

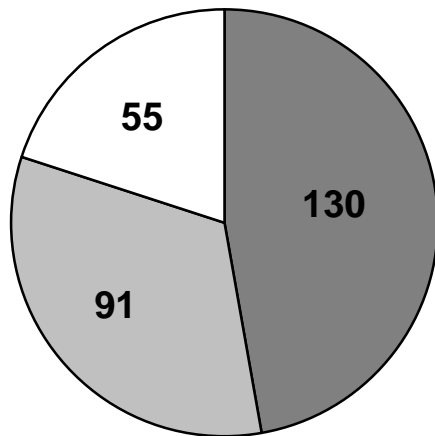
2005 Homeless Census

A Snapshot of Homelessness in Johnson County

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness joined for the first time with communities across the metropolitan area to count homeless persons on January 27, 2005. In Johnson County, 276 homeless persons were identified. Roughly half (48%) were children under the age of 18. These findings will be used as a planning tool to improve the response to homelessness in Johnson County.

2005 Homeless Census Results

Total Count = 276



■ Children Under 18 ■ Adult Women ■ Adult Men

276 Johnson County residents were homeless on January 27th, 2005:

- Two out of three homeless persons lived in families with children.
- Nearly half (48%) of all homeless persons were children under age 18.
- One out of eight homeless children was an unaccompanied youth under age 18.
- Only 2% or six individuals were over the age of 55.
- Three out of 10 live on the street or are expected to lose their current housing within the week.
- Four out of five homeless families with children were headed by women.

Individuals	Adult Females	Adult Males	Female Youth Under Age 18	Male Youth Under Age 18	Total Individuals
Housed in Homeless Provider-Housing	21	18	1	7	47
Living On the Streets*	13	24	1	1	39
TOTALS	34	42	2	8	86

Persons in Families with Children	Number of Two-Parent Families	Number of Single Parent-Headed Households	Total Number of Children	Total Number of Family Units	Total Number of Persons in Families
Housed in Homeless Provider-Housing	8	36	97	44	149
Living On the Streets*	1	14	25	14	41
TOTALS	9	50	122	58	190

*Note: Met the definition of homeless, which includes such instances as living in places not meant for human habitation or being evicted within the week.

OTHER KEY FACTS

Many persons were not homeless for the first time.

Demonstrating that homelessness is often the result of chronic or persistent issues, a significant percentage of both individuals and families with children had been either continuously homeless for a year or more, or had at least four or more episodes of homelessness in the past four years.

	# of Chronic or Persistent Homeless	% of Total Count that were Chronic or Persistent Homeless
Individuals	27	31%
Persons in Families with Children	46	24%

Other characteristics demonstrate the challenges to self-sufficiency.

When possible, other characteristics were identified that provide more information about the challenges that must be addressed to overcome homelessness. Due to gathering census information by hotline calls and other first-time contacts, information about these conditions was often not possible to ascertain:

- Domestic Violence: One out of three persons in families with children lived in households experiencing domestic violence. Similarly high, 29% of individuals linked their homelessness to domestic violence.
- Mental Illness & Substance Abusers: For homeless individuals especially, chronic substance abuse (49% of all individuals) and serious mental illness (44% of all individuals) were present.

OBSERVATIONS by Human Service Professionals – *Information Not Captured by the Survey*

The Johnson County Continuum of Care, a collaboration of service providers and individuals working to improve the response to homelessness in Johnson County, was asked to comment on issues not captured by the homeless census survey. Key comments include:

- The face of homelessness in Johnson County is young. Homeless parents are young parents, including pregnant teens. Some young parents grew up in the foster care system and often have not had a permanent residence of their own as young single adults.
- More homeless families with children are presenting with chronic issues, such as mental illness or domestic violence. Referrals for assessments are made, but often are not enough if the homeless head-of-household is not ready to address the co-occurring issues.
- Chronic credit/debt issues and past evictions are increasing. Such credit histories make it difficult to place individuals or families in their own housing when they are ready to move out of homelessness.
- Limited opportunities exist in Johnson County to shelter or house homeless individuals with few resources, especially males.

SOURCE: 2005 Homeless Census, Summary prepared by United Community Services of Johnson County. March 2005.

CONTACT INFORMATION

United Community Services of Johnson County

12351 West 96th Terrace, Suite 200

Lenexa, KS 66215

913/438-4764

Fax: 913/492-0197

Website: www.ucsjoco.org