

Homelessness in Arizona 2008



Last year an estimated 13,139 people were counted as being homeless in Arizona according to the 2008 statewide Point-in-Time survey.

- 59% of those counted were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing.
 - The remaining 41% of homeless Arizonans were sleeping on the streets, in cars, or in other places unfit for human habitation.
- 55% of all homeless people across the state were living in Maricopa County.
- Of the 5,363 people estimated in the Point-in-Time survey to be living on the streets:
 - 90% were single adults.
 - An estimated 33% of people living on the street had a disabling condition and were classified as chronically homeless.
- Of the 7,776 people counted in the 2008 survey who were homeless in shelters:
 - 49% were single adults
 - 33% were children age 17 or younger
 - 18% were adults in families
 - 27% reported domestic violence as a primary cause of their homelessness
 - 41% of adults reported substance abuse as a cause of their homelessness
 - 24% of adults reported having a Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) diagnosis.
 - 30% of single adults in emergency shelter were reported as chronically homeless.
- 3,811 formerly homeless persons reside in Permanent Supportive Housing
 - 64% reside in Maricopa County
 - 68% are single adults
 - 82% adults reported having a SMI diagnosis

21,377 school aged children were reported homeless by Arizona Department of Education's Homeless School Liaisons in 2007/2008.

- The Urban Institute estimates that one in ten poor people experience at least one night of homelessness each year. Applying this standard, as many as 88,000 children and adults may have experienced homelessness in Arizona this year.