

Homelessness:  
Ethics,  
Compassion, &  
Professionalism

- Ethics, Professionalism & Compassion are intertwined
- Homelessness work is different because it will test you time and time again.
- Sub-populations exist, requiring different responses
- Success in working with homeless clients depends on sound Ethics, Compassion, & Professionalism
- Philosophical Bases: Social Justice/Social Work/Oppression
- Ending homelessness depends on socio-political action and change (the big picture)

- Homelessness work is a very gray area.
- We will all make mistakes, and that's okay, what matter is what you do after the mistake.
- We have to continually work toward ethical practices, and compassionate understanding.
- We must have real support from our organization so we never feel alone.

- Why are/were you interested in working in the area of homelessness?
- What causes homelessness?
- Is it possible to end homelessness?
- What will it take to end homelessness for your client?
- What are your experiences with people who are homeless?

# Homelessness in San Francisco

Figure 3. HOMELESS COUNT RESULTS (2013)

	Single Adults 25 Years and Older	Unaccompanied Children and Youth Under 25	Persons in Families	Total	% of Total
Street count	2,633	1,649	33	4,315	59%
Emergency shelter and safe havens	1,187	65	374	1,626	22%
Transitional housing	262	186	272	720	10%
Resource centers	112	0	0	112	2%
Stabilization rooms	233	2	0	235	3%
Treatment Programs	93	0	0	93	1%
Jail	126	0	0	126	2%
Hospitals	123	0	0	123	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,769</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>7,350</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2013). San Francisco Homeless Count.

Note: Street Count includes individuals, persons in families, as well as those residing in cars, vans, RVs, and encampments.

Note: Social workers or appropriate staff counted patients who identified as homeless in local hospitals and treatment centers. The San Francisco Jail referenced booking cards to determine homeless status.

**Ethical Principle:** *Social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person. Social Workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers seek to enhance clients capacity and opportunity to change and address their own needs.*