

THE CITY OF PASADENA

Are You Homeless	Gender	Ethnicity
Y	F	W
Y	M	L
Y	F	L
N	M	AA
	M	A
	M	W
	M	W
	M	L

2009

Homeless Count: Final Report

Prepared for:

Pasadena Community Development Commission

City of Pasadena Housing Department

Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network

March 4, 2009

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is the result of a partnership between the Pasadena Community Development Commission (PCDC), City of Pasadena Housing Department, and the Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network. These entities have worked together since 1992 to formulate and implement the city's continuum of care system for homeless individuals and families. Copies of this report can be obtained through the following web-sites: www.urban-initiatives.org and www.phhn.org.

For more information about this report please contact:

Anne Lansing
Project Planner
City of Pasadena Housing Department
626.744.8300
ALansing@CityofPasadena.Net

The homeless count was coordinated by, and this report was prepared by,
Urban Initiatives

Joe Colletti, PhD, Project Director
Sofia Herrera, PhD, Project Associate Director
Andrew Wright, M. A., Program and Research Coordinator

in partnership with
Office for Urban Initiatives/Fuller Theological Seminary

Counters:

Ben Seavey, Carla Sanchez, Rebecca Wright, Amy Scott, Tomasz Zadurowicz, Luke Malski, John Engelhard, Shannon Hetherington, Samuel Chen, Sam Chang, Michaela O'Donnell, Karyn Grasse, Jee Ho Park, Jena Ashton, Gia Davis, Elizabeth McQuitty, Elijah Davidson, Desiree Gutierrez, Catherine Baca, Brent T. Walmsley, Bianca Vazquez, Virgiliana Pickering, Tim Wollin, Stephen Brown, Sheila Dominguez, Ruth Eleutheria, Robert Garcia, Pat Riley, Rebekah Clark, Paul Pace, Minjung Kim, Maria Martin, Lauren Meares, Kristin Titcombe, Joy Mosgofian, Joy Justus, Joni Ooi, Janette Cardoza, Gabriela Cardoza, Guadalupe Cardoza, Felissia Cabrera, Esi Mathis, Dawn Miller, Dan Lubin, Brandon Pickering, Aurora Lilly, Ana Jimenez, Dave McKinley, Floriane Huser, Antonia DeBoer, Jongsuk Roh, David Ofumbi, Ryo Goto.

Special thanks

The Pasadena Police Department, particularly the Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Evaluation Team and Park Safety Specialists, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and the Passageways street outreach team were instrumental in planning for and conducting the street count.

Table of Contents

	Page
I. Executive Summary	4
II. Background Information	4
When the 2009 Count was Conducted	5
Who was Counted	5
Who Carried Out the Count	6
III. Methodology	7
IV. Key Findings	8
V. Trends	12
VI. Conclusion	16

I. Executive Summary

This report is meant to answer the primary question "**How Many Homeless People Are There In The City of Pasadena On Any Given Day.**" The answer is 1,144 adults and children which represents an increase (16%) in the number of homeless persons over the past year.

Each year since 2005 the City of Pasadena has conducted an annual homeless count. On the odd number years a complete count is conducted which includes the entire geographical area of the city and every social service site that serves homeless persons. On the even number years a "sample count" is conducted that includes 50% of the geographical area and 50% of the social service sites that serve homeless persons.

As noted in the following table, the number of persons counted in 2008 is lower (approximately 16%) than the number of persons counted in 2006 and even lower (approximately 20%) since 2005.

Table 1: City of Pasadena Homeless Counts from 2005 – 2009.

Year of Homeless Count	Total # of Homeless Persons
2005	1,217
2006	1,165
2007	969
2008	983
2009	1,144

However, the number of persons counted in 2009 (1,144) is approximately 16% higher than the 983 persons counted in 2008. Of the 1,144 persons counted in 2009, 911 were adults (80%) and 233 were children (20%). Of these persons, 403 or 35.3% were counted in residential facilities that included emergency shelters and transitional housing programs and 741 persons (64.7%) were counted on the streets including the bad weather shelter.

II. Background Information

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, as part of its requirements for local jurisdictions to continue to receive continuum of care funding for homeless persons, asks local jurisdictional applicants to conduct a "one night point-in-time" homeless count every other year during the last 10 days of January. The City of Pasadena, however, conducts a one night point-in-time count every year. This year, the "City of Pasadena 2009 Complete Homeless Count" was conducted on Wednesday January 28, 2009.

The City of Pasadena's first attempt to fully understand the nature and extent of homelessness within its boundaries was through "The 1992 City of Pasadena Homeless Count." The City, in conjunction with the Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network, conducted its own homeless count in September of 1992. The methodology of the count was designed to find out how many people were homeless on a given night. Approximately 250 volunteers went out into the streets and into homeless facilities and counted 1,017 on September 23 and 24, 1992.

Table 2: City of Pasadena Homeless Counts from 1992 - 2009:

Homeless Counts	# of Homeless Persons
1992	1,017
2000	879
2003	853
2005	1,217
2006	1,165
2007	969
2008	983
2009	1,144

Other homeless counts were conducted in 2000 and 2003. In 2000, 879 adults and children were counted and 853 adults and children were counted in 2003. In 2005, 1,217 adults and children were counted and in 2006, 1,165 were counted. In 2007, 969 adults and children were counted and in 2008 there were 983.

Comparing the 2007 homeless count to other past counts reveals that the number of adults and children counted in 2008 (983) was significantly lower (16%) than the total number of persons counted in 2006 which was 1,165, and 20% lower than the 1,217 persons counted in 2005. The number of persons counted in 2009 (1,144), however, is approximately 16% higher than the 983 persons counted in 2008.

- **When the 2009 Count was Conducted**

The homeless count was conducted throughout the day on January 28, 2009. The count was carried out on the streets throughout the day and evening. The count was also conducted in facilities throughout the day and evening, including the winter shelter.

- **Who was Counted in 2009**

A person was considered homeless, and thus counted, only when he/she fell within the following HUD-based definition by residing in one of the places described below:

- a. in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;
- b. in an emergency shelter;

- c. in transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter.

HUD does not consider the following persons to be homeless—persons who are “doubled up,” or persons who are “near homelessness—but considers them to be at-risk of homelessness. Such persons were not included in the city’s homeless count.

The City of Pasadena, like many other largely populated cities, has a substantial number of households that are at-risk of homelessness. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2000, there were approximately 30,000 residents (nearly one of every four residents) who were members of a household whose income was \$15,000 a year or less. Of these households, approximately half (15,000 residents) were members of a household whose income was less than \$10,000.

Many of these persons can become homeless because of social structural issues such as increases in rent, loss of job, and rising health care costs. In addition, personal experiences such as domestic violence, physical disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse can cause members of a low income household or an entire household to become homeless as well. Often, one or more of these experiences factor into a household’s homeless experience.

- **Who Carried Out the Count in 2009**

The City of Pasadena Housing Department and the Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network consulted with Urban Initiatives, a community-based non-profit research organization, to plan and coordinate the count (see www.urban-initiatives.org). Urban Initiatives also enlisted 40 students from Fuller Theological Seminary’s Office for Urban Initiatives to help count on the streets and in facilities.

The Housing Department oversees the development of the Consolidated Plan, Homeless Continuum of Care System, and the City of Pasadena 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness. In addition, the Department implements a myriad of housing and community development programs such as the HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance, Inclusionary Housing, Homeownership Opportunities Program, and the provision of financial assistance to create and preserve affordable housing throughout the city. The City of Pasadena Housing Department is also responsible for the administration of numerous federal entitlement and competitive grant programs including: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), and the Continuum of Care for Homeless Assistance Programs (Supportive Housing Program and Shelter Plus Care).

Pasadena Housing and Homeless Network (Network) is made up of more than 30 public and private agencies that provide community services to residents including homeless persons. The Network has served as the primary community planning entity concerning housing and homeless needs and services throughout the past 15 years.

Such planning includes the Consolidated Plan, City of Pasadena 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness, and every Continuum of Care application submission to HUD since 1995.

The Institute for Urban Initiatives is a community-based 501 (c) (3) non-profit research agency that has completed several many housing and homeless assessments including several homeless counts for cities and counties throughout Southern California. It is closely affiliated with Fuller Theological Seminary’s Office for Urban Initiatives.

Approximately 40 students from Fuller Theological Seminary’s Office for Urban Initiatives participated in the count by forming teams to count on the streets and in facilities. Students also helped with gathering data, entering data, and writing this report.

Together, these four agencies coordinated a community-wide effort of approximately 100 volunteers that culminated in a homeless count on January 28. Volunteers counted persons both on the streets and in facilities that serve homeless persons.

III Methodology

The 2009 homeless count was a city-wide effort that divided the city into 16 zones in which homeless people were counted. The count was carried out in the streets throughout the day and evening within each zone. The count was also conducted in facilities that serve homeless persons throughout the day and evening.

The count instrument that was used collected the following information concerning every homeless person counted: first initial of first name, first initial of last name, gender, ethnicity, year born, and state born as noted below.

	First Initial	Last Initial	Gender	Ethnicity	Year Born	State Born
Example:	J	H	F	W	1960	CA

The methodology used during the enumeration process helped create an identifier that prevented a person from being included in the final tally of the count more than once. During the enumeration, counters recorded the initials, gender, ethnicity, year of birth, and state born of each individual homeless person. If the same person was encountered again counters would establish the same code. However, this person would only be counted once in the final tally.

The information for every person encountered every time was loaded into a data base. The information was then used to code each person. For example, a homeless person may have the following code of "WTMW1957CA. This meant that this person's first name began with "W", his last name began with "T", he was male "M", he was White "W", born in 1957, and born in California.

Number of Person	First Initial	Last Initial	Gender	Ethnicity	Year Born	State Born
1	J	H	F	W	1960	CA
2	H	T	M	L	1953	CA
3	R	K	F	L	1972	TX
4	K	N	M	AA	1969	CA
5	F	A	M	A	1980	CA
6	J	F	M	W	1971	CA
7	J	F	M	W	1971	CA
8	S	G	F	L	1968	NY
9	D	T	M	W	1962	CA
10	O	R	M	W	1959	CA

An example to illustrate how the above process worked can be found within the table above. Numbers 6 and 7 (shaded in gray) would be considered the same person. Therefore, the person would only be counted once in the final tally that answered the question "how many homeless persons are there in Pasadena during a given day." If for some reason there was doubt that numbers 6 and 7 were the same person, other collected data was used to address the doubt which included marital status and number of children with you.

IV. Key Findings

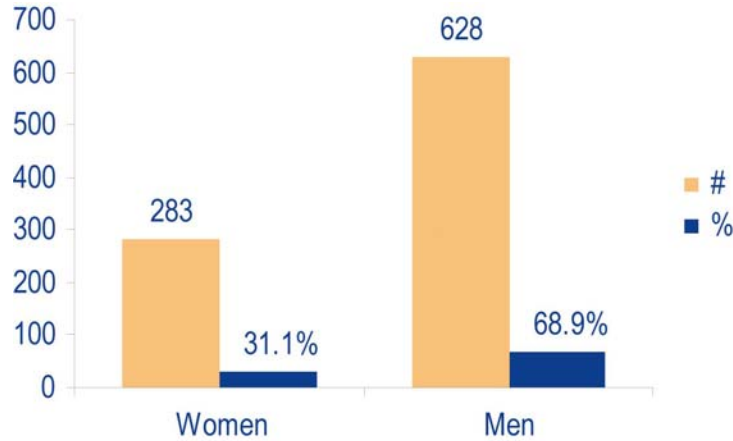
This section contains specific demographic information about the 1,144 unduplicated homeless adults and children encountered for this study. As noted above, in order to create an identifier to avoid duplication, information about gender, ethnicity, year born and state born was recorded for adults encountered and used as part of the identifier. Identifier information for this study was only collected from adults.

However, the collection of the identifier information also allows for some demographic analysis. Such analysis includes gender, ethnicity, age, and family status. What follows are the preliminary results of the analysis.

- **Gender**

Approximately one out of three (3) adults counted was female (31.1%) representing 283 women. However, the majority of adults counted were male (68.9%) representing 628 men. Gender was not recorded for children.

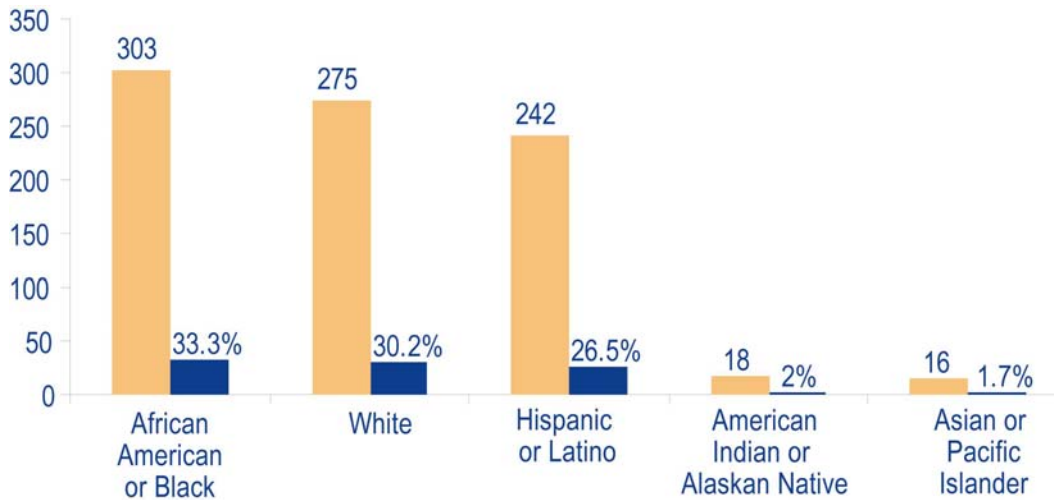
Table 1. Gender



- Ethnicity**

Approximately one-third (33.3%) or 303 homeless adults counted were African Americans or Blacks representing the largest ethnic group counted. Whites represented less than one third of the adults counted (30.2% or 275 adults) and Latinos (26.5% or 242 adults) made up approximately one of every four adults. American Indian or Alaskan Natives represented 2.0% or four (18) adults and Asian or Pacific Islanders 1.7% or 16 adults. Ethnicity was not recorded for children.

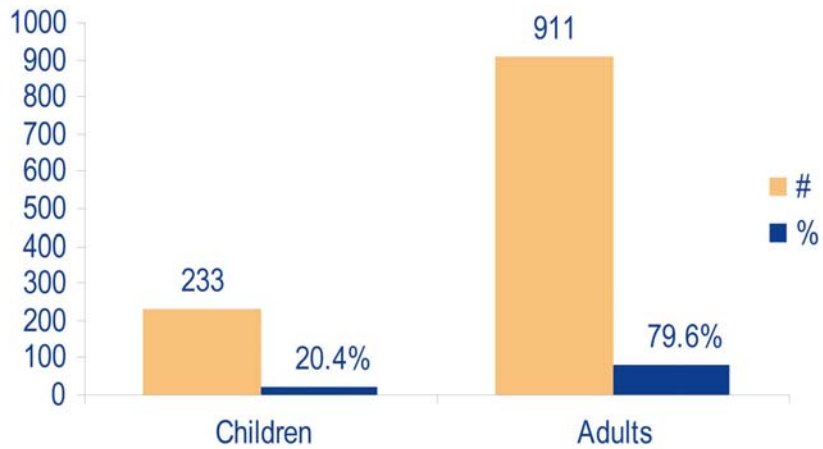
Table 2. Ethnicity



- **Age**

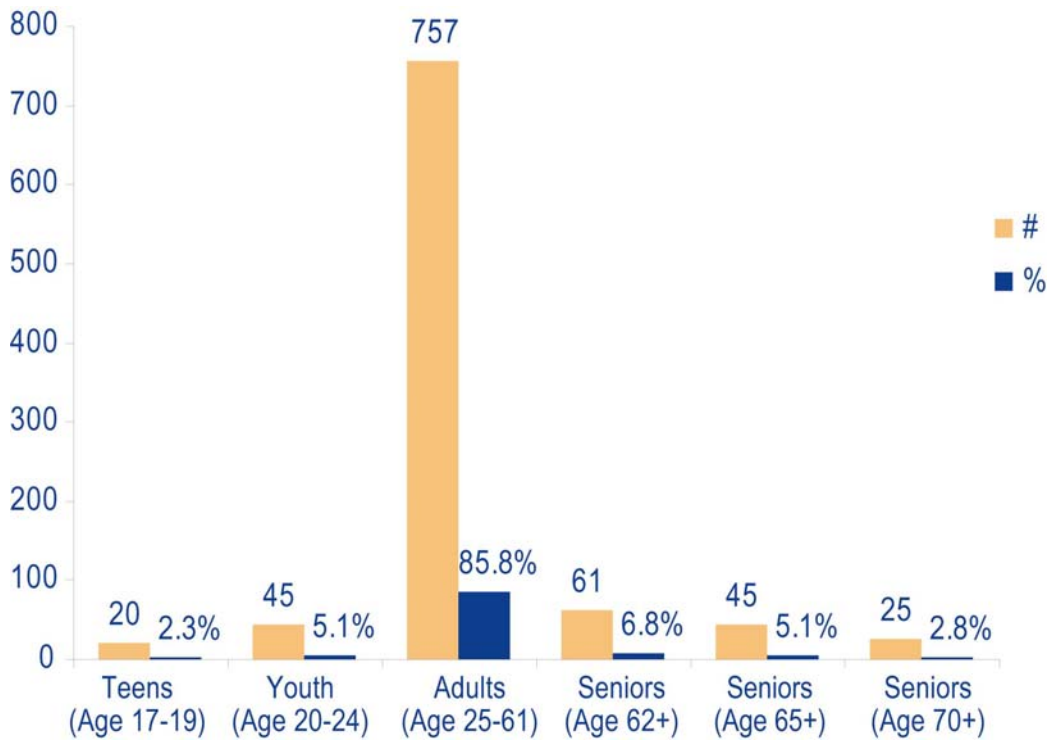
About one out of every five (20.4%) homeless persons is a child under the age of 18— which means that more than 200 (233) children are homeless in Pasadena on a given day.

Table 3. Age



Ages ranged from teens to seniors among adults and youth (17 years of age and older). Seven percent (7.4%) were youth—2.3% (20) were between the ages of 17 and 19 and 5.1% (45) were between the ages of 20 and 24. Most adults were between the ages of 25 and 61—757 or 85.8%. Nearly seven (7) percent (6.8% or 61 adults) were seniors age 62 or older, 5.1% or 45 adults were age 65 or older, and 2.8% or 25 adults were age 70 and older.¹

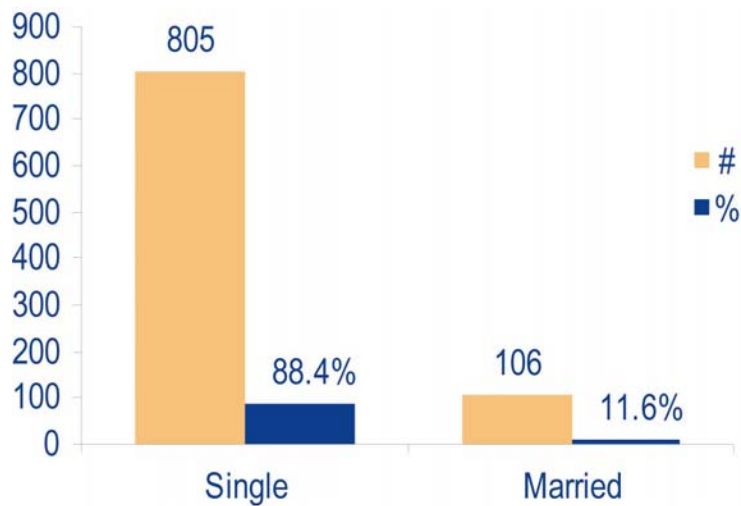
¹ Twenty-eight (28) persons did not provide the year that they were born.



- **Marital Status**

An overwhelming majority of the adults counted were single (88.4% or 805). One hundred and six (106) adults or 11.6% were married.

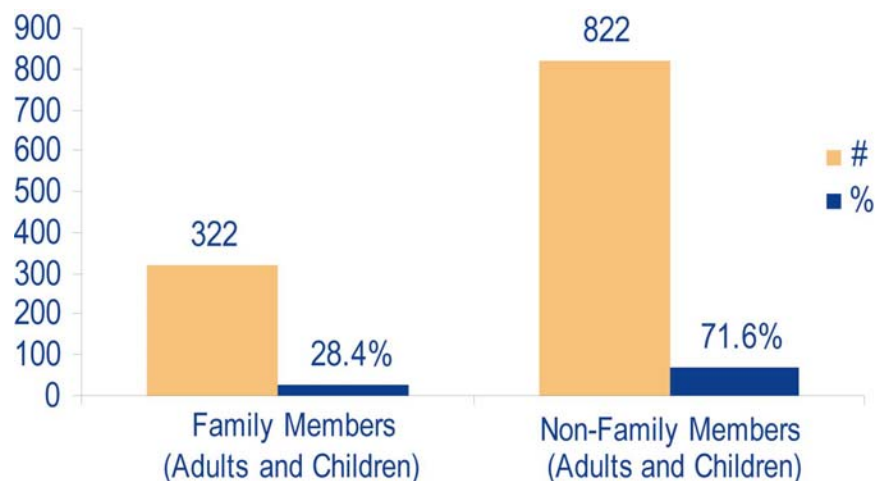
Table 4. Marital Status



- **Family Composition**

Nearly one out of three persons (28.4%) or 322 persons were members of a family—233 children and 89 parents. The 322 family members consisted of 60 families of which 31 or 51.7% were single-parent families and 29 or 48.3% were two-parent families.

Table 5. Family Composition



V. Trends

A comparative look at the limited data (gender, ethnicity, age, marital status, and family composition) collected during past homeless counts reveals a few trends which include the following:

1. the single population has increased—in 2005 single adults made up approximately 80% of the homeless population and approximately 90% in 2007 and 2009;
2. members of families has decreased—in 2005, members of families made up nearly half (49.2%) of the homeless population, less than one-third (30.3%) in 2007 and a little more than one-fourth (28.4%) in 2009;
3. the number of parents per family has increased—two parent households made up 26.9% of families in 2005, 28.9% of families in 2007, and nearly half (48.3%) of families in 2009.

- **Gender**

Year of Count	Men		Women		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	516	65.9	266	34.1	782	100
2007	504	66.8	251	33.2	755	100
2009	628	68.9	283	31.1	911	100

The percentage of men and women has not varied during the past four (4) years. Women have made up about a third (33.3) of the homeless population and men about two-thirds.

- **Ethnicity**

Of the three largest ethnic groups, Hispanics or Latinos have remained the most constant making up about one of four (4) homeless persons or approximately 25% of the homeless population as noted in the table below. African Americans or Blacks or Whites have been the largest of the ethnic groups. Either group has made up either a little less or little more than one-third or around one out of every three (3) homeless persons.

Ethnic Group	2005 Count		2007 Count		2009 Count	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
African American or Black	288	36.9	220	29.2	303	33.3
American Indian or Alaskan Native	18	2.3	16	2.2	18	2.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	20	2.5	4	0.5	16	1.7
Hispanic or Latino	181	23.2	177	23.4	242	26.5
Other	48	6.1	52	6.8	57	6.3
White	227	29.0	286	37.9	275	30.2
Totals:	1,217	100	969	100	911	100

- **Age**

Children (17 years of age or less)

Year of Count	Children		Adults		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	435	35.7	782	64.3	1,217	100
2007	214	22.1	755	77.9	969	100
2009	233	20.4	911	79.6	1,144	100

The percentage of children continues to decline among the homeless population. In 2005, children made up more than a third of the homeless population, whereas in 2007 children made up nearly a fourth of the homeless population. In 2009, children made up nearly about a fifth of the homeless population.

Youth (ages 17-24)

Year of Count	Youth		Other Adults		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	89	11.4	693	88.6	782	100
2007	53	7.0	702	93.0	755	100
2009	65	7.2	846	92.8	911	100

The number of youth ages 17 – 24 that make up the city’s homeless population decreased between 2005 and 2009 and now makes up less than 10 percent (7%) of the population. However, the number of youth increased between 2007 and 2009 and contributed to the increase of the homeless population between this period of time. The number of youth increased by more than 20% (22.7%) though the percentage of youth increased slightly by 0.2%.

Seniors (age 62+)

Year of Count	Seniors		Other Adults		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	62	7.9	720	92.1	782	100
2007	63	8.4	692	91.6	755	100
2009	61	6.8	850	93.2	911	100

The number of seniors that make up the homeless population has remained nearly the same whether the city's homeless population has increased or decreased over the past four (4) years. The percentage of seniors has ranged between just under seven (7) percentage to just over eight (8) percent.

- **Marital Status**

Year of Count	Single		Married		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	644	82.4	138	17.6	782	100
2007	696	92.2	59	7.8	755	100
2009	805	88.4	106	11.6	911	100

The number of single adults has significantly increased during the past four (4) years. In 2005 single adults made up approximately 80% of the homeless population and approximately 90% in 2007 and 2009.

- **Family Composition**

Year of Count	Members of Families		Non-Members of Families		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2005	599	49.2	618	50.8	1,217	100
2007	294	30.3	675	69.7	969	100
2009	259	28.4	652	71.6	911	100

The number of members of families continues to decrease. In 2005, members of families made up nearly half (49.2%) of the homeless population. However, in 2007 members of families made up less than one-third (30.3%) of the population and a little more than one-fourth (28.4%) in 2009.

The number of parents per family has also changed over the past four (4) years. There were more two-parent households in 2009 than in prior years as noted below:

- Two-parent households made up 26.9% of families in 2005;
- Two-parent households made up 28.9% of families in 2007;
- Two-parent households made up 48.3% of families in 2009.

VI. Conclusion

The City of Pasadena 2009 Homeless Count was the product on a unique relationship between the City of Pasadena, local coalitions and committees, housing and homeless service providers, members of the homeless community, and community volunteers. The Count contributes to a distinctive relationship between these groups that sets the City of Pasadena apart and creates new possibilities for responding to the needs of homeless adults and children.

The City of Pasadena 2009 Homeless Count is complemented by the “City of Pasadena 2007 Homeless Survey” whereas both reports provide the City with valuable data concerning homelessness. The survey was completed during the spring of 2007 and is available at www.phhn.org.

Both sources of information serve as a foundation to the 10-Year Strategy Plan to End Homelessness which continues to help the City of Pasadena formulate findings and make recommendations to substantially reduce the incidence of homelessness within the city. These sources of data also provided important information for the City’s annual Continuum of Care Application to HUD and the City of Pasadena Consolidated Annual Action and CAPER Plans which are required submissions to HUD if Pasadena is to continue to receive substantial funding to end homelessness within its jurisdiction.

Continuum of Care funding has provided funding for street outreach, case management, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing through its Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care programs. Funding related to the Consolidated Plans include Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, HOME, and Housing for Persons with AIDS funds which have also been used for case management, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing and emergency shelter.