



SACRAMENTO COUNTY 2016 HOMELESS DEATHS REPORT

Executive Summary

- **Number of Coroner reported homeless deaths:** There were 78 Coroner reported deaths of homeless people January 2015–December 2015. The total from 2002 - 2015 is **705 deaths**, or roughly one death per week, every week for a 14 year period.
- **Demographics:**
 - ✓ *Gender:* 83% where male and 17% female
 - ✓ *Age:* 61% were between 40 – 59. In 2015 the average age for women was 47.4 and 49.9 for men
 - ✓ *Number of lost years due to untimely deaths:* Using 75 years of age as the life expectancy national average, overall, the lives of the homeless people was cut short on average by 34% [25 years years];
 - ✓ *Race/ethnicity:* The majority of homeless deaths were Caucasian (59%), with homeless people of color [African American; Asian and Hispanics] comprising 41% of the homeless deaths – with African Americans comprising 26% of the total;
 - ✓ *Race/ethnicity & Gender:* The percentage of homeless women of color who die is 1.55 times greater than male homeless people of color;
 - ✓ *Race/ethnicity & Age:* 2.5 times as many Caucasian homeless men live to 50-59 as Black homeless men [63.6% compared to 24.2%];
- **Manner and Cause[s] of death:**
 - ✓ *Manner of death:* 49% were accidents, while only 27% died of natural causes; 6% suicides and 6% homicides;
 - ✓ *Underlying Cause[s] of death:* alcohol and drug induced deaths was the leading cause of death [27%], followed by violent deaths [26%] – blunt force head injuries, gun shots, stabbings or hangings;
 - ✓ *Top 5 Causes of Death:* Alcohol/drug [27%]; Cardiovascular disease [18%]; Injury [14%] Homicide & Suicide [6% each];
 - ✓ *Violent deaths:* 71.4% of violent deaths were blunt force head injuries, followed by gunshot wounds [14.2%]; stabbings [9.5%] and hangings [4.7%];
 - ✓ *Accidental deaths:* 38 or 49% of total homeless deaths were accidental deaths. Substance poisoning led accidental deaths with 55% followed by transportation accidents [29%];
 - ✓ *Natural deaths:* Cardiovascular disease accounted 21 deaths or 52% of the natural deaths, while diseases of the digestive system accounted for 14% of the natural deaths;
 - ✓ *Manner of deaths by gender, age and ethnicity:* homeless men were 7 times more likely to die by accident than homeless women [42% compared to 6%]; homeless people between the ages of 40 – 49 had the highest percentage of deaths by accident [60%]; 61% of all Caucasian deaths were by accident compared to 50% for Black homeless deaths;
 - ✓ *Homicides:* 80% [4 out of 5] of homicides were people of color;
- **Comparison of Mortality rates of Homeless to General Population:**
 - ✓ *Mortality rate:* mortality rate per 100,000 for the homeless population is **4 times higher** than the general population and almost two [1.7] times higher than the 2007 – 2009 mortality rate;
 - ✓ *Homicide rate:* homicide rate per 100,000 for the homeless population is **31 times higher** than the homicide rate for the general population;
 - ✓ *Suicide rate:* suicide rate per 100,000 for the homeless population is **16 times higher** than the suicide rate for the general population;
 - ✓ *Alcohol & Drug related death rate:* alcohol and drug related death rate per 100,000 for the homeless population is 52 times higher than the alcohol and drug related death rate for the general population.