

San Joaquin County

2011

Point-In-Time Homeless Count



May 2011

San Joaquin County
Community Development
Department
1810 E. Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, CA 95205

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Executive Summary

The Continuum of Care

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates funds for homeless assistance programs to government entities that participate in local homeless assistance program planning networks. Each individual network is called a Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC concept was introduced to support and encourage collaboration between government agencies and local businesses, both non-profit and private, to identify housing and homeless issues in an effort to reduce and end homelessness.

The goal of the CoC is to coordinate local efforts to identify and address the needs of the homeless population, provide outreach services within the community, and to pin-point gaps where additional resources are needed. The CoC aims to deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of San Joaquin County's homeless in an attempt to make a smooth transition from homelessness to stable housing and self-sufficiency.

San Joaquin County's CoC, headed by the San Joaquin County Community Development Department, is comprised of various County departments, Cities and non-profits that offer numerous services such as permanent and transitional housing, medical and mental health assistance and emergency shelter, food, and clothing assistance.

Project Homeless Connect

As a requirement to maintain federal funding received by San Joaquin County from HUD, the County must undertake a census (homeless count) of the local homeless population. The information gathered from the census is used, by both HUD and other local government agencies, to provide and improve housing and supportive services in our communities.

Guidelines direct all Continuums of Care to conduct their counts in the last 10 days during the month of January. Simultaneously conducting the counts nationwide will provide a snapshot of the homeless population and the issues they face. San Joaquin County's homeless count, both sheltered and unsheltered, was conducted January 26-28 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

San Joaquin County Demographics

San Joaquin County had an estimated population of over 685,000 at the time of this report. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income for San Joaquin County is \$54,350 and 16.5% of the population lives below the poverty level.

The tables below illustrate the make-up of San Joaquin County by race and ethnicity.

White	72.5%
Black / African American	8.0%
American Indian / Native Alaskan	1.4%
Asian	14.0%
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	0.5%
Persons reporting 2 or more races	3.6%

Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin	37.6%
White persons not Hispanic	38.2%

Homeless Count Methodology

The “Stand Down” format has been used in San Joaquin County since 2007. The 2011 Stand Down consisted of four events, held in Lodi, Tracy, Manteca, and Stockton, over a three day period. This approach offers a temporary safe retreat for homeless individuals to receive and learn about services available in their community.

Members of the CoC, local business, and volunteers came together at local community centers, emergency shelters, and other places where the homeless are known to congregate, to educate and offer a variety of essential services. The intent was to bring as many service providers together at a single location to provide a one-stop service center. During the events volunteers took surveys and counted those individuals willing to participate to collect the data used for this report.

In addition to the Stand Down events, a Point-in-Time Count (PIT) was conducted at all of the County’s homeless and emergency shelters. Emergency shelters countywide took a census of those housed in shelters the night before the event in the respective community.

Conclusion

Project Homeless Connect 2011 presents data important to identify issues faced by the homeless population in San Joaquin County. The information provided in the following pages illustrate the degree and complexity of the challenges we face in the coming months and years in making an effort to eliminate, or at minimum reduce, homelessness. The information collected will guide the CoC’s efforts to makes changes where needed and to determine where the needs of the homeless are unmet.

General Findings

Overview

To accurately enumerate San Joaquin County's homeless population the homeless count, often referred to as the census, included:

- ❖ Unsheltered Homeless – those found on the street, living in cars, and makeshift shelters such as homeless campsites.
- ❖ Sheltered Homeless – includes those occupying emergency shelters, living in transitional housing, and persons receiving emergency hotel or motel vouchers.

According to the McKinney Vento Act section §11302 General definition of homeless individual, a homeless person is defined as:

1. an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is -
 - A. a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
 - B. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
 - C. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

The 2011 Project Homeless Connect results indicate an overall increase in homelessness from the previous count in 2009. Over a three day period volunteers and members of the CoC surveyed 2,641 respondents.

- ❖ 1,519 emergency shelter
- ❖ 582 transitional housing
- ❖ 193 TANF housing assistance
- ❖ 347 unsheltered

Below is a summary of general information collected from both sheltered and unsheltered surveys:

Homeless Men

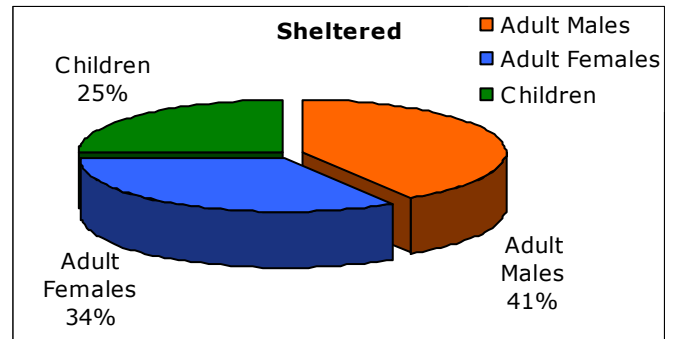
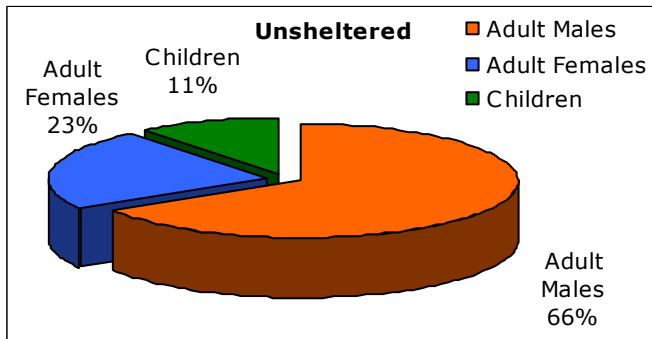
- ❖ Make up 56% of the overall homeless population. (1,479 of 2,641)
- ❖ Make up 54% of the shelter population (includes male children). (1,249 of 2,294)

Homeless Women

- ❖ Make up 42% of the overall homeless population (1,125 of 2,641)
- ❖ Make up 45% of the shelter population (Including female children). (1,045 of 2,294)

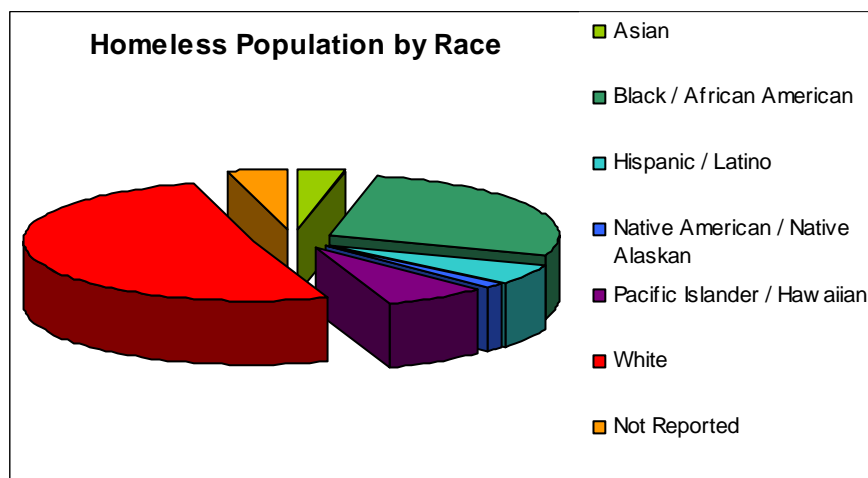
Homeless Children

- ❖ Make up 22% of the overall homeless population (606 of 2,641)
- ❖ Make up 24% of the shelter population (569 of 2,294)



All Homeless

- ❖ Whites make up 51%, African Americans 27%, and Hispanics 26% of the overall homeless survey respondents.
- ❖ 29% have a disabling condition.
- ❖ Nearly 50% are between the ages of 30 and 59 years of age.
- ❖ Only 3% are employed
- ❖ 11% completed grade 12 or above

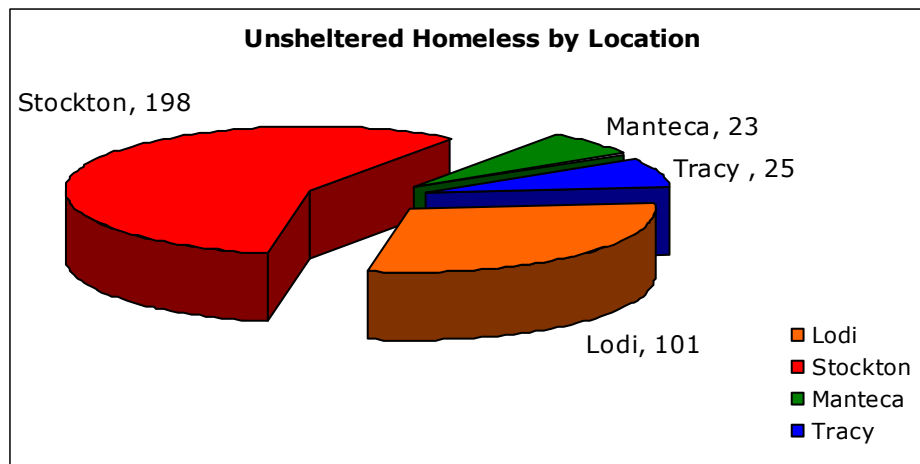


Unsheltered Homeless Count Findings

Overview

The unsheltered homeless population consists of homeless persons that are not in emergency shelters or transitional housing. Typically the unsheltered homeless seek refuge in abandoned buildings or cars; or are forced to sleep on the street, in a park, or other open or public space.

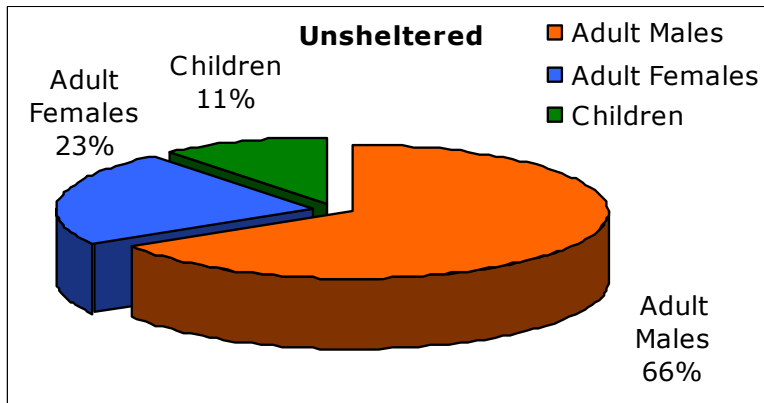
During the 2011 Homeless count 310 unsheltered surveys were taken. Among the unsheltered surveys 20 indicated family units which included 37 children, for a total of 347 unsheltered homeless. While unsheltered homeless are common throughout the entire county, it comes as no surprise that over half, 57%, of unsheltered homeless persons are living within the city limits of Stockton. The City of Stockton makes up roughly 51% of San Joaquin's total population. The chart below illustrates where the 347 homeless persons were counted.



Sleeping Accommodation Statistics

- ❖ A majority, 62%, of unsheltered homeless persons surveyed slept on the street, in a park, or an open / public space on the night prior to the census.
- ❖ 13% use tents to seek refuge.
- ❖ 10% sleep in their automobile or find an abandoned vehicle.
- ❖ Abandoned buildings are used by 7% of the homeless population,
- ❖ The remaining 8% declined to state or had alternative arrangements the night before.

A greater part of the unsheltered homeless populations is comprised of unaccompanied adult males (66%). However 16% or 57 individuals are included with families. The following chart shows the make-up of the unsheltered population.

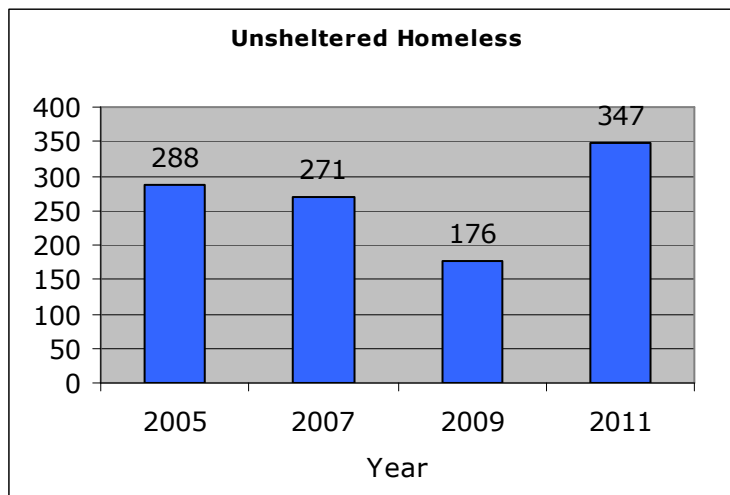


Since the last count in 2009 San Joaquin County has experienced record numbers of homeless individuals and families. This is no doubt the result of a declining economy. The outcome has been an increase in demand for shelter services, emergency food assistance, and other essential needs.

Quick Fact

During the 12 month period leading up to the count in 2009 St. Mary’s Interfaith, a local non-profit that offers meals, clothing and other essential services to the homeless, served 325,314 meals to homeless individuals and families. Fast forward to the 12 month period prior to the 2011 count, when 391,091 meals were served. This represents a 20% increase from 2009 to 2011.

The 2011 count shows a 97% overall increase in unsheltered homeless persons since the 2009. The chart below illustrates a short history of San Joaquin County’s homeless population since 2005 when the County began recording homeless data.



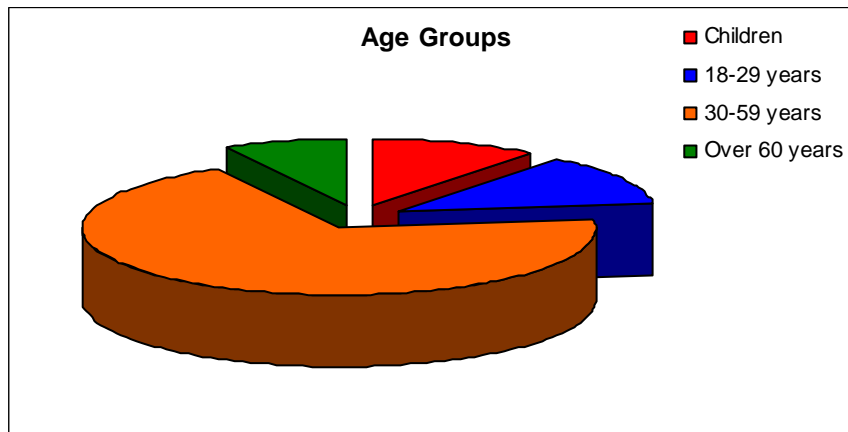
Taking a closer look, data collected regarding the length of homelessness supports the 97% increase since 2009. Surveyors asked participants how long it has been since they last had housing and found that 47% have just become homeless within the last 12 – 24 months. The information below offers insight in to the duration of homelessness countywide.

Duration of Homelessness

- ❖ 8% become homeless in the past 30 days.
- ❖ 21% were homeless for a period greater than a month, but less than a year.
- ❖ 47% of those surveyed have been homeless for over a year.
- ❖ 9% have been homeless 3 – 5 years
- ❖ 15% have been homeless for a period greater than 10 years.

For the 2011 count the age group between 18 and 59 years reported in 2009 was split in to two categories; 18 – 29 years and 30 – 59 years. This was done because the CoC felt the 18 – 59 age group was too broad.

The median age of survey respondents was 46 year old. The largest age group was 30 – 59 years of age (78%). The chart below represents the ages of the unsheltered population.



Sheltered Homeless Count Findings

Overview

To be responsive to the needs of homeless persons in our community, it is vital to also collect data on those considered as sheltered homeless. The sheltered homeless population consists of individuals and families living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and those receiving motel vouchers. It is important for the CoC to have an understanding of how many individuals, families, and children are being assisted by the County's homeless programs and how best to meet their needs. Obtaining reliable data can help determine where there are gaps in the system and to ensure the uses of resources are as effective as possible.

The 2011 shelter count documented 2,294 persons residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or motels. This is a 12% increase from 2,043 persons documented in 2009.

2011 Overall Results

- ❖ There were 1,324 staying in emergency shelters
- ❖ A total of 777 received General Relief Housing Assistance, which includes emergency hotel vouchers
- ❖ 193 received TANF for the Homeless assistance.

The table below depicts a side-by-side comparison of results from 2009 and 2011. In all categories the number of homeless has increased.

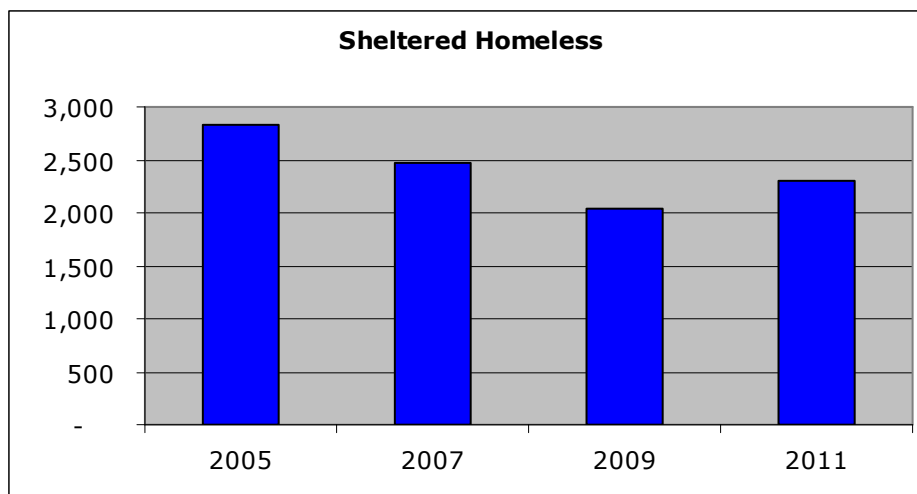
	2009	2011	Inc. / (Dec.)
Shelter Count	1,182	1,324	142
GA Housing Assistance	672	777	105
TANF for the Homeless	189	193	4
Total	2,043	2,294	251
# in families	882	1,003	306

* The 2009 Point-In-Time Homeless Count reported 2,801 sheltered homeless. This number included 758 General Assistance recipients not receiving housing assistance which should have not been included. The official number for 2009 is 2,043

There was a continual decline in the number of homeless persons between the years of 2005, when the County began keeping record, and 2009. This is a reflection of when the economy was strong and prior to the nationwide housing crisis. In addition, coordination and planning efforts of the CoC and the availability of housing programs resources resulted in fewer homeless. However, the 2011 count results show a sizeable increase from the previous count. San Joaquin County, even more so than the rest of the

country, has fallen victim to foreclosure and housing crises and a shaky economy. The current number of homeless in our community undoubtedly reflects the predicament we face.

The chart below illustrates a short history of San Joaquin County's sheltered homeless population since 2005.



There is a widespread misconception that homelessness is an issue faced only by single adults. In fact, 37% of the homeless persons identified in San Joaquin County are included in families. Family homelessness is a complicated and widespread problem that disrupts nearly every aspect of a stable family environment. Often times it interferes with children's education and deeply effects the physical and emotional health of all those involved. Unfortunately, many cases result in the separation of family members.

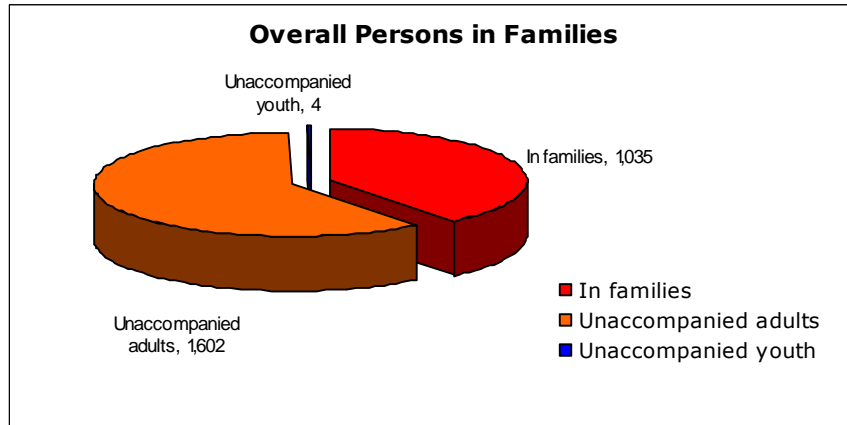
The results of the 2011 homeless count indicate a 53% (1,035 / 672) increase of homeless family members. During 2009, 672 persons identified were included in families; in 2011 this number climbed to 1,035.

Family Statistics

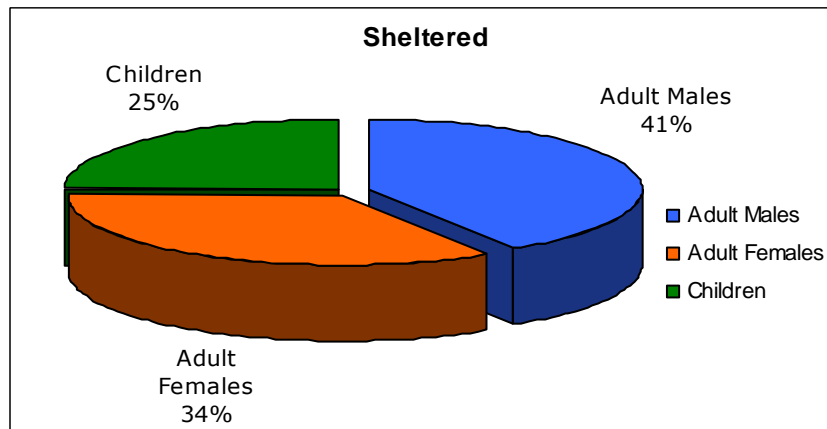
- ❖ On the night of the 2011 census, 1,035 (includes unsheltered) homeless persons identified were included in families.
- ❖ 785 persons identified (or 37% of the shelter population) stayed in an emergency shelters.
- ❖ 193 persons included in families utilized hotel vouchers.
- ❖ There were 57 unsheltered persons identified were included in families, 37 of which were children.
- ❖ The homeless family population rose by 53% from 2009.

This indicates family homelessness is steadily escalating with the economic downturn and loss of jobs. This will certainly have an effect on housing assistance programs

already stressed by the current economic climate. The chart below illustrates the number of persons identified, both sheltered and unsheltered, included in families.



The chart below depicts the percentage of men, women, and children residing in shelters during the 2011 count.



Programs and Awards

San Joaquin County, in collaboration with local non-profits, currently manages nine Supportive Housing Programs (SHP), two Shelter Plus Care grants, administers a countywide homeless management information system, and assists in funding ten emergency shelters that assist homeless individuals and families transition to permanent and stable housing. Over a five year period ending December 2010 San Joaquin County has been awarded \$17.8 million dollars for various programs.

Supportive Housing Programs

CARE – The C.A.R.E. Program (Coordinated Agency Response Effort) was designed to allow smaller family shelters provide continuing support services to clients that moved from shelters to transitional housing. The primary focus is on households with dependent children. Continuing case management is often, but not always, provided by the shelter where they previously resided.

CHARM – The C.H.A.R.M. Program (Communitywide Homeless Assessment & Resource Management) is the CoC's Homeless Management Information System.

Hermanas I & II – The Hermanas Programs were designed to provide transitional housing to homeless households with significant substance abuse problems. The focus is on single mothers with dependent children.

Homelessness to Homes I & II & Horizons – The Homeless to Homes and Horizons Programs provides transitional housing and support services to homeless families. The Programs put an emphasis on the transition from emergency shelter to stable housing.

New Directions – A private, non-profit substance abuse treatment and education center that serves homeless men and women that have lost the ability to manage their lives due to addiction to drugs and alcohol. Staff provides counseling services and guidance on issues such as family reunification, employment and transitional housing for up to a year. The goal is to assist clients in making healthy choices that result in productive, drug and crime free lives.

Project Hope – Is a program geared towards aged-out foster youth at high risk of homelessness. The Program uses scattered site apartments throughout Stockton and Lodi and offers educational and life skills training.

SPICE – The S.P.I.C.E. (Supporting People In a Community Environment) Program offers permanent housing for people with disabilities. Eight separate households provide a shared housing experience for up to 27 individuals.

Shelter Plus Care

Shelter Plus Care provides housing and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities; primarily those with serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and drug abuse, or those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

At the time of this report San Joaquin County provides services for 249 households, 50 of which include children; 283 single adults; and 86 children. Housing is established in apartments and scattered sites (houses) throughout the County with support services offered and provided by a network of more than 20 community providers.

Emergency Shelters Grant Programs

Family and Youth Services (Stockton) – Provides a safe, caring shelter to runaway and throw away youth. Also offers hot meals and counseling services (family, group, and individual) to assist in their employment and educational needs.

Gospel Center Rescue Mission (Stockton) – Provides emergency food, clothing, shelter, health care services and life skills training for both homeless families and individuals.

Haven of Peace (French Camp) – Since 1959 has provided emergency shelter, food, clothing, and hygiene services to single women and children. Clients receive case management services, job readiness, and life skills training in preparation in becoming self-sufficient.

Hope Harbor Shelter (Lodi) – Offers emergency shelter services and transitional housing for families and individuals, as well as meals and clothing.

Hope Ministries (Manteca) – Operates two family shelters offering meals and clothing services.

Lodi House (Lodi) – Offers shelter, meals, and clothing services to homeless women and their children. In addition, Lodi House also offers counseling services to assist women in gaining control of their lives and to making a the transition to self-sufficiency.

McHenry House (Tracy) – offers meals, shelter for up to 12 weeks, and clothes for homeless families with children. Services such as life skills training, parenting skills, family counseling, budgeting skills, are offered to assist families to self sufficiency.

Follow up counseling is offered for up to one year after leaving the shelter to ensure clients are improving their lives.

St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services (Stockton) – Provides care to the community's homeless and working men, women and children living significantly below the poverty line since 1955. Services include the Fr. Alan McCoy Dining Room, Virgil Gianelli Medical Clinic, St. Raphael's Dental Clinic, Kara Brewer Family Clothing and Hygiene Center and Social Services Department. Clients are able to care for their basic human needs in a compassionate and caring environment on a daily basis.

Stockton Shelter (Stockton) – Offers emergency shelter, food, and clothing services for single adults and families at two facilities in Stockton. During the winter months additional shelter for families is provided in French Camp. Also provides mental health services, drug screening and hygiene products. Transitional housing for individuals and families with AIDS is provided year round.

Women's Center (Stockton, Lodi, Tracy) – Operates two emergency shelters for women and children fleeing violent and abusive environments. Both sites offer case management, parenting classes, domestic violence and self- esteem support groups, financial literacy, and services for employment preparation. The Women's Center also operates the Just for Kids Program and an aftercare support group.

Acknowledgements

The information in this report was obtained through a process that included collaboration between all of the jurisdictions in the County, multiple non-profit housing and service providers, and local businesses. Many individuals dedicated a considerable amount of their personal time insuring the success of Project Homeless Connect.

The members of the Homeless Count Committee provided invaluable guidance and advice in developing the count process and of course their labor during the actual count. The Committee included staff members from the County's Community Development Department, Human Services Agency, and Mental Health Department; the City of Stockton's Economic Development Department; City of Lodi's Community Development Department; City of Tracy's Development and Engineering Services; Central Valley Low Income Housing Corporation; Sutter Tracy Community Health Resource Center; Lodi Salvation Army; Care Link; Stockton Shelter for the Homeless; St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services; and New Directions.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Walmart (Stockton and Tracy) for their generous donations and all of the homeless shelters, safe houses, transitional housing operators, and many other agencies throughout the county that participated. Moreover, the Count could not have been undertaken without the assistance of many volunteers who generously gave their time.

This report was prepared by the San Joaquin County Community Development Department using data accumulated during the 2011 Project Homeless Connect. Copies of this report can be obtained from the County's website at www.sjgov.org/commdev or by calling the San Joaquin County Community Development Department at (209) 468-3177.