

Homelessness in Columbus

Homelessness IS a problem . . .

- In 2008, 7,501 people experiencing a housing crisis utilized the services of Columbus' Emergency Shelter System.
 - 3,646 Adult Men
 - 1,166 Adult Women
 - 1,668 Children
 - 2,689 Individuals in Families

Demographics of Homelessness in Columbus:

- In 2008, Columbus' homeless population is 67% Black, 32% White, and 1% identified as Other. These local figures represent a greater racial disparity than the national estimates.
- The average age of a person using the emergency shelter system in 2008 was 42 for men, 39 for women.

Not all currently homeless individuals are sheltered . . .

- A HUD (Housing and Urban Development) mandated Point-in-Time census count of unsheltered homeless persons in Columbus conducted from 3 to 7 a.m. Jan. 27, 2009, found 108 individuals living without shelter.

Unemployment

- In July 2009, 40,000 members of Columbus' civilian labor force were unemployed.
- That put the unemployment rate at 9.3%, up from 4.6% in April 2008.

Poverty in Columbus . . .

- The 2007 United States Census found that 21% of people living in the City of Columbus are in poverty.¹
- Poverty rates for all groups have been increasing since at least 2003. As of 2007:²
 - 28.5% of those younger than 18 are in poverty
 - 12.8% of adults age 65 and older are in poverty
 - 8.7% of married couple families are in poverty
 - 40.2 percent of "single" females with child(ren) are in poverty
 - 15.4% of all families are in poverty
- The greatest increase in poverty rates are among those younger than 18. Between 2003 and 2007, the percentage of that group experiencing poverty increased more than 5%.
- People living in poverty are generally at high risk for becoming homeless.

Facts generated from: Continuum of Care, Systems and Program Indicator Report, FY 2009, available at www.csb.org

¹ U.S. Census Data.

http://socds.huduser.org/Census/incpov.odt?msacitylist=18140*3900018000*1.0&metro=cbsa. Accessed on 11/22/2006.

² Community Research Partners October 2009 report to Columbus City Council

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