



HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN DENVER

EIGHTH ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME STUDY, 2007

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Homelessness In Metropolitan Denver, Seventh Annual Point-In-Time Study, 2007* is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative, Mile High United Way and more than 150 agencies, churches, non-profit organizations, corporate and community volunteers from throughout Metropolitan Denver. Without their support, this study would not have been possible.

A special thank you to the MDHI stakeholders providing services and support to homeless men, women and children in metropolitan Denver. Please see the list of participating Agencies on the following pages.

Thank you to the many community members who volunteered through their employers to help make this year's Point-In-Time study as representative of our community as possible. Those companies include:

Colorado Division of Housing
Downtown Denver Partnership
Kaiser Permanente
Wartburg College

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A special thank you to **Pat Lease** for her many years of supervision, input, and guidance in producing the PIT report.

Research supervised by:

Pat Lease, Colorado Veterans for Housing
April Montoya, Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative
Laura Hendrick, Mile High United Way

Finally, this report would not have been possible without the cooperation of the survey respondents. Collectively, their responses provide all of us with a better understanding of the local magnitude of homelessness and the work that lies ahead to ensure that all people in our community have a safe and decent place to call home.

This report may be found on the Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative website at:
www.MDHI.org

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Arapahoe Arapahoe/Douglas Arapahoe/Douglas	Arapahoe County Human Services Arapahoe Douglas Mental Health Network Arapahoe Douglas WORKS! Arapahoe House, Aurora Emergency Treatment Unit Arapahoe House, New Direction in Families Arapahoe House, Outpatient Arapahoe House, Proud Arapahoe House, Transitional Housing Arapahoe House, Wright Center Aurora Mental Health Family Tree, House of Hope Friends of St. Andrews Impact Community Church and Food Bank Interfaith Community Services Metro Providers Community Network-Arapahoe
Boulder	1st Presbyterian Community Church Bar L Motel Boulder County AIDS Project Boulder County Cares Boulder County Jail Boulder County Public Health Boulder County Public Health, Genesis Boulder County Social Services Boulder Housing Partners Boulder Public Library/Pearl Street Mall Boulder Shelter for the Homeless Boulder Valley School District Boulder Valley Women's Health Center Carriage House Center for People with Disabilities

Boulder

Community Table
Countrywood Inn and RV Park
Dickens
El Comite
Emergency Family Assistance Agency, Atwood Shelter
Emergency Family Assistance Agency, Basic Needs Program
Emergency Family Assistance Agency, ECHO House
Emergency Family Assistance Agency, Emergency Shelter
Emergency Family Assistance Agency, Transitional Housing-Boulder
Emergency Family Assistance Agency, Transitional Housing-Lafayette
Family Tree Gemini
Good News Center
Inn Between, The
Labor Ready
Lampighter Motel
Longmont Children's Council
Longmont Drop In Center
Longmont Housing Authority
Longmont Public Library
Lyons Motel
Main Street Inn
Mental Health Center of Boulder
OUR Center
Pearl Street Mall
People's Clinic
St. John's Food Bank
St. Thomas Food Bank
St. Vrain Valley School District
Workforce Boulder County

Broomfield

Broomfield Health and Human Services
FISH of Broomfield

Denver

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Denver

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Denver Rescue Mission-The Crossing
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E-Shelter
Family Homestead
Gathering Place, The
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Senior Support Services
St. Francis Center
St. Joseph's Hospital
Thirdway Center
Urban Peak, family unification
Urban Peak, outreach
Urban Peak, shelter and transitional housing
Urban Peak-Rocky Mountain Youth
Urban Peak-Rowan Gardens Housing
Volunteers of America-Brandon Center
Volunteers of America-Family Motel
Volunteers of America-Mission
Volunteers of America-Theodora House
Volunteers of America-Transitional Housing
Warren Village

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Douglas County Human Services
Douglas/Elbert Task Force
Parker Taskforce
Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center

Jefferson

Arvada Food Bank
Bridgeway
City of Lakewood Head start
Colorado Homeless Families
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Family Tree, Labor Systems-Lakewood
Family Tree, A-Bar D Motel
Family Tree, Denver West Motel
Family Tree, Golden Hours Motel
Family Tree, Housing and Family Services
Family Tree, Lakewood Lodge
Family Tree, Mesa Motel
Family Tree, Stone Wall Motel
Family Tree, Weekly Motel-Lakewood
Family Tree, West 40 Motel
Family Tree, Crisis Line
Intervention Community Corrections
Jeffco Action Center
Jeffco Human Services
Jeffco Veteran's Services
Jefferson Center for Mental Health
Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Re-entry Program
Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Residential Program
Jefferson Center for Mental Health, The Road Program
Jefferson County Head Start
Jefferson County Jail
Jefferson County Probation
Jefferson County Schools
Lakewood Housing Authority
Metro Food Bank
Metro Providers Community Network-Jefferson
Mountain Resource Center
Southwest Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Center
Stride, Lakewood



This study would not have been possible without the participation of many volunteers and Metropolitan Denver service providers. The ten individuals below spent countless hours organizing the community in preparation of the count. Each person served as a coordinator in their county and engaged organizations to participate in the point-in-time survey. On behalf of the board of directors of Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative, I would like to thank them for their contribution of time and talent;

Signy Mikita, Arapahoe County
Pat Lease, Coordinator Research Committee
Linda Barringer, Jefferson County
Penny Hannigan, Boulder County
Robin Wilton & Jennifer Walker, Douglas County
Jeremy Pakiser, Adams County
Sharon Farrell & Jan Williams, Broomfield County
April Montoya, Denver County

We are grateful to Laura Hendrick of Mile High United Way for recruiting, training and mobilizing the many community volunteers who interviewed homeless people on the cold evening of January 29, 2007.

Kerry Mahoney from Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and Randle Loeb coordinated the street outreach for this study. Because of their knowledge, expertise and “street” credibility they were able to engage many individuals who otherwise would not have participated in the count.

Maggie Tidwell of Colfax Community Network helped our volunteers to identify the motels along Colfax where homeless families live, bringing to our attention a group of people frequently invisible and uncoun-
ted.

To the hundreds of volunteers who went out into the cold, icy evening of January 29 when they might have preferred to remain in their warm homes, we extend our deepest gratitude. For many of these volunteers, this was their first encounter with families who regularly experience the discomforts and indignities of homelessness. We are thankful for not only your donated personal time, but your willingness to directly connect with people whose life experiences may lay in contrast with your own.

Sincerely,

Jean Tutolo, Executive Director
Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative

HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN DENVER 2007 MDHI Point-In-Time Study

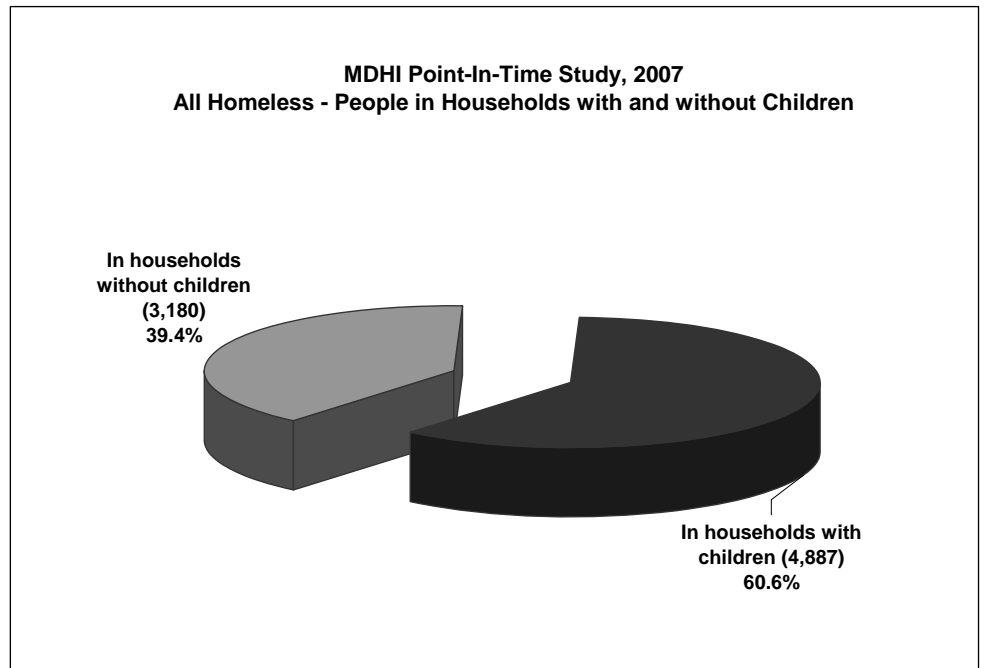
KEY FINDINGS

On Monday night, January 29, 2007, there were an estimated 10,604 homeless men, women, and children in Metropolitan Denver.

SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	4,969
Relatives	3,513
Total All Survey Homeless	8,482
UNSHELTERED COUNT / ESTIMATE	
Count – Unsheltered	315
Estimate – Unsheltered	990
Total Unsheltered	1,305
RELATIVE ESTIMATE FROM SURVEY	
Additional relatives not fully identified by survey respondents	817
TOTAL	10,604

➤ **MANY OF METRO DENVER’S HOMELESS ARE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- Six in 10 homeless persons were part of a **household with children**.
- The number of **newly homeless** has increased dramatically since summer 2006. In 2007, one-third of all homeless (32.6%) were

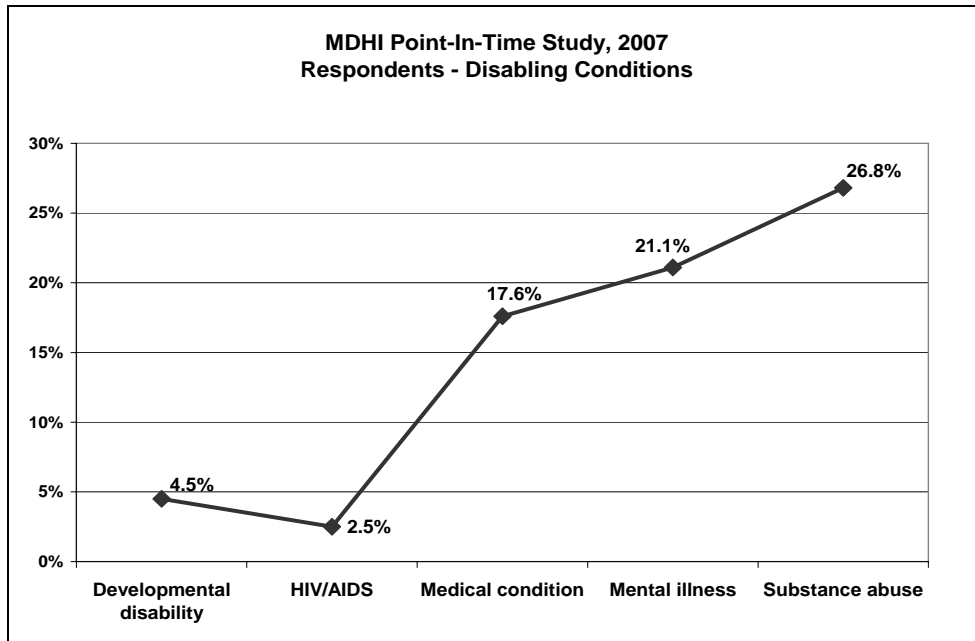


newly homeless. Newly homeless were predominantly in households with children (72.7%).¹

- **Children and teens** comprised almost one-third (31.7%) of all homeless persons in the *Homelessness in Metropolitan Denver, Eighth Annual Point-In-Time Study, 2007*.
- More than one in five **unsheltered homeless** were families with children.

➤ **HALF OF RESPONDENTS HAVE 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.
- The proportion of respondents with serious substance abuse problems has increased substantially from 2006 to 2007. In winter 2006, 15.4 percent reported a serious substance abuse problem. That proportion had increased to 25.3 percent by summer 2006, and to 26.8 percent in 2007.



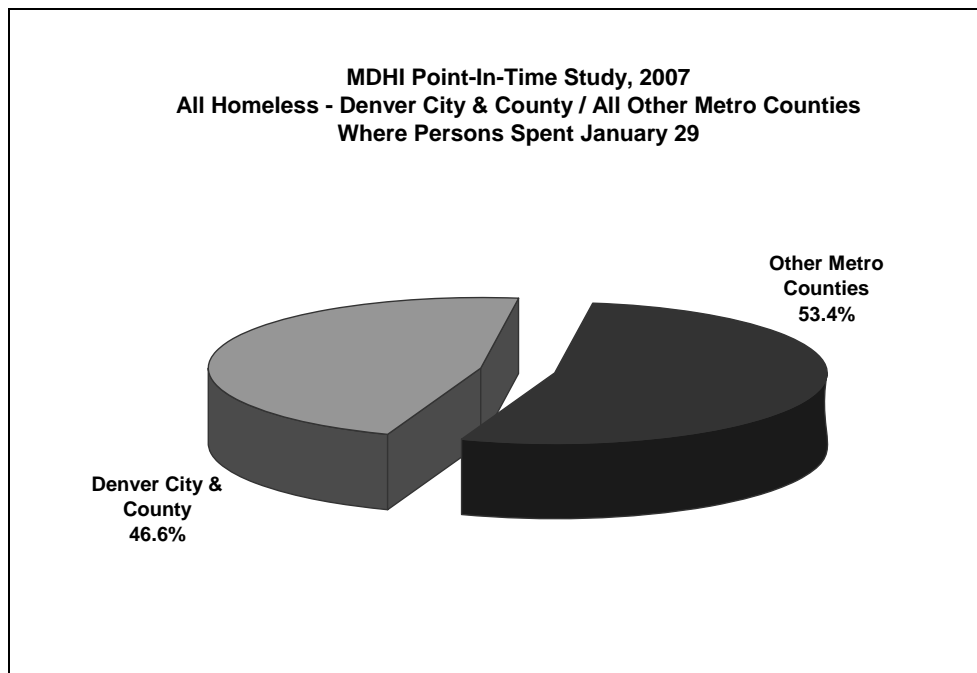
¹ In winter 2006, 19.5% were considered newly homeless. In that survey, newly homeless were identified as persons who indicated that this was *the first time* they had been homeless (presumably ever), and that they had been homeless less than one year. In summer 2006 and in 2007, newly homeless were identified as persons who had been homeless less than one year, and who checked “one” to the question, “Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years?” The criteria for summer 2006 and 2007 therefore were less stringent than for winter 2006 in two respects: (1) they limited the period to the last three years, and (2) respondent checked “one,” not “*the first time.*” in response to length of time they were homeless. Given the fact that it was more difficult to qualify as “newly homeless” in winter 2006, it is reasonable that fewer total homeless were identified as “newly homeless” in that year than in summer 2006 or winter 2007.

➤ **FEWER CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**

- In 2007, 8.3 percent of homeless respondents were chronically homeless; the great majority of the chronically homeless were male.
- The number of chronically homeless persons decreased slightly from winter and summer 2006 (9.5% and 9.0% respectively).

➤ **OVER HALF SPENT NIGHT OUTSIDE DENVER COUNTY**

- The majority of people in households without children (62.7%) spent the night in Denver City and County, while 66.2 percent of people in households with children spent Monday night in other metro counties.



➤ **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, COUCH SURFING, EMERGENCY SHELTER TOP PLACES SPENT MONDAY NIGHT**

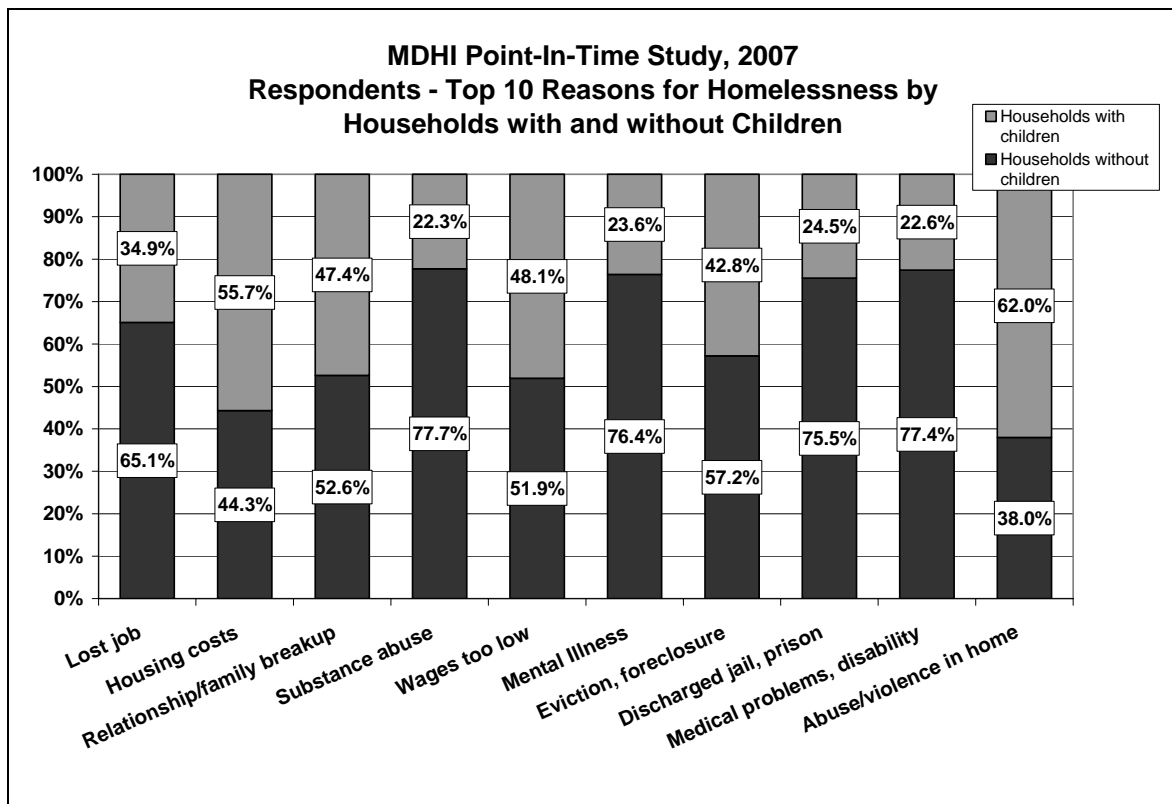
- There were dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children spent the night. Many more families with children stayed in transitional housing or temporarily with family or friends while looking for permanent housing than did people in households without children. Single individuals and couples without children were more likely to stay in emergency shelters or sleep on the street.

➤ **MORE HOMELESS MEN THAN WOMEN**

- Men comprised 59.5 percent of homeless respondents, and there were 910 more homeless men than women. The gender gap has increased since winter 2006 and summer 2006, when 53 and 55 percent of respondents, respectively, were men.
- Single respondents are primarily male (78.5%).
- Men are substantially more likely to be chronically homeless.

➤ **LOST JOB, HIGH HOUSING COSTS TOP REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS**

- Losing a job has been the number one reason respondents reported for their homelessness from 2004 to the current year.
- Other reasons reported most frequently across all four years are the high cost of housing, the break-up of a relationship/death in the family, and substance abuse.
- The data suggest that, since 2006, housing-related costs have had a greater impact on households with children.



➤ **PERMANENT HOUSING / HELP FINDING WORK TOP NEEDED SERVICES**

- The type of services that homeless respondents and their families need is entirely consistent with the reasons they report for their lack of a permanent place to live. Permanent housing and help finding work are the two most frequently needed services, and lack of permanent housing and loss of a job are the major reasons cited for homelessness.
- Similar to summer 2006, more than half needed housing-related services: help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, rent or utility assistance, or emergency shelter.

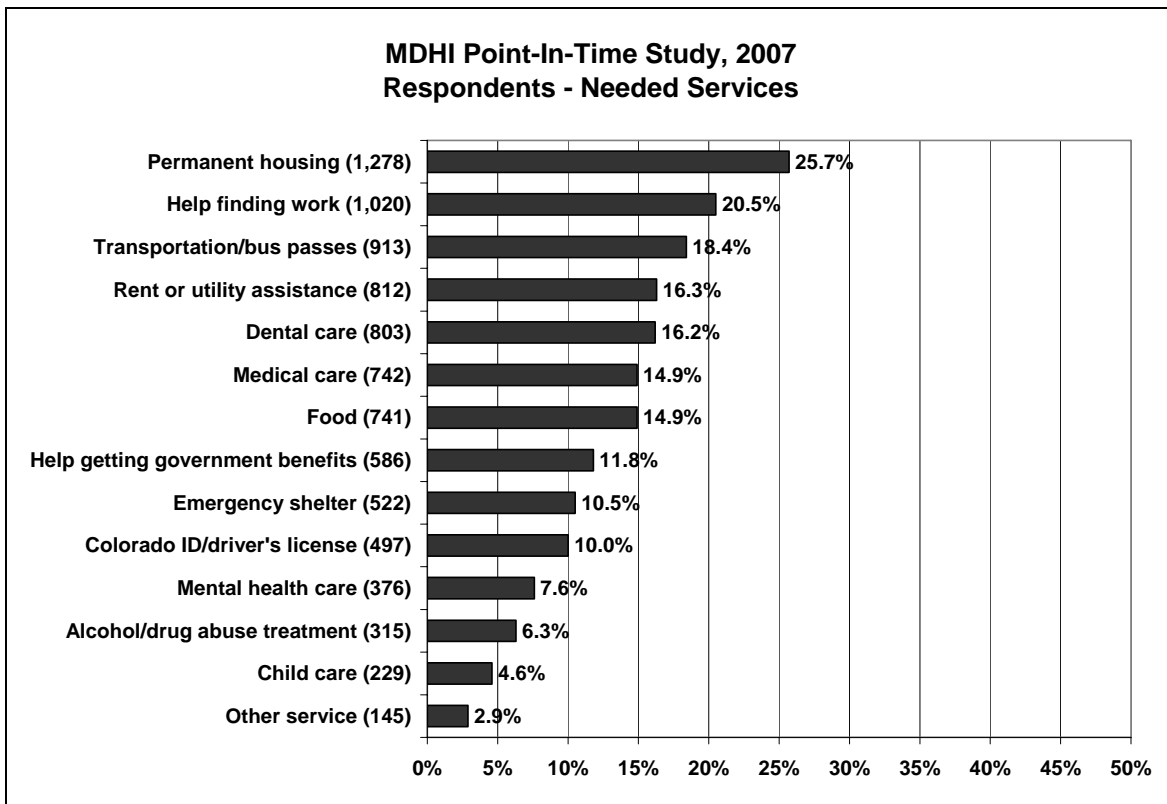


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HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN DENVER EIGHTH ANNUAL POINT-IN-TIME STUDY, 2007

PART I. INTRODUCTION

Home: not everyone has one.

Think of your childhood home – “whether grand or modest, urban or rural, the memory of a childhood home is a testament to the fundamental need for a stable place to live.”¹

On Monday night, January 29, 2007, there were an estimated 10,604 homeless men, women, and children in Metropolitan Denver.

With the help of hundreds of dedicated volunteers, service providers, staff, and outreach workers, the Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) conducted a point-in-time (PIT) study of homeless persons in the Denver metropolitan area. For the past three years, Mile High United Way (MHUW) has joined with MDHI to conduct the PIT survey, providing funding and mobilizing volunteers from the private, public and non-profit sectors.

A. Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative

The Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) is a coalition working with homeless assistance agencies in the seven-county Denver metropolitan area to coordinate the delivery of housing and services to homeless families, individuals, youth and persons with disabilities. The mission of MDHI is to plan, develop and implement a comprehensive continuum of care and opportunity, to identify and eliminate gaps in present systems and to reduce duplication of services. With emphasis on prevention, MDHI works to unite housing and service providers, neighborhoods, funders, business and non-profit organizations, government agencies and other groups and individuals across the metropolitan area in an ongoing effort to break the cycle of homelessness and help homeless persons achieve and maintain maximum self-sufficiency.

For over ten years, MDHI has provided the leadership, support and structure necessary to develop and sustain a comprehensive system of housing and services for those experiencing homelessness. Referred to as the Continuum of Care, this system encompasses Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties. Designing, implementing and maintaining a continuum of care homeless service delivery system requires the on-going collection and analysis of data on the number, location and demographic characteristics of homeless persons who need access to emergency shelter, supportive housing, permanent housing and specialized services. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the primary source of federal funding for housing support for the homeless, requires that each continuum of care across the country conduct a “point-in-time” survey every two years during the month of January. HUD, MDHI, local governments, and service providers use the information collected by the point-in-time survey to assess, project and plan strategies and services to eliminate homelessness. This year’s study reports on the eighth homeless PIT survey completed in the Denver metropolitan area.

¹ Gardner, Marilyn. “One woman’s odyssey to help homeless kids.” The Christian Science Monitor. October 25, 2006. <<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1025/p7s01-cogn.html>>

MDHI defines homelessness as:

- 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 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.

B. Point-In-Time Count

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” homeless individuals and families. People enter and leave homelessness frequently and may only become homeless the day after the point-in-time study.

C. Undercounting / Estimating

The one consistent finding in all the research on homelessness is that surveys undercount the homeless. Unsheltered homeless people are particularly difficult to count. By definition, they are not in places where they are easily counted, such as transitional housing and homeless shelters.² Many homeless people 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. Some groups may be underrepresented among service users, including youth, recently homeless persons, and persons who are doubled up with friends and family.³ Others are homeless due to domestic violence and, because of confidentiality concerns, do not complete surveys. Still other homeless people, such as undocumented persons, may not want to be counted.

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:

² 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.

³ *Ibid.*

- 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.

D. Total Estimated Homeless Persons in Metropolitan Denver

Researchers conducting the winter 2007 homeless count developed a process for trying to determine the true number of homeless persons; 1) Researchers asked volunteers and agencies to count or estimate the number of unsheltered homeless people in their community using a *Tracking Form for Counts/Estimates of Unsheltered Homeless Persons*. The submitted Tracking Forms totaled 1,305 unsheltered homeless persons; 2) Some respondents who identified themselves as having children, either as part of a couple or as a single parent, did not document those family members when completing their survey. Other respondents who said they were part of a couple without children did not document their spouse or partner. The number of family members who were not documented by these respondents was estimated at 817 and added to the total homeless estimate. These counts and estimates are reported in Table 1 below.

Based on the PIT survey data, the unsheltered count and estimate, and the estimate of unidentified relatives, there were an estimated 10,604 homeless men, women, and children in the seven-county metropolitan Denver area on January 29, 2007.

Table 1. Total Homeless Including Counts and Estimates

SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	4,969
Relatives	3,513
Total All Survey Homeless	8,482
UNSHelterED COUNT / ESTIMATE	
Count – Unsheltered ⁴	315
Estimate – Unsheltered	990
Total Unsheltered	1,305
RELATIVE ESTIMATE FROM SURVEY⁵	
Additional relatives not fully identified by survey respondents	817
TOTAL	10,604

⁴ One Metro Denver school district returned a tracking form counting 792 homeless persons; it is not clear if the count consists of homeless students only, or it consists of both homeless students and their family members. We did not include these 792 persons in the count of unsheltered homeless. The purpose of the count was to identify unsheltered homeless who would otherwise not be counted. Given that these children were attending school, it is likely that their families were receiving services and may have completed a survey. The researchers wanted to avoid the possibility of duplicate counting. To the extent that families did not complete surveys, however, homeless children (and possibly their family members) were undercounted.

⁵ Relative Estimate – See Footnote 25.

	Number of Respondents	Average # of Other Relatives	Estimated # of Other Relatives
Single parent with children	256	1.95	499
Couple with children	80	3.09	247
Couple without children	66	1.07	71
Total	402		817

PART II. 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.⁶ A growing shortage of affordable housing, together with an increase in poverty is largely responsible for this number, although domestic violence, the cost of health insurance, mental health problems, and substance abuse are also primary causes of homelessness among individuals and families.⁷ The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty reports that many individuals have limited shelter options, and denied shelter requests is even higher for homeless families.

Nationally, estimates of employed homeless persons range from 25 percent to almost half (44%), but low-paying jobs, offering no security and few benefits do not lift people out of homelessness.⁸ For these Americans, work is no escape from poverty. Those groups who are more likely to experience poverty (children, unaccompanied youth, minorities, the elderly, single parent families) are more likely to experience homelessness.

Another cause of increasing poverty and homelessness is the declining value and availability of public assistance. Current TANF benefits and Food Stamps combined are below the poverty level in every state; “in fact, the current maximum TANF benefit for a single mother of two children is 29% of the federal poverty level.”⁹ Families leaving welfare for low paying jobs can rarely afford housing, and subsidized housing is so limited that “fewer than one in four TANF families nationwide lives in public housing or receives a housing voucher to help them rent a private unit.”¹⁰ In addition, recent policy changes have reduced or eliminated public assistance for poor, single individuals.

Colorado’s poverty rate has risen steadily since the late 1990s, according to recent U.S. Census data.¹¹ 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.

⁶ 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>>

⁷ National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Homelessness and Poverty in America. Overview. <<http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FHAPIA/>>

⁸ *Ibid.*

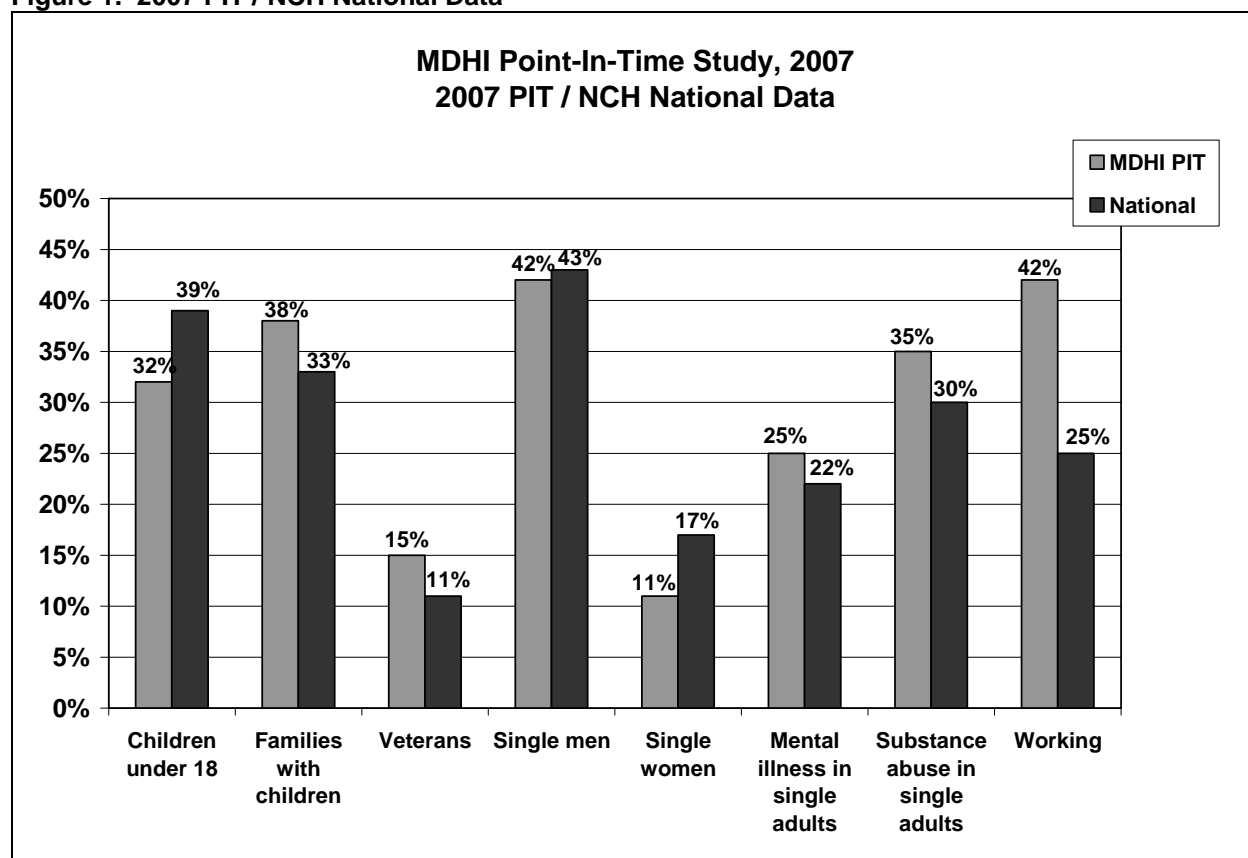
⁹ Nickelson, Idara. “The District Should Use Its Upcoming TANF Bonus to Increase Cash Assistance and Remove Barriers to Work,” 2004. D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute. <<http://www.dcfpi.org>>

¹⁰ Children’s Defense Fund and National Coalition for the Homeless. “Welfare to What: Early Findings on Family Hardship and Well-being,” 1998.

¹¹ *The Denver Post*. “Poor Numbers on Poverty.” August 30, 2006. *The Rocky Mountain News*. “Colorado Incomes on the Decline.” August 30, 2006.

Homelessness often results from a complex set of circumstances, requiring that people choose between food, shelter and other basic needs. Many people, such as those respondents who were identified as not homeless in this study, are in such precarious situations that one more crisis in their lives will put them on the street. People who are homeless do not fit one general description, although Figure 1 illustrates the similarities between Metro Denver and National homeless statistics.¹² Most of the national data are from the U.S. Conference of Mayors survey, “A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America’s Cities: 2004.”

Figure 1. 2007 PIT / NCH National Data



This report provides information about the men, women and children, veterans, disabled, and all of those homeless individuals and families that volunteers and service providers were able to survey on January 29, 2007 across the metropolitan Denver area. MDHI, service providers, legislators, local governments, municipalities, and other organizations will use the information collected by the 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.

¹² National Coalition for the Homeless, “Who is Homeless?” NCH Fact Sheet #3. National Coalition for the Homeless, June 2006. 4/15/2007 <http://www.nationalhomeless.org>. NCH used a variety of sources to describe national homeless demographics: National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty; U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Urban Institute, etc. Please see the NCH Fact Sheet #3 for a full list of their resources.

PART III. REPORT CONTENTS / ORGANIZATION

Please note, survey respondents did not always answer every question. Therefore, the percentages reported in each sub-section of the report and in individual tables and graphs represent only those people who answered the particular question, and do not represent the total number of respondents. In other words, the percentages do not include “missing” responses. Additionally, when adding up numbers in various categories, the number will not always equal the number of “respondents” or “all homeless” due to survey questions that were not answered.

A. Variables / Data Points

Some variables are reported for both respondents and for all homeless. For all homeless, respondents’ answers to “household situation,” “night of January 29,” “city,” “county” and “newly homeless,” are applied to the family members who accompanied them. “Age” and “relationship to respondent” are collected directly about family members. Table 2 describes which variables from the survey are reported for respondents, for all homeless and for both.

Table 2. Reporting on Survey Data Points / Variables

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS	ALL SURVEY HOMELESS
Age	X	X
Chronic homelessness	X	
Cities		X
Counties		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 current Colorado ID or license	X	
Have permanent place to live	X	
Household situation	X	X
Last permanent place	X	
Military service	X	
Monday night, January 29		X
Money from working	X	
Newly homeless		X
Number of relatives	X	
Reasons for homelessness	X	
Relationship to Respondent	X	X
Seasonal resort worker	X	
Services	X	
Unsheltered		X

B. Submitted Surveys

Table 3 describes the number of surveys collected and the number removed from the final database. The duplicates were primarily “single” individuals and the majority of not homeless were respondents accompanied by family members.

Table 3. Survey Collection and Elimination

Surveys collected	5,973
Duplicates removed	88
Not homeless removed	916
Final number in database	4,969

C. Report Organization

Part IV presents MDHI survey data. These data are reported for respondents and all homeless. For clarity in reporting the findings of this study, respondents are those individuals who completed the survey. Family members are relatives that respondents documented as with them who were also without a permanent place to live. The findings are reported in two categories - “respondents” and “all homeless.” The “all homeless” category is the sum of respondents and the homeless family members with them. The Findings, Part IV, does not include the estimated total number of homeless, that is, the survey as well as unsheltered counts and estimates. **Only the results of the survey are included in Part IV.**

Part V discusses the limitations of the data. Limitations include the consistent finding in the literature of the difficulty counting homeless persons. Part V also discusses the data limitations of self-reported data, the accuracy of identifying those respondents who are “not homeless,” and family members who are not counted (respondents not documenting homeless relatives with them).

Part VI is a summary of the process, and provides information about the study’s coordinators, volunteers, participating agencies, training materials and expectations, and data collection.

Part VII is a detailed explanation of the research methodology.

Part VIII is a summary of the key survey findings, including some comparisons between the summer 2006 / winter 2007 PIT, and comparisons of 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 winter studies.

Part IX consists of appendices, including the surveys.

PART IV. FINDINGS – SURVEY DATA

Section IV details the findings for the Eighth Annual Point-In-Time Study, 2007. The report includes information about the demographic characteristics of respondents, where respondents spent the night of January 29, the duration, frequency and reasons for respondents' homelessness, needed services, government benefits, and information about family members without a permanent place to live.

A. Number of Respondents and Family Members

The data presented in this report describe the survey respondents (those individuals who completed the survey) and family members or relatives as documented by respondents. The total number of homeless persons in this report is the sum of those who completed the survey and the number of family members accompanying the respondents who also were without a permanent place to live on January 29, 2007.

Nearly 5,000 (4,969) respondents were determined to have been homeless on the night of January 29. Respondents were accompanied by 3,513 family members, for a total of 8,482 persons who were homeless on January 29, 2007.

As stated earlier, numerous respondents identified themselves as having children or being part of a couple, and many of these respondents did not complete information about their family members. As a result, the total number of homeless people does not reflect all family members who were with the respondent and without a permanent place to live. Conversely, 40 respondents indicated "single" status but provided information about family members who also were without a permanent place to live. These family members were included in the dataset. Some of these single respondents indicated that they were accompanied by homeless family members but did not indicate their relationship. The 29 family members whose relationship to respondent was indicated consist of parents, siblings, adult children, cousins, aunts or uncles, and nieces or nephews, as illustrated in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Number and Type of Family Members with Single Respondents

FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SINGLE RESPONDENTS				
Brother/sister	Father/mother	Adult child	*Other	TOTAL
6	4	12	7	29

* Other family members: cousin, aunt/uncle, niece/nephew

B. Respondents

This section refers to *respondents* only; respondents are those people who completed a survey.

1. Household Situation

The household situation identified by the person who completed the survey reflects how they portrayed themselves. In this report, 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 or part of a couple with children are categorized as "Households with Children."¹³

¹³ There are some exceptions to this rule. Respondents who identified themselves as single or as part of a couple without children, but who reported having children in Q12 and/or Q13, were redefined as either a single parent or as part of a couple with children, and categorized as a household with children.

Figure 2 describes the respondents by household situation. A majority (56.7%) of respondents are single, followed by more than one quarter (26.2%) who identified themselves as single parents with children. The proportion of respondents who are single parents is consistent with winter 2006 (25.7%), but has decreased slightly since summer 2006, when 29 percent of respondents identified themselves as single parents.

Figure 2. Household Situation¹⁴

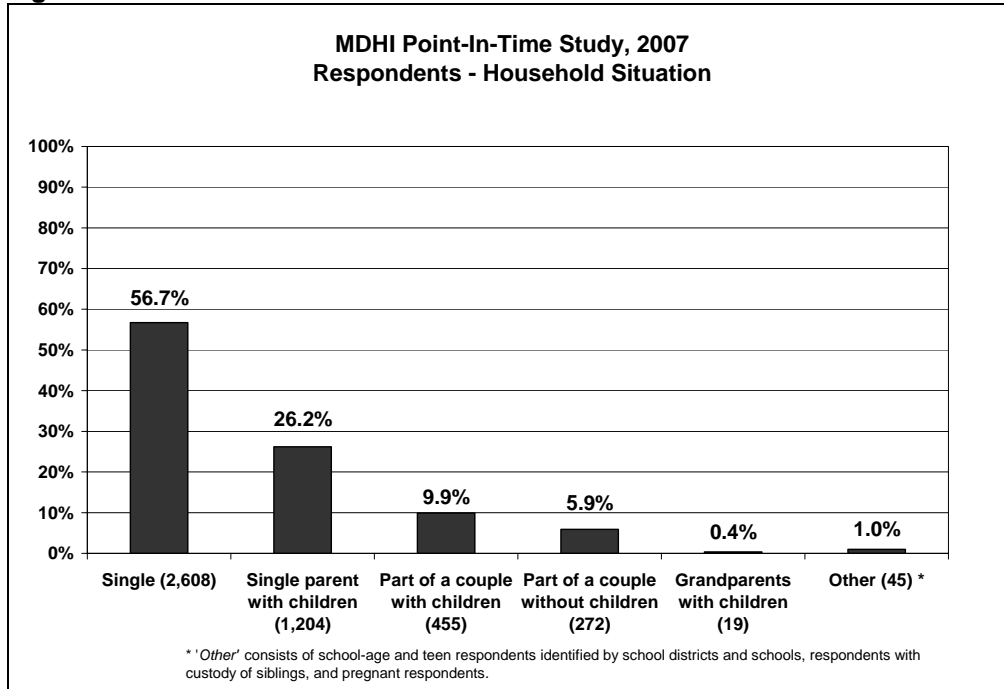
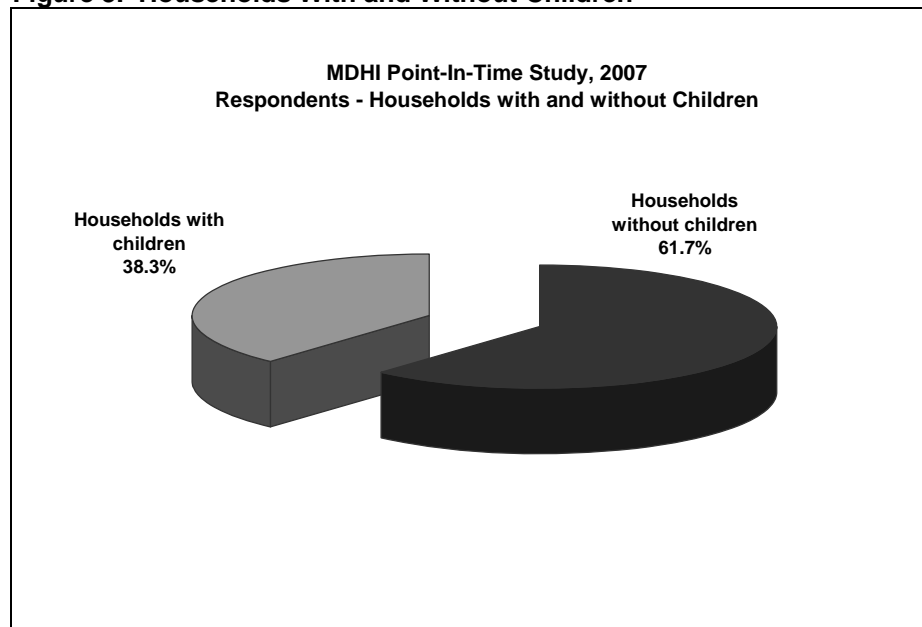


Figure 3. Households With and Without Children



¹⁴ A total of 366 respondents did not indicate, or it was impossible to determine, their household situation.

2. Ages

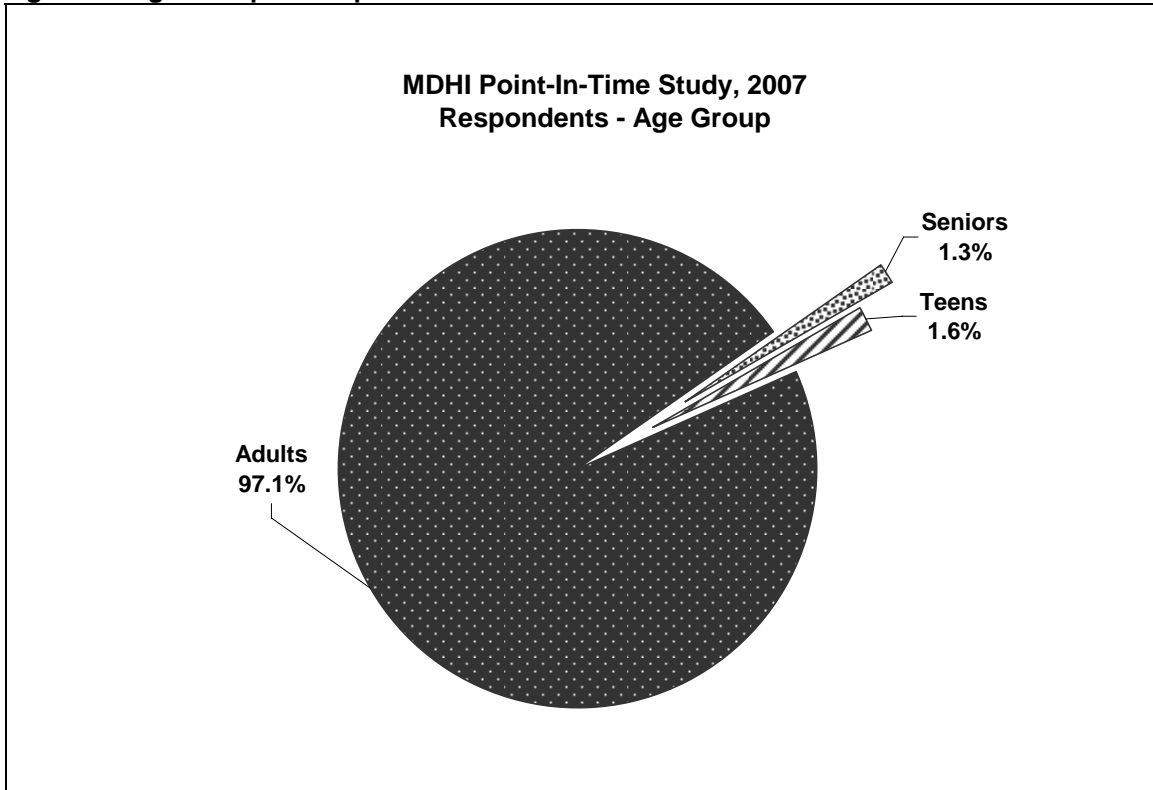
Respondents ranged in age from 13 to 80 years. The average age for individuals completing the 2007 Point-In-Time Survey was 39.2 years old.

Table 5. Age of Respondents

AGE GROUP*	NUMBER	%
School Age (12 and under)	0	0
Teen (13-17)	76	1.6
Young Adult (18-25)	783	16.8
Adult (26-64)	3,735	80.2
Senior (65 and over)	62	1.3
TOTAL	4,656	100.0
*Age is missing for 313 respondents.		

Almost all (97.0%) of the people completing the survey are in the young adult or adult category. Just under 2 percent are teens age 13-17, and only 1 percent are over 65 years of age.¹⁵

Figure 4. Age Groups - Respondents



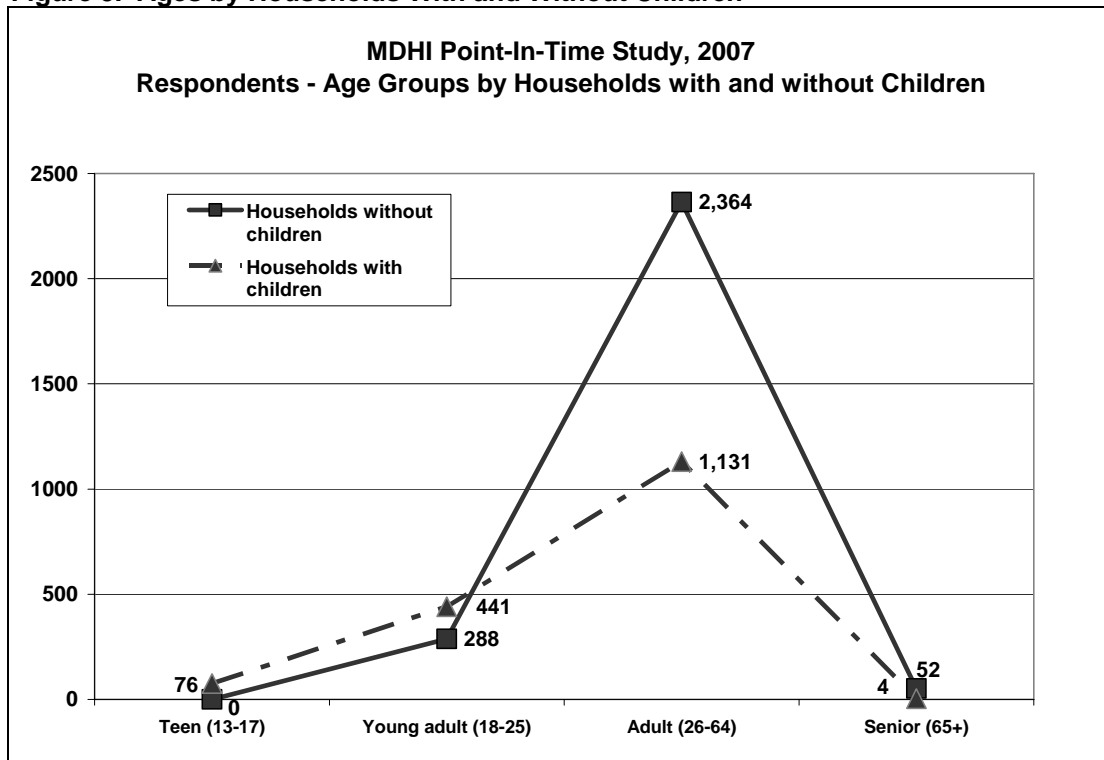
¹⁵ In 2006, 7 percent were teens age 13-19, and 13 percent were young adults age 20-25. Given the changes in how age was categorized, the data for 2006 and 2007 are not directly comparable. Combining the teen and young adult categories shows that, in 2007, a total of 18.4 percent of respondents are in these age groups, compared to 19.9 percent in 2006.

a. Age Group and Family Status of Respondents

By definition, teenage respondents (13-17) are in households with children. This differs from the way teenagers were treated in previous years. In the young adult age group, respondents in households with children (441) outnumber those in households without children (288). In contrast, adult respondents are twice as likely to reside in households without children. Among seniors, only four respondents are in households with children. Figure 5 provides the number of respondents in each age category by households with and without children.

As is the case for other data points throughout this report, numbers and/or percentages may not “match.” For example, Figure 5 is a crosstab (the cross-referencing or comparison of two variables to determine how they are interrelated) of ages by households with and without children. Figure 5 shows that there are 729 young adults when combining the household categories; however, Table 6 shows there are 783 young adults. When a crosstab is performed, missing data are excluded – therefore, the difference in the two numbers is due to respondents not including information about their household situation. Also note that in Table 5, the total proportion of adults (young adults and adults combined) adds to 90.0 percent. However, in Figure 4, the proportion of adults is 90.1 percent. This difference is due to rounding error.

Figure 5. Ages by Households With and Without Children



b. Ages of Children, Teens and Young Adult Respondents

Many programs serving children and youth need breakdowns of homeless youth ages that are unique to their program. Table 6 provides information on the number of children and youth respondents between the ages of 13 and 25.

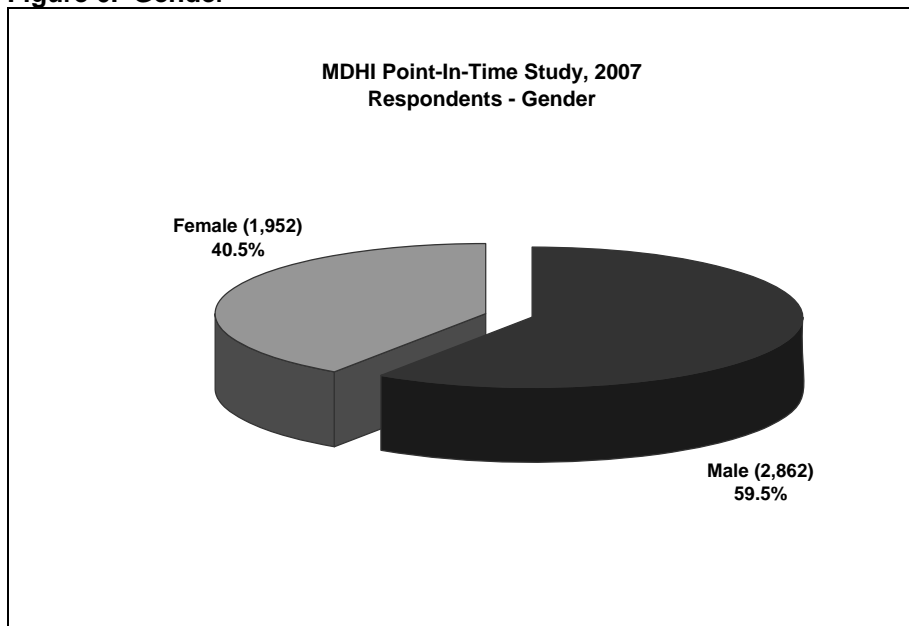
Table 6. Children, Teens, Young Adults

RESPONDENT AGE	NUMBER
13	2
14	4
15	13
16	14
17	43
18	105
19	92
20	107
21	102
22	102
23	91
24	97
25	87
Total	859

3. Gender

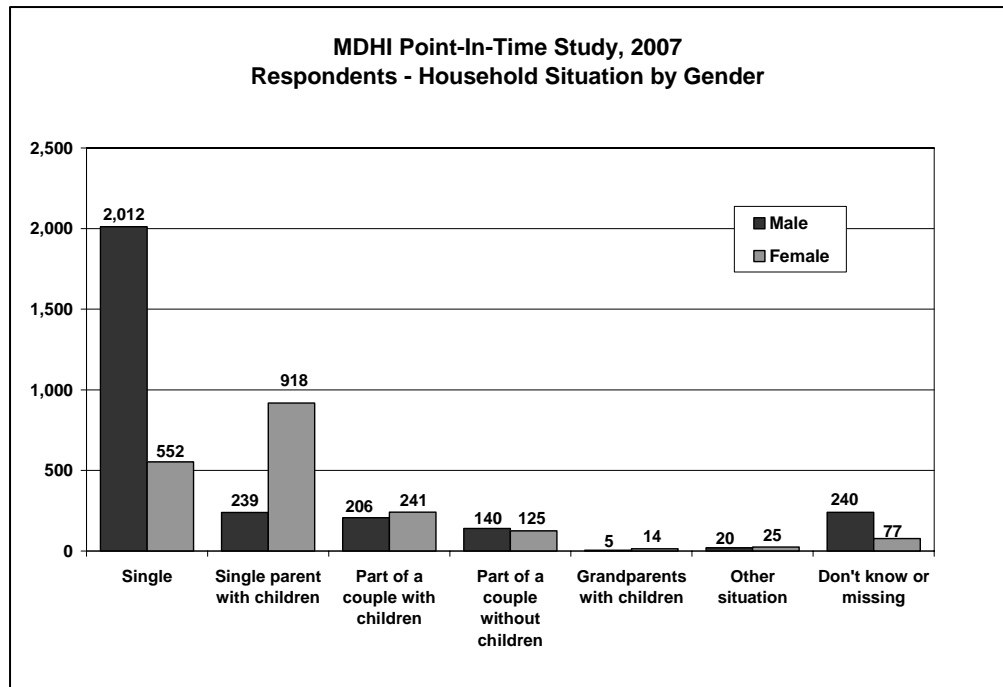
This winter, 2007, male respondents considerably outnumber female respondents: 59.5 percent to 40.5 percent. In winter, 2006, males comprised 53 percent of respondents, and there were only 316 fewer females than males. In summer, 2006, 55 percent of respondents were male, and there were 392 fewer females. This year, males outnumber females by 910. These data suggest that the number of homeless men has increased in the past year.

Figure 6. Gender



Single people are predominantly male (78.5%). In contrast, females primarily head single parent families (79.3%). The individuals who completed the survey for a couple with children also were more likely to be female, while those who completed the survey for a couple without children were more likely to be male. With the exception of couples without children, the pattern by gender is similar to 2006.

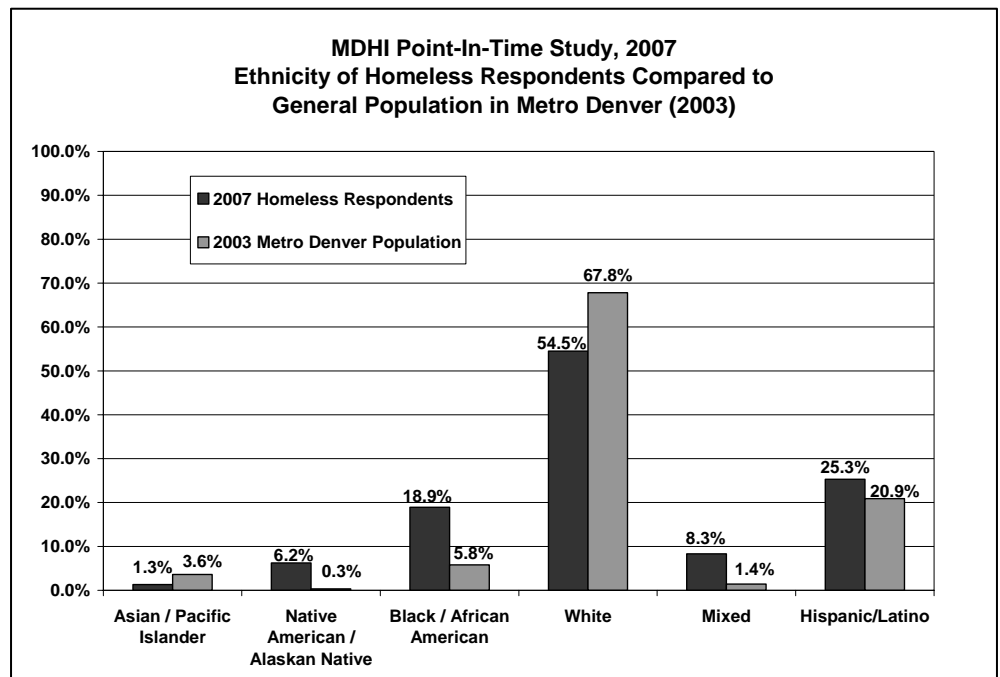
Figure 7. Household Situation by Gender



4. Race and Ethnicity of Respondents

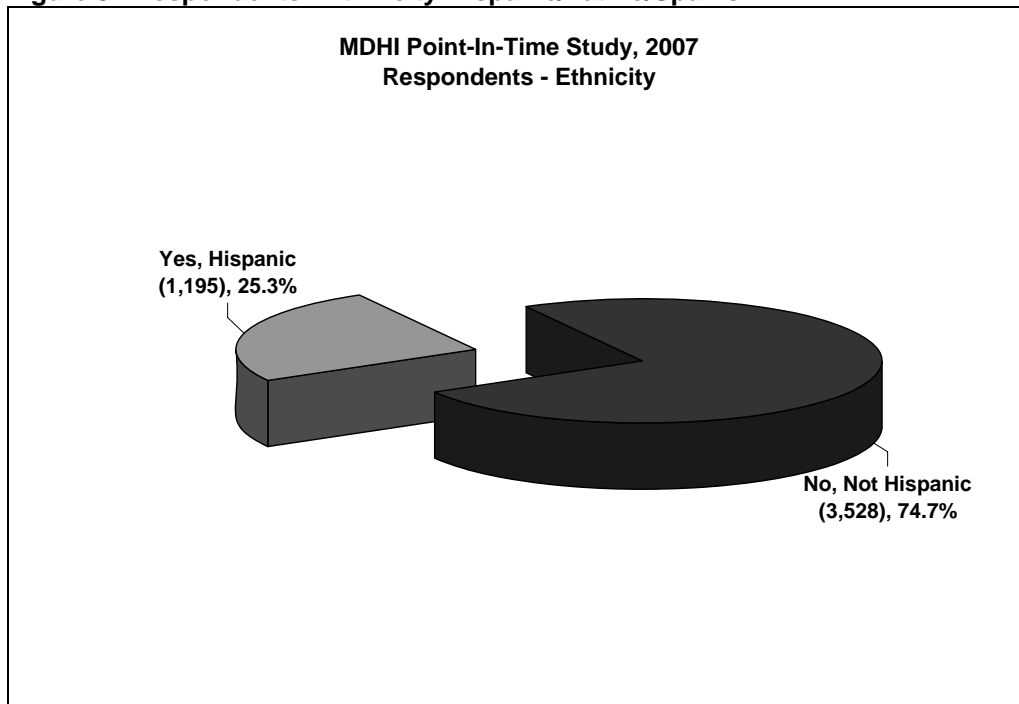
In a comparison of those who completed the 2007 Point-In-Time Survey with the most recent figures of the general population of Metro Denver (2003), whites are under-represented and minorities are over-represented among the homeless.¹⁶ This pattern is unchanged from winter and summer 2006.

Figure 8. Race / Ethnicity of Homeless Respondents and Metro Denver



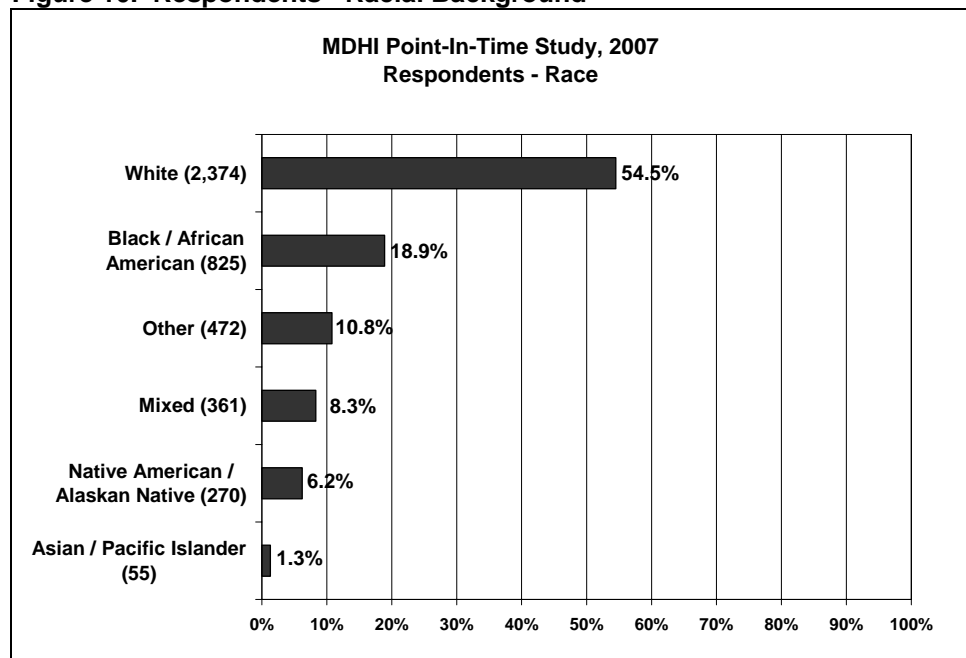
¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. "American Community Survey 2003 Multi-Year Profile, Denver, CO PMSA." <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2003/ACS/Tabular/385/38500US208220801.htm>>

Figure 9. Respondents - Ethnicity-Hispanic/Latino/Spanish



In Figure 8 above, the percentages in each 2007 PIT homeless ethnicity category add up to more than 100 percent because the survey asked respondents to identify their race and ethnicity in two separate questions, 1) *Which one category best describes your racial background?*; and 2) *Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic, Latino or Spanish?* Figures 9 and 10 describe race and ethnicity data reported by respondents.

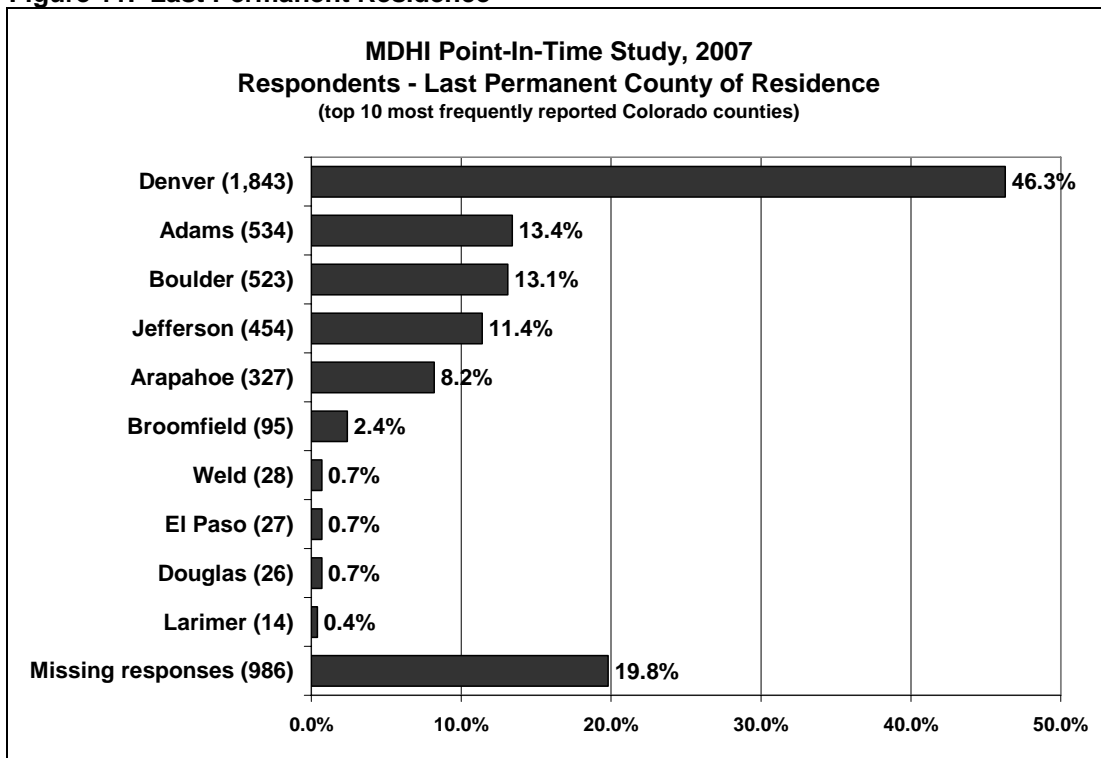
Figure 10. Respondents - Racial Background



5. Last Permanent Residence

Respondents were asked to indicate the county where they last lived before they became homeless. The largest single percentage (46.3%) of respondents indicated their last permanent residence was in Denver City and County, although a combined 53.7 percent were from counties other than Denver. In 2006, 41.6 percent reported Denver as their last permanent residence.

Figure 11. Last Permanent Residence



a. Last Permanent Residence Compared to January 29, 2007

Table 7 describes the county where respondents spent the night of January 29 and where respondents had their last permanent residence. For example, out of 596 respondents who said they spent the night of January 29 in Boulder, 489 reported Boulder as their last permanent county of residence, and 37 reported their last permanent residence was the City and County of Denver.

Table 7. Last Permanent County of Residence and Where Respondents Spent Monday Night

LAST PERMANENT CTY OF RESIDENCE	COUNTY WHERE RESPONDENTS SPENT MONDAY NIGHT							
	Adams	Arapahoe	Boulder	Broomfield	Denver	Douglas	Jefferson	Total
Adams	341	22	15	0	127	3	26	534
Arapahoe	24	137	10	0	131	4	21	327
Boulder	2	1	489	0	23	1	7	523
Broomfield	0	1	5	75	8	0	6	95
Denver	41	70	37	1	1,579	0	115	1,843
Douglas	0	0	0	0	18	6	2	26
Jefferson	10	11	11	0	130	1	291	454
Other Cty in Colo	3	7	29	0	98	1	25	163
Not in Colo	4	0	0	0	5	0	9	18
Total	425	249	596	76	2,119	16	502	3,983

Almost one in five (19.8% -- 986) respondents did not indicate the county where they had their last permanent residence. When asked the state of their last permanent residence, the great majority (85.8%) reported Colorado. Other than Colorado, respondents most frequently reported that they had resided in California and Texas.

6. Reasons for Homelessness

Figures 12 and 13 describe the reasons for homelessness. Figure 12 describes all reasons reported by respondents. Figure 13 shows the top 10 reasons of homelessness by households with and without children. The percentages apply to the two household groups within each category.

Respondents were asked to indicate "all that apply" regarding reasons for their homelessness. On average, respondents indicated one or two reasons, with 13 reasons as the highest number checked. Similar to 2006, overall, loss of a job was the most common reason for homelessness, followed by housing costs and a relationship or family breakup. Also consistent with 2006, respondents who said that losing their job was a reason for their homelessness were substantially more likely to be in households without children than in households with children. Likewise, a much larger percentage reporting substance abuse, medical problems and mental illness as reasons for their homelessness continued to be in households without children.

In contrast, since winter 2006, there has been a change in the household situation of respondents reporting housing-related expenses as a reason for their homelessness. In the current survey, of those citing housing costs, 55.7 percent are in households with children. In

winter 2006, housing costs were cited nearly equally by both groups. In summer 2006, of those who reported housing costs as a reason for homelessness, 57.7 percent were respondents in households with children, compared to 42.3 percent in households without children. The same pattern applies to utility costs. In the current survey, 58.1 percent of respondents who reported utility costs as a reason for homeless are in households with 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% versus 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 households with children than for those without.

A substantially greater percentage of households with children report abuse/violence in the home as a reason for their homelessness. 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. In the current survey, this proportion has increased to more than three in five (62.0%).

Figure 12. Reasons for Homelessness

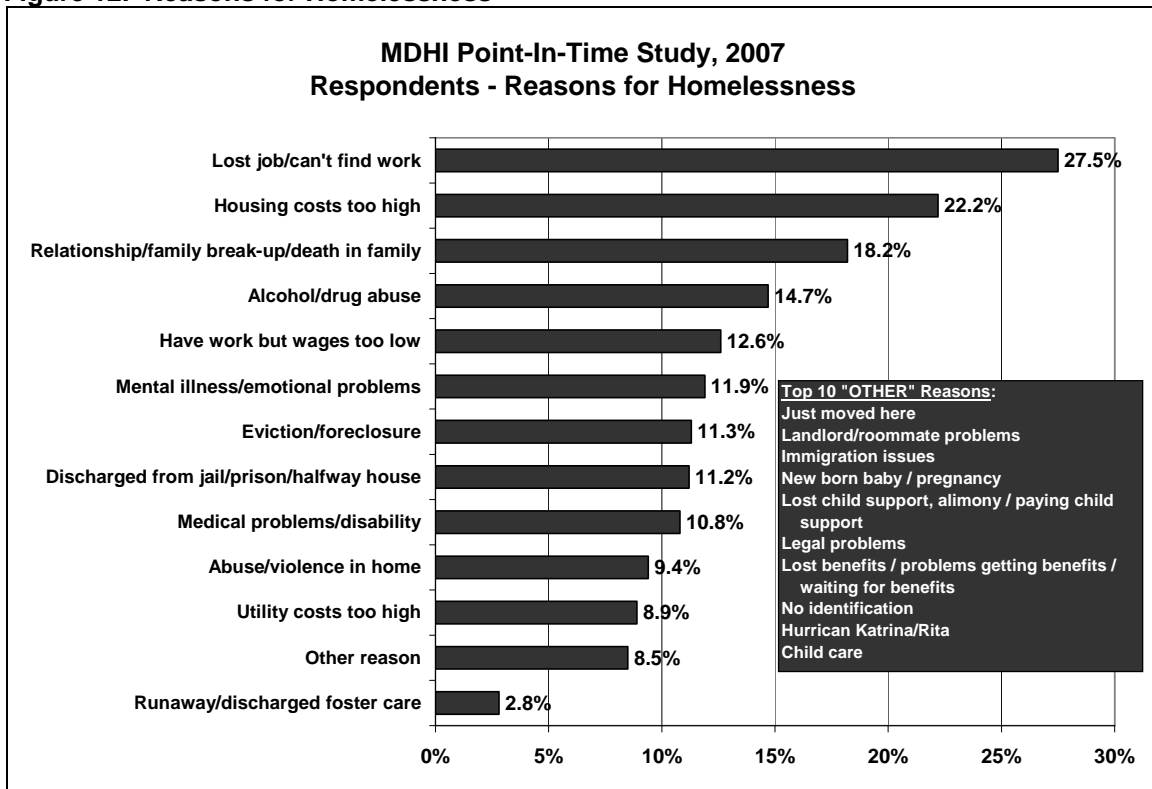
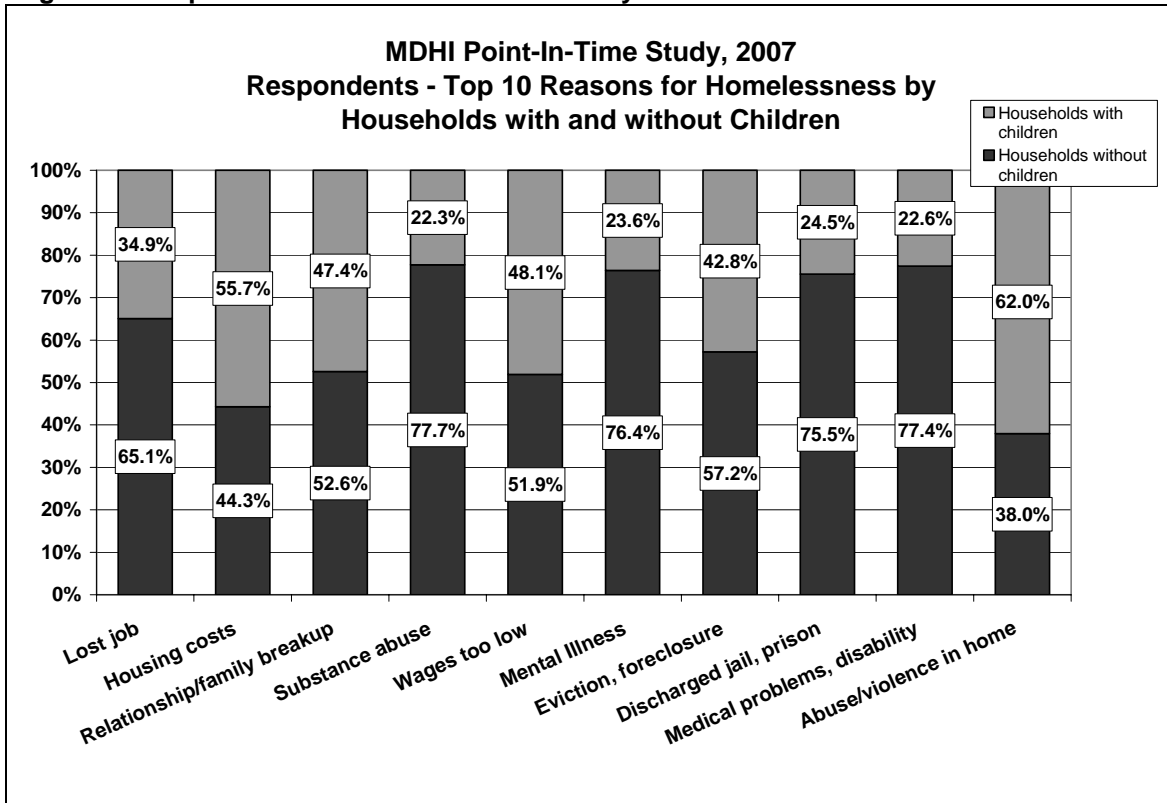


Figure 13. Top 10 Reasons for Homelessness by Households with and without children



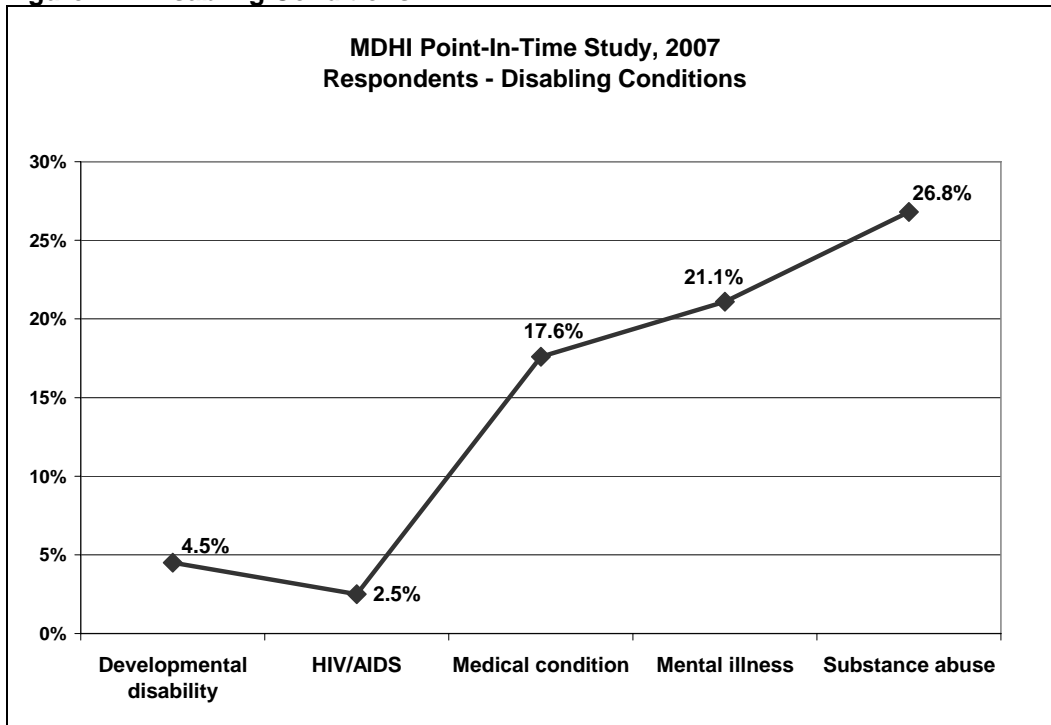
Survey respondents wrote in “other” reasons for their homelessness. The most common “other” reason for homelessness was that respondent just moved to the area. Other reasons listed in order of occurrence were landlord or roommate problems; immigration issues; child support or alimony problems; legal issues; and pregnancy or newborn. At least 14 respondents cited each of these reasons.

7. Disabling Conditions

HUD requires that the point-in-time survey include questions asking respondents to identify if, at the time of the survey, they had any of the following five disabling conditions – serious mental illness, a serious medical condition, chronic substance abuse issues, a developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. Fully half (50.9%) of respondents reported having at least one disabling condition. Over one in ten (12.3%) reported having two.

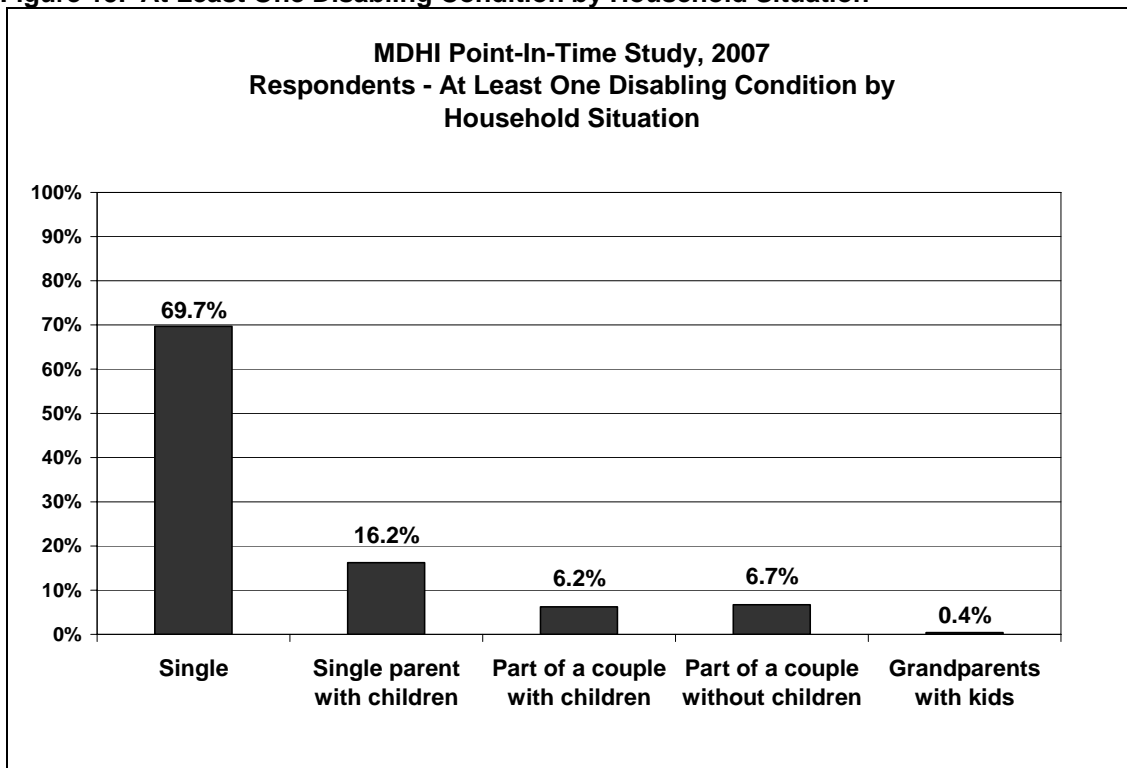
The largest group of respondents indicated that they experienced serious substance abuse problems, followed by mental illness and medical or physical problems. The proportion with serious substance abuse problems has increased in the past year. In 2006, 15.4 percent reported having a problem with drug or alcohol abuse; in 2007, it is the most frequently reported problem, cited by 26.8 percent. In summer, 2006, 25.3 percent reported a substance abuse problem. Respondents with serious medical conditions have decreased since winter 2006, while the proportion with serious mental illness has stayed relatively stable. Again, it is likely that this is an underreporting of disabling conditions.

Figure 14. Disabling Conditions



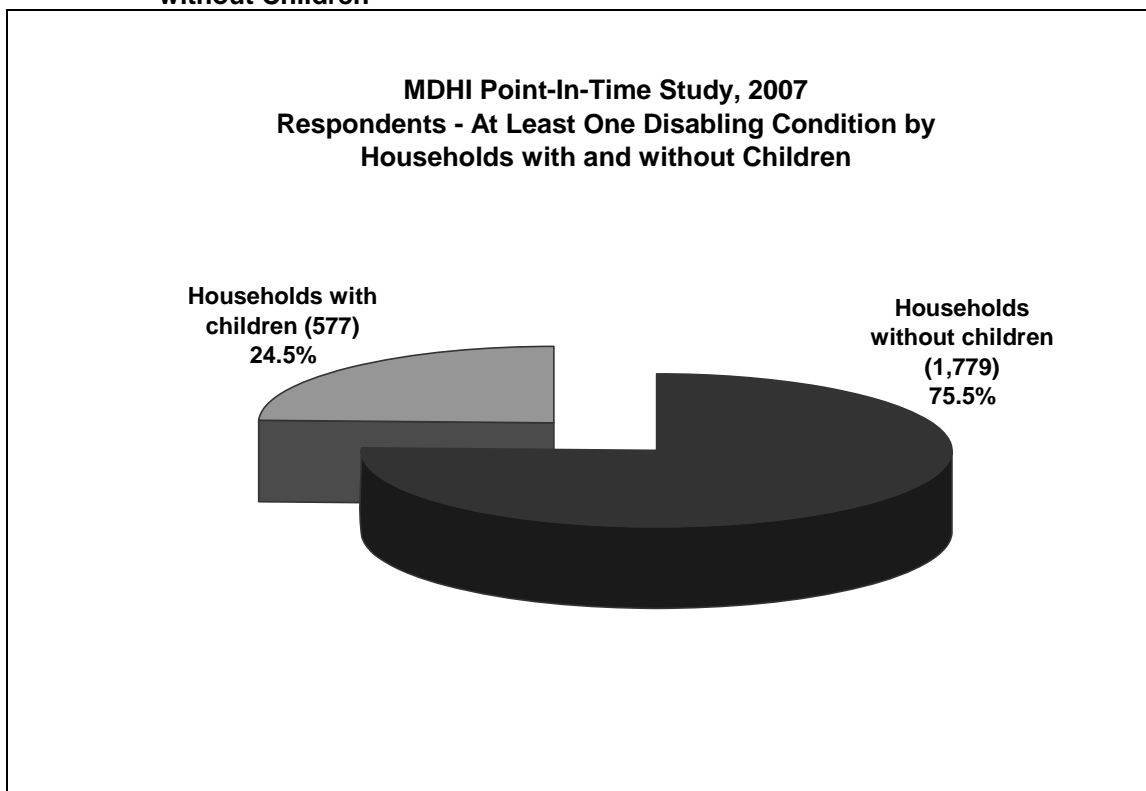
Single people (63.0%) and respondents in households without children (62.6%) are more likely to have at least one of the five disabling conditions. This is the same pattern as in winter and summer, 2006.

Figure 15. At Least One Disabling Condition by Household Situation



Of those that reported at least one disabling condition, three-quarters were households without children. This is consistent with 2006.

Figure 16. Respondents - At Least One Disabling Condition by Households with and without Children



8. Issues: Military, Foster Care, Colorado Identification, Work

Respondents were asked if they had served in the military, had ever been in any kind of out-of-home placement, had a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver's license, and if they recently received money from working. Responses to these questions are helpful in understanding and planning for needed services.

The proportion reporting that they served in the U.S. military and that they were in foster care or another out-of-home placement at some time as a child or youth is fairly consistent with winter 2006, and up slightly from summer 2006.

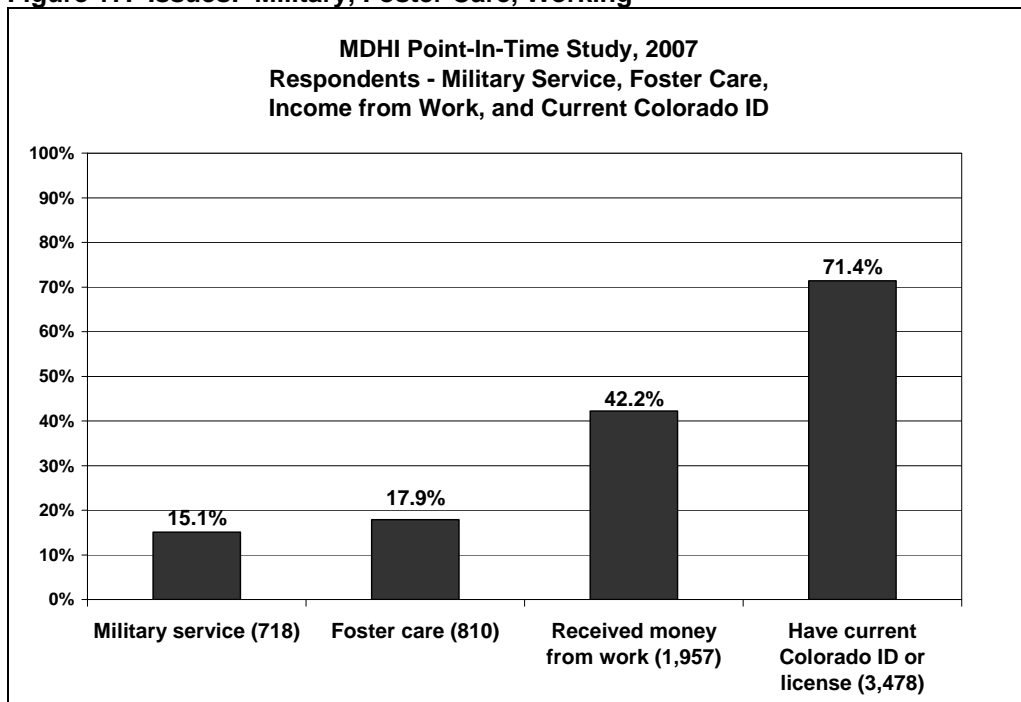
Two-fifths (42.2%) of respondents said that, in the past month, they or another family member had received money from working.¹⁷

More than 70 percent (71.4%) of respondents have a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver's license. In winter 2006, 63 percent reporting having identification.

¹⁷ In summer 2006, more than half (53.3%) said that their family had some income from employment since the beginning of the year. These data are not comparable since the period for the winter 2007 survey is one month, compared to eight months for summer 2006.

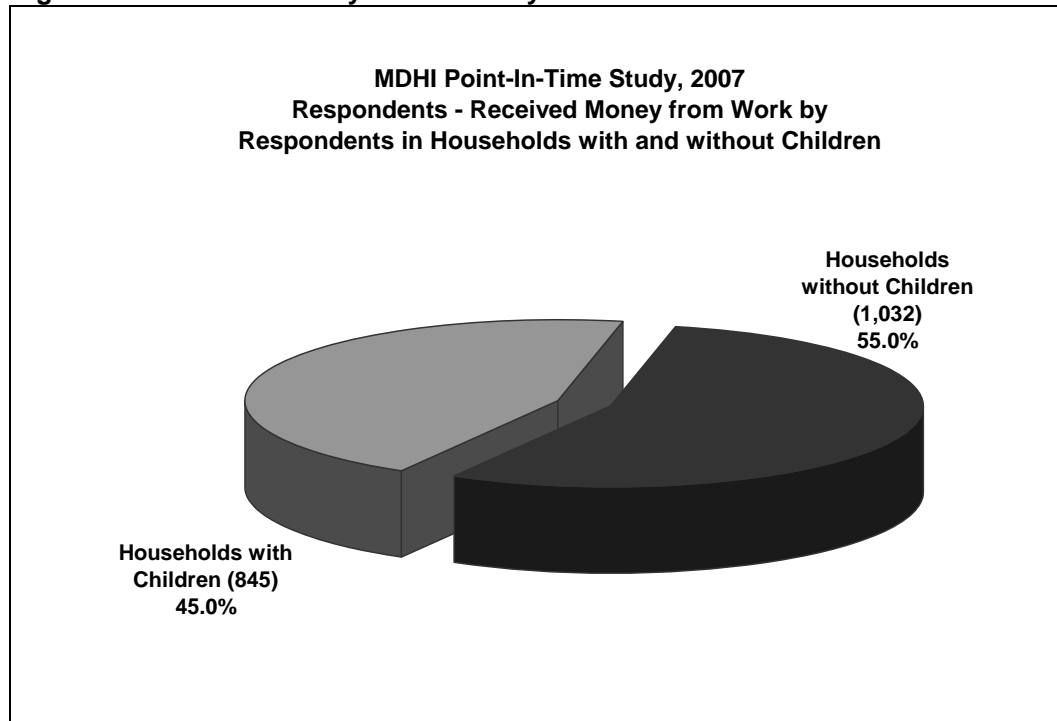
Slightly less than 5 percent (4.7%) said that they are seasonal resort workers, compared to 3.2 percent in summer 2006.

Figure 17. Issues: Military, Foster Care, Working



A slightly higher proportion of households without children reported having received money from work.

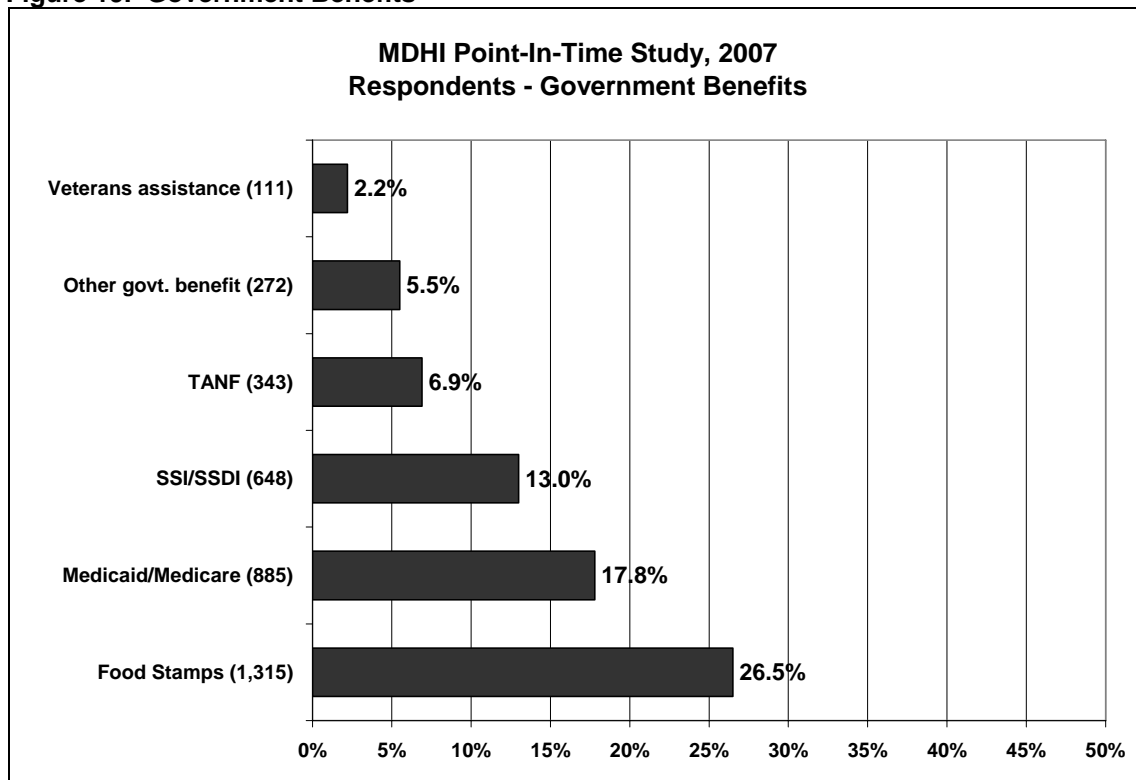
Figure 18. Received Money from Work by Households with and without Children



9. Government Benefits

Respondents were asked to indicate all the benefits they received. Nearly half (45.0%) of respondents report that their family is receiving government benefits. Food Stamps (26.5%) and Medicaid/Medicare (17.8%) were the most frequently reported resources. These also were the most frequently received benefits in 2006. However, the proportion receiving Food Stamps has decreased since summer 2006, when one-third (32.2%) said that they were Food Stamp recipients. Of those receiving benefits, most indicated that they were receiving only one benefit.

Figure 19. Government Benefits



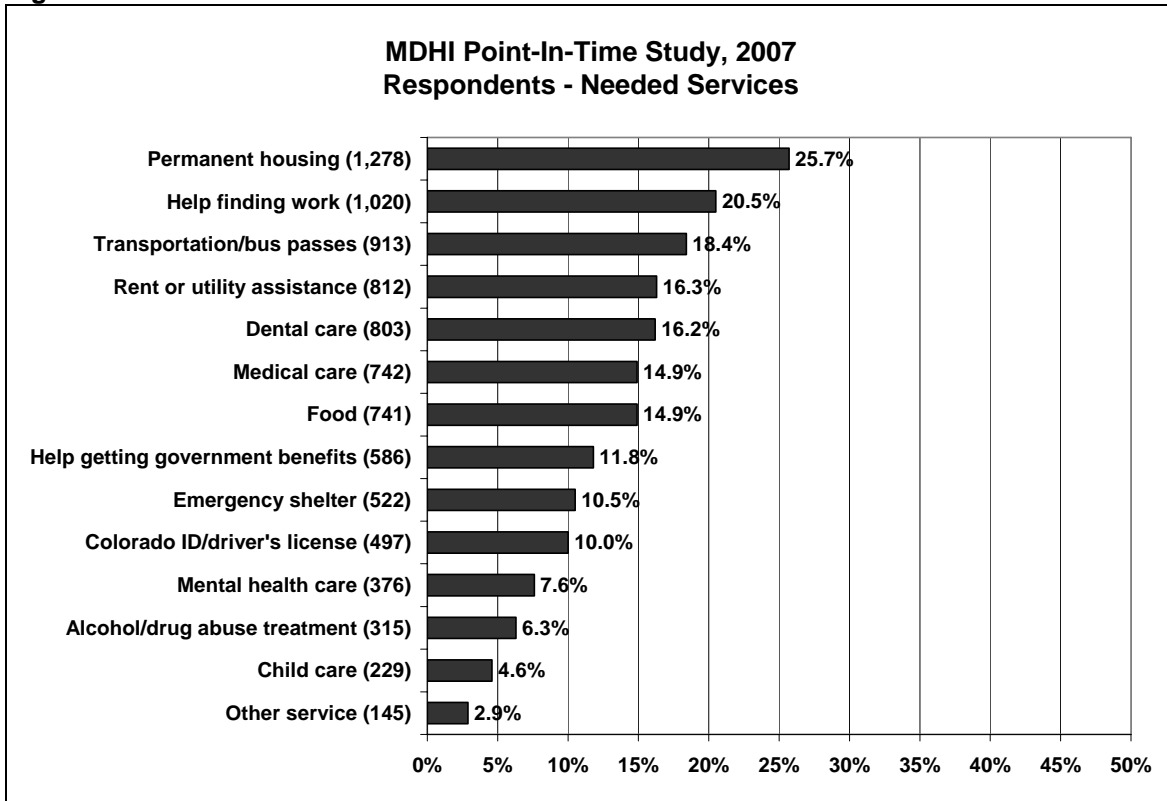
10. Needed Services

Respondents were asked what services they needed in the past month that they were unable to obtain. Permanent housing was cited by one-fourth (25.7%) of all respondents. One-fifth (20.5%) needed help finding work. Transportation (18.4%), rent or utility assistance (16.3%), dental care (16.2%), food (14.9%), and medical care (14.9%) also were frequently needed services. The percentages do not add up to 100 percent due to respondents checking “all that apply.” On average, respondents needed two services; nearly 40 percent (39.3%) said they needed no services.

The winter 2006 survey used a somewhat different list of services, 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.

Similar to summer 2006, more than half needed housing-related services: help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, rent or utility assistance or emergency shelter.

Figure 20. Needed Services



In the “other” category, respondents most frequently said they needed but could not obtain legal assistance, and basic needs and clothing.

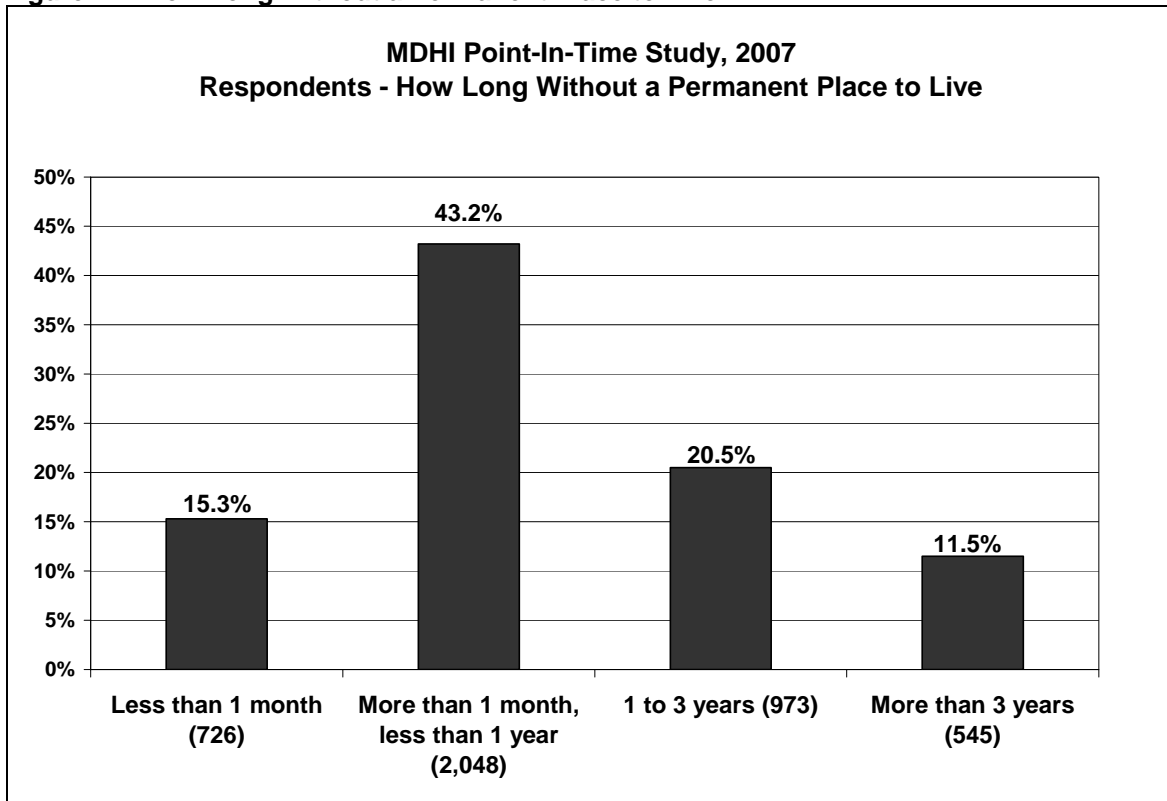
11. Duration and Episodes of Homelessness

a. Duration

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.

More than one in ten (15.3%) of all homeless people in this study have been without a permanent place to stay for less than a month. The greatest number of respondents (43.2%) have been homeless for more than one month but less than a year. This is unchanged from winter and summer 2006.

Figure 21. How Long Without a Permanent Place to Live



Men and women follow a similar pattern of length of homelessness, although men are more likely to have been homeless for more than three years, as are households without children. This also is the same pattern as in winter and summer

Figure 22. Duration by Gender

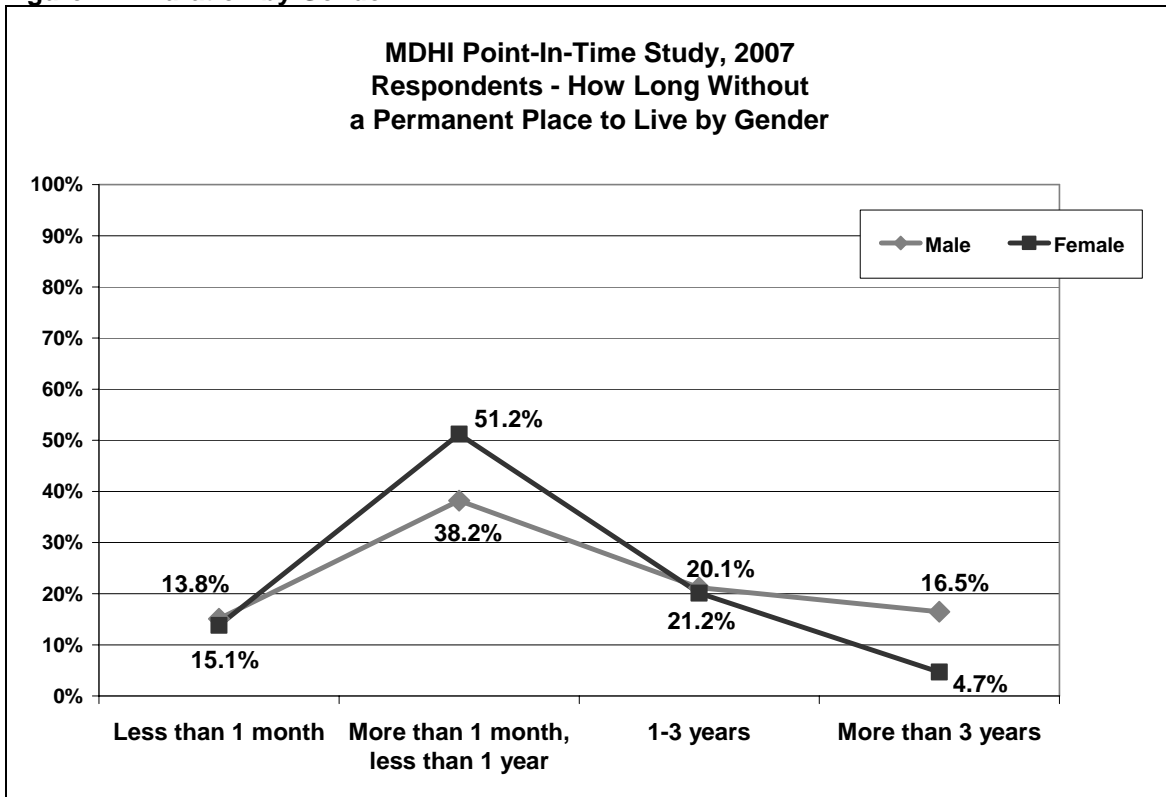
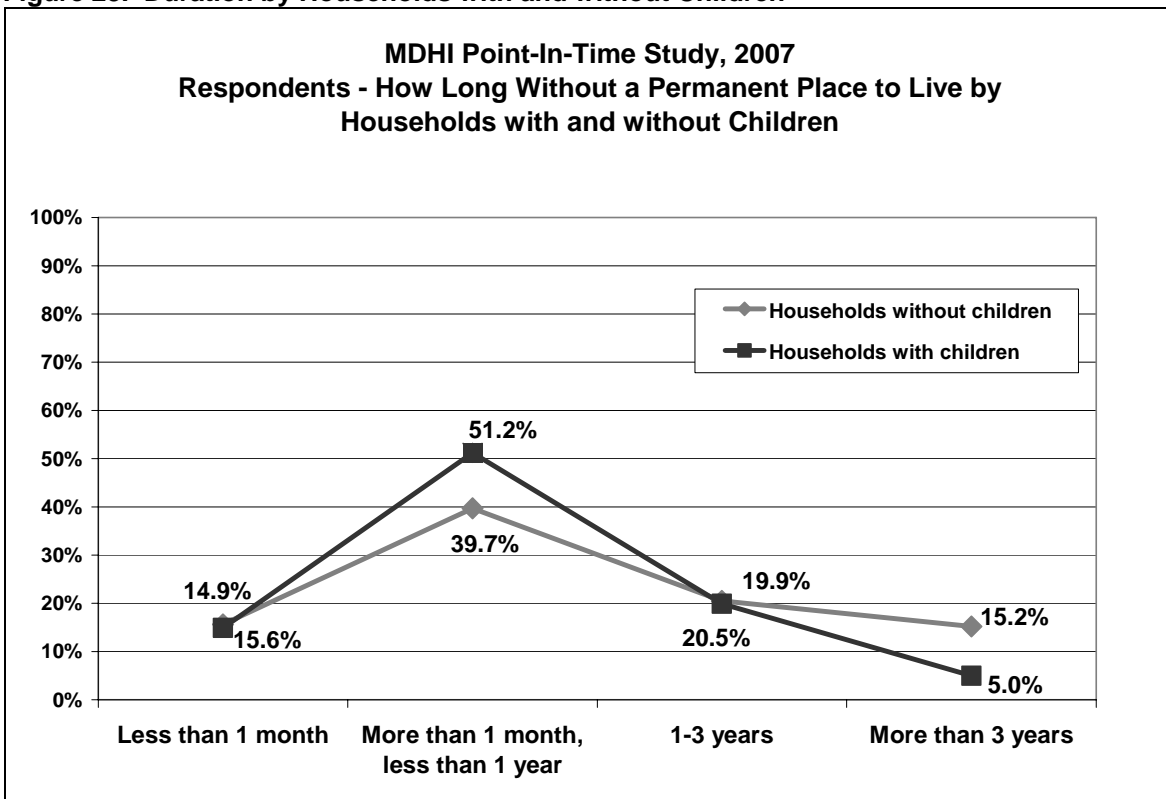


Figure 23. Duration by Households with and without Children

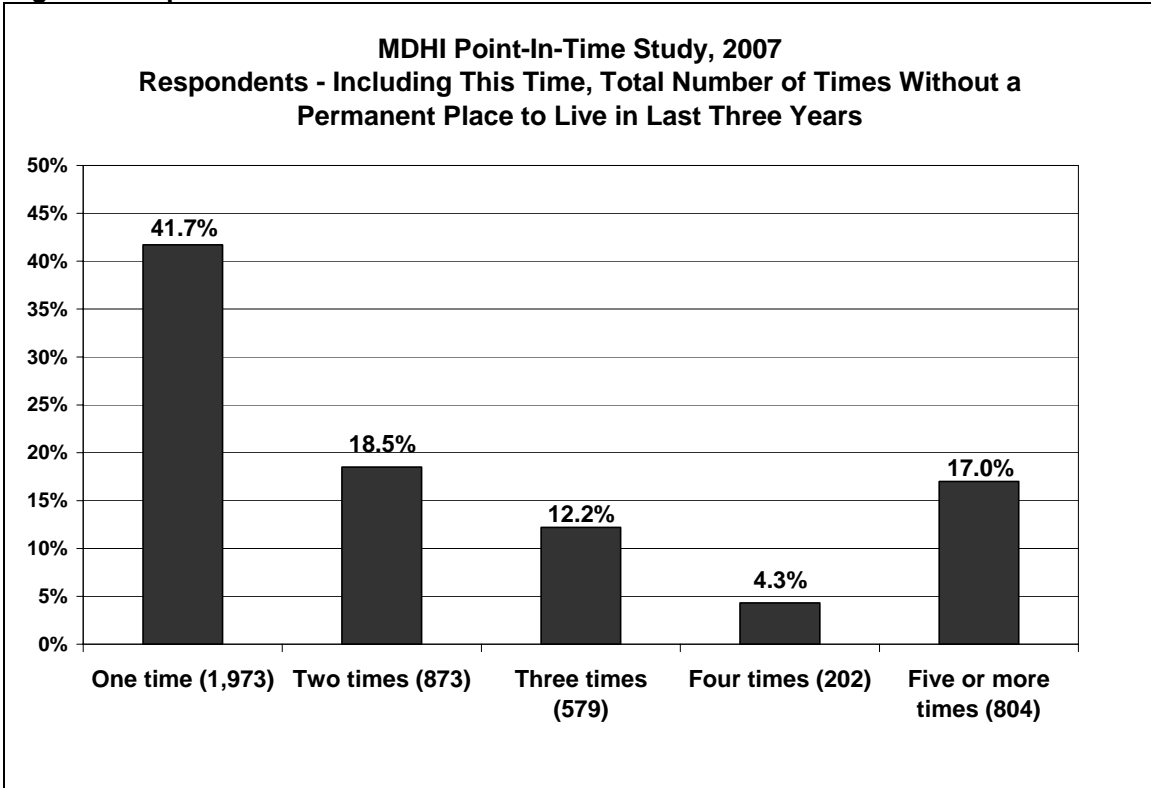


b. Episodes

Two-fifths (41.7%) of respondents were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years on the night of January 29. This is the largest group of homeless respondents.¹⁸ In comparison, in summer 2006, one in three (32.8%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years. This suggests that more respondents are newly homeless based on responses to this question.

One-third (33.5%) had been homeless three or more times (regardless of the length of time that episode had lasted). A similar proportion (32.2%) in summer 2006 had been homeless three or more times in the last three years.

Figure 24. Episodes – Number of Times Without a Permanent Place to Live



Men and those in households without children are more likely to be homeless five or more times.¹⁹

¹⁸ In winter 2006, one-quarter (24.5%) of respondents said they were experiencing their first episode of homelessness. In that survey, respondents could indicate that this was *the first time* they had been homeless. In addition, there was not a three-year limit on the question, so presumably respondents were indicating that they were homeless for the first time *ever*. Therefore, these data are not comparable with 2007.

¹⁹ In 2006, categories were slightly different; men and those in households without children were more likely to be homeless *six or more times*.

Figure 25. Episodes by Gender

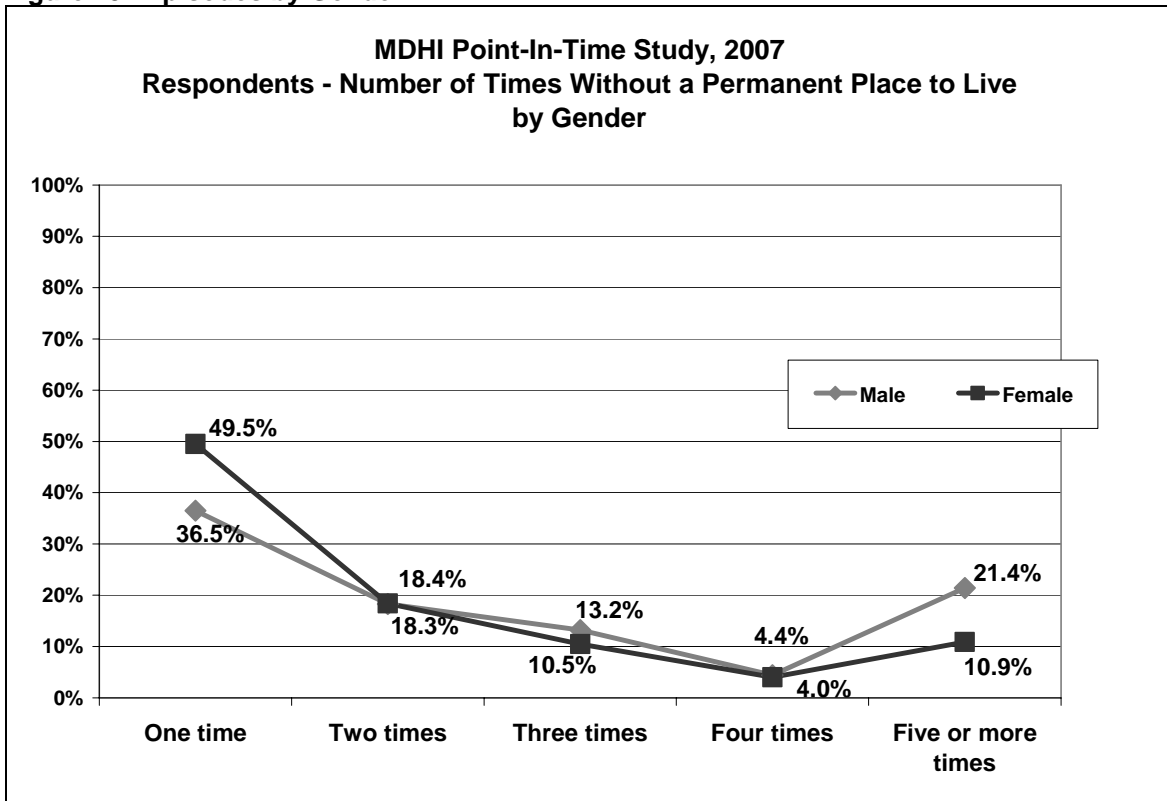
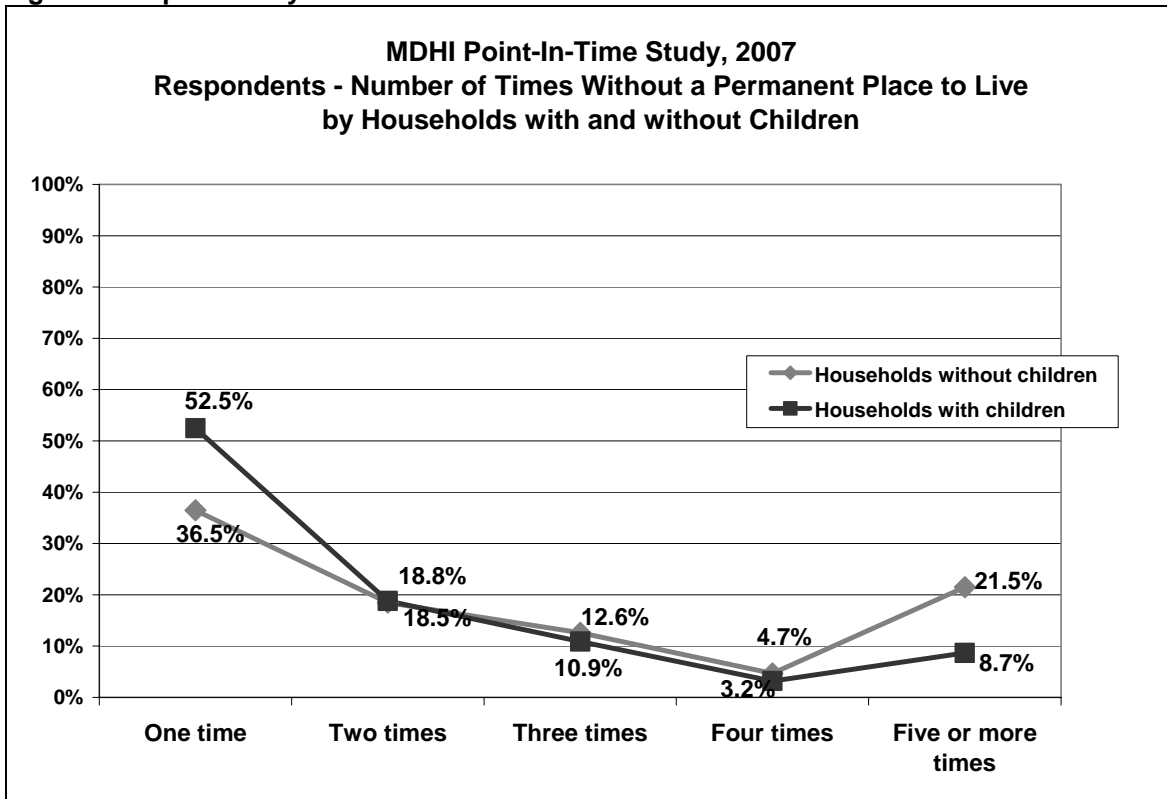


Figure 26. Episodes by Households with and without Children



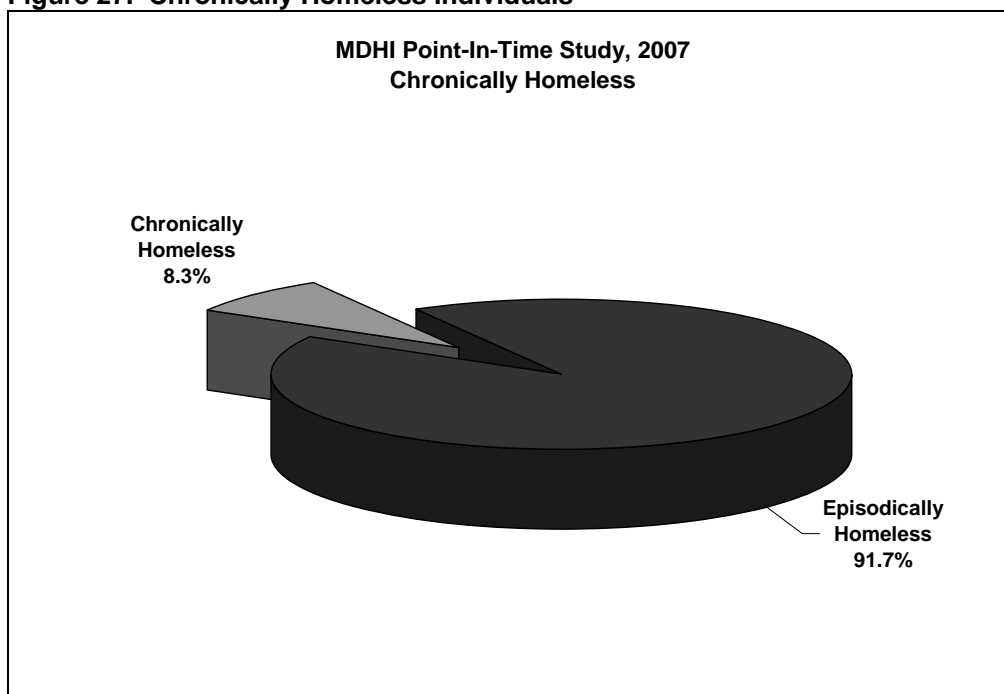
12. Chronically Homeless Individuals

HUD defines chronic homelessness as:

- 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.

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

Figure 27. Chronically Homeless Individuals



As of the night of January 29, 2007, slightly more than 8 percent, or 412 respondents, were considered chronically homeless; fully 92 percent (91.5%) of the chronically homeless are male.²⁰ In winter 2006, almost 10 percent, or 513 respondents, were considered chronically homeless. In summer 2006, 9 percent, or 384 respondents, were chronically homeless. The data suggest that the proportion who are chronically homeless may have dropped slightly since 2006.

²⁰ Please note, additional information regarding calculations of chronic homelessness this year and in previous years may be found in the Appendix.

C. ALL HOMELESS PEOPLE

This section reports on the category of “all homeless” (respondents and family members with them).

1. Household Situation

People in households headed by a single parent account for the largest group (38.0%) of all homeless people, followed by single individuals (34.0%). While the proportion of single parents increased from winter 2006 (38.7%) to summer 2006 (43.3%), it dropped slightly in 2007.

Figure 28. All Homeless People by Household Situation

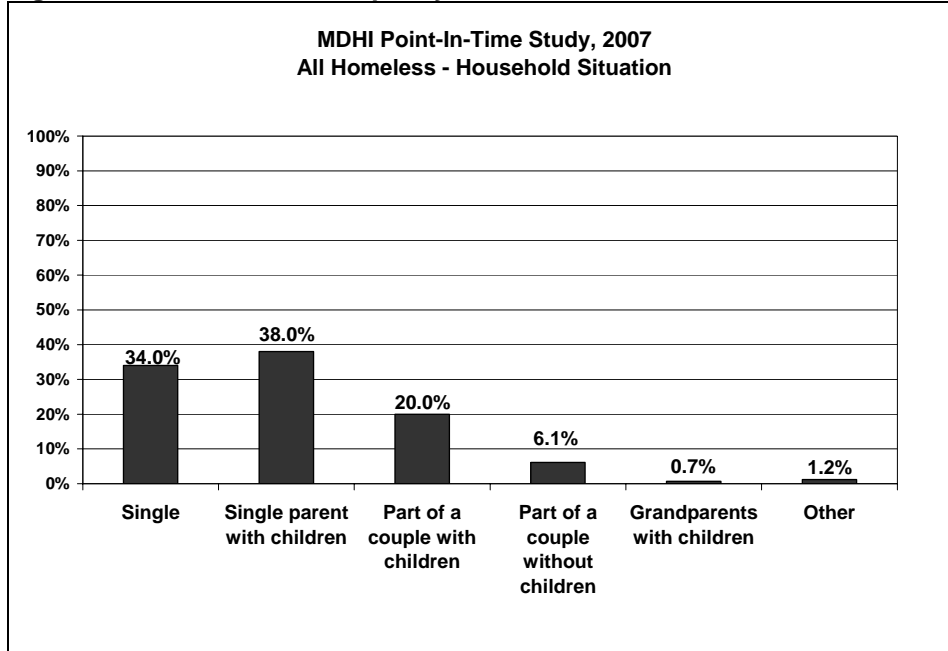
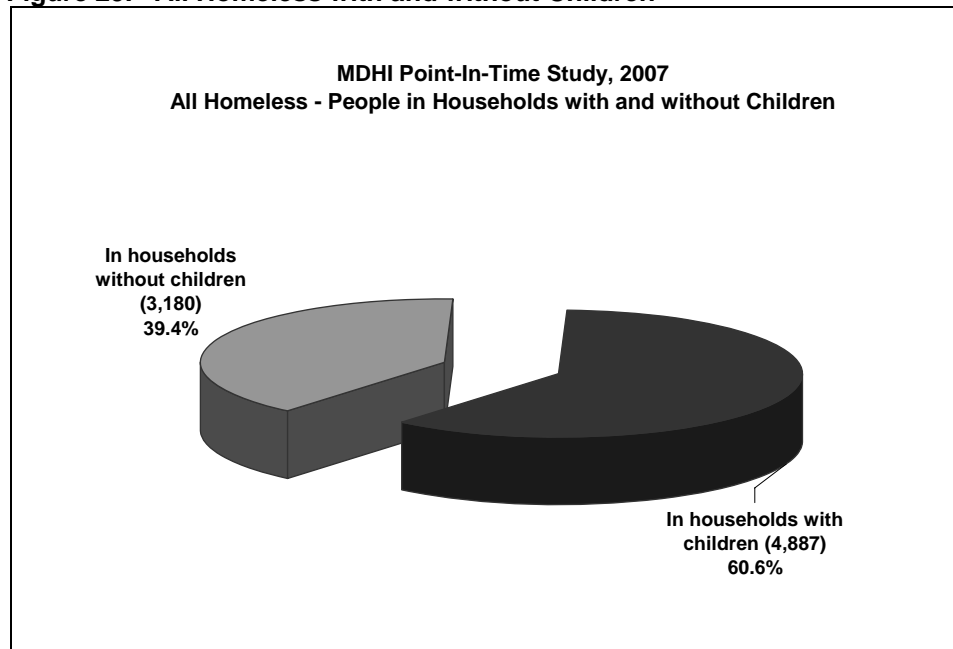


Figure 29. All Homeless with and without Children



As Figure 29 shows, three-fifths (60.6%) of all homeless are people in households with children. Consistent with both winter and summer 2006, persons in households with children predominate among the homeless. As was true for single parents, the proportion of households with children peaked in summer 2006 (64.9%), then dropped slightly in 2007.

Table 8 reports on people in households with and without children by county.

Table 8. County Where Spent Monday Night by Households with and without Children

COUNTY	PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT CHILDREN		PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN		TOTAL	
	%	#	%	#	%	#
Adams	9.9%	116	90.1%	1,056	100%	1,172
Arapahoe	26.1%	176	73.9%	498	100%	694
Boulder	43.3%	510	56.7%	669	100%	1,179
Broomfield	11.2%	23	88.8%	183	100%	206
Denver	54.7%	1,993	45.3%	1,652	100%	3,645
Douglas	27.3%	12	72.7%	32	100%	44
Jefferson	30.5%	350	69.5%	797	100%	1,147

2. Counties / Cities

The largest proportion (46.6%) of all homeless persons spent Monday night in the City and County of Denver. More, however, spent Monday night in other metro-area counties. The percentage of homeless persons having spent the night in Denver City and County went down from last year. In 2006, half (50.5%) spent Monday night in the City and County of Denver.

Figure 30. County Where Persons Spent Monday Night²¹

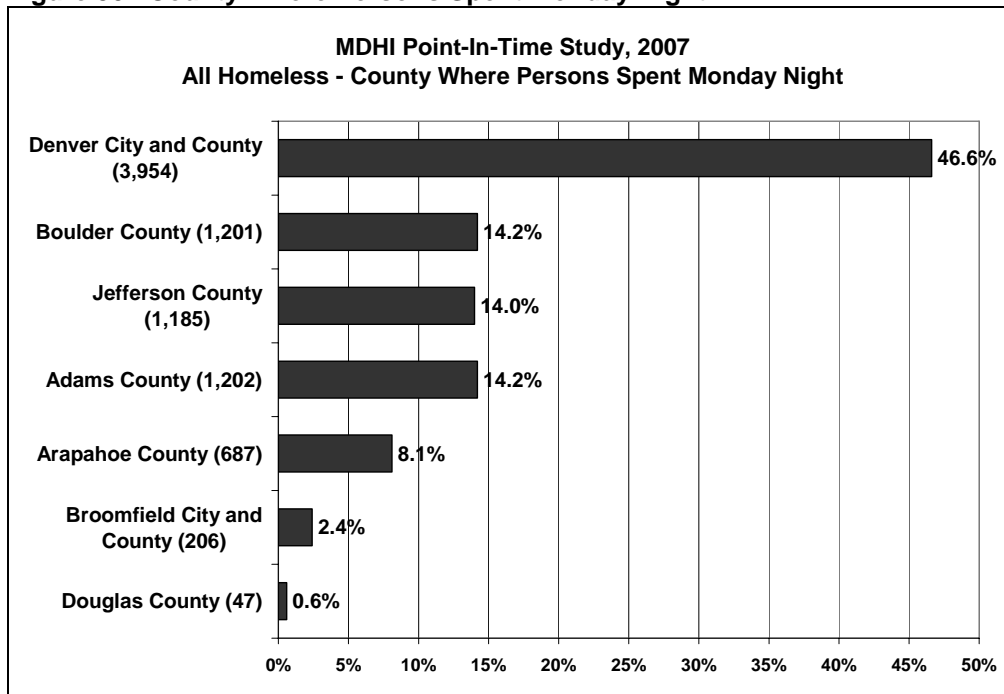
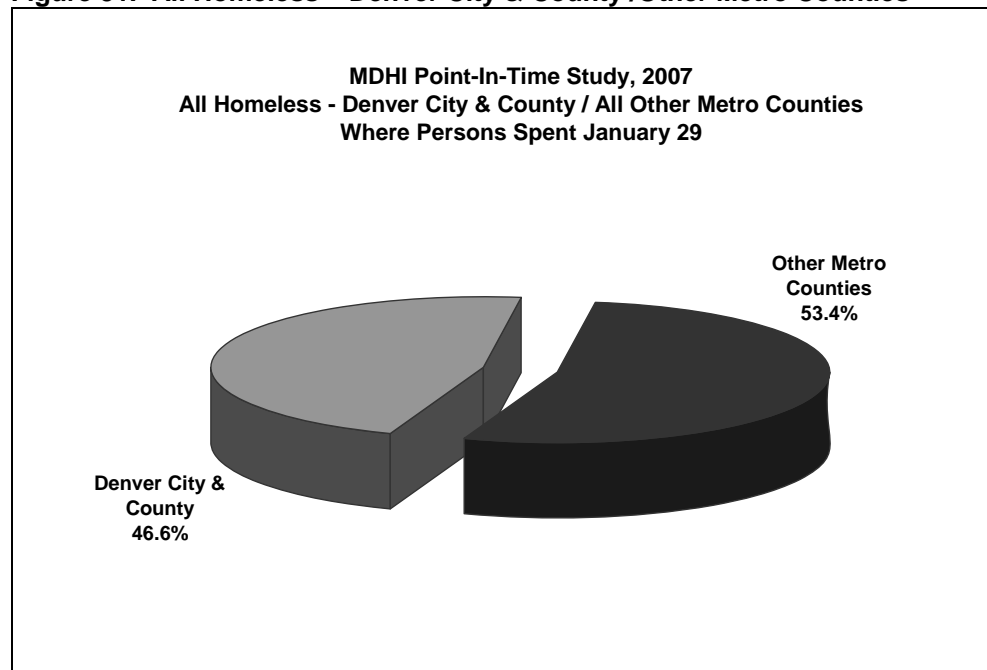


Figure 31. All Homeless – Denver City & County /Other Metro Counties



There is a difference between households with children and without children with regard to where they are more likely to have spent the night of the survey. The majority of households without children (62.7%) indicated they spent that night in Denver. Conversely, the majority of households with children (66.2%) spent Monday night in counties other than Denver. This is similar to 2006.

²¹ When county variable was missing (309), the research consultant used the agency’s county as a proxy.

Figure 32. Households with and without Children by Denver and Other Metro Counties

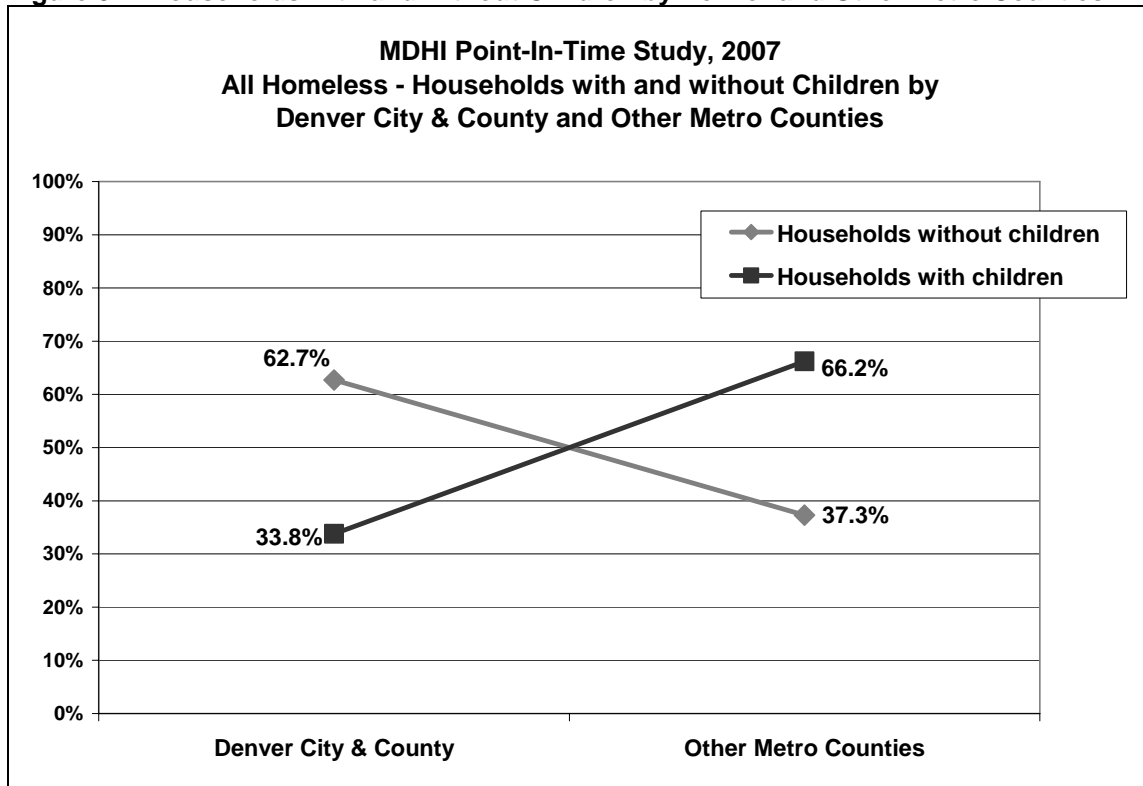


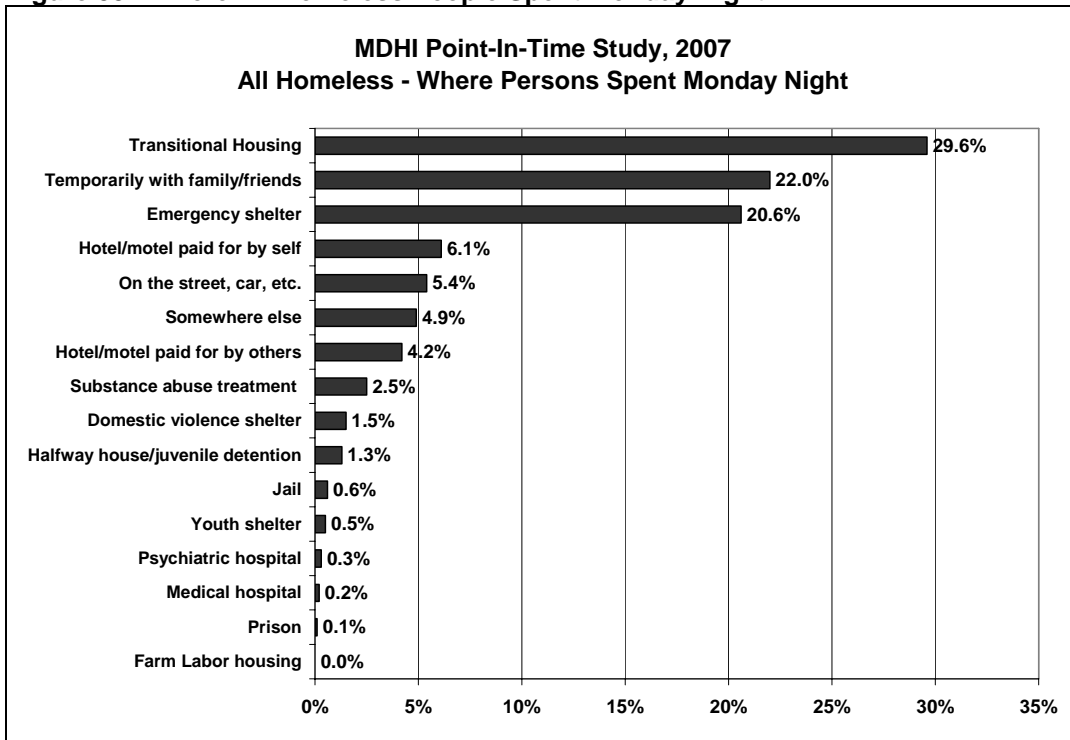
Table 9. All Homeless/Respondents – 10 Most Frequently Reported Cities

CITY	Respondents	All Homeless	% of All Homeless
Arvada	124	315	3.9
Aurora	245	542	6.7
Boulder	381	461	5.7
Broomfield	80	211	2.6
Commerce City	81	212	2.6
Denver	2,680	4,010	49.7
Lakewood	371	684	8.5
Longmont	285	569	7.1
Thornton	72	174	2.2
Westminster	63	185	2.3

3. Type of Place

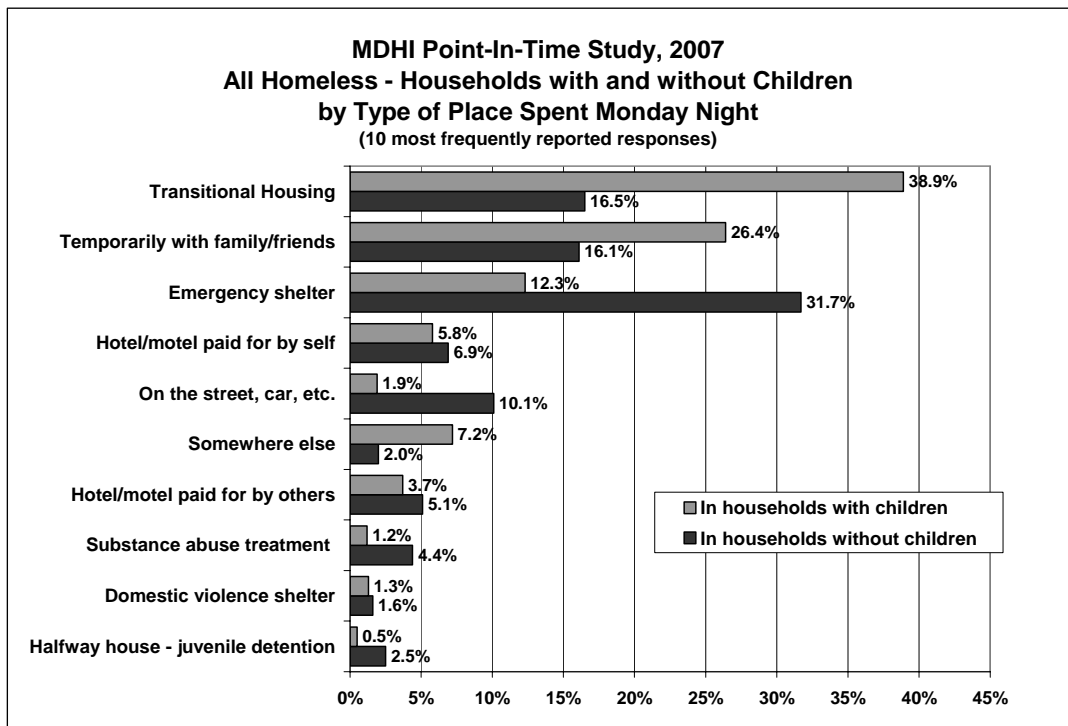
On January 29, 2007, the majority of all homeless people were in time-limited transitional housing (29.6%), staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter (22.0%), or staying in an emergency shelter (20.6%). This pattern is consistent with winter and summer, 2006.

Figure 33. Where All Homeless People Spent Monday Night



Households with and without children differed somewhat in the types of places where they spent January 29, 2007. Figure 34 shows that families with children most often identified time-limited transitional housing (38.9%) and staying temporarily with family or friends (26.4%). Individuals without children most often identified emergency shelter (31.7%). Many more people in households without children (10.1%) than in households with children (1.9%) were staying on the street. This pattern is unchanged from 2006.

Figure 34. Where People in Households with and without Children Spent Monday Night

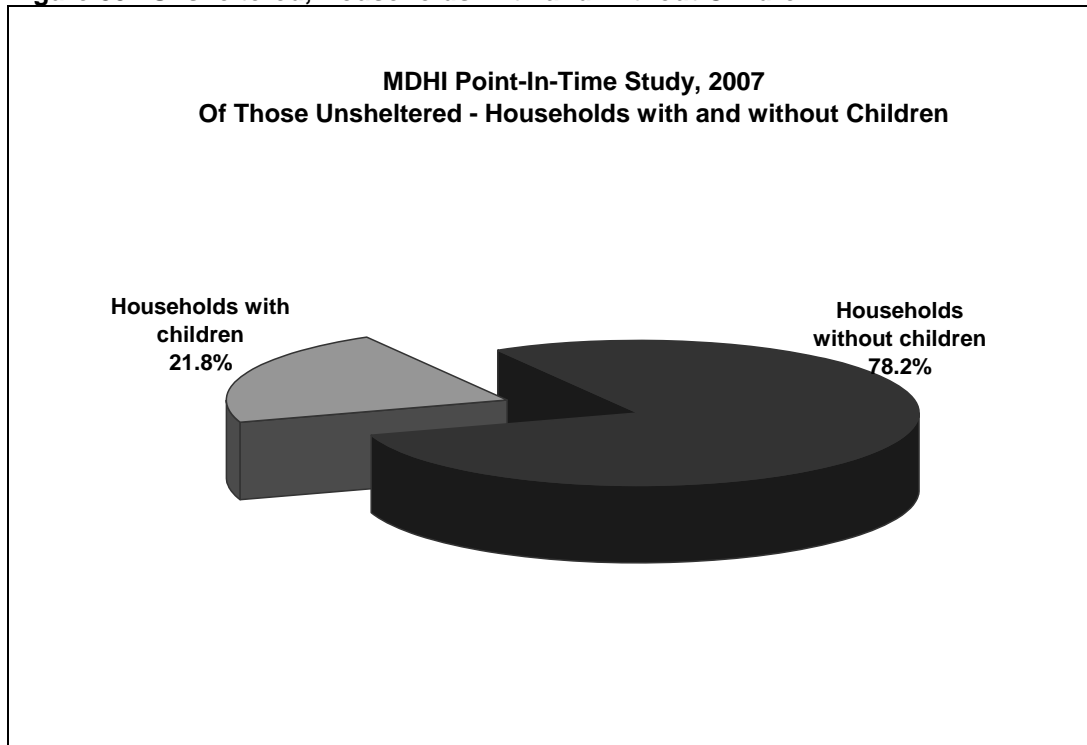


4. Sheltered vs. Unsheltered and Family Status

Of all homeless people, 5 percent were unsheltered (living on the street, under a bridge, in an abandoned or public building, in a car, camping out, etc.) on January 29. In winter 2006, 7 percent were unsheltered, while in summer 2006 10 percent were unsheltered. This may reflect the greater need to seek shelter in cold weather. The data do suggest, however, that the proportion who are unsheltered may have declined from winter 2006 to winter 2007.

Of those who were unsheltered, more than three-quarters (78.2%) were in households without children, and slightly more than one-in-five (21.8%) were in households with children. This is similar to winter 2006.

Figure 35. Unsheltered, Households With and Without Children



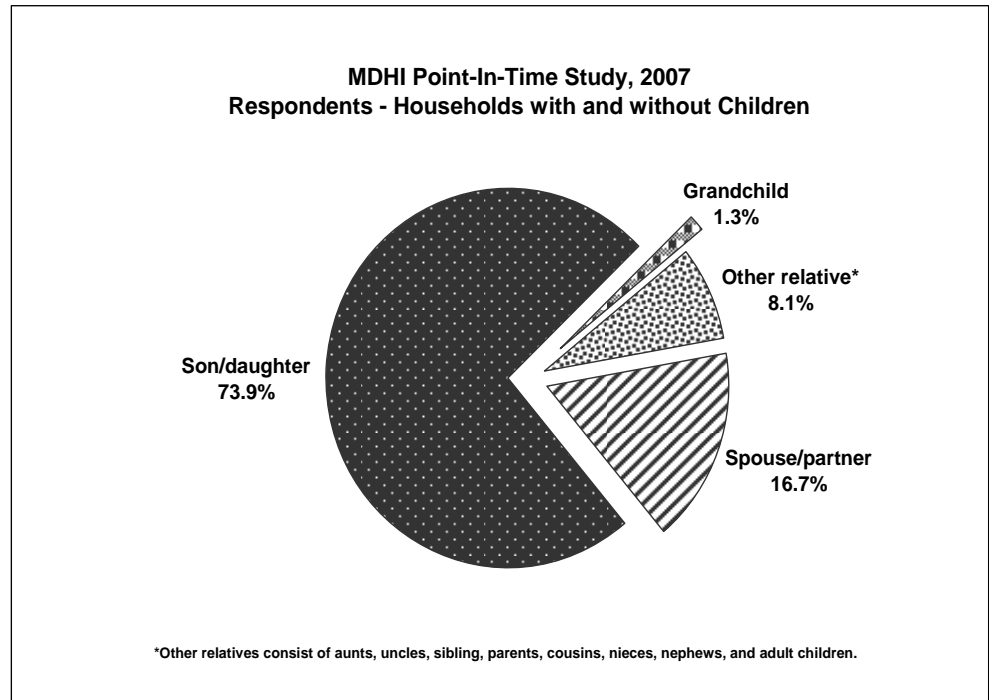
5. Family Members of Respondents

Respondents did not always complete all information on the survey related to family members. For each family member who was homeless with them, respondents were asked to fill in the family member's age and relationship to them.

a. Relationship of Family to Respondent

The majority of family members identified as accompanying respondents were sons and daughters (73.9%), followed by spouses and partners (16.7%). Again, when grouped, the majority (75.2%) of family members are children (including sons, daughters and grandchildren). Eight percent of respondents identified other relatives who were homeless with them; most were adult children (35.2%), siblings (27.3%) or parents (24.4%).

Figure 36. Relationship to Respondents



6. Ages

Figure 37. All Homeless – Age Groups

Figures 37 and 38 describe the ages of all homeless people and the ages of family members accompanying respondents. Family members ranged from unborn children to 79 years of age.

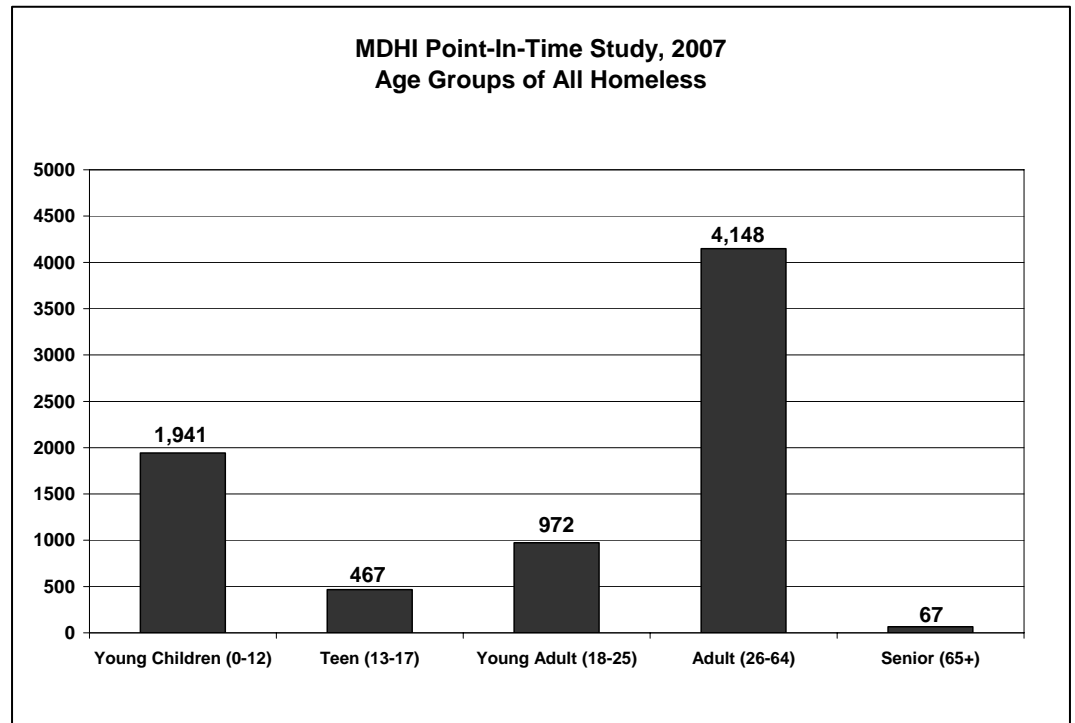
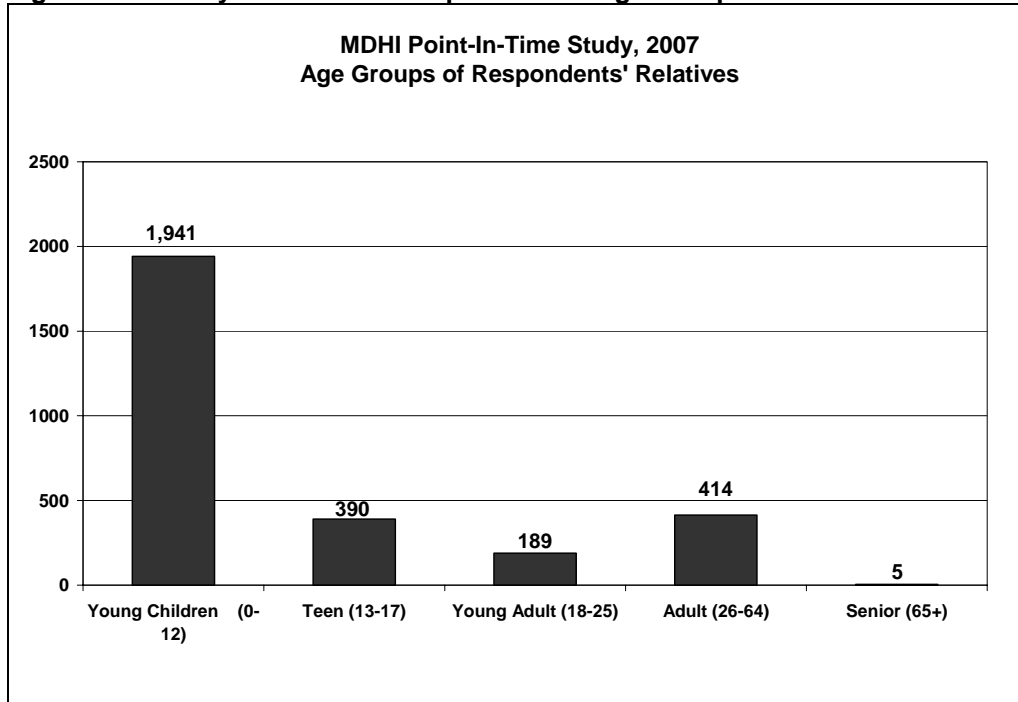


Figure 38. Family Members of Respondents – Age Groups



a. Total Number of Children and Teens

The total number of all homeless children and teens (ages 0-17) is 2,408, almost one-third (31.7%) of all people who were homeless on January 29, 2007 (for whom age was reported).²² More than one-third (34.3%) of all homeless children and teens are infants, toddlers and preschoolers (ages 0-5), including 97 infants. Thirty-one respondents reported having more than one child less than six years old with them.

²² This is lower than in 2006, when 36.4 percent were homeless children and teens; however, in that year the category “teenager” included 18 and 19 year olds, so these data are not comparable.

7. Newly Homeless

For the purpose of this study, people were considered “newly homeless” if they had been homeless for less than one year, and this was their first episode of homelessness. On January 29, 2007, one in three (32.6%) or 2,765 people, were considered newly homeless. This is a substantial increase from 23.1% in summer 2006.²³

Figure 39. All Homeless – Newly Homeless

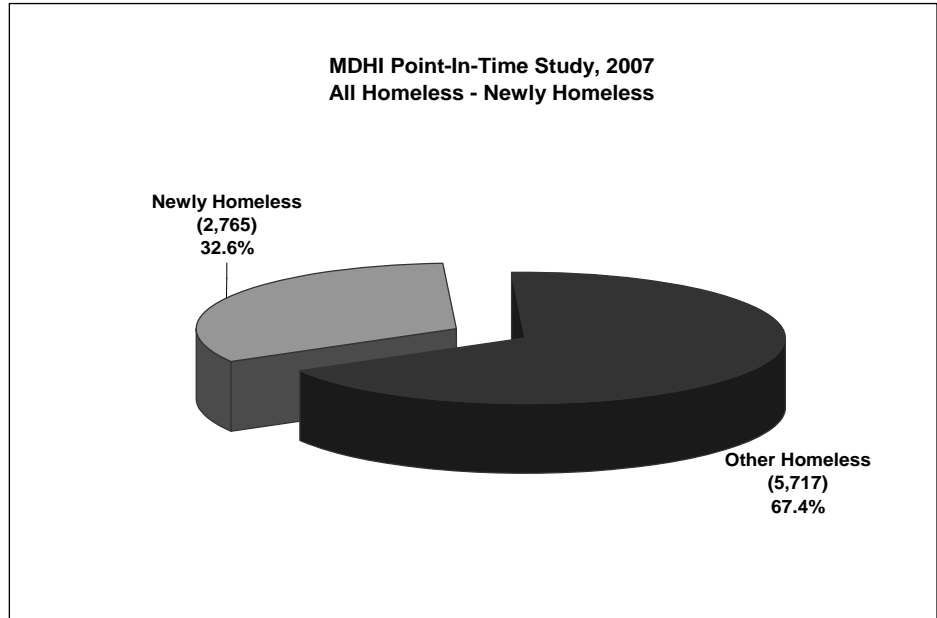
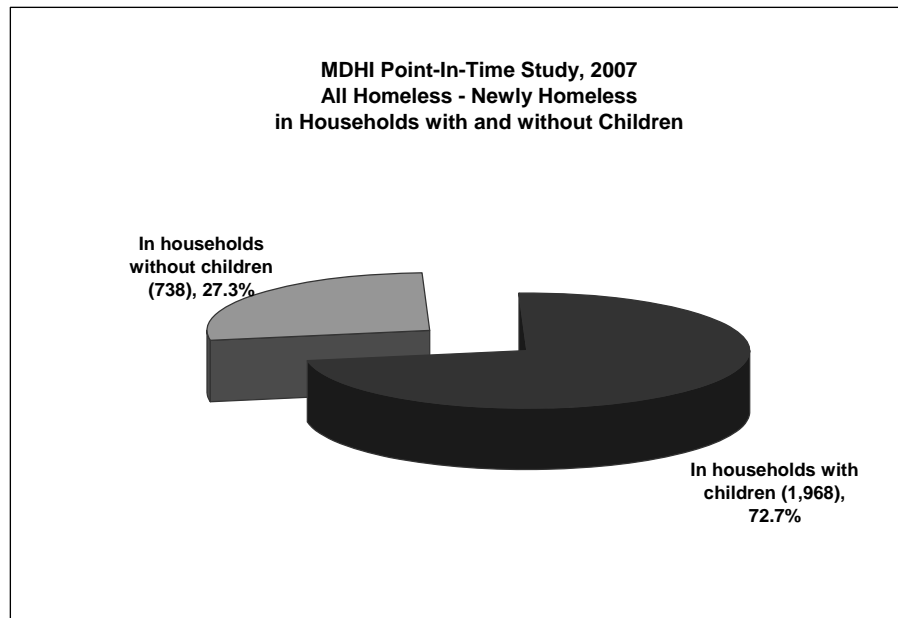


Figure 40. Newly Homeless in Households with and without Children



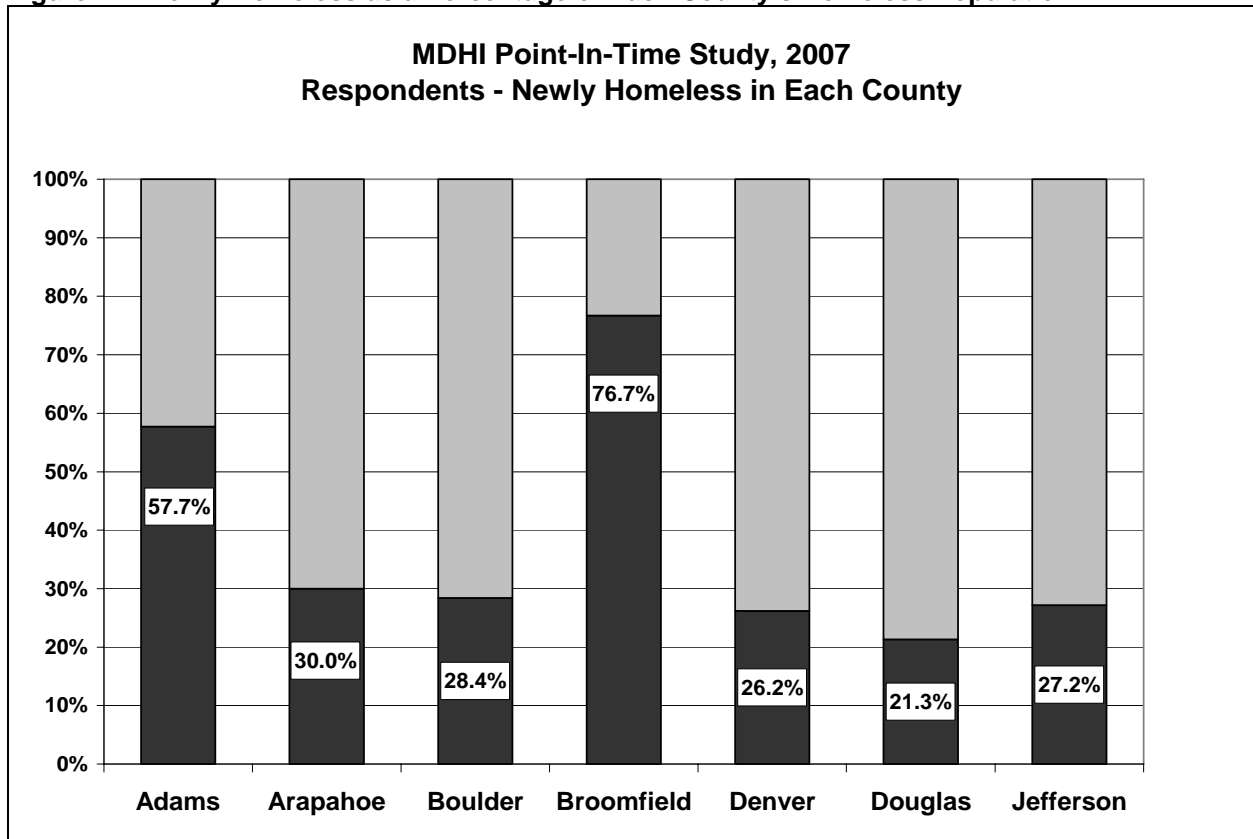
Almost three-quarters (72.7%) of those who were newly homeless were in households with children. Single parent families comprise nearly half (47.4%) of the newly homeless. Couples with children and single persons each make up 23.0 percent of the newly homeless. These data are consistent with winter and summer 2006.

²³ In winter 2006, 19.5% were considered newly homeless. In that survey, newly homeless were identified as persons who indicated that this was *the first time* they had been homeless (presumably ever), and that they had been homeless less than one year. In summer 2006 and in 2007, newly homeless were identified as persons who had been homeless less than one year, and who checked “one” to the question, “Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years?” The criteria for summer 2006 and 2007 therefore were less stringent than for winter 2006 in two respects: (1) they limited the period to the last three years, and (2) respondent checked “one,” not “*the first time.*” in response to length of time they were homeless. Given the fact that it was more difficult to qualify as “newly homeless” in winter 2006, it is reasonable that fewer total homeless were identified as “newly homeless” in that year than in summer 2006 or winter 2007.

Within each county's total homeless population (based on where homeless persons spent Monday night, January 29), Broomfield²⁴ (76.7%) and Adams County (57.7%) have the greatest percentages of newly homeless. In 2006, Douglas County had the highest percentage of newly homeless (53.8%), but it was based on only 13 respondents.

Please note, the percentages indicated in Figure 41 represent those who are newly homeless within each county.

Figure 41. Newly Homeless as a Percentage of Each County's Homeless Population



²⁴ This percentage is based on 78 respondents.

PART V. LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

A. Difficulty Counting Homeless

Many people will not be 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 living in automobiles and other kinds of crude and temporary housing. Additionally, it is clearly communicated to homeless persons that they do not have to complete a survey. If people refused to participate in the survey, these homeless individuals were not counted. This suggests that the data are limited due to the high probability that significant numbers of homeless people are missed.

B. Accuracy of “Not Homeless” Slightly under 1,000 surveys (916) were removed as “Not Homeless,” based on a set of criteria. Nearly half (46.7%) were removed because respondent reported that they stayed in their own apartment or house, even though some of their answers to other questions pointed to homelessness. One-in-five (19.8%) were classified as “Not Homeless” because they stayed with family and friends and said that the arrangement was permanent or that they were not homeless. Others did not provide information about where they spent Monday night or respond to other questions about whether or not they had a permanent place to live. In these instances, given no clear evidence of homelessness, researchers were forced to classify respondents as “Not Homeless” although they may actually be homeless.

Some service providers indicate that individuals may report staying in their apartment or home, when either it is a denial of the precarious nature of their situation or people simply will not admit to their homelessness. It is difficult for homeless people to capture the true nature of the many challenges they face in a survey. This limitation of the data addresses the probability that some people removed from the study may actually be homeless.

C. 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 metropolitan Denver. It is unlikely that many feel comfortable enough to complete a survey because of the current political climate around issues of immigration and the undocumented. 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.

D. Family Members Not Counted

Some respondents who identified themselves as having children, either as part of a couple or as a single parent, or identified themselves as part of a couple, did not document those family members when completing their survey. This year, the research consultant provided an estimate of the number of these relatives.²⁵

²⁵Of those respondents who identified a household category, e.g. single parent, etc., the average number of family members was calculated for each category. The number of respondents in each household category was multiplied by the average number of family members, to reach an estimated number of family members who were not documented by respondents. Please see the table in footnote 5 for these numbers.

PART VI. PROCESS

A. Coordinators, Agencies, and Volunteers

Preparation for the January point-in-time count begins in the fall of each year. As in previous years, MDHI identified county coordinators for each of the seven counties. County coordinators took the lead for their designated county, coordinating trainings, contacting agencies, participating in planning meetings, and assisting with various homeless count activities. In February, county coordinators participated in a debriefing meeting where they were asked to comment on the survey instrument, communications, outreach efforts, media and public relations, and agency participation.

A large number of agencies participated in collecting data from respondents. Staff and volunteers from nearly 150 government programs, non-profit organizations, supportive service and food distribution programs, meal sites and churches helped to complete surveys.

Mile High United Way (MHUW) co-sponsored the study and provided an online volunteer registration process. MHUW also recruited volunteers from their corporate partners and leadership committees. MHUW volunteers participated in a debriefing meeting to provide MHUW with feedback about their experiences and useful suggestions for future studies.

B. Training

The research consultant developed extensive training materials, including a “train-the-trainer” protocol and PowerPoint presentation. Training sessions and materials were available to every participating service provider in Metro Denver. Mile High United Way, MDHI staff and the research consultant conducted the trainings. The individuals who participated in the trainings included staff and volunteers from shelters, transitional housing programs, churches, food pantries or food banks and outdoor meal-sites, domestic violence programs, mental health centers, hospitals, government agencies, MDHI and others.

Training materials consist of an agency referral list; contact list; frequently asked questions; a general survey training guide; HIPAA release form; definition of homelessness; a suggested interviewer script; explanation of logistics; recommended methods for producing an accurate count; specific survey instructions; and the survey instrument. 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 point-in-time homeless count. Training materials may be found in the Appendix.

C. Survey Collection, Tracking Form, and Cover Sheet

Surveys were provided to agencies and volunteers in both English and Spanish. Cover sheets were attached to completed surveys for each location. Agencies and volunteers submitted surveys and tracking forms from each location to either their county coordinator or directly to MDHI. The timeline for submitting completed surveys was two to three days after the point-in-time date, although some surveys were submitted nearly four weeks later. The cover sheet was developed to document the number of submitted surveys, and included the name of the agency, a contact person and their telephone number. The tracking form was developed so that agency staff, volunteers, and outreach workers could document a count or an estimate of unsheltered homeless persons whom it was not possible to interview.

PART VII. METHODOLOGY

The MDHI Data Committee, comprised of staff members from agencies serving the homeless, MDHI board members, MHUW staff, homeless individuals, MDHI staff, County Coordinators, and the research consultant, held numerous meetings to refine the process for collecting information.

The data were collected in the last week in January 2007, referencing the point-in-time as the night of Monday, January 29. On the night of Monday, January 29, 2007, 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, January 30, 2007, and continued until the close of business on that day. The survey data were collected primarily on the night of Monday, January 29 and Tuesday, January 30, referencing the point-in-time as the night of Monday, January 29. Agencies that were not open on Monday night or Tuesday day collected data on the first day of the week that they served clients. Surveys were conducted over a 24-hour period rather than over a week, as in past years. 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.

A. Survey Revision

For the summer, 2006 statewide point-in-time study, representatives from MDHI and the state point-in-time study, began with MDHI's 2006 revised survey. 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.

In summer, 2006, researchers and volunteers piloted the draft survey in emergency shelters and soup kitchens along the Front Range. Minor adjustments in wording and formatting were made based on the pilot. After the Subcommittee had a final document, the survey was translated into Spanish.

In fall, 2006, the survey was revised in response to the concerns that were identified with the summer, 2006 survey instrument. The following are some key areas of revision:

- Respondents were asked to document only family members with them *who were also without a permanent place to live*. While that was the intent in the summer 2006 survey, it was explicitly stated in the winter 2007 instrument. This greatly facilitated the identification of family members who were with the respondent and also without a permanent place to live.
- A question was added to determine if respondent has “a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver’s license.” This question had been included in previous versions of the MDHI survey but was removed in the summer, 2006 survey. It was put back into the survey because lack of identification had been cited as a problem by respondents to the summer 2006 survey.
- Monday night locations were revised slightly. The category “permanent supportive housing” was removed as a separate response to where respondent spent the night because the researchers were concerned that respondents might not understand the

difference between time-limited transitional housing and permanent housing. However, the winter 2007 survey kept the “somewhere else” response, and respondents could write in “permanent supportive housing” if they (or the interviewer) determined that was where they spent the night.

- A “none” category was added for most of the multiple response questions: serious conditions, government benefits and services. This was included so that respondents who did have a condition, benefit, etc. had a category that they could check in response to these questions.

B. Date Entry / Cleaning

1. Data Checks

Numerous procedures were performed to clean and check for data entry and logic errors. Following are examples of procedures used to clean the dataset:

- Frequencies were run on all variables to check for out of range / incorrect values
- When respondents did not report in what county they spent Monday night, the county of the agency submitting the survey was used
- Open-ended questions were coded and cleaned, e.g. if respondents reported a disability in “other” and it fit into one of the five listed disabilities, it was recoded into the list
- Countless logic checks were performed between “Household Situation” and family member data
- Numerous additional logic checks were performed on various data points

2. Criteria for 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 Q10: “Where will you/did you spend the night of Monday, January 29?” As needed, other questions also were included in the decision process.

- a. A respondent was classified as homeless if he or she spent the night of Monday, August 29 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)
- b. 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 definite (i.e., “no” or “yes”) or two indefinite (“don’t know”) responses to the following questions:

- “Do you have an arrangement to stay there permanently? “no” or “don’t know”
 - “Do you have a permanent place to live?” (Q9) “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”
- c. For respondents who stayed in other locations, the research consultants first looked at Q9, “Do you have a permanent place to live?” and Q14, “In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are now staying?” Respondents were classified as homeless if they gave at least one definite (i.e., “no” or “yes”) or two indefinite (“don’t know”) responses to these questions.
- d. In some cases, it was necessary to use 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 Q24. All three questions gave the respondent the option of saying that he or she was not homeless. If responses to at least two of these three questions indicated that the respondent was homeless, then he or she 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.

3. Duplicates

Both the summer, 2006 and winter, 2007 Colorado/MDHI point-in-time surveys were conducted over a 24-hour period in order to reduce the number of duplicate surveys.²⁶ 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. Several steps were taken to address this issue.

- Agency staff, volunteers and homeless persons were instructed to complete only one survey for each homeless individual or family
- Agency staff and volunteers were trained regarding the critical nature of obtaining the respondent’s initials, age, birth month and gender.

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

²⁶ Another reason for limiting the survey to a 24-hour time 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.

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 88 surveys were identified as duplicates and were eliminated.

Persons who completed duplicate surveys were predominantly single (78%) and had spent the night in an emergency shelter (64%). Fully four-fifths (82%) were male, and a majority were white (63%). Most (74%) spent the night in the City and County of Denver, and one-fifth (22%) in Jefferson County.

C. Tracking Forms

Researchers conducting the winter 2007 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

The purpose of this information was to have a way to (1) identify the number of unsheltered homeless whom agencies and volunteers were unable to survey; and (2) use this information to calculate the total number of homeless persons.

D. 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, the researchers 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.

Respondents age 17 or under were automatically classified as being in a “household with children,” regardless of their responses to any other survey questions.

1. The primary means of identifying households with children was the respondent indicating that he or she 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 Q10, Q11 or Q12. 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).²⁷

2. The researchers defined the response to Q8 as a primary threshold 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 Q11 and a number of those who answered Q11 did not complete the information describing the age and relationship of family members that was requested in Q12 and Q13. Therefore, responses to Q8 are considered to be more reliable than responses (or non-responses) to Q11, Q12 and Q13.
3. 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.”
 - If a respondent said that he or she was “a single person” in Q8, but listed someone under age 18 in Q12, and said that it was his or her child in Q13, researchers assumed that the detailed response was the correct one. Likewise, if a respondent said that he or she was “part of a couple without children under 18” but listed someone under age 18 in Q12 and said that it was his or her child in Q13, 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.
 - They said they lived in “other” situations in Q8 and wrote in one of the following: they were pregnant; they were separated because of domestic violence and reported a child/children under 18 years old who was with them on Monday night; they were the guardian of a child under 18 years old; etc.
 - “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 Q11, and not indicating any children under 18 in Q12 and Q13. They also were classified as being a “household without children” if they said they were “single” but

²⁷ Survey Q11 asked: “How many family members are/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.” 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 (Q11) or even by indicating that there were children with them on the previous night (Q12), researchers assumed that the information in Q8 correctly identified the household as having children under 18.

reported another person with them in Q11, but did not give ages or relationships in Q12 or Q13.

- 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 Q12 and Q13 were classified as “households without children.” This was the case if they said there was one other homeless person with them in Q11, but did not give the age or relationship in Q12 or Q13. Since they said they were part of a couple in Q8, it was assumed that the person listed in Q11 was a spouse.
- 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 Q11, i.e., that they were “a single person” in Q8 but indicated that there were other homeless relatives with them on Monday night in Q11, researchers looked at the ages of their family members in Q12. If all ages were 18 or older, the household was classified as a “household without children.” If they listed children under 18, 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 example, for households where the respondent said he or she was “a single person” in Q8, said that there were other homeless family members in Q11, said that one or more of these family members was a child, but did not identify the ages of the other family members.

E. 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 Q11: “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 Q11 than the respondent had reported in Q12 and/or Q13. 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 Q11 was greater than the total number of persons listed in Q12 and/or Q13, the researchers took the larger number in Q11. This is because it was likely that Q11 was correct, and the respondent simply neglected to enter the description of family members in Q12 and Q13.

Less frequently, when the number of persons listed in Q11 was less than the total number listed in Q12 and/or Q13, researchers used the larger number in Q12/Q13. In this case, it was assumed that if someone gave details about whom they spent the previous night with, those persons actually existed, and therefore should be counted. Respondents may have forgotten someone when answering Q11 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.

- When a person who said that he or she was single in Q8 listed other family members in Q11, the researchers looked at each case and determined whether or not the person had (incorrectly) listed her/himself in Q11.
- If the respondent spent the previous night in one of the following situations (Q10), the researchers looked at all relevant questions and made a determination as to whether or not we could legitimately count the other persons listed in Q11, Q12, and/or Q13:
 1. Stayed with family or friends;
 2. Was on the street, under a bridge, abandoned building, public building, car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.; or
 3. Was in an emergency shelter or 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 he or she 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 Q11, researchers assumed that the relatives they were staying with were not homeless. 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.

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.

PART VIII. SUMMARY

*On a winter night in January, in Metropolitan Denver,
an estimated 10,604 people were homeless, many of them children.*

A. Key Findings

- **8,482 HOMELESS IDENTIFIED IN SURVEY; 10,604 ESTIMATED HOMELESS**

- **SURVEYS TYPICALLY UNDERCOUNT THE HOMELESS**

The literature indicates that the number of homeless persons is undercounted. It is particularly difficult to count homeless people who are unsheltered. Youth, recently homeless persons, rural homeless and persons who are doubled up with family and friends or “couch surfing” also are less likely to be counted. The total number of homeless individuals fluctuates over time, and people typically move in and out of homelessness as conditions in their life change. A point-in-time count, by its very definition, is data collected one day of the year and only represents a snapshot of homelessness on that day.

- **MANY OF METRO DENVER’S HOMELESS ARE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- The number of **newly homeless** has increased dramatically since summer 2006. In 2007, one-third of all homeless (32.6%) were newly homeless. Newly homeless were predominantly in households with children (72.7%).
- **Children and teens** comprised almost one-third (31.7%) of all homeless persons in the *Homelessness in Metropolitan Denver, Eighth Annual Point-In-Time Study, 2007*.
- Six in 10 homeless persons were part of a **household with children**.
- More than one in five **unsheltered homeless** were families with children.

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 no health insurance, and domestic violence account for increasing family poverty leading to homelessness. Domestic violence, in particular, is the immediate cause of homelessness for many women and children. Affordable housing is crucial to the victim’s ability to leave the shelter system without returning to an unsafe situation.²⁸

- **MORE HOMELESS MEN THAN WOMEN**

- Men comprised 59.5 percent of homeless respondents, and there were 910 more homeless men than women. The gender gap has increased since winter 2006 and summer 2006, when 53 and 55 percent of respondents, respectively, were men.

²⁸ The National Center on Family Homelessness. “Violence in the Lives of Homeless Women.” <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/pdf/fact_violence.pdf>

- Single respondents are primarily male (78.5%).
 - Men are substantially more likely to be chronically homeless.
- ***HALF OF RESPONDENTS HAVE 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.
 - The proportion of respondents with serious substance abuse problems has increased substantially from 2006 to 2007. In winter 2006, 15.4 percent reported a serious substance abuse problem. That proportion had increased to 25.3 percent by summer 2006, and to 26.8 percent in 2007.

Individuals experiencing high rates of substance abuse and mental illness 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.

➤ ***LOST JOB, HIGH HOUSING COSTS TOP REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS***

- Losing a job has been the number one reason respondents reported for their homelessness from 2004 to the current year.
- Other reasons reported most frequently across all four years are the high cost of housing, the break-up of a relationship/death in the family, and substance abuse.
- The data suggest that, since 2006, housing-related costs have had a greater impact on households with children.

➤ ***PERMANENT HOUSING / HELP FINDING WORK TOP NEEDED SERVICES***

- The type of services that homeless respondents and their families need is entirely consistent with the reasons they report for their lack of a permanent place to live. Permanent housing and help finding work are the two most frequently needed services, and lack of permanent housing and loss of a job are the major reasons cited for homelessness.
- Similar to summer 2006, more than half needed housing-related services: help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, rent or utility assistance, or emergency shelter.

➤ **FEWER CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**

- In 2007, 8.3 percent of homeless respondents were chronically homeless; the great majority of the chronically homeless were male.
- The number of chronically homeless persons decreased slightly from winter and summer 2006 (9.5% and 9.0% respectively).

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.

➤ **OVER HALF SPENT NIGHT OUTSIDE DENVER COUNTY**

- On January 29, 2007, over half (53.4%) of all homeless individuals and families spent the night in counties other than Denver.
- The majority of people in households without children (62.7%) spent the night in Denver City and County, while 66.2 percent of people in households with children spent Monday night in other metro counties.

➤ **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, COUCH SURFING, EMERGENCY SHELTER TOP PLACES SPENT MONDAY NIGHT**

- Consistent with winter and summer 2006, homeless persons most frequently spent Monday night in transitional housing, staying temporarily with family and friends, and staying in an emergency shelter.
- There were dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children spent the night of Metro Denver'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 were more likely to stay in emergency shelters or sleep on the street.

➤ **MANY ARE LIVING ON THE EDGE OF HOMELESSNESS**

916 respondents (and their families) were identified as “not homeless” in this study. The survey data strongly suggest that the majority of this group are in such precarious situations that one more crisis in their lives will put them on the street.

B. Comparisons: Winter Pit 2004-2007

Although the survey is revised from year to year in an effort to improve and clarify the instrument, it still is possible to compare various data points over the last four years. The number of surveys collected, and therefore the number of homeless counted, is dependent upon the number and type of agencies involved.

Number of Homeless

Table 10. Comparison – Number of Respondents and All Homeless, 2004-2007

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Respondents	4,127	5,826	5,424	4,969
All Homeless	8,668	10,268	9,091	8,482

Households

When looking at all homeless persons, the proportion of single individuals declined from 2005 to 2007, while the number of persons in single parent households remained fairly constant. The trend suggests an increase in the proportion of households with children and a corresponding decrease in households without children.

Figure 42. Comparison – All Homeless - Single Individuals and Single Parents, 2004-2007

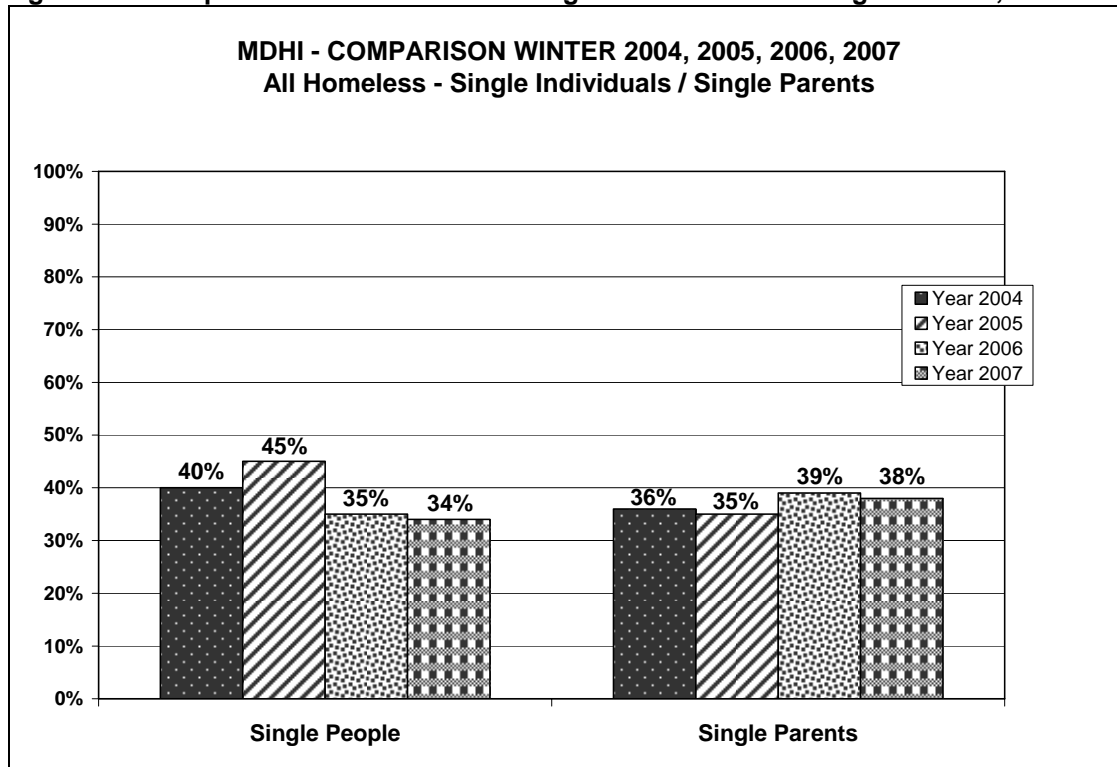
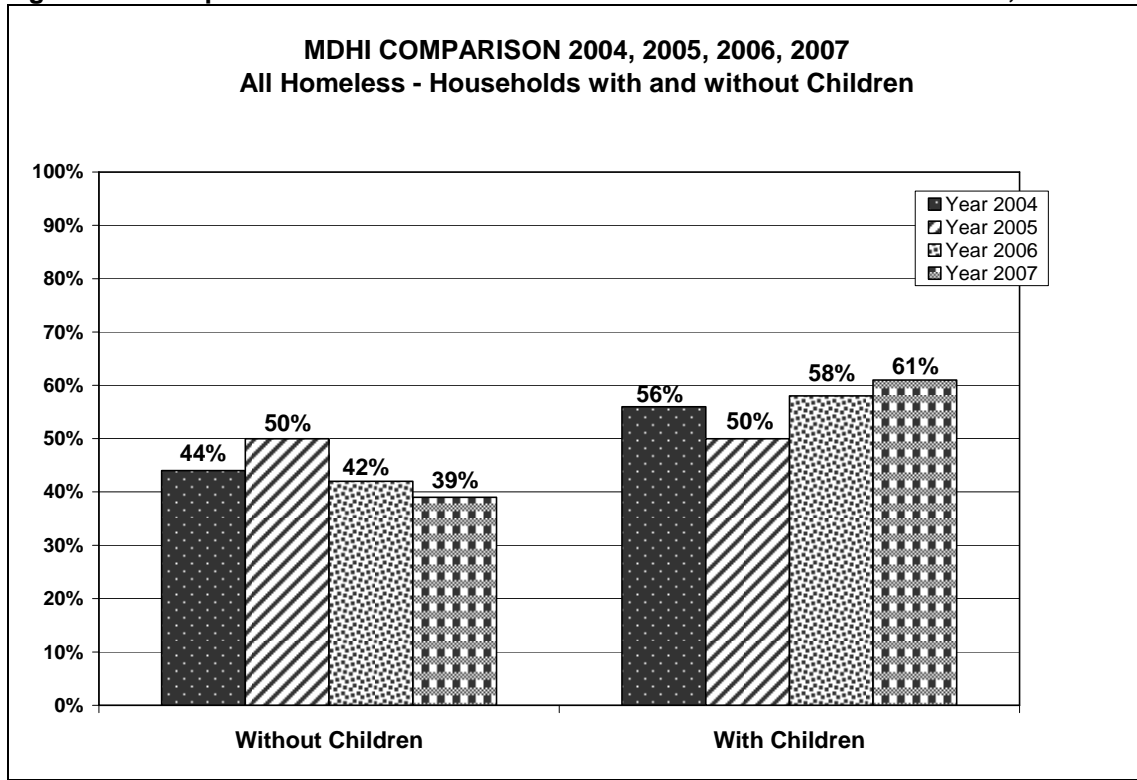


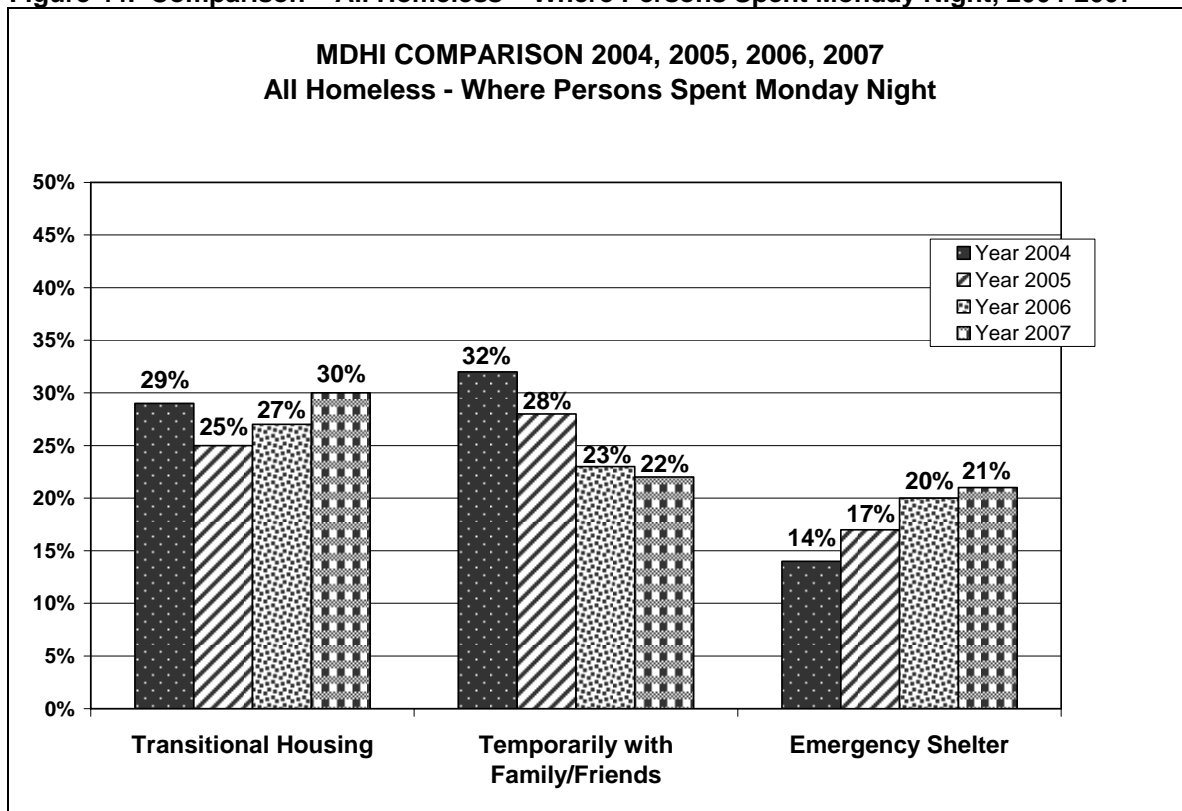
Figure 43. Comparison – All Homeless - Households with and without Children, 2004-2007



Type of Place Spent Monday Night

There are differences from year to year in the type of place homeless people spend the PIT survey night. The percentage staying in emergency shelters has grown steadily since 2004, while the percentage staying in transitional housing has grown since 2005. The most striking finding is that the proportion staying temporarily with family and friends has declined by 10 percent since 2004. This suggests that homeless persons are less able to rely on personal relationships to find a place to stay, and are forced to rely more on the provider network to secure housing.

Figure 44. Comparison – All Homeless – Where Persons Spent Monday Night, 2004-2007



Reasons for Homelessness

Table 11 reports the top five reasons for homelessness over the last four years. The primary reason for homelessness has consistently been losing a job. Housing costs was the second most frequently mentioned reason in 2006 and 2007, and the fourth most often cited reason in 2005. This suggests that the rising cost of housing has increasingly impacted homelessness.

Table 11. Comparison – Respondents - Reasons for Homelessness, 2004-2007

TOP FIVE REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS			
2004	2005	2006	2007
Lost job	Lost job	Lost job	Lost job
Unable to pay rent or mortgage	Alcohol/substance abuse	Housing costs	Housing costs
Alcohol/substance abuse	Relationship problems	Relationship problems	Relationship/family break-up
Relationship problems	Housing costs	Substance abuse	Substance abuse
Mental illness	Medical problems	Abuse/violence in the home	Low wages

Chronically Homeless

The percentage of chronically homeless persons has declined over the past year. Nearly 10 percent (9.5%) were chronically homeless in Winter 2006, 9.2 percent in Summer 2006, and 8.3 percent in Winter 2007.

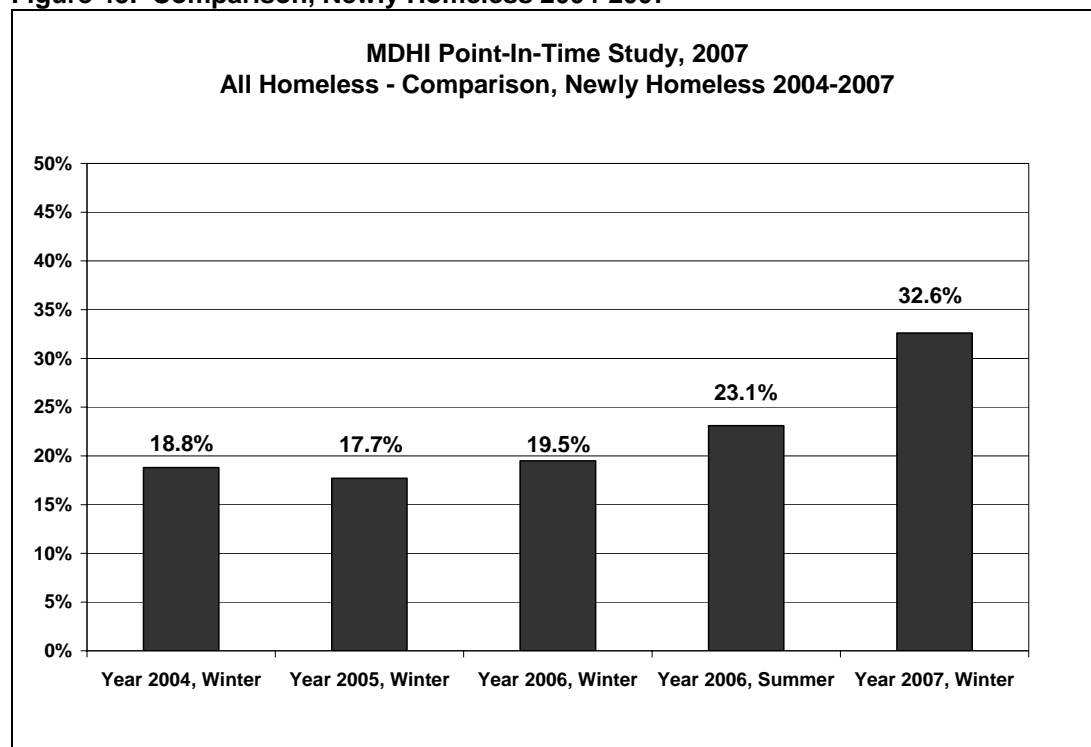
Table 12. Comparison – Respondents – Chronically Homeless, 2004-2007

	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Respondents	277	6.7	479	8.2	513	9.5	412	8.3

Newly Homeless

The proportion of newly homeless persons has increased in every PIT study since winter, 2005.²⁹

Figure 45. Comparison, Newly Homeless 2004-2007



ENDING 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

²⁹ Please refer to footnote 23 regarding differences in criteria for newly homeless.

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

Many homeless persons suffer from serious medical problems, mental illness and substance abuse. Others have lost jobs or suffered family disruption. Many are not receiving government benefits and need help finding jobs, permanent housing, and medical care. All need a safe, secure and permanent place to live. Some of those who are homeless are working but their income is inadequate to meet the cost of housing, utilities, food and medical care.

People cycle into homelessness every day. Households with children represent a large segment of the “newly homeless.” They may be found in emergency or temporary facilities or staying temporarily with family or friends, but they are “homeless” because they have been unable to secure stable, safe, and permanent housing. People find themselves without a permanent place to live due to loss of a job or the break up of a relationship or family, and cannot afford the high cost of housing. More chronically homeless people are male, and based on the definition of chronic homelessness, are found on the street and in emergency shelters. They have major medical problems, mental conditions and substance abuse issues that make permanent, stable housing difficult to achieve.

Homelessness continues to be a critical issue in Metro Denver. Based on the survey and the homeless count, well over 10,000 people lack a permanent home on any given night. Some of these people are living on the street or in cars; others are temporarily housed in emergency shelters, motels or in the basements or spare rooms of family or friends.

In Metropolitan Denver, programs such as “Housing First” focus on providing homeless persons with a permanent place to live and the support services they need to remain successfully housed. The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless recently released a report describing the benefits of their Denver Housing First Collaborative program. This program targets chronically homeless individuals with disabilities, who are among the most vulnerable individuals in the community. The report documents that the program has demonstrated increased housing stability, better health status, improved mental health and improved quality of life for participants. In addition, the program has reduced the need for expensive services in the community, including hospitalization, detox and jail, saving significant taxpayer funds.³⁰

Other states and regions have developed plans to end homelessness, and long-term homelessness specifically. Their primary strategy is to create affordable housing and/or Housing First type programs. MDHI and other key stakeholders are positioned to develop a long-term plan to end homelessness in this region. Drawing on an experienced and knowledgeable pool of dedicated professionals, in conjunction with clear public support,³¹ we can end the cycle of homelessness in Colorado.

³⁰ Perlman, J. and Parvensky, J. “Denver Housing First Collaborative – Cost Benefit Analysis and Program Outcomes Report.” Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, December 2006.

³¹ The Denver Post. Denver & the West. “Citizen survey puts homelessness on top of list for 1st time.” The Denver Post reported that 55% of residents in a citizen survey said that homelessness was the biggest problem in 2006. Additionally, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty reports that polls consistently show that the majority of Americans support aid to the homeless, and 81% would pay additional taxes to fund increased aid.

PART IX. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Technical Notes

Appendix B: Definitions

Appendix C: Surveys, Cover Sheet, Tracking Form

Appendix D: Training Materials

Appendix E: List of Figures and Tables

APPENDIX A: Technical Notes

A. Survey Collection

The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) and Mile High United Way were responsible for the distribution of surveys to agencies serving the homeless. Each metro county had a coordinator who recruited agencies and ensured that completed surveys were returned to MDHI. English and Spanish versions of the survey were made available electronically. All agencies were instructed to record their agency and program on the top of a survey form, and then to make the copies they needed.

B. Language

The 2007 survey was available in Spanish and English. The vast majority of surveys (96%) were completed in English, the identical percentage as in 2006. For future studies, the low number of surveys in Spanish would seem to indicate a need to recruit Spanish-speaking volunteers who would be available to homeless individuals and families.

C. Chronic Homelessness

The winter 2006 report included a discussion of the method for computing chronic homelessness. The summary in this year's report includes a comparison of chronic homelessness over the last three years, and is therefore germane to include here.

In the 2006 and 2007 PIT reports, the chronic homeless definition includes those respondents sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation and/or in an emergency homeless shelter. In 2005, the chronic homeless definition did not include this element. In order to compare like elements, two definitions, "Chronic 1" and "Chronic 2," were created, and chronic homelessness was recalculated for 2004 and 2005. Below is a table showing the percentages of chronically homeless for both definitions for 2004 – 2007.

Table 13. Chronic Homeless Definitions

	<u>CHRONIC 1</u>	<u>CHRONIC 2</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ single living alone ▪ having chronic debilitating condition ▪ continually homeless for 1 year or more, or ▪ having 4 or more episodes in 3 or more years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ single living alone ▪ having chronic debilitating condition ▪ sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation and/or in an emergency homeless shelter ▪ continually homeless for 1 year or more, or ▪ having 4 or more episodes in 3 or more years
2004	15.4% (636)	6.7% (277)
2005	17.3% (1,007)	8.2% (479)
2006	21.7% (1,177)	9.5% (513)
2007	17.4% (867)	8.3% (412)

APPENDIX B: Definitions

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 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.

Chronically homeless person – An unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition, who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, and is living in a place not designed for human habitation or in an emergency shelter. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in does not consider a family in the definition of chronically homeless, regardless of their circumstances.

Denver Metropolitan Area – includes Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield City and County, Boulder, Denver City and County, Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

Disabling condition – is expected to be of continued and indefinite duration; substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently; disabilities are identified as 1) serious mental illness; 2) serious medical or physical condition; 3) alcohol or drug abuse; 4) developmental disability; 5) HIV/AIDS.

Emergency shelter – short term housing, generally 30-120 days, designed to meet the basic needs of the homeless.

HUD – U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) – a private, non-profit organization that serves as the homeless Continuum of Care for the seven county Metropolitan Denver area. Among many other projects and activities, MDHI conducts the annual Point-In-Time survey.

Mile High United Way (MHUW) – unites and focuses the community's resources to help people help themselves. Beginning in 2005, MHUW has partnered with MDHI to conduct the annual Point-In-Time survey.

Motel Vouchers – in lieu of money, some specific departments of local government and non-profit agencies provide vouchers to homeless individuals and families for a night's lodging at designated motels in the Denver Metro area.

Newly Homeless – (2007) People who reported being homeless for the first time in the last three years and for less than one year in this spell of homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing – is a place where formerly homeless persons with diagnosed and chronic disabilities reside, and whose rent is subsidized through funding received from HUD.

Point-In-Time (PIT) – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the primary source of federal funding for housing support for the homeless, requires that each Continuum of Care across the country conduct a “point-in-time” survey once every three years during the month of January. The Point-In-Time Survey counts homeless persons on one identified night.

Respondent – the person completing the Point-In-Time Survey.

Staying Temporarily With Family or Friends – homeless persons temporarily staying with family or friends while looking for shelter or housing. These are not long-term living arrangements for respondents or their families.

Transitional Housing – time-limited housing that provides supportive housing linked with intensive case management and services for individuals, families and youth who have come from the streets or emergency shelters. The housing can be for no more than two years and may be project-based or scattered-site.

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...
 Male Female
3. Have you served in the U.S. Military?
 Yes No
4. Are you a seasonal resort worker?
 Yes No
5. Do you have a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver's license? Yes No
6. Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic, Latino or Spanish?
 Yes No

7. Which one category best describes your racial background? (Check only ONE response)
 Asian/Pacific Islander
 Native American/Alaska Native
 Black/African American
 White
 Mixed race
 Other → Describe: _____
8. Are you: (Check only ONE response)
 A single person (including separated or divorced)
 A single parent with children under 18 (including separated or divorced)
 Part of a couple with children under 18
 Part of a couple without children under 18
 Other → Describe: _____

9. DO YOU HAVE A PERMANENT PLACE TO LIVE? Yes No Don't know

10. Where will you/where did you spend the night of Monday, January 29th? (Check ONE response)

<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm labor housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric hospital
<input type="checkbox"/> On the street, under a bridge, abandoned building, public building, car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical hospital
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/motel paid for by yourself while looking for housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse treatment program
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers	<input type="checkbox"/> Jail
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Prison
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporarily with family or friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Halfway house or juvenile detention
<input type="checkbox"/> If with family or friends, do you have an arrangement to stay there permanently? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing (time-limited)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere else → <i>Where?</i>

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.

How many family members (NOT INCLUDING YOURSELF)?: _____

Questions 12-13: Please complete the following table for FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE/ARE WITH YOU AND ALSO WITHOUT A PERMANENT PLACE TO LIVE.

12. Age (Write in)	13. How is this person related to you? (Check one category per person)			
Person 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative:
Person 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative:
Person 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative:
Person 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative:
Person 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative:
Person 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative:

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

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

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)

- 1 Never, I am NOT homeless
2 One
3 Two
4 Three
5 Four
6 Five or more

16. How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time? (Check only ONE response)

- 1 I am NOT homeless
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 of Monday, January 29, 2007?

(Fill in city/town name)

18. In what county will you/did you spend the night of Monday, January 29, 2007?

(Fill in county name)

19. What was the last County and State you considered your permanent place to live?

County

State

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. 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

22. In the past month, have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working?

- 1 Yes 2 No

23. 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
7 Receiving NO government benefits

24. Why did you become homeless this time? (Read each line and CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 I am NOT homeless -> Go to Question 25
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: _____

25. 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)

- 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: _____

15 Needed NO services we couldn't get

END OF SURVEY
THANK YOU!

Agency: _____ Program: _____
 City/Town/Community: _____ County: _____

Favor de completar la siguiente información sobre si mismo:

Inicial del 1^{er} nombre Inicial del 2^{do} nombre Tres 1^{eras} iniciales del apellido Mes de nacimiento (Marque 1 respuesta)

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

- ¿Cuál es su edad? _____
- ¿Cuál es su género?
 1 Masculino 2 Femenino
- ¿Ha servido en el servicio militar de los E.U.?
 1 Si 2 No
- ¿Es trabajador temporal de un lugar de recreo?
 1 Si 2 No
- ¿Tiene corriente identificación o licencia de conducir para el estado de Colorado?
 1 Si 2 No
- ¿Se considera Hispano, Latino o Ibérico?
 1 Si 2 No
- ¿Cuál categoría única mejor representa su grupo racial? (Marque solo UNA respuesta)
 1 Asiático/Islands Pacificas
 2 Indio Americano/Indígena de Alaska
 3 Negro/Afro americano
 4 De raza blanca
 5 Mezcla
 6 Otro → Especifique: _____
- ¿Es Usted: (Marque solo UNA respuesta)
 1 Una persona soltera (incluyendo separado o divorciado)
 2 Padre soltero **con** hijo/s menor de 18 años (incluyendo separado o divorciado)
 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 Otro → Especifique: _____

9. ¿TIENE USTED UN LUGAR PERMANENTE DONDE VIVIR? 1 Si 2 No 3 No se

10. ¿Donde pasó/pasará la noche de Lunes, 29 de Enero? (Marque UNA respuesta)

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Refugio de emergencia	8 <input type="checkbox"/> Campo de hacienda o dormitorio
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Refugio para victimas de violencia domestica	9 <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital siquiátrica
3 <input type="checkbox"/> En la calle, bajo un puente, edificio abandonado, edificio publico, carro, viajando por bus, acampando, etc.	10 <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital medico
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/motel pagado por su cuenta mientras busca vivienda	11 <input type="checkbox"/> Programa de tratamiento contra abuso de drogas/alcohol
5 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/motel pagado por otros/por certificado (vouchers)	12 <input type="checkbox"/> Cárcel
6 <input type="checkbox"/> Refugio para juveniles	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Prisión
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Temporalmente con familia o amigos	14 <input type="checkbox"/> Centro de reinserción o detención juvenil
↓ Si con familia o amigos, ¿tiene arreglado quedarse allí permanentemente? 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Si 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> No se	15 <input type="checkbox"/> Vivienda de transición (Tiempo limitado)
	16 <input type="checkbox"/> Algún otro lugar → ¿Donde?

11. ¿Cuantos familiares están/estaban con Usted la noche de Lunes, 29 de Enero, quienes TAMBIEN están SIN UN LUGAR PERMANENTE DONDE VIVIR? **NO incluya** familiares con quienes Usted se haya hospedado pero quienes **SI TIENEN** un lugar permanente donde vivir.

¿Cuantos familiares (NO SE INCLUYA A SI MISMO)?: _____

Preguntas 12-13: Favor de completar la siguiente matriz para LOS FAMILIARES QUIENES ESTAN/ESTABAN CON USTED Y QUE TAMBIEN ESTAN SIN UN LUGAR PERMANENTE DONDE VIVIR.

12. Edad (Escriba)	13. Que es el parentesco de esta persona a Usted? (Marque una categoría por persona)			
Persona 1	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Esposo/pareja	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo/a	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Nieto/a	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Otro familiar:
Persona 2	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Esposo/pareja	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo/a	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Nieto/a	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Otro familiar:
Persona 3	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Esposo/pareja	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo/a	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Nieto/a	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Otro familiar:
Persona 4	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Esposo/pareja	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo/a	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Nieto/a	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Otro familiar:
Persona 5	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Esposo/pareja	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo/a	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Nieto/a	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Otro familiar:
Persona 6	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Esposo/pareja	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo/a	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Nieto/a	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Otro familiar:

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, ¿cuantas veces en total ha estado sin un lugar permanente donde vivir en los últimos tres años? (Marque solo UNA respuesta)

- 1 Nunca, NO estoy sin vivienda
 2 Una
 3 Dos
 4 Tres
 5 Cuatro
 6 Cinco o más

16. ¿Esta vez, cuanto tiempo ha estado sin un lugar permanente donde 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 que ciudad/pueblo pasó/pasará la noche de Lunes, 29 de Enero del 2007?

_____ (Llenar el nombre de la ciudad/pueblo)

18. ¿En que condado pasó/pasará la noche de Lunes, 29 de Enero del 2007?

_____ (Llenar el nombre del condado)

19. ¿Cual fue el último Condado y Estado que Usted consideró su lugar permanente de vivir?

_____ Condado _____ 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. Piensa Usted que 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

22. Durante el último mes, ¿Usted o cualquier otra persona en su familia recibió ingreso debido al trabajo?

- 1 Si 2 No

23. ¿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
 7 NO esta recibiendo beneficios del gobierno

24. ¿Porque está sin vivienda esta vez? (Lea cada línea y MARQUE TODOS QUE SEAN PERTINENTE)

- 1 NO estoy sin vivienda → Siga a la Pregunta 25
 2 Perdió el trabajo/no encuentra trabajo
 3 Tiene trabajo pero el sueldo es muy bajo
 4 Pariete/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: _____

25. Durante el último 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 el 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 Otro servicio → Especifique: _____

15 No necesitamos de servicios que no pudimos adquirir

**FIN DE LA ENCUESTA
 ¡GRACIAS!**

COVER SHEET

PLEASE ATTACH COMPLETED SURVEYS TO THIS FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

- *PLEASE ATTACH ALL COMPLETED SURVEYS TO THIS FORM!*
- *PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FIELDS ON THIS FORM!*

NUMBER OF ATTACHED SURVEYS: _____

Please complete the following information for the agency or group submitting the surveys:

Agency/Group Name: _____

Agency/Group City: _____

Agency/Group County: _____

Contact Person (for questions regarding attached surveys):

Contact Name: _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

Contact Email: _____

IF YOU ARE WITH AN AGENCY, PLEASE ANSWER:

How many unduplicated HOMELESS clients do you serve at this location in a typical week in January 2007? Please give your best estimate. _____

What proportion of your agency's clients is homeless?

____All ____Most ____About half ____Less than half

TRACKING FORM FOR COUNTS/ESTIMATES OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PERSONS

INSTRUCTIONS

*Use this form ONLY if it is **NOT** possible to obtain completed surveys from unsheltered homeless persons. An unsheltered homeless person resides in a place not meant for human habitation, such as in a car, park, sidewalk, abandoned building, on the street, etc.*

*If you are unable to complete surveys with unsheltered homeless persons, please just **count** these individuals. If conducting a head count is not possible, please **estimate** the number of unsheltered homeless persons. If you submit both a count and an estimate, be sure the number estimated is **NOT** part of those you are able to count.*

Please record the number of persons you actually count separately from the number of persons you estimate. Remember, the individuals who have been counted should not be included in the number estimated. Do not use this form for submitting paper surveys.

Number **COUNTED**: _____ County: _____
(The number of people counted does not include the number of people you estimate)

Number **ESTIMATED**: _____ County: _____
(The number of people estimated does not include those you are able to count)

Please complete the following information for the agency or group submitting this form:

Agency/Group Name: _____

Agency/Group City: _____

Agency/Group County: _____

Contact Person (for questions regarding this form):

Contact Name (print): _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

Contact Email: _____

STATEWIDE / MDHI HOMELESS SURVEY GUIDE

Goal of Survey

The goal of the survey is to get an accurate count of the number of homeless persons in metro Denver on January 29, 2007, 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. If possible, try to take respondent aside to a quiet location to conduct the interview.

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

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 volunteers that s/he or another family member completed a survey earlier that day or yesterday, 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.

- ❖ Pay close attention to questions 8 and 11 through 13. Please check that responses to these questions are consistent.
- ❖ Question 10, *Where will you/where did you spend the night of Monday, January 29th?* must be answered. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE QUESTION 10 BLANK.

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 and MDHI 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. If an individual volunteers that he/she is transgender, write that on the survey. 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 Do you have a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver's license?:

This question identifies persons in need of Colorado identification.

Q6 Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic, Latino or Spanish?:

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 Are you (Check only ONE response):

This question refers to *household* situation.

Training Issue: *This question should correspond with Questions 11-13 (where respondents indicate family members with them, also without a permanent place to live).*

This question offers five responses: single person (including separated or divorced), single parent with children under 18 (including separated or divorced), part of a couple with children under 18, part of a couple without children under 18, 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 under 18, but is staying temporarily with her sister, she is still a single parent with children. If a woman is separated or divorced from her spouse/partner she is a single person. If a couple without children under 18 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 family members 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 under 18**. 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 under 18**, 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 under 18 – This category includes anyone who is a single parent with children 19 or under, 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 with children 18 under – This category includes any couple – married or otherwise – that is living with their children under 18, 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 under 18 or, 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 without children under 18 – This category includes any couple – married or otherwise – who do not have children under 18. 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 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 10 and 14 through 16.

Q10 Where will you / where did you spend the night, of Monday, January 29th?

Training Issue: If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, January 29th, ask them where they stayed **last** night.

This question offers a number of options. **Do not leave question 10 blank!** Ask the question, then pause to give respondent some time to think. 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 follow up question, "do you have an arrangement to stay there permanently?" 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.

Q11 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.

How many family members (NOT INCLUDING YOURSELF)?:

Training Issue: Q11 asks for total number of family members with respondent last night who are also without a permanent place to live. Do NOT include family members with a permanent place to live and do NOT include the respondent. This will give us valuable information about the number of homeless persons.

Q12-Q13 Please complete the following table for FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE WITH YOU AND ALSO WITHOUT A PERMANENT PLACE TO LIVE.

This question asks for age 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. For "other relative," please specify how the person is related to the homeless respondent.

Often, single parents who are somewhere unsheltered try to find a temporary place for their children under 18 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 January 29th.

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 12-13, DO NOT enter the friend(s) in the table for these questions. GO BACK to Question 11 and make sure that the number listed for this question only includes family members; it should NOT include the respondent or any friends (other than same or opposite sex partners).

Q14 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.

Q15 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.

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 In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, January 29, 2007?

Training Issue: *If respondent does not know, leave blank. If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, January 29th, ask them the city/town where they stayed **last** night.*

Q18 In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, January 29, 2007?

Training Issue: *If respondent does not know, leave blank.*

*If the respondent can't remember where they stayed Monday night, January 29th, ask them the county where they stayed **last** night.*

Q19 What was the last County and 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.*

Q20 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.”*

Q21 Do you think you have, or have you been told you have:

This question asks if respondent has various “conditions” or problems. The question applies to the respondent only, not to other family members he/she is with.

Training issue: *Ask this question respectfully so that homeless person does not feel his/her dignity is being violated. You can offer to let him/her nod “yes” or “no” in response to each question, or point to the applicable conditions on the survey so he/she doesn't have to respond aloud.*

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), or say they "hear voices," 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" if someone mentions an addiction to any kind of prescription drugs such as painkillers.*

Developmental disability – *only check if someone says they have this.*

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. If someone says they don't know what they have but are taking medications, check "other" and list the medications they are taking.

Q22 In the past month, have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working?

This question asks if respondent or anyone else in his family received any money from working in the past month.

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.*

Q23 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 the respondent replies that they are not receiving any government benefits make sure you have read all the listed benefits before checking response 7 (receiving NO government benefits).*

Q24 Why did you become homeless this time?

Training Issue: *This question offers a number of options. If respondent says he/she is NOT homeless, check that response (response #1) and go to question 25. 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.*

Q25 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. Ask the question, then pause to give respondent some time to think. 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. If the respondent replies they didn’t need any services, make sure you have read all the possible services before checking response 15 (Needed NO services we couldn’t get).*

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.

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 RETURNED 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 are 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!!

- Record the following respondent information on surveys:
 - first and middle initials
 - first three letters of last name
 - the month in which respondent was born.
- Train staff/volunteers when they collect completed surveys to inquire if the respondent or other family member previously completed a survey like this at another agency or gathering yesterday or today.

INTERVIEWER INTRODUCTION

SAMPLE SCRIPT / SUGGESTIONS

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWER:

- 1) Wear a name tag: *Statewide/MDHI 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 and MDHI learn more about the housing needs of Colorado’s residents. 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?

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.

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.

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 10, 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.

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 questions 1 through 19 and question 21. 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.



Winter 2007
Point-In-Time
Homeless Count Training

Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI)

Contacts for the Winter 2007 Homeless Count:

- **April Montoya**
Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI)
- **Lynn Shine**
*Colorado Division of Housing
303-866-2046*
- **Tracey O'Brien**
*University of Colorado at Denver
720-810-5464*
- **Deanna Hall LaFlamme**
*National Research Center, Inc.
303-444-7863*

Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) 2

Why is the state (in collaboration with MDHI) conducting another statewide homeless count?

- **A January Count is a requirement for HUD's SuperNOFA**
- **Summer and Winter Count Comparisons**

Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) 3

Count Resources

Website: <http://www.colorado.gov/cich>

- Communication tool across the state
- Media Kit
- Copies of all training materials and forms
- Update on activities
- Press Release
- Save the Date Post Card
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Regional Web pages
- Volunteer recruitment
- Map of regions
- Copy of survey
- Public spokesperson
- Fact sheets

Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) 4

LOGISTICS & FORMS



Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) 5

Timeline of Count

- **Monday night January 29, 2007**
 - 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 January 30, 2007**
 - Agencies conduct surveys
- **Agencies closed on Tuesday January 30, 2007**
 - Survey on the next day open for business
 - Ask if already completed a survey

Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) 6

Day of the Count Packet

Every person involved in the survey process will have Packets that include:

- Definition of homelessness
- Interviewer sample introduction
- Guide on how to handle survey questions
- County and State Coordinator contact information
- List of local homeless resources
- HIPAA 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

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 an unsheltered “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

Suggestions for Interviewers

- Wear a name tag: *Statewide Homeless Count, Your Name*
- Ask the respondent if they'd like to follow along on a blank survey
- **CONDUCT INTERVIEWS RATHER THAN ASKING THAT THE SURVEY BE COMPLETED ON THEIR OWN**
- Do not say anything more than is necessary in your introduction
- Try not to feel rushed

Invite Individuals to Participate

- *Hello, my name is _____. I am helping the state of Colorado learn more about the housing needs of Colorado residents. 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?*

Confidentiality & Voluntary Participation

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**

What if people refuse to participate?

REFUSALS

- If a person is reluctant to participate, assure them the survey is completely confidential
- Survey results will help the local community better understand homelessness
- If they still refuse, politely thank them and move on

Suggestions for Interviewers

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

Survey Completion

- The interviewer should:
 - Complete as many interviews as possible
 - Ask the questions as written
 - Record responses provided
 - Not complete the survey questions for the respondent
 - Submit incomplete surveys

Self Administered Surveys

- If respondent prefers to self-administer the survey, give them a copy to complete on their own (be available for questions)
- Be available to offer help
- PLEASE makes sure to collect and review all surveys for accuracy after survey has been completed

An 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

Duplication

- For survey results to be credible, the count must be unduplicated
 - In the case of family groups and couples, only *one* adult family member completes a survey
- If during the survey process the respondent says he/she has already completed a survey – **DO NOT CONTINUE** – destroy the survey (**BE SURE TO CLARIFY THAT THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED JUST “LAST NIGHT OR TODAY”**)

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 which 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

Revised Tracking Forms for Winter 2007

TWO FORMS

COVER SHEET

TRACKING FORM FOR COUNTS / ESTIMATES OF UNSHELTERED

Cover Sheet

Attach this form to completed surveys from each location:

- Number of attached surveys
- Agency/group name, city, county
- Contact person name, phone, email
- Estimate of number of unduplicated Homeless clients Agency serves during a typical week in January
- Proportion of agency's clients that are homeless

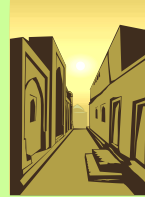
Tracking Form for Counts/Estimates of Unsheltered

Use this form **ONLY** if it is not possible to obtain completed surveys from unsheltered homeless persons:

- Number **COUNTED**/County
- Number **ESTIMATED**/County
- Agency Name, City, County
- Contact Person

Instructions for Administering the Winter 2007

HOMELESS SURVEY



General Instructions

- 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

Understand that...

RESPONDENTS
ARE PEOPLE *FIRST*
and
ARE HOMELESS SECOND

(courtesy, time, respect)

Encourage Participation

PARTICIPATION . . . is everything!

The Homeless Count will be based on
RETURNED SURVEYS!



UNDERSTANDING
**THE SURVEY
QUESTIONS**

Agency and Program Name

Agency	Program
City/Town/Community	County

- **Agency:** WE MUST HAVE AGENCY NAME ON EVERY SURVEY!!
- **Program:** IF SPECIFIC PROGRAM WITHIN AGENCY, WRITE IN NAME OF PROGRAM
- **City/Town/Community:** . . . could be “Clearwater Campground near Salida”
- **County:** BE SURE TO INCLUDE COUNTY NAME

Identifying Information (PIN)

- **INITIALS**
 - Enter this information BEFORE you ask any questions
 - If respondent refuses, politely continue
- **BIRTH MONTH**
 - Circle the month
- **AGE**
 - Provides demographic picture
- **GENDER**
 - Interviewer does not have to ask this question – can record through observation
 - Provides demographic picture

Military and Work History

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

Q4. Are you a seasonal resort worker?

Q5. Do you have a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver’s license?

Race and Ethnicity

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

- 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

Living/Household Situation

Q8. Are you?

Refers to HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

- *single person (including separated or divorced)*
- *single parent with children under 18 (including separated or divorced)*
- *part of a couple with children under 18*
- *part of a couple without children under 18*
- *in another situation*

Living/Household Situation

Cont. Q8. Are you?

- 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*

Permanent Place to Live

Q9. 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

Monday Night

Q10. Where will you / where did you stay the night of Monday, January 29th?

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

DO NOT LEAVE QUESTION 10 BLANK!

Monday Night

Cont. Q10.

- If staying temporarily with family or friends, it is critical they also answer the follow up question (Do you have an arrangement to say there permanently?)

Relatives / Family Members

Q11. 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.

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

Detail on Family Members

Q12-13: Please complete the following table for FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE/ARE WITH YOU AND ALSO WITHOUT A PERMANENT PLACE TO LIVE.

Detail on Family Members

Cont. Q12-13

- This question records age and relationship of family members with respondent
- Often, parents find temporary place for children – INCLUDE CHILDREN
- Make sure you document ages of children reported in Q8
- Make sure you include spouse/partners reported in Q8
- No category for friends!
- GO BACK TO QUESTION 11 – Be certain this number does not contain friends

Housing Issues

Q14. 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 January 29th in apt/house, etc.
- Helps to define *newly homeless* respondents

Housing Issues

Q15. 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

Housing Issues

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

But I am not homeless...

... about now (maybe during or after Q15 - maybe during or after Q16) ...

"I AM NOT HOMELESS!"

City and County

Q17. In what city/town will you/did you spend the night, Monday, January 29, 2007?

- If Respondent cannot remember Monday, January 27th, use the term "last night."

Q18. In what county will you/did you spend the night, Monday, January 29, 2007?

- Respondents often do not know their County.

Last Permanent Place

Q19. What was the last County and State you considered your permanent place 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.

Out-of-Home Placement

Q20. 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.

Health and Mental Health Issues

Q21. Do you think you have, or have you been told 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

Health and Mental Health Issues

Cont. Q21.

- 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

Working

Q22. In the past month, have you or anyone else in your family received any money from working?

- 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.

Government Benefits

Q23. 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 if they receive some other benefit, check “Any other government benefit”

Reasons for Homelessness

Q24. Why did you become homeless this time?


- If the respondent volunteers a reason(s), 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

Need for Services

Q25. 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), 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

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Collecting & Submitting Surveys, Cover Sheet and Tracking Form

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Collecting & Submitting Completed Surveys


- Agencies/Volunteers turn in surveys and tracking forms to County Coordinator within 2 days after survey process
- County Coordinators collect all surveys, cover sheets and tracking forms for counts/estimates of unsheltered

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Collecting & Submitting Completed Surveys


- County Coordinators turn in all Surveys, Cover Sheets and Tracking Forms for Counts/Estimates of Unsheltered by **February 5, 2007** to:
Lynn Shine
Department of Local Affairs,
Division of Housing
1313 Sherman St., Room 518
Denver CO 80203

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STATEWIDE HOMELESS SURVEY

LET'S PRACTICE!



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Appendix D: Training Materials

MDHI Trainings conducted by county coordinators

Region	Number of Trainings	Location	Attendance
	2	Park County	10
	unknown	Adams County	unknown
	1	Arapahoe County	7
	4	Boulder County	53
Region 5	1	Broomfield County	3
	3	Denver County	50
	1	Douglas County	10
	1	Jefferson County	40

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