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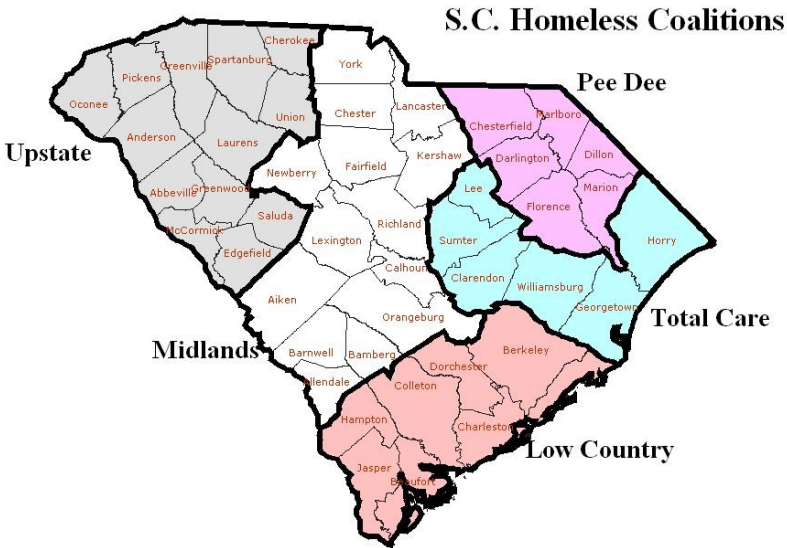
Summary analysis on the South Carolina homeless population based on the homeless count of January 2005

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Summary Analysis on the South Carolina Homeless Population
Based on the Homeless Count of January 2005

South Carolina Council on Homelessness

September 2005

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Executive Summary

The first statewide Homeless Count occurred in South Carolina on January 27, 2005. Six thousand four hundred eighty one homeless persons (6,481) were counted. (Please note that basic and detailed information is available in Appendix 1 and 2.)

- 46% were in homeless shelters; 56% were staying in unsheltered locations.
- 68% were men; 32 % were women
- 20% were veterans
- 15% were children

Beyond a description of the persons experiencing homelessness in South Carolina, this report estimates some additional parameters of the homeless population:

- Adjusted Homeless Count Estimate
- Annualized Homeless Estimate
- At-risk/ Doubled-up Homeless Estimate
- Chronic Homeless Estimate

This Count effort is built on a long history of advocacy and service to the homeless. Special thanks go to those named in the acknowledgements as well as to the homeless themselves who voluntarily reported information about themselves.

The numbers and estimates in this report are acknowledged to be far from perfect, given the difficulties of limited resources to carry out the count and the very nature of daily survival among the homeless. It is hoped, however, that this information illuminates the stories and needs of those experiencing homelessness so that service providers and the public may better understand and address those needs.

Introduction

Background: On January 27th, 2005, volunteers across South Carolina implemented the first coordinated, statewide count of persons experiencing homelessness. The count was coordinated by an ad hoc committee of representatives from across the state including service providers from different regional coalitions, state agencies and HMIS coordinators. The effort was multi-purposed:

- Produce a statewide, unduplicated count of sheltered homeless persons.

- Count or produce reliable estimates of unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness in the state.

- Develop a profile of the homeless population in South Carolina that provides a better understanding of homelessness than the HUD-required point-in-time count.

The Institute for Families in Societies (IFS) at the University of South Carolina (USC) assisted the committee by developing five instruments for the assessment and providing training on the count methodology. A web site was developed by David King, a consultant and HMIS System Administrator for three of the five coalitions in South Carolina. The web site provided a data entry opportunity for all coalitions as well as continuing reporting of the 2005 count numbers.

The five forms included:
- Form 1: A two-page **Individual Survey** to collect basic demographic and homeless experience information for unsheltered or sheltered homeless adults.

- Form 2: A one-page **Child Survey** for unsheltered or sheltered homeless children and youth for parents to respond when the parent was interviewed.

- Form 3 A one-page **Observation of Unsheltered** form to report individuals observed at unsheltered sites when interviews were not feasible.

- Form 4: **A Provider Survey** to solicit information from shelter providers on the number of homeless at the shelter on the day of the count, as well as additional information.

- Form-5: An **In-depth individual survey** to solicit extensive information about the housing and service experience of people who are homeless. Generally, these surveys were completed at shelters given the estimated one-hour duration of the interview.

The forms, along with a training manual and definitions are available at the following websites: http://ifs.sc.edu/homelessness.asp or, at www.schomeless.org .

Data Quality: Much effort was put into the design and implementation of this Count. Unfortunately, the effort, enthusiasm, training and person-power did not permeate every county.   Thirty-seven percent (17 of 46) counties reported zero unsheltered homeless, and an additional eleven percent (5 of 46) counties reported less than five unsheltered

homeless. The majority of the counties reporting zero, or less than five unsheltered homeless, reported little or no effort to count the homeless.

Additionally, as a first-time coordinated effort, some of the pieces came together late in the process. It should be celebrated that they did come together well. But there were also some "lessons learned." The most important of the technical lessons were as follows:

- Make sure that none of the item response codes overlap.
- Make sure that the children's forms can be connected to the parents'.
- Make sure that regardless of where people are interviewed - on the street or at a homeless facility or in a soup kitchen - that it is clear whether or not the person already has a designated bed (unsheltered or sheltered and which shelter).
- Make sure all of the items in the survey are clear and elicit the information needed (e.g., *Item 3: How long have you been in this circumstance?* "This circumstance" is a vague reference and may mean staying at a particular shelter or it may mean being homeless—two different things).

The lessons learned are important technical concerns, but in the scheme of things and given the collaborative nature of this endeavor, the 2005 Count was carried out remarkably well. Many thanks go to those noted in the acknowledgements, as well as the hundreds of professional staff and volunteers that worked out of a commitment to those they serve. Finally, while homelessness is difficult to measure with 100 percent accuracy, it should be noted that it is more important to work towards ending homelessness than knowing the precise numbers of persons currently experiencing it.

Other reports based on the January 2005 Count Data include, but are not limited to, the following:

A 3-page synopsis of the information on the basic survey form at the statewide and 5 regional levels:
1. SC Homelessness 2005 – By the Numbers (Statewide results, see Appendix 1)
2. Low Country Coalition On Homelessness: SC Homelessness 2005
3. Midlands Area Coalition on Homelessness: SC Homelessness 2005
4. Pee Dee Coalition on Homelessness: SC Homelessness 2005
5. Total Care Coalition: SC Homelessness 2005
6. Upstate Homeless Coalition: Homelessness 2005

The following report was based on analysis from the basic interview form (form 1) with some limited information from the other forms.

Homeless Count Numbers and Estimates

a. Homeless Count: On January 27, 2005, there were 6,481 homeless persons counted in South Carolina. This included almost 3,000 homeless persons in homeless shelters and over 3,600 persons in unsheltered locations. (See table below). Of these, 989 were children. Sixty-eight percent are male and 32 percent are female. See Appendix 2 for county and regional numbers of children, adults, sheltered, and unsheltered.

Table 1: Total SC Homeless Count Sheltered and Unsheltered*			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Sheltered	1,676	1,158	2,834 (44%)
Unsheltered	2,721	926	3,647 (56%)
Total	4,397	2,084	6,481 (100%)

*These numbers reflect the Homeless Count data from January 27, 2005 which was aimed at counting those defined as homeless by HUD. Any persons living with friends or relatives (known as doubled-up) are not reflected in this count. Also not included are those in permanent shelters. Please note: due to the vagaries of volunteer efforts, these numbers reflect, by county, a wide range of effort. Forty percent of counties reported zero or less than 5 homeless persons.

b. Unsheltered Homeless Count: The unsheltered count consists of a 'moment in time' unduplicated tally of people living 'on the street' in downtown areas across the state, and when known, in outlying areas such as abandoned houses, under bridges and similar structures. The unsheltered homeless go to great lengths to protect themselves from view in their efforts to survive each night. Given this fact, the count is generally considered an undercount. It is intended to foster an understanding of the patterns of survival for some of the people who are homeless.

Information from each of the five regional coalitions was used to develop a rating of the effort, by county, in counting the unsheltered. That rating was used in the following section regarding a Homeless Count Estimate. It should be noted that 22 of the 46 South Carolina counties reported 5 or less unsheltered homeless.

One of the tough issues for a number of coalitions was learning the best way to involve local and county law enforcement in the unsheltered count. In some cases, uniformed police accompanied interviewers on Count Day. Interviewers accompanied by uniformed police found few homeless persons willing to talk with them. In some cases, police and county sheriffs spent time with volunteer interviewers and drove around ahead of the Count Day to places where homeless persons were known to stay. Thus, it may be noted that law enforcement may play a larger role in identifying the 'observed' but difficult to interview homeless rather than those homeless who can be interviewed in public areas. Interviewers in Columbia found that just spending time in public parks and libraries created many opportunities to interview both sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons.

c. Sheltered Homeless Count: The 2005 Count of 2,834 sheltered homeless persons included counts from all but a few of the sheltered facilities in South Carolina. This includes those in emergency and transitional shelters. A few of the private shelters chose not to participate. An option was made available to the Coalitions and counties to provide

that information for those shelters if enough was known about them (number of beds and services offered). In some of the cases that option was followed. An estimate of the facilities and number of beds not included in the Count is not available, but is considered to be very small.

Persons in homeless shelters were possibly counted on both the Provider Survey Form, and with the Individual Survey Form. Any persons included in both surveys were 'adjusted-out' of the total count to ensure they were counted only one time.

The Provider Survey component of the count is carried out with the administrative support of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is compatible with the HMIS system, developed for HUD information. In the future it is expected that the HMIS system may provide the capacity and enrollment information needed for the sheltered count. Currently, the system reflects that the number of shelters and capacity found during the January Count is on-target and generally accurate.

While this total of 6,481 sheltered and unsheltered, is considered valid and documented, many professionals working in the homeless field acknowledge this number as an undercount. It reflects the number of homeless counted on one day when less than adequate resources were available to count in many counties.

This report presents an estimate based on the count that attempts to adjust the shortcomings of the actual homeless count. The Homeless Count Estimate is presented below.

Additionally, when considering the number of homeless in South Carolina, it is often useful to consider the number of persons that are homeless during the year instead of those homeless on the day of the Count.   The Total Annualized Homeless estimate is presented below.

d. Homeless Count Estimate: A better representation of the homeless count may be an estimated 10,355 rather than the actual count of 6,481. This estimate is based on a methodology - documented in the appendix of this report - and reviewed by a subcommittee, which compensates for the poor Quality of Count in many counties using a 'quality of unsheltered count', population figures, and the actual count numbers (See Appendix 2). The methodology substitutes a defined minimum for those counties that reported minimal or no effort in counting homeless. This number represents what is considered to be a "truer" number of those who would be counted as homeless on the count day if more effort, work or interviewers been available on the day of the count. This number was developed due to the limited effort available for the unsheltered count.

Given there is information on homes that are substandard in the majority of these counties, and persons living in those homes should be counted as homeless, it is expected that increased effort would have brought homeless count numbers well above the estimated 10,355 homeless in South Carolina.

d. Total Annualized Homeless: The Annualized Homeless estimate for South Carolina in 2005 is 32,335 homeless persons. The Homeless Count of 6,481 is based on a count of the homeless on one particular day. The Annualized Homeless estimate uses the actual count

from the one-day event, and given the length of homelessness and stay of those interviewed, estimates the number of different people that are homeless during the year. The estimate is based on how quickly persons cycle in and out of homeless shelters and unsheltered locations.

This Annualized estimate is broken down by county and region in Appendix 2. Clearly, this annualized estimate would be higher if the 10,355 estimated number of homeless was used instead of the 6,481 actual count total.

e. 'Doubled-Up and At-Risk Homeless: The Count does not include persons in 'doubled-up' or 'couch-surfing' situations. Persons in "doubled-up" situations are typically considered to be persons that live temporarily with someone willing to let them sleep on a couch or floor. If the Count had included persons in 'doubled-up' situations the number would have been much higher; however, it would have been necessary to knock on every door to find this information.

The count does not include the thousands of people throughout South Carolina who are living in substandard housing, or in trailers without running water or electricity, especially in the more rural areas of the county. Within cities and small rural towns there are many families that are secretly doubled or tripled up on a permanent basis in one unit, or are paying for motel rooms on a daily or weekly basis, hoping to somehow save enough money for a permanent place of their own. There are numerous apartment complexes in the Columbia area where it is clear that there are extended immigrant families and very little English spoken.

One indicator of the number of persons in doubled-up situations is the difference between the number of homeless children in the Count (989) versus the number of children counted as homeless (6,139) by the schools. The schools, by law, utilize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition which includes 'doubled-up' children. Using the ratio of 989 to 6139, there are more than six times as many children considered homeless when the 'doubled-up' are included. Applying that ratio to the count number (all ages) means there would be 40,247 rather than the 6,481 count. It is not known if the 40,247 is considered to be an accurate representation of the homeless including the 'doubled-up' in South Carolina.

When using rules of thumb that have been developed and used in recent years, some estimates indicate over 100,000 South Carolinians are at-risk of homelessness (based on poverty figures in SC). Wilder Research Center, well known for their study of the homeless in Minnesota, estimates that 10% of poor households and 4% of non-poor had friends or family staying with them because of unaffordable housing. If similar percentages of doubled-up households exist in South Carolina, then there would be almost 224,000 persons in South Carolina in doubled-up situations (see Appendix, Column S).

It is important to note that many of the At-Risk Homeless seek many of the same services as do the homeless: food stamps, soup kitchens, job assistance, clothing, medical treatment, mental health care and food bank/food subsidies. The At-Risk Homeless are generally considered to be those persons who but for a lost pay-check or broken down car would find themselves within the ranks of the homeless, or doubled-up.

f. Chronic Homelessness: Chronic Homelessness, as defined by HUD, is a subset of the total count. It is a fairly strenuous definition that requires chronic homeless adults to 1) be homeless more than a year or homeless more than 4 times in three years, 2) not be a part of a family group and 3) have a disability.

Based on the survey of a one-third sample of the homeless counted, the total chronic homeless number in South Carolina is estimated 2,207 (31% of 6,481). This percentage is based on participant responses to "have you been homeless four or more times in the past 3 years" and questions regarding whether they were homeless more than a year, or are with one or more family members, or have received Mental health services, alcohol and drug services or have any mental, physical or other impairment. This number is made up of 29% of those in shelters and 38% of those unsheltered. This estimate is probably low due to data difficulties related to the analysis being able to consider those who have been homeless more than a year.

Table 2: Total Chronic Homeless in SC As of January 2005 Count	
Sheltered	822 (29% of total sheltered)
Unsheltered	1,385 (38% of total unsheltered)
Total	2,207 (31% of Total Homeless)
Chronic Homeless as defined by HUD are persons that are homeless for more than a year or more than 4 times in 3 years, not in a family group and with a noted disability.	

One of the assumptions underlying the estimate is that the homeless we interviewed represent all homeless.   It is possible that those homeless we interviewed are 'better-off' and 'less-chronically homeless' than those we did not interview. Therefore, these chronic estimates may be understated.

Homeless School Children in SC: A Different Definition than the Count

The number of Homeless School Children determined by the S.C. Department of Education, using the broader homeless definition from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is 6,139 for School Year 2003-2004. The numbers of Homeless School Children, by school district, are shown in the following chart and were provided by the SC Department of Education.

The homeless school children definition includes those children who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night time residence, those living in doubled-up situations, those living in shelters, in temporary residences, and in public or private places not designed for sleeping accommodations for human beings. Additional information on the homeless school children definition and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act can be found at: http://www.myscschools.com/offices/ssys/youth_services/mckinney/page1130.cfm .

The number of South Carolina Homeless School Children (6,139) is 6.2 times higher than the number of children found in the 2005 Count (989). This is due, in large part, to the differing homeless definitions between the January 2005 Homelessness Count and the Homeless School Children /McKinney-Vento.

Children and youth identified as homeless by State Departments of Education in FY2000 were found to live in shelters (35%), doubled-up with family or friends (34%) and in motels and other locations (23%) (*Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, Report to Congress*, FY 2000). This information and other information about the barriers to education facing homeless children (transportation, documentation, identification, immunizations, lower enrollments, etc) are found in the Report to Congress and at http://www.nationalhomeless.org/facts/education.html.

The 989 children counted in the Homeless Count represent 15% of the total homeless population counted.   While definitional problems and time studied issues do matter, it is interesting to note that a study done by the Urban Institute approximated that 1.35 of the 3.5 million (38.6%) they estimated as homeless during a given year, were children. Additionally, a 2001 US Conference of Mayors' survey of homelessness in 27 cities found that children under the age of 18 made up 25.3% of the urban homeless population (report found at: http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/news/press_releases/documents/hunger_121101.asp). Thus, the proportion of South Carolina children found in the 2005 Count (15%) is low in comparison.

Table 3: South Carolina School Children Defined as Homeless					
Using the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act*					
School Year 2003-2004, Pre-school to grade 12					
South Carolina Total= 6,139*					
Abbeville	0	Dorchester 2	101	Marion 1	61
Aiken	223	Dorchester 4	18	Marion 2	0
Allendale	364	Edgefield	0	Marion 7	0
Anderson 1	246	Fairfield	7	Marlboro	0
Anderson 2	0	Florence 1	74	McCormick	0
Anderson 3	0	Florence 2	0	Newberry	7
Anderson 4	12	Florence 3	0	Oconee	0
Anderson 5	69	Florence 4	2	Orangeburg 3	0
Bamberg 1	0	Florence 5	0	Orangeburg 4	0
Bamberg 2	9	Georgetown	2	Orangeburg 5	2
Barnwell 19	0	Greenville	84	Pickens	1635
Barnwell 29	0	Greenwood 50	291	Richland 1	982
Barnwell 45	0	Greenwood 51	36	Richland 2	5
Beaufort	2	Greenwood 52	0	Saluda	0
Berkeley	141	Hampton 1	0	Spartanburg 1	0
Calhoun	0	Hampton 2	4	Spartanburg 2	0
Charleston	575	Horry	Not Rprtd	Spartanburg 3	0
Cherokee	25	Jasper	9	Spartanburg 4	0
Chester	0	Kershaw	84	Spartanburg 5	0
Chesterfield	14	Lancaster	0	Spartanburg 6	4
Clarendon 1	0	Laurens 55	7	Spartanburg 7	45
Clarendon 2	0	Laurens 56	0	Sumter 2	206
Clarendon 3	0	Lee	8	Sumter 17	693
Colleton	4	Lexington 1	9	Union	2
Darlington	8	Lexington 2	2	Williamsburg	0
Dillon 1	0	Lexington 3	0	York 1	0
Dillon 2	0	Lexington 4	0	York 2	4
Dillon 3	0	Lexington 5	10	York 3	32
				York 4	1

See http://www.myscschools.com/offices/ssys/youth_services/mckinney/page1130.cfm for a more detailed definition.

*The total number of students reported homeless for school year 2003-2004 by the South Carolina Department of Education is 6,139. The numbers above, reported by SCDOE add to 6,119. At the Federal level, school year 2003-2004 was the first year homeless school children were recorded and the US DOE has a total of 5,805 homeless school children which does not include preschool. The numbers for School year 2004-2005 are expected to be available in October 2005 from the SC DOE, Brenda Myers, 803-734-3215, bmyers@scdoes.state.sc.us

Homeless Veterans

Number of Homeless Veterans in Count: When asked, "Are you a veteran?," 20 percent of those interviewed from a sample of homeless persons said yes (393 of 1,972). Veterans made up 21% of the sheltered homeless and 19% of the unsheltered homeless.   Five percent (21 of 393) of the veterans were female, thus it is estimated that there are 58 female homeless veterans in South Carolina.   The table below shows how these percentages are applied to the total number of adults in the count to estimate a total of 1,086 homeless veterans in South Carolina.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that approximately 33% of homeless men are veterans.   Additionally, they estimate that veterans comprise only 23% of the general adult male population (website, 2003, www.nchv.org).   South Carolina has an active homeless veteran program which may help to account for perhaps a lower than expected percentage of homeless veterans. Also, the calculations herein are based on the total homeless population, not just the men. Clearly, more research is needed on this important topic to truly understand whether the numbers from the Homeless Count is representative of the Homeless Veterans population in South Carolina.

Table 4: Estimated Number of Homeless Veterans Based on the January 2005 Homeless Count				
	Homeless Veterans Interviewed		Number of Adults in Homeless Count	Estimated Number of Veterans Statewide
	Number	**Percent**		
Sheltered	199	21.4%	2,309	494
Unsheltered	194	18.6%	3,182	592
Total	393	19.9%	5, 491	**1,086**
Female	*21*	*5.3%*	*(1,086 Vets)*	*(58 Female Vets)*

Homeless Veterans with One or More Impairments: Over 36% of the veterans interviewed reported that they had a mental, physical or other impairment that limits them. A similar percent reported they had a mental health problem for which they have received care in the past. An even higher percent (56%) reported having received care for an alcohol or drug problem. Twenty-two percent report having received care for both mental health and alcohol and drug problems (See Table 5 below).

Veteran versus non-veteran Impairment: In response to Question 19: "Do you have a mental, physical or other impairment that limits you?," veterans answered "yes" in slightly higher percentages than the non-veteran population (36.5 percent veterans vs. 32 percent non-veteran population).

Sheltered veterans versus unsheltered veterans: Sheltered veterans reported slightly higher rates of impairment than unsheltered veterans (38.5% versus 34.9%).   The table below, indicates a total of 397 estimated homeless veterans with mental or physical impairments.

Table 5: Homeless Veterans with One or More Impairments:			
Homeless Vets reporting…	**Interviewed Homeless Veterans answering 'yes' to Impairments***		**Estimated Number of Homeless SC Veterans**
	Number	*Percent*	
Physical or Mental Imp.	141 of 386	36.5%	**396**
Mental Illness (MI)	138 of 389	35.5%	**385**
Alcohol &Drug (A&D)	218 of 390	55.9%	**607**
IMP & MI	83 of 383	21.7%	**236**
IMP & A&D	91 of 384	23.7%	**257**
MI & A&D	101 of 388	26.0%	**282**
IMP, MI, and A&D	61 of 382	16.0%	**61**
* Number of Homeless Veterans (1,086) was multiplied by the percent to get the estimated number in the SC veteran homeless population.			

Table 6: Sheltered versus Unsheltered Homeless Veterans with Physical or Mental Impairment Based on the January 2005 Homeless Count		
	Interviewed Homeless Veterans answering 'yes' to physical or mental impairment	
	Number	Percent
Sheltered	74 of 194	38.5%
Unsheltered	67 of 192	34.9%
Total	141 of 386	36.7%

Veterans with Mental Health Problems: In response to Question 20, "Have you ever received care because of nervousness, depression, or mental health problems?," veterans answered "yes" in slightly lower percentages than did the non-veteran population (18.3 percent veterans vs. 21.7 percent non-veteran population). Those veterans in shelters answered yes slightly more often than those unsheltered (40 percent vs. 31 percent).

 Veterans with Alcohol and Drug Problems: Veterans answered "yes" in higher percentages than did the overall population to Question 21 "Have you ever been treated for an alcohol or drug problem?" (56% veterans versus 44% overall population). Those veterans in shelters answered yes more often than those unsheltered (70% versus 42%).

Table 7: Homeless Veterans with Alcohol and Drug Problems Based on the January 2005 Homeless Count		
	Number and Percent Interviewed	Percent
Sheltered	138 of 198	70%
Unsheltered	80 of 192	42%
Total	218 of 390	56%

Homeless Persons Reporting any Impairment

Fairly high rates of impairment were found among the homeless surveyed. All information is self-reported. Specifically, participants were asked the following questions:

- "Do you have a mental, physical or other impairment that limits you?" (item 19)
- "Have you ever received care because of nervousness, depression, or mental health problems?" (item 20)
- "Have you ever been treated for an Alcohol or drug problem?" (item 21), and,
- "Have you ever been told by a professional that you are HIV positive or have AIDS?" (item 22)

Please note that the AIDS question will be analyzed separately from the others.

Mental Health impairment: It is interesting to note that 39.6 percent of the homeless reported they had "received care because of nervousness, depression or mental health problems". This is a higher rate than the approximate one-third that has been estimated nationally by the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the US Department of Health and Human Services (*Mental Health and Homelessness: A Guide for Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils*, undated).

Homeless reporting…	Interviewed Homeless answering 'yes' to one or More of the following*		Estimated Number in Homeless Count
	Number	*Percent*	
Physical or Mental Impairment (IMP)	644 of 1948	33.1	**2,145**
Mental Health (MI)	769 of 1943	39.6	**2,566**
Alcohol &Drug (A&D)	867 of 1958	44.3	**2,871**
IMP & MI	439 of 1910	23.0	**1,491**
IMP & A&D	329 of 1920	17.1	**1,108**
MI & A&D	445 of 1928	23.1	**1,497**
All Three	248 of 1899	13.1	**849**

Table 8: Homeless with One or More Impairments

* The Number of Homeless (6,481) was multiplied by the percent to get the estimated number in the SC veteran homeless population.

Other Demographics of the Homeless Population in SC

Race: Based on the reports of those homeless interviewed, 60% of the homeless are African American and 37% are White. These percentages applied statewide, translate to approximately 3,900 African Americans and over 2,400 Whites.

Asian and other races make up less than 3% or less than 150 other race persons statewide. A follow up survey item was asked regarding whether someone was of Hispanic, Latino or Chicano origin. Only 2% (40 of 1,906) stated that they were of Hispanic, Latino or Chicano origin. The statewide number of Hispanic homeless is shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Race/Origin of Homeless Population			
RACE or Origin	**Number (in Survey)**	**Percent**	**Number in SC***
African American	**1,205**	**60.1**	**3,899**
Asian	**8**	**.4**	**26**
White	**748**	**37.3**	**2,419**
Other	**43**	**2.1**	**137**
Total	**2,004**	**100.0**	**6,481**
Hispanic, Latino or Chicano*	**40**	**2%**	**130**
*This was a separate question on origin.			

The racial make-up of sheltered versus unsheltered persons varies somewhat. African-Americans make-up 57% of the sheltered homeless population and 63% of the unsheltered homeless.

When compared to the States' 2000 Census population, the homeless population has a greater proportion of African Americans. While the Census Population showed that African Americans make-up approximately 30% of the population and whites make-up 67%; almost the inverse is true with the Homeless population. The homeless population was 60% African American and the white population was 37%. The other populations and the Hispanic origin population reflected the State's 2000 population.

Gender: The first table in this report noted there were 2,084 females (33.6%) and 4,397 males (66.4%) counted in the homeless population. The 2000 Census showed that South Carolina's population was 51% and 49% male. There are higher percentages of females in shelters than in the unsheltered locations. Thus, while females are underrepresented in the homeless population in general, they are slightly less underrepresented in shelters than in unsheltered locations.

Table 10: Gender: Sheltered versus Unsheltered Numbers and Percentages			
Gender	Homeless Count / Statewide	Shelters	Unsheltered
Female	2,084 (34%)	360 (38%)	317 (30%)
Male	4,397 (66%)	579 (62%)	759 (70%)

Educational Attainment: Sixty-five percent of the homeless population have completed high school, some college, or have completed college. The sheltered and unsheltered populations do not show many differences on education other than a slight difference in the percent with less than 12th grade completed (31% sheltered, 39% unsheltered).

Table 11: Educational Attainment, Sheltered by Unsheltered and Totals				
Education Attained	**Homeless Count (Interviewed)**	**Sheltered**	**Unsheltered**	**Statewide Homeless**
Less than 6th	32 (2%)	10 (1%)	22 (2%)	110
6-8	97 (5%)	36 (4%)	61 (6%)	330
9	119 (7%)	48 (5%)	71 (8%)	439
10	194 (11%)	86 (10%)	108 (12%)	659
11	203 (11%)	98 (11%)	105 (11%)	604
12	756 (42%)	363 (42%)	393 (42%)	2,306
Some college	326 (18%)	178 (20%)	148 (16%)	879
College	87 (5%)	54 (6%)	33 (4%)	220
Total	1814 (100%)	873 (100%)	941 (100%)	5,491*, **
Less than 12th	*36%*	*31%*	*39%*	*1,977*
*The 5,491 is the number of adults out of the total of 6,481. Children were not included in this analysis of educational attainment. ** Column may not add correctly due to rounding.				

While not entirely comparable to the 2000 Census information, it does appear that the homeless population has a higher proportion of persons who had less than 12 years of school (36% of the Homeless population compared with 20% from the 2000 Census).

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South Carolina Homeless – By the Numbers

Based on the January 27, 2005 Count

August, 2005

This report is made possible by the hundreds of volunteers and staff working year-round on homelessness issues and working specifically, on January 27, 2005 when the first ever state wide count of the homeless was done. This is the first in a series of reports. The purpose of this report is to present statewide, actual count numbers, in an easy to use format.

Volunteers and staff at shelters and other nonprofit centers completed center surveys and interviewed both sheltered and unsheltered homeless. They then entered the data into a statewide web-based application developed by David King, a consultant with a three of the regional coalitions. Information from this report is drawn in-whole or in-part, exclusively from the data and the reports on Mr. King's website, http://tchc-web.org/count .

Total SC Homeless Count, Sheltered and Unsheltered*			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Sheltered	1,676	1,158	**2,834** (44%)
Unsheltered	2,721	926	**3,647** (56%)
Total	**4,397** (68%)	**2,084** (32%)	**6,481** (100%)
*These numbers reflect only the homeless as defined by HUD. Any persons living with friends of relatives (known as doubled-up) are not reflected in this count. Also not included are those persons in permanent shelters. Please note: due to the vagaries of volunteer efforts, these numbers reflect, by county, a wide range of effort. Forty percent of counties reported 5 or less homeless persons.			
*Technical Note: Sheltered data from Form-4/6. Unsheltered data from Forms 3 (all) and 1 (marked as not sheltered). Percent sheltered surveyed (Form-1): 33% Percent unsheltered surveyed (Form-1): 30			

Of the 6,481 homeless documented on the Count Day, more than one-third (2,068) completed a Form-1 Individual Survey, often with the aid of a volunteer.   The following information was derived from that data. Numbers broken down by County, Coalition Areas, Council of Government Areas, etc are available partially in Appendix 1 and 2 of this report, as well as both http://tchc-web.org/count and www.schomeless.org .

The numbers and percentages following are based on those items which were answered. Please note that some participants did not answer all items, or they chose 'Don't know' or 'Refuse to answer' options. Inclusion or exclusion of various responses, along with rounding, may account for small differences between this report and other reports.

SC Homelessness 2005– By the Numbers
Item Results from Form 1 of the 1/27/2005 Homeless Count*

Where surveyed?   86% were surveyed at a facility that provides shelter/housing or services to the homeless. The rest were at other locations where the homeless individuals were found. The top two other locations were 'on the street' (4.6%) and 'at a motel' (3.4%).

1) When did you start staying here? (n=1647, and 14% of total Don't know or Refuse)
Before 2002: 6.2%; before 2003: 6.9%; first half of 2004: 12.7%; last half of 2004: 45.1%; this year (2005): 29.2%.
Average: 04/06/2004   Median: 11/03/2004   Mode: 01/01/2005   Minimum: 06/01/1969

2) Where did you stay before here? (n=2001, 3.2% Don't Know or Refuse)

Friend / Family	**31%**	Other			**10%**
Own home	**21%**	Prison/ Jail / Correctional			**6%**
Other Shelter	**14%**	Hospital or other Treatment			**5%**
Street	**11%**	Car	2%	Military	**0.2%**

3) How long were you in this circumstance?
(n=1961, 5% Don't Know or Refuse)

Weeks – 17%   Months – 39%
About a Year – 15%
More than a year – 29%

3a) County where first homeless? (n = 1509, and 5.5% Don't Know or Refuse)
Top five: Richland (23.6%), Charleston (14%), Greenville (11.2%), Not SC (8.3%), and Horry (5.9%)

4) What caused you to leave your former housing situation? (can choose more than 1, n=1964)

a) Unable to afford rent/mortgage	17.4%	f) Being abused	4.6%
b) Loss of job / hours cut	17.4%	g) Substandard housing	2.8%
c) Eviction	9.3%	h) Left home / ran away	2.5%
d) Home destroyed	1.7%	i) Breakup w/Spouse /sig other	11.5%
e) Drinking or drug use problem	19%	l) other (see 4a)	13.8%

4-a) Reason leaving former housing situation: This open ended question led to 355 responses with responses such as Prison/Jail (n=57), health problems / work related injury (n=31), family/domestic violence (n=24),Death in family(n=7), couldn't pay bills, substandard housing, no transportation.

5) Have you been homeless 4 or more times in the past 3 years?
(n=1873, 5.3% Don't know or Refuse)

Yes:27%   No 73%

6) How many times have you been homeless during your lifetime? (n=1722)

One time	51%	Three times	9%	Five Times	5%	Seven Times	7%
Two times	19%	Four Times	7%	Six Times	2%	AVERAGE=2.3 MEDIAN=1	

7) Age (n=1978, 4.4% Don't know or Refuse) :   Average Age= 42   Median=43   Maximum= 86

8) State or country where you were born? (n=1887 and 6.1% Don't know or Refuse)
SC 60% ; New York:7.3%; North Carolina: 5%; Not USA 2.8%; Georgia 3%; Pennsylvania: 2.1%

*(Where indicated, **n** is the number that responded to the question and did not select 'Don't know' or 'Refuse'.)

9) County if born in SC:	15% Richland,	14% Charleston,	12% Greenville

10) In school? (n=1923, 4.4% Don't know or Refuse) Yes: 7%   No: 93%

11) Highest grade finished in school (n=1827, 11.7% Don't know or Refuse)

8th 3.3%	9th 6.5%	10th 10.6%	11th 11.1%	12th 41.4%
College 1 : 6.6%	College 2: 6.2%	College 4: 4.8%		

12) Gender (n=2032, 1.7% Don't know or Refuse) | Male 66% | Female 34%

13) Race (n=2004, 2.9% Don't know or Refuse)	African American 60%	White 37%	Asian .4%	Other 2%

14) Hispanic, Latino or Chicano origin (n=2011) | Yes 2% | No 98%

15) Current marital status: (n=1978, 4.1% Don't know or Refuse)

Single 53%	Divorced 20%	Separated 15%
Married 8%	Widowed 2.5%	Unmarried but w/mate 2.5%

16) Here with other family members (n=1999, 3.3% Don't know or Refuse)	Yes 20%	No 80%

16a) If yes, how many?

1 family member: 6%	2 family members: 1.4%	3 family members: .4%
4 family members: 0.3%	5 family members: 0.1	6 family members: 0%

17) Veteran? (n=1977, 4.4% Don't know or Refuse) | YES 20% | NO 80%

18) In this situation due to: (13.7% Don't know or Refuse)	YES
a) Violence (n=1836)	18%
b) Danger (n=1801)	12%
c) Safety (n=1856)	25%
59% indicated their situation was not related to violence, danger or needed safety issues.	
19) Do you have a mental, physical or other impairment that limits you? (n=1954, 5.5 Don't know or Refuse)	33%
20) Ever received care because of nervousness, depression, or mental health problems? (n=1948, 5.8% Don't know or Refuse)	39%
21) Ever treated for alcohol or drug problem? (n=1963, 5.1% Don't know or Refuse)	44%
22) Ever told by a professional that you are HIV positive or have AIDS? (n=1965, 5% Don't know or Refuse)	5%

This report was developed for the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, Housing and Homeless Program, by the SCDMH/ Institute for Behavioral Services. For any questions regarding the content of this report, please contact A. Maletic at amm02@scdmh.org , 803-898-1148.

South Carolina Department of Mental Health

SC HOMELESS COUNT   OF JANUARY 27, 2005

a	Coalition	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	L
		In Shelters			Obsrvd/Unsheltered			Total Count			Estimated Chronic Homeless
County		adults	kids	total	adults	kids	total	adults	kids	total	
Abbeville	UH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aiken	MA	5	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	5	1
Allendale	MA	10	10	20	103	0	103	113	10	123	45
Anderson	UH	0	0	0	30	8	38	30	8	38	14
Bamberg	MA	0	0	0	19	5	24	19	5	24	9
Barnwell	MA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beaufort	LC	7	4	11	14	0	14	21	4	25	9
Berkeley	LC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calhoun*	MA	0	0	0	8	1	9	8	1	9	3
Charleston	LC	335	103	438	178	4	182	513	107	620	196
Cherokee	UH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chester	MA	5	0	5	20	4	24	25	4	29	11
Chesterfld	PD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarendon	TC	0	0	0	60	2	62	60	2	62	24
Colleton	LC	10	3	13	23	3	26	33	6	39	14
Darlington	PD	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Dillon	PD	8	2	10	0	0	0	8	2	10	3
Dorchester	LC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edgefield	UH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairfield	MA	12	0	12	10	4	14	22	4	26	9
Florence	PD	48	17	65	100	11	111	148	28	176	61
Georgetown	TC	43	1	44	169	29	198	212	30	242	88
Greenville	UH	414	91	505	196	11	207	610	102	712	225
Greenwood	UH	23	19	42	14	0	14	37	19	56	18
Hampton	LC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horry	TC	258	108	366	905	230	1135	1163	338	1501	537
Jasper	LC	0	0	0	4	0	4	4	0	4	2
Kershaw	MA	12	0	12	51	16	67	63	16	79	29
Lancaster	MA	35	5	40	0	0	0	35	5	40	12
Laurens	UH	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Lee	TC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lexington	MA	170	17	187	42	2	44	212	19	231	71
Marion	PD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marlboro	PD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McCormick	UH	0	0	0	44	27	71	44	27	71	27
Newberry	MA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oconee	UH	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3	1
Orangeburg	MA	75	6	81	166	42	208	241	48	289	103
Pickens	UH	7	15	22	0	0	0	7	15	22	6
Richland	MA	735	73	808	704	10	714	1439	83	1522	506
Saluda	UH	0	0	0	3	1	4	3	1	4	2

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a	Coalition	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	L
				In Shelters			Obsrvd/Unsheltered			Total Count	Estimated Chronic Homeless
County		adults	kids	total	adults	kids	total	adults	kids	total	
Spartanburg	UH	21	5	26	81	1	82	102	6	108	39
Sumter	TC	31	8	39	58	3	61	89	11	100	34
Union	UH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williamsburg	TC	7	4	11	21	0	21	28	4	32	11
York	MA	37	34	71	155	50	205	192	84	276	98
Low Cntry	7	352	110	462	219	7	226	571	117	688	220
Midlands	14	1096	145	1,241	1,278	134	1,412	2,374	279	2,653	896
Pee Dee	6	56	19	75	145	38	183	201	57	258	91
Total Care	6	339	121	460	1,213	264	1,477	1,552	385	1,937	695
Upstate	13	466	130	596	327	21	348	793	151	944	305
SC total	**46**	**2309**	**525**	**2,834**	**3,182**	**464**	**3,646**	**5,491**	**989**	**6,480**	**2,207**

See Notes on page 4.

SC HOMELESS COUNT   OF JANUARY 27, 2005

County	Coalition	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
		Quality of Unsheltrd Count	(us census) SC Pop. 7-1-03	Counted Unsheltrd per 100,000	Adjusted Unsheltrd per 100,000	Adjusted Total Homeless	(us census) Est. % in Poverty	Est of Doubled-Up*	Annualized Estimate HL Pop.*
Abbeville	UH	0	26,381	0.0	180	48	13.7	1,417	0
Aiken	MA	0	146,736	0.0	180	270	13.1	7,792	25
Allendale	MA	0	10,934	942.0	180	40	31.3	780	614
Anderson	UH	1	171,510	22.2	180	309	12.2	8,953	190
Bamberg	MA	2	16,040	149.6	180	29	22	994	120
Barnwell	MA	0	23,369	0.0	180	42	17.6	1,346	0
Beaufort	LC	1	132,889	10.5	180	251	11.3	6,817	125
Berkeley	LC	0	146,449	0.0	180	264	11.9	7,601	0
Calhoun*	MA	2	15,367	58.6	180	28	14.9	844	45
Charleston	LC	2	321,014	56.7	180	1,017	14.5	17,495	3,094
Cherokee	UH	0	53,555	0.0	180	97	15.2	2,956	0
Chester	MA	2	33,906	70.8	180	66	15.6	1,885	145
Chesterfld	PD	0	43,251	0.0	180	78	17.3	2,478	0
Clarendon	TC	2	32,871	188.6	180	59	22.9	2,068	309
Colleton	LC	2	39,173	66.4	180	84	19.9	2,346	195
Darlington	PD	0	67,956	1.5	180	123	18.4	3,969	5
Dillon	PD	0	31,027	0.0	180	66	21.6	1,911	50
Dorchester	LC	0	104,168	0.0	180	188	10.8	5,292	0
Edgefield	UH	0	24,703	0.0	180	45	16.6	1,398	0
Fairfield	MA	3	23,840	58.7	73	30	16.2	1,340	130
Florence	PD	8	128,335	86.5	86	176	16.6	7,264	878
Georgetown	TC	3	58,924	336.0	420	292	15.3	3,258	1,208
Greenville	UH	3	395,357	52.4	65	764	11.5	20,361	3,553
Greenwood	UH	1	67,503	20.7	180	164	14	3,645	279
Hampton	LC	0	21,391	0.0	180	39	21.6	1,318	0
Horry	TC	8	210,757	538.5	539	1,501	13.8	11,339	7,490
Jasper	LC	1	20,998	19.0	180	38	28.9	1,447	20
Kershaw	MA	3	54,481	123.0	154	96	11.5	2,806	394
Lancaster	MA	0	62,520	0.0	180	153	13.8	3,364	200
Laurens	UH	1	70,269	1.4	180	127	15.7	3,914	5
Lee	TC	2	20,331	0.0	180	37	24	1,301	0
Lexington	MA	3	226,528	19.4	24	242	10.2	11,372	1,153
Marion	PD	0	35,113	0.0	180	63	17.3	2,012	0
Marlboro	PD	0	28,411	0.0	180	51	22.4	1,773	0
McCormick	UH	0	10,233	693.8	180	18	20.5	619	354
Newberry	MA	0	36,840	0.0	180	66	14.6	2,011	0
Oconee	UH	0	68,523	2.9	180	125	11.7	3,543	15
Orangeburg	MA	2	91,028	228.5	180	245	20.8	5,535	1,442
Pickens	UH	0	112,859	0.0	180	225	11.9	5,857	110
Richland	MA	8	332,104	215.0	215	1,522	13.4	17,734	7,595

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SC HOMELESS COUNT   OF JANUARY 27, 2005

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County	Coalition	Quality of Unsheltrd Count	(us census) SC Pop. 7-1-03	Counted Unsheltrd per 100,000	Adjusted Unsheltrd per 100,000	Adjusted Total Homeless	(us census) Est. % in Poverty	Est of Doubled-Up*	Annualized Estimate HL Pop.*
Saluda	UH	0	19,087	21.0	180	34	17.6	1,099	20
Spartanburg	UH	2	261,281	31.4	180	497	12.7	13,770	539
Sumter	TC	2	105,957	57.6	180	230	16.5	5,987	499
Union	UH	0	29,105	0.0	180	52	14.1	1,575	0
Williamsburg	TC	2	36,008	58.3	180	76	24	2,305	160
York	MA	2	178,070	115.1	180	392	10.7	9,028	1,377
Low Cntry	7	0.9	786,082	22	180	1,879	17	44,795	3,433
Midlands	14	1.9	1,251,763	141	162	3,220	16	70,251	13,238
Pee Dee	6	1.3	309,213	130	165	512	19	18,388	1,287
Total Care	6	3.2	464,848	197	280	2,194	19	27,620	9,666
Upstate	13	0.6	1,335,246	12	171	2,549	14	72,329	4,711
SC total	**46**	**1.6**	**4,147,152**	**100**	**192**	**10,355**	**14**	223,946	32,335

Notes on Data sources and issues:

Col. C, D & E : Info from Form 4/6: Provider Survey Form

Col. F, G & H : Info from Forms 1 - Individual Survey (not at shelter) plus Form 3 - Observation of Unsheltered

Col. L: Chronic Homeless estimate: 29% (Sheltered) and 38% (Unsheltered) were based on survey information forms 1 (Q3,5, and 19-22) and Form 3 - Individuals only

Col. M: Quality of Unsheltered Count: Based on Regional/County Coalition Reports of County effort and effect Where (0= no effort, 10=strong effort)

Notes re: Estimation methodology to compensate for poor Quality of Count in most counties:

 1. Create a 'Good Count Average/100,000' using data from counties with Q>=3.
   (Should use >=5 but this would be only 4 counties which too small for statistical reliability.)
 2. Since Q=3 is a poor count, use 125% of actual counted unsheltered.   For example, since Horry County's Unsheltered per 100,000 is GT the other 3 with Q=8, use 75% of H's Unsheltered Count

Col. O is ratio of Counted Unsheltered to census population

Col. P is adjusted ratio of Unsheltered to Population Census using 'Good Count Average/100,000' value where count quality was <3. (180 was used as the floor only where count quality was <3)

Col. Q is adjusted total homeless count calculated by adding the estimated unsheltered the counted sheltered.

Col. S Doubled-Up Est: Wilder Research Center found(in Minn) 10% of poor households and 4% of non-poor had friends or family staying w/them due to not affording housing. This estimate is based on an assumption of similar percentages of doubled-up exist in Mn as in SC.

Col T: Annualized Est: From form1 17%@2.5 weeks(*20.8), 39%@4.5months(*2.6), 15%@1 yr, 29%@gt yr The annualized estimate calculates the year round population from the 1-Day count.

The Website, http://tchc-web.org/count was developed by David King, consultant to 3 of the regional coalitions. His collaboration and dedication to this endeavor were invaluable.

Revised 8/15/05 Updated Chronic Estimate