

## 2007 Homeless Count Data

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### **Background**

Trying to answer the question, “How many homeless people are there?” is seen as critical to answering the question, “What impact are we having on this problem?” In 21 years, the RSC has contributed to National efforts on this front, including those of the U.S. Census. Our communities and staff have incubated methods, participated in research, edited studies and funded applied researchers to conduct counts.

In June 2002, we discussed methodologies and the cost-effectiveness of counting the homeless. In May 2003, we last explored “count methodologies” for enumerating the homeless population. In May 2004, we looked into the value of HMIS in this effort. In November of that year, HomeBase presented a Briefing Memo at the RSC meeting on HUD’s suggested methodologies for conducting homeless counts. In March 2005, the RSC discussed the 2005 homeless count and provided feedback and impressions of the counts conducted in member’s communities.

### **Status**

Every two years, jurisdictions that receive Federal funding for homeless assistance through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act are required to conduct a point-in-time homeless count. Jurisdictions must count sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families within one 24-hour period during the last two weeks of January. In January 2007, continua of care (CoC) around the Bay Area and beyond conducted an enumeration of homeless people in their community.

Each continuum utilized a count method appropriate for its own community. For example, in San Francisco and Contra Costa County volunteers conducted a “simple street count” of unsheltered people in all areas of the City without exception, where volunteers directly observed persons in non-shelter, non-service public locations. In Fresno, Madera and Placer County, volunteers surveyed unsheltered homeless people in public places with no off-limits areas. Napa conducted a street count of unsheltered people and a survey at their service resource center, with measures in place to prevent duplication, in order to capture as many people as possible. Many counties such as Napa, Contra Costa, and San Francisco relied on information from service providers at facilities where homeless people reside to get their data on the sheltered homeless in their communities.

For a variety of reasons, continua are at different stages of releasing the count results. Due to the sensitive nature of the results, many counties are not publishing their numbers before thoroughly analyzing the methodology and count data. Data from all communities is expected in the coming months.

### **Action**

Below is the data for the communities that have completed analyzing and have published their homeless count data. Also included is a list of communities still processing their data and the date they expect to publish their reports, where available.

Following the data are a few questions, to be used as a means to share concerns or perspectives on the recent homeless count and to brainstorm ideas on how to improve the count in years to come, or to change the mandates.

### Contra Costa County

Contra Costa County conducted a point in time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless people on January 30, 2007. The Contra Costa Homeless Program, staff of various homeless services programs and over 100 volunteers counted people living on the streets, in open spaces in the county and those residing in temporary shelter, transitional housing programs or receiving services.

Unsheltered in Contra Costa County	1,749
Sheltered in Contra Costa County	2,408
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,157</b>

Breakdown of sheltered homeless in Contra Costa County:

Type of Service	Couples	Families w/Children	Individuals in Families	Children in Families	Individuals without Children	Unaccompanied Youth
Alcohol/Drug Treatment	27	29	128	30	91	7
Education	0	0	10	10	0	0
Emergency Housing	5	34	259	62	366	3
Food Program	0	0	99	0	155	5
Medical Providers	0	13	17	2	0	4
Mental Health Treatment	0	0	0	0	25	1
Multiservice center	3	82	320	94	477	16
Outreach/Engagement	0	0	0	0	22	0
Transitional Housing	0	69	253	123	46	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>1182</b>	<b>70</b>

### Marin County

The 2007 Point in Time Count for Marin took place on January 31, 2007. Under the direction of the Marin Continuum of Housing Services, a total of 33 programs and agencies serving the homeless participated in the survey. Utilizing the assistance of 110 volunteers, a count of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless took place throughout the day.

Unsheltered in Marin County	555
Sheltered in Marin County	669
<b>Total</b>	<b>1224</b>

<b>Location</b>	
Unsheltered	555
Doubled Up	234
Emergency Shelter	186
Transitional	483

<b>Other Characteristics</b>	
Households with dependents under 18	44 households 188 people
Chronically Homeless	260
Mentally Ill	350
Chronic Substance Abuse	350
Veterans	14
HIV/AIDS	76
Domestic Violence Victim	86
Unaccompanied Youth	45
Senior (65 or older)	45
Physical Disability	178
Emotional Disability	165

### **Napa County**

Napa County conducted its survey on January 30, 2007. Data on sheltered homeless was collected from emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. The unsheltered homeless data was collected by teams of volunteers surveying streets and other outdoor areas as well as from a survey distributed at a drop-in service center on the day of the count.

Unsheltered in Napa County	146
Sheltered in Napa County	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>

<u>Summary of Sheltered Data</u>	<u>Summary of Unsheltered Data</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 199 sheltered homeless</li> <li>- 126 in emergency shelter</li> <li>- 73 in transitional programs</li> <li>- 49 children, 30 between the ages of 0-5, 8 ages 6-11, 13 ages 12-17</li> <li>- 24 families of 2 or more</li> <li>- 67 chronically homeless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 102 people counted in field count</li> <li>- 56 counted by survey (12 duplicates from field count)</li> <li>- 8 families with 12 children</li> <li>- 41 people counted by the survey were chronically homeless</li> <li>- Estimated that as many as 82 people from the field count are chronically</li> </ul>

### **San Francisco**

The San Francisco 2007 Homeless Count took place on the night of January 31, 2007. Between 8pm and midnight volunteers took to the streets to count unsheltered homeless individuals living outdoors. Simultaneously, workers counted sheltered homeless individuals residing in emergency shelters, drop-in centers, transitional housing, mental health facilities, treatment centers, the County jail, and city hospitals.

Unsheltered in San Francisco	2,771
Sheltered in San Francisco	3,607
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,377</b>

	Single Adults	Persons in Families	Family Status Unknown	Totals
Street	1,935	66	770	<b>2,771</b>
Shelter	1,175	322	0	<b>1,497</b>
Transitional Housing	1,076	190	0	<b>1,266</b>
Resource Center and Stabilization	321	0	0	<b>321</b>
Jail	400	0	0	<b>400</b>
Hospitals	122	0	0	<b>122</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,029</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>6,377</b>

Additional information was provided by a survey of homeless individuals receiving services from several service sites on January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. The survey of 292 homeless clients, representing almost 5% of the homeless population counted the previous night, provided more detailed data on the demographics of the sample population.

The full report is available at:

[www.ci.sf.ca.us/site/uploadedfiles/lhcb/homeless\\_count/SanFrancisco2007HomelessCount%20final.pdf](http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/site/uploadedfiles/lhcb/homeless_count/SanFrancisco2007HomelessCount%20final.pdf)

Communities that will be publishing data in the coming months:

Alameda	Monterey (May)
San Mateo Count	Santa Clara (May)
Santa Cruz	Solano (End of April/May)
Sonoma (May)	