

100,000 HOMES ANCHORAGE
Registry Week Fact Sheet
Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness
September 12, 2011 to September 16, 2011

On September 13th and 14th between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 7 a.m., 9 teams made up over 80 community volunteers canvassed the streets, trails, and woods. Specialized teams also targeted Alaska Psychiatric Institute, AWAIC, Covenant House, Providence Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Room, Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission and the Municipality of Anchorage Community Service Center. A team was also dedicated to Brother Francis Shelter and surveyed for the two days beginning at 4:30 a.m. The volunteer teams used Community Solutions' **Vulnerability Index** to survey and create a by-name list of individuals experiencing street homelessness who are most at risk of premature death.

In addition to systematically gathering the names, pictures, and dates of birth of individuals sleeping on the streets, the teams also captured data on their health status, institutional history (jail, prison, hospital, and military), length of homelessness, patterns of shelter use, and previous housing situation. These data were collected by use of a 33 item questionnaire. The Vulnerability Index was used to identify those who have been homeless the longest and are the most vulnerable. This list will be used to target new and available housing and service resources to the most vulnerable in an effort to reduce chronic homelessness within Anchorage.

The Vulnerability Index is based on research by Dr. Jim O'Connell, which shows certain medical conditions place a homeless individual at a higher risk than others for dying if they remain on the streets.

KEY REGISTRY DATA POINTS:

- 355 people were surveyed
- 161 are met the vulnerability criteria
- 87 people were surveyed outside, 207 were surveyed in shelters, and 61 locations left blank
- Pictures were taken to try and relocate people

Demographics

	Total Surveyed	Vulnerable
Under the age of 18	0	0
Under the age of 25	25	9
Age 55 and older	77	47
Age 65 and older	8	7
Male	74%	73%
Female	26%	27%

	Total Surveyed	Vulnerable
Black/African American	10%	8%
Asian	2%	2%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	1%	1%
Latino/Latina	2%	1%
Native American	4%	5%
Alaska Native	41%	49%
White	33%	27%
Mixed Race	4%	4%
Unknown/Decline/Other	3%	3%

At-Risk Indicators for Vulnerability

Indicator	Number	Percentage
At-Risk Tri-Morbid ¹	74	46%
At-Risk ER 3X or more in 3 Months	51	32%
At-Risk ER or Inpatient 3X or more in last year	56	35%
At-Risk Age Over 60	26	16%
At-Risk HIV/AIDS	6	4%
At-Risk Liver Disease	38	24%
At-Risk Kidney Disease	16	10%
At-Risk Cold/Wet Weather Injury	50	31%

*Note: Most vulnerable people reported multiple factors

Older and Younger Adults (Total Surveyed)

- 8 people surveyed were 65 years and older
- The oldest respondent was 77 years old
- 81 people (23%) reported that they had been in foster care
- 25 people (7%) under the age of 25 and the youngest was 19

Years Homeless

- The average years homeless for the total population is 5.25
- The average years homeless for the Vulnerable Cohort is 7.14 years
- The average years homeless for the Non-Vulnerable Cohort is 3.67 years
- The longest length of homelessness was 50 years

¹ Tri-morbidity indicates an individual suffering from substance abuse, mental illness and at least one chronic health condition.

Service Needs

- 128 people (38%) of the total people surveyed reported a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse
- 94 people (58%) out of the 161 vulnerable people reported a dual diagnosis and are considered vulnerable
- 253 people (71%) reported a history of substance abuse
- 130 people (37%) reported signs or symptoms of mental illness
- 97 (27%) people reported brain injury and of those 55 of those people are considered vulnerable

Health Conditions (Total Surveyed)

- 63 people (18%) reported having asthma
- 36 people (10%) reported having diabetes
- 34 people (10%) reported having Hepatitis C
- 76 people (21%) reported having heart conditions
- 26 people (7%) reported having emphysema
- 18 people (5%) reported having Cancer

Veterans (Total Surveyed)

- 81 (23%) surveyed were Veterans
- 41 of the 81 Veterans (51%) are Vulnerable

Education

- 165 (45%) people had a high school diploma or GED
- 75 (21%) people had some college
- 21 (6%) people had graduated from college

Income

- 70 (20%) people reported being employed
- 80 (23%) people reported working off-the books
- 87 (24%) people reported getting SSI/SSDI
- 11 (3%) people reported VA income
- 43 (12%) people reported getting public assistance
- 40 (11%) people reported panhandling

Hospitalizations and Emergency Room Visits (Total Surveyed)

- A total of 225 inpatient hospitalizations were reported in the past year and a total of 540 ER visits were reported in the past 3 months
- The top 5 emergency room users had over 100 visits combined in the past three months
- 171 (49%) report having no insurance
- The largest health care provider was the Alaska Native Medical Center (162 people reporting) and Providence Emergency Room (62 people reporting).

Jail & Prison

- 59 (17%) of respondents reported having been in prison
- 289 (81%) of respondents reported having been in jail

Violence

- 142 (40%) report being a victim of a violent attack since becoming homeless

Community Solutions

- Community Solutions is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening communities to end homelessness by building partnerships, sharing innovations, and connecting vulnerable people to homes and support. Our efforts grew out of the New York-based homeless services organization, Common Ground. Community Solutions is currently organizing change agents to find and house the 100,000 most vulnerable homeless individuals in America as part of its 100,000 Homes Campaign.

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