



Eureka Police Department

Unsheltered Homeless Survey



CITY *of* **EUREKA**

Purpose

- Get an accurate longitudinal count of Eureka unsheltered homeless
- Gain insight into the demographics of the unsheltered homeless population
- Collect information re: characteristics of unsheltered homeless
 - Reasons for homelessness
 - Why Eureka?
 - Sleep
 - Mental health
 - Substance abuse
 - Use of services
 - Perceptions of homelessness
- Assess what resources the unsheltered homeless qualify for and/or are using

Survey Methodology

- Survey Structure
 - Consisted of a total 15 open and closed response questions
 - Generated using Survey Monkey
- Method
 - Unsheltered homeless were surveyed ‘on the street’ using the Survey Monkey mobile app
 - Questions were read aloud and respondents provided verbal responses
 - Responses recorded by officer conducting survey

Survey Methodology

- Survey Questions
 - Q1 What is your name and age/date of birth?
 - Q2 Sex
 - Q3 What is your relationship status?
 - Q4 How long have you been homeless?
 - Q5 Where did you sleep last night?
 - Q6 How did you become homeless?
 - Q7 How long have you been in Eureka?
 - Q8 Why did you come to Eureka and where did you live prior?

Survey Methodology

- Q9 What type of benefits and assistance are you eligible for or using?
- Q10 Have you ever been diagnosed with or received treatment for a mental health disorder?
- Q11 Has drugs and/or alcohol been a problem in your life?
- Q12 What resources and services have you accessed and/or been offered since coming to Eureka?
- Q13 Are you satisfied with your current lifestyle?
- Q14 Is your lifestyle a matter of choice?
- Q15 What do you see as your biggest barriers to housing?

Survey Overview

- Survey conducted over a period of 4 months, from August 27, 2018-January 1, 2019
- 190 unique responses collected

Survey Results



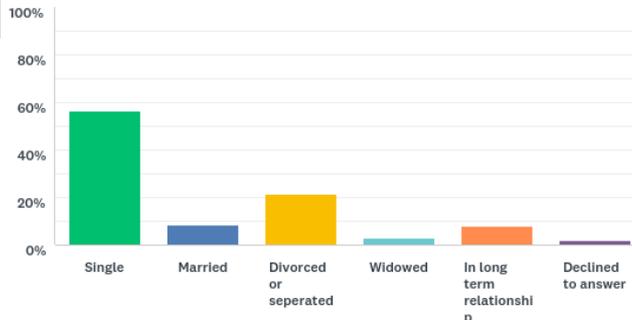
Eureka Unsheltered Homeless Demographics

- Age:
 - Average: 44 years
 - Youngest: 22 years
 - Oldest: 76 years

- Gender:
 - Male - 71%
 - Female - 29%

Relationship Status

Q3 What is your relationship status?



Duration of Homelessness

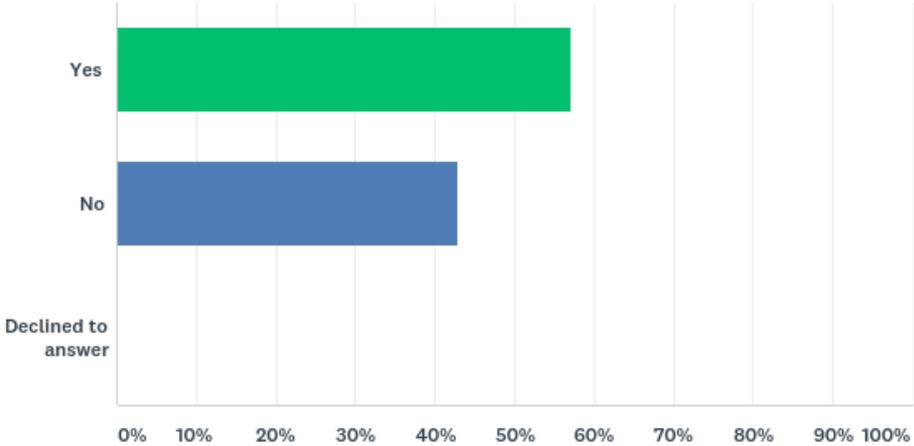
- 77% of respondents have been homeless for over 1 year
 - 35% more than 5 years
 - 42% 1-5 years
- 23% homeless less than a year
 - 16% less than 6 months

Characteristics of Homelessness

Issues Leading to Homelessness

- Poverty (including low wages and lack of affordable housing) 39%
- Unemployment 29%
- Substance Abuse 28%
- Physical/Mental Illness 16%
- Family/Relational 21%
 - Divorce/Separation
 - Family Dispute
- Domestic Violence or Physical/Sexual Abuse 4%
- Personal Choice 4%

Q10 Have you ever been diagnosed with or received treatment for a mental health disorder?



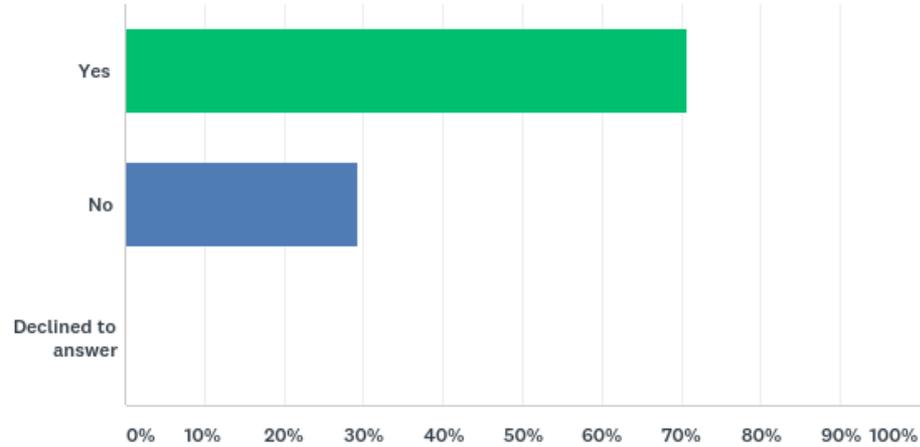
Mental Illness

ADHD	10%
Anxiety	24%
Bipolar Disorder	58%
Depression	44%
Psychotic	4%
PTSD	40%
Schizophrenia	28%

**** 50 respondents provided information regarding specific mental illnesses*

** 42% of respondents reported multiple diagnoses*

Q11 Has drugs and/or alcohol been a problem in your life?



Drug/Alcohol Use

Methamphetamine	54%
Alcohol	46%
Marijuana	38%
Heroin	24%
Cocaine	6%
Prescription Opiates	4%

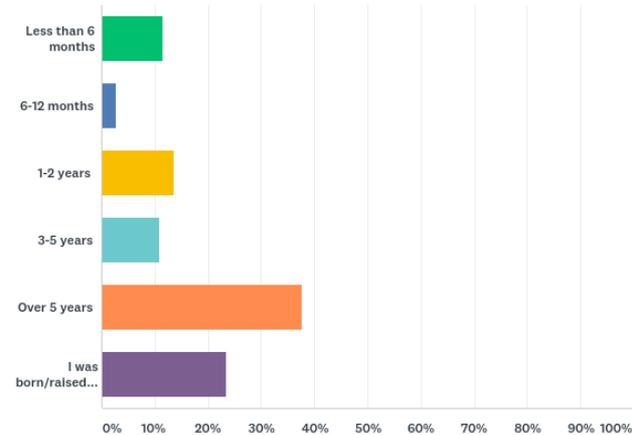
**** 50 respondents provided information regarding use of specific substances*

*** 36% of respondents reported using multiple substances*

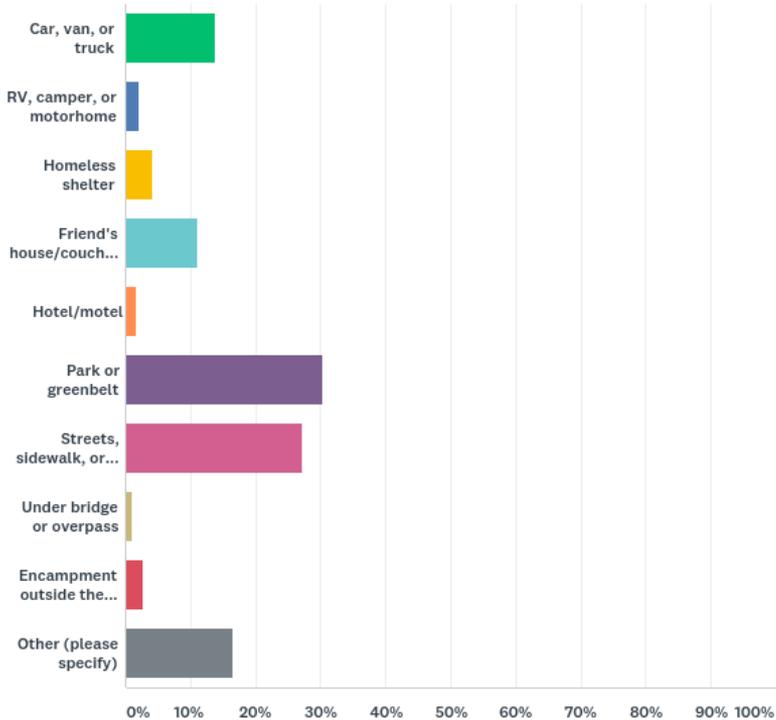
Why Eureka?

- Family 22%
- Local 13%
- Relationship 10%
- Marijuana 5%
- Services 8%
- Work 8%
- Prison/Parole 1%

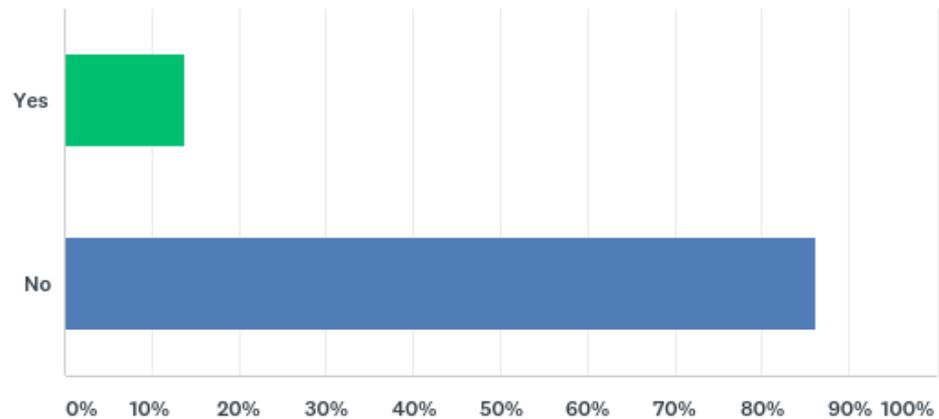
Q7 How long have you been in Eureka?



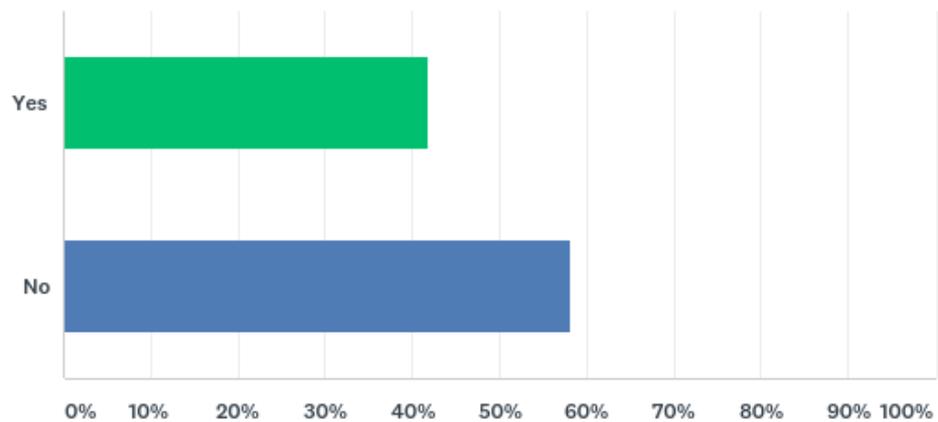
Q5 Where did you sleep last night?



Q13 Are you satisfied with your current lifestyle?



Q14 Is your lifestyle a matter of choice?

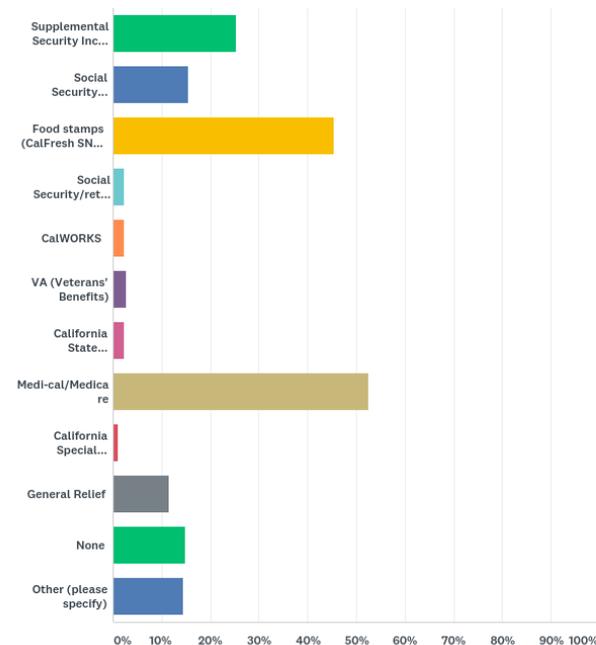


Benefits/Assistance/Services

Benefits and Assistance

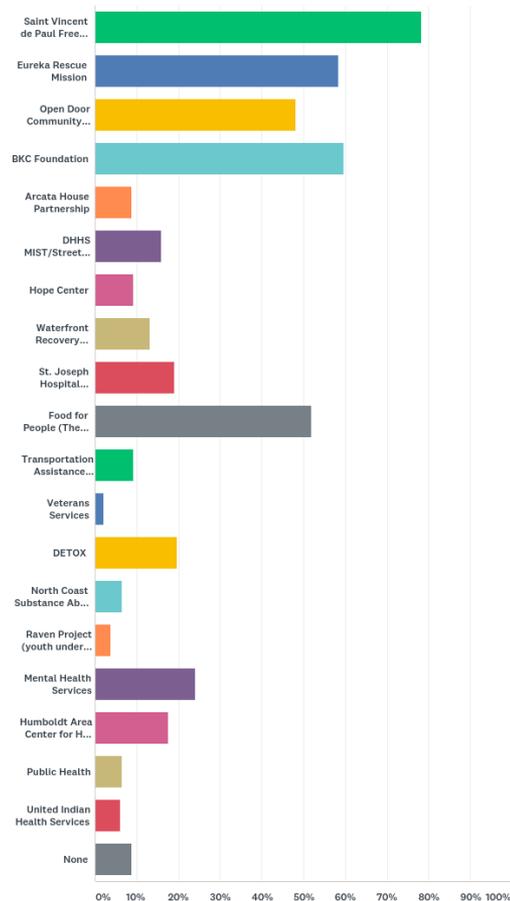
- Federal
 - Supplemental Security Income 25%
 - Social Security Disability Insurance 15%
 - Social Security 2%
 - VA 3%
 - General Relief 12%
- State
 - CalWorks 2%
 - California State Disability 2%
 - WIC 1%
- Medical
 - MediCal/Medicare 53%
- None 15%

Q9 What type of benefits and assistance are you eligible for or using?



- Saint Vincent DePaul 78%
- Eureka Rescue Mission 58%
- Open Door Community Health Care 48%
- Betty Kwan Chin Foundation 60%
- Arcata House Partnership 9%
- DHHS MIST/Street Outreach Service 16%
- Hope Center 9%
- Waterfront Recovery Services 13%
- St. Joseph Hospital Community Resource Center 19%
- Food for People 52%
- Transportation Assistance Program 9%
- Veterans Services 2%
- DETOX 20%
- North Coast Substance Abuse Council/Crossroads 7%
- Raven Project (youth under 21) 4%
- Mental Health Services 24%
- Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction (HACHR) 18%
- Public Health 7%
- United Indian Health Services 6%
- None 6%

Q12 What resources and services have you accessed and/or been offered since coming to Eureka?



Homeless Related Calls for Service in Eureka

Date range: 11/15/17 – 03/04/19	15 ½ months
Transient-related calls for service (TRC)	7,747 incidents
Officers' total on-scene time	168,433 minutes (Avg. 22 min.)

**** For calls ending in special circumstances code "TRC" as cleared by responding officers.*

***These numbers are likely low as the disposition code (TRC) is not always consistently applied.*

2019 Point-in-Time Count

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- Structure
 - A biennial (odd numbered years) “snapshot” count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons conducted on a single night in January
 - Continuums of Care (CoCs) are required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to conduct these counts
 - Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally
(Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition = federally designated CoC)
 - Numbers from the count are used by the State of California to proportionately allocate funding to counties to address homelessness and housing

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- Method
 - 140 volunteers from across the county participated
 - County used a software program this year to conduct the count
 - Voluntary surveys administered throughout the county with questions about:
 - Age
 - Physical and mental health status
 - Where they slept the night before

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- Method
 - This year for the first time, in addition to surveying people, “observational” counts were allowed under certain circumstances:
 - Sleeping
 - Declined to participate
 - Volunteer didn’t feel it would be safe to approach the person
 - Volunteers were instructed to “record an observation tally” if they believed it was more likely than not the person was unsheltered the night before

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- A strategy was also developed to count people living in vehicles, tents, and makeshift shelters who could not be readily observed because these constructions were obstructing the number of people and their characteristics from view.
- Volunteers were instructed to look for particular signs that tend to indicate vehicular residency:
 - View through front/rear/side windows obstructed (to restrict visibility inside)
 - Items often associated with vehicle residency such as generators, bicycles, externally secured storage containers
 - Condensation on windows
 - At least one partially open window
 - Unusually large amounts of possessions within/near vehicle (often in bags)

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- Last four digits of license plates recorded to remove duplicate counts
- In order to translate these “drive-by” counts into head counts, a strategy was employed that was used by several other counties in 2017 (including Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, Monterey):

When people were willing to complete the full survey and reported living in a vehicle, tent, or makeshift shelter, they were asked how many people were residing in these vehicles/shelters the night before. PIT staff then produced an average number of persons in each vehicle/tent/makeshift shelter by type based on these samples and multiplied those numbers by the count of vehicles, tents etc.

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

Teams of volunteers were assigned to canvas discrete zones and given a map of the territories for which they were responsible



Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- Volunteers who attended training sessions or watched an instructional video were armed with a smartphone app called Counting Us, which allowed them to survey homeless people with less paperwork
- Volunteers started counting between 6 and 7 AM
- They were instructed to walk or drive down every street, attempting to conduct a full survey whenever possible, but...
- ...not to wake people up, knock on RV doors, roust people from tents etc.
- Some volunteers were also assigned to cover greenbelt areas where it was known people were camping
- Once each team felt they had covered their territory, they were finished

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- “Unsheltered Homeless” per HUD Definition:

"An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport or campground.”

Humboldt County 2019 PIT

- “Sheltered Homeless” per HUD:

“An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals).”

Residents of the Blue Angel Village, Betty’s Family Shelter, Eureka Rescue Mission, North Coast Veterans Resource Center, and RCAA facilities will be included in the “sheltered” PIT count.

Humboldt County 2019 PIT Count Results

- 2019 County unsheltered total: 1,473
- Eureka: 653*
- *Eureka = total for Greater Eureka area including:
 - King Salmon
 - Fields Landing
 - Humboldt Hill
 - Pine Hill
 - Cutten
 - Myrtle town

Point-in-Time Count: Unsheltered, Jan. 23, 2019

