

“Putting the Pieces Together - 2009”

Ending Homelessness in Yamhill County

FACT SHEET



“Is there really a homeless problem in Yamhill County?”

According to a one night shelter count completed in January 2009

-2008: 364 total persons were identified in shelters

-2009: 404 total persons were identified in shelters and camps

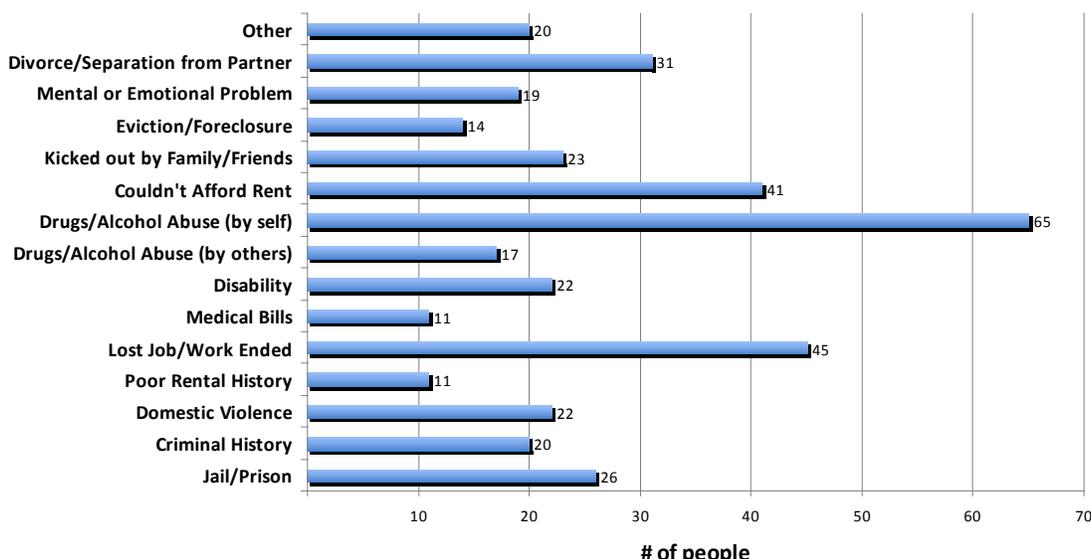
(24% were families with children)

Kindergarten through 12th grade children and youth identified by county school districts:

- 2006-2007 count: 313 homeless youth and children (counted over 9 months)

- 2007-2008 count: 387 homeless youth and children (23% increase)

Top 15 Causes for homelessness



“What does it mean to be homeless?”

Yamhill County’s Ending Homelessness Steering Committee adopted the definition of “homelessness” as being without a decent, safe, stable, and permanent place to live that is fit for human habitation

Homeless persons are those who:

- share housing due economic hardship, personal safety or a similar reason
- live in motels, hotels or camping grounds
- live in emergency or transitional shelters
- have been abandoned in hospitals
- await foster care placement
- live in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing or similar settings

“So, what are the impacts and why does addressing homelessness matter?”

• **Financial impact:**

-Increased health care costs for all persons, including higher insurance premiums

-Added costs to community, county, & state programs such as:

law enforcement, prosecution, courts, & incarceration

social services, mental health and addiction services which are already limited

• **Social impact:**

- Education needs are often unmet when youth are homeless
- Public health risks are increased
- More children enter into the care of Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Family stability erodes
- Poor work force development

• **Community safety impact:**

- Homeless persons are more likely to engage in criminal behavior
- Some, but not all, homeless persons enter the criminal justice system repeatedly
- Without a stable residence, some homeless persons may participate in illegal behaviors that they would otherwise never do
- Some of the highest risk and dangerous persons on parole and probation are homeless which makes successful supervision more challenging

Yamhill County Efforts

- Fall 2006, Yamhill County Commissioners passed a resolution to move forward with a 10-year plan --
- 2007, Commissioner George and other community leaders created the Ending Homelessness Steering Committee
- 2008, Shelter count, draft 10-year plan, Ending Homelessness Kickoff Event, Sleep Out and community support broadened, Housing Authority secured staff dedicated to plan action steps.
- 2009 Shelter and community count, First Homeless Connect Event providing basic needs and services, Yamhill County 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness is adopted by the Board of Commissioners

Ending Homelessness Plan Governing Committee:

Members shall represent the geographic and ethnic diversity of Yamhill county and will include, but not be limited to persons with experience, knowledge or skills in community mobilization, social services, health service, the criminal justice system, affordable housing, mental health and addiction services, prevention, education, strategic planning, research and private and public sector business. The Housing Authority of Yamhill County will facilitate this committee. Those interested in serving, should apply to the Board of Commissioners office, 503.434.7501.

Three Important Concepts in the plan:

1. The long term goal is to build a stronger community with more productive, self sufficient and contributing members
2. Sustainability is key - we don't want to become overly dependent on government programs
3. Some people may always need a level of assistance, but the cost impact on resources will be significantly reduced

Next Steps:

- Presentation to Cities for consideration of adoption
- Appointment of the Governing Committee
- Continue working on action steps and mobilizing the community

A copy of the Plan is available on the Yamhill County web-site:

http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/about/ten_year_plan.pdf .