



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

South Dakota had an estimated 87 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving more than three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The South Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in 2003) has been inactive since 2010. The council was tasked with developing strategies to address homelessness.

Governor's Appointee: None.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	South Dakota	Sioux Falls ²
Persons in homeless families ³	286	53
Number of family shelter beds ⁴	643	n/a
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁵	10	8
Percent of families in poverty ⁶	13.70%	12.30%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No plan	2005
10-Year plan target population	No plan	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium	South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	South Dakota Housing Development Authority	South Dakota Housing Development Authority
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	South Dakota Housing Development Authority	South Dakota Housing Development Authority

Head Start Services for Homeless Families in South Dakota

In South Dakota, 16 Head Start grantees serve children and families in every county and nine Early Head Start grantees operate in select localities. In program year 2010, 389 homeless children participated in Head Start programs statewide, a 52.0% increase from 2008. Ninety families experiencing homelessness in 2010 acquired permanent housing during the program year. Through Head Start programs, families received housing assistance (757), mental health care (417), adult education (328), and job training (279) during program year 2010. Roughly half (58.5%) of all families enrolled in Head Start in 2010 attained Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children services and 11.4% received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.⁷

Transportation Assistance for Homeless Families in Sioux Falls

With one-third (33.3%) of homeless single-parent families statewide reporting a need for transportation assistance, the Homeless Advisory Board (a collaborative of the City of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County) and the Sioux Falls Transit Department offer free bus passes to homeless and at-risk persons through the



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 South Dakota and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

Pass-it-on Program. Families and individuals unable to afford transportation costs can use passes to receive supportive services, access employment, and meet other basic needs. Bus passes are available at 14 participating agencies. Originally established in 1988, the program distributed 60,000 passes annually until 2006, when the number of available passes decreased to 40,000 due to financial constraints. In 2009, 7,835 persons obtained a total of 38,147 passes.⁸

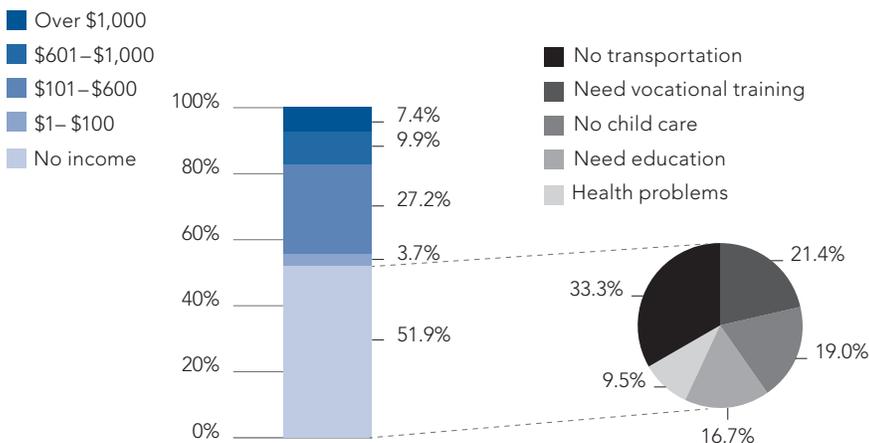
Housing Conditions on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Over half (58.0%) of South Dakota's homeless single-parent families are American Indian. In 2009, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing visited Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and observed severe overcrowding among homeless families and residents living in substandard conditions.⁹ With an unemployment rate around 80%, residents on the reservation struggle to maintain housing. Roughly 60% of the reservation's housing stock consists of single-family homes with three to four families residing in each unit. Additionally, a lack of affordable housing forces some residents to live without proper heating or cooling mechanisms or plumbing.¹⁰ The Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$996,100 to the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation in 2010 to integrate affordable housing and business development in southwestern South Dakota, specifically Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. With the allotted funds, the corporation, in partnership with the Oglala Sioux Tribe Consortium, will conduct direct outreach to organizations and government agencies from surrounding communities to create more employment opportunities, housing choices, high-performing schools, and transportation options.¹¹

South Dakota's Homeless Single-parent Families

In January 2009, there were 81 homeless single-parent families in South Dakota, 90.1% of which were female-headed households. The majority of single-parent families resided in transitional housing (45.7%), emergency shelter (33.3%) or hotels or motels (17.3%). Domestic violence (24.7%), inability to pay rent (14.8%), and loss of job or unemployment (14.8%) were the most frequently reported reasons for homelessness. Nearly half (48.1%) of families had an earned income of less than \$1,000 per month, with most (82.1%) parents employed. Single-parent families with no monthly earnings cited lack of transportation (33.3%), vocational training (21.4%), and child care (19.0%) as barriers to obtaining income.¹²

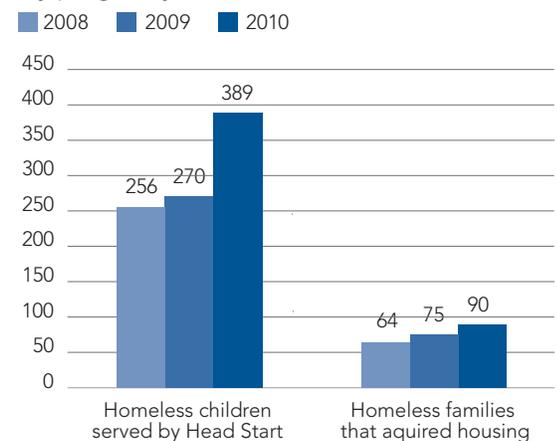
Percent of South Dakota's Homeless Single-parent Families (by monthly income and reasons for having no income)



Source: South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, *South Dakota Statewide 2009 Homeless Count Results*.

Number of Head Start Program Participants in South Dakota

(by program year and outcome)



Source: Rayne L. Dosch (Director, South Dakota Head Start State Collaboration Office), interview with ICPH, December 2010.

Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families*, 2009.
- Statistics for Sioux Falls include Minnehaha County.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, *Minnehaha County 2009 Homeless Count Results*.
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- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2009 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, *Minnehaha County 2009 Homeless Count Results*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- South Dakota Head Start Association, *Annual Head Start Profile 2010*; Rayne L. Dosch (Director, South Dakota Head Start State Collaboration Office), interview with ICPH, December 2010.
- South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, *South Dakota Statewide 2009 Homeless Count Results*; Stacey Tieszen (Coordinator, Homeless Advisory Board), interview with ICPH, January 2011; Stacey Tieszen, "The Sioux Falls Pass-it-on Program," (presentation, New Life Coalition, February 24, 2009); Sioux Area Metro, "Pass-it-on Program," <http://www.siouxareametro.org>
- South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, *South Dakota Statewide 2009 Homeless Count Results*; United Nations Human Rights Council, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living, and on the Right to Non-discrimination in this Context, Raquel Rolnik, on Her Mission to the United States of America*, 2010.
- U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, testimony of the Honorable John Yellow Bird Steele, President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, March 22, 2007; Victoria Bomberry, "Pine Ridge: A Housing Issue," *Indian Country Today*, November 3, 2009.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Sioux Falls, South Dakota Field Office, "HUD Awards Sustainability Grant," *HUD Heartland News*, November 2010; Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation, "Master Community Development Plan," <http://www.thundervalley.org>
- South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, *South Dakota Statewide 2009 Homeless Count Results*.