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Los Angeles County Homelessness Fact Sheet #1 Number of Homeless People Nightly

In Los Angeles County, which includes the City of Los Angeles, 87 other cities, and unincorporated areas, there are estimated to be 88,345 sheltered and unsheltered homeless people on any given night.

The following information is drawn from four reports including the *2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count* released by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and the 2005 Continuum of Care Exhibit 1 documents for the cities of Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena. All counts use the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development definition of homelessness.¹

The *2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count* used three different methods to determine the number of homeless in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care: a point-in-time street count, an emergency shelter and transitional housing count, and a telephone survey to determine the number of “hidden homeless” staying on private property.² The point-in-time street count involved physically enumerating the homeless population of 510 census tracts and then statistically projecting these numbers to estimate the total number of unsheltered homeless on public property in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care. Similarly, the telephone survey included responses from 1,001 households in the County that were then projected to estimate a number of “hidden homeless” for the entire Continuum.³

The Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena counts used two methods to determine the number of homeless persons: a point-in-time street count and an emergency shelter and transitional housing count.⁴ These three cities were not included in the *2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count*.

In regards to the *2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count*, it is important to understand that not all “unsheltered” homeless persons are literally living on the street. Many of the unsheltered homeless live in vehicles and other places not meant for human habitation such as garages, storage sheds, and other areas. In the Los Angeles Continuum of Care count, the “unsheltered on public property” category refers to those living on the street, in parks, and in vehicles and encampments in public areas. The “unsheltered on private property”

¹ The federal definition of homelessness is:

- 1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and
- 2) An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
 - a) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), or
 - b) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or
 - c) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

² The Los Angeles Continuum of Care includes the City of Los Angeles, 84 other cities, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. It does not include the cities of Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena.

³ For more information on this methodology, please refer to the full report available at:

<http://lahsa.org/homelesscount/pdfs/LAHSa%20Report%20-%20Final%20Version6-4.pdf>.

⁴ City of Glendale 2005 Continuum of Care application, Exhibit 1; City of Long Beach 2005 Continuum of Care application, Exhibit 1; City of Pasadena 2005 Continuum of Care application, Exhibit 1

category refers to the “hidden homeless,” those living on the property of non-relatives in areas that are not meant for human habitation such as garages, tents, sheds or other outside areas, or vehicles or campers parked on the property. Additionally, it is important to note that three groups were not included as part of the “hidden homeless”: those living “doubled-up” with another family or friends; those living anywhere on a relative’s private property; and anyone living inside the physical house (even in an attic or basement). Families and individuals living in hotels or motels and paying their own lodging costs were also not included in the count.

County of Los Angeles		
Living Situation	Number	Percentage of Homeless Population in LA County
Sheltered	11,858	13.40%
Unsheltered	76,487	86.60%
Total homeless	88,345	100%

Los Angeles Continuum of Care ⁵		
Living Situation	Number	Percentage of Homeless Population in LA Continuum of Care
Sheltered	9,878	12%
Unsheltered		
On public property	49,355	60%
On private property (“hidden homeless”)	23,058	28%
Total homeless	82,291	100%

City of Los Angeles ⁶		
Living Situation	Number	Percentage of Homeless Population in City of LA
Sheltered	6,774	14%
Unsheltered ⁷		
On public property	28,103	58%
On private property (“hidden homeless”)	13,266	27%
Total homeless	48,103	100%

⁵ Excludes the cities of Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena.

⁶ Data for the City of Los Angeles was taken from the 2005 *Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count*.

⁷ The numbers of unsheltered homeless living on public and private property in the City of Los Angeles were not specifically enumerated in the 2005 *Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count*. However, these figures were calculated using the same proportions of unsheltered homeless living on public and private property as the figures reported for the Los Angeles Continuum of Care count.