



State of Homelessness in California Fact Sheet

There is no one size fits all solution to ending homelessness. California's homelessness crisis is vast and complex, requiring systems and individual level interventions to house the most vulnerable Californians.

What do we know about homelessness in California?

- As of January 2019, **27% of people experiencing homelessness in the entire United States are in California.**
- Homelessness in California **increased by more than 22% over the last decade.** Between 2018 and 2019, homelessness in California increased by over **16%.**
- **33 out of 43 (77%) of California Continuums of Care saw increases in homelessness between 2017 and 2019.**
- In California, **72% of people experiencing homelessness are unsheltered,** which is the highest share of unsheltered homelessness of any state.
- Nationwide, more than **half of the people experiencing unsheltered homelessness reside in California.**
- People experiencing unsheltered homelessness are far more likely to face **health challenges, violence and trauma, and longer lengths of homelessness** than people staying in shelters.
- Unsheltered people also **engage much more frequently with police and emergency health services** than people staying in shelters.

Who is experiencing homelessness in California?

- Nearly **28%** of people experiencing homelessness in California are considered **chronically homeless.**
- According to 2019 estimates, the California homeless population is **65% male, 33.4% female, 1.2% transgender, and 0.4% are gender non-conforming.**
- **Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/other API and Multiple races are overrepresented groups** in the California population experiencing homelessness.

How did we get here?

- As of 2019, California is experiencing a **shortage of 1.4 million affordable homes** given the demand for affordable housing.
- **Housing construction has lagged** in California's coastal metro areas since the 1990s, driving up housing costs.
- CA major metro areas have **higher rates of severe rent burden** (renters who spend more than 50% of their household income on rent) than the average U.S. metro area.
- Black people have experienced overrepresentation in the **criminal justice system, housing segregation and employment discrimination,** which have led to their disproportionate representation in the homeless population.

What are the emerging issues?

- In Los Angeles County there are about **16,528 people experiencing homelessness sleeping in vehicles** (cars, vans, RVs/Campers), but currently only **354 Safe Parking spaces** exist.
- In Los Angeles County, **14,537 people** are chronically homeless and unsheltered, but only **9,960 units of Supportive Housing** are in the pipeline.
- By 2030, it is projected that Los Angeles County will see a **5% increase** in the number of older adults experiencing homelessness and a **103% increase among those 65 and older.**
- Adult Latinos are experiencing **higher rates of new homelessness** (first time and less than a year) than other ethnic and racial groups.



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