



**NATIONAL SURVEY  
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

**Kansas had an estimated 205 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving nearly four times their bed capacity over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup> This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.**

**State Taskforce on Homelessness**

**Taskforce:** The Kansas Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in July 2005) coordinates efforts and develops strategies to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

**Governor's Appointee:** Stephen Weatherford, President of the Kansas Housing Resources Commission, has chaired the Kansas Interagency Council on Homelessness since its inception in 2005.



**Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization**

	Kansas	Sedgwick County	Shawnee County	Wyandotte County
Persons in homeless families <sup>2</sup>	654	74	78	84
Number of family shelter beds <sup>3</sup>	755	272	200	125
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) <sup>4</sup>	6	4	12	14
Percent of families in poverty <sup>5</sup>	12.73%	15.32%	15.44%	22.86%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No plan	2008	No plan	No plan
10-Year plan target population	No plan	Chronic	No plan	No plan
Point-in-time count frequency	Biennially*	Annually	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Kansas Housing Resources Corporation*	United Way of the Plains	Community Resources Council	Mid American Assistance Coalition
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition*	United Way of the Plains	Topeka-Shawnee County Homeless Task Force	Wyandotte Homeless Services Coalition

\*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Kansas that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

**Housing Conditions for Families Statewide**

In 2009, there were 3,749 shelter beds (1,900 emergency shelter, 976 transitional housing, and 873 permanent supportive housing beds) throughout Kansas. The greatest numbers of beds were in the counties that include the cities of Wichita (842) and Topeka (825). Thirty-one out of 105 counties, representing 82.9% of the total state population, have shelter beds for homeless families and individuals.<sup>6</sup> Just over two in five (43%) renters statewide are cost-burdened (paying more than 30% of income for housing expenses). In Kansas, fair market rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$678, affordable for households earning more than \$13.03 per hour. Although the FMR is cumulatively 13% less (\$588) in nonmetropolitan areas, rent for a two-bedroom unit in these rural regions has increased 40.3% since 2001. In comparison, Topeka and Wichita (two of the state's most urban localities) have experienced FMR increases of 22.6% and 19.9%, respectively.<sup>7</sup> Separate data are not available for families.



The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Kansas and other states, visit [www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

### Mainstream Benefits for Homeless Persons in Kansas

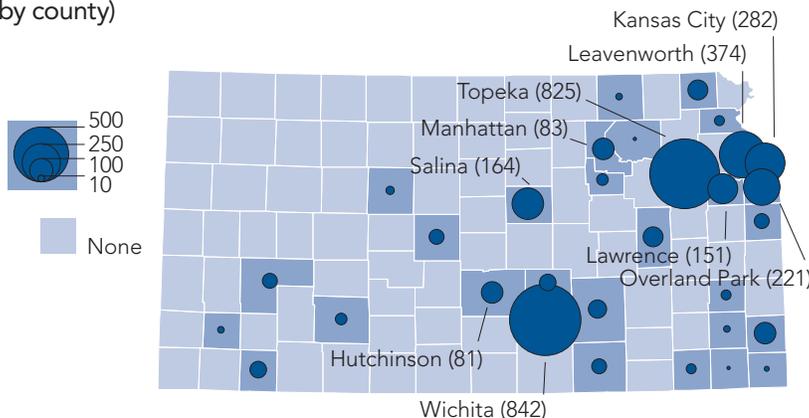
In 2009, 71.4% (91 of 127) of precariously housed, 60.4% (55 of 91) of imminently housed, and 64.0% (703 of 1,098) of literally homeless point-in-time count respondents reported that they or someone in their household received at least one type of mainstream benefit.<sup>8</sup> Among homeless clients receiving benefits, Food Stamps were the most frequently reported benefit obtained by precariously housed (69.2%), imminently housed (83.6%), and literally homeless (77.1%) persons. One-third of each group accessed Medicaid or Medicare. Over one-fourth (27.5%) of precariously housed persons obtained Social Security Income or Social Security Disability Income, compared to 20.0% of imminently housed persons and 21.1% of literally homeless. Imminently housed persons (at 18.2%) were nearly twice as likely to be receiving Temporary Assistance for Families (formerly Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in Kansas) when compared to precariously housed (9.9%) and literally homeless (10.4%) persons. Separate data are not available for families.<sup>9</sup>

### Sheltering Wichita's Homeless Families

On a single night in January 2009, 74 homeless family members resided in the City of Wichita in facilities like the St. Anthony Family Shelter and the Salvation Army of Wichita's emergency shelter. Founded in 1988 by the Catholic Charities Diocese of Wichita, St. Anthony Family Shelter currently accommodates up to 13 families at a time, with 11 rooms for families of five or less and two rooms for families with up to seven members. Between 2005 and 2008, the shelter experienced a 32.7% increase (from 392 to 520) in the number of persons in families accessing services. In 2009, the organization served more than 175 homeless families, including over 300 children. Parents receive parenting and life skills training; mental health services; housing assistance; and other basic aid. The shelter also offers early childhood services such as developmental screenings and early intervention to prepare children under the age of five for school.<sup>10</sup> The Salvation Army of Wichita, established in 1985, operates a 16-bed emergency shelter with comprehensive case management for homeless families and single women in crisis. The facility served an average of 16 persons per day in 2008, over half (58%) of whom were members of a family. In 2005, the Salvation Army, in collaboration with Episcopal Social Services (a social service agency) and Mennonite Housing (a non-profit, affordable-housing organization), created the Transitional Housing program. This 24-bed, two-year program is designed to help homeless families and single women attain financial stability, gain basic living skills, and secure permanent housing.<sup>11</sup>

### Number of Shelter Beds

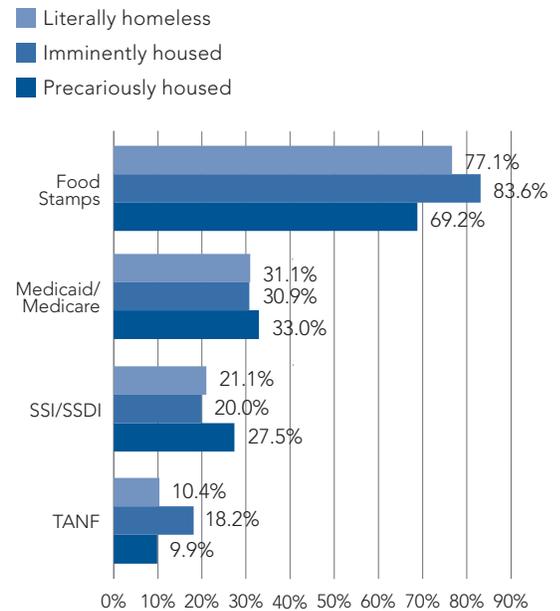
(by county)



Source: United Way of the Plains, *Everybody Counts: 2009 Kansas Point-In-Time Homeless Count, January 28, 2009, Volume 1.*

### Percent of Homeless Persons Accessing Mainstream Benefits

(by housing status and type of benefit)



Source: United Way of the Plains, *Everybody Counts 2009: Kansas Point-In-Time Homeless Count, January 28, 2009, Volume 1.*

### Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons.*
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations.*
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report.*
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 *American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.*
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 *American Community Survey.*
- United Way of the Plains, *Everybody Counts 2009: Kansas Point-In-Time Homeless Count, January 28, 2009, Volume 1.*
- National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach, Kansas, September 2000*; National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach 2010—June Update, Kansas.*
- Precariously housed persons are those living doubled up with family or friends or in a halfway house. Imminently housed persons are those living doubled up with family or friends who must vacate within a week.
- United Way of the Plains, *Everybody Counts 2009.*
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Wichita, *Annual Report, 2005–09.*
- The Salvation Army in Wichita, *Homeless Services Fact Sheet for 2008*; The Salvation Army in Wichita, "Homeless Services," [http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org/usc/www\\_usc\\_wichita.nsf](http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org/usc/www_usc_wichita.nsf)