

2011 HOMELESS ENUMERATION REPORT



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Photographs courtesy of CAPSLO



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Acknowledgements

The 2011 Homeless Enumeration is the third initiative of its kind for the County of San Luis Obispo. Service providers, community residents, AmeriCorps members, students and county and city staff joined together on January 26 to realize a “point in time” survey of those living among us who lack shelter. Each enumeration has been characterized by this richness of collaboration that though on the one hand is remarkable, is on the other a genuine characteristic of this place where we live. The significance of the enumerations is the portrait they collectively portray that suggests the wide and varied continuum of factors that propel people to homelessness. It is only through such findings that solutions can be formulated.

This year the 2011 Homeless Enumeration Project welcomed Cal Poly Masters Student in Public Policy, April Worley to the team. April’s genuine enthusiasm for the project and analytical ability were the driving force behind these findings. Dr. Jean Williams, Professor of Political Science and Interim Chair of the Women’s and Gender Studies Department, once again provided research guidance and assistance. The service provider team of CAPSLO led by Dee Torres was quite simply remarkable in their professionalism and commitment to the project. A special thanks should also be extended to Julia Miller of the County of San Luis Obispo’s Social Services Department for once again securing financial underwriting.

Finally it is incumbent upon all who read and grapple with the complexity of these findings that this report not be relegated to an office shelf, forgotten or dismissed. John F. Kennedy reflected that “to those who are given much, much is expected,” and this report tells the story of those in our community who desperately need assistance.

Sincerely,
Stephan R. Lamb
Student Life and Leadership – Cal Poly
Project Coordinator- 2011 Homeless Enumeration – San Luis Obispo County

San Luis Obispo County Demographic Profile

Population¹: 273,231

Median household income ²: \$57,628

Individuals below poverty level:

SLO County: 13.6%

Nationwide: 14.3%

Median rent: \$1,097

Median mortgage: \$2,190

Households spending more than 30% of income on housing:

Renters:

SLO County: 61.1%

Statewide: 54.5%

Nationwide: 50.1%

Homeowners with mortgage:

SLO County: 52.6%

Statewide: 51.6%

Nationwide: 36.9%

Racial and ethnic background:

White (not Hispanic): 72.6%

Hispanic/Latino: 19.6%

Asian: 3.3%

Other/Two or more races: 2.6%

Black or African American: 2.1%

American Indian/Alaska Native: 1.1%

Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander: .1%

¹ California Department of Finance January 2010 estimates

² All other statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2005-2009 5-Year Estimates

Methodology

The 2011 San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Homeless Enumeration, like the 2005 and 2009 enumerations, was conducted following the guidelines of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) *point in time snapshot count*³. However, stakeholders felt it was also important to capture the homeless population that may not fit HUD's strict definition of homelessness. Therefore, this report reflects the broader definition of homelessness used but the Point in Time (PIT) count reported to HUD is a subset of this data because it follows HUD's strict definition. The collection of data on the homeless population is limited to a 24-hour period in order to get an accurate as possible portrait of those individuals who do not have a permanent residence. The purpose of the *snapshot* count is to understand the extent and nature of homelessness, which allows our community to plan for needed programs and services, and to provide data for required reporting to HUD. Volunteers that counted unsheltered homeless could only count by sight, which is incredibly difficult since many homeless community members do not fit the homeless stereotype.

The 2011 San Luis Obispo Homeless Enumeration began at 7 pm on January 25 and ended at 1 pm on January 26. Enumeration volunteers, under the direction of their regional team captains, counted homeless individuals and families at homeless shelters, transitional housing, hospitals, parks, day centers and other locations mapped by homeless service providers and homeless volunteers who were familiar with popular camp locations. Shelters and hospitals were counted the evening before. The school districts reported homeless children attending school. Enumeration teams covered assigned geographic areas and locations starting at seven in the morning to avoid double counting those individuals who were less likely to be stationary throughout the day. Standardized count forms were used by each enumeration team member.

Like the previous two enumerations, the 2011 enumeration included a 26 question survey in order to collect service specific information about homeless community members. The survey also contained questions aimed at assessing the overall physical and mental health status of the respondents. The survey was administered in person by enumeration volunteers, and the target was to survey every 5th adult homeless individual counted, if the individual chose to participate (if an individual chose not to be surveyed, the 6th person was asked, and so on).

The survey data serves two functions: to meet biennial reporting obligations to HUD in order to secure federal funding for homeless programs in San Luis Obispo County, and also to furnish the County of San Luis Obispo and local homeless service providers with statistics that can be used for their own analysis, reporting and funding purposes.

Due to the qualities of the *point in time snapshot count*, each enumeration may paint a different picture of the homeless community in San Luis Obispo County, and strict comparisons in data that span across the three reports ought to be made with caution.

³ <http://portal.hud.gov>
Continuum of Care

Report Summary

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers a person **homeless** when he/she resides in places not meant for human habitation (i.e. cars and parks), an emergency shelter, or transitional housing. Additionally, HUD defines a **chronically homeless** household as an unaccompanied individual or a family with at least one adult member having 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.

Locally, the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and stakeholders have also defined homelessness by episodic and transitional homelessness. **Episodic homelessness** is characterized by bouts of homelessness, cycling between supportive and permanent housing as well as shelter stays. **Transitional homelessness** is characterized by homelessness due to a catastrophic event such as the loss of one's family or sudden loss of employment.

These definitions allow us to examine homelessness in a comprehensive way that defines homeless populations beyond single stereotypes. The 2009 enumeration reported that San Luis Obispo's homeless population included a "range of subtypes of homelessness". The survey data findings in this report reflect a similarly diverse profile.

Based on the data released by the local school districts, the county has an alarmingly high population of homeless children, particularly in the North County region, who attend school despite the precarious nature of their living situations. Based on the survey results, some homeless community members manage to work seasonally, part-time or full time. Many suffer from mental and/or physical disabilities. Additionally, many homeless use the emergency room for medical treatment. Over half of those interviewed hold a high school diploma (or GED) or less. Most of the surveyed population reported living in the county for more than five years, many grew up here. One third of the entire counted homeless population are women, many are mothers. The relative percent of the surveyed Native American homeless population is almost eight times the percentage that is reported to reside in the county by the Census, making them a vastly overrepresented minority within the homeless population. Blacks/African Americans are doubly overrepresented. Asians are underrepresented by almost one-third. Over half of those surveyed have been homeless more than one time.

When reviewing this report and using its data, please keep in mind the 'photographic' quality of its findings. Being a *point in time snapshot count*, the data is indicative only of the small sample of people who granted interviews for the survey, and is by no means an absolute portrait or exact count of SLO County's homeless community members. As stated in the 2009 report, the homeless are, "a changeable and mobile population, and no single report or project can describe them exhaustively." That said, this report ought to be regarded as a portrait of a diverse local minority population and used to strengthen our collective resolve to more thoroughly and efficiently address service and policy approaches to continue to work toward the goal of ending homelessness in San Luis Obispo County.

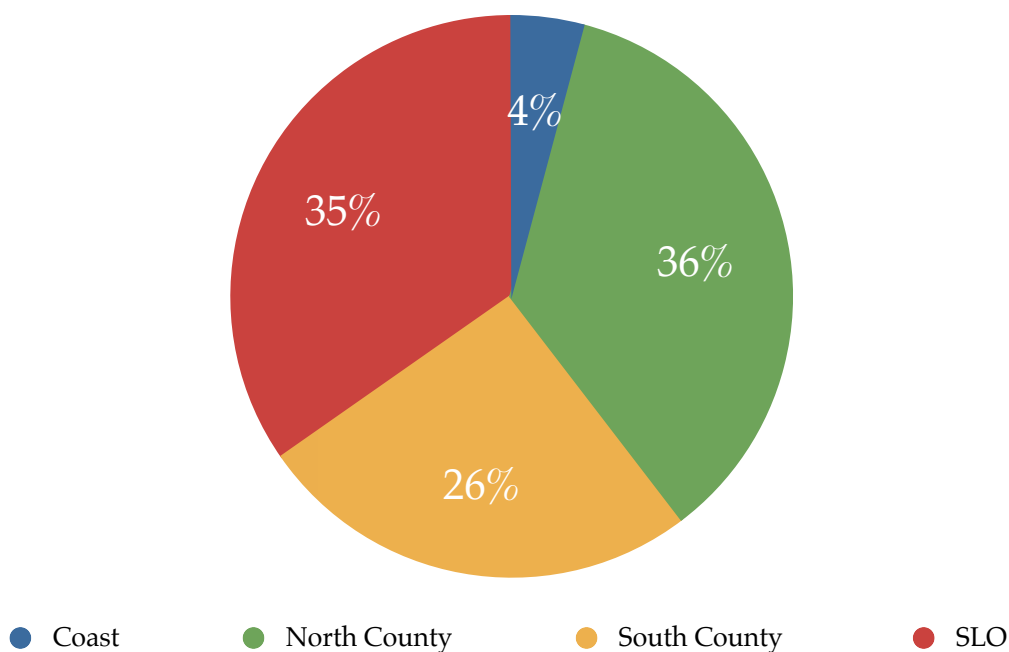
Count Totals

Enumeration teams used a standardized count form to record homeless individuals at assigned geographic areas and locations guided by local homeless services providers and homeless volunteers. These numbers reflect the total number of individuals reported by enumerators on the evening of January 25th (at shelters and hospitals) and the morning of the 26th (at all other locations including those counted by San Luis Obispo County school districts and Head Start programs). The enumeration form allowed for family units to be demarcated, but due to inconsistencies in the way this data was reported, the Count figures represent individuals only.

The sum total of those counted without permanent housing in San Luis Obispo County over the 24 hour period on January 26th and 27th is **3,774**. This number represents all individuals counted who slept outside in parks or the creek, etc., in automobiles, shelters or 'doubled up' with another family in someone's home the night of the enumeration.

This pie chart represents the counted homeless population by region within the county: Coast (Northwest of San Luis Obispo from Los Osos to Ragged Point), North County (True North of San Luis Obispo from Santa Margarita to San Miguel), San Luis Obispo and South County (Southwest of San Luis Obispo from Avila Beach to Nipomo).

Percent of 3,774 Counted Homeless By Region



Count Demographics by Age & Region

This data is comprised of enumeration count data as well as data from the San Luis Obispo County school districts and Head Start programs as reported by individual districts on the day of the enumeration⁴. Children are individuals under 18 years of age. Seniors are individuals over 65 years of age.

● children under 18 ● adults ● seniors

Population Breakdown by Age of the Counted Total 3,774 Homeless

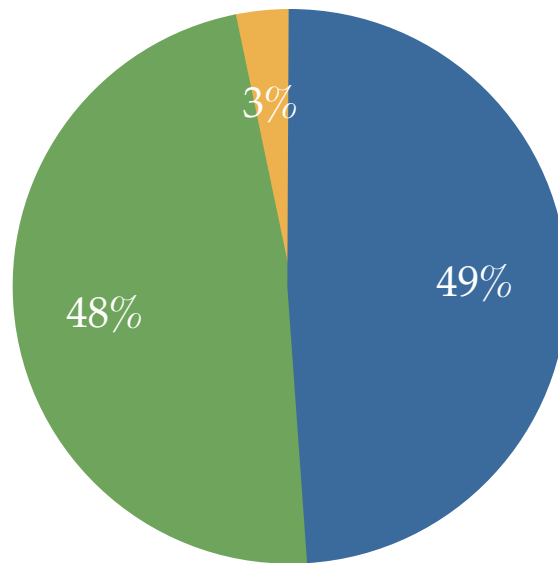


Table 1: Count demographics by age and region

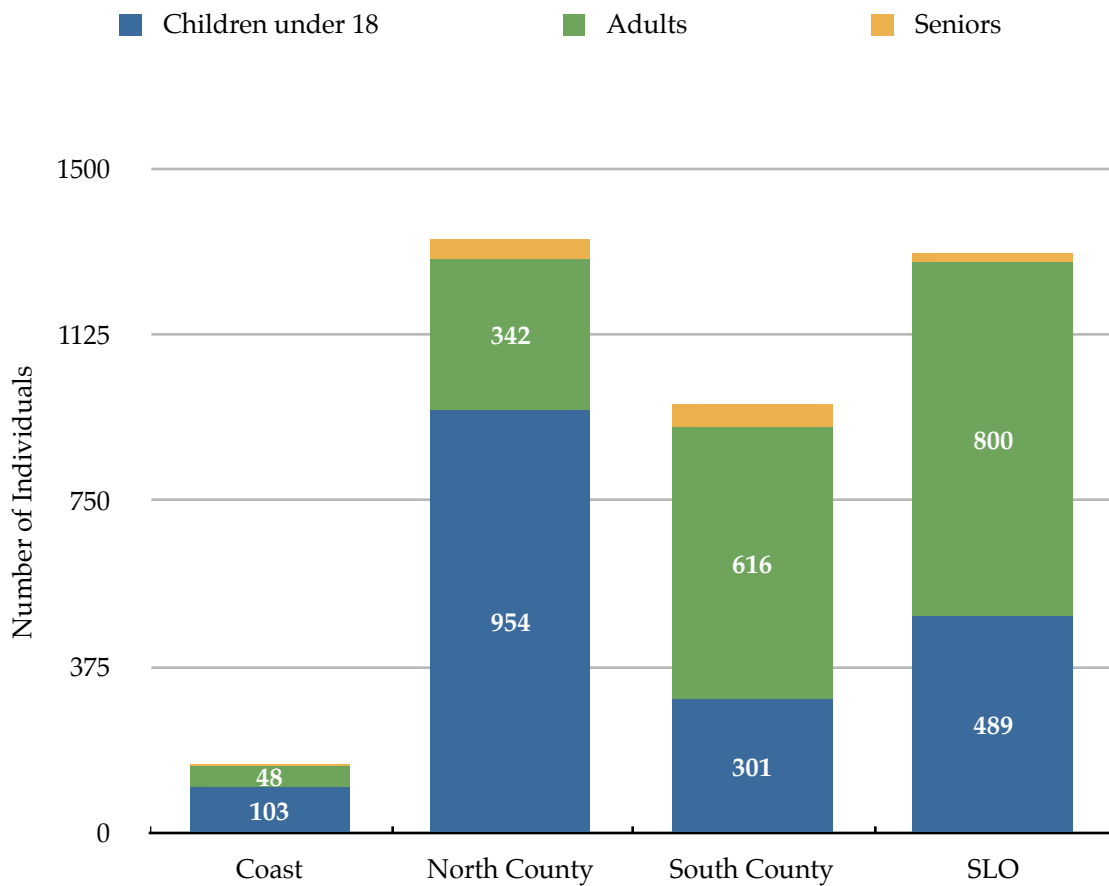
	CHILDREN	ADULTS	SENIORS	TOTAL
Coast	103	48	4	155
North County	954	342	45	1341
South County	301	616	52	969
San Luis Obispo	489	800	20	1309

⁴ School districts define homeless students broadly in accordance with McKinney Vento to include children who are sharing housing due to housing loss or economic hardship.

Age & Region Continued

The chart below shows the breakdown of homeless individuals by age and region to illustrate the differences within the overall counted population. As illustrated below, while children make up 49% of San Luis Obispo County’s total counted homeless population, this percentage is not equally distributed throughout the regions. The highest ratios of children to adults ranges from 2.5:1 in North County and 2:1 in the Coastal region to 1:1.7 in the city of San Luis Obispo. These ratios mean that in the coastal region, 66% of the counted homeless population are children. In North County, 71% of their counted homeless population are children and South County, 31% children.

These figures on homeless children are most valid in their simple numerical value form. Extrapolating percentages of homeless children as they apply to entire populations ought to be done with caution. It is far easier to get accurate counts of school children because the school districts are mandated by the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to track homeless students. It is far more difficult to count adult counterparts with extreme confidence.



Survey Data Overview

The methodological goal of administering the surveys was to conduct a face to face interview with every fifth adult or senior counted by an enumerator. On the day of the enumeration, of the 1,927 adults and seniors counted, 283 of them were surveyed. Of those surveys, 279 were viable, which is roughly one in every seven individuals, the same ratio as the 2009 enumeration. Enumerators were encouraged to maintain a strict adherence to the one in five goal when able, but were also cautioned to move to the sixth or seventh individual if a successful survey outcome appeared to be unlikely.

Each team from the four regions supplied enough completed surveys to constitute a useful sample size, ranging from South County enumerators who successfully surveyed one out of every six adults and seniors counted, to the Coast enumerators who surveyed one out of every nine adults and seniors counted. Decimals were rounded to the nearest whole integer to accommodate the reality of counting individuals.

Survey data will be presented in this report as countywide totals to aid in normalizing the differing ranges of the ratio of those counted to surveyed per region, and due to varying sample sizes in each region.

Each demographic heading will be followed by a question in italics and a number in parenthesis. This refers to the question on the survey in its exact wording to more clearly illustrate the quality of responses.

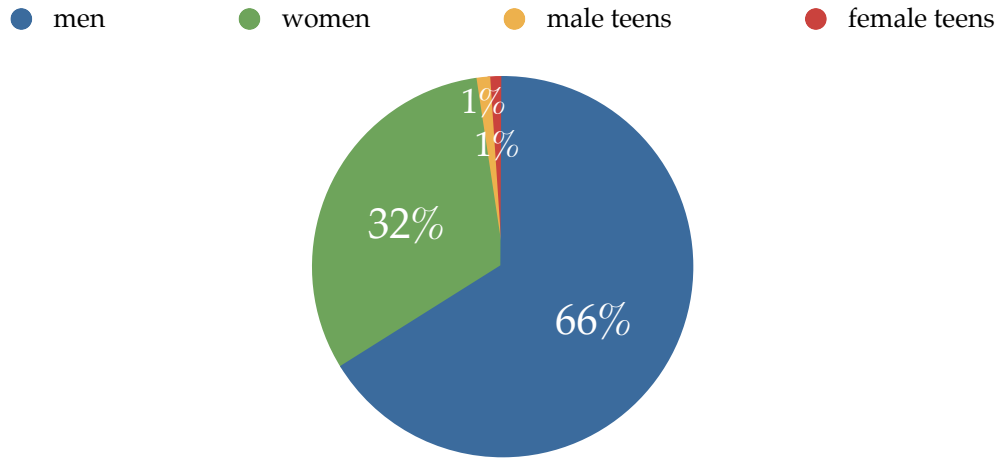
Table 2: Survey ratio and number of completed surveys by region

REGION	NUMBER OF ADULTS & SENIORS	NUMBER OF COMPLETED SURVEYS	RATIO SURVEYED:COUNTED
Coast	52	6	1:9
North County	387	52	1:7
South County	668	107	1:6
SLO City	820	114	1:7

Age, Gender & Ethnicity

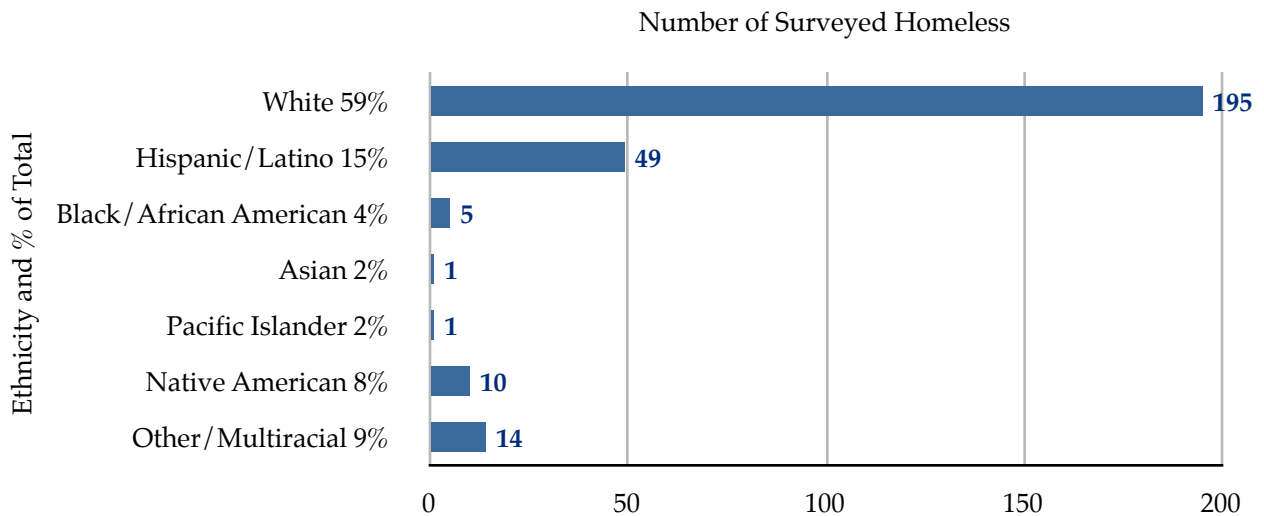
Ethnicity/Race (check all that apply) (4)

The basic demographic data captured in the survey reveal that the average homeless person in the county is 42, which is three years younger than what the data captured in 2009. Women comprise 32%, men 66% and male and female teens each 1% of total homeless individuals surveyed. Seniors are categorized with the adults for this section.



The surveyed population was: 59% White, 15% Hispanic/Latino, 9% other, 8% Native American, 5% Black/African American and 2% Asian and Pacific Islander. Note: According to the Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey, SLO County's ethnic population is 3.3% Asian and 1.1% Native American.

Table 3: Number & percent ethnicity of total surveyed homeless⁵



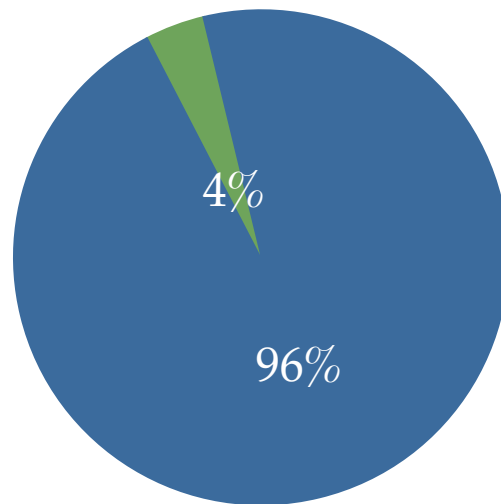
⁵ Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth in this report when possible.

Language & Education

Is English your primary language? If not, what is your first language? (5-6)

Of the surveyed homeless population, **11** responded that English was not their *primary* language. Additionally, **14** persons responded that **Spanish** was their *first language*.

● English Primary Language ● English Not Primary Language



Note: These results do not imply that the 4% of surveyed homeless that consider another language as their primary language do not speak English also.

What is the highest level of education you have completed? (19)

The results from the survey reveal that the largest proportion of those surveyed, **32%**, held a high school diploma or equivalent. Note: **65%** of all respondents were at least high school graduates with **33%** of all respondents having attended college or vocational training at some point in time. Of those 33%, **9%** went on to graduate from college (**8%**) or graduate school (**1%**).

Table 4: Number and percentage of total reported responses per educational level

0-8TH GRADE	9-12TH GRADE	HIGH SCHOOL GRAD / GED	SOME COLLEGE / VOCATIONAL TRAINING	2-4 YR. COLLEGE GRAD	MASTER'S DEGREE / HIGHER	NO RESPONSE
7	70	88	68	23	6	19
3%	25%	32%	24%	8%	1%	7%

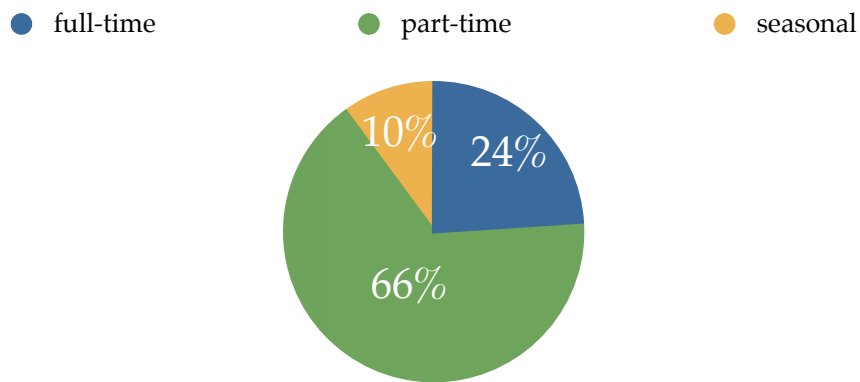
Employment

Do you have a paid job? (15)

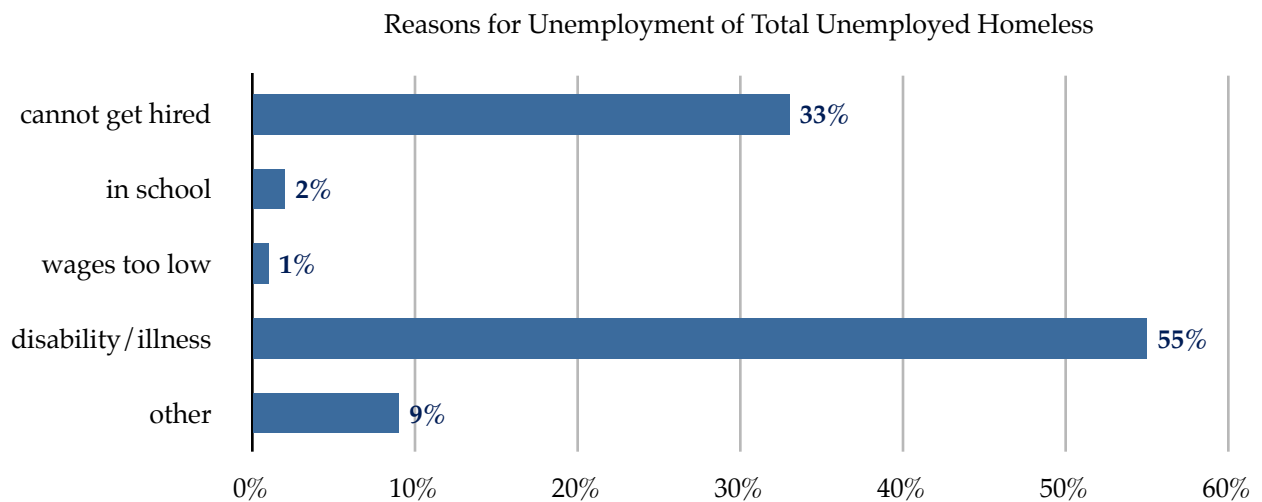
If yes, it is full-time, part-time or seasonal? (15a)

If no, what is the reason you are not working? (15b)

Of the 270 homeless individuals who answered this question, 46 reported having full-time (12), part-time (33) or seasonal (5) employment creating an overall 17% worker population amongst those surveyed. This pie chart reflects employment type among all reported workers.



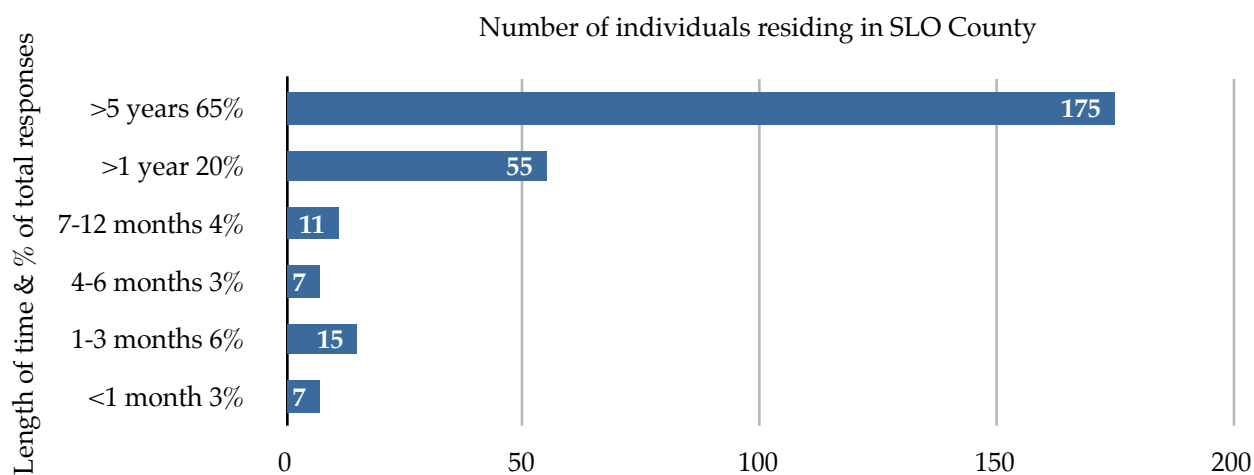
The most common reason for unemployment among the homeless individuals surveyed was *disability/illness* (120 respondents), followed by *cannot get hired* (72 respondents). Of the 19 respondents that replied *other*, two respondents specified that they were felons, one caretaker had no childcare options and two suffered from drug addiction.



Residency

How long have you lived in San Luis Obispo county? (9)

Of the 270 responses to the question of length of time spent living in SLO County, **65%** of individuals surveyed reported that they had lived in the county for *more than five years*, **20%** have lived in SLO County for *more than a year* but less than 5 years, and **16%** have lived in the county for less than one year. These findings, when loosely compared with the 2009 enumeration findings (in 2009 56% lived in SLO County for more than 5 years), illustrate the significant and growing percentage of SLO County’s homeless individuals that are long time residents.



Why do you live in San Luis Obispo County? (10)

According to those surveyed, being *from the area* and *having friends and family here* are the two predominant reasons for living in San Luis Obispo County. Again, this points to a potentially large portion of homeless individuals who are long time residents. Of the 58 respondents who chose *other*, 19 people cited *the weather/love of area* and 6 cited *parole/legal issues* as reasons for residency within the county.

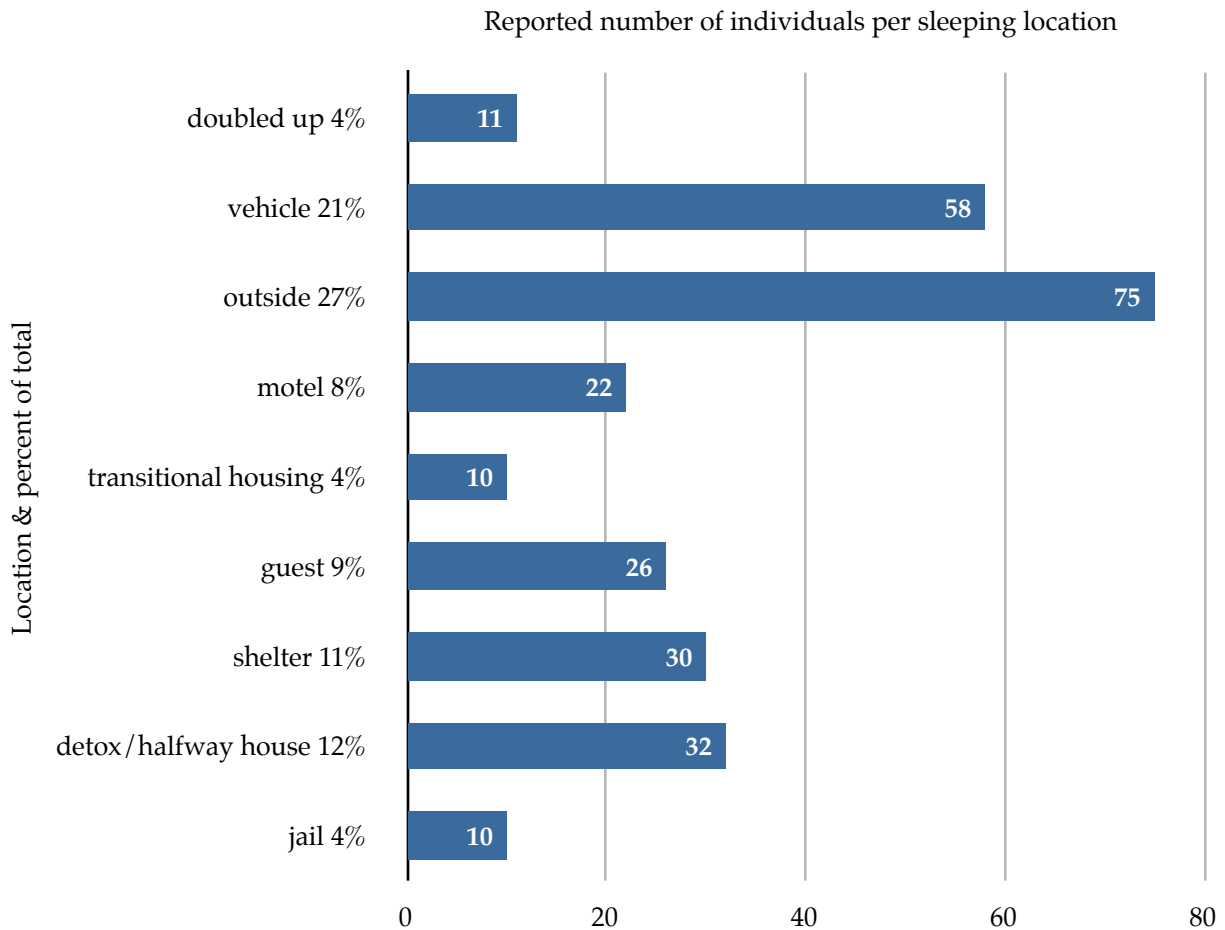
Table 5: Reasons for living in SLO County by number and percentage of responses

FROM AREA	FAMILY / FRIENDS HERE	JOB	ATTENDED SCHOOL HERE	OTHER
101	82	22	5	58
38%	31%	8%	2%	22%

Nature of Homelessness

Where did you sleep last night? (1a)

Of the 274 responses from homeless individuals pertaining to sleep location, **133** slept outside or in a vehicle. **Seventy-two** surveyed homeless people slept in a shelter, transitional housing or a detox/halfway house. **Thirty-seven** spent the night as a guest with family and friends or doubled up with more than one family. **Twenty-two** people slept in a motel, three of which used a voucher.⁶ **Ten** spent the night in jail.



⁶ Motel vouchers provided by Transitional Food and Shelter, Inc. <http://www.nowheretogo.com>

How long has it been since you've had your own apartment/house to live in? (7)

Of the 267 responses to the question regarding the duration of their most recent incidence of homelessness, **70%** reported having been homeless for more than a year, **19%** have been homeless for more than three months, but less than a year, and **11%** of respondents have been homeless less than three months.

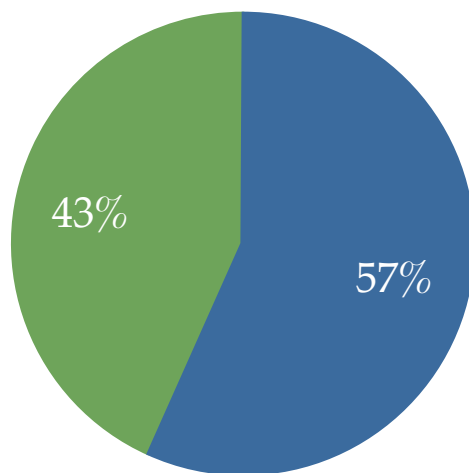
Table 6: Duration of most recent stint of homelessness by number and percentage

<1 WEEK	1-4 WEEKS	1-3 MONTHS	4-12 MONTHS	>1 YEAR
2	6	21	50	188
1%	2%	8%	19%	70%

Is this the first time you've ever been homeless? (8)

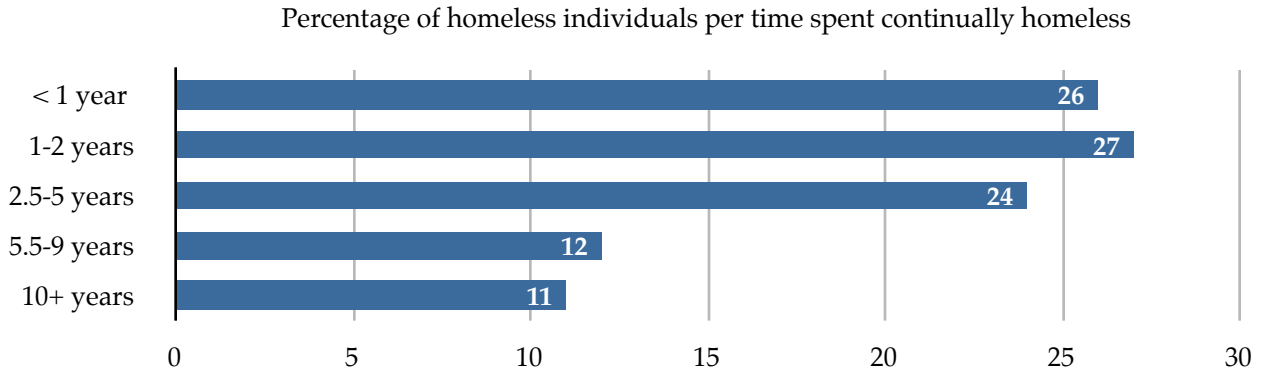
The purpose of these series of questions (8, 8a & 8b) on duration of homelessness is to more clearly reveal how many people in SLO County experience **chronic & episodic homelessness**. HUD defines one as **chronically homeless** if one suffers from a *disabling condition* while experiencing four or more bouts of homelessness within three years or is continually homeless for a year or more. Of the total respondents to this survey question, **35%** were considered chronically homeless. **Episodic homelessness** refers to numerous bouts of homelessness over time.

● 151 people responded "No" ● 115 people responded "Yes"



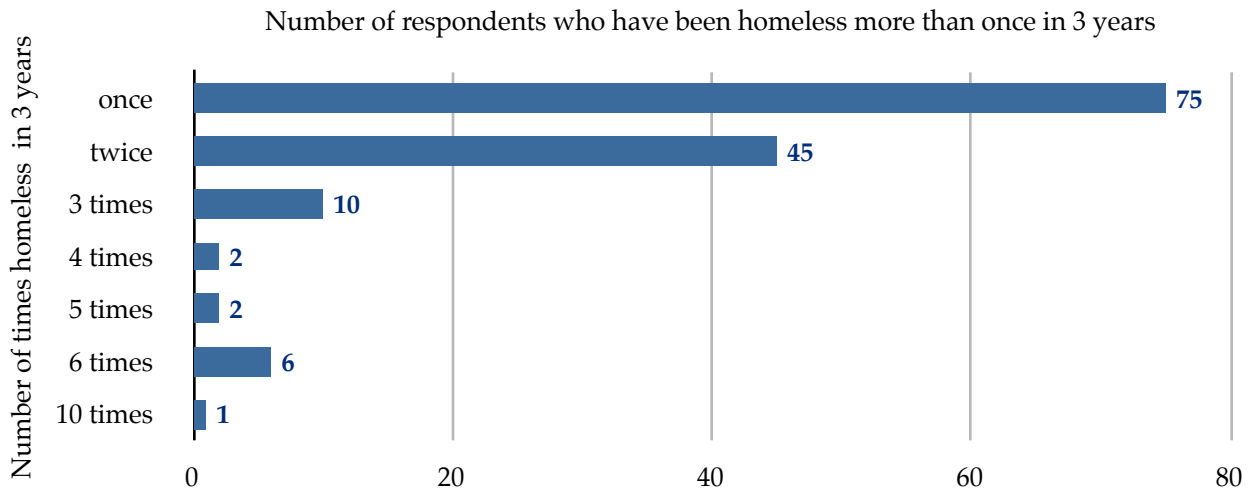
If yes [first time homeless], how long have you been continually homeless? (8a)

Of the respondents who were experiencing homelessness for the first time⁷, **26%** had been homeless for less than one year, **51%** had experienced homelessness for more than a year but less than five years and **23%** of surveyed individuals reported being homeless for more than five and a half years.



If no, how many times have you been homeless in the last three years? (8b)

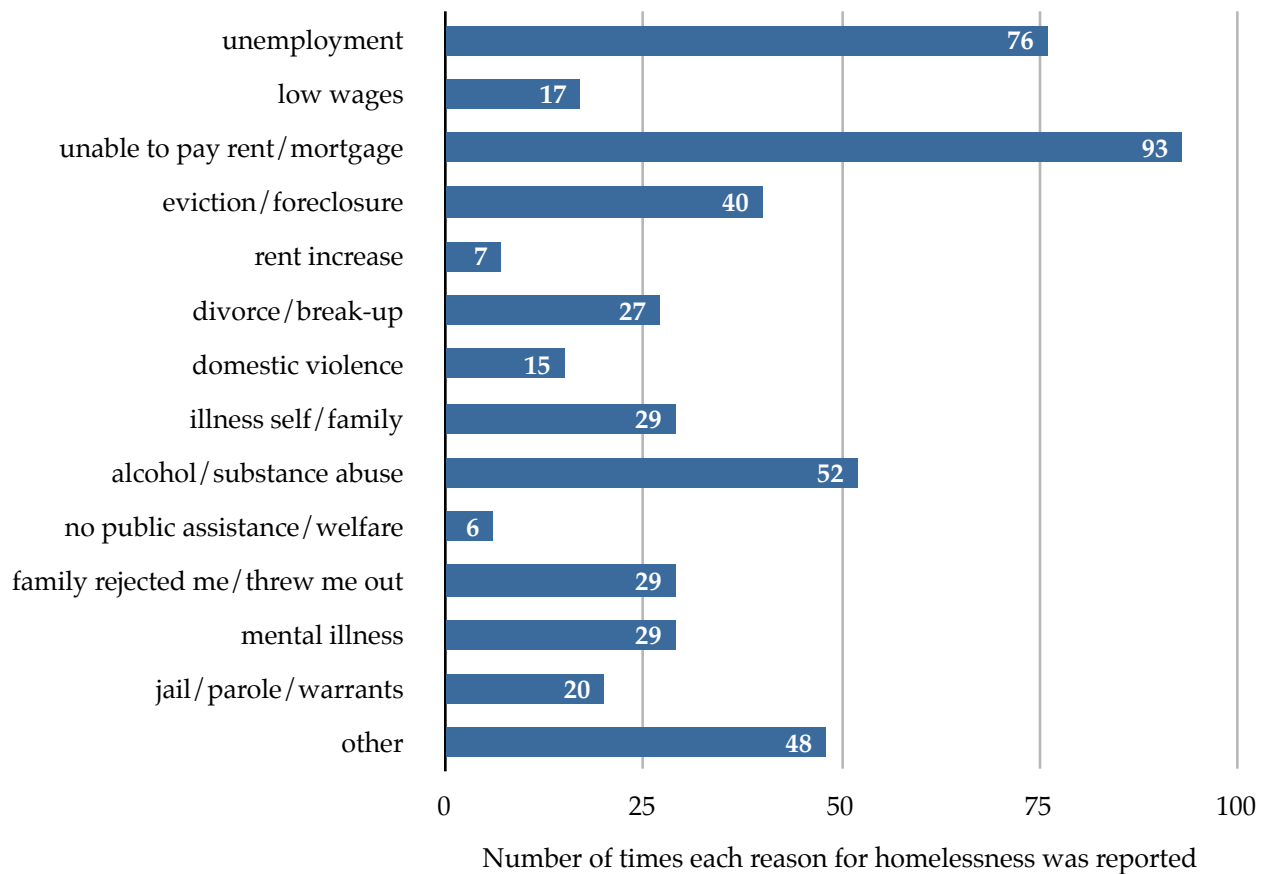
Of the respondents who reported that this was *not* the first time they had ever been homeless, 75 (53%) reported⁸ they had been homeless one other time within the last three years. **Forty-five (32%)** individuals reported they had been homeless twice in the last three years, **ten (7%)** reported three times, **two (1%)** people reported four and five times, **six (4%)** reported six times and **one** person reported being homeless ten times in three years (1%). This graph illustrates how many people surveyed experienced **episodic homelessness** in the last three years, and to what degree:



⁷ 15 surveys did not contain the relevant information needed to be counted in the analysis of this question.

⁸ 10 surveys did not contain the relevant information needed to be counted in the analysis of this question.

What was the reason you had to leave your last permanent place? ⁹ (11)



Unable to pay rent/mortgage was by far the most common reason for homelessness. Of course, there are many ways one arrives at the point where one can not pay their rent/mortgage, and many respondents listed multiple reasons that contributed to their current situation.

Of the written in responses under the *other* category, nearly half were reasons concerning legal issues including jail, restraining orders and warrants. Other reasons for homelessness included: death of family, fire, medical bills, lost custody of children and simply just wanting to “take off”.

⁹ The surveyor was instructed to *check all that apply* to illustrate the many reasons one becomes homeless.

Families

Are you single, part of a couple, or family? (12)

If a family unit, how many children accompany you and what are their ages? (13)

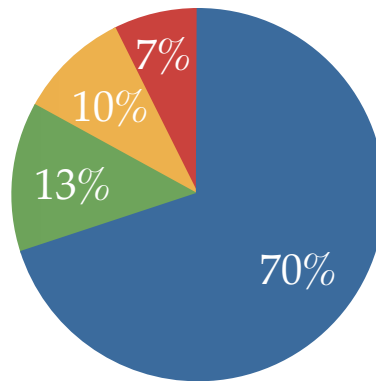
Are you using any childcare services? (14a)

If not, why not? (14b)

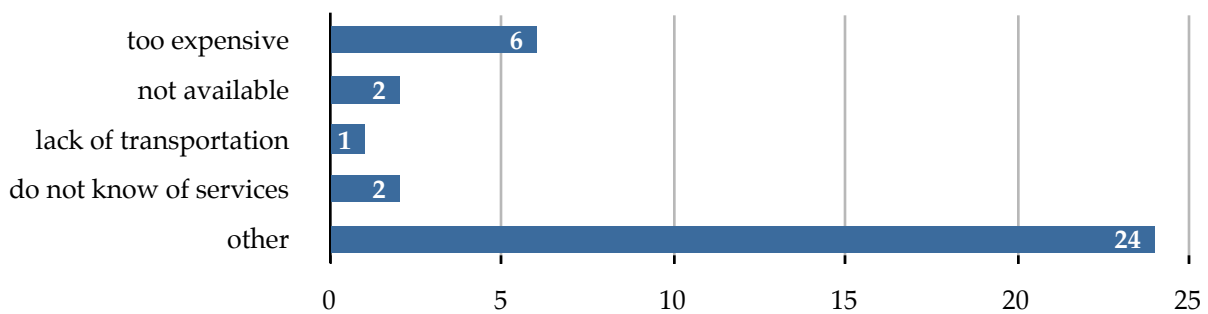
The series of questions, 12-14, were designed to determine the number of surveyed individuals who were single, in a couple or as an entire family unit with children in their care. If the family did include children, question 13 aimed to determine their numbers and ages and question 14 addressed whether or not childcare was used. Like the 2009 report, the rate of those responding “yes” to the question of childcare was very low, and most people with children who were surveyed declined to describe why no childcare was used.

● single=189 ● couple=35 ● single parent family=26 ● two parent family=20

Percent of singles, couples and families. Legend reflects number of each.



The survey results indicate that there were **41 children under the age of four** and **59 children age 5-17** who were part of a homeless family. Of these **100 children**, eleven are in childcare. It should be noted that the families associated with the school district count were not part of the survey pool. The reasons why childcare was *not* used included:



Veterans

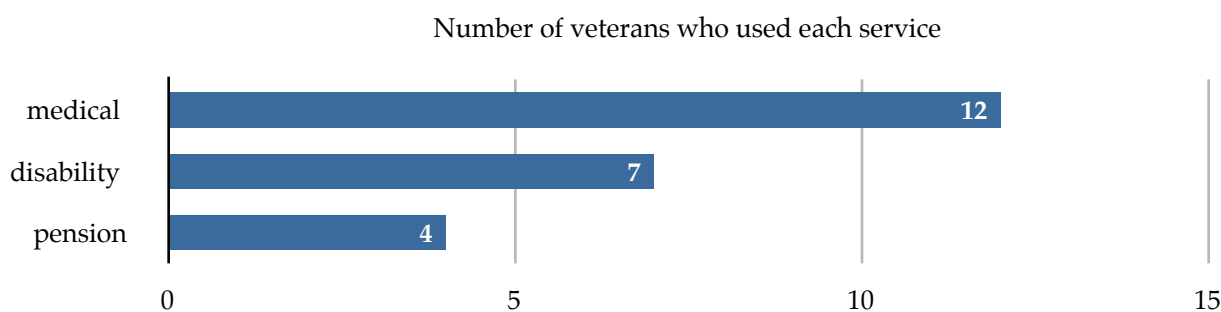
Have you ever served in the armed forces? (16)

Are you currently receiving veterans' services? (17a)

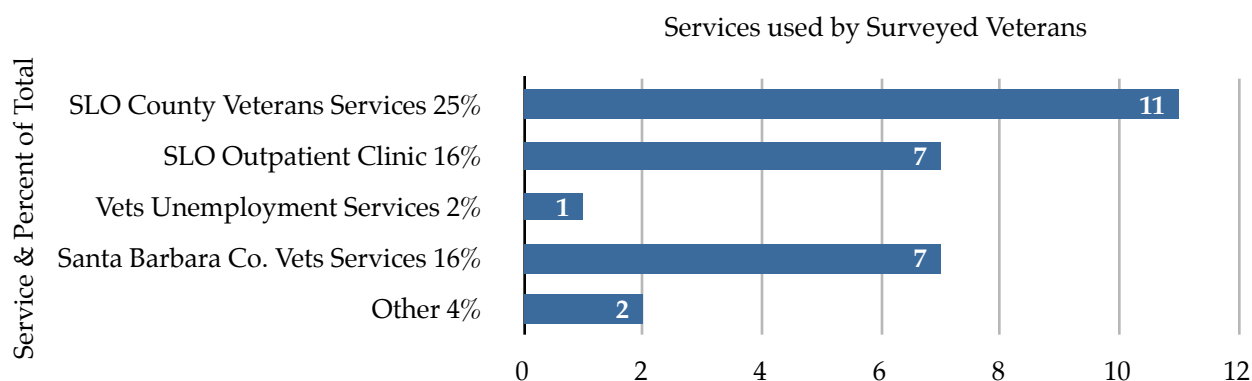
Veterans represent **16%** of the total surveyed homeless population. Of the **44 homeless veterans** surveyed throughout the county, eighteen, **41%**, reported using veterans services. Note: Many veterans used multiple services. The 2009 Enumeration Report found that 13% of all interviewees were veterans, with 40% using veterans' services.

If yes, what type of service are you receiving? (17b)

Eighteen homeless veterans reported using services for question 17a, yet 23 reported using *specific* services for question 17b. This discrepancy may be due to confusion over what specifically qualified as 'veterans' services when the initial question was asked.



Where do you go for veterans services? (18)



Income

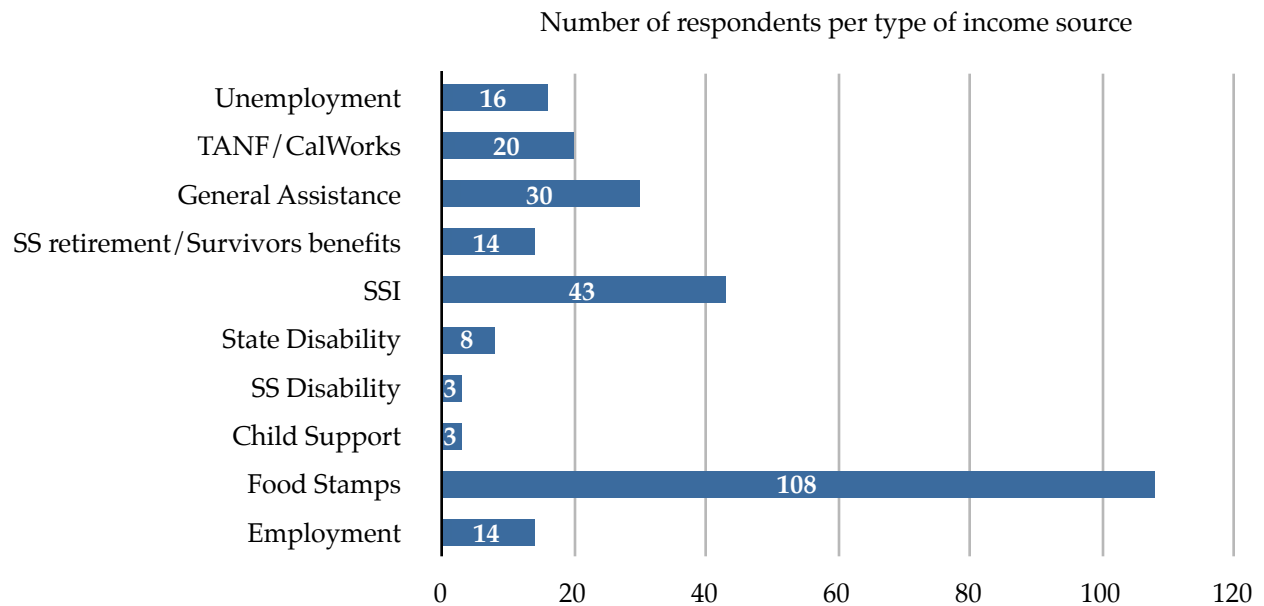
Are you receiving income from any of the following sources? (20a)

Each person surveyed was asked if he or she received income from a list of possible sources. Many individuals reported receiving income from more than one source. **Thirty-eight percent** of respondents identified Food Stamps as a, or their sole, source of income. Note: Food Stamp allotment for one qualifying person is \$200/month, for a two person household the benefit is \$367/month, and a four person household can receive \$668/month to purchase program mandated food items and seeds to grow food.¹⁰

Other sources of income included Social Security¹¹ Income (SSI) at **15%** of surveyed total and **11%** cited General Assistance as an income source. For survey question 20b, **67** people reported that they had a *pending application* for SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance.

Question 20c asks *If you are not receiving assistance from any of the above, why not?* **Twelve** people cited being denied benefits for various reasons, **nine** did not want assistance and **three** had criminal records. Other responses were: “No ID”, “Just want work” and “Can’t do paperwork.”

The *pension from employer* option has been omitted due to the lack of any positive responses and the *veterans benefits/disability* option has been omitted due to lack of reliable data.



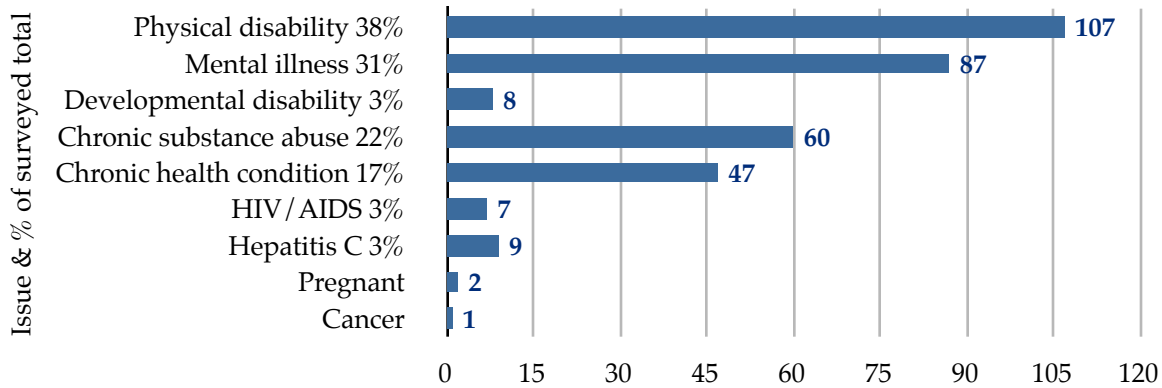
¹⁰ United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (SNAP)
http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/applicant_recipients/BEN.HTM

¹¹ On this page and throughout this report, SS refers to Social Security.

Health & Healthcare

Please indicate if you are experiencing any of the following [health issues]: (25)

Of the 279 viable surveys completed for this report, the most striking feature of the results is the amount of illness, disability and substance abuse experienced by the homeless population in San Luis Obispo County. Many respondents reported suffering from more than one ailment. The graph below indicates the number of survey responses per health issue:

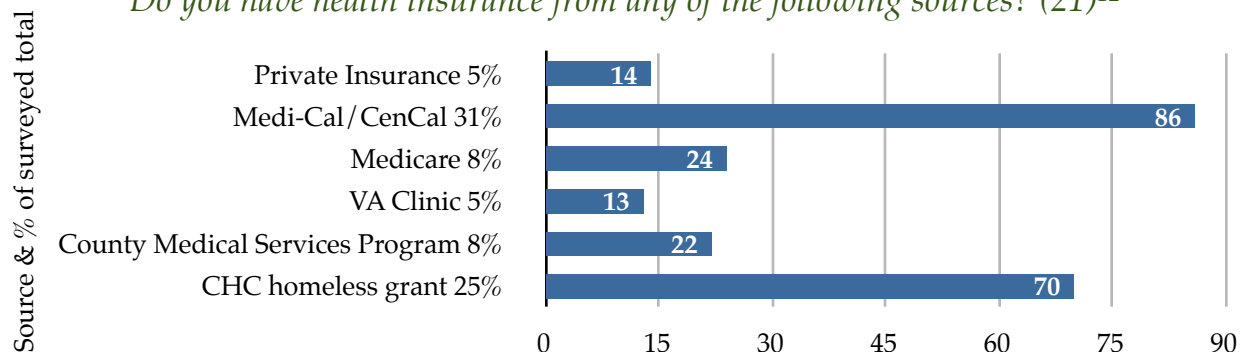


In the last year, have you used any of the following health services? (23)

Table 6: Number of respondents & percentage per health service used in the last year

ER	HEALTHCARE FOR HOMELESS (CHC)	PRIVATE DOCTOR	VA CLINIC	CAPSLO	CAL POLY COUNSELING
121	92	46	17	19	4
43%	32%	16%	6%	6%	1%

Do you have health insurance from any of the following sources? (21)¹²

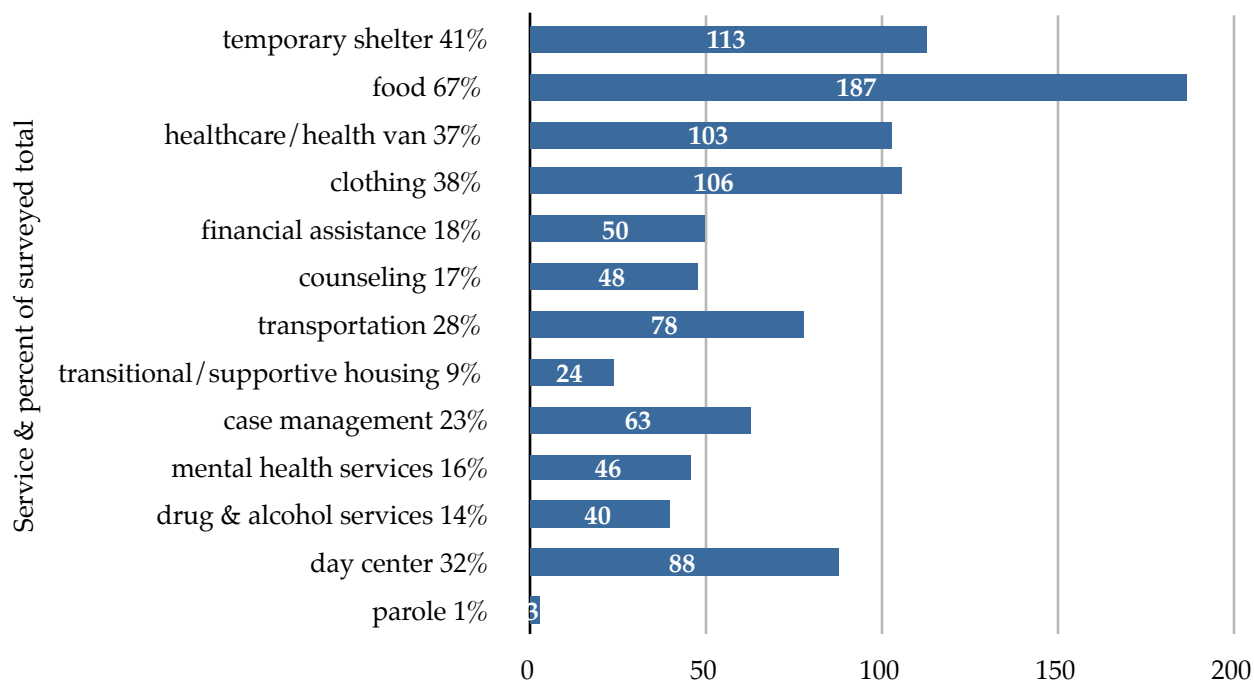


¹² Thirty-one respondents reported getting health insurance from more than one source. Most common combinations were 10 people reported MediCal/ CenCal and Medicare and 10 reported CMSP and Community Health Center Homeless grant.

Job Training and Other Services

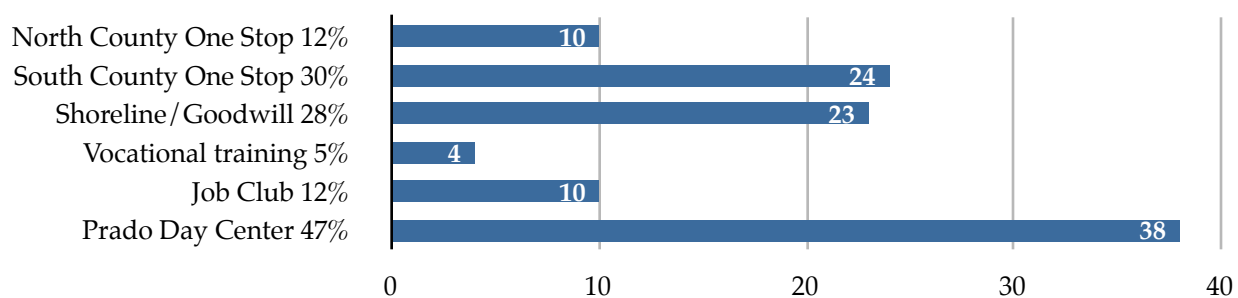
In the past year, which of the following services did you use? (22)

This graph illustrates the services used throughout the county by those individuals surveyed. The percentages are derived using the entire surveyed population (279) since many people used more than one service.¹³



In the last year, have you used any of the following job training services? (24)

Eighty-one individuals (29%) reported using one, or many different, job training services offered throughout the county. Each job service is followed by the percent of job training users (81) that used each service.



¹³ Job training services were omitted from the analysis based on incomplete data generated by this question.

Qualitative Data

What do you need to change your life? (26)

The purpose of this question was to be able to report on the needs of those surveyed in their own words outside of the framework of a multiple choice question. Asking this question was also a way to end a very personal, perhaps intrusive, interview process by respectfully offering the last word to the interviewee. Common themes ran throughout the responses and are categorized below followed by direct quotes from a survey that captures the predominant theme within each need category. Many people responded with more than one need.

Table 7: Number and type of responses to the question, *What do you need to change your life?*

CATEGORY	QUOTE	NUMBER
low income housing	"I long for a stable place to live. I don't want to be homeless forever." "I need opportunities for low-income housing."	74
employment	"I just want to find a job! Quick! In order to support my family!"	45
money	"I need steady income. This is my first time without a job."	26
support/help	"I need someone to believe in me." "I need friends." "I need to catch a break."	29
SSI	"I need SSI."	15
sobriety	"I want to stay clean and sober and keep my serenity."	12
legal aid	"I need a homeless court." "I need assistance with my court case."	8
law enforcement	"Cops should be nicer about petty offenses like camping or trespassing." "Don't prosecute the homeless for camping or loitering."	8
vehicle	"I need a car." (response from an unaccompanied teen)	7
shelters	"A Midnight Mission 24 hours a day!" "A bigger shelter."	5
medical care	"I need doctors to pay attention to me and give me more than 5 minutes of time."	5
school	"I need my GED to go to college and be self-sufficient." "Funding for school!"	5
comforts	"I need creature comforts." "A bathtub with hot water."	9

Appendix A: Count Form

Name of Volunteer: _____

Name of Location: _____

Age, Individual or Family Groups <small>(Use One Line Per Person & Circle any Family Groups)</small>	Sex	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	8
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	11
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	13
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	14
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Teen 13-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	16

Page Totals: _____ **Children 0-12** _____ **Adults** _____ **Teens 13-17** _____ **Seniors 65+**
 _____ **Families** _____ **M** _____ **F**

Appendix B: Survey Form

Say: Hello, I'm collecting information about the housing and health situation of San Luis Obispo County residents. Your responses will be kept completely confidential. Some of the questions deal with your physical and mental health status, employment history, and housing situation. Please tell me if you wish to skip any particular question. You may also choose to end the interview at any time. *Surveyor: For questions 1-21, it is not necessary to read the list of responses aloud, though you may ask the respondent to clarify.*

If the respondent indicates that they slept in their own home, proceed to ask question 1b. If they answer "no" to question 1b, it is not necessary to complete the interview. Thank them for their time and continue to the next respondent.

1a. Where did you sleep last night (choose one)?

- 1. in own home (rented/owned) (answer 1b and continue)
- 2. in a car, camper, or other vehicle
- 3. outside (tent, bush, etc)
- 4. in a motel – If yes, did you have a motel voucher?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 5. in housing provided by a transitional program
- 6. as a guest with family or friends
- 7. in a shelter
- 8. in a detox or halfway house

b. Does more than one family live in your home?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

2. Gender (ask only if necessary)

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

3a. Age (write in): _____

b. If 17 years old or younger, are you accompanied by an adult?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

4. Ethnicity/Race (check all that apply)

- 1. White
- 2. Black/African-American
- 3. Asian
- 4. Hispanic/Latino
- 5. Pacific Islander
- 6. American Indian/Alaskan native
- 7. Other _____

5. Is English your primary language?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

6. If not, what is your first language?

- 1. Spanish
- 2. Native American/Mexican language (Oaxacan, etc)
- 3. Other _____

7. How long has it been since you've had your own apartment/house to live in (choose one)?

- 1. 1 week or less
- 2. More than a week, but less than a month
- 3. 1-3 months
- 4. more than 3 months, but less than a year
- 5. 1 year or longer

8. Is this the first time you've ever been homeless?

- 1. Yes (answer 8a and continue)
- 2. No (answer 8b and continue)

a. If yes, how long have you been continuously homeless? _____

b. If no, how many times have you been homeless in the last 3 years? _____

9. How long have you lived in San Luis Obispo County?

- 1. less than one month
- 2. 1-3 months
- 3. 4-6 months
- 4. 7-12 months
- 5. more than one year
- 6. more than five years

10. Why do you live in San Luis Obispo County?

- 1. originally from (grew up in) this area
- 2. have family or friends here
- 3. job opportunities
- 4. attended school here
- 5. other (please specify) _____

11. What was the reason you had to leave your last permanent place?

Surveyor: check all that apply.

- 1. unemployment
- 2. low wages
- 3. unable to pay rent/mortgage
- 4. eviction/foreclosure
- 5. rent increase
- 6. divorce/breakup
- 7. domestic violence
- 8. illness self/family
- 9. alcohol/substance abuse
- 10. public assistance/welfare not available
- 11. family rejected me/threw me out
- 12. mental illness
- 13. other (please specify) _____

12. Are you single, part of a couple, or family?

- 1. Single (skip to 15)
- 2. Couple (skip to 15)
- 3. Family (Single Parent Family with Children)
- 4. Family (Two Parent Family with Children)
- 5. Under 18 and accompanied by siblings

13. If a family unit, how many children accompany you and what are their ages?

- 1. Age 0 - 4 _____
- 2. Age 5 - 17 _____

14a. Are you using any child care services?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

b. If no, why not?

- 1. Too expensive
- 2. Not available
- 3. No information available/do not know of services
- 4. Too hard to access/lack of transportation
- 5. Other

15. Do you have a paid job?

- 1. Yes (answer 15a and continue)
- 2. No (answer 15b and continue)

a. If yes, is it

- 1. full-time
- 2. part-time
- 3. seasonal

b. If no, what is the reason you're not working?

- 1. cannot get hired
- 2. in school
- 3. wages too low
- 4. disability/illness
- 5. lack of childcare
- 6. other (please specify) _____

16. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No (skip to 19)

17a. Are you currently receiving veterans' services?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No (skip to 19)

b. If yes, what type of service are you receiving? (check all that apply)

- 1. medical
- 2. disability
- 3. pension

18. Where do you go for veterans' services?

- 1. SLO County Veterans' Services
- 2. SLO Outpatient Clinic
- 3. Vets' Unemployment Services
- 4. Santa Barbara County Vets' Services (Santa Maria)
- 5. Other _____

19. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 1. 0 – 8th grade
- 2. 9th – 12th grade (non-graduate)
- 3. High school graduate/GED
- 4. some college/vocational training
- 5. 2 or 4 year college graduate
- 6. Master's Degree or higher

Surveyor: For questions 20-24, read the list aloud.

20a. Are you receiving income from any of the following sources?

- 1. Unemployment
- 2. TANF/CalWorks
- 3. General Assistance
- 4. Social Security retirement /Survivors Benefits
- 5. SSI
- 6. State Disability
- 7. Social Security Disability
- 8. Child Support
- 9. Pension from employer
- 10. Food Stamps
- 11. Employment
- 12. Veteran's benefits/disability

b. Do you have a pending application for SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

c. If you are not receiving assistance from any of the above, why not? _____

21. Do you have health insurance from any of the following sources?

- 1. Private insurer
- 2. MediCal /CenCal
- 3. Medicare
- 4. VA
- 5. CMSP
- 6. CHC Homeless grant

22. In the past year, which of the following services did you use?

- 1. temporary shelter (bed)
- 2. food (shelter meals, food pantry, etc)
- 3. health care/ mobile health van
- 4. clothing
- 5. financial assistance
- 6. job training
- 7. counseling
- 8. transportation (bus passes, shelter van, ride from agency)
- 9. transitional or supportive housing
- 10. case management
- 11. mental health services
- 12. drug and alcohol services
- 13. day center (mail, phone, laundry, showers)
- 14. other (please specify) _____

23. In the last year, have you used any of the following health services?

- 1. ER
- 2. Health Care for the Homeless Program
- 3. Private doctor
- 4. VA clinic
- 5. CAPSLO health services
- 6. Cal Poly counseling services

24. In the last year, have you used any of the following job training services?

- 1. North County One Stop
- 2. South County One Stop
- 3. Shoreline/Goodwill
- 4. Vocational training
- 5. Job Club
- 6. Prado Day Center

Say: The following question has to do with your physical and mental health status. If you're uncomfortable discussing your health, you can fill this page out yourself.
If respondent chooses to fill out the questions themselves, ask them to fold the page in half and return it to you.

25. Please indicate if you are experiencing any of the following:

- 1. Physical disability
- 2. Mental illness
- 3. Developmental disability
- 4. Chronic substance abuse
- 5. Chronic health condition
- 6. HIV/Aids
- 7. Other _____

OPTIONAL:

The purpose of this question is to get information from the interviewee in his/her own words about what he/she views as his/her most pressing personal need area. It is up to the discretion of the individual enumerator whether or not this question is asked. The responses are used for qualitative and informational purposes only.

26. What do you need to change your life?

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