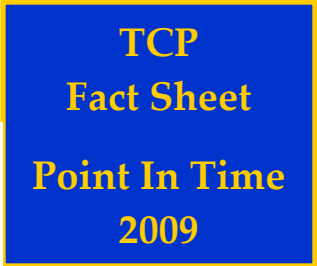




## A Summary of the 2009 Point in Time Enumeration for the District of Columbia

On January 28, 2009, the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness completed the ninth 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.

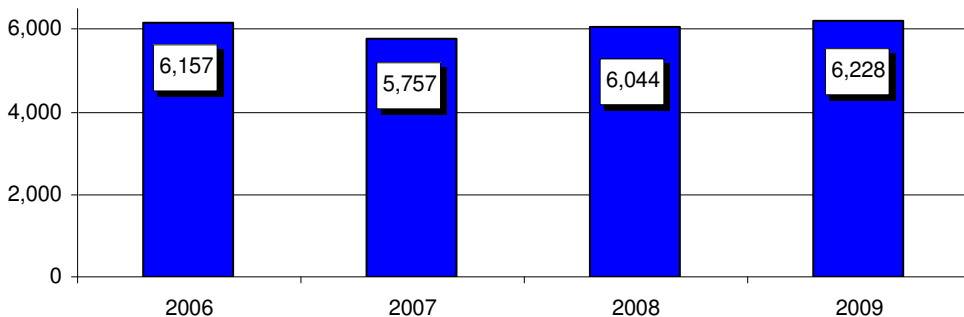


A survey is conducted for persons counted during the enumeration which provides some of the most comprehensive data collected throughout the year. This up-to-date, thorough look at the District's homeless population reveals the size and scope of persons served, identifies gaps within the Continuum, and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

### The Data

- On January 28th, **6,228** 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 **three percent (3%)** from Point in Time 2008, primarily driven by an increase in families in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing.
- There are also **3,469** formerly homeless persons residing in Permanent Supportive Housing, which is a **15 percent** increase from 2008. Without these dedicated resources, these men, women and children might still be homeless.

Homeless Persons Counted at Point in Time, 2006-2009



### Permanent Supportive Housing Placements

Despite the increase in persons counted, there were significant decreases among in three key areas of the count.

The number of unsheltered persons decreased by **15 percent** from 2008 and the number of single men and women in shelter decreased by nearly **10 percent**. Relatedly, the number of chronically homeless persons in the city decreased by **12 percent** from last year.

These changes are a direct result of the Mayor's Permanent Supportive Housing Program, which helped move some **400** homeless men and women off of the street and out of shelter, and in to their own apartments throughout the city.

The 400 men and women placed in Permanent Supportive Housing show the city's ongoing commitment to ending homelessness in the District of Columbia.

Because of these placements, the number of formerly homeless persons – persons residing in the Permanent Supportive Housing – increased by **15 percent** from last year's Point in Time count.

### Quick Facts

- 1,923 persons in the CoC are chronically homeless (an unaccompanied, disabled person who has been homeless for more than a year).
- 321 persons were estimated to be sleeping on the street on Jan. 28th.
- The average age of single homeless persons in the District is 49. Average age among adults in homeless families is 32.
- 1,645 cases of chronic substance abuse and 1,042 cases of severe mental illness were reported among the homeless.
- 8 percent of homeless persons reported a dual diagnosis – severe mental illness co-occurring with chronic substance abuse.
- 137 homeless persons reported living with HIV/AIDS.
- Nearly 1 in 5 homeless persons report a chronic health problem.
- 787 homeless persons have been victims of domestic violence.
- 10 percent of homeless persons in the District are U.S. Military Veterans.
- English is not the first language for 463 homeless persons living in D.C.

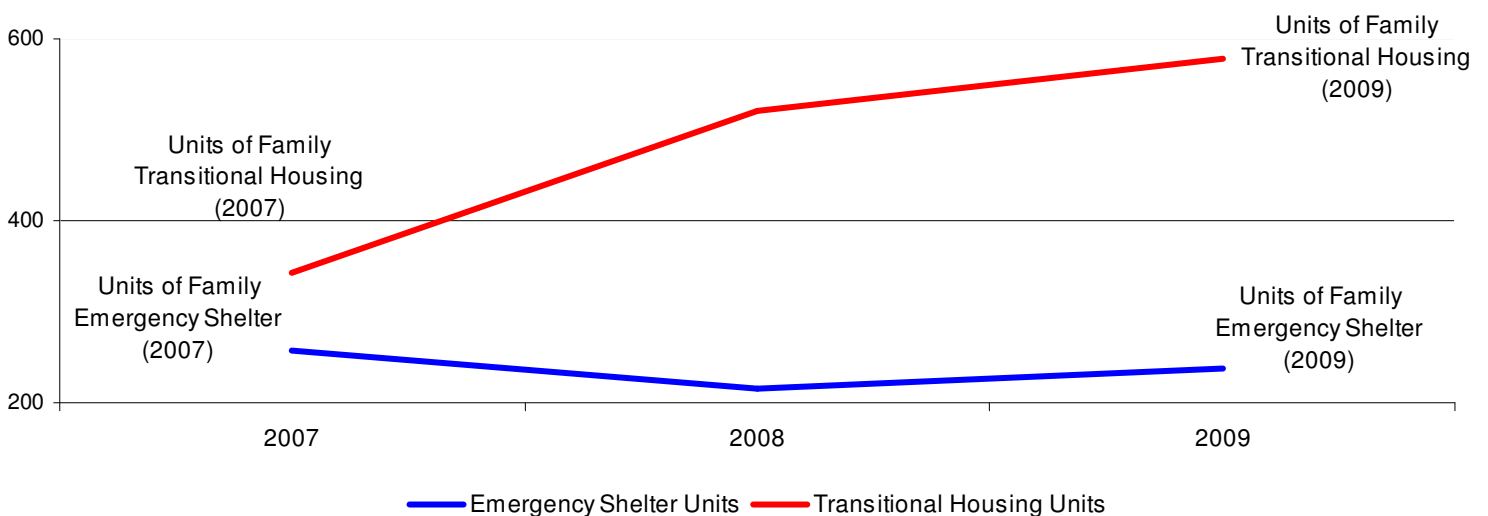
## The Regional Need for Shelter

Roughly **70 percent** of Emergency Shelter beds for single persons in the region are located within the District, as are **nearly half** of the Winter and Emergency Shelter units available for homeless families.

This concentration of resources appears to be affecting the District's count. Point in Time data revealed that **21 percent** of single men and women in Emergency Shelter lived outside of the District before becoming homeless and that nearly **one in ten** had been in shelter outside of the city within the last year.

## Continued Focus on Housing

Although the number of homeless families increased from 2008, more families are residing in Transitional Housing rather than Emergency Shelter. The System Transformation Initiative has expanded the city's Transitional Housing resources by **70 percent** since it began in 2007. Families in Transitional Housing have access to more intensive case management and supportive services, and will be better positioned to move to permanent and permanent supportive housing opportunities.



Moreover, Permanent Supportive Housing now makes up the largest share of the resources in the District of Columbia's Continuum of Care.

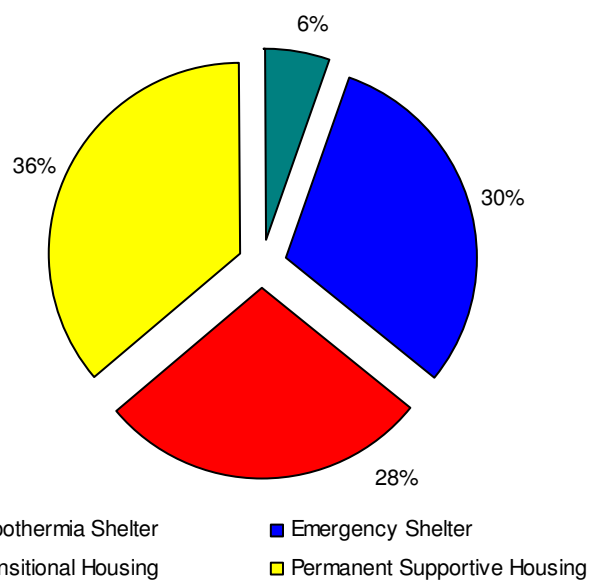
There are more than 10,000 beds for homeless and formerly homeless persons in the city, including beds added during the winter months. Of these resources, **36 percent** are dedicated Permanent Supportive Housing.

The District recognizes Permanent Supportive Housing as the solution to homeless and will continue to provide and create such resources to bring homelessness in D.C. to an end.

## Exits from Institutional Settings

Data gathered on the men and women served in Emergency Shelter between November 2008 through March 2009 showed that **302** (or 5 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, **1,093** homeless persons stated that they had lived in these or other institutional settings at some point in the past. Discharge planning is needed to keep persons exiting these settings from relying on the shelter system.



To learn more about the good work of the Community Partnership, please visit our website at [www.community-partnership.org](http://www.community-partnership.org)