REGION 1
Coalition for the
HOMELESS

2008 Report
On any given night, approximately 500 people face homelessness in our area.
Homeless people can be adults, young people, couples, or families with children.
They are living without shelter, either temporarily or long-term, for a variety of reasons.
They may be homeless because of an untreated mental illness, a physical disability, domestic violence, loss of a job, or an addiction.
These people may be experiencing a financial crisis and have been evicted from their home; or be cycling in and out of homelessness.
Chronic:

‘A person experiencing homelessness is defined as an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition, who has either been continuously homeless for more than a year, or has had at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the past three years.’
Transitional:

‘Transitional homelessness generally refers to a single episode of homelessness that is of relatively short duration. Persons that experience transitional homelessness briefly use homeless resources in times of hardship and usually do not return.’
Region 1
Coalition for the Homeless:

- A non-profit organization
- Advocates for the homeless
- Member organizations provide direct assistance for homeless people with a variety of needs including:
  - shelter
  - food and
  - the opportunity to work and meet their basic needs.
Our Mission

It is the vision of the Region 1 Coalition for the Homeless to significantly reduce and prevent the incidents of homelessness in the five northern counties of Idaho.
Idaho’s Organizational Chart to Reduce Homelessness

Idaho Policy Council

Idaho Homelessness Coordinating Committee

REGION 1 Coalition for the HOMELESS
Region 1 Coalition for the Homeless Organizational Chart

Co-Chair – Garry Loeffler
Co-Chair – Matt Hutchinson
Secretary – Laurinda O’Dell

Membership Committee
Public Awareness Committee
Fundraising Committee
Where were you on January 29, 2008?
January 29, 2008

Of the 360 people surveyed, 23% were unsheltered.

77% were sheltered in a vehicle, abandoned building, stairwell, or other.

Source: State of Idaho Point in Time Survey Report – Region 1
January 29, 2008

Region 1: Homeless People by Gender

Region 1 Homeless by Gender

- Females: 43%
- Males: 57%

Source: State of Idaho Point in Time Survey Report – Region 1
January 29, 2008
Region 1 – Disabling Conditions

Source: State of Idaho Point in Time Survey Report – Region 1
January 29, 2008

Region 1 – Sub-Populations (32% responded)

Source: State of Idaho Point in Time Survey Report – Region 1
January 29, 2008

Region 1 – Age Group

Source: State of Idaho Point in Time Survey Report – Region 1
18% of the Homeless People are our Youth

Source: State of Idaho Point in Time Survey Report – Region 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Percentage/Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who do not feel safe in their community</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth ages 10-18 who will run away</td>
<td>1 in 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth who die each year as a result of assault, illness or suicide</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Project Safe Place 2007 Presentation – Statewide
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abuse referrals in 2006</td>
<td>8,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho’s ranking for teen suicide</td>
<td>2nd in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho’s ranking for spending on mental health programs</td>
<td>49th in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Project Safe Place 2007 Presentation - Statewide
Kootenai County Shelter Capacity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter Name</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent Women’s Shelter</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent Men’s Shelter</td>
<td>12+ floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent Transitional Housing</td>
<td>20 Family Units (Capacity 80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent Transitional Housing</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Pius Shelter</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Center</td>
<td>21 (Only if imminent danger)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Village</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Safe Place Host Homes</td>
<td>6 (Temp. youth shelter)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Beds**: 166 (Shelters are almost always full or overflowing)
What Are the Barriers to Lifting People out of Homelessness?
Barriers

- No personal hygiene products
- No water to bathe or wash clothes
- No legal form of identification/driver’s licence
- No social security card
- No mailing address
- No job or job skills
- No appropriate clothing to seek work
- No telephone for potential employer contact
• No childcare
• No food
• No transportation
• No medical treatment
• Pregnancy
• Chemical dependency
• Physical or mental disability
• Felony convictions
What is a sufficient salary to meet basic needs?

**Sufficient Salary:** This wage is based upon the average cost of food, housing, transportation, health care, utilities, child care, taxes, and a small amount of savings for emergencies.

Sufficient Salary (Kootenai County)

The following statistics are from the 2007 Northwest Job Gap Study

$11.16 - for a single person

$18.99 - for a single person + one child

$23.70 - for a single person + two children

$21.77 - for a couple, one working, two children

$30.29 – for a couple (both working/combined income) + two children

Percent of Job Openings in Idaho Paying Less than a Sufficient Salary

People who lose their jobs often lose their health care.
Insurance Premiums vs. Income

Insurance premiums have increased by **117%**, while income has increased by **20%**.

Average wait for alcohol and drug evaluation at the Veterans Administration is 6 months.
Veterans make up a disproportionate share of homeless people.

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness – Nov. 2007
Veterans represent 26% of the homeless population, but only 11% of the civilian population. (18 years and older)

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness – Nov. 2007
This is true despite the fact that Veterans are...

- Better educated
- More likely to be employed
- Have a lower poverty rate than the general population

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness – Nov. 2007
The Median Price of Homes in Kootenai County

Source: Spokesman Review
Percent of Single Family Homes that Cost Less than $100,000

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Report
“Households earning less than $50,000 per year have difficulty finding a home they can afford.”

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Report
In 2005 - 67% of the Households in Coeur d’Alene earned less than $50,000 per year.

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Report
Average wait for transitional housing is 6-12 months.
Most low cost housing in Coeur d’Alene/Post Falls have an 18-24 month waiting list.

Applicants often need:
- $25-$35 Credit Check Fee
- Good credit
- Security Deposit
Who is at Risk for Homelessness?

- Elderly
- Disabled
- Individuals or family who face the loss of a primary source of income
- Mental Illness
- Addiction issues
- Domestic violence
- Learning disabilities
- Women & children in abusive relationships
- Individuals who live pay check to pay check
Homelessness has Economic Consequences
Individuals experiencing homelessness consume resources.

- Emergency medical services, ambulance, EMT’s
- Primary health care, multi-day hospital stays
- Behavioral health care, psychiatric treatment, detox facilities
- Justice system: Police, law enforcement, corrections, courts

Source: United States Interagency on Homelessness
10-Year Planners analyzed the service use of 37 homeless men and women over a period of 3 years and found that these individuals cost the city and county more than $800,000 each year, including:

- 1,271 arrests generating $278,000 in jail costs
- 280 episodes of EMS services for $120,000
- $425,000 in hospitalization costs

Source: United States Interagency on Homelessness
What Can You Do?

1. Donate

Your donations will help organizations provide food, shelter, clothing, and basic needs for homeless men, women and children.
2. Join a Campaign

Join the Coalition for the Homeless, religious congregations, community groups, or organizations that assist the homeless population.

3. Volunteer

Many programs depend on the generosity of volunteers to support and serve our clients.
4. Contribute to the Homeless Connect
125 homeless people attended the first Annual Homeless Connect.