
**Collin County
2005 Annual "Point in Time" Homeless Count**



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Executive Summary

On January 24, 2005, the Homeward Bound Coalition of Collin County, in conjunction with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, conducted the first annual count and census of the homeless population in Collin County as a step towards qualifying for federal funding under the HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance program. Volunteers from the community and several agencies that provide services to the homeless participated in order to make this year's census a success. Below are some of the highlights for the 2005 Homeless Count. This count is a "point-in-time" count and provides a good snapshot of the homeless population that can be identified in one night. It does not reflect the number of unduplicated homeless people throughout the year.

It should be noted that the census information is self-reported by the homeless individual to a surveyor; therefore, it is understandable that many of the more sensitive issues may have been under-reported. Data from the service provider network demonstrate that the categories of mental illness, substance abuse and domestic violence are significantly higher than reflected through self-reporting.

- There are 104 homeless individuals in Collin County.
- There were 66 surveys completed in 2005.
- There were 96 total people represented on surveys this year.
- There were 4 Chronically Homeless individuals identified in Collin County.
- Of the 45 children and youth, 17 (38%) were "unaccompanied", meaning that they were not with their parents or family members. These children were located in emergency shelters for runaway, homeless, abused or neglected youth.
- Of those surveyed, 8 (12%) people reported they have been homeless for more than one year, and 36 (54%) people who stated that they became homeless for the first time during the past year.

Some comparative data between Collin County and Dallas County has been provided to assist in identifying similarities and variances among the various geographic areas. Some of the comparison data demonstrates a variance in population characteristics, while some of the statistical variances are due to the Dallas County numbers reflecting people who are unsheltered. The term "unsheltered" refers to individuals, youth and families living in abandoned buildings, cars, under bridges, etc. These numbers are typically gathered through what is known as the "outdoor count."

The Collin County surveys were conducted indoors at homeless service agencies (although 2 people stated they had slept outdoors), whereas the Dallas County results include agencies plus an "outdoor count." An exciting future goal is for Collin County to develop the procedures and volunteer base to conduct an outdoor count, as well.

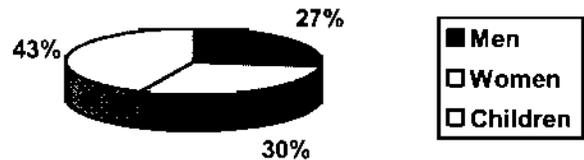
Congratulations on completing the first "official" HUD count!

MDHA 2005 Collin County Point-in-Time Homeless Count Report

Total Homeless Population

For the annual Point-in-Time Count, the total homeless population counted in Collin County on the night of the census was **104**. This includes **59** adults, **28** children and **17** unaccompanied youth.

2005 Homeless Population



Survey / Sample Size

In 2005, **66 surveys** were completed.

In 2005, **96 total people** were represented on surveys.

Approximately **92%** of the homeless people located during the point-in-time count in Collin County were represented on surveys.

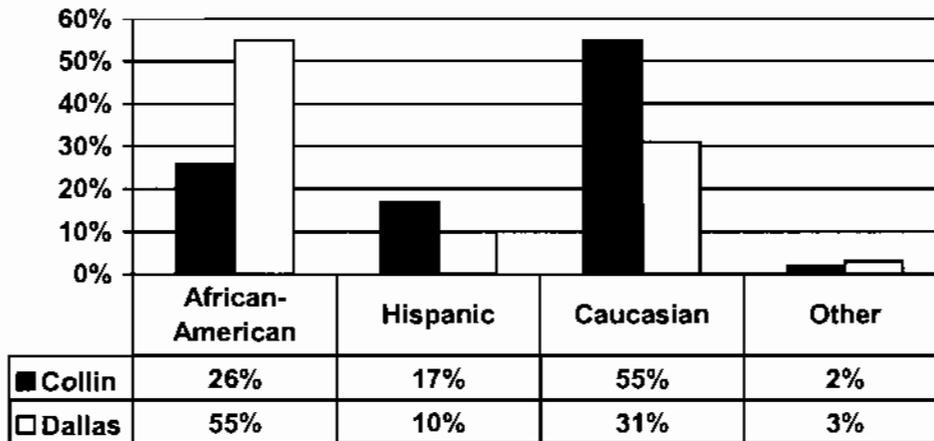
Adult Population

- **54 Adults** were represented on the surveys.
- **Adults** made up **56%** of the total homeless population.

2005 - Total Adults of Known Gender			
Number / %	Adult Males	Adult Females	Total Known Gender
Number	26	28	54
% of Known Gender	48%	52%	100%

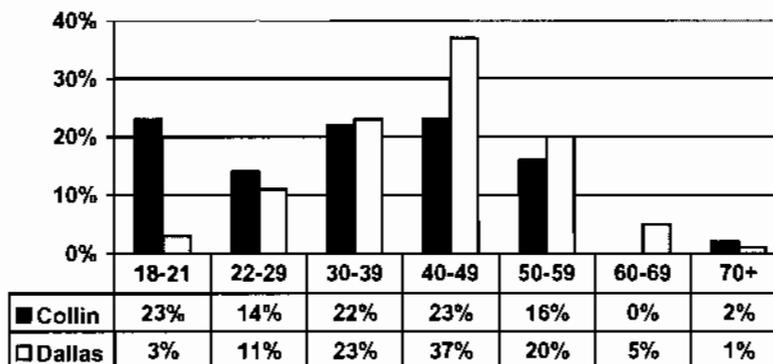
2005 - Total Adults of Known Race						
Number / %	African American	Caucasian (White)	Hispanic (Latino)	American Indian	Other	Total Known Race
Number	12	26	7	1	1	47
% of Known Race	26%	55%	17%	1%	1%	100%

Homeless Adult Racial Demographics



2005 - Total Adults of Known Age		
Age	Number	% of Total Known Age
18-21 Years	12	23%
22-29 Years	7	14%
30-39 Years	11	22%
40-49 Years	12	23%
50-59 Years	8	16%
60-69 Years	0	0%
70 + Years	1	2%
Total Known Age	51	100%

Age of Homeless Adults



2005 - Total Known Marital Status		
Marital Status	Number	% of Total
Divorced	7	15%
Married	5	11%
Separated	2	4%
Single	29	63%
Widowed	3	6%
Total Known Marital Status	46	100%

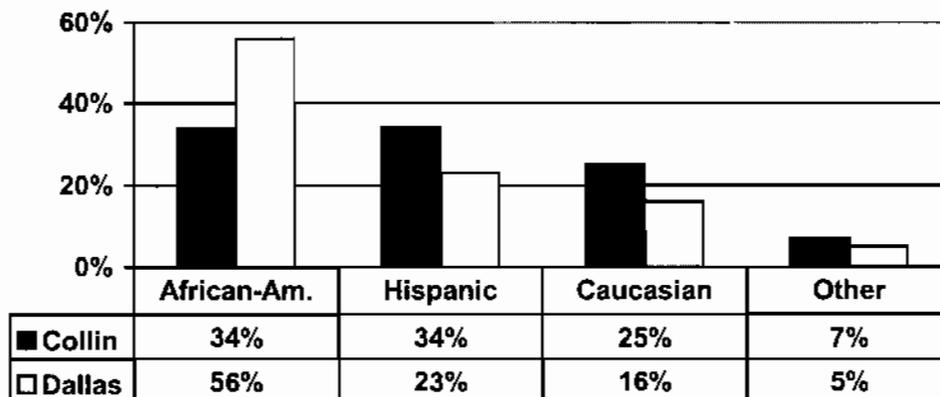
Child / Youth Population

- **12 Respondents** indicated that they had children living with them on the night of the count
- **26 Children** were represented on the surveys.
- **16 Unaccompanied Youth** were represented on the surveys.
- **Children & Youth** made up **44%** of the total homeless population.

2005 - Total Children / Youth of Known Gender			
Number / %	Minor Males	Minor Females	Total Known Gender
Number	18	23	41
% of Known Gender	44%	56%	100%

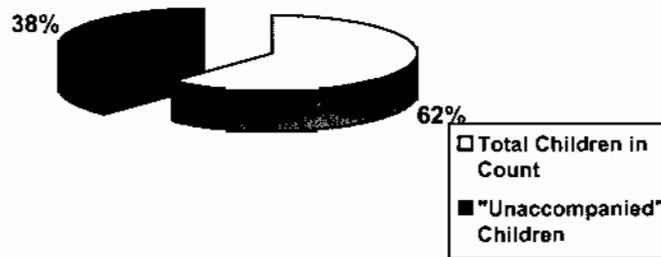
2005 - Total Children / Youth of Known Race						
Number / %	African American	Caucasian (White)	Hispanic (Latino)	American Indian	Other	Total Known Race
Number	14	10	14	1	2	41
% of Known Race	34%	25%	34%	2%	5%	100%

Homeless Children & Youth Racial Demographics

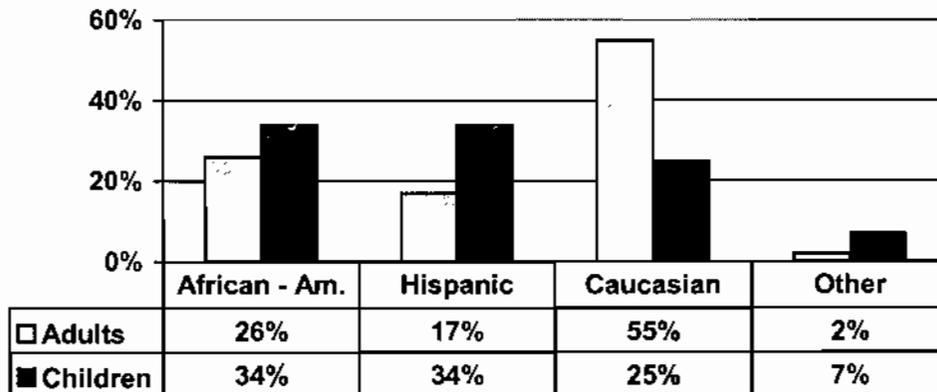


Of the 45 children and youth, 17 (38%) were "unaccompanied", meaning that they were not with their parents or family members. These children were located in the emergency shelter for runaway, homeless, abused or neglected youth.

% of Homeless Children with a Homeless Family Member

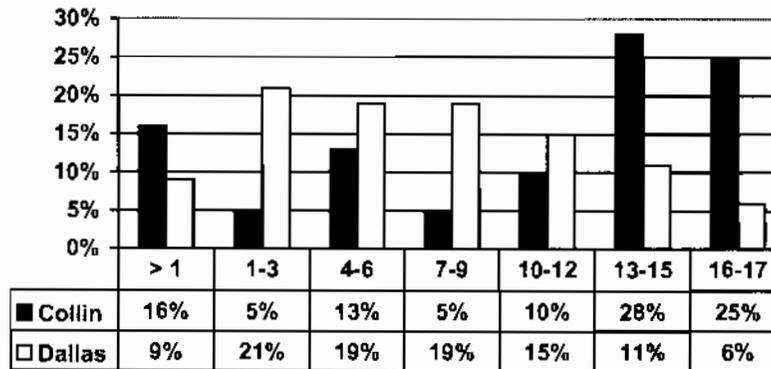


Comparison of Racial Demographics between Adults and Children / Youth



2005 - Total Children / Youth of Known Ages		
Age	Number	% of Total Known Age
> 1 Year	5	13%
1-3 Years	2	5%
4-6 Years	5	13%
7-9 Years	2	5%
10-12 Years	4	10%
13-15 Years	11	28%
16-17 Years	10	25%
Total Known Age:	39	100%

Age of Homeless Children & Youth



Causes of Homelessness

When asked to provide between one (1) and three (3) reasons why they were homeless, respondents provided the following information:*

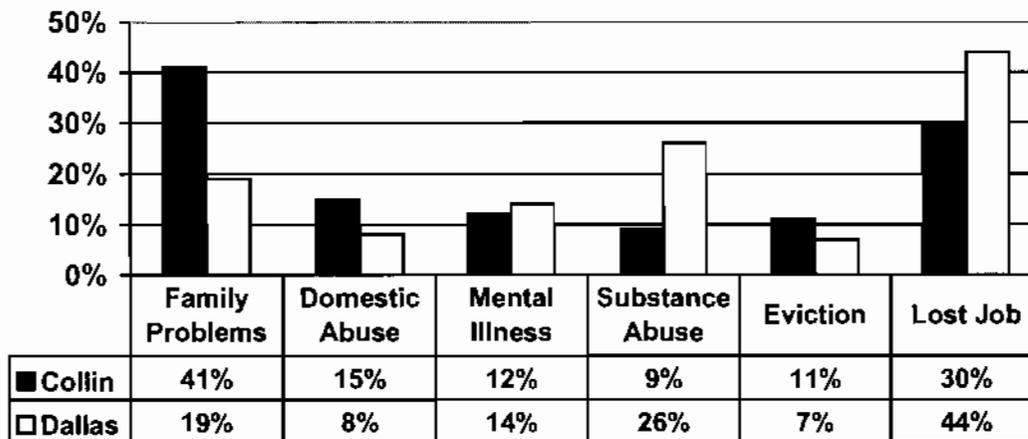
Self-Reported Cause of Homelessness					
Reason Homeless	Number	% of Total	Reason Homeless	Number	% of Total
Family Problems	27	41%	Eviction	7	11%
Not Enough Money	26	39%	Substance Abuse/ Dependence ***	6	9%
Unemployed, Lost Job	20	30%	Medical Disability	3	4%
Other	13	20%	Legal Problems / Prior Conviction	3	4%
Domestic Abuse	10	15%	Natural Disaster	1	2%
Mental Illness **	8	12%	Homeless by Choice	0	0%

*NOTE: Not everyone who completed a survey provided responses to this question. Percentages are based on the number of surveys completed, not the number of respondents who answered the question.

**NOTE: Agency records, experience, and other studies have shown that the number of individuals who are homeless due to mental illness is much higher, but the point-in-time count is completed using a self-report survey, and therefore the number reported here is likely quite low.

***NOTE: There is a reasonable concern that Substance Abuse/Dependence is also under-reported. See explanation for "Mental Illness" above.

Causes of Homelessness



Frequency / Duration of Homelessness

- **8 respondents (12%)** indicated that they had been **homeless for at least 1 year**.
- **3 respondents (4%)** indicated that they had been **homeless 4 or more times in the past 3 years**.
- **36 respondents (54%)** indicated that they had become **homeless for the first time in 2004**.
- **33 of these respondents indicated the amount of time they had been homeless**.

2005 - Known Results for How long Homeless (Less than 1 year)					
Number / %	< 1 month to 2 months	3 to 5 months	6 to 8 months	9 to 11 months	Total Known Time Period
Number	16	12	5	0	33
% of Total	49%	36%	15%	0%	100%

- The remaining **19 respondents (29%)** did not answer the question or provided **conflicting information**.

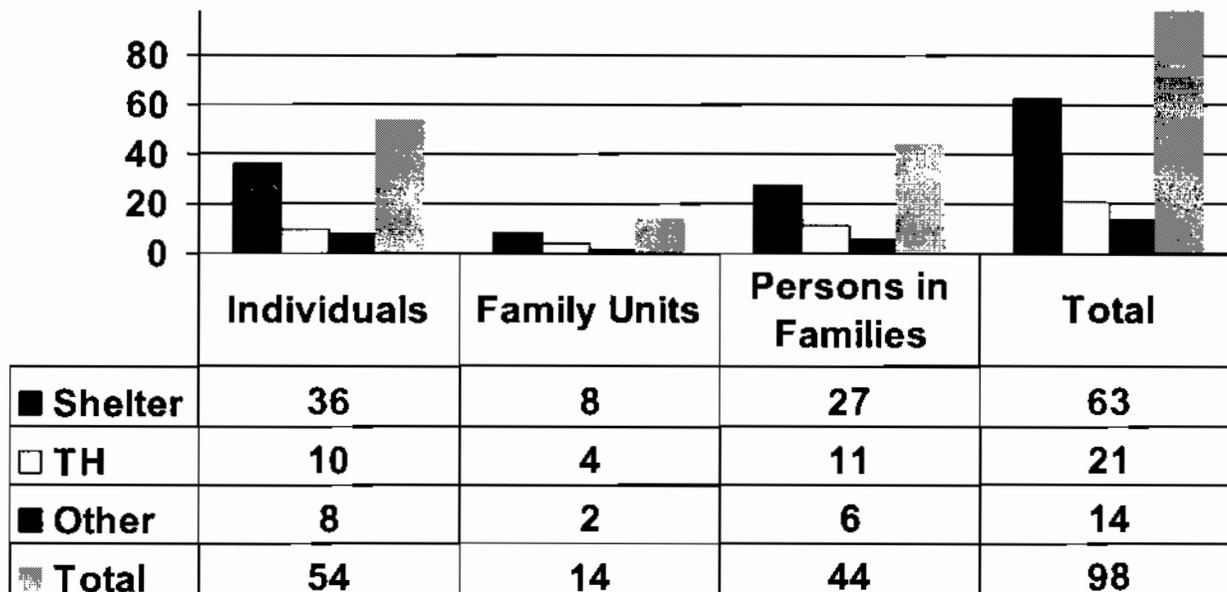
Survey Location

2005 - Known Results for Location Where Survey was Conducted		
Location	Number	% of Total
Outdoors / Abandoned Building	0	0%
Emergency Shelter	44	68%
Transitional Housing	14	21%
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0%
Motel	0	0%
Drug / Alcohol Treatment	0	0%
Other	7	11%
Total	65	100%

Sleep Location

2005 - Known Results for Where Respondents Slept Last Night		
Location	Number	% of Total
Outdoors / Abandoned Building	2	2%
Emergency Shelter	39	62%
Transitional Housing	13	21%
Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0%
Motel	1	2%
Drug / Alcohol Treatment	0	0%
Other	8	13%
Total	63	100%

Location by Housing Type



Population Characteristics

Respondents were asked to complete a personal profile which asked them to indicate whether any of 16 characteristics applied to them or their spouses. Below are the responses representing adults and unaccompanied youth.

Population Characteristics					
Category	Number	% of Total*	Category	Number	% of Total*
Employed (Working right now)	20	29%	Medical Problems	8	11%
Unemployed (No job at all)	28	40%	Substance Abuse History	9	13%
Underemployed (Part Time/Low Pay)	9	13%	Mental Illness	14	20%
Veteran	1	1%	Been Tested for HIV/AIDS	10	14%
Disabled	5	7%	Diagnosed with HIV/AIDS	1	1%
Ex-Offender	3	4%	Domestic Abuse Victim	6	10%
On Parole	0	0%	High School Diploma or GED	11	16%
On Probation	2	3%	College Graduate / Diploma	10	14%

*These percentages were gathered based on the total number of adults and unaccompanied youth represented on the surveys. However, not everyone who completed a survey provided answers to the questions in this section.

Benefits Being Received

Respondents were asked to indicate which benefits they were currently receiving at the time the survey was completed. Below are the responses, based on the number of surveys received.

Benefits Being Received		
Benefit	Number	% of Total*
Food Stamps	9	14%
WIC (Women, Infants & Children)	4	6%
SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)	3	4%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)	2	3%
Social Security (62+)	1	1%
SSI (Supplemental Security Income)	1	1%
Veteran's Benefits	0	0%

* These percentages were gathered based on the total number of surveys. However, not everyone who completed a survey provided answers to the questions in this section. In addition, not everyone who completed a survey qualifies to receive all of these services for themselves or other members of their household.

Benefits / Services Still Needed

Respondents were asked to provide their top 5 needs. Below are the top 5 needs, based on the surveys received.

Top 5 Identified Needs		
Identified Need	Number	% of Total*
Permanent Housing	19	29%
Mental Health Care	10	15%
Dental Care	9	14%
Job Placement	9	14%
Housing Placement	8	12%

* These percentages were gathered based on the total number of surveys. However, not everyone who completed a survey provided answers to the questions in this section.

Respondents were then provided a list of benefits and asked to indicate which benefits and / or services they needed at the time the survey was completed. Below are the responses, based on the number of surveys received.

Benefits and Services Still Needed					
Benefit / Service	Number	% of Total*	Benefit / Service	Number	% of Total*
Permanent Housing	21	32%	Emergency Shelter	6	9%
Housing Placement	15	23%	Picture ID	6	9%
Dental Care	13	20%	Life Skills	5	8%
Job Placement	11	17%	Legal Aid	5	8%
Education Options	11	17%	Case Management	5	8%
Transportation	11	17%	Emergency Food	4	6%
Medical Care	11	17%	GED Options	4	6%
Phone Messaging	10	15%	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	3	4%
Transitional Housing	9	14%	English Classes	3	4%
Food Stamps	9	14%	Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	2	3%
Job Training	9	14%	Substance Abuse Treatment	1	1%
Clothing	9	14%	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1	1%
Mental Health Care	9	14%	Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	1	1%
Bus Pass	8	12%	Veteran's Benefits	0	0%
Child Care	6	9%	Social Security (62+)	0	0%

* These percentages were gathered based on the total number of surveys. However, not everyone who completed a survey provided answers to the questions in this section. In addition, not everyone who completed a survey qualifies to receive all of these services for themselves or other members of their household.

Glossary of Terms

Chronically Homeless Person – An unaccompanied adult who has been homeless for at least one year or has experienced 4 episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years and has a disabling condition. For the purposes of this definition, these individuals must either live on the streets or in emergency shelters.

Drug / Alcohol Treatment Facility – Any facility which has as its primary purpose to provide in-patient treatment to those suffering from substance abuse / dependence.

Emergency Shelter - any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless. Among these are domestic violence shelters, family shelters, shelters for single men and women, etc. Although Emergency Shelters may provide supportive services, their primary focus is on the provision of temporary shelter.

Household – A group of individuals, of which at least one is the primary caregiver, who are living together and related by blood, marriage or self-proclamation.

Permanent Supportive Housing – Housing in which homeless persons with disabilities live and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. The key component of Permanent Supportive housing as to Transitional Housing are that residents must have a disability in order to qualify, and can continue to live in that facility and receive services for as long as they choose to, without time limits.

Transitional Housing - Housing in which homeless persons live and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. If the project is funded by HUD, a maximum limit of 24 months is assigned for each resident/family unless extenuating circumstances exist. Projects which are not funded by HUD may set their own limits for length of residency. The key components of transitional housing as compared to Emergency Shelter are the extended length of stay and the ubiquitous presence of supportive services, whether on or off-site.

Acknowledgements

Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their assistance in making the 2005 Collin County Homeless Count and Census a success.

Organizations Providing Resources and Planning Assistance

City of Plano – organizational support from Stacy Brown, Community Development Coordinator

Homeward Bound Coalition of Collin County – providing the staff and volunteers to conduct the survey.

Slingshot, LLC - development of the new database (Tom Richardson, Owen Hannay & Ned Bryant)

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Inc - office support, IT and computer lab resources (Dan Alaniz & Victor Wong)

Agencies that Participated in the Count

Samaritan Inn

Collin Intervention to Youth (CITY House)

Hope's Door

LifePath

NAMI of Collin County

Collin County Mental Commitment Court

A Special Thank-You to those in our community experiencing homelessness...

We especially want to thank the homeless citizens who were willing to share their personal experiences so that we could gain a better understanding of the challenges they face daily, and whose stories will remind us that these numbers and statistics represent a human condition that must be remedied.