

**County of Ventura**

**2009**

**Employment Survey**

**for Homeless Persons**

## **Acknowledgments**

The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition (VCHHC) is indebted to Beth Hartung PhD, Daniel Lee PhD, Sunghee Choi PhD and the Spring 2009 Capstone students from California State University Channel Islands who interviewed the participants in this survey: Julio Espinosa, Tawny Halas, Crystal Koch, Anjelica Lewis, Jackson Speers and Chelsea Witt. Special thanks to Mattie Richardson CSUCI '09 who coordinated the work of the students.

### Special Appreciation:

The cost of this project has been offset in part by the generosity of Jeannette Borgwardt.

This report was prepared for the  
Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition

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## I. Executive Summary

The County of Ventura 2009 Employment Survey for Homeless Persons was implemented in order to obtain information from the county's homeless population concerning employment and income. The County of Ventura 2009 Employment Survey was administered on the streets and in shelter programs. Surveyors targeted 20% of the homeless population in each jurisdiction according to the January 2009 Homeless Count. More than 300 (309) homeless persons who were living on the county's streets were asked questions about their current and past employment and income history. These persons represent approximately 15% of the number of homeless persons who live on the county's streets on a day like today according the County of Ventura 2009 Homeless Count.

Of the 309 persons who were surveyed nearly three out of four (74%) were men and one out of four (26%) were women and over half were White (58%) and nearly one-third (29%) were Hispanic/Latino. The majority of survey respondents (51%) were between the ages of 30 – 49—22% were between the ages of 30-39 and 29% were between 40-49.

### Key Findings

This report is divided into two sections. The first section concerns those survey respondents who stated that they were employed and the second section concerned those who stated that they were unemployed.

Key findings concerning those survey respondents who stated that they were employed included:

- A. Approximately half stated that they worked full-time (47%) and half part-time (53%);
- B. nearly one of four (22%) stated that they have more than one job;
- C. Nearly half (46%) stated that they worked as laborers (26%) or in food service (20%);
- D. More than three out of four (78%) stated that they were currently working in Ventura County;
- E. Over half (51%) stated that they were currently working in the City of Ventura;
- F. Approximately one-third (35%) stated that they had a monthly income of over \$1,000, 33% stated between \$501-\$1,000, and one-fourth (25%) stated between \$1-\$300.

Key findings concerning those survey respondents who stated that they were unemployed included:

- A. A large majority (94%) of survey respondents stated that they had been employed before;
- B. More than three-fourths (76%) stated that they had worked in Ventura County;
- C. Approximately two-thirds (66%) were previously employed in either Oxnard or Ventura—38% in Ventura and 28% in Oxnard;
- D. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of survey respondents did not have a temporary or permanent disability that prevented them from working; however, more than one-fourth (26%) did have a permanent disability and 11% had a temporary disability that prevented them from working;
- E. Nearly two-thirds (64%) were employed within the last couple of years—nearly half (48%) within the last year;
- F. Nearly half (45%) stated that the reason that they left their job was because they were laid off or because of disability or injury—more than one-fourth (28%) stated because they were laid off and nearly one of five (17%) stated due to disability or injury;
- G. Two-thirds (66%) stated that they were currently seeking work;
- H. More than half (58%) stated that they need assistance in finding a job;
- I. Approximately two-thirds (64%) stated that they had no income.

## II. Introduction

### A. Purpose

The County of Ventura 2009 Employment Survey for Homeless Persons was implemented in order to obtain information from the county's homeless population concerning employment and income.

### B. Place

The County of Ventura 2009 Employment Survey was administered on the streets and in shelter programs. Surveyors targeted 20% of the homeless population in each jurisdiction according to the January 2009 Homeless Count.

### C. Participants

More than 300 (309) homeless persons who were living on the county's streets were asked questions about their current and past employment and income history. These persons represent approximately 15% of the number of homeless persons who live on the county's streets on a day like today according to the County of Ventura 2009 Homeless Count.

Of the 309 persons who were surveyed, nearly three out of four (74%) were men and one out of four (26%) were women.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Men	228	74
Women	81	26
<b>Total:</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 309 persons who were surveyed, over half were White (58%) and nearly one-third (29%) were Hispanic/Latino.

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
American Indian/Alaskan Native	11	4
Asian	3	1
Black/African American	22	7
Hispanic/Latino	90	29
White	179	58
Other	4	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100</b>

The majority of survey respondents (51%) were between the ages of 30 – 49—22% were between the ages of 30-39 and 29% were between 40-49.

<b>Age</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
13-17	2	1
18-24	22	7
25-29	17	5
30-39	67	22
40-49	90	29
50-54	55	18
55-59	34	11
60-61	9	3
62-64	6	2
65-69	4	1
70+	3	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100</b>

## **D. Findings**

### Survey Respondents - Employed

Forty-seven (47) or 15% of the 309 survey respondents were employed.

Of the 47 persons who were employed, 60% were men and 40% were women.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Men	28	60
Women	19	40
<b>Total:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 47 persons who were employed, nearly two-thirds (62%) were White and nearly one-fourth (23%) were Hispanic/Latino.

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	2
Asian	0	0
Black/African American	4	9
Hispanic/Latino	11	23
White	29	62
Other	2	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 47 persons who were employed, nearly half (45%) were between the ages of 40–49 and nearly one of five (19%) were between the ages of 30–39.

<b>Age</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
13-17	0	0
18-24	4	9
25-29	2	4
30-39	9	19
40-49	21	45
50-54	6	13
55-59	3	6
60-61	2	4
62-64	0	0
65-69	0	0
70+	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

Like all survey respondents, the 47 who were employed answered designated questions. Their responses were as follows:

1. Do you work part-time or full-time?

	#	%
Full-Time	22	47
Part-Time	25	53
<b>Total:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

Approximately half of survey respondents worked full-time (47%) and half part-time (53%).

2. Do you work more than one job?

	#	%
Yes	10	22
No	36	78
<b>Total:</b>	<b>46*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for one person

Of those who answered the question, nearly one of four (22%) stated that they have more than one job.

3. What is your primary occupation?

	#	%
Laborer	12	26
Food Service	9	20
Sales	8	17
Office Work	7	15
Medical Services	3	6.5
Teaching	3	6.5
Other Occupations	4	9
		0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>

Nearly half (46%) of those who were employed stated that they worked as laborers (26%) or in food service (20%).

4. Are you currently working in Ventura County?

	#	%
Yes	40	22
No	6	78
<b>Total:</b>	<b>46*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for one person

More than three out of four (78%) survey respondents stated that they were currently working in Ventura County.

5. What City are you currently working in?

Of the 40 survey respondents who stated that they were currently working in Ventura County, 35 stated in what city. Over half (51%) stated the City of Ventura.

	#	%
Camarillo	4	11
Ojai	1	3
Oxnard	5	14
Simi Valley	1	3
Thousand Oaks	6	17
Ventura	18	51
<b>Total:</b>	<b>35*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for 5 of the 40 survey respondents who were currently employed in Ventura County.

6. What Is Your Total Current Monthly Income (please answer one)?

- \$1-300
- \$301-500
- \$501-1000
- over \$1000

Approximately one-third (35%) of survey respondents stated over \$1,000, 33% stated between \$501-\$1,000, and one-fourth (25%) stated between \$1-\$300.

	#	%
\$1-300	10	25
\$301-500	3	7
\$501-1000	13	33
Over \$1000	14	35
		0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>40*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for seven persons

7. What was your household income last year (please answer one)?

- Less than 5,000
- 5,001 to 10,000
- 10,001 to 15,000
- 15,001 to 20,000
- 20,001 to 25,000
- 25,001 to 30,000
- Over 30,000

All survey respondents answered this question. Nearly half (43%) stated less than \$5,000 and nearly one-third (32%) stated between \$5,000 and \$15,000.

	#	%
Less than \$5,000	20	43
\$5,001 to 10,000	6	13
\$10,001 to 15,000	9	19
\$15,001 to 20,000	3	6
\$20,001 to 25,000	4	8
\$25,001 to 30,000	1	2
Over \$30,000	4	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

8. Do you receive any of the following kinds of monthly incomes (answer all that apply)?:

- (AFDC/TANF)
- (Social Security - Retirement (age 62+))
- (Social Security - Disability)
- (General Relief (GR))
- (Unemployment)

- (Veterans Benefits)
- (Food Stamps)
- (MediCare)
- (Medi-Cal)
- (Union Pension)
- (Other: Please Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Twenty-four (24) persons stated that they were receiving food stamps, six (6) stated Medi-Cal, and one (1) stated veteran benefits.

9. If you do not currently receive any of these monthly incomes, did you receive any of these monthly incomes in the past (answer all that apply)?:

- (AFDC/TANF)
- (Social Security - Retirement (age 62+))
- (Social Security - Disability)
- (General Relief (GR))
- (Unemployment)
- (Veterans Benefits)
- (Food Stamps)
- (MediCare)
- (Medi-Cal)
- (Union Pension)
- (Other: Please Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Ten (10) survey respondents stated that they received food stamps in the past, seven (7) stated unemployment, three (3) stated Social Security – Disability, one (1) stated General Relief, one (1) stated AFDC/TANF, and one (1) stated Veteran Benefits.

Survey Respondents - Unemployed

Two hundred and sixty-two (262) or 85% of the 309 survey respondents were unemployed.

Of the 262 persons who were unemployed, 76% were men and 24% were women.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Men	200	76
Women	62	24
<b>Total:</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 262 persons who were unemployed, more than half (57%) were White and nearly one-third (30%) were Hispanic/Latino.

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10	4
Asian	3	1
Black/African American	18	7
Hispanic/Latino	79	30
White	150	57
Other	2	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 262 persons who were employed, nearly half (48%) were between the ages of 30 and 49—more than one-fourth (26%) were between the ages of 40–49 and nearly one-fourth (22%) were between the ages of 30-39.

<b>Age</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
13-17	2	1
18-24	18	7
25-29	15	6
30-39	58	22
40-49	69	26
50-54	49	19
55-59	31	12
60-61	7	3
62-64	6	2
65-69	4	1
70+	3	1
		0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100</b>

Like all survey respondents, the 262 who were unemployed answered designated questions. Their responses were as follows:

10. Have you been employed before?  Yes  No

	#	%
Yes	247	94
No	13	6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>260*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for two persons

A large majority (94%) of survey respondents stated that they had been employed before.

11. Have you ever worked in Ventura County?  Yes  No

	#	%
Yes	200	76
No	51	24
<b>Total:</b>	<b>251*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for nine persons who stated that they were previously employed

More than three-fourths (76%) of survey respondents stated that they had worked in Ventura County.

11a) If what city?

	#	%
Agora Hills	1	1
Camarillo	10	5
Moorpark	2	1
Ojai	15	7
Oxnard	56	28
Port Hueneme	2	1
Santa Paula	5	2
Simi Valley	22	11
Thousand Oaks	11	6
Ventura	76	38
		0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Approximately two-thirds (66%) of survey respondents were previously employed in either Oxnard or Ventura—38% in Ventura and 28% in Oxnard.

12. Do you have a
- temporary physical disability that prevents you from working
  - permanent physical disability that prevents you from working?
  - neither

	#	%
Temporary Physical Disability	29	11
Permanent Physical Disability	66	26
Neither Disability	160	63
<b>Total:</b>	<b>255*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for seven persons

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of survey respondents did not have a temporary or permanent disability that prevented them from working; however, more than one-fourth (26%) did have a permanent disability and 11% had a temporary disability that prevented them from working.

13. If you are not currently employed, when was the last time you were employed?

	#	%
Less Than 90 Days Ago	35	14
2008	83	34
2007	39	16
2006	30	12
2005	6	2
Before 2005	55	22
<b>Total:</b>	<b>248*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for 14 persons

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of survey respondents, were employed within the last couple of years—nearly half (48%) within the last year.

14. What was the reason that you left your job?
- laid off
  - fired
  - temporary job

- Alcohol/drug related problems
- disability or injury
- Other reasons

	#	%
Laid Off	72	28
Fired	19	7
Temporary Job	31	13
Alcohol/drug Related Problems	5	2
Disability or Injury	43	17
Other Reasons	83	33
<b>Total:</b>	<b>253*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for nine persons

Nearly half (45%) of survey respondents stated that the reason that they left their job was because they were laid off or because of disability or injury—more than one-fourth (28%) stated because they were laid off and nearly one of five (17%) stated due to disability or injury.

15. Are you currently seeking work?

	#	%
Yes	170	66
No	87	24
<b>Total:</b>	<b>257*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for five persons

Two-thirds (66%) of survey respondents stated that they were currently seeking work.

16. Do you need assistance in finding a job?  Yes  No

	#	%
Yes	102	42
No	138	58
<b>Total:</b>	<b>240*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for 22 persons

Nearly half (42%) of survey respondents stated that they need assistance in finding a job.

17. Do you receive any of the following kinds of monthly incomes (answer all that apply)?:

- (AFDC/TANF)
- (Social Security - Retirement (age 62+))
- (Social Security - Disability)
- (General Relief (GR))
- (Unemployment)
- (Veterans Benefits)
- (Food Stamps)
- (MediCare)
- (Medi-Cal)
- (Union Pension)
- (Other: Please Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

	#	%
AFDC/TANF	6	3
Social Security - Retirement (age 62+)	6	3
Social Security - Disability	33	17
General Relief (GR)	12	6
Unemployment	8	4
Veterans Benefits	6	3
Food Stamps	95	48
MediCare	9	5
Medi-Cal	18	9
Union Pension	0	0
Other:	5	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>198**</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for 64 persons

Of those survey respondents for which a response was recorded, nearly half (48%) were currently receiving food stamps.

18. If you do not currently receive any of these monthly incomes, did you receive any of these monthly incomes in the past (answer all that apply)?:

- (AFDC/TANF)
- (Social Security - Retirement (age 62+))
- (Social Security - Disability)

- (General Relief (GR))
- (Unemployment)
- (Veterans Benefits)
- (Food Stamps)
- (MediCare)
- (Medi-Cal)
- (Union Pension)
- (Other: Please Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

	#	%
AFDC/TANF	3	4
Social Security - Retirement (age 62+)	1	1
Social Security - Disability	9	11
General Relief (GR)	6	7
Unemployment	13	16
Veterans Benefits	0	0
Food Stamps	40	49
MediCare	4	5
Medi-Cal	5	6
Union Pension	0	0
Other:	1	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>82*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Total of 82 exceeds the number of persons (64) for which data was not recorded in the previous total meaning that some survey respondents currently receiving public assistance also responded to this question.

Nearly half (49%) of survey respondents, stated that they received food stamps in the past and nearly one of five (16%) unemployment.

19. What Is Your Total Current Monthly Income (please answer one)?
- \$1-300
  - \$301-500
  - \$501-1000
  - over \$1000

Approximately two-thirds (64%) of survey respondents stated that they had no income.

	#	%
No Income	166	64
\$1-300	29	11
\$301-500	8	3
\$501-1000	36	14
Over \$1000	19	7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for four persons

20. What was your household income last year (please answer one)?

- Less than 5,000
- 5,001 to 10,000
- 10,001 to 15,000
- 15,001 to 20,000
- 20,001 to 25,000
- 25,001 to 30,000
- Over 30,000

All survey respondents answered this question. Nearly half (48%) stated less than \$5,000 and nearly one-third (32%) stated between \$5,000 and \$15,000.

	#	%
No Income	16	6
Less than \$5,000	118	46
\$5,001 to 10,000	49	19
\$10,001 to 15,000	32	13
\$15,001 to 20,000	17	7
\$20,001 to 25,000	3	1
\$25,001 to 30,000	3	1
Over \$30,000	18	7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Data was not recorded for six persons