



HelpHopeHome

Ending Homelessness in Southern Nevada

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# 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census & Survey



## Comprehensive Report

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9101 W. Sahara Ave. #105-158  
Las Vegas, NV 89117  
(702) 614-6690  
[www.bitfocus.com](http://www.bitfocus.com)



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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Applied Analysis
- Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
- City of Henderson Neighborhood Services
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- US Veterans Initiative

## BITFOCUS, INC.

### Project Director

- Robert Herdzik, President

### Analysts and Researchers

- Erica Harrison
- John Talley
- Victor Lorente
- Alla Krutikova
- Tauri Royce

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND: STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

Homelessness was once a silent and underrepresented problem in the United States. With each passing year, however, research provides policymakers and communities with increasing amounts of information, allowing America to gain ground in the fight against homelessness.

In a broad sense, the most frequently cited cause of homelessness is the widening gap between income and cost of housing; a problem that is perpetuated by limited amounts of housing assistance. Other more specific factors, such as mental illness, chronic health conditions, substance abuse, and the debilitating effects of trauma also contribute to create a constellation of factors that are responsible for the presence of homelessness in America.

Efforts are underway, however, to increase the amount and efficacy of relief extended to those experiencing homelessness, and to those who are at risk of becoming homeless. Among these efforts is the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, which is an enumeration of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The PIT is conducted annually over the course of one night during the last week of January, and is required of all Continuums of Care (CoC) per the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

PIT Counts are conducted by Continuum's of Care (CoC) nationwide to provide unduplicated counts and statistically reliable estimates of homeless persons in sheltered and unsheltered locations in a single night. The data collected from the PIT Counts are combined with information from the Housing Inventory Count (HIC), which is also conducted annually by CoCs nationwide. The HIC is a point in time inventory of projects within a CoC. It measures the amount of beds and units available to serve persons who are experiencing homelessness.

In addition to the PIT and HIC, each CoC nationwide conducts a comprehensive annual survey. These surveys are intended to further investigate the precursors and defining characteristics of homelessness, as well as the defining characteristics of different homeless subpopulations. The information that is garnered from the PIT, HIC, and surveys is then merged to articulate the causes and characteristics of homelessness on a local, state, and national level.

In addition, these three data sources also provide invaluable information regarding the utilization and efficacy of services dedicated to serving homeless persons and those at risk of becoming homeless. The spectrum of such services is vast, common examples include emergency shelter services, outreach services, mental health services, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

Every year, data from these sources are channeled into the creation of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. The contents of the AHAR are then used to determine funding, and lend to knowledge-based creation of federal, state, and local policies.

These methods make systematic research possible, thus equipping U.S. policy-makers with the information they need to combat homelessness on a large scale. To further augment this capability, Congress enforces the requirements of the Homelessness Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, which offers incentives to those CoCs that make significant progress toward the goal of ending homelessness.<sup>1</sup> The progress of each CoC is reflected by their efficacious utilization of CoC funds, as measured by the PIT Count, HIC, and annual survey.

The benefits of this systematic research are beginning to emerge. Between 2007 and 2013, homelessness declined by 9%, with significant and measurable reductions in homelessness among every HUD-defined homeless subpopulation, particularly in those of the chronically homeless and homeless veteran populations. Veteran homelessness fell by 24% (or 18,480 persons) since January 2010. Chronic homelessness among individuals declined by 16% (or 17,219 persons) since 2010.<sup>2</sup> These nationwide improvements can be directly linked to the generation of quality data from the CoCs nationwide, as generated by the PIT, HIC, and AHAR.

The 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress also showed marked improvement between 2012 and 2013 nationwide.<sup>2,4</sup>

- The total homeless population decreased from 633,782 persons to 610,042 persons.
- Homelessness among individuals declined by nearly 2%.
- Homelessness among persons in families declined by nearly 4% between 2012 and 2013. This is significant considering there was a 1.4% increase in this population between 2011 and 2012.
- Chronic homelessness among individuals declined by 7% (or 7,301) between 2012 and 2013.
- Veteran homelessness declined by 8% (or 4,770) between 2012 and 2013.

In addition, more homeless families are utilizing shelter resources than in past years. Between 2012 and 2013 there was a 37% decline in unsheltered homeless persons, and utilization of homeless shelter resources increased by 0.3%, as reflected by the amount of sheltered homeless persons. Between 2007 and 2013, there was a 56% decline in unsheltered homeless persons and a 7% increase in shelter resource utilization. There was also an increase in similar resource utilization among veterans; in 2013, 60% of homeless veterans were located in shelters or transitional housing compared to just 44% in 2012.<sup>3,4</sup>

On a local level, the Southern Nevada 2014 PIT Count outlined in this report indicates that homelessness in this region has increased by 28.0% compared to 2013, when the total amount of homeless persons was 7,355.<sup>5</sup> Despite this increase, homelessness in Southern Nevada has decreased by 29.4% compared to 2009.<sup>6</sup>

## **1.2 HOMELESSNESS THROUGHOUT HISTORY**

As homelessness swelled in the 1980s, growing concern stimulated interest into the nature and scope of the problem. When the Community for Creative Nonviolence (CCNV) ascertained that America's homeless population amounted to nearly three million persons, government concern grew.<sup>7</sup> The first national PIT Count was conducted in 1983, marking the beginning of official government efforts to gather data on homelessness in the U.S.<sup>8</sup>

Although this first PIT Count was limited to an enumeration of sheltered and unsheltered homeless in only 60 communities, this study was paramount as it instigated further investigation. As the characteristics of homelessness were placed under increased scrutiny, a national picture of homelessness began to form.

### **1.2.1 The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987**

The first several PIT Counts were hindered by lack of funding; they were being organized, funded, and administered by state and local jurisdictions that were ill-equipped with limited resources. During its infancy, the Reagan Administration noted that homelessness was being addressed at only this grass-roots level, and they created the first task force to approach the problem. In 1987, President Reagan signed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into law.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act originally consisted of 15 programs, including crucial services such as CoC programs, the Supportive Housing Program, and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.<sup>9</sup>

Since its inception, the government has amended the McKinney-Vento Act several times, with the latest amendment being the HEARTH Act of 2009, signed into law by President Barack Obama.<sup>1</sup> The HEARTH Act was established in response to the need outlined in PIT Counts and other reports, all of which pointed to lack of affordable housing and limited housing assistance as the leading causes of homelessness in the United States. The \$2.2 billion HEARTH Act was implemented to achieve the following:<sup>1</sup>

1. Streamline application requirements for competitive grants
2. Codify the CoC planning process
3. Set a federal goal to reinstate permanent housing within 30 days to any individual or family who becomes homeless

### **1.2.2 The Development of National Reporting**

Prior to the HEARTH Act, the government commissioned HUD to create tools and incentives to propel communities to collect accurate data on the homeless populations in their jurisdictions. In 1999 HUD's first mode of action was to implement the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which are specialized software applications designed collect longitudinal data on a wide range of variables. The HMIS is the centralized data collection mechanism for the PIT Count and the HIC, while also providing valuable stores of longitudinal data. The implementation of the HMIS provided CoCs access to powerful data collection and reporting capabilities. In turn, these capabilities enabled CoCs to generate large amounts of valid and reliable data on homelessness, and thus the establishment of the AHAR followed shortly after.

#### ***The AHAR***

HUD presents the AHAR to Congress annually to convey information regarding the extent and nature of homelessness in America. It provides a full continuum of information regarding homeless assistance programs and services. The AHAR is essentially a research summary created using information collected from the following data collection systems:

- PIT Counts conducted nationwide to enumerate homeless populations and capture information about homeless populations in each state
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC) to determine the number of homeless assistance programs and beds

- Data from the HMIS
- Quarterly and Annual Performance Reports from HPRP grantees describing the status of their first year

### ***PIT Count***

An annual PIT Count is required of all CoCs nationwide. Jurisdictions across the U.S. receive the majority of their federal funding for the implementation and maintenance of homeless services through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grant, which is dependent upon information reported in the AHAR. HUD thus requires each jurisdiction to conduct a survey and annual PIT Count of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in their jurisdictions.

The information obtained from the PIT Count and the homeless survey is crucial to identifying what resources are needed, and where these resources need to be allocated. It also governs whether jurisdictions receive the correct amount of funding to bring relief to their homeless populations.<sup>10</sup>

## **1.3 THE 2014 SOUTHERN NEVADA CENSUS & SURVEY REPORT**

The 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey project was composed of two overarching components: A PIT Count and a subsequent comprehensive 38-question survey. The survey, which was administered during the weeks immediately following the PIT Count, was conducted to obtain in-depth information regarding the characteristics of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Southern Nevada.

The HUD definition for homelessness is as follows:

An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.<sup>11</sup>

The PIT Count was a community-wide effort to enumerate the homeless population in Southern Nevada. The sheltered and unsheltered counts were conducted on January 29, 2014. According to the guidelines set forth by HUD, the PIT Count included a comprehensive enumeration of sheltered homeless persons, and a census tract coverage of 80% to enumerate unsheltered homeless persons on the nights designated for the count. HUD defines 'night' as the time between sunset and sunrise.<sup>12</sup>

According to paragraph 1.i of the *Homeless Definition Rule*, as outlined in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 76, No. 233, the current definition of unsheltered homeless is as follows:<sup>13</sup>

...Individuals and families "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground."

According to paragraph 1.ii of the *Homeless Definition Rule*, as outlined in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 76, No. 233, the 2013 definition of sheltered homeless is as follows:<sup>13</sup>

...Individuals and families "living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals...this includes individuals residing in Safe Haven provider programs."

## **1.4 PROJECT PURPOSE & GOALS**

### **1.4.1 Purpose**

In order to ensure that Southern Nevada continues to receive the federal funding necessary to serve its homeless population, SNRPC-CoH's Regional Initiatives Office collaborated with Bitfocus Inc. to conduct the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey. Bitfocus Inc. is an international system integration and development company specializing in the development of application infrastructure software to simplify and accelerate the development, deployment, integration, and management of software applications.

Southern Nevada and its community partners carried out this census and survey in order to obtain the data necessary to evaluate the nature and scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada. The data collected in this study will be analyzed and used to populate the HUD HIC-PIT. The results of this research will assist service providers, policy makers, funders, as well as local, state, and national government entities to fund and create effective and efficient services and programs for those who are homeless in Southern Nevada.

### **1.4.2 Goals**

The primary goals of the 2014 Southern Nevada Census and Survey Project are as follows:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of current programs on a local level to provide the information necessary to improve programs that serve the Southern Nevada homeless population.
- Preserve current federal funding.
- Raise public awareness of the scope and nature of homelessness in Southern Nevada in order to generate community support.
- Compare the 2014 data to previous years, identify any trends, and track progress of the state of homelessness in Southern Nevada. It is important to note that only years 2009, 2011, 2013, and the current year 2014 will be included in the comparisons.<sup>5,6,14</sup> Up until 2013, CoCs were only required to conduct a PIT count and survey biannually. Therefore no data for the years 2010 or 2012 are available.



## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In collaboration with Bitfocus Inc., The Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) - Committee on Homelessness (CoH) conducted the 2014 Southern Nevada Point-in-Time Homeless Census and Survey. All components of the project were conducted according to the requirements and standards of practice outlined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).<sup>13</sup>

This project included a comprehensive enumeration, or Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, of the homeless population of Clark County, Nevada (hereafter referred to as Southern Nevada). This enumeration was conducted on the night of January 29, 2014. In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2014 enumeration effort. More specifically, census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2011 and 2013 were overlaid with data from first responder calls for homeless persons, and those census tracts that previously yielded both zero enumeration and zero first responder calls were removed from the 2014 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 80%.

A universal and inherent shortcoming of any PIT count is its inability to capture an accurate number of homeless persons in a particular region for the given year. In many areas, levels of homelessness are in constant flux, characterized by seasonal changes as well as changes caused by unpredictable economic factors. In addition, many homeless persons experience short episodes of homelessness throughout the year, at times other than the PIT count.

Thus, the annual estimate presented at the end of this section was calculated to provide the approximate amount of homeless persons in Southern Nevada over the course of the year. This estimate compensates for these biases, and reduces the degree of underrepresentation of the true number of homeless persons at any given point in time during the year.

In the weeks immediately following the PIT Count, 948 surveys were administered to homeless persons throughout Southern Nevada. A detailed account of the methodology for the 2014 PIT Count and the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey can be found in *Appendix VI*, the Street Census Instrument in *Appendix I*, and the Survey Instrument in *Appendix II*.

Both the PIT Count and the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey were designed to obtain comprehensive and targeted data, highlighting the prevalence and characteristics of the general homeless population, and specific subpopulations within the general homeless



population. The survey was designed to unveil additional details in regards to the scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada.

The 2014 Southern Nevada PIT Count indicates that between 2013 and 2014, the total amount of homeless persons increased from 7,355 to 9,417, respectively. The amount of unsheltered homeless persons (including the hidden homeless population) increased from 4,435 to 5,468 respectively during this time period.

## 2.1 2014 HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The 2014 PIT Count and Southern Nevada Homeless Survey indicate a 28.0% increase in the number of homeless persons enumerated as compared to 2013.
- 9,417 homeless persons were enumerated during the 2014 PIT Count.
- It is estimated that 36,718 members of the Southern Nevada population experience homelessness annually.
- The annual estimate of homelessness in Southern Nevada represents approximately 1.9% of the total population of Southern Nevada.

**Figure 1: Point-in-Time Homeless Census & Annual Estimate of Homelessness Data**

Response	2009	2011	2013	2014	2013 to 2014 Net Change	2013 to 2014 Percent Change
Unsheltered - Street	3,027	4,241	3,034	3,494	460	15.2%
Unsheltered - Hidden	3,307	1,429	1,401	1,974	573	40.9%
Sheltered	7,004	3,762	2,920	3,949	1,029	35.2%
<b>Total Point-in-Time Count</b>	<b>13,338</b>	<b>9,432</b>	<b>7,355</b>	<b>9,417</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>28.0%</b>
Annual Estimate	52,458	43,294	33,882	36,718	2,836	8.4%

Source:

Applied Survey Research ( 2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Census  
 Bitfocus, Inc.,(2013, 2014) 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census

The 2014 annual estimate for the number of homeless people in Southern Nevada was 36,718. This represents an 8.4% increase (2,836 persons) from the 2013 annual estimate of 33,882 persons.

In 2013, 1.7% of the total Nevada population (based on 2010 census data) was homeless. In 2014, this percentage increased to 1.9% (also based on 2010 census data)

## **2.2 Conditions: Sheltered/Unsheltered**

### **58.0% of homeless persons in Southern Nevada were unsheltered.**

- 58.0% of homeless persons in Southern Nevada were unsheltered. Between 2013 and 2014, unsheltered homelessness increased by 23.3% (1,033 persons). However, when comparing the unsheltered totals to the overall homeless total relative to their year, there was a 2.2% *decrease* since 2013. In 2013, unsheltered homeless represented 60% of the entire homeless population (7,355 persons). In 2014, unsheltered homeless represented 58% of the entire homeless population (9,417 persons).
- 36.1% of the unsheltered population was considered “hidden” homeless, and the remaining 63.9% were classified as street homeless. 41.9% of the persons enumerated in the PIT Count were in sheltered facilities.
- Between 2013 & 2014, sheltered homelessness increased by 35.2% (1,029 persons). In Southern Nevada, on the night of January, 29, 2014, 10 persons were in safe havens, 794 persons were in transitional housing, and 3,145 persons were in emergency shelters (including the FAS beds from Clark County Department of Social Services)
- There was a substantial increase (53.5%, 1,098 persons) in Emergency Shelter utilization between 2013 and 2014, but a decrease in Safe Haven utilization (50.0%, 10 persons) between 2013 and 2014. Transitional Housing utilization decreased only slightly (6.9%, 59 persons) between 2013 & 2014.

## 2.3 Demographics

**The majority of homeless individuals in Southern Nevada identified as White/Caucasian, were of male gender, and were between the ages of 51 and 60.**

- 71.4% of respondents identified as male. 27.8 % of respondents identified as female. 0.8% of respondents identified as transgender.
- The majority (27.8%) of respondents were between the ages of 51 and 60. 9.6% of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21, this more than doubles the amount of homeless persons in this category in 2013 (4.7%).
- The majority of respondents identified their racial group as White/Caucasian (47.3%) or Black/African American (39.4%). The least amount identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native (1.6%).
- 30.0% of respondents identified their ethnic group as Hispanic/Latino. 70.0% of respondents identified their ethnic group as Non Hispanic/Latino.
- The majority of survey respondents (73.9%) reported living in Southern Nevada when they most recently became homeless.

## 2.4 HUD-Defined Households\*

In 2014, there were 355 households with at least one adult and one child; homeless Veterans comprised 0.3% (1 household) of this population. There were 7,370 households without children; homeless Veterans comprised 16.6% (1,227 households) of this population. There were 762 households with only children.

- **Households With At Least One Adult & One Child:** In 2014, 62.3% of the homeless population living in households with at least one adult and one child were under the age of 18, 7.1% were between the ages of 18-24, and 30.5% were over the age of 24. Per HUD, the collection of age data was not required for Veterans.

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\* For the purposes of this report, persons in a household without children will be referred to as **Individuals**; persons in households with at least one adult and one child (under 18) will be referred to as a **Family**; and persons in households composed of only children will be referred to as **Only Children**.<sup>10</sup>

- **Households Without Children:** In 2014, 9.3% of the homeless population living in households without children was between the ages of 18-24, and the remaining population was over the age of 24.
- **Households With Only Children:** In 2014, there were 758 one-child households and 4 multi-child households, with a total of 9 children in multi-child households.

## 2.5 Veterans

**Definition:** This subpopulation category includes persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.<sup>13</sup>

In 2010, *Opening Doors* outlined the national goal to end homelessness among Veterans by 2015.<sup>26</sup> Nationally since 2010, there has been nearly a 35% decrease in veteran homelessness. The 2013 AHAR explains that the 16 percent decrease in veterans that occurred between 2012 and 2013 was largely due to reductions in the number of unsheltered veterans.<sup>2</sup>

In 2011, HUD and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) began to use the PIT Count as the definitive federal estimate of Veteran homelessness. In 2013, HUD extended the definition of homeless Veterans to specify between male and female veterans. 2014 marks the first year that this population has been excluded as an official HUD-defined subpopulation; instead it has been included in the HUD-defined households.

In Southern Nevada:

- 17.0% (158 persons) of survey respondents were veterans, and of these veterans, 6.4% (10 persons) were female, and 1.9% (3 persons) were transgender.
- The largest percentage of homeless Veterans reported they are White/Caucasian (57.2%) and 82.5% of Veteran respondents are Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino.
- 71.3% of Veteran respondents reported Honorable Discharge.
- 35.6% reported at least one disabling condition.

## 2.6 Causes, Occurrence, and Duration of Homelessness

- 50.1% survey respondents cited job loss as the primary cause of their homelessness, making it the primary cause of homelessness for the majority of this population. 0.8% of survey respondents cited aging out of foster care as their reason for homelessness.
- 45.8% of survey respondents reported that they were homeless for the first time, and 38.3% of survey respondents reported that they had been homeless four or more times in the last three years. 41.1% of the 2014 survey respondents reported that they had been homeless for a year or more since their last housing situation; this is one criterion included in the HUD definition of chronic homelessness.
- The majority of survey respondents (73.9%) reported living in Southern Nevada when they most recently became homeless, and the majority (43.9%) of survey respondents reported that they were renting a home or apartment prior to becoming homeless.

## 2.7 Income, Employment, & Circumstances Preventing Permanent Housing

- 82.1% of survey respondents reported they were experiencing unemployment at the time of the survey. *No Transportation* was the leading barrier to obtaining employment (27.4%), closely followed by *No Permanent Address* (23.4%).
- 15.3% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving more than \$500 per month in government income benefits, and 49.5% reported to be receiving no money from government benefits. 70.5% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving no money from private non-government income sources, and 93.7% of survey respondents were receiving \$500 or less from private non-government income sources.
- The majority of respondents cited *No Job/No Income* (63.1%) or *Inability To Afford Rent* (41.0%) as their primary obstacle to obtaining permanent housing.

## 2.8 Utilization of Government Assistance & Programs

- In 2014, the most commonly used service/assistance was *Free Meals* (41.2%). In regards to Government assistance and programs, 73.6% of 2014 survey respondents reported receiving some sort of government benefits.
- Of the respondents receiving government assistance, 62.4% were receiving food stamps, 7.1% were receiving SSI/SSDI assistance, and 6.6% were receiving social security.

## 2.9 Nighttime Accommodations

51.7% of survey respondents reported sheltered living accommodations (emergency shelter, transitional housing, other shelter). The census data indicated that 916 persons of the unsheltered (street) population was found to be living in cars/vans/RVs, abandoned buildings, encampments, and parks.

## 2.10 Medical

In 2014, 28.5% of homeless respondents indicated that since they most recently became homeless, they had needed medical care but had been unable to receive it.

From 2013 to 2014, the amount of homeless individuals reporting chronic health conditions decreased from approximately 28.2% to 21.0%, representing a 7.2% decrease.

According to the federal government, multiple physical and mental conditions are considered disabling to homeless individuals, preventing them from obtaining work or housing. These conditions include:

- Physical disabilities
- Mental illness
- Severe depression
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Chronic health problems
- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Hepatitis C
- Trauma
- Developmental disabilities.

- 56.9% of homeless survey respondents reported they had at least one disabling condition. 30.5% of the population surveyed had a physical disability.

## 2.11 Incarceration

6.6% of survey respondents reported they were incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time, and 12.0% of respondents cited incarceration as one of the top three reasons for their homelessness. 7.3% of homeless respondents who indicated their criminal record was preventing them from securing permanent housing, and 13.0% indicated that their criminal record was preventing them from obtaining employment.

The majority (74.8%) of survey respondents had spent no nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. 9.1% spent more than 50 nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey, 11.8% of survey respondents reported spending one separate term in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey, and 1.8% of survey respondents reported spending six or more separate terms in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey.

## 2.12 HUD-Defined Homeless Subpopulations

### 2.12.a Chronically Homeless Individuals

**Definition:** An unaccompanied homeless adult individual (persons 18 years or older) with a disabling condition (see Appendix VII for official definition of disabling condition) who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four separate occasions of homelessness in the past three years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/Safe Haven during that time.<sup>18</sup>

- On any given night in 2014, it is estimated that approximately 760 chronically homeless individuals are present in Southern Nevada. This represents a 9.4% increase from 2013, when there were approximately 695 chronically homeless individuals in Southern Nevada.
- In 2013, 15.2% of all homeless individuals *nationwide* were considered chronically homeless.<sup>2</sup> The estimated number of chronically homeless individuals in Southern Nevada in 2014 represents 8.1% of the total 2014 Southern Nevada point-in-time homeless population.



## 2.12b Adults with Serious Mental Illness

**Definition:** This subpopulation category includes persons with mental health problems that are expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.<sup>12</sup>

- Overall, 44.9% of survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness, depression, or PTSD, or any possible variation thereof.

## 2.12c Adults with Substance Use Disorder

**Definition:** This category includes persons with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.<sup>12</sup>

- On any given night in 2014, it is estimated that approximately 843 homeless persons suffering from chronic substance abuse are present in Southern Nevada. This represents a 26.0% increase from 2013, when there were approximately 669 homeless persons suffering from chronic substance abuse present in Southern Nevada.

## 2.12d Co-Occurring Disorders

**Definition:** Although this category is not considered a HUD-defined homeless subpopulation, it is still of great concern and interest to the community and policy-makers. This category includes persons who experience substance abuse paired with mental illness, depression, PTSD, or any combination thereof, that keeps them from obtaining work or housing.

- 5.6% of survey respondents reported co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse that prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 7.5% of survey respondents reported co-occurring depression and substance abuse that prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 2.5% of survey respondents reported co-occurring PTSD and substance abuse that prevented them from obtaining work or housing.



## 2.12e Adults With HIV/AIDS

**Definition:** This subpopulation category includes persons who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.<sup>12</sup>

- On any given night in 2014, it is estimated that approximately 62 homeless persons suffering with medical conditions associated with HIV/AIDS are present in Southern Nevada. This represents a 12.7% decrease from 2013, when there were approximately 71 of these homeless individuals present in Southern Nevada.

## 2.12f Victims of Domestic Violence

**Definition:** This subpopulation category includes adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking at any point in the past.<sup>12</sup>

- On any given night in 2014, it is estimated that approximately 815 of homeless persons who are considered victims of domestic violence are present in Southern Nevada. This represents a 4.9% increase from 2013, when approximately 777 homeless persons considered to be victims of domestic violence were present in Southern Nevada.

## 3.0 Conclusion

The 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless PIT Count identified 9,417 homeless persons in Southern Nevada. Of these persons, 42% (3,949 persons) were sheltered, and 58% (5,468 persons) were unsheltered. Of the unsheltered homeless population, 36.1% were classified as “hidden” homeless, and 63.9% were classified as “street” homeless.

Inherent difficulties are associated with any methodology that is applied to enumerating homeless persons, and these difficulties warrant careful consideration when evaluating totals such as those presented in this report. For example, many homeless persons (especially women and children) are eliminated from the total count as they typically do not want to be located, often for safety reasons. Thus, many reside in locations that make them undetectable to enumeration teams. Even the most systematic and comprehensive

methodologies fall short of gathering entirely representative numbers that reflect the true homeless population.

The same careful consideration should be applied to the analysis of the Homeless Survey data. While the extrapolation method has proven to be reliable, and is considered the standard method of estimating the subpopulation totals, it must be emphasized that this method produces estimates that vary in their representativeness of the actual sample population.

However, despite these challenges, the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey provides both valid and useful data, creating a more comprehensive view of the nature and scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada in 2014. The fact that the same methodology, characterized by the same difficulties, (with minor adjustments resulting in no statistical significance) has been used since 2007 enables Southern Nevada to continue tracking key patterns and trends amongst their homeless population. This consistent approach continues to highlight the changing conditions of homelessness in this region, so that necessary action can be taken to improve the livelihood of these homeless persons. Through it's impact on the policy-makers in Southern Nevada, this report will allow for more constructive and innovative solutions to be applied to the problem of homelessness.

Homelessness is an interpersonal issue, with varied catalysts. Likewise, the contributing factors that reduce and successfully address the issue is multi-faceted with many variables such as; employment rates, access to physical and mental health care, housing assistance programs and community planning/growth.

## 3. HOMELESS CENSUS FINDINGS

The following data presents the results of the homeless census component of this report. All Continuum of Cares (CoCs) are required to conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count during the last 10 days in January of each year in order to enumerate the amount of homeless persons in their communities.

The PIT Count is a core data set used by HUD to address homelessness on both a national and local level. PIT Count estimates provide snapshots of homelessness from 3 different angles:<sup>2</sup>

1. Sheltered Homeless Persons & Unsheltered Homeless Persons
2. HUD-Defined Homeless Households (including Veteran Homeless Households as of 2014)
3. Counts of beds in Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing Programs, and Safe Havens.

Southern Nevada integrates the data that is collected from these census findings into their CoC applications for Homeless Assistance Grants. It provides elected officials for each of the jurisdictions in Southern Nevada a clear view of the Southern Nevada homeless population, and guides policy-makers in their allocation of funds for homeless services and programs.

### 3.1 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

This PIT Count is an enumeration of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Southern Nevada. The 2014 PIT Count was carried out in accordance with the most recent guidelines set forth by HUD.<sup>12</sup>

#### 3.1.1 Point-In-Time Count Procedure:

The 2014 Southern Nevada PIT Count targeted three main elements of homelessness. All homeless persons were categorized as sheltered, unsheltered - "hidden" homeless, and unsheltered - "street" homeless. They were then categorized according to type of household, as defined by HUD. It is important to first delineate the differences between a *sheltered homeless person* and an *unsheltered homeless person*.

- A **sheltered homeless person** is a homeless person who is in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or transitional housing program for homeless persons.<sup>15</sup>
- An **unsheltered homeless person** is a homeless person who is living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as the streets, abandoned buildings, vehicles, parks, and train stations.<sup>15</sup>

It is also important to define *household*, *individual*, *family*, and a *household with only children*, as used for the purposes of this report. According to HUD, a **household** is defined as follows:<sup>16</sup>

*“Household means all persons occupying a housing unit. The occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status”*

Therefore, for the purposes of this report, persons in a household without children will be referred to as **Individuals**; persons in households with at least one adult and one child (under 18) will be referred to as a **Family**; and persons in households composed of only children will be referred to as **Only Children**.<sup>12</sup>

The 2014 Southern Nevada PIT Count of unsheltered homeless persons was conducted during the early morning hours of January 29, of 2014. In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2014 enumeration effort. Census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2011 and 2013 were overlaid with data from first responder calls for homeless persons, and those census tracts that previously yielded both zero enumeration and zero first responder calls were removed from the 2014 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 80%. This method is in accordance with permission from HUD Headquarters as a statistically sound method of enumeration.

As for the sheltered enumeration, the staff at every emergency shelter, transitional housing facility, domestic violence shelter, and safe haven enumerated all homeless persons present in their facility on the night of January 29, 2014.

The number of “hidden” homeless, or those residing in unsheltered locations on private property (i.e. vehicles, unconverted garages, etc.) was obtained using a random telephone survey. 1,000 households were surveyed, and the results were projected against the

estimated 703,972 general population households in Southern Nevada (this number was collected from the 2010-2012 U.S. Census American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates).<sup>17</sup> More information regarding the methodology applied to the general population telephone survey, conducted by Applied Analysis, can be found in *Appendix VI*, and the survey instrument can be found in *Appendix IV* of this report.

The homeless persons of Southern Nevada were also categorized according to HUD-defined homeless households. These household types include: households with at least one adult and one child; households without children; households with only children. Gender, race, and ethnicity was documented amongst these three categories. It is worthy to note that, per guidance from HUD, Unaccompanied Children were declassified as a subpopulation as of 2013. They are now included in the documentation of HUD-defined households.<sup>18</sup> In 2014, HUD removed veterans from the subpopulation category as well, and instead included them in a separate household category in the PIT Count.<sup>12</sup> These household types coincide with the ones mentioned above with the exception of household with only children.

## **3.2 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT: GENERAL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

A total of 9,417 homeless persons in Southern Nevada were enumerated on January 29, 2014. This is a 28.0% increase from the 2013 PIT Count.

### **3.2.1 Unsheltered Homeless**

Nationwide, the amount of unsheltered homeless persons (those living in unsheltered locations such as under bridges, in cars, or in abandoned buildings, etc.) decreased 23% (or 65,143 people) between 2007 and 2013. However, between 2012 and 2013, unsheltered homeless decreased by 11.6% (28,283 persons), which is the second largest annual decrease in this population since 2007. In 2013, only slightly more than one-third of all homeless people (35% or 215,344) were living in unsheltered locations; 9.5% of this population was under 18 years of age; and 10.5% were between the ages of 18 and 24.<sup>2</sup>

In regards to Southern Nevada, the total unsheltered homeless population increased from 4,435 to 5,468 between 2013 and 2014 respectively. This represents a 23.3% *increase* when compared to the overall totals of both years. The unsheltered homeless population total includes homeless persons found: in parks or on the street; in the tunnels under Clark

County; in cars, vans, RVs; in encampments; in abandoned buildings; unaccompanied homeless students who were identified by the Clark County School District and met HUD's definition of literal homelessness; and the "hidden" homeless estimate derived from the general population survey.

When comparing to the total amount of homeless persons (sheltered and unsheltered), the amount of unsheltered - "street" homeless persons (excluding "hidden" homeless) increased by 15.2% compared to that of 2013. In 2014, the unsheltered - "street" homeless population represented 63.9% of the entire unsheltered homeless population.

The "Hidden" homeless estimate was derived through the randomized telephone survey. When comparing to the total amount of homeless persons (sheltered and unsheltered), the amount of "hidden" homeless persons (1,974) increased by 40.9% (573 persons) compared to that of 2013.

742 (13.6%) of the entire unsheltered homeless population counted were under the age of 18 (i.e. unsheltered unaccompanied children). This amount included 388 unsheltered unaccompanied youth enumerated by the Clark County School District. When comparing these totals to those of 2013, the total amount of unsheltered unaccompanied children increased by 79.2%. Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of unsheltered unaccompanied children enumerated by the Clark County School District increased from 252 persons to 388 persons, respectively. This represents a 54.0% increase.

It should be noted that special efforts to enumerate homeless persons residing in the tunnels of Southern Nevada were established in 2011. During preparation for the 2011 Southern Nevada PIT Count, additional specialized enumeration teams were strategically formed to target the tunnels. Similar teams were formed during preparation for the 2014 PIT Count; they consisted of formerly homeless individuals who once occupied the tunnels, and outreach workers who are familiar with the tunnels and their occupants. In 2011, 477 homeless persons were enumerated in the tunnels.<sup>14</sup> In 2013 however, due to rain and risk of flooding, this enumeration was limited and only 53 homeless persons were added to the 2013 enumeration total.<sup>5</sup> In 2014, 64 persons were counted.

It is also important to note that in an effort to reduce the number of deaths for those living in the tunnels due to flooding, Southern Nevada has adopted protocols to send outreach teams into the tunnels to warn of potential flooding and encouraging persons living in tunnels to take advantage of housing services or move to higher, safer ground.

### 3.2.2 Sheltered Homeless

In 2013, nearly two-thirds of people nationwide were experiencing homelessness, and 65.0% or (394,698 persons) were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs. This represents a 1.0% increase since 2012.<sup>2</sup>

In regards to Southern Nevada, of the total amount of homeless persons counted in 2014, 41.9% (3,949 persons) were sheltered. To be considered sheltered, they had to be residing in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or safe haven. Only homeless persons who entered the shelter on or before the date of the count, or those who exited after the date of the count, were included in the sheltered homeless count.\*

The 2014 sheltered homeless population represents a 35.2% increase from the 2013 sheltered homeless population.

In 2014, 689 (17.4%) of the sheltered homeless persons counted were under the age of 18 (i.e. Children in all Family Units, excluding Children in One-Child Households). In 2013, only 413 (14.1%) of the sheltered homeless persons counted were under the age of 18. Thus, between 2013 and 2014, the number of sheltered homeless persons under the age of 18 increased by 276 persons, representing a 66.8% increase.

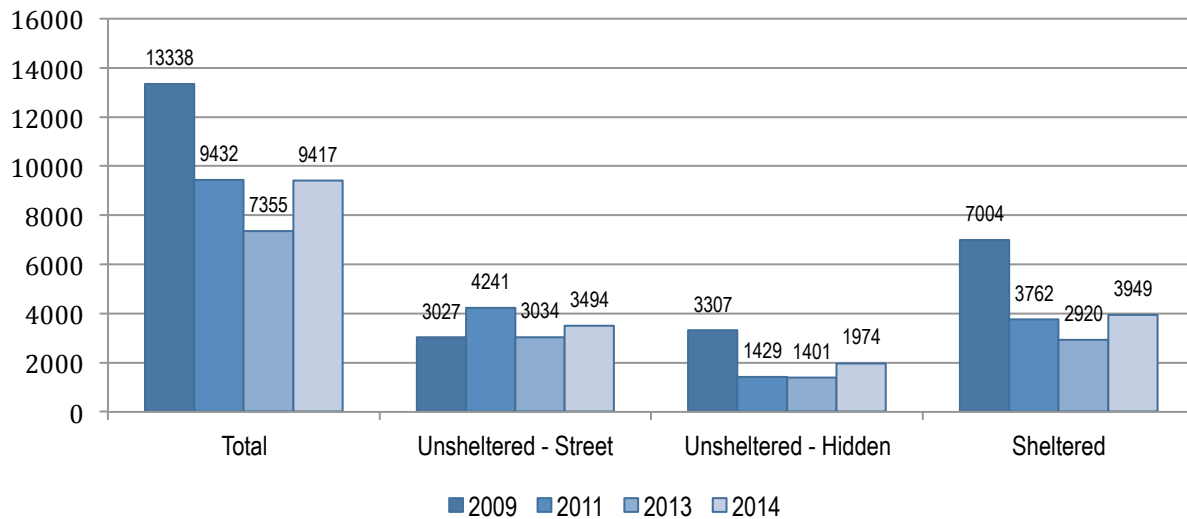
In 2014, 1,091 homeless persons enumerated were persons in families (i.e. households with at least one adult and one child). This is a 78.9% increase (481 persons) compared to 2013. These 1,091 persons in families comprised 355 family households. This can be compared to 2013 data, which showed that the 610 persons in families comprised 222 households.

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\* Persons NOT included in the PIT Count are as follows: those residing in permanent supportive housing programs; those residing in programs with beds/units not dedicated for persons who are homeless (i.e. detox centers); those temporarily staying with friends; those in hospitals or jail; those staying in their own unit with assistance from a Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Provider Program.



**Figure 2: Point-In-Time Count Homeless Census Population**

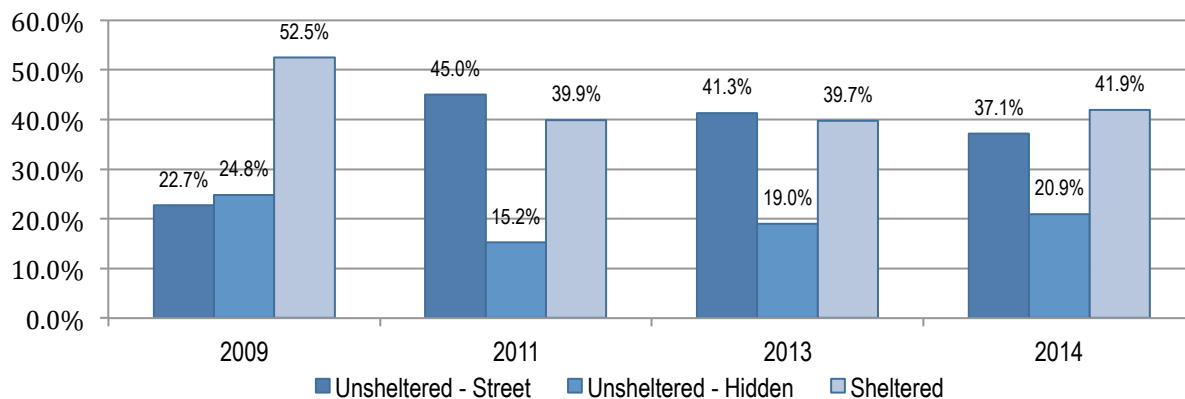


Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009 & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**NOTE:** In 2014, the number of "hidden" homeless persons living in unsheltered locations on private property, such as unconverted garages and vehicles, was based on a random telephone survey of 1,000 households and projected against the estimated 703,972 households in Southern Nevada.<sup>17</sup> The same procedure was conducted in 2009, 2011 and 2013<sup>14,5,6</sup>

**Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Point-In-Time Homeless Census Population**



N: 2009=13,388; 2011=9432; 2013=7355; 2014 = 9,417

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009 & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**NOTE:** In 2014, the number of "hidden" homeless persons living in unsheltered locations on private property, such as unconverted garages and vehicles, was based on a random telephone survey of 1,000 households and projected against the estimated 703,972 households in Southern Nevada.<sup>17</sup> The same procedure was conducted in 2009, 2011 and 2013<sup>14,5,6</sup>



### 3.2.3 HUD-Defined Households

As in prior years, CoCs were required per HUD to collect and report information on the following three household types for both sheltered and unsheltered persons, and for sheltered persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Haven projects:

- A. **Persons in households with at least one adult and one child.** This category includes households with one adult and at least one child under age 18.
- B. **Persons in households without children.** This category includes single adults, adult couples with no children, and groups of adults.
- C. **Persons in households with only children.** This category includes persons under age 18, including children in one-child households, adolescent parents and their children, adolescent siblings, or other household configurations composed only of children.

Additionally, beginning in 2014 CoCs were required to collect data on and report the gender, race, and ethnicity for all sheltered and unsheltered persons. Also beginning in 2014, CoCs were required to also collect population data on veterans and their households, including gender, race, and ethnicity data for veterans.

The following tables summarize these findings:

**Figure 4: Households With At Least One Adult And One Child, 2014**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	ES	TH	SH		
Total Number of Households	281	74	N/A	0	355
Total Number of Persons	887	204	N/A	0	1,091
Number of Persons (under age 18)	554	126	N/A	0	680
Number of Persons (age 18-24)	52	26	N/A	0	78
Number of Persons (over age 24)	281	52	N/A	0	333
Gender (Adults & Children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Female		654		0	654
Male		437		0	437
Transgender		0		0	0
Ethnicity (Adults & Children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino		849		0	849
Hispanic / Latino		242		0	242
Race	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
White		244		0	244
Black or African-America		661		0	661
Asian		22		0	22
American Indian or Alaskan Native		5		0	5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		11		0	11
Other or Multiple Races		148		0	148

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

**Figure 5: Veteran Households With At Least One Adult And One Child, 2014**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	ES	TH	SH		
Total Number of Households	1	0	N/A	0	1
Total Number of Persons	6	0	N/A	0	6
Gender (Adults & Children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Female		0		0	0
Male		1		0	1
Transgender		0		0	0
Ethnicity (Adults & Children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino		1		0	1
Hispanic / Latino		0		0	0
Race	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
White		0		0	0
Black or African-America		1		0	1
Asian		0		0	0
American Indian or Alaskan Native		0		0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		0		0	0
Other or Multiple Races		0		0	0

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

**Figure 6: Households without Children, 2014**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	ES	TH	SH		
Total Number of Households	2,076	571	10	4,713	7,370
Total Number of Persons	2,244	579	10	4,726	7,559
Number of Persons (age 18-24)	185	79	0	1,337	1,601
Number of Persons (over age 24)	2,059	500	10	3,389	5,958
Gender (Adults & Children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Female	787		1,116		1,903
Male	2,044		3,551		5,595
Transgender	2		59		61
Ethnicity (Adults & Children)	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino	2,558		3,185		5,743
Hispanic / Latino	275		1,541		1,816
Race	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
White	1,373		2,418		3,791
Black or African-America	1,089		1,575		2,664
Asian	69		73		142
American Indian or Alaskan Native	22		98		120
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	26		37		63
Other or Multiple Races	254		525		779

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

**Figure 7: Veteran Households without Children, 2014**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	ES	TH	SH		
Total Number of Households	148	283	1	795	1,227
Total Number of Persons	149	284	1	797	1,231
<b>Gender (Adults &amp; Children)</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>		<b>Total</b>
Female		21		188	209
Male		411		599	1,010
Transgender		0		10	10
<b>Ethnicity (Adults &amp; Children)</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>		<b>Total</b>
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino		410		537	947
Hispanic / Latino		22		260	282
<b>Race</b>					
White		263		408	671
Black or African-America		132		266	398
Asian		8		12	20
American Indian or Alaskan Native		5		16	21
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		9		6	15
Other or Multiple Races		15		89	104

**Figure 8. Households With Only Children (Under Age 18), 2014**

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	ES	TH	SH		
Total Number of Households	11	9	N/A	742	762
Total number of one-child households	8	8	N/A	742	758
Total number of multi-child households	3	1	N/A	0	4
Number of children in multi-child households	6	3	N/A	0	9
Gender	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Female	14		424		438
Male	11		318		329
Transgender	0		0		0
Ethnicity	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino	22		514		536
Hispanic / Latino	3		228		231
Race	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total
White	7		262		269
Black or African-America	10		218		228
Asian	0		0		0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0		44		44
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0		22		22
Other or Multiple Races	8		196		204

ES = Emergency Shelter TH = Transitional Housing SH = Safe Haven

Source: Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Safe Haven shelters are for individuals only, thus households with at least one adult and one child do not apply.

**Figure 9: Unsheltered Homeless: Persons In Vehicles, Vans/RVs, Abandoned Buildings, Encampments, & Parks**

	2009	2011	2013	2014	2013-2014 Net Change	2013-2014 Percent Change
Persons In Cars	149	150	104	73	-31	-29.8%
Persons In Vans & RVs	256	229	199	259	60	30.2%
Persons In Abandoned Buildings	158	264	163	111	-52	-31.9%
Persons In Encampments	715	617	676	473	-203	-30.0%
Persons In Parks	0	3	34	0	-34	-100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>1263</b>	<b>1176</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>-260</b>	<b>-22.1%</b>

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Watsonville, CA  
 Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014) 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

- Note: The Clark County School District identified 17 unaccompanied youth and 63 youth in families living in cars, streets, parks, and RVs.

**Figure 10: Unsheltered Homeless: Hidden Homeless**

	2009	2011	2013	2014	2013-2014 Net Change	2013-2014 Percent Change
Single Adults 18+	3307	1429	1401	1994	593	42.3%
Unaccompanied Children	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Persons In Families	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3307</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>1974</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>40.9%</b>

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Watsonville, CA.  
 Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### 3.2.4 Countywide Annual Estimation

Many homeless persons experience short episodes of homelessness at times of the year other than that of the PIT Count. Thus, the PIT Count has an inherent bias and is not representative of the homeless population in its entirety; it is possible that it underrepresents the prevalence of homelessness during other months of the year. Because more people are homeless than can be counted at any point in time, it is necessary to calculate an annual estimate of the number of homeless persons in Southern Nevada over the course of a year. The following is a HUD-approved method for using the PIT Count to calculate an annual estimate of homeless persons.

Three factors are used to determine the annual estimate<sup>19</sup>

1. A = The point-in-time enumeration of currently homeless people (found in the unsheltered and sheltered count)
2. B = The number of currently homeless people who became homeless within the last 7 days
3. C = The proportion of currently homeless people who have experienced a previous homeless episode within the past 12 months

**The equation for calculating the annual estimate is:**

$$A + [(B \times 51) \times (1 - C)] = \text{Annual Estimate}$$

For Southern Nevada in 2014:  $9,417 + [(809.862 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.339)] = 36,718.258 = 36,718$  persons  
 For Southern Nevada in 2013:  $7,355 + [(720.79 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.280)] = 33,882.408 = 33,882$  persons  
 For Southern Nevada in 2011:  $9,432 + [(1,150.704 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.423)] = 43,293.767 \approx 43,294$  persons  
 For Southern Nevada in 2009:  $13,338 + [(1,080.378 \times 51) \times (1 - 0.290)] = 52,458.487 \approx 52,458$  persons

The 2014 annual estimate for the number of homeless people in Southern Nevada was 36,718. This represents a 8.4% increase (2,836 persons) from the 2013 annual estimate of 33,882 persons.

According to the annual estimate above, and the 2010 U.S. Census population profile, homelessness makes up 1.9% of Southern Nevada’s total population of 1,951,269 people.



**Figure 11: Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Annual Estimate of Homelessness Net Change**

	2009	2011	2013	2014	2013-2014 Net Change	2013-2014 Percent Change
Point-in-Time Count	13,338	9,432	7,355	9,417	2,062	28.0%
Annual Estimate	52,458	43,294	33,882	36,718	2,836	8.4%
Total Population	1,774,086 (2005-2007)	1,951,269 (2010)	1,951,269 (2010)	1,951,269 (2010)	0.0	0.0%
Point-in-Time to Annual Multiplier	3.9	4.6	4.6	3.9	0.0	--
Percentage of Total Population	3.0%	2.2%	1.7%	1.9%	-0.2%	--

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Note: The net change for the total population from 2011 to 2014 was -2,077.<sup>14,5</sup>

## 4. HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

### HOMELESSNESS PROFILE

This section of the 2014 Southern Nevada Census and Survey Report provides a comprehensive overview of the scope of homelessness in Southern Nevada. The information was generated from the data obtained through the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey.

The 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey was administered during the weeks directly following the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. A total of 948 unique surveys were completed, and there were 8 refusals. Missing values have been intentionally omitted from the survey results. Thus, the total amount of respondents for each question will not always coincide with the total number of surveys.

The following is an overview of the results. Due to the limitations in connecting homeless individuals to their clinical profiles, the surveys were designed to yield data reflecting self-described and self-defined responses.\*

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\* For additional information on survey methodology, please see Appendix VI

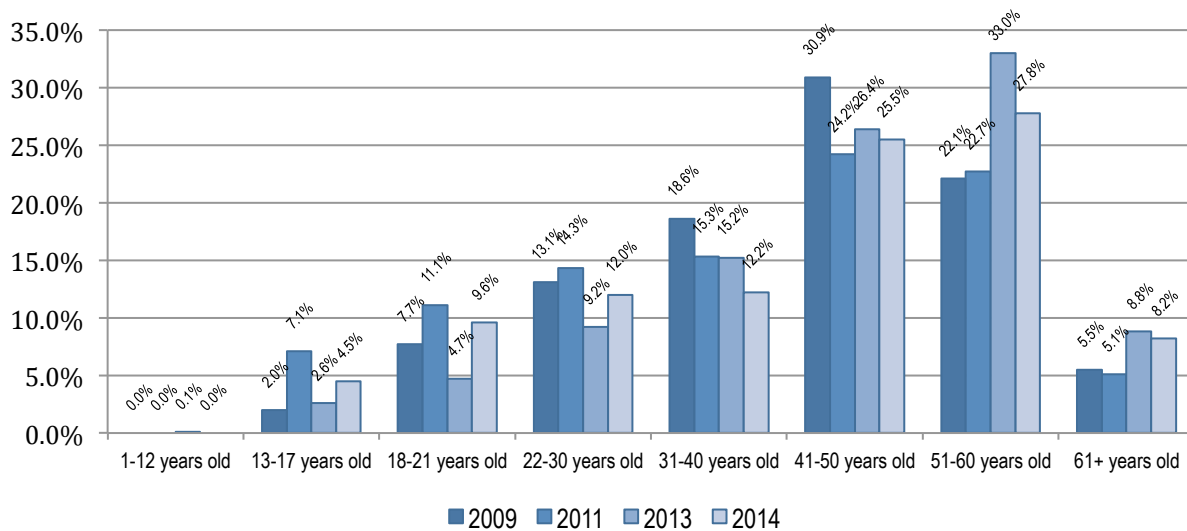
## 4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

Understanding the demographics of the Southern Nevada homeless population is key to defining the specific needs of this population. This information can be used to create more effective programs, alter existing programs, and predict future challenges.

In order to obtain demographic information characterizing the homeless residents in Southern Nevada, the survey participants answered several questions pertaining to age, gender, ethnicity, race, and family status.

### 4.1.1. Age

**Figure 12: Survey Respondents by Age**



N: 2009=937; 2011=547; 2013= 822; 2014 = 897

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 27.8% of respondents were between the ages of 51 and 60. This amount is lower for this age group than 2013 (33.0%).
- 4.5% of survey respondents were under the age of 18. This represents a 1.8% increase compared to 2013.

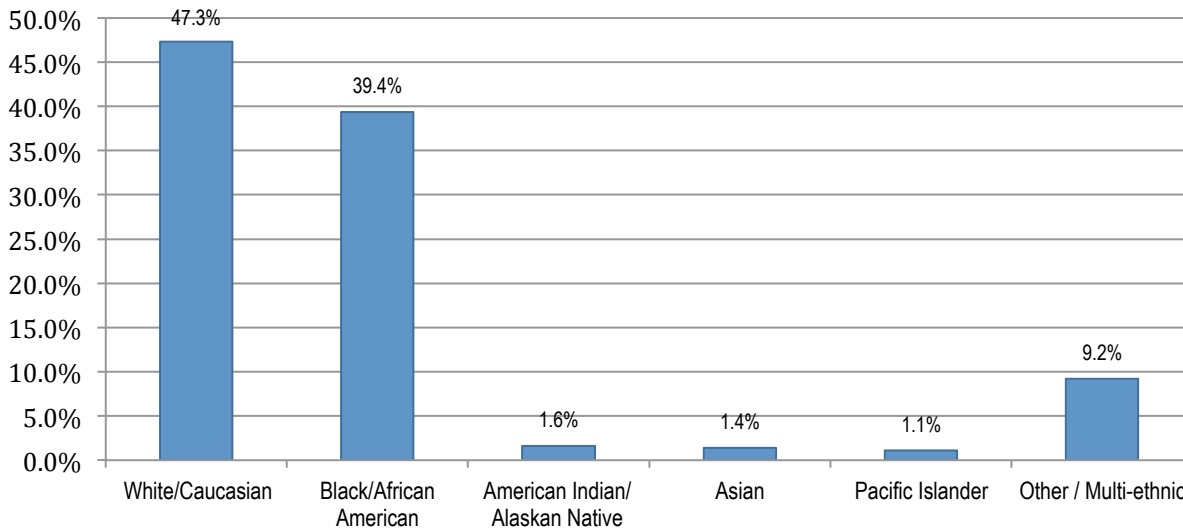
- 9.6% of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21. This more than doubles the amount of homeless persons in this category in 2013 (4.7%).
- 8.2% of survey respondents were over the age of 61. This is lower than 2013 when 8.8% reported belonging to this age group.

#### **4.1.2 Race/Ethnicity**

The most recent surveys conducted in Southern Nevada (years 2013 and 2014) have shown that individual homeless persons are more likely to be White males over the age of 30. In 2013, 73.8 percent of the Southern Nevada survey respondents indicated they were of male gender, and 43.3 percent of 2013 survey respondents identified their racial/ethnic group as White/Caucasian. Similarly, 71.4 percent of the 2014 respondents identified themselves as male gender, and 47.3 percent identified themselves as White/Caucasian.

It should be noted that prior to 2014, HUD required CoCs to report race, ethnicity, and gender data separately for all persons surveyed. However, per HUD, race and ethnicity data were collected using separate survey questions. However, in the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, the majority of survey respondents were not aware of the difference between 'race' and 'ethnicity', and the survey results reflect this. While 885 respondents provided a response to the race question (*Which racial group do you identify with the most?*), only 351 provided a response to the ethnicity question (*Which ethnic group do you identify with the most?*) This must be taken into account when reviewing data for race and ethnicity for the year 2014.

**Figure 13: Adult Respondents by Race, 2014**



*N: 2014 = 885 (data format from previous years is not comparable)*

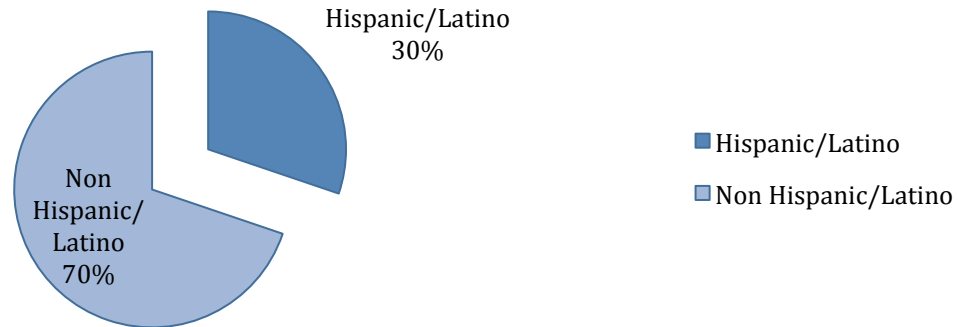
*Source:*

*Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.*

**Summary:**

- 47.3% of survey respondents identified their racial group as White/Caucasian.
- 39.4% of respondents identified their racial group as Black/African American.
- 1.6% of respondents identified their racial group as American Indian/Alaskan Native.
- 2.5% of respondents identified their racial group as Asian/Pacific Islander.
- 9.2% of respondents identified their racial group as Other/Multi-Ethnic.

**Figure 14: Respondents by Ethnicity, 2014**



*N: 2014 =351 (data format from previous years is not comparable)*

*Source:*

*Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*

**Summary:**

- 30.2% of respondents identified their ethnic group as Hispanic/Latino.
- 69.8% of respondents identified their ethnic group as Non Hispanic/Latino

**4.1.3 Gender**

Past homeless surveys nationwide have consistently found that the majority of homeless adults are male.<sup>16</sup> The 2013 and 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Surveys reflected the continuation of this trend; in both 2013 and 2014, the majority of survey respondents identified as male gender.

**Summary:**

- 71.4% of respondents identified as male. This is lower than 2013 (73.8%)
- 27.8 % of respondents identified as female. This is higher than 2013 (25.8%)
  - 7.4% of female respondents reported they were pregnant. This is higher than 2013 (3.9%)
- 0.8% of respondents identified as transgender. This is higher than 2013 (0.4%)

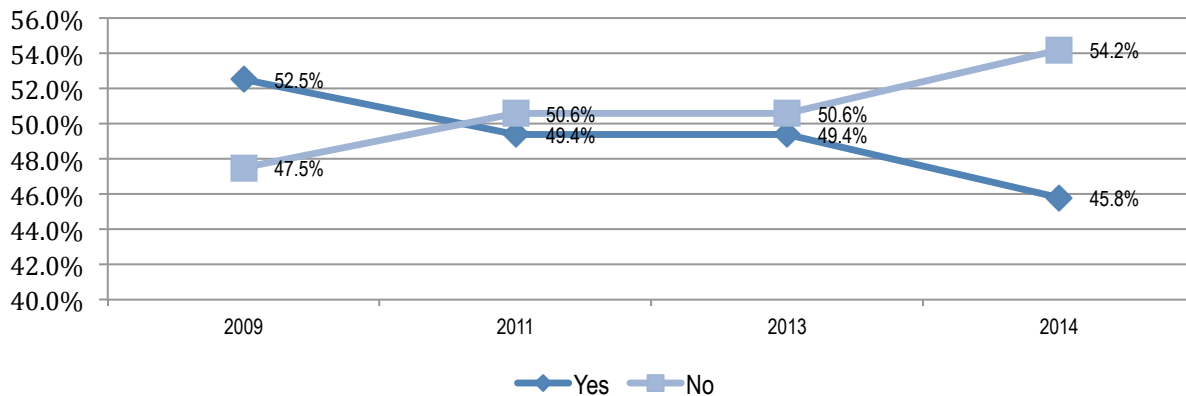
## 4.2 HOMELESSNESS CONDITIONS

The following section is organized to create a broad view of the various elements, characteristics, and causes of homelessness. This section details the duration and frequency of homelessness, living conditions, and obstacles that homeless persons face when trying to secure permanent housing. Employment and income status are also discussed in depth.

### 4.2.1 Conditions Prior To Homelessness

#### 4.2.1a) Occurrence of Homelessness

**Figure 15: Is This The First Time You've Been Homeless?**



N: 2009= 935; 2011= 547; 2013=822 ; 2014 = 936

Source:

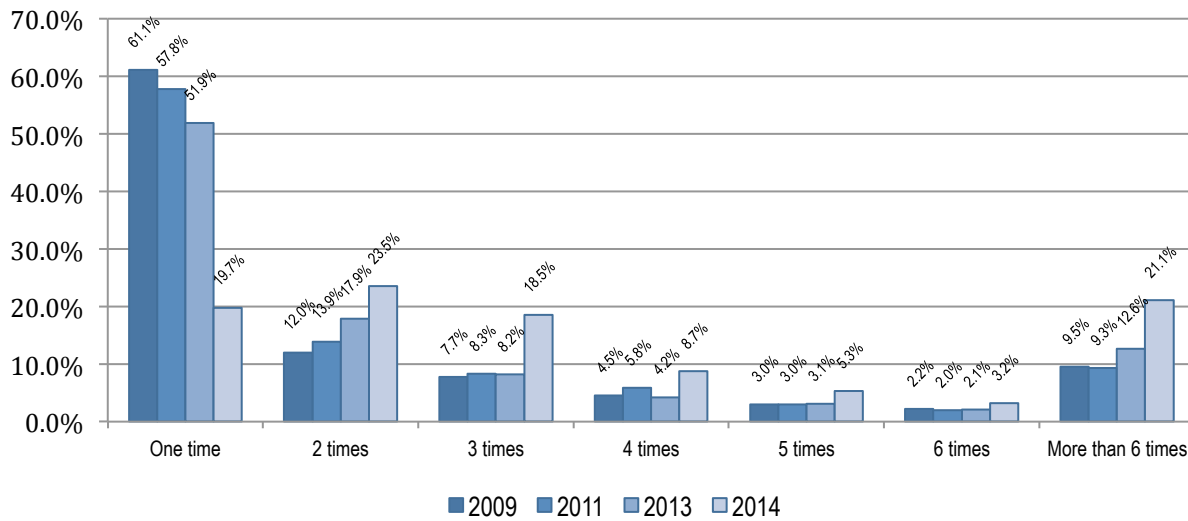
Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- Less survey respondents (45.8%) reported that they were homeless for the first time than did survey respondents in 2013, 2011, and 2009.

**Figure 16: Number of Times Respondents Had Been Homeless in the Last 3 Years, Including This Time**



N: 2009= 935; 2011= 547; 2013= 619; 2014 = 493

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

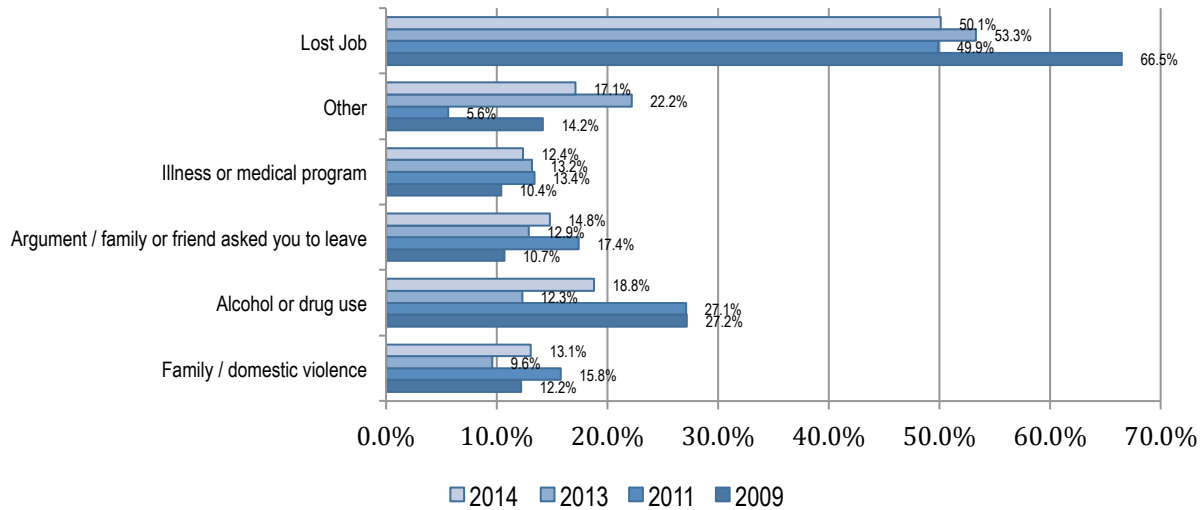
**Summary:**

- Between 2013 and 2014, the percentage of survey respondents who have been homeless four or more times in the last three years increased from 22.0% to 38.3%. This is important due to the fact that this is one of the criterion that determines whether a person can be deemed *chronically homeless*. More details on the definition for chronic homelessness are available in *Appendix VII-Glossary and Definition of Terms*.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount survey respondents reporting six or more homeless episodes within the last three years increased by 8.5%. Past surveys (since 2007) indicate a steady increase in this category.



### 4.2.1b) Primary Causes of Homelessness

**Figure 17: Top Events That Led to Respondents' Homelessness (Top 6 Responses in 2014)**



Multiple response question:

2009: 938 respondents provided 1,974 responses; 2011: 518 respondents provided 1,014 responses; 2013: 823 respondents provided 1,460 responses; 2014: 933 respondents provided 1,728 responses.

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Note: 2007 data is not comparable

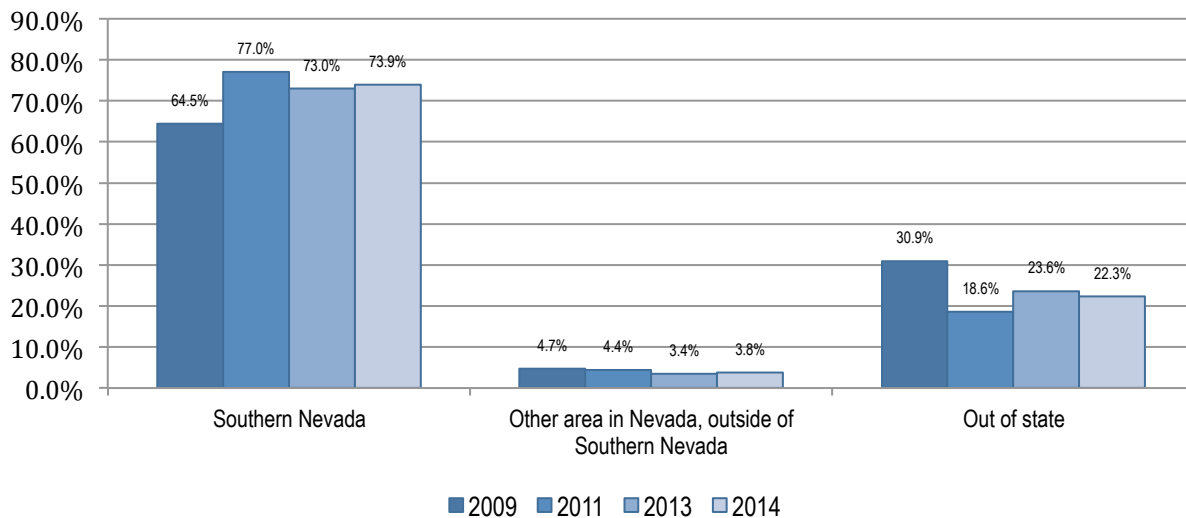
### Summary:

- 50.1% of 2014 survey respondents cited *Job Loss* as the primary cause of their homelessness, making it the primary cause of homelessness for the majority of this population. In 2013, *Job Loss* was also the most frequently cited primary cause of homelessness, comprising of 53.3% of respondents.
- Alcohol Or Drug Use* was the second most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness in 2014 (18.8%). In 2013, it was only the fourth most commonly cited primary cause of homelessness, comprising of only 12.3% of survey respondents.
- Other* was the third most commonly cited cause of homelessness (17.1%), which is lower than 2013 (22.2%).
- 14.8% of 2014 respondents cited *Argument / Family Or Friend Asked You To Leave* as their primary reason for homelessness. This was higher than 2013 (12.9%)

- The *Family and Domestic Violence* category was the fifth most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2014. Between 2013 and 2014, *Family and Domestic Violence* increased from 9.6% to 13.1% of survey responses.
- *Illness or Medical Problem* was the sixth most commonly cited cause of homelessness in 2014. Between 2013 and 2014, *Illness or Medical Problem* decreased from 13.2% to 12.4% of survey responses.

#### 4.2.1c) County of Residency Prior to Homelessness

**Figure 18: Where Respondents Were Living at the Time They Most Recently Became Homeless**



N: 2009= 940; 2011= 542; 2013= 798; 2014 = 921

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

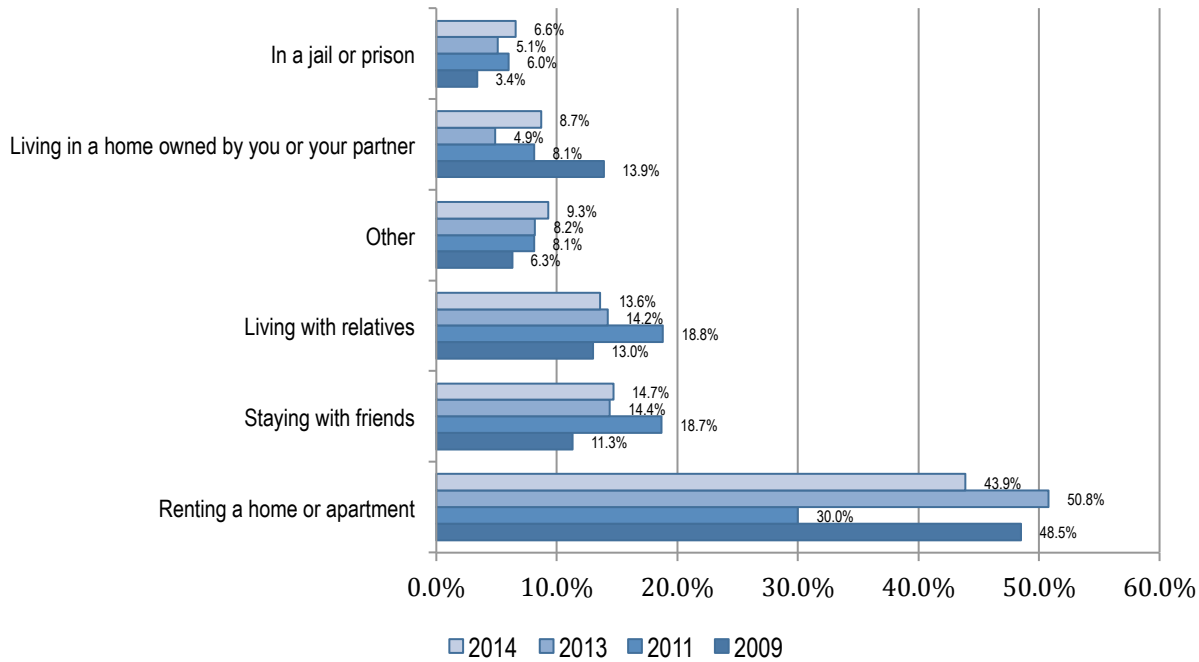
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- The majority of survey respondents (73.9%) reported living in Southern Nevada when they most recently became homeless.

### 4.2.1d) Previous Living Arrangements

**Figure 19: Living Arrangements Immediately Prior to Becoming Homeless This Time (Top 6 Responses in 2014)**



N: 2009= 973; 2011= 533; 2013; 819; 2014 = 931

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

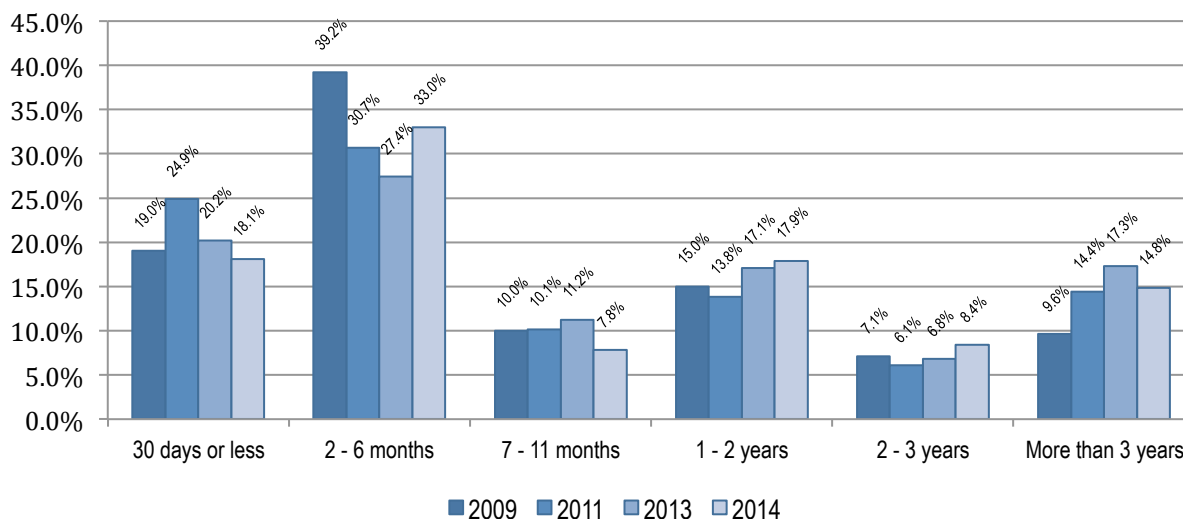
### Summary:

- The majority (43.9%) of survey respondents reported that they were renting a home or apartment prior to becoming homeless. This is less than 2013, when 50.8% of respondents cited the same information.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of survey respondents reporting that they were in jail or prison immediately prior to becoming homeless increased from 5.1% to 6.6%.

## 4.2.2 Living Conditions

### 4.2.2a) Duration of Homelessness

**Figure 20: Length of Time Since Last Permanent Housing Situation**



N: 2009= 933; 2011= 515; 2013= 810; 2014 = 927

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

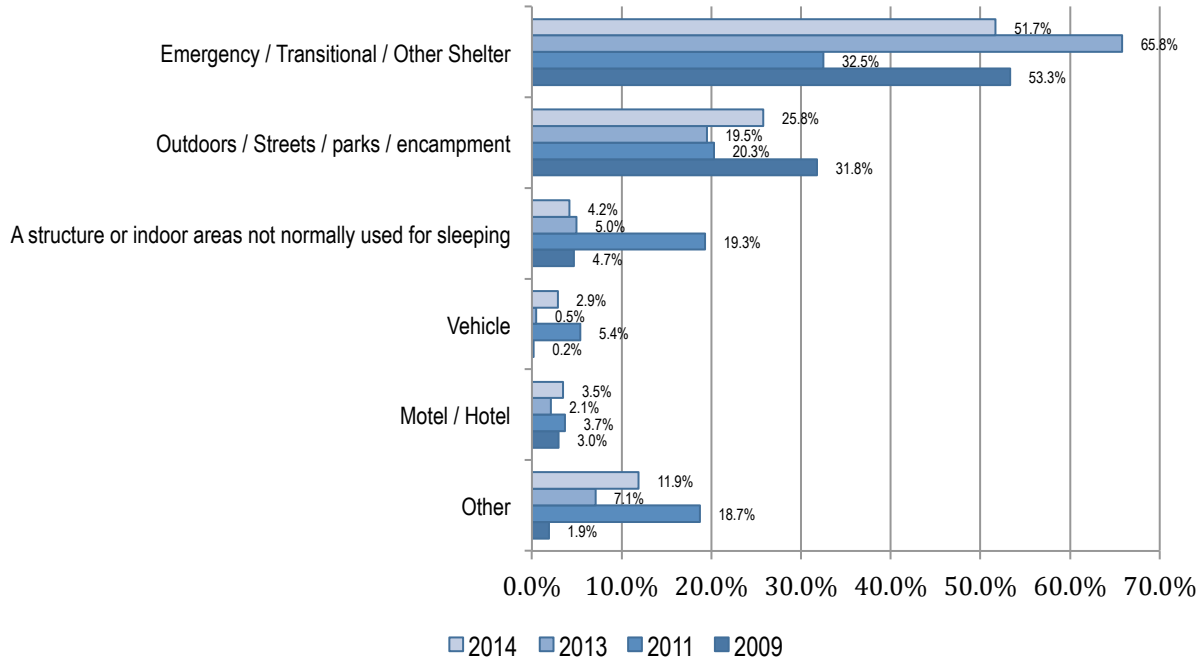
### Summary:

- 41.1% of the 2014 survey respondents reported that they had been homeless for a year or more since their last housing situation.\* This has changed only slightly from 2013 (41.2%).
- 18.1% of 2014 survey respondents reported having been homeless for 30 days or less, which is a decrease from the 20.2% recorded in 2013.
- 14.8% of 2014 survey respondents indicated they had been homeless for three years or longer. The amount of persons homeless for 3 or more years decreased since 2013, when 17.3% of survey respondents qualified for this category.

\* This condition is one of the components used to determine whether a person can be considered "chronically homeless" (see Homeless Survey-Homeless Subpopulations section for more information)

### 4.2.2b) Typical Nighttime Accommodations

Figure 21: Where Respondents Typically Stay at Night



N: 2009= 931; 2011= 531; 2013= 816; 2014 = 932

Source:

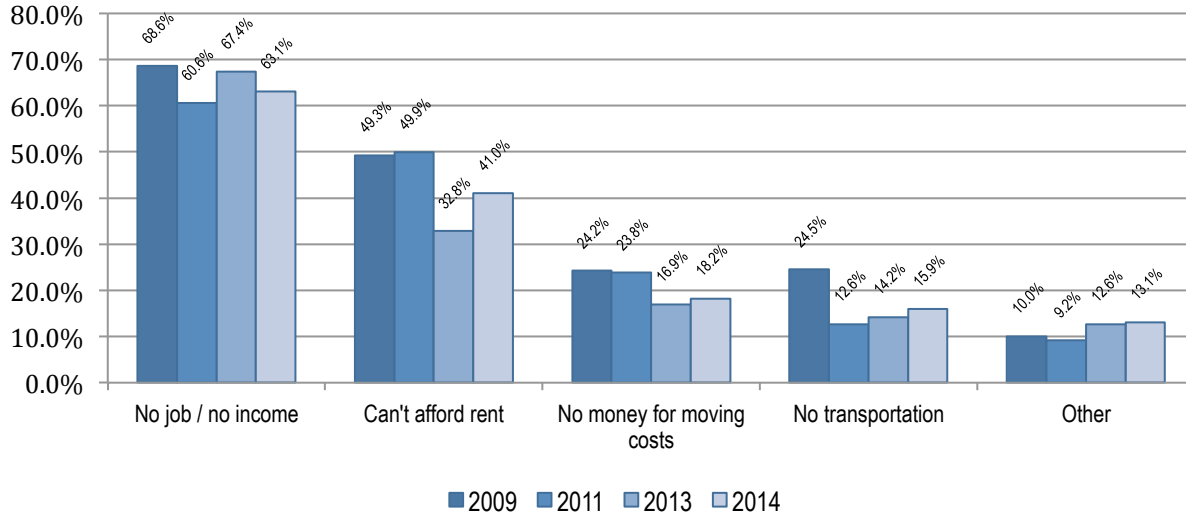
Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary:

- 25.8% of survey respondents reported living outdoors (streets, parks, encampments). This is a 6.3% increase from 2013.
- 50.8% of survey respondents reported sheltered living accommodations (emergency shelter, transitional housing, other shelter). This amount is 15.0% percent lower than 2013 (65.8%).

### 4.2.2c) Obstacles to Obtaining Permanent Housing

**Figure 22: Circumstances That Were Preventing Respondents From Securing Permanent Housing (Top 5 Responses in 2014)**



*Multiple response question*

933 respondents provided 1,953 responses in 2009; 529 respondents provided 995 responses in 2011; 810 respondents provided 1427 responses in 2013; 930 respondents provided 1,693 responses in 2014.

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive

### Summary:

- As with previous surveys (since 2009), *No Job/No Income* was the most commonly cited obstacle to obtaining housing in 2014 (63.1%). This amount is lower than that of 2013 (67.4%).
- 41.0% of 2014 survey respondents cited *Inability To Afford Rent* as their primary obstacle to obtaining permanent housing. This amount is higher than 2013 (32.8%) but substantially lower than 2011 (49.9%).

## 4.2.3 Income & Employment

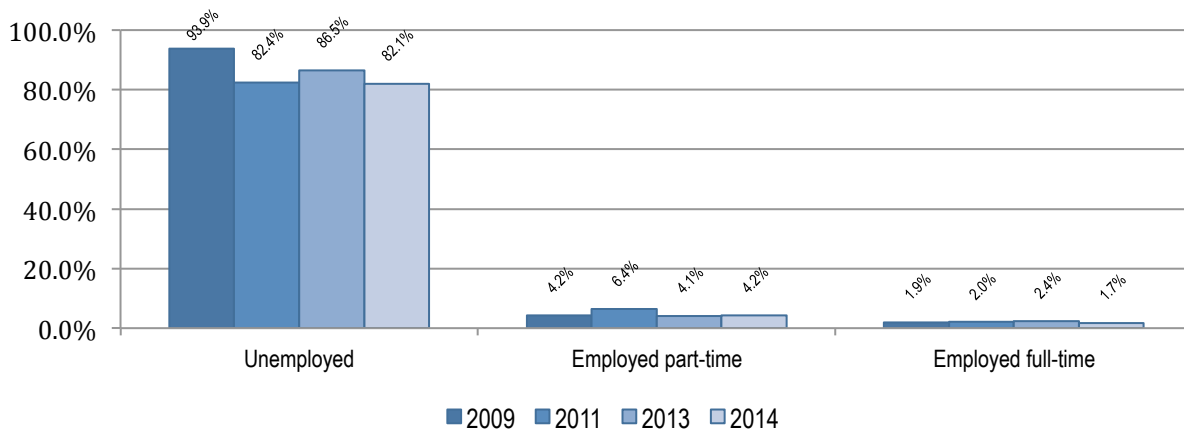
### 4.2.3a) Employment Status

The 2014 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines, updated periodically in the *Federal Register* by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2), indicates that the official 2014 poverty level for an individual is \$11,670, or \$973 per month.<sup>21</sup> Note that the poverty level has increased slightly since 2009 when it was \$908/month.<sup>22</sup>

This poverty level differs significantly from the self-sufficiency standard, which provides a more realistic amount for true cost of living. It is based on all major budget items faced by working adults, not just food. These basic needs include housing, child care, food, health care, transportation, taxes, and miscellaneous costs. The self-sufficiency standard, which is \$1,528 per month in Southern Nevada (\$18,338 per year), is a measure of income adequacy that calculates how much income from a single working adult is sufficient to meet their needs without government subsidies.<sup>23</sup>

As shown in previous reports, lack of income has a substantial impact on the rate of homelessness in Southern Nevada. In previous years, utilization of government assistance has been low. This trend continued, although utilization of moderate amounts of government assistance has increased slightly since 2009.

**Figure 23: Employment Status of Respondents**



N: 2009= 939; 2011= 524; 2013= 830; 2014 = 926

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

Note: additional response options were added in 2011, so these numbers are not directly comparable.

**Summary:**

- 82.1% of survey respondents reported they were experiencing unemployment at the time of the survey. This amount represents a decrease compared to 2013 (86.5%).

**Figure 24: Respondent’s Barriers to Getting Employment (Top 10 Responses in 2014)**

Response	2009	2011	2013	2014	2013-2014 Net Change
No Transportation	36.6%	20.8%	24.3%	27.4%	3.1%
No Permanent Address	28.8%	17.7%	19.9%	23.4%	3.5%
No Jobs	36.6%	29.3%	28.6%	21.3%	-7.3%
Other	N/A	N/A	13.4%	15.5%	2.1%
Need Clothing	16.7%	13.6%	11.0%	15.3%	4.3%
Health Problems	9.0%	15.0%	15.9%	14.2%	-1.7%
Disabled	12.0%	15.0%	14.6%	13.6%	-1.0%
Need Education	13.8%	18.4%	10.4%	13.1%	2.7%
Criminal Record	10.0%	13.7%	10.5%	13.0%	2.5%
Need Training	19.0%	21.1%	13.1%	12.5%	-0.6%

*Multiple response question*  
 874 respondents provided 2,321 responses in 2009; 487 respondents provided 1,141 responses in 2011; 762 respondents provided 1,573 responses in 2013; 880 respondents with 1,907 responses.  
 Source:  
 Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.  
 NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive.

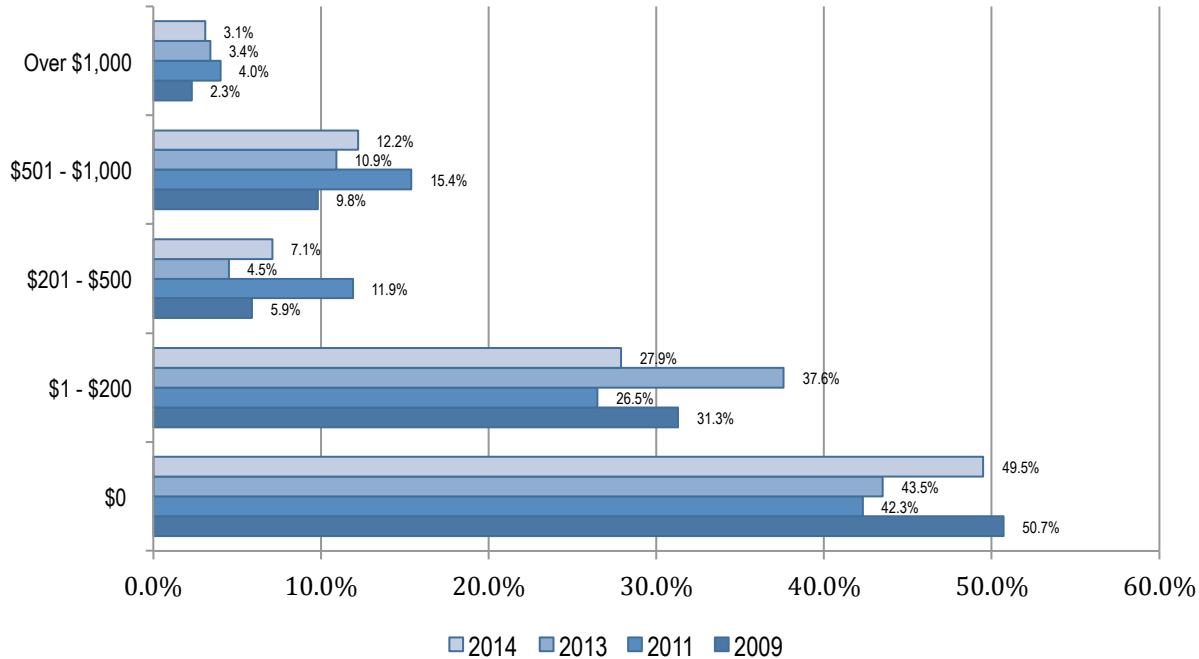
**Summary:**

- In 2014, the leading barrier to employment was *No Transportation* (27.4%). In 2013, this category was reported to be the third leading barrier (24.3%). This category increased by 3.1% between 2013 and 2014.
- In 2013, the leading barrier to employment was *No Jobs* (28.6%). Between 2013 and 2014, this category decreased by 7.3%, placing *No Jobs* as only the third most common barrier to employment in 2014.



**4.2.3b) Income - From Government Benefits**

**Figure 25: Total (Gross) Monthly Income From All Government Benefits**



N: 2009= 931; 2011= 516; 2013= 816; 2014 = 907

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

- 15.3% of survey respondents claimed to be receiving more than \$500 per month in government benefits, which is, in general, slightly greater than previous years.
- The amount of survey respondents receiving between \$200 and \$500 per month increased by 2.6% compared to 2013.
- The amount of survey respondents (49.5%) who reported to be receiving no money from government benefits increased by 6.0% since 2013.

### **4.2.3c) Income - From Private Non-Government Sources**

#### **Summary:**

- 2014 data indicates homeless individuals seem to be receiving higher amounts of income from other sources (e.g. panhandling, recycling, etc.). More specifically, 70.5% of 2014 survey respondents claimed to be receiving no money from other sources. This is a 3.0% decrease from 2013 (73.5%).
- 93.7% of the 2014 survey respondents were receiving \$500 or less from other sources. This is the same amount as 2013.

### **4.2.3d) Income - From Other Sources**

*NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive*

#### **Summary:**

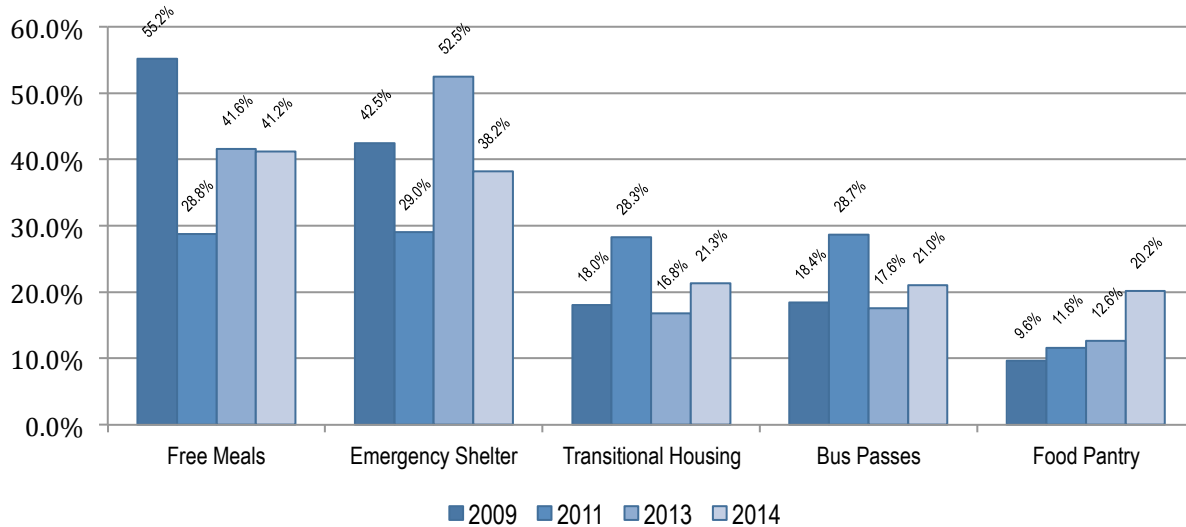
- From 2013 to 2014, the amount of survey respondents receiving income from family and friends increased from 30.3% to 33.3%.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of income survey respondents were obtaining through recycling increased from 6.5% to 7.8%.

## 4.3 UTILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE & HOMELESS PROGRAMS

### 4.3.1 Services & Programs

#### 4.3.1a) Type of Assistance Received & Barriers to Assistance

**Figure 26: Of Those Using Any Services or Assistance, Types of Services or Assistance Used (Top 5 Responses in 2014)**



Multiple response question.

921 respondents provided 1,170 responses in 2009; 520 respondents provided 701 responses in 2011; 831 respondents provided 1717 in 2013; 929 respondents provided 1,962 responses in 2014

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

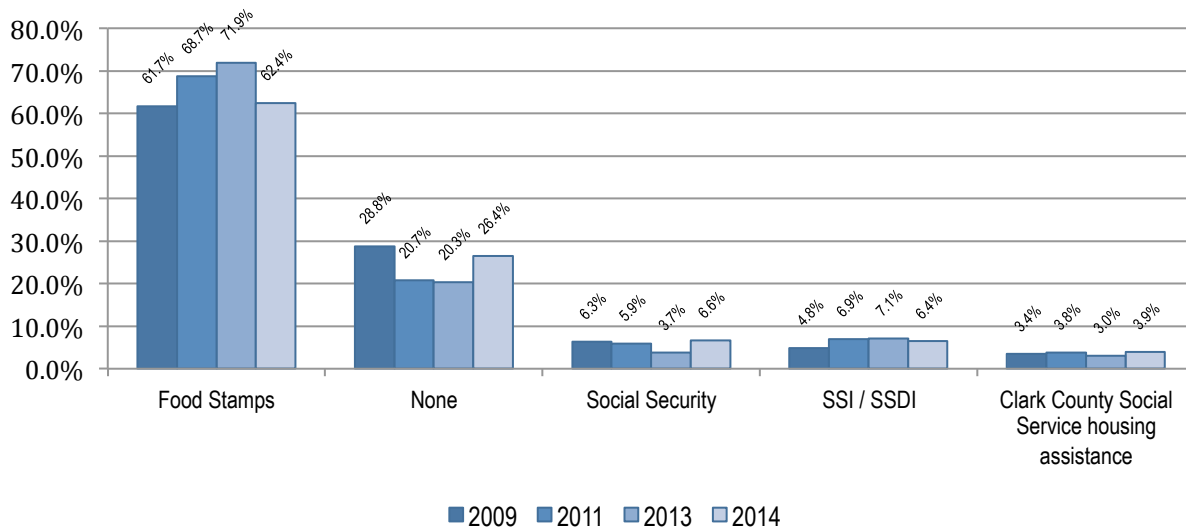
NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive

#### Summary:

- Between 2013 and 2014, utilization of *Emergency Shelters* decreased by 14.3%. It should be noted that in 2013, due to funding cuts, Clark County Social Service revised their financial assistance program to provide short-term assistance, thus changing the classification of their project from Transitional Housing to Emergency Shelter. This organization accounts for a significant number of beds, thus this change should be taken into consideration when comparing Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing data for 2013 and 2014.

- Between 2013 and 2014, utilization of Transitional Housing services increased by 4.5%.
- Usage of *Food Pantry* services increased by 7.6% between 2013 and 2014.
- 15.6% of 2014 survey respondents reported using *Shelter Day Services*, which is less than 2013 (19.9%). Information for this category is unavailable for 2009 and 2011.

**Figure 27: Of Those Receiving Some Form of Government Assistance, Types of Assistance Received (Top 5 Responses in 2014)**



Multiple response question

938 respondents provided 1,988 responses in 2009; 510 respondents provided 1,168 responses in 2011; 807 respondents provided 927 responses in 2013; 916 respondents provided 1,097 responses in 2014

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**\*

- 73.6% of 2014 survey respondents reported receiving some sort of government benefits, which is lower than 2013 (79.7%).

\* For the purposes of this study, the following forms of government assistance were included: general assistance or general relief; food stamps; service-connected VA disability compensation; not service-connected VA pension; other veterans' benefits; social security; SSI/SSDI; TANF; WIC; Clark County social service housing assistance; other governmental assistance; no government assistance.]

- Between 2013 and 2014, Social Security benefits increased by 2.9%.
- In 2014, TANF was utilized by 3.5% of the survey respondents. Only 1.1% of 2013 survey respondents included this category in their response.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of survey respondents receiving food stamps decreased from 71.9% to 62.4%.

### **4.3.2 Aging Out Of Foster Care**

#### **4.3.2a) Transition from Foster Care**

- In 2014, 0.8% of survey respondents cited *Aging Out Of Foster Care* as their reason for homelessness. In 2013, 0.6% of respondents claimed that aging out of foster care was their primary reason for being homeless.

## **4.4 MEDICAL**

Many homeless individuals, especially the chronically homeless subpopulation, suffer physical and development disability, chronic health problems, and mental illnesses such as PTSD and depression.

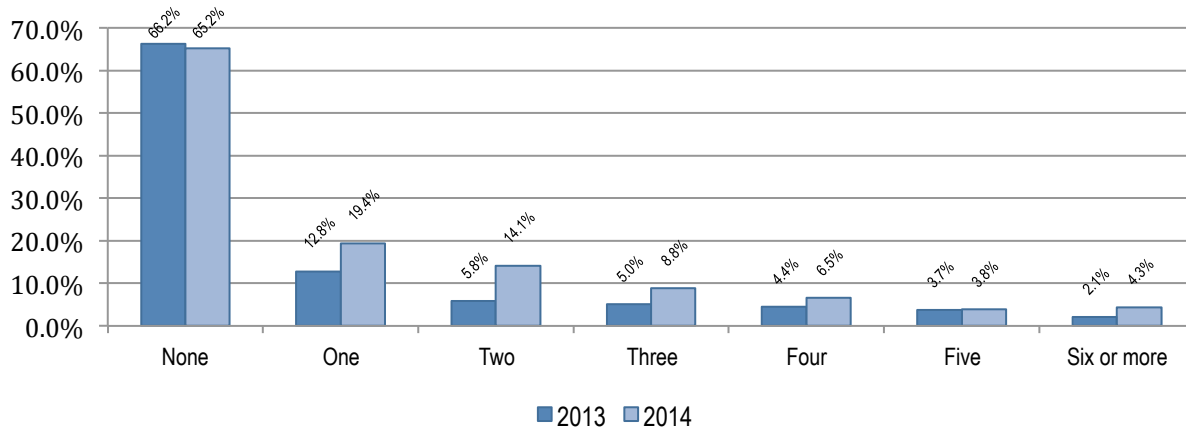
Although medical problems amongst homeless populations are disproportionate to that of the general population, members of this population are the least likely to find, or even have access to, health care. Homeless persons typically seek out hospital emergency rooms when in need of medical attention, but those who do seek medical care at hospitals suffer from higher incidences of untreated mental illness and/or substance abuse.<sup>24</sup>

In 2013, 32.3% of the Southern Nevada survey respondents reported the hospital emergency room as their usual source of medical care compared to 20% that stated they utilize free/community clinics.<sup>5</sup> In contrast, 38% of 2014 survey respondents reported the hospital emergency room as their usual source of medical care, and the utilization of free/community clinics dropped to 12.3%.

## 4.4.1 Health & Disability

### 4.4.1a) Disabling Conditions\*

**Figure 28: Number of Disabling Conditions Among All Homeless Respondents, 2014**



N: 2013= 860; 2014 = 948

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

### Summary:

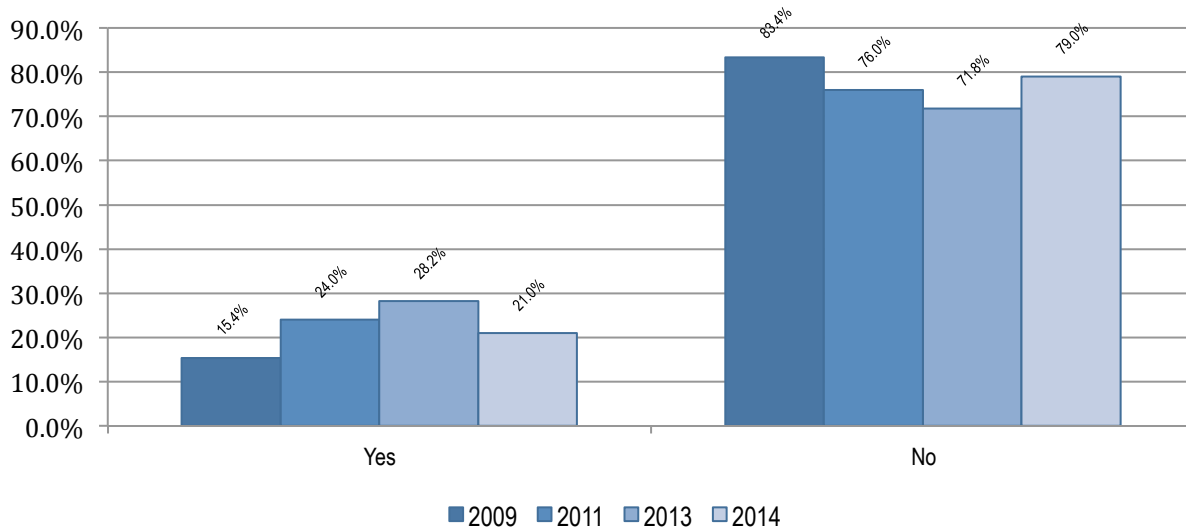
- 56.9% of survey respondents reported one or more disabling conditions. This is a 23.1% increase compared to 2013 when 33.8% of survey respondents were in this category.
- 65.2% of survey respondents reported no disabling conditions. This is a 1.0% decrease since 2013 when 66.2% of survey respondents reported no disabling conditions.

\* Any one of (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that: which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder. The survey questions that were applied to these standards included the existence of one or more of the following: physical disability, mental illness, depression, alcohol/drug abuse, domestic violence/abuse, chronic health problem, AIDS/HIV related illness, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, PTSD, Developmental Disability, Emphysema, Diabetes, Asthma, Cancer, Kidney disease/renal/dialysis, history of hypothermia/frostbite, liver disease/cirrhosis, heart disease/arrhythmia.

- 4.3% of survey respondents reported six or more disabling conditions. In 2013, 2.1% of survey respondents reported six or more disabling conditions.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of survey respondents reporting two disabling conditions increased from 5.8% to 14.1%.

### 4.4.1b) Chronic Health Problems

**Figure 29: Are You Currently Experiencing Chronic Health Problems?**



N: 2009= 866; 2011= 494; 2013= 684, 2014 = 865

Source:

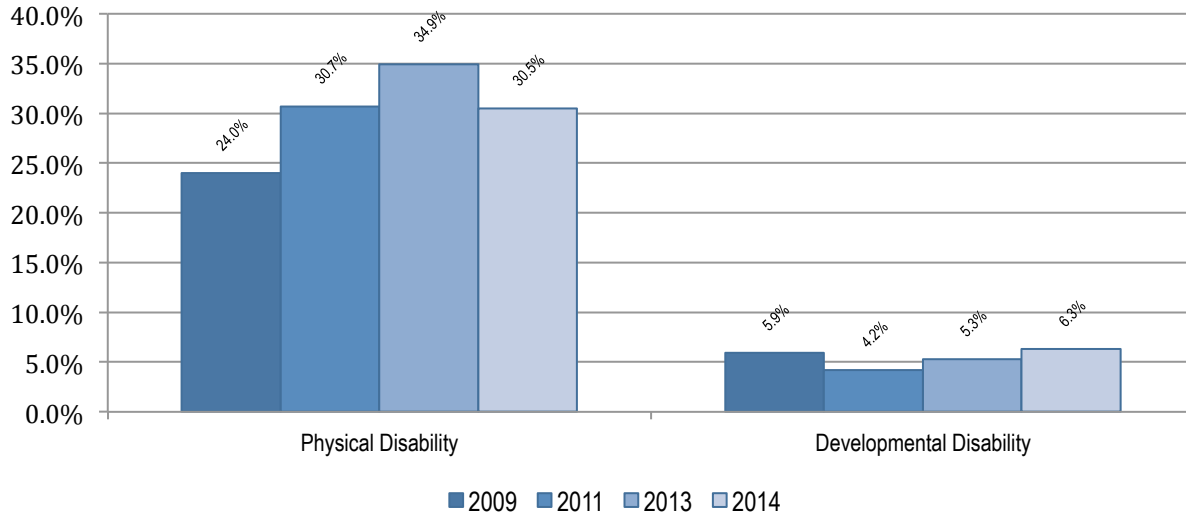
Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 21.0% of survey respondents reported that they were experiencing chronic health problems. This amount is lower compared to 2013 when 28.2% of respondents indicated they were experience chronic health problems.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the percentage of respondents saying they experienced chronic health problems decreased by 7.2%.

### 4.4.1c) Physical & Developmental Disabilities

**Figure 30: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing a Physical or Developmental Disability**



2009: Physical Disability N= 874; Developmental Disability N= 883; 2011: Physical Disability N= 505; Developmental Disability N= 485; 2013: Physical Disability N= 684; Developmental Disability N= 681; 2014: Physical Disability N = 888; Developmental Disability N = 895

NOTE: Answers not mutually exclusive

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

#### Summary: Physical Disabilities

- 30.5% of survey respondents indicated they were currently experiencing a physical disability.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of respondents reporting physical disabilities decreased by 4.4%.

#### Summary: Developmental Disabilities

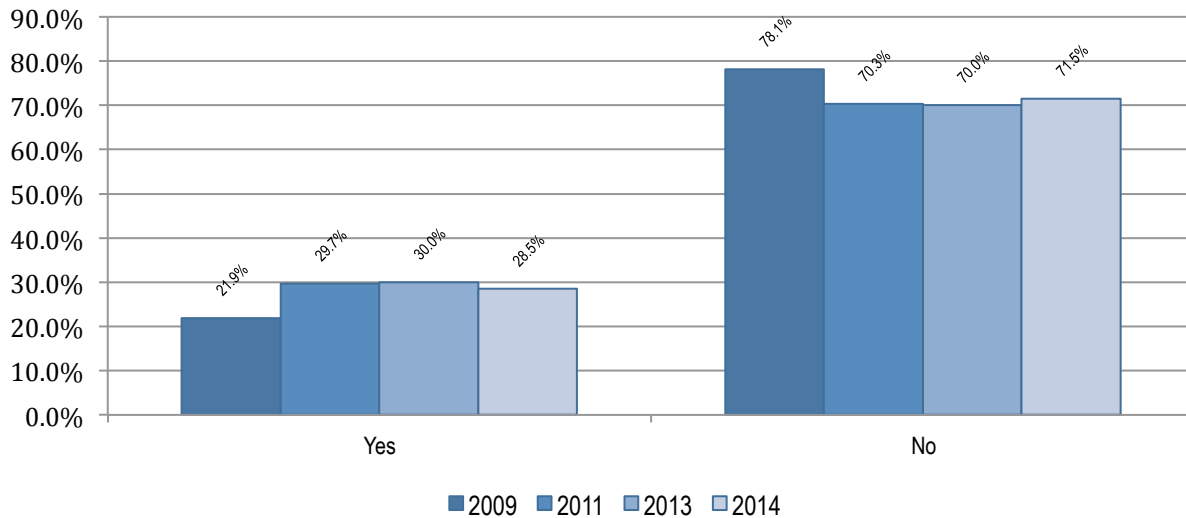
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of respondents reporting developmental disabilities increased by 1.0%.
- In 2014, 6.3% of survey respondents indicated they were currently experiencing a developmental disability.



## 4.4.2 Medical Care

### 4.4.2a) Access to Medical Care

**Figure 31: Have You Needed Medical Care and Been Unable to Receive It Since Becoming Homeless This Last Time?**



N: 2009= 931; 2011= 489; 2013= 766, 2014 = 916

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

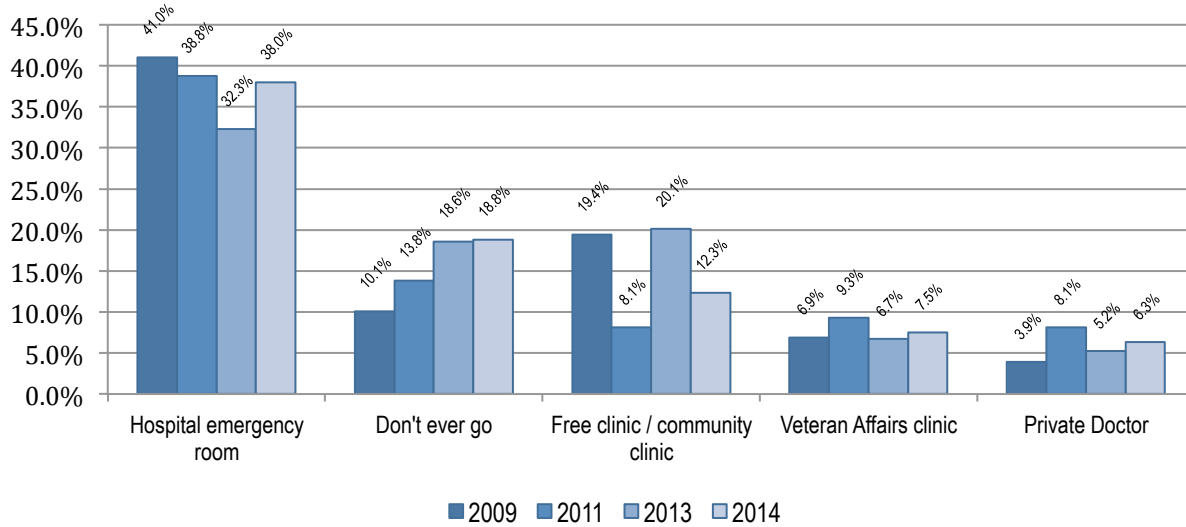
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- From 2013 to 2014, the amount of survey respondents reporting they needed medical attention but were unable to receive it decreased by 1.5%.
- 71.5% of 2014 survey respondents indicated that they have been able to receive medical care when they needed it since most recently becoming homeless. This is a 1.5% increase from 2013 when 70.0% of the respondents reported they were able to receive medical care when they needed it.

### 4.4.2b) Sources of Medical Care

**Figure 32: Respondents' Usual Source of Medical Care (Top 5 Responses in 2014)**



N: 2009= 930; 2011= 511; 2013= 824; 2014 = 922

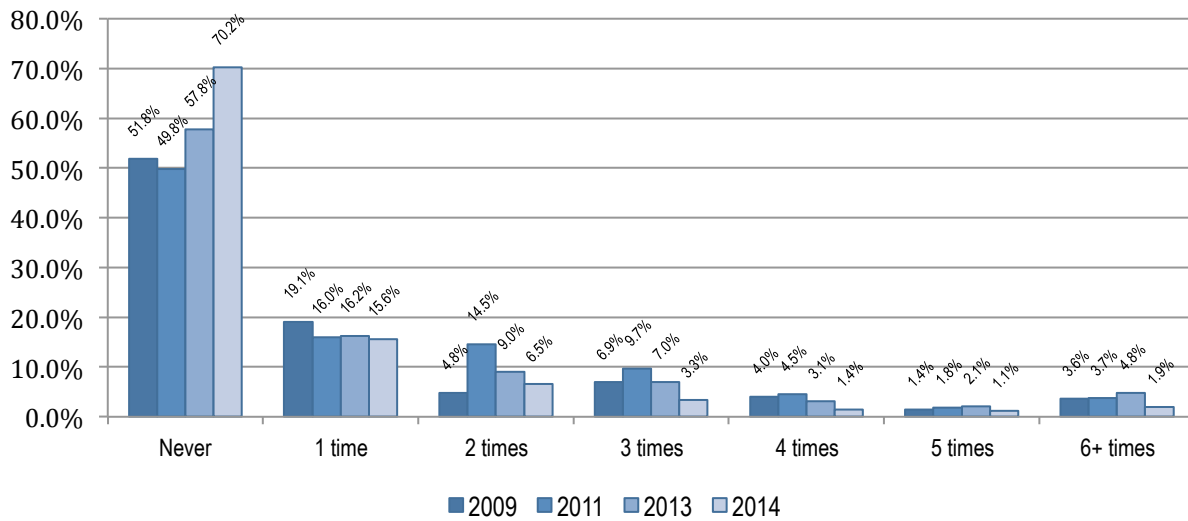
Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

### Summary:

- 38.0% of survey respondents reported using the *Hospital Emergency Room (ER)* as their usual source of medical care. This amount is more than that of 2013, when 32.3% of survey respondents indicated they used the ER as their usual source of medical care.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of survey respondents who cited the *Free Clinic/Community Clinic* as their usual source of medical care decreased from 20.1% to 12.3%.
- 18.8% of survey respondents indicated that they did not receive any medical services. This has changed only minimally (0.2%) between 2013 and 2014.

**Figure 33: Number of Times Respondents Had Used The Emergency Room For Any Treatment In The Year Prior to the Survey**



N: 2009= 923; 2011= 498; 2013= 845, 2014 = 899

Source:

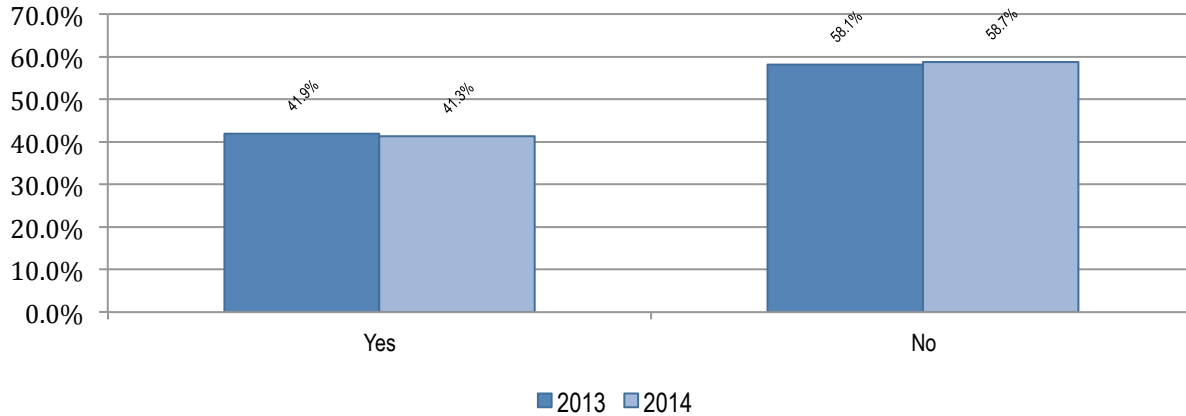
Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

- In 2014, 29.8% of respondents indicated that they used the ER at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey. This represents only a 12.4% decrease from 2013 (42.2%).
- The amount of respondents who claimed to never use the ER during the 12 months prior to the survey increased from 57.8% in 2013 to 70.2% in 2014.
- 1.9 of survey respondents claimed to have used the ER six or more times in the 12 months prior to the survey. This amount is lower than that of 2013 (4.8%).

### 4.4.3 Current And/Or Past Substance Abuse Experiences

**Figure 34: Have You Ever Abused Drugs/Alcohol Or Been Told You Do?**



N: 2013 = 740; 2014 = 925

Source:

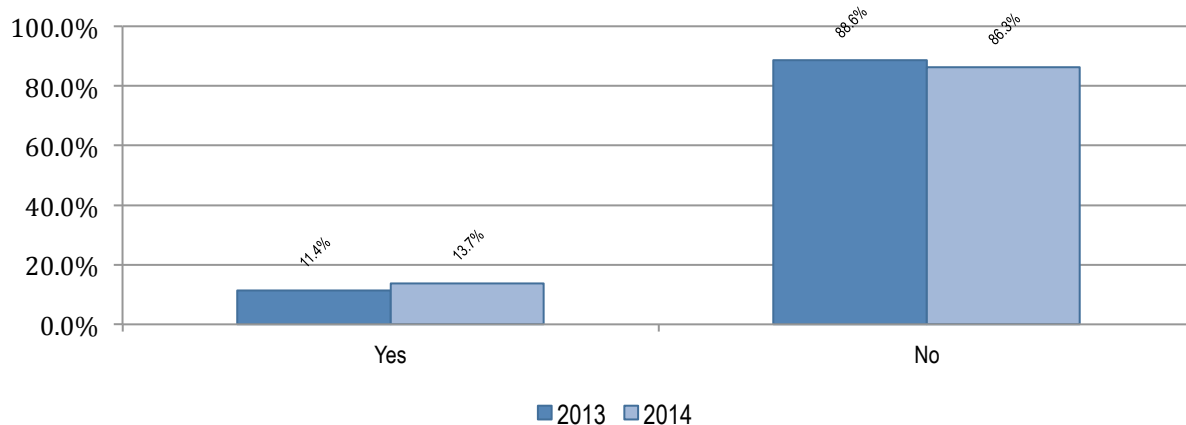
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable

#### Summary:

- In 2014, 41.3% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever abused drugs/alcohol or had been told they do. This is slightly lower than 2013 (41.9%)

**Figure 35: Have You Ever Consumed Alcohol Every Day For The Past Month?**



N: 2013 = 731; 2014 = 915

Source:

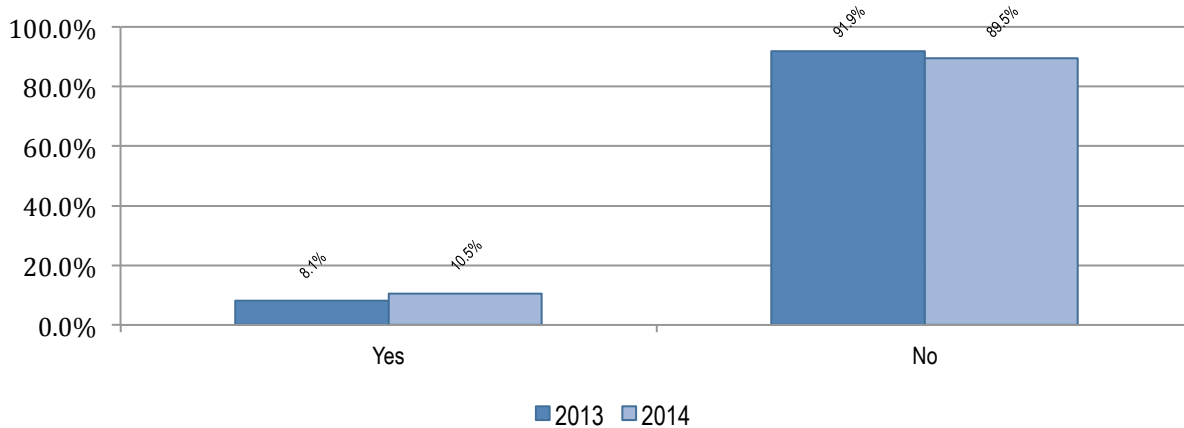
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable

**Summary:**

- 13.7% of survey respondents indicated that they had consumed alcohol every day for the past month. This is higher than 2013 (11.4%).

**Figure 36: Have You Ever Used Injection Drugs Or Shots?**



N: 2013 = 731; 2014 = 912

Source:

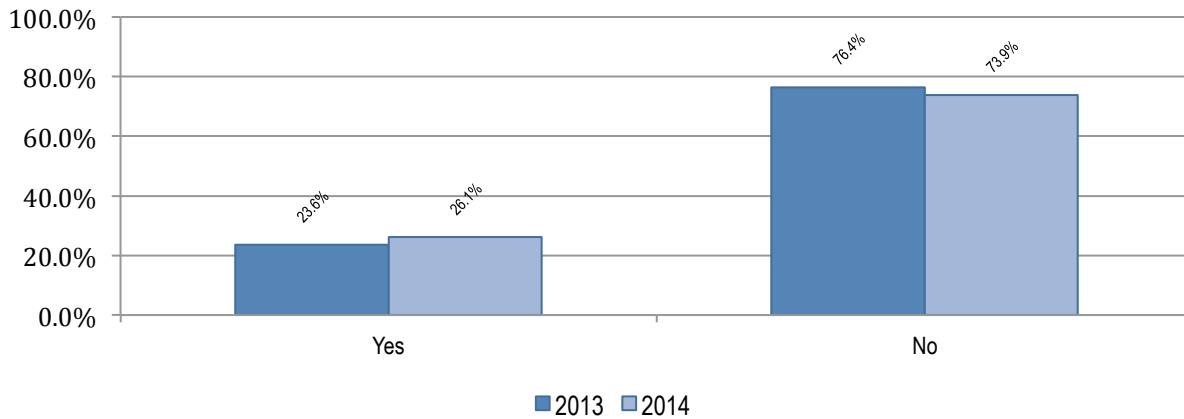
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable.

**Summary:**

- 10.5% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever used injection drugs or shots. This is higher than 2013 (8.1%)

**Figure 37: Have You Ever Been Treated For Alcohol Or Drug Abuse?**



N: 2013 = 712; 2014 = 909

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

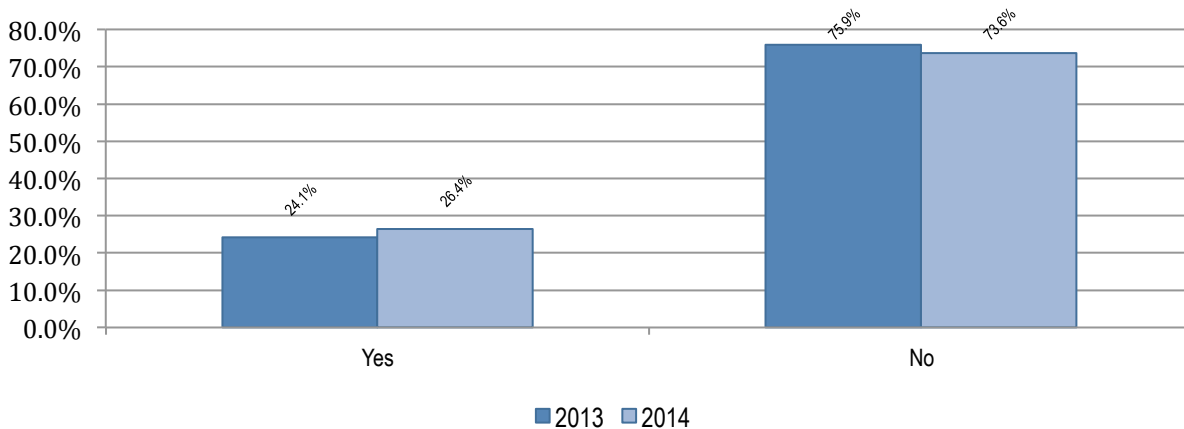
NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable.

**Summary:**

- 26.1% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever been treated for alcohol or drug abuse. This is higher than 2013 (23.6%).

**4.4.4 Current And/Or Past Mental Health Experiences**

**Figure 38: Are You Currently, Or Have You Ever, Received Treatment For Mental Health Issues?**



N: 2013 = 734; 2014 = 914

Source:

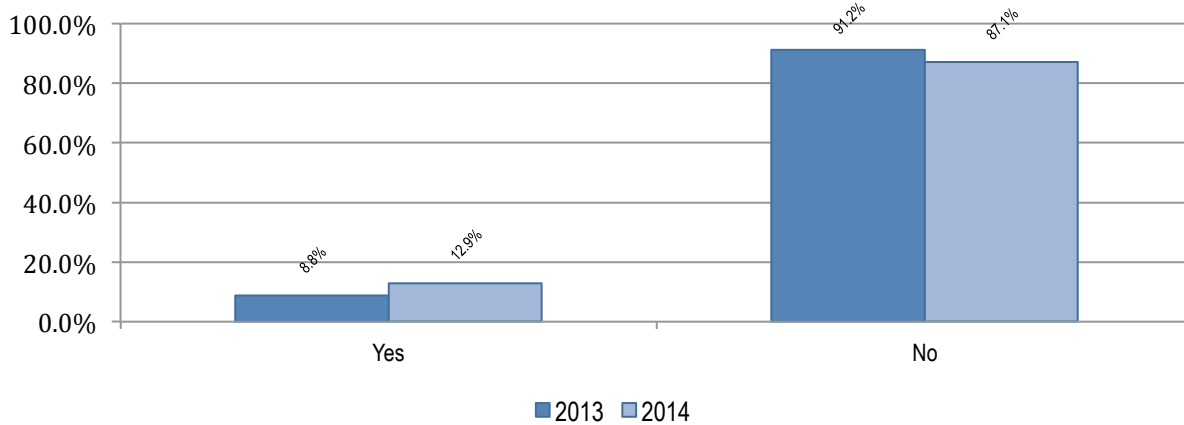
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable.

**Summary:**

- 26.4% of survey respondents indicated that they are currently receiving treatment for mental health issues, or have in the past. This is higher than 2013 (24.1%).

**Figure 39: Were You Ever Taken To The Hospital Against Your Will For Mental Health Reasons?**



N: 2013 = 725; 2014 = 904

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

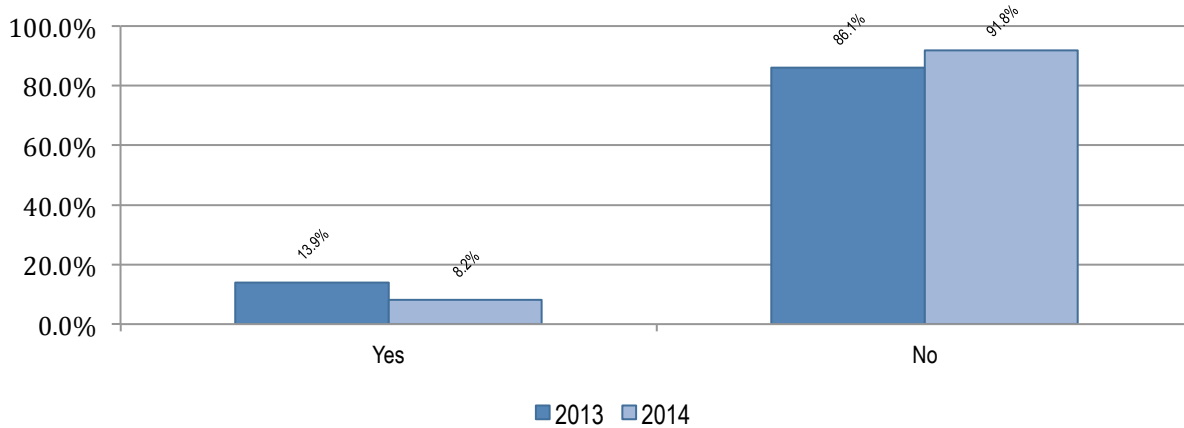
NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable

**Summary:**

- 12.9% of survey respondents indicated that they had ever been taken to the hospital against their will for mental health reasons. This is higher than 2013 (8.8%)

### 4.4.5 Survey Administrator Observations

**Figure 40: Observation - Serious Physical Health Conditions**



N: 2013 = 649; 2014 = 719

Source:

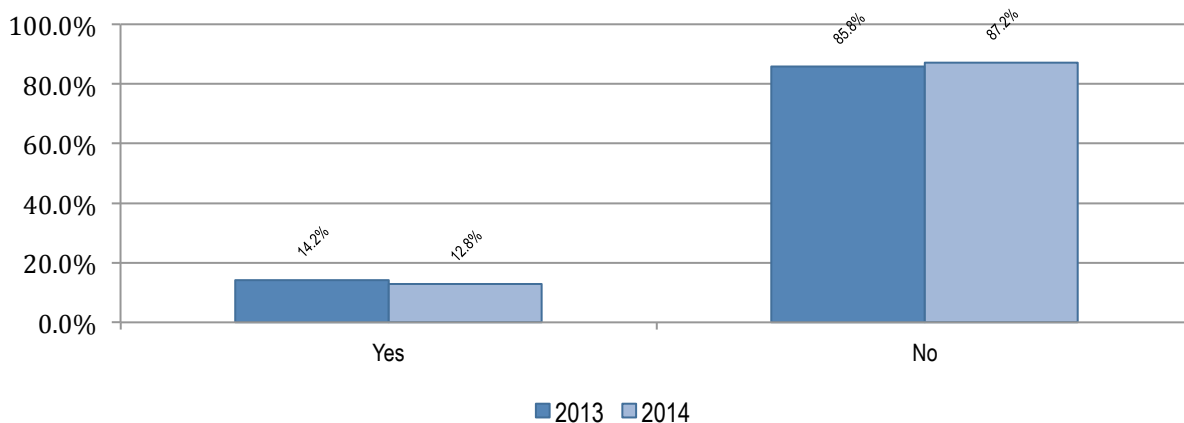
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable.

#### Summary:

- 8.2% of respondents had observable signs of serious physical health conditions. This is lower than 2013 (13.9%).

**Figure 41: Observation - Alcohol Or Drug Abuse**



N: 2013 = 641; 2014 = 713

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

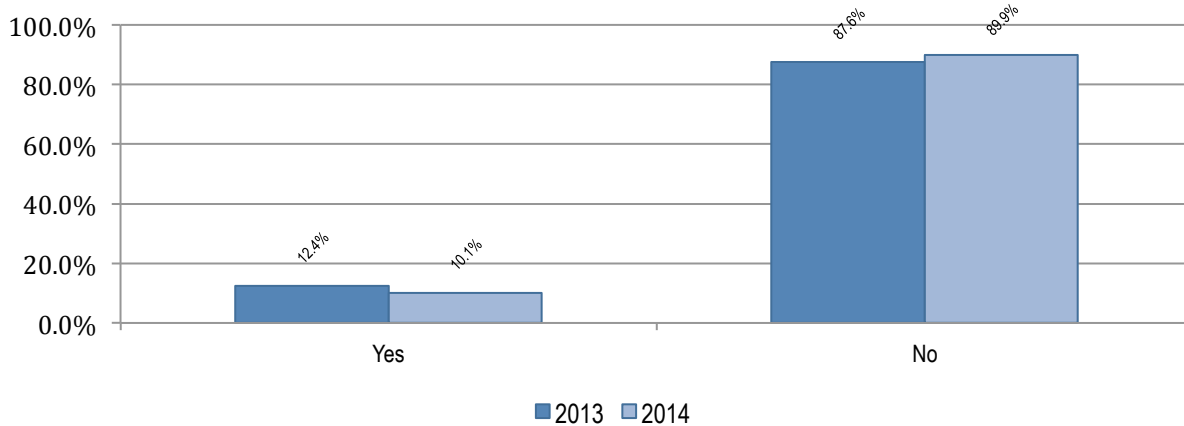
NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable.



**Summary:**

- 12.8% of respondents had observable signs of alcohol or drug abuse. This is less than 2013 (14.2%).

**Figure 42: Observation - Severe Persistent Mental Illness**



N: 2013 = 623; 2014 = 712

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: 2009 & 2011 data is not comparable.

**Summary:**

- 10.1% of respondents had observable signs of severe persistent mental illness. This is less than 2013 (12.4%).

**4.5 INCARCERATION**

The transition from incarceration to general society leaves many at risk for homelessness. A released prisoner has a 1-in-13 odds of becoming homeless.<sup>25</sup> Past survey results revealed that some individuals struggle with this transition in Southern Nevada.

**4.5.1 Transition From Jail Or Prison**

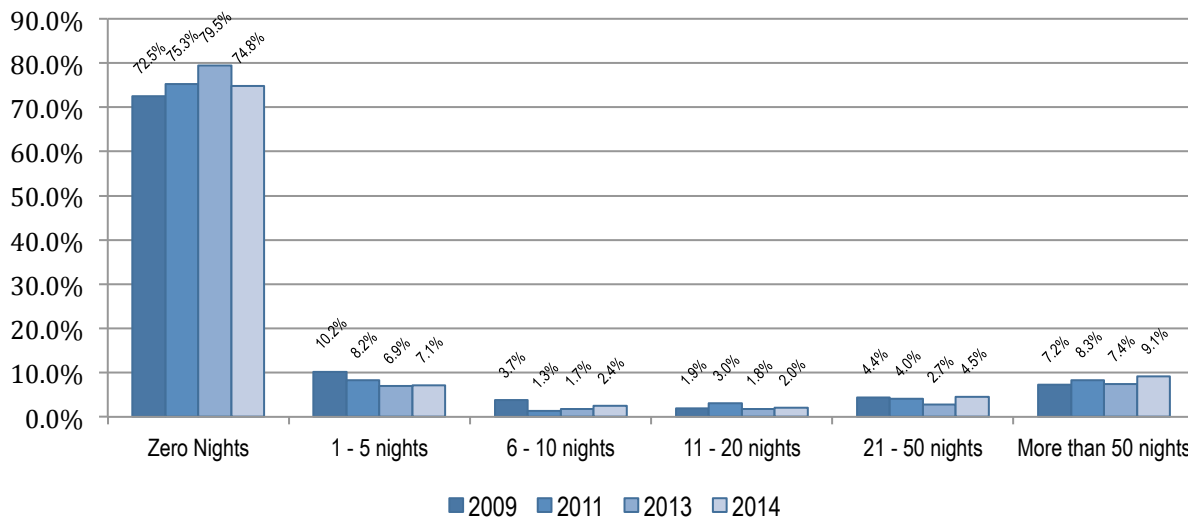
- 6.6% of survey respondents reported they were incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time. This is more than 2013, when 5.1% of respondents reported being incarcerated immediately before becoming homeless this time. Of

those respondents who reported being incarcerated, 66.5% reported that they became homeless immediately after being released from jail or prison.

- 12.0% of respondents cited incarceration as one of the top three reasons for their homelessness. This is an increase from 2013, when this same category was 9.0%.
- A criminal record prevents many homeless individuals from securing permanent housing and employment. Between 2013 and 2014, the amount of homeless respondents who indicated their criminal record was preventing them from securing permanent housing increased from 6.0% to 7.3%.
- Likewise, between 2013 and 2014, the amount of homeless respondents who indicated that their criminal record was preventing them from obtaining employment increased from 10.5% to 13.0%.

### 4.5.2 Nights In Jail Or Prison

**Figure 43: Number of Nights Respondents Reported Spending in Jail/Prison In The Year Prior To The Survey**



N: 2009= 925; 2011= 527; 2013= 845; 2014 = 898

Source:

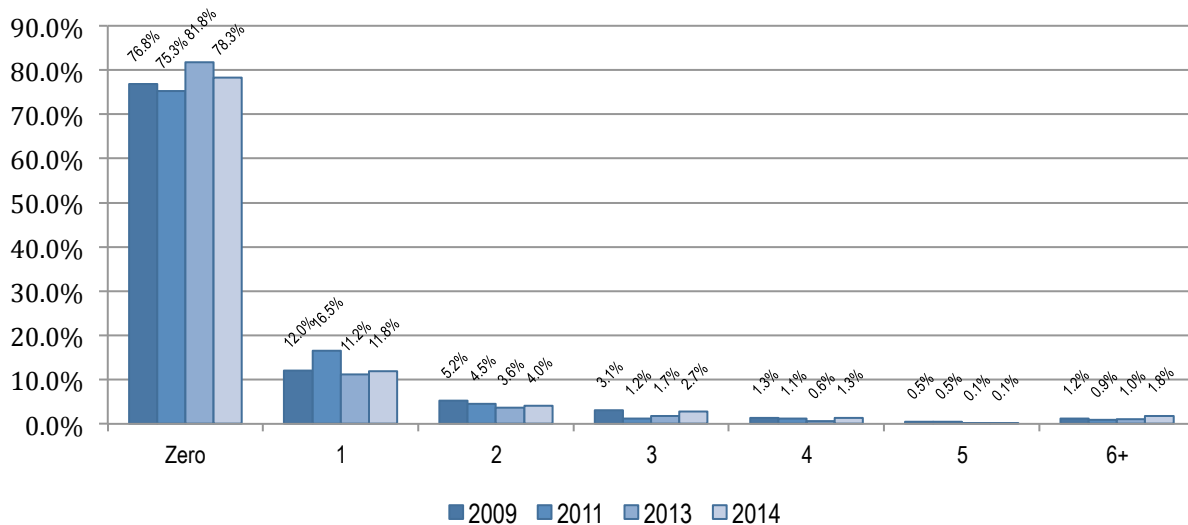
Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

- The majority (74.8%) of survey respondents had spent no nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. However, this is a decrease from 2013 (79.5%).
- 7.1% spent 1-5 nights in jail or prison, and 9.1% spent more than 50 nights in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey.

**Figure 44: Number of Separate Terms Respondents Reported Serving in Jail/Prison In The Year Prior To The Survey**



N: 2009= 861; 2011= 527; 2013= 619; 2014 = 899

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: 2007 data is not comparable.

**Summary:**

- 78.3% of survey respondents reported spending no time in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is less than 2013 (81.8%).
- 11.8% of survey respondents reported spending one separate term in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This did not differ significantly from 2013 (11.2%).
- 1.8% of survey respondents reported spending six or more separate terms in jail or prison during the 12 months prior to the survey. This did not differ significantly from 2013 (1.0%).

## 4.6 HOMELESS FAMILIES

### 4.6.1 Homeless Families With Children: General Information

For the purposes of this report a homeless family is defined as a household consisting of at least one adult over the age of 18 with at least one child under the age of 18.

- 41.8% of survey respondents reported having children (including adult children). 17.8% of these respondents indicated that their children were currently residing with them.
  - Of these children (ages 5-17), 66.4% were reported to be in school.

**Figure 45: Of Respondents With Children (Living With Them Or Not), Percentage with Children In The Following Age Groups, 2014**

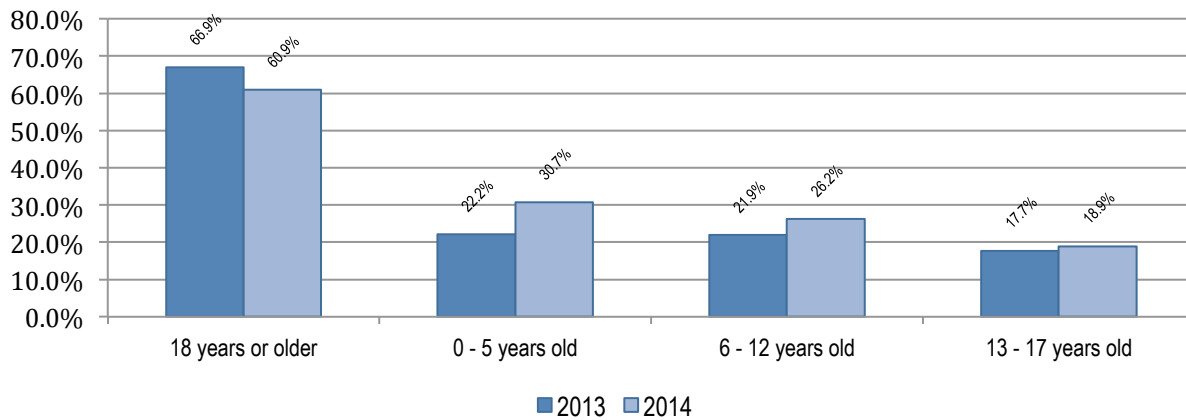
Age Group & Number of Children	2013 %	2014 %	2013-2014 Percent Change
<b>0-5 Years Old</b>			
1 Child	66.7%	58.4%	-8.3%
2 Children	24.6%	24.8%	0.2%
3 Children	7.3%	8.9%	1.6%
4+ Children	1.5%	7.9%	6.4%
<b>6-12 Years Old</b>			
1 Child	64.7%	62.8%	-1.9%
2 Children	26.5%	22.1%	-4.4%
3 Children	4.4%	10.5%	6.1%
4+ Children	4.4%	4.7%	0.3%
<b>13-17 Years Old</b>			
1 Child	63.6%	64.5%	0.9%
2 Children	27.3%	27.4%	0.1%
3 Children	5.5%	4.8%	-0.7%
4+ Children	3.6%	3.2%	-0.4%
<b>18+ Years Old</b>			
1 Child	34.6%	35.0%	0.4%
2 Children	34.6%	30.0%	-4.6%
3 Children	14.9%	16.0%	1.1%
4+ Children	15.9%	19.0%	3.1%

N: 2013 - 0-5=69; 6-12=68; 13-17=55; 18+= 208; 2014 - 0-5=101; 6-12=86; 13-17=62; 18+= 200

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

**Figure 46: Of Respondents With Children (Living With Them Or Not), Percentage With Children In The Following Age Groups, 2014**



N: 2011 - 0-5=88; 6-12=70; 13-17=44;18+=126; N: 2013 - 0-5=69; 6-12=68; 13-17=55;18+= 208; N: 2014 - 0-5=101; 6-12=86; 13-17=62;18+= 200

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 1014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

## 4.6.2 Homeless Families With Children: Additional Information

### 4.6.2a) Child Education

- 66.4% of respondents with children claimed that their school-aged children (ages 5-17) were enrolled in school. This is a lower amount compared to 2013, when 71.9% of respondents reported their children being in school.

### 4.6.2b) Children Living in Foster Care or With Other Family Members

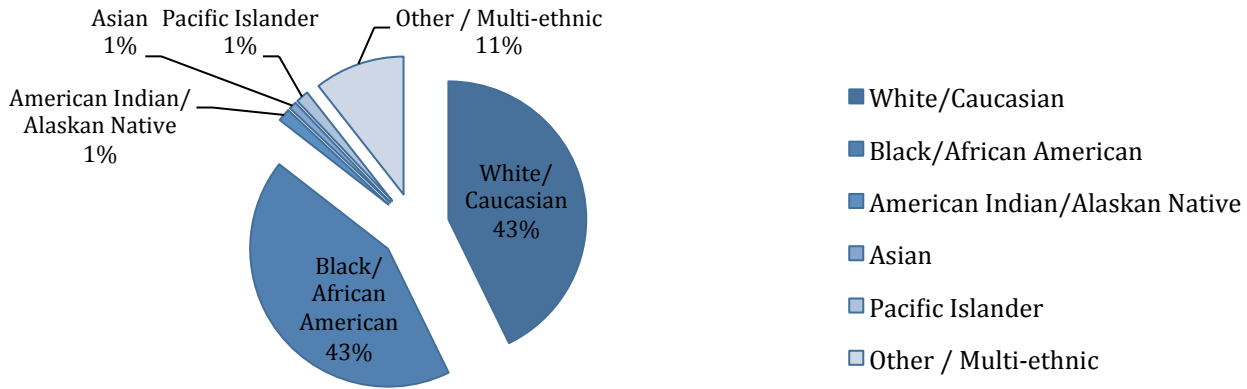
- Of the respondents who claimed to have children, 8.9% claimed their children (one or more) were in foster care. This is more than 2013 (4.1%).

## 4.6.3 Homeless Families With Children: Demographics

### Individuals with Children by Gender

- Of the survey respondents with children, 60.3% were male, 39.2% were female, and 0.6% were transgender.

**Figure 47: Individuals with Children by Race**



N= 339

Source:

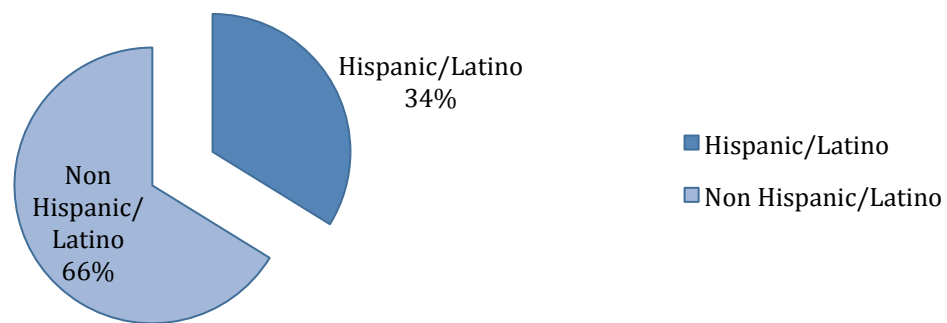
Bitfocus Inc., (2014) 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: Data not comparable to previous years.

**Summary**

- Of the homeless individuals with children, the largest percentage reported they were White/Caucasian (43.0%) or Black/African American (43.0%). This data cannot be compared to previous years.

**Figure 48: Individuals with Children by Ethnicity**



N= 136

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2014) 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: Data not comparable to previous years.

## Summary:

Of the homeless individuals with children, the largest percentage reported they were Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino (66.0%).

## 4.7 UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN

For the purpose of this report, HUD defines unaccompanied homeless children as follows:

A person under the age of 18 and are living independently of a parent or legal guardian and are a household of one is an unaccompanied child.

Unaccompanied children who experience homelessness face far more challenges than their adult counterparts. Not only do they have more difficulty finding employment, they also have a harder time accessing services, shelter, and medical care.

Despite the fact that the unaccompanied children homeless population faces the greatest challenges, data on this population is very limited on both a local and national level. This is partly due to the fact this particular homeless subpopulation is difficult to locate and enumerate.

In attempt to overcome this challenge, Southern Nevada increased its effort to include as many unaccompanied homeless children in its 2014 census and survey. To do so they scheduled their street count for the afternoon as opposed to early morning hours, as afternoon is the optimal time of day to locate members of this homeless subpopulation.

For the purposes of this study, in order to be considered 'unaccompanied', respondents were to be living alone or with persons different from parents or family members.

#### **4.7.1 Unaccompanied Homeless Children: Demographics\***

- 4.2% (40 persons) survey respondents were unaccompanied homeless children (under 18), and 35 of these children were unsheltered.
- There were 24 female (60%) unaccompanied children and 16 male (40%) unaccompanied children. There were no transgender unaccompanied children.
- The unaccompanied children were White/Caucasian (14 children, 36.8%), Black/African American (12 children, 31.6%), and Alaskan/American Indian (2 child, 5.3%).
- 12 (70.6%) were Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino, and 5 (29.4%) were Hispanic/Latino. Note that there were only 17 respondents for this question.

#### **4.7.2 Unaccompanied Homeless Children- County of Residency\***

- 27 (71.1%) of the unaccompanied children reported living in Nevada when they became homeless this most recent time, and of these respondents, 25 reported they were living in Clark County. 11 (28.9%) reported living out of state prior to homelessness.
- 18 (47.4%) unaccompanied children reported living with family prior to becoming homeless, and 10 (26.3%) were renting a home or apartment immediately before becoming homeless. 4 (10.5%) of the unaccompanied children reported they were staying with friends immediately before becoming homeless, and 2 (5.3%) reported living in subsidized housing immediately before becoming homeless.

#### **4.7.3 Unaccompanied Homeless Children- Occurrence & Length of Homelessness\***

- 16 (42.1%) of the unaccompanied children reported that this was the first time they had been homeless.
- 3 (8.6%) of the unaccompanied children reported that 8-30 days had passed since their last permanent housing situation, 7 (20.0%) unaccompanied children reported that 2 months had passed since their last permanent housing situation, and 10 (28.6%) of the unaccompanied children reported that 6 months had passed since their last permanent housing situation.
- None of the unaccompanied children reported that it had been a year or more since they last lived in a permanent housing situation.

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\* Two of the unaccompanied children did not provide a response to these survey questions.



#### **4.7.4 Unaccompanied Homeless Children- Mental Health & Well-Being**

- 9 (22.5%) of the unaccompanied children reported to be currently experiencing depression (not disabling).

#### **4.7.5 Unaccompanied Homeless Children- Those with Children**

- 5 (12.5%) of the unaccompanied children reported having a child.

#### **4.7.6 Unaccompanied Homeless Children- Drug & Alcohol Abuse**

- 17.5% (7 persons) of the unaccompanied children claim they were abusing drugs and/or alcohol at the time of the survey.

### **4.8 VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**

#### **Definition of Veteran Homelessness**

The VA recommends two questions to determine veteran status:

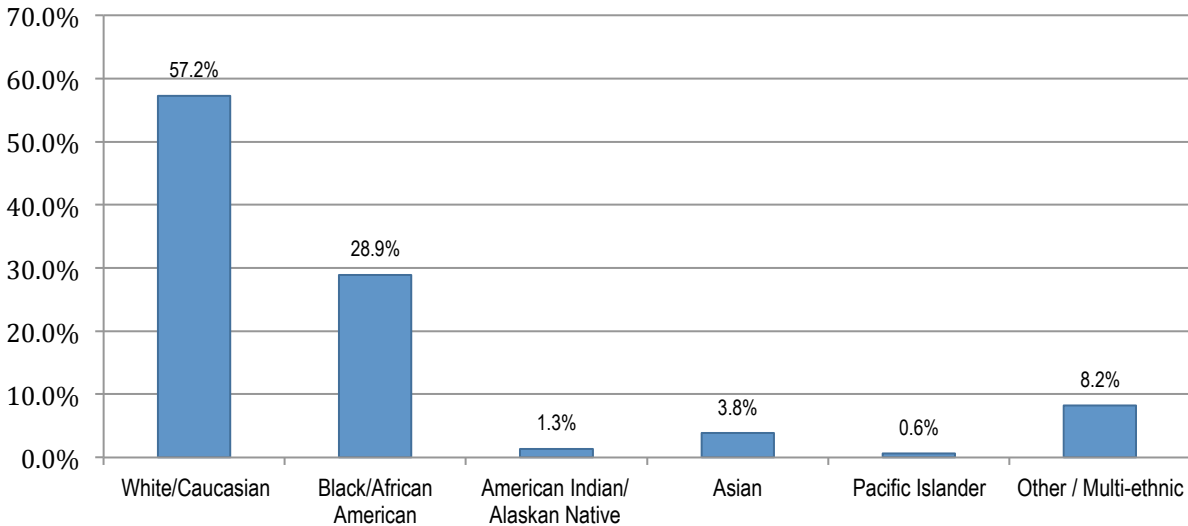
- *"Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?"*
- *"Were you activated into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist?"*

Therefore, for the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition for veteran is as follows:

...persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty

Below is information pertaining to homeless Veterans in Southern Nevada CoC in 2014, collected through the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey:

**Figure 49: Homeless Veteran Population By Race, 2014**



*N = 159*

*Source:*

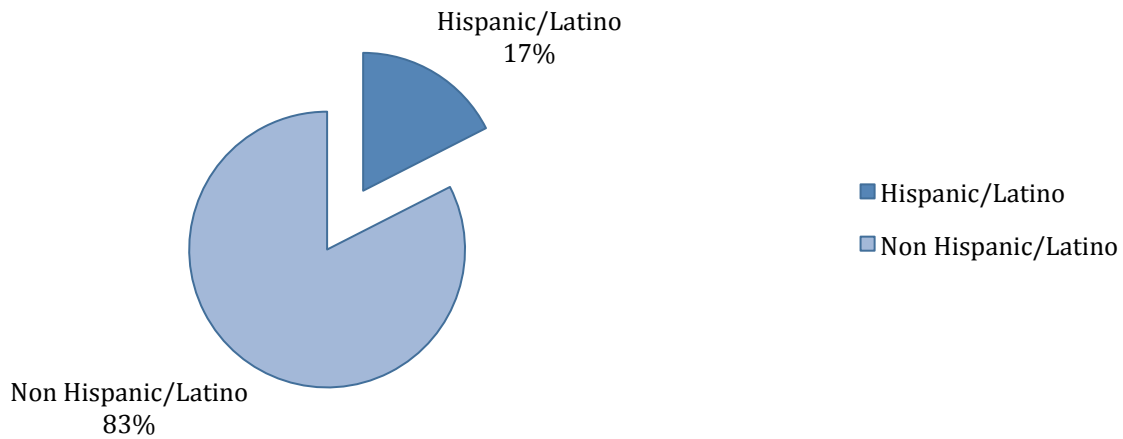
*Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.*

*NOTE: Data not comparable to previous years.*

**Summary:**

- The largest percentage of homeless veterans reported they are White/Caucasian (57.2%), followed by Black/African American (28.9%),
- The least amount of homeless veterans (0.6%) reported they were Pacific Islander.

**Figure 50: Homeless Veteran Population By Ethnicity, 2014**



N = 57

Source:

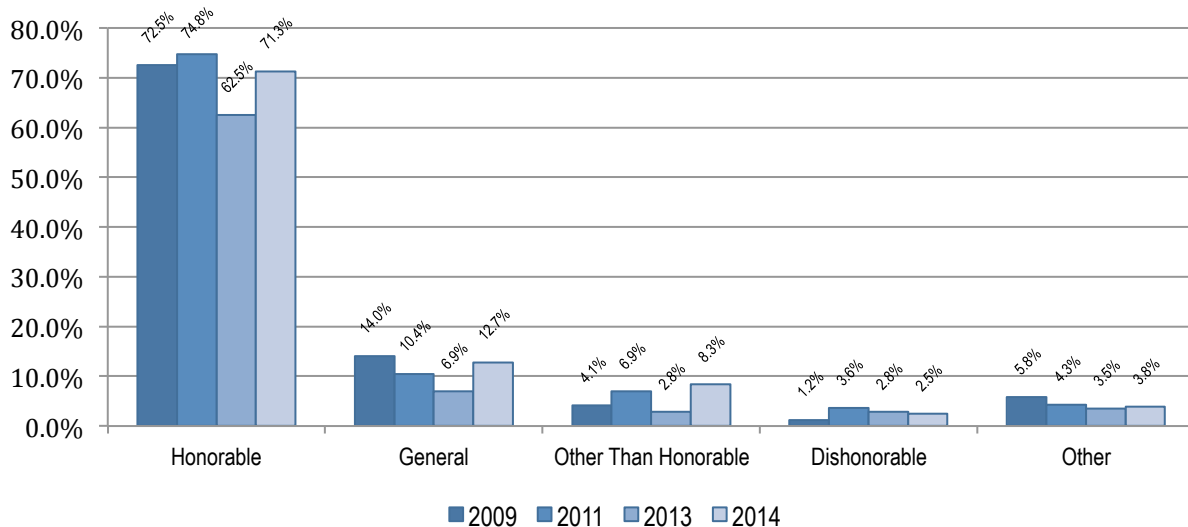
Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Data not comparable to previous years.

**Summary:**

- The largest percentage of homeless veterans (83.0%) reported they are Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino.

**Figure 51: Discharge Status Of Veteran Respondents**



N: 2009=171; 2011=79; 2013=114, 2014 = 157

Source:

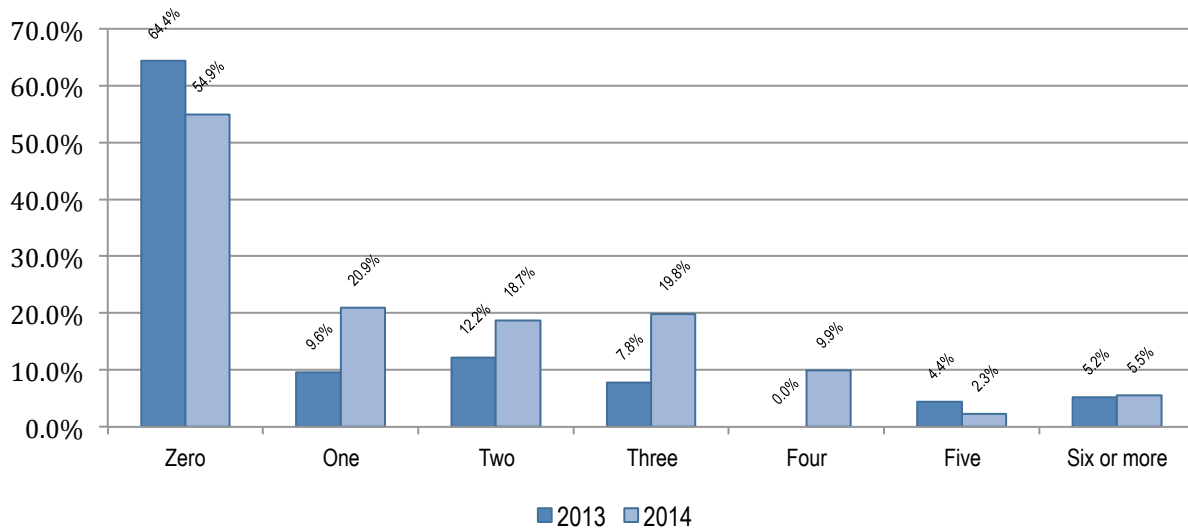
Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 and 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

**Summary:**

- In regards to discharge status of veteran respondents, 71.3% reported Honorable Discharge.
- 10.8% of Veteran respondents reported a discharge status of either Dishonorable or Other Than Honorable. This is noteworthy, as these Veterans do not qualify for multiple types of standard government veteran benefits.

**Figure 52: Number Of Disabling Conditions Among Homeless Veteran Respondents**



N:

2013 = 115; 2014 = 91

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

- The majority (54.9%) of homeless veterans reported that they had no disabling conditions. This is lower than 2013 (64.4%)
- 18.7% of the homeless veteran population reported having two disabling conditions, which is just under the 20.9% who reported having one disabling condition.
- 37.5% of homeless veteran respondents reported having three or more disabling conditions. This is higher than 2013 (17.4%)

## 5. HOMELESS SURVEY FINDINGS

### HUD-DEFINED HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS

The following sections provide information regarding certain homeless subpopulations that are of particular interest to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). By identifying the specific characteristics of these subpopulations, CoCs and HUD can accurately measure progress within each subgroup as outlined in the government initiative *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, which was implemented by the Obama Administration in 2010.<sup>26</sup>

The following information is based upon data from both the 2014 Southern Nevada PIT Count and the data from the Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. It breaks the data into the HUD-defined homeless subpopulations and provides estimates that were calculated by applying the survey results to the PIT Count population. This process is termed *extrapolation* (for more information, see *Appendix VII Glossary and Definitions of Terms*).

#### 5.1 SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS

The following tables contain information regarding the conditions pertaining to each subpopulation. They are divided into sheltered and unsheltered categories.

##### 2014 Sheltered Homeless Definition

This includes individuals and families “living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)” on the night designated for the count. This includes persons residing in Safe Haven projects.<sup>12</sup>

## 2014 Unsheltered Homeless Definition

This includes individuals and families “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground” on the night designated for the count.<sup>12</sup>

**Figure 53: Homeless Subpopulation Definitions**

Homeless Subpopulation	Definition
<b>Chronically Homeless Individuals</b>	An individual who: Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and 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 four separate occasions in the last 3 years; and can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post- traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability.
<b>People in Chronically Homeless Families</b>	People in families or families in which the head of household has a disability, and that has either been continuously homeless for 1 year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years.
<b>Chronically Homeless Families</b>	A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.
<b>Adults with Serious Mental Illness</b>	This subpopulation category of the PIT includes adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently. Adults with SMI must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for “disability” (e.g., “is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration”).
<b>Adults with Substance Use Disorder</b>	This category on the PIT includes persons with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person’s ability to live independently.
<b>Adults with HIV/AIDS</b>	This subpopulation category of the PIT includes adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.
<b>Victims of Domestic Violence</b>	This subpopulation category of the PIT includes adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

### 5.1.1 Homeless Subpopulation Estimates

The following tables break down the homeless count data into HUD-defined subpopulations. These data are based on both the homeless PIT count and data from the subsequent homeless survey.

As mentioned before, it is important to define *household, individual, family, and a household with only children*, as used for the purposes of this report. According to HUD, a *household* is defined as follows: <sup>16</sup>

“...occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.”

Therefore, for the purposes of this report, persons in a household without children will be referred to as **Individuals**; persons in households with at least one adult and one child (under 18) will be referred to as a **Family**; and persons in households composed of only children will be referred to as **Only Children**. <sup>18</sup>

**Figure 54: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates - Sheltered & Unsheltered Yearly Comparisons: Part 1**

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered Estimates				Unsheltered Estimates			
	2009	2011	2013	2014	2009	2011	2013	2014
Chronically Homeless Individuals*	117	113	218	36	2,094	1,466	476	724
Chronically Homeless Families*	NA	3	0	1	NA	3	0	0
People in Chronically Homeless Families*	NA	NA	0	2	NA	NA	0	0

Source:  
 Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
 Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.  
 NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.  
 \* "Sheltered" chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.

**Figure 55: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates - Sheltered & Unsheltered Yearly Comparisons: Part 2**

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered Estimates				Unsheltered Estimates			
	2009	2011	2013	2014	2009	2011	2013	2014
Adults with Serious Mental Illness	1,636	815	629	308	1,738	1,766	1,182	1,725
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	1,225	258	178	234	2,472	1,624	491	609
Adults with HIV/AIDs	68	10	10	5	82	34	61	57
Victims of Domestic Violence	637	233	332	217	500	431	445	598

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

\* "Sheltered" chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.

**Figure 56: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates -Totals, Net Change & Percent Change: Part 1**

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered & Unsheltered Total Amounts				Net Change 2013-2014	Percent Change 2013-2014
	2009	2011	2013	2014		
Chronically Homeless Individuals*	2,211	1,579	695	760	65	9.4%
Chronically Homeless Families*	NA	6	0	1	1	100%
People in Chronically Homeless Families*	NA	NA	0	2	2	100%

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

\* "Sheltered" chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.



**Figure 57: Homeless Subpopulations Estimates -Totals, Net Change & Percent Change: Part 2**

Homeless Subpopulation	Sheltered & Unsheltered Total Amounts				Net Change 2013-2014	Percent Change 2013-2014
	2009	2011	2013	2014		
Adults with Serious Mental Illness**	3,374	2,581	1,811	2,033	222	12.3%
Adults with Substance Use Disorder	3,652	1,882	669	843	174	26.0%
Adults with HIV/AIDs	150	44	71	62	-9	-12.7%
Victims of Domestic Violence	1,137	664	777	815	38	4.9%

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

NOTE: This chart shows estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

\* "Sheltered" chronically homeless subpopulations include those in emergency shelters and safe havens only.

\*\* In 2011, 2013, & 2014 severely mentally ill data are estimates based on survey respondents who reported experiencing mental illness and/or severe depression. Per HUD's guidelines, these estimates exclude those who reported experiencing trauma. Severe depression includes those who reported that they were experiencing depression and that their depression prevents them from obtaining work or housing.

## 5.2 CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS

For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition for a chronically homeless individual is as follows:

An individual who: Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and 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 four separate occasions in the last 3 years; and can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post- traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability.<sup>12</sup>

The mortality rate for chronically homeless persons is 4 to 9 times that of the general populace. Homelessness impedes access to healthcare, making tasks such as taking medication, eating a healthy diet, and caring for injuries difficult. Due to their social isolation, many chronically homeless persons receive little, if any, medical attention.

The problem of chronic homelessness is interpersonal in nature, but also presents in the form of public cost. Research shows that the chronically homeless incur high expense through emergency room visits, incarceration, and run-ins with the law.<sup>26</sup>

Between 2012 and 2013, chronic homelessness nationwide decreased by 7 percent, and it decreased by 25 percent between 2007 and 2013.<sup>2</sup> 2013 data is the most recent nationwide data to date, therefore no comparison to 2014 national data can be made.

Below is information pertaining to the state of chronically homeless individuals, chronically homeless families, and people in chronically homeless families located in Southern Nevada during the time of the 2014 survey.

### **5.2.1 Chronically Homeless Subpopulations - Sheltered & Unsheltered**

The information in the table below is based on both the data from the PIT Count and data from the homeless survey. The amounts were calculated by applying the survey results to the 2014 PIT Count population.

**Figure 58: Chronically Homeless Subpopulations**

	2009		2011		2013		2014		2013-2014	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Net Change	Percent Change
<b>Chronically Homeless Individuals</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
Unsheltered	2,094	94.7%	1,466	92.8%	476	68.5%	724	95.3%	248	52.1%
Sheltered-Emergency Shelter	117	5.3%	110	7.0%	218	31.4%	33	4.3%	-185	-84.9%
Sheltered-Safe Havens	NA	NA	3	0.2%	0	0	3	0.4%	3	100%
<b>Chronically Homeless Families</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100%</b>
Unsheltered	NA	NA	3	50.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheltered-Emergency Shelter	NA	NA	3	50.0%	0	0	1	100%	1	100%
Sheltered-Safe Haven	NA	NA	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>People in Chronically Homeless Families</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>
Unsheltered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheltered-Emergency Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100%	2	100%
Sheltered-Safe Haven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source:  
 Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Watsonville, CA.  
 Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

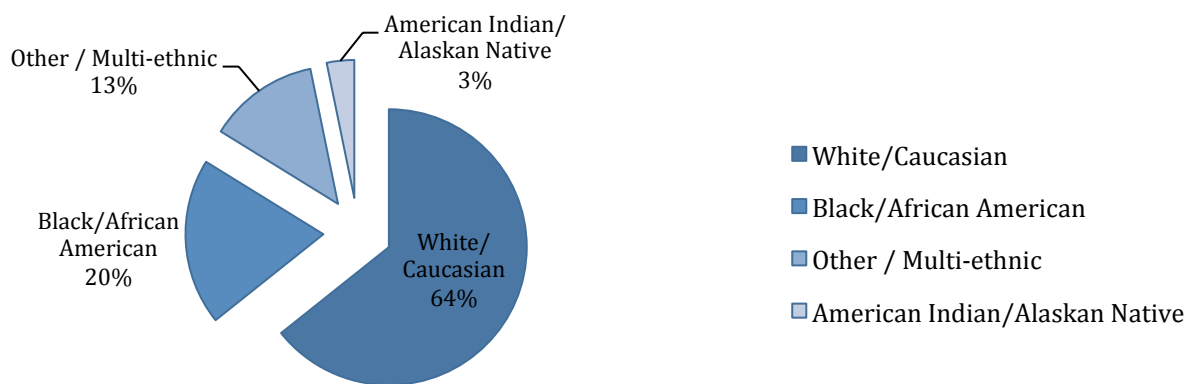
**Summary:**

- Of the chronically homeless individuals, 95.3% (724) were unsheltered.
- Of the chronically homeless individuals, 4.3% (33 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters. This is a 84.9% decrease (185 persons) since 2013 when 31.4% (218 persons) were sheltered in emergency shelters.
- There was 1 chronically homeless family (composed of 2 persons) located in an emergency shelter in 2014.

Data indicates that on any given night in 2014, Southern Nevada has approximately 760 chronically homeless individuals. This is a 9.4% (65 persons) increase since 2013 when 695 persons were unsheltered.

On any given night in 2014, it can be estimated that 8.1% of Southern Nevada’s total point-in-time homeless population (9,417) is composed of chronically homeless individuals, chronically homeless families, and people in chronically homeless families. In contrast, the 109,132 people comprising the 2013 chronically *nationwide* homeless population represented 17.9 percent of the total homeless population in 2013.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 59: Chronically Homeless Population by Race (Top 4 Races)**



N = 155

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

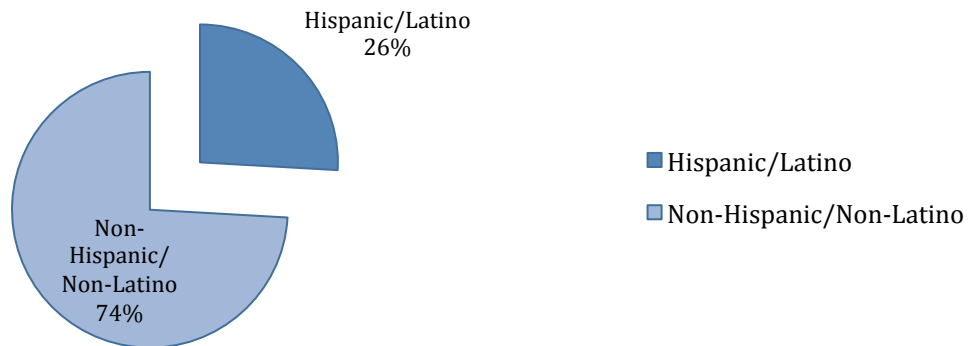
NOTE: Data not comparable to previous years.

**Summary:**\*

- 64% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as White/Caucasian.
- 20% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as Black/African American.
- 3% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless individuals identified their racial/ethnic group as American Indian/Alaskan Native.
- 13% of chronically homeless individuals identified as Other/Multi-Ethnic.

\* Percentages based on the unextrapolated total of 155 survey respondents.

**Figure 60: Chronically Homeless Population by Ethnicity**



N = 54

Source:

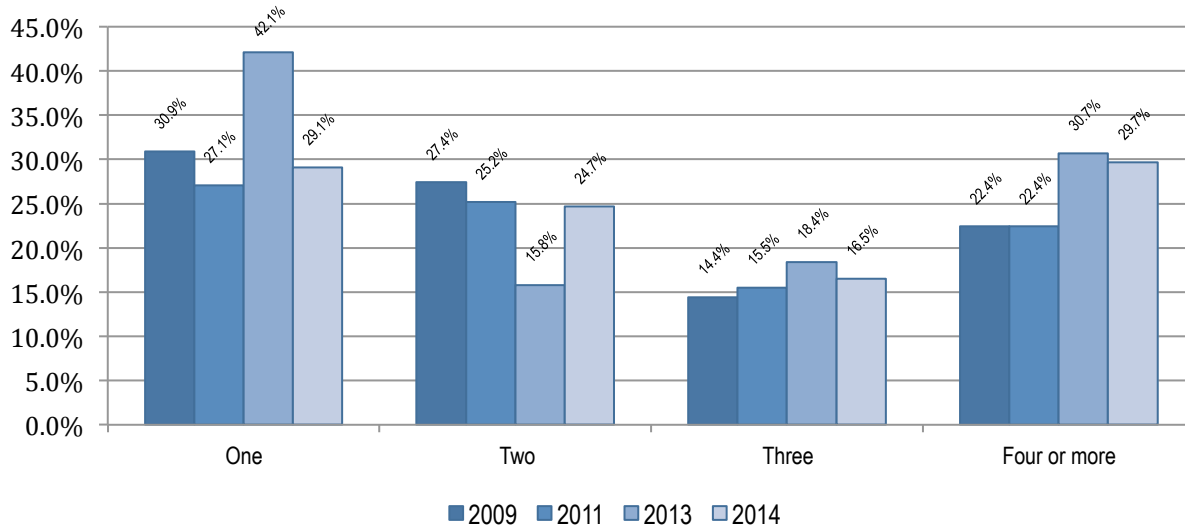
Bitfocus Inc., (2014), 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

NOTE: Data not comparable to previous years.

**Summary:**

26% of survey respondents who are chronically homeless identified their ethnic group as Hispanic/Latino.

**Figure 61: Number of Disabling Conditions Among Chronically Homeless Respondents**



N: 2009=223; 2011=124; 2013= 38, 2014 = 158

Source:

*Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA. Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.*

**Summary:**

- 29.1% of chronically homeless individuals reporting a disabling condition had only one disabling condition. This is compared to 42.1% in 2013.
- 70.3% of chronically homeless individuals reporting a disabling condition reported two or more co-occurring disabling conditions. This is higher than that of 2013 (64.9%).

**5.2.2 Chronically Homeless Families**

In families experiencing homelessness, the rates of health problems and exposure to violence are high. Compared to children with consistent living accommodations, children belonging to homeless families exhibit more emotional and behavioral problems.<sup>25</sup> Thus, quality data about this subpopulation is invaluable. However, gathering accurate information about homeless families is challenging. They tend to reside on private property, making them less visible and thus more difficult to count.

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition for a chronically homeless family is as follows:

A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.<sup>2</sup>

**Summary:**

- There was one chronically homeless family surveyed in 2014. This family was composed of two persons who were residing in an emergency shelter at the time of the survey.

## **5.4 ADULTS WITH HIV OR AIDS**

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition of adults with HIV or AIDS is as follows:

...Adults who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.

**Summary:**

- 6.5% of the respondents were experiencing HIV or AIDS related illnesses. This amount is a slight decrease (0.5%) from the amount reported in 2013.

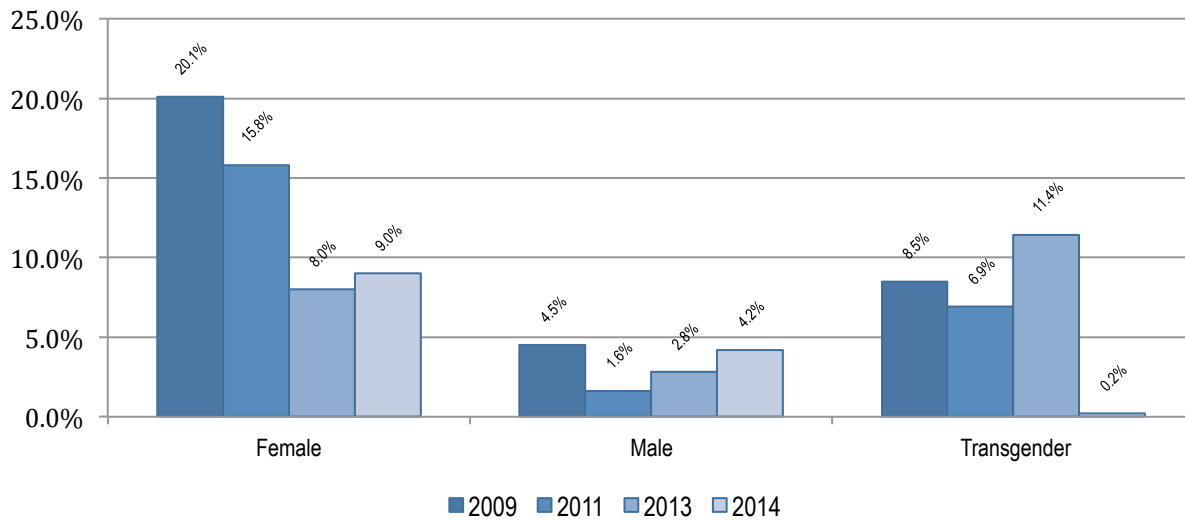
## **5.5 VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition of victim of domestic/partner violence is as follows:

... adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.<sup>12</sup>

It should be noted that the definition for Victims of Domestic Violence was updated in 2014 to include dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.<sup>12</sup>

**Figure 62: Respondents Who Were Experiencing Domestic/Partner Violence or Abuse (By Gender)**



N: 2009= 600; 2011= 547; 2013= 98, 2014 = 127

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

- 13.4% (127 persons) of survey respondents reported experiencing domestic violence or abuse.
- Of all survey respondents, 9.0% were female victims of domestic violence, 4.2% were male victims of domestic violence, and 0.2% were transgender victims of domestic violence.

**5.6 ADULTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS**

Individuals suffering from serious mental illness have severe and chronic mental disorders that impair their ability to provide self-care, develop interpersonal relationships, or obtain/sustain employment and housing. For the purposes of this study, the HUD definition of serious mental illness is as follows:

Adults with a severe and persistent mental illness or emotional impairment that seriously limits a person's ability to live independently. Adults with SMI



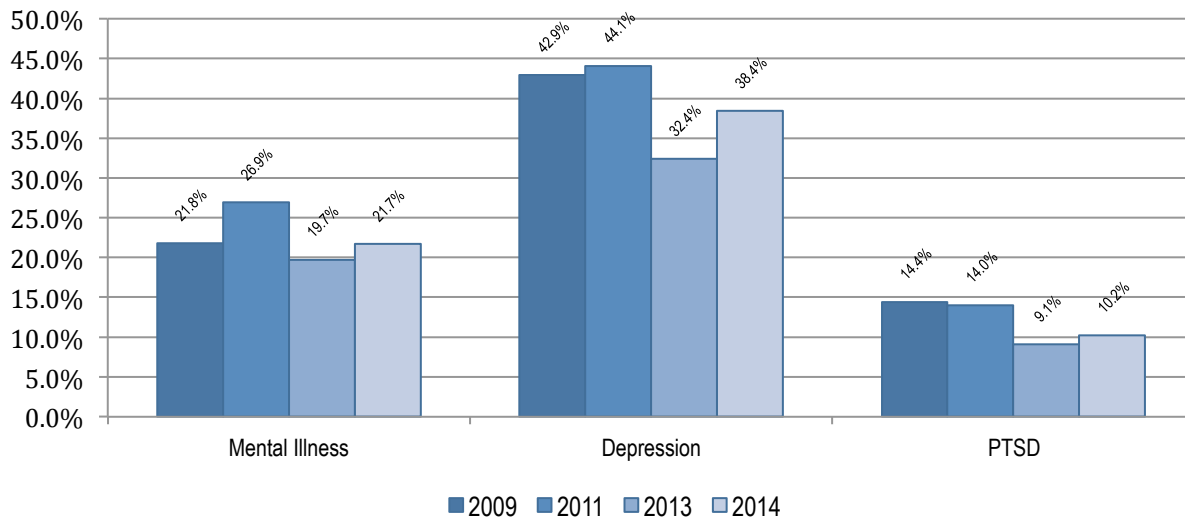
must also meet the qualifications identified in the term for “disability” (e.g., “is expected to be long-continuing or indefinite duration”).

The severely mentally ill data presented below are estimates based on survey respondents who reported experiencing mental illness and/or severe depression. Per HUD’s guidelines, these estimates exclude those who reported experiencing trauma. Severe depression includes those who reported that they were experiencing depression, and that their depression prevents them from getting work or housing.

Research consistently indicates that homelessness for these individuals often occurs directly following hospital (psychiatric) discharge.<sup>28</sup> Research also indicates that a disproportionate amount of the general homeless population suffers from some form of mental illness.<sup>29</sup>

The 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey included questions inquiring about mental health status. This included questions about depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a disorder that can develop after one experiences a traumatic event. Among other debilitating symptoms, PTSD is characterized by intense anxiety, panic attacks, depression, flashbacks/re-experiencing, and nightmares of the traumatic event. According to the VA definition of PTSD, a traumatic event is any event that threatens one’s own life or the life of someone close to them. This can include military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or physical/sexual assault in childhood or adulthood.<sup>30</sup>

**Figure 63: Percentage Of Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing Mental Illness, Depression, and PTSD**



Mental Illness\_ N: 2009= 882; 2011= 488; 2013= 860; 2014 = 948]; Depression N: 2009= 879; 2011= 509; 2013= 860; 2014 = 948]; PTSD\_ N: 2009= 864; 2011= 488; 2013= 860; 2014 = 948]

Source:

Applied Survey Research (2009, 2011) 2009, & 2011 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey. Watsonville, CA.  
Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas. NV.

**Summary:**

Overall, 44.9% survey respondents reported experiencing mental illness, depression, or PTSD, or any possible variation thereof. This is higher than that of 2013 (37.7%).

**Mental Illness**

- In 2014, 21.7% of the survey respondents claimed they were suffering from mental illness. This is higher than 2013 (19.7%).
- Of those suffering from mental illness in 2014, 58.7% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

**Depression**

- In 2014, 38.4% claimed they were suffering from depression. This is higher than 2013 (32.4%).
- Of those suffering from depression in 2014, 41.8% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

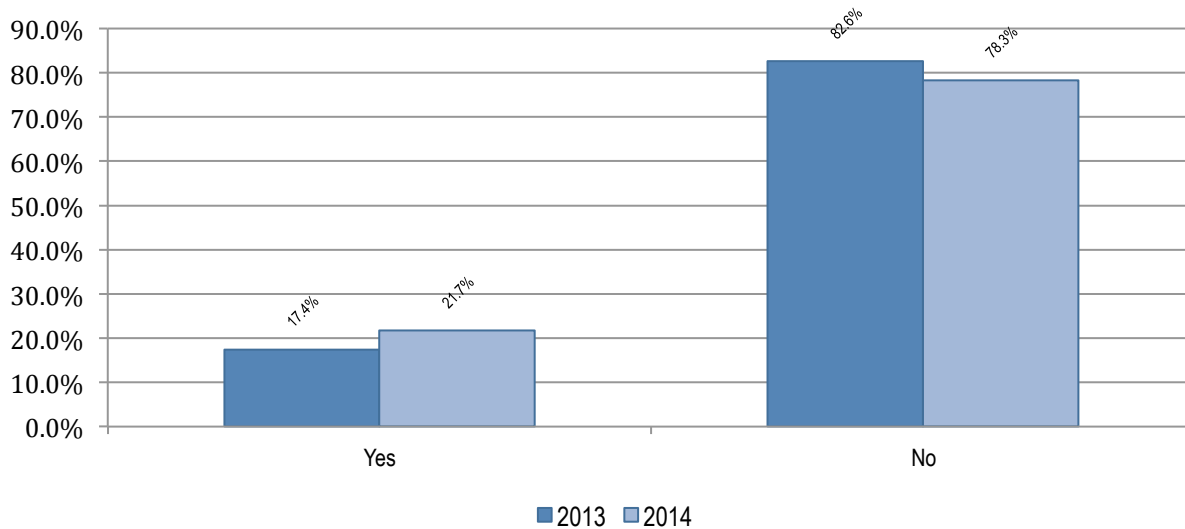
- In 2014, 10.2% claimed they were suffering from PTSD. This is higher than 2013 (9.1%).
- Of those suffering from PTSD, 53.6% reported it prevented them from getting work or obtaining housing.

**5.7 ADULTS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**

**Figure 64: Percentage of Respondents Who Were Currently Experiencing Alcohol or Drug Abuse**

For the purposes of this report, the official HUD definition of a substance use disorder is as follows:

...persons with a substance use problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person’s ability to live independently.



N: 2013= 860; 2014 = 948

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV.

## Summary:

- 21.7% of the survey respondents reported to be currently experiencing alcohol or drug abuse at the time of the survey. This represents a 4.3% increase compared to 2013, when 17.4% of respondents cited problems with alcohol/drug abuse.

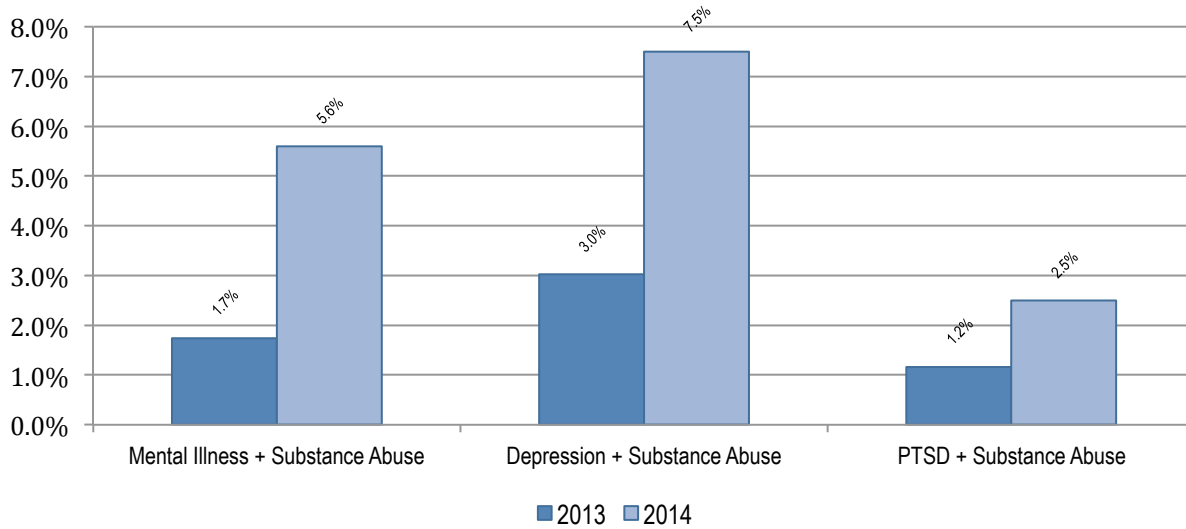
### 5.7.1 Co-Occurring Disorders

Chronic substance abuse among the homeless population is misunderstood at both local and national levels. It is often carelessly attributed to personality and/or character flaws. In reality, however, mental illness plays a significant role in struggles with chronic substance abuse. Thus, the possibility of a co-occurring disorder is often overlooked in many cases of chronic substance abuse, especially among the homeless population.

The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) agree that Individuals diagnosed with mental illness are twice as likely to have co-occurring problems with substance abuse.<sup>33</sup> In 2010, 54.3% of those persons enrolled in Permanent Supportive Housing programs reported problems with both mental illness and substance abuse. However, only 24% of this population reported mental illness alone, and only 11.9% reported substance abuse alone.<sup>34</sup> This disparity highlights the prevalence of the co-occurrence of mental illness and substance abuse in the homeless population.

Although individuals with co-occurring disorders do not constitute a HUD-defined subpopulation in their own right, this population is of great concern and interest to both policy-makers and the general public. No previous data exists before 2013 for this population in regards to Southern Nevada; 2013 marked the beginning of data-collection for this population. Below is 2013 and 2014 data depicting the state of co-occurring disorders in Southern Nevada.

**Figure 65: Respondents Reporting Co-Occurring Substance Abuse with Mental Illness, Depression, or PTSD**



N: 2013= 860; 2014 = 948

Source:

Bitfocus Inc., (2013, 2014), 2013 & 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Survey, Las Vegas, NV. NOTE: For the purposes of this figure, 'Disabling' is defined as a condition that prevents the respondent from getting work or housing.

**Summary:**

- 5.6% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 7.5% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring depression and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.
- 2.5% of survey respondents reported suffering from co-occurring PTSD and substance abuse and that this co-occurring disorder prevented them from obtaining work or housing.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The information collected in the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report is of both local and nationwide importance. On a local level, this report will offer providers and agencies the information they need to apply for the necessary funding to alter and improve existing services. In general, this information will enhance the homeless services available to those in need within the Southern Nevada region. It also raises community awareness regarding the scope and characteristics of homelessness in Southern Nevada.

On a national level, the data provided in this report will be merged with the confluence of other data provided by communities across the nation. This information will help to build the next Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which is to be presented to Congress to assist policy-makers in their funding decisions. The AHAR is used to provide nationwide estimates of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of homeless persons, service-use patterns, and the capacity to house homeless persons. Therefore, important decisions will be based upon the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report, and other reports like it.

The Southern Nevada Point-in-Time (PIT) Count took place on January 29, 2014. The results of any Point-in-Time Count, including that of Southern Nevada, must be regarded in a conservative manner, as they may not represent the true number of homeless individuals and families. Even the most comprehensive methodology cannot account for those homeless individuals who remain hidden or not visible to enumeration teams (e.g. women and children). Despite these challenges, the 2014 PIT Count was able to identify 9,417 homeless persons in Southern Nevada. 58 percent of those enumerated were sheltered, while 42 percent were unsheltered.

Between January 2012 and January 2013, homelessness nationwide declined by 3.7 percent, and the amount of unsheltered homeless persons remained the same.<sup>4</sup>

The total homeless population decreased from 633,782 persons to 610,042 persons. Chronic homelessness among individuals declined by 7 percent, and Veteran homelessness declined by 8 percent between 2012 and 2013.<sup>2</sup> At the time of this report, the national homeless data for 2014 has not been published. Regarding Southern Nevada, the amount of homeless persons enumerated in the 2014 PIT Count represents a 28.0% (2,062 persons) increase from the 2013 Southern Nevada PIT Count.

“... the amount of homeless persons enumerated in the 2014 PIT Count represents a **28.0% (2,062 persons) increase** from the 2013 Southern Nevada PIT Count.”

In order to optimize resource utilization, extraneous census tracts were removed from the 2014 enumeration effort. More specifically, census tracts that yielded zero enumeration in 2011 and 2013 were overlaid with data from first responder calls for homeless persons, and those census tracts that previously yielded both zero enumeration and zero first responder calls were removed from the 2014 census tract canvassing. This resulted in census tract coverage of 80%.

It is important to note that the 2013 PIT count encountered unexpected challenges to conduct a full canvassing of Southern Nevada (as was conducted in 2014). However, with the 94% coverage and utilizing the HUD approved extrapolation of like census tract data, HUD still considered the 2013 count to hold the validity and reliability of a full canvassing. Therefore, any comparisons made between the data collected in 2009, 2011, 2013 and now 2014 can be viewed as valid and reliable.\*

Homelessness is an interpersonal issue, with varied catalysts. Likewise, the contributing factors that reduce and successfully address the issue is multi-faceted with many variables such as; employment rates, access to physical and mental health care, housing assistance programs and community planning/growth. The full list of contributing factors is explored in the Help Hope Home Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Plan 2013 5-year update.

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\* For the sake of readability and uniformity with previous reports, 2007 data is not included in this report.




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# APPENDIX I: STREET CENSUS INSTRUMENT

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## 2014 Clark County Homeless Census

**Street County Tally Sheet**                      Map #:                                      City:

Team Member 1:	Deployment Center:	Date:
Team Member 2:	Deployment Center Captain:	
Team Member 3:	Deployment Center Phone #:	

INDIVIDUALS			
	Under 18 Age	18-24 Age	25+ Age
Male			
Female			
Undetermined Gender			

HOUSEHOLDS (2+ Family / Household Members)									
	Male			Female			Undetermined Gender		
	< 18	18-24	25+	< 18	18-24	25+	< 18	18-24	25+
Household Unit #1									
Household Unit #2									
Household Unit #3									
Household Unit #4									
Household Unit #5									

Note: If more than 5 households, use back of tally sheet.

**USE SECTION BELOW WHEN # OF PERSONS NOT VISIBLE**

VEHICLES, BUILDINGS, & PARKS	Tally
# of <u>CARS</u> with occupants	
# of <u>VANS</u> with occupants	
# of <u>RVs</u> with occupants	
# of Abandoned/Foreclosed <b>BUILDINGS</b> with occupants	
# of people in <b>PARKS</b> reported by Park Ranger	

ENCAMPMENTS with Occupants	# of tents or structures
Encampment #1	
Encampment #2	
Encampment #3	
Encampment #4	
Encampment #5	

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HOUSEHOLDS									
	Male			Female			Undetermined Gender		
	< 18	18-24	25+	< 18	18-24	25+	< 18	18-24	25+
Household Unit #6									
Household Unit #7									
Household Unit #8									
Household Unit #9									
Household Unit #10									
Household Unit #11									
Household Unit #12									
Household Unit #13									
Household Unit #14									
Household Unit #15									
Household Unit #16									
Household Unit #17									
Household Unit #18									
Household Unit #19									
Household Unit #20									
Household Unit #21									
Household Unit #22									
Household Unit #23									
Household Unit #24									
Household Unit #25									
Household Unit #26									
Household Unit #27									
Household Unit #28									
Household Unit #29									
Household Unit #30									

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# APPENDIX II: HOMELESS SURVEY INSTRUMENT

1000736395      **2014 CLARK COUNTY HOMELESS SURVEY**      (Office Use)

REFUSALS \_\_\_\_\_ INTERVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer's (Your) Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Neighborhood or city of interview: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Respondent's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Respondent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER: Read question & answers to the respondent.

SHADE CIRCLES LIKE THIS → ●  
 NOT LIKE THIS → ⊗

**1. VI: What is your birth date?**  
 Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**2a. Which racial AND ethnic group do you identify with most?**  
 (Shade all that apply)

White/Caucasian     American Indian/Alaskan Native  
 Black/African American     Asian  
 Hispanic/Latino     Pacific Islander     Other  
 Non Hispanic/Latino

**2b. How do you identify yourself?**

Female     Male     Transgender

Are you pregnant?  
 Yes     No

**4. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?**  
 Yes     No     Don't Know     Decline to state

**4b. Were you activated, into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a reservist?**  
 Yes     No     Don't Know     Decline to state

**4c. What is your discharge status?**

Honorable     Other than Honorable     Other  
 General     Dishonorable     N/A

**4d. In which war theater did you serve? (Shade all that apply)**

World War II     Gulf War I     Other  
 Korea     Gulf War II     None  
 Vietnam     Afghanistan     Iraq

**5. Do you live alone?**  
 Yes (Skip to question 6)     No

**5a. Do you live with: (Shade all that apply)**

Spouse or significant other     Other family member(s)  
 Child/children     Friend(s)  
 Parent or legal guardian     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street family

**6. Do you have any children?**  
 Yes     No (Skip to question 7)

**6a. Are any of your children currently living with you?**  
 Yes     No

**6b. Are your children: (Shade all that apply)**

18 years or over	How many?	1	2	3	4+
0-5 years old	How many?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6-12 years old	How many?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13-17 years old	How many?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**6c. Are your children ages 5-17 in school?**  Yes     No

**6d. Do you have any children in foster care?**  
 Yes     No

**6e. For persons in households with at least one adult and one child:**

How many children do you have under 18	1	2	3	4+
How many adults aged 18-24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many adults over age 24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**6f. Persons in household without children:**

How many adults ages 18-24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many adults over age 24	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**7. Is this the first time you have been homeless?**  
 Yes (Skip to question 8)     No

**7a. VI: In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)**

One time     3 times     5 times     More than 6 times  
 2 times     4 times     6 times

**7b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time? (Shade only 1)**

One time     3 times     5 times     More than 6 times  
 2 times     4 times     6 times

**8. VI: How long have you been homeless this present time? (Shade only 1)**

7 days or less     1-3 months     7-11 months  
 8-30 days     3-6 months     1 year     More than 1 year

**8a. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation? (Shade only 1)**

7 days or less     4 months     8 months     12 months  
 8-30 days     5 months     9 months     1-2 years  
 2 months     6 months     10 months     2-3 years  
 3 months     7 months     11 months     More than 3 years

**9. Where do you usually stay at night, since you have been homeless? (Shade only 1)**

Outdoors/streets/parks     A place in a house not normally used for sleeping (kitchen, living room, etc.)  
 Uncovered Garage/attic/basement     Emergency Shelter  
 Backyard or storage structure     Public Facilities  
 Motel/hotel     Transitional Housing  
 Automobile     Other Shelter  
 Van     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camper/RV     Encampment  
 Abandoned building    *How many people, including yourself, usually stay here?*  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you: (Shade only 1)**

Living in a home owned by you or your partner     In jail or prison  
 Renting a home or apartment     In a hospital  
 Staying with friends     In a mental health facility  
 Living with relatives     In a substance abuse treatment program  
 Living in subsidized housing     In foster care  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Where were you living right before you most recently became homeless (Shade only 1)**

Clark County     Out of State  
 Other area in Nevada, outside of Clark County

**12. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing? (Shade all that apply)**

Can't afford rent     Bad credit  
 No job / no income     Eviction record  
 No money for moving costs     Criminal record  
 No housing available     In jail or prison  
 No transportation     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**13. What do you think are the top three events or conditions that led to your homelessness? (Shade up to 3)**

Lost Job     Family/domestic violence  
 Landlord sold/stopped renting     Gambling problem  
 Landlord raised rent     Got too old for foster care  
 Alcohol or drug use     Divorced or separated  
 Incarceration     Natural disaster/fire/flood  
 Illness or medical problem     For being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender  
 Mental health issues     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Argument/family or friend asked you to leave     Don't know / decline to state  
 Hospitalization/treatment program  
 Lost home I owned through foreclosure  
 Lost home I rented due to landlord's foreclosure  
 Did not receive housing assistance when I left jail/prison

(Office use)

1000736395

14. Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance? (Shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> Emergency Shelter	<input type="radio"/> Shelter day services
<input type="radio"/> Transitional Housing	<input type="radio"/> Legal assistance
<input type="radio"/> Free meals	<input type="radio"/> Health services
<input type="radio"/> Food Pantry	<input type="radio"/> Mental health services
<input type="radio"/> Bus passes	<input type="radio"/> Other _____
<input type="radio"/> Job training	<input type="radio"/> Not using any services
<input type="radio"/> Alcohol / Drug counseling	

15. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of Government assistance? (Shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> General Assistance or General Relief
<input type="radio"/> Food Stamps
<input type="radio"/> Service-connected VA Disability Compensation
<input type="radio"/> Not service-connected VA Disability Pension
<input type="radio"/> Other Veteran's Benefits
<input type="radio"/> Social Security
<input type="radio"/> SSI (Supplemental Security Income) / SSDI
<input type="radio"/> TANF
<input type="radio"/> WIC
<input type="radio"/> Clark County Social Service housing assistance
<input type="radio"/> Other governmental assistance (State disability benefits, workers compensation, unemployment, etc) (If yes to any of these, go to 16)
<input type="radio"/> I am not currently receiving any of these (Continue with question 15a)

16. What is your total monthly income from all Government benefits? (County, State, Federal monies) (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Zero	<input type="radio"/> \$301 - \$400	<input type="radio"/> \$701 - \$800
<input type="radio"/> \$1 - \$100	<input type="radio"/> \$401 - \$500	<input type="radio"/> \$801 - \$900
<input type="radio"/> \$101 - \$200	<input type="radio"/> \$501 - \$600	<input type="radio"/> \$901 - \$1,000
<input type="radio"/> \$201 - \$300	<input type="radio"/> \$601 - \$700	<input type="radio"/> Over \$1,000

17. What is your current employment status? (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Unemployed	<input type="radio"/> Employed full-time
<input type="radio"/> Retired	<input type="radio"/> Employed part-time
<input type="radio"/> Student	<input type="radio"/> Self-employed (Skip to question 18)
<input type="radio"/> Homemaker	<input type="radio"/> Seasonal Worker

17a. What is keeping you from getting employment? (shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> Need education	<input type="radio"/> No permanent address
<input type="radio"/> Need training	<input type="radio"/> No transportation
<input type="radio"/> Need clothing	<input type="radio"/> No tools for trade
<input type="radio"/> No shower facilities	<input type="radio"/> No work permit (No SS #)
<input type="radio"/> No phone	<input type="radio"/> No photo identification
<input type="radio"/> Health problems	<input type="radio"/> Don't want to work
<input type="radio"/> Disabled	<input type="radio"/> No jobs
<input type="radio"/> Criminal record	<input type="radio"/> Retired
<input type="radio"/> Alcohol / drug issue	<input type="radio"/> Spouse/partner doesn't want me to work
<input type="radio"/> No child care	<input type="radio"/> Other _____

18. What are your other sources of income? (Shade all that apply)

<input type="radio"/> Family / Friends	<input type="radio"/> Selling other found items
<input type="radio"/> Pension	<input type="radio"/> Selling blood / plasma
<input type="radio"/> Child support	<input type="radio"/> Gambling
<input type="radio"/> Recycling	<input type="radio"/> Other _____
<input type="radio"/> Sex work	

19. What is your total monthly income from all non-Government sources? (Job, panhandling, recycling, etc) (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Zero	<input type="radio"/> \$301 - \$400	<input type="radio"/> \$701 - \$800
<input type="radio"/> \$1 - \$100	<input type="radio"/> \$401 - \$500	<input type="radio"/> \$801 - \$900
<input type="radio"/> \$101 - \$200	<input type="radio"/> \$501 - \$600	<input type="radio"/> \$901 - \$1,000
<input type="radio"/> \$201 - \$300	<input type="radio"/> \$601 - \$700	<input type="radio"/> Over \$1,000

20. Where do you usually get medical care? (Shade only 1)

<input type="radio"/> Hospital emergency room	<input type="radio"/> Private doctor
<input type="radio"/> Urgent care clinic	<input type="radio"/> Friend / family
<input type="radio"/> Public health clinic	<input type="radio"/> Don't ever go
<input type="radio"/> Veteran Affairs clinic	<input type="radio"/> Other _____
<input type="radio"/> Free clinic / community clinic	

21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

Yes  No

22. VI: How many times in the last 3 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

\_\_\_\_\_ times (Office use)

23. How many times in the last 12 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

\_\_\_\_\_ times (Office use)

24. VI: How many times in the last 12 months have you been hospitalized as an inpatient?

\_\_\_\_\_ times (Office use)

25. How many nights in the last 12 months have you spent in jail or prison, if any?

\_\_\_\_\_ nights (Office use)

26. How many separate terms have you served in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

Zero (skip to question 26)

1  2  3  4  5  6+ (Ask 26a and 26b)

26a. How long were you in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ months (Office use)

26b. Did you become homeless immediately after you were released from jail/prison?

Yes  No

27. VI: Are you experiencing now or in the past any of the following: 27aa. Does it prevent you from getting work or housing?

27a. Physical Disability	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27b. Mental illness	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27c. Depression	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27f. Chronic health problem	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27h. Tuberculosis	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27i. Hepatitis C	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27j. PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27k. Developmental Disability	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27l. Emphysema	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27m. Diabetes	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27n. Traumatic brain injury	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27o. Cancer	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27p. Kidney disease/end stage renal disease or dialysis	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27q. History of hypothermia, frostbite, or immersion foot	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27r. Liver disease, cirrhosis, or end-stage liver disease	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
27s. Heart disease, arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

28. VI: Have you ever abused drugs/alcohol, or been told you do?  Yes  No

29. VI: Have you ever consumed alcohol everyday for the past month?  Yes  No

30. VI: Have you ever used injection drugs or shots?  Yes  No

31. VI: Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?  Yes  No

32. VI: Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues?  Yes  No

33. VI: Were you ever taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?  Yes  No

**DO NOT ASK:** Surveyor, do you observe signs or symptoms of:

34. VI: Serious physical health conditions  Yes  No

35. VI: Alcohol or drug abuse  Yes  No

36. VI: Severe persistent mental illness  Yes  No

37. Do you have a pet?

No

Yes, Number:  1  2  3  4  5  6+

What Kind:  Dog  Cat  Reptile  Other \_\_\_\_\_

38. Were you ever in foster care?  Yes  No

## APPENDIX III: OVERALL HOMELESS SURVEY RESULTS (WEIGHTED)

### 1. Age

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than 13 years	0	0.0%
13-17 years	40	4.5%
18-21 years	86	9.6%
22-30 years	108	12.0%
31-40 years	110	12.2%
41-50 years	229	25.5%
51-60 years	250	27.8%
More than 60 years	74	8.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 2. Which racial group do you identify with the most?

Response	Frequency	Percent
White/Caucasian	419	47.3%
Black/African American	349	39.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	14	1.6%
Asian	12	1.4%
Pacific Islander	10	1.1%
Other / Multi-ethnic	81	9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 2b. Which ethnic group do you identify with?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic/Latino	106	30.2%
Non Hispanic/Latino	245	69.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 3. How do you identify yourself?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Female	256	27.8%
Male	658	71.4%
Transgender	7	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## 3a. Are you pregnant?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	19	9.1%
No	189	90.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 4. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	158	17.0%
No	763	82.1%
Don't Know	3	0.3%
Decline to state	5	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 4b. Were you activated, into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a reservist?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	32	4.2%
No	721	95.2%
Don't Know	2	0.3%
Decline to state	2	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 4c. What is your discharge status?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Honorable	112	71.3%
General	20	12.7%
Other than honorable	13	8.3%
Dishonorable	4	2.5%
Other	6	3.8%
N/A	2	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 4d. In which war theater did you serve?

Response	Frequency	Percent
World War II	3	1.9%
Korea	4	2.5%
Vietnam	36	22.9%
Gulf War I	20	12.7%
Gulf War II	7	4.5%
Afghanistan	12	7.6%
Other	18	11.5%
None	59	37.6%
Iraq	17	10.8%

Multiple response question with 157 respondents offering 176 responses.

## 5. Do you live alone (by yourself)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	575	62.4%
No	346	37.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 5a. Do you live with:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Spouse or significant other	51	15.6%
Child/children	53	16.2%
Parent or legal guardian	35	10.7%
Street family	34	10.4%
Other family member(s)	31	9.5%
Friend(s)	41	12.5%
Other	140	42.8%

Multiple response question with 327 respondents offering 385 responses.

## 6. Do you have any children?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	385	41.8%
No	535	58.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



6a. Are any of your children currently living with you?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	65	17.8%
No	300	82.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6b. Are your children:

Response	Frequency	Percent
18 years or older	200	60.9%
0-5 years old	101	30.7%
6-12 years old	86	26.2%
13-17 years old	62	18.9%

Multiple response question with 328 respondents offering 449 responses

6ba. How many children do you have that are 18 years or older?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	70	35.0%
2	60	30.0%
3	32	16.0%
4+	38	19.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6bb. How many children do you have that are 0-5 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	59	58.4%
2	25	24.8%
3	9	8.9%
4+	8	7.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6bc. How many children do you have that are 6-12 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	54	62.8%
2	19	22.1%
3	9	10.5%
4+	4	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6bd. How many children do you have that are 13-17 years old?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	40	64.5%
2	17	27.4%
3	3	4.8%
4+	2	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6c. Are your children ages 5 – 17 in school?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	87	66.4%
No	44	33.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6d. Do you have any children in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	32	8.9%
No	329	91.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6ea. [Families] How many children do you have under 18?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	68	52.7%
2	30	23.3%
3	18	14.0%
4+	13	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

6eb. [Families] How many adults aged 18-24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	40	60.6%
2	16	24.2%
3	5	7.6%
4+	5	7.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 6ec. [Families] How many adults over age 24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	37	54.4%
2	16	23.5%
3	10	14.7%
4+	5	7.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 6fa. [Adults Only Households] How many adults ages 18-24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	41	69.5%
2	10	16.9%
3	3	5.1%
4+	5	8.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 6fb. [Adults Only Households] How many adults over age 24?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1	48	57.1%
2	23	27.4%
3	6	7.1%
4+	7	8.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 7. Is this the first time you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	429	45.8%
No	507	54.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

7a. In the last 12 months how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	159	33.0%
2 times	106	22.0%
3 times	91	18.9%
4 times	14	2.9%
5 times	23	4.8%
6 times	9	1.9%
More than 6 times	79	16.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

7b. In the last 3 years how many times have you been homeless, including this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
One time	97	19.7%
2 times	116	23.5%
3 times	91	18.5%
4 times	43	8.7%
5 times	26	5.3%
6 times	16	3.2%
More than 6 times	104	21.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

8. How long have you been homeless this present time?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	78	8.6%
8-30 days	61	6.7%
1-3 months	219	24.0%
4-6 months	160	17.6%
7-11 months	80	8.8%
1 year	59	6.5%
More than 1 year	254	27.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

8a. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent supportive housing situation?

Response	Frequency	Percent
7 days or less	68	7.3%
8-30 days	100	10.8%
2 months	79	8.5%
3 months	77	8.3%
4 months	53	5.7%
5 months	34	3.7%
6 months	63	6.8%
7 months	25	2.7%
8 months	18	1.9%
9 months	12	1.3%
10 months	10	1.1%
11 months	7	0.8%
12 months	61	6.6%
1-2 years	105	11.3%
2-3 years	78	8.4%
More than 3 years	137	14.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

9. Where do you usually stay at night, since you have been homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Outdoors / streets / parks	231	24.8%
Uncovered garage / attic / basement	5	0.5%
Backyard or storage structure	7	0.8%
Motel / Hotel	33	3.5%
Automobile	9	1.0%
Van	6	0.6%
Camper / RV	12	1.3%
Abandoned building	3	0.3%
A place in a house not normally used for sleeping	24	2.6%
Emergency Shelter	286	30.7%
Public Facilities	8	0.9%
Transitional Housing	129	13.8%
Other Shelter	59	6.3%
Other	111	11.9%
Encampment	9	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

10. Immediately before you became homeless this last time, were you:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Living in a home owned by you or your partner	81	8.7%
Renting a home or apartment	409	43.9%
Staying with friends	137	14.7%
Living with relatives	127	13.6%
Living in subsidized housing	12	1.3%
In a jail or prison	61	6.6%
In a hospital	2	0.2%
In a mental health facility	6	0.6%
In a substance abuse treatment program	7	0.8%
In foster care	2	0.2%
Other	87	9.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

11. Where were you living right before you most recently became homeless?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Clark County	681	73.9%
Other area in Nevada, outside of Clark County	35	3.8%
Out of state	205	22.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

12. What is keeping you from getting permanent housing?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Can't afford rent	381	41.0%
No job / no income	587	63.1%
No money for moving costs	169	18.2%
No housing available	53	5.7%
No transportation	148	15.9%
Bad credit	106	11.4%
Eviction record	35	3.8%
Criminal record	68	7.3%
In jail or prison	24	2.6%
Other	122	13.1%

Multiple response question with 930 respondents offering 1,693 responses

13. What do you think are the top three events or conditions that led to your homelessness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Lost job	467	50.1%
Landlord sold / stopped renting	32	3.4%
Landlord raised rent	36	3.9%
Alcohol or drug use	175	18.8%
Incarceration	112	12.0%
Illness or medical problem	116	12.4%
Mental Health issues	105	11.3%
Argument / family or friend asked you to leave	138	14.8%
Hospitalization / treatment program	32	3.4%
Lost home I owned through foreclosure	30	3.2%
Lost home I rented due to landlord's foreclosure	16	1.7%
Did not receive housing assistance when I left jail / prison	50	5.4%
Family / domestic violence	122	13.1%
Gambling problem	31	3.3%
Got too old for foster care	7	0.8%
Divorced or separated	57	6.1%
Natural disaster / fire / flood	4	0.4%
For being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender	4	0.4%
Other	160	17.1%
Don't Know / Decline to state	34	3.6%

Multiple response question with 933 respondents offering 1,728 responses

14. Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Emergency Shelter	355	38.2%
Transitional Housing	198	21.3%
Free meals	383	41.2%
Food Pantry	188	20.2%
Bus Passes	195	21.0%
Job training	66	7.1%
Alcohol / Drug counseling	47	5.1%
Shelter day services	145	15.6%
Legal assistance	21	2.3%
Health services	114	12.3%
Mental health services	90	9.7%
Other	50	5.4%
Not using any services	110	11.8%

Multiple response question with 929 respondents offering 1,962 responses

15. Are you currently receiving any of the following forms of Government assistance?

Response	Frequency	Percent
General Assistance or General Relief	17	1.9%
Food Stamps	572	62.4%
Service-connected VA Disability Compensation	13	1.4%
Not service-connected VA Pension	4	0.4%
Other Veteran’s Benefits	27	2.9%
Social Security	60	6.6%
SSI / SSDI	59	6.4%
TANF	32	3.5%
WIC	28	3.1%
Clark County Social Service housing assistance	36	3.9%
Other governmental assistance	7	0.8%
I am not currently receiving any of these	242	26.4%

Multiple response question with 916 respondents offering 1,097 responses

16. What is your total monthly income from all Government benefits?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	449	49.5%
\$1 - \$100	30	3.3%
\$101 - \$200	223	24.6%
\$201 - \$300	14	1.5%
\$301 - \$400	37	4.1%
\$401 - \$500	14	1.5%
\$501 - \$600	23	2.5%
\$601 - \$700	33	3.6%
\$701 - \$800	31	3.4%
\$801 - \$900	12	1.3%
\$901 - \$1,000	13	1.4%
Over \$1,000	28	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## 17. What is your current employment status?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	760	82.1%
Retired	45	4.9%
Student	43	4.6%
Homemaker	4	0.4%
Employed full-time	16	1.7%
Employed part-time	39	4.2%
Self-employed	9	1.0%
Seasonal worker	10	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 17a. What is keeping you from getting employment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Need education	115	13.1%
Need training	110	12.5%
Need clothing	135	15.3%
No shower facilities	59	6.7%
No phone	80	9.1%
Health problems	125	14.2%
Disabled	120	13.6%
Criminal record	114	13.0%
Alcohol / drug issue	52	5.9%
No child care	20	2.3%
No permanent address	206	23.4%
No transportation	241	27.4%
No tools for trade	38	4.3%
No work permit (No SS#)	25	2.8%
No photo identification	96	10.9%
Don't want to work	9	1.0%
No jobs	187	21.3%
Retired	36	4.1%
Spouse / partner doesn't want me to work	3	0.3%
Other	136	15.5%

Multiple response question with 880 respondents offering 1,907 responses

18. What are your other sources of income?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Family / Friends	204	33.3%
Pension	9	1.5%
Child support	14	2.3%
Recycling	48	7.8%
Sex work	6	1.0%
Selling other found items	30	4.9%
Selling blood / plasma	55	9.0%
Gambling	24	3.9%
Other	304	49.6%

Multiple response question with 613 respondents offering 694 responses

19. What is your total monthly income from all non-Government sources (job, panhandling, recycling, etc)?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Zero	638	70.5%
\$1 - \$100	109	12.0%
\$101 - \$200	49	5.4%
\$201 - \$300	21	2.3%
\$301 - \$400	20	2.2%
\$401 - \$500	12	1.3%
\$501 - \$600	6	0.7%
\$601 - \$700	8	0.9%
\$701 - \$800	14	1.5%
\$801 - \$900	9	1.0%
\$901 - \$1,000	5	0.6%
Over \$1,000	14	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 20. Where do you usually get medical care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Hospital emergency room	350	38.0%
Urgent care clinic	53	5.7%
Public health clinic	44	4.8%
Veteran Affairs clinic	69	7.5%
Free clinic / community clinic	113	12.3%
Private Doctor	58	6.3%
Friend / Family	5	0.5%
Don't ever go	173	18.8%
Other	57	6.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 21. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical care and been unable to receive it?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	261	28.5%
No	655	71.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 22. How many times in the last 3 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	630	70.2%
1 time	140	15.6%
2 times	58	6.5%
3 times	30	3.3%
4 times	13	1.4%
5 times	10	1.1%
More than 5 times	17	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

23. How many times in the last 12 months have you used the emergency room for any treatment?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	522	58.1%
1 time	159	17.7%
2 times	89	9.9%
3 times	43	4.8%
4 times	25	2.8%
5 times	13	1.4%
More than 5 times	48	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

24. How many times in the last 12 months have you been hospitalized as an inpatient?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	671	74.8%
1 time	139	15.5%
2 times	46	5.1%
3 times	19	2.1%
4 times	5	0.6%
5 times	1	0.1%
More than 5 times	16	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

25. How many nights in the last 12 months have you spent in jail or prison, if any?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 nights	672	74.8%
1-5 nights	64	7.1%
6-10 nights	22	2.4%
11-20 nights	18	2.0%
21-50 nights	40	4.5%
More than 50 nights	82	9.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

26. How many separate terms have you served in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

Response	Frequency	Percent
0 terms	704	78.3%
1 term	106	11.8%
2 terms	36	4.0%
3 terms	24	2.7%
4 terms	12	1.3%
5 terms	1	0.1%
6+ terms	16	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

26a. How long were you in jail/prison in the last 12 months?

Response	Frequency	Percent
1 month or less	86	48.0%
2 months	14	7.8%
3 months	16	8.9%
4 months	12	6.7%
5 months	6	3.4%
6 months	10	5.6%
7 months	7	3.9%
8 months	3	1.7%
9 months	1	0.6%
10 months	2	1.1%
11 months	3	1.7%
12 months	16	8.9%
1-2 years	3	1.7%
2-3 years	0	0.0%
More than 3 years	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

26b. Did you become homeless immediately after you were released from jail/prison?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	127	66.5%
No	64	33.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 27. Are you experiencing now or in the past any of the following:

	Yes	No	Total
27a. Physical Disability	30.5% 271	69.5% 617	100.0% 888
27b. Mental Illness	24.0% 206	76.0% 652	100.0% 858
27c. Depression	41.1% 364	58.9% 522	100.0% 886
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	24.0% 206	76.0% 654	100.0% 860
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	14.9% 131	85.1% 750	100.0% 881
27f. Chronic health problem	21.0% 182	79.0% 683	100.0% 865
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	0.7% 6	99.3% 874	100.0% 880
27h. Tuberculosis	1.2% 10	98.8% 855	100.0% 865
27i. Hepatitis C	4.3% 37	95.7% 830	100.0% 867
27j. PTSD	11.2% 97	88.8% 771	100.0% 868
27k. Developmental Disability	6.3% 56	93.8% 839	100.0% 895
27l. Emphysema	2.9% 25	97.1% 844	100.0% 869
27m. Diabetes	7.9% 70	92.1% 818	100.0% 888
27n. Traumatic Brain Injury	6.3% 55	93.7% 824	100.0% 879
27o. Cancer	3.7% 32	96.3% 839	100.0% 871
27p. Kidney disease/renal/dialysis	2.9% 26	97.1% 857	100.0% 883
27q. History of hypothermia/frostbite	2.0% 18	98.0% 862	100.0% 880
27r. Liver disease/cirrhosis	4.0% 35	96.0% 841	100.0% 876
27s. Heart disease/arrhythmia	9.3% 82	90.7% 800	100.0% 882

## 27. Does it prevent you from getting work or housing?

	Yes	No	Total
27a. Physical Disability	80.4% 189	19.6% 46	<b>100.0%</b> <b>235</b>
27b. Mental Illness	71.2% 121	28.8% 49	<b>100.0%</b> <b>170</b>
27c. Depression	50.8% 152	49.2% 147	<b>100.0%</b> <b>299</b>
27d. Alcohol/drug abuse	48.2% 82	51.8% 88	<b>100.0%</b> <b>170</b>
27e. Domestic violence/abuse	33.6% 37	66.4% 73	<b>100.0%</b> <b>110</b>
27f. Chronic health problem	71.4% 105	28.6% 42	<b>100.0%</b> <b>147</b>
27g. AIDS/HIV related illness	33.3% 2	66.7% 4	<b>100.0%</b> <b>6</b>
27h. Tuberculosis	33.3% 2	66.7% 4	<b>100.0%</b> <b>6</b>
27i. Hepatitis C	42.4% 14	57.6% 19	<b>100.0%</b> <b>33</b>
27j. PTSD	61.9% 52	38.1% 32	<b>100.0%</b> <b>84</b>
27k. Developmental Disability	73.3% 33	26.7% 12	<b>100.0%</b> <b>45</b>
27l. Emphysema	75.0% 12	25.0% 4	<b>100.0%</b> <b>16</b>
27m. Diabetes	33.9% 20	66.1% 39	<b>100.0%</b> <b>59</b>
27n. Traumatic Brain Injury	53.2% 25	46.8% 22	<b>100.0%</b> <b>47</b>
27o. Cancer	32.0% 8	68.0% 17	<b>100.0%</b> <b>25</b>
27p. Kidney disease/renal/dialysis	31.2% 5	68.8% 11	<b>100.0%</b> <b>16</b>
27q. History of hypothermia/frostbite	40.0% 4	60.0% 6	<b>100.0%</b> <b>10</b>
27r. Liver disease/cirrhosis	48.0% 12	52.0% 13	<b>100.0%</b> <b>25</b>
27s. Heart disease/arrhythmia	44.9% 31	55.1% 38	<b>100.0%</b> <b>69</b>

28. Have you ever abused drugs / alcohol, or been told you do?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	382	41.3%
No	543	58.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

29. Have you ever consumed alcohol everyday for the past month?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	125	13.7%
No	790	86.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

30. Have you ever used injection drugs or shots?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	96	10.5%
No	816	89.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

31. Have you ever been treated for drug or alcohol abuse?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	237	26.1%
No	672	73.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

32. Are you currently or have you ever received treatment for mental health issues?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	241	26.4%
No	673	73.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

33. Were you ever taken to the hospital against your will for mental health reasons?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	117	12.9%
No	787	87.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



34. OBSERVED: Serious physical health conditions?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	59	8.2%
No	660	91.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

35. OBSERVED: Alcohol or drug abuse?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	91	12.8%
No	622	87.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

36. OBSERVED: Severe persistent mental illness?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	72	10.1%
No	640	89.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

37. Do you have a pet?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No	822	90.8%
1	43	4.7%
2	27	3.0%
3	4	0.4%
4	3	0.3%
5	4	0.4%
6+	3	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

37a. What kind of pet?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Dog	68	81.0%
Cat	23	27.4%
Reptile	3	3.6%
Other	9	10.7%

Multiple response question with 84 respondents offering 103 responses

38. Were you ever in foster care?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	116	13.5%
No	743	86.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# APPENDIX IV: GENERAL POPULATION TELEPHONE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Clark County Social Services  
Hidden Homeless Survey

Page 1

## I. Introduction and Respondent Screening

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling on behalf of the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census project. I'm calling today to ask a few questions about housing and homeless issues in the county. All of your answers are confidential and will only be reported as part of a group response. If there are any questions you would prefer not to answer, just let me know and we will skip over it. This call may be monitored or recorded for quality.

### Screener 1:

May I verify that you are 18 years of age or older?

- (01) Yes [GO TO Q1]
- (02) No [Go To S1A]
- (03) No Response/Refused [TERMINATE]

### Screener 1a:

May I please speak to someone in the household 18 years of age or older?

- (01) Yes [GO BACK TO INTRO]
- (02) No, Not Available [SCHEDULE A CALLBACK]
- (03) No/Refused [TERMINATE]

## II. Questionnaire

Q1. Is there anyone staying at this address on a TEMPORARY basis who might be considered homeless? And by homeless, I mean someone who lacks a regular and adequate nighttime residence of their own due to lack of money or other means of support. Please note that this does not include individuals that are related to you.

- (01) Yes
- (02) No
- (03) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (04) No Response/Refused [Don't Read]

Q2: Do you know any OTHER households in Clark County that have someone staying there on a TEMPORARY basis who might be considered homeless? Again, please keep in mind that this does not include individuals that are related to them.

- (01) Yes
- (02) No
- (03) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (04) No Response/Refused [Don't Read]

[IF BOTH Q1 AND Q2 = 3 OR 4, END SURVEY; IF Q1 = 2, 3 OR 4 AND Q2 = 3 OR 4, END SURVEY; IF Q2 = 2, 3 OR 4 AND Q1 = 3 OR 4, END SURVEY; IF BOTH Q1 AND Q2 = 2, END SURVEY AND COUNT AS A SHORT

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Clark County Social Services  
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**COMPLETE; IF Q1 = 1 AND Q2 <> 1, CONTINUE TO Q3A; IF Q1<> 1 AND Q2 = 1 CONTINUE TO Q3B, IF BOTH Q1 AND Q2 = 1, THEN CONTINUE TO Q3C.]**

Q3A: How many households are living at your current address on a TEMPORARY basis? An individual on their own should be considered a household of 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Households

Q3B: How many households in that OTHER location on a TEMPORARY basis? An individual on their own should be considered a household of 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Households

Q3C: Okay how many households are living either at your current address or at the OTHER location you mentioned on a temporary basis combined? An individual on their own should be considered a household of 1. **[NOTE THIS NUMBER MUST BE AT LEAST 2]**

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Households

**[DON'T KNOW, ENTER 98; NO ANSWER OR REFUSED, ENTER 99; END SURVEY]**

Q4 Prompt: **[WHEN Q3 > 1, READ PROMPT]** You told me there are [Q3 Number] households that might be considered homeless. I will ask you about each household separately.

**[LOOP BASED ON NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS]**

Q4aa: For the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.) household, how many individuals are living there on a TEMPORARY basis who might be considered homeless? **[IF YES TO Q1 ONLY AND IF ONLY ONE HOUSEHOLD]** How many individuals are there living in your household on a TEMPORARY basis who might be considered homeless? **[IF YES TO Q1 ONLY AND IF MORE THAN ONE HOUSEHOLD]** For the (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.) household living in your home, how many individuals are living there on a TEMPORARY basis who might be considered homeless?

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Individuals

**[DON'T KNOW, ENTER 98; NO ANSWER OR REFUSED, ENTER 99; SKIP TO Q5]**

**[LOOP FOR EACH PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD, IF MORE THAN 1 PERSON IN Q4AA, "THINKING ABOUT THE (1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, ETC.) PERSON IN THIS HOUSEHOLD"]**

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Hidden Homeless Survey**

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Q4a: Is the person male, female, or undetermined gender?

- (01) Male
- (02) Female
- (03) Undetermined Gender
- (04) Refused [Don't Read]

Q4b: How old is he or she?

- (01) Under 18 Years Old
- (02) 18 – 24 Years Old
- (03) 25+ Years Old
- (04) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (05) No Response/Refused [Don't Read]

Q4c: **[ADULTS ONLY]** Has this person served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (e.g. served in a full-time capacity in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or called into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist)?

- (01) Yes
- (02) No
- (03) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (04) No Response/Refused [Don't Read]

Q4d: Does this person have a drug problem, a serious mental health problem, or HIV/AIDS? **[MULTIPLE CHOICE]**

- (01) Severely Mentally Ill
- (02) Substance Abuse
- (03) HIV/AIDS
- (04) None Of The Above
- (05) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (06) No Response/Refused [Don't Read]

Q4e: **[IF Q4D = 1 or 2]** Does this limit their ability to get or keep a job or take care of personal matters such as taking care of themselves, taking medications a doctor has prescribed, taking care of children, going shopping, or getting around in the community?

- (01) Yes
- (02) No
- (03) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (04) No Response/Refused [Don't Read]

**[LOOP BACK TO Q4A, NEXT PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD UNTIL LAST MEMBER]**

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**Q5: Where has this household been living? I will read you a list of choices. [IF YES TO Q1 ONLY, AUTO PUNCH WITH 1]**

- (01) This Residence
- (02) Other Residence
- (03) Emergency Shelter
- (04) Streets Or Place Not Meant For Habitation (Bus Station, Underpass, Encampment, Abandoned Buildings, Etc.)
- (05) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (06) No Response [Don't Read]

**Q5a: [ONLY IF Q5 = 1] Could you tell me where on the property they usually sleep? I will read you a list of choices.**

- (01) Uncovered Garage
- (02) Attic
- (03) Basement
- (04) Other Area In Main House
- (05) Outdoor Porch
- (06) Vehicle/Camper Or Van Parked On Property
- (07) Tent/Shed Or Other Outside Location
- (08) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (09) No Response [Don't Read]

**Q5b: [ONLY IF Q5A = 4] Which area is that? I will read you a list of choices.**

- (01) Bedroom
- (02) Family Room/Living Room/Den
- (03) Dining Room/Kitchen
- (04) Laundry Room Or Other Inside Storage Area
- (05) Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_ [Don't Read]
- (06) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (07) No Response [Don't Read]

**Q6: How long has this household been staying at this location?**

- (01) Less Than 1 Month
- (02) 1 – 3 Months
- (03) 4 – 6 Months
- (04) 7 – 12 Months
- (05) More Than 1 Year
- (06) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (07) No Response [Don't Read]

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**Q7: [IF Q5 = 3 OR 4]** How many different times has this household had to stay in a shelter or lived on the streets in the past three years?

- (01) 1
- (02) 2
- (03) 3
- (04) 4
- (05) 5+
- (06) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (07) No Response [Don't Read]

**Q8: What do you think are the top 3 events or conditions that led to this household's homelessness? [TOP 3]**

- (01) Lost Job
- (02) Landlord Sold/Stopped Renting Or Re-Used Property
- (03) Landlord Raised Rent
- (04) Alcohol Or Drug Use
- (05) Incarceration
- (06) Illness Or Medical Problem
- (07) Mental Health Issues
- (08) Argument/Family Or Friend Asked Them To Leave
- (09) Hospitalization
- (10) Lost Home They Owned Through Foreclosure
- (11) Lost Home They Rented Due To Landlord's Foreclosure
- (12) Didn't Receive Housing Assistance When They Left Jail/Prison
- (13) Family/Domestic Violence
- (14) Gambling Problem
- (15) They Got Too Old For Foster Care
- (16) Divorce Or Separation
- (17) Natural Disaster/Fire/Flood
- (18) For Being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Or Transgender
- (19) Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_ [Don't Read]
- (20) No More/Done [Don't Read]
- (21) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (22) No Response [Don't Read]

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Q9: Which income range best describes the household's income? Stop me when I get to the correct amount.

- (01) Less Than \$15,000 Per Year
- (02) \$15,001 - \$25,000 Per Year
- (03) \$25,001 - \$35,000 Per Year
- (04) \$35,001 - \$50,000 Per Year
- (05) \$50,001 to \$75,000 Per Year
- (06) \$75,001 to \$100,000 Per Year
- (07) \$100,001 to \$150,000 Per Year
- (08) Over \$150,000
- (09) Don't Know [Don't Read]
- (10) No Response/Refused [Don't Read]

**[LOOP TO NEXT HOUSEHOLD Q4AA]**

Those are all the questions we have. Thank you for your time.

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## APPENDIX V: SUMMARY FOR THE COC APPLICATION

The following summaries provide local jurisdictions with consolidated information to enable the completion of the application for Continuum of Care (CoC) funds. These summaries are based upon the results discussed in this report. It is important to note that any information regarding sheltered homeless populations and subpopulations reflect only those sheltered in emergency shelters (ES), transitional housing (TH), and safe havens (SH). The exception to this rule is in regards to the Chronically Homeless subpopulation (i.e. Chronically Homeless Individuals, Chronically Homeless Families, and Persons in Chronically Homeless Families); transitional housing does not apply to this subpopulation.

### Homeless Populations

The following table details the results of the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey. The results are broken down by sheltered versus unsheltered status.

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
<b>1. Households with at least one adult and one child</b>					
1a. Number of households	281	74	--	--	355
1b. Total number of persons (adults & children)	887	204	--	--	1,091
1c. Number of persons (under age 18)	554	126	--	--	680
1d. Number of persons (18 – 24)	52	26	--	--	78
1e. Number of persons (over age 24)	281	52	--	--	333
<b>2. Households with only children</b>					
2a. Total number of households	11	9	--	742	762
2b. Number of one-child households	8	8	--	742	758
2c. Number of multi-child households	3	1	--	0	4
2d. Total number of persons (under age 18)	14	11	--	742	767
2e. Number of children in multi-child households	6	3	--	0	9
<b>3. Households without children</b>					
3a. Number of households	2,076	571	10	4,713	7,370
3b. Number of persons (adults)	2,244	579	10	4,726	7,559
3c. Number of persons (age 18-24)	185	79	0	1,337	1,601
3d. Number of persons (over age 24)	2,059	500	10	3,389	5,958
<b>Total households and persons</b>					
<b>Total households (lines: 1a+2a+3a)</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,455</b>	<b>8,487</b>
<b>Total persons (lines: 1b+2d+3b)</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,468</b>	<b>9,417</b>

*Number of households without dependent children is an estimate based on survey results.*

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
4. Gender					
4a. Female	1,153	298	4	1,540	2,995
4b. Male	1,992	494	6	3,869	6,361
4c. Transgender	0	2	0	59	61
5. Ethnicity					
5a. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	2,723	698	8	3,699	7,128
5b. Hispanic/Latino	422	96	2	1,769	2,289
6. Race					
6a. White	1,265	354	5	2,680	4,304
6b. Black or African American	1,436	321	3	1,793	3,553
6c. Asian	75	16	0	73	164
6d. American Indian or Alaskan Native	20	7	0	142	169
6e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	17	20	0	59	96
6f. Multiple Races	332	76	2	721	1,131

### Homeless Subpopulations

The following table further breaks down the homeless count data into subpopulations. These data are based on both the homeless count and data from the homeless survey. Lines 1-6 of the following chart are estimates calculated by applying the survey results to the point-in-time homeless count population.

Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Safe Haven		
Chronically Homeless Subpopulations				
1a. Chronically Homeless Individuals	33	3	724	760
1b. Chronically Homeless Families (Total Number of Families)	1	--	0	1
1c. Chronically Homeless Families (Total Persons in Household)	2	--	0	2
Other Homeless Subpopulations				
2. Adults with Serious Mental Illness		308	1,725	2,033
3. Adults with Substance Use Disorder		234	609	843
4. Adults with HIV/AIDS		5	57	62
5. Victims of Domestic Violence		217	598	815

## Homeless Veteran Populations

The Veteran results are broken down by sheltered versus unsheltered status.

Part 3: Homeless Veteran Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
<b>1. Households with at least one adult and one child</b>					
1a. Number of households	1	--	--	--	1
1b. Total number of persons (adults & children)	6	--	--	--	6
1c. Total Number of Veterans	1	--	--	--	1
<b>2. Households without children</b>					
2a. Number of households	148	283	1	795	1,227
2b. Number of persons (adults)	149	284	1	797	1,231
2c. Total Number of Veterans	148	283	1	797	1,229
<b>Total households and persons</b>					
<b>Total households (lines: 1a+2a)</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>1,228</b>
<b>Total persons (lines: 1b+2d)</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>1,237</b>

Part 3: Homeless Veteran Population	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total Amount
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
<b>3. Gender</b>					
3a. Female	7	14	0	188	209
3b. Male	142	269	1	599	1,011
3c. Transgender	0	0	0	10	10
<b>4. Ethnicity</b>					
4a. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	144	266	1	537	948
4b. Hispanic/Latino	5	17	0	260	282
<b>5. Race</b>					
5a. White	93	170	0	408	671
5b. Black or African American	46	86	1	266	399
5c. Asian	1	7	0	12	20
5d. American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	3	0	16	21
5e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	8	0	6	15
5f. Multiple Races	6	9	0	89	104

# APPENDIX VI: HOMELESS CENSUS & SURVEY METHODOLOGY

## 1. Overview

The purpose of the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey was twofold: to produce a point-in-time estimate of the number of homeless persons present in Southern Nevada, and to broaden the scope of understanding regarding the experience and characteristics of homelessness in Southern Nevada through a survey. The ultimate goal of both the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and the Homeless Survey was to obtain valuable data to be utilized by policy-makers to improve homeless services and programs on both a local and national level.

The following summary of methodology is divided into two sections; the first section details the methodology applied to the Point-in-Time Count and the second section details the methodology applied to the Homeless Survey.

## 2. Point in Time Count Census

The PIT Count methodology is divided into two components:

1. **Street Count** - Enumeration of unsheltered homeless individuals. For the purposes of this study, the 2014 HUD definition of an unsheltered homeless individual is as follows:

Individuals and families "...with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground"

2. **Shelter Count** - Enumeration of sheltered homeless individuals. For the purposes of this study, the 2014 HUD definition of a sheltered homeless individual is as follows:

Individuals and families "...living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing,

and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals...this includes individuals residing in Safe Haven provider programs.”

The Street Count and the Shelter Count were conducted during the same time period to minimize the potential for duplicate counting of homeless persons.\*

## 2.1 Street Count Methodology

### 2.1.1 Research Design:

Persons residing in the following were NOT included in the 2014 PIT Count per HUD.

- Persons residing in permanent supportive housing programs, including persons housed using Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers.
- Persons counted in any location not listed on the HIC (e.g., staying in programs with beds/units not dedicated for persons who are homeless, such as detox centers).
- Persons temporarily staying with family or friends (i.e., “doubled-up” or “couch surfing”).
- Persons residing in their own unit (i.e., permanent housing) with assistance from a RRH provider program as of the night of the count.

### 2.1.2 Enumerators:

In order to properly enumerate a homeless population of such substantial size as that of Southern Nevada, individuals with an intimate knowledge of the typical activities and location of homeless persons are imperative. Thus, it is necessary to recruit and train homeless individuals to work as enumerators. These homeless workers are an invaluable component of the street count methodology.

#### *2.1.2a Recruitment & Training of Homeless Enumerators:*

In order to participate in the Street Count as a Homeless Guide, homeless individuals were required to attend a one-hour information and training session. During the week prior to the street count, training sessions were held at various locations throughout Southern Nevada.

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\* In order to generate data that is comparable to previous reports, the methodology outlined in this section closely parallels the methodology of previous years. Therefore, the information in this section is partially derived from: Applied Survey Research 2013 Southern Nevada Homeless Census And Survey Appendix I: Homeless Census And Survey Methodology.<sup>5</sup>

Homeless individuals, staff from homeless service agencies, and various staff from Southern Nevada attended the enumeration trainings. Members of the SNRPC-CoH Regional Initiatives Office trained these teams of volunteers prior to the PIT count. Team captains were chosen to provide observation, guidance, and in-the-field training.

During each training session, trainers presented techniques and methods that would be utilized to enumerate the homeless population during the street count.

### ***2.1.2b Street Count Enumeration Teams:***

Two-person teams were created on the morning of the Street Count. To create the teams, volunteers were paired and in areas that utilized Homeless Guides, each Homeless Guide was paired with a volunteer. This combination has been proven to be particularly effective for the Street Count, as both the Homeless Guide and the volunteer possess unique knowledge and expertise that can be applied to working in the field.

## **2.1.3 Street Count Procedure**

### ***2.1.3a Precautions:***

Significant efforts were implemented to avoid potentially hazardous situations. A safe environment was created in all deployment centers, and law enforcement officials in each district were notified of the pending PIT Count that was to take place in their jurisdictions.

### ***2.1.3b Preparation:***

Using a full canvassing technique, this enumeration was conducted on the night of January 29, 2014. The enumeration teams achieved 80% coverage of existing census tracts.

After the teams were created, each team was provided with a census tract map outlining the particular area to which they were assigned. They were also given a review document highlighting the enumeration techniques, a tally sheet, and other supplies. Shortly before each team deployed to their assigned locations, the leaders conducted a brief review of the enumeration techniques, emphasizing the importance of not disturbing the homeless persons during the enumeration.

### ***2.1.3c Street Count Deployment:***

The 8,091 square mile area that comprises Southern Nevada is divided into 487 federally designated census tracts. Each team received official census maps that identified tract boundaries, and each team was assigned to enumerate no more than two tracts. In order to collect comprehensive data from each census tract, PIT organizers established numerous deployment stations throughout the valley.

The enumeration was conducted on January 29, 2014, and was divided into two sections: urban and rural. Both count deployments occurred in the early morning hours. More specifically, the deployment assigned to the urban sections of Southern Nevada was deployed at 12:00 am on the morning of January 29, 2014. In order to minimize duplications, both teams collected enumeration data within a 31-hour period. The deployment team assigned to the rural sections of Southern Nevada was deployed at 5:00 am on the morning of January 29, 2014. Police and fire departments utilized infrared technology to focus on the unpopulated areas of these rural sections.

The early morning hours are the optimum time to obtain an accurate count of unsheltered homeless persons. This is the time street homeless persons are most visible, thus reducing the risk of duplicate counting.

The enumeration teams included the community partners, volunteers, and jurisdictional staff. This team canvassed all accessible highways, streets, and roads in the census tracts using vehicles, bikes, or traveling by foot. Although several homeless workers provided their own modes of transportation, the majority of workers and volunteers were transported to and from assigned census tracts via personal or agency vehicles.

In partnership with CCSD, teams collected data for homeless children and youth during daylight hours. At 11:00 a.m. on the morning of January 29, 2014, CCSD gathered data for those children attending school. Simultaneously, teams targeted all youth not present in classrooms. These teams canvassed areas frequented by the homeless youth population (e.g. parks, malls, libraries, recreation centers). This co-occurring count strategy ensured little to no duplicative enumeration of homeless children and youth.

Each person identified as homeless within the assigned census tracts was tallied according to the following household categories outlined below.

For the purposes of this report, the following definitions were used for *household*, *individual*, *family*, and a *household with only children*:

- **Household:** Occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
- **Individuals:** Persons in a household without children
- **Family:** Persons in households with at least one adult and one child (under 18)
- **Only Children:** Persons in households composed of only children

For each of the following types of households, and the number of persons in each household were reported by age category (under age 18, age 18-24, over age 24).

- Total Number of Households
- Total Number of One-Child Households
- Total Number of Multi-Child Households
  - Number of Children in Multi-Child Households

Gender, race, and ethnicity data was also collected for each type of household. 2014 marked the first year that veterans and veteran families were included in this household data.

Once each team had completed the enumeration process, they returned to their designated deployment station and submitted their census tally forms to the deployment station captains. Deployment station captains then debriefed each deployment team, and provided any necessary clarification, explanation, and validation of data. Each team was provided time to discuss and comment on the enumeration process, providing information regarding the integrity of the 2014 enumeration effort. Reviews were conducted to check for duplicate counting, and to ensure that all accessible portions of each census tract had been enumerated.



### **2.1.3d Efforts Undertaken to Ensure Enumeration Accuracy**

- **Determining Homeless Status By Observation:** Homeless enumeration is a difficult task, and undercounting is a prominent possibility. Despite the difficulties associated with enumerating the unsheltered homeless population of Southern Nevada, all people, vehicles, abandoned buildings, and encampments were reported to be visually observable by the enumeration teams. This observation-only method enables the PIT Count officials to claim the results of the count to be as accurate and valid as possible. The members of the enumeration teams, especially the homeless guides, claimed that they had no difficulty identifying homeless individuals and differentiating them from members of the general population. Therefore, although there are no means by which the PIT Count officials can guarantee that those enumerated are indeed homeless, they can state that all possible measures were undertaken to ensure the accuracy and validity of the count.
- **Duplicate Counting:** Numerous precautions were implemented into the design of the PIT Count to avoid duplicate counting of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons. The count took place during a targeted timeframe when sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals are least likely to comingle. Additionally, volunteers and homeless workers were instructed to refrain from engaging in direct contact with the enumerated homeless persons; they were instructed to maintain an observation-only approach. Also, the census and survey were at different times; administering both in tandem would have increased the amount of time each portion would take, thus increasing the likelihood of duplicate counting.
- **Unaccompanied Homeless Youth:** For numerous reasons, homeless unaccompanied youth are particularly difficult to enumerate. The homeless youth population typically refrains from co-mingling with the homeless adult population, and tend to reside in places that make enumeration difficult. To overcome these enumeration barriers, specialized youth enumeration teams were created. These teams consisted of homeless youth and formerly homeless youth. The homeless youth population was enumerated at a later time than the unsheltered homeless adults. They were enumerated from 11:00am to 2:00pm due to the fact that this is the time that homeless

unaccompanied youth are most likely to be visible on the streets. Homeless youth under the age of 18 and those between the ages of 18 and 24 typically associate in the same social circles, making it possible to enumerate both groups. All locations were recorded according to the nearest intersection. They were then assigned census tract locations post-facto before being included in the overall countywide enumeration results.

In addition to the above enumeration processes, the Clark County School District, which updated its housing inventory during the same timeframe as the census, reported all students who reported to be homeless. Only those students who matched the HUD definition for literally homeless were included in the final count.

## **2.2 Shelter Count Methodology**

### **2.2.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of the Shelter Count was to enumerate homeless persons who are temporarily residing in Southern Nevada shelters and transitional housing. The data obtained from this count was used to capture an overall count of homeless persons in Southern Nevada, and an appraisal of where these homeless persons seek shelter.

It is important to note that the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for Nevada and the PIT Module (Surveus) was also used to generate data for provider programs with 100 percent of their beds participating in the HMIS. It was verified through Provider Program Staff that their HMIS data was complete and correct for the night of the PIT Count, including correct exit dates for all persons who exited the provider program on or before the date of the PIT.

Shelters included the following HUD defined housing category types:

#### ***2.2.1a Emergency Shelters***

- All emergency shelters funded by HUD ESG and/or other federal, state and local public and private sources
- Hotel/Motel Vouchers paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals
- All VA-funded HCHV/EH and HCHV/RT provider programs including VA Community Contract Emergency Housing (prefix HCHV/EH) and Health

Care for Homeless Veterans VA Community Contract Residential Treatment Program (prefix HCHV/RT)

### ***2.2.1b Transitional Housing***

- HUD-funded transitional housing projects renewing in 2013 CoC competition
- All transitional housing provider programs funded by HUD SHP still operating, but not renewing in 2013 CoC competition
- All transitional housing provider programs for homeless persons funded by other Federal, State, and local public and private sources that do not use the RRH model
- HUD-funded Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration (RRHD) provider programs
- VA-funded transitional housing provider programs, including:
  - VA Grant and Per Diem (prefix GPD)
  - VA Compensated Work Therapy - Transitional Residence (prefix CWT/TR)

### ***2.2.1c Safe Haven Programs***

- All Safe Haven provider programs funded by HUD SHP
- All VA-funded Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) VA Community Contract Safe Haven Program (prefix HCHV/SH)

## **2.2.2 Research Design & Data Collection:**

All persons who matched the following criteria were included in the Shelter Count:

- Entered on or before the date of the count
- Exited after the date of the count (or have not yet exited)

The participation of a broad range of Southern Nevada homeless agencies was necessary to make the Shelter Count possible. These shelters included emergency shelters, safe havens, and agencies that provide vouchers for homeless persons to stay in motels or hotels, and transitional housing programs.

The first task of the Shelter Count was to attempt to identify and collect the contact information of all of the Southern Nevada agencies, both public and private, that temporarily house homeless people. It was then requested that these agencies send Bitfocus Inc the total amount of homeless persons that were housed in their programs

on the night of January 29, 2014. In addition, all data generated from the HMIS that night was collected to ensure the HMIS data coincided with the totals sent by each agency.

## **2.3 Persons in Tunnels and Hidden Homeless Count**

### **2.3.1 Persons In Tunnels**

Beginning in 2011, special enumeration teams have been strategically formed to target the tunnels in Southern Nevada. These teams consist of outreach workers who are familiar with the tunnels and their occupants, as well as formerly homeless individuals who once occupied the tunnels. In 2011, 477 homeless persons were enumerated in the tunnels.<sup>14</sup> In 2013, similar teams were formed, however, due to rain and risk of flooding, this enumeration was limited; 53 homeless persons were added to the 2013 enumeration total.<sup>5</sup> In 2014, similar conditions were present and 64 persons were added to the enumeration total.

### **2.3.2 Hidden Homeless Count**

In an effort to locate the “hidden” homeless of Southern Nevada, Applied Analysis conducted a telephone survey of the general population of Southern Nevada between February 20, 2014 and February 26, 2014 in both English and Spanish.\* **The following is their report:**

*As part of a continuing effort to determine the number of “hidden” homeless in southern Nevada, Applied Analysis conducted the second annual Hidden Homeless Survey of the general population of Clark County. The survey was administered telephonically between February 20, 2014 and February 26, 2014 in both English and Spanish.*

*The survey was completed by a total of 1,000 randomly selected southern Nevada residents. Respondents were asked a series of questions pertaining to homeless issues in the county, most importantly whether they, or anyone they knew of, currently had any homeless individuals or families living in their homes. Respondents identified 135 homeless households with a total of 223 homeless individuals. To prevent double counting, responses were filtered to include only those respondents who reported a homeless individual or homeless household living in their home. This brought the number down to 20 homeless households with a total of 31 homeless individuals. These 31 homeless individuals*

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\* Please note that Applied Analysis refers to Southern Nevada as ‘Clark County.’ As with this document in its entirety, Clark County should be considered Southern Nevada

represented a gross potential hidden homeless rate of 3.1 percent, down from last year's rate of 6.0 percent.

*The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) excludes from their Exhibit I Continuum of Care funding application people "doubled-up" with friends and family. For this reason, responses were filtered again by sleeping location to eliminate possible "double-up" situations (i.e., those living in a bedroom, family room/living room/den, dining room/kitchen, or laundry room or other inside storage area). Respondents who could not or who refused to note where the household was sleeping on the property were also excluded. Acceptable areas on the property that were counted towards the hidden homeless rate included an uncovered garage, attic, basement, outdoor porch, vehicle/camper or van parked on property, or a tent/shed or other outside location.*

*Applying these filters, it was determined that one household consisting of one individual fit the narrowed HUD definition of a homeless individual living on property in an area other than the main house. This individual was identified as living in a tent or shed or other outside location. This translated to a HUD-aligned hidden homeless rate of 1 per 1,000 households (and similarly, 1 per 1,000 individuals). According to the 2010-2012 U.S. Census American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Clark County has 703,972 households. Applying the final hidden homeless rate from the sample to Clark County, the phone survey reveals that there are approximately 704 hidden homeless households. Furthermore, the 3-Year Estimates show that Clark County has a total population of 1,974,036. If we apply the hidden homeless rate to the number of individuals, the phone survey suggests that there are approximately 1,974 hidden homeless persons residing in Clark County.*

*The results of the survey have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1$  percent at the 95-percent confidence interval, well within the accepted range for market research studies. Although households were randomly selected, only limited demographic data were captured from respondents; as such, the results could be impacted by sampling bias. There may also be potential bias from using a random telephonic survey as some households may have more than one voice line and others may have no phone at all. Sampling bias is an important issue to consider, and there were no known biases in the scientific statistical sample that was used. The sample drawn was a stratified, weighted random digit dial (RDD) sample, for which use of this type of survey has been given precedence in other studies (See "Lifetime and Five-Year Prevalence of Homelessness in the United States" and "Comparing Adults in Los Angeles County Who Have and Have Not Been Homeless"). Household phone lines were dialed automatically, and mobile numbers were dialed by hand, in accordance with the regulations governing telephone research.*

*One additional area of concern is that survey respondents may be significantly different than non-respondents. Due to the general nature of telephone surveying, the natural suspicion from many respondents and the potential code violation aspects of housing a homeless person in a non-standard location, our research team feels the survey results are valid, conservative, and can be generalized. The estimates reported here are more likely undercounting this phenomenon rather than overestimating it.*

## **2.4 PIT Count Census Challenges & Assumptions Of Annual Estimation**

### **2.4.1 Challenges:**

Homeless enumeration is challenging for any community; Southern Nevada, however, presents its own unique set of challenges. Homeless individuals, in general, do not want to be visible; they make concerted efforts to avoid detection. Therefore, regardless of the methodology or the amount of effort placed into the outreach, the final enumeration amount will still be considered an undercount.

Although academically-sound, the Southern Nevada Census effort was still subject to the innate challenges of enumerating homeless populations. The non-intrusive, point-in-time, visual homeless enumeration techniques were still hindered by inherent biases and shortcomings.

Several of the challenges enumerators face are discussed below.

#### ***2.4.1a Large & Diverse Community With Difficult Access:***

Southern Nevada is a large community filled with a diverse population. It is composed of large commercial districts, suburbs, and a vast amount of outlying rural counties. Most homeless persons tend to remain close to the homeless shelters and facilities, but homeless persons, especially families, can reside in the suburb and outlying rural counties, which are difficult for enumerators to access. In general, homeless populations are composed of groups that are difficult to enumerate. These include:

- **Chronically Homeless Individuals:** These individuals are not guaranteed to access social, health, or shelter services on a frequent or consistent basis.
- **Homeless Persons with Children:** Many parents and their children remain hidden in obscure locations in fear of having to release their



children to Child Protective Services. They often stay on private property, out of sight from the enumeration teams.

- **Unaccompanied Homeless Children:** This population tends to strive to remain hidden, and is thus less visible than homeless adults.
- **Homeless Persons Residing in Unsafe Structures:** Many homeless individuals reside in buildings or locations that are unsafe for the enumerators to investigate.
- **Homeless Persons Located in Isolated Rural Areas:** The rural counties of Southern Nevada are vast and make accurate enumeration exceptionally difficult.
- **Homeless Persons Residing in Cars:** This segment of the homeless population tends to relocate every few days, making accurate enumeration difficult.

Despite the fact that the conservative approach taken cannot ensure a fully accurate count; it is necessary to ensure accurate data. Coupled with the homeless survey, this methodology is the most comprehensive approach available.

#### **2.4.1b Assumptions Of Annual Estimation:**

The calculations used to project the annual estimate of homeless persons are governed by two assumptions:

1. The homeless survey responses are homogenous to the responses that would have been provided at any other point-in-time during the year and are representative of the entire Southern Nevada homeless population.
2. The results of the PIT Count are homogenous to that of a count that would have been conducted at any time during the year.

Service providers support these assumptions, stating that demand for services remains relatively stable throughout the year. They also state that the amount of homeless persons that access services remains relatively stable, with the only major variations being the seasonal variations in the proportion of sheltered versus unsheltered homeless.

Policy-makers must take into account that most homeless experiences are fairly short-term (e.g. less than a year). However, Bitfocus Inc. is confident that the combination of the size of the survey sample (948), the statistical reliability of

the projections, the unavoidable undercount inherent in any homeless census, as well as the use of a HUD-approved annualization calculation ensures that the current methodology was the most complete and accurate of all available approaches.

### **3. Homeless Survey**

#### **3.1 Research Design & Procedure**

##### **3.1.1 Purpose**

948 homeless persons were surveyed in order to yield qualitative data to enhance understanding of the scope and characteristics of the homeless community in Southern Nevada. Through open-ended, closed-ended, and multiple response questions, the survey yielded information from the following topic areas:

- Gender
- Family status
- Military service
- Length and recurrence of homelessness
- Access to homeless services and programs

The data obtained from this survey is used for the McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding application. The data broaden and enhance the efficacy of existing programs and services. In addition the survey results continue to paint a picture of homelessness in Southern Nevada, measuring changes in the composition of the homeless population since 2007.

##### **3.1.2 Procedure**

###### ***3.1.2.a Survey Workers & Volunteers:***

The SNRPC-CoH Regional Initiatives Office trained service providers and homeless workers regarding how to conduct the survey. The training consisted of a comprehensive instruction regarding confidentiality, interviewing protocol, determining respondent eligibility, and project background information. The surveys were administered within the shelters, and due to confidentiality issues, service providers administered the surveys.

###### ***3.1.2b Survey Sampling:***



The survey workers employed a random sampling strategy, as outlined by HUD, in order to minimize selection bias. This strategy was characterized as an “every third encounter” approach, meaning the survey workers approached every third person they considered to be eligible for the survey.

Interviewers inquired whether the homeless individual had already taken the survey. If they had not, they were then asked if they were willing to do so. Survey administrators also informed the homeless individuals of the ‘thank you’ gift that they would receive upon completion of the survey. If the homeless individual declined, the service providers were instructed to approach the next homeless individual they encountered. They were instructed to document the number of refusals, however, the majority (99.2%) of homeless individuals approached agreed to take the survey (there were 8 refusals) It is important to note that although this refusal rate is low, it is possible that those individuals who refused to take the survey could have provided significantly different responses than the homeless individuals who agreed to take the survey.

To bolster the randomized sampling procedure, survey workers attempted to reach homeless individuals in a wide range of various geographical locations. Various homeless sub-populations were also targeted, including minority ethnic groups, families, military veterans, etc. In order to reach the homeless youth, the survey officials trained a team of homeless youth to administer the survey to fellow homeless youth.

In 2014, there was a point-in-time estimate of 9,417 homeless individuals. Using random sampling technique, 948 surveys were administered. When generalizing the results of the survey to the estimated population of homeless individuals in Southern Nevada, this amount represents a Confidence Level of 95% with a Confidence Interval of 3.0.

### ***3.1.2c Survey Administration & Data Collection:***

The survey workers made every effort to ensure that each survey respondent felt comfortable as they took the survey. Survey workers encouraged candid responses from the survey respondents, explaining that all responses would remain confidential and anonymous.

The survey workers were trained to remain unbiased throughout the survey, making no assumption and avoiding prompts. They were also instructed to keep all responses confidential. They were instructed to ask all of the

questions on the survey, but allow the survey respondents answer only the questions they felt comfortable answering.

### ***3.1.2d Street Homeless:***

Homeless interviewers were trained to administer the surveys to the 'street' homeless as they can identify with the conditions and challenges that the street homeless individuals face. These workers also knew the likely locations where the street homeless individuals could be found. This peer-to-peer method was particularly effective at building rapport between the homeless individual and the homeless survey workers, likely encouraging honest responses.

### ***3.1.2e Shelters & Transitional Housing:***

16 emergency shelters, 15 transitional housing facilities, and 1 safe haven located in Southern Nevada participated in the survey administration. Program staff conducted these surveys and the same survey was used in both the street and shelter environments. In order to avoid underrepresentation of transitional housing residents, survey workers created survey quotas that targeted individuals and heads of households residing in these programs.

### ***3.1.2f Data Analysis - Elimination of Duplicate Surveys:***

A sound strategy was employed to avoid duplicate surveys. Along with documenting the respondents' initials and date of birth, the survey workers also examined gender, ethnicity, and length of homeless in order to identify any duplicate surveys. After evaluation, it was determined that there were zero duplicate surveys, thus leaving 948 valid surveys to be analyzed.

A total of 948 surveys were administered, with a 0.8% refusal rate. There were no duplicate surveys administered. Zero surveys were conducted in Spanish.

## **3.2 Survey Challenges & Limitations**

With a point-in-time estimate of 9,417, 948 valid surveys, and a randomized sample, the surveys represent a confidence interval of [+/- 3.0% with a 95% confidence level; the identified confidences can be applied to the survey findings despite the fact that an equal representation of all homeless experiences is not feasible.

The self-reporting research technique used in this survey effort presents a range of challenges, one of which being misrepresentation. There is no way to confidently conclude that each question was answered with honesty and accuracy. The peer-to-peer technique utilized in this survey effort was particularly effective at reducing the

risk of misrepresentation and biases. Respondents were more comfortable offering candid answers to a peer, and were more willing to reveal personal information.

In sum, it is important to note that carefully selected and highly trained interviewers reviewed the responses of these surveys. All surveys were reviewed for quality responses, and any incomplete surveys or falsified responses were eliminated from the final results.

## **APPENDIX VII: GLOSSARY & DEFINITION OF TERMS**

### **Annual Estimate**

An estimated amount of homeless persons in a given CoC over the course of a year. This estimate is calculated in order to compensate for the bias created by the inability to include persons who experience short episodes of homelessness throughout the year, at times other than the PIT count. This reduces the degree of underrepresentation of the true number of homeless persons at any given point in time during the year.

### **Annual Homeless Assessment Report AHAR**

Annual Report responding to a congressional directive that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provide an annual report to Congress on the extent and nature of homelessness. The AHAR provides the results of local counts of people homeless on a single night in January, as well as estimates of the number, characteristics, and service patterns of all people who used residential programs for homeless people. It also provides national estimates on the use of the full continuum of homeless assistance programs—from homelessness prevention to homeless residential services to permanent supportive housing.

### **Chronic Substance Abuse**

This category on the PIT includes persons with a substance abuse problem (alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or both) that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.

### **Chronically Homeless Individual**

An unaccompanied homeless adult individual (persons 18 years or older) with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/Safe Haven during that time. For purposes of the PIT, persons living in transitional housing at the time of the PIT count should not be included in this category.

### **Chronically Homeless Family**

A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria for a chronically homeless individual, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless. For purposes of the PIT, persons living in transitional housing at the time of the PIT count should not be included in this subpopulation category; the subpopulation count should include all members of the household, including children.

### **Continuums of Care (CoC)**

A collaborative funding and planning approach that helps communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and other service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. HUD also refers to the group of service providers involved in the decision-making processes as the "Continuum of Care." They are responsible for coordinating the full range of homeless services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or entire state.

### **Contributory HMIS Program**

A program that contributes Protected Personal Information (PPI) or other client-level data to an HMIS.

### **Disabling Condition**

Any one of (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder. For the purposes of this study, disabling condition is further specified as any of the following: physical disability, mental illness, severe depression, alcohol or drug abuse, chronic health problems, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, trauma, or a developmental disability.

### **Emergency Shelter**

Short-term provision of shelter that can be proffered either through a shelter facility or motel vouchers. This temporary assistance is usually provided for 30 days or less. An example of an emergency shelter is a domestic violence shelter, which offers immediate housing and safety for victims of domestic violence and their families.

### **Episode of Homelessness (HUD Definition)**

A separate, distinct, and sustained stay on the streets and/or in an emergency homeless shelter.

### **Extrapolation**

A technique for estimating the total number of unsheltered persons in your community based on the number of unsheltered persons that you have been able to observe and/or interview from your statistically reliable sample

### **Family**

HUD defined household with at least one adult (18 or older) and one child (under 18).

### **HMIS**

An HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, while also protecting client confidentiality. It is designed to aggregate client-level data to generate an unduplicated count of clients served within a community's system of homeless services. An HMIS may also cover a statewide or regional area, and include several CoCs. The HMIS can provide data on client characteristics and service utilization. HMIS is an eligible budget activity and also an SHP component that allows applicants to request SHP assistance for dedicated or shared projects.

### **Homelessness (HUD Definition)**

An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

### **Individual**

Persons in a household without children. They are homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

### **Homeless Individual**

According to the McKinney Act, 42, U.S.C § 11301, et seq. a homeless individual is a person who "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and... has a primary night time residency that is: (A) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations... (B) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

### **Household**

Occupants may be a family, as defined in 24 CFR 5.403; two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

### **Households With Only Children**

HUD defines Households With Only Children as household configurations composed of more than one person under the age of 18. This includes unaccompanied children, adolescent parents, groups composed of adolescent siblings, and any other type of household configuration that is composed of only children.

### **Only Children**

Persons in households composed of only children

### **Persons in Families**

People who are homeless as part of households that have at least one adult and one child.

### **Persons with HIV/AIDS**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes persons who have been diagnosed with AIDS and/or have tested positive for HIV.

### **Permanent Supportive Housing**

Permanent housing in which supportive services are provided to assist homeless persons with disability to live independently.

### **PIT**

Point-in-Time

### **Protected Personal Information (PPI)**

Information about a client: (1) whose identity is apparent from the information or can reasonably be ascertained from the information; or (2) whose identity can, taking into account any methods reasonably likely to be used, be learned by linking the information with other available information or by otherwise manipulating the information.

### **Safe Haven**

A form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.

### **Severe Depression**

Individuals who reported experiencing depression and who reported that their depression prevents them from getting work or housing.

### **Adults with Serious Mental Illness**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes persons with mental health problems that are expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impairs the person's ability to live independently.

### **Sheltered Homeless Persons**

Homeless persons who are living in a emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.

### **Single Individual or Person**

An unaccompanied person of any age not in families.

### **Transitional Housing**

A project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months, or a longer period approved by HUD. For purposes of the HOME program, there is no HUD-approved time period for moving to independent living

### **Unaccompanied Child (under 18)**

Minors (under 18) not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including those living in inadequate housing such as shelters, cars, or on the streets. Also includes those who have been denied housing by their families and school-age unwed mothers who have no housing of their own, and present for services alone.



### **Unsheltered Homeless Persons**

An individual or family who "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence; and has a primary night time residency that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. This includes individuals and families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground

### **Unsheltered - Street Homeless Persons**

Unsheltered homeless persons who do not reside in shelters, but instead reside in locations such as unoccupied cars, vans, RVs, encampments, and abandoned buildings, or other areas not meant for human habitation.

### **Unsheltered - Hidden Homeless Persons**

The estimated amount of unsheltered homeless persons generated from a general population telephone survey. These persons reside outside of shelters, in places not meant for human habitation that are not visible to enumerators.

### **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

Established in 1965, HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. To fulfill this mission, HUD will embrace high standards of ethics, management and accountability and forge new partnerships – particularly with faith-based and community organizations – that leverage resources and improve HUD's ability to be effective on the community level.

### **Veteran**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes persons who have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called up to active duty.

### **Victims of Domestic Violence**

This subpopulation category of the PIT includes adults who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking at any point in the past.



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Bitfocus

9101 W. Sahara Ave. #105-158  
Las Vegas, NV 89117  
(702) 614-6690  
[www.bitfocus.com](http://www.bitfocus.com)