

Briefing Summary

2011 Point-in-Time Count and Annual Estimate of Homelessness

The 2011 Point-In-Time Count (PIT) and Survey were conducted by Applied Survey Research (ASR), OC Partnership, Orange County Health Care Agency, and OC Community Services.

Point-In-Time Homeless Enumeration Findings

Census Component	2009	2011	Net Change	Percent Change
Unsheltered projection	5,724	4,272	-1,452	-25%
Shelter enumeration	2,609	2,667	58	2%
Point-in-time count	8,333	6,939	-1,394	-17%
Annual estimate	21,479	18,325	-3,154	-15%

Point-In-Time Count of Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless

- The 2011 PIT enumeration included sheltered and unsheltered counts of homeless persons utilizing a HUD recommended PIT methodology. Based on the findings from the 2011 Orange County Homeless Census and Survey, a total of 6,939 homeless individuals were estimated in Orange County on January 22, 2011. This represents a 17% decrease (or a decrease of 1,394 individuals) from 8,333 homeless individuals estimated in 2009.
- The 2011 estimation for the unsheltered count is based on a sample of the County's 577 census tracts. Mean values for tract-level homeless counts were calculated and applied to tracts not enumerated.
- 60 people, some of whom were currently or formerly homeless, advised locations in 2011 by providing information to pre-identify "hot" tracts (likely to have large counts), "warm" tracts (likely to have medium counts), and "cool" or random tracts (likely to have small counts).
- 156 homeless persons, homeless service providers, and community volunteers were recruited, trained and participated in the street count.
- Teams of 2-3 people (consisting of one homeless advisor and one or two community volunteers) canvassed all 150 sampled census tracts (of the County's 577 tracts) in the early morning hours of January 22, 2011.
- In the weeks following the count, a total of 794 fifteen-minute surveys were administered to homeless persons on the streets and in shelters to obtain qualitative data.

Limitations of Methodology

- There are many challenges in any homeless enumeration, especially when implemented in a community as diverse and large as Orange County (798 square miles).
- Methodologies vary from community to community. Numbers may vary based on methodology used or changes in methodology.

Point in Time Enumeration Comparison	
County	Percent Change 2009-2011
Los Angeles	-4.50%
Orange	-16.73%
*Riverside	84.30%
*San Bernardino	38.80%
San Diego	-10.61%
Ventura	-14.60%

**Both Riverside and San Bernardino counties changed methodologies from 2009 to 2011*

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- Sample methodology is not an exact science and may vary from year to year.
- A Point in Time Count is just a one night “snapshot” and does not capture all those who are cycling in and out of homelessness.
- Not everyone becomes homeless on the same night.
- For a variety of reasons, homeless persons generally do not want to be seen and can result in an undercount.
 - Some of those reasons include: people living in vehicles who relocate every few days, persons who have children and stay “under the radar” for safety reasons and often seek opportunities to stay on private property rather than the streets, homeless youth generally are less visible and keep a distance from the general homeless population, chronically homeless who may or may not access social, health, or shelter services, homeless people in isolated or rural areas, homeless people who sleep in abandoned or unfit structures, and difficulty in identifying homeless persons who may be sleeping in vans, cars, or recreational vehicles.
- Increase in family homelessness.
 - Often more difficult to count/find (i.e. motels not part of count)

Successful Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness Strategies

- One time infusion of \$10.9 million in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) funds to provide persons who are at risk of becoming homeless with temporary financial assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless and to provide persons who are homeless with housing relocation and stabilization services. To date, this program has served 1,573 unduplicated people.
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers for homeless veterans is a partnership with the Veterans Administration (VA) in Long Beach that began in 2008 and includes 220 housing vouchers reserved for homeless veterans who are receiving treatment for disabilities and are receiving services from the VA. The current annual budget for this program is \$2.2 million.
- Shelter+Care is a grant program that combines stable, affordable housing with supportive services to homeless persons. The program is currently assisting over 690 households with annual funding of \$6 million.
- Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) programs help prevent homelessness by providing services that assist with the recovery of individuals with mental illness. Programs funded by MHSA with the most direct impact on homelessness include full service partnerships targeted to children, transitional age youth, adults, older adults as well as outreach and education programs targeted to the same populations. These programs were funded at \$33.2 and \$33.3 million in fiscal years 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively.
- HUD SuperNOFA Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Application- During the program years 1996 through 2010, Orange County has been awarded approximately \$139.4 million through this competitive grant application involving cities, county agencies, and non-profit organizations. Through this process, HUD directly funds a variety of nonprofits and service providers to help homeless persons become self-sufficient. Last year, this process helped the region of Orange County to obtain grant funds in the amount of \$15.2 million from HUD.
- Family Redirection Program provides pregnant women and families with children who seek shelter at the armories with motel based emergency housing and supportive services to assist them in finding housing. Since its inception during the 2008/2009 armory shelter season, the program has served 764 homeless families.
- The Family Unification Voucher Program is a special housing program targeting parents whose children have been removed from the household, or are in imminent danger of removal, where stable and affordable housing can re-unite or keep children with their parents. 207 vouchers are reserved for this purpose.
- Local initiatives focusing on homeless (i.e. Laguna Beach, Costa Mesa, etc.)