



Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority | 453 S. Spring Street, 12th Floor | Los Angeles, CA 90013

2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count: A Summary Report

The primary purpose of the 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count was to determine how many people are homeless on a given day within the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) that is coordinated by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all Continuum of Care systems funded by HUD to complete a homeless count no less than every other year. There are approximately 43,000 (42,694) homeless people within the Los Angeles CoC of which two-thirds were unsheltered.

The Los Angeles CoC includes all of Los Angeles County, excluding the cities of Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena who administer and operate their own respective Continuum of Care systems. If the reported numbers for those cities (5,359 homeless people) were totaled with the Los Angeles CoC, the homeless population of Los Angeles County on a given day would be 48,053 people.

The 42,694 persons counted within the Los Angeles CoC includes 4,885 individuals that are members of a family. Additionally, of the total number, 24,915 or 58% were counted within the City of Los Angeles.

Table 1: Homeless Counts for Los Angeles Continuum of Care, Cities, and County

Area	Total # of Homeless Persons
Los Angeles Continuum of Care*	42,694
<i>City of Los Angeles (24,915)</i>	
Cities of Glendale, Long Beach and Pasadena	5,359
Los Angeles County	48,053

*Includes City of Los Angeles.

The 42,694 persons counted in 2009 represents a decrease of 38% when compared to the total number of homeless persons included in the 2007 Homeless Count. This marks a significant decrease in the number of homeless persons in the Los Angeles CoC, which is very encouraging. While many factors likely contributed to this decline, it is important to acknowledge new and expanded programs implemented by the Los Angeles CoC network of housing and service providers. Many of these new programs are funded by the County and City of Los Angeles, including the County's \$100 million Homeless Prevention Initiative, the City Permanent Supportive Housing Program, and the expanded Section 8 voucher programs that specifically target homeless individuals and families. Most importantly, local housing and service providers are making an important paradigm shift - now more than ever, programs are centered on housing placement of homeless families and individuals and providing the tools and skills they need to stay housed. The City and County have embarked on an unprecedented expansion of collaborative effort to reduce homelessness in recent years and the results reflect their success. Additionally, while the methodology for the 2009 homeless count remained consistent with previous counts, enhancements to the data collection process such as the increased number of volunteers, expansion of census tracts covered, and the reduction of possible counting biases, have collectively enabled researchers to extrapolate more detailed information.

As in past years, the homeless count had to be conducted during the last 10 days of January as required by HUD. The 2009 homeless count was conducted from January 27 - 29. Persons were considered homeless and included in the count if they fell within HUD's definition of homelessness as follows:

"A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the three following places: 1) places not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; 2) an emergency shelter; or 3) transitional housing for homeless persons and who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter."

The following table reveals the number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons for the Los Angeles CoC by Service Planning Area (SPA). The total number of homeless persons is 42,694 of which 14,050 or 33% were sheltered and 28,644 or 67% were unsheltered. The total number of homeless persons in the City of Los Angeles was 24,915 of which 9,145 or 37% were sheltered and 15,770 or 63% were unsheltered.

Table 2: Los Angeles Continuum of Care by Sheltered and Unsheltered Persons

Area	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Total #
	#	% ¹	#	% ¹	
Los Angeles Continuum of Care*	14,050	33	28,644	67	42,694
Antelope Valley (SPA 1)	444	18	1,975	82	2,419
San Fernando Valley (SPA 2)	1,515	46	1,797	54	3,312
San Gabriel Valley (SPA 3)	1,010	36	1,770	64	2,780
Metro Los Angeles (SPA 4)	5,121	46	5,972	54	11,093
West Los Angeles (SPA 5)	1,707	31	3,831	69	5,538
South Los Angeles (SPA 6)	2,157	25	6,357	75	8,514
East Los Angeles (SPA 7)	1,236	27	3,281	73	4,517
South Bay (SPA 8)	810	21	3,144	79	3,954
Unknown SPA	50	9	517	91	567

*Includes City of Los Angeles.

A survey was conducted between March and May of 2009 to gather information about the various sub-populations of homeless persons. Results below are provided for the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles CoC. The City numbers are also included in the overall CoC numbers.

Table 3: Subpopulation Survey of Los Angeles Continuum of Care and City of Los Angeles

Subpopulation*	Continuum		City	
	#	% ¹	#	% ¹
Chronic Homeless	10,245	24	6,195	25
Families (Members of)**	4,885	11	2,951	12
Individuals (Single)	37,809	89	21,964	88
Persons with AIDS or HIV-Related Illness	1,064	2	650	3
Persons with Mental Illness	10,387	24	6,056	24
Persons with Substance Abuse Problems	17,419	41	10,554	42
Veterans	6,540	15	4,107	16
Victims of Domestic Violence	3,762	9	2,206	9
Youth - Unaccompanied (Under 18)	638	2	311	1

*Only families and individuals are mutually exclusive and add up to 100% of the total homeless population. Other subpopulations are not mutually exclusive and a given person may fall into more than one subpopulation category.

**The total number of families in the Continuum of Care was 1,840.

Approximately two-thirds of the total number of homeless persons were males and nearly one-third were females.

Table 4: Gender

Gender	#	% ¹
Adult Male	25,862	60%
Adult Female	13,730	32%
Male Children (Under 18)	2,026	5%
Female Children (Under 18)	1,076	3%
Total:	42,694	100

Table 5: Ethnicity

Ethnicity	#	% ¹
Black/African American	19,886	47
Hispanic/Latino	12,631	29
White/Caucasian	8,924	21
American Indian/Alaskan Native	783	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	470	1
Total:	42,694	100

Nearly half (47%) of the total number of homeless persons were Black/African American and more than one-fourth (29%) were Hispanic/Latino. Whites/Caucasians, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, and Asians/Pacific Islanders represented a little less (24%) than one-fourth of homeless persons.

A copy of the 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Report can be obtained at www.lahsa.org. LAHSA will provide more detailed demographic information on its web site in the weeks ahead.

¹All percentages are rounded to whole numbers.