



Memorandum

To: Carol Schatz
From: Anne Samuelson
Date: October 13, 2004
Re: Inmate Release Survey Results

BACKGROUND

A survey of 153 individuals was conducted at Los Angeles County's Inmate Reception Center (IRC) as they were released into freedom, in order to assess their dispersal patterns in the hours and months following release from jail. The IRC is located at 450 Bauchet Street, which is approximately 1 mile from City Hall (see map attached as Appendix H). It sits immediately adjacent to two of the primary facilities it serves: the Twin Towers Correctional Facility and the Men's Central Jail.

Although many cities and localities have their own jail facilities to temporarily house those who have been arrested, the IRC is the County's primary intake and release valve, serving all of Los Angeles County and its 88 incorporated cities. Inmates being released from the IRC, therefore, may have originally been arrested anywhere in L.A. County (or sometimes even from other parts of the state), but, because they are in custody for more than 48 hours, but less than a year, they are processed in and out of the IRC. In addition, there are several other release sites around Downtown, such as Parker Center (located on Temple and San Pedro Streets) and the Criminal Courts building (located on Temple and Spring Streets), although these sites release far fewer inmates each day.

The inmate release survey was conducted from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on August 25th, 26th, and 27th of this year. As an incentive to participate in the survey, inmates were offered refreshments. The results are summarized below and in the attached appendices.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- Question: Where were you arrested? (See "Appendix A" for detail)

Inmates identified nearly 50 areas, representing a broad geographic distribution, of Los Angeles County, where they were arrested. Sixteen inmates, or about **10%, indicated that they were arrested "LA/Downtown."**

- Question: What neighborhood did you live in at the time of your arrest? (See "Appendix B" for detail)

Inmates answered this question in roughly the same manner as the first question, but with a few more neighborhoods identified. Again, 16 inmates answered either “LA/Downtown” or “Skid Row.” **It should be noted that only 1 person self-identified as “Homeless” prior to arrest.**

- Question: Where do you plan to sleep tonight? (See “Appendix C” for detail)

Thirty-three inmates, or **21%**, indicated that they did not have any plans to have shelter on the night of their release (“Don’t know”- 20, “Street” – 10, “Tent/homeless”- 3). Given that LASD indicates that approximately 175,000 inmates are released through the IRC on a yearly basis, **this translates into 36,750 people who leave IRC with no place to go.** Adding the 10 people who indicated that they planned to spend the night in some form of shelter, program, or motel, **the number increases to 28%, or 49,000 inmates released each year with no immediate destination in the hours following release.**

- Follow-up Question: How do you plan to get there? (See “Appendix D” for detail)

Thirty-seven people, or **24%**, either “Don’t Know” how they will get to their intended destination, or plan to “Walk” or “Beg” their way there. About one-third of inmates (55) indicate that they will rely on the bus for transportation, while only 3 people planned to take a cab.

- Question: Do you have a place to live for the next few months? (See “Appendix E” for detail)

No: 30% (45 individuals)

Yes: 70% (105 individuals)

- Follow up Question: If “No,” where do you hope to stay? (See “Appendix F” for detail)

Of the 30% with no medium term arrangements for shelter, over 40% stated that they would stay in a shelter, program, or on the streets. This translates into 12% of the total survey population who have no medium term housing arrangements. Adding the 14 respondents who said they “Don’t Know” where they will stay, this translates into 70% of this sub-population, or **21% of the total released population who have no living arrangements for the months immediately following their release. Using the LASD’s yearly estimate of released inmates, this translates into 36,750 individuals who are likely to be homeless following incarceration.**

- Follow up Question: If “Yes,” what neighborhood will be your home for the next few months? (See “Appendix G” for detail)

The 105 inmates who indicated that they have plans for shelter in the medium term indicated that they plan to locate in diverse parts of Los Angeles, roughly parallel to the cities and neighborhoods that they lived in prior to their incarceration. However, 7 individuals, or 6% of this sub-population, said they planned on staying in a

program, tent or other form of temporary or sub-standard “housing.” Adding these individuals to those who said they planned to stay on the streets, in shelters or programs, or in other impermanent or unacceptable locations, the number becomes 50 people. That is, **33% of the inmates released during the survey period have no plans for adequate shelter in the months following their release. Extrapolating to a yearly basis, this translates into 57,750 individuals released from the IRC each year who are at great risk of becoming homeless.**

- Question: Do you have a job?

YES: 26% ¹

NO: 74% ²

- Question: Do you want a job?

YES: 86% ³

NO: 14% ⁴

CONCLUSION

The survey attempted to quantify the number of people who leave the Downtown-adjacent IRC without adequate plans for shelter. In conclusion, **of the 153 inmates who participated in the survey, only 1 person indicated that they were homeless prior to arrest. By contrast, 21% indicated that they had no shelter on the eve of their release.** This percentage increases to as much as 33% of inmates who are at high risk of becoming homeless in the months following release from the IRC.

¹ 39/151 responses

² 112/151 responses

³ 120/140 responses

⁴ 20/140 responses

Appendix A

WHERE WERE YOU ARRESTED?

<u>City of Los Angeles</u> (91)		<u>Los Angeles County</u> (60)		<u>Los Angeles County</u> (cont.)	
LA/Downtown	16	South Gate	2	Gardena	2
Hollywood	6	Compton	1	Pomona	1
North Hollywood	2	Cerritos	1	Bellflower	2
Watts	3	Baldwin Park	1	West Covina	3
Los Angeles	34	Lancaster	2	Lakewood	2
Van Nuys	6	Hermosa Beach	1	El Monte	3
South L.A.	9	Long Beach	8	Santa Monica	2
Panorama City	2	Temple City	1	Whittier	5
West L.A.	4	Torrance	1	La Puente	1
San Fernando Valley	4	Lynwood	2	Bell Gardens	1
Pacoima	1	Paramount	3	Norwalk	1
Southwest L.A.	1	Inglewood	1	Hacienda Heights	1
Highland Park	1	Rosemead	1	LA County	3
Wilshire	1	Montebello	2		
East L.A.	1	Burbank	3	(Ventura	1)
		Pasadena	2	(Bad Answer	1)
		Baldwin Park	1	TOTAL RESPONSES	153

Appendix B

WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD DID YOU LIVE IN AT THE TIME OF YOUR ARREST?

<u>City of Los Angeles</u> (71)		<u>Los Angeles County</u> (77)		<u>Los Angeles County</u> (cont.)	
LA/Downtown	16	Carson	1	Norwalk	2
West L.A.	5	Huntington Park	1	Bellflower	1
Hollywood	5	Compton	2	Palmdale	1
Echo Park	1	Maywood	1	Hawthorne	1
North Hills	2	Gardena	2	LA County	25
Watts	6	Whittier	4	Santa Monica	1
Mac Arthur Park	1	Southgate	1	Homeless	1
Venice	2	Baldwin Park	1	Burbank	2
Van Nuys	4	Lancaster	1	Santa Fe Springs	1
North Hollywood	3	Long Beach	8	Lynwood	3
San Pedro	1	West Covina	4	San Gabriel	1
South L.A.	17	Montebello	2		
Panorama City	1	Rosemead	1		
East L.A.	1	Paramount	4	(Fontana	1)
Crenshaw	1	La Puente	1	(Ventura	1)
Hacienda Heights	1	El Monte	4	(Out of State	1)
Wilshire	1	Rowland Heights	1	(Bad Answer	2)
Highland Park	1			TOTAL RESPONSES	153
Pacoima	1				

Appendix C

WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO SLEEP TONIGHT?

Family/Friend	15	Paramount	1	Altadena	1
Don't know	20	Arcadia	1	Whittier	1
Street	10	Torrance	1	Palmdale	2
Tent/Homeless	3	Fontana	1	Pico-Union	1
Shelter	3	East L.A.	2	San Bernardino	1
Salvation Army	1	Crenshaw	1	West L.A.	2
Program	5	Compton	2	Mac Arthur Park	1
Motel	1	Maywood	1	Norwalk	2
LA/Downtown	2	Bassett	1	Bellflower	1
Hollywood	1	Highland Park	1	Echo Park	3
L.A.	8	Lancaster	1	Pacoima	1
North Hills	2	Watts	3	Serra Highway	1
Hawthorne	1	North Hollywood	2	El Monte	2
Carson	1	Montebello	2	Santa Monica	2
Venice	1	Rosemead	1	Adams/La Brea	1
San Gabriel	1	Ventura	1	South L.A.	11
Van Nuys	3	Hacienda Heights	1	Panorama City	1
Long Beach	7	Santa Fe Springs	1	Gardena	1
West Covina	2	Lynwood	2	La Puente	1
				Bad Answer	4
				TOTAL RESPONSES	153

Appendix D

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GET THERE?

Don't Know	17
Beg	1
Walk	19
Family/Friend pick-up	17
Bus ⁵	55
Public Transportation	3
Train	13
Cab	3
Volunteers of America	1
Car	24
	TOTAL RESPONSES: 153

⁵ Of those who said they would take the bus or train, many inmates told surveyors they did not have any tokens or money.

Appendix E

DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

No: 30% (45 responses)

Yes: 70% (105 responses)

Appendix F

IF “NO,” WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO STAY?

Don't Know	14
Homeless	3
Shelter	9
Mission	2
Street	3
Program	1
Bassett	1
Pomona	1
Family/Friends	9
Long Beach	1
New York	1
Bad Answer	2
	TOTAL RESPONSES: 45

Appendix G

IF “YES,” WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD WILL BE YOUR HOME FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

Family/Friend	1	Paramount	2	Huntington Park	1
Don't know	2	Serra Highway	1	Whittier	3
Program	1	Covina	1	Palmdale	2
Motor home	1	East L.A.	2	Pico-Union	1
Shelter	1	Inglewood	2	San Bernardino	1
Salvation Army	1	Pasadena	1	Altadena	1
Tent/homeless	1	West L.A.	1	Mac Arthur Park	1
LA/Downtown	4	Burbank	1	Norwalk	2
South Gate	1	Fontana	1	Bellflower	1
Venice	2	Lancaster	2	Echo Park	2
Hollywood	1	Watts	2	Pacoima	1
L.A.	10	North Hollywood	1	La Puente	1
Panorama City	1	Rosemead	1	El Monte	3
North Hollywood	1	Ventura	1	Santa Monica	1
Carson	1	Hacienda Heights	1	Adams/La Brea	1
North Hills	2	Santa Fe Springs	1	South L.A.	10
San Gabriel	1	Lynwood	2	Compton	2
Van Nuys	3	Maywood	1	Montebello	2
Long Beach	5	West Covina	2	Bad Answer	4
				TOTAL RESPONSES	105