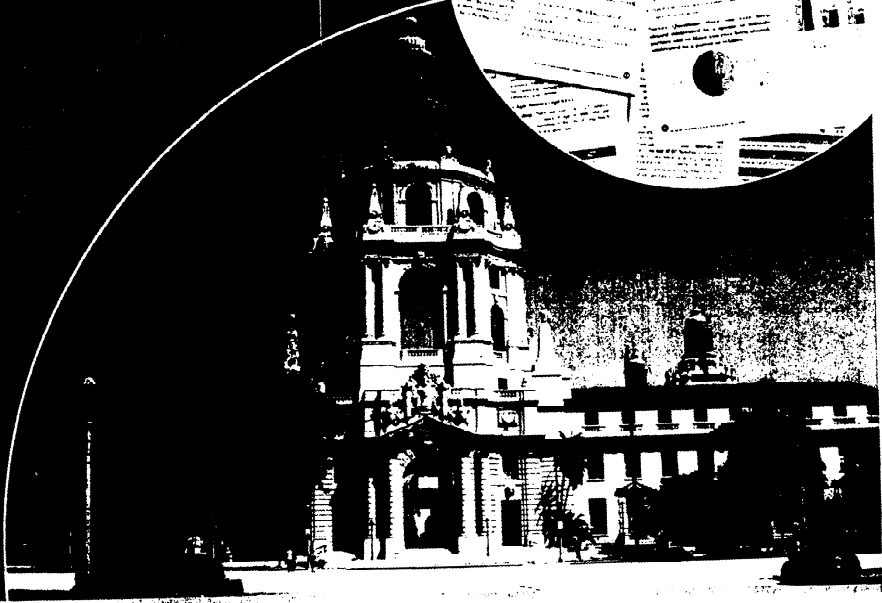
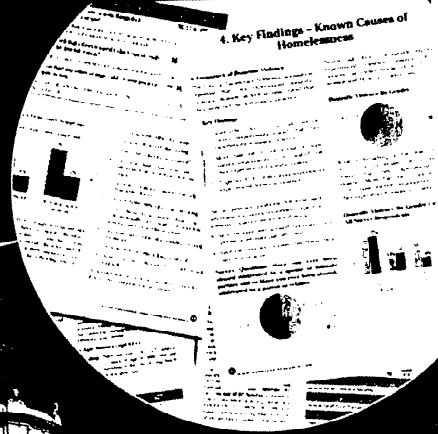


# City of Pasadena 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness



## **Homeless Facts\***

- There are approximately 1,200 adults and children that live on the streets or in homeless facilities on a given day in the City of Pasadena;
- Women make up nearly half (40%) of the homeless population that live on the streets or in homeless facilities on a given day in the City of Pasadena;
- There are nearly 100 families that live on the streets or in homeless facilities on a given day in the City of Pasadena;
- One out of every four (25.0%) homeless persons is a child under the age of 18 that live on the streets or in homeless facilities on a given day in the City of Pasadena;
- There are approximately 600 persons who are chronically homeless—defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as individuals who are homeless for one year or more and have a physical or mental disability— that live on the streets or in homeless facilities on a given day in the City of Pasadena;
- There are approximately 100 homeless young adults (ages 18 – 24) that live on the streets or in homeless facilities on a given day in the City of Pasadena.

---

### **\*Sources:**

- The City of Pasadena 2005 Homeless Count;
- The City of Pasadena 2004 Homeless Survey

(copies of these reports can be found on [www.homeless-research.com](http://www.homeless-research.com))

# Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Acknowledgements	iii
Preface	iv
I. Executive Summary	1
II. Formulating A Strategy to End Homelessness	16
A. Background	
1. What Is A 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness?	16
2. Who Is Completing A 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness?	16
3. Why Is A 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness Important?	16
B. Community Process	20
1. Community Working Group	20
2. Community Outreach	20
3. Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network	20
III. Implementing A Strategy to End Homelessness	21
A. Introduction	21
B. Findings and Recommendations	21
IV. Findings and Recommendations Concerning Existing HUD Continuum of Care Funded Programs	53
V. Findings and Recommendations Concerning Mainstream Resources	55
VI. Other Findings and Recommendations	57
A. Concerning Parks	57
B. Concerning Libraries	58
C. Concerning Law Enforcement	59
VII. Funding A Strategy to End Homelessness	60
VIII. Conclusion	67

## **Acknowledgements**

Over the years, dozens of non-profit organizations and hundreds of staff and volunteers have learned a great deal about ways to meet the needs of homeless persons in Pasadena. Many of these persons played a role in contributing to the findings and recommendations made in this report.

There was an extensive community process that involved more than 30 community meetings. More than 200 representatives from government agencies, non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations, business associations, community service organizations, homeless and formerly homeless persons, public and private institutions of care, public assistance providers, private foundations, banks and other lending institutions, affordable housing developers and providers, and educational institutions participated in the community meetings.

As a result, this strategy is a result of a distinctive relationship between representatives of various groups that contributes to Pasadena's long history of responding to the needs of its residents.

### **If you have any questions or comments, please contact**

Anne Lansing  
Office of the City Manager  
Housing and Community Development Division  
649 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
626.744.6701

or

Joseph Colletti, Ph. D.  
Principal Consultant  
Institute for Urban Research and Development  
840 Echo Park Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
213.482.9302

### **This Report was prepared by**

Institute for Urban Research and Development  
840 Echo Park Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

**Copies of the report can be obtained from the following web site:**  
[www.homeless-research.com](http://www.homeless-research.com)

## Preface

This strategy is a response to the fact that homelessness remains one of Pasadena's most complex and important social issues. Chronic poverty, disabilities, unemployment, domestic violence, chronic health care needs, and the rising cost of housing have combined with other contributing factors to leave thousands of residents at-risk-to-homelessness, and cause hundreds of residents to become homeless throughout the year.

### Defining Homelessness

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a person is considered homeless only when she or he resides 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; or
- c. in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter.

HUD also considers persons homeless if they

- d. are being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing;
- e. are being discharged within a week from an institution in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been identified and he/she lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing; or
- f. ordinarily sleep on the street or in emergency or transitional housing but are spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution.

HUD has recently delineated the definition of homelessness by defining chronic homelessness. *If Pasadena is going to be successful in ending homelessness, according to HUD, it must seriously address the issues that relate to chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness is defined by HUD as:*

*"A person who is 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 (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. In order to be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been sleeping*

in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter." A disabling condition is defined as "a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions." A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living. An episode of homelessness is a separate, distinct, and sustained stay on the streets and/or in an emergency homeless shelter. A chronically homeless person must be unaccompanied and disabled during each episode."

Chronically homeless persons are often the "most-visible" and "hardest-to-reach" of all homeless persons. Recent survey noted that "nearly half (49.6%) of all homeless persons living in Pasadena on a given day are chronically homeless.

Primary issues that relate to chronic homelessness concern mental illness and substance abuse. Recent survey also noted that

- 100% of chronic homeless persons identified themselves as having mental illness problems or symptoms;
- nearly 75% of chronic homeless persons identified themselves as substance abusers.

HUD does not consider persons homeless if they are currently living in housing. Persons in housing include those who are

- g. paying an excessive amount of their monthly income (50% or more) for their housing;
- h. living in substandard housing in need of repair;
- i. living in housing that is crowded (such as instances when more than one household shares a single-family dwelling due to economic hardship);
- j. living in a long-term (greater than 30 days) temporary arrangement with relatives or friends;
- k. being discharged from a public or private system of care and no subsequent housing has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing;
- l. living in a Board and Care, Adult Congregate Living Facility, or similar place;
- m. living as wards of the state, including youth in foster care of juvenile detention facilities.

HUD does consider persons described in points g – m above as at-risk-to-homelessness. It is important to note that persons who are at-risk-to-homelessness are of primary concern in this report.

### **Delineating Homelessness**

What follows is a profile of Pasadena’s homeless population that is based upon two (2) important reports—the “City of Pasadena 2005 Homeless Count” and the “City of Pasadena 2004 Homeless Survey” (copies of these reports can be found on [www.homeless-research.com](http://www.homeless-research.com)). The information in these reports provides more information about the city’s homeless population than what has been known before.

- **“City of Pasadena 2005 Homeless Count”**

The “City of Pasadena 2005 Homeless Count” was completed in order to answer the primary question “How Many Homeless People Are There In The City of Pasadena On Any Given Day.” The answer is 1,217 adults and children. While, the primary purpose of the count was to find out how many people were homeless on any given day, other demographic questions were answered as well.

The methodology used to count homeless persons included identifier information in order to prevent counting homeless persons more than once. Identifier information included gender, ethnicity, age, family composition, and familial status.

An analysis of the identifier information reveals several Key Findings which are listed below. Please note that identifier information was only collected for adults and thus, provides information only for adults not children.

#### **Key Findings:**

##### **A. Total Number of Homeless Persons**

1. there are 1,217 people who are homeless on a given day in Pasadena
  - a. 782 (64.3%) are adults;
  - b. 435 (35.7%) are children.
2. there are more women and children (701 or 57.6%) who are homeless on a given day in Pasadena than men (516 or 42.4%).

##### **B. Gender**

1. the majority of homeless adults are men—65.9% (516 persons);
2. women make up 34.1% (266 persons).

### **C. Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>**

1. the majority of homeless adults are African American or Black—more than one-third (36.9% or 288 persons);
2. 29.0% or 227 of homeless adults are White; 23.2% or 181 are Hispanic or Latino; 2.5% or 20 were Asian; 2.3% or 18 are American Indian or Alaskan Native and 6.1% or 48 persons stated Other.

### **D. Age**

1. More than one out of every three (35.5%) homeless persons is a child under the age of 18—which means that more than 400 (435) children are homeless in Pasadena on a given day.

### **E. Family Composition**

1. Nearly half (49.2%) of the City's homeless population is made up of parents and children on a given day.

### **F. Marital Status**

1. the majority of adults were single—82.4% or 644 adults—and 17.6% or 138 adults were married.

#### **• “City of Pasadena 2004 Homeless Survey”**

The results of the City of Pasadena 2004 Homeless Survey revealed that there are several sub-populations of homeless persons that have several factors that contribute to their homelessness. Factors and related findings include:

#### **A. Frequency of Domestic Violence**

The City of Pasadena's homeless population reported that they experienced domestic violence. Women, as well as men, stated that they were victims of domestic violence. Key findings included:

1. Two-thirds (65.0%) of all female survey respondents stated that they experienced domestic violence;
2. More than one (1) out of four (4) male survey respondents stated that they experienced domestic violence;
3. Together, 45.4% of all survey respondents experienced domestic violence.

---

<sup>1</sup> The ethnicity categories used for the homeless count were the same used by the U.S. Census Bureau for the year 2000.



## **B. Lack of Income**

The survey data revealed that Pasadena's homeless population has very limited monthly income. Key findings include:

1. One (1) out of four (4) or 25% of survey respondents reported that they had no monthly income;
2. More than half (56.8%) of survey respondents had a monthly income that equaled no more than \$6,000 a year;
3. Nearly all (94.7%) of survey respondents had a monthly income that equaled no more than \$12,000 a year.

## **C. Need for Health Care**

Survey results underline what is largely known to homeless service providers—the need for health care is related to both causes and consequences of homelessness. Without access to appropriate health care, acute and chronic health problems go untreated, which often impedes the homeless individual's ability to secure greater self-sufficiency and maintain independent living. Key findings include:

1. There were 83 survey respondents representing 38.8% of the total homeless population who had "persistent" health care needs;
2. Of these 83 survey respondents, half (53.1%) had at least one (1) persistent health care problem;
3. Approximately half (46.9%) of survey respondents had more than one (1) persistent health care problem or more;
4. One (1) of five (5) or 20.4% of survey respondents had three (3) or more persistent health care problems.

## **D. Pervasiveness of Substance Abuse**

The City of Pasadena's homeless population acknowledged that it has a problem with alcohol and/or other drugs. The data in this section reveals that there was extensive use of alcohol and other drugs at the time the survey was administered. The data also reveals that there was significant past use of alcohol and/or other drugs. Key findings include:

1. 34.2% or 73 survey respondents stated that they were currently using alcohol and/or other drugs;
2. 40.7% or 87 survey respondents stated that they used alcohol and/or other drugs in the past but were not currently using;

3. 74.9% of all survey respondents stated that they were currently using alcohol/other drugs and/or used alcohol/other drugs in the past.

### **E. Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness**

Mental illness is a serious problem among the City of Pasadena's homeless population. The data collected from survey respondents describes a homeless sub-population filled with psychotic and mood disorder/depressive symptoms including bi-polar symptoms. Key findings include:

1. Of 211 survey respondents, 120 adults representing 56.1% of survey respondents reported symptoms of mental illness;
2. 60 or 28.6% of survey respondents stated that they have psychotic symptoms;
3. 86 or 41.0% of survey respondents stated that they have a mood disorder/depressive symptoms;
4. 79 or 38.0% of survey respondents stated that they have bipolar type symptoms.

### **F. Foster Care**

There is a troubling link between foster care and homelessness among the city's homeless population. Nearly one out of 10 (9.4%) of survey respondents stated that they have been in the foster care system. Thus, leaving care and entering adulthood has been a difficult transition for a noteworthy number of youth who are vulnerable to homelessness at the start of adulthood. Key findings include:

1. Nearly 10% (9.4%) of survey respondents had been in the foster care system;
2. Sixty percent (60) of survey respondents who had been in the foster care system were living on the streets during the time of the survey;
3. Nearly 60% of survey respondents (58.4%) stated that they had been living on the streets for one (1) year or more.

### **G. Physical Assault**

The City of Pasadena's homeless population not only reported that they experienced domestic violence while living in homes but experienced violence while living on the streets as well. Key findings included:

1. Nearly 20% (17.8%) of survey respondents stated that they had experienced assault while living on the streets;

2. Nearly every person (90.9%) who was physically or physically and sexually assaulted while living on the streets was still living on the streets.

#### **H. Veteran Status**

Homeless veterans, like other homeless persons, share a variety of factors that contribute to their homelessness such as health care problems, mental illness, substance abuse, and lack of income. There is, however, one difference between homeless veterans and the rest of the homeless population—their military service in defense of their country. Key findings include:

1. Nearly one (1) out of four (4) male survey respondents were veterans;
2. Nearly one (1) of four (4) or 23.7% of men between the ages of 40 – 54 was a veteran;
3. Nearly every survey respondent (93.4%) who was a veteran was living on the streets.

---

For more information concerning the count and survey see the following web site

[www.homeless-research.com](http://www.homeless-research.com)