

**Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless
2009 Homeless Street Count Report
Pima County, Arizona**



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Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless
c/o ICH, P.O. Box 16023, Tucson, Arizona 85732-6023

Summary

A total of 1,373 unsheltered homeless individuals were documented in Pima County through the 2009 Homeless Street Count, January 28, 2009 – 24% more than the 2008 total of 1,108. The local weather-related emergency shelter program, Operation Deep Freeze, was in effect for the night of January 27th.

The count was conducted by 139 individuals (including 14 self-identified as homeless or formerly homeless), an increase of 56% in the number of volunteers participating in the previous year. The proportion of homeless and formerly homeless volunteers participating was increased from 8% to 10%.

Volunteers surveyed the same quadrants identified in previous years. Volunteers also surveyed homeless adults at Primavera Relief and Referral (R&R) to provide additional insight to the observational classification of chronic homelessness individuals; and surveyed homeless youth at Open Inn to help balance for the apparent under-reporting of homeless youth in previous years. To better reflect the homeless individuals in rural areas of Pima County who cannot be surveyed by direct observation, the number of unduplicated persons requesting food boxes from rural Pima County Food Banks during January 2009 was added to the observed total. Noteworthy results included the following.

- A total of 761 persons, 55%, were deemed chronically homeless, a significant reduction from the 65% and 67% observed respectively in 2008 and 2007.
- A total of 119 homeless youth were observed compared to 12 in 2008, an increase of 992% over 2008. The increase better reflects, but does not equal, the number of requests for service experienced by area agencies serving homeless youth. The percentage increase is far greater than the percentage increase in the number of volunteers observing. The numbers themselves do not explain whether there is a significant increase in youth homelessness, but are cause for concern.
- Totals by quadrant show a significant overall shift in the location of homeless people from the eastern and middle to the western and northwestern parts of the Tucson Metropolitan Area.
- The total number of unsheltered homeless persons increased significantly despite Operation Deep Freeze being in effect, which has previously resulted in lower numbers of unsheltered individuals being observed.

The 24% increase in homeless individuals observed combined with a three-year decrease in the number of chronically homeless individuals observed lends weight to the predictions that the nation's current economic and foreclosure crises are creating a sharp increase in homelessness, and particularly in first-time homelessness.

Background and Methodology

The annual homeless street count in Pima County is organized by Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless (TPCH), the area's continuum of care coalition. A workgroup of TPCH members met in November and December, 2008 to plan the 2009 Homeless Street Count and in February, 2009 for a preliminary review of results.

The workgroup resolved to: significantly increase the number of volunteers through expanded recruitment; increase the number of trainings for volunteers; increase the percentage of homeless and formerly homeless volunteers; improve the accessibility of training for volunteers; survey the already identified geographical quadrants in the Tucson Metropolitan area; and continue to ask enumerators to record where they observed homeless persons in order to provide guidance for future volunteers. With aggressive recruiting the number of volunteers was increased by 56% over 2008; and the number of volunteers who self-identified as homeless or formerly homeless was increased from 8% to 10%. A total of four trainings, one in the evening, were conducted at four locations in different parts of the Tucson Metropolitan Area. Team Leaders were identified and encouraged to survey their quadrants in advance of the actual count to identify locations where homeless people sleep or gather.

The workgroup also recognized and addressed three challenges from previous years' street counts: identifying a chronically homeless person by observation only; observed numbers of homeless youth that were far below the numbers of homeless youth served by local agencies; and probable under-reporting of homeless persons in rural areas due to the lack of sufficient volunteers to directly observe throughout Pima County's 2,000 square miles. The first two challenges were addressed by with creating brief surveys in both English and Spanish. Homeless adults were surveyed the morning of January 28th at Primavera R&R. (The area's volunteer team avoided the immediate area of the survey site to avoid duplication of observed individuals). Homeless youth were surveyed at Open Inn the evening of January 27th. The workgroup voted to count as youth, all unaccompanied homeless persons up to and including age 22 who answered the survey in accordance with the agencies' service guidelines.

The challenge of reporting on rural homelessness was addressed by requesting from the Tucson's Community Food Bank database an unduplicated number of self-identified homeless individuals who requested food boxes from their partner organizations in the rural Pima County Communities of Ajo, Amado, Catalina, Robles Junction, Green Valley, Marana and Picture Rocks. (The number of individuals represented by each request was not available.)

Results and Observations

Detailed results of the 2009 Homeless Street Count are reported in the attached spreadsheets. The statistical results in brief are:

- The 1,373 total individuals reported in 2009 are 24% more than in 2008.
- 55% of all documented individuals in quadrants were deemed chronically homeless, down significantly from the previous two years (65% and 67%). This included a total of 37 youth from both observation and survey. This was the first time that youth were reported as chronically homeless. At R&R 21% (5 of 24) were deemed chronically homeless.
- A total of 119 homeless youth were observed compared to 12 in 2008, an increase of 992% over 2008. The increase better reflects, but does not equal, the number of requests for service experienced by area agencies serving homeless youth. The percentage increase is far greater than the percentage increase in the number of volunteers observing. The numbers themselves do not indicate whether there is a significant increase in youth homelessness, but are cause for concern.
- Significantly, Operation Deep Freeze, the Tucson area emergency plan for sheltering everyone in need on nights of severe weather conditions, was in effect the evening of January 27, 2009.

Results and Observations continued

Volunteers offered the following anecdotal observations in addition to the numbers presented.

- A number of villages with unlivable conditions (abandoned buildings, no utilities, wild dogs, trash) have developed in the Tucson Metropolitan area, notably in the Pantano and Santa Cruz washes.
- Extended hours at Open Inn did not attract significant numbers of homeless youth, indicating that a survey during normal operating hours may be equally useful.
- Convenience store personnel showed compassion for and knowledge of their homeless neighbors.
- Bedrolls and backpacks in bushes after dawn indicated the presence of homeless persons who were not present and not counted.

Recommendations for 2010

The TPCH 2009 Street Count Workgroup developed the following recommendations for the 2010 Homeless Street Count.

- Consider holding the 2010 Street Count in connection with Tucson's winter Homeless Connect event.
- If the use of drop-in site surveys is continued, hold the youth survey during Open Inn's normal operating hours.
- Increase the number of volunteers per quadrant in order to allow for thoroughly observing each quadrant.
- Consider more flexible start and end times to account for the nature of the area surveyed. For instance, volunteers may begin the count earlier in more urban quadrants because of street lighting and to continue to avoid duplication of persons being released from shelters. Volunteers in less developed quadrants might begin after dawn for safety and visibility.
- Identify Team Leaders and notify volunteers of the quadrant assignments earlier in order to allow for more thorough surveying of the quadrants prior to the count.
- Continue to increase the number of homeless and formerly homeless volunteers.
- Continue to seek better ways to document the number of homeless persons in rural Pima County, and, if possible, obtain the total number of persons in the household represented by the unduplicated requests to rural food banks.
- Consider a second count in summer

Conclusions

The 24% increase in homeless individuals observed combined with a three-year decrease in the number of chronically homeless individuals observed lends weight to the predictions that the nation's current economic and foreclosure crises are creating a sharp increase in homelessness, and particularly among first-time homeless individuals. The TPCH 2009 Street Count Workgroup concluded that the 2009 Homeless Street Count findings indicate a need for increased volunteerism and increased availability of basic needs services in our community.

2009 Participating Homeless Street Count Organizations

Caridad/de Porres
City of Tucson
Comin' Home
Arizona Department of Veterans Services
Arizona Department of Economic Security
The Giving Tree
Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless
Jackson Employment Center
JK Electric, LLC
La Paloma Family Services
La Frontera Center, Inc.
Martha Cooper Branch, Tucson/Pima County Public Library
Old Pueblo Community Services
Open Inn
Our Family Services
Pima County
Primavera Foundation
Rocco's Pizza
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System
Sin Puertas, Pima Prevention Partnership
Tucson Weekly
University of Arizona Newman Center
University of Arizona Peace Corps Fellows
University of Arizona Social Justice League

2009 ANNUAL STREET COUNT TOTALS -- January 28, 2009

LOCATION DESCRIPTION	Quad	Single Men	Single Women	Gender Unknown (GU)	Categorization of observed individuals							Categorization				TOTAL (Individuals)			
					Chronic Homeless (CH) Men	CH Women	CH GU	# of Fam.	CH Fam.	Persons in CH Fam.	Fam. Adults	Fam. Kids	Youth Male	Youth Female	Youth GU		Youth Trans-gender (TG)	CH Youth Male	CH Youth Female
Cortaro S. to Grant from Silverbell to I-10	A	74	22	0	60	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	98
River Rd. S to Speedway from I-10 E. to Stone	B	55	44	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99
River Rd. S to Speedway from Stone E. to Campbell + Speedway S. to 22 nd (between Park & Campbell only)	C	22	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Grant S. to Ajo; from Mission Rd. E to I-10	D	17	1	61	12	1	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79
Speedway to 24 th from I-10 to Park + Santa Cruz wash	E	200	51	9	99	30	3	2	0	0	5	2	52	12	0	0	30	5	331
Grant S. to 22 nd from Campbell E. to Alvernon	F	6	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Grant S. to Golf Links from Alvernon E. to Swan	G	32	3	1	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Broadway S. to Irvington from Kolb E. to Houghton	H	44	6	5	22	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
South Tucson	I	188	7	3	125	7	3	2	0	5	2	3	19	10	0	0	0	0	232
22 nd S. to Ajo from 2 nd Ave. E to Alvernon 40th S. to Irvington from I-19 E. to 6th Ave.	J	21	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Ajo S. to Valencia; 6 th Ave. E to Alvernon & Valencia S. to Los Reales; 1-19 E. to 6th Ave.	K	38	4	0	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
Irvington south to Los Reales; Alvernon east to Kolb	L	29	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
Catalina	M	included in Rural Food Banks total																	0
Davis-Monahan AFB perimeter	N	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grant S. to Golf Links from Swan E. to Kolb	O	10	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
Ajo S. to Los Reales from Mission E. to I-19	P*	47	12	5	47	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
River Rd. S. to Grant from Campbell E. past Craycroft Rd. to Pantano Wash	Q	32	4	0	31	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Tanque Verde S. to Broadway; Kolb E. to Houghton + Catalina Hwy S. to Tanque Verde and E. to Houghton	R	18	2	10	18	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Redington Pass	S	Not surveyed																	0
Sagebrush S to Cortaro from N. Sanders Road to I-10	T	29	7	0	27	7	0	3	0	9	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
Vail	U	Not surveyed																	0
Sahuarita/Green Valley	Y	Not surveyed																	0
Primavera R&R		24	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Open Inn		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	5	1	0	0	22
Unduplicated Individuals at Rural Food Banks (Ajo, Amado, Catalina, Robles Junction, Green Valley, Marana, Picture Rocks)		0	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67
		887	184	162	549	83	92	7	0	0	14	7	83	30	5	1	31	6	1373
		Single Men	Single Women	GU	Chronic Homeless Adults = 724			# of Fam.	CH Fam.	# in CH Fam.	Fam. Adults	Fam. Kids	Youth Males	Youth Female	Youth GU	Youth TG	CH Youth = 37		

Volunteers - 139; 14 self-identified as homeless/formerly homeless

* Two teams surveyed section P. Results were averaged.

Operation Deep Freeze was in effect the night of January 27, 2009

Total Chronic Homeless Individuals
719 adults + 37 youth = 75
55%

2009 ANNUAL STREET COUNT BY OBSERVED LOCATION*: January 28, 2009

	Benches/ Bus Stops	Parking Garages	Vehicles	Hand-built structures	Under roads /bridges	Doorways	Parks	Bushes/ washes	Walking around	Alley s	Other	Convenience stores	Labor halls	Total
Quad														
A	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	60	8	0	0	12	0	98
B	15	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	43	0	0	62
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	12	0	7	0	0	25
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	12	0	7	0	0	25
E	17	16	9	13	34	21	38	51	63	25	44	0	0	331
F	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	8
G	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	20	0	0	0	0	36
H	5	0	2	6	18	0	7	9	0	0	0	6	0	53
I	10	0	2	0	0	5	15	2	102	89	0	0	4	229
J	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	10	0	0	0	0	25
K	2	0	5	3	1	0	0	9	14	0	12	0	0	46
L	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	25	0	0	38
M	Included in Rural Food Banks total													0
N	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	14
O	Average used, locations not reportable													64
P	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	25	0	0	0	41
Q	2	0	2	2	3	1	2	10	5	2	1	0	0	30
R	Not surveyed													
S	2	0	2	2	3	1	2	10	5	2	1	0	0	30
T	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	24	0	0	7	0	0	45
U	Not surveyed													
Y														
Primavera R&R														26
Open Inn														22
Rural Food Banks														67
2009 TOTALS	74	17	44	26	76	28	74	201	284	143	147	18	4	1315

*Teams did not record locations for all observed persons in all instances

Quad L - Noted that 25 "other" were at a feeding location; Quad Q - Reported 10 individuals verified by merchants put under "convenience stores"

Homeless Street Count Year-to-Year Comparison

Quad	2006 Total	2007 Total	2008 Total	2009 Total	# Change 2008-2009	% Change 2008-2009
A	22	101	84	98	14	17%
B	66	107	45	99	54	120%
C	58	22	45	25	-20	-44%
D	71	78	53	79	26	49%
E	77	98	124	331	207	167%
F	40	31	17	8	-9	-53%
G	9	75	73	36	-37	-51%
H	8	10	53	55	2	4%
I	7	54	105	232	127	121%
J	145	146	81	25	-56	-69%
K	34	61	120	42	-40	-33%
L	48	14		38		
M	not surveyed	80	90	0	-90	-100%
N	9	included in G	25	1	-24	-96%
O	15	23	55	14	-41	-75%
P	included in sections K & L	110	59	64	5	8%
Q	22	27	13	36	23	n/a
R	18	19	33	30	-3	-9%
S	not surveyed	0	not surveyed	0	n/a	n/a
T	not surveyed	9	30	45	15	50%
U	not surveyed	8	0	0	n/a	n/a
Y	not surveyed	4	0	0	n/a	n/a
Hospitals	not surveyed	13	3	0	n/a	n/a
County Jail	not surveyed	9	0	0	n/a	n/a
Primavera R&R	not surveyed	not surveyed	not surveyed	26	n/a	n/a
Open Inn	not surveyed	not surveyed	not surveyed	22	n/a	n/a
Rural Food Banks (Ajo, Amado, Catalina, Robles Junction, Green Valley, Marana, Picture Rocks, unduplicated individuals only)	not surveyed	not surveyed	not surveyed	67	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	642	1,099	1,108	1,373	265	24%
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS	53%	67%	65%	55%		

2009 Homeless Street Count Totals by Formula

Quad	Single Men	Single Women	Gender Unknown (GU)	Fam. Adults	Fam Kids	Youth Male	Youth Female	Youth (GU)	Youth Transgender	TOTAL	# Fams.	Chronically Homeless						Total	Percentage	# of Families	# of Chronically Homeless Families	
												Men	Women	Youth Male	Youth Female	Youth GU	Persons in CH Families					
A	74	22	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	98	0	60	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
B	55	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	0	44	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
C	22	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
D	17	1	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	17	1	0	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	
E	200	51	9	5	2	52	12	0	0	331	2	99	30	30	5	3	0	2	0	0	0	
F	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
G	32	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
H	44	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	0	22	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	
I	188	7	3	2	3	19	10	0	0	232	2	125	7	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	
J	21	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
K	38	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
L	29	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
M	included in rural food banks total									0		included in rural food banks total										
N	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
O	10	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	14	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P	47	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	48	5	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	
Q	32	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	31	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R	18	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	18	2	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	
S	Not surveyed									0												
T	29	7	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	45	3	33	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	
U	Not surveyed									0		Not surveyed										
Y	Not surveyed									0		Not surveyed										
R&R	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	5						0	0	0	0	
Open Inn	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	5	1	22	0							0	0	0	0	
Rural Food Banks			67							67								0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	887	184	162	14	7	83	30	5	1	1373	1373	549	83	31	6	92	0	761	55.43%	7	0	

2009 Primavera R&R Adult Survey

Survey #	Age	Gender	Homeless	How Long - # months	Other times	# other times	Disability	Vet	Live with Others	# children	Where did you sleep last night
1	35	1	1	0.33	0		1	0	1	0	1 6 shelter
2	53	1	1	312	1		1	1	0		6 6 street
3	45	1	1		1	2	0	1	1		3 2 desert
4	52	2	1	36	1	2	1		1		3 2 own apt or house
5	56	1	1	0.75	0		0	0	0		1 1 car
6	38	1	1	36	1	1	1	0	0		6
7	56	1	1		1		0	1	0		4
8	44	1	1	1	1	4	0	0	0		3
9	45	1	1	8	0		0	0	0		1
10	46	1	1		0		1	1	1	0	3
11	51	1	1		1		0	0	0		3
12	46	1	1	120	1		0	0	0		1
13	68		1	3	0		0	0	0		1
14	53	1	1	120	1		1	0	0		4
15	51	1	1	96	1		1	0	1		3
16	40	1	1	8	1	2	1	1	0	0	8
17	35	1	1	4	0		0	0	0		1

814 all male all
 47.9 except 1 homeless
 Low: 35 93.8%
 High: 68

745.08 11 8 5 5
 57.31384615 65% 47.1% 29.4% 29.4%
 4.776153846 70.6%
 Low 1.5 weeks Two thirds had 47% had a 29.4% 70.6% lived alone None in families
 High: 26 years been homeless disability were with children
 before vets

Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless: Street Count 2009 - Youth Survey

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

		Male & Age						
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1				1				
2				1				
3							1	
4		1						
5								
6								
7							1	
8								
9								
10								
11								
12							1	
13								
14								
15			1					
16							1	
17						1		
Totals		1	1	2	0	1	4	0
		9						

		Female & Age						
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				1				
				1				
						1		
			1					
				1				
		0	2	3	1	1	0	0
		7						

		Transgender & Age						
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		1						

Do you have your own place to sleep?		If no; how long without?	
Yes	No	Years	Months
1			
	1	2	
	1		6
	1		
1			
1			
	1		8
1			
	1		4
	1	2	1
	1		5
	1		
1			
	1		0.5
1			
1			
1			
8	9		

Male Average Age: 21.22

Female Average Age: 20

Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless: Street Count 2009 - Youth Survey

Where do you plan to sleep tonight?						
Friend/Family	Own home	Motel Rented	Motel Shelter	Out in City	Out in Desert	Other
				1		
				1		
				1		
						1
1						
1						
		1				
	1					
					1	
				1		
				1		
				1		
			1			
1						
			1			
1						
1						
5	1	1	2	6	1	1