

Key Findings: 2009 City of San Jose Homeless Census and Survey

Homelessness in the City of San Jose clearly reflects the nexus of many housing, health care, and employment issues. Based on major data components from the homeless census and the results of 527 homeless surveys, ASR generated detailed demographic and lifestyle profiles of the homeless population in the City of San Jose. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 4,193 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 527 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the survey results to the estimated homeless population in the City of San Jose.

- ✓ **The 2009 *point-in-time* homeless count identified a total of 4,193 homeless persons in the City of San Jose, which is a slight decrease (3%) since 2007.**
 - 74% of the enumerated homeless population were unsheltered, while 26% were sheltered.
 - Approximately 373 homeless persons enumerated were youth under the age of 23.
- ✓ **The 2009 count estimated 8,941 unique persons in the City of San Jose who experienced homelessness over the course of the last year.**
- ✓ **70% of the homeless survey population were male, 29% were female, and 1% were transgender.**
- ✓ **32% were White/Caucasian, 31% were Hispanic/Latino, 21% were Black/African American, and 5% were Asian.**
- ✓ **31% cited the loss of employment as the primary cause of their homelessness.**
- ✓ **42% had been homeless for a year or more.**
- ✓ **79% were living in Santa Clara County when they became homeless.**
- ✓ **54% received no government assistance of any kind, compared to 49% countywide.**
- ✓ **69% had one or more disabling condition.**
- ✓ **47% claimed that they had at least one mental health issue (mental illness, depression, and/or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder).**

Homeless Point-in-Time Enumeration Findings, 2007-2009 Comparison

Census Components	2007	2009	Net Change	Percent Change
Street enumeration	3,260	3,112	-148	-4.5%
Shelter enumeration	1,049	1,081	32	3.1%
Emergency Shelter	587	667	80	13.6%
Transitional Housing	462	414	-48	-10.4%
Total Count	4,309	4,193	-116	-2.7%

Additional Key Findings, 2007-2009 Comparison

2007	2009	
954	1,336	A 40% increase in the point-in-time estimate of <i>chronically</i> homeless persons (those with many or long homeless episodes, and a disabling condition), indicating a growing number of homeless persons in need of significant help and outreach.
NA ¹	<1%	Loss of home through foreclosure as the primary cause of homelessness was not significant.
16%	14%	A small decline in the percentage of respondents who were homeless veterans.
27%	47%	Substance abuse is on the rise with a large increase in the percentage of local homeless who reported experiencing a substance abuse problem (alcohol and/or drugs).

¹ This was not a response option in 2007.