



The Community Partnership
For The Prevention
of Homelessness

Homelessness in the District of Columbia: The 2012 Point in Time Enumeration

The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) conducted the 2012 Point in Time (PIT) census and survey of homeless persons in the District of Columbia on January 25th. This single day snapshot of the homeless services continuum of care helps TCP and our partners in District government to identify gaps in the current portfolio of services and informs future program planning. PIT has been completed annually by TCP since 2001 and is conducted in accordance with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's reporting standards.

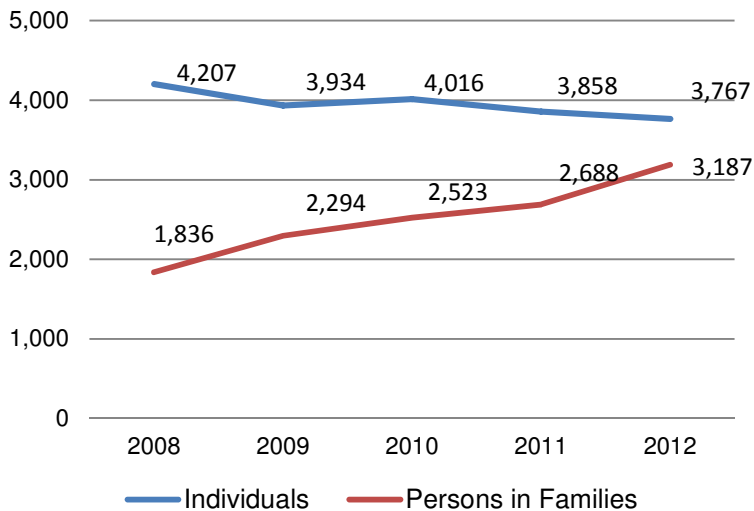
**TCP
Fact Sheet**

**Point in Time
2012**

Homelessness in the District

- **6,954** persons were counted during PIT including:
 - **3,767** unaccompanied homeless individuals and
 - **3,187** adults and children in **1,014** homeless families
- This is a **6.2 percent increase** overall from the 2011 count of **6,546**
 - The number of unaccompanied individuals counted decreased by **2.4 percent** from 2011, while the number of families increased by **18.6 percent**
- **3,772** persons were counted in Emergency Shelters
- **2,503** persons were counted in Transitional Housing facilities
- **679** unsheltered persons were counted by professional street outreach workers and volunteer teams that canvassed the city on the night of the count

Individuals & Persons in Families counted at
Point in Time, 2008-2012



Hypothermia Season and Point in Time

The District's *Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005* established the Hypothermia Season as November through March of each year. During this time additional capacity is added to the existing, year-round continuum of care.

For unaccompanied individuals, these additional resources include 356 beds which are opened nightly, and 223 "hypothermia alert" beds which are opened when the wind chill is 32 degrees or below as determined by the National Weather Center. The DC General Family Shelter also expands during the winter months to accommodate more families with children. However, due to a rise in demand for family shelter, the District also placed more than 400 families in motels throughout the city over the course of the season.

On the night of PIT the wind chill was 35 degrees, and as such, the threshold for opening the hypothermia alert beds was not met. Relatedly, the number of persons counted in emergency shelters **decreased by 470** in 2012, and the number of unsheltered persons **increased by 374**.

This year's count of homeless families included 192 families that were staying in the motels on the night of Point in Time. These additional placements drove the year-to-year increase in the number of persons in families as well as the overall increase from the 2011 count.

Quick Facts from Point in Time

- HUD considers persons who are living with disabilities, who have been homeless for more than a year or who have been homeless three times in the last four years, to be "chronically homeless." During PIT, **1,870** of the accompanied persons and **445** of the persons in families assessed met this definition.
- **13** unaccompanied minors were counted in shelter and transitional housing; this is down from 26 counted during PIT 2011. **1,880** children in families were residing with their parents in family programs; this is up from 1,620 counted last year.
- The median age of unaccompanied homeless persons was **51 years** while median age among adults in homeless families was **28**.
- **12 percent** of homeless adults surveyed reported having served in the United States Armed Forces.
- **59 percent** of unaccompanied homeless adults and **16 percent** of adults in families report that they have no income of any kind. Median income among homeless adults with at least one income source is roughly **\$700 per month**.
- More than **1,300** cases of chronic substance abuse and **1,200** cases of severe mental illness were reported among the homeless; **16 percent** of those surveyed reported living with both conditions concurrently.
- **One third** of adult homeless persons reported a chronic health problem, and **22 percent** reported a physical disability.
- **16 percent** of homeless adults reported that had histories of domestic violence, with **7 percent** stating that domestic violence had directly caused their homelessness.
- **Nearly one quarter** of homeless adults stated that they had a past stay in institutional settings, such as hospitals, mental health or substance abuse treatment facilities, the foster care system, or jail or prison.

To receive TCP Factsheets, please email
hmis@community-partnership.org.

In the coming months, TCP will be reporting on the changing nature of homelessness and homeless services in the District, and will be producing Factsheets on homeless veterans, homeless youth and the chronically homeless population.

To learn more about the good work of The Community Partnership, please visit our website:
www.community-partnership.org