

2009 Kansas Point in Time Homeless Count – Douglas County Recap

The 2009 Kansas Point in Time Homeless Count took place on January 28, 2009 and was the first time there was a coordinated effort in the state to obtain the count of homeless individuals in Kansas. This count is required every two years by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for communities that receive HUD funding.

The 2009 Everybody Counts! Campaign was a joint effort between the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services – Disability and Behavioral Health Services (SRS-DBHS) and was coordinated by The United Way of the Plains in Wichita, KS. The count incorporated the four Continuum of Care communities in the State of Kansas, including Johnson County, Sedgwick County, Shawnee County, and Wyandotte County, as well as counties representing the Balance of State Continuum. As this was the first statewide count performed, a new methodology was utilized by all 36 counties that participated in the count on that day. The Balance of State counties were chosen by stratified sampling of the participating counties, who were grouped into population tiers. This proved to be an effective method for the extrapolation of data for the Balance of State, providing an overall picture of homelessness in the State of Kansas on January 28, 2009.

Douglas County, including the City of Lawrence, was included in the Balance of State Continuum of Care for the 2009 count. Team leaders for Douglas County were Margene Swarts and Danelle Dresslar, City of Lawrence Planning and Development Services; Erika Dvorske, United Way of Douglas County; and Paige Blair, Roger Hill Volunteer Center. Prior to the actual count there was a coordinated volunteer recruitment effort in Douglas County that included volunteer training and orientations. The “home base” for the Douglas County count was at the United Way building, 2518 Ridge Court, and team leaders tracked and provided support to the volunteers between 8:00 am and 7:30 pm. The volunteers were set up in two person teams, and were provided necessary resources to conduct interviews with those persons they encountered, both at pre-determined locations as well as on walking routes. A copy of the 2009 survey has been attached to this document.

Results for Lawrence indicated a total of 112 respondents that met the definition of HUD homeless within the 249 persons that were approached on January 28. The 112 number included 93 Literally Homeless, 7 Precariously Housed, 4 Imminently Homeless, and 8 whose category was unable to be determined. The majority (94.6%) of the homeless population in Lawrence was surveyed at the emergency shelter locations. Douglas County was broken into nine geographic areas, and volunteers were assigned to these regions. The temperature on the day of the count ranged from 3 degrees Fahrenheit to 37 degrees Fahrenheit. This count is representative of those who were willingly surveyed on that particular day, and may not be representative of the entire homeless population in Lawrence or Douglas County.

Of those persons approached, there were 38 individuals who declined to fill out a survey. There were also 20 individuals represented at a substance abuse treatment facility that did not meet HUD's definition of homeless and thus were unable to be counted this year, although they had been included in the count in previous years. Another 14 individuals who were either in jail or returned an incomplete survey were not able to be counted.

With the 2009 count, it appears to local service providers that the biggest discrepancy in the numbers is contained within the demographic of homeless families with children. Social service providers serving Lawrence and Douglas County as well as the Lawrence School District, report their case loads include approximately 40 families with 100 children. The 2009 count does not reflect this fact. Going forward, it is clear that community outreach will be a critical tool for these service providers to ensure that their clients are included in future counts, which should provide a more accurate depiction of the total homeless population in Lawrence and Douglas County.

The definition of homelessness, used for the purposes of this Point in Time count, was the HUD definition of Sheltered, Unsheltered, and Chronic Homelessness.

HUD Sheltered: Persons residing in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing who originally came from shelter or streets.

HUD Unsheltered: Persons residing in cars, abandoned buildings, alleyways, parking garages, under bridges, etc.

HUD Chronic Homelessness: An unaccompanied individual who has a disability AND who have been continually homeless for one year OR has been homeless four or more times during the last three years.

State of Kansas numbers showed a decrease in the "Literally Homeless" population compared to the 2007 Point in Time Count. The 2007 count showed 2,111 homeless in the State and the 2009 count showed that number to be 1,811, representing a 14.2 percent decrease between those time periods.

As mentioned previously, the methodology was new for 2009 which is another contributing factor to the difference in the count from years past. The 2009 count will be utilized as a baseline for future counts, as the same methodology will be used for each count going forward. The next required HUD count will be in January of 2011; however the opportunity is being explored to use this methodology to provide the communities with yearly counts. In the past, each community was responsible for their own individual point-in-time count but with this structured methodology and process, communities will be able to receive comparable data results from count-to-count and will be able to more easily see the impact of housing and housing services programs in the community on the homeless population.

To view the full 2009 Kansas Point-In-Time study, please visit http://www.kshousingcorp.org/programs/point_in_time_map.shtml

Douglas County

County Characteristics

Population Size: 99,962

Persons Per Square Mile: 218.8

Percentage of Urban Population: 87.2

Percent of Population Living in Poverty: 15.3

Temperature on Jan. 28, 2009: Low: 3 degrees Fahrenheit High: 37 degrees Fahrenheit

2009 KPIT Results

Housing Inventory for Homeless

- Emergency Shelter: 118
- Transitional Housing: 4
- Permanent Supportive Housing: 6

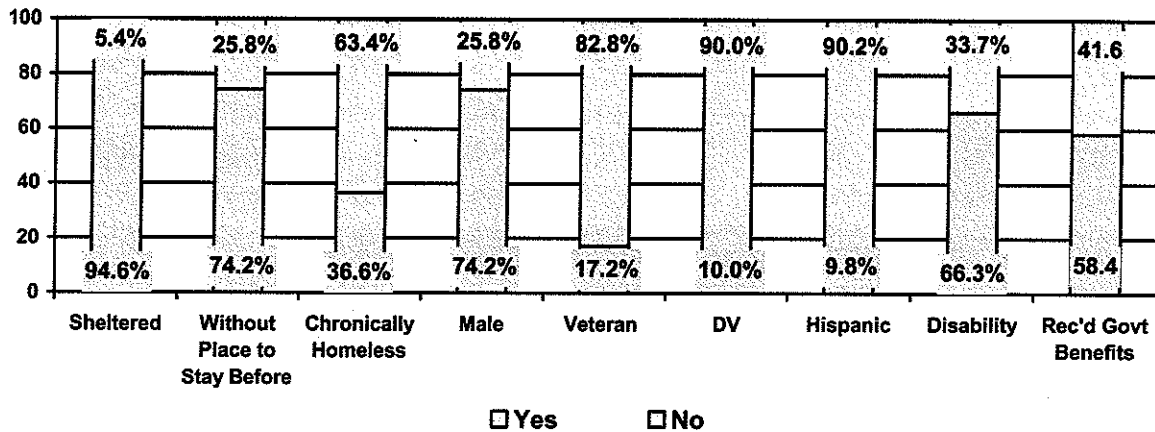
Survey Respondents' Living Situations

(93 + 11 Family Members = 104 Total LH)

State & Continua	Total Respondents	Literally Homeless	Precariously Housed	Imminently Homeless	Unable to be Determined
State of Kansas	1,438	1,170	135	92	41
Douglas County	112	93	7	4	8

Average Respondent Age: 42.1 years

At A Glance—Summary of Literally Homeless Respondent Characteristics (n = 93)



2009 Kansas Point-in-Time Structure

Number of Team Leaders:	4
Number of Sectors Mapped for Geographic Area:	9
Percent of Geographic Sectors Covered:	67%
Percent of Volunteers with at Least a Moderate Level of Experience:	73%



Data compiled by United Way of the Plains, Wichita, Kansas

Douglas County Supplemental Information

Dispensation of Surveys

Douglas County		Number	Percent
KPIT Surveys Included in Data Analysis		112	45.0
		Of Those:	
	Literally Homeless	93	
	Precariously Housed	7	
	Imminently Homeless	4	
	Unable to be Determined	8	
Previously Completed a Survey		25	10.0
Paid for Housing		7	2.8
Declined-Not Homeless		31	12.4
Declined-Did Not Indicate Reason		38	15.3
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Resident		20	8.0
Jail (Incarcerated)		8	3.2
Incomplete, Exited Survey Monkey		6	2.4
Surveys Determined to be Duplicates Upon Review		2	.8
Total		249	100.0

Of the 93 respondents who were literally homeless: 5 were in households with children staying in emergency shelter; 83 were in households without children staying in emergency shelter; and 5 were single and unsheltered (see table below for numbers of people accompanying survey respondents in their living situation).

Douglas County-LH-Respondents and Accompanying Persons

Douglas County		Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
Number of Households <u>with</u> Dependent Children		ES	TH		
		5	0	0	5
Total Number of Persons in these Households (adults & children)	Respondents/Accompanying Adults	6	0	0	6
	Accompanying Children	8	0	0	8
	Total	14	0	0	14
Number of Households <u>without</u> Dependent Children		83	0	5	88
Total Number of Persons in these Households		85	0	5	90
Total Persons		99	0	5	104