



Homelessness In the Thomas Jefferson Planning District On January 25th, 2006

Fourth Annual Homeless Census & Point In Time Count

The data for this survey was collected January 24-26, 2005 by the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH). Surveys were distributed to shelter providers and social service agencies in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District, and taken by survey teams to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and various street and outdoors locations. Shelters reported capacity and occupancy as of January 25th.

173 people were found to be homeless on January 25th. 52 homeless adults with 2 dependent children were surveyed over the three-day period. Most of these were residing in emergency or transitional facilities. Shelter staff verified the presence of another 109 people who did not complete surveys. As the number of people who were physically located, this represents the least possible number.

During the survey, temperatures ranged between 28 and 52 degrees, with temperatures above normal on one day, and below normal on the other two. Emergency shelters were full to capacity all three nights as they have been for the past three years.

January 24: high temp 52°, low temp 35° — overcast

January 25: high temp 45°, low temp 35° — mostly cloudy

January 26: high temp 43°, low temp 28° — clear

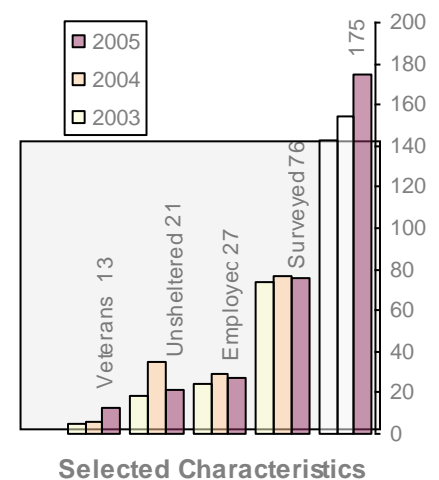
General Findings

The number of people homeless remained fairly constant from 2005. The number of people unsheltered locally again fell significantly with the added capacity of the PACEM winter shelter program. No children were reported unsheltered, and the proportion of women fell significantly.

Employment remained nearly constant at 39%, with 59% of those homeless having worked full or part time in the last 60 days.

Those reporting **veteran status** remained fairly constant at 19%. [7% in 2003, 8% in 2004, 18% in 2005].

One fifth reported having untreated **dental problems** (down from 31% from 2005)



HOMELESSNESS IN THE THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT JANUARY 25TH, 2006

General Characteristics

Gender: male 74% female: 26%

Average age: 41.3

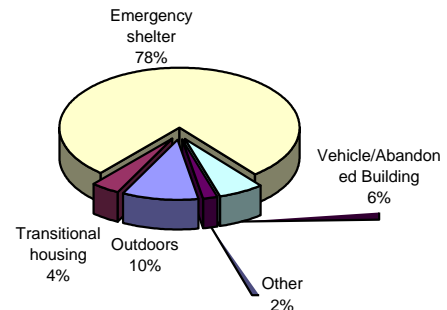
	2006	2005	2004	2003
People homeless	173	175	155	143
Sheltered	163	154	129	125
Unsheltered	10	21	35	18

Circumstances

Most found homeless were living in shelters. 10 adults were found unsheltered: living outdoors, in vehicles or in abandoned buildings. The total number of people homeless is a combination of the number living in shelters and the number living without shelter. People living in overcrowded conditions or substandard housing were not counted as homeless.

- 8% had been homeless less than 30 days
- 49% had been homeless less than 6 months

Where did adults who were homeless spend last night?



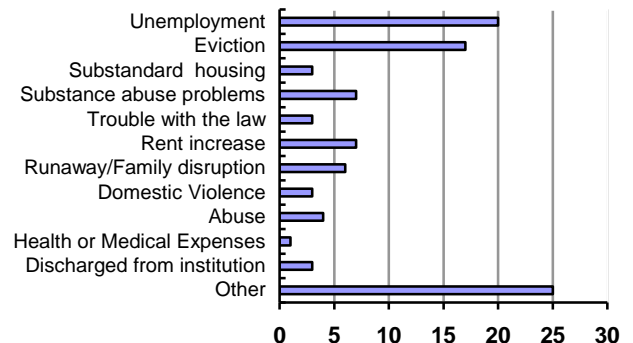
Education Level

- 22% had a college degree
- 73% had completed high school or equivalency
- 27% had not finished high school

Reasons for Leaving Prior Housing

Respondents were asked about their reasons for leaving their prior housing. Eviction, unemployment, and domestic violence were the most commonly cited reasons. In 2006, unemployment overtook evictions as the leading cause cited for homelessness.

Eviction	17%
Unemployment	20%
Domestic violence	3%
Rent increase	13%



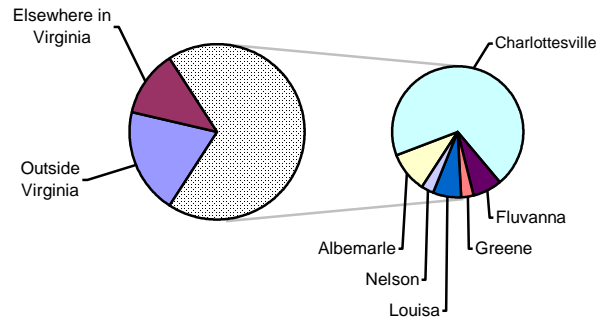
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JANUARY 25TH, 2006

Origins

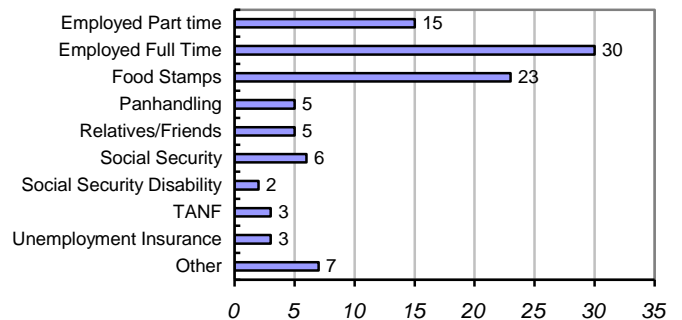
56% of those homeless were from within the Planning District.
38% called Charlottesville their hometown

By hometown



Sources of Income

The most common source of income for the homeless continued to be employment. The majority had not received any public assistance funds in the last six months. Slightly less than a third had received Food Stamps, and only a few had received Unemployment Insurance, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), or SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance).



Despite the high visibility of panhandlers, few people who were homeless had engaged in panhandling in the previous six months.

Employment

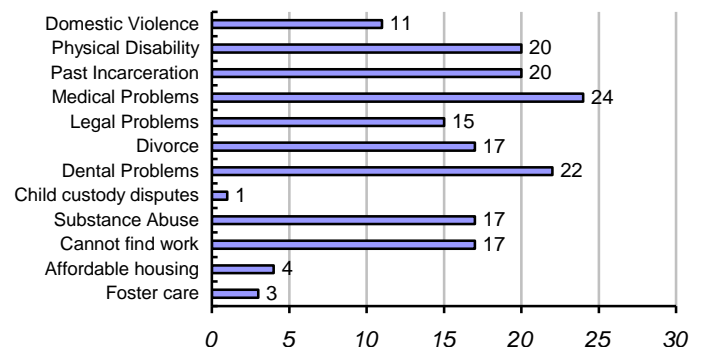
- Employment among homeless adults remained steady at 33%.
- 59% had worked full or part time in the last 60 days

Families

- 4% of those surveyed were homeless with dependent children
- 17% of homeless adults were divorced
- 7% of homeless adults cited domestic violence or abuse as a cause of their homelessness

Other Factors

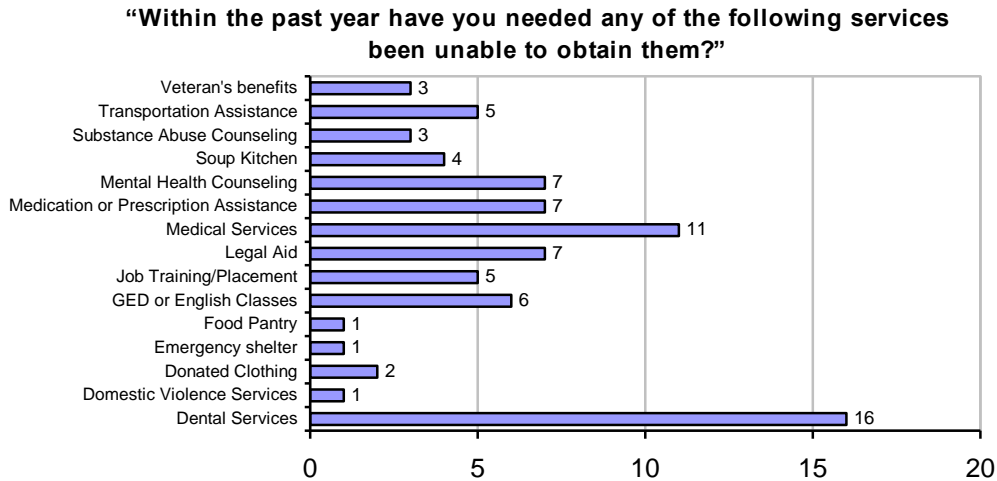
The most commonly identified barrier was an inability to find affordable housing, followed by medical problems and physical disabilities.



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Unmet needs

The number reporting difficulty accessing shelter fell from 18% in 2005 to 12% in 2006. The number reporting untreated dental problems fell from 33% in 2005 to 31% in 2006. The number unable to access substance abuse counseling fell from 2005.



Census Undercount

It is difficult to get an accurate count of how many people are homeless, in part because the number is always fluctuating. Information regarding the homeless is usually gathered in urban areas, and less is known about the rural homeless. The rural homeless are more likely to be housed with extended family, and therefore not homeless by strict definition, or living in tents, vehicles, or in the woods, and therefore difficult to locate. The net result is that any census count will be an undercount of the homeless population and omit significant groups of individuals. Despite these limitations, an empirical census is still the most accurate approach to homeless enumeration. Based on the nature and population of the region, the widely accepted methodology of Martha R. Burt of the Urban Institute would predict a total homeless population of 692 people.

Definition of Homeless

The definition of homelessness used is that of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.), and is based on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 and its subsequent revisions. In this context, a homeless person is defined as 1.) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or 2.) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is either a.) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, b.) an institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or c.) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

This definition includes adults and children living in places not meant for human habitation, including abandoned buildings and vehicles, and those in emergency or transitional shelters. It does not include those living in substandard housing or overcrowded conditions, or those imprisoned or detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or State law.