

Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen 2018 Survey Results

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Introduction

The fifth annual soup kitchen guest survey was conducted on Thursday, April 27th, 2018, following a pattern of previously conducting surveys in April. There was no survey conducted in 2015. There were additional survey questions in 2017, and analysis includes some new cross referenced variables to get a closer look at our guests' needs. As per previous surveys, we gave guests the option to share information or a comment about their situation and the role the soup kitchen plays in their lives. Once again these quotes give greater insight into their situations. 258 guests returned surveys which was a dip, compared with much greater results in previous years. There were no surveys with all answers completed. Data is measured using the responses for each question.

Full Year on Year Results

Age	2013 (286 respondents)	2014 (334 respondents)	2016 (365 respondents)	2017 (300 respondents)	2018 (254 respondents)
21 and younger	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%
22-30	6%	4%	7%	7%	6%
31-45	29%	24%	18%	20%	27%
45-54	30%	32%	32%	33%	25%
55-64	26%	29%	27%	27%	28%
65-72	6%	8%	10%	8%	7%
73+	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%
Gender	2013 (239 respondents)	2014 (296 respondents)	2016 (334 respondents)	2017 (297 respondents)	2018 (245 respondents)
Male	88%	87%	87%	88%	87%
Female	12%	13%	13%	11%	12%
MTF	NA	NA	NA	1%	1%
Race/ ethnicity	2013 (265 respondents)	2014 (334 respondents)	2016 (364 respondents)	2017 (283 respondents)	2018 (242 respondents)
White	19%	24%	18%	18%	19%
African-American	42%	40%	34%	42%	39%
Asian	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%
Hispanic	25%	19%	33%	23%	24%
Other Multi-Ethnc	11%	13%	10%	6%	11%

EMPLOYMENT	2013 (190 respondents)	2014 (322)	2016 (301)	2017 (320)	2018 (of 258 total surveys)	2018 (question specific responses)
Status						Of 248 total question responses
Employed	23%	14%	19%	19%	26%	27%
Unemployed	77%	86%	81%	79%	71%	73%
Type						% of 55 responses / (out of 66 total employed responders)
Full time Employed	NA	NA	NA	12%	9%	42%
Part time Employed	NA	NA	NA	7%	12%	58%
Length						
						% of 55 responses / (out of 66 total employed responders)
Employed more than 3 months	NA	NA	NA	NA	17%	67%
						% of 144 responses, (out of 182 total unemployed responders)
Unemployed less than 3 months	NA	NA	NA	NA	3%	6%
Unemployed more than 3 months/ less than 6 months	NA	NA	NA	NA	7%	13%
Unemployed more than 6 mos less than 1 year	NA	NA	NA	NA	11%	20%
Unemployed more than 1 year	NA	NA	NA	NA	34%	60%
RETIREMENT					Percent of total who answered “retired”	% of unemployed (177) who indicated answered “retired”
	NA	NA	NA	12%	53%	77%

Data for this question has been reported on full numbers surveyed in previous years. This year, we break it down between full number surveyed, and number of respondents to individual questions.

Living Status	2013 (257 respondents)	2014 (319)	2016 (338)	2017 (260)	2018 (239)
Living on street	26%	25%	24%	33%	29%
Living in shelter	32%	35%	32%	21%	21%
Rental accommodation	23%	19%	23%	NA	NA
Rent with a voucher	NA	NA	NA	22%	20%
Home owner	8%	8%	8%	6%	4%
Public Housing	NA	NA	NA	4%	8%
Temporarily staying with someone else	11%	13%	13%	13%	16%

Homelessness & Employment Status	2017 (45 total combined responses)	2018 Percentage from 169 homeless responders
Homeless & Employed	60%	21%
Homeless & Employed/ Type		% of 36 employed & homeless
Homeless & Employed Full time	60%	31%
Homeless & Employed Part time	40%	42%
Homeless & employed (type unspecified)	NA	28%

Age and homeless correlation.	2017 (254 respondents)	2018 (168 respondents)
21 and younger	0%	0%
22-30	5%	7%
31-45	15%	23%
45-54	20%	35%
55-64	13%	30%
65-72	1%	5%
73+	.4%	1%

Seniors (65 +) & housing	2017 (21 senior respondents)	2018 (35 Senior respondents)
Seniors reporting homelessness	19%	31%
Seniors report housing	81%	69%

Education Level	2017 (423 responses. Percentage of 320 surveys*)	2018 (242 responses)
High School	18%	51%
College Credits	24%	18%
College Degree	21%	22%
Vocational Training	23%	9%

2017 Education Level and Homelessness (139 respondents)	College degree	College credits
2017 of 139 Respondents to both questions	22%	12%
2018 of 158 Respondents to both questions	18%	20%

Served in Military	2013 (297 respondents)	2014 (345 respondents)	2016 (372 respondents)	2017 (291 respondents)	2018 (246 respondents)
Yes	13%	18%	15%	16%	14%

Military: employment	2013		2014	2016	2017 (45 respondents)	2018 (36 respondents)
Military: reported unemployed	NA		NA	NA	39.6%	33%
Military: Retired	NA		NA	NA	45.8%	31%
Military: homelessness	2013	2014	2016		2017 (48 respondents)	2018 (34 respondents)
Military reported homeless	NA	NA	NA		40%	68%
Guests Receiving benefits	2013 (259 respondents)	2014 (323 respondents)		2016 (360 respondents)	2017 (271 respondents)	2018 (229 respondents)
Yes	58%	53%		46%	53%	55%
No	42%	47%		54%	47%	45%

Conclusion

It's important to acknowledge that percentages are based on lower numbers and that this survey is a one day sample of a portion of the total guests who eat at the soup kitchen. Still, the percentages are generally consistent with previous years. For each level of cross analysis, the percentages are based on smaller numbers of responders. It is difficult then to compare year to year with reliable consistency.

Age: After a 2 year decrease, the 31 to 45 year age range increased by 7%, while the 45 – 54 age range decreased by 8%. These were much greater percentage swings than any other year and age range we've compared in this table. There is a continued increase in 73+ age range; a similar trend is seen in the Hunger Free America's most recent city wide Hunger Report which reported an increase in senior food insecurity.

Gender: Guests continue to be predominantly male.

Race/Ethnicity: Percentage of guests identifying as African American decreased by 3% while percentage identifying as "Multi-ethnic" increased by 5%.

Employment: 73% of guests who answered this question are unemployed. Of the 55 responders who are employed and answered the question about type of employment, 58% are working part time and 67% have been employed for longer than 3 months. The percentage of unemployed guests who answered the question about length of unemployment increases with length of unemployment. For instance, 6% have been unemployed for less than 3 months, 13% between 3 & 6 months, 20% between 6 months and a year and 60% have been unemployed for more than one year.

Living Status: Street homelessness declined by 4% since 2017 but is still higher than the previous years. Shelter Homelessness remained consistent at 21% while guests temporarily staying with someone else increased by 3%. In total, half of our guests are homeless and when accounting for temporary stays with others, the percentage rises to 66%. 4% our guests are homeowners.

Homelessness & Employment: 21% of our homeless guests are employed. In 2017 we only received 45 total combined responses which resulted in a 60%. This year's 169 responders gives a likely much more reliable picture: that 21% of our homeless guests are also employed.

Homelessness & Age: It appears that last year's figures were based on the entire number of surveys rather than the responders to just this question so comparisons are not valid. Our homeless guests in 2018 tend to be in their prime working years, between ages 31 and 64. Homeless Seniors make up 6% of our guest population. Out of 35 senior respondents, 69% reported homelessness.

Education: Our guests are highly educated: 22% have attained a college degree and 18% have college credits. 18% of 158 guests who responded to both housing and education questions are college graduates.

Military: 14% of our guests have served in the military. 39% percent of our veteran guests are unemployed and 64% of our veteran guests are homeless.

Receiving Benefits: 55% of guests are receiving benefits, an increase of 2% since 2017 and the highest amount since 2013.

Sample Guest Testimonials 2018

“Very wonderful. The servers help us out in need. God bless this beautiful church.”

“The staff is wonderful and friendly. A nice place to relax and feel safe,” male, 45-54, working part-time

“It is a blessing to assist NYC people with meals and other help. Thank you, and keep up the good work,” male, 31-45 years old, college degree but unemployed over a year

“I’m thankful for Holy Apostles because I’m an insulin-dependent diabetic,” male, 31-45

“The church is the only place that serves a good meal mid-day. The food they serve keeps me from going hungry. I don’t like going far for food. The haircut vouchers help me out a lot, too.”

“Holy Apostles means it’s a helping hand to everyone. It provides me a meal, and seat with strangers who have become neighbors and friends,” Male, 45-54, employed part-time and temporarily staying with someone else

“Helps me with my mail. Great staff. The food is good and the counselors are very good to all guests,” male, 55-64, H.S. graduate who is not working

Not a comment, but one woman who is in her 50s and has a college degree living in a city shelter and has an internship without pay. She has used our computer lab.

“This place is very good because it helps people who are struggling and it has helped me for awhile,” Woman in her 20s who is staying with someone else and is unemployed

“Thank you for your kindness and generosity,” Male, 45-54, MFA from Pratt but unemployed and living on the streets

“Holy Apostles has given me hope that I can change my life around. I really appreciate the meals everyday, they are always good,” 31-45 year-old male, unemployed and living in a shelter

“Holy Apostle: This is a nice place to come to and eat and have a nice time,” Daryl Deekad

“Holy Apostles saved my life by sustaining me in this tough period of my life. I am grateful for everything. May God bless you.” Female, 31-45, unemployed for more than a year and living on streets. Has taken computer classes.

“It’s great food. Everyone involved with helping and the music should be commended. It’s respectful and all us needy should be grateful,” male, 55-64, unemployed and living on the streets

“It’s a place that gives respect to everyone. This is even demonstrated in the meal served—well-balanced and healthy meal. We do appreciate very much and recommend anyone to find this program. It is great and helpful,” Female, 45-54, Unemployed, college degree, temporarily staying with someone else

“Great place, great volunteers,” Male, 65-72, retired veteran

“I work in midtown, have little money, and think it’s great that I can get a hot meal. Thank you.” Male, 31-45, living in a shelter

“Healthy meal to take my HIV meds in the a.m.” 31-45 Male, H.S. graduate, unemployed and living on the streets

“Holy Apostles means a whole lot to me because when I’m in need of something, they’re always here for me,”
Male, 31-45, unemployed and staying with someone else

“Holy Apostles is very helpful. I am currently without a job but the Church’s help has been extensive and helpful. Keep up the good work. God bless the volunteers and the church,” Male, 31-45, unemployed with vocational training and living on the streets

“Someplace warm in the winter months,” Male, 31-45, unemployed and living on the streets

“Always has a warm meal for you. It is always good to talk to counselors for info”, J. Adams, 55-64 male, unemployed with vocational training. Didn’t list how counselors have helped on survey.

“They have good people and a good chef. They show love and peace. Very good,” Male, 45-54, unemployed, H.S. degree, renting an apartment

“All volunteers are helpful and cooperative, especially Barbara, Rick, Simon and Donald,” Male, 45-54, unemployed and renting an apartment