



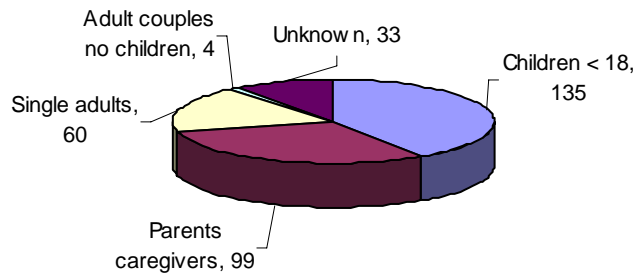
2009 Homeless Point in Time Count

A Snapshot of Homelessness in Johnson County

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness counted homeless and near-homeless persons during one 24-hour period on January 28, 2009. In Johnson County, 331 homeless persons were identified. While it is likely that this number is an undercount of the true number of homeless in the county, these findings are a valuable planning tool to improve the response to homelessness in Johnson County.

2009 Homeless Census Results

Total Count = 331



331 Johnson County residents were homeless or near-homeless on January 28, 2009:

- Data analysis is based on 158 surveys, 10 of which were not homeless or near-homeless
- 210 persons were literally homeless, living on the streets, in cars or in shelters
- 121 persons were imminently or 'near' homeless, staying with others temporarily but told they must be out within seven days
- At least two of five (41%) of homeless persons counted were children (<18 yrs.)
- Nearly 2/3 of unsheltered homeless were accompanied by one or more children

KEY FACTS

Homelessness changes & increases overall from the 2007 point-in-time count to the 2009 count.

- The number of homeless and near-homeless residents counted increased from 293 in 2007 to 331 in 2009.
- Literal homelessness among those counted decreased from 234 in 2007 to 210 in 2009.
- Conversely, imminent homelessness more than doubled in the same time period, increasing from 59 in 2007 to 121 in 2009.
- Eight homeless persons were chronically homeless – having been homeless for more than one year or having had four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Homeless Point-in-Time Count Comparison: 2007 to 2009		
	2007	2009
Number of Sheltered* Persons in Households with Children	130	118
Number of Unsheltered** Persons in Households with Children	85	147
<i>Total Homeless or Near-Homeless Persons in Households with Children</i>	215	265
Number of Sheltered* Individuals or Persons in Households without Children	17	22
Number of Unsheltered** Individuals or Persons in Households without Children	61	44
<i>Total Homeless or Near-Homeless Persons without Children</i>	78	66
Grand Total (adults and children)	293	331

* Sheltered homeless includes people staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing, and includes those in domestic violence shelters. Not included are any previously homeless who have moved to permanent supportive housing.

** Unsheltered homeless includes people who meet the HUD definition of homeless, such as living in their cars or on the streets, as well as imminently homeless persons with no permanent address, as being temporarily doubled up with friends or family, but have been told to be out in seven days and having no place to go.

Profile of the Households with children:

84 Households with children = 265 persons*

- Almost one of two children (60 of 131) in homeless households with children was age six and under – critical years to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and development. (Children in domestic violence shelters are omitted.)
- 82% (69) of households with children were headed by single adults; 96% of single adult households with children were headed by females (66 of 69).
- 52% (44 of the 84 households responding) were employed.
- 23% (19 households) reported that domestic violence attributed to their homelessness.
- 62% (52 households) reported that unemployment contributed to their homelessness, and similarly low wages in 37% (32) of households.
- 50% (42 households) reported that their inability to pay rent or mortgage contributed to their homeless, as did inability to pay for their utilities in 26% (22) of households.
- 34 households reported being evicted, hampering their future efforts to regain stable housing.

Profile of the Single Household or Two Adult Households without children:

Individuals or Couples without Children = 62 households, 64 persons*

- 35% (22 persons) reported that they had a serious mental illness, chronic illness or disability, and/or diagnosable substance abuse disorder. Nine of 22 (41%) had more than one.
- 31% (19 of 61 households responding) were employed.
- 48% (30 of 62 households) reported that domestic violence contributed to their homelessness.
- 18% (11 persons) said that substance abuse was a contributing factor to their homelessness.
- 31% (19 households) reported that unemployment contributed to their homelessness, and similarly low wages in 13% (8) of households.
- 32% (20 households) reported that their inability to pay rent or mortgage contributed to their homeless, as did inability to pay for their utilities in 14% (9) of households.
- 11 individuals or households without children reported being evicted, hampering their future efforts to regain stable housing.
- Of the 60 single individuals who reported being homeless, 65% (39) were female.

Challenges to assessing and understanding how many homeless persons reside in Johnson County and what their characteristics are:

- Few Johnson County residents who have lost their housing are readily viewable to the public, and thus the awareness of their situation and needs is minimal.
- The six Johnson County School Districts reported that they had identified 576 homeless children and youth in their systems, which is far greater than the number of children identified during the 2009 point-in-time count. This suggests that the full number of the homeless and near homeless may be far greater.
- School homeless liaisons report that the majority of these students were not runaways or castaways, but were residing with their immediate families in the homes of others temporarily.

** Data analysis reflects the responses of those completing related questions*

SOURCE: 2009 & 2007 Point-In-Time Homeless Count conducted by the Johnson County Continuum of Care and facilitated by UCS in partnership with United Way of the Plains and the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation; personal communication with Shawnee Mission School District Homeless Liaison. Summary prepared by United Community Services of Johnson County.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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