

2007 Santa Clara County Homeless Count

Survey FAQ

Thank you for your interest and participation in the 2007 Santa Clara County Homeless Count. Below are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about conducting the Survey.

1. What is the definition of “homelessness?”

1. An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and
2. An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
 - (a) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), or
 - (b) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or
 - (c) A public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

This means that a person must satisfy **both** conditions 1 and 2 above.

2. Are payments to the homeless interviewers made in cash?

Trained Homeless Workers are compensated \$5 for each completed, authentic survey. Payment is made in cash when their completed surveys are returned to the survey distribution site. Survey respondents are given a phone card to thank them for their time.

3. Are the surveys anonymous?

Yes. Age, gender, and the respondent’s initials are recorded to help avoid duplication. No individual data will be shared with anyone.

4. Is the survey a standard one, or is it customized?

A customized survey has been developed that reflects Santa Clara County issues.

5. How long does it take to do a survey?

It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete a survey.

6. How is a good sample of the homeless population obtained?

Applied Survey Research will work through homeless service providers to reach the general and specific populations, such as veterans, and homeless living in rural areas.

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7. Will the survey be administered only to adults?

The surveys will be administered to individuals of high school age and older.

8. Can I interview an entire family?

No, as we only want one representative per family.

9. Can I have a group of people fill the survey out by themselves?

No, you must administer the survey individually to assure for thoroughness and quality control.

10. Can I fill out my own survey?

No, but you may offer to survey another Survey Interviewer, and vice versa.

11. What should I do if I know the person who I am surveying is lying?

Make no comment. Write down the person's response as it was given to you, and proceed with the next survey question. If the pattern of lying continues, stop the interview.

12. What should I do if the person I am surveying becomes alarmed by a question on the survey and becomes belligerent?

Just discontinue the survey. Do not give a phone card, as those are offered for completed surveys only.

13. Will the survey results be available to all?

Yes, Spring of 2007 through the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing.

14. When will the survey take place?

Beginning in early February, the survey will be conducted over a two or four week period.