Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2017 Santa Clara County Census and Survey was a community-wide effort conducted on January 24 and 25, 2017. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered to 587 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

### Census Population: Longitudinal Trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>7,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>7,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>7,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>7,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population

- **26%** Sheltered
- **74%** Unsheltered

### First Episode of Homelessness

- 41% Yes
- 59% No

### Age at First Episode of Homelessness

- 7% 0-17
- 18% 18-24
- 75% 25+

### Foster Care

- 12% of survey respondents that have ever been in the foster care system

### Justice System Involvement

- 26% of survey respondents have spent at least one night in jail in the past 12 months

### Subpopulation Data*

- **Chronically Homeless** | Individuals: 2,097
  - 14% Sheltered
  - 86% Unsheltered

- **Veterans** | Individuals: 660
  - 32% Sheltered
  - 68% Unsheltered

- **Families** | Families with 1,075 members
  - 72% Sheltered
  - 28% Unsheltered

- **Unaccompanied Children & Transition-Age Youth** | Individuals: 2,530
  - 4% Sheltered
  - 96% Unsheltered

### Residence Prior to Homelessness

- **83%** Santa Clara County

### Length of Time in Santa Clara County

- **5%** Less than 1 year
- **17%** 1-4 years
- **17%** 5-9 years
- **61%** 10 years or more
**Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness**
- 3% (30 days or less)
- 33% (1-11 months)
- 64% (1 year or more)

**Primary Event or Condition That Led to Homelessness**
- 37% Lost Job
- 20% Alcohol or Drug Use
- 14% Divorce/Seperation/Breakup
- 13% Argument with Family/Friend
- 16% Eviction
- 6% Incarceration

**Interest in Permanent Housing**
- 89% of survey respondents said YES when asked if they would accept affordable permanent housing if it became available tomorrow.

**Obstacles to Permanent Housing**
- 62% Can’t Afford Rent
- 56% No Job/Income
- 23% No Money for Moving Costs
- 20% Bad Credit

**What is a disabling condition?**
- 64% of survey respondents reported a disabling condition

**Health Conditions**
- Drug or Alcohol abuse (48%)
- Psychiatric or Emotional Conditions (38%)
- Physical Disability (31%)
- Chronic Health Problems (27%)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (22%)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (9%)
- AIDS/HIV Related Illness (2%)

**Current Accommodation**
- 36% Shelter
- 35% Outdoors/Streets/Parks
- 8% Vehicle
- 14% Structure not Meant for Habitation
- 8% Motel/Hotel

**Services and Assistance**
- 76% of survey respondents reported receiving government benefits

**Reasons for Not Receiving Any Government Assistance**
- 39% Don’t Want Gov’t Assistance
- 17% Don’t Think I’m Eligible
- 14% Never Applied
- 11% No ID
- 9% No Permanent Address
- 7% Turned Down

**Services Currently Accessing**
- 80% Meal Services
- 41% Bus Passes
- 28% Community Drop-In Center
- 18% Religious Based Services
- 10% Job/Employment Services
- 8% Outreach Services

**Subpopulation Definitions**

**Chronic Homeless**
- An individual with a disabling condition or a family with a head of household with a disabling condition who
  - Has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more and/or;
  - Has experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within the past 3 years.

**Veterans**
- Persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

**Families**
- A household with at least one adult member (persons 18 or older) and at least one child member (persons under 18).

**Unaccompanied Children**
- Children under the age of 18 who are homeless and living without a parent or legal guardian.

**Transition-Age Youth**
- Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.

*Multiple response question, results may not add up to 100%.

The complete comprehensive report includes a more detailed profile of the characteristics of those experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County. It can be found at [www.sccgov.org/homelesscount](http://www.sccgov.org/homelesscount)