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of Eastern Oklahoma

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CIC of Eastern Oklahoma

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HOMELESSNESS

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Homelessness



Why is this indicator important?

Analyzing the profile of homeless individuals and families, including reasons contributing to their homelessness, assists programs in identifying support system to alleviate these issues. Ending homelessness has a positive impact not only on the formerly homeless individuals, but also on local communities, as individuals move toward independent lifestyles, overcome their other struggles, and become productive members of society.

Data about local homeless populations are collected at least every two years through "point-in-time" (PIT) counts by local communities that request federal homeless support funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). On the night of the count, such a census records the number of homeless individuals and collects demographic data about homeless persons sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other sites (such as motels by using a homeless voucher), as well as the number of non-sheltered people. While doing a count on one night has the benefit of gathering data in a short amount of time, there are serious concerns about relying on such a procedure for information collected in order to help the homeless. A count made on a single night may underestimate the actual number of homeless persons. (Dallano, 2007)

What are the key findings?

On January 25, 2007, a one-night point-in-time count revealed there were 890 homeless persons in Tulsa. This total included 772 adults and 118 children under the age of 18. This count included people meeting HUD's general definition of homelessness that were staying in shelters, transitional living homes, safe havens, and other institutions.

One night homeless consumer survey

Tulsa's annual point-in-time one-night consumer survey is sponsored by Tulsa's Homeless Services Network. Comparison data reported here was collected from the annual 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 one-night surveys. Participating agencies in the surveys included: 12 & 12, Bryce House, DaySpring Villa, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Family & Children Services Homeless Outreach Team, Glory House, John 3:16 Mission, Mental Health Association in Tulsa, Salvation Army, Tulsa County Emergency Shelter, Tulsa County Jail, Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, Volunteers of America, and Youth Services of Tulsa.

Survey Participants

| Survey Date | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of Clients Surveyed | 750 | 690 | 731 | 648 |
| Declined to Participate | 22 | 20 | 8 | 17 |
| Point-In-Time Count, Adults | 772 | 710 | 739 | 665 |

| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Number of Homeless Individuals | 682 | 637 | 679 |
| Unaccompanied Males | 506 | | |
| Unaccompanied Females | 157 | | |
| Couples | 5 | | |
| Other Unaccompanied | 9 | | |
| Number of Adults in Families with Children | 68 | 53 | 47 |
| Single Parent - Male with children | 18 | | |
| Single Parent - Female with children | 30 | | |
| Two-Parent Family with children | 10 | | |
| Number of Persons in Families with Children | 186 | 149 | 139 |

Length of Homelessness (This Time)

How long have you been homeless this time?

| | 2007 | | 2006 | | 2005 | |
|-------------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Less than 30 days | 52 | 6.9% | 34 | 4.8% | 45 | 6.2% |
| 1-6 months | 308 | 41.1% | 266 | 37.5% | 257 | 35.2% |
| 7-11 months | 46 | 6.1% | 57 | 8.0% | 54 | 7.4% |
| 1-2 years | 157 | 21.0% | 133 | 18.7% | 185 | 25.3% |
| 3-5 years | 78 | 10.4% | 51 | 7.2% | 54 | 7.4% |
| 5 years+ | 46 | 6.1% | 44 | 6.2% | 43 | 5.9% |
| No Response | 63 | 8.4% | 105 | 14.8% | 93 | 12.7% |

Total Number of Clients Surveyed by Facility Type

| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Emergency Shelter | 372 | 334 | 407 | 352 |
| Transitional Housing | 130 | 87 | 111 | 103 |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 117 | 147 | 89 | 88 |
| Unsheltered | 64 | 46 | 52 | 45 |
| Detox/Short Term Treatment | 4 | 16 | 24 | N/A |
| Institutional | 63 | 69 | 56 | 54 |

Gender – What is your gender?

| | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|------------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Male | 539 | 71.9% | 488 | 68.7% |
| Female | 202 | 26.9% | 202 | 28.5% |
| No survey answer | 9 | 1.2% | | |

Race – What do you consider your race to be?

| | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|------------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| African American | 196 | 26.1% | 180 | 25.4% |
| Asian | 4 | 0.5% | 2 | 0.3% |
| Native American | 88 | 11.7% | 70 | 9.9% |
| Caucasian | 359 | 47.9% | 398 | 56.1% |
| Other | 29 | 3.9% | N/A | |
| No Response | 74 | 9.9% | 40 | 5.6% |

Ethnicity – Is your ethnic group Hispanic/Latino?

| 2007 | | 2006 | | 2005 | | 2004 | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 29 | 3.9% | 26 | 3.7% | 34 | 4.7% | 26 | 4.0% |

Veteran Status – Are you a veteran?

| 2007 | | 2006 | | 2005 | | 2004 | |
|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| 149 | 19.9% | 116 | 16.3% | 123 | 16.8% | 113 | 17.4% |

Age – How old are you?

| | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|-------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Under 18 | 17 | 2.3% | | |
| 18-20 | 14 | 1.9% | 20 | 2.8% |
| 21-30 | 93 | 12.4% | 83 | 11.7% |
| 31-40 | 158 | 21.1% | 158 | 22.3% |
| 41-50 | 249 | 33.2% | 239 | 33.7% |
| 51-65 | 190 | 25.3% | 163 | 23.0% |
| 65+ | 7 | 0.9% | 10 | 1.4% |
| No Response | 22 | 2.9% | 17 | 2.4% |

Marital Status – What is your marital status?

| | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|-----------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Never Married | 254 | 33.9% | 242 | 34.1% |
| Married | 58 | 7.7% | 44 | 6.2% |
| Living Together | 6 | 0.8% | 14 | 2.0% |
| Separated | 55 | 7.3% | 58 | 8.2% |
| Divorced | 247 | 32.9% | 219 | 30.8% |
| Widowed | 24 | 3.2% | 25 | 3.5% |
| No Response | 106 | 14.1% | 88 | 12.4% |

Children Under the Age of 18 Residing in a Shelter/Living Facility

How many children under the age of 18 are with you tonight?

| 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|------|------|------|------|
| 118 | 96 | 87 | 87 |

Female Clients Currently Pregnant

Are you currently pregnant?

| 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|------|------|------|------|
| 8 | 4.0% | 5 | 2.4% |
| 11 | 4.8% | 5 | 2.5% |

Residency Prior to Homelessness

When you became homeless were you a resident of...

| | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Tulsa County | 495 | 66.0% | 444 | 62.5% |
| Oklahoma – Outside of Tulsa County | 90 | 12.0% | 86 | 12.1% |
| Outside of Oklahoma | 87 | 11.6% | 77 | 10.8% |
| No Response | 78 | 10.4% | 83 | 11.7% |

**All data on this page
from the January 2007 Survey**

2007 Conditions Contributing to Homelessness

Clients could select multiple answers. Which of the following conditions contributed to you being here tonight?

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| Lost Job | 231 | 30.8% |
| Lost Government Benefits | 25 | 3.3% |
| Relocated | 178 | 23.7% |
| Problem with Landlord/Evicted | 133 | 17.7% |
| Asked to Leave by Family/Friends | 117 | 15.6% |
| Divorce | 64 | 8.5% |
| Domestic Violence – Adult Victim | 48 | 6.4% |
| Domestic Violence – Dependent Child Victim | 16 | 2.1% |
| Mental Health Difficulties | 176 | 23.5% |
| Physical Illness/Injury | 110 | 14.7% |
| Substance Abuse | 145 | 19.3% |
| Jail/Prison Sentence | 59 | 7.9% |
| Transient Lifestyle | 72 | 9.6% |
| Other | 101 | 13.5% |
| No Response | 80 | 10.7% |

**Number of Times Homeless
in the Last Three Years (2004-2006)**

Including this time, how many other times in the last three years have you been homeless or living in a shelter/transitional residence?

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | 405 | 54.0% |
| 2 | 150 | 20.0% |
| 3 | 71 | 9.5% |
| 4 | 17 | 2.3% |
| 5 | 40 | 5.3% |
| 5+ | 3 | 0.4% |
| No Response | 64 | 8.5% |

Types of Public Assistance Received

Which of the following types of public assistance do you or any member of your family receive? (Clients could select multiple answers.)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------|
| TANF | 12 | 1.6% |
| Food Stamps | 267 | 35.6% |
| WIC | 16 | 2.1% |
| Day Care Assistance Payment | 16 | 2.1% |
| SSI | 106 | 14.1% |
| Medicare | 78 | 10.4% |
| Medicaid | 106 | 14.1% |
| Social Security | 38 | 5.1% |
| Social Security Disability | 71 | 9.5% |
| Disability Benefits from State | 47 | 6.3% |
| Pension | 3 | 0.4% |
| Veteran's Benefits | 44 | 5.9% |
| No Assistance Received | 246 | 32.8% |
| Other | 29 | 3.9% |
| No Response | 96 | 12.8% |

Previously in Foster Care System

Have you previously been in the foster care system?

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-------|
| Yes | 80 | 10.7% |
| No | 587 | 78.3% |
| No Response | 83 | 11.0% |

Currently Employed

Are you currently employed?

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-------|
| Yes | 175 | 23.3% |
| No | 498 | 66.4% |
| No Response | 77 | 10.3% |

If Yes, Type of Employment

If Yes, is your job ...

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|-------|
| Full Time ³ | 83 | 47.5% |
| Part Time | 48 | 27.4% |
| Temporary/Seasonal/Day Labor | 30 | 17.1% |
| No Response | 14 | 8.0% |

Types of Services Used

What services do you or your dependants currently need or need more of? (Clients could select multiple answers.)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Child Day Care/After School Care | 22 | 2.9% |
| Dental Services | 353 | 47.1% |
| Food Services | 237 | 31.6% |
| Health Care | 324 | 43.2% |
| Housing Placement | 435 | 58.0% |
| Job Training | 211 | 28.1% |
| Legal Services | 140 | 18.7% |
| Life Skills Training | 137 | 18.3% |
| Mental Health Treatment for Adults | 185 | 24.7% |
| Mental Health Treatment for Children | 32 | 4.3% |
| Optical Services | 250 | 33.3% |
| Payee Services | 54 | 7.2% |
| Shelter Case Management | 179 | 23.9% |
| Substance Abuse Treatment | 73 | 9.7% |
| Transportation | 359 | 47.9% |
| Other | 56 | 7.5% |
| No Response | 100 | 13.3% |

Top 3 Services Needed

In the previous question you selected the types of services you or your dependents currently need or need more of. Please select the top 3 services that you feel most important to meeting your needs.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Housing Placement | 360 | 48.0% |
| Transportation | 225 | 30.0% |
| Dental Services | 213 | 28.4% |
| Health Care | 213 | 28.4% |
| Job Training | 124 | 16.5% |
| Food Services | 120 | 16.0% |
| Optical Services | 116 | 15.5% |
| Mental Health Treatment for Adults | 93 | 12.4% |
| Shelter Case Management | 52 | 6.9% |
| Legal Services | 47 | 6.3% |
| Life Skills Training | 39 | 5.2% |
| Substance Abuse Treatment | 31 | 4.1% |
| Other | 30 | 4.0% |
| Child Day Care/After School Care | 16 | 2.1% |
| Payee Services | 11 | 1.5% |
| Mental Health Treatment for Children | 11 | 1.5% |
| No Response | 114 | 15.2% |

Footnotes:

i Conducting Homeless Point-In-Time Surveys: A 10-Step Process, Tracy Dallano. http://www.hrsa.gov/homeless/pa_materials/nlm/co_dalanno_presentation.ppt

ii 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 Homeless Services Network point-in-time Surveys (PIT), compiled by the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa.

iii Percentages based upon clients currently employed

Census questions? 1-866-758-1060

What are the implications?

Homelessness in Tulsa, Oklahoma is a chronic condition sustained by limited access to permanent housing, mental health care and substance abuse treatment specifically designed to meet the needs of chronic homeless adults. Economic trends, particularly a lack of jobs with fair wages and benefits, also create homelessness for families when a health or personal crisis overwhelms family resources. Many homeless adults bring forward poor childhood experiences including low school performance, malnourishment and physical or emotional trauma. These conditions limit the self-esteem and confidence required for homeless individuals to independently sustain self-sufficiency often giving way to chronic alcoholism, drug dependency and poor outcomes in the work place. The implications for the community to reduce chronic homelessness include:

- Increasing the number of permanent housing units available to homeless men and women who require specialized housing supported by on-site or readily available meals, health care, mental health care and substance abuse treatment
- Assuring access to all public benefits such as social security income, food stamps, Medicaid and more
- Sustaining a continuum of care strategy that maximizes the community's ability to assist homeless persons to transition to permanent housing

References:

Tulsa County point in time survey 2007. (January 2007). Prepared for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Burt, M., Hedderson, J., Zweig, J., Ortiz, M, Aron-Turnham, L., & Johnson, S. (2004). Strategies for reducing chronic street homelessness, Final report. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute and Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc.

Dallano, T. Conducting homeless point in time survey: A ten step process. Retrieved November 2007 from http://www.hrsa.gov/homeless/pa_materials/nlm/co_dalanno_presentation.ppt.