

**Fairfax-Falls Church  
Continuum of Care**

**2008 Point in Time Survey  
Summary Report**

**Annual Homeless Count**

**March 31, 2008  
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 2008 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 24, 2008, 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 2008 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.

Prior to 2007, the total Point in Time count included data for the literally homeless<sup>1</sup> as well as the permanently supported homeless.<sup>2</sup> These populations account for persons who do not have stable housing as well as persons who have moved through our homeless Continuum of Care and have permanent housing with ongoing support services to keep them in place. Beginning in 2007, the total count of homeless persons includes only the literally homeless. This number serves as the baseline 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.

For 2008, the count has been further refined. The definition for literally homeless is used for reporting data regionally, statewide, and for federal programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is a narrow definition that does not include people who are doubled-up, living in a temporary arrangement but not facing immediate loss of shelter, or paying to live in a motel. Outreach workers, community, and faith-based programs often work with families and individuals living in these situations, but they are not included in the data provided in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> **Literally Homeless** are those who do not have a stable place to live, as defined by HUD. This includes persons who are unsheltered or staying in shelters, hypothermia prevention programs, transitional housing, or on the waiting list for shelter who are living in very temporary, precarious housing arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> **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 1,835 persons were identified as being homeless on January 24, 2008. Of that total, 744 were single individuals with no children living with them and 1,091 were persons in families.

- 41% of the total homeless population are **individuals** or couples with no children.
- 59% of the total homeless population are **persons in families**.

	2006	2007	2008
<b>Individuals</b>	667	730	744
<b>Persons in Families</b>	1,099	1,083	1,091
Adults	425	409	414
Children	674	674	670
Age uncertain			7
<b>Total Families</b>	321	307	311
<b>Average Family Size</b>	3.4	3.5	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 282 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	138	19%	251	23%
Overflow	88	12%	0	0%
Hypothermia	157	21%	0	0%
Transitional Housing	137	18%	828	76%
Other	12	2%	12	1%
Outreach	212	28%	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>59%</b>

## Chronically Homeless

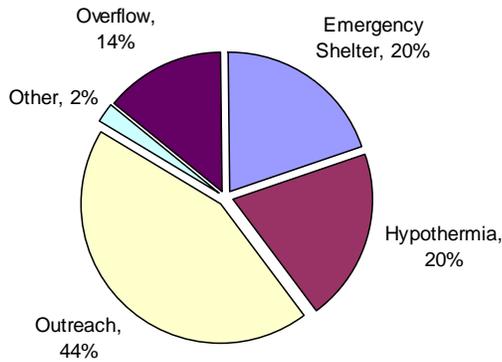
“Chronically homeless”<sup>3</sup> is a term used to describe single individuals who have been homeless for a prolonged period of time and/or have had multiple episodes of homelessness in a relatively short period of time.

- Of the total 1,835 homeless persons identified, 429 or 23% of the total were identified as chronically homeless.
- 402 persons or 54% of the total number of individuals were identified as chronically homeless.
- 165 persons or 22% of the total number of individuals were identified as chronically homeless and unsheltered. Another 27 individuals were unsheltered but not identified as chronically homeless.

Chronically homeless persons were counted in five different types of programs including emergency shelter, hypothermia, overflow, outreach, and other programs. Forty-three percent of the persons who were identified as chronically homeless were counted in outreach programs. The outreach category includes programs such as the Community Services Board’s PATH and PACT programs, shelter outreach, community and faith-based outreach (FACETS, Lamb Center, Rising Hope church).

<sup>3</sup> HUD defines Chronically Homeless as an unaccompanied 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



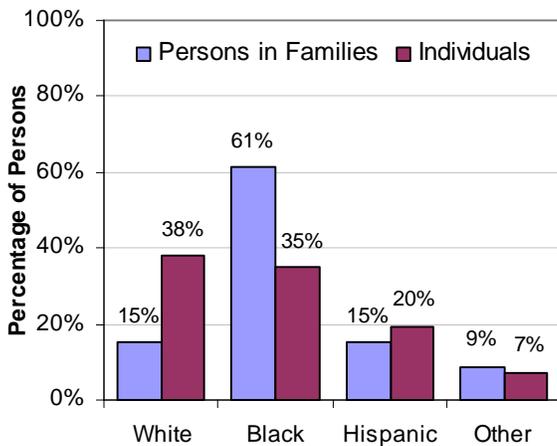
- 76% of adults in **families** are female, 24% are male.
- 81% of **families** have a single head of household; 91% of these are females and only 9% are males.

Table 3. Gender			
	Female	Male	Totals
<b>Individuals</b>	181	563	744
Youth not in Families	0	0	0
	Female	Male	Totals
<b>Persons in Families</b>	654	437	1091
Adults in Families	314	100	414
Children in Families	337	333	670
Age not determined	3	4	7

### Race and Ethnicity

According to the survey data, there is growing diversity among homeless single individuals, while the majority of homeless persons in families were identified as black.

#### Race and Ethnicity



### AGE

Thirty-six percent of all homeless persons are youth under age 18, while only seven percent are adults age 55 and over.

- 59% of all homeless adults are between the age of 35 and 54.
- 75% of all youth are under the age of 12.
- A total of 34 persons in **families** are adult children (age 18 and over) living in families.

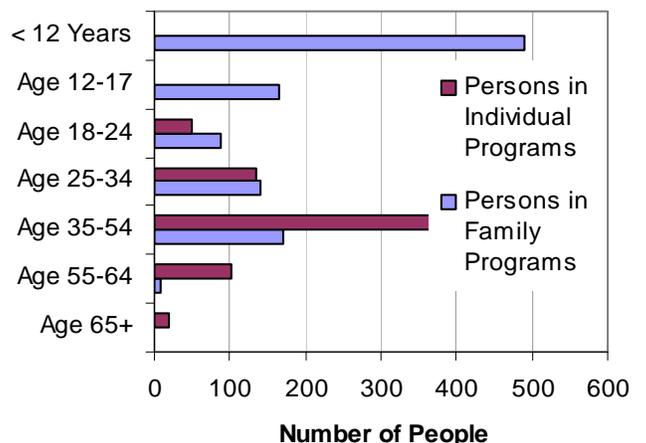
### Gender and Age

#### GENDER

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

- 76% of **individuals** are male and 24% are female.
- 38% of persons in **families** are adults; 61% are children (1% not determined).

#### Age



## Employment and Income

### Employment

Many homeless adults are employed, but most have very low incomes which significantly impact their ability to obtain housing.

- Among all persons in the survey, 450 or 39% of all persons age 18 and over were employed full or part time.
- Among single individuals, 169 persons or 23% of all homeless individuals were employed full or part time.
- Among families, 272 or 66% of all persons in families age 18 and over were employed full or part time.

<b>Table 4. Poverty and Income</b>		
<i>Income guidelines table is on page 9.</i>	<b>Individuals*</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Poverty level & below	502	86%
Between poverty and 50% of the median income	72	12%
Above 50% of the median income	4	1%
	<b>Families</b>	
Poverty level & below	194	64%
Between poverty and 50% of the median income	96	32%
Above 50% of the median income	12	4%

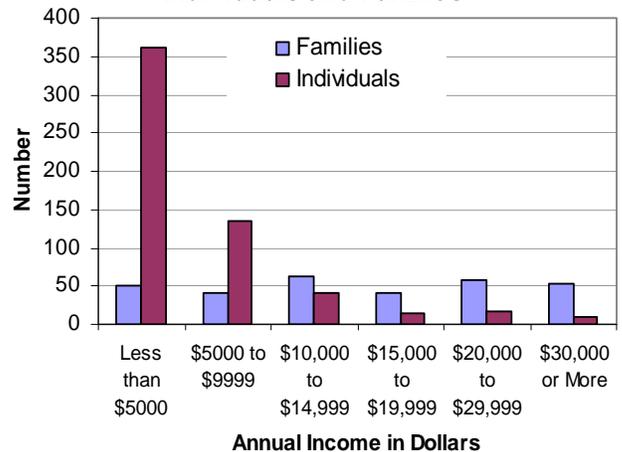
\*22% of individuals with income unknown are not included.

### Income

Of those who reported income, 93% of individuals had an annual income of less than \$15,000 and 83% of the families had an annual income of less than \$30,000. The fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,168, while the median family income is \$99,000.<sup>4</sup> Without additional skills or resources, these homeless families and individuals will be unable to secure permanent housing.

<sup>4</sup> Data taken from the 2008 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).

**Annual Income for  
Individuals and Families**



## Housing Needed Today

The goal for all persons and families is to have permanent, stable housing. Table 5 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.

<b>Table 5. Housing Needed Today</b>			
	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Persons in Families</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Emergency Shelter	301*	149	450
Transitional Housing	143	651	794
Permanently Supported	131	81	212
Safe Haven	40	n/a	40
Other Permanent Housing	129	210	339
<b>Total</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,835</b>

\* Includes 102 individuals counted in hypothermia, overflow, or outreach programs for whom housing needed today was not identified.

## 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:

- 533 or 72% of single homeless individuals were identified as either or both seriously mentally ill and/or chronic substance abusers.
- 54 or 5% of all homeless persons in families were identified as either or both seriously mentally ill and/or chronic substance abusers.

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

- 294 persons or 16% of all persons in the survey were identified as having chronic health problems. This issue is more significant among single individuals, where 221 or 30% have chronic health problems.
- 316 persons or 17% of all persons in the survey were identified as victims of domestic violence. 261 persons or 24% of persons in families are victims of domestic violence, affecting 92 families (30%).
- 466 persons or 25% of all persons in the survey were identified as language minorities. 358 persons or 33% of persons in families are language minorities.

Table 6, below, further details significant characteristics of the homeless population in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

<b>Table 6. Subpopulations</b>				
	<b>Individuals</b>		<b>Persons in Families</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Chronic Substance Abuser	166	22%	13	1%
Seriously Mentally Ill	131	18%	27	2%
Dual Diagnosis	236	32%	14	1%
HIV or AIDS	12	2%	9	1%
Domestic Violence	55	7%	261	24%
Institutionalized prior to becoming homeless	164	22%	20	2%
Physical Disability	91	12%	27	2%
Chronic Health Problems	221	30%	73	7%
Language Minority	108	15%	358	33%
Military Service	69	9%	10	1%
Foster Care	33	4%	24	2%
Developmental Disability	39	5%	23	2%
Mental Retardation	6	1%	8	<1%
Brain Injured	31	4%	6	<1%
ADHD	16	2%	25	2%
Other Subpopulation	3	--	9	1%
No Subpopulation	109	15%	459	42%

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

## Trend Data

**Table 7. Annual Count Trend Data**

Year	Individuals	Persons in Families	Total
2008	744	1,091	1,835
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 (72%) 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 since 2006.

**Table 8. Subpopulation Trend Data**

Year	2006		2007		2008	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Single Individuals</b>						
CSA	210	31%	230	32%	166	22%
SMI	135	20%	123	17%	131	18%
DD	207	31%	182	25%	236	32%
Unduplicated Count	552	83%	535	73%	533	72%
<b>Persons in Families</b>						
CSA	11	1%	4	--	13	1%
SMI	27	2%	41	4%	27	2%
DD	5	--	3	--	14	1%
Unduplicated Count	43	2%	48	4%	54	5%
<b>All Persons Total</b>						
CSA	221	13%	234	13%	179	10%
SMI	162	9%	164	9%	158	9%
DD	212	12%	185	10%	250	14%
Unduplicated Count Total	595	34%	583	32%	587	32%

-- Less than 1.0 percent.

## Homeless Services

Table 9 on page 8 provides information about services homeless persons had received or needed as of 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.

- 40 percent of individuals and 31 percent of persons in families need, but are not receiving, dental services.
- 47 percent of single individuals and 60 percent of persons in families are currently receiving medical services.



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

<b>Income Guidelines</b>								
	<b>1 Person</b>	<b>2 Person</b>	<b>3 Person</b>	<b>4 Person</b>	<b>5 Person</b>	<b>6 Person</b>	<b>7 Person</b>	<b>8 Person</b>
<b>Poverty Guidelines</b>	\$10,400	\$14,000	\$17,600	\$21,200	\$24,800	\$28,400	\$32,000	\$35,600
<b>Income Limits</b> Extremely Low (30% of the median)	\$20,650	\$23,600	\$26,550	\$29,500	\$31,850	\$34,200	\$36,600	\$38,950
<b>Income Limits</b> Very Low (50% of the median)	\$34,450	\$39,350	\$44,300	\$49,200	\$53,150	\$57,050	\$61,000	\$64,950

Source: Poverty Level: 2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines, *Federal Register*, Vol. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3971–3972. Income Limits: 2008 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. 2008 Median Income: \$99,000.

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).