

Clackamas County Homeless Count 2011

Introduction. The Clackamas County Homeless Count 2011 is a point-in-time count of homeless persons in the County. Homeless persons include those **without** their own apartment, house or mobile home; persons sleeping in places not fit for human habitation; persons in shelters or transitional housing units, and those living doubled up in overcrowded conditions. Not every homeless person in the County was found and counted. Therefore, this point-in-time count must be considered an undercount. However, findings from the 2011 count can be used to enhance understanding of the extent of homelessness in Clackamas County, and to support implementation of the Ten-Year Plan to Address Homelessness.

Who Participated

- ▶ Clackamas County Coordinating Council for the Homeless
- ▶ 130 Community Volunteers
- ▶ Homeless Persons and Homeless Advocates
- ▶ Faith Based Organizations
- ▶ School District Homeless Liaisons
- ▶ Community Service Agency and Shelter Staff
- ▶ Clackamas County Staff

What Was Done and When

- ▶ A one-night street and shelter count January 28, 2011
- ▶ Service based counts during January 2011
- ▶ Administration of 2,000+ surveys
- ▶ Coverage of rural and urban areas across 1,879 square miles

Where the Count Was Done

- ▶ Food distribution sites
- ▶ Service agencies
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Camps and other outdoor sites
- ▶ Emergency shelters and transitional housing

Why the Count Was Done

- ▶ Enhance understanding of the scope of homelessness in Clackamas County
- ▶ Use data to support continued implementation of the Ten-Year Plan to Address Homelessness
- ▶ Use data for other planning, reporting and program development supporting homeless persons
- ▶ Fulfill requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the State of Oregon

How the Count Was Done

- ▶ Personal interviews of homeless persons
- ▶ Reports prepared from school district counts of homeless children
- ▶ Surveys completed at emergency shelters and transitional housing sites
- ▶ Use of automated information systems to tally data
- ▶ Utilization of screens to control for potential duplication of count

Findings

- ▶ 2,747 homeless persons were counted
- ▶ The count included 1,236 children (45%), 1,462 adults (53%) and 49 persons age unknown (2%)
- ▶ There were 1,665 persons in families with children
- ▶ There were 935 persons in adult-only households
- ▶ The count included 147 unaccompanied youth

More About Homeless Subpopulations

Homeless Subpopulation	2011 Count # Persons	2009 Count # Persons	Change (2009 to 2011)
Unsheltered*	735	481	+53%
Chronically homeless**	255	93	+174%
Veterans	120	74	+62%
Unaccompanied youth	147	132	+11%
Mental health issues	288	158	+82%
Physical disabilities	383	N/A	N/A
Substance abuse	163	191	-15%

* Unsheltered homeless persons are those sleeping outdoors in camps, on the streets, in their vehicles, in abandoned buildings or sheds, etc.

** By HUD definition, chronically homeless persons are homeless individuals 18-years-or-older with a disabling condition who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Chronically homeless adults can be single or in a family with children.

What Do the 2011 Count Data Tell Us?

The 2011 Homeless Count shows significant increases in a number of important homeless subpopulations. This includes the number of persons sleeping outdoors, chronically homeless persons, homeless veterans, unaccompanied youth, and persons with serious mental illness. These trends have implications for our citizens and our communities as we continue to experience economic challenges.

The 2011 Count -- A Time of Change

This year marked an important time of change for the Homeless Count. Clackamas County converted its count data recording to a fully automated system to enhance data processing and reporting. The County's efforts were part of a statewide initiative to have all counties move towards a uniform system for counting and reporting people without homes. The automated data and reporting systems developed and refined during the 2011 Count will help us gather more information about homeless persons, and better integrate our planning initiatives and services with community, regional, State and federal partners.

**For any questions on the Clackamas County Homeless Count 2011, please contact
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