

THE CITY OF PASADENA



Are You Homeless	Gender	Ethnicity
Y	F	W
Y	M	L
Y	F	L
N	M	AA
Y	M	A
	M	W
	M	W
	M	L
	M	W

2012

Homeless Count: Preliminary Report

Prepared for:

Pasadena Community Development Commission

City of Pasadena Housing Department

Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network

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This report is the result of a partnership between the Pasadena Community Development Commission (PCDC), City of Pasadena Housing Department, and the Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network. These entities have worked together since 1992 to formulate and implement the city's continuum of care system for homeless individuals and families. Copies of this report can be obtained through the following web-sites: www.phhn.org and www.urban-initiatives.org.

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I. Brief Summary

This report is meant to answer the primary question "How Many Homeless People Are There In The City of Pasadena On Any Given Day." The answer is 904 adults and children which represents a decrease (26%) in the number of homeless persons compared to last year. Of the 904 persons, 225 or 25% were sheltered and 679 or 75% were unsheltered.

Table 1: City of Pasadena Homeless Counts from 2005 – 2012.¹

Year	Total # of Homeless Persons	% of Increase or Decrease from Previous Year
2005	1,064	n/a
2006	1,001	-6
2007	825	-18
2008	836	+1
2009	1,004	+17
2010	1,137	+13
2011	1,216	+7
2012	904	-26

The total number of homeless persons in 2012 is close to the number of persons who were homeless when a recession began in December, 2007. Between 2005 and 2008 homeless decreased by 21%. However, between 2009 and 2011 homelessness increased by over 200 persons from 1,004 in 2009 to 1,216 in 2011 or approximately 20%.

II. Background Information

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, as part of its requirements for local jurisdictions to continue to receive continuum of care funding for homeless persons, asks local jurisdictional applicants to conduct a "one night point-in-time" homeless count every other year during the last 10 days of January. The City of Pasadena, however, conducts a one night point-in-time count every year. This year, the "City of Pasadena 2012 Homeless Count" was conducted on Wednesday January 25.

Homelessness decreased by 21% between 2005 and 2008 but increased by 20% between 2009 and 2011.

The City of Pasadena's first attempt to fully understand the nature and extent of homelessness within its boundaries was through "The 1992 City of Pasadena Homeless

¹ Each year since 2005 the City of Pasadena has conducted an annual homeless count. A list of counts prior to 2005 appears below in Table 2.

Count." The City, in conjunction with the Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network, conducted its own homeless count in September of 1992. The methodology of the count was designed to find out how many people were homeless on a given night. Approximately 250 volunteers went out into the streets and into homeless facilities and counted 1,017 on September 23 and 24, 1992.

Table 2: City of Pasadena Homeless Counts from 1992 - 2012:

Homeless Counts	# of Homeless Persons
1992	1,017
2000	879
2003	853
2005	1,064
2006	1,001
2007	825
2008	836
2009	1,004
2010	1,137
2011	1,216
2012	904

Other homeless counts were conducted in prior to 2005. In 2000, 879 adults and children were counted and 853 adults and children were counted in 2003. Comparisons of counts beginning in 2005 were noted on page 4.

- **When the 2012 Count was Conducted**

The homeless count was conducted throughout the day on January 25, 2012. The count was carried out on the streets throughout the day and evening. The count was also conducted at the seasonal Bad Weather Shelter. Data for other shelters and transitional housing programs was collected through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

- **Who was Counted in 2012**

A person was considered homeless, and thus counted, only when he/she fell within the following HUD-based definition by residing in one of the places described below:

- a. in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;
- b. in an emergency shelter including those persons who received a voucher for a motel;
- c. in transitional housing (only homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter were included in the count).

HUD does not consider the following persons to be homeless—persons who are “doubled up,” or persons who are “near homelessness—but considers them to be at-risk of homelessness. Such persons were not included in the city’s homeless count.

The City of Pasadena, like many other largely populated cities, has a substantial number of households that are at-risk of homelessness. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2010, there were approximately 15,000 residents who were members of a household whose income was \$15,000 a year or less. Of these households, approximately half (8,000 residents) were members of a household whose income was less than \$10,000. The Census Bureau also noted, through the 2006 - 2010 American Community Survey, that 13.1 percent of Pasadena residents lived below poverty level.

Many of these persons can become homeless because of social structural issues such as increases in rent, loss of job, and rising health care costs. In addition, personal experiences such as domestic violence, physical disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse can cause members of a low income household or an entire household to become homeless as well. Often, one or more of these experiences factor into a household’s homeless experience.

- **Who Carried Out the Count in 2012**

The City of Pasadena Housing Department and the Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network consulted with Urban Initiatives, a community-based non-profit research organization, to plan and coordinate the count (see www.urban-initiatives.org). Urban Initiatives also enlisted 40 students from Fuller Theological Seminary’s Office for Urban Initiatives to help count on the streets and in facilities and an additional 30 community volunteers.

The Housing Department oversees the development of the Consolidated Plan, Homeless Continuum of Care System, and the City of Pasadena 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness. In addition, the Department implements a myriad of housing and community development programs such as the HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance, Inclusionary Housing, Homeownership Opportunities Program, and the provision of financial assistance to create and preserve affordable housing throughout the city. The City of Pasadena Housing Department is also responsible for the administration of numerous federal entitlement and competitive grant programs including: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), and the Continuum of Care for Homeless Assistance Programs (Supportive Housing Program and Shelter Plus Care).

Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network (Network) is made up of more than 30 public and private agencies that provide community services to residents including homeless persons. The Network has served as the primary community planning entity concerning housing and homeless needs and services throughout the past 20 years. Such planning includes the Consolidated Plan, City of Pasadena 10-Year Strategy to

End Homelessness, and every Continuum of Care application submission to HUD since 1995.

The Institute for Urban Initiatives is a community-based 501 (c) (3) non-profit research agency that has completed several many housing and homeless assessments including several homeless counts for cities and counties throughout Southern California. It is closely affiliated with Fuller Theological Seminary's Office for Urban Initiatives.

Approximately 40 students from Fuller Theological Seminary's Office for Urban Initiatives participated in the count by forming teams to count on the streets and in facilities. Students also helped with gathering data, entering data, and writing this report.

Together, these four agencies coordinated a community-wide effort of approximately 100 volunteers that culminated in a homeless count on January 25. Volunteers counted persons both on the streets and at the Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter.

III Methodology

The 2012 homeless count was a city-wide effort that divided the city into 16 zones in which homeless people were counted. The count was carried out in the streets throughout the day and evening within each zone. The count was also conducted in facilities that serve homeless persons throughout the day and evening.

The count instrument that was used required counters to collect the following information from every homeless adult encountered: first initial of first name, first initial of last name, gender, ethnicity, age by code², and state born as noted below. All information remained confidential.

	First Initial	Last Initial	Gender	Ethnicity	Age	State Born
Example:	J	H	F	W	6	CA

This enumeration activity created an identifier that prevents a person from being included in the final tally of the count more than once. During the enumeration, counters record the initials, gender, ethnicity, age, and state born of each individual homeless person encountered. If the same person was encountered again, counters would establish the same code. However, this person was counted once in the final tally.

² The code for age included: 1=under age 18; 2=age 18-24; 3=age 25-29; 4=30-39; 5=40-49; 6=50-61; 7=62-69; 8=70-79; and 9=80+.

The information for every person encountered every time was loaded into a data base. The information was then used to code each person. For example, a homeless person may have the following code of "WTMW6CA. This meant that this person's first name began with "W", his last name began with "T", he was male "M", he was White "W", "6" which means he is between 50 and 61 years old, and "CA" born in California.

Number of Person	First Initial	Last Initial	Gender	Ethnicity	Age	State Born
1	J	H	F	W	6	CA
2	H	T	M	L	7	CA
3	R	K	F	L	5	TX
4	K	N	M	AA	4	CA
5	F	A	M	A	3	CA
6	J	F	M	W	5	CA
7	J	F	M	W	5	CA
8	S	G	F	L	2	NY
9	D	T	M	W	6	CA
10	O	R	M	W	7	CA

An example to illustrate how the above process worked can be found within the table above. Numbers 6 and 7 (shaded in gray) would be considered the same person. Therefore, the person would only be counted once in the final tally that answered the question "how many homeless persons are there in Pasadena during a given day." If for some reason there was doubt that numbers 6 and 7 were the same person, other collected data was used to address the doubt which included veteran status and number of children living with you.

IV. Count Comparisons

A comparative look at the limited data (gender, ethnicity, age, marital status, and family composition) collected during past homeless counts between 2005 and 2012 is provided below. Please note that the homeless counts in 2006 and 2008 were not included because they were based on a count that sampled the homeless population whereas the other counts noted below were based upon a complete count of the homeless population.

- **Gender**

Year of Count	Men		Women		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	516	66	266	34	782	100
2007	504	67	251	33	755	100
2009	628	69	283	31	911	100
2010	651	68	306	32	957	100
2011	804	75	274	25	1,078	100
2012	512	64	286	36	798	100

The percentage of men and women did not vary between 2005 and 2010. Women made up about a third of the homeless population and men about two-thirds. However, in 2011 men made up 75% of the homeless population and women 25%. In 2012, women once again made up about a third of the homeless population and men about two-thirds.

- **Ethnicity**

Of the three largest ethnic groups, Hispanics/Latinos have remained the most constant making up about one of four (4) homeless persons or approximately 25% of the homeless population as noted in the table below. African Americans/Blacks or Whites have been the largest of the ethnic groups. Either group has made up either a little less or little more than one-third or about one out of every three (3) homeless persons.

Ethnic Group	2005 Count		2007 Count		2009 Count		2010 Count		2011 Count		2012 Count	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
African American or Black	288	36.9	220	29.2	303	33.3	297	31	381	35	279	35
American Indian or Alaskan Native	18	2.3	16	2.2	18	2.0	29	3	22	2	16	2
Asian or Pacific Islander	20	2.5	4	0.5	16	1.7	9	1	51	5	24	3
Hispanic or Latino	181	23.2	177	23.4	242	26.5	230	24	266	25	183	23
Other	48	6.1	52	6.8	57	6.3	38	4	49	4	40	5
White	227	29.0	286	37.9	275	30.2	354	37	309	29	256	32
	1,217	100	969	100	911	100	957	100	1,078	100	798	100

- **Age**

Children (17 years of age or less)

Year of Count	Children		Adults		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	435	36	782	64	1,217	100
2007	214	22	755	78	969	100
2009	233	20	911	80	1,144	100
2010	180	16	957	84	1,137	100
2011	138	11	1,078	89	1,216	100
2012	106	12	798	88	904	100

The percentage of children continues to decline among the homeless population. In 2009, children made up a fifth (20%) of the homeless population and in 2012 less than a fifth (12%).

Youth (ages 18-24)

Year of Count	Youth		Other Adults		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	89	11	693	89	782	100
2007	53	7	702	93	755	100
2009	65	7	846	93	911	100
2010	63	7	894	93	957	100
2011	137	13	941	87	1,078	100
2012	103	13	695	87	798	100

The number of youth ages 18 – 24 decreased between 2005 and 2010 and now makes up less than 10 percent (7%) of the adult population. Since 2007, the percentage of youth (7%) among the adult population has remained constant. However, in 2011 the number of youth increased to 13% among the adult population.

Seniors (age 62+)

Year of Count	Seniors		Other Adults		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	62	8	720	92	782	100
2007	63	8	692	92	755	100
2009	61	7	850	93	911	100
2010	64	7	893	93	957	100
2011	71	7	1,007	93	1,078	100
2012	48	6	750	94	798	100

The number of seniors that make up the homeless population has remained nearly the same during the past years. The percentage of seniors has ranged between six percent (6%) to eight percent (8%).

- **Family Composition**

Year of Count	Members of Families		Non-Members of Families		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	599	49	618	51	1,217	100
2007	294	30	675	70	969	100
2009	322	28	822	72	1,144	100
2010	262	23	875	77	1,137	100
2011	203	17	1,013	83	1,216	100
2012	239	26	665	74	904	100

The number of members of families continues to decrease. In 2005, members of families made up nearly half (49%) of the homeless population. However, in 2007 members of families made up less than one-third (30%) of the population, a little more than one-fourth (28%) in 2009, and a little less than one-fifth (17%) in 2011. In 2012, however, members of families made up 26% of the homeless population.

VI. Conclusion

The City of Pasadena 2012 Homeless Count was the product on a unique relationship between the City of Pasadena, local coalitions and committees, housing and homeless service providers, members of the homeless community, and community volunteers. The Count contributes to a distinctive relationship between these groups that sets the City of Pasadena apart and creates new possibilities for responding to the needs of homeless adults and children.

The City of Pasadena 2012 Homeless Count will be complemented by the “City of Pasadena 2012 Homeless Survey” whereas both reports provide the City with valuable data concerning homelessness. The survey was completed during February of 2012 and findings will be combined with homeless count data and will be available as a final report on the following web site: www.phhn.org.

Both sources of information will serve as a foundation to the 10-Year Strategy Plan to End Homelessness which continues to help the City of Pasadena formulate findings and make recommendations to substantially reduce the incidence of homelessness within the city. These sources of data will also provided important information for the City’s annual Continuum of Care Application to HUD and the City of Pasadena Consolidated Annual Action and CAPER Plans which are required submissions to HUD if Pasadena is to continue to receive substantial funding to end homelessness within its jurisdiction.

Continuum of Care funding has provided funding for street outreach, case management, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing through its Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care programs. Funding related to the consolidated plans include Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, HOME, and Housing for Persons with AIDS funds which have also been used for case management, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing and emergency shelter.