

Homelessness in Tucson and Pima County



How many people are homeless in our community?

There are three sources of data for estimating homelessness.

1. Point-in-Time count

This count is conducted annually in late January by the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless, in coordination with the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Point-in-Time count is comprised of:

- Shelter count – homeless people staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing on a specific night
- Street Count – unsheltered homeless people who are counted on the same night by volunteers who identify them by observation.

2. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

In 2008 the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless began implementing HMIS along with over 20 participating homeless service providers. When this data system is fully implemented, we will have additional data about homelessness in our community.

3. School systems

Schools are required by the federal government to identify students who are homeless and ensure that they get a consistent education, and that their families get services. Schools report data on homeless students to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Starting in 2008 the ADE was able to identify the number of students who were homeless on a specific date – the same date as the Point-in-Time homeless count. The ADE was also able to identify the place of night-time residence, so we can determine how many homeless families were staying with family or friends (doubled-up) on the night of the Point-in-Time count. These adults and children would not be counted in the Shelter Count or Street Count, and thus have been added as part of the Point-in-Time count. The additional school data gives us a much better understanding of the extent of family homelessness.

	TPCH POINT-IN-TIME DATA						SCHOOL P.I.T. DATA		TOTAL 2008	TOTAL 2009
	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing		Street Count		Doubled Up			
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009		
Single adults	490	575	575	686	972	1233				
Youth on their own	12	9	7	7	12	119				
Children in families	146	149	414	416	70	7	1050	965		
Adults in families	131	78	248	256	54	14	525*	483*		
TOTAL	779	811	1244	1365	1108	1373	1575	1448	4,607	4,997

*Doubled-up adults are estimated by assuming one adult for every two children (based on U.S. Census)

Point-in-Time Totals for Children and Families in Pima County	2008		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Children, plus youth on their own	1,711	36%	1,672	33%
Adults and children in families	2,638	56%	2,368	47%