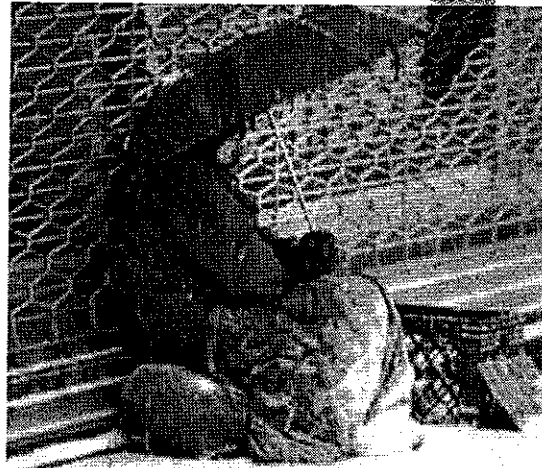


Executive Summary and Key Findings

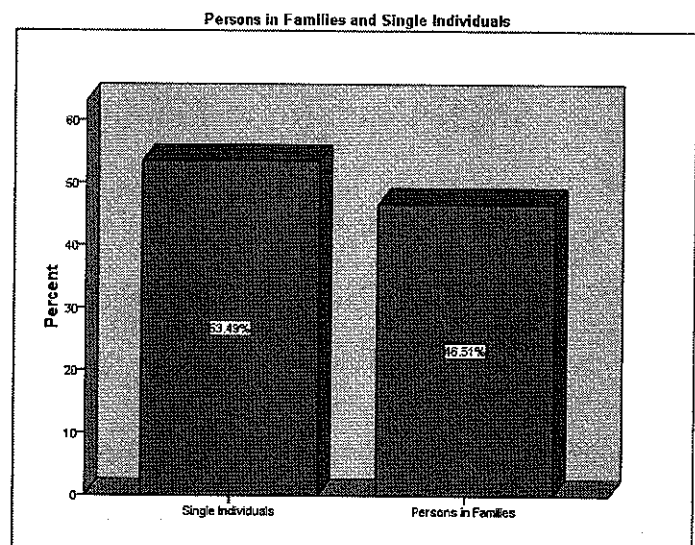
This study provides an illustration of the people experiencing homelessness in the seven-county Denver metropolitan area on a single day and evening on January 27, 2009. The findings reported are based on demographic and descriptive information entered into the Colorado Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).



A total of 11,061 persons in the seven-county Denver metropolitan area were counted as homeless on Tuesday, January 27, 2009.

Total Number of Persons Counted		
	# of Persons	Percent
Single Individuals	5916	53.5
Persons in Families - includes families with children and couples without children	5145	46.5
Total	11061	100.0

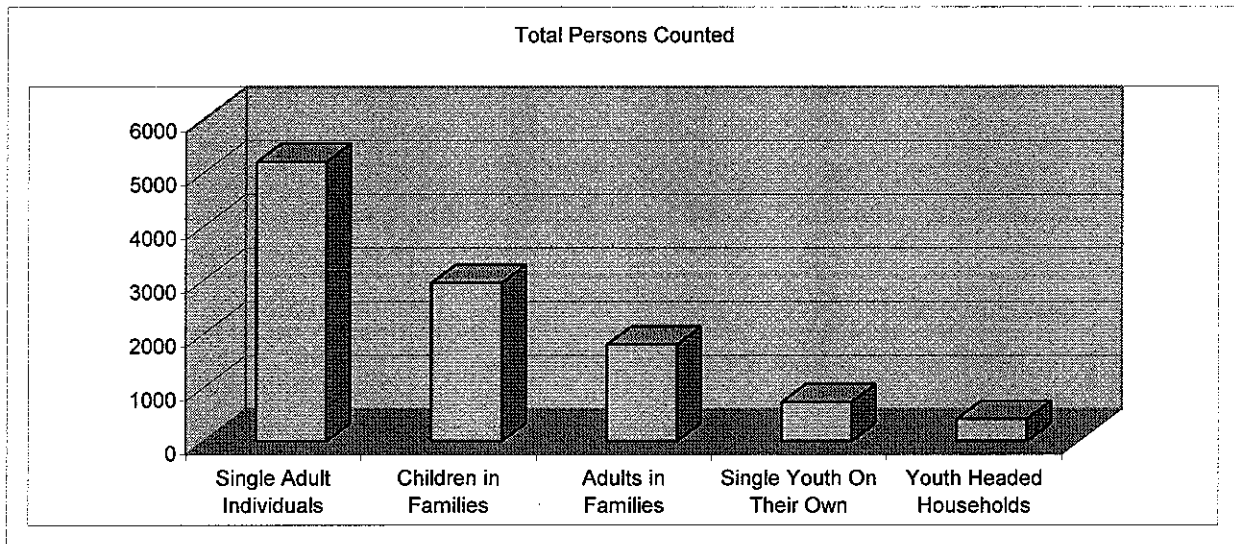
- ❖ Children and teens under the age of 18 totaled 2,965 persons and comprised (26.8%) of all persons counted.
- ❖ Results of the study suggest that the annual prevalence of homelessness in the Denver metropolitan area is close to 42,642.¹



¹ At the time of the January survey, 2,871 persons had been homeless one month or less. The estimate of annual prevalence assumes the number of new cases each month is constant over the year, yielding (12 x 2,871) or about 34,452 episodes over the year plus the sum of the point prevalence of 11,061 = 45,513 minus 2,871 for a total of 42,642.

Persons Counted by Population Type		
Population Types	Total Persons Counted	Percent
Single Adult Individuals (25 and older)	5193	46.95
Children in Families (Under 18)	2941	26.59
Adults in Families (Non Youth Headed Families) (18 and older)	1792	16.20
Single Youth On Their Own (13 to 24)	723	6.54
Youth Headed Families (16 – 24)	412	3.72
Total	11061	100.00

- ❖ Single adult individuals comprised almost 47% of persons counted.
- ❖ Adults in families comprised 16% of persons counted. This included parents, grandparents, adult children, and extended family members.



Single Youth Not in Families Totalled 6.5% of all Persons Counted

- ❖ A total of 723 homeless youth not in families were counted with just over 50% of youth on their own spending the evening in shelters or on the streets.
- ❖ A total of 412 youth headed households between the ages of 16 and 24 were counted.

First Time Homeless

First time homeless individuals are those people who answered "1 Time" in response to the question, "How many times have you been homeless (including this time)?" on the Point-in-Time survey form, indicating that this was the first episode of homelessness experienced by that person.

- ❖ In 2009, the number of persons reporting homelessness for the first time was 4,924 persons out of 11,061, or 44.5%.
- ❖ Of the 4,924 persons reporting homelessness for the first time, 2,797 (56.8%) had been homeless less than three months.
- ❖ The top two primary contributing factors to persons experiencing their first episode of homelessness was inability to pay rent or mortgage (37.5%) and the loss of a job (32.3%).

The total number of persons indicating that they were experiencing their first episode of homelessness was 4,924. Of those experiencing their first episode of homelessness, 3,789 indicated 7,299 contributing factors to their homeless situation. The "Percent" column in the table below identifies the percent of responses across the total number of contributing factors (7,299) identified by the 3,789 persons (N divided by 7,299). The "Percent of Cases" column in the table below identifies the percent of contributing factors by the total number of persons who responded to the question (N divided by 3,789).

Contributing Factors to Homeless Situation – First Time Homeless			
Contributing Factors	Responses		
	N	Percent	Percent of Cases
Unable to Pay Rent or Mortgage	1430	19.6%	37.7%
Lost Job	1231	16.9%	32.5%
Family Problems	838	11.5%	22.1%
Alcohol/Substance Abuse	594	8.1%	15.7%
Asked to Leave	454	6.2%	12.0%
Domestic Violence	424	5.8%	11.2%
Reason Illness	357	4.9%	9.4%
Mental Illness	292	4.0%	7.7%
Utilities	286	3.9%	7.5%
Moved to Work	231	3.2%	6.1%
Bad Credit	218	3.0%	5.8%
Discharge from Prison	180	2.5%	4.8%
Medical Expenses	178	2.4%	4.7%
Legal	177	2.4%	4.7%
Discharge from Jail	162	2.2%	4.3%
Problems with Public Benefits	145	2.0%	3.8%
Discharge from Foster Care	34	.5%	.9%
Sexual Orientation	15	.2%	.4%

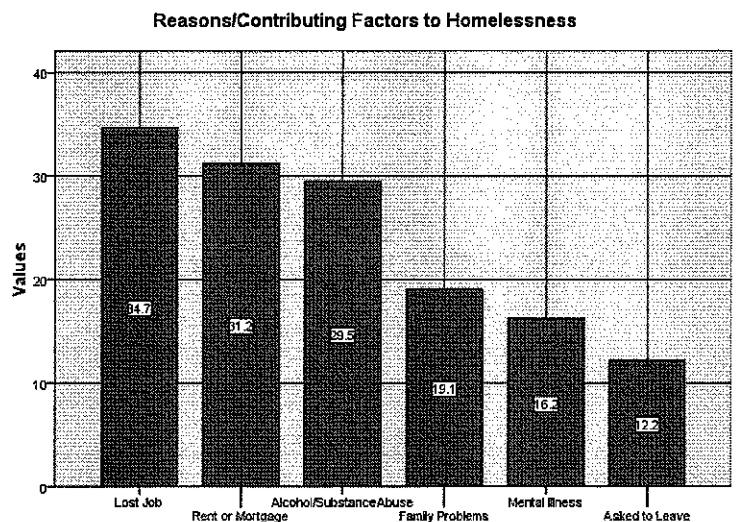
Unable to Obtain ID	15	.2%	.4%
Death in Family	16	.2%	.4%
Hurricane	11	.2%	.3%
Child Care Expenses	8	.1%	.2%
Bed Bugs	3	.0%	.1%
Total	7299	100.0%	192.6%

A newly homeless individual is defined as a person who became homeless on the day of the Point-In-Time survey.

- ❖ A total of 101 persons reported being newly homeless on the day of the count, having spent the previous night in their own home.
- ❖ Primary contributing factors to a newly homeless situation included the inability to pay rent or mortgage (31.7%) and the loss of a job (23%).

Factors Contributing to Homelessness

- ❖ Unemployment and housing costs are top contributing factors to homelessness.
- ❖ Losing a job (34.7%) was the most frequent contributing factor respondents reported to their homeless situation.
- ❖ Sixty families indicated that they became homeless as a result of foreclosure.
- ❖ Substance abuse (35.4%) and mental illness (19.2%) are significant contributing factors to a respondent's homeless situation for single individuals.



Persons Who Are Homeless Experience High Rates of Disability

❖ A significant number of head of families and single individuals respondents indicated that they had a disabling condition (41%).

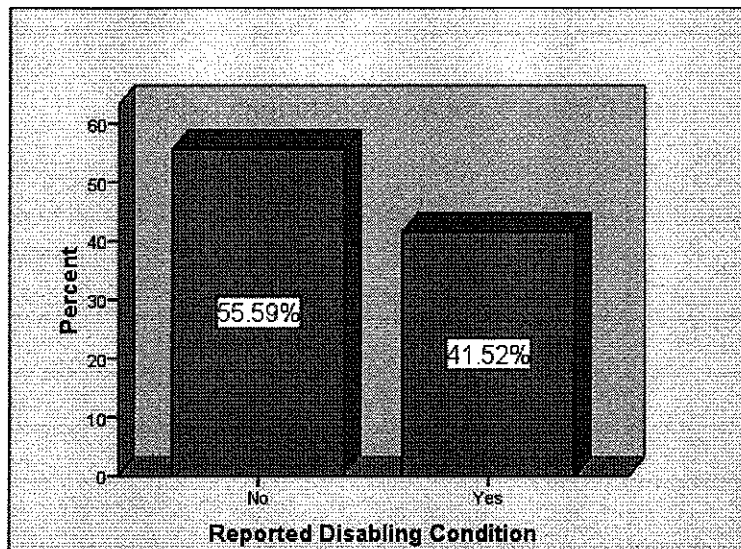
❖ Substance abuse at (32%) and mental illness at (28%) are the most frequently reported type of disability by single individuals and heads of families.

❖ Almost 19% of individuals and heads of families reported a physical disability.

❖ Over 14% of individuals and heads of families have co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

Reported Disabling Condition				
Do You Have a Disabling Condition	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	4161	55.0	55.6	55.6
Yes	3108	41.1	41.5	97.1
Don't Know	162	2.1	2.2	99.3
Refused	54	.7	.7	100.0
Total	7485	99.0	100.0	
Missing – No Response	74	1.0		
Total	7559	100.0		

Single Individuals and Heads of Households



Chronic Homelessness

In order to meet the federal definition of chronically homeless the following criteria must be met:

- The person must be an unaccompanied individual;
- The person must have a disabling condition;

- The person must have been either continuously homeless for a year or more OR has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.
- The person must be either living in an emergency shelter or sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation.

The total count of persons who were chronically homeless in the seven-county Denver metropolitan area on January 27, 2009 was 497. The chronic homeless population comprised 4.5% of the total homeless population and 8.4% of the single individual population.

Chronically Homeless				
Count of Persons Chronically Homeless Compared to All Persons Counted	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Chronically Homeless Individuals	497	4.5	100.0	100.0
All Other Persons Counted	10564	95.5		
Total	11061	100.0		
Chronically Homeless				
Count of Persons Chronically Homeless Compared to Single Individuals Only	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Chronically Homeless Individuals	497	8.4	100.0	100.0
Other Homeless Individuals – Not Chronic	5419	91.6		
Total	5916	100.0		

Males comprised almost 76% of the chronic homeless population in 2009.

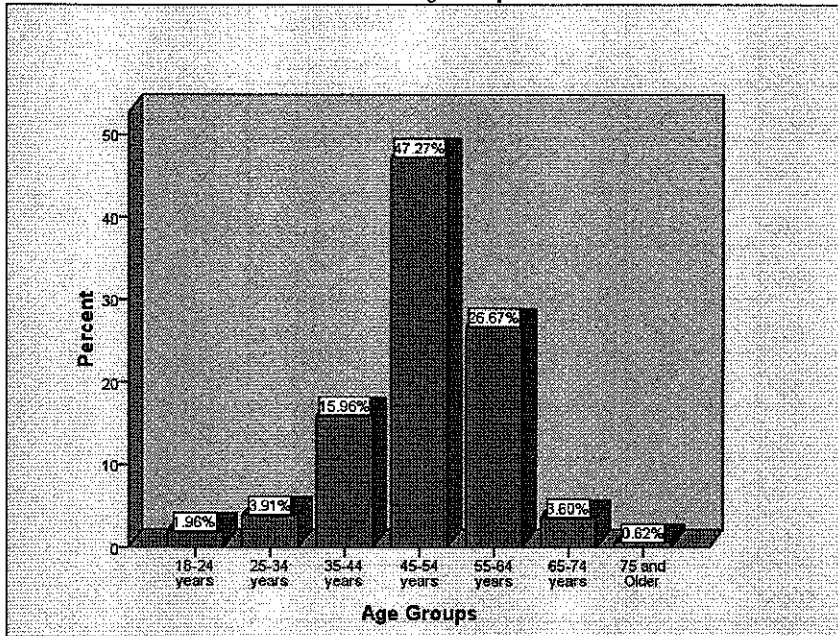
Gender – Chronically Homeless Persons				
Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	374	75.3	75.7	75.7
Female	120	24.1	24.3	100.0
Total	494	99.4	100.0	
Missing – No Response	3	.6		
Total	497	100.0		

Veterans Comprised 13% Of The Adult Homeless Population

* Adult population – persons age 18 or older.

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Veteran Age Groups



❖ A total of 986 persons or 13% of the adult homeless population identified themselves as having served in the United States military.

Homeless Veterans		
Household Type	Frequency	Percent
Single Individual	933	94.6
Head of Household	34	3.4
Family Member	19	1.9
Total	986	100.0

County Summary Information

Sixty percent of study participants were staying in Denver. Counties outside of the Denver metropolitan area were combined into "Other Colorado County" and other states or countries were combined into "Other State or Country."

Where did you stay last night? By County				
County Last Night	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Denver	6659	60.2	60.2	60.2
Jefferson	1242	11.2	11.2	71.4
Adams	1205	10.9	10.9	82.3
Boulder	1050	9.5	9.5	91.8
Arapahoe	676	6.1	6.1	97.9
Broomfield	157	1.4	1.4	99.3
Douglas	47	.4	.4	99.8
Other State or Country	19	.2	.2	99.9
Other Colorado County	6	.1	.1	100.0
Total	11061	100.0	100.0	

The following table identifies where homeless persons spent the night and the county where they spent the night prior to Tuesday, January 27, 2009.

Where Last Night by County Last Night - All Persons										
Location Spent Last Night	County Last Night									
	Adams	Arapahoe	Boulder	Broomfield	Denver	Douglas	Jefferson	Other State or Country	Other Colorado County	Total
Outside Anywhere	156	46	171	8	1146	4	160	6	0	1697
Emergency Shelter	133	132	309	12	1871	2	68	10	0	2537
Transitional Housing	460	169	207	31	1825	11	558	0	0	3261
Hotel or Motel	170	148	108	17	620	8	183	3	2	1259
Staying with Family or Friends	217	122	198	86	713	17	220	0	3	1576
Housing Unit You Rent or Own	19	14	17	0	36	2	13	0	0	101
Treatment Facility (hospital, substance abuse, psychiatric)	30	24	9	0	180	3	4	0	0	250
Jail, Prison or Juvenile Detention	14	18	29	3	172	0	30	0	1	267
Other	6	3	2	0	96	0	6	0	0	113
Total	1205	676	1050	157	6659	47	1242	19	6	11061

The following table is a cross tabulation of the county where homeless study participants spent last night and county of last permanent residence.

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Last Permanent County & County Last Night Cross-Tabulation										
Last Permanent County	County Last Night									
	Adams	Arapahoe	Boulder	Broomfield	Denver	Douglas	Jefferson	Other State or Country	Other Colorado County	Total
Adams	455	10	11	10	245	0	51	0	0	782
Arapahoe	171	313	6	2	677	12	149	0	0	1330
Boulder	3	7	752	1	34	0	7	0	0	804
Broomfield	0	0	7	117	11	0	1	0	0	136
Denver	386	235	64	9	2588	0	218	0	1	3501
Douglas	1	2	1	0	29	19	4	0	0	56
Jefferson	56	24	23	0	327	2	676	0	0	1108
Other State or Country	105	49	117	9	809	4	97	17	0	1207
Other Colorado County	26	35	46	7	257	9	26	0	2	408
Total	1203	675	1027	155	4977	46	1229	17	3	9332

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