

# THE CITY OF PASADENA

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

# 2008

## Homeless Count: Final Report

### Prepared for:

*Pasadena Community Development Commission  
Office of the City Manager/Housing and Community Development  
Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network*

March 4, 2008

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is the result of a partnership between the Pasadena Community Development Commission (PCDC), Office of the City Manager/Housing and Community Development, 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.

This report was prepared by the Institute for Urban Initiatives. Copies of this report can be obtained through the following web-sites: [www.urban-initiatives.org](http://www.urban-initiatives.org) and [www.phhn.org](http://www.phhn.org).

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Special thanks

to the following members of Passageways street outreach team who were  
instrumental in planning for and conducting the street count

Kitty Galt and Ruben Gallegos

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## I. Executive 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 983 adults and children which represents a significant decrease in the number of homeless persons over the past few years and a slight increase over the past year. As noted in the following table, the number of persons counted in 2008 is lower (approximately 16%) than the number of persons counted in 2006 and even lower (approximately 20%) since 2005.

Year of Homeless Count	Total # of Homeless Persons
2005	1,217
2006	1,165
2007	969
2008	983

## 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, ask local jurisdictional applicants to conduct a "one night point-in-time" homeless count every other year during the last week of January. The City of Pasadena, however, conducts a one night point-in-time count every year. This year, the "City of Pasadena 2008 Homeless Count" was conducted on Friday January 25, 2008.

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 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 23/24, 1992.

**Table 8: City of Pasadena Homeless Counts:**

Homeless Counts	# of Homeless Persons
1992	1,017
2000	879
2003	853
2005	1,217
2006	1,165
2007	969
2008	983

Other homeless counts were conducted in 2000 and 2003. In 2000, 879 adults and children were counted and 853 adults and children were counted in 2003. In 2005, 1,217 adults and children were counted and in 2006 1,165 were counted.

Comparing the 2007 homeless count to other past counts reveals that the 983 adults and children counted in 2008 was significantly lower (16%) than the total number of persons counted in 2006 which was 1,165 and 20% lower than the 1,217 persons counted in 2005.

- **When the 2008 Count was Conducted**

The homeless count was conducted throughout the day of January 25, 2008. The count was carried out on the streets in the morning and through the evening. The count was conducted in facilities during the day and throughout the evening including the winter shelter.

- **Who was Counted in 2008**

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;
- c. in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter.

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 to 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 to homelessness. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2000, there were approximately 30,000 residents (nearly one of every four residents) who were members of a household whose income was \$15,000 a year or less. Of these households, approximately half (15,000 residents) were members of a household whose income was less than \$10,000.

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 2008**

The Office of the City Manager/Housing and Community Development Division and the Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network consulted with the Institute for Urban Initiatives, a community-based non-profit research organization, to plan and coordinate the count (see [www.urban-initiatives.org](http://www.urban-initiatives.org)). Urban Initiatives also enlisted several students from Fuller Theological Seminary's Office for Urban Initiatives to help count on the streets and in facilities.

The Office of the City Manager/Housing and Community Development Division 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 Division implements a myriad of housing and community development programs such as the HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance, Homeownership Opportunities Program, and the Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) Program. It 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 15 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 20 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 50 volunteers that culminated in a homeless count on January 25. Volunteers counted persons both on the streets and in facilities that serve homeless persons.

### III Methodology

The 2008 homeless count was a “sample count” based upon the methodology that was implemented for the 2007 homeless count. The 2007 homeless count was a city-wide count that divided the city into 16 zones in which homeless people were counted. The 2008 count was not a city-wide count but a sample count that counted homeless people in eight (8) of the 16 zones that were randomly selected. In addition, the 2008 homeless count also randomly selected six (6) of the 12 homeless facilities that were included in the 2007 homeless count. Counters included homeless persons who resided in each of the six (6) facilities.

The count instrument that was used collected the following information concerning every homeless person counted: first initial of first name, first initial of last name, gender, ethnicity, year born, and state born as noted below.

	<b>First Initial</b>	<b>Last Initial</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Year Born</b>	<b>State Born</b>
Example:	J	H	F	W	1960	CA

The methodology used during the enumeration process helped create an identifier that prevented a person from being included in the final tally of the count more than once. During the enumeration, counters recorded the initials, gender, ethnicity, year of birth, and state born of each individual homeless person. If the same person was encountered again counters would establish the same code. However, this person would only be counted once in the final tally.

The information for every person 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 "WTMW1957CA. 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", born in 1957, and born in California.

<b>Number of Person</b>	<b>First Initial</b>	<b>Last Initial</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Year Born</b>	<b>State Born</b>
1	J	H	F	W	1960	CA
2	H	T	M	L	1953	CA
3	R	K	F	L	1972	TX
4	K	N	M	AA	1969	CA
5	F	A	M	A	1980	CA
6	J	F	M	W	1971	CA
7	J	F	M	W	1971	CA
8	S	G	F	L	1968	NY
9	D	T	M	W	1962	CA
10	O	R	M	W	1959	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 Long Beach 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 marital status and number of children with you.

## **V. Conclusion**

The City of Pasadena 2008 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 2008 Homeless Count is complimented by the "City of Pasadena 2007 Homeless Survey" whereas both reports provide the City with valuable data concerning homelessness.. The survey was completed during the spring of 2007.

Both sources of information 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 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 Shelter 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.