

Key Findings: 2009 City of Santa Clara Homeless Census and Survey

Homelessness in the City of Santa Clara 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 76 homeless surveys, ASR generated detailed demographic and lifestyle profiles of the homeless population in the City of Santa Clara. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 474 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 76 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 10% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the survey results to the estimated homeless population in the City of Santa Clara.

- ✓ **The 2009 *point-in-time* homeless count identified a total of 474 homeless persons in the City of Santa Clara, which is a very slight decrease (1%) since 2007.**
 - 61% of the enumerated homeless population were unsheltered, while 39% were sheltered.
- ✓ **The 2009 count estimated 602 unique persons in the City of Santa Clara who experienced homelessness over the course of the last year.**
- ✓ **72% of the homeless survey population were male, 25% were female, and 3% were transgender.**
- ✓ **33% were White/Caucasian, 26% were Hispanic/Latino, 22% were Black/African American, and 3% were Asian.**
- ✓ **28% cited the loss of employment as the primary cause of their homelessness.**
- ✓ **70% had been homeless for a year or more, compared to 46% countywide.**
- ✓ **88% were living in Santa Clara County when they became homeless, compared to 79% countywide.**
- ✓ **40% received no government assistance of any kind, compared to 49% countywide.**
- ✓ **68% 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	276	290	14	5.1%
Shelter enumeration ¹	204	184	-20	-9.8%
Emergency Shelter	0	17	17	-
Transitional Housing	204	167	-37	-18.1%
Total Count	480	474	-6	-1.3%

¹ It should be noted that some changes in the shelter count do not represent a loss of inventory in the County or City capacity, but rather a re-classification of the bed "type" that reflects a programming or funding change for the shelter organization. For example, in the City of Santa Clara, the EHC LifeBuilders Sobrato Family Living Center re-classified 8 of their 50 family housing units to Permanent Supportive Housing status, thereby reducing the City and County homeless census. An additional 20 family units were excluded from the census as they were re-classified as at-risk of homelessness households, which do not meet HUD's standard for the point-in-time count. This report does not attempt to analyze all longitudinal changes in homeless bed and family unit inventory nor their potential changing funding sources. All shelter reporting is the result of agency self-reporting, HMIS comparison and follow-up by ASR staff and the Census project committee's County and jurisdictional representatives. This includes a thorough comparison of the current inventory to previous reports including the annual HUD eSNAPS Housing Inventory chart required of all Continuums.

Additional Key Findings, 2007-2009 Comparison

2007	2009	
139	159	A 14% 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.
6%	21%	An increase in the percentage of respondents who were homeless veterans.
22%	37%	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)

Note: Due to the small sample size in 2007 (N=18), caution should be used when interpreting and generalizing these data.

¹ This was not a response option in 2007.