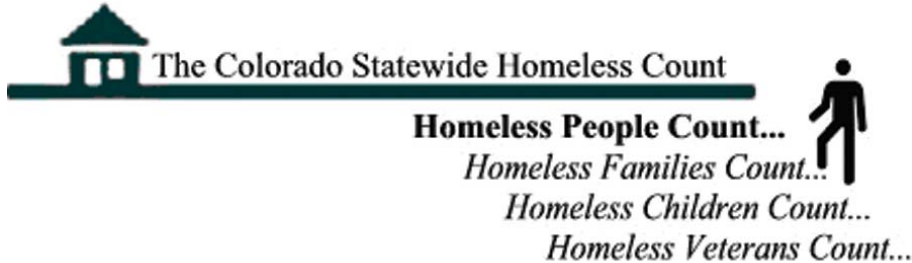




Contact: Justin Marks
Colorado Division of Housing
303-866-5657 (w)
303-564-3872 (c)

Metro Area Contact: Jean Tutolo
Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
303-561-2194



Denver, CO June 13, 2007 –

Winter Statewide Homeless Count Results 59.6% Colorado's Homeless are in Households with Children

The Colorado Division of Housing, the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) and Mile High United Way today announce the results of the January 29, 2007 Winter Homeless Count Survey. The statewide point-in-time study indicates a minimum of 12,050 homeless individuals on the night of January 29, 2007.

The winter statewide homeless study is the second of two statewide homeless surveys conducted by the Colorado Division of Housing. In August of 2006, surveys indicated 11,890 homeless in Colorado.

For the Metropolitan Homeless Initiative, this winter's study is the eighth annual Point-in-Time study conducted in conjunction with Mile High United Way surveying the seven-county metro area. The study shows a minimum of 8,482 homeless in the Denver Metro Area.

“Although it is encouraging to see the progress that is being made by communities that are committed to enacting homeless strategies, we are concerned about the numbers of people who report that they are homeless for the first time. Many of the “newly homeless” are families with children.” said Jean Tutolo, executive director of MDHI.

The winter statewide homeless study shows an increase of 160 homeless people in Colorado from the summer survey. According to the author of the point-in-time study, Tracey O'Brien of the Center for Educational Policy Analysis at the University of Colorado at Denver, “the increase in respondents can be attributed to the need for homeless individuals to seek emergency shelter during the winter months.” Ms. O'Brien further notes other seasonal trends including more individuals staying in motels and fewer people sleeping outside.

The results of the study indicate consistency from summer to winter in the number of homeless families, reasons for homelessness and gender breakdown. Kathi Williams, director of the Colorado Division of Housing said, “The winter homeless count numbers reinforce the results of the summer study. Homelessness is a statewide issue that impacts families and working people. With this study, we can feel confident and move forward with statewide solutions.”

Nonprofit agencies and volunteers fanned out across Colorado during the 24-hour period last winter to survey homeless persons and families in shelters, campgrounds, soup kitchens, transitional housing facilities and other places frequented by homeless individuals and families.

Additional key findings include;

- **Many of Colorado’s homeless are in households with children.**
 - o Of the surveyed homeless 59.6% are people in households with children

- **Half of all respondents have at least one serious, disabling condition.**
 - o 27.5% report substance abuse
 - o 21.5% report mental illness
 - o 18.9% report medical condition
 - o 2% report HIV/AIDS
 - o 4.5% report a developmental disability

- **The most common reasons for homelessness are loss of a job, housing-related costs, break-up of a relationship or family break-up, and substance abuse..**
 - o 27.8% report loss of a job
 - o 23.4% report the high cost of housing as reason for homelessness
 - o 19.7% family break-up
 - o 15.4% substance abuse

“The data collected in this study will assist local communities in developing comprehensive plans to address the challenge of homelessness in Colorado” said Susan Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

The winter 2007 Homeless Count is the result of a collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing, The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, Mile High United Way, The Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, The Daniels Fund, The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and the Colorado Interagency Council on Homelessness. In addition, more than 450 agencies, churches, non-profit organizations, corporate and community volunteers participated from throughout the state.

“The Point-in-Time study is always an excellent tool for our community as we strive to understand the changing nature of homelessness and work together to build lasting solutions to the problem,” said Michael Durkin, Mile High United Way president. “A huge thanks to all the agencies, churches, volunteers and other partners for their help in conducting the survey. Without their help, this study would not have been possible.”

###