Fredericksburg Region Continuum of Care
Report on PIT Count Surveyed Population 2008

On January 24th, 2008, members of the Planning District 16 Continuum of Care conducted a point-in-time (PIT) count of the homeless population. A previous memo by Erik Nelson detailed the results of this count. 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.)."

As part of this data collection activity, census-takers also administered surveys to adults at several locations, to learn more about the needs and characteristics of the local homeless population that night. Not all of those included in the PIT count were surveyed, but 132 of 142 adults in the region participated in the survey. Here are some of the primary findings from those surveys.

I. Characteristics of the Population Considered Homeless by HUD Definition:
132 Survey Respondents

Gender: 33%   Female   67% Male

Race: 54%   White   33% Black
             2%   Hispanic   6% Mix
             3%   Other   2% Not answered

Veterans: 13% (17)

Age: Minimum: 19   Maximum: 69
             Average/Mean: 42

Number who have children under 18 with them:
             21 total
             Of these,   52% have 1 child with them (11)
                            24% have 2 children with them (5)

Foster Care: 12% (16)

Mental Health Services: 18%   Currently receiving mental health services (24)
                             26%   Received them in the past (34)

Highest Level of Education Completed:
             30%   Less than high school completion (39)
             36%   High School Diploma (48)
             11%   GED (15)
             12%   Some college (16)

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4%	Bachelor's Degree (6)		
1%	More than Bachelor's degree (2)		
4%	Not Answered (5)		

Transportation:

30%	FRED (40)	5%	Friend/Relative (7)
29%	Walk (38)	8%	None (11)
20%	Car (27)	1%	Other (1)
6%	Bike (8)		

Length of Time Living in This Area:

Minimum: 1 day   Maximum: 69 Years

Average/Mean: 16 years

6 months or less:	13% (17)
6-12 months:	13% (16)
1-5 years:	15% (19)
6-10 years:	15% (19)
More than 10 years:	44% (56)

Where Respondent Slept Last Night:

Cold Weather Shelter:	21% (28)	Hope House	8% (10)
Thurman Brisben	36% (47)	Motel	1% (1)
Outdoors	17% (22)	Home	1% (1)
Vehicle	5% (7)	Other	4% (5)
Friend/Relative	8% (11)		

Where Respondent Will Sleep Tonight:

Cold Weather Shelter:	29% (39)	Hope House	8% (10)
Thurman Brisben	37% (49)	Motel	1.5% (2)
Outdoors	11% (14)	Other	7% (9)
Vehicle	4% (5)		
Friend/Relative	3% (4)		

How Long has the Respondent been Homeless?

Minimum:1 day   Maximum: 20 years

Average/Mean: 2.7 years

Less than 1 month:	17% (22)	1-2 years:	16% (21)
1-3 months:	23% (30)	3-5 years:	11% (14)
4-6 months:	9% (12)	6-10 years:	11% (14)
7-11 months:	5% (7)	10 years +:	8% (10)

How Many Times Homeless Before Now?

Never before:	62% (78)
1 time:	16% (20)
2-3 times:	13% (17)
4-5 times:	6% (7)
More than 5 times:	3% (4)

Employment: Unemployed: 53% (70)
            Employed Part-time: 20% (27)
            Employed Full-time: 27% (35)

Number who said they were unable to obtain services:

Housing Placement	57	Food	25
Transitional Housing	25	Child Care	13
Emergency Shelter	23	Legal Aid	17
Medical & Dental	48	Mental Health	9
Substance Abuse Services	7		

Chronically homeless   50   (38%)
    11 people who have been homeless 4 or more times
    39 people who are homeless for the first time, but have been homeless more than
    1 year

II. Comparison of 2008 Survey Results with earlier years:
A. Compared to **2007**, the population captured by the PIT count survey this year is:
-slightly more male
-slightly fewer children under 18 present
-very similar in terms of race, education, employment, mental health service receipt, length of time in the area, length of time homeless, times homeless before now
-Unmet service demand is also quite stable between these years -- with high unmet demands for housing placement, medical/dental services and transitional housing, and relatively low levels of unmet service demands for mental health and substance abuse services.
-Overall, remarkable similarity in the characteristics of the people captured by this survey across the two years.

B. Compared to **2004**, the population captured by the PIT count survey this year is:
-significantly more male (67% in 2008, 45% in 2004)
-more likely to be current or past recipients of mental health services
-more well-educated (in particular, more likely to have completed high school or GED)
-much less likely to have children under 18 with them (16% in 2008 vs. 43% in 2004).
-less new to the area (fewer people here six months or less than in 2004)
-A shift in how long people have been homeless. Please compare the data at the bottom of page 2 above with this data from 2004:

How long since respondent had a place to live?

Less than 1 month:	16% (19)		1-2 years:	21% (26)
1-3 months:	20% (24)		3-5 years:	6% (7)
4-6 months:	22% (27)			
7-11 months:	12% (15)		10 years +:	2% (3)

The current pattern seems to reflect more people now who are newly homeless (1-3 months) and long-term homeless (1-10 years).

-more of the current surveyed population report never being homeless before their current experience of homelessness (62% in 2008 vs. 40% in 2004).

III. Comparison of Survey results with population NOT Considered Homeless by HUD Definition: In the course of conducting the 2008 PIT count, 24 individuals were surveyed who did not meet the HUD-specified definition of homelessness. Their numbers are small, and so no generalizations can or should be made from this data to the population as a whole. However, this may provide a small window into the people right outside HUD's definition: people already being served or in need of additional services. In general, this group seems quite similar to the group counted by HUD. The key distinction between the two groups is where they slept last night, with most of this group sleeping with a friend or relative.

Gender: 46%   Female (11)   54% Male (13)

Race: 62%   White (15)   33% Black (8)
               4%   Mix (1)

Veterans: 25% (6)

Age: Minimum: 26 Maximum: 56   Average/Mean: 43

Number who have children under 18 with them: 6 total
                Of these, 2 have 1 child with them
                          2 have 2 children with them
                          2 have 3 children with them

Foster Care: 17% (4)

Mental Health Services: 12% Currently receiving mental health services (3)
                        35% Received them in the past (8)

Highest Level of Education Completed:
                29%   Less than high school completion (7)
                37%   High School Diploma (9)
                12%   GED (3)
                21%   Some college (5)

Transportation: 25%   FRED (6)
                       21%   Walk (5)
                       33%   Car (8)
                       8%   Friend/Relative (2)
                       12%   None (3)

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Length of Time Living in This Area: Min: 1 day   Max: 53 Years

Average/Mean: 15 years

6 months or less:	17% (4)
6-12 months:	8% (2)
1-5 years:	17% (4)
6-10 years:	12% (3)
More than 10 years:	46% (11)

Where Respondent Slept Last Night:

Friend/Relative	58% (14)
Motel	17% (4)
Home	25% (6)

Where Respondent Will Sleep Tonight:

Friend/Relative	58% (14)
Motel	17% (4)
Home	25% (6)

How Long has the Respondent been Homeless? (*Although not meeting the HUD definition of Homeless, only 7 respondents did not answer this question)

Minimum: 1 day   Maximum: 15 years

Average/Mean: 2.5 years

Less than 1 month:	6% (1)	1-2 years:	29% (5)
1-3 months:	23% (4)	3-5 years:	12% (2)
4-6 months:	12% (2)	6-10 years:	6% (1)
7-11 months:	6% (1)	10 years +:	6% (1)

How Many Times Homeless Before Now?

Never before:	80% (16)
1 time:	5% (1)
2-3 times:	10% (2)
4-5 times:	5% (1)

Employment:	Unemployed:	46% (11)
	Employed Part-time:	25% (6)
	Employed Full-time:	29% (7)

Number who said they were unable to obtain services:

Housing Placement	13	Food	7	Child Care	3
Transitional Housing	3	Emergency Shelter	7	Legal Aid	5
Medical & Dental	10				

Chronically homeless 6 (25%):
1 person who has been homeless 4 or more times
5 people who are homeless for the first time, but have been homeless more than 1 year