



# CITY OF OAKLAND

## 2017 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY

### JURISDICTIONAL REPORT



REPORT PRODUCED BY ASR

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## APPLIED SURVEY RESEARCH

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a 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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## EVERYONE HOME

EveryOne Home is the coordinating body for ending homelessness in Alameda County, CA. The organization emphasizes a coordinated, efficient regional response to a regional problem making the best use of the county's resources while building capacity to attract funding from federal, state and philanthropic sources.

EveryOne Home envisions a housing and services system that partners with consumers, families and advocates; provides appropriate services in a timely fashion to all who need them; and ensures that individuals and families are safely, supportively and permanently housed. To achieve those objectives, EveryOne Home uses a plan structured around five major goals that outline a multi-faceted solutions for multi-dimensional problem:

- 
- Prevent homelessness and other housing crisis
  - Increase housing opportunities for the plan's target population
  - Deliver flexible services to support stability and independence
  - Measure success
  - Develop long-term leadership and build political will

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#### ASPIRE CONSULTING LLC.

Aspire Consulting LLC empowers communities to refine its programs and housing crisis response system to be housing-focused, oriented to outcomes, effective, efficient, and well-coordinated. Focal points of Aspire Consulting LLC's work include: training and project management for measuring and improving outcomes; staff training, retreats, and learning collaboratives to align organizational culture and practices toward housing first, low barrier approaches; planning and launching coordinated entry systems; optimizing rapid rehousing services; and training diverse community stakeholders about the cultural shift and technical refining to be more permanent housing, and outcome, focused. Aspire Consulting LLC also has many years of experience in Point-in-Time Counts, Homeless Management Information Systems, Homeless and Caring Court, and 100 Day Challenge performance improvement initiatives. Kathie Barkow is the founder and principal consultant of Aspire Consulting LLC and has over 25 years of experience in the fields of housing and services for people who are homeless.



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EveryOne Home and the Alameda County Continuum of Care (COC) provided oversight for the *Everyone Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey*. We thank the members of the HUD Continuum of Care Committee for their valued input and guidance. We also thank members of the regional coordinating groups who helped to ensure communities were well represented in the data collection and planning effort.

As special thank you to the following programs, which graciously opened their doors for training and deployment activities.

East Oakland Community Project - Crossroads

Hayward City Hall

City of Berkeley - Main Library

City of Fremont Fire Department

Livermore City Council Chambers

West Oakland Youth Center

Covenant House Oakland

YEAH!

A team of trained currently and formerly homeless individuals worked as guides and surveyors, ensuring the Count's accuracy. We thank them for their excellent work and time spent on the project. Their insight and understanding is invaluable to this work.

Dedicated survey coordinators worked with our surveyors to help ensure regional data collection and we thank them for their time and dedication.

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We greatly appreciate the following programs and sites that provided data for the sheltered count.

## SHELTERS

24 Hour Oakland Parent / Teacher Children's Center	Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO)
A Safe Place	Livermore Homeless Refuge
Abode Services	Oakland Catholic Worker
Alameda Family Services	Operation Dignity
Bay Area Community Services	Ruby's Place
Berkeley Food & Housing Project (BFHP)	Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments (SAVE)
Building Futures with Women & Children (BFWC)	Salvation Army
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)	Second Chance
City of Berkeley Winter Shelter	Shepherd's Gate
City of Fremont Winter Shelter	St. Mary's Center
CityTeam International	St. Vincent de Paul
Covenant House Oakland	Tri-Valley Haven
East Oakland Community Project (EOCP)	Youth, Engagement, Advocacy and Housing (YEAH!)

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

Abode Services	First Place for Youth
Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP)	Fred Finch Youth Center (FFYC)
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency	Oakland Elizabeth House

(BOSS)

City of Oakland / Bay Area Community  
Services(BACS)

Covenant House Oakland

East Oakland Community Project (EOCP)

FESCO Family Emergency Shelter Coalition

Operation Dignity

Shepherd's Gate

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center



# Introduction

Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These counts measure the prevalence of homelessness in each community and collect information on individuals and families residing in emergency shelters and transitional housing, as well as people sleeping on the streets, in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

The biennial Point-in-Time Count is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and it is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of all jurisdictions that are receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, Alameda County receives more than \$33 million in HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, a key source of funding for the county's homeless services.

Each CoC reports the findings of its local Point-in-Time Count in its annual funding application to HUD, which ultimately helps the federal government better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Count data also help to inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

Alameda County's EveryOne Home worked in conjunction with Aspire Consulting LLC and Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey*. ASR is a social research firm with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessment.

The *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey* was a comprehensive community effort. With the support of 120 individuals with lived experience of homelessness, 350 community volunteers, staff from various City and County departments, and homeless service providers, the entire county was canvassed between the hours of 5 a.m. and noon on January 31, 2017. This resulted in a peer informed visual count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families residing on the streets, in vehicles, in makeshift shelters, in encampments, and in other places not meant for human habitation. Additionally, shelters and facilities reported the number of homeless individuals and families who occupied their facilities on the night of January 30, 2017.

*EveryOne Counts! 2017* also included a specialized count of unaccompanied children (under age 18) and transition-age youth (18 - 24 years old). This dedicated count is part of a nationwide effort, established and recommended by HUD, to improve our understanding of

the scope of youth homelessness. Trained youth enumerators with current or recent lived homeless experience conducted the count in targeted areas where young people experiencing homelessness are known to congregate.<sup>1</sup> This is an important year for national data on young people experiencing homelessness, as HUD will use the 2017 youth count results as a baseline for measuring progress toward ending youth homelessness by 2020.

In the weeks following the street count, ASR worked with trained homeless and recently homeless adults to administer an in-depth representative sample based survey to 1,228 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals of all ages. The survey gathered the basic demographic details necessary for HUD and local reporting as well as information on service needs and utilization.

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County on a single night in January. Special attention is given to specific subpopulations, including chronically homeless, veterans, families, unaccompanied children under the age of 18, and transition-age youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

To better understand the dynamics of homelessness over time, results from previous efforts are provided where available and applicable. Due to the significant changes in research methodology (service based survey vs. visual enumeration and sample survey), comparisons are limited to federal reporting indicators. Trend data should be reviewed cautiously.

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

In this study, the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count is used. This definition includes individuals and families:

- 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); 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.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey* to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR held regular planning meetings with local community members. These community members were drawn from County and City departments, community based service providers, and other interested stakeholders. These individuals were instrumental to ensuring that *EveryOne Counts! 2017* reflects the needs and concerns of the community.

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<sup>1</sup>Significant deduplication efforts were made in 2017 to ensure unaccompanied children and youth were not captured in both the youth and general street count efforts. For more information on these efforts and the overall count methodology, please see Appendix 1.

EveryOne Home identified several important project goals:

- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population since the *EveryOne Counts! 2015 Homeless Count and Survey*, and to track progress toward ending homelessness;
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, unaccompanied children, transition-age youth, and those who are chronically homeless;
- To preserve current federal funding for homeless services and to enhance the ability to raise new funds;
- To improve the ability of policy makers and service providers to plan and implement services that meet the needs of the local homeless population; and
- To increase public awareness of overall homeless issues and generate support for constructive solutions.

This report is intended to assist service providers, policy makers, funders, and local, state, and federal governments in gaining a better understanding of the population currently experiencing homelessness, measuring the impact of current policies and programming, and planning for the future.

# CITY OF OAKLAND

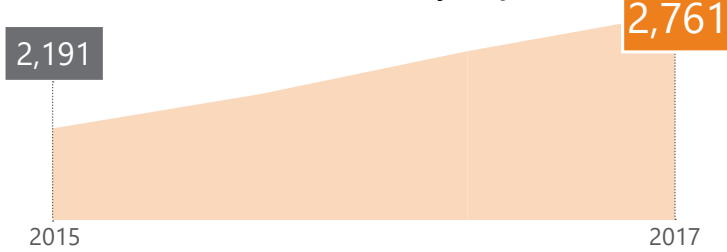
## 2017 EVERYONE COUNTS

### HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT AND SURVEY

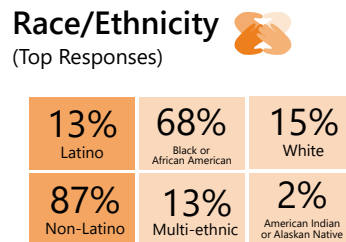
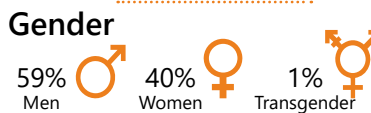
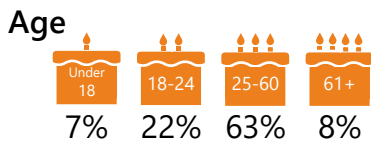
Every two years, during the last 10 days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness in each local Continuum of Care.

The 2017 Alameda County Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 30, 2017. In the weeks following the street count, a survey was administered across Alameda County. In the city of Oakland, 457 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals were surveyed, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

#### 2017 Homeless Census Survey Population



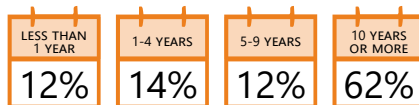
#### 2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population



#### Residence Prior to Homelessness



#### Length of Time in Alameda County



#### Subpopulations



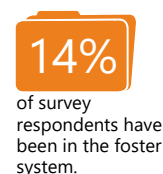
#### 2017 Sheltered/Unsheltered Population by City

<b>OAKLAND</b> 859 Sheltered 1,902 Unsheltered	<b>UNION CITY</b> 0 Sheltered 40 Unsheltered
<b>BERKELEY</b> 308 Sheltered 664 Unsheltered	<b>EMERYVILLE</b> 0 Sheltered 29 Unsheltered
<b>HAYWARD</b> 84 Sheltered 313 Unsheltered	<b>NEWARK</b> 42 Sheltered 28 Unsheltered
<b>FREMONT</b> 197 Sheltered 282 Unsheltered	<b>DUBLIN</b> 0 Sheltered 21 Unsheltered
<b>LIVERMORE</b> 102 Sheltered 141 Unsheltered	<b>PLEASANTON</b> 0 Sheltered 18 Unsheltered
<b>ALAMEDA</b> 94 Sheltered 110 Unsheltered	<b>PIEDMONT</b> 0 Sheltered 0 Unsheltered
<b>ALBANY</b> 0 Sheltered 66 Unsheltered	<b>UNINCORPORATED</b> 26 Sheltered 194 Unsheltered
<b>SAN LEANDRO</b> 54 Sheltered 55 Unsheltered	<b>TOTAL</b> 1,766 Sheltered 3,863 Unsheltered

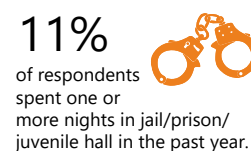
#### Household Breakdown



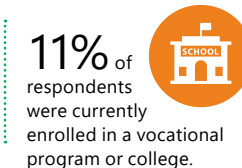
#### Foster Care



#### Justice System Involvement



#### Post K-12 Education



## Health Conditions

Current health conditions affecting housing stability or employment.

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



46%

Chronic health problems



45%

Psychiatric or emotional conditions



36%

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder



32%

Physical disability



31%

Drug or alcohol abuse



12%

Traumatic brain injury



7%

AIDS/HIV related

## Disabling Conditions

Respondents reported the number of conditions that limited their ability to maintain work or housing. Many reported multiple conditions.

18% of survey respondents reported having one disabling condition.

12% of survey respondents reported having two disabling conditions.

22% of survey respondents reported having three or more disabling conditions.

## First Homelessness Episode



30% Yes  
70% No

35% of those experiencing homelessness for the first time were homeless for one year or more

## Age at First Episode of Homelessness

10% 0-17	19% 18-24	38% 25-39
16% 40-49	16% 50-64	1% 65+

## Primary Cause of Homelessness (Top 6 Responses)

58% Money Issues	14% Personal Relationships	14% Mental Health Issues
12% Physical Health Issues	10% Substance Use Issues	6% Incarceration

## What Might Have Prevented Homelessness (Top 4 Responses)

48% Rent Assistance	36% Employment Assistance
25% Food Assistance	25% Mental Health Services

## Not Interested in Housing

1%

Only 1% of survey respondents said they were not interested in Independent, Affordable Rental Housing or Housing with Supportive Services.



## Duration of Current Episode of Homelessness

4%  
30 days or less

36%  
1-11 months

60%  
1 year or more

## Services and Assistance



83%

of survey respondents reported receiving benefits or support

## Services Currently Accessing (Top 6 Responses)

68% Free Meals	49% Emergency Shelter	32% Health Services
17% Transitional Housing	16% Drop-In Center	14% Mental Health Services

## Reasons for Not Accessing Shelter Services (Top 6 Responses)

41% Bugs and germs	40% They are full	28% They are too crowded
18% There are too many rules	16% Concerns for personal safety	14% They are too far away

## \*Subpopulation Definitions

### Chronically 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.

EveryOne Home will release a comprehensive report of the EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey in Summer 2017. For more information about EveryOne Home and effort to address homelessness in Alameda County please visit [www.EveryOneHome.org](http://www.EveryOneHome.org)

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda County Homeless Census & Survey. Watsonville, CA.



# Point-in-Time Count

The *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey* includes a complete enumeration of all unsheltered and publicly sheltered homeless persons. The unsheltered street count was conducted on January 31, 2017, from approximately 5 a.m. to noon, and covered all 738 square miles of Alameda County. Staff of Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department conducted the shelter count using the county's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and reported utilization data from the previous evening (night of January 30). The shelter count included all individuals staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing listed on the 2017 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC).

The *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count* methodology for counting unsheltered individuals was a significant departure from prior counts conducted in Alameda County. Previously, the unsheltered count was derived from a site based sample of individuals accessing services from homeless service providers, hot meal programs, drop in centers, food pantries, and mobile outreach programs across the county. The sample was diverse and included programs dedicated to serving persons experiencing homelessness as well as those serving the general population in need. The change in methodology was adopted in 2017 to more effectively include the unsheltered population who may not regularly seek services or assistance and to provide comparable data to other counties in the Bay Area, as well as to enable more in-depth reporting at jurisdictional levels where there is growing interest in more detailed homeless profiles within city limits. Demographic data including race/ethnicity and subpopulation details were collected from the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Survey* and extrapolated to the known census population. For more information regarding the project methodology, please see Appendix 1.

## NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND

### TOTAL POPULATION AND TREND DATA

A total of 2,761 individuals were experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland on January 31, 2017. This was a 26% increase from 2015 (+ 570 individuals).

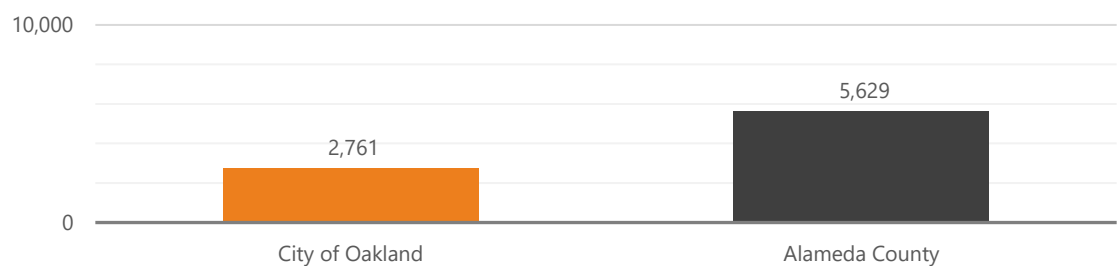
FIGURE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT, CITY OF OAKLAND



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2015-2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

Oakland's homeless population represented nearly half (49%) of the total number of persons enumerated in Alameda County during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count.

FIGURE 2. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT WITH COUNTY COMPARISON



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

## SHELTER STATUS AND LOCATION

Approximately 69% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Oakland were unsheltered on the night of the count, while 31% were residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. Countywide, the percentages mirror Oakland, as 69% of individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered while 31% were in sheltered locations.

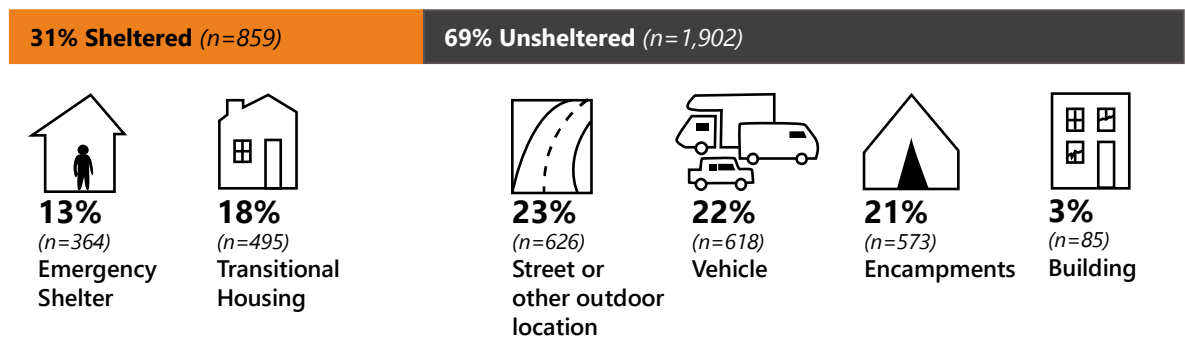
FIGURE 3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY SHELTER STATUS

	UNSHelterED	SHelterED	TOTAL
<b>City of Oakland</b>	1,902	859	2,761
<b>Alameda County</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>5,629</b>

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). City of Oakland Homeless Count.

Among those experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland, 23% were living on the streets or in other outdoor locations, 22% were residing in vehicles, and 13% were in emergency shelters. Twenty-one percent (21%) were residing in encampments, 18% were in transitional housing, and 3% were in abandoned buildings.

FIGURE 4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY LOCATION



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

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

## HOUSEHOLD STATUS AND AGE

Persons in families with children represented roughly 9% of the population enumerated in the Point-in-Time count in Oakland, this was lower than Alameda County overall (13%). Single individuals represented 91% of the Oakland population. Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth represented 22% of the population experiencing homelessness in Oakland, higher than the county overall (18%).

FIGURE 5. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, AGE, AND SHELTER STATUS

	CITY OF OAKLAND			ALAMEDA COUNTY		
	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
<b>Persons in Families with Children</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>711</b>
Children under 18	147	3	150	394	14	408
Youth 18-24	47	1	48	77	5	82
Adults 25+	61	3	64	214	7	221
<b>Single Individuals</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>3,837</b>	<b>4,918</b>
Children under 18	9	41	50	10	62	72
Youth 18-24	163	393	556	247	676	923
Adults 25+	432	1,461	1,893	824	3,099	3,923
<b>Total</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>5,629</b>

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

Note: Single Individuals include couples without children and unaccompanied children and youth without a parent or guardian.

## HOUSEHOLD STATUS AND GENDER

An estimated 59% of individuals experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland identified as male. Forty percent (40%) identified as female, 1% identified as transgender, and 0% identified as neither male, female, nor transgender. How individuals identified their gender in the city of Oakland was similar to the percentages reported in Alameda County as a whole.

FIGURE 6. TOTAL HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION BY GENDER

	MALE	FEMALE	TRANSGENDER	DOES NOT IDENTIFY	TOTAL
<b>City of Oakland</b>	1,627	1,109	25	0	2,761
<b>Alameda County</b>	3,277	2,295	47	10	5,629

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

Gender varied by household type. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of single individuals identified as female, while 63% of people in families, including children, identified as female.

FIGURE 7. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, GENDER, AND SHELTER STATUS

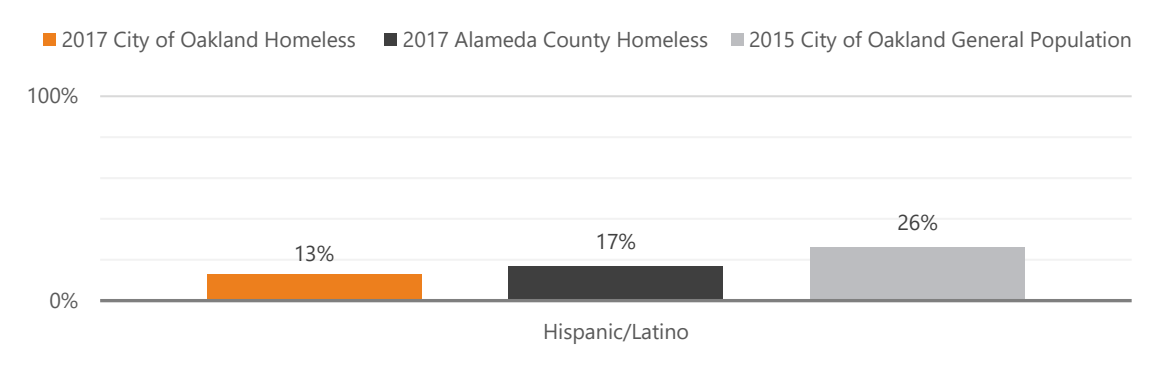
	CITY OF OAKLAND			ALAMEDA COUNTY		
	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
<b>Persons in Families</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>711</b>
Male	95	4	99	248	12	260
Female	160	2	162	437	13	450
Transgender	0	1	1	0	1	1
Does not identify as male, female, or transgender	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Single Individuals</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>3,837</b>	<b>4,918</b>
Male	391	1,137	1,528	683	2,334	3,017
Female	208	739	947	391	1,454	1,845
Transgender	5	19	24	6	40	46
Does not identify as male, female, or transgender	0	0	0	1	9	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>5,629</b>

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

Thirteen percent 13% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Oakland identified as Hispanic or Latino, compared to 17% of homeless persons countywide and 26% of the general population of Oakland.

FIGURE 8. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY HISPANIC/LATINO ETHNICITY

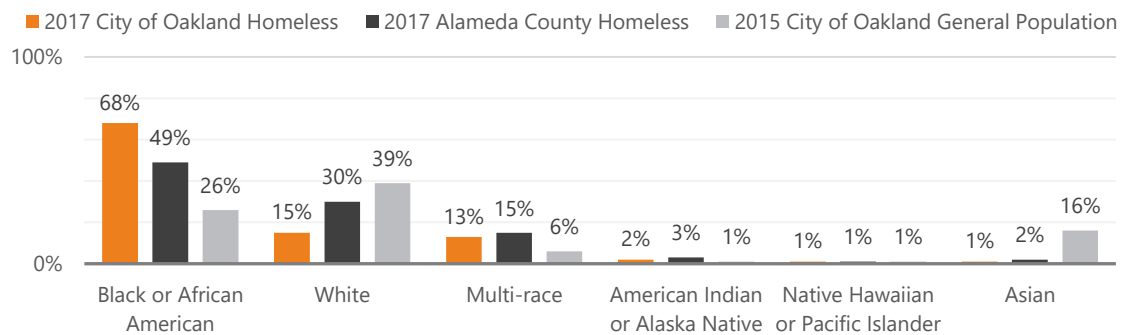


City of Oakland n= 2,761; Alameda County n=5,629

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

More than two-thirds (68%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in Oakland identified as Black or African American. Fifteen percent (15%) identified as White, 13% identified with multiple races, 2% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 1% identified as Asian, and 1% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. When compared to the general population of Oakland, the largest disparities were among individuals identifying as Black or African American (68% compared to 26%) and with multiple races (13% compared to 16%). Alternatively, 1% of homeless individuals in Oakland identified as Asian compared to 16% of the general city population.

FIGURE 9. TOTAL HOMELESS COUNT POPULATION, BY RACE



City of Oakland Homeless n= 2,761; Alameda County Homeless n=5,629

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

U.S. Census Bureau. (May 2016). American Community Survey 2015 1-Year Estimates, Table DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

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

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Alameda County was concentrated in the urban centers. Nearly half (49%) were enumerated in the city of Oakland and 17% in Berkeley. These cities were home to a disproportionate number of individuals experiencing homelessness, as they represent 27% and 9% of the county's general population, respectively.

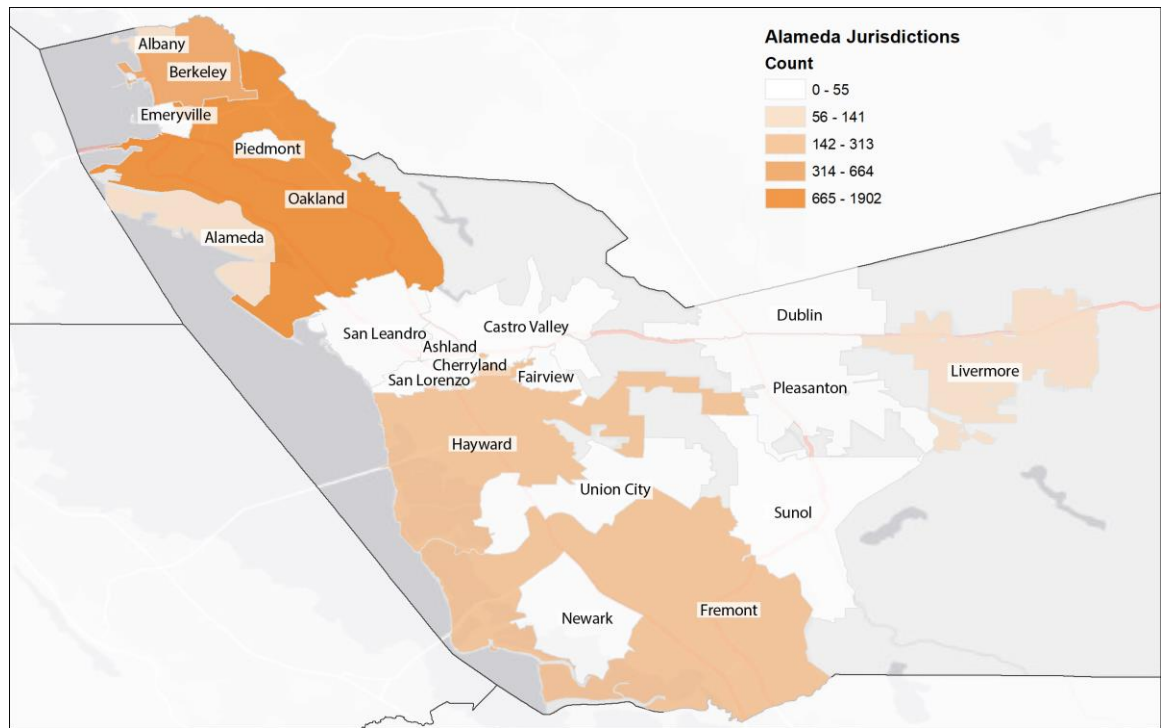
FIGURE 10. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY JURISDICTION AND SHELTER STATUS

JURISDICTION	SHELTERED		UNSHELTERED		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alameda	94	5%	110	3%	204	4%
Albany	0	0%	66	2%	66	1%
Berkeley	308	17%	664	17%	972	17%
Dublin	0	0%	21	1%	21	0%
Emeryville	0	0%	29	1%	29	1%
Fremont	197	11%	282	7%	479	9%
Hayward	84	5%	313	8%	397	7%
Livermore	102	6%	141	4%	243	4%
Newark	42	2%	28	1%	70	1%
Oakland	859	49%	1,902	49%	2,761	49%
Piedmont	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Pleasanton	0	0%	18	0%	18	0%
San Leandro	54	3%	55	1%	109	2%
Union City	0	0%	40	1%	40	1%
Unincorporated	26	1%	194	5%	220	4%
Total	1,766	-	3,863	-	5,629	-

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

A map of the Point-in-Time count population more clearly illustrates the jurisdictions with the highest density of individuals experiencing homelessness. This map clearly shows the city of Oakland with the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the county.

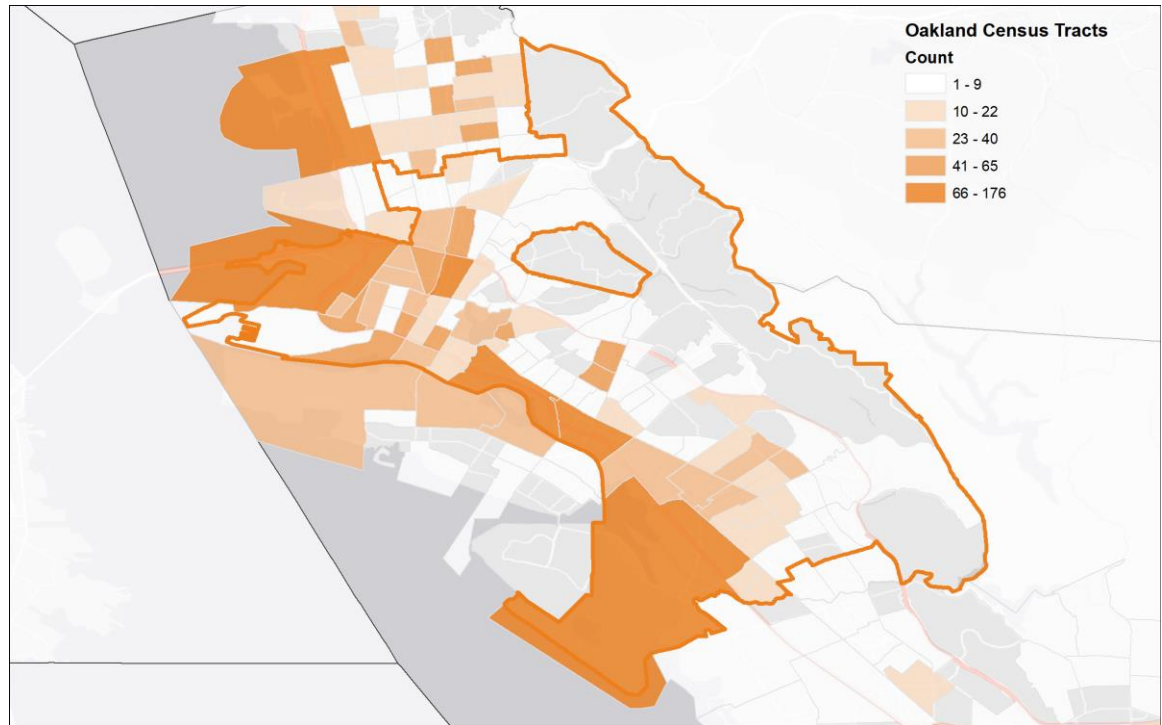
FIGURE 11. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY JURISDICTION



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

While jurisdictional data provides some insight into the population of persons experiencing homelessness, individuals were not spread equally within these locations. Every census tract of Alameda County was covered on the morning of January 31, 2017. Census tract level data provides a more nuanced distribution of where individuals were located on the morning of the count. Many census tracts with the greatest number of individuals enumerated were located in the city of Oakland.

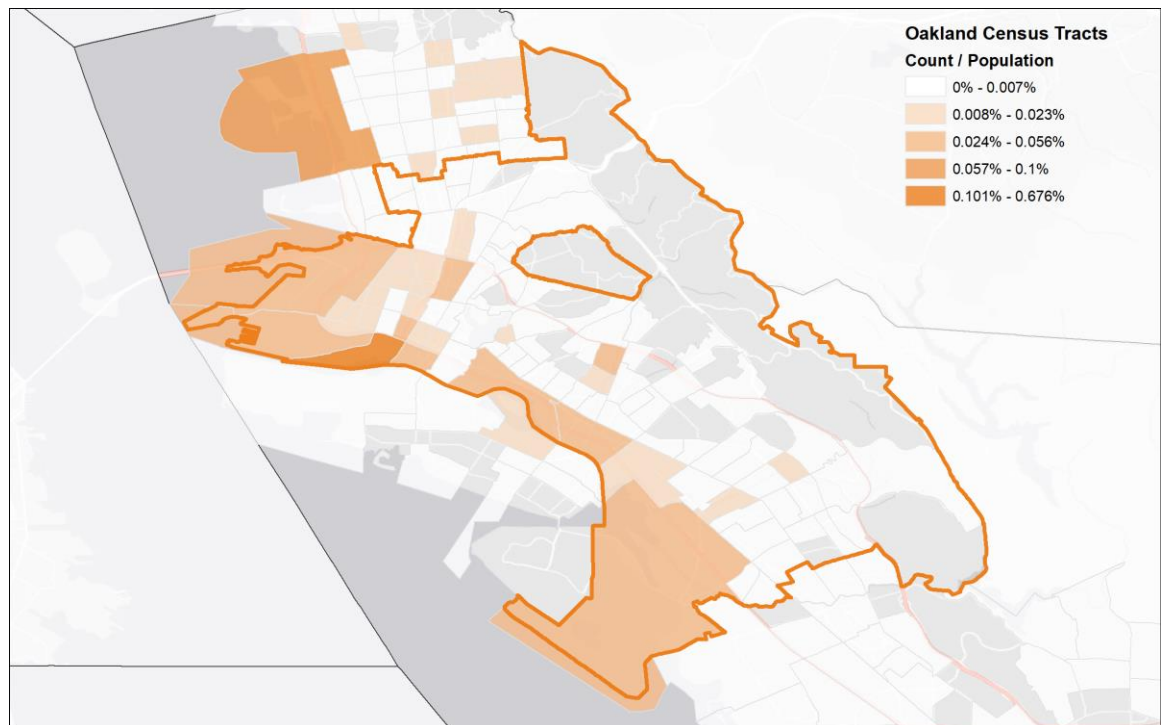
FIGURE 12. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY CENSUS TRACT



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

Many of the census tracts with the highest populations of individuals experiencing homelessness were census tracts with a dense general population, downtown Berkeley and downtown Oakland, for example. When data were normalized by the general population,<sup>2</sup> a small number of census tracts are highlighted as areas with the greatest density of homeless individuals.

FIGURE 13. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS BY CENSUS TRACT NORMALIZED BY GENERAL POPULATION



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

<sup>2</sup> Data were normalized by the general population, meaning the Point-in-Time count population was divided by the general population to show a percentage of the population experiencing homelessness.

## SUBPOPULATIONS

*Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* outlines national objectives and evaluative measures for ending homelessness in the United States. To adequately address the diversity within the population experiencing homelessness, the federal government identified four subpopulations with particular challenges or needs. Consequently, these subpopulations represent important reportable indicators for measuring local progress toward ending homelessness. Additional details on families, unaccompanied children and transition-age youth, single adults age 25 and older, veterans, and chronically homeless populations are provided in the subpopulation section of this report, beginning on page 50.

### REPORTED SUBPOPULATIONS

Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth represented 22% of the overall population in Oakland. This was a higher percentage than Alameda County as a whole (18%). Five percent (5%) of the population experiencing homelessness in Oakland were persons in families with children under the age of 18 (150 individuals).

Thirty-three percent (33%) of the population experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland were identified as chronically homeless in 2017. Oakland's chronic population represented 54% of the county's chronic population. Nine percent (9%) of the city's population experiencing homelessness were identified as veterans, these individuals represented nearly half (49%) of the county's homeless veteran population.

FIGURE 14. FEDERALLY REPORTED SUBPOPULATIONS

	CITY OF OAKLAND		ALAMEDA COUNTY	
	#	% of the overall population	#	% of the overall population
<b>Overall Homeless Population</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,629</b>	<b>-</b>
Persons in Families with Children	262	9%	711	13%
Unaccompanied Children and TAY	606	22%	991	18%
Chronically Homeless	898	33%	1,652	29%
Veterans	258	9%	531	9%

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). *Alameda Homeless Count*.

Note: In 2017 in the city of Oakland there were 98 families with children included in the county count, these families were comprised of 262 individuals. In 2017 in Alameda County there were 270 families with children included in the county count, these families were comprised of 711 individuals.

# Survey Findings

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from the survey component of the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey*. Trained currently and formerly homeless individuals under the direction of ASR administered surveys to a randomized sample of homeless individuals between February 1 and March 1, 2017. This effort resulted in 1,228 complete and unique surveys. Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 5,629 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 1,228 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/-4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Alameda County. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be confident that the results would be within four percentage points of the current results. Exactly 457 valid surveys were conducted in the city of Oakland. Based on a Point-in-Time Count of 2,761 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, these 457 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in the city of Oakland. In other words, if the survey were conducted again, we can be confident that the results would be within four percentage points of the current results.

To respect respondent privacy and to ensure the safety and comfort of those who participated, respondents were not required to complete all survey questions. Missing values are intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

## LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Where individuals lived prior to experiencing homelessness and where they have lived since impacts the way they seek services, as well as their ability to access support from friends or family. Previous circumstances can also point to gaps in the system of care, and reveal opportunities for systemic improvement and homeless prevention.

## PLACE OF RESIDENCE

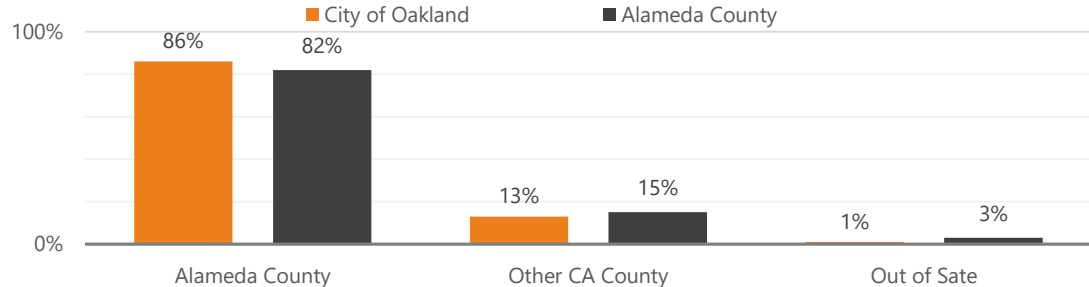
Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported they were living in Alameda County at the time they most recently became homeless. This was slightly higher than respondents from Alameda County as a whole (82%). Thirteen percent (13%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported they were living in another county in California, and 1% reported they were living out of state at the time they lost their housing.

FIGURE 15. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS

## Residence Prior to Homelessness



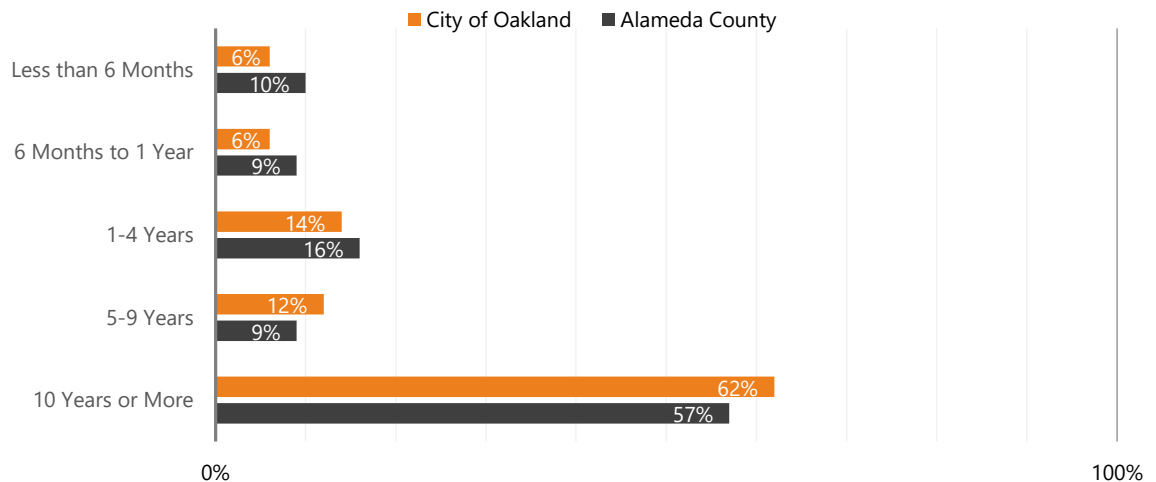
FIGURE 16. PLACE OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS COUNTY COMPARISON



City of Oakland 2017 n=437; Alameda County 2017 n=1,191  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
 Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Most Oakland respondents reported they had lived in Alameda County for 10 years or more (this included residents who reported they were born or grew up there). A slightly higher percentage of respondents in Oakland reported they had been in the county for a longer period of time, compared to all county respondents, however data were very similar.

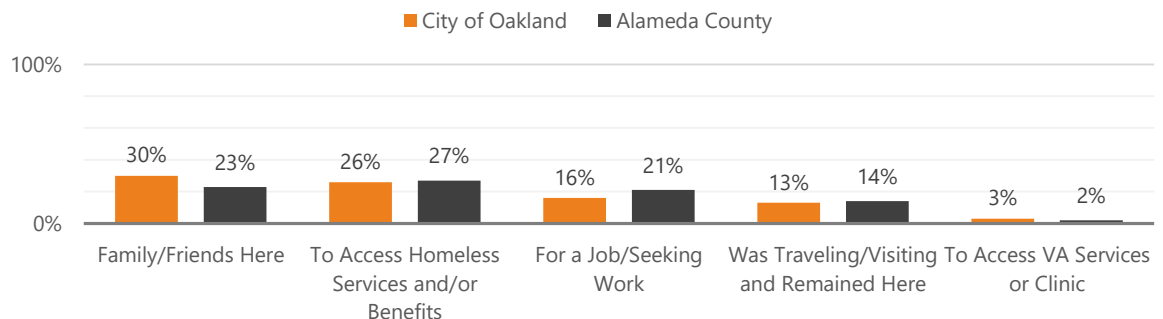
FIGURE 17. LENGTH OF TIME SPENT IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



City of Oakland 2017 n=389; Alameda County 2017 n= 1,087  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
 Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Thirty percent (30%) of Oakland respondents who reported they were living outside of Alameda County when they became homeless, reported staying in the county because they have family or friends in the area, 26% reported they stayed to access homeless services or benefits, 15% for a job or to seek work. Thirteen percent (13%) reported they were traveling through Alameda County and decided to stay, and 3% came to the county to access VA services. Responses were similar to those seen countywide.

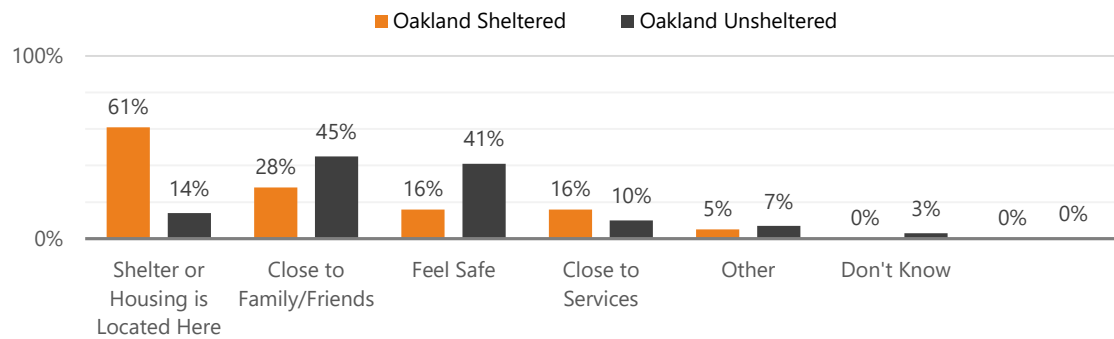
FIGURE 18. REASON FOR STAYING IN ALAMEDA COUNTY OF RESPONDENTS NOT STAYING IN ALAMEDA COUNTY AT TIME OF HOUSING LOSS (TOP RESPONSES)



City of Oakland 2017 n= 61, Alameda County 2017 n=1,171  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
 Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.  
 Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.

Respondents were also asked why they remain in the particular location they are currently staying. Responses varied among sheltered and unsheltered respondents. The majority of sheltered respondents reported staying where they were because shelter or housing was located there. More than a quarter (28%) of sheltered respondents reported staying where they were because it was close to family or friends, compared to 45% of unsheltered respondents. Forty-one percent (41%) of unsheltered respondents reported staying where they were because it felt safe, 10% also reported staying where they were because it was close to services.

FIGURE 19. REASON FOR STAYING IN CURRENT LOCATION (SPECIFIC PLACE)



Sheltered n= 187 respondents offering 238 responses; Unsheltered n=247 respondents offering 297 responses

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

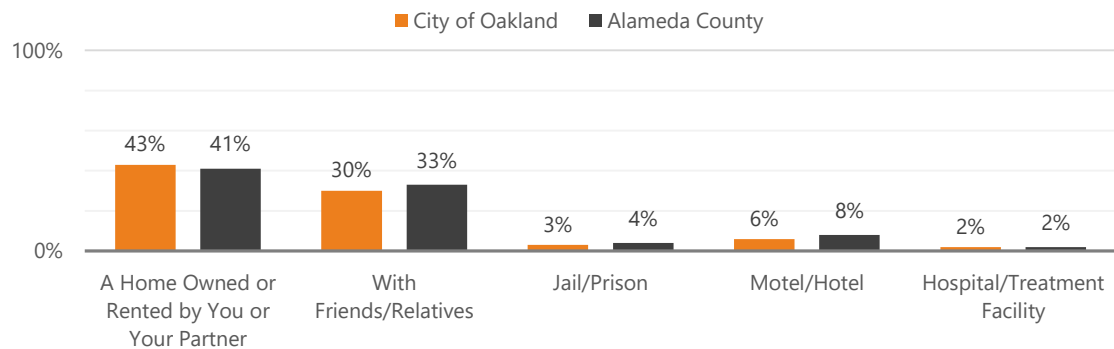
Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

### PRIOR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Similar to previous place of residence, the type of living arrangements maintained by individuals before experiencing homelessness provides a look into what types of homeless prevention services might be offered to help individuals maintain their housing.

Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported living in a home owned or rented by themselves or a partner immediately prior to becoming homeless. This is compared to 41% of respondents in Alameda County. Thirty percent (30%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported staying with friends or family.

FIGURE 20. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS



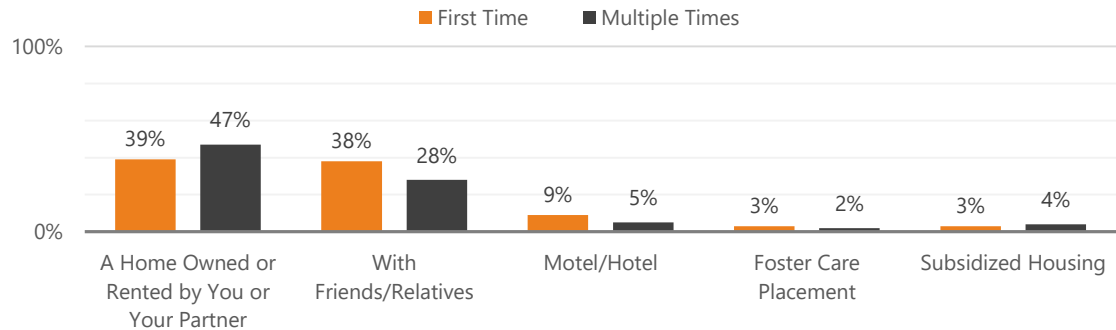
City of Oakland n=429 respondents offering 575 responses;

Alameda County n=1,158 respondents offering 1,471 responses

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

Of those who were experiencing homelessness for the first time, 39% reported they were in a home owned or rented by themselves or a partner, compared to 47% of respondents with a prior experience. A greater percentage of respondents who were experiencing homelessness for the first time reported they were staying with friend or family, compared those who had a previous experience.

FIGURE 21. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS THIS TIME BY FIRST TIME HOMELESSNESS



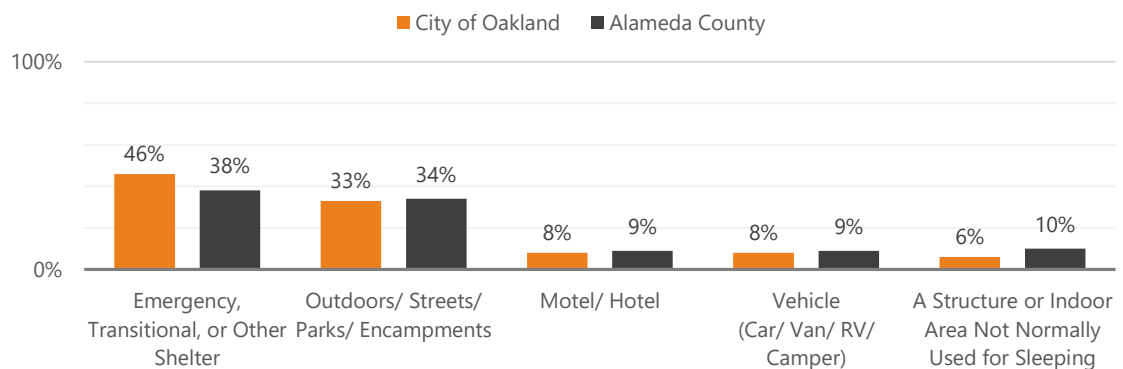
City of Oakland n=429 respondents offering 575 responses;  
 Alameda County n=1,158 respondents offering 1,471 responses  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
 Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

## CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

While basic information on where individuals were observed during the general street count effort is collected, survey respondents are also asked about their usual nighttime accommodations. Understanding the types of places individuals experiencing homelessness are sleeping can help inform local outreach efforts.

When asked where they typically stayed at night, 46% of respondents in the city of Oakland reported staying in an emergency, transitional, or other type of shelter, compared to 38% in Alameda County. Thirty-three percent (33%) of survey respondents in Oakland reported staying outdoors, either on the streets, in parks or encampments. Six percent (6%) reported staying in a structure or indoor area not intended for human habitation, 8% were staying in a motel or hotel, an 8% were in a vehicle.

FIGURE 22. USUAL PLACES TO SLEEP AT NIGHT



City of Oakland n=457; Alameda County n=1,228

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

## PETS



**13%**  
Yes

Thirteen percent (13%) of unsheltered survey respondents reported they lived with a pet. Of unsheltered respondents with pets, 24% reported they did not stay in shelters because shelters do not accept pets. Thirty-five percent (35%) of unsheltered pet owners were female, and 91% were age 25 years or older. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of unsheltered pet owners were identified as chronically homeless. Seventy-six percent (76%) of unsheltered pet owners reported having PTSD, as compared to 33% of unsheltered non-pet owners. Unsheltered pet owners also reported having psychiatric or emotional conditions more frequently than unsheltered non-pet owners (75% compared to 36%). Unsheltered pet owners also reported drug or alcohol abuse at a higher rate than unsheltered non-pet owners (61% compared to 29%).

## DURATION AND RECURRENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Unstable living conditions, poverty, housing scarcity, and many other issues often lead to some individuals falling into homelessness. For some, the experience of homelessness is part of a long and recurring history of housing instability. While there is research to show that housing instability has many of the same effects as literal homelessness, particularly on families and children, extended periods of homelessness affect one's ability to obtain housing and employment and increase one's health risks.<sup>3</sup> The length of time individuals remain on the street can also indicate the strain on the homeless assistance and housing systems.

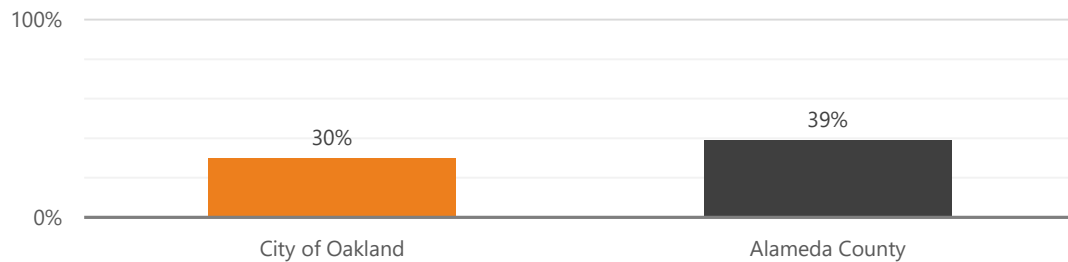
Thirty percent (30%) of Oakland respondents reported they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.



City of Oakland = 457

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

FIGURE 23. FIRST TIME HOMELESS (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING "YES")



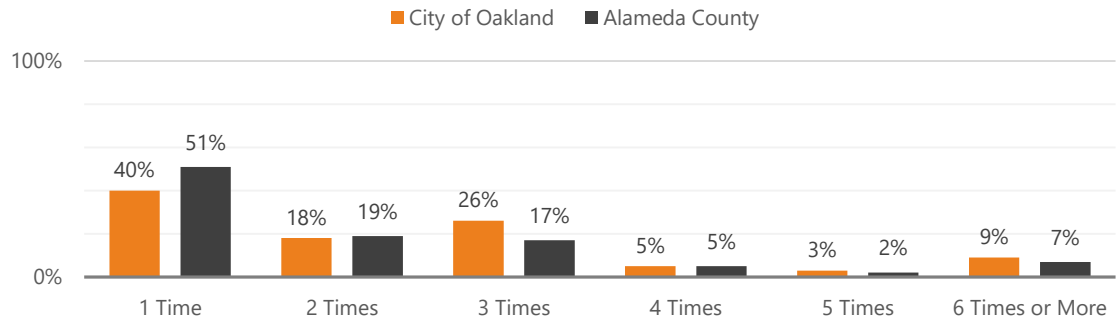
City of Oakland n=457; Alameda County n=1,228

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

<sup>3</sup> Buckner, J.C. (2008). Understanding the impact of homelessness on children: Challenges and future research directions. *American Behavioral Scientist* 51 (6), 721-736.

Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported experiencing homelessness three or more times in the past three years, compared to 31% of respondents in Alameda County.

FIGURE 24. NUMBER OF EPISODES OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS



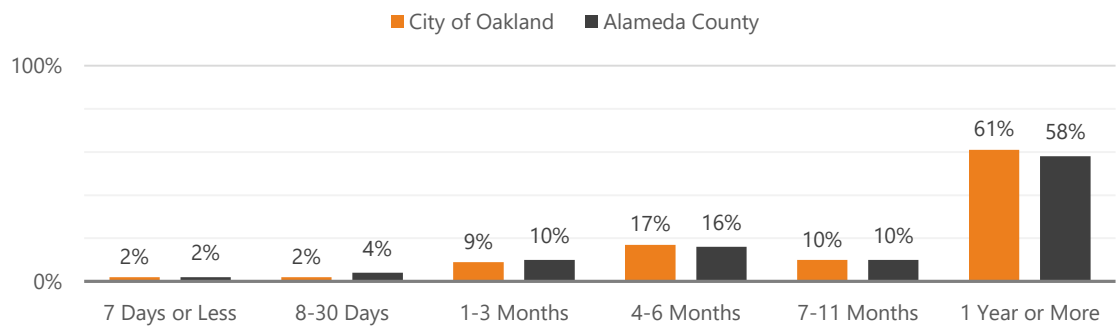
City of Oakland n=446; Alameda County n=1,185

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

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

Sixty-one percent (61%) of Oakland respondents reported their current episode of homelessness lasted for one year or longer, slightly higher than the county data (58%).

FIGURE 25. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS



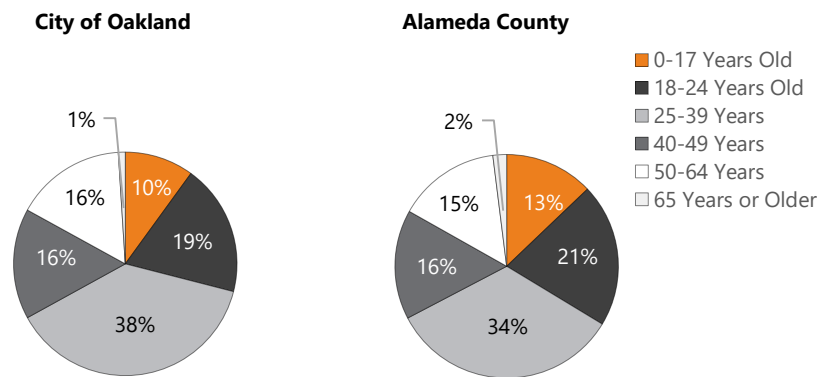
City of Oakland n=440; Alameda County n=1,184

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

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

In 2017, respondents were asked the age at which they first experienced homelessness. This question provides some insight into how homelessness and housing instability affect the population over their lifetime. Ten percent (10%) of survey respondents in the city of Oakland first experienced homelessness as a child under the age of 18. Nineteen percent (19%) were between the ages of 18 and 24 when they first experienced homelessness, and 71% were age 25 years or older. Of respondents age 51 years or older, 40% reported they had first experienced homelessness after age 50.

FIGURE 26. AGE AT FIRST EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS



City of Oakland n=372; Alameda County n=1,046

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

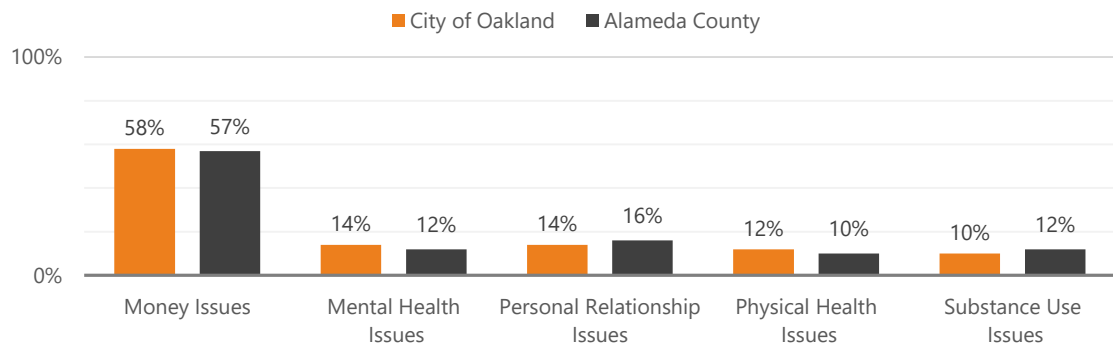
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

## PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS

The primary cause of an individual's homelessness is often difficult to pinpoint, as it is often the result of multiple and compounding causes that can be systemic or personal in nature. When asked to identify the primary event or condition that led to their current homelessness experience, over half (58%) of respondents in the city of Oakland cited money issues as the reason. Fourteen percent (14%) reported mental health issues as the primary reason for their homelessness, 14% reported personal relationship issues, 12% reported physical health issues and 10% reported substance use issues.

Although not among the five most frequent responses, other reported causes of homelessness in the city of Oakland included other reasons not specified (10%), incarceration (6%), and aging out of foster care (2%).

FIGURE 27. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)



*City of Oakland 2017 n=442;*

*Alameda County 2017 n=1,198 respondents offering 1,471 responses*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

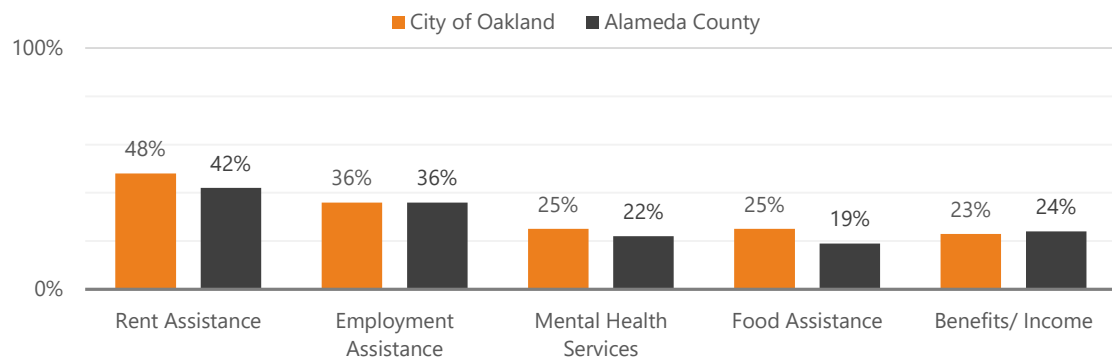
## ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO RETAIN PERMANENT HOUSING

Many individuals experiencing homelessness face significant barriers in obtaining permanent housing. These barriers can range from housing affordability and availability to accessing the economic and social supports (e.g. increased income, rental assistance, case management) needed to access and maintain permanent housing.

When asked what resources would help them to retain permanent housing, 2017 respondents in the city of Oakland most often cited rent assistance (48%), employment assistance (36%), mental health services (25%), food assistance (25%), and benefits and income (23%).

Other resources needed in order to retain permanent housing frequently reported by survey respondents in the city of Oakland included transportation assistance (17%), legal assistance (13%), family counseling (12%), and alcohol or drug counseling (11%).

FIGURE 28. SUPPORT NEEDED TO RETAIN PERMANENT HOUSING (TOP FIVE RESPONSES IN OAKLAND)



City of Oakland n=439 respondents offering 1,094 responses;  
 Alameda County n=1,185 respondents offering 2,872 responses  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
 Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

While limited data are available on the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals experiencing homelessness, available data suggest that LGBTQ individuals experience homelessness at higher rates – especially among those under the age of 25.<sup>4 5</sup>

Fourteen percent (14%) of survey respondents identified as LGBTQ in the city of Oakland 2017. Of those, 36% identified as bisexual, 30% lesbian, 22% gay, 6% transgender, 0% queer, and 11% as an unspecified gender identity.

FIGURE 29. SEXUAL AND GENDER IDENTITY

	CITY OF OAKLAND		ALAMEDA COUNTY	
	%	n	%	n
<b>LGBTQ Status</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	14%	64	14%	170
<b>No</b>	86%	393	86%	1058
<b>BREAKOUT OF RESPONDENTS ANSWERING YES</b>				
<b>Gay</b>	22%	14	17%	28
<b>Lesbian</b>	30%	19	22%	38
<b>Queer</b>	0%	0	2%	4
<b>Bisexual</b>	36%	23	47%	80
<b>Transgender</b>	6%	4	8%	14
<b>Other</b>	11%	7	11%	19

*City of Oakland LGBTQ n=457; Breakout n=64 respondents offering 67 responses*

*Alameda County LGBTQ n=1228; Breakout n=170 respondents offering 183 responses*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

<sup>4</sup> Our Issue. 40% of Youth Experiencing Homelessness Identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT).

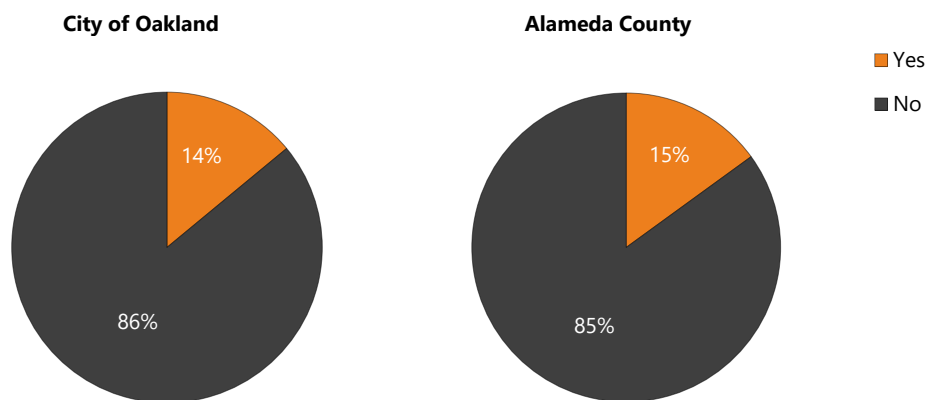
Retrieved 2017 from <https://truecolorsfund.org/our-issue/>

<sup>5</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless. LGBT Homelessness. Retrieved 2017 from <http://nationalhomeless.org/issues/lgbt/>

## FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

It has been estimated that one in five former foster youth experience homelessness within four years of exiting the foster care system.<sup>6</sup> In California, foster youth are now eligible to receive services beyond age 18. Transitional housing and supportive services for youth aged 18-24 are provided through programs often referred to as Transitional Housing Placement-Plus (THP-+). It is hoped that these additional supports, implemented in 2012, will assist foster youth with the transition to independence and prevent them from becoming homeless. In 2017, 14% of respondents in the city of Oakland and 15% of respondents in Alameda County reported a history of foster care. Thirty percent (30%) of youth under age 25 with a history of foster care reported that aging out of the foster care system was the primary cause of their homelessness. While there were a number of adults 25 years and older who reported a foster care history, none reported aging out of care as the cause of their homelessness.

FIGURE 30. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE



City of Oakland n= 440, Alameda County n=1,190

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

<sup>6</sup> Fernandes, A.L. (2007). Runaway and homeless youth: Demographics, programs, and emerging issues. Congressional Research Services, January 2007. Retrieved from <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/general/detail/1451>.

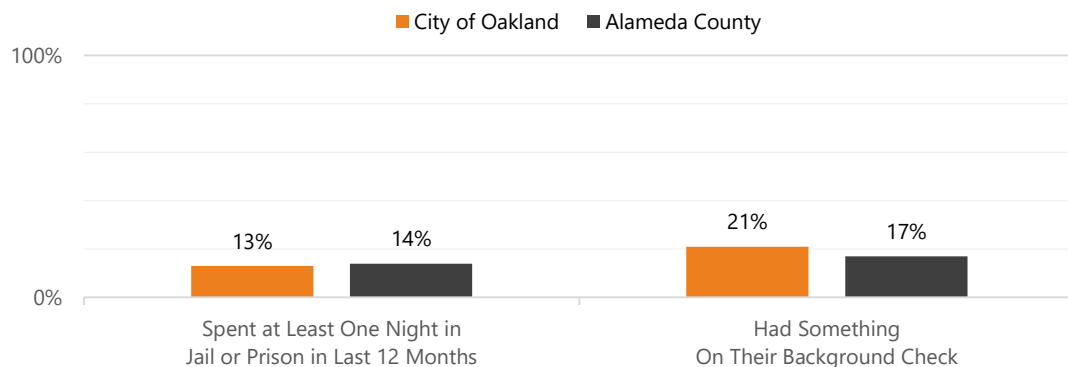
## CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Homelessness and incarceration are often correlative. Individuals without stable housing are at greater risk of criminal justice system involvement, particularly those with mental health issues, veterans, and youth. Individuals with past incarceration face significant barriers to exiting homelessness due to stigmatization and policies affecting their ability to gain employment and access housing opportunities.<sup>7</sup> It is estimated that less than 4% of the general population are admitted to jail each year.<sup>8</sup>

In the city of Oakland, 13% of survey respondents reported spending at least one night in jail in the last 12 months. This is a lower percentage compared to Alameda County, where 14% of respondents reported spending at least one night in jail in the last 12 months. Criminal justice involvement varied slightly by shelter status, 11% of sheltered respondents reported spending at least one night in jail or prison in the past 12 months, while 14% of unsheltered respondents reported one or more nights.

Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents in Oakland reported they might have a criminal offense show up on their background check and prevent them from obtaining housing. This also varied by shelter status, 23% of unsheltered reported they might have a criminal offense, compared to 19% of sheltered respondents. A criminal history can affect eligibility for both public housing, depending on the conviction, and if a landlord conducts a background check, private housing may not be an option. An arrest, even without conviction, can prevent individuals from accessing housing.

FIGURE 31. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT



*City of Oakland spent at least one night n=457; Incident n=439*

*Alameda County spent at least one night n=1,228; Incident n=1,168*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

<sup>7</sup> Greenber, G.A., Rosenheck, R.A. (2008). Jail incarceration, homelessness, and mental health: A national study. *Psychiatric Services* 59(2), 170-177.

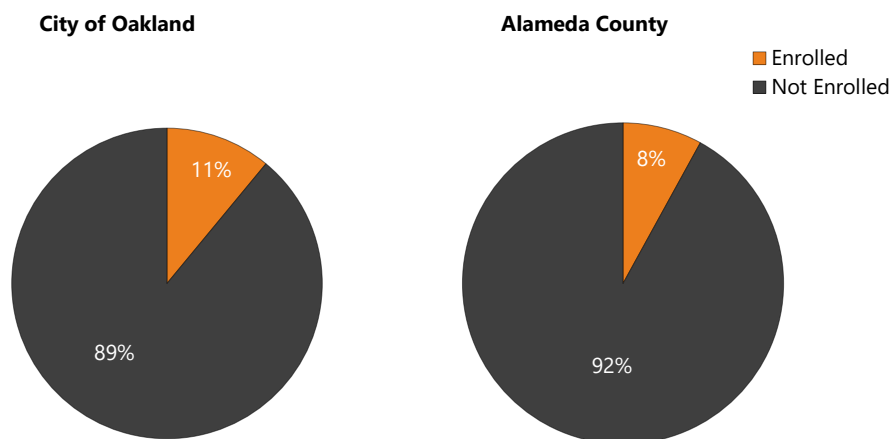
<sup>8</sup> Prison Policy Initiative. (2015). *Jails matter. But who is listening?* Retrieved 2017 from <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2015/08/14/jailsmatter/>

## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Communities across the country are becoming increasingly aware of the number of students in schools and colleges who are experiencing homelessness. A recent study of community college students across the nation showed that roughly 14% were experiencing homelessness.<sup>9</sup> Enrollment in school not only points to the resiliency and drive of the people, but can also help to identify institutions with the potential to provide outreach and support to individuals experiencing homelessness in the community.

Eleven percent (11%) of survey respondents in the city of Oakland are currently enrolled in some type of schooling, as compared to 8% in Alameda County as a whole. Of that 11% in the city of Oakland, 41% are enrolled in high school/ GED programs, 41% in college, and 12% in vocational school. Surveys were primarily conducted with heads of households; therefore many school age children were not represented in the surveys.

FIGURE 32. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



City of Oakland School Enrollment n=406; Alameda County School Enrollment n=1,099  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

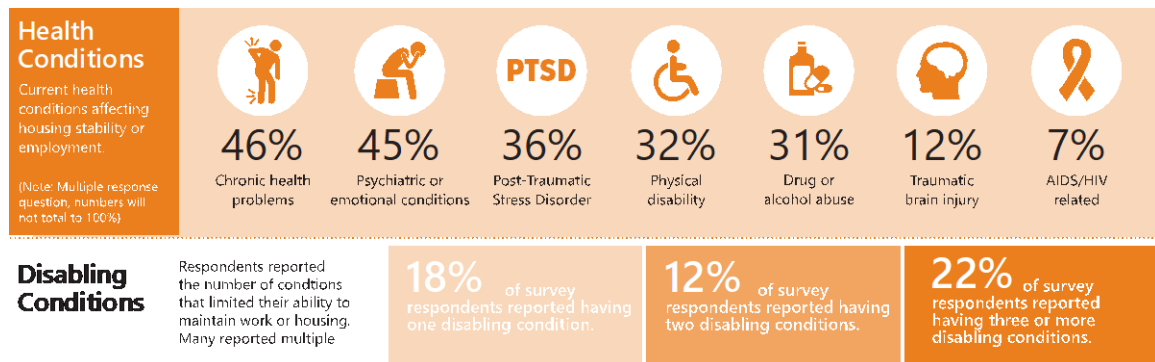
<sup>9</sup> Wisconsin Hope Lab. (2017). *Hungry and Homeless in College: Results from a National Study of Basic Needs Insecurity in Higher Education*. Retrieved from <http://wihopelab.com/publications/hungry-and-homeless-in-college-report.pdf>.

## HEALTH

The average life expectancy for individuals experiencing homelessness is 25 years less than those in stable housing.<sup>10</sup> Without regular access to healthcare and without safe and stable housing, individuals experience preventable illness and often endure longer hospitalizations than those who are housed.<sup>11</sup> It is estimated that those experiencing homelessness stay four days (or 36%) longer per hospital admission than non-homeless patients.<sup>12</sup>

### HEALTH CONDITIONS

The two most frequently reported health conditions in the city of Oakland were chronic health problems (46%) and psychiatric or emotional conditions (45%). This is compared to the two most frequently reported disabling conditions in Alameda County as a whole, which are psychiatric or emotional conditions (41%) and chronic health problems (36%). In the city of Oakland, respondents also reported having post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (36%), a physical disability (32%), drug or alcohol abuse (31%), traumatic brain injury (12%), and AIDS and HIV related conditions (7%). In total, 72% of Oakland respondents reported having one or more of these conditions. Fifty-two percent (52%) of Oakland respondents reported one or more conditions prevented them from obtaining work or housing, while close to half of those have three or more conditions that prevent them from obtaining work or housing.



Drug or Alcohol Use n=396; Psychiatric or Emotional Conditions n=395; Physical Disability n=395; PTSD n=394; Chronic Health Problems n=421; Traumatic Brain Injury n=394; AIDS/HIV Related n=397

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

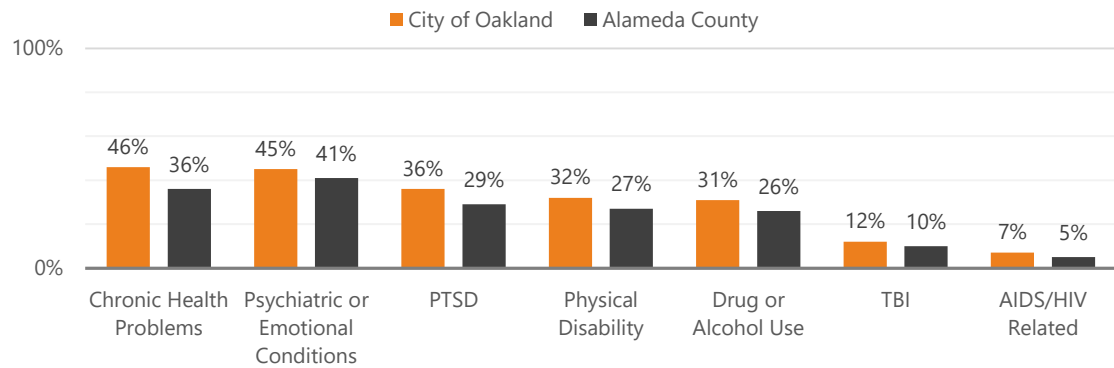
Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

10 O'Connell, J.J. (2005). Premature mortality in homeless populations: A review of the literature. National Health Care for the Homeless Council, Inc.

11 Salit, S.A. (1998). Hospitalization costs associated with homelessness in New York City. New England Journal of Medicine 338, 1734-1740.

12 Hwang, S. W., Weaver, J., Aubry, T.D., & Hoch, J.S. (2011). Hospital costs and length of stay among homeless patients admitted to medical, surgical and psychiatric services, Medical Care, 49(4):350-54. doi: 10.1097/MLR.0b013e318206c50d.

FIGURE 33. HEALTH CONDITIONS WITH COUNTY COMPARISON



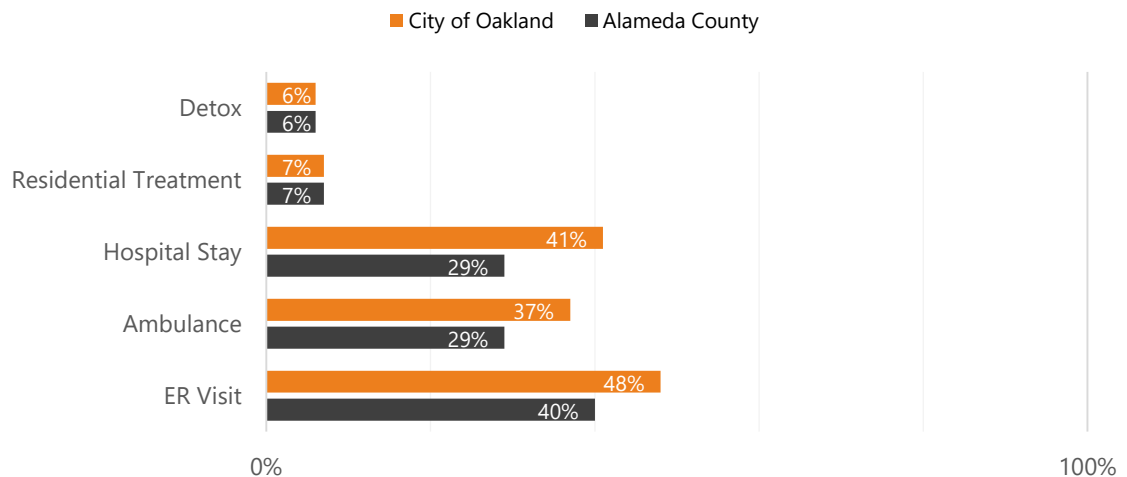
City of Oakland n=394-421; Alameda County n= 1,091-1,129

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

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

Forty-eight (48%) percent of respondents reported they had been to the ER at least once in the last 12 months. Forty-one percent (41%) reported a hospital stay. Seven percent (7%) had accessed residential treatment, and 6% had accessed detox. Compared to all Alameda County respondents, greater percentages of Oakland respondents reported at least one hospital stay, ambulance ride, and ER visit.

FIGURE 34. ONE OR MORE CONTACTS WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES



City of Oakland n=457; Alameda County n=1,228

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

## DOMESTIC/PARTNER VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

Histories of domestic violence and partner abuse are prevalent among individuals experiencing homelessness, and can be the primary cause of homelessness for many. Survivors often lack financial resources required for housing, as their employment history or dependable income may be limited.

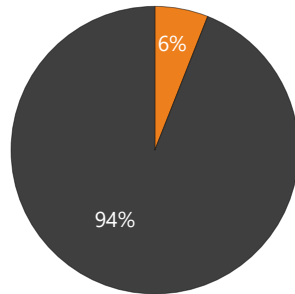
Six percent (6%) of survey respondents in the city of Oakland reported currently experiencing domestic violence or abuse, as compared to 6% of respondents in Alameda County. Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported experiencing domestic violence or abuse in the past, compared to 25% of respondents in Alameda County.

Domestic violence varied by gender with 4% of males reporting current abuse, and 13% reporting a history of abuse. Among female respondents 8% reported current and 32% lifetime.

FIGURE 35. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Currently Experiencing

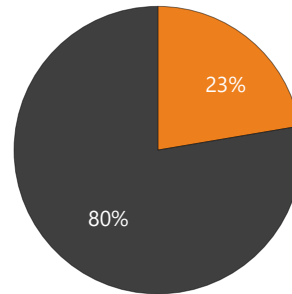
■ Yes ■ No



City of Oakland n= 413,  
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017).  
Alameda Homeless Survey.

### Lifetime Experience

■ Yes ■ No



City of Oakland n= 395,  
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017).  
Alameda Homeless Survey.

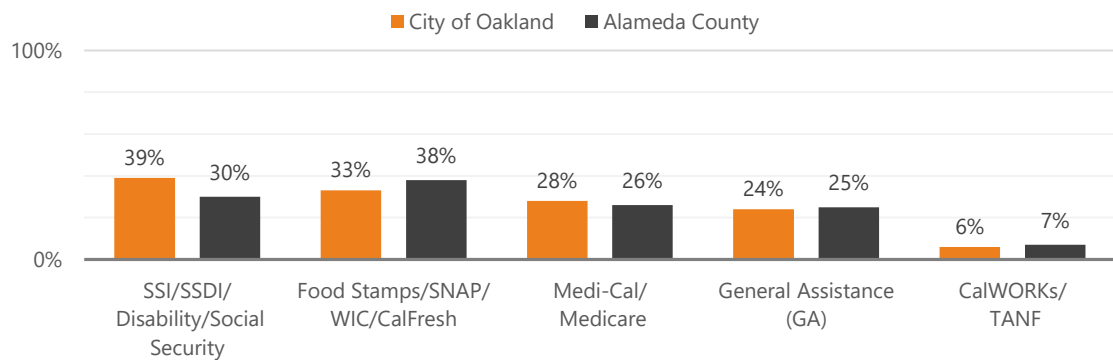
## SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

### GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Various forms of government assistance are available to individuals experiencing homelessness. However, knowledge of the services available, understanding of eligibility requirements, and perceived stigma associated with receiving government assistance can all impact the rate at which eligible individuals access these resources.

More than three quarters of survey respondents (83%) in the city of Oakland indicated receiving for some form of government assistance. The largest percentage (39%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported receiving SSI, SSDI, disability, or Social Security. Thirty-three percent (33%) of respondents reported receiving food support, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women Infant and Children (WIC) program, or CalFresh (California's SNAP program). Three percent (3%) reported receiving some sort of VA benefits. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents in the city of Oakland reported not utilizing any form of government assistance.

FIGURE 36. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)



*City of Oakland n = 429 respondents offering 687 responses;*

*Alameda County n = 1,168 respondents offering 1,917 responses*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

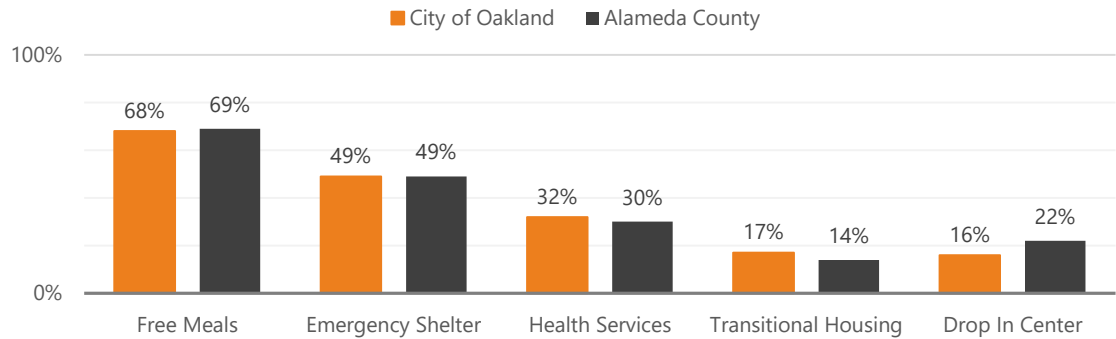
### SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

In addition to governmental assistance, there are numerous community-based services and programs available to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. These services range from day shelters and meal programs, to job training and healthcare, and help provide support for immediate, basic needs and investments in long-term self-sufficiency and housing stability.

Most respondents (96%) in the city of Oakland indicated accessing services or assistance in the community. Most respondents reported accessing free meals (68%). Nearly half were accessing emergency shelter (49%). Less than one-third of the population reported accessing the following: health services (32%), transitional housing (17%), and drop in centers (16%). Although not among the top responses, mental health services (14%), legal assistance (12%),

and job training and employment services (9%) were also among services accessed by survey respondents. Four percent (4%) of respondents reported they were not currently accessing any services or assistance, compared to 7% of respondents in Alameda County as a whole.

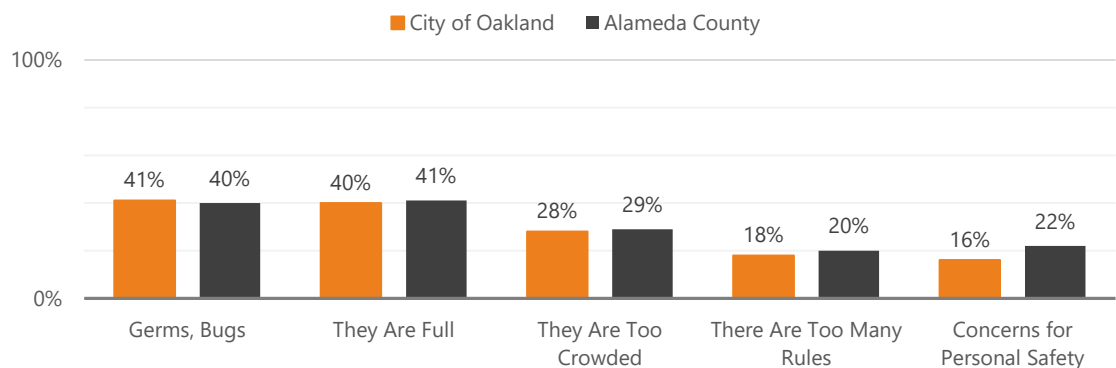
FIGURE 37. SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)



City of Oakland n= 435 respondents offering 1,048 responses,  
 Alameda County n= 1,188 respondents offering 2,909 responses  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
 Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

When asked what prevents them from using shelter services, survey respondents in the city of Oakland cited a myriad of reasons. Forty-one percent (41%) said they do not use them because they have germs and bugs, 40% because they are full, 28% because they are too crowded, 18% because there are too many rules, and 16% because of concerns for personal safety.

FIGURE 38. REASONS FOR NOT USING SHELTER SERVICES (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

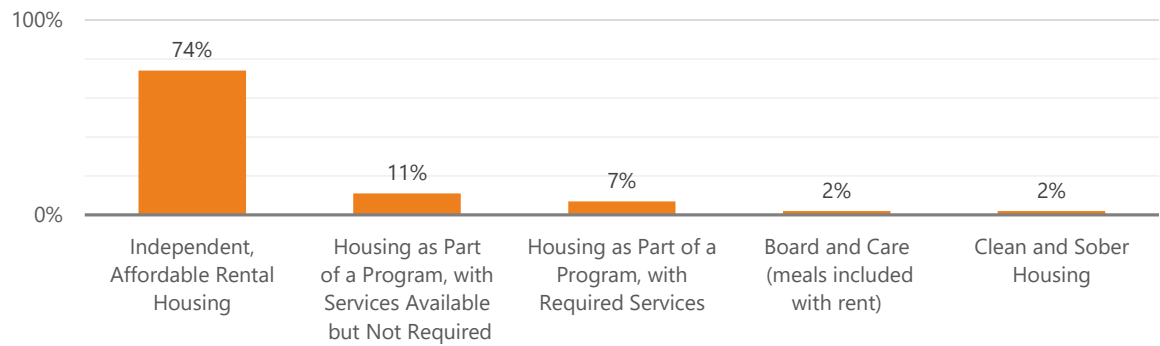


City of Oakland n= 355 respondents offering 741 responses,  
 Alameda County n= 966 respondents offering 1,840 responses  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
 Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

## INTEREST IN HOUSING

While it is often believed that people experiencing homelessness do not want housing and choose to live on the street, just 1% of respondents reported they were not interested in housing. The majority were interested in independent affordable housing (74%); however other respondents wanted housing with voluntary services (11%), housing with required services (7%), board and care (2%), and clean and sober housing (2%).

FIGURE 39. TYPES OF HOUSING WANTED



City of Oakland n=427

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

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



# Subpopulations

The following sections examines five key subpopulations, identifying the number and characteristics of individuals included in the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey*. Subpopulations include those identified in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*: chronically homeless individuals and families, veterans, families with children, and unaccompanied children and transition-age youth. Additional details on the number and characteristics of single individuals 25 years and older is also included in this section, as this is the largest population of individuals experiencing homelessness in Alameda County.

Of the 457 surveys completed in 2017, the results represent 348 homeless single adults age 25 and older, 200 chronically homeless, 56 homeless veterans, 40 individuals in homeless families, 51 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth. Surveys were completed in unsheltered environments and transitional housing settings.

## SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

The largest number of people experiencing homelessness are single adults. This population is often referred to as single adults 25 years and older, though it may include married or non-married couples and multi-adults households. While it is assumed that this population has high medical and mental health needs, data suggests that this is not true of the entire population. Forty-three percent (43%) of the population were not experiencing a health or mental health condition that would prevent them from obtaining housing or employment.

### SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND

In 2017, there were 1,893 single adults 25 years and older residing in the city of Oakland during the Alameda County Point-in-Time Count. These individuals comprised 34% of the total population experiencing homelessness in the county.

FIGURE 40. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

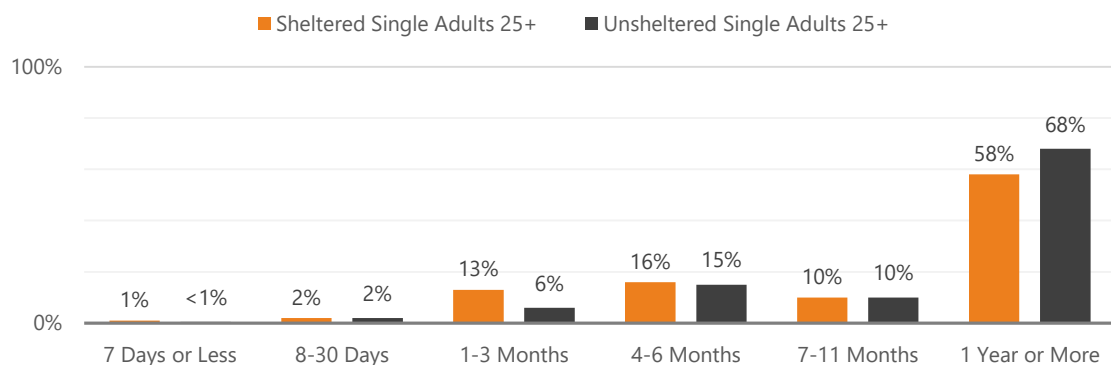


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

### LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

First time homelessness was slightly higher among unsheltered single adults 25 years and older than sheltered single adults, 29% compared to 28%. Overall, unsheltered single adults 25 years and older reported their current episode of homelessness was longer than sheltered single adults 25 years and older, but in both groups, more than half (68% to 58%, respectively) reported they had been without housing for more than one year – longer than the county averages.

FIGURE 41. LENGTH OF CURRENT EPISODE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER



Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=228; Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=130

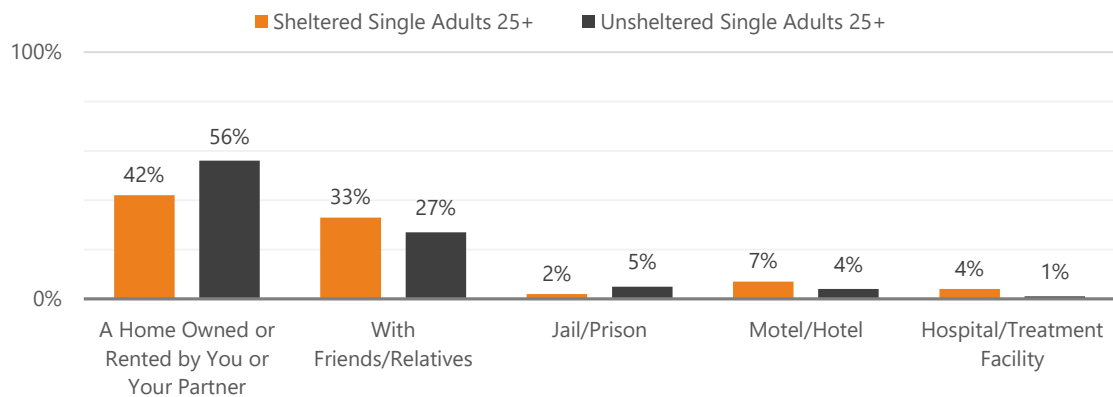
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

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

### PRIOR LIVING SITUATION OF SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

Both unsheltered and sheltered single adults 25 years and older most often reported staying in a home owned by them or their partner prior to becoming homeless (56% and 42%, respectively). Twenty-seven percent (27%) of unsheltered single adults 25 years and older reported staying with family or friends right before becoming homeless, 5% reported being in jail or prison, 4% stayed in a motel or hotel, and 1% were staying in a hospital or treatment facility. Thirty-three percent (33%) of sheltered single adults 25 years and older reported staying with family or friends immediately prior to becoming homeless; 7% reported staying in a motel or hotel, 4% reported staying in a hospital or treatment facility, and 2% reported being in jail or prison.

FIGURE 42. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BECOMING HOMELESS THIS TIME AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

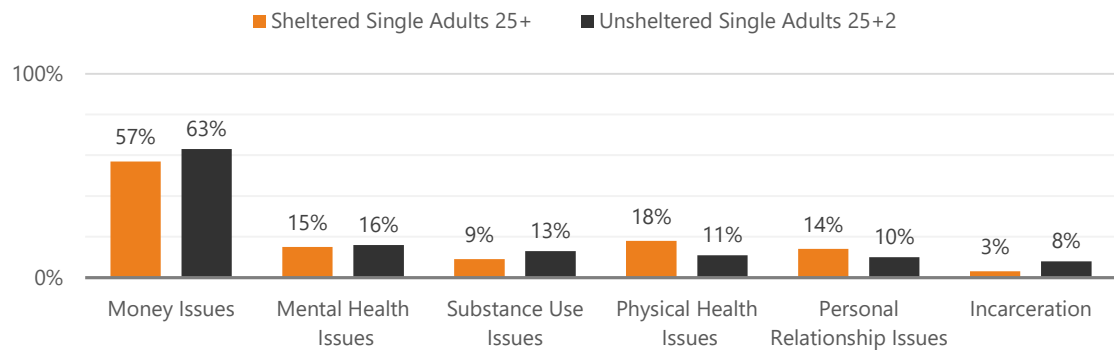


*Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=211; Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=124*  
 Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

## PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AND PREVENTATIVE SERVICES NEEDED AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

Sixty-three percent (63%) of unsheltered single adult survey respondents age 25 years and older identified money issues as the primary cause of their homelessness, compared to 57% of sheltered single adults 25 years and older. Sixteen percent (16%) of unsheltered adults 25 years and older reported mental health issues, 13% reported substance use issues, 11% reported physical health issues, 10% cited personal relationship issues, and 8% reported incarceration. Eighteen percent (18%) of sheltered single adults 25 years and older cited physical health issues, 15% cited mental health issues, 14% cited personal relationships, 9% cited substance use issues, and 3% reported incarceration.

FIGURE 43. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

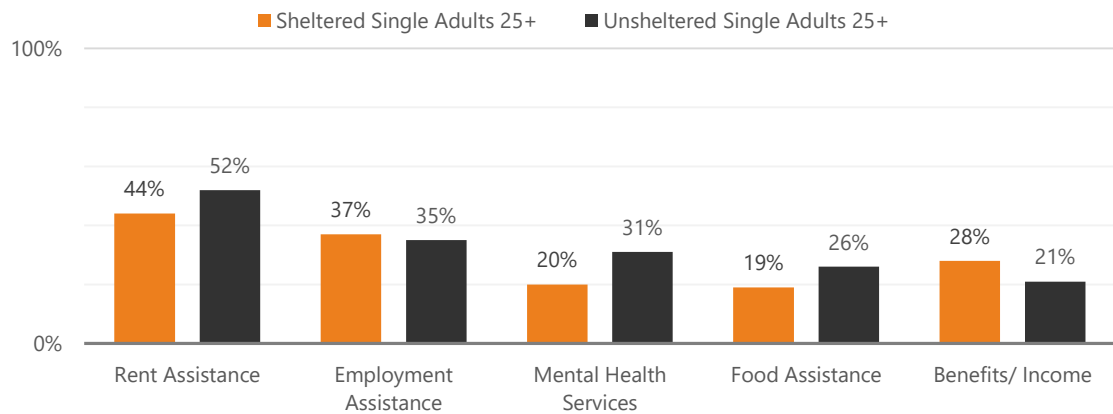


*Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=131 respondents offering 167 responses*  
*Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=225 respondents offering 300 responses;*  
*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*  
*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

When asked what resources they needed to retain permanent housing, unsheltered and sheltered single adults 25 years and older most frequently reported rental assistance (52% and 44%, respectively) and employment assistance (35% and 37%, respectively) would have helped to prevent their housing loss. Unsheltered single adults 25 years and older reported the need for mental health services and food assistance (31% and 26%, respectively) at higher rates than sheltered single adults 25 years and older (20% and 19%, respectively). Sheltered single adults 25 years and older indicated the need for benefits or income support at a higher rate than unsheltered single adults (28% compared to 21%).

These rates compare to those reported by sheltered and unsheltered single adults countywide, with rent assistance and employment assistance cited among the top supports needed to retain permanent housing.

FIGURE 44. SUPPORT NEEDED TO PREVENT HOUSING LOSS AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

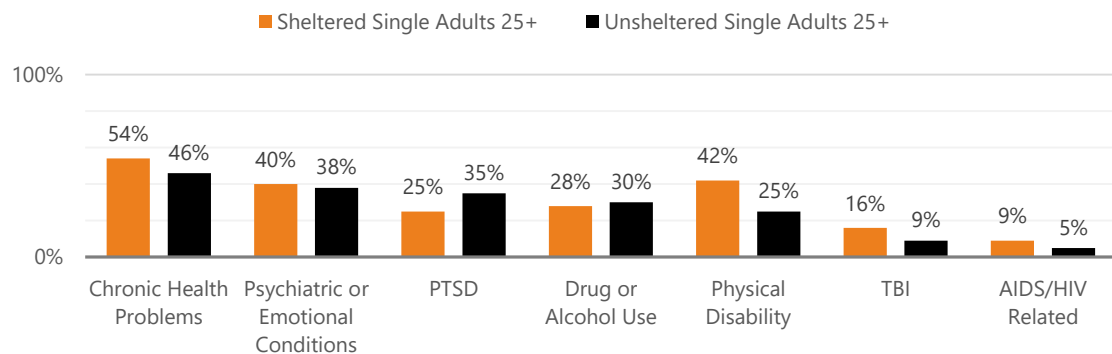


*Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=127 respondents offering 308 responses*  
*Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=225 respondents offering 553 responses;*  
*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*  
*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

## HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

Unsheltered single adults 25 years and older most often reported chronic health problems (46%), psychiatric or emotional conditions (38%), PTSD (35%), and drug or alcohol use (30%). Sheltered single adults 25 years and older most often reported chronic health problems (54%), physical disability (42%), psychiatric or emotional conditions (40%), and drug or alcohol use (28%). It is important to recognize that all data are self-reported and respondents may not be aware of or have received a diagnosis for any of these conditions. Chronic health conditions among unsheltered single adults were self-reported at a higher rate in the city of Oakland compared to the countywide rate of 37%.

FIGURE 45. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER



*Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=134; Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=232*

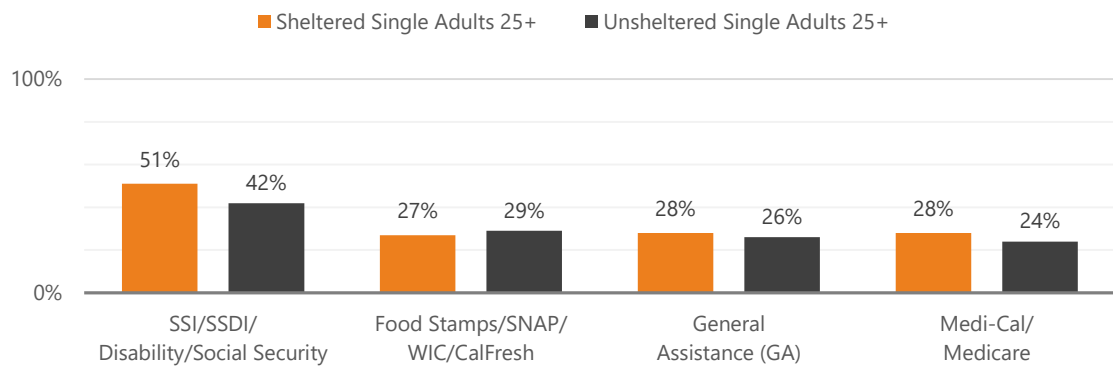
*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

### GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES ACCESSED AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

Twenty-four percent (24%) of unsheltered single adult respondents 25 years and older reported they were not accessing any government assistance, as compared to 11% of sheltered single adults over age 25. Forty-two percent (42%) of unsheltered single adults over age 25 reported receiving SSI, SSDI, disability, or Social Security, 29% received food assistance, 26% received General Assistance, and 24% received Medi-Cal or Medicare. Fifty-one percent (51%) of sheltered adults 25 years and older reported receiving SSI, SSDI, disability, or Social Security, 29% received food stamps, 28% received Medi-Cal or Medicare, and 28% received General Assistance.

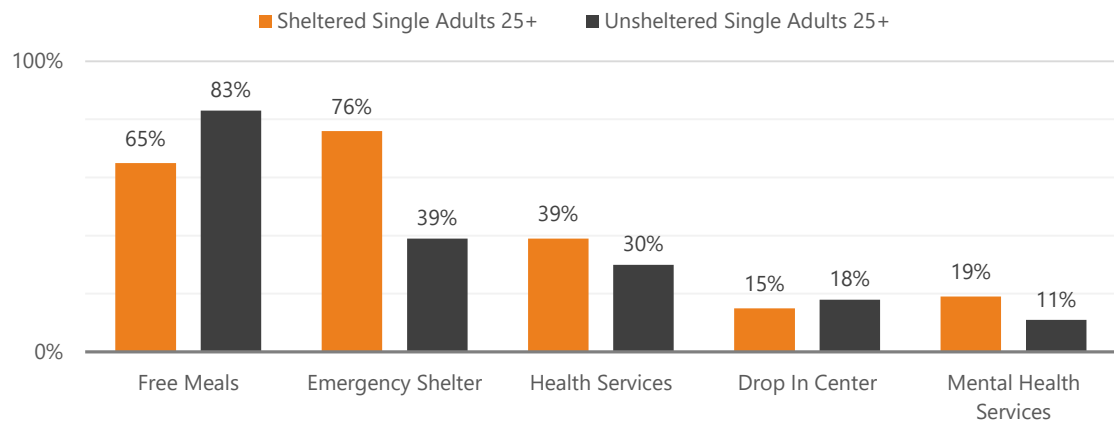
FIGURE 46. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER



*Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=120 respondents offering 178 responses;  
Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=214 respondents offering 308 responses  
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.  
Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

Ninety-five percent (95%) of unsheltered single adult survey respondents age 25 and over reported using community-based services and programs, compared to 98% of sheltered survey respondents. Unsheltered single adults age 25 and over using services reported utilizing free meals (83%), emergency shelter (39%), health services (30%), mental health services (11%), and drop in centers (18%). Among sheltered single adults age 25 and over using services, 76% accessed emergency shelter, 65% reported accessing free meals, 39% accessed health services, 19% accessed mental health services, and 15% accessed drop in centers.

FIGURE 47. SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER (TOP FIVE RESPONSES)

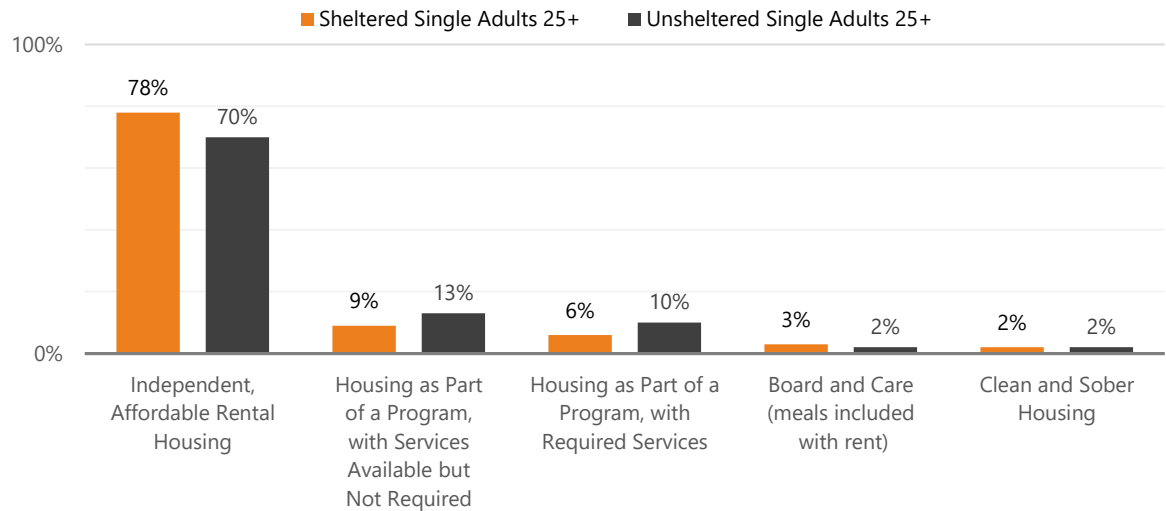


*Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=124 respondents offering 351 responses;  
Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=216 respondents offering 481 responses;  
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.  
Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

## HOUSING INTEREST AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER

One percent (1%) of unsheltered single adults 25 years and older and 2% of sheltered single adults 25 years and older reported they were not currently interested in housing. The majority of both unsheltered and sheltered single adults 25 years and older reported interest in independent, affordable rental housing.

FIGURE 48. TYPES OF HOUSING RESPONDENTS WANT AMONG SINGLE ADULTS 25 YEARS AND OLDER



*Sheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=127; Unsheltered Single Adults Age 25+ n=219*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

National data from 2016 suggest that 35% of all people experiencing homelessness are persons in families. Very few families experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, as public shelters serve 90% of homeless families in the United States; this is a significantly higher proportion of the population compared to other subpopulations, including single men, unaccompanied children and transition-age youth.<sup>13</sup> Data on families experiencing homelessness suggest that they are not much different from families in poverty.<sup>14</sup>

The risk of homelessness is highest among households headed by single women and families with children under the age of six.<sup>15</sup> Children in families experiencing homelessness have increased incidence of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems than children with consistent living conditions.<sup>16</sup>

### FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND

A total of 262 individuals in 98 families with children were experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count. These individuals represented 9% of all individuals experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland, and 37% of all family households experiencing homelessness across Alameda County.

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of persons in families were residing in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs on the night of the count, while 3% were unsheltered.

FIGURE 49. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS FAMILIES ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

13 HUD. (2016). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved 2017 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>.

14 U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Characteristics and dynamics of homeless families with children. Retrieved 2013 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/>

15 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007). Characteristics and Dynamics of Homeless Families with Children. Retrieved from <http://aspe.hhs.gov>.

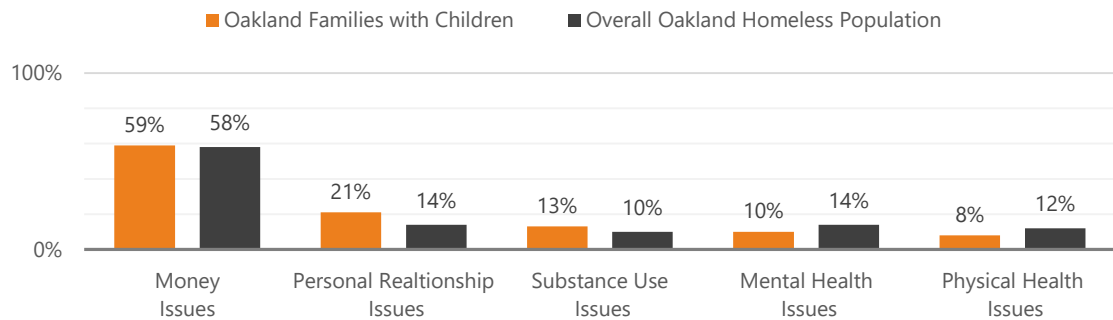
16 U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2015). Opening Doors. Retrieved from <http://www.usich.gov>.

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

The most frequently reported cause of homelessness among individuals in families with children were money issues (59%). Twenty-one percent (21%) reported personal relationship issues, 13% reported substance use issues, 10% reported mental health issues, and 8% reported physical health issues as the primary cause of homelessness.

Compared to all survey respondents, families with children attributed their homelessness to personal relationship issues at a notably higher rate (21% compared to 14%).

FIGURE 50. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



*Oakland Families with Children n=39;*

*Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=442 respondents offering 575 responses.*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

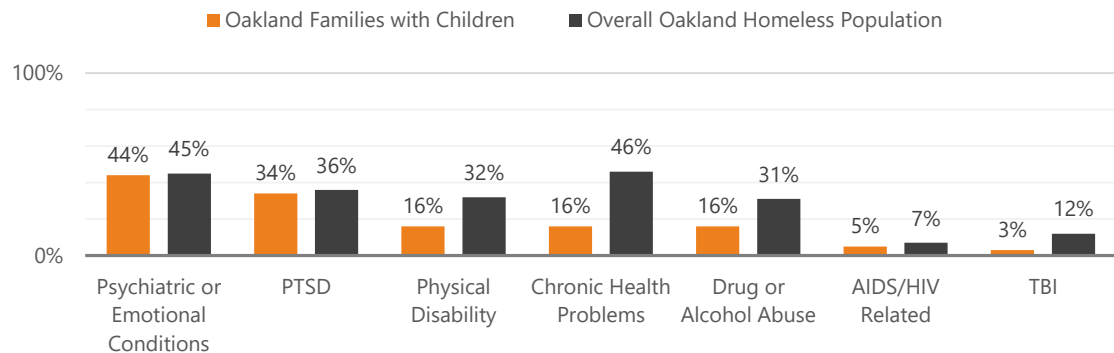
*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.*

## HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Forty-four percent (44%) of families with children reported coping with psychiatric or emotional conditions. Thirty-four percent (34%) reported post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), 16% reported physical disability, 16% reported chronic health problems, 16% reported drug or alcohol use, 5% reported an AIDS/HIV related condition, and 3% reported a traumatic brain injury. Compared to all respondents, families with children reported far lower rates of drug or alcohol abuse, physical disability, chronic health problems, and traumatic brain injury.

FIGURE 51. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Oakland Families with Children n= 37-39;

Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=394-421

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

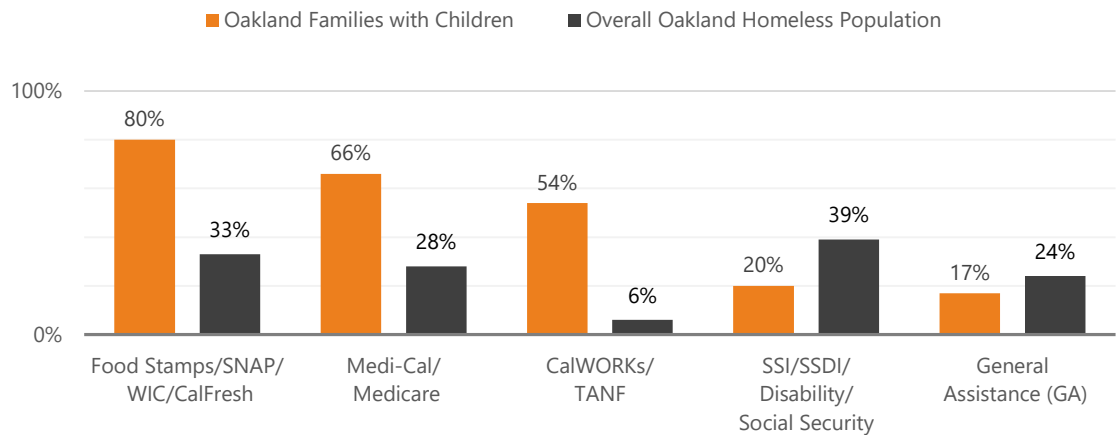
Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AMONG HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

The majority of individuals in families reported receiving some form of government assistance (97%).

Over three-quarters (80%) of individuals in homeless families with children reported using food stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh. Sixty-six percent (66%) reported using Medi-Cal/Medicare, 54% reported using CalWORKs/TANF, 20% reported using SSI, SSDI, disability or Social Security, and 17% reported using General Assistance (GA).

FIGURE 52. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED AMONG FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Oakland Families with Children n=35;

Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=429

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.

## UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Due to the often “underground” and somewhat hidden nature of youth homelessness, there are limited data available on unaccompanied children and transition-age youth experiencing homelessness. Although largely considered an undercount, current federal estimates suggest there are 35,686 unaccompanied children and transition-age youth on the streets and in public shelters.<sup>17</sup> Young people experiencing homelessness have a harder time accessing services including shelter, medical care, and employment. This is often due to concerns about the stigma associated with their housing situation, lack of knowledge of available resources, and a limited number of services targeted to young people.<sup>18</sup>

In 2012, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness amended the federal strategic plan to end homelessness to include specific strategies and supports to address the needs of unaccompanied homeless children and transition-age youth. As part of this effort, HUD placed increased focus on gathering data on unaccompanied homeless children and youth during the Point-in-Time Count.

The *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey* included focused outreach to unaccompanied children and transition-age youth. This data will create a baseline for measuring future efforts to reduce and functionally end youth homelessness. For more information on this year’s youth outreach, please see Appendix 1.

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<sup>17</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2016). *Annual Assessment Report to Congress*. Retrieved 2017 from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

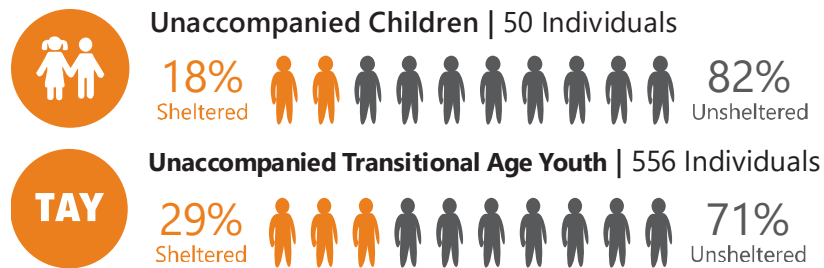
<sup>18</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless. (2011). *Homeless Youth Fact Sheet*. Retrieved 2011 from <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>.

## UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

During the 2017 Alameda County Point-in-Time Count, there were 606 unaccompanied children and transition age youth experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland. This included 50 unaccompanied children under the age of 18 and 556 transition age youth between the ages of 18 and 24. These young people represented 22% of the overall homeless population the city of Oakland, compared to 11% of the countywide homeless population.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland were unsheltered on the night of the count, while 28% were residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.

FIGURE 53. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

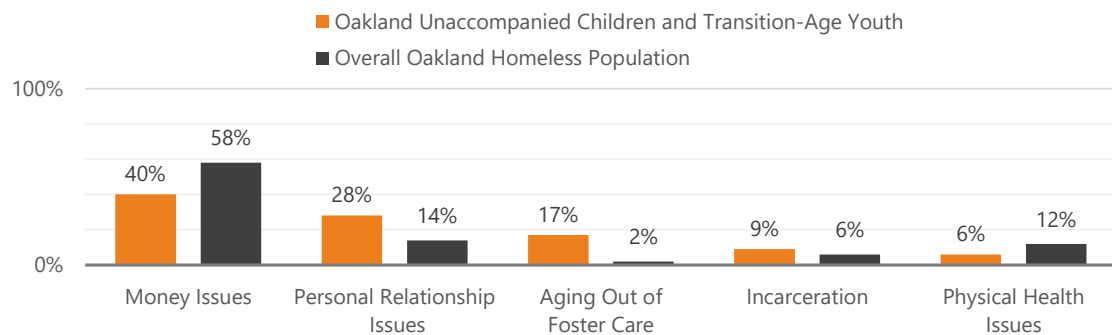


Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

## PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth and the overall homeless population of the city of Oakland reported similarities in their primary cause of homelessness. Forty percent (40%) of youth reported money issues as the primary cause of their homelessness, 28% reported personal relationship issues, 17% reported aging out of foster care, 9% reported incarceration, and 6% reported physical health issues. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the city of Oakland homeless survey population reported money issues as the primary cause of their homelessness, 14% reported personal relationship issues, 2% reported aging out of foster care, 6% reported incarceration, and 12% reported physical health issues as the primary reason for homelessness. Unaccompanied children and transition-age youth reported lower rates of mental health and substance use issues (4% and 0%, respectively) as the primary cause of their homelessness compared to overall Oakland survey respondents (14% and 10%, respectively).

FIGURE 54. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH



*Oakland Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=47;*

*Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=442 respondents offering 575 responses*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

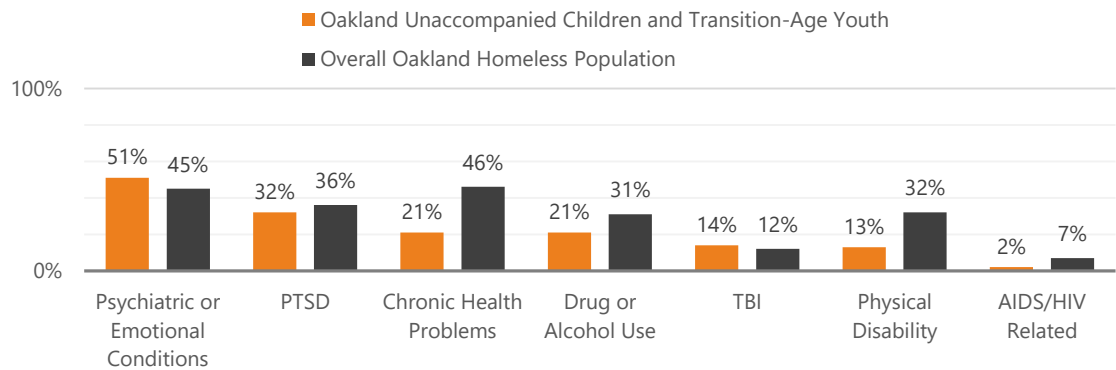
*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.*

### HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Overall, unaccompanied youth survey respondents and the general homeless population in the city of Oakland indicated varied rates of experiencing disabling health conditions. Among youth survey respondents, psychiatric or emotional conditions (51%), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (32%), and chronic health problems (21%) were among the conditions reported. In comparison, 45% of general city of Oakland homeless survey respondents reported psychiatric or emotional conditions, 36% reported PTSD, and 46% reported chronic health problems.

FIGURE 55. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH



*Oakland Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=41-47;*

*Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=394-421*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

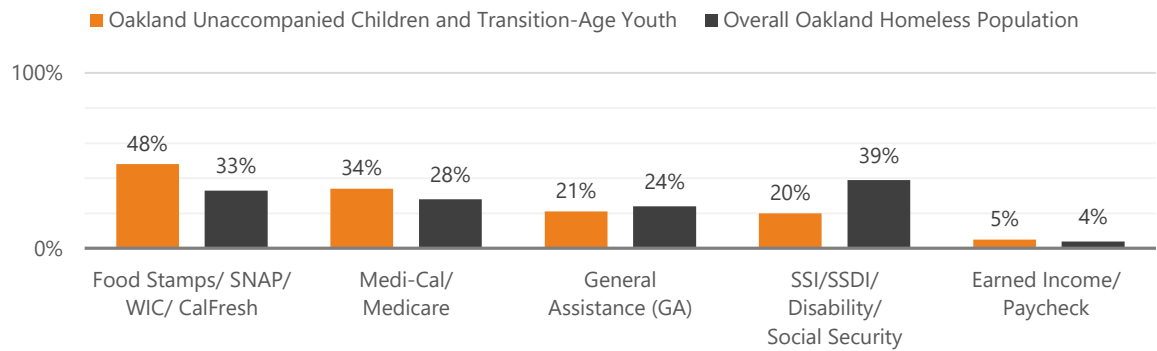
*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.*

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

Forty-eight percent (48%) of youth survey respondents reported receiving food assistance, compared to 33% of the general survey population. Twenty percent (20%) of youth reported receiving SSI, SSDI, disability, or Social Security, compared to 39% of the overall Oakland homeless survey population.

FIGURE 56. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH



Oakland Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=56;

Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=429

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

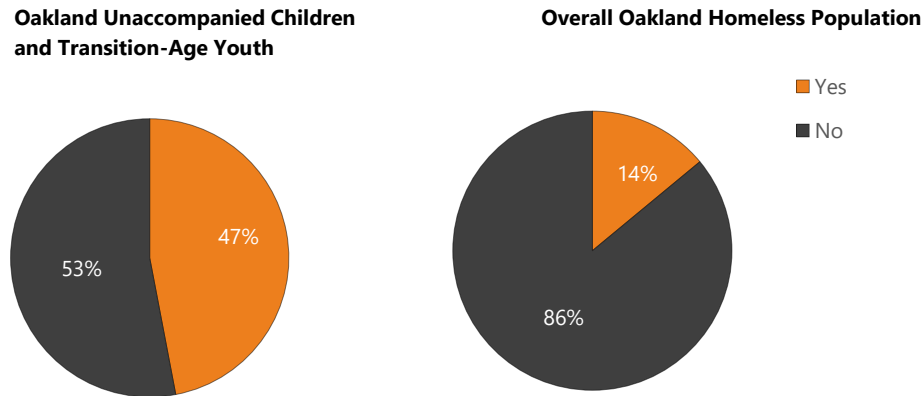
Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.

**FOSTER CARE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH**

Forty-seven percent (47%) of unaccompanied homeless youth reported ever being in foster care, compared to 14% of all city survey respondents. Seventeen percent (17%) of unaccompanied children and youth respondents reported aging out of foster care as the primary cause of their homelessness.

FIGURE 57. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE AMONG UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH



*Oakland Unaccompanied Children and Transition-Age Youth n=45;*

*Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=440*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.*

## CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

HUD defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, including residing in an emergency shelter or being unsheltered, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years, *and* also has a condition that prevents them from maintaining work or stable housing. This definition applies to individuals as well as heads of households who meet the definition.

The chronically homeless population represents one of the most vulnerable populations on the street; the mortality rate for those experiencing chronic homelessness is four to nine times higher than the general population.<sup>19</sup> Data from communities across the country show that public costs incurred by those experiencing extended periods of homelessness include emergency room visits, interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, and regular access to social supports and homeless services. These combined costs are often significantly higher than the cost of providing individuals with permanent housing and supportive services.

HUD reported that roughly 22% of the national homeless population, or 77,486 individuals, were chronically homeless in 2016.<sup>20</sup> Chronic homelessness has been on the decline in recent years, as communities across the country increase the capacity of their permanent supportive housing programs and prioritize those with the greatest barriers to housing stability. While the national decrease in chronic homelessness seems promising, federal budget constraints limit the amount of money available to support housing programs and services. As a result, *Opening Doors*, which began with a plan to end chronic homelessness by 2016, has extended the goal to December 31, 2017.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2010). *Supplemental Document to the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. June 2010. Retrieved from

[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/BkgrdPap\\_ChronicHomelessness.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/BkgrdPap_ChronicHomelessness.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> HUD. (2016). *Annual Assessment Report to Congress*. Retrieved 2017 from

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> Cavallaro, E. (2017). *Ending chronic homelessness, now in 2017*. National Alliance to End Homelessness. Retrieved from <http://www.endhomelessness.org>.

### CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND

In 2017, an estimated 898 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness in the city of Oakland. These individuals represent 33% of the total population experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland, and over half (54%) of all those experiencing chronic homelessness across Alameda County.

Among individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the city of Oakland, 89% were unsheltered while 11% were residing in emergency shelter on the night of the count. Compared to the chronically homeless population of Alameda County, individuals residing in the city of Oakland indicated higher rates of being unsheltered.

FIGURE 58. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

#### *Chronically Homeless Single Individuals*

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of single individuals, an estimated 895 persons, were chronically homeless in 2017. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of those individuals were unsheltered, while 11% were in county emergency shelters.

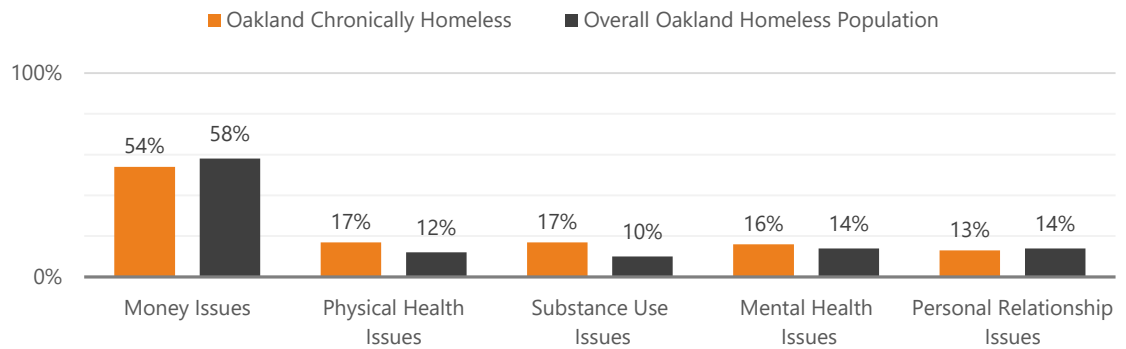
#### *Chronic Homeless Families*

In 2017, 3 families including 8 individuals were experiencing chronic homelessness. All persons in families (100%) were identified as staying in county emergency shelters. Three percent (3%) of all persons in families living in the city of Oakland were chronically homeless in 2017, compared to 12% countywide.

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Both the chronically homeless and overall city of Oakland survey respondents identified money issues (54% and 58%, respectively) as the leading primary cause of their homelessness. Seventeen percent (17%) of chronically homeless respondents also reported substance use issues, compared to 10% of city of Oakland survey respondents. Compared to other survey respondents, chronically homeless survey respondents identified mental health issues and physical health issues at slightly higher rates.

FIGURE 59. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS



Oakland Chronically Homeless n=196; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=442

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

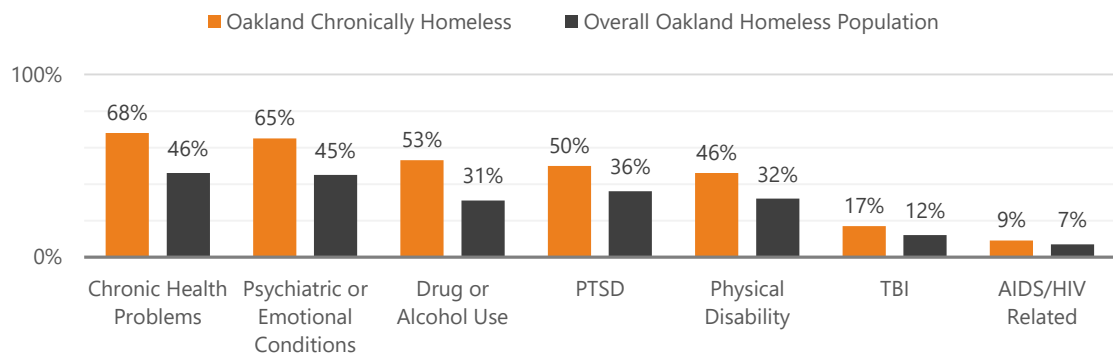
## HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

In addition to experiencing long-term or multiple episodes of homelessness, individuals experiencing chronic homelessness also live with health conditions that prevent them from maintaining work or housing. Overall, chronically homeless survey respondents reported living with higher rates of all surveyed health conditions than other respondents.

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of chronically homeless survey respondents reported living with chronic health problems, while 65% reported psychological or emotional conditions. Fifty-three percent (53%) of chronically homeless respondents reported living with drug or alcohol use, 50% reported PTSD, 46% reported living with a physical disability, 17% reported a TBI, and 9% reported having an AIDS or HIV related illness.

It is important to recognize that all data are self-reported and respondents who are unsheltered and less service connected may not be aware of or have received a diagnosis for any of these conditions. However, higher percentages of sheltered chronically homeless respondents reported physical disabilities and chronic health conditions, while unsheltered chronically homeless respondents reported higher rates of mental health conditions and substance use.

FIGURE 60. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS



Oakland Chronically Homeless n=172-193; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=394-421

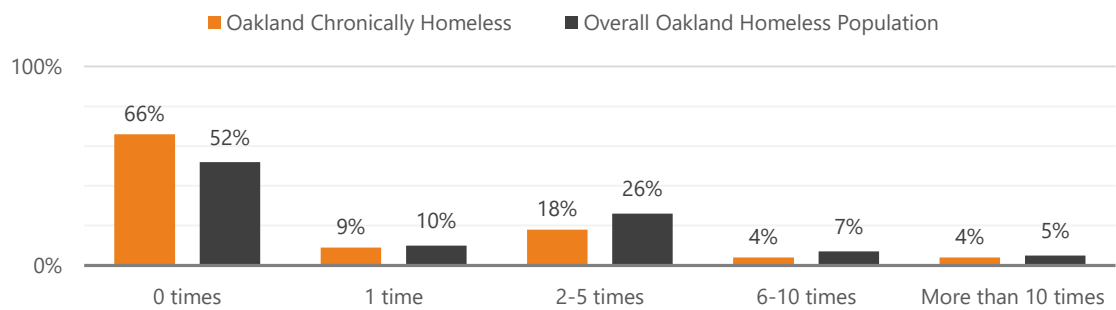
Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.

Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

### EMERGENCY ROOM USE AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Chronically homeless survey respondents reported using the emergency room less often, compared to all survey respondents. Among chronically homeless survey respondents indicating emergency room use, sheltered respondents reported higher rates of emergency room use than unsheltered respondents. More than half (66%) of chronically homeless respondents reported they had not been to the emergency room in the 12 months prior to the survey.

FIGURE 61. NUMBER OF TIMES TREATED IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM DURING THE 12 MONTHS AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS



*Oakland Chronically Homeless n=257; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=457*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

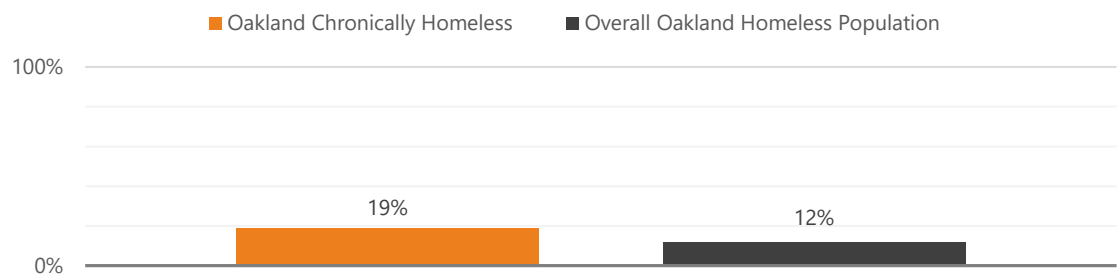
*Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents*

## INCARCERATION AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

The percentage of respondents who reported at least one night in jail or prison in the 12 months prior to the survey, was higher among chronically homeless respondents compared to all Oakland respondents. Of all city respondents who reported 7 or more nights in jail or prison, 68% were chronically homeless.

FIGURE 62. SPENT AT LEAST ONE NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS

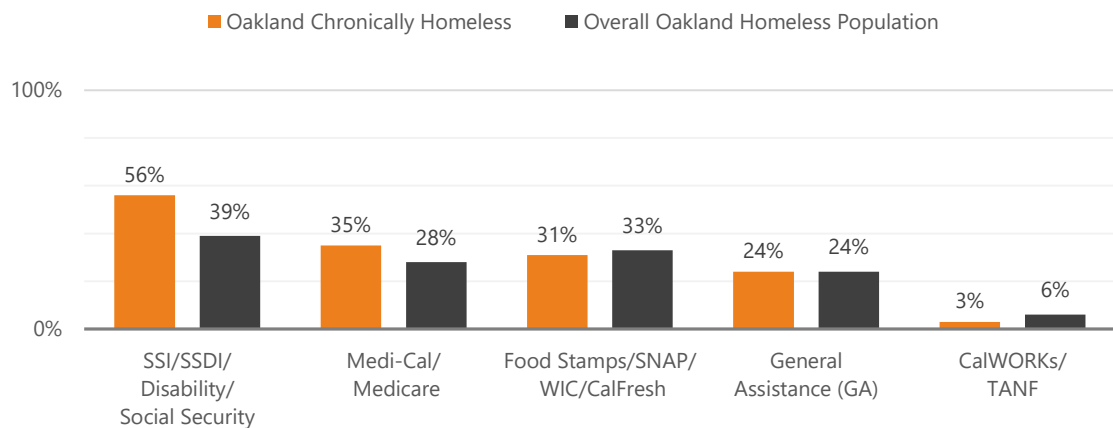


*Oakland Chronically Homeless n=131; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n= 457*  
*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

### GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AMONG THOSE EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Eleven percent (11%) of chronically homeless respondents reported they were not using government assistance compared to 18% of survey respondents in the city of Oakland. Fifty-six percent (56%) of chronically homeless reported receiving SSI, SSDI, disability, or Social Security, 35% Medi-Cal or Medicare, 31% food assistance, 24% General Assistance, and 3% CalWORKs or TANF. This is compared to 39% of the homeless survey population of Oakland reporting receiving SSI, SSDI, disability, or Social Security, 28% Medi-Cal or Medicare, 33% food assistance, 24% general assistance, and 6% CalWORKs or TANF.

FIGURE 63. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED AMONG CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS



*Oakland Chronically Homeless n=310; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n= 429*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count*

*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

## VETERANS

Many U.S. veterans experience conditions that place them at increased risk for homelessness. Compared to the general population, veterans experience higher rates of PTSD, traumatic brain injury (TBI), sexual assault, and substance abuse. Veterans experiencing homelessness are more likely to live on the street than in shelters, and often remain on the street for extended periods of time.<sup>22</sup>

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a broad range of benefits and services to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. These benefits can involve different forms of financial assistance, including monthly cash payments to disabled veterans, healthcare, education, and housing benefits. In addition to these supports, the VA and HUD partner to provide additional housing and support services to veterans currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Between 2009 and 2016, there was a 48% decrease in the number of homeless veterans. According to data collected during the national 2016 Point-in-Time Count, 39,471 veterans experienced homelessness on a single night in January 2016.<sup>23</sup>

### VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND

There were 258 veterans experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland during the 2017 Point-in-Time Count. These individuals represent 9% of the total population experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland, and nearly half (49%) of the total veteran population experiencing homelessness in Alameda County.

Among veterans experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland, 74% were living on the streets and in other unsheltered settings while 26% were residing in sheltered locations.

FIGURE 64. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT



Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count.

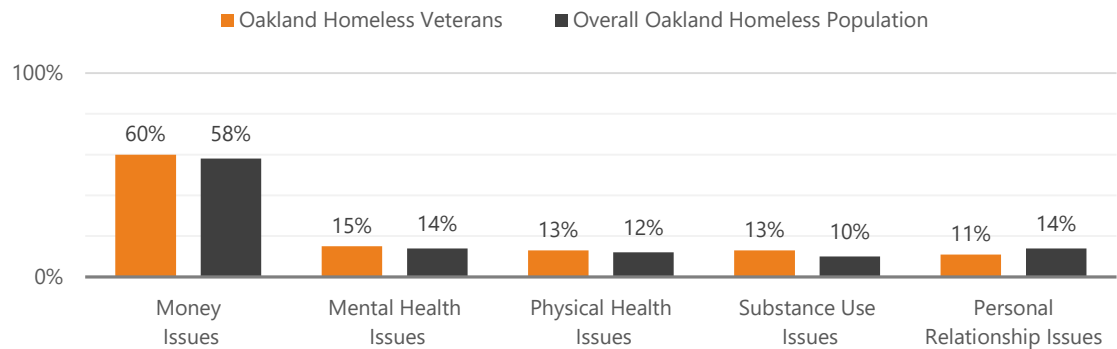
<sup>22</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness (2015). Fact Sheet: Veteran Homelessness. Retrieved 2017 from <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/fact-sheet-veteran-homelessness>

<sup>23</sup> HUD. (2017). Annual Assessment Report to Congress. Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2014-AHAR-Part1.pdf>.

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

Sixty percent (60%) of veteran survey respondents and 58% of the city of Oakland survey respondents indicated money issues as the primary cause of their homelessness, far more than any other reason. Fifteen (15%) percent of veterans reported mental health issues compared to 14% of the general homeless survey population of Oakland. Eleven percent (11%) of veterans cited personal relationship issues as the primary cause of their homelessness compared to 14% of the city of Oakland homeless survey population.

FIGURE 65. PRIMARY CAUSE OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS



*Oakland Homeless Veterans n=55;*

*Overall Oakland Homeless Population n= 442 respondents offering 575 responses*

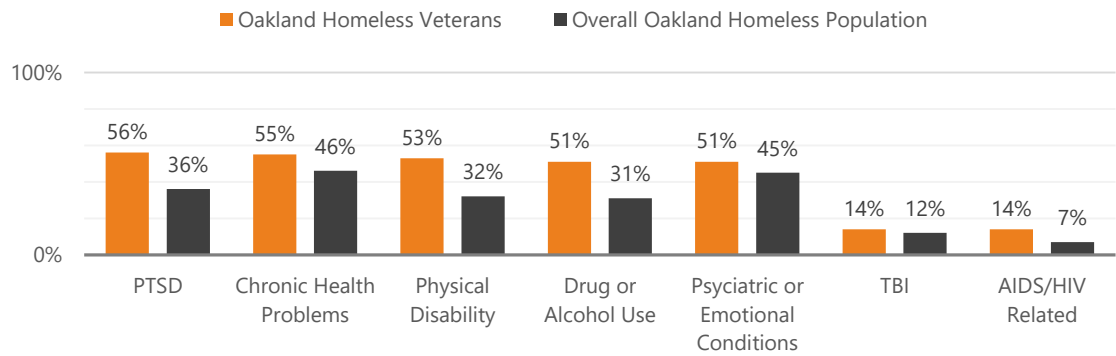
*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.*

## HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG VETERANS

Overall, veteran survey respondents indicated living with one or more health conditions at higher rates than non-veterans. Veteran respondents reported higher rates for all surveyed health conditions compared to those of the city of Oakland homeless survey population, including PTSD (56% compared to 36%), chronic health problems (55% compared to 46%), physical disability (53% compared to 32%), drug or alcohol use (51% compared to 31%), psychiatric or emotional conditions (51% compared to 45%), TBI (14% compared to 12%), and AIDS or HIV related illnesses (14% compared to 7%).

FIGURE 66. HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG VETERANS



*Oakland Homeless Veterans n=49-55; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=394-421*

*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Survey.*

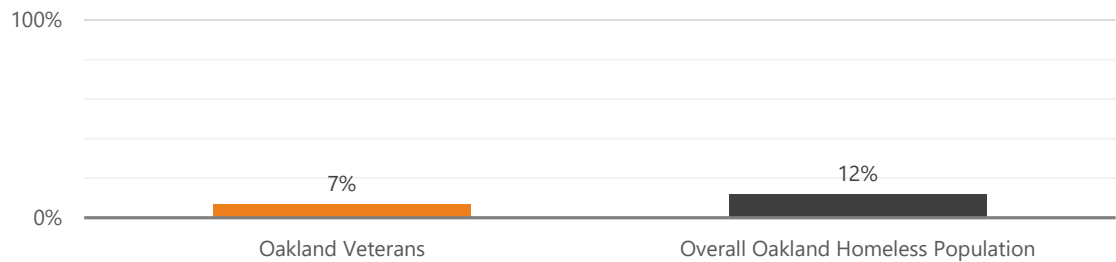
*Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.*

## INCARCERATION AMONG VETERANS

The percentage of respondents who reported at least one night in jail or prison in the 12 months prior to the survey was slightly lower among veteran respondents compared to all Oakland respondents. However, it is important to consider that veterans only represent 9% of the population.

FIGURE 67. SPENT AT LEAST ONE NIGHT IN JAIL OR PRISON IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AMONG VETERANS (RESPONDENTS ANSWERING "YES")



*Oakland Veterans n=56; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=457*

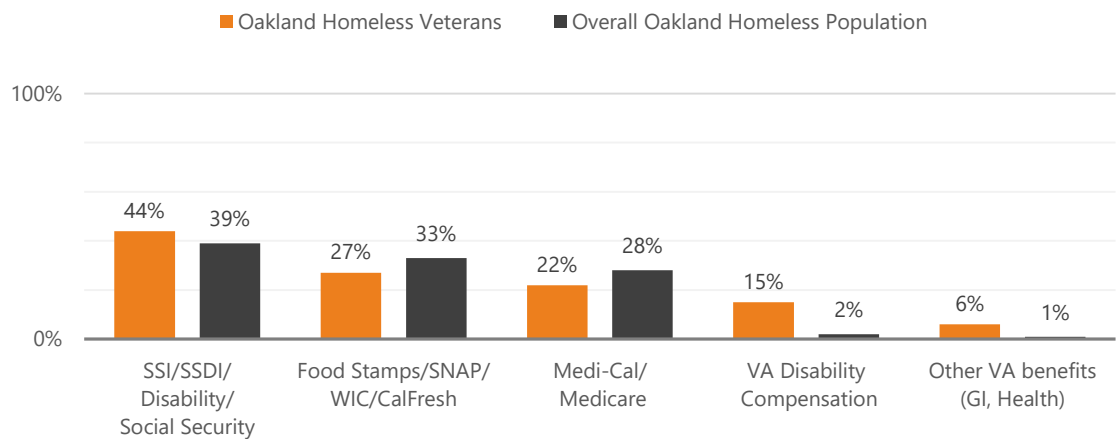
*Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count*

*Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.*

### GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AMONG VETERANS

Forty-four percent (44%) of veterans reported receiving SSI, SSDI, disability, or Social Security compared to 39% of all survey respondents. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of veterans reported receiving food assistance compared to 33% of the city of Oakland homeless survey population. Seven percent (7%) of veterans reported not receiving any form of government assistance, compared to 18% of all survey respondents.

FIGURE 68. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED AMONG VETERANS



Oakland Homeless Veterans n=55; Overall Oakland Homeless Population n=429

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2017). Alameda Homeless Count

Note: Multiple response question, percentages will not add up to 100.

Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these data due to the small number of respondents.



# Conclusion

## **The number of individuals experiencing homelessness exceeds the capacity of the current system of care.**

A total of 2,761 individuals experiencing homelessness were counted on January 31, 2017, an increase of 570 individuals (+26%) from 2015's count. In 2017, 69% of individuals experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland were unsheltered.

## **The majority of individuals were living in Alameda County when they lost their housing.**

Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents reported they were living in Alameda County at the time they most recently became homeless. Thirteen percent (13%) reported they were living in another county in California, and 1% reported they were living out of state at the time they lost their housing. Individuals from outside of Alameda County came for family or friends in the area and economic opportunities.

## **Racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities are overrepresented in the population.**

Black/African American individuals were overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. An estimated 68% of persons experiencing homelessness identified as Black/African American, compared to 26% of the city's general population. Fourteen percent (14%) of survey respondents identified as LGBTQ in 2017.

## **Individuals face behavioral health and physical health challenges that inhibit their ability to obtain work or housing.**

In the city of Oakland, approximately 72% of individuals surveyed reported one or more health conditions. These conditions included physical disabilities, chronic substance abuse, and severe mental health conditions. Most frequently reported was chronic health problems (46%) followed by psychiatric or emotional conditions (45%). Thirty-six percent (36%) reported experiencing PTSD, 32% reported a physical disability, 31% reported drug or alcohol use, 12% reported a TBI, and 7% reported living with AIDS or an HIV related condition.

## **Many individuals have a history of system involvement and are finding themselves in ERs, hospital beds, and jail cells.**

Forty-eight percent (48%) of respondents reported they had been treated in the ER in the year prior to the survey. Forty-one percent (41%) had spent at least one night in the hospital. Thirteen percent (13%) of survey respondents reported spending at least one night in jail in the last 12 months.

**Individuals want affordable housing and need additional resources to achieve housing stability.**

While it is often believed that people experiencing homelessness do not want housing and choose to live on the street, just 1% of respondents reported they were not interested in housing. The majority were interested in independent affordable housing (74%). However, other respondents wanted housing with supportive services.

When asked what would help them to prevent their housing loss, respondents most often cited rental assistance (48%), employment assistance (36%), mental health services (25%), food assistance (25%), and benefits or increased income (23%). Other supports included transportation assistance (17%), legal assistance (13%), alcohol or drug counseling (11%), and family counseling (12%).

**People are accessing services and support but those services are not ending their homelessness.**

While many individuals reported accessing services and benefits, not all forms of assistance were directly tied to the homeless services system. Eighty-three percent (83%) reported they received some form of government assistance, though most frequent were food assistance programs. This is high compared to many other communities and illustrates a base of solid outreach to homeless clients and opportunities to provide more services. People are connected, although perhaps not regularly or for sustained periods of time. Most importantly, respondents still reported long periods of time spent on the street, repeated episodes of homelessness, chronic health conditions and other barriers preventing them from obtaining permanent housing in the community.



# Appendix 1: Methodology

The purpose of the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey* was to produce a point-in-time estimate of people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County, a region that covers approximately 738 square miles. The results of the street count were combined with the results from the shelter and transitional housing count and demographics to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in Alameda County on a given night. The subsequent, in-depth quantitative survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those counted.

*EveryOne Counts! 2017* methodology for counting unsheltered individuals was a different methodology than prior counts. Previously, the unsheltered count was derived from a site based sample of individuals staying in encampments and accessing services from facilities across the county. The sample was diverse and countywide, including programs people who are homeless may be accessing; such as meal sites, food pantries, drop in centers, and outreach programs. Some of these programs are dedicated to serving persons experiencing homelessness, while others such as meal sites also serve those at risk of homeless. In 2017, the unsheltered count consisted of an observation based count of all census tracts in the county. This change in methodology was adopted in order to include the unsheltered population who may not regularly seek services or assistance and to give more detailed data city by city. The 2017 data collection method is more comparable to other counties in the Bay Area, allowing for regional comparisons and analysis. A more detailed description of the 2017 methodology follows.

## COMPONENTS OF THE 2017 METHODOLOGY

*EveryOne Counts 2017* methodology had four primary components:

- The sheltered count for the night of January 30, 2017 – an enumeration and demographic data of all persons residing in shelters and transitional housing programs that night.
- The general street count from approximately 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. on January 31, 2017 – an observation based count of unsheltered homeless individuals (100% canvass).
- The youth street count between the hours of 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. on January 31, 2017 – a targeted enumeration of unsheltered youth under the age of 25 (targeted outreach).

- Survey – sample of individuals residing on the street and in shelters and transitional housing programs in the weeks following the count to develop a more robust population profile and examine areas of interest for policy making and system improvement such as causes of homelessness, service utilization, and involvement with other systems of care.

Components of the count were coordinated to minimize duplication across efforts and additional methods were used to remove potential duplicates between the youth and general count efforts.

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

In October of 2016, EveryOne Home and Aspire Consulting LLC began working with Applied Survey Research (ASR), a social research firm, to provide technical assistance and redesign the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey*. ASR has over 18 years of experience conducting homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. To ensure the success of the count, many county and community agencies collaborated in community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical planning, methodological decision making, and coordination efforts.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless service providers and advocates have been active and valued partners in the planning and implementation of *EveryOne Counts! 2017*. The Alameda County HUD CoC Committee provided oversight for the project and participated in many aspects of planning and data collection.

Outreach workers and City and County staff provided information on known locations and assisted in counting hard to reach and densely populated areas. EveryOne Home and Aspire Consulting LLC staff provided support at local deployment centers, overseeing site staffing and preparing teams for the count.

## DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used as required for the Federal Point-in-Time count. This definition includes individuals and families:

- I. 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); or
- II. 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.

## GENERAL STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

### VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in Alameda County turned out to support the County's effort to enumerate the local population experiencing homelessness. On the morning of January 31, 350 volunteers and service providers participated in the street count. An additional 120 individuals who were currently or had recently experienced homelessness acted as guides to count teams. Extensive outreach efforts were conducted, targeting local nonprofits that serve the homeless and local volunteer programs. Local shelters and service providers recruited and recommended individuals with intimate knowledge of the unsheltered population to participate as guides in the count.

Guides were paid \$15 for attending the one hour training as well as \$15 per hour worked on the day of the count. Volunteers were paired, where possible, with guides and served as enumerators on the morning of the count, canvassing the county in teams to visually count persons experiencing homelessness. EveryOne Home, Aspire Consulting LLC, and ASR staff supported each of the six dispatch centers (Berkeley, Downtown Oakland, East Oakland, Hayward, Livermore, and Fremont), greeting volunteers and guides, distributing instructions, maps, and supplies to enumeration teams, and collecting completed forms from returning teams.

To participate in the count, all participants were requested to complete a training before the count. Trainings were held in multiple locations throughout the county and available online. Trainings covered all aspects of the Count, including the definition of homelessness and how to recognize homeless individuals, potential locations where homeless individuals may be located, how to safely and respectfully approach known location, how to use the tally census sheets and maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered, as well as other tips to help ensure a safe and accurate count.

		Recruiting Goal		Actual Turnout	
Deployment Site	# Census Tracts	# Guides	# Volunteers	# Guides	# Volunteers
Oakland	85	55	138	26	86
East Oakland	50	33	81	21	59
<b>Total Oakland</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>145</b>
North County	39	25	63	12	58
Mid County	78	34	85	17	38
East County	42	18	46	11	18
South County	66	29	72	12	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>345</b>

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. In census tracts with a high concentration of homeless encampments, specialized teams with knowledge of

those encampments were identified and assigned to those areas. Enumeration teams were advised to take all safety precautions possible, including bringing flashlights and maintaining safe distance from those they were counting. No official reports were received with regards to unsafe or at risk situations occurring during the street count in any area of the county.

### STREET COUNT DEPLOYMENT CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of the county within the morning timeframe, the planning team identified six areas for the placement of deployment centers – Berkeley, Downtown Oakland, East Oakland, Hayward, Livermore, and Fremont. Volunteers selected their preferred count locations based on familiarity with the area or their convenience. The planning team divided up the enumeration routes and assigned them to the deployment center closest or most central to the coverage area to facilitate the timely deployment of enumeration teams into the field.

### LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION

On the morning of the street count, teams of two or more persons were created to enumerate designated areas of the county for the street count. Each team was, ideally, composed of one community volunteer and one guide. Teams were provided with their assigned census tract map, tally sheet, training guidelines, and other supplies. All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traveled by foot or car. Guides were instructed to include themselves on their tally sheets for the street count if they were not going to be included in the shelter count. Deployment center volunteers provided each team with tally sheets to record the number of homeless persons observed and basic demographic and location information. Deployment 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. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas. Volunteers were asked to cover each area only once and to mark off each completed area.

### POINT-IN-TIME COUNT UNDERCOUNT AND LIMITATIONS

For a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not wish 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. Many factors may contribute to missed opportunities, for example:

- In a non-intrusive visual homeless enumeration such as this one, there are inherent biases and shortcomings. Street count teams must rely on factors such as an individual's appearance, location, and surroundings to determine whether to include them in the count. Deployment center staff and organizers heard that teams with large census tracts found determining homelessness much harder as it grew later and more individuals were on the street. The assistance of dedicated homeless service providers and currently homeless guides improves accuracy but does not provide complete certainty.

- 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 in makeshift shelters.
- While having guides participate in the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey* provided invaluable insight, finding guides with an intimate knowledge of each community, or each census tract, was a challenge. As a result some teams were much more familiar with their areas than others.

There are many challenges to counting unsheltered populations, particularly in large counties comprising both urban and rural communities. While every Point-in-Time Count is most likely to be some sort of an undercount, the methodology employed in 2017, coupled with the survey effort, is the most comprehensive approach available at this time.

## YOUTH STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

### GOAL

The dedicated youth count was developed in order to be more inclusive of homeless unaccompanied children (under age 18) and transition-age youth (18-24). Many homeless children and youth do not use homeless services, are difficult to recognize 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.

### RESEARCH DESIGN

Planning for the 2017 supplemental youth count included youth homeless service providers and youth with lived experience. Focus groups were held with youth and providers to identify locations where homeless youth were more likely to congregate. Local service providers helped to identify youth currently experiencing homelessness with knowledge of where to locate and enumerate youth experiencing homelessness. Evening enumeration was the recommended time suggested by advocates.

Covenant House and YEAH! led the effort to recruit young people to work as peer enumerators, counting homeless youth in the identified areas of Alameda County on January 31, 2017. Youth workers were paid \$15 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 HUD, as well as the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness that homeless youth do not commonly come in contact with homeless adults and are not easily identified by non-youth. For this reason, they have accepted and recommended that communities count youth at times when they can be seen, rather than during general outreach times. It was determined that homeless youth would be more prominent on the street during the evening hours, rather than in the early morning when the general count was conducted.

### DATA COLLECTION

The youth count was conducted from approximately 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. on January 31, 2017, to ensure youth were visible but that the count was conducted after shelter curfews. Youth

worked in teams of two to four, with teams coordinated by youth street outreach workers and service providers who provided transportation and assistance to the youth teams. Data from the supplemental youth count and general street count were compared and deduplicated by looking at location, gender, and age. In total, 44 persons under the age of 25 were identified as duplicates and removed from the data set.

## **SHELTER COUNT METHODOLOGY**

### **GOAL**

The goal of the sheltered count was to gain an accurate count, as well as demographic and subpopulation data, for persons temporarily housed in shelters and transitional housing across Alameda County. 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).

### **DATA COLLECTION**

Data on individuals and families residing in shelters were collected using the county's HMIS system supplemented by administrative data for all programs who do not use HMIS. Data collection included year round shelters as well as winter and inclement weather shelters. Inclement weather shelters are only open when there is a 70% chance of rain or the expected temperature is less than 40°F. These shelters operate generally from the months of November through April when the weather is colder and/or rainy. Data was collected from all shelters operating on the night of January 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

### **PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The survey of 1,228 homeless persons was conducted in order to yield qualitative data about the homeless community in Alameda County. These data are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application as well as for local planning efforts, 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 for people who are unsheltered were conducted by peer surveyors who were trained by Applied Survey Research. Training sessions led potential interviewers through a brief orientation that included project background information and detailed instruction on respondent eligibility, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality.

- Surveyors were compensated at a rate of \$7 per completed survey.
- A six pack of tube socks were given as a thank you gift for unsheltered adults participating in the 2017 Homeless Survey.
- \$5 Gift cards were given as a thank you gift to sheltered adults, and youth participating in the 2017 Homeless Survey.

## SURVEY SAMPLING

The planning team recommended approximately 1,400 surveys for 2017. Based on a Point-in-Time estimate of 5,629 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 1,228 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Alameda County.

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 survey workers. *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Survey* prioritized a peer-to-peer approach to data collection by increasing utilizing currently homeless or recently 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. Respondents were able to skip any question they did not wish to answer.

## 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 *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count and Survey* did not include an equal representation of all homeless experiences. While the populations of those conducting

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surveys were extremely diverse, they were not familiar with every community or subpopulation. Subpopulations which are particularly challenging to reach include unaccompanied children who are willing to identify their age, families with children and persons living in vehicles.

While Point-in-Time Count teams cover every census tract, surveyors are unable to cover every single area of the count and includes bias toward people who are visible to the peers or in obvious or larger encampments in areas of the county easy to travel to. The experience and current living situation of peer surveyors allows surveyors to connect with people that may not normally be reached through a service based sampling approach.

There are also limitations in not having trained service providers conducting surveys, as there may be some variance in the data that the homeless individuals self-reported rather than being interviewed by providers or trained outreach workers. 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 ASR staff also reviewed the surveys to ensure quality responses. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted.



## Appendix 2: Definitions and Abbreviations

- *Chronic homelessness* is defined by HUD, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as “an unaccompanied homeless individual or family member 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 (for a cumulative total of 12 months or more).”
- *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, which has an impact on housing stability or employment.
- *Emergency shelter* is the provision of a safe alternative to the streets in a shelter facility. Emergency shelter is short-term shelter. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for people experiencing domestic violence/abuse and their children.
- *Family* is defined as a household with at least one adult and one child under 18.
- *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, age 18 and over. The individual may be part of a collection of adults living together as a household, but does not have minor children under age 18 with them.
- *Transition-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 unaccompanied by a child under the age of 18 who are living on the streets or in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

# Appendix 3: Point-in-Time Count Results

The following tables include the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Count* data submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for individuals experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland. Data are reported by three household types (households with at least one adult and one child, households with no children, and households with only children) and by shelter status (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and unsheltered). Specific data on veteran households, youth and young adult households, and various subpopulations are also reported and included in the tables found in this section.

## **All Households**

### **Households with at Least One Adult and One Child**

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	31	64	3	98
Total number of persons	87	168	7	262
Number of children (under 18)	51	96	3	150
Number of young adults (18-24)	4	43	1	48
Number of adults (over 24)	32	29	3	64
<b>Gender (adults and children)</b>				
Female	54	106	2	162
Male	33	62	4	99
Transgender	0	0	1	1
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnicity (adults and children)</b>				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	53	134	7	194
Hispanic/Latino	34	34	0	68
<b>Race (adults and children)</b>				
White	45	9	1	55

Black or African-American	36	124	6	166
Asian	1	5	0	6
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	3	0	3
Multiple Races	5	27	0	32
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>				
Total number of households	3	NA	0	3
Total number of persons	8	NA	0	8

### Households without Children

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	268	326	1763	2357
Total number of persons	268	327	1854	2449
Number of youth adults (age 18-24)	30	133	393	556
Number of adults (over age 24)	238	194	1461	1893
<b>Gender</b>				
Female	75	128	725	928
Male	191	196	1110	1497
Transgender	2	3	19	24
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	217	295	1651	2163
Hispanic/Latino	51	32	203	286
<b>Race</b>				
White	47	39	251	337
Black or African-American	184	245	1285	1714
Asian	3	9	11	23
American Indian or Alaska Native	8	7	45	60
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3	2	6	11
Multiple Races	23	25	256	304
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>				
Total number of persons	100	NA	795	895

### Households with Only Children (under age 18)

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	7	0	26	33
Total number of children (persons under age 18)	9	0	41	50

Gender				
Female	5	0	14	19
Male	4	0	27	31
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	8	0	30	38
Hispanic/Latino	1	0	11	12
Race				
White	3	0	21	24
Black or African-American	4	0	7	11
Asian	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0	0	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	1	0	13	14
Chronically Homeless				
Total number of persons	0	NA	0	0

## ***Veteran Households Only***

### **Veteran Households with at Least One Adult and One Child**

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	0	0	0	0
Total number of persons	0	0	0	0
Total number of veterans	0	0	0	0
Gender (veterans only)				
Female	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity (veterans only)				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	0	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	0	0	0	0
Race (veterans only)				
White	0	0	0	0
Black or African-American	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0

American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	0	0	0
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>				
Total number of households	0	NA	0	0
Total number of persons	0	NA	0	0

### **Veteran Households without Children**

	<b>Sheltered ES</b>	<b>Sheltered TH</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of households	26	41	191	258
Total number of persons	26	41	201	268
Total number of veterans	26	41	191	258
<b>Gender (veterans only)</b>				
Female	0	2	22	24
Male	26	39	169	234
Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnicity (veterans only)</b>				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	24	40	182	246
Hispanic/Latino	2	1	9	12
<b>Race (veterans only)</b>				
White	8	7	37	52
Black or African-American	17	31	132	180
Asian	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	1	7	8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	1	2	15	18
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>				
Total number of persons	8	NA	113	121

## ***Youth Households***

### **Unaccompanied Youth Households**

	<b>Sheltered ES</b>	<b>Sheltered TH</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of unaccompanied youth households	37	133	434	604
Total number of unaccompanied youth	39	133	434	606

Number of unaccompanied children (under 18)	9	0	41	50
Number of unaccompanied (18-24)	30	133	393	556
<b>Gender (unaccompanied youth)</b>				
Female	16	62	137	215
Male	22	69	297	388
Transgender	1	2	0	3
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnicity (unaccompanied youth)</b>				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	29	110	344	483
Hispanic/Latino	10	23	90	123
<b>Race (unaccompanied youth)</b>				
White	4	9	115	128
Black or African-American	23	92	210	325
Asian	0	7	5	12
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	5	27	38
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	1	0	1
Multiple Races	6	19	77	102
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>				
Total number of Households	2	NA	53	55
Total number of persons	2	NA	53	55

### Parenting Youth Households

	Sheltered ES	Sheltered TH	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of parenting youth households	2	41	1	44
Total number of persons in parenting youth households	5	89	2	96
Number of parenting youth (youth parents only)	2	41	1	44
Number of parenting youth under 18	0	0	0	0
Number of parenting youth ages 18-24	2	41	1	44
Number of children with parenting youth (children under age 18 with parents under age 25)	3	48	1	52
<b>Gender (youth parents only)</b>				
Female	2	39	0	41
Male	0	2	1	3

Transgender	0	0	0	0
Don't identify as male, female or transgender	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnicity (youth parents only)</b>				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1	29	1	31
Hispanic/Latino	1	12	0	13
<b>Race (youth parents only)</b>				
White	1	2	0	3
Black or African-American	1	27	0	28
Asian	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	12	1	13
<b>Chronically Homeless</b>	<b>0</b>			
Total number of households	0	NA	0	0
Total number of persons	0	NA	0	0

## ***Additional Homeless Populations***

	<b>Sheltered ES</b>	<b>Sheltered TH</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>	<b>Total</b>
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	90	162	622	874
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	58	66	457	581
Adults with HIV/AIDS	15	6	81	102
Victims of Domestic Violence (optional)	47	55	302	404

## Appendix 4: Survey Results

The following tables include the aggregate results of each question asked of individuals experiencing homelessness in the city of Oakland during the *EveryOne Counts! 2017 Homeless Survey*.

Section A: Demographics		Count	N %
<i>Do you identify as LGBTQ?</i>	No	393	86.0%
	Yes	64	14.0%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>Which of the following best represents how you think of your sexual orientation?</i>	Bisexual	23	35.9%
	Lesbian	19	29.7%
	Gay	14	21.9%
	Other	7	10.9%
	Transgender	4	6.3%
	Queer	0	0.0%
	Total	64	100.0%
<i>Are you currently pregnant?</i>	Yes	12	5.6%
	No	200	93.5%
	Don't know	2	.9%
	Total	214	100.0%
<i>If you are pregnant, how old are you?</i>	Less than 25 years	4	33.3%
	25 years or more	8	66.7%
	Total	12	100.0%
<i>Have you ever been in foster care?</i>	Yes	61	13.9%
	No	379	86.1%
	Total	440	100.0%

Section B: Residency		Count	N %
<i>In what county were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?</i>	San Francisco	21	4.8%
	Other County in CA	10	2.3%
	Out of State	5	1.1%
	Alameda County	375	85.8%
	Contra Costa County	22	5.0%
	Marin County	1	.2%
	San Mateo County	1	.2%
	Santa Clara County	2	.5%
	Total	437	100.0%
<i>Where were you living at the time you most recently became homeless?</i>	Alameda County	375	85.8%
	Other CA county	57	13.0%
	Out of State	5	1.1%
	Total	437	100.0%
<i>What was the primary reason you came to Alameda County?</i>	For a job/seeking work	84	19.5%
	Was traveling/visiting and remained here	24	5.6%
	To access VA services or clinic	7	1.6%
	Family/friends are here	203	47.1%
	To access homeless services and/or benefits	53	12.3%
	LGBTQ community/acceptance	4	.9%
	Other	56	13.0%
	Total	431	100.0%
<i>Immediately before you became homeless, what type of place were you living in?</i>	A home owned or rented by you or your partner	184	42.9%
	A home owned or rented by friends/relatives	130	30.3%
	Motel/hotel	25	5.8%
	Other	21	4.9%
	Subsidized housing or permanent supportive housing	16	3.7%
	Refuse	14	3.3%
	Jail or prison	14	3.3%
	Foster care placement	11	2.6%
	Hospital or treatment facility	10	2.3%
	Juvenile Justice Facility	4	.9%
	Total	429	100.0%

Section C: Accommodation		Count	N %
<i>What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?</i>	Outdoors, streets, parks, encampments	150	32.8%
	Structure indoor area	25	5.5%
	Motel/hotel	38	8.3%
	Vehicle	35	7.7%
	Emergency transition or other shelter	209	45.7%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>Is this the first time you have been homeless?</i>	Yes	138	30.2%
	No	319	69.8%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>How long have you been homeless this current time?</i>	7 days or less	8	1.8%
	8-30 days	9	2.0%
	1-3 months	39	8.9%
	4-6 months	73	16.6%
	7-11 months	45	10.2%
	1 year	50	11.4%
	More than 1 year	216	49.1%
	Total	440	100.0%
<i>How long have you been homeless this current time? (recoded as previous year)</i>	30 days or fewer	17	3.9%
	2-6 months	112	25.5%
	7-11months	45	10.2%
	1 year or more	266	60.5%
	Total	440	100.0%
<i>In addition to right now, how long would you say you have stayed in these kinds of places total in the past 3 years?</i>	Less than a year	139	42.1%
	1 - 3 years	153	46.4%
	4 years or more	38	11.5%
	Total	330	100.0%

Section D: Cause and Prevention		Count	N %
<i>What do you think is the primary event or condition that led to your homelessness?</i>	Money Issues	258	58.4%
	Mental health issues	62	14.0%
	Personal relationship issues	61	13.8%
	Physical health issues	54	12.2%
	Substance use issues	46	10.4%
	Other	46	10.4%
	Incarceration	27	6.1%
	Don't know	11	2.5%
	Aging out of foster care	10	2.3%
	Total	442	100.0%

<i>What resources might have helped you remain in your housing?</i>	Rent assistance	212	48.3%
	Employment assistance	159	36.2%
	Mental health services	110	25.1%
	Food assistance	110	25.1%
	Benefits/income	99	22.6%
	Transportation assistance	73	16.6%
	Legal assistance	57	13.0%
	Family counseling	54	12.3%
	Alcohol/drug counseling	47	10.7%
	Other	38	8.7%
	Help paying health care bills/insurance	22	5.0%
	Help obtaining resources after leaving institution	22	5.0%
	Don't know	21	4.8%
	Conflict resolution with roommate	18	4.1%
	Landlord mediation	15	3.4%
	Child support	12	2.7%
	Adequate retirement income	10	2.3%
	Refuse	9	2.1%
	Mortgage assistance	6	1.4%
	Total	439	100.0%
<i>If you could get into any kind of housing right now, would kind would you like best?</i>	Independent, affordable rental housing	316	74.0%
	Housing as part of a program, with services	48	11.2%
	Housing as part of a program, with required services	31	7.3%
	Board and Care (meals included with rent)	10	2.3%
	Clean and sober housing	9	2.1%
	Other	8	1.9%
	Not interested in housing now	5	1.2%
	Total	427	100.0%

Section E: Services and Assistance		Count	N %
<i>Do you currently use any of the following?</i>	Free meals	297	68.3%
	Emergency shelter	215	49.4%
	Health services	137	31.5%
	Transitional housing	73	16.8%
	A Drop in center	69	15.9%
	Mental health services	59	13.6%
	Legal assistance	50	11.5%
	Job training/employment services	39	9.0%
	Alcohol/drug counseling	38	8.7%
	Other	27	6.2%

	Not using any services	18	4.1%
	Refuse	14	3.2%
	Domestic violence services	7	1.6%
	Immigration services	5	1.1%
	Total	435	100.0%
<i>What prevents you from using shelter services?</i>	Germs, bugs	147	41.4%
	They are full	142	40.0%
	They are too crowded	99	27.9%
	Refuse	69	19.4%
	There are too many rules	62	17.5%
	Concerns for personal safety	55	15.5%
	They are too far away	51	14.4%
	There is nowhere to store my stuff	37	10.4%
	I can't stay with my partner/family	34	9.6%
	I can't stay with my friends	23	6.5%
	They don't accept my pet	13	3.7%
	Don't accept my gender or sexual orientation	9	2.5%
	Total	355	100.0%
<i>Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of income or benefits?</i>	Food Stamps/SNAP/WIC/CalFresh	141	32.9%
	Medi-Cal/Medicare	121	28.2%
	SSI/SSDI/Disability	117	27.3%
	General Assistance (GA)	102	23.8%
	Not receiving any type of assistance	75	17.5%
	Social Security	57	13.3%
	CalWORKs/TANF	25	5.8%
	Earned income/paycheck	17	4.0%
	Refuse	16	3.7%
	Any VA Disability Compensation	8	1.9%
	Other Veterans benefits (GI, Health)	3	.7%
	Child support	3	.7%
	Pension/retirement	2	.5%
	Total	429	100.0%

Section F: Schooling		Count	N %
<i>Were you in school at the time you most recently became homeless?</i>	Yes	47	11.3%
	No	370	88.7%
	Total	417	100.0%
<i>Are you currently enrolled in school?</i>	Yes	45	11.1%
	No	361	88.9%
	Total	406	100.0%
<i>What type of schooling are you currently enrolled in?</i>	Middle school	3	7.1%
	High school/GED	17	40.5%
	Vocational	5	11.9%
	College	17	40.5%
	Total	42	100.0%

Section G: Health		Count	N %
<i>How many times in the past year have you been treated in the emergency room?</i>	0 times	237	51.9%
	1 time	44	9.6%
	2 times	44	9.6%
	3 times	29	6.3%
	4 times	23	5.0%
	5 times	24	5.3%
	6-10 times	34	7.4%
	More than 10 times	22	4.8%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>How many times in the past year have you been treated by ambulance staff?</i>	0 times	286	62.6%
	1 time	48	10.5%
	2 times	38	8.3%
	3 times	22	4.8%
	4 times	15	3.3%
	5 times	11	2.4%
	6-10 times	29	6.3%
	More than 10 times	8	1.8%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>How many nights in the last year have you spent in the hospital?</i>	0 nights	272	59.5%
	1 night	38	8.3%
	2 nights	39	8.5%
	3 nights	22	4.8%
	4 nights	20	4.4%
	5 nights	22	4.8%
	6-10 nights	31	6.8%

	More than 10 nights	13	2.8%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>How many nights in the last year have you spent in residential facilities?</i>	0 nights	427	93.4%
	1 night	8	1.8%
	2 nights	8	1.8%
	3 nights	2	.4%
	4 nights	4	.9%
	5 nights	4	.9%
	6-10 nights	1	.2%
	More than 10 nights	3	.7%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>How many nights in the last year have you spent in detox?</i>	0 nights	429	93.9%
	1 night	4	.9%
	2 nights	2	.4%
	3 nights	4	.9%
	4 nights	3	.7%
	5 nights	3	.7%
	6-10 nights	11	2.4%
	More than 10 nights	1	.2%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>How many nights in the last year have you spent in jail/prison?</i>	0 nights	400	87.5%
	1 night	8	1.8%
	2 nights	7	1.5%
	3 nights	2	.4%
	4 nights	7	1.5%
	5 nights	4	.9%
	6-10 nights	10	2.2%
	More than 10 nights	19	4.2%
	Total	457	100.0%
<i>How many nights in the last year have you spent in juvenile hall?</i>	0 nights	449	98.2%
	1 night	1	.2%
	2 nights	1	.2%
	3 nights	0	0.0%
	4 nights	0	0.0%
	5 nights	0	0.0%
	6-10 nights	3	.7%
	More than 10 nights	3	.7%
	Total	457	100.0%

<b>Section H: Domestic Violence</b>		<b>Count</b>	<b>N %</b>
<i>Are you currently experiencing home/domestic violence or abuse?</i>	Yes	26	6.3%
	No	387	93.7%
	Total	413	100.0%
<i>Have you ever been physically, emotionally or sexually abused by a relative, or another person you have stayed with?</i>	Yes	89	22.5%
	No	306	77.5%
	Total	395	100.0%

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# CITY OF OAKLAND

# 2017

HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY  
JURISDICTIONAL REPORT

