Learning About the Homeless

Historically, most data on the homeless has been anecdotal, and there has been little evidence to back up this information or provide insight into the vulnerability of the homeless and why this population continues to increase. The Alaska Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS) is a secure, centralized database, mandated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Participating emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and permanent, supportive housing programs contribute client-level information to help community coalitions and public officials assess the situation and develop strategies to mitigate the problem.

The HUD Mandate

There are three types of information required by HUD. Once collected, HUD analyzes all data in the Continuum of Care (CoC) application for accuracy. Data can be queried by the user to count homeless populations according to different criteria and to monitor changes in these numbers. Standard and customized reports can be generated, and depending on the complexity of the request, data can be output almost immediately.

HUD Data

Point-in-Time Counts—Taken every two years, one-night counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons are taken and then reported in the population and subpopulation charts of the CoC application.

Housing Inventory Charts—This annual inventory of beds for the homeless also includes the seasonal overflow of beds.

HIMIS Unduplicated Counts—Unduplicated data on homeless served (unsheltered, sheltered and housed), characteristics, service needs and use, and program effectiveness is generated every year.

NOTE: This report does not contain information on all of the households served in Alaska during the program year. Only those agencies listed on the back of this report contributed data in SPY2011.
In From the Cold

Homeless & At-Risk Data Report
This report contains information drawn from the two primary data bases in the state that collect information on homeless households. The Alaska Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS) is a secure, centralized database, mandated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Participating emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and permanent supportive housing programs contribute client-level information to help community coalitions and public officials gauge the extent of homelessness and develop strategies to reduce these numbers and prevent them from growing.

The Alaska Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (CDVSA) collects information sufficient to report to the U.S. Dept. of Justice and other federal and State funders on the number of unduplicated persons served and the types of services provided. As a precautionary measure, compared to AKHMIS, CDVSA uses fewer data elements to reduce duplicate records.

Who are the homeless in Alaska?
Of about 6,460 (point-in-time), it is estimated that...

11% have chronic substance abuse issues
8% are severely mentally ill
6% are veterans
6% are victims of violence
5% are chronically homeless
3% are unaccompanied youth under the age of 18
1% have HIV/AIDS

Homeless Facilities
Who slept in homeless facilities (emergency shelter or transitional housing) in SFY11?

**Non-Domestic Violence (unduplicated)**
- 5,906 Adult households without children
- 1,431 Households with children under the age of 18
- 7,337 Total

**Domestic Violence Services**
- 1,542 Persons aged 18 or older who stayed at a domestic violence facility
- 1,070 Persons under 18 who stayed at a domestic violence facility
- 2,612 Total

How many were 62 years or older? 271-nonDV 28-DV
How many were veterans? 876

On average, how long did they stay?

**Non-Domestic Violence (unduplicated)**
- 189 Adult households without children
- 205 Households with children under 18

**Domestic Violence Services**
- 30.3 Adults households without children
- 31.6 Households with children under 18

How many homeless received help to move into permanent housing?
- 295 People
- 106 Households
How did we rank?
Highest Concentrations of Homeless
(Rank is based on the number of homeless persons as a percentage of the state’s total population in 2008.)

Oregon 1 54%
Nevada 2 48%
Hawaii 3 47%
California 4 43%
Washington 5 34%
New York 6 31%
Colorado 7 30%
Michigan 8 28%
Florida 9 27%
Alaska 10 24%

Homeless Prevention Services

What were the most common services received?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Household %</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rental Assistance</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Utility Payments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many received help to prevent becoming homeless?

1,159 People
517 Households

What was the main reason for their crisis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstances Cited</th>
<th>% in 2011</th>
<th>% in 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>illness/injury/maternity</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low wages/disability income</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recent job loss (60 days)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unemployed (over 60 days)</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work hours cut</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSI/VA problems</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>legal issues</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loss of roommate/partner</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>domestic violence</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car trouble/accident</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>death in family</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>house repairs (damaged)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonpayment of child suprt</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>theft victim</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATAP delays/sanct.</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>new job/paycheck delay</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in treatment/voc training</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where are the homeless in Alaska?
Based on a January 2011 single-night statewide count of 6,460 homeless, almost 59 percent live in Anchorage, followed by 949 in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 522 in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, 562 in the City of Juneau, and 272 in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Contributing Alaska Agencies
AKHMIS relies on the efforts of statewide agencies and service providers to collect and contribute data on the homeless they serve. As a result, the AKHMIS does not contain information on all of the households served in Alaska during any given year. The list of participants varies, though it continues to grow every year, resulting in consistent, reliable data that captures snapshots of various points in time. For information on how to contribute data please contact Sandy Olibrice, Municipality of Anchorage AKHMIS Project Manager, at (907) 343-6592, olibricesm@muni.org.

Homelessness and Domestic Violence
Similar to AKHMIS is the database produced by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA), which houses statewide information on the number of unduplicated homeless served who are domestic violence victims. The data is reported to the U.S. Department of Justice and other federal and State funders, though CDVSA uses fewer data elements to reduce the possibility of duplicate records.