

2019 EL DORADO COUNTY HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY



ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a social research firm committed 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.

HOUSING INSTABILITY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (HIRD)

Department Vice President: Peter Connery

Department Director: Samantha Green, MS.c

Department Coordinator: Jenna Gallant

Research Analyst: Shannon Boling, MSW

LOCATIONS

Central Coast:

55 Penny Lane, Suite 101
Watsonville, CA 95076
tel 831-728-1356

Bay Area:

1871 The Alameda, Suite 180
San Jose, CA 95126
tel 408-247-8319

ASR

5440 Park Dr Suite 104
Rocklin, CA 95765
877-728-4545

www.appliedsurveyresearch.org

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PROJECT COORDINATORS

Peter Connery, Applied Survey Research
Shannon Boling, Applied Survey Research

EL DORADO COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

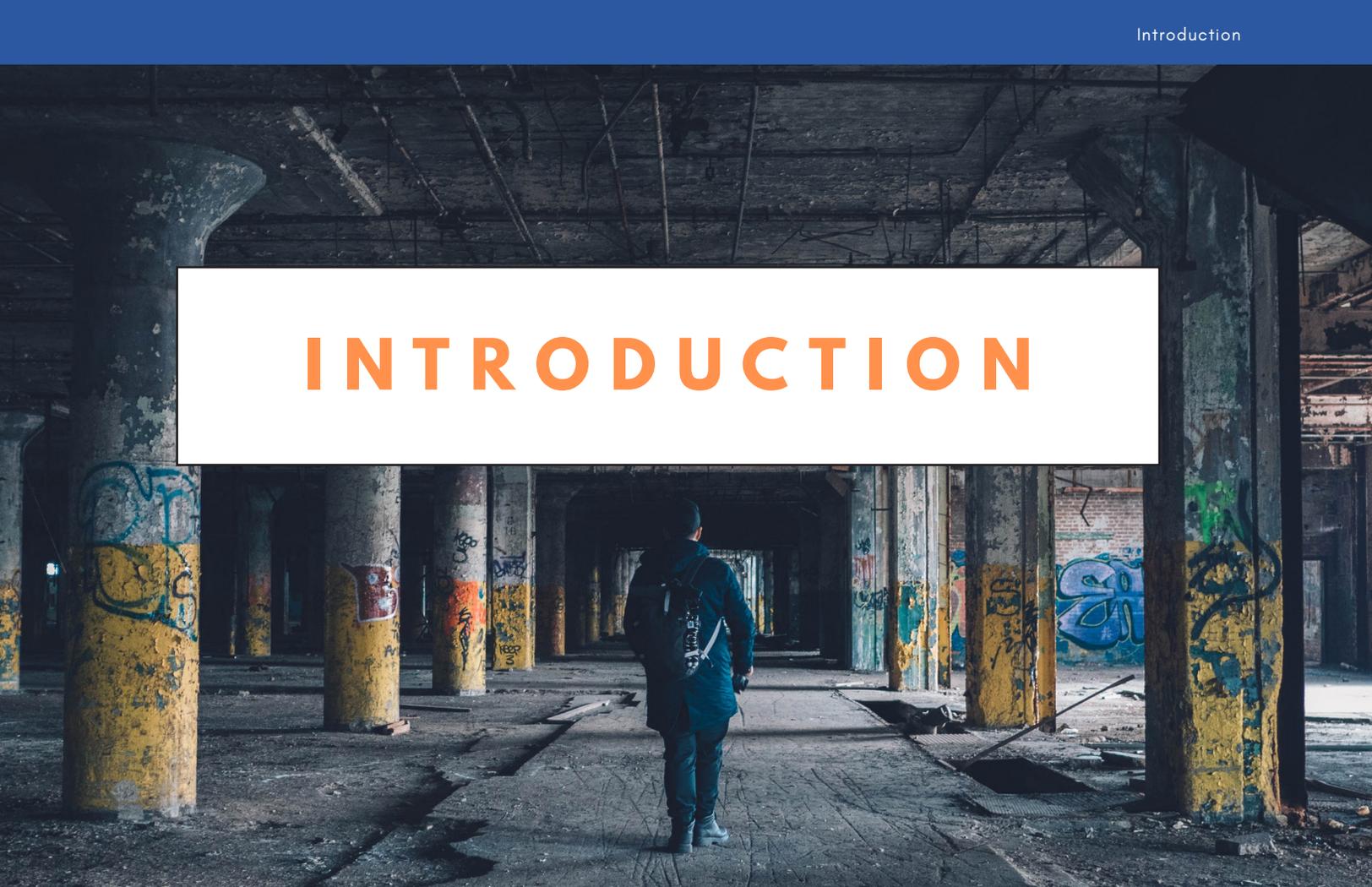
EDOK Board	Organization
Julie Baumgartner	Volunteers of America Northern California and Northern Nevada
Shannon Bezak	Private Practice Attorney
Michael Boyd	El Dorado County Probation
Daniel Del Monte	El Dorado County Community Services Division
Ed Falkenstein	El Dorado County Sheriff
Jane Flavin	Live Violence Free
Jennifer LaForce	Only Kindness Inc.
Cheyenne Lane	Tahoe Youth & Family Services
Pam Maxwell	US Bank
Elizabeth Atecio	Green Valley Community Church
Debra Miller	Bella Real Estate
Marissa Muscat	Barton Hospital/Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless
Kim Nida	Placerville Police Department
Jessica Albin	Homeless Advocate
Tara Turrentine	El Dorado County Office of Education

DEPLOYMENT SITES

- Starbucks, Cameron Park
- The Warm Room, South Lake Tahoe
- Green Valley Church, Placerville
- New Morning Youth and Family Services, Placerville
- Tahoe Youth and Family Services, South Lake Tahoe

YOUTH COUNT COORDINATORS

- Annah Wilson and Kristen Patterson, New Morning Youth and Family Services
- Cheyanne Lane, Tahoe Youth and Family Services

A person with a backpack is walking away from the camera down a long, dimly lit hallway in an industrial building. The walls and pillars are covered in graffiti, and the floor is concrete. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

INTRODUCTION

Every two years, during the last ten days of January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. These Point-in-Time 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 on people sleeping on the streets, in cars, abandoned properties, or other places not meant for human habitation.

The Point-in-Time Count is the only source of nationwide data on sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and is required by HUD of all jurisdictions receiving federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In Fy 18-19, the El Dorado County Continuum of Care received approximately \$2.1 million dollars in federal and state funding.

Continuums of Care report the findings of their local Point-in-Time Count annually to HUD. This information ultimately helps the federal government to better understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. Point-in-Time Count and Survey data also help inform communities' local strategic planning, capacity building, and advocacy campaigns to prevent and end homelessness.

El Dorado County worked in conjunction with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to conduct the 2019 El Dorado County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. ASR is a social research firm with extensive experience in homeless enumeration and needs assessments.

The El Dorado County Homeless Point-in-Time Count consists of two primary components:

- (1) a point-in-time enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals and families, such as those sleeping outdoors, on the street, or in parks, tents, or vehicles, and
- (2) a point-in-time enumeration of homeless individuals and families residing in temporary shelter, including emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities.

The 2019 El Dorado County Homeless Point-in-Time Count was a comprehensive community effort. With the support of individuals with lived experience of homelessness, numerous community volunteers, staff from various city and county departments, and law enforcement, the entire county was canvassed between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. on January 29, 2019. This resulted in a volunteer and peer-informed visual count of unsheltered homeless individuals and families residing on the streets and in vehicles, makeshift shelters, encampments, and other places not meant for human habitation. Shelters and transitional housing facilities also reported the number of homeless individuals and families who occupied their facilities on the night prior to the day of the count. Short surveys were also administered to 112 unsheltered and sheltered individuals and families. These surveys gathered basic demographic details necessary to report to HUD.

A specialized count of both unaccompanied children and transition-age youth under the age of 25 was conducted on the same day. This dedicated count was designed to improve the understanding of the scope of youth homelessness. Trained youth enumerators who currently are or have recently experienced homelessness conducted the count and administered surveys in specific areas where homeless youth were known to congregate. The results of this effort contributed to HUD's initiative to measure progress toward ending youth homelessness by 2020.

This report provides data regarding the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness in El Dorado County on a single night in January. Special attention was given to specific subpopulations, including chronically homeless persons, 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 years, including 2015 and 2017 are provided where available and applicable.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In order for the 2019 El Dorado County Point-in-Time Count and Survey to best reflect the experience and expertise of the community, ASR spoke with local community members drawn from city and county departments, community-based service providers, and other interested stakeholders.

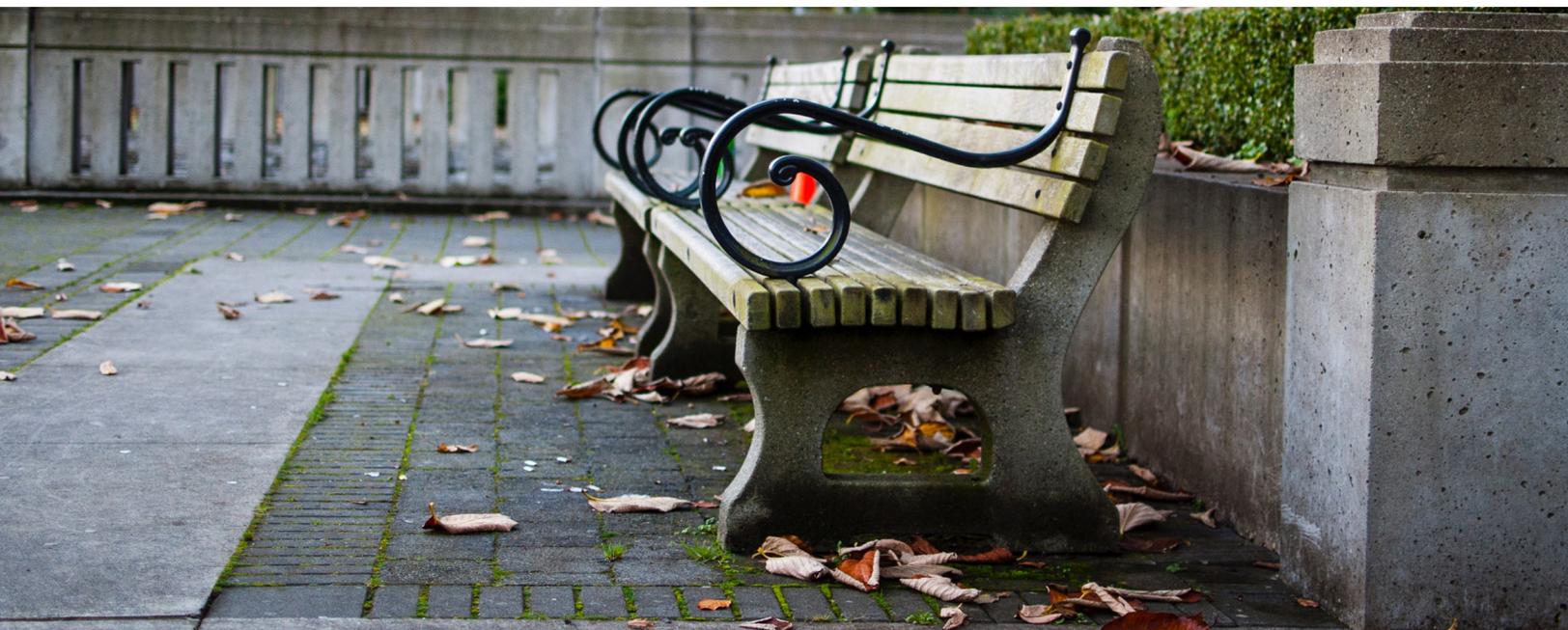
The 2019 Point in Time Count Team identified several important project goals:

- 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;
- To measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of the homeless population since the 2017 El Dorado County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey and to track progress toward ending homelessness;
- To increase public awareness of overall issues around homelessness as well as generate support for constructive solutions; and
- To assess the status of specific subpopulations, including veterans, families, unaccompanied children, transition-age youth, and those who are chronically homeless.
- 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.

FEDERAL DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS FOR POINT-IN-TIME COUNTS

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

- Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement; or
- With a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place neither designed for nor ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, airports, or camping grounds.



EL DORADO COUNTY

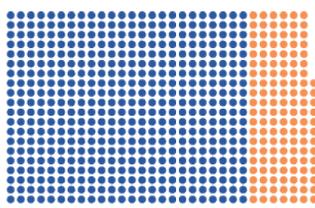
2019 EVERYONE COUNTS HOMELESS POINT-IN TIME COUNT & SURVEY

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 2019 El Dorado Point-in-Time Count was a community-wide effort conducted on January 28th-29th, 2019. During the same time, a survey was administered to 112 unsheltered and sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, in order to profile their experience and characteristics.

TOTAL COUNT OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN EL DORADO COUNTY

613
TOTAL



78%
UNSHelterED
(N=480)

22%
SHelterED
(N= 133)

RACE

85%



WHITE



5%



AFRICAN-AMERICAN

4%



NATIVE AMERICAN

27%

EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



AGE



11%

UNDER 18
(N=70)



15%

18-24
(N=91)



74%

OVER 24
(N=452)

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF HOMELESSNESS

47%

HAD LIVED THEIR ENTIRE LIVES IN EL DORADO COUNTY BEFORE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



47%

HEALTH CONDITIONS



42%

MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY



36%

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION



24%

PHYSICAL DISABILITY



7%

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY



1%

HIV/ AIDS HIV/ AIDS RELATED ILLNESS

GENDER



63%

MALE
(N= 384)



35%

FEMALE
(N= 216)



2%

TRANSGENDER/NON-CONFORMING
(N = 13)

SUBPOP DATA:



19%

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS



8%

VETS



5%

UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH



14%

TRANSITIONAL YOUTH
(<18 & 18-24)

FIRST TIME HOMELESS



38%

YES

60%

NO

2%

REFUSED

PLACE OF RESIDENCE ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT



37%

EMERGENCY SHELTER



13%

OUTDOOR ENCAMPMENT



14%

VEHICLES



10%

PARK



8%

STREET/ SIDEWALK



4%

ABANDONED BUILDING



4%

UNDER BRIDGE/ UNDERPASS



10%

OTHER



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

This section provides an overview of the findings generated from 2019 El Dorado County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey. Surveys were administered using Simtech's Counting Us phone app to a randomized sample of homeless individuals between the evening of January 28th and the evening of January 29th, 2019. This effort resulted in 112 complete and unique surveys.

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in El Dorado County, respondents were asked basic demographic questions including age, gender, race, and ethnicity. In order 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 were intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted. For more information regarding the survey methodology, please see Appendix A.

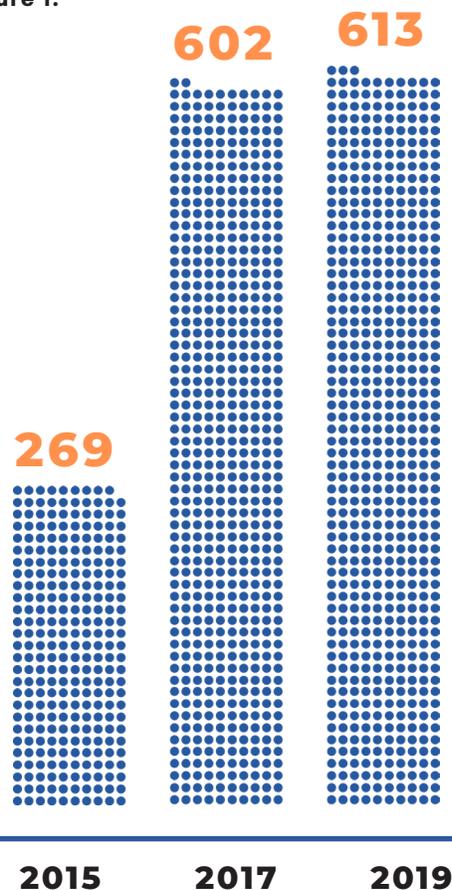


DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENUMERATED DURING THE GENERAL POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT WITH TREND

The number of individuals counted in the 2019 El Dorado Point-in-Time Count was 613. This was a slight increase in the number of individuals counted in 2017 (602). It should be noted that the methodology used in the 2019 count was different than the methodology used in the 2015 and 2017 count.

Figure 1:

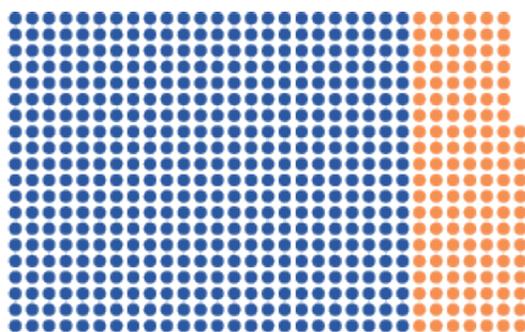


TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT BY SHELTER STATUS

613
Total Count

More than three-quarters (78%) of homeless individuals enumerated were unsheltered, while 22% were sheltered.

Figure 2:



78%

Unsheltered
(N=480)

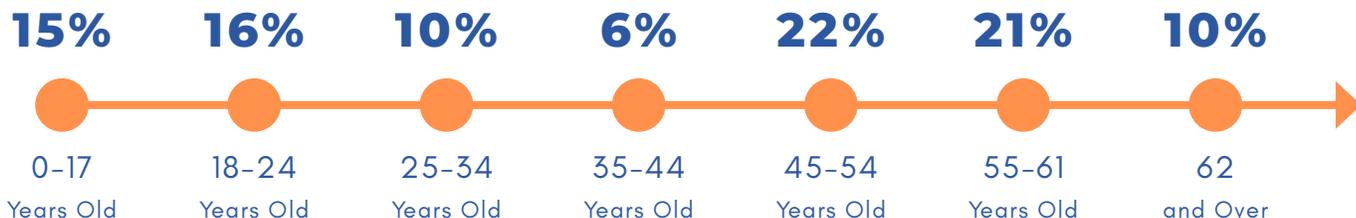
22%

Sheltered
(N=133)

AGE

Approximately 22% of survey respondents were between the ages of 45 and 54, while 21% were between the ages of 55 and 61. Sixteen percent (16%) were transitional age youth between the ages of 18 and 24 and 15% were youth under the age of 18.

Figure 3:



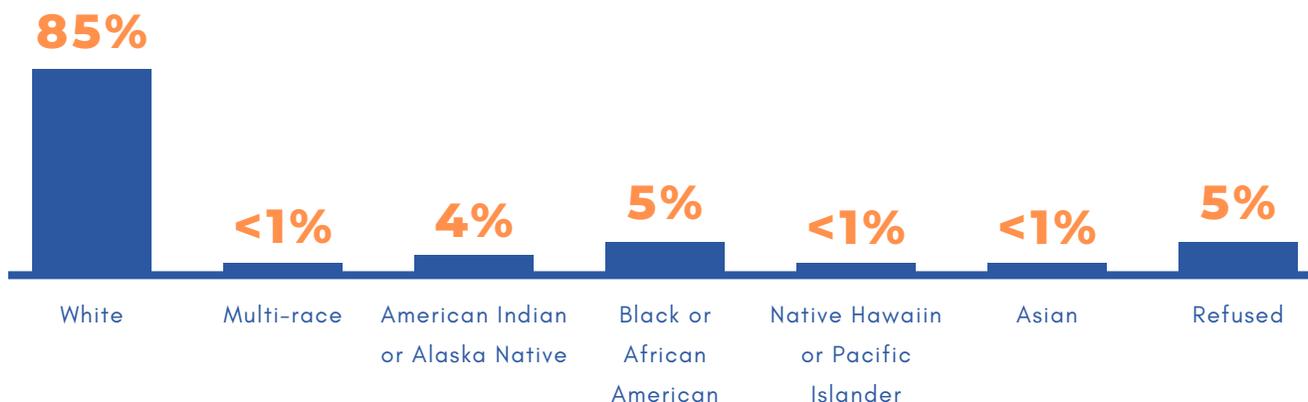
2019 N=108

RACE

A majority of survey respondents identified as White (85%), slightly less than the general population at 88%. Five percent (5%) identify as Black or African-American which was higher than the general population at 1%. Four percent (4%) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, which was higher than the general population at 1%. Zero individuals identified as Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or multi-racial.



Figure 4:



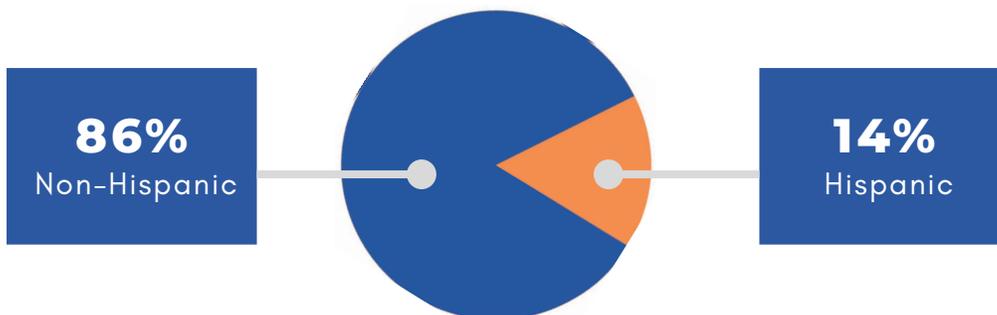
2019 N=108

Source: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

ETHNICITY

A majority of survey respondents (86%) identified as Non-Hispanic, while 14% identified as Hispanic. These numbers were in line with the general population (87% and 13%, respectively).

Figure 5:



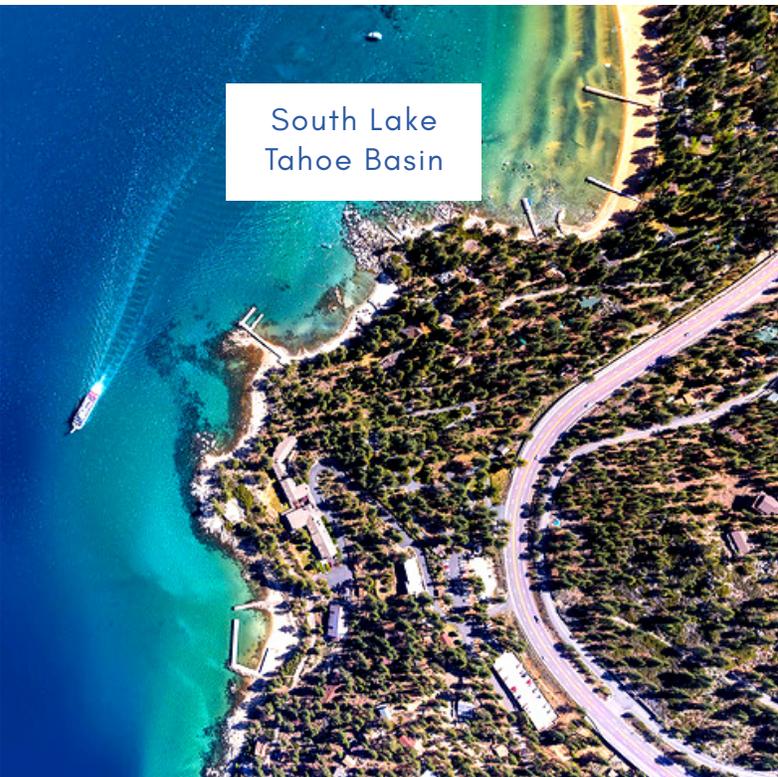
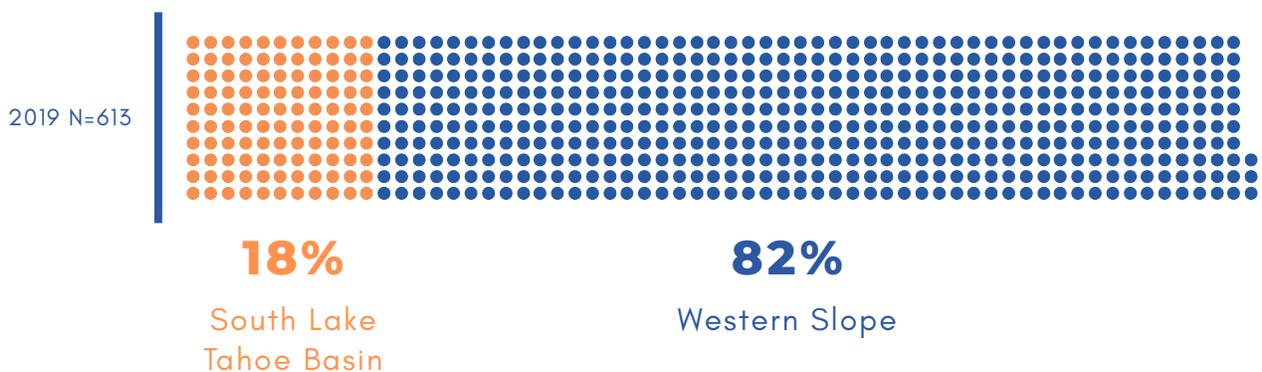
2019 N=99

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT BY LOCATION

Eighteen percent (18%) of homeless individuals enumerated lived in the South Lake Tahoe basin, while the remaining 82% lived in the Western Slope of the county.

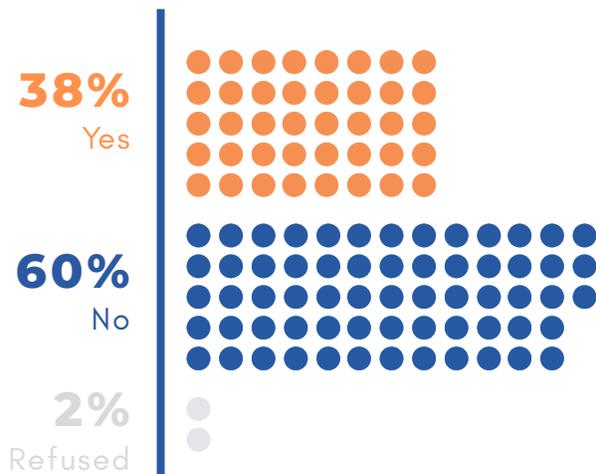
Figure 6:



CONDITIONS

FIRST TIME HOMELESS

Figure 7:



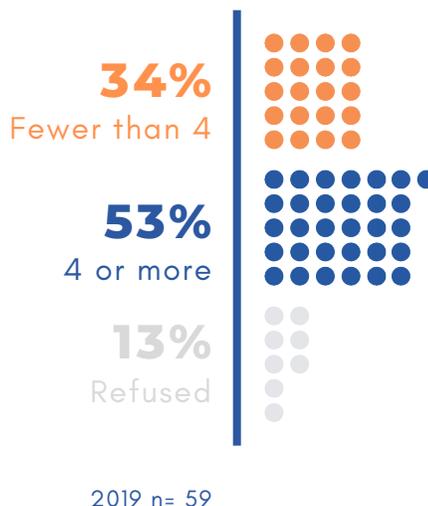
2019 n= 105

Approximately 38% of respondents indicated this was their first experience of homelessness, compared to 60% who indicated this was not their first time experiencing homelessness.

REOCCURENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Over half (53%) of respondents reported experiencing homelessness four or more times in the last 3 years compared to the 34% of respondents who reported experiencing homelessness fewer than 4 times in the last 3 years.

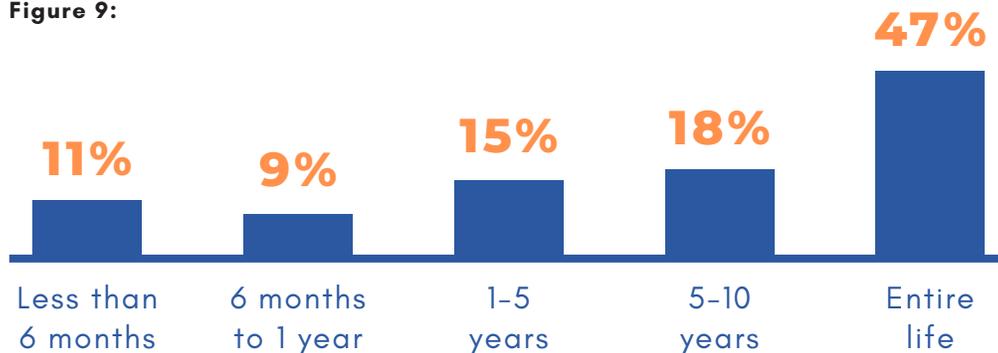
Figure 8:



HOW LONG IN EL DORADO COUNTY BEFORE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Almost half of individuals (47%) had lived their entire lives in El Dorado County before experiencing homelessness, while 18% lived in El Dorado County for 5-10 years before experiencing homelessness. Fifteen percent (15%) lived in El Dorado County for 1-5 years before experiencing homelessness, and 9% lived in El Dorado County for 6 months or less before experiencing homelessness.

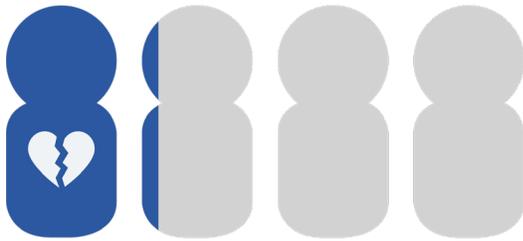
Figure 9:



2019 N=68

CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR PARTNER ABUSE

Figure 10:



2019 N=85

27%

Yes

73%

No

Over one quarter (27%) of survey respondents indicated they were currently experiencing domestic violence or being abused by their partner, while 73% were not.

PLACE OF RESIDENCE ON THE NIGHT OF THE COUNT

Over one-third (37%) of respondents were in emergency shelters the night of the count. Approximately 14% of survey respondents who were unsheltered reported living in a vehicle or boat, while 13% reported they were living in an outdoor encampment. Ten percent (10%) reported living in a park, 8% reported living on the street or sidewalk, 4% reported living in abandoned buildings, and another 4% were living under a bridge or underpass.

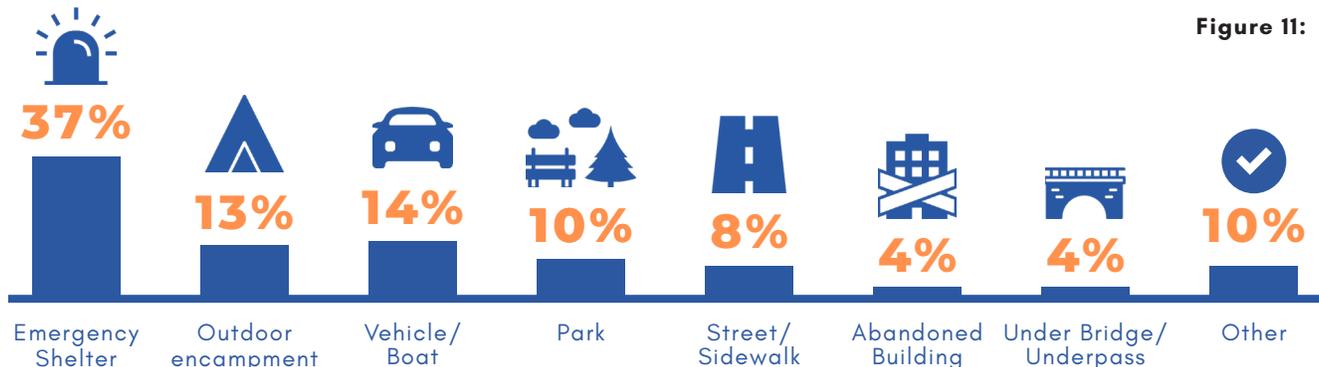


Figure 11:

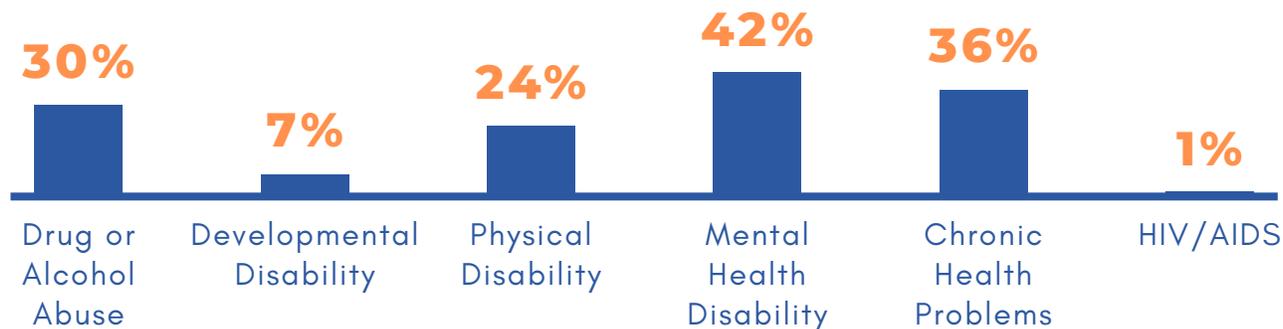
2019 N=112

HEALTH AND BENEFITS

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Nearly 42% of individuals reported having a mental health disability, with 36% reporting chronic health conditions. Thirty percent (30%) reported substance abuse issues, 24% reported having a physical disability, and approximately 7% reported having a developmental disability. One percent (1%) reported having an HIV/AIDS related illness.

Figure 12:

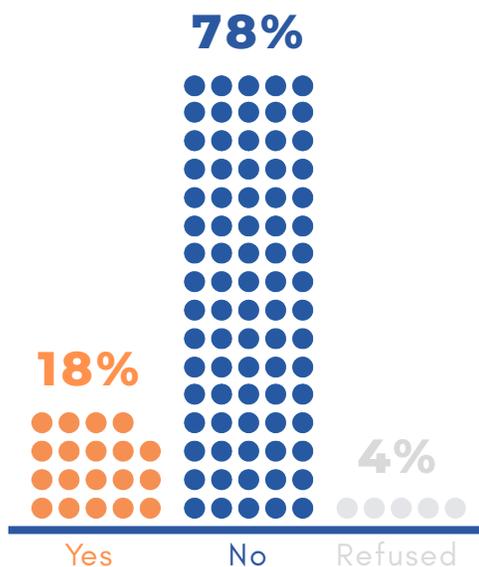


2019 n= 100-104

ACCESSING BENEFITS

Approximately 18% of individuals reported receiving disability benefits, while 78% did not.

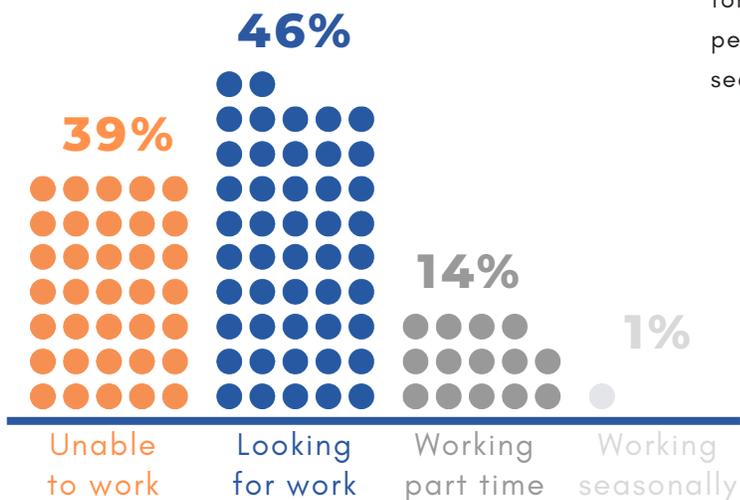
Figure 13:



2019 N=103

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Figure 14:



2019 N=102

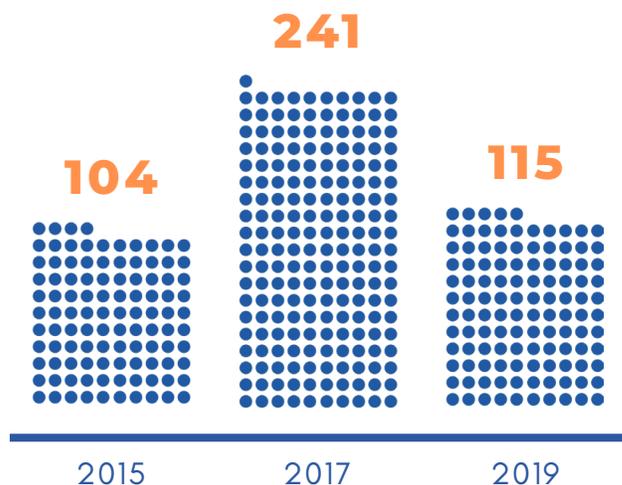
Almost half (46%) of individuals were looking for work, 39% were unable to work, fourteen percent were working part-time, and 1% were seasonally employed.

SUBPOPULATIONS

CHRONIC HOMELESS POPULATIONS ESTIMATES

The number of chronically homeless individuals in El Dorado County decreased significantly from 241 individuals and families in 2017 to 115 individuals and families in 2019.

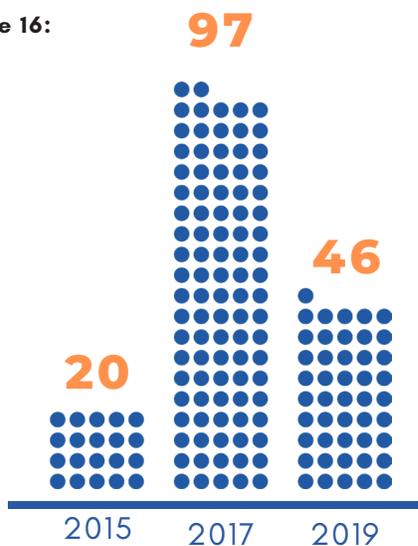
Figure 15:



VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: POPULATION ESTIMATES OVER TIME

The number of homeless veterans in El Dorado County also decreased significantly from 97 veterans in 2017 to 46 veterans in 2019.

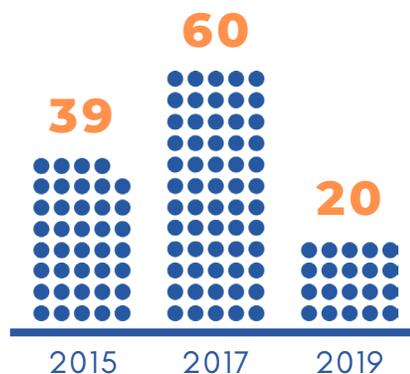
Figure 16:



FAMILIES ENUMERATED DURING THE POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT

There were 77 persons in families identified during the 2019 count, significantly less than the 156 persons in families identified in 2017. Only twenty-five percent (25%) of families identified during the Point-in-Time Count were residing in shelters or transitional housing programs.

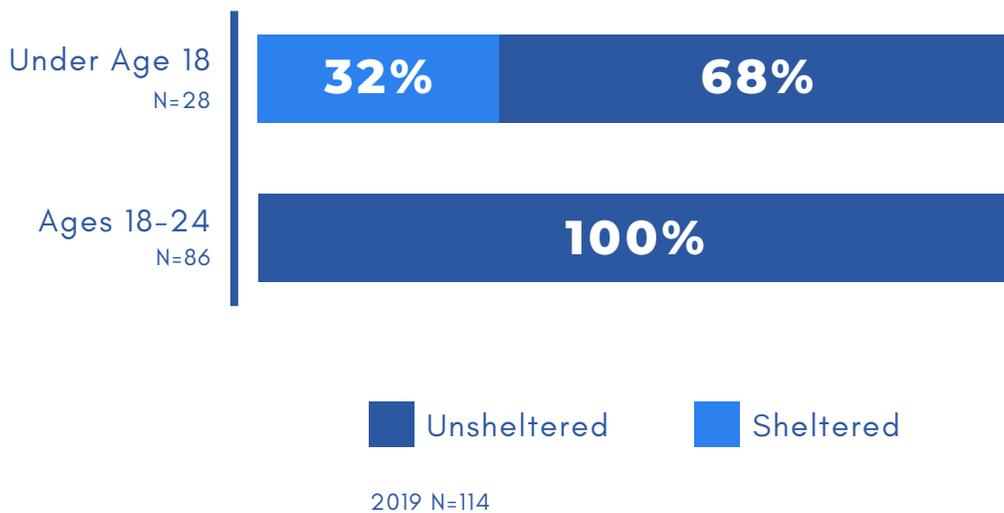
Figure 17:



UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH POPULATION

There were 114 unaccompanied children and transitional-age youth identified during the 2019 Point-in-Time Count. Among unaccompanied young people who were homeless, 86 were transitional-age youth between the ages of 18 and 24 while 28 were unaccompanied children under the age of 18. All (100%) transitional age youth and 68% of unaccompanied children were unsheltered.

Figure 18:





APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 2019 El Dorado County Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey was to produce a point-in-time estimate of people experiencing homelessness in El Dorado County, a county that covers approximately 1,786 square miles. The results of the street counts were combined with the results from the shelter counts to produce the total estimated number of persons experiencing homelessness in El Dorado County on a given night, using the HUD definition of homelessness for the Point-in-Time Count. A short smart-phone based qualitative survey was used to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences and demographics of those counted. A more detailed description of the methodology follows.



COMPONENTS OF THE HOMELESS COUNT METHOD

The Point-in-Time Count methodology used in 2019 had six primary components:

- General street count: an enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals between the hours of 7:00AM to 11:00AM;
- Youth street count: a targeted enumeration of unsheltered homeless youth under the age of 25 between the hours of 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM;
- Shelter count: an enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals on the night before the street count;
- Survey: an in-person survey of unsheltered and sheltered individuals conducted by peer surveyors and volunteers on the same day as the general street count
- El Dorado County Office of Education count: an enumeration of families previously identified as unsheltered; and
- El Dorado County Sheriff Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) count: an enumeration of individuals identified as unsheltered and living in inaccessible areas and/or locations deemed unsafe for count workers

The general street count was designed to take place before most shelters released persons who slept at the shelter the previous night. In areas with shelters, the immediate area surrounding the shelter was prioritized to eliminate potential double counting of individuals.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

To ensure the success and integrity of the count, many county and community agencies collaborated on community outreach, volunteer recruitment, logistical plans, methodological decisions, and interagency coordination efforts. Applied Survey Research (ASR) provided technical assistance for these aspects of the planning process. ASR has over 19 years of experience conducting homeless counts and surveys throughout California and across the nation. Their work is featured as a best practice in the HUD publication, *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*, as well as in the Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago publication, *Conducting a Youth Count: A Toolkit*.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local homeless and housing service providers and advocates were valued partners in the planning and implementation of this count. Thanks to local efforts, the count included enumerators with a diverse range of knowledge, including expertise regarding areas frequented by homeless individuals, individuals living in vehicles, and persons residing in encampments. Community partners were also a key component in recruiting individuals with lived experience of homelessness to participate in the street count and survey efforts.



STREET COUNT METHODOLOGY

DEFINITION

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of unsheltered homeless persons was used:

An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place neither designed for nor ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, airports, or camping grounds.

METHODOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The 2019 street count methodology followed an established, HUD approved methodology used in PIT counts throughout the country, with the addition of a dedicated youth count. New this year was the addition of the Counting Us mobile phone app, which is designed to automate the collection of data for the homeless census Point-in-Time Count and Survey. The Counting Us app allows volunteers and guides to record both observational and survey data in the field, even without cell phone coverage. The data collected is available in real time, is easily accessed via the Counting Us website.

VOLUNTEER AND GUIDE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Many individuals who live and/or work in El Dorado County supported the county's effort to enumerate the local homeless population. In 2019, over 30 community volunteers and homeless guides participated in the general street count on January 29, 2019.

Outreach efforts were conducted to local non-profits and county agencies that serve individuals experiencing homelessness. Local shelters and service providers recruited and recommended the most knowledgeable and reliable homeless individuals to participate in the count. Homeless guides were paid \$15 per hour worked on the day of the count.

Volunteers and guides served as enumerators on the morning of the count, canvassing the county in teams to visually count homeless persons. Volunteers, service providers, and ASR staff supported each of the three dispatch centers (Cameron Park, Placerville, and South Lake Tahoe) greeting volunteers and guides, distributing instructions, maps and supplies to enumeration teams.

In order to participate in the count, all volunteers and guides were required to download the Counting Us mobile application on their phone. Prior to the count, they were encouraged to practice using the app and to familiarize themselves with the survey questions. On the morning of the count, ASR staff reviewed with them how to record observational data into the app, how to access the app while in areas without cell phone coverage, and how to problem solve if needed. ASR staff also reviewed the definition of homelessness, how to identify homeless individuals, potential locations where homeless individuals may be located, how to safely and respectfully conduct the count, and provided maps to ensure the entirety of the assigned area was covered, as well as other tips to help ensure an accurate count.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

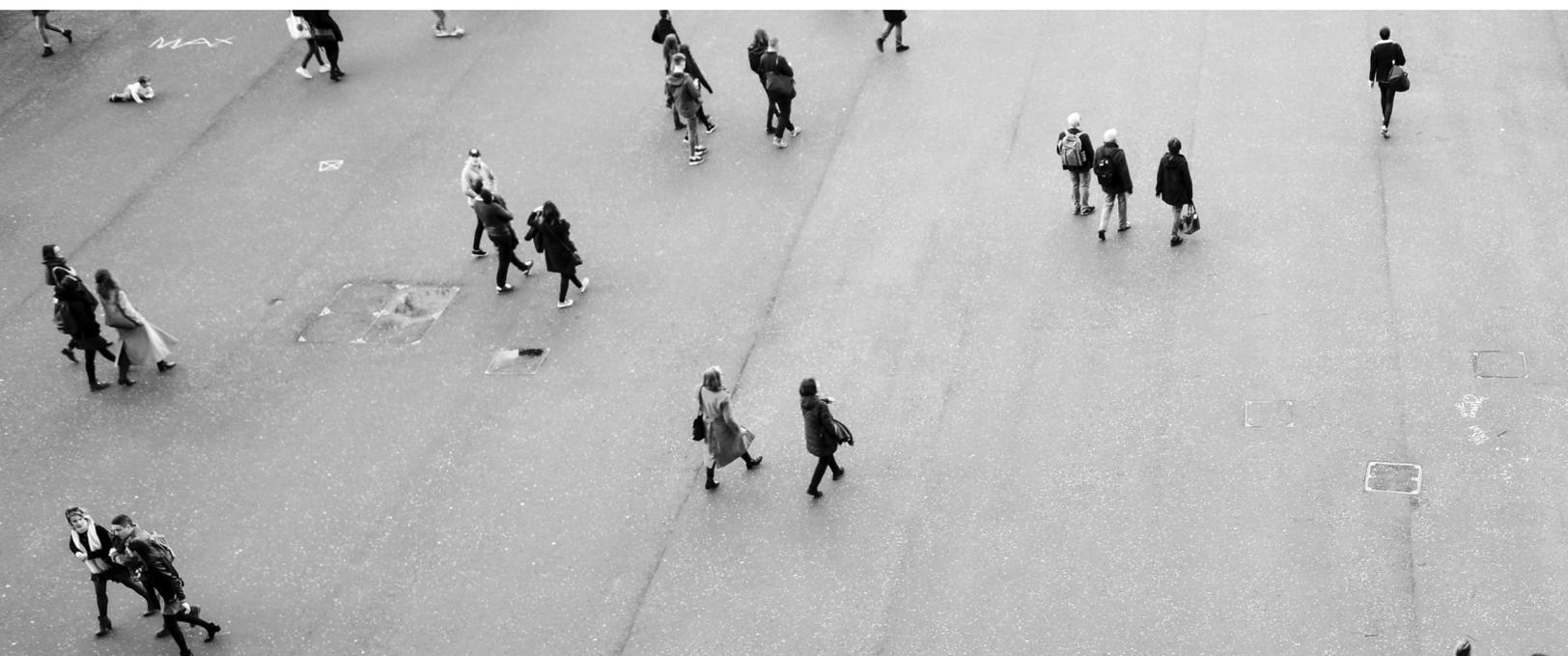
Every effort was made to minimize potentially hazardous situations. Law enforcement agencies were notified of pending street count activity in their jurisdictions. The El Dorado County Sheriff Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) was assigned to areas with a high concentration of homeless encampments and/or locations considered unsafe for volunteers and guides. Enumeration teams were advised to take every safety precaution possible, including maintaining a respectful distance from those people they were counting.

STREET COUNT DISPATCH CENTERS

To achieve complete coverage of the county within the allotted timeframe, the planning team identified three areas for the placement of dispatch centers on the morning of the count: Cameron Park, Placerville, and South Lake Tahoe. Volunteers selected their dispatch center at the time of registration based on their familiarity with the area or their convenience. The planning team determined the enumeration routes and assigned them to the dispatch center closest or most central to the coverage area to facilitate the timely deployment of enumeration teams into the field.

LOGISTICS OF ENUMERATION AND SURVEY

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 generally composed of at least two trained volunteers and one trained homeless guide, and provided with their assigned census tract maps, training guidelines, and other supplies. One person from each team was designated to record entries into the Counting Us app (to avoid duplication), while other team members were designated drivers or observers relaying information to the recorder. All accessible streets, roads, parks, and highways in the enumerated tracts were traversed either by foot or by car. Teams were asked to cover the entirety of their assigned areas.



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

A survey of unique individuals experiencing homelessness was conducted between January 28 and January 29, 2019 to yield qualitative data about people experiencing homelessness in El Dorado County. Due to privacy issues, outreach challenges, and participation rates not all persons enumerated are able to be surveyed. As a consequence, not all homeless experiences are represented equally and some subpopulations may be over or under-represented in the data analysis. HUD recognizes these challenges and the data collection methods are compliant with their recommendations. These data are used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application and are important for both future program development and planning. Future count efforts would benefit from even more targeted outreach efforts and the increased participation of persons with lived experience in the data collection effort.

The survey collected information such as gender, family status, military service, duration and recurrence of homelessness, nighttime accommodations, and access to services through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions. The survey data bring greater perspective to current issues of homelessness and to the provision and delivery of services.

Surveys were conducted by shelter staff and enumeration teams on the evening prior to and the day of the count. The Counting Us mobile phone application was used to collect the survey data. A short training session on the Counting Us app was facilitated by the ASR staff at each dispatch center, which included reviewing survey questions, how to access surveys while out of cell phone range, interviewing protocol, and confidentiality. As part of the street count, peer survey workers were compensated at a rate of \$15 per hour.

It was determined that survey data would be more easily obtained if an incentive gift was offered to each respondent to show appreciation for their time and participation. Socks were provided as an incentive for participating in the 2019 homeless survey. The socks were easy to distribute, had wide appeal, and could be provided within the constraints of the project budget. The incentives were widely accepted among survey respondents.

DATA COLLECTION

Care was taken by interviewers to ensure that respondents felt comfortable regardless of the street or shelter location where they were being surveyed. 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 single individual.

DATA ANALYSIS

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, length of homelessness, and consistencies in patterns of responses to other survey questions.

SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The 2019 El Dorado County Homeless Survey did not include an equal representation of all homeless individual's experiences. For example, a smaller number of surveys were administered to veterans and those who were chronically homeless than in previous years. Therefore, individuals in these subpopulation groups are underrepresented in 2019.

There may be some variance in the data that individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported. Using a peer interviewing methodology is believed to encourage the respondents to be more candid with their answers and may help reduce the uneasiness of revealing personal information. A limitation in the 2019 survey was the limited number of homeless guides trained to conduct the survey. Service providers, county staff members, and volunteers were therefore left to conduct the surveys, which may have hindered the respondent's ability to give candid answers. Surveys that were considered incomplete or containing false responses were not accepted. Missing values are intentionally omitted from the survey results. Therefore, the total number of respondents for each question will not always equal the total number of surveys conducted.

APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Chronic homelessness – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an unaccompanied individual or head of a family household with a disabling condition who has either continuously experienced homelessness for a year or more, or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness totaling 12 months, in the past three years.

Disabling condition – Defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long-term and impacts the individual's ability to live independently; a developmental disability; or HIV/AIDS.

Emergency shelter – The provision of a safe alternative to the streets, either in a shelter facility or through the use of stabilization rooms. Emergency shelter is short-term, usually for 180 days or fewer. Domestic violence shelters are typically considered a type of emergency shelter, as they provide safe, immediate housing for survivors and their children.

Family – A household with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18.

Homeless – Under the Category 1 definition of homelessness in the HEARTH Act, includes individuals and families living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, or with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

HUD – Abbreviation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Precariously housed – A person who is staying with the household because they have no other regular or adequate place to stay due to a lack of money or other means of support.

Sheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

Single individual – An unaccompanied adult over the age of 18.

Transition-age youth – Young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Transitional housing – 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 – Children under the age of 18 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian and are not a parent presenting with or sleeping in the same place as their own child(ren).

Unsheltered homeless individuals – Individuals who are living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, storage structures, vehicles, encampments, or any other place unfit for human habitation.

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