

Homeless and Motel Residents Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **How many motels are there in Anaheim?**

According to the County of Orange, Department of Environmental Health, there are 483 hotels and motels in the County of Orange; 140 of these are hotels and motels in Anaheim. Most of the hotels in Anaheim, particularly those near the Disneyland resort, cater to tourists, and therefore the homeless are less likely to be likely to use these for shelter due to prohibitive costs. It is estimated that there are between 50 to 75 “residential motels” in Anaheim where homeless families are likely to reside.

- **What is the number of homeless individuals and homeless families in Anaheim?**

In 2004, there were between 1,542 and 3,280 individuals who experienced an episode of homelessness in Anaheim. An episode of homelessness is at least one night. This information is based upon three sources: the City of Anaheim 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan, the 2004 Orange County Homeless Needs Assessment, and national and county estimates of homelessness. Of this number, between 1,079 and 2,296 of these individuals are people in families with children 18 years old and under. Some 463 to 984 individuals in Anaheim during that time were chronically homeless (single unaccompanied adults with a disability who had been continuously homeless for one year, or had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years.)

- **What is the number of children residing in these motels?**

According to the sources cited above, in 2004 there were between 378 and 2,187 children who had experienced homelessness in Anaheim. There has not been a detailed survey to document how many of these children lived in Anaheim motels. However, since most families with children would rather live in a motel than on the street or in an automobile, it is reasonable to expect many of these children lived with their families in Anaheim motels.

- **What is the definition of homelessness?**

There are in fact several definitions of homelessness used by the U.S. Federal Government. Here are the three most common:

Chronic Homeless: Unaccompanied, disabled adult who has been continuously homeless for either one year or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

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- **What is the definition of homelessness? —Cont'd**
- **Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act:** A homeless person is an individual who lacks a *fixed, regular, and adequate* nighttime residence, or who primary residence is a *public or private shelter* designed to provide temporary living, or is an institution the provides *temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized*, or is a public or private place *not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for humans*.
- **McKinney-Vento Act:** provides a definition for a person "at risk" of begin homeless as those persons who face *imminent eviction (within one week)* from a private dwelling or institution and *who have no subsequent residence or resources to obtain housing*.
- **What are the reasons people (excluding tourists) live in motels rather than apartments or single family residences?**

According to the 2005 OC Partnership Motel Survey, there were several factors that lead people to use motels as shelter including: inability to acquire housing due to eviction history, bad credit, legal problems, lack of income, and lack of affordable housing. Other factors include health problems, disability, substance abuse, job loss, etc.

- **What can I do to help the homeless and motel families in Anaheim?**

There are many non-profit organizations that serve homeless and motel residents in Anaheim. Info Link OC (2-1-1) and the Volunteer Center of Orange County can connect you with opportunities for service and philanthropy. Contact Bob Cerince, City of Anaheim, Homeless and Motel Resident Services for more information at 714-765-4486.