

HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEPING IN THEIR VEHICLES IN SACRAMENTO HAS INCREASED 60% FROM 2017 TO 2019

Why Sacramento City and County Need Safe Parking Programs for People Experiencing Homelessness Sleeping in their Vehicles



8% of total homeless 2017



11% of total homeless 2019

Homeless Youth, Families, Seniors, Veterans & Single Adults Sleeping in their Vehicles In Sacramento County: 2019

Homeless Population	Number Homeless	% Unsheltered	Number Unsheltered	% Sleeping In Vehicle	Number Sleeping in Vehicle	% Total Sleeping in Vehicles [484]
Youth	415	59%	245	7%	17	3.5%
Seniors [55+]	1,079	65%	701	11%	77	15.9%
Veterans	667	73%	486	11%	53	10.9%
Families [individuals]	1,139	52%	592	33%	195	40.3%
Single Adults	2,320	56%	1,299	11%	142	29.3%

Source: Homelessness in Sacramento County: Results from the 2019 Point-In-Time Count

SRCEH AGREES WITH THE POLICY RECOMMENDATION OF THE REPORT & WITH MAYOR STEINBER

Due to risks associated with living in a vehicle, such as lack of sanitary conditions, risk of parking citations and risk of break-ins or other vulnerabilities, Sacramento County may want to consider addressing the needs of families in vehicles through non-traditional options. One approach to consider might be Safe Parking Zones, which provide a space for people living in vehicles a legal and safe place to park often with access to waste disposal, bathrooms and showers. As discussed in a report by the Homeless Policy Research Institute, in cities such as Santa Barbara, Seattle, and San Diego, Safe Parking Zones have ranged in terms of size, services, and structure. [Homeless in Sacramento, pages 69 -70]

Safe parking programs are not permanent long-term solutions, but we've got to provide people the safety of knowing that there are places where they can turn [Mayor Steinberg, SacBee editorial, "Sacramento's homeless population is rising. Are we doing enough to solve the crisis? July 8, 2019]