

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 Pima Collaboration to End Homeless (TPCH), 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 by means of a survey or observation.

2. School Systems

Schools are required by the federal government to identify students who are homeless, and to report this data to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The ADE can calculate the number of students who were homeless on the Point-in-Time date, and can also identify the place of night-time residence. This allows us to determine how many children in homeless families were staying with family or friends (doubled-up) on the night of the Point-in-Time count, and we estimate one adult for every two children. These adults and children would not be counted in the Shelter Count or Street Count, and this gives us a much better understanding of the extent of family homelessness.

3. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

In 2008 TPCH began implementing HMIS, as required by HUD. Please go to www.tpch.org to view HMIS reports that present data on homeless persons who access services from providers who use HMIS.

	Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons, January 25-26, 2011				
	In Shelter	Unsheltered	Families Doubled Up*	TOTAL	%
Single adults	1,090	680		1,770	28.7
Youth on their own	8	18		26	0.4
Adults & children in families	772	178	3,405	4,355	70.8
TOTAL	1,870	876	3,405	6,151	100%

*On 1/25/11 there were 3,166 homeless children in Pima County schools. Of these, 2270 children spent the night doubled up with family or friends. Based on U.S. Census data, we can estimate one adult for every two children.

	HOMELESSNESS IN TUCSON and PIMA COUNTY, 2008 - 2011							
	2008	%	2009	%	2010	%	2011	%
Single adults	2,037	43.3	2,494	39.8	2,184	36.5	1,770	28.8
Youth on their own	31	0.7	135	2.2	158	2.6	26	0.4
Adults & Children in families	2,638	56.1	3,644	58.1	3,455	57.8	4,355	70.8
Age unknown					179	3.0		
TOTAL	4,706	100%	6,273	100%	5,976	100%	6,151	100%

For more information go to: www.tpch.org or <http://hudhdx.info/>