

Fact Sheet on Homelessness in California

(Unless otherwise noted, all data is from The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Volume I of the 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, November 2012.)

- Most recent national data available places California’s share of the national homeless population at 20.7 percent. This is a disproportionate share, as California is only 12 percent of the United States population.
- 4 of the top 10 metropolitan areas in the country for homeless are in the following metropolitan areas in California: San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Fresno, and Stockton.
- 64.9 percent of homeless Californians are unsheltered, 14 percent are veterans, and 20 percent are families.
- Los Angeles alone has 6.7 percent of the nation’s homeless; San Diego has 1.6 percent of the nation’s homeless.
- 33 percent of the nation’s chronic homeless population are Californians.
- Regional percentages of homeless population that are chronically homeless (from 2012):

Los Angeles City & County	23.2%	San Diego City & County	25.4%
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County	37.1%	San Francisco	30.8%
Santa Ana/ Anaheim/ Orange County	24.1%	Santa Rosa/ Petaluma/ Sonoma	24.6%
Watsonville/ Santa Cruz City & County	35.4%	Salina/Monterey, San Benito Counties	29.7%
Richmond/ Contra Costa County	30.2%		

- 25.2 percent of all homeless veterans reside in California.
- In 2012, Los Angeles, CA had the largest number of homeless veterans (6,371), accounting alone for more than 10 percent of homeless veterans in the U.S.

- In 2012, among the universe of continuums of care that were comprised of smaller cities, counties, or regions, Santa Ana/Anaheim/Orange County had the largest number of homeless veterans (869).
- According to an October 2013 report from the National Center for Homeless Education, California had 248,904 homeless students enrolled in school, comprising 21.3 percent of the total number of homeless students in the nation. This figure represents a 28 percent increase in the last three years.ⁱ
- Seven of the top 10 hardest hit cities by the foreclosure crisis in the nation were in California. They include Stockton, Modesto, Vallejo, Riverside-San Bernardino, Merced, Bakersfield, and Sacramento.
- According to the most recent report of “California Renters in the Foreclosure Crisis”, an estimated 1 million California renters have been directly impacted since the start of the mortgage crisis.ⁱⁱ
- California continues to have the second lowest homeownership rate in the nation, and minimum wage earners have to work 120 hours per week to afford the average two-bedroom apartment.
- California’s chronic homeless population did decline by 2 percent between 2011 and 2012, though this was not at the same pace as the national 7 percent decline.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ National Center for Homeless Education: *Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Data Collection Summary*, October 2013.

ⁱⁱ Tenants Together: *Fourth Annual Report on California Renters in the Foreclosure Crisis*, July 2012.

ⁱⁱⁱ National Alliance to End Homelessness: *Data Point: Chronic Homelessness in the United States 2013*, June 2013.