



## Key Findings from the Jan. 2008 Point-in-Time Census & Survey

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- Advocates, agency staff, and volunteers – homeless and housed alike – counted **1,365 men, women and children without a safe, adequate place to call home** in the 24-hour period spanning January 24 & 25, 2008. Of these, 507 are children under the age of 18.
- The 2008 total represents an 18.7% increase in the number of homeless people found during the 2006 count, and a 43% increase from the number of homeless people found in 2007.
- The majority of (61.3%) respondents indicated they had lived in Alachua County when they became homeless; in raw numbers, **homelessness among local residents – those who lived and worked in the community prior to the loss of housing – increased 57% in the past year**, from 378 in 2007 to 593 in 2008.
- Only 8.6% of respondents chose to come to Alachua County because they thought or heard there were good shelters or services in the area, down from 18% in 2007. Veterans were three times more likely than non-veterans to report coming here for shelters or services.
- There is no shortage of housing in the community; rather, the housing that is available is not affordable to people who work and live here. More than 10,800 housing units sit empty in the county; City officials project an additional 4,000 units will come online by the end of 2008. In all, **by 2009 there will be nearly 11 empty housing units for every homeless man, woman and child in Alachua County.**
- Homelessness among women – and particularly single women with children – continues to grow, with 233 women counted in 2008, up from 187 in 2007. The number of women found on the street or in the woods in the past five years has more than doubled, from 21 in 2003 to 47 in 2008. **The number of men found on the street or in the woods in the past year nearly tripled**, from 124 to 348.
- **Family homelessness nearly doubled**, with 161 members of families with children found in 2008 – up from 83 in 2007. More than half of families remained homeless after a year, up from 27% last year.
- The most common causes of homelessness were economic (45.5%), followed by health reasons (24.2%), housing-related issues (14.8%) and family problems (9.9%). **Only 1.3% of respondents indicated being “homeless by choice.”**
- In all, **57.8% of the local homeless population is unsheltered** on any given night. The lack of shelter is most common among single men, and least prevalent among family members.
- This year marks the third in a row that **the Alachua County Jail housed more homeless individuals during the survey (115) than any single homeless housing program.**
- Men’s violence against women remains a significant contributing factor to the number of women without safe or affordable housing. Flight from an abusive situation prompted the current episode of homelessness for one in six (16.8%) homeless women.
- More than half of homeless adults (62.9%) are unemployed. People living on streets and in encampments were significantly more likely to be unemployed (71.8%) than those linked to housing programs (43.2%).
- More than 2/3 of homeless people reported having some form of disability. Of those who report a disability, 52.1% say that disability prevents them from working.
- **This episode of homelessness is the first for the majority of respondents.** However, for the first time since surveys began in 2003, slightly more than half the population has spent over a year without housing.