

COALITION for the HOMELESS

Educate Advocate Coordinate



a compassionate voice for the homeless

The Homeless Census & Homeless Point-in-time Survey Summary report

Metro Louisville, 2009

Prepared by the Coalition for the Homeless

Each year, the Coalition for the Homeless prepares two annual "counts". The first count is referred to as the "Homeless Census" and the second is the "Point in Time Survey". The *Homeless Census* is an unduplicated count of homeless individuals who received services in emergency shelters, transitional housing and on the streets of Louisville from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. The *Point in Time Survey* was conducted on February 19, 2009 and provides a snapshot of valuable information about the number of homeless men, women and children in Louisville on a given night. Both reports reveal information about the characteristics of this vulnerable population.

Results from both the Census and the Point in Time Survey shed light on the continued issues of homelessness in the Louisville Metropolitan Area.

The Homeless Census

From January 1 to December 31, 2008, a total of 8,936 unduplicated men, women and children accessed homeless services. This Census figure excludes an additional 2,254 people who were served but who did not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of "homeless".¹ The 2,254 individuals who were excluded from the count were individuals who accessed homeless services but were residing in treatment centers, permanent supportive housing units, or institutions. Last year's Census included this population. At first glance, when you compare last year's Census figure of 11,257 to this year's total, it appears as though there has been a drastic decline in the number of homeless people served. However, that is not the case. By combining the 2,254 individuals who were served but excluded from this year's Census with the total number of homeless reported in the Census, the resulting 11,191 individuals served in both groups is nearly identical to last year's Census total of 11,257. It varies by only 66 persons.

¹ The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines the homeless as: 1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regularly and adequate nighttime resident; and 2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a shelter, institution or a place that is not designated for sleeping.

The Census results reveal the number of homeless families with children increased from 23% to 25% in a one year period. The number of veterans served increased by 1%, and the chronically homeless represented 25% of the homeless population.²

² The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines the “chronically homeless” as an “unaccompanied disabled individual who has been continuously homeless for over one year.”

HOMELESS CENSUS RESULTS

Category	People in shelters	People who received homeless services	Total
Single adults (men and women)	3,613	2,650	6,263
Adults and children in families	1,705	487	2,192
Unaccompanied children	481	0	481
Total	5,799	3,137	8,936*

Point in Time Survey

The Point in Time survey, conducted on February 19, 2009, counted 1,515 people living in shelters, transitional housing programs or individuals who were unsheltered. The process allowed for Coalition staff and volunteers to conduct a survey in an effort to identify specific characteristics, such as income, employment status, educational background, contributing factors that led to their homelessness, family composition, and complicating health and mental health issues. The survey was completed by 1,015 individuals. This summary points to some, but not all of the results.

In the Point and Time Survey:

- 31% indicated that they became homeless because of their inability to pay their rent or mortgage.
- More than 1 out of 4 adults (26%) report they are employed.
- More than half (56%) have completed high school, some college or earned a college degree.
- Veterans represented 21% of the homeless counted on that night.
- 26% of the surveyed individuals reported that they were victims of domestic violence.
- Nearly 32% of the homeless who were surveyed reported a history of chronic substance abuse.

POINT IN TIME SURVEY RESULTS

The first table shows Point in Time data reported to HUD. It indicates the number of people experiencing homelessness in Louisville on February 19, 2009. The count includes clients in emergency shelters, in transitional shelters and on the streets.

Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
1. Number of Households with Dependent Children:	37	95	2	134
1a. Total Number of Persons in these Households (adults and children)	109	253	6	368
2. Number of Households without Dependent Children**	740	259	148	1,147
2a. Total Number of Persons in these Households	740	259	148	1,147
Total Persons (Add Lines 1a and 2a):	849	512	154	1,515
Homeless subpopulation	Sheltered		Unsheltered	total
a. Chronically Homeless	174		73	247
b. Severely Mentally Ill	526		36	562
c. Chronic Substance Abuse	445		36	481
d. Veterans	275		43	318
e. Persons with HIV/AIDS	37		7	44
f. Victims of Domestic Violence	326		29	399
g. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18)	17		0	17

2009 Point in Time –survey detail

During the PIT count, we collect additional data through client surveys. The survey results collected in February are tabulated below.

WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE BECOMING HOMELESS? (100% = 1015)	February 2009
Stayed with friends or family	34%
Rented an apartment	38%
Owned their house	7%
In jail	6%
In a hospital or treatment	3%
Other	12%

TOP ZIP CODES BEFORE BECOMING HOMELESS (100%= 70 ZIP codes)	Feb 2009
40203	9%
40211	7%
40202	5%
40212	3%
40210	4%
40218	5%

WHY DID YOU BECOME HOMELESS? (100% = 970)	Feb 2009
Substance abuse	16%
Family arguments and/or divorce	19%
Inability to pay their rent or mortgage	31%
Evicted	10%
Domestic violence	11%
Mental illness	6%
Criminal activity	5%
Other	2%

EDUCATION (100% = 1033)	Feb 2009
Grades 0 - 8	6%
Grades 9-12 but no graduation	38%
Graduated from high school	25%
Some college but did not graduate	24%
College diploma	7%

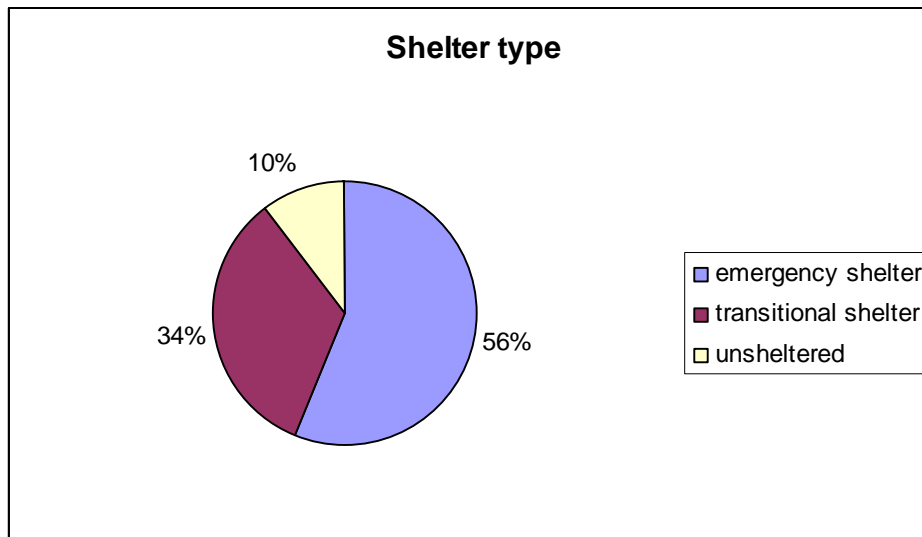
MONTHLY INCOME (100% = 1022)	Feb 2009
No income	49%
\$1 – 250 per month	7%
\$ 251 – 500 per month	11%
\$501 – 1,000 per month	26%
\$ 1,001 – 1,500 per month	5%
above \$1,501 per month	2%

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT (100% = 1003)	Feb 2009
Not working	74%
Full time work	10%
Part time work	11%
Temp agency work	3%
Day labor	2%

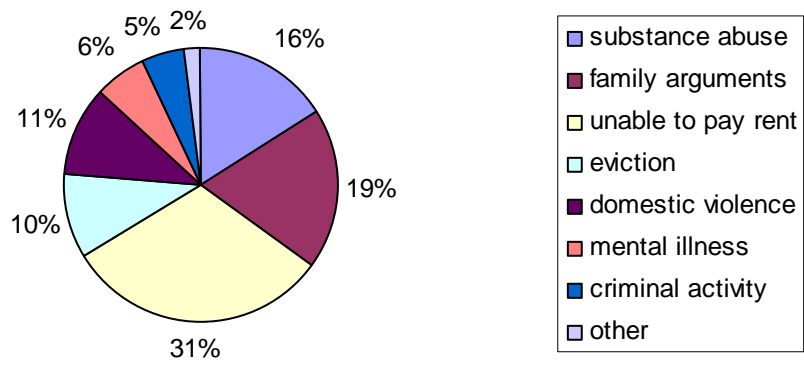
HOURLY WAGE IF WORKING (100% = 547)	Feb 2009
0 - \$6.54 per hour (minimum wage)	47%
\$6.55 – 10.99 per hour	44%
\$11.00 - \$14.99 per hour	7%
\$15.00 or more per hour	2%

SOURCE OF INCOME (100% = 1038, multiple answers)	Feb 2009
Food stamps	38%
Employment	16%
SSI/ SSDI	22%
Veteran benefits	5%
Medicare	6%
Medicaid	10%
TANF/ K-TAP	5%
Social Security checks	6%
Asking for money on the street	2%

HOMELESS SERVICES RECEIVED (100% = 1038, multiple answers)	Feb 2009
Case management	62%
Alcohol and drug treatment	23%
Food	43%
Housing placement assistance	30%
Medical/ dental care	26%
Job training/placement help	9%
Mental health counseling	20%
Transportation	18%
Job training/ job placement	104 (10%)
Childcare	4%
GED/English classes	4%
Assistance from Legal Aid	4%



Reason for being homeless



Education level

