



Santa Monica Homelessness - Frequently Asked Questions

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How many homeless people are there in Santa Monica?

There are 957 homeless individuals in Santa Monica on a single night (Results from 2018 Santa Monica Homeless Count). But Santa Monica is a small city in the most populous county in America. L.A. County has the second-largest homeless population in the country – 52,765 individuals on a single night.

Why are so many people on the streets in L.A. County?

- Millions of people struggle to afford rent in LA County, where over 1.5 million people live below the poverty level. According to the [California Housing Partnership](#), a renter would need to make at least **\$38** per hour to be able to afford the average apartment in L.A. County.
- There are not enough interim beds for everyone who needs or wants one. Across L.A. County there is only **1** bed for every 3 homeless people. Santa Monica has **289** interim housing beds and 97 treatment beds for homeless adults and children, or 1 bed for every 2.4 homeless persons.
- A high portion of the homeless population suffer from serious disabilities that make it hard for them to access services and navigate the complex housing system, which leaves them on the streets.

What services are available to people who are homeless in Santa Monica?

City Investment: Santa Monica has a broad plan and services to change people's lives for the better. The City provides over **\$2.7 million** annually to local nonprofit agencies to fund a variety of treatment, interim and permanent affordable housing options as well as mental health, substance abuse, primary health, employment, legal aid and counseling services. The City has invested in building and operating **314** permanent supportive units for homeless individuals. For more information on homeless services and the City's initiatives: www.smgov.net/homelessness

- Countywide Investment: LA County began collecting Measure H sales tax approved by voters in March 2017. The projected \$355 million in annual revenue is being collected to implement strategies including: prevention, subsidized housing, increasing income, case management, coordination across systems and increasing the supply of affordable housing. For more information on the planned local and regional coordination strategies: [Annual Homeless Report](#)

What can I do to help?

Be a part of the solution: [We Are Santa Monica.](#)