Homelessness Survey

City of Livermore



Prepared by **HTA**

Lorene (Lori) Allio, PhD Chandreve Clay, MPA Kristie Glatze Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates

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We are also grateful to the partner organizations that opened their doors to the surveyors and allowed them to conduct the survey on their premises. These organizations include Trinity Baptist Church, Vineyard Christian Church, and Asbury Methodist Church. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Child Welfare and Attendance Team from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District who provided direct outreach to families and youth during the survey period

Introduction to the Livermore Homeless Survey

On April 30, 2014, Mayor John Marchand hosted a summit to discuss homelessness in Livermore. As City leaders listened to constituents, service providers and persons experiencing homelessness, they realized that it would be necessary to gather additional information regarding the complex, interrelated causes that contribute to a person becoming homeless in Livermore.

City leaders recognized that to obtain the necessary information regarding Livermore homeless a local survey needed to be conducted that provided a more comprehensive and in-depth assessment than Alameda County's Point-in Time Homeless Count. The Point-in Time Count is conducted every two years, on a single day in late January, at one food distribution site and with the persons residing at the Tri-Valley Haven's homeless and domestic violence shelters. The survey described throughout this document was conducted over two weeks at three food service sites, a street outreach medical van and in encampments with the goal of obtaining information regarding the *unsheltered* persons in Livermore that do not, or infrequently access services. A survey planning committee was convened that included representatives from the City of Livermore, public agencies and nonprofit organizations. With their input, the planning team from Hatchuel Tabernik & Associates (HTA) developed the survey instrument.

The survey crafted by the consulting team and committee has two primary purposes. The first is to gather information regarding the unsheltered persons residing in Livermore that is not accounted for in the Point-in-Time Count. The second purpose is to provide this information to the City and local service providers. This will allow us to create systemic changes in the service delivery system to reduce the number of people that are currently homeless or will become homeless in the future.

The following agencies participated in the planning committee for this survey:

- City of Livermore
 - o City Council
 - o Community & Economic Development Department
 - o Police Department
- Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
- Abode Services
- Asbury Methodist Church
- ECHO Housing
- EveryOne Home, Alameda County Homeless Continuum of Care
- Open Heart Kitchen
- Livermore Homeless Refuge
- Tri-Valley Haven

Definition: Convenience Sampling is a type of nonprobability sampling in which people are sampled because they are "convenient" sources of data for researchers. This sample survey population was approached and engaged without a formal attempt at randomization; however, the survey sites were selected to capture a variety of segments of the homeless population.

Definition Unsheltered Homeless is when a person's primary nighttime residence 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.

Definition: *Housing Insecure* refers to the families identified by the Livermore Valley Unified School District (LVJUSD) as qualifying for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act services. McKinney Vento services are for LVJUSD children and families who are homeless or who do not have a stable living situation, for example, a family residing in a low-cost hotel or automobile, or multiple families living in a single apartment. For this report, LVJUSD staff conducted surveys with all families they could locate that are eligible for McKinney Vento services.

Dates, Locations, and Numbers of Surveys Completed

Utilizing convenience sampling, teams of volunteers administered the survey in Livermore throughout the last two weeks of October 2015. The locations included three different service sites along with street locations and several encampments throughout the city. Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District surveyors administered the survey to homeless families over two additional weeks in mid-November.

The survey teams were instructed to ask every person obtaining assistance at each of the service sites if they were willing to participate in the survey. If the person concurred, the surveyors asked three qualifying questions found on Tables A1, A2 and A3



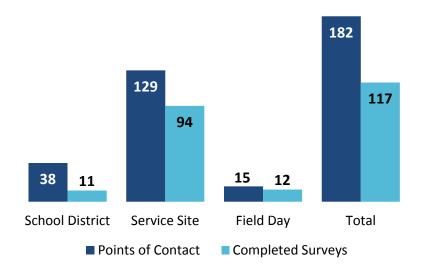
in the Appendix to determine if the respondent was homeless. If the respondent was homeless, the volunteer completed a survey.

The volunteers contacted 182 unduplicated persons at the service sites during the course of this survey. The 182 contacts resulted in 129 completed surveys. Contact was made with seven individuals who were determined to be duplicates and removed from the data set.

The number of unsheltered homeless individuals in Livermore who completed a survey totaled 117 persons. This exceeds the number of individuals identified as homeless for each of Alameda County's Point-in-Time Homeless Count conducted for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 2004 through 2015.

It is important to note that Alameda County conducts the Point-in-Time Homeless count at one service site in Livermore and at the Tri-Valley Haven's homeless and domestic violence shelters. The County utilizes this data in conjunction information from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to obtain an estimate of homelessness for the entire Tri-Valley.

Figure 1. Total points of contact and completed surveys of homeless persons by location



Service Sites: Open Heart Kitchen meal sites, HOPE Mobile Outreach Van

Field Day: Encampments throughout Livermore **Source:** City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015.

Demographics and Background

This survey was administered at a variety of sites to capture as many unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness as possible. The survey found that the population was two thirds male (77 individuals) and one third female (38 individuals) with 2% (2 individuals) identifying as transgender. Unlike Livermore, persons experiencing homelessness in the remainder of Alameda County is evenly split between men (48.9%) and women (50.7%). Less than 1% of the County's homeless population identify as transgender.

Twenty four percent (24% or 28 individuals) of the homeless population in Livermore were between the ages of 35 and 44 and 26% (30 individuals) between the ages of 45 and 54. Five percent (5% or 6 individuals) of the unsheltered persons interviewed were transitional age youth aged 24. An additional 18% (21 individuals) interviewed were adults between the ages of 25 and 34. Twenty-five (21%) from 55 to 64 years of age were also interviewed Surveyors also interviewed four individuals (3%) who were 65 years of age or older. The age distribution of persons experience homelessness in Livermore mirrors the age of persons experiencing homelessness throughout the rest of Alameda County.

Figure 2. Percent of respondents by age grouping

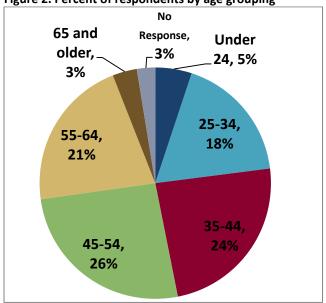
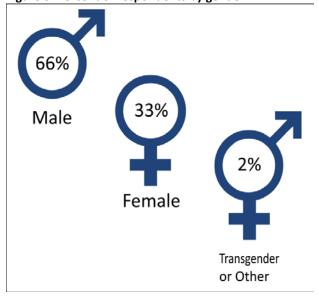


Figure 3. Percent of respondents by gender

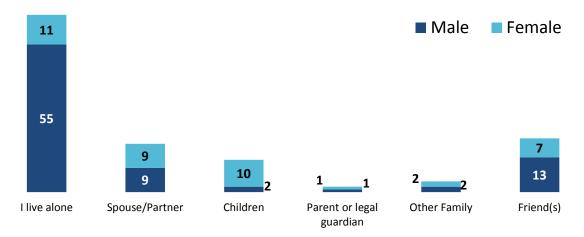


Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Households and Homeless Companions

More than half of respondents (57% or 67 individuals) indicated that they live alone. Forty percent (27 individuals) of the unaccompanied homeless have family in Livermore. Of those who responded that they did not live alone, 15% (18 individuals) indicated that they lived with at least one family member; 10% (12 individuals) lived with children; 2% (2 individuals) lived with a parent or legal guardian, and; 3% (4 individuals) lived with other family. Several individuals lived with friends (17% or 20 individuals).

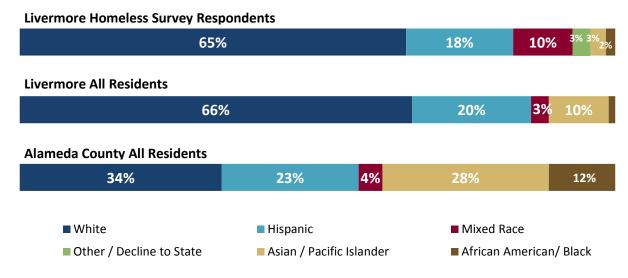
Figure 4. Number and type of family or household male or female respondent live with by gender



Note: Total responses do not add up to 100% as respondents had multiple answers.

Race and Ethnicity: The race and ethnicity of individuals experiencing homelessness are important information to ensure the cultural competency of services. Sixty-five percent (76 individuals) of Livermore's homeless population is white and an additional 18% percent (21 individuals) identify as Hispanic or Latino. Ten percent (12 individuals) identify as mixed race. Three individuals (3%) identified themselves as Asian or Pacific Islander and two persons (2%) were African American. These demographics of the unsheltered homeless closely resemble the general population of Livermore.

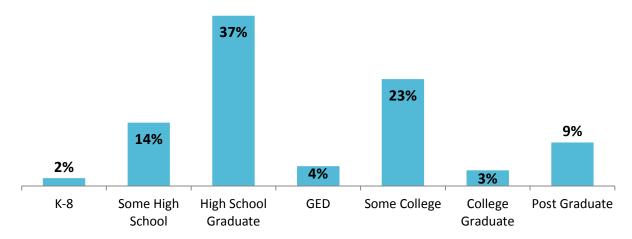
Figure 5. Percent of homeless respondents and Livermore and Alameda County residents by race and ethnicity



Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015 (N=117) and Census 2013: American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates.

Of the 117 unsheltered homeless identified in this survey, 90 (77%) have at least a high school diploma or equivalent. An additional 23% (27 individuals) have some college and 12% (15 individuals) having either a college degree or some post-graduate studies.

Figure 6. Percent of respondents by level of education



Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Foster Care: It is vital to understand the relationship between foster care and youth experiencing homelessness. Children placed into foster care are more likely to have experienced trauma and have higher rates of emotional, behavioral, and substance abuse problems¹. Young adults aging out of foster care are at a greater risk for becoming homeless. In California, youth now age out of foster care between the ages of 18 and 20. Fourteen percent of the Livermore survey respondents (16 individuals) had been in foster care at least once. None of these individuals cited aging out of foster care as a primary cause of their current episode of homelessness.

The 2015 Point in Time Count learned that 544 unsheltered persons in Alameda County had been part of the foster care system.

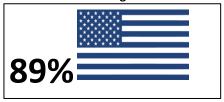
U.S. Citizenship / Legal Residents: Lack of U.S. Citizenship or legal resident status can prevent individuals experiencing homelessness from receiving services. Of the 117 unsheltered survey respondent's 104 (89%) were U.S. Citizens or legal residents.

Figure 7. Percent of respondents who have been in foster care



Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Figure 8. Percent of respondents who are U.S. citizens or legal residents



¹ Child Trends Data Bank. "Foster Care: Indicators on Children and Youth. 2012. Downloaded from: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=foster-care.

Incarceration: Homelessness and incarceration can become a vicious cycle. People experiencing homelessness are jailed for a variety of infractions and individuals exiting the correctional system are at a greater risk for becoming homeless. Formerly incarcerated individuals are often unable to obtain work, and, when they are employed, they may be poorly compensated at low-wage and part-time jobs. Furthermore, formerly incarcerated individuals often do not qualify for federal public housing services². The combination of low wage jobs, expensive housing and barriers to accessing public services is highly correlated with homelessness for the formerly incarcerated.

Figure 9. Percent of respondents who have been in jail or prison



Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=106

Three-quarters of survey respondents (79 individuals) had been in prison or jail at least once in their life. Two (2) unsheltered persons identified that their recent experience with homelessness was a result of their exit from the correctional system.

² National Health Care for the Homeless Council. (November 2013). Incarceration & Homelessness: A Revolving Door of Risk. *In Focus: A Quarterly Research Review of the National HCH Council*, 2:2.

Housing History and Current Situation

The committee designing this survey intentionally chose to canvass unsheltered homeless persons in Livermore. The definition of *unsheltered homeless* is a person sleeping anywhere that was not designed for or ordinarily used for regular human habitation, or a house or apartment that is not owned or rented by the individual or a family member. To ascertain if a person met the criteria for being an unsheltered homeless resident of Livermore and complete the survey, surveyors asked the respondents three qualifying questions to determine where they sleep the previous night and where they sleep on a regular basis. The survey utilized this broad definition to capture the full scope of the unsheltered homelessness in Livermore. The data ascertained in the qualifying questions are found on tables A1, A2 and A3 in the Appendix.

The Tri-Valley's two homeless shelters and domestic violence shelter were open during the survey's administration, but the seasonal warming center was not in operation. During the survey implementation, 112 adults and children were residing in the Tri-Valley's homeless and domestic violence shelters that are located in Livermore. Livermore residents occupied 42 of the Tri-Valley Haven's 46 total beds. Depending upon the severity of the domestic violence a specific client has experienced, the agency may transfer a resident to a shelter outside of the Tri-Valley. Conversely, the Haven may accept clients from outside of our region for a similar reason.

Only six unsheltered respondents (5%) indicated they had slept in a shelter. Four of the individuals who said they slept in a shelter were women. However, the other two of the respondents who stated they slept in a shelter the previous night were single men. Because none of the homeless shelters in the Tri-Valley accepts single men, it is unclear if those respondents meant that they slept in a "sheltered area" instead of a formal homeless shelter.

Because all of the shelters were fully occupied and warming center was not in operation, the only respondents sleeping indoors were in low-cost, economy motel or hotels (2% or 2 individuals) or couch surfing, that is, sleeping at a friend's house (15% or 17 individuals). The respondents who usually slept indoors constituted 22% (25 individuals) of the sample. On a typical night, between 25 and 30 persons would stay at the seasonal warming center.

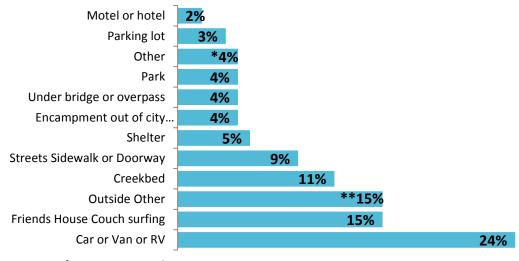


Figure 10. Percent of respondents by where they usually sleep

Definition: Chronic
Homelessness as per the U.S.
Department of Housing and
Urban Development (HUD) is an adult with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult member with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for one year or more and/or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness within the past three years.

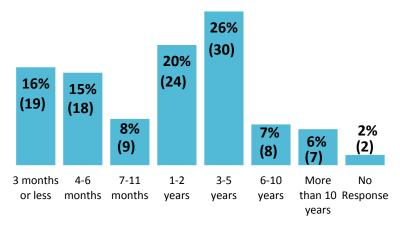
Definition: Sheltered Homeless are living in a supervised public or privately operated shelter designated to provide a temporary living arrangement that includes congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government program.

Many people experiencing homelessness in Livermore indicated that they usually slept in a car, van or recreational vehicle (24% or 28 individuals) which provides some limited protection from the elements. The remaining 39% of respondents (46 individuals) slept outside in a variety of locations such as in a park, on sidewalks, in doorways or in encampments. Fifteen percent (18 persons) that were classified as **outside other stated, they slept around and under bridges and overpasses or in parks. The remaining four percent of the respondents (5 individuals) said that they slept in an *other place, in one instance this was a storage space and the remaining respondents did not indicate specifically where they slept

Housing instability over time can lead to a person or family experiencing a single or multiple episodes of homelessness. Recent economic downturns, coupled with dramatically rising costs of housing, have caused a dramatic rise in housing instability in the Bay Area. Among the respondents, 44% (51 individuals) were experiencing homelessness for the first time in their lives. An additional 32% (37 individuals) were experiencing their second or third episode of homelessness. A further 20% (24 individuals) had experienced homelessness four, five or more times in their lifetime.

During their current episode of homelessness, fewer than half of respondents (39% or 46 individuals) had been homeless for less than a year: 16% of respondents (19 individuals) for three months or less, 15% (18 individuals) for four to six months and 8% (9 individuals) for seven to 11 months. Fully 60% (69 individuals) of the respondents had been homeless for more than one year, which is one of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) indicators of chronic homelessness.

Figure 12. Percent and number of respondents by the amount of time they have been homeless during the current episode



Chronic homelessness is an important risk factor for a number of reasons. Not only are the chronically homeless individuals at higher mortality risk, they are more likely to access emergency medical services, law enforcement resources, homeless services and other public resources. Based on the information gathered, a number of Livermore respondents fit this definition, given the length of time they have been homeless, the number of episodes of homelessness and the number of individuals who indicated that they had disabilities and/or chronic health conditions.

The factors that lead to a person or family losing their housing are complex and interrelated. However, this data does provide us an indication of some of the most common factors for homelessness in Livermore. The most frequently identified cause of homelessness was loss of employment (33% or 38 individuals). The second most frequently cited cause was divorce and separation (23% or 27 individuals). Also prominently cited were alcohol and drug use (18% or 21 individuals); illness or medical/mental health issues (13% or 16 individuals) family and domestic violence (12% or 14 individuals), arguments with family or friends (9% or 11 individuals). Thirty six percent of

Figure 13. Most frequently cited causes for homelessness

Lost job	33%
Divorce/separation	23%
Alcohol/drug use	18%
Illness or medical / mental health issues	13%
Family/domestic violence	12%
Argument with family/friend(s)	9%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015 N=117

respondents (42 individuals) cited *other* causes include financial factors such as high medical bills or bad financial decisions, traumatic life events such as a death in the family or work injury, or the loss of housing because of roommate situation or eviction. Unsheltered survey respondents also identified additional conditions including increased rent, foreclosure, or incarceration.

Surveyors also asked respondents the barriers they faced in securing permanent housing. Thirty eight percent of respondents (44 individuals) cited more than one barrier. Of those 44 individuals, most (77% or 34 individuals) cited two barriers to obtaining permanent housing, a small amount (20% or 9 individuals) cited three barriers and 2% (1 individual) cited six barriers.

The most frequently cited barriers to obtaining permanent housing were inability to afford rent or costs of moving into a residence (42% or 49 individuals), lack of a job or income (37% or 43 individuals), lack of housing for low income persons in Livermore (15% or 18 individuals), and bad credit (9% or individuals).

In addition, 27% of respondents (32 individuals) cited other barriers to permanent housing which included: health issues, disability, mental health issues, alcohol and substance abuse, not fitting criteria to receive assistance, and lack of proper identification. Additional barriers that were identified included having a criminal record, lack of transportation, absence of rentals willing to take pet(s), and having a record of eviction.

Prior Place of Residence and Connections to Livermore: Mental health challenges and social isolation is often a condition of homelessness. As a result, social connection is an important determinant to this population. If a person experiencing homelessness has social or family bonds to

an area, they may have increased knowledge of local services to help ease the way they navigate their environment and access resources as well as strengthen their connections to a place³.

With this in mind, it is important to note that 98% (115 individuals) of the people surveyed had some social connection to Livermore. Fully 56% (66 individuals) of the 117 respondents resided in Livermore immediately prior to becoming homeless. Though the majority of homeless individuals were Livermore residents when they became homeless, 44% (51) of the unsheltered homeless stated they lived somewhere else when they lost their housing. However, when asked what brought them to Livermore once they became homeless, these individuals stated other social connections such as having grown up in Livermore (6% or 7 individuals), had family in Livermore (15% or 17 individuals), came here for a job (9% or 10 individuals) or resided in Livermore at another time in their life (2% or 2 individuals). An additional 15% of participants (18 individuals) said that they came to Livermore for an *other* reasons such as leaving abusive relationships, previously attended school in Livermore, their family used to live in Livermore, had a local legal matter, or religious reasons.

Though respondents were allowed to cite multiple reasons that brought them to Livermore once they became homeless, very few respondents indicated that access to services was one of their reasons.

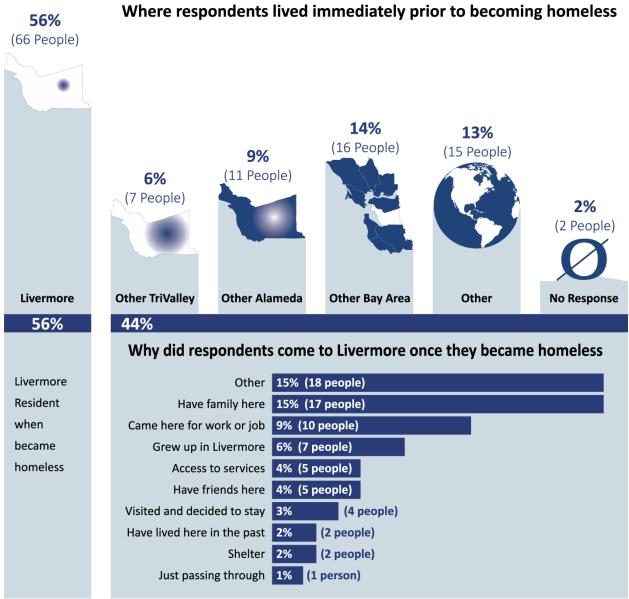
- In total, eight of the 117 respondents marked services as one of their reasons for coming in Livermore. One person stated it was the sole reason they came to Livermore.
- Of the eight who said they came to Livermore in part to access services, three had already
 lived in Livermore, grew up in Livermore, or have family in Livermore. Of the remaining
 five individuals without a community connection to Livermore who indicated that access to
 services was one of the reasons for coming to Livermore, four are from other cities in the
 Tri-Valley.

It is important to note that information from Alameda County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), states that all cities in Alameda County provide services to homeless persons that did not originally reside in that community when they became homeless. Neither HMIS nor Alameda County Point-in-Time Count inquires to the reason why a family or person moves to a specific city after they become homeless.

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³ Timothy Stablein, Helping Friends and the Homeless Milieu: Social Capital and the Utility of Street Peers" Journal of Contemporary Ethnography June 2011 40: 290-317

Figure 15. Percent of respondents by place of residence immediately prior to becoming homeless and reasons for coming to Livermore if they became homeless elsewhere



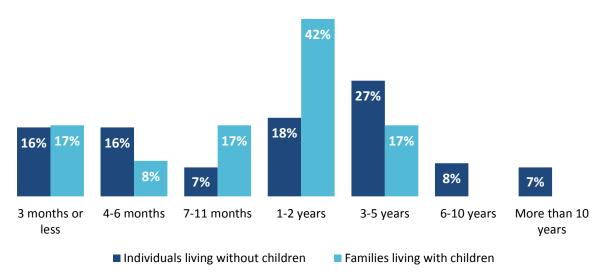
Families with Children

Families with children who experience homelessness have unique needs. Families are often separated for voluntary or involuntary reasons, for example, shelters that accept women and children often do not accept men or teenage boys. Twenty percent of all children experiencing homelessness are separated from their families at least once in their life. Most families are led by single mothers who themselves are likely to have experienced physical or sexual abuse and have higher rates of mental health issues and chronic medical illness. Children experiencing homelessness have higher rates of hunger and nutritional deficiencies, exposure to violence, and chronic medical illness such as asthma and gastrointestinal problems than other low-income children. Once in school, homeless children are more likely to have delayed development to experience higher rates of learning disabilities, to perform below grade-level, and to repeat a grade. Children who experience homelessness are more likely to become homeless as an adult.

Ten percent of survey respondents (12 individuals) were adults living with their children. Ten of those individuals were women and almost all lived without their spouse/partner. Three of those women stayed previously in a domestic violence shelter. Two of the individuals interviewed were men.

Survey respondents living with children, were equally likely to have been homeless for less than a year (42% or 5 individuals) or for one to two years (also 42% or 5 individuals). Fewer survey respondents were homeless for three to five years (17% or 2 individuals). No survey respondents living with children were homeless for more than five years. This is a stark contrast from adults living without children, who were more likely to have experienced homelessness for longer periods of their lives.

Figure 16. Percent of respondents by the amount of time they have been homeless during the current episode for those living with and without children



Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=105 for individuals without children and N=12 for families with children.

⁴ Paquette, K., and Bassuk, E.L. Parenting and Homelessness: Overview and Introduction to the Special Section. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry. 2009, V7 9, N 3, pp 292-298.

Survey respondents living with children cited different reasons for becoming homeless⁵. They were more likely to become homeless because of family and domestic violence (50% or 6 adults), divorce and separation (42% or 4 adults), and inability to afford rising rent (17% or 2 adults). Additional reasons cited by adults living with children included bad credit, medical issues, or mental health. On the other hand, when survey respondents living without children are examined as a group, they frequently cited causes for homelessness that mirror those found in the overall survey (see Figure 13 on page 9). These issues include, loss of employment (35% or 37 individuals), divorce and separation (21% or 22 individuals), alcohol or drug use (20% or 20 individuals), and medical or mental health issues (13% or 14).

Figure 17. Most frequently cited causes for homelessness for individuals vs. families living with children

Individuals living without children		Families living with children	
Lost job	35%	Family/domestic violence	50%
Divorce/separation	21%	Divorce/separation	42%
Alcohol/drug use	20%	Landlord raised rent	17%
Illness or medical / mental health issues	13%		

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=105 for individuals without children and N=12 for families with children.

Note: Respondents were allowed to cite multiple answers to the question.

While the causes of homelessness for survey respondents living with or without children varied, the most frequently cited barriers to obtaining permanent housing were the same. However, respondents living with children cited the top four barriers at higher rates than respondents living without children. The most frequently cited barrier was the inability to afford rent or costs of moving into a residence cited by 50% or 6 adults living with children and 41% or 43 individuals living without children. Lack of a job or income was cited by 50% or 6 adults living with children and 35% or 37 individuals living without children. Forty-two percent (42%) or 5 adults living with children and 12% or 13 individuals living without children cited lack of low-income housing in Livermore as a barrier to obtaining permanent housing. Adults living with children cited bad credit and an eviction record as a reason for being homeless at higher rates than adults living without children.

Figure 18. Most frequently cited barriers to permanent housing for individuals living without children and families living with children

	Individuals living without children	Families living with children
Can't afford rent/moving costs	41%	50%
No job/income	35%	50%
Lack of low income housing in Livermore	12%	42%
Bad credit	7%	33%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=105 for individuals without children and N=12 for individuals with children.

Note: Respondents were allowed to cite multiple answers to the question.

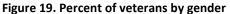
⁵ The small number of families with children surveyed should imply caution about generalizing results.



Veterans are at higher risk for homelessness than the rest of the population⁶ due to a number of factors including traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, sexual assault, and PTSD⁷. Ten percent (12 individuals) of the survey respondents were

veterans. Four of these individuals had been homeless for less than a year. Only two of the veterans interviewed used the Veterans Administration (VA) for health care, and only one had VA health insurance. The status of a veteran's discharge can affect their access to VA services and benefits, and 75% (9) of veterans interviewed had received an honorable discharge. Eleven of the unsheltered homeless veterans were male and one was female. Veterans, like the larger population of homeless individuals, were predominantly in their middle years with half (6 individual) between the ages of 35 and 54. Thirty-four percent of veterans (4 individuals) interviewed were between the ages of 55 and 64. One veteran was aged 25-34 and one other 65 years of age or older.

At the time of this survey, there were 358 unsheltered homeless veterans in Alameda County.



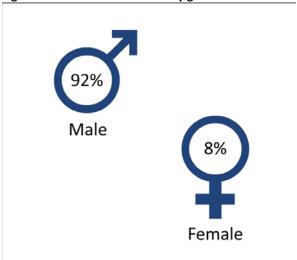
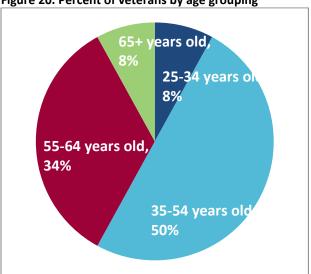


Figure 20. Percent of veterans by age grouping



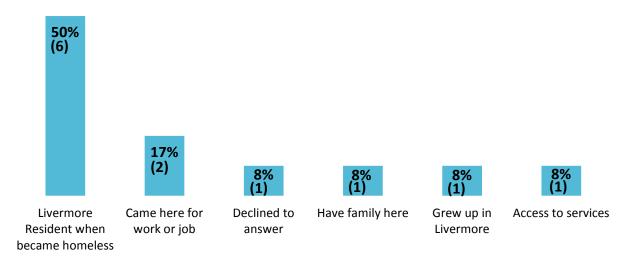
Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=12

The majority (84% or 10 individuals) of veterans had a connection to Livermore prior to becoming homeless. Five of the unsheltered homeless veterans were Livermore residents, two individuals worked in Livermore, two individuals had family in Livermore and one other individual grew up in Livermore. Of the two individuals who had no known connection to Livermore, one came to Livermore for services and one declined to answer this question.

⁶ Fargo, et al. (2011). Prevalence and Risk of Homelessness among U.S. Veterans: A Multisite Investigation. National Center on Homelessness among Veterans. US Department of Veterans Affairs.

⁷ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2010). Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

Figure 21. Veterans - Reason for being in Livermore for those who indicated they were Veterans



Health

Health issues among the homeless population are intricately connected and all too frequently lead to increased morbidity and mortality. Although persons experiencing homeless suffer from preventable illness, they have lower life expectancies than those who are not homeless⁸. Respondents provided some general health information that begins to define their health status and health service needs. Chronic health conditions are long lasting or recurring and might include diabetes, arthritis or heart disease. Well over half of respondents (59% or 68 individuals) indicated that they have chronic health issues. Almost half (47% or 55 individuals) indicated that drugs and alcohol 'had been a problem' at some point in their lives, and 33% (39 individuals) indicated that they had received treatment for drug and/or alcohol use. It is notable that in the question regarding the causes of their homelessness, only 18%, said that drugs and alcohol were causal factors in their homelessness. Mental health is also an issue for respondents with 36% of those interviewed (42 individuals) having been treated at some time for mental health issues. Respondents indicated that they had the following health issues: 29% (34 individuals) had a permanent disability that limits their mobility; and 30% (35 individuals) had a brain injury or trauma in the past. Lack of safety and health go hand in hand for many of those who experience homelessness, and 30% of respondents (35 individuals) indicated that they had been the victim of a violent attack while homeless.

It should be noted that there is the possibility that health issues particularly mental health or substance abuse issues are underreported in this survey. The survey questions and process were based on best practices in order to decrease the likelihood of this but stigma associated with mental health and substance abuse can lead to underreporting.

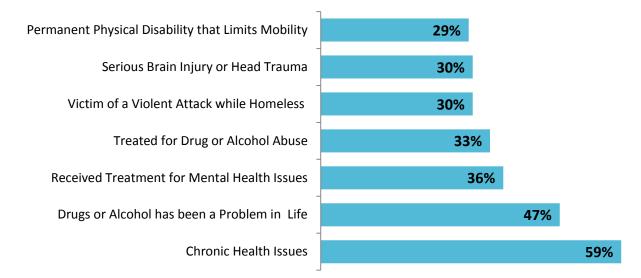


Figure 22. Percent of respondents reporting various health conditions or experiences

⁸ National Coalition for the Homeless. (July 2009). Health Care and Homelessness. Retrieved from www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/health.html.

Respondents reported utilizing a range of health care resources when sick or in need of medical services: 39% (45 individuals) utilize Axis's clinic, 30% (41 individuals) utilize the hospital, 24% (28 individuals) utilize the mobile HOPE Van, 15% (17 individuals) access services at some other place, 3% (3 individuals) utilize the VA, and 2% (2 individuals) access some type of health support or first aid at a faith based facility.

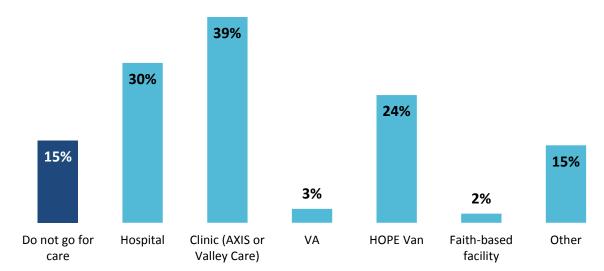


Figure 23. Percent of respondents by where they go for health care

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Note: Total responses do not add up to 100% as respondents had multiple answers.

Most respondents had some form of health insurance with 21% (25 individuals) indicating they had no health insurance. Medi-Cal/Medicare was the most common form of health insurance among respondents (68% or 79 individuals). Only 2% (2 individuals) indicated they had Veterans Administration insurance and 4% (5 individuals) had private insurance.

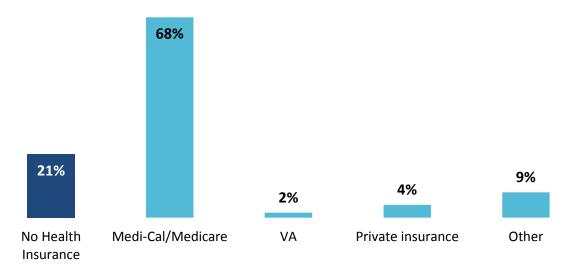


Figure 24. Percent of respondents by type of health insurance

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Even with this level of access to health care, emergency room use was very high among the respondents with 56% (65 individuals) having visited the emergency room at least once over the past year.

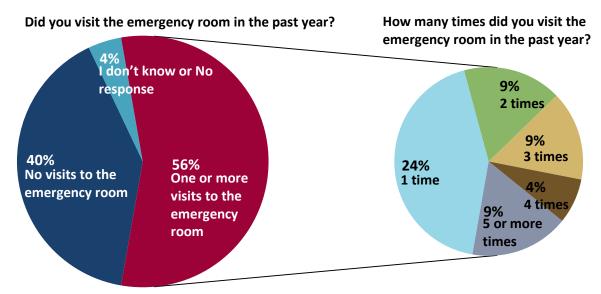


Figure 25. Percent of respondents by visit to emergency room

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Admission to the hospital is an indication of serious conditions that cannot be immediately treated with outpatient care. Thirty-two percent of respondents (37 individuals) were hospitalized during the past year.

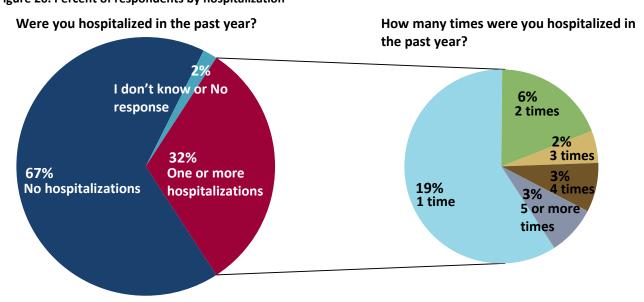


Figure 26. Percent of respondents by hospitalization

Income Sources and Assistance

The unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness who responded to this survey had a variety of economic resources that helped them pay for living expenses. The survey found that 15% of the respondents (17 individuals) were regularly employed while another 23% (27 individuals) were employed but not regularly. Twenty-seven percent (31 individuals) made income through recycling while 27% (32 individuals) had some type of public assistance. Additional sources of income included a pension or retirement income (7% or 8 individuals); church /faith community support (7% or 8 individuals); panhandling (4% or six individuals) and support from family (3% or three individuals). Seven percent of the respondents (8 individuals) received income from *other sources including a spouse who had a small income, money from neighbors, and workers compensation. Twelve percent of the unsheltered homeless (14 individuals) had no income.

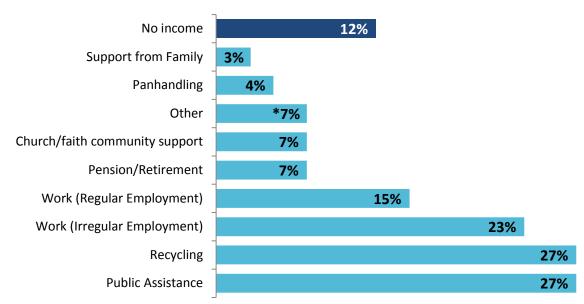


Figure 27. Percent of respondents by sources of income

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Note: Total responses do not add up to 100% as respondents had multiple answers.

Many individuals experiencing homelessness do not utilize all of the public assistance programs and services for which they qualify. About one-half of survey respondents indicated that they utilized food stamps (50% or 58 individuals) or Medicare (55% or 64 individuals). A further 18% (21 individuals) received general assistance while 14% (16 individuals) received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Five percent of respondents received social security or retirement income, 4% (5 individuals) received CalWORKs and 2% (2 individuals) received veterans' benefits. Workers Compensation and Women Infant and Children (WIC) benefits were utilized by only 1% of respondents (2 individuals in total). Nineteen percent of respondents (22 individuals) indicated receiving no benefits. Eight percent (9 individuals) indicated some other form of benefit, many of the **other* responses were not specified but one individual cited "hazard pay" and two individuals indicated that they were waiting to get public assistance.

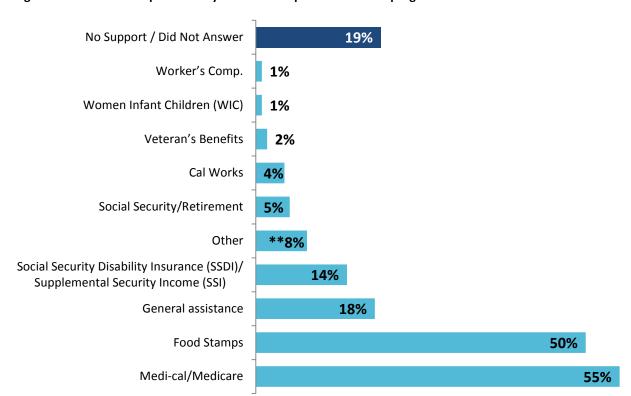


Figure 28. Percent of respondents by utilization of public assistance programs

Community Services

There is a variety of services available in Livermore that serves both low-income persons and individuals experiencing homelessness. The surveyors asked the respondents whether they were currently using or had formerly used these services.

Because most of the surveys (other than those administered by the School District or during the street survey) were administered at sites with meals programs, showers or laundry, a food pantry, and the Hope Mobile Clinic, 86% (101 individuals) indicated that were currently accessing meals programs and 74% (86 individuals) accessed free showers or laundry. Forty-eight percent of the respondents obtained services from Axis Community Health Care and 44% from the HOPE mobile health clinic.

When asked about services they had accessed previously, respondents had most frequently accessed the food pantries (18% or 21 individuals) the Hope mobile health clinic, the shelter, motel vouchers and case management (each at 15% or 18 individuals). The full list of current and past service utilization and a table denoting survey responses can be found on Table A22 in the Appendix.

Figure 29. Most frequent 5 community services used currently

•	
Meals Programs	86%
Free Showers or Laundry	74%
Axis Community Health Care	48%
Food Pantry	47%
HOPE Mobile Health Clinic	44%

Figure 30. Most frequent community services used in the past

used in the past	
Food Pantry	18%
HOPE Mobile Health Clinic	15%
Shelter	15%
Motel Vouchers	15%
Case Management	12%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Respondents also identified a range of services that they were not currently using but that they would like to access in the future. The top two were related to housing: motel vouchers (32% or 37 individuals) and housing assistance and placement (31% or 36 individuals). When asked why they were not currently accessing these services, the most frequent response was that they did not know about them (33% or 38 individuals), they did not know how to access them (17% or 20 individuals), and that they did not think they

Figure 31. Top 5 community services not currently used but would like to access in the future

Motel Vouchers	32%
Housing Assistance and Placement	31%
LARPD Cooling Center	16%
Shelter	15%
Case Management	13%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

qualified to access them (10% or 12 individuals). Transportation issues (7% or 8 individuals) and not feeling safe or welcome (6% or 7 individuals) was also reasons cited for not accessing these services.

The surveys questions were designed to determine if the unsheltered homeless were or were not using all of the public assistance options available to them. Twenty nine percent (34 individuals) thought that they were using all of the public assistance available to them. The most frequently cited reasons for not using all options were that they did not know where to go (19% or 22 individuals); they did not know how to apply (16% or 19 individuals); that they were aware of but had not applied yet (9% or 11 individuals); or that they did not need/want assistance (5% or 6 individuals). Some respondents (8% or 9 individuals) said that they did not think they were eligible while 7% (8

individuals) had applied and were waiting for approval, 7% (8 individuals) had already had their benefits cut off, and 6% (7 individuals) had been turned down. There were some specific barriers to applying beyond a lack of knowledge or understanding of the application process that included lack of identification, the paperwork is too difficult, or being undocumented. An additional 21% (24 participants) cited *other* reasons including that they were not aware of all the options or they were still learning about the system or did not understand the system; no phone; needing to be more persistent; police and jail time; the person was hoping to find work; depression or the medications affect their memory.

Using all the Public Assistance Available to Me 29% Immigration Issues/Undocumented 1% Do Not Need /Want Assistance 5% Was Turned Down 6% Paperwork Too Difficult 6% Benefits CutPoff 7% Applied / Waiting for Approval 7% No Permanent Address 7% No Identification 8% No Transportation 8% Do Not Think I Am Eligible 8% Haven't Gotten around to Applying 9% Do Not Know How to Apply 16% Don't Know Where to Go 19% Other *21%

Figure 32. Percent of respondents by reason for not using all public assistance programs available

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Data Tables: Survey Questions and Responses for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

The first three questions in Tables A1 to A3 were utilized to determine whether the respondent was homeless. If they responded, in A1 and A3 that an apartment or home rented or owned by himself, herself, or a family member was where they slept last night and where they usually slept, they were not asked to complete the survey. If it was determined that the respondent was an unsheltered homeless person the survey began with the question on Table A4.

Table A1. Where did you sleep last night?

	Number	Percent
Apartment/home renter/owner (or family)*	2	1.7%
Shelter	6	5.1%
Friend's house/couch surfing	19	16.2%
Streets, sidewalk or doorway	12	10.3%
Parking lot	5	4.3%
Car/Van/RV	28	23.9%
Encampment out of city boundaries	4	3.4%
Under bridge/overpass	2	1.7%
Motel/hotel	3	2.6%
Park	5	4.3%
Creekbed	11	9.4%
Other outside	17	14.5%
Other	3	2.6%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Table A2. Is this where you usually sleep?

		Number	Percent
Yes		99	84.6%
No		18	15.4%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

TableA3. Where do you usually sleep?

	Number	Percent
Friend's house/couch surfing	2	11.1%
Streets, Sidewalk or Doorway	1	5.6%
Car/Van/RV	3	16.7%
Encampment out of city boundaries	1	5.6%
Under bridge/overpass	3	16.7%
Park	2	11.1%
Creek bed	2	11.1%
Other outside	1	5.6%
Other	2	11.1%

^{*}Note: The two respondents who stayed in an apartment or home of family last night where determined to be homeless as they do not usually have an apartment or home to sleep in.

Table A4. Is this the first time you have been without a permanent housing situation?

	Number	Percent
Yes	51	43.6%
No	64	54.7%
No response	2	1.7%

Table A5. How many times have you been without a permanent housing situation?

	Number	Percent
2 times	22	34.4%
3 times	15	23.4%
4 times	4	6.3%
5 or more times	20	31.2%
No response	3	4.7%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=64

Table A6. How long have you been homeless this time?

	Number	Percent
Less than one month	3	2.6%
1-3 months	16	13.7%
4-6 months	18	15.4%
7-11 months	9	7.7%
1-2 years	24	20.5%
3-5 years	30	25.6%
6-10 years	8	6.8%
More than 10 years	7	6.0%
No response	2	1.7%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Table A7. Where did you live prior to becoming homeless this time?

,	Number	Percent
Livermore	66	56.4%
Pleasanton	4	3.4%
Dublin	2	1.7%
San Ramon	1	0.9%
Other Alameda County	11	9.4%
Other SF Bay Area	16	13.7%
Other California	6	5.1%
Outside of California	9	7.7%
No response	2	1.7%

Table A8. How long have you been in Livermore?

	Number	Percent
Less than one month	1	0.9%
1-3 months	8	6.8%
4-6 months	7	6.0%
7-11 months	2	1.7%
1-2 years	13	11.1%
3-5 years	12	10.3%
6-10 years	17	14.5%
More than 10 years	54	46.2%
I don't know	1	0.9%
No response	2	1.7%

Table A9. What brought you to Livermore?

	Number	Percent
Grew up in Livermore	34	29.1%
Have lived here in the past	3	2.6%
Came here for work/job	19	16.2%
Visited and decided to stay	5	4.3%
Was stranded	0	
Just passing through	1	0.9%
Access to services	8	6.8%
VA benefits (can collect here)	0	
Have friends here	11	9.4%
Have family here	51	43.6%
Shelter*	6	5.1%
Other	29	24.8%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Note: Total responses may not add up to 117 as some respondents had multiple answers.

*Note: Shelter was not one of the answer options listed on the survey but a number of respondents cited a shelter as the reason that brought them to Livermore and we listed it as a separate line item on this table.

Table A10. Whom do you live with?

	Number	Percent
I live alone	67	57.3%
Spouse/partner or sig. other	18	15.4%
Children	12	10.3%
Parent or legal guardian	2	1.7%
Other family member(s)	4	3.4%
Friend(s)	20	17.1%
Pet(s)	8	6.8%
Other	4	3.4%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Table A11. What are the main events or conditions that led to your becoming homeless?

	Number	Percent
Lost job	38	32.5%
Lost home through foreclosure	7	6%
Landlord raised rent/stopped renting	8	6.8%
Alcohol/drug use	21	17.9%
Illness or medical issues	11	9.4%
Mental health issues	6	5.1%
Family/domestic violence	14	12%
Divorce/separation	27	23.1%
Argument with family/friend(s)	11	9.4%
LGBTQ orientation	0	
Incarceration	2	1.7%
Aging out of foster care	0	
Natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.)	0	
I don't know	1	0.9%
Other*	42	35.9%

Note: Total responses may not add up to 117 as some respondents had multiple answers.

Table A12. What do you think keeps you from getting permanent housing?

	Number	Percent
Can't afford rent/moving costs	49	41.9%
No job/income	43	36.8%
No housing in Livermore	18	15.4%
No housing anywhere	5	4.3%
No transportation	2	1.7%
Rentals will not take pet(s)	1	0.9%
Bad credit	11	9.4%
Eviction record	1	0.9%
Criminal record	6	5.1%
Do not want permanent housing	1	1.7%
I don't know	3	2.6%
Other	32	27.3%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

^{*}Note: Responses marked as other included: financial reasons such as the economy, medical bills or bad financial decisions; traumatic life events such as a death in the family or work injury; and loss of housing because of roommate situation or eviction.

^{*}Note: Responses marked as other included: health issues, disabilities, or inability to cope/start because of mental health issues; alcohol and substance abuse; low priority ranking in the housing assistance system; and not having a driver's license of identification.

Table A13. Where do you usually go for healthcare or when you are not feeling well?

	Number	Percent
Hospital	41	29.9%
Clinic (AXIS or Valley Care)	45	38.5%
VA	3	2.6%
HOPE Van	28	23.9%
Church/place of worship/faith-based agency	2	1.7%
Do not go for care	18	15.4%
Other	17	14.5%

Note: Total responses may not add up to 117 as some respondents had multiple answers.

Table A14. How many times have you been to the emergency room in the past year?

	Number	Percent
None	47	40.2%
1 time	28	23.9%
2 times	11	9.4%
3 times	10	8.5%
4 times	5	4.3%
5 times	1	0.9%
6 or more times	10	8.5%
I don't know	2	1.7%
No response	3	2.6%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Note: Total responses may not add up to 117 as some respondents had multiple answers.

Table A15. How many times have you been hospitalized (admitted to the hospital as an inpatient) in the past year?

	Number	Percent
None	78	66.7%
1 time	22	18.8%
2 times	7	6.0%
3 times	2	1.7%
4 times	3	2.6%
5 times	0	
6 or more times	3	2.6%
I don't know	1	0.9%
No response	1	0.9%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Table A16. Additional Health Related Questions

	Number	Percent
Have drugs or alcohol been a problem in your life?	55	47%
Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?	39	33.3%
Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues?	42	35.9%
Have you been the victim of a violent attack since you have become homeless?	35	29.9%
Have you ever had a serious brain injury or head trauma?	35	29.9%
Do you have any chronic health issues?	68	59.1%
Do you have a permanent physical disability that limits your mobility? [e.g., confined to a wheelchair, amputation, unable to climb stairs]?	34	29.1%

Note: Surveys administered by district staff only included the questions do you have any chronic health issues and do you have a permanent physical disability that limits your mobility.

Table A17. What kind of health insurance do you have?

	Number	Percent
No health insurance	25	21.4%
Medi-Cal/Medicare	79	67.5%
VA	2	1.7%
Private insurance	5	4.3%
Other	10	8.5%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

Note: Total responses may not add up to 117 as some respondents had multiple answers.

Table A18. Have you served in the US Military and discharge status?

	Number	Percent
Yes	12	10.3%
Honorable discharge	9	75%
Other than honorable discharge	1	8.3%
Dishonorable discharge	1	8.3%
Missing discharge	1	8.3%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117 for served in Military. N=12 for discharge status.

Table A19. How do you support yourself?

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Number	Percent
Work (regular employment)	17	14.5%
Work (irregular, odd jobs, informal)	27	23.1%
Pension/retirement	8	6.8%
Support from family	3	2.6%
Church/faith community support	8	6.8%
Public assistance	32	27.4%
Panhandling	6	4.3%
Recycling	31	26.5%
No income	14	12%
Other	8	6.8%

Note: Total responses may not add up to 117 as some respondents had multiple answers.

Table A20. Do you currently receive any of the following?

	Number	Percent
General assistance	21	17.9%
Food stamps, SNAP, CalFresh	58	49.6%
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Supplemental Nutrition Program	1	0.9%
Cal Works	5	4.3%
Worker's Comp.	1	0.9%
Unemployment	0	
Medi-cal/Medicare	64	54.7%
SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)/ SSI (Supplemental Security Income)	16	13.7%
VA Disability Compensation	0	
Veteran's Benefits	2	1.7%
Social Security/Retirement	6	5.1%
Other	9	7.7%
No Support Indicated	22	18.8%

Source: City of Livermore Homelessness Survey 2015. N=117

 $\textbf{Note:} \ \mathsf{Total} \ \mathsf{responses} \ \mathsf{may} \ \mathsf{not} \ \mathsf{add} \ \mathsf{up} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{117} \ \mathsf{as} \ \mathsf{some} \ \mathsf{respondents} \ \mathsf{had} \ \mathsf{multiple} \ \mathsf{answers}.$

Table A21. What prevents you from using all of your public assistance options?

	Number	Percent
I am using all of the public assistance options available to me	34	29.1%
Do not think I am eligible	9	7.7%
Do not know where to go	22	18.8%
Do not know how to apply	19	16.2%
No permanent address	8	6.8%
No transportation	9	7.7%
No Identification	9	7.7%
Immigration issues/Undocumented	1	0.9%
Paperwork too difficult	7	6%
Haven't gotten around to applying yet	11	9.4%
I have applied for one or more and I'm waiting for approval	8	6.8%
Was turned down	7	6%
Benefits were cut off	8	6.8%
Do not need or want assistance	6	5.1%
Other	24	20.5%

Table A22. Do you use the following services?

Table A22. Do you use the following services:			Yes, on	ly in the	
	Yes, Currently		р	past	
	#	%	#	%	
Meals programs	101	86.3%	4	3.4%	
Food pantry	55	47%	21	17.9%	
Free showers or laundry	86	73.5%	3	2.6%	
Shelter	14	12%	18	15.4%	
Tri-Valley Haven	16	13.7%	11	9.4%	
Free pet food	23	19.7%	3	2.6%	
Axis Community Health Care Services	56	47.9%	11	9.4%	
HOPE Mobile Health Clinic	52	44.4%	18	15.4%	
VA services	4	3.4%	0		
Motel vouchers	6	5.1%	17	14.5%	
Case management	20	17.1%	14	12%	
Housing assistance and placement	4	3.4%	10	8.5%	
Livermore Senior Services Center	1	0.9%	0		
Other faith-based services	27	23.1%	11	9.4%	
Livermore Homeless Refuge Warming Center (from Nov. to April)	NA	NA	38	32.5%	
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Cooling Center (when temperatures/heat are extreme)	NA	NA	9	7.7%	

Note: Livermore Refuge Warming Center and LARPD Cooling Centers were not open when this survey was administered.

Table A23. Which of the following services would you like to access but do not currently access?

	Number	Percent
I do not want to access additional services	39	33.3%
I do not know if I want to access additional services	15	12.8%
Meals programs	8	6.8%
Food pantry	12	10.3%
Free showers or laundry	6	5.1%
Shelter	17	14.5%
Tri-Valley Haven	4	3.4%
Free pet food	3	2.6%
Axis Community Health Care Services	5	4.3%
HOPE Mobile Health Clinic	6	5.1%
VA services	5	4.3%
Motel vouchers	37	31.6%
Case management	15	12.8%
Housing assistance and placement	36	30.8%
Livermore Senior Services Center	4	3.4%
Other faith-based services	7	6.0%
Livermore Homeless Refuge Warming Center (from Nov. to April)	9	7.7%
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Cooling Center (when temperatures are extreme)	19	16.2%

Table A24. Why do you not access additional services?

	Number	Percent
Do not know about them	38	32.5%
Do not think I qualify	12	10.3%
Do not feel safe/welcome	7	6.0%
Too far away	2	1.7%
Transportation issues	8	6.8%
Do not know how	20	17.1%
Do not want to use services	2	1.7%
Do not need to use services	2	1.7%
Other	25	21.4%

Table A25. Are there other services that I did not mention that you are currently accessing?

Church of Christ (Livermore) for clothing
CRIL ABODE
Free cell phone
Legal help
Methadone and social services in Hayward
Open Heart Kitchen in Dublin and Pleasanton
Public Transit
Sutter Pacific in SF

Table A26. What services do you currently need that are not available to you?

Housing. Comments include affordable housing, housing assistance, a shelter, and micro-homes. (25)
Motel vouchers (2)
Need to be provided an address in order to access certain services.
Phone (2)
Clothing. One respondent suggested clothing vouchers. (4)
Toiletries
Food stamps
Transportation (6). Related comments included: Gas vouchers (3), parking for RV, bus tickets, (3) transport to medical appointments (3) a car
Support for getting a job (6). Related comments included job skills training, job placement, job references.
Case management (2)
Identification
General assistance
Daily showers (5)
Education services
Medi-Cal (2)
Support groups
Mental health services both long-term and wraparound. (2)
Medical (8) Related comments include general, detox for drugs and alcohol, needle exchange, HIV testing, medical supportive housing, dental (3), and optometry and glasses.

Table A27. Respondent Demographics

	Number	Percent
Race / Ethnicity		
African American/Black	2	1.7%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	3	2.6%
Hispanic/Latino	21	17.9%
White	76	65.0%
Mixed Race	12	10.3%
Other/decline to state	3	2.6%
Gender		
Male	77	65.8%
Female	38	32.5%
Transgender	1	0.9%
Other	1	0.9%
Educational Status		
K-8	2	1.7%
Some high school	16	13.7%
High school graduate	43	36.8% 4.3%
GED	5	
Some college	38	23.1%
College graduate	4	3.4%%
Post graduate degree	11	9.4%
Other	4	3.4%
No response	7	6.0%
Additional Questions		
Ever been in foster care	16	14%
US Citizen or legal resident (N=106)	104	98%
Jail/prison (N=106)	79	74.5%

Note: Citizenship and jail/prison questions were not included on survey instrument administered by school district staff and therefore have a smaller sample size noted in the table above.