



Big Bend Homeless Coalition

www.BigBendHC.org

2729 West Pensacola Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
Phone: (850)576-5566 Fax: (850)577-0586

Homelessness in Tallahassee

Our agency conducts a biennial count & survey of the homeless.

The full 2009 report will be available by July 2009. Contact Stephanie Shepherd with questions:
sshepherd@bigbendhc.org or 850.205.6010.

FACTS:

- January 2007 Point-in-Time Count & Survey: 930 homeless men, women, children
 - 554 adults (398 in 2005)
 - 376 children (341 in 2005)
 - 218 families (156 in 2005)
- 21% veterans (23% in 2005)
- 27% chronically homeless (26% in 2005)
- 38% have some college education or college degree (32% in 2005)
- 49% black, 45% white, 4.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 3% Hispanic
- 43% have been homeless for over one year
- 49% reported one or more disabling conditions
- Estimate: 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
- More than half of the homeless in our community have lived here for more than a year. Our homeless population is not as transient as other Florida cities.

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

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)*