Report to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

CalWORKs Homeless Families

May 2005

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INTRODUCTION

On January 4, 2005, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors requested that DPSS provide more information on homeless CalWORKs families. In response to this request, DPSS developed a two-pronged strategy, in collaboration with the Service Integration Branch of the Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office: (1) a detailed analysis of administrative data for all families who received CalWORKs in Los Angeles County between September and November 2004; and (2) a survey of 373 CalWORKs participants who applied for special assistance for homelessness during the week of February 22 through February 28, 2005.

The identification of homeless families is a complex issue. Unlike the recent effort by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to observe and count homeless persons in our communities, DPSS relies on a participant’s self-disclosure of homelessness to a worker to identify a family as homeless and respond to a family’s housing crisis with special assistance.

PART I of this report describes findings from analyses of the administrative caseload data, and PART II describes results from the participant survey. Taken together, this data presents the most detailed information ever compiled regarding CalWORKs homeless families in Los Angeles County.
PART I: Administrative Caseload Data

DPSS made arrangements with the Chief Administrative Office's Service Integration Branch to analyze administrative data for a best estimate of CalWORKs Homeless Families. The investigation focused on caseload characteristics between September and November 2004. Criteria for homelessness included the following:

A) Issuance of aid from any of four special assistance programs for homelessness; and/or

B) Utilization of a DPSS office or homeless shelter as residential mailing address.

DPSS provides four types of special assistance for homelessness (see APPENDIX I for a full description of each):

1) Temporary Assistance
2) Permanent Assistance
3) Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction
4) Moving Assistance

An issuance to a CalWORKs family under any of these four programs is the Department's best point-in-time indicator of homelessness. Due to funding restrictions, however, issuances under these programs are limited for each CalWORKs family. As a result, some families declaring homelessness may not be eligible at a particular point-in-time, and in these cases, the only identifier that may indicate their present homelessness is the use of a DPSS office or a shelter as their residential mail address. On the other hand, some families using a DPSS office as their residential address may be doing so for a reason other than homelessness. Because DPSS does not currently have a way to track these reasons, no method is currently available to distinguish homeless families from non-homeless families by solely examining the use of a DPSS office as a residential mail address.

A further limitation of the administrative data is one of omission. Unbeknownst to DPSS, CalWORKs families may be homeless but never share this information with the Department. These families are typically “doubling-up” on a short-term basis with extended family or friends where their shelter need is met.

Families at risk for homelessness were also identified in DPSS records by their declaration of homelessness to a worker and comprise a second group in the analyses. A substantive limitation to this information for those families with this sole indicator is
that we do not have confidence that it indicates a family’s current housing crisis because not all families who received special homeless assistance had this indicator. Moreover, interpretation is further clouded by the fact that this homeless “switch” in the automated database may have been turned on months or years before September 2004. The presence of this indicator in the absence of other indicators, however, is our best gauge of risk for future homelessness, and therefore, cases with only a homeless “switch on” were examined as a separate group.

For the purpose of comparison, CalWORKs cases that did not meet the criteria for homelessness or risk for homelessness comprised a third group. It is important to note that this group includes families that may have been homeless, but did not notify DPSS of their housing crisis between September and November 2004.

First, let us examine the estimates of homeless, at risk for homelessness and the non-homeless from administrative data during September to November 2004. Immediately following the estimates are 19 findings based upon comparisons of the three types of CalWORKs families examined in this report.
All CalWORKs Cases and Persons between September-November 2004

CalWORKs Cases (N = 177,200)

- Homeless: 12.1%
- Non Homeless: 80.6%
- At Risk: 7.3%

Persons in CalWORKs Cases (N = 639,300)

- Homeless: 11.7%
- Non Homeless: 81.7%
- Other: 6.7%

Roughly seven percent of cases (approximately 13,000) and persons (approximately 42,800) met criteria for homelessness. All cases were an unduplicated count of CalWORKs cases with at least one cash-eligible individual between September and November 2004. The persons count included cash eligible and ineligible persons in a case. Estimates were rounded to nearest hundredth.

Homeless and Non-Homeless CalWORKs Families by Aided and Unaided Persons (Unaided adults are timed-out, sanctioned, an ineligible adult-aged child or an ineligible parent/caretaker due to immigration status)

Non-Homeless Persons (N = 522,000)

- Unaided Adults: 27%
- Unaided Children: 11%
- Aided Adults: 16%
- Aided Children: 46%

Homeless Persons (N = 42,800)

- Unaided Adults: 14%
- Unaided Children: 11%
- Aided Adults: 25%
- Aided Children: 50%
Whereas the majorities of non-homeless and homeless persons were aided, there was a greater percentage of aided adults in the homeless group than in the non-homeless group.

Regarding criteria for homelessness, a little more than half of cases were identified using the sole indicator of a DPSS office or community shelter as a residential address for mail. Of the remaining cases, a majority received temporary or permanent homeless assistance and the minority received eviction prevention or moving assistance.
FINDINGS

1) The Second District had the largest CalWORKs caseload and accordingly, the greatest number and largest percentage of homeless persons are concentrated there.

The percentage of homeless cases within each Supervisorial District was less than 10%. Across all Supervisorial Districts, at risk cases outnumbered homeless cases.
2) Lancaster, Southwest Family and Exposition Park CalWORKs Districts had the highest percentages of homeless CalWORKs families. Moreover, Southwest Family District had the highest percentage of cases at risk for homelessness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Office</th>
<th>GAIN Region</th>
<th>Non-Homeless</th>
<th>Homeless</th>
<th>At Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Family</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposition Park</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Family</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compton</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pomona</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Valley</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Valley</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro North</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>3.7%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paramount</td>
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<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
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<td>3.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Los Angeles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Monte</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Family</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro East</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Heights</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cudahy</td>
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<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendale</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Gabriel Valley</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasadena</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belvedere</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clarita</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3) **The declaration of need for or use of Specialized Supportive Services (mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence services) between December 2002 and November 2004 amongst homeless and at risk families was more than two times greater than that of non-homeless families.**

Use of Specialized Supportive Services

4) **Compared to non-homeless families, homeless and at risk families declared a greater need for all types of Specialized Supportive Services between December 2002 and November 2004.**
5) A lack of education did not distinguish homeless and at risk families from non-homeless families. (This finding must be viewed with caution because only 50% of records contained information on educational achievement.)

6) African-American and Hispanic adults headed greater percentages of homeless and at risk families than non-homeless families.
7) **Single parents headed a greater percentage of homeless families than two parent families.** Similar to non-homeless families, two parents headed less than 10% of homeless families.

- Further exploration of the data revealed that amongst homeless families that had an ineligible caretaker, few had undocumented parents.
- Adults in homeless and at risk families were significantly younger relative to those adults in non-homeless families. The difference was particularly large in the 18-25 years age group.
8) **Homeless parents had much younger children relative to non-homeless parents; they were four times more likely to have a child less than 12 months of age than non-homeless parents and about one and a half time more likely to have children five years of age or younger than non-homeless adults.**

9) **Homeless and at risk families predominantly spoke English relative to non-homeless families.**

- Forty percent of homeless persons who spoke English were of Hispanic-origin.
- The proportion of homeless persons who spoke languages other than English and Spanish was near zero.
10) **Homeless cases had a higher proportion of aided adults and lower proportion of unaided adults relative to non-homeless cases.**

- The average household size of the three case types was similar: they each had approximately 3.5 persons per family.
- There were small differences in number of aided and unaided children across family types.

11) **The rate of cycling in and out of the CalWORKs Program was significantly higher (28%) for homeless families and at risk (28%) families as compared to non-homeless families (16%).**

Over a 24-month period, a shorter cumulative time on aid (15 months) was a characteristic of homeless families compared to non-homeless (19 months) and at risk families (21 months).
12) **Homeless families were sanctioned less often than non-homeless families.** The proportion of currently (in November 2004) sanctioned among homeless adults (11%) was just over half of that of at risk and non-homeless adults (both at 21%).

There was no difference between the percent ever sanctioned among homeless and non-homeless adults in the long run (both at 29%). However, the percent of at risk families who were ever sanctioned between December 2002 and November 2004 exceeded 40%.

13) **A greater proportion of homeless adults and 18-year-old children (non-parents) were exempt from CalWORKs activities as compared to non-homeless adults and 18-year-old children (non-parents).**

- The proportion of cash-eligible homeless adults in the GAIN Program with exempt status between September and November 2004 was 15% and significantly higher than the exemption rate among cash eligible non-homeless adults, which was 9 percent, and slightly higher than that of at risk adults (12%).

**Percent of Total Exemptions Across Study Groups by Type of Exemption**

- Parent/caretaker of a child (six months or younger or disabled) and pregnant were the two most frequent forms of exemption for homeless families.
14) Aided CalWORKs adults identified as homeless had lower GAIN Program participation rates than non-homeless adults.

Whereas almost 2/3rds of non-homeless and at risk adults participated in the GAIN Program, less than half of homeless adults participated in a GAIN activity. GAIN participation included an open GAIN component or employment during September – November 2004.

15) Overall, CalWORKs adults in the sample were not employed while aided. At the group level within the sample, homeless and at risk adults were employed less often than non-homeless adults
16) Between December 2002 and November 2004, homeless and at risk adults had, on average, shorter durations of employment while on aid than non-homeless adults. Because these data only include months when the family received CalWORKs aid, the number of months of employment may be understated for participants who received aid for fewer months.

![Total Months of Employment While Receiving CalWORKs](image)

17) From December 2002 through November 2004, the average monthly and quarterly aid and total income (earned income + unearned income + cash aid) were nearly identical across non-homeless, homeless and at risk families.

![Cash Aid and Income](image)
18) The monthly shelter/utility costs are similar and consume almost all the income of the families in each group. (Source: Food Stamp Program)

Average Aid, Income and Shelter/Utility Costs

![Bar chart showing average aid, income, and shelter/utility costs for non-homeless, homeless, and at risk families.](chart)

* Average shelter and utility costs for those who did not use DPSS office or shelter as address.

19) The proportions of timed-out families in the non-homeless, homeless, and at risk groups were similar. Homeless families who timed out did so, on average, a bit more recently than non-homeless families (14 months earlier v. 16 months earlier, respectively).
PARTII: Survey Response Data

To gather important information about homelessness missing from administrative data, such as duration of homelessness and reasons for leaving permanent housing, DPSS workers administered a 30-item survey to all CalWORKs participants who requested an issuance from any homeless service during the week of February 22 through February 28, 2005 at any DPSS office. The survey was a modified version of the instrument LAHSA employed for its future report on the homeless. This method of data collection allowed participants to hear and respond to questions in their preferred language. Three-hundred-seventy-three parent/caretakers voluntarily provided demographic, employment, health and detailed housing history information. Descriptions of their responses follow in PART II of this report. (see Appendix II to view survey)

Although 373 surveys were collected, the data available for each question varies due to respondent’s omissions or scanning errors while extracting data from forms. The number of responses available for each question is listed immediately below the question. Texts in boxes state the highlights of the findings.
DPSS

Lancaster and Southwest Family DPSS office locations had the greatest percentages of applications for homeless services.

How old are you?
N=366

- Average = 30.6 years
- Range = 18-64 years
- 50% were 28 years old or younger

How do you identify yourself?
N=368

Women comprised the greater part of the sample.
**Which racial or ethnic group do you identify with the most?**

N=371

- Black/African American: 44.20%
- Hispanic/Latino: 36.66%
- White/Caucasian: 14.29%
- Asian/Pac. Isl.: 2.43%
- Other/Multi-ethnic race: 1.62%
- Native American: 0.81%

A greater number of African Americans applied for homeless assistance than other racial or ethnic groups.

**What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

N=367

- No High School diploma: 43.6%
- H.S. diploma/GED: 30.7%
- Some college: 21.2%
- AA degree: 1.1%
- BA degree: 0.8%
- Advanced degree: 2.4%

The majority of respondents had low levels of education and many did not have a high school diploma.

None of the respondents had military experience, a physical disability that limited mobility, or a developmental disability. (N=373)
**Do you have a disability that keeps you from working?**
N=373

Less than 10% of respondents had a disability that kept them from working.

**Were you ever in foster care?**
N=366

Less than 15% had experience in foster care.

**What is your current housing situation?**
N=366

About 70% reported living as a single adult with children.

- Live w/ spouse/significant other
- Live alone
- Live w/ family/friend
- Other
- Live w/ spouse/significant & child/children
- Live w/ child/children
How many children under 18 live with you and what are their ages?
N=373

- Total number of children living with me

  > The number of children living with a parent/caretaker ranged from one child (40%) to nine children (0.2%).

- Number of children living with me aged 0-4 years

  > Approximately 55% of parents reported having a child four years-of-age or younger.

- Number of children living with me aged 5-10 years

  > Approximately 35% of parents reported having a child aged 5-10 years.
• Number of children living with me aged 11-14 years

Approximately 22% of parents reported having a child aged 11-14 years.

• Number of children living with me aged 15 to 18 years

Approximately 14% of parents reported having a child aged 15-18 years.

If your children are living with you and they are school age, are they attending school?
N=373

About 65% of families reported that their school-age child was attending school in late February. Some of the remaining students may have been “off track” because their schools operated on a year-round calendar.
Is this the first time you have been homeless?
N=366

For most respondents, this episode of homelessness was their first.

In the last 12 months, how many times have you been homeless (including this last time)?
N=361

In the last 3 years, how many times have you been homeless (including this last time)?
N=355
Where were you most recently living at the time you became homeless?
N=372

Los Angeles County was the most recent place of residence for nearly 90% of respondents.

How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation?
N=371

About half of respondents reported a spell of homelessness that was short – less than 30 days.

In the last 30 days, have you tried to access a shelter or transitional housing facility in Los Angeles County and been turned away?
N=367

About 20% of respondents told DPSS that they had been turned away from a shelter or transitional housing in the past month.
If yes, why were you turned away? (Check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REASONS</th>
<th>NUMBER WITH THIS REASON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No beds were available</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t accept friend/family</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol/drug problems</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couldn’t follow shelter rules</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t accept teenager/children</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was pregnant</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a disability</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t accept pets</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No ID</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you think is the main reason or condition that led to your current homelessness?
N=368

An argument and request to leave was the most frequent reason given for current homelessness.

Which of the following best describes where you are currently or most often living at night?
N=371

Transitional housing served as the temporary home for most respondents.
Immediately prior to becoming homeless (this time), did you (or were you)... 
N=370

- Rent a home/apt. 43.7%
- Lived with family 35.6%
- Staying with friends 12.7%
- Other 4.8%
- In jail or prison 1.1%
- Own a home 0.8%
- In a treatment program 0.5%
- Lived in subsidized housing 0.5%
- In the hospital 0%

Many who applied for homeless services had recently left a rental home or apartment that was not government subsidized.

If you rented a home or apartment prior to becoming homeless (this time), was it...
N=351

- Subsidized housing 2.0%
- Section 8 certificate 3.1%
- None of the above 94.9%

What is preventing you from living in permanent housing? 
N=373

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REASONS*</th>
<th>NUMBER WITH THIS REASON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can’t afford rent</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No job/no earnings</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving costs too high</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad credit</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing availability</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eviction record</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal record</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t want to</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Respondents could check more than one reason.

Affordability was the most frequent barrier to permanent housing.
**Are you currently employed?**
N=366

![Bar chart showing employment status]

The great majority of respondents were unemployed.

**Why aren’t you employed?**
N=373

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REASONS*</th>
<th>NUMBER WITH THIS REASON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No child care</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No permanent address</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need training</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need education</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No transportation</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No jobs</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health problems</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t want to work</td>
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<tr>
<td>No phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Need clothing</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>No shower facilities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No work permit</td>
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<td>Criminal record</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No tools</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Respondents could check more than one reason.

No child care topped the list of reasons for unemployment.
**In the past 6 months, for how many months was your cash aid reduced?**

N=347

Nearly 70% reported that their cash aid was not reduced in the past six months.

**What is your total (gross) monthly income from all other sources (Unemployment and/or disability insurance)?**

N=361

The bulk of respondents said they had no other source of income.
**Where do you usually get medical attention?**

N=368

- Private doctor: 29.8%
- Public health clinic: 28.8%
- Free clinic/community clinic: 13.0%
- Hospital emergency room: 12.5%
- Urgent care clinic: 7.8%
- Do not ever go: 4.3%
- Do not know: 1.9%
- Other: 1.0%
- Friends/Family: 0.5%

Private doctors and public health clinics were used most frequently for medical attention.

**How many times in the past year have you used the emergency room for any treatment?**

N=373

- Nearly half of respondents had not used the emergency room for any medical treatment in the past year.
Since being homeless this time, have you needed but lacked medical care?
N=373

Yes  09.12%
No  90.88%

Few respondents reported using services/assistance such as emergency shelters or free meals or counseling.

Are you currently experiencing any of the following situations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic or partner violence</th>
<th>AIDS/HIV related diseases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes 10.72%</td>
<td>Yes 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No  88.47%</td>
<td>No  99.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declined 0</td>
<td>Declined 0.54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical disability</th>
<th>Chronic health problems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes 05.90%</td>
<td>Yes 07.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No  93.30%</td>
<td>No  91.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declined 0.80%</td>
<td>Declined 0.80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mental illness

| Yes 07.77%                  | |
| No  91.42%                  | |
| Declined 0.80%              | |

Depression

| Yes 31.64%                  | |
| No  67.83%                  | |
| Declined 0.54%              | |

Alcoholism

| Yes 01.61%                  | |
| No  97.59%                  | |
| Declined 0.80%              | |

Drug addiction

| Yes 01.34%                  | |
| No  97.86%                  | |
| Declined 0.80%              | |

There were multiple indicators of psychological distress amongst respondents. Depression was reported by about a third of the sample.
Our Impression from Data Analyses

There was considerable convergence in findings from the two sources of information on CalWORKs homeless families. For example, both sources revealed that areas served by the Lancaster and Southwest Family offices had the highest densities of homeless families. Rather than list common features, we have decided to select salient findings from PARTS I and II, and fuse these parts to form a whole, an impression of a person whom we are most likely to see entering a DPSS office to apply for homeless assistance. Our impression is not meant to reflect all or any homeless individual’s experience, but instead, is meant as a way for the reader to see a bigger picture of homelessness than any of the detailed descriptions from administrative caseload and survey data can provide.

Impression

She’s about 30 years old, African American or Hispanic, healthy, and lives with a young child (four or younger) and possibly a school-age child, in transitional housing. She returned to the Lancaster or Southwest Family (Inglewood) CalWORKs office to apply for homeless assistance not because she had been enduring a reduction in aid due to a sanction or having reached the 60-month time limit, but rather, because family/friends recently asked her to leave or she suffered a job loss. Additionally, she may also be fleeing domestic abuse. She’s had short spells of employment in Los Angeles County and can’t afford to move to a place of her own. Although she’s unemployed, she’s able to work and wants to work, but needs child care and transportation assistance and desires more education and training. She’s presently not engaged in any job training activities. Almost certainly, this is her first homeless experience in the past three years. She hasn’t lived in a permanent housing situation for several to possibly 90 days, and there’s a good chance she’s feeling somewhat anxious and depressed about her situation.
CalWORKs Homeless Programs & Services

DPSS provides the following services to homeless applicants and participants:

**Homeless Assistance (HA)** - This program provides once-in-a-lifetime housing payment, reducing the risk of families separating due to homelessness and children going into foster care. It provides:

- From $40 up to $80 per night (depending on the family size) for temporary shelter in a hotel or motel for up to 16 consecutive days (receipts are required to verify the hotel/motel expense); and

- Money to help with move-in costs for permanent housing, including:
  - last month’s rent and security deposits;
  - key deposits and cleaning fees; and
  - utility turn on fees.
  (Receipts are required to verify these expenses)

**Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction (EAPE)** - Under the EAPE program, families who are at risk of losing their housing because of non-payment of rent due to a financial hardship (not for any other lease/contract violation) may receive funds to pay rent and/or utilities for up to two months in arrears to assist the family in maintaining permanent housing. To be eligible for EAPE, the family must:

- Be CalWORKs eligible, receiving CalWORKs or timed-out from CalWORKs;

- Demonstrate that they are experiencing a financial hardship that could result in homelessness if assistance is not given. Financial hardships include:
  - Loss of a job;
  - Reduction in cash aid; and
  - Auto repairs.

- Provide proof of the financial hardship (i.e., letter from former employer, notice of action, auto repair receipts).

**Moving Assistance (MA)** – This program helps families who are experiencing a financial hardship, or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (already received eviction notice or 3-day notice to pay or quit). MA provides funds for the last month’s rent, security deposits, and utility turn-on fees. The program also provides up to $450 for a stove and refrigerator. A family may receive up to $2,000 in Moving Assistance. Proof of financial hardship is required.
**CalWORKs Homeless Families**

**APPENDIX II**

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**DPSS HOMELESS SURVEY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewer's (Your) Name:</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>(mm / dd / yy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case status:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Approved</td>
<td>O Intake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of DPSS office:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INTERVIEWER SCRIPT:** "We would like to learn more about homeless people, what kinds of problems they face, and whether or not their needs are being met.

All of your responses are strictly confidential and completely anonymous and your privacy will be protected. Your honest responses are appreciated and will only be used to benefit homeless people. Your participation is voluntary. You may refuse to answer any question that makes you feel uncomfortable. Have you already been interviewed? " (if YES, thank them and let them no additional Information is needed at this time).

**INTERVIEWER: READ EVERY QUESTION, AND ALL THE POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO RESPONDENT AND RECORD ANSWERS.)**

1. What is your birthdate? (mm / dd / yy) | | | |

2. How do you identify yourself? | | |
| O Female | O Male | O Transgender |

3. Which racial or ethnic group do you identify with the most? (Shade only 1)
| O White/Caucasian | O Native American | O African American |
| O Black/African American | O Asian/Pacific Islander | O Hispanic/Latino |
| O Other/Multi-ethnic race |

4. What is the highest level of education you have completed? | | |
| O No high school diploma | O BA degree |
| O High school diploma or GED | O Advanced degree |
| O Some college, no degree | O Technical Certification |
| O AA degree |

5. Have you ever been in the United States Armed Forces, either regular military or National Guard or military reserve unit? (Shade all that apply)
| O Regular Army | O Reserve |
| O National Guard | O None (if none, skip to Q6) |

5a. Are you a disabled veteran receiving VA compensation? | |
| O Yes | O No |

6. Do you have a disability that: (Shade all that apply)
| O Requires a wheelchair? | O Keeps you from working? |
| O Confines you to a wheelchair? | O No disability? |
| O Is considered a mental or physical disability that you've had since childhood? |

7. Were you ever homeless? (Before your 18th birthday were you ever removed from your home by the State, County or Court and sent to live with people who were not your parents?) | |
| O Yes | O No |

8. Do you currently: (Shade only 1)
| O Live alone without family or significant other? | O Alcohol/drug problems |
| O Live with spouse or significant other? | O Couldn't follow shelter rules |
| O Live with your children? | O Didn't accept friends/family |
| O Live with your spouse/significant other AND children? | O Didn't accept teenagers/children |
| O Live with other family member/friend? | Other (Specify) |

9. How many children under 18 live with you and what are their ages? | | |
| O 0-4 Years | O 5-10 Years | O 11-14 Years |
| O 15 to 18 Years | | |

10. Is this the first time you have been homeless? | |
| O Yes | O No |

11. In the last 12 months, how many times have you been homeless (including this last time)? | |
| O One time | O 2 times | O More than 6 times |
| O 3 times | O 6 times |

12. In the last 3 years, how many times have you been homeless (including this last time)? | |
| O One time | O 2 times | O More than 6 times |
| O 3 times | O 6 times |

13. Where were you most recently living at the time you became homeless? (Shade only 1)
| O Los Angeles County | O Southern California |
| O State of California |
| O Other State in U.S.A. | O Foreign Country |

14. How long have you been homeless since you last lived in a permanent housing situation? (Shade only 1)
| O Less than 30 days | O 1 year |
| O 1-3 months | O 2 years |
| O 4-6 months | O 3 years |
| O 7-11 months | O More than 3 years |

15. In the last 30 days, have you tried to access a shelter or transitional housing facility in Los Angeles County and been turned away? | |
| O Yes, a shelter | O No (Skip to O 17) |
| O Yes, transitional housing |

15a. Why were you turned away? (Shade all that apply)
| O No beds were available | O I was pregnant |
| O Alcohol/drug problems | O I have a disability |
| O Couldn't follow shelter rules | O Didn't accept pets |
| O Didn't accept friends/family | O No ID |
| O Didn't accept teenagers/children | O Don't know |
| Other (Specify) | |

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23. In the past six months, how many months was your cash aid reduced?  
- Unemployed/Lost job/Laid off  
- Landlord raised rent  
- Illness or medical problem  
- Released from jail or prison  
- Emancipation from foster care  
- Alcohol or drug use  
- Don’t know/Declined to state  
- Other:  
  - 1 month  
  - 2 months  
  - 3 months  
  - 4 months  
  - Aid was not reduced  
  - 5 months  
  - 6 months

24. What is your total (gross) monthly income from all other sources? (Job, panhandling, recycling, etc.)  
- $0  
- Under $100  
- $101 - $300  
- $301 - $500  
- $501 - $900  
- Over $900

25. Are you currently using any of the following services/assistance? (Shade all that apply)  
- Emergency shelter  
- Transitional housing  
- Backyard or storage structure  
- Other shelter  
- Free Meals  
- Bus passes  
- Legal assistance  
- Other (Specify)

26. Where do you usually get medical attention? (Shade all that apply)  
- Urgent care clinic  
- Emergency room  
- Public health clinic  
- Private doctor  
- Veterns Affairs Hospital/Clinic  
- Freddins/Community clinic  
- Don’t ever go  
- Don’t know  
- Other

27. How many times in the past year have you used the emergency room for any treatment?  
- [ ]

28. Since you became homeless this last time, have you needed medical attention and been unable to receive it?  
- Yes  
- No

29. Are you currently experiencing any of the following situations:  
- Domestic or partner violence  
- Physical disability  
- Mental illness  
- Depression  
- Alcoholism  
- Drug addiction  
- AIDS/HIV related diseases  
- Chronic health problems

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY. YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.
Contact Information

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