2017 Youth Count - From Surveys to Estimates

Since 2016, LAHSA has used the Youth Count Survey as a tool to capture the demographic characteristics of youth experiencing homelessness. Based on the number of surveys we collect, we can also estimate approximately how many youth are experiencing unsheltered homelessness based on HUD definition. This document conceptually explains how LAHSA uses the number of completed surveys to estimate the number of unsheltered youth during the Count. Please note that all numbers used below are for demonstration purposes only. LAHSA will release a detailed methodology report along with estimates after the 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.
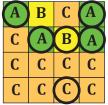
Example: Service Planning Area (SPA) X with 16 Census Tracts

All Census Tracts in SPA X

Selected Tracts for Survey

8 Surveys v. 19 Youth

First, we divide all census tracts into three groups based on likelihood of finding youth in each tract.

A	Census tracts with drop-in centers and youth hotspots identified by youth and youth providers
B	Census tracts with historic youth count data and street count youth data
C	Census tracts without hotspots or historic youth count data

Based on the category, we determine how many tracts we will be surveying from each group. We call these rules "Probability of Selection."

Rules		Number of Tracts to Survey	
Group A: Select 100% of the tracts		A	4 out of 4 tracts
Group B: Select 50% of the tracts randomly		B	1 out of 2 tracts
Group C: Select 10% of the tracts randomly		C	1 out of 10 tracts

Once the surveys are collected, we multiply the number of eligible surveys by sample weights. Sample weights are calculated by taking inverse of the probability of selection. The SPA collected a total of 8 surveys, and the number of youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness is estimated to be 19.

	Number of Youth who Took the Survey	X	Sample Weights	=	Estimated Number of Homeless Youth
A	5		1		5
B	2		2		4
C	1		10		10
	8 Surveys				**19 Youth**