

Homelessness Estimates

Nearly a quarter of chronically homeless people in Nashville are employed.

(Source: 2007 Needs and Resource Assessment, conducted by the University of Tennessee for the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission)

It costs on average \$46.57 per person per day in Nashville to provide permanent supportive housing for a chronically homeless person. This compares to a cost of \$50-\$80 per day per person in jail and an estimated cost of \$500-\$1,000 per ER visit. (Sources: Metropolitan Homelessness Commission, Davidson County Jail, Eckman/Freeman report, 2009)

45 percent of homeless individuals report indicators of mental health problems during the past year and 57 percent report having had a mental health problem during their lifetime. About 25 percent of the homeless population has serious mental illness, including such diagnoses as chronic depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorders, and severe personality disorders. (Source: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/focusareas/health>)

Of 885 homeless people surveyed during the past three years in Nashville:

- 45% receive mental health treatment;
- 22% of respondents are veterans, of which 59 percent are medically vulnerable;
- 33% have a physical disability or mobility limitations;
- 39% have been the victim of a violent attack since they've been homeless;
- 30% work;
- 64% have abused substances in the past or present;
- 44% have received substance abuse treatment;
- 67% are uninsured;
- 82% have been to jail and 29 percent to prison; and
- 14% have been in foster care, of which 54 percent are medically vulnerable. (Source: Third Annual Vulnerability Index Results, Park Center & Metropolitan Homelessness Commission, Nashville, September 2010)

Close to 14% of Nashville high school students were on their own for at least one night in the past 12 months due to a runaway or throwaway episode. A runaway episode is when the teenager leaves on his/her own. A throwaway episode is caused when a parent or guardian kicks the teenager out of the home. (Source: Davidson County Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition, 2009 MNPS Survey)

In a 2000 study in Tennessee, 60% of homeless parents living in shelters with their children reported experiencing domestic violence in a 2000 study. (Source: Homes for the Homeless, *The Other America: Homeless Families in the Shadow of the New Economy, Family Homelessness in Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Carolinas*, 2000)