



## POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

- 1.5 million children are homeless in the United States or one out of every fifty children. 75% of these children reside in just eleven states and California is one of these eleven states.
- Homeless persons are more likely to experience hunger.
- Homeless youth are more than twice as likely as middle class youth to have severe/chronic illness.
- More than 50% of homeless mothers experience a major depressive episode.
- California is among the top 5 states with the greatest disparity between minimum wage and housing affordability. The shortage of affordable rental housing is rising.
- Persons living in poverty are more at risk of becoming homeless.
- 76% of the homeless population in the US is made up of single individuals who are mostly male; however, 65% of homeless families with children are headed by females.
- It is estimated that 15% of homeless persons have been victims of domestic violence.
- Veterans are slightly overrepresented among the homeless compared to their numbers in the general population.
- 40% of the nation's homeless are former foster children according to the Mary Graham Shelter Foundation.
- The Wider Research Center surveyed homeless youth aged 10-17 and found that 46% of them had been in a juvenile correctional facility.
- California has an estimated half-million homeless youth and young adults ages 12-24 who make up the most vulnerable of the homeless population.

### CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA SOCIAL SERVICES CONSORTIUM COUNTIES AT A GLANCE

According to the Health Service Agency, **Calaveras County** had about 168 homeless persons in 2008.

Fresno's 10 year plan to End Homelessness reported that for 2008 there were 4,247 homeless in **Fresno County**.

Data from the National Alliance to End Homelessness reported that in 2007 there were 1,537 homeless individuals living in **Kern County**.

United Way reports that the 2010 point in time census of homeless in **Kings County** identified 317 homeless individuals.

According to the County Homeless Census and Survey in 2009, **Madera County** had 520 homeless persons at one point in time and an annual estimate of 1,492 homeless individuals.

A December 2009 draft report of the **Mariposa County** planning department reported that even though the 2000 census failed to identify any “visible” persons living on the streets, 64 persons were housed in domestic violence beds and other individuals are known to reside by the Merced river.

The City of Merced draft 2009 HUD annual action plan stated that a January 2009 survey found 104 homeless persons that when extrapolated resulted in an estimate of 2,641 homeless individuals residing in **Merced County**.

In 2007 there were 2,479 homeless persons in **San Joaquin County** according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Further, the Lodi News-Sentinel reported on Nov. 14, 2009 that there were then 2800 homeless persons residing in the county.

**San Luis Obispo County**'s 10 year Plan to End Homelessness completed in October 2008 reported that there were almost 2800 persons who experienced an episode of homelessness annually and that 92% of the homeless population were unsheltered (living in places not designed for human habitation).

In 2007 there were 4,253 homeless individuals residing in **Santa Barbara County** per the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Further, at a September 3, 2008 Symposium on Aging, it was reported that there were up to 4,453 individuals who experienced an episode of homelessness annually and of that number 597 were over the age of 50.

**Stanislaus County** had 1,593 homeless persons in 2007 according to data from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Only 4.3% of homes in the county met affordability limits per the county 5 year strategic plan written for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In 2009 Project Homeless Connect reported that there were approximately 1,000 homeless persons in **Tulare County**.

The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development has recommended that local organizations and agencies form continuum of care (CoC's) homeless planning systems. Both **Santa Barbara** and **Merced** counties have established CoC's and in fact both CoC's are among the ten CoC's in the country with the highest rates of homelessness using 2007 homelessness counts and US census data per the Homelessness Research Institute.

The End Homelessness campaign reports that homelessness is costly for taxpayers due to related costs including hospitalization, medical care, incarceration, police encounters, as well as emergency shelter for the individuals. Studies have clearly shown that funding permanent supportive housing for the chronic homeless actually saves taxpayers money. The National Alliance to End Homelessness suggests that there are ten components for communities to consider in order ending this problem: Plan, data, emergency prevention, systems prevention, outreach, shorten homelessness, permanent housing, and income. For more information visit their website at <http://www.endhomelessness.org>.