

COLORADO STATEWIDE POINT-IN-TIME KEY FINDINGS

- *An estimated 16,203 people* were homeless in Colorado on Monday night, August 28, 2006. This includes point-in-time survey respondents, family members who are homeless with them, domestic violence shelter data, counts of the unsheltered homeless, and estimated relatives not identified by respondents.
- **Surveys typically undercount the homeless.** The literature indicates that youth, recently homeless persons, rural homeless, unsheltered homeless, and persons who are doubled-up with family and friends or “couch surfing” are less likely to be counted.
- The state conducted the survey over a 24-hour period to maximize agency participation and to reduce the number of duplicate surveys. This methodology successfully **reduced the incidence of duplication.**
- **Minorities are over-represented and whites are under-represented** among Colorado’s homeless compared to the general population.
- The data strongly suggest that the majority of the 1,577 respondents (and their families) who were classified as “**not homeless**” are living on the edge of homelessness.
- Many of Colorado’s homeless are **children and families.**
 - **Children and teens** comprise one-third of Colorado’s homeless.
 - More than six in 10 homeless persons is part of a **household with children.**
 - One-quarter of all **unsheltered homeless** are families with children.
 - Most **newly homeless** households are comprised of women and children.
- There are dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children **spent Monday night.** More families with children stayed in transitional housing or temporarily with family or friends, while more people without children stayed in emergency shelters or slept on the street.
- Half of all respondents have at least one serious, **disabling condition: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS.**
- The most common **reasons for homelessness** are housing-related costs, loss of job, and having one or more serious, disabling condition.
- Nearly two-thirds of respondents said that they or another family member needed at least one service that they could not obtain. The most frequently **needed service** is permanent housing.
- Men and households without children have experienced more **episodes of homelessness** in the last three years, and are more likely to have been homeless five or more times.
- Nearly one in ten are **chronically homeless**; the great majority are male.