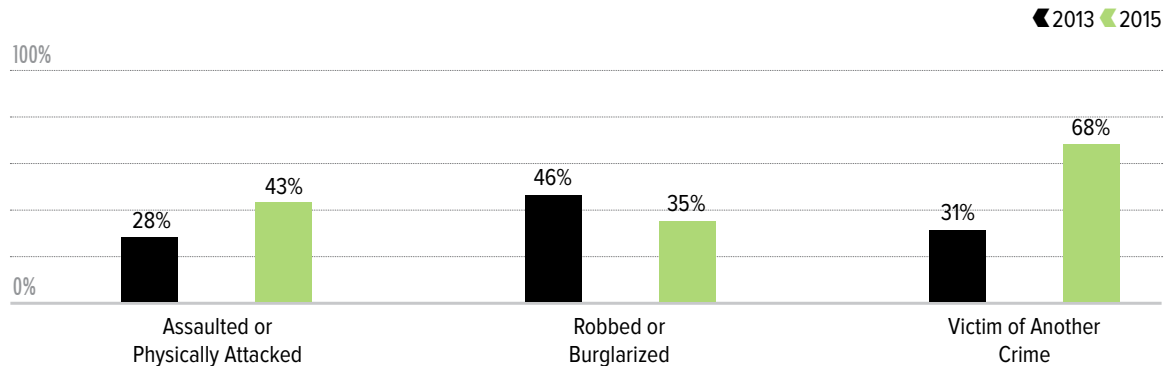
Twenty-seven percent (27%) of youth reported they had traded drugs for a place to stay, compared to 8% of youth in 2013. Twenty percent (20%) reported they had traded sex for a place to stay, compared to 5% in 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Gaetz, S. (2004). Safe Streets for Whom? Homeless Youth, Social Exclusion, and Criminal Victimization. Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice. University of Toronto Press. Volume 46, Number 4 / July 2004. pp. 423-456.

## VIOLENCE AND CRIME

Forty-three percent (43%) of youth respondents reported they had been attacked or physically assaulted in the 12 months prior to the survey, up from 28% in 2013. Thirty-eight percent (38%) report an experience being robbed or burglarized, which was down from 46% in 2013. The percent of youth who report being the victim of another form of crime more than doubled, from 31% in 2013 to 68% in 2015.

**FIGURE 18. EXPERIENCES WITH CRIME**



2013: robbed/burglarized n:164, assaulted n:160, victim of another crime n:164; 2015: robbed/burglarized n:144, assaulted n:145, victim of another crime n:142

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). *San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey*. Watsonville, CA.  
Applied Survey Research. (2013). *San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey*. Watsonville, CA.

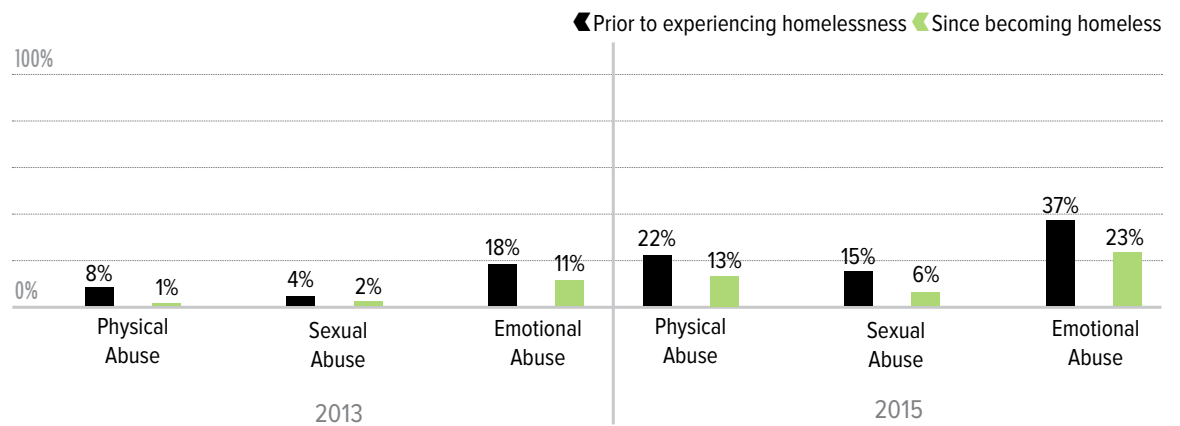
Note: The response options of burglarized and robbed were combined for reporting purposes.



**EXPERIENCES OF ABUSE**

Many homeless youth survey respondents reported experiences of abuse. As in 2013, more youth reported experiencing abuse prior to becoming homeless than after. The implication of this is that youth are fleeing abuse. In 2015, just 3% of respondents reported they had not experienced any form of abuse prior to or after experiencing homelessness. While 88% of youth reported experiencing physical, sexual or emotional abuse prior to homelessness, 67% reported abuse since becoming homeless. Twenty-two percent (22%) of youth reported they had experienced physical abuse prior to homelessness “very often” or “always.” Fifteen percent (15%) reported they had experienced sexual abuse as often, and 37% emotional abuse. After becoming homeless these percentage dropped to 13%, 6% and 23% respectively. On average, youth reported higher frequencies of abuse prior to experiencing homelessness.

**FIGURE 19.** EXPERIENCED ABUSE PRIOR TO AND SINCE BECOMING HOMELESS (“OFTEN” OR “ALWAYS”)



2013: Physical abuse n:165; Sexual abuse n: 163; Emotional abuse n:163  
 2015: Physical abuse n:147; Sexual abuse n: 144; Emotional abuse n:147

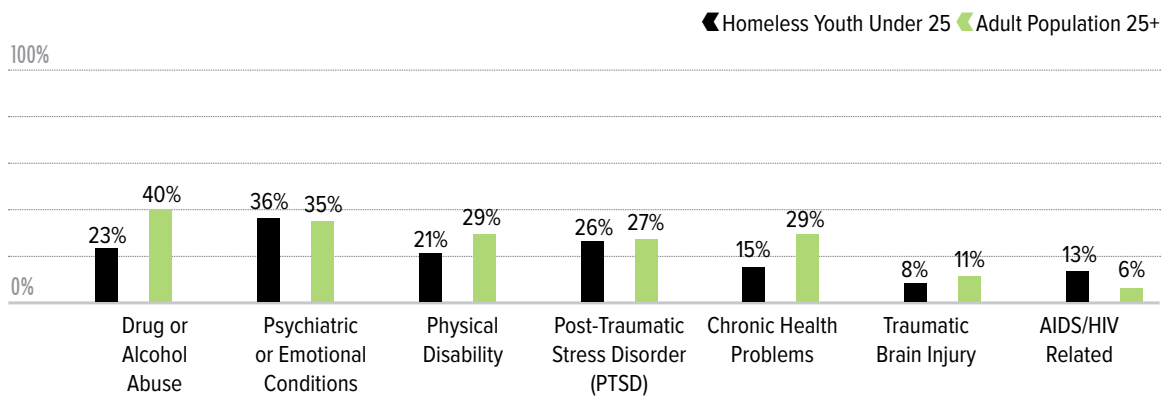
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

## HEALTH STATUS

Homeless youth respondents were asked about their physical health. Fifty-five percent (55%) of youth reported their physical health was “good” or “very good,” down from 69% in 2013. In 2015, 12% of youth reported their physical health was “poor.”

Twenty-two percent (22%) of youth reported one or more health conditions. Thirty-six percent (36%) reported psychiatric or emotional conditions, 21% reported a physical disability, and 23% reported drug or alcohol abuse. Fifteen percent (15%) of youth reported a chronic health condition such as diabetes, cancer or tuberculosis. A greater percentage of youth reported having HIV/AIDS compared to adult respondents, 13% compared to 6%.

**FIGURE 20.** HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE-YOUTH



*Homeless Youth Under 25: Drug or alcohol abuse n:163; Psychiatric or emotional conditions n:165; Physical disability n:164; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) n:166; Chronic health problems n:164; Traumatic Brain Injury n:165; AIDS/HIV related n:165*

*Adult Population 25+: Drug or alcohol abuse n:817; Psychiatric or emotional conditions n:800; Physical disability n:801; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) n:811; Chronic health problems n:810; Traumatic Brain Injury n:799; AIDS/HIV related n:786*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.*

## SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

San Francisco benefits from a number of agencies dedicated to serving homeless children and youth. Together these agencies create a service network providing youth with everything from transitional housing and employment opportunities to food. While youth have access to services in San Francisco and many are eligible for assistance, it is youths' perception of the service system that may matter most. If youth believe that they cannot access services or are ineligible, they will be less likely to seek assistance or support.

When youth were asked about their frequency of access to youth specific services in the 12 months prior to the survey, 22% reported they "always" accessed youth specific services. An additional 28% reported they often accessed youth services, while 16% reported never using such services.

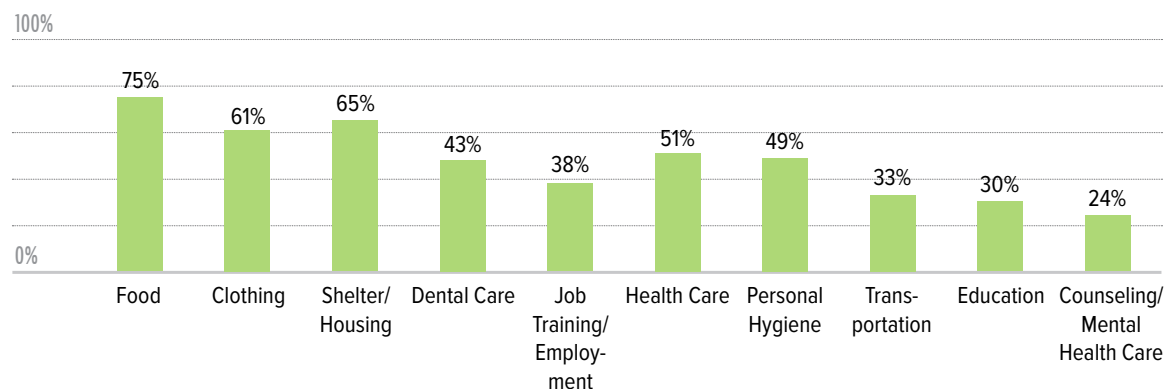
Youth were also asked if they felt their age prevented them from accessing specific services. Sixty-three percent (63%) felt age prevented them from receiving permanent housing, 37% felt it impeded employment, 21% transitional housing, and 13% emergency shelter. Forty percent (40%) of youth reported their age prevented them from accessing government assistance.

When asked about specific barriers to services or support, 48% of youth reported they did not have identification or personal documentation needed, and 40% reported they did not have access to transportation. Thirty-two percent (32%) of youth reported they did not know where to go for services and 29% reported they did not follow through or return for services they sought.

### SERVICE NEEDS

Youth reported their greatest service needs were basic needs: food (75%), shelter/housing (65%), clothing (61%), health care (51%), and personal hygiene (49%). While similar needs were reported in 2013, a higher percentage of respondents reported each of these needs in 2015.

**FIGURE 21.** CURRENT NEEDS OF YOUTH (TOP 10 RESPONSES)

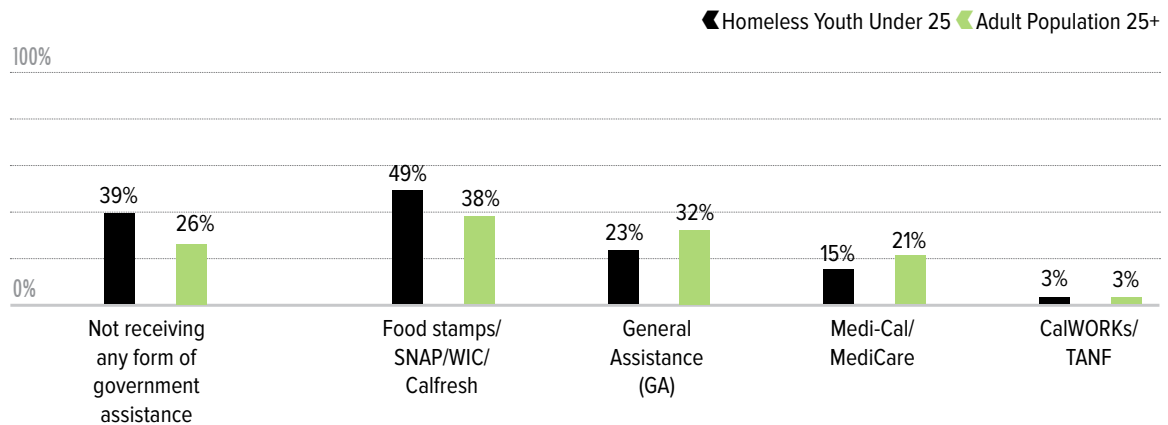


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Sixty-one percent (61%) of youth reported they were receiving some form of government assistance; this was a lower percentage than reported by adult respondents (74%). Forty-nine percent (49%) of youth reported they were receiving food stamps, and 23% reported receiving General Assistance. Fifteen percent (15%) of youth reported Medi-Cal benefits. Overall, youth survey respondents in 2015 were better connected to services than in the previous study when 57% youth reported receiving any form of government assistance.

**FIGURE 22.** GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Among youth who reported they were not receiving government assistance, 40% reported they did not want assistance, a higher percentage than in 2013 (36%). Nineteen percent (19%) of youth reported that they did not think they were eligible for assistance.

## SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND YOUTH ASSETS

Responses to youth homelessness continue to stress the need for family reunification and connecting youth to community members who can help support them in their transition to adulthood. The San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey gathered data on the relationships youth had with their parents and other adults in the community.

Twenty-eight percent (28%) of youth reported they had tried to move back in with their parents/family members. Eleven percent (11%) of homeless youth reported their parents were currently homeless.

One quarter (25%) of youth reported having a supportive adult in the Bay Area. One quarter also reported they had stayed in the home of a friend or family member in the 2 weeks prior to the survey. Of those who reported staying with someone, 37% reported they usually stayed with the same person/people.





# Conclusion

The second biennial San Francisco Unique Point-in-Time Count and Survey of Homeless Youth was conducted in an effort to improve data on the number and characteristics of homeless youth in the City. This work is part of a national effort to identify and assess the needs of homeless youth in America. In 2015 a total of 1,569 unaccompanied children and transition age youth were counted during the Point-in-Time Count. This was a slight decrease from the 1,902 youth counted in 2013. Based upon these data it is estimated that youth represent between 21% and 26% of the homeless population in San Francisco.

In 2015, a survey of 174 homeless youth was conducted in the weeks following the count. These survey responses provide insight into who these youth are and their experiences prior to and since experiencing homelessness in San Francisco.

- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of youth identified as male, 38% identified as female and 8% identified as transgender. In contrast to 2013, when the majority (72%) of respondents identified as male.
- Nearly half of the homeless youth population interviewed in 2015 identified as LGBTQ (48%), compared to 26% in 2013.
- 27% of homeless youth in San Francisco reported they had been in the foster care system, similar to 2013.
- Forty-two percent (42%) of 2015 youth respondents reported they had been homeless for one year or more while 14% had been without housing for fewer than 30 days.
- In 2015, one in four youth respondents reported they did not feel safe in their current living situation. This was in contrast to 2013 when just one in ten reported feeling unsafe.
- While many youth reported feeling unsafe on the street, data from 2013 and 2015 showed youth felt more unsafe in their previous living situations and many reported having been the victim of physical, mental or sexual abuse.

San Francisco remains committed to providing housing and services through innovative and effective programs to move homeless San Franciscans out of homelessness. Through effective outreach, service, housing programs, and a strong network of youth providers, San Francisco remains committed to ending homelessness for all homeless youth. The local commitment to ending youth homelessness can be seen in San Francisco's investment in housing for transition age youth. Since the last Homeless Youth count in 2013, an additional 15 units of transitional housing and 93 units of permanent supportive housing have been added to the TAY housing portfolio. In addition to that new housing stock, 25 more permanent housing units will open in the next 18 months along with a pilot program that will provide rental subsidies for youth age 18 to 25 years old.

The completion of the 2015 count provides HUD-required data for federal funding for San Francisco's Continuum of Care (CoC). The San Francisco CoC (the Local Homeless Coordinating Board) is a network of local homeless service providers that collaboratively plan, organize, and deliver housing and services to meet the needs of homeless people as they move toward stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. The data presented in the 2015 Unique Homeless Youth Point-in-Time Count and Survey report will be used by planning bodies of the City and County of San Francisco and other organizations to inform additional outreach, service planning, and policy decision-making over the next two years as they continue to address homelessness. The information provided in this report will be used as a guide to respond to the trending needs of homeless youth with appropriate services and housing options. The report allows for the City and youth providers to identify gaps in services and needs of the youth while also using data to highlight what interventions have worked well and are making an impact.

The Unique Point-in-Time Count and Survey relied heavily on the partnership of local youth service providers: At the Crossroads, Homeless Youth Alliance, and Larkin Street Youth Services. Currently homeless youth conducted the peer enumeration and survey, and identified areas where homeless youth were known to congregate. Their dedicated efforts resulted in a more comprehensive understanding of the scale of youth homelessness in the City of San Francisco. Their services and partnership will remain essential to the community as the City works to address the identified issues of safety, health and access to services and benefits among homeless youth.



# Appendix 1: Overview

The purpose of the 2015 San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count & Survey was to produce a Point-in-Time estimate of people who experience homelessness in San Francisco, a region which covers approximately 47 square miles. The results of the street count were combined with the results from the shelter and institution count to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in San Francisco 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 counted. A more detailed description of the methodology follows.

## COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS COUNT METHOD

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

- The general street count between the hours of 8 PM to midnight – an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals (Golden Gate Park was enumerated the following morning during daylight hours to ensure the safety of enumerators)
- The youth street count between the hours of 5 PM and 9 PM – a targeted enumeration of unsheltered youth under the age of 25 (Golden Gate Park was enumerated earlier in the afternoon, during daylight hours of approximately noon to 4PM, to ensure the safety of youth enumerators)
- The shelter count for the night of the street count – an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals.

The unsheltered and sheltered homeless counts 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 count, many City and community agencies collaborated in community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical planning, methodological decision-making, and interagency coordination efforts. Applied Survey Research (ASR), a non-profit social research firm, provided technical assistance with these aspects of the planning process. ASR has over 16 years of experience conducting homeless counts 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 have been active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of this and previous homeless counts. The planning team invited public input on a number of aspects of the count. The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB), the lead entity of San Francisco's Continuum of Care, was invited to comment on the methodology, and subsequently endorsed it. The LHCB was also the primary venue to collect public feedback.

## INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The planning team was comprised of staff from the Human Services Agency's Housing and Homeless Division, a Local Homeless Coordinating Board Policy Analyst, and consultants from Applied Survey Research. In the early stages of the planning process, the planning team requested the collaboration, cooperation, and participation of several government agencies that regularly interact with homeless individuals and possess considerable knowledge and expertise relevant to the count. In 2014, the planning team organized planning meetings which included representatives of the San Francisco Police Department, the Department of Public Health, the Recreation and Park Department, the Department of Public Works, the Mayor's Office, the Office of the City Administrator, and the Homeless Outreach Team (SF HOT). The planning team requested the participation and input of these agencies in four key areas related to the unsheltered count: the recruitment and mobilization of volunteers among City staff, the identification of "hotspots" for homelessness throughout San Francisco, the recruitment of staff to enumerate homeless individuals in City parks, and the provision of volunteer safety training and security detail on the night of the count. The planning team convened a series of more detailed meetings with the partners to coordinate the logistics of the general street count, youth count, and the park count.

## GENERAL STREET COUNT 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.

### METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2015 street count methodology followed a mature, HUD approved methodology used in the 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013 counts, with the addition of dedicated youth outreach in 2013 and 2015. In 2007-2011, all areas of San Francisco were fully canvassed by adult community volunteers and service providers, with no additional outreach by youth. In 2013, the dedicated youth outreach helped to develop a clearer picture of the extent of youth homelessness. Changes were made to the youth count in 2015, to improve these efforts and those changes are detailed to follow.

### VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in San Francisco turned out to support San Francisco's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. More than 500 community volunteers and City staff registered to participate in the 2015 general street count. The Human Services Agency (HSA) spearheaded the volunteer recruitment effort. Extensive outreach efforts were conducted, targeting local nonprofits that serve the homeless and local volunteer programs.

Project Homeless Connect publicized the count and promoted volunteer participation through an e-mail to its volunteer base and an event posting on its website. The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB), the Continuum of Care's oversight body for San Francisco, also promoted community participation in the count at all general meetings and subcommittee meetings for several months leading up to the count. The LHCB also posted an announcement and additional information about the count on its website and on the Craigslist website.

The planning committee sent a press release informing the community about the count and making an appeal for volunteer participation approximately two weeks before the count. Volunteers registered to participate, and received additional details on the count via a dedicated SFGOV email account monitored and staffed by Applied Survey Research (ASR) support staff.

Hundreds of volunteers served as enumerators on the night of the count, canvassing San Francisco in teams to visually count homeless persons. City staff supported each of the four dispatch centers, greeting volunteers, distributing instructions, maps, and equipment to enumeration teams, and collecting data sheets from returning teams.

In order to participate in the count, all volunteers were required to attend an hour of training immediately before the count on January 29, 2015, from 7 to 8 PM. In addition to the presentation given by the lead staff at the dispatch center, volunteers received printed instructions detailing how to count unsheltered homeless persons.

### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Parks considered too big or densely wooded to inspect safely and accurately in the dark on the night of the count were enumerated by teams of SF Parks and Recreation staff, Police Officers and SF HOT staff during the dawn hours of January 30. However, the majority of parks deemed safe were counted by volunteers on the night of the count. San Francisco Police Department officers provided a safety briefing to the volunteers and provided security at the dispatch centers throughout the night. Law enforcement districts were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. Additional safety measures for the volunteers included the deployment of an experienced SF HOT outreach worker with teams enumerating high density areas and the provision of flashlights and fluorescent safety vests to walking enumeration teams. No official reports were received in regards to unsafe or at-risk situations occurring during the street count in any area of San Francisco.

### **STREET COUNT DISPATCH CENTERS**

To achieve complete coverage of San Francisco within the four-hour timeframe, the planning team identified four areas for the placement of dispatch centers on the night of the count – the Downtown, Mission, Sunset, and Bayview Districts. Volunteers selected their dispatch center at the time of registration, based on familiarity with the area or convenience. The planning team divided up the enumeration routes and assigned them to the dispatch center closest or most central to the coverage area, to facilitate the timely deployment of enumeration teams into the field.

### **LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION**

Volunteers canvassed routes of approximately 6 to 30 blocks in teams of two to six volunteers. Walking teams canvassed routes in commercial areas and other locations known to include sizable homeless populations, while driving teams counted more sparsely populated and residential areas by a combination of driving and walking. Each team received a map, which demarcated the area to be canvassed and clearly showed the boundaries of the counting area. Two smaller inset maps showed the approximate location of the route within the broader context of San Francisco and pinpointed the location of known hotspots for homelessness. Dispatch center volunteers provided each team with tally sheets to record the number of homeless persons observed and basic demographic and location information. Dispatch center volunteers also verified that at least one person on each team had a cell phone available for their use during the count and recorded the number on the volunteer deployment log sheet.

As in previous years, teams canvassing densely populated areas with known large populations of homeless persons were accompanied by experienced outreach workers from SF HOT, a trained outreach team that works with the local homeless population year-round. SF HOT members provided volunteers with valuable guidance on where and how to look for homeless persons and assisted the team in determining whom to count. Teams in the southeast corridor of San Francisco were accompanied by workers from the Community Ambassadors Program (CAP), a multiracial and bilingual public safety group. Members of these two organizations helped teams through their intimate knowledge of the areas.

## YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

### GOAL

The goal of the dedicated youth count was to be more inclusive of homeless unaccompanied children and homeless youth, under the age of 25. Many homeless children and youth do not use homeless services, are unrecognizable to adult street count volunteers and may be in unsheltered locations that are difficult to find. Therefore, traditional street count efforts are not as effective in reaching homeless youth.

In 2013, HUD asked communities across the county to increase their efforts to include youth in their Point-in-Time Counts. The San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey planning team recognized that homeless youth have traditionally been underrepresented in the San Francisco Point-in-Time Counts and worked with ASR to develop a localized strategy to better include unaccompanied children and transition-age-youth in the count. The 2015 count, was the second youth count in the City of San Francisco, methods were changed slightly from 2013 in order to be more inclusive of all homeless youth in San Francisco and improve data collection.

### RESEARCH DESIGN

Planning for the 2015 dedicated youth count included many youth homeless service providers. Local providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate. The locations corresponded to count maps in the neighborhoods of the Haight, Mission, Tenderloin, Union Square, Castro, SoMa, the Panhandle, Golden Gate Park, Bayview and the Embarcadero. Service providers familiar with the areas were identified and asked to recruit currently homeless youth to participate in the count.

Larkin Street Youth Services, At the Crossroads, the Homeless Youth Alliance, Young Community Developers, Inc. and LYRIC recruited nearly 75 youth to work as peer enumerators, counting homeless youth in the identified areas of San Francisco on January 29, 2015. Youth worked in teams of two to four, with teams coordinated by youth street outreach workers. Youth workers were paid \$11 per hour for their time, including the training conducted prior to the count. Youth were trained on where and how to identify homeless youth as well as how to record the data.

It has been recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as the US Interagency Council on Homelessness that youth do not commonly congregate with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. For this reason, they have accepted and recommended communities count youth at times when they can be seen, rather than during the established times for the general homeless count. However, due to concerns regarding duplication of counted youth, San Francisco conducted the 2015 youth count only a few hours prior to the general street count from 5PM-9PM. Golden Gate Park was counted earlier in the day, during the daylight hours of approximately noon to 4PM, to ensure the safety of youth count workers. Youth count workers conducted counts of each assigned map area, just as general street count volunteers, yet focused their efforts on only those under 25 years of age.

In addition to altering the time and locations of the youth count, a strict de-duplication process was used to clean the count data. Using age, gender and map location, all unaccompanied children and youth who resembled those found in the general count were eliminated from the youth count. In total, 87 youth and one unaccompanied child were eliminated from the count. It is important to note that the majority of those youth removed from the count, were located in Golden Gate Park. This is an area of San Francisco that is also counted outside of regular count hours, in the early morning, just prior to sunrise, on the day following the evening street count.

These alterations in count methodology makes it difficult to compare the results of the 2013 and 2015 youth count. However, these are the only comprehensive data on unsheltered youth in the City of San Francisco that exist at this time. It is hoped that these changes in methods will increase the reliability of the count and its acceptance as a more accurate estimate of the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of San Francisco.

## **SHELTER AND INSTITUTION COUNT METHODOLOGY**

### **GOAL**

The goal of the shelter and institution count was to gain an accurate count of persons temporarily housed in shelters and other institutions across San Francisco. These data were vital to gaining an accurate overall count 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**

The homeless occupancy of the following shelters and institutions was collected for the night of January 29, 2015. While HUD does not include counts of homeless individuals in hospitals, residential rehabilitation facilities, and jails in the reportable numbers for the Point-in-Time Count, these facilities are included in San Francisco's sheltered count because these individuals meet San Francisco's local definition of homelessness and the numbers provide important supplemental information for the community and service providers in their planning efforts.

The following facilities participated in the count:

- **Residential Facilities:** Service providers from eight residential treatment programs collected data on the number and characteristics of homeless individuals served by thier program on the night of January 29, 2015.
- **Mental Health Facilities and Substance Abuse Treatment Centers:** The Department of Public Health and local agencies assisted in collecting counts of self-identified homeless persons staying in various facilities on the night of January 29, 2015. These Point-in-Time Count numbers included inpatient psychiatric services, Acute Diversion Units, medically-assisted and social model detoxification facilities, and residential drug treatment facilities.
- **Jail:** The San Francisco Sheriff's Department provided a count of the number of homeless persons in the County Jail on the night of January 29, 2015.
- **Hospitals:** The San Francisco Hospital Council assisted with the coordination of obtaining count numbers from the hospitals. Staff from individual hospitals collected the number of persons who were homeless in their facilities on the night of January 29, 2015. The numbers reported for the hospitals did not duplicate the inpatient mental health units.

A designated staff person provided the count for each of these facilities; clients were not interviewed. For the emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, resource centers, and stabilization rooms, all persons in the facility on the night of the count were included in the Point-in-Time Count because these are homeless-specific programs. For the hospitals and treatment centers, social workers or appropriate staff counted patients who identified as homeless. The San Francisco County Jail referenced booking cards to determine homeless status.

## CHALLENGES

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

## POINT-IN-TIME UNDERCOUNT

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.

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board, along with community members, expressed concerns about the undercount of homeless families in the Point-in-Time Count and with the use of HUD’s definition of homelessness. Therefore the information below is meant to provide supplemental data and be used for informational purposes.

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) employs a broader definition of homelessness in its recordkeeping. It includes youth living in shelters, single room occupancy hotels, transitional housing, the streets, cars, doubled-up, and other inadequate accommodations. SFUSD estimates that there were 2,209 school-aged youth enrolled in the district on January 29, 2015, down from 2,357 in January 2015. The largest number of children were in temporarily doubled-up situations (1,327), meaning they were staying with other friends or families.

Compass Connecting Point (CCP) is the central intake point for families facing homelessness or a housing crisis in San Francisco. CCP provides housing search services and manages the waitlist for family three to six month shelter placement. On January 27, 2015, CCP reported that 93 families seeking three to six month shelter placement had been assessed in-person for shelter eligibility and been placed on the waitlist, and an additional 74 families were called to start the assessment process (167 total families seeking shelter). Of the 93 families on the waitlist for whom there was additional data, three were living in three to six month family shelter (3%) and chose to get on the waitlist for a subsequent similar placement, of the 90 living outside the three to six month family shelter programs, 44 were living with friends and family and 21 were staying in an overnight shelter. Also, it’s noteworthy that three families reported sleeping on the street.

In addition, HSA has considered other unsheltered count methodologies, in the interest of decreasing the subjectivity involved in the count and attaining a more accurate number. One approach that has been considered is conducting interviews of all persons observed during the street count to determine whether they self-identify as homeless. Covering the entire City using this approach would require significantly more volunteers or a multiple-night count. A multiple-night count is a more expensive approach and would require additional resources. Moreover, a multiple-night count would require a methodology to eliminate duplicate counting of individuals. In addition, interviewing raises concerns about disturbing the privacy of homeless persons and compromising the safety of volunteer enumerators.

Even though the Point-in-Time Count 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.

## **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

### **PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The survey of 1,027 homeless persons was conducted in order to yield qualitative data about the homeless community in San Francisco. 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 Community Ambassadors Program team members, who were trained by Applied Survey Research and HSA. Training sessions led 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 \$5 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 2015 homeless survey. The socks were easy to obtain and distribute, 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 2015 San Francisco Homeless Survey was administered by the trained survey team between February 1 and February 19, 2015.
- In all, the survey team collected 1,027 unique surveys.



### **SURVEY SAMPLING**

The planning team recommended approximately 1,000 surveys for 2015. Based on a Point-in-Time estimate of 7,529 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 1,027 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in San Francisco.

The 2007 survey was a service-based approach which focused on surveying individuals in drop-in-centers and free meal sites. The 2009 survey was an entirely street-based approach which focused survey efforts on outdoor and street locations. The 2013 and 2015 survey was an integration of the two previous approaches and was administered in both transitional housing facilities and on the street. In order to assure 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 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. One way to increase the participation of these groups was to recruit peer surveys workers. The 2013 and 2015 survey also prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing the number of currently homeless surveyors.

In order to increase randomization of sample respondents, survey workers were trained 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.

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



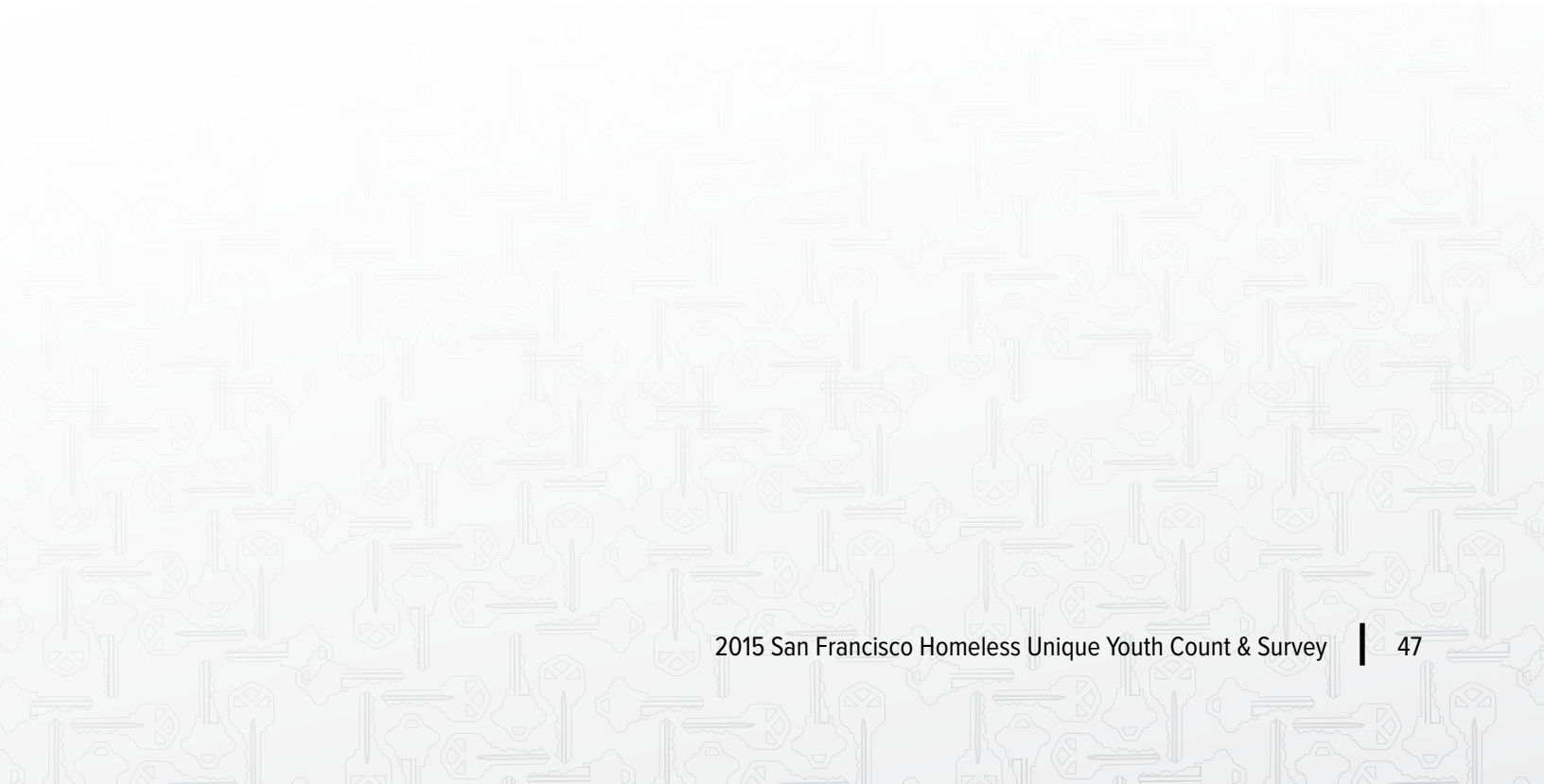
### **SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS**

The 2015 San Francisco Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. For example, a greater number of surveys were conducted among transitional housing residents than in previous years. However, this provided an increased number of respondents living in families and provided a more comprehensive understanding of the overall population.

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 City 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 City staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.



# Appendix 2: 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 “an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition 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 disability, mental illness, depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or a developmental disability.
- **Emergency shelter** is 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 victims and their children.
- **Family** is defined as a household with at least one adult and one child under 18.
- **Homeless** under the category 1 definition of homelessness in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (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** is the abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- **Sheltered homeless individuals** are those homeless individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.
- **Single individual** refers to an unaccompanied adult or youth.
- **Transitional-Age-Youth (TAY)** refers to an unaccompanied youth aged 18-24 years.
- **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, 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** refers to children under the age of 18 who do not have a parent or guardian present.
- **Unsheltered homeless individuals** are those homeless individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.



# Appendix 3: Youth Survey Data Profile

The following tables include the total responses of youth ages 18-14 years old. The data presented are raw responses and may not correspond to the data presented in the comprehensive report due to additional calculations or defined populations. The survey includes multiple response questions, therefore responses may add to more than 100%.

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
What is your gender?	Male	100	57.5%
	Female	59	33.9%
	Transgender male to female	8	4.6%
	Transgender female to male	5	2.9%
	Other	2	1.1%
	Total	174	100.0%
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	Yes	37	21.6%
	No	123	71.9%
	Don't know/Refuse	11	6.4%
	Total	171	100.0%
Which racial group do you identify with most?	White	92	57.1%
	Black or African American	36	22.4%
	Asian	5	3.1%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	11	6.8%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5	3.1%
	Other	29	18.0%
	Total	161	100.0%
LGBTQ status	No	91	52.0%
	Yes	84	48.0%
	Total	175	100.0%
LGBTQ Identity	Gay	12	14.3%
	Lesbian	15	17.9%
	Queer	13	15.5%
	Bisexual	30	35.7%
	Transgender	15	17.9%
	Other	13	15.5%
	Total	84	100.0%
Have you ever been in a foster care?	Yes	43	26.9%
	No	117	73.1%
	Total	160	100.0%
Veterans Status	No	166	94.9%
	Yes	9	5.1%
	Total	175	100.0%

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
Is this the first time you have been homeless?	Yes	78	44.8%
	No	96	55.2%
	Total	174	100.0%
How long have you been homeless this current time?	7 days or less	9	5.2%
	8-30 days	16	9.2%
	1-3 months	24	13.9%
	4-6 months	26	15.0%
	7-11 months	25	14.5%
	1 year	19	11.0%
	More than 1 year	54	31.2%
	Total	173	100.0%
Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?	San Francisco	96	55.8%
	Out of State	32	18.6%
	Alameda County	10	5.8%
	Contra Costa County	5	2.9%
	Marin County	7	4.1%
	San Mateo County	5	2.9%
	Santa Clara County	4	2.3%
	Other County in CA	13	7.6%
	Total	172	100.0%
Immediately before you became homeless, where were you living?	A home owned or rented by you or your partner	31	18.5%
	Subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing	4	2.4%
	Hospital or treatment facility	5	3.0%
	A home owned or rented by friends/relatives	95	56.5%
	Juvenile Justice Facility	6	3.6%
	Foster care	9	5.4%
	Jail or prison	7	4.2%
	Motel/hotel	2	1.2%
	Other	9	5.4%
	Total	168	100.0%

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?	Lost job	33	19.4%
	Eviction	18	10.6%
	Foreclosure	3	1.8%
	Incarceration	14	8.2%
	Alcohol or drug use	17	10.0%
	Illness/medical problem	10	5.9%
	Divorce/separation/break up	13	7.6%
	Landlord raised rent	7	4.1%
	Argument with family or friend who asked you to leave	41	24.1%
	Family/domestic violence	17	10.0%
	Mental health issues	7	4.1%
	Hospitalization/treatment	6	3.5%
	Aging out of foster care	3	1.8%
	Other	15	8.8%
	Don't know/decline to state	20	11.8%
Total	170	100.0%	
What is keeping you from getting permanent housing?	Can't afford rent	98	58.0%
	No job/not enough income	62	36.7%
	No money for moving costs	31	18.3%
	No housing available	31	18.3%
	Don't want housing	19	11.2%
	Criminal record	26	15.4%
	No ID/Paperwork	26	15.4%
	Housing process is too difficult	32	18.9%
	No transportation	13	7.7%
	Bad credit	15	8.9%
	Eviction record	6	3.6%
	Medical/health issues	12	7.1%
	Child care costs	5	3.0%
	Immigration issues	5	3.0%
	Other	23	13.6%
Total	169	100.0%	

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
Any chronic health problem or medical condition(diabetes, cancer)	Yes	25	15.2%
	No	121	73.8%
	Refuse	18	11.0%
	Total	164	100.0%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	Yes	43	25.9%
	No	108	65.1%
	Refuse	15	9.0%
	Total	166	100.0%
Any psychiatric or emotional conditions	Yes	59	35.8%
	No	92	55.8%
	Refuse	14	8.5%
	Total	165	100.0%
A physical disability	Yes	35	21.3%
	No	115	70.1%
	Refuse	14	8.5%
	Total	164	100.0%
A traumatic brain injury to your brain from a bump, blow or wound to the head?	Yes	13	7.9%
	No	137	83.0%
	Refuse	15	9.1%
	Total	165	100.0%
Drug or alcohol abuse (including prescription drugs not prescribed for you)	Yes	37	22.7%
	No	111	68.1%
	Refuse	15	9.2%
	Total	163	100.0%
An AIDS or an HIV related illness?	Yes	21	12.7%
	No	128	77.6%
	Refuse	16	9.7%
	Total	165	100.0%
Are you currently experiencing home/ domestic violence or abuse?	Yes	15	9.3%
	No	131	80.9%
	Refuse	16	9.9%
	Total	162	100.0%



QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
Have you ever been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by a relative, or another person you have stayed with (spouse, partner, sibling, parent)?	Yes	75	46.0%
	No	73	44.8%
	Refuse	15	9.2%
	Total	163	100.0%
Any experience of domestic violence (current or past)	No	94	53.7%
	Yes	81	46.3%
	Total	175	100.0%
Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance?	Emergency shelter	64	38.6%
	Free meals	98	59.0%
	Bus passes	20	12.0%
	Job training/employment services	15	9.0%
	Shelter day services	35	21.1%
	Legal assistance	10	6.0%
	Transitional housing	23	13.9%
	Immigration services	9	5.4%
	Health services	26	15.7%
	Mental health services	18	10.8%
	Alcohol/drug counseling	13	7.8%
	Not using any services	27	16.3%
	Other	6	3.6%
	Total	166	100.0%
Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of Government assistance?	General Assistance (GA)/CAAP	36	23.2%
	Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh	76	49.0%
	Any VA Disability Compensation	2	1.3%
	Other Veterans benefits (GI, Health)	4	2.6%
	Social Security	4	2.6%
	SSI/SSDI/Disability	7	4.5%
	Medi-cal/Medicare	23	14.8%
	CalWORKs/TANF	5	3.2%
	Not receiving any form of government assistance	60	38.7%
Total	155	100.0%	

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
If you are not receiving any Government assistance, why not?	Don't think you are eligible	11	19.0%
	Don't have ID	10	17.2%
	No permanent address	5	8.6%
	Never applied	8	13.8%
	Benefits were cut-off	5	8.6%
	Immigration issues	0	0.0%
	Paperwork too difficult	8	13.8%
	Don't know where to go	2	3.4%
	Turned down	4	6.9%
	Applied and waiting for response	3	5.2%
	Don't want government assistance	23	39.7%
	Other	5	8.6%
	Total	58	100.0%
How many nights, if any, have you spent in jail or prison during the last 12 months?	0 nights	105	64.8%
	1-5 nights	15	9.3%
	6-10 nights	14	8.6%
	11-20 nights	7	4.3%
	21-50 nights	6	3.7%
	More than 50 nights	15	9.3%
	Total	162	100.0%
Are you currently on probation or parole?	Yes	31	19.4%
	No	129	80.6%
	Total	160	100.0%
Were you on probation or parole at the time you most recently became homeless?	Yes	26	16.4%
	No	129	81.1%
	Decline to state	4	2.5%
	Total	159	100.0%
Does your age prevent you from receiving any of the following?	Permanent housing	24	63.2%
	Employment	14	36.8%
	Emergency shelter	5	13.2%
	Transitional shelter	8	21.1%
	Government assistance	15	39.5%
	Total	38	100.0%

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
In the past 12 months, how often have you accessed youth specific services?	Never	24	16.4%
	Rarely	23	15.8%
	Sometimes	26	17.8%
	Often	41	28.1%
	5Always	32	21.9%
	Total	146	100.0%
Did any of the following contribute to your homelessness?	Emotional abuse	51	38.9%
	Physical abuse	40	30.5%
	Addiction	26	19.8%
	Sexual abuse	37	28.2%
	Mental health issues	29	22.1%
	School issues	14	10.7%
	Pregnancy	6	4.6%
	Sexual identity	20	15.3%
	Legal issues	21	16.0%
	Financial issues	48	36.6%
	Fight or conflict with parents/guardians	43	32.8%
	Parent/guardian moved or relocated	9	6.9%
	Parent/guardian became ill or died	13	9.9%
	Gang violence/activity	8	6.1%
Total	131	100.0%	
What are your current needs?	Food	110	75.3%
	Clothing	89	61.0%
	Personal hygiene	72	49.3%
	Education	44	30.1%
	Health care	74	50.7%
	Dental care	62	42.5%
	Shelter/housing	95	65.1%
	Transportation	48	32.9%
	Job training/employment	55	37.7%
	Substance abuse treatment	30	20.5%
	Counseling/Mental Health Care	35	24.0%
	Other	17	11.6%
	Total	146	100.0%

Appendix 3: Youth Survey Data Profile

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
How would you rate your general physical health?	Very Good	20	13.2%
	Good	63	41.7%
	Fair	50	33.1%
	Poor	18	11.9%
	Total	151	100.0%
Do you have a supportive adult in the Bay Area?	Yes	37	24.7%
	No	113	75.3%
	Total	150	100.0%
How many nights in the past 2 weeks have you stayed in the homes of friends/ family?	0	105	75.0%
	1	6	4.3%
	2	10	7.1%
	3	5	3.6%
	4	4	2.9%
	6	2	1.4%
	7	2	1.4%
	9	1	.7%
	14	5	3.6%
	Total	140	100.0%
Do you usually stay with the same person/people?	Yes	51	36.7%
	No	88	63.3%
	Total	139	100.0%
Do you stay in San Francisco / this county year round?	Yes	121	81.8%
	No	27	18.2%
	Total	148	100.0%
Have you traded sex or drugs for a place to stay?	Sex	30	19.9%
	Drugs	40	26.5%
	Neither	97	64.2%
	Total	151	100.0%
Are you currently attending or enrolled in school?	Yes	14	9.5%
	No	133	90.5%
	Total	147	100.0%
Do you currently have a job, paid internship or other type of employment?	Yes	24	16.3%
	No	123	83.7%
	Total	147	100.0%

QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?	9th grade or less	21	13.9%
	10 or 11th grade	39	25.8%
	GED certificate	17	11.3%
	High School (12th grade diploma)	45	29.8%
	Some College	22	14.6%
	Bachelor's Degree	4	2.6%
	Graduate Degree/ Post-secondary training	2	1.3%
	Other: _____	1	.7%
	Total	151	100.0%
Do you expect to have stable housing in the next 12 months?	Yes	70	47.9%
	No	76	52.1%
	Total	146	100.0%
Before becoming homeless, did you live with:	Both parents	31	21.1%
	Single mom	24	16.3%
	Single dad	14	9.5%
	Step parents	6	4.1%
	Family members	19	12.9%
	Friends	29	19.7%
	Foster family	10	6.8%
	Juvenile hall/other institution	4	2.7%
	Group Home	3	2.0%
	Other	16	10.9%
	Total	147	100.0%
Are your parents currently homeless?	Yes	15	10.6%
	No	126	89.4%
	Total	141	100.0%
Have you tried to move back in with your parents/family?	Yes	42	28.2%
	No	107	71.8%
	Total	149	100.0%
How safe do you feel in your current living situation?	1 Very safe	34	23.1%
	2 Somewhat safe	77	52.4%
	3 Not at all safe	36	24.5%
	Total	147	100.0%



QUESTION	RESPONSE OPTION	COUNT	COLUMN N %
How many times in the past 30 days has your safety been threatened?	0	67	45.6%
	1	17	11.6%
	2	16	10.9%
	3	12	8.2%
	4	7	4.8%
	5	7	4.8%
	6	2	1.4%
	7	1	.7%
	10	6	4.1%
	15	4	2.7%
	16	1	.7%
	20	5	3.4%
	30	2	1.4%
	Total	147	100.0%
Before you were 18, were you involved in the justice system?	Yes	49	33.3%
	No	98	66.7%
	Total	147	100.0%
Have you recently experienced any of the following issues trying to get help or access services in the community?	Lack of transportation	56	40.0%
	Did not have an ID or personal document	67	47.9%
	Did not know where to go for help	45	32.1%
	Did not qualify for the service I wanted	28	20.0%
	Did not follow through or return for services	41	29.3%
	Language barrier	4	2.9%
	Could not access/find services for people my age	11	7.9%
	I have not experienced any issues	25	17.9%
	Some other reason	4	2.9%
	Total	140	100.0%

Since becoming homeless, how often do you experience:		1 Never	2 Rarely	3 Sometimes	4 Very often	5 Always
Physical abuse	Count	75	19	35	15	4
	Row N %	50.7%	12.8%	23.6%	10.1%	2.7%
Sexual abuse	Count	103	20	14	7	1
	Row N %	71.0%	13.8%	9.7%	4.8%	.7%
Emotional abuse.	Count	66	18	28	22	12
	Row N %	45.2%	12.3%	19.2%	15.1%	8.2%

Before becoming homeless, how often did you experience:		1 Never	2 Rarely	3 Sometimes	4 Very often	5 Always
Physical abuse	Count	71	17	26	19	14
	Row N %	48.3%	11.6%	17.7%	12.9%	9.5%
Sexual abuse	Count	92	19	12	11	10
	Row N %	63.9%	13.2%	8.3%	7.6%	6.9%
Emotional abuse.	Count	61	10	22	26	28
	Row N %	41.5%	6.8%	15.0%	17.7%	19.0%

In the past 12 months, have you been:		Yes	No
Burglarized	Count	38	109
	Row N %	25.9%	74.1%
Robbed	Count	54	93
	Row N %	36.7%	63.3%
Assaulted or physically attacked	Count	63	82
	Row N %	43.4%	56.6%
Victim of any other crime	Count	46	96
	Row N %	32.4%	67.6%









SAN FRANCISCO

# HOMELESS

UNIQUE YOUTH COUNT & SURVEY

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

# 2015

