

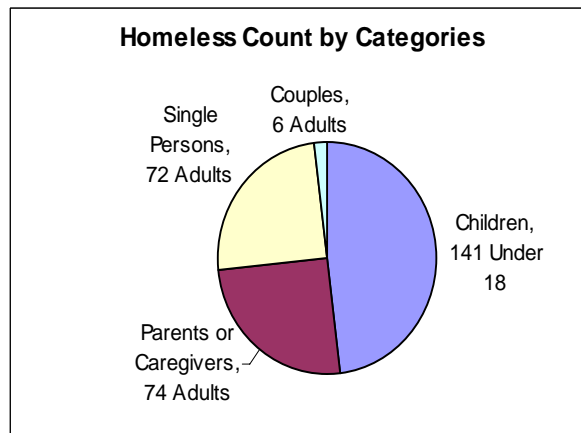
2007 Homeless Census

A Snapshot of Homelessness in Johnson County

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness counted homeless persons during one 24-hour period on January 24, 2007. Communities across the metropolitan area counted the homeless on the same day. In Johnson County, 293 homeless persons were identified. These findings are used as a planning tool to improve the response to homelessness in Johnson County.

2007 Homeless Census Results

Total Count = 293



293 Johnson County residents were homeless on January 24, 2007:

- Three out of four homeless persons lived in families with children.
- Nearly half (48%) of all homeless persons were children under age 18.
- Eight single persons (3%) were over the age of 55.
- Three out of 10 lived on the street or expected to lose their current housing within the week.
- Three out of four homeless families with children were headed by women.

KEY FACTS

Number of homeless residents increases from 2005 to 2007.

- Number of homeless residents counted increased from 255 in 2005 to 293 in 2007.
- For both homeless persons in families with children and homeless single individuals, the increased numbers can be found among the unsheltered. In part, this reflects a system capacity that is largely unchanged over these two years.

Homeless Point-in-Time Count Comparison: 2005 to 2007		
	2005	2007
Number of Sheltered* Homeless Persons in Families with Children	134	130
Number of Unsheltered** Homeless Persons in Families with Children	41	85
<i>Total Homeless or Near-Homeless Persons in Families with Children</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>215</i>
Number of Sheltered* Individuals or Persons in Households without Children	23	17
Number of Unsheltered** Individuals or Persons in Households without Children	57	61
<i>Total Homeless or Near-Homeless Persons without Children</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>78</i>
Grand Total (adults and children)	255	293

* Sheltered homeless includes people staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing. The 2005 count included homeless persons housed in permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities. Supportive housing beds numbered 21 in 2005. These 21 beds were subtracted for this analysis, as HUD requested that these persons not be included in the count in 2007.

** Unsheltered homeless includes people who meet the HUD definition of homeless, such as living in their cars, as well as near-homeless persons without a permanent address, such as temporarily doubled up with friends, or facing eviction.

Profile of the Unsheltered Homeless:

Single individuals without children = 61 persons:

- 57% (35 persons) had mental illness or a severe mental disability.
- 25% (15 persons) had substance abuse as a contributing factor to their homelessness.
- 46% (13 women) experienced family rejection as a causal factor in their homelessness. Most of these women (9) also needed or received treatment for severe mental illness.
- 36% (22 persons) had jobs.
- 8% (5 youth) were unaccompanied youth ages 18 and under.

Families with children = 85 persons:

- 52% (11 households) were parents under age 30. Two out of three children (32) were age six and under – critical years to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and development.
- 67% (14 households) attributed homelessness to eviction or inability to pay rent and utilities.
- 62% (13 households) had jobs.
- 14% (3 households) reported issues with mental illness or substance abuse as contributors to homelessness.

Factors that contribute to increasing homelessness:

- *The primary cause of homelessness for families with children is the lack of housing that very low-income families can afford.* In Johnson County, there were 14,000 households that earned less than 30% of the County median income in 2000 and only 3,600 housing units priced to be affordable to this income group.
- *Increasing numbers of Johnson County renters are cost-burdened by their housing.* In 2005, two out of every five renters paid 30% or more of their income for housing – the national definition for cost-burdened. Growing in number from 14,504 in 2000 to 22,154 in 2005, most cost-burdened renters (97%) had annual incomes below \$50,000.
- *Persons with federal disability income often pay more for rent than they receive in support.* In 2007, the average one-bedroom apartment in Johnson County rents for \$615 to \$645 per month. Social Security Income for disabled persons who do not have a prior work history is under \$600 per month.

SOURCE: 2007 & 2005 Homeless Census; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census, 2005 American Community Survey; Johnson County Housing Market and Need Analysis, 2004.

Summary prepared by United Community Services of Johnson County. July 2007.

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