

**Fairfax-Falls Church
Continuum of Care**

**2007 Point in Time Survey
Summary Report**

Annual Homeless Count

**March 26, 2007
Fairfax County, Virginia**



Prepared for the Community Planning Collaborative on Homelessness
Designed by the Community Planning Committee, Point in Time Survey Committee

Data collection and compilation by the Fairfax County
Department of Systems Management for Human Services

Explanatory Notes for 2007 Point in Time Report

The Fairfax-Falls Church Point in Time Survey is an annual count of the homeless population in Fairfax County and the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax on a specified day during the year. Conducted on January 25, 2007, the Point in Time count includes data from more than 20 nonprofit and faith-based organizations as well as public agencies and accounts for more than 60 homeless programs.

The 2007 Point in Time Survey was designed to provide an unduplicated count of homeless persons in our community and provide information for local, regional, state, and national planning. The data identifies characteristics of the homeless population and services needed by homeless persons. The Point in Time Survey was not designed to explain the cause of homelessness, but is a tool to assist decision makers in determining our capacity to serve the homeless population and identify resources needed to fill critical service gaps.

Historically, the total Point in Time count has included data for the literally homeless¹ as well as the permanently supported homeless.² This combined population accounts for persons who do not have stable permanent housing as well as persons who have moved through our homeless Continuum of Care and secured permanent housing with on-going support services to keep them in place. Beginning in 2007, the total count of homeless persons will only include the literally homeless. This number will serve as the baseline for the Strategic Directions for the Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community. Those persons in permanent supported housing will continue to be surveyed, but the data will be reported separately. Continuing to track both populations allows the community to better understand the homeless Continuum of Care and assess progress made in the goal to prevent and end homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

¹ **Literally Homeless** are those who do not have a permanent, stable place to live. This includes persons who are unsheltered or staying in shelters, motels, or transitional housing, or on the waiting list for shelter and who are living in temporary, precarious housing arrangements.

² **Permanently Supported Homeless** are persons who are in permanent supportive housing and at risk of becoming literally homeless again without needed supportive services due to extreme poverty or serious mental and/or physical disabilities. This group represents part of the solution, rather than the part of the problem that remains.

Point in Time Count Overview

A total of 1,813 persons were identified as being homeless on January 25, 2007. Of that total, 730 were single individuals with no children living with them and 1,083 were persons in families.

- 40% of the total homeless population are **individuals** or couples with no children.
- 60% of the total homeless population are **persons in families**.

	2006	2007
Individuals	667	730
Persons in Families	1,099	1,083
Adults	425	409
Children	674	674
Total Families	321	307
Average Family Size	3.4	3.5

Program Type

Point in Time data was collected from a variety of different types of programs. The majority of persons surveyed were in transitional housing. A total of 273 persons were identified in permanently supported housing. This total includes 8 persons in the Safe Haven. These persons are not included in the statistical breakout for homeless persons.

Table 2. Type of Program where Homeless Persons were Counted

	Individuals		Persons in Families	
	#	%	#	%
Emergency Shelter	152	21%	136	13%
Overflow	61	8%	0	0%
Hypothermia	96	13%	0	0%
Transitional Housing	184	25%	793	73%
Other	190	26%	154	14%
Outreach	47	6%	0	0%
Totals	730	40%	1,083	60%

Chronically Homeless

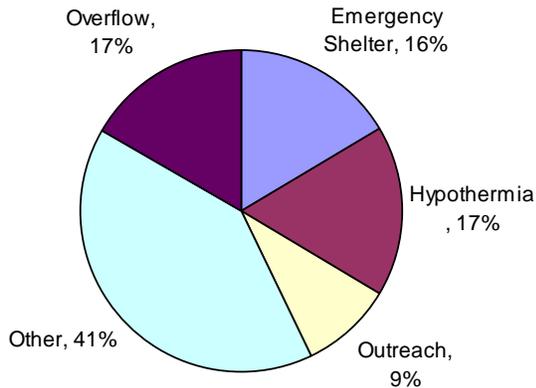
“Chronically homeless”³ is a term used to describe single individuals who have been homeless for a prolonged period of time and/or have had multiple episodes of homelessness in a relatively short period of time.

- Of the total 1,813 homeless persons identified, 372 or 21% of the total were identified as chronically homeless.
- 335 persons or 46% of the total number of individuals were identified as chronically homeless.
- 128 persons or 18% of the total number of individuals were identified as chronically homeless and unsheltered.

Chronically homeless persons were counted in five different types of programs including emergency shelter, hypothermia, overflow, outreach, and other programs. Forty-one percent of the persons who were identified as chronically homeless were counted in “other programs”. The “other” category includes day programs such as the Lamb Center, Community Services Board’s PATH program, and FACETS’ Homeless Intervention Services.

³ Chronically Homeless is defined by HUD as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

Where Chronically Homeless Persons Were Counted



- 76% of adults in **families** are female, 23% are male.
- 83% of **families** have a single head of household; 91% of these are females and only 9% are males.

Table 3. Gender			
	Female	Male	Totals
Individuals	204	525	729 ¹
Youth in Individual Programs ²	3	2	5
	Female	Male	Totals
Persons in Families	637	446	1,083
Adults in Families	314	95	409
Children in Families	323	351	674

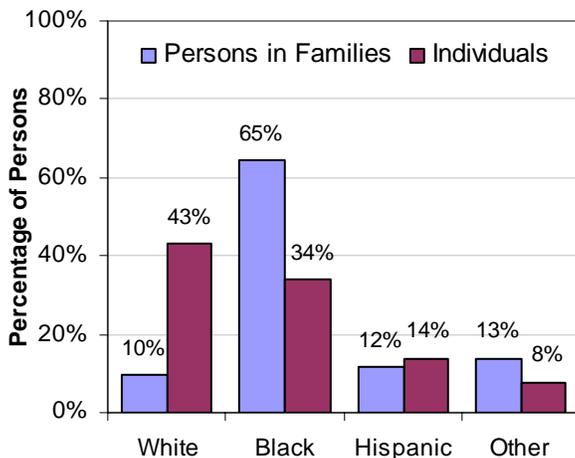
¹ One single individual was reported as transgender.

² Identifies persons in individual program under the age of 18. All youth were counted in Alternative House, which is the teen shelter for persons age 13 to 17.

Race and Ethnicity

According to the survey data, the majority of homeless single individuals were identified as white and the majority of homeless persons in families were identified as black.

Race and Ethnicity



Gender and Age

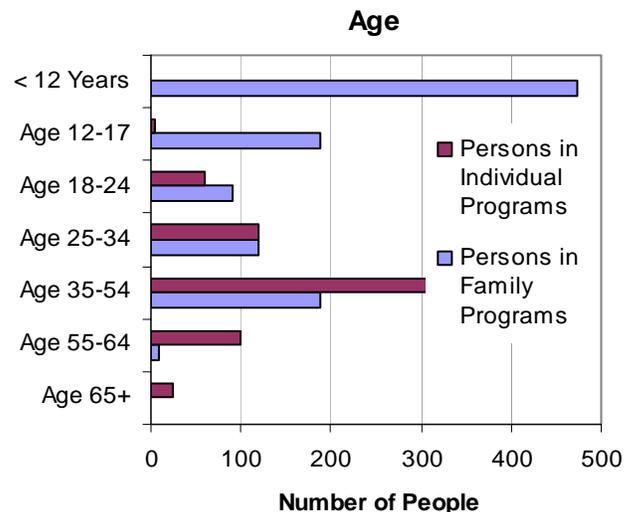
GENDER

Of the total number of homeless persons, men out-number women, yet there are more adult females in families.

- 72% of **individuals** are male and 28% are female.
- 38% of persons in **families** are adults; 62% are children.

AGE

- 54% of all homeless adults are between the age of 35 and 54.
- 70% of all youth are under the age of 12.
- A total of 39 persons in **families** are adult children (age 18 and over) living in families.



Employment and Income

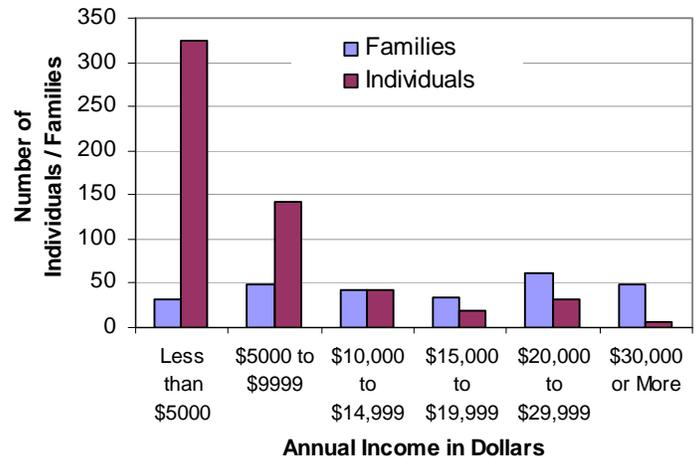
Employment

Many homeless adults are employed, but the majority have very low incomes which significantly impacts their ability to move out of homelessness. Income data were reported for 268 of the 307 families in the survey and for 567 of the 730 single individuals.

- Among all persons in the survey, 457 or 40% of all persons age 18 and over were employed full or part time.
- Among single individuals, 202 persons or 28% of all homeless individuals were employed full or part time.
- Among families, 255 or 61% of all persons in families age 18 and over were employed full or part time.

Without additional skills or resources, these homeless families and individuals will be unable to secure permanent housing.

**Annual Income for
Individuals and Families**



Subpopulations

The Point in Time Survey collects information about specific characteristics of homeless persons to identify possible service needs and conditions that may contribute to their homelessness and which may present barriers to their transition out of homelessness.

One of the most significant set of issues impacting homelessness is the occurrence of mental illness, substance abuse, or both among the homeless population, particularly single homeless individuals. Because of this significance, a separate section regarding these characteristics follows later in this report. To summarize:

- 535 or 73% of single homeless individuals were identified as either or both seriously mentally ill and/or chronic substance abusers.
- 48 or 4% of all homeless persons in families were identified as either or both seriously mentally ill and/or chronic substance abusers.

Table 4. Poverty and Income

	Individuals	
	#	%
Poverty level & below	465	82%
Between poverty and 50% of the median income	98	17%
Above 50% of the median income	4	1%
Families		
Poverty level & below	145	54%
Between poverty and 50% of the median income	112	42%
Above 50% of the median income	11	4%

Income Guidelines table can be found on page 9.

Income

Of those who reported income, 90% of individuals had an annual income of less than \$15,000 and 82% of the families had an annual income of less than \$30,000. The fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,134, while the median family income is \$90,300.⁴

⁴ Data taken from the 2007 fair market rent (FMR) and income limits for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD HUD Metro FMR Area, as published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

While mental illness and substance abuse are very significant issues facing the homeless, there are a number of other characteristics that impact the homeless.

- 345 persons or 19% of all persons in the survey were identified as having chronic health problems. This issue is particularly significant among single individuals, where 248 or 34% of singles have chronic health problems.
- 347 persons or 19% of all persons in the survey were identified as victims of domestic violence. 266 persons or 25% of persons in families are victims of domestic violence.
- 407 persons or 22% of all persons in the survey were identified as language minorities. 295 persons or 27% of persons in families are language minorities.

Table 5, below, further details significant characteristics of the homeless population in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

	Individuals		Persons in Families	
	#	%	#	%
Chronic Substance Abuser	230	32%	4	--
Seriously Mentally Ill	123	17%	41	4%
Dual Diagnosis	182	25%	3	--
HIV or AIDS	8	1%	7	1%
Domestic Violence	81	11%	266	25%
Formerly Institutionalized	241	33%	14	1%
Physical Disability	106	15%	29	3%
Chronic Health Problem	248	34%	97	9%
Language Minority	111	15%	296	27%
Military Service	49	7%	10	1%
Foster Care	29	4%	23	2%
Developmental Disability	61	8%	46	4%
Other Subpopulation	93	13%	68	6%
No Subpopulation	74	10%	455	42%

Note: Persons may be counted in one or more categories.

Housing Needed Today

The goal for all persons and families is to have permanent, stable housing. Table 6 shows the type of housing that would best meet the needs of individuals or families at that point in time (the day of the count) as assessed in the context of the current system of programs and services. Individual or family housing needs will change over time, and approaches such as housing first are intended to develop systems that enable people to move to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

	Individuals	Persons in Families	Totals
Emergency Shelter	281	214	495
Transitional Housing	180	637	817
Permanently Supported	78	104	182
Safe Haven	81	n/a	81
Other Permanent Housing*	110	128	238
Total	730	1,083	1,813

* Includes 45 individuals who specifically identified Residential Studio Unit (RSU) or Single Room Occupancy (SRO).

Trend Data

Table 7. Annual Count Trend Data

Year	Individuals	Persons in Families	Total
2007	730	1,083	1,813
2006	667	1,099	1,766
2005	564	1,111	1,675
2004	615	1,085	1,700

The majority (73%) of individuals were identified as either chronic substance abusers (CSA), seriously mentally ill (SMI), or dually diagnosed (DD). The percentages of individuals and persons in families designated as CSA, SMI, or DD remained fairly constant from 2006 to 2007.

Table 8. Subpopulation Trend Data

	Year			
	2007		2006	
Individuals	#	%	#	%
CSA	230	32%	210	31%
SMI	123	17%	135	20%
DD	182	25%	207	31%
Total Unduplicated Count	535	73%	552	83%
Persons in Families				
CSA	4	--	11	1%
SMI	41	4%	27	2%
DD	3	--	5	--
Total Unduplicated Count	48	4%	43	2%
All Persons				
CSA	234	13%	221	13%
SMI	164	9%	162	9%
DD	185	10%	212	12%
Total Unduplicated Count	583	32%	595	34%

-- Less than 1.0 percent.

Homeless Services

Table 9 on page 8 provides information about services homeless persons had previously received or needed on the day of the Point in Time Survey. While this data does not provide a comprehensive list of services needed, it can be used as an indicator of both prevention and intervention services that should be accessible to Fairfax County residents.

- 38 percent of individuals and 45 percent of persons in families need, but are not receiving, dental services.
- 43 percent of single individuals and 57 percent of persons in families are currently receiving medical services.

Table 9. Services Needed, as Reported by Persons in Individual and Family Programs

	Receives		Needs But Does Not Receive		Needs But Is Refusing		Does Not Need		Unknown or N/A	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Individuals										
Mental Health	222	30%	104	14%	55	8%	191	26%	158	22%
Substance Abuse	182	25%	135	18%	63	9%	182	25%	168	23%
Co-occurring Disorders	79	11%	87	12%	37	5%	296	41%	231	32%
Medical Services	315	43%	108	15%	17	2%	115	16%	175	24%
Dental Services	64	9%	278	38%	11	2%	158	22%	219	30%
Culturally Sensitive Services	33	5%	58	8%	7	1%	356	49%	276	38%
ESOL	15	2%	55	8%	13	2%	371	51%	276	38%
Life Skills	292	40%	191	26%	30	4%	97	13%	120	16%
Case Mgmt.	374	51%	230	32%	37	5%	23	3%	66	9%
Job Training	96	13%	228	31%	48	7%	205	28%	153	21%
Housing Services	268	37%	303	42%	37	5%	53	7%	69	9%
Persons in Families										
Mental Health	146	13%	67	6%	23	2%	433	40%	414	38%
Substance Abuse	15	1%	6	1%	13	1%	490	45%	559	52%
Co-occurring Disorders	6	1%	2	0%	1	0%	510	47%	564	52%
Medical Services	614	57%	152	14%	1	0%	192	18%	124	11%
Dental Services	228	21%	488	45%	1	0%	199	18%	167	15%
Culturally Sensitive Services	206	19%	35	3%	0	0%	357	33%	485	45%
ESOL	145	13%	56	5%	8	1%	404	37%	470	43%
Life Skills	670	62%	46	4%	6	1%	122	11%	239	22%
Case Mgmt.	405	37%	40	4%	0	0%	6	1%	632	58%
Job Training	147	14%	115	11%	13	1%	121	11%	687	63%
Housing Services	394	36%	38	4%	1	0%	7	1%	643	59%

The Income Guidelines table below was referenced on page 5 of the report.

Income Guidelines								
	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
Poverty Level	\$9,800	\$13,200	\$16,600	\$20,000	\$23,400	\$26,800	\$30,200	\$33,600
Extremely Low (30% of the median) Income Limits	\$18,950	\$21,700	\$24,400	\$27,100	\$29,250	\$31,450	\$33,600	\$35,750
Very Low (50% of the median) Income Limits	\$31,600	\$36,100	\$40,650	\$45,150	\$48,750	\$52,350	\$56,000	\$59,600

Source: Poverty Level: 2006 HHS Poverty Guidelines, Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 15, January 24, 2006, pp. 3848-3849. Income Limits: 2006 Income limits as published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD HUD Metro FMR Area. 2006 Median Income: \$90,300.

Notes: Data were collected electronically on an Excel spreadsheet. Approximately 95% of the programs submitted data electronically using the spreadsheet, while the remainder submitted a manual form of the survey which was created using a similar format. This reduced the time needed to enter and verify data, and streamlined the data submission process. Data are currently being analyzed using statistical packages which may allow more sophisticated cross tabulations and analyses. This report represents a preliminary examination of the data. Further analyses will follow.

To learn more about Fairfax-Falls Church community efforts to prevent and end homelessness, see our Web site at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>



To request this information in an alternative format, call 703-324-5638 or TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay).