

# Homelessness in Southern Nevada

## General Overview



On any given night there are more than 6,400 homeless individuals in Southern Nevada and more than 24,900 Southern Nevadans, including families with children, couples, and individuals of all ages, who will experience homelessness at some point this year, according to the 2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey.

The 2017 Homeless Census also found that 67% percent of homeless people in Southern Nevada were unsheltered, meaning they were living on the streets, in encampments, cars or other places not meant for human habitation (*2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey Comprehensive Report*).

**The majority of the people experiencing homelessness locally are Southern Nevadans. About 77 % of people surveyed were living here at the time they lost their housing, according to the 2017 Homeless Census.**

**There are many factors that lead people to experience homelessness and even more challenges that can make it difficult to escape;**

Approximately 32 % of the homeless population in Southern Nevada are unaccompanied children and youth (under 24 years old). The leading causes for homelessness among youth include being kicked out of the house, emotional abuse, and financial issues at home.

- 50% of homeless individuals surveyed in the 2017 Homeless Census reported they were experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- The majority (58.8%) of survey respondents reported that they were renting a home or living in a home they or their partner owned prior to becoming homeless.
- Over 13% of the people experiencing homelessness during the PIT count were considered victims of domestic violence.
- 74.5% of the homeless population experiences one or more disabling conditions. 76% of homeless people surveyed said they were experiencing mental illness, depression or PTSD (*2017 Southern Nevada Homeless Census and Survey*).

**The leading cited barriers to obtaining housing are a lack of income and an inability to afford rent.** Nevada has the worst shortage of affordable and available rental homes in the Nation. Only 15 affordable rental units are available for every 100 extremely low income households. The shortage is greater in Las Vegas, with only 12 affordable units available for every 100 households. The national average is 35.<sup>6</sup>

### Get Involved

Homelessness is devastating for families and individuals. Government entities, non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, and corporate partners work together to provide homeless prevention and assistance programs that have helped reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Southern Nevada. But we still have a long way to go.

**Partner with a homeless service agency to volunteer, donate, and advocate.**

**To learn more about homelessness in Southern Nevada, please view the additional fact sheets within the Help Hope Home Education Toolkit.**

Visit [www.HelpHopeHome.org](http://www.HelpHopeHome.org) and [www.NevadaHomelessAlliance.org](http://www.NevadaHomelessAlliance.org) to learn more about how to get involved and be a part of the solution.