

WESTMINSTER
HOMELESS
CENSUS
COMPARISON
2017 & 2019

Produced by City Net for the City of Westminster



City Net

City of Westminster

Homeless Census Data Comparison: 2017 and 2019

Overview:

Over a two-year period, City Net was contracted by the City of Westminster to organize and implement two separate homeless censuses for the purpose of:

1. identifying a baseline number of individuals living without housing against which to measure all homelessness prevention and intervention efforts, and
2. determining the demographics, assets, and other special characteristics of individuals without housing to better inform resource allocation.

The first unsheltered census conducted by City Net was conducted the morning of April 17th and the evening of April 18th, 2017. The second unsheltered census was conducted the morning of December 10th and the evening of December 12th, 2019. These two City Net censuses are separate projects from the 2017 and 2019 Orange County Point In Time Count. Results from these censuses will inform resource allocation, programmatic implementation and community investments toward the goal of reducing homelessness in the city.

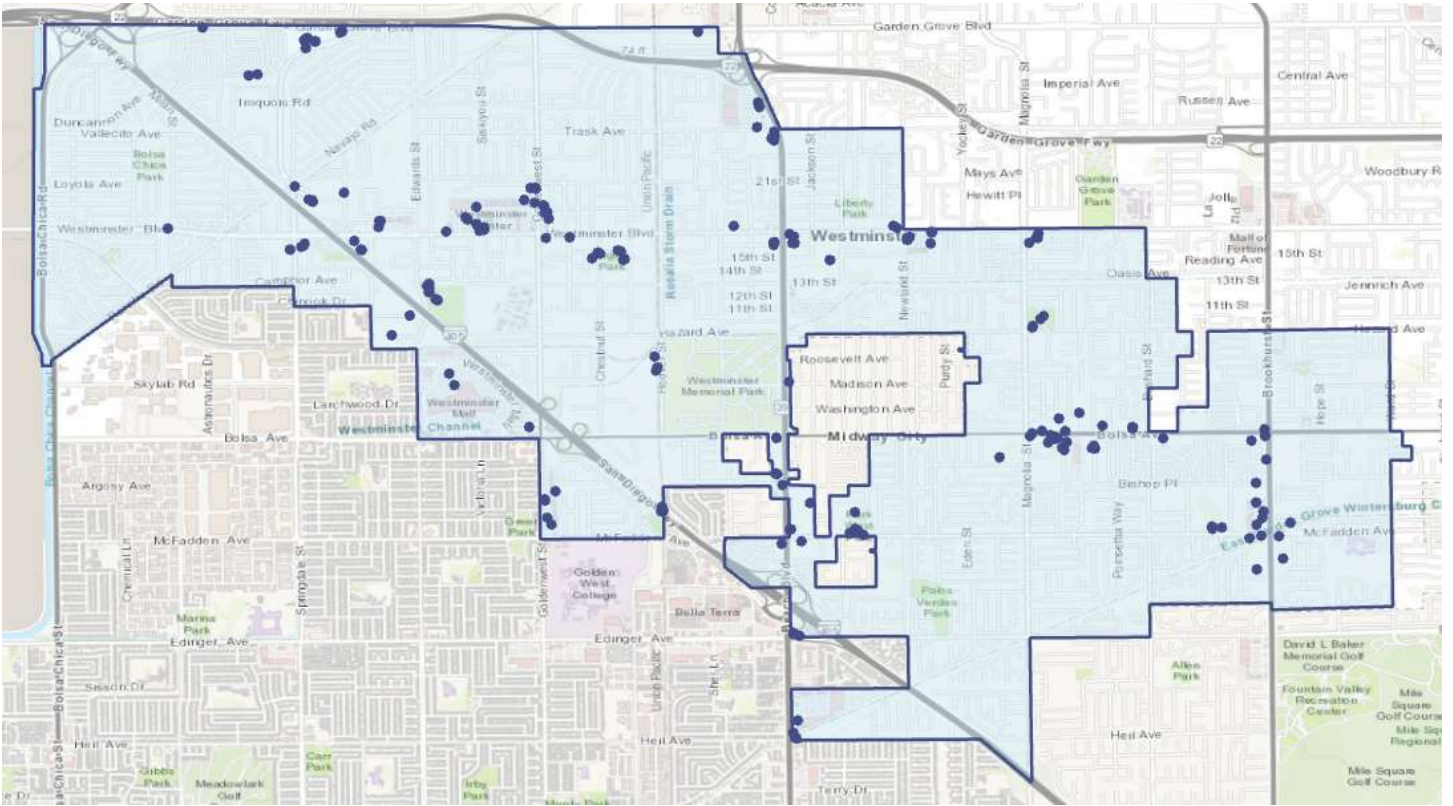
Methodology:

During both censuses, multiple teams were deployed with a Westminster Police Department officer. Each police officer was deployed with a minimum of one City Net surveyor. Each surveyor's area was indicated on assigned maps. Specific locations within the mapped area where homeless individuals were known to sleep were highlighted. Because the goal of these projects was a comprehensive census—not a representative sample—even those areas on the teams' maps where no homeless individuals were known to sleep were visited. Additionally, because of the comprehensive approach, all of Westminster was mapped and included in the census, including residential areas where homeless individuals are very rarely seen.

Teams were deployed from the Westminster Police Department two times during the census week. Teams surveyed the city during both early morning hours, and late evening hours. Homeless individuals who did not wish to answer the survey questions were counted. Responses from homeless individuals who opted to participate in the survey and those who were observed were entered in an ArcGIS mobile application, Survey123.

The data was exported into a spreadsheet, and duplicates were removed after the completion of the census by comparing names and any available demographic data. City Net also added individuals (and any known demographic, asset, and special characteristic data) from their case management roster of those who typically sleep in Westminster but were not encountered during the census (includes encounters over the last 30 days).

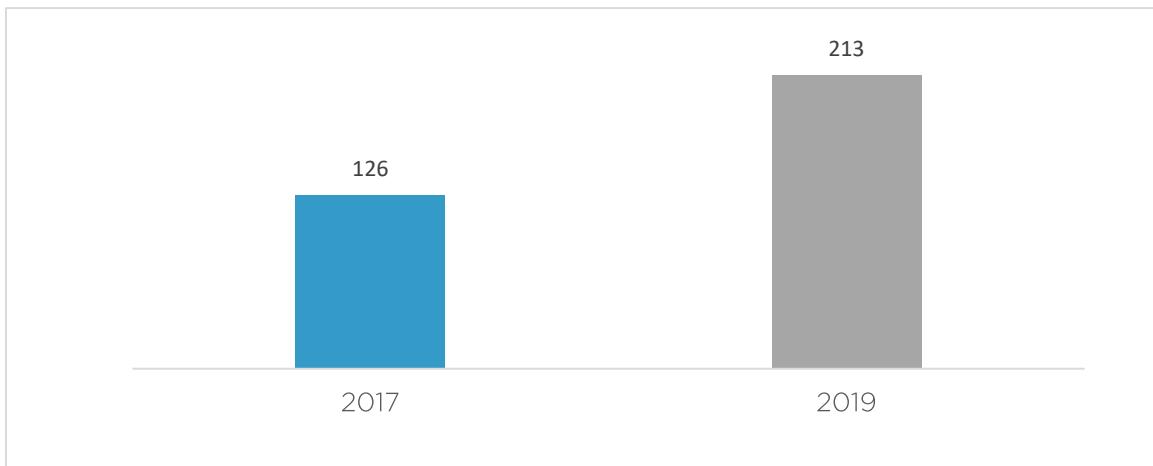
2019 Unsheltered Survey Locations



Results:

The charts below offer a comparison between the data collected during the two censuses.

Chart 1: Total Count Comparison



Demographic Data

Chart 2: Age Distribution

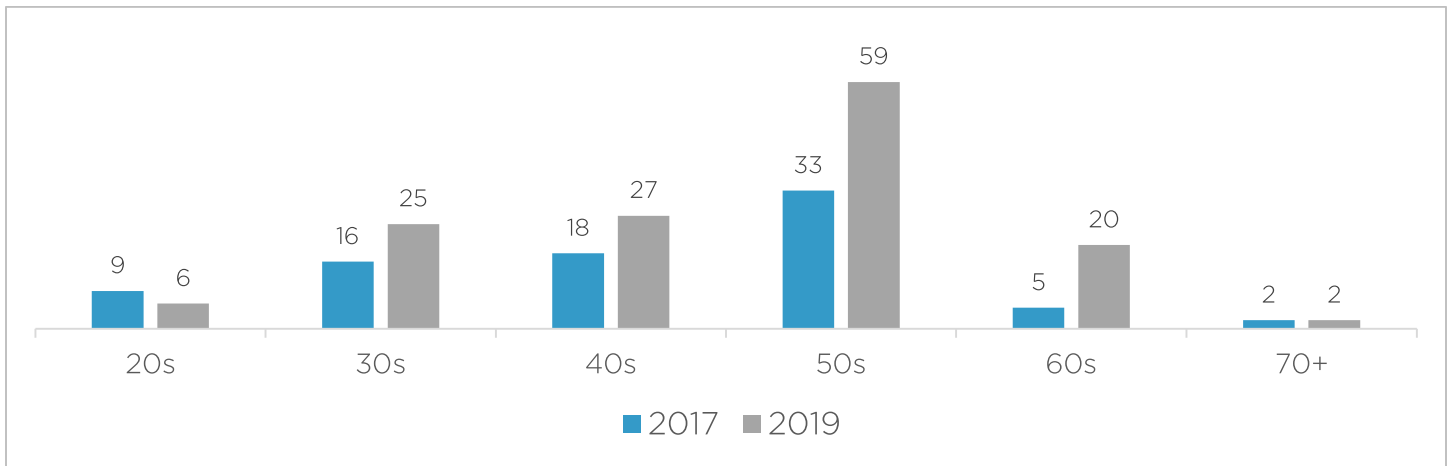


Chart 3: Race/Ethnicity

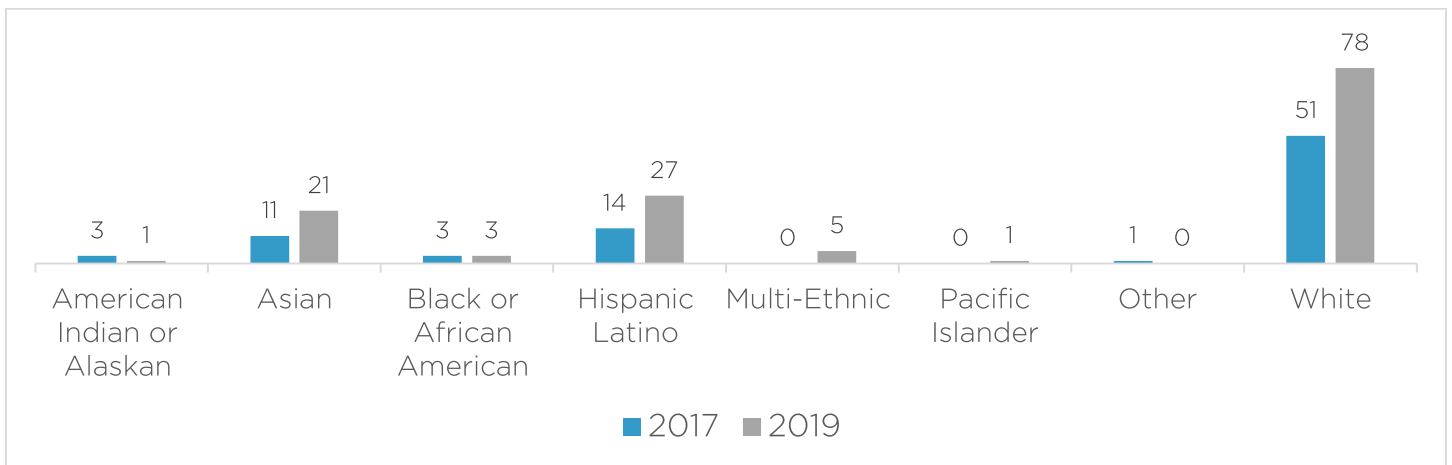


Chart 4: Gender

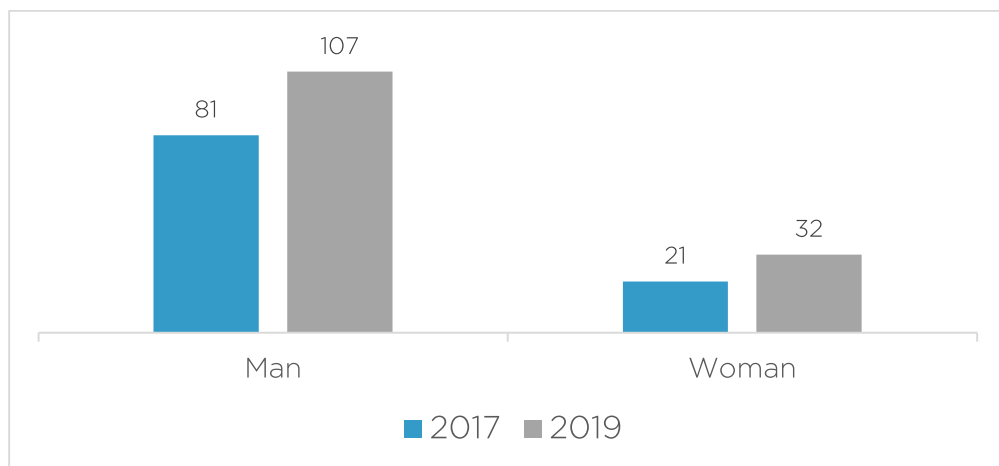


Chart 5: Minor Children Present

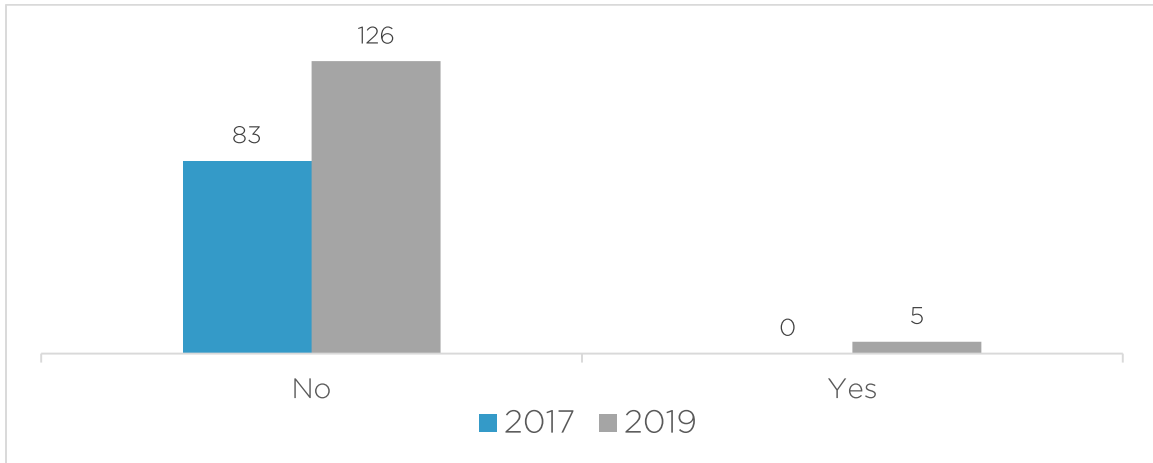
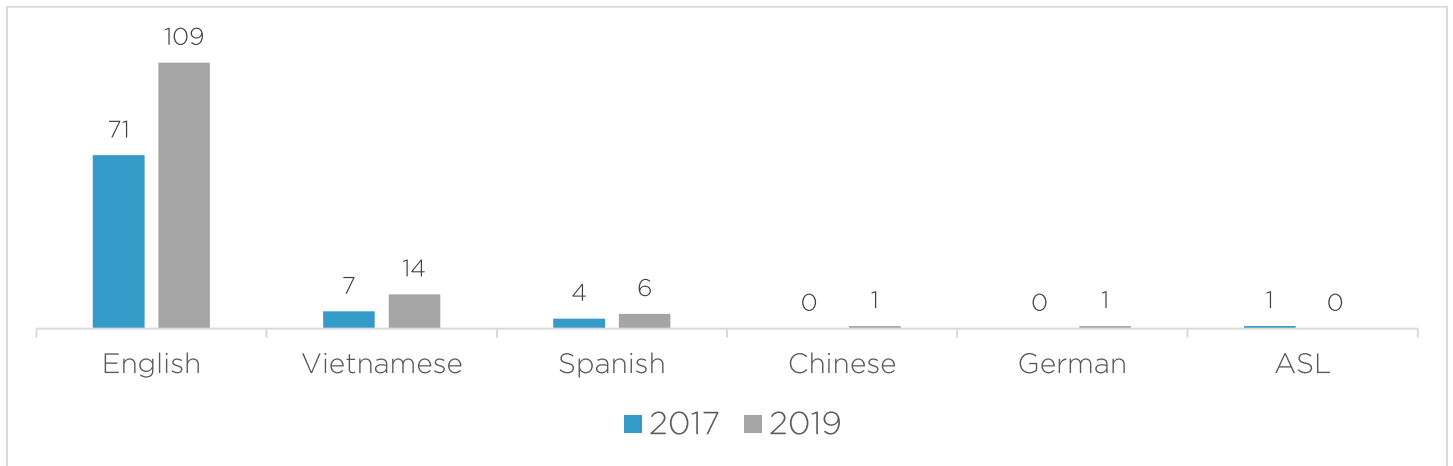


Chart 6: Preferred Language



Asset Data

Chart 7: Income

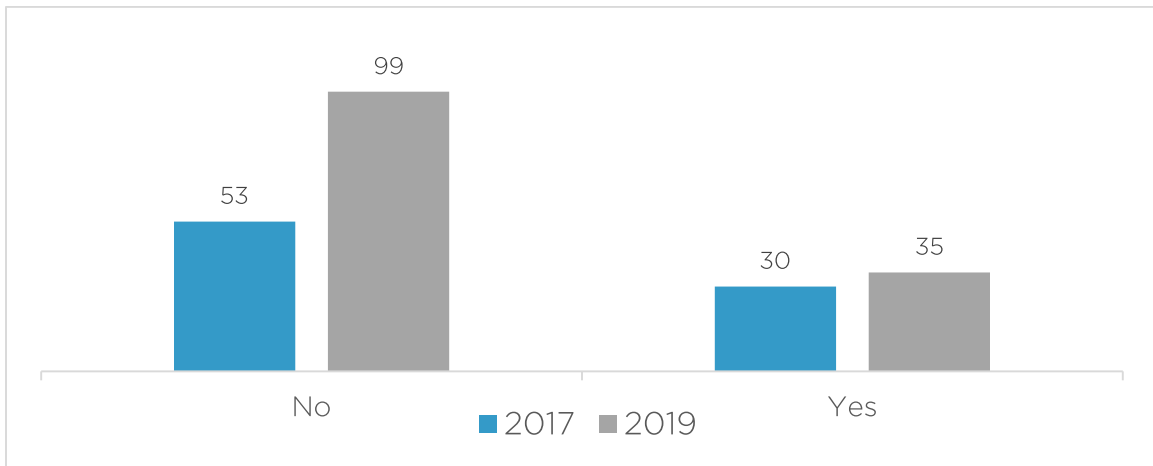


Chart 8: Gross Income

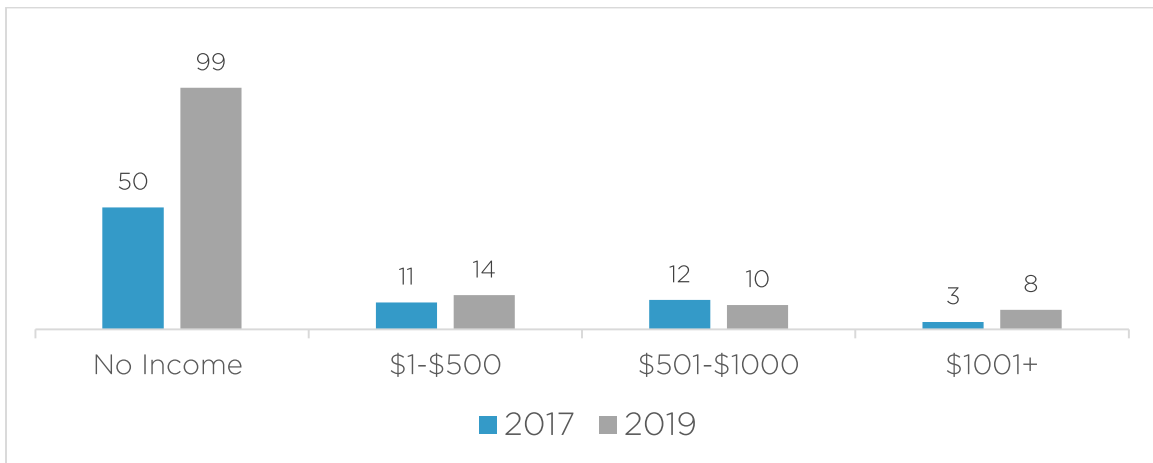


Chart 9: CalFresh

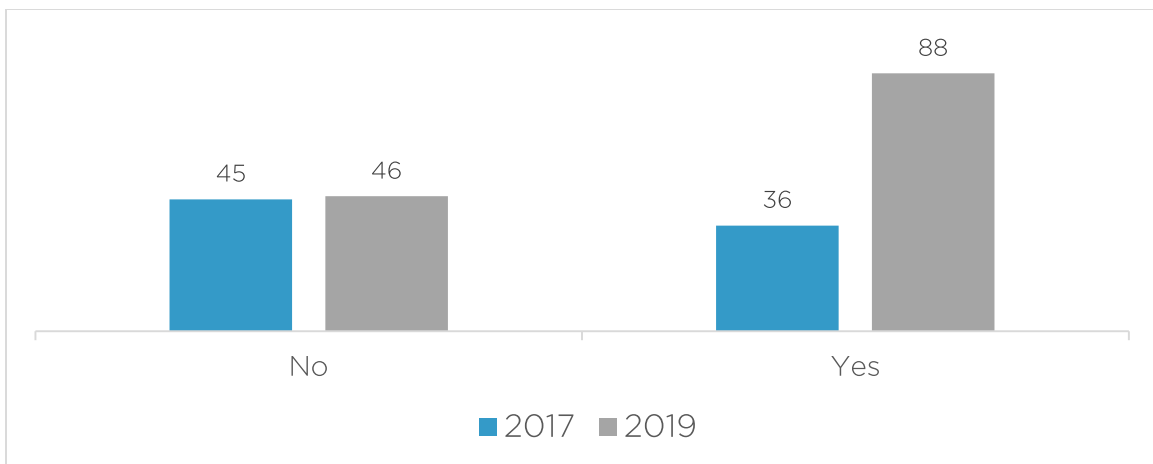
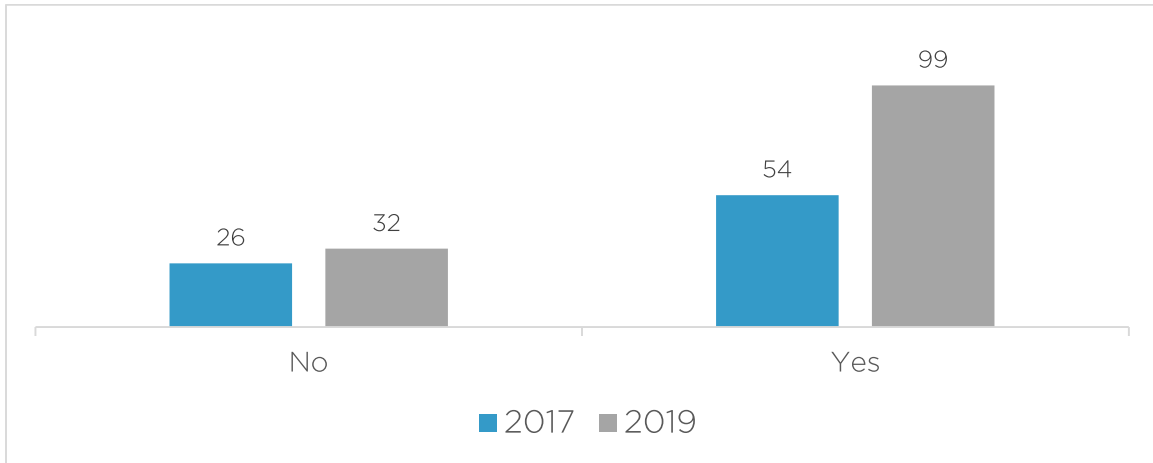


Chart 10: Health Insurance



Special Characteristic Data

Chart 11: Military Service

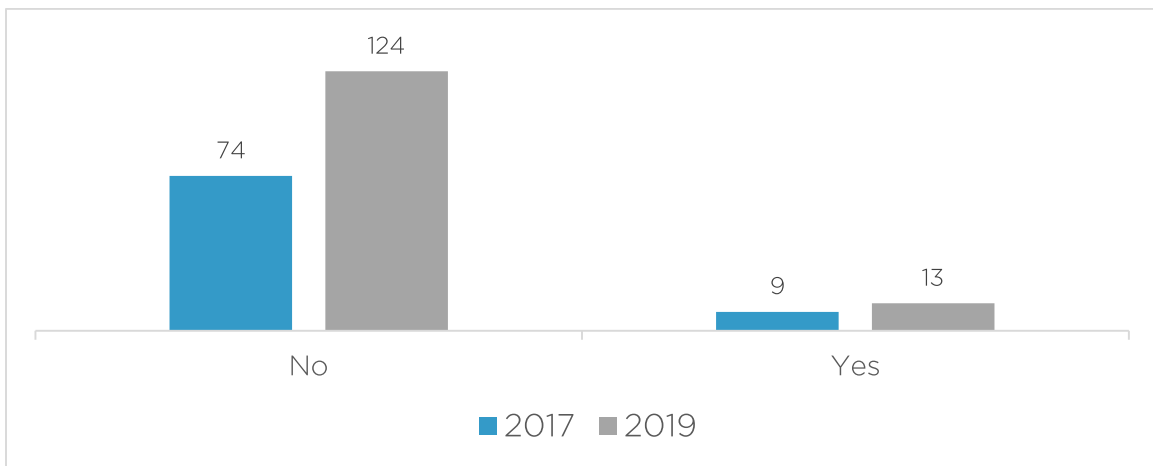


Chart 12: Permanent Disability/Condition

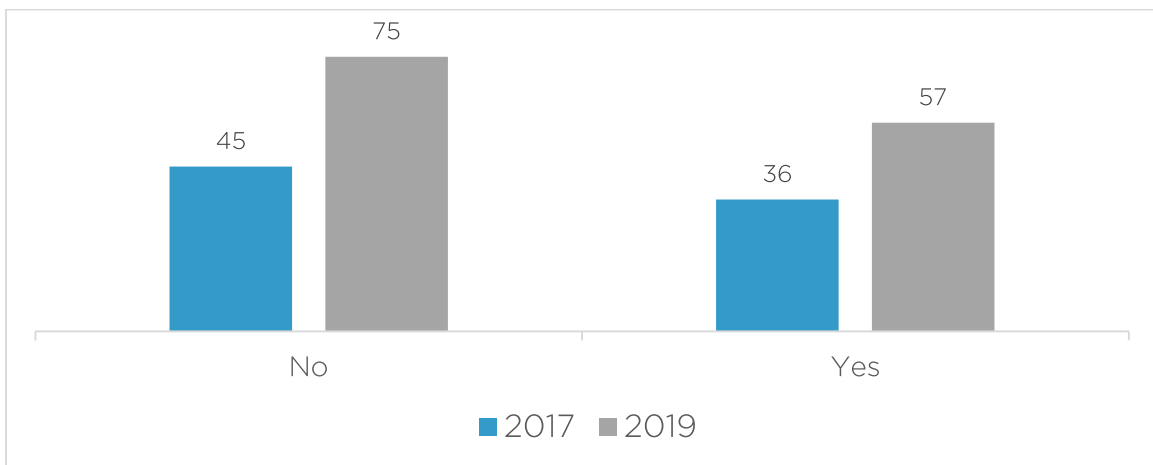


Chart 13: Self-Reporting Mental Health Concern

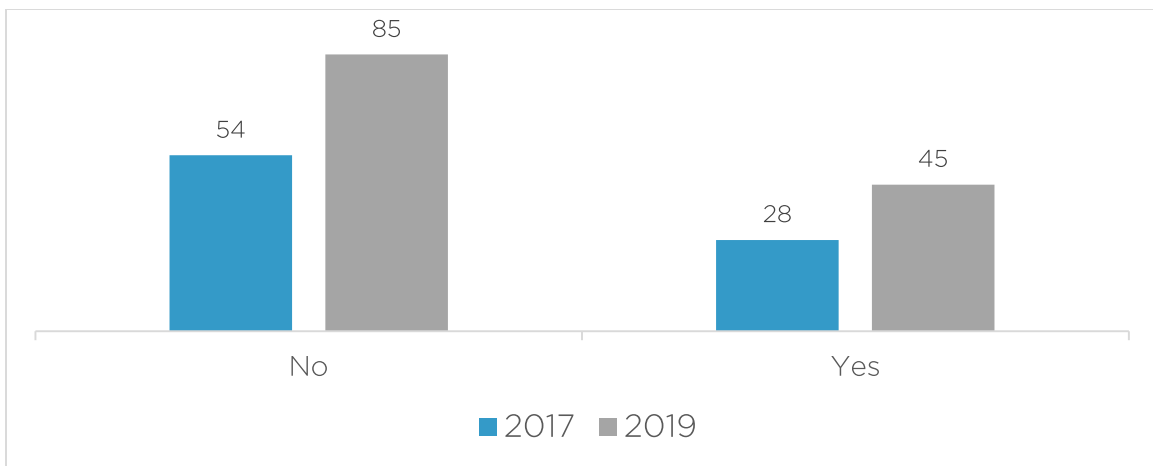
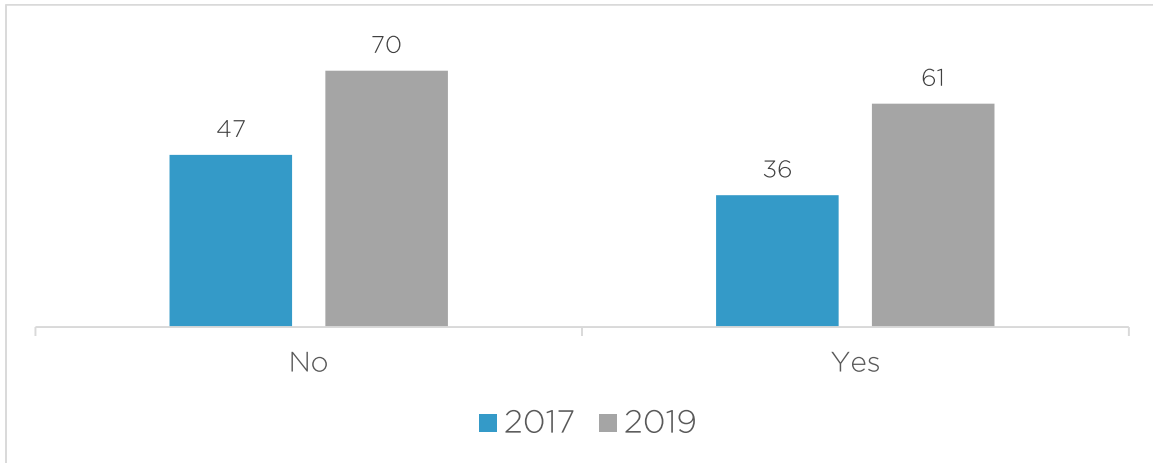


Chart 14: Self-Reporting Struggles with Addiction



Homelessness Data

Chart 15: Duration of Homelessness

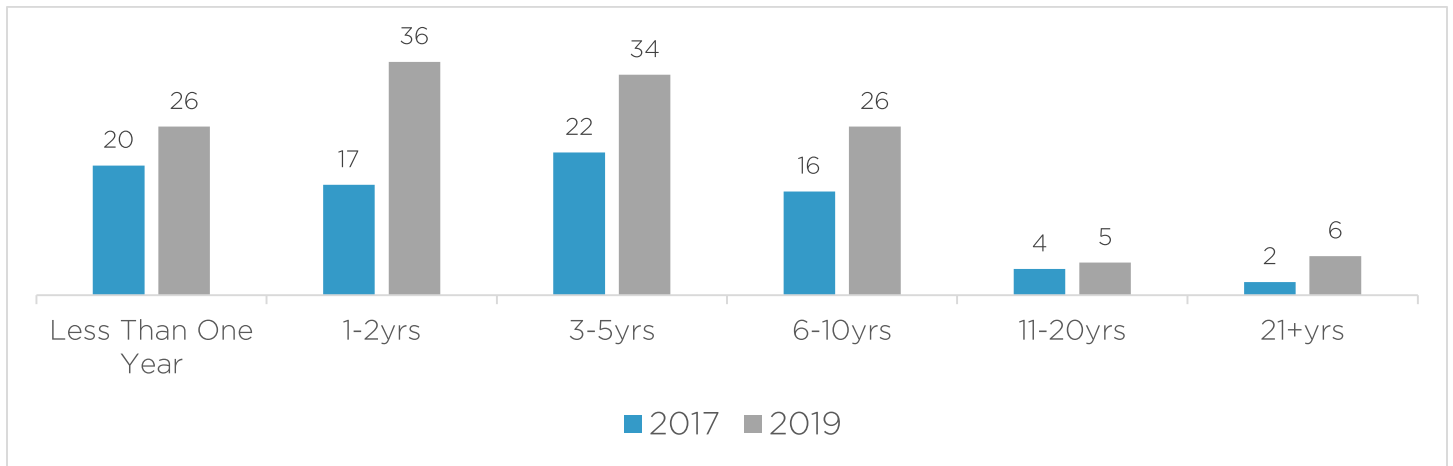


Chart 16: Usually Sleeps In

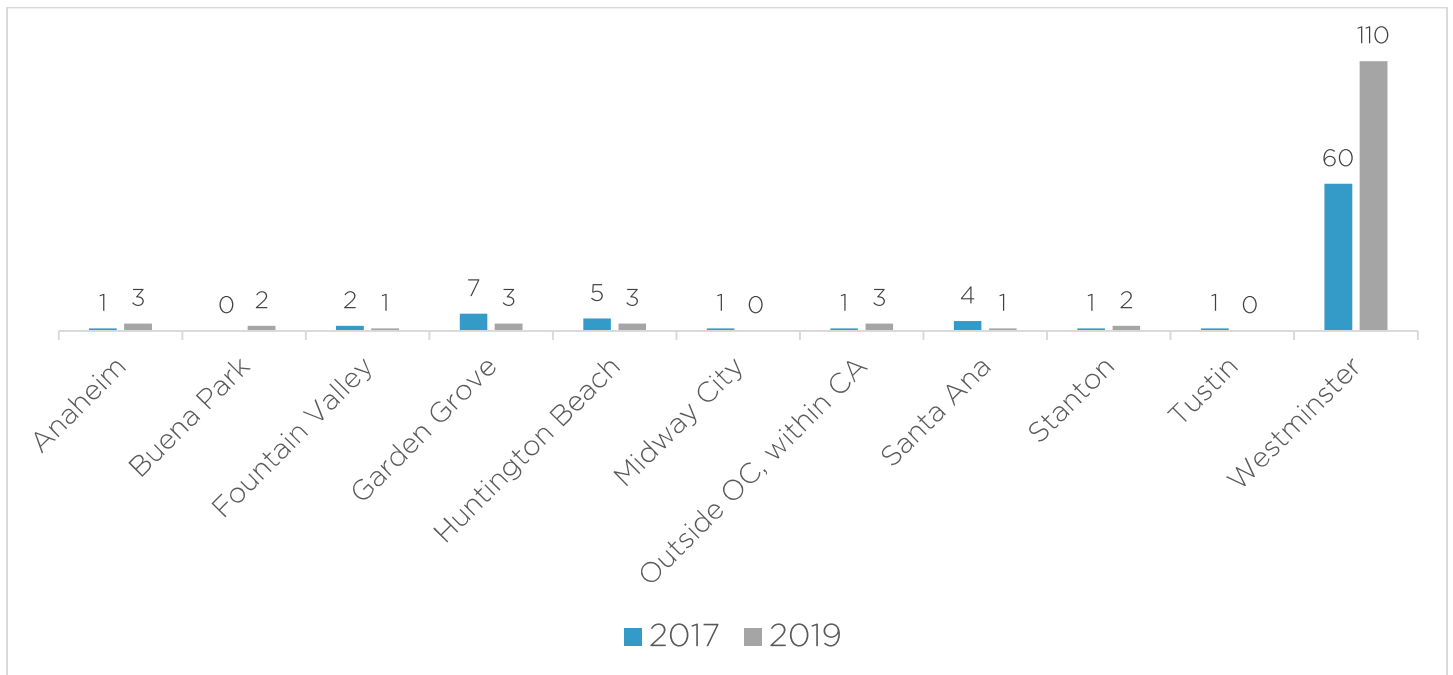
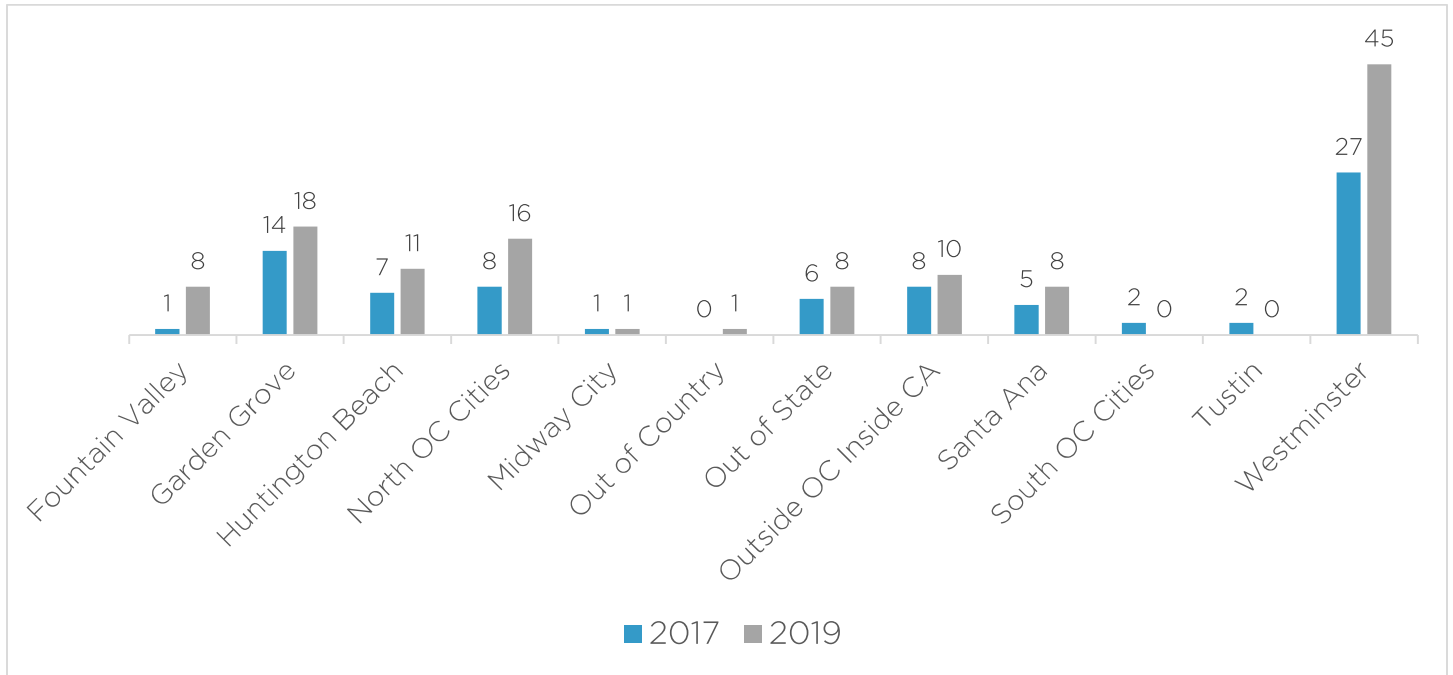


Chart 17: Last Permanent Residence



Other Data

Chart 18: Victims of Domestic Violence

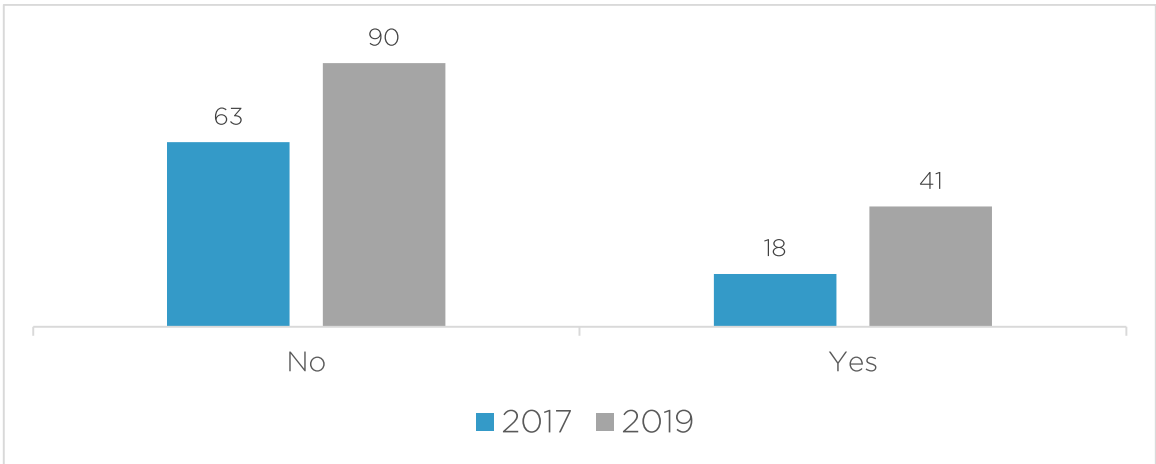
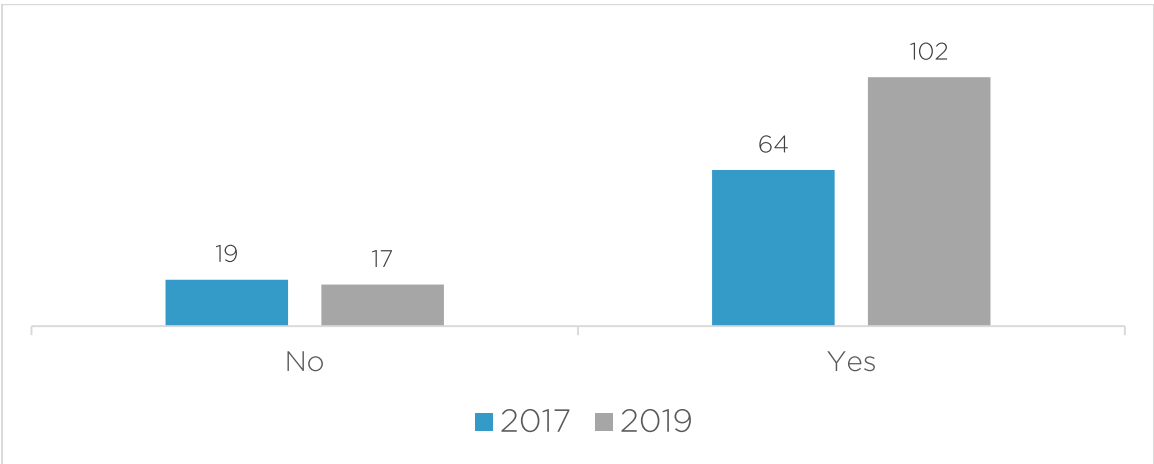


Chart 19: Interest in Case Management Services



Unique Data Collected During the 2019 Census

Chart 20: High School (or Last Primary School) Attendance

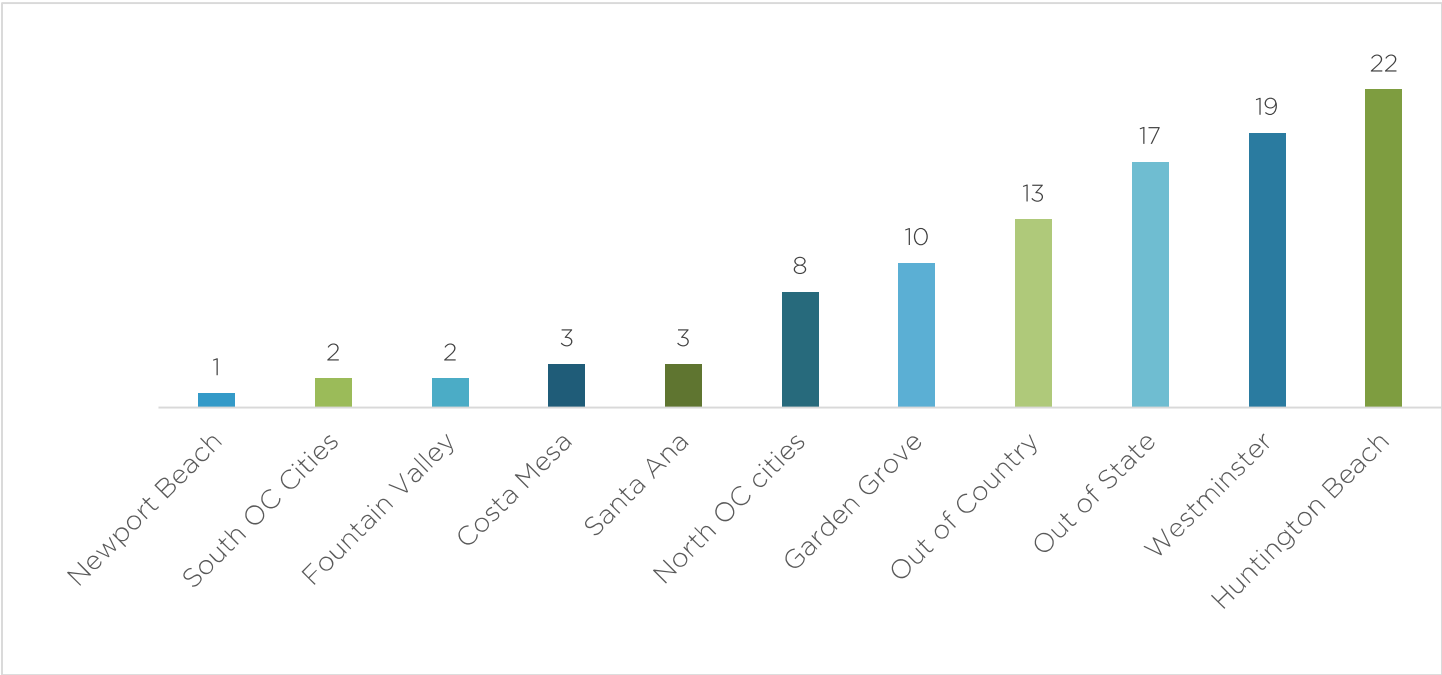


Chart 21: Offered Services by Westminster Police Department

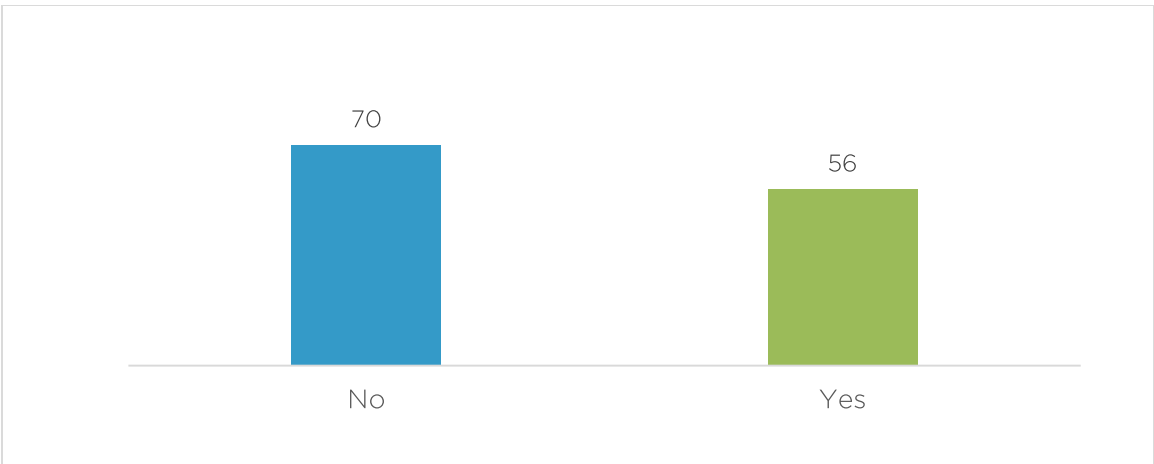
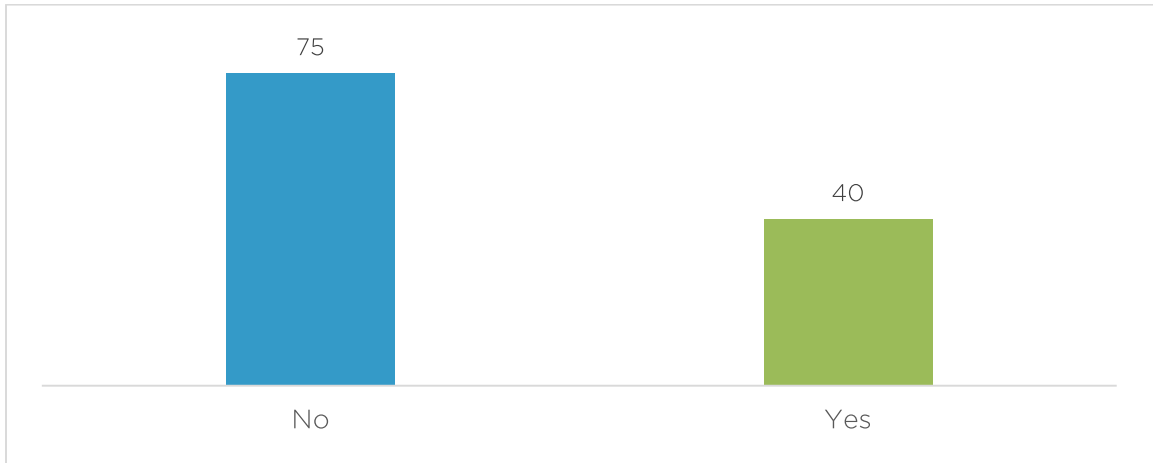


Chart 22a: Interest in Shelter



If "No" was selected to "Interest in Shelter" (75 respondents) the following question was asked:

Chart 22b: If the shelter was located within the City of Westminster would you be interested?

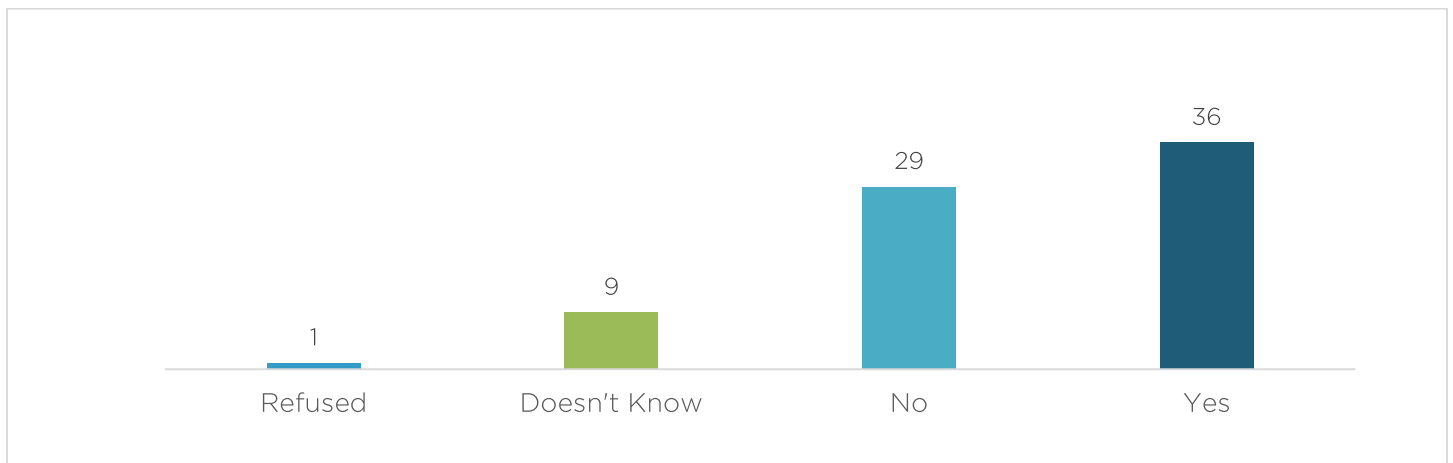
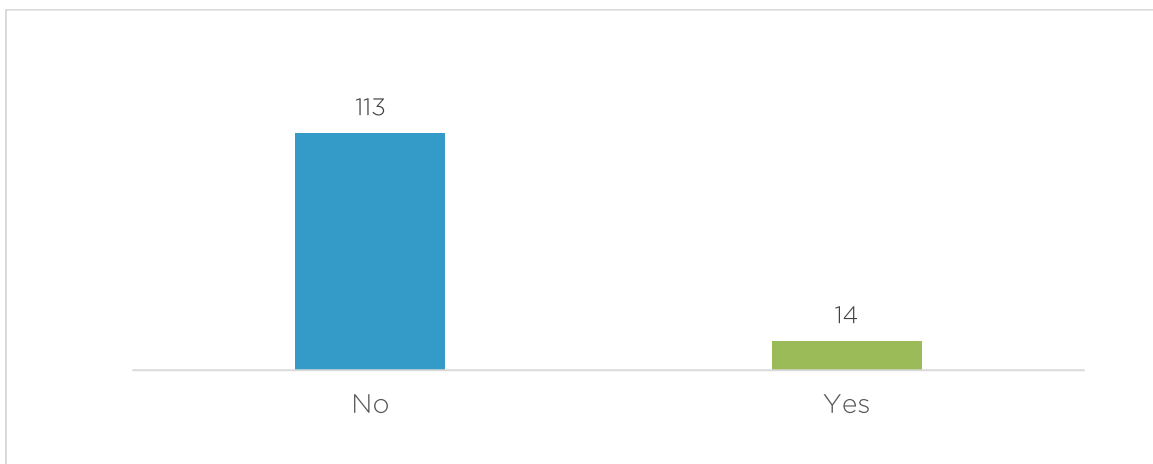


Chart 23: Probation or Parole



Key Findings

Chart 24: Surveyed Individuals Encountered in both 2017 & 2019 Censuses

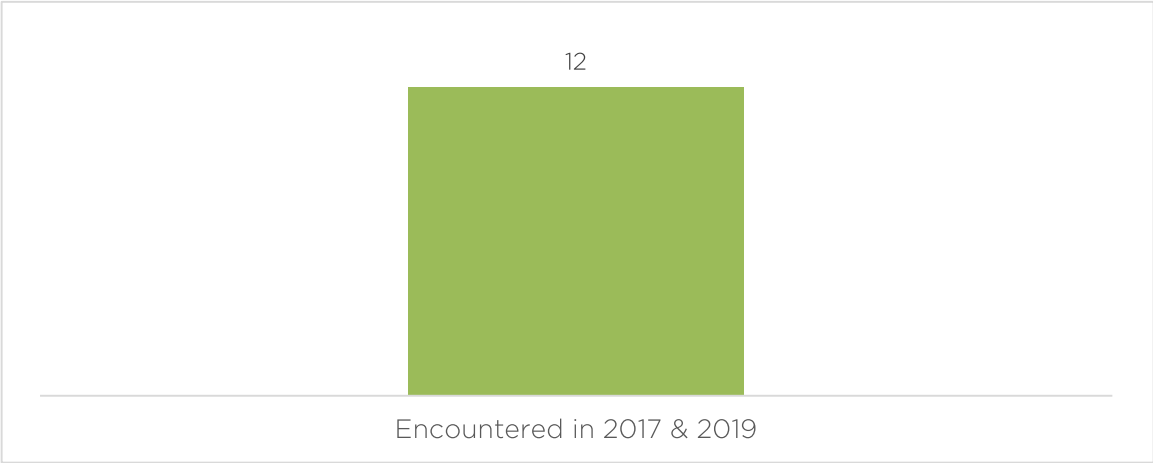
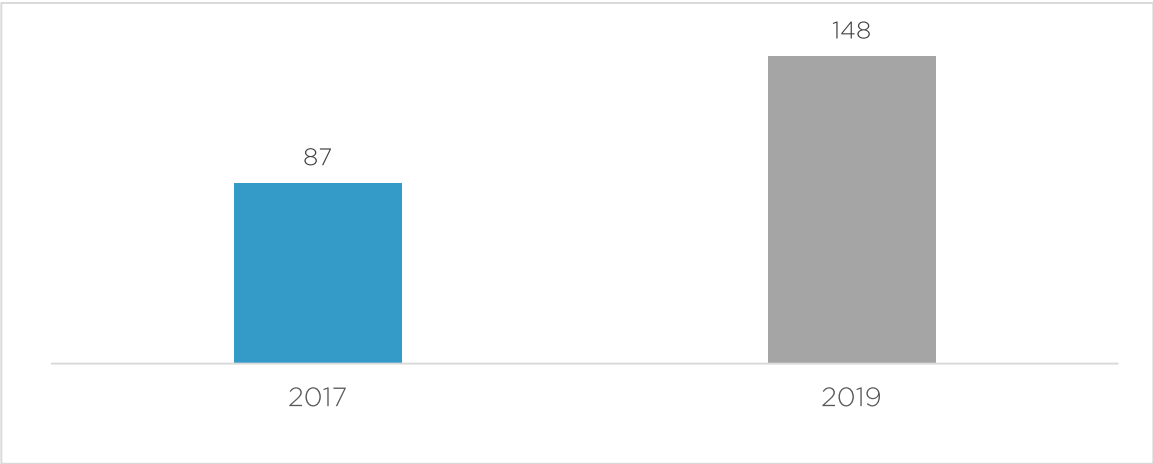


Chart 25: Surveyed Individuals Encountered in only one Census



Analysis and Reflections:

1. **Number Increase.** The overall number increased from 126 (2017) to 213 (2019), resulting in a total increase of 69%. This speaks to a trendline that highlights the continuous growth in those experiencing homelessness across Orange County.
2. **Receptivity to Shelter and Resources.** The data demonstrates there is a community receptiveness to accepting and utilizing services if available. 86% of respondents indicated a willingness to engage in case management in 2019. While only 35% expressed interest in going to an existing shelter, 48% of the “No” respondents noted they would be interested in a shelter if it was in Westminster. Combining these responses, 66% of the entire total expressed interest in shelter.
3. **Migratory Population.** Just 12 individuals appeared in both census counts (see Chart 24). An inherent reality of homelessness is its hidden and transitory nature--both as people move in and out of the city, and as they move in and out of housing. 62 individuals from 2019 indicated that they became homeless for the first time since the 2017 census (see Chart 15), but a much larger group of 86 indicated that they were homeless at the time of the 2017 census but were not identified at that time because they were either sheltered/housed at the time in an emergency facility, were homeless in another city, or were otherwise missed by the 2017 census counters .

