



# Big Bend Homeless Coalition

[www.BigBendHC.org](http://www.BigBendHC.org)

2729 West Pensacola Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Phone: (850)576-5566 Fax: (850)577-0586

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## Homelessness in Tallahassee

### FACTS:

- January 2009 Point-in-Time Count & Survey: 741 homeless men, women, children
  - 458 adults (62% of total)
  - 283 children (38% of total) in 155 families
- 22% of adults are veterans
- 76% of adults have at least a high school degree
- 34% of adults have some college education or college degree
- 47% African American, 44% White, 2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 6% Hispanic
- 46% have been homeless for over one year
- 46% reported one or more disabling conditions
- 62% have lived here for more than a year
- We estimate that 3,000 to 4,000 people experience homelessness every year in Tallahassee

### TRENDS:

- Population is getting younger
- Population remains homeless longer
- More homeless families with children—they are becoming the “hidden” homeless
- Number of children in the homeless population is increasing
- Our homeless population is not as transient as other Florida cities; most are area residents.

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### Factors Contributing to Homelessness

- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Unemployment/Underemployment
- Family breakdown
- Lack of public transportation
- Health problems
- Lack of education
- Poverty
- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Domestic violence
- Lack of affordable child care
- Lack of education about the nature, causes and costs of homelessness

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### 2008 Housing Wage in Tallahassee, FL\*

- Fair market rent (FMR) for a two bedroom apartment is \$840 per month
- At Minimum Wage, it requires 95 hours of work per week to afford this
- In Tallahassee, to afford a two bedroom apartment at FMR, someone would have to earn \$16.15 per hour. This is considered the “Housing Wage” in our community.

*\*From the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s “Out of Reach 2008” Report ([www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org))*