

2021 Homelessness Street Count Results

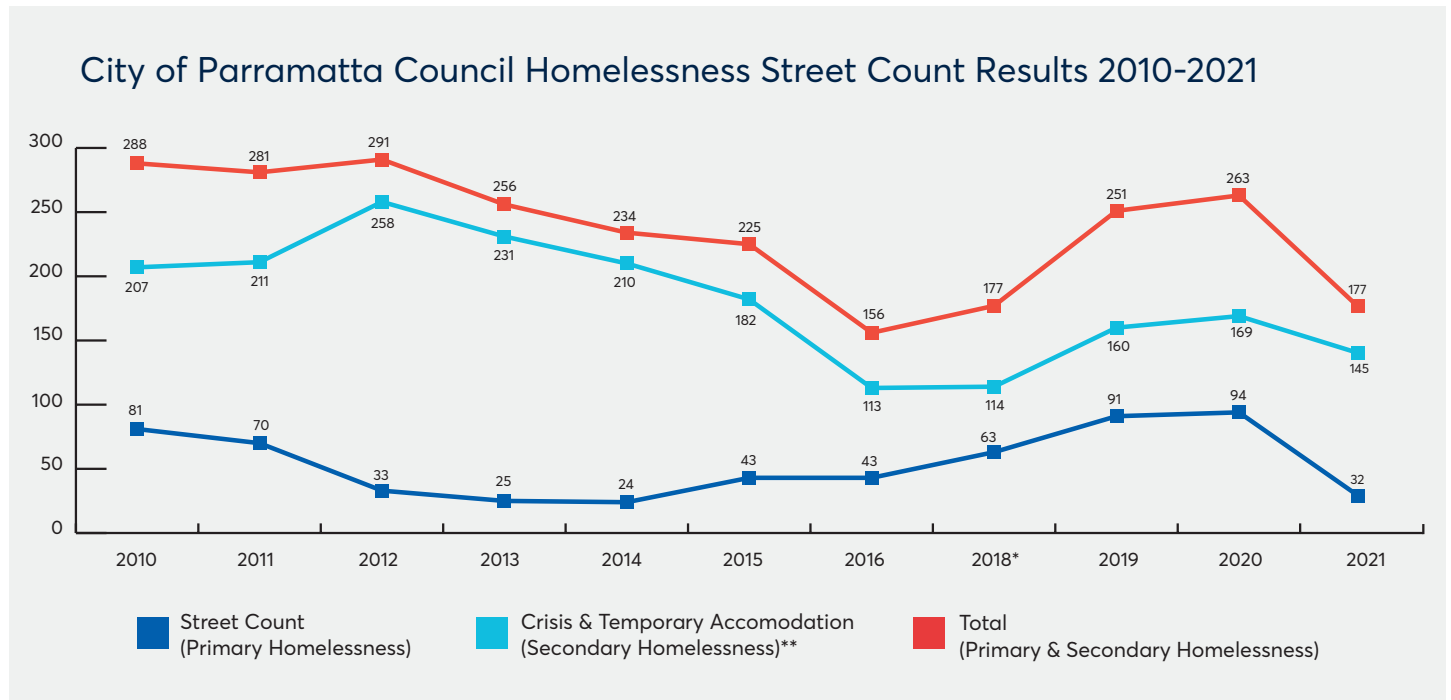


Overview

City of Parramatta Council conducted the 11th annual Homelessness Street Count on the night of Monday 22nd of February into the early hours of Tuesday 23rd February 2021. The Street Count was conducted by a team of City of Parramatta and Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) staff, and local homelessness experts, who covered the count area by car and foot.

- The Street Count identified 32 people experiencing primary homelessness (people sleeping rough) throughout the Parramatta CBD and the CBD fringes, compared to 94 in 2020.
- On the same night the secondary count (people sleeping in crisis and temporary accommodation) totalled 145 people, compared to 169 in 2020.
- The total number of people identified by the Homelessness Street Count within the City of Parramatta in 2021 was 177. This is the lowest number recorded since 2018.

The Western Sydney Nepean Blue Mountains District (WSNBM) street count conducted by DCJ recorded an additional 25 people sleeping rough in the Blacktown, Cumberland and Penrith Local Government Areas (LGAs) on the same night. This means that in total, the street count for the WSNBN District observed 57 people sleeping rough.



* Council amalgamations occurred in May 2016 and as result Council boundaries changed. Granville Town Centre is no longer within City of Parramatta LGA. The Count was not performed in 2017 and the 2018 Homelessness Street Count does not include parts of Granville located in Cumberland Council. These were areas previously identified with numbers of persons experiencing homelessness. **Secondary count numbers are not exact.



Observations

Whilst the 2021 secondary count was slightly lower than that in 2020, the 2021 primary street count was approximately 70% lower than in 2020. This significant decrease could be attributed to a variety of factors, including:

- **Improved effectiveness of local response for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness through:**
 - Introduction of active local housing and mental health assertive outreach services, and Council's recruitment of a Public Space Liaison Officer.
 - A more flexible, agile response to homelessness adopted to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Renewed NSW Government support for the housing first approach (Together Home program).
 - More effective collaboration between service providers, NSW government departments, and councils.
 - **Contextual and social factors such as:**
 - Largescale construction within the Parramatta CBD causing people sleeping rough to move elsewhere.
 - Fear of COVID-19 making people more cautious about sleeping rough and more likely to 'couch surf' where possible.
 - A higher number of deaths of people who were sleeping rough recorded than in previous years.
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