

# 2011

## County of Ventura Homeless Survey

### Come together to end homeless crisis in V.C.

**By Cathy Brudelich**  
In the 1980s, I was working for a retail corporation and was also board chairwoman for our local American Red Cross chapter. At the time, the Red Cross owned an old Victorian home on Santa Clara Street in Ventura that was used for meetings and storage space. The Red Cross offices were in an office building next door.

One cold and rainy night, a homeless man was found huddled in a doorway in downtown Ventura. He had died from exposure. Irv August, who was executive director of the Ventura Chapter of the Red Cross, called me with the idea that the Red Cross could open up the house on Santa Clara Street and let homeless folks sleep indoors, so that no one else would die on the street.

when, in fact, we have only a handful of year-round beds. It forces us to use our transitional housing facilities as de facto shelters, weakening the transitional programs and making it harder for them to attract funding because their success ratios look poor against other programs across the nation.

When that first overnight shelter opened its doors, the majority of County were single men. In five years, the majority were working with in the lies and women.

As a community deciding how and to homeless families last several months have been

### Editorial: Homelessness can be fatal

Today, at least 21 people who died homeless in Ventura County in 2009 will be memorialized at 3 p.m. at Plaza Park at Chestnut and Santa Clara streets in downtown Ventura. This is the second year the Unitarian Universalist Church has organized such a memorial.

Take the Ojai Valley Family Shelter, which routes from church to church, or the Concho Valley Meal and Shelter Program. These are just a few of many groups trying to replace the suffering of local residents. The county of Ventura is fortunate to have the non-

### Homeless tally helps secure federal funding

By Teresa Rochester, Kathleen Wilson

Volunteers counted out across Ventura last year, up nearly 12 percent from the 1,361

### Faces of the homeless Advocates meet to discuss 10-year plan

By Teresa Rochester

is being revised has successfully generated the buy-in of various stakeholders. "It's slow or it seems slow, but it would be effective if someone charges through single-handedly," Keller said. "It has to have consensus."

### Coalition puts muscle behind plan; secures funds

By Susan England

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition was founded in 1983 as a collaborative for housing advocates, service providers and local government representatives interested in the issues of homelessness and low-income.

The coalition maintain a dress the risk of becoming low-income the lead pillar in the county 1995 has a care system Coordinating funding development for "Over the million in the county of people the homeless for permanent housing and management leverage and the invaluable submitted Coordinating the and requires in Continuum ing, HUD included impling access in a homeless The VCH a broad coalition providers, government-secor

and providing services to the homeless. This all-volunteer group realized that the new HUD requirements of the development of a 10-year plan to end homelessness and a biennial street count of homeless persons taxed its financial and technical capacity.

LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_ SURVEYOR \_\_\_\_\_  
2010 COUNTY OF VENTURA HOMELESS SURVEY

#### A. Physical Characteristics:

- 1) Gender:  Male  Female
- 2) Ethnicity:  American Indian or Alaskan Native  
 Asian/Pacific Islander  
 Black or African American  
 Hispanic or Latino  
 White  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Record Other Ethnicity)
- 3) Age:  13 - 17  
 18 - 24  
 25 - 29  
 30 - 39  
 40 - 49  
 50 - 54  
 55 - 59  
 60 - 64  
 65 - 69  
 70+  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Geo-History:

- 4) Where were you born?  
a) Country:  U.S.  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Record Other Country)
- b) If U.S. born, which State?  California  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Record Other State)
- What City in the U.S.: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Record City)
- 5) In what city and state did you FIRST become homeless?  
(Please Record City) (Please Record State)

This survey was designed and developed for use by the Institute for Urban Research and Development



- 6) How long have you been currently homeless? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Have you been currently living on the street and/or in shelters for at least 1 year?  
 Yes  No
- 7a) Have you slept in a vehicle such as a car, truck, van, or trailer during the past year?  
 Yes  No
- 8) How many times have you experienced homelessness during the last 3 years? \_\_\_\_\_ times
- 9) How old were you the first time you became homeless? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) What city do you consider to be your home? \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Record Approximate Age)
- 11) How long have you been living in the above city? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Are you a resident of Ventura County?  
What City? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 13) Do you have family who live in Ventura County?  
What City? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 14) Do you have friends who live in Ventura County?  
What City? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 15) Have you ever worked in Ventura County?  
What City? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 16) Are you currently working in Ventura County?  
What City? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No
- 17) Have you ever attended school in Ventura County?  
What City? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

#### IF YES TO # 17:

- 17a) Check all that apply:

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# Acknowledgements

This report was made possible by the efforts of community volunteers and staff of organizations that provide services for persons who are homeless which includes:

Catholic Charities  
The Coalition to End Family Violence  
Community Action of Ventura County  
Conejo Valley Winter Warming Shelter  
County of Ventura Human Services Agency Homeless Outreach  
Family to Family  
Genesis House  
Harbor Community Church  
Help of Ojai Community Assistance Program  
Interface Children Family Services  
Khepera House  
Lighthouse Women and Children's Mission  
Lutheran Social Services  
Ojai Valley Family Shelter  
One Stop  
Operation Embrace  
Our Place Safe Haven  
P.A.D.S.  
Project Understanding  
Prototypes Women's Center  
RAIN  
Richard's House  
River Haven  
The Salvation Army  
The Samaritan Center  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Stoll House  
Turning Point Foundation  
United Way of Ventura County  
Ventura County Rescue Mission  
Volunteer Ventura County  
Wooley House

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Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition

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For a copy of this report visit the web site of  
the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition [www.vchhc.org](http://www.vchhc.org)  
or  
Urban Initiatives at [www.urban-initiatives.org](http://www.urban-initiatives.org)

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition is made up of more than 100 representatives from public and private agencies that work together to actively plan, develop, and implement programs as part of a community-wide strategy designed to address the service and housing needs of the county's homeless population.

Urban Initiatives consists of several community-based and faith-based institutes that respond to the economic, housing, and social needs of neighborhoods, cities, and counties from local community, regional, national, international, and faith-based perspectives and has completed over 40 assessments for local government and private organizations throughout Southern California that have focused on affordable housing, business development and education for micro-businesses, fair housing, homelessness, migrant farming, and street vending.

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# Executive Summary

The County of Ventura 2011 Homeless Survey was designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several sub-populations pre-determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that included: chronic homeless persons, men, persons with a developmental disability, persons with a physical disability, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, substance abusers, veterans, victims of domestic violence, women, and youth ages 18 – 24.

An analysis of the data reveals the following information about each of the sub-populations, which is compared to the 2010 survey data in the table below. The 2011 survey is based on the responses of 513 survey respondents that equals a sample of 31% of the number of adults (1,652) counted during the 2011 homeless count. The 2010 survey is based on the responses of 431 survey respondents which equal 27% of the number of adults (1,604) counted during the 2010 homeless count.

Sub-Population	2011 Survey	2010 Survey
Chronic Homeless Persons	48%	57%
Men	57%	68%
Persons with a Developmental Disability	16%	*
Persons with a Physical Disability	30%	*
Persons with HIV/AIDS	1%	1%
Persons with Mental Illness	38%	40%
Substance Abusers	31%	32%
Veterans	9%	12%
Victims of Domestic Violence	45%	44%
Women	39%	32%
Youth Ages 18 - 24	8%	8%

*\*question concerning developmental and physical disability was combined in 2010—33% of survey respondents stated that they had a developmental and/or physical disability—and as a result, data is not available for each disability as in 2011.*

*Note: men and women do not add up to 100% because 4% of surveys did not have gender recorded.*

A profile of each of the sub-populations is provided in Section II, Findings, which includes a breakdown by gender, ethnicity, length of time homeless, disability, health condition, mental illness, substance abuse, veteran status, and domestic violence experiences.

### **WHY WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?**

The survey was conducted in order to:

- provide a wide-range of information on a representative sample of adults who are homeless;
- obtain HUD required information concerning homeless subpopulations for Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance grant applications;
- make available information to the County of Ventura to help meet requirements for planning documents such as consolidated plans, housing elements, and impediments to fair housing choice;
- serve as a basis for developing strategies for public and private agencies to respond to specific needs of homeless families and individuals.

### **WHEN WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?**

The survey was conducted February 1 - 3, 2011.

### **WHERE WAS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED?**

The survey was conducted on the streets and at various residential and nonresidential social service sites that participated in the homeless count.

### **HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED?**

Community volunteers and representatives from more than 20 public and private agencies, service providers and faith-based institutions participated in conducting survey interviews throughout Ventura County. The process involved administering a one-on-one interview with a representative sample of homeless adults living in the County of Ventura. There were three (3) primary types of contact with homeless persons who participated in the survey. They were: 1) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted on the streets; 2) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while living in shelters and transitional housing; and 3) interviews with homeless persons who were contacted while using non-residential homeless services.

All surveyors who participated in administering the survey instrument were oriented and trained. Using trained interviewers to administer the survey, as opposed to conducting a self-administered survey instrument, increased the opportunity for collecting complete and accurate answers to the questions and provided opportunity for receiving useful evaluation information from the interviewers.

**WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY?**

The survey instrument was also designed to compile a cross-section of information concerning several pre-determined sub-populations that included: chronically homeless persons, families with children, men, people living in homeless facilities, people living on the streets, persons with dual diagnoses, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, pregnant women, seniors, substance abusers, various ethnic groups, veterans, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, and women. As a result, the survey provides a sampling of data that helps examine the issues and needs of each homeless subpopulation as well as the entire homeless population in the County of Ventura. A copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix A.

**WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY?**

Five hundred and thirteen (513) adults participated in the survey.

## II. Findings

A profile of each of the sub-populations is provided in this section which includes a breakdown by gender, ethnicity, length of time homeless, disability, health condition, mental illness, substance abuse, veteran status, and domestic violence experiences.

### CHRONIC HOMELESS PERSONS

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**Key Finding: 48% or 249 survey respondents were chronically homeless according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of chronic homelessness;**

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According to HUD, the term 'chronically homeless' means, with respect to an individual or family, that the individual or family—

- (i) is homeless and lives or resides in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter;
- (ii) has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least 1 year or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years; and
- (iii) has an adult head of household (or a minor head of household if no adult is present in the household) with a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)), post traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of 2 or more of those conditions.

The following information provides a profile of chronic homeless persons based on the responses of 249 or 48% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

64% were men; 34% were women; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

6% were African American or Black; 3% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% were Asian; 22% were Hispanic or Latino; 4% were Other; 60% were White; and 4% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

6% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 84% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 10% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

98% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

18% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

44% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

24% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

54% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

2% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

50% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

44% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

9% of men and women were a veteran and 12% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

47% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative and 56% among women only.

## MEN

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**Key Finding: 57% or 292 survey respondents were men**

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The following information provides a profile of men based on the responses of 292 or 57% of survey respondents.

- **Ethnicity**

5% were African American or Black; 3% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 0% were Asian; 27% were Hispanic or Latino; 4% were Other; 58% were White; and 3% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

6% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 88% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 6% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

66% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

15% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

34% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

15% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

37% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

1% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

29% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

30% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

13% of men were a veteran;

- **Domestic Violence**

30% of men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative.

## PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

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**Key Finding: 16% or 82 survey respondents had a developmental disability**

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The following information provides a profile of persons with a developmental disability based on the responses of 82 or 16% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

54% were men; 43% were women; and 3% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

6% were African American or Black; 5% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% were Asian; 17% were Hispanic or Latino; 8% were Other; 59% were White; and 3% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

12% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 87% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 1% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

68% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

22% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

48% had a physical disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

48% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

5% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

68% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

38% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

6% of men and women were a veteran, and 7% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

56% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 74% among women only.

## PERSONS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

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**Key Finding: 30% or 152 survey respondents had a physical disability**

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The following information provides a profile of persons with a physical disability based on the responses of 152 or 30% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

66% were men; 30% were women; and 4% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

5% were African American or Black; 4% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% were Asian; 19% were Hispanic or Latino; 5% were Other; 61% were White; and 5% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

2% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 85% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 13% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

71% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

12% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Developmental Disability**

26% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

68% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

3% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

49% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

28% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcplsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

12% of men and women were a veteran and 16% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

48% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 53% among women only.

## PERSONS WITH A HIV/AIDS

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**Key Finding: 1% or 6 survey respondents had HIV/AIDS**

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The following information provides a profile of persons with HIV/AIDS based on the responses of 6 or 1% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

67% or four persons were men and 33% or 2 persons were women;

- **Ethnicity**

33% or 2 persons were African American or Black; 17% or 1 person were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 0% were Asian; 0% were Hispanic or Latino; 0% were Other; and 50% or 6 persons were White;

- **Age**

0% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 67% or 4 persons were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 33% or 2 persons were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

100% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

50% or 3 persons were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

67% or 4 persons had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

67% or 4 persons had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

100% or 6 persons had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **Mental Illness**

100% or 6 persons felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

67% or 4 persons had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcplsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

0% of men and women were a veteran;

- **Domestic Violence**

50% or 3 persons among women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 100% or 2 persons among women only.

## PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

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### Key Finding: 38% or 194 survey respondents had mental illness

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The following information provides a profile of persons with mental illness based on the responses of 194 or 38% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

49% were men; 48% were women; and 3% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

5% were African American or Black; 3% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% were Asian; 19% were Hispanic or Latino; 6% were Other; 63% were White; and 3% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

8% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 88% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 4% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

61% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

11% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

40% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

28% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

48% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

3% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Substance Abuse**

37% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

8% of men and women were a veteran, and 12% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

57% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 61% among women only.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

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**Key Finding: 31% or 159 survey respondents were substance abusers**

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The following information provides a profile of substance abusers based on the responses of 159 or 31% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

57% were men; 40% were women; and 3% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

4% were African American or Black; 2% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% were Asian; 25% were Hispanic or Latino; 2% were Other; 61% were White; and 5% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

7% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 89% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 4% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

67% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

15% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

26% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

19% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

40% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

2% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

37% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Veteran Status**

7% of men and women were a veteran, and 11% among men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

48% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 69% among women only.

## VETERANS

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**Key Finding: 9% or 46 survey respondents were veterans**

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The following information provides a profile of veterans based on the responses of 46 or 9% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

80% were men; 15% were women; and 5% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

11% were African American or Black; 7% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 0% were Asian; 11% were Hispanic or Latino; 4% were Other; 65% were White; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

7% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 89% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 4% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

54% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

7% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

39% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

11% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

37% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

0% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

37% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

24% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Domestic Violence**

33% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 57% among women only.

## VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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**Key Finding: 45% or 229 survey respondents were victims of domestic violence**

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The following information provides a profile of victims of domestic violence based on the responses of 229 or 45% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

38% were men; 59% were women; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

5% were African American or Black; 3% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% were Asian; 24% were Hispanic or Latino; 6% were Other; 57% were White; and 4% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

10% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 86% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 4% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

55% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

11% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

31% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

20% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

39% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

1% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

46% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

33% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

6% of men and women were a veteran and 10% among men only.

## WOMEN

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**Key Finding: 39% or 200 survey respondents were women**

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The following information provides a profile of women based on the responses of 200 or 39% of survey respondents.

- **Ethnicity**

6% were African American or Black; 3% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% were Asian; 21% were Hispanic or Latino; 5% were Other; 60% were White; and 3% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Age**

10% were between the ages of 18 through 24; 84% were between the ages of 25 and 61; and 6% were age 62+;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

49% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

6% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

22% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

17% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

38% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

1% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

45% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

32% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcplsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

3% of women were veterans.

- **Domestic Violence**

67% of women had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative.

## YOUTH AGE 18 - 24

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**Key Finding: 8% or 39 survey respondents were youth age 18 - 24**

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The following information provides a profile of youth age 18 - 24 based on the responses of 39 or 8% of survey respondents.

- **Gender**

49% were men; 49% were women; and 2% did not have a recorded answer;

- **Ethnicity**

0% were African American or Black; 3% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 0% were Asian; 36% were Hispanic or Latino; 5% were Other; and 56% were White;

- **Homeless One Year or More**

49% were homeless one year or more;

- **Homeless at Least Four Times in Last Three Years**

10% were homeless at least four times in the last three years;

- **Physical Disability**

8% had a physical disability;

- **Developmental Disability**

26% had a developmental disability;

- **Chronic Health Condition**

20% had a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis;

- **HIV/AIDS**

0% had been diagnosed with AIDS or had tested positive for HIV;

- **Mental Illness**

38% felt that they had a mental health problem, were taking medications for mental health issues, and/or had been hospitalized for mental health issues;

- **Substance Abuse**

28% had a drug or alcohol problem and/or were using one or more of the following drugs: Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers;

- **Veteran Status**

0% of men and women were a veteran and 0% of men only;

- **Domestic Violence**

59% of women and men had been a victim of domestic violence by an intimate partner and/or parent, guardian, or relative, and 53% among women only.

# Conclusion

The results of the 2011 County of Ventura Homeless Count combined with the results of the 2011 County of Ventura Homeless Survey provide information that serves as the basis for three (3) important tasks:

- understanding the nature and extent of the current trends in homelessness in Ventura County communities;
- responding to the unmet needs and gaps in services for homeless individuals and families in Ventura County;
- developing local community and countywide strategies to meet the goal of ending homelessness over the next ten years.

The challenge is to develop solution-oriented approaches through a well-coordinated, outcome driven social service system designed to directly meet the needs of our local homeless population. Such activities will further build upon collaborative efforts between homeless service providers, business enterprises, residents, faith-based organizations, other community agencies, and local government that will provide service-enriched program environments in which homeless persons will receive the tools necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and maintain permanent housing.

Thus, an important use of this report is to provide accurate information necessary to design and implement the housing and social service assistance needed to bring homeless persons back into our workforce, schools, faith-based institutions, and other community institutions and provide the means for them to become stable, productive contributors to our communities.

# Appendix A

## 2011 Ventura County Homeless Survey

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please record the following information about the person you are about to survey:**

**Gender:**  Female  Male

**Ethnicity:**  American Indian or Alaskan Native  Asian/Pacific Islander

Black or African-American  Hispanic or Latino  White  Other

**Age:**  Under age 18  18 –24  25 – 29  30 – 39  40 – 49  50 - 54  
 55 –59  60 – 61  62 – 64  65 – 69  70+

**Household Status:** Is person a  single individual or  adult member of a family (check one)

**If an adult member of family,** how many other adults \_\_\_ and how many children \_\_\_ are part of family?

- 1) Have you been homeless for one year or more?  yes  no If yes, go to question 3.
- 2) How many times have you been homeless in the past three years?  less than four episodes or  at least four episodes (check one)
- 3) Do you have a physical disability?  yes  no  don't know  refused
- 4) Do you have a developmental disability?  yes  no  don't know  refused
- 5) Do you have a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart trouble, high blood pressure, seizures, hepatitis, respiratory problems, epilepsy, tuberculosis, or arthritis?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 6) Have you been diagnosed with AIDS or have you tested positive for HIV?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 7) Do you feel you have a mental health problem?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 8) If yes, do you expect your mental health problem to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impair your ability to live independently?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 9) Are you currently taking prescription medications for mental health issues?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 10) Have you taken prescription medication for mental health issues in the last year?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 11) Have you been hospitalized for mental health issues?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 12) Do you have a drug or alcohol problem?  yes  no  don't know  refused
- 13) If yes, do you expect your drug or alcohol problem to be of long-continued and indefinite duration and substantially impair your ability to live independently?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 14) Do you currently use any of the following drugs? - Cocaine, crack, heroin, pcp/lsd, uppers/speed, and downers/tranquilizers?  yes  no  don't know  refused
- 15) Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 16) Have you ever been a victim of domestic or intimate partner violence?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 17) If you have been a victim of domestic or intimate partner violence, how long ago did you have this experience?  one year or less  more than a year  don't know  refused
- 18) Have you ever been a victim of violence by a parent guardian or relative?  
 yes  no  don't know  refused
- 19) If you have been a victim of violence by a parent guardian or relative, how long ago did you have this experience?  
 one year or less  more than a year  don't know  refused