

Homelessness in Southern Nevada

General Overview



On any given night there are more than 6,200 homeless individuals in Southern Nevada and more than 30,000 Southern Nevadans, including families with children, couples, and individuals of all ages, who will experience homelessness at some point this year, according to the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey. ¹

There are many factors that lead people to experience homelessness and even more challenges that can make it difficult to escape;

- 55.4 percent of homeless individuals surveyed in the 2016 Homeless Census reported they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- 84.7 percent of the homeless people surveyed reported they were unemployed.
- Nearly 12 percent of the homeless population is estimated to be over the age of 61.
- Approximately 25 percent of the homeless population in Southern Nevada is unaccompanied children and youth (under 24 years old). The leading causes for homelessness among youth include being kicked out of the house, emotional abuse, and financial issues at home.
- On any given night, there are more than 800 victims of domestic violence who are homeless in Southern Nevada.
- 70.8 percent of the homeless population experiences one or more disabling conditions.
- 49.4 percent of homeless people surveyed said they were experiencing mental illness, depression or PTSD.

To learn more about homelessness in Southern Nevada, please view the additional information pages within the Help Hope Home Homeless Education Toolkit.

- ◆ The 2016 Homeless Census also found that **60 percent** of homeless people in Southern Nevada were **unsheltered**, meaning they were living on the streets, in encampments, cars or other places not meant for human habitation.
- ◆ **The majority of the people experiencing homelessness locally are Southern Nevadans.** About 72 percent of homeless people surveyed were living here at the time they lost their housing, according to the 2016 Homeless Census.
- ◆ Overall, Nevada ranked **5th** in the nation for the rate of homeless persons who are unsheltered, as a percentage of the total number of people experiencing homelessness, according to the HUD 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report.²

GET INVOLVED

Homelessness is devastating for families and individuals, and significantly impacts all taxpayers as local government budgets pay for medical care, police and social services that serve the homeless.

Government entities, non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, and corporate partners work together to provide homeless prevention and assistance programs that have helped reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Southern Nevada. But we still have a long way to go.

Partner with a homeless service agency to volunteer, donate, and advocate.

Visit www.HelpHopeHome.org and www.NevadaHomelessAlliance.org to learn more about how to get involved and be a part of the solution.

Homelessness in Southern Nevada

Chronic Homelessness



On any given night it is estimated that 285 individuals are experiencing chronic homelessness in Southern Nevada. ¹ Nationally, individuals who are chronically homeless represent almost 15 percent of the national homeless population. ²

Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness have a diagnosed mental and/or physical disability in addition to being homeless for at least one year or having at least four episodes of homelessness within the past three years where those occasions cumulatively total at least 12 months. Occasions are defined by a break of at least *seven nights* not residing in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or residing in a place meant for human habitation. ¹

Many chronically homeless individuals experience multiple and complex challenges to housing stability including physical and/or developmental disabilities, chronic health problems, and mental illness such as PTSD and depression.

Nearly 34 percent of the chronically homeless surveyed in the 2016 Homeless Census reported they had four or more disabling conditions.

Chronically homeless individuals face specific challenges in securing affordable housing primarily because of having little to no income. Placing individuals in housing units where their rent burden is more than 30 percent of their monthly income places them at a higher risk for falling back into homelessness.

Chronic homelessness can significantly impact government and private sector resources, specifically emergency rooms, mental health services and police departments.

About 40 percent of the chronically homeless individuals surveyed in 2016 reported using hospital emergency rooms as their primary source of medical care.

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GET INVOLVED

Southern Nevada has a goal to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2017. Learn more about how you can get involved and become part of the solution!

Partner with a homeless service agency to serve as an advocate, volunteer, and donor.

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
www.catholiccharities.com/

Help of Southern Nevada
www.helpsonv.org

Las Vegas Rescue Mission
www.vegasrescue.org

Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
dpbh@health.nv.org

St. Jude's Ranch for Children
<http://www.stjudesranch.org/>

The Salvation Army of Southern Nevada
www.salvationarmysouthernnevada.org

U.S.VETS-Las Vegas
www.usvetsinc.org/lasvegas

WestCare
www.westcare.com/page/where-we-serve_NV

Women's Development Center
www.wdclv.org

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Homelessness in Southern Nevada

Homeless Youth



On any given night, approximately 1,530 unaccompanied youth, including 280 unaccompanied children under 18 and 1,250 unaccompanied youth ages 18-24, are homeless in Southern Nevada. This is about **25 percent** of the approximately 6,200 people who are homeless in Southern Nevada on any given night, according to the 2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census. ¹

Unaccompanied homeless youth may be staying in a shelter program, living on the street, or squatting in an abandoned building. In addition, more than 13,000 children and youth are in households that are unstably housed, such as multiple families sharing a single family residence, or families staying in weekly hotels.³

As a result of their homelessness, unaccompanied youth may face devastating barriers and risks to their well-being.

Homeless youth have a disproportionate impact on police and juvenile justice agencies. According to national estimates it costs \$53,665 to maintain a youth in the criminal justice system for one year, but only \$5,887 to permanently move a homeless youth off the streets and into housing and services.⁴

One out of every three teens on the streets will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home. Over **33 percent** of homeless youth report exchanging sex for food, shelter, or drugs.

The U.S. pregnancy rate of 13-15 year-old homeless girls is 14 percent versus 1 percent for non-homeless girls.

Homeless youth are more likely to contract HIV and/or STDs due to increased likelihood of sexual exploitation, rape, and sexual assault.

In 2016, the methodology for collecting Point-In-Time (PIT) data on youth homelessness was modified from previous years and was developed with guidance from HUD and increased collaboration with the Clark County School District. Due to significant changes in the data collection methodology, the 2016 data on youth homelessness should be considered baseline data and not be compared to previous year's census data on youth homelessness.

GET INVOLVED

Unaccompanied youth need specialized outreach, housing, and supportive services to help them recover from the consequences of homelessness.

You can be a part of the solution!
Support Southern Nevada agencies serving homeless youth and children. Serve as an advocate, volunteer, and donor.

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY)
www.nphy.org

The Shade Tree
www.theshadetree.org

Shannon West Homeless Youth Center
www.helpsonv.org/programs-youth.php

Street Teens
<http://www.streetteens.org/>

St. Jude's Ranch for Children
<http://www.stjudesranch.org/>

Southern Nevada Children First
www.childrenfirst-nv.org

WestCare Youth Shelter
www.westcare.com/page/where-we-serve_NV

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Homelessness in Southern Nevada

Homeless Families with Children



On any given night, more than 206,000 children and their families experience homelessness in the United States. This makes up 36 percent of all homeless people counted nationally during the 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Census.²

On a single night in January 2016, 118 families with children were homeless in Southern Nevada. This means they were living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as in a car or on the street, staying in a shelter or other transitional housing.¹

When including families who were living doubled-up with other families in a single home and families living unstably in weekly hotels, the number of children experiencing homelessness in Southern Nevada rises to more than 14,500.³

There are many risk factors that can lead a family to experience homelessness, including a lack of affordable housing, domestic violence or other trauma; unemployment, or a natural disaster.

Homelessness affects a child's social, physical, and academic life. Homeless children commonly suffer physical, psychological, and emotional damage due to the circumstances that accompany episodes of homelessness.⁵

A study of homeless families found that 93 percent of homeless mothers experienced at least one trauma and 81 percent experienced multiple traumatic events with violent victimization being the most common traumatic experience.

Housing affordability places low income families at risk. For a single-parent family to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in Las Vegas they would need to earn at least \$18.62 an hour.⁶

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GET INVOLVED

With the collaboration of many community partners, we are moving in the right direction, but there is so much more work to do. You can be a part of the solution!

**You can be a part of the solution!
Support Southern Nevada agencies serving homeless families and children. Serve as an advocate, volunteer, and donor.**

Family Promise

www.familypromiselv.com

HopeLink

www.link2hope.org

Las Vegas Rescue Mission

www.vegasrescue.org

Southern Nevada Children First

www.childrenfirst-nv.org

The Shade Tree

www.theshadetree.org

Nevada Community Associates

<http://www.nvcai.org>

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References



References

1. *2016 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report* (Rep.). (2016). Las Vegas, NV: BitFocus, Inc.
2. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. (2016, October). *The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress* . Retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/2015-AHAR-Part-2.pdf>
3. Clark County School District, *Title I HOPE*. Retrieved from <https://ccsd.net/departments/title-i-hope>
4. National Network for Youth, *Consequences of Youth Homelessness* (Issue brief). (n.d.). Retrieved https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/IssueBrief_Youth_Homelessness.pdf
5. National Center on Family Homelessness. Fact Sheet on Family Homelessness. Retrieved <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/306.pdf>
6. National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach 2016* (Rep.), National Low Income Housing Coalition website: http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/or/OOR_2016.pdf

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