



The Colorado Statewide Homeless Count

**Homeless People Count...**

*Homeless Families Count...*

*Homeless Children Count...*

*Homeless Veterans Count...*



# **COLORADO STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT**

Winter, 2007

Submitted by,  
Center for Education Policy Analysis  
and  
Center for Public-Private Sector Cooperation

Graduate School of Public Affairs,  
University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, Winter 2007* is the result of a collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing (CDH), Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), Colorado Department of Human Services, Fannie Mae Foundation, Daniels Fund and the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH).

**Research Conducted by:**

**CENTER FOR EDUCATION POLICY ANALYSIS and  
CENTER FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION (CEPA/PPSC),  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (GSPA),  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER and  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (UCDHSC)**

Tracey O'Brien, MPA, Principal Investigator

Laura Appelbaum, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

Christine Velez-Badar, MA, Data Analyst

**NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC. (NRC)**

Deanna Hall LaFlamme, MSA, Statewide Homeless Count Coordinator, Principal Trainer

***A special thank you to the Regional and County Coordinators listed below.***

**County Coordinators:**

***Region 1***

Garfield: Tom Zeimann, Catholic Charities Western Slope

Pitkin: Nan Sundeen, Pitkin County Department of Health and Human Services

Mesa: Bev Lampley, Grand Valley Catholic Outreach

***Region 2***

Larimer: Helen Somersall, Catholic Charities Northern

Summit: Matt Korn, Family and Intercultural Resource Center

***Region 3***

Logan: Mike Sperber, Cooperating Ministries

Morgan: Jacque Morse, SHARE

Weld: John Kruse, Weld County Department of Social Services

***Region 4***

Chaffee: Don Farr, Loaves and Fishes Ministries

Fremont: Don Farr, Loaves and Fishes Ministries:

Park: Kathi Mastroianni, Mountain Peace Shelter

***Region 5 Coordinator, April Montoya, Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative***

Adams: Jeremy Pakiser, Access Housing

Arapahoe: Eugene Medina, Arapahoe House

Broomfield: Jan Hamilton, City and County of Broomfield

Boulder: Penny Hannigan

Denver: April Montoya, MDHI

Douglas: Jennifer Walker, Women's Family Outreach Center

Jefferson: Linda Barringer, Family Tree

***Region 6***

El Paso: Anne Beer, Pikes Peak United Way

Teller: Mary Bielz, The Aspen Mine Center

**Region 7**

Dolores: Diana Buza, The Pinon Project

La Plata: Pat Carlson and Sandy Cramer, La Plata County Department of Social Services

Montezuma: Diana Buza, The Pinon Project

Montrose: Sonya Blackburn, Volunteer Coordinator for Statewide Homeless Count and Dale Ann Suckow, Colorado Department of Local Affairs

**Region 8 Coordinator, Josephine Gosiak, Volunteer for La Puente Home**

Alamosa: Josephine Gosiak, Volunteer, La Puente Home

Saguache: Jeannie Norris, Saguache County Department of Social Services

**Region 9**

Huerfano: Charlene Tortorice, Advocates Against Domestic Assault

Las Animas: Charlene Tortorice, Advocates Against Domestic Assault

Prowers: J.D. Bennett, Lamar Housing Authority

Pueblo: Anne Stattelmann, Posada

**Organizational Tasks Led by:**

Lynn Shine, Housing Initiatives Coordinator, Colorado Division of Housing

Justin Marks, Policy Analyst, Colorado Division of Housing

Autumn Gold, Asset Manager, Colorado Division of Housing

Deanna Hall LaFlamme, National Research Center, Inc.

**Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness Housing Subcommittee (Original Members):**

Connie Campos, Colorado Division of Housing

Don May, Adams County Housing Authority

Doug Wayland, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Finessa Farrell, Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs

Gail Weisbly, Mile High United Way

Jaime Gomez, Colorado Housing Finance Authority

Jerene Peterson, Urban Peak

Kimberly Johnson, Fannie Mae

Lindi Sinton, Volunteers of America

Lynn Shine, Colorado Division of Housing

Nan Morehead, Denver Human Services

Randle Loeb, Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative

Susan Vajo, Rocky Mountain Housing Development Corporation

Tracey D'Alanno, Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs

**Survey Instrument Committee (Original Members):**

Alison Hade, Alternatives to Violence

Alyssa Lasseter, Mile High United Way

Anne Beer, Pikes Peak United Way

Anne Stattelmann, Posada

Bob Holmes, Homeward Pikes Peak

Bonnie Brodie, Adams County Housing Authority

Charlene Tortorice, Advocates Against Domestic Violence

Connie Campos, Colorado Division of Housing

Doug McDowell, North Range Behavioral Health

J.D. Bennett, Lamar Housing Authority

Janet Hollingsworth, Hilltop Community Resources

Jennifer Lynch Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Jessica Njgomir, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

John Gamble, VOA, Southwest Safehouse and Durango Community Shelter  
Kevin Turntine, Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs  
Lance Cheslock, La Puente Home  
Linda Murphy, Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative  
Liz Murphy, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
Lynn Shine, Colorado Division of Housing  
Randle Loeb, Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative  
Shanna Sandridge, HELP for Abused Partners  
Sister Karen Bland, Grand Valley Catholic Outreach  
Tom Power, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
Tracey O'Brien, CEPA, GSPA, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center  
Tracey Stewart, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
Tracy D'Alanno, Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs

**In Cooperation With:**

Beth Hedberg, Town of Morrison, Town Clerk  
Jennifer Lynch, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV),  
Jerry Smith, Town Manager, Town of Morrison  
John Parvensky, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

***Finally, this report would not have been possible without the cooperation of the survey respondents. The results of the count provide all of us with a more complete understanding of homelessness to better plan housing and services.***

This report may be found on the  
Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness website at:  
[www.colorado.gov/cich/](http://www.colorado.gov/cich/) or, [www.dola.state.co.us/housing/publications/](http://www.dola.state.co.us/housing/publications/)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	i-ix
<b>PART I. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
ESTIMATING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN COLORADO .....	2
TOTAL HOMELESS STATEWIDE .....	3
NATIONAL AND STATE CONTEXT .....	4
REPORT ORGANIZATION.....	5
<b>PART II. THE ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE BEHIND THE POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY.....</b>	<b>7</b>
INTRODUCTION.....	7
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE .....	7
PRELIMINARY WORK .....	7
COORDINATORS.....	8
CONSULTANTS .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>PART III FINDINGS: THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES - WHAT DO WE KNOW?.....</b>	<b>9</b>
INTRODUCTION AND HOW TO READ THIS SECTION .....	9
<i>Final Database/Variables/Survey Data</i> .....	9
DEMOGRAPHICS.....	11
<i>Household Situation</i> .....	11
<i>Age</i> .....	14
<i>Gender</i> .....	17
<i>Race and Ethnicity of Respondents</i> .....	18
REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS .....	19
DISABLING CONDITIONS .....	21
MILITARY, FOSTER CARE, SEASONAL RESORT WORKER, COLORADO ID .....	23
WORKING/GOVERNMENT BENEFITS.....	24
NEEDED SERVICES .....	25
DURATION AND EPISODES OF HOMELESSNESS.....	26
<i>Duration</i> .....	26
<i>Episodes</i> .....	27
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS.....	29
WHERE “ALL SURVEY HOMELESS” PEOPLE SPENT MONDAY NIGHT .....	31
NEWLY HOMELESS .....	33
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE .....	34
“NOT HOMELESS”.....	34
<b>PART IV CONTINUUMS OF CARE .....</b>	<b>36</b>
MDHI CONTINUUM OF CARE.....	36
<i>Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts:</i> .....	36
<i>Survey Data:</i> .....	36
<i>MDHI Continuum – Figures</i> .....	41
EL PASO/COLORADO SPRINGS CONTINUUM OF CARE.....	50
<i>Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts/Estimates:</i> .....	50
<i>Survey Data:</i> .....	50
<i>El Paso/Colorado Springs Continuum – Figures</i> .....	54
BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE.....	63
<i>Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts/Estimates:</i> .....	63
<i>Survey Data:</i> .....	63
<i>Balance Of State (BOS) Continuum - Figures</i> .....	67

<b>PART V. REGIONS.....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS PERSONS FOR EACH REGION .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>KEY SURVEY VARIABLES FOR EACH REGION.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>PART VI. SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>PART VII. METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>SURVEY REVISION.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>DATA ENTRY / CLEANING .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<i>Data Checks.....</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Criteria for Eliminating Not Homeless .....</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Duplicates.....</i>	<i>92</i>
<b>TRACKING FORMS .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>IDENTIFYING HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN.....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>COUNTING NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLDS.....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>TRAINING .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>SURVEY COLLECTION, TRACKING FORM, COVER SHEET .....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>CONSULTANTS.....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA.....</b>	<b>98</b>

**LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES**

**PART VIII. APPENDICES**

- Full-page regional map
- Regional Coordinator Job Description
- County Coordinator Job Description
- Power Point Presentation
- Surveys (English & Spanish)
- Tracking Form
- Training Materials
  - Power Point presentation
  - Agency referral list
  - Contact sheet
  - DV Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
  - General Survey Training
  - HIPAA Release
  - Homeless Definition
  - Interviewer Script
  - Logistics
  - Methods for Producing an Accurate Count
  - Statewide Survey Instructions
- Detailed Data Entry Instructions

## PART I. INTRODUCTION

*On Monday night, January 29, 2007, there were an estimated 15,394 homeless men, women, and children in Colorado.*

This report is an addendum to the *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, Summer 2006* report. Information contained in each section of the Summer 2006 report is retained here when pertinent. For complete information regarding national and statewide homelessness, the point-in-time survey process, and a detailed explanation of the research methodology, survey design, training, implementation, coordination, and data collection, please refer to the Summer 2006 report.

### **COLORADO STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT, JANUARY 2007**

On the evening of January 29, 2007, the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH),<sup>1</sup> along with hundreds of volunteers from all 64 Colorado counties, conducted the *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, January 2007*, “a point-in-time” study of homeless persons in Colorado. In summer 2006, CICH conducted their first statewide homeless count, and the first such study in over fifteen years. CICH defines homelessness as follows:

**An individual is considered homeless** if he or she is:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings;
- Sleeping in an emergency shelter;
- Spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution, but ordinarily sleeping in the types of places mentioned above;
- Living in transitional/supportive housing but having come from streets or emergency shelters;
- Staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for a permanent place to live;
- Staying temporarily in a hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers and/or while looking for shelter or housing;
- Being evicted within a week from a private dwelling unit and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing; or,
- Being discharged from an institution and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

A point-in-time count provides a snapshot of homelessness by counting those who are homeless at a particular time. However, surveyors can easily “miss” the homeless. People enter and leave homelessness frequently and may only become homeless the day after the point-in-time study. Many homeless are not counted because they are not in places where they

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<sup>1</sup> CICH is a collaboration of State, Federal, nonprofit agencies, and businesses, created to help homeless families and individuals achieve housing stability and to overcome the problems associated with homelessness.

can be found, much less where they have the opportunity to complete a survey, such as those living in automobiles and other kinds of crude and temporary housing.

Many of Colorado's homeless persons are in remote rural areas. Some homeless persons are doubling up temporarily with family or friends and are not accessing services. Others are homeless due to domestic violence and, because of confidentiality concerns, did not complete surveys. Still other homeless people, such as undocumented persons, may not want to be counted.

On Monday night, January 29, as soon as shelters closed their doors for the night the survey process began. Unsheltered street surveys, counts and/or estimates also started on Monday night. Agencies offering only day services began their participation at the start of business on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, and continued until the close of business on that day. The survey data were collected primarily on the night of Monday, January 29 and Tuesday, January 30, referencing the point-in-time as Monday night. Agencies that were not open on Monday night or Tuesday day collected data on the first day of the week that they served clients. Agency staff and volunteers attempted to survey every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member in all of the identified locations.

In the previous statewide 2006 homeless count, some counties reported either zero or very few homeless persons. As a result, consultants determined it was a better use of resources to simply contact service providers, outreach workers, coordinators, and other key individuals in these counties to determine the number of homeless persons in winter 2007. As in summer 2006, these counties reported very few homeless persons, and added minimally to the estimated count.

### ***ESTIMATING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN COLORADO***

There is considerable literature on methods for estimating the total number of homeless persons from point-in-time data. Some of these studies have used extremely complicated and sophisticated methodologies to estimate the total number of homeless. The survey questions and the overall methodology for this study were the consequence of a number of considerations, including:

- To the extent possible, collect data consistent with previous local point-in-time surveys for comparison purposes.
- Limit the survey to one, two-sided page in order to facilitate survey distribution and administration, and eliminate the possibility that any pages of a survey could be lost.
- Use an extensive system of trained agency staff and volunteers to collect data to make the experience comfortable for homeless persons and to keep the cost of the survey affordable.

The researchers are confident that the survey and count provide the best estimate possible, given these considerations, of the number and characteristics of the homeless in Colorado on January 29, 2007. However, the procedure was not designed to produce a statistically sound estimate of all homeless persons in the state. A description of the survey design methodology is presented in Part VII.

## TOTAL HOMELESS STATEWIDE

Based on the Point-In-Time survey and the associated counts and estimates, the researchers estimate that on January 29, 2007, there were 15,394 homeless men, women, and children in Colorado.<sup>2</sup> Table 1 provides the total number of homeless persons in Colorado, as well as the separate components that combine to create the total count.

<b>Table 1. TOTAL HOMELESS – STATEWIDE</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	7,174
Relatives	4,876
<b>Total All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>12,050</b>
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER DATA</b>	
Respondents	225
Children	245
Other Family Members	35
<b>Total Domestic Violence</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>1,622<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>SURVEY ESTIMATE<sup>4</sup></b>	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	<b>1,217</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,394</b>

<sup>2</sup> Agencies from across the state submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons, that is, unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted. These estimates identify a total 3,465 homeless persons. Combined with all the surveyed homeless, the domestic violence aggregate data and the number of unsheltered homeless who were counted but not surveyed, an estimated **18,851** people were homeless on January 29, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> The unsheltered count sums to 1,622 across the 3 Continuums; 12 were “other” and did not fall into one of the three continuums.

<sup>4</sup> A number of respondents who identified themselves as having children or a spouse did not document their family members when completing their survey. The researchers computed an estimate of the number of unidentified relatives based on the average number of identified relatives for each household situation.

### Relative Estimate

	Number of Respondents Reporting 0 Relatives	Average # of Relatives of Respondents Reporting Relatives	Estimated # of “Missing” Relatives
Single parent with children	387	1.99	770
Couple with children	113	3.08	348
Couple without children	91	1.09	99
Total			1,217

## **NATIONAL AND STATE CONTEXT**

In the United States, approximately 3.5 million people, 1.35 million of them children, are likely to experience homelessness in a given year.<sup>5</sup> The number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past ten years, and is one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population.

The primary causes of homelessness include poverty, the growing shortage of affordable housing, domestic violence, the cost of health insurance, mental health problems, and substance abuse.

- The growing shortage of affordable housing, together with an increase in poverty, is largely responsible for the rise in homelessness over the past 20-25 years.<sup>6</sup>
- The number of households spending more than half of their incomes on housing is rising dramatically. In 2005, the number of these households jumped by 1.2 million to a total of 17 million.<sup>7</sup> Renter households face serious challenges. Low-cost rental units are disappearing and the housing cost burdens of renter households are rising. In 2003, 7.5 million renters were severely cost-burdened, as more than 50 percent of their income was applied to their rent.<sup>8</sup>
- Many individuals without a permanent place to live have limited shelter options, and for homeless families, the percentage of denied shelter requests is even higher. In 2004, the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that the demand for shelter climbed 14 percent.<sup>9</sup>
- Low wages and less secure jobs offering fewer benefits strengthen the disparity between rich and poor. Forty-four percent of the national homeless population is employed,<sup>10</sup> and for these individuals and families, work is no escape from poverty.
- The declining value and availability of public assistance contributes to the increasing poverty rate and resulting homelessness. Earned income for those experiencing poverty has been decreasing as budgets have shrunk for assistance programs.<sup>11</sup>

Because persons living in poverty are most at risk of becoming homeless, those groups who are more likely to experience poverty (children, unaccompanied youth, minorities, the elderly, single parent families) are more likely to experience homelessness.

Homelessness is often thought of as an urban issue; however, many people experience homelessness in small towns and rural locations. Poverty and lack of affordable housing are often much more extreme in rural areas than in their neighboring urban communities. Many

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<sup>5</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless. "How Many People Experience Homeless? NCH Fact Sheet #2." National Coalition for the Homeless. June 2006. <<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>>

<sup>6</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless. "Why Are People Homeless? NCH Fact Sheet #1." National Coalition for the Homeless. June 2006. <[http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/How\\_Many.pdf](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/How_Many.pdf)>

<sup>7</sup> Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. "The State of the Nation's Housing '07." 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. "America's Rental Housing; Homes for a Diverse Nation." 2006.

<sup>9</sup> National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Homelessness and Poverty in America. Overview. <<http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FHAPIA/>>

<sup>10</sup> Martha R. Burt et al., The Urban Institute, Homelessness: Programs and the People they Serve: Technical Report 5-3 (Interagency Council on the Homeless, December 1999).

<sup>11</sup> National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Homelessness and Poverty in America. Overview. <http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FHAPIA/>

rural areas simply have few or no shelter options, despite significant levels of reported homelessness.<sup>12</sup>

Colorado's poverty rate has risen steadily since the late 1990s, according to recent U.S. Census data.<sup>13</sup> In 1998, Colorado's poverty rate was 8.5 percent; by 2005, the poverty rate had increased to 10.4 percent. The increase in interest rates (which has sent foreclosure rates in the state to an all-time high), the lack of both new and existing affordable housing, rising energy and fuel prices, high home/rent costs, and either flat or declining wages create severe cost burdens for many of Colorado's households. Some services are available to help low income families remain housed, such as the Housing Choice Voucher Program, (designed to help very low-income families afford housing) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) program (both designed to help low-income families pay their energy bills). However, programs such as these do not begin to meet demand. For example, EOC was able to assist only one in four eligible families in 2005. Thus, there is a disparity between the needs of Colorado's low-income individuals and families and the availability of assistance to help them maintain housing and prevent homelessness.

## **REPORT ORGANIZATION**

Part II provides limited information about the point-in-time survey process. Again, please see the Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, Summer 2006 report for a full description of the collaboration, survey development, communication and media, and the preliminary work that led to the summer 2006 count.

Part III presents the statewide Winter 2007 survey data. These data are reported for respondents (those individuals who completed the survey) and all survey homeless (both respondents and family members who were with them and also homeless). It describes respondent characteristics including age; gender; military service; race and ethnicity; seasonal work status; disability status; reasons for homelessness; duration and episodes of homelessness; chronic homelessness; government benefits; and needed services. It also profiles all survey homeless in terms of the place where they stayed Monday night; age of relatives and relationship to respondent; household situation; newly homeless; and unsheltered homeless.

Part IV provides information about homeless persons by Continuum of Care. These data are reported for homeless persons (both respondents and all survey homeless) for the three Continuums of Care. The *MDHI Continuum* encompasses the greater metro Denver area and includes Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties. The *El Paso/Colorado Springs Continuum* encompasses El Paso County. The *Balance of State Continuum (BOS)* includes the remaining counties in the state, many of which are rural.

Part V provides data about homeless persons in the nine regions identified for the statewide homeless count. For a map of the regions, see p. 17. For a list of the counties within regions, see Table 8.

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<sup>12</sup> Rural Homeless Initiative. La Puente Home. "Rural Homeless Initiative: Fact Sheet."  
<http://www.lapuente.net/ruralinitiative.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> *The Denver Post*. "Poor Numbers on Poverty." August 30, 2006.; *The Rocky Mountain News*. "Colorado Incomes on the Decline." August 30, 2006.

Part VI provides a summary of the key statewide winter 2007 survey findings.

Part VII is an explanation of the winter 2007 research methodology, data collection, data cleaning, and data analysis.

Part VIII consists of appendices, including the survey.

The following report provides information about the men, women and children, veterans, disabled, and all of those homeless individuals and families whom dedicated volunteers and service providers were able to survey on January 29 and 30, 2007 across the state of Colorado. CICH, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continuums of Care, service providers, legislators, local governments, municipalities, and other organizations will use the information collected by the statewide point-in-time homeless count to assess, project, and plan strategies and services to eliminate homelessness.

We thank the dedicated groups and individuals who conducted this count in the midst of their ongoing work, and appreciate their efforts to break the cycle of homelessness and help homeless persons achieve and maintain a better quality of life.

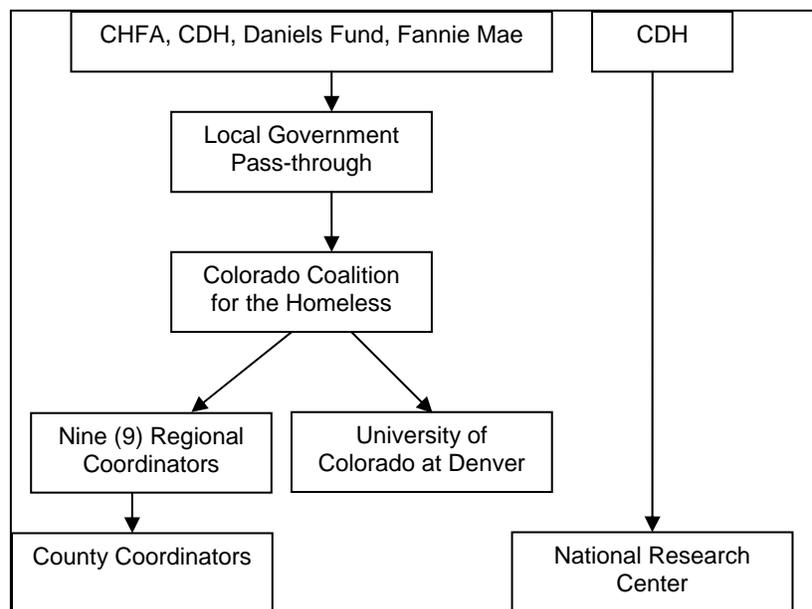
## PART II. THE ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE BEHIND THE POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY

### INTRODUCTION

The Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness (CICH) initiated Colorado's August 2006 homeless count, followed by the January 2007 statewide count. Both studies were primarily led by the Colorado Division of Housing (CDH). The projects included active participation and collaboration from numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals, including the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA); Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs, the Colorado Department of Human Services; Adams County Housing Authority; Volunteers of America; Posada; Fannie Mae; Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative; Mile High United Way; Rocky Mountain Housing Development Corporation and homeless advocates. Individuals from these organizations formed the Housing Subcommittee Group for the Statewide Counts (Housing Subcommittee). CHFA, CDH, the Daniels Fund, and Fannie Mae funded the projects, and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless agreed to serve as fiscal agent.

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The complexity of the projects and the number of funders and participating agencies presented enormous challenges. The following flowchart reflects both the organizational and funding structures.

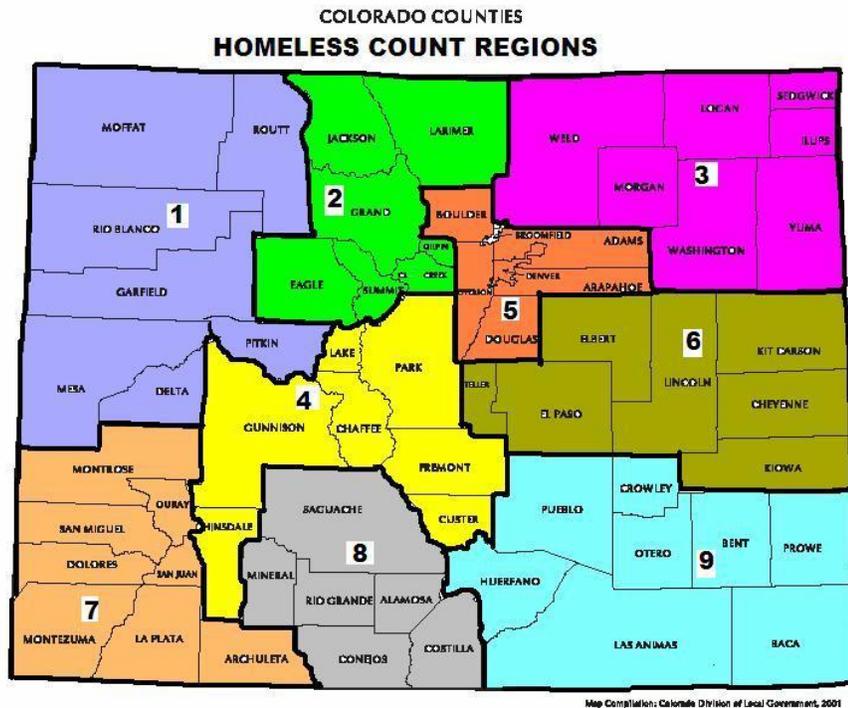


### PRELIMINARY WORK

At the start of the project, prior to the Summer 2006 count, CDH developed a preliminary understanding of what homelessness looked like across the state, which helped clarify many organizational issues and informed the appropriate use of scarce resources. The challenge for the 2006 and 2007 Colorado statewide homeless counts was to guarantee statewide consistency in administering the counts, and to obtain local commitment in the many communities across the state. CDH developed a preliminary map of homelessness in the various counties and regions, which served as the basis for identifying agencies serving various homeless populations.

Using geography, topography and communities of interest, the Housing Subcommittee subdivided the state into nine regions. The statewide homeless count process relied heavily on

these regions throughout the point-in-time planning, coordination and survey administration process. The map helped participants visualize the state and emphasized areas that needed organizational help and attention (see Appendix 1 for a full-page regional map).



### **COORDINATORS**

CDH staff recruited regional and county coordinators from human/social service agencies, housing authorities, homeless shelters, domestic violence agencies, county governments, and volunteers. For both summer and winter homeless counts, the Housing Subcommittee hired a statewide coordinator to manage the regional and county coordinators. The dedicated group of regional and county coordinators were responsible for extensive organizing, planning, and recruiting.

### **CONSULTANTS**

The Housing Subcommittee contracted with the Center for Education Policy Analysis / the Center for Public-Private Sector Cooperation (CEPA/CPPSC), Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, and the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC). CEPA/CPPSC's primary role was to develop the point-in-time methodology, analyze data, and write the final reports. NRC served as the statewide project coordinator and trainer.

## **PART III FINDINGS: THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES - WHAT DO WE KNOW?**

Part III provides information about the survey respondents. It describes respondent characteristics including age; gender; military service; race and ethnicity; seasonal work status; disability status; reasons for homelessness; duration and episodes of homelessness; chronic homelessness; government benefits; and needed services. It also profiles all survey homeless in terms of place stayed Monday night; age of relatives and relationship to respondent; household situation; newly homeless; and unsheltered homeless.

***More than 7,000 (7,174) survey respondents were determined to have been homeless, and they were accompanied by 4,876 relatives. Based only on the survey, a total of 12,050 homeless persons were counted on Monday night, January 29, 2007.<sup>14</sup>***

### ***INTRODUCTION AND HOW TO READ THIS SECTION***

This part reports on the respondents who completed the survey *and* the relatives they documented as staying with them who also were determined to be without a permanent place to live. The report refers to “respondents” when the data reflect just those persons who answered the survey, and to “all survey homeless” when the data reflect both groups (respondents plus the relatives they identified as also being homeless) taken together. (“All survey homeless” does NOT include aggregate domestic violence data or counts and estimates of unsheltered homeless persons.)

### ***FINAL DATABASE/VARIABLES/SURVEY DATA***

#### Final Database

Table 2 describes the number of surveys that were collected, entered, and removed from the final database.

<b>Table 2. SURVEY COLLECTION and FINAL DATABASE</b>	
Surveys collected/entered	8,621
Case removed/no data	1
Duplicates removed	99
Not homeless removed	1,347
Final number in database	7,174

#### Variables

Most survey variables are reported only for respondents. Some variables can be extrapolated to all survey homeless. For example, survey respondents were asked in what type of place they spent Monday night. If the respondent identified that s/he was a single parent and had three children, then where the respondent spent Monday night was extrapolated to the children.

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<sup>14</sup> Some respondents identified themselves as having children or being part of a couple but did not provide information about these relatives; and conversely, 94 respondents indicating “single” status provided information about 140 relatives who also were without a permanent place to live. This latter group of relatives were included in the dataset

Table 3 describes what survey variables are reported only for respondents, and those reported for all survey homeless.

<b>Table 3. REPORTING ON SURVEY VARIABLES</b>		
<b>VARIABLES</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>ALL SURVEY HOMELESS</b>
Age	X	X
Chronic homelessness	X	
Cities		X
Counties		X
Disabling conditions	X	
Duration of homelessness	X	
Episodes of homelessness	X	
Ethnicity	X	
Foster care/out of home placement	X	
Gender	X	
Government benefits	X	
Have current Colorado ID or license	X	
Have permanent place to live	X	
Household situation	X	X
Last permanent place	X	
Military service	X	
Monday night, January 29		X
Money from working	X	
Newly homeless		X
Number of relatives	X	
Reasons for homelessness	X	
Relationship to Respondent	X	X
Seasonal resort worker	X	
Services	X	
Unsheltered		X

#### Missing Responses

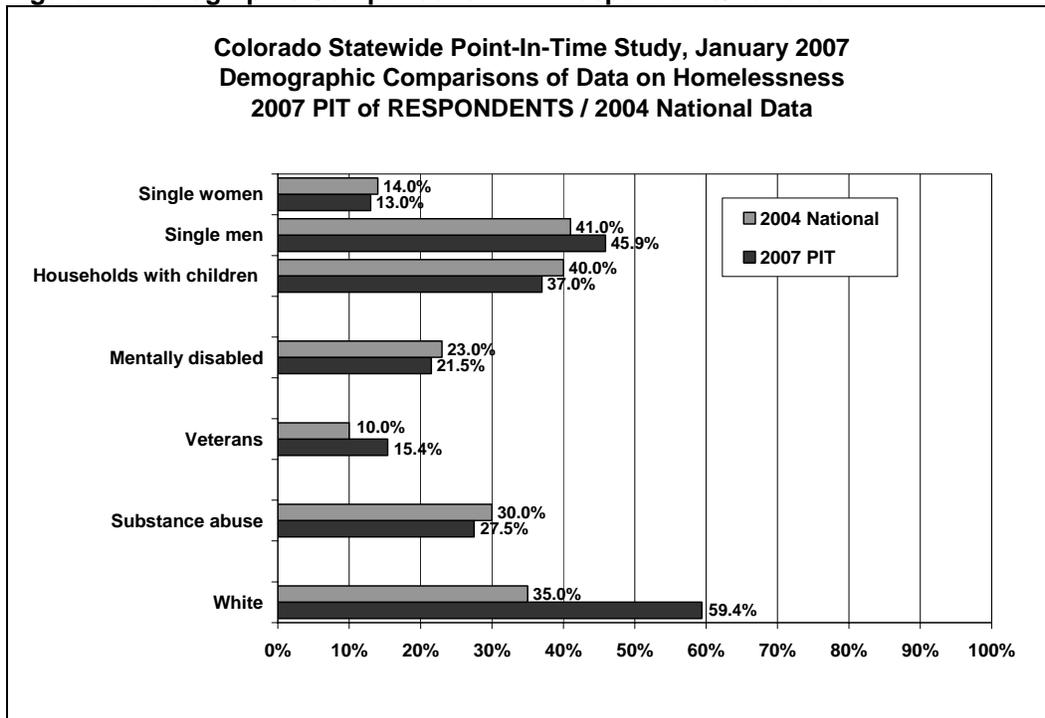
Survey respondents did not complete every question; because of these missing data, the numbers and percentages in the report do not always equal the number of respondents or all survey homeless. The percentages usually do not represent the total number of respondents, that is, the percentages for most variables do not include missing responses.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> The exception is that, for questions where respondents could check "all that apply," the percentage given each response is based on all respondents.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The data from the Colorado point-in time survey shows that Colorado homeless persons look similar to the homeless population nationwide. Figure 1 provides a brief demographic comparison of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 2004 national data and Colorado's winter 2007 statewide homeless data for respondents. The exception is that, in Colorado, a higher percentage of homeless persons identified themselves as white than in the national homeless data.<sup>16</sup> However, minorities make up a greater percentage of the homeless population compared to Colorado's general population. That said, all national data sources report higher percentages of homeless minorities than does Colorado. This suggests that the survey process did not adequately capture homeless minorities, and may in part be due to language barriers and the fact that the current political climate might have made immigrant populations afraid or unwilling to participate in the survey.

**Figure 1. Demographic Comparisons – PIT Respondents/National**



## HOUSEHOLD SITUATION

### Respondents

The household situation identified by the respondent reflects how respondents portrayed themselves. Based on the data collected, researchers added household situation categories to correctly determine households with and without children as follows: “grandparent with children”; “child identified by school”; “school survey but child is over 17”; respondent with custody of siblings under 18”; and “pregnant.”<sup>17</sup> People who identified themselves as “single,” “part of a

<sup>16</sup> The 59.4% identifying as white in Figure 1 includes some respondents who said they were Hispanic/Latino in a separate question about ethnicity. When these respondents are counted as minority rather than as white, the breakdown statewide is 54.3% white and 45.7% minority.

couple without children,” or who the researchers identified as “school survey but child is over 17” (with no other children in household) are grouped as “Households without Children.” People who identified themselves as a “single parent with children,” “part of a couple with children,” or “grandparent with children,” or who the researchers identified as “child identified by school,” “respondent with custody of siblings under 18,” or “pregnant” are categorized as “Households with Children.”<sup>18</sup>

**Figure 2. Respondents - Household Situation**

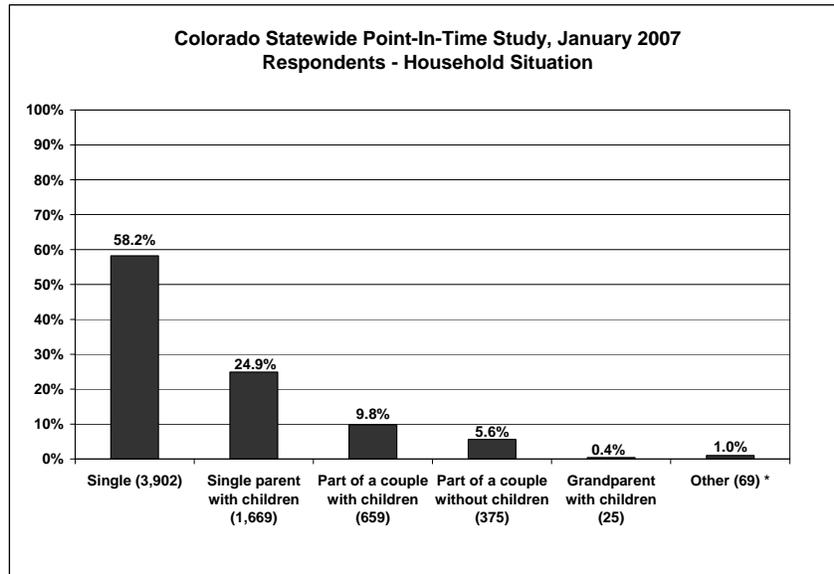
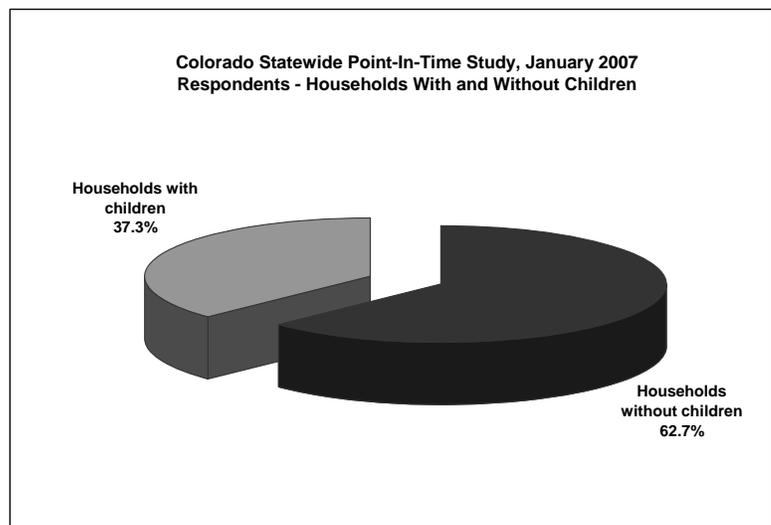


Figure 2 describes respondents' household situation. Over half of respondents (58.2%) are single. One quarter (24.9%) identify themselves as single parents with children, and 10 percent (9.8%) said they are part of a couple with children.

**Figure 3. Respondents - Households With and Without Children**

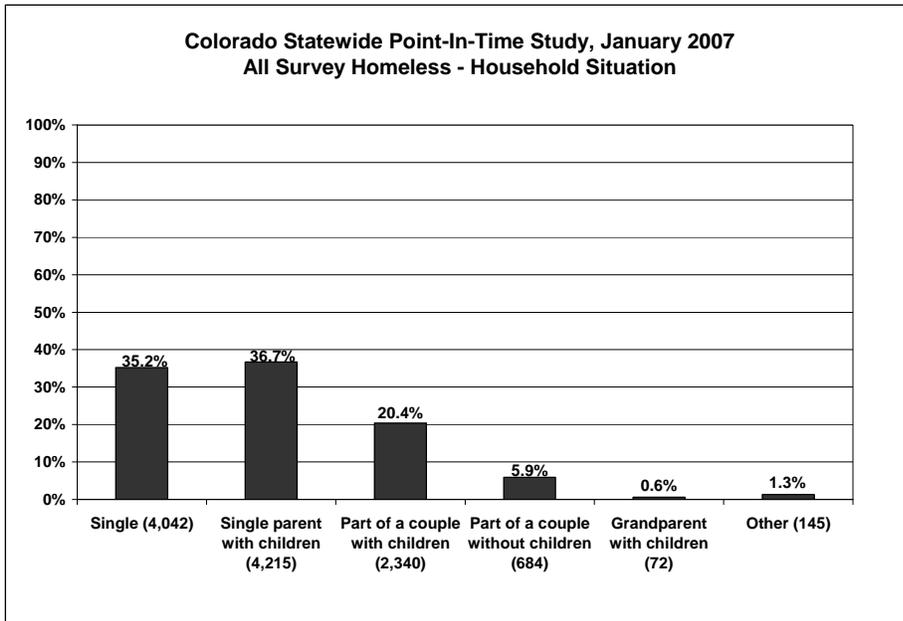
More than one-third of respondents (37.3%) are classified as households with children.



<sup>17</sup> Respondents were identified as being grandparents with grandchildren if they were staying with their grandchildren and (1) not staying with family or friends and (2) the children's parents were not living with the family.

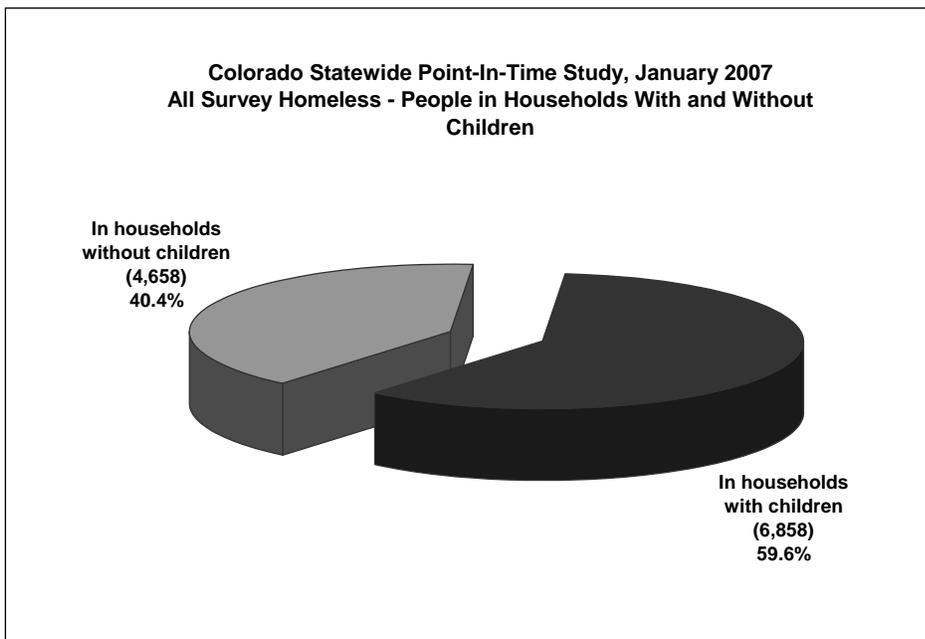
<sup>18</sup> Classification into households with or without children was primarily based on responses to Q8, household situation. However, where data were inconsistent, we also considered other factors. For a complete discussion of this process, see Part VII, Data Cleaning, Identifying Households With and Without Children.

**Figure 4. All Survey Homeless People by Household Situation**



All Survey Homeless People in households headed by a single parent account for the largest group (36.7%) of all survey homeless people, followed closely by single individuals (35.2%). Households with children are one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Three in five (59.6%) of all survey homeless persons in Colorado are in households with children. (Figure 5)

**Figure 5. All Survey Homeless People in Households With and Without Children**



## AGE

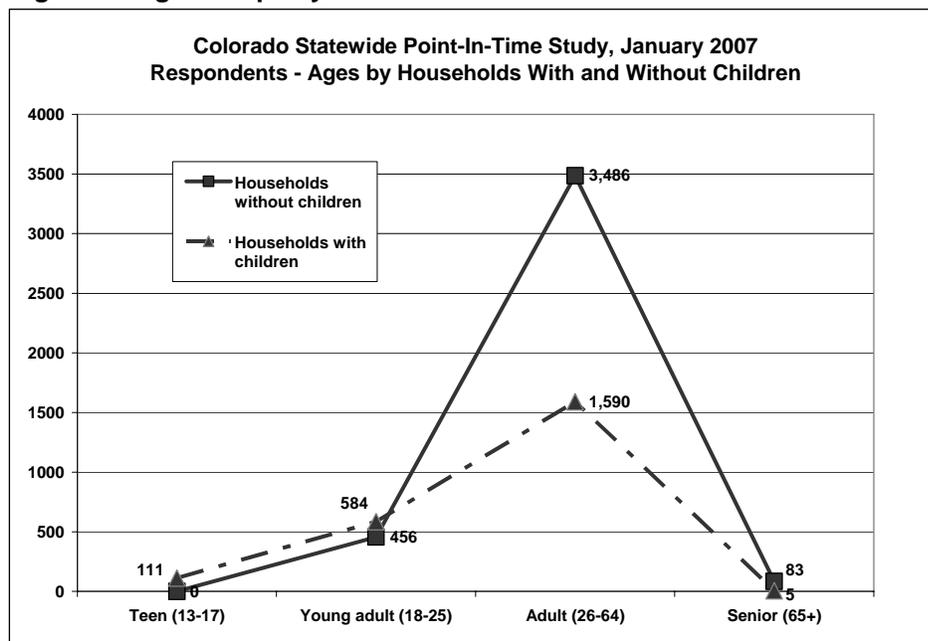
### Respondents

Respondents (the people who actually answered surveys) range in age from 13 to 88 years old. Their average (mean) age is 39 (39.4) years old.

Table 4. AGE OF RESPONDENTS		
AGE GROUP	NUMBER	%
Teen (13-17)	111	1.7
Young Adult (18-25)	1,107	16.5
Adult (26-64)	5,393	80.4
Senior (65 and over)	98	1.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,709</b>	

Although only 2 percent (1.5%) are age 65 and over, the National Coalition for the Homeless reports increased homelessness among elderly persons, citing the lack of affordable housing as the primary cause.

**Figure 6. Age Groups by Households With and Without Children**



### Respondents' Age Group by Household Situation

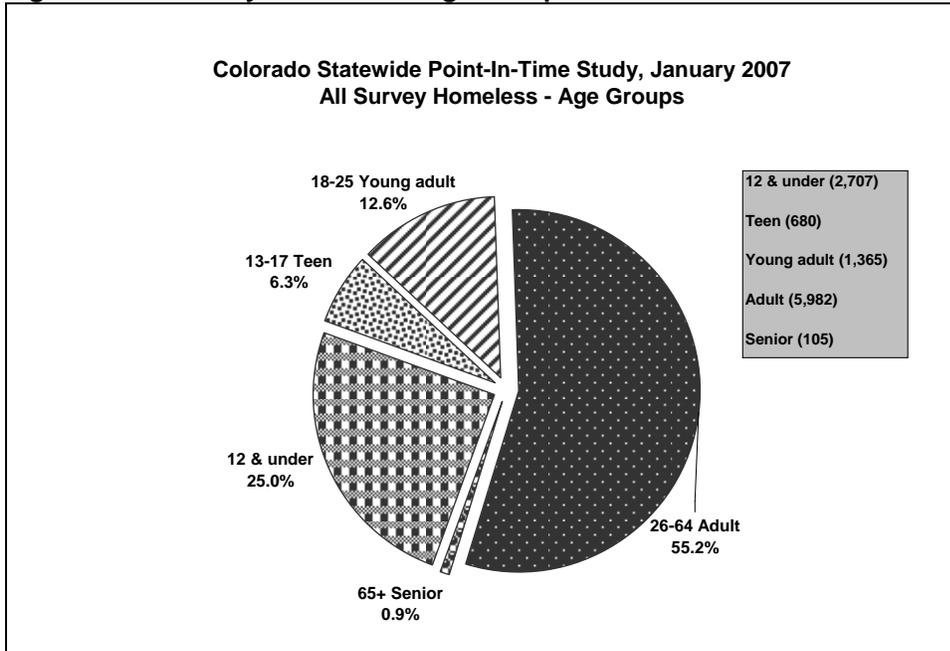
In the young adult group, there are more respondents with children (584) than without children (456). In the remaining age groups, the majority of respondents are in households without children. Figure 6 provides the number of respondents in each age category by households with and without children.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> As is the case for other data points throughout this report, some numbers and/or percentages do not “match.” For example, Figure 6 is a crosstabulation (the cross-referencing or comparison of two variables to determine how they are interrelated) of age in categories by households with and without children. Figure 6 shows that there are 1,040 young adults when combining the household categories; however, Table 5 shows there are 1,107 young adults. This discrepancy is due to missing responses in one or more of the crosstab categories.

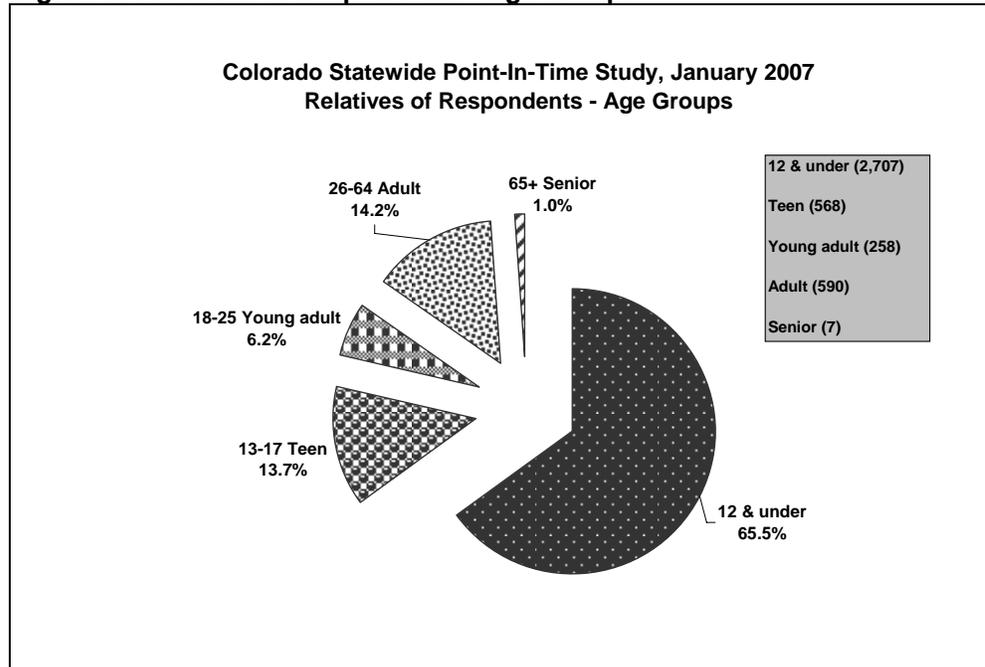
**Ages for All Survey Homeless**

Figures 7 and 8 describe the ages of all survey homeless persons and the ages of relatives accompanying respondents, respectively. A majority (55.2%) of all survey homeless persons are adults age 26-64. There are a total of **3,387 homeless children and teens (age 13-17)**; together they comprise nearly one-third (31.3%) of all people who were homeless on Monday night, January 29, 2007.

**Figure 7. All Survey Homeless – Age Groups**

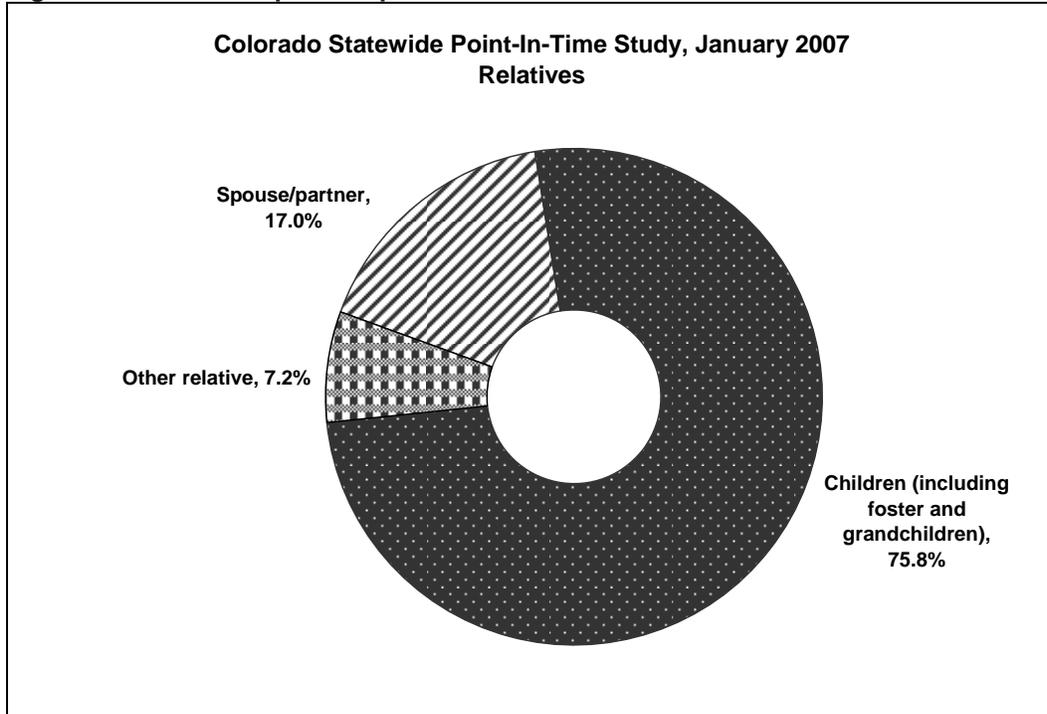


**Figure 8. Relatives of Respondents - Age Groups**



Respondents were asked the ages and relationship of all relatives who were homeless with them. Three-quarters (75.8%) of the relatives they identified were children under age 18. "Other" relatives include adult children, aunts/uncles, siblings, cousins, nieces/nephews, and parents; this category includes some children under 18.

**Figure 9. Relationship to Respondents**



## GENDER

Six in 10 (59.7%) of respondents are male as indicated in Figure 10 below. Single respondents are predominantly male, while most single parent families are headed by females.

Figure 10. Gender

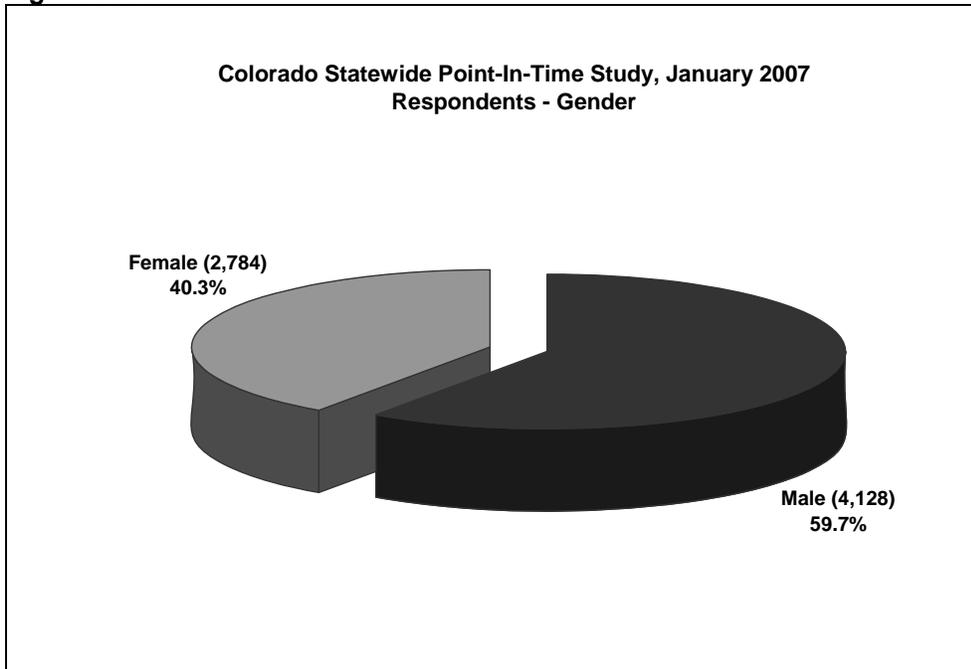
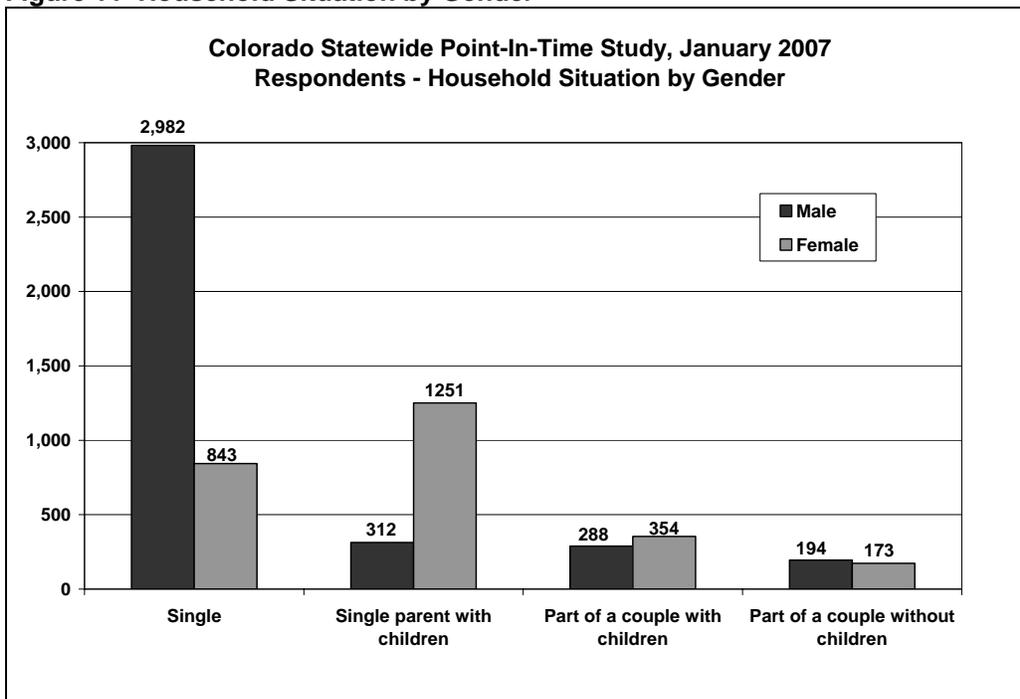
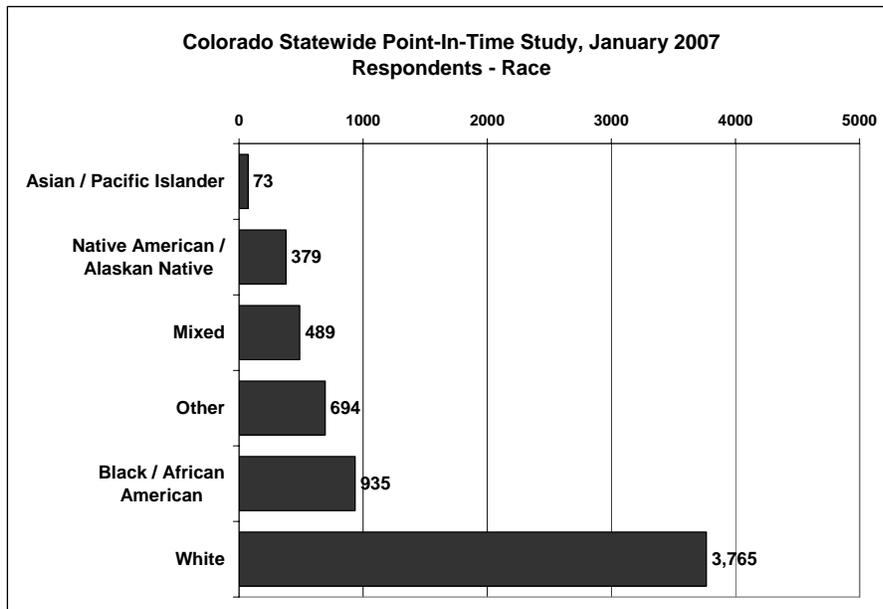


Figure 11 Household Situation by Gender



## RACE AND ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS

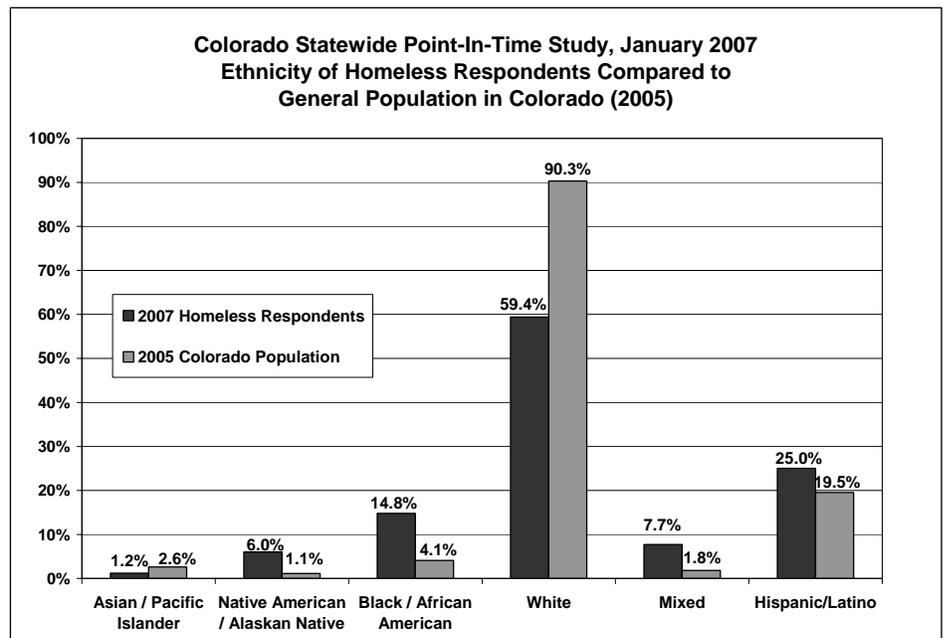
Figure 12. Racial Background



Figures 12 and 13 describe race and ethnicity data reported by respondents. Compared to the general population in Colorado in 2005, minorities are over-represented and whites are under-represented among Colorado's homeless population.<sup>20</sup>

Figure 13. Race/Ethnicity of Homeless Respondents and Colorado Population<sup>21 22</sup>

The statewide homeless survey asked respondents to identify their race and ethnicity in two separate questions, 1) Q7: "Which one category best describes your racial background?" and 2) Q6: "Do you consider yourself to be Spanish/ Hispanic/ Latino?"



<sup>20</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "State & County QuickFacts." <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/08000.html>>

<sup>21</sup> Since race and ethnicity were asked as separate questions, respondents who identify as Hispanic/Latino also could identify as white. This inflates the proportion of white respondents as compared to minorities. When respondents who identify as Hispanic/Latino are counted as minority rather than white, the breakdown statewide is 54.3% white and 45.7% minority.

<sup>22</sup> The race categories do not add to 100 percent because the "other" category is not included in the comparison. Statewide, 11.0% reported their race as "other."

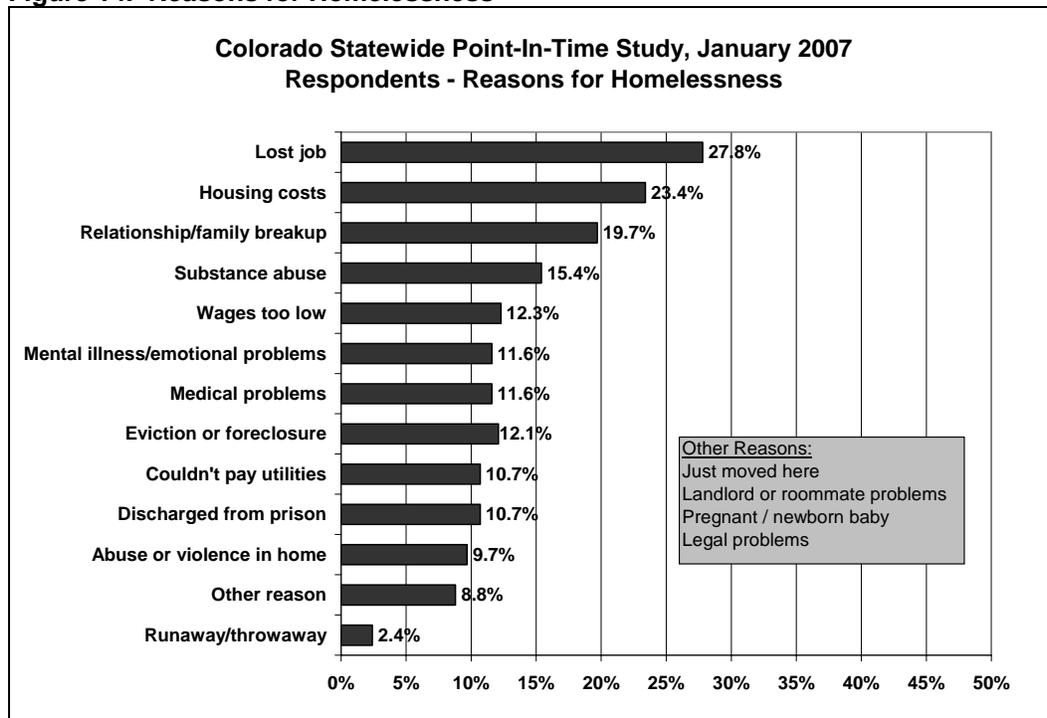
## REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

Figures 14 and 15 describe the reasons for respondents' current spell of homelessness. Figure 15 shows the top 10 reasons for homelessness by grouped household situation: it gives the percentages of households with and without children that reported each reason.

Respondents were given a list of possible reasons for homelessness and asked to check "all that apply." On average, respondents indicated one or two reasons for their homelessness. The most commonly cited reasons for homelessness are loss of job (27.8%) and housing costs (23.4%), followed by family/relationship breakup (19.7%). Fifteen percent (15.4%) said that substance abuse was a cause of their current spell of homelessness. Overall, nearly half (46.2%) of the reported reasons relate to the cost of housing (housing costs, utility costs and eviction/foreclosure), and almost forty percent (38.6%) relate to the existence of serious disabling conditions (substance abuse, mental illness, and medical problems).

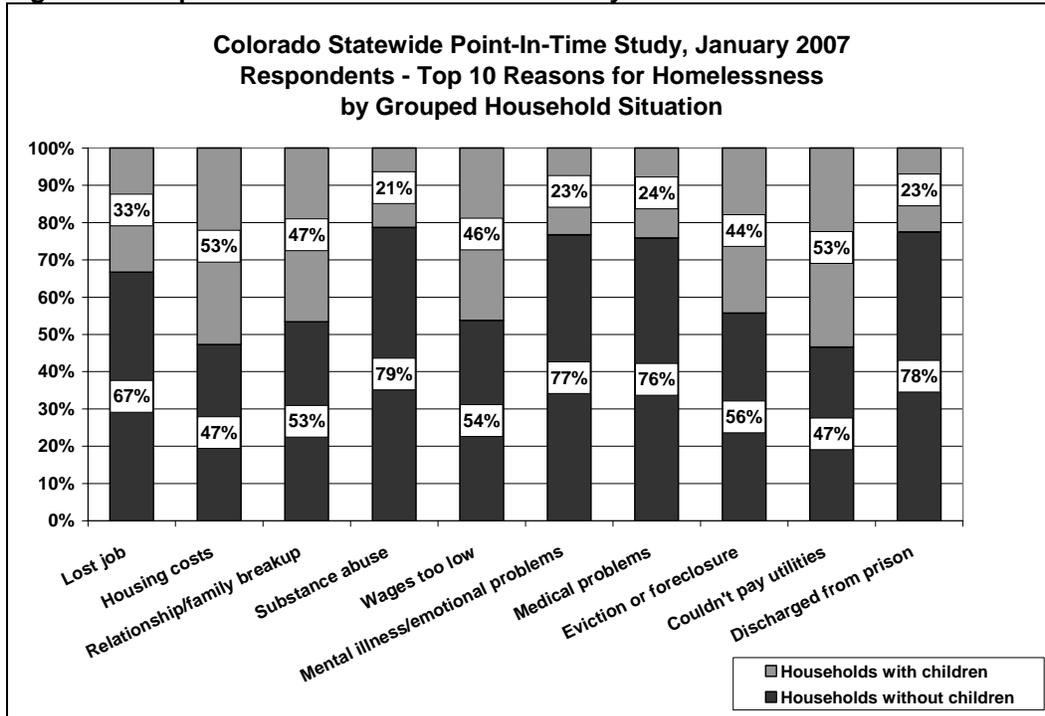
A number of respondents wrote in "other" reasons for their homelessness. The most common "other" reason is "just moved here," followed by landlord or roommate problems; pregnancy / newborn; legal problems; paying or losing child support; lost, waiting for, or having problems with benefits; immigration issues; and no identification.

**Figure 14. Reasons for Homelessness**



Respondents in households with children are more likely to cite housing costs and their inability to pay for utilities as a cause of their homelessness. Those in households without children are more than three times as likely to cite discharge from jail or prison, and twice as likely to cite loss of a job. Persons in households without children also are much more likely to report substance abuse, mental illness, and medical problems as a reason for their current homelessness.

**Figure 15. Top 10 Reasons for Homelessness by Household Situation**



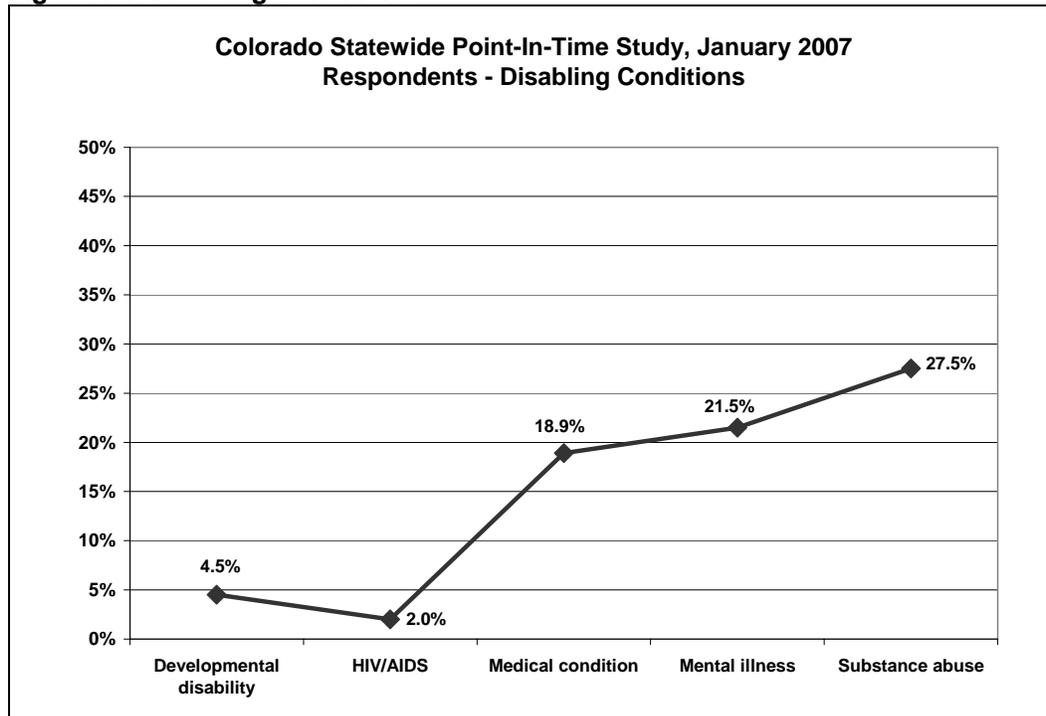
## DISABLING CONDITIONS

Homeless people suffer from high rates of mental and physical health problems and are far more likely to suffer from chronic health issues. These problems are exacerbated by the stressful and chaotic nature of their living conditions. Often, they are unable to get treatment when they become ill, and rarely have access to preventive health care.<sup>23</sup>

HUD requires Continuums of Care to determine if, at the time of the survey, survey respondents have any of the following disabling conditions – serious mental illness, a serious medical condition, chronic substance abuse issues, a developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. *Half of all respondents (51.9%) report having at least one of these chronic conditions.*

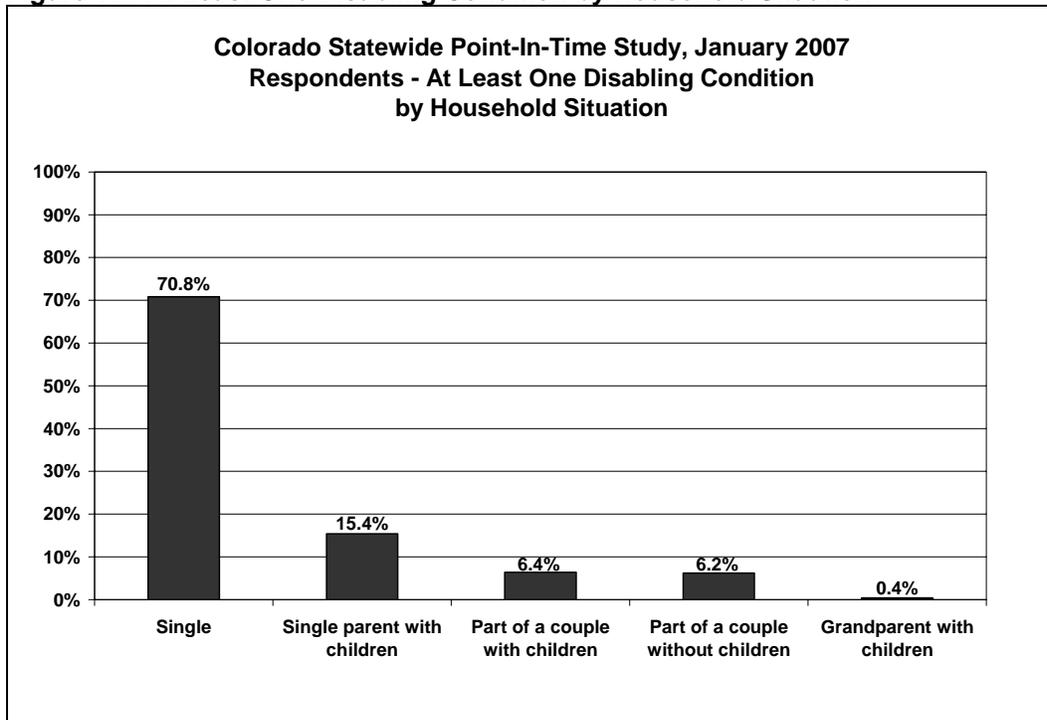
As shown in Figure 16, more than one in four survey respondents (27.5%) indicate that they have chronic substance abuse issues. Approximately one in five report serious mental illness (21.5%) or serious medical conditions (18.9%). Due to the stigmatizing nature of these questions, it is likely that disabling conditions were under-reported. Respondents in households without children (63.3%) are most likely to have at least one of the five disabling conditions.

**Figure 16. Disabling Conditions**

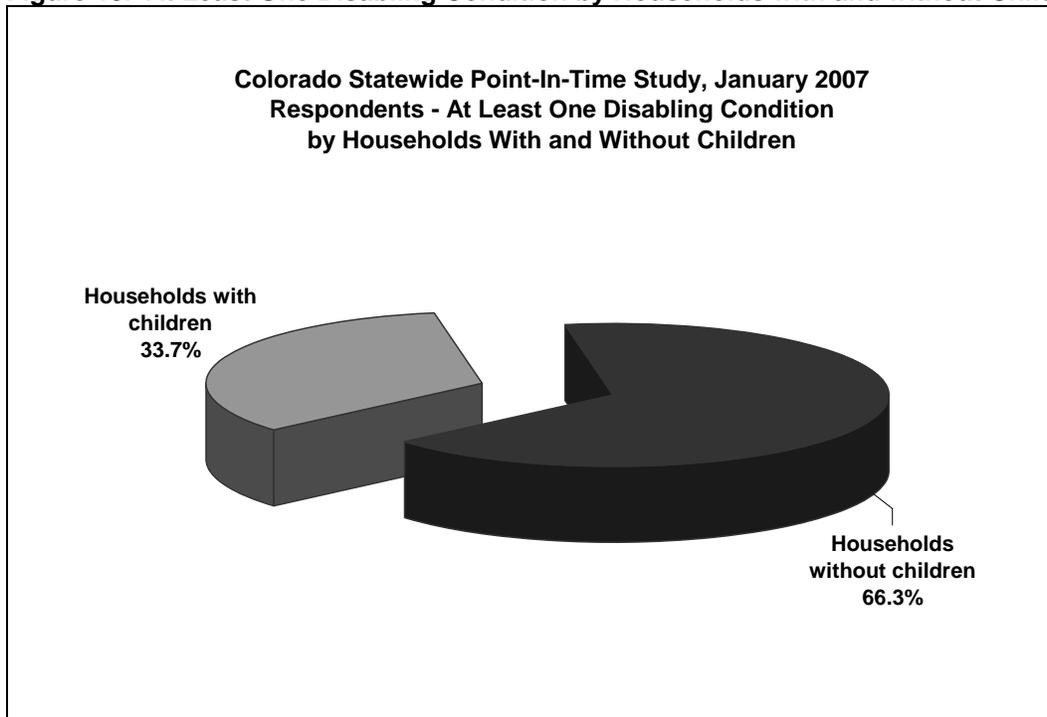


<sup>23</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless. "Health Care and Homelessness, NCH Fact Sheet #8." June 2006. <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/Health.pdf>

**Figure 17. At Least One Disabling Condition by Household Situation**



**Figure 18. At Least One Disabling Condition by Households with and without Children**

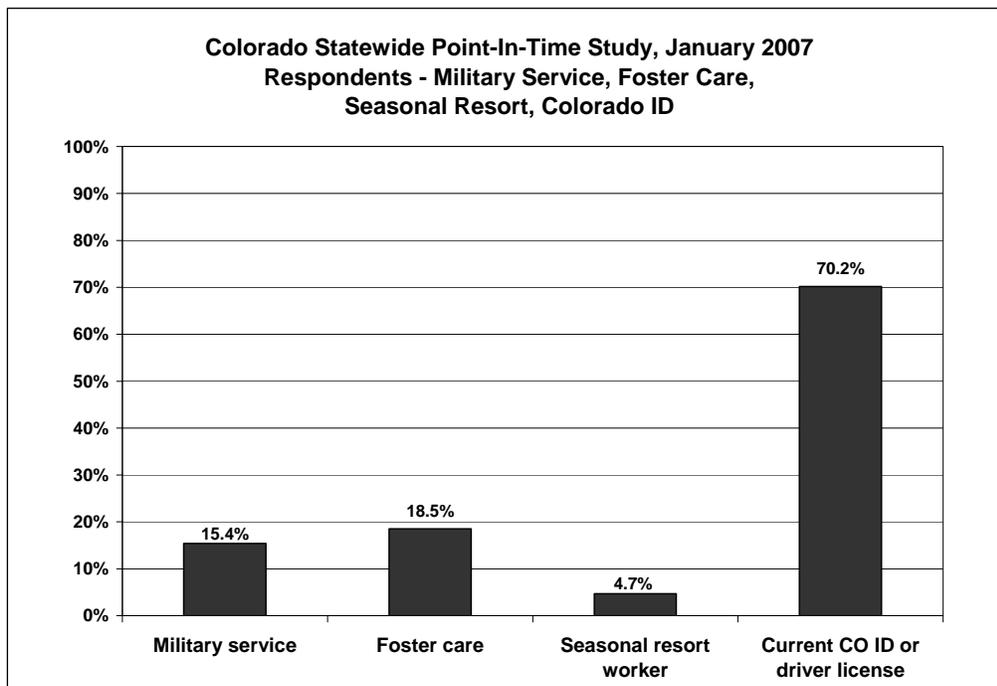


## **MILITARY SERVICE, FOSTER CARE, SEASONAL RESORT WORKER, CURRENT COLORADO ID OR DRIVER'S LICENSE**

Respondents were asked if they had served in the military, were ever in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement, and if they were a seasonal resort worker. They also were asked if they have a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver's license. Responses to these questions are helpful in understanding and planning for needed services.

- In Colorado, the 2007 point-in-time data show that veterans comprise 15 percent (15.4%) of homeless respondents overall, and 25 percent (24.9%) of adult homeless male respondents. Of those who reported serving in the military, 95 percent (95.2%) are male. (Nationally, between 23 and 40 percent of homeless adults are veterans, and over the course of a year, as many as 500,000 veterans experience homelessness. The National Law Center reports that 33 percent of male homeless adults are veterans.<sup>24</sup>)
- Nearly one in five respondents (18.5%) said they had been in foster care. Three-fifths (59.0%) of homeless persons who reported that they had been in foster care are male, and two-fifths (41.0%) are female.
- Approximately five percent are seasonal resort workers (4.7%).
- The majority of respondents (70.2%) reported they have a current Colorado ID or driver's license.

**Figure 19. Military Service, Foster Care, Seasonal Resort Worker, Colorado ID**



Surveys typically undercount the homeless. The number of homeless seasonal resort workers is difficult to obtain due to the political debate regarding undocumented individuals and families in the United States. This population may be reluctant to provide personal

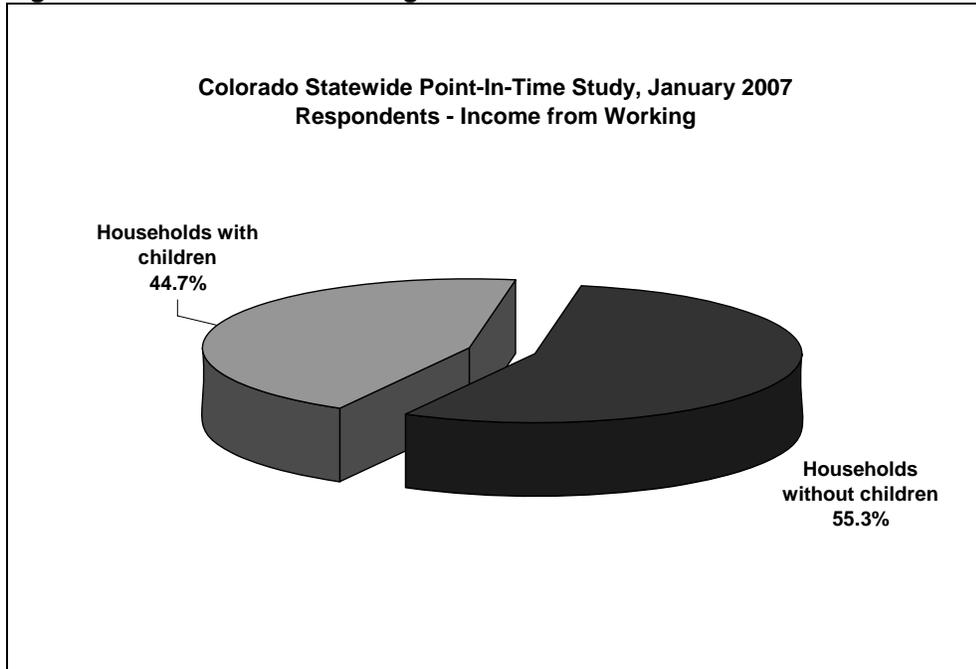
information. For this reason, seasonal resort workers may not be accurately reflected in this study.

<sup>24</sup> National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. "Homeless Veterans Fact Sheet #14, June 2006." <<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/veterans.pdf>>

**WORKING/GOVERNMENT BENEFITS**

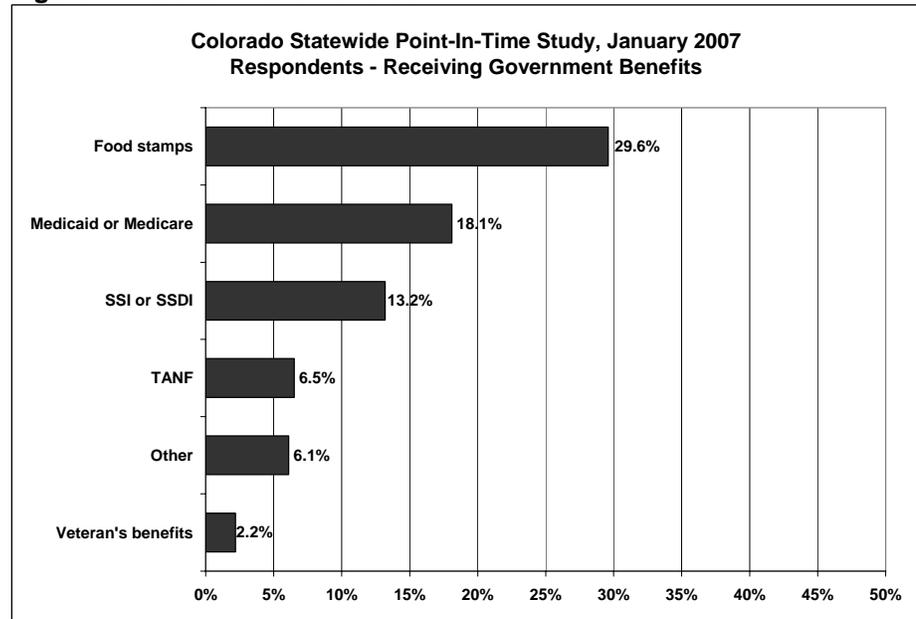
Respondents were asked if they or anyone else in their household received any money from working in the past month. Two in five (42.3%) said that someone in their household had worked in the past month. As shown in Figure 20, a majority (55.3%) of those who reported income from work were in households without children.

**Figure 20. Income from Working**



Respondents were asked if anyone in their household is receiving SSI/SSDI, TANF, Food Stamps, VA pension/benefits, Medicaid or Medicare, or any other government benefit. Slightly less than half (47.4%) are receiving at least one government benefit. One in three respondents (29.6%) report receiving Food Stamps, and nearly one in five (18.1%) are receiving Medicaid/Medicare. Only seven percent (6.5%) are getting TANF.

**Figure 21. Government Benefits**

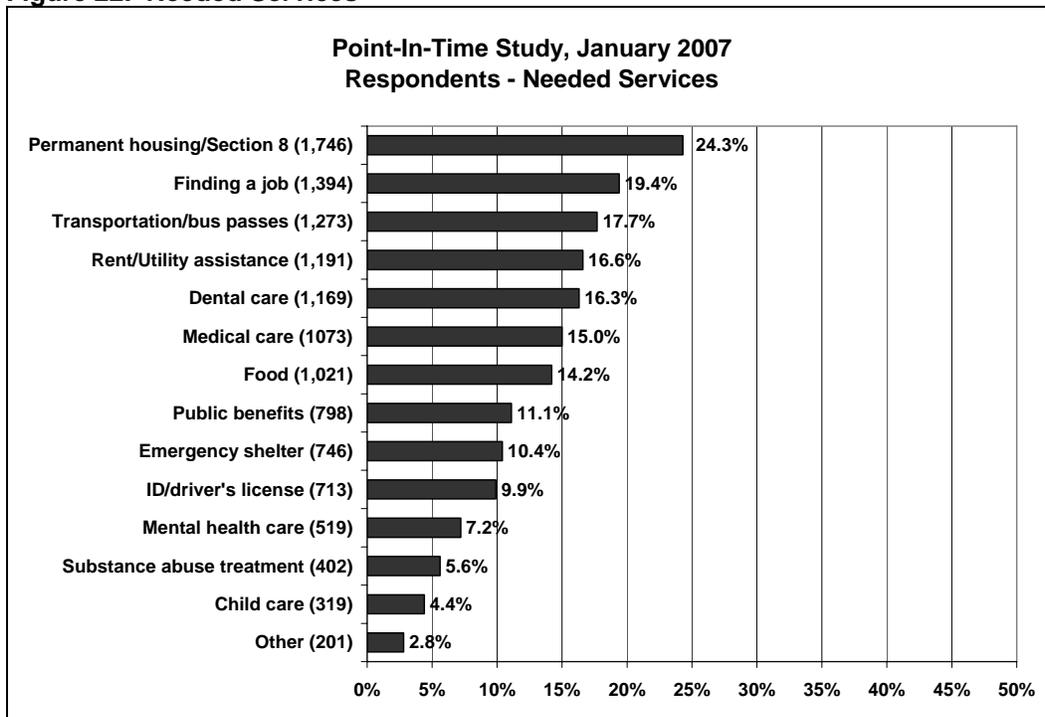


## NEEDED SERVICES

Respondents were asked, “In the past month, what services did you or anyone in your family need but could not get?” Three in five respondents (60.2%) report that, in the past month, they or another family member needed at least one service they could not obtain. The most frequently needed service is permanent housing, cited by one-quarter (24.3%) of respondents. Other frequently needed services are help finding a job (19.4%), transportation/bus passes (17.7%), and rent and/or utility assistance (16.6%). Sixteen percent (16.3%) said that they need dental care, and 15 percent (15.0%) need medical care. Fourteen percent (14.2%) said they need food.

Respondents indicated that they need a number of services that were not listed in the question. In order of occurrence, these services are: legal assistance; basic needs including clothing, etc.; optical needs (primarily eyeglasses); money; help with issues around immigration; help with credit.

**Figure 22. Needed Services**



## DURATION AND EPISODES OF HOMELESSNESS

*Duration of homelessness* refers to how long a particular episode of homelessness has lasted. *Episodes* refers to the number of separate times a person has experienced homelessness, regardless of how long each of the episodes lasted.

### Duration

The greatest proportion of respondents who were homeless on January 29, 2007, had been without a permanent place to live for more than one month but less than one year (48.1%). Nearly one in five (18.5%) had been homeless for less than a month, and 12 percent (12.0%) had been homeless for more than three years.

Figure 23. Duration – Length of Time Without a Permanent Place to Live

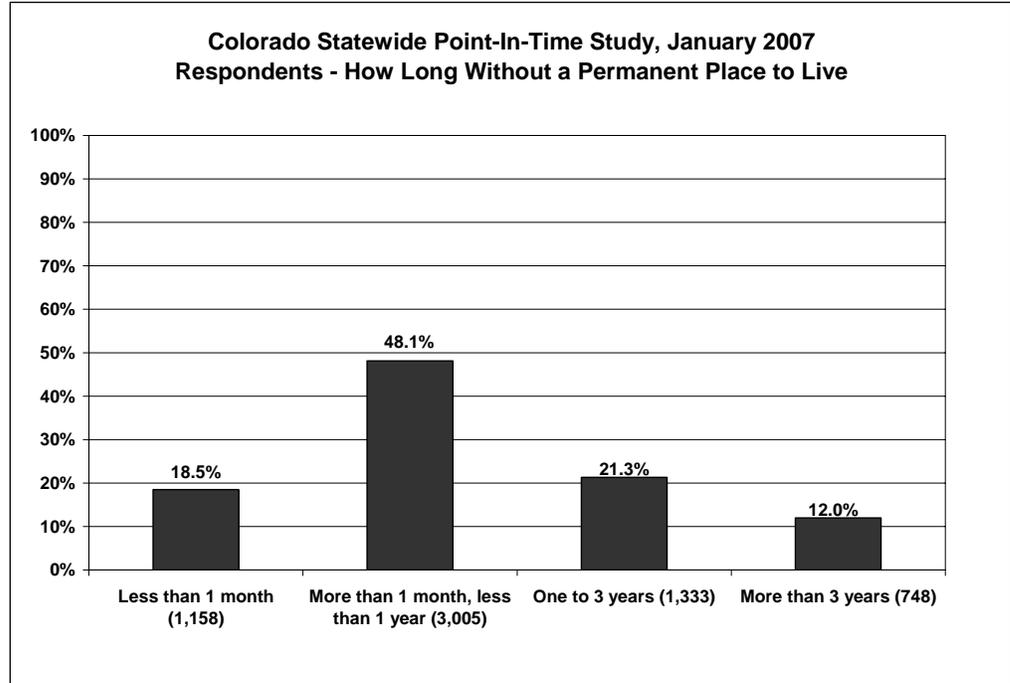
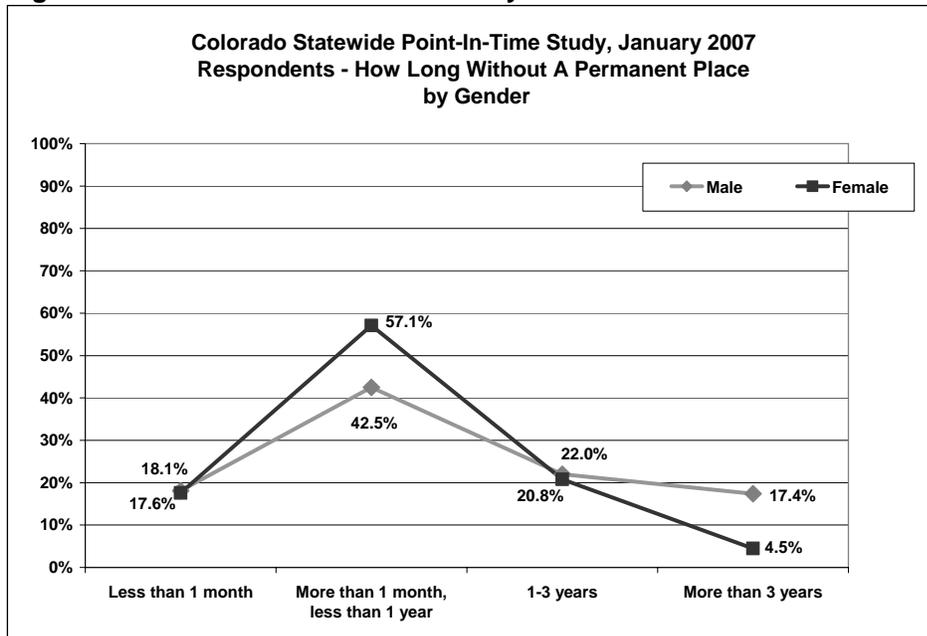
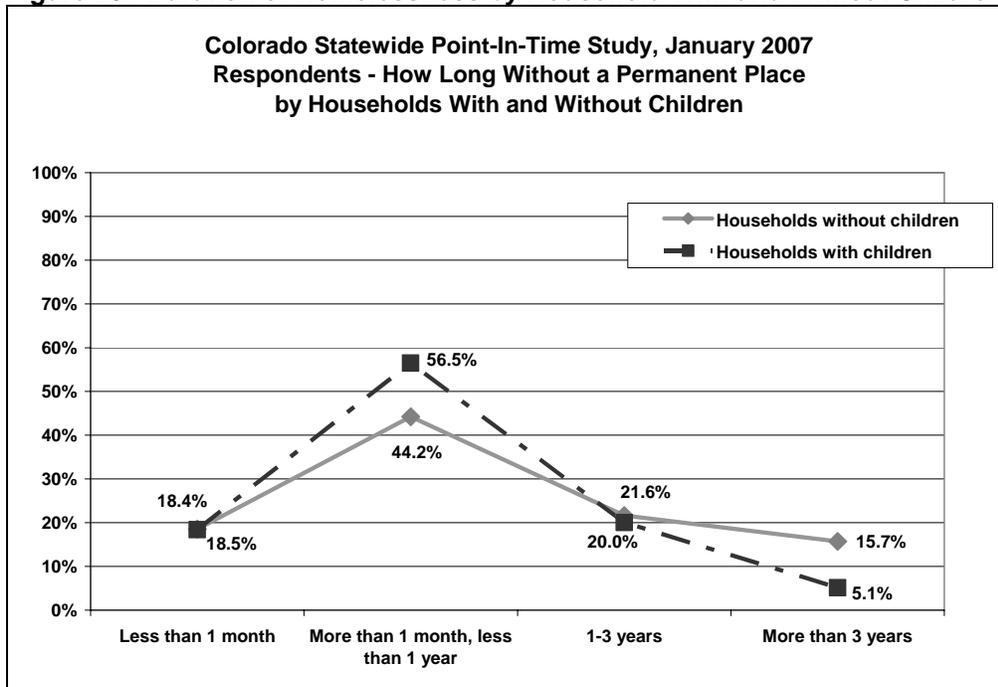


Figure 24. Duration of Homelessness by Gender



Men and women follow a relatively similar pattern in duration of homelessness, although men and respondents in households without children are three times as likely to have been homeless for more than three years. (Figures 24 and 25)

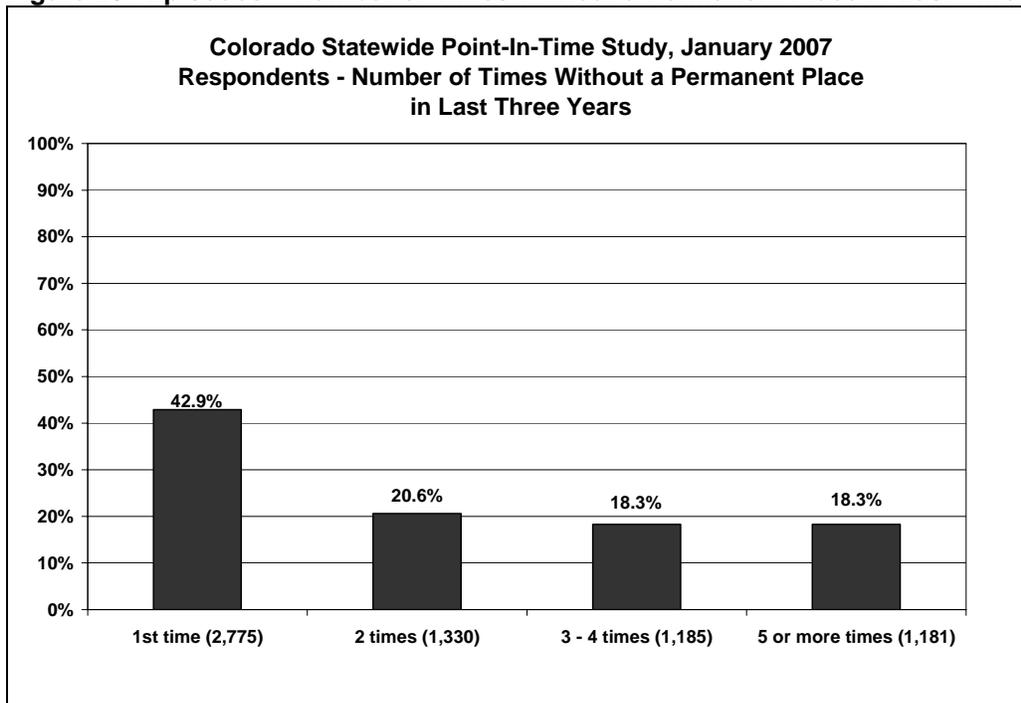
**Figure 25. Duration of Homelessness by Household With and Without Children**



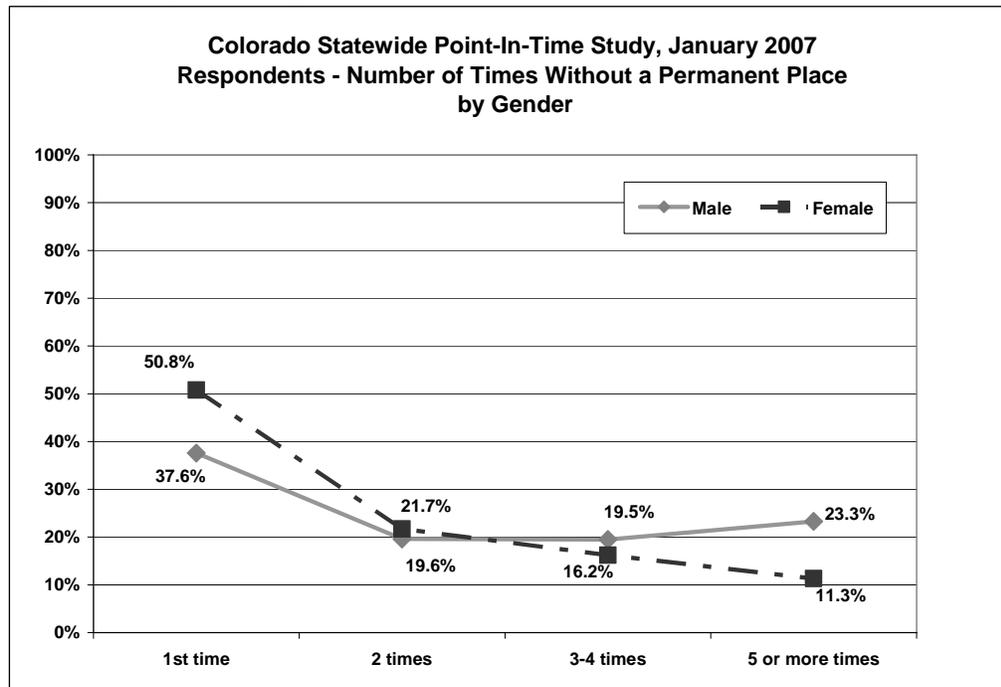
**Episodes**

On the night of January 29, 2007, more than two in five respondents (42.9%) reported they were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years. Almost one in five (18.3%) had been homeless five or more times in the last three years.

**Figure 26. Episodes – Number of Times Without a Permanent Place in Last Three Years**



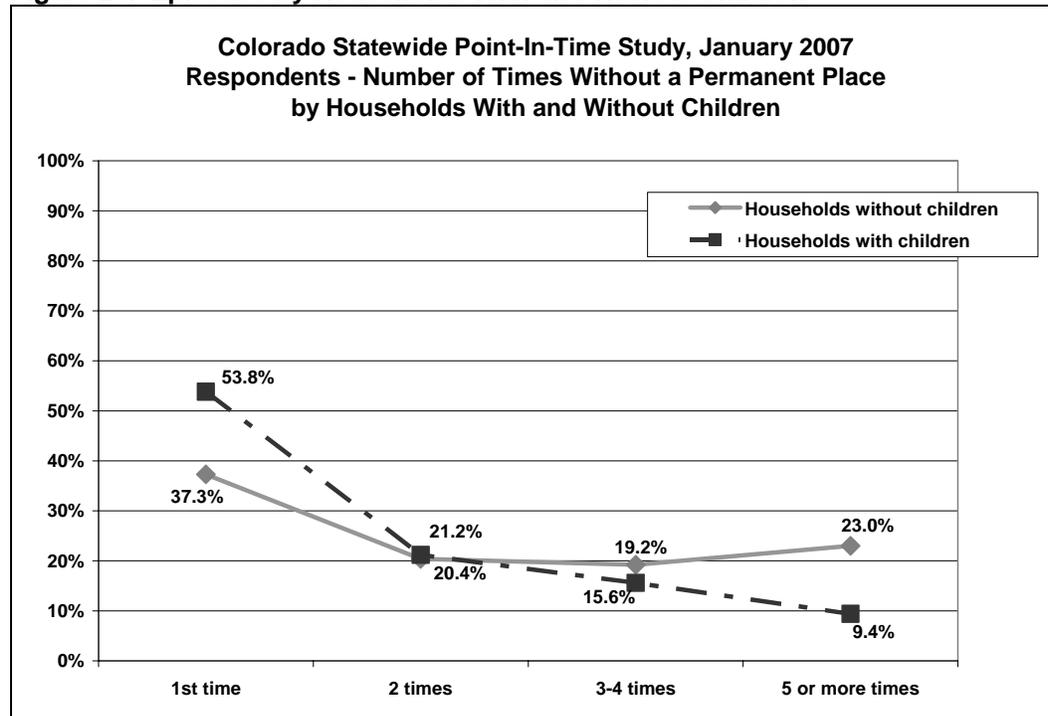
**Figure 27. Episodes by Gender**



Men and respondents in households without children experienced more episodes of in the last three years. Nearly one-quarter (23.3%) of men compared to 11.3 percent of women were without a permanent place to live five or more times in the last three years. Similarly, nearly

one-quarter (23.0%) of respondents in households without children compared to 9.4 percent of respondents in households with children were homeless five or more times in the last three years. (Figure 27 and Figure 28)

**Figure 28. Episodes by Households With and Without Children**



## **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**

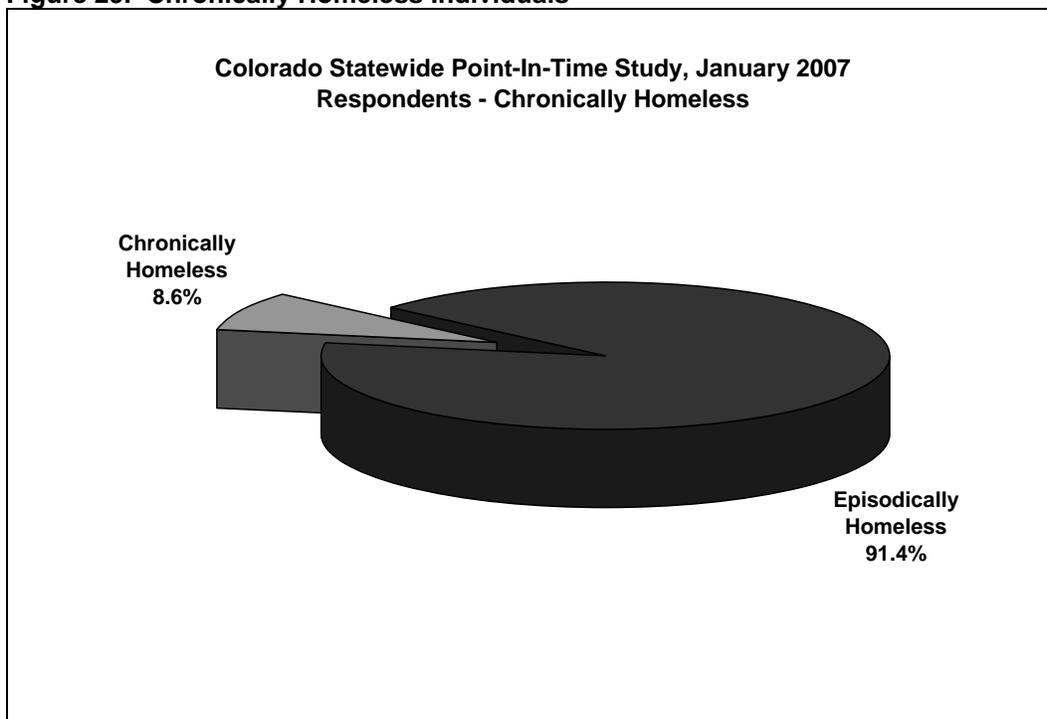
“Chronic homelessness” is long-term or repeated homelessness, accompanied by a serious disability.<sup>25</sup> It is characterized by people living in an emergency shelter or in a place not suitable for human habitation. HUD’s definition of chronic homelessness adds the condition that a homeless person is single and alone, although service providers and advocates across the nation know that chronic homelessness affects families and children as well.

Colorado’s point-in-time study counted individuals who are chronically homeless using HUD’s definition as follows:

- Single persons living alone, and
- Having a chronic debilitating condition, and
- Sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation and/or in an emergency homeless shelter, “and
- Having been homeless continually for one year or more **or** having four or more episodes of homelessness in three or more years.

Using HUD’s definition, nine percent (8.6% or 616 respondents) were chronically homeless; the great majority of chronically homeless persons (90.2%) are male.

**Figure 29. Chronically Homeless Individuals**

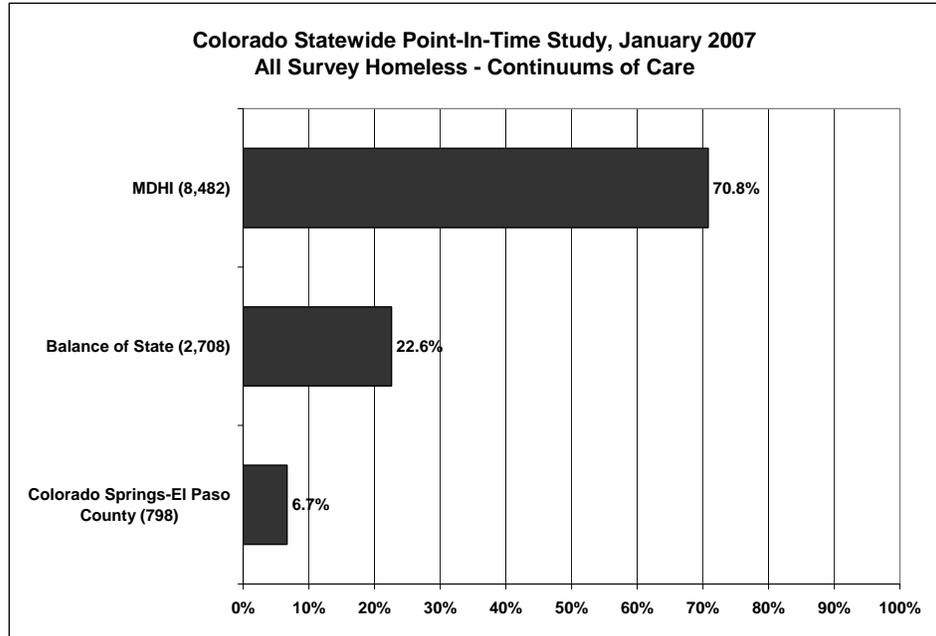


<sup>25</sup> HUD defines “a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability or chronic physical illness or disability” as a disabling condition. A disabling condition limits an individual’s ability to work or perform activities of daily living.

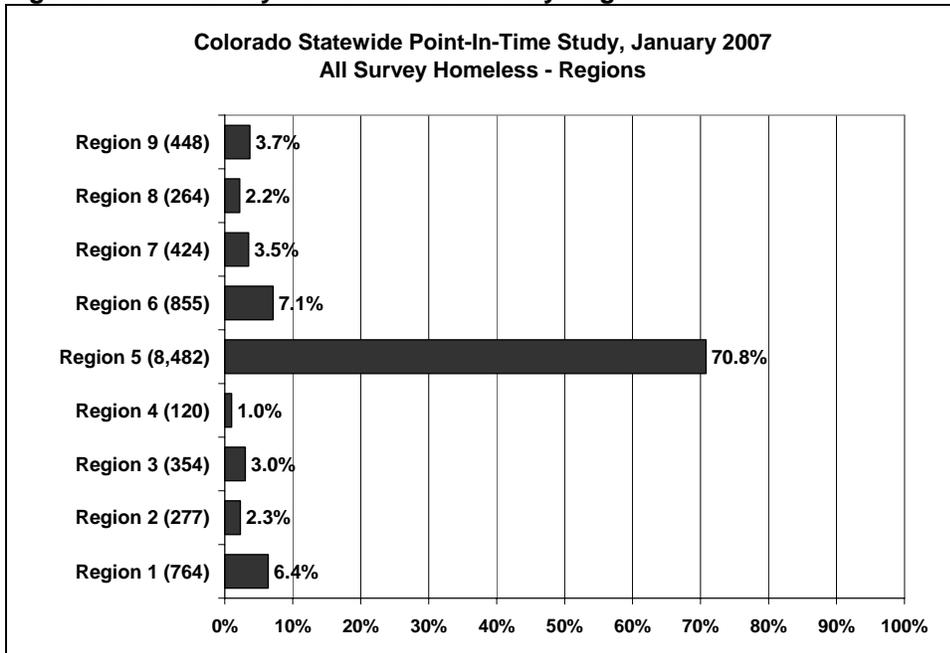
**WHERE “ALL SURVEY HOMELESS” PEOPLE SPENT MONDAY NIGHT**

Survey respondents were asked in what county they spent Monday night, January 29. Figures 30 and 31 describe where all survey homeless persons spent that night by Continuum and the nine point-in-time regions.<sup>26</sup>

**Figure 30. All Survey Homeless Persons by Continuum of Care**



**Figure 31. All Survey Homeless Persons by Region**

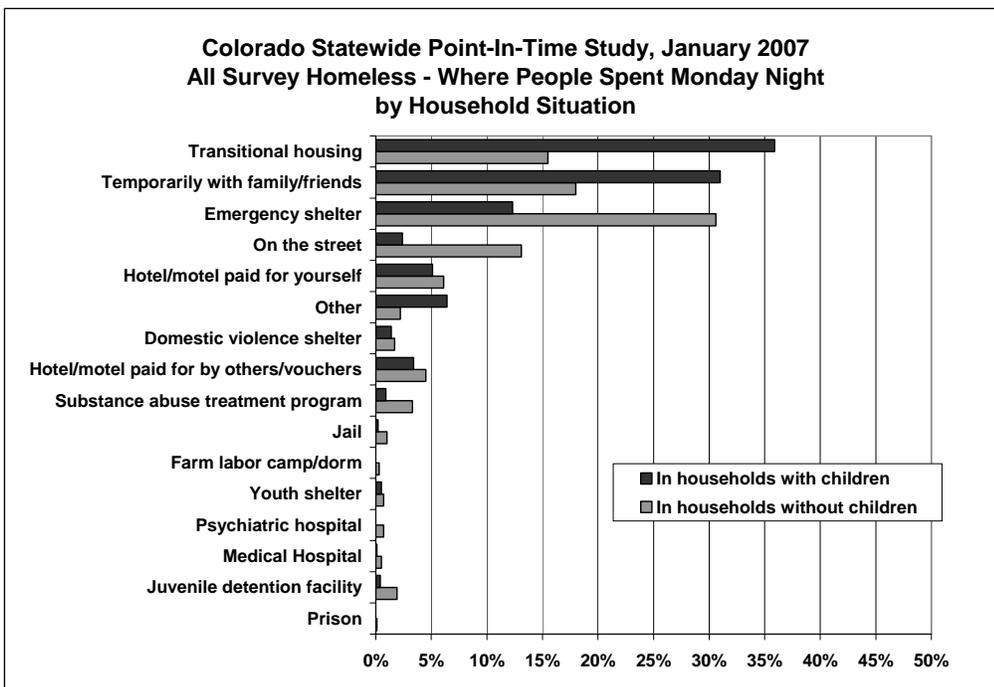
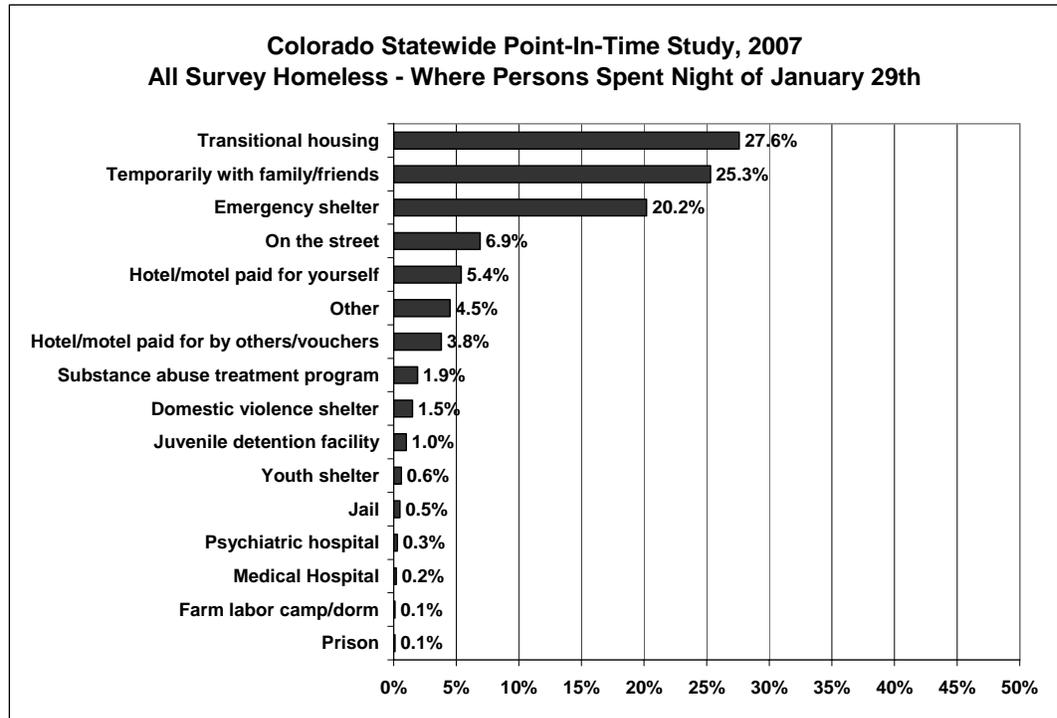


<sup>26</sup> See Part IV Findings by Continuum of Care and Part V, for findings by specific region.

## TYPE OF PLACE “ALL SURVEY HOMELESS” SPENT MONDAY NIGHT

The majority of homeless people in Colorado spent Monday night in transitional housing (27.6%), staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter (25.3%), or in an emergency shelter (20.2%). As would be expected, the proportion of people staying in an emergency shelter was higher in winter than it was last summer (16.6%).

**Figure 32.**  
Type of Place,  
Monday Night



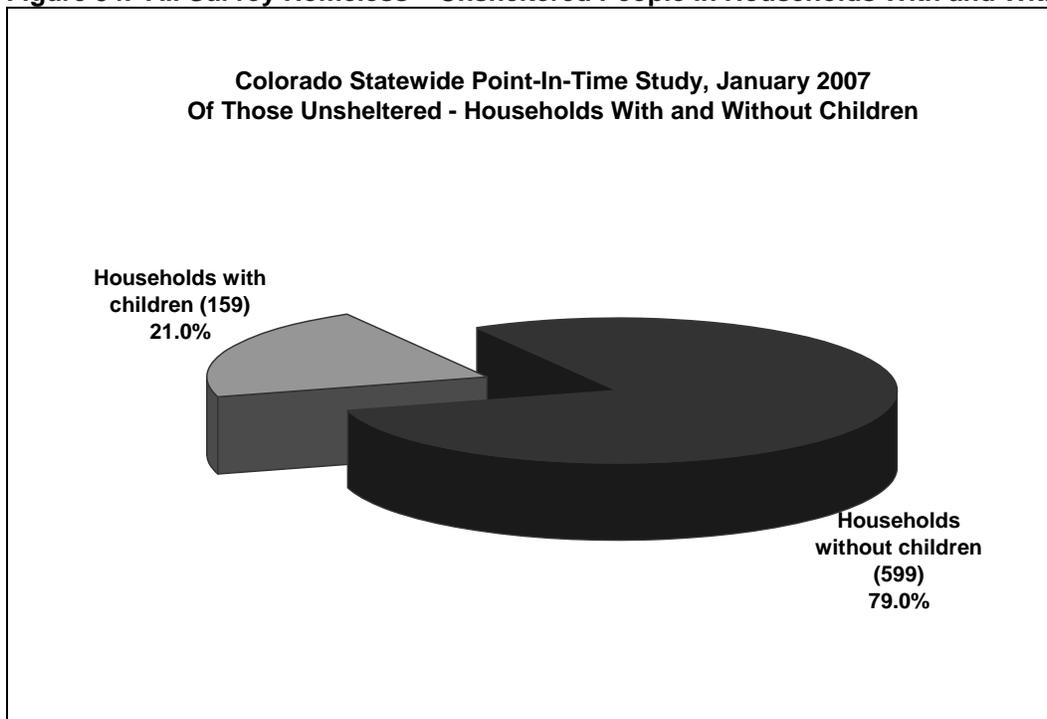
**Figure 33. All**  
**Survey Homeless**  
**– Type of Place by**  
**Household**  
**Situation**

There were dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children spent Monday night. People in households with children far outnumbered those without children in transitional housing, while many more people in households without children were sleeping on the street. A greater number of people in households with children were staying temporarily with family and friends. Persons in households without children were far more likely to be staying in an emergency shelter, in a substance abuse treatment program, or in jail.

***Sheltered vs. Unsheltered by Household Category for “All Survey Homeless”***

Not surprisingly, the proportion of people living on the street was higher during the summer months (13.2%). In winter 2007, 7 percent (6.9%) of all survey homeless people were unsheltered (living on the street, under a bridge, in an abandoned or public building, in a car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.). One in 5 (21.0%) of all unsheltered homeless are people in families with children.

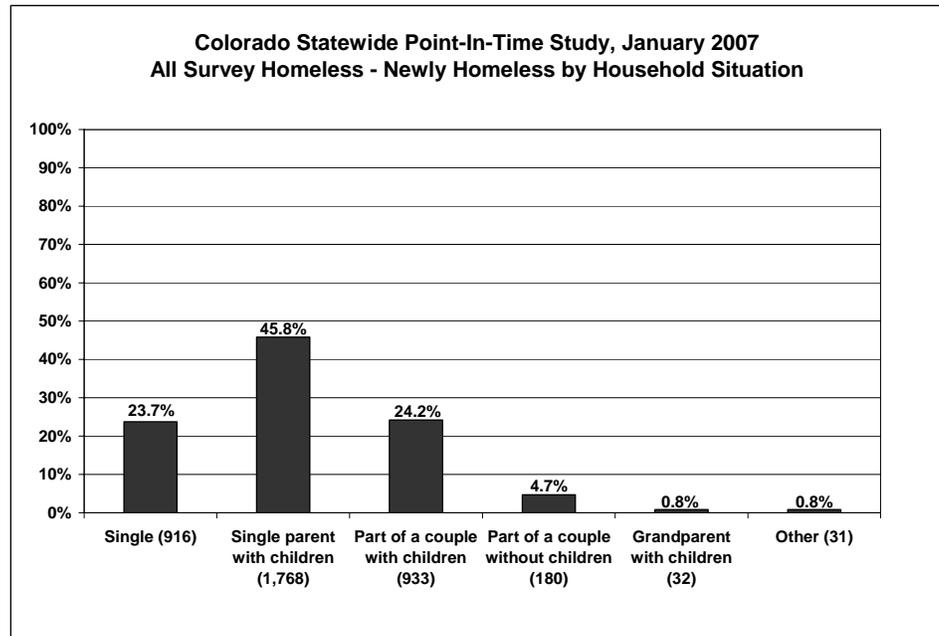
**Figure 34. All Survey Homeless – Unsheltered People in Households With and Without Children**



## NEWLY HOMELESS FOR “ALL SURVEY HOMELESS”

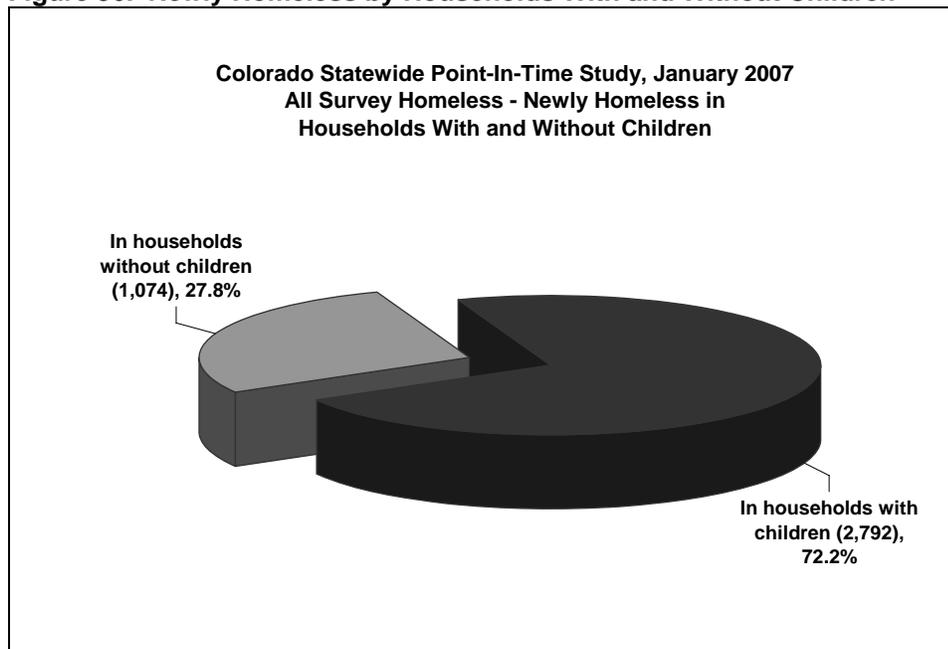
Figure 35. Newly Homeless

For the purpose of this study, people were considered “newly homeless” if this was their first episode of homelessness in the last three years and they had been homeless for less than one year. We do not know if it is their first period of homelessness ever, and based on question 16, we only know how long they have been homeless *this time*. Nearly one-third of all survey homeless persons (32.8% or 3,947), were



considered newly homeless, a substantial increase from summer 2006 (23.5%) Most (72.2%) of the newly homeless were in households with children. (Figure 36.) Single parents comprised almost half (45.8%) of the newly homeless; since females head most single parent families, most newly homeless households were comprised of women and children. (Figure 35)

Figure 36. Newly Homeless by Households With and Without Children



## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### *Aggregate Domestic Violence Data*

Due to the difficulty in gathering data from domestic violence victims,<sup>27</sup> the researchers simply added the number of homeless domestic violence victims (which was reported in aggregate form) to the total number of homeless statewide. There were a total of 505 domestic violence victims; this includes respondents, their children, and “other” relatives. This number is *not* included in the total *survey* homeless (12,050), but it is added to the statewide estimated number of homeless persons.<sup>28</sup>

## **“NOT HOMELESS”**

### *Description of Not Homeless*

Researchers identified 1,347 respondents as not homeless. Two-fifths (42.6%) were single. Slightly less than one in four (23.4%) were single parents with children, and one in five (20.3%) were part of a couple with children. Not homeless respondents were more likely than homeless respondents to be classified as living in a household with children ages 17 or under (compare 43.7% with 35.1%).

Of not homeless respondents, 55 percent (55.0%) were female and 45 percent (45.0%) were male. In contrast, more homeless respondents (59.7%) were male. One-third (33.8%) of not homeless respondents considered themselves to be Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, compared to one-quarter (25.0%) of homeless respondents. Approximately 40 percent of both not homeless and homeless respondents were non-white.

The largest group of persons who are not homeless on Monday, January 29, reported they stayed “somewhere else” (66.8%); almost everyone in this group stayed in their own apartment, home or trailer. Twenty-two percent (22.0%) stayed with family or friends with an arrangement to stay there permanently; however, research has shown that “couch surfing” is a rising trend and that arrangements to stay with family or friends can be abruptly terminated. Six percent spent the previous night in a halfway house or juvenile detention, and 3 percent in a substance abuse treatment program.

The data suggest that many of the “not homeless” respondents are living on the edge of homelessness. Fully one-third (35.0%) said they think they have, or have been told they have, at least one of the following serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. Specifically, 15 percent (14.9%) of the not homeless reported alcohol or drug abuse, 14 percent (14.0%) have a serious medical or physical condition, and 12 percent (11.8%) have a serious mental illness.

Less than half (44.1%) of not homeless respondents said that, in the past month, they or another family member needed services that they were unable to obtain. Many needed help with housing-related costs: 13.2 percent said that they needed rent or utility assistance, 6 percent (5.8%) needed help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, and 1 percent (1.1%)

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<sup>27</sup> Confidentiality concerns regarding domestic violence victims created limitations in the use of the data.

<sup>28</sup> Aggregate survey results for domestic violence victims are reported in Appendix 8.

needed emergency shelter. Fourteen percent said they needed help finding work. Thirteen percent said that they needed food (13.4%) and dental care (12.7%). Twelve percent (11.6%) needed medical care, 7 percent (6.7%) needed help with transportation, and 5 percent (5.3%) needed help obtaining identification or other government benefits.

In comparison, 60.2 percent of homeless respondents reported that they or their family needed services they could not get. Almost one-fifth (16.6%) of homeless respondents needed rent or utility assistance, one-quarter (24.3%) needed help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, and ten percent (10.4%) needed emergency shelter. While the proportion of homeless persons needing housing services is higher than the proportion of not homeless, the data indicate that a substantial proportion of not homeless are at risk of losing their housing. A further indication of their risk for homelessness is that almost two in five (36.6%) of the not homeless said that they have been without a permanent place to live at least once in the last three years.

Almost three-fifths (58.4%) of not homeless respondents reported that they or someone else in their family received money from working since the beginning of the year. Homeless respondents were less likely to report receiving any money from working since the beginning of the year (42.3%).

Half (48.3%) of the not homeless rely on government benefits. More than one-quarter (26.2%) were receiving food stamps, and twenty-five percent (25.4%) were receiving Medicaid or Medicare. Less than one-fifth (16.8%) were receiving SSI/SSDI, and five percent (5.1%) were receiving TANF.

## PART IV CONTINUUMS OF CARE

Part IV reports the total homeless count and survey data for each of the three Continuums of Care. For each Continuum, a “Total Homeless” table presents the total estimated homeless count that includes the unsheltered count and estimate, and the relative estimate calculated from the survey data. The survey data follows. Please note, the survey data section only represents those people who completed a survey and their documented family members.

### ***MDHI CONTINUUM OF CARE***

#### **Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts:**

<b>Table 5. TOTAL HOMELESS – MDHI CONTINUUM</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	4,969
Relatives	3,513
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>8,482</b>
<b>UNSHeltered COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered <sup>29</sup>	315
Estimate – Unsheltered	990
<b>Total Unsheltered</b>	<b>1,305</b>
<b>RELATIVE ESTIMATE FROM SURVEY<sup>30</sup></b>	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	<b>817</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – MDHI</b>	<b>10,604</b>

#### **Survey Data:**

There were 4,969 respondents in the MDHI continuum determined to have been homeless on the night of January 29. Respondents were accompanied by 3,513 family members, for a total of 8,482 persons who were homeless on January 29, 2007.

<sup>29</sup> One Metro Denver school district returned a tracking form counting 792 homeless persons; it is not clear if the count consists of homeless students only, or it consists of both homeless students and their family members. We did not include these 792 persons in the count of unsheltered homeless. The purpose of the count was to identify unsheltered homeless who would otherwise not be counted. Given that these children were attending school, it is possible that their families were receiving services and may have completed a survey. The researchers wanted to avoid the possibility of duplicate counting. To the extent that families did not complete surveys, however, homeless children (and their family members) were undercounted.

<sup>30</sup> A number of respondents who identified themselves as having children or a spouse did not document those family members when completing their survey. The researchers computed an estimate of the number of unidentified relatives based on the average number of identified relatives for each household situation.

## 1. Household Situation

Respondents: A majority (56.7%) of respondents identified themselves as single. More than one quarter (26.2%) are single parents with children under 18, and 10 percent (9.9%) are part of a couple with children under 18. Six percent (5.9%) are part of a couple without children younger than 18. Overall, 38.3% percent of MDHI households are households with children under 18.<sup>31</sup> The proportion of respondents who are single parents is consistent with winter 2006 (25.7%), but has decreased slightly since summer 2006, when 29 percent of respondents identified themselves as single parents.

All Survey Homeless: People in households headed by a single parent accounted for the largest group of all survey homeless people (38.0%), followed by single individuals (34.0%). While the proportion of single parents increased from winter 2006 (38.7%) to summer 2006 (43.3%), it dropped slightly in winter 2007.

Consistent with both winter and summer 2006, persons in households with children predominate among the homeless. As was true for single parents, the proportion of households with children peaked in summer 2006 (64.9%), then dropped slightly in 2007 (60.6%).

## 2. Age

Respondents: While respondents range in age from school age to seniors, almost all (97.0%) of the people completing the survey are in the young adult or adult category. Just under 2 percent are teens age 13-17, and only 1 percent are over 65 years of age.

All Survey Homeless: The majority of all survey homeless persons were adults (67.4%) age 18 to 64. Nearly one-third (31.7%) were children age 17 or under; one in four (25.6%) are young children, age 12 or under.

## 3. Respondent Characteristics

Male respondents considerably outnumber female respondents: 59.5 percent to 40.5 percent. In winter 2006, males comprised 53 percent of respondents, and there were only 316 fewer females than males. This year, males outnumber females by 910. These data suggest that the number of homeless men has increased in the past year. Single people are predominantly male (78.5%). In contrast, females primarily head single parent families (79.3%). The pattern by gender is similar to 2006.

One-quarter (25.3%) identify as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino. Including those who are Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, half (50.0%) are minority. Compared to the general population of Metro Denver, whites are under-represented and minorities are over-represented among the homeless. This pattern is unchanged from winter and summer 2006.<sup>32</sup>

Fifteen percent (15.1%) report that they served in the U.S. military. Slightly more (17.9%) say they were in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement at some time as a child or youth. These proportions are fairly consistent with winter 2006, and up slightly from summer 2006.

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<sup>31</sup> A total of 366 respondents did not indicate, or it was impossible to determine, their household situation.

<sup>32</sup> Since race and ethnicity were asked as separate questions, respondents who identify as Hispanic/Latino also could identify as white. This inflates the proportion of white respondents as compared to minorities.

More than 70% (71.4%) say they have a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver's license, an increase from winter 2006 (63%).

#### **4. Last Permanent Residence**

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate the county where they had their last permanent residence before they became homeless. The largest single percentage of respondents – 46.3 percent — indicated their last permanent residence was in Denver City and County, although a combined 53.7 percent were from counties other than Denver. Thirteen percent said their last permanent residence was in Adams County (13.4%), and a similar proportion (13.1%) said it was in Boulder County. In 2006, 41.6 percent reported Denver as their last permanent residence.

#### **5. Type of Place**

All Survey Homeless: On January 29, 2007, the majority of all survey homeless people were in transitional housing (29.6%), staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter (22.0%), or staying in an emergency shelter (20.6%). This pattern is very similar to places where people spent Monday night during last year's point-in-time count. One in twenty (5.4%) were unsheltered, a decrease from winter 2006 (7.0%).

#### **6. Reasons for Homelessness**

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate "all that apply" from a list of possible reasons for becoming homeless at the time of the winter survey. Similar to 2006, overall, loss of a job (27.5%) was the most common reason for homelessness, followed by housing costs (22.2%) and a relationship or family breakup (18.2%). Also consistent with 2006, respondents who said that losing their job was a reason for their homelessness were substantially more likely to be in households with children than in households without children. Likewise, a much higher percentage reporting substance abuse, medical problems and mental illness as reasons for their homelessness continued to reside in households without children.

In contrast, there has been some fluctuation in the household situation of respondents reporting housing-related expenses as a reason for their homelessness. In the current survey, of those citing housing costs, 55.7 percent are in households with children. In winter 2006, housing costs were cited nearly equally by both groups. In summer 2006, 57.7 percent of those who reported housing costs were in households with children. In the current survey, 58.1 percent of those reporting inability to pay utilities as a reason for their homelessness are in households with children. In winter 2006, the comparable figure was 53 percent, while in summer 2006 it was 63.2 percent. *These data suggest that inability to pay for housing-related costs has increased more rapidly in households with children.*

A substantially greater proportion of households with children than households without children report abuse/violence in the home as a reason for their homelessness. In winter 2006, the proportion reporting that abuse or violence in their home was a reason for their homelessness was minimally higher for respondents in households with children. In summer 2006, nearly three in five (58.8%) of those citing this reason for homelessness were in households with children. In the current survey, this proportion has increased to more than three in five (62.0%).

#### **7. Disabling Conditions**

Respondents: Fully half of respondents (50.9%) report having at least one of the following five serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug

abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. The largest group of respondents indicate that they experienced serious substance abuse problems, followed by mental illness and medical or physical problems. The proportion with serious substance abuse problems has increased in the past year from 15.4 percent in winter 2006 to 25.3 percent in summer 2006 to 26.8 percent in winter 2007. Respondents with serious medical conditions have decreased since winter 2006, while the proportion reporting serious mental illness has stayed relatively stable. Again, it is likely that this is an underreporting of disabling conditions.

Similar to winter and summer 2006, single people (63.0%) and respondents in households without children (62.6%) are more likely to have at least one of the five disabling conditions.

## **8. Sources of Income/Government Benefits**

Respondents: Respondents' sources of income include both employment and government benefits. Two-fifths of respondents (42.2%) report that their family had some income from employment in the past month.<sup>33</sup> Nearly half (45.0%) of respondents indicate that their family is receiving at least one government benefit. Food Stamps (26.5%) and Medicaid/Medicare (17.8%) are the most frequently reported resources. These also were the most frequently received benefits in 2006. However, the proportion receiving Food Stamps has decreased since summer 2006, when one-third (32.2%) said that they were Food Stamp recipients.

## **9. Needed Services**

Respondents: Respondents were asked what services they needed in the past month that they were unable to obtain. Fully three in five (60.7%) need at least one service. Permanent housing is cited by one-fourth (25.7%) of all respondents. One-fifth (20.5%) need help finding work. Transportation (18.4%), rent or utility assistance (16.3%), dental care (16.2%), food (14.9%) and medical care (14.9%) also are frequently needed services.

The winter MDHI 2006 survey used a somewhat different list of services than the current survey, so results cannot be compared directly. In winter 2006, the most frequently needed services were transportation/bus passes, permanent housing, help finding a job, dental care, and housing vouchers.

Similar to summer 2006, more than half need housing-related services: help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, rent or utility assistance, or emergency shelter.

## **10. Duration and Episodes of Homelessness**

Respondents:

**Duration:** More than one in ten (15.3%) homeless respondents in this study said that they have been without a permanent place to stay for less than a month. The greatest number of respondents (43.2%) have been homeless for more than one month but less than one year. This is unchanged from winter and summer 2006. One in five (20.5%) have been homeless for one to three years, and 12 percent (11.5%) have been homeless for more than three years.

Men and women follow a similar pattern of length of homelessness, although men are more likely to have been homeless for more than three years, as are respondents in households without children. This also is the same pattern as in winter and summer 2006.

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<sup>33</sup> In summer 2006, more than half (53.3%) said that their family had some income from employment since the beginning of the year. These data are not comparable since the period for the winter 2007 survey is one month, compared to eight months for summer 2006.

**Episodes:** Respondents were asked: “Including now, what is the total number of times you have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years?” Based on responses to this question, two-fifths (41.7%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years on the night of January 29. This is the largest group of homeless respondents.<sup>34</sup> In comparison, in summer 2006, one-third (32.8%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness in the last three years. This suggests that more respondents are newly homeless based on responses to this question.

One in three (33.5%) said they had been homeless three or more times in the last three years (regardless of the length of time that episode had lasted). A similar proportion in summer 2006 (32.3%) had been homeless three or more times in the last three years. Men and those in households without children are more likely to be homeless five or more times.<sup>35</sup>

### **11. Chronically Homeless Individuals**

Respondents: As of the night of January 29, 2007, 8.3 percent, or 412 respondents were considered “chronically homeless.” The great majority (91.5%) of the chronically homeless were male. In winter 2006, almost 10 percent were considered chronically homeless, and in summer 2006, 9 percent were chronically homeless. These data suggest that the proportion who are chronically homeless may have dropped slightly since 2006.

### **12. Newly Homeless**

All Survey Homeless: On January 29, 2007, nearly one-third of all survey homeless persons (2,765 or 32.6%) were considered “newly homeless.” This is a substantial increase from 23.1 percent in summer 2006. Nearly three-quarters (72.7%) of all newly homeless individuals were in households with children. Single parent families made up half (47.4%) of the newly homeless, and couples with children made up more than one in five (23.0%). This pattern is consistent with winter and summer 2006.

### **13. Unsheltered Homeless**

All Survey Homeless: There are 443 unsheltered homeless persons, or 5 percent (5.4%) of all survey homeless individuals, down from 7 percent in winter 2006. Slightly more than one in five (21.8%) are part of a household with children.

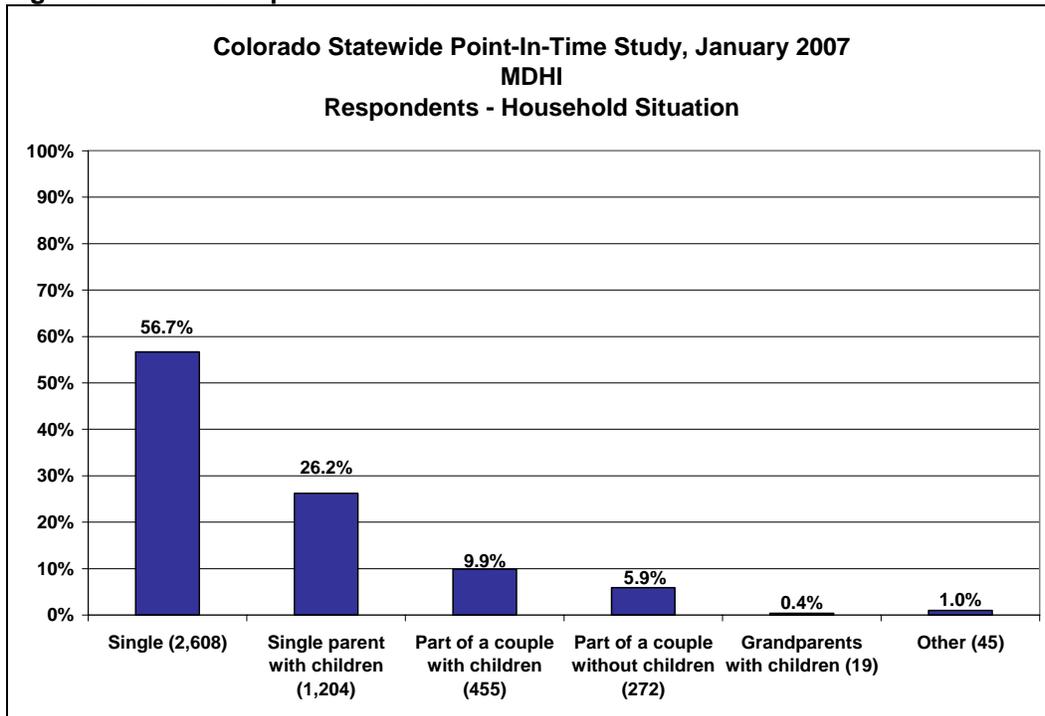
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<sup>34</sup> In winter 2006, one-quarter (24.5%) of respondents said they were experiencing their first episode of homelessness. In that survey, respondents could indicate that this was the *first* time they had been homeless. In addition, the time period was not limited to the last three years, so presumably respondents were indicating that they were homeless for the first time *ever*. Therefore, these data are not comparable with winter 2007.

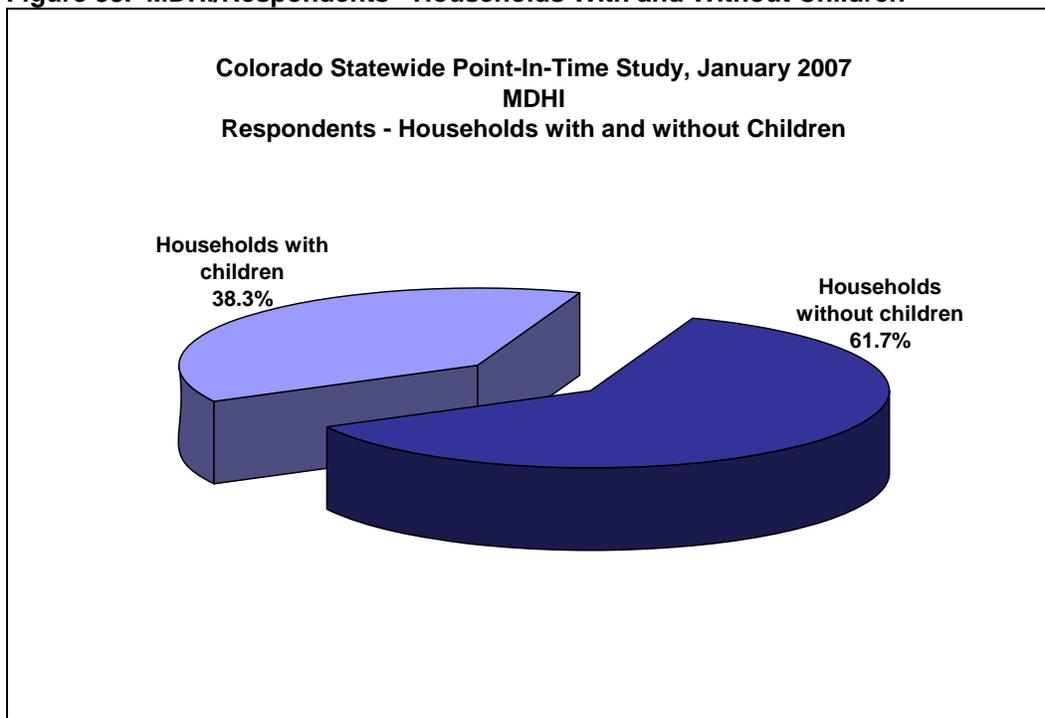
<sup>35</sup> In 2006, categories were slightly different; men and those in households without children were more likely to be homeless *six or more times*.

**MDHI Continuum – Figures**

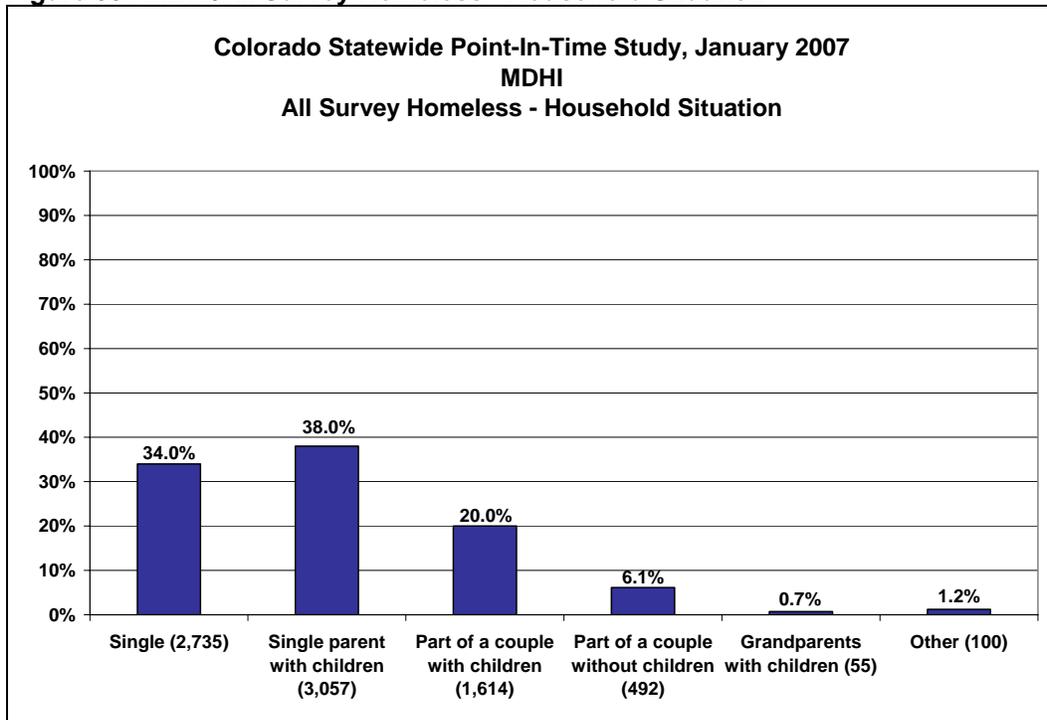
**Figure 37. MDHI/Respondents – Household Situation**



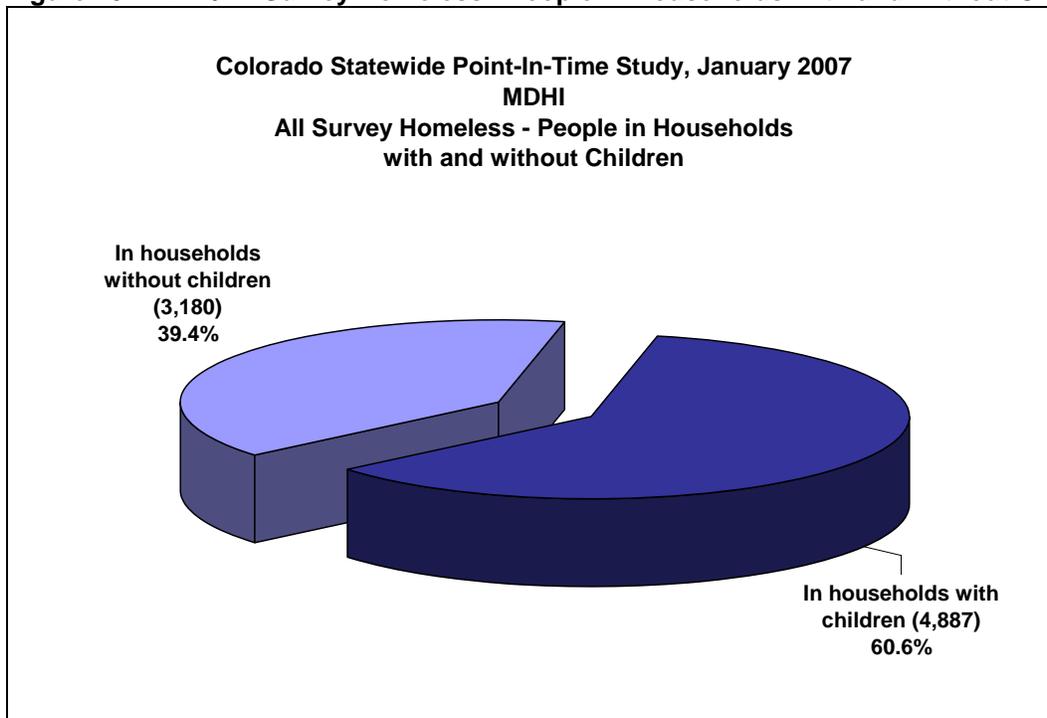
**Figure 38. MDHI/Respondents - Households With and Without Children**



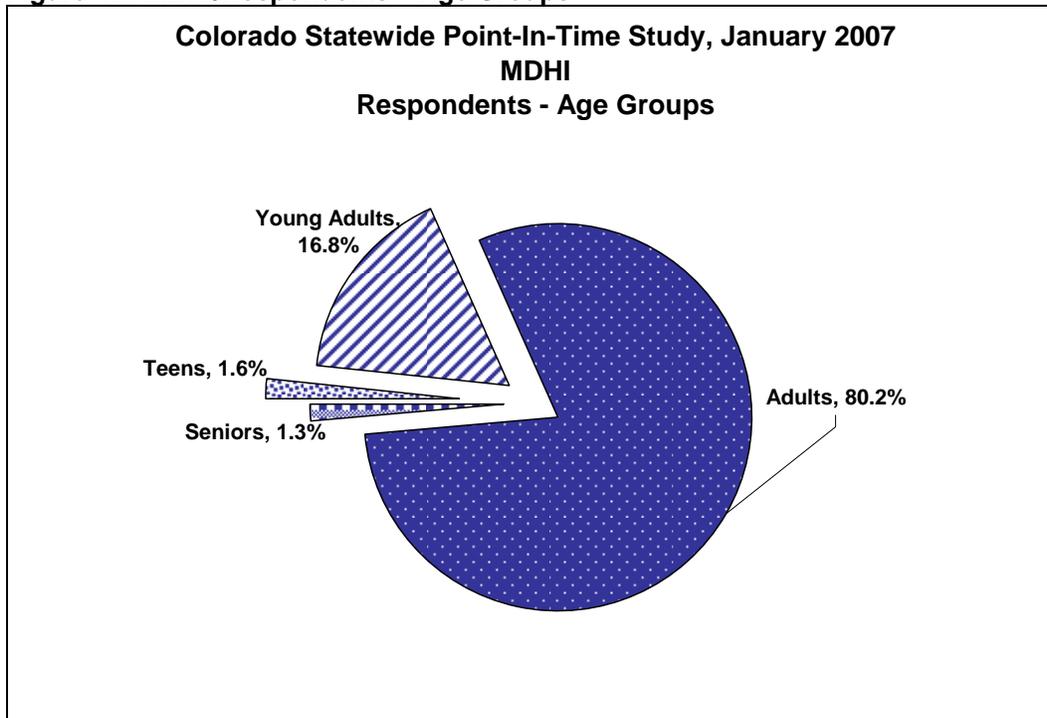
**Figure 39. MDHI/All Survey Homeless - Household Situation**



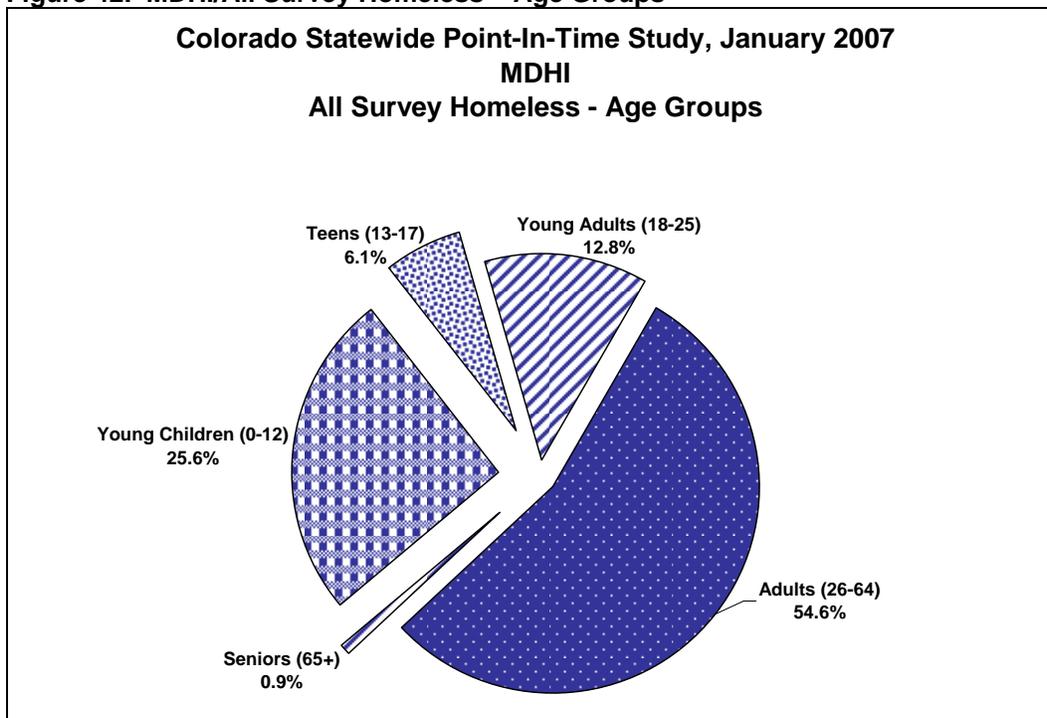
**Figure 40. MDHI/All Survey Homeless - People in Households With and Without Children**



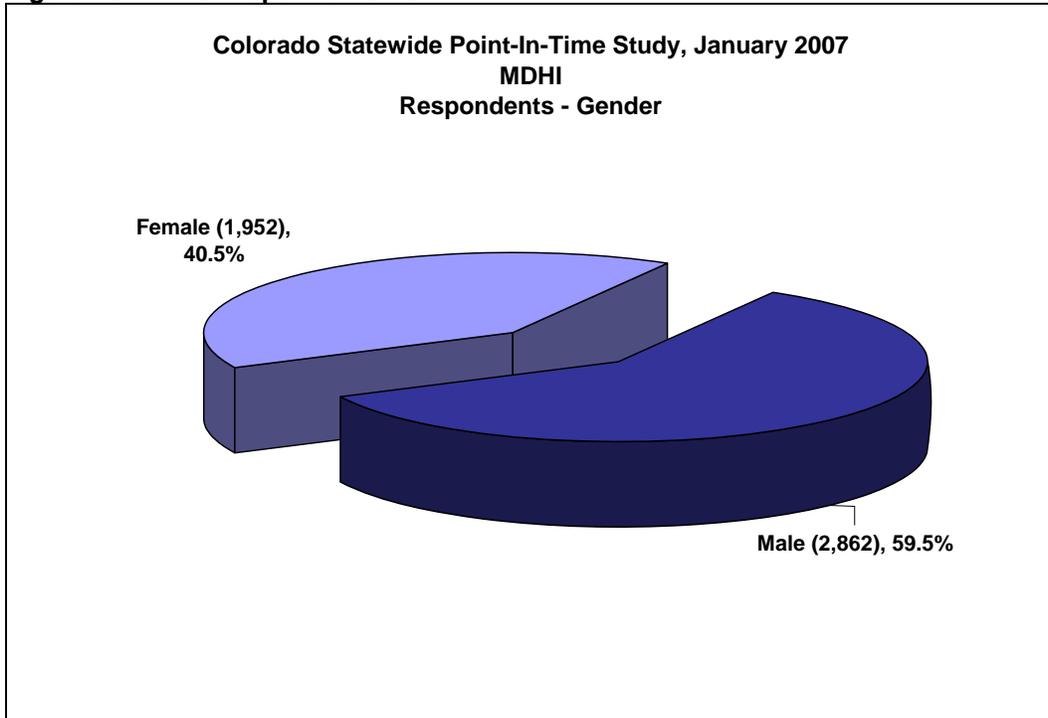
**Figure 41. MDHI/Respondents – Age Groups**



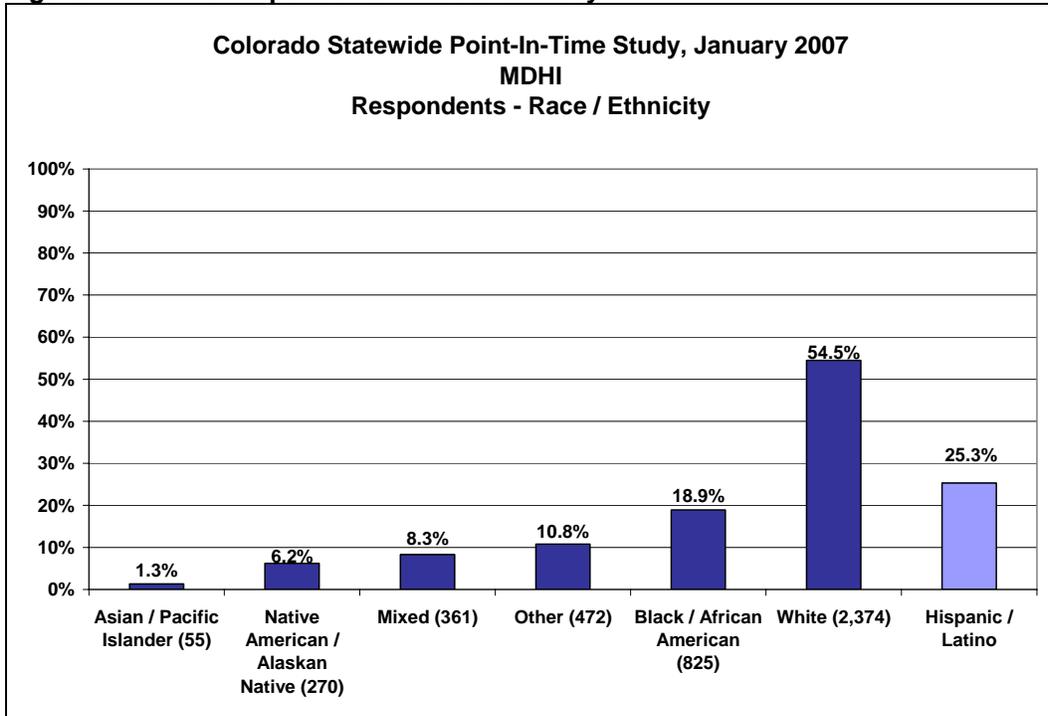
**Figure 42. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Age Groups**



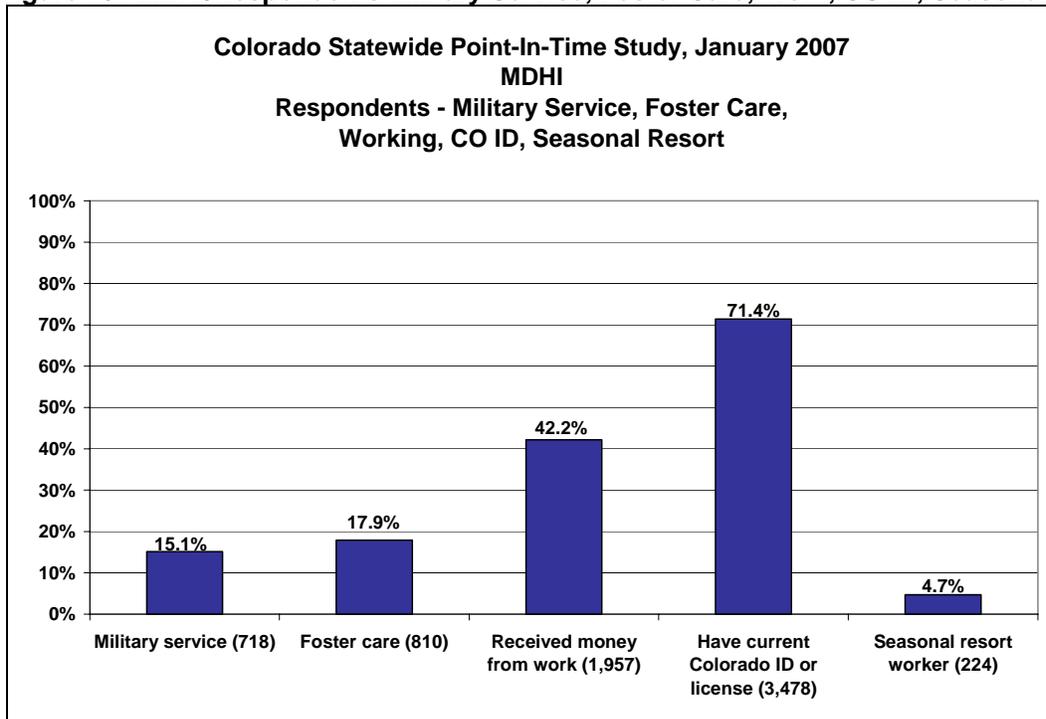
**Figure 43 MDHI/Respondents - Gender**



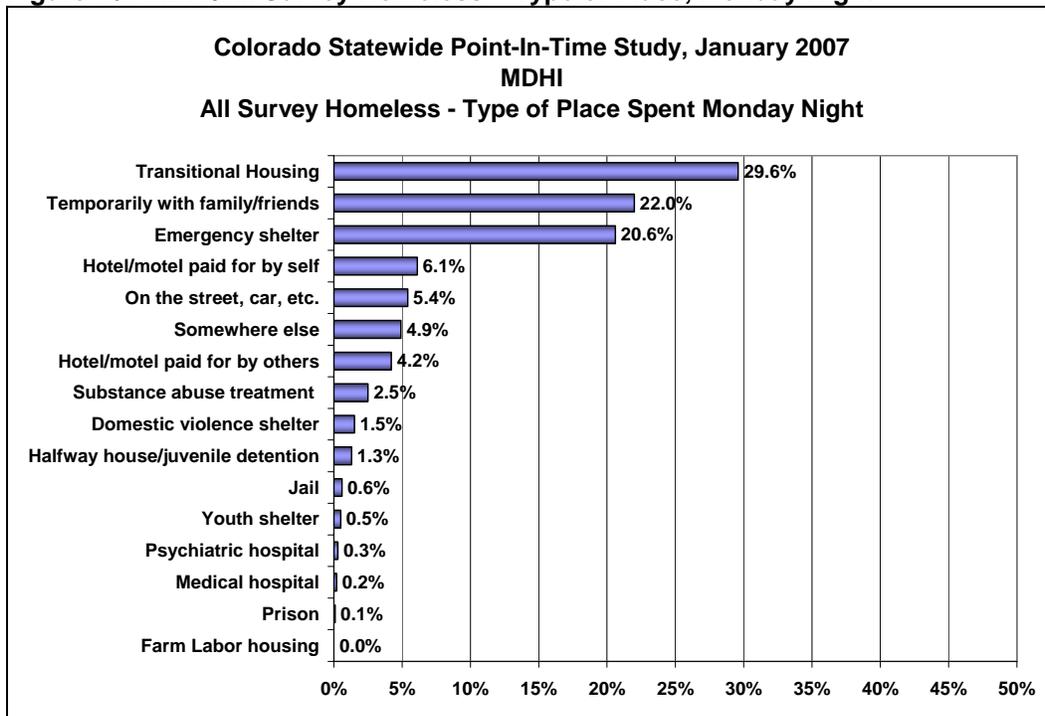
**Figure 44. MDHI/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity**



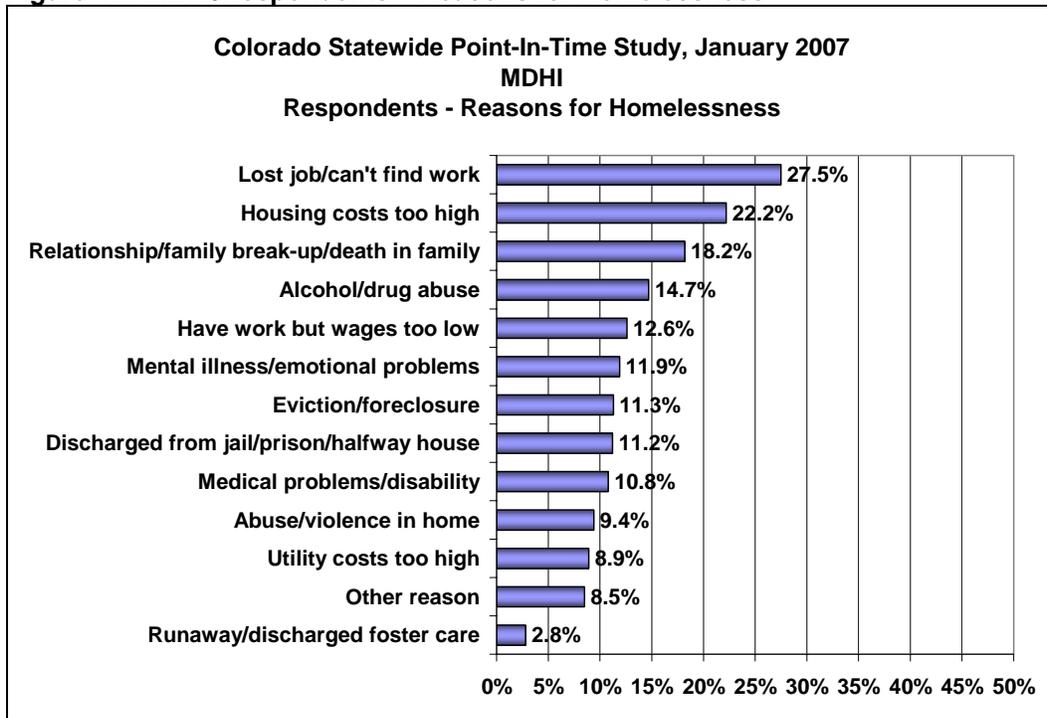
**Figure 45. MDHI/Respondents-Military Service, Foster Care, Work, CO ID, Seasonal Resort**



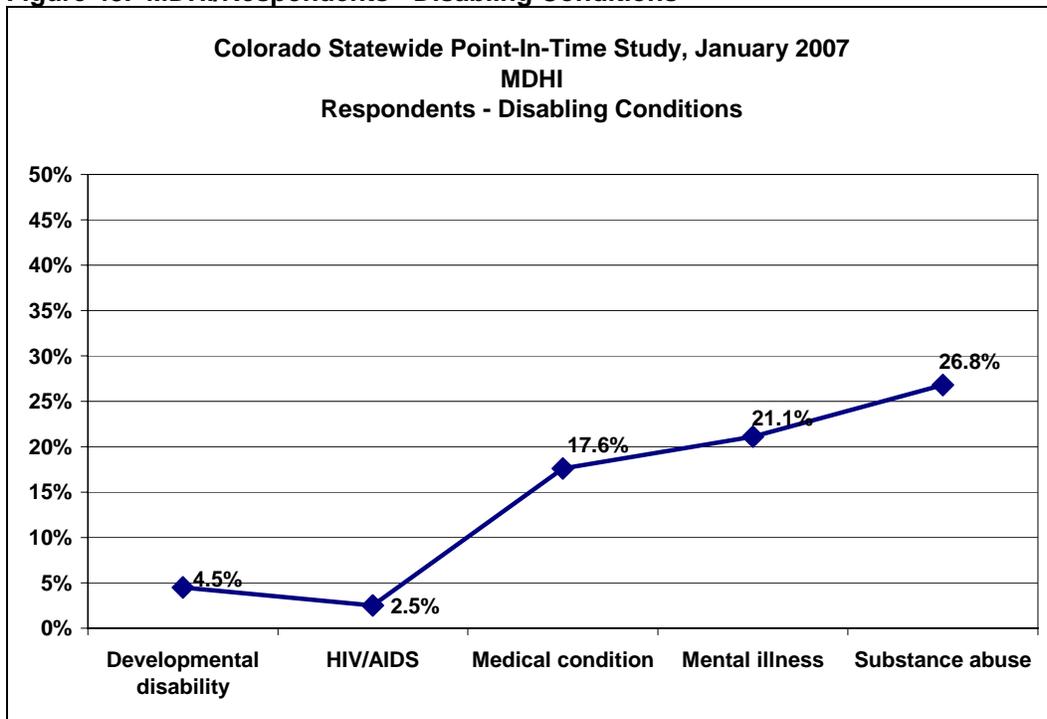
**Figure 46. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night**



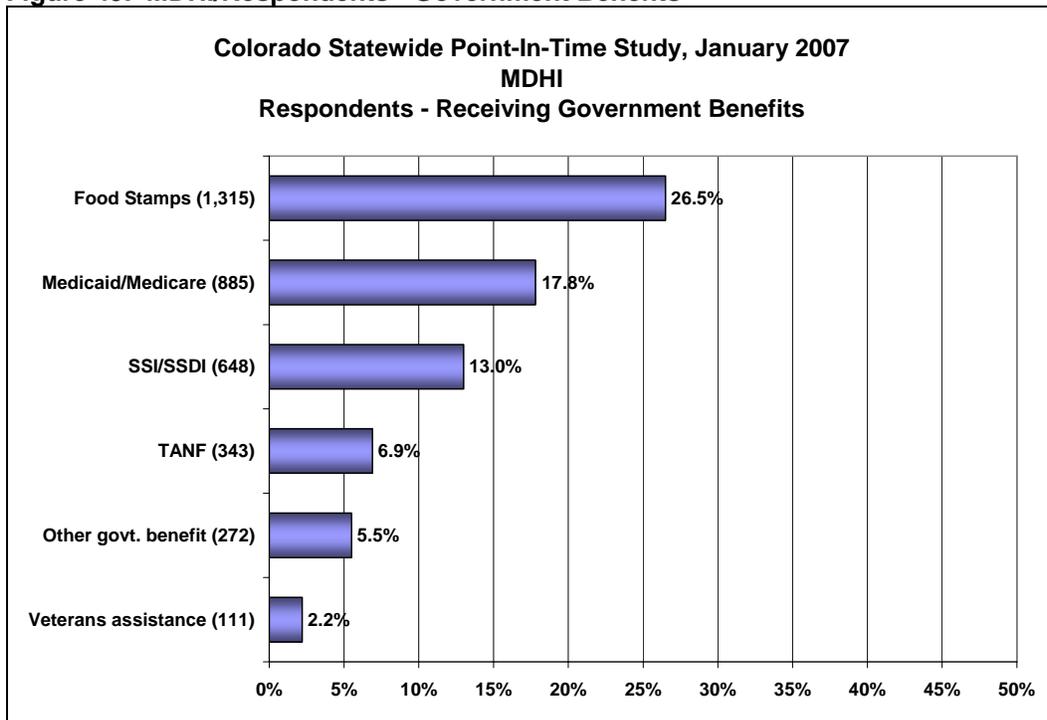
**Figure 47. MDHI/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness**



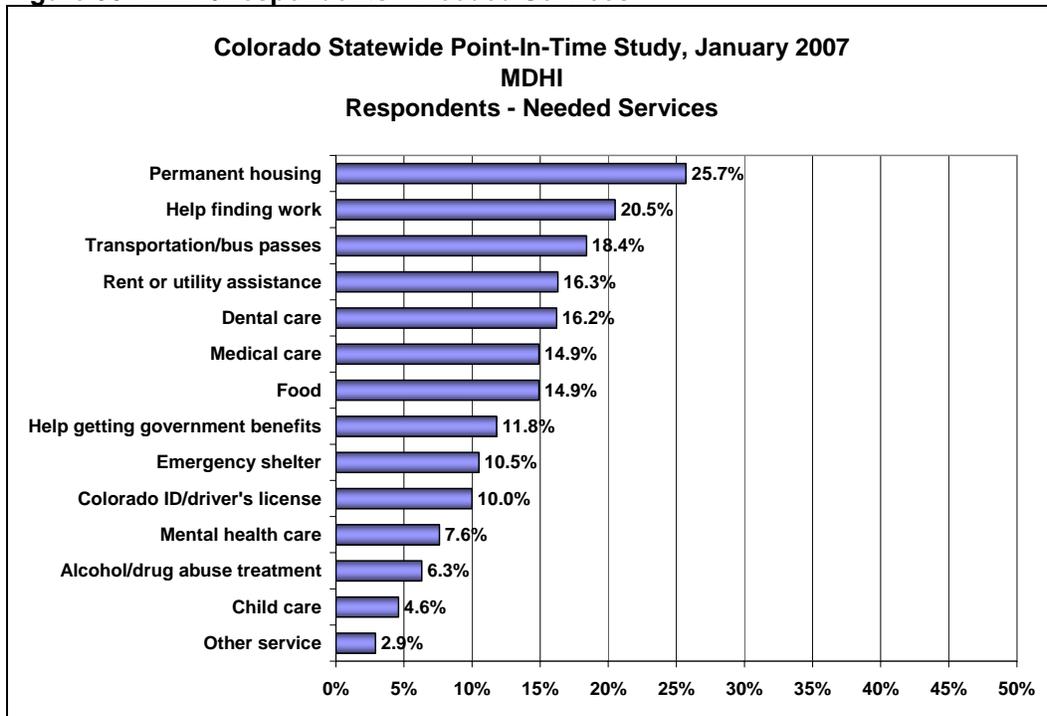
**Figure 48. MDHI/Respondents - Disabling Conditions**



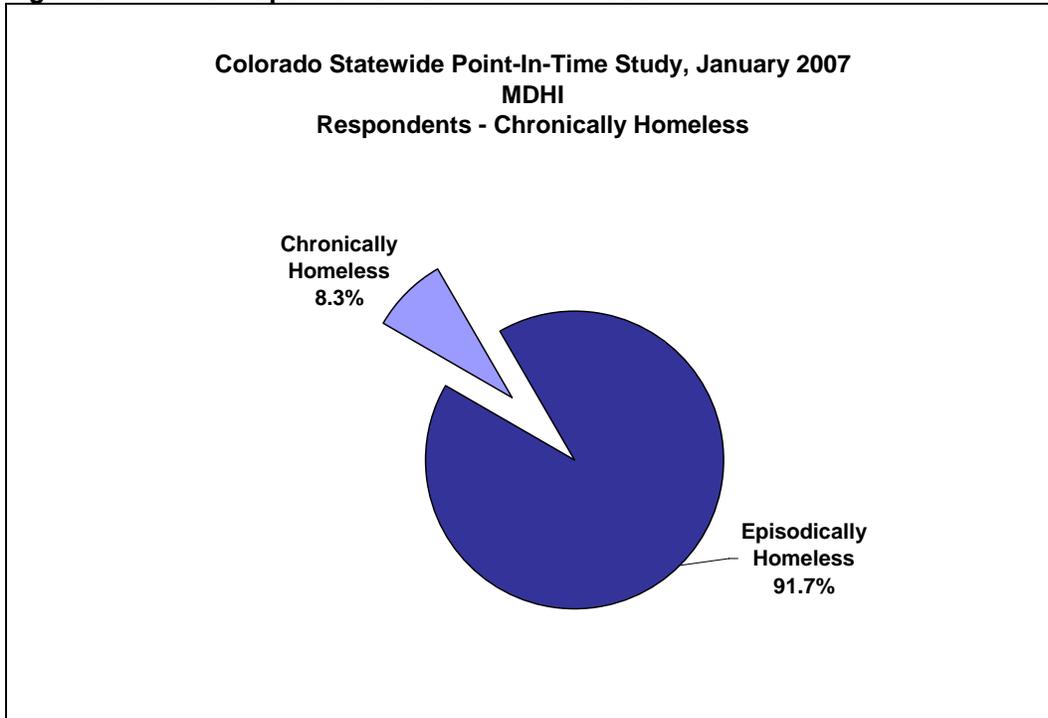
**Figure 49. MDHI/Respondents - Government Benefits**



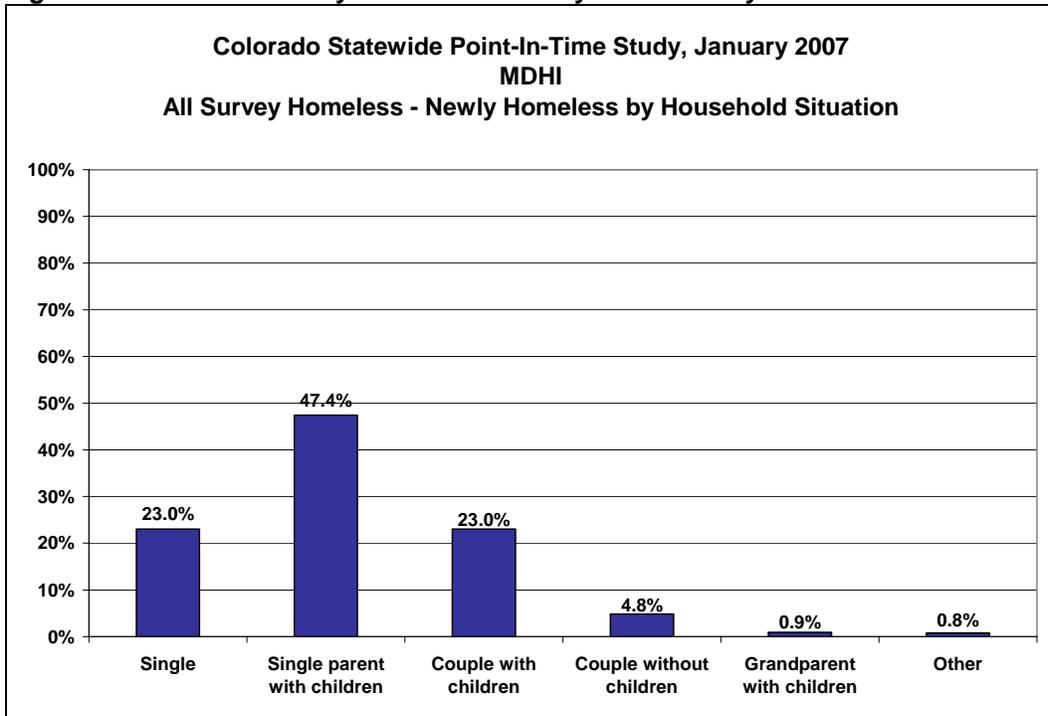
**Figure 50. MDHI/Respondents – Needed Services**



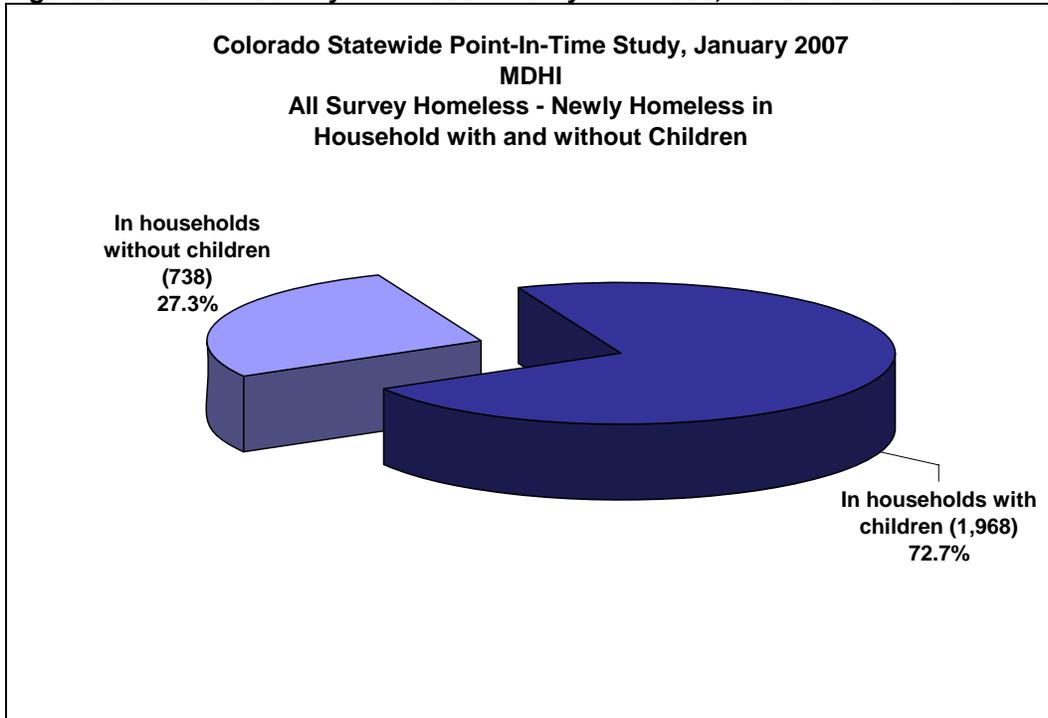
**Figure 51. MDHI/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness**



**Figure 52. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation**



**Figure 53. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless, Households With and Without Children**



## **EL PASO/COLORADO SPRINGS CONTINUUM OF CARE**

### **Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts/Estimates:**

<b>Table 6. TOTAL HOMELESS – EL PASO/COLORADO SPRINGS CONTINUUM</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	583
Relatives	215
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>UNSHeltered Count<sup>36</sup></b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>60</b>
<b>SURVEY ESTIMATE<sup>37</sup></b>	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	<b>81</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – EL PASO/COLO SPGS</b>	<b>939</b>

### **Survey Data:**

There were 583 respondents in the El Paso Continuum determined to have been homeless on Monday night, January 29. Respondents were accompanied by 215 family members, for a total of 798 persons who were homeless on January 29, 2007.

#### **1. Household Situation**

**Respondents:** Three-quarters (75.4%) of respondents identify themselves as single. Fourteen percent (14.3%) are single parents with children under 18, and 6 percent (6.3%) are part of a couple with children under 18. Four percent (3.6%) are part of a couple without children under 18. Overall, more than one in five (21.7%) of households are households with children under 18.

**All Survey Homeless:** Single individuals account for slightly more than half (55.2%) of all survey homeless persons. Single parent households are second in prevalence, comprising nearly one-quarter (24.8%) of all survey homeless. In El Paso County, the majority of homeless persons are in households without children (59.9%).

<sup>36</sup> Agencies submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons, that is, unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted. These estimates identify a total of 32 homeless persons. Combined with all the surveyed homeless and the number of unsheltered homeless who were counted but not surveyed, an estimated **971** people were homeless on January 29, 2007.

<sup>37</sup> A number of respondents who identified themselves as having children or a spouse did not document those family members when completing their survey. The researchers computed an estimate of the number of unidentified relatives based on the average number of identified relatives for each household situation.

## **2. Respondent Characteristics**

Respondents: While respondents range in age from 15 to 73, the great majority (83.8%) are adults age 26-64. Fourteen percent (13.6%) are young adults. Teens (age 13-17) number just 1 percent (0.9%) of homeless respondents, and seniors age 65 and over comprise 2 percent (1.8%).

Males outnumber females by more than two to one: 68.5 percent versus 31.5 percent. Single people are nearly four times as likely to be male as female: 78.1 percent compared to 21.9 percent. In contrast, females are much more likely than males to head single-parent families: more than 7 in 10 single parent households are headed by females.

Eleven percent (11.0%) identify as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, and almost one-third (31.6%) are minority. One in five (21.4%) have served in the U.S. military. Slightly fewer (19.2%) report ever being in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement as a child or youth. Four percent (4.3%) are seasonal resort workers. Two-thirds (66.8%) have a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver's license.

## **3. Last Permanent Residence**

Respondents: More than three in five (61.2%) of all respondents reported that El Paso County was the last county they considered their permanent place to live. About 9 percent (8.8%) said they had lived in some other county in Colorado, and 21 percent said they last resided in another state. The remaining proportion of respondents did not indicate their last permanent residence. In summer 2006, many more respondents (51.5%) reported coming to El Paso from another state; about the same proportion were from another Colorado county (8.8%, summer).

## **4. Type of Place**

All Survey Homeless: On January 29, 2007, the majority of all survey homeless people were in time-limited transitional housing (39.1%) or staying in an emergency shelter (23.6%). One in ten (9.8%) were staying temporarily with family or friends while looking for shelter. One in eight (12.6%) were unsheltered.

## **5. Reasons for Homelessness**

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate "all that apply" from a list of possible reasons for becoming homeless this time. One in three (29.3%) said they were homeless because they lost their job or could not find work. More than one-fifth checked substance abuse problems (22.6%). Sixteen percent said that housing costs are too high (16.1%), and the same proportion cited relationship or family break-up (16.0%). Thirteen percent said they were homeless because of eviction or foreclosure (12.7%). Twelve percent said they were homeless because of medical problems (11.7%), and the same proportion cited discharge from jail or prison (11.5%). Ten percent said they were homeless because utility costs are too high (10.1%) or because of mental illness (10.1%).

Respondents in households with children are twice as likely as those in households without children to say that high housing costs (26.7% versus 13.6%), high utility costs (20.8% versus 7.6%), eviction or foreclosure (24.2% versus 9.7%), family break-up (29.2% versus 13.2%) and abuse or violence in the home (10.0% versus 4.4%) are reasons for their current spell of homelessness. In contrast, respondents in households without children are more likely to report alcohol or drug abuse (25.4% versus 13.3%) and mental illness (11.5% versus 6.7%) as reasons for their homelessness.

## **6. Disabling Conditions**

Respondents: Almost two-thirds of respondents (63.6%) said that they have, or have been told that they have, at least one of the following serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. Specifically, more than one in three (36.2%) said that alcohol or drug abuse is a problem. Approximately one in four have a serious mental illness (26.1%) or serious medical or physical condition (24.2%).

The great majority of respondents with at least one disability are single (81.1%) and in households without children (84.0%).

## **7. Sources of Income/Government Benefits**

Respondents: Forty percent (42.4%) of respondents said that they or someone else in their family received money from working in the past month. Slightly less than half (45.5%) said that their family is receiving at least one government benefit. More than one in three (31.0%) said that someone in their family is receiving Food Stamps. Twelve percent (11.7%) are receiving SSI or SSDI and 11 percent (11.3%) are receiving Medicaid/Medicare. Only 4 percent (3.8%) said their family is getting TANF.

## **8. Needed Services**

Respondents: Respondents were asked what services they needed in the past month that they were unable to obtain. Nearly three in five respondents (58.8%) said that they needed at least one service that they were not able to get.

Respondents and their families are most in need of dental care (22.1%) and transportation/bus passes (20.6%). One in five (19.0%) said they need help finding a job. Slightly fewer needed help in the past month with rent or utility assistance (16.8%) and finding Section 8 or other permanent housing (16.0%). Respondents and their families also needed medical care (16.0%), food (15.3%), and help getting a Colorado ID or driver's license (13.4%).

## **9. Duration and Episodes of Homelessness**

Respondents:

Duration: Respondents were asked: "How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time?" Almost one in five (19.0%) said their current spell of homelessness has been less than one month, and nearly half (46.7%) said they had been homeless for more than one month, but less than one year. Eleven percent (11.2%) reported that they have been homeless for more than three years.

A majority of respondents in households with children (58.3%) and the largest group of respondents in households without children (44.5%) had been homeless this time for more than one month but less than one year. Respondents in households without children are twice as likely as respondents in households with children to have been homeless this time for less than one month (21.3% versus 10.7%), and also to have been homeless for more than three years (12.3 percent versus 5.8 percent.)

Male respondents are more than three times as likely as females to have been homeless this time for more than three years: compare 14.2 percent with 4.0 percent.

**Episodes:** More than one-third (36.6%) of respondents said that this was the first time they had been without a permanent place to live in the last three years. More than one-fifth (22.4%) said this was their second spell of homelessness in the last three years. Nearly one in five (17.4%) said that they had been homeless five or more times in the past three years.

Males are nearly twice as likely as females to report that they have had five or more spells of homelessness in the last three years: compare 20.9 percent with 10.6 percent.

In general, respondents in households without children have had more episodes of homelessness than those in households with children. Half (50.9%) of respondents in households with children said that this is the first time they have been without a permanent place to live in the last three years, while 11 percent (10.7%) had been homeless five or more times during this period. In contrast, respondents in households without children are less likely to say this was the first time they had been homeless in the past three years (33.5%), and more likely to say they have had five or more spells of homelessness (19.0%) during this period.

### **10. Chronically Homeless Individuals**

Respondents: As of the night of January 29, 2007, 7.2 percent of respondents or 42 individuals were considered chronically homeless. The great majority (85.7%) of the chronically homeless are male.

### **11. Newly Homeless**

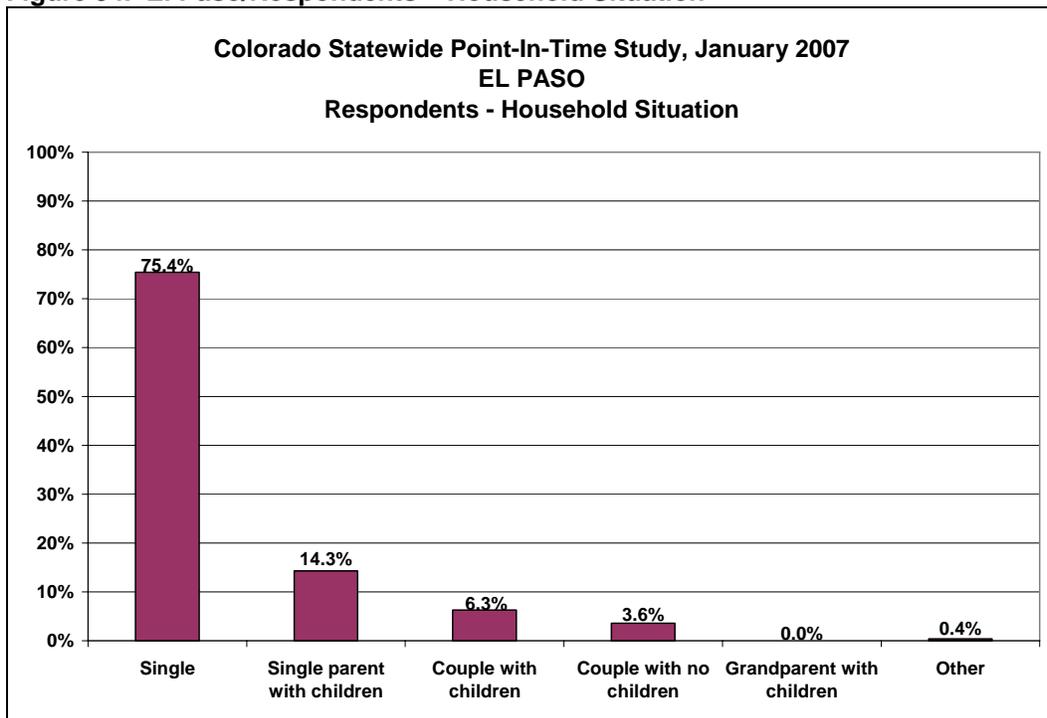
All Survey Homeless: On January 29, 2007, 220 people or more than one in four (27.6%) were considered newly homeless. Single individuals (44.0%) and single parents with children (32.9%) comprise the largest groups of newly homeless, followed by couples with children (21.3%). A majority (55.1%) of all newly homeless individuals are in households with children.

### **12. Unsheltered Homeless**

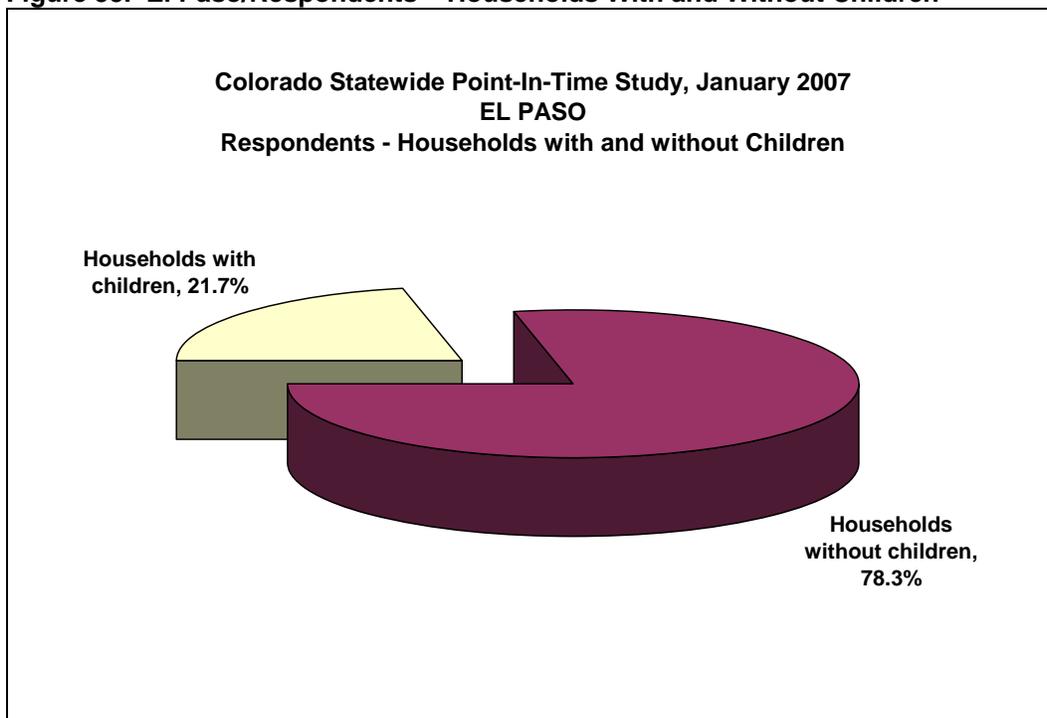
All Survey Homeless: Thirteen percent (12.6%) of all survey homeless persons are unsheltered. The great majority of unsheltered homeless (81.9%) are in households without children.

**El Paso/Colorado Springs Continuum – Figures**

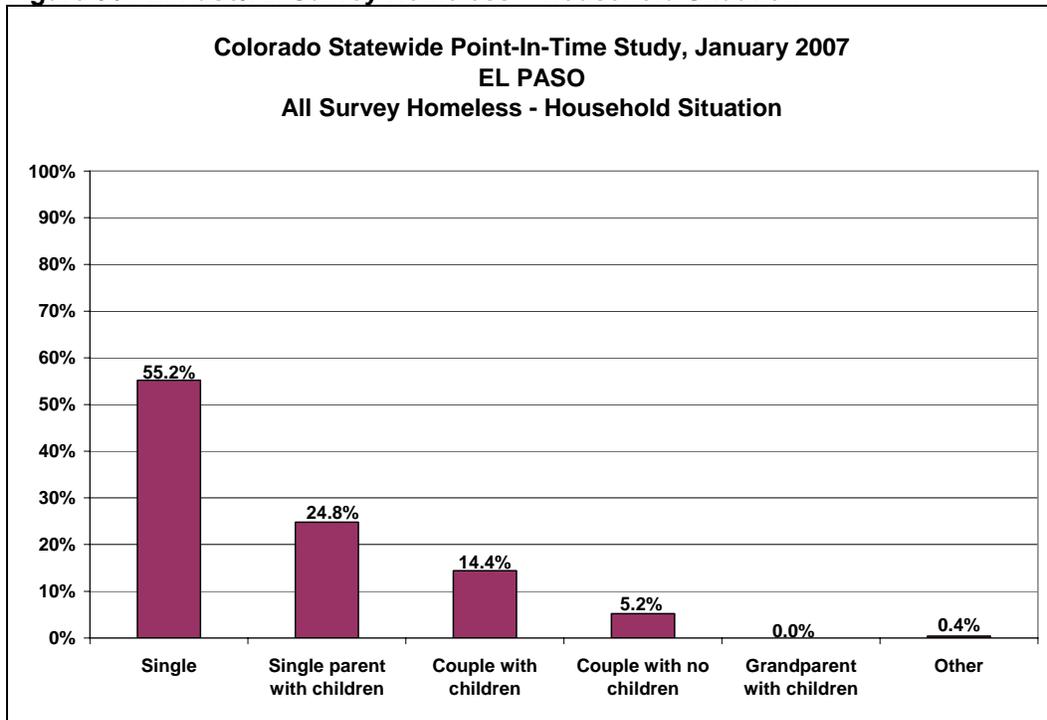
**Figure 54. El Paso/Respondents – Household Situation**



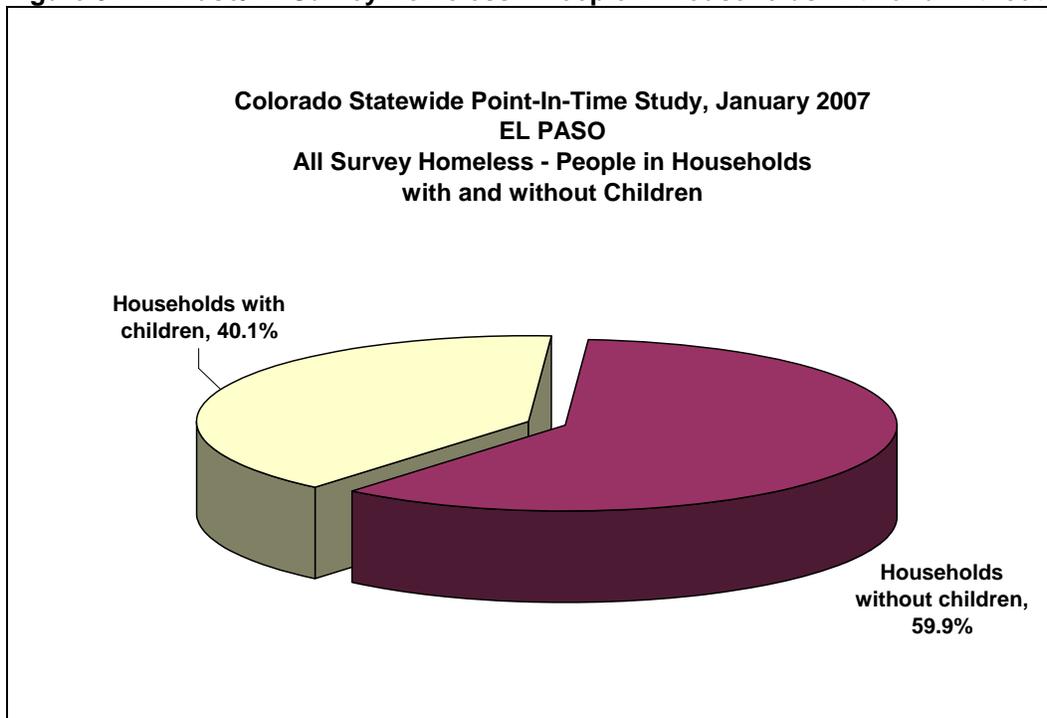
**Figure 55. El Paso/Respondents – Households With and Without Children**



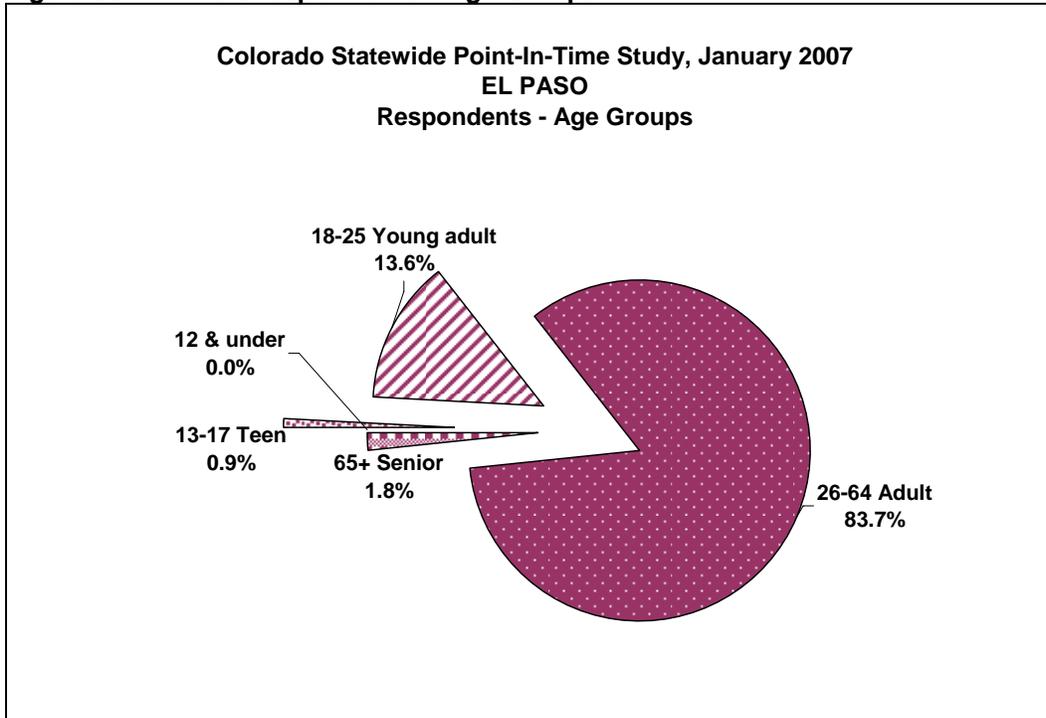
**Figure 56. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Household Situation**



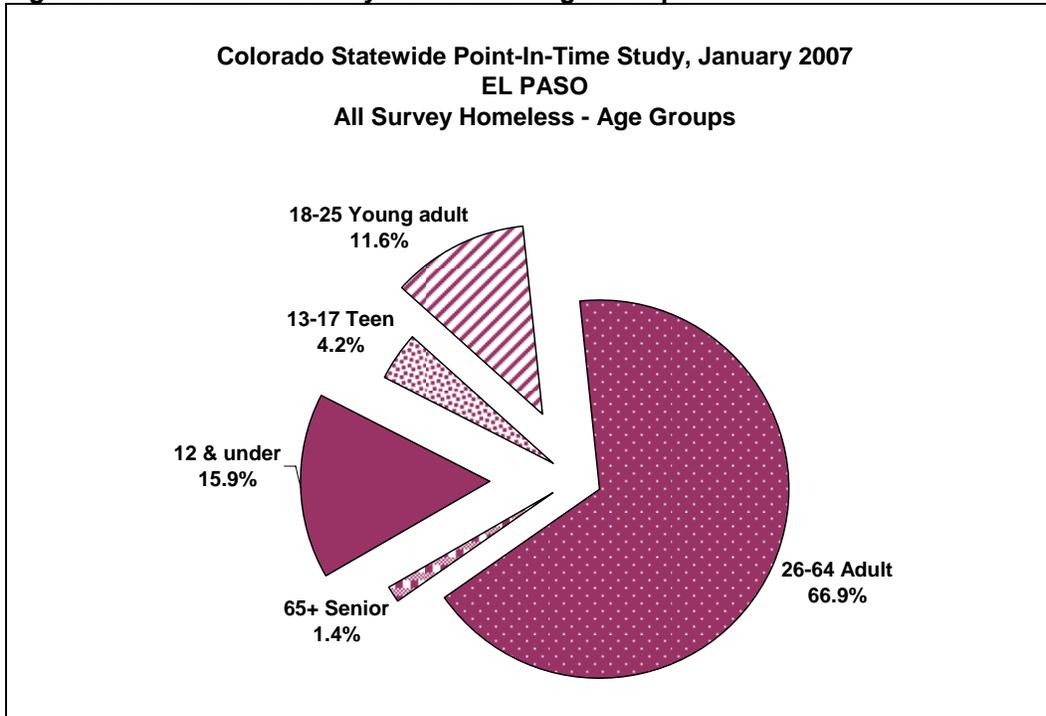
**Figure 57. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – People in Households With and Without Children**



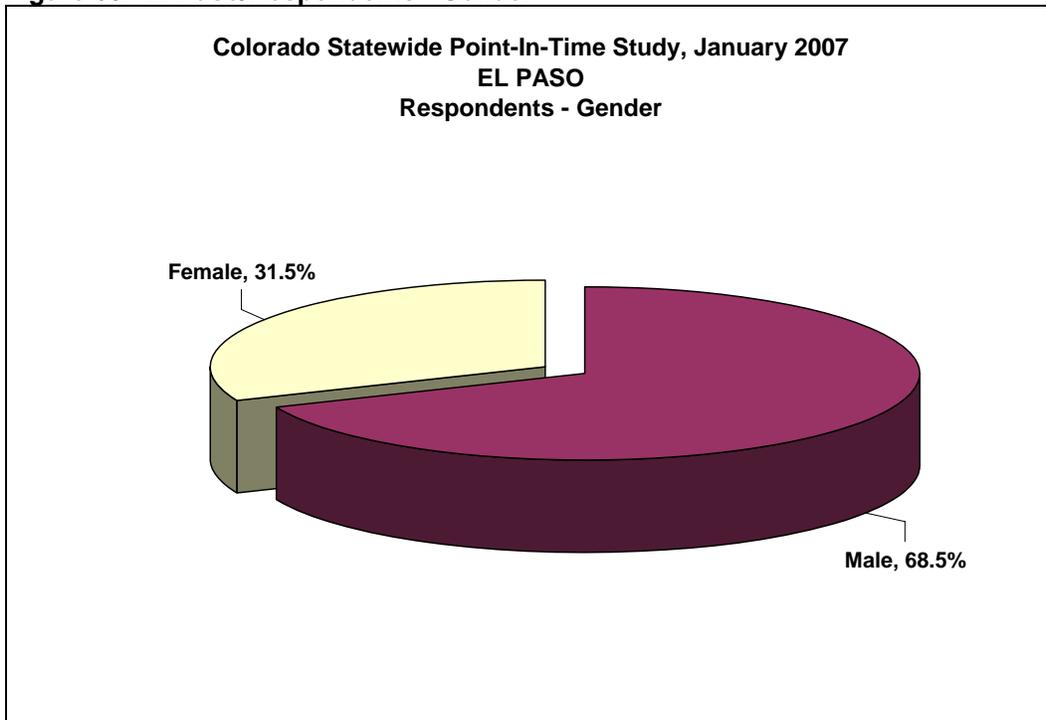
**Figure 58. El Paso/Respondents – Age Groups**



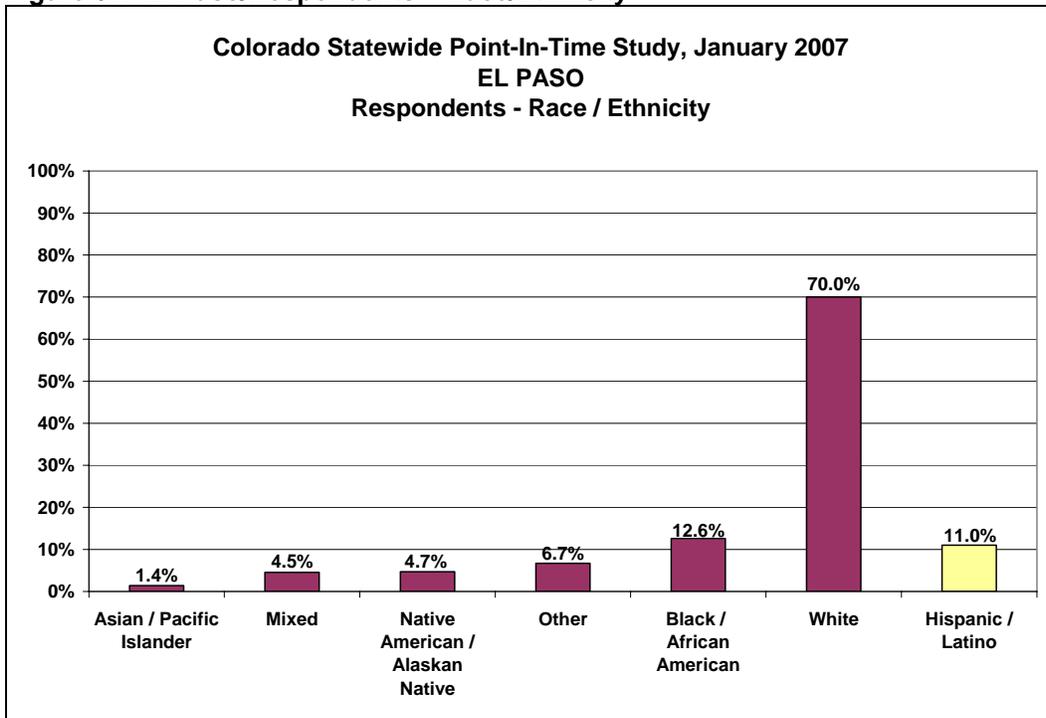
**Figure 59. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Age Groups**



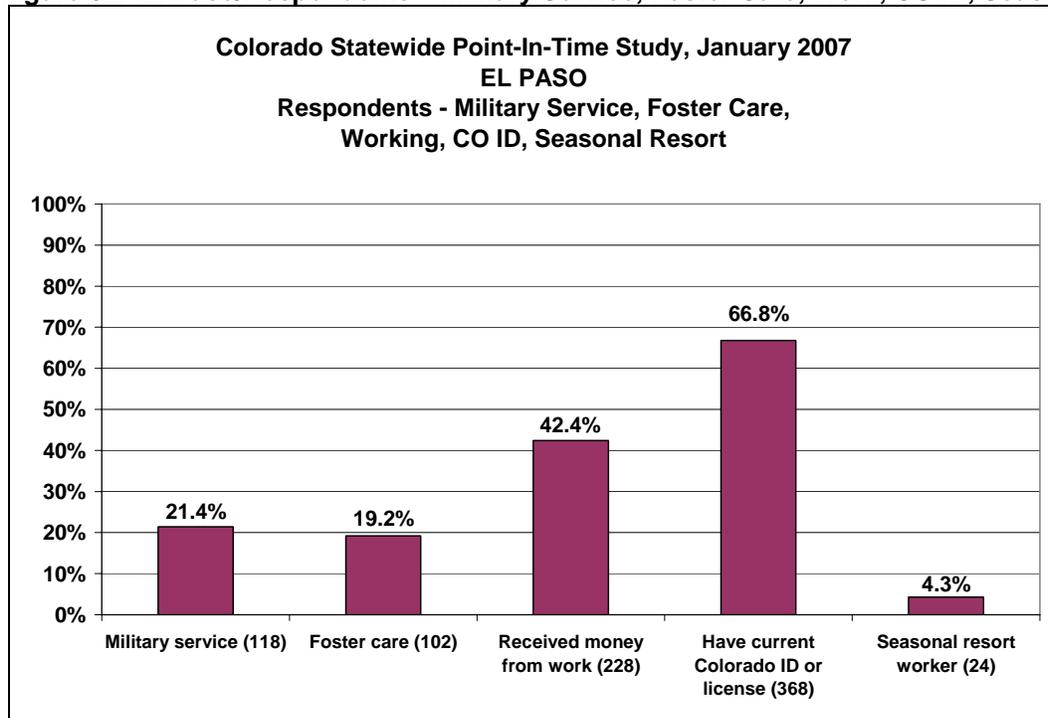
**Figure 60. El Paso/Respondents - Gender**



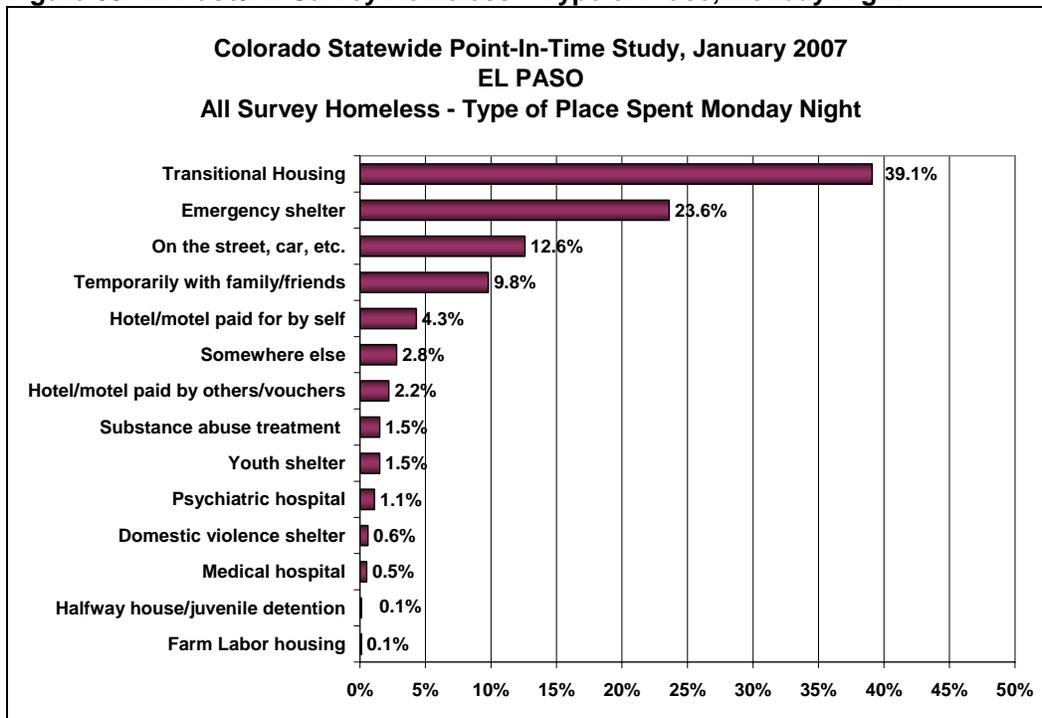
**Figure 61. El Paso/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity**



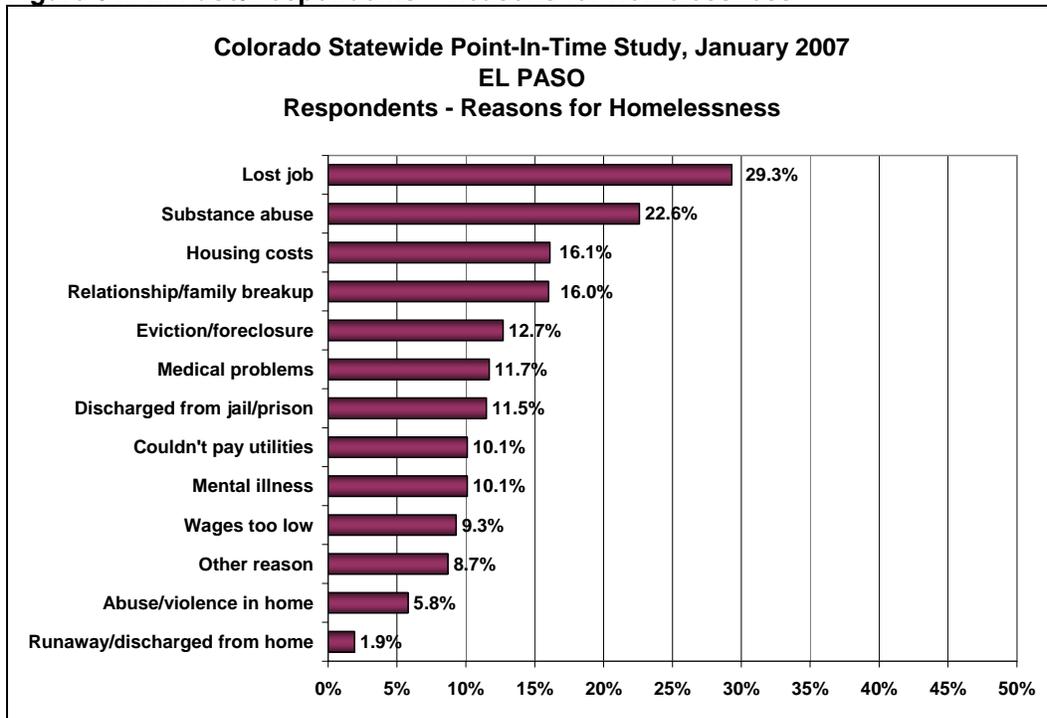
**Figure 62. El Paso/Respondents – Military Service, Foster Care, Work, CO ID, Seasonal Resort**



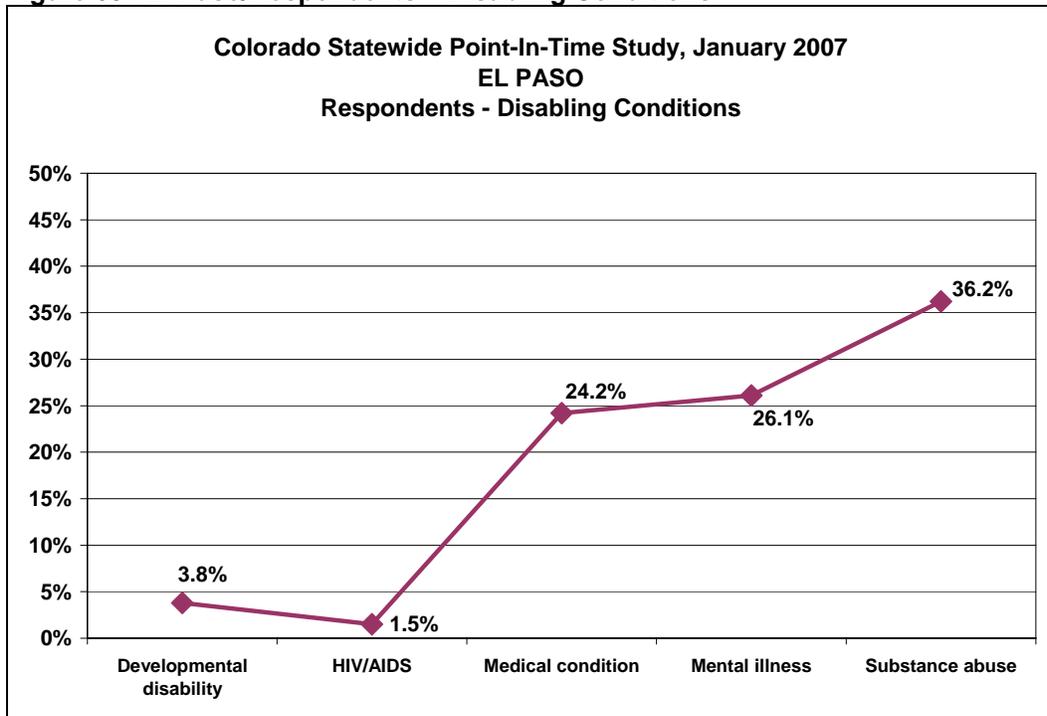
**Figure 63. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night**



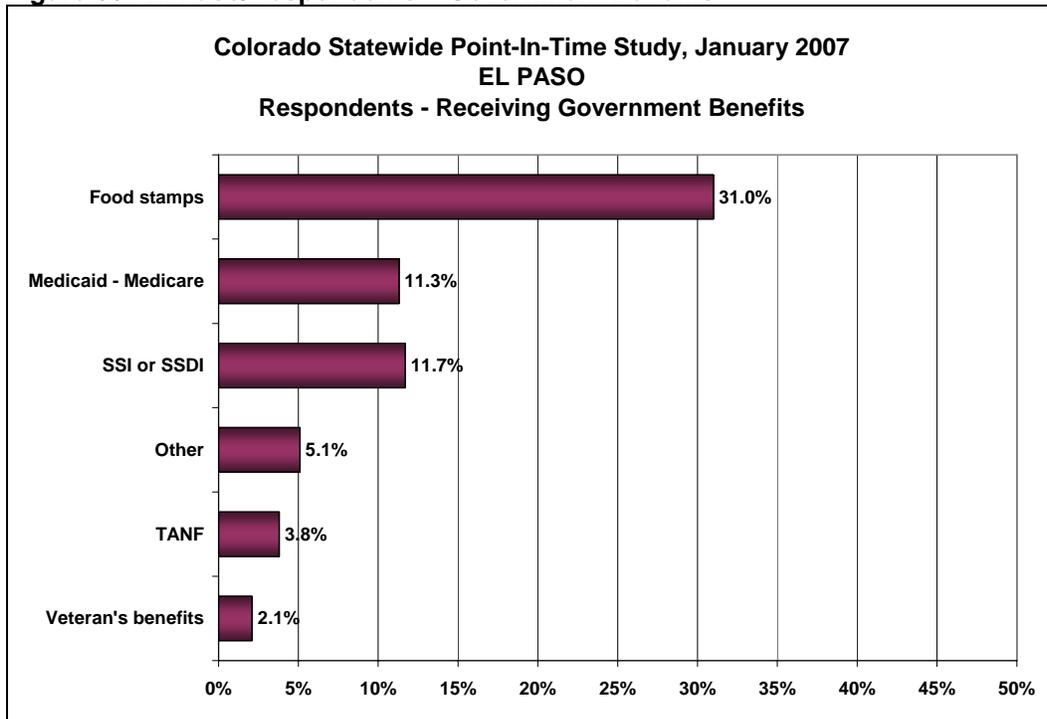
**Figure 64. El Paso/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness**



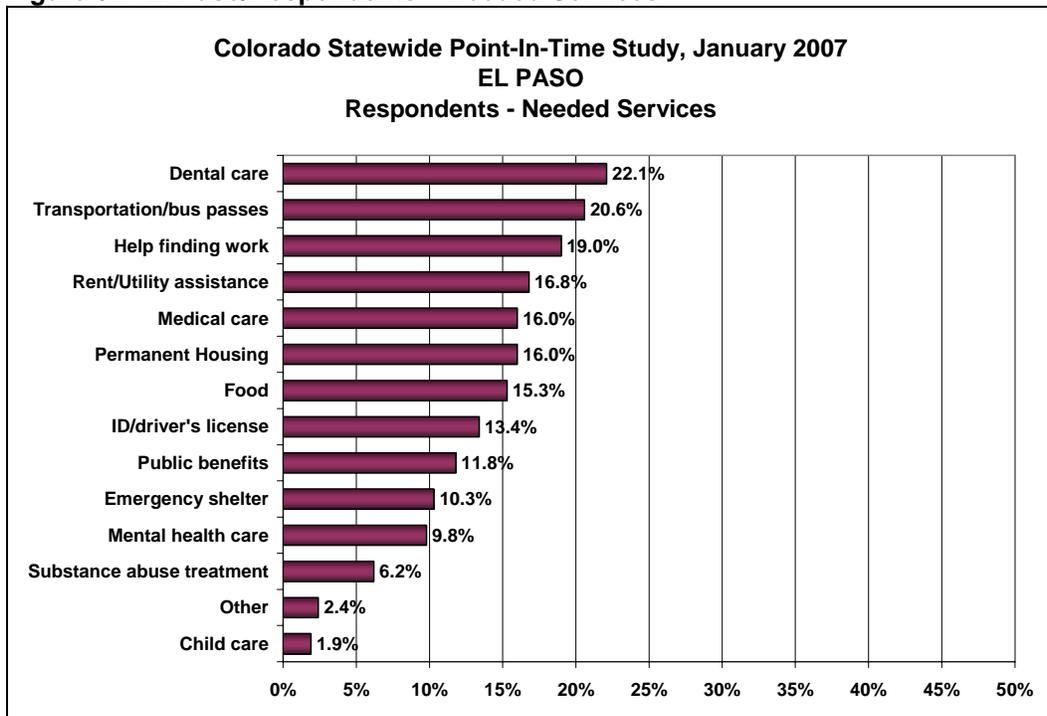
**Figure 65. El Paso/Respondents – Disabling Conditions**



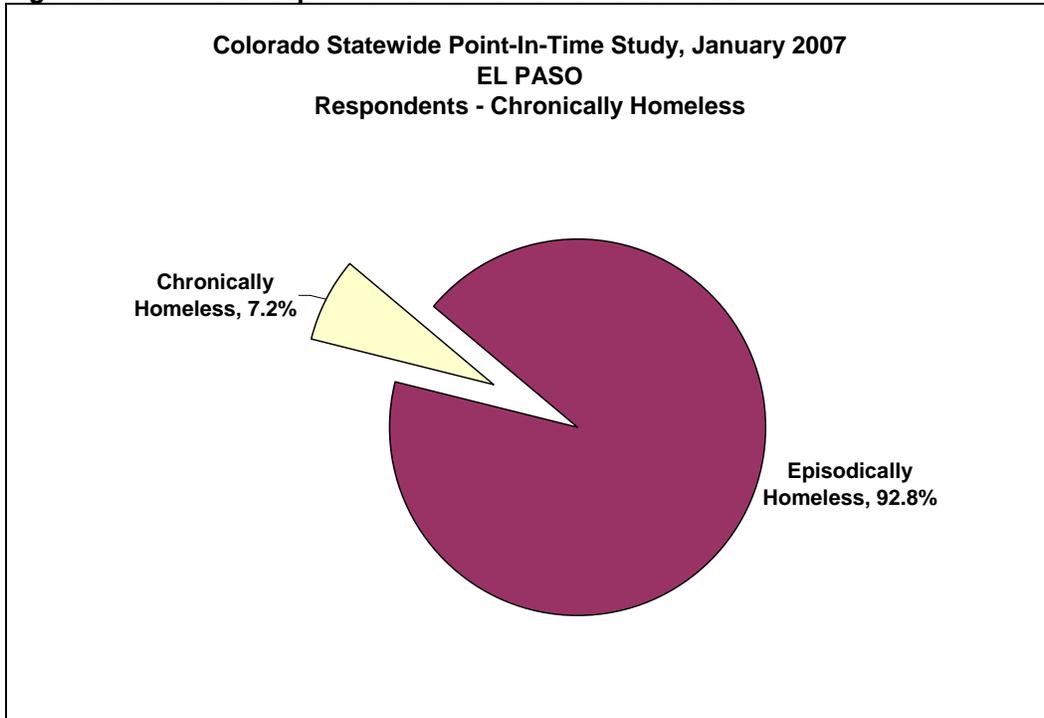
**Figure 66. El Paso/Respondents – Government Benefits**



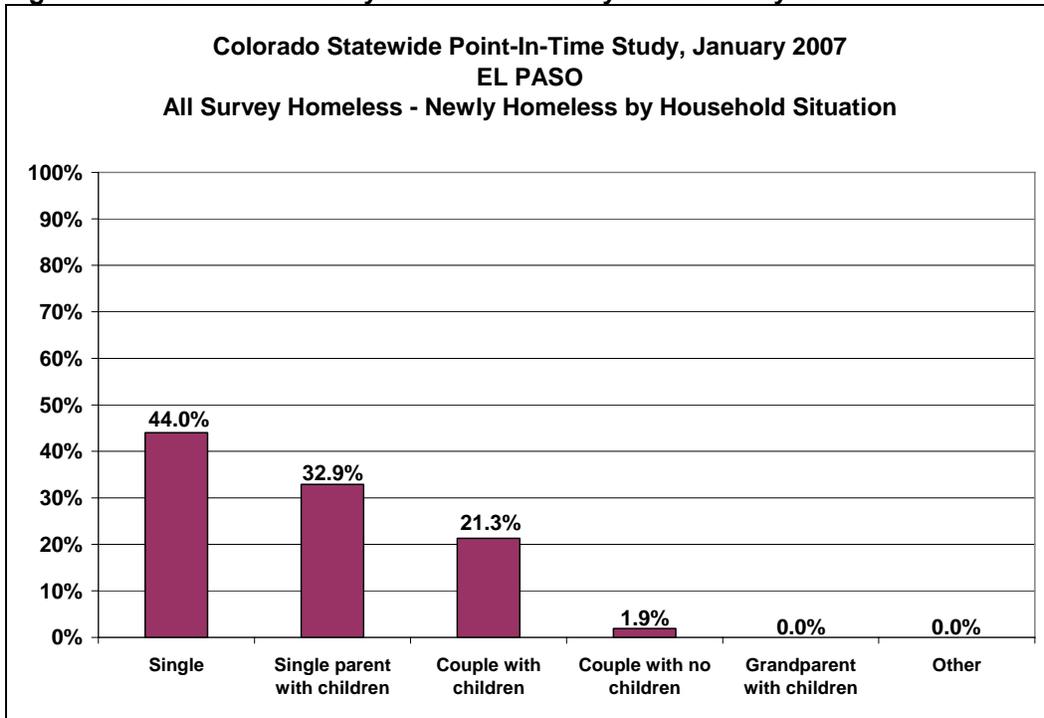
**Figure 67. El Paso/Respondents – Needed Services**



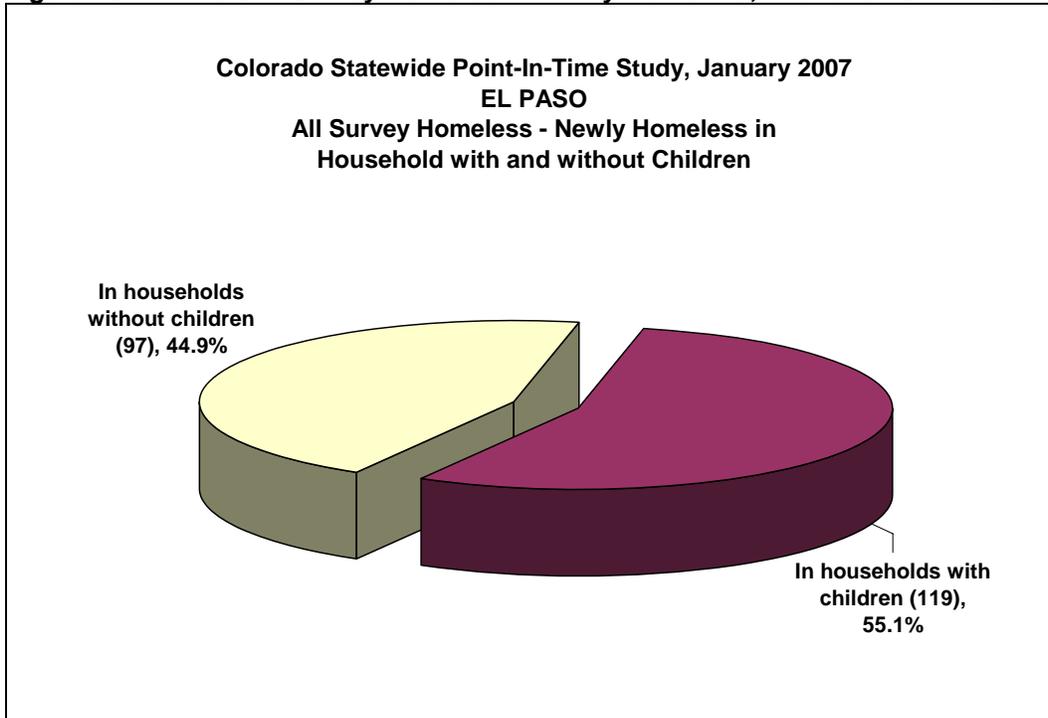
**Figure 68. El Paso/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness**



**Figure 69. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation**



**Figure 70. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless, Households With & Without Children**



## **BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE**

### **Total Homeless with Unsheltered Counts/Estimates:**

<b>Table 7. TOTAL HOMELESS – BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	1,578
Relatives	1,130
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>2,708</b>
<b>UNSHeltered Count<sup>38</sup></b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>1,247</b>
<b>SURVEY ESTIMATE<sup>39</sup></b>	
Additional relatives not fully identified by respondents	<b>308</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,263</b>

### **Survey Data:**

There were 1,578 respondents in the Balance of State Continuum determined to have been homeless on the night of January 29, 2007. Respondents were accompanied by 1,130 family members, for a total of 2,708 persons who were homeless on January 29, 2007.

#### **1. Household Situation**

**Respondents:** A slim majority (56.6%) of respondents identify themselves as single. One in four (25.2%) are single parents with children under 18, and 11 percent (11.0%) are part of a couple with children under 18. Five percent (5.4%) are part of a couple without children younger than 18. Nearly two in five (39.0%) respondents live in households with children under 18.

**All Survey Homeless:** Single parent households account for the largest group of all survey homeless persons, comprising 36.3 percent of all survey homeless. Single individuals comprise one-third (32.8%) of all survey homeless. Nearly one in four (23.1%) homeless persons are part of a couple with children. Almost two-thirds (62.3%) of all survey homeless are in households with children.

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<sup>38</sup> Agencies submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons, that is, unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted. These estimates identify a total of 2,443 homeless persons. Combined with all the surveyed homeless and the number of unsheltered homeless who were counted but not surveyed, an estimated **6,706** people were homeless on January 29, 2007.

<sup>39</sup> A number of respondents who identified themselves as having children or a spouse did not document those family members when completing their survey. The researchers computed an estimate of the number of unidentified relatives based on the average number of identified relatives for each household situation.

## 2. Respondent Characteristics

Respondents: While respondents range in age from 15 to 88, most (79.7%) are adults age 26-64. Seventeen percent (16.6%) are young adults. Seniors (1.8%) and teens age 13-17 (1.9%) each comprise only 2 percent of homeless respondents.

A majority of respondents (56.7%) are male. Single people are three times as likely to be male as female: 76.0 percent compared to 24.0 percent. In contrast, females are much more likely than males to head single-parent families: 85.7 percent versus 14.3 percent.

One in three (29.6%) identify as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino. Including Spanish/Hispanic/Latino as minority, 37.4 percent of respondents are minority.<sup>40</sup>

Fourteen percent (13.8%) had served in the U.S. military. One-fifth (20.0%) reported ever being in foster care or another type of out-of-home placement as a child or youth. Five percent (4.6%) are seasonal resort workers.

## 3. Last Permanent Residence

Respondents: Nearly 25 percent (23.4%) of respondents did not report what county was their last permanent residence. Respondents reported the following five counties most often: Mesa (13.1%); Pueblo (12.2%), Larimer (7.4%); Alamosa (5.3%); Weld (4.3%). Of all respondents, 16 percent reported they were from another state.

## 4. Type of Place

All Survey Homeless: On January 29, 2007, forty percent (39.6%) of all survey homeless people were staying temporarily with family or friends. Nearly one in five (18.3%) were in time-limited transitional housing, and slightly fewer (17.4%) were staying in an emergency shelter. Ten percent (9.8%) were unsheltered.

## 5. Reasons for Homelessness

Respondents: Respondents were asked to indicate “all that apply” from a list of possible reasons for becoming homeless this time. High housing-associated costs were a major reason for homelessness. One in three (30.3%) said they were homeless because housing costs are too high. Seventeen percent (16.7%) said they could not pay their utilities, and 15 percent (14.7%) cited eviction or foreclosure as a reason for their homelessness. More than one-quarter (27.3%) had lost their job or could not find work, and 13 percent (12.5%) said that their wages were too low. One in four (25.7%) said they were homeless this time because of a relationship or family break-up, and 12 percent (12.3%) said they were homeless due to abuse or violence in their home. Fifteen percent said they were homeless because of substance abuse and medical problems (15.1%, 14.4%) and slightly more than one in 10 (11.5%) reported mental illness.

Respondents in households with children are more likely than those in households without children to say that high housing costs, high utility costs, eviction or foreclosure and low wages are reasons for their current spell of homelessness. In addition, nearly three times as many respondents in households with children than without children report abuse/violence in the home as a reason for homelessness: 20.9 percent versus 6.9 percent. Similarly, respondents in

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<sup>40</sup> Since race and ethnicity were asked as separate questions, respondents who identify as Hispanic/Latino also could identify as white. This inflates the proportion of white respondents as compared to minorities.

households with children are more likely to say that family break-up is a reason for their current spell of homelessness. In contrast, a higher percentage of respondents in households without children report substance abuse, mental illness and medical problems. Respondents in households without children also are more likely to say that losing a job or being discharged from jail or prison is a reason for being homeless this time.

## **6. Disabling Conditions**

Respondents: Half of respondents (51.0%) said that they have, or have been told that they have, at least one of the following serious conditions: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS. More than one in four (26.9%) said that alcohol or drug abuse is a problem, and more than one in five have a serious mental illness (21.3%) or a serious medical or physical condition (20.8%).

More than two-thirds (69.4%) of respondents with at least one disability are single, and three-quarters (74.5%) are in households without children.

## **7. Sources of Income/Government Benefits**

Respondents: More than two in five respondents (42.7%) said that they or someone else in their family received money from working in the past month. A majority (55.6%) said that their family is receiving at least one government benefit. More than one-third (38.9%) said that someone in their family is receiving Food Stamps. One-fifth (21.7%) are receiving Medicaid/Medicare, and 14 percent (13.9%) are receiving SSI or SSDI. Six percent (6.4%) said their family is getting TANF.

## **8. Needed Services**

Respondents: Respondents were asked what services they needed in the past month that they were unable to obtain. Nearly three in five respondents (58.9%) said that they needed at least one service that they were not able to get.

Respondents and their families were most in need of housing-related assistance: nearly one in four (23.0%) said they needed help finding Section 8 or other permanent housing, and seventeen percent (17.3%) needed rent or utility assistance. Sixteen percent (16.0%) needed help finding a job, and nearly as many needed transportation/bus passes (14.6%). Approximately 15 percent needed medical (14.6%) and dental care (14.4%). Slightly fewer said they needed food (11.6%).

## **9. Duration and Episodes of Homelessness**

Respondents:

**Duration:** Respondents were asked: "How long have you been without a permanent place to live this time?" Nearly one in four (22.9%) said their current spell of homelessness was less than one month, and half (50.1%) said they had been homeless for more than one month, but less than one year. Ten percent (10.3%) reported that they had been homeless for more than three years.

Respondents in households with children were slightly more likely to have been homeless this time for less than one month. Respondents in households without children were more than three times as likely to have been homeless for more than three years: 14.5 percent versus 3.7 percent.

Male respondents were much more likely than females to have been homeless this time for more than three years: 17.0 percent versus 2.6 percent.

**Episodes:** Two in five respondents (40.2%) said that this was the first time they had been without a permanent place to live in the last three years. One-fifth (22.3%) said this was their second spell of homelessness in the last three years. Nearly one in five (18.9%) said that they had been homeless five or more times in the past three years.

Males were more than twice as likely as females to report that they have had five or more spells of homelessness in the last three years: compare 26.2 percent with 10.5 percent.

Respondents in households without children have had more episodes of homelessness than those in households with children. Nearly half (49.3%) of respondents in households with children said that this was the first time they had been without a permanent place to live in the last three years, while 9 percent (9.4%) had been homeless five or more times during this period. In contrast, respondents in households without children were less likely to say this was the first time they had been homeless in the past three years (34.2%), and one in four (25.2%) reported that they had experienced five or more spells of homelessness during this period.

#### **10. Chronically Homeless Individuals**

Respondents: As of the night of January 29, 2007, one in 10 (10.1%) respondents or 159 individuals were considered chronically homeless. Nearly nine in ten (88.1%) of the chronically homeless are male.

#### **11. Newly Homeless**

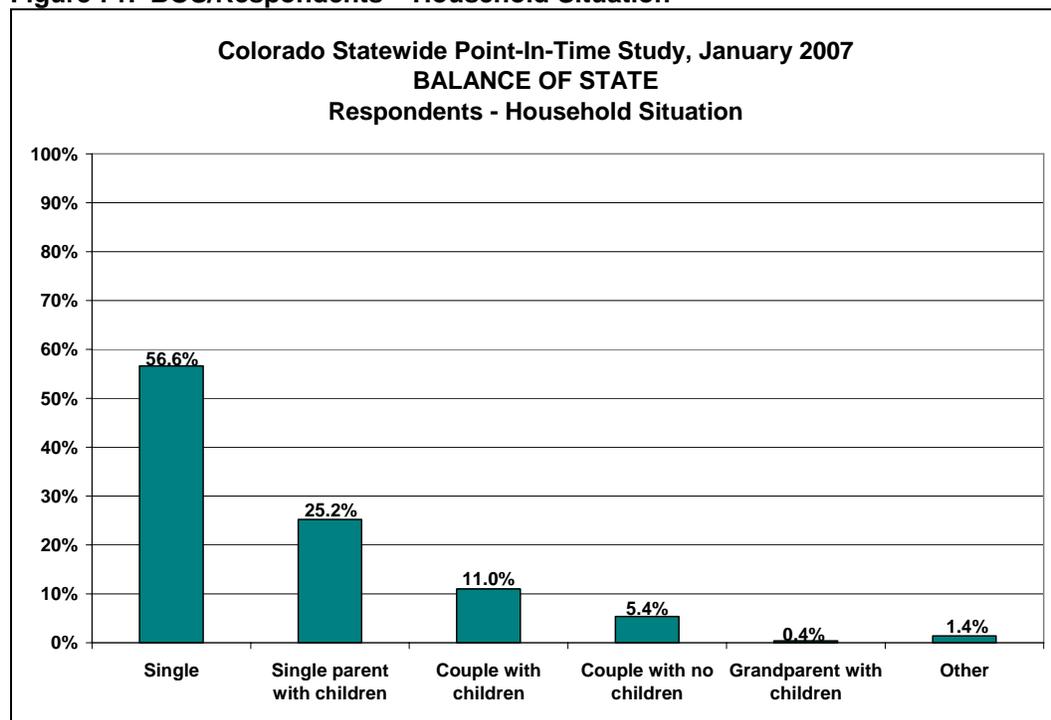
All Survey Homeless: On January 29, 2007, 948 people or more than one in three (35.0%) were considered newly homeless. The largest group of newly homeless persons are single parents with children (44.3%), followed by couples with children (28.4%). Single persons comprise one-fifth (20.6%) of the newly homeless. Fully three-quarters (75.1%) of all newly homeless individuals are in households with children.

#### **12. Unsheltered Homeless**

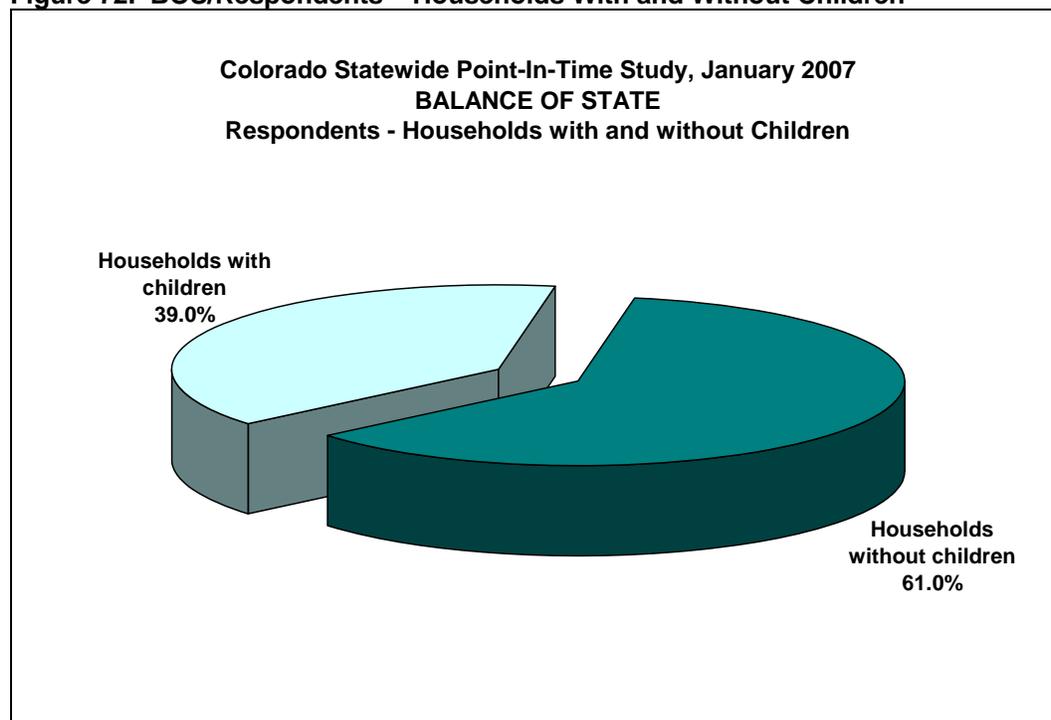
All Survey Homeless: One in ten (9.8%) of all survey homeless persons are unsheltered. One-fifth (20.9%) of all unsheltered homeless are in households with children.

**Balance of State (BOS) Continuum - Figures**

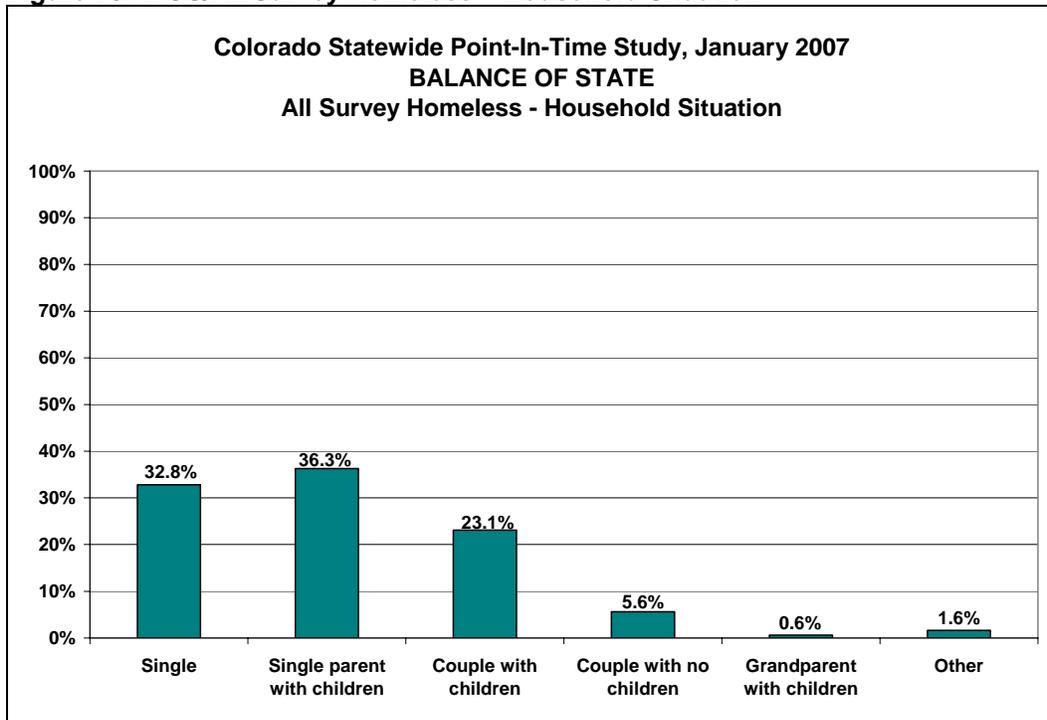
**Figure 71. BOS/Respondents – Household Situation**



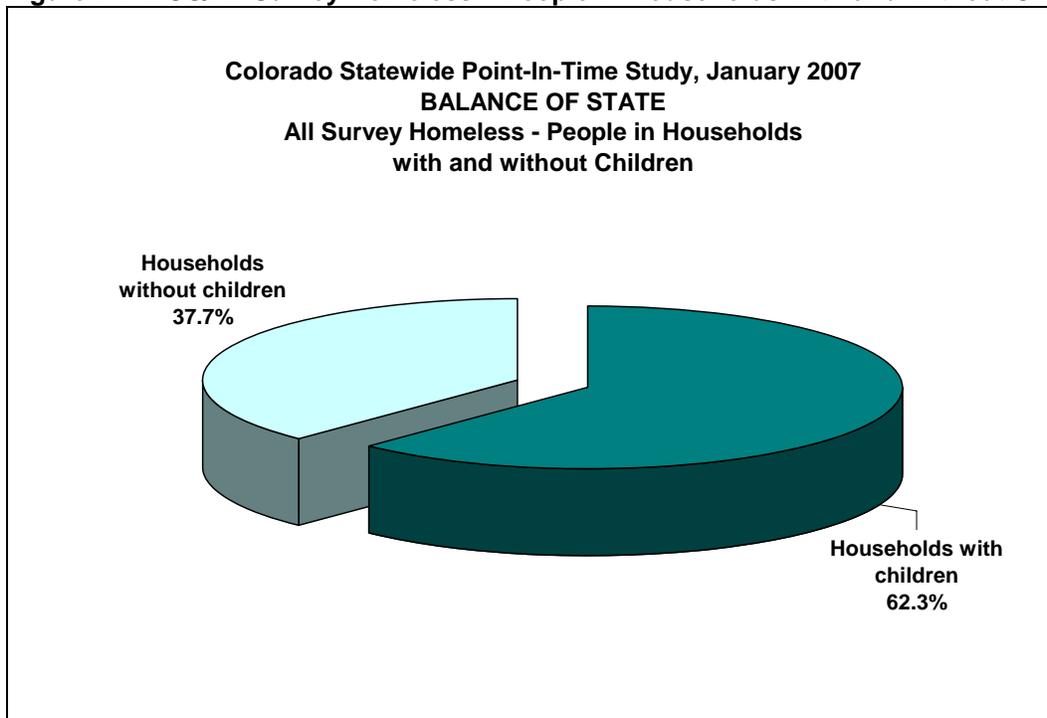
**Figure 72. BOS/Respondents – Households With and Without Children**



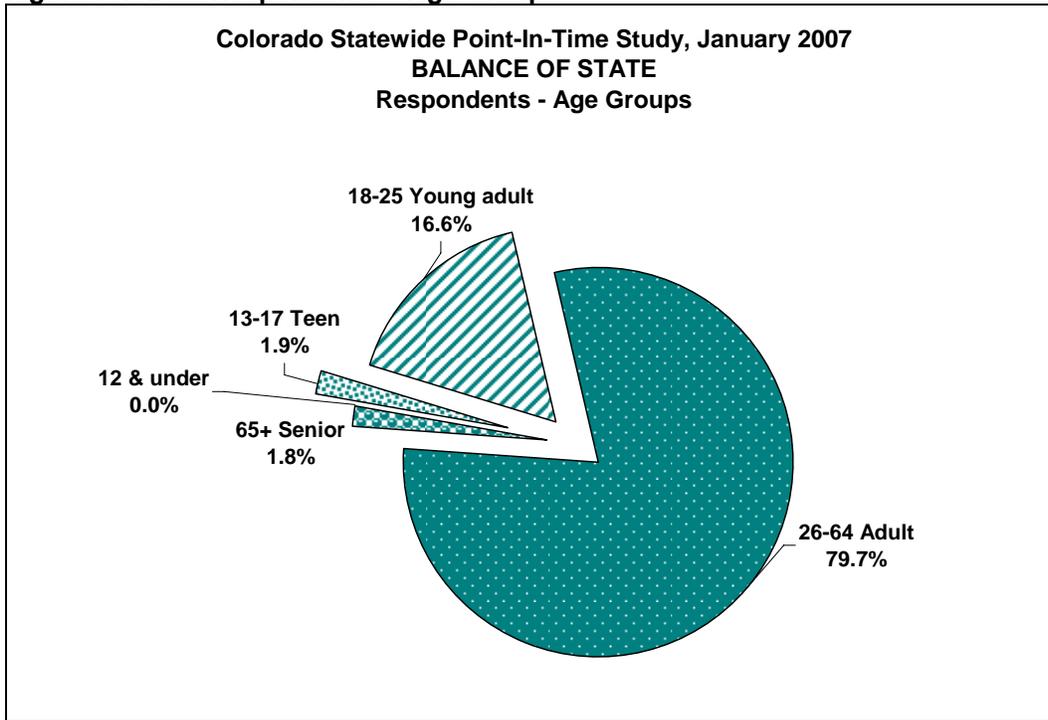
**Figure 73. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Household Situation**



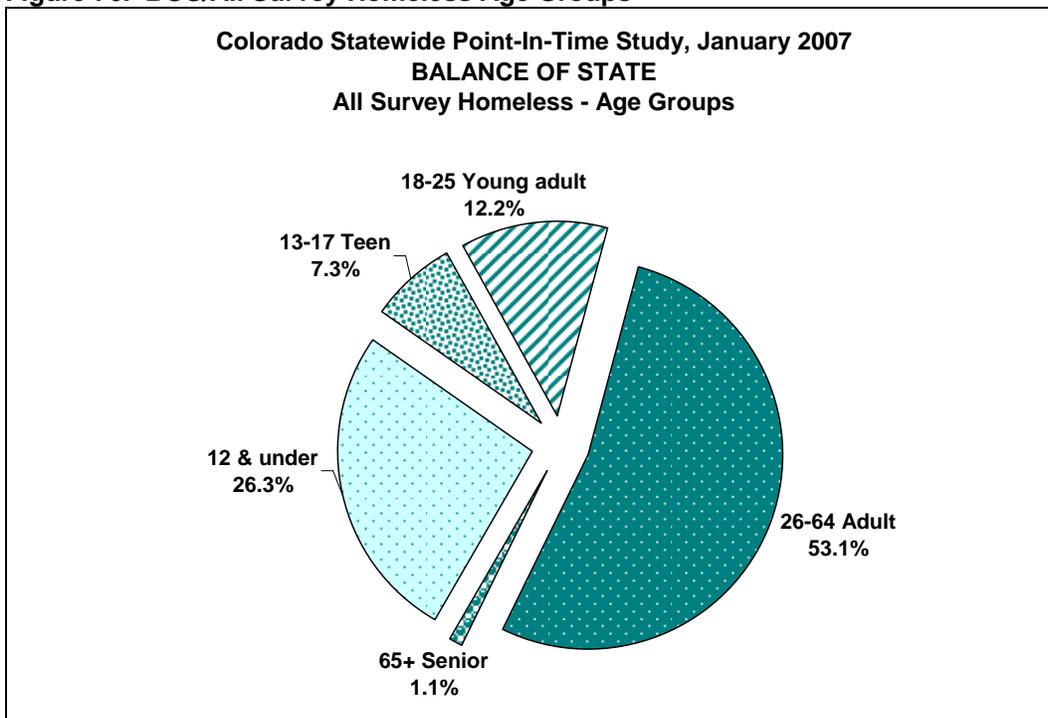
**Figure 74. BOS/All Survey Homeless – People in Households With and Without Children**



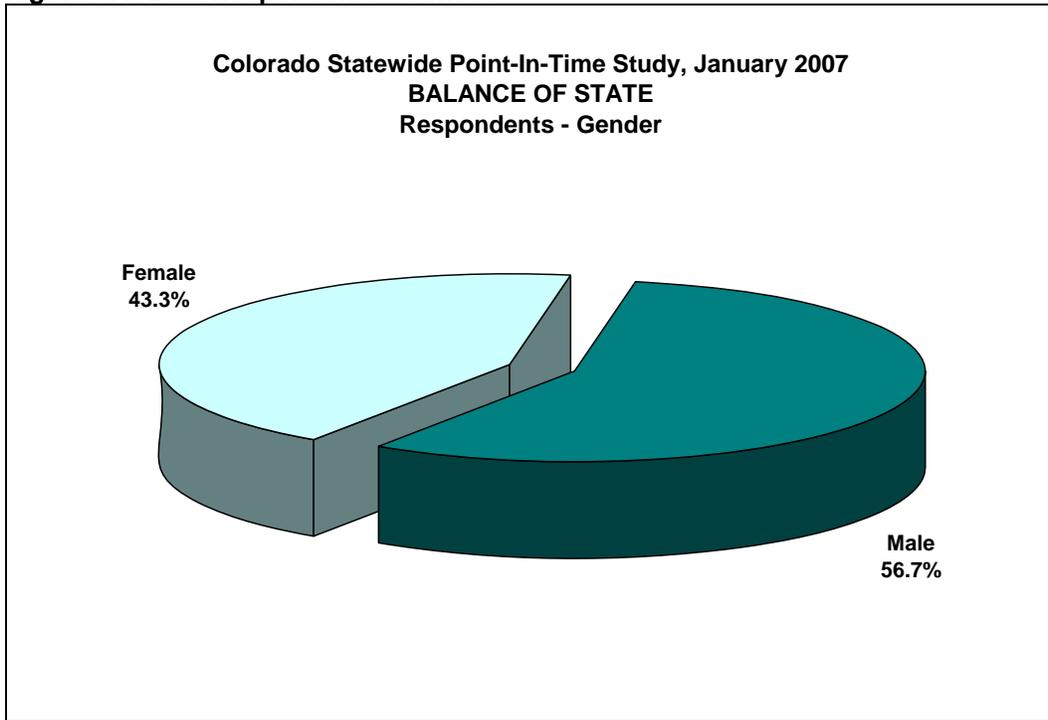
**Figure 75. BOS/Respondents – Age Groups**



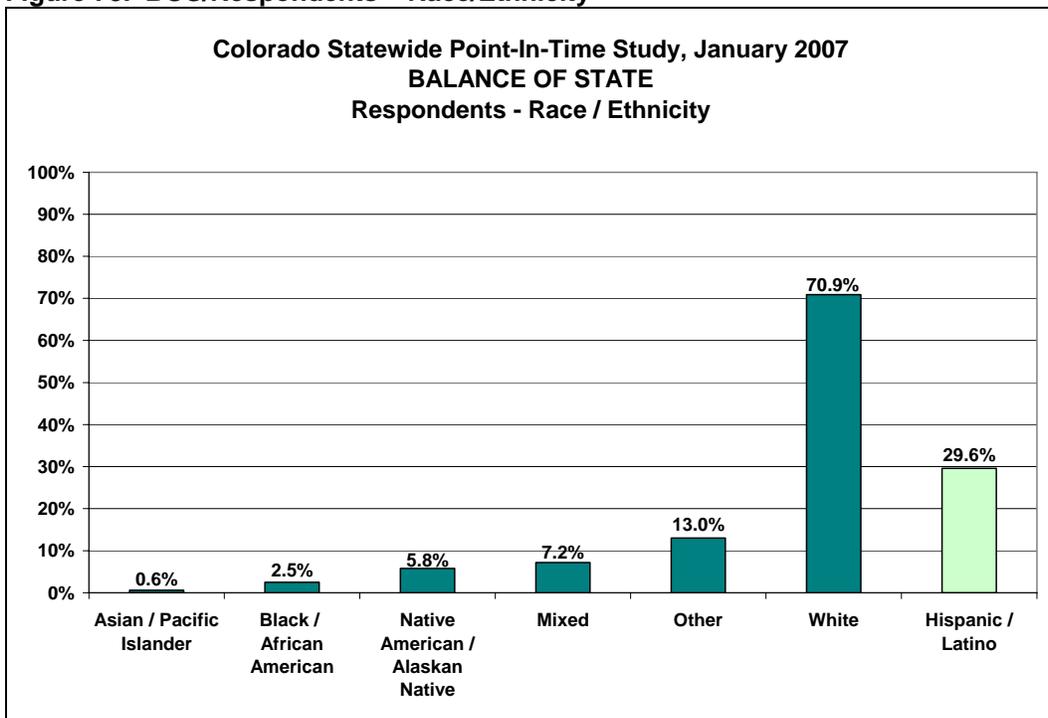
**Figure 76. BOS/All Survey Homeless Age Groups**



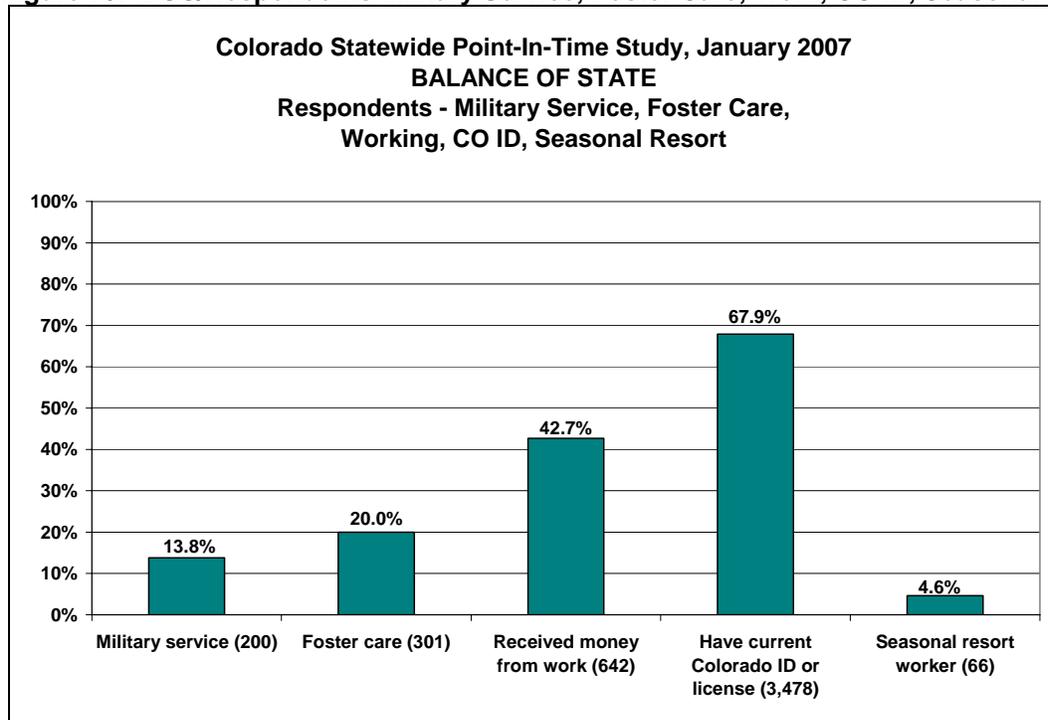
**Figure 77. BOS/Respondents - Gender**



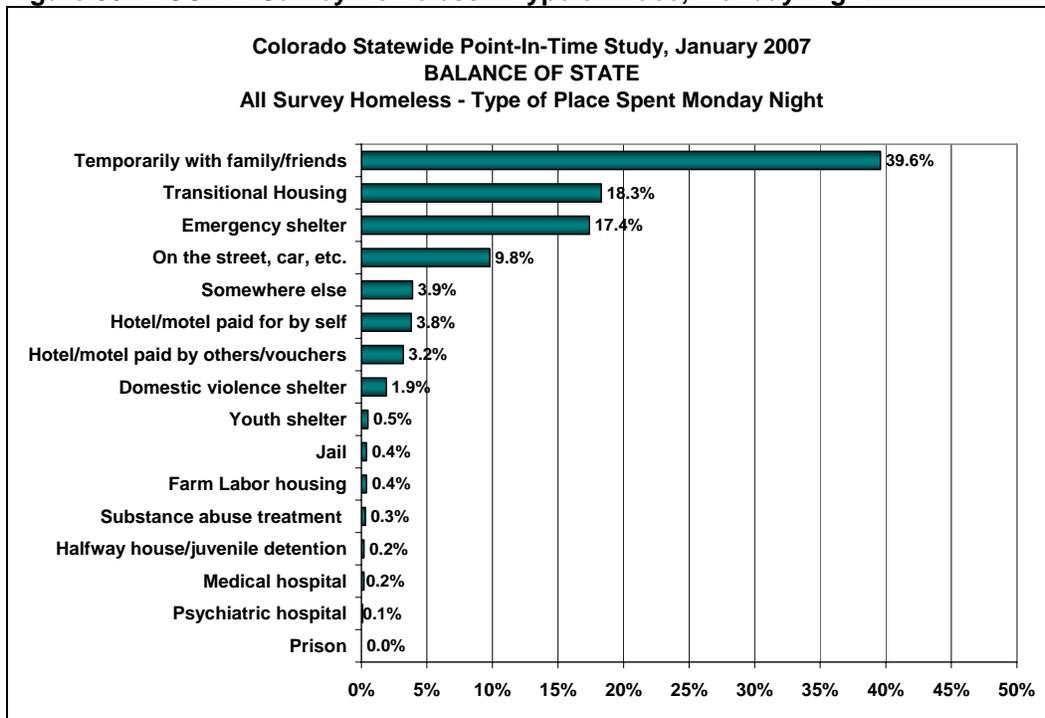
**Figure 78. BOS/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity**



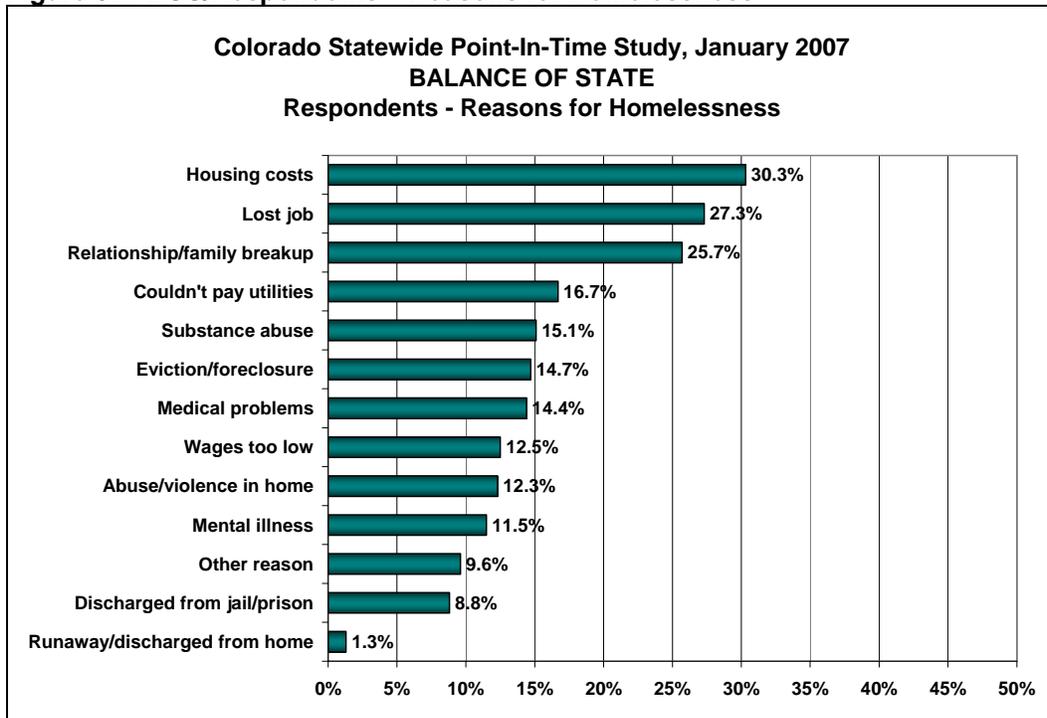
**Figure 79. BOS/Respondents-Military Service, Foster Care, Work, CO ID, Seasonal Resort**



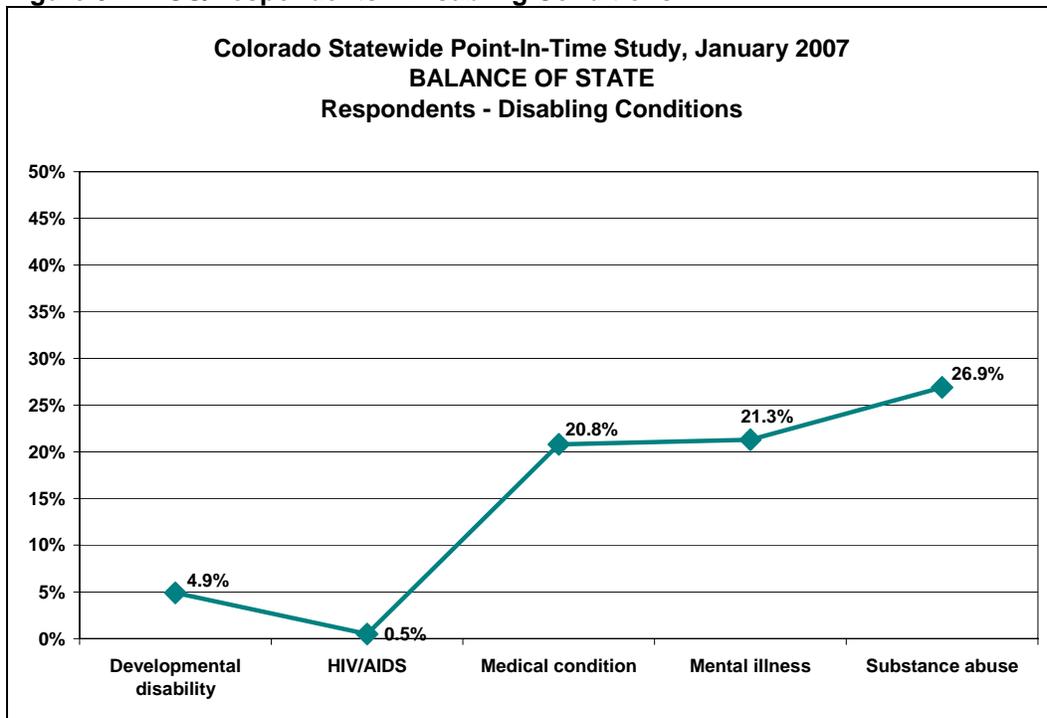
**Figure 80. BOS All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night**



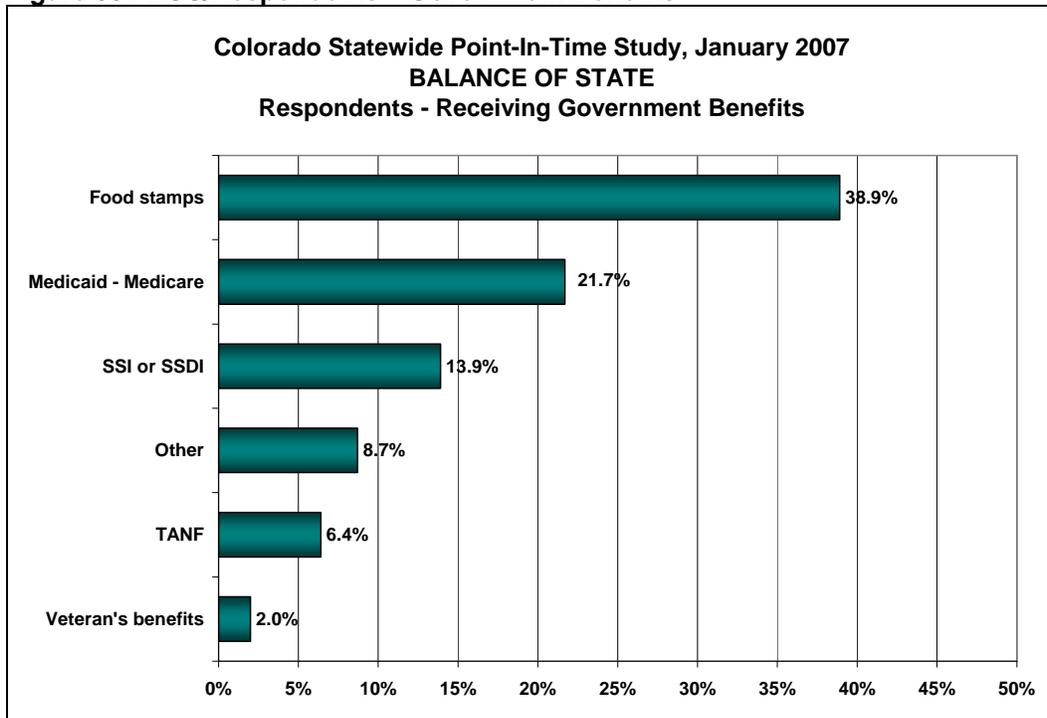
**Figure 81. BOS/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness**



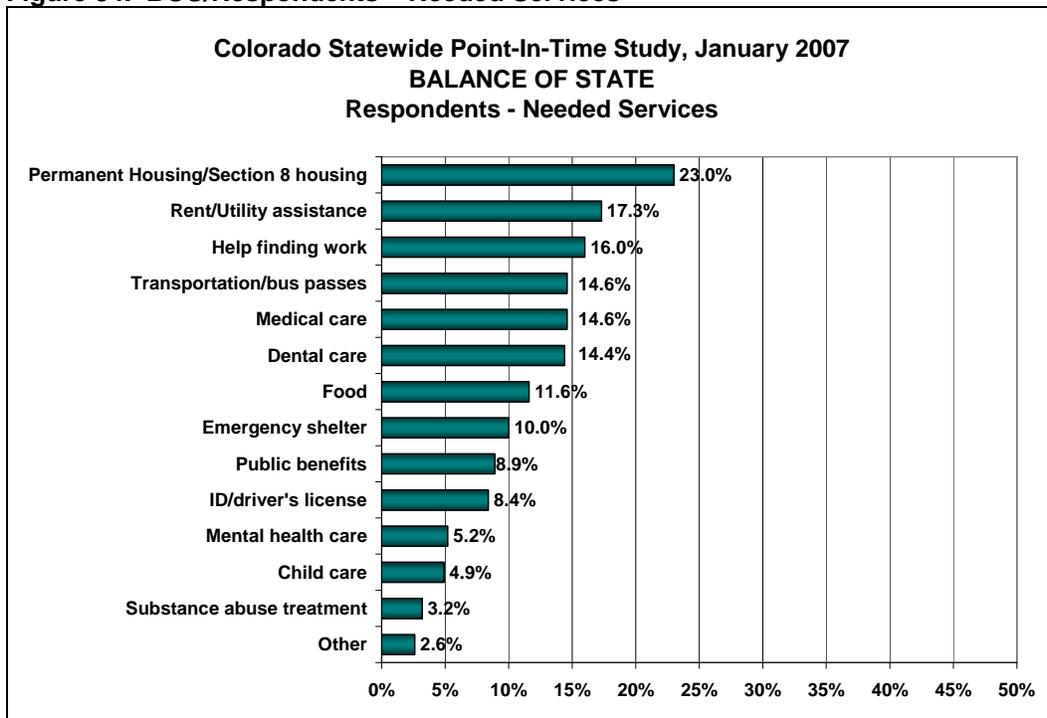
**Figure 82. BOS/Respondents – Disabling Conditions**



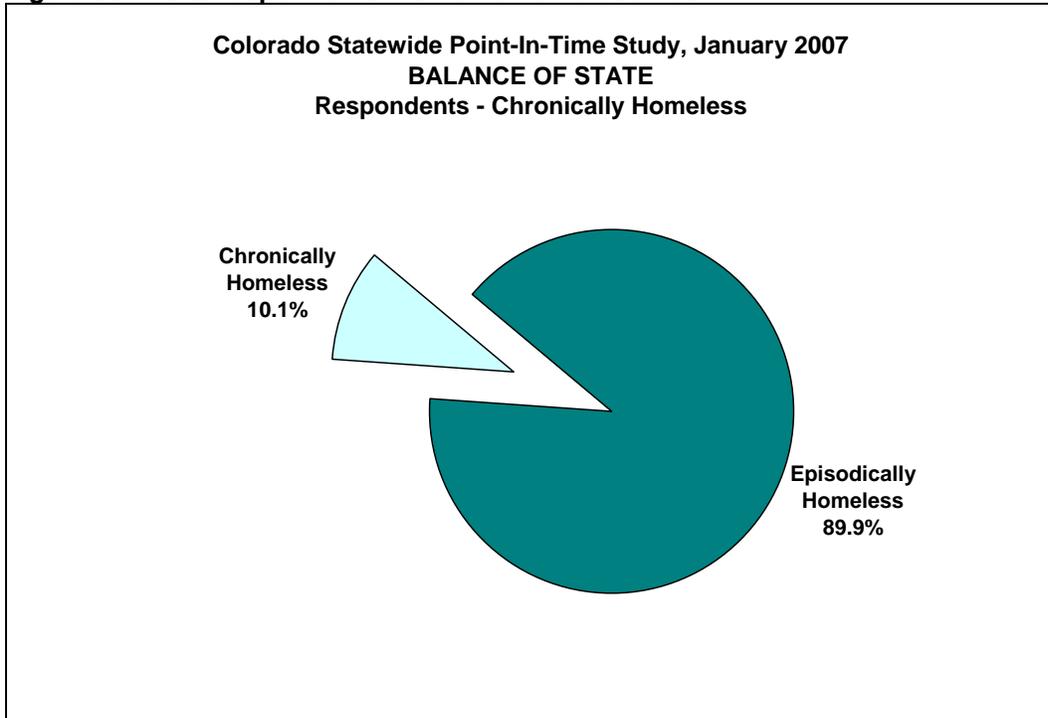
**Figure 83. BOS/Respondents – Government Benefits**



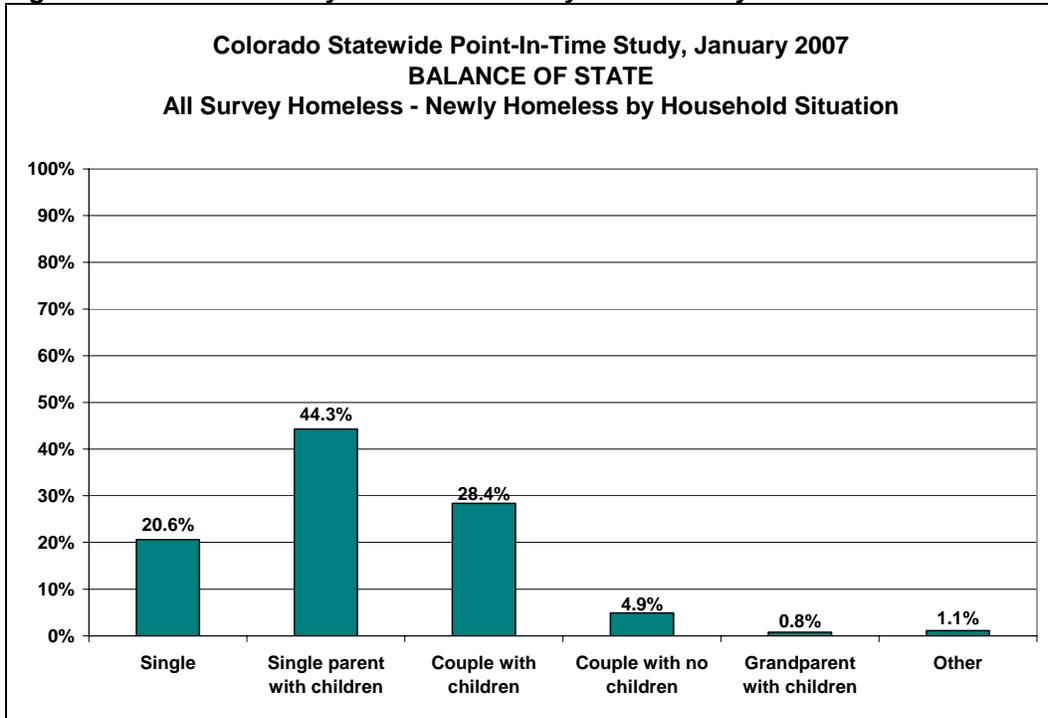
**Figure 84. BOS/Respondents – Needed Services**



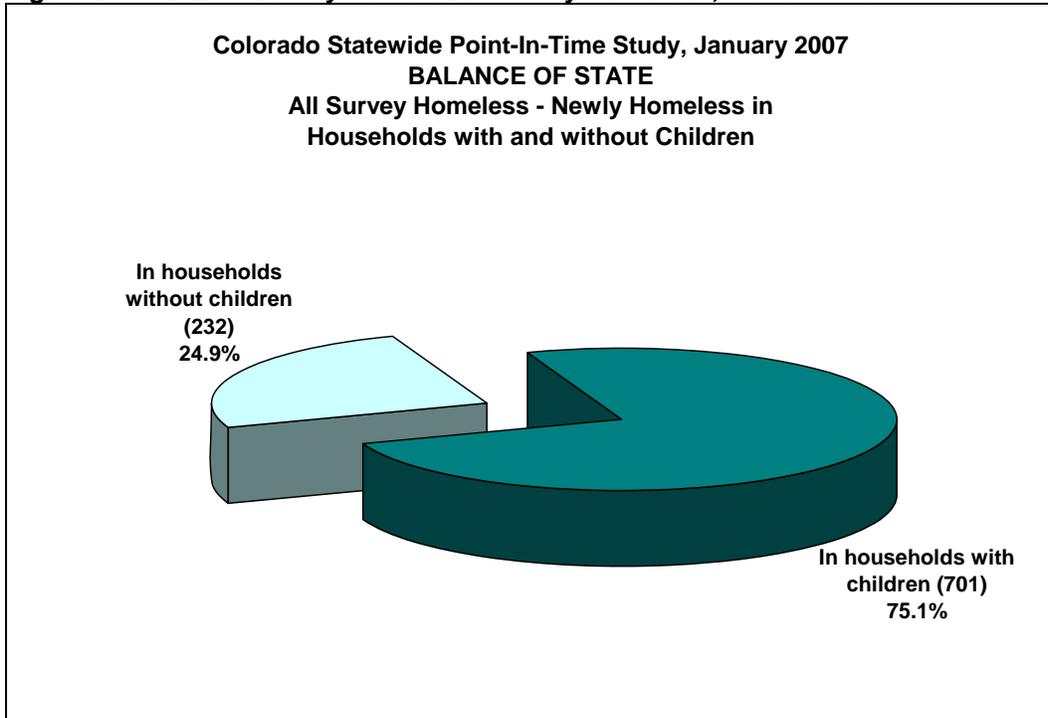
**Figure 85. BOS/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness**



**Figure 86. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation**



**Figure 87. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless, Households With and Without Children**



## PART V. REGIONS

This part reports the total homeless and key survey variables for each region.

For purposes of this study, the Colorado Division of Housing divided the state into nine geographic regions, as indicated in the following table.

Table 8. STATEWIDE HOMELESS COUNT REGIONS AND COUNTIES				
REGION	COUNTY		REGION	COUNTY
<b>Region 1</b>	Delta		<b>Region 6</b>	Cheyenne
	Garfield			El Paso
	Mesa			Elbert
	Moffat			Kiowa
	Pitkin			Kit Carson
	Rio Blanco			Lincoln
	Routt			Teller
<b>Region 2</b>	Clear Creek		<b>Region 7</b>	Archuleta
	Eagle			Dolores
	Gilpin			La Plata
	Grand			Montezuma
	Jackson			Montrose
	Larimer			Ouray
	Summit			San Juan
<b>Region 3</b>	Logan			San Miguel
	Morgan		<b>Region 8</b>	Alamosa
	Phillips			Conejos
	Sedgwick			Costilla
	Washington			Mineral
	Weld			Rio Grande
	Yuma			Saguache
<b>Region 4</b>	Chaffee		<b>Region 9</b>	Baca
	Custer			Bent
	Fremont			Crowley
	Gunnison			Huerfano
	Hinsdale			Las Animas
	Lake			Otero
	Park			Prowers
<b>Region 5</b>	Adams			Pueblo
	Arapahoe			
	Boulder			
	Broomfield			
	Denver			
	Douglas			
	Jefferson			

### **TOTAL HOMELESS PERSONS FOR EACH REGION**

Tables 9 through 17 describe the number of total homeless persons for each region.<sup>41</sup> Agencies submitted estimates of unsheltered homeless persons. These estimates are given for each region after the table.

<b>Table 9. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 1</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	413
Relatives	351
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>764</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>141</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 1</b>	<b>905</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 175)

<b>Table 10. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 2</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	193
Relatives	84
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>192</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 2</b>	<b>469</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 2,209)

<sup>41</sup> The Regional Tables do not include aggregate domestic violence data or number of additional relatives not fully documented by respondents. These numbers are given statewide in *Table 1 Total Homeless – Statewide*.

<b>Table 11. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 3</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	166
Relatives	188
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 3</b>	<b>354</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 3)

<b>Table 12. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 4</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	92
Relatives	28
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>17</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 4</b>	<b>137</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 19)

<b>Table 13. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 5</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	4,969
Relatives	3,513
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>8,482</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>315</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 5</b>	<b>8797</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 990)

<b>Table 14. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 6</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	622
Relatives	233
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>855</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>88</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS - REGION 6</b>	<b>943</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 32)

<b>Table 15. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 7</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	219
Relatives	205
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>170</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 7</b>	<b>594</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 25)

<b>Table 16. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 8</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	145
Relatives	119
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>UNSHELTERED COUNTS/ESTIMATE</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>28</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 8</b>	<b>292</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 10)

<b>Table 17. TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 9</b>	
<b>SURVEY DATA</b>	
Respondents	311
Relatives	137
<b>Total Survey Data: All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>448</b>
<b>UNSHelterED COUNT</b>	
Count – Unsheltered	<b>671</b>
<b>TOTAL HOMELESS – REGION 9</b>	<b>1,119</b>

(Estimated number of unsheltered homeless, that is, of unsheltered individuals and families who were known to be homeless but were in locations where they could not be counted = 2)

### **KEY SURVEY VARIABLES FOR EACH REGION**

Tables 18 through 26 describe key survey variables for each region.

<b>Table 18: Region Respondents - Race and Ethnicity – Winter 2007</b>												
	<b>Asian/ Pacific Islander</b>		<b>Native American/ Alaska Native</b>		<b>Black/ African American</b>		<b>White</b>		<b>Mixed race</b>		<b>Hispanic/ Latino</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	2	0.5	15	4.1	6	1.6	291	79.9	28	7.7	64	16.8
<b>Region 2</b>	0	0.0	10	6.4	3	1.9	112	71.8	9	5.8	35	21.9
<b>Region 3</b>	0	0.0	3	2.1	8	5.7	115	81.6	4	2.8	64	42.1
<b>Region 4</b>	0	0.0	1	1.5	3	4.5	56	83.6	2	3.0	5	7.7
<b>Region 5</b>	55	1.3	270	6.2	825	18.9	2374	54.5	361	8.3	1195	25.3
<b>Region 6</b>	9	1.5	28	4.7	70	11.8	420	70.9	27	4.6	61	10.5
<b>Region 7</b>	2	1.0	34	16.8	2	1.0	127	62.9	18	8.9	39	19.0
<b>Region 8</b>	1	0.7	6	4.2	2	1.4	68	47.2	18	12.5	93	64.1
<b>Region 9</b>	2	0.7	10	3.6	10	3.6	183	66.5	19	6.9	124	42.5

Table 19: Region Respondents - Household Situation – Winter 2007												
	Single		Single parent w/ child		Part of a couple with child		Part of a couple without child		Grandparent with child		Another situation	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	210	0.5	119	29.7	41	10.2	18	4.5	1	0.2	12	2.9
<b>Region 2</b>	112	60.9	39	21.2	22	12.0	8	4.3	1	0.5	2	1.1
<b>Region 3</b>	65	41.1	58	36.7	24	15.2	8	5.1	0	0.0	3	1.8
<b>Region 4</b>	45	68.2	14	21.2	4	6.1	3	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Region 5</b>	2608	56.7	1204	26.2	455	9.9	272	5.9	19	0.4	45	0.9
<b>Region 6</b>	444	75.1	84	14.2	40	6.8	21	3.6	0	0.0	2	0.3
<b>Region 7</b>	105	49.5	59	27.8	28	13.2	15	7.1	1	0.5	4	1.9
<b>Region 8</b>	79	54.9	29	20.1	26	18.1	7	4.9	3	2.1	0	0.0
<b>Region 9</b>	210	69.3	56	18.5	16	5.3	21	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 20: Region Respondents - Working, Chronically Homeless and Disabling Conditions – Winter 2007 <sup>42</sup>														
	Received money from working		Chronically Homeless		Serious Mental Illness		Serious medical or physical condition		Alcohol or drug abuse		Developmental disability		HIV/ AIDS	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	196	0.5	48	0.1	71	0.2	86	0.2	98	0.2	18	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Region 2</b>	86	47.5	33	17.1	60	31.1	52	26.9	54	28.0	8	4.1	1	0.5
<b>Region 3</b>	63	38.7	1	0.6	28	16.9	12	7.2	28	16.9	8	4.8	1	0.6
<b>Region 4</b>	24	36.4	9	9.8	15	16.3	21	22.8	21	22.8	7	7.6	0	0.0
<b>Region 5</b>	1957	42.2	412	8.3	1047	21.1	873	17.6	1331	26.8	222	4.5	125	2.5
<b>Region 6</b>	250	43.3	42	6.8	165	26.5	152	24.4	229	36.8	27	4.3	10	1.6
<b>Region 7</b>	96	44.9	26	11.9	51	23.3	44	20.1	85	38.8	11	5.0	2	0.9
<b>Region 8</b>	68	48.6	9	6.2	31	21.4	28	19.3	44	30.3	9	6.2	0	0.0
<b>Region 9</b>	87	28.9	33	10.6	67	21.5	74	23.8	76	24.4	12	3.9	3	1.0

<sup>42</sup> The following data are the percentage of respondents, by region, that reported having at least one serious, disabling condition.

Region 1: 47.2%	Region 4: 52.2%	Region 7: 60.3%
Region 2: 54.4%	Region 5: 50.9%	Region 8: 53.1%
Region 3: 31.9%	Region 6: 64.1%	Region 9: 53.7%

<b>Table 21: Region Respondents - Receipt of Government Benefits – Winter 2007</b>												
	<b>SSI / SSDI</b>		<b>TANF</b>		<b>Food Stamps</b>		<b>VA Pension / Benefits</b>		<b>Medicaid / Medicare</b>		<b>Other benefit</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	53	0.1	26	0.1	143	0.3	12	0.0	88	0.2	45	0.1
<b>Region 2</b>	28	14.5	11	5.7	76	39.4	2	1.0	49	25.4	14	7.3
<b>Region 3</b>	26	15.7	8	4.8	65	39.2	0	0.0	46	27.7	5	3.0
<b>Region 4</b>	11	12.0	5	5.4	33	35.9	1	1.1	14	15.2	13	14.1
<b>Region 5</b>	648	13.0	343	6.9	1315	26.5	111	2.2	885	17.8	272	5.5
<b>Region 6</b>	74	11.9	24	3.9	195	31.4	12	1.9	74	11.9	32	5.1
<b>Region 7</b>	26	11.9	28	12.8	96	43.8	3	1.4	60	27.4	15	6.8
<b>Region 8</b>	30	20.7	7	4.8	66	45.5	6	4.1	32	22.1	13	9.0
<b>Region 9</b>	39	12.5	14	4.5	121	38.9	8	2.6	45	14.5	31	10.0

**Table 22: Region Respondents - Reasons for Homelessness – Winter 2007**

	Lost job		Wages too low		Relationship / family breakup		Abuse or violence in home		Runaway / throwaway		Discharged from prison	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	74	17.9	62	15.0	108	26.2	50	12.1	4	1.0	27	6.5
<b>Region 2</b>	58	30.1	31	16.1	39	20.2	32	16.6	1	0.5	22	11.4
<b>Region 3</b>	34	20.5	15	9.0	34	20.5	32	19.3	2	1.2	7	4.2
<b>Region 4</b>	28	30.4	8	8.7	15	16.3	3	3.3	2	2.2	6	6.5
<b>Region 5</b>	1368	27.5	628	12.6	906	18.2	467	9.4	137	2.8	555	11.2
<b>Region 6</b>	183	29.4	59	9.5	109	17.5	38	6.1	12	1.9	69	11.1
<b>Region 7</b>	55	25.1	21	9.6	64	29.2	31	14.2	5	2.3	12	5.5
<b>Region 8</b>	43	29.7	36	24.8	37	25.5	15	10.3	3	2.1	19	13.1
<b>Region 9</b>	127	40.8	20	6.4	93	29.9	27	8.7	3	1.0	44	14.1
	Medical problems		Eviction or foreclosure		Housing costs		Couldn't pay utilities		Substance abuse		Mental illness / emotional problems	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	68	16.5	53	12.8	120	29.1	57	13.8	63	15.3	39	9.4
<b>Region 2</b>	31	16.1	30	15.5	65	33.7	35	18.1	25	13.0	34	17.6
<b>Region 3</b>	17	10.2	26	15.7	65	39.2	28	16.9	12	7.2	16	9.6
<b>Region 4</b>	9	9.8	12	13.0	26	28.3	13	14.1	9	9.8	8	8.7
<b>Region 5</b>	535	10.8	562	11.3	1102	22.2	442	8.9	730	14.7	590	11.9
<b>Region 6</b>	76	12.2	85	13.7	116	18.6	78	12.5	141	22.7	68	10.9
<b>Region 7</b>	28	12.8	32	14.6	77	35.2	51	23.3	42	19.2	22	10.0
<b>Region 8</b>	17	11.7	23	15.9	41	28.3	29	20.0	27	18.6	16	11.0
<b>Region 9</b>	49	15.8	45	14.5	62	19.9	32	10.3	52	16.7	38	12.2
	Other reason											
	Count	%										
<b>Region 1</b>	44	10.7										
<b>Region 2</b>	10	5.2										
<b>Region 3</b>	15	9.0										
<b>Region 4</b>	6	6.5										
<b>Region 5</b>	422	8.5										
<b>Region 6</b>	57	9.2										
<b>Region 7</b>	28	12.8										
<b>Region 8</b>	18	12.4										
<b>Region 9</b>	25	8.0										

**Table 23: Region Respondents - Services Needed – Winter 2007**

	Finding a job		Finding Section 8 housing		Emergency shelter		Food		Rent/ Utility Assistance		Transportation / Bus passes	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	27	6.5	64	15.5	38	9.2	32	7.7	26	6.3	51	12.3
<b>Region 2</b>	36	18.7	51	26.4	25	13.0	36	18.7	44	22.8	46	23.8
<b>Region 3</b>	35	21.1	52	31.3	10	6.0	16	9.6	42	25.3	25	15.1
<b>Region 4</b>	8	8.7	6	6.5	9	9.8	7	7.6	12	13.0	10	10.9
<b>Region 5</b>	1020	20.5	1278	25.7	522	10.5	741	14.9	812	16.3	913	18.4
<b>Region 6</b>	117	18.8	103	16.6	66	10.6	96	15.4	110	17.7	126	20.3
<b>Region 7</b>	55	25.1	59	26.9	38	17.4	42	19.2	57	26.0	40	18.3
<b>Region 8</b>	40	27.6	51	35.2	10	6.9	11	7.6	42	29.0	28	19.3
<b>Region 9</b>	45	14.5	70	22.5	22	7.1	32	10.3	38	12.2	25	8.0
	Medical care		Dental care		Mental health care		Substance Abuse treatment		ID/ driver's license		Public benefits	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	49	11.9	57	13.8	13	3.1	6	1.5	40	9.7	19	4.6
<b>Region 2</b>	38	19.7	43	22.3	16	8.3	12	6.2	18	9.3	24	12.4
<b>Region 3</b>	26	15.7	20	12.0	6	3.6	7	4.2	12	7.2	13	7.8
<b>Region 4</b>	11	12.0	12	13.0	4	4.3	2	2.2	3	3.3	2	2.2
<b>Region 5</b>	742	14.9	803	16.2	376	7.6	315	6.3	497	10.0	586	11.8
<b>Region 6</b>	102	16.4	136	21.9	61	9.8	39	6.3	84	13.5	70	11.3
<b>Region 7</b>	46	21.0	40	18.3	23	10.5	9	4.1	24	11.0	34	15.5
<b>Region 8</b>	24	16.6	21	14.5	10	6.9	9	6.2	17	11.7	27	18.6
<b>Region 9</b>	28	9.0	28	9.0	6	1.9	2	0.6	13	4.2	21	6.8
	Child care		Other service									
	Count	%	Count	%								
<b>Region 1</b>	9	2.2	13	3.1								
<b>Region 2</b>	17	8.8	6	3.1								
<b>Region 3</b>	3	1.8	2	1.2								
<b>Region 4</b>	0	0.0	2	2.2								
<b>Region 5</b>	229	4.6	145	2.9								
<b>Region 6</b>	17	2.7	14	2.3								
<b>Region 7</b>	20	9.1	11	5.0								
<b>Region 8</b>	15	10.3	4	2.8								
<b>Region 9</b>	8	2.6	3	1.0								

Table 24: Region All Survey Homeless - Households with Children, Newly Homeless and Unsheltered Homeless – Winter 2007								
	Households with children		Households without children		Newly homeless		Unsheltered homeless	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	510	67.7	243	32.3	296	38.7	72	9.5
<b>Region 2</b>	139	52.3	127	47.7	55	19.9	26	9.5
<b>Region 3</b>	267	77.4	78	22.6	188	53.1	13	3.8
<b>Region 4</b>	45	47.9	49	52.1	20	16.7	12	10.0
<b>Region 5</b>	4887	60.6	3180	39.4	2765	32.6	443	5.4
<b>Region 6</b>	335	40.9	484	59.1	228	26.7	101	12.0
<b>Region 7</b>	289	69.1	129	30.9	136	32.1	36	8.5
<b>Region 8</b>	172	65.4	91	34.6	92	34.8	17	6.4
<b>Region 9</b>	190	43.2	250	56.8	153	34.2	85	19.1

Table 25: Region All Survey Homeless - Household Situation – Winter 2007												
	Single		Single parent w/ child		Part of a couple with child		Part of a couple without child		Grandparent with child		Another situation	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Region 1</b>	214	28.5	322	42.8	152	20.2	37	4.9	2	0.3	25	3.4
<b>Region 2</b>	113	42.5	64	24.1	67	25.2	15	5.6	2	0.8	5	1.9
<b>Region 3</b>	65	18.8	167	48.4	93	27.0	14	4.1	0	0.0	6	1.8
<b>Region 4</b>	45	47.9	31	33.0	14	14.9	4	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Region 5</b>	2735	34.0	3057	38.0	1614	20.0	492	6.1	55	0.7	100	1.3
<b>Region 6</b>	448	54.7	199	24.3	127	15.5	42	5.1	0	0.0	3	0.4
<b>Region 7</b>	107	25.8	161	38.8	112	27.0	26	6.3	4	1.0	5	1.2
<b>Region 8</b>	80	30.4	73	27.8	90	34.2	11	4.2	9	3.4	0	0.0
<b>Region 9</b>	211	48.0	128	29.1	62	14.1	39	8.9	0	0.0	0	0.0

<b>Table 26: Region All Survey Homeless - Type of Place, Monday Night – Winter 2007</b>												
	<b>Emergency shelter</b>		<b>Domestic violence shelter</b>		<b>On the street</b>		<b>Hotel/ motel paid by self</b>		<b>Hotel/ motel paid by others</b>		<b>Youth shelter</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	109	14.4	14	1.8	72	9.5	45	5.9	30	4.0	11	1.4
<b>Region 2</b>	67	24.5	5	1.8	26	9.5	8	2.9	6	2.2	2	0.7
<b>Region 3</b>	84	24.5	1	0.3	13	3.8	6	1.7	17	5.0	1	0.3
<b>Region 4</b>	24	20.0	4	3.3	12	10.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Region 5</b>	1695	20.6	123	1.5	443	5.4	501	6.1	344	4.2	39	0.5
<b>Region 6</b>	185	22.0	5	0.6	101	12.0	38	4.5	18	2.1	12	1.4
<b>Region 7</b>	48	11.4	11	2.6	36	8.5	21	5.0	18	4.3	0	0.0
<b>Region 8</b>	35	13.3	3	1.1	17	6.4	10	3.8	4	1.5	0	0.0
<b>Region 9</b>	99	22.2	12	2.7	85	19.1	7	1.6	9	2.0	0	0.0
	<b>Temporarily with family/ friends</b>		<b>Farm labor camp or dorm</b>		<b>Psychiatric hospital</b>		<b>Medical hospital</b>		<b>Substance abuse treatment</b>		<b>Jail</b>	
	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	213	28.1	1	0.1	0	0.0	4	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.1
<b>Region 2</b>	109	39.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.5	0	0.0
<b>Region 3</b>	144	42.0	0	0.0	2	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6
<b>Region 4</b>	41	34.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Region 5</b>	1812	22.0	2	0.0	27	0.3	19	0.2	209	2.5	52	0.6
<b>Region 6</b>	113	13.4	1	0.1	9	1.1	4	0.5	12	1.4	0	0.0
<b>Region 7</b>	201	47.6	10	2.4	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.5	0	0.0
<b>Region 8</b>	153	58.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	6	2.3
<b>Region 9</b>	165	37.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	3	0.7
	<b>Prison</b>		<b>Juvenile detention</b>		<b>Transitional housing</b>		<b>Somewhere else</b>					
	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>				
<b>Region 1</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	235	31.0	24	3.2				
<b>Region 2</b>	0	0.0	1	0.4	32	11.7	14	5.1				
<b>Region 3</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	58	16.9	15	4.4				
<b>Region 4</b>	1	0.8	0	0.0	32	26.7	5	4.2				
<b>Region 5</b>	5	0.1	108	1.3	2436	29.6	403	4.9				
<b>Region 6</b>	0	0.0	1	0.1	307	36.5	35	4.2				
<b>Region 7</b>	0	0.0	1	0.2	59	14.0	14	3.3				
<b>Region 8</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	34	12.9	1	0.4				
<b>Region 9</b>	0	0.0	4	0.9	42	9.4	18	4.0				

## PART VI. SUMMARY

### ***SURVEYS TYPICALLY UNDERCOUNT THE HOMELESS***

- In Colorado, on a winter night in January 2007, an estimated 15,394 people were homeless, many of them children aged twelve years and younger. As disturbing as this number is, we know it is conservative.

The one consistent finding in all the research on homelessness is that surveys undercount the homeless. It is particularly difficult to count those homeless who are unsheltered.<sup>43</sup> The total number of homeless individuals fluctuates over time. People who are homeless typically move in and out of homelessness as conditions in their life change. Data collected during one day of the year only represents a snapshot of homelessness on that day.

### ***MANY OF COLORADO'S HOMELESS ARE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES***

- ***Children and teens*** comprised nearly one-third of Colorado's homeless in the *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, January 2007*.
- Three in five (59.6%) of all homeless persons were part of a ***household with children***.
- Of those people who were ***unsheltered***, one in five were in households with children.

There were dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children spent the night of Colorado's homeless count. Many more families with children stayed in transitional housing or temporarily with family or friends while looking for permanent housing than did people in households without children. Single individuals and couples without children more often stayed in emergency shelters or slept on the street.

### ***INCREASE IN NEWLY HOMELESS***

- One-third (32.8%) of all survey homeless persons were considered newly homeless, a substantial increase from summer 2006 (23.5%)
- Most ***newly homeless*** households were comprised of women and children

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<sup>43</sup> For example, "Number of Homeless Ohioans," Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, 8/27/02; "Report on Homelessness in North Dakota, March 2005" (p. 15); S.J. Farrell and E.D. Reissing, "Picking Up the Challenge: Developing a Methodology to Enumerate and Assess the Needs of the Street Homeless Population, [Evaluation Review](#), Vol. 28, No. 2, April 2004, pp. 144-155.

## **HALF OF ALL RESPONDENTS HAD AT LEAST ONE SERIOUS, DISABLING CONDITION**

- More than half of all survey respondents had at least one serious, disabling condition: serious mental illness, serious medical or physical condition, alcohol or drug abuse, a developmental disability, or HIV/AIDS.
- Respondents reporting substance abuse is up slightly from summer 2006.

Research shows that homeless people suffer from high rates of mental and physical health problems and are far more likely to suffer from chronic health issues exacerbated by the stressful and chaotic nature of their living conditions. Many homeless people have multiple health problems, some as a direct result of being homeless, such as frostbite, upper respiratory infections and ulcers, and that the homeless are at greater risk of severe injury due to violence. These conditions are extremely difficult to treat or control if people lack adequate housing.<sup>44</sup>

Individuals experiencing high rates of mental illness and substance abuse often have difficulty carrying out basic tasks. Homeless people with mental disorders remain homeless for longer periods and have less contact with their families and friends. People suffering from alcohol, drug or mental health problems encounter more barriers to employment, tend to be in poorer physical health, and have more contact with the legal system. These conditions require ongoing access to a full range of treatment and rehabilitation services.

## **FEWER CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**

- The proportion of chronically homeless people decreased from summer 2006 to winter 2007 (9.2%, 8.6% respectively); again, the great majority were male.

Chronic homelessness is long-term or repeated homelessness, accompanied by a serious condition or disability, and it is characterized by people living in an emergency shelter or in a place not suitable for human habitation. Many people experience homelessness for a short period of time. A smaller number of homeless persons experience homelessness for months or years, and cycle between homelessness, hospitals, jails, shelters, and treatment facilities; these people are considered chronically homeless. Although the chronically homeless make up a small segment of all homeless persons, its effects are considerable. In systems and facilities, chronically homeless individuals' unique needs are not efficiently met, and they are very expensive to public systems of care as well. Providing permanent supportive housing or "housing first" programs has shown positive results. When people are placed in permanent supportive housing, the public cost to the health care, criminal justice, emergency shelter and other systems can decline dramatically, and outcomes (e.g., better mental and physical health, greater income, fewer arrests and better progress toward self-sufficiency) are often more positive.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> NCH Fact Sheet #8, see footnote 24.

<sup>45</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness. Chronic Homelessness Brief, July 2006.

## **MANY ARE LIVING ON THE EDGE OF HOMELESSNESS**

- The survey data collected for this study strongly suggest that the majority of the 1,347 respondents (and their family members) who were classified as “**not homeless**” are living on the edge of homelessness.

Homelessness not only affects the very poor, but also working and middle class individuals and families. Americans are homeless primarily because they cannot pay for housing and are increasingly unable to afford to buy or even rent their homes. They face the national trends of low wages, declining public assistance programs, and limited affordable housing. The *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count, August 2006* reports that the most common reasons given for homelessness were loss of a job, the cost of housing, the break-up of a relationship or family, substance abuse, low wages, and mental or medical illness issues; survey respondents most frequently said they needed permanent housing and help finding a job.

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*It is impossible to know the precise number of people who are homeless.  
In the words of a tireless homeless advocate and  
formerly homeless person,  
“If there is more than one who does not wish to be out in the wilderness  
or stuck in a shelter,  
and we can change this equation,  
then the number is too great a burden on our consciousness.”<sup>46</sup>*

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<sup>46</sup> Randle Loeb.

## **PART VII. METHODOLOGY**

The data were collected in the last week of January 2007, referencing the point-in-time as the night of Monday, January 29, 2007. On Monday night, as soon as shelters closed their doors for the night the survey process was instructed to begin. Unsheltered street surveys, counts and/or estimates also started on Monday night. Agencies offering day services began their participation at the start of business on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, and continued until the close of business on that day. Agencies that were not open on Monday night or Tuesday day collected data on the first day of the week that they served clients. Surveys were conducted over a 24-hour period rather than over a week. Agency staff and volunteers attempted to survey every homeless individual or, in the case of family groups and couples, one adult family member in all of the identified locations.

### **A. Survey Revision**

In fall, 2006, the survey was revised in response to the concerns that were identified with the summer, 2006 survey instrument. The following are some key areas of revision:

- Respondents were asked to document only family members with them *who were also without a permanent place to live*. While that was the intent in the summer 2006 survey, it was explicitly stated in the winter 2007 instrument. This greatly facilitated the identification of family members who were with the respondent and also without a permanent place to live.
- A question was added to determine if respondent has “a current Colorado ID or Colorado driver’s license.” This question had been included in previous versions of the MDHI survey but was removed in the summer, 2006 statewide survey. It was put back into the survey because lack of identification had been cited as a problem by respondents to the summer 2006 survey.
- Monday night locations were revised slightly. The category “permanent supportive housing” was removed as a separate response to where respondent spent the night because the researchers were concerned that respondents might not understand the difference between time-limited transitional housing and permanent housing. However, the winter 2007 survey kept the “somewhere else” response, and the interviewer could write in “permanent supportive housing” if they determined that was where the respondent spent the night.
- A “none” category was added for most of the multiple response questions: serious conditions, government benefits and services. This was included so that respondents who did not have a condition, benefit, etc. had a category that they could check in response to these questions.

### **B. Date Entry / Cleaning**

#### **1. Data Checks**

Numerous procedures were performed to clean and check for data entry and logic errors. Following are examples of procedures used to clean the dataset:

- Frequencies were run on all variables to check for out of range / incorrect values
- When respondents did not report in what county they spent Monday night, the county of the agency submitting the survey was used
- Open-ended questions were coded and cleaned, e.g. if respondents reported a disability in “other” and it fit into one of the five listed disabilities, it was recoded into the list
- Countless logic checks were performed between “Household Situation” and family member data
- Numerous additional logic checks were performed on various data points

## **2. Criteria for Eliminating Not Homeless**

Based on previous experience with point-in-time homeless studies, the research consultants established clearly defined, objective criteria for homelessness. All survey respondents were identified as either “homeless” or “not homeless” based on these criteria.

Determining whether a respondent was homeless initially depended on the response to Q10: “Where will you/did you spend the night of Monday, January 29?” As needed, other questions were included in the decision process.

- a. A respondent was classified as homeless if he or she spent the night of Monday, August 29 in one of the following locations:
  - Emergency shelter
  - Domestic violence shelter
  - On the street, under a bridge, abandoned building, public building, car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.
  - Hotel/motel paid for by yourself while looking for housing
  - Hotel/motel paid for by others/vouchers
  - Youth shelter
  - Transitional housing (time-limited)
- b. Persons who stayed with family or friends were considered homeless if they indicated that they were “couch surfing,” that is, that the arrangement was not permanent. Specifically, they were classified as homeless if they gave at least one definite (i.e., “no” or “yes”) or two indefinite (“don’t know”) responses to the following questions:
  - “Do you have an arrangement to stay there permanently? “no” or “don’t know”
  - “Do you have a permanent place to live?” (Q9) “no” or “don’t know”
  - “In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are now staying?” (Q14) “yes” or “don’t know”
- c. For respondents who stayed in other locations, the research consultants first looked at Q9, “Do you have a permanent place to live?” and Q14, “In the next week, are you being evicted or thrown out of the place you are now staying?” Respondents were classified as homeless if they gave at least one definite (i.e., “no” or “yes”) or two indefinite (“don’t know”) responses to these questions.
- d. In some cases, it was necessary to use additional questions to determine homelessness. This process was complicated by the fact that many surveys showed a

lack of consistency in response to questions that indicated whether a respondent was homeless. In these situations, the consultants looked at all responses indicating housing status, and developed further criteria to sort respondents consistently. Specifically, consultants looked at responses to three additional survey questions: Q15, Q16 and Q24. All three questions gave the respondent the option of saying that he or she was not homeless. If responses to at least two of these three questions indicated that the respondent was homeless, then he or she was counted as homeless. Some respondents provided incomplete information. In these cases, researchers reviewed each survey and made a decision about homeless status based on all relevant, complete data.

### **3. Duplicates**

Both the summer, 2006 and winter, 2007 statewide point-in-time surveys were conducted over a 24-hour period in order to reduce the number of duplicate surveys.<sup>47</sup> The short window was instrumental in reducing the incidence of duplication when compared to previous studies.

However, duplicates are inevitable when surveys are self-administered, administered to large numbers of persons in a given setting, or administered in many different settings. Several steps were taken to address this issue.

- Agency staff, volunteers and homeless persons were instructed to complete only one survey for each homeless individual or family
- Agency staff and volunteers were trained regarding the critical nature of obtaining the respondent's initials, age, birth month and gender.

Researchers created a unique identification number for each respondent by linking the following six variables: first initial, middle initial, first three letters of the last name, birth month, age, and gender. For respondents with complete identifying information, or with only one variable missing in the identifier, a survey was classified as a duplicate if it met all three of the following conditions:

- The unique identifiers matched exactly;
- The surveys were submitted by the same agency; and,
- The agency was located in an urban area (because the caseload in these areas is large enough that volunteers may have interviewed the same person more than once).

If the unique identifiers matched exactly but the surveys were completed in different counties that were either contiguous or located close to each other, then researchers considered other variables in determining duplication, including language, military service, ethnicity, race, and the city and county in which the respondent spent the night. In some cases, researchers looked at responses to a number of other questions before making a decision. A total of 99 surveys were identified as duplicates and were eliminated.

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<sup>47</sup> Another reason for limiting the survey to a 24-hour time period was to be responsive to the needs and concerns of many rural counties and communities. These communities did not have the capacity to conduct a survey over a longer period of time.

### **C. Tracking Forms**

Researchers conducting the winter 2007 statewide homeless count developed a relatively simple process for trying to determine the true number of homeless in each location. Researchers designed a tracking form and asked each agency and volunteer who returned completed surveys, and/or who did a count of unsheltered homeless, to provide the following information for each location:

- Number of completed surveys
- Number of unsheltered homeless counted
- Number of unsheltered homeless estimated

The purpose of this information was to have a way to (1) identify the number of unsheltered homeless whom agencies and volunteers were unable to survey; and (2) use this information to calculate the total number of homeless persons.

### **D. Identifying Households With and Without Children**

HUD defines “households with children” as a household with children under the age of 18. Although evidence of children in a household was not always consistently documented in any given survey, in general, if there was solid evidence that the respondent had any children under 18 years of age, the researchers identified the household as being a household with children. They directed particular diligence and thoroughness at this specific issue, as it is important to recognize the extent of homelessness among families with children.

Respondents age 17 or under were automatically classified as being in a “household with children,” regardless of their responses to any other survey questions.

1. The primary means of identifying households with children was the respondent indicating that he or she was “a single parent with children under 18” or “part of a couple with children under 18” (Q8). By definition, this response identified a household as having children, regardless of whether or not there was additional information in Q11, Q12 or Q13. In other words, if respondents reported in Q8 that they had children, they were counted as having children even if they did not document these children elsewhere in the survey (since respondents often left questions blank).<sup>48</sup>
2. The researchers defined the response to Q8 as a primary threshold for several reasons. The question clearly asks respondents to describe their living situation, and offers options for single persons and couples who are living with and without children under 18. The question comes early in the survey and, while some respondents had trouble identifying as “a single person” when they were homeless with siblings, parents or friends, the presence or absence of children is straightforward. Second, the great

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<sup>48</sup> Survey Q11 asked: “How many family members are/with you on Monday night, January 29<sup>th</sup>, who ALSO are WITHOUT A PERMANENT PLACE TO LIVE? Do NOT include family members who you may have stayed with who HAVE a permanent place to live.” If the respondent did not indicate that there were any family members with him/her on Monday night, it was assumed that the respondent correctly described him/herself as being part of a household with children in Q8. Similarly, if respondent did not complete the table indicating the ages of other family members by giving the age(s) of their child/children (Q12) or even by indicating that there were children with them on the previous night (Q13), researchers assumed that the information in Q8 correctly identified the household as having children under 18.

majority of respondents answered this question. Third, many respondents did not answer Q11 and a number of those who answered Q11 did not complete the information describing the age and relationship of family members that was requested in Q12 and Q13. Therefore, responses to Q8 are considered to be more reliable than responses (or non-responses) to Q11, Q12 and Q13.

3. Households meeting other criteria also were identified as being “households with children.”
  - Persons whose survey responses indicated that they were grandparents with their grandchildren were classified as “households with children.”
  - If a respondent said that he or she was “a single person” in Q8, but listed someone under age 18 in Q12, and said that it was his or her child in Q13, researchers assumed that the detailed response was the correct one. Likewise, if a respondent said that he or she was “part of a couple without children under 18” but listed someone under age 18 in Q12 and said that it was his or her child in Q13, it was assumed that the detailed response was correct. Given that some respondents gave inconsistent information, the decision was made that detailed information in the table describing family members superseded the less detailed information in Q8.
  - They said they lived in “other” situations in Q8 and wrote in one of the following: they were pregnant; they were separated because of domestic violence and reported a child/children under 18 years old who was with them on Monday night; they were the guardian of a child under 18 years old; etc.
  - “Households without children” are primarily identified by respondents reporting they are “a single person” in Q8, indicating that they were with no other family members with them in Q11, and not indicating any children under 18 in Q12 and Q13. They also were classified as being a “household without children” if they said they were “single” but reported another person with them in Q11, but did not give ages or relationships in Q12 or Q13.
  - Respondents who said they were “part of a couple without children under 18” in Q8 and did not indicate that they had children under 18 in Q12 and Q13 were classified as “households without children.” This was the case if they said there was one other homeless person with them in Q11, but did not give the age or relationship in Q12 or Q13. Since they said they were part of a couple in Q8, it was assumed that the person listed in Q11 was a spouse.
  - When respondents gave inconsistent responses, researchers looked at their answers to all relevant questions and made a determination of household status (with or without children) to the best of their ability. If someone gave inconsistent responses to Q8 and Q11, i.e., that they were “a single person” in Q8 but indicated that there were other homeless relatives with them on Monday night in Q11, researchers looked at the ages of their family members in Q12. If all ages were 18 or older, the household was classified as a “household without children.” If they listed children under 18, they were classified as a “household with children.”

- There were households where the research consultants were unable to determine if there were children under 18. This was the case, for example, for households where the respondent said he or she was “a single person” in Q8, said that there were other homeless family members in Q11, said that one or more of these family members was a child, but did not identify the ages of the other family members.

### **E. Counting Number of Homeless Persons in Households**

There were two ways to calculate the number of relatives who were with the respondent and without a permanent place to live.

- The first was by using the number reported in Q11: “Not including yourself, how many relatives were with you last night?”
- The second was by counting the number of other family members listed in Q12, age of other family members, and/or Q13, relationship to respondent of other family members.

These two methods produced inconsistent results in a number of cases. The most typical situation was when a respondent reported a higher number of family members in Q11 than the respondent had reported in Q12 and/or Q13. Some respondents did not complete the table asking for age and relationship of other family members. Therefore, the general rule was that if the number listed in Q11 was greater than the total number of persons listed in Q12 and/or Q13, the researchers took the larger number in Q11. This is because it was likely that Q11 was correct, and the respondent simply neglected to enter the description of family members in Q12 and Q13.

Less frequently, when the number of persons listed in Q11 was less than the total number listed in Q12 and/or Q13, researchers used the larger number in Q12/Q13. In this case, it was assumed that if someone gave details about whom they spent the previous night with, those persons actually existed, and therefore should be counted. Respondents may have forgotten someone when answering Q11 or may have added up the number of people they were with incorrectly, but then listed everyone in the table.

There were several exceptions to the general rules described above.

- When a person who said that he or she was single in Q8 listed other family members in Q11, the researchers looked at each case and determined whether or not the person had (incorrectly) listed her/himself in Q11.
- If the respondent spent the previous night in one of the following situations (Q10), the researchers looked at all relevant questions and made a determination as to whether or not we could legitimately count the other persons listed in Q11, Q12, and/or Q13:
  1. Stayed with family or friends;
  2. Was on the street, under a bridge, abandoned building, public building, car, traveling on a bus, camping out, etc.; or
  3. Was in an emergency shelter or a youth shelter.

These exceptions were made because, when someone spent the night in one of the above situations, researchers could not immediately conclude that everyone the respondent listed was homeless. It is possible that the respondent listed family members in whose home he or she

was staying who were not homeless. Persons living on the street could list friends who they “lived with” on the street, and youth living in a youth shelter could list other youth they were staying with who were not family members. Researchers were very careful to consider these possibilities and to avoid overestimating the number of homeless persons. For example, if someone said they were staying with family or friends and reported that they were single in Q11, researchers assumed that the relatives they were staying with were not homeless. For persons living on the street or staying in a youth shelter, other persons were eliminated if there was no evidence that they were a respondent’s family member.

When respondents indicated they were with friends rather than family members, the data on friends were eliminated. Some respondents reported staying with either family or friends; the researchers were diligent in their effort to determine whether the respondents were reporting family members they were living with who were not homeless. When this occurred, only the children and/or spouse of the respondent, depending on the household composition, were counted. Persons who were determined not to be homeless were not included in the descriptions of the ages and family relationships of all homeless persons.

#### **F. Training**

Researchers consistently stressed the importance of following specific data collection procedures to produce an accurate count. Training, interviewing (vs. respondents self-administering the survey), and following procedures to avoid duplication were the most critical elements in increasing the accuracy of the statewide homeless count. Enormous resources were spent on training agency staff and volunteers in survey administration and data collection procedures, including completing, administering and checking surveys. CEPA/CPPSC and NRC developed extensive training materials that were distributed to participants in training sessions and made available on the website. All training materials may be found in the Appendix. The training materials are:

- Agency Referral List
- Contact Sheet
- County Coordinator Checklist
- DV Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- General Survey Training
- HIPAA release
- Homeless Definition
- Interviewer Script
- Logistics
- Methods for Producing an Accurate Count
- Sample Day of Count Packet
- Statewide Survey Instructions
- Survey (English & Spanish)
- Survey Cover Sheet
- Tracking Form for Counts/Estimates

Training sessions gave coordinators and other interested organizations and individuals the information they needed to deliver trainings to agency staff and volunteers in their own counties and communities.

**Table 27. Trainings conducted by county coordinators**

Region	Number of Trainings	Location	Attendance
Region 1	2	Garfield County	25
Region 2	1	Larimer County	6
	Several (one-on-one)	Morgan County	unknown
	10 (one-on-one)	Summit County	10
	Several (one-on-one)	Weld County	unknown
Region 4	2	Chaffee and Fremont County	3
	2	Park County	10
Region 5	unknown	Adams County	unknown
	1	Arapahoe County	7
	4	Boulder County	53
	1	Broomfield County	3
	3	Denver County	50
	1	Douglas County	10
	1	Jefferson County	40
Region 6	14	El Paso County	106
	2	Teller County	8
Region 7	1 group, 4 (one-on-one)	Dolores and Montezuma	12
	3 group, 7 (one-on-one)	La Plata County	35
	3 group, 4 (one-on-one)	Montrose County	27
Region 8	5	Alamosa County	32
	unknown	Saguache County	unknown
	1	Las Animas and Huerfano County	2
	0	Prowers County	0
Total	57		439

**G. Survey Collection, Tracking Form, Cover Sheet**

Surveys were provided to agencies and volunteers in both English and Spanish. Cover sheets were attached to completed surveys for each location. Agencies and volunteers submitted surveys and tracking forms from each location to either their county coordinator or directly to the Colorado Division of Housing. The timeline for submitting completed surveys was two to three days after the point-in-time date, although some surveys were submitted nearly four to six weeks later, extending the coding and data entry timeframe, dramatically. The cover sheet was developed to document the number of submitted surveys, and included the name of the agency, a contact person, and their telephone number. The tracking form was developed so that agency staff, volunteers, and outreach workers could document a count or an estimate of unsheltered homeless persons whom it was not possible to interview.

## **H. Consultants**

The Housing Subcommittee contracted with the Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA)/the Centers for Public/Private Sector Cooperation (CPPSC), Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center (UCDHSC) and the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC). CEPA/CPPSC's primary role was to develop the point in time methodology, analyze data, and write a final report. NRC primarily served as the statewide project coordinator.

In collaboration with NRC, CEPA/CPPSC developed an extensive training module and materials, delivered trainings, and developed a "train-the-trainer" protocol and PowerPoint presentation for regional coordinators to use in delivering trainings to volunteers and agency staff in their local communities. CEPA/CPPSC and NRC created a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to distribute via email as well as posting on the website. Due to CEPA's previous experience in homeless issues, research, and point-in-time studies, CEPA and CPPSC were able to provide general technical assistance throughout the project.

NRC provided the extensive coordination necessary for such a statewide effort, and they facilitated communication and information exchange among key stakeholders throughout the project. NRC collaborated with CEPA/CPPSC on survey revision, the development of all training materials, and valuable assistance in creating and reviewing various sections of the logistics documents. NRC conducted the telephone contacts regarding estimates and counts of homeless individuals in those counties with either zero or very few homeless persons identified in the Summer 2006 study.

## **I. Limitations Of The Data**

### *Difficulty Counting the Homeless*

A point-in-time survey can "miss" many people, because they are not in places where they can be found, much less where they have the opportunity to complete a survey, such as those living in automobiles, or other kinds of crude and temporary housing. A study of formerly homeless people reported that the most common places where persons difficult to count were staying were in vehicles, tents, boxes, caves, or boxcars.<sup>49</sup> There were many remote areas across Colorado that volunteers simply could not access, and places where it was not safe for staff or volunteers to go. Many agency staff are overworked and might not have been able to get to everyone they were currently serving. In addition, when people are approached to complete a survey, some refuse.

### *Accuracy of "Not Homeless"*

About one in six (15.6%) surveys were removed from the database as "Not Homeless" based on established criteria. The primary reason for removing these surveys was that the respondent reported spending Monday night in his or her apartment or home. Many of these surveys were removed even though some (but not enough) of the respondents' answers to other questions pointed to homelessness. Service providers have contended that individuals often report staying in their apartment or home because they are in denial of the precarious nature of their situation or because they simply will not admit to their homelessness. This limitation of the data addresses the probability of eliminating people from the study who actually may be homeless.

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<sup>49</sup> NCH Fact Sheet #2," see footnote 5.

### *Self-Reported Data*

Survey respondents commonly underreport sensitive and personal information, for example, the existence of serious “conditions” such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and/or serious mental illness. As questions become more sensitive and ask about stigmatizing and potentially embarrassing or self-incriminating behaviors, they are probably subject to increasing bias.

The limitation that self-reported data places on the study is applicable to homeless immigrant and undocumented individuals and families in Colorado. The study specifically asked if the respondent was a seasonal resort worker and if they spent Monday night in a farm labor camp or dorm. It is unlikely that many homeless people in this category felt comfortable enough to answer this question, or even to complete a survey, because of the current political climate around issues of immigration and undocumented individuals and families.

It is impossible to capture the true nature of the daily challenges facing the people completing the survey. This limitation of the data addresses the probability that for some respondents, the survey did not capture the true nature of their situation; others were simply not counted.

### *Domestic Violence*

The research team developed a method for gathering data and determining the number of homeless individuals served by domestic violence agencies for both August 2006 and January 2007 Colorado homeless counts. Domestic violence agency staff used a version of the survey that omitted personal information fields that domestic violence experts felt might put respondents at risk. Agency staff were asked to complete a spreadsheet documenting, in aggregate form, the demographics of clients served on the night of January 29. Spreadsheets were sent to the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, where they were compiled and organized by region. These aggregate data were submitted to researchers at CEPA/ CPPSC.

## ***PLEASE SEE SUMMER 2006 REPORT***

Please see the *Colorado Statewide Homeless Count Summer, 2006, Final Report, February 2007* for greater detail regarding the preliminary work leading up to the summer and winter statewide homeless counts, the geographic distribution of statewide regions, the counts' organizational structure, collaboration, instrument development, and survey coding.

## Tables and Figures

### TABLES:

Table 1.	Total Homeless – Statewide
Table 2.	Survey Collection and Final Database
Table 3.	Reporting On Survey Variables
Table 4.	Age of Respondents
Table 5.	MDHI Continuum – Total Homeless
Table 6.	Total Homeless – El Paso/Colorado Springs Continuum
Table 7.	Total Homeless – Balance of State Continuum
Table 8.	Statewide Homeless Count Regions and Counties
Table 9.	Total Homeless – Region 1
Table 10.	Total Homeless – Region 2
Table 11.	Total Homeless – Region 3
Table 12.	Total Homeless – Region 4
Table 13.	Total Homeless – Region 5
Table 14.	Total Homeless – Region 6
Table 15.	Total Homeless – Region 7
Table 16.	Total Homeless – Region 8
Table 17.	Total Homeless – Region 9
Table 18.	Region Respondents – Race and Ethnicity
Table 19.	Region Respondents - Household Situation
Table 20.	Region Respondents - Working, Chronically Homeless and Disabling Conditions
Table 21.	Region Respondents - Receipt Of Government Benefits
Table 22.	Region Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness
Table 23.	Region Respondents - Services Needed
Table 24.	All Survey Homeless - Households With Children, Newly Homeless, Unsheltered Homeless
Table 25.	Region All Survey Homeless - Household Situation
Table 26.	Region All Survey Homeless – Type Of Place, Monday Night
Table 27.	Trainings Conducted by County Coordinators

## **FIGURES:**

- Figure 1. Demographic Comparisons – PIT Respondents/National
- Figure 2. Respondents - Household Situation
- Figure 3. Respondents - Households With and Without Children
- Figure 4. All Survey Homeless People by Household Situation
- Figure 5. All Survey Homeless People in Households With and Without Children
- Figure 6. Age Groups by Households With and Without Children
- Figure 7. All Survey Homeless – Age Groups
- Figure 8. Relatives of Respondents - Age Groups
- Figure 9. Relationship to Respondents
- Figure 10. Gender
- Figure 11. Household Situation By Gender
- Figure 12. Racial Background
- Figure 13. Race/Ethnicity of Homeless Respondents and Colorado Population
- Figure 14. Reasons for Homelessness
- Figure 15. Top 10 Reasons for Homelessness by Household Situation
- Figure 16. Disabling Conditions
- Figure 17. At Least One Disabling Condition by Household Situation
- Figure 18. At Least One Disabling Condition by Households With and Without Children
- Figure 19. Military Service, Foster Care, Seasonal Resort Worker, Colorado ID
- Figure 20. Income from Working
- Figure 21. Government Benefits
- Figure 22. Needed Services
- Figure 23. Duration – Length of Time without a Permanent Place to Live
- Figure 24. Duration of Homelessness by Gender
- Figure 25. Duration of Homelessness by Households With and Without Children
- Figure 26. Episodes – Number of Times without a Permanent Place in Last Three Years
- Figure 27. Episodes by Gender
- Figure 28. Episodes by Households With and Without Children
- Figure 29. Chronically Homeless Individuals
- Figure 30. All Survey Homeless Persons by Continuum Of Care
- Figure 31. All Survey Homeless Persons by Region
- Figure 32. Type of Place, Monday Night
- Figure 33. All Survey Homeless – Type of Place by Household Situation
- Figure 34. All Survey Homeless – Unsheltered People in Households With and Without Children
- Figure 35. Newly Homeless
- Figure 36. Newly Homeless by Households With and Without Children

- Figure 37. MDHI/Respondents – Household Situation
- Figure 38. MDHI/Respondents - Households With and Without Children
- Figure 39. MDHI/All Survey Homeless - Household Situation
- Figure 40. MDHI/All Survey Homeless - People in Households With and Without Children
- Figure 41. MDHI/Respondents – Age Groups
- Figure 42. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Age Groups
- Figure 43. MDHI/Respondents - Gender
- Figure 44. MDHI/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity
- Figure 45. MDHI/Respondents - Military Service, Foster Care, Work, CO ID, Season Resort
- Figure 46. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Type Of Place, Monday Night
- Figure 47. MDHI/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness
- Figure 48. MDHI/Respondents - Disabling Conditions
- Figure 49. MDHI/Respondents - Government Benefits
- Figure 50. MDHI/Respondents – Needed Services
- Figure 51. MDHI/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness
- Figure 52. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation
- Figure 53. MDHI/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless, Households With and Without Children
- Figure 54. El Paso/Respondents – Household Situation
- Figure 55. El Paso/Respondents – Households With and Without Children
- Figure 56. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Household Situation
- Figure 57. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – People in Households With and Without Children
- Figure 58. El Paso/Respondents – Age Groups
- Figure 59. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Age Groups
- Figure 60. El Paso/Respondents - Gender
- Figure 61. El Paso/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity
- Figure 64. El Paso/Respondents – Military Service, Foster Care, Work, CO ID, Seasonal Resort
- Figure 63. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night
- Figure 64. El Paso/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness
- Figure 65. El Paso/Respondents – Disabling Conditions
- Figure 66. El Paso/Respondents – Government Benefits
- Figure 67. El Paso/Respondents – Needed Services
- Figure 68. El Paso/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness
- Figure 69. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation
- Figure 70. El Paso/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless in Households With and Without Children
- Figure 71. BOS/Respondents – Household Situation
- Figure 72. BOS/Respondents – Households With and Without Children

- Figure 73. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Household Situation
- Figure 74. BOS/All Survey Homeless – People In Households With and Without Children
- Figure 75. BOS/Respondents – Age Groups
- Figure 76. BOS/All Survey Homeless Age Groups
- Figure 77. BOS/Respondents - Gender
- Figure 78. BOS/Respondents – Race/Ethnicity
- Figure 79. BOS/Respondents – Military Service, Foster Care, Work, CO ID, Seasonal Resort
- Figure 80. BOS All Survey Homeless – Type of Place, Monday Night
- Figure 81. BOS/Respondents – Reasons for Homelessness
- Figure 82. BOS/Respondents – Disabling Conditions
- Figure 83. BOS/Respondents – Government Benefits
- Figure 84. BOS/Respondents – Needed Services
- Figure 85. BOS/Respondents – Chronic Homelessness
- Figure 86. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless by Household Situation
- Figure 87. BOS/All Survey Homeless – Newly Homeless in Households With and Without Children