2013 San Francisco

HOMELESS

UNIQUE YOUTH

COUNT & SURVEY
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

Acknowledgements

The 2013 San Francisco Unique Homeless Youth Count and Survey planning team would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who contributed their considerable talents and efforts. The participation of partner agencies was critical to the success of the count.

The San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB), the coordinating body for San Francisco's Continuum of Care, provided oversight for the 2013 Unique Homeless Youth Count project. 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. We also thank the Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association for their input on the survey design.

In particular, we would like to mention the following individuals for their time and effort: Mayor Edwin Lee, Steve Arcelona, Joyce Crum, Daryl Higashi, Charles Morimoto, John Murray, Megan Owens, Rajesh Parekh, Rann Parker, Trent Rhorer, Lt. William Roualdes, and Ali Schlageter. We also thank Pamela Tebo and Kim DaRosa of the San Francisco Human Services Agency for their media coordination.

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 for Youth Services
At the Crossroads
Homeless Youth Alliance

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 the City.

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, data entry coordination, review of this report, and the presentation of findings.

Data for this report were collected by Megan Owens, Local Homeless Coordinating Board Policy Analyst. Data analysis and writing were conducted by Applied Survey Research.

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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 25.

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) 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 Unique Point-in-Time Count of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Transition Age Youth was conducted as part of the broader Point-in-Time Count of all unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons living in San Francisco. The targeted youth street count was conducted on the afternoon of Jan. 24, 2013 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and focused only on areas where youth were known to congregate.

The general street count was conducted on Jan. 24, 2013 from approximately 8 p.m. to midnight and covered all 47 square miles of San Francisco. A shelter count was conducted that evening and included all individuals staying in: emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, domestic violence shelters, and institutional settings.

This report focuses on the number and characteristics of unaccompanied homeless children and youth, and relies heavily on youth focused efforts; however it draws on data from all count efforts.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND GOALS

The 2013 Planning Committee identified several important project goals:

- » Meet challenge of HUD and USICH to include children and youth in 2013 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 the 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 the city's population.

Point-in-Time Count

Number and Characteristics of Homeless Persons in San Francisco

On the night of Jan. 24, 2013, a total of 7,350 homeless individuals were counted in the City of San Francisco. Of those, 1,902 were unaccompanied children and transition age youth (TAY). While 988 unaccompanied children and youth were counted through the San Francisco Homeless Count methods comparable to previous years, 914 unaccompanied children and youth were located through the Unique Point-in-Time Count, conducted for the first time in 2013.

POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT TREND
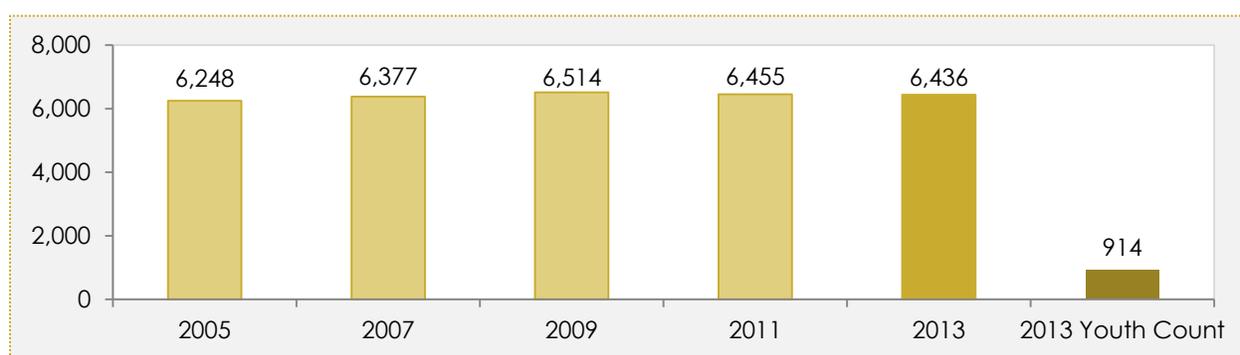
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Count.

Unaccompanied children and youth represented more than one in four (26%) of all homeless individuals counted in San Francisco on January 24, 2013.

POINT –IN-TIME COUNT AGE DISTRIBUTION

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

Of the 1,902 unaccompanied children and youth included in the Point-in-Time Count, 125 were under the age of 18. There was a slightly higher percentage of transition age youth counted in public shelters, 14% compared to 7% among unaccompanied youth. Most unaccompanied children and youth were unsheltered in 2013 (93% and 86% respectively).

SAN FRANCISCO 2013 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT — Unaccompanied Children

HUD DEFINITION — "Unaccompanied Children" are children under the age of 18 who are homeless and living independent of a parent or legal guardian.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN (UNDER AGE 18) — **134**

7% SHELTERED .... UNSHELTERED 93%

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2013 San Francisco Homeless Count.

SAN FRANCISCO 2013 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT — Transition Age Youth

HUD DEFINITION — Homeless transition age youth are defined as individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH (AGES 18-24) — **1,768**

14% SHELTERED .... UNSHELTERED 86%

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2013 San Francisco Homeless Count.

While the general Point-in-Time efforts cover the entire city, the targeted youth count focused only on areas where youth were known to congregate. Youth count workers focused on counting only those in the targeted age group and in areas where youth would not be seen during the San Francisco Homeless Count comparable to previous years. The table below details the impact of the targeted youth count in each supervisorial district. Homeless youth tended to be seen mostly in Districts 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9.

UNSHELTERED HOMELESS COUNT RESULTS GENERAL AND YOUTH COUNT COMPARISONS

District	2011	2013 General Count	2013 Youth Count	2013 Total
1 Richmond	106	217	104	321
2 Marina	35	20	4	24
3 NorthBeach/Chinatown	188	160	203	363
4 Diamond Heights	83	136	0	136
5 Haight/Castro/Noe Valley	180	124	160	284
6 Western Addition	1,001	1,145	219	1,364
7 Outer Sunset	36	19	0	19
8 Castro/Dolores/Mission	108	95	68	163
9 Bernal Heights/Mission	124	183	64	247
10 Bayview/Hunters Point	1,151	1274	4	1,278
11 Excelsior	69	40	0	40
Confidential/Scattered Site Locations in San Francisco	27	13	63	76
Total	3,106	3,401	914	4,315

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Count.
San Francisco Human Services Agency. (2011). San Francisco Unsheltered Homeless Count. San Francisco, CA.

Homeless Youth Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the 2013 San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey. Surveys were administered after the completion of the Point-in-Time count, between Jan. 28 and March 11, 2013. Surveys were administered by peer surveyors.

With a population of 1,902 unaccompanied children and youth under the age of 25, the survey sample of 165 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.

Demographics

GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The gender breakdown of homeless youth was similar to that of the general homeless population. Nearly three quarters (72%) identified as male and 27% identified as female.　This gender breakdown was surprising as previous data on homeless youth has shown the population more equally split between those who identified as female and male.[1]

It has been estimated that nationally 20% of homeless youth self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning (LGBTQ), a disproportionately higher percentage than in the general population (10%).　Among homeless youth respondents in San Francisco, 26% identified as LGBTQ, which was similar to the percentage of homeless adult survey respondents over the age of 25. While it was not directly asked in 2013, when youth were asked why they moved to San Francisco, 1.2% of youth reported moving to the City for the gay community.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Straight 70%
Gay or lesbian 9%
Bisexual 17%
Other 6%
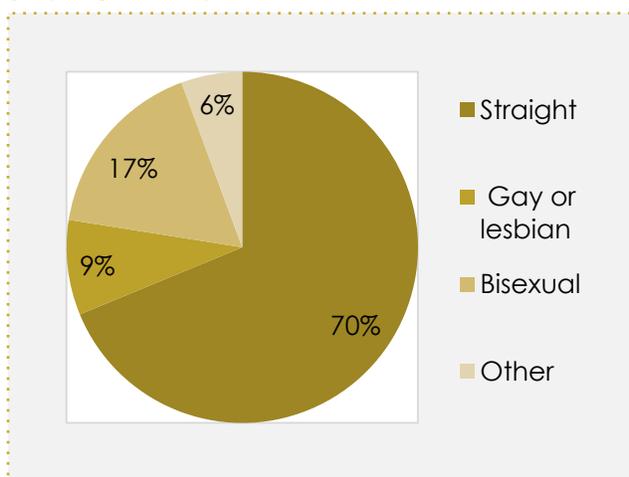
N=157
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

A higher percentage of youth identified as White/Caucasian (41%) than respondents 25 years and over (27%), a smaller percentage of youth identified as Latino/Hispanic (11%) than respondents 25 years and over (30%).

HOMELESS POPULATION BY ETHNICITY AND AGE (2013)
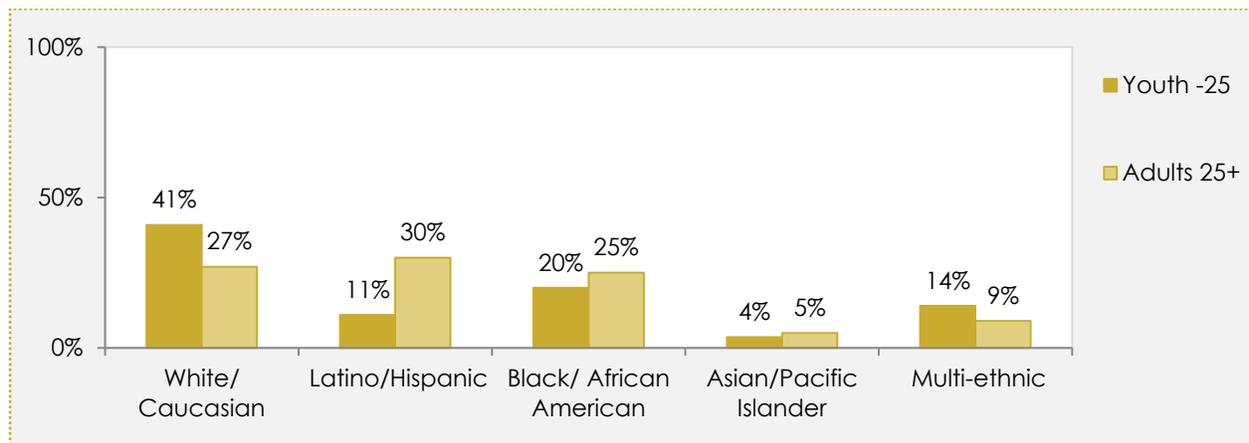
2013 youth n: 164; adults 25+ n: 754
*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Survey.*

HOUSEHOLD MAKEUP

The majority of unaccompanied children and youth were living on their own (82%). The remaining 18%, who reported living with someone else, often reported living with a spouse or significant other (57%). Some youth (4%) were parents, living with children of their own. While just 4% of youth reported they were currently living with their child/children, 14% reported having children. Most youth reported their children were living with family or friends.

FOSTER CARE

It is estimated that 12 million persons in the United States have been in the foster care system at some point, comprising 4% of the general population.   However, one in four homeless youth in San Francisco reported they had been in the foster care system. This was not only higher than the general population but higher than the adult homeless population in San Francisco. Twenty-three percent of San Francisco homeless youth, who have been in care, reported they were in the system for one year or less, while 39% had been in the system for ten years or more.

EXPERIENCE WITH FOSTER CARE
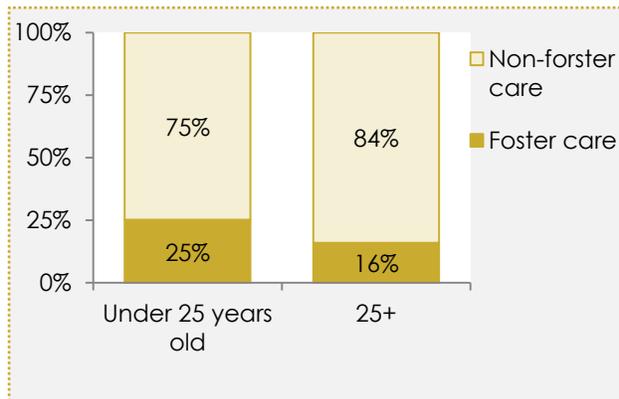
Under 25 n = 155; 25+ n= 714
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

One in five youth respondents were in some form of schooling: 3% were in high school, 5% were taking classes for their GED (General Education Development/high school diploma equivalency), and 10% were attending college. Among survey youth respondents, 25% had not completed high school or obtained a GED, 5% had a bachelor's degree and 1% had completed a graduate degree. Seventy-two percent of homeless youth respondents wanted to further their education.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED

- Less than High School
- High School/GED
- Some College
- Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate Degree
- Other
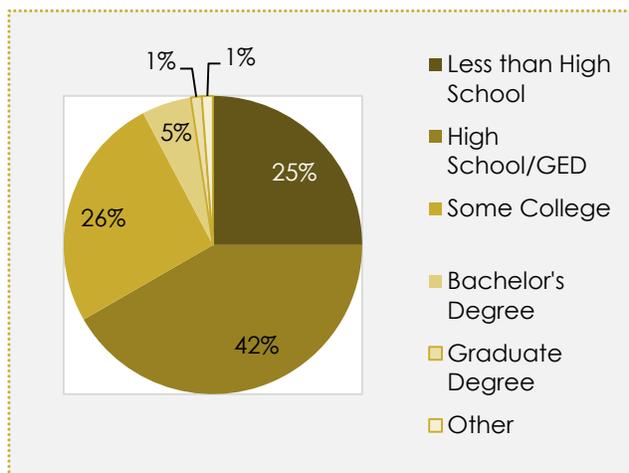
N=168
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

Duration and Recurrence of Homelessness

For many youth, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of residential 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. Nearly half (47%) of youth reported they had been homeless for one year or more. Eleven percent had been without housing for fewer than 30 days.

Despite their young age, homeless youth respondents reported having experienced homelessness a similar number of times as their older counterparts. A few more youths reported experiencing homelessness for the first time (52%) compared to homeless adult respondents (47%). The remaining youth reported they had been in and out of homelessness multiple times.

NUMBER OF TIMES SPENT HOMELESS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS
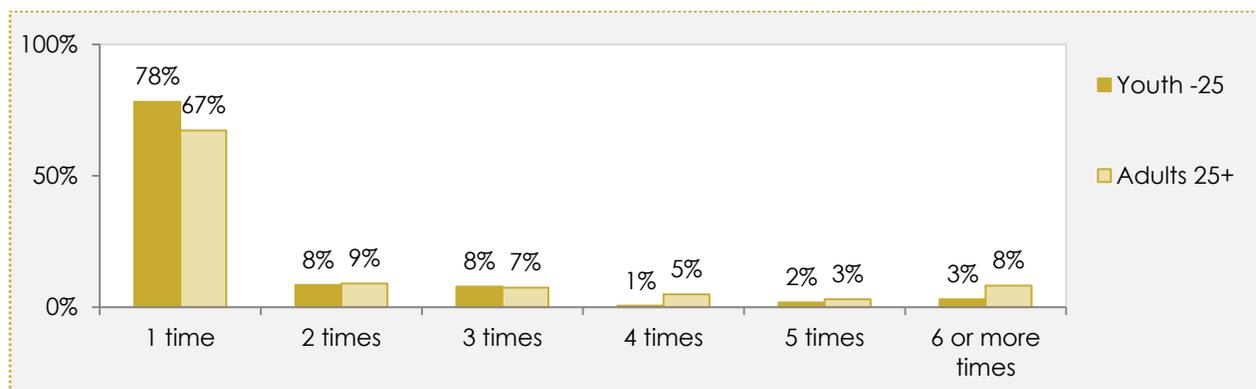
2013 youth n: 164; adults 25+ n: 754
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Survey.

FIRST EXPERIENCES WITH HOMELESSNESS

Most youth respondents were between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of the survey, although 41% reported they were less than 18 years old the first time they experienced homelessness. Eight percent reported they had experienced homelessness prior to the age of 14, essentially, before entering high school.

Five percent of youth respondents reported their parent(s) was homeless, 10% reported their parent(s) had been homeless in the past, and 13% reported they did not know.

**AGE AT WHICH YOUTH FIRST EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS**
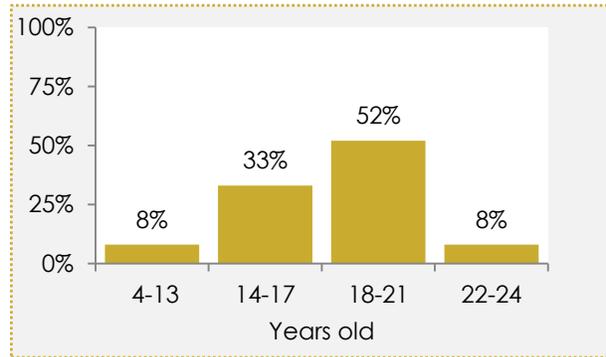
N = 159
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

Causes of Homelessness

Homeless youth survey respondents reported similar causes of homelessness to those 25 and older. More than one quarter of youth respondents cited job loss (28%), and 21% cited an argument with a family or friend who asked them to leave. Similar to homeless families, a higher percentage of youth respondents (9%) reported domestic violence as the primary cause of their homelessness, as compared to those ages 25 and older (5%).

PRIMARY CAUSES OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
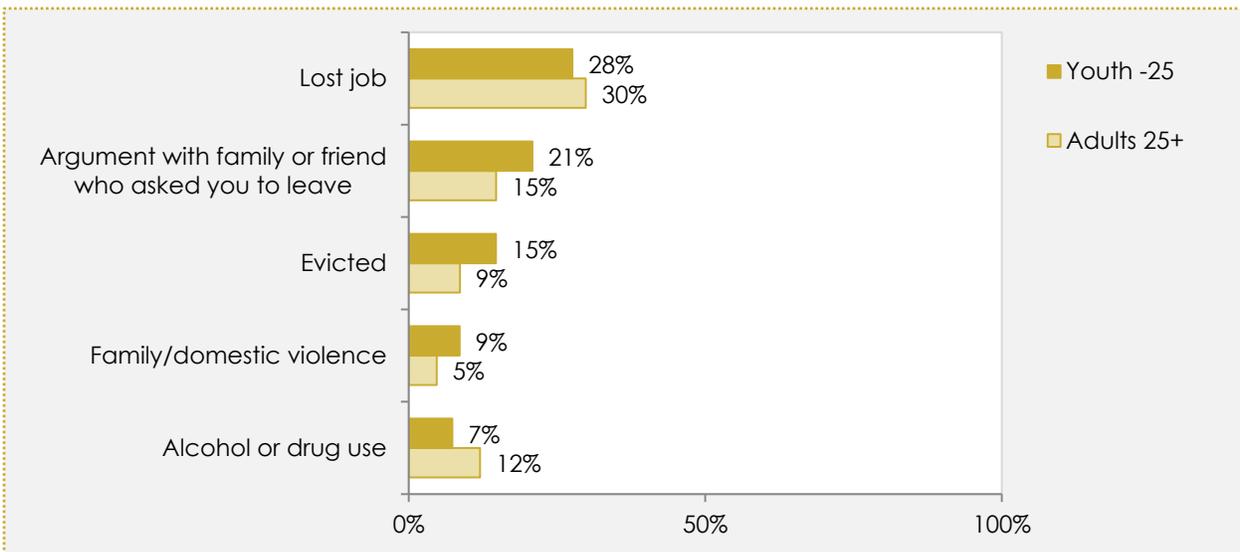
2013: 163 youth respondents offering 197 responses and 740 adults 25+ offering 827 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Survey.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS (TOP 5)

Contributing Cause	Percentage
Fight or coflict with parents/guardians	38%
Emotional abuse	35%
Financial issues	33%
Mental health issues	27%
School issues	19%

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.
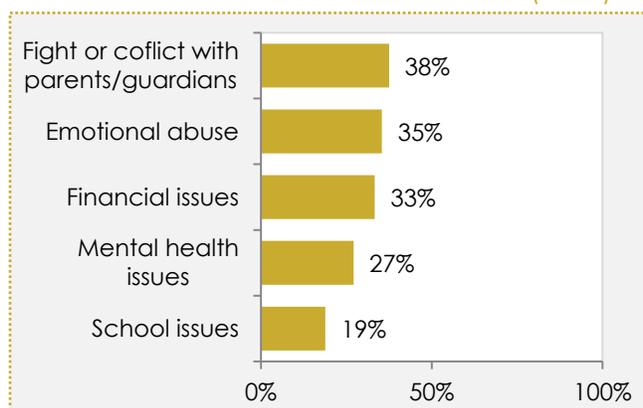
In addition to asking about the primary cause of their homelessness, youth were asked to identify other contributing causes of their homelessness and while one third again reported financial issues, the most frequently cited were a fight or conflict with parent or guardian (38%), and emotional abuse (35%). Twenty-seven percent reported mental health issues contributed to their current homelessness and 19% reported issues with school.

BARRIERS TO HOUSING

The primary barriers to permanent housing cited by survey respondents pointed to financial challenges, the inability to afford rent was most often reported by both youth and adult respondents (45% and 58%). Forty-five percent of youth reported their lack of income was preventing them from obtaining permanent housing.

BARRIERS TO OBTAINING PERMANENT HOUSING

Barrier	Youth -25	Adults 25+
Can't afford rent	45%	58%
No job/no income	45%	53%
No money for moving costs	19%	32%
Don't want housing	14%	10%
Bad credit	14%	21%
Housing process too difficult	12%	20%
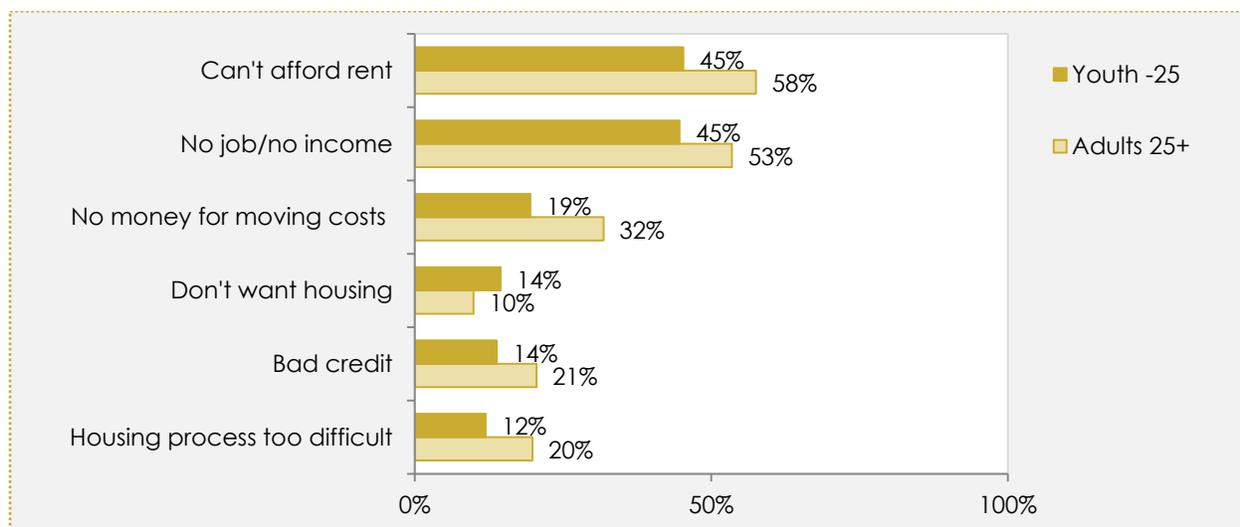
2013: 159 youth respondents offering 311 responses and 716 adults 25+ offering 2,183 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Survey.

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. Others are involved in the criminal justice system and it is that experience which placed them at greater risk for homelessness as it increased barriers to employment and housing.

PROBATION OR PAROLE
Eighteen percent of surveyed youth were on probation or parole at the time of the survey, yet only 10% reported being on probation or parole prior to experiencing homelessness.

INTERACTIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT
Not all youth reported negative interactions with the justice system. One quarter of homeless youth reported they "never" interacted with police officers or sheriff deputies. Approximately the same number (24%) reported the frequency of their interactions with police as "very often," and another 10% reported it as "always".

Twenty percent of homeless youth reported their most recent interaction with police or sheriff was helpful or positive, and 37% reported it was neither positive nor negative. Less than one-quarter (22%) reported having a negative interaction. However when asked more generally, 66% of youth reported they had been harassed by police or law enforcement.

FREQUENCY OF INTERACTION WITH POLICE/SHERIFF
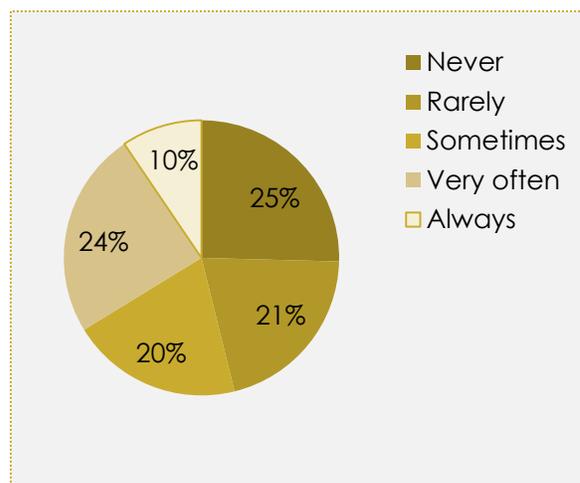
n= 169
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

Safety and Wellbeing

While many homeless youth engage in criminal activity, research suggests they are more likely to be the victims of crime rather than the perpetrators.[2] In San Francisco nearly one in ten homeless youth reported they did not feel safe in their current living situation, though 47% reported they felt somewhat safe. Sixty-two percent of youth reported they had not had their safety threatened in the past 30 days.

SAFETY THREATENED IN THE PAST 30 DAYS
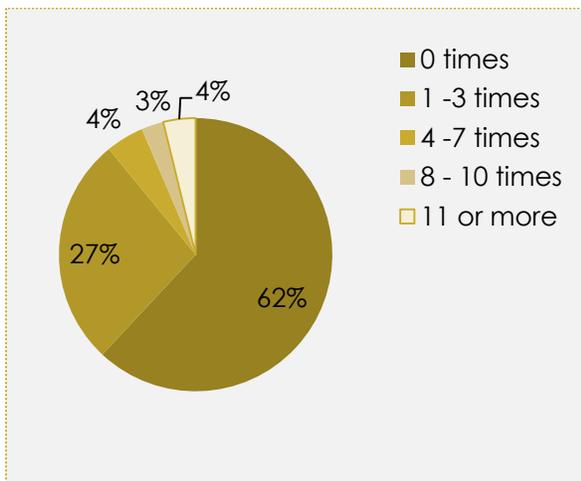
n= 154
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

ILLICIT ACTIVITY

Eight percent of youth reported they had traded drugs for a place to stay, and 20% reported they had traded drugs for money. Four percent reported they had traded sex for money, and 5% reported having traded sex for a place to sleep. Eight percent reported they had traded both sex and drugs for a place to sleep. One in ten youth respondents reported they had been the victim of sexual exploitation.

VIOLENCE AND CRIME

Nearly half of youth respondents reported they had been robbed or burglarized (46%). More than one in four had been physically attacked or assaulted (28%).

EXPERIENCES WITH CRIME
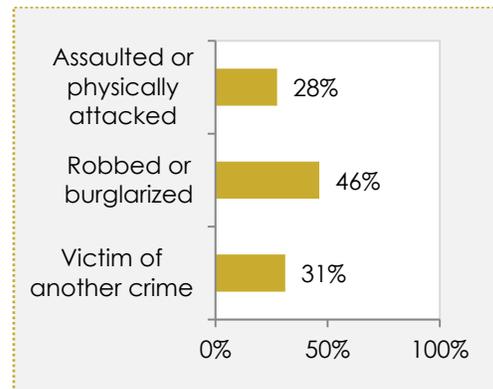
2013 robbed/burglarized n: 164; assaulted n: 160
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.
*Note: The response options of burglarized and robbed were combined for reporting purposes*

EXPERIENCES OF ABUSE

Most youth reported they had "never" or "rarely" experienced any form of abuse prior to or since becoming homeless. Yet, 18% of youth reported they experienced emotional abuse "very often" or "always" before becoming homeless.

On average, youth reported higher frequencies of physical and emotional abuse prior to experiencing homelessness.

SCALED FREQUENCY OF ABUSE PRIOR TO AND SINCE BECOMING HOMELESS (MEAN)
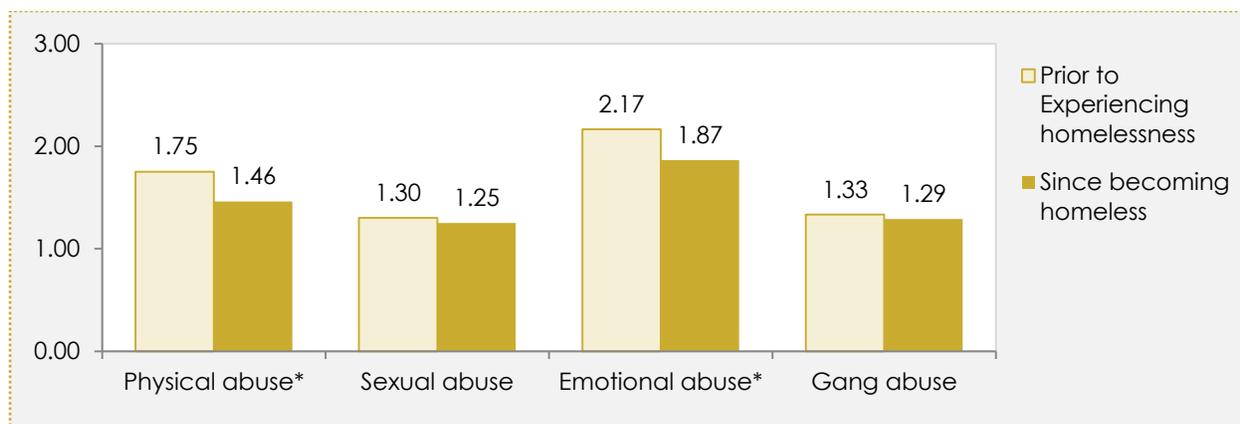
Physical abuse n= 165; Sexual abuse n= 163; Emotional abuse n= 163; Gang abuse n= 162
Note: Scaled response 1= never; 2 = rarely, 3= sometimes, 4 = very often, 5 = always
* marks statistically significant differences between pre and post of paired sample
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

Health Status

Homeless youth are more at risk of depression, suicidal thinking or behavior, and other mental health disorders, and they often experience chronic physical health conditions and have high rates of substance abuse.[3] Homeless youth often engage in risky behaviors and are put at risk of injury and harassment by the realities of life without housing.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Though better than the general homeless population, health is still an issue for homeless youth. Sixty nine percent reported their physical health was "good" or "very good." However, 31% reported that it was "fair" or "poor." More than half (59%) reported their mental health was "good" or "very good," and 41% reported that it was "fair" or "poor." Among homeless youth respondents, chronic depression was the most commonly noted health condition (27%), followed by substance abuse (23%).

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Chronic depression — Youth -25: 27%, Adults 25+: 30%
Substance abuse disorder — Youth -25: 23%, Adults 25+: 31%
Mental illness — Youth -25: 22%, Adults 25+: 23%
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) — Youth -25: 14%, Adults 25+: 16%
Chronic physical illness — Youth -25: 9%, Adults 25+: 18%
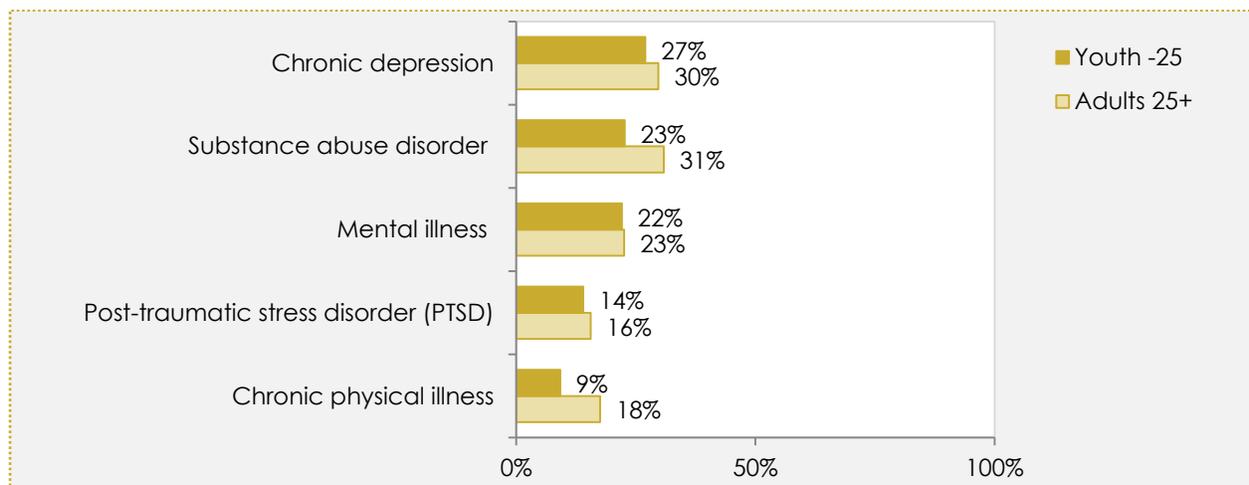
2013: 163 youth respondents offering 258 responses and 713 adults 25+ offering 1,341 responses
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Count. Watsonville, CA.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Though only 23% of homeless youth reported substance abuse as the primary cause of their homelessness, 90% of youth reported they used drugs or alcohol. While the most commonly reported substance were marijuana and alcohol, nearly one in five youth reported using methamphetamines and one in ten reported using heroine. The most frequently cited reason for substance abuse was enjoyment (67%), followed by self-medication (41%). More than one-third reported using substances to reduce anxiety.

DRUG USE

Heroin: 10%
Cocaine/crack: 11%
Meth/amphetamines: 19%
Alcohol: 55%
Marijuana: 75%
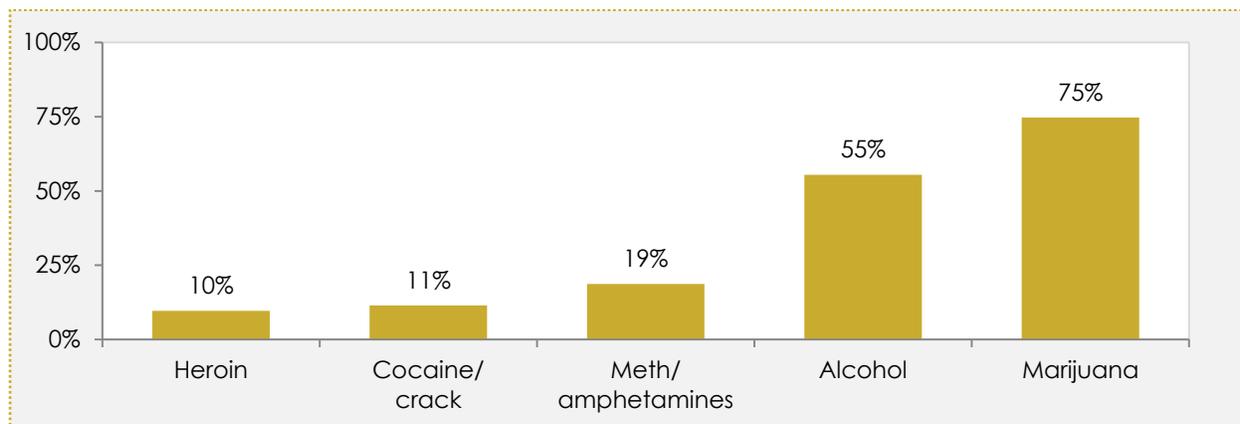
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

Access to Health Care

Twenty six percent of all youth respondents reported they had not needed health care since becoming homeless. Of those who needed care, 38% reported they went without. Sixty-three percent reported they received the care they needed.

Twenty-nine percent of youth reported they usually accessed care through free clinics or community clinics. More than one third reported using the emergency room as their primary source of care. Nearly half of homeless youth (47%) reported using the emergency room at least once in past 12 months.

Employment and income

Many people who experience extended joblessness during youth end up people retaining work that is beneath their capabilities. They are often seen by prospective employers as lacking basic skills and experience. 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. Previous research has shown that barriers to employment among homeless youth include prior homelessness, geographic transience, previous felonies, mental illness, and addiction.[iv]

Seventy-one percent of homeless youth respondents reported they were unemployed at the time of the survey. Fifteen percent reported part-time work, and 2% reported full-time work. Nine percent reported having temporary, day labor, or inconsistent employment. Four percent reported they were students. Thirty-six percent of youth reported panhandling for money.

Of those youth who were unemployed, the greatest number cited the need for job training or education (32%) as the main barrier to their employment. This was followed by more basic needs such as clothing/shower facilities (23%) and a phone (23%).

Living Situations

RESIDENCY

SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH 2013 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT
Residence

Respondents' residency at the time they most recently became homeless

San Francisco 48%

24% Other county in California

27% out of state

Source: Applied Survey Research, 2013 San Francisco Homeless Census. Watsonville, CA.

Nearly half of youth survey respondents reported living in San Francisco at the time they most recently became homeless. More than one quarter (27%) reported they had lived out of state. The greatest percentage of those who moved to San Francisco after experiencing homelessness reported moving to the City for work (17%).

Sixty percent of youth respondents reported staying in the City year round. Of those who left, half traveled to other places to explore or see new sites, 19% to escape the weather and 15% left to see friends or family.

USUAL NIGHTTIME ACCOMMODATIONS

It has been largely assumed that youth are not found on the street due to their ability and reliance on "couch surfing." Couch surfing is temporarily staying with friends, relatives, family, and sometimes with complete strangers. However, 74% of homeless youth respondents reported they had spent zero nights in the homes of family or friends in the two weeks prior to the survey.

Of the 26% of respondents who reported they had spent multiple nights with friends or family, most (68%) reported they had stayed with the same person. Youth who reported fewer nights, were more likely to report they had not stayed with same person. For example, 41% of youth who had stayed with someone two or three times in the past two weeks, reported they did not stay with the same person. One hundred percent of youth who said they stayed with friends or family seven or more times reported staying with the same person.

More than half of homeless youth respondents reported usually sleeping outdoors. Thirty-five percent of youth reported staying in transitional or emergency shelter. Sheltered youth were overrepresented in the survey sample compared to the Point-in-Time count population.[v]

WHERE RESPONDENTS USUALLY STAY AT NIGHT
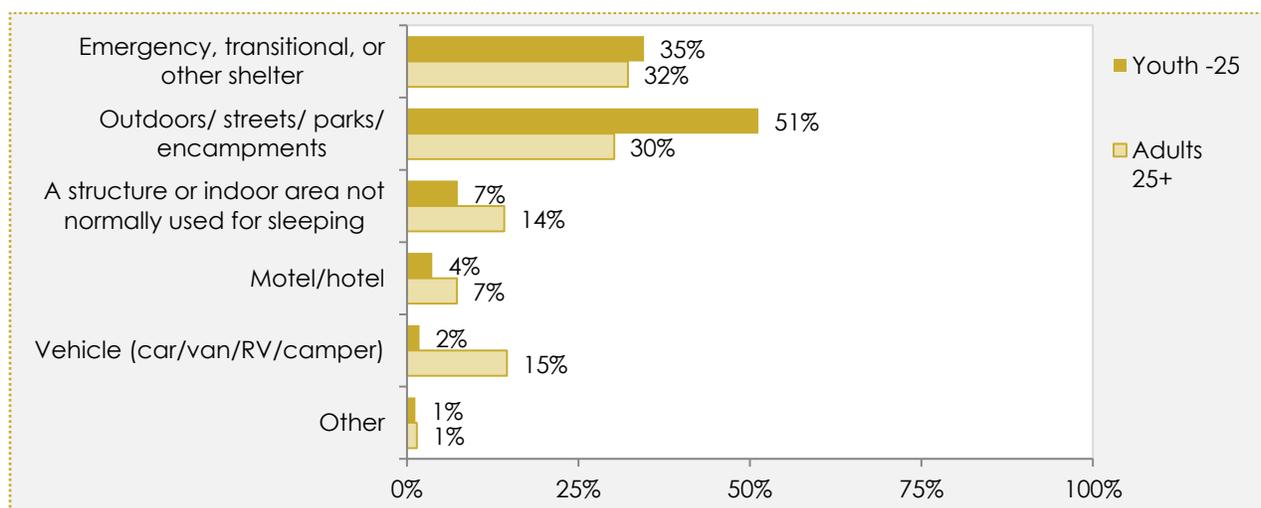
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Survey.

Access to Services

Homeless children and youth face unique challenges and have specific service needs. Many organizations are not equipped to deal with youth or children under the age of 25. San Francisco, however, has a number of agencies dedicated to serving homeless children and youth.

Though 95% of youth respondents reported their age did not affect the way they sought services, 40% reported they had "very often" or "always" accessed youth specific services in the 12 months prior to the survey.

SERVICE NEEDS

Youth reported their greatest service needs were basic needs: food (61%), clothing (48%), shelter/housing (44%), and dental care (42%). Thirty-eight percent needed job training/education.

CURRENT NEEDS OF YOUTH (TOP 10 RESPONSES)
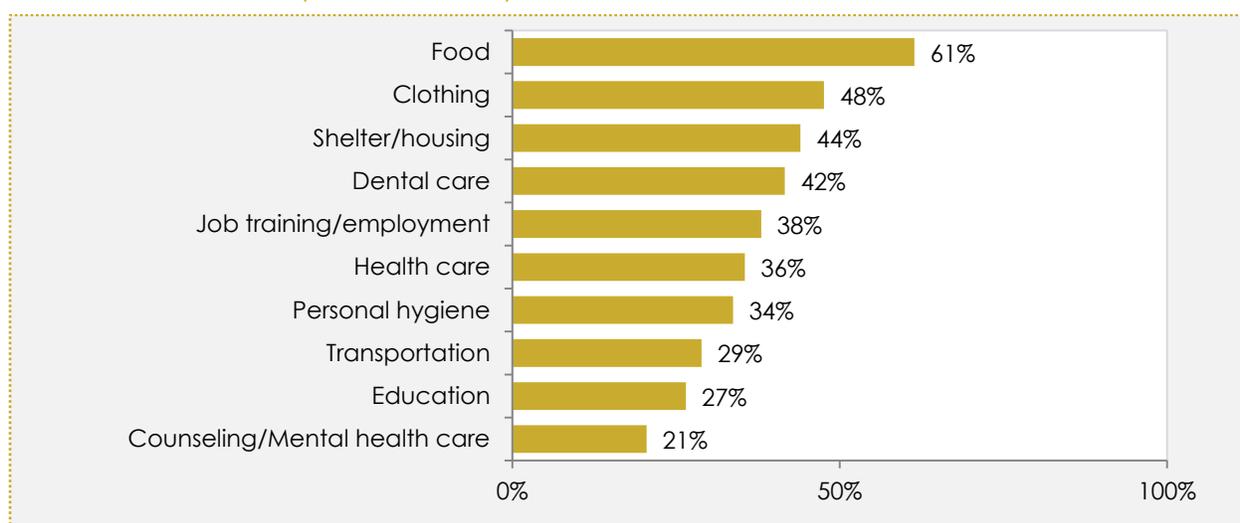
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

SERVICE USE

Forty-six percent of youth reported they were receiving free meal services. Nearly one-quarter reported using emergency shelter services.

The current emergency shelter reservation system in San Francisco is called CHANGES. Individuals may attempt to reserve a shelter bed by going in person to one of the shelter reservation sites and reserving a space until all available spaces are filled. Unclaimed spaces are available for reservation at the shelter reservation sites after 4:30 p.m. In addition to access to all adult shelters for youth over 18, one shelter is reserved for youth who are 18-24 years old and one shelter is dedicated to homeless unaccompanied children. Access to these shelters is managed by Larkin Street Youth Services, a non-profit serving homeless youth in San Francisco.

Twenty-one percent of youth reported they were able to make shelter reservations through CHANGES. Forty-three percent felt the system did not apply to them.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Fifty-seven percent of youth reported they were receiving some form of government assistance; this was a slightly higher percentage than reported by adult respondents (53%). Forty-seven percent of youth reported they were receiving food stamps, and 15% reported receiving General Assistance.

ACCESSING GOVERNMENT BENEFITS (TOP 4 RESPONSES)
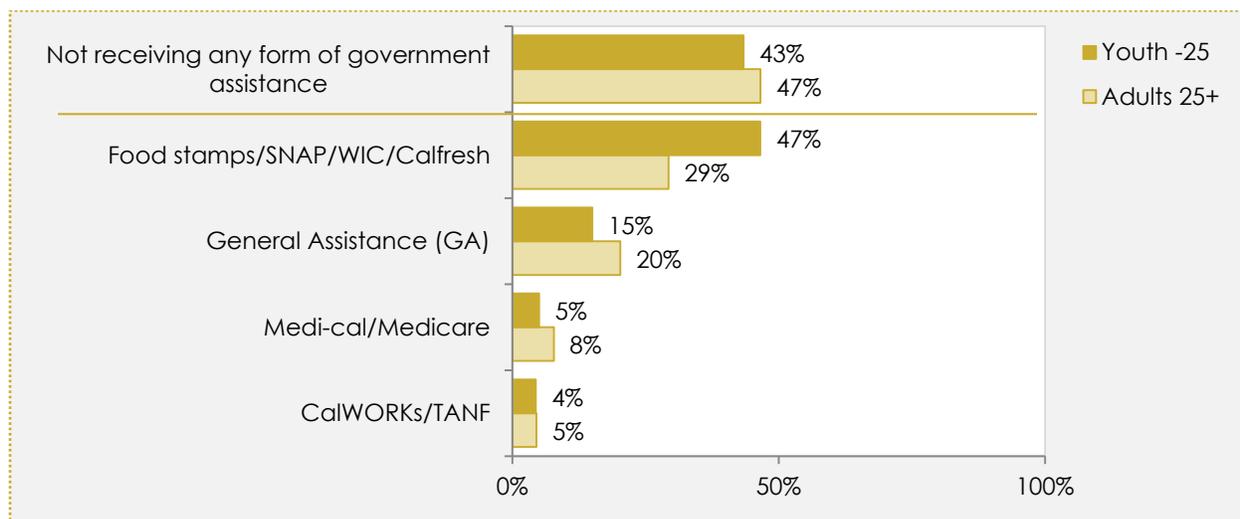
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

Of youth who reported they were not receiving government assistance, the greatest percentage reported they did not want assistance (36%). Twenty-one percent reported they did not have an ID, and 16% did not think they were eligible.

Social Connections and Youth Assets

Responses to youth homelessness have stressed family reunification and connecting youth to community members who can help support them in their transition to adulthood. The 2013 San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey gathered data on the relationships youth had with their parents and other adults in the community. .

RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS

Youth respondents were asked a number of questions regarding their relationship with their parents. This section of the survey has some of the lowest response rates and responses from respondents were often contradictory.

Youth were asked to describe their relationship with their parents in an open ended question. Of the 165 youth surveys, only 20 youth responded to the question. Of those, four reported they did not have a relationship with their parent/s or their parents were deceased. Some youth reported having a loving relationship with their parents and other reported the relationship was "OK", "challenging", or a "work in progress".

When youth were asked if they were in contact with their parents, almost two-thirds of youth reported yes. Youth reported they talked to their parents on the phone or through Skype; more than one third visited their parents. Twelve percent reported they sometimes or often stayed with their parents. Nineteen percent of youth reported they had tried to move back in with their parents.

CONTACT WITH PARENTS
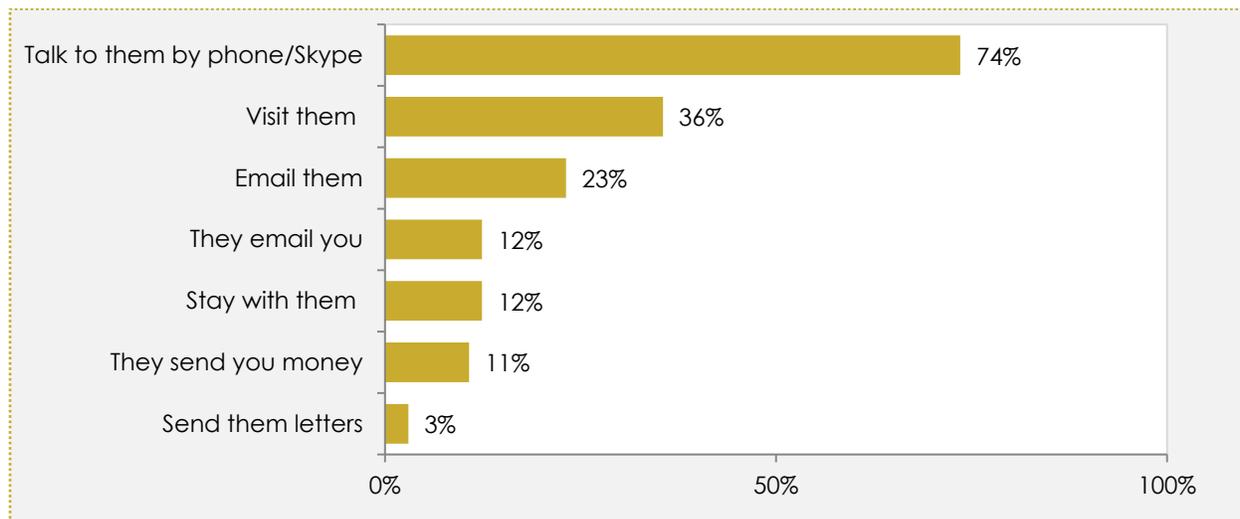
Multiple response question with 121 respondents offering 206 responses.
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Youth Survey.

ADULT MENTORS

Sixty-one percent of youth reported having someone in the community they could rely on in a time of crisis. For most (53%), there were only one or two people they could rely on, though 10% reported 10 or more.

Fifty-six percent of youth reported they had an adult in the community they could trust; for most (59%) this was between one and three individuals. Youth reported knowing trusted adults as friends (47%), family (17%) and service providers (14%).

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Slightly less than three quarters (74%) of youth reported they saw themselves getting into permanent housing, 78% reported they had plans for their future.

Conclusion

In order to improve data on the extend of youth homelessness, the Department of Housing and Urban Development asked all communities conducting biennial Point-in-Time Counts of homeless person to make concerted efforts to increase their outreach to youth. The City of San Francisco conducted this Unique Point-in-Time Count and Survey of Homeless Youth in order to address these concerns and improve understanding at the local level.

A total of 1,902 unaccompanied children and transition age youth were counted in the 2013 Point-in-Time Count. This represented 26% of the overall homeless population in San Francisco. A survey of 165 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.

- » Nearly three quarters of youth (72%) identified as male, while 27% identified as female.
- » Twenty-six percent identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or other.
- » Four percent of youth reported they were currently living with their child/children, yet 14% reported having children.
- » One in four homeless youth in San Francisco reported they had been in the foster care system.
- » Nearly half (47%) of youth reported they had been homeless for one year or more.
- » Eleven percent had been without housing for fewer than 30 days.
- » While most youth respondents were between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of the survey, 41% reported they were less than 18 years old the first time they experienced homelessness.
- » Nearly one in ten homeless youth reported they did not feel safe in their current living situation, though 47% reported they felt somewhat safe.

San Francisco remains committed to providing housing and services through innovative and effective programs to move homeless San Franciscans out of homelessness. The completion of the 2013 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. These Homeless Assistance Grant funds (more than $23 million annually) provide much-needed resources to house and serve the local homeless population studied in this report.

The data presented in the 2013 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 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 for Youth Services. Currently homeless youth conducted the peer enumeration and survey, and identified areas were 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.

Appendix I: Homeless Count & Survey Methodology

Overview

The purpose of the 2013 San Francisco Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey was to produce a Point-in-Time estimate of people who experience homelessness in San Francisco, a region with 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 any given night. The subsequent 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
» The youth street count between the hours of 1 pm and 5 pm – a targeted enumeration of unsheltered youth under the age of 25
» 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 with offices in San Jose, Claremont and Watsonville California, provided technical assistance with these aspects of the planning process. ASR has over twelve 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, the 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 November 2010, the planning team organized an initial meeting 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 San Francsico Homeless Outreach Team. 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 the City, 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:

» Individuals and families 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 2013 street count methodology followed the same general methodology used in the 2007, 2009 and 2011 counts, with the addition of dedicated youth outreach and consolidated data collection forms. In 2007-2011, all areas of the City were fully canvassed by adult community volunteers and service providers, with no additional outreach by youth. In 2013, the dedicated youth outreach created a more comprehensive study, resulting in an increase in the number of children and youth counted. The 2007-2013 counts differed from the method used in 2005, when densely populated areas of the City were fully canvassed, while outlying areas were enumerated using "hot spot" data.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in San Francisco turned out to support the City's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. Approximately 334 community volunteers participated in the 2013 unsheltered count. The Human Services Agency (HSA) spearheaded the volunteer recruitment effort. Extensive outreach efforts were conducted, targeting local non-profits 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 telephone hotline and 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 the City in teams to visually count homeless persons. Volunteers also provided staffing support at 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 a one-hour training immediately before the count on January 24, 2013, from 7 to 8 p.m. 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 Recreation and Park staff during the dawn hours of January 24th. Parks deemed too dangerous to count by volunteers were counted by SFPD on the night of the count. 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 FIRST 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 the City.

STREET COUNT DISPATCH CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of the City 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

The San Francisco planning team divided the City into 151 enumeration routes. Volunteers canvassed routes of approximately six 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 the City 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 2013, 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 the City 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 youth.

In 2013, HUD asked communities across the county to increase their efforts to include youth in their Point-in-Time counts. The 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 transitional age youth in the count.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Planning for the 2013 dedicated youth count included many youth homeless service providers. Local providers identified locations where homeless youth were known to congregate. The locations corresponded to eight zip codes, in the neighborhoods of the Haight, Mission, Tenderloin, Union Square, Castro, SoMa, the Panhandle, Golden Gate Park 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 for Youth, At the Crossroads, and the Homeless Youth Alliance recruited 24 youth to work as peer enumerators, counting homeless youth in the identified areas of San Francisco on

January 24, 2013. 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 comingle 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.

During the general census, volunteers, city employees and outreach workers counted just 11 unaccompanied children, while peer youth enumerators counted 114. The number of transition age youth reported by youth during the targeted youth effort resembles the number of youth counted in the general census outreach, though these youth were not duplicate counts. Volunteer led established homeless count efforts resulted in a visual count of just 218 youth between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. As mentioned previously this count is noninvasive and allows for count volunteers to identify persons in vehicles and covered sleeping areas to be identified without an age. The age distribution of these individuals is then determined by extrapolation, based on the known age distribution. This extrapolation method resulted in an additional 517 youth between the ages of 18-24 and resulting in a number similar to the targeted youth efforts.

UNSHELTERED YOUTH COUNT DATA BY SOURCE

		Unaccompanied Children under 18	Transition Age Youth 18-24
General Count	Visual count	11	218
	Extrapolated count	0	517
	Subtotal	**11**	**735**
Youth Count	Visual Count	114	789
	Extrapolated count	0	0
	Subtotal	**114**	**789**
Total Count		**125**	**1,524**

DATA COLLECTION

It was determined that homeless youth would be more prominent on the street during daylight hours, rather than in the evening when the general count was conducted. The youth count was conducted from approximately 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on January 24, 2013. Youth worked in teams of two to four, with teams coordinated by youth street outreach workers.

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

» Individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The homeless occupancy of the following shelters and institutions was collected for the night of January 24, 2013. 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:

» 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 24, 2013. 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 24, 2013.

» 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 24, 2013. 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 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.

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 2,357 homeless school-aged youth enrolled in the district on January 24th 2013, up from 2,200 in January 2011. The largest number of children in 2013 were in 5th grade (237 children) and 9th grade (236), followed by 10th grade (229). There were 65 children in kindergarten and four children in pre-school and transitional kindergarten.

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 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 954 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 $5.00 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 2013 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 2013 San Francisco Homeless Survey was administered by the trained survey team between January 28 and March 10, 2013.
- » In all, the survey team collected 954 unique surveys.
- » 165 surveys were completed with youth.

SURVEY SAMPLING

The planning team recommended approximately 1,000 surveys for 2013. Based on a Point-in-Time estimate of 7,350 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 952 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 approached which focused survey efforts on outdoor and street locations. The 2013 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 surveys workers from them. The 2013 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.

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

In order to avoid potential duplication of respondents, the survey requested respondents' initials and date of birth, so that duplication could be avoided without compromising the respondents' anonymity. Upon completion of the survey effort, an extensive verification process was conducted to eliminate duplicates. This process examined respondents' date of birth, initials, gender, ethnicity, and length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other questions on the survey.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The 2013 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 II: Definitions and 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 developmental disability.

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

Family is defined by HUD as a household with at least one adult over the age of 18 and one child under the age of 18 years old.

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.

Transition age youth are unaccompanied youth between the age of 18 and 24 years old

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 are individuals under age 18 not living with a parent or guardian

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

[1] Green, S. (2012). APHA Presentation: Youth Count. Applied Survey Research.

[2] 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.

[3] USICH. (2103). Fact Sheet Youth. Retrieved 2013 from
http://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/FactSheetYouth.pdf

[iv] 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*

[v] Sheltered you were not targeted by survey outreach efforts and the over representation was likely the result of survey sample bias, as sheltered youth were easier for youth surveyors to identify and interview.