

# Homeless Epidemic: Los Angeles County's Failing Policies

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## ABSTRACT

Homelessness currently impacts 69,000 people in the County of Los Angeles. There have been five policies regarding homelessness in Los Angeles County, but these policies have not decreased the population. We understand that Los Angeles County has the biggest homeless population in the state. We want to provide and develop areas of improvement, long term solutions for the development of these policies that could create positive change. In 2016, Measure HHH was approved by residents which has the goal of using \$1.2 billion to fund housing and healthcare facilities to help prevent the homeless population from growing. Found in a 2022 city audit, half of their housing projects for the homeless population will be done and only 4,000 individuals will be receiving help from Measure HHH by the end of 2023 while only using \$750 million of the authorized money. This is a problem because the city is ineffectively spending their money and time on approved policies. An approach was adopted to examine and collect data from a variety of sources such as, data from local and government documents, literature and peer reviewed articles, and public surveys collected by departments dedicated to the homeless population in Los Angeles County. We will be examining the impact of the policies such as 4,000 out of 69,000 expected to receive help from Measure HHH.

## OBJECTIVES

- Identify areas of improvement in homelessness policies in Los Angeles County
- To evaluate the impact of current homelessness policies
- Identify ways to improve Measure HHH
- To develop a hypothetical bill to better utilize resources and funding to support the homeless population of Los Angeles County

## METHODS

- Comparative Research: has been used to compare the effectiveness of different policies in different cities or states/comparing and contrasting of past and present policies.
- This can help to identify potential solutions that have had the most success in other areas.
- First Identify other cities or states with similar policies to narrow policies of conflict mainly on homelessness.
- This helped include cities or states with similar population sizes, demographics, and economic circumstances.
- Second, collecting relevant data: this was data collected from a variety of sources, such as data from local and government documents, literature and peer-reviewed articles, and public surveys collected by departments dedicated to the homeless population in Los Angeles County.
- This helped include data on the percentage of homeless people, availability of resources and housing, and the effectiveness of existing policies.
- Third, Analyze the data: data has been collected, and analyzed to compare the effectiveness of past and current policies in different areas.
- This has helped to identify the negatives and positives for potential solutions of most recent and success in other areas.
- Lasty, developing potential solutions: the final steps were critical thinking insured such as areas of improvement, long term solutions for the development of these policies and methods to improve measure HHH and reduced disparities.
- This helped to incorporate more effective solutions/ methods in addressing the issue of homelessness in Los Angeles County.

## SOLUTIONS

Some outlined solutions deemed necessary to improve Measure HHH:

- Increase Funding: request for the full amount granted for housing and healthcare facilities, to ensure that more people have access to these services, while being properly spent with district supervision for each sector of Los Angeles.
- Increase Accessibility: require public servants to pass on information of these services, and mandatory for areas of congested plazas, govt, fast food, and market buildings to have pamphlets with printed information, location, and services on it.
- Increase Education and Awareness: this can help to reduce stigma and ensure that more people are aware of existing services.
- Increase Collaboration: have a community outreach welcoming these homeless individuals and mixed Collaboration with existing organizations and stakeholders to ensure that policies and services are tailored to increase Accessibility to resources.

## CONCLUSIONS

We recognize this is an ongoing issue that will need a large amount of work done politically but also socially. Bills that are meant to help the homeless population but are working against them are useless. In order to make progress on this issue, we need to continue to work with lawmakers to create legislation that actually helps the homeless community. Additionally, we must work to change public perceptions and destigmatize homelessness. This includes creating more public awareness campaigns that highlight the struggles of homeless people, as well as efforts to provide resources to those who are experiencing homelessness. We must also work to provide more housing options for homeless people, including permanent supportive housing and shelter beds. Finally, we must strive to create more economic opportunities for homeless people, such as job training and employment opportunities. In short, only by taking a comprehensive approach to address this issue can we make significant progression.

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