Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

Butte County, California

2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Street Census

www.buttehomelesscoc.com

Acknowledgements

The 2015 Homeless Point-In-Time Street Census is an unlikely accomplishment. It required months of preparation. It enlisted service providers at the peak of professional endeavors, along with unpaid community volunteers, to gather data in shelters and throughout the secluded, acclimate, rugged terrain of the county. Many of those individuals continued their dedication to enter data and evaluate the system to ensure the process is being valid and respectful as possible. We thank all those that make this important project happen!

Continuum of Care Funding Agencies:

Butte County Department of Behavioral Health

Caminar

City of Chico

City or Gridley

City of Oroville

Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.

Northern Valley Catholic Social Services

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Housing Authority of the County of Butte

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NAMI of Butte County

Northern Valley Catholic Social Service

Orchard House

Oroville Rescue Mission

Paradise Ridge Family Resource Center

Planned Parenthood

Salvation Army

Shalom Free Clinic

SHOR- Sojourner's House on the Ridge

Skyway House

Social Security Administration

The Well Ministry

VA Chico Outpatient Clinic

VECTORS

Victory Village

Women's Health Specialists

Youth and Family Programs

Youth For Change

2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Census

Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

I learned to give not because I have much

but because I know exactly how it feels

to have nothing.

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Executive Summary

The Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) conducts a biennial study to learn more about those who are homeless in Butte County. The collection of data is used for multiple purposes, including compliance with the United States Housing and Urban Development Department, planning and implementation, and informing progress toward the CoC's 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness. New approaches may be taken, new partnerships may be formed, new leadership identified, decisions made, funding sought, and systems modified because of what is learned.

In January 28, 2015, information was collected from 1,127 Butte County individuals experiencing homelessness. Although fewer surveys were gathered than in previous years, it is not indicative of a decrease in the number of homeless individuals and families. This study requires service providers, public officials, and community volunteers to unite as they blanket the county gathering information from those who are homeless, both sheltered and unsheltered. Factors such as the number and type of volunteers, the weather, outreach about the event, community coordination, political climate, illness, identified camp locations, and fear of disclosure play a part in how many surveys are ultimately gathered.

Nevertheless, there remains value in the information collected. Data quantifies commonalities. All 1,127 people who completed the survey lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime shelter. They need affordable housing; effective and efficient supportive services; and a permanent, healthy support system.

Data also illustrates the uniqueness of individuals. Services cannot be universal. They must be adaptive for age, family status, accompaniment status, chronic homelessness, veterans, addiction, physical and mental illness, family dynamic, safety, community characteristics, and terrain of current nighttime residence. Summary information from the survey follows:

- Almost two-thirds were male; almost 71% male in Oroville
- 13% (152 individuals) are minors: 61 age infant to five years, and living primarily in Chico; 36 are school age, and 55 are teens
- 73 veterans completed the survey
- 25% of those surveyed are sleeping in a place not meant for habitation
- 25% are staying in emergency shelters and hotels/motels
- 43% have been homeless more than one year; 33% have been homeless

four or more times in three years (17% and 13% respectively of survey respondents did not answer these questions, which may add a significantly higher percent of chronically homeless in the county)

- 54% identified themselves as having a disabling condition—38% identify that condition as mental illness, 27% physical disability, and 23% drug abuse
- Almost half of those self-identified as mental ill say they seek treatment
- The number one reason for homelessness is lack of employment and financial reasons; family problems and eviction are also primary reasons
- 68% of those surveyed have been to jail or prison; 32% are currently on probation or parole, a 60% increase from the 2013 survey
- 21% have been in the foster care system
- Major barriers to shelter are primarily financial, include lack of funds for a deposit, lack of affordable housing, no job/income, bad credit or eviction record, and lack of transportation
- 42% have no income whatsoever; 8% earn income
- About 30% do not have a high school degree, but the same percent have at least some college experience, if not an earned degree
- There are 152 minor children, 43 of whom are unaccompanied; only one is unsheltered
- There is an additional 144 transition-age youth (18-24 years old), 17 of whom are parenting a child or children
- 52% of unaccompanied youth and 49% of transition-age youth ran away or were kicked out of a family home
- 89% of unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school
- 22% of transition age youth are employed or working a paid internship; 67% are accessing services in the community
- 27% of youth do not know where to go for help; 36% of transition-age youth feel uncomfortable accessing help

The CoC goes forth with new information—data about the commonality and uniqueness of individuals—which will focus and guide its work. With this, information, systems, and practices may be enhanced to be more respectful, efficient and effective. Consequently, more individuals and families experiencing homelessness may secure stable housing and become more self-sufficient,

Overview

Butte County volunteers united on January 28, 2015 to gather information about the homeless population in the county at that point in time. Their efforts yielded 1,127 surveys representing both sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homeless.

Butte County, California is a largely rural county, with four primary geographic jurisdictions surrounded by remote small communities, agricultural uses, and rugged terrain. Approximately 224,241 people live in Butte County. The largest, and most urban locality is Chico, with a population of 88,077. To the east of Chico, is the more mountainous Town of Paradise with a population of 26,348. To the South is the county seat of Oroville, with a population of 44,405. And, further south is the largely farming community of Gridley and Biggs, with their populations of 6,561 and 1,702, respectively.

Butte County has 102,000 people in the labor force with 87,900 employed and an unemployment rate of 13.8%. There are 96,623 housing units (including single and multiple family units and mobile homes). The average cost for housing is $932 per month, with an average rent for a one bedroom unit is $582. The county boasts robust school systems, a junior college, and a state university. There are hospitals in each locality. The county is known for its parks and natural resources, its rich culture, and its emerging businesses.

Methodology

A Point-In-Time survey was developed by members of the Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) to acquire data which met both their requirements to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as provide the CoC with vital information to drive their efforts to end homelessness in the county. The survey collected a variety of data: demographics, family make up, military service, chronic homelessness, type of shelters, disabilities, income, and barriers to acquiring permanent housing. A unique identifier was created for each survey respondent in order to ensure confidentiality and avoid duplication.

An additional youth survey was developed in partnership with We Count California, in order to capture the unique information relevant to youth homelessness. Surveys were completed by minors and transition-age youth, accompanied and unaccompanied, sheltered and unsheltered. Additional locations such as the 6th Street Drop In Center and specialized educational activities were also added to the collection locations.

Over 100 trained volunteers assembled teams and dispersed throughout the county on January 28, 2015 with surveys in hand. Command centers were established in each of the geographic localities where volunteers could acquire support and respondents could access food and other resources. Shelter staff helped their residents to complete the survey. Those not sheltered were sought in parks, churches, riverbanks, bridges, welfare offices, libraries, recycling centers, drop-in and recovery centers, food banks, the county jail, hospitals, and family resource centers. Each respondent was given resource information and a grocery card in appreciation for contributing to the project.

Survey data was entered into a confidential Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by agency staff and volunteers. The PIT Coordinator and CoC Coordinator conducted a debrief meeting to evaluate the PIT process and prepare for improvements in the future (Appendix). The CoC coordinator then analyzed and prepared the report.

Methodology Reviewed

The nature of gathering data from individuals volunteering personal information, whom are potentially cautious of surrendering such information to unknown entities, is that data is often incomplete. Analysis of data has been adjusted and noted when subsets are used.

The purpose of the survey is to collect information from persons in the homeless community that can be used to better understand who they are and what can be done to help them in an effort to end homelessness. A primary goal of the street census process is to collect as many surveys as possible to improve the accuracy of that information. Each year, the CoC team both plans and evaluates efforts to improve the process (Appendix). It is an insurmountable and unrealistic expectation that all people experiencing homeless will participate in the PIT street count. From year to year, the circumstances, from weather to fear to illness, may significantly impact their participation. Therefore, the number of surveys completed should not be considered an accurate indicator of the number of people experiencing homelessness, but instead information to monitor trends and gain understanding.

Results

Street Census Count

The year 2015 marks the eighth Point-In-Time Homeless Street Census Count (Street Census) completed by the Butte County community. It is an ambitious and comprehensive count for the purpose of gaining information that will better help the community serve people experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered. It is not a perfectly accurate count of all homeless individuals and families, but a minimum count based on who is willing to participate in sharing their information. The data does shed light on specific characteristics, situations and trends specific to Butte County.

Over a thousand people meeting the HUD definition of homeless completed surveys in the county's four geographic areas: Chico, Gridley/Biggs, Oroville, and Paradise on January 28, 2015. The following chart summarizes the number of surveys completed by area over the past five years.

Census Count from 2009 to 2105

LOCATION	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015
Chico	668	865	1043	804	571
Gridley/Biggs	2	79	97	65	36
Oroville	364	386	545	579	390
Paradise	62	83	71	89	49
Other/Unknown	10	9	16	16	81
Butte County Total	**1106**	**1422**	**1772**	**1553**	**1127**

The number of surveys completed in 2015 are fewer than previous years. By all reports from service providers and area taskforces, there has been a continued increase in the number of people they serve. This discrepancy is likely due to the fact that the Street Census is an attempt to gather information about those who are homeless but is not a representation of the total population of people considered homeless. A debriefing identified perceptions that more people experiencing homelessness in the county are retreating to more isolated locations and are less trusting of the community. Therefore, they were unaware of the street census event or unwilling to participate and disclose their personal information. The debriefing group also identified event planning and implementation protocols that may be honed in 2017 (appendix) to improve survey collection.

"Right to exist. Respected by all." (Response by community forum participant to the question "What is missing?" while developing Butte County 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness.)

Geography

In 2015, Street Census surveys were completed by 1,127 people in the county's four geographic areas: Chico, Gridley/Biggs, Oroville, and Paradise. Chico has the largest population, followed by Oroville, Paradise and then Gridley/Biggs. The largest area, Chico, netted the largest number of surveys, at 571. This represent .65% of Chico's population.

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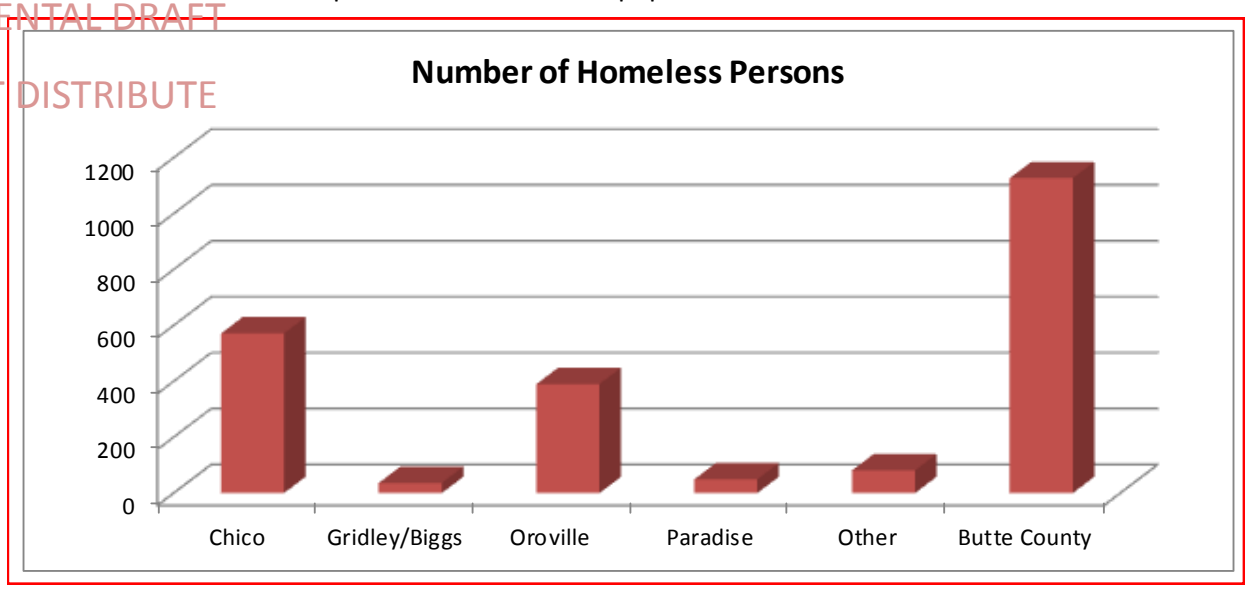
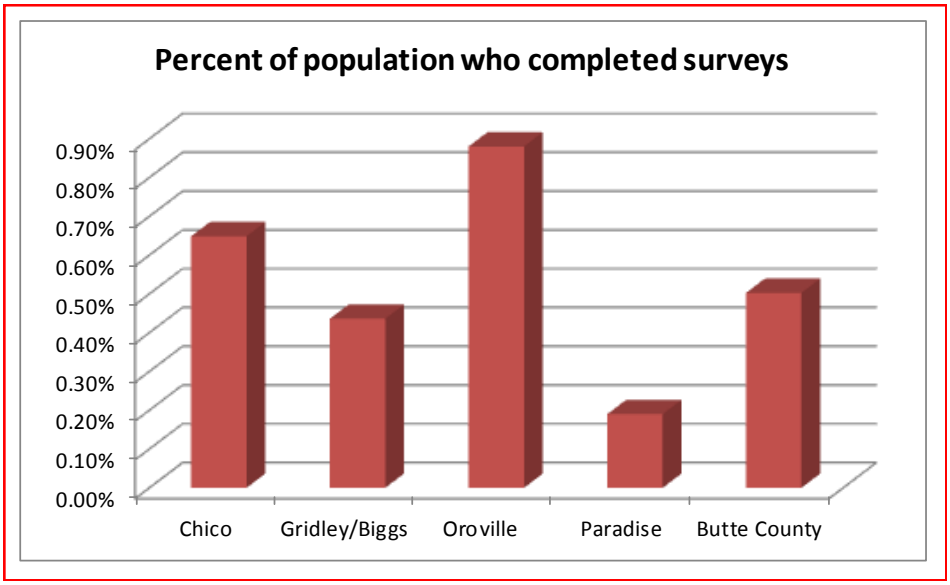


Oroville had the next largest population of those who are homeless, but with Oroville's smaller general population, the percent of homelessness was larger at .88%. The percent of population in Gridley/Biggs is .44% and in Paradise is .19%. It should be noted that 81 surveys were not able to be tied to a geographic area.



Demographics

The overall gender division for completed surveys was nearly two-thirds male and one-third female. That proportion differs by area with Oroville having an even greater percent of men than women. In fact, the percent of males in Oroville increased 10% from the 2013 survey.

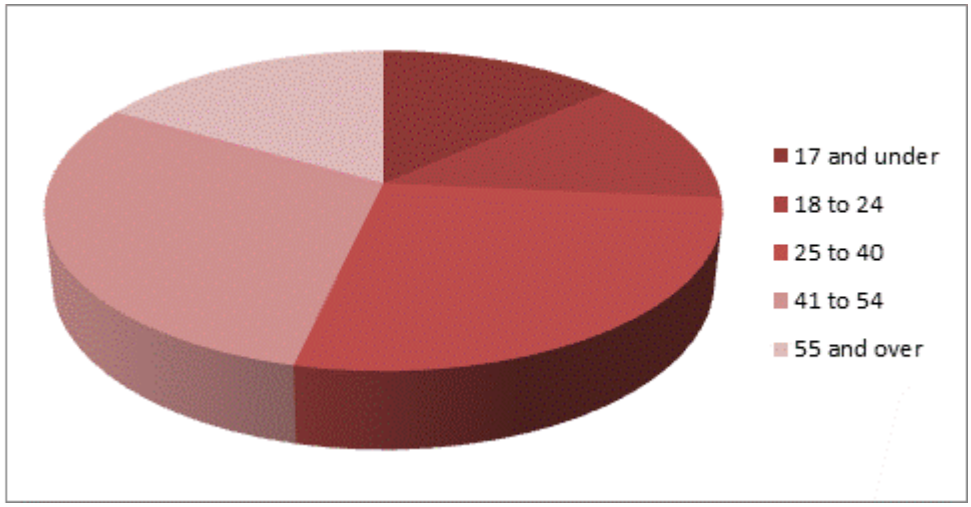
Gender Identity	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
Male	356	62%	21	58%	275	71%	31	63%	38	47%	721	64%
Female	204	36%	13	36%	110	28%	17	35%	40	49%	384	34%
Transgender	4	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	0%
Unknown/Refused	7	1%	2	6%	5	1%	1	2%	3	4%	18	2%
TOTAL	**571**		**36**		**390**		**49**		**81**		**1127**	

Race and ethnicity questions were asked of all survey respondents. The results show that 78% of respondents were white, which is less than the Butte County general population. Both Asian and Hispanic respondents were also proportionally fewer than the general population. Translation of the survey into Spanish and Hmong and having more multi-lingual volunteers may increase surveys for those racial groups. It was also hypothesized that the Latino and Hmong cultures are often more likely to co-house in times of economic crises and may not self-identify as "homeless." By contrast, the American Indian respondents were almost three times the general population, and the black/African American respondents were twice the general population for those specific races.

Race and Ethnicity	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
American Indian/ Native Alaskan	26	5%	1	3%	36	9%	4	8%	14	17%	81	7%
Asian	3	1%	0	0%	4	1%	0	0%	0	0%	7	1%
Black/African American	26	5%	0	0%	17	4%	0	0%	1	1%	44	4%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	5	1%	1	3%	5	1%	0	0%	2	2%	13	1%
White	463	81%	31	86%	296	76%	38	78%	54	67%	882	78%
Multi Racial	29	5%	0	0%	14	4%	4	8%	0	0%	47	4%
Unknown Race	12	2%	3	8%	12	3%	3	6%	10	12%	40	4%
Refused Race	7	1%	0	0%	6	2%	0	0%	0	0%	13	1%
Hispanic Ethnicity	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	**571**	**0%**	**36**	**0%**	**390**	**0%**	**49**	**0%**	**81**	**0%**	**1127**	**0%**

Age

The age distribution of the people completing surveys suggest that most of Butte County homeless individuals are between the age of 25 and 54; 27% are ages 25 to 40 and 30% are 41 to 54. The remaining population is almost evenly divided with 13% as minors, 13% transition age adults (18-24 year olds), and 17% age 55 or over.



There are 61 children, infancy through the age of attending public school, who are reported as homeless. The vast majority of those children (47) live in Chico and another 10 live in undisclosed areas. Another 36 children, again, primarily in Chico, are the age of attending elementary school. An additional 55 youth are teens, and live in multiple disclosed and undisclosed areas in the county.

Age	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
5 and under	47	8%	0	0%	2	1%	2	4%	10	12%	61	5%
6 to 12	30	5%	0	0%	3	1%	1	2%	2	2%	36	3%
13 to 17	20	4%	0	0%	21	5%	5	10%	9	11%	55	5%
18 to 24	91	16%	3	8%	33	8%	4	8%	15	19%	146	13%
25 to 40	148	26%	9	25%	113	29%	17	35%	19	23%	306	27%
41 to 54	138	24%	13	36%	154	39%	12	24%	17	21%	334	30%
55 and over	97	17%	11	31%	64	16%	8	16%	9	11%	189	17%
Total	**571**	**0%**	**36**	**0%**	**390**	**0%**	**49**	**0%**	**81**	**0%**	**1127**	0

In Butte County, the Street Census data suggests that 9% of the homeless population are minor-age youth living with parents, and 4% are unaccompanied adults. The We Count! section of this report spotlights unaccompanied youth and transition age youth.

A growing homeless subpopulation is the elderly, who find themselves without housing at a time hoped for retirement. Individuals this age face unique challenges with failing health and mobility, complicated by access to health care and meeting basic needs without stable, safe housing. They are also often surviving alone without the support of a spouse or partner.

Family composition is also important data in determine what housing and support services need to be made available. The data from 2015 showed little difference in family make up and age from the data collected in 2013. The

Family Make Up by Age	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
Children (<18) with Adult Parent	80	14%	0	0%	5	1%	2	4%	15	19%	102	9%
Unaccompanied Youth	18	3%	0	0%	20	5%	3	6%	5	6%	46	4%
Single Adult	365	64%	24	67%	287	74%	28	57%	19	23%	723	64%
Single Adult with Children	41	7%	1	3%	22	6%	6	12%	3	4%	73	6%
Married or Partnered	35	6%	8	22%	29	7%	5	10%	4	5%	81	7%
Married or Partnered with Children	28	5%	1	3%	15	4%	2	4%	2	2%	48	4%
Unknown/Refused	4	1%	2	6%	12	3%	3	6%	33	41%	54	5%
Total Homeless Adults and Children	**571**		**36**		**390**		**49**		**81**		**1127**	

Street Census shows 64% of the homeless population as single adult, 8% are single adults who have children with them. The percent of married or partnered adults are 7%, with an additional 4% of married or partnered adults with children.

Children from families experiencing housing instability have an increased risk for entry into foster care, and shelter stays of 90 days or more are linked with increased likelihood (40%) of entry into the child welfare system.
(United States Administration for Family and Children, 2012)

Veterans

Seven percent (7%), or 73 of the adults who completed the Street Census survey identified themselves as an United States Military Veteran. The majority of veterans who are experiencing homelessness are in Oroville and Chico, with the largest per capita in Gridley/Biggs.

Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
27	6%	7	19%	32	9%	3	7%	4	7%	73	7%

Type of Nighttime Residence

Despite the difficulty of the Street Census to locate and interview unsheltered people in the county, one fourth of the surveys were completed by individuals and families that are staying in a "place not meant for habitation," for example, in a vehicle, an abandoned building, a train station, or anywhere outside. The number of unsheltered people was significantly less than previous street census, perhaps a indicator of how the lack of professional and public volunteers impact the ability to cover the expanse of the county in one day to locate individuals and families in remote and temporary locations.

Nearly the same percent of respondents (23.5%) were staying in emergency shelters or hotel/motels paid for by vouchers or subsidies. Butte County has a variety of shelter facilities in three of the four geographic areas, some specializing in housing single adults, some accommodating families, and one that meets the specific housing and traumatic needs of those having experienced domestic violence. In spite of acquiring fewer surveys in 2015, the number of individuals and families in emergency shelters in Chico, more than doubled. There was a decrease by one third of those living in Oroville hotels .

Individuals, families, and in particular young adults, often double up with family or friends rather than live on the street or go to a shelter. Approximately 10% of those answering the survey identified living with friends and another 10% with family. These are accommodations that do not involve a bedroom but often sleeping on a couch or in a room not typically used for sleeping, like the kitchen or garage. Across all communities, there was a reduction by more than 50% of people reported doubling up with friends and families.

Beyond emergency housing, Butte County also has several transitional housing programs. The data collected suggest that about 7% are living in this type of facility or participating in this type of program.

Specialized facilities also house certain Butte County homeless individuals, such

Nighttime Habitation	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
Place not meant for habilitation	147	25.7%	20	55.6%	100	25.6%	8	16.3%	8	9.9%	283	25.1%
Emergency Shelter, hotel/motel paid with voucher	196	34.3%	0	0.0%	54	13.8%	9	18.4%	6	7.4%	265	23.5%
Hotel or motel w/o voucher	15	2.6%	0	0.0%	12	3.1%	0	0.0%	10	12.3%	37	3.3%
Doubled with Family	29	5.1%	11	30.6%	47	12.1%	9	18.4%	6	7.4%	102	9.1%
Doubled up with Friends	38	6.7%	4	11.1%	32	8.2%	18	36.7%	11	13.6%	103	9.1%
Transitional housing	76	13.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.8%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%	80	7.1%
Foster care home or group home	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Hospital or residential medical facility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Pychiatric facility	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.3%
Substance Abuse treatment facility	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	28	7.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%	30	2.7%
Safe Haven	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	79	20.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	79	7.0%
Long-term care facility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Rental with subsidy	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%
Rental without subsidy	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Residential Project or halfway house w/o homeless criteria	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	8	2.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	0.9%
Owned by client with housing subsidy	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons	40	7.0%	0	0.0%	4	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	44	3.9%
Other (Insufficent information)	4	0.7%	1	2.8%	2	0.5%	2	4.1%	0	0.0%	9	0.8%
Client doesn't know	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	4	1.0%	1	2.0%	7	8.6%	14	1.2%
Unanswered	12	2.1%	0	0.0%	10	2.6%	2	4.1%	31	38.3%	55	4.9%
TOTAL	**571**		**36**		**390**		**49**		**81**		**1127**	

as jails and prisons (7%), substance abuse facilities (2.7%), foster care (.2%), hospitals (.2%). One of the most significant increases in nighttime residencies was that 79 individuals were currently living in jails, prisons, or juvenile detention facilities in Oroville. That represents 20% of all homeless individuals in Oroville.

Rentals, residential projects, and permanent supportive housing provide more long-term sheltered relief, often with financial support through voucher programs. These programs allow homeless individuals and families who are ready to secure a consistent residence to maintain stable housing while seeing to other basic needs.

Shelter service providers provided emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing bed inventory on the day of the PIT. Although not inclusive of all local beds, it offers an ongoing measure of the housing supply to meet the human demand (appendix).

No one should experience homelessness– no one shoud be without a safe, stable place to call home.

(Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, 2015)

Chronic Homelessness

Chronic Homelessness is defined by HUD as an individual or family with a disabling condition who has been homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Therefore, it is important to review the collected data in regard to the number of people chronically homeless in Butte County.

Length of Time	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
One week or less	17	3%	1	3%	36	9%	5	10%	8	10%	67	6%
More than 1 week but less than 1 month	27	5%	1	3%	18	5%	6	12%	1	1%	53	5%
1 to 3 months	73	13%	5	14%	44	11%	10	20%	3	4%	135	12%
More than 3 months but less than 1 year	85	15%	8	22%	70	18%	8	16%	18	22%	189	17%
1 year or longer	251	44%	20	56%	185	47%	17	35%	10	12%	483	43%
Doesn't know	29	5%	1	3%	32	8%	0	0%	11	14%	73	6%
No answer	89	16%	0	0%	5	1%	3	6%	30	37%	127	11%
TOTAL	**571**		**36**		**390**		**49**		**81**		**1127**	

Number of Times	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Other		Total	
1 time	189	33%	13	36%	139	36%	15	31%	9	11%	365	32%
2-3 times	134	23%	4	11%	78	20%	15	31%	8	10%	239	21%
4 or more times	159	28%	18	50%	162	42%	18	37%	14	17%	371	33%
No answer	89	16%	1	3%	11	3%	1	2%	50	62%	152	13%
TOTAL	**571**		**36**		**390**		**49**		**81**		**1127**	

Nearly half (43%) of the individuals surveyed have been homeless over one year. This is a 32% decrease from 2013's survey which indicated 63% individuals were chronically homeless.

Due to the 17% of individuals who did not answer this question (6% who did not know and the 11% who did not provide information), and the 81 who did not identify what geographic area in which they are residing, comparative analysis across geographic areas would likely be inaccurate.

One-third (33%) of respondents countywide reported being homeless, four or more times. This percent is slightly higher in Paradise and sizeably greater in Oroville (42%) and Gridley/Biggs (50%). In 2013, Chico had 58% of individuals report they had been homeless four or more times, which shows a 52% decrease in two years.

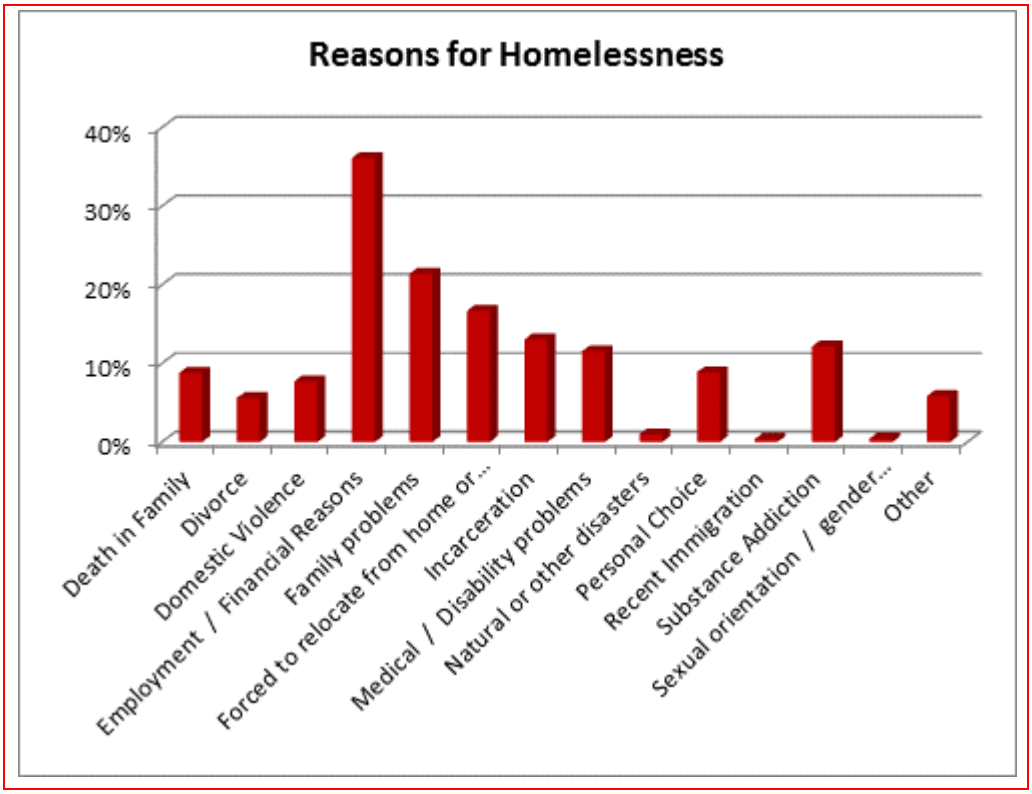
Disability

Over half (54%) of the adults who completed surveys reported having at least one disabling condition, although each person may have more than one. Thirty -eight (38%) identified mental illness as one conditions, while 27%stated a physical disability. Oroville showed alcohol abuse increase from 19% to 42%.

Disability	Chico	Gridley/Biggs	Oroville	Paradise	Countywide
Disabling Condition	64%	3%	43%	76%	54%
Physical Disability	23%	31%	30%	44%	27%
Developmental Disability	4%	3%	7%	11%	5%
Chronic Health Condition	16%	11%	18%	24%	17%
HIV - AIDS	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%
Mental Illness	38%	22%	39%	42%	38%
Drug Abuse	20%	9%	28%	21%	22%
Alcohol Abuse	16%	11%	42%	11%	16%

Reasons for Homelessness

The reasons that one becomes homeless vary uniquely to the person's circumstances and abilities. The adults and unaccompanied youth who completed the survey, identified the following reasons, naming employment and financial reasons as the primary challenge that led to homelessness.



Nationally, the top three factors contributing to homelessness are loss of job/income (22%), substance abuse (14%), and jail (13%).

(Homeless Resource Network)

Family problems was listed as a reason for 20% to 27% of the respondents. Less than 20% reported eviction, incarceration, medical/disability problems, and substance abuse. Life traumas such as familial death, divorce, and domestic violence were also cited. Nine percent (9%) of people considered homelessness a personal choice.

Reasons for Homelessness	Chico	Gridley/Biggs	Oroville	Paradise	Countywide
Death in Family	8%	6%	12%	2%	9%
Divorce	4%	14%	8%	2%	6%
Domestic Violence	7%	3%	8%	10%	8%
Employment / Financial Reasons	37%	47%	38%	29%	36%
Family problems	20%	25%	24%	27%	21%
Forced to relocate from home or evicted	16%	19%	18%	27%	17%
Incarceration	7%	3%	23%	10%	13%
Medical / Disability problems	11%	11%	12%	27%	12%
Natural or other disasters	1%	0%	0%	4%	1%
Personal Choice	8%	6%	12%	4%	9%
Recent Immigration	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%
Substance Addiction	11%	6%	17%	10%	12%
Sexual orientation / gender identity	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	6%	3%	7%	4%	6%

Incarceration increased from 7% to 13% and substance addiction decreased from 22% to 12% of the two years between surveys.

Contributing Circumstances

Circumstances	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Total*	
Foster Care	88	19%	7	2%	88	24%	8	17%	199	21%
Probation or parole	74	27%	5	17%	113	41%	6	21%	202	32%
Jail or Prison	282	60%	30	83%	290	77%	28	62%	646	68%

*Total adults and unaccompanied youth data

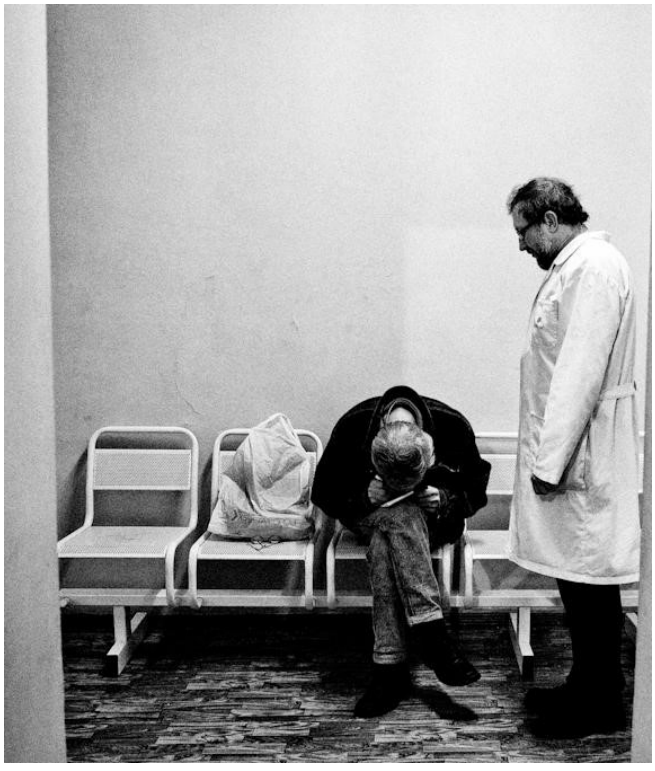
Many life circumstances may contribute to homelessness. Research has shown that three of them are time in the foster care system, actively being on probation or parole, or having ever been in jail or prison. Butte County follows these research findings, with 21% of the adults and unaccompanied youth who were surveyed having been in the foster care system at some time in their life. The percent currently on probation or parole increased from 20% to 32% from 2013 to 2015. A new question about whether adult respondents had ever been to jail or prison was added in 2015; the findings showed that 646 individuals or 68% who answered the question have spent time in jail or prison.

Health

"Housing integrated with health care is an effective and cost-saving intervention for people experiencing homelessness and those unstably housed with serious health problems," states the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. For many homelessness individuals and families, health conditions were a major contributing factor in the economic crisis that led to losing stable housing. Once left without support and resources for basic needs, even the most minor illness can escalate to more acute or chronic illness. Exposure to environmental elements and violence, along with lack of proper nutrition and preventative care often results in more serious illness and financial strains on the community as hospitals are impacted and there are limited options for discharge plans. After medical care is offered, treatment cannot be sustained with lack of resources and transportation.

Of the 1,127 people who completed the survey, only 911 answered the question about medical insurance coverage; 711 identified that they do have insurance. Specifically, 78% of those with health insurance have Medicaid. Less than one percent said that have Medicare, VA Medical, private pay insurance, or state health insurance for adults.

If it is assumed that those who stated they do not have insurance and those who didn't answer the question, do not have insurance, it could be concluded that 416 people experiencing homelessness in the county do not have health insurance.



Before receiving permanent supportive housing, health care costs averaged more than $27,000 annual for each person.
(Mores & Rosencheck, 2010)

Barriers to Shelter

Those who were unsheltered when completing the survey were asked which barriers (from a list of barriers) they face in accessing temporary shelter. *This unsheltered population did not answer this question.*

Those living in shelters often responded to this question, with the primary barriers listed in the following order:

- Lack of funds for deposit
- Lack of affordable housing
- No job or income
- Bad credit or eviction record
- Lack of transportation
- Mental health issues
- Lack of knowledge about available services
- Criminal record
- Drug or alcohol use
- Lack of social services
- Physical disability
- No pets allowed

Honoring the expertise of those that responded to this question offers a view to their world of barriers to stability. Investing resources and services in these areas may remove critical barriers to assist in a transition into stable housing and acquisition of permanent connections of support.

We cannot end homelessness in American until every homeless person on our streets is known by name by someone who has carefully assess their health and housing needs.
(100,000 homes)

Mental Health Services

Nearly half the individuals who self-reported as having a disabling mental illness, reported they were currently receiving treatment. Although the more remote town of Gridley/Biggs had a lower percent of people receiving care.

Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Total	
102	55%	5	26%	64	43%	7	37%	185	49%

Mental illness, and the lack of access to and readiness for treatment perpetuates the cycle of homelessness. Understanding which support sources are perceived as helpful and which are barriers allows approaches to be focused and modified to break the cycle and build stability. These individuals stated the aids and obstacle to accessing services.

The number of people who stated each of these support sources helped them access mental health services

20	Self
13	Butte County Department of Behavioral Health
10	6th Street Drop In
8	Social Security
7	Ampla Health
7	Friends
6	Doctors
6	Family
6	School
5	Jail/Prison
5	Treatment currently
5	Veterans and Military
4	Parole
4	Social Service/case management referral
3	AB109
3	Far Northern
3	Indian Medical Center/Tribal Health
3	Probation
3	Service location; ability to access on foot
2	Church and ministry
2	CSD
2	Feather River Hospital
2	General Assistance office

2	Had to / Had nowhere to go
2	Insurance or MediCal available
2	Jesus Center/Sabbath House
2	NCTS
2	PUFF unit
2	Shalom Free Clinic
2	Street referral/outreach
2	Torres Shelter
1	Catalyst
1	Community Action Agency
1	Counseling Solutions
1	Crisis center
1	EDD
1	Food stamp ofc
1	Getting thrown into Mental Health continually
1	Hope Center and S.A.
1	Iverson Center
1	Local authority
1	Methadone clinic
1	Stairways
1	Treatment prior to homelessness
1	Victim Witness

The number of people who stated each of these sources were an obstacle to access mental health services

17	Don't want to
16	Transportation
12	Need help accessing services
11	Lack of need for mental health services and/or perceived lack of need (have bipolar diagnosis but don't need services; self medicated; had help and doing my own activities they taught me)
9	Lack of information about what is available
9	Lack of money
7	Illness related barriers (too anxious; have blackouts; forgetfulness; drug use; uncomfortable with people)
6	In the process of acquiring services (working on obtaining some; waiting for approval; need to recertify)
4	Lack of follow through (I've been referred but haven't taken action, need to apply but haven't)
4	Not eligible or been denied (got kicked out; self determined lack of access; was turned away)
4	No insurance or waiting for insurance/MediCal/disability
3	Legal concerns (after jail find place to live; I think I have warrant out; missed court appearance)
3	Lacking identification and address
3	Does not have good health care
3	Don't want medications
3	Age
3	Complacency
2	Perceived lack of availability: no services; no services given
2	No housing
2	No phone
1	Waiting until superbowl is over
1	No one believes him
1	Parole
1	Incarceration
1	Dog
1	Ran out of meds
1	Caring for partner 24/7
1	I quit, thn AB109 Mental Health when I relapsed
1	Peoples Attitudes
1	Don't like the system
1	Violent criminal 31 yrs ago, no references
1	Looking for work

Income

Predictably, the current state of income for individuals and families is extremely low. Forty-two percent (42%) have no income whatsoever. The next most frequent income level is $501-$1,000 per month, consistent with the average SSI payment. The median housing cost in Butte County is $953. The average rent for a one-bedroom unit is $582 per month.

The annual income of those receiving $501 to $1, 000 per month is between $6,000 and $12,000 per year. Compare this with the county's median household income of $43,752, and it explains the financial disparity that keeps people in unstable housing situation.

No Income	42%
$1-$150	6%
$151-$250	4%
$251-$500	11%
$501-$1,000	24%
$1,001-$1,500	4%
$1,501-$2,000	2%
$2,000+	1%
Unknown	6%

Income Source	% Respondents
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	17%
Other Cash Income	11%
General Assistance (GA)	9%
Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)	9%
Earned Income	8%
TANF (Temp Asst for Needy Fam)	5%
Social Security Retirement	1%
Unemployment Income	1%
Child Support	1%
Veteran's Disability Payment	1%
Veteran's Pension	0%
Employment Pension	0%
Private Disability Insurance	0%
Worker's Compensation	0%
Spousal Support	0%

Two trends are largely responsible for the increase in homeless in the past 20-25 years, a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.

(National Coalition for the Homeless, 2009)

Education

The Butte County survey identified 30 adults and unaccompanied youth with less than an 8th grade education. One fourth have less than a 12th grade education, and 30% have a high school diploma .

Educational Level	Chico		Gridley/Biggs		Oroville		Paradise		Total	
Less than 8th grade	11	2%	2	6%	14	4%	1	2%	30	3%
Less than 12th grade	112	21%	15	42%	133	33%	15	32%	284	26%
High school grad/GED	170	32%	10	28%	128	32%	15	32%	330	30%
Some college	135	26%	7	19%	76	19%	10	21%	234	22%
AA degree	16	3%	1	3%	15	4%	1	2%	33	3%
College degree or more	32	6%	1	3%	13	3%	1	2%	51	5%

Homelessness is typically associated with a lack of education. Yet, the Butte County data shows that not only do 30% have a high school degree, but 30% also have some college experience. In fact, 3% have an AA degree and 5% have a college degree or more.

Academic achievement is correlated with employment and financial self-sufficiency and stability. Ensuring enrollment, access, seamless transitions, and retention from early childhood education through post-secondary education is essential.

(Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, 2013)

Homeless Youth

Youth are classified into two age ranges, minors (or youth under the age of 18) and transition-age youth (or youth aged 18 to 24 years old). The survey was administered to 152 Minors and 144 Transition-Age Youth.

The majority of minors (64%) were sheltered. An additional 28% of minors were doubled up in a home of someone else, although 3% did not know if that arrangement would continue in the near future. The Street Census volunteers found only one minor who was unsheltered.

The majority (42%) of transition-age youth were also sheltered, although fewer, and a lower percent than the minors. Another 23% of transition-age Youth were doubled up but a third would not be able to continue to stay within the next 14 days. A dramatic increase in the number (36) and percent (25%) of youth that are unsheltered are found in the older-aged youth.

Youth Shelter Status	Minors (>18)	Transition-Age Youth (18-24)
Unsheltered	1	36
Sheltered	97	60
Double Up	43	33
Can't stay there for the next 14 days	0	12
Don’t know if they can stay there for the next 14 days	4	4
Can stay there for the next 14 days	32	17
Unanswered	7	0
Doesn't Know/Data Not Collected/	11	15
Total	**152**	**144**

A closer look at the 152 minors that completed surveys shows that 66% were with an adult parent, 28% were unaccompanied, and 1% were parenting their own child.

Minors (Younger than 18 Years Old)	With Adult Parent	Unaccompanied	Parenting	Unknown	TOTAL
Unsheltered	1	0	0	0	1
Sheltered	85	4	0	8	97
Double Up	7	35	1	0	43
Can't stay there for the next 14 days	0	0	0	0	0
Don’t know if they can stay there for the next 14 days	0	4	0	0	4
Can stay there for the next 14 days	0	31	1	0	32
Unanswered	7	0	0	0	7
Doesn't Know/Data Not Collected/	7	4	0	0	11
Total Homeless	**100**	**43**	**1**	**8**	**152**

Transition-Age Youth reported if they were parenting in their current state of homelessness, whether they were single or in a couple. Approximately 12% reported having children.

Transition-Age Youth (18-24 Years Old) Shelter and Accompaniment Status	Single and Coupled without children	Single and Coupled with children	Unknown	TOTAL
Unsheltered	35	1	0	36
Sheltered	48	12	0	60
Double Up	29	4	0	33
Can't stay there for the next 14 days	9	3	0	12
Don’t know if they can stay there for the next 14 days	4	0	0	4
Can stay there for the next 14 days	16	1	0	17
Unanswered	0	0	0	0
Doesn't Know/Data Not Collected/	4	0	11	15
Total	**116**	**17**	**11**	**144**

We Count!

In 2015, the CoC received a special grant for *We Count! California* to support a more informed count of homeless youth in the county. They developed a survey (Appendix) for unaccompanied youth and transition-age youth to learn more about who they are, how they became homeless, what they are experiencing, and what help they might need and accept. In additional, youth-oriented activities were conducted by Youth For Change and Butte County Office of Education to facilitate presence. Lastly, youth interns were hired to assist in the process and activities.

Age of Unaccompanied Youth	Number	Percent
Younger than 18	44	41%
18-24	64	59%
Total	108	100%

Demographic information from unaccompanied youth was collected in the 108 surveys , 41% from youth less than 18 years of age, and 60% between 18 and 24 years old.

Gender Identity	Number	Percent
Male	63	58%
Female	45	42%
Transgender, identify as a female	0	0%
Transgender, identify as a male	0	0%
Not sure	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	108	100%

As for gender, 58% were male and 42% female, with no identification of transgender. Questions about sexual orientation, resulted in 68% of youth identifying themselves as straight, 12% bisexual, and 2% gay or lesbian.

Sexual Identity	Number	Percent
Gay or Lesbian	2	2%
Straight	73	68%
Bisexual	13	12%
Queer/Other	0	0%
I don't know/questioning	1	1%
Client refused	12	11%
Prefer not to answer	7	6%
Total	108	100%

Risk factors associated with longer period of homelessness for youth include trauma, emotional distress, risky sexual behavior, family problems, criminal or delinquent behavior and substance abuse.

(United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2012)

Youth identified many reasons that they are or have been homeless. Approximately half of youth had run away or been kicked out of the house, regardless of their current age. By combining these two options in one question, it did not allow how many ran away and how many were kicked out. Some may argue that these are distinctively different reasons, and two separate questions may be useful.

Likewise, rewording the option of violence at home to specify whether the violence was toward the youth or someone else, would give the community valuable information about how to help their youth. The results of that question identified 18% of youth being homeless due to family violence.

Did you ever lose your housing or become homeless for any of the following reasons?

	Unaccompanied Youth		Transition Age Youth		Total Youth	
Ran away or kicked out from my family home	23	52%	32	49%	55	51%
Ran away or kicked out from a group or foster home	2	5%	7	11%	9	6%
Violence at home between family members	6	14%	13	20%	19	18%
Difference with parents about religious beliefs	1	2%	6	9%	7	6%
Because of some other reason	13	30%	28	43%	41	38%
Total Youth	44		64		108	

The following other reasons were written into the survey by the youth:

3 No job/Lost income
2 Addiction/Drug abuse
2 Evicted
1 Wanted to experience homelessness
1 Can't find a house that meets needs
1 Violence
1 No Family Support
1 Personal reasons
1 Rent was stolen
1 Recently incarcerated

Youth reported the following:

- Fourteen percent (14%) of unaccompanied youth of all ages are using birth control; 7% reported being pregnant or getting someone pregnant.
- Most minors (89%), despite not living with an adult, are attending school.
- Only 7% of minors and 22% of transition-age youth are employed or learning employable skills.

- A third of minors are accessing services; three times that many older youth

Community Impact/Involvement	Unaccompanied Youth		Transition Age Youth		Total Youth	
Are you pregnant or recently gotten someone else pregnant?	2	5%	6	9%	8	7%
Are you currently using birth control?	6	14%	9	14%	15	14%
Are you currently enrolled in school?	39	89%	18	28%	57	53%
Do you currently have a job, paid internship, or other type of employment?	3	7%	14	22%	17	16%
Are you currently accessing any services in the community?	15	34%	43	67%	58	54%
Total Youth	**44**		**64**		**108**	

are availing themselves of services.

Improving accessibility to services, in particular birth control and protection services, as well as employment and employment training services are key. Without accessibility, life skills education and choices are limited.

In that regard, barriers to receiving services were identified. Lack of

Issues Associated with Accessing Help	Unaccompanied		Transition Age		Total Youth	
Lack of transportation	15	34%	30	47%	45	42%
Do not have an ID or personal documents	9	20%	9	14%	18	17%
Do not know where to go for help	8	18%	21	33%	29	27%
Do not qualify for services	4	9%	18	28%	22	20%
Placed on a wait list and never heard back	2	5%	19	30%	21	19%
Do not follow through or return for services	2	5%	14	22%	16	15%
Language Barrier	0	0%	1	2%	1	1%
Felt uncomfortable	4	9%	23	36%	27	25%
Total Youth	**44**		**64**		**108**	

transportation was the primary barrier to access, followed by not knowing where to go for help, feeling uncomfortable, and believing they do not qualify for services. They also stated being placed on a waiting list, not necessary documentation, and not following through as major deterrents to accessing services. Youth serve as experts to understanding needs for service and approach changes.

References

HUD's 2013 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Housing Inventory Count Report; United States Department of Housing and Urban; 2013

Federal Register; United States Department of Housing and Urban Development;

Five Steps to End Veteran Homelessness: National Alliance to End Homelessness; February 20, 2015

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness; United States Interagency Council on Homlessness, Washington, D.C. June 2015

SNAPS in Focus: A Discussion About the Point-In-Time Count; Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs; United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; December 2014

SNAPS in Focus: Strategies for Ending Veteran Homelessness in 2015; Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs; United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; June 2015

Stairways Programming: Community Service Utilization Before and After Housing and Programming; Stairways Programming; Butte County; March 2015

United States Census Data, 201

Appendix

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BUTTE COUNTY PIT SURVEY SURVEY LOCATION:

Interviewer Name:			*Gift Card #*	
Have you completed a survey earlier today?			☐ Yes (end survey)	☐ No
First Name/Initial	*Last Name/Initial*	*Date of Birth* __/__/____	*Last 4 of Social* _ _ _ _	*Gender*: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgendered to Male ☐ Transgendered to Female

Race:
☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Black/African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Client refused
☐ Asian

Ethnicity
☐ Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino ☐ Hispanic/ Latino ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Client refused

1. What is your family make-up
☐ Single Adult ☐ Unaccompanied Youth age 17 and under ☐ Married or Partnered ☐ Married or Partnered with children ☐ Single Adult with children

2. Veteran Status
☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Client refused

3. Housing Status
☐ Category 1- Homeless ☐ Category 2-At imminent risk of losing housing ☐ Category 3- Homeless under other federal statutes ☐ Category 4- Fleeing domestic violence ☐ At-risk of homelessness ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Client refused

4. How many times in the past 3 years have you been without a regular place to stay (including right now)?
☐ 1 time ☐ 2-3 times ☐ 4 or more times

5. What caused you to become homeless?
☐ Death In Family ☐ Divorce ☐ Domestic Violence ☐ Employment/financial reasons ☐ Family problems ☐ Forced to relocate from home or evicted ☐ Incarceration ☐ Medical/disability problems ☐ Natural/other disasters ☐ Personal choice ☐ Recent immigration ☐ Substance addiction ☐ Sexual orientation/ gender identity ☐ Other_____

6. How long since you last had a regular place to stay?
☐ 1 week or less ☐ More than 1 week but less than 1 month ☐ 1 to 3 months ☐ More than 3 months but less than a year ☐ 1 year or longer ☐ Don't know

7. What type of housing did you stay in last night?
☐ Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher ☐ Foster care home or foster care group home ☐ Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility ☐ Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher ☐ Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility ☐ Long-term care facility or nursing home Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy ☐ Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy ☐ Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons ☐ Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside) ☐ Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy ☐ Rental by client, with VASH subsidy ☐ Rental by client, with GPD TIP subsidy ☐ Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy ☐ Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria ☐ Safe Haven ☐ Staying or living in a family member's room, apartment, or house ☐ Staying or living in a friend's room, apartment, or house ☐ Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center ☐ Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth) ☐ Other: (Describe) ☐ Client doesn't know ☐ Client refused

8 If staying with family or friends, do you think you could stay there for the next 14 days?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

9 If unsheltered, what barriers prevent you from accessing temporary shelter?

☐ Criminal history ☐ Don't feel safe/ comfortable ☐ Language barrier ☐ No space available in shelter
☐ Don't know about available services ☐ Have been asked to leave ☐ Mental Health issues ☐ No identification
☐ Lack of transportation ☐ No pets allowed ☐ Undocumented status
☐ Drug or alcohol use ☐ Other

10 If in temporary shelter, what barriers prevent you from accessing permanent housing?

☐ Bad credit/ Eviction record ☐ Drug or alcohol use ☐ Lack of personal support system ☐ No smoking allowed
☐ Lack of affordable housing ☐ No job or income
☐ Criminal history ☐ Lack of funds for deposit ☐ Lack of transportation ☐ Physical Disability
☐ Don't know about available services ☐ Lack of local services ☐ Mental Health issues ☐ Undocumented status
☐ No pets allowed ☐ Other

11 Where did you stay last night?

☐ Chico ☐ Paradise ☐ Oroville ☐ Grindley ☐ Refused ☐ Other

12 How long have you been in Butte County?

Note: If in & out, what is the TOTAL amount of time you have been in Butte County?

☐ Less than one month ☐ 1-9 months ☐ 10 months – 5 years ☐ Over 5 years ☐ Prefer not to answer

13 Do you have any of the following disabling conditions?

☐ Physical ☐ Chronic Health Condition ☐ Mental Health Problems ☐ Drug abuse ☐ Domestic Violence
☐ Developmental ☐ HIV/AIDS ☐ Alcohol abuse

14 If *Mental Health Problems*, are you receiving services? ☐ Yes ☐ No

15 If *Yes*, what helped you access services?

16 If *No*, what are barriers to accessing services?

17 Do you or anyone in your household receive any of the following forms of income?

☐ Earned income (i.e., employment income) ☐ VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation ☐ Worker's Compensation ☐ Pension or retirement income from a former job
☐ Unemployment Insurance ☐ VA Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension ☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) ☐ Child support
☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI) ☐ Private disability insurance ☐ General Assistance (GA) ☐ Alimony or other spousal support
☐ Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) ☐ Retirement Income from Social Security ☐ Other source _____

18 What is your household's approximate *monthly* income? (Select ONLY ONE)

☐ No Income ☐ $151-$250 ☐ $501-$1,000 ☐ $1,501-$2,000
☐ $1-$150 ☐ $251-$500 ☐ $1,001-$1,500 ☐ $2,000+

19 Do you currently have medical insurance? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know
If yes, what type? _____

20 What was the last completed grade level in School?

☐ Less that 8th grade ☐ HS grad/GED ☐ AA Degree
☐ Less than 12th grade ☐ Some College ☐ College Degree or More

21 Were you in foster care? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐ Refused

22 Have you ever been to jail or prison? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐ Refused

23 If yes, are you currently on probation or parole? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐ Refused

Other Adults in Household

Initials	Date of birth	Last 4 SSN	Race	Gender			Hispanic?		Veteran?	
	____/____/____	__ __ __ __		☐ M	☐ F	☐ T	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ Y	☐ N
	____/____/____	__ __ __ __		☐ M	☐ F	☐ T	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ Y	☐ N
	____/____/____	__ __ __ __		☐ M	☐ F	☐ T	☐ Y	☐ N	☐ Y	☐ N

Children In Household

Initials	Date of birth	Last 4 SSN	Race	☐ Gender			☐ Hispanic?	
	____/____/____	__ __ __ __		☐ M	☐ F	☐ T	☐ Y	☐ N
	____/____/____	__ __ __ __		☐ M	☐ F	☐ T	☐ Y	☐ N
	____/____/____	__ __ __ __		☐ M	☐ F	☐ T	☐ Y	☐ N
	____/____/____	__ __ __ __		☐ M	☐ F	☐ T	☐ Y	☐ N

2015 Youth Survey PIT Interviewer Name:

First Name/Initial	*Last Name/Initial*	*Date of Birth*	*Last 4 of Social*	*Gender*: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgendered to Male ☐ Transgendered to Female

1. Did you ever lose your housing or become homeless for any of the following reasons? (*Check all that apply)*

☐ Ran away/kicked out from my family home
☐ Ran away/kicked out from a group home or foster home
☐ Violence at home between family member
☐ Differences with parents about religious beliefs
☐ Because of some other reason (Please specify)_____

2. What is your current gender identity?

☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Transgender, and identify as a girl or woman
☐ Transgender, and identify as a boy or man
☐ Not sure
☐ Other (specify) _____

3. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?

☐ Gay or Lesbian
☐ Straight
☐ Bisexual
☐ Queer/Other
☐ I don't know/Questioning
☐ Prefer not to answer

4. Are you currently pregnant, or have you recently gotten someone else pregnant?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I don't know/not sure
☐ Prefer not to answer

5. Are you currently using birth control?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I don't know/not sure
☐ Prefer not to answer

6. Are you currently attending or enrolled in school?

☐ Yes
☐ No

7. Do you currently have a job, paid internship, or other type of employment?

☐ Yes
☐ No

8. Are you currently accessing any services in the community?

☐ Yes
☐ No

9. Have you recently experienced any of the following issues in trying to get help or access services in the community? (Check all that apply)

☐ Lack of transportation
☐ Did not have I.D./Personal documents
☐ Did not know where to go for help
☐ Did not qualify for services
☐ Placed on a wait list and never heard back
☐ Did not follow through or return for services
☐ Language barrier
☐ Felt uncomfortable
☐ Some other reason: _____
☐ I have not experienced any issues

Notes from 2015 PIT Debrief

Summary

Overall, the event was successful in locating and administering surveys to 1,125 people experiencing homelessness. CoC members and volunteers rallied to cover the planning, oversight, and activities of the event. Volunteers continued to be dedicated, effective, and caring. The primary components, such as outreach, survey administration, incentives, and training were all implemented although at a somewhat reduced level. Those surveyed responded positively. There were no injuries or incidents.

The greatest challenge by far was the need for a coordinator to oversee the project from beginning to end. Several components were not fully implemented. The most significant impact was seen in the number of people that were surveyed, the number of volunteers, the quality of the survey, and the human resources needed to enter the data into the database.

The following is a list of conclusions drawn and tasks outlined for the future:

Planning

- Develop a timeline for the planning, training, administration, collection, analysis and reporting, and present it at the September 2016 CoC meeting.
- Continue to recruit "command center" lead volunteers in each jurisdiction, and collaborate on the planning of all event components.

Volunteers

- Recruit more volunteers in every jurisdiction, particularly in the morning. Recruitment in the following areas were suggested:
  - Service clubs (e.g. Rotary, Lions)
  - Churches, Interfaith Council, Pastors on the Street
  - University departments and clubs (e.g. social work, psychology, criminal justice)
- Let potential volunteers know that there has never been an unsafe incident.
- Recruit more specialized volunteers who can work in the field, are needed. There has been a sizable drop off in volunteers in this area. Ideally, administration would offer paid release time to help. It was suggested that the coordinator, Tom and/or Ed, make personal requests for support from administrators:
  - Code enforcement
  - BCDBH
  - Service agencies
- Hold an appreciation BBQ or breakfast where the PIT results are shared.

Volunteer Training

- Schedule the training for CSUC and Butte College volunteers before finals and when they leave on break since the PIT occurs so soon after their return for the next semester.
- Offer better training on what is unaccompanied youth: age 18 versus 24, and parenting youth.
- Train volunteers that every adult needs to fill out a survey. The reference to another adult and children on the survey is to associate them together, not an alternative to completing the survey. Both adults get an incentive.
- Create a "cheat sheet" which goes with the survey in order to help volunteers help responders complete it accurately and/or develop a survey that includes the instructions to help volunteers remember the details.

Outreach/Finding Unsheltered People

- Enlist the help of the homeless community to identify camps and do outreach for the project. Perhaps gift cards could be used to pay them for their time and effort.
- Inform 2-1-1 of the upcoming survey so they can tell people who call for services where to go to complete a survey. Also, ask 2-1-1 to ask callers where camps are located, when appropriate.

Develop a short survey to be administered at Project Homeless Connect that would help identify camps and other place to find people experiencing homelessness at the time of the PIT.

Develop geographic teams prior to the PIT and have teams scope out areas, prepare and distribute outreach materials.

Create a map of the county and its jurisdictions to identify field areas – The City of Chico GIS Analyst has committed to volunteering his time to do this in 2016/17.

Add "Where to find homeless" as a CoC Agenda item prior to the PIT.

Use social media for outreach to couch surfers.

Find out about community food giveaways.

Organize a flash mob?

Send press releases to the media two weeks prior and follow up with phone calls.

Brainstorm categories that would apply in all communities to help find locations: thrift stores, parks, liquor stores, cigarette stores, RV parks, etc.

Distribute flyers at service locations.

Distribute post cards under hotel doors.

Find out which Recycling Centers are open the morning of the PIT.

Hold a magnet event, such as a mini Project Homeless Connect or Salvation Army Canteen so people come to us to complete the survey.

Work with Code Enforcement and Parks Department to find camps.

Continue surveying the jail and hospitals; add Captain Andy's day program.

<u>Purpose of Street Collection</u>

It was discussed having the Street Count being done on a different day than the HIC and PIT. It was determined that this would divide the work across time but it would be easier just to focus efforts once a year.

It was also discussed doing a summer count to compare the difference between winter and summer. With the amount of work required to capture, enter, and analyze the data, the group felt that it was too big of a project to do twice. If the process could be streamlined in the future, this might be something to reconsider. Also, a tally count, rather than a full survey may be more feasible in the summer.

<u>The Survey</u>

It was concluded that the format of, and choice of, the survey questions was complicated. Ithad with too many specialized options, and often irrelevant and repetitive questions which was confusing and irritating to both volunteers and those being surveyed.

- Questions three and seven had too many options. Most (if not all) people were not familiar with all of the options. Some of the options were under the same check box.
- Specify "place not meant for habitation," particularly the park and camping.
- Add directions under each question specifying "mark one" or "mark all."
- Add "prefer not to answer" and "client refused."

Add a write-in space for location so that we have more ideas of where to outreach in the future.

Consider returning to the 2013 survey, or a version there of. HUD also has survey samples that may be used. It was decided that the coordinator would start with the necessary questions next year, and then add only those that the CoC thinks are most meaningful and pertinent.

Revisit if the survey should be titled "Housing Survey" instead of "Homeless Survey"?

Continue to have a youth survey, but re-evaluate which questions to ask next time, and clean up the issues with this survey: some questions had been mistakenly disregarded because of the confusion with main survey; some questions were repeated in both surveys; and there was not a clear distinction of parenting youth.

Design survey so that it takes little training to complete.

Include a formatted tally sheet option for the following:

Probation
Parole
Jail
Code enforcement
Hospital

Survey Administration

Remind shelters that they should complete surveys with their guests, not have guests fill them out on their own.
Provide volunteers with clipboards and pens.
Use 2-1-1 to complete surveys over the phone. Give a unique number that the responders can present it for an incentive at a drop in location (e.g. 6th Street, Jesus Center, etc.)
Revisit whether people should be tallied who were not present but someone completing a survey knows they are homeless and would not be completing the survey.
Research the HUD endorsed PIT cell phone app that would allow data to be remotely gathered and entered at the same time.
The group felt that those surveyed were approachable and actually enjoyed filling out the surveys.

Validity of Data Conclusions

The group was confident that the surveys were answered honestly.
There was some concern that multiple surveys may have been completed by the same person in order to receive another incentive. There was some discussion about methods for tracking, such as a hand stamp, but no agreement on if it should be done. If the priority is complete, accurate surveys, as well as caring for people experiencing homelessness, is it fiscally and logistically feasible to give an additional incentive when an individual tries to complete another survey without collecting his/her data?
The confusing answer options and lack of instructions may produce some invalid responses. A better survey and the suggested "cheat sheet" will address this in the future.

Incentives

Purchase gift cards at Grocery Outlet, FoodMaxx or other discount grocery stores so that the recipients can get more for your money.
Increase the amount of each incentive if funds are available, particularly because this year a large number of cards went undistributed.
Continue to have each jurisdiction arrange the site's food on the day of the PIT.

Reporting

The reduced number of surveys was concerning to the group and there was discussion about how to present the data to the media and critics.

The count represents the minimum number of homeless people found on one day who were willing to be surveyed.
The HUD data does not tell the whole story.

HIC Total Summary for CA-519 - Chico/Paradise/Butte County CoC

Total Year-Round Beds - Household without Children

1. Current Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	**168**
1A. Current Year Round ES Beds for Households without Children	**112**
1B. Current Year Round TH Beds for Households without Children	**14**
1C. Current Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households without Children	**0**
1D. Current Year Round RRH Beds for Households without Children	**0**
1E. Current Year Round PSH Beds for Households without Children	**0**
2. New Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	**38**
2A. New Year Round ES Beds for Households without Children	**24**
2B. New Year Round TH Beds for Households without Children	**14**
2C. New Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households without Children	**0**
D. New Year Round RRH Beds for Households without Children	**0**
2E. New Year Round PSH Beds for Households without Children	**0**
3. Total Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	**206**
3A. Number of DV Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	**12**
3B. Subtotal, non-DV Year-Round Beds for Households without Children	**194**
4. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households without Children	**183**
4A. Total Year Round ES HMIS Beds for Households without Children	**124**
4B. Total Year Round TH HMIS Beds for Households without Children	**17**
4C. Total Year Round Safe Haven HMIS Beds for Households without Children	**0**
4D. Total Year Round RRH HMIS Beds for Households without Children	**0**
4E. Total Year Round PSH HMIS Beds for Households without Children	**0**
5. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households without Children	**183**
6. HMIS Bed Coverage: Beds for Households without Children	**94.33 %**

Total Year-Round Beds - Households with Children

1. Current Year Round Beds for Households with Children	**250**
1A. Current Year Round ES Beds for Households with Children	**88**
1B. Current Year Round TH Beds for Households with Children	**74**
1C. Current Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with Children	**0**
1D. Current Year Round RRH Beds for Households with Children	**0**
1E. Current Year Round PSH Beds for Households with Children	**0**
2. New Year Round Beds for Households with Children	**2**
2A. New Year Round ES Beds for Households with Children	**0**
2B. New Year Round TH Beds for Households with Children	**2**
2C. New Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with Children	**0**
2D. New Year Round RRH Beds for Households with Children	**0**
2E. New Year Round PSH Beds for Households with Children	**0**
3. Total Year Round Beds for Households with Children	**252**
3A. Number of DV Year-Round Beds for Households with Children	**24**
3B. Subtotal, non-DV Year-Round Beds for Households with Children	**228**
4. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with Children	**204**
4A. Total Year Round ES HMIS Beds for Households with Children	**48**
4B. Total Year Round TH HMIS Beds for Households with Children	**68**
4C. Total Year Round Safe Haven HMIS Beds for Households with Children	**0**
4D. Total Year Round RRH HMIS Beds for Households with Children	**0**
4E. Total Year Round PSH HMIS Beds for Households with Children	**0**
5. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with Children	**204**
6. HMIS Bed Coverage: Beds for Households with Children	**89.47 %**

Total Year-Round Beds - Households with only Children

1. Current Year Round Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
1A. Current Year Round ES Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
1B. Current Year Round TH Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
1C. Current Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
1D. Current Year Round RRH Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
1E. Current Year Round PSH Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
2. New Year Round Beds for Households with only Children	**4**
2A. New Year Round ES Beds for Households with only Children	**4**
2B. New Year Round TH Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
2C. New Year Round Safe Haven Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
2D. New Year Round RRH Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
2E. New Year Round PSH Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
3. Total Year Round Beds for Households with only Children	**4**
3A. Number of DV Year-Round Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
3B. Subtotal, non-DV Year-Round Beds for Households with only Children	**4**
4. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	**4**
4A. Total Year Round ES HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	**4**
4B. Total Year Round TH HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
4C. Total Year Round Safe Haven HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
4D. Total Year Round RRH HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
4E. Total Year Round PSH HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	**0**
5. Total Year Round HMIS Beds for Households with only Children	**4**
6. HMIS Bed Coverage: Beds for Households with only Children	**100.00 %**