

**Collin County
2006 Annual "Point in Time" Homeless Count**



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Executive Summary

On January 23, 2006, the Collin County Homeless Coalition, in conjunction with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, conducted the 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, several agencies that provide services to the homeless and law enforcement personnel participated in order to make this year's census a success. Below are some of the highlights for the 2006 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 84 surveys completed in 2006, representing a 27% increase over last year's number.
- There were 101 total people represented on surveys this year. Representing a 5% increase over last year's number.
- There were 6 Chronically Homeless individuals identified in Collin County.
- Of the 33 children and youth, 19 (58%) 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.
- For the second year in a row, there appears to be an over-representation of homeless Hispanic children and youth as compared to the homeless adult Hispanic population. Hispanic children / youth represent 31% of the total minor age population; whereas, only 12% of the total homeless adult population are Hispanic.
- Of those surveyed, 8 (10%) people reported they have been homeless for more than one year, and 54 (64%) people who stated that they became homeless for the first time during the past year.

"Unsheltered" Count and Census:

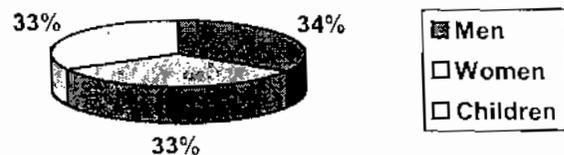
The term "unsheltered" refers to individuals, youth and families living in abandoned buildings, cars, under bridges, etc. These numbers are typically gathered through what is known as the "outdoor count." This is the first year Collin County has conducted an outdoor count, which is a critical step forward in developing a more complete picture of the condition of homelessness in this geographic area.

MDHA 2006 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 **70** adults, **15** children and **19** unaccompanied youth.

2006 Homeless Population



Survey / Sample Size

In 2006, **84 surveys** were completed, representing a 27% increase.

In 2006, **101 total people** were represented on surveys.

Approximately **97%** of the homeless people located during the point-in-time count in Collin County were represented on surveys.

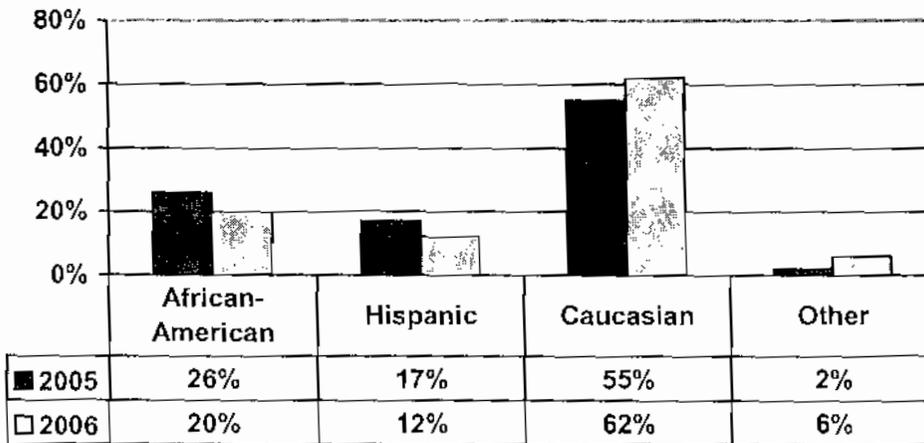
Adult Population

- **68 Adults** were represented on the surveys.
- **Adults** made up **67%** of the total homeless population.

| 2006 - Total Adults of Known Gender | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Number / % | Adult Males | Adult Females | Total Known Gender |
| Number | 34 | 33 | 67 |
| % of Known Gender | 51% | 49% | 100% |

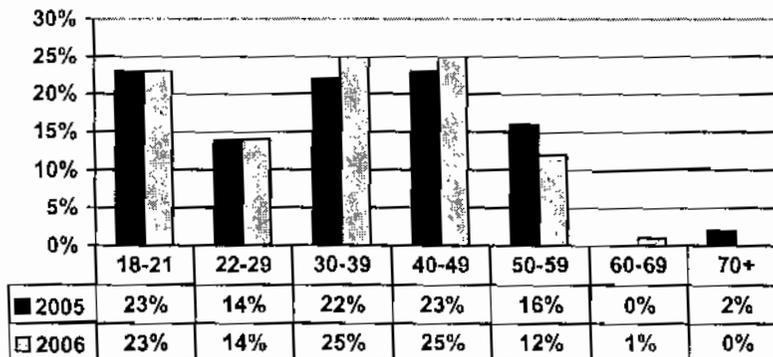
| 2006 - Total Adults of Known Race | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|
| Number / % | African American | Caucasian (White) | Hispanic (Latino) | American Indian | Other | Total Known Race |
| Number | 12 | 37 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 60 |
| % of Known Race | 20% | 62% | 12% | 1% | 5% | 100% |

Homeless Adult Racial Demographics



| 2006 - Total Adults of Known Age | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Age | Number | % of Total Known Age |
| 18-21 Years | 13 | 23% |
| 22-29 Years | 8 | 14% |
| 30-39 Years | 14 | 25% |
| 40-49 Years | 14 | 25% |
| 50-59 Years | 7 | 12% |
| 60-69 Years | 1 | 1% |
| 70 + Years | 0 | 0% |
| Total Known Age | 57 | 100% |

Age of Homeless Adults



| 2006 - Total Known Marital Status | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Marital Status | Number | % of Total |
| Divorced | 17 | 25% |
| Married | 6 | 9% |
| Separated | 9 | 13% |
| Single | 36 | 53% |
| Widowed | 0 | 0% |
| Total Known Marital Status | 68 | 100% |

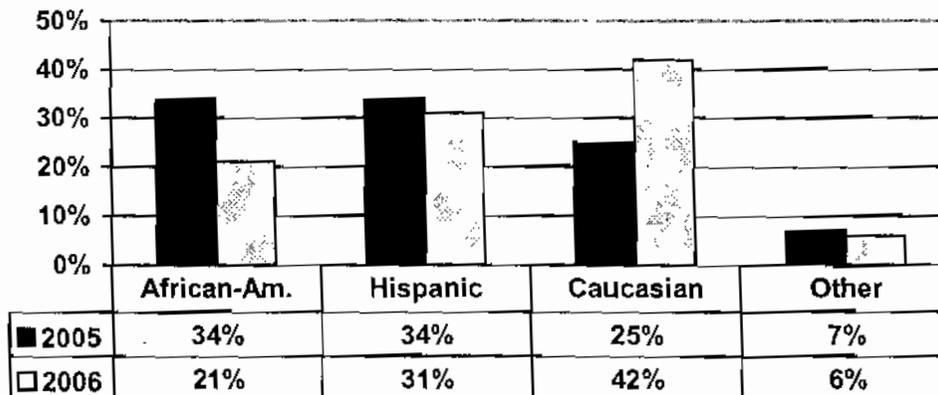
Child / Youth Population

- **9 Respondents** indicated that they had children living with them on the night of the count
- **15 Children** were represented on the surveys.
- **18 Unaccompanied Youth** were represented on the surveys.
- **Children & Youth** made up 33% of the total homeless population.

| 2006 - Total Children / Youth of Known Gender | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Number / % | Minor Males | Minor Females | Total Known Gender |
| Number | 14 | 19 | 33 |
| % of Known Gender | 42% | 58% | 100% |

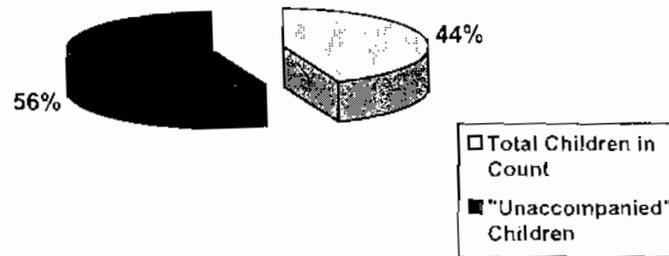
| 2006 - Total Children / Youth of Known Race | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|
| Number / % | African American | Caucasian (White) | Hispanic (Latino) | American Indian | Other | Total Known Race |
| Number | 7 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 33 |
| % of Known Race | 21% | 42% | 31% | 3% | 3% | 100% |

Homeless Children & Youth Racial Demographics

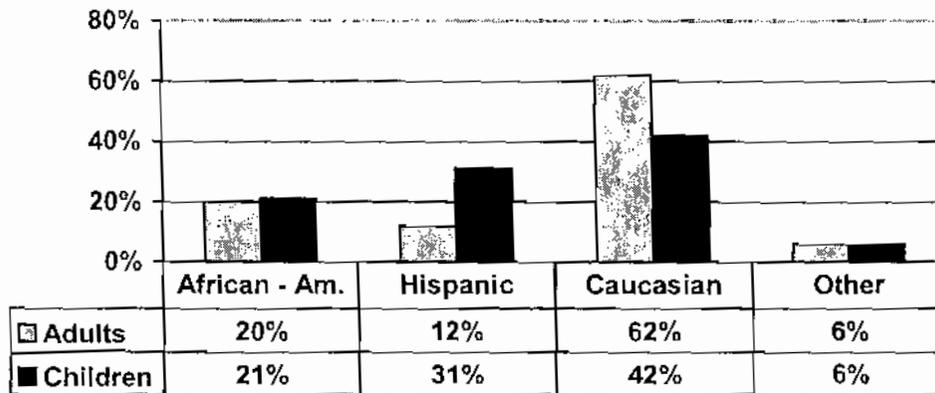


Of the 34 children and youth, 19 (56%) were "unaccompanied", meaning that they were not with their parents or family members. These children were located in the emergency shelter for runaway, homeless, abused or neglected youth.

% of Homeless Children with a Homeless Family Member

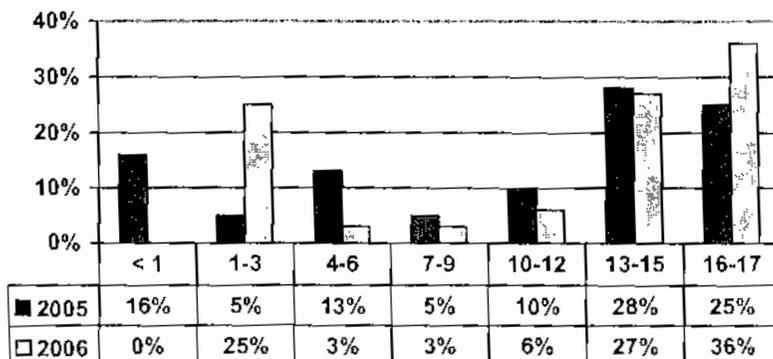


Comparison of Racial Demographics between Adults and Children / Youth



| 2006 - Total Children / Youth of Known Ages | | |
|---|--------|----------------------|
| Age | Number | % of Total Known Age |
| < 1 Year | 0 | 0% |
| 1-3 Years | 8 | 25% |
| 4-6 Years | 1 | 3% |
| 7-9 Years | 1 | 3% |
| 10-12 Years | 2 | 6% |
| 13-15 Years | 9 | 27% |
| 16-17 Years | 12 | 36% |
| Total Known Age: | 33 | 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:*

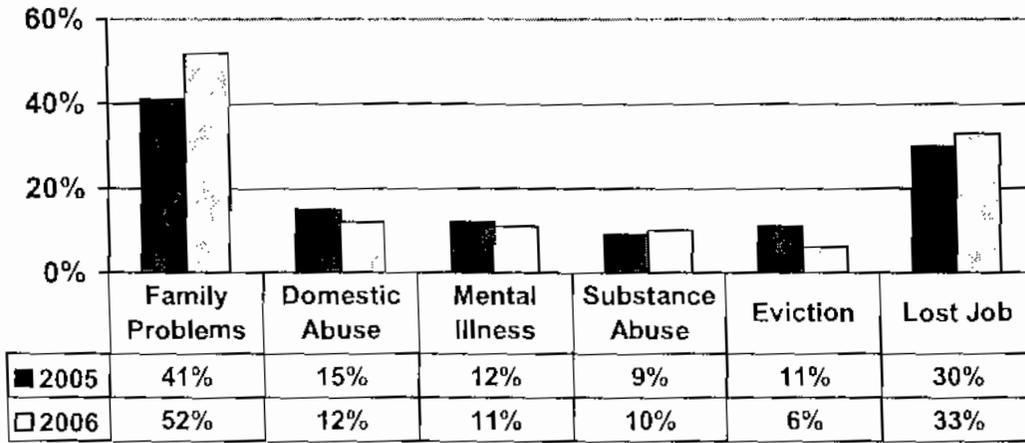
| Self-Reported Cause of Homelessness | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Reason Homeless | Number | % of Total | Reason Homeless | Number | % of Total |
| Family Problems / Domestic Abuse | 54 | 64% | Substance Abuse/ Dependence *** | 8 | 10% |
| Unemployed, Lost Job | 28 | 33% | Medical Disability | 6 | 7% |
| Not Enough Money | 25 | 30% | Legal Problems / Prior Conviction | 6 | 7% |
| Other | 13 | 16% | Eviction | 5 | 6% |
| Mental Illness ** | 9 | 11% | Natural Disaster | 4 | 5% |

*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



Hurricane Evacuees

In September of 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the U.S. Gulf Coast, which led to the unprecedented evacuation of millions of families and individuals to new cities across the country. Our proximity to the affected area brought several thousand households into North Texas. The majority of these households were able to utilize the resources allocated by FEMA to secure housing. Some were not. As part of this year's Homeless Count, MDHA included some questions to learn about evacuees who joined those in Collin County who were already homeless. The results of those questions are below. A complete depiction of potential impact the hurricanes will have on the local homeless population cannot fully be developed until after FEMA funding is no longer available.

| Which Hurricane | |
|-----------------|---|
| Katrina | 3 |
| Rita | 1 |

| Evacuee Characteristics (Pre-Hurricane) | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Employed | 2 | 50% |
| Receiving Income | 3 | 75% |
| Homeless | 1 | 25% |

The one who were homeless before the hurricane was living in **HOPWA Housing**

Frequency / Duration of Homelessness

- 8 respondents (9%) indicated that they had been homeless for at least 1 year.
- 5 respondents (6%) indicated that they had been homeless 4 or more times in the past 3 years.
- 54 respondents (64%) indicated that they had become homeless for the first time during the last 12 months.
- 52 of these respondents indicated the amount of time they had been homeless.
- The remaining 18 respondents (21%) did not answer the question.

2006 - 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 | 32 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 52 |
| % of Total | 62% | 23% | 12% | 3% | 100% |

Survey Location

2006 - Known Results for Location Where Survey was Conducted

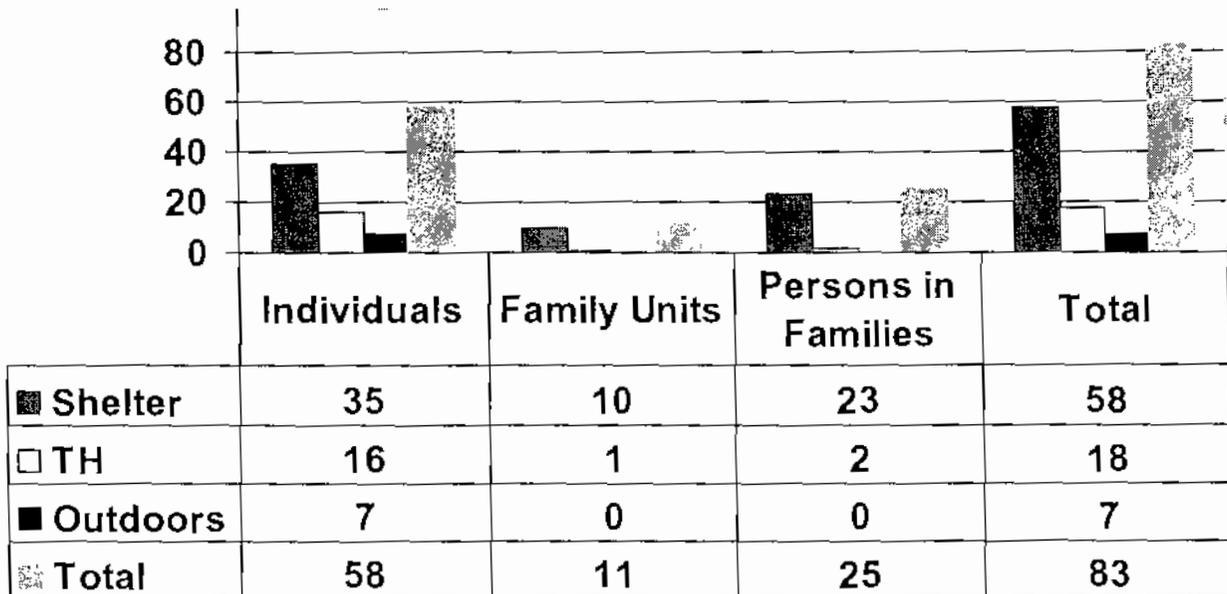
| Location | Number | % of Total |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Outdoors / Abandoned Building | 10 | 12% |
| Emergency Shelter | 49 | 59% |
| Transitional Housing | 17 | 20% |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 0 | 0% |
| Motel | 1 | 1% |
| Drug / Alcohol Treatment | 1 | 1% |
| Other | 6 | 7% |
| Total | 84 | 100% |

Sleep Location

2006 - Known Results for Where Respondents Slept Last Night

| Location | Number | % of Total |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Outdoors / Abandoned Building | 7 | 9% |
| Emergency Shelter | 45 | 58% |
| Transitional Housing | 17 | 22% |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 0 | 0% |
| Motel | 0 | 0% |
| Drug / Alcohol Treatment | 1 | 1% |
| Other | 8 | 10% |
| Total | 78 | 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) | 28 | 32% | Substance Abuse History | 20 | 23% |
| Unemployed (No job at all) | 32 | 37% | Mental Illness | 15 | 17% |
| Underemployed (Part Time/Low Pay) | 13 | 15% | Been Tested for HIV/AIDS | 18 | 21% |
| Veteran | 5 | 6% | Diagnosed with HIV/AIDS | 0 | 0% |
| Disabled | 8 | 9% | Domestic Abuse Victim | 12 | 14% |
| Ex-Offender | 5 | 6% | High School Diploma or GED | 17 | 20% |
| On Parole | 1 | 1% | Some College | 23 | 26% |
| On Probation | 4 | 5% | College Graduate / Diploma | 9 | 10% |
| Medical Problems | 16 | 18% | Pregnant | 3 | 3% |

*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 | 12 | 14% |
| WIC (Women, Infants & Children) | 5 | 6% |
| SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) | 4 | 5% |
| TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) | 3 | 4% |
| Social Security (62+) | 0 | 0% |
| Unemployment | 0 | 0% |
| SSI (Supplemental Security Income) | 1 | 1% |
| Veteran's Benefits | 1 | 1% |
| DARS | 0 | 0% |
| Child Support | 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 Which Have Expired

For the first time in 2006, respondents were asked to indicate which benefits they had been receiving at one point, but which had expired at the time the survey was completed. Below are the responses, based on the number of surveys received.

| Benefits Which Have Expired | | |
|---|--------|-------------|
| Benefit | Number | % of Total* |
| Food Stamps | 13 | 15% |
| Unemployment | 4 | 5% |
| TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) | 2 | 2% |
| WIC (Women, Infants & Children) | 1 | 1% |
| SSI (Supplemental Security Income) | 0 | 0% |
| SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) | 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 | 39 | 46% | Child Care | 6 | 7% |
| Dental Care | 23 | 27% | Substance Abuse Treatment | 5 | 6% |
| Medical Care | 19 | 23% | Picture ID | 5 | 6% |
| Housing Placement | 17 | 20% | Bus Pass | 4 | 5% |
| Transportation | 16 | 19% | Emergency Shelter | 4 | 5% |
| Job Placement | 15 | 18% | Case Management | 4 | 5% |
| Transitional Housing | 13 | 15% | Women, Infants & Children (WIC) | 4 | 5% |
| Food Stamps | 13 | 15% | English Classes | 3 | 4% |
| Job Training | 10 | 12% | Emergency Food | 3 | 4% |
| Clothing | 10 | 12% | Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) / Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | 2 | 2% |
| Life Skills | 9 | 11% | Phone Messaging | 1 | 1% |
| Mental Health Care | 8 | 10% | Child Support | 1 | 1% |
| Legal Aid | 8 | 10% | Veteran's Benefits | 1 | 1% |
| Education Options | 7 | 8% | Unemployment Benefits | 1 | 1% |
| GED Options | 7 | 8% | Social Security (62+) | 0 | 0% |
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 6 | 7% | | | |

* 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 2006 Collin County Homeless Count and Census a success.

Organizations Providing Resources and Planning Assistance

City of Plano – organizational planning and data entry support from Stacy Brown, Community Development Coordinator

Collin County Homeless Coalition – providing the staff and volunteers to conduct the survey.

Police Departments in Plano, Frisco, McKinney & Allen – For their assistance in conducting the first outdoor count in Collin County.

City of Plano Citizen Police Academy – For their assistance in conducting surveys during the first outdoor count in Plano

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

EagleOne Services- development of the new database (Jim LeMay)

Agencies that Participated in the Count

Samaritan Inn

Collin Intervention to Youth (CITY House)

Hope's Door

LifePath Systems

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.