

HOMELESSNESS IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY



On any given night in Sacramento, almost 2,500 people are homeless.

Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance Homeless Programs (DHA) reports the results of the 2007 Point-in-Time Homeless Street Count (“Street Count”). The Street Count consists of three distinct components: unsheltered count (persons living in places not meant for human habitation), sheltered count (persons living in emergency or transitional housing), and a survey. The unsheltered and sheltered count took place on January 30, 2007, and the survey took place over a two-week period ending February 26, 2007.

The 2007 Street Count was a collaborative effort between DHA and the community, including more than 200 community volunteers, law enforcement, park rangers, other government entities and service providers. This year’s effort has improved the quality of data collection over previous years, using a strong, statistically reliable research-based method.

2007 Homeless Street Count Results

	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Shelters	Unsheltered “On the Street”	Totals
Chronically Homeless	215	0	503	718
Other Homeless	494	738	502	1,734
Total Homeless	709	738	1,005	2,452

About 60% of homeless counted were found in emergency or transitional shelters, with the remaining 40% without shelter. Close to 30% of the total homeless population met the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD’s) definition of a *chronically homeless person*: an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

By applying a formula created by the Urban Institute and Corporation for Supportive Housing to the Point-in-Time data findings, we estimate **4,367** people in Sacramento County experience homelessness **over the course of a year**.

Characteristics of the Homeless Population in Sacramento County:

- **One in five** homeless people are **part of a household with dependent children**.
- Nearly **300 children** are homeless every day in Sacramento County.
- **74%** of all homeless people have **at least one** disability, such as mental illness, alcohol and drug dependence or physical disabilities.
- **54%** of all homeless people have **alcohol or drug disabilities**.
- **28%** of all homeless people have a **mental health disability**.
- **24%** of all homeless people are women.
- **23%** of all homeless people have survived domestic violence.
- **16%** of all homeless people are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **41%** of **unsheltered, chronically homeless people** have **more than one** disability.

Future Efforts: The 2007 Street Count corresponds to the launch of Sacramento County’s Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, and data from this report will set a baseline against which to measure progress on ending homelessness. Sacramento County is committed to fueling community planning efforts to end homelessness with continued reliable counts of homeless populations and needs.