



Los Angeles Times

OPINION

The Price of Homelessness

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Re "Antonovich objects to skid row Project 50," Aug. 4

It is easy to get distracted by side issues and forget the most important thing about permanent supportive housing and Project 50 — it has been the single most successful and cost-effective strategy to end chronic homelessness in the history of Los Angeles.

Project 50 picked the homeless people who had had the least success under all the conventional interventions. After two years, 84% are permanently housed and receiving services. And to top it off, Project 50 costs the county less than leaving people on the street.

Recent cost studies in L.A. show that when left on the street, people who are chronically homeless cost the county more than \$8,000 a month in emergency health, policing and other services. When placed in permanent supportive housing, the county saves more than \$5,700 a month a person.

The most expensive homelessness strategy is leaving people on the street. The most humane and cost-effective strategy is permanent supportive housing.

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