

LAPD and LA Times Need a Lesson in Basic Math

The Times should have done some basic math before reporting the LAPD's touting of a drop in deaths on Skid Row. The Department attributes this drop to a police crackdown that has trapped thousands of homeless and mentally ill people in the criminal justice system and pushed hundreds of others away from life-saving services.

But by the department's own estimates, Skid Row's street-dwelling population decreased from 1,391 in 2006 to 900 in 2008, while the number of deaths went from 81 to 60 in that same time . This means the rate of death relative to the street-dwelling population has actually *increased* since the massive policing began.

This is the LAPD's latest attempt to manufacture outcomes in support of a failed policing initiative that in two years has resulted in 24,000 citations and 19,000 arrests, and has devastated the lives of poor, homeless and severely disabled people downtown.