

A Single Night Counts: Homelessness in Louisiana

2007 Point-in-Time Homeless Census and Survey Data Report

Prepared by the Southeastern Social Science Research Center, Southeastern Louisiana University
and the 2007 Point-in-Time Survey Advisory Committee

Acknowledgements

The preparation and management of the 2007 Point-in-Time Homeless Census was a large and momentous undertaking. A committee comprised of homeless service providers, Continuum of Care (CoC) leaders, and social science researchers worked for several months priming the instrument and devising a plan for administering the census throughout the state during the same twenty-four hour period at the end of January. It was, then, the responsibility of the individual CoCs to determine how best to distribute the survey and capture the census data within each jurisdiction. Without much preparation time, each region made remarkable strides in increasing coverage of survey areas. The success of the project was, in large, due to the hundreds of tireless service providers and compassionate volunteers who joined forces to help us better understand the face of homelessness in Louisiana. It is with our deepest gratitude that we acknowledge your time, talent, and resources.

We would also like to thank the expertise and diligence of Erin Simmers, LSUHSC School of Public Health, Teri Michel, LSU School of Social Work, and the staff of the Southeastern Social Science Research Center, Southeastern Louisiana University, for their long hours of data entry. It was a huge coup for the project to have this great of university involvement in the project!

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Highlights of 2007 Homeless Census

During a twenty-four hour period between noon, January 30th and noon, January 31st, 2007, a statewide count of homeless persons was conducted throughout the state of Louisiana. **A total of 5,994 persons were identified as literally homeless¹.**

2007 Louisiana Homeless Census: Summary of Literally Homeless Persons

Location	Single Adults / Unaccomp. Youth	Adults in Families	Children in Families	Total Count
Unsheltered	942	402	725	2,069 [34.52%]
In Shelters	766	253	449	1,468 [24.49%]
In Transitional Housing	1,198	448	811	2,457 [40.99%]
Total	2,906 [48.48%]	1,103 [18.40%]	1,985 [33.12%]	5,994 [100.00%]

Household Composition:

- Of the 5,994 persons identified as literally homeless, 2,906 (49%) were single adults or unaccompanied youth, and 3,088 (51%) were adults and children living in family-based households.
- Of the 1,103 of identified families, the average household size was 2.79 persons.

Residence:

- Of the 5,994 persons identified as literally homeless, 3,925 (65%) homeless persons were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing for the homeless, while 2,069 (35%) were unsheltered, i.e. living in some place not meant for human habitation.
- Of the 2,069 unsheltered persons, 942 (46%) were single adults or unaccompanied youth and 1,127 (54%) were adults and children in families.
- Of the 1,468 persons living in shelters, 766 (52%) were single adults or unaccompanied youth and 702 (48%) were adults and children in families.
- Of the 2,457 persons living in transitional housing for the homeless, 1,198 (49%) were single adults or unaccompanied youth and 1,259 (51%) were adults and children in families.

Gender:

Single Adults / Unaccompanied Youth:

- Of the 3,757 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported gender, 2,218 (59%) were male and 1,539 (41%) were females.

Adults and Children in Families:

- Of the 1,060 adults in families who reported gender, 274 (26%) are male and 786 (74%) are female.
- Of the 1,722 children who reported gender, 878 (51%) are male and 844 (49%) are female.

Age:

- Of the 3,533 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported their ages, 53 (2%) 17 years or younger; 1,058 (30%) 18-34 years; 1,956 (55%) 35-54 years; 451 (13%) 55-74 years; and 15 (<1%) 75 years or older.

Ethnicity and Race:

Single Adults / Unaccompanied Youth:

- Of the 2,696 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported ethnicity, 2,613 (97%) identified as non-Hispanic/Latino and 83 (3%) identified as Hispanic/Latino.
- Of the 2,719 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported race, 1,549 (57%) identified as African-American/Black; 1,094 (40%) Caucasian/White; 12 (<1%) Asian/Pacific Islander; 14 (<1%) Native American; 2 (<1%) Alaskan Native; and 48 (2%) as Multi-racial.

Adults in Families:

¹ *Literally Homeless*: persons who live in emergency shelters or transitional housing for some period of time, or who sleep in places not meant for human habitation (streets, parks, abandoned buildings) and who may also use shelters on an intermittent basis.

- Of the 1,054 adults in families who reported ethnicity, 1,033 (98%) are non-Hispanic/Latino and 21 (2%) are Hispanic/Latino.
- Of the 1,059 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported race, 793 (75%) identified as African-American/Black; 241 (23%) Caucasian/White; 2 (<1%) Asian/Pacific Islander; 13 (1%) Native American; 1 (<1%) Alaskan Native; and 9 (<1%) as Multi-racial.

Income:

- Of the 3,133 households who reported annual income, 2,643 (84%) single adults or adults in families were living below the poverty line² for their respective household size.
- Of these 2,643 households, 1,046 (40%) had no reported income.

Employment:

- Of the 3,858 adults / unaccompanied youth who identified their employment status, 1,046 (27%) persons were working at the time of response.
- Of the 1,046 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported employment, 636 (61%) were single persons and 410 (39%) were persons living with families.

Education:

- Of the 3,880 adults / unaccompanied youth who identified their highest level of education completed, 1,960 (51%) persons had less than a high school diploma or GED, 1,444 (37%) had completed high school or earned a GED, 861 (22%) had received a post-secondary education or higher.

Diagnosed Disabilities / Illnesses:

- Of the 3,909 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported whether they had ever been diagnosed with a disabling condition or long-term illness, 2,555 (65%) identified as being disabled or ill.
- Of the 2,555 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported as having a diagnosed disability or long-term illness, 1,393 (55%) identified a substance addiction; 127 (5%) another addiction; 1,209 (47%) severe mental illness; 125 (5%) HIV/AIDS; 336 (13%) other physical illness; 605 (24%) physical disability; 142 (6%) developmental disability; and 42 (2%) "Another" disability not previously mentioned.
- Of the 2,555 adults / unaccompanied youth who identified as being disabled or ill, 995 (39%) persons had two or more diagnosed disabilities or long-term illnesses.

Discharged from Facilities or Institutions:

- Of the 3,249 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported whether they had discharged from an institution or facility, 701 (18%) identified as having been released within the previous thirty days.
- Of the 701 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported as having been discharged within the previous thirty days, 249 (36%) were released from jail or prison; 185 (26%) from a hospital; 132 (19%) from a substance abuse treatment center; 112 (16%) from a mental health facility; 12 (2%) from foster care; and 11 (2%) from the military.

Displacement Due to Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita:

- Of the 3,910 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported whether they were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita in 2005, 1,690 (43%) identified themselves as such.
- Of the 2,740 persons who were identified as hurricane evacuees, 1,112 (41%) were single persons, 578 (21%) were adults in families, and 1,050 (38%) were children in families.

Long-term Homelessness:

Length of Stay:

- Of the 1,431 persons who were identified as having been literally homeless for one year or longer, 794 (55%) persons were adults or unaccompanied youth and 637 (45%) were persons in families, including 404 children.

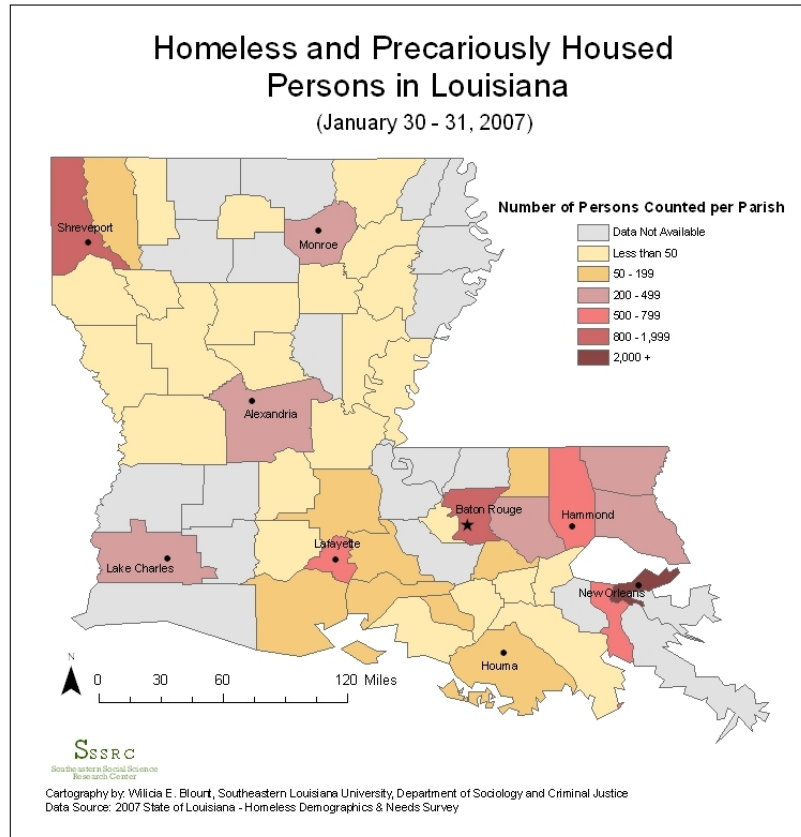
Episodes of Homelessness:

- Of the 789 persons who were identified as having four or more episodes of homelessness in the previous three years, 595 (75%) persons were adults or unaccompanied youth and 194 (25%) were persons in families, including 122 children.

²U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007. "Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines." *Federal Register*. January 24, 2007, Vol. 72, Number 15.

I. Introduction and Overview

The 2007 Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey, also known as the "Point-in-Time", is a state-wide effort to conduct an unduplicated count of Louisiana's homeless population and obtain information directly from homeless consumers to better assess their service and housing needs. Beginning in 2004, under the sponsorship of a Congressional directive, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated that all jurisdictions receiving homeless program dollars through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds must conduct a census of homeless persons biennially. For purposes of determining the persons to be included in the homeless census, as well as funding eligibility for homeless service agencies, HUD defines a homeless person as anyone residing in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter; or in transitional housing for homeless persons who originally came from the street or emergency shelters.



Using the extensive regional Continua of Care (CoC) network throughout the state, Louisiana's homeless services providers have been conducting counts of homeless individuals and families since 1998, purposefully assessing the numbers and needs of the perilously sheltered and unsheltered on the local level. All ten of the state's CoCs elected to collaborate with a singular effort to enumerate the homeless, consider the factors that contribute to the loss/lack of housing, and examine their patterns of service provision and use. Every two years, a committee comprised of homeless service providers, Continuum of Care leaders, and social science researchers, and the like, select a twenty-four hour episode for conducting the count prepare a survey instrument that is to be administered and distributed at the CoC level. Each Continuum is, then, responsible for preparing for the data collection period by recruiting volunteers, distributing surveys, hosting training sessions, creating additional training materials, etc.

In previous years, it was also expected that jurisdictions would analyze their own survey responses for the necessary HUD Supportive Housing Program grant funding applications. An additional use of the data was one grand merger of the data that is prepared for a biennial state congressional report submitted by the Louisiana Interagency Action Council on Homelessness. A large change that was implemented this year was the systematic use of the resources of the three universities who had been a part of previous PiT counts (to varying degrees): Tulane's School of Public Health, LSU's School of Social Work, and Southeastern's Southeastern Social Science Research Center. Rather than have a haphazard roll-up by each region for respective CoC grant applications, and then trying to compile statewide data from various file types, the committee decided that each university would be the depository for designated regions and be responsible for entering the data into a canned database file. The respective universities conducted the needed analysis for the CoC applications and reported these numbers back to

their assigned regions. This additional level of oversight, while new and sometimes problematic, is necessary for strengthening the universal design of the homeless census for the state. As we improve upon this model and process, more valid measures and projections can be made, with the ultimate goal of obtaining useable data to help end homeless in Louisiana.

Markedly, previous Point-in-Time Census data have only included those persons that fit the HUD definition of homeless, but in the wake of the hurricane disasters of 2005, some jurisdictions chose to extend their scope of collection to include persons who are severely at-risk for becoming homeless. Studying the individuals and families that are “doubled-up”, “couch surfing”, or living in short-term disaster housing (e.g. FEMA trailers), is equally critical as the uncertain affordable housing crisis of today will likely translate into future waves of homelessness in the ensuing months.

II. Purpose

The utility of a Point-in-Time homeless count

To improve services to persons living in homelessness and to prevent homelessness for those who precariously housed we have to be better informed. We must know who and where people are residing, what their specific needs are, and how we, as the human services community, can advance the focus of our critical work. To accomplish this, we must be able to effectively quantify the homeless men, women, and children of Louisiana. Valid data can:

- Improve the ability of service providers and government agencies to strengthen coordination of care for homeless persons;
- Intensify public awareness of these issues and generate public support for mobilizing solutions;
- Assist foundations, corporations, and other community stakeholders in prioritizing funding for homeless services;
- Measure changes in the numbers and characteristics of our homeless populations in future counts to determine our effectiveness; and
- Track our progress locally against the new federal reporting on trends in homelessness.

What the Point-in-Time homeless data is not

It should be noted that a Point-in-Time Survey is limited in its population coverage; for instance, unsheltered persons are difficult to identify and count in largely rural regions, not all identified persons are willing to release information, and/or persons are undocumented because they do not seek services from a participating provider during the survey period. There is also a variance in the defined language of homeless services, wherein the standardization of service-type labels is inconsistent and the inclusion/exclusion of eligible persons in the census is not always precise. Therefore, by a conservative estimate, on any given day, there may be as many as twice the reported count of homeless adults and children living in Louisiana. As efforts to refine future counts develop, our certainty of an accurate data collection will likely, too, improve.

III. Methodology

A. Coordination and Planning

Initial planning for the orchestration and execution of the 2007 Point-in-Time Homeless Census began in September 2006. A committee composed of homeless service providers, regional Continua of Care representatives, federal and state government agencies, and social science researchers was formed. They were tasked with devising a strategy for completing the collection and compilation of homeless census data for a single twenty-four hour period in late January. The Advisory Committee determined that the census would be conducted through canvassing of the ten jurisdictions between noon, January 30th and noon, January 31st. A single questionnaire [appendix A] would be used to interview all sheltered and unsheltered homeless (and precariously housed, in some regions) adults

that were identified; the survey would request for descriptive information of demographics, service usage, and needs. As in previous years, the census would be coordinated locally by each CoC, including the identification and recruitment of participating agencies/organizations and volunteers for street counts, training and accompanying materials, distribution and collection of the questionnaires, and submitting copies of the completed surveys to the appropriate depository location for data entry. The master survey, supporting materials, and sample instructions [Appendix B] that could be adopted by regional jurisdictions was to be sent via e-mail to the predetermined representatives from each Continuum of Care two weeks prior to the scheduled period of data collection.

B. Definition of Population and Parameters

Two populations were included in the 2007 enumeration: (1) those persons that were *literally homeless* and (2) those persons that were *precariously housed*, specifically at imminent risk for becoming homeless, during the collection period. The term *literally homeless* refers to persons who are living in emergency shelters or transitional housing for some period of time, or who are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation (streets, parks, abandoned buildings) and who may also use shelters on an intermittent basis, as determined by the eligibility guidelines for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded Supportive Housing Program. *Precariously housed* persons are on the edge of becoming literally homeless, including those who may be evicted within seven days, who are temporarily living with friends or family members, or those persons still residing in FEMA-sponsored housing who had not identified alternative affordable housing. To adhere to HUD provisions, only those persons that were determined as *literally homeless* (e.g. sheltered homeless and unsheltered homeless) were calculated in the counts reported by CoCs to HUD.

Literally Homeless

A sheltered person/family is considered homeless only when he/she/they reside(s):

- In an emergency shelter;
- In transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters;
- In a domestic violence housing situation and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing;
- In a residential program for runaway/homeless youth;
- In a hotel, motel, or apartment with vouchers paid for by a public or private agency because the individual or family is homeless;
- In any of the above places but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution;
- In a private dwelling unit from which he/she/they is being evicted within seven days, no substitute residence has been identified, and the person/family lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain additional housing. ;
- In an institution, such as a mental hospital or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison, in which the person has been a resident for more than 30 consecutive days from which he/she is being discharged within a week, no subsequent residence has been identified, and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing.

An unsheltered person is considered homeless only when he/she resides:

- In places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, barns.

Source: "Supportive Housing Program Desk Guide", US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2003.

Precariously Housed

A person/family is considered severely at-risk for homelessness when he/she/they reside(s):

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; "doubled-up"
- Living in motels, hotels, FEMA Trailers, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternate accommodations

Source: "Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program", US Department of Education, 2004.

C. Survey Instrument and Collection Deployment

Specific data needs that were to be addressed by the survey included the Homeless Assistance components of the *State Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development Programs*, the Homeless Population and Subpopulations charts in regional *Continuum of Care SuperNOFA*

applications, and the Interagency Council's *Biennial Report* to the State Legislature and the Governor. Working in conjunction with Abt Associates, a nationally recognized private research firm, the survey was pared to a one page document that could be easily reproduced and disseminated throughout the ten regions of the state. A single survey was used for each unaccompanied homeless individual (adult or youth), the head of each homeless family group, and any additional adult members of a household. The questionnaire was completed in one of three ways: (1) agency representatives and/or volunteers conducted an interview with a known client or a person who may be homeless, (2) in cases that an agency representative had previous knowledge of a homeless consumer and could provide the requested information, he/she completed the survey on the client's behalf, or (3) in some instances, a homeless consumer completed the survey on his/her own.

The predominant method of conducting the census was through the recruitment and participation of human service organizations. A sample of participating service providers included: all departments of social services, community action agencies, homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters, Salvation Army centers, United Way agencies, legal aid offices, churches or nonprofit organizations that were identified as providing services to the poor, and sheriffs' departments. Depending on regional geographic composition, the availability of resources, the abundance of human service providers, and the like, there was a large variance in data collection among the CoCs. Metropolitan areas such as New Orleans and Baton Rouge were able to delineate blocks where the unsheltered homeless are known to congregate, wherein volunteer enumerators were able to conduct interviews with concentrations of people. There is also a more extensive network of homeless services in urban areas, such as shelters and food services, improving the efficiency of data collection in the short period of time. The more rural regions of the state often have a greater burden identifying homeless persons beyond those who are already being served by their providers on the chosen day. A widespread canvassing of their districts is not feasible, and so, they employed other methods for completing surveys on their unsheltered homeless, such as visiting "tramp camps" around interstates were used. Ultimately, this does not comprehensively reveal the true hidden homeless in these regions.

IV. Census Findings

Of the 5,815³ surveys, representing 9,775 adults and children, that were collected during the twenty-four hour episode, a total of 5,994 adults and children were determined to be literally homeless and an additional 3,781 persons were identified as precariously housed. Duplicate cases and surveys with less than 75% complete data were excluded from the sample. For the purposes of analysis, only those persons that were literally homeless during the collection period are included in the following reported data.

A. Comprehensive Count

Overall, the 2007 homeless count identified more persons residing in transitional housing than "on the street" or in emergency shelters [Fig.1]. Of these respondents, 48.48% were households comprised of single individuals. Families were determined by the presence of, at least, one adult and one child under the age of eighteen. Over half (51.52%) of the survey participants lived with family members, with an average household size of 2.79 persons. Of the 5,994 persons identified as literally homeless, 3,925 (65%) homeless persons were living in emergency shelters or transitional housing for the homeless, while 2,069 (35%) were unsheltered, i.e. living in some place not meant for human habitation. Of the 2,069 unsheltered persons, 942 (46%) were single adults or unaccompanied youth and 1,127 (54%) were adults and children in families. Of the 1,468 persons living in shelters, 766 (52%) were single adults or unaccompanied youth and 702 (48%) were adults

³ Less than one percent (0.79%) of the sample was determined to be duplicate survey participants.

and children in families. Of the 2,457 persons living in transitional housing for the homeless, 1,198 (49%) were single adults or unaccompanied youth and 1,259 (51%) were adults and children in families.

Figure 1: Total Counts of Literally Homeless by Location

Location	Individuals	Adults in Families	Children in Families	Total
Unsheltered	942	401	726	2,069 [34.52%]
Sheltered ⁴	766	253	449	1,468 [24.49%]
In Transitional Housing	1,198	449	810	2,457 [40.99%]
Total	2,906 [48.48%]	1,103 [18.40%]	1,985 [33.12%]	5,994 [100.00%]

B. Local Counts – Region and Parish

Almost half (46.95%) of all literally homeless persons that were identified during the twenty-four hour period resided in Regions I and II [Figs. 2a and 2b], which are jurisdictions that include the cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, respectively.

Figure 2a: Total Counts of Literally Homeless by Region (CoC)

Region	Adult Individuals / Unaccomp. Youth	Adults in Families	Children in Families	Total Count
I	805	328	604	1,737 [28.98%]
II	705	146	226	1,077 [17.97%]
III	57	36	81	174 [2.90%]
IV	312	121	239	672 [11.21%]
V	84	38	56	178 [2.97%]
VI	112	39	60	211 [3.52%]
VII	424	138	240	802 [13.38%]
VIII	129	83	164	376 [6.27%]
IX	186	116	214	516 [8.61%]
X	92	58	101	251 [4.19%]
Statewide	2,906 [48.48%]	1,103 [18.40%]	1,985 [33.12%]	5,994 [100.00%]

⁴ Residing in an emergency shelter or having received a bed voucher (motel/hotel stays, etc.)

Figure 2b : Literally Homeless Counts by Parish

Parish	Adult Individuals/UY	Adults in Families	Children in Families	Total Count
ACADIA	27	1	1	29
ALLEN	Data unavailable			
ASCENSION	18	9	13	40
ASSUMPTION	2	0	0	2
AVOYELLES	1	3	5	9
BEAUREGARD	Data unavailable			
BIENVILLE	Data unavailable			
BOSSIER	6	5	9	20
CADDO	411	123	215	749
CALCASIEU	84	38	56	178
CALDWELL	Data unavailable			
CAMERON	Data unavailable			
CATAHOULA	Data unavailable			
CLAIBORNE	Data unavailable			
CONCORDIA	1	0	0	1
DE SOTO	0	4	8	12
E. BATON ROUGE	686	135	210	1,031
EAST CARROLL	Data unavailable			
EAST FELICIANA	Data unavailable			
EVANGELINE	1	3	5	9
FRANKLIN	3	9	16	28
GRANT	Data unavailable			
IBERIA	13	11	23	47
IBERVILLE	Data unavailable			
JACKSON	Data unavailable			
JEFFERSON	107	58	101	266
JEFF. DAVIS	Data unavailable			
LA SALLE	Data unavailable			
LAFAYETTE	236	61	129	426
LAFOURCHE	9	3	3	15
LINCOLN	16	7	7	30
LIVINGSTON	54	41	65	160
MADISON	Data unavailable			
MOREHOUSE	0	6	10	16
NATCHITOCHE	1	0	0	1
ORLEANS	790	326	600	1,716
OUACHITA	110	62	134	306
PLAQUEMINES	Data unavailable			
POINTE COUPEE	Data unavailable			
RAPIDES	87	35	54	176
RED RIVER	0	2	4	6
RICHLAND	Data unavailable			
SABINE	5	0	0	5
ST. BERNARD	Data unavailable			
ST. CHARLES	Data unavailable			
ST. HELENA	22	5	10	37
ST. JAMES	6	10	29	45
ST. JOHN	5	0	0	5
ST. LANDRY	32	24	38	94
ST. MARTIN	1	1	2	4
ST. MARY	0	15	36	51
ST. TAMMANY	63	21	36	120
TANGIPAHOA	26	38	84	148
TENSAS	Data unavailable			
TERREBONNE	35	21	43	99
UNION	Data unavailable			
VERMILLION	2	6	8	16
VERNON	23	1	1	25
WASHINGTON	21	11	19	51
WEBSTER	1	6	8	15
W. BATON ROUGE	1	2	3	6
W. CARROLL	Data unavailable			
W. FELICIANA	Data unavailable			
WINN	Data unavailable			
TOTAL	2,906	1,103	1,985	5,994

*Note: ~85% coverage rate, based on 2006 parish population distribution estimates

C. Demographic Counts – Gender, Age, Race, and Ethnicity

Overall, of participating respondents, more adult males than adult females [Fig. 3a], more persons that were 45-54 years of age [Fig. 3b], and more African-American/Black [Fig. 3c] were identified as literally homeless. Less than 3% of persons surveyed self-identified as being of Hispanic/Latino

ethnicity [Fig. 3d]. Of the 3,757 adults/unaccompanied youth who reported gender, 2,218 (59.04%) were male and 1,539 (40.96%) were female. Of the 1,060, adults in families who reported gender, 274 (25.85%) were male and 786 were female (74.15%).

Figure 3a : Gender Distribution of Adults/Unaccompanied Youth

Individual Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households			Family Adult Households			Total Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households		
Gender	Count	Percentage	Gender	Count	Percentage	Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	0	72.08%	Male	274	25.85%	Male	2,218	59.04%
Female	753	27.92%	Female	786	74.15%	Female	1,539	40.96%
Total Reported	2,697	100.00%	Total Reported	1,060	100.00%	Total Reported	3,757	100.00%

Missing = 252 (6.29%)

Of the 3,533 adults / unaccompanied youth who reported their ages, 53 (1.50%) were 17 years or younger, 383 (10.84%) were 18-24 years of age, 675 (19.11%) were 25-34 years of age, 1,075 (30.43%) were 45-54, 386 (10.93%) were 55-64, 65 (1.84%) were 65-74, and 15 (0.42%) were 75 years of age or older.

Figure 3b: Age Distribution of Adults/Unaccompanied Youth

Individual Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households			Family Adult Households			Total Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households		
Age Range	Count	Percentage	Age Range	Count	Percentage	Age Range	Count	Percentage
<17	36	1.43%	<17	17	1.66%	<17	53	1.50%
18-24	198	7.89%	18-24	185	18.10%	18-24	383	10.84%
25-34	330	13.14%	25-34	345	33.76%	25-34	675	19.11%
35-44	608	24.21%	35-44	273	26.71%	35-44	881	24.94%
45-54	935	37.24%	45-54	140	13.70%	45-54	1,075	30.43%
55-64	333	13.26%	55-64	53	5.19%	55-64	386	10.93%
65-74	56	2.23%	65-74	9	0.88%	65-74	65	1.84%
75-84	13	0.52%	75-84	0	0.00%	75-84	13	0.37%
85>	2	0.08%	85>	0	0.00%	85>	2	0.06%
Total Reported	2,511	100.00%	Total Reported	1,022	100.00%	Total Reported	3,533	100.00%

Missing = 476 (11.87%)

Of the 2,719 individual adults / unaccompanied youth who reported race, 1,549 (56.97%) identified as African-American/Black, 1,094 (40.24%) Caucasian/White, 12 (0.44%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 14 (0.51%) Native American, 2 (0.07%) Alaskan Native, and 48 (1.77%) multiple races. Of the 1,059 adults living with families, 793 (74.88%) identified as Africa-American/Black, 241 (22.76%) Caucasian/White, 2 (0.19%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 13 (1.23%) Native American, 1 (0.09%) Alaskan Native, and 9 (0.85%) multiple races.

Figure 3c: Race Distribution of Adults and Unaccompanied Youth

Individual Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households			Family Adult Households			Total Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households		
Race	Count	Percentage	Race	Count	Percentage	Race	Count	Percentage
African-American/Black	1,549	56.97%	African-American/Black	793	74.88%	African-American/Black	2,342	61.99%
Caucasian / White	1,094	40.24%	Caucasian / White	241	22.76%	Caucasian / White	1,335	35.34%
Asian / Pacific Islander	12	0.44%	Asian / Pacific Islander	2	0.19%	Asian / Pacific Islander	14	0.37%
Native American	14	0.51%	Native American	13	1.23%	Native American	27	0.71%
Alaskan Native	2	0.07%	Alaskan Native	1	0.09%	Alaskan Native	3	0.08%
Multiple Races	48	1.77%	Multiple Races	9	0.85%	Multiple Races	57	1.51%
Total Reported	2,719	100.00%	Total Reported	1,059	100.00%	Total Reported	3,778	100.00%

Missing = 321 (8.01%)

Of the 2,696 individual adults / unaccompanied youth who reported ethnicity, 2,613 (96.92%) identified as being non-Hispanic/Latino and 83 (3.08%) Hispanic/Latino. Of the 1,054 adults living with families who reported ethnicity, 1,033 (97.54%) identified as being non-Hispanic/Latino and 21 (1.98%) identified as being Hispanic/Latino.

Figure 3d: Ethnicity Distribution of Adults and Unaccompanied Youth

Individual Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households			Family Adult Households			Total Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households		
Race	Count	Percentage	Race	Count	Percentage	Race	Count	Percentage
Hispanic/Latino	83	3.08%	Hispanic/Latino	21	1.98%	Hispanic/Latino	104	2.77%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	2,613	96.92%	Non-Hispanic/Latino	1,033	97.54%	Non-Hispanic/Latino	3,646	97.23%
Total Reported	2,696	100.00%	Total Reported	1,054	99.53%	Total Reported	3,750	100.00%

Missing = 349 (8.70%)

D. Counts Related to Disability or Illness

Two-thirds of all persons, 2,555 (65%), who were identified as literally homeless had been diagnosed with a disability or illness of long duration at the time of data collection [Fig. 4]. Approximately a third of those persons had been diagnosed with an alcohol or drug dependency. The number of persons that had been diagnosed with a mental illness was similar. Overall, 1,393 (35.02%) identified as having been diagnosed with a substance addiction, 1,209 (30.39%) mental illness, 605 (15.21%) physical disability, 335 (8.42%) other long-term physical illness, 142 (3.57%) developmental disability, 127 (3.19%) non-substance addiction, 125 (3.14%) HIV/AIDS, and 42 (1.06%) other long-term disability or illness. Thirty-nine percent of all participants responded positively to having been diagnosed with two or more disabilities or long-term illnesses.

Figure 4: Disability/ Illness of Literally Homeless

Disability Status*	Count	Percentage
Diagnosed with a(n) Disability / Illness	2,555	65.36%
Never Diagnosed	1,354	34.64%
Total Reported	3,909	100.00%
Occurrences of Disability / Illness of Diagnosed Persons	Count	Percentage
Alcohol/Drug Addiction	1,393	35.02%
Mental Illness	1,209	30.39%
Physical Disability	605	15.21%

Other Physical Illness	335	8.42%
Developmental Disability	142	3.57%
Other Addictions	127	3.19%
HIV/AIDS	125	3.14%
Other Disability	42	1.06%
Total Reported Occurrences	3,978	100.00%

*Missing = 100 (2.49%)

E. Counts Related to Employment and Education

Less than one third of all respondents were employed at the time of data collection, with higher rates of employment for persons in families than individual households [Fig. 5a]. Of the 3,858 adults / unaccompanied youth who identified their employment status, 1,046 (27.11%) persons were working at the time of response, with 636 (22.69%) single persons and 410 (38.86%) residing in family households.

Figure 5a: Employment Status of Adults/Unaccompanied Youth

Individual Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households			Family Adult Households			Total Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households		
Employment Status	Count	Percentage	Employment Status	Count	Percentage	Employment Status	Count	Percentage
Yes	636	22.69%	Yes	410	38.86%	Yes	1,046	27.11%
No	2,167	77.31%	No	645	61.14%	No	2,812	72.89%
Total	2,803	100.00%	Total	1,055	100.00%	Total	3,858	100.00%

Missing = 241 (5.88%)

Of the 3,880 adults / unaccompanied youth who identified their highest level of completed education, 510 (13.14%) persons did not attend a secondary school, 1,065 (27.45%) had some high school education but did not receive a diploma, 1,444 (37.22%) earned a high school diploma or equivalent, 686 (17.68%) completed some post-secondary education, but did not graduate, and 175 (4.51%) earned a college degree or greater. Overall, more than a third of the identified literally homeless persons had received a high school diploma [Fig. 5b].

Figure 5b : Highest Level of Completed Education Adults/Unaccompanied Youth

Single Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households			Family Adult Households			Total Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households		
Level	Count	Percentage	Level	Count	Percentage	Level	Count	Percentage
Less than High School	385	13.69%	Less than High School	125	11.70%	Less than High School	510	13.14%
Some High School	757	26.92%	Some High School	308	28.84%	Some High School	1,065	27.45%
High School Diploma	1,036	36.84%	High School Diploma	408	38.20%	High School Diploma	1,444	37.22%
Some College	501	17.82%	Some College	185	17.32%	Some College	686	17.68%
College Degree or Greater	133	4.73%	College Degree or Greater	42	3.93%	College Degree or Greater	175	4.51%
Total Reported	2,812	100.00%	Total Reported	1,068	100.00%	Total Reported	3,880	100.00%

Missing = 129 (3.22%)

F. Counts Related to Facility/Institution Discharges

Almost one in five of all literally homeless persons, or 701 (17.86%) of the 3,249 respondents, reported they had been released or discharged from a facility or institution within the previous 30

days [Fig. 6]. Of these persons, 249 (35.52%) had been released from a jail or prison, 185 (26.39%) from a hospital, 132 (18.83%) from a substance abuse treatment center, 112 (15.98%) from a mental health facility, 12 (1.71 %) from foster care, and 11 (1.57%) from the military.

Figure 6: Discharged From Facility or Institution

Discharge Status	Count	Percentage of Homeless Count
Discharged within Previous 30 Days	701	17.86%
Distribution of Discharges		
Facility / Institution	Count	Percentage
Discharged from Jail or Prison	249	35.52%
Discharged from Hospital	185	26.39%
Discharged from Substance Abuse Treatment Facility	132	18.83%
Discharged from Mental Health Facility	112	15.98%
Discharged from Foster Care	12	1.71%
Discharged from Military Service	11	1.57%
Total Reported Occurrences	701	100.00%

Missing = 149 (3.80%)

G. Counts Related to Hurricane Displacement

Almost half of all participating respondents had been displaced from their previous residence because of Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita [Fig. 7]. Of the 3,910 adults/unaccompanied youth who reported whether they were displaced by the Hurricane disasters of 2005, 1,690 (43.22%) identified themselves as such. A greater concentration of adults in families than individual households identified as having been relocated as a direct result of the disasters. Of the 2,740 persons who were identified as hurricane evacuees, 1,112 (39.35%) were single persons and 578 (53.32%) were adults in families.

Figure 7: Displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Rita

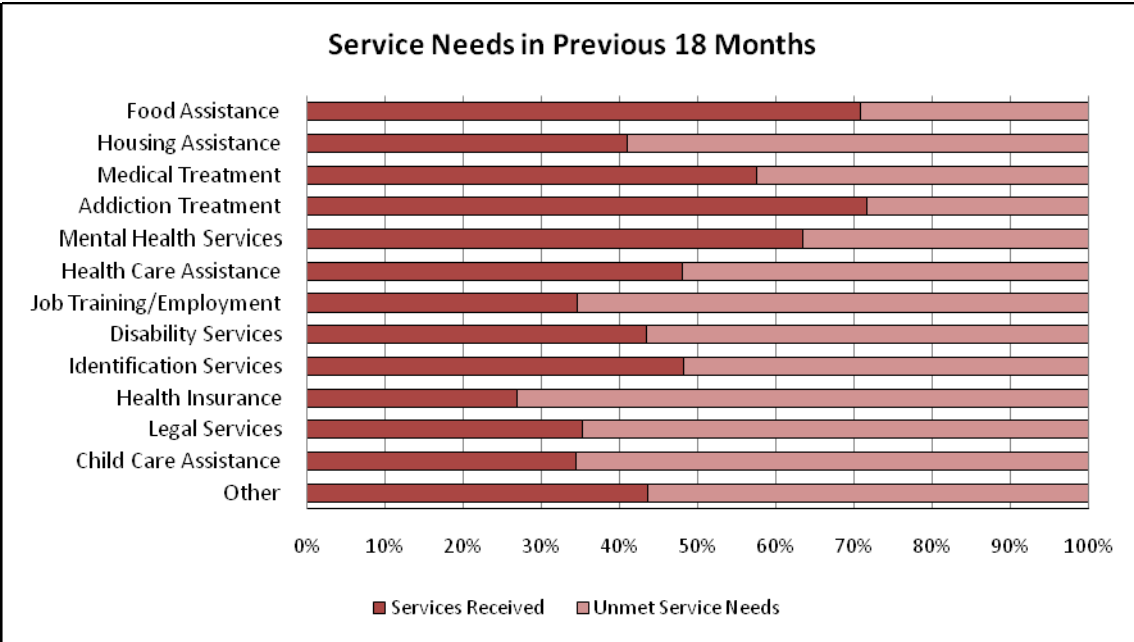
Single Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households			Family Adult Households			Total Adult / Unaccomp. Youth Households		
Displacement Status	Count	Percentage	Displacement Status	Count	Percentage	Displacement Status	Count	Percentage
Yes	1,112	39.35%	Yes	578	53.32%	Yes	1,690	43.22%
No	1,714	60.65%	No	506	46.68%	No	2,220	56.78%
Total	2,826	100.00%	Total	1,084	100.00%	Total	3,910	100.00%

Missing = 99 (2.47%)

H. Counts of Service Needs

When asked to identify which services were needed and which service needs had been met over the previous eighteen months [Fig. 8], food assistance programs and addiction treatment had the highest percentages of provision. The smallest concentration of service provision was health insurance, such as Medicaid.

Figure 8: Comparison of Met Service Needs



I. Counts of Chronically Homeless Persons

A chronically homeless person is defined as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been homeless for a year or longer or has had a minimum of four episodes of homelessness in three years. Additional criteria for labeling one's homelessness as chronic, he or she must also be residing in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter. An episode is a separate, distinct, and sustained stay in one of these locations. More persons residing in emergency shelters were identified as chronically homeless, with four times as many men than women counted [Fig. 9a].

Figure 9a: Total Counts of Chronically Homeless Persons

Location	Males	Females	Total
Unsheltered	266	58	324 [41.64%]
Sheltered*	351	103	454 [58.35%]
Total	617 [79.31%]	161 [20.69%]	778 [100.00%]

*Residing in an emergency shelters

Similarly to the overall count, approximately one third of chronically homeless persons had a history of substance addiction Fig. 9b]; almost 30% of surveyed persons identified as having been diagnosed with a mental illness.

Figure 9b: Chronic Homeless Diagnosed Disabilities/Illnesses

Occurrences of Disability / Illness of Diagnosed Persons	Count	Percentage
Alcohol/Drug Addiction	446	34.49%
Mental Illness	374	28.92%
Physical Disability	214	16.55%
Other Physical Illness	114	8.82%
Developmental Disability	60	4.64%
Other Addictions	46	3.56%
HIV/AIDS	29	2.24%
-Other Disability	10	0.77%
Total Reported	1,293	100.00%

Over half of all persons identified as chronically homeless resided in Regions I and II during the data collection period [Fig. 9c].

Figure 9c : Counts of Chronic Homeless Persons by Region

Region	Total Count of CH/ Distribution throughout LA	Total Count of Homeless/ Percentage CH
I	267 [34.32%]	1,737 [15.73%]
II	182 [23.39%]	1,077 [16.90%]
III	17 [2.19%]	174 [9.77%]
IV	85 [10.93%]	672 [12.65%]
V	10 [1.29%]	178 [5.62%]
VI	30 [3.86%]	211 [14.22%]
VII	95 [12.21%]	802 [11.85%]
VIII	20 [2.57%]	376 [5.32%]
IX	39 [5.01%]	516 [7.56%]
X	33 [4.24%]	251 [13.15%]
Statewide	778 [100.00%]	5,994 [12.98%]

Appendix

STATE OF LOUISIANA -Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey - 2007

Instructions: COMPLETE ONE SURVEY FOR EACH ADULT OR UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH WHO IS HOMELESS OR RESIDING IN A HOMELESS HOUSING PROGRAM BETWEEN NOON JANUARY 30, 2007 THROUGH NOON, JANUARY 31, 2007.

If the respondent is residing with a family group, then any information about minor children should be recorded with the head of household's responses. A separate survey must be completed for each additional adult household member.

1. Where did you stay last night?

- On the street (sidewalk, car, tent, park, abandoned building, etc.)
- Emergency shelter (facility or vouchers)
- Transitional housing (apartment or facility)
- In some other homeless situation, specify: _____

1a. Do you expect to stay in this place tonight?

- Yes
- No

- Hospital
- Treatment facility or other type facility/institution (substance abuse, mental health, jail)
- Permanent supportive housing
- In a private dwelling that I own or rent (room, apartment, house)
- With family/friend in their private dwelling

1b. If you are not homeless now, will you be evicted, discharged, or forced to leave your current housing situation within one week AND lack the resources to obtain other housing?

- Yes
- No

2. How long have you been homeless this time?

- One week or less
- More than one week, but less than one month
- One to three months
- More than three months, but less than one year
- One year or longer
- Not homeless

3. How many times have you lived on the street or in an emergency shelter in the past three years, if any?

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- Four or more

4. Where was the last place you were housed for 90 days or more?

- This parish
- Another parish in Louisiana, specify: _____
- Another state in the US, specify: _____
- Another country, specify: _____

5. Were you displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita?

- No, I was not displaced by either Hurricane Katrina or Rita
- Yes, I was displaced by Hurricane Katrina and/or Rita

6. Which of the following disabilities or long-term physical illnesses have you been diagnosed as having, if any?

- Addiction to alcohol or drugs
- Other addictions (e.g. gambling)
- Mental Illness (e.g. depression, bipolar, schizophrenia)
- HIV/AIDS
- Other long-term physical illness (e.g. cancer, hepatitis)
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Other; please specify: _____
- Never been diagnosed as having disability or l/t physical illness

7. From which of the following facilities/institutions were you discharged in the past 30 days, if any?

- Substance abuse inpatient facility
- Mental health inpatient facility
- Foster care
- Jail or prison
- Hospital
- Military service
- Was not released from any facilities/institutions in past 30 days

8. Which best describes your household composition?

- Individual, without children
- Couple, without children
- Other, specify: _____
- Single parent household
- Two-parent household

9. What is your total monthly household income? \$ _____

10. Which of the following is a source of income for your household? (Check all that apply.)

- Wages from employment
- Disability (SSI/SSDI)
- Food Stamps
- Friends and Family
- Other, specify: _____
- Veteran's Benefits
- TANF
- Social Security / Pension
- Child Support

11. Are you currently employed?

- Yes
- No, date of last employment _____ (mm/yyyy)

12. What is the highest level of schooling you completed?

- Less than high school
- Some high school, no diploma
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college or vocational training
- College degree or more

13. Which of the following services have you received in the past eighteen (18) months, if any? (Check all that apply.)

- Addiction Treatment
- Child Care Assistance
- Disability Services
- Food Assistance
- Health Care Assistance
- Health Insurance
- Other; specify: _____
- Housing Assistance
- Identification Services
- Job Training/Employment
- Legal Services
- Medical Treatment
- Mental Health Services

14. Which services do you need but have NOT received in the past eighteen (18) months, if any? (Check all that apply.)

- Addiction Treatment
- Child Care Assistance
- Disability Services
- Food Assistance
- Health Care Assistance
- Health Insurance
- Other, specify: _____
- Housing Assistance
- Identification Services
- Job Training/Employment
- Legal Services
- Medical Treatment
- Mental Health Services

(15A) Respondent Household Descriptor: _____ Head of household (HOH) _____ Another adult member of a household (not HOH)

(15B) First two letters of First Name: _____ (15C) First two letters of Last Name: _____ (15D) Gender: _____ Male _____ Female

(15E) Date of Birth: _____ (mm/dd/yyyy) (15F) Ethnicity: _____ Hispanic/Latino _____ Non-Hispanic/Latino

(15G) Race: _____ African-American/Black _____ Caucasian/White _____ Asian/Pacific Islander _____ Native American _____ Alaskan Native _____ Other

(15H) US Military Veteran: _____ YES _____ NO (15I) Domestic Violence Survivor: _____ YES _____ NO

*** (15J) For a family with children in the household, list the gender and age of each minor child (RECORDED WITH HOH ONLY):

#1: _____ M _____ F _____ Age #2: _____ M _____ F _____ Age #3: _____ M _____ F _____ Age #4: _____ M _____ F _____ Age #5: _____ M _____ F _____ Age #6: _____ M _____ F _____ Age

*** (15K) If respondent has a child between the ages of 5 and 17, is he / she currently enrolled in school? (RECORDED WITH HOH ONLY) _____ YES _____ NO