

CIC

CENSUS
INFORMATION
CENTER

of Eastern Oklahoma

The U.S. Census Bureau created CICs to help make census information available to the public as a tool for better planning and action.

In 2006 the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa became one of nearly fifty community, regional, and national organizations to sponsor a CIC.

Information is provided through publications, presentations, trainings, and the CIC website.

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Member Agency
United Way
Tulsa Area United Way

CIC Report 20
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Homelessness 2008

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Homelessness 2008



What is this indicator?

Each January the agencies of the Tulsa City-County Continuum of Care and Homeless Services Network in cooperation with the cities of Tulsa and Broken Arrow conduct a one night survey of homelessness. This count records the number of homeless individuals and collects demographic data about homeless persons sleeping in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other sites as well as the number of non-sheltered people. This survey was conducted on January 31, 2008 and revealed the following information.

What are the key findings?

Continuum of Care agencies nationwide reported 423,377 homeless individuals in their January 2007 one-night surveys. The Tulsa Homeless Services Network and Continuum of Care reported 933 homeless in Tulsa County in its 2008 one-night survey which is up 21% from the 772 in 2007. Further, Tulsa's Annual Homelessness Assessment Report estimated that 5,685 people had used emergency

or transitional shelter during a one year period ending September 30, 2007.

What are the implications?

Homelessness in Tulsa, Oklahoma is a chronic condition sustained primarily by limited access to permanent housing, mental health care and substance abuse treatment specifically designed to meet the needs of chronically 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.

Homeless Consumer Survey

Questionnaires Completed	725
DL Moss Report	66
Head of Household Subtotal	791
Spouse on Questionnaires	39
Number of Clients Surveyed	830
Declined to Participate	12
Children on Questionnaires	91
Point-In-Time Count	933

Number of Homeless Individuals

Unaccompanied Males	532	73%
Unaccompanied Females	182	25%
Unaccompanied – Gender not given	0	0
Refused Survey	12	2%
Family Living Arrangements		
Couples	27	35%
Single Parent – Male, with children	6	8%
Single Parent – Female, with children	32	42%
Two-Parent Family with children	12	16%
Number of adults in families with children	62	
Number of persons in families with children	153	

Total Number of Clients Surveyed by Facility Type

Emergency Shelter	445	Institutional	71
Transitional Housing	139	Unsheltered	33
Permanent Supportive Housing	136	Detox/Short Term Treatment	6

Gender

Male	577	69.50%
Female	253	30.50%
No Answer	0	0.00%

Race

African American	216	26.00%
Asian	15	1.80%
Native American	90	10.80%
Caucasian	443	53.40%
Other	34	4.10%
No Response	32	3.90%

Age

Under 18 Surveyed	21	2.50%
18-20	33	4.00%
21-30	112	13.50%
31-40	152	18.30%
41-50	270	32.50%
51-65	203	24.50%
65+	11	1.30%
No Response	28	3.40%

Veteran Status

Clients with Veteran Status	145	17.50%
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Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino	34	4.10%
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Children¹

Children Residing in Shelter/Living Facility	91	
Age 0-3	35	38.50%
Age 4-6	11	12.10%
Age 7-9	18	19.80%
Age 10-12	9	9.90%
Age 13-15	8	8.80%
Age 16-17	10	11.00%

Marital Status

Never Married	306	36.90%
Married	66	8.00%
Living Together	24	2.90%
Separated	64	7.70%
Divorced	256	30.80%
Widowed	27	3.30%
No Response	87	10.50%

Children²

Children Residing in Shelter/Living Facility	91	
Emergency Shelter	58	63.70%
Permanent Housing	19	20.90%
Transitional Housing	12	13.20%
Unsheltered	2	2.20%

¹Percentages based upon total number of children residing in shelter/living facility.

²Percentages based upon total number of children residing in shelter/living facility.

Pregnant Clients

Female Clients Currently Pregnant (%females)	21	8.30%
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Conditions Contributing to Homelessness

Lost Job	289	34.80%
Mental Health Difficulties	241	29.00%
Relocated	212	25.50%
Problem with Landlord/Evicted	194	23.40%
Substance Abuse	183	22.00%
Asked to Leave by Family/Friends	172	20.70%
Physical Illness/Injury	155	18.70%
Jail/Prison Sentence	131	15.80%
Domestic Violence –		
<i>Adult Victim</i>	113	13.60%
Divorce	100	12.00%
Transient Lifestyle	89	10.70%
Other[i]	78	9.40%
Lost Government Benefits	50	6.00%
Domestic Violence - <i>Dependant Child Victim</i>	22	2.70%

Residency Prior to Homelessness

Tulsa County	452	54.50%
Outside of Tulsa County in Oklahoma	136	16.40%
Outside of Oklahoma	134	16.10%
No Response	108	13.00%

Type of Employment³

Full Time	94	51.10%
Part Time	47	25.50%
Temporary/Seasonal/Day Labor	39	21.20%
No Response	4	2.20%

Types of Public Assistance Received

TANF	6	0.70%
Food Stamps	236	28.40%
WIC	13	1.60%
Day Care Assist. Payment	12	1.40%
SSI	101	12.20%
Medicare	77	9.30%
Medicaid	128	15.40%
Social Security	32	3.90%
Social Security Disability	89	10.70%
Disability Benefits from State	48	5.80%
Pension	7	0.80%
Veteran's Benefits	48	5.80%
No Assistance Received	261	31.40%
Other	36	4.30%

Length of Homelessness (This Time)

Less than 30 days	126	15.20%
1-6 months	259	31.20%
7-11 months	71	8.60%
1-2 years	149	18.00%
3-5 years	56	6.70%
5 years+	48	5.80%
No Response	121	14.60%

Number of Time Homeless in the Last Three Years (Including This Time)

1	377	45.40%
2	163	19.60%
3	71	8.60%
4	36	4.30%
5	11	1.30%
5+	60	7.20%
No Response	112	13.50%

Currently Employed

Yes	184	22.20%
No	535	64.50%
No Response	111	13.40%

Previously in Foster Care System

Yes	95	11.40%
No	615	74.10%
No Response	120	14.50%

Age at Entrance to Foster Care System⁴

Age 0-3	14	14.70%
Age 4-6	12	12.60%
Age 7-9	14	14.70%
Age 10-12	14	14.70%
Age 13-15	21	22.10%
Age 16-18	5	5.30%
No Response	15	15.80%

Age at Exit to Foster Care System⁵

Age 0-3	3	3.20%
Age 4-6	6	6.30%
Age 7-9	7	7.40%
Age 10-12	9	9.50%
Age 13-15	12	12.60%
Age 16-18	41	43.20%
No Response	17	17.90%

³Percentages based upon clients currently employed.

⁴Percentages based upon clients previously in foster care system.

⁵Percentages based upon clients previously in foster care system.

Types of Services Needed

Child Day Care/After School Care	37	4.50%
Dental Services	403	48.60%
Food Services	269	32.40%
Health Care	366	44.10%
Housing Placement	446	53.70%
Job Training	260	31.30%
Legal Services	166	20.00%
Life Skills Training	181	21.80%
Mental Health Treatment for Adults	222	26.70%
Mental Health Treatment for Children	35	4.20%
Optical Services	356	42.90%
Payee Services	94	11.30%
Shelter Case Management	226	27.20%
Substance Abuse Treatment	150	18.10%
Transportation	427	51.40%
Other	51	6.10%

Top 3 Services Needed

Housing Placement	365	44.00%
Transportation	254	30.60%
Dental Services	240	28.90%
Health Care	206	24.80%
Optical Services	141	17.00%
Job Training	137	16.50%
Mental Health Treatment for Adults	117	14.10%
Food Services	104	12.50%
Substance Abuse Treatment	68	8.20%
Shelter Case Management	63	7.60%
Legal Services	60	7.20%
Life Skills Training	48	5.80%
Other	29	3.50%
Payee Services	27	3.30%
Child Day Care/After School Care	19	2.30%
Mental Health Treatment for Children	12	1.40%

ⁱConditions Contributing to Homelessness "Other" responses:

Car broke down
 Death in family
 DHS
 Family Problems (3)
 Financial
 Fire
 Foster Care
 Gambling Addict (2)
 Ice Storm
 Misdemeanor
 Money Problem (3)
 Child Support (2)
 Court Costs
 Car Wreck
 Legal Issues
 Transportation
 Widowed

ⁱⁱTypes of Services Needed "Other" responses:

Assistance with SSI
 Clothing
 Dating Service
 Education
 Hearing
 Help with old bills
 Financial assistance
 Parenting classes
 Find family
 Education
 Employment help

References

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

Census questions?

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