

March 1, 2006

Santa Monica, CA

INFORMATION ITEM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Barbara Stinchfield, Director, Community and Cultural Services

SUBJECT: Local Results of the 2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

Introduction

This provides information regarding the results for the City of Santa Monica from the 2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count which was conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) in January 2005. At that time, LAHSA directly counted 1,192 homeless persons in Santa Monica shelters or on the street. Overall, LAHSA estimates that there are 88,345 homeless persons throughout the County of Los Angeles on any given night.

Countywide Count Findings

LAHSA is the agency formed through a joint-powers agreement between the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles and charged with applying for and administering funding for homeless programs across the county. The City of Santa Monica is included in the continuum of care under LAHSA's jurisdiction. (Only the Cities of Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale are considered independent continuums of care).

All communities that receive Federal funding for homeless programs from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are under a mandate to conduct

a biennial count of their homeless population, beginning in January 2005. In response to this, on January 25-27, 2005, LAHSA and their consultant, Applied Survey Research (ASR), conducted a count of homeless persons throughout the county, excluding the three cities with independent continuums. Because of the size of population and geographic area to be covered, ASR used both direct enumeration and sampling methodologies.

All of those included in the results for the shelter count were directly enumerated. For the unsheltered street count, 510 of the County's 1,829 (28%) census tracts were targeted for direct enumeration. The unsheltered street count for the remaining, uncounted census tract was determined through a statistical projection for the census tracts not counted. Finally, a telephone survey of the general population was conducted to identify the locations of the "hidden" homeless (i.e., homeless persons living on private property). Based on these three methodologies, a point-in-time estimate for the number of homeless persons in Los Angeles County was derived:

Methodology:	LAHSA Count:
Direct Enumeration in Shelters	9,878
Direct Enumeration on the Street	19,138
Unsheltered Projection by Census Tract	30,217
'Hidden' Homeless	23,058
Total LAHSA COUNT	82,291
2005 Counts for Long Beach, Pasadena & Glendale	6,054
TOTAL LA COUNTY HOMELESS POPULATION, JANAUARY 2005	88,345

Not included in the point-in-time enumeration are the 4,360 homeless persons who were housed in jails, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities who self-identified as homeless but did not meet HUD's definition of homelessness.

In order to gain an understanding of the demographic and service needs of the homeless population throughout the County, surveys were conducted on the streets and in shelters in the days following the nighttime count. The findings of this survey were used to estimate the number of persons who experience homeless annually throughout the County—221,363. Based on the findings of this survey, demographic and service needs were estimated down to the geographic area of the County's Service Planning Areas (SPA's). Reliable estimates for geographic areas smaller than the SPA's are unavailable as the level of reliability of the sampling methodology decreases with the geographic area. A summary of the complete findings for SPA 5, which covers the Westside, are included as Attachment I. Points worth highlighting include:

- There are an estimated 6,860 homeless persons in SPA 5 at any point in time, with an estimated 14,886 experiencing homelessness over the course of a year;
- SPA 5 has 6.5% of the total County population, but 8.3% of the homeless population enumerated by LAHSA;
- At 53.4%, SPA 5 has the second-highest rate of chronically homeless persons. Only SPA 1—Antelope Valley is higher. (The countywide estimate is 42%, with previous estimates for Santa Monica based on the City's reporting system, ClientTrack, at 20%);
- 26.5% of SPA 5's homeless are veterans, the third-highest of the SPA's. Countywide, veterans comprise 18.7% of the homeless population.

City of Santa Monica Findings:

The final report of the countywide count results was released by LAHSA on January 12, 2006. That report did not include count results for any local jurisdictions except the City of Los Angeles. Local jurisdictions, however, could request their local count results from LAHSA. Ten (53%) out of Santa Monica's 19 Census tracts were directly enumerated, compared to 28% countywide (see map– Attachment II). This is due, in part, to the deliberate selection of census tracts known to include significant numbers of homeless persons, such as those located in beach areas. The findings of the count for the City of Santa Monica are compared with the countywide figures below:

Methodology:	LASHA Count-Countywide	%	Santa Monica	%
Direct Enumeration in Shelters	9,878	12%	243	12%
Direct Enumeration on the Street	19,138	23%	949	48%
Subtotal Direct Enumeration	29,016	35%	1,192	60%
Adjustments: Unsheltered Estimate by Census Tract	30,217	37%	258	13%
"Hidden" Homeless Estimate	23,058	28%	541	27%
Total Adjusted Count	82,291	100%	1,991	100%

In Santa Monica 1,192 persons, or 60% of the total estimate for the city, were counted as the result of direct enumeration, as compared to only 35% of the County total. While surely some people were missed during the direct enumeration of the street and shelter population, the accuracy of the numbers determined by the direct-count method do not decrease with the geographic area, like the sampling methodologies. The only

demographic information available from ASR at the city level is for those 1,192 persons directly enumerated individuals and is as follows:

Location	Individuals					Persons in Families				Grand Total
	Men	Women	Not Known	Youth	Total	Men	Women	Youth	Total	
Street	440	131	357	21	949	0	0	0	0	949
Shelter	65	64	0	12	141	6	31	65	102	243
TOTAL	505	195	357	33	1,090	6	31	65	102	1,192

Of the 1,192 persons directly enumerated in Santa Monica:

- 80% were counted on the street, 20% were in shelters— Countywide, 88% were counted on the street, 12% were in shelters;
- 91% were individuals, 9% were persons in families – Countywide, 76% were individuals, 24% were persons in families;
- No homeless families were enumerated on the streets of Santa Monica- Countywide, 87% of homeless families were unsheltered;
- Using the “turnover rate” for SPA 5, and applying it to the 1,192 persons directly enumerated, an estimated 2,586 persons experience homelessness in Santa Monica over the course of a year.

Based on the total estimate (direct enumeration and adjustments) of 1,991 homeless persons, Santa Monica has:

- 2.4% of the County’s homeless population, but only 0.88% of the County’s population as a whole;
- 29% of the homeless population for SPA 5, but only 14% of the total population for the SPA.
- Using the “turnover rate” for SPA 5, and applying it to the estimate of 1,991 persons directly enumerated, an estimated 4,321 persons experience homelessness in Santa Monica over the course of a year.

Unlike other areas in the county, Santa Monica had conducted a previous count of homeless persons in October, 1999. Like LAHSA's 2005 count, Santa Monica's 1999 count also used a combination of direct enumeration and sampling methodologies, although the sampling methods used in Santa Monica's 1999 count are not comparable to those used in LAHSA's 2005 count. A comparison of the two counts is provided below:

Methodology:	1999 Santa Monica Census	2005 LAHSA Count
Direct Count on Streets:	557	949
Direct Count in Shelters:	375*	243*
Correlations/Adjustments:	105	799
TOTAL:	1,037	1,991

*LAHSA's shelter count did not include everyone in residential rehab, hospitals or jails. Santa Monica's 1999 shelter count included those persons in residential rehabilitation programs, jails and hospitals in Santa Monica who were homeless prior to entering the facility.

Because of the differences in the sampling methodologies used to conduct these counts, the most accurate measure of the change in Santa Monica's homeless population would be to compare the direct count results. In 1999, 932 persons were counted through direct enumeration, in 2005 the number was 1,192 persons – an increase of 28%.

Conclusion:

For the City of Santa Monica, the results of the 2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count are mixed. Clearly, the number of homeless persons in Santa Monica has increased by at least 28% since 1999. This is despite the fact that homeless service providers have served over 5,000 unduplicated adults since June 2001.

Still, the results show that Santa Monica is clearly doing a better job than the county as a whole in providing shelter and services for its homeless population. Since June 2001, service providers have placed 1,365 persons in permanent housing, 1,459 persons in transitional housing, and 1,814 persons in emergency shelter. Over 1,800 unduplicated persons have been placed in employment. Santa Monica's past and current efforts, and the new initiatives begun over the past two years to move people from the streets and into housing and services, are clearly effective. But the numbers also show that Santa Monica is shouldering more than its fair share of the burden. Clearly, more needs to be done throughout the region – a region which houses 12% of the nation's homeless population.

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Attachment I: LAHSA 2005 Count - Subpopulation Estimates by SPA
Attachment II: LAHSA 2005 Count – Map of Santa Monica Census Tracts
Enumerated

Attachment I - LAHSA 2005 Count - Subpopulation Estimates by SPA

Subpopulation Estimates by SPA - Numbers

Sub-Population	SPA 1	SPA 2	SPA 3	SPA 4	SPA 5	SPA 6	SPA 7	SPA 8	Total
Men	2,138	6,492	5,118	12,856	4,316	8,990	4,338	3,568	47,813
Woman	1,069	2,799	1,876	4,303	1,550	5,144	1,975	1,380	20,092
Transgender or Declined to State	1	69	281	420	95	220	N/A	1	1,088
Sheltered	223	1,176	550	4,029	971	1,207	709	1,013	9,878
Unsheltered	3,321	10,099	8,704	15,994	5,889	15,580	6,469	6,356	72,413
Black/African American	953	2,729	1,832	10,372	1,935	12,439	703	3,132	34,093
Hispanic or Latino	457	3,191	3,202	4,665	665	2,871	3,280	1,105	19,447
White	1,715	4,510	3,313	3,584	3,382	772	2,778	2,550	22,595
Multi-Racial and Other	418	846	907	1,402	878	705	416	582	6,156
Age Under 18	336	1,915	1,979	2,444	899	2,433	865	2,420	13,298
Age 18-24	276	955	495	1,932	823	1,536	524	133	6,659
Age 25-55	2,656	7,843	6,140	13,940	4,375	11,268	5,013	4,241	55,277
Age 56+	276	562	640	1,707	763	1,550	777	575	7,064
# Individual Families with Children	172	725	1,711	1,719	390	1,365	462	983	7,397
# People in Families	526	2,240	3,550	3,967	1,185	3,903	1,351	3,155	19,882
Youth in Families	335	1,415	1,855	2,219	747	2,432	848	2,048	11,899
Veterans	379	1,951	3,211	2,723	1,818	2,065	1,084	2,203	15,420
Chronically Homeless	2,106	5,056	3,626	8,336	3,664	6,269	2,906	2,619	34,512
Severely Mentally Ill	1,666	2,999	3,045	7,949	2,531	7,185	1,780	2,130	29,293
Substance Users	2,066	6,077	6,256	8,870	3,876	8,763	3,345	4,679	43,920
People with HIV/AIDs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,880
Victims of Domestic Violence	308	800	2,493	1,539	462	1,755	1,170	923	9,463
Unaccompanied Youth	1	500	123	224	152	1	17	372	1,394
TOTAL	3,544	11,275	9,254	20,023	6,860	16,787	7,178	7,369	82,291
Total per Year Projection	7,123	27,060	24,986	52,961	14,886	52,375	18,376	23,654	221,363
Turnaround Rate	2.01	2.40	2.70	2.65	2.17	3.12	2.56	3.21	2.69

Subpopulation Estimates by SPA-Percentage Within Each SPA

Sub-Population	SPA 1	SPA 2	SPA 3	SPA 4	SPA 5	SPA 6	SPA 7	SPA 8	Total
Men	60.3%	57.6%	55.3%	64.2%	62.9%	53.6%	60.4%	48.4%	58.1%
Woman	30.2%	24.8%	20.3%	21.5%	22.6%	30.6%	27.5%	18.7%	24.4%
Sheltered	6.3%	10.4%	5.9%	20.1%	14.2%	7.2%	9.9%	13.7%	12.0%
Unsheltered	93.7%	89.6%	94.1%	79.9%	85.8%	92.8%	90.1%	86.3%	88.0%
Transgender or Declined to State	0.0%	0.6%	3.0%	2.1%	1.4%	1.3%	N/A	0.0%	1.3%
Black/African American	26.9%	24.2%	19.8%	51.8%	28.2%	74.1%	9.8%	42.5%	41.4%
Hispanic or Latino	12.9%	28.3%	34.6%	23.3%	9.7%	17.1%	45.7%	15.0%	23.6%
White	48.4%	40.0%	35.8%	17.9%	49.3%	4.6%	38.7%	34.6%	27.5%
Multi-Racial and Other	11.8%	7.5%	9.8%	7.0%	12.8%	4.2%	5.8%	7.9%	7.5%
Age Under 18	9.5%	17.0%	21.4%	12.2%	13.1%	14.5%	12.1%	32.8%	16.2%
Age 18-24	7.8%	8.5%	5.3%	9.6%	12.0%	9.1%	7.3%	1.8%	8.1%
Age 25-55	74.9%	69.6%	66.3%	69.6%	63.8%	67.1%	69.8%	57.6%	67.4%
Age 56+	7.8%	5.0%	6.9%	8.5%	11.1%	9.2%	10.8%	7.8%	8.3%
# Individual Families with Children	4.9%	6.4%	18.5%	8.6%	5.7%	8.1%	6.4%	13.3%	9.1%
# People in Families	14.8%	19.9%	38.4%	19.8%	17.3%	23.3%	18.8%	42.8%	24.2%
Veterans	10.7%	17.3%	34.7%	13.6%	26.5%	12.3%	15.1%	29.9%	18.8%
Chronically Homeless	59.4%	44.8%	39.2%	41.6%	53.4%	37.3%	40.5%	35.5%	42.0%
Severely Mentally Ill	47.0%	26.6%	32.9%	39.7%	36.9%	42.8%	24.8%	28.9%	35.6%
Chronic Substance Abusers	58.3%	53.9%	67.6%	44.3%	56.5%	52.2%	46.6%	63.5%	53.4%
Victims of Domestic Violence	8.7%	7.1%	26.9%	7.7%	6.7%	10.5%	16.3%	12.5%	11.5%
Youth in Families	9.5%	12.5%	20.0%	11.1%	10.9%	14.5%	11.8%	27.8%	14.5%
Unaccompanied Youth	0.0%	4.4%	1.3%	1.1%	2.2%	0.0%	0.2%	5.0%	1.7%
TOTAL	3,544	11,275	9,254	20,023	6,860	16,787	7,178	7,369	82,290

Attachment II LAHSA 2005 Count – Map of Santa Monica Census Tracts Enumerated

