

During the week of April 11-15 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., 20 teams made up of over 100 community volunteers canvassed the streets of targeted areas in the metropolitan Tucson area. The volunteer teams used a nationally recognized **Vulnerability Index** survey to create a by-name list of individuals experiencing street homelessness who are most at risk of premature death.

In addition to systematically gathering the names, pictures, and dates of birth of individuals sleeping on the streets, the teams also captured data on their health status, institutional history (jail, prison, hospital and military), length of homelessness, patterns of shelter use and previous housing situation. These data were collected by use of a 40 item questionnaire. The **Vulnerability Index** was used to identify those who have been homeless the longest and are the most vulnerable. This list will be used to target housing and service resources to the most vulnerable in an effort to reduce chronic homelessness within targeted communities.

The **Vulnerability Index** is based on research by Dr. Jim O’Connell, which shows certain medical conditions place a homeless individual at a higher risk than others for dying if they remain on the streets.

## Results

The data summary below shows the results from the 402 individuals who were interviewed (unless otherwise noted).

- 402 individuals experiencing street homelessness were identified and surveyed in metropolitan Tucson.
- 186 (46%) were found to have health conditions associated with a high mortality risk (Medically-vulnerable).
- More than 100 community volunteers helped administer the surveys.

## Medical Risk Indicators

Indicator	Number
Tri-Morbidity (having at least one health condition plus a mental health issue and substance abuse disorder)	94 (23%)
Hospitalized over 3X in the past year	54 (13%)
Emergency Room visits over 3X in the past 3 months	34 (8%)
Age Over 60	42 (10%)
HIV/AIDS	5 (1%)
Liver Disease or Cirrhosis	52 (13%)
Kidney Disease or End-Stage Renal Disease	25 (6%)
Cold/Wet Weather Injury	52 (13%)

## Gender

- 325 (81%) were male
- 74 (18%) were female

## Older Adults

- 42 (10%) were over 60 years old.
- The oldest respondent was 88 years old.
- 19 individuals reported being homeless longer than 10 years.
- The longest reported length of homelessness was 40 years.

## Years Homeless

- The average years homeless for the Medically-Vulnerable population is 9.2 years.
- The average years homeless for the Non Medically-Vulnerable population is 6.6 years.

## Veterans

- 84 (21%) surveyed were Veterans.
- 38 of the Veterans met criteria for “Medically -Vulnerable.”
- Average years homeless for the veteran population is 9.4 years.
- Average years homeless for the Medically-Vulnerable veteran population is 11.4 years.

## Youth & Foster Care

- 69 (17%) respondents reported having a history of foster care.
- 18 respondents were under 25 years old.
- The youngest respondent was 19 years old.
- 7 respondents under 25 years of age were Medically-Vulnerable

## Inpatient Hospitalizations

- A total of 380 inpatient hospitalizations were reported in the past year at an average cost of \$1.1M.

## Emergency Room Visits

- A total of 447 ER visits were reported by all respondents in the last 3 months for a cost of \$1.7M.
- Inpatient and ER costs combined total over \$2.8 million on 402 people.

## Health System Impacts

- 81 (20%) report having no insurance.
- The majority of respondents having no insurance go to:
  - 15 El Rio Center
  - 10 St. Mary’s
  - 6 TMC
  - 3 St. Joseph’s Hospital
  - 3 Kino-UHC
  - 2 UMC

## Income Source

- 169 individuals reported having food stamps (SNAP).
- 105 individuals reported working “off the books.”
- 86 individuals reported income from panhandling.
- 85 individuals reported income from recycling.
- 47 individuals reported having Social Security Benefits of some sort.
- 43 individuals reported working “on the books.”

## Violence

- 166 or (41%) reported being a victim of a violent attack since becoming homeless.

## Brain Injury

- 104 or (26%) reported suffering from a brain injury.

## 51homes Media Coverage

51homes progress has been followed and shared by several local media outlets (some links may have expired):

3/22 Arizona Public Media | KUAZ | Robert Rappaport | About 51homes & volunteer appeal

<http://www.azpm.org/news/story/2011/3/22/20-housing-tucson-homeless/>

3/23 Arizona Illustrated | KUAT | Kimberly Craft | About 51homes (No link available)

3/27 Talk of Tucson | KNST | Paul Birmingham | About 51homes and volunteer appeal (Link has expired)

4/4 KVOA | "51 Homes" aims to shelter Tucson's most vulnerable

<http://www.kvoa.com/news/51-homes-aims-to-shelter-tucson-s-most-vulnerable/>

4/12 KVOA | Jeff Westlake | 51homes gives Tucson's homeless a chance.

<http://www.kvoa.com/videos/?id=5311>

4/12 KOLD | Sam Salzwedel | Volunteers to find 51 homes for homeless

<http://www.kold.com/story/14419620/volunteers-to-find-51-homes-for-homeless?redirected=true>

4/12 KOLD | Mark Stine | group seeks homes for Tucson's most vulnerable homeless

<http://www.kold.com/story/14433316/local?redirected=true>

4/13 Arizona Public Media | KUAZ | Robert Rappaport (No link available)

4/15 KOLD | Michael Truelsen | Survey: Nearly half of the Tucson homeless have health risks

<http://www.kold.com/story/14457581/survey-nearly-half-of-tucson-homeless-have-health-risks>

4/15 KVOA | 51homes Registry Week Results (No link available)

4/15 KGUN | 51homes Registry Week Results (No link available)

4/21 Arizona Illustrated | KUAT | Kimberly Craft | 51 homes for the homeless

<http://www.azpm.org/news/story/2011/4/20/1830-51-homes-for-the-homeless/>

4/24 Arizona Daily Star | Stephanie Innes | Half of area's homeless in survey risk early death

[http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article\\_8daa5fb5-c15f-5168-9051-95001e8c6413.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article_8daa5fb5-c15f-5168-9051-95001e8c6413.html)

7/1 KVOA | A program gives 51 homeless people a place to live |

<http://www.kvoa.com/news/a-program-gives-51-homeless-people-a-place-to-live/#.Tg8nV2ZlM3M.facebook>

## More information:

### 51homes

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Web page: [www.codac.org/51homes](http://www.codac.org/51homes)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/51homes](http://www.facebook.com/51homes)

### 100,000 Homes Campaign

Website: <http://100khomes.org/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/100khomes>

Parent Organization: <http://cmtysolutions.org/>