



Sacramento Countywide Homeless Street Count 2011



- **Chronic Homelessness in Sacramento Has Decreased 50.8% Since 2007**
- **15.8% Decrease in Overall Homelessness Since 2009**

Count Results:

The Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance Homeless Programs (DHA) and Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) present the following findings from the 2011 Point-in-Time Homeless Count. Held during the evening of January 27, 2011, the Homeless Count consisted of two distinct components: an unsheltered count and survey of persons living in places not meant for human habitation and a sheltered count (persons living in emergency or transitional housing). The 2011 Homeless Count findings are:

2011 Homeless Count Results

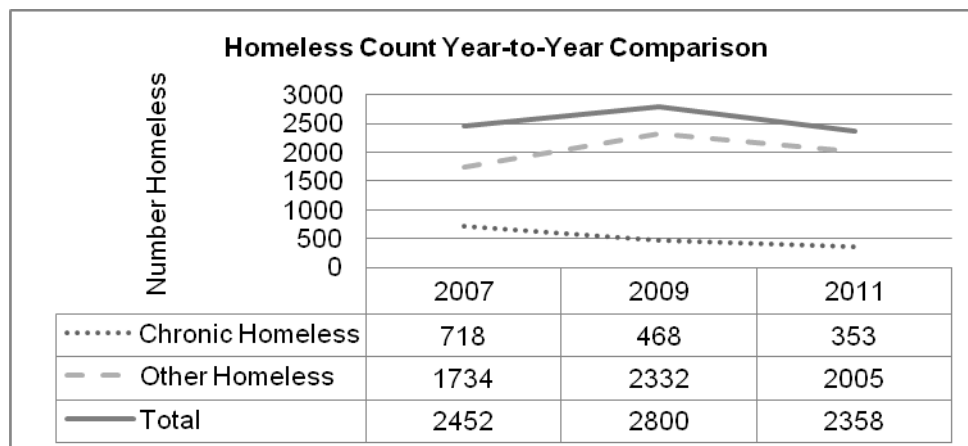
	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Totals	% Change Since 2009
Chronically Homeless*	111	0	242	353	-24.6%
Other Homeless	473	819	713	2005	-14.0%
Total Homeless	584	819	955	2358	-15.8%

Using a formula created by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the Urban Institute, it is estimated that the number of homeless people over the course of 2011 is 3961.

- Approximately 60% of the homeless counted were sheltered and 40% were on the streets.
- This year's data shows a 20.0% decrease in unsheltered homeless since the last Homeless Count, from 1194 in 2009 to 955 in 2011.
- Approximately 15% of the homeless population met HUD's definition of a chronically homeless individual
- This year's data also shows an increase in family homelessness of 11.2% since the last Homeless Count, from 543 in 2009 to 604 in 2011.

In addition to the substantial decrease of 50.8% in chronic homelessness between 2007 and 2011, this year's Homeless Count also found a 15.8% decrease in overall homelessness since 2009.

Since 2007, Sacramento County has employed a statistically reliable research-based method of counting that is approved by the Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development. Below is a year-to-year comparison of the 2007, 2009, and 2011 Homeless Counts.



* A chronically homeless person is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a documented disabling condition who has either been continuously on the street or in an emergency shelter for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

As the chart above indicates, chronic homelessness in Sacramento has decreased steadily since 2007. The 2007 Homeless Count corresponded to the launch of the Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and provided baseline data to evaluate progress in housing the chronically homeless. 515 chronic homeless individuals moved to new or leased permanent supportive housing from 2007 through 2009. The decrease in the number of chronically homeless individuals may be attributable to these intervention strategies. In addition, Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing programs funded by federal ARRA “stimulus” grants assisted over 1800 households from October 2009 through January 2011 and the overall decrease in homelessness may be attributable to this new effort.

Population Characteristics:

To provide population characteristics for those in shelters, data was pulled from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and/or from questionnaires and case notes administered by shelter and housing staff. Homeless people counted on the street were asked a series of questions in interviews. The characteristics of the 2011 homeless population in Sacramento County include:

Characteristic	Number	% of Total	% Change Since 2009
Chronically Homeless Individuals	343	14.6%	-24.6%
Chronically Homeless Families**	0	0.0%	-
Veterans	297	12.6%	-30.3%
Severely Mentally Ill	619	26.3%	-17.8%
Chronic Substance Abuse	967	41.0%	-28.1%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	50	2.1%	-16.7%***
Victims of Domestic Violence	516	21.9%	-26.2%***
Unaccompanied Children (under 18)	27	1.1%	-22.9%***

** Starting in 2011, the federal definition of chronically homeless has changed to include families.

However, no homeless families meeting the criteria were identified this year.

*** *Italicized percentages: the population size is so small the percent change over time should not be considered meaningful.*

Event Coordination and Participants:

The 2011 Homeless Count was a collaborative effort between homeless service providers, law enforcement agencies, County park rangers, DHA, and approximately 400 volunteers. Consulting services were provided by MKS Consulting. The volunteer ranks included 20 currently homeless persons that participated as liaisons for the count teams. All counters and survey takers attended a mandatory training on how to conduct the count and administer the survey. Count teams were assigned their count areas and dispatched between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM and the count occurred between 8:30 PM and 12:30 AM. This year, 95 law enforcement officers participated, accompanying count teams in the field. Overall, count teams reported having a good experience in their after-count debriefing.

Future Efforts:

Sacramento Steps Forward is committed to aiding community planning efforts to end homelessness with continued reliable counts of homeless populations and needs. The next homeless count will occur in late January 2013. Information and results from this year’s count will be reviewed and recommendations will be made for the next event.

For Additional Information:

For additional information, including access to the full *Sacramento Homeless Count 2011 Summary Results, Methodology & Technical Report*, please visit DHA at <http://www.dhaweb.saccounty.net/> or Sacramento Steps Forward at <http://www.sacramentostepsforward.com/>.