

Acknowledgements

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Camarillo:
Jeff Rodriguez
Journey Camarillo

Michelle Paschen
Community Volunteer

Fillmore:
Brenda Davison
County of Ventura Human Services Agency

Delfina Becerra
Ventura County Human Services Agency

Moorpark:
Patricia Calderon
Catholic Charities

Ojai:
Jessica Murray – Help of Ojai/Community
Assistance Program

Rick Raine
Ojai Valley Family Shelter

Oxnard:
Will Reed
City of Oxnard

Port Hueneme:
Chief Kathleen Sheehan
Port Hueneme Police Department

Elva Lopez
County of Ventura Human Services Agency

Santa Paula:
Sergeant Jimmy Fogata
Santa Paula Police Department

Veronica Sandez
Richard's Welcome Center

Simi:
Betty Eskey
Samaritan Center

Thousand Oaks:
Rick Schroeder
Many Mansions

Karen Guetschoff
Many Mansions

Diana Ortuno
Lutheran Social Services

Ventura:
Peter Brown
City of Ventura

Annett Ewing
City of Ventura

Ken Porter
Ventura County Behavioral Health Dept.

Karol Schulkin
Ventura County Human Services Agency

Kate Mills
Ventura County Health Care Agency

Ken Belden
Ventura County Health Care Agency

Marissa Lopez
Volunteer Ventura County

Michael Cornelius
Turning Point Found

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Joe Colletti, PhD, Project Supervisor

Sofia Herrera, PhD, Project Director

Daneli Ureña, Research Assistant

Thelma Herrera, Graphic Designer

and the

Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition

Cathy Brudnicki, Executive Director

For a copy of this report visit the web site of the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition www.vchhc.org

or

**Urban Initiatives at
www.urban-initiatives.org**

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition is made up of more than 100 representatives from public and private agencies that work together to actively plan, develop, and implement programs as part of a community-wide strategy designed to address the service and housing needs of the county's homeless population.

Urban Initiatives consists of several community-based and faith-based institutes that respond to the economic, housing, and social needs of neighborhoods, cities, and counties from local community, regional, national, international, and faith-based perspectives and has completed over 40 assessments for local government and private organizations throughout Southern California that have focused on affordable housing, business development and education for micro-businesses, fair housing, homelessness, migrant farming, and street vending.

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I. Executive Summary

This report is meant to answer the primary question “**How Many Homeless People¹ Are There In The County of Ventura On A Given Day.**” The answer is 1,936 adults and children on a given day.² This represents a 3% increase when compared to last year’s homeless count of 1,872. Please note that the number of persons who are homeless over the course of a year is higher. Local, regional, and national data suggests that it is three to four times higher than the number of persons homeless on a given day.³

While the primary purpose of the count was to find out how many people were homeless on a given day, some demographic questions can be answered as well. The homeless count gathered limited information about adults only (see Appendix A Count

There are 1,936 homeless adults and children in the County of Ventura on a given day.

Instrument). Such information included location (whether a person was counted on the streets or in a residential facility that serves homeless persons), age, gender, ethnicity, and state born. Adults were also asked if their “spouse or partner were homeless and living with them” and “how many of their children under 18 years of age were homeless and living with them.”

A homeless survey was completed during February which provided a wide range of information from approximately 20% of the number of homeless adults who were counted in January. Such information included responses to questions concerning domestic violence, education, foster care, health care, income, mental health care, residency, substance abuse, and veteran status. The survey is available on www.vchhc.org and www.urban-initiatives.org.

¹A person was considered homeless, and thus counted, only when he/she fell within the following HUD-based definition by residing in one of the following places: a) in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; b) in an emergency shelter; and c) in transitional housing for homeless persons.

²This report recognizes that there was an undercount of homeless persons. There were a few reports by counters who stated that some homeless people did not want to be counted. There were also a few reports by homeless service providers who felt that they may have missed some people who came for services.

³Estimating the number of persons who become homeless annually within the county was derived by examining and comparing local, regional, and national data. National research, according to the Urban Institute, has shown that approximately .75% to 1% of a jurisdiction’s general population experiences homelessness during the course of a year (see “How Many Homeless People Are There?” in Helping America’s Homeless). According to the California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, there were approximately 800,000 residents in Ventura County in January of 2009. Three fourths of one percent (.75%) equals 6,000 residents and one percent (1%) equals 8,000 residents.

II. Background Information

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, as part of its requirements for local jurisdictions to continue to receive Continuum of Care funding for homeless persons, asked local jurisdictional applicants to conduct a point-in-time (on a given day) homeless count during the last week of January of 2012.

A. WHEN WAS THE 2012 COUNT CONDUCTED?

The homeless count was conducted throughout the day on January 24, 2012. Identifier information was also collected to prevent duplication. The count was also conducted in facilities on January 24th.

B. WHO WAS COUNTED?

A person was considered homeless, and thus counted, only when he/she fell within the HUD-based definition by residing in one of the places described below:

- a. in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;
- b. in an emergency shelter; and
- c. in transitional housing for homeless persons.

HUD does not consider the following persons to be homeless—persons who are “doubled up,” or persons who are “near homelessness”—but considers them to be at risk of becoming homeless. Such persons were not included in the homeless count.

The County of Ventura, like many other counties, has a substantial number of households that are at risk of becoming homeless. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2010, there were approximately 42,000 households consisting of about 130,000 persons (nearly one of every five residents) in Ventura County who were members of a household whose annual income was less than \$25,000. There were approximately 21,000 households consisting of about 66,000 persons whose annual income was less than \$15,000 a year.

Also, the Census Bureau noted that 10 percent or nearly 76,000 residents of the County were living below poverty level as reported in the 2010 American Community Survey. The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition considers these persons at risk of becoming homeless.

Many of these persons can become homeless because of social structural issues such as increases in rent, loss of job, and rising health care costs. In addition, personal experiences such as domestic violence, physical disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse can cause members of a low income household or an entire household to become homeless. Often, one or more of these experiences factor into a household's homeless experience.

C. WHO CARRIED OUT THE COUNT?

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition (www.vchhc.org) consulted with Urban Initiatives, a community-based research and development agency (www.urban-initiatives.org) to plan and coordinate the count.

The Coalition has been coordinating the county's continuum of care system for homeless persons since 1996. Coordination has focused on applying for funding each year to HUD for "continuum of care homeless assistance." Coordination has also focused on implementing the annual goals and objectives that HUD requires in order to be competitive nationally for Continuum of Care homeless assistance funding. HUD required goals and objectives have included implementing homeless counts, increasing access to public assistance, and coordinating a homeless management information system among other required goals and objectives. To date, the coalition has representation from many public and private organizations including businesses, city departments, corporations, county departments, faith-based agencies, for-profit organizations, neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations, and private foundations.

Urban Initiatives is a community-based research and development agency that has completed many housing and homeless assessments including several homeless counts for cities and counties throughout Southern California. It consists of several community and faith-based agencies that respond to the economic, housing, and social needs of neighborhoods, cities, and counties from local community, regional, national, international, and faith-based perspectives.

The Coalition organized over 250 volunteers to help with the count. Each city had volunteer teams that were coordinated by a team leader(s). In addition, volunteer teams were coordinated by a team leader(s) to count in the unincorporated areas of the county. Teams counted on the streets, at non-residential program sites that served homeless persons such as food programs, health care centers, and public assistance sites, and at shelters and transitional housing programs.

III. Methodology

The count instrument that was used collected the following information concerning every homeless person counted: first initial of first name, first initial of last name, gender, ethnicity, year born, and state born as noted below.

	First Initial	Last Initial	Gender	Ethnicity	Year Born	State Born
Example:	J	H	F	W	1960	CA

The methodology used during the count process helped create an identifier that prevented a person from being included in the final tally of the count more than once. During the enumeration, counters recorded the initials, gender, ethnicity, year of birth, and state born of each individual homeless person. If the same person was encountered again, counters would establish the same code. However, this person would only be counted once in the final tally.

The information for every person, every time, was loaded into a data base. The information was then used to code each person. For example, a homeless person may have the following code of “WTMW1957CA. This meant that this person’s first name began with “W”, his last name began with “T”, he was male “M”, he was White “W”, born in 1957, and born in California.

An example to illustrate how the process worked can be found within the table below. Numbers 6 and 7 (shaded in gray) would be considered the same person. Therefore, the person would only be counted once in the final tally that answered the question “how many homeless persons are there in the County of Ventura during a given day?” If for some reason there was doubt that numbers 6 and 7 were the same person, other collected data was used to address the doubt.

COUNTY OF VENTURA 2012 HOMELESS COUNT

Assigned Number	First Initial	Last Initial	Gender	Ethnicity	Year Born	State Born
1	J	H	F	W	1960	CA
2	H	T	M	L	1953	CA
3	R	K	F	L	1972	TX
4	K	N	M	AA	1969	CA
5	F	A	M	A	1980	CA
6	J	F	M	W	1971	CA
7	J	F	M	W	1971	CA
8	S	G	F	L	1968	NY
9	D	T	M	W	1962	CA
10	O	R	M	W	1959	CA

IV. Findings By Jurisdiction

This section provides findings by jurisdiction. Findings include the total number of persons counted and a breakdown of the limited data collected from adults such as location, age, gender, ethnicity, state born, children, and family composition.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of persons counted within each jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction	Total # of Persons Counted
Camarillo	30
Fillmore	16
Moorpark	5
Ojai	41
Oxnard	522
Port Hueneme	12
Santa Paula	60
Simi Valley	284
Thousand Oaks	90
Unincorporated County	175
Ventura	701
Total:	1,936

The following pages provide a breakdown of the total number of persons counted by jurisdiction for location; age; gender; ethnicity; state born; children; and family composition.

■ CAMARILLO

The total number of persons counted in Camarillo was 30. There were 17 adults and 13 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 100% of persons (30) were counted on the streets;

2. Age

- 0% of adults (0) were seniors (age 62+) and 0% (0) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 41% of adults (7) were men and 59% (10) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 62% of adults (8) were White; 38% (5) were Hispanic or Latino; and 0% (0) were African American or Black;

5. State Born

- 65% of adults (11) were born in California;

6. Children

- 43% (13) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 6 families were counted and consisted of 23 persons—10 adults and 13 children.

■ FILLMORE

The total number of persons counted in Fillmore was 16. There were 12 adults and 4 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 100% of persons (16) were counted on the streets;

2. Age

- 0% of adults (0) were seniors (age 62+) and 0% (0) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 58% of adults (7) were men and 42% (5) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 75% (9) were Hispanic or Latino and 25% (3) were White;

5. State Born

- 50% of adults (6) were born in California;

6. Children

- 25% of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 3 families were counted and consisted of 9 persons—5 adults and 4 children.

■ MOORPARK

The total number of persons counted in Moorpark was 5. There were 5 adults and 0 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 100% of persons (5) were counted on the streets;

2. Age

- 20% of adults (1) were seniors (age 62+) and 20% (1) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 83% of adults (5) were male and 17% (1) was a woman;

4. Ethnicity

- 60% of adults (3) were White; 40% (2) were Hispanic or Latino;

5. State Born

- 100% of adults (5) were born in California;

6. Children

- 0% of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 0 families were counted.

■ OJAI

The total number of persons counted in Ojai was 41. There were 40 adults and 1 child. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 100% of persons (41) were counted in the streets;

2. Age

- 0% of adults (0) were seniors (age 62+) and 5% (2) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 80% of adults (32) were men and 20% (8) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 75% (30) were White; 22% (9) were Hispanic or Latino; 3% (1) was African American or Black;

5. State Born

- 55% of adults (22) were born in California;

6. Children

- 2% (1) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 1 family was counted and consisted of 2 persons—1 adult and 1 child.

■ OXNARD

The total number of persons counted in Oxnard was 522. There were 449 adults and 73 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 73% of persons (382) were counted on the streets and 27% (140) were counted in facilities;

2. Age

- 6% of adults (27) were seniors (age 62+) and 8% (36) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24; and 0% (1) was an accompanied youth (without parents) between the ages of 13 – 17;

3. Gender

- 70% of adults (314) were men and 30% (135) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 40% (180) were Hispanic or Latino; 40% of adults (180) were White; 10% (45) were African American or Black; 3% (13) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% (9) were Asian/Pacific Islander; and 4% (18) stated Other;

5. State Born

- 63% of adults (283) were born in California;

6. Children

- 13% (73) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 43 families were counted and consisted of 129 persons—56 adults and 73 children.

■ PORT HUENEME

The total number of persons counted in Port Hueneme was 12. There were 7 adults and 5 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 42% of persons (5) were counted on the streets and 58% (7) were counted in facilities.

2. Age

- 14% of adults (1) were seniors (age 62+) and 0% (0) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 71% of adults (5) were men and 29% (2) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 50% of adults (4) were Hispanic or Latino; 0% (2) were White; 0% (0) was African American or Black; and 0% (1) stated Other.

5. State Born

- 57% of adults (4) were born in California;

6. Children

- 42% (5) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 1 family was counted and consisted of 6 persons—1 adult and 5 children.

■ SANTA PAULA

The total number of persons counted in Santa Paula was 60. There were 59 adults and 1 child. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 35% of persons (21) were counted on the streets and 65% of persons (39) were counted in facilities;

2. Age

- 3% of adults (2) was a senior (age 62+) and 3% (2) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 71% of adults (42) were men and 29% (17) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 64% of adults (38) were Hispanic or Latino; 34% (20) were White and 2% (1) were African American or Black;

5. State Born

- 88% of adults (52) were born in California;

6. Children

- 2% (1) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 1 family was counted and consisted of 2 persons—1 adult and 1 child.

■ SIMI VALLEY

The total number of persons counted in Simi Valley was 284. There were 270 adults and 14 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 99% of persons (263) were counted on the streets; and 3% (21) in facilities.

2. Age

- 7% of adults (18) were seniors (age 62+); 7% (19) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24; and 1% (1) was unaccompanied youth (without parents) between the ages of 13-17;

3. Gender

- 66% of adults (196) were men and 34% (74) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 67% of adults (180) were White; 16% (43) were Hispanic or Latino; 4% (11) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 2% (6) were African American or Black; 8% (22) were Asian/Pacific Islander; and 3% (8) stated Other;

5. State Born

- 72% of adults (194) were born in California;

6. Children

- 13% (14) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 14 families were counted and consisted of 32 persons—18 adults and 14 children.

■ THOUSAND OAKS

The total number of persons counted in Thousand Oaks was 90. There were 77 adults and 13 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 45% of persons (41) were counted on the streets and 55% (49) in facilities;

2. Age

- 6% of adults (5) were seniors (age 62+) and 7% (5) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 79% of adults (61) were men and 21% (16) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 73% of adults (56) were White; 11% (8) were Hispanic or Latino; 11% (8) were African American or Black; 0% (0) was American Indian or Alaskan Native; 6% (5) was Asian/Pacific Islander; and 3% (2) stated Other;

5. State Born

- 53% of adults (41) were born in California;

6. Children

- 14% (13) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 7 families were counted and consisted of 21 persons—8 adults and 13 children.

■ UNINCORPORATED AREAS

The total number of persons counted in Unincorporated Areas was 175. There were 142 adults and 33 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 50% of persons (87) were counted on the streets and 50% (88) in facilities;

2. Age

- 9% of adults (13) were seniors (age 62+) and 0% (0) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24;

3. Gender

- 56% of adults (80) were men and 44% (62) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 22% (31) were Hispanic or Latino; 73% of adults (104) were White; 2% (3) were African American or Black; 1% (1) were Asian/Pacific Islander; 1% (1) was American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 1% (1) stated Other;

5. State Born

- 54% of adults (77) were born in California;

6. Children

- 19% (33) of the total number of persons counted were children;

7. Family Composition

- 16 families were counted and consisted of 56 persons—23 adults and 33 children.

■ VENTURA

The total number of persons counted in Ventura was 701. There were 644 adults and 57 children. A breakdown of the data collected from adults is as follows:

1. Location

- 56% of persons (396) were counted on the streets and 44% (305) were counted in facilities;

2. Age

- 5% of adults (32) were seniors (age 62+) and 11% (71) were youth between the ages of 18 – 24; and 0% (1) was unaccompanied youth (without parents) between the ages of 13 – 17;

3. Gender

- 71% of adults (457) were men and 29% (187) were women;

4. Ethnicity

- 73% of adults (470) were White; 15% (97) were Hispanic or Latino; 3% (19) were African American or Black; 5% (32) were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% (6) were Asian/Pacific Islander; and 3% (19) stated Other;

5. State Born

- 58% of adults (373) were born in California;

6. Children

- 8% (57) of the total number of persons counted were children

7. Family Composition

- 23 families were counted and consisted of 87 persons—30 adults and 57 children.

The following tables provide a comparison of 2007 – 20012 County of Ventura Homeless counts that includes the total number of persons counted each year and the total number by women, men, children, families, persons counted on the streets, and persons counted in facilities (shelters and transitional housing programs).

Comparison of 2007 - 2012 County of Ventura Homeless Counts: Partial Numbers

City/Community	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	Women					Men					Children					Families				
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012
Camarillo	10	13	15	29	30	2	2	4	3	10	8	11	11	21	7	0	0	0	5	13	0	0	0	3	3
Unincorporated	242	265	223	209	175	80	89	101	86	62	84	97	70	89	80	63	79	52	34	33	29	28	27	16	15
Fillmore	5	4	5	10	16	0	1	2	2	5	5	3	3	8	7	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3
Moorpark	13	7	1	7	5	1	2	0	1	1	12	5	1	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ojai	82	60	52	40	41	16	12	10	3	11	63	41	40	29	29	3	7	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	1
Oxnard	671	679	520	638	522	165	212	152	163	153	393	337	299	388	296	113	130	69	87	73	53	56	38	43	33
Port Hueneme	9	1	9	6	12	2	0	5	3	2	7	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	2	1
Santa Paula	97	91	54	50	60	25	26	16	11	17	49	47	32	37	42	23	18	6	2	1	12	7	2	2	5
Simi Valley	163	303	229	226	284	48	83	64	66	74	98	183	155	131	196	17	37	10	29	14	13	18	7	11	11
Thousand Oaks	81	147	106	87	90	25	37	23	20	16	40	69	54	51	61	16	41	29	16	13	10	23	15	8	7
Ventura	588	623	601	570	701	153	155	151	173	187	388	428	407	355	457	47	40	43	42	57	23	27	27	40	23
Totals:	1961	2193	1,815	1,872	1,936	517	619	528	531	538	1147	1222	1073	1116	1184	282	352	211	220	214	142	162	117	127	102

Comparison of 2007 - 2012 County of Ventura Homeless Counts: Partial Numbers

	Streets					Facilities				
City/Community	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012
Camarillo	9	13	15	29	30	1	0	0	0	0
Unincorporated	108	84	150	145	87	134	181	73	64	88
Fillmore	0	4	5	10	16	5	0	0	0	0
Moorpark	13	7	1	7	5	0	0	0	0	0
Ojai	82	60	52	40	14	0	0	0	0	27
Oxnard	479	423	373	505	382	192	256	147	133	140
Port Hueneme	9	1	9	2	5	0	0	0	4	7
Santa Paula	97	91	54	50	21	0	0	0	0	39
Simi Valley	141	298	229	220	263	22	5	0	6	21
Thousand Oaks	56	119	84	61	41	25	28	22	26	49
Ventura	505	496	505	451	396	83	127	96	119	305
Totals:	1499	1596	1477	1520	1260	462	597	338	352	676

V. Conclusion

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition Board of Directors decided in 2009 to conduct an annual homeless count which is strongly encouraged by HUD. Thus, the next homeless Count will be conducted on January 22, 2013.

The County of Ventura 2012 Homeless Count will be complemented by the “County of Ventura 2012 Homeless Survey” whereas both reports will provide the County with valuable data concerning local homelessness. The survey was completed during the spring of 2012 and findings will be available in May and posted on www.vchhc.org and www.urban-initiatives.org. Survey information will include data concerning chronic homelessness, domestic violence, children, education, foster care, health care, income, mental health care, substance abuse, and veteran status.

Both sources of information will help further the implement of the recommendations of the “10-Year Strategy Plan to End Homelessness” which continues to help the County of Ventura reduce the incidence of homelessness within its incorporated and unincorporated areas. These sources of data will also provide important information for jurisdictional grant applications to federal and state departments such as HUD’s Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program and will also be available for jurisdictional Consolidated Annual Action and CAPER Plans which are required submissions to HUD if jurisdictions are to continue to receive substantial funding to end homelessness. Governmental resources such as Continuum of Care grant funds have provided funding for homeless prevention, street outreach, case management, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing. Funding related to the Consolidated Plans include Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, HOME, and Housing for Persons with AIDS has also been used for the same programs and activities.

Appendix A

Your Name: _____
 Location: _____
 Date: _____

Are You Home-less Today?	First Initial of Name Only	First Initial of Name Only	Ethnicity (see instructions at bottom of page)		Age: please record number for age group: 1=under 18 2=18 to 24 3=25 to 29 4=30 to 39 5=40 to 49 6=50 to 61 7=62 to 69 8=70 to 79 9=80+	State Born	Have You Served in the Armed Forces of the United States?	Have You Served in the Armed Forces of the United States?	Have You Been in the Armed Forces of the United States?	Have You Served in the Armed Forces of the United States?	We Home-less or more during the last 3 years?	We Home-less or more during the last 3 years?	Have a Disabling Condition or Disability that limits Your Ability to Work or Perform Daily Living Activities such as mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health condition, or physical or mental disability?	Have a Disabling Condition or Disability that limits Your Ability to Work or Perform Daily Living Activities such as mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health condition, or physical or mental disability?
			Gender - M = male & F = female	Ethnicity (see instructions at bottom of page)										
Y	N	A	B	M	1	CA								
Y	N			M										
Y	N			F										
Y	N			F										
Y	N			M										
Y	N			F										
Y	N			M										
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Y	N			F										
Y	N			M										
Y	N			F										

Ethnicity: 1 = African American or Black; 2 = American Indian or Alaskan Native; 3 = Asian or Pacific Islander; 4 = Hispanic or Latino; 5 = White; and 6 = Other

*A Partner is a person you live with and share a common family life but are not joined in a traditional marriage. ©Institute for Urban Initiatives