

## **Fredericksburg Area Continuum of Care Report on PIT Count Surveyed Population 2010**

On January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010, members of the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care conducted a point-in-time (PIT) count of the homeless population. The data reported to HUD from that count contains only those individuals, adults and children, who meet the HUD-specified definition of homelessness: “Individuals and families in shelters, in transitional housing, and sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (parks, alleys, all night establishments such as restaurants, hospitals, Laundromats, in vehicles, etc.)” The HEARTH Act of 2009 adds to this definition, situations where a person is at imminent risk of homelessness or where a family or unaccompanied youth is living unstably. Imminent risk includes situations where a person must leave his or her current housing within the next 14 days with no other place to go and no resources or support networks to obtain housing. Instability includes families with children and unaccompanied youth who: 1) are defined as homeless under other federal programs (such as the Department of Education's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program), 2) have lived for a long period without living independently in permanent housing, 3) have moved frequently, and 4) will continue to experience instability because of disability, history of domestic violence or abuse, or multiple barriers to employment.

Over a 36-hour period service providers and volunteers worked with clients and visited soup kitchens and outdoor locations to conduct surveys with people who are homeless and near-homeless in Fredericksburg area. In addition to counting homeless individuals and families, a goal of the survey is to learn more about the needs and characteristics of the population to better provide services in the future. In 2010, the CoC was able to offer incentives to clients for completing the surveys due to the generosity of the community. These included free haircuts provided by Great Clips in Massaponax, free FRED Bus tickets donated by FREDericksburg Regional Transit, and free toiletry kits provided by the Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone and every agency which assisted with the count!

### **I. 2010 Summary:**

184 adult HUD homeless (surveyed)

104 children HUD homeless

**288 total HUD homeless**

Another 376 children defined as homeless under the Department of Education which we should be able to count under the HEARTH Act of 2009 once HUD revises its policy.

29 people who were not homeless during the PIT count, but are at-risk of homelessness, completed surveys

### **Of the 288:**

83 adults are chronically homeless as defined by HUD

7 adults and 11 children are defined as chronically homeless under the HEARTH Act of 2009

94 adults and 93 children were homeless, but met neither definition for chronically homeless

Homeless population by previous fixed address	adults	HUD children	subtotal	DoE children	grand total
Total	184	104	288	376	664
Caroline	7	5	12	37	49
Fredericksburg*	57	12	69	57	126
King George	10	0	10	22	32
Spotsylvania	28	62	90	105	195
Stafford	43	19	62	155	217
Other VA	18	1	19	0	19
Outside VA	21	5	26	0	26

\*A Fredericksburg mailing address could be located in portions of Stafford or Spotsylvania Counties.

## II. Characteristics of the Homeless Population:

### 184 Survey Respondents

Gender: 41% Female 59% Male

Race: 60% White 31% Black 1.6% Native American  
2% Asian 7% Mix/Other 5% Hispanic/Latino

Veterans: 10% (19)

Age: Minimum: 18 Maximum: 67  
Average/Mean: 41

Number who have children under 18 with them:  
23 total (12.5% of those surveyed)  
Of these, 56% have 1 child with them (13)  
43% have 2 or more children with them (10)

Foster Care: 10% (19)  
Of these, the majority (53%) left foster care for reunification or adoption (10)

Highest Level of Education Completed:  
29% Less than high school completion (53)  
33% High School Diploma (61)  
13% GED (23)  
15% Some college (27)  
7% Bachelor's Degree (13)  
.5% More than Bachelor's degree (1)  
2% Trade School/Vocational (4)

Enrolled in Special Education/Special Classes: 18% (33)

Transportation:	47%	FRED (88)	4%	Friend/Relative (8)
	40%	Walk (74)	2%	Taxi (4)
	17%	Car (31)		
	5%	Bike (9)		

Employment:	Employed Part-time:	19% (36)	No Job Noted:	66% (122)
	Employed Full-time:	6% (11)		
	Day Labor:	9% (17)		

Length of Time Living in This Area:

Minimum:	1 day	Maximum:	67 Years
Average/Mean: 13 years			
6 months or less:	18% (34)	More than 10 years:	37% (69)
6-12 months:	8% (15)	Not answered:	3% (6)
1-5 years:	19% (35)		
6-10 years:	14% (26)		

Reason for being in/coming to the area:

Born here:	18% (31)	Fresh start:	12% (20)
Family:	28% (48)	DV/abusive situation:	3% (6)
Job:	17% (30)	Relocate:	5% (8)
Cost of living/housing costs:	5% (9)	Jail/Prison	3% (5)
Homeless services:	4% (7)	Other:	5% (8)

Where Respondent Slept Last Night:

Cold Weather Shelter:	23% (42)	Hope House	5% (9)
Thurman Brisben	26% (48)	Motel	2% (4)
Outdoors	20% (38)	RCDV	4% (8)
Vehicle	6% (11)	Hospital	1% (2)
Friend/Relative	7% (13)	Other	2% (4)
Jail	1% (2)	Respite	1% (2)
Home	<1% (1)		

Where Respondent Will Sleep Tonight:

Cold Weather Shelter:	27% (51)	Hope House	5% (9)
Thurman Brisben	27% (49)	Motel	<1% (1)
Outdoors	23% (42)	RCDV	4% (8)
Vehicle	5% (10)	Unsure	4% (7)
Friend/Relative	1% (2)	Other	2% (3)
Respite	1% (2)		

How Long has the Respondent been Homeless?

Minimum:	1 day	Maximum:	25 years
Average/Mean: 1.9 years			
Less than 1 month:	11% (21)	1-2 years:	26% (47)
1-3 months:	22% (41)	3-5 years:	12% (22)

4-6 months:	15% (27)	6-10 years:	5% (10)
7-11 months:	5% (9)	10 years +:	3% (6)

First Time Homeless?

Yes:	60% (108)	No answer:	1.6% (3)
No:	40% (73)		

How many times homeless in last 3 years?

1 time:	71% (128)	4-5 times:	5% (9)
2-3 times:	23% (41)	More than 5 times:	<1% (1)

Chronically homeless 90 (49%)

Factors Contributing to Homelessness: (not exclusive categories, can choose more than 1)

Unemployment	62% (95)	Criminal History	14% (19)
Wages/Underemployment	22% (28)	Credit	14% (6)
Eviction/Foreclosure	29% (44)	Substance Abuse	2% (17)
Domestic Violence	12% (21)	Divorce	8% (13)
Illness	14% (23)		

Number who said they have the following services:

Emergency Shelter	94	Disability Assistance	13
Permanent Housing	2	Dental	7
Transitional Housing	9	Medical	29
Legal Aid	7	HIV/AIDS services	3
Substance Abuse Services	23	Employment training	22
Mental Health	22	Social Security benefits	19
Domestic Violence	9	Unemployment benefits	11
Child care	7	TANF	9
Food	77	Food Stamps	103
Transportation	48		

Number who said they need the following services:

Emergency Shelter	58	Disability Assistance	40
Permanent Housing	162	Dental	106
Transitional Housing	77	Medical	77
Legal Aid	33	HIV/AIDS services	1
Substance Abuse Services	21	Employment training	53
Mental Health	27	Social Security benefits	59
Domestic Violence	11	Unemployment benefits	37
Child care	20	TANF	10
Food	77	Food Stamps	45
Transportation	97		

### **III. Comparisons with prior years:**

The population surveyed in 2010 was remarkably similar to that surveyed in 2009 and 2008.

A few differences worth noting:

- Fewer **veterans** were counted in the survey than previous years.
- The percentage of surveyed homeless who report being **employed full-time** declined as well.
- Respondents also took several opportunities in the survey to talk about their **need for jobs**: in explaining what factors brought them to homelessness, when calling for additional services, and in an open-ended question that allowed them to talk about needs.
- A much bigger percent of the local homeless population reports being homeless for 1-2 years (26%, up from 18% in 2009).
  - 71% of those surveyed reported being homeless one time in the last 3 years (up from 8% last year). This is an enormous increase, but can be coupled with the number of people reporting that their current spell of homelessness has lasted more than a year. While we're seeing an increase in first-time homelessness, it appears to be lengthy.