Anchorage Homeless Chronic Public Inebriate: The Cost

Homeless versus Homeless Chronic Public Inebriate

Chronic public inebriation and homelessness are often discussed as one topic, but while they may have related issues, overall they include different demographics with distinct needs, diverse costs and different solutions. Out of a single-night count in January 2009, 399 of the 2,962 homeless individuals counted, claimed to be chronic alcoholics or substance abusers. This is a 38% increase from homeless chronic inebriate population estimates by UAA/BHRS in 2005.

The Cost

Individuals who are homeless chronic alcoholics/substance abusers cost citizens of the Municipality of Anchorage and the community at large an increasingly high amount in money and resources each year. A breakdown of some of the costs for an individual is as follows:

- One meal at Downtown Soup Kitchen - $2.00
- A day at Bean’s Café - $10.00
- A night at Catholic Social Services Brother Francis Shelter - $17.49
- An intake at the CSP-Transfer Station - $65.00
- A night in Jail or Prison - $126.04
- A day with a case manager - $180.00
- A day in a residential treatment bed - $250.00 - $375.00
- A day in a detox bed - $400.00 - $500.00
- Hospital costs - $1,206.64

2009 Anchorage Police Department Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Type Final</th>
<th>Call Count</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>Hourly Wage*</th>
<th>Hourly Vehicle Cost</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drunk Transport</td>
<td>8,654</td>
<td>4,390</td>
<td>$60.26</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$290,859.06*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunk</td>
<td>13,096</td>
<td>4,629</td>
<td>$60.26</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$306,716.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>21,690</td>
<td>9,019</td>
<td>$60.26</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$597,575.23</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Average straight time wage with benefits

- Additional costs include vehicle clean-ups due to bio-hazard ($150 per clean-up), and overtime pay for officers (average $90.39 per hour, including benefits)
- APD transports to the Transfer Station have increased from 2,414 in 2004, to 6,941 in 2009 (188%)

2009 Anchorage Fire Department Costs (not including cost of responding to fires started by CPI’s)

2009 Costs for AFD to respond to calls involving Chronic Public Inebriates: $1,800,000.00
- This number includes “man down calls,” and transports & triage

2009 CSP/Transfer Station Costs

2009 CSP Contract Cost: $1,385,900.00
2009 CSP It, Admin, etc: $120,000.00
2009 CST Total Costs: $1,505,900.00 ($188,000 paid by a Federal grant through Southcentral Foundation)
- Total cost / 365 days = $4,125.00/day to run CSP vans and sleep-off.
- Total cost / # 2009 intakes = $65.00 per intake.
- 2009 cost attributed to top 50 client intakes ($65 X 4,874 = 20% of intakes): $316,810.00
- 2009 cost attributed to top 200 client intakes ($65 X 11,942 = 49% of intakes): $776,230.00
- 2009 cost attributed to top 400 client intakes ($65 X 16,305 = 68% of intakes): $1,059,825.00
- 2009 cost attributed to top 500 client intakes ($65 X 17,614 = 73% of intakes): $1,144,940.00

Total Known 2009 Costs for APD, AFD & CSP: $3,903,475.23*
*Does not include APD overtime, or APD vehicle clean ups following transports & other miscellaneous costs.
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Miscellaneous Costs

- 2008 AKHMIS (used by Anchorage shelters to gather data): $521,639.00
- 2008 Pathways to Sobriety (works out of CSP/TS): $404,079.00
- Environmental impacts. Homeless Chronic Public Inebriates have significant environmental impacts on waterways (higher fecal matter counts) and green spaces. 36,180 pounds (18.1 tons) of trash was removed from illegal camps on public lands in 2009. The trash would fill 50 large dumpsters.

Exact costs to society are challenging to calculate, such as the cost for APD & AFD to respond whenever they get a “man down” call, which may be an individual sleeping on the ground and supersedes all other dispatches, including suspected robberies, rapes, etc. Emergency room costs are also not factored into this document. Or, businesses & rental properties that may be affected in ways such as, having to use company time to clean up the parking lot littered with empty liquor bottles.

Additional CSP Information

Overall, the gender of those served at CSP&TS in 2009 was: 76% male and 24% female. The ethnicities served at CSP&TS in 2009 were: 85.1% Alaska Native/American Indian; 11.4% Caucasian/White; 1.5% Black; 1.1% Hispanic; .09% Asian/Other/Unknown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># CSP dispatch calls responded to</td>
<td>20,703</td>
<td>23,396</td>
<td>27,335</td>
<td>&gt;13%</td>
<td>&gt;17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Sleep-Off client intakes</td>
<td>20,463</td>
<td>23,104</td>
<td>24,127</td>
<td>&gt;13%</td>
<td>&gt;4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Unduplicated clients served</td>
<td>3,308</td>
<td>3,451</td>
<td>3,416</td>
<td>&gt;4%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average intake breath alcohol measure</td>
<td>.217</td>
<td>.202</td>
<td>.231</td>
<td>&lt;7%</td>
<td>&gt;14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual’s Frequency Of Use</th>
<th># Of Clients 2007</th>
<th># Of Clients 2008</th>
<th># Of Clients 2009</th>
<th># Intakes 2007</th>
<th># Intakes 2008</th>
<th># Intakes 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Intake</td>
<td>1,955</td>
<td>1,867</td>
<td>1,756</td>
<td>1,955</td>
<td>1,867</td>
<td>1,756</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4 Intakes</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>1,738</td>
<td>2,028</td>
<td>2,083</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-10 Intakes</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>1,973</td>
<td>2,284</td>
<td>2,443</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-29 Intakes</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>3,243</td>
<td>5,082</td>
<td>5387</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-72 Intakes</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>6,346</td>
<td>6,475</td>
<td>7511</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-197 Intakes</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5,208</td>
<td>5,368</td>
<td>4947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>3,308</td>
<td>3,451</td>
<td>3416</td>
<td>20,463</td>
<td>23,104</td>
<td>24,127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1The Chronic Inebriate Problem in Anchorage Brief Overview, July 2, 2007, MOA/DHHS, CW Floyd.
22008 estimate from Downtown Soup Kitchen.
32009 estimate from Bean’s Café.
42009 estimate from Catholic Social Services, Brother Francis Shelter.
52008 estimate from Anchorage Fire Department, Community Service Patrol & Transfer Station.
62008 estimate from the State of Alaska Department of Corrections.
72008 estimate from Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Ernie Turner Treatment Center.
92008 estimate from Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Ernie Turner Treatment Center.

CSP Graphs
http://www.muni.org/departments/fire/operations/documents/csp%20data%20draft%202008.pdf