

Interfaith Homelessness Network
Preliminary Survey Findings
October 23, 2006

The Interfaith Homelessness Network has operated the April Showers program since April of 2002. On that first Sunday, a handful of volunteers hosted a handful of homeless residents. In 2005, an average of 40 homeless guests attended each Showers. In September of 2006, we had 70 guests at one Shower, and we have averaged 58 guests July through September of this year.

With this growth of the program has come the desire to grow our services. To find out the needs of the homeless community that attends April Showers, we conducted a survey. From June 4 through August 20, 2006, volunteers carried out surveys of sixty-one guests attending April Showers. The following pages summarize some of the data collected. Not surprisingly, our guests seek housing and employment. They would use a day center if one were present in San Leandro.

The survey was written and conducted by volunteers, people who are not professionally trained for this purpose, but who have won the trust of the April Showers guests. We believe that these preliminary results provide a reasonably accurate summary of the needs of those individuals who attend April Showers. It is not meant to be representative of entire homeless population of San Leandro.

The process of compiling the data continues. We hope that this data will be useful to the city of San Leandro as it develops its plan to end homelessness. We look forward to working with the city to this end.

Tom Breckenridge
Co-Chair, Social Action Committee
Interfaith Homelessness Network

**Preliminary Survey Summary
Draft**

Surveys conducted 61 individuals

2. Gender

Men	47	77%
Women	14	23%

1. Age

Average	47.3 years
Oldest	81
Youngest	26

By decades:

20-29	5	60-69	5
30-39	9	70-79	2
40-49	22	80-89	1
50-59	17		

3. Residency

San Leandro only or as part of answer	47	77%
Oakland only or as part of answer	9	15%

6. Where do you usually sleep?

Open Space only or as part of answer	25	41%
Vehicle only or as part of answer	18	30%
Shelter	6	
Shared Residence	6	
Own Residence	4	
Various buildings	3	

7. How long have you been homeless?

Average:	2.6 years
Maximum:	13.0 years
Minimum:	0 years

Less than 1 year	15
1 to 2 years	7
2 to 4 years	8
4 to 6 years	14
6 to 7 years	5
10 to 13 years	3

8. How did this happen?

Many gave multiple reasons. Figures below include all mentions of an issue, either alone or in combination with another reason. (Thus percentages add up to more than 100%)

	#	%
Job Loss	22	36
Family/relationship changes	22	36
Medical/health	17	28
Rent Increase	7	11
Other happenstances	8	13
<i>Individuals represented above</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>74</i>
Substance abuse	10	16
Incarceration of partner	4	7
<i>Individuals represented above</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>23</i>
No answer	2	3

9. Are you working now?

Yes	18	30%
No	43	70%

12. If you're not working now, have you looked for work?

Yes	24 of 43	56%
No	16 of 43	37%
No response	3 of 43	7%

13 If you're not working now, what gets in the way?

Health	16 of 43	37%
Cleanliness	4 of 43	9%
Age/training	4 of 43	9%
Procrastination	3 of 43	7%
No response	6 of 43	14%

18. What do you need most right now?

Many gave multiple reasons. Figures below include all mentions of an issue, either alone or in combination with another reason. (Thus percentages add up to more than 100%)

	#	%
Housing	29	48
Employment	16	26
<i>Individuals represented above</i>	43	70

Medical/Dental	6	10
Other	12	16

20. Do you need a place to be indoors during the day?

Yes	37	61%
No	23	38%
?	1	

23. Would you use a day/drop-in center if one were available in San Leandro?

Yes	50	82%
No	9	15%
Maybe	2	

25. Which (drop-in center) services are most important to you?

Most gave multiple reasons. Figures below include all mentions of an issue, either alone or in combination with another reason. (Thus percentages add up to more than 100%)

	#	%		#	%
Showers	42	69	Recreation	9	15
Food	28	46	Counseling	7	11
Mail Service	16	26	Safety	5	8
Phone Service	14	23	Computers	5	8
Information/Referral	13	21	Medical/Dental	4	7
Laundry	11	18	Place to cook	4	7
			Recovery Services	1	2