

PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Marion and Polk Counties

Results of January 28, 2009 Homeless Survey

Mid Valley Housing and Services Collaborative

Homeless Totals

Totals for the homeless count conducted on January 28, 2009 include one-night emergency shelter and transitional housing program counts (One Night Shelter Count); count reports from eight school district sites in Marion and Polk counties (School Counts); site count surveys at the Department of Human Services, area food banks, the YWCA, Salem Hospital, Marion County and City of Salem Courts, Community Action Agency, Northwest Human Services, Union Gospel Mission Family Closet, City of Salem Housing Authority and the Salem Evangelical Church (Short Surveys); Marion and Polk jail surveys (Marion County Jail Survey and Polk County Jail Survey); homeless observed count; and street surveys (Homeless Street Surveys).

The total number of homeless individuals counted in Marion and Polk counties on January 28, 2009 was 3,244. The total number counted on January 30, 2008 was 2,610, an increase of 608 individuals.

2009 HOMELESS COUNT

One Night Shelter Counts		Short Surveys	
Individuals Sheltered	836	Surveys completed	169
Households Sheltered	500		
Individuals Turned Away	38	Polk County Jail Survey	
Households Turned Away	18	(66 surveys completed)	
		✓ Homeless when arrested	27
		✓ Homeless after release	31
		✓ Released into homelessness (within 1 week)	2
School Counts		Marion County Jail Survey	
(No Sheltered Families Included in Count)		(154 surveys completed)	
Marion County School Districts		✓ Homeless when arrested	81
Cascade		✓ Homeless after release	97
Homeless Youth	43	✓ Released into homelessness (within 1 week)	18
Gervais			
Homeless Youth	15	Homeless Street Surveys	
Stayton		✓ Completed Surveys	249
Homeless Youth	85	✓ Observed (not surveyed)	184
Woodburn			
Homeless Youth	395	TOTALS:	
Salem/Keizer		SHELTERS	
Homeless Youth	613	✓ Individuals Sheltered	836
Adults	499	✓ Individuals Turned Away	38
Polk County School Districts		SCHOOL COUNTS	
Central		✓ Homeless Youth	1,249
Homeless Youth	52	✓ Adults	499
Dallas		SHORT SURVEYS	169
Homeless Youth	34	JAIL SURVEYS	20
Falls City		STREET SURVEYS	
Homeless Youth	12	✓ Completed surveys	249
		✓ Observed (not surveyed)	184
Total Homeless Youth	1,249	TOTAL	
Total Homeless Adults	499	Homeless Count 2009	3,244

MWVCAA ONE NIGHT HOMELESS COUNT

January 28, 2009

ORGANIZATION	INDIVIDUALS SHELTERED	HOUSEHOLDS SHELTERED	INDIVIDUALS TURNED AWAY	HOUSEHOLDS TURNED AWAY
ARCHES	30	18	0	0
Dallas Resource Center	69	17	0	0
MVWCS - Emergency	8	6	0	0
MVWCS - Transitional	1	1	0	0
MWVCAA HSP	19	5	0	0
MWVCAA Marion TBA	105	35	0	0
MWVCAA Polk TBA	47	18	0	0
MWVCAA Salem TBA	12	5	0	0
NWHS Crisis Hotline*	0	0	8	3
NWHS HOAP SH	5	5	0	0
NWHS HOST Shelter	5	5	0	0
NWHS HOST TLP	6	6	0	0
Phoenix Houses of OR	16	15	0	0
Sable House	8	2	0	0
Salem Housing Auth Emergency Financial Asst*	0	0	15	9
Salem Interfaith Hospitality	11	4	15	6
Salem Outreach Shelter	22	6	0	0
Salvation Army	80	62	0	0
Shelley's House	7	7	0	0
Silverton Area Community Aid	27	8	0	0
Simonka Place - Emergency	35	30	0	0
Simonka Place -Transitional	5	5	0	0
St Brigid Home	6	3	0	0
St Francis Shelter	47	14	0	0
St Joseph Shelter - Emergency	16	16	0	0
St Joseph Shelter -Transitional	28	8	0	0
St Monica Home	1	1	0	0
St Teresa's	4	2	0	0
St Vincent de Paul	18	10	0	0
Stayton Resource Center	18	7	0	0
Tahana Whitecrow	1	1	0	0
UGM Emergency	138	138	0	0
UGM Transitional	38	38	0	0
Woodburn Resource Center*	0	0	0	0
Zobel House	3	2	0	0
TOTALS	836	500	38	18

*Emergency Financial Assistance was not available from these sources on January 28, 2009.

Street Count Interviews January 28th, 2009

On January 28th, 2009, over 80 community volunteers conducted 249 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.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Street interviews resulted in data collected from 183 males and 66 females. 39% of homeless respondents were between the ages of 36-50, and 19% of the participants were veterans. 55% of all participants reported graduating from high school and/or having some college education.

GENDER

	Count	Percent
Male	183	73%
Female	66	27%
Total	249	100%

AGE GROUPS

	Count	Percent
Under 21	20	8%
21-35	57	23%
36-50	96	39%
51-65	54	22%
Over 65	12	5%
No Response	10	4%
Total	249	100%

EDUCATION LEVEL

	Count	Percent
Grade 1-9	30	12%
Grade 10-12	68	27%
GED	39	16%
HS Graduate	52	21%
Some College	31	12%
College Graduate	14	6%
Still in HS or MS	3	1%
No Response	12	5%

Total	249	100%
--------------	------------	-------------

VETERAN STATUS

	Count	Percent
Yes	48	19%
No	195	78%
No Response	6	2%
Total	249	100%

HOMELESS CHARACTERISTICS:

98 participants (39%) indicated they have been homeless for less than 1 year, a 4% increase over last year. 140 participants (55%) indicated they have been homeless for more than 1 year. 137 or 55% of the participants have stayed in a shelter at some point. 86% of participants indicated they eat regularly, although 175 (70%) say they ate 2 times or less per day. 42% of respondents indicated they were “out here alone”, of those not alone, 35% were with family. 61% of respondents indicated they were looking for work, a 9% increase over 2008. When asked what could be done to improve their situation, 34% said a job or work opportunities and 27% said having a place to live. The most prevalent source of income for the participants was Social Security/Disability at 21%. 31% of participants made \$500 or less per month (there were a large number of “no response”, 26%, to this question). 27% said that lack of work or loss of work led to their current circumstance, an 8% increase over 2008. When asked about the most difficult aspect of being homeless, 17% said staying warm and dry and 16% said loneliness/depression/ or uncertain future. 24% of participants were 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	98	39%
1-3 years	62	25%
3-5 years	24	10%
Over 5 years	33	13%
Over 10 years	18	7%
Over 20 years	3	1%
No response	11	4%
Total	249	100%

PLACE TO SLEEP

	Count	Percent
Street	44	18%
Vehicle	49	20%
Camp/Park	60	24%
Temp w/friend	76	31%
Other	9	4%

No Response	11	4%
Total	249	100%

STAYED IN SHELTER

	Count	Percent
Yes	137	55%
No	109	44%
No Response	3	1%
Total	249	100%

ABLE TO EAT REGULARLY

	Count	Percent
Yes	213	86%
No	33	13%
No Response	3	1%
Total	249	100%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU EAT

	Count	Percent
1 time/day or less	83	33%
2 times a day	92	37%
3 times a day	67	27%
No Response	7	3%
Total	249	100%

ARE YOU ALONE

	Count	Percent
Yes	104	42%
No	142	57%
No Response	3	1%
Total	249	100%

IF NOT ALONE, WHO ARE YOU WITH

	Count	Percent
Family	49	35%
Friends	83	58%
No Response	10	7%
Total	142	100%

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

	Count	Percent
Yes	151	61%
No	94	38%

No Response	4	2%
Total	249	100%

NECESSARY TO IMPROVE CURRENT SITUATION*

	Count	Percent
Housing	81	27%
Job	103	34%
Medical	15	5%
Free Camping Zone	6	2%
Assistance obtaining ID	10	3%
Assistance obtaining SS/disability	14	5%
Increased Length of Stay in Shelters/More Shelters	13	4%
Nothing/Don't Know	9	3%
Addiction services	7	2%
Other	26	9%
No Response	20	7%
Total	304	100%

*Could be more than one answer per person

INCOME – MONEY SOURCE*

	Count	Percent
Social Security/Disability	56	21%
Panhandling	33	12%
Part-Time Work	20	8%
Job	15	6%
Recycle Cans	29	11%
Odd jobs	23	9%
Government assistance	5	2%
Unemployment	6	2%
No Income	50	19%
Other	14	5%
No Response	15	6%
Total	266	100%

*Could be more than one answer per person

HOW MUCH PER MONTH

	Count	Percent
\$0	56	22%
\$1 - \$500	76	31%
\$501 - \$1,000	52	21%
No Response	65	26%
Total	249	100%

LED TO CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCE*

	Count	Percent
Lack of Work/Loss of Job	75	27%
Eviction	26	9%
Death	6	2%
Health Issues/Mental Health Issues/Disability	39	14%
Drugs/Alcohol	34	12%
Prison/Jail	16	6%
Domestic Violence/Divorce/ Relationships Issues	41	15%
Choice	2	1%
Other	27	10%
No Response	16	6%
Total	282	100%

*Could be more than one answer per person

DIFFICULTY OF BEING HOMELESS*

	Count	Percent
Obtaining employment	26	8%
Judged/Public Perception/Harassment	22	7%
Loneliness/Depression/Uncertain Future	51	16%
Medical Treatment/Medications	13	4%
Getting enough to eat	19	6%
Finding Place to Sleep	34	11%
Staying Warm/Dry	56	17%
Hygiene	21	6%
Transportation	8	2%
Violence/Safety Concerns	23	7%
Other	25	8%
No Response	27	8%
Total	325	100%

* Could be more than one answer per person

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

	Count	Percent
Yes	61	24%
No	188	76%
Total	249	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. 59% of participants indicated they had experienced discrimination because they were homeless, a 4% decrease from 2008 and 37% had experienced violence while homeless.

DISCRIMINATION DUE TO HOMELESSNESS

	Count	Percent
Yes	148	59%
No	100	40%
No Response	1	1%
Total	249	100%

EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE

	Count	Percent
Yes	91	37%
No	157	63%
No Response	1	1%
Total	249	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. 70% of the participants said they had been in jail, a 4% increase from 2008, while only 26% had been in prison.

EVER BEEN IN JAIL

	Count	Percent
Yes	174	70%
No	73	29%
No Response	2	1%
Total	249	100%

EVER BEEN IN PRISON

	Count	Percent
Yes	64	26%
No	182	73%
No Response	3	1%
Total	249	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. 59% indicated they had health problems, 54% dental problems, 60% said they had disability concerns, and 17% indicated they felt they were at risk for HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C due to their homeless status. 56% of the participants had seen a doctor within the last year.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS

	Count	Percent
Yes	146	59%
No	87	35%
No Response	16	6%
Total	249	100%

DENTAL PROBLEMS

	Count	Percent
Yes	135	54%
No	84	34%
No Response	30	12%
Total	249	100%

DISABILITY CONCERNS

	Count	Percent
Yes	148	60%
No	95	38%
No Response	6	2%
Total	249	100%

IF YES: (148)

	Count	Percent
Mental	30	20%
Physical	77	52%
Developmental	2	1%
Mental and Physical	33	22%
No Response	6	4%
Total	148	100%

AT RISK FOR HIV/AIDS OR HEPATITUS C

	Count	Percent
Yes	43	17%
No	196	79%
No Response	10	4%
Total	249	100%

LAST TIME SAW A DOCTOR

	Count	Percent
Past Year	138	56%
More than 1 Year	26	11%
2-3 Years	36	14%
4-5 Years	11	4%
Over 5 Years Ago	18	7%
Do Not Recall	5	2%
No Response	15	6%
Total	249	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. 40% (100) of participants had experienced an eviction. Of those 100, 31% indicated that their eviction was due, in part, to their inability to pay their utility bills.

EVICTED FROM HOME

	Count	Percent
Yes	100	40%
No	143	58%
No Response	6	2%
Total	249	100%

EVICTION DUE, IN PART, TO INABILITY TO PAY UTILITY BILLS

	Count	Percent
Yes	31	31%
No	61	61%
No Response	8	8%
Total	100	100%