

Connecting the Dots

Annual Homeless Needs Oriented Survey 2019

64 respondents

30 Questions

Survey time: February & April, 2019

Survey location: In an around downtown Santa Cruz area

Student Intern Director - Nancy Krusoe

Program Director - Laney Meris

UCSC Student Intern Surveyors:

LaShanette Breazell

Daria Gershkovich

Gypsy Alvarado Covarrubias

Lily Nauta

Shayda Hami

Michelle Wan

Presenter: Eric Erickson

Survey Sponsor: Santa Cruz Coalition on Homelessness

Survey and summary: Brent Adams

Why do we need a new homeless survey?

What gets measured gets done. That phrase is no truer than in homelessness. There is a bi-annual Point In Time homelessness survey mandated by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a function of access to federal funding. The PIT Count is mainly a census with an abbreviated demographic survey conducted within an extremely small subset. What's not being measured are specific unmet needs experienced by people who sleep outside and in cars. If we as a community are to focus public and private dollars to fund services as well as creating and operating programs we need a clear-eyed view of what people are experiencing.

Second year of Connecting the Dots

This survey was conceived of as a student intern project to put students in direct contact with people who sleep outside. The survey is conducted annually within the UCSC Spring Quarter as Santa Cruz Coalition on Homelessness works with student interns. We expect the data produced will be used by the greater community to both improve existing services and to create new services that are increasingly more effective at addressing unmet needs experienced by people who sleep outside in Santa Cruz. Last year's data demonstrated the immediate need for a homeless persons' storage program. What will this year's data inspire?

Summary of data

Where do people sleep?

Most reported to sleeping downtown, on the Westside or Eastside. A much smaller percentage report to using traditional shelters.

Citations

More than 70% stated they've received homelessness related citations in the past year and most of those were for "trespassing/being in a closed area" or for "camping."

Safety

Half said they sleep in areas that are "unsafe" or in a "dangerous situation" with more than 25% more claiming to be "somewhat safe."

Identification

Half stated they have a California Identification card while a third of respondents stated they have a "suspended license" or "would like to get one."

Benefits

More than 60% receive EBT grocery benefits

More than 30% receive SSI, while an additional 30% receive Social Security, yet a startling 26% report that they may be eligible for SS yet are not receiving benefits.

Services

62% have some access to Homeless Services Center while 37% don't

29% of people receive mail at HSC. 45% have showered at HSC

Mail

21% don't use any address and they don't want one

10% want help in getting an address

Bathing

45% take "bird baths in public restrooms"

45% have showered at Homeless Services Center

Laundry

½ of the people surveyed report to not laundering clothes at all, with a small number washing with river water

Where do people poop?

Most report to using a public restroom with the same number having defecated outside at some point.

Food

Food service is offered 7 days a week in different locations and people's answers reflect a patchwork to food access that has them moving around town to eat when and where it's available. Many receive leftovers and many more purchase their own food.

Medical

Most people are accessing medical intentionally through the Homeless Persons' Health Project on Coral St. or Emeline and with some using Dominican Hospital. Many report to using no medical service at all and a small set stated that they access medical services through use of an ambulance.

Addictive Drug of Choice

Marijuana is the clear front-runner with fewer stating that alcohol is their preferred substance and an equal number stating they use no addictive substance at all.

Meth and opiates are found to be used less frequently in this survey.

Storage

60% report to needing storage

25% state that they're comfortable with carrying all their belongings with them.

(Note: Those in need of storage have dropped significantly from last year)

Emergency Shelter Programs

57% stayed at Warming Center Program and had a "good experience," 6% had a "bad experience."

27% stayed at Winter Shelter and had a "good experience," 19% report to having a "bad experience." 54% reported to never having stayed at the Winter Shelter.

The Winter Shelter is open many more nights when compared to the Warming Center, which is open infrequently. There is far more chance for an individual to have a "bad experience" at a shelter they frequent more. What is surprising here is that many more report to having stayed at the Warming Center, which is open less frequently.

General Assistance

More than 75% have never received general assistance funding though it's available to them.

Clothing

60% report to having "enough clothing," while ½ of those people surveyed report to not having enough rain gear.

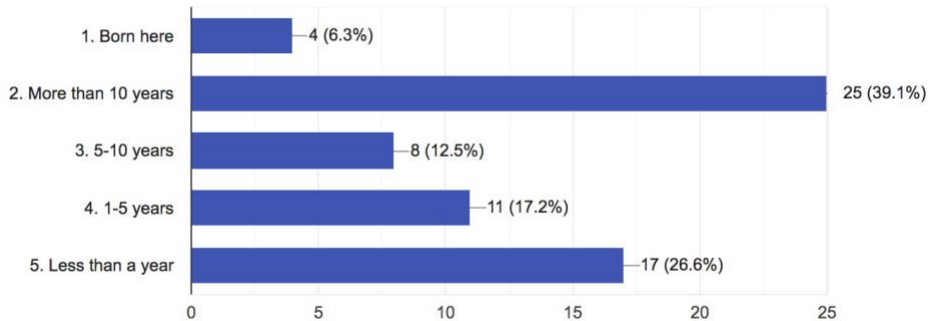
Downtown Streets Team

More than 80% of those surveyed have never worked with the Streets Team, but a high percentage of those who did had a "good experience."

The Survey

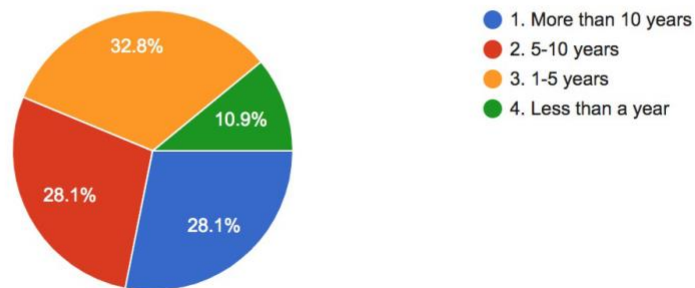
1. How long have you been in Santa Cruz?

64 responses



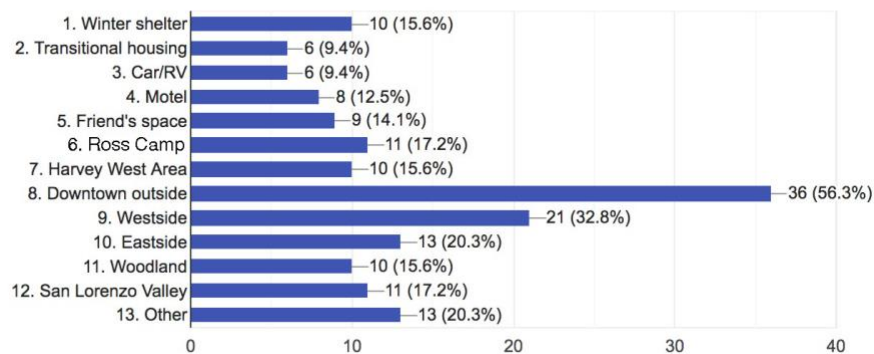
2. How long have you been sleeping outside?

64 responses



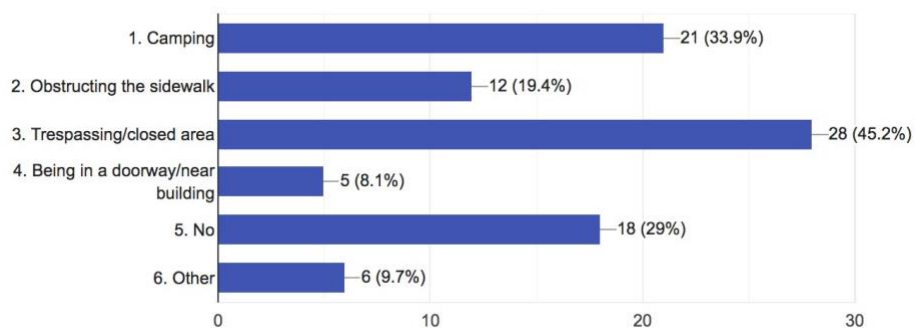
3. Where do you usually sleep?

64 responses



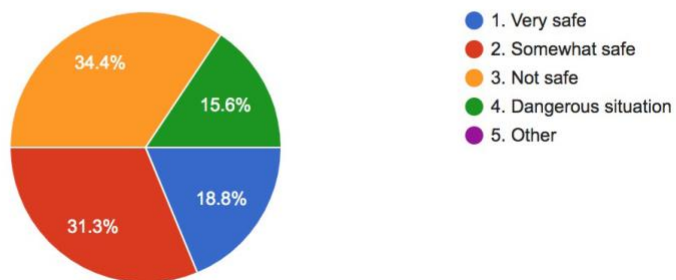
4. Have you received a citation for sleeping outside in the past 12 months?

62 responses



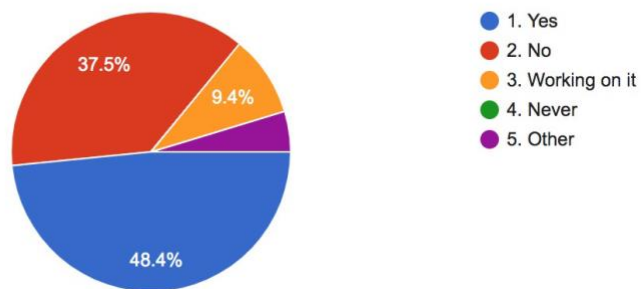
5. Do you feel safe when you sleep?

64 responses



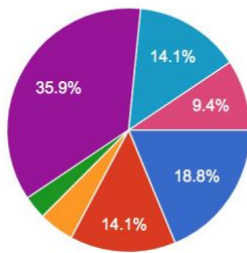
6. Do you have a valid ID?

64 responses



7. Do you have a valid driver's license?

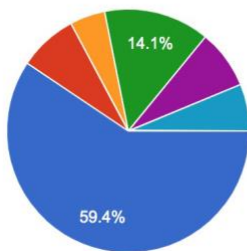
64 responses



- 1. California driver's license valid
- 2. California driver's license suspended
- 3. Out of state license valid
- 4. Out of state license not valid
- 5. Not a driver
- 6. Would like to get one
- 7. Other

8. Do you have an EBT card?

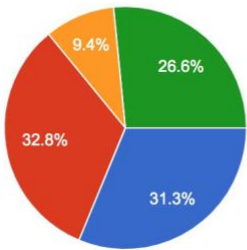
64 responses



- 1. Yes
- 2. No - due to ID
- 3. Yes - it has lapsed, need to re-register
- 4. Not eligible
- 5. Don't want one
- 6. Other

9. Do you draw Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

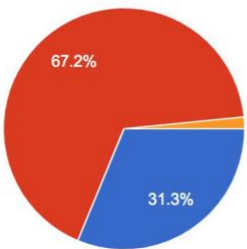
64 responses



- 1. Yes
- 2. Not eligible
- 3. I may be eligible and I may register on my own
- 4. I may be eligible and I need help to register

10. Do you regularly draw Social Security?

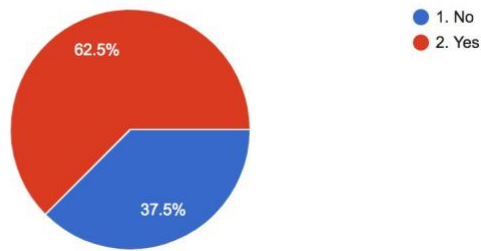
64 responses



- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Eligible, need help accessing it

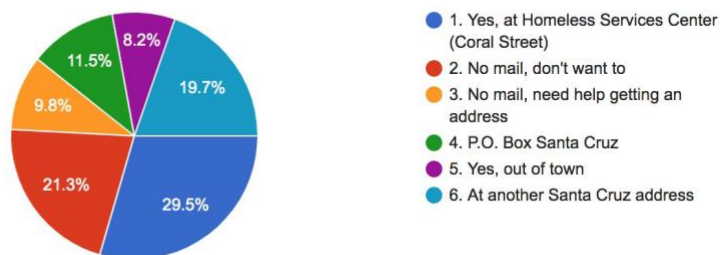
11. Do you access services at Homeless Services Center?

64 responses



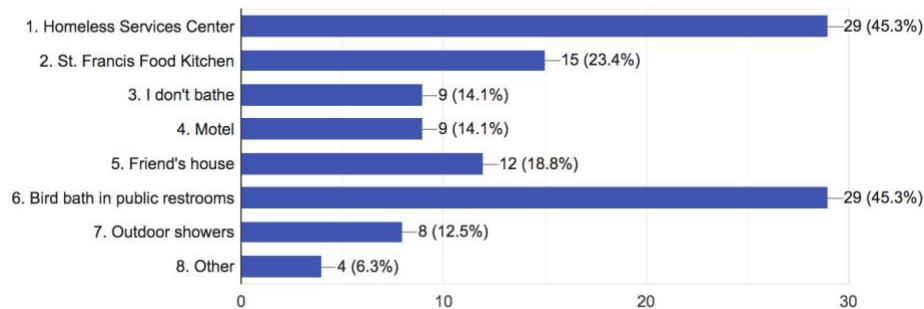
12. Do you receive mail?

61 responses



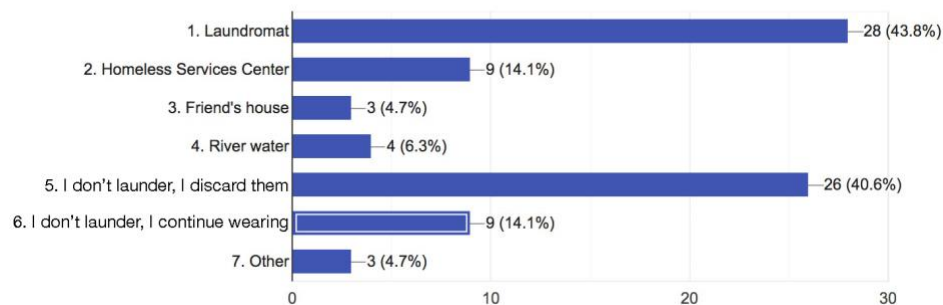
13. Where do you bathe?

64 responses



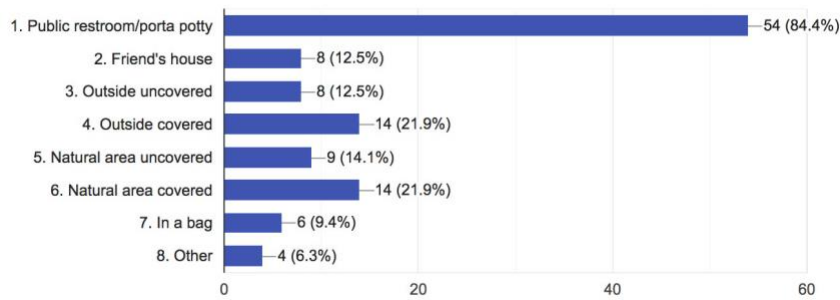
14. Where do you launder clothing?

64 responses



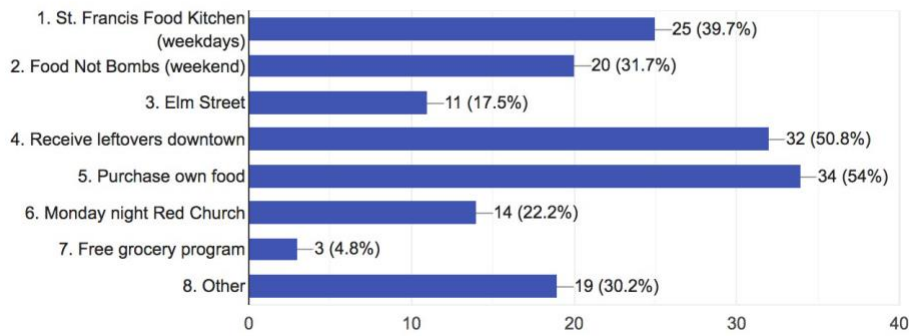
15. Where do you go poop?

64 responses



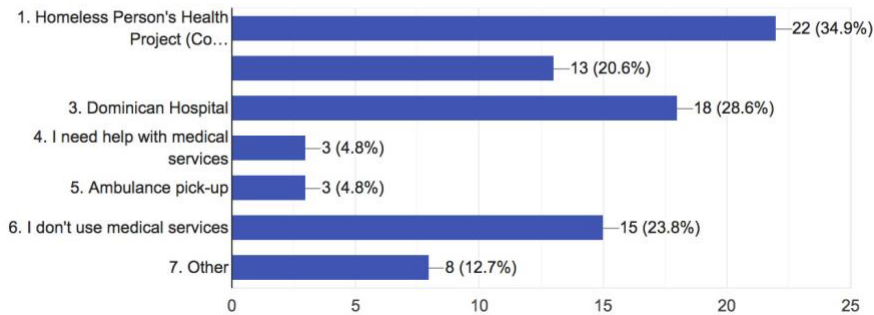
16. Where do you eat daily?

63 responses



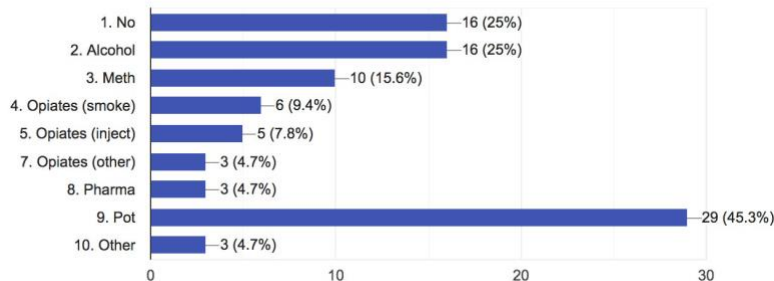
17. Where do you access medical services?

63 responses



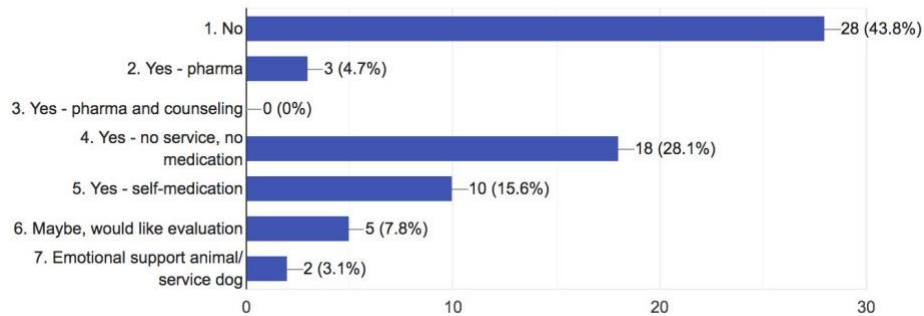
18. Do you have an addictive drug of choice?

64 responses



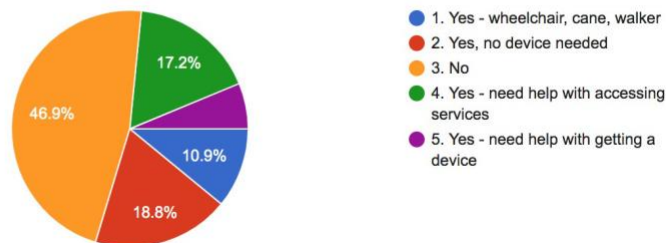
19. Do you have any mental health challenges?

64 responses



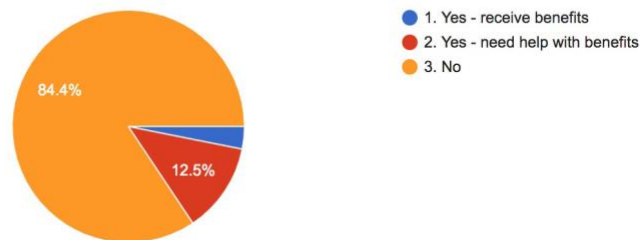
20. Do you have a physical mobility challenge?

64 responses



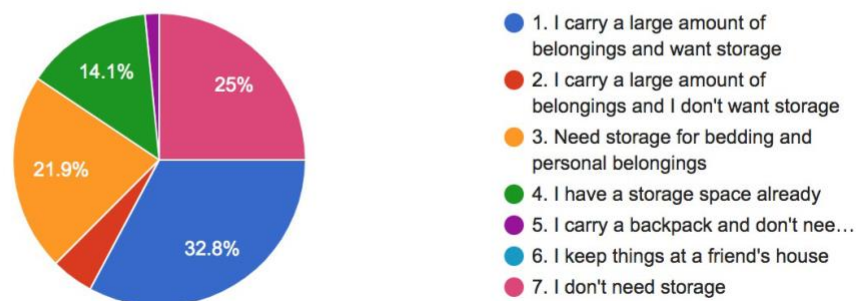
21. Are you a veteran?

64 responses



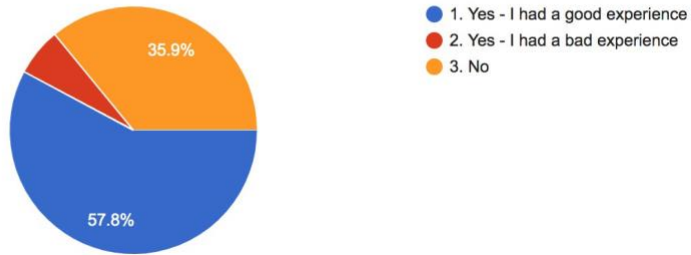
22. Do you need storage for personal belongings?

64 responses



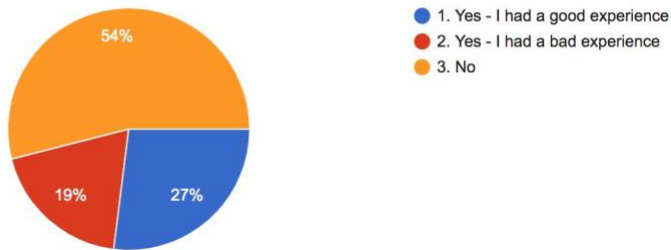
23. Have you stayed at the Warming Center Program?

64 responses



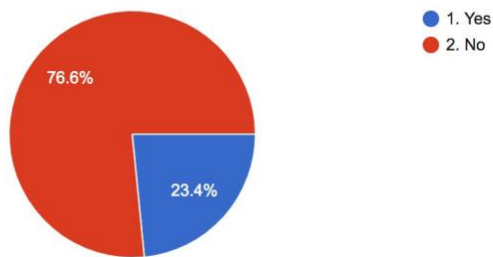
24. Have you stayed at the Winter Shelter?

63 responses



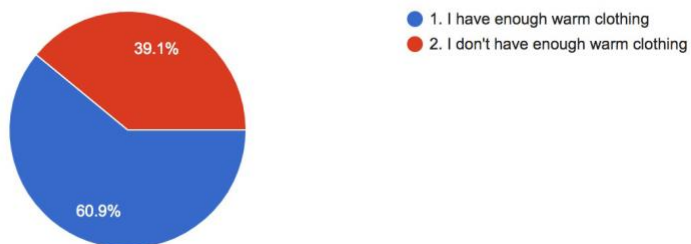
25. Have you received General Assistance money?

64 responses



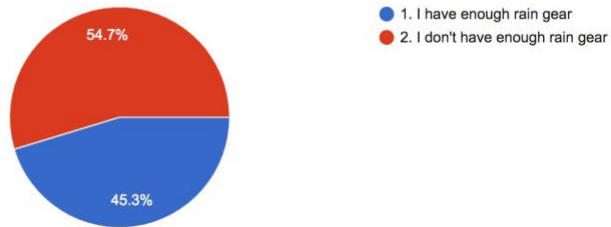
26. Do you have enough warm clothing?

64 responses



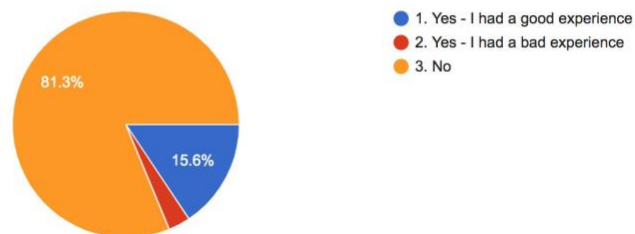
27. Do you have enough rain gear?

64 responses



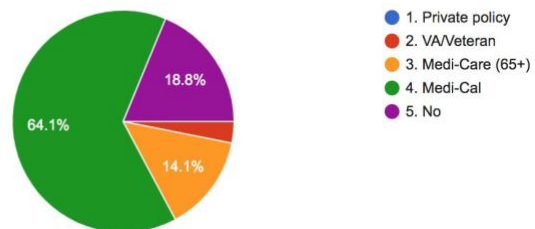
28. Have you worked with the Downtown Streets Team?

64 responses



29. Do you have health coverage?

64 responses



30. Where do you access drinking water?

64 responses

