

# Monterey County

# Homeless Census & Survey

Final Report

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Prepared for:

United Way of Monterey County

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## Executive Summary

This purpose of this research project is to conduct a systematic and accurate count of the homeless population, and to gather some individual-level information on the characteristics of the homeless population in order to estimate chronic homelessness in Monterey County. This Homeless Census constitutes the third such research effort in Monterey County in the last six years, but it is the first to be conducted under the new guidelines instituted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Beginning in 2004, all communities submitting Continuum of Care funding applications to HUD are required to conduct a count of the homeless population every two years. In addition to requiring a biennial census, the new HUD guidelines are also aimed at standardizing the count across communities nationwide for these counts.

The methodology employed in this study builds upon the earlier successful research efforts while adhering to the new requirements imposed by HUD. The January 27, 2005 Homeless Census in Monterey County is a point-in-time count of the homeless population based upon the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness. As was the case in 2002, the street count of the homeless population in 2005 was observation-based and non-intrusive by design, and covered every US. Census tract in Monterey County. The shelter count of homeless was based upon occupancy at shelter locations on the night of January 26 - morning of January 27, 2005. The shelter count included all emergency shelters, motel/hotel voucher programs, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing locations in the county. The data collection forms used for the street and shelter counts gathered information on the number of homeless persons, and more detailed aggregate information on gender, age (adult/youth), and homeless individuals versus homeless families. In addition, a survey was conducted at homeless shelter locations to collect individual level data on the characteristics of the sheltered homeless population in order to estimate the prevalence of chronic homelessness.

Overall, there were 1,570 homeless persons observed on the street, in emergency shelters, and transitional housing locations during the point-in-time census on January 27, 2005. This figure does not include the 97 persons identified from the shelter count in permanent supportive housing units. The street homeless comprised 68% of the homeless population, while the

sheltered homeless accounted for 32% of the homeless population. There were 1,264 homeless individuals (80%), and 306 persons in 94 families (20%). Two-thirds of the homeless population were adult men, 19% were adult women, 11% were children and youth, and 3% were of unknown age or gender. Women (33%) and children (56%) accounted for most of the people in homeless families. By region, 50% of all homeless persons were in the Salinas Area, and 45% were in the Monterey Peninsula area. The rural areas of the county, North County (3%) and South County (2%) accounted for the remaining 5%.

The number of homeless persons counted during the Homeless Census represents the minimum number at this point-in-time. The actual number of homeless is undoubtedly higher, not only due to the conservative methodology employed in the count, but also because of the undercount inherent in the enumeration of the street homeless. Previous studies on homelessness in Monterey County have suggested, and used, a “capture rate” of 69% for the street homeless. If we were to adjust the observed count of street homeless (1,067) by this factor, it would suggest that there were an estimated 479 unobserved homeless persons, or a total of 1,546 homeless persons on the street during the January 2005 enumeration. When combined with the number of homeless persons in sheltered locations this suggests that the overall point-in-time homeless population is likely to be as high as 2,049.

These numbers represent a significant decrease in the observed homeless population compared to the last enumeration conducted in February 2002. Compared to the 2002 Homeless Census, the number of homeless on the street declined by 39% (from 1,737 to 1,067), the number in emergency shelters declined by 27% (173 to 126), and the number of homeless in transitional housing declined by 1% (from 381 to 377). Overall, the observed homeless population declined 31%, from 2,291 in 2002, to 1,570 in 2005. A regional analysis of the census findings points to an overall shift in the geographic distribution of homelessness in Monterey County. In 2002, 60% of the observed homeless were in the Monterey Peninsula, compared to 45% in 2005. In 2005, one-half of the homeless population was located in the Salinas area, compared to only 22% in 2002. The North County area saw its share of the homeless population decline from 7% in 2002 to 3% in 2005; and the South County region saw its share decrease from 10% to 2% during this time.

However, these counts reflect only a fraction of the number of people who experience an episode of homelessness during the course of a year. Homelessness is a condition of varying frequency and duration. Within a given year, some people enter into a state homelessness while others move out of homelessness. Moreover, some people are homeless the entire year, while others remain homeless only briefly. To calculate an estimate of the number of people who may be homeless at some point during the year we apply a multiplier, called the turnover rate, to the observed point-in-time count. For 2005, the turnover rate (weighted average) was computed to be 3.55, or about 103 days. Using this turnover rate as the multiplier for the number of persons experiencing homelessness in a year based upon our observed point-in-time count yields an annualized estimate of homelessness of between 5,574 to 7,274 people.

What are some of the possible explanations for the decline in the observed homeless population? First, the 2005 Census methodology called for a strict one-day, non-intrusive count by direct observation, and unlike the 2002 census, did not include any informant information to obtain either 'unobserved counts' or to ascertain the locations of additional homeless persons. In addition, the census was conducted in the last week of February in 2002, whereas the count was done in the last week of January 2005. Given the high level of seasonality of employment in Monterey County, particularly among the migrant agricultural workforce, this 'timing' may have impacted the count. Weather could also have impacted the observed count - it rained the night before the count, and the temperature was much colder than in than in February 2002. The census count may have also been impacted by an increase in the number of people 'marginally housed'. This includes people who are 'couch surfing' or living in garages and vehicles. Other factors may include rent stabilization, and an improved economy compared to February 2002.

Beyond the methodological differences, and the factors that may have contributed to a particularly "high" observed count at the last point-in-time, it is likely that the work of the homeless service agencies has had an impact and that homelessness has actually declined to some degree in Monterey County since 2002. In particular, there have been increases in

permanent supportive housing, and improved outreach and supportive services to the homeless persons in the county in the last three years that may have contributed to the decline.

The Homeless Shelter Survey was distributed to all emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities, and permanent supportive housing locations. The survey was completed by 202 persons--about 34% of the homeless population in shelter locations on the census date. Most of the survey respondents were men (73%), and ranged in age from 18 to 66. In terms of race, nearly one-half reported they were white, 28% were 'some other race', and 16% were black or African-American. A majority of the survey respondents were homeless individuals (70%), while 30% were part of a homeless family. The survey results also revealed the following about the sheltered homeless population:

- 67% indicated that their current episode of homelessness has been for less than a year, and 33% indicated it has been for more than 1 year.
- 47% reported that they were homeless on 2 or more separate occasions in the last three years, and 17% indicated that they had been homeless on 4 or more occasions in the last three years.
- 53% indicated that they had received, or were currently receiving treatment for serious physical and mental illnesses (including drug and alcohol use). In addition, 25% reported treatment for more than one disabling condition.
- 27% indicated that they were veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

The results from the Homeless Shelter Survey also provide the information needed to estimate the prevalence of chronic homelessness. To be considered chronically homeless, by the HUD definition, a person must be an individual (not part of a homeless family) who has been homeless for a specified time (more than 1 year) and/or frequency (4 or more times in the last 3 years), and has a disabling condition. Among all the survey respondents, 14% meet the conditions to be considered chronically homeless. The incidence of chronic homelessness was even higher (18%) among the respondents from the emergency shelter locations. The incidence of chronic homelessness among unsheltered homeless persons, who were not surveyed, is likely to be even higher than the sheltered population.

## Introduction

This report presents the major findings from the *2005 Monterey County Homeless Census and Survey* project. The ACTION Council of Monterey County, in collaboration with the United Way of Monterey County, the Monterey County Department of Social and Employment Services, and the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, conducted the study in January 2005. The purpose of this research project was (1) to conduct a systematic and accurate point-in-time enumeration of the homeless population, and (2) to gather limited individual-level information on the characteristics of the homeless population in Monterey County. The data collected from both facets of this study will be used to update Monterey County's Continuum of Care (CoC) application in a manner that meets the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements to remain eligible for receiving funding of homeless services. The current funding level is approximately \$2 million per year. In addition to being used in the CoC, the findings from this study should also be of benefit to local homeless services providers in their strategic planning and program development activities. The decision was made to restrict the 2005 Homeless Census study to an updated homeless enumeration, and a brief Homeless Shelter Survey, since the findings from the recent homeless studies remain relevant.

The recent local studies of the homeless population, conducted in 1999 and 2002, were broader in purpose, and included not only population counts, but also in-depth survey research and analysis of specific sub-populations of the homeless community.

Recent research studies undertaken to quantify the prevalence of homelessness, both regionally and nationally, has expanded our knowledge of the homeless population and has helped shape the methodologies used to conduct counts of the homeless population. However, homeless enumeration is still a developing field of research, and local applied experience continues to be a valuable tool for improving our understanding of this subject. The present study draws upon the successes of the earlier Homeless Census studies to inform our research design, and to provide the context for understanding the results.

## Methodology

The methodology adopted in this study represents a conservative approach to enumerating the homeless population. Simply put, this means the selection criteria is more likely to exclude rather than include persons in the count of the homeless population. Therefore, the results obtained should be viewed as the minimum-level of homelessness in the county. This approach has the advantage of providing a baseline of information consistent with the HUD requirements, it is easily replicated, and it can be accomplished with limited resources. One of the limitations however, is that the observation-based methodology misses a significant number of persons who meet the definition of homeless. However, it should be understood that any enumeration of the homeless population, irrespective of the methods employed, is limited in this respect.

The research design for this study involved two principal components: a point-in-time enumeration of sheltered and unsheltered homeless on January 27, 2005, and a survey of persons utilizing homeless shelters on the night preceding the census. More detailed information on the methodology for the various components of this study, and the implementation process, is provided below.

### Community Outreach

The involvement of the local agencies that provide regular services to the homeless population was an integral part of the successful implementation of this project. These agencies assisted by informing their clients about the census and by distributing informational 'postcards' (in English and Spanish) to the homeless community in advance of the count to alert them that Census Team members would be out in the community on the morning of January 27, 2005. They further aided in this research effort by volunteering to serve on census teams, and in identifying homeless persons they work with that could serve effectively as guides to the Census Teams.

### Homeless Census

The methodology employed in this study builds upon the earlier successful research efforts while adhering to the new requirements imposed by HUD. The 2005 Homeless Census in

Monterey County is a point-in-time count of homeless population based upon the McKinney Act definition.<sup>1</sup> As was the case in 2002, the street count of the homeless population in 2005 was observation-based and non-intrusive by design, and covered all of the U.S. Census tracts in Monterey County. The shelter count of homeless was based upon occupancy at shelter locations on the night of January 26 – morning of January 27, 2005. The shelter count included all emergency shelters, motel/hotel voucher programs, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing locations in the county. The data collection forms used for the street and shelter counts gathered information on the number of homeless persons, and more detailed aggregate information on gender, age (adult/youth), and homeless individuals versus homeless families.

#### Census Team Recruitment and Training

The street count component of the census is a labor-intensive activity and it relies substantially on the support and involvement of volunteers. The Coalition of Homeless Services Providers led the recruitment efforts for both the volunteers, and the homeless guides. The recruitment efforts began in early January 2005 through a variety of mechanisms that targeted homeless service and social services organizations, as well as the general public through public service announcements on local radio stations. A significant number of volunteers were associated with organizations providing homeless services, but the volunteer force also included people from many other community organizations. In addition, the recruitment effort included outreach to homeless individuals to serve as paid guides to the Census Teams. The participation of the homeless population was critical since they have unique insight on the locations where homeless persons are typically found, and have special expertise in being able to make informed determinations of the homeless status of persons observed on the street during the census. In sum, approximately 100 people lent their time to participate on census teams.

All census team members (volunteers and homeless guides) were required to attend one of the three 2-hour training sessions provided in order to educate participants about the study and how to conduct the count in accordance with the census guidelines.<sup>2</sup> At the training sessions,

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<sup>1</sup> The complete McKinney-Vento Act definition of homeless is provided in Appendix A1.

<sup>2</sup> The training sessions were conducted on January 26, 2005 (the day before the Census) in three different communities: Marina, Monterey, and Salinas.

Census team members received an instructional guide that outlined the count protocol and their role in the process. In addition, they also received a safety briefing, in which they were instructed to stay with their group at all times, and to not venture into areas where they did not feel safe.

They were instructed to count persons who were homeless, or appeared to be homeless, based upon the McKinney-Vento definition. Furthermore, they received instruction on how to conform to the non-intrusive, direct observation-based methodology for conducting the count. The volunteers were also briefed on procedures in order to avoid duplication in the observed count. Since the count was based upon direct observation and not interview, Census Team members were advised to utilize their best judgment in determining if individuals observed met the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness. Given the composition of the teams, all of which included a homeless guide, and most of which included volunteers from homeless service providers, we had a high level of confidence in the ability of the teams to effectively apply the definition and accurately determine a person's homeless status.

### Street Count

The homeless street count utilized U.S. Census tracts as an organizing unit, and the teams covered each of the 84 census tracts in Monterey County. Census tracts provide a well-defined and manageable geographic area for the teams to cover in the time allotted for the enumeration. In addition, the use of census tracts ensures complete geographic coverage of the county. The Census Teams included 59 volunteers and 38 (paid) homeless guides. Typically, the teams were structured as two volunteers with one homeless guide. To the extent possible, efforts were made to assign team members to the areas of the county they knew the best. On the morning of the count, the Census Teams were deployed from three locations: one in Salinas (Salinas and Salinas Valley areas), one in Seaside (for Monterey Peninsula and North County areas), and one in Greenfield (for South County areas). The Seaside and Salinas deployment locations each had at least one site coordinator at the location at all times (5:30am - 11:30am). On the morning of the count, the site coordinators made the final team and area assignments, and were responsible for the distribution of the census materials. The Greenfield deployment site served as a location for pick-up and drop-off of census materials. Although the census team members were briefed on the materials in the census packets during the training, the packets were not distributed until

the morning of the count at the deployment locations. Generally, each team was responsible for canvassing 2 census tracts, although a few teams covered more. The teams were also instructed to contact the census coordinator in the event they had any questions or encountered any difficulties once they were in the field.

When teams had completed covering their assigned areas, they were instructed to return to their deployment location to submit their census materials. The teams were also instructed to tally and verify their count forms before submitting them to the site coordinator. The site coordinator also conferred with the team members to ensure that they covered their assigned areas, and only their area, thoroughly.

### Shelter Count

In order to conduct the count of homeless persons in sheltered locations, all providers listed in the housing inventory in the Continuum of Care were contacted in advance of the survey. All locations received instructional guides and the count forms in advance of the census date. In most cases, the census materials delivered to the shelters by one of the census coordinators who explained the process to the agency staff. Organizations were encouraged to contact the census coordinator if they had any questions, or encountered any difficulties. This list of providers included emergency shelters, hotel/motel voucher programs, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing facilities in the county. The shelter locations were asked to contact the ACTION Council after they had completed the forms on the Census date to report the results and to make arrangements for picking up the census forms.<sup>3</sup> The ACTION Council staff followed up with all organizations on the day after the count to ensure a timely submission of the census materials and to make sure the count had been completed as planned.

### Dealing with duplication

In order to conduct an accurate census it is important to implement measures to eliminate duplication in the count. In this study, the issue of avoiding duplication in the count was

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<sup>3</sup> In addition to completing the count forms, the shelter locations were also asked to administer the Homeless Shelter Survey. For the transitional housing and permanent supportive housing locations the survey materials were administered in the week following the census date. Arrangements were made with the shelter providers to pick up all the materials when both the count and the survey had been completed.

addressed in a number of ways. First, the 2005 Homeless Census was conducted on a single day. By conducting the count both on the street and the shelters, and in all parts of the county on a single day, the chance of a homeless person moving locations and being counted twice is reduced. In addition, by limiting the count to a few hours in length the likelihood of counting the same person twice in multiple locations is minimized. Further methods employed to eliminate duplication included assigning teams well-defined geographic areas (census tracts) to canvass, counting areas surrounding homeless shelter locations early, and asking shelters to open doors later than usual.

### Homeless Shelter Survey

The Homeless Shelter Survey was developed in order to gather more detailed, individual-level information on the characteristics of the homeless population needed for the Continuum of Care application. The survey inquired about a variety of demographic characteristics (race/ethnicity, gender, age), their homeless experience (frequency of homelessness, length of homeless, where they typically spend the night), and whether or not they have received treatment for disabling physical or mental health conditions. In the future the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) implemented in Monterey County will be a valuable tool for collecting this kind of information, but since HMIS was only recently implemented, sufficient data is not yet available.

The Homeless Shelter Survey was distributed to all providers identified in the Continuum of Care housing inventory. The Homeless Shelter Survey was available in both English and Spanish languages on a single form, which allowed respondents to select the language in which they were most comfortable reading. For the emergency shelter locations, the survey was administered on the night preceding the census date since they had direct contact with the occupants on that date.<sup>4</sup> At the emergency shelters, all homeless persons were asked to complete the survey. The transitional housing and permanent supportive housing locations were asked to have their surveys completed during the week following the census date since they would need to distribute them to residents that they do not necessarily see on a daily basis (and we wanted the agencies to focus on the count and not the survey on that date). Each

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<sup>4</sup> Incentives (a pair of socks) were provided to respondents at emergency shelter locations.

transitional and permanent supportive housing location was allocated a number of surveys to have completed by a sample of their residents based on the shelter capacity. The homeless population utilizing emergency shelters was 'oversampled', since, among the sheltered population, this segment was considered to be most similar to the street homeless that were not surveyed. In other words, had they not been in an emergency shelter that night, they may very well have been on the street.

### Study Limitations

Every research effort has its own particular limitations, challenges, and biases -- research aimed at quantifying the number of homeless in the community is no exception. The most notable limitation concerns the inevitable undercount of the homeless population. While this limitation is inherent in any approach to enumerating the homeless population, it potentially greater when the count is restricted to a direct observation methodology. Therefore, it should be reiterated that the results obtained here are the result of a conservative methodology, and the findings represent the minimum level of homeless in Monterey County at this point-in-time. In reading this report, caution is urged when comparisons to previous homeless enumerations in Monterey County. Although both the 2002 and 2005 studies relied upon non-intrusive, direct observation counts of homeless in all areas of the county, there are significant methodological differences between the two studies. For example, the 2005 Homeless Census does not include counts based upon informant interviews, and was conducted on a single day.

In reviewing the results of the Homeless Shelter Survey, it is important to keep in mind that they are not necessarily representative of the overall homeless population, since those persons utilizing homeless services may be different than those who do not access services. In addition, the survey information is self-reported, and the reliability of self-reported data can often be problematic, particularly among a population with the characteristics of the local homeless population (e.g. literacy levels, mental illness, privacy concerns). However, the survey information can be valuable in providing information on the particular service needs of the local homeless population until sufficient client-level data is available from the HMIS.

## Census Findings

The 2005 Monterey County Homeless Census builds upon earlier research efforts to provide a comprehensive and accurate portrait of homelessness in the county. As was the case in 2002, this census utilized U.S. Census tracts as an organizational tool to ensure that all areas of the count were canvassed, and that the volunteer teams had a well-defined area that could be covered effectively in the time allocated for the count. For reporting purposes the census tract level information during the count has been aggregated into four regions of Monterey County: Salinas, Monterey Peninsula, North County, and South County.<sup>5</sup>

The complete homeless census results include not only the street count, but also count information gathered on occupancy from emergency shelters, motel/hotel voucher programs, transitional housing facilities, and permanent supportive housing locations on the census date. In addition to obtaining a count of the number of homeless persons on the street and in sheltered locations, more detailed information also was collected. Specifically, the count forms asked if the homeless persons observed were: (1) homeless individuals or part of a homeless family; (2) male or female; and (3) adult or youth.

### Homeless Street Count Results

In the street count component of the homeless enumeration, a total of 1,067 homeless persons were directly observed and counted on the January 27, 2005 census date. Most of the homeless persons on the street were identified in the Salinas Area (63%), while 32% were found in the Monterey Peninsula area. Relatively few homeless persons were observed in the more rural areas of the North County (3%) and South County (2%). Particularly striking is that 362 homeless persons, or 34% of the street homeless counted, were identified in just two census tracts in the central Salinas area. The majority of the homeless on the street were identified as homeless individuals (97%) rather than homeless families (3%). The street homeless in Monterey County were overwhelmingly adult men (80%); only 15% were adult women, less than 1% were youth under the age of 18, and 4% were persons of unknown age or gender.

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<sup>5</sup> The individual Census tracts in Monterey County fall within 13 distinct census county divisions. The 4 regions reported here are based upon the Census County Divisions (CCDs) as follows: Salinas (Salinas, Toro); Monterey Peninsula (Monterey-Seaside, Camel, Carmel Valley, Coastal); North County (Pajaro, Castroville); and South County (Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, King City, San Ardo)

**STREET COUNT SUMMARY**

REGION	HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS					HOMELESS FAMILIES						TOTAL
	Men	Women	Youth	Unknown	Total	Men	Women	Youth	Unknown	Family Units	Family Total	
Salinas	520	103	0	23	646	4	7	10	3	8	24	670
South County	27	5	0	0	32	0	1	2	0	1	3	35
Monterey Peninsula	269	49	4	11	333	1	1	0	6	3	8	341
North County	12	2	0	7	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1,067</b>

**Emergency Shelter Count Results**

There were 126 homeless persons were counted occupying emergency shelters (including hotel/motel vouchers) on the census night. Most of the homeless in the emergency shelters were single men (86%). Single women comprised 7%, and homeless families 6% of the emergency shelters occupants on the night of the census. The regional distribution of homeless in emergency shelters is significantly influenced by the location of the shelters. Regionally, the Salinas area (56%) accounted for most of the homeless population in the emergency shelters, followed by the Monterey Peninsula area (28%), and North County (17%). Presently, there are no emergency shelters in the South County region.

**EMERGENCY SHELTER COUNT SUMMARY**

REGION	HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS				HOMELESS FAMILIES					TOTAL
	Men	Women	Youth	Total	Men	Women	Youth	Family Units	Family Total	
Salinas	62	8	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	70
South County	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Monterey Peninsula	25	1	1	27	1	3	4	3	8	35
North County	21	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>126</b>

**Transitional Housing Count Results**

There were 377 persons in transitional housing on the census date. Like the emergency shelters, the regional distribution of homeless persons in transitional housing is a function of the location of the facilities. Presently, such resources are concentrated in the Monterey Peninsula area.

Approximately 89% of the homeless population occupying transitional housing facilities resided in the Monterey Peninsula area, the remaining 11% resided in the Salinas area. Currently, there are no transitional housing facilities in either the South County or North County regions. In contrast to the street homeless, and the homeless in emergency shelters, a majority of the homeless in transitional housing are part of homeless families. Of the 377 homeless persons in transitional housing, 263 (70%) are in homeless families, while 114 (30%) are homeless individuals. Women (32%) and children (41%) also outnumber men (26%) in transitional housing facilities.

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COUNT SUMMARY**

REGION	HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS				HOMELESS FAMILIES					TOTAL
	Men	Women	Youth	Total	Men	Women	Youth	Family Units	Family Total	
Salinas	24	3	0	27	0	6	7	6	13	40
South County	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Monterey Peninsula	55	32	0	87	19	82	149	73	250	337
North County	--	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>377</b>

**Permanent Supportive Housing Results**

The census of the sheltered population also included persons in permanent supportive housing situations that were homeless at the time they entered the supportive housing. In other words, they fit the definition of homeless at the time they entered the supportive housing. A total of 97 persons were counted in permanent supportive housing units. Most of the permanent supportive housing residents were homeless individuals (91 of 97), and men outnumbered women (64 to 33). These persons are not included in the any of the other counts of the homeless population reported elsewhere in this study, or in comparisons to previous homeless enumerations in Monterey County. Although it is not included in the reported counts, census data on homeless persons in permanent supportive housing was collected since this information is required for the Continuum of Care funding application.

**Overall Homeless Census Summary Results**

Overall, there were 1,570 homeless persons observed on the street, in emergency shelters, and transitional housing locations on January 27, 2005. This figure does not include the 97 persons identified from the shelter count in permanent supportive housing units. The street homeless comprised 68% of the homeless population, while the sheltered homeless accounted for 32% for the homeless population. There were 1,264 homeless individuals (80%), and 306 persons in 94 homeless families (20%). Two-thirds of the homeless population were adult men, 19% were adult women, 11% were children and youth, and 3% were of unknown age or gender. Women (33%) and children (56%) accounted for most of the people in homeless families.

By region, 50% of all homeless persons were in the Salinas Area, and 45% were in the Monterey Peninsula area. The rural areas of the county, North County (3%) and South County (2%) accounted for the remaining 5% of the homeless population.

**OVERALL COUNT SUMMARY**

REGION	HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS					HOMELESS FAMILIES						TOTAL
	Men	Women	Youth	Unknown	Total	Men	Women	Youth	Unknown	Family Units	Family Total	
Salinas	606	114	0	23	743	4	13	17	3	14	37	780
South County	27	5	0	0	32	0	1	2	0	1	3	35
Monterey Peninsula	349	82	5	11	447	21	86	153	6	79	266	713
North County	33	2	0	7	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1264</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>1,570</b>

**Point-in-Time Range and Annual Estimates of Homelessness**

The number of homeless persons counted during the Homeless Census represents the minimum number at this point-in-time. The actual number of homeless is undoubtedly higher, not only due to the conservative methodology employed in the count, but also because of the undercount inherent in the enumeration of the street homeless. Previous studies on homelessness in Monterey County have suggested, and used, a “capture rate” of 69% for the street homeless<sup>6</sup>. This means that nearly one-third of the street homeless are not observed

<sup>6</sup> *Homeless Census and Youth/Foster Teen Study, Monterey County 2002*, Applied Survey Research, Watsonville, CA.

during the count. If we were to adjust the observed count of street homeless (1,067) by this factor, it would suggest that there were an estimated 479 unobserved homeless persons, or a total of 1,546 homeless persons on the street during the January 2005 enumeration. When combined with the number of homeless persons in sheltered locations (which is not adjusted), this suggests that the overall homeless population is likely to be as high as 2,049.

The point-in-time estimate calculated above provides a range of the number of homelessness (1,570 to 2,049) on a particular day. However, this number reflects only a fraction of the number of people who experience an episode of homelessness during the course of a year. Homelessness is a condition of varying frequency and duration. Within a given year, some people enter into a state homelessness while others move out of homelessness. Moreover, some people are homeless the entire year, while others remain homeless only briefly.

**Calculated Homeless Turnover Rates for Monterey County from Recent Studies**

YEAR	POPULATION	TURNOVER RATE	METHOD & SOURCE
1999	Homeless all ages	2.62	1999 Needs Assessment Survey; Applied Survey Research
1999	Homeless youth	2.83	1999 Needs Assessment Survey; Applied Survey Research
2002	Homeless all ages	3.24	2002 Homeless Youth Survey & adjusted utilizing 1999 survey results); ASR
2002	Homeless youth	3.50	2002 Homeless Youth Survey; Applied Survey Research
2005	Homeless all ages	3.55	2005 Homeless Shelter Survey; ACTION Council

To calculate an estimate of the number of people who may be homeless at some point during the year we apply a multiplier the observed point-in-time count. This multiplier, referred to as the turnover rate, is a quantitative estimate of how many times homelessness ‘recycles’ or renews itself within a given year.<sup>7</sup> This methodology for estimating the annual prevalence of homelessness from point-in-time counts had been utilized in numerous communities across the country. In comparative terms, a lower turnover rate indicates episodes of homelessness are longer and/or more persistent; whereas, a higher turnover rate indicates that episodes of homelessness are shorter and/or occur more frequently. For example, if every homeless person was homeless for one month the turnover rate would be at least 12, if everyone was homeless for 3 months the turnover rate would be 4, and if everyone was homeless for 12 months the turnover rate would be 1.

<sup>7</sup> See *Homeless Census and Youth/Foster Teen Study, Monterey County 2002*, Applied Survey Research, Watsonville, CA; for further explanation of turnover rates.

**Turnover Rate Calculation from Homeless Shelter Survey 2005**

LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS	PERCENT	MINIMUM TURNOVER RATE
Less than 30 days	18.3%	12
30 to 90 days	12.4%	4
3 to 6 months	16.3%	2
6 to 12 months	18.8%	1
1 to 2 years	14.9%	1
More than two years	19.2%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3.55 (weighted average)</b>

For this study, we used data on the length of time people are homeless from the Homeless Shelter Survey to develop an estimate of the minimum turnover rate. Approximately 18% of respondents indicated that they had been homeless for less than 30 days, 12% between 30-90 days, 16% between 3-6 months, 19% between 6-12 months, and 34% for one year or longer. Based upon these survey results, the turnover rate (weighted average) was computed to be 3.55, or about 103 days.<sup>8</sup> The turnover rate 2005 is a bit higher than the turnover rate of 3.24 derived in 2002 based upon the Homeless Youth Survey. Using this turnover rate as the multiplier for the number of persons experiencing homelessness based upon our observed point-in-time count yields an annualized estimate of homelessness of between 5,574 to 7,274 people (3.55 x 1,570-2,049).

**Comparative and Trend Analysis**

Direct comparisons of the overall numbers to earlier homeless enumerations in Monterey County are difficult due to the methodological differences that have already been noted. In particular, the prohibition on informant-based counts complicates the comparison between the overall homeless population reported in 2002 and the totals reported in this study. However, it is possible to make general comparisons for count categories common to both the 2002 and 2005 homeless enumerations.

Compared to 2002, Monterey County has experienced a reduction in the observed homeless population. The 1,570 homeless persons counted in 2005 represents a decline of 31% compared

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<sup>8</sup> The turnover rate for respondents in emergency shelters was 3.41, and for respondents in transitional and permanent supportive housing locations the turnover rate was 3.68.

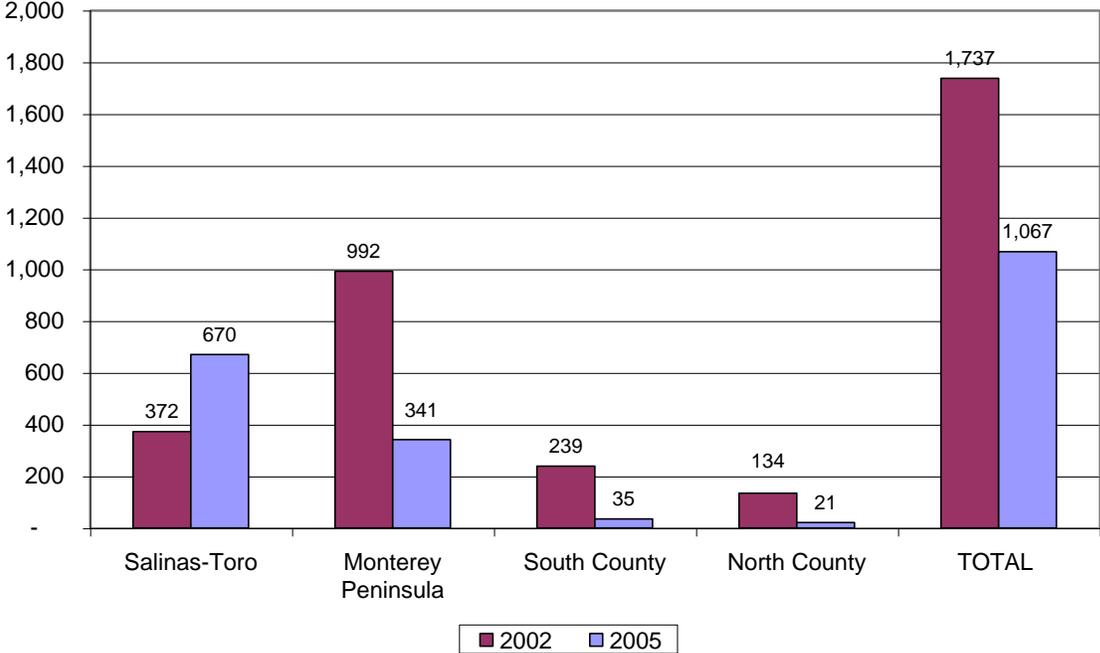
to the 2,291 persons counted on the street and in emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities in 2002.

<b>HOMELESS CENSUS SUMMARY COMPARISON 2002-2005 BY REGION AND BY CATEGORY</b>								
Region	Street Count		Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		TOTAL	
	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005	2002	2005
Salinas	372	670	104	70	33	40	509	780
South County	239	35					239	35
Monterey Peninsula	992	341	42	35	348	337	1,382	713
North County	134	21	27	21			161	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>1,570</b>

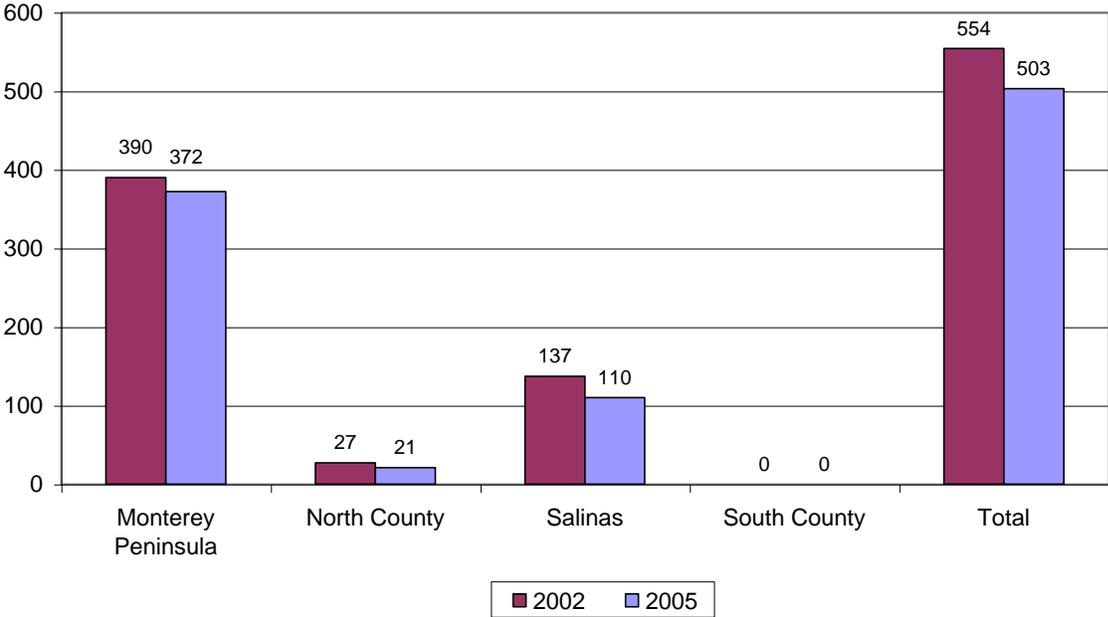
The decrease between 2002 and 2005 is most apparent in the street count component of the census. In 2002, there were 1,737 homeless persons observed on the street, whereas there were 1,067 in 2005 - a decline of 39%. The decline in the emergency shelter count between 2002 and 2005 was 27%. The number of homeless persons occupying transitional housing showed little change (-1%) between the 2002 and 2005 point-in-time counts. When combined, the number of homeless persons in sheltered locations declined 9% compared to 2002.

A regional analysis of the change in homelessness between 2002 and 2005 reveals some striking changes. In particular, the street count was much lower in the Monterey Peninsula (-66%), South County (-85%), and North County (-84%) regions compared to 2002. However, in the remaining region, Salinas, there was an 80% increase in the number of homeless counted on the street. These changes point to an overall shift in the geographic distribution in Monterey County. In 2002, 60% of the observed homeless were in the Monterey Peninsula, compared to 45% in 2005. In 2005, one-half of the homeless population was located in the Salinas area, compared to only 22% in 2002. The North County area saw its share of the homeless population decline from 7% in 2002 to 3% in 2005; and the South County region saw its share decrease from 10% to 2% during this time.

**HOMELESS STREET COUNT COMPARISON, 2002 & 2005**



**EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COUNT COMPARISON BY REGION**



In addition to the regional shift in the homeless population, another notable change in the composition of the observed homeless population is difference in the number of homeless persons in homeless families between 2002 and 2005. In 2002, there were a total of 202 homeless families with a 658 persons identified on the street, in emergency shelters, and in transitional housing locations. In 2005, a total of 94 homeless families with 306 people were identified in the enumeration.

What are some of the possible explanations for the decline in the observed homeless population? First, methodological differences between the 2002 and 2005 enumerations can explain some of the differences. The 2005 count methodology called for a strict one-day, non-intrusive count by direct observation. Being non-intrusive includes Census Teams refraining from knocking on doors or peering into cars and recreational vehicles. The 2005 methodology did not rely on any informant information to obtain either 'unobserved counts' or to ascertain the locations of additional homeless persons. Another difference that might explain the decline concerns when the Census was conducted. In 2002, the census was conducted in the last week of February, whereas the 2005 count was done in the last week of January. While conducting the count four weeks earlier in the year may seem inconsequential, given the high level of seasonality of employment in Monterey County, particularly among the migrant agricultural workforce, this 'timing' may have impacted the count. Traditionally, the migrant agricultural workers return to the county in late February and March. Furthermore, weather could also have impacted the observed count - it rained the night before the count, and the temperature was much colder than in than in February 2002. This could have led homeless persons to seek out shelter off of the streets (cars, abandoned buildings, garages, etc.) were it would be more difficult or impossible to make direct observations.

The census count may have also been impacted by changes in the so-called 'marginally housed' population. According to the providers of homeless services in Monterey County, garages are increasingly being used as shelter. While these persons would meet the definition of homeless, they could not be observed, and therefore they were not included in the count. Similarly, anecdotal evidence from the homeless services community suggests an increase in persons living in vehicles and that the location of this population is increasingly dispersed. As a result of this more conservative methodology, the 'capture-rate' is likely to be lower in 2005. However,

these differences would not impact the counts derived from the emergency shelter and transitional housing locations. The impact is limited only to the street count.

Other factors may include rent stabilization, and an improved economy compared to February 2002. In particular, the Monterey Peninsula area was likely to have a significant number of people displaced from their regular housing as a result of these factors. In February 2002, rents were escalating, and the tourism industry, which is the largest employer on the Monterey Peninsula, was feeling the effects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks just five months earlier. These types of explanatory factors suggest that the 2002 Census may have taken place at a particularly high point for homelessness in Monterey County. While these factors seem to be plausible explanations, they have not been empirically tested.

Beyond the methodological differences, and the factors that may have contributed to a particularly “high” observed count at the last point-in-time, it is likely that the work of the homeless service agencies has had an impact and that homelessness has actually declined to some degree in Monterey County since 2002. In particular, there have been increases in permanent supportive housing, and improved outreach and supportive services to the homeless persons in the county in the last three years that may have contributed to the decline.

## Homeless Shelter Survey Results

The Homeless Shelter Survey was developed in order to gather more detailed, individual-level information on the characteristics of the homeless population in Monterey County. The survey inquired about a variety of demographic characteristics (race/ethnicity, gender, age), homeless experience (frequency of homelessness, length of homeless, where they typically spend the night), and whether or not respondents had received treatment for disabling physical or mental health conditions. In the future, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) implemented in Monterey County will be a valuable tool for collecting this kind of information, but since HMIS was only recently implemented, sufficient data is not yet available. In the interim, the results from this survey will provide a useful baseline of data.

The Homeless Shelter Survey was available in both English and Spanish languages on a single form, this allowed respondents select the language in which they were most comfortable reading.<sup>9</sup> There were a total of 202 completed surveys returned, which represents 34% of the population in the shelter locations on the census date<sup>10</sup>. However, this sample is not necessarily representative of the overall homeless sheltered population due to the sampling technique employed and the variation in response rate from individual locations. The complete Homeless Shelter Survey results are provided in Appendix B. Overall, 50% of survey respondents were from emergency shelters, 40% from transitional housing, and 10% from permanent supportive housing.<sup>11</sup>

In response to the question of where they typically spend the night, the most frequent response was transitional housing (37%), followed by emergency shelter (25%), family or friends (17%), and on the street (12%). There was a wide distribution among respondents in the length of time of the current episode of homelessness. Approximately 18% of respondents indicated that they had been homeless for less than 30 days, 12% between 30-90 days, 16% between 3-6 months, and 19% between 6-12 months. Overall, 67% indicated that their current episode of homelessness has been for less than one year, and 33% indicated that it has been for more than 1

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<sup>9</sup> The survey was completed in English by 83% of respondents, and in Spanish by 17% of respondents.

<sup>10</sup> This percentage calculation includes the permanent supportive housing count since the survey was distributed to these facilities.

<sup>11</sup> For comparison, the observed shelter-based count by housing type was as follows: 63% in transitional housing, 21% in emergency shelters, and 16% in permanent supportive housing.

year. When asked how many times they had been homeless in the last three years 20% indicated “zero” times.<sup>12</sup> One-in-three reported 1 instance of homelessness, while 20% reported 2 occasions, 10% 3 times, and 17% 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

Over one-half (53%) of all respondents indicated that they had received, or were currently receiving medical treatment or services for severe mental illness. The remaining respondents had either never received treatment for any of the conditions listed (29%), or did not respond to the question (18%). The most frequently cited conditions reported were “other physical condition” (22% of all respondents), chronic drug use (17%), chronic alcohol use (16%), and severe mental illness (16%). Approximately 25% of all respondents indicated that they had received treatment for more than one of the disabling conditions listed.

Men constituted 73% of the survey respondents and women 27%. Nearly one-half identified their racial background as white, 28% as some other race, and 16% as black or African-American. Separate from the question of racial background, approximately 37% of respondents indicated they were of Hispanic or Latino in origin, while 63% indicated they were not. In terms of age, 14% of respondents were born in 1980 or after (under age 25), 25% were born in the 1970’s, 23% in the 1960’s, 24% in the 1950’s, and 14% were born before 1950 (over age 55). Approximately 27% indicated that they were veteran’s who had served in the United States military.

As was the case with the overall census results, most of the survey respondents (70%) indicated that they were homeless individuals, while 30% were part of a homeless family. Homeless families of one parent with children comprised 17% of the respondents, and two parent families with children 8% of the respondents. Couples without children, or other types of family configurations accounted for the remaining 5% of shelter survey respondents.

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<sup>12</sup> These results could be explained by respondents interpreting the question in terms of the number of instances of homelessness in the last three years not including the current episode, and/or not considering themselves as homeless if they are living in a transitional or permanent supportive housing facility.

## Chronic Homelessness

By design, the Homeless Shelter Survey included questions aimed at capturing information that would be useful for estimating the prevalence of chronic homelessness in Monterey County. At the federal level, there is particular interest in addressing chronic homelessness since research has suggested that between 10%-20% of the homeless use 50% of the available homeless services. Accordingly, the assumption is that if resource-intensive chronic homelessness can be reduced, then more resources can be freed for services for persons experiencing ‘episodic’ homelessness.

In order to be considered chronically homeless, by the HUD definition, a person must be an individual (not part of a homeless family) who has been homeless for a specified time and/or frequency, and who has a disabling condition.<sup>13</sup> Three questions from the Homeless Shelter survey address the HUD criteria for chronic homelessness. The results from the survey indicate that 27% of the respondents met the time requirement to be considered chronically homeless (homeless for more than 1 year, or 4 or more instances of homelessness in the last 3 years). Nearly one-half (47%) indicated that they have received, or are currently receiving treatment for a disabling physical or mental health condition (including chronic drug or alcohol use). Approximately 70% of respondents met the criteria of being homeless individuals and not part of a homeless family.

### Does respondent meet time requirements for chronic homelessness?

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	148	73.3
Yes	54	26.7
Total	202	100.0

<sup>13</sup> The complete HUD definition of chronic homelessness is provided in Appendix A.

**Does respondent meet disability condition for chronic homelessness?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>
No	95	47.0
Yes	107	53.0
Total	202	100.0

Many of the respondents met one or more of the criteria, but not all of the requirements to be considered chronically homeless. The results from the Homeless Shelter Survey indicate that 14% of all respondents are chronically homeless by the HUD standard. When we examine the data on chronic homelessness by housing type, we see that 18% of the respondents from emergency shelters met the criteria, while only 10% of respondents from the transitional and permanent supportive housing locations. If we use this as an estimate for the total homeless population (sheltered and unsheltered) from the observed count, this suggests that at least 220 (.14 x 1570,) persons are chronically homeless in the county at this point in time.

<b>Chronically Homeless</b>	<b>Housing type</b>			<b>Total</b>
	<b>Emergency shelter</b>	<b>Permanent supportive housing</b>	<b>Transitional housing</b>	
No	83 82.2%	18 85.7%	73 91.3%	174 86.1%
Yes	18 17.8%	3 14.3%	7 8.8%	28 13.9%
Total	101 100.0%	21 100.0%	80 100.0%	202 100.0%

## Recommendations

The recommendations that follow from this research exercise can be classified into two distinct categories. The first set of addresses issues related to conducting future homeless enumerations in the county. The second set consists of general recommendations related to the planning and implementation of homeless services in the county.

### Census Implementation Recommendations

The new HUD requirements for Continuum of Care applications mandate that communities conduct a homeless census every other year. This means that conducting the Homeless Census in January 2007 and beyond will be a requirement instead of simply a 'best-practice'. With this in mind, we offer the following recommendations related to the next Homeless Census:

- Conduct a 'dry-run' of the count for a sample of areas in advance of Census date for the purposes of planning, testing, and validating Census activities
- Conduct a 'sample' Census at different points-in-time to collect information on seasonal variation in homelessness
- Distribute the Census materials to shelter locations further in advance of the Census date to allow more time for their staff to become acquainted with the information prior to implementation
- Provide an evaluation mechanism for Census participants (volunteers, homeless guides, service providers) in order to assess the effectiveness of the Census process

### General Recommendations

The Homeless Census results would seem to indicate that homelessness has declined to some degree in the last three years. Although this suggests that homeless services in the county are having a positive impact, homelessness continues to be a persistent condition affecting a substantial number of people in Monterey County. Based upon the Homeless Census findings, and in discussions with local homeless services providers, the following recommendations are offered:

Prioritize Homelessness Prevention and Reduction

- Encourage regional and state officials to become more involved statewide in addressing homelessness
- Encourage Monterey County jurisdictions to adopt 10 year plan to address chronic homelessness

Sustain and Develop More Affordable Housing for Very Low Income persons

- Increase affordable housing inventory for low and very low income groups
- Support development of a full-range of rental housing opportunities
- Support retention of affordable housing subsidies
- Maintain current transitional housing programs

**APPENDIX A:**  
**HOMELESS CENSUS DOCUMENTS**

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## Appendix A-1.

### **HOMELESSNESS: A WORKING DEFINITION (MCKINNEY ACT)**

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
  - a. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill).
  - b. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or
  - c. A public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

This means that a person must satisfy BOTH conditions 1 & 2.

### **HUD Definition of Chronic Homelessness**

An unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in emergency shelter during that time.

(2004 Continuum of Care application)

HUD's definition of an episode of homeless is:

A separate, distinct, and sustained stay on the streets and/or in an emergency homeless shelter. (HUD's Chronic Homelessness Fact Sheet)

Note that HUD's definition of chronic homelessness does not include families. In addition, to be identified as chronically homeless, an individual must have a disabling condition, defined as follows:

A diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions.

(2004 Continuum of Care application)

## MONTEREY COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS 2005 CENSUS TEAM INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

**Thank you for your interest and participation in the Monterey County Homeless Census Street Count. Please read the following guidelines before you begin the count.**

### **Where and when do I meet with my team members on the morning of the count?**

Census Team members should arrive at the following deployment location at **6:00AM on Thursday, January 27, 2005** to pick up their Census Team Packet:

Monterey Peninsula and North County areas  
1491 Contra Costa Street, Seaside, CA 93933 (Salvation Army)

Salinas, Salinas Valley, and South County areas  
30 Soledad Street, Salinas, CA 93901 (Franciscan Workers' Dorothy's Place)

### **What do I need to bring with me?**

Census Team members should dress comfortably – meaning clothing appropriate for the weather and for walking in your assigned areas. Also, keep in mind that you are starting before daylight so please bring a flashlight, and wear bright or reflective clothing if possible. If at all possible, at least one team member should also carry a cell phone.

### **What do I do when I arrive at the deployment site?**

When you arrive at the deployment site on the morning of the count, please sign-in and wait for your other team members to arrive. Refreshments will be provided. Census Team Packets will be distributed and you will be ready to leave to cover your area by 6:00am.

### **What will I find in the Census Team Packet?**

There is a separate packet for each census tract in Monterey County. If your team is covering more than one Census tract you will receive more than one packet. Please keep the contents of each packet together – and don't mix them with the contents of the other packet. Each packet contains the following:

- Instruction guide
- Census Enumeration Forms (tally sheets)
- Census Boundary maps
- Street detail maps of the census tract area
- "Homeless Census" Identification badges

### **How do I fill out the Census count forms (tally sheets)?**

The Census count forms ask you to identify 3 pieces of information about homeless persons you observe and count: whether they are homeless individuals or part of a homeless family; their age (adult or youth), and their gender. Part A is used to count homeless individuals. For each homeless individual you observe put a clearly legible 'tick-mark' in the column that fits with their description: single adult men, single adult women, single youth boys, single youth girls, or persons of undetermined age/gender. Part B is used for homeless families. For each homeless

family you observe put a tick-mark in the corresponding column for each adult male in the family, each adult female, for each child in the family, and for each person of the family of undetermined age and gender.

**Who is eligible to be counted?**

The goal of the street count is to accurately count the number of homeless persons in Monterey County on January 27, 2005. We recognize the difficulty in determining an individual’s homeless status in compliance with the McKinney Act (see below) definition of homelessness in the amount of time you have to cover your assigned area. Accordingly, anyone who appears to meet the profile of a homeless person or is known to be homeless will be eligible to be counted. Please use your best judgment while canvassing your census tract for homeless persons. You and your team members should use your knowledge of the area, the homeless community, and basic common sense to guide you through this process. Although it is possible that some people may be inadvertently counted as homeless, many others will be missed. The following is our official definition of homelessness for the purpose of this Census:

**HOMELESSNESS: A WORKING DEFINITION (MCKINNEY ACT)**

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
  - a. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill).
  - b. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or
  - c. A public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

This means that a person must satisfy BOTH conditions 1 & 2.

**While conducting the street count:**

- Do not approach individuals to ask them if they are homeless.
- Cover your entire census tract. Walk or drive all streets.
- Try not to recount. Be aware what people are wearing and what they look like.
- Stay with your teammates. **Never venture out on your own.**
- Safety always comes first. Avoid any situation that you are not comfortable in.

**When you have completed covering your Census tracts:**

- **Please complete your counts and return to your drop-off location by 11:00AM.**
- **If you run into any time delays, please call Census Coordinator immediately at the number provided on the front of the packet.**
- Return to the deployment location that you departed from in the morning, and record your return time in the Deployment Log you signed before you departed.
- Add up the marks in each of the columns of your census count forms, and record the total at the bottom of each column. Next, add up the totals for the columns in Part A,

and do the same for Part B. Then add the totals for Part A & B for the grand total of homeless you counted in your area(s).

- Turn in your Census packets to the staff member at the drop-off site
- You are done! **Thank you so much for your help!**

## MONTEREY COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS 2005 STREET COUNT FORM

CENSUS TRACT: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PART A TOTAL:</b>	
<b>PART B TOTAL:</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	

CENSUS TEAM MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Count each homeless person ONLY ONCE, either as a single person (Part A.) OR as part of a family (Part B.)*

### PART A. SINGLE PERSONS COUNTED

SINGLE ADULT MEN (18 AND OLDER)	SINGLE ADULT WOMEN (18 AND OLDER)	SINGLE YOUTH BOYS (UNDER 18)	SINGLE YOUTH GIRLS (UNDER 18)	PERSONS OF UNDETERMINED AGE/GENDER
<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>

### PART B. HOMELESS FAMILIES COUNTED

FAMILY UNITS	ADULT MEN (18 AND OLDER) IN FAMILIES	ADULT WOMEN (18 AND OLDER) IN FAMILIES	YOUTH (UNDER 18) IN FAMILIES	UNDETERMINED AGE/GENDER IN FAMILIES
<b>Family 1</b>				
<b>Family 2</b>				
<b>Family 3</b>				
<b>Family 4</b>				
<b>Family 5</b>				
<b>Family 6</b>				
<b>Family 7</b>				
<b>Family 8</b>				
<b>Family 9</b>				
<b>Family 10</b>				
<b>Total Families:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>

**CENSUS TEAM DEPLOYMENT LOG (sample)**

<b>MONTEREY COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS DEPLOYMENT LOG</b> Deployment Lead Name: Deployment Location:					
TRACT	AREA	Names of Team Members	Depart Time	Return Time	Notes
1.01	Salinas, north (unincorp.)	1. 2.			
1.02	Salinas, north	1. 2.			
1.03	Salinas, north-west	1. 2.			
1.04	Salinas, north	1. 2.			
2	Salinas, north	1. 2.			
3	Salinas, northwest	1. 2.			
4	Salinas, central	1. 2.			
5	Salinas, central	1. 2.			
6	Salinas, east	1. 2.			
7	Salinas, east	1. 2.			
8	Salinas, east	1. 2.			
9	Salinas, east	1. 2.			

## **MONTEREY COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS 2005 INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE FOR SHELTERED COUNT**

Thank you for participating in the Monterey County Homeless Census Shelter Count. The following instructions should assist you in collecting and submitting the information needed for the **Homeless Census based on occupancy on the night of (Wednesday, January 26, 2005)**.

### **What information is being collected for the Homeless Census?**

In order to obtain as complete of a count as possible of the homeless population in Monterey County, we need information on the number of homeless persons utilizing emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing – in addition to the unsheltered population being counted in the morning hours of January 27, 2005. We are also distributing a short survey that we are asking shelter sites to distribute and collect from homeless persons that they are serving.

### **What will I find in the Homeless Census Packet?**

Organizations that provide shelter to homeless persons will receive census forms for each shelter location they operate. If your organization has more than one shelter, you will receive more multiple forms. Please distribute the forms as needed to each shelter site so that they can record the number of homeless persons at their particular site on the night of January 26, 2005. Each packet contains the following:

- Instructional Guide for Sheltered Count
- Census Shelter Count Forms (tally sheets)
- Sheltered Homeless Survey (if applicable)

You will receive multiple copies of the Census shelter count forms for each location. You will also receive a sufficient number of Sheltered Homeless Surveys for your different locations. Incentive items will be provided for homeless persons residing at the emergency shelters who complete the survey on the night of the count. We are also distributing surveys to programs that operate transitional and/or permanent supportive housing.

### **How do I fill out the Census shelter count forms?**

The Census count forms ask you to identify 3 pieces of information about homeless persons utilizing your services: whether they are homeless individuals or part of a homeless family; their age (adult or youth), and their gender. Part A is used to count homeless individuals. For each homeless individual you observe put a clearly legible ‘tick-mark’ in the column the fits with their description: single adult men, single adult women, single youth boys, single youth girls, or persons of undetermined age/gender. Part B is used for homeless families. For each homeless family you observe put a tick-mark in the corresponding column for each adult male in the family, each adult female, for each child in the family, and for each person of the family of undetermined age and gender.

**Who is eligible to be counted?**

The goal of Homeless Census is to accurately count the number of homeless persons in Monterey County on January 27, 2005 – this includes both unsheltered as well as sheltered homeless persons. The following is our official definition of homelessness for the purpose of this Census:

**HOMELESSNESS: A WORKING DEFINITION (MCKINNEY ACT)**

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
  - a. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill).
  - b. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or
  - c. A public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings

This means that a person must satisfy BOTH conditions 1 & 2.

**When you have completed your shelter count forms:**

On Thursday, January 27, after you have completed the Census forms, please call the ACTION Council at (831) 783-1244, report your count, and to make arrangements for someone to come pick-up the Homeless Census materials from your organization.

**Who completes the Shelter Survey, and when should it be completed?**

We are asking agencies that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, to distribute this short survey to homeless persons who utilize their services and ask them to take a couple of minutes to fill it out. Participation in the survey is voluntary – people may decline to complete the survey. The surveys are anonymous, and results will be kept confidential.

For emergency shelter locations, we are asking that you distribute the survey to all homeless persons occupying the shelter on the night of the count (Wednesday, January 26, 2005). For transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing locations, we are asking for a sample of the homeless persons you serve to complete the survey. You will find a sufficient number of surveys in your packet for your location(s). For these sites, we are asking you to distribute the survey and have your homeless occupants fill out the survey during the week of January 31 -- February 4, 2005. Please call the ACTION Council at (831) 783-1244 when the surveys have been completed to make arrangements for someone to come pick-up the surveys from your organization.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!**

## MONTEREY COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS 2005 SHELTERED COUNT FORM

SHELTER NAME & LOCATION:

<b>PART A TOTAL:</b>	
<b>PART B TOTAL:</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	

PERSON COMPLETING COUNT FORM: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Count each homeless person ONLY ONCE, either as a single person (Part A.) OR as part of a family (Part B.)*

**PART A. SINGLE PERSONS COUNTED**

SINGLE ADULT MEN (18 AND OLDER)	SINGLE ADULT WOMEN (18 AND OLDER)	SINGLE YOUTH BOYS (UNDER 18)	SINGLE YOUTH GIRLS (UNDER 18)	PERSONS OF UNDETERMINED AGE/GENDER
<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>

**PART B. HOMELESS FAMILIES COUNTED**

FAMILY UNITS	ADULT MEN (18 AND OLDER) IN FAMILIES	ADULT WOMEN (18 AND OLDER) IN FAMILIES	YOUTH (UNDER 18) IN FAMILIES	UNDETERMINED AGE/GENDER IN FAMILIES
<b>Family 1</b>				
<b>Family 2</b>				
<b>Family 3</b>				
<b>Family 4</b>				
<b>Family 5</b>				
<b>Family 6</b>				
<b>Family 7</b>				
<b>Family 8</b>				
<b>Family 9</b>				
<b>Family 10</b>				
<b>Total Families:</b>				<b>Total:</b>

## Census Participant List

Bud Adams	Natalie Franka	Michelle O'Brien
Mary Adams	Silvia Garcia	Modupe Omolayo
Juan Adorno	Kieron Greene	Raul Ortiz
Ron Arroyo	Willie Griffin	Anna Padilla-Rocha
Roger Avery	Steve Grimes	Sapna Patel
John Bailey	Leon Guerrero	Patrick Pitts
Richard Balcar	Jody Gulley	Elizabeth Porter
Pamela Barclay	Marisol Gutierrez	Kate Pride
Maria Benitez	Andrea Hanshew	George Quinn
Richard Berman	James Herdine	Regina Ramirez
Tom Berner	Rose Hernandez	Reginald Ramsey
Darrell Blair	Carolyn Hinds	William Riedinger
Eric Brown	Ron Holland	Avery Roger
Sara Brown	Marion Holley	Matt Rose
Bill Brown	Todd Hurlburt	Yadira Rullan
Andrea Butler	Robert Hutchins	Jan Sardena-Stephens
Roxanne Butterfield	Benjamin Item	Tessa Schmitt
Giovanni Calegari	Cynde Jackson	Michael Schoennoehi
Abelina Campos	Rick Jacobs	Eduardo Schulz
Mario Castillo	Samantha James	Everette Slimick
Peter Cefalu	Rick Jones	Tom Smith
Tara Chioino	Jan Klinefelte	Harvey Smith
Laurissa Chioino	Beverly Kovacs	Jim Smith
Jesus Clemente	Chris Kukert	Kate Spacher
Jim Coangelo	Maria LaMountain	Rhonda Staton
Irene Cole	Maria Lindley	Lori Stephens
Kris Comeau	Joseph Lopez	Jason Storm
Cesar C.	HollyMarion	Parnell Strickland
James Cooper	Marcus Martinez	Valerie Torrez
Terra Cortola	Peter M.	Clair Trumbauer
Rick Cosham	Thomas McNamara	Brad Vanek
Dianne Culver	Malcolm Mejia	Ron Wallace
Allena Davis	Tom Melville	Andre Walley
Al Davis	Christopher Menten	Julie Welter
Hycinth DeSouza	Misty Mersich	Scott Wessells
Michael Diaz	Chris Minten	Matt Williams
Scott Ednie	Jeremy Mish	Kelvin Williams
Julie Estel	Jackie Mollitor	Phillip Woods
John Falgout	Pamela Motoike	Margarita Zarraga
Melissa Felkins	Barbara Muck	
Marshall Fernandez	Joshua Mulder	
Rhapsody Flores	Martha Navarrete	

**APPENDIX B:  
HOMELESS SHELTER SURVEY DOCUMENTS**

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## MONTEREY COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS 2005 SHELTERED HOMELESS SURVEY

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SHORT SURVEY TO HELP US LEARN MORE ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY. YOUR SURVEY RESPONSES ARE ANONYMOUS, AND WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY.

1. Shelter Name & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you currently homeless?     Yes             No

3. Where do you typically spend the night?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> transitional housing                      | <input type="checkbox"/> family or friends | <input type="checkbox"/> hotel/motel               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence shelter                 | <input type="checkbox"/> emergency shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> rented house or apartment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> on the street                             | <input type="checkbox"/> camping           | <input type="checkbox"/> in a car                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> subsidized permanent housing for homeless |  |  |

4. How long have you been homeless this time? (Your best guess)

- |  |  |                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than 30 days | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-90 days      | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-6 months   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12 months       | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 2 years    | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 3 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 5 years      | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 or more years |                                       |

5. How many times have you been homeless in the last 3 years? (Your best guess)

- |                                  |  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 time          | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 times |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 times | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more times |                                  |

6. Please check:

- Male             Female

7. What is your racial background?

- |                                |  |   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American/Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Some other race               |   |

8. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino origin?

- Yes             No

9. What year were you born: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Have you ever received, or are you currently receiving treatment or services for any of the conditions below? (Please check all that apply)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> severe mental illness                               | <input type="checkbox"/> chronic drug use | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV/AIDS related illness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chronic alcohol use                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> tuberculosis     | <input type="checkbox"/> other physical condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> have not received, or am not receiving any services |   |   |

11. Have you ever been in the U.S. military? (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard)

- No             Yes

12. Which of the following best describes your family/household? (Please check only one)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a single individual        | <input type="checkbox"/> Two parent family with children                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One parent family with children | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple without children <input type="checkbox"/> Other type of family |

If you are part of a homeless family, please answer the following questions:

13. How many people are in your family (including yourself)?    \_\_\_\_\_
14. How many children aged 18 or under are in your family?    \_\_\_\_\_
15. How many adults are in your family?    \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B-2: Sheltered Homeless Survey Results

### Question 1: Shelter Name and Location

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Casa de Paz	8	4.0
Casa Esperanza	4	2.0
Genesis House	8	4.0
Hamilton House-SOP	8	4.0
IHELP-Monterey	20	9.9
IHELP-Salinas	20	9.9
Pajaro Rescue Mission	17	8.4
Safe Haven	13	6.4
Safe Place	15	7.4
Shelter Outreach Plus-HB	20	9.9
Veterans Transition Center	25	12.4
Victory Mission-staff	10	5.0
Victory Mission	34	16.8
Total	202	100.0

### Question 2: Are you currently homeless?

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	178	89.9
No	20	10.1
Total	198	100.0
Missing	4	
Total	202	

**Question 3: Where do you typically spend the night?**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Transitional housing	71	37.0
Family or friends	33	17.2
Hotel/motel	2	1.0
Domestic Violence shelter	1	.5
Emergency shelter	47	24.5
Rented house or apartment	9	4.7
On the street	22	11.5
Camping	3	1.6
In a car	3	1.6
Subsidized permanent housing	1	.5
Total	192	100.0
Missing	10	
Total	202	

**Question 4: How long have you been homeless this time? (Your best guess?)**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
less than 30 days	37	18.3
30-90 days	25	12.4
3-6 months	33	16.3
6-12 months	38	18.8
1 to 2 years	30	14.9
2 to 3 years	13	6.4
3 to 5 years	15	7.4
5 or more years	11	5.4
Total	202	100.0

**Question 5: How many times have you been homeless in the last 3 years? (Your best guess?)**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
0	38	20.2
1	62	33.0
2	37	19.7
3	19	10.1
4 or more	32	16.5
Total	188	100.0
Missing	14	
Total	202	

**Question 6: Gender**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Male	148	73.3
Female	54	26.7
Total	202	100.0

**Question 7: What is your racial background?**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Asian	5	2.7
Native American or Alaska Native	9	5.0
Black or African American	29	15.9
White	89	48.9
Some other race	50	27.5
Total	182	100.0
Missing	20	
Total	202	

**Question 8: Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino origin?**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	69	37.1
No	117	62.9
Total	186	100.0
Missing	16	
Total	202	

**Question 9: What year were you born?**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Before 1950	26	14.3
1950 to 1959	44	24.2
1960 to 1969	42	23.1
1970 to 1979	45	24.7
1980 to 1989	25	13.7
Total	182	100.0
Missing	20	
Total	202	

**Question 10-1: Have you received, or are you currently receiving treatment or services for severe mental illness?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Severe mental illness	33	16.3

**Question 10-2: Have you received, or are you currently receiving treatment or services for chronic drug use?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Chronic drug use	34	16.8

**Question 10-3: Have you received, or are you currently receiving treatment or services for HIV/AIDS related illness?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
HIV/AIDS related illness	25	12.4

**Question 10-4: Have you received, or are you currently receiving treatment or services for chronic alcohol use?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Chronic alcohol use	33	16.3

**Question 10-5: Have you received, or are you currently receiving treatment or services for tuberculosis?**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Tuberculosis	4	2.0

**Question 10-7: Have you received, or are you currently receiving treatment or services for any of the conditions listed? I have received any services**

	Frequency	Percent
Have not received, or am not receiving any services	59	29.2

**Question 11: Have you ever been in the U.S. militia (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard)**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	138	73.0
Yes	51	27.0
Total	189	100.0
Missing	13	
Total	202	

**Question 12: Which of the following best describes your family/household? (Please check only one)**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
I am a single individual	138	70.4
Two parent family with children	16	8.2
One parent family with children	34	17.3
Couple without children	5	2.6
Other type of family	3	1.5
Total	196	100.0
Missing	6	
Total	202	

**Question 13: How many people are in your family (including yourself?)**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
1	4	7.3
2	12	21.8
3	21	38.2
4	8	14.5
5	4	7.3
6	5	9.1
7	1	1.8
Total	55	100.0
Missing	147	
Total	202	

**Question 14: How many children aged 18 or under are in your family?**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
0	2	4.8
1	10	23.8
2	17	40.5
3	6	14.3
4	3	7.1
5	3	7.1
6	1	2.4
Total	42	100.0
Missing	160	
Total	202	

**Question 15: How many adults are in your family?**

Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
1	32	71.1
2	10	22.2
3	1	2.2
4	2	4.4
Total	45	100.0
Missing	157	
Total	202	