LA County Homelessness Challenge - Data Dictionary

Overview

This data dictionary provides documentation for the tables used in the LA County Homelessness Challenge, combining Census socioeconomic indicators with Service Planning Area (SPA) homeless population characteristics.

Table Structure Summary

Note on ACS Estimates: This competition uses ACS 5-Year estimates rather than 1-Year estimates. While 1-Year estimates are more temporally precise, 5-Year estimates provide much larger sample sizes and significantly smaller margins of error for tract-level analysis. For correlation analysis across small geographies, the statistical reliability of 5-Year estimates outweighs the temporal precision of 1-Year estimates. Parties interested in pulling their own Census data will need to ensure that the proper filtering for LA County and 2020 is used.

Table	Source	Records	Primary Focus	Official Documentation
P1	Census 2020	Tract-level	Total Population Demographics	Census P1 Table
B18107	ACS 2020 5-Year	Tract-level	Disability Status by Age/Employment	ACS Table B18107
B23025	ACS 2020 5-Year	Tract-level	Employment Status	ACS Table B23025
B25014	ACS 2020 5-Year	Tract-level	Housing Occupancy	ACS Table B25014
B25070	ACS 2020 5-Year	Tract-level	Housing Cost Burden	ACS Table B25070
SPA 2020	Point-in-Time Count	SPA-level	Homeless Population Characteristics	LAHSA 2020 Homeless Count Results

Service Planning Areas (SPAs)

LA County's 8 administrative regions for service delivery and planning:

SPA	Name	Description
1	Antelope Valley	Northern LA County desert region
2	San Fernando Valley	Northwestern suburban region
3	San Gabriel Valley	Eastern suburban region
4	Metro Los Angeles	Central urban core
5	West Los Angeles County	Western coastal region
6	South Los Angeles County	Southern urban region
7	East Los Angeles County	Eastern urban region
8	South Bay	Southern coastal region

Detailed Geographic Coverage: LA County ZIP Codes by SPA

For detailed variable definitions and collection methodologies, refer to the official source documentation linked above.