



A Summary of the 2008 Point in Time Enumeration for the District of Columbia

On January 24, 2008, the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness completed the eighth Point in Time enumeration for the District of Columbia's Continuum of Care. This count of homeless persons occurs annually to comply with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reporting standards.

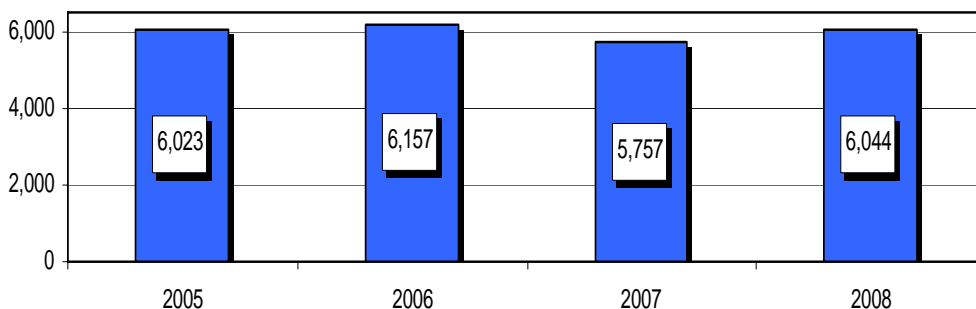
TCP
E-Newsletter
Special
Point In Time
Edition

A survey is conducted for persons counted during the enumeration which provides some of the most comprehensive data collected throughout the year. This up-to-date, thorough look at the District's homeless population reveals the size and scope of persons served, identifies gaps within the Continuum, and helps the city plan for the future.

The Data

- On January 24th, 6,044 homeless single persons and persons in families were counted in the District of Columbia.
- The number of homeless persons in the District has increased by five percent from Point in Time 2007.
- Over 3,000 formerly homeless persons residing in Permanent Supportive Housing were also counted – without these dedicated resources, these men, women and children might still be homeless.

Homeless Persons Counted at Point in Time, 2005-2008



Despite the increase in persons counted, the 2008 Point in Time count is still lower than the number counted in 2006 and is nearly equal to the count conducted in 2005. This year, there were more emergency shelter beds available than in 2007, and there were more outreach teams counting persons sleeping on the street. Both contributed heavily to the increase in the number of persons counted.

The Regional Need for Shelter

Roughly **70 percent** of emergency shelter beds for single persons in the region are located within the District, as are **over half** of the winter and emergency shelter units for homeless families.

This concentration of resources appears to be affecting the District's count. **Twenty percent** of single men and women in emergency shelter lived outside of the District before becoming homeless. Among all persons counted (including families with children), **16 percent** once lived outside of D.C.

Exits from Institutional Settings

Data gathered on men and women served in emergency shelter from November 2007 through March 2008 revealed that **seven percent** of clients served during that period entered shelter within a week after leaving jail or prison, hospitals, foster care and mental health or substance abuse treatment facilities.

On the night of Point in Time, **734** homeless persons stated that they had lived in these or other institutional settings at some point in the past. This is an **11 percent** increase from Point in Time 2007. Discharge planning is needed to keep persons exiting these settings from relying on the shelter system.

Quick Facts

- 2,184 persons in the CoC are chronically homeless (an unaccompanied, disabled person who has been homeless for more than a year).
- 378 persons were estimated to be sleeping on the street on Jan. 24th.
- The average age of homeless persons in the District is 49.
- 1,264 cases of chronic substance abuse and 521 cases of severe mental illness were reported.
- One in ten homeless persons reported a dual diagnosis – severe mental illness co-occurring with chronic substance abuse.
- 133 homeless persons reported living with HIV/AIDS.
- 20 percent of homeless persons reported a chronic health problem.
- 582 homeless persons have been victims of domestic violence.
- 11 percent of homeless persons in the District are U.S. Military Veterans.
- English is not the first language for 368 homeless persons living in D.C.

Positive Findings

- **The availability of shelter in the District correlates to a low incidence of persons sleeping on the street.**

- Just six percent of all homeless persons counted in the District were living on the street. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), 44 percent of homeless persons nationally are sleeping on the street or in other places not meant for habitation. The table below compares the District to some of the nation's largest cities.

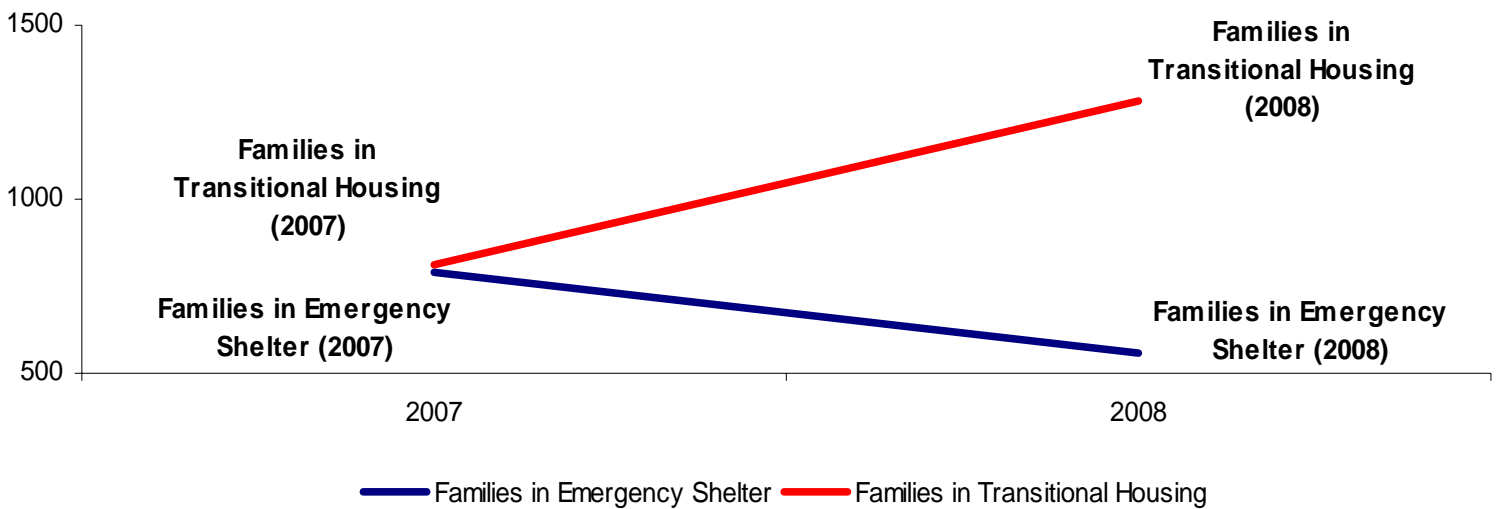
	Homeless Persons	% Unsheltered
Philadelphia	6,653	3%
Washington, D.C.	6,044	6%
New York City	48,155	9%
Chicago	6,680	26%
Los Angeles	60,289	84%
The United States	744,313	44%

Note: the table compares the District's 2007 Point in Time figures to the 2005 Point in Time data collected by each jurisdiction. Persons counted were living on the street, in emergency shelter and in transitional housing. National data was compiled by the NAEH.

In 2005, D.C.'s PIT count was 6,157 and six percent of persons counted were unsheltered.

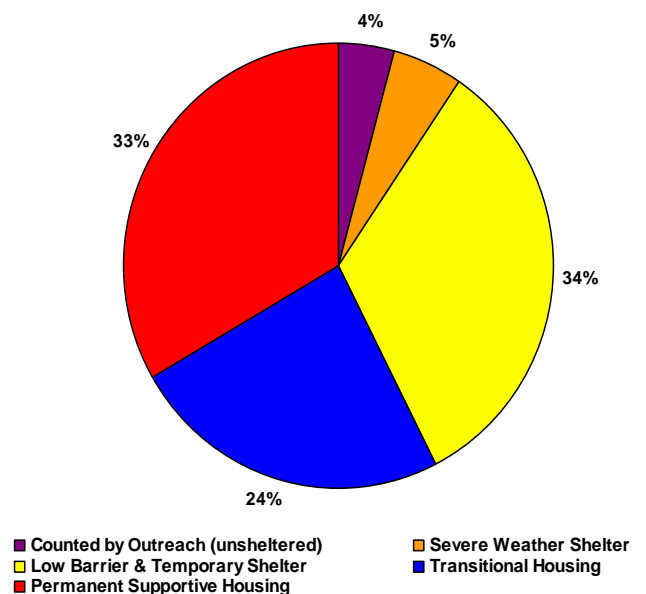
- **The District's Continuum is becoming for focusing on housing rather than shelter.**

- Point in Time data highlighted how homeless services are changing in the District. Through the closure of D.C. Village family emergency shelter and resulting System Transformation Initiative (STI), over 150 families once in emergency shelter are now in transitional housing. Through STI, these families will have better access to case management and services and will be better positioned to move to permanent or permanent supportive housing opportunities.



- **There are 3,006 formerly homeless men, women and children that continue to be permanently housed.**

- A third of all shelter and housing resources in the District of Columbia are permanent supportive housing beds. Without these dedicated resources, many of these persons might still be homeless. The District recognizes Permanent Supportive Housing as the solution to homelessness and will continue to provide and create such resources to bring homeless in D.C. to and end.



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