



Loaves & Fishes

Homeless Survival Services
Since 1983

www.sacloaves.org



**October 2015 Survey of
the guests of Sacramento Loaves & Fishes**

Only six types of people experience homelessness:

Someone's mother

Someone's father

Someone's sister

Someone's brother

Someone's daughter

Someone's son



Introduction

On October 14th, 2015, we surveyed 336 of Loaves & Fishes' guests so that we could better understand their circumstances. Our goal is to actively assess the needs of our guests and evaluate how effectively we are meeting those needs so we can better serve the most vulnerable men, women, and children in our community.

Participation in the survey was voluntary. It consisted of 20 questions. Our guests were individually interviewed by a score of volunteers as they left the Dining Room after lunch. Over 70% of those who ate lunch that day participated.

- We found that over half of our guests are aged 50 or older.
- A staggering 63% are sleeping outside without shelter.
- 53% reported psychiatric disabilities such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe anxiety or major depression.

The simple amenities that Loaves & fishes offers - warm coffee, free showers, a change of clothes, a nourishing lunch, access to phones, a sense of community, relationships with caring staff members and volunteers - are a lifeline for people experiencing homelessness.

We hope that sharing these results will deepen our community's understanding of the dimensions of homelessness in Sacramento and embolden our community's commitment to ending homelessness and the suffering it causes.

Demographics

Age

The majority of our guests are age 50 or older.

19-29	6%
30-39	15%
40-49	26%
50-59	37%
60-69	13%
70 or over	2%



Angel died outside on a cold January night.

Gender

Male	69%
Female	31%

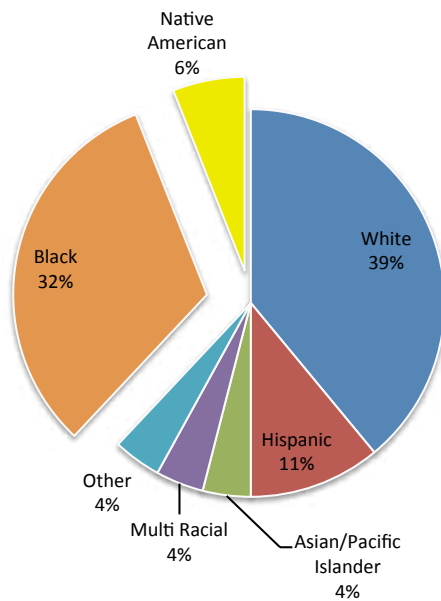
Psychiatric Disabilities

53% report that they have a psychiatric or emotional condition such as major depression, bi-polar disorder, severe anxiety or schizophrenia.

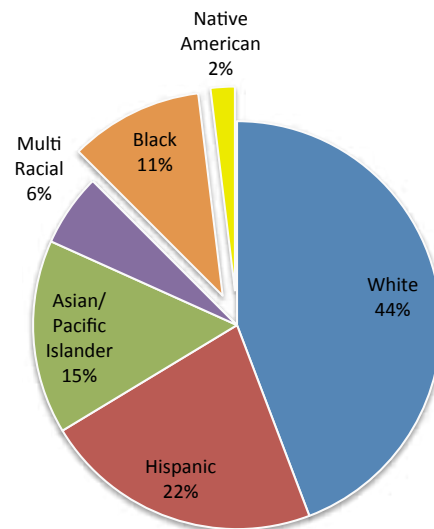
Race

Three times as many African Americans and Native Americans experience homelessness than one would expect based upon their representation in the general population.

Loaves & Fishes



Sacramento County**

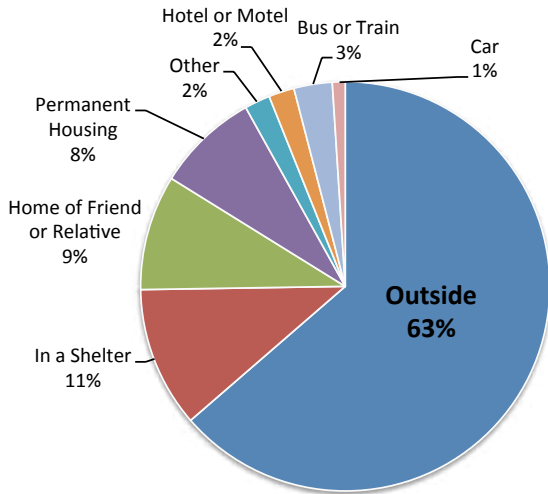


**U.S. Census Bureau 2014 County QuickFacts <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06067.html>

Living Status

Where Did You Sleep Last Night?

The majority of our guests slept outside the preceding night.



It is illegal to sleep outside in Sacramento for more than one night.

Residency

The vast majority (89%) of our guests have been in Sacramento longer than a year.

Length of residence in Sacramento

One month	1%
Up to a year	9%
Up to 5 years	16%
5 years or longer	73%

Homelessness

Homeless	90%
Non-Homeless	10%
First-time Being Homeless	41%

Length of homelessness

Less than 1 month	4%
1 to 6 months	18%
6-12 months	17%
1 year or longer	54%

Founded in 1983, Loaves & Fishes feeds the hungry and shelters the homeless. We provide an oasis of welcome, safety, and cleanliness for homeless men, women and children seeking survival services.

We are the largest local provider of comprehensive services for the homeless, providing for the needs over 13,000 guests each year. Our programs include:

Advocacy	Friendship Park	Maryhouse
Animal Kennel	Genesis Mental Health	Mustard Seed School
Community Service	Jail Visitation	Sister Nora's Place
Dining Room	Library Reading Room	Wash House

Environment

Criminalization

28% of our guests have received a camping ticket or citation in the past year; 72% have not.

Veterans

13% have served in the military.

Health Insurance

81% have health insurance.

Addiction

25% report a problem with drug or alcohol use.

Income

19% have no income at all.

Social Security or SSI	40%
Cal Fresh (Food Stamps)	26%
General Assistance	12%
Part-Time Employment	8%
Full-Time Employment	1%
Cal Works for Families	3%
Child Support	1%
Other	6%
None	19%

"I got a shelter space to stay at starting tonight. Staff is excellent, resources all in one spot is great."





Experience at Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes guests overwhelmingly felt safe, respected, and that they had their immediate needs met.

Treated with respect by staff and volunteers	96%
Felt safe all or most of the time at Loaves & Fishes	93%
The services provided met my needs	92%
The meal was satisfying.	92%
Used three or more services per week	85%

Services used this week

Dining Room	97%
Friendship Park	79%
Showers	72%
Breakfast	54%
Library	42%
Maryhouse	23%
Legal Clinic/ Community Service	21%
Genesis	18%
Kennel	6%
Mustard Seed School	3%
Sister Nora's Place	2%
Other Services	7%

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