

## PROJECT H3: Home, Health, Hope



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Meissner  
602-542-5204  
602-540-1917  
[smeissner@des.gov](mailto:smeissner@des.gov)

## Project H3 Seeks to Save Valley's Homeless *Workers, volunteers conduct survey to find the most vulnerable*

**PHOENIX (April 29, 2010)** – Nearly 90 percent of the Valley's homeless are coping with a behavioral health issue, have been living on the streets for nearly eight years, on average, and 106 of these individuals – about 40 percent – have a health condition associated with a high risk of dying, according to recently completed study.

The survey, conducted by 262 volunteers associated with Project H3: Home, Health, Hope, spent three mornings combing the streets, alleys, and vacant lots of Phoenix, Mesa, Glendale and the Sunnyslope area.

They located 262 homeless individuals and collected data from 208 of them, using a survey developed by [Common Ground](#), an organization founded in 1980 that is seeking to find and house the nation's 100,000 most vulnerable homeless individuals.

The Valley survey will be used to identify 50 homeless individuals most at risk of dying. They will be placed in local housing and provided with services within the next few weeks. The surveys were done between 3:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on the mornings of April 20, 21 and 22. Among the survey findings were:

#### **AGE**

- 24 (9%) are age 60 years or older.
- The oldest respondent was 77 years old.
- 10 individuals were homeless for more than 10 years.

#### **Violence**

- 94 or (36%) were victims of a violent attack since becoming homeless.

#### **Duration**

- The average years homeless for the vulnerable population is 7.8 years.
- The average years homeless for the non-vulnerable population is 5.2 years.

#### **Needs**

- 102 reported a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse.
- 113 reported a history of substance abuse only.
- 17 reported only signs or symptoms of mental illness.
- 234 (89%) reported at least one behavioral health issue.

#### **Veterans**

- 55 (21%) were veterans.
- 43 veterans (76% of those who are vets) were honorably discharged.
- 21 veterans met criteria for "vulnerable."

#### **Youth and Foster Care**

- 29 (11%) respondents report having a history of foster care.
- Eight respondents were under 25 years old.
- The youngest respondent was 19 years old.
- Two respondents under the age of 25 have increased mortality risks specific to adults.
- Two respondents under the age of 25 have increased mortality risks specific to that age group.  
(Youth risk factors are HIV/AIDS, drinking alcohol everyday for past 30 days, injection drug use.)

#### **Health System Impacts**

- Estimated inpatient and ER costs combined total more than \$1 million a year
- 168 ER visits were reported in the last three months, for a cost of \$632,000.
- More than two out of three, 63 or 24%, have no health insurance.
- 64 (24%) report suffering from a brain injury.

## PROJECT H3: Home, Health, Hope



**PROJECTH3**

home, health, hope

### About Project H3: Home, Health, Hope

Project H3: Home, Health Hope is a collaborative effort of community leaders from the non-profit, governmental and business communities in the Greater Phoenix area striving to end homelessness in our communities. The Project H3 Implementation Team is led by the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness. It consists of more than 50 individual members representing the following organizations, agencies and entities:

A New Leaf	City of Phoenix	Mesa United Way
Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation	City of Tempe	Native American Connections
Arizona Housing Alliance	Community Bridges	New Arid Club
Arizona Housing, Inc.	Community Information and Referral	Phoenix Human Services Commission
ASU Center for Applied BH Services	Comtrans	Phoenix Military Veterans Commission
ASU Morrison Institute	Downtown Phoenix Partnership	Phoenix VA Medical Center HCHV
ASU School of Nursing	Foundation for Senior Living	S.T.A.R. Centers
ASU School of Social Work	Health Care for the Homeless	Salvation Army Project Hope
AZ Department of Economic Security	HOM, Inc.	Save the Family
AZ Department of Health Services	HomeBase Youth Services	Southwest Behavioral Health
AZ Department of Housing	Lodestar Day Resource Center	St. Vincent de Paul
AZ Department of Veterans Services	Madison Street Veterans Association	Terros
Basic Mission	MAG Continuum of Care	Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development
Biltmore Properties, Inc.	Magellan Health Services of Arizona	U.S. Vets
Central Arizona Shelter Services	MARC Center	UMOM New Day Centers
City of Glendale	Maricopa County Public Defender	Valle del Sol
City of Mesa	Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues	Valley of the Sun United Way

To learn more about Project H3, please visit <http://www.azceh.org/PH3.html>. Project H3: Home, Health, Hope has launched a group page on Facebook.com at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=231178836390&ref=mf&v=info#!/group.php?gid=302450642571&ref=nf>. To learn about the national effort, visit [www.commonground.org](http://www.commonground.org).

# # #