



Deaths Among Homeless Persons in Santa Barbara County

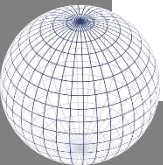
January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

A Report for the Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors

May 17, 2016

Background

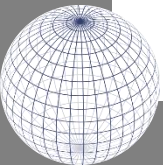
- The Homeless Death Review Team meets regularly
- This report reflects data from calendar year 2014
- The review process takes up to 18 months from start to finish.
- County Departments initiated changes since the last report:
 - Pescadero Lofts (New homeless housing with services)
 - Collaborated to secure benefits (Medi-Cal, Affordable Care Act, Etc.)
 - Facilitated referrals across county agencies
 - Enhanced coordination through process improvements such as increased Public Health Nurse to one FTE in Lompoc



Demographics

From 2014 data

- 32 individuals were identified in 2014
- 81% were male
- Average age of death is 52
- By race: 75% were Caucasian, 22% were Latino/Hispanic
- 16% were veterans



Location of Death (Usual Residence)

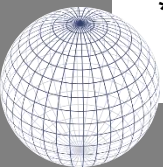
Santa Barbara County

NORTH: 24%

MID: 12%

SOUTH: 64%

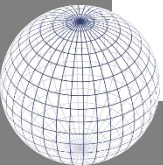
*Data compiled from death certificate: "Usual Residence/Place of Death"



Manner of Death

2014

- 53% were listed as from natural causes
- 38% were listed as due to accidents
- 9% were due to suicide



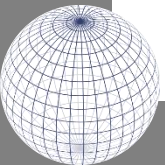
Cause of Death

2014

- Drug or Alcohol Related = 28%
- Cardiovascular Related = 32%
- All Other Causes = 25%

Location and Season

- 56% were indoors and 44% were outdoors
- More deaths occurred in the Fall compared to other seasons

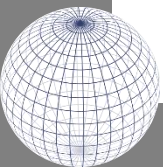


Cause of Death

	Year of Death									
	2014		2011		2010		2009		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Location of Death										
Outdoor Death	14	44%	9	35%	15	38%	9	23%	47	34%
Indoor Death	18	56%	17	65%	24	62%	31	78%	90	66%
Hospital death	2	6%	3	12%	6	15%	15	38%	26	29%
Season										
Winter	4	13%	11	42%	7	18%	14	35%	36	26%
Spring	6	19%	7	27%	17	44%	6	15%	36	26%
Summer	8	25%	4	16%	9	23%	13	33%	34	25%
Fall	14	43%	4	16%	6	15%	7	18%	31	23%

*Homeless Death Review Team did not meet for 2012 & 2013

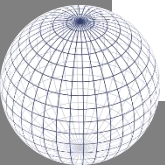
**No homeless deaths attributed to adverse weather



Access To Services

The records were reviewed to determine the percentage of decedents who had accessed any of four county agencies within the past five years including the following:

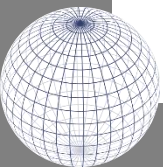
- 88% had received medical services from Public Health or Cottage Hospital.
- 72% had contact with the Sheriff's department
- 44% had been seen by Behavioral Wellness (ADMHS)
- 69% had been seen by Department of Social Services



Access To Services (Cont.)

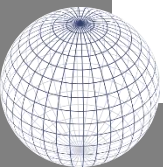
SBC Agency Access										
Service Provider	Year of Death									
	2014 (n=32)		2011 (n=30)		2010 (n=39)		2009 (n=40)		All Data (n=141)	
	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients
BW (ADMHS)	14	44%	10	33%	17	44%	14	35%	55	39%
PHD	28	88%	27	90%	33	85%	38	95%	126	89%
DSS	22	69%	19	63%	22	56%	21	53%	84	60%

*Contact with the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department was not previously tabulated and is not included in this table.



Summary Conclusions and Illustrations of Progress

- Lack of stable housing is the biggest barrier to improving health for people with illness
 - Developments such as Pescadero Lofts are providing housing and supportive services including onsite nursing
- Overwhelming use of drugs and/or alcohol poses substantial challenges
 - Behavioral Wellness is developing an Organized Delivery System which will create additional drug and alcohol treatment programs including detox and long term residential.
- Mental health conditions present in a large portion of the population
 - Integration of behavioral health into primary care has improved access to services for those with mild to moderate severity



Summary Conclusions, continued

- Higher level of care for homeless patients discharged from the hospital with skilled nursing needs.
 - Shelter respite beds are available at PATH. However increased access to higher level SNF beds is still needed to improve outcomes and reduce rates of re-hospitalization.
- After alcohol/drugs, cardiovascular disease is leading cause of death.
- Need for better coordination/integration of services.
 - Jail Discharge notifies doctor directly about discharges
 - PHD operates clinics at 3 shelters (Good Samaritan, PATH and SB Rescue Mission)
 - C3H has street outreach throughout the county. Members are from local non-profit and public agencies.

