

Chapter 10

Social Issues

Introduction

Issues such as crime, substance abuse, and domestic abuse affect the daily lives of many residents of Taney County. While the overall numbers of these incidents are currently relatively low compared to other areas of the state and country, these issues will continue to increase along with population growth present in the county. Because of this, it is important to have an understanding of the current situation and contributing issues during the development of community programs.

Disabilities

Persons in the community who have physical, sensory, mental, and/or self-care challenges continue to confront many issues as they access services in the county. Tables 10.1 and 10.2 show disabilities by type and by percent for Taney County. Over 4,300 people in Taney County, or 11.7% of the population, reported having one type of disability in the year 2000.

Table 10.1

Disability By Specific Type and Percent of Total Population-Taney County, 2000		
	Number	Percent of Total Population
Total County Population:	36,898	100.0
With One Type of Disability	4,315	11.7
Sensory Disability	638	1.7
Physical Disability	1,680	4.6
Mental Disability	401	1.1
Self-Care Disability	15	0.0
Go-Outside-Home Disability	413	1.1
Employment	1,266	3.4
With Two or More Types of Disability	3,504	9.5
Includes Self-Care Disability	940	2.5
Does Not Include Self-Care Disability	2,662	7.2
Go-Outside-Home Disability	539	1.5
No Disability	28,981	78.5

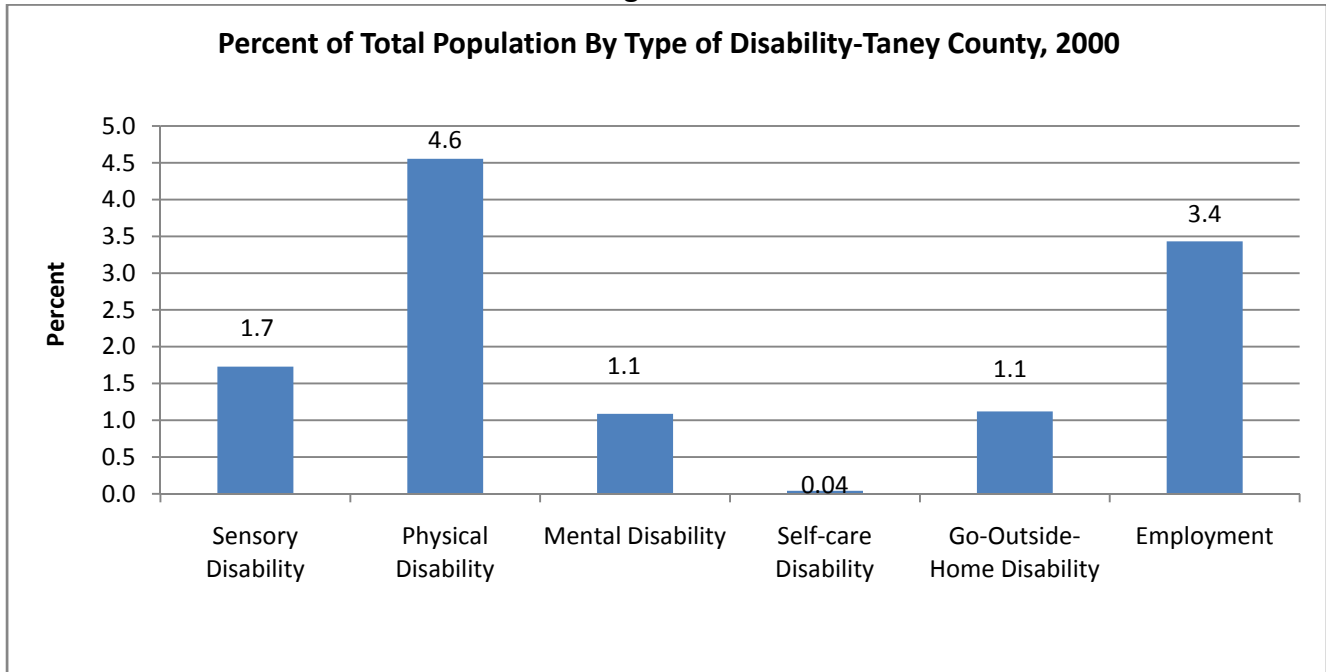
Source: US Census Bureau

Table 10.2

Disability By Type and Percent of Total Population-Taney County, 2000		
	Number	Percent of Total Population
With One Type of Disability	4,315	11.7
With Two or More Types of Disability	3,504	9.5
Total With Disability	7,819	21.2
Total With Go-Outside-Home Disability	952	2.6
Total With Self-Care Disability	955	2.6

Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 10.1



Source: US Census Bureau

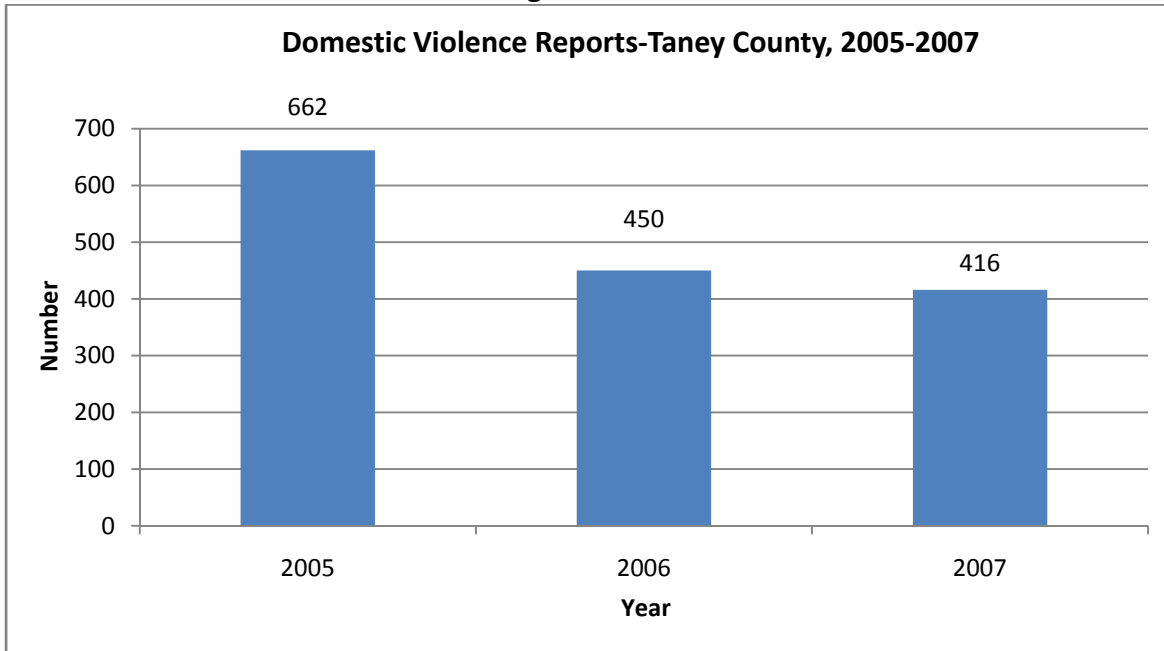
Figure 10.1 illustrates the percent of the population by type of disability for Taney County as reported in the year 2000 census. Approximately 4.6 percent of the population of Taney County reported having a physical disability.

During the year 2000 Census, 3,316 residents of Taney County (54.4%) age 65 and older reported having a disability while the corresponding Missouri rate was 55.3 percent. For those members of the working age population in Taney County, 3,068 reported having some type of disability. This was a rate of 12.1 percent compared to a state rate of 10.8 percent.

Crime

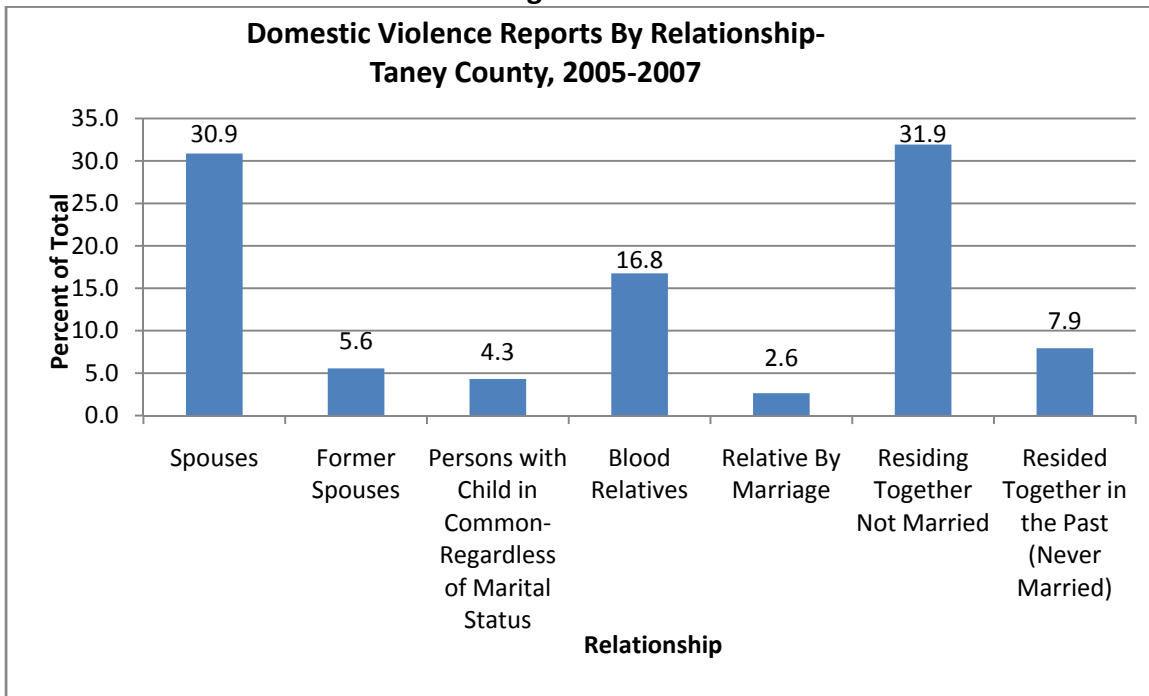
Figure 10.2 and 10.3 give the number of domestic violence reports and the percent of reports by relationship for Taney County from 2005 to 2007. In Taney County, a total of 416 incidents of domestic violence were reported in 2007.

Figure 10.2



Source: Missouri State Highway Patrol, UCR

Figure 10.3



Source: Missouri State Highway Patrol, UCR

Table 10.3

Domestic Abuse Reports-Taney County, 2006-2007			
	2006	2007	Rate Per 10,000 Population 2007
Branson	163	131	176.2
Forsyth	13	8	47.0
Hollister	42	65	171.2
Rockaway Beach	0	11	189.0
Taney County Rural	232	200	69.4
Village of Merriam Woods	0	1	8.4
Total	450	416	95.0

Source: Missouri State Highway Patrol, UCR

Domestic abuse reports are given in Table 10.3 by areas in Taney County. The majority of domestic violence reports were reported in rural Taney County from 2001 to 2004.

Table 10.4

Violent Crime Offense Totals-Taney County, 2007		
	2007	3 Year Average
Criminal Homicide	2	1.7
Forcible Rape	8	16.3
Attempted Rape	3	1
Robbery	20	14.7
Aggravated Assault	254	232
Total Violent Offenses	287	265.7

Source: Missouri State Highway Patrol, UCR

Table 10.5

Property Crime Offense Totals-Taney County, 2007		
	2007	3 Year Average
Robbery	20	14.7
Burglary	320	331.3
Larceny Theft	1,411	1,432.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	105	99.3
Arson	8	8.0
Total Property Offenses	1,864	1,885.7

Source: Missouri State Highway Patrol, UCR

Registered Sex Offenders

The number of registered sex offenders in the county by city of residence is shown in Table 10.6. Ninety-eight registered sex offenders live in Taney County; eight of these offenders have been convicted of multiple charges.

Table 10.6

Registered Sex Offenders By City of Residence-Taney County, March 2007											
	Total	Branson	Cedar Creek	Forsyth	Hollister	Kirbyville	KisseeMills	Meriam Woods	Rockaway beach	Taney -ville	Other
Total	81	33	3	10	8	5	6	3	5	2	6

Source: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Registered Sex Offender List

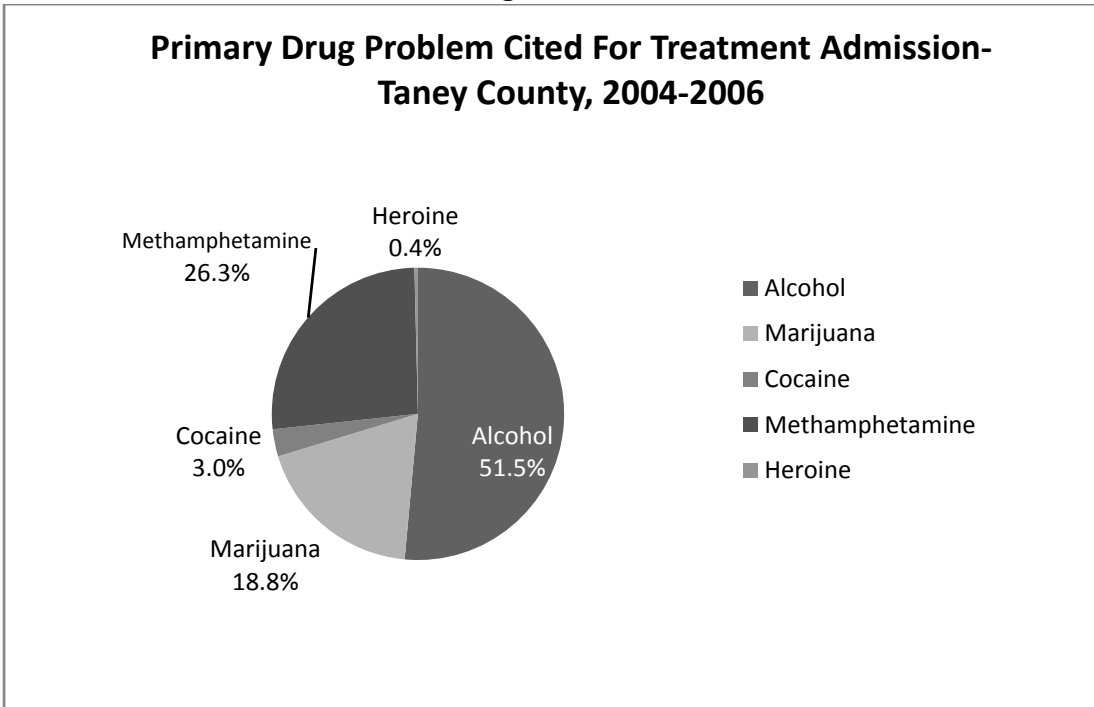
Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Table 10.7

Alcohol and Drug Health Care Statistics-Taney County, 2003-2005						
	Alcohol			Drug		
Year	Hospitalization	ER	ER outpatient	Hospitalization	ER	ER outpatient
2003	89	164	195	78	76	131
2004	93	188	277	108	114	174
2005	121	182	278	128	153	220
Percent Change 2003-2005	36.0	11.0	42.6	64.1	101.3	67.9

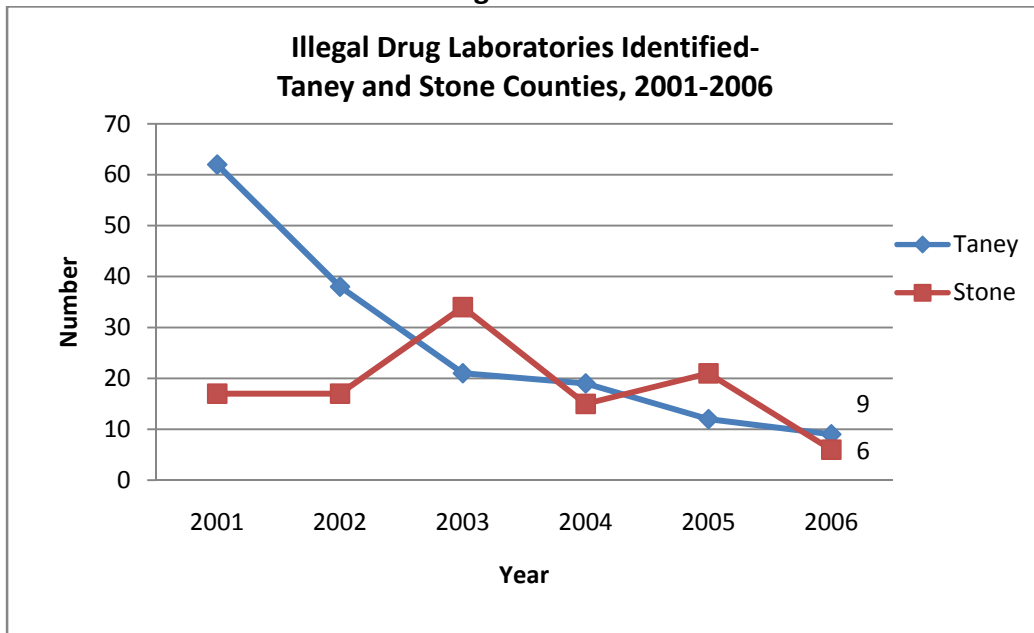
Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health

Figure 10.6



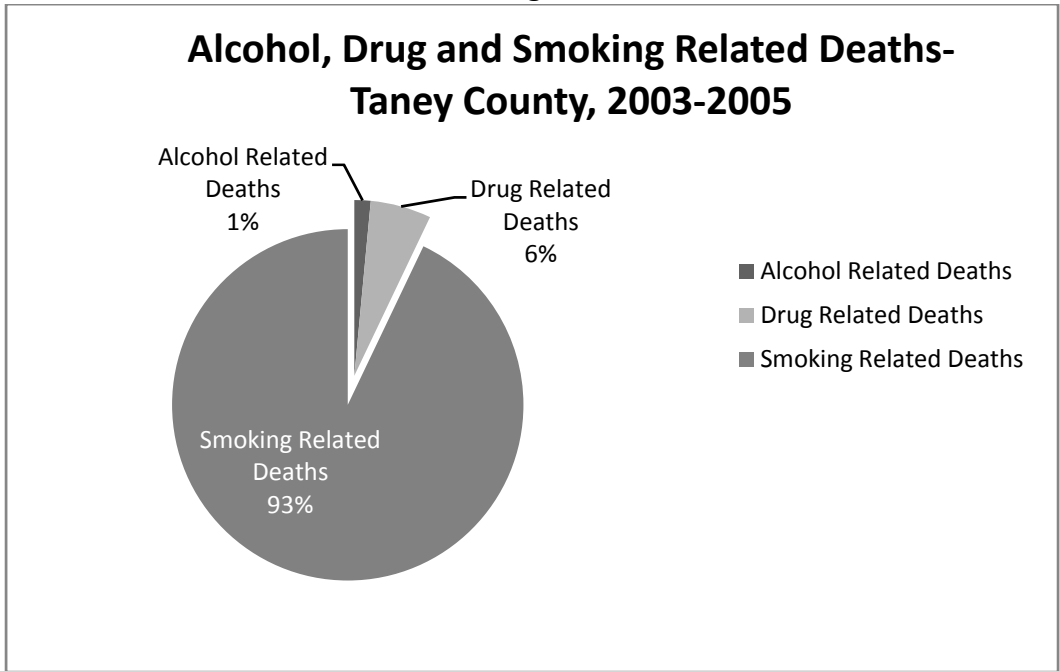
Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health

Figure 10.7



Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health

Figure 10.8



Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health, 2007 Annual Status Report.

Suicide

Information regarding suicides in Taney County is provided in the following tables and figures. Table 10.8 provides data on the number and rate of suicides from 1995 to 2006 as compared to the state rates. In Figure 10.9 the number of firearm related suicides is shown. In 2006 a total of 9 suicides were reported with 5 of those involving firearms.

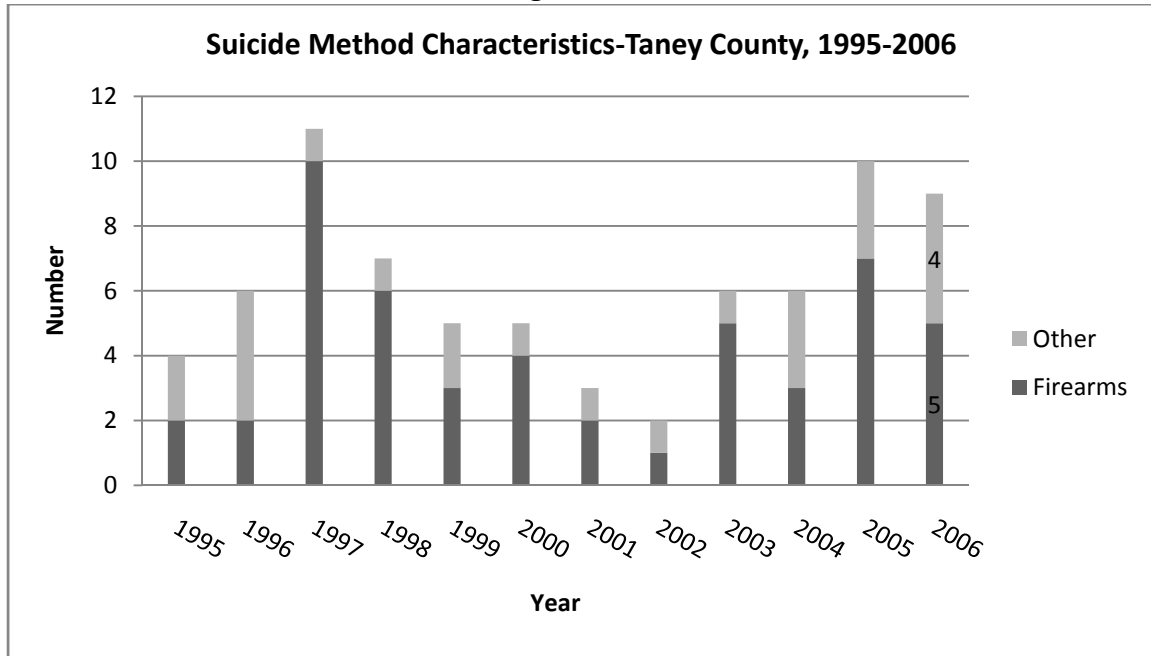
Table 10.8

Rate of Suicide Deaths Per 100,000 – Taney County and Missouri, 1995-2006		
	Taney	Missouri
Rate per 100,000	14.8	12.8
Number	74	8,664
Average Per Year	6.2	722.0

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Table 10.9 provides data on the rate of suicides in Taney County by age group. Taney County has higher rates of suicide in all age groups when compared to the state of Missouri. (Table 10.9)

Figure 10.9



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Table 10.9

Suicide Deaths By Age and Gender, Rate Per 100,000 – Taney County, 1990-2006						
	Age Group					
	Under 15	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 65	All Ages
Male	0	21.5	33.5	34.0	48.8	27.1
Female	0	@. @	8.6	@. @	8.4	@. @
Both Sexes	0	14.1	20.8	17.4	26.7	15.5
Missouri Both Sexes	0.6	13.1	17.6	15.8	17.9	13.0

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, MICA

Housing

Housing costs continue to be an issue in Taney County and Missouri. This problem places an enormous burden on families and households in the community who are middle and low-wage earners.

Missouri

- In Missouri, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$612. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,039 monthly or \$24,470 annually.

Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$11.76.

- In Missouri, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$5.15. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 91 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 2.3 minimum wage earner(s) working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two bedroom FMR affordable.
- In Missouri, the estimated mean (average) wage for a renter is \$10.91 an hour. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 43 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1.1 worker(s) earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.
- Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$603 in Missouri. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$181 in monthly rent is affordable, while the FMR for a one-bedroom is \$500.

A unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, www.nlihc.org

The following tables provide information concerning the affordability of housing in Taney County.

Table 10.10

Family Income and Housing-Taney County, Stone County and Missouri, 2007							
	2006 Annual Median Income (AMI)			Maximum Affordable* Monthly Housing Cost By % of Family Area Median Income			
	Annual	Monthly	30% of AMI	30%	50%	80%	100%
Missouri	\$58,194	\$4,850	\$17,458	\$436	\$727	\$1,164	\$1,455
Taney County	\$45,600	\$3,800	\$13,680	\$342	\$570	\$912	\$1,140
Stone County	\$46,100	\$3,842	\$13,830	\$346	\$576	\$922	\$1,153

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

Table 10.11

Fair Market Rent (FMR) By Number of Bedrooms- Taney County, Stone County and Missouri, 2007

Number of Bedrooms	Taney County	Stone County	Missouri
Zero	\$453	\$352	\$444
One	\$454	\$410	\$500
Two	\$573	\$542	\$612
Three	\$684	\$711	\$810
Four	\$870	\$782	\$875

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

Table 10.12

Renter Household and Income - Taney County and Missouri, 2006

	Taney County	Missouri
Estimated Median	\$29,052	\$29,528
Percent Needed to Afford 2 BR FMR	79%	83%
Rent Affordable at Median	\$726	\$738
% Renters Unable to Afford 2 BR FMR	\$39	\$41

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

Table 10.13

Income Needed to Afford Fair Market Rents - Taney County and Missouri, 2007

	Annual Amount By Number of Bedrooms					Percent of Family AMI By Number of Bedrooms				
	Zero Bedroom	One Bedroom	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom	Zero Bedroom	One Bedroom	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom
Missouri	\$17,771	\$20,018	\$24,470	\$32,416	\$35,015	31%	34%	42%	56%	60%
Taney County	\$18,120	\$18,160	\$22,920	\$27,360	\$34,800	40%	40%	50%	60%	76%

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

Table 10.14

Housing Wage For Fair Market Rents By Number of Bedrooms- Taney County and Missouri, 2006										
	Hourly Wage needed to Afford @ 40 hrs /Week					Housing Wage as % of Minimum Wage				
	Zero Bedroom	One Bedroom	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom	Zero Bedroom	One Bedroom	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom
Missouri	\$8.54	\$9.62	\$11.76	\$15.58	\$16.83	166%	187%	228%	303%	327%
Taney County	\$8.71	\$8.73	\$11.02	\$13.15	\$16.73	169%	170%	214%	255%	325%

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

Table 10.15

Work Hours/Week at Minimum Wage Needed to Afford Fair Market Rent(FMR)- Taney County and Missouri, 2006		
	Taney County	Missouri
Zero-Bedroom	68	66
One-Bedroom	68	75
Two-Bedroom	86	91
Three-Bedroom	102	121
Four-Bedroom	130	131

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

Homelessness

Taney County has experience an enormous growth in businesses, wealth, and resources in the past couple of decades. However, despite these positive events homelessness still occurs in Taney County. The following tables and graphs provide information on the "Point-in-time Count" conducted by Church Army Volunteers to identify those who are experiencing homelessness in Taney County. In January and July of 2008, volunteers surveyed homeless individuals in Taney County. In January a total of 232 individuals were identified as being homeless or living in weekly rentals. In July, a total of 228 people were identified, 63 of whom were children.

Table 10.16

Number of Homeless Identified In Point in Time Survey By Location, January 2008-Taney County			
	Adults	Children	Total
Total	98	36	232
weekly Rentals	59	21	139
Homeless	29	15	73
RV/Campgrounds	19	0	29

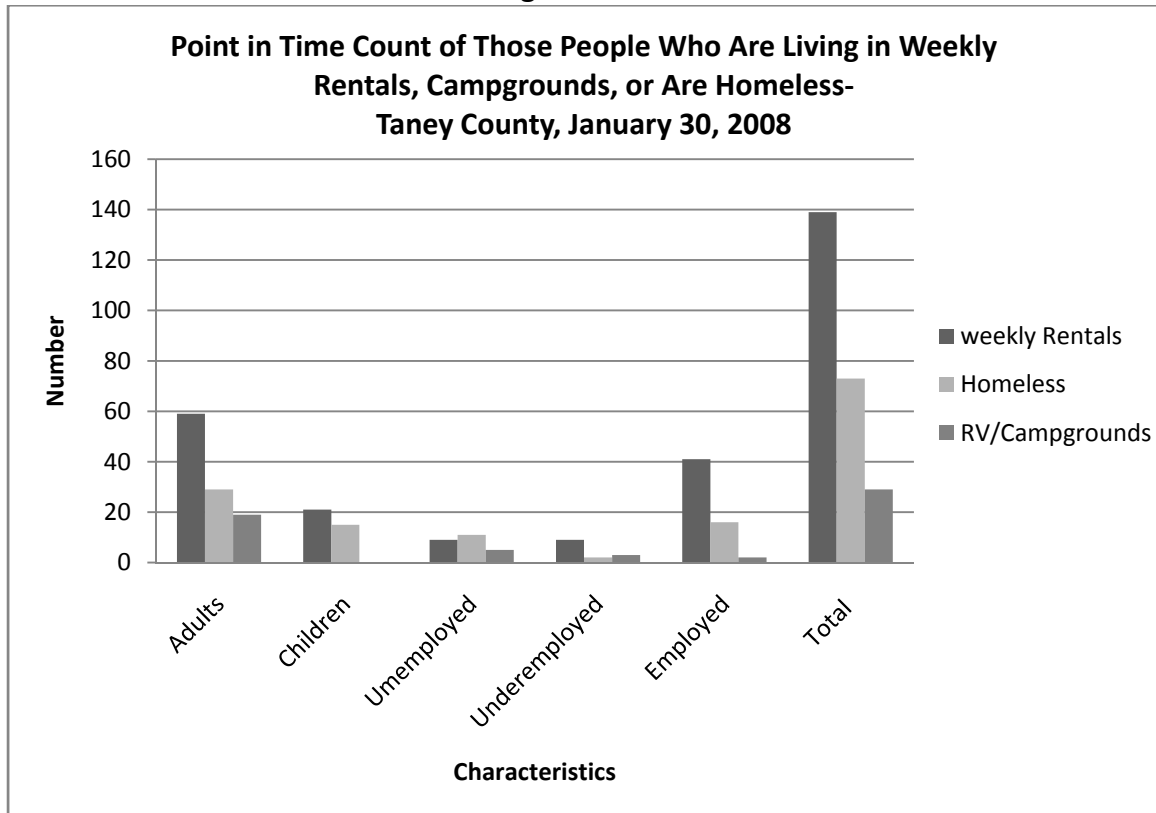
Source: Church Army

Table 10.17

Number of Homeless Identified In Point in Time Survey By Location, July 2008-Taney County			
	Adults	Children	Total
Total	165	63	228
weekly Rentals	138	54	192
Homeless	27	9	36
RV/Campgrounds	-	-	-

Source: Church Army

Figure 10.10



Source: Church Army

Table 10.18 and 10.19 provide information on those who were interviewed during the “Point-in-time” survey. Of those who answered, 12.4% indicated that they had been homeless for more than one year. When asked about factors that contributed to their homelessness, 17.6% indicated unemployment and 11.8% (n=2) indicated that they became homeless as a result of a natural disaster, such as flooding.

Table 10.18

Number of Days Being Homeless, Point in Time Survey, July 2008-Taney County		
	Number	Percent
0-30 Days	31	32.0
31-60 Days	15	15.5
61-120 Days	13	13.4
121-180 Days	2	2.1
181-365 Days	24	24.7
Over 1 Year	12	12.4

Source: Church Army

Table 10.19

Factors Reported to Have Contributed to Being Homeless, Point in Time Survey, July 2008-Taney County		
	Number	Percent
Unemployment	3	17.6
Under-Employment	2	11.8
Divorce	1	5.9
Natural Disaster (Flood)	2	11.8
Domestic Violence	1	5.9
Eviction/Foreclosure	1	5.9
Illness	1	5.9
Unknown	4	23.5
Other	2	11.8

Source: Church Army