MERCED COUNTY

2018 Homeless Count and Survey Report

March 2018

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A copy of this report is available at www.MercedCoC.com.

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I. Executive Summary

A. Total Number of Homeless Persons

There were 514 adults and children counted as homeless on January 25, 2018, which was the designated time of the Merced County 2018 Homeless Count and Survey. This represents an increase of 13.2% when compared to the 454 adults and children counted as homeless in 2017 as noted in the following table.

Table 1. Comparison of Total Number of Homeless Persons between 2016 and 2018

Year	Total Number of Homeless Persons	Variance	
		#	%
2016	519		
2017	454	-65	-12.5
2018	514	+60	+13.2

Of the 514 persons counted, 306 adults and six (6) children were unsheltered and 202 (173 adults and 29 children) were sheltered.

It is important to note that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) limits the count to persons who are defined as

- Homeless persons living in a place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans (these persons must be counted as unsheltered); and
- Persons living in emergency shelters and transitional housing projects (these persons must be counted as sheltered).

B. Total Number of Unsheltered and Sheltered Persons by Location

The last row in Table 2 provides a breakdown of the 514 persons by unsheltered and sheltered persons and compares the breakdown to the 2017 breakdown. There was an increase in both unsheltered and sheltered persons. Unsheltered persons increased from 298 to 312 persons, which represents nearly a 5 % increase and sheltered persons increased from 156 to 202 persons, which represents an increase of 29.5%.

Table 2 also provides a breakdown of the 514 unsheltered and sheltered persons within the incorporated and unincorporated areas in which they were counted. A comparison to the breakdown of the 2017 numbers is also noted.

Table 2. Breakdown of Unsheltered and Sheltered Persons by Area

Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas	Total Number of Unsheltered Persons				Total Number of Sheltered Persons				Total Number			
	2017	2018	Difference		2017	2018	Difference		2017	2018	Difference	
	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%
Atwater	19	28	+9	+47	15	79*	+31	+207	34	108	+74	+218
Cressey	1	0	-1	-100	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	-100
Delhi	0	1	+1	+100	0	0	0	0	0	1	+1	+100
Dos Palos	12	11	-1	-8	0	0	0	0	12	11	-1	-8
El Nido	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gustine	1	0	-1	-100	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	-100
Hilmar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Le Grande	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingston	3	4	+1	+33	0	0	0	0	3	4	+1	+33
Los Banos	78	57	-19	-24	0	0	0	0	78	57	-19	-24
Merced	177	187	+10	+5.6	141	123	-18	-13	318	310	-8	-2.5
Planada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Nella	0	3	+3	+300	0	0	0	0	0	3	+3	+300
Snelling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dos Palos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winton	7	21	+14	+200	0	0	0	0	7	21	+14	+200
Total:	**298**	**312**	**+14**	**+4.7**	**156**	**202**	**+46**	**+29**	**454**	**514**	**+60**	**+13.2**

*includes 33 adults and children who received motel vouchers.

II. Unsheltered Persons

HUD requires the total number of unsheltered persons to be broken down by the following homeless subpopulation categories for the unsheltered adult population except for chronically homeless families and families:

- Chronically Homeless Families;
- Chronically Homeless Individuals;
- Ethnicity;
- Families;
- Men;
- Persons with HIV/AIDS;
- Persons with Mental Illness;

- Race;
- Single Individuals;
- Substance Users;
- Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18;
- Veterans;
- Victims of Domestic Violence;
- Women; and
- Youth Ages 18 – 24.

Of the 312 persons counted as unsheltered, 306 adults and six (6) children were unsheltered

The following table provides a breakdown of the total unsheltered adult population by gender.

Table 3. Unsheltered Adults by Gender

Gender (Adults Only):	#	%
Male	231	75.5
Female	68	22.2
Transgender	0	0.0
Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	0	0.0
No Answer Recorded	7	2.3
Total:	306	100

The next table provides a breakdown of the total unsheltered adult population by ethnicity. Concerning ethnicity, HUD only requires that Hispanics or Latinos be noted. However, the Merced CoC included Southeast Asian ((Hmong, Cambodian, Taiwanese, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.).

Table 4. Unsheltered Adults by Ethnicity

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
Hispanic or Latino	106	34.6
Southeast Asian	5	1.6
All Others	195	63.8
Total:	306	100

The following table provides a breakdown of the total unsheltered adult population by race.

Table 5. Unsheltered Adults by Race

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
African American or Black	25	8.2
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0.7
Asian	2	0.7
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	171	55.9
Multiple Races or Other	26	8.4
Did not Know or No Response was Recorded	80	26.1
Total:	306	100

The next table breaks down the total number of unsheltered adults by subpopulations based on the information gathered by the homeless count instrument, which included questions that were asked of each unsheltered adult counted.

Table 6. Unsheltered Adults by Selected Subpopulations

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
Total Unsheltered Adults:	306	100
Families	4*	---
Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18	0	0.0
Veterans	10	3.3
Youth Age 18 to 24	21	6.9
Seniors age 62+	11	3.6
Became Homeless for the First Time During Past 12 Months	64	20.9

*four families consisted of six adults and six children.

The next to the last row notes how many unsheltered adults were seniors age 62+, which was 11 or 3.6% of the adults.

The last row contains information about persons who became homeless for the first time during the 12 months prior to the homeless count on January 25. Sixty-four (64) persons answered "yes" when asked if they became homeless for the first time during the 12 months prior to the homeless count, which represents 20.9% or one of five adults.

The following table breaks down the total number of unsheltered adults by subpopulations based on a homeless survey that was conducted after the count and administered to a sample of 85 unsheltered adults, which represents nearly a 30% sample of the 306 unsheltered adults who were counted.

Following HUD guidelines, the information gathered through the sample was used to estimate numbers of adults that fall within each subpopulation category as noted in the table below. For example, 25.0% of the unsheltered adults surveyed stated that they have a serious mental health problem. Thus, 25.0% or 76 of the 306 unsheltered adults counted were estimated to have a serious mental health problem.

Table 7: Estimates of Unsheltered Subpopulations Based on 2018 Homeless Count & 2018 Homeless Survey

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
Total Unsheltered Adults:	306	100
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0.0
Chronically Homeless Persons	130	42.4
Persons with Chronic Health Condition	115	37.6
Persons with Developmental Disabilities	43	14.1
Persons with HIV/AIDS	14	4.7
Persons with Serious Mental Health Problems	76	25.0
Persons with Physical Disabilities	94	30.6
Substance Users (on-going problem)	47	15.3
Victims of Domestic Violence	90	29.4

The next table provides information regarding questions that were added to the survey but not required by HUD. The information includes:

- More than 70% of unsheltered adults had a monthly income of $250 or less;
- More than one-third (37.6%) has a chronic health condition such as Diabetes, Heart Trouble, High Blood Pressure, Seizures, Hepatitis, Respiratory Problems, Epilepsy, Tuberculosis, or Arthritis; and
- nearly a third (32.9%) were admitted to the emergency room or hospital.

Table 8. Unsheltered Adults by Selected Categories

Subpopulation (Adults Only):	#	%
Total Unsheltered Adults:	306	100
Monthly Income of $250 or less	215	70.4
Do you have a chronic health condition such as Diabetes, Heart Trouble, High Blood Pressure, Seizures, Hepatitis, Respiratory Problems, Epilepsy, Tuberculosis, or Arthritis?	115	37.6
Have you been admitted to the emergency room or hospital during the past 12 months	101	32.9

There were additional survey questions that focused on released from prison and number of arrests. The answers to these questions are for the 85 persons who were surveyed.

Regarding release from prison,

- 20 or 23.5% answered "yes" when asked if they were released from prison or jail during the 12 months prior to the count;
- Of the 20 who answered "yes," eight (8) or 9.4% stated that they were released after serving 90 days or less;
- Of the 20 who answered "yes,"
  - 8 or 40% stated that they did not know;
  - 7 or 35% were released on probation;
  - 3 or 15% refused to answer; and
  - 2 or 10% were released on parole.

Regarding arrests, the 85 persons were asked how many times they were arrested during the 12 months prior to the count and provided the following answers:

- 13 or 15.3% stated 1 time;
- 1 or 1.2% stated 2 times;
- 1 or 1.2% stated 5 times;
- 1 or 1.2% stated 7 times;
- 1 person refused to answer;
- 68 or 80% stated "no."

III. Sheltered Persons

As required by HUD, the sheltered count included the number of persons and households sleeping in emergency shelters (including seasonal shelters), transitional housing, and Safe Haven programs (of which the County has none) that were listed on the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). In addition, any persons staying in hotels or motels as a result of receiving a voucher from a social service agency were included in the sheltered count per HUD's instructions if the voucher program was listed on the HIC.

HUD encourages the use of Homeless Management Information Services (HMIS) data to generate sheltered counts and subpopulation data for programs with 100% of beds participating in HMIS. Thus, HMIS was used to gather the total number of occupied beds and the number of persons that provided a total number of sheltered persons and a breakdown by subpopulation for nearly all sheltered programs.

Table 9. Total Shelter Count by Program

Facility	Program:	Total # of Persons
Shelters:		
Community Action Agency	D Street Shelter	45
Merced County Human Services Agency	Motel Vouchers	33
Merced County Rescue Mission	Emergency Shelter	0
Merced County Rescue Mission	Hope Respite Care	9
Merced County Rescue Mission	Room at the Inn Shelter	5
Merced County Rescue Mission	Winter Warming Center	3
Valley Crisis Center	Domestic Violence Shelter	9
	Sub-Total:	104
Transitional Housing:		
Community Social Model Advocates	Hobie House	22
Community Social Model Advocates	Tranquility Village	24
Merced County Mental Health	Parsons House	0
Merced County Rescue Mission	Hope for Men (Bridge to Hope)	11
Merced County Rescue Mission	Hope for Women (Haven of Hope)	10
Merced County Rescue Mission	Transition to Hope	31
	Sub-Total:	98
	Total:	**202**

The table above reveals that just over half—104 persons or 51.2% of the sheltered population were in shelters and just a little less than half—98 persons, or 48.8% were in transitional housing programs.

II. Background Information Concerning the Homeless Count

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, as part of its requirements for local jurisdictions to continue to receive continuum of care funding for homeless persons, asks local jurisdictional applicants to conduct a "one night point-in-time" homeless count every other year during the last 10 days of January.

- **When Was the Count Conducted?**

The homeless count was conducted, in accordance to HUD instructions, on the streets of Merced County during the hours of 6:00 am-8:00 am on Thursday, January 25, 2018. The count was also conducted overnight on January 24 in shelters and transitional housing programs.

- **Who was Counted?**

A person was considered homeless, and thus counted, only when he/she fell within the following HUD-based definition by residing in one of the places described below:

a. in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;
b. in an emergency shelter;
c. in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter.

HUD does not consider the following persons to be homeless—persons who are "doubled up," or persons who are "near homelessness"—but considers them to be at-risk of homelessness. Following HUD's guidelines, such persons were <u>not</u> included in the county's homeless count.

The County of Merced, like many other counties, has a substantial number of households that are <u>at-risk of becoming homeless</u>. Twenty percent (20.3%) of Merced County residents were living below the poverty level according to the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). This means that approximately 54,000 of the 268,672 County residents representing around 16,000 households are at risk of becoming homeless on a day like today.

Households living below the poverty level are at risk of becoming homeless. Because of their limited income, they frequently have to choose between paying their rent or mortgage and other daily living costs such as child care, clothing, food, health care, and transportation. The generally accepted standard for housing affordability is that households should not spend more than 30% of their incomes on rent and utilities.

Many households can become homeless because of social structural issues such as increases in rent, loss of job, and rising health care costs. In addition, personal experiences such as domestic violence, physical disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse can cause members of a low-income household or an entire household to become homeless as well. Often, one or more of these experiences factor into a household's homelessness experience.

- **Who Conducted the Count?**

Nearly 200 (198) counters carried out the street count on January 26 between the hours of 6:00 am - 8:00 am. They consisted of a wide-range of local representatives from various public and private organizations that included:

- Businesses;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Homeless and Formerly Homeless individuals;
- Local government;
- Non-profit agencies.

In addition, staff from shelters and transitional housing programs counted residents in their respective programs.

- **How Was the Count Conducted?**

The 2018 homeless count was a community-wide effort. Prior to the count, volunteers attended planning meetings and an orientation. During the planning meetings, key locations and mapping of sites were discussed in order to ensure that areas where persons congregate were identified and that efforts were made to minimize duplication.

III. Homeless Count Methodology

Counters were divided into teams and assigned areas to count. Teams assigned to areas where homeless persons were pre-identified included a homeless person or a formerly homeless person to help ensure that homeless persons would feel comfortable with counters.

The homeless count consisted of a personal contact method and an observation-only method. If the counters could not implement the personal contact method, than an observation-only method was used.

The personal contact method required counters to ask each homeless person a series of questions beginning with whether they were certain that the person they were about to count met HUD's criteria of sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., sidewalk, abandoned building, tent, vehicle, park bench, etc.)

If not certain, counters were required to ask the following question:

- Did you sleep on the streets, in an abandoned building, tent, canopy, or vehicle last night?

If the answer was "no," they were instructed not to include the person. If the answer was "yes," they were instructed to ask the rest of the question listed on the homeless count instrument (see Appendix A).

An observation-only method was used for the following reasons:

- If a homeless person did not wish to speak to a counter, then the counter was to thank the person and complete questions 3 through 7 based on observations ONLY if the counter was certain that the person meets HUD's criteria of sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., sidewalk, abandoned building, tent, vehicle, park bench, etc.);

- If the counter believed that a person was homeless and did not want to disturb the person because the person was sleeping, questions 3 through 7 were to be answered based on observations ONLY;

- If the counter believed that, a person was homeless and the counter felt it was unsafe to engage the person, questions 3 through 7 were to be answered based upon observations ONLY.

IV. Background Information Concerning the Homeless Survey

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the annual Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program application requires information about the following homeless subpopulations:

- Chronically Homeless Individuals;
- Chronically Homeless Families;
- Persons with HIV/AIDS;
- Persons with Mental Illness;
- Substance Abusers;
- Unaccompanied Youth Under Age 18;
- Veterans;
- Victims of Domestic Violence;
- Youth Ages 18 – 24.

Thus, a survey was compiled that asked questions in order to ensure that accurate data would be collected for each subpopulation.

In addition to the subpopulations noted above, additional questions were asked to collect data for the following subpopulations:

- Men;
- Persons with Chronic Illness;
- Persons with Developmental Disabilities;
- Persons with Physical Disabilities;
- Persons Released from Correctional Institutions;
- Seniors;
- Women.

- **When Was the Survey Conducted?**

The survey was administered at various locations during the two weeks following the count. Most surveys were administered during the first week following the count.

- **Who Was Surveyed?**

The homeless survey was administered to 85 homeless adults. The percent of adults surveyed in relationship to the homeless count is more than one of every four adults (28.8%).

Of the 85 homeless adults surveyed

- 57 or 67.1% were men and 27 or 31.8% were women (one person was transgender)

- **Who Conducted the Survey?**

Approximately 20 volunteers carried out the survey. They consisted of a wide-range of local representatives from various public and private organizations that included:

- Businesses;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Homeless and Formerly Homeless individuals;
- Local government;
- Non-profit agencies.

In addition, staff from shelters and transitional housing programs administered the survey to residents in their respective programs.

- **How Was the Survey Conducted?**

The process involved administering a one-on-one interview survey with a representative sample of homeless adults living in the County of Merced. There were two (2) primary methods of contact with homeless persons who participated in the survey. They were: 1) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted on the streets and 2) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while using non-residential homeless services.

- **Where Was the Survey Conducted?**

The survey was conducted on the streets and at various residential and non-residential social service sites that participated in the homeless count.

C. Next Steps: Implementing Recommendations to Prevent and End Homelessness

Next steps should include the following:

- focusing on ending homelessness for specific subpopulations;
- Encouraging the County and each city to work in partnership with the Merced Continuum of Care (CoC) to prevent and end homelessness within its jurisdiction; and
- implementing evidence-based, best, and promising practices that have been proven to be effective in preventing and ending homelessness.

Trying to end homelessness for more than 300 unsheltered persons collectively can be overwhelming and discouraging. Focusing on specific subpopulations can elicit confidence because the number of a given subpopulation is much less and is more manageable. Furthermore, we can build upon the recent success towards ending homelessness among veterans.

Thus, next steps include the following six recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Finish the job of ending homelessness among unsheltered veterans

As noted below, the number of homeless veterans has decreased significantly over the past few years—from 88 to 13—according to past homeless counts.

Year	# of Unsheltered Veterans
2015	88
2016	25
2017	17
2018	13

Of the 13 homeless veterans, 10 were unsheltered of which

- 9 were counted in the City of Merced; and
- 1 in the unincorporated area of Winton.

City or Area	# of Unsheltered Veterans
Merced	9
Winton	1

In order to finish the job, the following public and private organizations should continue to implement the best practices of

- Permanent supportive housing and a Housing First approach through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics.
- Rapid rehousing and a Housing First approach through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families that are currently in or transitioning to permanent housing. SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis.

Public and private organizations include:

- City of Merced;
- County of Merced;
- Housing Authority of the County of Merced;
- Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project;
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Central California Health Care System – Merced;
- Westcare, San Joaquin Valley Veterans - Merced

Veterans not eligible for the HUD-VASH Voucher Program and the SSVF Program should be referred to the CoC Coordinated Entry System to be matched with the appropriate housing and supportive services.

Recommendation 2: End homelessness among unsheltered youth age 18 - 24

The number of homeless youth age 18 – 24 has barely decreased during the past few years according to past homeless count data. The number of unaccompanied youth under age 18 counted during the past few years was three (3) in 2016, zero in 2017, and zero in 2018.

Year	# of Unsheltered Youth Age 18 -24
2016	26
2017	23
2018	21

The following table breaks down the 21 youth age 18 – 24 by city and area.

City or Area	# of Unsheltered Youth Age 18 -24
Merced	12
Los Banos	6
Dos Palos	2
Winton	1

In order to determine the next steps to best end homelessness among youth, the Homeless Youth Committee should have a study session with the CoC during a future CoC representatives meeting.

Recommendation 3: End homelessness among unsheltered seniors age 62+

The number of homeless seniors age 62+ who were counted as unsheltered has steadily decreased during the past few years.

Year	# of Unsheltered Seniors Age 62+
2016	21
2017	17
2018	11

The following table breaks down seniors age 62+ by city and area.

City or Area	# of Unsheltered Seniors Age 62+
Merced	9
Los Banos	1
Dos Palos	1

In order to determine the next steps to best end homelessness among seniors age 62+, a new or existing committee should discuss next steps and make recommendations to the CoC for adoption.

Recommendation 4: End homelessness among unsheltered children and families

The CoC should adopt a no tolerance policy for children living on the streets, in vehicles, and other places not meant for human habitation and encourage each jurisdiction to do the same.

There were four families with six children who were counted as unsheltered during the 2018 homeless count.

The following table breaks down families by city.

City or Area	# of Unsheltered Families
Merced	3
Atwater	1

In order to determine the next steps to best end homelessness among unsheltered children and families, a new or existing committee should discuss next steps and make recommendations to the CoC for adoption.

Recommendation 5: End homelessness among unsheltered single women

The number of homeless single women who were counted as unsheltered has been persistent during the past few years.

Year	# of Unsheltered Single Women
2016	60
2017	70
2018	68

In order to garner enough support to end homelessness among single women, a public forum should be held to bring together women from throughout the County along with supportive men. Women have a long history in rallying behind other women who are vulnerable to social ills. The women recently counted are those left languishing on the streets and exposed to illness and injury.

Recommendation 6: Design and implement a Navigation Center to help end homelessness for all subpopulations

A Navigation Center should combine several best practices that have been proven to be effective in preventing and ending homelessness. A best practice is a method or technique that has consistently shown results better than those that have been achieved traditionally by other means and can evolve to become even better as evaluations reveal improvements for future implementation.

A Navigation Center should integrate the best practices that have been effective with helping homeless persons obtain permanent housing with those that help with maintaining the housing.

A Navigation Center should include on-site best practices that help homeless persons obtain permanent housing that include

- Street outreach and engagement;
- Coordinated entry system;
- Low barrier shelter;
- Housing navigation and related supportive services;
- Housing search; and
- Housing First approach

On-site best practices will help homeless persons who are chronically homeless with a disabling condition obtain permanent supportive housing and help others obtain affordable housing with rapid rehousing assistance. Home-based case management will help all homeless persons maintain their housing. Such case management will likely be temporary for those who obtained affordable housing but on-going for those who obtained permanent supportive housing.

Instructions for
Merced County 2018 Homeless Unsheltered Count Instrument

Pre-Count Instructions

Before counting someone

1. Please Inform the person that the Merced City and County Continuum of Care is conducting a count of persons who are homeless;
2. Their participation is **completely anonymous and confidential**;
3. You are not asking for their name, social security number, or any personal information that can be linked to the participant;
4. Their participation will help provide better programs and services for people who are homeless.

Safety Comes First

If you believe a person is homeless and the individual does not wish to speak to you thank the person and complete questions 3 through 7 based upon your observations ONLY if you are certain that the person meets HUD's criteria of sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., sidewalk, abandoned building, tent, vehicle, park bench, etc.).

If you believe a person is homeless and you do not wish to disturb the person because the person is sleeping complete questions 3 through 7 based upon your observations ONLY if you are certain that the person meets HUD's criteria of sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., sidewalk, abandoned building, tent, vehicle, park bench, etc.).

If you believe a person is homeless and if you feel it is unsafe for you to engage the person complete questions 3 through 7 based upon your observations ONLY if you are certain that the person meets HUD's criteria of sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., sidewalk, abandoned building, tent, vehicle, park bench, etc.).

NOTE: The goal is to have all of your questions answered by at least 90% of all persons counted. Therefore, please ask each person that you are counting each question unless noted otherwise. For example, asking a question may be contingent on the answer of the previous question.

Having all questions answered with accuracy will help ensure that enough data has been collected for each subpopulation that is required by HUD for each city within the county. The less data the less chances of accurate data.

Question 1:

Circle "yes" if you are certain that the person you are about to count and survey meets HUD's criteria of sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., sidewalk, abandoned building, tent, vehicle, park bench, etc.) **If not certain, ask question 2 before asking other questions.**

Question 2:

Ask the following question if you did **NOT** circle "yes" for question 1.

Did you sleep in an abandoned building, tent, canopy, or vehicle last night? (do not count the person if the person states that he or she slept in a shelter or transitional housing program. **If the answer to question 2 is "no" record "no" and do not ask other questions. Thank the person for their participation.**

Question 3: Gender

Please record

M=Male; F=Female; T=Transgender; O= does not identify as Male, Female, or Transgender

Question 4: Age

Please record the number for age group:

1=under 18
2=18 to 24
3=25 to 49
4=50 to 54
5=55 to 61
6=62 to 69
7=70 to 79
8=80+.

Question 5: Race

Please read the race code at bottom of the count instrument
before recording which is as follows:

1=African American or Black; 2=American Indian or Alaskan Native;
3=Asian; 4=Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; 5=White;
6=Multiple Races or Other; 7=don't know; and 8=refused to answer

Question 6: Ethnicity

Are You Hispanic or Latino?
Record "yes" or "no" or leave blank if person does not answer.

Question 7: Ethnicity

Are you Southeast Asian (Hmong, Cambodian, Taiwanese, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.)?
Record "yes" or "no" or leave blank if person does not answer.

Question 8:

Have you served in the United States Armed Forces?
(Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard)

Please record yes or no answer or leave blank if person does not answer.

Question 9:

Were you ever called into active duty as a member
of the National Guard or as a Reservist?

Please record yes or no answer or leave blank if person does not answer.

Question 10:

Have you ever received healthcare or benefits
from a Veterans Administration medical center?

Please record yes or no answer or leave blank if person does not answer.

Question 11:

Did you first become homeless during the past 12 months?

Please record yes or no answer or leave blank if person does not answer.

Question 12:

Do you have any children under the age of 18
who are homeless and living with you on the streets today?

Record the number of children; if none record "0"

NOTE: If 18 or older please enter the persons as an adult in another column.

Question 13:

Do you have a spouse or partner* living with you today?

If you can see the person,
ask the same questions to the spouse or partner
and record the answers in the next column.

- *A Partner is a person you live with and share a common family life
  but are not joined in a traditional marriage.*