

## HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN DENVER 2007 MDHI Point-In-Time Study

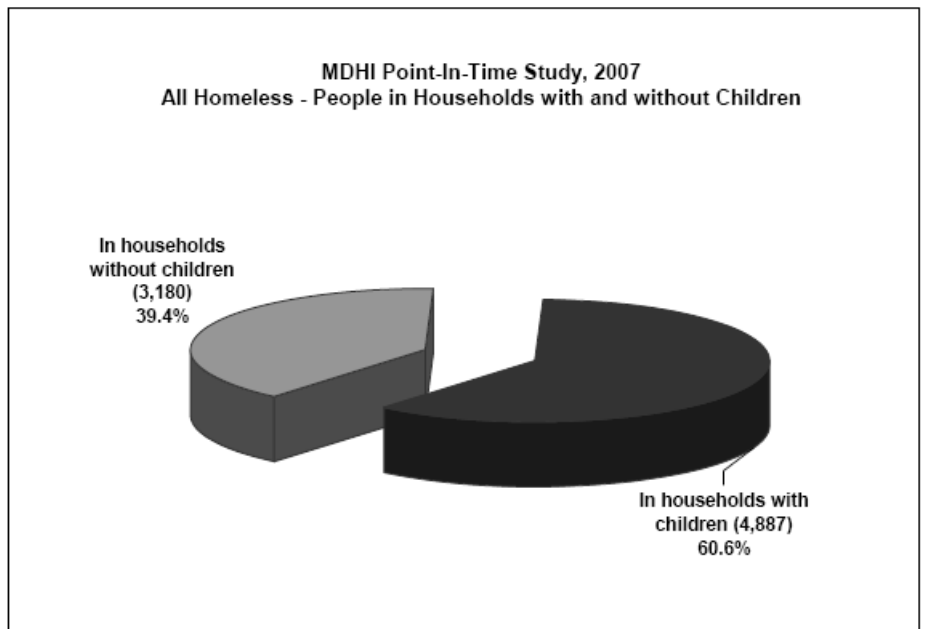
### KEY FINDINGS

*On Monday night, January 29, 2007, there were an estimated 10,604 homeless men, women, and children in Metropolitan Denver.*

SURVEY DATA	
Respondents	4,969
Relatives	3,513
<b>Total All Survey Homeless</b>	<b>8,482</b>
UNSHeltered COUNT / ESTIMATE	
Count – Unsheltered	315
Estimate – Unsheltered	990
<b>Total Unsheltered</b>	<b>1,305</b>
RELATIVE ESTIMATE FROM SURVEY	
Additional relatives not fully identified by survey respondents	<b>817</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,604</b>

#### ➤ **MANY OF METRO DENVER'S HOMELESS ARE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- Six in 10 homeless persons were part of a **household with children**.
- The number of **newly homeless** has increased dramatically since summer 2006. In 2007, one-third of all homeless (32.6%) were



newly homeless. Newly homeless were predominantly in households with children (72.7%).<sup>1</sup>

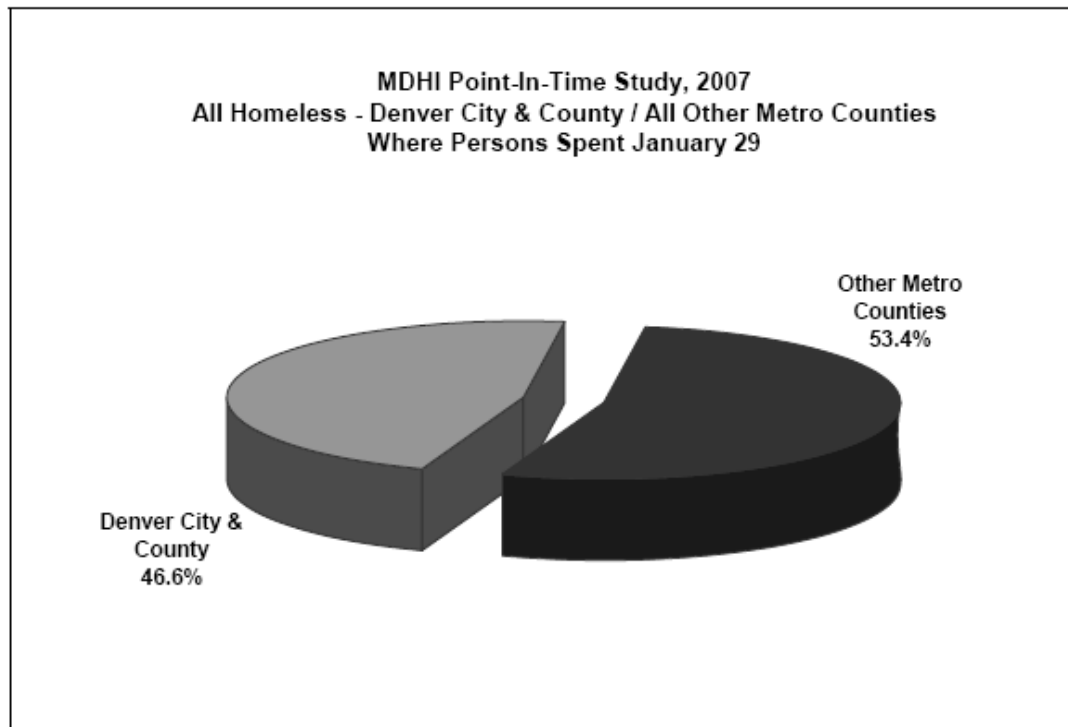
- **Children and teens** comprised almost one-third (31.7%) of all homeless persons in the *Homelessness in Metropolitan Denver, Eighth Annual Point-In-Time Study, 2007*.
- More than one in five **unsheltered homeless** were families with children.

➤ **FEWER CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**

- In 2007, 8.3 percent of homeless respondents were chronically homeless; the great majority of the chronically homeless were male.
- The number of chronically homeless persons decreased slightly from winter and summer 2006 (9.5% and 9.0% respectively).

➤ **OVER HALF SPENT NIGHT OUTSIDE DENVER COUNTY**

- The majority of people in households without children (62.7%) spent the night in Denver City and County, while 66.2 percent of people in households with children spent Monday night in other metro counties.

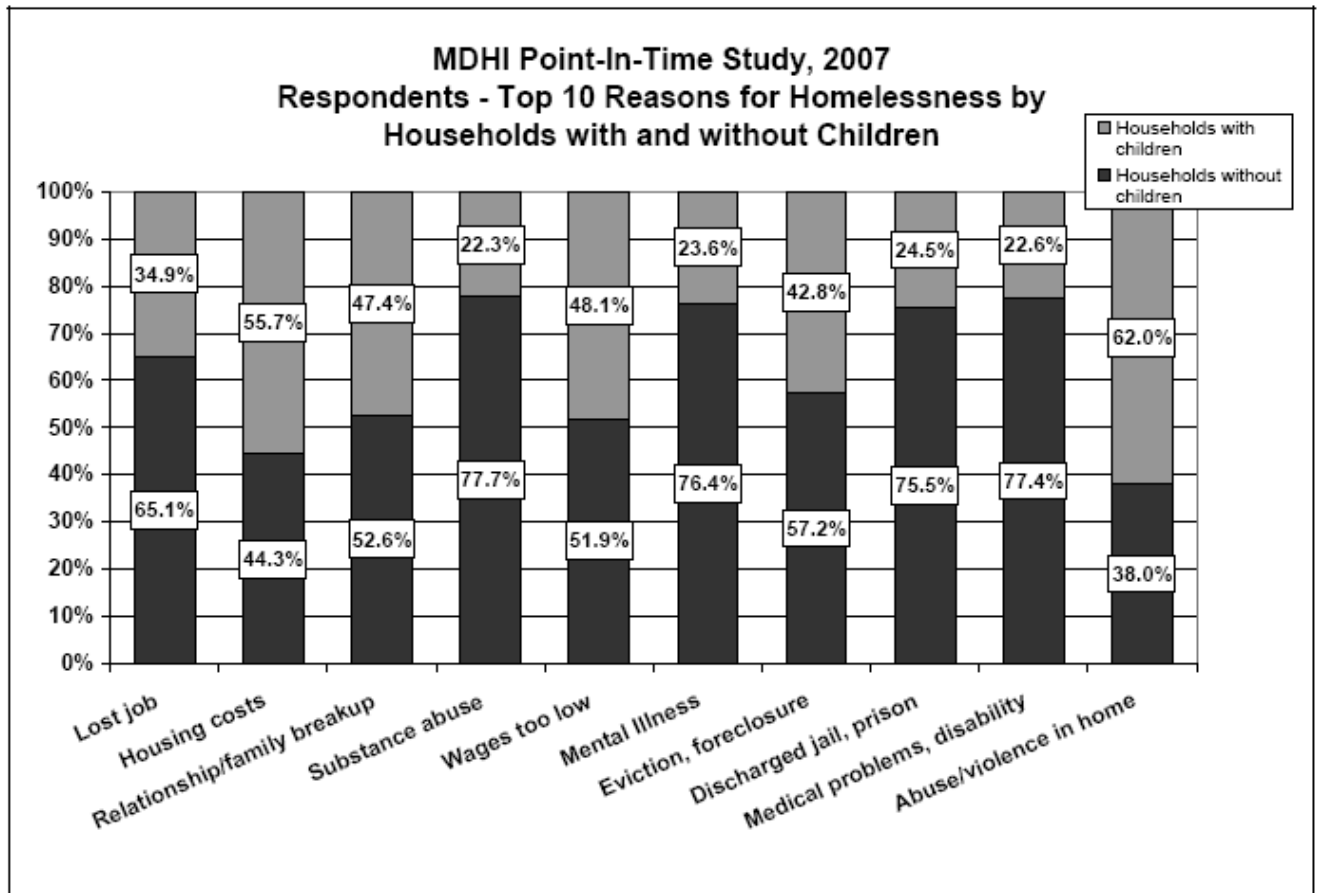


➤ **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, COUCH SURFING, EMERGENCY SHELTER TOP PLACES SPENT MONDAY NIGHT**

- There were dramatic differences in where people in households with and without children spent the night. 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 were more likely to stay in emergency shelters or sleep on the street.

➤ **LOST JOB, HIGH HOUSING COSTS TOP REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS**

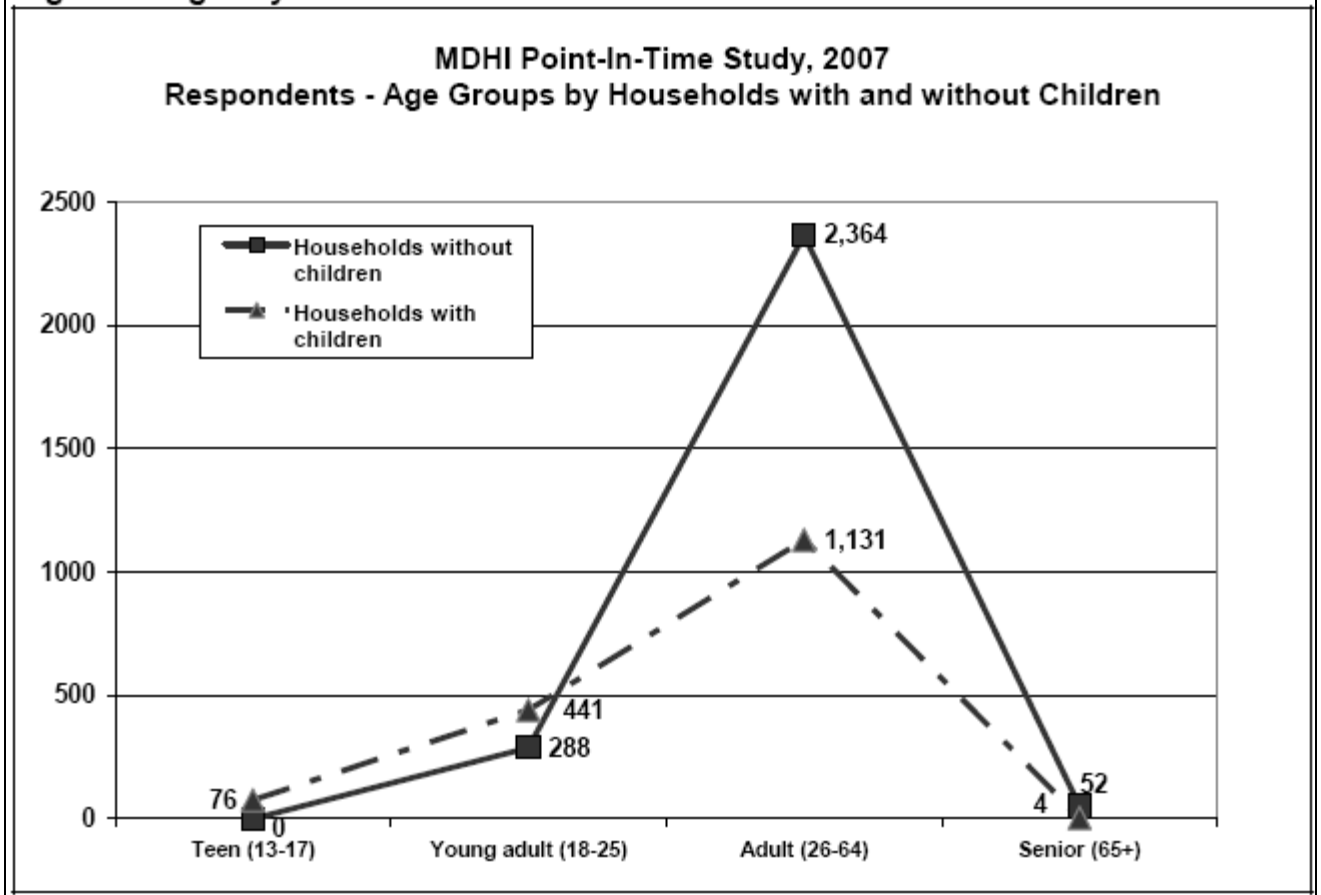
- Losing a job has been the number one reason respondents reported for their homelessness from 2004 to the current year.
- Other reasons reported most frequently across all four years are the high cost of housing, the break-up of a relationship/death in the family, and substance abuse.
- The data suggest that, since 2006, housing-related costs have had a greater impact on households with children.



MDHI defines homelessness as:

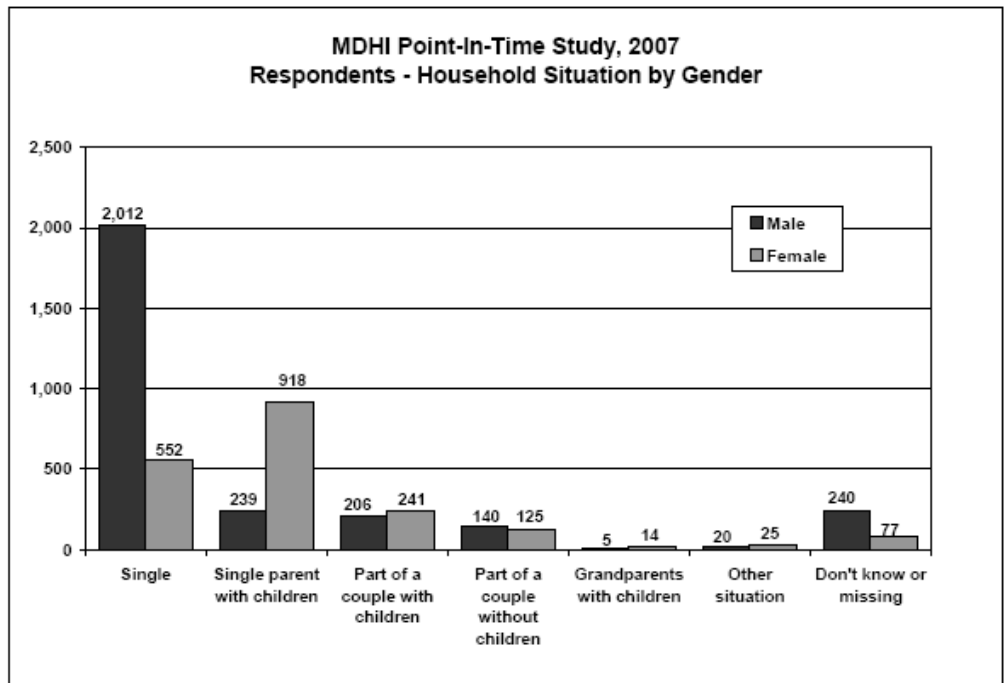
- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings;
- Sleeping in an emergency shelter;
- Spending a short time (30 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution, but ordinarily sleeping in the types of places mentioned 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 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.

**Figure 5. Ages by Households With and Without Children**



Single people are predominantly male (78.5%). In contrast, females primarily head single parent families (79.3%). The individuals who completed the survey for a couple with children also were more likely to be female, while those who completed the survey for a couple without children were more likely to be male. With the exception of couples without children, the pattern by gender is similar to 2006.

**Figure 7. Household Situation by Gender**



**4. Race and Ethnicity of Respondents**

In a comparison of those who completed the 2007 Point-In-Time Survey with the most recent figures of the general population of Metro Denver (2003), whites are under-represented and minorities are over-represented among the homeless.<sup>16</sup> This pattern is unchanged from winter and summer 2006.

**Figure 8. Race / Ethnicity of Homeless Respondents and Metro Denver**

