

Orange County Civic Center Homeless Survey 2016

Introduction

A survey of individuals who are homeless and living in the Civic Center area of Santa Ana, California was administered on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 as a follow-up to the survey completed August 31, 2015. The survey was strategically scheduled for a similar time of month to replicate the conditions that existed the previous year. The Civic Center is comprised of the geographic area featured on the map below. A team of 41 staff and volunteers from the County of Orange Health Care Agency and Social Services Agency as well as the City of Santa Ana, Illumination Foundation, Mercy House, and CityNet surveyed this area from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. to get a snapshot of the number of homeless people in the Civic Center area, their demographic breakdown, and the needs of the population. The results of this survey depict a diverse group of individuals who are struggling with a variety of physical and behavioral health issues that have limited their ability to connect to supportive services and housing. A total of 461 homeless individuals were counted in the Civic Center that day; 428 of whom voluntarily participated in the survey.

Data Observations: Survey participants were encouraged to provide as much feedback as possible in their responses. Some survey questions allowed participants to select multiple response categories that applied to the same question, which resulted in several data sets that exceed 100% when totaled. All responses are presented as self-reported by those surveyed.

Map of Civic Center Area



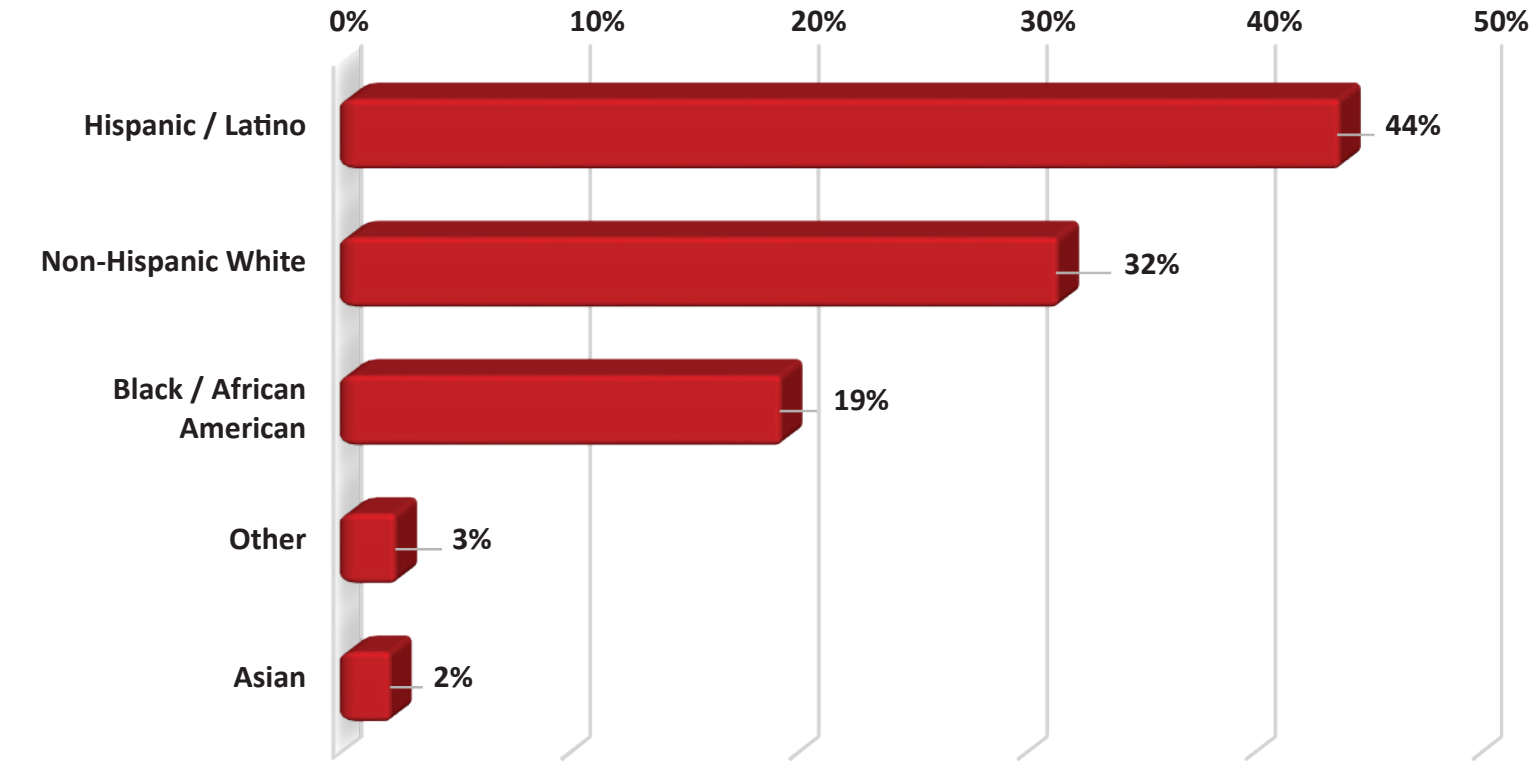
Survey History

Date	8/31/2015	8/23/2016
Completed Survey	369	428
Refused to Complete	31	33
TOTAL	406	461

Participant Demographics

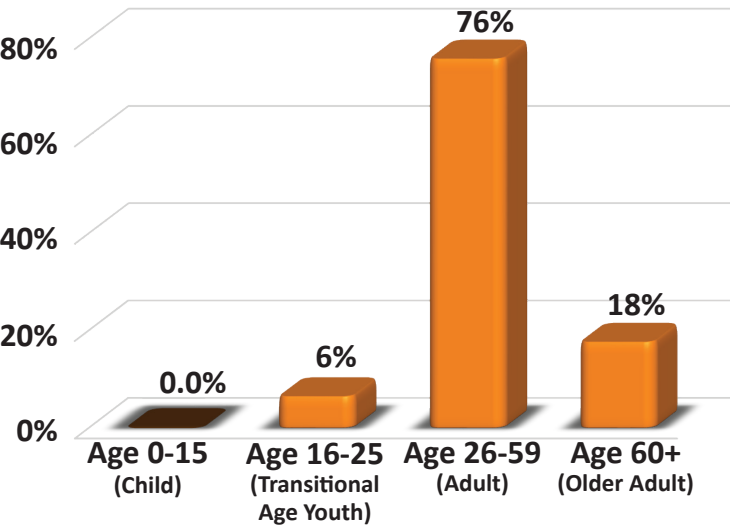
Ethnicity

44% of participants surveyed were Hispanic/Latino, 32% were Non-Hispanic White, 19% were Black/African American, 3% were other race/ethnicity, and 2% were Asian.



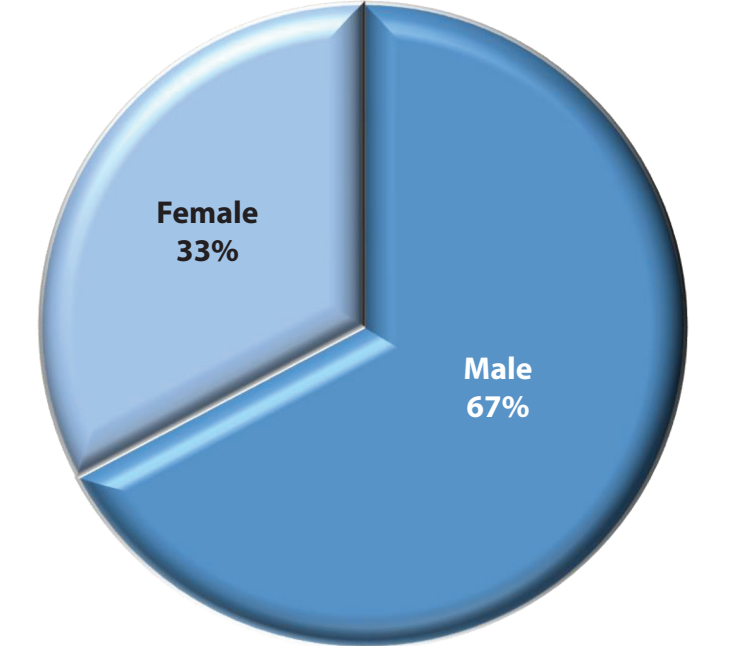
Age Group

76% of those surveyed were age 26-59, 18% were over the age of 60, and 16% were age 16-25.



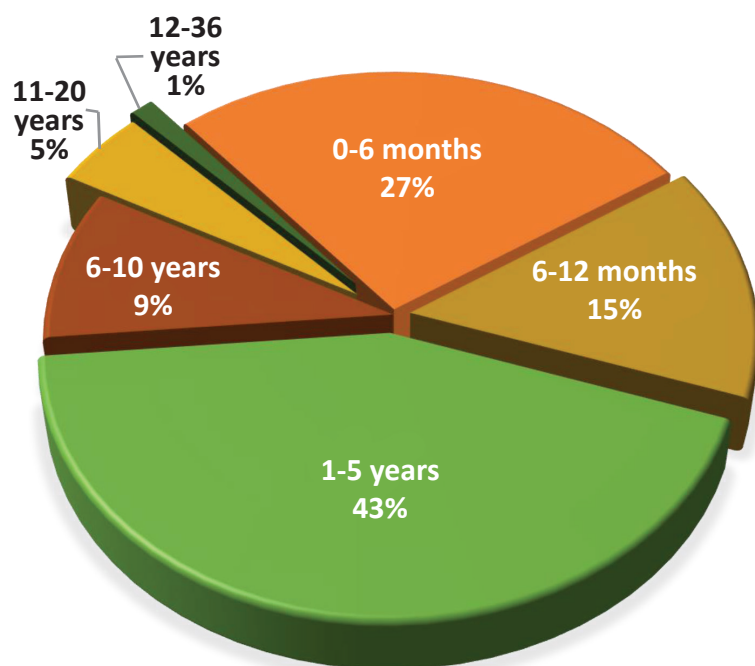
Gender

67% of participants surveyed were male and 33% were female.

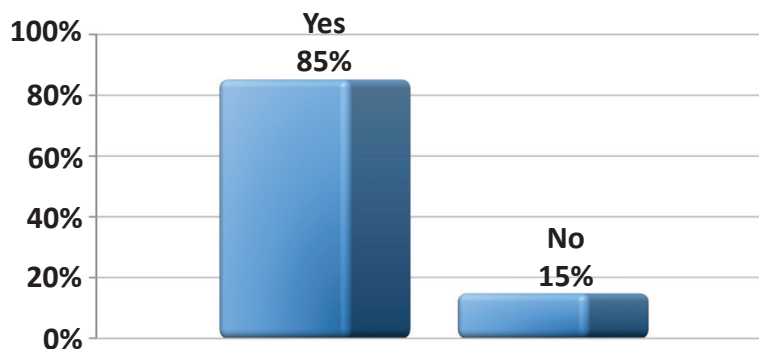


Survey Questions and Responses

How long have you been homeless in the Civic Center?



Did you sleep at Civic Center last night?



If you didn't sleep at Civic Center, where did you sleep?

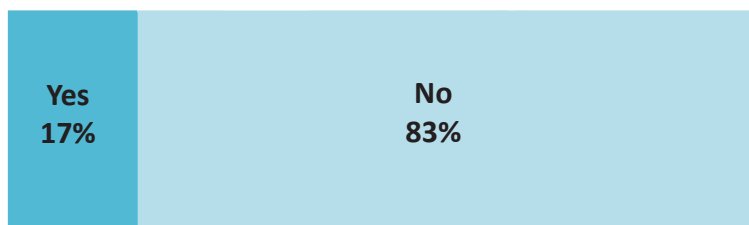
If not, where did you sleep?	Total	Percent
Santa Ana (outside Civic Center)	22	35%
Shelter	8	13%
Friends / Family	7	11%
Rented Room	6	10%
Outside Santa Ana	6	10%
Park	5	8%
Motel	4	6%
Jail	2	3%
Vehicle	2	3%
Church	1	2%

What was your living situation immediately before this stay at Civic Center?

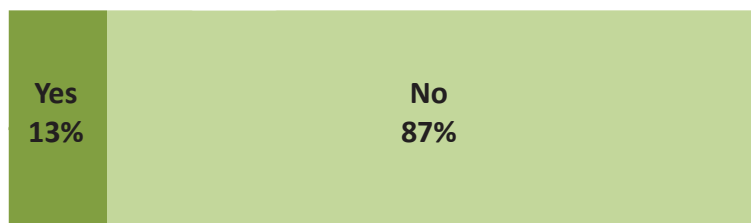
Previous Living Situation	Total	Percent
House / Apartment	155	45%
Renting Room	48	14%
Incarceration	35	10%
Homeless in OC	22	6%
Treatment Program	15	5%
Homeless – Unknown Location	12	4%
Shelter	11	3%
Hospital	9	3%
Vehicle	9	3%
Motel / Hotel	8	2%
Foster / Group Home	7	2%
Homeless Outside OC in CA	6	2%
Homeless Outside CA	3	1%

Survey Questions and Responses

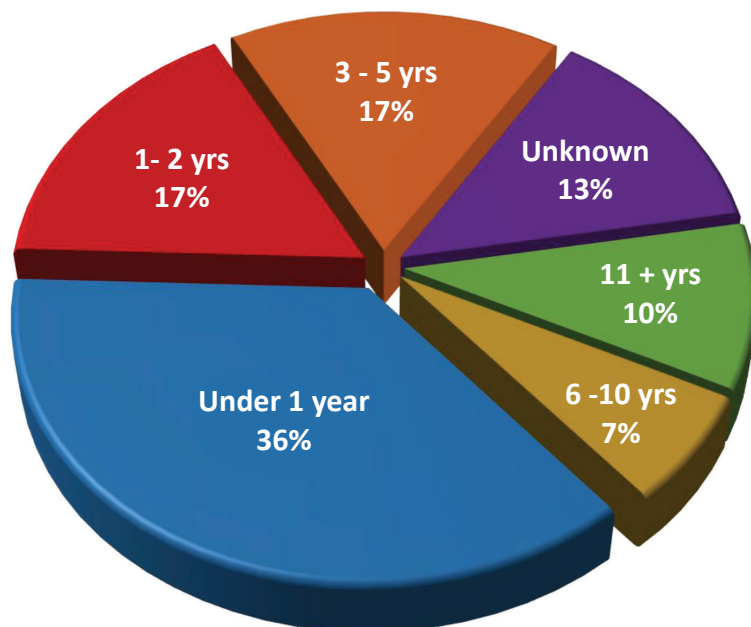
If in a program/hospital/foster care, did you work with someone on a discharge plan?



If incarcerated, did you participate in an early release program?



When were you released?

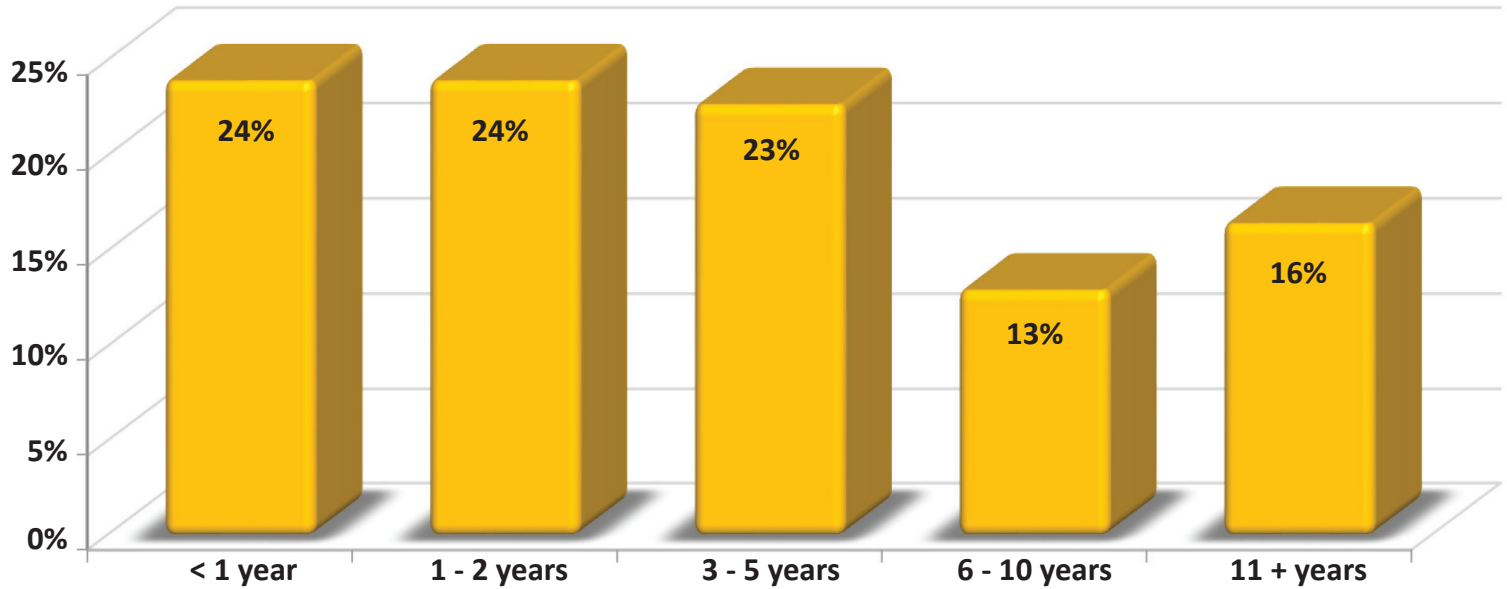


Where was your last permanent residence?

Last Permanent Residence	Total	Percent
Santa Ana	185	57%
Anaheim	33	10%
Garden Grove	16	5%
Costa Mesa	10	3%
Orange	10	3%
Tustin	9	3%
Fullerton	7	2%
Mission Viejo	7	2%
Huntington Beach	6	2%
San Clemente	6	2%
Westminster	5	2%
Buena Park	4	1%
Irvine	4	1%
Lake Forest	3	1%
Cypress	2	1%
San Juan Capistrano	2	1%
Seal Beach	2	1%
Anaheim Hills	1	<1%
Coto de Caza	1	<1%
Dana Point	1	<1%
Foothill Ranch	1	<1%
Fountain Valley	1	<1%
La Habra	1	<1%
La Palma	1	<1%
Laguna Hills	1	<1%
Newport Beach	1	<1%
Placentia	1	<1%
Stanton	1	<1%

Survey Questions and Responses

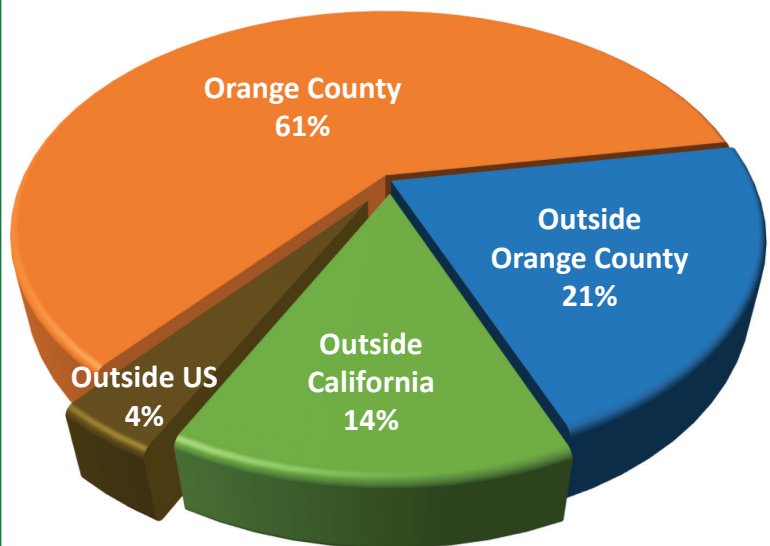
How long ago since you lived there?



What is the main reason you stopped living there?

Reason for Leaving	Total	Percent
Loss of Job / Job Change	77	21%
Relationship Problems	70	19%
Loss of Home / Eviction	58	16%
Financial Problems	43	11%
Divorce / Death	42	11%
Personal Choice	37	10%
Incarcerated / Law Related	22	6%
Substance Use Problems	14	4%
Disability / Medical	7	2%
Mental Health Challenges	4	1%

Where does your nearest relative live?

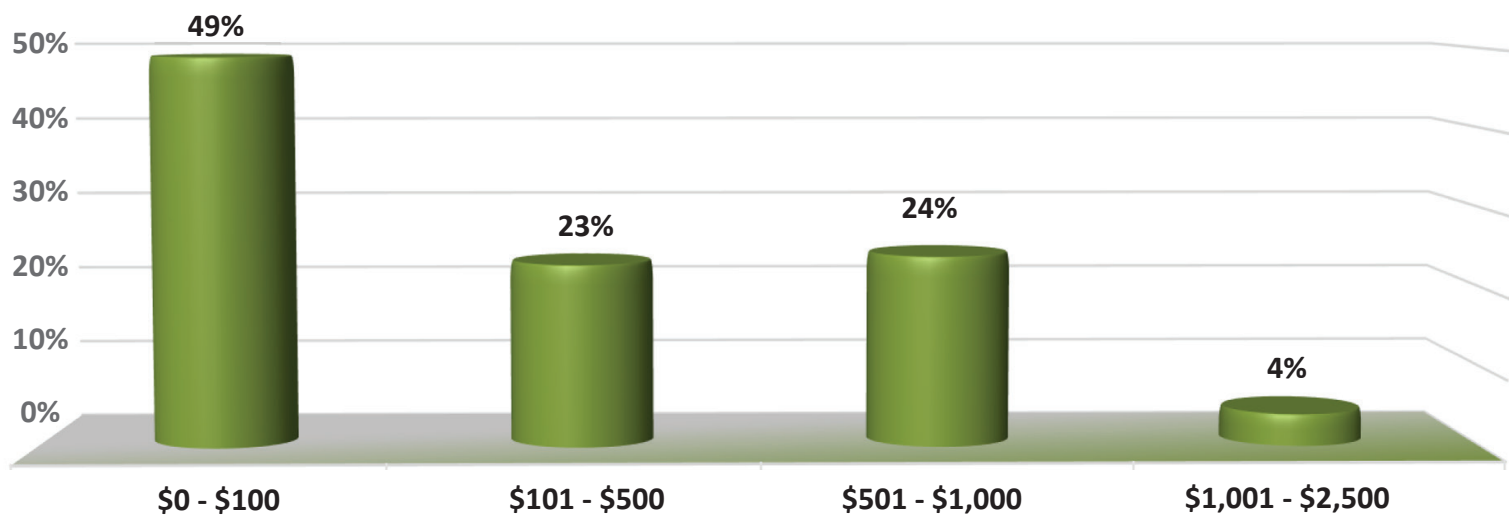


Relationship

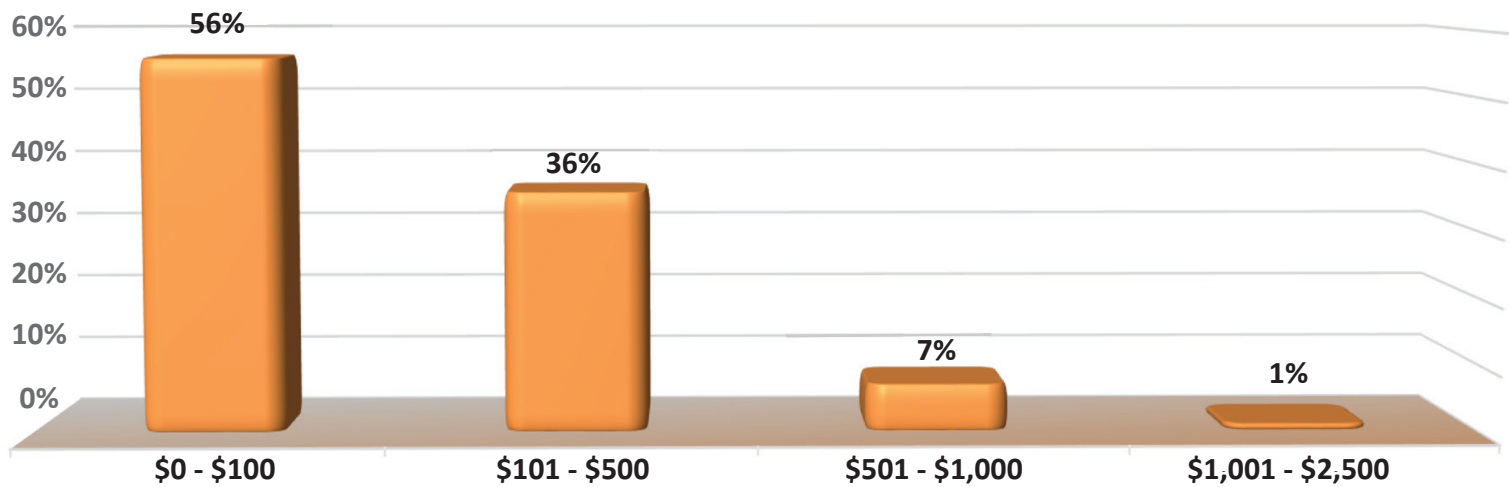
Relationship	Total	Percent
Siblings	110	32%
Parent(s)	97	29%
Extended Family	87	26%
Children	34	10%
Spouse / Ex-Spouse	12	4%

Survey Questions and Responses

How much monthly income do you receive?



How much rent do you think you can afford?



Do you receive assistance from any of the sources below?

Source of Financial Assistance	Total	Percent
Medi-Cal	227	64%
Food Stamps / EBT	222	63%
Social Security	84	24%
General Relief	79	22%
CalWORKS	6	2%
SSDI	5	1%
VA Disability	4	1%
Section 8 – Rental Assistance	4	1%
Medicare	2	1%

Survey Questions and Responses

Substance Use

Substance Use

In the past year, has drinking or drug use prevented you from doing things you want to do?

Yes
36%

No
64%

Do you feel you have a substance use problem?

Yes
37%

No
63%

Have you ever accessed substance use treatment?

Yes
40%

No
60%

Mental Health

Mental Health

In the past year, have mental health issues prevented you from doing things you want to do?

Yes
40%

No
60%

Do you feel you have a mental health condition?

Yes
44%

No
56%

Have you ever accessed mental health treatment?

Yes
37%

No
63%

Physical Health

Physical Health

Do you have any physical health issues that interfere with your daily living?

Yes
51%

No
49%

Have you been to a hospital emergency room in the last year?

Yes
48%

No
52%

Have you been to a hospital emergency room in the last year?

Emergency Room Visits

Total

Percent

1 - 2

124



61%

3 - 5

53



43%

6 - 10

10



8%

11 - 50

5



4%

Not Reported

10



8%

Which of these answers best describes why you are homeless today?

Reason for Homelessness

Total

Percent

Loss of job

190



46%

No affordable housing options

186



45%

Relationship challenges

120



29%

Other

110



27%

Substance abuse issues

108



26%

Medical disability challenges

107



26%

Behavioral health challenges

105



25%

Domestic violence related

39



9%

Lost Home

14



3%

Legal Issues

12



3%

Financial

9



2%

By Choice

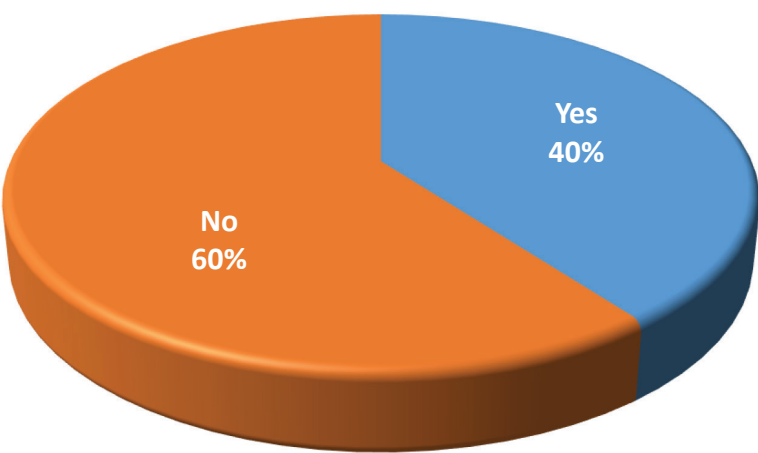
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1%

Survey Questions and Responses

Do you regularly utilize the Cold Weather Shelter or any other shelter?



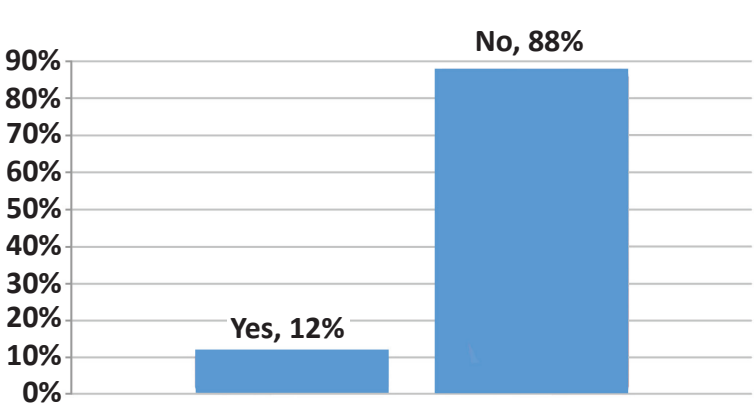
If yes, which shelter(s)?

Shelters	Total	Percent
Armories	90	54%
Transit Terminal	38	23%
Salvation Army	22	13%
Other Shelters	14	8%
Unspecified	3	2%

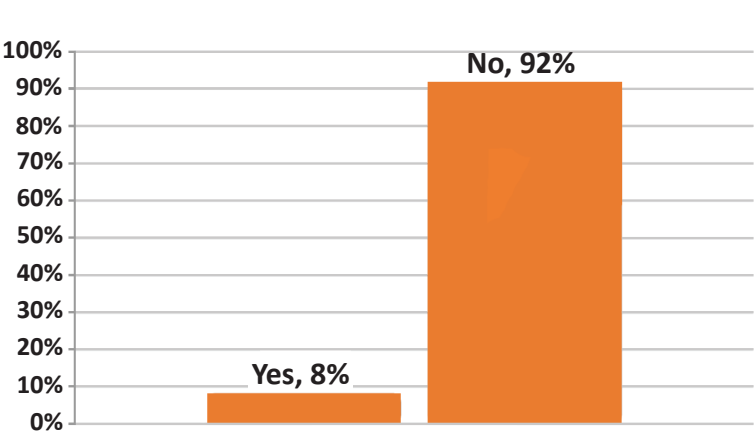
If not, why not?

Reason for not using Shelters	Total	Percent
Unspecified	93	37%
No knowledge of it	30	12%
Too crowded	25	10%
Don't like it	24	9%
Not necessary	23	9%
Likes Civic Center	17	7%
Not safe / clean	15	6%
No particular reason	15	4%
Inconvenient	9	4%
Transportation	8	3%

Did you participate in the survey last year?



Have you ever served in the Armed Forces?



What brought you to the Civic Center area?

What brought you to the Civic Center area?	Total	Percent
Sense of community	92	23%
Food	81	20%
Loss of housing	80	20%
Word of mouth	67	17%
Personal issues	59	15%
Loss of job / income	53	13%
Services	31	8%
Released from jail	11	3%
Convenient	9	2%
Stopped and stayed	8	2%