

The 2007 Baltimore City Homeless Census

Baltimore Homeless Services
Baltimore City Health Department



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Baltimore Homeless Services oversees a census of the homeless every two years. The 2007 census took place on January 26. Previous Baltimore City Censuses were completed on April 24, 2003 and January 30, 2005.

The Census results incorporate two elements: a Point-In-Time Count and an in-person survey. The Point-In-Time Count is a 24-hour count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness utilizing all available sources of data. The 2007 in-person survey utilized more than 100 volunteers and reached 497 adults in homeless service provider locations and on the streets.

The 2007 homeless census finds:

- **An estimated 3,002 individuals were homeless on January 26.** Because data sources do not include all who are homeless, this figure is considered a minimum estimate.
- **Homeless individuals are most likely to be African-American males in Baltimore City.** The in-person survey of 497 individuals found that 337 (68%) of those homeless were men and 160 (32%) were women. The survey found that 384 (80%) of the homeless were African-American, 83 (17%) were white, and 15 (3%) were Latino or other.
- **At least 331 of the 3,002 homeless (11%) were younger than 18 years of age.** At least 156 (5%) were under 5 years of age. A parallel count by the Baltimore Homeless Youth Initiative found 272 youth (aged 8 to 25) to be unstably housed on January 26.
- **More than half of homeless individuals are without a home for more than a year.** Two hundred and fifty-five of 481 respondents (53%) reported being homeless for more than a year. All told, 299 of 493 respondents (61%) met the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of "chronically homeless," having been consistently without a home for a year or having had at least three incidents of homelessness in the past four years.
- **Health and housing concerns are the primary reasons for homelessness.** Health-related issues, cited by 147 of 419 respondents (35%), included substance/alcohol abuse, mental illness, disability and medical problems. One hundred and thirty-five individuals (32%) cited lack of housing as the primary reason for homelessness.
- **The primary need of those experiencing homelessness is housing.** Of 367 respondents, 245 (67%) listed housing as their most important need. Obtaining a job was listed as the most important need by 47 (13%) of those surveyed. Among

multiple secondary needs listed by at least half of those surveyed were housing, a job, food, dental care, medical care, public benefits, and transportation.

- **Between 2005 and 2007, the number of homeless in Baltimore did not change appreciably.** The 2007 count is nearly identical to the 2,943 homeless individuals counted in 2005. In addition, those surveyed in 2005 and 2007 were comparable demographically. One troubling change, however, is that the percentage of individuals who report being homeless for more than three years increased from 15% to 24% from 2005 to 2007.

The results show that despite economic progress in the city of Baltimore, homelessness remains a serious and persistent problem, with the increase in chronic homelessness especially concerning. A coordinated plan to end homelessness within a decade is expected this fall; the 2007 Homeless Census will inform this and other efforts to address homelessness in our community.

II. BACKGROUND

In Baltimore, as in other cities around the United States, homelessness is a public health crisis with serious economic and social costs. In contrast to an average life expectancy of close to 80 years in the United States, life expectancy on the streets is between 42 and 52 years. According to a recent comprehensive review of medical literature, “homeless persons are three to four times more likely to die than the general population.”¹

Homelessness is associated with malnutrition, severe dental problems, AIDS, tuberculosis, drug addiction, mental illnesses, and diabetes.

Homelessness is costly. On average, maintaining an individual in a state of chronic homelessness costs taxpayers an estimated \$40,000 a year through the utilization of public resources – from Emergency Department visits to police and court time.² Baltimore is developing a plan to end homelessness within a decade. Achieving this goal will require accurate data on the numbers of homeless, the reasons for their homelessness, and their primary needs.

The biennial Homeless Census is the key assessment of homelessness in Baltimore. Mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development since 2003, the Census is now conducted every two years during the last week in January.

This report summarizes the 2007 Homeless Census in Baltimore City.

III. METHODS

The Homeless Census contains two components: a Point-In-Time Count of individuals experiencing homelessness during a 24-hour period utilizing all *available* data sources, and an in-person survey.

For both components, homelessness was defined based on HUD guidelines: an individual was considered homeless if he or she spent the previous night in an emergency or temporary shelter, a transitional housing program, on the street, or in another place not meant for human habitation. HUD does not consider people who are “doubled-up” or living with friends or relatives to be homeless. These individuals were therefore not counted in the Point-in-Time count, nor included in the survey. An individual was considered chronically homeless if he or she was consistently without a home for a year

¹ J. O’Connell, “Premature Mortality in the Homeless Population: A Review of Literature,” National Health Care for the Homeless Council (December 2005).

² D. Culhane, et al., “Public service reductions associated with placement of homeless persons with severe mental illness in supportive housing,” Fannie Mae Foundation (2002).

or had had at least three incidents of homelessness in the past four years. Individuals in transitional housing programs could not be considered chronically homeless.

A. Point-In-Time Count Data Sources

The goal of the Point-In-Time Count was to estimate the number of unique individuals who were homeless in Baltimore City on January 26, 2007. This was achieved by counting individuals who received services related to homelessness on the day of the count, and by interviewing and counting individuals at homeless service locations and in public places through the in-person homelessness survey. The types of homeless services considered in the Point-In-Time count were emergency and overnight shelters, transitional housing programs, drop-in centers, and outreach programs. The number of individuals receiving these services on January 26 was estimated based on the Baltimore Homeless Services' Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and on direct report from homeless service providers that do not use the HMIS ("non-users"). This information was complemented by results of Baltimore Homeless Services' biennial in-person homelessness survey.

B. Counts from Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Users

The HMIS is a centralized data system that collects information on interactions with homeless clients at a majority of the city's homeless shelters and transitional housing programs and some of the city's drop-in centers. Providers that use the HMIS ("HMIS users") include emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, drop-in resource centers, and outreach programs (see Appendix C). Data collected through the HMIS include name, date of birth, social security number, demographics, family status, number of dependents, and type of service provided.

Client interaction data from the HMIS system were used to enumerate unique individuals who received services from HMIS users on January 26. To maximize reporting into HMIS, one month prior to the Point-In-Time Count, letters were sent to all providers who utilize HMIS requesting their participation on January 26, 2007. Follow-up letters and phone calls were made one week prior to the Point-In-Time count, as well as in the weeks and months following the count date to remind providers to enter data. Data for the Point-In-Time Count was extracted from the HMIS on April 22, 2007 to allow enough time for providers to enter the January 26 data.

C. Counts from HMIS Non-Users

Because approximately 15% of homeless shelters and transitional housing programs and a majority of drop-in centers were not HMIS users at the time of the Point-In-Time Count, counts of clients served by these "HMIS non-users" were obtained directly from the providers. Letters were sent to these providers requesting that they document their intake for January 26. In the weeks following the Point-In-Time Count,

providers reported the number of homeless clients served on January 26. Providers were not asked to provide names of clients because this was estimated to be too high a burden.

D. Homelessness Survey

The goal of the survey was twofold: to help identify homeless individuals for the Point-In-Time Count and to provide information about the characteristics and needs of the homeless population. The survey was designed and organized by Baltimore Homeless Services with assistance from the Homeless Census Planning Committee, the Baltimore City Health Department, the Health Care for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board, the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and the Baltimore Homeless Youth Initiative. To maximize comparability with prior surveys that took place in 2003 and 2005, the 2007 survey was designed to resemble the prior surveys as much as possible.

The survey took place from 6 am to 8 pm on January 26, 2007. A team of more than 100 volunteer interviewers fanned out across the city to locations where homeless individuals were likely to be found. Survey locations were chosen prior to the survey date to be representative of Baltimore's homeless population. Locations included major homeless service providers such as shelters, transitional housing programs, drop-in centers and soup kitchens (see Appendix C). In contrast to previous years, surveys were not conducted at the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training.

Recruitment was scheduled to take place in several outdoor public areas; however, due to the extreme cold, very few individuals were found outside. As a result, volunteers did not administer surveys on the street after 10 am.

At each location, interviewers approached individuals who might be homeless to assess their interest in participating and to determine eligibility. Individuals were eligible if they met the HUD homeless definition (based on self-report) and had not previously taken in part in the survey. Each respondent was given a copy of the survey. Volunteers explained that the survey would be anonymous.

The survey was administered by a team of volunteers comprised of students, advocates, professors, health professionals, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness. All volunteers were required to attend a training session during which the survey instrument was reviewed, and volunteers had the opportunity to practice administering the survey. Emphasis was placed on administering the survey as accurately and completely as possible. Training also covered tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS health awareness. The Baltimore City Health Department's Tuberculosis Control Program provided information on tuberculosis in Baltimore and educated volunteers about how to assist in the event that they encountered someone who was experiencing tuberculosis symptoms.

The interviewer-administered paper and pencil survey included questions about demographics, homelessness history, reasons for homelessness, and current needs. In

order to avoid double-counting, the survey collected the first three letters of each participant's last name, and their date of birth and gender. The complete instrument can be found in Appendix A. The majority of the survey questions were from the 2005 survey instrument, with a few additional questions designed by the Homeless Census Planning Committee.

Participants received manicure kits, ponchos, pill cases, or toothbrushes to thank them for completing the survey. In addition, participants were given street cards showing the location and type of homeless services available the city, as well as HIV/AIDS and TB information cards.

The survey data were entered into a Microsoft Access database. Data analysis was carried out using Stata (StataCorp, College Station, TX). Demographic characteristics of survey participants were compared to those of individuals recorded in the HMIS in order to determine whether the population reached by the survey was similar to that recorded by the HMIS.

E. Point-In-Time Count Methodology

The number of homeless individuals was calculated by combining the numbers receiving services from HMIS-using services providers with the numbers receiving services from non-HMIS using service providers and the numbers identified through the survey. Because the same individual could be both interviewed and served by a provider a major challenge faced by Baltimore Homeless Services lay in counting every individual only once. There were two ways in which individuals could be double-counted: 1) a person interviewed during the homelessness survey could also have been served by an HMIS-using provider and therefore recorded in the HMIS and 2) a person counted in a non-HMIS-using location could also have been interviewed or served by another provider at another point in the day.

The first double-counting scenario was avoided by comparing identifiers collected by the HMIS with those collected by the survey (first three letters of an individual's last name, date of birth, and gender) and by removing any individuals who were duplicates.

The second source of double-counting was addressed by adjusting the counts from non-HMIS-using locations in three ways:

First, the counts from non-HMIS-using providers were reduced by the number of individuals surveyed in non-HMIS locations so that those individuals were only counted once. Second, the resulting numbers were multiplied by the proportion of survey respondents who were not found in HMIS records, in order to adjust for the fact that some of those counted in non-HMIS locations may have been served at an HMIS-using location as well.

Finally, individuals counted at non-HMIS soup kitchens were excluded from the final tally because it was likely that they would already have been counted at drop-in centers.

In summary, the Point-In-Time Count was estimated by adding together the following:

1. The number of unique individuals recorded in the HMIS as having been sheltered (in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs) or having received other homeless services (e.g. drop-in, outreach) on January 26

plus

2. The number of unique individuals surveyed on January 26 who were not also recorded in HMIS for that day

plus

3. The number of individuals counted on January 26 at non-HMIS-using locations (except soup kitchens) *minus* the number of individuals surveyed in those locations (and therefore already counted in item 2) *times* the proportion of those interviewed at locations that were not recorded in the HMIS.

plus

4. The number counted on the street by the survey team *times* the proportion of those interviewed on the street who were not recorded in the HMIS.

Table 1 presents the details of this calculation.

F. Individuals Not Counted

As the methodological discussion above indicates, only individuals using homeless-related services or publicly visible between 6:00AM and 8:00PM on January 26, 2007 were included in this Census. Individuals who intended to be unobserved, as many is the case with many people experiencing homelessness who sleep in abandoned houses, cars, under bridges, and in forested areas, were not counted – nor were individuals and families who slept at the home of an acquaintance or in a motel, even if that arrangement was no longer available the next day. Consequently, the number of individuals discerned by this methodology must be considered to underestimate the scope of homelessness in Baltimore.

G. Parallel Youth Count

On January 26, the Baltimore Homeless Youth Initiative, a collaboration of government and community agencies, conducted a parallel count of homeless youth, with technical assistance from researchers at the Center for Adolescent Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The count resulting from this initiative cannot be combined with the Census count because of differences in the way homelessness was defined in the two counts. However, details of the Youth Count methodology and results are presented in Appendix B.

IV. RESULTS

A. Number of Homeless

The estimate of the number of individuals who experienced homelessness on January 26 is 3,002 (Table 1). A majority of those counted as homeless, 2,236, were sheltered in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs on that day. Because it is likely that the data sources do not include all who are homeless, the census is considered a minimum estimate.

Table 1: 2007 Baltimore City Point-in-Time Count, Number of Homeless by Data Source and Location Counted

Location	Data Source			Total
	HMIS ¹	Survey ²	Non-HMIS-Users ³	
Shelters/THPs	1724	148	364	2236
Drop in Centers	176	117	341	634
Soup Kitchens		33	(432)	33 ⁴
Street		39	29	68
Not Known		30		30
Total	1900	367	734	3002

¹ Includes all unique individuals recorded as receiving services on January 26, 2007.

² Includes only respondents who were not recorded in the HMIS as receiving services on January 26, 2006.

³ Counts were adjusted to limit the possibility of counting the same person more than once. See methods section for more details.

⁴ Counts from non-HMIS users were not included in the total because it was likely that many individuals counted at soup kitchens were already included in the HMIS counts or in the non-HMIS counts from shelters and drop-in centers.

HMIS: Homeless Management Information System; THP: Transitional housing program

B. Demographics

The in-person survey found that 337 (68%) of those experiencing homelessness were men and 160 (32%) were women. 300 (62%) reported themselves as single, 145 (30%) were divorced, separated or had lost a spouse, and 36 (8%) were married or had a partner.

Of those surveyed, 384 (80%) identified themselves as African American, 83 (17%) identified themselves as white, and the remainder as Latino or other.

Two hundred and seventy (54%), were between the ages of 36 and 50, while 101 (20%) were aged between 18 and 35, and 126 (25%) were over 50. Of those surveyed, 219 (45%) reported having a high school diploma or GED and an additional 113 (23%) had some college education.

The survey sample was nearly identical in terms of gender and race to the population recorded in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as staying in shelters or transitional housing programs on the night of January 26. According to the Homeless Management Information System, on January 26, 64% adult shelter and transitional housing program residents were men and 36% were women, while 81% were African American and 13% were white.

According to HMIS, 331 (11%) of those served on January 26, were younger than 18 years of age, and 156 were younger than 5. The parallel youth count found 272 youth (aged 8 to 25) to be unstably housed.

Of those surveyed, 203 of 473 (43%) had spent time in jail during the past year. The survey did not distinguish between minor offenses related to homelessness and longer terms associated with criminal convictions.

One hundred and ninety five respondents (42%) had no income, 180 (39%) received income from the government, and 55 (12%) received income from a job. Less than 3% received income from panhandling.

A substantial number of those surveyed, 74 (15%), identified themselves as veterans.

C. Length of Time Spent Homeless

HUD defines chronic homelessness as having been consistently without a home for a year or having had at least three incidents of homelessness in the past four years. Of 493 individuals surveyed, 299 (61%) were chronically homeless.

Of those who had been consistently without a home, 255 (53%) reported being homeless for longer than 12 months: 140 (29%) had not had a home for one to three years and 115 (24%) had not had a home for more than three years.

D. Primary Reason Contributing to Homelessness

Health and housing issues were the primary reasons most cited as contributing to homelessness by those surveyed. Of 419 respondents, 147 (35%) listed health issues as the primary reason they were homeless. Substance or alcohol abuse, listed by 117 (28%), was the health issue named by most. Disabilities were named by 3% and mental illness and medical problems were both named by 2% of those surveyed as the primary reason they were homeless.

The other most-cited primary reason for homelessness, named by 135 (32%), was a lack of housing. The largest number, 66 (16%), stated that they couldn't afford housing, while 40 (10%) were evicted, 17 (4%) were kicked out of their housing, and 10 (2%) had experienced a fire or disaster in their home.

When allowed to list more than one reason contributing to homelessness, 294 (61%) of people surveyed listed a lack of housing, 282 (58%) listed health issues, 138 (29%) listed inadequate income, 122 (25%) listed family issues, and 81 (17%) listed discharge from an institution.

Figure 1: Primary reason for homelessness among 419 respondents of the 2007 Baltimore City Homelessness Census Survey

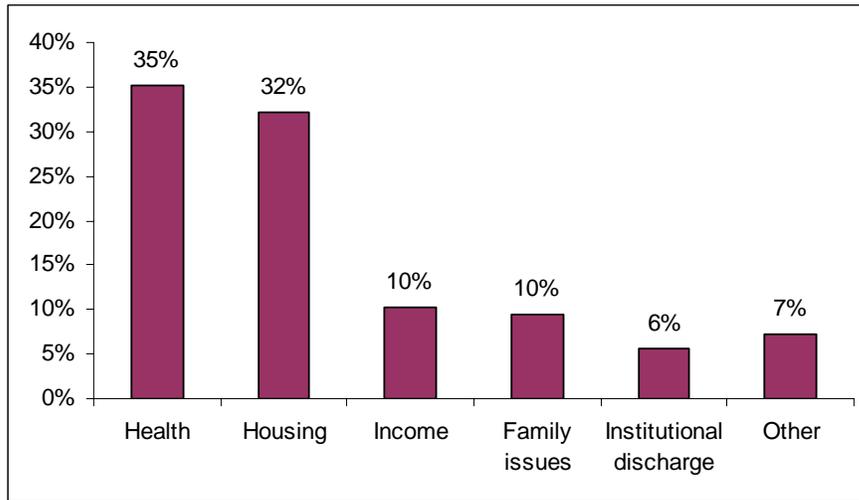
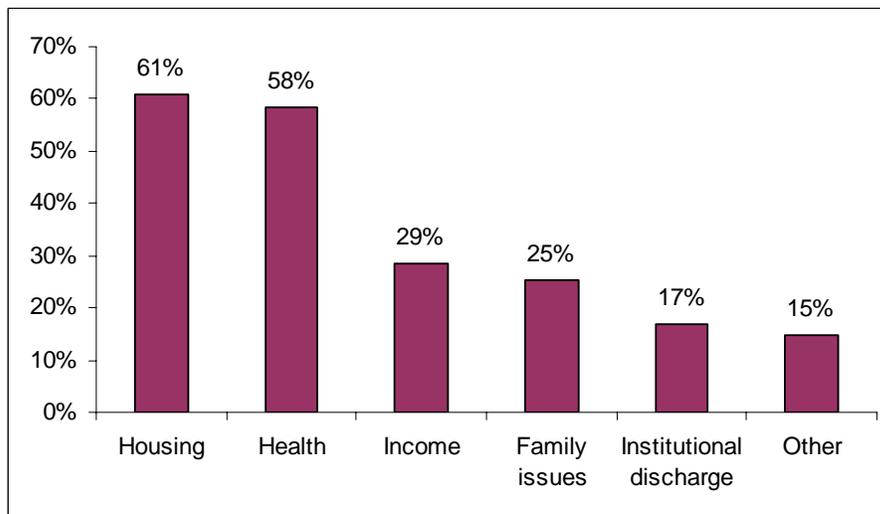


Figure 2: Reasons contributing to homelessness among 483 respondents of the 2007 Baltimore City Homelessness Census Survey



E. Primary Need While Homeless

The primary need most often named by those experiencing homelessness was housing. Of 367 individuals surveyed, 245 (67%) listed housing as their most important need. Obtaining a job was listed as the most important need by 47 (13%) of those surveyed and addiction treatment was listed as the most important need by 19 (5%) of those surveyed.

When allowed to list more than one need, 435 (90%) of people surveyed listed housing, 362 (75%) listed needs that fell under the category of income, 352 (73%) listed health needs, 272 (56%) listed food, and 240 (50%) listed transportation.

Out of 497 surveyed, 203 (41%) were single men who cited mental health, substance abuse, or another disability as a reason for their homelessness or treatment thereof as a need they currently had.

Figure 3: Primary need among 367 respondents of the 2007 Baltimore City Homelessness Census Survey

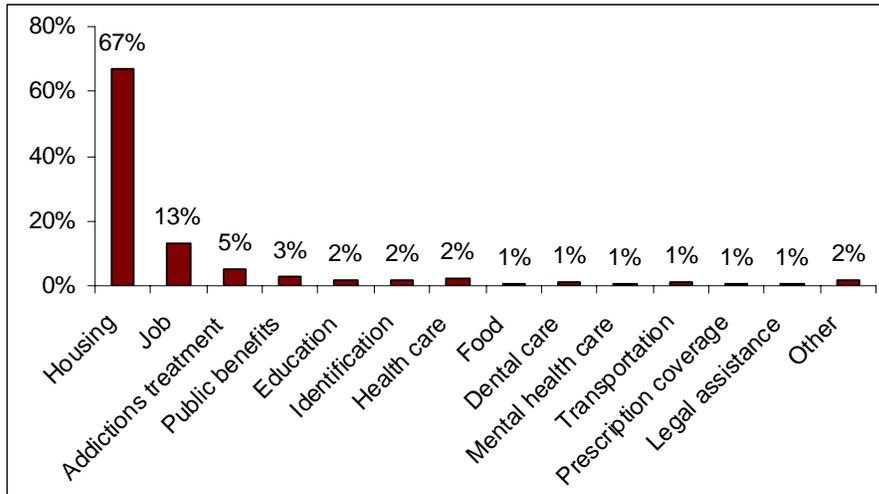
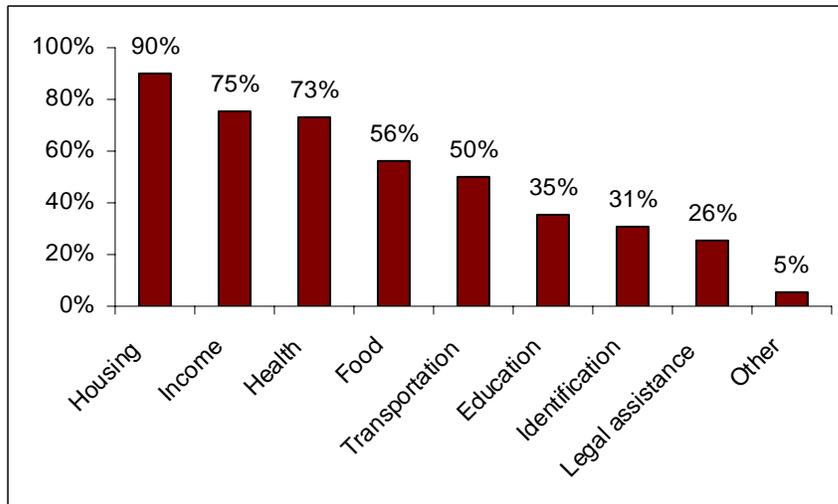


Figure 4: Current needs among 497 respondents of the 2007 Baltimore City Homelessness Census Survey



F. Comparison to 2005 and 2003 Count

Table 2: 2007 Baltimore City Homeless Census, Comparison of data from 2003, 2005, and 2007			
	2003	2005	2007
Total Count	NA	2943	3002
Number of Those Homeless In Shelters or Transitional Housing Programs	NA	2321	2236
Number surveyed	NA	902	497
Demographics			
Male	72%	78%	67%
Female	28%	22%	33%
Had Children	83%	71%	72%
Single	66%	62%	62%
Married	4%	5%	6%
Divorced	15%	17%	15%
Last Permanent Address in Baltimore City	79%	75%	73%
Race			
African-American	83%	82%	78%
White	13%	14%	17%
Age			
19-35	NA	16%	20%
36-50	NA	56%	56%
>50	NA	28%	24%
Education Level			
Less than HS	42%	40%	31%
High School or GED	NA	35%	46%
Some College or More	NA	25%	23%
Military Veteran	24%	30%	15%
Length of Time Homeless			
<1 year	48%	59%	46%
1 to 3 years	29%	27%	29%
>3	23%	15%	24%
Primary Need			
Housing	63%	64%	67%
Job	21%	15%	13%

The estimated number of homeless individuals in Baltimore in 2007 was nearly identical to that found in 2005 (Table 2).

Homeless individuals surveyed in 2007 were demographically similar to those surveyed in 2005 and 2003 with two exceptions. The 2007 Count had fewer male respondents and fewer respondents who had served in the military: 67% men compared to 78% in 2005 and 15% veterans compared to 30% in 2005. This difference between the 2007 and 2005 survey results is likely due to the decision not to conduct surveys at the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (McVet).

A second difference between those surveyed in 2007 and 2005 was the amount of time spent without a home. The 2007 survey showed an increase from 2005 in the percentage of people surveyed who had been homeless for more than three years, from 15% to 24%. This was observed despite the decrease in the percentage of veterans, who were found in the survey to have been homeless for longer periods of time than non-veterans.

The percentage expressing a need for housing has increased slightly since 2003, while the percentage in need of employment has decreased by a third.

G. Parallel Count of Homeless Youth

The parallel youth count found 272 unaccompanied minors and unstably housed young people under the age of 26 in Baltimore City.

A majority of youth counted, 157 (58%), were between 16 and 19 years old. Of those counted, 145 (53%) were female, 108 (40%) were male, and 19 (7%) were transgender.

The count resulting from this initiative cannot be combined with the Census count because of differences in the way homelessness was defined in the two counts. The complete report by the Baltimore Homeless Youth Initiative can be found in Appendix B.

V. DISCUSSION

No single image of homelessness in Baltimore City emerges from the 2007 Homeless Census. In 2007, African-American men were overrepresented among the homeless, as were veterans, people needing substance abuse treatment, and people suffering from mental illness. However, there were also a significant number of women (one third of those surveyed and in shelters or transitional housing programs (THPs)), and over 300 shelter/THP residents were children.

The 2007 Count shows a similar number of homeless people accessing services like shelters and transitional housing programs compared to two years ago. However,

compared to 2005, the number of those who have been homeless for three years or more appears to be increasing.

As in previous years, there are several limitations to the Point-In-Time Count. Because of the cold weather, surveys were almost exclusively administered in homeless services locations. As a result the count likely underestimates the homeless population since many homeless individuals may not access services on a given day.

In addition, because it was not possible to obtain identifying information from individuals served at non-HMIS-using providers, it is possible that the count includes some individuals more than once. However, we attempted to be conservative in our estimate by adjusting for potential double-counting and excluding more than 400 individuals counted in soup kitchens.

Finally, selection of survey sites and participants was not strictly random. Therefore, the survey results may not be representative of all homeless individuals in Baltimore. Those surveyed were similar in terms of age, gender and race to those recorded in HMIS as being sheltered on January 26. However, the survey results may not adequately describe homeless individuals who rarely access homeless services. Despite these limitations, the Homeless Census provides valuable information about the scale and characteristics of homelessness in Baltimore.

Since 2005, the amount of emergency and transitional shelter space available to those who are homeless has decreased. In keeping with federal and state funding trends, there has been a shift in focus away from emergency shelter and transitional housing to permanent supportive housing.

For the majority of people who are homeless, obtaining housing is a primary need that must be addressed before secondary needs such as jobs, drug treatment, health care or education are able to be addressed effectively. Declining wages and a lack of affordable units put housing out of reach for far too many Baltimore City residents.

The results of the 2007 Homeless Census show that despite economic progress in the city of Baltimore, homelessness remains a serious and persistent problem. The increase in chronic homelessness is especially concerning. A coordinated plan to end homelessness within a decade is expected this fall; it is being developed by city agencies through a collaboration with a Leadership Council comprised of representatives from diverse segments of the community. The 2007 Homeless Census will inform Baltimore's plan.

VI. APPENDICES

A. 2007 Survey Instrument

Baltimore City Homeless Census
January 2007

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To be read to each participant:

We are conducting a survey in Baltimore City to better understand homelessness and how we can improve services. We are volunteers for Baltimore Homeless Services. We ask that you participate in this survey voluntarily. You are free to refuse to answer any question and you may stop participating at any time.

Your responses to this survey will be confidential. Your name will not appear on the survey. No one will be able to see your answers attached to your name. The only people who will see this paper are volunteers and staff of Baltimore Homeless Services. After we receive your answers, this paper will be destroyed.

If you agree to participate, I will read the questions to you while you follow along on a copy I will give you. I will record the answers to the questions. You will receive a small token of appreciation for your assistance. If you have any questions after the survey, you may contact Maureen Sarver at 410-545-3016.

This survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. Do you have any questions or concerns about this survey? Are you willing to participate?

If "Yes" continue to the next page and proceed with the interview.

2007 Baltimore Homeless Census Survey

Time: _____ Street or Shelter Location _____

Respondent ID: ___ ___ ___ DOB ___ / ___ / ___ Gender _____
(First 3 letters of respondent's last name) (Male, Female, Transgender)

1. Have you taken part in the Homeless Census today?

NO

YES- **End interview with thanks.**

2. Where did you spend last night?

An apartment, room	1	A spot in a public place	7
Or house		The streets	8
Hotel	2	An abandoned building	9
A shelter	3	A car or truck	10
Transitional housing	4	Some other place	
Jail	5	Specify _____	
Hospital	6	Don't know	98
		Refused	99

3. Have you been homeless for a year or at least four times in the past three years?

NO	1
YES	2
Don't know	98
Refused	99

4. What type of apartment or housing were you last living in?

A house or apartment with its own kitchen and bathroom or shower	1
A room in a house with facilities shared by other tenants, <i>e.g.</i> lodgings	2
A rooming or boarding house, or SRO hotel	3
Housing with a job, <i>e.g.</i> army barracks, hotel	4
Specify _____	
Prison or other correctional institution	5
Specify _____	
With family or friends	6
In foster care	7
Other, Specify _____	8
Don't know	98
Refused	99

5. If you live in an apartment, room, or house, do you pay rent?

NO	1
YES	2
N/A	97
Don't know	98
Refused	99

***If YES, end interview with Thanks.**

6. If you don't pay to stay there, whose place is it?

Parent	1	Don't know	98
Other relative	2	Refused	99
Friend	3		
Someone else	4 (specify) _____		
N/A	97		

6a. How long do you think you will stay there?

Cannot return	1
One night	2
One week or less	3
Between one week and one month	4
More than a month	5
Don't know	98
Refused	99

7. How old are you?

_____ (in years)
Don't know 98
Refused 99

Only if the respondent is under the age of 18, born after 1/26/88, ask question 7a.

7a. Last night, were you with a parent or someone who acts like a parent?

YES 1
NO 2
Don't know 98
Refused 99

8. What is your gender?

Male 1
Female 2
Other 3
Don't know 98
Refused 99

9. What is your race or ethnicity? (Please circle all that apply.)

White or Caucasian 1
Black or African American 2
Asian or Pacific Islander 3
American Indian or Alaskan 4
Latino or Hispanic 5
Other 6
Specify _____
Don't know 98
Refused 99

10. How many years of school have you completed?

Some elementary school (Pre-K to 7 th grade)	1
Completed elementary school (8 th grade)	2
Some high school (9-11 th grade)	3
High school graduate	4
Some college (less than 4 years)	5
College graduate	6
Some post graduate (less than 2 years)	7
Graduate degree or higher	8
Don't know	98
Refused	99

11. If you have not finished high school, have you completed a GED?

Yes	1
No	2
N/A	97
Don't know	98
Refused	99

12. Which of the following best describes your marital status?

Married	1
Cohabiting	2
Single	3
Divorced	4
Separated	5
Widowed	6
Don't know	98
Refused	99

13. Do you have children?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	98
Refused	99

14. If yes, how many are dependent upon you?

N/A	97
Don't know	98
Refused	99

15. Have you ever served in the military?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	98
Refused	99

16. How many nights have you spent in jail in the past year?

0	1
1-3	2
3-5	3
5-10	4
11+	5
Don't know	98
Refused	99

17. How long have you been without permanent housing (a place of your own)?

Less than two days	1
3 days to 1 week	2
1 week to 1 month	3
Between 1-3 months	4
Between 4-6 months	5
Between 6 months- 1 yr	6
Between 1-2 years	7
Between 2-3 years	8
More than 3 years	9
Don't know	98
Refused	99

18. How many times have you been without permanent housing (a place of your own) in the past year?

Don't know	98
Refused	99

19. In the past year, have you offered something other than money for a place to stay? (Please check all that apply.)

Food stamps	1
Sex	2
Drugs	3
Other (child care, hair/ beauty services, etc.)	4

Specify _____

20. What is your income per month?

\$ _____

Don't know	98
Refused	99

21. What is your source of income? (Please circle all that apply.)

None	1
Employment	2
Panhandling	3
Help from friends and family	4
Entitlement (\$ from government)	5
Savings	6
Other _____	7
Don't know	98
Refused	99

22. If employed, what type of employment do you have? (Please circle all that apply)

Full-time	1
Part-time	2
Seasonal	3
Temporary	4
Informal (Under the table)	5
N/A	97
Don't know	98
Refused	99

23. Where was your last permanent address?

Baltimore City	1	
Baltimore County	2	
Elsewhere in Maryland	3	
Washington, DC	4	
Other country, city or state	5	Specify_____
Don't know	98	
Refused	99	

24. Why did you come to Baltimore City?

Lived here entire life	1	
Moved for job	2	
Moved for family or relationship	3	
Moved for services	4	
Other reason	5	Specify_____
Don't know	98	
Refused	99	

25. What reasons contributed to your homelessness? (Please circle ALL that apply)

Voluntarily homeless	1		
Kicked out of the house	2		
Evicted	3		
Discharged from institution	4		
(Jail, prison, psychiatric unit, VA hospital, etc.)		Specify_____	
Lost job	5	Medical problem	13
Passing through town	6	Sexual orientation	14
Could not afford housing	7	Discharged from foster care	15
Substance/ alcohol abuse	8	Fire/ disaster in home	16
Mental illness	9	Housing uninhabitable	17
Disability	10	Other	18
Domestic Violence	11	Specify_____	
Family Breakup	12	Don't know	98
		Refused	99

26. What is the PRIMARY reason that you think contributes to your homelessness?

Voluntarily homeless	1		
Kicked out of the house	2		
Evicted	3		
Discharged from institution	4		
(Jail, prison, psychiatric unit, VA hospital, etc.) Specify_____			
Lost job	5	Medical problem	13
Passing through town	6	Sexual orientation	14
Could not afford housing	7	Discharged from foster care	15
Substance/ alcohol abuse	8	Fire/disaster in home	16
Mental illness	9	Housing uninhabitable	17
Disability	10	Other	18
Domestic Violence	11	Specify_____	
Family Breakup	12	Don't know	98
		Refused	

27. When was the last time you were tested for HIV/AIDS?

Never tested	1
0-6 months ago	2
7-12 months ago	3
More than 1 year ago	4
Don't know	98
Refused	99

27a. What was the result?

Did not receive a result	1
HIV Positive	2
HIV Negative	3
Don't know	98
Refused	99

28. What do you need right now? (Please circle ALL that apply)

Housing	1	Public Benefits	10
Food	2	(Food stamps, TANF, SSI, etc.)	
Job placement	3	Transportation	11
Medical Health Care	4	Pharmaceutical coverage	12
Dental Care	5	Legal Assistance	13
Mental Health Care	6	Other	14
Addictions Treatment	7	Specify_____	
Specify_____		Don't know	98
Education	8	Refused	99
Identification	9		

29. What is your PRIMARY need right now?

Housing	1	Public Benefits	10
Food	2	(Food stamps, TANF, SSI, etc.)	
Job placement	3	Transportation	11
Medical Health Care	4	Pharmaceutical coverage	12
Dental Care	5	Legal Assistance	13
Mental Health Care	6	Other	14
Addictions Treatment	7	Specify_____	
Specify_____		Don't know	98
Education	8	Refused	99
Identification	9		

30. In the last 3 months, what services have you used? What services do you currently need but not receive? Please rate the services you did use according to how well they met your needs.

If the person states that they did use a service, mark "1" and also circle the quality of the service from 4-7. If a person did not receive the service, do not mark the quality of the service

Services	Used	Need but did not get	Did not need/use	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
a. Food/Hot Meals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. Health Care	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. Job Assistance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. Shelter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. Drop-in-Center	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f. HIV Testing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g. Alcohol/Drug Treatment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h. Mental Health Services	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i. Identification	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h. Emergency Room	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
j. Permanent Housing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
k. Public Housing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
l. Showers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
m. Transitional Housing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
n. Transportation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
o. Shelter Plus Care	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
p. Rental Assistance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
q. Eviction Prevention	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
r. Medication	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

31. When was the last time you saw a case manager or social worker?

Have not seen either	1
Within the past week	2
Within the past month	3
Between 2 and 6 months ago	4
Between 6 months and 1 year ago	5
More than 1 year ago	6
Don't know	98
Refused	99

B. Parallel Youth Count

On January 26, 2007, with technical assistance from researchers from the Center for Adolescent Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Baltimore Homeless Youth Initiative (BHYI) conducted a parallel count to the Baltimore Homeless Census to better capture homeless youth.

BHYI is a collaboration of government and community agencies committed to better serving homeless youth.³ BHYI was created in response to a need for a comprehensive continuum of housing, resources, services, and care for Baltimore's homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults between the ages of 14-24. Homeless young people are on the streets of Baltimore without basic resources, education, skills, or a plan for the future. They can easily fall prey to drug use and criminal behavior, often through gang involvement, as well as become victims of violence. Many youth who have aged out of our child welfare system are caught in a limbo between the protections of childhood and the responsibilities of adulthood that makes them susceptible to homelessness.

Understanding the magnitude of a problem is one of the most critical steps in addressing the needs of any community. Counting the number of homeless and unstably-housed youth is a difficult task since youth tend to avoid mainstream services, and are often not counted in the city's homeless census. As recommended by members of the BHYI, Baltimore Homeless Services (BHS) included questions on unaccompanied minors in the current surveys used by the Census to count homeless populations and agreed to share information regarding the numbers of youth found in the Census to compare with the BHYI count. Simultaneously, BHYI conducted a parallel survey of the City's youth-serving agencies on the same day as the BHS biennial homeless census. This was a pilot for a more comprehensive count that will take place in the winter of 2008. The January 2007 survey focused on homeless young people who are unaccompanied minors (under 18) and young adults ages 18-24. This differed from the BHS census in that the youth definition of homelessness is broader than HUD's mandated definition, and they sought out places where homeless young people seek companionship, receive services, or "reside."

Our definition of homelessness was broad. We counted "runaways" who leave home voluntarily, "throwaways" who leave home involuntarily, and "systems youth" who

³ Fellowship of Lights, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, AIDS Interfaith Residential Services, Empire Homes of Maryland, Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Families, Baltimore Delta Alumnae Foundation, Inc, and Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Johns Hopkins Center for Adolescent Health, Baltimore Substance Abuse System, Park Heights Community Health Alliance, Legal Aid Bureau, Baltimore Mental Health Services, St. Ambrose Family Center, Communities of Care Maryland, Casey Family Services, Baltimore Homeless Services, Mercy Supportive Housing, Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development.

were in state foster care or juvenile justice custody but have left the system without placement. We counted those young people who are living on the street, in shelters and in transitional housing. We also included "unstably-housed youth" who are couch-surfing -- staying temporarily with friends, extended kin networks, or lovers. These young people could be in housing situations that are either exploitative (e.g. exchange of sex or illegal activities for shelter) or tenuous and unsustainable (adult lacks the resources to make a long-term commitment). These are young people who lack the skills to *legitimately* support themselves and who are not connected with an adult willing and/or able to make a long-term commitment.

Summary

On January 26, 2007, nine community partners identified 272 unaccompanied minors and unstably-housed young people (ages 8-25) in Baltimore city. The Baltimore Homeless Census did not interview any minors in its survey. However, our definition of homelessness was broader than that of the Census. Our overall count of unaccompanied minors was 99, meaning that 83 unaccompanied minors are homeless by the BHYI definition, but are not captured in the Census.

Regarding older youth, the Census found 14 youth between 18-24 in their surveys of shelters, soup kitchens, and other places where homeless populations are reported to congregate. By contrast, the BHYI parallel count found 166 youth between 18 and 24 who were reported as homeless or unstably-housed; meaning that 152 youth are not captured by the current definitions and methods used by the Census.

The majority of youth in the parallel survey were 16-19 years old (58%) with the largest percentage in any age category being 18. Females totaled 53%, males totaled 40%, and 7% were transgender. Their housing situations included no residence, (on the streets) 8%; unstably housed, 42%; emergency shelter, 3%; and transitional housing, 4%. One hundred and twenty young people were designated as unaccounted for in the foster care system, so their housing situation was not known. Slightly more than half of the young people were identified as systems youth. Seventeen percent had dependent children.

Although the typical image of a homeless youth is a male, there were many homeless and unstably housed females and transgender youth in the parallel count. The majority of unstably-housed youth (56%) were girls and young women. Transgender youth were also disproportionately unstably housed. Fifteen of the 19 transgender youth (76%) were unstably housed. Of the 16 youth that resided in emergency shelters, there were equal numbers of males and females; none were identified as transgender. Of the 22 youth that had no residence or lived on the street, 6 were female, 13 were male, and 3 were transgender. More than one-third (4 out of 11) of the youth in transitional housing were female.

The majority of the youth with dependent children were female, but 6 males were identified as having dependent children living with them.

Given the heterogeneity of the types of homelessness as well as the fact that youth may be less likely to access traditional homeless services, the current definitions of homelessness and methods used by the Baltimore Homeless Census may not be appropriate for counting homeless youth. This parallel count conducted by BHYI is a promising beginning to better understand the number of homeless youth in Baltimore city. It is the hope of BHYI that further attempts to count homeless youth can be conducted in as productive a partnership with Baltimore Homeless Services as this current parallel count.

Statistics

Total: 272 Youth

Age

The majority of the youth were 16-19 years old (57.8%). The largest percentage in any age category were 18 year olds.

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Age 8	1	.4	.4
9	1	.4	.7
11	1	.4	1.1
13	2	.7	1.8
14	7	2.6	4.4
15	11	4.0	8.5
16	32	11.8	20.2
17	44	16.2	36.4
18	47	17.3	53.7
19	34	12.5	66.2
20	25	9.2	75.4
21	31	11.4	86.8
22	15	5.5	92.3
23	6	2.2	94.5
24	8	2.9	97.4
25	1	.4	97.8
Missing	6	2.2	100.0
Total	272	100.0	

Gender

53.3% were female, 39.7% male, and 7% transgender.

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Gender	Male	108	39.7	39.7
	Female	145	53.3	93.0
	Transgender	19	7.0	100.0
	Total	272	100.0	

Housing Situation—These categories are not all mutually exclusive, some youth were categorized as both systems youth and some other housing situation (Example: Systems Youth Runaway from foster care who is living on the streets.)

No residence (on the streets)	8.1%
Unstably Housed	41.9%
Emergency Shelter	2.6% (not including new numbers from Fellowship)
Transitional Housing	4.0%
Systems Youth	52.6%
Has Dependent Children	17.3%

C. List of Homeless Service Providers

The table below lists providers who participated in the point-in time count and homelessness survey, according to the type of service they provide and whether they use the HMIS. Providers participating in the survey are in bold.

HMIS	Non HMIS
<i>Emergency and Overnight Shelters</i>	
American Rescue Workers	Baltimore Rescue Mission
Aunt CC's	Fellowship of Lights
Brown's Shelter	Helping Up Mission
Christ Lutheran	Karis Home
House of Ruth	BCDSS
Heart's Place ES	
I Can Shelter ON	
I Can Conv Care ES	
Interfaith Hospitality Network	
Mc Vet	
Prisoner's Aid	
Project Plase	
Salvation Army	
YWCA Conv. Care	
YWCA Corner House	
Winter Shelter	
<i>Transitional Housing Programs</i>	
ARW Transitional	FOL- Peggy's Place
At Jacob's Well	I Can't We Can
Baltimore Station	
Christopher's Place	
Cottage Avenue	
Dayspring	
Earl's Place	
Ethel Elan Safe Haven	
Frederick Ozanam House	
Helping Up Mission	
HOR- Transitional Housing	
I Can	
JHR-Carrington House	
JHR-VA	
Marian House	
Mc Vet	
My Sister's Place Lodge	
Patrick Allison	

Transitional Prisoner's AID Project Fresh Start Project Plase THP Safe Haven Salvation Army Seton Hill THP SHG Transitional VOA Pratt House YMCA YWCA Druid THP
<i>Outreach</i>
JHH
<i>Drop-in centers</i>
HERO Beans and Bread HOPE Manna House Oasis My Sister's Place Paul's Place BCDSS/HESU Health Care for the Homeless
<i>Meals only</i>
Beans and Bread, lunch Our Daily Bread, lunch St. Vincent's, dinner in park

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- Brown's Community Shelter
- Baltimore City Council
- Downtown Partnership
- Health Care for the Homeless
- I Can't We Can
- Loyola College Center for Community Service and Justice
- Project Jumpstart
- The Maryland Food Bank
- The Shriver Center
- The University of Maryland at Baltimore
- The University of Maryland, Baltimore County

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Finally, thanks to all of the survey participants experiencing homelessness. We hope that the information you provided us with will help improve supportive services and plan for the end of homelessness in Baltimore.