



Homelessness in Los Angeles-The Latest

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USC INITIATIVE

VISION

Activate USC's educational, research and community engagement resources to proactively address the crisis of homelessness

MISSION

Find new solutions that end homelessness by:

- Leveraging the expertise of multiple USC disciplines
- Supporting the capacity of local organizations
- Incubating, testing, and validating novel approaches and sharing new tools
- Engaging the entire Trojan Family of faculty, staff, students, and alumni

Los Angeles County 2020 Homeless Count

66,436

13% overall increase

Only 21,000 available housing units for all these people



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Los Angeles County 2020 Homeless Count

Role of systemic racism

22,588

Black persons experiencing homelessness

*(34% of people experiencing homelessness,
even though only 9% are Black in the county)*



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Los Angeles County 2020 Count

Procedural Improvements:

- Families:
 - increased number of surveys from 80 to 180 by working with family source centers
 - Increased data quality on some questions which were asked in interviewee's language



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Procedural Improvements:

- Chronic Homelessness:
 - Reworded the health question to be more precise
 - Added data for every medical condition or disability reported as a diagnosis from provider as to whether they were told it was permanent or long-term



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Procedural Improvements:

- Youth:
 - Period for youth count+ survey collection was extended this year from a 10-day period in January to between 4 months of Dec '19 through March '20
 - During this period, long form regular surveys were used- more demographic surveys were achieved to increase knowledge of youth homeless population
 - Additionally, a short form modified 10 question survey was used during 1/22/20-1/30/20 to reduce burden, and evaluate potential for this format
 - 4775 homeless TAY in 2020 (up 19% from prior year)
 - Female, Black/Latinx, DV, LGBTQ, no job history were notable numbers



Los Angeles County 2020 Count

Procedural Improvements:

- New technology:
 - Connect app allowed location tagging and improved team management
 - Ensures improved data quality and ability to verify information
 - Continuing to explore efficiencies



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INTERESTING NEW RESEARCH

USC Center For Artificial Intelligence And Society: Dr Eric Rice, PI

- Team with UCLA
- Using AI to combat systemic racism in the context of homelessness
- Reevaluating use of vulnerability index- match people to housing interventions
- Altering criteria to increase fairness- large scale data and new algorithms
- Tie services to outcomes instead of scores
- Have identified a policy that mitigates 72% of racial bias
- Now engaging in real world deployment phase and seeking stakeholder input

COVID 19 RESEARCH

USC Center For Housing, Homelessness, And Health Equity: Dr Ben Henwood

- March 2020, COVID 19 study of Skid Row permanent supportive housing residents
- 532 tenants responded w/ all aware of COVID-19 and 65% considering it a serious health threat
- Tenants in shared units and those with serious mental health conditions were less likely to engage in significant protective behavior such as handwashing and social distancing
- Barriers to sheltering in place included lack of access to food, hygiene items, and medication
- Just funded for large scale follow up study

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (CLT): A KEY RESOURCE

- ❖ Tax exempt non-profit trust owns and develops land for public good
- ❖ Stabilizes and maintains long-term affordable rents and/or home prices
- ❖ Prevents gentrification and increases residential neighborhood stability
- ❖ Creates community ability to control property for common good
- ❖ Examples:
 - ❖ University of California Irvine-subsidized employee housing rentals and purchases
 - ❖ Santa Ana California- includes gardens, parks, affordable low-income housing
 - ❖ L.A. County Affordable Housing Action Plan-supports Community Land Trusts

See [USC Housing Typologies Toolkit](#), p. 31

HOUSING EQUITY

Development without displacement

Community plans should include

- Housing supply increase
- Displacement prevention
- Equitable access to housing opportunities
- Substandard housing condition reductions
- Jobs/housing balance

MINNEAPOLIS 2040: A CASE OF RADICAL REZONING

- Legacy of racism with redlining history that created severe disparities
- Over half of city residents were renters and severely cost burdened
- Severe housing shortage into foreseeable future
- Housing was only being built at high-end for wealthy residents
- Built consensus and affirmed that affordable housing is a right
- Used key elements of:
 - Zoning density increases (+reduced parking requirements & allowed 4 story buildings)
 - Affordable housing trust fund expansion
 - Upgrades to existing affordable housing to eliminate substandard living conditions
 - Promotion of housing construction and supports for renters



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