

# **Humboldt County 2011 Point-in-Time Count Executive Summary**



## **Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition**

**Funding provided by Humboldt Area  
Foundation, Smullin Foundation, First 5  
Humboldt, McLean Foundation, St. Joseph  
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Foundation**

## 2011 HHHC Point-In-Time Count Executive Summary

In January 2011, the Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition (HHHC) conducted a Point-in-Time Count and survey of people without housing in Humboldt County. Point-in-Time counts are mandated by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the organizations that receive funding through HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grant. Point-in-Time counts allow Continuums of Care to identify community-specific service needs and gaps, access additional funding and resources, and increase public awareness. The previous Point-in-time Count conducted in Humboldt County was 2009.

This year, the Point-in-Time Count was based on where homeless residents slept on the night of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. In the three days following January 25<sup>th</sup>, dozens of volunteers from over 40 local agencies, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and resource centers approached people without housing and asked them to anonymously answer questions from a survey designed by the HHHC, based on HUD's requirements. Interviews were conducted at meal programs, shelters, transitional housing programs, and other areas throughout Humboldt County where people live and receive services.

A total of 1,626 people were counted in 2011. Volunteers interviewed 1,062 people without housing in Humboldt County, 39 of which were unaccompanied youth under the age of 18. There were an additional 412 children in homeless families. In 2009, there were 1,497 adults interviewed who were accompanied by 416 minor children; whereas the number of single adults was slightly lower in the 2011 count, the number of minor children showed a slight increase.

Although the data from 2009 and 2011 show similarities in the number of homeless families counted, some slight differences also exist. In 2011, 73% of homeless individuals were single or members of families without children. Approximately 27% were part of families with minor children. In 2009, single adults or part of a couple without children made up a slightly larger proportion of the count, 76% of the total. Slightly fewer people - roughly 20% - were either single or part of a couple with children. In 2009, an additional 4% stated they were in another type of living situation.

Of the respondents who provided information on where they slept on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 536 were identified as unsheltered, which included camping or sleeping in a car. 1,007 were considered sheltered, which indicates that they either spent the night in a shelter, transitional housing, a motel, a clean and sober house, or were "couch surfing".

The success of the 2011 Point-in-Time Count is due to the hard work of the community and the HHHC Point-in-Time Subcommittee. The HHHC hired a Point-in-Time Coordinator, Rachel Fuentes, MSW, along with Jacqui Brennan, MA, who was hired as a consultant for the Count and entered the data, and analyzed the results. The Humboldt Safety Net Funding Partnership graciously provided the funding for the Count, which includes the Humboldt Area Foundation, the Smullin Foundation, and the McLean Foundation.

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Number of Homeless Adults and Children

Age 5 and under: 11%; *n*=179  
Age 6 through 17: 17%; *n*=272  
Adults, age 18 and over: 65%; *n*=1,064  
Subtotal: 93%; *n*=1,515  
Missing: 7%; *n*=111  
Total: 100%; *n*=1,626

Single Individuals and Families (*n*=1,626, 100% of total sample)

Individuals in Families: 52%; *n*=846  
Single Individuals: 48%; *n*=780

Families with Children (*n*=1,515, 93% of total sample)

Families with Children: 27%; *n*=412  
Single Adults or Families without Children: 73%; *n*=1,103

GENDER (*n*=952, 59% of total sample)

Female: 36%; *n*=339  
Male: 63%; *n*=604  
Other/Transgender/Decline to State: 1%; *n*=9

Percent That Became Homeless in Humboldt County

66% (*n*=577) of *n*=847 that responded (54% of total sample)

Average Age and Gender of Homeless Adults

Male, 40 years old

Average Age of Homeless Children

8 years old

Alcohol and Drug and Mental Health Issues

Alcohol: 30% (*n*=270) of 902 that responded (56% of total sample)  
Drugs: 28% (*n*=252) of 896 that responded (55% of total sample)  
Mental Health Issues: 50% (*n*=446) of 899 that responded (55% of total sample)

Physical Disability

45% (*n*=401) of 898 that responded (55% of total sample)

Survivor of Domestic Violence

37% (*n*=328) of 889 that responded (55% of total sample)

Number of Adults and Families That Have Been Homeless for Three Years or More

Adults: 25% (*n*=162) of 640 adults that responded  
Families: 14% (*n*=38) of 276 individuals in homeless families that responded

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Chronic Homelessness

Chronically Homeless: 20% (n=328) of total sample

Chronically Homeless in a Family: 23% (n=74) of all chronically homeless; 5% of total sample

Chronically Homeless Individual: 77% (n=254) of all chronically homeless; 16% of total sample

Average Age of Chronically Homeless

50-59 years old, 38% (n=123) of all chronically homeless

Sheltered Vs. Unsheltered

Unsheltered: 33%; n=536

Sheltered: 42%; n=680

Doubled Up: 20%; n= 327

Subtotal: 95%; n=1,543

Missing Response: 5%; n=83

Total: 100%; n=1,626

Veteran Status (“Have you ever served in the U.S. Military?”)

20%; n=171 of 892 that responded (55% of total sample)

Foster Care (“Have you ever been in the foster care system?”)

25 (n=222) of 897 that responded (55% of total sample)

Education

900 responses (55% of total sample)

36% completed High School or GED

28% did not complete High School

26% attended some College or Trade School

\* Chronic Homelessness as defined by HUD: An unaccompanied homeless individual with a documented disability who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. For 2011, HUD requested that information also be gathered for accompanied chronic homeless individuals.

\* Not all percentages add up to 100% of the total; some questions were left unanswered, resulting in missing data.

\* HUD does not include “couch surfing” or “doubling up” in their unsheltered or sheltered definition.