

2012

County of Ventura Homeless Survey

Come together to end homeless crisis in V.C.

By Cathy Brudnicki

In the 1980s, I was working for a retail corporation and was also board chairwoman for our local American Red Cross chapter. At the time, the Red Cross owned an old Victorian home on Santa Clara Street in Ventura that was used for meetings and storage space. The Red Cross offices were in an office building next door.

One cold and rainy night, a homeless man was found huddled in a doorway in downtown Ventura. He had died from exposure. Irv August, who was executive director of the Ventura Chapter of the Red Cross, called me with the idea that the Red Cross could open up the house on Santa Clara Street and let homeless folks sleep indoors, so that no one else would die on the streets.

When, in fact, we have only a handful of year-round beds, it forces us to use our transitional housing facilities as de facto shelters, weakening the transitional programs and making it harder for them to attract funding because their success ratios look poor against other programs across the nation.

When that first overnight shelter opened its doors, the majority of County were single men, the majority working with in the trades and women.

As a community deciding how and to homeless families last several months ago, folks have created

Editorial: Homelessness can be fatal

Today, at least 21 people who died homeless in Ventura County in 2009 will be memorialized at 3 p.m. at Plaza Park at Chestnut and Santa Clara streets in downtown Ventura. This is the second year the Unitarian Universalist Church has organized such a memorial.

Take the Ojai Valley Family Shelter, which rotates from church to church, or the Conejo Valley Meal and Shelter Program.

These are just a few of many groups trying to reduce the suffering of local residents. The county of Ventura is fortunate to have the non-

Homeless tally helps secure federal funding

By Teresa Rochester, Kathleen Wilson

Volunteers fanned out across Ventura County last year, up nearly 12 percent from the 1,961

Faces of the homeless Advocates meet to discuss 10-year plan

By Teresa Rochester

0 people in
% About 6,000
homelessness

homelessness in
and refined
by May
ness was
December
less

is being revised has successfully generated the buy-in of various stakeholders. "It's slow or it seems slow, but it would be effective if someone charges through single-handedly," Keller said. "It has to have consensus."

Coalition puts muscle behind plan; secures funds

By Susan Englund

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition was founded in 1983 as a collaborative for housing advocates, service providers and local government representatives interested in the issues of homelessness and low-income housing.

The coalition maintain a dress the risk of becoming low-income the lead player in the county 1995 has a care system Coordinating funding development for success. Over million in equity of projects the homeless for permanent housing and management leverage and the invaluable submitted. Coordinating the anti-Continuum ing, HUD included impling access to a homeless. The VCH a broad cross providers, govate-sector

and providing services to the homeless. This all-volunteer group realized that the new HUD requirements of the development of a 10-year plan to end homelessness and a biennial street count of homeless persons taxed its financial and technical capacity.

LOCATION: _____ SURVEYOR: _____
2010 COUNTY OF VENTURA HOMELESS SURVEY

A. Physical Characteristics:

- 1) Gender: Female Male
- 2) Ethnicity: American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian/Pacific Islander Black or African-American Hispanic or Latino White Other _____ (Please Record Other Ethnicity)
- 3) Age: 13 - 17 18 - 24 25 - 29 30 - 39 40 - 49 50 - 54 55 - 59 60 - 61 62 - 64 65 - 69 70+ Other _____

B. Geo-History:

- 4) Where were you born?
 - a) Country: U.S. Other _____ (Please Record Other Country)
 - b) If U.S. born, which State: California Other _____ (Please Record Other State)

What City in the U.S.: _____ (Please Record City)
5) In what city and state did you FIRST become homeless?
(Please Record City) (Please Record State)

This survey was designed and developed for use by the Institute for Urban Research and Development



Stakeholders clear where far left by to / tes.



6) How long have you been currently homeless? _____
7) Have you been currently living on the street and/or in shelters for at least 1 year?
 Yes No
7a) Have you slept in a vehicle such as a car, truck, van, or trailer during the past year?
 Yes No
8) How many times have you experienced homelessness during the last 3 years? _____ times
9) How old were you the first time you became homeless? _____ (Please Record Approximate Age)
10) What city do you consider to be your home? _____
11) How long have you been living in the above city?
What City? _____ Yes No
12) Are you a resident of Ventura County?
What City? _____ Yes No
13) Do you have family who live in Ventura County?
What City? _____ Yes No
14) Do you have friends who live in Ventura County?
What City? _____ Yes No
15) Have you ever worked in Ventura County?
What City? _____ Yes No
16) Are you currently working in Ventura County?
What City? _____ Yes No
17) Have you ever attended school in Ventura County? Yes No
What City? _____

IF YES TO # 17:

17a) Check all that apply:

May 2012

Acknowledgements

This report was made possible by the efforts of community volunteers and staff of organizations that provide services for persons who are homeless which includes:

Casa Pacifica
 Catholic Charities
 Coalition for Family Harmony
 Community Action of Ventura County
 Conejo Valley Winter Warming Shelter
 County of Ventura Human Services Agency Homeless Outreach
 Family to Family
 Genesis House
 Harbor Community Church
 Help of Ojai Community Assistance Program
 Interface Children Family Services
 Khepera House
 Kids and Families Together
 Lighthouse Women and Children's Mission
 Lutheran Social Services
 Ojai Valley Family Shelter
 One Stop
 Operation Embrace
 Our Place Safe Haven
 P.A.D.S.
 Project Understanding
 Prototypes Women's Center
 RAIN
 Richard's House
 River Haven
 The Salvation Army
 The Samaritan Center
 St. Vincent de Paul Society
 Stoll House
 Turning Point Foundation
 United Way of Ventura County
 Ventura County Rescue Mission
 Volunteer Ventura County
 Wooley House

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Cathy Brudnicki, Executive Director

For a copy of this report visit the web site of
the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition www.vchhc.org
or
Urban Initiatives at www.urban-initiatives.org

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition is made up of more than 100 representatives from public and private agencies that work together to actively plan, develop, and implement programs as part of a community-wide strategy designed to address the service and housing needs of the county's homeless population.

Urban Initiatives consists of several community-based and faith-based institutes that respond to the economic, housing, and social needs of neighborhoods, cities, and counties from local community, regional, national, international, and faith-based perspectives and has completed over 40 assessments for local government and private organizations throughout Southern California that have focused on affordable housing, business development and education for micro-businesses, fair housing, homelessness, migrant farming, and street vending.

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition is indebted to Beth Hartung PhD, Daniel Lee PhD, Sunghee Nam PhD and the Spring 2012 Capstone students from California State University Channel Islands who interviewed the participants in this survey: Saul Anchondo, Spencer Balsz, Kathryn Earnest, Alec Lilburn, Kevin Moore, Melissa Pace, Sarah Tripodo, and Matthew van Scoyk.

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Executive Summary

The County of Ventura 2012 Homeless Survey was designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several sub-populations pre-determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that included: chronic homeless persons, men, persons with a developmental disability, persons with a physical disability, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, substance abusers, veterans, victims of domestic violence, women, and youth ages 18 – 24.

An analysis of the data reveals the following information about each of the sub-populations, which is compared to the 2011 survey data in the table below. The 2012 survey is based on the responses of 299 survey respondents that equals a sample of 17% of the number of adults (1,722) counted during the 2011 homeless count. The 2011 survey is based on the responses of 513 survey respondents which equal 31% of the number of adults (1,652) counted during the 2011 homeless count.

Sub-Population	2011 Survey	2012 Survey
Chronic Homeless Persons	48%	56%
Men	57%	75%
Persons with a Developmental Disability	16%	20%
Persons with a Physical Disability	30%	42%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	1%	4%
Persons with Mental Illness	38%	28%
Substance Abusers	31%	26%
Veterans	9%	13%
Victims of Domestic Violence	45%	22%
Women	39%	25%
Youth Ages 18 - 24	8%	7%

A profile of each of the sub-populations is provided in Section II, Findings, which includes a breakdown by gender, ethnicity, length of time homeless, disability, health condition, mental illness, substance abuse, veteran status, and domestic violence experiences.

WHY WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?

The survey was conducted in order to:

- provide a wide-range of information on a representative sample of adults who are homeless;
- obtain HUD required information concerning homeless subpopulations for Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance grant applications;
- make available information to the County of Ventura to help meet requirements for planning documents such as consolidated plans, housing elements, and impediments to fair housing choice;
- serve as a basis for developing strategies for public and private agencies to respond to specific needs of homeless families and individuals.

WHEN WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?

The survey was conducted during March, 2012.

WHERE WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?

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

HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED?

Community volunteers and representatives from more than 20 public and private agencies, service providers and faith-based institutions participated in conducting survey interviews throughout Ventura County. The process involved administering a one-on-one interview with a representative sample of homeless adults living in the County of Ventura. There were three (3) primary types of contact with homeless persons who participated in the survey. They were: 1) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted on the streets; 2) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while living in shelters and transitional housing; and 3) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while using non-residential homeless services.

All surveyors who participated in administering the survey instrument were oriented and trained. Using trained interviewers to administer the survey, as opposed to conducting a self-administered survey instrument, increased the opportunity for collecting complete and accurate answers to the questions and provided opportunity for receiving useful evaluation information from the interviewers.

WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY?

The survey instrument was also designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several pre-determined sub-populations that included: chronically homeless persons, families with children, men, people living in homeless facilities, people living on the streets, persons with dual diagnoses, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, pregnant women, seniors, substance abusers, various ethnic groups, veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, and women. As a result, the survey provides a sampling of data that helps examine the issues and needs of each homeless subpopulation as well as the entire homeless population in the County of Ventura. A copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix A.

WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY?

Two hundred and ninety nine (299) adults participated in the survey.

II. Findings

A profile of each of the sub-populations is provided in this section which includes a breakdown by gender, ethnicity, length of time homeless, disability, health condition, mental illness, substance abuse, veteran status, and domestic violence experiences.

CHRONIC HOMELESS PERSONS

Key Finding: 56% or 176 survey respondents were chronically homeless according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of chronic homelessness;

According to HUD, the term 'chronically homeless' means, with respect to an individual or family, that the individual or family—

- (i) is homeless and lives or resides in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter;
- (ii) has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years; and
- (iii) has an adult head of household (or a minor head of household if no adult is present in the household) with a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of 2 or more of those conditions.

The following information provides a profile of chronic homeless persons based on the responses of 167 or 56% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

77% were men; 23% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

6% were African American or Black; 5% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% were Asian; 28% were Hispanic or Latino; 2% were Other; 54% were White; and 1% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

4% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 86% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 10% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

92% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

29% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

65% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

27% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

61% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

7% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

38% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

23% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

36% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

16% of men and women were a veteran and 12% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

25% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative and 56% among women only.

MEN

Key Finding: 75% or 224 survey respondents were men

The following information provides a profile of men based on the responses of 224 or 75% of survey respondents.

- **Ethnicity**

6% were African American or Black; 4% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% were Asian; 31% were Hispanic or Latino; 1% were Other; 55% were White; and 1% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

6% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 85% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 9% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

69% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

17% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

45% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

20% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

43% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

4% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

27% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

23% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

24% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcplsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

16% of men were a veteran;

- **Domestic Violence**

12% of men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative.

PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

Key Finding: 20% or 59 survey respondents had a developmental disability

The following information provides a profile of persons with a developmental disability based on the responses of 59 or 20% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

78% were men; 22% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

3% were African American or Black; 8% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 7% were Asian; 24% were Hispanic or Latino; 2% were Other; 54% were White; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

10% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 80% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 10% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

69% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

27% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

66% had a physical disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

59% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

5% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

56% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

29% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

34% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcplsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

12% of men and women were a veteran, and 7% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

22% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 74% among women only.

PERSONS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Key Finding: 42% or 125 survey respondents had a physical disability

The following information provides a profile of persons with a physical disability based on the responses of 125 or 42% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

81% were men; 19% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

6% were African American or Black; 6% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% were Asian; 21% were Hispanic or Latino; 3% were Other; 60% were White; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

2% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 86% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 12% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

80% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

25% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Developmental Disability**

31% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

66% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

8% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

42% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

24% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

28% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcplsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

17% of men and women were a veteran and 16% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

22% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 53% among women only.

PERSONS WITH A HIV/AIDS

Key Finding: 4% or 11 survey respondents had HIV/AIDS

The following information provides a profile of persons with HIV/AIDS based on the responses of 11 or 4% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

73% or 8 persons were men and 27% or 3 persons were women;

- **Ethnicity**

36% or 4 persons were African American or Black; 0% or 0 were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 0% were Asian; 0% were Hispanic or Latino; 36% were Other; and 27% or 3 persons were White;

- **Age**

9% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 63% or 4 persons were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 18% or 2 persons were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

100% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

45% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

91% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

27% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

100% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **Mental Illness**

54% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

27% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

36% were a veteran;

- **Domestic Violence**

36% had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 100% or 2 persons among women only.

PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Key Finding: 28% or 83 survey respondents had mental illness

The following information provides a profile of persons with mental illness based on the responses of 83 or 28% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

74% were men; 26% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

5% were African American or Black; 2% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 5% were Asian; 28% were Hispanic or Latino; 4% were Other; 54% were White; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

4% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 91% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 5% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

72% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

22% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

63% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

40% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

58% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

7% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

30% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

37% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

16% of men and women were a veteran, and 12% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

25% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 61% among women only.

SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

Key Finding: 26% or 79 survey respondents were substance abusers

The following information provides a profile of substance abusers based on the responses of 79 or 26% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

67% were men; 33% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

5% were African American or Black; 4% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% were Asian; 34% were Hispanic or Latino; 1% were Other; 53% were White; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

8% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 92% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 0% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

72% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

21% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

44% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

25% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

47% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

4% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

39% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

27% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Veteran Status**

14% of men and women were a veteran, and 11% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

25% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 69% among women only.

VETERANS

Key Finding: 13% or 40 survey respondents were veterans

The following information provides a profile of veterans based on the responses of 40 or 13% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

88% were men; 12% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

15% were African American or Black; 5% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% were Asian; 13% were Hispanic or Latino; 3% were Other; 57% were White; and 5% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

15% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 65% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 20% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

80% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

30% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

52% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

17% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

52% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

10% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

32% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

15% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

27% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Domestic Violence**

15% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 57% among women only.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Key Finding: 22% or 67 survey respondents were victims of domestic violence

The following information provides a profile of victims of domestic violence based on the responses of 67 or 22% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

42% were men; 58% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

7% were African American or Black; 6% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% were Asian; 22% were Hispanic or Latino; 3% were Other; 58% were White; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

7% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 81% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 12% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

61% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

24% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

42% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

19% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

43% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

6% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

31% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

22% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

30% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

9% of men and women were a veteran and 10% among men only.

WOMEN

Key Finding: 25% or 75 survey respondents were women

The following information provides a profile of women based on the responses of 75 or 25% of survey respondents.

- **Ethnicity**

4% were African American or Black; 7% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 3% were Asian; 29% were Hispanic or Latino; 3% were Other; 52% were White; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

12% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 80% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 8% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

56% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

20% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

32% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

17% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

45% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

4% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

29% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

16% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

35% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcplsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

7% of women were veterans.

- **Domestic Violence**

52% of women had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative.

YOUTH AGE 18 - 24

Key Finding: 7% or 22 survey respondents were youth age 18 - 24

The following information provides a profile of youth age 18 - 24 based on the responses of 22 or 7% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

59% were men; 41% were women;

- **Ethnicity**

4% were African American or Black; 0% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 0% were Asian; 46% were Hispanic or Latino; 0% were Other; and 50% were White;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

50% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

27% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

9% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

27% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

27% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

4% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

14% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Released from Correctional Institution**

32% were released from correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence during the 12 months prior to the survey;

- **Substance Abuse**

27% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

0% of men and women were a veteran and 0% of men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

23% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 53% among women only.

Conclusion

The results of the 2012 County of Ventura Homeless Count combined with the results of the 2012 County of Ventura Homeless Survey provide information that serves as the basis for three (3) important tasks:

- understanding the nature and extent of the current trends in homelessness in Ventura County communities;
- responding to the unmet needs and gaps in services for homeless individuals and families in Ventura County;
- developing local community and countywide strategies to meet the goal of ending homelessness over the next ten years.

The challenge is to develop solution-oriented approaches through a well-coordinated, outcome driven social service system designed to directly meet the needs of our local homeless population. Such activities will further build upon collaborative efforts between homeless service providers, business enterprises, residents, faith-based organizations, other community agencies, and local government that will provide service-enriched program environments in which homeless persons will receive the tools necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and maintain permanent housing.

Thus, an important use of this report is to provide accurate information necessary to design and implement the housing and social service assistance needed to bring homeless persons back into our workforce, schools, faith-based institutions, and other community institutions and provide the means for them to become stable, productive contributors to our communities.

Appendix A

2012 County of Ventura Homeless Subpopulation Survey

Today's Date: _____ Interviewer: _____

Name of Program or Street Location: _____

Please record the following information about the person you are about to survey:

Gender: Female Male

Ethnicity: American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian/Pacific Islander
 Black or African-American Hispanic or Latino White Other

Age: Under age 18* 18 -24 25 - 29 30 - 39 40 - 49 50 - 54 55 -59
 60 - 61 62 - 64 65 - 69 70+

***if under age 18 ask:** Are you a runaway youth? yes no don't know refused

Household Status: Is the person a single individual or adult member of a family (check one)

Begin asking the following questions:

- 1) Have you been continuously homeless for a year or more? yes no don't know refused
- 2) How long have you been homeless? 1-31 days 1-6 months 7-12 months more than 12 months
- 3) How many episodes of homelessness have you had in the past three years? less than four episodes or at least four episodes don't know refused (only check one)
- 4) Do you have a physical disability? yes no don't know refused
- 5) Do you have a developmental disability? yes no don't know refused
- 6) Do you have a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis?
 yes no don't know refused
- 7) Have you been diagnosed with AIDS or have you tested positive for HIV?
 yes no don't know refused
- 8) Do you feel you have a mental health problem?
 yes no don't know refused
- 9) Do you expect your mental health problem to be of long continued and indefinite duration and to substantially impair your ability to live independently
 yes no don't know refused
- 10) Do you have a drug or alcohol problem? yes no don't know refused
- 11) Do you expect your drug or alcohol problem to be of long continued and indefinite duration and to substantially impair your ability to live independently
 yes no don't know refused
- 12) Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces?
 yes no don't know refused
- 13) Have you ever been a victim of domestic or intimate partner violence?
 yes no don't know refused
- 14) During the last 12 months, were you released from a correctional institution such as a prison or jail after serving a court-order sentence? yes no don't know refused
- 15) If yes, did the correctional institution provide you with information before your release about the following: Shelter/housing opportunities social services
 transportation other: _____