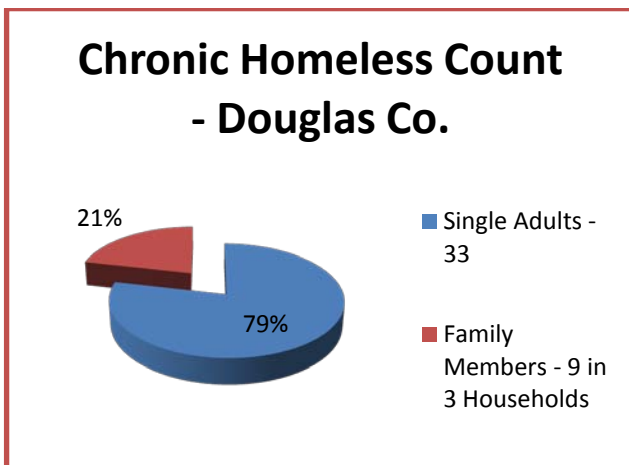
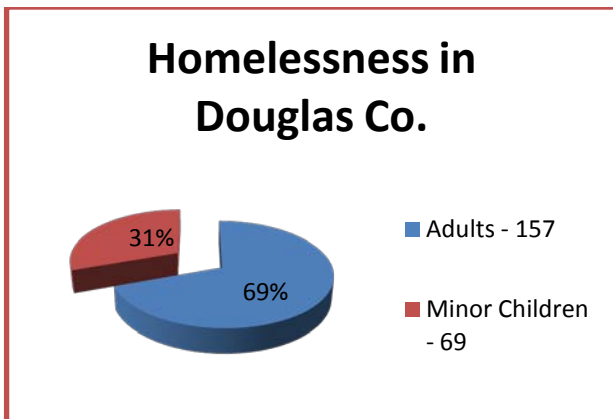


# Homeless Point in Time Count 2011

## *A Snapshot of Homelessness in Douglas County*

Lawrence and Douglas County counted literally homeless persons and households during one 24-hour period on January 26, 2011. In Douglas County, 226 literally homeless persons (those living in emergency shelter, transitional housing or in places not meant for human habitation such as in cars or on the streets) were identified. While it is likely that this number is less than the true number of homeless in the city and in the county, these findings are a valuable planning tool to improve the response to homelessness in Douglas County and are collected biennially.



**226 Lawrence/Douglas County Residents were homeless on January 26, 2011:**

- 155 households containing 226 persons reported as being literally homeless, which is defined as living on the streets, in cars, or in emergency shelter/transitional housing.
- Analysis was based on surveys of 182 households, 27 of which were not homeless, or were living with family and friends without paying (Doubled Up)
- 19 persons were imminently (near) homeless, staying with others temporarily or doubled up
- The count showed 157 adults (69%) and 69 children (31%) identified as literally homeless.
- Of the 226 literally homeless, 33 adults and three families met the definition of chronically homeless (having been homeless for one year or more, or having had four or more instances of homelessness in the past three years and having a disabling condition.)

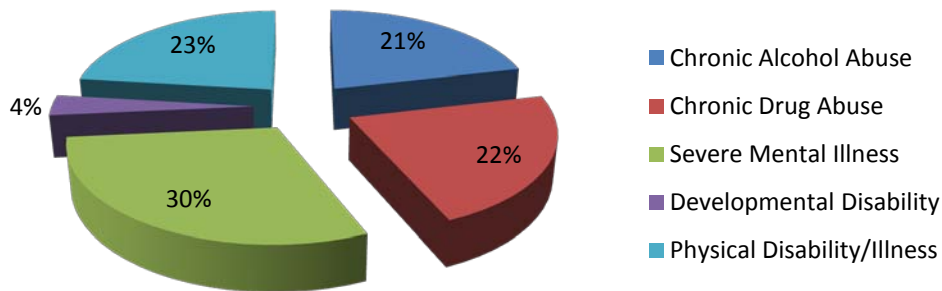
**KEY POINTS**

**Changes in homelessness from the 2009 Point-In-Time count to the 2011 count:**

- ✓ The number of literally homeless residents counted increased from 104 in 2009 to 226 in 2011.
- ✓ In 2009, 25.8% of the literally homeless respondents were female. In 2011, this number rose to 44%.
- ✓ In 2009, 36.6% of respondents were chronically homeless; in 2011 this percentage decreased to 18.6%.
- ✓ In 2009, 17.2% of literally homeless respondents identified as being veterans; in 2011 this fell to 8%.

**Other facts regarding homelessness in Lawrence/Douglas County:**

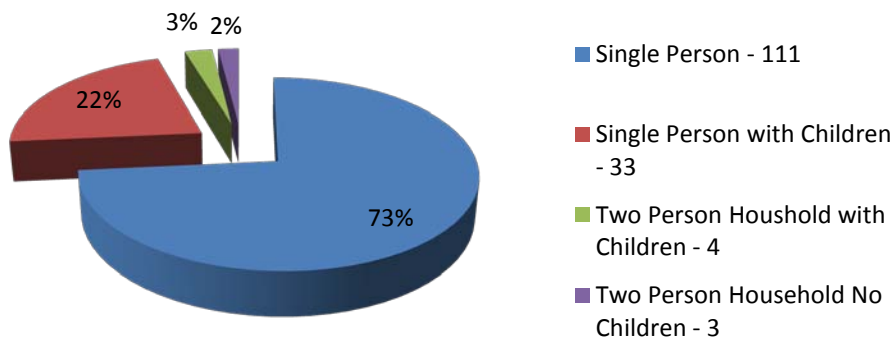
### Disabling Conditions - Literally Homeless Respondants - Douglas Co.\*



\*May be multiple conditions per person

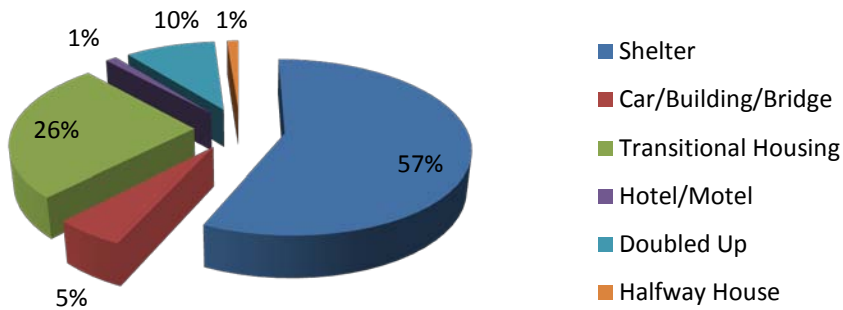
In Lawrence/Douglas County, out of the 157 adults that met the definition of literally homeless, 25 indicated they struggled with alcohol abuse, 26 said that they had a drug abuse problem, 35 had a severe mental illness, 27 indicated that they had a physical disability or illness, and four people identified as having a developmental disability.

### Household Composition: Literally Homeless - Douglas Co.



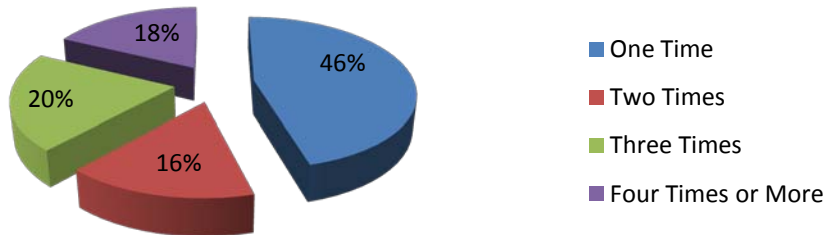
In Lawrence/Douglas County, out of 151 adults households that answered the question, there were 111 single individuals, 33 single parent homes, four two person homes with children, and three two person homes with no children.

### Living Situation - Homeless Respondents - Douglas Co.



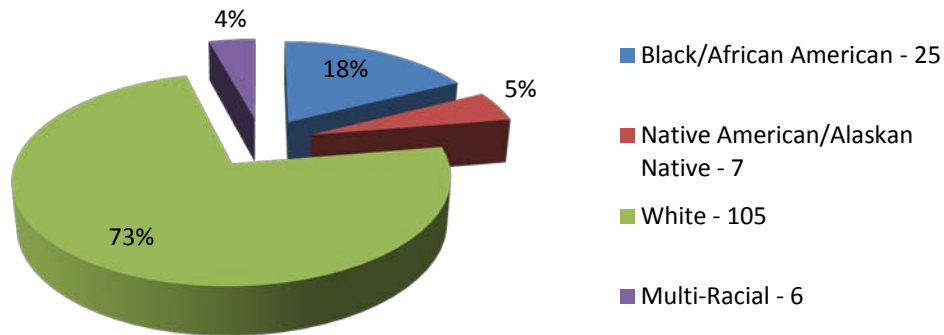
In Lawrence/Douglas County, survey respondents that answered the question indicated that 142 respondents were sheltered (emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, hotel/motel, or transitional housing). Nine respondents were unsheltered (living in a car, abandoned building, bridge, or other place not meant for human habitation). 18 respondents indicated that they were staying with friends (doubled up) or in a halfway house.

### Occurances of Homelessness - Literally Homeless Repondents - Douglas Co.



In Lawrence/Douglas County, survey respondents that answered the question indicated that 49 had been homeless one time, 17 had been homeless twice, 22 had been homeless three times, and 19 had been homeless four times or more.

## Race Composition: Literally Homeless - Douglas Co.



In 2011, 105 of respondents indicated that they were white, 25 indicated that they were black or African American, seven responded that they were of Native American/Alaskan Native descent, and six said that they were multi-racial.

### ***Challenges to understanding the picture of Homelessness in Lawrence and Douglas County:***

- ✓ The point-in-time count is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) every two years. The point-in-time count is just that: A point-in-time snapshot. It should be acknowledged that while this presents a number going forward, it may not be indicative of the total extent of the problem as seen by local professionals and their agencies. This count was a partnership with many agencies and volunteers 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 and unsheltered homeless. HUD “sheltered” is defined as: persons residing in emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing that originally came from shelter or streets. HUD “unsheltered” is defined as: persons residing in cars, abandoned buildings, alleyways, parking garages, under bridges, etc.
- ✓ The Lawrence Unified School District (USD 497) indicate that there are 93 elementary age students (grades K-6) and 56 secondary age students (grades 7-12) in the district that qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act, which includes families that are doubled-up or staying with family or friends. For this point-in-time count, doubled up families were not able to be counted because they did not meet the HUD definition of homeless. With varying definitions of homelessness used by agencies, it is difficult to paint a true picture of the extent of the problem.
- ✓ From November 2009 to April 2011, the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority was able to assist 198 households comprised of 264 adults and 281 children for a total of 546 people through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). The number of HPRP clients served provides a snapshot of those who have been in imminent danger of being homeless who have received housing stabilization services. There are numerous other agencies in Lawrence and Douglas County who provide one-time assistance that are working to keep people housed as well. These agencies have indicated that there has been a rise in the demand for assistance as the economic situation has worsened. Professionals agree that many residents are a single paycheck away from experiencing homelessness.