The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count

Homeless People Count...

Homeless Families Count...

Homeless Children Count...

Homeless Veterans Count...

COLORADO STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT SUMMER, 2006

FINAL REPORT

February 2007

COLORADO STATEWIDE POINT-IN-TIME KEY FINDINGS

➔ *An estimated **16,203 people*** were homeless in Colorado on Monday night, August 28, 2006. This includes point-in-time survey respondents, family members who are homeless with them, domestic violence shelter data, counts and estimates of the unsheltered homeless, and estimated relatives not identified by respondents.

➔ ***Surveys typically undercount the homeless.*** The literature indicates that youth, recently homeless persons, rural homeless, unsheltered homeless, and persons who are doubled-up with family and friends or "couch surfing" are less likely to be counted.

➔ The state conducted the survey over a 24-hour period to maximize agency participation and to reduce the number of duplicate surveys. This methodology successfully ***reduced the incidence of duplication.***

➔ ***Minorities make up a larger percentage of the homeless population*** relative to Colorado's general population.

➔ The data strongly suggest that the majority of the 1,577 respondents (and their families) who were classified as ***"not homeless"*** are living on the edge of homelessness.

➔ Many of Colorado's homeless are ***children and families***.
- ***Children and teens*** comprise one-third of Colorado's homeless.
- More than six in 10 homeless persons is part of a ***household with children*****.**
- One-quarter of all ***unsheltered homeless*** are families with children.
- Most ***newly homeless*** households are comprised of women and children.

➔ There are dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children ***spent Monday night***. More families with children stayed in transitional housing or temporarily with family or friends, while more people without children stayed in emergency shelters or slept on the street.

➔ Half of all respondents have at least one serious, ***disabling condition: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS.***

➔ The most common ***reasons for homelessness*** are housing-related costs, loss of job, and having one or more serious, disabling condition.

➔ Nearly two-thirds of respondents said that they or another family member needed at least one service that they could not obtain. The most frequently ***needed service*** is permanent housing.

➔ Men and households without children have experienced more ***episodes of homelessness*** in the last three years, and are more likely to have been homeless five or more times.

➔ Nearly one in ten are ***chronically homeless***; the great majority are male.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, August 2006* is the result of a collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing (CDH), Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), Colorado Department of Human Services, Fannie Mae Foundation, Daniels Fund and the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH). More than 450 agencies, churches, non-profit organizations, and corporate and community volunteers from throughout the state helped conduct the count. Without their support, this study would not have been possible.

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Finally, this report would not have been possible without the cooperation of the survey respondents. The results of the count provide all of us with a more complete understanding of homelessness to better plan housing and services.

This report may be found on the
Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness website at:
www.colorado.gov/cich/ or, www.dola.state.co.us/housing/publications/

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COLORADO STATEWIDE
HOMELESS COUNT SUMMER, 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

"If there is more than one who does not wish to be out in the wilderness or stuck in a shelter, and we can change this equation, then the number is too great a burden on our consciousness."[1]

*On Monday night, August 28, 2006, there were an estimated **16,203** homeless men, women, and children in Colorado.*[2]

On the evening of August 28, 2006, the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH), along with hundreds of volunteers from Colorado counties, conducted a "point-in-time" study of homeless persons in Colorado, the first such study in over fifteen years. CICH defines homelessness as follows:

An individual is considered homeless if he or she is:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings;
- Sleeping in an emergency shelter;
- Spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution, but ordinarily sleeping in the types of places mentioned above;
- Living in transitional/supportive housing but having come from streets or emergency shelters;
- Staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for a permanent place to live;
- Staying temporarily in a hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers and/or while looking for shelter or housing;
- Being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing; or
- Being discharged from an institution and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

Homelessness is a traumatic and terrifying experience. Many families are unable to stay together; homeless persons often have serious health problems directly related to their lack of housing; and children suffer long-term effects on their physical and emotional health including diminished educational performance and difficulties in school.

Homelessness not only affects the very poor, but also working and middle class individuals and families. Americans are homeless primarily because they cannot pay for housing and are increasingly unable to

[1] Thank you, Randle (Randle Loeb).

[2] Agencies from across the state submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons, that is, unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted. These estimates identify a total 1,218 homeless persons. Combined with all the surveyed homeless, the domestic violence aggregate data and the number of unsheltered homeless who were counted but not surveyed, an estimated ***17,421*** people were homeless on August 28, 2006.

afford to buy or even rent their homes. They face the national trends of low wages, declining public assistance programs, and limited affordable housing.

It is impossible to know the precise number of people who are homeless. In the words of a formerly homeless person, now a tireless homeless advocate, "If there is more than one who does not wish to be out in the wilderness or stuck in a shelter, and we can change this equation, then the number is too great a burden on our consciousness."[3]

ESTIMATING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN COLORADO

There is considerable literature on methods for estimating the total number of homeless persons from point-in-time data. Some of these studies have used extremely complicated and sophisticated methodologies to estimate the total number of homeless. The survey questions and the overall methodology for this study were the consequence of a number of considerations. These primary factors included the following:

- To the extent possible, collect data consistent with previous local point-in-time surveys for comparison purposes.
- Limit the survey to a one, two-sided page in order to facilitate survey distribution and administration, and eliminate the possibility that any pages of a survey could be lost.
- Use an extensive system of trained agency staff and volunteers to collect data to make the experience comfortable for homeless persons and to keep the cost of the survey affordable.

TOTAL HOMELESS STATEWIDE

On Monday night, August 28, 2006, an estimated ***16,203*** people were homeless in Colorado.

KEY FINDINGS: Table A. TOTAL HOMELESS – STATEWIDE	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	6,665
Relatives	5,225
Total All Survey Homeless	**11,890**
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER DATA	
Respondents	159
Children	170
Other Family Members	5
Total Domestic Violence	**334**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**2,981**
SURVEY ESTIMATE	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	**998**
TOTAL	**16,203**

[3] Thank you, Randle.

The one consistent finding in all the research on homelessness is that surveys undercount the homeless. It is particularly difficult to count those homeless persons who are unsheltered.[4] The total number of homeless individuals fluctuates over time. People who are homeless typically move in and out of homelessness as conditions in their life change. Data collected during one day of the year only represents a snapshot of homelessness on that day.

- Service use differs by community — in some communities, substantial proportions of the homeless, including homeless street persons, are service users; in other communities, they are not. Homeless persons are most likely to seek services from persons and agencies that specialize in helping the homeless.[5]
- Some groups may be underrepresented among service users, including youth, recently homeless persons, and persons who are doubled up with friends and family.[6]
- Many homeless persons hide themselves from public view and are living in places where they are not easily found, such as vehicles, tents, boxes, caves or boxcars.
- The homeless population is often underestimated in rural areas and other locations where there are few or no homeless services.[7]

NATIONAL AND STATE CONTEXT

In the United States, approximately 3.5 million people, 1.35 million of them children, are likely to experience homelessness in a given year.[8] The number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past 10 years, and is one of the fastest growing segments of homeless persons.

The primary causes of homelessness include poverty, the growing shortage of affordable housing, domestic violence, the cost of health insurance, mental health problems, and substance abuse. Homelessness is often thought of as an urban issue; however, many people experience homelessness in small towns and rural locations.

According to recent U.S. Census data,[9] Colorado's poverty rate has risen steadily since the late 1990s. Some services are available to help low-income families remain housed, but these programs do not begin to meet the demand.

[4] For example, "Number of Homeless Ohioans," Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, 8/27/02; : "Report on Homelessness in North Dakota, March 2005" (p. 15); S.J. Farrell and E.D. Reissing, "Picking Up the Challenge: Developing a Methodology to Enumerate and Assess the Needs of the Street Homeless Population, Evaluation Review, Vol. 28, No. 2, April 2004, pp. 144-155.

[5] Franklin J. James. (1991). "Counting Homeless Persons with Surveys of Users of Services for the Homeless," *Housing Policy Debate*, Volume 2, Issue 3, pp. 733-753.

[6] *Ibid*.

[7] Urban Institute. "America's Homeless II: Populations and Services." February 1, 2000.

[8] National Coalition for the Homeless. "How Many People Experience Homeless? NCH Fact Sheet #2." National Coalition for the Homeless. June 2006. <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/How_Many.pdf>

[9] *The Denver Post*. "Poor Numbers on Poverty." August 30, 2006.; *The Rocky Mountain News.* "Colorado Incomes on the Decline." August 30, 2006.

II. ORGANIZATIONS/PEOPLE

The Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH) initiated Colorado's August 2006 homeless count, which was primarily led by the Colorado Division of Housing (CDH). The project included active participation and collaboration from numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals, including the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA); Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs; the Colorado Department of Human Services; Adams County Housing Authority; Volunteers of America; Posada; Fannie Mae; Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative; United Way; Rocky Mountain Housing Development Corporation; and homeless advocates. Individuals from these organizations formed the Housing Subcommittee Group for the Statewide Count (Housing Subcommittee). CHFA, CDH, the Daniels Fund, and Fannie Mae funded the project, and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless agreed to serve as the fiscal agent.

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count required a phenomenal amount of collaboration. Throughout every phase of the project, participants exhibited consistent patience, dedication and skill in resolving issues and reconciling differing opinions. Coordination of agencies and volunteers occurred primarily at the county and local level, through regional and county coordinators. All but three Colorado counties participated in the statewide point-in-time survey and count.[10] Hundreds of agencies participated in collecting data and distributing the survey. Agency staff and volunteers from government programs, non-profit organizations, supportive service and food distribution programs, meal sites and faith-based organizations literally worked thousands of hours to help organize the count in their area, recruit volunteers, and disseminate and collect surveys, among many other tasks.

The Housing Subcommittee contracted with the Center for Education Policy Analysis/Center for Public-Private Sector Cooperation (CEPA/CPPSC), Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, and the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC). CEPA/CPPSC's primary role was to develop the point in time methodology, analyze data, and write a comprehensive final report. NRC primarily served as the statewide project coordinator and principle trainer.

The Housing Subcommittee conducted the planning and communications of the count as a *campaign*. The Subcommittee created a logo, developed an extensive website, recruited a spokesperson, provided a media kit, and consistently communicated with key stakeholders statewide via email, telephone, phone conferencing, video conferencing, fax, website, and post.

The following information provides a picture of the men, women and children, veterans, disabled, and all of those homeless individuals and families that dedicated volunteers and service providers were able to survey on August 28 and 29, 2006.

[10] Twelve counties did not submit any surveys but did submit tracking forms, indicating that they tried to participate but did not serve any homeless clients during the relevant time. Of these 12 counties, one submitted a homeless count.

III. THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES: WHAT DO WE KNOW?

The statewide survey findings report on the respondents who completed the survey and their relatives who also were without a permanent place to live. The researchers refer to the sum of respondents and relatives as "all survey homeless." Most survey variables are reported only for respondents. A small number of variables can be extrapolated to the homeless relatives that respondents identified as with them.

SURVEY DATA

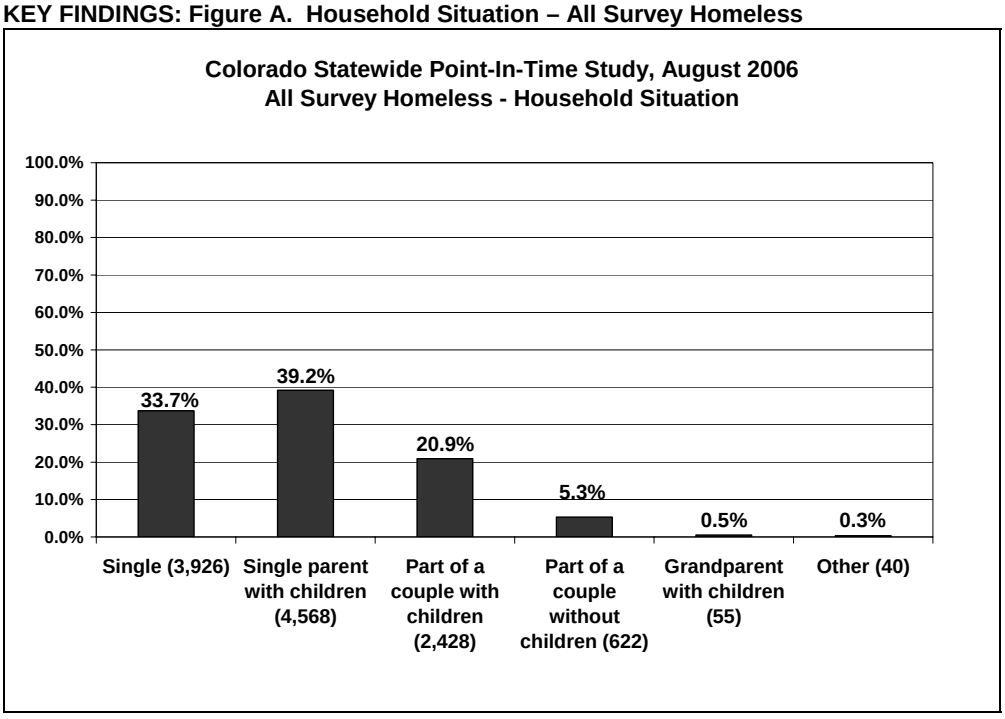
Survey respondents did not complete every question; because of these missing data, the numbers and percentages in the report do not always equal the number of respondents or all survey homeless. The percentages do not represent the total number of respondents, that is, the percentages do not include missing responses.[11]

Statewide Survey Data

Household Situation – All Survey Homeless

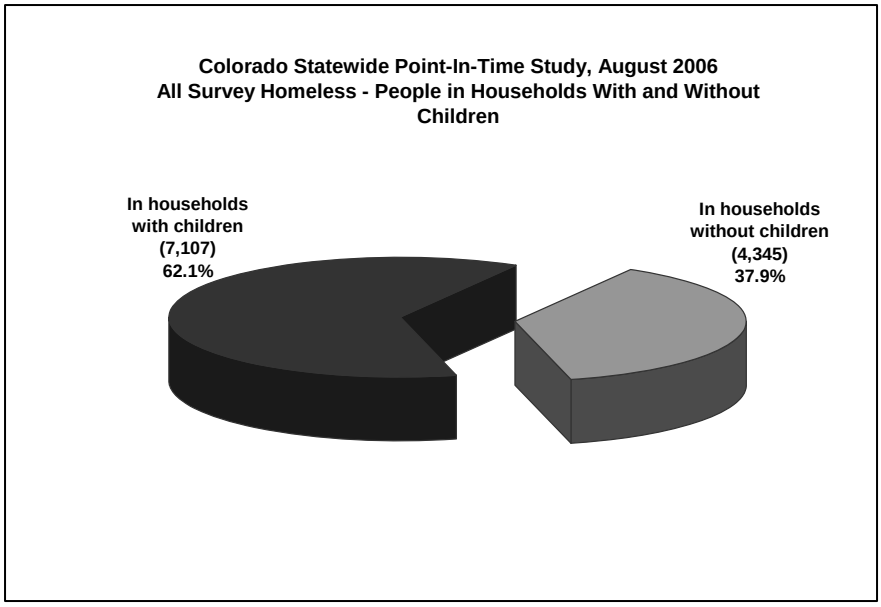
People in households headed by a single parent accounted for the largest group (39.2%) of all homeless people, followed by single individuals (33.7%).

KEY FINDINGS: Figure A. Household Situation – All Survey Homeless



[11] The exception is that, for questions where respondents could check "all that apply," the percentage giving each response is based on all respondents.

KEY FINDINGS: FIGURE B. Households With/Without Children – All Survey Homeless



Nearly two-thirds (62.1%) of all homeless persons in Colorado are in households with children.

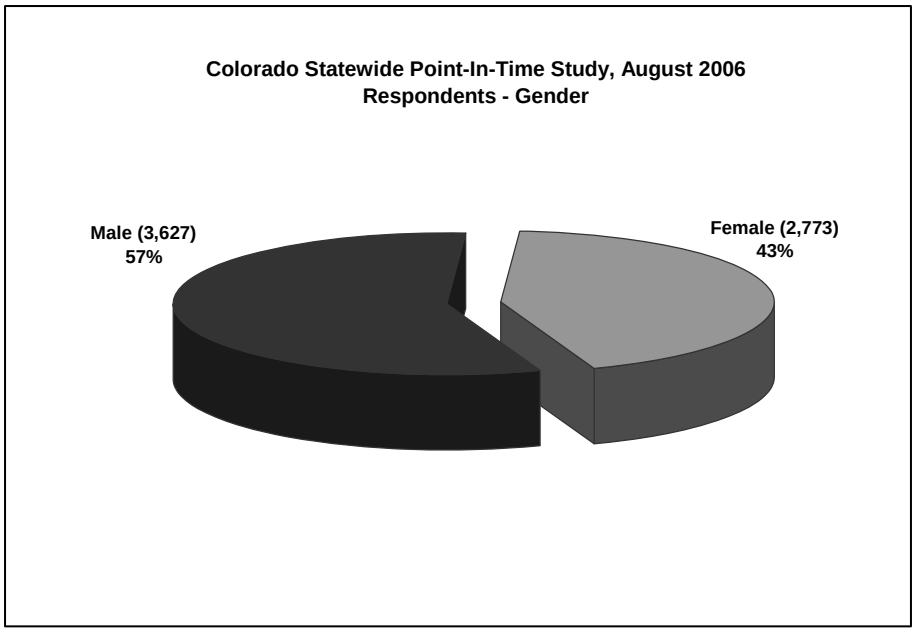
Ages – All Survey Homeless

Homeless persons ranged in age from less than one year to 98 years old. Half (51.2%) of all homeless persons were adults age 25-64. There were a total of 3,643 homeless children and teens; they comprised one-third (34.0%) of all people who were homeless on Monday night, August 28, 2006.

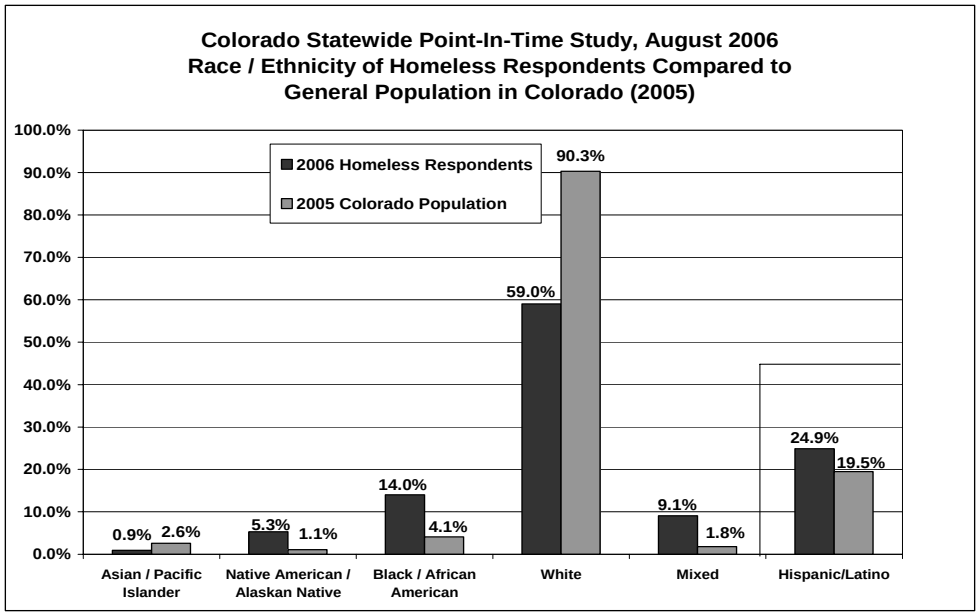
Gender – Respondents

Almost six in 10 (56.7%) respondents were male. Single individuals were predominantly male, while most single parent households were headed by females.

KEY FINDINGS: Figure C. Household Situation by Gender - Respondents



KEY FINDINGS: Figure D. Race/Ethnicity – Respondents[12]



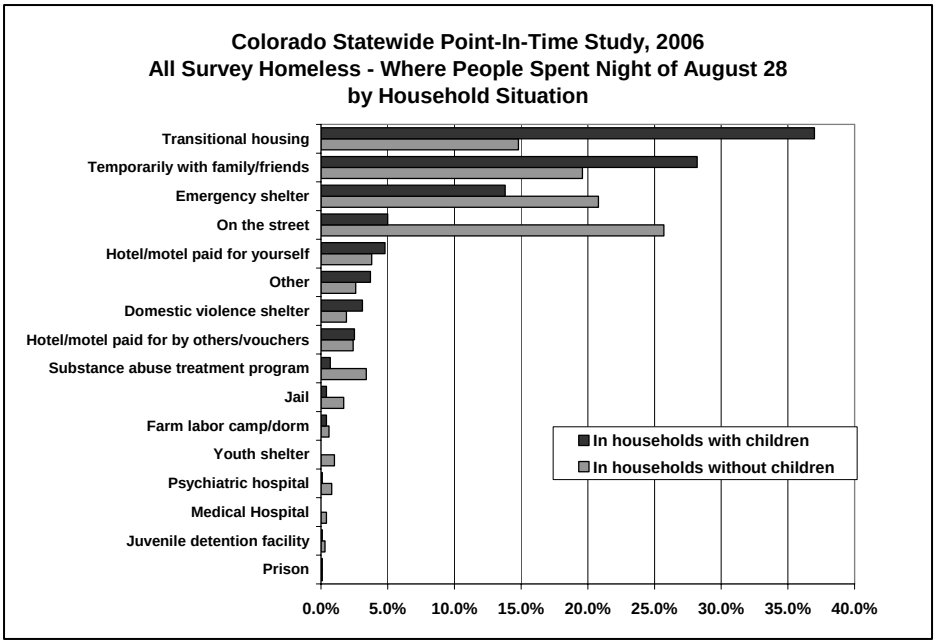
Race/Ethnicity – Respondents
Compared to the general population in Colorado in 2005, minorities were over-represented and whites were under-represented among Colorado's homeless.

Monday Night, August 28, 2006 – All Survey Homeless

The majority of all homeless people in Colorado spent Monday night in transitional housing (28.0%), staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter (24.4%), or in an emergency shelter (16.6%). Many more people in households with children stayed in transitional housing and with family and friends, while many more people in households without children slept on the street and stayed in an emergency shelter. (Figure F)

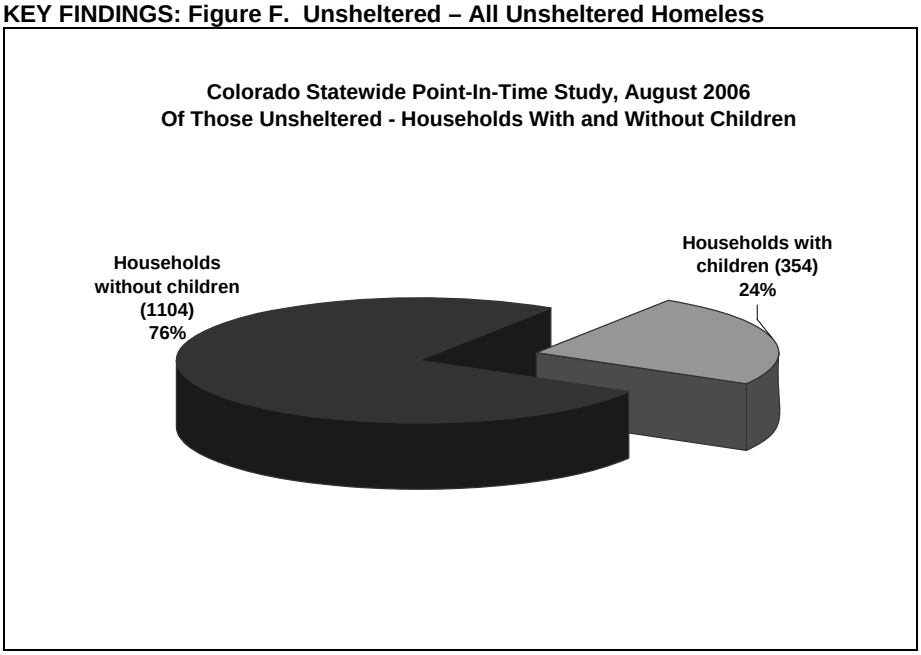
KEY FINDINGS: Figure E. Type of Place, Monday Night – All Survey Homeless

Unsheltered Homeless – All Survey Homeless
Thirteen percent (13.2%) of all survey homeless were unsheltered. Of the unsheltered homeless, one-quarter (24.3%) were people in families with children.



[12] Race and ethnicity were asked in separate questions. Race does not add to 100 percent because 11.6% of respondents described their race as "other."

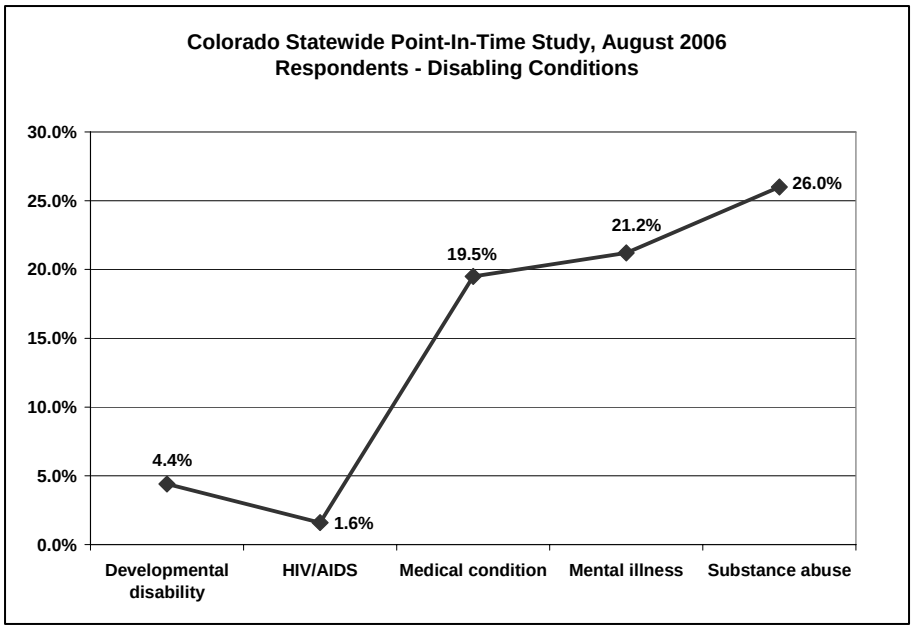
KEY FINDINGS: Figure F. Unsheltered – All Unsheltered Homeless



KEY FINDINGS: Figure G. Disabling Conditions - Respondents

Disabling Conditions - Respondents

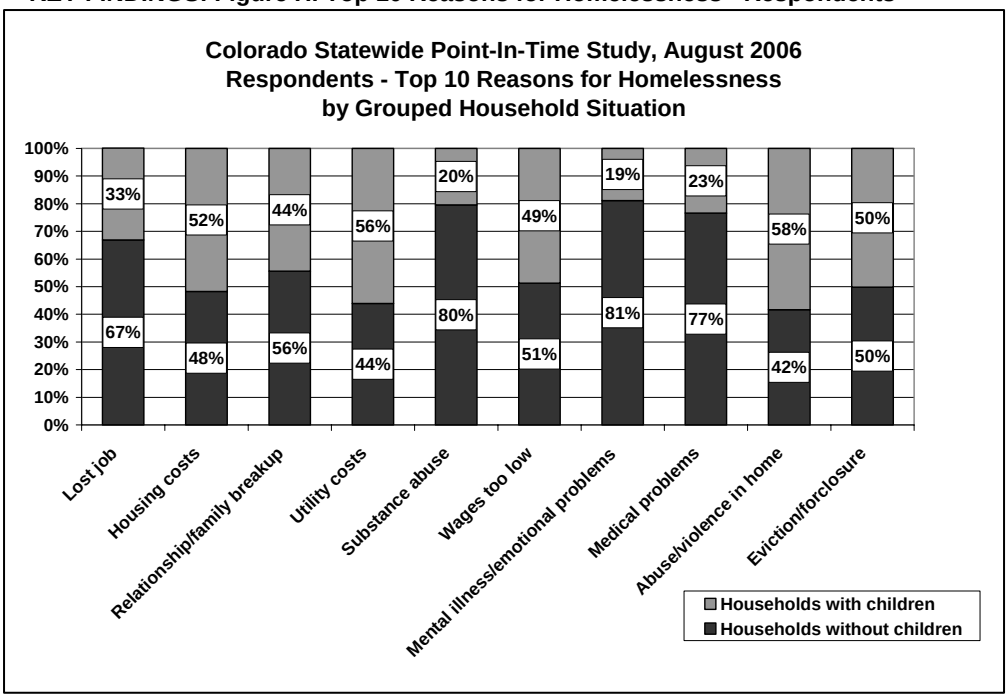
Half of all respondents (50.9%) had at least one of the following disabling conditions – serious mental illness, a serious medical condition, chronic substance abuse problems, a developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. One in four (26.0%) had a chronic substance abuse issue, and approximately one in five had a serious mental illness (21.2%) or a serious medical condition (19.5%).



Reasons for Homelessness - Respondents

The most commonly cited reasons for homelessness were loss of job and housing costs, followed by family/relationship breakup and utility costs. Slightly more than half (53%) of the reported reasons related to the cost of housing (housing costs, utility costs and eviction/foreclosure), and forty percent (40.9%) related to the existence of serious conditions (substance abuse, mental illness, and medical problems).

KEY FINDINGS: Figure H. Top 10 Reasons for Homelessness - Respondents

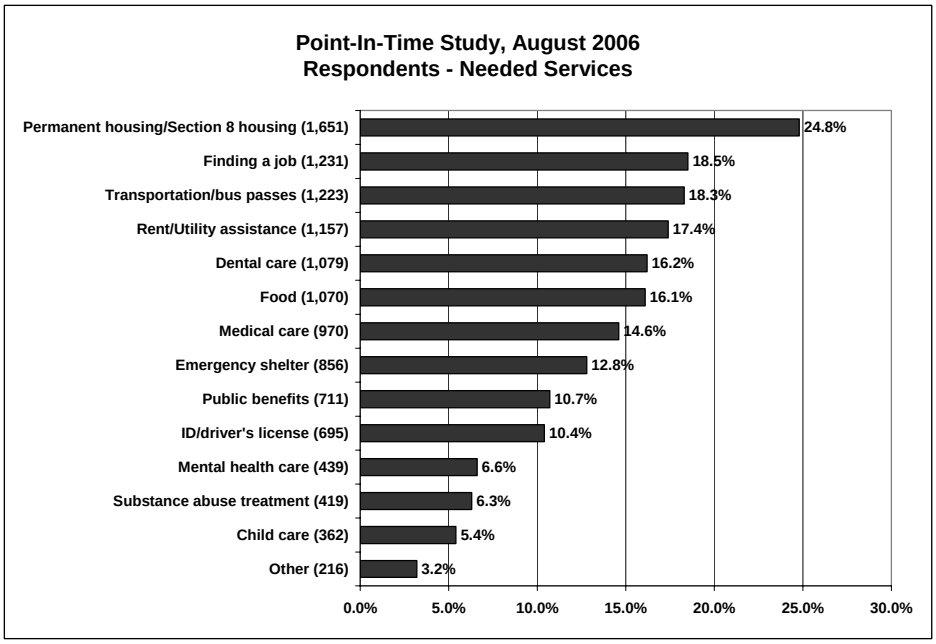


Respondents in households with children were more likely to cite abuse or violence in the home as a cause of their homelessness. Those in households without children were much more likely to report substance, mental illness, and medical problems as a reason for their current homelessness.

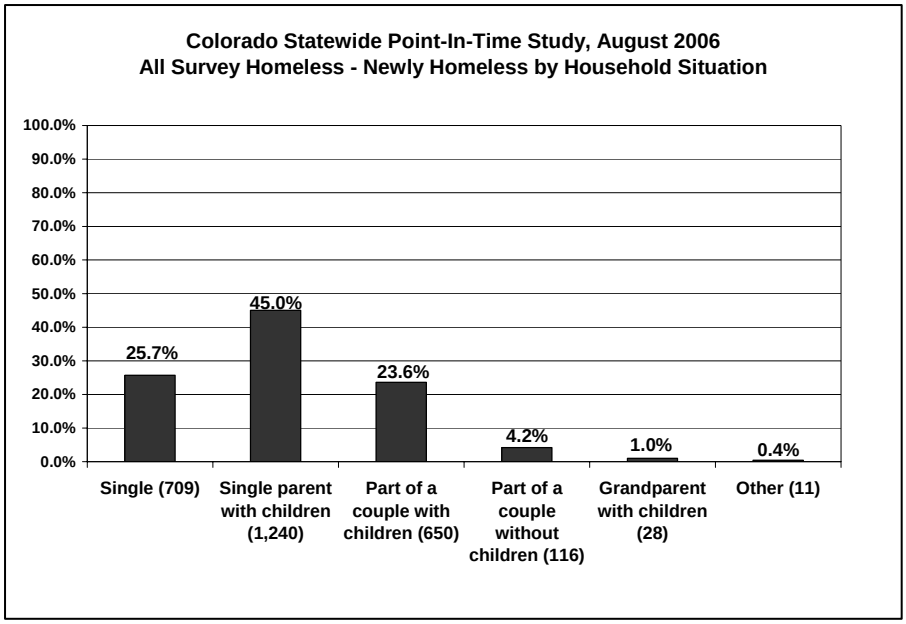
KEY FINDINGS: Figure I. Needed Services – Respondents

Services - Respondents

Nearly two-thirds (63.2%) of respondents reported that, in the past month, they or another family member needed at least one service they could not obtain. The most frequently needed service was permanent housing, cited by one-quarter (24.8%) of respondents. Other frequently needed services were help finding a job, transportation, and rent and/or utility assistance.



KEY FINDINGS: Figure J. Newly Homeless – All Survey Homeless



Newly Homeless – All Survey Homeless

Twenty percent (21.5%) of all survey homeless were newly homeless. Nearly three-quarters (70.8%) of the newly homeless were in households with children. Single parents comprised almost half (45.0)%) of the newly homeless.

Since females head most single parent households, most newly homeless families were comprised of women and children.

Duration and Episodes of Homelessness – Respondents

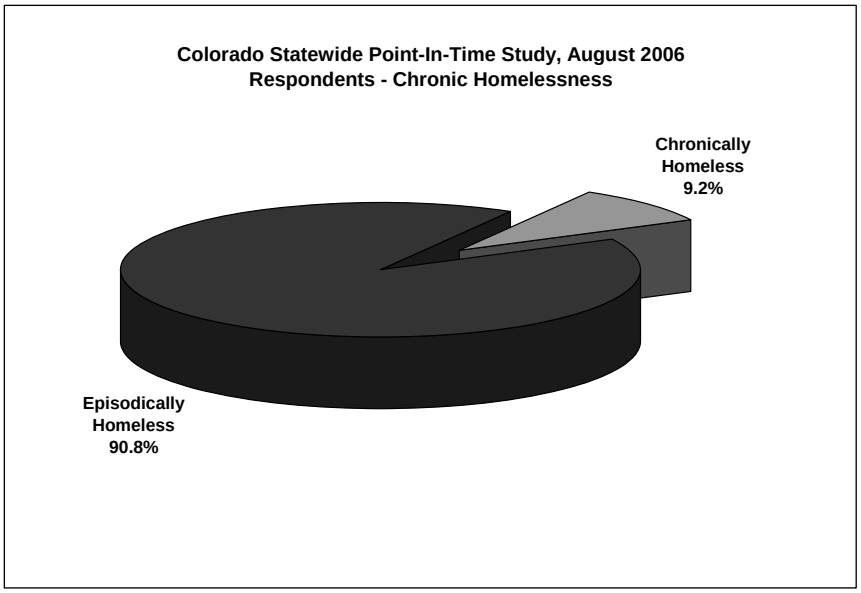
Duration: Almost half of respondents (45.8%) who were homeless on Monday night had been without a permanent place to live for more than one month but less than one year. Sixteen percent (15.9%) had been homeless for less than a month, and 11% (10.6%) had been homeless for more than three years.

Episodes: One-third (32.4%) of respondents reported that they were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years on the night of August 28. Almost one in five (18.3%) had been homeless five or more times in the last three years. Men and respondents in households without children experienced more episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

KEY FINDINGS: Figure K. Chronically Homelessness - Respondents

Chronically Homeless - Respondents

On the night of August 28, 2006, almost 10 percent (9.2%), or 610 respondents, were chronically homeless; the great majority of the 610 chronically homeless persons (86.4%) were male.



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PART I. INTRODUCTION

"If there is more than one who does not wish to be out in the wilderness or stuck in a shelter, and we can change this equation, then the number is too great a burden on our consciousness."

*On Monday night, August 28, 2006, there were an estimated **16,203** homeless men, women, and children in Colorado.*

COLORADO STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT, AUGUST 2006

On the evening of August 28, 2006, the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH),[1] along with hundreds of volunteers from all 64 Colorado counties, conducted the *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, August 2006,* "a point-in-time" study of homeless persons in Colorado, the first such study in over fifteen years.[2] CICH defines homelessness as follows:

An individual is considered homeless if he or she is:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings;
- Sleeping in an emergency shelter;
- Spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution, but ordinarily sleeping in the types of places mentioned above;
- Living in transitional/supportive housing but having come from streets or emergency shelters;
- Staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for a permanent place to live;
- Staying temporarily in a hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers and/or while looking for shelter or housing;
- Being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing; or,
- Being discharged from an institution and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

A point-in-time count provides a snapshot of homelessness by counting those who are homeless at a particular time. However, surveyors can easily "miss" the homeless. People enter and leave homelessness frequently and may only become homeless the day after the point-in-time study. Some homeless people may not be in places where they are easily counted, such as transitional housing or homeless shelters. Many of Colorado's homeless persons are in remote rural areas. Some homeless persons are doubling up temporarily with family or friends and are not accessing services. Others are homeless due to domestic violence and, because of confidentiality concerns, did not complete surveys. Still other homeless people,

[1] CICH is a collaboration of State, Federal, nonprofit agencies, and businesses, created to help homeless families and individuals achieve housing stability and to overcome the problems associated with homelessness.
[2] Franklin J. James. (1991). "Counting Homeless Persons with Surveys of Users of Services for the Homeless," *Housing Policy Debate*, Volume 2, Issue 3, pp. 733-753.

such as undocumented persons, may not want to be counted. Many homeless are not counted because they are not in places where they can be found, much less where they have the opportunity to complete a survey, such as those living in automobiles and other kinds of crude and temporary housing.

On the night of Monday, August 28, 2006, as soon as shelters closed their doors for the night the survey process was instructed to begin. Unsheltered street surveys, counts and/or estimates also started on Monday night. Agencies offering day services began their participation at the start of business on Tuesday, August 29, 2006, and continued until the close of business on that day. The survey data were collected primarily on the night of Monday, August 28 and Tuesday, August 29, referencing the point-in-time as the night of Monday, August 28. Agencies that were not open on Monday night or Tuesday day collected data on the first day of the week that they served clients. Agency staff and volunteers attempted to survey every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member in all of the identified locations.

ESTIMATING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN COLORADO

There is considerable literature on methods for estimating the total number of homeless persons from point-in-time data. Some of these studies have used extremely complicated and sophisticated methodologies to estimate the total number of homeless. The survey questions and the overall methodology for this study were the consequence of a number of considerations, including:

- To the extent possible, collect data consistent with previous local point-in-time surveys for comparison purposes.
- Limit the survey to one, two-sided page in order to facilitate survey distribution and administration, and eliminate the possibility that any pages of a survey could be lost.
- Use an extensive system of trained agency staff and volunteers to collect data to make the experience comfortable for homeless persons and to keep the cost of the survey affordable.

The researchers are confident that the survey and count provide the best estimate possible, given these considerations, of the number and characteristics of the homeless in Colorado on August 28, 2006. However, the procedure was not designed to produce a statistically sound estimate of all homeless persons in the state.

Researchers conducting the summer, 2006 statewide homeless count developed a relatively simple process for trying to determine the true number of homeless in each location. Researchers designed a tracking form and asked each agency and volunteer who returned completed surveys, and/or who did a count of unsheltered homeless, to provide the following information for each location:

- Number of completed surveys
- Number of unsheltered homeless counted
- Number of unsheltered homeless estimated
- For agencies, their best estimate of the number of unduplicated clients served at that location in a typical week in August, 2006

- If counted or estimated number of unsheltered homeless, their best estimate of the number of unduplicated homeless clients who stay at that location in a typical week in August, 2006

The purpose of this information was to have a way to (1) assess the accuracy and completeness of the homeless surveys and unsheltered counts, (2) compare the weekly homeless estimates to the actual data that were provided, and (3) use this information to calculate total homeless persons.

A detailed description of the survey design methodology is presented in Part VII.

TOTAL HOMELESS STATEWIDE

Based on the Point-In-Time survey and the associated counts and estimates, the researchers estimate that there are ***16,203*** homeless men, women, and children in Colorado.[3] Table 1 provides the total number of homeless persons in Colorado, as well as the separate components that combine to create the total count.

KEY FINDINGS: Table 1. TOTAL HOMELESS – STATEWIDE	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	6,665
Relatives	5,225
Total All Survey Homeless	**11,890**
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER DATA	
Respondents	159
Children	170
Other Family Members	5
Total Domestic Violence	**334**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**2,981**
SURVEY ESTIMATE[4]	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	**998**
TOTAL	**16,203**

[3] Agencies from across the state submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons, that is, unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted. These estimates identify a total 1,218 homeless persons. Combined with all the surveyed homeless, the domestic violence aggregate data and the number of unsheltered homeless who were counted but not surveyed, an estimated ***17,421*** people were homeless on August 28, 2006.

[4] Refer to Table 30. A number of respondents who identified themselves as having children or a spouse did not document those family members when completing their survey. The researchers computed an estimate of the number of unidentified relatives based on the average number of identified relatives for each household situation.

NATIONAL AND STATE CONTEXT

In the United States, approximately 3.5 million people, 1.35 million of them children, are likely to experience homelessness in a given year.[5] Homeless people do not fit one general description. Based on a survey of 27 cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported characteristics of the homeless[6]:

- *41% are single men*
- *14% are single women*
- *5% are unaccompanied youth*
- *40% are families with children*
- *23% are mentally disabled*
- *10% are veterans*
- *30% are drug/alcohol dependent*
- *35% are White*
- *65% are Minorities*

The number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past ten years, and is one of the fastest growing segments of homeless persons.

The primary causes of homelessness include poverty, the growing shortage of affordable housing, domestic violence, the cost of health insurance, mental health problems, and substance abuse.

- The growing shortage of affordable housing, together with an increase in poverty, is largely responsible for the rise in homelessness over the past 20-25 years.[7] Many individuals without a permanent place to live have limited shelter options, and for homeless families, the percentage of denied shelter requests is even higher. In 2004, the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that the demand for shelter climbed 14 percent.[8]
- Low wages and less secure jobs offering fewer benefits strengthen the disparity between rich and poor. Nationally, 44 percent of the homeless population is employed,[9] and for these individuals and families, work is no escape from poverty.
- The declining value and availability of public assistance contributes to the increasing poverty rate and resulting homelessness. Earned income for those experiencing poverty has been decreasing as budgets have shrunk for assistance programs.[10]

[5] National Coalition for the Homeless. "How Many People Experience Homeless? NCH Fact Sheet #2." National Coalition for the Homeless. June 2006. <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>
[6] National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Homelessness and Poverty in America. Overview. <http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FHAPIA/>
[7] National Coalition for the Homeless. "Why Are People Homeless? NCH Fact Sheet #1." National Coalition for the Homeless. June 2006. <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/How_Many.pdf>
[8] National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Homelessness and Poverty in America. Overview. <http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FHAPIA/>
[9] Martha R. Burt et al., The Urban Institute, Homelessness: Programs and the People they Serve: Technical Report 5-3 (Interagency Council on the Homeless, December 1999).
[10] National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Homelessness and Poverty in America. Overview. http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FHAPIA/>

Because persons living in poverty are most at risk of becoming homeless, those groups who are more likely to experience poverty (children, unaccompanied youth, minorities, the elderly, single parent families) are more likely to experience homelessness.

Homelessness is often thought of as an urban issue; however, many people experience homelessness in small towns and rural locations. Poverty and lack of affordable housing are often much more extreme in rural areas than in their neighboring urban communities. Many rural areas simply have few or no shelter options, despite significant levels of reported homelessness. [11]

Although homeless persons do not fit neatly into pre-determined categories, they share common needs: affordable housing, decent and adequate wages, health care, protection from violence, and often, additional services such as mental health and/or substance abuse treatment.

Colorado's poverty rate has risen steadily since the late 1990s, according to recent U.S. Census data.[12] In 1998, Colorado's poverty rate was 8.5 percent; by 2005, the poverty rate had increased to 10.4 percent. The increase in interest rates (which has sent foreclosure rates in the state to an all-time high), the lack of both new and existing affordable housing, rising energy and fuel prices, high home/rent costs, and either flat or declining wages create severe cost burdens for many of Colorado's households. Some services are available to help low income families remain housed, such as the Housing Choice Voucher Program, (designed to help very low-income families afford housing) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) program (both designed to help low-income families pay their energy bills). However, programs such as these do not begin to meet demand. For example, EOC was able to assist only one in four eligible families in 2005. Thus, there is a disparity between the needs of Colorado's low-income individuals and families and the availability of assistance to help them maintain housing and prevent homelessness

The following report provides information about the men, women and children, veterans, disabled, and all of those homeless individuals and families that dedicated volunteers and service providers were able to survey on August 28 and 29, 2006 across the state of Colorado. CICH, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuums of Care, service providers, legislators, local governments, municipalities, and other organizations will use the information collected by the statewide point-in-time homeless count to assess, project, and plan strategies and services to eliminate homelessness.

We thank the dedicated groups and individuals who conducted this count in the midst of their ongoing work, and appreciate their efforts to break the cycle of homelessness and help homeless persons achieve and maintain a better quality of life.

[11] Rural Homeless Initiative. La Puente Home. "Rural Homeless Initiative: Fact Sheet." http:/www.lapuente.net/ruralinitiative.htm.
[12] *The Denver Post*. "Poor Numbers on Poverty." August 30, 2006.; *The Rocky Mountain News.* "Colorado Incomes on the Decline." August 30, 2006.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

Part II provides information about the point-in-time survey process.

Part III presents statewide survey data. These data are reported for respondents (those individuals who completed the survey) and all survey homeless (both respondents and family members who were with them and also homeless). It describes respondent characteristics including age; gender; military service; race and ethnicity; seasonal work status; disability status; reasons for homelessness; duration and episodes of homelessness; chronic homelessness; government benefits; and needed services. It also profiles all survey homeless in terms of the place where they stayed Monday night; age of relatives and relationship to respondent; household situation; newly homeless; and unsheltered homeless.

Part IV provides information about homeless persons by Continuum of Care. These data are reported for homeless persons (both respondents and all survey homeless) for the three Continuums of Care. The *MDHI Continuum* encompasses the greater metro Denver area and includes Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties. The *El Paso Continuum/Colorado Springs Continuum* encompasses El Paso County. The *Balance of State Continuum (BOS)* includes the remaining counties in the state, many of which are rural.

Part V provides data about homeless persons in the nine regions identified for the statewide homeless count. For a map of the regions, see p. 9. For a list of the counties within regions, see, Table 8.

Part VI provides a summary of the key statewide survey findings.

Part VII is a detailed explanation of the research methodology, including survey design, training of surveyors, implementation and coordination of the process, data collection, data cleaning, and data analysis.

Part VIII consists of appendices, including the survey.

PART II. THE ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE BEHIND THE POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

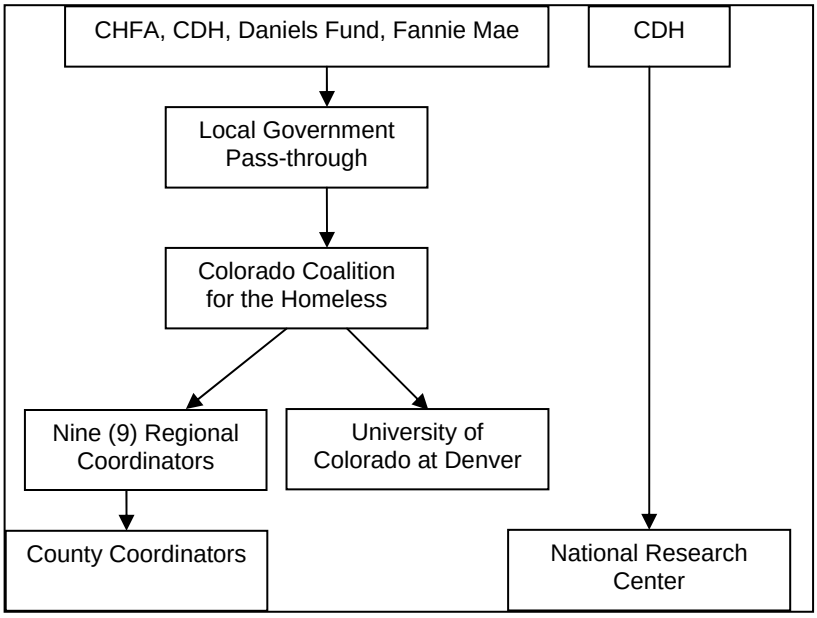
Colorado's August 2006 homeless count was initiated by the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH) and primarily led by the Colorado Division of Housing (CDH). The project included active participation and collaboration from numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals, including the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA); Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs, the Colorado Department of Human Services; Adams County Housing Authority; Volunteers of America; Posada; Fannie Mae; Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative; Mile High United Way; Rocky Mountain Housing Development Corporation, and homeless advocates. Individuals from these organizations formed the Housing Subcommittee Group for the Statewide Count (Housing Subcommittee).

CHFA, CDH, the Daniels Fund, and Fannie Mae funded the project, and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless agreed to serve as the fiscal agent. By January 2006, it was clear there were sufficient dollars, community interest and support for conducting the summer homeless count.

This section briefly identifies the organizational stakeholders in the survey process and describes the massive planning behind the organization and implementation of a statewide survey. (See Part VII for a more detailed description of the process).

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The complexity of the project and the number of funders and participating agencies presented enormous challenges. The following flowchart reflects both the organizational and funding structures.



The roles of each of these players is discussed more fully below.

PRELIMINARY WORK

At the start of the project, the Colorado Division of Housing developed a preliminary understanding of what homelessness looked like across the state, which helped clarify many organizational issues and informed the appropriate use of scarce resources. The challenge for the 2006 Colorado statewide homeless count was to guarantee statewide consistency in administering the count, and to obtain local commitment in the many communities across the state. CDH developed a preliminary map of homelessness in the various counties and regions, which served as the basis for identifying agencies serving various homeless populations.

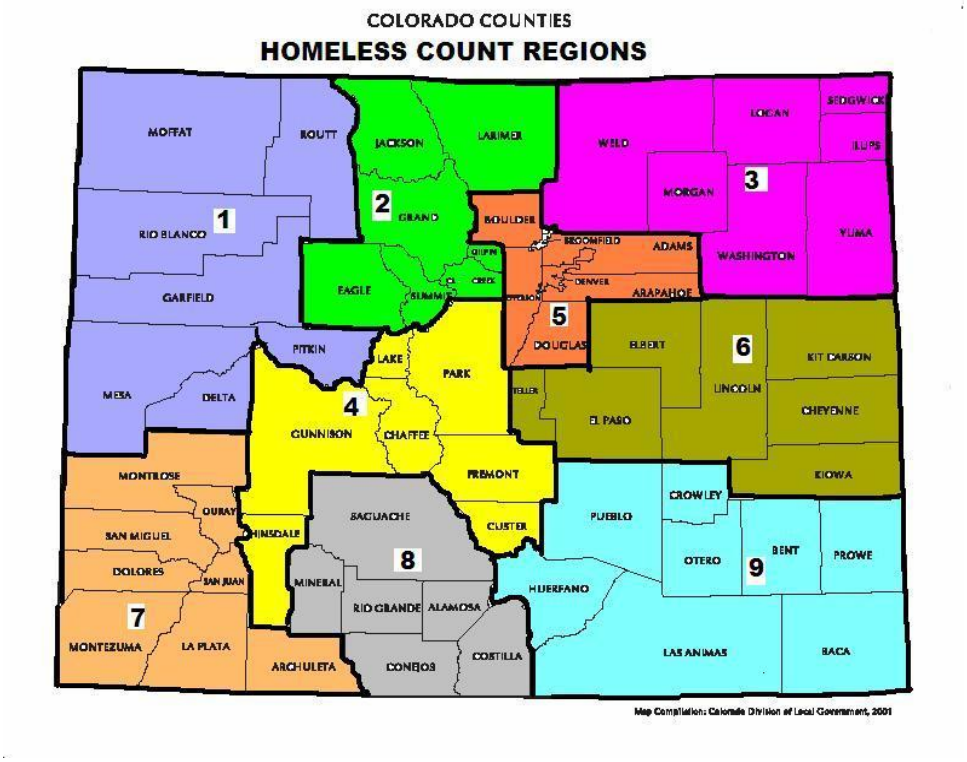
The Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH) sent a letter to hundreds of state and local organizations, informing them of the date and purpose of the homeless count and asking them for their assistance. These organizations included law enforcement, housing authorities, housing development organizations, homeless shelters, transitional housing, food banks and soup kitchens, treatment and rehabilitation facilities, health care organizations including mental health centers, prisons, National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices, departments of human and social services, health departments, county and municipal officials, faith-based organizations, family centers, domestic violence shelters, workforce centers, school districts, veterans groups, justice centers, migrant service agencies, United Way organizations, and Tribal organizations.

In May and June, 2006, prior to the homeless count, a web-based pre-survey was sent to rural agencies serving homeless individuals. The purpose of the survey was two-fold: 1) to gain information on the nature of homelessness in rural Colorado, and 2) to identify agencies and volunteers willing to help with the count. The pre-survey collected the following information:

- Identification of local agencies
- Identification of potential volunteers
- Estimates of the number of unsheltered homeless
- Locations where the unsheltered homeless stay at night

Using multiple lists and the responses to the pre-survey, CDH created a master list of agencies and sorted the list by county within each region. Coordinators also received a list of locations where unsheltered homeless stay at night, collected via the pre-survey.

Using geography, topography and communities of interest, the Housing Subcommittee subdivided the state into nine regions. The statewide homeless count process relied heavily on these regions throughout the point-in-time planning, coordination and survey administration process. The map helped participants visualize the state and emphasized areas that needed organizational help and attention (See Appendix 1 for a full-page regional map).



COLLABORATION

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count required a phenomenal amount of collaboration. Throughout every phase of the project, participants exhibited consistent patience, dedication and skill in resolving issues and reconciling differing opinions. The primary planners at CDH are commended for their ceaseless commitment to the value of inclusion and to their leadership in providing a respectful environment for everyone involved. For example, in the early stages of the planning, the Housing Subcommittee began working with both urban and rural homeless service agencies in an effort to understand differences between urban and rural areas that affect homelessness, such as seasonality. Rural areas reported a higher incidence of homelessness in summer than winter, while urban areas have more homeless persons during the winter. Rural agencies requested a shorter survey form, while urban areas wanted the survey to be similar to the one that has been used in previous years in Metro Denver. Due to very different needs, perceptions, experiences, and expectations, it took nearly ten months to reach agreement on a draft survey.

Coordinators

CDH staff recruited nine regional and 64 county coordinators from human/social service agencies, housing authorities, homeless shelters, domestic violence agencies, county governments, and volunteers. The Housing Subcommittee also hired a statewide coordinator to manage the regional and county coordinators.

The dedicated group of regional and county coordinators were responsible for extensive organizing, planning and recruiting.

- Regional coordinators took the lead for their designated region of the state, coordinating all regional homeless count activities including educating agencies and the public regarding the homeless count. This included recruiting volunteers, providing training for volunteers and agency staff, and assisting the statewide coordinator with logistics of training and homeless count activities. The regional coordinators also helped coordinate the project's debriefing activities — evaluation and wrap-up of the survey process with the regional, county, and local community — and were responsible for submitting completed surveys to CDH. (See Appendix 2 for the Regional Coordinator Job Description).
- The county coordinators also contributed untold hours to the project through coordinating the recruitment of local survey field representatives in the county (agencies, nonprofits, departments of human services, housing authorities, law enforcement, and faith-based groups). These activities included identifying participating agencies, assisting with the planning and coordination for the county, assisting the regional coordinator with training logistics, coordinating with agencies to assess the need for survey administrators, and acting as a resource for necessary tasks on the day of the count. County coordinators also coordinated the actual survey process within the county to ensure consistency regarding handling of surveys during distribution and data collection. They submitted all completed surveys to the regional coordinators and assisted with debriefing activities. (See Appendix 3 for the County Coordinator Job Description).

Counties/Agencies/Volunteers

Coordination of agencies and volunteers occurred primarily at the county and local level. All but three Colorado counties participated in the statewide point-in-time survey and count.[13] Hundreds of agencies participated in collecting data and distributing the survey. Agency staff and volunteers from government programs, non-profit organizations, supportive service and food distribution programs, meal sites and faith-based organizations literally worked thousands of hours to help organize the count in their area, recruit additional volunteers, and disseminate and collect surveys, among many other tasks.

CONSULTANTS

The Housing Subcommittee contracted with the Center for Education Policy Analysis / the Center for Public-Private Sector Cooperation (CEPA/CPPSC), Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, and the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC). CEPA/CPPSC's primary role was to develop the point-in-time methodology, analyze data, and write a comprehensive final report. NRC primarily served as the statewide project coordinator.

CEPA/CPPSC was instrumental in revising the survey instrument and developing the suggested data collection methodology, and in analyzing the data and producing the final report. In collaboration with NRC and volunteers, they conducted a pilot test of the revised survey.

[13] Twelve counties did not submit any surveys but did submit tracking forms, indicating that they tried to participate but did not serve any homeless clients during the relevant time. Of these 12 counties, one submitted a homeless count.

CEPA/CPPSC and NRC developed a tracking form to document information about survey administration and provide a means for communities to count and estimate unsheltered homeless persons. The data collection methodology and the use of the tracking form will be covered in subsequent sections of this report.

In collaboration with NRC, CEPA/CPPSC developed an extensive training module and materials, delivered trainings, and developed a "train-the-trainer" protocol and PowerPoint presentation for regional coordinators to use in delivering trainings to volunteers and agency staff in their local communities. (See Appendix 4 for PowerPoint presentation). CEPA/CPPSC and NRC created a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to distribute via email as well as post on the website. Due to CEPA's previous experience in homeless issues, research, and point-in-time studies, it was able to provide general technical assistance throughout the project.

NRC provided the extensive coordination necessary for such a statewide effort, and it facilitated communication and information exchange among key stakeholders throughout the project. NRC drafted and conducted the web-based pre-survey and compiled and distributed the master list of agencies providing homeless services in Colorado. Using multiple lists provided by CDH and the responses to the pre-survey, NRC created a checklist for coordinators to remind them of all the tasks necessary for a successful count. NRC also conducted numerous trainings throughout the state. As mentioned above, NRC collaborated with CEPA/CPPSC on survey revision, the survey pilot and the development of all training materials. It also created and reviewed various sections of the logistics documents.

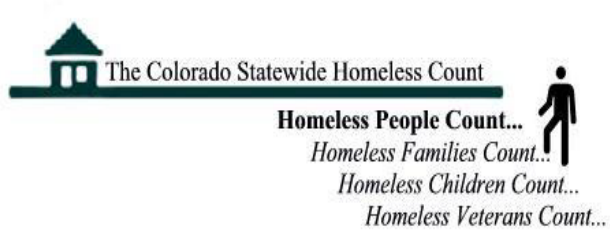
SURVEY

The Housing Subcommittee and other key stakeholders began with MDHI's earlier point-in-time survey instruments. Over a ten-month period**,** stakeholders reviewed the survey questions, length of survey, and previously collected MDHI survey data to determine the content of the August, 2006 survey, and worked to simplify and improve the instrument. These meetings were widely publicized and many individuals and organizations had input in the development of the survey. Working through the development and revision of the survey instrument was difficult and time consuming, as numerous dedicated stakeholders held disparate points of view. The need to honor everyone's voice required patience and perseverance to finalize the survey. (See Appendix 5 for English and Spanish surveys).

Researchers, with the help of volunteers, conducted a pilot of the draft survey in the summer of 2006. The survey pilot was completed in emergency shelters and soup kitchens along the Front Range. Based on this pilot, minor adjustments in wording and formatting were made. Once the Subcommittee had a final document, the researchers translated the survey into Spanish.

COMMUNICATION/MEDIA

The Housing Subcommittee conducted the planning and communications of the count as a *campaign*. The Subcommittee created a logo, developed an extensive website, recruited a spokesperson, provided a media kit, and consistently communicated with key stakeholders statewide via email, telephone, phone conferencing, video conferencing, fax, website, and post.



The project's logo helped convey, both visually and contextually, a consistent message during the campaign.

Media Kit

CDH developed a media kit to assist communities in generating consistent and positive information about the statewide homeless count, and it was a valuable tool in recruiting volunteers for the project. Counties were able to customize their approach to the media and were provided camera-ready tools or templates, which helped reduce their workload. The entire media kit was made available on the Count's website, where staff and volunteers could click on links to the media toolkit, a press release template, and media advisory and press contacts for each of the nine regions. This approach resulted in numerous articles, public service messages and radio programs around the state about homelessness in general and the statewide count, specifically.

Website

In order to create a grassroots homeless count and promote statewide methodological consistency, the homeless count organizers developed the Colorado Homeless Count Website. The website was housed within the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness' website and administered by CDH. It was integral to the project's ability to communicate, educate, and provide consistent information across the state, and was used both to collect and to distribute information. Serving as an organizational tool and an information portal, it contained information critical to the completion of the homeless count.

<u>Website Organization</u>

The website's structure mirrored the structure of the count itself. The Colorado regional map, used to organize the point-in-time count, was prominently displayed on the website's homepage. Clicking on a region in the map directs the user to that region's homepage. Volunteers and county coordinators utilized their region's homepage for information about trainings, contact information, and local media coverage. Additionally, the website allowed coordinators access to the survey instrument and training materials. Coordinators were able to download the English and Spanish surveys as well as the Domestic Violence survey and the tracking form. This guaranteed everyone easy access to the survey.

Website - Information Portal

The website played an important role in facilitating the sharing of information among organizers and regional and county coordinators. Organizers used the website to post instructions, broadcast the date, time and locations of survey trainings, and to outline effective media techniques, including downloading press release templates.

Since training was an important aspect of the homeless count, the website contained all of the training materials, including a detailed explanation of each survey question. The *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* section of the website allowed volunteers and the regional and county coordinators immediate access to information about the homeless count.

The website also offered guidance on media relations. The organizers of the count considered it extremely important to educate the public on the pending homeless count. However, it was determined that an information campaign focused on traditional metropolitan-based media outlets would not penetrate into small towns and counties. The website was used to disseminate media training for local coordinators, and it housed template press releases so that local communities could publish information regarding the homeless count, and at the same time, tailor their messaging to specific localities. The website may be viewed at http://www.colorado.gov/cich/pit.htm.

PART III FINDINGS: THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES - WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Part III provides information about the survey respondents. It describes respondent characteristics including age; gender; military service; race and ethnicity; seasonal work status; disability status; reasons for homelessness; duration and episodes of homelessness; chronic homelessness; government benefits; and needed services. It also profiles all survey homeless in terms of place stayed Monday night; age of relatives and relationship to respondent; household situation; newly homeless; and unsheltered homeless.

Nearly 7,000 (6,665) respondents were determined to have been homeless, and were accompanied by 5,225 relatives. Based on the survey, a total of 11,890 persons were homeless on Monday night, August 28, 2006.[14]

INTRODUCTION AND HOW TO READ THIS SECTION

This part reports on the respondents who completed the survey *and* the relatives they documented as staying with them who also were determined to be without a permanent place to live. The report refers to "respondents" when the data reflect just those persons who answered the survey, and to "all survey homeless" when the data reflect both groups (respondents plus the relatives they identified as also being homeless) taken together. ("All survey homeless" does NOT include aggregate domestic violence data or counts and estimates of unsheltered homeless persons.)

Final Database/Variables/Survey Data

Final Database

Table 2 describes the number of surveys that were collected, entered, and removed from the final database.

Table 2. SURVEY COLLECTION and FINAL DATABASE	
Surveys collected/entered	8,377
Case removed/no data	1
Duplicates removed	134
Not homeless removed	1,577
Final number in database	6,665

Variables

Most survey variables are reported only for respondents. Some variables can be extrapolated to all survey homeless. For example, survey respondents were asked in what type of place they spent Monday night. If the respondent identified that s/he was a single parent and had three

[14] Some respondents identified themselves as having children or being part of a couple but did not provide information about these relatives; and conversely, 207 respondents indicating "single" status provided information about 398 relatives who also were without a permanent place to live. This latter group of relatives were included in the dataset.

children, then where the respondent spent Monday night was extrapolated to the children (see Part VII, Methodology Section*. Reporting on Survey Data Points/Variables*).

Table 3 describes what survey variables are reported only for respondents, and those reported for all survey homeless.

Table 3. REPORTING ON SURVEY VARIABLES

Variables	Respondents	All Survey Homeless
Age	X	X
Chronic homelessness	X	
Disabling conditions	X	
Duration of homelessness	X	
Episodes of homelessness	X	
Ethnicity	X	
Foster care/out of home placement	X	
Gender	X	
Government benefits	X	
Have permanent place to live	X	X
Household situation	X	X
Last permanent place	X	
Military service	X	
Money from working	X	
Newly homeless		X
Night of August 28		X
Number of relatives	X	
Reasons for homelessness	X	
Relationship to Respondent	X	X
Seasonal resort worker	X	
Seasonal/year-round farm worker	X	
Services	X	

Missing Responses

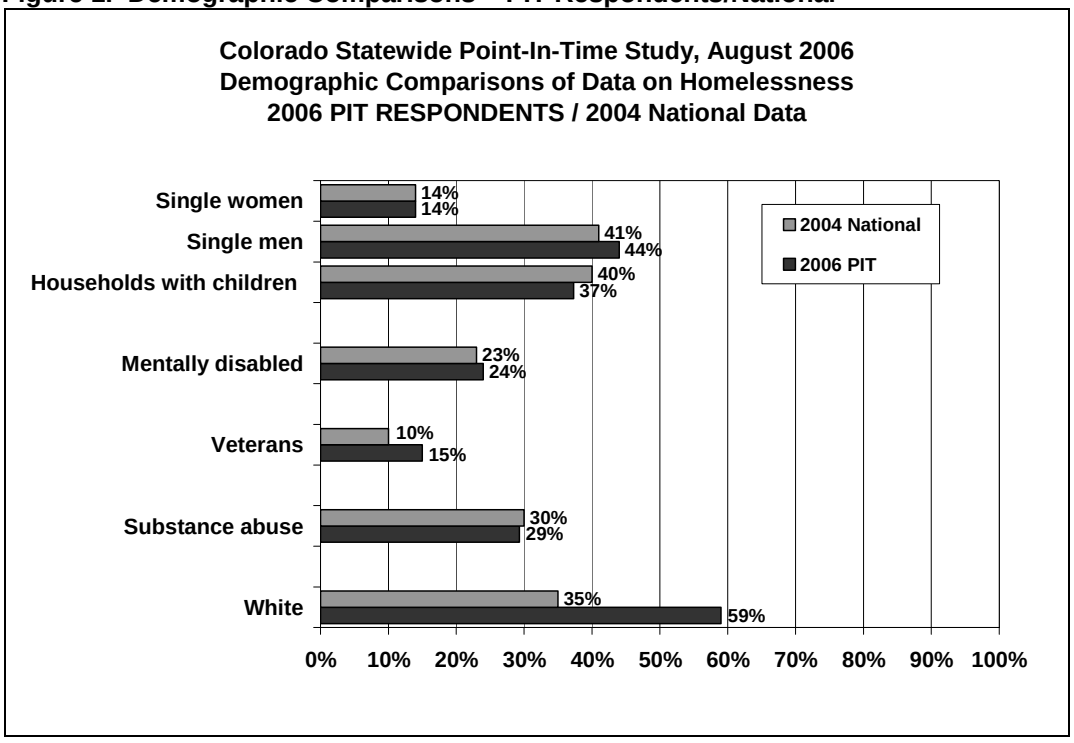
Survey respondents did not complete every question; because of these missing data, the numbers and percentages in the report do not always equal the number of respondents or all survey homeless. The percentages do not represent the total number of respondents, that is, the percentages for most variables do not include missing responses.[15]

[15] The exception is that, for questions where respondents could check "all that apply," the percentage giving each response is based on all respondents.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The data from the Colorado point-in time survey shows that Colorado homeless persons look similar to the homeless population nationwide. Figure 1 provides a brief demographic comparison of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2004 national data and Colorado's summer 2006 statewide homeless data for respondents. The exception is that, in Colorado, a higher percentage of homeless persons identified themselves as white than in the national data.[16] However, minorities make up a greater percentage of the homeless population compared to Colorado's general population. That said, all national data sources report higher percentages of homeless minorities than does Colorado. This suggests that the survey process did not completely capture homeless minorities, possibly due to language barriers and the fact that the current political climate might have made immigrant populations afraid or unwilling to participate in the survey.

Figure 1. Demographic Comparisons – PIT Respondents/National



[16] The 59 percent identifying as White in Figure 1 includes some respondents who said they were Hispanic/Latino in a separate question about ethnicity. When these respondents are counted as minority rather than as white, the breakdown statewide is 51.7% white and 48.3% minority.

Household Situation

Respondents

The household situation identified by the respondent reflects how respondents portray themselves. Researchers added a category to those listed in the survey: "Grandparent with children."[17]

- People who identified themselves as "single" or "part of a couple without children" are grouped as "Households Without children."
- People who identified themselves as being a single parent with children, part of a couple with children, or a grandparent with children, are categorized as "Households With Children."[18]

Figure 2. Household Situation

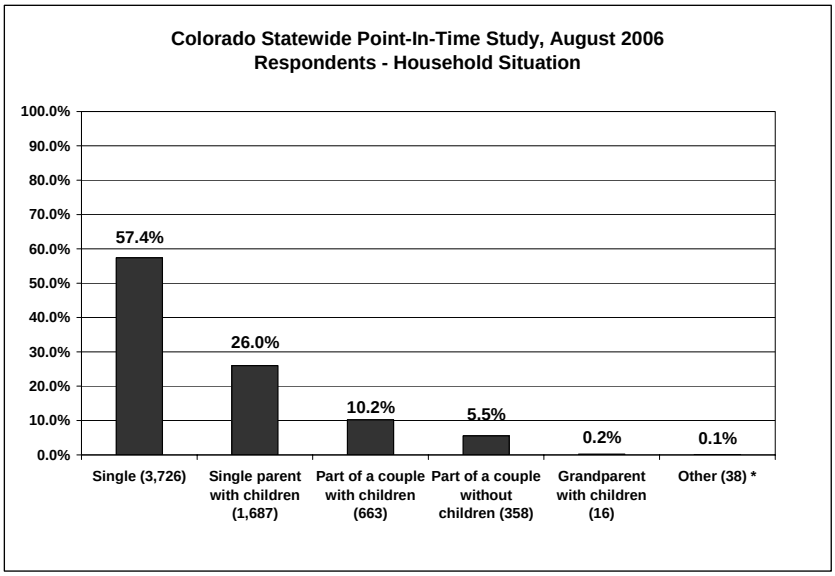
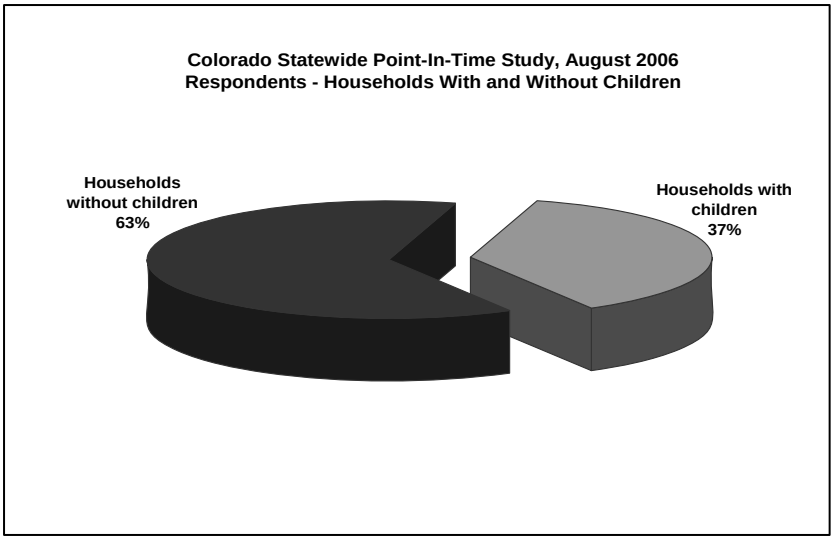


Figure 2 describes respondents' household situation. Over half of respondents (57.4%) were single. One quarter (26.0%) identified themselves as single parents with children, and 10 percent (10.2%) said they were part of a couple with children.

Figure 3. Households With and Without Children

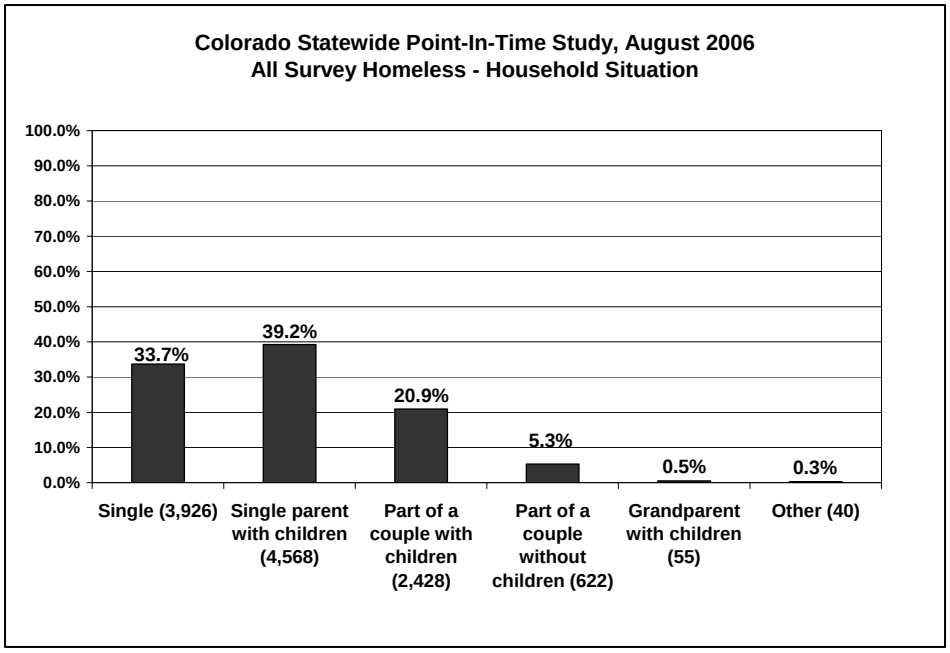
More than one-third of respondents (37.3%) were classified as households with children. (Figure 3)



[17]Respondents were identified as being grandparents with grandchildren if they were staying with their grandchildren and (1) not staying with family or friends and (2) the children's parents were not living with the family.

[18] Classification into households with or without children was primarily based on responses to Q8, household situation. However, where data were inconsistent, we also considered other factors. For a complete discussion of this process, see Part VII, Data Cleaning, Identifying Households With and Without Children.

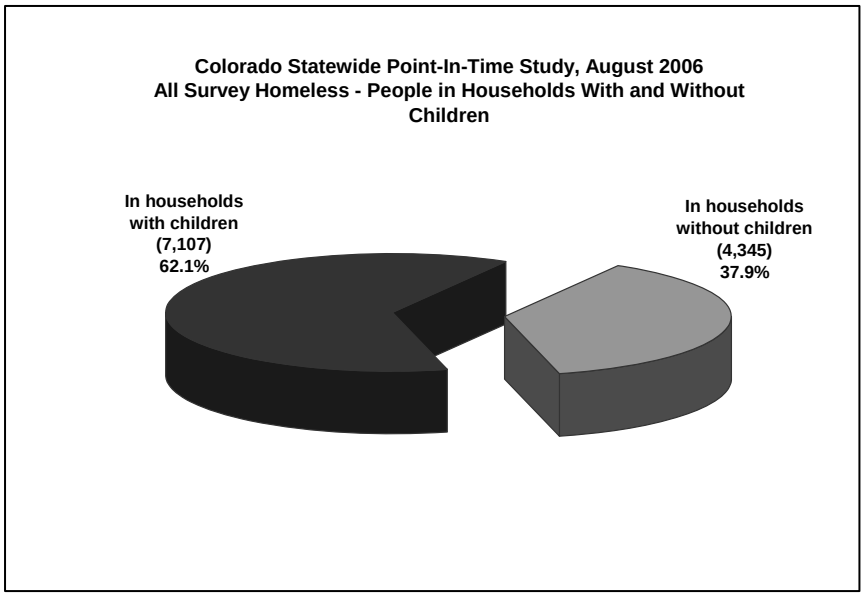
Figure 4. All Survey Homeless People by Household Situation



All Survey Homeless

People in households headed by a single parent accounted for the largest group (39.2%) of all survey homeless people, followed by single individuals (33.7%). Households with children are one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Nearly two-thirds (62.1%) of all survey homeless persons in Colorado were in households with children.[19]

Figure 5. All Survey Homeless People in Households With and Without Children



[19] A total of 86 survey respondents were age 17 and under. Of this group, 64 were classified as being in households without children, because respondents and their spouses were considered to be adults, regardless of their age. In this situation, however, it is clear that these 64 respondents, while treated as adults in the report, are considered to be children by any common sense definition. In future studies, it may be determined that these respondents be classified as households with children because they are under 18.

Age

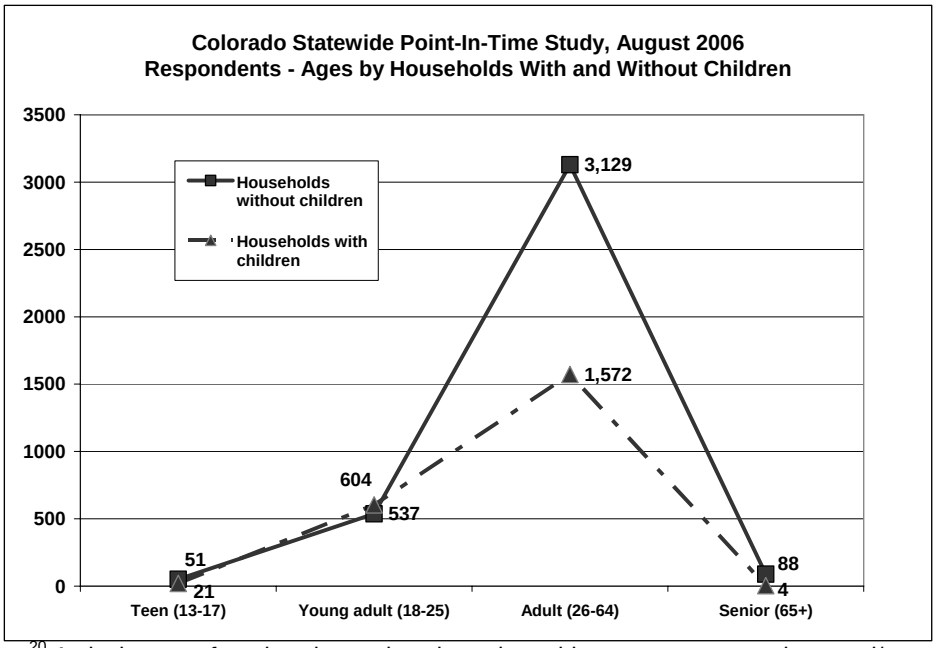
Respondents

Respondents (the people that actually answered surveys) ranged in age from 5 to 98 years. Their average (mean) age was 39 (38.7) years old. Thirteen respondents ages 12 years old and under submitted surveys. Since researchers had no information to explain this finding, these surveys were retained in the homeless dataset.

Table 4. AGE OF RESPONDENTS		
AGE GROUP	**NUMBER**	**%**
School Age (12 and under)	13	.2
Teen (13-17)	73	1.2
Young Adult (18-25)	1,163	18.7
Adult (26-64)	4,872	78.4
Senior (65 and over)	97	1.6
TOTAL	**6,218**	

Although less than 2 percent (1.6%) were age 65 and over, the National Coalition for the Homeless reports increased homelessness among elderly persons, citing the lack of affordable housing as the primary cause.

Figure 6. Age Groups by Households With and Without Children



Respondents' Age Group by Family Status

In the young adult group, there were more respondents with children (604) than without children (537). In the remaining age groups, the majority of respondents were in households without children. Figure 6 provides the number of respondents in each age category by households with and without children.[20]

[20] As is the case for other data points throughout this report, some numbers and/or percentages do not "match." For example, Figure 6 is a crosstabulation (the cross- referencing or comparison of two variables to determine how they are interrelated) of age in categories by households with and without children. Figure 6 shows that there are 72 teens when combining the household categories; however, Table 5 shows there are 73 teens. This discrepancy is due to missing responses in one or more of the crosstab categories.

Ages for All Survey Homeless

Figures 7 and 8 describe the ages of all survey homeless persons and the ages of relatives accompanying respondents, respectively. Half (51.2%) of all survey homeless persons were adults age 26-64. There were a total of ***3,643 homeless children and teens***, one-third (34.0%) of all people who were homeless on Monday night, August 28, 2006.

Figure 7. All Survey Homeless – Age Groups

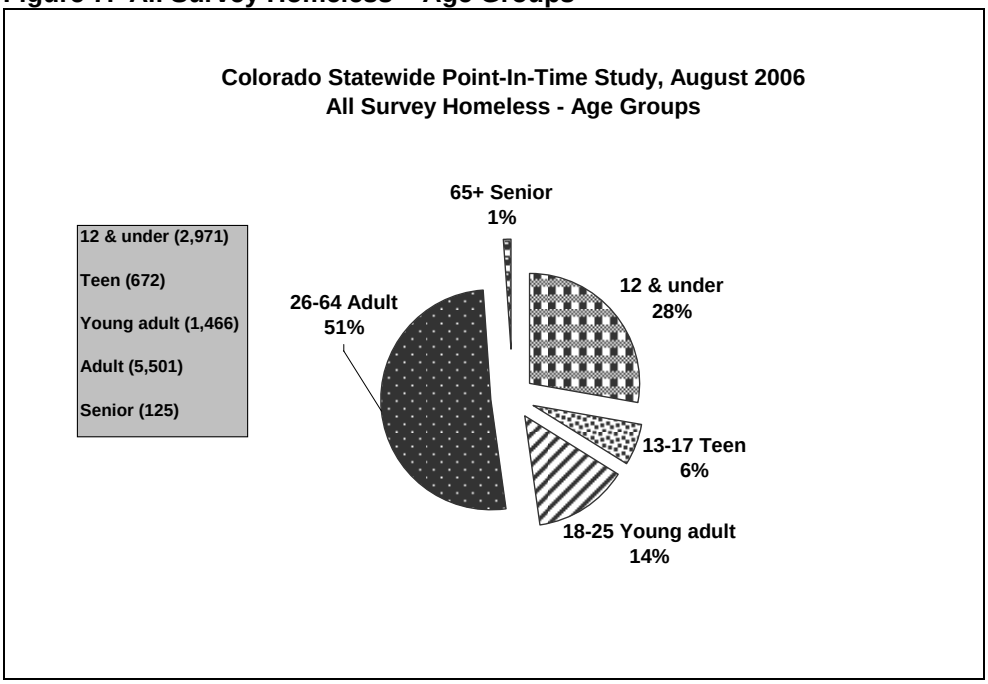
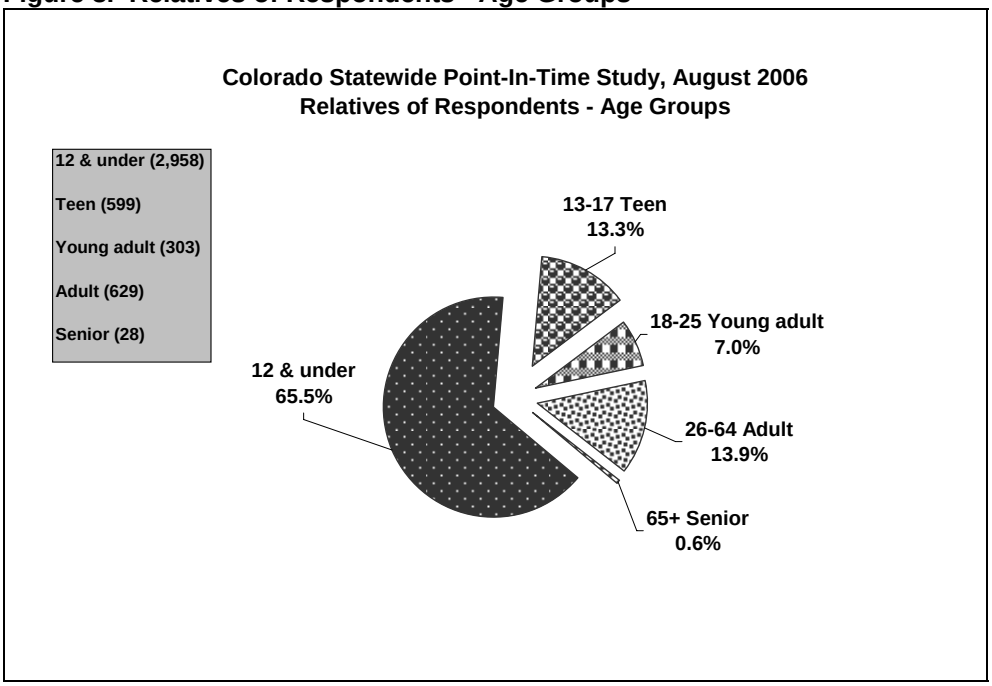
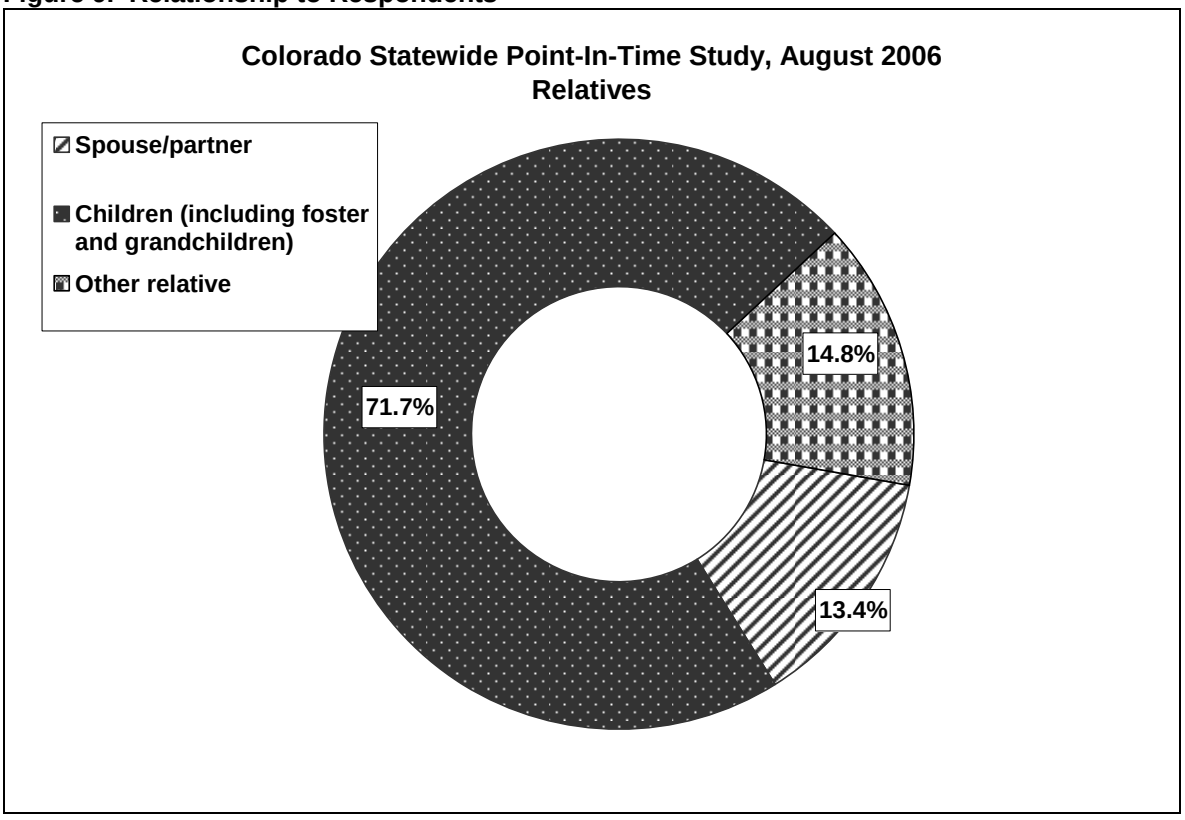


Figure 8. Relatives of Respondents - Age Groups



Respondents were asked the ages and relationship of all relatives who were homeless with them. More than two-thirds (71.7%) of the relatives they identified were children under age 18. "Other" relatives consisted of adult children, aunts/uncles, siblings, cousins, grandparents, nieces/nephews, and parents.

Figure 9. Relationship to Respondents



Gender

Over half (56.7%) of respondents were male as indicated in Figure 10 below. Single respondents were predominantly male, while single parent families were almost exclusively headed by females. Females were more likely to complete the survey for a couple (with or without children).

Figure 10. Gender

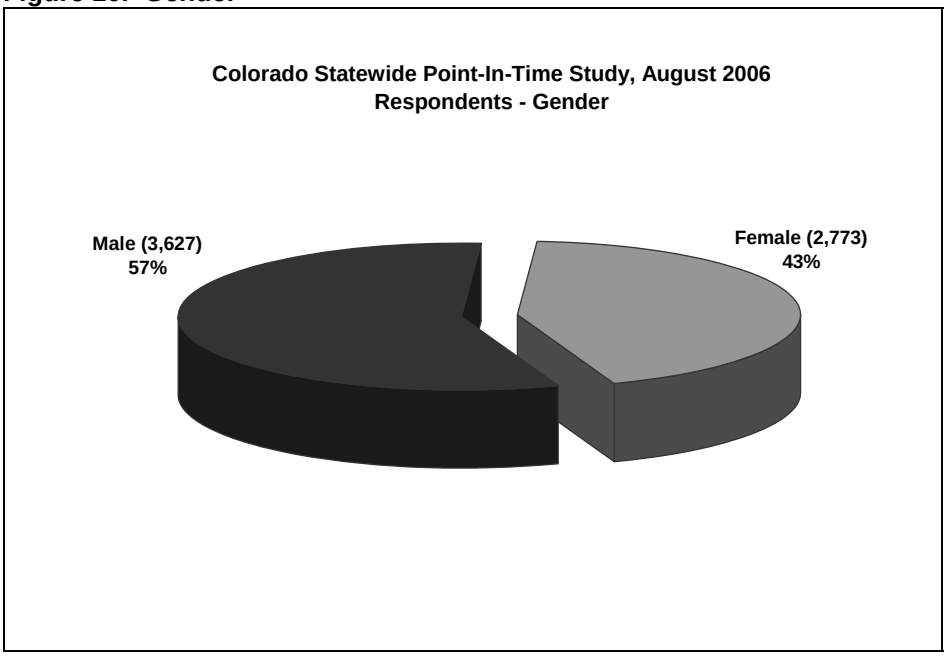
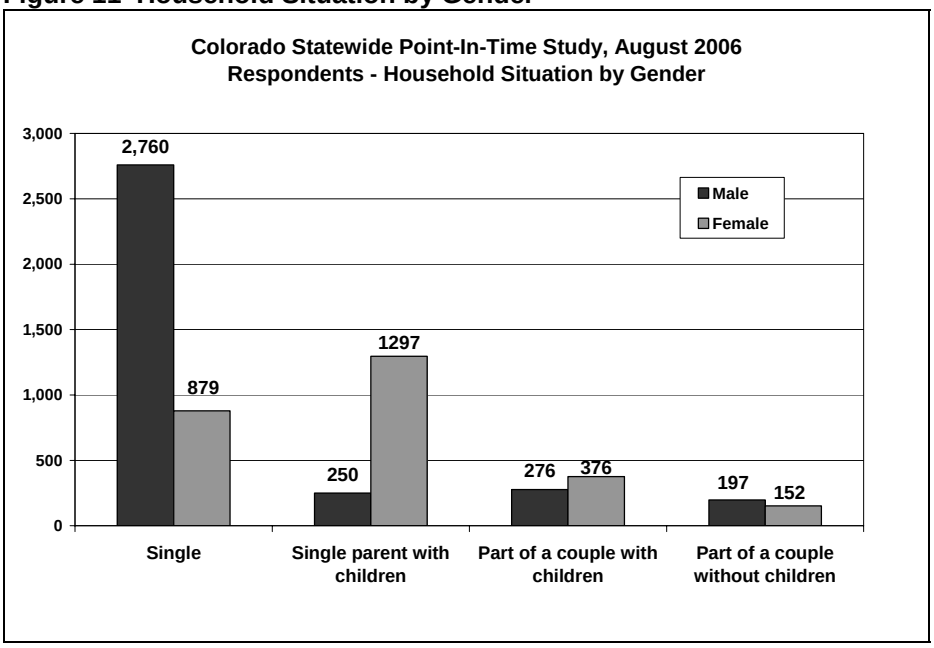


Figure 11 Household Situation by Gender



Race and Ethnicity of Respondents

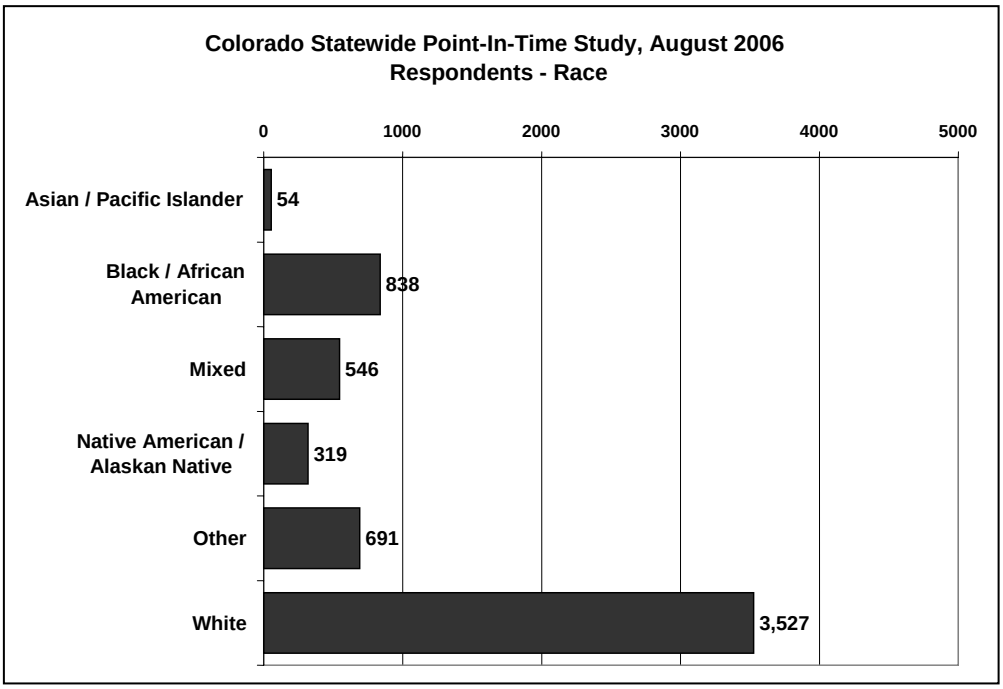
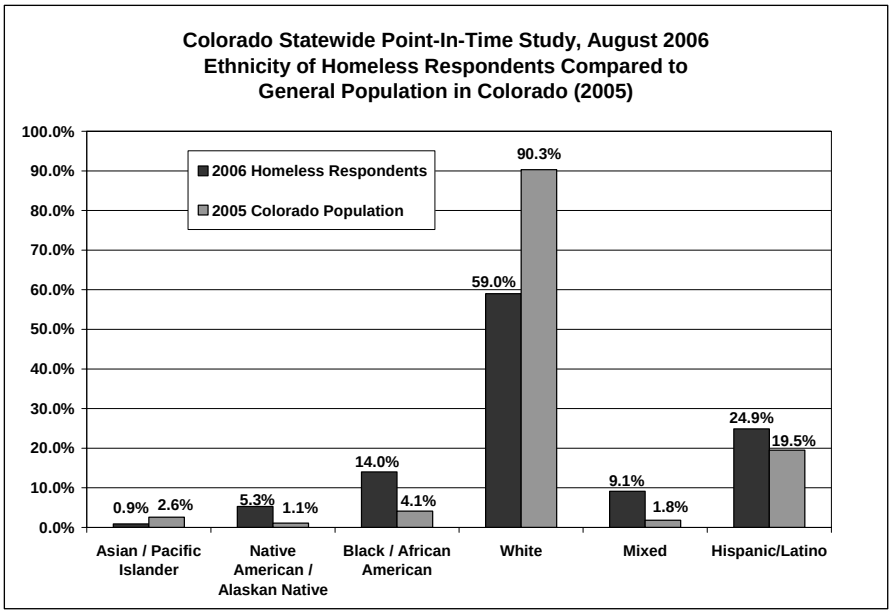


Figure 12. Racial Background

Figure 13. Race/Ethnicity of Homeless Respondents and Colorado Population[21] [22]

The statewide homeless survey asked respondents to identify their race and ethnicity in two separate questions, 1) Q7: "Which one category best describes your racial background?" and 2) Q6: "Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/ Hispanic/ Latino?" Figures 12 and 13 describe race and ethnicity data reported by respondents. Compared to the general population in Colorado in 2005, minorities were over-represented and whites were under-represented among Colorado's homeless population.[23]



[21] Since race and ethnicity were asked as separate questions, respondents who identified as Hispanic/Latino also could identify as white. This inflates the proportion of white respondents as compared to minorities. When respondents who identify as Hispanic/Latino are counted as minority rather than white, the breakdown statewide is 51.7% white and 48.3% minority.

[22] The race categories do not add to 100 percent because the "other" category is not included in the comparison. Statewide, 11.6% reported their race as "other."

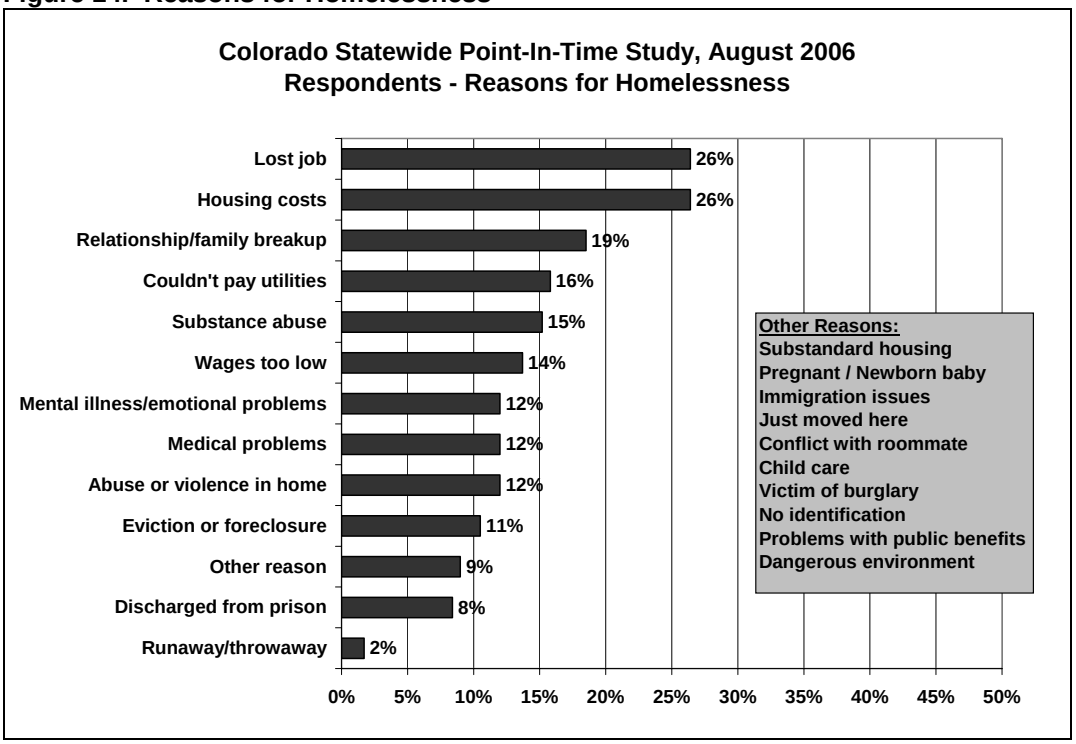
[23] U.S. Census Bureau. "State & County QuickFacts." <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/08000.html>

REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

Figures 14 and 15 describe the reasons for respondents' current spell of homelessness. Figure 15 shows the top 10 reasons for homelessness by grouped household situation; it gives the percentages of households with and without children that reported each reason.

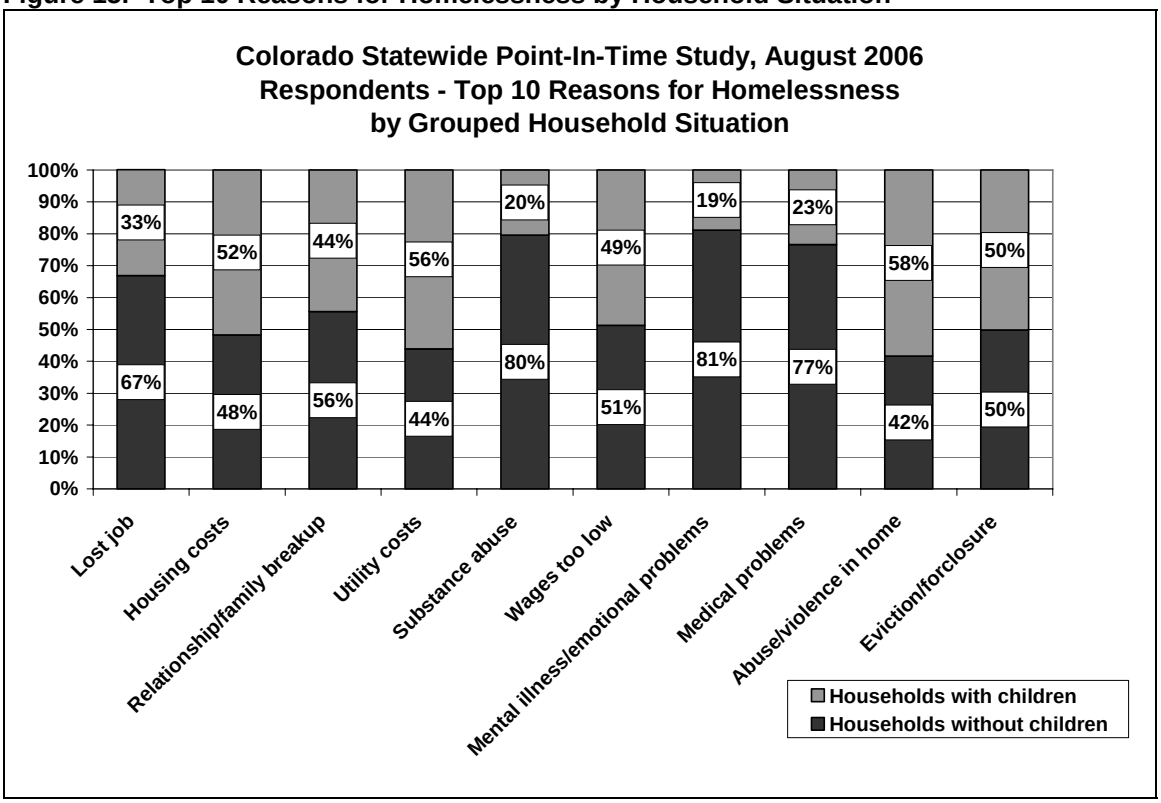
Respondents were given a list of possible reasons for homelessness and asked to check "all that apply." On average, respondents indicated one or two reasons for their homelessness. The most common reasons are loss of job and housing costs, followed by family/relationship breakup and utility costs. Slightly more than half (53%) of the reported reasons related to the cost of housing (housing costs, utility costs and eviction/foreclosure), and almost forty percent (39%) related to serious conditions (substance abuse, mental illness and medical problems). A number of respondents wrote in "other" reasons for their homelessness. The most common "other" reason was substandard housing.

Figure 14. Reasons for Homelessness



Respondents in households without children were much more likely than those in households with children to report substance abuse, mental illness and medical problems as a reason for their current homelessness. In contrast, respondents in households with children were more likely to say that abuse or violence in the home was a cause of their homelessness.

Figure 15. Top 10 Reasons for Homelessness by Household Situation



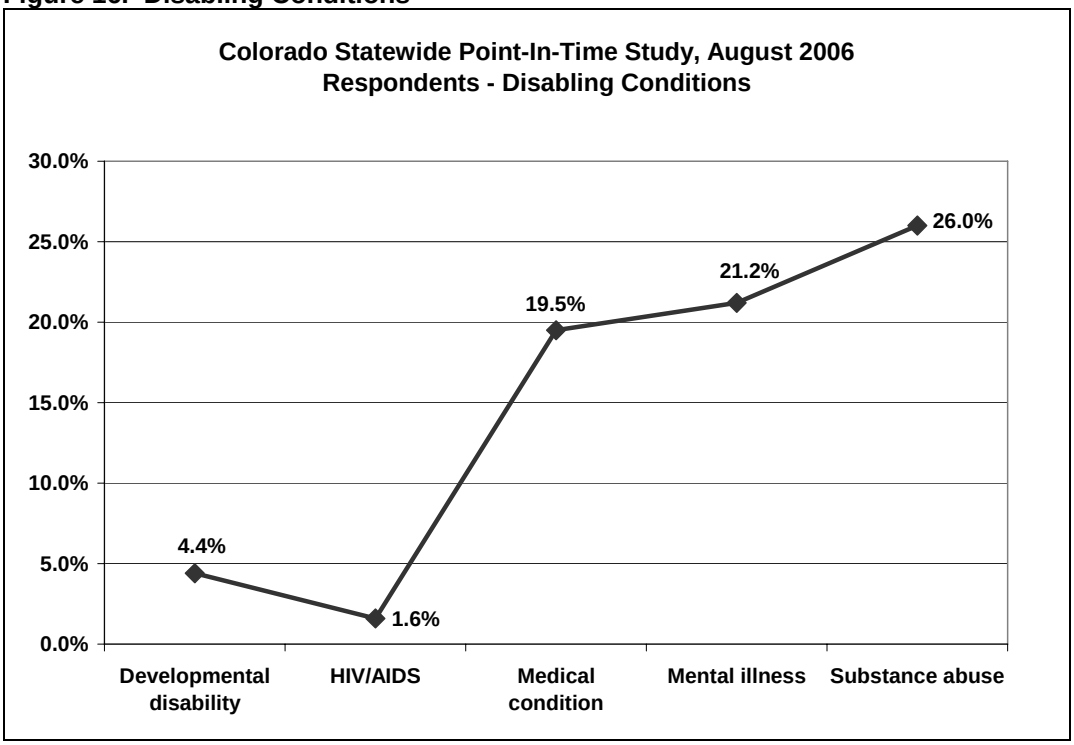
DISABLING CONDITIONS

Homeless people suffer from high rates of mental and physical health problems and are far more likely to suffer from chronic health issues. These problems are exacerbated by the stressful and chaotic nature of their living conditions. Often, they are unable to get treatment when they become ill, and rarely have access to preventive health care.[24]

HUD requires Continuums of Care to determine if, at the time of the survey, survey respondents have any of the following disabling conditions – serious mental illness, a serious medical condition, chronic substance abuse issues, a developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. *Half of all respondents (50.9%) reported having at least one of these chronic conditions.*

As shown in Figure 16, one in four survey respondents (26.0%) indicated that they had chronic substance abuse issues. Approximately one in five reported mental illness (21.2%) and medical conditions (19.5%). Due to the stigmatizing nature of these questions, it is likely that disabling conditions were under-reported. Single persons (71%) and households without children (77%) were most likely to have at least one of the five disabling conditions.

Figure 16. Disabling Conditions



[24] National Coalition for the Homeless. "Health Care and Homelessness, NCH Fact Sheet #8." June 2006. http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/Health.pdf

Figure 17. At Least One Disabling Condition by Household Situation

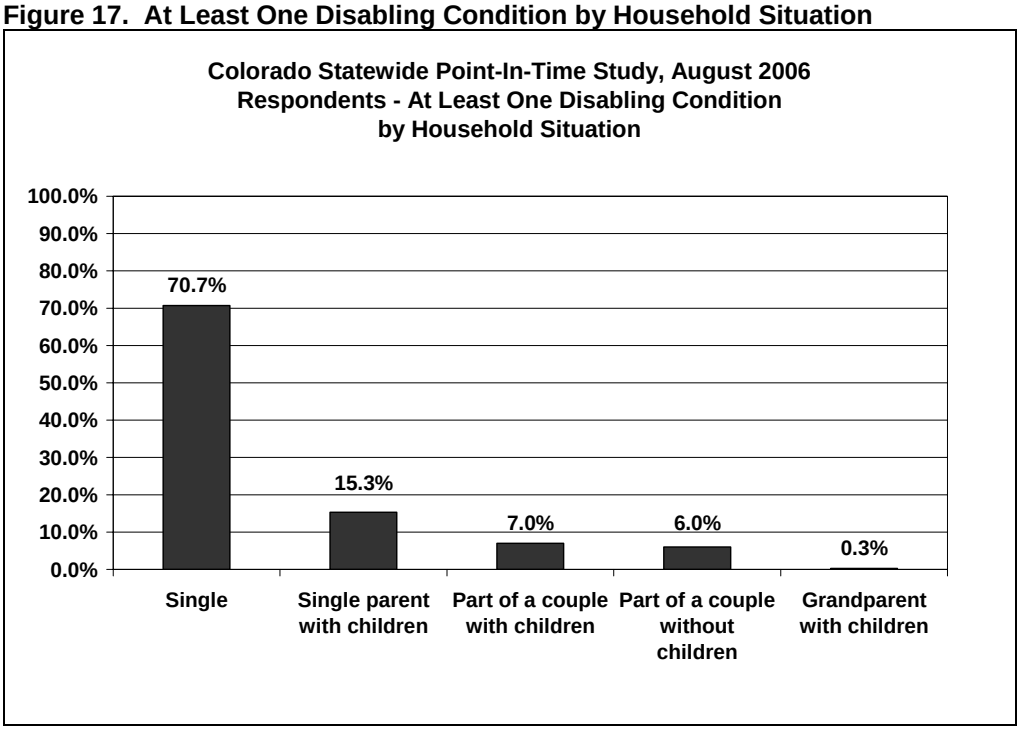
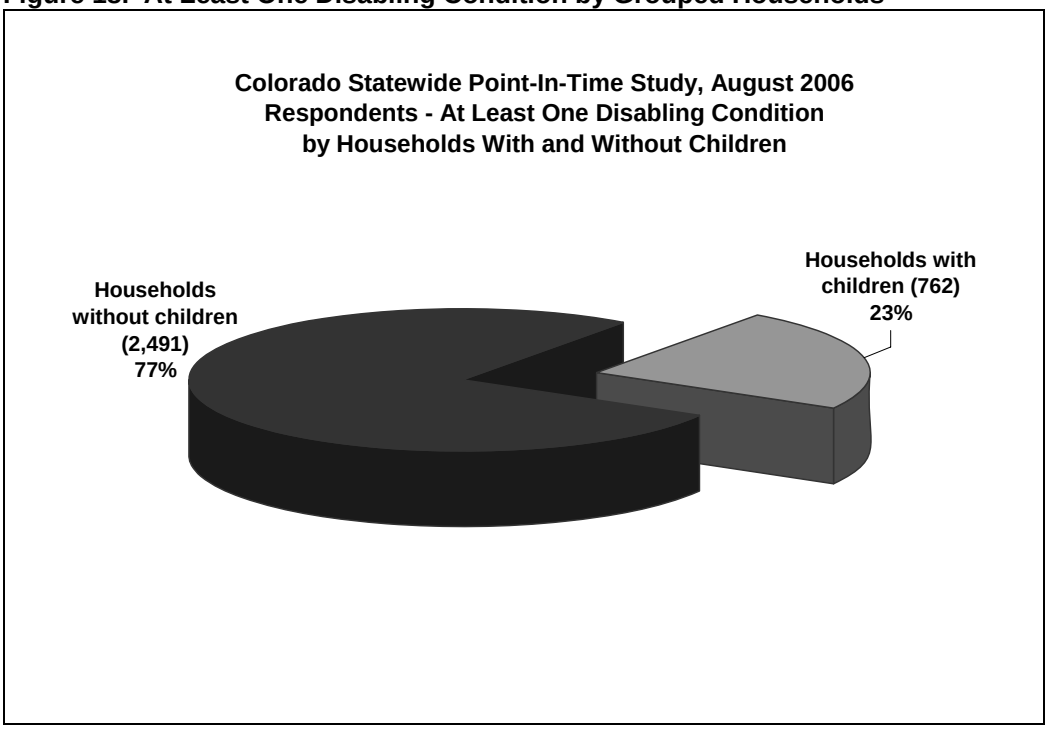


Figure 18. At Least One Disabling Condition by Grouped Households

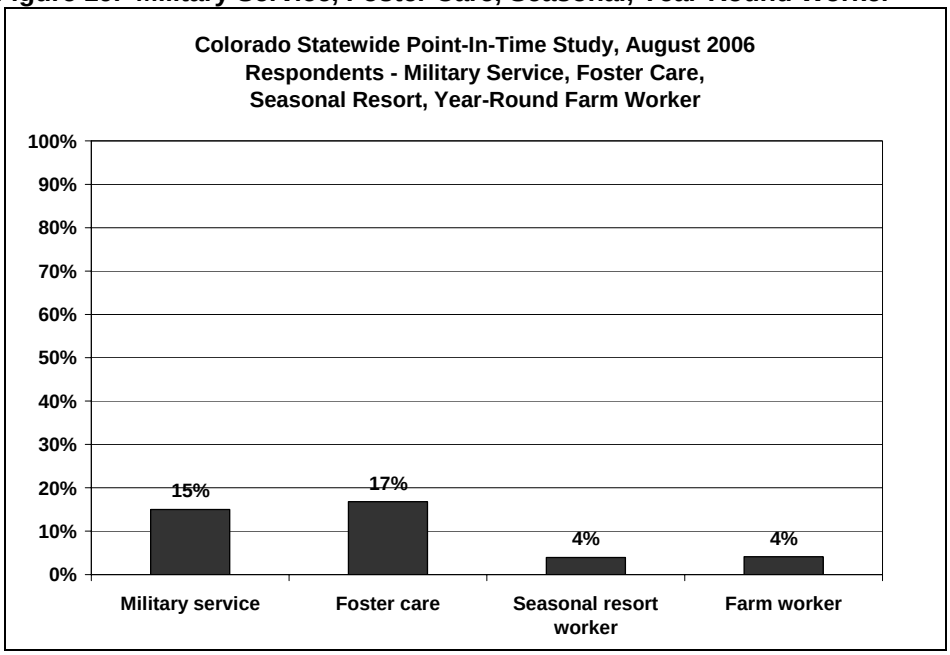


MILITARY SERVICE, FOSTER CARE, SEASONAL RESORT, YEAR-ROUND FARM WORKER

Respondents were asked if they had served in the military, were ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement, and if they were a seasonal resort worker or a seasonal or year-round farm worker. Responses to these questions are helpful in understanding and planning for needed services.

- In August 2006 in Colorado, the point-in-time data show that veterans comprised 15 percent (15.0%) of the homeless population overall, and 25 percent (24.8%) of adult homeless males. Of those who reported serving in the military, 94 percent (93.7%) were male. (Nationally, between 23 and 40 percent of homeless adults are veterans, and over the course of a year, as many as 500,000 veterans experience homelessness. The National Law Center reports that 33 percent of male homeless adults are veterans.[25])
- Seventeen percent (16.8%) said they had been in foster care. Nearly an equal number of homeless persons who reported that they had been in foster care are male (52.7%) and female (47.3%).
- Approximately four percent are seasonal resort workers (3.9%) or farm workers (4.1%).

Figure 19. Military Service, Foster Care, Seasonal, Year-Round Worker



Surveys typically undercount the homeless, as discussed in Part VI of this report. Additionally, the number of homeless seasonal resort and farm workers is difficult to obtain due to the political debate regarding undocumented individuals and families in the United States. This population may be reluctant to provide personal information. For this reason, seasonal and year-round workers may not be accurately reflected in this study.

[25] National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. "Homeless Veterans Fact Sheet #14, June 2006." <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/veterans.pdf>

WORKING/GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Figure 20. Income from Working

Respondents were asked if they or anyone else in their household received any money from working since the beginning of 2006. Over half (55.8%) said that someone in their household had worked in 2006. As shown in Figure 20, the majority (58.0%) who reported income from work were in households without children.

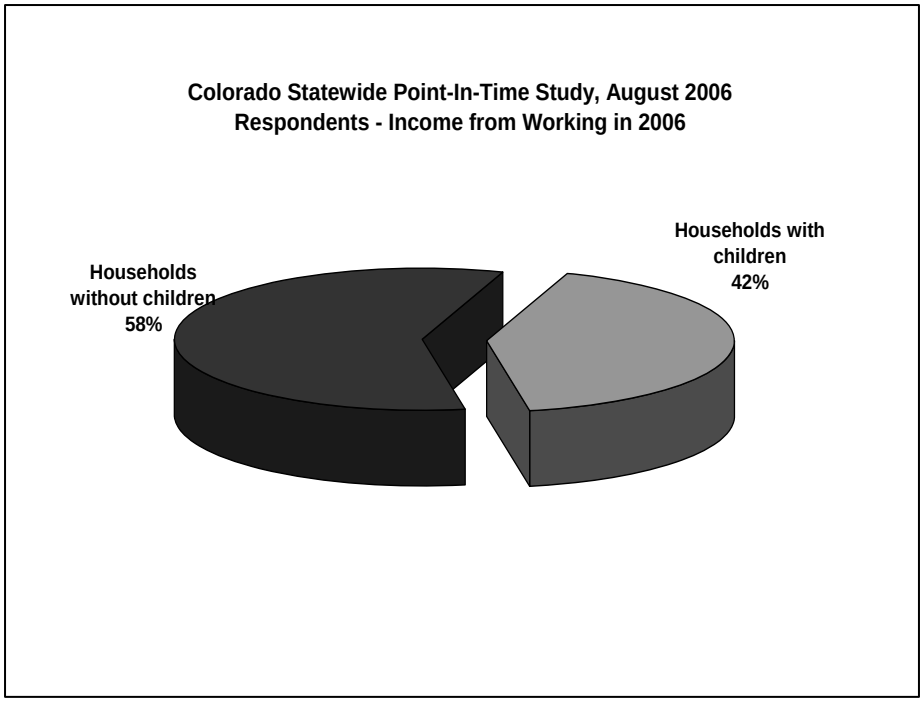
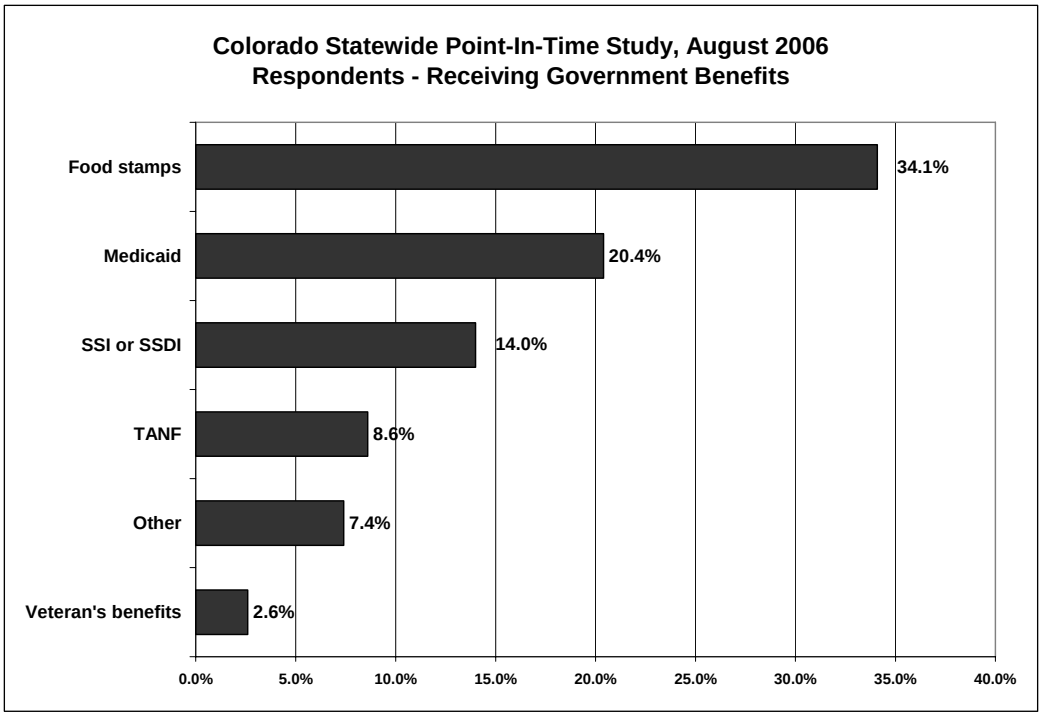


Figure 21. Government Benefits



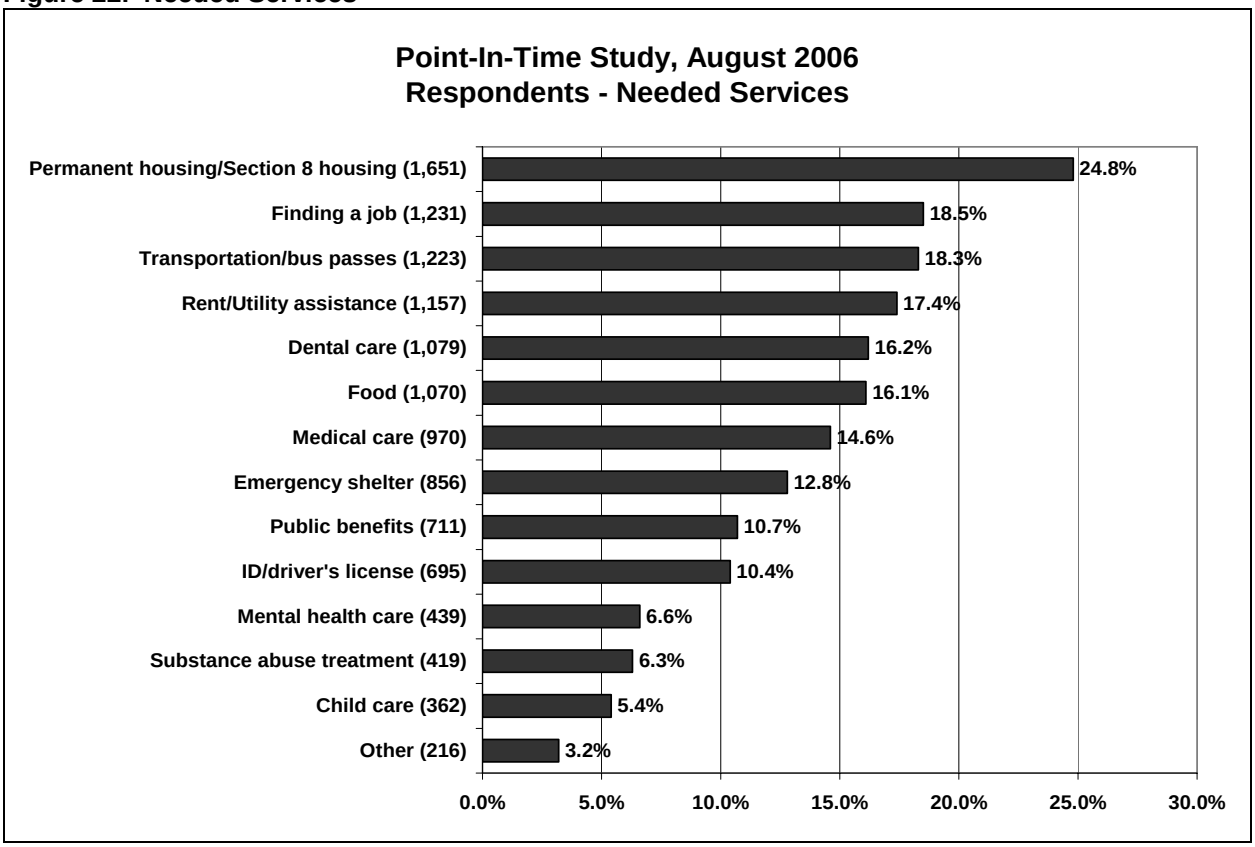
Respondents were asked if they or anyone in their household was receiving SSI/SSDI, TANF, Food Stamps, VA pension/benefits, Medicaid or Medicare, or any other government benefit. Half (52.5%) were receiving at least one government benefit. More than one in three respondents (34.1%) reported receiving Food Stamps, and one in five (20.4%) was receiving Medicaid/Medicare.

NEEDED SERVICES

Respondents were asked, "In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could not get?" Nearly two-thirds (63.2%) of respondents reported that, in the past month, they or another family member needed at least one service they could not obtain. The most frequently needed service was permanent housing, cited by one-quarter (24.8%) of respondents. Other frequently needed services included help finding a job, transportation, and rent and/or utility assistance.

Respondents indicated that they needed a number of services that were not listed in the question. In order of occurrence, these services were: basic needs including clothing, etc.; legal assistance; optical needs (primarily eyeglasses); and education expenses, including classes and training.

Figure 22. Needed Services



DURATION AND EPISODES OF HOMELESSNESS

Duration of homelessness refers to how long a particular episode of homelessness has lasted. *Number of episodes* refers to the number of separate times a person has experienced homelessness, regardless of how long each of the episodes lasted.

Duration

The greatest proportion of respondents who were homeless on August 28, 2006, had been without a permanent place to live for more than one month but less than one year. Sixteen percent (15.9%) had been homeless for less than a month, and 11 percent (10.6%) had been homeless for more than three years. (Figure 23)

Men and women followed a similar pattern in duration of homelessness, although men were more likely to have been homeless for more than three years, as were respondents in households without children. (Figures 24 and 25)

Figure 23. Duration – Length of Time Without a Permanent Place to Live

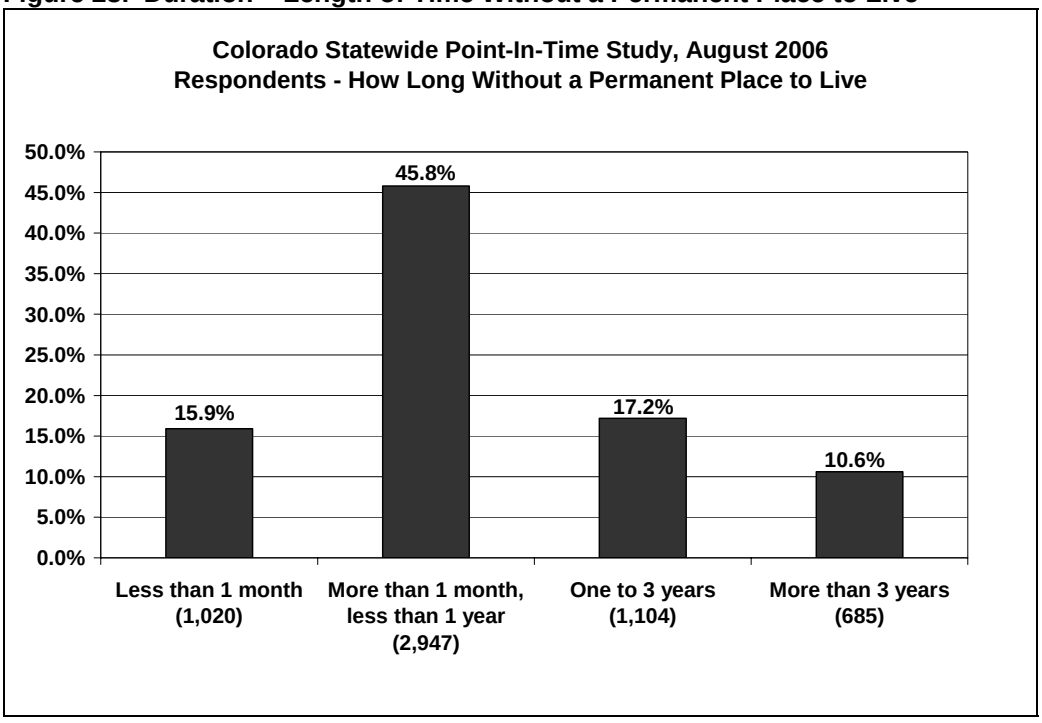


Figure 24. Duration of Homelessness by Gender

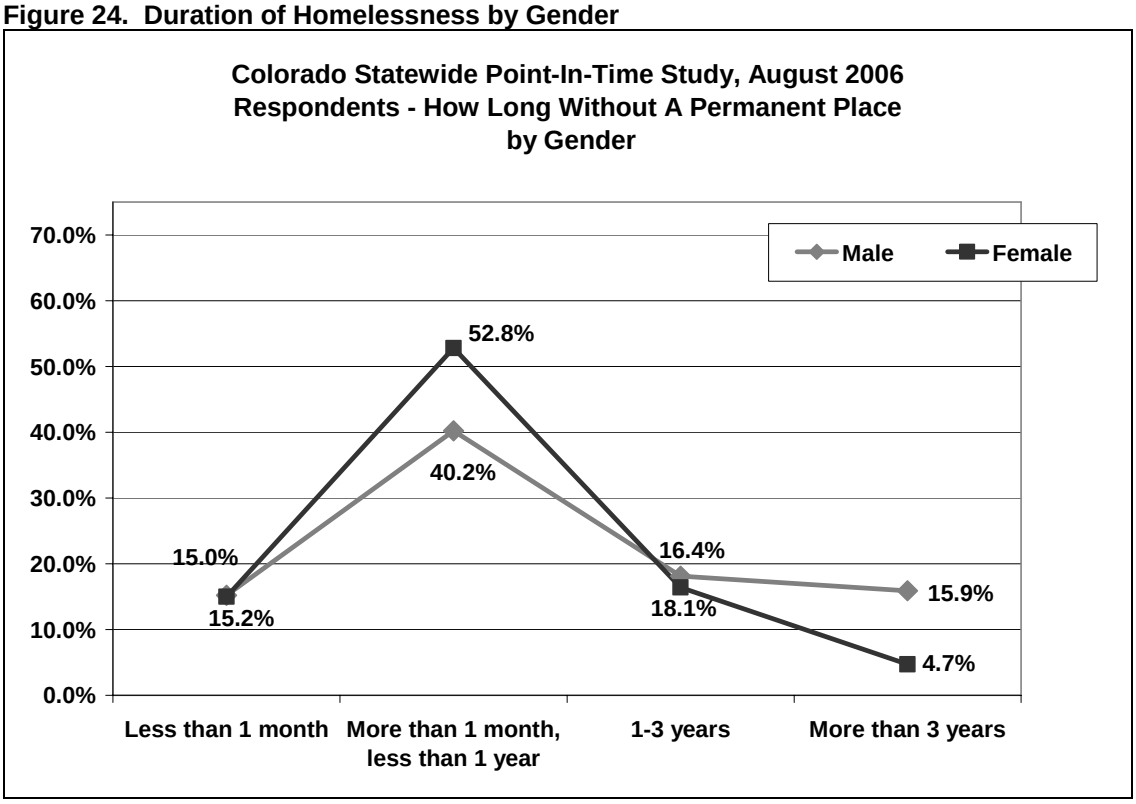
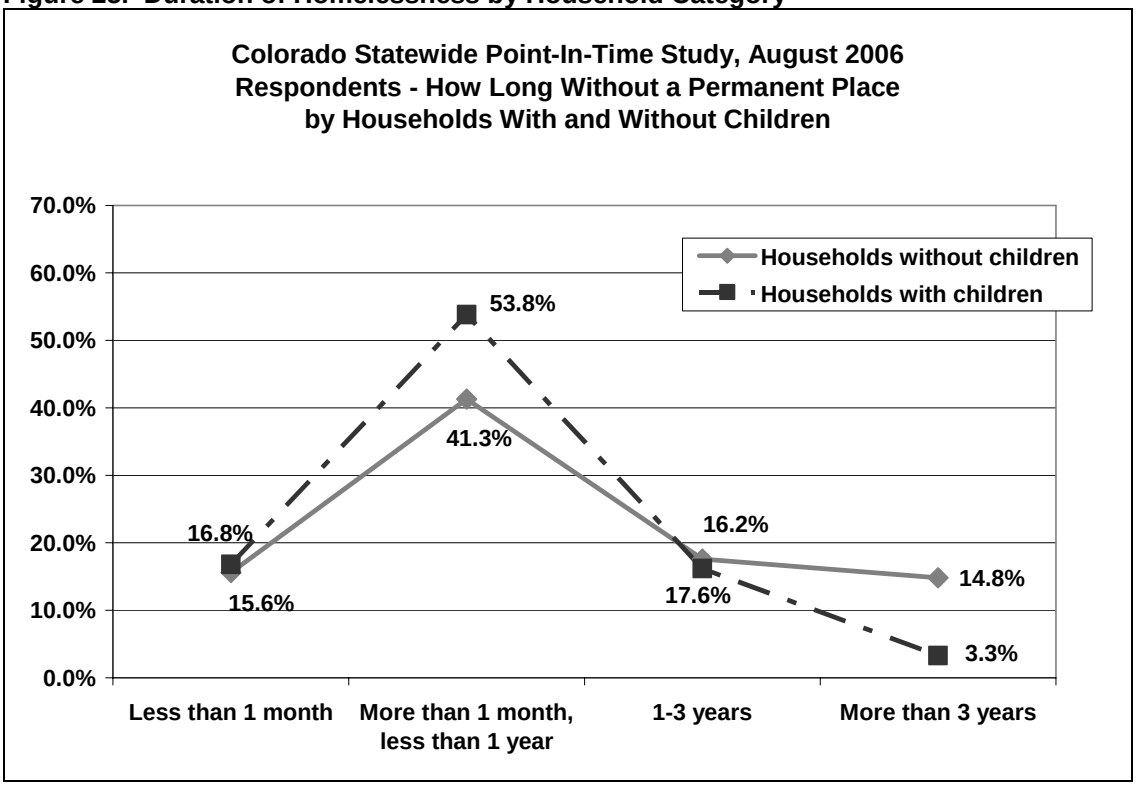


Figure 25. Duration of Homelessness by Household Category



Episodes

On the night of August 28, 2006, one-third (32.4%) of respondents reported they were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years. Almost one in five (18.3%) had been homeless five or more times in the last three years. (Figure 26)

Figure 26. Episodes – Number of Times Without a Permanent Place in Last Three Years

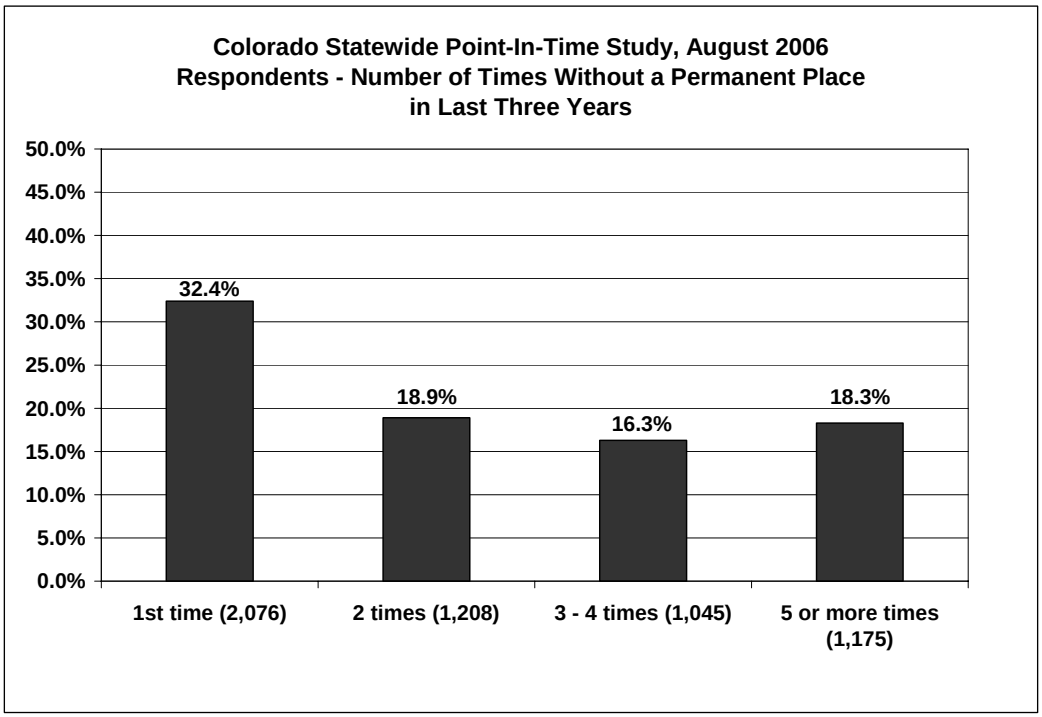
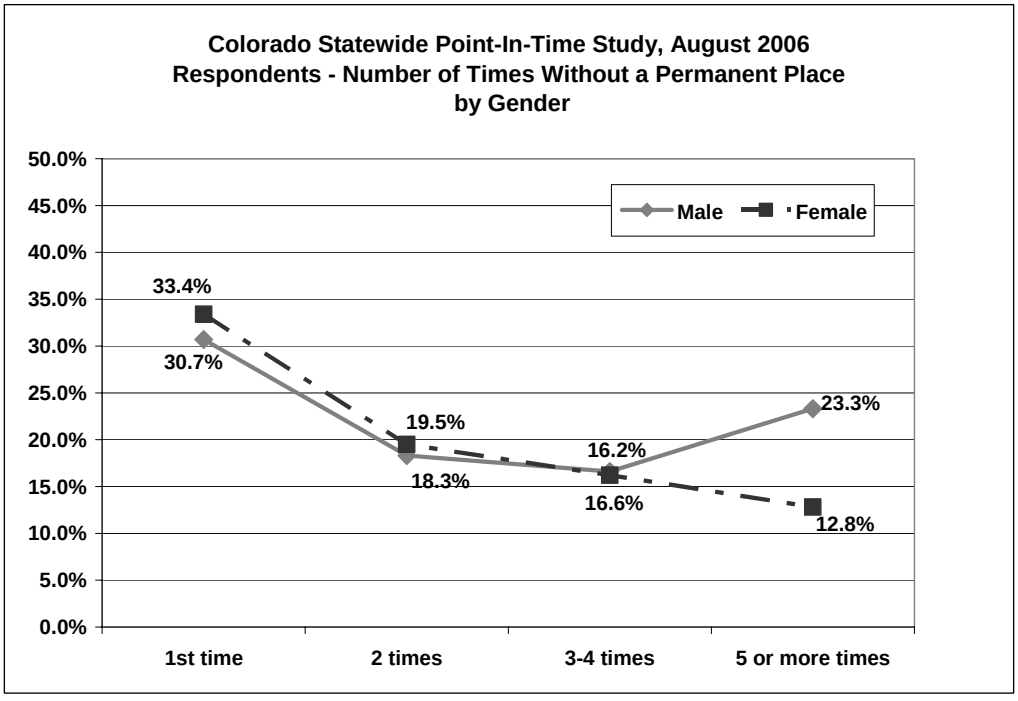


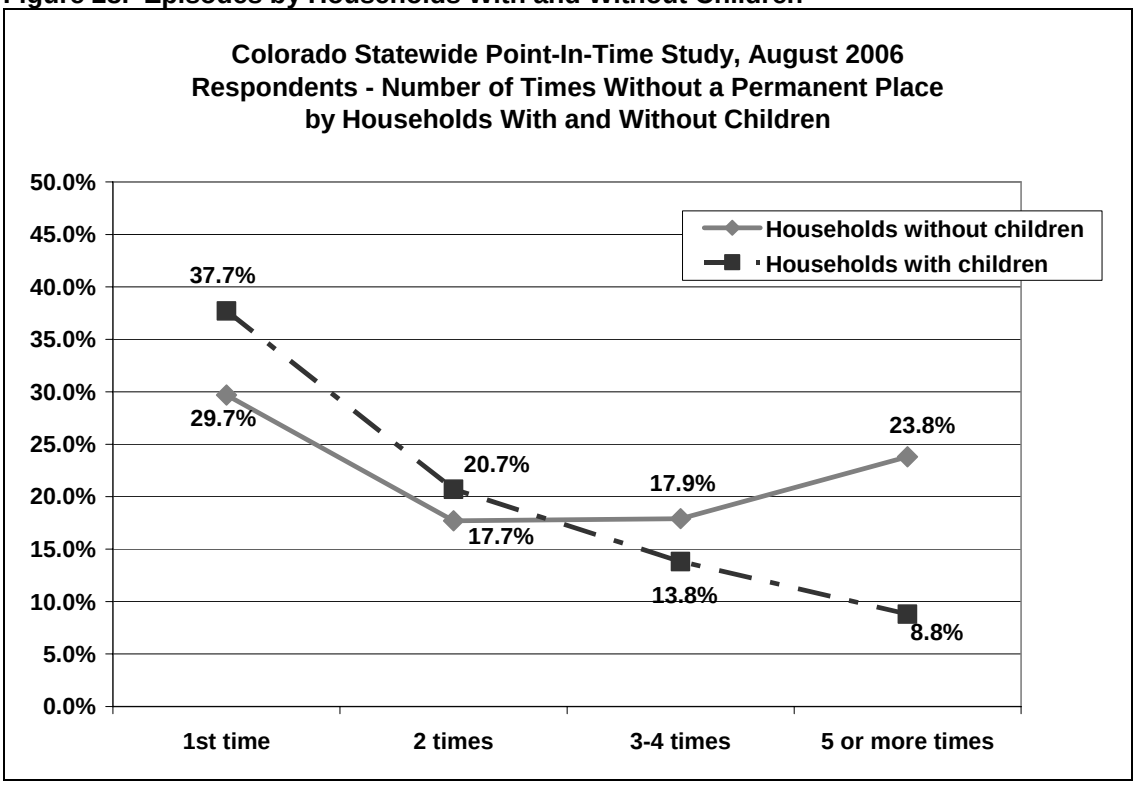
Figure 27. Episodes by Gender



Men had been homeless more often than women over the last three years. Men were nearly twice as likely as women to have been homeless five or more times.

Respondents in households without children also had experienced more episodes of homelessness in the last three years. (Figure 28)

Figure 28. Episodes by Households With and Without Children



CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

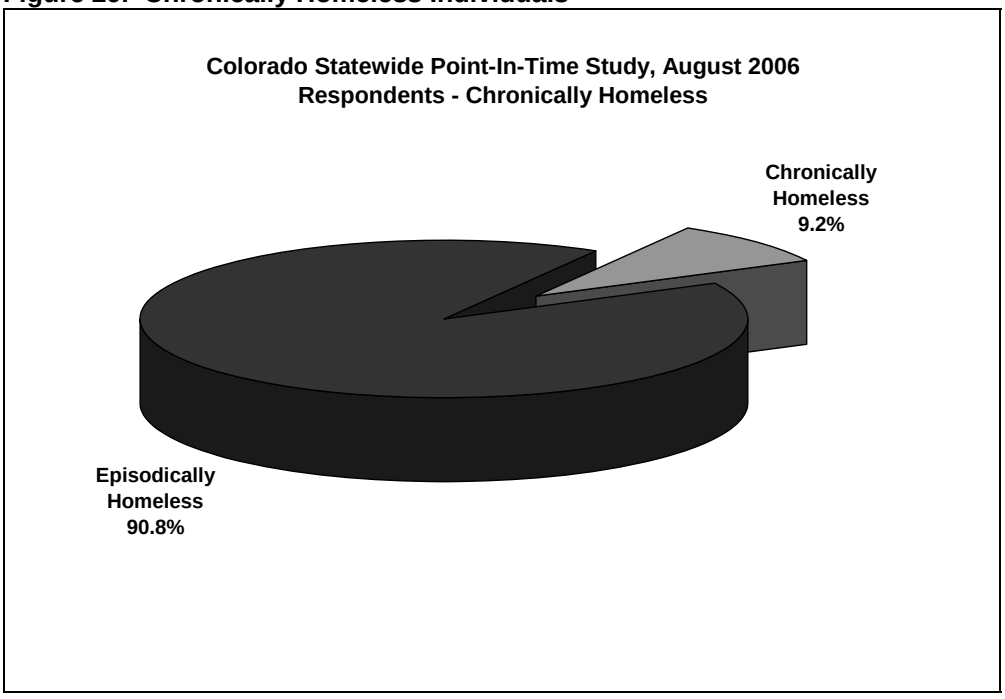
"Chronic homelessness" is long-term or repeated homelessness, accompanied by a serious disability.[26] It is characterized by people living in an emergency shelter or in a place not suitable for human habitation. HUD's definition of chronic homelessness adds the condition that a homeless person is single and alone, although service providers and advocates across the nation know that chronic homelessness affects families and children as well.

Colorado's point-in-time study counted individuals who are chronically homeless using HUD's definition as follows:

- Single persons living alone, and
- Having a chronic debilitating condition, and
- Sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation and/or in an emergency homeless shelter, "and
- Having been homeless continually for one year or more **or** having four or more episodes of homelessness in three or more years.

Using HUD's definition, almost 10 percent (9.2% or 610 respondents) were chronically homeless; the great majority of the 610 chronically homeless persons (86.4%) were male.

Figure 29. Chronically Homeless Individuals

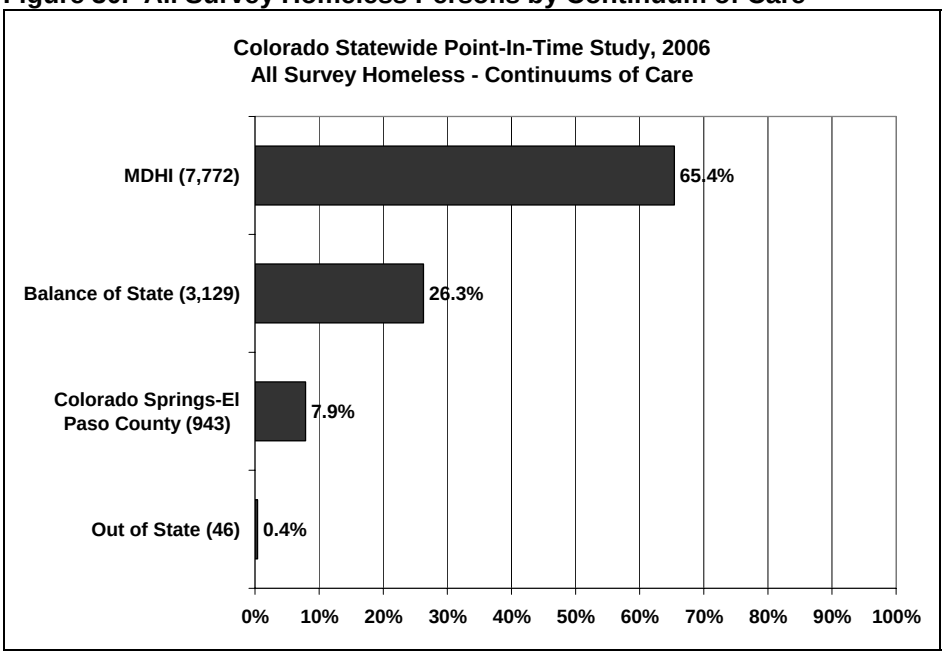


[26] HUD defines "a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability or chronic physical illness or disability" as a disabling condition. A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform activities of daily living.

WHERE "ALL SURVEY HOMELESS" PEOPLE SPENT MONDAY NIGHT

Survey respondents were asked in what county they spent Monday night, August 28. Figures 30 and 31 describe where all survey homeless persons spent that night by Continuum and the nine point-in-time regions.[27]

Figure 30. All Survey Homeless Persons by Continuum of Care



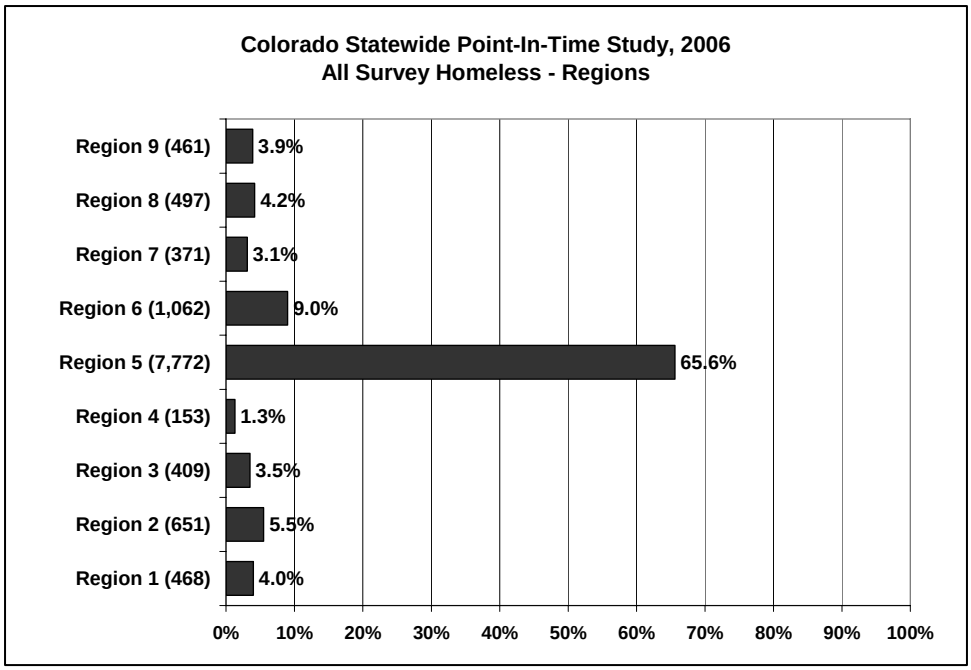
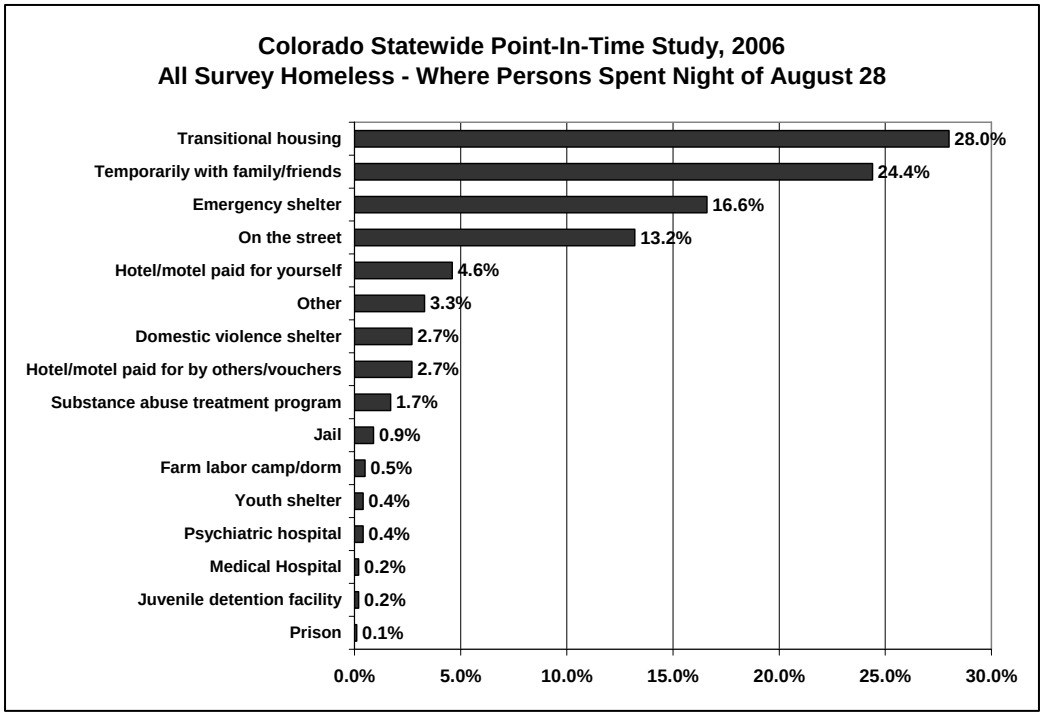


Figure 31. All Survey Homeless Persons by Region

[27] See Part IV Findings by Continuum of Care and Part V, for findings by specific region.

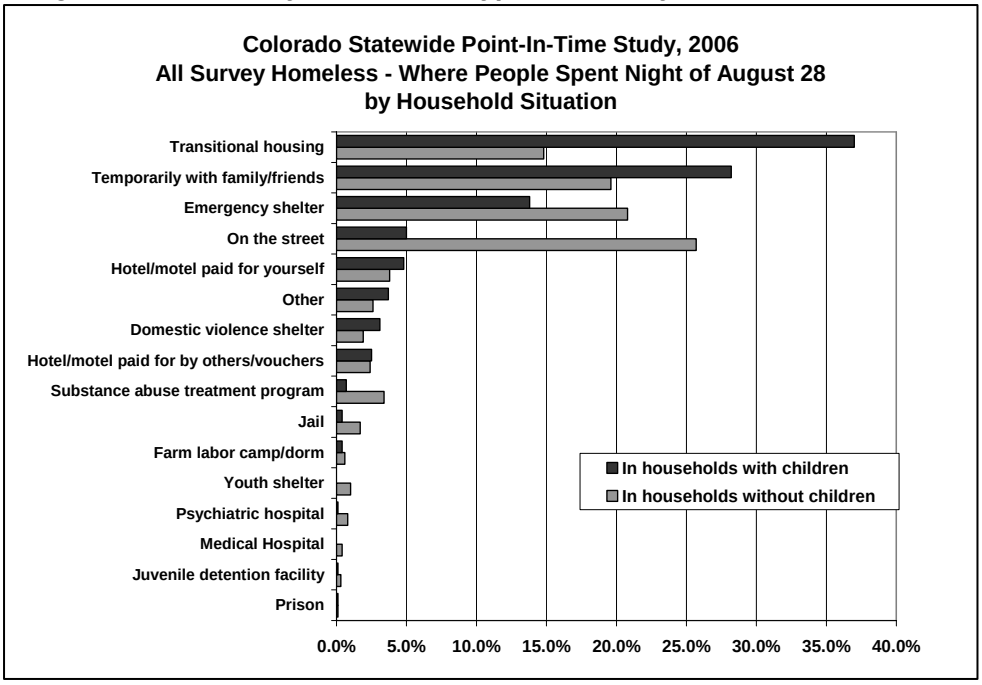
Type Of Place "All Survey Homeless" Spent Monday Night

Figure 32. Type of Place, Monday Night



The majority of homeless people in Colorado spent Monday night in transitional housing (28.0%), staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter (24.4%), or in an emergency shelter (16.6%). (Figure 32)

Figure 33. All Survey Homeless – Type of Place by Household Situation

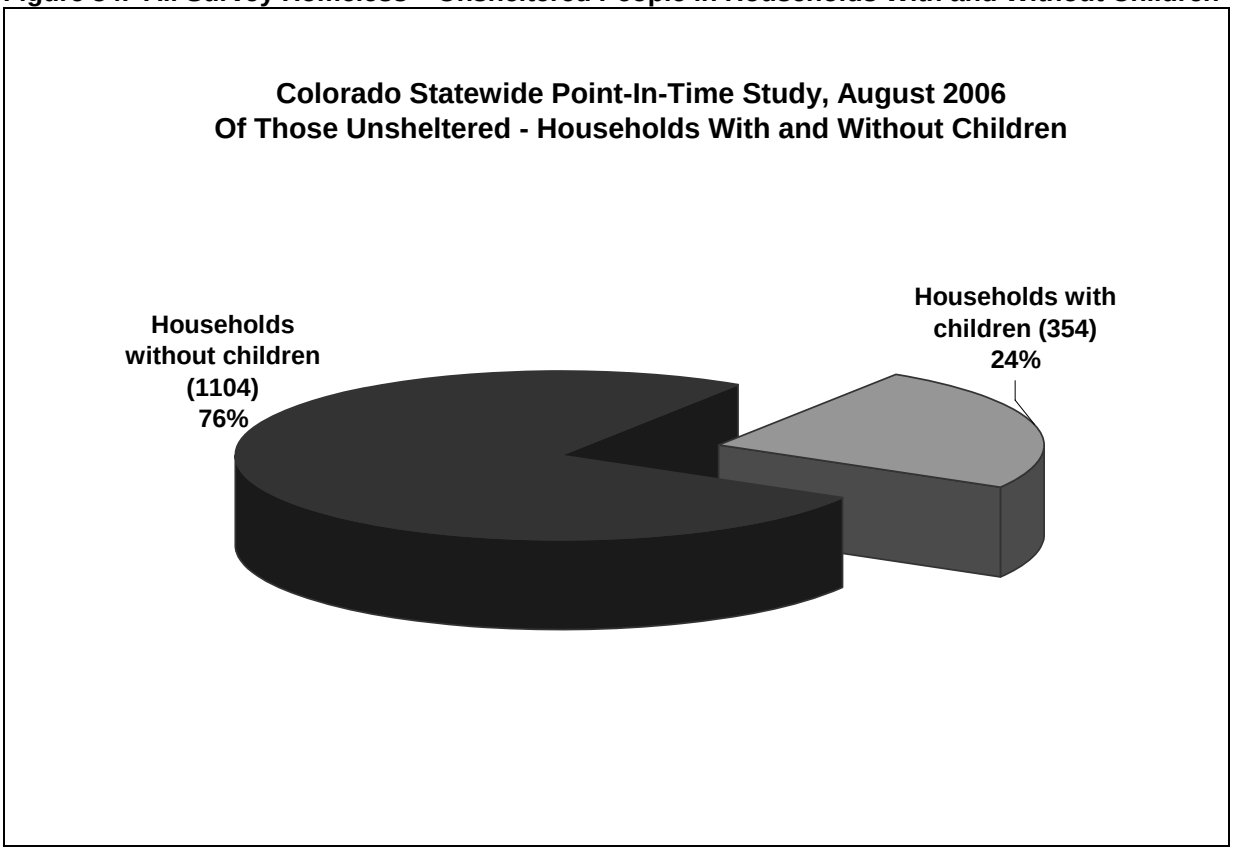


There were dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children spent Monday night. People in households with children far outnumbered those without children in transitional housing, while many more people in households without children were sleeping on the street. A greater number of people in households with children were staying temporarily with family and friends. Persons in households without children were more likely to be staying in an emergency shelter, in a substance abuse treatment program, or in jail. (Figure 33)

Sheltered vs. Unsheltered by Household Category for "All Survey Homeless"

Thirteen percent (13.2%) of all survey homeless people were unsheltered (living on the street, under a bridge, in an abandoned or public building, in a car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.). One-quarter (24.3%) of all unsheltered homeless are people in families with children. (Figure 34)

Figure 34. All Survey Homeless – Unsheltered People in Households With and Without Children



Newly Homeless for "All Survey Homeless"

For the purpose of this study, people were considered "newly homeless" if this was their first episode of homelessness and they had been homeless for less than one year. Nearly one-quarter of all survey homeless persons (23.5%, or 2,797), were considered newly homeless. Most (70.8%) of the newly homeless were in households with children. (Figure 36.) Single parents comprised almost half (45.0%) of the newly homeless; since females head most single parent families, most newly homeless households were comprised of women and children. (Figure 35.)

Figure 35. Newly Homeless

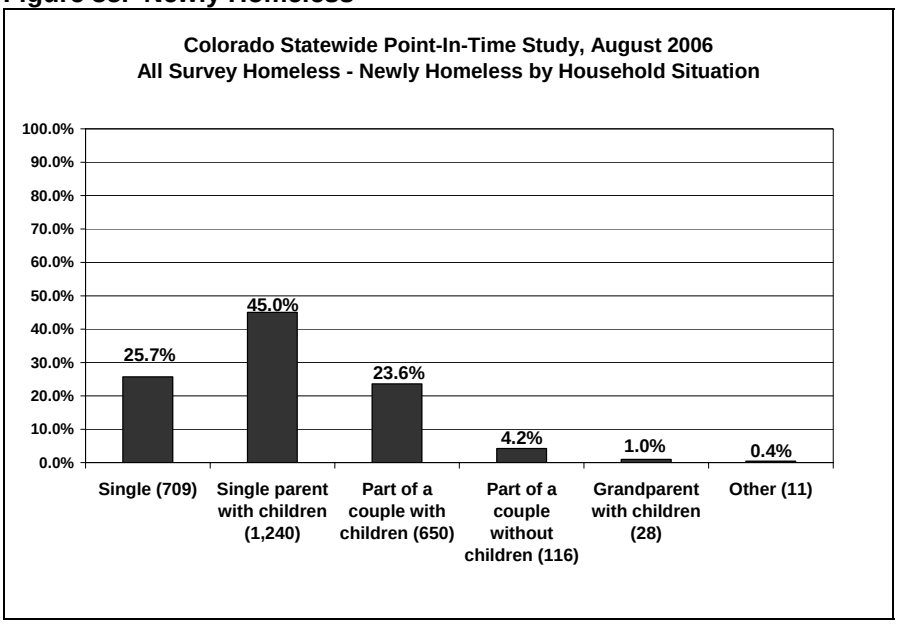
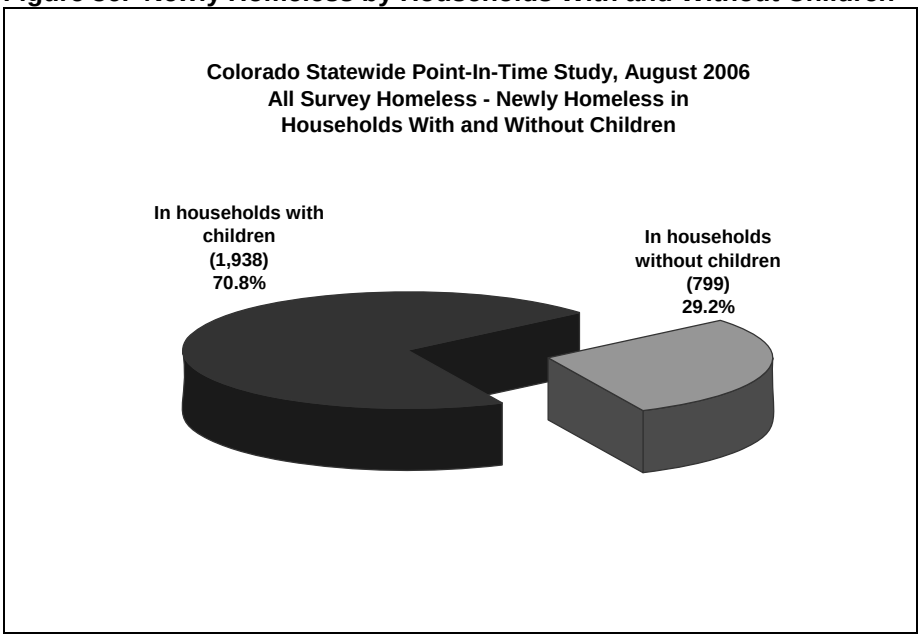


Figure 36. Newly Homeless by Households With and Without Children



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Aggregate Domestic Violence Data

Due to the difficulty in gathering data from domestic violence victims,[28] the researchers simply added the number of homeless domestic violence victims (which was reported in aggregate form) to the total number of homeless statewide. (See Appendix 8 for aggregate data). There were a total of 334 domestic violence victims; this includes respondents, their children, and "other" relatives. This number is *not* included in the total *survey* homeless (11,890), but it is added to the statewide estimated number of homeless persons.[29]

"NOT HOMELESS"

Description of Not Homeless

Researchers identified 1,577 respondents as not homeless. Two-fifths (43.8%) were single. More than one in four (28.7%) were single parents with children, and one in five (19.5%) were part of a couple with children. Not homeless respondents were more likely than homeless respondents to be classified as living in a household with children ages 17 or under (compare 43.6% with 37.3%).

Of not homeless respondents, 56 percent (55.8%) were female and 44 percent (44.2%) were male. In contrast, more homeless respondents (57%) were male. One-third (32.0%) of not homeless respondents considered themselves to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, compared to one-quarter (24.9%) of homeless respondents. Approximately 40 percent of both not homeless and homeless respondents were non-white.

The largest group of persons who are not homeless spent the night of Monday, August 28, 2006, in permanent supportive housing (42.7%). One-third (34.2%) reported they stayed "somewhere else"; almost everyone in this group stayed in their own apartment, home or trailer. Fifteen percent (15.0%) stayed with family or friends with an arrangement to stay there permanently; however, research has shown that "couch surfing" is a rising trend and that arrangements to stay with family or friends can be abruptly terminated. Four percent spent the previous night in jail or prison, and 3 percent in a substance abuse treatment program.

The data suggest that many of the "not homeless" respondents are living on the edge of homelessness. Fully 40 percent said they think they have, or have been told they have, at least one of the following serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. Specifically, 20 percent (19.7%) of the not homeless have a serious medical or physical condition, 19 percent (19.1%) have a serious mental illness, and 16 percent (15.9%) reported alcohol or drug abuse.

Almost half (47.0%) of not homeless respondents said that, in the past month, they or another family member needed services that they were unable to obtain. Many needed help with housing-related costs: one-quarter (26.6%) said that they needed rent or utility assistance, 13 percent (12.6%) needed help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, and 2 percent

[28] Confidentiality concerns regarding domestic violence victims arose during the planning phase of the project.
[29] Aggregate survey results for domestic violence victims are reported in Appendix 8.

(1.6%) needed emergency shelter. Thirty percent (29.8%) said that they needed food. One-quarter (25.4%) said they needed medical care, 8 percent (8.2%) needed mental health care, and 5 percent (5.0%) needed alcohol or drug abuse treatment.

In comparison, 62.1% of homeless respondents reported that they or their family needed services they could not get. One-quarter (27.5%) of homeless respondents needed rent or utility assistance, two in five (39.2%) needed help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, and one in five (20.3%) needed emergency shelter. While the proportion of homeless persons needing housing services is higher than the proportion of not homeless, the data indicate that a substantial proportion of not homeless are at risk of losing their housing. A further indication of their risk for homelessness is that almost two in five (38.6%) of the not homeless said that they have been without a permanent place to live at least once in the last three years.

Three-fifths (61.0%) of not homeless respondents reported that they or someone else in their family received money from working since the beginning of the year. Homeless respondents were slightly less likely to report receiving any money from working since the beginning of the year (55.8%).

Three in five (60.9%) of the not homeless rely on government benefits. More than one-third (37.3%) were receiving food stamps, and more than one-quarter (28.4%) were receiving Medicaid or Medicare. One-fifth (20.5%) were receiving SSI/SSDI. Seven percent (6.7%) were receiving TANF.

PART IV CONTINUUMS OF CARE

Part IV reports the total homeless count and survey data for each of the three Continuums of Care.[30]

MDHI CONTINUUM OF CARE

Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts:

Table 5. TOTAL HOMELESS – MDHI CONTINUUM	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	4,259
Relatives	3,513
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**7,772**
UNSHELTERED COUNT[31]	
Count – Unsheltered	**535**
SURVEY ESTIMATE[32]	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	**587**
TOTAL HOMELESS – MDHI	**8,894**

Survey Data:

There were 4,259 respondents in the MDHI continuum determined to have been homeless on the night of August 28, 2006. Respondents were accompanied by 3,513 family members, for a total of 7,772 persons who were homeless on August 28, 2006.

MDHI's winter, 2006, annual point-in-time study determined that 5,424 respondents in its seven-county area were homeless. Respondents were accompanied by 3,667 family members, for a total of 9,091 persons who were homeless on January 23, 2006. While there were 1,165 more homeless respondents in the winter than in the summer count, they were accompanied by only 154 more family members. Consistent with the data presented below, these numbers indicate

[30] Survey respondents (and their families) were placed into the appropriate Continuum and county based on their response to question 18: "In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006" This information is missing for a total of 56 persons: 27 respondents and the 29 homeless relatives they identified. Because it was not possible to determine Continuum or county for this group, these homeless respondents and their family members are not included in the Continuum or regional analyses.

[31].Agencies submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons, that is, unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted. These estimates identify a total of 175 homeless persons. Combined with all the surveyed homeless and the number of unsheltered homeless who were counted but not surveyed, an estimated ***9,069*** people were homeless on August 28, 2006.

[32] See footnote 4.

that there has been an increase in the proportion of families and a decrease in single respondents.

1. Household Situation

Respondents: A majority (55.8%) of respondents identified themselves as single. About one in three (29.0%) are single parents with children under 18, and 10 percent (9.8%) are part of a couple with children under 18. Five percent (4.5%) were part of a couple without children younger than 18. Overall, 40 percent of MDHI households were households with children under 18. The summer 2006 survey suggests that there has been a very slight increase (about 3%) in the proportion of single parents with children and in the proportion of households with children since winter 2006.

All Survey Homeless: People in households headed by a single parent accounted for the largest group of all survey homeless people, followed by single individuals. The data for all survey homeless provides a stronger indication that the number of single parents increased since winter 2006. (Compare 43.3 percent in summer 2006 with 38.7 percent in winter 2006.) The proportion of single persons decreased during this time period, while the proportion of persons who were part of a couple with children remained unchanged. In summer, 2006, almost two-thirds (64.9%) of all homeless were in families with children, compared to 58 percent in winter 2006.

2. Respondent Characteristics

Respondents: While respondents ranged in age from school age to seniors, most (77.4%) were adults, ages 26-64. One-fifth (19.8%) were young adults. Given the difference in how age categories are defined[33], the decrease in number of homeless teens (age 13-17) and increase in number of homeless young adults (age 18-25) since winter, 2006, probably does NOT reflect a real change in ages of homeless teens.

Males outnumbered females: 54.7 versus 45.3 percent. In winter 2006, males outnumbered females by slightly less (53% compared to 47%). Single people continued to be predominantly male. In contrast, females continued to be much more likely than males to head single-parent families.

One-quarter (24.3%) identified as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino. Nearly half (45.7%) were minority. Compared to the general population of Metro Denver, whites were under-represented and minorities were over-represented among the homeless. This is similar to the pattern reported in winter 2006.

Fourteen percent (14.4%) said they had served in the U.S. military. The same proportion (14.9%) reported being in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement at some time as a child or youth. In winter 2006, slightly more respondents had served in the U.S. military or been in foster care.

Three percent (3.2%) of respondents said that they were seasonal resort workers, and 2 percent (2.2%) were seasonal or year-round farm workers.

[33] Prior to summer, 2006, the "teen" category included persons age 13-19 and "young adults" were persons age 20-25. In order to be consistent with HUD's definition of children as age 17 and younger, for summer, 2006, we revised the "teen" category to include persons age 13-17, and "young adults" to consist of persons age 18-25.

3. Last Permanent Residence

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate the county where they had their last permanent residence before they became homeless. The largest percentage of respondents – 28.6 percent — said their last permanent residence was in Denver. Nearly as many respondents (26.5%) said that their last permanent residence was located outside Colorado. Sixteen percent (15.5%) named Adams County and 11 percent (11.4%) named Boulder County as their last permanent residence.

In winter 2006, the largest group of respondents also said that their last permanent residence was in Denver, but the proportion – 41.6 percent — was considerably larger than in summer 2006. Winter homeless respondents were substantially less likely (9.3%) than summer homeless respondents (26.5%) to say that their last permanent residence was outside the state of Colorado.

4. Type of Place

All Survey Homeless: On August 28, 2006, the majority of all survey homeless people were in time-limited transitional housing (31.0%), staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter (23.1%), or staying in an emergency shelter (18.7%). One in ten (10.0%) were unsheltered. This pattern was similar to that reported in winter 2006. It is important to note, however, that the proportion of all unsheltered homeless increased from 7.0 percent in winter 2006 to 10 percent in summer, 2006. This may reflect the greater need to seek shelter in cold weather.

5. Reasons for Homelessness

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate "all that apply" from a list of possible reasons for becoming homeless at the time of the summer survey. The two most frequently cited reasons for homelessness were "lost job/can't find work" (26.6%) and "housing costs too high" (26.7%); each was checked by more than one in four respondents. Relationship or family break-up was next in frequency, followed closely by "utility costs too high," substance abuse problems, and "have work but wages are too low."

Twice as many respondents in households with children (40.7%) than in households without children (20.1%) reported high housing costs as a reason for their current spell of homelessness. Similarly, respondents in households with children were substantially more likely to say that utility costs are too high (26.5% versus 10.4%). They also were more likely to report eviction or foreclosure as a reason for homelessness.

Looking at the total who reported each reason for homelessness, respondents who named losing a job as a reason for their homelessness were substantially more likely to be in households without children (65%) as opposed to households with children (36%). This is virtually unchanged since winter 2006. Likewise, a much higher percentage reporting substance abuse, medical problems and mental illness as reasons for their homelessness continued to be respondents in households without children.

In contrast, since the winter 2006 MDHI survey, there has been a fairly dramatic change in the household situation of respondents reporting housing-related expenses as a reason for homelessness. In winter 2006, an almost identical number of respondents in households with

and without children reported housing costs; in summer 2006, of those who report housing costs as a reason for homelessness, 57.7 percent were respondents in households with children, as compared to 42.3 percent in households without children. In winter 2006, a slightly higher percentage of those reporting inability to pay utilities as a reason for their homelessness were in households with children (53% compared to 47%). In summer 2006, almost two-thirds (63.2%) citing utility costs were in households with children. These data suggest that inability to pay for housing-related costs has increased more rapidly for families with children than for those without.

One other difference between winter and summer results is worth noting. In winter 2006, the proportion reporting that abuse or violence in their home was a reason for their homelessness was minimally higher for respondents in households with children. In summer 2006, nearly three in five (58.8%) of those citing this reason for homelessness were in households with children.

6. Disabling Conditions

Respondents: Nearly half of respondents (49.0%) reported having at least one of the following serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. Specifically, one-quarter (25.3%) of respondents reported a substance abuse problem. One in five had a serious mental illness (21.0%), and 18 percent (18.1%) had a serious medical or physical condition.

While these were the three most frequently reported conditions in winter 2006, there was one important difference: the proportion with a substance abuse problem increased from 15.4 percent in winter 2006 to 25.3 percent in summer 2006.

Similar to winter 2006, single people and respondents in households without children were substantially more likely to have at least one of the five disabling conditions. Seven in ten (70.0%) single persons and three-quarters (75.2%) of respondents in households without children said they had at least one of the listed conditions.

7. Sources of Income/Government Benefits

Respondents: Respondents' sources of income included both employment and government benefits. Slightly more than half of respondents (53.3%) said that their family had some income from employment since the beginning of the year. Half (51.2%) said that their family was receiving at least one government benefit. One-third (32.2%) were food stamps recipients. One in five (19.6%) were on Medicaid/Medicare, 13 percent (13.3%) were receiving SSI or SSDI, and 10 percent (10.0%) received TANF benefits. The pattern was similar in winter 2006, but a greater proportion of summer homeless respondents reported receiving food stamps, Medicaid/Medicare, and TANF.

8. Needed Services

Respondents: Respondents were asked what services they needed in the past month that they were unable to obtain. Three in five (60.6%) respondents said that they needed at least one service that they could not get. Specifically, more than one-fifth (22.9%) said they needed one

service, 13 percent (13.1%) needed two services, 8 percent (8.2%) needed three services, and 16 percent (16.4%) said that they needed 4 or more services that they were unable to obtain.

More than half needed housing-related services: one in four (24.5%) said they needed help finding Section 8 and other permanent housing, 15 percent (15.1%) needed rent or utility assistance, and 12 percent (12.2%) needed emergency shelter.[34]

Slightly less than one in five (18.1%) said they needed help finding a job, and the same proportion (17.8%) needed transportation/bus passes. Approximately 15 percent said they needed food, dental care and medical care.

The winter MDHI 2006 survey used a somewhat different list of services than the current survey, so results cannot be compared directly. In winter 2006, the most frequently needed services were transportation/bus passes, permanent housing, help finding a job, dental care, and housing vouchers.

9. Duration and Episodes of Homelessness

Respondents:

Duration: More than one in ten (13.7%) homeless respondents in this study said that they had been without a permanent place to stay for less than a month. The greatest number of respondents (48.4%) had been homeless for more than one month but less than one year. Almost one in five (19.1%) had been homeless for one to three years, and 11 percent had been homeless for more than three years.

Also consistent with the winter MDHI 2006 survey, men and women followed a similar pattern of length of homelessness, although men were more likely to have been homeless for more than three years, as were respondents in households without children.

Episodes: Respondents were asked: "Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years? Based on responses to this question, one in three (32.8%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years on the night of August 28. A similar proportion (32.2%) had been homeless three or more times in the last three years.

In winter 2006, respondents were asked to record the total number of times they had been without a permanent place to live. Unlike the summer 2006 question, the time- period was not limited to the last three years. Probably because of this difference, the proportion of respondents who were newly homeless (in the past three years) in summer 2006, is higher than the one in four (24.5%) respondents who said that they were homeless for the first time ever, in winter 2006.

In summer 2006, men and those in households without children were more likely to be homeless for five or more episodes than were women and respondents in households with

[34] In winter 2006, permanent housing and housing vouchers were tallied separately. While approximately 36% of respondents said they needed at least one of these services, these data are not directly, comparable to the summer 2006 results. It is likely that summer respondents perceived "Section 8" to be different than permanent housing and, therefore, did not check this response even if they needed permanent housing.

children. In winter 2006, men and respondents in households without children were more likely to experience homelessness for six or more episodes.[35]

10. Chronically Homeless Individuals

Respondents: As of the night of August 28, 2006, nearly one in ten (9.0%, or 384) respondents were considered "chronically homeless." The great majority (88.8%) of the chronically homeless were male. These results are consistent with the winter 2006 tallies.

11. Newly Homeless

All Survey Homeless: On August 28, 2006, nearly one in four of all survey homeless persons (1,793, or 23.1%) were considered "newly homeless." Three-quarters (73.4%) of all newly homeless individuals were in households with children. Single parent families made up half (49.5%) of the newly homeless, and couples with children made up more than one-fifth (21.5%). In winter 2006, single parent families comprised 46.6 percent of the newly homeless.

12. Unsheltered Homeless

All Survey Homeless: There are 771 unsheltered homeless persons, or 10 percent (10.0%) of all survey homeless individuals. Slightly less than one in five (18.1%) are in households with children.

[35] In summer, 2006, the question on number of episodes of homeless offered "five or more times" as the highest category; in winter, 2006, the highest category for the comparable question was "six or more times."

Figure 37. MDHI/Respondents – Household Situation

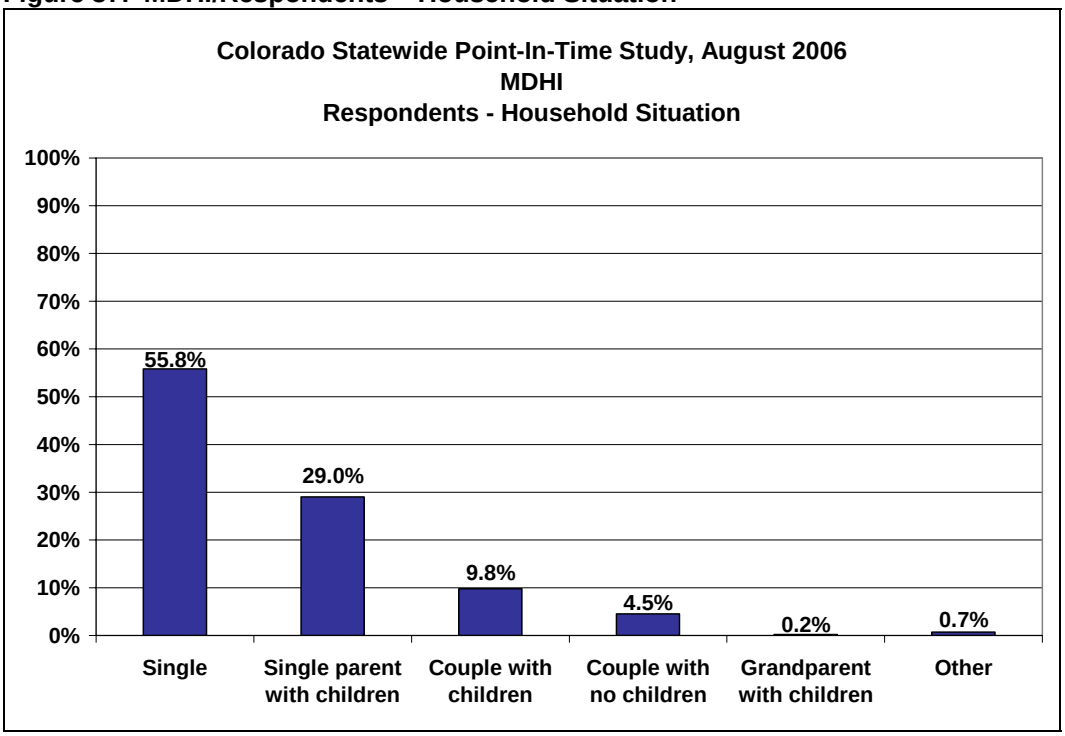


Figure 38. MDHI/Respondents - Households With and Without Children

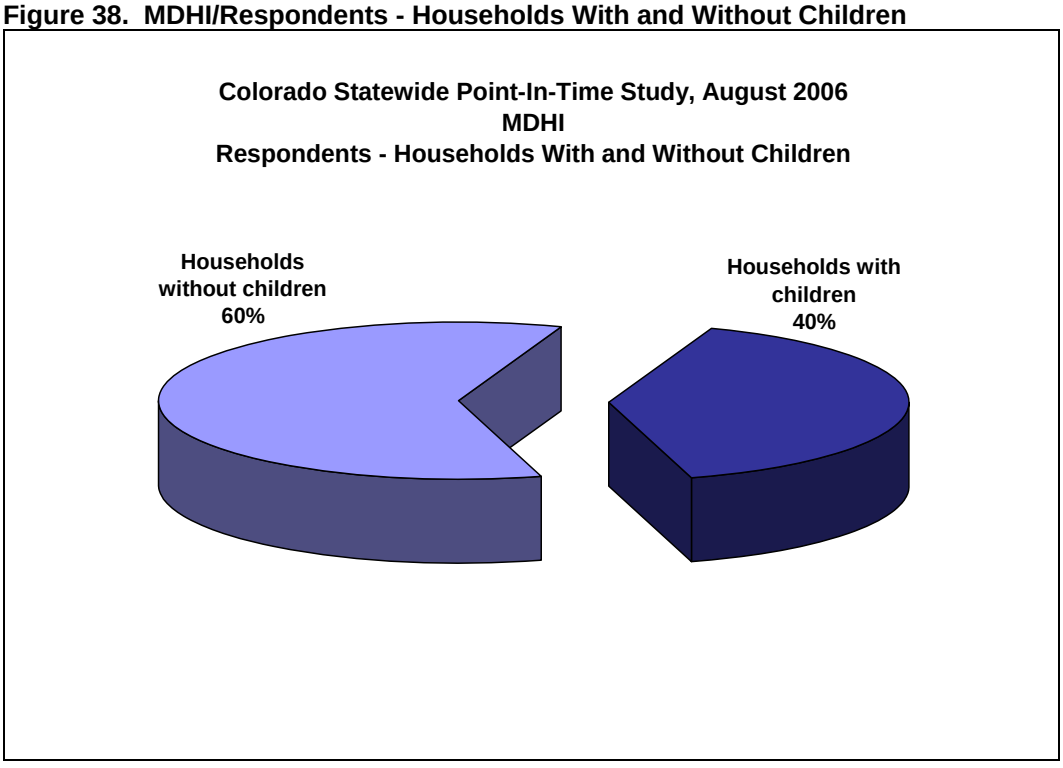


Figure 39. MDHI/All Survey Homeless - Household Situation

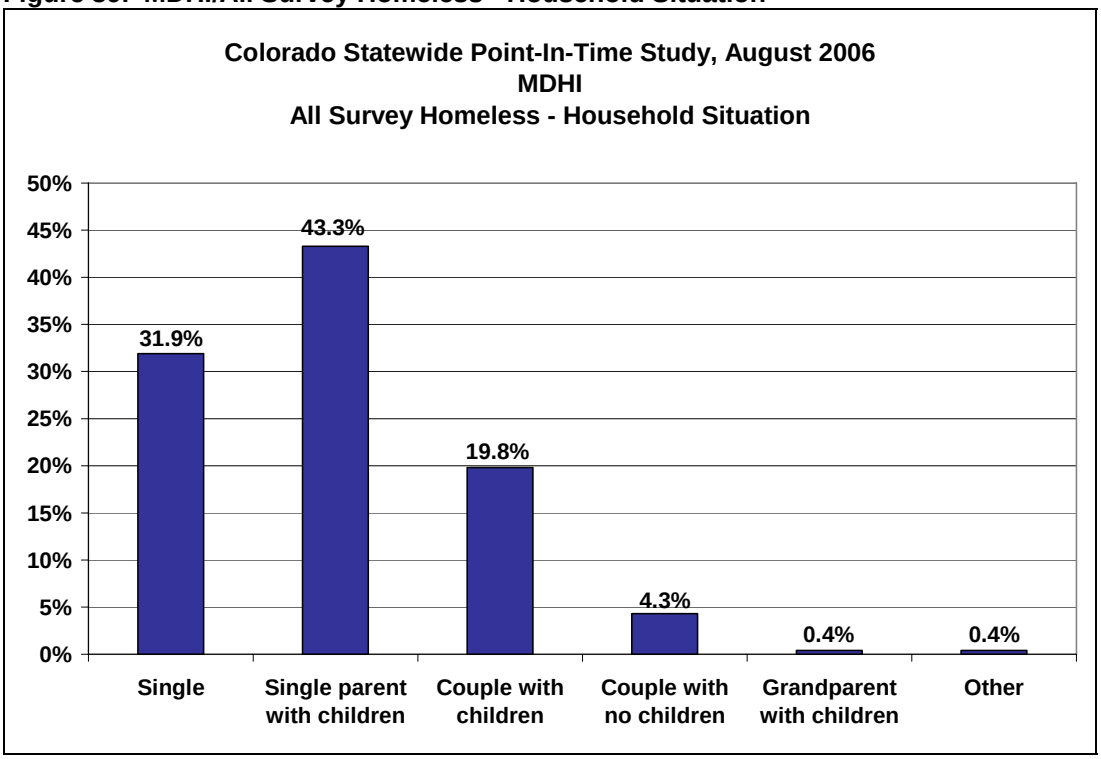


Figure 40. MDHI/All Survey Homeless - People in Households With and Without Children

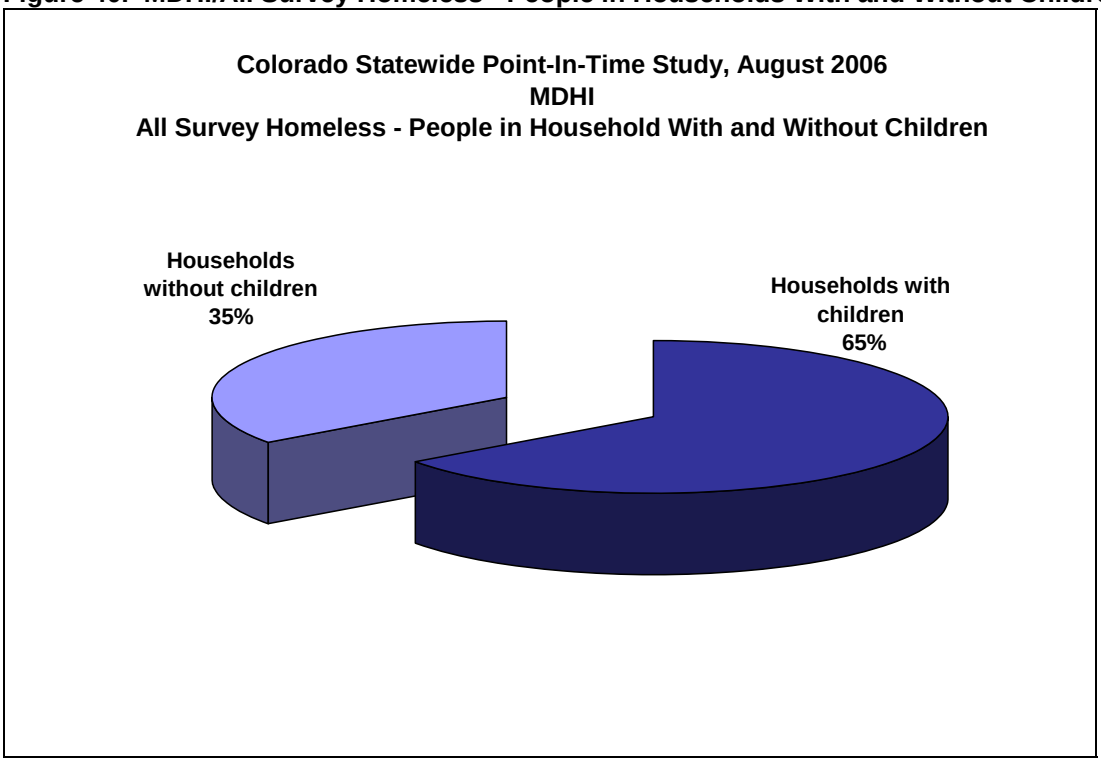


Figure 41. MDHI/Respondents – Age Groups

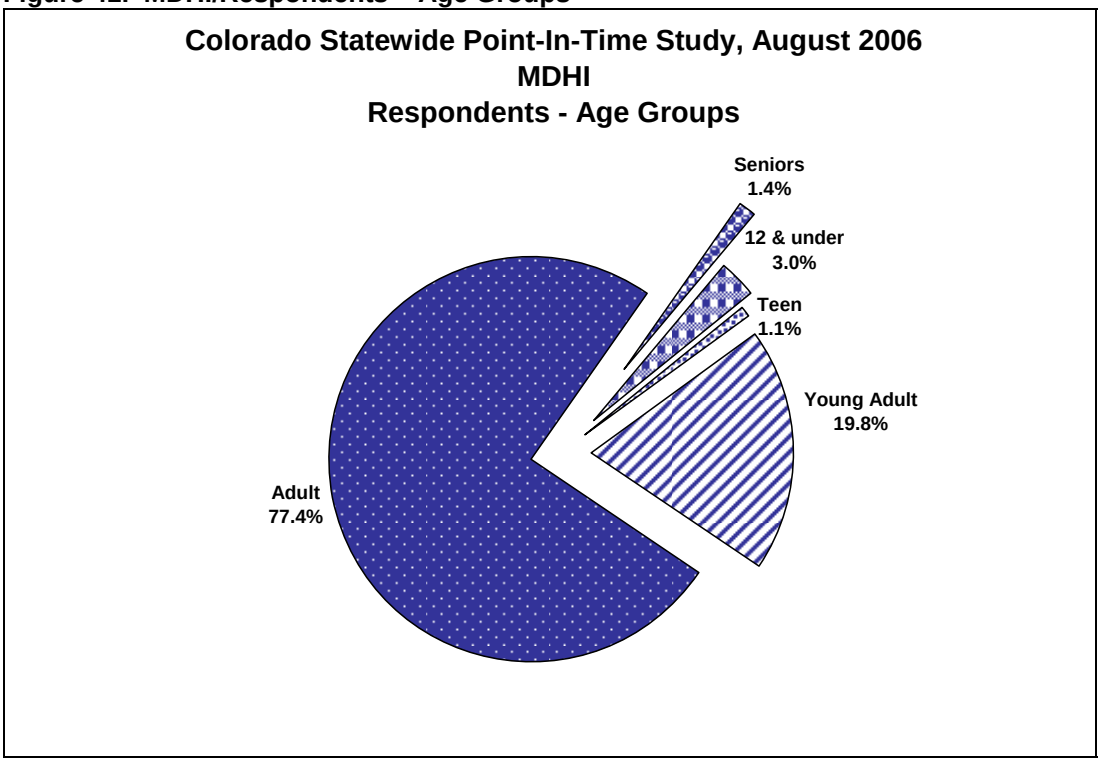


Figure 42. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Age Groups

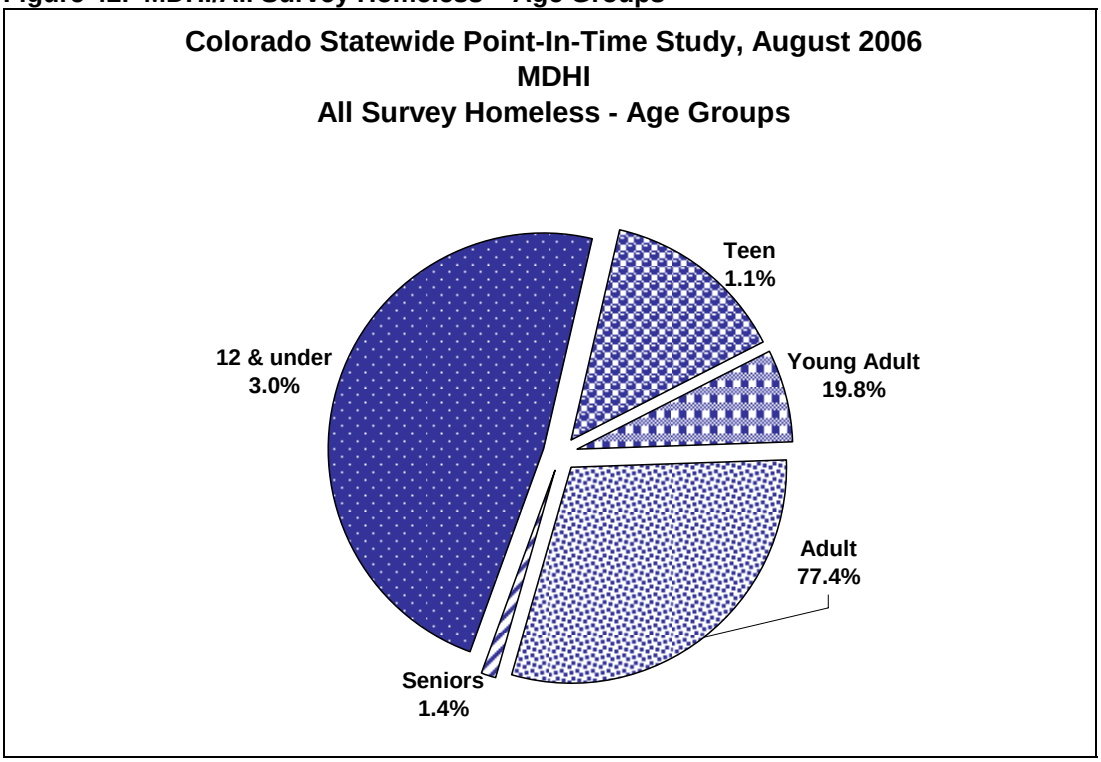


Figure 43 MDHI/Respondents - Gender

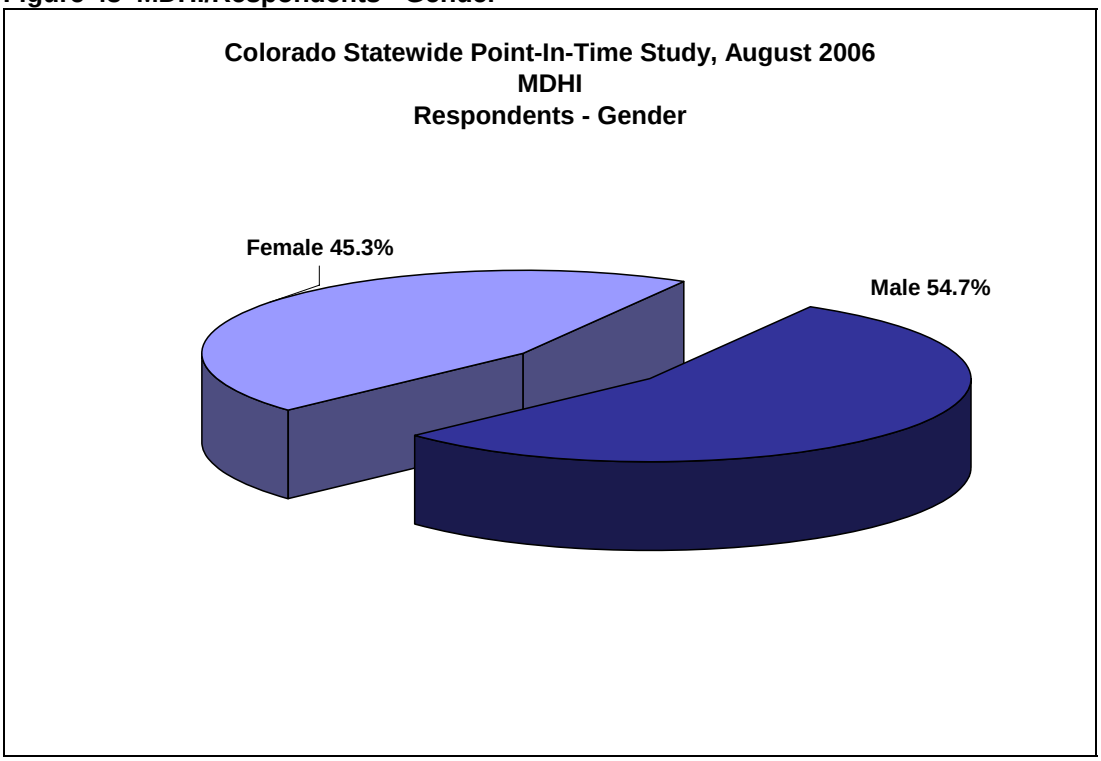


Figure 44. MDHI/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity

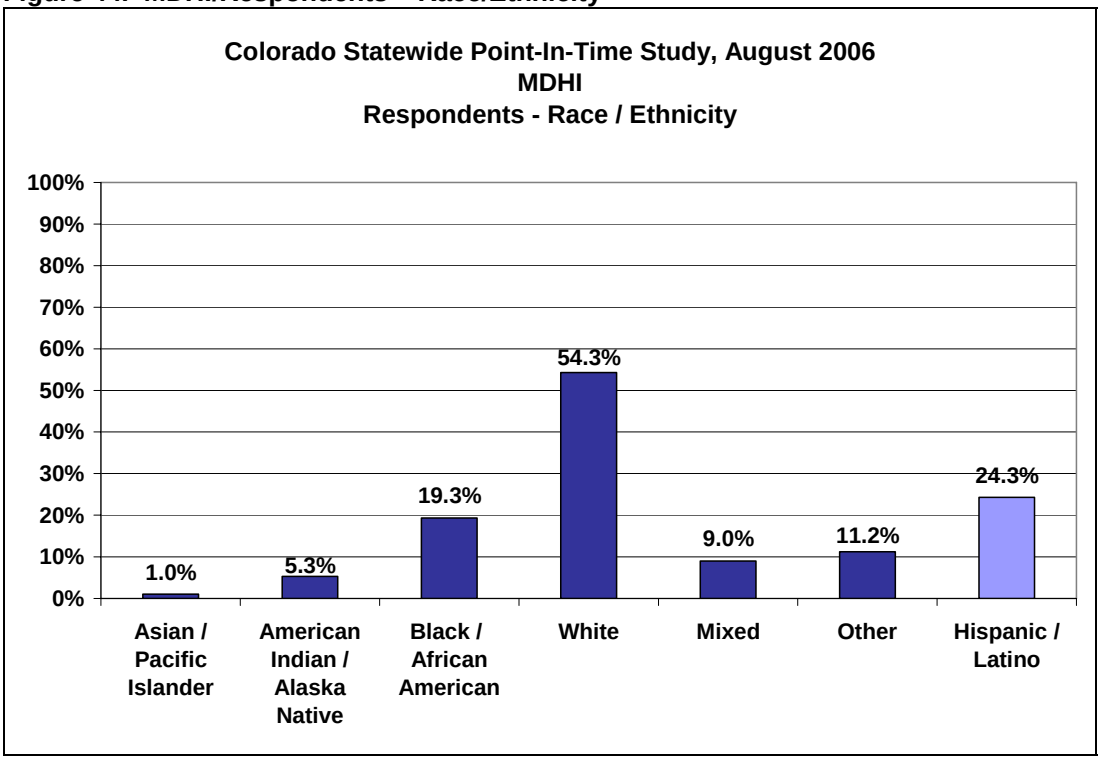


Figure 45. MDHI/Respondents - Military Service, Foster Care, Seasonal, Yr-Round Worker

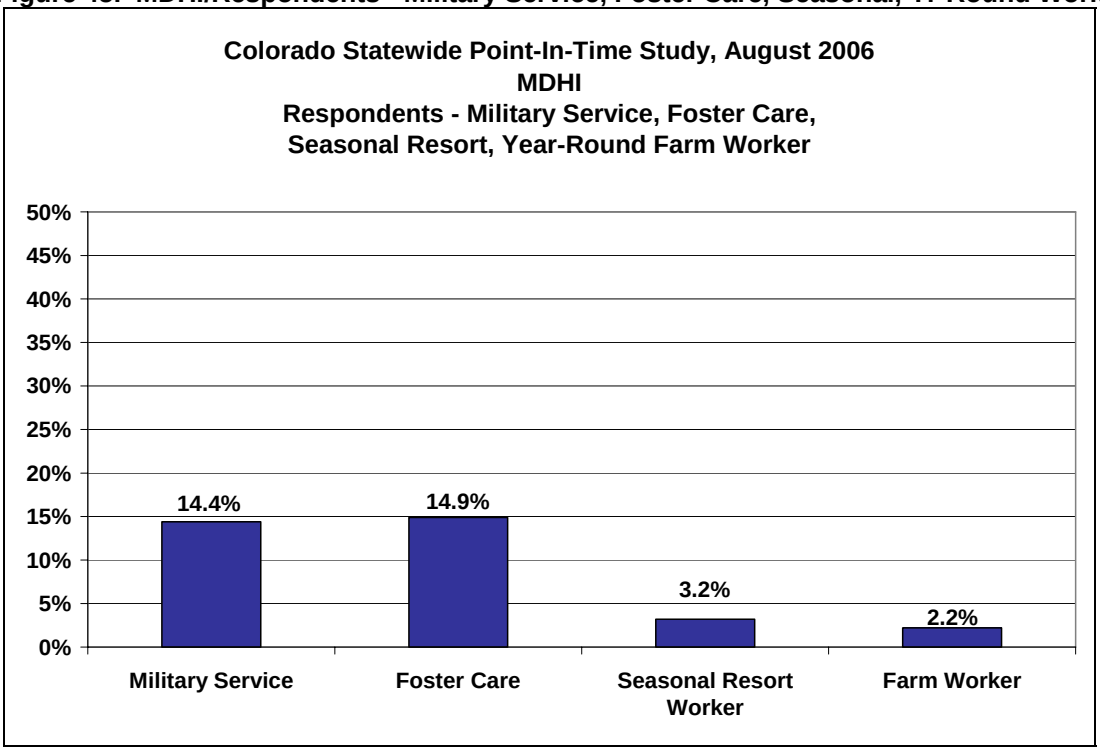


Figure 46. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night

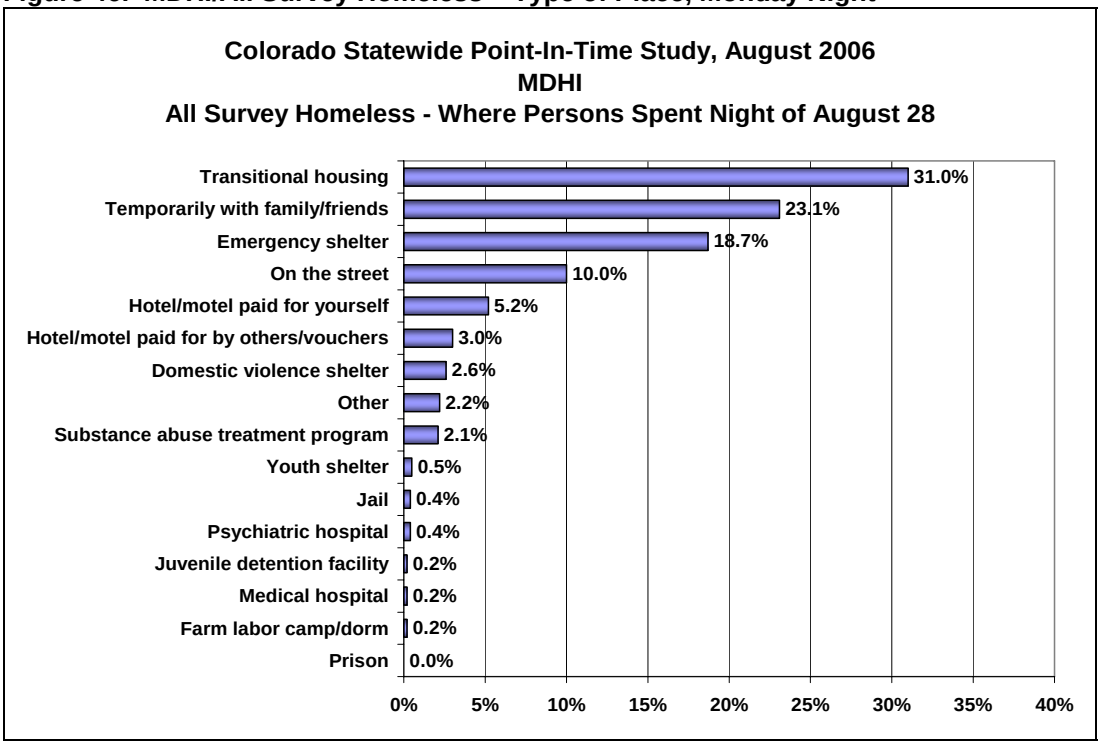


Figure 47. MDHI/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness

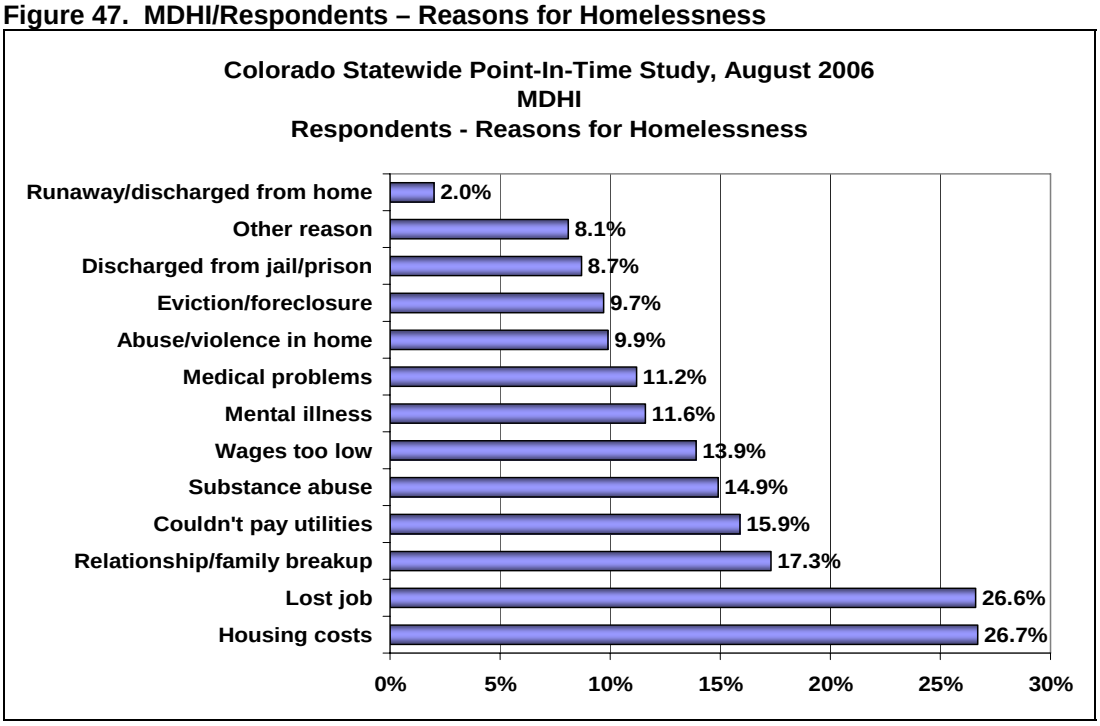


Figure 48. MDHI/Respondents - Disabling Conditions

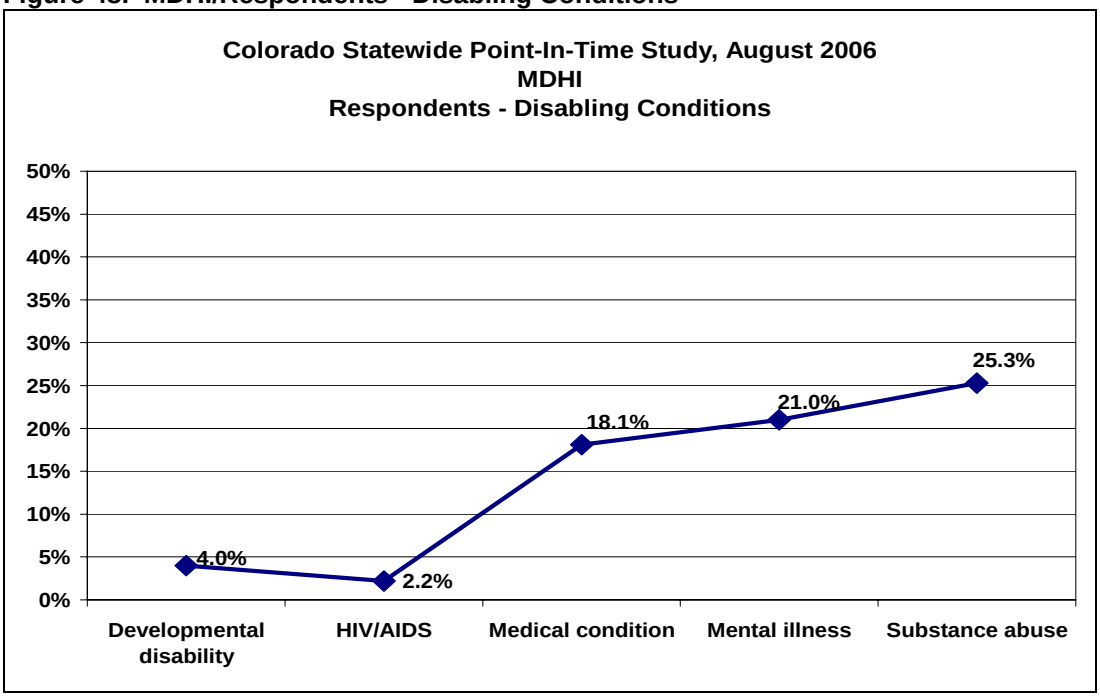


Figure 49. MDHI/Respondents – Money from Work

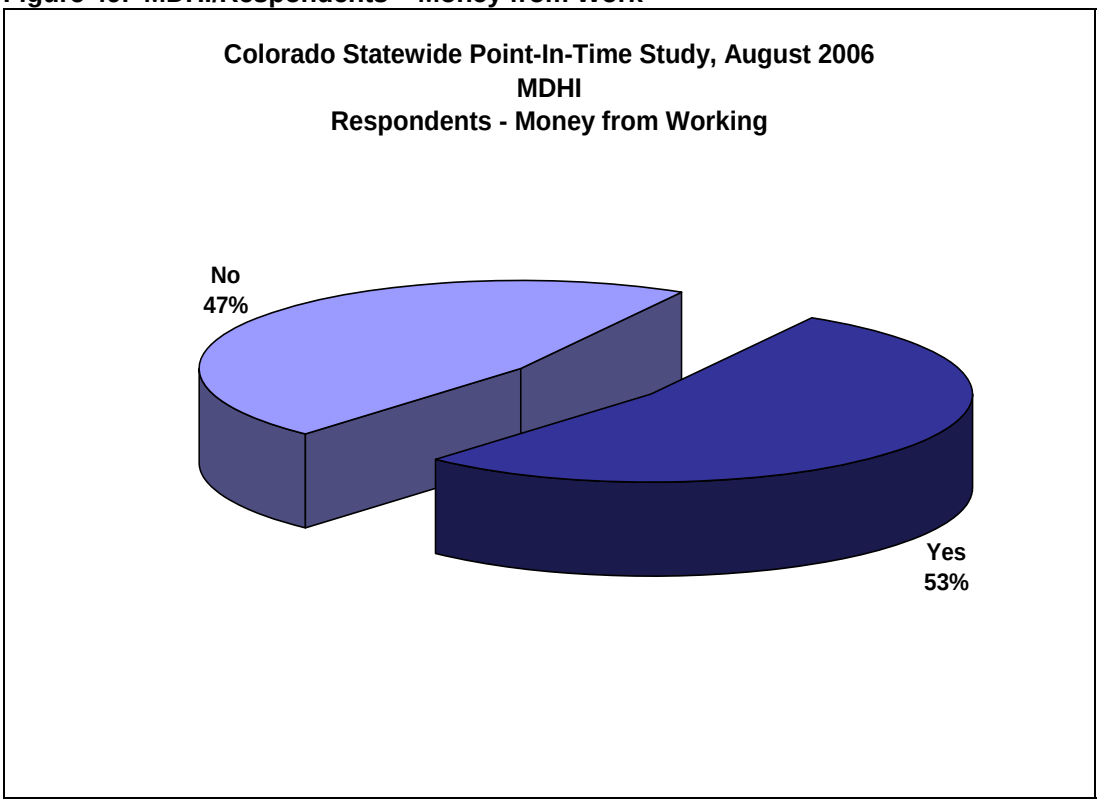


Figure 50. MDHI/Respondents - Government Benefits

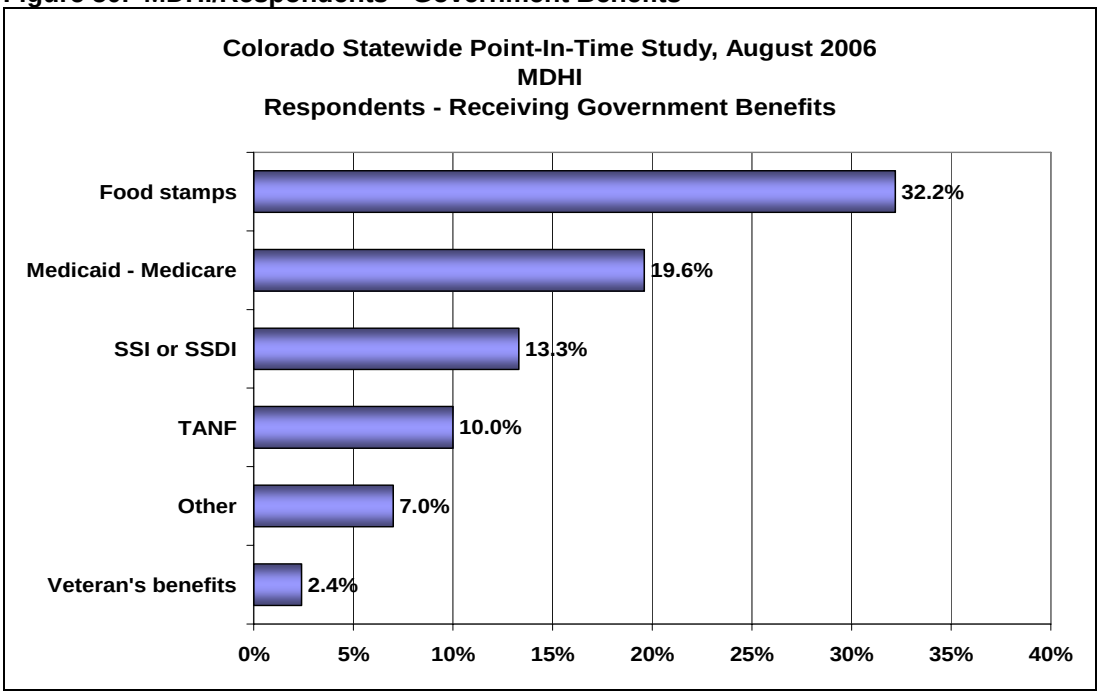


Figure 51. MDHI/Respondents – Needed Services

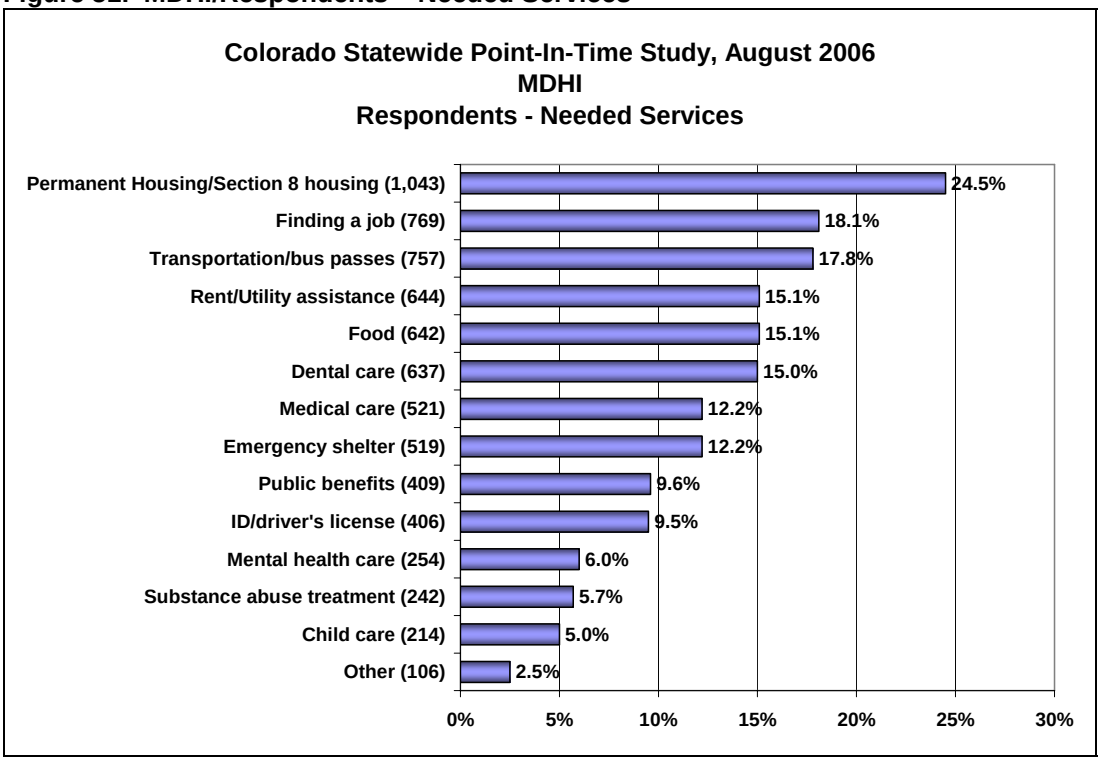


Figure 52. MDHI/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness

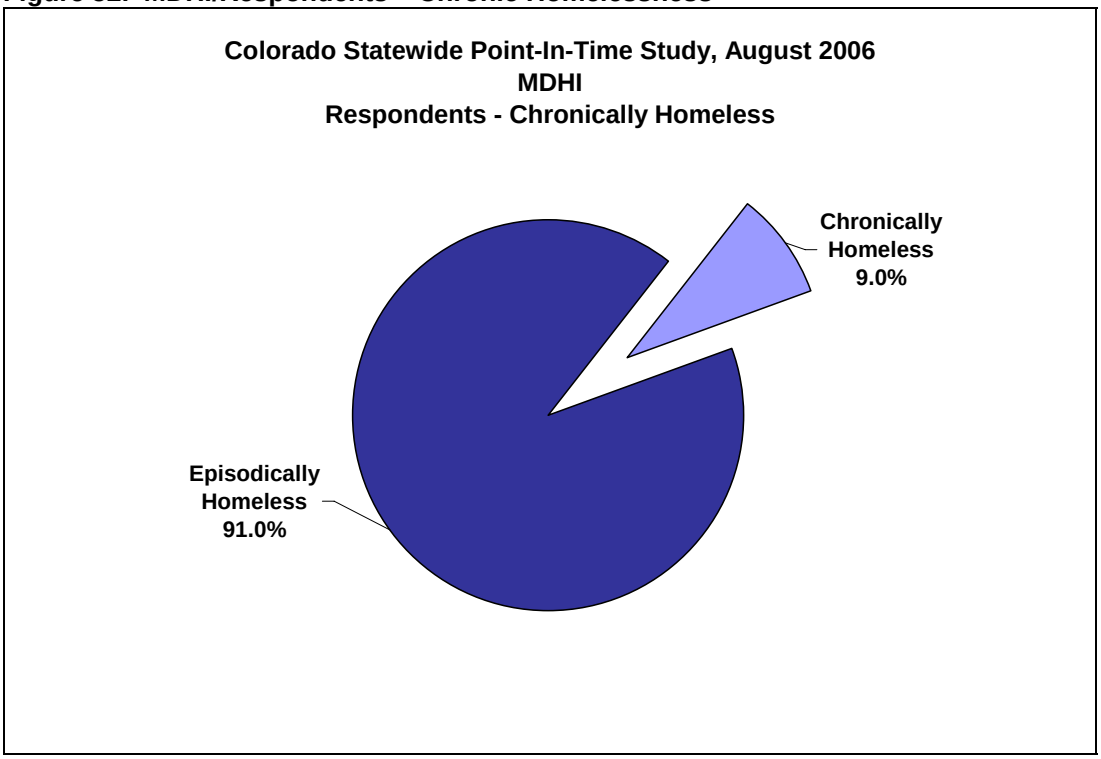


Figure 53. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation

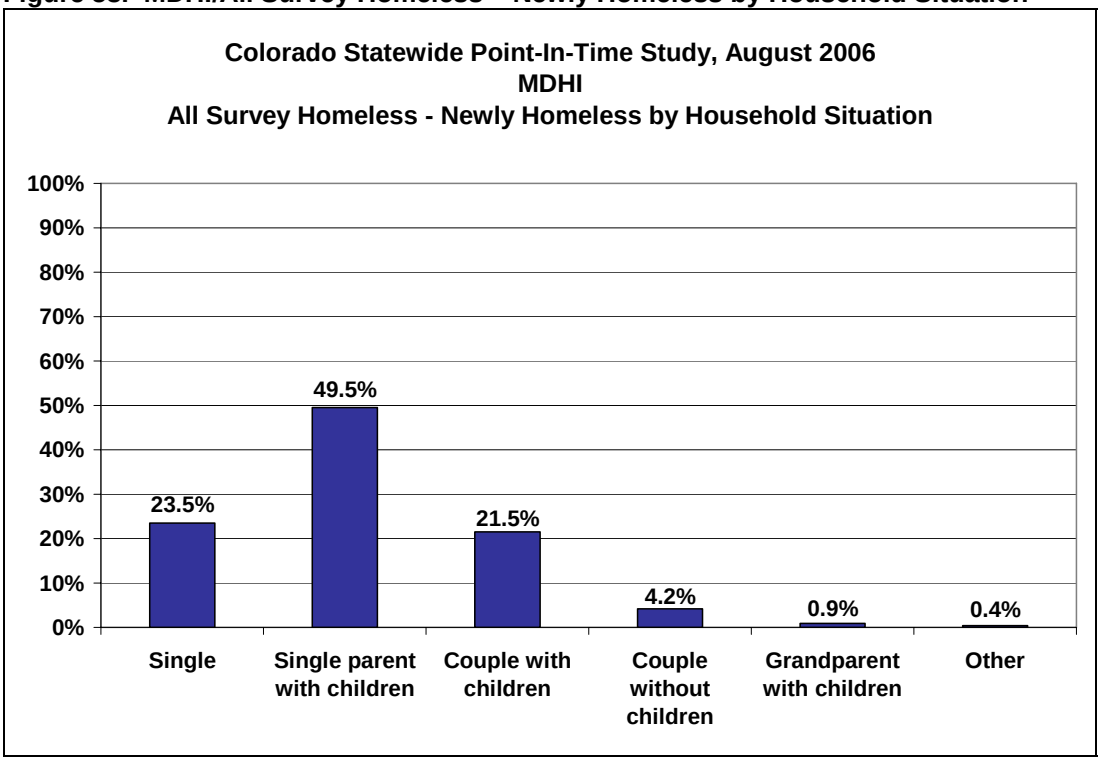


Figure 54. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless, Households With and Without Children

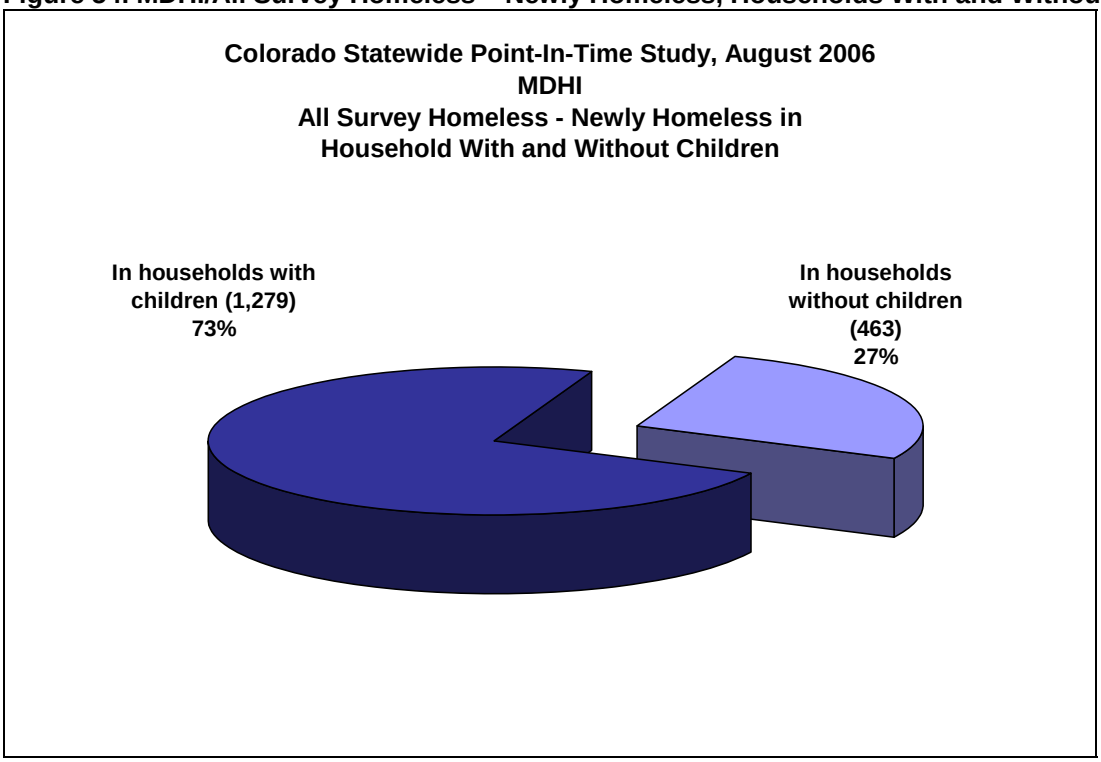
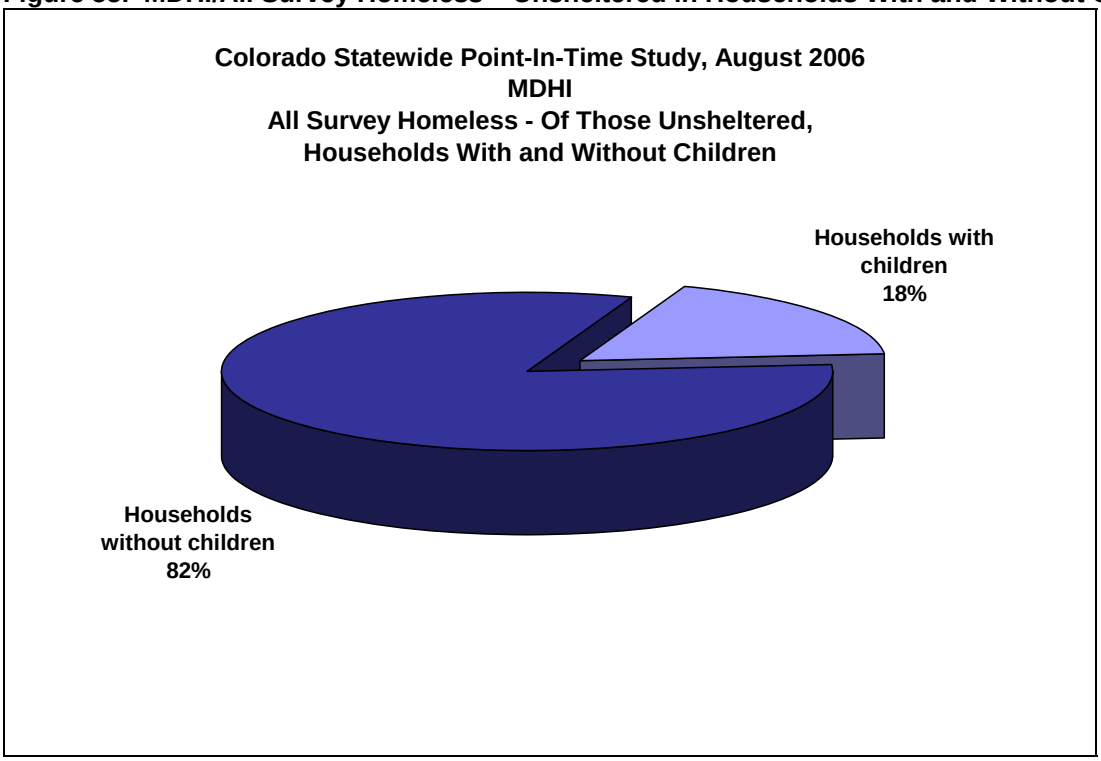


Figure 55. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Unsheltered in Households With and Without Children



EL PASO/COLORADO SPRINGS CONTINUUM OF CARE

Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts/Estimates:

Table 6. TOTAL HOMELESS – EL PASO/COLORADO SPRINGS CONTINUUM	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	632
Relatives	311
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**943**
UNSHELTERED COUNT[36]	
Count – Unsheltered	**118**
SURVEY ESTIMATE[37]	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	**75**
TOTAL HOMELESS – EL PASO/COLO SPGS	**1,136**

Survey Data:

There were 632 respondents in the El Paso Continuum determined to have been homeless on the night of August 28, 2006. Respondents were accompanied by 311 family members, for a total of 943 persons who were homeless on August 28, 2006.

1. Household Situation

Respondents: A majority (71.3%) of respondents identified themselves as single. Thirteen percent (13.3%) were single parents with children under 18, and 9 percent (8.9%) were part of a couple with children under 18. Six percent (5.8%) were part of a couple without children under 18. Overall, 23 percent (22.5%) of households were households with children under 18.

All Survey Homeless: Single individuals accounted for half (49.5%) of all survey homeless persons. Single parent households were second in prevalence, with more than one-quarter (26.1%) of all survey homeless. Forty-five percent (44.6%) of all survey homeless individuals were in families with children.

[36] There is no estimate of the unsheltered homeless for the El Paso/Colorado Springs Continuum, that is, of the number of unsheltered individuals and families who were not counted

[37] See footnote 4.

2. Respondent Characteristics

Respondents: While respondents ranged in age from teenage to seniors, the great majority (82.8%) were adults, ages 26-64. Fifteen percent (14.7%) were young adults. Seniors and teens each comprised only 1 percent of homeless respondents.

Males substantially outnumbered females: 63.5 percent versus 36.5 percent. Single people were three times as likely to be male as female: 75.1 percent compared to 24.9 percent. In contrast, females were much more likely than males to head single-parent families: fully 7 in 8 single parent households were headed by females.

Seventeen percent (16.8%) identified as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, and slightly more than one-third (35.4%) were minority.

One in five (21.8%) had served in the U.S. military. Slightly fewer (18.5%) reported ever being in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement as a child or youth.

Seven percent (6.6%) were seasonal or year-round farm workers, and 3 percent (2.9%) were seasonal resort workers.

3. Last Permanent Residence

Respondents: Forty percent (39.6%) of respondents said that El Paso County was the last county they considered their permanent place to live. Nine percent (8.8%) said their last permanent place to live was in another Colorado county. Fully half (51.5%) said that their last permanent place to live was outside Colorado. It is conceivable that many of the 178 respondents who did not complete this question last resided in another Colorado county, but were unable to specify the county.

4. Type of Place

All Survey Homeless: On August 28, 2006, the majority of all survey homeless people were in time-limited transitional housing (32.8%), staying in an emergency shelter (17.8%), or staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter (14.4%). Fully 17 percent (17.1%) were unsheltered.

5. Reasons for Homelessness

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate "all that apply" from a list of possible reasons for becoming homeless this time. One in three (29.6%) said they were homeless because they lost their job or could not find work. More than one-fifth checked substance abuse problems (22.5%) and relationship or family break-up (20.4%). Fourteen percent (13.9%) said that housing costs were too high, and 11 percent cited eviction or foreclosure (10.8%). Approximately 10 percent said they were homeless because of mental illness (10.8%) or medical problems (10.3%).

Respondents in households with children were slightly more likely (5-6%) than those in households without children to say that high housing and utility costs were reasons for their current spell of homelessness. They were more than twice as likely to report eviction or foreclosure as a reason for homelessness: compare 21.2 percent with 8.7 percent.

A substantially greater percentage of households with children reported abuse/violence in the home as a reason for homelessness than those households without children: 21.2 percent versus 6.7 percent. In contrast, a considerably higher percentage of respondents in households without children reported substance abuse and mental illness as reasons for their homelessness.

6. Disabling Conditions

Respondents: Three in five respondents (59.5%) said that they have, or have been told that they have, at least one of the following serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. Specifically, one in three (34.2%) said that alcohol or drug abuse is a problem. Approximately one in five had a serious mental illness (22.2%), and slightly fewer (20.3%) had a serious medical or physical condition.

The great majority of respondents with at least one disability were single (78.5%) and in households without children (83.8%).

7. Sources of Income/Government Benefits

Respondents: Sixty percent (61.2%) of respondents said that they or someone else in their family received money from working since the beginning of the year. Half (50.5%) said that their family was receiving at least one government benefit. More than one in three (34.8%) said that someone in their family was receiving food stamps. Fourteen percent (14.2%) were receiving Medicaid/Medicare, and 13 percent (12.7%) were receiving SSI or SSDI. Only 5 percent (4.7%) said their family was getting TANF.

8. Needed Services

Respondents: Respondents were asked what services they needed in the past month that they were unable to obtain. Fully two in three respondents (67.9%) said that they needed at least one service that they were not able to get. Specifically one-quarter (25.2%) said they needed one service; 14 percent (14.2%) needed two services; 9 percent (8.9%) needed three services; and, one-fifth (19.5%) said that they needed 4 or more services.

Respondents and their families were most in need of dental (24.2%) and medical (20.7%) care. One in five (19.0%) said they needed help finding a job. Slightly fewer needed help with housing, specifically rent or utility assistance (18.7%) and help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing (17.7%). Respondents and their families also needed help with transportation/bus passes (17.4%), food (16.3%), and getting identification or a driver's license (14.1%).

9. Duration and Episodes of Homelessness

Respondents:

Duration: Respondents were asked: "How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time"? More than one in five (22.8%) said their current spell of homelessness has been less than one month, and nearly half (45.5%) said they had been homeless for more than one

month, but less than one year. Nine percent (9.0%) reported that they have been homeless for more than three years.

One-third (33.1%) of respondents in households with children had been homeless this time for less than one month, compared to one-fifth (20.2%) in households without children. Forty-four percent (43.6%) of those in households without children had been homeless for more than one month and less than one year. In contrast, respondents in households without children were more likely to have been homeless for more than three years: 10.7 percent versus 2.3 percent.

Male respondents were somewhat more likely than females to have been homeless this time for more than three years: 12.9 percent versus 3.3 percent.

Episodes: More than one-third (36.2%) of respondents said that this was the first time they had been without a permanent place to live in the last three years. One-fifth (20.4%) said this was their second spell of homelessness in the last three years. Nearly one in five (17.4%) said that they had been homeless five or more times in the past three years.

Males were somewhat more likely than females to report that they have had five or more spells of homelessness in the last three years: compare 20.2 percent with 14.1 percent.

In general, respondents in households without children have had more episodes of homelessness than those in households with children. Half (51.9%) of respondents in households with children said that this was the first time they have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years, while 9 percent (8.9%) had been homeless five or more times during this period. In contrast, respondents in households without children were less likely to say this was the first time they had been homeless in the past three years (32.5%), and more likely to say they have had five or more spells of homelessness (19.1%) during this period.

10. Chronically Homeless Individuals

Respondents: As of the night of August 28, 2006, 8.4 percent of respondents or 53 individuals were considered chronically homeless. The great majority (90.6%) of the chronically homeless were male.

11. Newly Homeless

All Survey Homeless: On August 28, 2006, 292 people or nearly one-third (31.0%) were considered newly homeless. Single parents with children (37.8%) and single individuals (36.8%) comprised the largest groups of newly homeless, followed by couples with children (22.7%). Three-fifths (60.5%) of all newly homeless individuals were in households with children.

12. Unsheltered Homeless

All Survey Homeless: Seventeen percent (17.1%) of all survey homeless persons were unsheltered. The great majority of unsheltered homeless (79.3%) were in households with children.

Figure 56. El Paso/Respondents – Household Situation

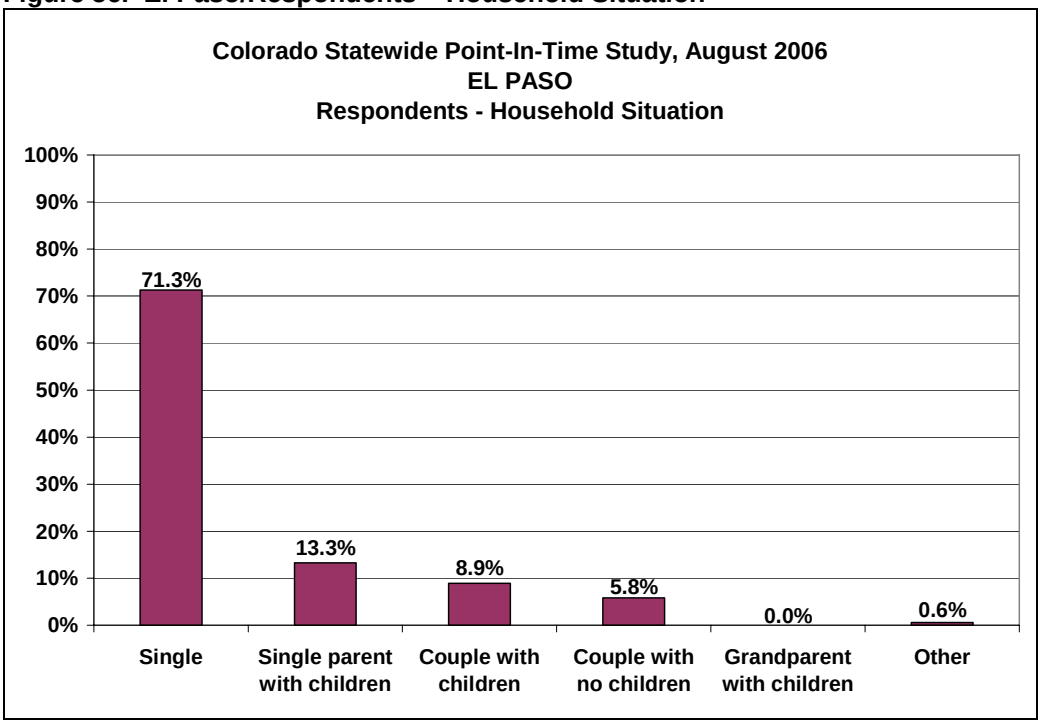


Figure 57. El Paso/Respondents – Households With and Without Children

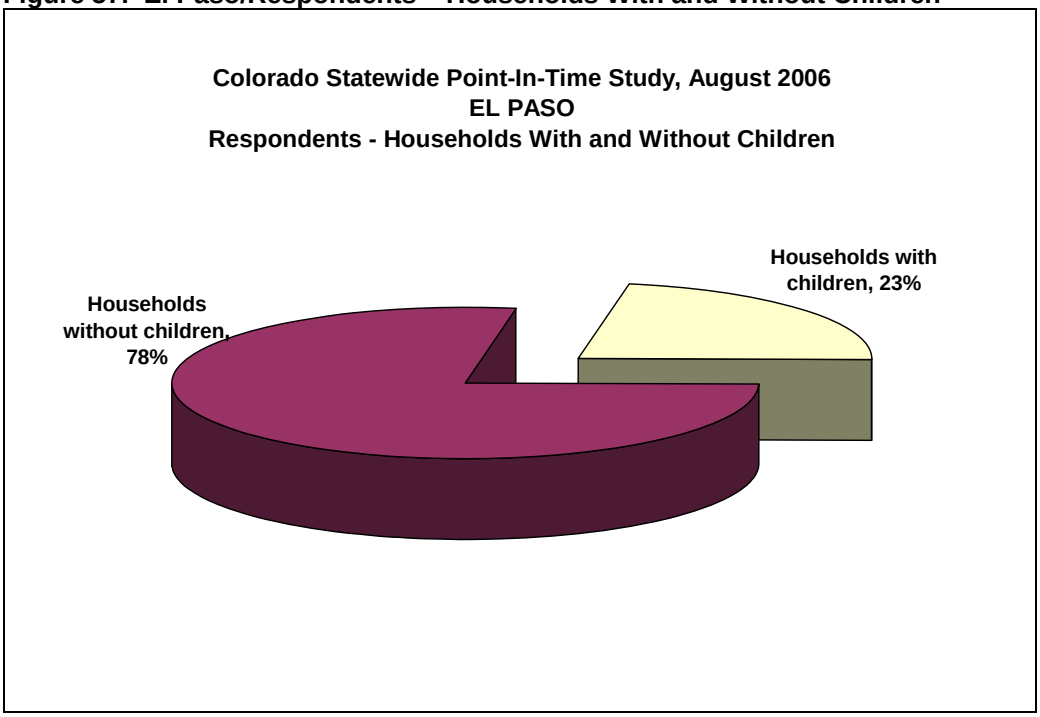


Figure 58. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Household Situation

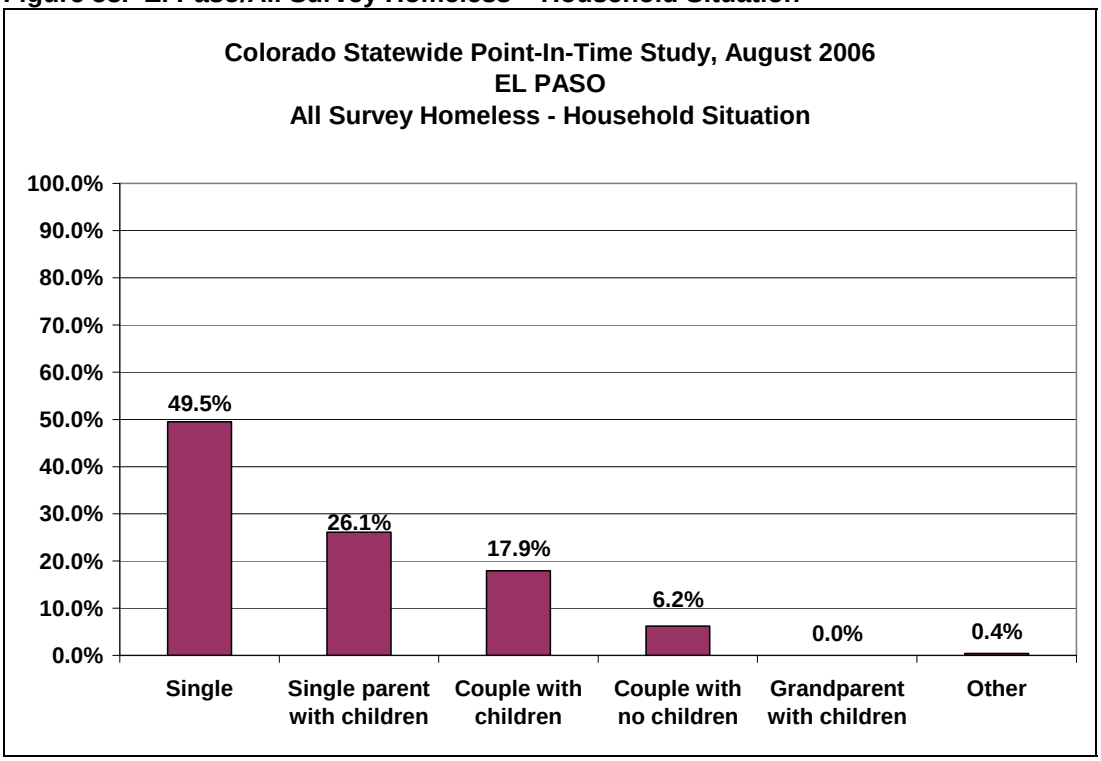


Figure 59. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – People in Households With and Without Children

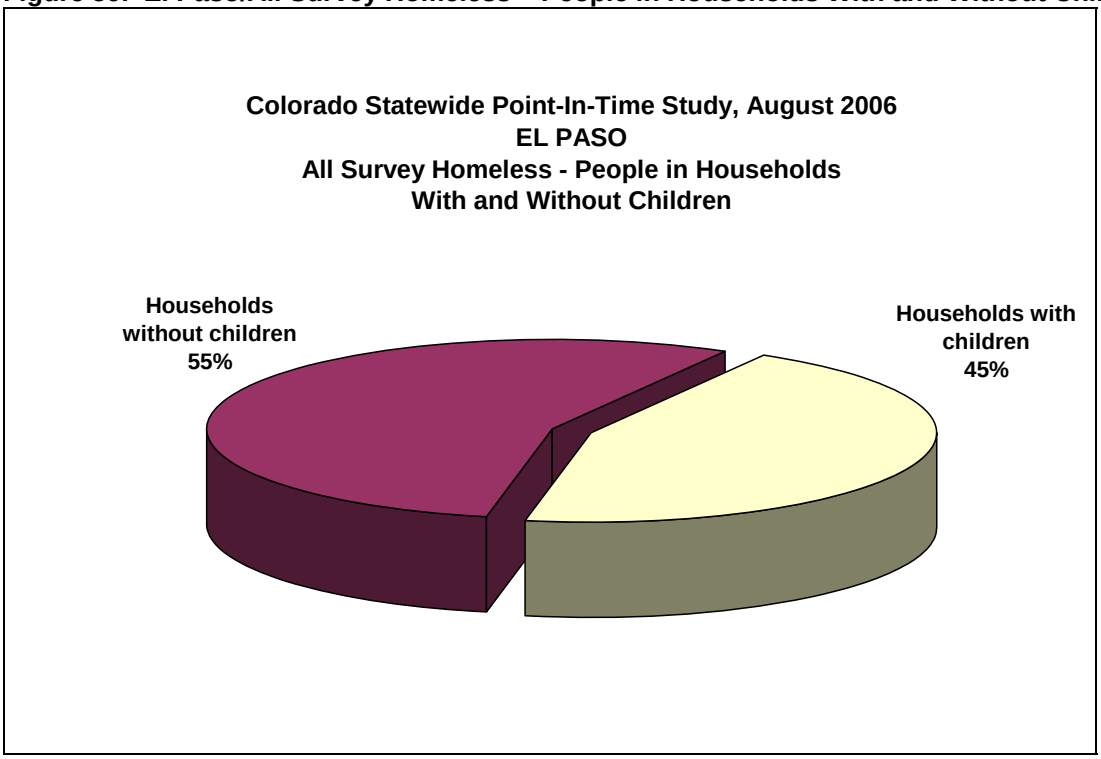


Figure 60. El Paso/Respondents – Age Groups

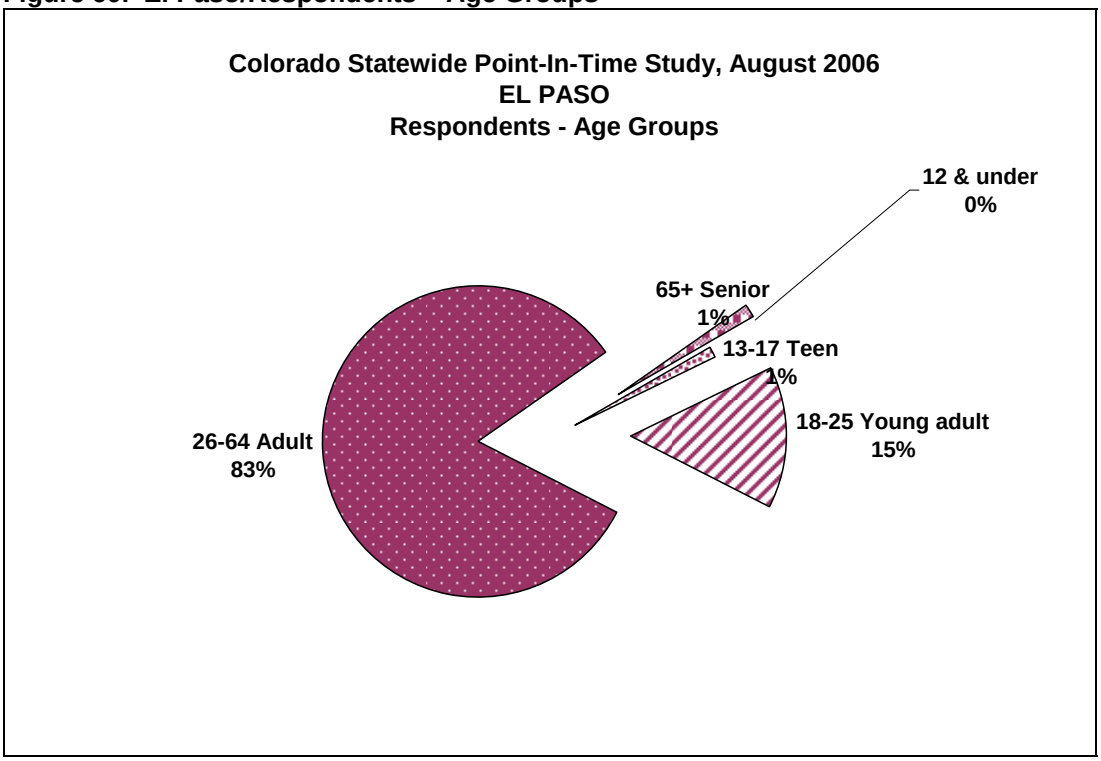


Figure 61 El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Age Groups

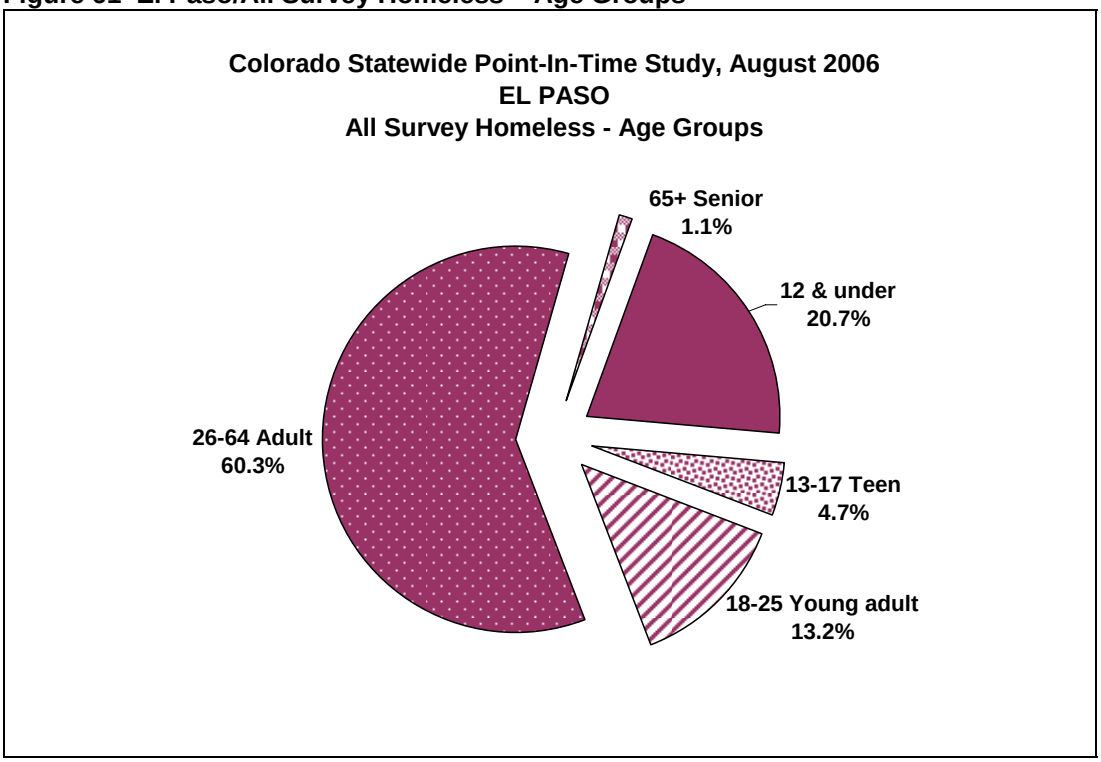


Figure 62. El Paso/Respondents - Gender

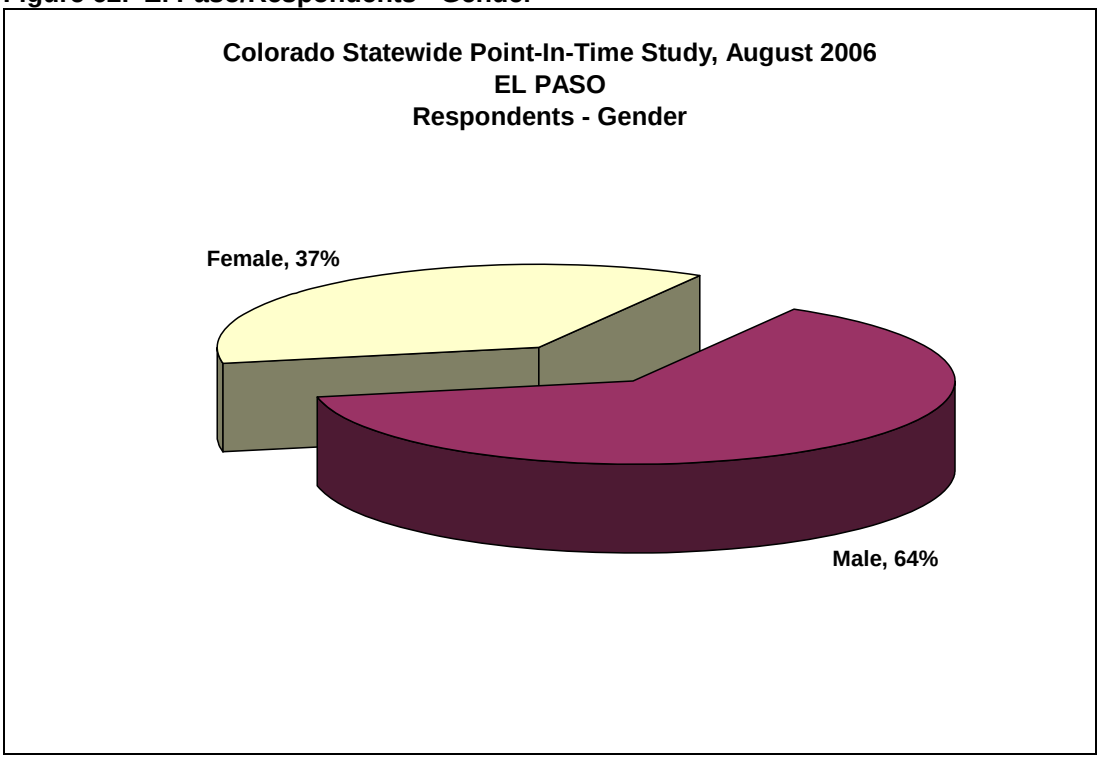


Figure 63. El Paso/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity

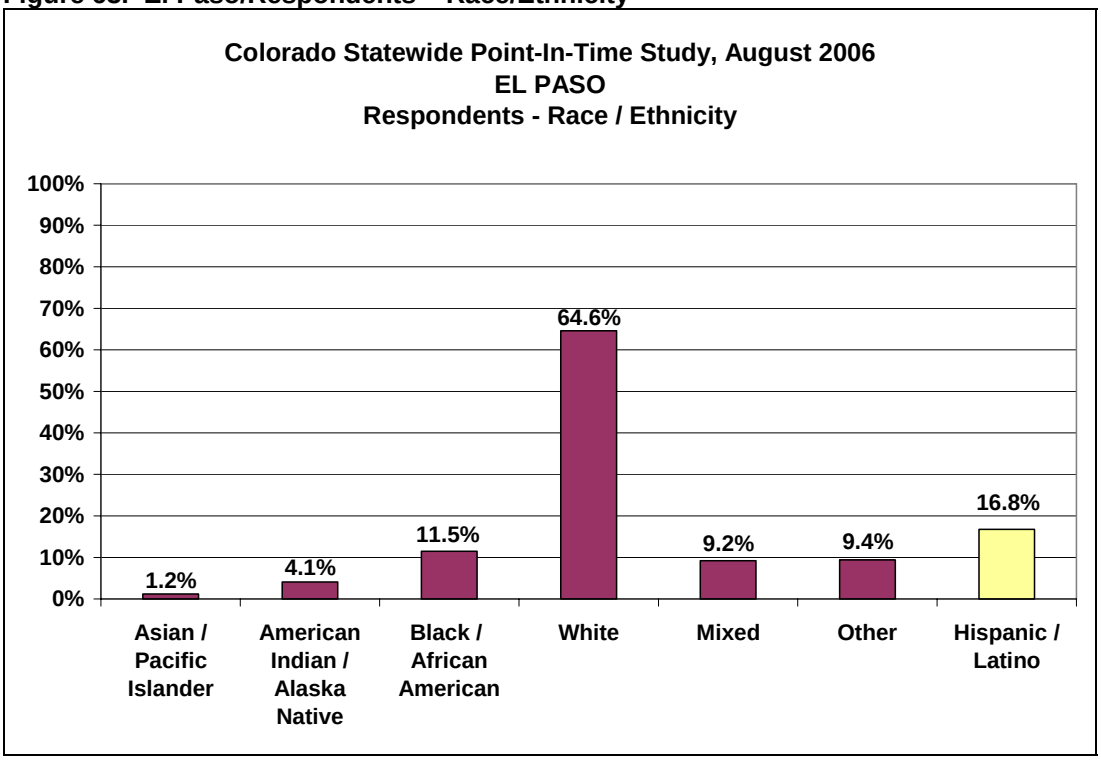


Figure 64 El Paso/Respondents – Military Service, Foster Care, Seasonal, Yr-Round Worker

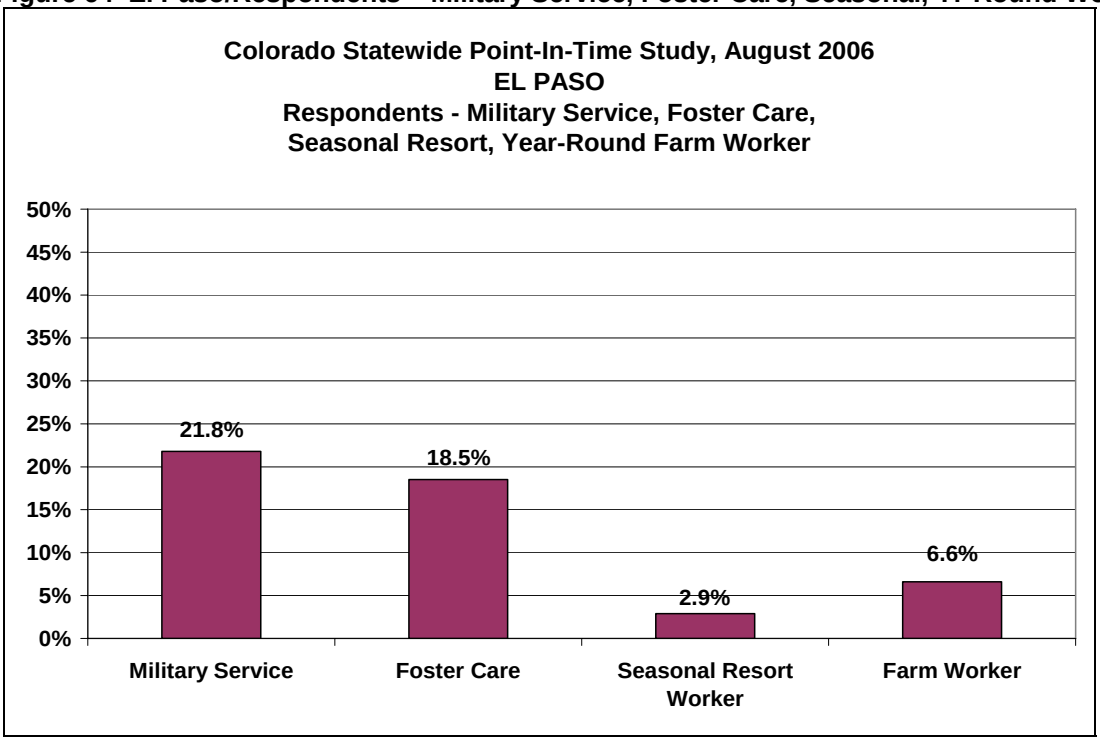


Figure 65. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night

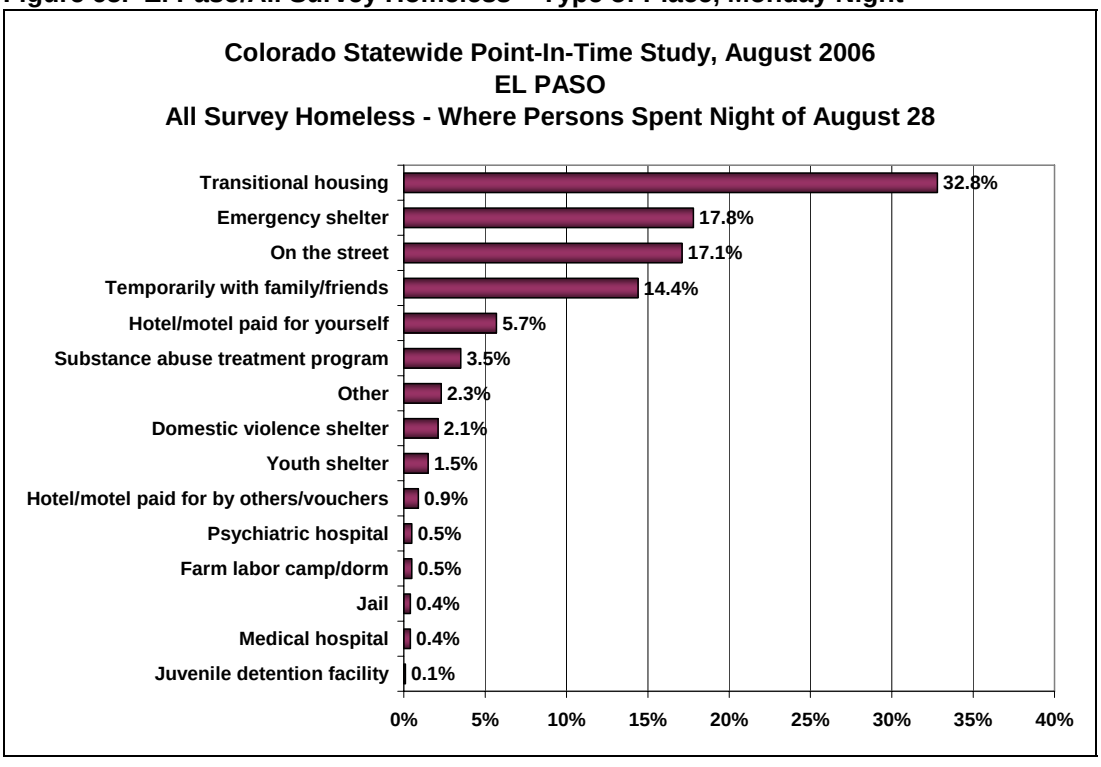


Figure 66. El Paso/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness

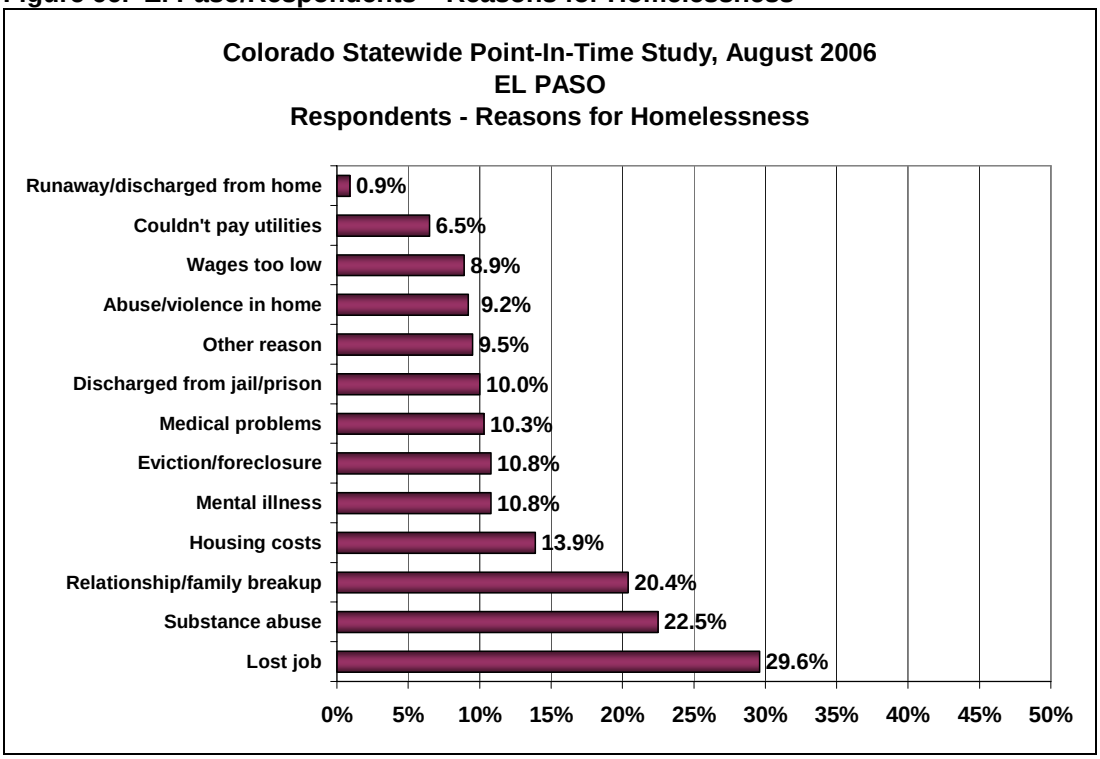


Figure 67. El Paso/Respondents – Disabling Conditions

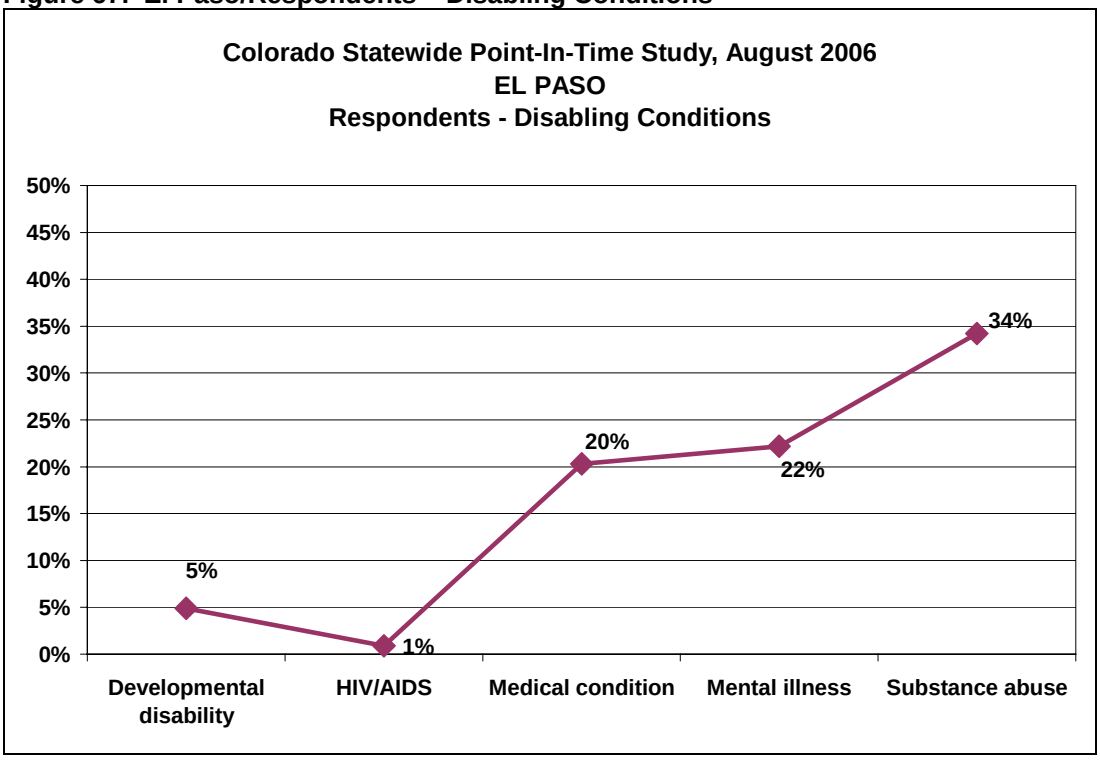


Figure 68. El Paso/Respondents – Money from Work

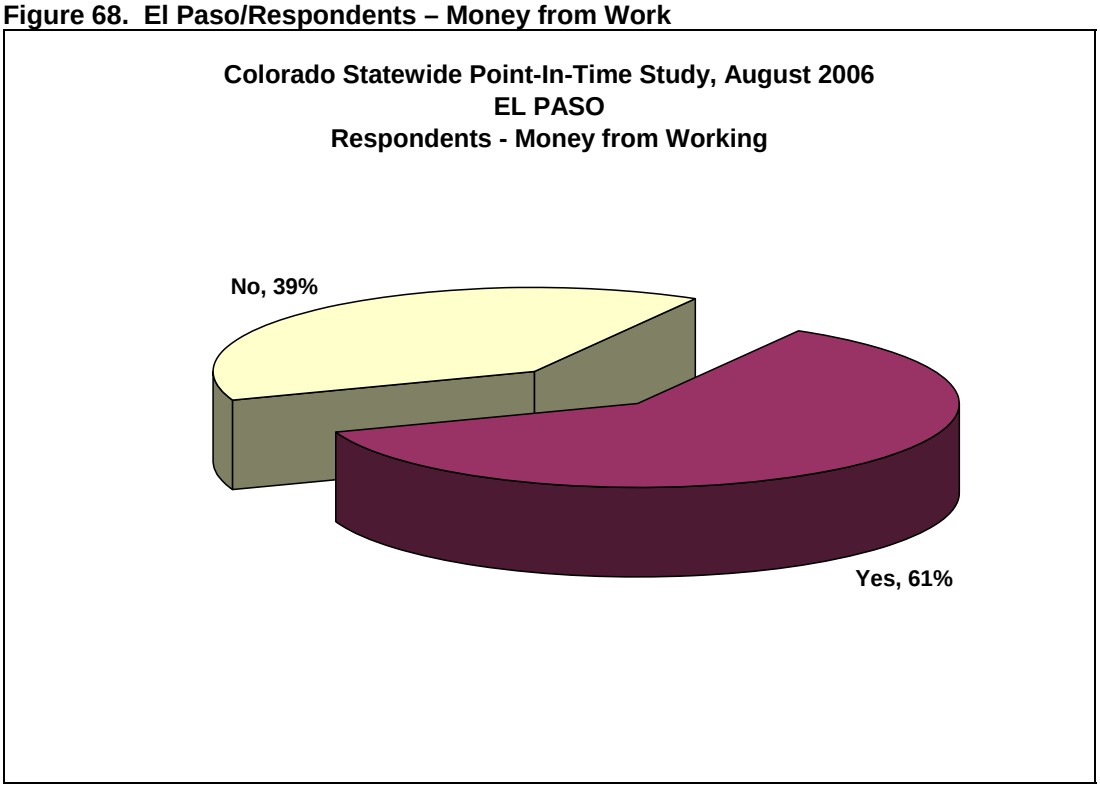


Figure 69. El Paso/Respondents – Government Benefits

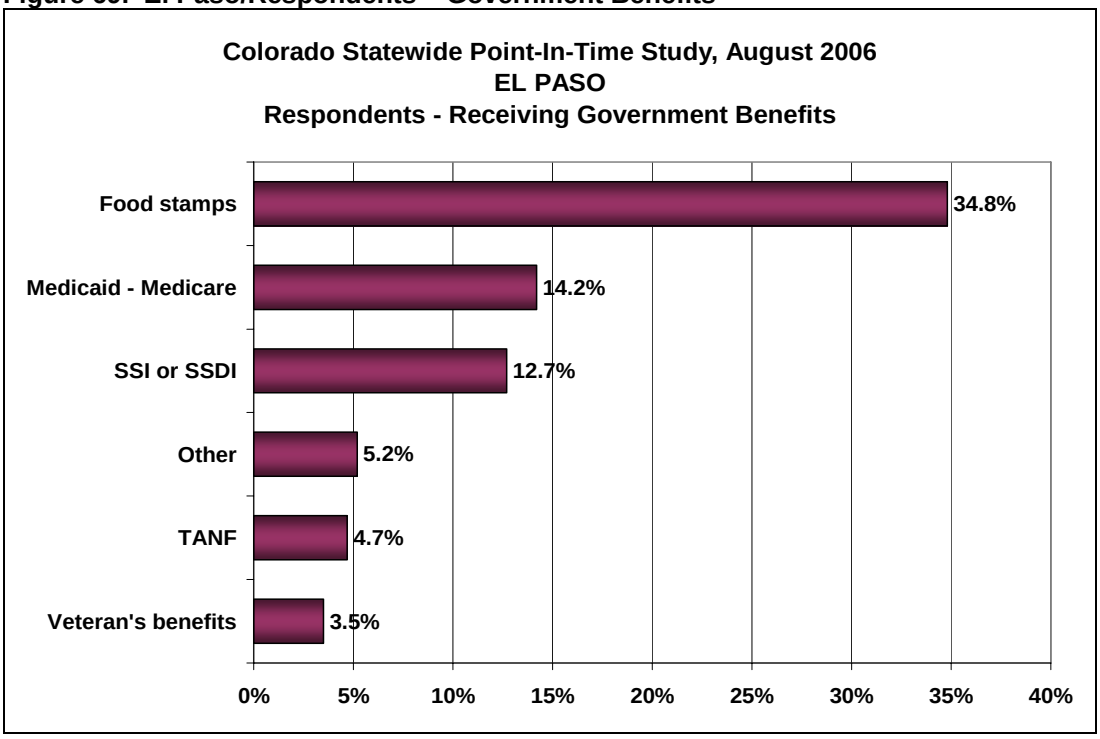


Figure 70. El Paso/Respondents – Needed Services

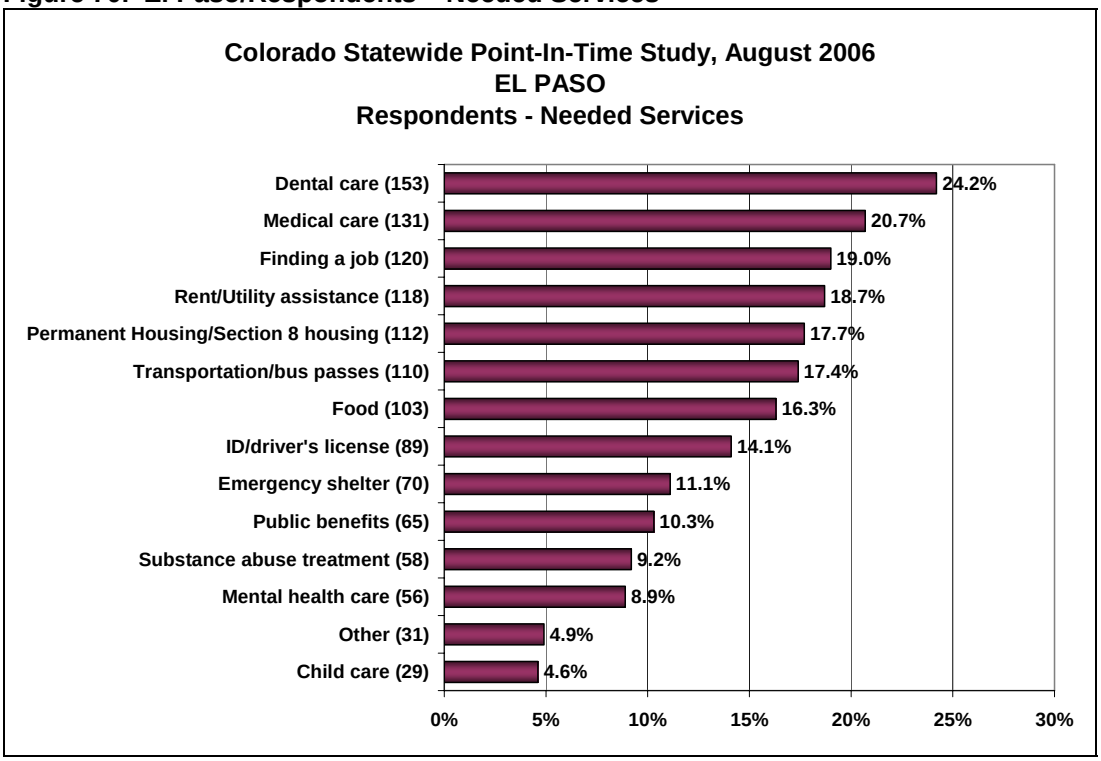


Figure 71. El Paso/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness

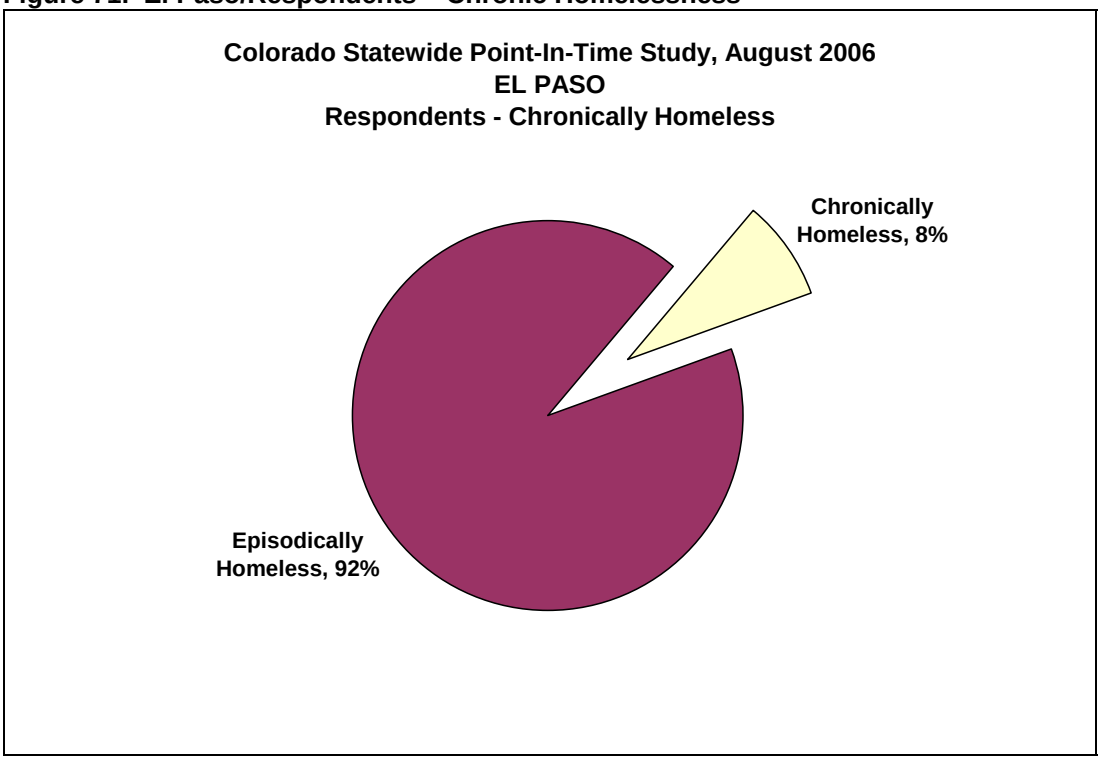


Figure 72. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation

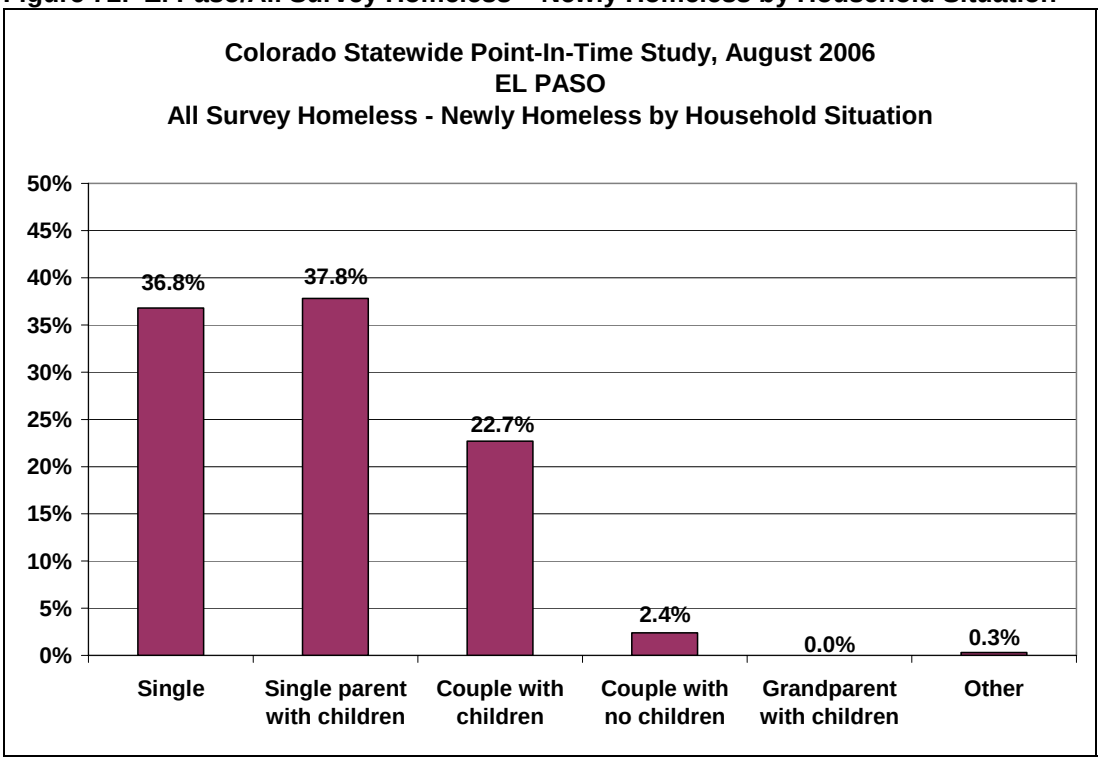


Figure 73. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless, Households With & Without Children

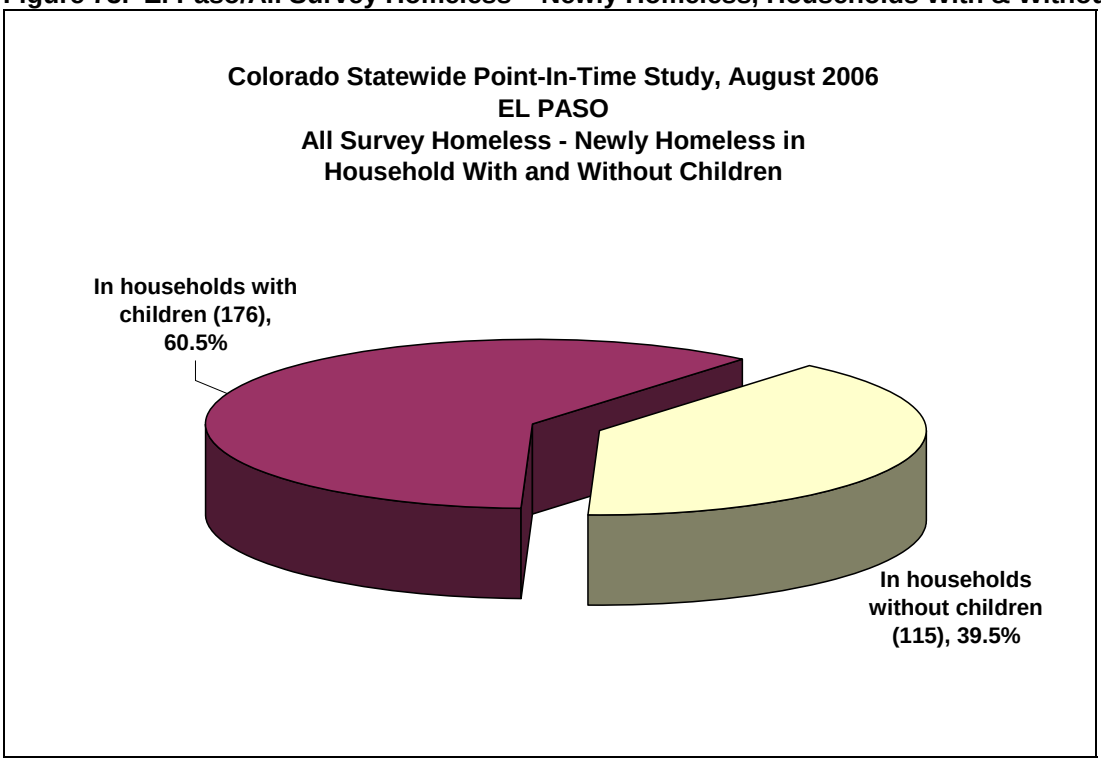
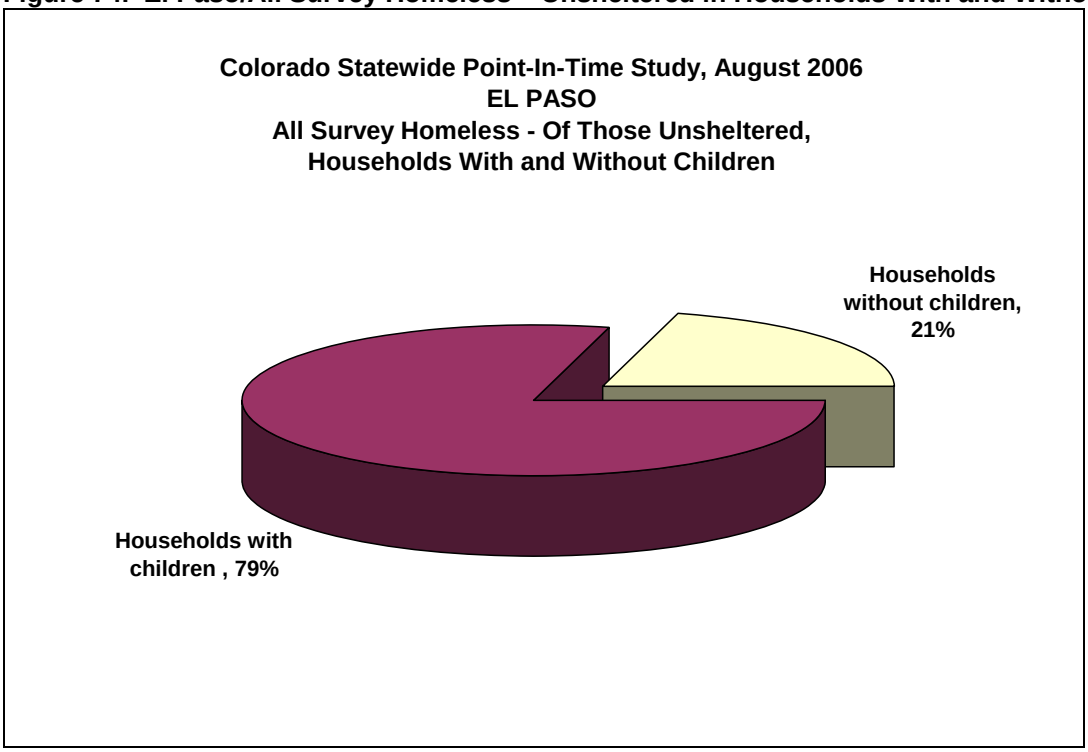


Figure 74. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Unsheltered in Households With and Without Children



BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts/Estimates:

Table 7. TOTAL HOMELESS – BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	1,747
Relatives	1,382
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**3,129**
UNSHELTERED COUNT[38]	
Count – Unsheltered	**2,328**
SURVEY ESTIMATE[39]	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	**334**
TOTAL	**5,791**

Survey Data:

There were 1,747 respondents in the Balance of State Continuum determined to have been homeless on the night of August 28, 2006. Respondents were accompanied by 1,382 family members, for a total of 3,129 persons who were homeless on August 28, 2006.

1. Household Situation

Respondents: A slim majority (56.1%) of respondents identified themselves as single. Nearly one in four (23.5%) were single parents with children under 18, and 12 percent (11.7%) were part of a couple with children younger under 18. Eight percent (7.9%) were part of a couple without children younger than 18. Overall, more than one in three (36.4%) households were households with children under 18.

All Survey Homeless: Single individuals and single parent households each accounted for one-third (33.4%) of all survey homeless persons. One in four (24.4%) homeless persons was part of a couple with children.

[38] Agencies submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons, that is, unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted. These estimates identify a total of 1,043 homeless persons. Combined with all the surveyed homeless and the number of unsheltered homeless who were counted but not surveyed, an estimated ***6,834*** people were homeless on August 28, 2006.

[39] See footnote 4.

2. Respondent Characteristics

Respondents: While respondents ranged in age from school age to seniors, most (79.0%) were adults age 26-64. Eighteen percent (17.5%) were young adults. Seniors and teens comprised only 2 percent and 1 percent of homeless respondents, respectively.

Nearly three in five respondents (58.9%) were male. Single people were almost three times as likely to be male as female: 73.9 percent compared to 26.1 percent. In contrast, females were much more likely than males to head single-parent families: 78.7 percent versus 21.3 percent. One in three (29.4%) identified as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, and a similar proportion (30.9%) were minority.

Fourteen percent (13.9%) had served in the U.S. military. One-fifth (20.6%) reported ever being in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement as a child or youth.

Eight percent (8.1%) were seasonal or year-round farm workers, and 6 percent (5.7%) were seasonal resort workers.

3. Last Permanent Residence

Respondents: Nearly three of five respondents (58.6%) said that one of the counties in the Balance of State Continuum was the last county they considered their permanent place to live. Seven percent (6.8%) said their last permanent place to live was in a Colorado county outside the Balance of State. One-third (34.6%) said that their last permanent place to live was outside Colorado. Three hundred and twelve (312) respondents did not report the county where they had their last permanent resident. It is conceivable that many of these respondents last resided in another Colorado county, but were unable to specify the county.

4. Type of Place

All Survey Homeless: On August 28, 2006, nearly one-third (30.6%) of all survey homeless people were staying temporarily with family or friends. One in five (19.4%) were in time-limited transitional housing, and 11 percent (10.8%) were staying in an emergency shelter. Fully one in five (19.6%) were unsheltered.

5. Reasons for Homelessness

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate "all that apply" from a list of possible reasons for becoming homeless this time. High housing-associated costs were a major reason for homelessness. One in three (30.3%) said they were homeless because housing costs were too high. Nearly one in five (18.8%) could not pay their utilities, and 13 percent (12.5%) cited eviction or foreclosure as a reason for their homelessness. One-quarter (24.8%) had lost their job or could not find work, and 15 percent (14.8%) said that their wages were too low. Seventeen percent (16.4%) said that abuse or violence in their home was a cause of their homelessness. From 13 percent to 14 percent said they were homeless because of medical problems (13.7%), substance abuse (13.5%), or mental illness (13.1%).

Respondents in households with children were more likely than those in households without children to say that high housing, high utility costs, and eviction or foreclosure were reasons for their current spell of homelessness. In addition, a substantially greater percentage of

households with children than without reported abuse/violence in the home as a reason for homelessness: 28.7 percent versus 10.9 percent. In contrast, a higher percentage of respondents in households without children reported substance abuse and mental illness as reasons for their homelessness.

6. Disabling Conditions

Respondents: Half of respondents (52.2%) said that they have, or have been told that they have, at least one of the following serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. One in four (24.6%) said that alcohol or drug abuse is a problem, and more than one in five have a serious medical or physical condition (22.7%) or a serious mental illness (21.2%).

More than two-thirds (69.0%) of respondents with at least one disability were single, and three-quarters (76.5%) were in households without children.

7. Sources of Income/Government Benefits

Respondents: Sixty percent (60.2%) of respondents said that they or someone else in their family received money from working since the beginning of the year. A majority (56.4%) said that their family was receiving at least one government benefit. More than one-third (38.3%) said that someone in their family was receiving food stamps. One-quarter (24.7%) were receiving Medicaid/Medicare, and 16 percent (16.3%) were receiving SSI or SSDI. Seven percent (6.7%) said their family was getting TANF.

8. Needed Services

Respondents: Respondents were asked what services they needed in the past month that they were unable to obtain. Fully two in three respondents (67.5%) said that they needed at least one service that they were not able to get. Specifically, one-fifth (20.7%) said they needed one service, 15 percent (14.6%) needed two services, 10 percent (10.2%) needed three services, and one-fifth (21.9%) said that they needed 4 or more services.

Respondents and their families were most in need of housing-related assistance: more than one in four (27.8%) said they needed help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, and more than one in five (22.2%) needed rent or utility assistance. One-fifth (20.0%) needed transportation/bus passes, and nearly as many (19.1%) needed help finding a job. Slightly fewer needed help with food (18.3%) and medical care (18.0%).

9. Duration and Episodes of Homelessness

Respondents:

Duration: Respondents were asked: "How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time"? One in five (20.3%) said their current spell of homelessness was less than one month, and nearly half (45.0%) said they had been homeless for more than one month, but less than one year. Twelve percent (11.5%) reported that they had been homeless for more than three years.

Respondents in households with children were slightly more likely to have been homeless this time for less than one month. Respondents in households without children were much more likely to have been homeless for more than three years: 16.7 percent versus 2.1 percent.

Male respondents were more likely than females to have been homeless this time for more than three years: 17.4 percent versus 5.9 percent.

Episodes: One in three (30.2%) of respondents said that this was the first time they had been without a permanent place to live in the last three years. One-fifth (19.2%) said this was their second spell of homelessness in the last three years. One in four (24.4%) said that they had been homeless five or more times in the past three years.

Males were more likely than females to report that they have had five or more spells of homelessness in the last three years: compare 31.2 percent with 18.3 percent.

Respondents in households without children have had more episodes of homelessness than those in households with children. More than one-third (37.5%) of respondents in households with children said that this was the first time they had been without a permanent place to live in the last three years, while12 percent (12.0%) had been homeless five or more times during this period. In contrast, respondents in households without children were less likely to say this was the first time they had been homeless in the past three years (27.0%), and one in three (30.8%) reported that they had had five or more spells of homelessness during this period.

10. Chronically Homeless Individuals

Respondents: As of the night of August 28, 2006, 9.7 percent of respondents or 169 individuals were considered chronically homeless. Four-fifths (79.9%) of the chronically homeless were male.

11. Newly Homeless

All Survey Homeless: On August 28, 2006, 706 people or more than one in five (22.6%) were considered newly homeless. The largest group of newly homeless persons were single parents with children (36.8%), followed by couples with children (29.2%). Single persons comprised one-quarter (26.8%) of the newly homeless. More than two-thirds (68.6%) of all newly homeless individuals were in households with children.

12. Unsheltered Homeless

All Survey Homeless: One in five (19.6%) of all survey homeless persons were unsheltered. One-third (32.7%) of all unsheltered homeless were in households with children.

Figure 75. BOS/Respondents – Household Situation

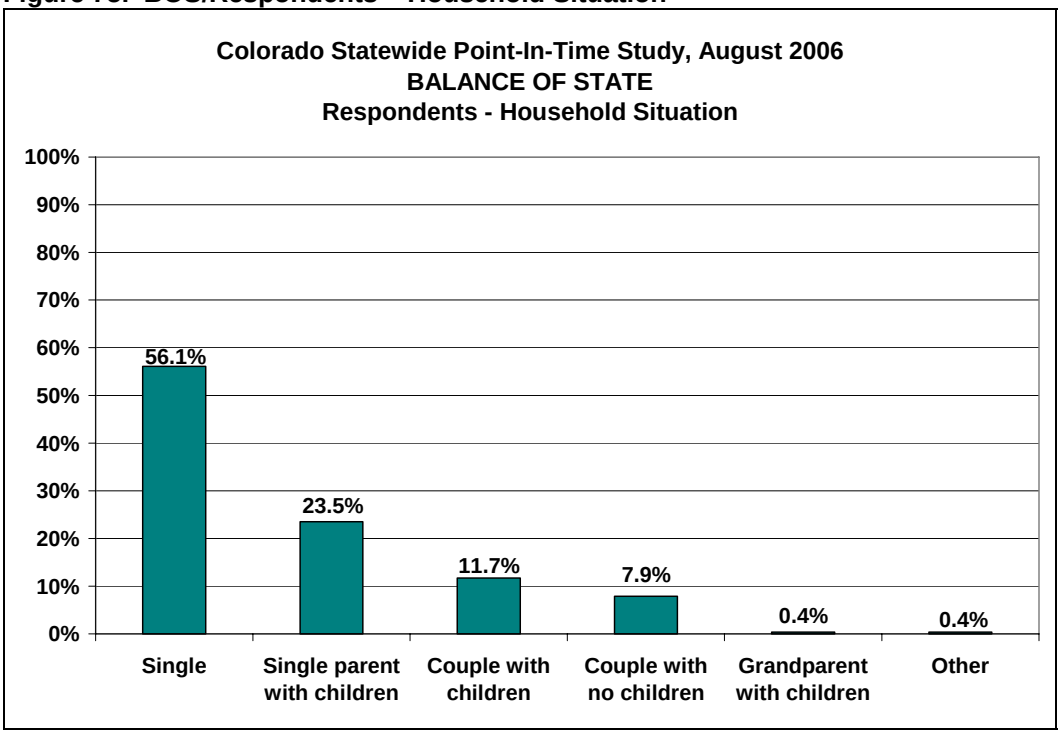


Figure 76. BOS/Respondents – Households With and Without Children

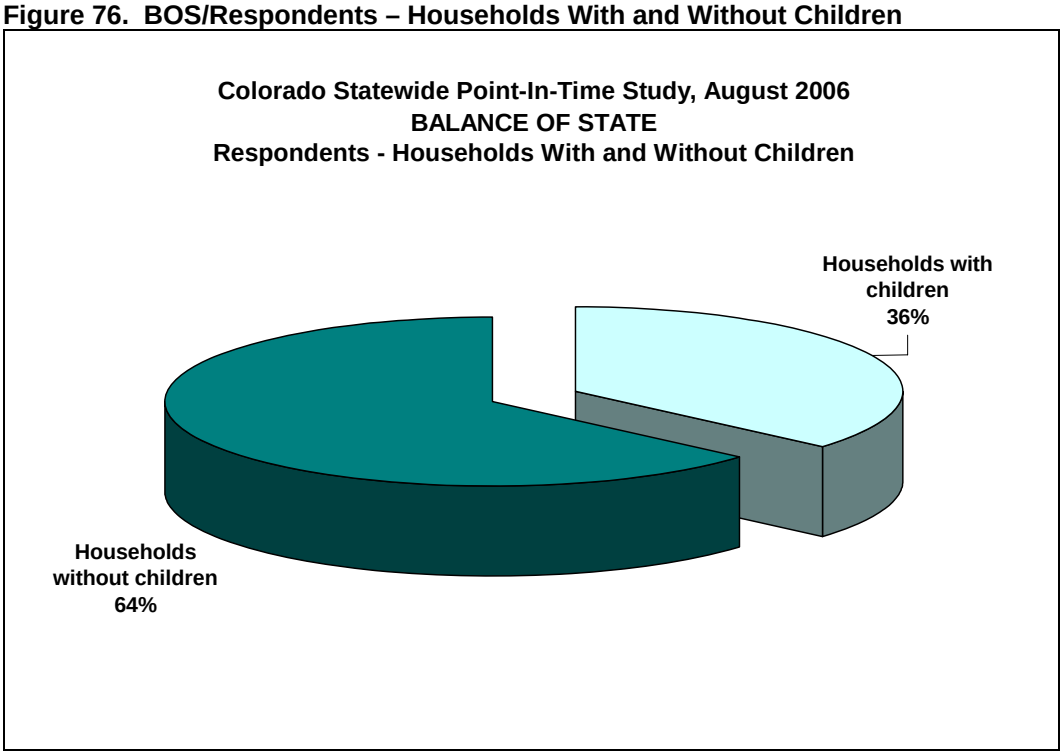


Figure 77. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Household Situation

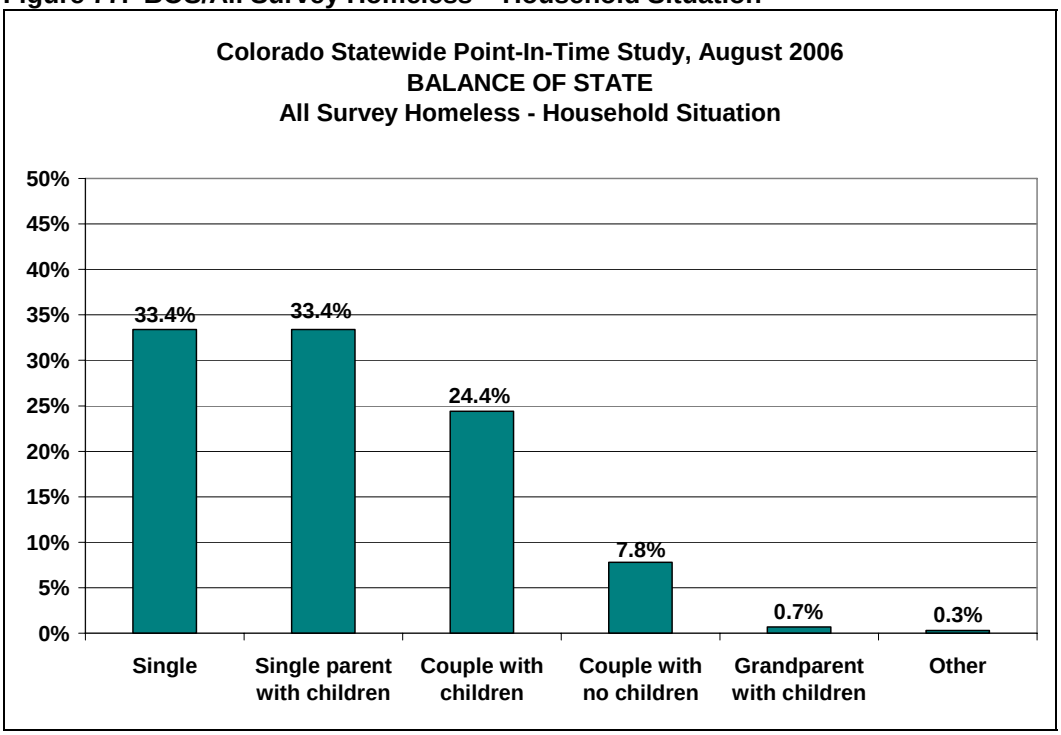


Figure 78. BOS/All Survey Homeless – People in Households With and Without Children

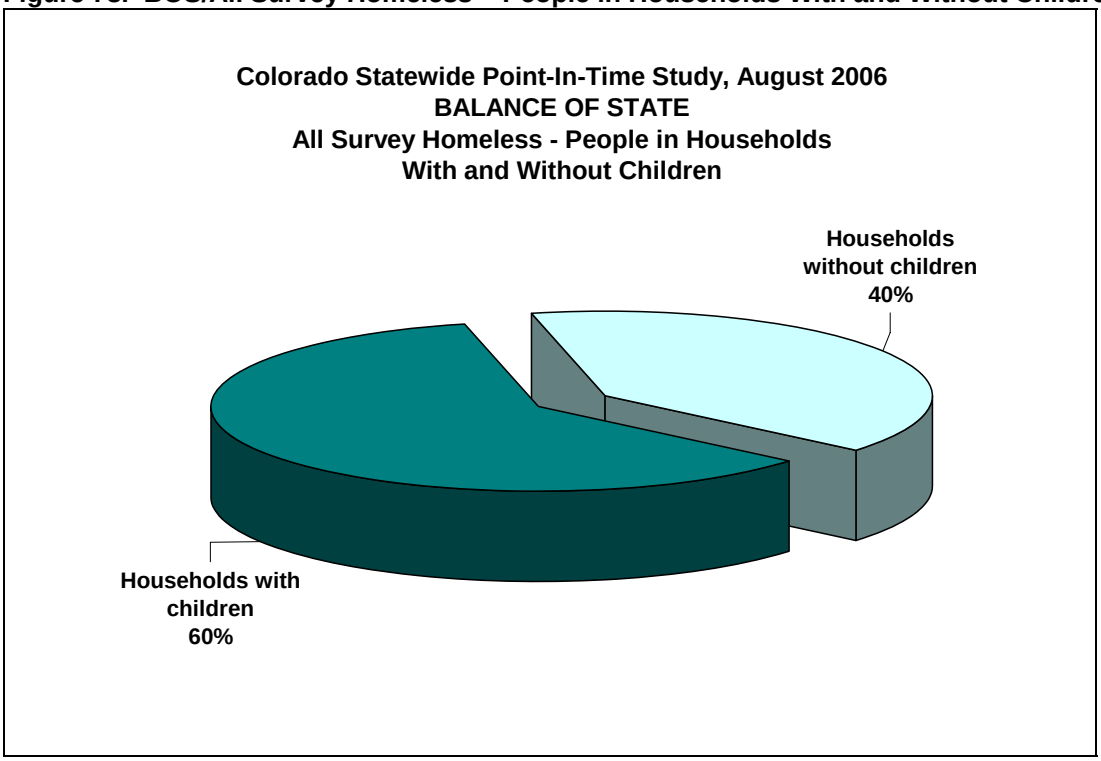


Figure 79. BOS/Respondents – Age Groups

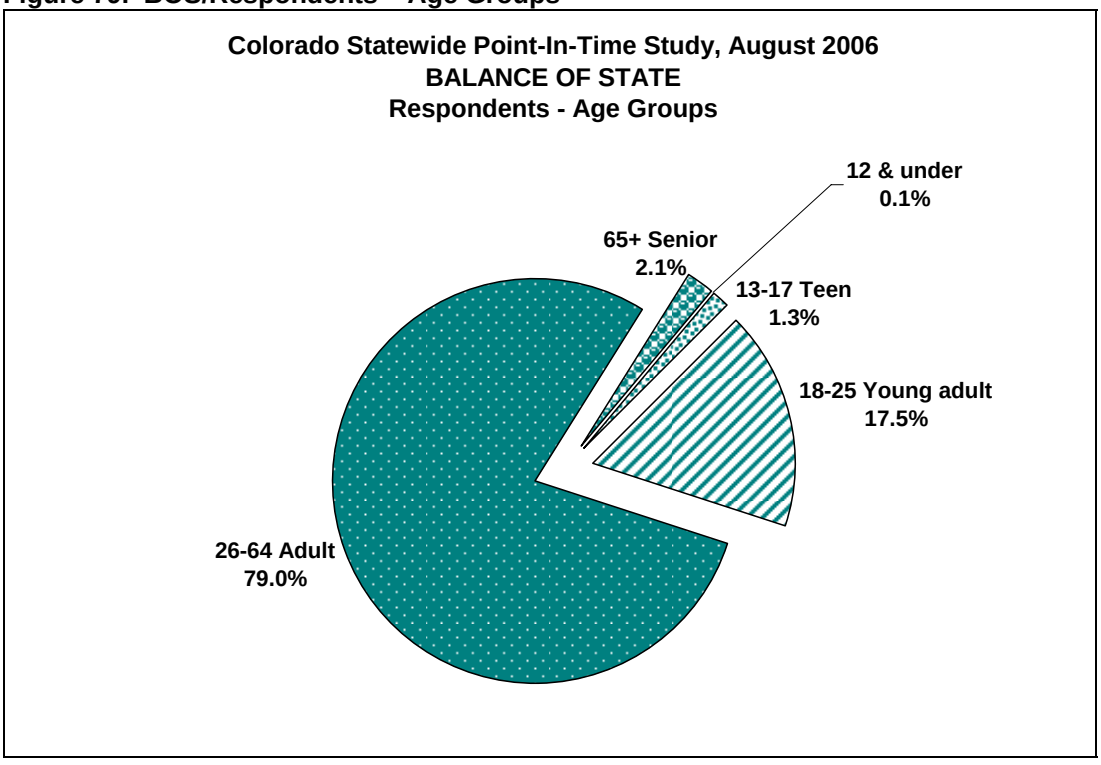


Figure 80. BOS/All Survey Homeless Age Groups

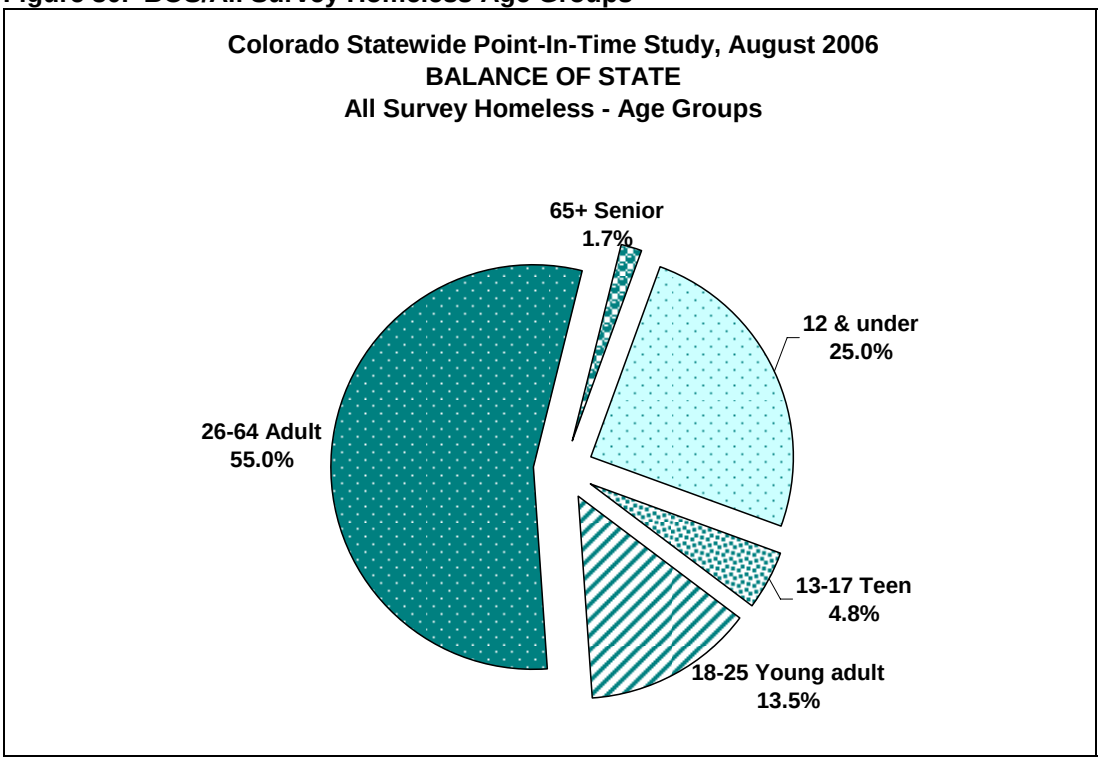


Figure 81. BOS/Respondents - Gender

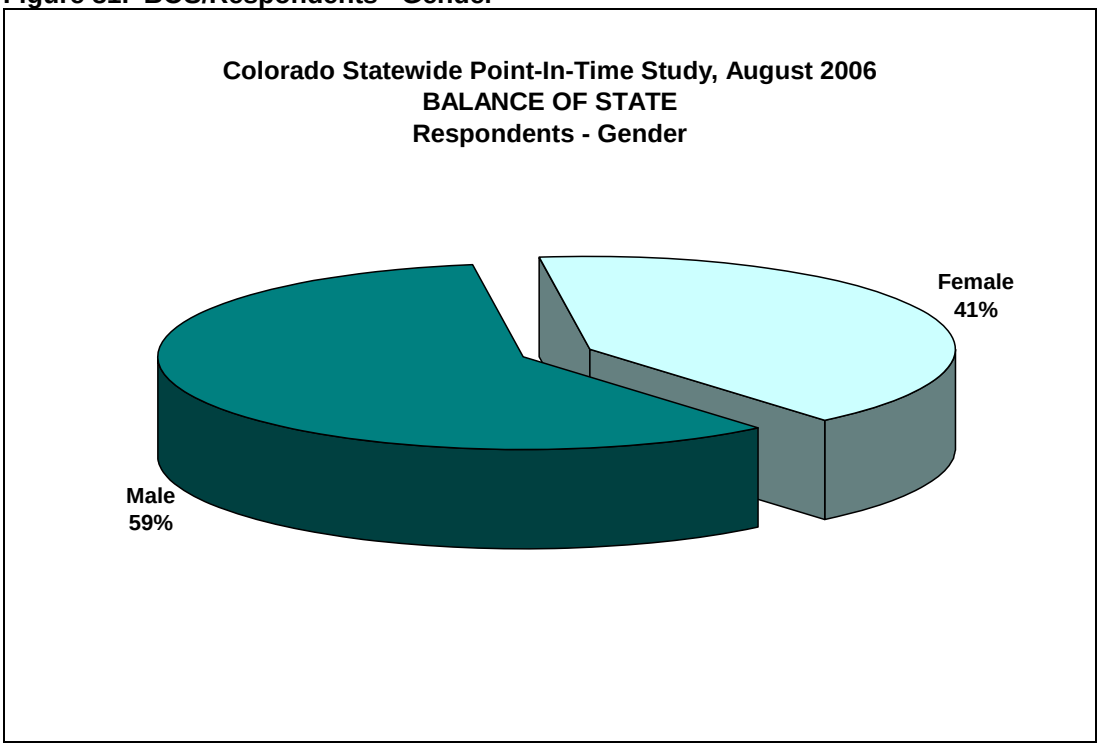


Figure 82. BOS/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity

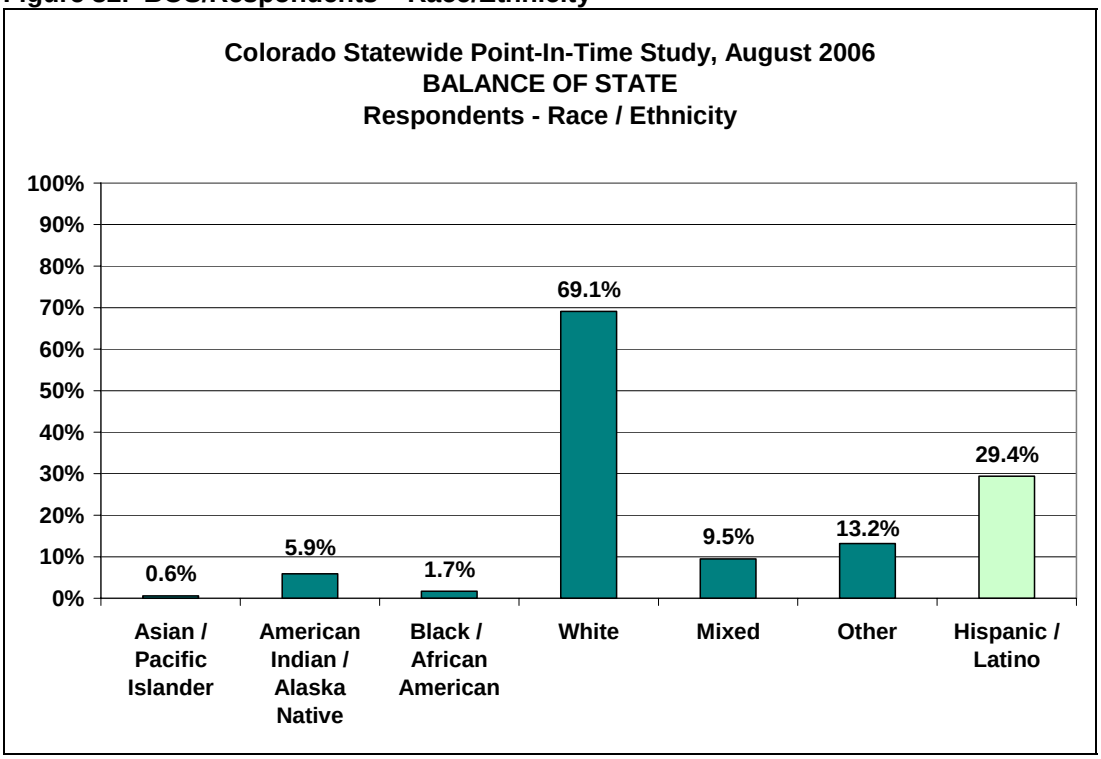


Figure 83. BOS/Respondents – Military Service, Foster Care, Seasonal, Yr-Round Worker

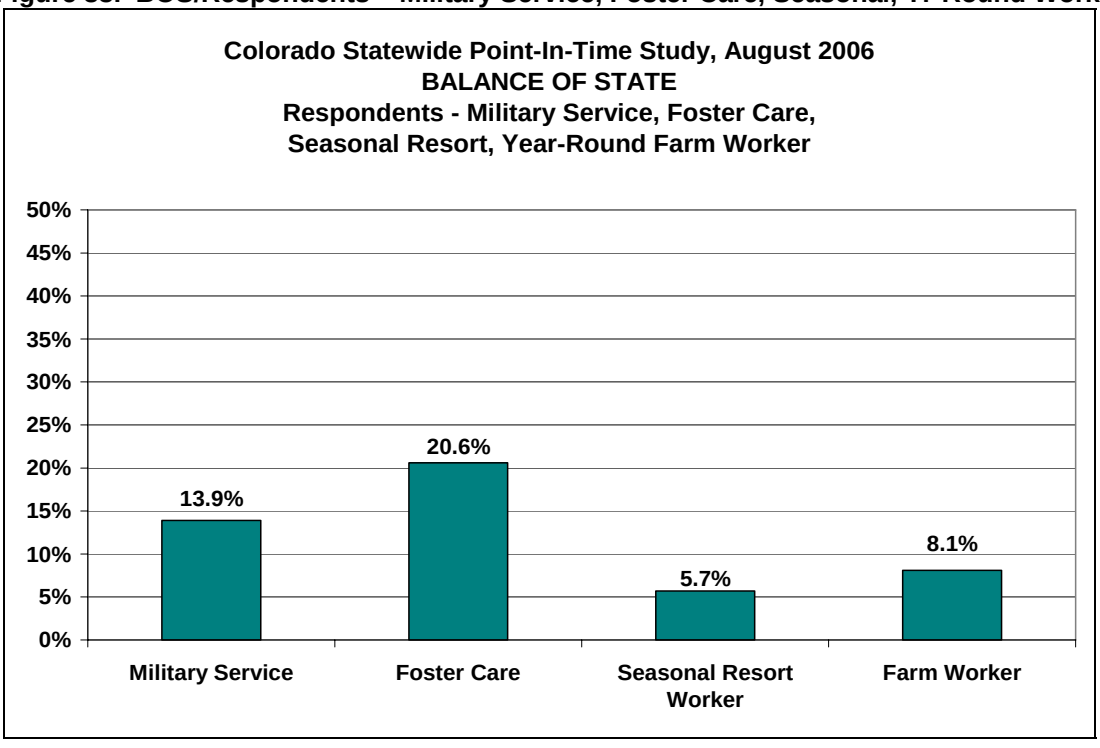


Figure 84. BOS All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night

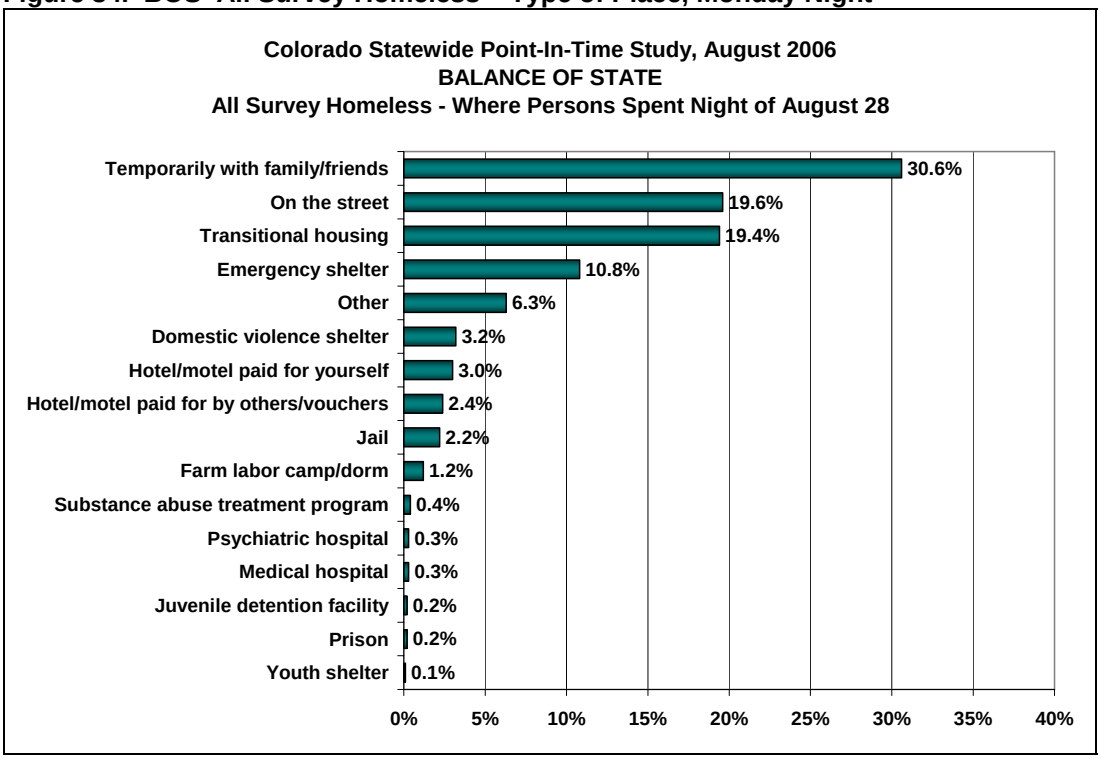


Figure 85. BOS/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness

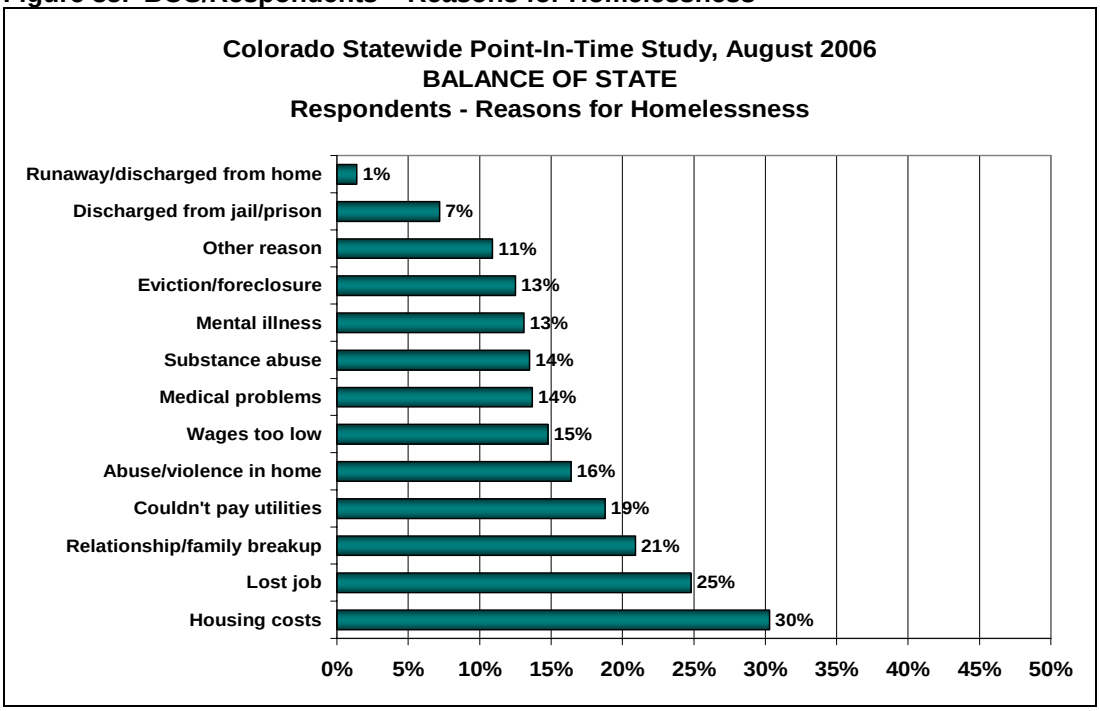


Figure 86. BOS/Respondents – Disabling Conditions

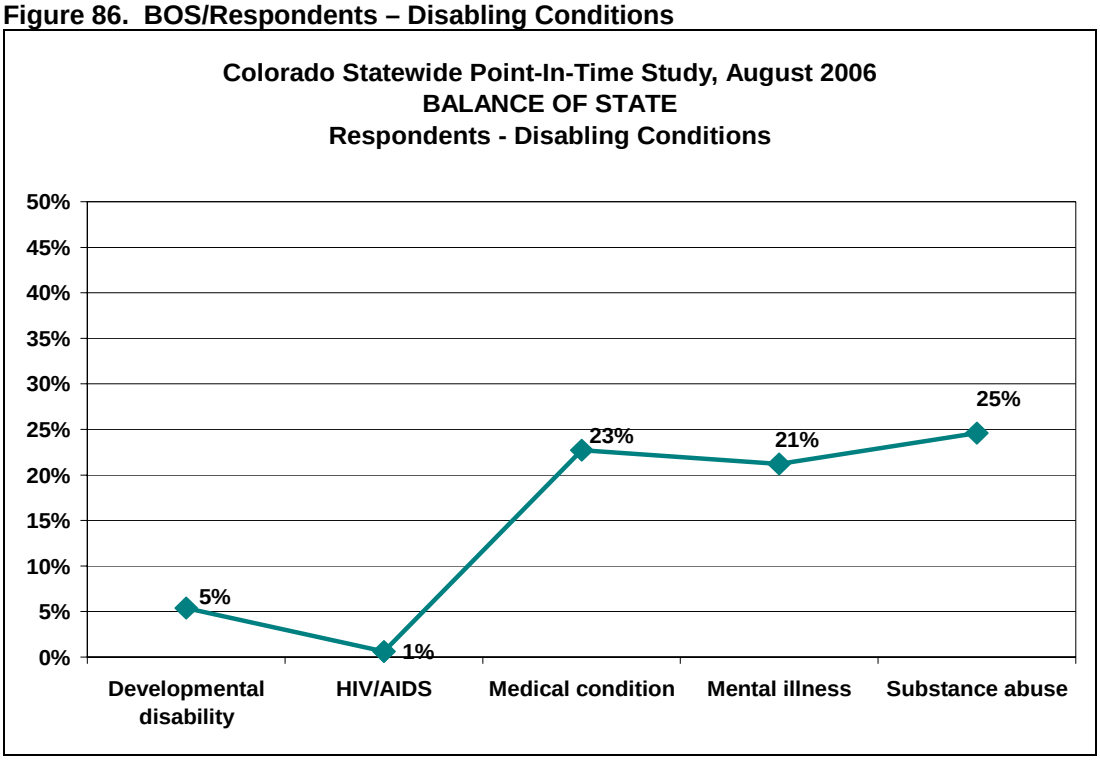


Figure 87. BOS/Respondents – Money from Work

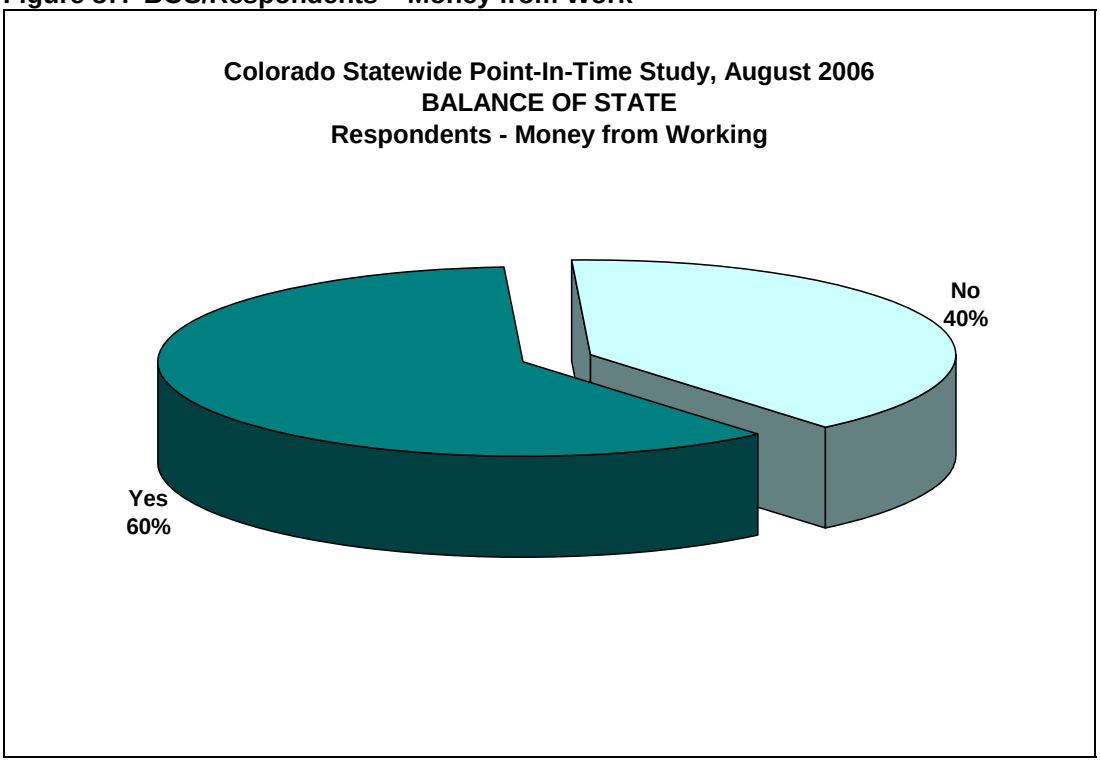


Figure 88. BOS/Respondents – Government Benefits

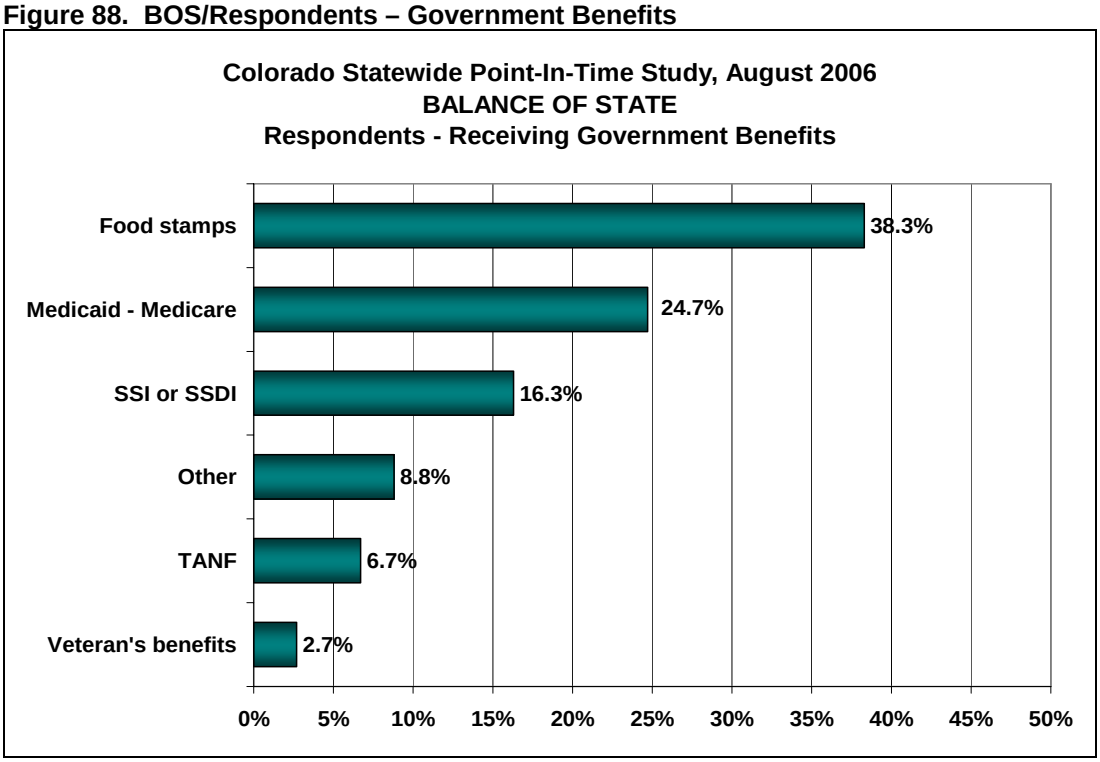


Figure 89. BOS/Respondents – Needed Services

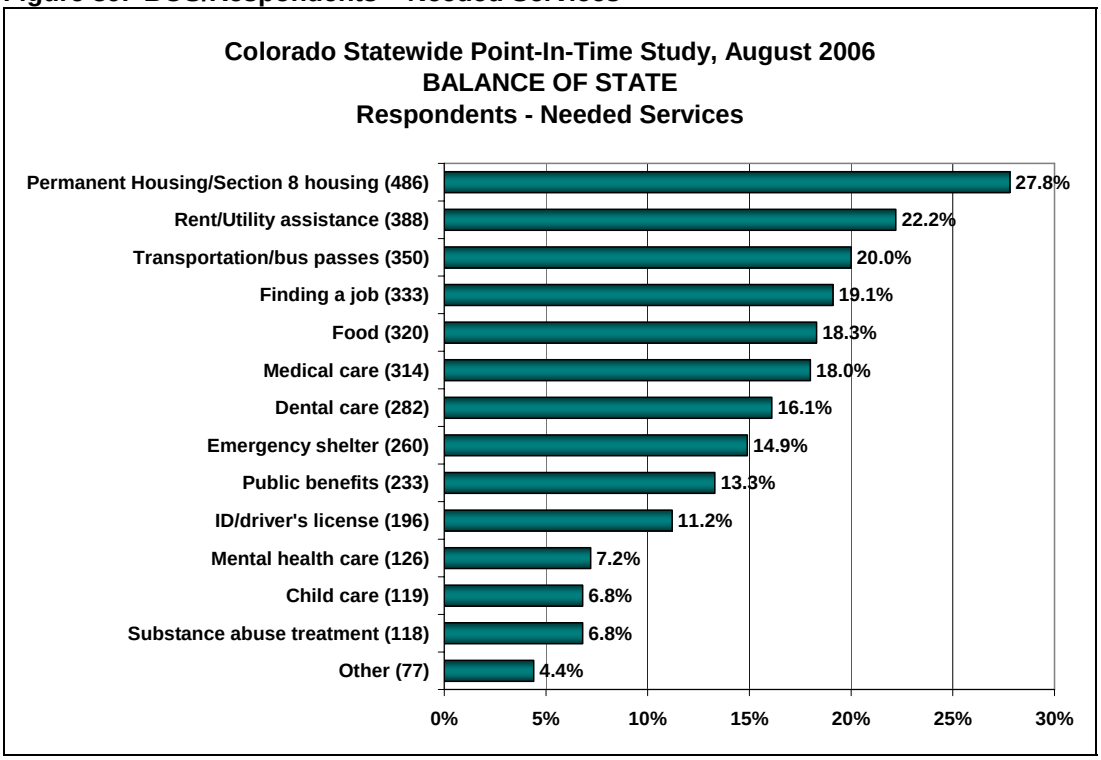


Figure 90. BOS/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness

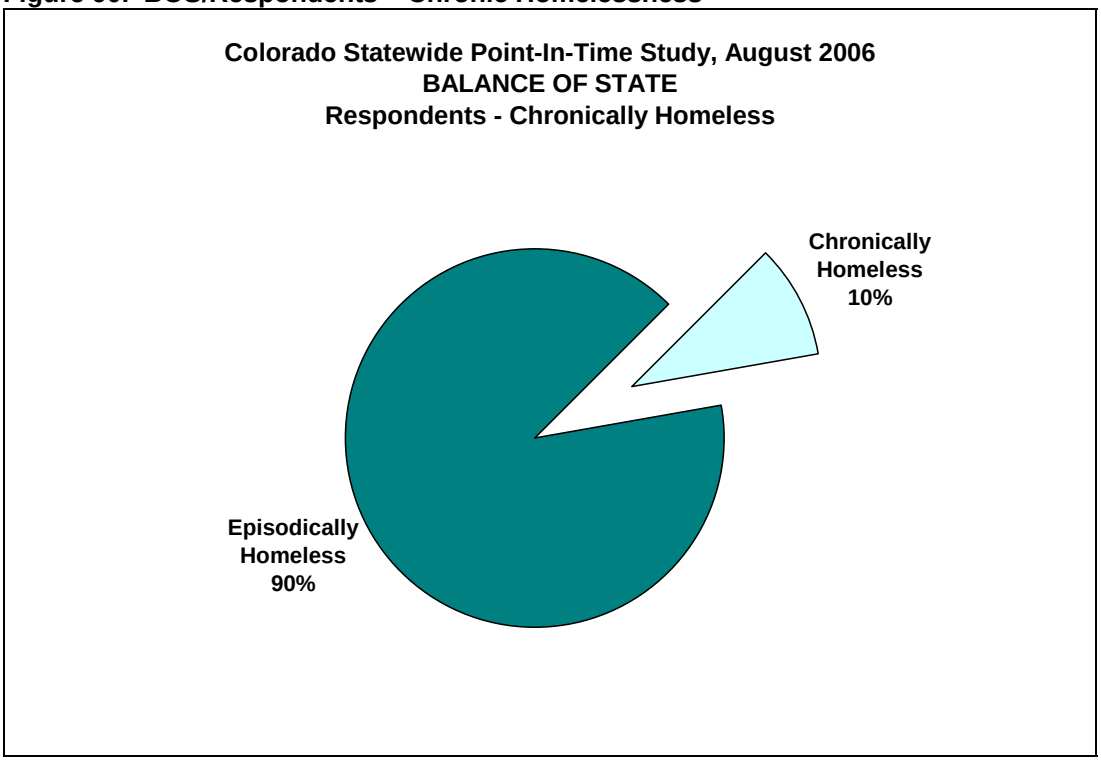


Figure 91. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation

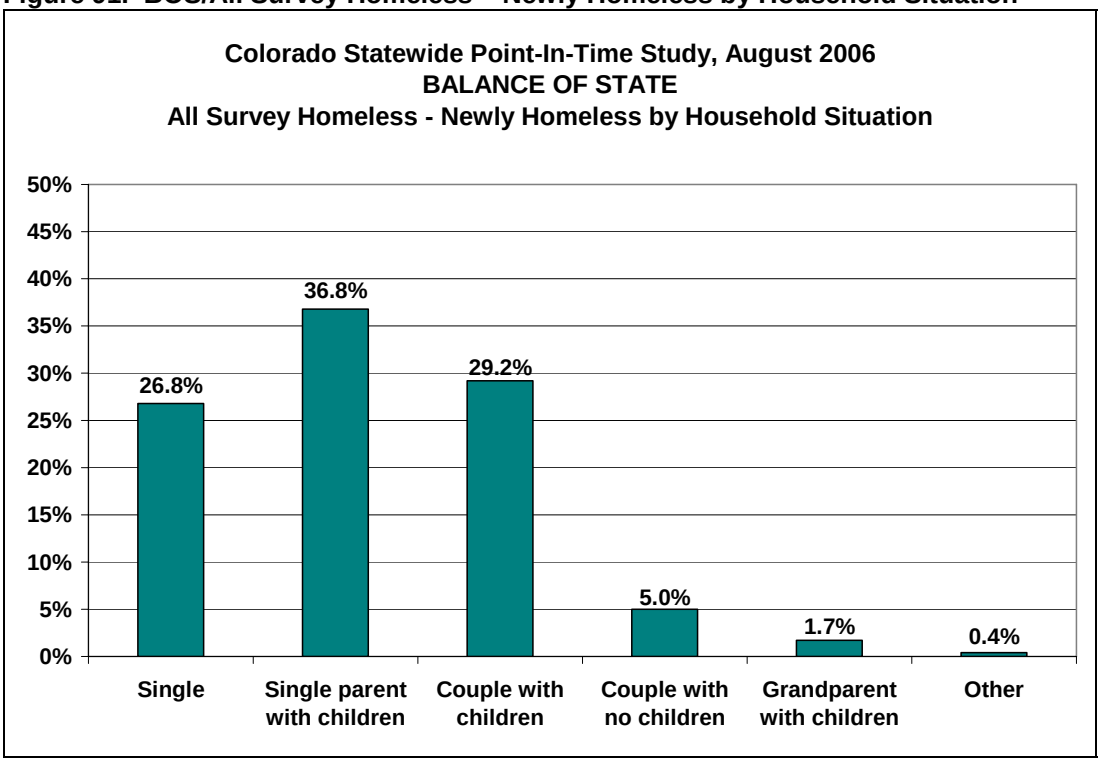


Figure 92. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless, Households With and Without Children

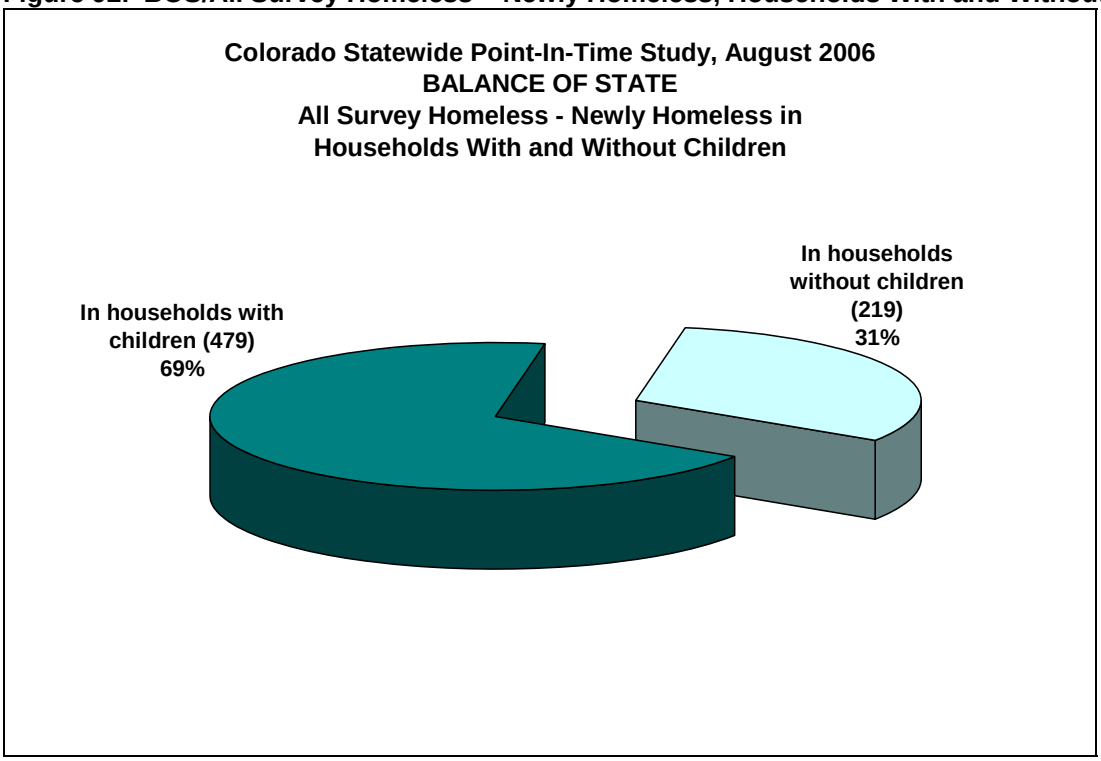
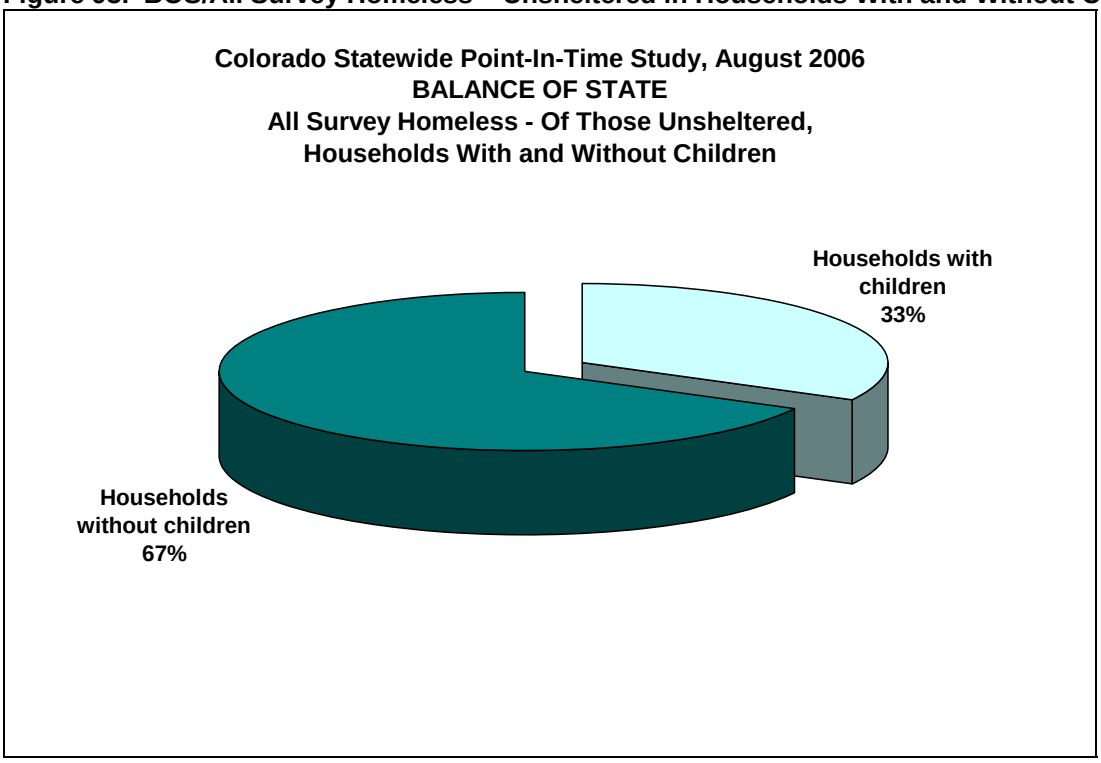


Figure 93. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Unsheltered in Households With and Without Children



PART V. REGIONS

This part reports the total homeless and key survey variables for each region.

For purposes of this study, the Colorado Division of Housing divided the state into nine geographic regions, as indicated in the following table.

Table 8. STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT REGIONS AND COUNTIES

REGION	COUNTY		REGION	COUNTY
Region 1	Delta		**Region 6**	Cheyenne
	Garfield			El Paso
	Mesa			Elbert
	Moffat			Kiowa
	Pitkin			Kit Carson
	Rio Blanco			Lincoln
	Routt			Teller
Region 2	Clear Creek		**Region 7**	Archuleta
	Eagle			Dolores
	Gilpin			La Plata
	Grand			Montezuma
	Jackson			Montrose
	Larimer			Ouray
	Summit			San Juan
Region 3	Logan			San Miguel
	Morgan		**Region 8**	Alamosa
	Phillips			Conejos
	Sedgwick			Costilla
	Washington			Mineral
	Weld			Rio Grande
	Yuma			Saguache
Region 4	Chaffee		**Region 9**	Baca
	Custer			Bent
	Fremont			Crowley
	Gunnison			Huerfano
	Hinsdale			Las Animas
	Lake			Otero
	Park			Prowers
Region 5	Adams			Pueblo
	Arapahoe			
	Boulder			
	Broomfield			
	Denver			
	Douglas			
	Jefferson			

TOTAL HOMELESS PERSONS FOR EACH REGION

Tables 9 through 17 describe the number of total homeless persons for each region.[40] [41] Agencies submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons. These estimates are given for each region after the table.

Table 9. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 1	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	316
Relatives	152
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**468**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**1,305**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 1	**1,773**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 97)

Table 10. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 2	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	404
Relatives	247
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**651**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**47**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 2	**698**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 136)

[40] The Regional Tables do not include aggregate domestic violence data or number of additional relatives not fully documented by respondents. These numbers are given statewide in *Table 1 Total Homeless – Statewide.*

[41] Survey respondents (and their families) were placed into the appropriate Continuum and county based on their response to question 18: "In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?" This information is missing for a total of 56 persons: 27 respondents and the 29 homeless relatives they identified. Because it was not possible to determine Continuum or county for this group, these homeless respondents and their family members are not included in the Continuum or regional analyses.

Table 11. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 3	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	169
Relatives	240
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**409**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**120**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 3	**529**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 9)

Table 12. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 4	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	82
Relatives	71
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**153**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**38**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 4	**191**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 218)

Table 13. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 5	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	4,259
Relatives	3,513
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**7,772**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**535**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 5	**8,307**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 175)

Table 14. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 6	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	707
Relatives	355
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**1,062**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**247**
TOTAL HOMELESS - REGION 6	**1,309**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 10)

Table 15. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 7	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	197
Relatives	174
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**371**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**276**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 7	**647**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 29)

Table 16. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 8	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	251
Relatives	246
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**497**
UNSHELTERED COUNTS/ESTIMATE	
Count – Unsheltered	**139**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 8	**636**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 544)

Table 17. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 9	
SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	253
Relatives	208
Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless	**461**
UNSHELTERED COUNT	
Count – Unsheltered	**274**
TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 9	**735**

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 0)

KEY SURVEY VARIABLES FOR EACH REGION

Tables 18 through 26 describe key survey variables for each region.

Table 18. Region Respondents – Race and Ethnicity

	Asian/ Pacific Islander		Native American/ Alaska Native		Black/ African American		White		Mixed race		Other		Hispanic/ Latino	
	Count	**%**	**Count**	**%**	**Count**	**%**	**Count**	**%**	**Count**	**%**	**Count**	**%**	**Count**	**%**
Region 1	4	1.3	15	5.0	2	0.7	247	82.1	23	7.6	10	3.3	36	12.3
Region 2	2	0.6	11	3.4	11	3.4	227	70.9	22	6.9	47	14.7	70	21.9
Region 3	1	0.7	3	2.2	2	1.4	92	66.7	11	8.0	29	21.0	46	32.6
Region 4	1	1.3	7	8.9	0	0.0	69	87.3	1	1.3	1	1.3	5	6.4
Region 5	38	1.0	201	5.3	737	19.3	2067	54.3	342	9.0	425	11.2	1001	24.3
Region 6	7	1.0	26	3.8	72	10.6	455	66.9	58	8.5	62	9.1	108	15.8
Region 7	0	0.0	40	21.5	1	0.5	114	61.3	12	6.5	19	10.2	39	21.9
Region 8	1	0.4	5	2.2	0	0.0	107	46.7	51	22.3	65	28.4	171	69.5
Region 9	0	0.0	8	3.8	8	3.8	141	67.8	24	11.5	27	13.0	83	37.6

Table 19. Region Respondents - Household Composition												
	Single		Single parent w/ child		Part of a couple with child		Part of a couple without child		Grandparent with child		Another situation	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	200	64.5	53	17.1	30	9.7	26	8.4	1	0.3	0	0.0
Region 2	218	55.8	121	30.9	31	7.9	20	5.1	0	0.0	1	0.3
Region 3	76	45.0	55	32.5	27	16.0	9	5.3	0	0.0	2	1.2
Region 4	47	59.5	19	24.1	8	10.1	4	5.1	0	0.0	1	1.3
Region 5	2314	55.8	1201	29.0	406	9.8	187	4.5	9	0.2	27	0.7
Region 6	485	70.3	86	12.5	64	9.3	50	7.2	0	0.0	5	0.7
Region 7	97	52.2	47	25.3	21	11.3	19	10.2	1	0.5	1	0.5
Region 8	131	52.4	47	18.8	45	18.0	23	9.2	3	1.2	1	0.4
Region 9	140	57.4	55	22.5	28	11.5	20	8.2	1	0.4	0	0.0

Table 20. Region Respondents - Working, Chronically Homeless and Disabling Conditions[42]														
	Received money from working		Chronically Homeless		Serious Mental Illness		Serious medical or physical condition		Alcohol or drug abuse		Developmental disability		HIV/ AIDS	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	189	61.2	44	13.9	71	22.5	86	27.2	88	27.8	14	4.4	2	0.6
Region 2	261	66.9	39	9.7	111	27.5	95	23.5	108	26.7	27	6.7	2	0.1
Region 3	102	61.4	3	1.8	34	20.1	28	16.6	27	16.0	6	3.6	1	0.6
Region 4	49	62.0	7	8.5	13	15.9	15	18.3	27	32.9	3	3.7	0	0.0
Region 5	2201	53.3	384	9.0	893	21.0	771	18.1	1079	25.3	169	4.0	92	2.2
Region 6	434	63.5	58	8.2	153	21.6	151	21.4	235	33.2	36	5.1	6	0.8
Region 7	107	60.5	17	8.6	33	16.8	43	21.8	51	25.9	14	7.1	1	0.5
Region 8	132	55.2	25	10.0	34	13.5	50	19.9	68	27.1	17	6.8	1	0.4
Region 9	113	45.4	29	11.5	62	24.5	57	22.5	41	16.2	8	3.2	3	1.2

[42] The following data are the percentage of respondents, by region, that reported having at least one of the serious, disabling conditions.

Region 1: 62.3%	Region 4: 54.9%	Region 7: 51.8%
Region 2: 54.5%	Region 5: 49.0%	Region 8: 47.8%
Region 3: 42.0%	Region 6: 59.7%	Region 9: 43.9%

Table 21. Region Respondents - Receipt of Government Benefits												
	SSI/SSDI		TANF		Food Stamps		VA Pension/Benefits		Medicaid/Medicare		Other benefit	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	42	13.3	7	2.2	96	30.4	13	4.1	51	16.1	20	6.3
Region 2	69	17.1	42	10.4	168	41.6	11	2.7	109	27.0	32	7.9
Region 3	31	18.3	12	7.1	72	42.6	3	1.8	70	41.4	15	8.9
Region 4	11	13.4	7	8.5	42	51.2	3	3.7	24	29.3	2	2.4
Region 5	566	13.3	425	10.0	1373	32.2	103	2.4	835	19.6	299	7.0
Region 6	90	12.7	32	4.5	237	33.5	23	3.3	109	15.4	42	5.9
Region 7	32	16.2	16	8.1	59	29.9	4	2.0	55	27.9	24	12.2
Region 8	41	16.3	11	4.4	101	40.2	8	3.2	39	15.5	18	7.2
Region 9	48	19.0	20	7.9	114	45.1	4	1.6	65	25.7	34	13.4

Table 22. Region Respondents - Why Did You Become Homeless This Time?

	Lost job		Wages too low		Relationship/family breakup		Abuse/ or violence in home		Runaway/throwaway		Discharged from prison	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	83	26.3	36	11.4	74	23.4	32	10.1	3	0.9	18	5.7
Region 2	93	23.0	49	12.1	90	22.3	114	28.2	9	2.2	45	11.1
Region 3	41	24.3	25	14.8	27	16.0	33	19.5	4	2.4	11	6.5
Region 4	18	22.0	14	17.1	7	8.5	8	9.8	4	4.9	7	8.5
Region 5	1135	26.6	594	13.9	737	17.3	421	9.9	84	2.0	369	8.7
Region 6	212	30.0	70	9.9	143	20.2	63	8.9	7	1.0	70	9.9
Region 7	44	22.3	32	16.2	39	19.8	25	12.7	2	1.0	8	4.1
Region 8	46	18.3	51	20.3	54	21.5	26	10.4	2	0.8	17	6.8
Region 9	83	32.8	37	14.6	60	23.7	43	17.0	0	0.0	12	4.7

	Medical problems		Eviction or foreclosure		Housing costs		Couldn't pay utilities		Substance abuse		Mental illness/emotional problems	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	63	19.9	25	7.9	75	23.7	36	11.4	45	14.2	41	13.0
Region 2	51	12.6	61	15.1	106	26.2	49	12.7	52	12.9	62	15.3
Region 3	15	8.9	34	20.1	44	26.0	25	14.8	18	10.7	25	14.8
Region 4	9	11.0	13	15.9	36	43.9	24	29.3	20	24.4	6	7.3
Region 5	477	11.2	414	9.7	1136	26.7	677	15.9	634	14.9	495	11.6
Region 6	79	11.2	73	10.3	124	17.5	65	9.2	152	21.5	74	10.5
Region 7	21	10.7	25	12.7	88	44.7	63	32.0	26	13.2	18	9.1
Region 8	23	9.2	32	12.7	77	30.7	57	22.7	40	15.9	23	9.2
Region 9	43	17.0	23	9.1	67	26.5	51	20.2	25	9.9	48	19.0

	Other reason	
	Count	%
Region 1	35	11.1
Region 2	47	11.6
Region 3	12	7.1
Region 4	3	3.7
Region 5	344	8.1
Region 6	74	10.5
Region 7	27	13.7
Region 8	22	8.8
Region 9	31	12.3

Table 23. Region Respondents - Services Needed												
	Finding a job		Finding Section 8 housing		Emergency shelter		Food		Rent/ Utility Assistance		Transportation/Bus passes	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	24	7.6	54	17.1	41	13.0	32	10.1	43	13.6	47	14.9
Region 2	86	21.3	157	38.9	56	13.9	79	19.6	89	22.0	91	22.5
Region 3	30	17.8	34	20.1	8	4.7	24	14.2	27	16.0	26	15.4
Region 4	7	8.5	18	22.0	20	24.4	14	17.1	19	23.2	8	9.8
Region 5	769	18.1	1043	24.5	519	12.2	642	15.1	644	15.1	757	17.8
Region 6	137	19.4	133	18.8	75	10.6	115	16.3	128	18.1	123	17.4
Region 7	33	16.8	58	29.4	43	21.8	57	28.9	41	20.8	51	25.9
Region 8	62	24.7	74	29.5	42	16.7	50	19.9	79	31.5	54	21.5
Region 9	74	29.2	70	27.7	45	17.8	52	20.6	80	31.6	60	23.7
	Medical care		Dental care		Mental health care		Substance Abuse treatment		ID/ driver's license		Public benefits	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	41	13.0	39	12.3	22	7.0	13	4.1	35	11.1	29	9.2
Region 2	92	22.8	82	20.3	48	11.9	28	6.9	63	15.6	71	17.6
Region 3	20	11.8	24	14.2	7	4.1	5	3.0	16	9.5	25	14.8
Region 4	13	15.9	10	12.2	7	8.5	7	8.5	5	6.1	6	7.3
Region 5	521	12.2	637	15.0	254	6.0	242	5.7	406	9.5	409	9.6
Region 6	145	20.5	168	23.8	58	8.2	63	8.9	95	13.4	71	10.0
Region 7	36	18.3	31	15.7	11	5.6	14	7.1	16	8.1	21	10.7
Region 8	63	25.1	54	21.5	23	9.2	37	14.7	34	13.5	48	19.1
Region 9	35	13.8	27	10.7	6	2.4	9	3.6	21	8.3	27	10.7
	Child care		Other service									
	Count	%	Count	%								
Region 1	15	4.7	18	5.7								
Region 2	30	7.4	24	5.9								
Region 3	10	5.9	3	1.8								
Region 4	1	1.2	2	2.4								
Region 5	214	5.0	106	2.5								
Region 6	34	4.8	37	5.2								
Region 7	14	7.1	5	2.5								
Region 8	26	10.4	8	3.2								
Region 9	18	7.1	11	4.3								

Table 24. Region All Survey Homeless - Households with Children, Newly Homeless, and Unsheltered Homeless								
	Households with children		Households without children		Newly homeless		Unsheltered homeless	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	216	47.5	239	52.5	133	28.4	126	27.3
Region 2	371	60.1	246	39.9	160	34.6	82	12.8
Region 3	309	77.1	92	22.9	99	24.2	20	5.0
Region 4	92	63.0	54	37.0	28	18.3	31	21.2
Region 5	4868	64.9	2638	35.1	1793	23.1	771	10.0
Region 6	457	44.5	571	55.5	312	29.4	181	17.3
Region 7	205	61.9	126	38.1	62	16.7	118	31.9
Region 8	307	62.7	183	37.3	124	24.9	90	18.4
Region 9	257	59.2	177	40.8	80	17.4	115	25.0

Table 25. Region All Survey Homeless - Household Composition												
	Single		Single parent w/ child		Part of a couple with child		Part of a couple without child		Grandparent with child		Another situation	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	205	44.4	123	26.6	91	19.7	41	8.9	2	0.4	0	0.0
Region 2	233	37.2	277	44.2	88	14.1	27	4.3	0	0.0	1	0.2
Region 3	83	20.3	166	40.6	140	34.2	18	4.4	0	0.0	2	0.5
Region 4	50	33.3	58	38.7	34	22.7	7	4.7	0	0.0	1	0.7
Region 5	2430	31.9	3295	43.3	1504	19.8	328	4.3	30	0.4	27	0.4
Region 6	5.3	48.3	253	24.3	196	18.8	84	8.1	0	0.0	6	0.6
Region 7	105	30.1	123	35.2	79	22.6	37	10.6	3	0.9	2	0.6
Region 8	143	28.9	118	23.9	175	35.4	43	8.7	14	2.8	1	0.2
Region 9	155	34.5	145	32.3	109	24.3	37	8.2	3	0.7	0	0.0

Table 26. Region All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night												
	Emergency shelter		Domestic violence shelter		On the street		Hotel/ motel paid by self		Hotel/ motel paid by others		Youth shelter	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	86	18.7	13	2.8	126	27.3	8	1.7	2	0.4	2	0.4
Region 2	80	12.4	40	6.2	82	12.8	29	4.5	13	2.0	0	0.0
Region 3	54	13.6	10	2.5	20	5.0	6	1.5	4	1.0	0	0.0
Region 4	7	4.8	1	0.7	31	21.2	1	0.7	1	0.7	0	0.0
Region 5	1434	18.7	197	2.6	771	10.0	398	5.2	230	3.0	35	0.5
Region 6	165	15.8	19	1.8	181	17.3	54	5.2	8	0.8	14	1.3
Region 7	28	7.6	6	1.6	118	31.9	25	6.8	14	3.8	1	0.3
Region 8	26	5.3	5	1.0	90	18.4	16	3.3	25	5.1	0	0.0
Region 9	51	11.1	23	5.0	115	25.0	8	1.7	14	3.0	0	0.0
	Temporarily with family/ friends		Farm labor camp or dorm		Psychiatric hospital		Medical hospital		Substance abuse treatment program		Jail	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Region 1	92	20.0	0	0.0	5	1.1	1	0.2	2	0.4	29	6.3
Region 2	168	26.1	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.3	1	0.2	13	2.0
Region 3	79	19.8	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.5	2	0.5
Region 4	65	44.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Region 5	1776	23.1	14	0.2	33	0.4	17	0.2	160	2.1	33	0.4
Region 6	182	17.4	5	0.5	5	0.5	4	0.4	33	3.2	6	0.6
Region 7	113	30.5	6	1.6	0	0.0	2	0.5	5	1.4	9	2.4
Region 8	242	49.4	25	5.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	2.4
Region 9	136	29.6	7	1.5	1	0.2	3	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.2
	Prison		Juvenile detention		Transitional housing		Somewhere else					
	Count		Count		Count		Count					
Region 1	0	0.0	3	0.7	84	18.2	8	1.7				
Region 2	0	0.0	1	0.2	173	26.9	40	6.2				
Region 3	0	0.0	1	0.3	147	36.9	72	18.1				
Region 4	2	1.4	0	0.0	27	18.5	11	7.5				
Region 5	3	0.0	18	0.2	2381	31.0	172	2.2				
Region 6	0	0.0	1	0.1	321	30.7	47	4.5				
Region 7	0	0.0	0	0.0	38	10.3	5	1.4				
Region 8	5	1.0	0	0.0	39	8.0	5	1.0				
Region 9	0	0.0	0	0.0	75	16.3	26	5.7				

PART VI. SUMMARY

SURVEYS TYPICALLY UNDERCOUNT THE HOMELESS

- In Colorado, on a summer night in August 2006, an estimated 16,203 people were homeless, many of them children aged twelve years and younger.[43] As disturbing as this number is, we know it is conservative.

The one consistent finding in all the research on homelessness is that surveys undercount the homeless. It is particularly difficult to count those homeless who are unsheltered.[44] The total number of homeless individuals fluctuates over time. People who are homeless typically move in and out of homelessness as conditions in their life change. Data collected during one day of the year only represents a snapshot of homelessness on that day.

- This study designed tracking forms to estimate the number of unsheltered homeless persons that were unable to complete surveys. The tracking forms indicate that homeless persons were undercounted. Of the 596 agencies and volunteers that submitted tracking forms, 46 percent or 273 provided both the number of persons surveyed and an estimate of the number served in a typical week in August, 2006. Of this group, fully 75 percent reported that they served more homeless persons than they had surveyed.[45] (See Appendix 6 for tracking form).

- More broadly, research in Colorado indicates that service use differs by community. In some communities, substantial proportions of the homeless, including homeless street persons, are service users. In other communities, they are not.[46] Homeless persons are most likely to seek services from persons and agencies that specialize in helping the homeless such as shelters, food lines and health clinics for homeless persons, rather than more general social services such as welfare or food stamps.[47] Colorado's last homeless count in 1990 found that homeless persons in Denver had a relatively high rate of service usage. However, some homeless persons do not seek services, and the pattern reported may have changed over time or, at a minimum, not hold for the rest of the state.

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[43] See footnote 3.

[44] For example, "Number of Homeless Ohioans," Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, 8/27/02; : "Report on Homelessness in North Dakota, March 2005" (p. 15); S.J. Farrell and E.D. Reissing, "Picking Up the Challenge: Developing a Methodology to Enumerate and Assess the Needs of the Street Homeless Population, Evaluation Review, Vol. 28, No. 2, April 2004, pp. 144-155.

[45] Only a small number provided both a count of the unsheltered homeless and an estimate of the number of unsheltered homeless staying in that location during a typical week in August, 2006. For this reason, the estimated number of unsheltered homeless were not compared to the number counted. Ten percent said that the number surveyed and the number served was identical. Sixteen percent – 43 agencies or volunteers – said that they typically served fewer homeless persons than they had surveyed. These locations probably made a serious effort to survey un-served homeless persons.

[46] Franklin J. James. (1991), see footnote 2.

[47] *Ibid.*

- Some groups may be underrepresented among service users, including youth, recently homeless persons, and persons who are doubled up with friends and family.[48] Many homeless persons may choose to hide themselves from public view. Homeless persons who do not use services and are not living in known street locations cannot be counted.

- Homeless shelters and other services for the homeless are concentrated in urban areas. There is evidence that the homeless population is underestimated in rural areas and other locations where there are few or no homeless services.[49]

- Seasonal differences impact point-in-time counts. Few states or communities have conducted summer homeless counts, because the Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that states and communities conduct a point-in-time survey the last week of January. However, researchers agree that homelessness varies from month to month and seasonally. Specifically, the use of shelters is far higher in winter than in summer.[50] This makes it easier to locate and survey homeless persons. There may be other seasonal differences as well; for example, it is expected that families with children seek services during the school year, but less so during the summer months.

MANY OF COLORADO'S HOMELESS ARE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- ***Children and teens*** comprised one-third of Colorado's homeless in the *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, August 2006*.
- More than six in 10 homeless persons were part of a ***household with children*****.**
- One-quarter of all ***unsheltered homeless*** were families with children.
- Most ***newly homeless*** households were comprised of women and children.

There were dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children spent the night of Colorado's homeless count. Many more families with children stayed in transitional housing or temporarily with family or friends while looking for permanent housing than did people in households without children. Single individuals and couples without children more often stayed in emergency shelters or slept on the street.

- Across the country, households with children are one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Overall, poverty and the lack of affordable housing are the principal causes of family homelessness; specifically, declining wages, limited public benefits, high cost or lack of health insurance, and domestic violence account for increasing family poverty leading to homelessness. Homelessness is a traumatic and terrifying experience. Many families are unable to stay together; homeless persons often have serious health problems directly related to their lack of housing; and children suffer long-term effects on their physical and emotional health including diminished educational performance and difficulties in school.

- Domestic violence is the immediate cause of homelessness for many women and children. Many domestic violence victims are forced into choosing between staying with

[48] *Id.*.
[49] Urban Institute. "America's Homeless II: Populations and Services." February 1, 2000.
[50] For example, Rossi, *et al*, *The Condition of the Homeless in Chicago,* (Amherst, MA: Social and Demographic Research Institute, University of Massachusetts at Amherst), 1986.

their abuser and sleeping on the street. Affordable housing is crucial to their ability to leave the shelter system without returning to an unsafe situation.[51]

- Although the *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, August 2006* study did not differentiate teens who were homeless and unaccompanied by a parent, nationally, unaccompanied homeless youth account for 3 percent of the urban homeless population.[52] This percent is growing as many more youth are leaving juvenile justice, mental health facilities, and foster care systems.[53] Youth are rarely housed in emergency shelters due to a lack of shelter beds for youth and shelter admission policies. Because they are underage, it is difficult for them to earn enough money to meet basic needs. Many adolescents find they must exchange sex for food, clothing and shelter in order to survive. As a result, these young people are at a much greater risk of health issues such as HIV/AIDS than adolescents in shelter.[54] Homeless youth often suffer from anxiety, depression, poor health and nutrition, and low self-esteem, and most face difficulties successfully completing school.[55]

HALF OF ALL RESPONDENTS HAD AT LEAST ONE SERIOUS, DISABLING CONDITION

- Half of all survey respondents had at least one serious, disabling condition: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, a developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS.

Research shows that homeless people suffer from high rates of mental and physical health problems and are far more likely to suffer from chronic health issues (such as asthma), exacerbated by the stressful and chaotic nature of their living conditions. Many homeless people have multiple health problems, some as a direct result of being homeless, such as frostbite, upper respiratory infections and ulcers, and that the homeless are at greater risk of severe injury due to violence. These conditions are extremely difficult to treat or control if persons lack adequate housing.[56]

Individuals experiencing high rates of mental illness and substance abuse often have difficulty carrying out basic tasks. Homeless people with mental disorders remain homeless for longer periods and have less contact with their families and friends. People suffering from alcohol, drug or mental health problems encounter more barriers to employment, tend to be in poorer physical health, and have more contact with the legal system. These conditions require ongoing access to a full range of treatment and rehabilitation services.

[51] The National Center on Family Homelessness. "Violence in the Lives of Homeless Women." <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/pdf/fact_violence.pdf>
[52] U.S. Conference of Mayors. A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: 2005. Washington, D.C.
[53] National Alliance to End Homelessness. "Youth." http:/naeh.orgsection/policyfocusareas/youth>; National Coalition for the Homeless. "Homeless Youth, NCH Fact Sheet #13." June, 2006
[54] National Network for Youth. Toolkit for Youth Workers: Fact Sheet. Runaway and Homeless Youth. 1998. Washington, D.C.
[55] NCH Fact Sheet #13, see footnote 53.
[56] NCH Fact Sheet #8, see footnote 24.

NEARLY ONE IN TEN WERE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

- Nearly one in ten homeless individuals in Colorado were chronically homeless; the great majority were male.

Chronic homelessness is long-term or repeated homelessness, accompanied by a serious condition or disability, and it is characterized by people living in an emergency shelter or in a place not suitable for human habitation. Many people experience homelessness for a short period of time. A smaller number of homeless persons experience homelessness for months or years, and cycle between homelessness, hospitals, jails, shelters, and treatment facilities; these people are considered chronically homeless. Although the chronically homeless make up a small segment of all homeless persons, its effects are considerable. In systems and facilities, chronically homeless individuals' unique needs are not efficiently met, and they are very expensive to public systems of care as well. Providing permanent supportive housing or "housing first" programs has shown positive results. When people are placed in permanent supportive housing, the public cost to the health care, criminal justice, emergency shelter and other systems can decline dramatically, and outcomes (*e.g.,* better mental and physical health, greater income, fewer arrests and better progress toward self-sufficiency) are often more positive.[57]

MANY ARE LIVING ON THE EDGE OF HOMELESSNESS

- The survey data collected for this study strongly suggest that the majority of the 1,577 respondents (and their family members) who were classified as ***"not homeless"*** are living on the edge of homelessness.

Homelessness not only affects the very poor, but also working and middle class individuals and families. Americans are homeless primarily because they cannot pay for housing and are increasingly unable to afford to buy or even rent their homes. They face the national trends of low wages, declining public assistance programs, and limited affordable housing. The *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, August 2006* reports that the most common reasons given for homelessness were housing-related costs, loss of a job, and having one or more serious, disabling conditions; survey respondents most frequently said they needed permanent housing.

It is impossible to know the precise number of people who are homeless. In the words of a tireless homeless advocate and formerly homeless person, "If there is more than one who does not wish to be out in the wilderness or stuck in a shelter, and we can change this equation, then the number is too great a burden on our consciousness."[58]

[57] National Alliance to End Homelessness. Chronic Homelessness Brief, July 2006.
[58] Randle Loeb.

PART VII. METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION: THE INITIAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH) initiated Colorado's August 2006 homeless count, which was primarily led by the Colorado Division of Housing (CDH). The project included active participation and collaboration from numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals, including the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA); Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs, Colorado Department of Human Services, Adams County Housing Authority; Volunteers of America; Posada; Fannie Mae; Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative; United Way; Rocky Mountain Housing Development Corporation, and homeless advocates. Individuals from these organizations formed the Housing Subcommittee Group for the Statewide Count (Housing Subcommittee).

CHFA, CDH, the Daniels Fund, and Fannie Mae funded the project and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless agreed to serve as the fiscal agent. By January 2006, it was clear there were sufficient dollars, community interest and support for conducting the summer homeless count.

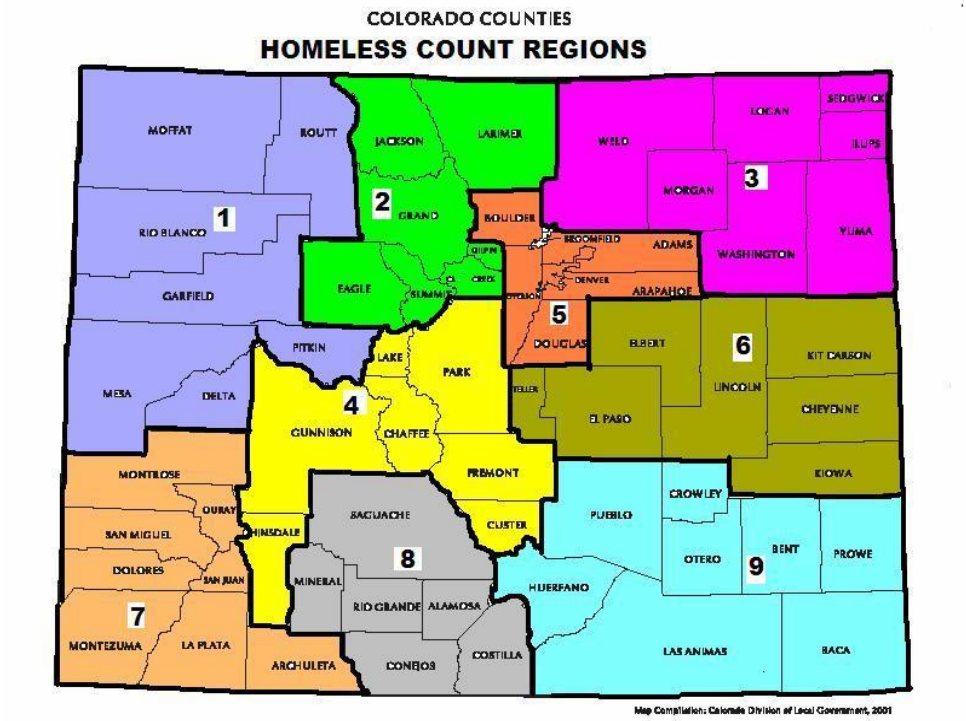
PRELIMINARY WORK

Pre planning

At the start of the project, the Colorado Division of Housing dedicated time and resources to develop a preliminary understanding of what homelessness looked like across the state. This effort helped clarify some of the organizational issues of conducting a count, as well as inform the appropriate use of scarce resources.

CDH recruited a student intern from the University of Colorado at Denver with an interest in homeless research. The intern contacted homeless organizations in Colorado to gain an understanding of the homeless population in each county. Based on this information, the intern was able to develop a preliminary map of homelessness in the various counties and regions, which served as the basis for identifying agencies serving various homeless populations.

CICH sent a letter via email and post to hundreds of state and local organizations, informing them of the date and purpose of the homeless count, and asking them for their assistance. Many different organizations were asked to be involved in this project, including law enforcement, housing authorities, housing development organizations, homeless shelters, transitional housing, food banks and soup kitchens, treatment and rehabilitation facilities, health care organizations including mental health centers, prisons, National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices, departments of human and social services, health departments, county and municipal officials, faith based organizations, family centers, domestic violence shelters, workforce centers, school districts, veterans groups, justice centers, migrant service agencies, United Way organizations, and Tribal organizations.



In May and June, 2006, prior to the homeless count, a web-based pre-survey was sent to rural agencies serving homeless individuals. The purpose of the survey was two-fold: 1) to gain information on the nature of homelessness in rural Colorado, and 2) to identify agencies and volunteers willing to help with the count. The pre-survey collected the following information for each region:

- Identification of local agencies
- Identification of potential volunteers
- Estimates of the number of unsheltered homeless
- Locations where the unsheltered homeless stay at night

Using multiple lists provided by CDH and the responses to the pre-survey, a master list of agencies was created and sorted by county within each region. These lists were provided to each regional coordinator in July. Coordinators also received a list of locations where unsheltered homeless stay at night, collected via the pre-survey.

Geographic Distribution: Continuums of Care and Regions

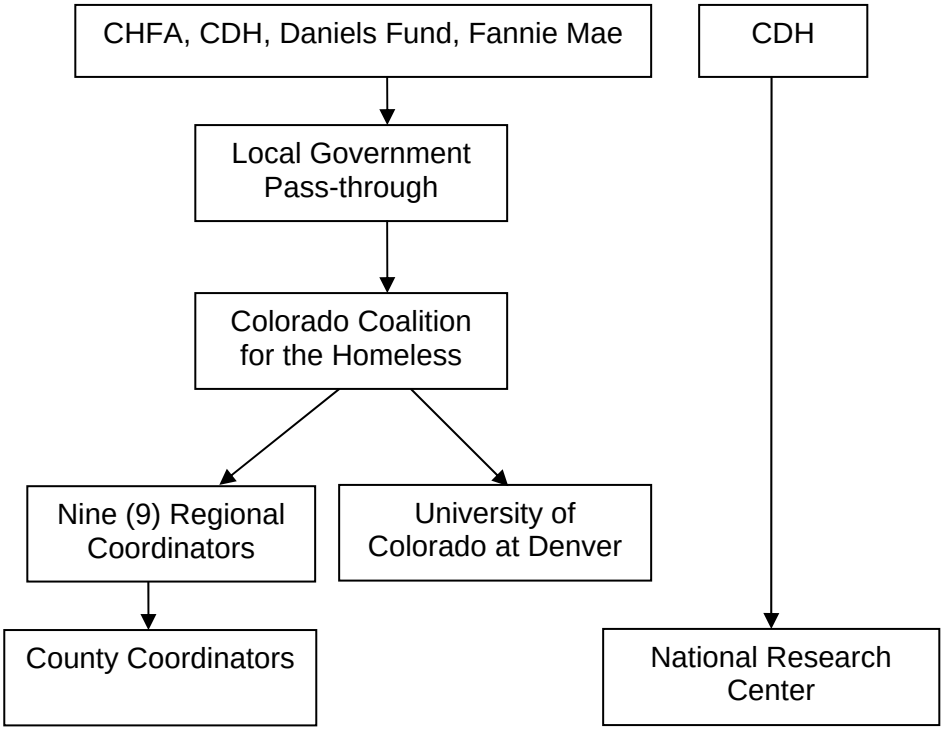
Initially, the Housing Subcommittee members looked at the possibility of using Continuum of Care sub-regions to conduct planned project activities.

However, they quickly discovered that there were both financial and practical drawbacks to that organizational structure. Using geography, topography and communities of interest, the Housing Subcommittee subdivided the state into nine regions. Please refer to Table 8 for a list of the regions and counties.

The statewide homeless count process relied heavily on these regions throughout the point-in-time planning, coordination and survey administration process. The map helped participants visualize the state and emphasized areas that needed organizational help and attention (see Appendix 1 for a full-page regional map).

Organizational Structure

The complexity of the project and number of funders and participating agencies presented enormous challenges. The following flowchart reflects both the organizational and funding structure.



Collaboration

The Statewide Homeless Count required a phenomenal amount of collaboration. Throughout every phase of the project, participants exhibited consistent patience, dedication and skill in resolving issues and reconciling differing opinions. The primary planners at CDH are commended for their ceaseless commitment to the value of inclusion and to their leadership in providing a respectful environment for everyone involved. For example, in the early stages of the planning, the Housing Subcommittee began working with both urban and rural homeless service agencies in an effort to understand issues that differ in urban and rural areas, including issues of seasonality in determining homelessness. Rural areas reported higher incidence of homelessness in summer than winter, while urban areas have more homeless persons during winter. Rural agencies requested a shorter survey form, while urban areas wanted the survey to be similar to the one that has been used in previous years in Metro Denver. Due to very different needs, perceptions, experiences and expectations, it took nearly ten months to reach agreement on a draft survey.

Coordinators

CDH staff recruited nine regional and 64 county coordinators from human/social service agencies, housing authorities, homeless shelters, domestic violence agencies, county governments, and volunteers. The Housing Subcommittee also hired a statewide coordinator to manage the regional and county coordinators.

The dedicated group of regional and county coordinators were responsible for extensive organizing, planning and recruiting.

- Regional coordinators took the lead for their designated region of the state, coordinating all regional homeless count activities including educating agencies and the public regarding the homeless count. This included recruiting volunteers, providing training for volunteers and agency staff, and assisting the statewide coordinator with logistics of training and homeless count activities. The regional coordinators also helped coordinate the project's debriefing activities -- evaluation and wrap-up of the survey process with the regional, county, and local community -- and were responsible for submitting completed surveys to CDH. (See Appendix 2 for the Regional Coordinator Job Description).
- The county coordinators also contributed untold hours to the project through coordinating the recruitment of local survey field representatives in the county (agency, nonprofits, departments of human services, housing authorities, law enforcement, and faith-based groups). These activities included identifying participating agencies, assisting with the planning and coordination for the county, assisting the regional coordinator with training logistics, coordinating with agencies to assess the need for survey administrators, and acting as a resource for necessary tasks on the day of the count. County coordinators also coordinated the actual survey process within the county to ensure consistency regarding handling of surveys during distribution and data collection. They submitted all completed surveys to the regional coordinators and assisted with debriefing activities. (See Appendix 3 for the County Coordinator Job Description).

Counties/Agencies/Volunteers

Coordination of agencies and volunteers occurred primarily at the county and local level. Hundreds of agencies participated in collecting data and distributing the survey. Agency staff and volunteers from government programs, non-profit organizations, supportive service and food distribution programs, meal sites and faith-based organizations literally worked thousands of hours to help organize the count in their area, recruit additional volunteers, and disseminate and collect surveys, among many other tasks. All but three Colorado counties participated in the statewide point-in-time survey and count. Twelve counties did not submit any surveys but did submit tracking forms, indicating that they tried to participate but did not serve any homeless clients during the relevant time. Of these twelve counties, one submitted a homeless count.

Consultants

The Housing Subcommittee contracted with the Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA)/the Centers for Public/Private Sector Cooperation (CPPSC), Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center (UCDHSC) and the

National Research Center, Inc. (NRC). CEPA/CPPSC's primary role was to develop the point in time methodology, analyze data, and write a comprehensive final report. NRC primarily served as the statewide project coordinator.

CEPA/CPPSC was instrumental in revising the survey instrument and developing the suggested data collection methodology, and for analyzing the data and producing the final report. In collaboration with NRC and volunteers, CEPA/CPPSC conducted a pilot test of the revised survey. CEPA/CPPSC and NRC developed a tracking form to document information about survey administration and provide a means for communities to count and estimate unsheltered homeless persons. The data collection methodology and the use of the tracking form are covered in subsequent sections of this report.

In collaboration with NRC, CEPA/CPPSC developed an extensive training module and materials, delivered trainings, and developed a "train-the-trainer" protocol and PowerPoint presentation for regional coordinators to use in delivering trainings to volunteers and agency staff in their local communities. CEPA/CPPSC and NRC created a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to distribute via email as well as posting on the website. Due to CEPA's previous experience in homeless issues, research, and point-in-time studies, CEPA and CPSSC were able to provide general technical assistance throughout the project.

NRC provided the extensive coordination necessary for such a statewide effort, and they facilitated communication and information exchange among key stakeholders throughout the project. NRC drafted and conducted the web-based pre-survey and compiled and distributed the master list of agencies providing homeless services in Colorado. Using multiple lists provided by CDH and the responses to the pre-survey, NRC created a checklist for coordinators to remind them of all the tasks necessary for a successful count. NRC also conducted numerous trainings throughout the state. As mentioned above, NRC collaborated with CEPA/CPPSC on survey revision, the survey pilot and the development of all training materials. It also provided valuable assistance in creating and reviewing various sections of the logistics documents.

Instrument Development

The Housing Subcommittee and other key stakeholders began with earlier point-in-time surveys, such as ones used by MDHI's point-in-time counts. They reviewed the challenges identified in the previous surveys. Over a ten-month period, stakeholders reviewed the survey questions, length of survey, and the previously collected data to determine the content of the survey, and worked to simplify and improve the instrument. These meetings were widely publicized and many individuals and organizations had input in the development of the survey. Working through the development and revision of the survey instrument was difficult and time consuming, as numerous dedicated stakeholders held disparate points of view. The necessity to honor everyone's voice required patience and perseverance to finalize the survey.

Researchers, with the help of volunteers, conducted a pilot of the draft survey in the summer of 2006. The survey pilot was completed in emergency shelters and soup kitchens along the Front Range. Based on this pilot, minor adjustments in wording and formatting were necessary. Once the Subcommittee had a final document, CPPSC translated the survey into Spanish.

DEVELOPING THE METHODOLOGY

Methodology was developed with the intention of producing an accurate point-in-time count of Colorado's homeless population. Providing training; conducting interviews, rather than having respondents complete surveys on their own; interviewing one adult family member in each family group; and, following procedures to avoid duplication were methods emphasized with all agency staff and volunteers who participated in the project

Survey Administration

Each county coordinator created a master list of all locations where homeless persons stayed at night. Counties and local agencies used this list in planning their process on the night and day of the point-in-time count. They also identified whether native language speakers would be needed and at which locations.

On the night of Monday, August 28, 2006, as soon as shelters closed their doors for the night and all homeless individuals had entered the facility, the survey process began. Unsheltered street surveys, counts and/or estimates also started on Monday night. Agencies offering day services began their participation in the survey process at the start of business on Tuesday, August 29, 2006, and continued until the close of business on that day. The survey data were collected primarily on the night of Monday, August 28 and Tuesday, August 29, referencing the point-in-time as the night of Monday, August 28. Agencies that were not open on Monday night or Tuesday day collected data on the first day of the week that they served clients. Agency staff and volunteers attempted to survey every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member in all of the identified locations.

Training

Researchers consistently stressed the importance of following specific data collection procedures to produce an accurate count. Training, interviewing (vs. respondents self-administering the survey), and following procedures to avoid duplication were the most critical elements in increasing the accuracy of the statewide homeless count. Enormous resources were spent on training agency staff and volunteers in survey administration and data collection procedures, including completing, administering and checking surveys. CEPA/CPPSC and NRC developed extensive training materials that were distributed to participants in training sessions and made available on the website. All training materials may be found in Appendix 7. The training materials are:

- Agency Referral List
- Contact Sheet
- County Coordinator Checklist
- DV Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- General Survey Training
- HIPAA release
- Homeless Definition
- Interviewer Script
- Logistics
- Methods for Producing an Accurate Count
- Sample Day of Count Packet

- Statewide Survey Instructions
- Survey (English & Spanish)
- Survey Cover Sheet
- Tracking Form for Counts/Estimates

NRC, CEPA/CPPSC, and CDH conducted "Train-the-Trainer" trainings in Broomfield and Colorado Springs, and NRC conducted sessions in Grand Junction and Durango. These sessions gave coordinators and other interested organizations and individuals the information they needed to deliver trainings to agency staff and volunteers in their own counties and communities. NRC conducted eight regional trainings; regional and county coordinators provided trainings to organizations and individuals in their own communities. Tables 27 and 28 provide a list of training sessions and attendance for trainings held from June through August 2006.

Table 27. Trainings Conducted by NRC[59]

Trainings	Date	Attendance
Train the Trainer – Broomfield	June 28, 2006	24
Train the Trainer – Colorado Springs	June 29, 2006	9
Train the Trainer – Grand Junction	July 10, 2006	15
Train the Trainer – Durango	July 24, 2006	5
Region 1 - Glenwood Springs	July 19, 2006	7
Region 2 – Granby	July 27, 2006	9
Region 3 - Greeley	July 21, 2006	3
Region 4 – Buena Vista	July 25, 2006	8
Region 6 – Colorado Springs	August 16, 2006	12
Region 7 – Durango	July 24, 2006	10
Region 8 – Alamosa	July 20, 2006	21
Region 9 – Pueblo	August 15, 2006	16
Total Trained		139

[59] The first two trainings were conducted jointly by CEPA and NRC.

Table 28. Trainings Conducted by Regional and County Coordinators			
Region	**Number of Trainings**	**Location**	**Attendance**
Region 1	2	Delta County	2
	3	Garfield County	26
	2	Mesa County	12
	2	Routt County	7
Region 2	8	Larimer County	50
	1	Summit County	13
Region 3	2	Logan County	11
	1	Morgan County	2
	(number unavailable) xx	Weld County	(number unavailable) xx
Region 4	2	Gunnison County	7
	2	Park County	3
Region 5	3	Adams County	15
	2	Arapahoe County	29
	5	Boulder County	52
	2	Broomfield County	22
	1	Denver County	30
	3	Douglas County	7
	2	Jefferson County	15
	17 (one-on-one)	Jefferson County	17
Region 6	4	El Paso County	45
	1	Teller County	11
Region 7	6	La Plata County	28
	2	Montrose County	(number unavailable) xx
	1	Archuleta County	(number unavailable) xx
Region 8	1	Alamosa County	13
Region 9	1	Las Animas County	13
	1	Pueblo County	9
	1	Otero County	5
Total	**75**		**444**

Tracking Forms

CEPA/CPPSC developed a tracking form to be attached to surveys from each location to document the number of submitted surveys. The form also included the agency/organization's name, the specific location (city/town and county, or geographic location), the date the surveys were conducted, and whether the respondents were interviewed or completed the survey without staff assistance.

Researchers wanted to provide counties the opportunity to submit counts and estimates of unsheltered homeless persons whom it was not possible to interview. On the tracking form, agencies were asked to estimate the proportion of their agency's clients who are homeless, and the number of unduplicated homeless clients they serve during a typical week in August, 2006. If agencies or volunteers gave a count or an estimate of the unsheltered homeless, they were asked to estimate the number of unduplicated homeless clients who stay at that given location in a typical week in August, 2006. Researchers planned to use this information to provide an estimate of the nature of undercounting Colorado's homeless population.

Submitting Surveys

Tracking forms were attached to completed surveys for each location. Agencies and volunteers were instructed to submit surveys and tracking forms from each location to their county coordinator within one or two days after the surveys were completed. County coordinators were responsible for collecting surveys. They were to keep a master list of all agencies and volunteers to whom they gave packets of surveys and tracking forms, and to document that they received packets from everyone after the survey process was completed. All surveys were submitted to regional coordinators, who were instructed to keep a master list of all of their county coordinators to be certain they received county-level packets from all of them. Regional coordinators were asked to deliver all packets of completed surveys and tracking forms to CDH by September 13, although some surveys were not received until the end of September. If packets were sent via Federal Express or certified U.S. mail, regional coordinators were instructed to copy every survey and tracking form prior to mailing.

Data Entry

Every returned survey was entered into a pre-designed database. Detailed data entry directions were written for the data processing firm to ensure that data were entered correctly. The tracking form and survey data were entered into two separate databases, and instructions included both general and question-specific directions (see Appendix 9 for detailed data entry instructions).

Entering every survey accomplished several things. First, it provided the opportunity to use a consistent, documented procedure for identifying homeless individuals and families. Second, it provided information about the nature of duplicated surveys. Third, it provided information about individuals and families who did not meet the rigorous criteria for homelessness but who, nevertheless, were at serious risk of becoming homeless.

Data Cleaning

Numerous procedures were performed to clean the data and to check for data entry and logic errors, including:

- Running frequencies on all variables to check for out of range/incorrect values;
- Correcting missing or out of range values for cities and counties when possible;
- Performing logic checks comparing household situation and information about homeless relatives; and,
- Performing additional logic checks to assess the consistency of responses.

Coding Open-Ended Questions

The first step in dealing with the completed surveys was to code all of the open-ended information, *i.e.,* categorizing respondents' written responses.. For each open-ended question, this involved assigning a numeric code to each unique response. CEPA/CPPSC research consultants coded the first several hundred surveys, and then trained graduate students to code the remaining surveys. The researchers supervised the coding.

In cases where there were inconsistencies and/or missed questions on a survey, the coders were instructed not to fix them; the researchers dealt with inconsistent data during the data analysis phase. However, the coders were encouraged to talk with each other in situations where they were not sure how to code a response. When a problem could not be solved as a group, they asked the researchers for help. In general, coders were told to err on the side of caution and to assign responses that did not fit neatly into an already established category as a new category. This is the most conservative approach to coding; researchers can combine categories during the analysis stage, but cannot separate them into more categories after they have been coded.

- For questions that asked for a single response and included an "other" category – for example, Q7, "Which one category best describes your racial background?" the coders had special directions. If the response written in on the "other" line matched one of the close-ended response choices for the question, coders were told to: (1) cross out the check mark on the "other" line, (2) cross out the other response, and (3) circle the number associated with the correct, matching close-ended response. These directions also applied to Q8 ("What is your situation"), Q11 ("How is this person related to you"), and Q13 ("Where will you/where did you spend the night of Monday, August 28th").
- For Q25 ("Why did you become homeless this time") and Q26 ("In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could NOT get"), respondents were instructed to check all the responses that applied. For these questions, if someone wrote in a response on the "other" line, and the "other" response matched one of the choices for the question, they were told to follow the same procedure explained above.
- Coders were given special directions for Q22: "Do you think you have, or have you been told you have: (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)". The response choices to Q22 are, serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, and other (describe). This question was difficult to code because many respondents wrote in descriptions of emotional and medical conditions. Therefore, the research consultants developed a special set of directions so that coders could determine if an "other" response fit one of the close-ended categories for Q22. Since the response to Q22 is a necessary component of determining if someone is chronically homeless, it was important that all "other" responses that fit one of the close-ended categories be coded into those categories. Only responses that did NOT fit a listed category were assigned a number..

Eliminating Duplicate Surveys

In past Metro Denver point-in-time studies, the survey process lasted for 5 days. The summer 2006 Colorado Point in Time survey was conducted over a 24-hour period in order to reduce the

number of duplicate surveys.[60] The short window was instrumental in reducing the incidence of duplication when compared to previous studies.

However, duplicates are inevitable when surveys are self-administered, administered to large numbers of persons in a given setting, or administered in many different settings. CEPA/CPPSC took several steps to address this issue.

- Agency staff, volunteers and homeless persons were instructed to complete only one survey for each homeless individual or family
- The survey instrument contained a question asking respondents if they or another family member already completed a survey
- Agency staff and volunteers were trained regarding the critical nature of obtaining the respondent's initials, age, birth month and gender.

CEPA/CPPSC researchers created a unique identification number for each respondent by linking the following six variables: first initial, middle initial, first three letters of the last name, birth month, age, and gender. For respondents with complete identifying information, or with only one variable missing in the identifier, a survey was classified as a duplicate if it met all three of the following conditions:

- the unique identifiers matched exactly;
- the surveys were submitted by the same agency; and,
- the agency was located in an urban area (because the caseload in these areas is large enough that volunteers may have interviewed the same person more than once.)

If the unique identifiers matched exactly but the surveys were completed in different counties that were either contiguous or located close to each other, then researchers considered other variables in determining duplication, including language, military service, ethnicity, race, and the city and county in which the respondent spent the night. In some cases, researchers looked at responses to a number of other questions before making a decision. A total of 134 surveys were identified as duplicates and were eliminated. Of these, 120 duplicates had complete identifying information, 12 were missing middle initial and two were missing birth month.

Although the survey included a question about whether the respondent had already completed a survey, this question was not answered consistently enough to be useful. The creation and use of the unique identifier was more reliable and more helpful in eliminating duplicate surveys.

Persons who completed duplicate surveys were predominantly single (82%) and had spent the night in an emergency shelter (45%). Fully three-quarters (77%) were male, and most were white (71%). The great majority (80%) said they spent the night in Metro Denver.

[60] Another reason for limiting the survey to a 24-hour period was to be responsive to the needs and concerns of many rural counties and communities. These communities did not have the capacity to conduct a survey over a longer period of time.

Eliminating Not Homeless

Based on previous experience with point-in-time homeless studies, the research consultants established clearly defined, objective criteria for homelessness. All survey respondents were identified as either "homeless" or "not homeless" based on these criteria.

Determining whether a respondent was homeless initially depended on the response to Q13: "Where will you/did you spend the night of Monday, August 28?" As needed, other questions also were included in the decision process.

A respondent was classified as homeless if s/he spent the night of Monday, August 28 in one of the following locations:

- Emergency shelter
- Domestic violence shelter
- On the street, under a bridge, abandoned building, public building, car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.
- Hotel/motel paid for by yourself while looking for housing
- Hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers
- Youth shelter
- Transitional housing (time-limited)

Nearly one in four respondents (22.7%) said that they spent the night of Monday, August 28 "temporarily with family or friends." Persons who stayed with family or friends were considered homeless if they indicated that they were "couch surfing," that is, that the arrangement was not permanent. Specifically, they were classified as homeless if they gave at least one of the following responses:

- "Do you have an arrangement to stay there permanently?" (Q13_8) "no" or "don't know"
- "Do you have a permanent place to live?" (Q12) "no" or "don't know"
- "In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are now staying?" (Q14) "yes" or "don't know"

The 606 survey respondents who said that they spent the night of Monday, August 28 in "permanent supportive housing" were automatically classified as NOT homeless.

For respondents who stayed in other locations, the CEPA/CPPSC consultants looked at additional questions to determine homelessness. This process was complicated by the fact that many surveys showed a lack of consistency in response to questions that indicated whether a respondent was homeless. In these situations, the consultants looked at all responses indicating housing status, and developed further criteria to sort respondents consistently. Specifically, consultants looked at responses to three additional survey questions: Q15, Q16 and Q25. All three questions gave the respondent the option of saying that s/he was not homeless. If responses to at least two of these three questions indicated that the respondent was homeless, then s/he was counted as homeless. Some respondents provided incomplete information. In these cases, researchers reviewed each survey and made a decision about homeless status based on all relevant, complete data.

The above procedures resulted in all respondents being classified as "homeless" or "not homeless." Overall, consistently applying the criteria resulted in 81 percent of respondents being identified as homeless.

Identifying Households With and Without Children

HUD defines "households with children" as a household with children under the age of 18. Although evidence of children in a household was not always consistently documented in any given survey, in general, if there was solid evidence that the respondent had any children under 18 years of age, CEPA/CPPSC identified the household as being a household with children. They directed particular diligence and thoroughness at this specific issue, as it is important to recognize the extent of homelessness among families with children.

The primary means of identifying households with children was the respondent indicating that s/he was "a single parent with children under 18" or "part of a couple with children under 18" (Q8). By definition, this response identified a household as having children, regardless of whether or not there was additional information in Q9, Q10 or Q11. In other words, if respondents reported in Q8 that they had children, they were counted as having children even if they did not document these children elsewhere in the survey (since respondents often left questions blank). [61]

- CEPA/CPPSC defined the response to Q8 as a primary threshhold for several reasons. The question clearly asks respondents to describe their living situation, and offers options for single persons and couples who are living with and without children under 18. The question comes early in the survey and, while some respondents had trouble identifying as "a single person" when they were homeless with siblings, parents or friends, the presence or absence of children is straightforward. Second, the great majority of respondents answered this question. Third, many respondents did not answer Q9, and a number of those who answered Q9 did not complete the information describing the age and relationship of family members that was requested in Q10 and Q11. Therefore, responses to Q8 are considered to be more reliable than responses (or non-responses) to Q9, Q10 and Q11.

Households meeting other criteria also were identified as being "households with children." Persons whose survey responses indicated that they were grandparents with their grandchildren were classified as "households with children." Respondents were identified as "grandparents with grandchildren" if they were staying with their grandchildren and (1) not staying with family or friends and (2) the children's parents were not living with the family.

- In addition, if a respondent said that he or she was "a single person" in Q8, but listed someone under age 18 in Q10, and said that it was his/her child in Q11, researchers assumed that the detailed response was the correct one. Likewise, if a respondent said

[61] Survey Q9 asked: "How many family members are/with you on Monday night, January 29th, who also are without a permanent place to live?" If the respondent did not indicate that there were any family members with him/her on Monday night, it was assumed that the respondent correctly described him/herself as being part of a household with children in Q8. Similarly, if respondent did not complete the table indicating the ages of other family members by giving the age(s) of their child/children (Q10) or even by indicating that there were children with them on the previous night (Q11), researchers assumed that the information in Q8 correctly identified the household as having children under 18.

that he or she was "part of a couple without children under 18" but listed someone under age 18 in Q10 and said that is was his/her child in Q11, it was assumed that the detailed response was correct. Given that some respondents gave inconsistent information, the decision was made that detailed information in the table describing family members superseded the less detailed information in Q8.

Finally, respondents who said that they lived in "other" situations in Q8 were classified as having children if they met one of the following conditions:

- They said they were pregnant.
- They said they were divorced and reported a child/children under 18 years old who was with them on Monday night.
- They said they were separated because of domestic violence and reported a child/children under 18 years old who was with them on Monday night.

"Households without children" are primarily identified by respondents reporting they are "a single person" in Q8, indicating that they were with no other family members with them in Q9, and not indicating any children under 18 in Q10 and Q11. They also were classified as being a "household without children" if they said they were "single" but reported another person with them in Q9, but did not give ages or relationships in Q10 or Q11.

Respondents who said they were "part of a couple without children under 18" in Q8 and did not indicate that they had children under 18 in Q10 were classified as "households without children." This was the case if they said there was one other homeless person with them in Q9, but did not give the age or relationship in Q10 or Q11. Since they said they were part of a couple in Q8, it was assumed that the person listed in Q9 was a spouse. Furthermore, even if the spouse was under 18, the household was categorized as a "household without children."

When respondents gave inconsistent responses, researchers looked at their answers to all relevant questions and made a determination of household status (with or without children) to the best of their ability. If someone gave inconsistent responses to Q8 and Q9, i.e., that they were "a single person" in Q8 but indicated that there were other homeless relatives with them on Monday night in Q9, researchers looked at the ages of their family members in Q11. If all ages were 18 or older, the household was classified as a "household without children." If they listed children under 18 and were not staying with family or friends, they were classified as a "household with children."

There were households where the research consultants were unable to determine if there were children under 18. This was the case for households where the respondent said he or she was "a single person" in Q8, said that there were other homeless family members in Q9, said that one or more of these family members was a child, but did not identify the ages of the other family members.

Counting Number of Homeless Persons in Households

There were two ways to calculate the number of relatives who were with the respondent and without a permanent place to live.

- The first was by using the number reported in Q9: "Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you last night?"
- The second was by counting the number of other family members listed in Q10, age of other family members, and/or Q11, relationship to respondent of other family members.

These two methods produced inconsistent results in a number of cases. The most typical situation was when a respondent reported a higher number of family members in Q9 than s/he had reported in Q10 and/or Q11. Some respondents did not complete the table asking for age and relationship of other family members. Therefore, the general rule was that if the number listed in Q9 was greater than the total number of persons listed in Q10 and/or Q11, the researchers took the larger number in Q9. This is because it was likely that Q9 was correct, and the respondent simply neglected to enter the description of family members in Q10 and Q11.

Less frequently, when the number of persons in Q9 was less than the total number listed in Q10 and/or Q11, researchers used the larger number in Q10/Q11. In this case, it was assumed that if someone gave details about who they spent the previous night with, those persons actually existed, and therefore should be counted. Respondents may have forgotten someone when answering Q9, or may have added up the number of people they were with incorrectly, but then listed everyone in the table.

There were several exceptions to the general rules described above. If the respondent spent the previous night in one of the following situations (Q13), CEPA/CPPSC researchers looked at all relevant questions and made a determination as to whether or not we could legitimately count the other persons listed in Q9, Q10, and/or Q11:

- Stayed with family or friends;
- Was on the street, under a bridge, abandoned building, public building, car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.; or
- Was in a youth shelter.

These exceptions were made because, when someone spent the night in one of the above situations, researchers could not immediately conclude that everyone the respondent listed was homeless. It is possible that the respondent listed family members in whose home s/he was staying who were not homeless. Persons living on the street could list friends who they "lived with" on the street, and youth living in a youth shelter could list other youth they were staying with who were not family members. Researchers were very careful to consider these possibilities and to avoid overestimating the number of homeless persons. For example, if someone said they were staying with family or friends and reported that they were single in Q8, researchers assumed that the relatives they were staying with were not homeless. This eliminated 202 potentially homeless family members. For persons living on the street or staying in a youth shelter, other persons were eliminated if there was no evidence that they were a respondent's family member.

Since more than one-fifth of homeless respondents reported that they spent the previous night with friends or family, this was a major confounding factor in assessing the homelessness of other household members. For this group, the researchers had to make the critical determination of how many, if any, of the other persons listed actually were homeless with the

respondents, versus how many regularly lived in the house or apartment where the respondent spent the night. This latter group clearly could not be counted as homeless. The problem partly stems from how questions 9, 10, and 11 were asked. Q8 asked, "Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you last night?" Similarly, Q10-Q11 asked, "Please complete this table for all the relatives who were with you last night etc." Unfortunately, neither question explicitly stated that the relatives had to be homeless. Therefore, for respondents who spent the night with family or friends who listed other relatives, the research consultants carefully reviewed the information on family situation (Q8) and for other relatives and made our best determination about whether or not persons listed in Q9, Q10 and/or Q11 actually were homeless with the respondent.

When respondents indicated they were with friends rather than family members, the data on friends were eliminated. Some respondents reported staying with either family or friends; the researchers were diligent in their effort to determine whether the respondents were reporting family members they were living with who were not homeless. When this occurred, only the children and/or spouse of the respondent, depending on the household composition, were counted. Persons who were determined not to be homeless were not included in the descriptions of the ages and family relationships of all homeless persons.

Final Database

Table 29 describes the number of surveys that were collected, entered, and removed from the final database.

Table 29. Survey Collection and Final Database	
Surveys collected/entered	8,377
Case removed/no data	1
Duplicates removed	134
Not homeless removed	1,577
Final number in database	6,665

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

Difficulty Counting the Homeless

A point-in-time survey can "miss" many people, because they are not in places where they can be found, much less where they have the opportunity to complete a survey, such as those living in automobiles, or other kinds of crude and temporary housing. A study of formerly homeless people reported that the most common places where persons difficult to count were staying were in vehicles, tents, boxes, caves, or boxcars.[62] There were many remote areas across Colorado that volunteers simply could not access, and places where it was not safe for staff or volunteers to go. Many agency staff are overworked and might not have been able to get to everyone they were currently serving. In addition, when people are approached to complete a survey, some refuse. There is a more detailed discussion of these problems in the Summary, "Surveys Typically Undercount the Homeless" (p. 98.)

[62] NCH Fact Sheet #2," see footnote 5.

Accuracy of "Not Homeless"

Almost one in five (18.8%) surveys were removed from the database as "Not Homeless" based on established criteria. Other than living in permanent supportive housing, the primary reason for removing these surveys was that the respondent reported spending Monday night in his or her apartment or home, or staying with family for friends. Many of these surveys were removed even though some (but not enough) of the respondents' answers to other questions pointed to homelessness. Service providers have contended that individuals often report staying in their apartment or home because they are in denial of the precarious nature of their situation or because they simply will not admit to their homelessness. This limitation of the data addresses the probability of eliminating people from the study who actually may be homeless.

Self-Reported Data

Survey respondents commonly underreport sensitive and personal information, for example, the existence of serious "conditions" such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and/or serious mental illness. As questions become more sensitive and ask about stigmatizing and potentially embarrassing or self-incriminating behaviors, they are probably subject to increasing bias.

The limitation that self-reported data place on the study is applicable to homeless immigrant and undocumented individuals and families in Colorado. The study specifically asked if the respondent was a seasonal or year-round farm worker and if they spent Monday night in a farm labor camp or dorm. It is unlikely that many homeless people in this category felt comfortable enough to answer this question, or even to complete a survey, because of the current political climate around issues of immigration and the undocumented.[63]

It is impossible to capture the true nature of the daily challenges facing the people completing the survey. This limitation of the data addresses the probability that for some respondents, the survey did not capture the true nature of their situation; others were simply not counted.

Family Members Not Fully Identified in Survey

A number of respondents who identified themselves as having children or a spouse did not document those family members when completing their survey. The following table describes respondents' household situation and the 497 respondents that did not include information about their family members on the survey.

Table 30. Family Members Not Counted	# of Surveys
Single parent with children	268
Part of a couple with children under 18	96
Part of a couple without children under 18	133

As a result, a number of family members, and especially children, who also were homeless were not described in the survey data. An estimated number of homeless family members of the 497 respondents is part of the Total Homeless for Statewide, the Continuums of Care, and each Region.

[63] Agency staff and advocates from various regions in Colorado described the challenges and difficulties that immigrant populations face.

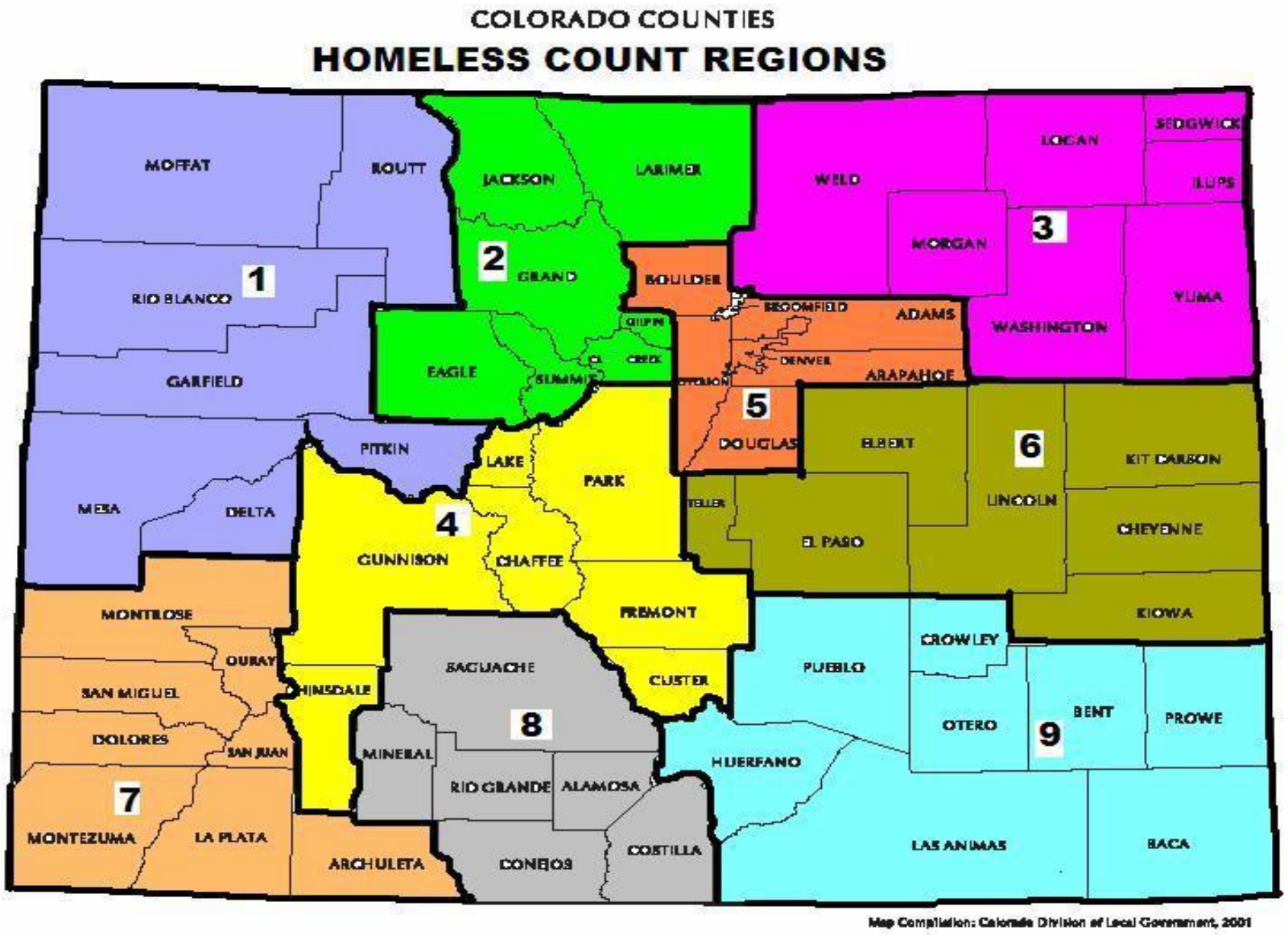
Domestic Violence

The research team developed a method for gathering data and determining the number of homeless individuals served by domestic violence agencies for the August 2006 Colorado homeless count. Domestic violence agency staff used a version of the survey that omitted personal information fields that domestic violence experts felt might put respondents at risk. Agency staff were asked to complete a spreadsheet documenting, in aggregate form, the demographics of clients served on the night of January 28. Spreadsheets were sent to the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, where they were compiled and organized by region. These aggregate data were submitted to researchers at CEPA/CPPSC.

DEBRIEFING

The Housing Subcommittee met the day after the count to hear feedback regarding the day of the count process. A web-based debriefing survey was sent to participating agencies, volunteers, and county and regional coordinators to provide an easy avenue for comment and feedback. The debriefing survey elicited input on the clarity of the survey instrument and tracking forms, the usefulness of training materials, the ease of conducting the count, the numbers of volunteers and hours required for the survey process, strategies that worked and did not work, as well as suggestions for improvement. On a separate day, the Housing Subcommittee listened to stories about the "faces of homelessness" that illustrated issues, conditions and experiences of homeless people. (See Appendix 10 for Debriefing Report).

APPENDICES


COLORADO COUNTIES
HOMELESS COUNT REGIONS
MOFFAT
ROUTT
JACKSON
LARIMER
WELD
LOGAN
SEDGWICK
PHILLIPS
MORGAN
3
1
RIO BLANCO
2
GRAND
BOULDER
YUMA
BROOMFIELD
ADAMS
WASHINGTON
QUIPN
EAGLE
SUMMIT
CLEAR CREEK
DENVER
ARAPAHOE
GARFIELD
5
DOUGLAS
ELBERT
6
KIT CARSON
PITKIN
LAKE
PARK
TELLER
LINCOLN
MESA
DELTA
4
GUNNISON
CHAFFEE
EL PASO
CHEYENNE
MONTROSE
FREMONT
KIOWA
CROWLEY
OURAY
SAGUACHE
PUEBLO
SAN MIGUEL
HINSDALE
CUSTER
OTERO
9
BENT
PROWE
DOLORES
SAN JUAN
8
MINERAL
HUERFANO
7
RIO GRANDE
ALAMOSA
MONTEZUMA
LA PLATA
ARCHULETA
CONEJOS
COSTILLA
LAS ANIMAS
BACA
Map Compilation: Colorado Division of Local Government, 2001

Statewide Homeless Count Regional Coordinator

1. Description:

The ***Regional Coordinator*** will assist the ***Statewide Homeless Count Coordinator*** in conducting activities that result in successful completion of the August 28, 2006 Statewide Homeless Count (Point-in-Time Survey). The Regional Coordinator will act as the lead for the designated region of the state, by coordinating all regional homeless count activities including educating agencies and the public regarding the homeless count, recruitment of volunteers to assist with homeless count activities, homeless count training for volunteers and agencies, and assisting with logistics of training activities and homeless count activities during the period of the survey.

2. Services:

(a) Coordinate the recruitment of county and local survey field representatives (nonprofits, departments of human services, housing authorities, law enforcement, faith-based groups, etc.). This activity shall include the following:

- identify county & local lead agencies;
- provide planning and coordination activities for the region;
- provide education about homelessness and the definition of homelessness to the public, agencies and volunteer groups;
- assist with planning and implementation of training logistics and activities;
- solicit regional businesses and/or organizations in providing incentives (e.g., granola bars, soda/juice drinks, bus tokens, store vouchers, etc) for homeless persons to participate in the surveys;
- ensure that County or Local Coordinators identify and train homeless survey takers where practical; and
- implement all necessary tasks for the August 28, 2006 statewide homeless count.

(b) Coordinate the survey process with the county or local level to ensure consistency throughout the region regarding proper handling of surveys during:

- distribution
- collection
- and overall technical assistance for county/local coordinator and volunteer agencies and individuals.

(c) Coordinate debriefing, evaluation and wrap-up of survey process with the regional, county, and local community.

Statewide Homeless Count – County Coordinator

1. Description:

The ***County Coordinator*** will assist the ***Regional Homeless Count Coordinator*** in conducting activities that result in successful completion of the August 28, 2006 Statewide Homeless Count (Point-in-Time Survey). The County Coordinator will act as the lead resource for the designated county of the region by coordinating all county homeless count activities including recruitment and training of volunteers to assist with the project, scheduling homeless count training for agencies, and assisting with logistics of training and homeless count activities during the period of the survey, including survey distribution and collection.

2. Services:

(a) Coordinate the recruitment of local survey field representatives in the county (agency, nonprofits, departments of human services, housing authorities, law enforcement, and faith-based groups). This activity shall include the following:

- Identify participating agencies;
- Provide planning and coordination for the county;
- Assist regional coordinator with training logistics;
- Coordinate with agencies to assess the need for homeless survey takers; and
- Act as resource to agencies for necessary tasks for the August 28, 2006 statewide homeless count.

(b) Coordinate the survey process within the county to ensure consistency throughout the region regarding proper handling of surveys during distribution, collection and provide technical assistance when necessary:

(c) Assist with debriefing.

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count

Homeless People Count...
Homeless Families Count...
Homeless Children Count...
Homeless Veterans Count...

Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH)

Training

June 28, 2006

Statewide Homeless Count

CAMPAIGN

Statewide Homeless Count

- **Connie Campos**
  Colorado Division of Housing
  303-866-4650
- **Tracey O'Brien**
  University of Colorado at Denver
  720-810-5464
- **Laura Appelbaum**
  University of Colorado at Denver
- **Deanna Hall LaFlamme**
  National Research Center, Inc.
  303-444-7863

Statewide Homeless Count

Count Begins

MONDAY

AUGUST 28, 2006

Approach

Engage CICH Partners to Conduct Count

- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) [Fiscal]
- University of Colorado at Denver (UCD) [Survey Design, Analysis, Report]
- National Research Center, Inc. [Statewide Coordinator]
- Homeless Providers, Homeless Advocates, Domestic Violence/Homeless Shelter Providers
- Rural, Urban & Resort Communities, Faith Based Groups, Law Enforcement Agencies
- Local Government Agencies

Survey Instrument Designed to Incorporate:

- Needs of MDHI
- Balance of State
- HMIS
- Statewide Data Needs
- Needs of Domestic Violence Agencies
- Overview of Instrument

What are the ***benefits*** of doing a statewide homeless count?

- Establishes an accurate statewide count of the homeless population as of a specific *point in time* for:
  - Planning purposes for state and local agencies
  - Grant writing (description of need)
  - Procuring funding for programs serving homeless persons
  - Reporting
  - Meeting research requirements for HUD's SuperNOFA
  - Implementing programs & measuring outcomes

Our Approach Statewide

- The Campaign – *Homeless People Count*
- Statewide Challenges
- Organizing the State by Regions

Homeless People Count

- Why a campaign?
  - Marketing
  - Messaging
  - Education
- Logo "Homeless People Count"

Campaign Resources

- Press Release
- Public Spokesperson
- Fact Sheets
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Save the Date Post Card

Homeless People Count Website

- **http://www.colorado.gov/cich**

- Communication Tool across the state
  - Regional Web Pages
- Calendar of Events
- Copies of all Training Materials and Forms
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Map of Region
- Update on activities
- Copy of Survey

Statewide Challenges

- Fiscal Resources
- Human Resources
- Geography
- Topography
- Politics
- Survey Document

Organizing State into Regions

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count
Homeless People Count...
Homeless Families Count...
Homeless Children Count...
Homeless Veterans Count...

LOGISTICS & FORMS

Logistics

- Tracking Form
- Process
- The "Day of the Count" packet and supplies
- Priorities for the Count
- Specific location where survey was conducted
- Contingency planning
- Collecting and submitting completed surveys

Logistics

- Tracking Form
  - One tracking form will be used per location
    - Agency/organization name
    - Specific Location
    - Date survey was conducted
    - Whether homeless persons were interviewed, completed the survey on their own or staff completed survey
    - Number of surveys returned (or in rare cases, unsheltered count)

Logistics

- Tracking Form Continued

- If applicable
  - Proportion of homeless clients served by the agency
  - Estimate of number of homeless clients served in a typical week in August

Logistics

Each County Coordinator will develop a master list of locations where homeless persons stay at night.

- Consult with local agencies and faith-based organizations
- Consult with homeless individuals in your community
- Review Web Survey results (if applicable)

Logistics

- Recruit agency staff and local volunteers
  - Consider language needs
- Train agency staff and volunteers
- Assign agency staff and volunteers locations to survey
- Consult with law enforcement, park rangers, bureau of land management officials for assistance with counts and/or estimates

Day of the Count Packet

Every person involved in the survey process will have the following:

- Survey instrument in English and Spanish
- Definition of Homelessness
- Guide on how to handle questions on the survey
- County, Regional and State Coordinator contact information
- List of local homeless resources
- HIPPA release if relevant

Day of the Count

- Supplies
  - Day of Count Packet
  - Contact information for each location
  - Name tags for agency staff and volunteers
  - Extra pens/writing surfaces
  - Incentives (if applicable)
  - Large envelope or box to store completed surveys

Logistics

- **Monday night August 28, 2006**
  - Survey process should begin at shelters once doors are closed for the night and all homeless individuals have entered the shelter
  - Unsheltered count can begin
- **Tuesday August 29, 2006**
  - Agencies should begin the survey process
- **Agencies closed on Tuesday August 29, 2006**
  - Survey on the next day open for business
  - Ask if already completed a survey

The Survey Process

- Only persons who return surveys and their family members will be included in the count.
  - Exceptions: remote and/or unsafe locations where a “head count” or estimate is used
- Survey every individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member

The Survey Process

HOMELESS DETERMINATION

- Don’t worry - it is not your job to determine if a respondent is homeless
- Homelessness will be determined when the surveys are analyzed

Survey Completion

- The interviewer:
  - Complete as many interviews as possible
  - Ask the questions as written
  - Record responses provided
  - Do not complete the survey questions for the homeless person
  - Submit incomplete surveys

Specific Locations

- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Shelters
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- Congregate Meal Sites and Food Banks
- Pre-arranged Homeless Gathering
- Encampments
- Street Outreach
- Farm Labor Camp/Dorm

Contingency Planning

- *IF* not enough interviewers to interview all homeless persons at a given location
  - Interview as many people as you can
  - Do not select persons to be interviewed!
  - Assign one person to hand out surveys to persons who interviewers can't get to (DO NOT PLACE SURVEYS ON A TABLE)
  - Have someone available to answer questions
  - Make sure all surveys are returned
  - Review answers with respondent for completeness and consistency

Contingency Planning

- *IF* site lacks capacity to conduct *any* interviews
  - Agency staff/volunteers should make sure every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member is given a survey to self-administer
  - Have someone available to answer questions
  - Make sure all surveys are returned
  - Review answers with respondent for completeness and consistency

Contingency Planning

- *IF* it is not practical or safe to conduct interviews or distribute surveys

1. Go to the site and count the number of homeless persons – children and adult

OR

2. Ask law enforcement personnel, faith-based organizations, or a key informant to produce their best estimate on the number of homeless – adults and children who frequent the site on a single day at that time of the year

Collecting and Submitting Surveys

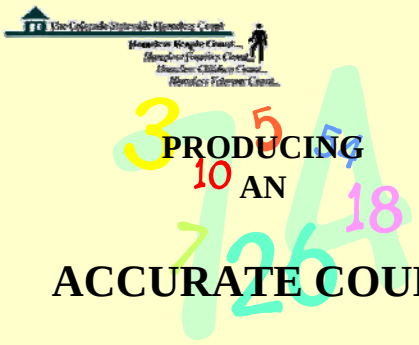
Collecting and Submitting Completed Surveys

- Agencies / Volunteers turn surveys / tracking forms into County Coordinator within two days after survey process
- County Coordinators collect all surveys / tracking forms
- County Coordinators turn in survey/tracking forms to their Regional Coordinator by September 8.

Collecting and Submitting Completed Surveys

- Regional Coordinators turn in all County surveys / tracking forms to:

Connie Campos or Lynn Shine
at the Department of Local Affairs,
Division of Housing, by September 13th
(see Statewide Homeless Count website or Logistics Document for address)



ACCURATE COUNT

1. Train Everyone!

train
train
train
train
train

ACCURATE COUNT

Training improves interviewing skills
- improved interviewing skills helps collect accurate and consistent data

Training helps avoid duplication

ACCURATE COUNT

Increase accuracy through . . .

Interviews vs. Self-Administered Surveys

- Interviews are better for dealing w/complicated issues
- Interaction with respondent permits clarification
- Homeless population
- Increases credibility with critical audiences

ACCURATE COUNT

FOLLOW PROCEDURES TO AVOID
DUPLICATION

- Train interviewers to first ask respondents if they have already filled out a survey
- Train interviewers to ask AND get a response to survey question, "Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this in the past week (on your own or with assistance)?"

ACCURATE COUNT

Cont. Duplication

- Train staff/volunteers who distribute surveys to be self-administered (NOT THE PREFERRED METHOD) to tell respondents they should not complete a survey if they or another family member already have done so
- Train staff/volunteers when they collect completed surveys to inquire again if respondent or other adult family member have previously completed a survey at another agency or gathering

ACCURATE COUNT

Cont. Duplication

Record the following respondent information on surveys!:

- First three letters of last name
- First and middle initials
- The month respondent was born
- Age
- Gender

General Survey Training

General Survey Training

- Understand what each question is asking
  - Be familiar with response choices
- Be prepared for common questions and areas of confusion
- Practice:
  - Read the survey aloud
  - Administer the survey to others
  - Fill the survey out
  - Review surveys for completeness and consistency

Role of the Interviewer

- Read the question exactly as written
- If the respondent doesn't understand, re-read the question and help the respondent understand what's important
- Emphasize key words

Role of the Interviewer

If the respondent cannot answer the question

- Ask for more information and record it verbatim on the survey
  - Can you tell me something more about that?
  - I need some details about that
  - Help the respondent associate the answer with people, places or events – help them think of a context to answer the question

Interview Responses

- The survey is about the respondent, not the interviewer
- Avoid expressing opinion or offering judgments
- Acknowledge comments but do not provide counseling to respondents
- Do not get involved in a discussion, but let the respondent know you heard what they said

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

RESPONDENTS
ARE PEOPLE *FIRST*
and
ARE HOMELESS SECOND

(courtesy, time, respect)

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPATION . . . is everything!

The Homeless Count will be based on
RETURNED SURVEYS!

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

RESPONDENTS MUST BE ASSURED THAT:

- Results are confidential
- Participation is voluntary
- Responses to individual survey questions are voluntary
- Responses will not impact delivery of services

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

REFUSALS

- If a person is reluctant to participate, assure them the survey is completely confidential and will help homeless persons get the services they need
- If they still refuse, politely thank them and move on

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

INTERVIEWING

- Before you start the interview, ask respondent if s/he would like a copy to look at while you read the questions
- We STRONGLY ENCOURAGE conducting interviews vs. self-administered surveys

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

SELF ADMINISTERED SURVEYS

- If respondent prefers to self-administer the survey, give them a copy to complete on their own (be available for questions)
- PLEASE review for accuracy after survey has been completed

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

DUPLICATION

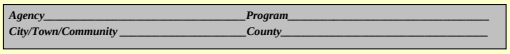
- For survey results to be credible, the count must be unduplicated, that is, in the case of family groups and couples, only *one* adult family member completes a survey.

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

DUPLICATION

- ***Before*** starting the interview, ask respondent if s/he or another family member already completed a survey in the last couple of days, either at this location or elsewhere
- If already completed a survey, DO NOT CONTINUE – destroy the survey

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY



Agency:

- RECEIVE ELETRONICALLY
- WE MUST HAVE AGENCY NAME ON EVERY SURVEY!!

Program:

- IF SPECIFIC PROGRAM WITHIN AGENCY, WRITE IN NAME OF PROGRAM

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

City/Town/Community:

. . . could be “Clearwater Campground near Salida”

County:

BE SURE TO INCLUDE COUNTY NAME

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

(Identifying Information)

- INITIALS
- BIRTH MONTH
- AGE
- GENDER

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Personal Identification Number

(PIN)

- Initials
- Birth Month
- Age
- Gender

(tlobr/Jan/51/female) = 2012152181512

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Initials:

- Enter this information BEFORE you ask any questions
- Part of identifying information (PIN)
- If respondent refuses, politely continue

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Month you were born:

- Circle the month
- Part of identifying information (PIN)

Q1. What is your age?

- Provides demographic picture
- Part of identifying information (PIN)

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q2. Gender:

- Interviewer does not have to ask this question – can record through observation
- Provides demographic picture
- Part of identifying information (PIN)

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q3. Have you served in the U.S. Military?

Q4. Are you a seasonal resort worker?

Q5. Are you a seasonal or year-round farm worker?

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q6. Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

- Independent of racial identification
- Based on HUD's question re race & ethnicity

Q7. Which one category best describes your racial background?

- This question intended to get at race, not ethnicity, e.g. "Italian" or "Mexican" are ethnicities, not races

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q8. What is your situation?

Refers to HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

- *single person*
- *single parent with children*
- *part of a couple with children*
- *part of a couple without children*
- *in another situation*

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Cont. Q8. What is your situation?

- If someone fits into one of the first 4 categories, even if there are extended family members in their group, check the category where they fit,

  e.g. Single woman with 2 children, staying temporarily with her sister, she is STILL a single parent with children

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Cont. Q8. What is your situation?

If not sure which category, check "*in another situation*" and describe

PLEASE READ "*Statewide Homeless Survey Guide*" in your packet

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q9. <u>Not including yourself</u>, how many relatives were with you last night?

- Gives us number of additional relatives (with or without family grid completed)
- Sets stage for completing family grid

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q10-12: Please complete this table for all the relatives who were with you last night. INCLUDE any children who are usually with you but who spent last night someplace else. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF.

(WOW)

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Cont. Q10-12

- This question records age, gender, relationship of family members with respondent
- Often, parents find temporary place for children – INCLUDE CHILDREN
- No category for friends!
- GO BACK TO QUESTION 9 – Be certain this number does not contain friends

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q13. Do you have a permanent place to live?

- Homeless people often do not consider themselves to be homeless (mark the survey exactly as they have responded)
- Researchers will determine, based on a specific set of questions, whether or not respondents are homeless

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q14. Where will you / where did you stay the night of Monday, August 28th?

- If respondent volunteers a location, look for response in list and check it
- Respondent can't remember (ask where *last* night)

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Cont. Q14.

- If respondent is unsure (e.g. they don't know if they were in prison or jail), check "somewhere else" and write in they were either in prison or jail
- If staying temporarily with family or friends, it is critical they also answer option #8 (have an arrangement to say there permanently?)

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q15. In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are staying?

- Clarifying question if respondent reports staying night of August 28 in apt/house, etc.
- Helps to define *newly homeless* respondents

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q16. How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time?

- Part of the definition of chronic homelessness
- Part of the set of questions used to determine homelessness

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q17. Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years?

- If respondent isn't sure of the answer, encourage them to review the past three years; if still unsure, record their best guess.
- This question is necessary to determine chronic homelessness

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

. . . about now (maybe during or after Q16 - maybe during or after Q17) . . .

"I AM NOT HOMELESS!"

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q18. In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?

_____

- If Respondent cannot remember Monday, August 28, use the term "last night."

Q19. In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?

_____

- Respondents often do not know their County.

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q20. What was the last county (if outside Colorado, what state) you considered your <u>permanent place</u> to live?

If the respondent does not know their county, but knows a city or town name, enter that. If they weren't in Colorado, enter the last state, or if outside the US, the last country.

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q21. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement?

- The answer is "Yes" if the respondent was in foster care, a group home, youth detention or was removed from home and placed by Social Services in a relative's home.
- The answer is "No" if the respondent voluntarily left home to live with other family members or with a friend's family.

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q22. Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this in the past week (on your own or with assistance)?

- Even though this question was asked at start of survey, ask this question again!
- Obviously, if already completed a survey, politely end interview and throw survey away.

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q23. Do you have:

- Asks if respondents have various "conditions"
- Necessary to determine chronic homelessness
- Be SURE to read each condition and check all that apply
- If someone says "yes" to one condition, continue reading all other conditions

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Cont. Q23.

- If a respondent is not sure if they have a specific condition, you can help them categorize

PLEASE READ THE GUIDE IN YOUR PACKET FOR HELP IN CATEGORIZING "CONDITIONS"

- If you don't know how to categorize their condition, or the respondent reports a condition that doesn't appear on survey, check "other" and describe problem

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q24. Have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working since the beginning of this year?

- Unreported, temporary labor, day labor, odd jobs, are considered working.
- If the respondent considers whatever they are doing as working, the answer is "Yes."
- Be sure you ask about anyone else in their family.

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q25. Are you or anyone else in your family receiving ANY of the following government benefits?

- Read each type of assistance and check all that apply
- If someone says "Yes" to one type of assistance, continue reading all other types
- Not all government benefits are listed, so be sure if they receive some other benefit, that it is indicated under "other."

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q26. Why did you become homeless this time?

- If the respondent volunteers a reason(s), confirm w/respondent and check it
- Read all possible responses even if the respondent volunteers reasons
- If you are not sure where to put a response, check "other" and write in response

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Q27. In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could not get?

- If the respondent volunteers a service(s), confirm w/respondent and check it
- Read all possible responses even if the respondent volunteers needed services
- If you are not sure where to put a response, check "other" and write in response

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

LET'S ROLE PLAY!

Agency: _____ Program: _____

City/Town/Community: _____ County: _____

Please complete the following information about yourself:

First initial ☐ Middle initial ☐ First 3 letters of last name ☐☐☐ Month you were born (Circle **1** response):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. **What is your age?** _____

2. **Are you…**
   1❑ Male 2❑ Female

3. **Have you served in the U.S. Military?**
   1❑ Yes 2❑ No

4. **Are you a seasonal resort worker?**
   1❑ Yes 2❑ No

5. **Are you a seasonal or year-round farm worker?**
   1❑ Yes 2❑ No

6. **Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?**
   1❑ Yes 2❑ No

7. **Which <u>one</u> category best describes your racial background? (Check only ONE response)**
   1❑ Asian/Pacific Islander
   2❑ Native American/Alaska Native
   3❑ Black/African American
   4❑ White
   5❑ Mixed race
   6❑ Other: _____

8. **What is your situation? Are you: (Check only ONE response)**
   1❑ A single person
   2❑ A single parent with children under 18
   3❑ Part of a couple <u>with</u> children under 18
   4❑ Part of a couple <u>without</u> children under 18
   5❑ In another situation ➔ Describe: _____

   _____

9. **Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you <u>last night</u>?** _____

Questions 10-11: Please complete this table for all the relatives who were with you last night. INCLUDE any children who are usually with you but who spent last night some place else. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF!

	10. Age (Write in)	**11. How is this person related to you? (Check one)**			
Person 1		1❑ Spouse/partner	2❑ Child	3❑ Grandchild	4❑ Other relative:
Person 2		1❑ Spouse/partner	2❑ Child	3❑ Grandchild	4❑ Other relative:
Person 3		1❑ Spouse/partner	2❑ Child	3❑ Grandchild	4❑ Other relative:
Person 4		1❑ Spouse/partner	2❑ Child	3❑ Grandchild	4❑ Other relative:
Person 5		1❑ Spouse/partner	2❑ Child	3❑ Grandchild	4❑ Other relative:
Person 6		1❑ Spouse/partner	2❑ Child	3❑ Grandchild	4❑ Other relative:

12. **Do you have a permanent place to live?** 1❑ Yes 2❑ No 3❑ Don't know

13. **Where will you/where did you spend the night of *Monday, August 28th*? (Check ONE response)**

1❑ Emergency shelter	9❑ Farm labor camp or dorm
2❑ Domestic violence shelter	10❑ Psychiatric hospital
3❑ On the street, under a bridge, abandoned building, public building, car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.	11❑ Medical hospital
	12❑ Substance abuse treatment program
4❑ Hotel/motel paid for by yourself while looking for housing	13❑ Jail
5❑ Hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers	14❑ Prison
6❑ Youth shelter	15❑ Halfway house or juvenile detention
7❑ Temporarily with family or friends **SEE BOX BELOW**	16❑ Transitional housing (time-limited)
8❑ **If with family or friends**, do you have an arrangement to stay there permanently? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No 3❑ Don't know	17❑ Permanent supportive housing
	18❑ Somewhere else ➔ ***Where?***_____

TURN PAGE OVER – THERE ARE MORE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK!

14. <u>In the next week</u>, ar3e you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are staying?
1❑ Yes 2❑ No 3❑ Don't know

15. Including now, what is the <u>total number of times</u> you have been without a permanent place to live <u>in the last three years</u>? (Check only ONE response)
1❑ Never
2❑ One
3❑ Two
4❑ Three
5❑ Four
6❑ Five or more

16. How long have you been without a permanent place to live <u>this time</u>? (Check only ONE response)
1❑ I am NOT hom3eless
2❑ Less than 1 month
3❑ More than 1 month but less than 1 year
4❑ 1 to 3 years
5❑ More than 3 years
6❑ Don't know

17. In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?

_____
(Fill in city/town name)

18. In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?

_____
(Fill in county name)

19. What was the last county (if outside Colorado, what state) you considered your permanent place to live?

_____
(Fill in county or state name)

20. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement?
1❑ Yes 2❑ No

21. Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this yesterday or today (on your own or with assistance)?
1❑ Yes 2❑ No

22. Do you think you have, or have you been told you have: (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)
1❑ Serious mental illness
2❑ Serious medical or physical condition
3❑ Alcohol or drug abuse
4❑ Developmental disability
5❑ HIV/AIDS
6❑ Other ➔ Describe: _____

_____
7❑ None of these

23. Have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working since the beginning of this year?
1❑ Yes 2❑ No

24. Are you or anyone else in your family receiving ANY of the following government benefits? (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
1❑ SSI/SSDI
2❑ TANF
3❑ Food Stamps
4❑ VA Pension/Benefits
5❑ Medicaid/Medicare
6❑ Any other government benefit

25. Why did you become homeless <u>this time</u>? (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
1❑ I am NOT homeless ➔ Go to Question 26
2❑ Lost job/can't find work
3❑ Have work but wages are too low
4❑ Relationship or family break-up/death in family
5❑ Abuse or violence in your home
6❑ Runaway/throwaway/discharged from foster care
7❑ Discharged from jail, prison or halfway house
8❑ Medical problems including physical or developmental disability
9❑ Eviction/foreclosure
10❑ Housing costs too high
11❑ Utility costs too high
12❑ Alcohol or drug abuse problems
13❑ Mental illness/emotional problems
14❑ Other reason ➔ Describe: _____

_____

26. <u>In the past month</u>, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could NOT get? (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
1❑ Help finding work/employment assistance
2❑ Help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing
3❑ Emergency shelter
4❑ Food
5❑ Rent or utility assistance
6❑ Transportation/bus passes
7❑ Medical care
8❑ Dental care
9❑ Mental health care
10❑ Alcohol or drug abuse treatment
11❑ Help getting a Colorado ID or driver's license
12❑ Help getting government benefits
13❑ Child care
14❑ Other service ➔ Describe: _____

_____

END OF SURVEY
THANK YOU!

SUMMER, 2006 STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

Agency: _____ Program: _____

City/Town/Community: _____ County: _____

Favor de completar la siguiente información sobre si mismo:

Inicial del 1er nombre [ ] Inicial del 2do nombre [ ] Tres 1eras iniciales del apellido [ ] [ ] [ ]

Mes de nacimiento (marque 1 respuesta):

Ene	Feb	Mar	Abr	May	Jun
Jul	Ago	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dic

1. **¿Cual es su edad?** _____

2. **¿Cual es su género?**
   1❑ Masculino 2❑ Femenino

3. **¿Ha servido en el servicio militar de los E.U.?**
   1❑ Si 2❑ No

4. **¿Es trabajador temporal de un lugar de recreo?**
   1❑ Si 2❑ No

5. **¿Es trabajador en una hacienda, sea temporal o durante todo el año?**
   1❑ Si 2❑ No

6. **¿Se considera Ibérico/Hispano/Latino?**
   1❑ Si 2❑ No

7. **¿Cuál categoría única mejor representa su grupo racial? (Marque solo UNA respuesta)**
   1❑ Asiático/Islas Pacificas
   2❑ Indio Americano/Indígena de Alaska
   3❑ Negro/Afro americano
   4❑ De raza blanca
   5❑ Mezcla
   6❑ Otro: _____

8. **¿Cual es su situación? Es Usted: (Marque solo UNA respuesta)**
   1❑ Una persona soltero/a
   2❑ Soltero/a con hijo/s menor de 18 años
   3❑ Parte de una pareja con hijo/s menor de 18 años
   4❑ Parte de una pareja sin hijo/s menor de 18 años
   5❑ En otra situación ➔ Especifique: _____
   _____

9. **No incluyendo a si mismo, ¿cuantos familiares estaban con Usted anoche?** _____

Preguntas 10-11: Favor de completar este matriz para todos los familiares que estaban con Usted anoche. INCLUYA a cualquier niño que usualmente esta con Usted pero quien pasó anoche en otro lugar. ¡NO SE INCLUYA A SI MISMO!

	10. Edad (Escriba)	**11. ¿Como es esta persona relacionado a Usted? (Marque uno)**			
Persona 1		1❑ Esposo/pareja	2❑ Hijo/a	3❑ Nieto/a	4❑ Otro familiar:
Persona 2		1❑ Esposo/pareja	2❑ Hijo/a	3❑ Nieto/a	4❑ Otro familiar:
Persona 3		1❑ Esposo/pareja	2❑ Hijo/a	3❑ Nieto/a	4❑ Otro familiar:
Persona 4		1❑ Esposo/pareja	2❑ Hijo/a	3❑ Nieto/a	4❑ Otro familiar:
Persona 5		1❑ Esposo/pareja	2❑ Hijo/a	3❑ Nieto/a	4❑ Otro familiar:
Persona 6		1❑ Esposo/pareja	2❑ Hijo/a	3❑ Nieto/a	4❑ Otro familiar:

12. **¿Tiene Usted un lugar permanente donde vivir?** 1❑ Si 2❑ No 3❑ No se

13. **¿Donde pasó/pasará la noche de *Lunes, 28 de Agosto*? (Marque UNA respuesta)**

1❑ Refugio de emergencia	9❑ Campo de hacienda o dormitorio
2❑ Refugio para victimas de violencia domestica	10❑ Hospital siquiátrica
3❑ En la calle, debajo de un puente, edificio abandonado, edificio publico, carro, viajando por bus, acampando, etc.	11❑ Hospital medico
	12❑ Programa de tratamiento contra el abuso de drogas o alcohol
4❑ Hotel/motel que Usted paga por su cuenta mientras busca vivienda	13❑ Cárcel
5❑ Hotel/motel pagado por otros/por certificado (vouchers)	14❑ Prisión
6❑ Refugio para juveniles	15❑ Centro de reinserción o detención juvenil
7❑ Temporalmente con familia o amigos **VER LA CAJA ABAJO**	16❑ Vivienda de transición (limitado por tiempo)
8❑ Si con familia o amigos, ¿tiene arreglado quedarse allí permanentemente? 1❑ Si 2❑ No 3❑ No se	17❑ Vivienda de apoyo permanente
	18❑ Algún otro lugar ➔ ***¿A donde?*** _____

¡VIRAR LA PAGINA – HAY MAS PREGUNTAS POR DETRAS!

14. En la próxima semana, ¿le van a desalojar o botar del lugar donde se esta alojando?
1❑ Si 2❑ No 3❑ No se

15. Incluyendo ahora, ¿cuál es el número total de veces que Usted ha estado sin un lugar permanente de vivir en los últimos tres años? ***(Marque solo UNA respuesta)***
0❑ Nunca
1❑ Una
2❑ Dos
3❑ Tres
4❑ Cuatro
5❑ Cinco o más

16. ¿Esta vez, cuanto tiempo ha estado sin un lugar permanente de vivir? (Marque solo UNA respuesta)
1❑ NO estoy sin vivienda
2❑ Menos de 1 mes
3❑ Más de 1 mes pero menos de 1 año
4❑ 1 - 3 años
5❑ Más de 3 años
6❑ No se

17. ¿En cual ciudad/pueblo pasó/pasará la noche de Lunes, 28 de Agosto 2006?

_____
(Llenar el nombre de la ciudad)

18. ¿En cual condado pasó/pasará la noche de Lunes, 28 de Agosto 2006?

_____
(Llenar el nombre del condado)

19. ¿Cuál fue el último condado (si fuera de Colorado, cual estado) que Usted consideró su lugar permanente de vivir?

_____
(Llenar el nombre del condado o estado)

20. De niño o joven, ¿alguna vez estuvo en una casa de crianza u otro tipo de colocación fuera del hogar?
1❑ Si 2❑ No

21. ¿Usted u otra persona en su familia ya completó una encuesta como esta ayer u hoy (de su parte o con asistencia)?
1❑ Si 2❑ No

22. Piensa que Usted tiene o le han dicho que tiene: (Lea cada línea y marque todos que sean pertinente.)
1❑ Enfermedad mental seria
2❑ Condición seria, sea médica o física
3❑ Abuso de alcohol o drogas
4❑ Incapacidad en el desarrollo
5❑ VIH/SIDA (HIV/AIDS)
6❑ Otro ➔ Especifique: _____
_____
7❑ Ninguno de estos

23. ¿Usted o cualquier otra persona en su familia recibió algún ingreso debida al trabajo desde el principio del año?
1❑ Si 2❑ No

24. ¿Usted o cualquier otra persona en su familia está recibiendo CUALQUIERA de los siguientes beneficios de gobierno? (Lea cada línea y marque todos que sean pertinente)
1❑ SSI/SSDI
2❑ TANF
3❑ Estampillas (Food Stamps)
4❑ Asistencia para Veteranos
5❑ Medicaid/Medicare
6❑ Algún otro beneficio del gobierno

25. ¿Porque está sin vivienda esta vez? (Lea cada línea y marque todos que sean pertinente)
1❑ No está sin vivienda ➔ Siga a la Pregunta 26
2❑ Perdió el trabajo/no encuentra trabajo
3❑ Tiene trabajo pero el sueldo es muy bajo
4❑ Pariente/familia disolvió/muerte en la familia
5❑ Abuso o violencia en su hogar
6❑ Huyó/desalojó/dieron de alta de la casa de crianza
7❑ Liberaron de cárcel, prisión o centro de reinserción
8❑ Problemas médicos incluyendo físico o de incapacidad en el desarrollo
9❑ Desajolamiento/juicio hipotecario
10❑ El costo de vivienda esta muy alto
11❑ El costo de servicios públicos esta muy alto
12❑ Problema de abuso con alcohol o drogas
13❑ Enfermedad mental/problemas emocional
14❑ Otra razón ➔ Especifique: _____

_____

26. ¿En el ultimo mes, de cuales servicios tuvieron necesidad Usted o cualquier miembro de su familia pero NO pudieron adquirir? (Lea cada línea y marque todos que sean pertinente)
1❑ Ayuda en buscar trabajo/asistencia de empleo
2❑ Ayuda localizando Sección 8 u otra vivienda permanente
3❑ Refugio de emergencia
4❑ Comida
5❑ Asistencia con alquiler o servicios públicos
6❑ Transportación/boletos para el autobús
7❑ Cuidado medico
8❑ Cuidado dental
9❑ Cuidado de salud mental
10❑ Tratamiento contra abuso de alcohol o drogas
11❑ Ayuda adquiriendo Identificación o licencia de conducir en Colorado
12❑ Ayuda adquiriendo beneficios del gobierno
13❑ Cuidado del los niños
14❑ Otra razón ➔ Especifique: _____

_____

FIN DE LA ENCUESTA

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count
Homeless People Count...
Homeless Families Count...
Homeless Children Count...
Homeless Veterans Count...

STATEWIDE SURVEY TRACKING FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

- ***PLEASE ATTACH ALL RETURNED SURVEYS TO THIS FORM!***
- ***THE INFORMATION IN THE BOX BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED!***
- ***If you are with an agency, please fill in agency, and fill in program information if applicable. If you are a volunteer not associated with an agency, please fill in "Other Group" information. Be sure to specify the location where surveys were conducted.***
- ***If you did a count of unsheltered homeless, fill in the agency/group that did the count and the specific location where the count was done. Be sure to complete the information in the box (number counted, count or estimate, and date).***

NUMBER OF ATTACHED SURVEYS: _____

IF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS COUNT, NUMBER OF HOMELESS COUNTED: _____
Did you actually count or is this an estimate? (Check one) __ **Count** __ **Estimate**

DATE SURVEYS OR COUNT CONDUCTED: _____

Every agency or other group should complete the following information

Agency: _____Program (if applicable): _____

Other Group (not an agency): _____

Location where surveys were distributed:

City/town: _____ County: _____

OR specific geographic location if rural (e.g. woods near Montrose): _____

Method used to complete surveys:
Surveys were completed by: (Check **all that apply**)
___Interview
___Respondents completed surveys on their own (with or without staff assistance)
___Staff completed surveys on their own

IF YOU ARE WITH AN AGENCY, PLEASE ANSWER:
How many **unduplicated** HOMELESS clients do you serve ***at this location*** in a typical ***week*** in August, 2006? Please give your best estimate. _____

What proportion of your agency's clients are homeless?
___All ___ About half
___Most ___ Less than half

IF YOU DID A COUNT OF THE UNSHELTERED HOMELESS, PLEASE ANSWER:
How many **unduplicated** HOMELESS clients stay ***at this location*** in a typical week in August, 2006? Please give your best estimate. _____

PLEASE ATTACH ALL RETURNED SURVEYS TO THIS FORM!

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count
Homeless People Count...
Homeless Families Count...
Homeless Children Count...
Homeless Veterans Count...

[COUNTY NAME] AGENCY REFERRAL LIST

Instructions

- Please customize an agency referral resource sheet for your county.
- Include this agency referral sheet in the ***Day Of The Count Packet*** of information provided to each volunteer and have copies available for distribution.

EXAMPLE

Gunnison County Agency Referral List

Gunnison County Housing Authority
200 E. Virginia Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-7901

Gunnison County Food Pantry
117 N Iowa / PO Box 803
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-4156

Jubilee House of Gunnison County
304 W. Tomichi Ave. Suite 22
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-2712

Department of Human Services
225 N. Pine St.
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-6413244

Ministerial Alliance
725 C. south 10
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-0158

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DAY OF COUNT CONTACTS

Instructions

- Please customize this contact sheet for your region.
- Include this contact sheet in the ***Day Of The Count Packet*** of information provided to each volunteer.
- For questions on the day/night of the count, first try contacting your county coordinator, second your regional coordinator and third, the statewide coordinator and/or the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

[County name] Coordinator
[Name]
[Agency]
[Phone number(s)]

[County name] Coordinator
[Name]
[Agency]
[Phone number(s)]

[County name] Coordinator
[Name]
[Agency]
[Phone number(s)]

[County name] Coordinator
[Name]
[Agency]
[Phone number(s)]

Regional Coordinator
[Name]
[Agency]
[Phone number(s)]

Statewide Logistics Coordinator
Deanna Hall LaFlamme
National Research Center, Inc.
(303) 444-7863 or 1-877-467-2462

State of Colorado
Department of Local Affairs
Lynn Shine
Housing Initiatives Coordinator
(303) 866-2046

State of Colorado
Department of Local Affairs
Connie Campos
Housing Specialist
(303) 866-4650

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: Our target date is Monday, January 29, 2007. If we do a one-day count, are we actually conducting the count on the 29th, or Tuesday, January 30th?
A1: Some agencies, such as emergency shelters where people are spending the night, can conduct the survey on Monday, January 29th. Agencies who do not provide night services will conduct the survey on Tuesday, January 30th.

Q2: Will volunteers need to conduct the count for folks under bridges, in parks, in hotels, abandoned buildings, etc.? How will we approach/organize around this issue?
A2: In the Metro Denver point-in-time homeless count, agency staff familiar with homeless individuals and families, approached known motels where people were staying; agency staff also conducted most of the street outreach, for example, Urban Peak where staff knew many of the youth. Ideally, agency staff in other parts of the state would also be familiar with some of the homeless people in their area. Otherwise, interviewers, whether they are agency staff or not, need to exercise common sense with regard to safety when approaching people under bridges, in parks, in motels, abandoned buildings, etc. In cases where interviewers (agency staff, sheriff departments, other volunteers) know there are homeless people but have determined there are safety issues, interviewers need to document their best estimate of the number of people using the provided Tracking Form For Counts/Estimates of Unsheltered Homeless Persons..

Q3: How do we eliminate duplication within our busy agency, when many homeless people are coming and going? How do we eliminate duplication in other busy places like food lines and food pantries?
A3: The surest method to avoid duplication is through interviewer training. In addition, we have included several identifying questions and will create a unique personal identification number (PIN) for each respondent. Clearly, this is not a "perfect" method; however, at some point the methodology has to depend on the responses of the respondents. In past studies, even when using identifiers, the process for de-duplication was far from exact.

Q4: What if a place frequented by homeless people is only open on one day of the week? When should I conduct the survey? If I survey them on Wednesday or Thursday when everyone else has already surveyed, won't there be duplication?
A4: Agencies which are NOT open on Monday or Tuesday should conduct their survey on the first day they are open AFTER January 29th. It has been determined that for those agencies that, for example, are only open on a Wednesday, will conduct their surveys on that day (rather than on Monday night

or Tuesday day). In this situation, interviewers will ask respondents whether they have already completed a survey earlier that week.

Q5: Do I need any special skills to be a regional or county coordinator, an Enumerator? A Survey Taker? What is the difference between these two?
A5: An Enumerator is someone who "counts" something. A "Survey Taker" will have the interest and ability to interview potentially homeless respondents, based on the survey questions. Interviewers will be trained to ask the questions as written in the survey, explaining questions to respondents when necessary. Interviewers should be comfortable with issues that often surround homelessness and at ease when asking survey questions.

Q6: What is expected of a Homeless Survey Interviewer?
A6: Survey Interviewers for the State Homeless Point-In-Time count are expected to: a) attend a training(s); b) carefully follow instructions received in the training and use the training materials as necessary; c) know where to get answers to questions; d) be committed to obtaining as many surveys as possible; d) use tracking and cover sheets to document counts/estimates of unsheltered homeless, to record number of surveys and other types of information.

Q7: I am not able to be an interviewer. Are there other ways I can volunteer to help with the Count?
*A7: **YES!** Please do one of the following:*
Log onto the State Point-In-Time website for volunteer opportunities: http://www.colorado.gov/cich/pit.htm OR find out on the website who your county coordinators are and call them. County coordinators may need help, such as making copies of surveys, helping to recruit additional interviewers, attending trainings and help coordinator(s) provide trainings, distribute and/or pick up surveys at the request of the local/county coordinators, reminder phone calls to agencies, etc.

Q8: How long will the Count take?
A8: The State Point-In-Time homeless count will take place on Monday night, January 29, 2007 and for those agencies that do not provide night services, Tuesday day, January 30, 2007.

Q9: What about safety during the Count? Do volunteers have to go out at night?
A9: Interviewers are expected to only participate in situations that are safe and comfortable.

Q10: How many people are needed to help conduct the count?
A10: As many as possible.

Q11: What if the weather is really bad on the day of the count and people are not available to help count, or if homeless people can't be found?
A11: We can't control it, so we will hope for the best.

Q12: How soon should each County conduct training?
A12: A schedule is being developed for training county coordinators – these trainings will occur in January. County coordinators will train local agency staff and volunteer interviewers. Ideally, the interviewer trainings should occur in January so that the information received in the training is fresh, while still reserving a sufficient amount of time to answer questions.

Q13: How do we count homeless people that are being assisted through privacy-seeking faith-based operations?
A13: Coordinators will recruit participation of faith-based organizations, who will recruit interviewers to complete surveys with the homeless people they serve.

Q14: What should we do if we know there's a significant population in our county, but it is in either difficult terrain or we can't find someone who can or will count homeless people at those places?
A14: The Tracking Form for Counts/Estimates of Unsheltered Homeless Persons will be used to document the number of people (probably an estimate) who are known to be homeless but who are unapproachable.

Q15: Why do we ask personal questions such as the "conditions" people have?
A15: There are demographic questions that are asked because it helps in program planning and funders, both public and private, want to know this information. The questions addressing the serious "conditions" respondents may have are asked, in part, because HUD requires this information. Service providers are also interested in this question as it helps plan programs and services.

Q16: How do I approach a homeless person?
A16: You may review the "Interviewer Script" in the training packet or on the statewide homeless survey website. Generally, you introduce yourself, briefly describe what you are doing, ask if they would please complete a survey with you, explain that their answers are strictly confidential, and make it clear that their participation is NOT mandatory, especially if they are at an agency where they are receiving services.

Q17: Who are the "unsheltered" homeless?
A17: The "unsheltered" homeless are persons who are sleeping in places that were not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned or condemned buildings, on the street, under a bridge, etc. This group does NOT include persons who are seen at, e.g., the Stout Street clinic or who are sleeping in an emergency shelter.

Q18: How do I record the first three initials of the last name for persons with a hyphenated last name or with multiple last names?
A18: Record the first three letters of the respondent's FIRST last name. For example, if someone's last name is Jones-Rhodes, then record "j, o, n."

Q19: How do I generate the personal identification number (PIN)?
A19: You don't have to generate the PIN. It will be done during the data analysis. However, you do need to try to get accurate identifying information, including the first three letters of the respondent's last name, their first and middle initials, their birth month, and their age and gender so the researchers can create the PIN.

Q20: Who should be included in questions 11-13?
Question 11: "How many family members are/were with you on Monday night, January 29th, who ALSO are WITHOUT A PERMANENT PLACE TO LIVE? Do NOT include family members who you may have stayed with who HAVE a permanent place to live.

Questions 12-13: Please complete the following table for FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE WITH YOU AND ALSO WITHOUT A PERMANENT PLACE TO LIVE.
A20: Only include family members (and same or opposite sex partners) who are homeless and staying with the respondent. The respondent may include children who are usually with them but are temporarily staying somewhere else.

Q21: How is "permanent" place to live defined?
Q21: There is no easy answer to this question. A permanent place to live is a place that is intended for human habitation and that is not time-limited. Interviewers should take the response of the homeless person, even if you think they are not giving an accurate answer. When data are analyzed, other questions will be considered in determining whether or not an individual is homeless.

Q22: When is the HIPAA release necessary?
A22: In most cases, the HIPAA release form is NOT necessary. However, it is available for those agencies which feel they need a HIPAA release.

Q23: If an agency is NOT open on Monday, January 29th or Tuesday, January 30th, when should it conduct the survey?
A23: Agencies which are NOT open on January 29th or 30th should survey the first day they are open AFTER January 29th.

Q24: Can the survey be printed on two pages?
*A24: **NO!** In order to ensure that the survey remains intact and no information is lost, please print the survey on one sheet of paper, front and back.*

Q25: For question 10, "Where will you/did you spend the night on Monday, January 29th?" if someone's response is not listed, what do I do?
A25: If someone's response is NOT listed, please check "somewhere else" (response 16) and write a detailed description of their location.

Q26: I'm a 211 operator, can I survey individuals over the phone?
A26: If someone calls in on January 29th or 30th and the issue of the call is about homelessness, yes you may survey the individual over the phone. Be sure to ask and document all questions that make up the PIN. Other agencies that handle incoming calls related to homelessness can also survey clients over the phone on January 29th or 30th.

Q27: Our agency serves about 200 clients each week. What if I don't see everyone on January 29th? Can I submit a tracking form for the individuals I don't see on January 29th?
A27: No! The stated purpose of this project is to identify and describe the state's homeless population for one 24-hour period. In addition to producing an accurate "one day count," we will use each agency's best estimate of the total number of unduplicated clients served in a typical week in January to estimate the total number of homeless persons in Colorado. It is vitally important for people to complete and submit the tracking (Counts/Estimates) form. The cover sheet used by agencies to submit their surveys asks for the number of surveys submitted by the particular agency, program, group or individual, but also asks, "How many unduplicated HOMELESS clients do you serve at this location in a typical week in January 2007? Please give your best estimate."

Q28: Can I conduct my surveys over a week instead of just one day?
A28: No! Although some programs serve more unduplicated individuals over a week's time than they do in a 24 hour time period, the stated purpose of this project is to identify and describe the state's homeless population for one 24 hour period. The ONLY exception to this methodology is for agencies that are not open on Monday night or Tuesday. Agencies not open may survey clients on the first day of the week they are open. If the methodology is dramatically different from one area of the state to another, the amount of justification and explanation that will be necessary in reporting the results will only serve to dilute the result.

Q29: On the Cover Sheet, it asks, "How many <u>unduplicated</u> HOMELESS clients do you serve at this location in a typical week in January 2007? Please give your best estimate." What is an unduplicated weekly count?
A29: In an unduplicated count each individual is only counted once. For example, if you work for an emergency shelter you will need to consider the number of individuals served over the course of a week instead of totaling the number of beds occupied during the course of the week.

Q30: Do I interview everyone in jail on January 29th or just those released from jail on January 29th?
A30: Please interview only those individuals being released from jail on January 29th who are believed to be homeless.

Q31: My local BLM and Forest service employees said they are not allowed to work after dark. Can BLM and Forest surveys work with me to survey late afternoon?
A31:Yes, survey question 10 asks, "Where will you/where did you spend the night of Monday January 29th? Surveying before the evening of January 29th should be reserved only for circumstances where you will not be able to survey if you wait until dark.

Q32: If I interview an adult traveling with his or her children over 18 do I interview the adult children too?
A32: No! The respondent should include their adult children in questions 11-13.

Q33: Should I interview unrelated adults traveling with a homeless respondent I survey?
A33: Yes. If the respondent mentions they are traveling with an unrelated friend you should interview their friend too unless this friend is a same or opposite sex partner.

Q34: Why does question 14 focus on eviction within the next week and not the next month. Don't most people receive 30 days notice of eviction?
A34: The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) only includes individuals being evicted within the next week as homeless.

Q35: Question 10, "Where will you/where did you spend the night of Monday January 29th? has a lot of possible answers. Do I need to read all the options?
A35: No! Ask question 10 and then pause and wait for the respondent to tell you where they stayed. If the respondent has difficulty identifying a location then you should you read the list of possible locations.

Q36: Our day agency will not see all clients we serve on January 29th. Is it OK for us to go through our case files and complete a survey for the clients we don't see on January 29th?
A36: No! The stated purpose of this project is to identify and describe the state's homeless population for one 24-hour period. Survey only January 29th clients. This is the only way we can generate an accurate "one day count." You will have a chance to tell us more about the homeless clients you serve on other days via the Cover Sheet Form. On the Cover Sheet Form, you will not only document the number of surveys you are submitting, but will give the total number of unduplicated clients served in a typical week in January. Both counts – the "one day" and the "typical week" – are vital pieces of information.

Q37. I work for an emergency shelter. Should I use the Domestic Violence version of the survey with my Domestic Violence clients?
A37. No. The Domestic Violence version of the survey is only to be used by staff of Domestic Violence shelters and programs. The only exception is for programs serving a mix of Domestic Violence clients and non- Domestic Violence clients. In these agencies the interviewers will be using both the Domestic Violence survey and the standard survey depending on the respondent.

Q38. What should the interviewer do if during the process of conducting the interview the interviewer learns that the respondent is a victim of Domestic Violence?
A38. It is vitally important that the respondent's confidentiality be protected. The interviewer should offer to erase or cross out any personally identifying information including: respondent initials, month of birth, Questions 1-7, 12, 13 and 21. All survey responses are voluntary and all respondents can choose to answer or not answer any survey questions.

Q39. I work for a shelter with a mix of Domestic Violence clients and non-Domestic Violence clients. Who do I give my surveys too?
A39. Completed Domestic Violence surveys need to be delivered to Jennifer Lynch, Information & Technology Director, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 900, Denver CO 80203. Please hand deliver or mail Jennifer the ***original*** *completed surveys and cover sheet and email the Excel spreadsheet with your clients' aggregate demographic data to jlynch@ccadv.org by February 2nd. If you need to mail the surveys to Jennifer rather then hand deliver them, make a copy of each completed survey first, then mail the originals and keep the survey copies. Once you know Jennifer has received your surveys please destroy all copies on file.*

All other surveys need to be delivered to your county coordinator by February 2nd. Again, if surveys are mailed, please mail the original surveys and keep photocopies on hand in the event surveys are lost in the mail.

Q40. If I work for an agency that serves a mix of Domestic Violence clients and non-Domestic Violence clients, should I conduct client surveys and complete the Excel spreadsheet?
A40. Yes! Domestic Violence Agency staff must complete an Excel spreadsheet containing demographics of their domestic violence clients in aggregate ***AND*** *administer the Domestic Violence version of the Homeless survey to their DV clients. Please* ***do not*** *include demographic information on your non-Domestic Violence clients in the Excel spreadsheet.*

Q41: Do I need to survey all temporary resort workers/migrant farm workers?
A41: No! Please prioritize your survey efforts and focus on locations where resort/migrant workers may stay that are not intended for habitation. If a resort/migrant worker lacks a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence the resort/migrant worker should be interviewed. Resort/migrant workers who have a permanent place to stay in another State or Mexico probably will not be identified as homeless by this survey.

Collaboration with local resort/migrant worker coalitions is recommended. Enlist the help of your local coalitions in educating resort/migrant workers about the count and in identifying locations where resort/migrant workers access services in your community.

Q42: Should I survey people in permanent supportive housing?
A42: No! Individuals and families living in permanent supportive housing will not be counted as homeless through this survey. Permanent supportive housing programs include programs that do not have a time limit. Some examples of permanent supportive housing programs are: Shelter Plus Care (S + C); Subsidized Housing programs.

Q43: If a respondent lives in a transitional housing program, how should the respondent answer question 16, "How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time?" Should the respondent include the time spent in the transitional housing program?

A43: Yes, the respondent should include the time living in the transitional housing program. However if the respondent is unsure of the length of time, the interviewer should ask about when the homeless episode began and count from the start of the most recent homeless episode until now. For all questions, record the answer provided by the respondent.

Q44: How do I answer question 10, "Where will you/where did you spend the night of Monday, January 29th?" if the respondent spent the night in more than one location?

A44: If the respondent spent the night in more than one location, for example, the respondent started the night in jail and was transferred to the detoxification center then the interviewer should mark the first location.

Q45: I know of individuals "doubled up" and "couch surfing" in my community. Can I call these individuals on the phone on Tuesday, January 30th to conduct the survey?

Q45: No, interviewers should not call people to conduct surveys. Many communities are advertising survey locations where the count will be conducted. Providing education, publicity and information on the count is recommended. Recruiting individuals over the phone to participate in the survey is not acceptable.

Q46: If a grandmother is caring for her grandchild, what option should I select on question 8,"Are you?"

A46: If a single grandmother is caring for her grandchild under 18, please select "in another situation" and write in "single grandmother caring for grandchild under 18."

Q47: Should an agency turn in a Cover Sheet even if they do not serve any homeless individuals on the night of January 29th?

Q47: Yes. This additional information may be helpful during the analysis.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: Who do I contact about the Statewide Point in Time Homeless Count?
A1: For general questions about the count contact:

Lynn Shine
State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Division of Housing
lynn.shine@state.co.us
303-866-2046

A1: For questions about the survey or the logistics:

Deanna Hall LaFlamme
National Research Center, Inc.
deanna@n-r-c.com
303-444-7863 ext 109

Or your County Coordinator *http://www.colorado.gov/cich/pit.htm*

A1: For questions about the survey process for Domestic Violence agencies:
Jennifer Lynch
Information & Technology Director
Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
jlynch@ccadv.org
303-831-9632 x822

Q2. Should I conduct client surveys and complete the Excel spreadsheet?
*A2. Yes! Agency staff must complete an Excel spreadsheet containing demographics of their clients in aggregate **AND** administer the Domestic Violence version of the Homeless survey to their clients. Completed Excel spreadsheets need to be emailed to Jennifer Lynch, Information & Technology Director, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence jlynch@ccadv.org by February 2nd.*

Q3: How do I get my surveys?
A3: The Domestic Violence version of the survey is available to download at http://www.colorado.gov/cich/pit.htm or you can contact Jennifer Lynch jlynch@ccadv.org for a copy of the survey.

Q4: Can anyone use the Domestic Violence version of the survey?
A4: Only Domestic Violence agency staff will be administering the Domestic Violence version of the survey.

Q5: How is the domestic violence version of the survey different from the Statewide survey?
A5: On the Domestic Violence version of the survey, interviewers will not be asking any personally identifying information of respondents. Questions that are highlighted in black will not be asked.

Q6: Do I need to attend a training on the Statewide Count?
A6: Everyone who administers a survey to a homeless individual needs to attend a training. Please contact your county coordinator for notification on upcoming trainings in your community. http://www.colorado.gov/cich/pit.htm

Q7: Should my agency participate if we only provide emergency housing through hotel vouchers, but have no shelter or transitional housing program?
A7: Yes we would like for your agency to participate if you distribute any vouchers on the night of January 29th. Please complete and submit the Tracking Form for Counts/Estimates indicating the number of family members housed on the night of January 29th.

Q8: I work for an agency that provides emergency hotel vouchers. I will not see or speak with the woman receiving a voucher, how do I survey this woman?
A8: If an agency supplies an emergency voucher to a woman and her family on the night of January 29th, please complete submit the Tracking Form for Counts/Estimates. On the tracking form include the total number of family members housed on the night of January 29th.

Q9: We have both residential and non-residential clients. Which clients should I interview?
A9: We would like agency staff to survey every homeless individual whether or not they are housed through your agency. If you survey non-residential clients, at survey completion, please ask the individual whether or not they completed a survey like this one yesterday or today. If they answer "yes" please destroy the completed survey.

Q10: If I don't have enough staff to interview every family in my shelter, what should I do?
A10: We would like agency staff to survey every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, only one adult member. If this isn't possible, agency staff may complete surveys on behalf of their clients.

Q11: My agency serves a mixture of Domestic Violence clients and non-Domestic Violence clients, which survey should I use?
A11: You will need to establish a system for survey administration so that your Domestic Violence clients are interviewed using the Domestic Violence version of the survey and all other clients are interviewed using the Homeless survey.

Q12: What do I do with completed surveys?
A12: Completed surveys need to be delivered to Jennifer Lynch, Information & Technology Director, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 900, Denver CO 80203.
*Please give Jennifer the **original** completed survey and tracking form by September 1st. If you need to mail the surveys to Jennifer rather then hand deliver them, make a copy of each completed survey first, then mail the originals and keep the survey copies. Once Jennifer has received your surveys please destroy the copies on file.*

Q13: I don't have the resources to copy the surveys!
A13: If you need help with photocopying, please contact your county coordinator for assistance.

Q14. I work for a shelter with a mix of Domestic Violence clients and non-Domestic Violence clients. Who do I give my completed surveys too?
A14*: Completed Domestic Violence surveys need to be delivered to Jennifer Lynch, Information & Technology Director, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 900, Denver CO 80203. Please hand deliver or mail Jennifer the **original** completed surveys and cover sheet and email the Excel spreadsheet with your clients' aggregate demographic data to jlynch@ccadv.org by February 2nd. If you need to mail the surveys to Jennifer rather then hand deliver them, make a copy of each completed survey first, then mail the originals and keep the survey copies. Once you know Jennifer has received your surveys please destroy all copies on file.*

All other surveys need to be delivered to your county coordinator by February 2nd. Again, if surveys are mailed, please mail the original surveys and keep photocopies on hand in the event surveys are lost in the mail.

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GENERAL SURVEY TRAINING
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the goal of a survey?
A. The goal of a survey is to produce valid and reliable results that accurately reflect the demographics and situations of respondents.

Q. Why is training so important?
A. Trained interviewers increase the validity and reliability of survey results**.**
Therefore, it is essential that everyone involved with a survey be properly trained.

Q. Who needs to be trained?
A. Everyone involved in the project should be trained on the survey instrument.

Q. Why is it important for respondents to participate?
A. Homeless people won't be counted unless they participate in the survey! This information will help agencies identify the unmet needs of their homeless clients, raise awareness about the number of homeless and the problems they face, and successfully acquire funding for programs serving the homeless.

Q. Are there advantages to using trained interviewers instead of having respondents take the survey by themselves?
A. Yes.
Why? There are many advantages to conducting interviews instead of having respondents self-administer (complete the survey by him/herself) surveys.

- Interviews are better than self-administered surveys for dealing with complicated issues and for asking complex or confusing questions.
- Respondents may have difficulty reading or understanding a written survey. The respondent's interaction with the interviewer permits clarification of questions when respondents do not understand them, thus enhancing the accuracy of response.
- The interviewer can establish rapport with the person being interviewed. This may increase the number of completed surveys, and the higher the response, the more confident we are that results are representative of all homeless persons.

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Q. Should I read the survey beforehand?
A. Yes. You should be comfortable with the instrument and understand the information being elicited by all of the questions, so that you are prepared to answer questions from interviewers, other volunteers/staff and respondents.

Q. Will interviewers be specially trained?
A. Yes. Interviewers will be trained in general interviewing techniques and on the specific instrument they will be using.

Q. What are the most important things to do first?
A. 1) Read the survey aloud until you are comfortable with the instrument, understand the information being elicited by all of the questions, are familiar with the responses to questions, and are able to read all the questions easily and smoothly.
2) Learn how to listen to responses and to record answers correctly.
3) Learn how to review each survey immediately after completing it to verify that all items are complete, correct and legible. **This is critical after completing an interview. It is even more critical if someone self-administers the survey that you quickly review the survey for completeness and, if possible, consistency, while the person is present.**

Q. Can I rephrase questions?
A. NO! You should read questions exactly as they are written.
Why? Rewording questions can introduce bias. You may want to reword a question to fit your own perception of what the respondent is capable of understanding or to spare the respondent embarrassment. However, substituting words changes the meaning of a question.

The words and phrases used in each question have been carefully selected, and are intended to define the context within which a respondent answers a given question. These words or phrases may specify periods of time, places, the frequency of events, and/or how we want respondents to think about an answer.

Q. What if the respondent doesn't understand the question?
A. You may reread the question and, if necessary, explain what information the question is trying to elicit in order to help the respondent understand how he should answer. **But** you should never prompt or encourage respondents to give any particular answer, and you should never act as if some responses are more or less appropriate or acceptable.

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Q. What if the respondent only answers part of the question or gives an inappropriate answer?

A. You cannot always get a clear or appropriate response. If the respondent does not answer the question you have asked, gives an answer that is too vague or general to fit one of the response categories, or responds with irrelevant or incomplete information, **there are several things you can try.**

- If a respondent responds improperly to a question, reread the question so he can hear the words and phrases that define the conditions.
- If a respondent strays from the subject or gives answers that are not really relevant to the question, reread the entire question, emphasizing the key words.

Q. What if the respondent cannot answer the question?

A. You can "probe" for information if a respondent is unable to answer a question.

If a respondent cannot answer a question, it is extremely important that you explain what information is needed without creating bias, and try to get at least some response. Some respondents may not hear the entire question, and others may not understand it. In these cases, it is your job to provide an appropriate prompt or probe that elicits a complete and accurate answer. ***When in doubt, ask for more information and record it verbatim on the survey, being sure to use nondirective probes that don't bias the respondent's answer. When data are being analyzed, we can go back to the details and attempt to determine, e.g., in what county respondent spent the night.***

Examples of "neutral" probes are:

- You can ask for more information by saying things like "Can you tell me something more about that"? or "I need some details about that."
- Respondents sometimes have trouble remembering dates or periods of time. You can help respondents remember by asking whether they can associate an event with a holiday or with any other event, or by associating it with the people or place they were at the time.
- Sometimes respondents are unsure of an answer or can't remember the question; other times they don't want to take the time to think about an answer. Don't respond to these problems by suggesting answers! Never guess at what the respondent means! Instead, reread the question and use a neutral probe, so that the respondent will give an answer that applies to the question. For example, in Survey question #14, if someone does not know where he or she spent last night, you should re-read all the options slowly and clearly. Give the respondent some time to think about last night – who he was with, what he did, etc.
- If someone doesn't know in what county he spent last night, then ask the respondent for any details he can provide, for example, that he slept outdoors under a bridge by a major highway, and that he had to walk for 20 minutes to get to the agency where he is being interviewed.

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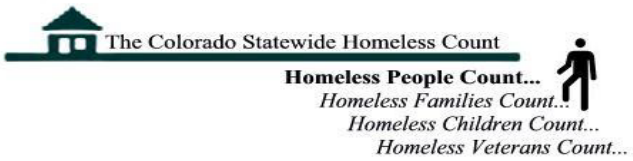
Q. Do respondents have to answer all the questions?
A. You should strongly encourage respondents to answer all questions!
These questions have been carefully selected. While all questions are important, it is most critical that respondents answer question 1-20 and questions 22-23. Without these responses, we may not be able to determine if someone is homeless. **However, INCOMPLETE SURVEYS SHOULD BE KEPT AND INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE EACH SITE SENDS TO THE STATE TO AVOID AN UNDERCOUNT. THE HOMELESS COUNT WILL BE BASED ON RETURNED SURVEYS!**

Q. How do I keep respondents focused?
A. It is likely that respondents will go off topic. Respondents typically go off topic by going into detail about their situation and the problems they are facing. In order to complete the interview and be able to move on to the next person, you need to have a strategy for helping the respondent focus on the survey questions.

- Example: First, acknowledge what the respondent has said and let them know that their concerns are valid by saying something like "I'm sorry to hear that" or "It sounds like you have had a lot of trouble with [what they just told you]". *(Don't get involved in a discussion; just let them know that you heard what they said!)* Then, redirect the respondent by repeating the question and continuing with the survey. If that doesn't work, remind them of the purpose of the survey, which is to make sure that as many homeless persons as possible are counted. You can say, "So that we can count everyone who needs services, we need to continue with the survey."

Q. How do I remain objective and professional?
A. You will likely be compassionate and concerned about the homeless and this project. You need to acknowledge to the respondents that you have heard what they said (see above), and then move on and complete the survey. This isn't the place for counseling. Your job is to get the information we need so that the state can help people. .You will do the most good by completing as many quality surveys as possible.

Every volunteer will have a list of local agencies that provide services to the homeless. Volunteers can give out these resources to homeless persons. This is a way volunteers can offer help without taking time away from the survey process.



HIPAA RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE FORM

The Colorado Interagency Council on the Homeless is conducting a statewide "Count" of individuals and families who are homeless across Colorado. The purpose of the study is to learn more about the needs of persons who are homeless or may soon be homeless, so that the state can develop appropriate programs and services. We are asking people to complete surveys about issues that relate to their homelessness; the survey is completely optional.

The data collected for this "Count" will be housed and analyzed by researchers at the University of Colorado at Denver, and then given to the Colorado Interagency Council on the Homeless. A report will be prepared based on the collected surveys. Information that could be used to tell who you are will never be used for these reports. We will not turn your information over to a national database. We must have your consent to use or disclose your information beyond these purposes.

- You have the right to get services even if you choose NOT to participate in the study.
- You have the right to ask for information about who will see your information.

By signing below you agree to release your information for the purpose of this study.

_____

Signature Date

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STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT

Homeless Definition

An individual is considered homeless if he or she is:

- sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings;
- sleeping in an emergency shelter;
- spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution, but ordinarily sleeping in the types of places mentioned above;
- living in transitional/supportive housing but having come from streets or emergency shelters;
- staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for a permanent place to live;
- staying temporarily in a hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers and/or while looking for shelter or housing;
- being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing; or
- being discharged from an institution and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

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INTERVIEWER INTRODUCTION

SAMPLE SCRIPT / SUGGESTIONS

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWER:

1) Wear a name tag: *Statewide Homeless Count*
[*Your Name*]

2) Ask the respondent the questions and record the answers while they follow along on a blank survey that they do not mark in any way.

3) If the respondent completes the survey on their own, be available and offer to help. Make sure to collect and review all surveys.

4) DO NOT say anything more than is necessary in your introduction. For example, DO NOT SAY "this study has not been done in nearly two decades;" or "this is a different point-in-time survey than has been done in the Denver Metro area;" This additional information only serves to confuse the respondent.

5) Try not to feel rushed – each respondent is the "center of attention" for the time period they are being interviewed.

6) If the respondent does not want to participate, explain the importance of the count and tell them that, unless they do a survey they and members of their family WILL NOT BE COUNTED. If they still decline, be gracious and say "ok" and "thank you."

SCRIPT:

Hello, my name is _____. I am helping the state of Colorado learn more about the needs of persons who are homeless or may soon be homeless. We need your help so that the state can develop programs and services to better meet your needs. All of your answers will be private. The survey will take only a few minutes. Can we start now? Would you like a copy of the survey so you can follow along?

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OVERVIEW OF LOGISTICS FOR STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT

The statewide homeless count will be a census of the homeless population on one day: Monday, August 28, 2006. The count will take place the night of Monday, August 28, 2006 and continue throughout the day on Tuesday, August 29, 2006. Agency staff and volunteers will attempt to survey every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member, in all of the identified locations.

I. Forms

Each participating agency/organization and each group of volunteers will be given a tracking form. This form will include:

- Agency/organization name
- Specific location (city/town and county, or geographic location, *e.g., woods in Montrose County* and name of closest town)
- Date survey was conducted
- Whether homeless persons were interviewed, if homeless persons completed the survey on their own (with or without staff assistance), or if staff completed the surveys on their own (without the input of homeless clients)
- Number of surveys attached or, for rare exceptions, number counted (see Section VI.5 and VII.3 below)
- Proportion of agency's clients who are homeless
- How many clients they serve in late August during a typical week

II. Process

By August 1, 2006 each county coordinator will create a master list of all locations where homeless persons stay at night. This completed list will be used by counties and local agencies for planning how to proceed on the night and day of the count. You will need to identify whether or not native language speakers (in which languages) will be needed and at which locations.

On the night of Monday, August 28, 2006 as soon as any shelters (for example, transitional shelters, emergency shelters) have closed their doors for the night and all homeless individuals have entered the facility, the survey process can begin. At this same time, unsheltered street surveys (or count) can begin. Agencies serving homeless persons will begin their participation in the survey process at the start of business on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 and continue until the close of business on that day. Agencies serving homeless persons that are not open on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 will conduct interviews the first day of that week they are open for business.

III. Day Of The Count Packet

One tracking form will be used PER LOCATION – the tracking form will be attached to completed surveys for each location.

Every person involved in the survey process will be given the following materials:
1. Survey instrument in English and Spanish
2. Definition of Homelessness
3. Brief overview of how to handle questions about the survey
4. County, Regional and State coordinator contacts information
5. List of local homeless resources
6. HIPPA release form if relevant

IV. Day Of The Count Supplies
1. Day of the count packet (see III above)
2. If necessary, pre-arranged permission to enter site to conduct surveys, keys to site, person responsible for site and their telephone number
3. Name tags for agency staff and volunteers
4. Enough pens
5. Clipboards/notebooks or other writing surfaces
6. If giving out incentives for participation, need the incentives
7. Large envelope or box to store completed surveys

V. Priorities

THE HOMELESS COUNT WILL BE BASED ON RETURNED SURVEYS (with rare exceptions noted below), SO IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU SURVEY EVERY INDIVIDUAL OR, IN THE CASE OF FAMILY GROUPS AND COUPLES, ONE ADULT FAMILY MEMBER.

- **ENCOURAGE RESPONDENTS TO ANSWER ALL SURVEY QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, WE WILL ACCEPT INCOMPLETE SURVEYS**

- **WE STRONGLY URGE AGENCIES/VOLUNTEERS TO INTERVIEW HOMELESS PERSONS, AS THEY OFTEN HAVE DIFFICULTY COMPLETING SURVEYS ON THEIR OWN.**

1. **Every location where homeless persons are known to congregate should be targeted.** If that is not possible, coordinators need to find someone – law enforcement personnel, clergy, etc. – who can estimate the number of homeless persons at that location, ideally with the help of a key informant. The key informant may be a homeless person or someone who works closely with the homeless in that location.

Every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, only ONE adult family member in every targeted location should complete a survey!

2. **The priority is to complete as many *interviews* as possible**. Ideally, every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member, will be surveyed, and all surveys will be conducted by an interviewer. All interviewers will be trained and the use of trained interviewers should increase the reliability of the data.

3. **The interviewer should not complete a survey for a homeless person!** He/she can help someone complete a survey by explaining questions, etc., but the homeless person should be the one giving the responses. This will increase the validity of the data, and also reduce the likelihood of duplication. Please refer to Section VI for additional options for completing surveys.

4. **The interviewer should ask the questions as written.** However, if asked, s/he can explain questions to the respondent or help them figure out the correct response to a question.

5. In locations where you are unable to interview all respondents but can distribute surveys for respondents to complete themselves, **please DO NOT place the surveys on a table.** A staff member or volunteer should hand out the surveys to ensure that every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member receives a survey. Individuals who do not return surveys will not be counted, nor will the other members of their family group.

VI. Specific Locations

1. **Transitional Housing.** Staff with large case loads may complete the survey on behalf of a homeless person if interviewing one member of each household is not possible. If staff complete the survey on behalf of the homeless person this must be documented on the tracking form. It is preferred that every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member, be interviewed so that we hear first hand from the homeless individual about their service needs and their understanding of the reasons for their homelessness.

2. **Domestic Violence Shelters.** A modified version of the survey will be administered at DV shelters. This version of the survey will not include any questions that are personally identifying. Whenever possible, DV shelter staff should interview individuals in person. Staff may complete the survey on behalf of their clients/residents if necessary. If staff complete the survey on behalf of the homeless person this must be documented on the tracking form.

3. **Congregate Meal Sites and Food Banks**. All persons at these sites must return surveys in order to be counted.

4. **Pre-arranged Homeless Gatherings.** In some rural communities, agencies may choose to advertise a special meal or event to encourage homeless persons to come to town to participate in the survey. Communities promoting a gathering will need to exercise extra caution to ensure that every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member completes only ONE survey. Therefore, in order to avoid duplication, agencies and other sites must be sure to ask potential interviewees if they or another family member already completed a survey.

5. **Encampments.** If you cannot interview or survey homeless individuals in an encampment due to remote location or safety issues, you have two options: (1) go to the site and count the number of homeless persons, or (2) ask local law enforcement, clergy, a local homeless person or other key informant to estimate the number of homeless persons at the location. The count or estimate should include all homeless persons – adults and children. Counts and estimates must be documented on the tracking from.

6. **Street Outreach.** Regional and Local Coordinators will need to recruit and coordinate with agency and law enforcement staff to conduct a street outreach effort. This effort would include people staying in hotels and motels, either paid for themselves while looking for permanent housing, or paid for by vouchers. Normally, street outreach is conducted by agency staff most familiar with where local unsheltered homeless individuals and families may be found, as well as familiar with the homeless people themselves.

7. **Farm Labor Camp/Dorm.** Regional and County Coordinators will need to contact local Public Health Centers with Migrant Health workers to identify locations and facility managers (if unknown). Prior to the count, county coordinators will need to educate migrant work groups that the count is confidential and that participation in the count WILL NOT put residents at risk for deportation. In addition, arrangements to visit the Farm Labor Camp/Dorm will need to be made in advance of the count.

VII. Contingency Planning

1. If there are not enough interviewers to interview all homeless individuals and ONE person in each family group at a given location, conduct as many interviews as possible. **Do not select persons to be interviewed! As soon as you complete an interview, try to start interviewing the next person in line, etc. Make sure that every** homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member **, that is not interviewed is given a survey to complete. Staff should make sure that persons given surveys return them. Staff should review surveys for completeness and consistency when they are returned.**

- Assign one person to hand out surveys to persons whom interviewers can't get to. This person is responsible for making sure that every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member receives a survey. The agency staff/volunteer should be available to answer questions and to provide help in completing surveys as needed. S/he should make every effort to get everyone who is given a survey to return it. S/he should review surveys for completeness and consistency when they are returned, and ask for clarification of questions if needed.

2. If a site has insufficient personnel to conduct interviews, agency staff/volunteers should make sure that every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member, is given a survey to self-administer. Staff should be available to answer questions and to provide help in completing surveys as needed. They should make every effort to get everyone who is given a survey to return it. Staff should review surveys for completeness and consistency when they are returned, and ask for clarification of questions if needed.

3. If it is not practical or safe to conduct interviews or distribute surveys at a site where unsheltered homeless persons congregate, there are two options.

- The first is to go to the site and count the number of homeless persons. The count should include all homeless persons – adults and children. Counts must be documented on the tracking form.
- The second option is for law enforcement personnel, clergy, a key informant, etc. to collaborate to produce their best estimate of the number of homeless – adults and children -- who frequent the site on a single day at that time of year.

VIII. Collecting and Submitting Completed Surveys

1. **Agencies/volunteers need to get their surveys and tracking forms to their county coordinator within one or two days after the surveys are completed.**

2. County coordinators are responsible for collecting surveys and tracking forms from all agencies/volunteers working in their county in a timely fashion. They should have received all of the surveys and tracking forms from participating agencies and volunteers in their county no later than Tuesday, September 5. County coordinators should keep a master list of all the agencies/volunteers to whom they give packets of surveys and tracking forms, and make sure that they receive packets from all of them after the survey is completed. The county coordinators can ask agencies to deliver the packets of completed surveys and tracking forms to them, or they can pick them up.

3. County coordinators are responsible for getting the packets of completed surveys and tracking forms to their regional coordinator no later than Friday, September 8. Regional coordinators should keep a master list of all their county coordinators and make sure that they receive county-level packets from all of them.

4. The regional coordinators are responsible for getting all the packets of completed surveys and tracking forms from their counties to Connie Campos, State of Colorado, Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing by Wednesday, September 13 at the latest. Her address is 1313 Sherman Street, Room 518, Denver, CO 80203. Connie will have a list of all the regional coordinators.

If anyone plans on sending packets of completed surveys and tracking forms either via Fed Ex or certified U.S. mail, **THEY MUST COPY EVERY SURVEY AND TRACKING FORM BEFORE IT IS PUT IN THE MAIL. IF SURVEYS ARE COPIED ON TWO PAGES, THE PAGES MUST BE STAPLED TOGETHER. THE ORIGINAL SHOULD BE MAILED AND THE COPIES SHOULD BE KEPT BY THE COORDINATORS. ALL SURVEYS FOR A GIVEN LOCATION MUST BE CLIPPED TOGETHER ALONG WITH THE TRACKING FORM FOR THOSE SURVEYS. IN THE EVENT A PACKAGE IS LOST IN TRANSIT, WE CAN EASILY RECREATE ALL OF THE SURVEY PACKETS.**

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count
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PRODUCING AN ACCURATE COUNT

IMPORTANT!!
These methods will increase the accuracy of the statewide homeless count and prevent duplicate counting.

1. Train everyone involved in the survey process!

Having agency staff/volunteers participate in the survey process educates them about the value of "surveying" as opposed to "counting." It trains them to interview survey respondents, collect accurate and consistent data, and avoid duplication by ensuring that every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, only one adult family member complete a survey!!

Training should include, *but is not limited to*, staff and volunteers at:

- homeless shelters
- in rural regions
- transitional housing
- domestic violence shelters
- congregate meal sites and food banks
- pre-arranged homeless gathering
- encampments
- law enforcement offices
- faith-based groups

2. Increase Accuracy

- Interview homeless persons rather than having them complete surveys on their own.

Why?

There are many advantages to conducting interviews instead of having respondents self-administer surveys.

  - Interviews are better than self-administered surveys for dealing with complicated issues and for asking complex or confusing questions. The respondent's interaction with the interviewer permits clarification of questions when respondents do not understand them, and helps produce a more accurate response.
  - Respondents may have difficulty reading or understanding a written survey.
  - Interviewers often can establish rapport with the person being interviewed. This may increase the number of completed surveys. The higher the response, the smaller the chance of an undercount of homeless persons, and the greater the chance that the data are representative of all homeless persons.
  - We know there will be some people at food banks, soup kitchens, etc., who are not homeless. Without a survey, we cannot distinguish between people who meet the definition of homelessness and those who do not. Surveying increases the accuracy of the homeless count, and it increases the credibility of the count with critical audiences.

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The **only** exceptions where we can accept a count instead of a survey are special circumstances for "unsheltered" persons:

- If due to concerns about safety or remoteness of location, a sheriff or other knowledgeable person gives an estimate of the total number of unsheltered adults and children in a specific location
- If due to concerns about safety, a sheriff or volunteer counts the total number of unsheltered adults and children in a specific location, but is not comfortable conducting interviews or distributing surveys.

- Prevent overcount. Interview every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, ONE adult family member in each family group.

- **Prevent undercount.** THE HOMELESS COUNT WILL BE BASED ON RETUREND SURVEYS!

- Conduct the survey on one day rather than over the period of a week.

Why?

This will increase participation of rural communities, increase the quality of the survey data, and reduce the likelihood of counting homeless persons more than once. The only exceptions would be agencies/programs that do not provide services on the selected day. These agencies/programs would collect data on the first day they are open after the designated count day.

3. Follow procedures to avoid duplication!!

- Train interviewers to read the statement about duplication at the top of the survey and be sure that they get a response.

- Train staff/volunteers who distribute surveys to be self-administered **(NOT THE PREFERRED METHOD)** to tell respondents that they should not complete a survey if they or another family member already have done so.

- Record the following respondent information on surveys:
  - first three letters of last name
  - first and middle initials
  - the month in which respondent was born.

- Train staff/volunteers to ask **and** get a response to survey question 22: "Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this in the past week (on your own or with assistance)?"

- Train staff/volunteers when they collect completed surveys to inquire again if the respondent or other family member had previously completed a survey at another agency or gathering.

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Statewide Homeless Count
Day of the Count Packet

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Q4 Are you a seasonal resort worker?: 4
Q5 Are you a seasonal or year-round farm worker?: 4
Q6 Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?: 4
Q7 Which one category best describes your racial background?: 4
Q8 What is your situation?: 5
Q9 Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you last night? 6
Q10-Q12 Please complete this table for all the relatives who were with you last night. INCLUDE any children who are usually with you but who spent last night some place else. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF. 6
Q13 Do you have a permanent place to live?: 6
Q14 Where will you / where did you spend the night, of Monday, August 28th? 6
Q15 In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are staying? 7
Q16 How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time? 7
Q17 Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years? 7
Q18 In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006? Training Issue: If respondent does not know, leave blank. 7
Q19 In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006? 7
Q20 What was the last county (if outside Colorado, what state) you considered your permanent place to live? 7
Q21 As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement? 7
Q22 Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this in the past week (on your own or with assistance)? 8
Q23 Do you have (mental illness, medical or physical condition, etc.): 8
Q24 Have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working since the beginning of this year? 9
Q25 Are you or anyone else in your family receiving ANY of the following government benefits? 9
Q26 Why did you become homeless this time? 9
Q27 In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could not get? 9
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STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT

Homeless Definition

An individual is considered homeless if he or she is:

- sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings;
- sleeping in an emergency shelter;
- spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution, but ordinarily sleeping in the types of places mentioned above;
- living in transitional/supportive housing but having come from streets or emergency shelters;
- staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for a permanent place to live;
- staying temporarily in a hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers and/or while looking for shelter or housing;
- being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing; or
- being discharged from an institution and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

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INTERVIEWER INTRODUCTION SAMPLE SCRIPT / SUGGESTIONS

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWER:

1) Wear a name tag: *Statewide Homeless Count*
[*Your Name*]

2) Ask the respondent the questions and record the answers while they follow along on a blank survey that they do not mark in any way.

3) If the respondent completes the survey on their own, be available and offer to help. Make sure to collect and review all surveys.

4) DO NOT say anything more than is necessary in your introduction. For example, DO NOT SAY "this study has not been done in nearly two decades;" or "this is a different point-in-time survey than has been done in the Denver Metro area;" This additional information only serves to confuse the respondent.

5) Try not to feel rushed – each respondent is the "center of attention" for the time period they are being interviewed.

6) If the respondent does not want to participate, explain the importance of the count and tell them that, unless they do a survey they and members of their family WILL NOT BE COUNTED. If they still decline, be gracious and say "ok" and "thank you."

SCRIPT:

Hello, my name is _____. I am helping the state of Colorado learn more about the needs of persons who are homeless or may soon be homeless. We need your help so that the state can develop programs and services to better meet your needs. All of your answers will be private. The survey will take only a few minutes. Can we start now? Would you like a copy of the survey so you can follow along?

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STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY QUESTION GUIDE

Agency: Enter the name of your agency (if blank)

Program: Enter the specific program name within your agency (if blank)
Training Issue: *Numerous agencies have various programs within their agency. If a specific program(s) within your agency is administering the survey, please indicate the program name(s).*

City/Town/Community: Enter the name of the city, town or community (if blank)

County: Enter the name of your county (if blank)

Initials: Enter the respondent's first and middle initial and the first 3 letters of their last name
Training Issue: *Enter this information before you ask any questions so that you don't forget. If the respondent refuses to give you their initials, politely move on to the next question.*

Month you were born:
Circle the month in which the respondent was born

Q4 Are you a seasonal resort worker?:
This question identifies persons working in a resort area (e.g. ski area in winter or ranch in summer).

Q5 Are you a seasonal or year-round farm worker?:
This question identifies persons who are farm workers.

Q6 Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?:
Training Issue: *This question is independent of racial identification and is modeled after HUD's question regarding race and ethnicity.*

Q7 Which one category best describes your racial background?:
Training Issue: *Hispanics can be white, black or mixed. We want respondents to give the single best answer. If it isn't listed, they can put their race under "other." However, this question is intended to get at race, not ethnicity; for example, "Italian" or "Mexican" are ethnicities, not races.*

Q8 What is your situation?:

This question refers to ***household*** situation. ***Training Issue:*** *This question should correspond with Questions 9 and 10-12 (where respondents should indicate other relatives staying with them).*

*This question offers five responses: single person, single parent with children, part of a couple **with** children, part of a couple **without** children, and other. The purpose of this question is to identify persons who fit into the first four categories. For that reason, the question is interpreted as follows: if someone fits any of the first four categories, even if there are extended family members in their group, you check the category where they fit. For example, if a woman identifies herself as a single parent with children, but is staying temporarily with her sister, she is still a single parent with children. If a couple without children is traveling with their extended family, who also are homeless, they are identified as a couple without children – HOWEVER, the person filling out the survey must still document the number of relatives staying with them who also are homeless.* ***If you are not sure which category to check, check "in another situation" and describe their situation.***

Single person *– A single person is someone who is living alone or living with anyone **other than a spouse/partner or with his/her children**. This category includes any person who is alone, including a child, teenager, adult or senior; any person who is with one or more siblings; someone who is living with an extended family member/members such as aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. If a single person has children **but is not living with his/her children**, then they are counted as a single person. Similarly, if a single person has a spouse **but is not living with their spouse**, then they are counted as a single person.*

Single parent with children *– This category includes anyone who is a single parent with children, even if he/she is living with other family members as well. For example, if a woman is living with her two children and also with her parents, she is counted as a single parent with children.*

Part of a couple <u>with</u> children *– This category includes any couple – married or otherwise – that is living with their children, even if the couple is living with other family members as well. A couple includes a spouse or a same or opposite sex partner. A person who is living with his/her stepchildren or partners' children is counted as being part of a couple with children. For example, a couple with children that is also living with siblings, aunts, uncles, or other relatives is counted as a couple with children.*

Part of a couple <u>without</u> children *– This category includes any couple – married or otherwise – who do not have children. A couple includes a spouse or a same or opposite sex partner. A person who has children – or whose spouse or partner has children – is counted in this category if they have adult children **or if their children usually stay somewhere else.** A couple without children who is living with siblings, aunts, uncles, or other relatives is counted as a couple without children.*

In another situation *– This category includes people who don't fit into the first four categories. For example, it includes a grandparent or grandparents with children. If the grandparent were alone, he/she would be considered a "single person." If the grandparent were with a spouse or partner, he/she would be considered "part of a couple **without** children."*

Q9 Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you last night?

Training Issue: *Q9 asks for total number of family members with respondent last night, NOT including respondent. Make sure this matches Q10-Q12.*

Q10-Q12 Please complete this table for all the relatives who were with you last night. INCLUDE any children who are usually with you but who spent last night some place else. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF.

This question asks for age, gender and relationship to respondent for each of the OTHER persons in respondent's family.

Training Issue: *Spouse/partner includes opposite or same-sex partner – and it doesn't matter if they are married or just living together. The "other relative" category includes any family member that isn't listed – for example, uncle, aunt, sister, brother, sister's husband, brother's wife, stepparent, etc. – someone who is related to respondent in any way.*

Often, single parents who are somewhere unsheltered try to find a temporary place for their children to spend the night. These children should be included in the family group as homeless, even if they were NOT WITH the respondent the night of August 28.

Note that we are only asking about FAMILY MEMBERS, so there is no category for friends (as opposed to partners). Therefore, if someone lists a friend (or several friends) in questions 10-12, DO NOT enter the friend(s) in the table for these questions. GO BACK to Question 9 and make sure that the number listed for this question only includes relatives; it should NOT include the respondent or any friends (other than same or opposite sex partners).

Q13 Do you have a permanent place to live?:

Training Issue: *Homeless individuals often do not consider themselves to be homeless, for example, respondents living in a shelter may say they have a permanent place to live. If that is their response, the interviewer must mark the survey exactly as the person has responded, even if they know it is incorrect. If someone doesn't know if they are homeless and doesn't say where he/she is living, then circle "don't know." We will determine whether or not they meet the definition of homelessness when the survey data are analyzed, so be sure that they answer Questions 14-17.*

Q14 Where will you / where did you spend the night, of Monday, August 28th?

Training Issue: *If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, August 28th, ask them where they stayed* ***last*** *night.*

This question offers a number of options. If the respondent volunteers a location, the interviewer should look for the response, confirm with the respondent that it is accurate, and check it. Only read the responses if the respondent does not volunteer a location. Since this question is critical to determining if someone is homeless, be sure that it is completed accurately. If you are not sure where to put someone's response, check "something else" and write in their response in as much detail as possible. If the respondent is unsure where they spent last night – e.g., they don't know if they were in prison or jail – check "somewhere else" and write in that they were either in prison or jail. If the respondent indicates they were staying temporarily with family or friends, it is critical that they also answer the next option (8), to document if the arrangement is permanent or temporary.

Q15 In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are staying?

Training Issue: *This question is important because, even if someone is living in an apartment/house/trailer at this time, if they will be thrown out in the next week they are counted as homeless. It also helps to define the newly homeless.*

Q16 How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time?

We want to know the length of this spell of homelessness.

Training Issue: *This question is part of the definition of chronic homelessness and also helps to define the newly homeless.*

If someone does not define themselves as homeless, check "I am NOT homeless." If they do define themselves as homeless, it is important that they think about this homeless spell and give the best estimate of the length of time they have been homeless.

Q17 Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years?

Training Issue: *This question is necessary to determine chronic homelessness.*

If the respondent isn't sure of the answer, help them review the past three years and try to come up with an accurate response. If respondent still isn't sure, write in their best guess, e.g., 3-4 times.

Q18 In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?
Training Issue: If respondent does not know, leave blank.

If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, August 28th, ask them the city/town where they stayed ***last*** *night.*

Q19 In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?

Training Issue: *If respondent does not know, leave blank.*

If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, August 28th, ask them the county where they stayed ***last*** *night.*

Q20 What was the last county (if outside Colorado, what state) you considered your permanent place to live?

Training Issue: *If they don't know their county, and know a city or town name, enter that. If they weren't in Colorado, put in the last state they considered their permanent place to live or, if they lived outside the United States, the last country.*

Q21 As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement?

Training Issue: *The answer is "yes" if the respondent was in foster care, a group home, or youth detention. The answer is also "yes" if respondent was removed from his home and* ***placed by Social Services or another government agency*** *in a relative's home. However, if, as a youth, the respondent* ***voluntarily*** *left home to live with other family members (e.g., grandparents, aunt/uncle, etc.) or with a friends' family, then the answer is "no."*

Q22 Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this in the past week (on your own or with assistance)?

Training Issue: *Be sure that you ask respondent this question, even though you already asked before you started the survey. Hearing the survey questions may jog his/her memory. Obviously, if respondent is sure that s/he or another family member already completed a survey, either on their own or with an interviewer, politely end the interview and throw out the survey.*

Q23 Do you have (mental illness, medical or physical condition, etc.):

This question asks if respondent has various "conditions" or problems.

Training Issue: *This question is necessary to determine chronic homelessness. Be sure to read each condition and check all that apply. If someone says "yes" to one condition, continue reading all the other conditions. If someone is not sure if they have a specific condition e.g., they don't know if they have a serious mental illness, ask them to describe their illness/symptoms/problem. See below for how to categorize.*

Serious mental illness – *if someone isn't sure if they have a serious mental illness but they mention depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder (or say that they are anxious), say they "hear voices" or say that they "can't think straight," then check "serious mental illness."*

Serious medical or physical condition *– if someone isn't sure if they have a serious medical or physical condition but they mention cancer, brain tumor, diabetes, blindness, vision problems, emphysema, severe asthma, etc., then check "serious medical or physical condition." Also check "serious medical or physical condition" if the person mentions problems with mobility such as bad back, bad knees, loss of limb, broken limb, arthritis, rheumatism, inability to walk, etc. Do NOT check "serious medical or physical condition" if someone has a problem that is not serious such as needing glasses or dental work, or if he/she has a temporary problem like a bad cold or other short-term illness. Also do NOT check "serious medical or physical condition" if someone has recovered from a major illness, such as being a cancer survivor.*

Alcohol or drug abuse *– if someone isn't sure if they abuse alcohol or drugs, but say that it has been a problem or that they stopped using in the last day/week/month, then check "alcohol or drug abuse." Also check "alcohol or drug abuse" is someone mentions an addiction to any kind of prescription drugs such as painkillers.*

Developmental disability *– if someone isn't sure if they have a developmental disability but say that they are dyslexic or that they cannot read or write, then check "developmental disability."*

HIV/AIDS *– If someone is HIV positive but says he/she does not have AIDS, check "HIV/AIDS."*

If someone isn't sure if they have one of the first five problems and, after describing their problem you don't know how to categorize their situation, check "other" and describe the problem in as much detail as possible. In addition, if someone mentions a problem that we didn't specifically ask about, check "other" and describe the problem in as much detail as possible.

Q24 Have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working since the beginning of this year?

This question asks if respondent or anyone else in his family received any money from working since the beginning of the year, that is, since January 1, 2006 through the day they are being interviewed.

Training Issue: *They should say "yes" even if the income is on the side/unreported/etc. For example, if they are getting money for temporary or day labor, including doing odd jobs, then they are working. The answer also is "yes" if whatever they are doing, they consider it to be working. Be sure to ask if anyone in their family is getting any money from working.*

Q25 Are you or anyone else in your family receiving ANY of the following government benefits?

Training Issue: *Be sure to read each type of assistance and check all that apply. If someone says "yes" to one type of assistance, continue reading all the other types of assistance. If someone is not sure if they are receiving a specific type of assistance, e.g., they don't know if they are getting money from SSI/SSDI, check "other" and describe the type of benefit they are receiving in as much detail as possible. Obviously, not all government benefits are listed, so be sure they understand that if they are receiving some other benefit, that it should be indicated under "other." If someone is receiving a benefit that you didn't mention, check "other" and describe it in as much detail as possible.*

Q26 Why did you become homeless this time?

Training Issue: *This question offers a number of options. If the respondent volunteers a reason (or several reasons), the interviewer should look for the response, confirm with the respondent that it is accurate, and check it. Read all the possible responses even if the respondent volunteers one or several reasons. If you are not sure where to put someone's response, check "other reason" and write in their response in as much detail as possible.*

Q27 In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could not get?

Training Issue: *Again, this question offers a number of options. If the respondent volunteers a service (or several services), the interviewer should look for the response, confirm with the respondent that it is accurate, and check it. Read all the possible responses even if the respondent volunteers one or several responses. If you are not sure where to put someone's response, check "other" and write in their response in as much detail as possible. The response category "Help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing" includes help getting vouchers or money to pay for eligible housing*

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count
Homeless People Count...
Homeless Families Count...
Homeless Children Count...
Homeless Veterans Count...

DAY OF COUNT CONTACTS

- For questions on the day/night of the count, first try contacting your county coordinator, second your regional coordinator and third, the statewide coordinator and/or the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs.
-

Chaffee, Custer and Fremont County Coordinator
Don Far
Loaves and Fishes
719-275-0593

Gunnison County Coordinator
Denise Wise
Gunnison Housing Authority
970-641-7901

Hinsdale County Coordinator
Sheriff William Dennison
970-944-2291

Lake County Coordinator
Georgine Bogovich
719-486-0118

Park County Coordinator and Regional Coordinator
Kathy Mastroianni
Park County Crisis Services
303-838-7176

Statewide Logistics Coordinator
Deanna Hall LaFlamme
National Research Center, Inc.
(303) 444-7863 or 1-877-467-2462

State of Colorado
Department of Local Affairs
Lynn Shine, Housing Initiatives Coordinator
(303) 866-2046

State of Colorado
Department of Local Affairs
Connie Campos, Housing Specialist
(303) 866-4650

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count
Homeless People Count...
Homeless Families Count...
Homeless Children Count...
Homeless Veterans Count...

GUNNISON COUNTY AGENCY REFERRAL LIST

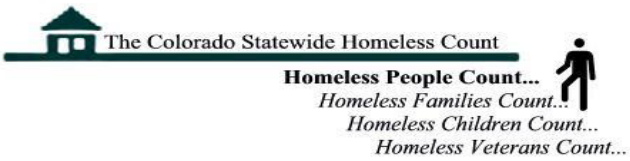
Gunnison County Housing Authority
200 E. Virginia Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-7901

Gunnison County Food Pantry
117 N Iowa / PO Box 803
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-4156

Jubilee House of Gunnison County
304 W. Tomichi Ave. Suite 22
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-2712

Department of Human Services
225 N. Pine St.
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-6413244

Ministerial Alliance
725 C. south 10
Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: 970-641-0158



HIPAA RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE FORM

The Colorado Interagency Council on the Homeless is conducting a statewide "Count" of individuals and families who are homeless across Colorado. The purpose of the study is to learn more about the needs of persons who are homeless or may soon be homeless, so that the state can develop appropriate programs and services. We are asking people to complete surveys about issues that relate to their homelessness; the survey is completely optional.

The data collected for this "Count" will be housed and analyzed by researchers at the University of Colorado at Denver, and then given to the Colorado Interagency Council on the Homeless. A report will be prepared based on the collected surveys. Information that could be used to tell who you are will never be used for these reports. We will not turn your information over to a national database. We must have your consent to use or disclose your information beyond these purposes.

- You have the right to get services even if you choose NOT to participate in the study.
- You have the right to ask for information about who will see your information.

By signing below you agree to release your information for the purpose of this study.

_____

Signature Date

The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count
Homeless People Count...
Homeless Families Count...
Homeless Children Count...
Homeless Veterans Count...

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY GUIDE

Goal of Survey

The goal of the survey is to get an accurate count of the number of homeless persons in Colorado on August 28, 2006, and to describe the characteristics of the homeless population, including age, gender, family situation, reasons for homelessness and service needs. This information will help agencies identify the unmet needs of their homeless clients, raise awareness about the number of homeless and the problems they face, and successfully acquire funding for programs serving the homeless.

Participation

The homeless count will be based on returned surveys! Every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member must participate in the survey.

Encouraging participation

It is very important that you encourage homeless persons to participate. You should tell clients that their participation will help increase awareness of homelessness in the state, understanding of the situations of homeless persons and their service needs, and funding for services for the homeless.

Refusals

If a homeless person is reluctant to participate, remember to assure the person that his/her participation in the survey will be completely confidential and will help homeless persons and those at-risk for homelessness get the services that they need. If they still refuse, politely thank them and move on.

Confidentiality

Assure respondents that their answers are private and that no one other than you, the interviewer, will know what they said. There is absolutely no chance that their responses will be tied to them individually.

Interviewing

While we **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** agency staff and volunteers to conduct interviews, if someone says that he/she would prefer to self-administer the survey rather than be interviewed, respect their wishes and give them a copy of the survey to complete on their own. However, be sure to review the survey for completeness and consistency when it is returned.

Before you start the interview, ask the respondent if he/she would like a copy of the survey so he/she can look at it while you read the questions and responses.

Copies of Surveys

Most agencies will receive the survey electronically. It is critical that you write the agency name, program (if applicable) and the specific location where the survey is being conducted at the top of the survey! This should be done BEFORE copies are made of the survey to ensure that the agency, program (when appropriate), city/town/community and county are on EVERY survey. **WE MUST HAVE THIS INFORMATION ON EVERY SURVEY.** The "Logistics" document describes what to do with the completed surveys once the count has concluded.

Duplication

To determine whether the respondent or any other family member has already completed a survey, ask questions. Before starting the interview, ask the respondent if s/he or another family member already completed a survey in the last couple of days, either at this location or elsewhere. It is particularly important to determine if someone else in their family completed a survey, because the identifying information we collect is only about the respondent.

If the respondent or another family member was asked the survey questions by another interviewer, or filled out a survey by themselves, then:

DO NOT CONTINUE!
DESTROY THE SURVEY!

For the homeless count and homeless survey results to be credible, we have to be able to show that the count is unduplicated, that is, that each family group completed only one survey. If at any time during the survey, the individual respondent, or in the case of family groups and couples, the one adult family member remembers that s/he or another family member completed a survey, do not continue! Destroy the survey!

Completed Surveys

Review each survey immediately after completing the interview or being handed a self-administered survey to verify that all items are complete, correct and legible. If possible, review for consistency while the respondent is present. Please refer to the "logistics" document for further instructions regarding what to do with completed surveys.

The following is a guide describing each question in the Statewide Homeless Survey, including some information on how to handle situations that may arise.

Specific Survey Instructions / Information

Agency: Enter the name of your agency
Training Issue: *Most agencies will receive the survey electronically. It is critical that you write the agency name and specific location where the survey is being conducted at the top of the survey! This should be done BEFORE copies are made of the survey to ensure that the agency and program (when appropriate) names are on EVERY survey. WE MUST HAVE AGENCY INFORMATION ON EVERY SURVEY.*

Program: Enter the specific program name within your agency
Training Issue: *Numerous agencies have various programs within their agency. If a specific program(s) within your agency is administering the survey, please indicate the program name(s).*

City/Town/Community: Enter the name of the city, town or community

County: Enter the name of your county

Initials: Enter the respondent's first and middle initial and the first 3 letters of their last name
Training Issue: *Enter this information before you ask any questions so that you don't forget. The initials are crucial as they are part of the identifying information, used to prevent duplication. If the respondent refuses to give you their initials, politely move on to the next question.*

Month you were born:
Circle the month in which the respondent was born
Training Issue: *This question is asked as part of the identifying information, used to prevent duplication.*

Q1 What is your age?:
Training Issue: *This question is asked as part of the identifying information used to prevent duplication. Age will be used in combination with initials, gender and birth month to create a personal identification number (PIN). It also provides a demographic picture of respondents.*

Q2 Gender:
Training Issue: *This question does NOT need to be asked by the interviewer. The interviewer can record this through observation. In the rare instance that the interviewer is unable to determine gender, ask the question. This question is asked as part of the identifying information used to prevent duplication. Gender will be used in combination with initials, age and birth month to create a personal identification number (PIN). It also provides a demographic picture of respondents.*

Q3 Have you served in the U.S. Military?:
Provides a demographic picture of respondents.

Q4 Are you a seasonal resort worker?:
This question identifies persons working in a resort area (e.g. ski area in winter or ranch in summer).

Q5 Are you a seasonal or year-round farm worker?:
This question identifies persons who are farm workers.

Q6 Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?:
Training Issue: *This question is independent of racial identification and is modeled after HUD's question regarding race and ethnicity.*

Q7 Which one category best describes your racial background?:
Training Issue: *Hispanics can be white, black or mixed. We want respondents to give the single best answer. If it isn't listed, they can put their race under "other." However, this question is intended to get at race, not ethnicity; for example, "Italian" or "Mexican" are ethnicities, not races.*

Q8 What is your situation?:
This question refers to *household* situation.
Training Issue: *This question should correspond with Questions 9 and 10-12 (where respondents should indicate other relatives staying with them).*

*This question offers five responses: single person, single parent with children, part of a couple **with** children, part of a couple **without** children, and other. The purpose of this question is to identify persons who fit into the first four categories. For that reason, the question is interpreted as follows: if someone fits any of the first four categories, even if there are extended family members in their group, you check the category where they fit. For example, if a woman identifies herself as a single parent with children, but is staying temporarily with her sister, she is still a single parent with children. If a couple without children is traveling with their extended family, who also are homeless, they are identified as a couple without children – HOWEVER, the person filling out the survey must still*

document the number of relatives staying with them who also are homeless. ***If you are not sure which category to check, check "in another situation" and describe their situation.***

> ***Single person*** *– A single person is someone who is living alone or living with anyone* ***other than a spouse/partner or with his/her children****. This category includes any person who is alone, including a child, teenager, adult or senior; any person who is with one or more siblings; someone who is living with an extended family member/members such as aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. If a single person has children* ***but is not living with his/her children****, then they are counted as a single person. Similarly, if a single person has a spouse* ***but is not living with their spouse****, then they are counted as a single person****.***
>
> ***Single parent with children*** *– This category includes anyone who is a single parent with children, even if he/she is living with other family members as well. For example, if a woman is living with her two children and also with her parents, she is counted as a single parent with children.*
>
> ***Part of a couple <u>with</u> children*** *– This category includes any couple – married or otherwise – that is living with their children, even if the couple is living with other family members as well. A couple includes a spouse or a same or opposite sex partner. A person who is living with his/her stepchildren or partners' children is counted as being part of a couple with children. For example, a couple with children that is also living with siblings, aunts, uncles, or other relatives is counted as a couple with children.*
>
> ***Part of a couple <u>without</u> children*** *– This category includes any couple – married or otherwise – who do not have children. A couple includes a spouse or a same or opposite sex partner. A person who has children – or whose spouse or partner has children – is counted in this category if they have adult children* ***or if their children usually stay somewhere else.*** *A couple without children who is living with siblings, aunts, uncles, or other relatives is counted as a couple without children.*
>
> ***In another situation*** *– This category includes people who don't fit into the first four categories. For example, it includes a grandparent or grandparents with children. If the grandparent were alone, he/she would be considered a "single person." If the grandparent were with a spouse or partner, he/she would be considered "part of a couple* ***without*** *children."*

Q9 Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you last night?
Training Issue: *Q9 asks for total number of family members with respondent last night, NOT including respondent. This will give us valuable information about the number of homeless persons. In addition, it sets the stage for asking for demographics for the OTHER homeless persons in respondent's family.*

Q10-Q12 Please complete this table for all the relatives who were with you last night. INCLUDE any children who are usually with you but who spent last night some place else. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF.
This question asks for age, gender and relationship to respondent for each of the OTHER persons in respondent's family.
Training Issue: *Spouse/partner includes opposite or same-sex partner – and it doesn't matter if they are married or just living together. The "other relative" category includes any family member that isn't listed – for example, uncle, aunt, sister, brother, sister's husband, brother's wife, stepparent, etc. – someone who is related to respondent in any way.*

Often, single parents who are somewhere unsheltered try to find a temporary place for their children to spend the night. These children should be included in the family group as homeless, even if they were NOT WITH the respondent the night of August 28.

Note that we are only asking about FAMILY MEMBERS, so there is no category for friends (as opposed to partners). Therefore, if someone lists a friend (or several friends) in questions 10-12, DO NOT enter the friend(s) in the table for these questions. GO BACK to Question 9 and make sure that the number listed for this question only includes relatives; it should NOT include the respondent or any friends (other than same or opposite sex partners).

Q13 Do you have a permanent place to live?:
Training Issue: *Homeless individuals often do not consider themselves to be homeless, for example, respondents living in a shelter may say they have a permanent place to live. If that is their response, the interviewer must mark the survey exactly as the person has responded, even if they know it is incorrect. If someone doesn't know if they are homeless and doesn't say where he/she is living, then circle "don't know." We will determine whether or not they meet the definition of homelessness when the survey data are analyzed, so be sure that they answer Questions 14-17.*

Q14 Where will you / where did you spend the night, of **Monday, August 28th?**
Training Issue: *If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, August 28th, ask them where they stayed **last** night.*

This question offers a number of options. If the respondent volunteers a location, the interviewer should look for the response, confirm with the respondent that it is accurate, and check it. Only read the responses if the respondent does not volunteer a location. Since this question is critical to determining if someone is homeless, be sure that it is completed accurately. If you are not sure where to put someone's response, check "something else" and write in their response in as much detail as possible. If the respondent is unsure where they spent last night – e.g., they don't know if they were in prison or jail – check "somewhere else" and write in that they were either in prison or jail.

If the respondent indicates they were staying temporarily with family or friends, it is critical that they also answer the next option (8), to document if the arrangement is permanent or temporary. This is an additional attempt at clarifying the homelessness of those people staying with family or friends or couch surfing – there are numerous issues around this, e.g. these individuals are hard to find and therefore count; this group of people often have their homelessness questioned.

Q15 In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are staying?
Training Issue: *This question is important because, even if someone is living in an apartment/house/trailer at this time, if they will be thrown out in the next week they are counted as homeless. It also helps to define the newly homeless.*

Q16 How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time?
We want to know the length of this spell of homelessness.
Training Issue: *This question is part of the definition of chronic homelessness and also helps to define the newly homeless.*

If someone does not define themselves as homeless, check "I am NOT homeless." If they do define themselves as homeless, it is important that they think about this homeless spell and give the best estimate of the length of time they have been homeless.

Q17 Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years?
Training Issue: *This question is necessary to determine chronic homelessness.*

If the respondent isn't sure of the answer, help them review the past three years and try to come up with an accurate response. If respondent still isn't sure, write in their best guess, e.g., 3-4 times.

Q18 In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?
Training Issue: *If respondent does not know, leave blank.*

*If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, August 28th, ask them the city/town where they stayed **last** night.*

Q19 In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006?
Training Issue: *If respondent does not know, leave blank.*

If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, August 28th, ask them the county where they stayed ***last*** *night.*

Q20 What was the last county (if outside Colorado, what state) you considered your permanent place to live?
Training Issue: *If they don't know their county, and know a city or town name, enter that. If they weren't in Colorado, put in the last state they considered their permanent place to live or, if they lived outside the United States, the last country.*

Q21 As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement?
Training Issue: *This question may be valuable to service providers/policymakers. The answer is "yes" if the respondent was in foster care, a group home, or youth detention. The answer is also "yes" if respondent was removed from his home and* ***placed by Social Services or another government agency*** *in a relative's home. However, if, as a youth, the respondent* ***voluntarily*** *left home to live with other family members (e.g., grandparents, aunt/uncle, etc.) or with a friend's family, then the answer is "no."*

Q22 Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this in the past week (on your own or with assistance)?
Training Issue: *Be sure that you ask respondent this question, even though you already asked before you started the survey. Hearing the survey questions may jog his/her memory. Obviously, if respondent is sure that s/he or another family member already completed a survey, either on their own or with an interviewer, politely end the interview and throw out the survey.*

IN REGIONS WHERE HOMELESS PERSONS WERE GATHERED TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY, BE SURE TO ASK THEM SPECIFICALLY IF THEY ALREADY COMPLETED A SURVEY AT A GROUP GATHERING OR MEAL.

Q23 Do you have:
This question asks if respondent has various "conditions" or problems.
Training Issue: *This question is necessary to determine chronic homelessness. Be sure to read each condition and check all that apply. If someone says "yes" to one condition, continue reading all the other conditions. If someone is not sure if they have a specific condition e.g., they don't know if they have a serious mental illness, ask them to describe their illness/symptoms/problem. See below for how to categorize.*

Serious mental illness – *if someone isn't sure if they have a serious mental illness but they mention depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder (or say that they are anxious), say they "hear voices" or say that they "can't think straight," then check "serious mental illness."*

Serious medical or physical condition *– if someone isn't sure if they have a serious medical or physical condition but they mention cancer, brain tumor, diabetes, blindness, vision problems, emphysema, severe asthma, etc., then check "serious medical or physical condition." Also check "serious medical or physical condition" if the person mentions problems with mobility such as bad back, bad knees, loss of limb, broken limb, arthritis, rheumatism, inability to walk, etc. Do NOT check "serious medical or physical condition" if someone has a problem that is not serious such as needing glasses or dental work, or if he/she has a temporary problem like a bad cold or other short-term illness. Also do NOT check "serious medical or physical condition" if someone has recovered from a major illness, such as being a cancer survivor.*

Alcohol or drug abuse *– if someone isn't sure if they abuse alcohol or drugs, but say that it has been a problem or that they stopped using in the last day/week/month, then check "alcohol or drug abuse." Also check "alcohol or drug abuse" is someone mentions an addiction to any kind of prescription drugs such as painkillers.*

Developmental disability *– if someone isn't sure if they have a developmental disability but say that they are dyslexic or that they cannot read or write, then check "developmental disability."*

HIV/AIDS *– If someone is HIV positive but says he/she does not have AIDS, check "HIV/AIDS."*

If someone isn't sure if they have one of the first five problems and, after describing their problem you don't know how to categorize their situation, check "other" and describe the problem in as much detail as possible. In addition, if someone mentions a problem that we didn't specifically ask about, check "other" and describe the problem in as much detail as possible.

Q24 Have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working since the beginning of this year?

This question asks if respondent or anyone else in his family received any money from working since the beginning of the year, that is, since January 1, 2006 through the day they are being interviewed.

Training Issue: *They should say "yes" even if the income is on the side/unreported/etc. For example, if they are getting money for temporary or day labor, including doing odd jobs, then they are working. The answer also is "yes" if whatever they are doing, they consider it to be working. Be sure to ask if anyone in their family is getting any money from working.*

Q25 Are you or anyone else in your family receiving ANY of the following government benefits?

Training Issue: *Be sure to read each type of assistance and check all that apply. If someone says "yes" to one type of assistance, continue reading all the other types of assistance. If someone is not sure if they are receiving a specific type of assistance, e.g., they don't know if they are getting money from SSI/SSDI, check "other" and describe the type of benefit they are receiving in as much detail as possible. Obviously, not all government benefits are listed, so be sure they understand that if they are receiving some other benefit, that it should be indicated under "other." If someone is receiving a benefit that you didn't mention, check "other" and describe it in as much detail as possible.*

Q26 Why did you become homeless this time?

Training Issue: *This question offers a number of options. If the respondent volunteers a reason (or several reasons), the interviewer should look for the response, confirm with the respondent that it is accurate, and check it. Read all the possible responses even if the respondent volunteers one or several reasons. If you are not sure where to put someone's response, check "other reason" and write in their response in as much detail as possible.*

Q27 In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could not get?

Training Issue: *Again, this question offers a number of options. If the respondent volunteers a service (or several services), the interviewer should look for the response, confirm with the respondent that it is accurate, and check it. Read all the possible responses even if the respondent volunteers one or several responses. If you are not sure where to put someone's response, check "other" and write in their response in as much detail as possible. The response category "Help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing" includes help getting vouchers or money to pay for eligible housing*

AGGREGATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATA

Table XX. Age - in Domestic Violence Shelters

Age Range	6-12	13-17	18-24	25-59	60+	All
Region 1	-	-	1	7	-	8
Region 2	-	-	3	33	-	36
Region 3	-	-	-	5	-	5
Region 4	-	-	-	4	-	4
Region 5	-	-	6	62	1	69
Region 6	-	-	3	8	-	11
Region 7	-	-	2	5	-	7
Region 8	-	-	-	3	-	3
Region 9	-	-	8	8	-	16
Total	**-**	**-**	**23**	**135**	**1**	**159**

Table XX. Age - Domestic Violence Shelters

Family Members - (Child/Grandchild) - Age Range	0-5	6-12	13-17	All
Region 1	5	5	1	11
Region 2	16	25	7	48
Region 3	4	6	3	13
Region 4	3	1	1	5
Region 5	27	24	11	62
Region 6	4	2	-	6
Region 7	1	-	-	1
Region 8	-	2	3	5
Region 9	10	6	-	16
Total	**70**	**71**	**29**	**170**

Table XX. Racial Background and Ethnicity - Domestic Violence Shelters

Racial Background:	Asian / Pacific Islander	Native American / Alaska Native	Black / African American	White	Mixed Race	Other	All		Respondent - Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
Region 1	-	-	1	6	1	-	8		4
Region 2	2	-	-	31	-	3	36		6
Region 3	1	-	-	4	-	-	5		2
Region 4	-	-	-	4	-	-	4		-
Region 5	2	3	14	37	8	5	69		16
Region 6	-	-	4	4	2	1	11		1
Region 7	-	-	-	5	-	2	7		2
Region 8	-	-	-	3	-	-	3		3
Region 9	-	1	-	8	6	1	16		8
Total	5	4	19	102	17	12	159		42

STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY: SUMMER, 2006
DATA ENTRY DIRECTIONS
8/30/06

GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

1. **Punch the tracking forms and the surveys in <u>TWO SEPARATE FILES</u>! All surveys will have a tracking form id (even if they were not attached to a tracking form).**

3. Open-ended responses will be entered on the survey and circled. Punch the circled responses.

4. If there is no response to a question, leave it BLANK. EXCEPTION: for questions that can have multiple responses, punch "1" if response is checked and "0" if response is NOT checked. If entire question is blank – that is, no response AT ALL is checked to the question – leave all columns for that question BLANK

5.FOR QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS IN THE TABLE BELOW: If more than one response is checked to a question that should have only one response, enter the "first" punched response the first time you encounter this situation and the "second" punched response the second time you encounter this situation, etc. Follow this pattern across surveys. This way the error is random.

6. If a numeric entry (e.g., age) is given as a range rather than a valid number (i.e, 20-25 rather than 21), enter the midpoint of the range. So, if the range is 20-25, enter age 22 or 23.

7. DON'T CORRECT INCONSISTENCIES (E.G., SOMEONE SAYS THEY STAYED WITH 5 RELATIVES LAST NIGHT (Q9) BUT ONLY LIST 3 RELATIVES FOR Q10 AND Q11). WE WILL CHECK FOR INCONSISTENCIES AND CORRECT THEM WHEN WE ANALYZE THE DATA.

DIRECTIONS FOR PUNCHING TRACKING FORMS:

NOTE: PUNCH TRACKING FORMS AND SURVEYS IN <u>SEPARATE FILES!</u> PUNCH EACH TRACKING FORM ONE TIME ONLY!		
Variable Name	**Possible Punches**	**Instructions**
Trackid	As many as needed	**PUNCH TRACKING FORM NUMBER -- IT IS ON LEFT SIDE OF TRACKING FORM.**
Attached	Whatever is written	Enter "number of attached surveys"
Counted	Whatever is written	Enter "number of homeless counted"
Month	1 through 12	Enter "month surveys or count conducted"
Day	Whatever is written	Enter "day surveys or count conducted"
Agency_t		DON'T PUNCH
Prog_t		DON'T PUNCH
Othgrp		DON'T PUNCH
City_t	As many as needed	Punch circled response
County_t	1 through 64	Use alphabetical list of counties. Punch assigned number for county
Location	As many as needed	For "specific geographic location," assign number to each unique response. Punch response #. Print out list of responses and assigned numbers.
Method1	1,0,blank	Enter "method used to complete surveys": "***interview***." Punch "1" if "interview" is checked, punch "0" if "interview" is not checked but at least 1 response to Method is checked, and leave blank if no response to "method used to complete surveys."
Method2	1,0,blank	Enter "method used to complete surveys:" "***respondents completed survey on their own.***" Punch "1" if "respondents completed on own" is checked, punch "0" if "respondents completed on own" is not checked but at least 1 response to Method is checked, and leave blank if no response to "method used to complete surveys."
Method3	1,0,blank	Enter "method used to complete surveys:" "***staff completed surveys on their own***" Punch "1" if "staff completed" is checked, punch "0" if "staff completed" is not checked but at least 1 response to Method is checked, and leave blank if no response to "method used to complete surveys."
Servewk	Whatever is written	For "**IF YOU ARE WITH AN AGENCY**," enter "unduplicated homeless clients served at this location in a typical week, etc."
Homeless	1,2,3,4	Enter "What proportion of your agency's clients are homeless." Response codes: All=1, Most=2, About half=3, Less than half=4
Undupct	Whatever is written	For "**IF YOU DID A COUNT OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS,**" enter "unduplicated homeless stay at this location in a typical week, etc."

DIRECTIONS FOR PUNCHING SURVEYS:

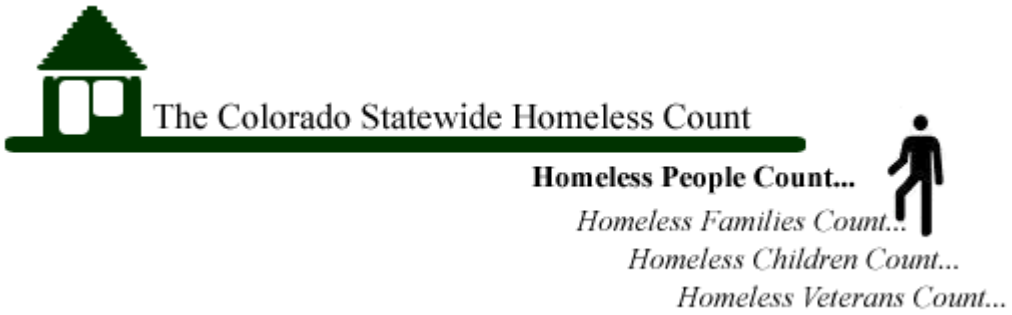
NOTE: PUNCH TRACKING FORMS AND SURVEYS IN SEPARATE FILES		
Variable Name	**Possible Punches**	**Instructions**
Trackid	As many as needed	**PUNCH TRACKING FORM NUMBER -- IT IS ON LEFT SIDE OF SURVEY.**
Surveyid	As many as needed	**PUNCH SURVEY ID NUMBER – IT IS ON RIGHT SIDE OF SURVEY.**
Agency_s	As many as needed	Punch circled response.
Prog_s	As many as needed	Punch circled response.
City_s	As many as needed	Punch circled response.
County_s	1 through 64	AT TOP OF SURVEY. Use alphabetical list of counties. Punch assigned number for county
Firstin	1 through 26	AT TOP OF SURVEY. Use alphabetical list of letters. Punch assigned number for letter.
Middlein	1 through 26	AT TOP OF SURVEY. Use alphabetical list of letters. Punch assigned number for letter.
First3let	1 through 26 times 3	AT TOP OF SURVEY. Use alphabetical list of letters. Punch assigned number for first letter of last name, second letter of last name and third letter of last name. **PUNCH AS ONE CONTINUOUS VARIABLE. DO NOT LEAVE SPACES BETWEEN FIRST 3 LETTERS OF LAST NAME.**
Birthmth	1 through 12	AT TOP OF SURVEY. Use alphabetical list of months of the year. Punch assigned number for month.
Q1	Whatever is written	
Q2	1,2	
Q3	1,2	
Q4	1,2	
Q5	1,2	
Q6	1,2	
Q7	1,2,3,4,5,6	If more than one response is checked, punch “5” for “mixed race.”
Q7other	As many as needed	For Q7, punch 6 – other – punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response.
Q8	1,2,3,4,5	If more than one response is checked, punch “99” to flag the question.
Q8other	As many as needed	For Q8, punch 5 – other – punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response.
Q9	Whatever is written	
Q10.1	Whatever is written	
Q11.1	1,2,3,4	
Q11.1oth	As many as needed	For Q11, person 1, punch 4 – other relative – punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response.
Q10.2	Whatever is written	
Q11.2	1,2,3,4	
Q11.2oth	As many as needed	For Q11, person 2 – other relative – punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response
Q10.3	Whatever is written	

NOTE: PUNCH TRACKING FORMS AND SURVEYS IN SEPARATE FILES		
Variable Name	**Possible Punches**	**Instructions**
Q11.3	1,2,3,4	
Q11.3oth	As many as needed	For Q11, person 3 – other relative -- punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response
Q10.4	Whatever is written	
Q11.4	1,2,3,4	
Q11.4oth	As many as needed	For Q11, person 4 – other relative -- punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response
Q10.5	Whatever is written	
Q11.5	1,2,3,4	
Q11.5oth	As many as needed	For Q11, person 5 – other relative – punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response
Q10.6	Whatever is written	
Q11.6	1,2,3,4	
Q11.6oth	As many as needed	For Q11, person 6 – other relative – punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response
Q12	1,2,3	
Q13	1 through 18	1) If both "7" and "8" are checked, **punch "7" here**. **DO NOT PUNCH "8"** unless it is the only box checked. 2) If more than one response is checked (other than "7" and "8"), punch "99" to flag the question.
Q13.8	1,2,3	If both "7" and "8" are checked, "7" was punched for Q13. **PUNCH 1, 2 or 3 FOR THIS QUESTION IF ONE OF THESE RESPONSES IS CHECKED. OTHERWISE, LEAVE BLANK.**
Q13other	As many as needed	For Q13, punch 18 – somewhere else – punch circled response. There will be a maximum of one response
Q14	1,2,3	
Q15	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Q16	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Q17	As many as needed	For Q17, punch circled response.
Q18	1 through 64	Use alphabetical list of counties. Punch assigned number for county.
Q19	1 through 64	Use alphabetical list of counties. Punch assigned number for county.
Q20	1,2	
Q21	1,2	
Q22.1	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "1" is checked, punch "0" if response "1" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q22 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q22 is checked.
Q22.2	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "2" is checked, punch "0" if response "2" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q22 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q22 is checked.
Q22.3	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "3" is checked, punch "0" if response "3" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q22 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q22 is checked.
Q22.4	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "4" is checked, punch "0" if response "4" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q22 is

NOTE: PUNCH TRACKING FORMS AND SURVEYS IN SEPARATE FILES		
Variable Name	**Possible Punches**	**Instructions**
		checked, and leave blank if no response to Q22 is checked.
Q22.5	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "5" is checked, punch "0" if response "5" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q22 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q22 is checked.
Q22.6	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "6" is checked, punch "0" if response "6" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q22 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q22 is checked.
Q22.7	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "7" is checked, punch "0" if response "7" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q22 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q22 is checked.
Q22oth1	As many as needed	For Q22, punch 6 – other -- punch FIRST circled response.
Q22oth2	As many as needed	For Q22, punch 6 – other -- punch SECOND circled response.
Q22oth3	As many as needed	For Q22, punch 6 – other -- punch THIRD circled response.
Q23	1,2	
Q24.1	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "1" is checked, punch "0" if response "1" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q24 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q24 is checked.
Q24.2	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "2" is checked, punch "0" if response "2" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q24 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q24 is checked.
Q24.3	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "3" is checked, punch "0" if response "3" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q24 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q24 is checked.
Q24.4	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "4" is checked, punch "0" if response "4" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q24 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q24 is checked.
Q24.5	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "5" is checked, punch "0" if response "5" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q24 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q24 is checked.
Q24.6	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "6" is checked, punch "0" if response "6" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q24 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q24 is checked.
Q25.1	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "1" is checked, punch "0" if response "1" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.2	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "2" is checked, punch "0" if response "2" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.3	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "3" is checked, punch "0" if response "3" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.4	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "4" is checked, punch "0" if response "4" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.5	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "5" is checked, punch "0" if response "5" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.

NOTE: PUNCH TRACKING FORMS AND SURVEYS IN SEPARATE FILES		
Variable Name	**Possible Punches**	**Instructions**
Q25.6	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "6" is checked, punch "0" if response "6" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.7	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "7" is checked, punch "0" if response "7" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.8	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "8" is checked, punch "0" if response "8" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.9	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "9" is checked, punch "0" if response "9" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.10	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "10" is checked, punch "0" if response "10" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.11	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "11" is checked, punch "0" if response "11" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.12	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "12" is checked, punch "0" if response "12" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.13	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "13" is checked, punch "0" if response "13" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25.14	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "14" is checked, punch "0" if response "14" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q25 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q25 is checked.
Q25oth1	As many as needed	For Q25, punch 14 – other – punch FIRST circled response
Q25oth2	As many as needed	For Q25, punch 14 – other – punch SECOND circled response
Q25oth3	As many as needed	For Q25, punch 14 – other – punch THIRD circled response
Q26.1	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "1" is checked, punch "0" if response "1" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.2	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "2" is checked, punch "0" if response "2" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.3	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "3" is checked, punch "0" if response "3" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.4	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "4" is checked, punch "0" if response "4" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.5	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "5" is checked, punch "0" if response "5" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.6	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "6" is checked, punch "0" if response "6" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.

NOTE: PUNCH TRACKING FORMS AND SURVEYS IN SEPARATE FILES		
Variable Name	**Possible Punches**	**Instructions**
Q26.7	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "7" is checked, punch "0" if response "7" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.8	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "8" is checked, punch "0" if response "8" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.9	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "9" is checked, punch "0" if response "9" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.10	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "10" is checked, punch "0" if response "10" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.11	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "11" is checked, punch "0" if response "11" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.12	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "12" is checked, punch "0" if response "12" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.13	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "13" is checked, punch "0" if response "13" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26.14	1,0 or blank	Punch "1" if response "14" is checked, punch "0" if response "14" is not checked but at least 1 response to Q26 is checked, and leave blank if no response to Q26 is checked.
Q26oth1	As many as needed	For Q26, punch 14 – other – punch FIRST circled response
Q26oth2	As many as needed	For Q26, punch 14 – other – punch SECOND circled response
Q26oth3	As many as needed	For Q26, punch 14 – other – punch THIRD circled response



Web survey development and distribution

In September 2006 National Research Center, Inc. (NRC), drafted a debrief Web survey for distribution to all regional and county coordinators, agency staff and volunteers. Tracey O'Brien and Laura Appelbaum at the University of Colorado at Denver and Lynn Shine and Connie Campos from the Colorado Division of Housing provided feedback. The final Web survey link was e-mailed to all regional and county coordinators on Tuesday, September 19th and again on Thursday, September 28th. Regional and county coordinators were instructed to forward the Web survey link to everyone that helped with the Colorado Statewide Point-in-Time Homeless Count. In addition, all regional and county coordinators were asked to copy NRC on survey distribution. Despite several requests for distribution information, not all regional or county coordinators responded therefore a response rate can not be calculated. While the total number of surveys distributed is unknown, records indicate that the survey was distributed to at least 428 e-mail addresses and 89 surveys were completed online.

Web survey results

In what capacity did you participate in the Statewide Homeless Count?	Total	
Regional coordinator	6%	N=5
County coordinator	28%	N=25
Agency staff	43%	N=33
Local Volunteer	24%	N=21
Total	100%	N=89

Of the persons you personally tried to interview or distribute surveys to, what is your best estimate of those who were willing to participate?	Total	
None	8%	N=7
A few	14%	N=12
Some	19%	N=16
Most	37%	N=31
All	20%	N=17
Total	100%	N=83

What are the 2 or 3 most frequently given reasons or your observation for not participating?	Total*	
Concern for privacy	43%	N=13
No reason given	37%	N=11
Value of participating	30%	N=9
"Other"	30%	N=9
Time required to complete the survey	13%	N=4
Respondent exhibited signs of mental illness	10%	N=3
Respondent appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs	7%	N=2

*Total is equal to more than 100% as respondents could select up to three responses; thirty respondents selected reasons.

- *We did not find any people along the riverbank to talk with, just evidence of people living there (food, sleeping bags, etc.)*
- *Respondents said they did enough surveys and didn't see the point, not exactly "what's in it for me," more, "I can't be bothered."*
- *THE PEOPLE WHO CAME IN WERE NOT HOMELESS AND THEREFORE DIDN'T SEE THE BENEFIT OF TAKING A HOMELESS SURVEY*
- *Would respond with "I'm not homeless" and walk off.*
- *Bent County did not have any known homeless people on the day of the count.*

- *Here are some of the comments of people regarding this project: Why are we continuing to take surveys and not provide people that are homeless with homes, why not use the time, money & energy to build affordable housing for all people. Isn't there a lot of money made off the misery of poor people in all these service jobs.*

- *We had no homeless at the time of the survey.*

- *We had no questionnaires filled out as we did not run across any homeless*

In general, did survey respondents find each of the following survey questions clear or confusing?

3. Have you served in the U.S. Military? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No	Total	
Clear	100%	N=81
Confusing	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=81

No comments

4. Are you a seasonal resort worker? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No	Total	
Clear	85%	N=70
Confusing	16%	N=12
Total	100%	N=82

- *Because they did not understand what a seasonal resort worker does.*

- *We don't have any seasonal resort workers and some interviewees didn't know what a seasonal resort worker was so then we had to take the time to explain it*

- *Farm workers seemed to be confused with the word "resort"*

- *We have a lot of seasonal jobs in the Aspen/Glenwood Springs area but they are not all resort jobs. Many are construction.*

- *Some people were not clear as to what seasonal worker meant. Just needed it clarified.*
- *Confusion with seasonal farm worker. Doesn't make sense in our area of the state.*
- *Hard to describe if respondent had a question*
- *Many do not know what a seasonal resort worker is.*
- *Some people didn't know what the definition of a seasonal worker really was.*
- *Limiting the seasonal work to resorts is a problem, people work seasonal jobs in National Parks for concessionaires & for the Park Service, also for the Forest Service (firefighting) etc, etc, etc.*
- *Some had no idea what this was talking about.*

5. Are you a seasonal or year-round farm worker? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No	Total	
Clear	96%	N=78
Confusing	4%	N=3
Total	100%	N=81

- *We don't have any seasonal or year-round farm workers. Some interviewees didn't know what a seasonal/year-round farm worker was so we had to explain it - which just wasted time*
- *This one can be considered a possible immigration screening.*
- *Some thought it was strange to ask this given where they were living.*

6. Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No	Total	
Clear	91%	N=74
Confusing	9%	N=7
Total	100%	N=81

- *People wanted to know why they would be "considered" Hispanic/Latino. Why didn't the question read," Are you Hispanic/Latino?"*
- *Many think/feel the three are the same*
- *Someone could believe that it was a choice of the three and then respond "Mexican".*
- *Missed race, ethnicity or country in the same statement. Should have been Spanish or Hispanic or ...*
- *Why only these people was the question many people asked.*
- *Definition lacking*
- *Some identifying with all of these did not feel that they were only one ethnic group.*

7. Which one category best describes your racial background? (Check only ONE response)	Total	
Clear	79%	N=63
Confusing	21%	N=17
Total	100%	N=80

- *As the Hispanic/Latino/Spanish section is separated out from the others, this is always a source of questions and a bit of confusion. We (staff included) don't fully understand HUD's reasoning for the distinction.*
- *Because the previous question asked if the person considered themselves Spanish or Latino and that option wasn't on question 7.*
- *Some people did not want to consider themselves anything and the Hispanics did not find a category that they wanted to be in.*
- *4 clients who describe themselves as Hispanic or Latino, do not describe themselves also as white*
- *Spanish/Latino/Hispanic was not on the next question*
- *Did not include the option of being Hispanic or Latino when they could have said "yes" to the previous question.*

- *Nearly all of my clients are Latinos, few of whom speak English. They are also nearly all of "mixed blood", that is to say, of Spanish and Mesoamerican Indian descent. However, conventionally the term "Indio" carries stigma, and nearly all also would call themselves "White". So to answer yes to being "Mixed Race" is an insult to them, and the results among this large new homeless population will absolutely skew that question's results.*

- *Mexicans don't consider themselves white. Some thought they should be listed under mixed race or other.*

- *Hispanic people do not understand that they are lumped in with whites and/or native Americans for racial purposes.*

- *Population answering questions are vague with information.*

- *Because the Hispanic/Latino qualification was a separate question.*

- *Ethnic/racial terminology very confusing. Where is Hispanic in this list?*

- *Needs explanation regarding Hispanic included under White*

- *4 people again answered Hispanic*

- *Need to put Hispanic as a separate category.*

- *What is meant by "mixed race" This is where the Hispanic/Latino put themselves.*

- *Again, people of diverse ethnic origin were confounded with the names.*

8. What is your situation? Are you: (Check only ONE response)	Total	
Clear	84%	N=68
Confusing	16%	N=13
Total	100%	N=81

- *Didn't like the part of the question "what is your situation?" Why couldn't we just ask: Are you...?*

- *Always confusing! By itself this is clear but then combining it with 10 & 11 makes it complicated.*

- *Current situation. 4 had children and spouses still in foreign country and wanted to put them in the answer.*

- *If they aren't legally single, but their spouse have left them can they still say they're single? or if they are legally single, but they're leaving with their boyfriend can they still say they are single since they're legally single?*

- *Some interviewers would not write them down as a couple, if they were not legally married.*

- *IT WAS NOT SPECIFIC TO WHAT IS THEIR CURRENT LIVING SITUATION, UNTIL WE EXPLAINED EXACTLY WHAT WAS MEANT*

- *The respondents sometimes wanted to argue over the limited choices. For example, even if their children were living with and ex-spouse, they might still want to be considered a single parent with kids.*

- *Single people wanted to mention boyfriends/girlfriends. As they were emotionally part of a couple.*

- *The way the question was phrased was confusing. Prefacing the question as "What is your situation?" was not a clear way in which to begin questioning individuals' living or family status.*

- *There were other categories of families and some respondents didn't know how to answer this.*

- *Would have been easier for them to answer as separate questions about couple and about kids.*

- *Some people thought that their family was a combination that was part of a couple possible answers.*

- *The parent was separated from the child at the time of the survey, not sure if they qualified as single.*

9. Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you last night?	**Total**	
Clear	79%	N=65
Confusing	21%	N=17
Total	100%	N=82

- *Many thought that this only included their immediate family.*

- *Maybe it should have been worded as to whether or not they were sharing the same home as opposed to spending time together.*
- *Did it mean relative they were considering as dependents or just relatives they happened to be staying with etc.*
- *Define relatives.*
- *What is considered to be a family member? Cousins, grandparents, grandchild or etc.*
- *It was a question people need to have repeated and explained.*
- *People tend to "couch surf" and the situation changes day by day.*
- *Somewhat confusing! Had to explain that this referred to those who spent overnight.*
- *In the city of Montrose some will take "you with" last night as a sexual innuendo.*
- *Because people answered it counting folks that were with them that were not homeless. For example, we had a homeless woman with child temporarily staying with mother and father. While she met the criteria for "homeless", her mother and father didn't...but she did spend last night with them. Better to ask how many homeless people did you spend the night with.*
- *Not all were homeless. Staying with relatives or someone else's home*
- *Those that are homeless with you or all those sleeping where you slept?*
- *This question should have said HOMELESS relatives*
- *Family is not always easy to define, particularly with Native Americans.*
- *Who are family members and who are just friends was one way of participating in this question. Then thinking about others makes no sense.*

Questions 10-11: Please complete this table for all the relatives who were with you last night. INCLUDE any children who are usually with you but who spent last night some place else. DO NOT INCLUDE YOURSELF!	Total	
Clear	88%	N=71
Confusing	12%	N=10
Total	100%	N=81

- *The first part says relatives who were with you, then you say children who spent the night somewhere else.*

- *WE ADMINISTERED THE SURVEY TO THE CLIENTS, THEY DIDN'T FILL THEM OUT THEMSELVES, SO IT WAS CONFUSING TO TRY AND GET THE POINT OF THE QUESTION ACROSS WITHOUT JUST HANDING THE SURVEY OVER TO THE CLIENT. ALSO PEOPLE WEREN'T SURE WHETHER TO INCLUDE SPOUSES OR NOT.*

- *The population we are dealing with is intimidated by just the look of this table. There is no way they could complete this table without assistance from an interviewer.*

- *Same confusion for question above*

- *n/a*

- *Wording and choices both were confusing. Placement of the word AGE. Why not just "age of person". What if an adult child was with parent? Mother & Father seem to be more than relatives, so other relative did not seem to fit.*

- *RESPONDANTS FILLED THIS ONE OUT DIFFERENTLY AND i HAD TO GO BACK OVER IT WITH THEM AND CORRECT*

- *Really difficult to get the entire grid filled out in some cases.*

12. Do you have a permanent place to live? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No 3❑ Don't know	**Total**	
Clear	80%	N=66
Confusing	20%	N=16
Total	100%	N=82

- *Confusion about what was meant by "permanent place to live" if they are, in fact, homeless.*

- *Needed a little explanation in some cases. Some clients aren't thinking really long term.*

- *Permanent was confusing to some people.*

- *Some people consider under a bridge a permanent place to live*

- *By itself this question is clear but again combining it with Q13 makes it complicated*

- *Mexico was the "permanent place to live", but here in the states, they had no place.*

- *The idea of a permanent place to live needs to be defined. Various people I spoke with didn't know how to define a month-to-month lease, esp. if it involved violations (e.g., more people than allowed) that could subject them to getting kicked out.*

- *Some people weren't sure what construed "permanent," i.e. if leasing an apartment, were they permanently going to live there?*

- *Again, the question was clear, but the respondents wanted to say that living in a tent on BLM was a permanent situation and therefore not homeless.*

- *Even though they said they had a permanent place to live, the were living with relatives because they had no other place to go.*

- *They were unsure if places like living under a bridge counted.*

- *Placement of this one got lost. Even some of those who trained on how to conduct surveys missed it.*

- *Some of the people go back and forth between a permanent place with relatives. Also some of the permanent housing that they have is unsuitable for habitation.*

- *Definition of "permanent" not understood.*

- *Many answered "don't know" because they weren't sure how to define "permanent."*

- *Some folks considered the SRO permanent.*

13. Where will you/where did you spend the night of *Monday, August 28th*? (Check ONE response)	**Total**	
Clear	90%	N=72
Confusing	10%	N=8
Total	100%	N=80

- *Will you/did and then a date.*

- *There were too many choices and the people forgot what the choices were. Had to go back and repeat many times.*

- *Long list hard to get through with the interviewee. Some of my interviewee live in an apartment/house and that is not a choice.*

- *Again, it was the way the question looked. The person would be intimidated and absolutely would need assistance from an interviewer.*
- *They were confused about whether a place was considered to be transitional or supportive housing.*
- *Too many choices....needed to be read to some.*
- *Way too much information and hard to understand if you have a language or disability issue.*
- *Lacking definition of each type of facility. For us it was easy because they are all with our agency.*

14. In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are staying? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No 3❑ Don't know	Total	
Clear	94%	N=76
Confusing	6%	N=5
Total	100%	N=81

- *It was confusing because most of them were homeless or in a constant change of where they find a place to stay.*
- *Some people don't know what's happening next week.*
- *Many are near eviction, but not sure when it will actually happen.*
- *Everyone wanted to know why the one month eviction didn't qualify.*
- *The question was clear but in my opinion uses derogatory language "being thrown out". Could use are you being asked to leave.*

15. Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years? (Check only ONE response)	Total	
Clear	85%	N=68
Confusing	15%	N=12
Total	100%	N=80

- *Permanent needs to be better broken down or defined for them.*

- *Its just a confusing question, not really easy to ask or explain.*
- *For people who have been in an on-going homeless state for the entire year, it doesn't seem right for that to be counted as 1 incident. Can't it be quantified in terms of time also?*
- *Was hard for them to remember.*
- *Again this is combined with 16 so I got an answer of "Never" in Q15 and "1 to 3 years" for Q16! Or the opposite Q15 - 4, Q16 "I am not homeless".*
- *Some people have been homeless continuously for several years. Wrote those in the space provided.*
- *See previous comment on "permanent".*
- *I marked confusing only because some people had a difficult time figuring out how many times they had been homeless.*
- *Some folks have been homeless for three years or more, so to put once as the answer confused some people.*
- *Just wordy & hard to understand.*
- *Some of the people couldn't remember the number of times that they were homeless. Put in don't know.*
- *Permanent place to live not well defined.*

16. How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time? (Check only ONE response)	Total	
Clear	91%	N=73
Confusing	9%	N=7
Total	100%	N=80

- *Whether it's in a tent or under a bridge - it's permanent.*
- *It was hard for them to remember, but I guess that's part of it. Having to repeat questions and answers over and over is fine if that's what it takes.*

- *We had people living in Sheds and pigsty's....they considered it HOME and were therefore not homeless. But by our standards....yes*

- *See #15 response. The very wording of the question contradicts the definition of "permanent place to live".*

- *Again, some of the folks have ongoing homelessness - and like it this way. They did not consider themselves homeless, but yet, by definition, they are.*

- *Here is where you can be stopped in continuing to get answers for this survey. It is offensive to many people and underlining THIS TIME adds to that insensitivity.*

- *Permanent place to live means.....????*

17. In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006? _____ (Fill in city/town name)	Total	
Clear	99%	N=79
Confusing	1%	N=1
Total	100%	N=80

- *again, those slashes are confusing.*

18. In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, August 28, 2006? _____ (Fill in county name)	Total	
Clear	95%	N=76
Confusing	5%	N=4
Total	100%	N=80

- *Do homeless people know or care about the county?*

- *Only if they didn't know the county name. The interviewer can help them with that if they know it.*

- *Some people read this as Country and I got answers of "USA". I feel this is superfluous. 4 of us can figure out the county by knowing the city.*

- *Our families didn't KNOW what COUNTY they were in....*

19. What was the last county (if outside Colorado, what state) you considered your permanent place to live? _____ (Fill in county or state name)	Total	
Clear	90%	N=73
Confusing	10%	N=8
Total	100%	N=80

- *You are asking two questions in one.*
- *I got the weirdest answers on this sometimes I got previous city (w/in or w/out of CO), sometimes previous county (w/in or w/out of CO) and sometimes previous state (w/in or w/out of CO). I also got lots of questions the interviewee didn't understand the question.*
- *Mexico was considered home.*
- *THE WORDING WAS A LITTLE CONFUSING WITH THE WHOLE "(IF OUTSIDE OF COLORADO)" IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SENTENCE INSTEAD OF AT THE END*
- *n/a*
- *Placement of the phrase (if outside Colorado ...) confused many. Why not at the end of question to clarify.*
- *Might need a time frame for this one.*
- *The word county and the word country were often confused.*

20. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No	Total	
Clear	91%	N=73
Confusing	9%	N=7
Total	100%	N=80

- *Even if you are placed with another family member, some people don't consider that out-of-home, because they are with family and get to see their parents.*
- *Explanation was needed on the term out-of-placement*

- *The question was asked, "what other kind of out of home placement?" Clients thought maybe they weren't able to think of what you meant.*

- *Some people do not know the answer. They may have stayed with relatives or been placed by an agency, but they do not know for sure.*

- *Asked, "Why is this necessary?"*

- *This one had to be explained and clarified to some.*

- *Had question in training about how to answer if person had run away from home as a child, but not been placed. I believe this is important information, too, as older children are often not placed when younger ones would be for same reason. I understand that maybe that's not the research link they were looking at?*

21. Did you or another family member already complete a survey like this yesterday or today (on your own or with assistance)? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No	Total	
Clear	96%	N=76
Confusing	4%	N=3
Total	100%	N=79

- *Too many questions within a question to have just a yes or no.*

- *This was just annoying to ask in the middle of the surveying process*

- *They weren't sure they could answer for other family members or just what was meant by family?*

22. Do you think you have, or have you been told you have: (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)	Total	
Clear	90%	N=74
Confusing	10%	N=8
Total	100%	N=82

- *Two questions in a question.*

- *Not sure many of them would be willing to admit these problems.*

- *People got caught up on the word "serious". Also people didn't like "abuse" preferred "dependence"*

- *People are reluctant to answer this question.*

- *Who does this go to? Why is this question important? Do I have to answer this question?*

- *I don't think the word SERIOUS should have been used. The people I interviewed were offended by that word. They would say they have some mental health issues, but when you throw in the word SERIOUS they would change their answers and say no, they had no mental illness.*

- *They were unsure what a serious mental illness was. Also, they were unsure what they could or should put under other.*

- *A quote from a participant: "how sick is sick?"*

23. Have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working since the beginning of this year? 1❑ Yes 2❑ No	Total	
Clear	90%	N=74
Confusing	10%	N=8
Total	100%	N=82

- *Received money from working is a little wordy. Maybe "earned income from a job" or something like that.*

- *Do you mean immediate or extended family. My family may be homeless, but my brother and his family are gainfully employed.*

- *WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE FAMILY UNIT? PARENTS OF THE PERSON BEING INTERVIEWED, ETC?*

- *Some interviewee asked me if "any else" could be a distant relative. Because some relative in their family did work.*

- *Once people thought about the question it was clear but the wording is confusing. Perhaps something like: in the last year have you received money from working?*

- *Questioned why they were asked, as most were farm workers and work is at best sparse, depending on season.*
- *Some respondents received payments "under the table" and were concerned as to how to answer the question.*
- *Only because it was worded a little strange - had to think what it was asking*

24. Are you or anyone else in your family receiving ANY of the following government benefits? (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	Total	
Clear	91%	N=74
Confusing	9%	N=7
Total	100%	N=81

- *Again, immediate or extended*
- *DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE LETTERS STOOD FOR*
- *A write in would have been helpful here - AND, CICP,...*
- *Many could not answer for other members of their families.*
- *Acronyms can be confusing if another name is used to describe benefit programs.*
- *Why not have none of the above as an option also. Then you know the question was asked not missed.*
- *Participants answering questions seemed unsure what programs are.*

25. Why did you become homeless this time? (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	Total	
Clear	93%	N=74
Confusing	8%	N=6
Total	100%	N=80

- *Many wanted to include situations from past homeless experiences. They were usually interconnected to some extent.*
- *Too many choices. Might be easier if the person being interviewed just tell the interviewer the reason and he/she can write down their response.*

- *List too long. Confusing because they would enter 1. I am not homeless and then continue to select other issues they are having.*

- *I am not homeless as a first response threw people off. If they truly were not homeless, they made that clear at q 15 and 16 and ended the survey.*

- *It is insensitive to the person being asked - Why This Time - (as if you have failed yet again). Ask their view of what the causes are in their situation.*

- *Too long was the response and then, the survey is too long and not enough help is offered ever for us to get off the street. If seems that all you ever do is ask questions.*

26. In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could NOT get? (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	Total	
Clear	90%	N=73
Confusing	10%	N=8
Total	100%	N=81

- *Immediate or extended?*

- *Wording was complicate and had to be repeated*

- *I felt with this question the interviewees just answered what services they wanted NOT necessarily what services they tried to get in the past month.*

- *These items took time and needed to be explained item by item, in some cases.*

- *'need but could not get' - does that mean could not find a place to sign up for something or could not get in that they were not qualified to receive any assistance?*

- *Why just in the last month?*

- *People had applied for benefits, and the application process was available to them, but the benefit was not yet. So they didn't know how to answer.*

- *Do not understand question and too elaborate. Often, why answer this at all.*

Did you find each of the following tracking form questions clear or confusing?

NUMBER OF ATTACHED SURVEYS: _____ IF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS COUNT, NUMBER OF HOMELESS COUNTED: _____ Did you actually count or is this an estimate? (Check one) __ Count __ Estimate DATE SURVEYS OR COUNT CONDUCTED: _____	Total	
Clear	85%	N=73
Confusing	15%	N=13
Total	100%	N=86

- *The second question was misleading because some were not totally homeless, but staying with different people or at different locations each day.*
- *What's the difference in Unsheltered Homeless and Homeless. Homeless is homeless.*
- *IF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS COUNT,...is very confusing*
- *UNSHELTERED homeless....couldn't decipher meaning or intent....*
- *Not sure what question really meant*
- *The difference between count and surveyed*
- *Unsheltered homeless count... was confusing, i.e. at a homeless shelter, where all who are staying there were homeless, several people declined, and the volunteer was unsure as to whether to tally them and report on this part b/c they actually were "sheltered."*
- *There needed to be attached to the survey and a separate form for counts and/or estimates.*
- *Why is the second question put in with the other ? Very, very confusing. And the word count, how do you really mean that?*
- *Need a little more time for the count. Some people came late to do the survey. Unsheltered are difficult to contact and count. I received a good definite count however of the unsheltered from our town Police Officer. I also went by my records at the food bank as I know who are unsheltered sometimes.*

- *It needed to be more specific. Since we were charged with surveying the campgrounds we had the task of trying to get info from some of the hosts who (in some cases) were not willing to tell us anything about their tenants or let us survey them. If there were more specific items to choose from it would have been easier to develop questions to ask these "gatekeepers."*

- *The term "unsheltered" was confusing. I did not know what kind of distinction was being made. Homeless is homeless--sheltered or unsheltered.*

Every agency or other group should complete the following information: Agency: _____Program (if applicable): _____ Other Group (not an agency): _____	**Total**	
Clear	94%	N=79
Confusing	6%	N=5
Total	100%	N=84

- *WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM PORTION STAND FOR?*

- *Where do individual volunteers place their name?*

- *Many agencies and groups did not know what to put in the space indicating which program.*

- *What's the difference between a group and an agency?*

- *We had two different agencies working together so one felt they weren't being "credited" with the work as the other because there was only one space for "agency."*

Location where surveys were distributed: City/town: _____ County: _____ OR specific geographic location if rural (e.g. woods near Montrose): _____	**Total**	
Clear	100%	N=84
Confusing	0%	N=0
Total	100%	N=84

No comments

Method used to complete surveys: Surveys were completed by: (Check **all that apply**) ___Interview ___Respondents completed surveys on their own (with or without staff assistance) ___Staff completed surveys on their own	**Total**	
Clear	98%	N=82
Confusing	2%	N=2
Total	100%	N=84

- *I was told at the workshop not to complete a survey if the person is not present. I did help those who needed help to fill it out.*

IF YOU ARE WITH AN AGENCY, PLEASE ANSWER: How many **unduplicated** HOMELESS clients do you serve ***at this location*** in a typical ***week*** in August, 2006? Please give your best estimate. _____ What proportion of your agency's clients are homeless? ___All ___ About half ___Most ___ Less than half	**Total**	
Clear	89%	N=74
Confusing	11%	N=9
Total	100%	N=83

- *Do you mean that even though you might see them more once in a week, you only count them once.*
- *This isn't so confusing as it is difficult to answer!*
- *We provide support services. Many are homeless and we serve approximately 250 families weekly. I've have had families sleep on the floor in our building at times for lack of housing...but in general, we do not provide on site housing.*
- *Is unduplicated homeless the same person or the same type of assistance given to someone else?*
- *Wasn't really confusing so much as it was not always answered.*
- *It is difficult to know how many unduplicated clients are served at a particular agency because many agencies do not track which clients have housing needs.*
- *No One ever got this one straight.*

- *Many people gave number served in a typical month, not week.*

- *Why August? More people come to our agency in the cold months. In warm months, people are willing to camp out.*

IF YOU DID A COUNT OF THE UNSHELTERED HOMELESS, PLEASE ANSWER: How many **unduplicated** HOMELESS clients stay ***at this location*** in a typical week in August, 2006? Please give your best estimate. _____	**Total**	
Clear	89%	N=71
Confusing	11%	N=9
Total	100%	N=80

- *Same issue.*

- *I am not sure what this means...*

- *At the time of the survey, I had a family of 10 sleeping on the floor of our Center. but we had over 60 families served that week who were in places considered unsuitable for habitation.*

- *see #61.*

- *Same as the other. I have no idea what you're getting at.*

- *I don't have a specific location where people stay.*

- *Again, people tend to answer in monthly amount, not weekly.*

- *Again, why August? Why not November?*

- *Same as above. What was the difference between sheltered and unsheltered, and why was that an important distinction?*

How useful were each of the following in preparing you for the Statewide Homeless Count?

	Very Useful		Somewhat Useful		Not Useful		Total	
Training materials (e.g., survey guide, logistics, etc.)	62%	N=49	37%	N=29	1%	N=1	100%	N=79
Day of the count packet	59%	N=44	35%	N=26	5%	N=4	100%	N=74
Press release template	33%	N=19	38%	N=22	29%	N=17	100%	N=58
Website	33%	N=18	56%	N=30	11%	N=6	100%	N=54
Regional Coordinator Checklist	52%	N=23	39%	N=17	9%	N=4	100%	N=44
County Coordinator Checklist	48%	N=27	46%	N=26	5%	N=3	100%	N=56

Note: "Don't Knows" and "Not Applicable" have been removed from the analysis

I wanted more training on...

- *Who to approach, how to tell if someone is homeless,*
- *More guidance on where to go, where to look. Training I attended was great.*
- *Seemed very disjointed at the highest level*
- *Possibly overall methodology*
- *Working with oppositions.*
- *How to reach the camping population/those living in the woods*
- *How to get survey information from schools, i.e. did the Homeless Liaison need to get a survey from adult family members, or would it be ok from the student's perspective? (I'm guessing the family member for liability and duplication purposes) Also ideas for best practices for surveying homeless people at hotel/motels.*
- *nothing*

- *none*
- *n/a*
- *Administering the survey*
- *The main problem I experienced was lack of communication with my county coordinator and other members in our own and surrounding counties. The most helpful and reliable information came from Josephine our regional coordinator. She worked very hard to keep everyone informed the best she could. I wish everyone else would have been like her. I wound up just working on my own, and that worked out for the best in the end.*
- *Logistics of the survey and some of the paperwork.*
- *It was adequate for my interests and experiences.*

Please tell us how easy or difficult it was to accomplish the following Homeless Count activities:

	Very easy		Somewhat easy		Somewhat difficult		Very difficult		Total	
Identifying locations/populations for survey administration	26%	N=19	35%	N=26	24%	N=18	15%	N=11	100%	N=74
Getting agencies that serve the homeless to participate	26%	N=15	36%	N=21	31%	N=18	7%	N=4	100%	N=58
Recruiting volunteers	14%	N=7	47%	N=24	24%	N=12	16%	N=8	100%	N=51
Training agency staff and volunteers	32%	N=18	56%	N=32	12%	N=7	0%	N=0	100%	N=57
Getting cooperation of law enforcement, forestry, etc.	31%	N=15	35%	N=17	27%	N=13	8%	N=4	100%	N=49
Publicizing the count in your community or county	33%	N=13	54%	N=21	13%	N=5	0%	N=0	100%	N=39
Communicating with the press	52%	N=16	42%	N=13	6%	N=2	0%	N=0	100%	N=31
Getting donations of	16%	N=3	42%	N=8	26%	N=5	16%	N=3	100%	N=19

Please tell us how easy or difficult it was to accomplish the following Homeless Count activities:

	Very easy		Somewhat easy		Somewhat difficult		Very difficult		Total	
survey incentives										
Distributing training materials	48%	N=19	45%	N=18	8%	N=3	0%	N=0	100%	N=40
Downloading the survey from the Website	62%	N=34	29%	N=16	4%	N=2	5%	N=3	100%	N=55
Inserting agency information at the top of the survey	75%	N=43	19%	N=11	5%	N=3	0%	N=0	100%	N=57
Distributing the Survey	41%	N=22	41%	N=22	19%	N=10	0%	N=	100%	N=54
Collecting completed surveys	56%	N=30	33%	N=18	9%	N=5	2%	N=1	100%	N=54
Tracking survey submission	68%	N=27	30%	N=12	3%	N=1	0%	N=0	100%	N=40
Delivering surveys to the Division of Housing	75%	N=33	20%	N=9	5%	N=2	0%	N=0	100%	N=44
Locating the information needed on the Website	49%	N=20	41%	N=17	5%	N=2	5%	N=2	100%	N=41
Using special events/gatherings to recruit respondents	46%	N=6	54%	N=7	0%	N=0	0%	N=0	100%	N=13

Note: "Don't Knows" and "Not Applicable" have been removed from the analysis

Please explain why "identifying locations/populations for survey administration" was difficult.

- *Because it was still light, we couldn't tell if someone was homeless or not. 4 people look pretty much the same in daylight, unless of course they are carrying a bedroll and pushing a cart with all their worldly possessions. I didn't want to offend non-homeless persons.*

- *I just don't feel the count was too accurate because we were unable to reach a lot of people we typically serve during a month's time or a sporadic basis. People are scattered and often are loners.*

- *Our area is too vast to locate encampments. And, the temperatures dropped that night and we believe some of our homeless people found couches instead of living in the woods.*

- *I live in a community where it's not obvious. The homeless folks are out of site, out of mind. Putting our heads together we came up with a few locations but many of them didn't pan out. It would have been good to do more research on the front end so that we knew we were at least trying places that were more likely to have folks there than others.*

- *Some locations were given to us but not enough to fill the 4 hours we were out there.*

- *Just because there were so many. I can't tell you the number of phone calls/emails etc. that I made!*

- *Because we are rural.*

- *We have a lot of people who camp in our area but in the summer they do not all congregate in the same area and the camps are spread out. We do not have a homeless shelter. I was glad to hear that the survey is going to be held in the winter. We will be able to capture more people at our soup kitchen then.*

- *ONLY ONE DAY!!!!!!! Seemed very impracticable for the number of REAL homeless encountered over TIME... A month of a COUNT would seem more realistic.*

- *Some of the homeless in this region are in very remote areas i.e., county parks, canyons etc.*

- *Agencies did not want to participate in a survey again so soon.*

- *The survey did not necessarily apply to our organization but we were required to fill out the surveys regardless.*

- *Homeless people do not frequent many of the locations we chose.*

- *My group was focusing on homeless teens, who try very hard to look "normal" and blend in with their surroundings. They are also more apt to resist being identified for fear of being reported to social service agencies who may place them in a group home, foster home, etc. Also, some of them are homeless because they ran away from abusive living situations and are afraid of being sent back.*

- *The homeless population in our area like to remain anonymous so if is difficult to locate them, the weather was also in climate.*

- *Because of the vastness of the area covered. Could not reach all the homeless. Also was not sure that another town or person was covering the area.*

- *The homeless population is an elusive group. So, by that it is difficult to get the word out. There are many families doubling up with other families that were not aware of the count.*

- *It is not always known where homeless are residing*

- *You can not possibly specify a certain time or location when homeless persons are going to gather*

- *Don't usually see the homeless during work day. 4 don't want to be "found."*

- *There are many possible locations, identifying which would be the best place was challenging. Also having enough volunteers to cover the locations was difficult.*

- *Because we are a rural area without a homeless population.*

- *I don't know where a lot of the homeless people live. They move around with friends, relatives. They come to me for food. The police and sheriff departments have a better idea of where they live.*

- *Rural area*

- *We rarely run across a homeless person in out county*

- *To some of us in agencies we consider certain people to be homeless but they don't consider themselves to be homeless.*

Please explain why "getting agencies that serve the homeless to participate" was difficult.

- *Some of the agencies in my area just really did not want to do the homeless count. They thought it was just more work.*

- *Instructions and materials were late in coming*

- *They hadn't heard about the survey and weren't sure they wanted to do it.*

- *Many agencies are "too busy" and/or like to believe there is no problem.*

- *Some persons that were supposed to be helping the homeless or disabled did not seem to put their heart into this survey. Some said that there was no homeless in the area when, in fact, there was.*

- *Some people were leary of homeless stereotypes. Some people were leary of asking questions that may offend someone else.*

- *Agency representatives often reported, "We don't really serve homeless persons," when looking at the definition for purposes of the count, they actually did. But the time it took to educate people on this was not anticipated. Some agencies really didn't want anything to do with it, and gave rise to speculation about protectiveness of their clients, staff time costs, etc?*

- *Some agencies would not acknowledge we have Homeless. We are constantly updating, educating community to broaden their understanding of homelessness.*

- *I think that some didn't take this as a priority.*

- *Agencies felt it was too close to the previous count we had in January.*

- *4 agency had a stereotyped version of the term homeless and questioned the need for their participation. Other agencies lacked the resources to cooperate effectively.*

- *Several agencies in Larimer County that serve a high number of homeless just didn't seem to see the potential benefit of their participation. It seemed so shortsighted on their part. I know agencies struggle to meet their clients needs on limited budgets with limited staff, but participating in the survey would have been a very small sacrifice, and the long term benefits could include better information to justify their funding. It seemed incredible to me that some agencies just didn't get that.*

- *People do not have the time or did not realize the importance.*

- *From what I heard, some agencies were just reluctant to work with the survey.*

- *Everyone is busy and understaffed. The only homeless population we have are transients moving through the area.*

- *People don't have time.*

- *There was a lack of communication between a lot of people. People got into groups and left other people out. This wasn't an effort for just a select few, but counties as a whole. I wish it would have been treated like that.*

- *The Social Services Director for Costilla County did not want to participate. She was supposed to be the coordinator for our area. I had to call her about the survey and give her the information packet. I had to send in my paperwork separately. She also sent a person to me to interview the following morning as the department didn't want to do it.*

Please explain why "recruiting volunteers" was difficult.

- *Our organization struggles to find enough volunteers to manage our daily, normal volunteer activities. (Unsure why lately it's been so hard to find and recruit volunteers and retain them), so finding extras for the survey was challenging.*
- *4 people feel unsafe walking around approaching homeless people.*
- *Safety is an issue and approaching strangers with personal questions is often intimidating.*
- *60% of our community is second homeowners who don't believe there is a homeless problem in our county... so we did not get much local buy-in.*
- *Survey was too involved for general consumption of volunteers.*
- *I only had two volunteers from the community. The rest of the people were from agencies.*
- *Workers are already very busy it was just one more task*
- *No one seems to want to give of their time.*
- *It was absolutely impossible to know how many people were needed in this effort, and thus hard to gauge what needed to be done to recruit folks.*
- *Many volunteers are not willing to get that intimate with the homeless population.*
- *Volunteers seemed to be reluctant in looking for the homeless in different areas around the county maybe a little afraid.*
- *Don't have the time or have reservations about approaching strangers*
- *No one volunteered.*
- *See last answer.*
- *People would say they would like to help and then back out at the last minute.*
- *Everyone is busy hard to get someone to help do more.*
- *Everyone is busy.*

Please explain why "training agency staff and volunteers" was difficult.

- *Same reason as before. People feel uncomfortable approaching homeless people so they do not volunteer. Training should be in personal safety and what to do if violent situation, etc.*
- *Same as before*
- *Those who did not participate in the training at Olathe wanted to be trained ten minutes before the survey began.*
- *It was a big task to tackle. I think many of the local agencies are already tapped out and it was a large load to give them. Although it was a worthy cause, it did require a lot of leg work by many.*
- *I did not get the agency staff identified until about two weeks before the count.*
- *See last answer.*

Please explain why "getting cooperation of law enforcement, forestry etc." was difficult.

- *Sheriff's Department was very easy to work with. Just this last year, however, some law-enforcement changes were made and two new police departments were implemented. They were aware of the importance of the count, but did not have the capacity to really jump in and help like the Sheriff's Department did.*
- *The police department in Dolores indicated that there were no homeless in their region. The police in Cortez were cooperative but did not follow though.*
- *They hesitate to do any additional work.*
- *Law enforcement felt they had more important things to do.*
- *They did not have time.*
- *BLM did not respond to my phone calls or letter- once I sent the letter to all agencies with the States of Colorado logo. Division of Wildlife did not tell me that they did the work until after the count. The Montrose County Sheriff's Office did not recognize the homeless situation. The needed resource for the Montrose county Jail resigned after receiving my phone call, and they did not forward the requested information. The Montrose Police Department was great.*

- *Larimer County Sheriffs and FCPD were amazing with their help. Loveland PD, not so much. They didn't want anything to do with the count, and in the end, despite repeated communication of the dates, scope of the count, etc, they held a mounted police training on the night of the outreach portion of the count, which resulted in two tickets for homeless "campers" being written. Timing was poor. Forestry officials basically reported, "We have no long-term/homeless campers."*

- *Not willing (not deemed important) to participate.*

- *They weren't interested as a whole.*

- *No Law enforcement agency's got on board.*

- *Said they would help, then no help.*

- *Politics of releasing statistics regarding the criminal justice system interfered.*

- *Don't really know... county coordinators will have that answer. This is just what I heard.*

- *What has forestry got to do with it?*

- *Many do not want to help or have an interest in serving their jurisdiction. They also have no vested interest in participating.*

Please explain why "publicizing the count in your community or county" was difficult.

- *Did not see any publicity.*

- *The media was great with advertising, except on radio host that mixed his calendar with another month. Another problem on the day of the count was a site host telling those interested- who asked personally for me- in the survey that I did not exist. Also some free advertising newspapers believed that if the count or information was real that the State of Colorado would contact them directly.*

- *It was hard to reach folks who do not live within the city limits - many do not have transportation to come to a point to do the survey and many just did not hear about it.*

- *A lot of the homeless people live 5 to 10 miles out of town and resources for them to pick up mail, newspaper or information here in town is difficult as they don't have transportation, gas money or phones. Also our local newspaper has a limited staff to contact for publicity.*

Please explain why "communicating with the press" was difficult.

- *They always get something wrong even if you give them the correct information.*

Please explain why "getting donations of survey incentives" was difficult.

- *We did not have many incentives, so it must have been difficult.*
- *Don't have first-hand knowledge of this, only what I heard from Heather Meyer as she tried to solicit donations for the "goodie bags".*
- *Very few understood the importance of their donations.*
- *Donor fatigue for one - United Way's big campaign was going at the same time. For two, a lot of businesses didn't deem this a worthy cause because there wasn't an immediately tangible benefit to the community.*
- *We used what we had on hand. No extra cash to purchase incentives.*
- *In the small surrounding towns businesses get hit hard by everyone for donations, they just get tired of always having to give. I know they profit from all the surrounding towns business wise, but they tend to forget that.*

Please explain why "distributing training materials" was difficult.

- *People could not seem to find the correct survey on the web sight.*
- *The Director at Social Services didn't want to do it. Also I received the training materials on short notice for her.*

Please explain why "downloading the survey from the Website" was difficult.

- *Agencies could not find the correct place to find it on the wed sight.*
- *I was not able to do it. I depended on La Plata County to supply the paperwork.*
- *I never got the web site from Tom Ziemman, even though he stated that he send it to me several times.*
- *Could not get to the right screen.*
- *Could not get correct form to print- I can't remember what the specific problem was.*

- *Thanks to :Posada printed some for me!*

Please explain why "inserting agency information at the top of the survey" was difficult.

- *I copied the example given at our training and filled it in.*
- *Not sure if I was to complete it or not due to some problem with the agency itself, and I was under the impression that someone else was the team leader but this person didn't wish to do that task. Definition of "sheltered."*
- *There was a glitch initially with getting the agency names and location in at the top, but Deanna fixed it.*

Please explain why 'distributing the survey" was difficult.

- *Again, the time limitation and distances from our families.*
- *Finding appropriate locations was difficult.*
- *Hard to get in contact with homeless people, takes a few days.*
- *Our group was on the streets, approaching kids, interviewing them for completed surveys. We were not in a setting where it was possible to pass them out and collect them when they were completed.*
- *Homeless persons don't necessarily want to be bothered, even if you try to explain what you are doing.*
- *Sparsely populated community and not knowing where to look*
- *I was able to distribute the survey to the people who come to me. The timeframe was difficult because some of the people I wanted to distribute the survey couldn't make it in on that certain day. I had no way to contact them as they don't have phones otherwise they would have filled it out for me.*
- *Because of the gatekeepers in the campgrounds and a lot of folks weren't at the campgrounds at the time. Also people did not want to answer the substance abuse/disability/etc ?? and their entire demeanor changed after that. If they were allowed to do the survey themselves and put them in an envelope with at least a microcosm of confidentiality I think we may have gotten different answers.*

Please explain why "collecting completed surveys" was difficult.

- *Agencies dragged their feet on giving back the surveys and had to be called several times to get them to comply.*
- *I was continually following up and calling some agencies at least 2 or 3 times before they actually turned in their completed surveys.*
- *I do not own a vehicle. Therefore people were delivering them to me. Some had the return date for the survey mixed up. Some misunderstood that I am the Montrose County Co-coordinator not the Regional Co-coordinator*
- *One law enforcement agency did not have the surveys at the right office when collection needed. Took two days to get them.*
- *Lack of access to homeless population in Teller County.*

Please explain why "tracking survey submission" was difficult.

No comments

Please explain why "delivering surveys to the Division of Housing" was difficult.

- *We were to leave the completed surveys at the Mental Health Dept. in Boulder and found them to be unfriendly and not very helpful. We have had this experience for a few years now and prefer to drop them off with Penny instead. She is wonderful and very helpful with the whole process.*
- *There was some confusion as when I needed to return the information to our regional coordinator.*

Please explain why "location the information needed on the Website" was difficult.

- *I never got the website*
- *DV surveys were separate from the regular and Spanish surveys, and took awhile to find.*
- *The website was confusing at times.*
- *Could not bring up the stuff that was supposed to be available.*

Please explain why "using special events/gatherings to recruit respondents" was difficult.

No comments

Did you participate in any ICH Wednesday morning meeting/conference calls?	Total	
Yes	11%	N=10
No	89%	N=77
Total	100%	N=87

Did you find the conference calls useful in learning more about the survey process and count activities?	Total	
Very useful	33%	N=3
Somewhat useful	56%	N=5
Not useful	11%	N=1
Total	100%	N=9

Approximately how many hours did you spend working on the Statewide Homeless Count?

- Responses ranged from 1 to 500 hours
- Mean – 24 hours
- Median - 10 hours
- Number of respondents 81
- Total number of hours reported by respondents – 1966 hours

In your County, how many agencies participated in the survey process?

- Responses ranged from "unknown" to "all agencies" and from 1 to 50 agencies
- Mean - 3 agencies
- Median -9 agencies
- Number of respondents – 38
- Total number of agencies reported by respondents – 100 agencies

In your County, how many volunteers helped with the survey process?

- Responses ranged from 0 to 75 volunteers
- Mean – 17 volunteers
- Median – 9 volunteers
- Number of respondents – 37
- Total number of volunteers reported by respondents – 622 volunteers

In your County, did you recruit individuals who are homeless to help with the survey process?	Total	
Yes	30%	N=23
No	70%	N=53
Total	100%	N=76

- Respondents reported between 0 and 20 individuals who are homeless helped
- Mean – 5
- Median – 2.5
  Number of respondents who reported the number of individuals who are homeless helping with the count - 13
- Total number of individuals who are homeless helping with the count reported by respondents - 59

If you were to serve as a Regional or County Coordinator again, what, if anything, would you do differently?

- *Nothing different.*
- *Figure out the number of volunteers, recruit and train them better. I spent a lot of time on the agencies and training them.*
- *Start the trainings earlier to get more people on board. Do more press releases in regard to the upcoming count*
- *Contact agencies earlier in the process.*
- *no*
- *Advertise in the free papers. Be more ready to deal with opposition to the count and skeptics. Make sure I understand the full intent of a person's intentions.*
- *Form a plan to better involve the camping population.*
- *I'd do more delegating of tasks. Subcommittees for donations, incentive bag making, copying/distribution of materials etc. More personal visits/phone calls with potential agency partners in advance. Be available to make presentations to the faith community for recruiting purposes.*
- *Have survey infrequently.*

- *My region was rather large and I found it difficult to outreach and assist where needed.*
- *Emphasize advertising more and getting more volunteers rather than just staff.*
- *Start a lot sooner.*
- *Nothing*
- *Train earlier, and look for homeless camps before day of count.*
- *Get the "word" out through various homeless shelters several months in advance and utilize the homeless to discuss the benefit of being counted among themselves so as to encourage participation.*
- *Have forms & decisions regarding the execution of the survey made in advance. Do not do the all day training. Provide more volunteers. Be at more locations. Do the survey for a week or two.*
- *Maybe spend more time trying to get some county coordinators to look a little deeper for the homeless population.*
- *Realize that this project takes more time then shared.*
- *Set up a gathering to recruit homeless persons. Did not have time.*

What went well?

- *Our relationship with the homeless population has always made this easy for us to carry out. We do street outreach four days a week year round and are on call for emergencies, as needed by our clients (kids). The adults and kids TRUST US because they see us regularly and know us!!*
- *Great volunteers, collecting surveys from this site (because it is a homeless shelter). The help from Penny Hannegan (Boulder) was immensely valuable.*
- *N/A*
- *Penny Hannegan was relational with our volunteers and with the guests filling out the form. She was exceptionally organized and exceptionally relaxed, reassuring and pleasant to all. It was a pleasure to work with her! I am a program director for Lamb's Ministries in Boulder.*

- *Penny Hannegan, our area coordinator, did a great job at training us and preparing Agency staff, as well as giving us materials and reminders. We felt prepared and supported.*

- *People I talked to were friendly and for the most part not threatening, although the law enforcement officer I was with said that I was being stalked. Good reason to go in groups.*

- *Survey administration, and training.*

- *We were able to let the people know ahead of time that we were doing the survey and they were ready for us at the Soup Kitchens and Salvation Army. We made the clients feel special by giving them small gifts if they took the survey. I felt good making contact with the people in their elements and they welcomed me in.*

- *Surveying people who came into our agency for services.*

- *Working with the sheriff's department and asking our one homeless person we worked with to participate.*

- *What do you mean by helped in the question above? The survey went well and the folks that I talked to were incredible.*

- *The training. This helped significantly in the surveying process.*

- *Everything seemed fine.*

- *I worked alone.*

- *Cooperation between agencies was very good in getting the count. This also includes the Ute Mountain Ute tribe.*

- *Surveys sent to agencies.*

- *I had one homeless client. I had no problems.*

- *Refer to Tom Ziemann.*

- *Heather Meyer did a good job of explaining to the volunteers how the survey worked, what the purpose was, the importance of it, etc. I really appreciated her emphasis on VIEWING THE HOMELESS AS PEOPLE WHO DESERVE TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.*

- *Surveying in agencies.*

- *Patients were ok with the Question from the survey.*

- *Over all, the interviewing went well.*

- *Fifteen media broadcasters advertised the count for the region of the Western Slope. Three of those have asked me for survey results and updates. Montrose County Officials and representatives are pleased to have what they believe are hard numbers concerning the homeless. The confusion has now subsided and several more government agencies are now more ready to assist the count. Many businesses have accepted definitions of homeless and will take better notice.*

- *THE TRAINING WAS VERY HELPFUL AND THE SURVEYS WERE EASY ENOUGH TO ADMINISTER, WE JUST HAD NO HOMELESS CLIENTS THAT 1 PARTICULAR DAY AND THEREFORE IT WAS NOT A VERY ACURATE COUNT.*

- *Using the Summit Daily newspaper as a source of information to get word out regarding the count.*

- *The press we garnered was very high quality and positive. The quality of volunteers who turned out was AMAZING. The cooperation and collaboration to pool resources for incentives was great.*

- *Distribution of information.*

- *The trainings were helpful.*

- *The response to the survey.*

- *I felt the count was very well organized and kept me informed as a volunteer.*

- *Enthusiastic participation of volunteers. The respondents I interviewed were willing and gracious about answering the questions.*

- *Volunteers did a great job!!*

- *everything*

- *Getting other agencies to assist in locating homeless individuals.*

- *My county coordinators cooperated the best they thought they could. One coordinator was a great over-achiever.*

- *I worked by myself mostly. I was able to take my time and really get to know some of the individuals, and get their whole story.*

- *People actually participated.*
- *The participants who filled out the survey were happy to give information as we need more resources here in our county. They were glad that hopefully something will be done to help them specifically.*
- *Simply doing it.*
- *Clients were willing to fill the survey out.*
- *Training, give out materials.*
- *Agencies were well informed of training sites/times. Survey sheets were distributed to agencies with necessary cover sheet timely.*
- *They were cooperative and more than willing to assist.*
- *Longmont had a well coordinated group of representatives from local agencies who all participated willingly in the statewide count. Very cohesive dedicated group!*
- *Getting cooperation from agencies.*
- *Inquiries at support organizations were well rec'd.*

What should the state do differently next time?

- *Get the surveys to us a few days earlier so we have time to actually look them over.*
- *Survey in the winter, when more homeless individuals are receiving services. Our shelter would have collected 100 more surveys if done in the winter, and many of our summer clients are travelers and are not connected to the area.*
- *N/A*
- *The main issue was finding enough volunteers that the survey didn't cause extra strain on the agency that day.*
- *Do not ask multiple questions in a question. Ask one question "Yes" or "No" then ask the next question. Specify "next of kin" or "immediate" when asking about family.*
- *Take count at night, but then most people would feel even more fearful, so it's a toss up, train people how to distinguish homeless, what things to watch for.*

- *Send someone from a state agency to agencies and counties to work with us.*
- *Larger time frame.*
- *unknown*
- *I don't feel that as a volunteer I have enough experience to give advice here.*
- *Not sure. I think this was a huge project and obviously a lot of thought went into planning this. I think you did a good job. Thank you.*
- *Expand the time*
- *Not a thing.*
- *Shorten the form. I had to keep thanking the client and telling him to just a few more questions.*
- *Different time of year.*
- *Refer to Tom Ziemann.*
- *Find ways to include other community organizations such as schools that have homeless students.*
- *Publicize the event so that the homeless population was aware of it as well as the groups that serve them.*
- *Contact all state employees of the count, also let them know who the county and regional co-coordinators are. Telling them this information will prepare them for the reality of the count and to be prepared for who will be contacting them.*
- *ADMINISTER THE SURVEY OVER A 1 MONTH PERIOD TO GET A MORE ACURATE COUNT, OR AT LEAST FOR A WHOLE WEEK AT AGENCIES (THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT TO DO ON THE STREETS,) BUT AT AGENCIES I BELIEVE YOU WOULD GET A MUCH MORE ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE TRUE NUMBERS OF HOMELESS.*
- *Include better training on how to reach the camping population in rural areas.*
- *Earlier training of regional folks - to allow for more time for the communities to see the actual tool/methodology between trainings and actual count. Instead of pages of FAQ's e-*

mailed out as a means of communication from the state coordinator, an e-mail noting specifically any deviations from procedure/gray areas would be helpful. Timing of the Count – because school just started prior to the Count, the homeless liaisons in our school districts were not connected to the process, despite repeated efforts to communicate. Perhaps a summer count that is just after school lets out instead of just before it starts?

- *Hold off until next January*
- *Gain input from regions and counties to assist with the survey.*
- *Take more time to find areas where homeless are living, especially in trailers, tents, etc.*
- *Don't have the survey twice in one year. Some agencies didn't participate because they had just done the PIT in the winter.*
- *No suggestions*
- *Have more funds available...County absorbed the expenses i.e. gas, employee time, etc.*
- *Things went well.*
- *Get buy in from local agencies. Secure donations from the corporate offices from stores like Wal-Mart, etc.*
- *Did a great job! Make survey shorter.*
- *Figure out a way to do the count at a time when there are likely to be more people at their camps. Sow the surveys to be completed ahead of time.*
- *Provide incentives or at least an explanation of the potential benefits of being counted to the homeless directly.*
- *Now they there is a template, I think there just needs to be more time for coordinators and volunteers to train and really be comfortable with the survey.*
- *Do another count before another twenty years pass, and put people in charge with excellent communication skills.*
- *The State ought to Contact all local governments & all agencies throughout the state, many, many times about the purpose of this project.*
- *Give incentives for the homeless to participate or transportation etc. Also give a stipend for those who work on giving out the survey.*

- *Very explicit definitions.*

- *Do the survey for a whole month to capture more homeless people that live in our county and state.*

- *Hard to say... when you are trying to do something that no one has done in years it is had to anticipate what the process looks like.*

- *Publicize, Publicize, Publicize! Publicize why this is helpful. Publicize that staying doubled-up with family and a friend is homeless. And give some incentive - state make a deal with King Soopers or Safeway or somebody to give $5 gift cards or something. Publicize them as sponsors of this humanitarian effort!*

- *Sampling and more information from the people administering the survey to understand what people need and how to take care of these issues.*

- *Representatives with the State who develop the survey should come out to help in the count to experience what it is like to interface with homeless individuals (if they aren't already).*

- *Don't understand the reason behind doing just one day. Why not over a month, and weed out duplicates?*

- *Perhaps a broader "point in time" window would not eliminate some individuals.*

What should the regional or county coordinators do differently next time?

- *Not sure.*

- *Nothing - Penny Hannegan is fantastic.*

- *N/A*

- *Recruit more volunteers, perhaps from the private sector, like a group of employees or something. I mainly saw individuals like students, so the numbers were low.*

- *More paid employees/workers.*

- *Come to town on the day of the survey and work with us.*

- *don't know*

- *unknown*

- *More follow up, better tracking of volunteers. She often seemed overwhelmed and understaffed (as anyone would be) but was she supported by a volunteer committee or did she do it all on her own?*
- *They did a great job.*
- *Expand the time.*
- *N/A*
- *Nothing. We are located 9318 ft high and have limited winter work. The Forest Service and BLM are closed for the winter so no one will be going out into the back country for the survey.*
- *Know hours in advance to know how to locate homeless on day of survey.*
- *Get a better understanding of each area surveyed to better know to how survey that area, since each area has its uniqueness.*
- *More detailed training, earlier timeline.*
- *Be given information and trainings earlier. This will allow more time for additional trainings and questions.*
- *SAME AS WHAT THE STATE SHOULD DO NEXT TIME*
- *I think it will be possible to take what each site has learned from conducting the count and then create more region specific trainings.*
- *See above answers.*
- *Na*
- *spend more time identifying homeless areas*
- *No suggestions*
- *Things went well.*
- *Get more support!! One person can't do it alone.*
- *Train earlier and get info out on trainings.*

- *???????*
- *Start earlier. Attend the training.*
- *Have/spend more time marketing the process. Have more buy in from agencies and especially clients*
- *Our regional coordinator was great. Our county coordinator could have used some help with communication. Have you ever heard the saying "to many cooks spoil the broth" ?*
- *Try to get more people involved who work with the homeless in the different agencies, specifically the police or sheriff as they are the ones who know where the homeless live.*
- *Be sure everyone knows definitions.*
- *nothing*
- *At trainings don't say.. use the website have all materials there*
- *Intentionally plan out how to locate people staying up canyons, in campgrounds, by rivers, and with family.*
- *Not a thing*
- *Keep up the good work!*
- *Don't know.*

When the results are released in January 2007 the state would like to include several stories that illustrate the "faces of homelessness" in Colorado. Please share any memorable stories that you believe illustrate the experience of homelessness in your local community.

- *We have many stories to relay, but can not record them in such a small space, perhaps you can contact us by email or phone 303/601-6471 and we can make arrangements to send you some of our clients stories. Thank you, Ilene Blum, Executive Director. We also have a video.*
- *N/A*

- *Many of the women we serve have been abused in some way. They are often defensive and suspicious until they build up a trust relationship. It was nice to see that the survey was administered in our program in such a way that these women did not feel threatened.*

- *This gal I interviewed was very bright and had a sense of humor, but I could tell she had been hurt as a child in an abusive home and foster care. She definitely had the ability to work and the intelligence, but she chose to be homeless and jobless for reasons she did not disclose.*

- *I have worked with my agency for several years and I mostly work in the office. During the survey I had a chance to go out to the camps. I was truly amazed and how the people who were living out were able to set me a place to stay, keep it clean, and set up safety measured.*

- *We had one location where our volunteer and staff would not go because it is known to house crystal meth users. (I'm sure this isn't story worthy, but unsure where to put it.)*

- *What comes to mind first is a small hotel we were invited into where we met three men, different ages, different reasons for being there. Each had a glimmer of hope because they had a temporary place to stay but there was a kindness in all of them that touched me and my fellow interviewers. From a young man to an older man they are the face of homelessness. They showed that there is no ONE face: it's my father's face, my brother's face, my grandfather's face. But for the Grace of God....*

- *No thank you.*

- *I think the stories of homeless families with children are the most heart wrenching. I remember a Mom with three children all young sitting at a table eating lunch. The children deserve better. Those children don't have an opportunity for education, stability and let's face it....all children need to know that they have a safe bed to sleep in at night.*

- *We have several families camping in old RVs or pop up trailers. These families do not have the means, education or training to be able to afford rent in our resort area. However, they feel that this is their home and want to live here due to the community events, natural beauty and easy access to day labor work. Some families remain without permanent housing because they insist on keeping their pets and local landlords do not allow pets in their rental. One family, a single mother with 2 small daughters feels so strongly about keeping her two dogs that she has lived since May (when their house was repossessed) in a pop up trailer in various friends' back yards. This mother says that the dogs saved her life when she was a victim of severe domestic violence 18 months ago. Unfortunately two weeks ago one of the dogs was killed by a mountain lion. I fear for her two young daughters. I have been actively looking for a place for her (she has a HUD voucher) for almost 2 months.*

- *Refer to Tom Ziemann.*

- *One woman staying in the shelter obviously had a job which I could tell because of her uniform. She said her primary problem was that she had been evicted since her roommate did not pay the rent, and because of the eviction, even though she was working, she was not able to find another place to rent. She appeared to be in her late to mid twenties and had two small children.*

- *During the winter of 2005, we had a man who lost at least one toe to frost bite. It was difficult for him to learn to walk and gain balance again. Last year, I had to learn to work with the Montrose Police Department. In the beginning of the recognition of homelessness- in the city of Montrose- the Police were arresting them for being homeless; Montrose had no where to put them. I asked them to not arrest them for being homeless. The Police will arrest them for the crimes they commit only. Eventually, the local Migrant Farm Worker's Dormitory gave room to the local homeless. I have even witnessed the homeless- who had asked for help- accuse the person who could help them of supporting only one race, because the assisting person that they would only help the persons of their skin color. Some of the homeless in Montrose are so afraid of their recent/past records counting against them; it is hard for them to admit being homeless. I have had homeless people- whose reputation was a hard heart- cry on my shoulder once I revealed hidden resources that had eventually worked for them. Montrose Shelter Outreach is a fundraising account to help meet in-the-gap needs that agencies helping the homeless can not provide (medical and emergency funding).*

- *AGAIN, WE HAD NO ONE COME IN ON THE DAY OF THE COUNT SO NO STORIES AVAILABLE TO SHARE*

- *During the Statewide Homeless Count that took place in August, Summit County had a number of respondents who took the Homeless Count survey. Several of the respondents were part-time or year-round campers living in the woods and did not consider themselves to be homeless. Although several of them were quick to point out that their "home" was not a typical living structure, it was still their home. One of the questions in the survey asked "How long have you been homeless?" Choices offered included several time frames and then "I am not homeless." Many of the respondents chose this option because that is how they see their living situation. What is often overlooked is the fact that the homeless population in rural areas such as Summit County are people who have employment and are contributing members of the community. True, the inability to afford housing and the seasonal nature of employment are common results of tent living, but for many campers in Summit County it is also a choice. Simply put, their definition of homelessness is not the same as the traditional definition of homelessness. Several respondents that completed surveys were homeless in the traditional sense. Some were living with friends and in-between jobs while others were literally without any type of shelter due to a variety of circumstances and were in the process of utilizing available resources to find employment and stable housing. One respondent had been sleeping outside and was going to the temp agencies early in the morning hoping to find work on a regular basis. This respondent had been attracted to Summit County by the*

large number of available seasonal jobs but was laid off during the off-season. Having nowhere else to go, the respondent decided to try and make it through the summer working temp jobs with the hopes of regaining stable employment and housing when the ski season began. The seasonal nature of the job market creates similar financial struggles for many Summit County workers in the service industries. Matt Korn Family & Intercultural

- *Resource Center Dillon, CO*
- *Attached in an e-mail to Deanna Hall-LaFlamme*
- *The families that I contacted were extremely grateful for the incentive package.*
- *I was with a group who walked along a river looking for people. It was very interesting and sad to me to see people's camps. When we came across a camp, and the coats were neatly hung in the tree limbs, their sleeping bags and blankets neatly folded on the ground with their extra shoes lined up beside them. My heart went out to these people. They may not have a place to live, but they still take pride in the few things they have and the awful place they have to live. They apparently haven't lost all hope!!!*
- *We met a woman living at a motel on Colfax. She was a nurse by trade and a wife and mother of 5. She recently relocated from the reservation in South Dakota. She was cleaning motel rooms in exchange for a place to sleep. She was unable to afford to pay for her nursing license in Colorado and so was unable to find work.*
- *n/a*
- *A man who chooses to live on a mountainside. Yes he chooses to be homeless. He says the wildlife doesn't treat him differently because he isn't exactly like them. Where we as humans, are so judgmental, prejudice, and cruel. He lives cheaply and works construction when he has to. He is very happy living like this.*
- *One lady in our town is homeless. She has been in several places in our area. She is very independent, doing odd jobs and despite having very limited resources, she survives the winter here in the San Luis Valley. She basically camps out most of the time. Friends and neighbors in the community help her and her children who are grown. A friend gave her a camper so this winter won't be so bad for her. I hope that we can get some better resources to help people like her as here in our county many people live in substandard housing without water, electricity, limited resources for heat, etc.*
- *Two young women from the open high school spent the night of Aug 27 in the park. They were taken in by a teacher the night of August 28.*
- *n/a*

- *A family was living in a travel trailer while building their house. Their grown daughter, her husband and their kids had to move in with them in their travel trailer while trying to get jobs and earn enough money to rent a place of their own.*

- *Man A was married, working, raising a family. He and his wife divorced, and he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. He worked as long as he could, but was unable to keep up and lost his job. His kids were struggling young adults and could not help him, his ex-wife did not want to have contact. He ended up in the foreign world of a homeless shelter, and after waiting for several months for an opening, was able to rent a room in a supportive housing program. Two years later, he has a subsidized apartment, has stabilized his medications and his MS, and is receiving disability benefits to assist him while he starts his own online business from home.*

- *I do not have any at this time.*

- *I am a property manager with a non profit affordable housing group which serves people in Boulder and Adam's County. I have seen individuals who were housed with us but were not receiving the right services and so became homeless. One man in particular (Ray) had a 1 bedroom apt which was being paid through a small trust that a relative had set up for him. His payee alerted me to the fact that the money was running out. Ray had obvious mental illness that was worsening. He had applied for SSI but was denied. I advocated for him as much as possible as a property manager but was helpless to find solutions for him. Agencies I contacted were unable to help unless he became violent; he was on the verge but was not overtly violent. Ray began letting homeless individuals stay in his apartment which became full of grocery carts, and trash. The money ran out of the trust and he had no options. Ray now lives on the streets of Longmont; I see him periodically walking or sitting somewhere on Main Street with other homeless individuals. Ray was housed but did not have the services necessary to keep him housed so he is now one of the statistics.*

- *Sorry - I was only able to actually complete the survey with 7 people.*