

Key Findings: 2009 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey

Homelessness in Santa Clara County 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 938 homeless surveys, ASR generated detailed demographic and lifestyle profiles of the homeless population in Santa Clara County. Based on a point-in-time estimate of 7,086 homeless persons, with a randomized survey sampling process, the 938 valid surveys represent a confidence interval of +/- 3% with a 95% confidence level when generalizing the survey results to the estimated homeless population in Santa Clara County.

- ✓ **The 2009 *point-in-time* homeless count identified a total of 7,086 homeless persons in Santa Clara County, which is a slight decrease (2%) since 2007.**
 - 70% of the enumerated homeless population were unsheltered, while 30% were sheltered.
- ✓ **The 2009 count estimated 12,377 unique persons in Santa Clara County who experienced homelessness over the course of the last year.**
- ✓ **68% of the homeless survey population were male, 30% were female, and 2% were transgender.**
- ✓ **33% were White/Caucasian, 33% were Hispanic/Latino, 20% were Black/African American, and 4% were Asian.**
- ✓ **30% cited the loss of employment as the primary cause of their homelessness.**
- ✓ **46% had been homeless for a year or more.**
- ✓ **79% were living in Santa Clara County when they became homeless.**
- ✓ **49% received no government assistance of any kind.**
- ✓ **67% 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 | 5,101 | 4,983 | -118 | -2.3% |
| Shelter enumeration | 2,101 | 2,103 | 2 | 0.1% |
| Emergency Shelter | 999 | 1,078 | 79 | 7.9% |
| Transitional Housing | 1,102 | 1,025 | -77 | -7.0% |
| Total Count | 7,202 | 7,086 | -116 | -1.6% |

Additional Key Findings, 2007-2009 Comparison

| 2007 | 2009 | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| 1,680 | 2,270 | A 35% 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. |
| 30% | 41% | Substance abuse is on the rise with an 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.