
Santa Monica
Service Registry Creation Fact Sheet
By Common Ground for the City of Santa Monica
January 31, 2008

Chronic Homelessness Project (CHP)

Beginning in 2004, the City of Santa Monica's Human Services Division, Housing Division, Police and Fire Departments, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and partner non-profit agencies developed the Chronic Homeless Project. To date, 77 people who had been homeless for a combined total of 639 years are now housed. Fifty-one (51) are in permanent supportive housing. The Project utilizes a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to reduce the number of chronically homeless persons living on Santa Monica streets and other outdoor public places by helping them to secure housing, benefits and supportive services, including mental health treatment and/or substance abuse treatment.

Common Ground's Street to Home model will assist in objectively identify the most chronic and vulnerable people on the streets and provide a new tool to focus the efforts of the CHP and other strategies to reduce street homelessness. Common Ground's Street to Home model has proven to be successful. Over a two year period, Street to Home reduced street homelessness in the 20-block area by 87% as the result of placing the most vulnerable, long-term homeless in Times Square directly into housing. With Common Ground's technical assistance, Street to Home is currently being replicated in 13 cities across North America.

The ten most chronic and vulnerable people in Santa Monica will be housed as quickly as possible. Once the top ten are housed, efforts will be directed towards housing the next ten most chronic and vulnerable people.

Service Registry Creation Process

Common Ground staff worked in collaboration with over 60 people from a dozen agencies to create a by-name list of all those sleeping on the streets in selected high concentration areas of Santa Monica. In addition to systematically gathering the names, pictures, and dates of birth of individuals sleeping on the street, the teams also captured data on their health status, institutional history (jail, prison, hospital, and military), length of homelessness, patterns of shelter or mission use, and previous housing situation. Common Ground then used its Vulnerability Index to identify individuals who have been homeless the longest and are the most vulnerable for prioritization into housing. The Vulnerability Index is based on research by Dr. Jim O'Connell which demonstrated that certain medical conditions place a homeless individual at a higher risk than others for dying if they remain on the streets.

The City conducted a baseline count on Friday, January 25th, and found 277 individuals sleeping outside between 3 am and 5 am. Starting Monday, January 28th, for three consecutive days, teams of 3 methodically canvassed Santa Monica from 3 am to 5 am and attempted to administer a 45 question survey to everyone observed sleeping. 261 surveys were administered, 94% of the baseline count. 220 pictures were taken as part of the survey. 110 (42.15%) individuals met at least one high-risk criteria from the Vulnerability Index.

Findings:

Total Observed: N=261

Total Vulnerable: N=110 (42.15%)

At-Risk Indicators

Indicator	Number
At-Risk Tri-Morbid	56
At-Risk ER or Hospitalized Over 3X	21
At-Risk ER over 3X	7
At-Risk Age Over 60	44
At-Risk HIV/AIDS	2
At-Risk Cirrhosis	25
At-Risk ERSD	7
At-Risk Frostbite	17

At-Risk Ranking (out of a possible 8)

Number	Rank
8	0
7	0
6	0
5	2
4	6
3	10
2	23
1	69

Age

- The average age of people sleeping in Santa Monica is 49.
- The average age of the Vulnerable Cohort is 55.

Years Homeless:

- The average years homeless for people sleeping in Santa Monica is 8.
- The average years homeless for the Vulnerable Cohort is 11.

Length of Time Homeless in Santa Monica

- 86% of the people sleeping in Santa Monica report being homeless in Santa Monica for more than a year; 34% report being homeless in Santa Monica for over 10 years.
- 30% of the Vulnerable Cohort report being homeless in Santa Monica for more than 15 years.

Homeless Before Santa Monica

- 53% of the people sleeping in Santa Monica report being homeless before coming to Santa Monica.
- 61% of the Vulnerable Cohort report being homeless before coming to Santa Monica

Number in Tents/Cars/Vans/Campers

- Overall: Average- 1.51; Maximum Number- 5
- Vulnerable Cohort: Average- 1.71; Maximum Number- 5

Top 3 Reasons for Choosing Santa Monica

- Weather
- Safety
- Services

Gender

- 77.8% of people sleeping in Santa Monica are male.
- 77.3% of the Vulnerable Cohort are male.

Race

- Of the people sleeping in Santa Monica, 66% are White, 21% are African American, and 12% are Hispanic.
- Of the Vulnerable Cohort, 74% are White, 16% are African American, and 13% are Hispanic.

Military History/ Vet Status

- 16% of the people sleeping in Santa Monica are Veterans.
- 31% of the Vulnerable Cohort are Veterans.
- 54% (N=34) of the Veterans sleeping in Santa Monica are Vulnerable

Hospitalizations

The Vulnerable Cohort account for 82% of the reported hospitalizations of street homeless individuals in Santa Monica in the last year.

Emergency Room Visits

The Vulnerable Cohort account for 71% of the reported Emergency Room visits of street homeless individuals in Santa Monica in the last 3 months.

Income

In the Vulnerable Cohort, 37% have SSI/SSDI; 15% have GR; 15% report no income; 10% are working off the books, 8% panhandle; 3% work on the books; 1% Recycle.

Insurance

- 59% of the people sleeping in Santa Monica are uninsured.
- 49% of the Vulnerable Cohort are uninsured.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse/Dually Diagnosed

- Of the Vulnerable Cohort, 21 people reported or were observed to have mental illness only; 14 people reported or were observed to have a history of substance abuse only; 60 people reported or were observed to be dually diagnosed.

Client Jailed

- 59% of the people sleeping in Santa Monica have been to jail.
- 67% of the Vulnerable Cohort have been in jail.

Client Prison History

- 10% of the people sleeping in Santa Monica have been to prison.
- 14% of the Vulnerable Cohort have been in prison.

Foster Care History

- Of the 19 individuals reporting having been in foster care, 58% are vulnerable.

Victim of Violent Attack:

- 16% of the people sleeping in Santa Monica reported being a victim of violent attack.

Common Ground

- The mission of Common Ground is to end homelessness by transforming people, buildings, and communities. Founded in 1990, Common Ground rapidly grew to become the largest developer and manager of supportive housing in New York City, and has pioneered a new approach to outreach called Street to Home that is being replicated in cities across the country.

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