



2015 SAN MATEO COUNTY HOMELESS CENSUS AND SURVEY

Final Report Executive Summary

May 2015

2015 San Mateo County Homeless Census and Survey

This executive summary provides an overview of key results from the 2015 San Mateo County Homeless Census and Survey.

1. Number of Homeless People

The 2015 Census determined that there were **1,772 homeless people in San Mateo County on the night of January 22, 2015** comprised of:

- 775 unsheltered homeless people (living on streets, in vehicles, in homeless encampments) and,
- 997 sheltered homeless people (in emergency shelters, transitional housing, motel voucher programs, residential treatment, jails, and hospitals).

2. Number of Homeless Households

The 1,772 homeless people counted comprised **1,387 households** as follows:

- 1,240 “adults only” households, i.e. without dependent children (89%);
- 147 family” households, i.e., with dependent children (11%)

3. Overview of Results

There was a 40% decrease in the number of unsheltered people in 2015 compared to 2013.

There were several factors that contributed to this decrease:

- Enumerators observed fewer homeless people on the street compared to 2013, including zero families with children;
- Enumerators counted fewer cars, vans and RVs with sleeping occupants than in 2013;
- Based on responses to interviews with a representative sample of unsheltered homeless people, we estimated that there were fewer people per vehicle and encampment than in 2013.

The sheltered count increased in comparison to 2013, though only by a factor of 2%. The total number of sheltered people went up from 982 in 2013 to 997 in 2015. Given that the inventory of available shelter and transitional housing beds has changed relatively little in the past two years, this increase is likely due to fluctuations in bed utilization rate.

The percentage of households with children versus those without children went up slightly from 2013 to 2015. In 2015, 89% of households were either single individuals or couples without children and 11% were households with children. In 2013, this split was 90% adult households and 10% families with children.

The table on the next page presents the results from 2009 through 2015.

4. Comparison to Prior Results

The 2015 Homeless Census identified about 25% fewer homeless people than the previous 2013 Census. This reverses a trend of increasing counts from 2009 to 2013, as shown in the chart below.

Location	2009	2011	2013	2015	Net Change (2013 to 2015)	% Change (2013 to 2015)
Street Count						
People Observed on Streets	422	466	353	331	-22	-6%
People in Cars	96	126	231	157	-74	-32%
People in RVs	170	246	392	151	-241	-61%
People in Encampments	115	324	323	136	-187	-58%
Subtotal Street Count	803	1,162	1,299	775	-524	-40%
Shelter Count						
People in Emergency Shelters	267	215	243	187	-56	-23%
People in Motel Voucher Programs	74	43	29	67	38	131%
People in Transitional Housing	403	441	431	454	23	5%
People in Institutions	249	288	279	289	10	4%
Subtotal Shelter Count	993	987	982	997	15	2%
TOTAL HOMELESS PEOPLE	1,796	2,149	2,281	1,772	-509	-24%

5. Geographic Breakdown

A. 2015 Distribution of Homeless People by City

The following chart summarizes the geographic distribution of the homeless people who were counted in the 2015 Census. This includes both unsheltered and sheltered locations.

City	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
Airport	1	0	1
Atherton	1	0	1
Belmont	11	0	11
Brisbane	21	0	21
Burlingame	7	24	31
Colma	3	0	3
Daly City	32	11	43
East Palo Alto	95	83	178
Foster City	0	0	0
Half Moon Bay	84	0	84
Hillsborough	0	0	0
Menlo Park	27	146	173
Millbrae	8	0	8
Pacifica	63	0	63
Portola Valley	0	0	0
Redwood City	223	314	537
San Bruno	8	3	11
San Carlos	20	0	20
San Mateo	82	186	268
South San Francisco	55	86	141
Unincorporated	32	0	32
Coastside	22	0	22
Central - Highlands/Baywood	0	0	0
North - Broadmoor	0	0	0
South - N Fair Oaks, Emerald Lk, West MP	10	0	10
Woodside	2	0	2
Scattered Sites	0	95	95
Confidential	0	49	49
TOTAL	775	997	1,772

B. Unsheltered Homeless Population by City – 2009 Through 2015

The table below shows the unsheltered population in each jurisdiction over the past four counts (2009 through 2015). The final columns show the net and percent change between 2013 and 2015. For most jurisdictions the count went down, which is consistent with the reduction in unsheltered homelessness community-wide.

City	2009 Count	2011 Count	2013 Count	2015 Count	Net Change (2013-2015)	Percent Change (2013-2015)
Airport	4	9	5	1	-4	-80%
Atherton	0	1	0	1	1	NA
Belmont	5	1	43	11	-32	-74%
Brisbane	1	0	34	21	-13	-38%
Burlingame	8	3	13	7	-6	-46%
Colma	0	1	7	3	-4	-57%
Daly City	49	44	27	32	5	20%
East Palo Alto	204	385	119	95	-24	-20%
Foster City	0	0	7	0	-7	-100%
Half Moon Bay	19	41	114	84	-30	-26%
Hillsborough	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Menlo Park	25	72	16	27	11	71%
Millbrae	1	1	21	8	-13	-61%
Pacifica	16	95	150	63	-87	-58%
Portola Valley	3	16	2	0	-2	-100%
Redwood City	220	233	307	223	-84	-27%
San Bruno	34	14	99	8	-91	-92%
San Carlos	11	9	10	20	10	102%
San Mateo	99	68	103	82	-21	-21%
South San Francisco	7	122	172	55	-117	-68%
Unincorporated	95	47	46	32	-14	-30%
Woodside	2	0	7	2	-5	-69%
Scattered Sites	0	0	0	0	0	NA
TOTAL	803	1,162	1,299	775	-524	-40%

C. Unsheltered Homeless Population by City Compared to General Population

The chart below provide an analysis of the total number of unsheltered people counted in each jurisdiction compared to the total population of people in each jurisdiction.

City	General Population*	% of General Population	Unsheltered Homeless Population	% of Unsheltered Homeless Population
Airport	NA	NA	1	0.13%
Atherton	7,159	0.96%	1	0.13%
Belmont	26,731	3.58%	11	1.42%
Brisbane	4,443	0.59%	21	2.71%
Burlingame	29,892	4.00%	7	0.90%
Colma	1,492	0.20%	3	0.39%
Daly City	104,739	14.01%	32	4.13%
East Palo Alto	29,143	3.90%	95	12.26%
Foster City	32,377	4.33%	0	0.00%
Half Moon Bay	12,013	1.61%	84	10.84%
Hillsborough	11,273	1.51%	0	0.00%
Menlo Park	33,071	4.42%	27	3.48%
Millbrae	22,424	3.00%	8	1.03%
Pacifica	38,606	5.17%	63	8.13%
Portola Valley	4,518	0.60%	0	0.00%
Redwood City	80,872	10.82%	223	28.77%
San Bruno	42,443	5.68%	8	1.03%
San Carlos	29,387	3.93%	20	2.58%
San Mateo	101,128	13.53%	82	10.58%
South San Francisco	66,174	8.85%	55	7.10%
Unincorporated	64,007	8.56%	32	4.13%
Woodside	5,481	0.73%	2	0.26%
Scattered Sites	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL	747,373	100.00%	775	100.00%

As indicated in this chart, several cities have a higher percentage of the unsheltered homeless population than their share of the general population. These include: Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica and Redwood City.