

PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Marion and Polk Counties

Results of January 30, 2008 Homeless Survey

Homeless Totals

Totals for the homeless count conducted on January 30, 2008 include one-night shelter counts; count reports from 13 school district sites in Marion and Polk counties; site count surveys at the Department of Human Services, area food banks, and the YWCA; Marion and Polk jail surveys; street counts; and street surveys.

The total number of homeless individuals counted in Marion and Polk counties on January 30, 2008 is 2,610.

Elements that Affected the 2008 Count

School District Counts – In 2007 we counted 107 youth compared to 1,101 in 2008. In 2007 only five school districts participated in the Homeless Count. In 2008, thirteen school districts participated.

Marion County Jail Survey – Fewer Marion County inmates participated in the jail survey in 2008 (60) than in 2007 (508).

Weather – In 2008 the day of the Count was snowy, windy, and one of the coldest days of the year. This presumably accounted for our low counts of walk-in clients from the Department of Human Services, 37 in 2008, compared to 54 in 2007, and at area Food Banks. Weather also was a key factor in our ability to interview homeless people on the streets, 190 in 2008 compared to 360 in 2007. Due to the severity of the weather, fewer homeless people stayed visible on the street, and approximately 20 volunteers were unable to participate in the Count activities as planned.

2008 HOMELESS COUNT

One Night Shelter Counts		Short Surveys	
Individuals Sheltered	679	(61 surveys completed)	
Households Sheltered	420	✓ Department of Human Services	37
Individuals Turned Away	29	✓ Area Food Banks	13
Households Turned Away	13	✓ YWCA	11
School Counts		Polk County Jail Survey	
(No Sheltered Families Included in Count)		(17 surveys completed)	
Marion County School Districts		✓ Homeless when arrested	
Cascade		13	
Homeless Youth	30	✓ Homeless after release	
Gervais		13	
Homeless Youth	8	✓ Released into homelessness	
Jefferson		(within 1 week)	
Homeless Youth	0		
Mt. Angel			
Homeless Youth	7		
North Marion			
Homeless Youth	4		
St. Paul			
Homeless Youth	1		
Silver Falls			
Homeless Youth	8		
Stayton			
Homeless Youth	76		
Woodburn			
Homeless Youth	402		
Salem/Keizer			
Homeless Youth	488		
Adults	322		
Polk County School Districts		Marion County Jail Survey	
Central		(60 surveys completed)	
Homeless Youth	39	✓ Homeless when arrested	
Dallas		41	
Homeless Youth	24	✓ Homeless after release	
Falls City		54	
Homeless Youth	14	✓ Released into homelessness	
		(within 1 week)	
Total Homeless Youth	1,101		
Total Homeless Adults	322		
		Homeless Street Surveys	
		✓ Completed Surveys	
		190	
		✓ Observed (not surveyed)	
		221	
		TOTALS:	
		SHELTERS	
		✓ Individuals Sheltered	
		679	
		✓ Individuals Turned Away	
		29	
		SCHOOL COUNTS	
		✓ Homeless Youth	
		1,101	
		✓ Adults	
		322	
		SHORT SURVEYS	
		61	
		JAIL SURVEYS	
		7	
		STREET SURVEYS	
		✓ Completed surveys	
		190	
		✓ Observed (not surveyed)	
		221	
		TOTAL Homeless Count 2008	
		2,610	

MWVCAA ONE NIGHT SHELTER COUNT

January 30, 2008

ORGANIZATION	INDIVIDUALS SHELTERED	HOUSEHOLDS SHELTERED	INDIVIDUALS TURNED AWAY	HOUSEHOLDS TURNED AWAY
ARCHES	111	58	0	0
Bridgeway II	3	1	0	0
Bridgeway Her Place	12	7	0	0
Dallas Resource Center	50	19	0	0
House of Zion	*	*	*	*
Marion County Housing	**	**	**	**
Mid-Valley Women's Crisis	13	6	0	0
MWVCAA HSP	16	6	0	0
NWHS Crisis Hotline	13	5	0	0
NWHS HOAP	4	4	0	0
NWHS HOST Shelter	3	3	0	0
NWHS HOST TLP	4	4	0	0
OHOP	1	1	0	0
Sable House	8	3	0	0
Salem Housing Authority	**	**	**	**
Salem Interfaith Hospitality	10	3	0	0
Salem Outreach Shelter	31	10	0	0
Salvation Army	37	27	0	0
Shelley's House	*	*	*	*
Silverton Area Comm Aid	18	4	0	0
Simonka House	27	23	0	0
St Brigid Home	0	0	0	0
St Francis Shelter	41	12	0	0
St Joseph Shelter	42	16	0	0
St Monica Home	2	1	0	0
St Teresa's	5	3	0	0
St Vincent de Paul	0	0	1	1
Stayton Resource Center	21	7	0	0
Tahana Whitecrow	1	1	0	0
Union Gospel Mission	193	193	0	0
Woodburn Resource Center	13	3	28	12
TOTALS	679	420	29	13

* No Response

** Unable to Participate

Street Count Interviews January 30th, 2008

On January 30th, 2008, over 50 community volunteers conducted 190 interviews with people who had no permanent place to live in Marion and Polk counties. The interviews were conducted on the street, in parks, under bridges, and in camps. All participants were informed that their names would not be collected and that their participation was completely voluntary.

No Response: One group of volunteers made copies of the survey but inadvertently did not copy the questions on the back page. In addition, some surveyors chose not to ask certain questions. This resulted in an inaccurate number of “No Responses”.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Street interviews resulted in data collected from 132 males, 56 females and 2 undetermined. 55.8% of homeless respondents were between the ages of 36-50, and 16.3% of the participants were veterans. 50.5% of all participants report graduating from high school and/or have some college education.

GENDER

	Count	Percent
Male	132	69.5%
Female	56	29.5%
No Response	2	1.0%
Total	190	100%

AGE GROUPS

	Count	Percent
Under 21	13	6.8%
21-35	26	13.7%
36-50	106	55.8%
Over 50	34	17.9%
No Response	11	5.8%
Total	190	100%

EDUCATION LEVEL

	Count	Percent
Grade 1-9	14	7.4%
Grade 10-12	44	23.2%
HS Graduate	65	34.2%
Some College	29	15.3%
College Graduate	2	1.0%
Still in HS or MS	8	4.2%
No Response	28	14.7%
Total	190	100%

VETERAN STATUS

	Count	Percent
Yes	31	16.3%
No	152	80.0%
No Response	7	3.7%
Total	190	100%

HOMELESS CHARACTERISTICS:

66 participants (34.8%) indicate they have been homeless for less than 1 year. 116 participants (61%) indicate they have been homeless for more than 1 year. 92.1% of all participants indicate they have a place to sleep. 112 or 59% of the participants have stayed in a shelter at some point. 77.9% of participants indicate they eat regularly, although 65.2% say they eat 2 times or less per day. 55.8% of respondents indicated they were “out here alone”, of those not alone, 50.6% were with family. 52.1% of respondents indicated they were looking for work. When asked what could be done to improve their situation 32.6% said having a place to live and 26.4% said job or work opportunities. The two most prevalent sources of income for the participants were SSI and recycling, both at 16.8%. 115 of the participants, 60.5%, made \$500 or less per month (there were a large number of “no response”, over 24.2%, to this question). 19.5% said that lack of work or loss of work led to their current circumstance. When asked about the most difficult aspect of being homeless, the number one answer, at 21.1%, was loneliness/depression/ or uncertain future. 23.7% of participants are chronically homeless, defined as: Continuously homeless for 1 year or had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, disabled and alone.

LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS

	Count	Percent
Less than 1 year	66	34.8%
1-2 years	54	28.4%
3-5 years	19	10.0%
Over 5 years	24	12.6%
Over 10 years	14	7.4%
Over 20 years	5	2.6%
No response	8	4.2%
Total	190	100%

PLACE TO SLEEP

	Count	Percent
Street	37	19.5%
Vehicle	38	20.0%
Camp/Park	42	22.1%
Temp w/friend	54	28.4%
No	7	3.7%
Other	4	2.1%
No Response	8	4.2%
Total	190	100%

STAYED IN SHELTER

	Count	Percent
Yes	112	59.0%
No	77	40.5%
No Response	1	.5%
Total	190	100%

ABLE TO EAT REGULARLY

	Count	Percent
Yes	148	77.9%
No	39	20.5%
No Response	3	1.6%
Total	190	100%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU EAT

	Count	Percent
1 time/day or less	66	34.8%
2 times a day	58	30.5%
3 times a day	31	16.3%
3 + times a day	4	2.1%
No Response	31	16.3%
Total	190	100%

ARE YOU ALONE

	Count	Percent
Yes	106	55.8%
No	81	42.6%
No Response	3	1.6%
Total	190	100%

IF NOT, WHO ARE YOU WITH

	Count	Percent
Family	41	50.6%
Friends	36	44.4%
Other	2	2.5%
No Response	2	2.5%
Total	81	100%

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

	Count	Percent
Yes	99	52.1%
No	81	42.6%
No Response	10	5.3%
Total	190	100%

NECESSARY TO IMPROVE CURRENT SITUATION*

	Count	Percent
Housing	69	32.6%
Job	56	26.4%
Transportation	7	3.3%
Medical asst/asst with SSI&SSDI	8	3.8%
Free Camping/Tents/Electricity in Parks	5	2.4%
ID/Legal Assistance/Felony convictions	16	7.5%
Increased Length of Stay in Shelters/More Shelters	8	3.7%
Help w/bills/rent/deposits/money	16	7.6%
Nothing/Don't Know	10	4.7%
Not judged/harassed	4	1.9%
Other	13	6.1%
Total	212	100%

*Could be more than one answer per person

INCOME – MONEY SOURCE

	Count	Percent
SSI/Disability/VA	32	16.8%
Panhandling	20	10.5%
Part-Time Work	24	12.6%
Job	11	5.8%
Recycle Cans	32	16.8%
Unemployment	3	1.6%
Nothing	42	22.1%
Other	16	8.4%
No Response	10	5.3%
Total	190	100%

HOW MUCH PER MONTH

	Count	Percent
\$0	46	24.2%
\$1 - \$500	69	36.3%
\$501 - \$1,000	29	15.3%
No Response	46	24.2%
Total	190	100%

LED TO CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCE

	Count	Percent
Lack of Work/Loss of Work	37	19.5%
Eviction	17	9.0%
Death	8	4.2%
Health/Mental Health Issues	16	8.4%
Drugs/Alcohol	11	5.8%
Prison/Jail	14	7.4%
Lost House	6	3.2%
Domestic Violence/Divorce/Bad Relationships	31	16.3%
Choice	2	1.0%
Other	24	12.6%
No Response	24	12.6%
Total	190	100%

DIFFICULTY OF BEING HOMELESS*

	Count	Percent
Getting work	17	7.7%
Judged/Public Perception/Harassment	21	9.5%
Loneliness/Depression/Uncertain Future	47	21.1%
Medical Treatment/Medications	6	2.7%
Life in General/Survival	9	4.0%
Eating	16	7.2%
Finding Place to Sleep/Camp	26	11.7%
Staying Warm/Dry	26	11.7%
Hygiene	17	7.7%
No Money/Resources	13	5.9%
Violence/Safety Concerns	10	4.5%
Other	14	6.3%
Total	222	100%

* Could be more than one answer per person

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

	Count	Percent
Yes	45	23.7%
No	145	76.3%
Total	190	100%

DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS:

Participants were asked about discrimination they had experienced due to being homeless, and whether they had ever experienced violence while homeless. 63.2% of participants indicated they had experienced discrimination because they were homeless, and 40% had experienced violence while homeless.

DISCRIMINATION DUE TO HOMELESSNESS

	Count	Percent
Yes	120	63.2%
No	50	26.3%
No Response	20	10.5%
Total	190	100%

EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE

	Count	Percent
Yes	76	40.0%
No	94	49.5%
No Response	20	10.5%
Total	190	100%

JAIL AND PRISON EXPERIENCE:

Participants were asked about their jail and/or prison experience. These were not invasive questions but rather exploratory questions to determine if the participant had ever been in jail and/or prison. 66.3% of the participants said they had been in jail, while only 26.3% had been in prison.

EVER BEEN IN JAIL

	Count	Percent
Yes	126	66.3%
No	47	24.7%
No Response	17	9.0%
Total	190	100%

EVER BEEN IN PRISON

	Count	Percent
Yes	50	26.3%
No	121	63.7%
No Response	19	10.0%
Total	190	100%

MEDICAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY VARIABLES:

Participants were asked a series of questions related to health and disability. The purpose for asking these questions was to determine how many participants had health problems, disabilities, and how many felt they were at risk for HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C. 55.3% indicated they had health problems, 53.7% said they had disability concerns, and almost 16.9% indicated they felt they were at risk for HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C due to their homeless status. 50% of the participants had seen a doctor within the last year.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS

	Count	Percent
Yes	105	55.3%
No	67	35.2%
No Response	18	9.5%
Total	190	100%

DISABILITY CONCERNS

	Count	Percent
Yes	102	53.7%
No	85	44.7%
No Response	3	1.6%
Total	190	100%

AT RISK FOR HIV/AIDS OR HEPATITUS C

	Count	Percent
Yes	32	16.9%
No	130	68.4%
No Response	28	14.7%
Total	190	100%

LAST TIME SAW A DOCTOR

	Count	Percent
Past Year	95	50.0%
Over 1 Year Ago	13	6.8%
Over 2 Years Ago	18	9.5%
Over 3 Years Ago	11	5.8%
Over 5 Years Ago	15	7.9%
Do Not Recall	11	5.8%
No Response	27	14.2%
Total	190	100%

EVICTION AND HOMELESSNESS:

Participants were asked about eviction experiences they may or may not have encountered, and whether any of those evictions were a result of their inability to pay utility bills. 44.2% (84) of participants had experienced an eviction. Of those 84, 36.9% indicated that their eviction was due, in part, to their inability to pay their utility bills.

EVICTED FROM HOME

	Count	Percent
Yes	84	44.2%
No	94	49.5%
No Response	12	6.3%
Total	190	100%

EVICTION DUE TO INABILITY TO PAY UTILITY BILLS

	Count	Percent
Yes	31	36.9%
No	50	59.5%
No Response	3	3.6%
Total	84	100%