
Hollywood 4WRD
Survey Week Fact Sheet
By Common Ground for the Community
April 25-30, 2010

Hollywood 4WRD

Hollywood 4WRD (4 Walls, a Roof and a Door) is a passionate and committed coalition comprised of representatives from the non-profit, government, and business communities, formed in 2008, aimed at ending homelessness in Hollywood by 2018. Individuals that have dedicated themselves to this effort come from a variety of different agencies, businesses and community organizations including:

- Andrews International Security
- Briggs Law
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Community Redevelopment Agency, LA
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Ecclesia Hollywood
- Gett Love
- Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
- Hollywood First Presbyterian Church
- Hollywood Property Owners Alliance
- Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership
- Hollywood Seventh Day Adventist Church
- LA County Department of Mental Health
- LA Gay and Lesbian Center
- LA Housing Services Authority
- LA Youth Network
- Los Angeles Police Department
- My Friend's Place
- Office of City Council President Eric Garcetti
- Office of City Councilmember Tom LaBonge
- Office of LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
- Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles
- Pacific Clinics/Portals
- Paramount Contractors
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)
- Shelter Partnership
- Step Up on Second
- The Saban Free Clinic
- United Way
- Veteran's Administration Greater Los Angeles

During the week of April 25-30 between the hours of 3:30 and 6:00 AM, 12 teams made up of over 80 community volunteers canvassed the streets of Hollywood, roughly bounded by Franklin to the north, Romaine to the south, La Brea to the west, and Serrano to the east. Specialized teams also targeted vehicles and hillsides. The volunteer teams used Common Ground's **Vulnerability Index** to survey and create a by-name list of individuals experiencing street homelessness who are most at risk of premature death.

In addition to systematically gathering the names, pictures, and dates of birth of individuals sleeping on the streets, the teams also captured data on their health status, institutional history (jail, prison, hospital, and military), length of homelessness, patterns of shelter use, and previous housing situation. These data were collected by use of a 38 item questionnaire. The Vulnerability Index was used to identify those who have been homeless the longest and are the most vulnerable. This list will be used to target new and available housing and service resources to the most vulnerable in an effort to reduce chronic homelessness within Hollywood.

The Vulnerability Index is based on research by Dr. Jim O'Connell, which shows certain medical conditions place a homeless individual at a higher risk than others for dying if they remain on the streets.

Results

- 257 individuals experiencing street homelessness were identified and surveyed in Hollywood, including hillsides and vehicles.
- 110 (43%) were found to have health conditions associated with a high mortality risk.
- More than 80 community volunteers helped administer the surveys.
- 180 (70%) of pictures were taken as part of the survey.

At-Risk Indicators

Indicator	Number
At-Risk Tri-Morbid	60 (23%)
At-Risk ER or Hospitalized Over 3X	37 (14%)
At-Risk ER over 3X	22 (9%)
At-Risk Age Over 60	25 (10%)
At-Risk HIV/AIDS	11 (4%)
At-Risk Cirrhosis	22 (9%)
At-Risk ERSD	8 (3%)
At-Risk Cold/Wet Weather Injury	24 (9%)

Older Adults

- 25 (10%) are over 60 years old.
- The oldest respondent was 80 years old.
- 5 individuals reported being homeless longer than 10 years.
- The longest reported length of homelessness was 33 years.

Years Homeless

- The average years homeless for the vulnerable population is 9 years.
- The average years homeless for the Non-Vulnerable population is 3.3 years.

Service Needs (Total Surveyed)

- 112 people reported a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse.
- 70 people reported a history only of substance abuse.
- 35 people reported only signs or symptoms of mental illness.
- 216 (84%) of respondents report at least one behavioral health issue.

Veterans (Total surveyed)

- 50 (19%) surveyed were Veterans.
- 56% were honorably discharged.
- 25 of the Veterans met criteria for "Vulnerable."

Youth & Foster Care (Total surveyed)

- 51 (20%) respondents report having a history of foster care.
- 17 respondents were under 25 years old.
- The youngest respondent was 15 years old.

- 2 respondents under the age of 25 have increased mortality risks specific to adults.
- 7 respondents under the age of 25 have increased mortality risks specific to that age group. (Youth risk factors are HIV/AIDS, drink alcohol everyday for past 30 days, injection drug use.)

Health System Use

- A total of 199 inpatient hospitalizations were reported in the past year at an average annual cost of \$2.4 million. This assumes 4 days per hospitalization.
- A total of 244 ER visits were reported by all respondents in the last 3 months for an annual cost of \$917,000.
- Inpatient and ER costs combined total over 3.3 million dollars annually for 111 people.

Health System Impacts (Total surveyed)

- 161 (63%) report having no insurance.
- The majority of respondents go to:
 - 47 Saban Free Clinic
 - 23 Kaiser Permanente
 - 18 LAC USC
 - 14 Hollywood Presbyterian
 - 12 Cedar Sinai
 - 8 VA Hospital

Income Source

- 14 individuals report working “on the books.”
- 56 individuals report having Social Security Benefits of some sort.
- 36 individuals report having Public Assistance.
- 39 individuals report working “off the books.”
- 81 individuals report income from panhandling.
- 66 individuals report income from recycling.

Violence

- 100 or (39%) report being a victim of a violent attack since becoming homeless.

Brain Injury

- 64 or (18%) report suffering from a brain injury.

Common Ground

- The mission of Common Ground is to end homelessness by transforming people, buildings, and communities. Founded in 1990, Common Ground rapidly grew to become the largest developer and manager of supportive housing in New York City, and has pioneered a new approach to outreach called Street to Home that is being replicated in cities across the country. Common Ground is currently organizing change agents to find and house the 100,000 most vulnerable homeless individuals in America as part of its 100,000 Homes Campaign.

Hollywood 4WRD

- Hollywood 4WRD (4 Walls, a Roof and a Door) aims to end homeless in Hollywood by 2018. The rationale is that it is less expensive to end homelessness than it is to manage it. Ending homelessness helps to create a safer neighborhood for residents, businesses, visitors and our homeless neighbors.

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