

2022 Homelessness Street Count Results



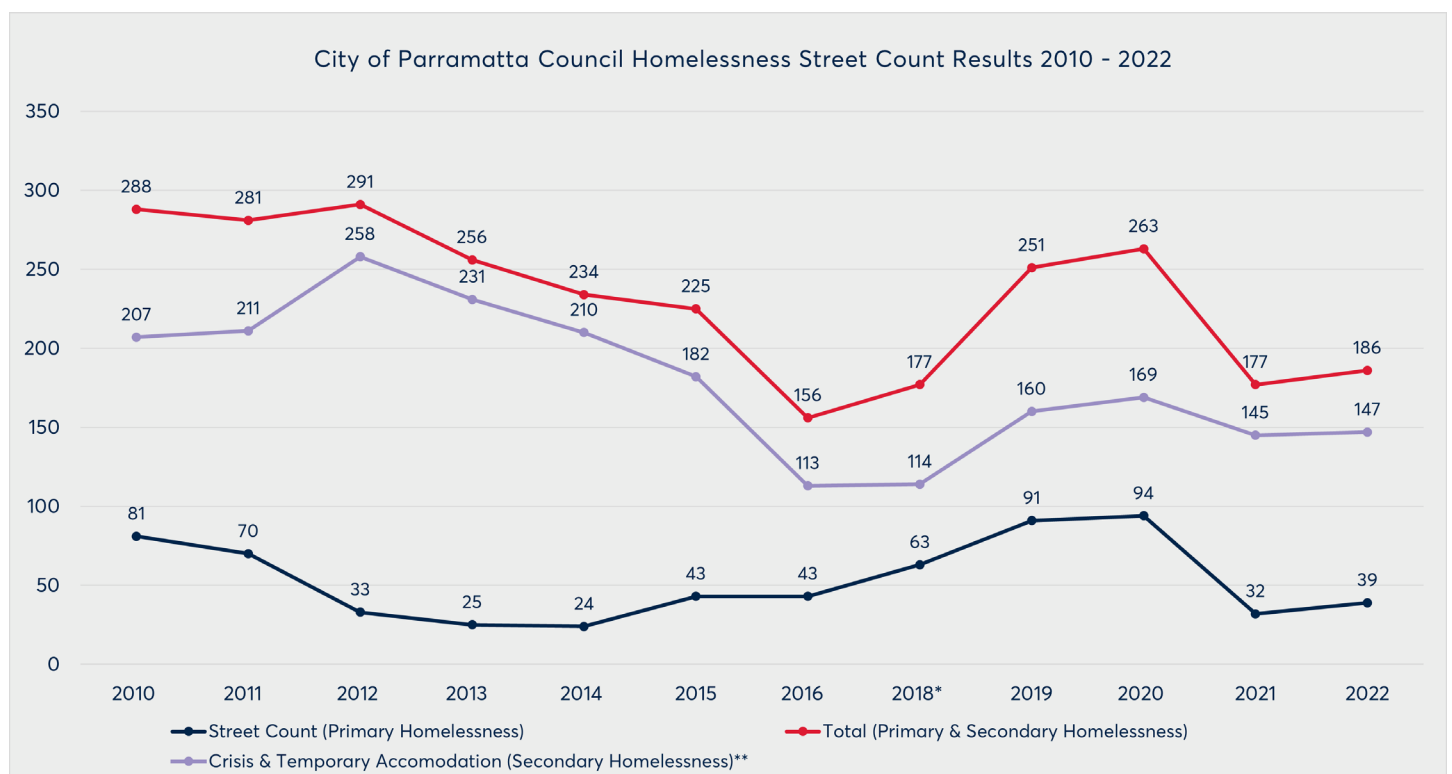
Overview

City of Parramatta Council conducted the 12th annual Homelessness Street Count on the night of Monday 21st February into the early hours of Tuesday 22nd February 2022. Three Council employees, three local homelessness experts and two Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) employees, who engaged as volunteers to assist with the count on the night, covered the count area by both car and foot.

The Street Count identified 39 people experiencing primary homelessness (people sleeping rough) throughout the Parramatta CBD and the CBD fringes, compared to 32 in 2021. On the same night, the secondary count (people sleeping in crisis and temporary accommodation) totalled 147 people, compared to 145 in 2022. The number of people sleeping rough has significantly decreased over the past two years and 2022 recorded a similar finding to 2021.

The total count of persons experiencing homelessness in City of Parramatta in 2022 was 186 people.

The Western Sydney Nepean Blue Mountains District (WSNBM) street count conducted by DCJ recorded an additional 11 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 51 people sleeping rough.



*Council amalgamations occurred in May 2016 and as a 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 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 do not include transitional housing and may not be exact.



Observations

Whilst the 2022 results found a slight increase of eight (8), compared to 2021, both the 2022 and 2021 results show a significant decrease from 2020 and 2019. This significant decrease could be attributed to a variety of factors, including:

Improved effectiveness of local response to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness through:

- Continuation 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, state government departments, and local council.

Contextual and social factors such as:

- Largescale construction within the Parramatta CBD causing people sleeping rough to move elsewhere.
 - Fear of COVID-19 causing 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 reported by homelessness service employees than in previous years.
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