



Frequently Asked Questions About **HOMELSSNESS**

How many people are homeless in Dana Point?

As of October, 2017, the count is at 45 active clients. However, this is only a count of those who have been assessed for housing. The number on our streets can change daily, depending on the migration pattern of the people on any given day. Of the homeless population in Dana Point, 67% are male, 31% are female, and 2% families. The median age is 54 with the average length on the streets is 5 years.

What is the definition of homelessness?

A homeless individual is defined in section 330(h)(5)(A) as “an individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether the individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility (e.g., shelters) that provides temporary living accommodations, and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing.” A homeless person is an individual without permanent housing who may live on the streets; stay in a shelter, mission, single room occupancy facilities, abandoned building or vehicle; or in any other unstable or non-permanent situation.[Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C., 254b)]

What do I do if I see a homeless encampment?

The City is encouraging residents and businesses to report litter, debris, or abandoned property around town. Public Works crews are in the community daily looking for issues. To make a report, please email publicworks@danapoint.org or call (949) 248-3554. Please report any suspicious activity to the Orange County Sheriff's Department by calling Sheriff Dispatch at (949) 770-6011.

Where can I call for assistance for a homeless individual or family in Dana Point?

Please refer to the Community Resources brochure or send an email to outreach@danapoint.org.

Are all the people experiencing homelessness dangerous?

No, not all are dangerous. If it feels as though your safety is in jeopardy, please call the police non-emergency dispatch at (949) 770-6011. If it feels as though you are experiencing a life threatening emergency, please call 9-1-1.

Who experiences homelessness?

Anyone can become homeless given their circumstances. It can occur from loss of a job or home, family situation, or financial challenges. Some people choose to be homeless. People become homeless when individual or family problems become uncontrollable; it is not just one “type” of person, or one factor that is the cause.

Where are the people experiencing homelessness allowed to be during the day?

The homeless population are public citizens and are allowed to occupy public spaces, including parks and beaches. However, on private property, if there are no trespassing signs posted, police services can be called. If illegal activity is occurring in public spaces or trespassing on property, please call the police non-emergency number (949) 770-6011.

Are people living in their vehicles allowed to park their RVs on City streets?

In section 12.05.050 of the Dana Point Municipal Code, it states that RVs are not allowed to be parked on the street unless it is adjacent to the home of the owner on the registration of the vehicle. If you see an RV parked on the street that is not associated with the adjacent property, please contact [\(949\) 770-6011](tel:9497706011).

What is the City doing to assist in moving people off the streets and reduce homelessness?

The City partners with non-profit organizations working to address homelessness. The City has contracts with these non-profit outreach services on a full-time basis for overnight support. A new reconnection program is in place to reconnect recent arrivals and those individuals and families back to their support systems outside of Dana Point. A registered nurse from the County of Orange Health Care Agency, Comprehensive Health Assessment Team provides health services and outreach support weekly. Other County of Orange agencies, such as Behavioral Health, are also working locally in coordination with outreach.

In 2017, the City contracted with a community outreach worker, in partnership with local non-profit organizations, 16 Dana Point homeless residents have been placed into permanent housing. Dana Point's outreach worker interacts directly with the homeless population to provide linkages to services. Services include housing, medical and mental healthcare, transportation, job placement assistance, and substance abuse resources. The City of Dana Point is facilitating a network amongst our faith based community and non-profits to centralize resources and service provisions to more efficiently and effectively move our homeless residents off the street and into housing with supportive services, as needed.

The City of Dana Point Homeless Task Force is also working to address the issue. The Task Force consists of members from the business community, Orange County Health Care Agency, non-profit agencies, Sheriff's Department, State Parks, South Coast Water District as well as the Dana Point Planning Commission, and City Council. The Task Force meets once a month to bring the City, non-profits, businesses, and faith-based communities together to discuss the implementation of resources and services to address the homelessness issues in Dana Point. More information about the Task Force can be found at danapoint.org.

What is law enforcement doing to address this problem?

Law enforcement is working in tandem with outreach to address threatening or criminal behavior and identify strategies to address chronic offenders who are resistant to help.

Recent changes in State law have impacted local communities:

AB 109: Transferred responsibility for housing and supervision of some sentenced felons to counties.

Prop 47: Reduced sentences for drug possession and thefts under \$950.

Prop 57: Early release of state prison inmates and tougher rules to get juveniles charged as adults.

