

Item #4
Impact of Homelessness in Skid Row

CASE STUDY: BABY X

A 47-year old man and a three-month old infant, Baby X, entered a mission in downtown Los Angeles. They were homeless and seeking shelter. The father had no formula, milk or clothing for Baby X. Baby X appeared clean and adequately cared for. The father claimed that the mother had recently left him and Baby X as a result of a disagreement. He claimed the mother had taken all of the basic necessities for Baby X as well as all their financial resources with her. The father was provided some supplies for the baby and transported to a motel out of the downtown area. He had a voucher to stay fourteen days at the motel.

Seven days later a representative from the mission attempted to contact the family but the family was not at the motel. Nineteen days after initial contact was made at the mission, the decomposing body of Baby X was found in the motel room. It was estimated that he had died two to three days before the date he was found.