

# News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Registry Week Delivers Compelling View of Juneau's Vulnerable and Unsheltered Homeless Community**

*Data emerges as 35 volunteers complete successful outreach with those experiencing homelessness in Juneau*

**Juneau, AK** — Over the past week 35 volunteers from Juneau canvassed the city in the early morning hours to connect with neighbors experiencing homelessness in an effort to compile a by-name registry of Juneau's vulnerable and unsheltered population. A component of Juneau's enrollment in the nationwide **100,000 Homes Campaign**, and a strategic step taken by the **Juneau Homeless Coalition**, Registry Week yielded 47 surveys of which 74% were identified as vulnerable.

35 local volunteers hit the streets between 4:30 and 8:00am to gather data using the Vulnerability Index, a questionnaire developed by Dr. Jim O'Connell of Harvard University. Dr. O'Connell's research has demonstrated that certain medical conditions give homeless individuals a much higher likelihood of premature death on the street. People living with homelessness have a life expectancy over 20 years less than their housed neighbors, with some of the largest areas of concern being mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, diabetes, cardiac or pulmonary conditions, and serious brain or physical injury. Most of the Vulnerability Index's 39 questions identify those health warning signs, while others help identify the respondent and provide background information to help understand the individuals and patterns that characterize Juneau's present state with regards homelessness.

"Registry Week in Juneau has been a positive, powerful experience on many levels. The connection between an incredible group of committed volunteers and our community currently living without shelter was meaningful and insightful, said Kiel Renick, Outreach Coordinator for the Glory Hole and the Vulnerability Index Survey organizer. "We were able to provide direct service in the form of food, socks, and personal care essentials, and our neighbors experiencing homelessness were given space to open up regarding their history, their current situation, and their needs. This information will allow members of the Juneau Homeless Coalition, the City and Borough of Juneau, and other committed agencies and members of the community to move forward with a data-driven response to this critical issue. The demand has been clarified tremendously, now the real work begins."

Juneau Homeless Coalition leaders estimate that approximately 75-80% of Juneau's chronically homeless population was contacted during Registry Week. Outreach efforts will continue at the Glory Hole to make sure that remaining individuals, along with individuals who initially declined to

participate, will have the opportunity to complete a Vulnerability Index survey. The Registry is a confidential resource that will be used to demonstrate the urgent need for housing within the vulnerable demographic of our community, and to serve as a guide for immediate housing efforts and long term project development.

A Brief Sampling of the Data Includes:

**Age**—The youngest respondent was 21, and the oldest respondent was 74. The average age for all respondents was 47.8.

**Years Homeless**—The Average Years Homeless for those deemed Vulnerable was 10.0 years.

**Health**—28% of respondents experience some sort of limited mobility, 49% have experienced a brain injury or head trauma, and 23% have been to the emergency room at least 3 times in the past 3 months.

**Ethnicity**—55% Alaska Native; 32% White; 6% African American; and 2% each Native American, Pacific Islander, Mixed Race. For the Vulnerable population, the breakdown is 60% Alaska Native and 26% White.

**Service Needs**—55% of respondents experience or have had a history of mental illness, and 89% of respondents experience or have had a history of substance abuse.

**Veterans**—32% of those surveyed, and 37% of those Vulnerable are veterans.

**Violence**—62% of survey respondents have been victims of a violent attack since becoming homeless.

**Vulnerability**—35 individuals, or 74% of survey respondents, were identified as Vulnerable.

For more information regarding the 100,000 Homes Campaign, please visit [www.100khomes.org](http://www.100khomes.org)  
To learn more about the Juneau Homeless Coalition please see [jedc.org/housing-coalition.shtml](http://jedc.org/housing-coalition.shtml)

— Thank You —