

# THE 2009 METRO ATLANTA TRI-JURISDICTIONAL COLLABORATIVE HOMELESS CENSUS



**I think it is important to understand  
how many homeless people there are.**  
*Count Volunteer*

## COVERING ATLANTA, DEKALB COUNTY AND FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

**I feel like I contributed in some small way to  
serve the homeless population in Atlanta.**  
*Count Volunteer*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The 2009 Tri-J Homeless Census was successful because over 400 volunteers joined forces to count the homeless persons in our community. Although it is not possible to list each of them by name, the Tri-Jurisdictional and Pathways wish to express our gratitude to each of you who contributed your time and effort.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Metro Atlanta Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative on Homelessness (Tri-J) is a working partnership of government representatives, community members and service providers within the City of Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County. The Tri-J works collaboratively to address issues of homelessness through planning, policy development, service delivery and resource allocation.

In 2002, the Tri-J decided that getting objective and accurate data on the number of homeless persons residing in the community was a top priority. The homeless census was to identify the number of homeless persons in each local community on the basis of sleeping location and basic demographic characteristics: gender, adult vs. youth, and family vs. individual. Pathways Community Network was asked to undertake the point-in-time homeless count on behalf of the Tri-J. While the 2003 Tri-J Homeless Census was in its early planning stages, the U. S. Congress passed legislation requiring state and local governments that receive funding under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to conduct point-in-time homeless counts at least once every two years beginning no later than 2004.

In March 2003, the Tri-J and Pathways conducted the first successful homeless census. The count relied on the efforts of many non-profit homeless service providers and over 400 volunteers to count the homeless persons in the more than 800 square miles that comprise the Tri-J area. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recognized the 2003 Tri-Jurisdiction Homeless Census as a national “best practice.”

The 2005 and 2007 Tri-Jurisdictional and 2006 City of Atlanta Homeless Census followed the successful methodology used in the 2003 census. Improvements were made to the model for each successive count based upon feedback from the Tri-J homeless census advisory council and deployment captains committee, community volunteers and community needs. The reports on these earlier counts can be viewed at the Pathways website, [www.pcni.info](http://www.pcni.info).

The 2009 Tri-J Homeless Census was the fourth point-in-time count for Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County. The 2009 census adhered to the successful methodology used by the Tri-J in previous counts with slight modifications based on feedback from the 2007 deployment captains debriefing session, 2009 advisory council and community needs (see methods). The planning of the 2009 Tri-J Homeless Census began in August 2008 with the actual enumeration occurring in the early morning hours of January 23, 2009. This report describes the purpose, methodology and results of that effort.



## II. PURPOSE and COORDINATION

### A. Project Purpose

Both HUD and the Tri-J identified several important goals for the homeless census:

- Provide the number and characteristics of people sleeping in transitional programs, shelters and places not meant for human habitation;
- Provide the local community with data to use in planning, funding, and implementing services that meets the needs of homeless persons;
- Provide a measurement of the changes in the homeless population over time;
- Provide a report that increases awareness of the local homeless issue; and
- Provide data to use in updating the Tri-J's Housing Inventory for the annual HUD Super Notification of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) Exhibit 1 report.

### B. Project Coordination

#### **Pathways Community Network**

Pathways Community Network is a non-profit organization that supports human service providers with a variety of tools that encourage collaboration, reduce costs and increase impact, so more people find the path to success. Since 2003, we have been asked by the Tri-J to manage the homeless point-in-time counts. Pathways has coordinated, staffed, written the reports and presented the findings for the Tri-J homeless census. Beginning in 2007, we have also provided research expertise in the areas of methodology, data collection, and data analysis. The Pathways research and data analysis team consisted of the research manager and a research assistant. The executive director and senior researcher for Pathways served as members of the advisory council.

#### **Advisory Council (AC)**

As in the previous three Tri-J census, the Tri-J homeless census advisory council was formed and composed of community volunteers, academic researchers and leaders in non-profit, human services and government agencies. The functions of the AC included assisting the Pathways research team with refining the count methodology and instruments, logistical planning and providing input regarding compliance with HUD regulations. With few exceptions, the advisory council met on a regular monthly basis.

A Tri-J representative from the AC assisted Pathways with collecting contact information for all known emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in the Tri-J, refining the sheltered housing count tally form and collecting data for the sheltered count. Pathways and the Tri-J representative communicated on a regular basis via phone and email during the sheltered count data collection process.



## **Deployment Captains (DC)**

A deployment captains committee was again formed, as with the previous census, to assist Pathways with logistics planning of the deployment sites, recruitment of volunteers, and on census night with managing deployment sites for the unsheltered count. The DC was staffed by homeless service provider agencies, non-profit agencies and government agencies. Committee co-chairs shared a seat on the advisory council to assure good communication and successful joint problem solving between the two groups.

Beginning in October 2008, the deployment captains met on a regular basis. Based on feedback from the 2007 DC debriefing session, changes were made to the DC meeting schedule for the 2009 Tri-J Homeless Census. The new DC were required to attend an orientation meeting and attend every meeting. Instead of all DC being required to attend the meetings, at least one representative from each deployment site was required.

In mid-January prior to the census night, the new DC were trained extensively on the census night process. At the same meeting, a Geographic Information System staff member taught them how to read the enumeration maps. One week prior to the count, a DC briefing meeting was held to pass out the census night boxes which included information and count forms, maps and equipment such as clipboards, pens, and flashlights. The Pathways research manager reviewed with the DC all the materials that were included in the boxes and the census night process such as setting up the deployment sites, training the volunteers and calling in the homeless count numbers.

After the count, the DC were responsible for returning the boxes and count forms back to Pathways the following week. In February, a DC appreciation and debriefing luncheon was held to give them a chance to provide feedback on the unsheltered count process and thank them for all their time and effort.



### III. METHODS

#### A. Definition of Homelessness

When conducting homeless counts, HUD has mandated that communities receiving federal funds, such as the Tri-J, follow their definition of homelessness, which is based on the Stewart B. McKinney Act of 1987 (later amended as the McKinney-Vento Act). The McKinney-Vento Act defines a person as homeless if he or she lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; has a primary nighttime residence that is either a public or private shelter, an institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private location that is not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Other federal agencies, such as the Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA), use different McKinney-Vento Act definitions than HUD and thus use alternate definitions for homeless persons. For example, the DOE definition of homelessness includes families who live in the homes of friends/families and in hotels/motels, while the current HUD definition does not.

#### B. Date and Time of Census

Based on a national directive from HUD, the advisory council was required to select a date for the census during the last ten days in January, 2009. The AC selected Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> as the census date morning, with a bad weather back-up date of Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Both dates were mid-week to represent a typical weekday morning and to avoid the higher number of non-homeless persons on the streets during weekends. Several large shelters in the City of Atlanta discharge residents in the early morning hours (5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.). To avoid double counting of people as sheltered and unsheltered, the advisory council decided to begin enumeration around 1 a.m. prior to the shelter early morning release times.

#### C. Types of Count

The census consisted of two types of enumerations which result in a comprehensive picture of homelessness for Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County:

- ***Unsheltered:*** A count of unsheltered homeless people who reside in places not meant for human habitation, such as on the streets, in vehicles, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings and makeshift shelters such as tents.
- ***Sheltered:*** A count of sheltered homeless people who occupy emergency shelter, transitional housing, recovery programs that serve homeless and non-homeless clients, motels (only if motel vouchers are provided by service agency) and short stay institutions such as hospitals and jails.



## 1. Unsheltered Count Method

Planning for the 2009 Tri-J Homeless Census unsheltered count began in August 2008. This first month involved setting up the advisory council, and most importantly, setting the date for the count. The fall months included such activities as setting up the deployment captains committee, recruiting volunteers, notifying the community of the upcoming homeless count, recruiting deployment sites, working to set up and print the enumeration maps, recruiting enumerator guides, setting up special coverage teams and contacting police departments throughout the Tri-J.

The month of the actual count is the busiest for completing final tasks. January entails creating and printing all the necessary forms for the upcoming census night, putting together the equipment for the count, and training the deployment captains on the census night process. Plus there was the challenge of handling all the last minute items that needed to be addressed such as making sure there are enough volunteers at each deployment site.

On census night, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, the Pathways research team arrived at the Pathways office or “command central” at 6 p.m. to set up for the upcoming count and to resolve any last issues. New volunteers were assigned up to 11 p.m. that night to count. Deployment captains arrived first at the deployment sites around 10 p.m. to set up for the morning count. Homeless enumerator guides arrived next for specific guide training on their role within enumerations teams. Following the enumerator guides training, community volunteers arrived around 11:30 p.m.

At midnight, all enumerators, paid and volunteer, received general training on the HUD definition of homelessness, areas to pay specific attention to within enumeration areas, and how to document the number of homeless persons found using the street tally form. All enumerators were instructed to travel or canvass all streets in their enumeration area at speeds of 10-15 miles per hour, not to count in abandoned buildings due to safety concerns, and not to make contact with or disturb any homeless persons found on the street. For this count, the enumerators were also requested to stop at 24 hours convenience stores and grocery stores to ask store clerks if they are aware of where homeless people might be in that area. Another new request was that enumerators stop at hospitals in their area and count homeless people in the emergency room.

The enumerators deployed around 1:00 a.m. on census morning with instructions to return to their deployment sites by 5 a.m. The weather conditions on the morning of January 23<sup>rd</sup> were clear with a morning low temperature around the mid-thirties. Approximately 300 volunteer enumerators, 40 agency guides and 100 homeless enumerator guides participated on census night.

In an effort to ensure accuracy in the count, prevent the loss of data and to get “real time” reporting of the count, a call-in reporting method was used. Enumeration teams reported the tallies for each block group in their assigned enumeration area to their deployment captains as they completed the count for the block group. After an enumeration area was complete, deployment captains called Pathways staff to input the data into an online computer application. After enumerators returned from their enumeration areas, they received breakfast and were debriefed by deployment captains. Feedback from volunteers will be used to update future census procedures.



## Enumeration Areas

The City of Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County cover over 800 square miles and comprise 771 U.S. Census block groups. In 2003, 134 enumeration areas were created by grouping the U.S. Census blocks into manageable areas for data collection and organization. The enumeration areas varied in size and number of block groups, depending on the anticipated concentration of unsheltered homeless persons. For example, in areas with high concentrations of unsheltered homeless, where enumerators would have to walk much of the area to conduct their count, fewer block groups were allocated to an enumeration area. The 2009 census used the same enumeration areas as 2003, 2005 and 2007.

## Deployment Sites

The enumeration areas were divided among 11 deployment sites (see special thanks). These sites were spaced throughout the Tri-J and appropriately geo-located to provide convenient access for enumerators to their assigned enumeration areas. They served as staging areas for the unsheltered count, providing adequate well-lit parking, phone lines and a large meeting area. For each deployment site, at least one seasoned deployment captain and two other DCs were recruited from various community and government agencies to coordinate the site on census night. The downtown site, Crossroads Community Ministries, also hosted the enumeration team from Department of Veteran's Affairs, Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program (VA) when they returned from counting homeless persons in the downtown and neighboring areas.

## Maps


The Atlanta Regional Commission's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department created the 2009 planning and enumeration maps for the unsheltered count. The large planning maps aided Pathways in the assignment of enumeration areas to each deployment site and the deployment captains in orienting enumerators during training on census night. The enumeration maps included one main enumeration area clearly outlined in bold black in the center of the map with the block groups for each EA outlined in purple within the EA.

The enumeration maps had been improved from the 2005 homeless census by adding Aero Atlas street overlays to provide detailed street information, defined block group boundaries and more distinguishable landmarks. The colors of the maps were changed slightly this year per the request of the 2007 deployment captains. In 2007, each enumeration area had its own pastel color, but were difficult to see in dim lighting, so the maps were updated for 2009 to one light pastel color for cities and no color for the county areas.

## Enumeration Teams

In order to cover the large Tri-J area, over 400 enumerators were needed. Enumerators walked or drove the streets of the Tri-J to count the number of people who were homeless. The advisory council decided that, for accuracy and safety, enumeration teams would be comprised of at least 3 to 4 members, ideally at least 2 community volunteers and 1 enumerator guide. The number of teams required at each deployment site depended on the number of enumeration areas assigned to the site with one enumeration team generally covering one enumeration area. The enumeration teams for downtown Atlanta was comprised of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) enumerators only.

**Community Volunteers:** Volunteers were recruited using a number of methods including direct recruitment, public announcements, recruitment fliers, and postings on websites. Students, members of faith-based groups, homeless service provider staff and other community stakeholders volunteered to



serve as enumerators on census night. Volunteers were assigned to a deployment site based on their preferences and on the minimum requirement of volunteers needed at each site.

For this census, the recruitment of community volunteers was more difficult than usual. The homeless count was scheduled for Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, with Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the previous Monday. The count also coincided with the inauguration of President Obama. Many people who would normally have volunteered did not because they were out of town for the holiday and/or inauguration.

***Paid Homeless Enumerator Guides (PEGs):*** As in the 2003, 2005 and 2007 Tri-J Homeless Census, paid homeless enumerators were recruited from various transitional housing programs in the Tri-J area. The paid homeless enumerator guides were residents of the transitional facilities whose job was to assist other volunteers in identifying homeless persons, in pointing out locations likely to have a homeless person present, and in recognizing potentially dangerous situations to avoid. For the 2009 census, several changes were made for the paid guides. This year the paid guides were required to have lived in the Tri-J area for at least six months and to have been a participant in the transitional program for at least three months. Also, the paid guides were only used at 8 of the 11 deployment sites due to low numbers of homeless people found in the other three sites during the past census. This year the agencies were asked to drop off and pick up the PEGs because in the past, the PEGs often did not have rides after the count was complete. For their work, the guides were paid a flat rate of \$50.

***Service Provider Enumerator Guides:*** During the 2003 and 2005 homeless counts, all enumeration areas were canvassed by enumeration teams of 2-3 volunteer enumerators and a paid homeless enumerator guide. For the 2007 Homeless Count, the advisory council decided to replace the paid homeless enumerator guides with a homeless service provider staff member in 30 specifically determined “zero count” enumeration areas where no homeless person had been found in 2003, 2005 and 2006 (applicable to areas within the City of Atlanta only). In 2009, service provider enumerator guides were used at three deployment sites where low numbers of homeless persons had been found over the past census. They were also used at other sites where there were not enough paid homeless enumerator guides for each team.

***Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Enumerators:*** The VA enumerators were veterans participating in the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Healthcare for the Homeless Veterans Program. Along with nearly forty current program participants, program alumni and program staff worked in the VA enumeration teams on census night. Due to their experience living on the streets or working with clients on the streets, they were assigned enumeration areas in downtown Atlanta as well as special areas outside the downtown area where expertise is helpful. The VA enumerators were paid a flat rate of \$60, since the majority of their time was spent actually walking the streets of downtown Atlanta.

### **Street Tally Forms**

Street tally count forms were used to count the number of unsheltered homeless persons found. These forms reported the number of homeless individuals by gender and adult vs. youth (under age 18) or undetermined gender/age and the number of homeless family units by adult male, adult female and children under age 18. Each street tally form was pre-printed with an assigned enumeration area number and a block group number. The forms contained directions on how to record the data and how to call in the counts. Enumerators were instructed to call in count results on each block group as it was completed.



## Special Coverage Areas

***Special Coverage Teams:*** Prior to census night, law enforcement agencies throughout the Tri-J were surveyed on the probable location of unsheltered homeless persons. In addition to information about homeless persons' locations, law enforcement officers were also asked to identify areas that were unsafe for volunteers and areas that needed law enforcement escorts. With the feedback from law enforcement, Pathways compiled a detailed list of special coverage areas.

Prior to census night, deployment captains were given a list of special coverage locations in their enumeration areas and told to instruct volunteers not to canvas those areas. On census morning, the Alpharetta, Buford Highway and VA (see VA enumerators) special coverage teams then counted in the special coverage areas, often with a police escort. This process ensured that counts from special coverage areas were not duplicated. The Alpharetta special coverage team consisted of an Alpharetta police officer and a Fulton County representative. The Buford Highway team consisted of several volunteers from the Latin American Association who were knowledgeable about the immigrant and homeless communities along Buford Highway.

***Encampments:*** To ensure the anonymity of encampment locations, Mad Housers, a non-profit that provides assistance in encampments, counted the encampment locations.


### **Challenges for 2009 Unsheltered Count**

For the 2009 unsheltered count, there was difficulty in obtaining the over 400 community volunteers needed to cover all the areas of the Tri-J. As mentioned previously, getting the required number of volunteers needed was not possible due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and presidential inauguration. Therefore the AC devised an alternate plan to accommodate the low number of volunteers.

The alternate plan provided that enumeration areas in which zero homeless people were counted for the past three counts would not be counted by enumeration teams. For enumeration areas that had only found one homeless person over the past three counts would be made a low probability, meaning that the EA would only be counted once all other enumeration areas for that deployment site were counted.

The difficulty of finding enough community volunteers resulted in other problems. Due to the lack of volunteers, one of the deployment sites that was located in the far southern area of DeKalb had to be closed and the enumeration areas transferred to other deployment sites. Another challenge with deployment sites was that two recreation centers in Atlanta were unable to serve as deployment sites because of Atlanta budget issues. A week before the count, their enumeration areas had to be distributed to other deployment sites.

In areas where there were still not enough community volunteers needed, enumeration teams were asked to count more than the one enumeration area usually requested. This doubling up of enumeration areas was needed at the southwest Fulton site where all the volunteers who were signed up did not show up. Besides asking teams to count more than one enumeration area, enumerators from another deployment site were asked to change to the other site to assist and any volunteer calling in after 10 p.m. on census night was sent to this site.



All changes made were reviewed by researchers and the advisory council. The research team and AC determined that the changes did not impact the validity of the unsheltered count methodology and thus the homeless numbers.

### **Community Volunteer Feedback**

For the 2009 homeless census, a standardized debriefing questionnaire was provided to the community volunteers as they finished the count. From the feedback, what volunteers liked best about participating in the count was that they could help homeless people and serve the community for a worthwhile cause. They also liked working as a team with their fellow volunteers and meeting new people. The volunteers found the instructions clear and the process well-organized. Also, driving made it easier. Finally, participating in the count shed light on the homeless situation in our community for several volunteers.

The main problem for volunteers was not finding any or many homeless people in their enumeration area. Another major problem was that the maps were difficult to read. A few suggestions for the next census included smaller one page maps of each block group, having more detailed information on the EA map, color code the boundaries better so that each block group is clearly identified. A further problem frequently stated was the late night/early morning hours. It was suggested that the count start earlier.

All in all, most volunteers were glad to participate and stated that they would be willing to volunteer again.

### **Modifications for Next Unsheltered Count**

In February, the DC participated in a debriefing session where they shared their thoughts on the unsheltered count process. One problem was that there were so many forms that they were difficult to keep track of on census night. It was suggested that the forms be consolidated as much as possible and be put into a packet for each enumerator. Another request was that a planning map be developed for each deployment site and their enumeration areas. Also, it was mentioned that the “paid enumerator guides” be renamed to simply “guides” so that volunteers not get upset that some are being paid while others are not. On the certificate of participation form, the date should include both the census night and the next day since the count ends in the early morning hours. Finally, the DC suggested that homeless persons participate in the planning process or else have shelters ask residents to share anonymous information on where homeless people sleep outdoors at night.



## 2. Sheltered Count Methods

Beginning in October 2008, emergency shelter and transitional housing program providers (definitions follow) were notified of the impending Tri-J homeless count at public meetings, such as the Tri-Jurisdictional Metro Atlanta Collaborative, Fulton County to Prevent Homelessness, and HMIS users group meetings. In early December, the deployment captains were provided a list of known emergency shelters and transitional housing programs located in the Tri-J area. The DC were asked to read over the agency list and provide the names of any additional agencies that they were aware of that were not on the list. This list was created by identifying all the agencies on the 2008 Tri-J Housing Inventory Chart (HIC). The Tri-J HIC is a complete inventory of emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing beds in the Tri-J area for fall 2008. The Tri-J HIC and sheltered count representative was able to provide a contact list for those agencies.


Two months prior to census night, Pathways research staff contacted several jails throughout the Tri-J and a Tri-J representative from Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County contacted the Drug Court in each jurisdiction to determine if we could get the number of people who would be identified as homeless at the jails on census night. In the month of January, Pathways staff contacted hospital staff throughout the Tri-J to notify them of the upcoming homeless count.

The week of the count, Pathways staff emailed, or called/faxed if no email address was provided, each agency on the contact list to notify them of the need for their bed occupancy information for census night and to provide the agency staff with the tally form and instructions (see data collection form). If the past contact information was incorrect, current information was obtained and the list updated. If a phone number was no longer in service, staff investigated the situation to determine if the facility was no longer open or if the number had changed. Staff also investigated any new agency names that were provided by the deployment captains and Tri-J sheltered count representative.

The email or fax included a notification letter, sheltered count tally form and instructions for filling out the count form. The sheltered count tally form reported the program/site information, program type, bed capacity, occupancy numbers for individuals/families and subpopulation information, which was new for this count. The contact person was instructed to fill out the form for all clients on site from 6 p.m. January 22<sup>nd</sup> to 6 a.m. January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. The contact person was requested to return the sheltered count tally form to Pathways by the following week.

The 2009 Tri-J Homeless Census was the first time that permanent supportive housing programs (definition follows) were also notified of the count. A new requirement by HUD for 2009 mandated that permanent supportive housing occupancy and capacity numbers be collected for the same night as emergency shelters and transitional housing programs.

A number of the sheltered count tally forms that had been e-mailed or faxed to housing providers were returned within the following days of the Tri-J homeless census. Shortly after the census, Pathways staff began making reminder phone calls to the non-reporting sites. Some responded via fax or email, while others gave their results to the staff over the phone. In those cases, the data was recorded on blank Tally sheets. The majority of the Tally forms were returned during the month of February. During March, a concerted effort was made by Pathways staff, advisory council members and Tri-J representatives to contact the last few non-reporting sites. As the sheltered tally forms were turned in, the information was verified by Pathways staff against the existing 2008 Tri-J HIC. Anomalies identified at this stage were resolved, usually by emails or phone conversations with the program staff.



A determination was made by the advisory council that by March 25<sup>th</sup> the occupancy numbers for any remaining sites that had not reported would be estimated, using the statistical model developed during the previous homeless counts. To encourage participation in the homeless count, the advisory council enacted a policy for previous counts of not disclosing occupancy rates for specific agencies or program sites. In the end, 97% of emergency shelter and transitional housing programs provided their homeless numbers for the census.

On the other hand, we were not as successful with the jails and hospitals. Even though the jails were contacted prior to the count, jail and drug court staff were unable to provide the number of people homeless on census night. From staff, we discovered that when people are arrested, they are encouraged to provide an address. Often people give the address of family and friends and are thus not defined as homeless. As with the jails, people staying at hospitals also tended to provide the address of family and friends and thus not be classified as homeless. However, if the persons were staying at a transitional housing provider, but was in the hospital for that night, they would be counted under the agency numbers. Also, Pathways asked that enumerators for the unsheltered count walk through emergency rooms to see if any homeless persons were finding shelter there for the night.

### **Emergency Shelter Definition**

According to HUD, an emergency shelter is defined as any facility with sleeping accommodations that provide temporary shelter for homeless persons with the length of stay ranging from one night up to as much as three months.

### **Transitional Housing Definition**

Transitional housing is defined by HUD as a facility that provides housing and supportive services such as case management and life skills for homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months.


### **Permanent Supportive Housing Definition**

The definition of permanent supportive housing for HUD is a long-term, community-based housing that has supportive services for homeless individuals with disabilities. A person with a disability is determined to 1) have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that is expected to be of continued and indefinite duration, substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently, and is of such a nature that the ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or 2) have a developmental disability, as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

This type of supportive housing enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. There is no definite length of stay, instead tenants of permanent housing sign legal lease documents. In the supportive housing model, services are available to the tenant but accepting services cannot be required of tenants or in any way impact their tenancy. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or coordinated by the applicant and provided by other public or private services agencies. Permanent supportive housing can be provided in one structure or several structures at one site or in multiple structures at scattered sites.

### **Challenges for 2009 Sheltered Count**

One of the biggest challenges for the sheltered count was the lengthy return time of many homeless housing providers of their census night numbers to Pathways. For several agencies, the response time



often took up to two months. Often this was the result of staff change from the time of the Tri-J HIC to the homeless census. Another major issue was that the census numbers provided by housing agencies did not match the previous Tri-J HIC. Per HUD, these numbers either need to match or an explanation needs to be provided as to the reason for the change in numbers. The process of verifying accurate numbers was also an extended process.

**Modifications for the next Sheltered Count**

The Tri-J representatives suggested that for the next sheltered count that volunteers be used to contact the housing provider agencies on census night/morning in order to get the numbers in “real time” as is done for the unsheltered count. The volunteers could either be located at a few of the deployment sites or at the Pathways command central. If there are enough volunteers for the sheltered count, then some people could be designated to drive to the actual housing agencies for the numbers.

## V. 2009 HOMELESS CENSUS RESULTS

### A. 2009 Tri-J Homeless Census Numbers

On the morning of January 23, 2009, a total of **7,019 unsheltered and sheltered (emergency shelters and transitional housing) homeless people** were found in the Tri-J area.

**Table 1: 2009 Homeless Census Count by Residence and Household Type**

2009 Tri-J Homeless Census	Individuals	Family Members	Totals	Percentage
Unsheltered	2,068	96	<b>2,164</b>	30.8%
Emergency Shelters	1,998	359	<b>2,357</b>	33.6%
Transitional Housing	1,715	783	<b>2,498</b>	35.6%
<b>Totals (%)</b>	<b>5,781 (82%)</b>	<b>1,238 (18%)</b>	<b>7,019</b>	

**Table 2: 2009 Homeless Census Count by Gender and Household Type**

2009 Tri-J Homeless Count	Individuals						Family Members					
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Couples – no kids (# of Adults)	Youth Male	Youth Female	Total Ind.	Male Adult Head of Family	Female Adult Head of Family	2 Parent Families (# of Adults)	Non-Head Adult	Kids in Family	Total Family Members
Unsheltered	1,747	291	0	25	5	<b>2,068</b>	3	30	0	0	63	<b>96</b>
Emergency Shelters	1,548	408	42	0	0	<b>1,998</b>	1	119	12	1	226	<b>359</b>
Transitional Housing	1,379	334	0	1	1	<b>1,715</b>	8	199	52	5	519	<b>783</b>
<b>TRI-J TOTALS</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,781</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>1,238</b>
<b>% of Total Tri-J</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>.6%</b>	<b>.4%</b>	<b>0%</b>		<b>.2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>.9%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	

**Individuals:** Of the 5,781 individuals counted in the Tri-J on Census morning, adult males comprised 81%, adult females were 18%, and unaccompanied youth were approximately 1% of Tri-J individuals found on the morning of the count.

**Families:** Of the total number of homeless people in families (1,238), adult female head of families were 28%, two parent (a male and female) families were 5%, adult male head of families were 1% and children were 65.5%. Other adults, such as grandparents, aunts and uncles to the children, comprised the remaining .5% of family members.

The 1,238 family members comprised 392 families with children. There were 348 families headed by single adult females, 12 families headed by single adult males, and 32 families headed by two adult parents (an adult male and an adult female). The majority of families (63%) were staying in transitional housing. The average size of families with children was 3.56 persons.

## B. Unsheltered Count Numbers

On the morning of January 23, 2009, **2,164 homeless persons were found in unsheltered locations** in the Tri-J area. Individuals comprised 96% of the total unsheltered number, while family members were 4% of the total unsheltered number.

**Table 3: 2009 Unsheltered Homeless Persons by Gender and Household Type**

2009 Tri-J Homeless Census	Individuals					Family Members				
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	Total Ind.	Male Head of Family	Female Head of Family	Children in Family	Total Family Members	# of Families
Unsheltered	1,747	291	25	5	2068	3	30	63	96	33
% of Total Unsheltered	80.8%	13.5%	1.1%	.2%		.1%	1.4%	2.9%		

**Estimated Groups:** In order to arrive at the total number of unsheltered homeless persons, estimations were made to two groups for the unsheltered enumeration. The first estimate was the number of homeless persons at the Atlanta City Detention Center (Atlanta City Jail). As stated previously, staff at the City of Atlanta Jail was unable to provide a count of homeless persons in the jail on census night (see sheltered count methodology). An estimation of homeless persons in jail was based on the ratio homeless individuals in the City of Atlanta from 2007 to 2009 to the estimated number of homeless individuals in the jail in 2007. The estimated 2009 homeless inmate total was allocated by gender and sheltered vs. unsheltered status based on parameters from the 2007 homeless census and the 2007 homeless survey. The results of the estimation determined that 40 adult male and 6 adult female homeless inmates, who were usually unsheltered, were at the jail on census night.

The second estimated group was unsheltered families. Only two families were found in unsheltered locations on census night. Homeless families tend to be difficult to find because they seek out secluded locations such as abandoned buildings or vehicles where they are shielded from the elements and hidden from view. Pathways and the AC believed the number should have been higher based upon data from the 2007 Homeless Survey indicating that 7% of the total number of families usually slept in unsheltered locations. Therefore, it was determined that unsheltered families should be estimated using an algebraic equation based on the number of sheltered and unsheltered families found on census night and the geographic distribution of those families. The results of the estimation determined that 96 people in families were sleeping in unsheltered locations on the night of January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## C. Sheltered Count, Capacity and Occupancy Numbers

### 1. Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs

A total of **4,855 homeless persons were residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing facilities** on census night. Individuals were 76% and members of families were 24% of the emergency shelter and transitional housing occupancy total. (For definitions of emergency shelter and transitional housing facilities, please see sheltered methodology).

**Table 4: 2009 Sheltered Homeless Persons by Gender and Household Type**

2009 Tri-J Count	Individuals						Family Members						
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Couples – no kids (# of Adults)	Youth Male	Youth Female	Total Ind.	Male Head of Family	Female Head of Family	2 Parent Family (# of Adults)	Children in Family	Non-Head Adult in Family	Total Family Members	# of Families
Emergency Shelters	1,548	408	42	0	0	1,998	1	119	12	226	1	359	126
Transitional Housing	1,379	334	0	1	1	1,715	8	199	52	519	5	783	233
<b>Sheltered TOTALS</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>359</b>
% of Total Sheltered	60.1%	15.2%	.9%	0%	0%		.2%	6.7%	1.3%	15.5%	.1%		

**Individuals Capacity and Occupancy:** On census morning 2009, agencies reported an *emergency shelter* capacity of 2,015 beds for individuals and a *transitional housing* capacity of 2,067 beds for individuals. Overall, 95% of individual emergency shelter beds and 83% of individual transitional housing beds were occupied. Almost 91% of all individual beds in the Tri-J area were occupied on census night.

**Family Capacity and Occupancy:** On census morning 2009, agencies reported an *emergency shelter* capacity of 445 beds for families and a *transitional housing* capacity of 1,066 beds for families. Overall, 81% of emergency shelter beds and 73% of transitional beds for families were occupied. Occupancy numbers for families are not as useful when analyzing need and demand. Programs that serve families are often organized in units rather than beds and a unit may have several beds that go unoccupied depending on the size of the family. For example, a bedroom unit with 4 beds, with a single mother and two children in residence, will appear to have a 75% occupancy rate, but in fact the empty bed is not actually available to anyone else.

**Emergency Shelter Beds:** Of the 2,460 total emergency beds available on Census night, 96% of the individual and family beds were occupied.

**Transitional Housing Beds:** Of the 3,133 total transitional housing beds available on Census night, 80% of the individual and family beds were occupied.

**Estimated Groups:** In order to arrive at the total number of persons, estimations were made to two groups for the sheltered enumeration. The first estimate was the number of homeless persons at the Atlanta City Detention Center (Atlanta City Jail). As stated previously, staff at the City of Atlanta Jail was unable to provide a count of homeless persons in the jail on census night (see sheltered count methodology). An estimation of homeless persons in jail was based on the ratio homeless individuals in the City of Atlanta

from 2007 to 2009 to the estimated number of homeless individuals in the jail in 2007. The estimated 2009 homeless inmate total was allocated by gender and sheltered vs. unsheltered status based on parameters from the 2007 homeless census and the 2007 homeless survey. The results of the estimation determined that 57 adult male and 24 adult female homeless inmates, who were usually at emergency shelters, were at the jail on census night.

Second, occupancy figures for the few non-reporting sites for homeless single person were estimated. These estimates were derived using a covariate model that had been developed originally for the 2003 census, which predicted occupancies based on the reporting sites and using housing type, bed capacity, and demographic information.

## 2. Permanent Supportive Housing

A total of **1,453 homeless persons were residing in permanent supportive housing** on census night. Individuals were 60% and members of families were 40% of the permanent supportive housing total. (For definition of permanent supportive housing, see sheltered methodology.)

**Table 5: Permanent Supportive Housing Occupancy Numbers**

2009 Permanent Supportive Housing	Individuals			Family Members					
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Total Ind.	Male Adult Head of Family	Female Adult Head of Family	2 Parent Families (# of Adults)	Non-Head Adult	Kids in Family	Total Family Members
Atlanta	450	288	738	6	114	16	1	253	390
DeKalb	72	34	106	1	11	2	1	28	43
Fulton	5	27	32	1	46	4	0	93	144
<b>TRI-J TOTALS</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>577</b>
% of Total Tri-J	33.9%	23.3%		.5%	12.6%	1.4%	.1%	28.2%	

**Individuals:** Of the 876 individuals staying in permanent supportive housing on census morning, 60% were adult males and 40% were adult females.

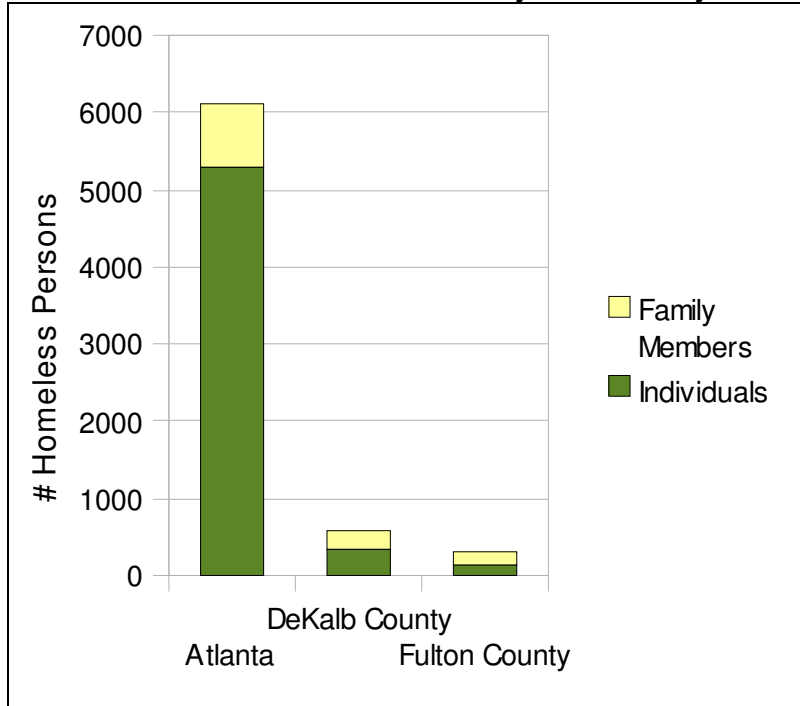
**Families:** Of the 577 family members staying in permanent supportive housing on census morning, 65% were children, 30% were female heads of families (single women with children), 1% were male heads of families (single men with children), and 4% were two parents in families (a male and female). There were 190 family units with 3.04 people per family unit.

**Special Note:** This is the first Tri-J homeless census since 2003 that has reported the permanent supportive housing numbers. The total permanent supportive housing occupancy numbers increased by 1,042 people from 2003 to 2009, while the bed capacity numbers during that same time period increased by 1,319. Last year HUD began requiring that communities collect permanent supportive housing numbers for the same date as the emergency shelter and transitional housing numbers.

## D. Breakout by Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County

Of the 7,019 homeless people counted in the Tri-J, 6,131 people were located in the City of Atlanta (87%), 585 persons were homeless in DeKalb County (8%), while Fulton County found 321 homeless people (5%). (See Figure 1 below)

**Figure 1: Homeless Individuals and Family Members by Jurisdiction**



To some extent, these jurisdictional homeless counts were simply a reflection of the number and type of beds available in each jurisdiction. For example, 88% of Tri-J emergency shelter and transitional housing beds were located in Atlanta, 7.5% of emergency and transitional beds were in DeKalb County, and 4.5% of emergency and transitional beds were in Fulton County on census morning.

**Table 6: 2009 Housing Inventory Bed Supply**

Jurisdiction	Ind. Emergency Beds	Family Emergency Beds	Ind. Transitional Beds	Family Transitional Beds	Ind. Permanent Supportive Beds	Family Permanent Supportive Beds	Total
City of Atlanta	2,015	292	1,829	650	899	503	6,188
DeKalb County	0	97	187	220	116	45	665
Fulton County	0	56	51	196	32	196	531
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>2,067</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>7,384</b>

## 1. Atlanta

A total of **6,131 people were homeless in the City of Atlanta** on the morning of January 23, 2009. Individuals comprised 87% of Atlanta homeless numbers, while family members were 13% of the Atlanta count.

**Table 7: 2009 Census Numbers of Homeless Persons in the City of Atlanta**

2009 City of Atlanta	Individuals						Family Members						
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Couples – no kids (# of Ind.)	Youth Male	Youth Female	Total Ind.	Male Head of Family	Female Head of Family	2 Parent Families (# of Parents)	Non-Head Adult	Children in Family	Total Family Members	# of Families
Unsheltered	1,509	255	0	24	5	<b>1,793</b>	2	18	0	0	38	<b>58</b>	20
Emergency Shelters	1,548	408	42	0	0	<b>1,998</b>	1	94	8	0	168	<b>271</b>	99
Transitional Housing	1,246	270	0	1	1	<b>1,518</b>	5	127	28	4	329	<b>493</b>	146
<b>Atlanta TOTALS</b>	<b>4,303</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,309</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>% of Atlanta</b>	<b>70.3%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>.7%</b>	<b>.4%</b>	<b>.1%</b>		<b>.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>.6%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>		

**Individuals:** Of the 5,309 individuals who were homeless in the City of Atlanta on Census morning, 81.5% were adult males, 18% were adult females, and .5% were unaccompanied youths.

**Families:** Of the 822 homeless family members in Atlanta, 65% were children, 29% were female heads of families (single women with children), 1% were male heads of families (single men with children), and 5% were two parents in families (a male and female).

**Unsheltered vs. Sheltered:** On census morning, 1,851 people were unsheltered (30%), 2,269 persons were sleeping at emergency shelters (37%), and 2,011 people were staying at transitional housing programs (33%) in the City of Atlanta.

**Downtown Atlanta:** From 2003 to 2009, the unsheltered count for downtown Atlanta decreased by 43 (10%) to 378 homeless persons. For 2009, downtown Atlanta comprised only 21% of the Atlanta homeless unsheltered count.

**2003 to 2009 Numbers:** The total Atlanta homeless census number increased by 1,214 people (20%) from 2003 to 2009. The unsheltered number decreased by 92 homeless people (5%), while the emergency shelter and transitional housing occupancy number increased by 1,306 homeless persons (31%) during that time period.

**2007 to 2009 Numbers:** The total Atlanta homeless census numbers increased by 388 people (6%) from 2007 to 2009. The unsheltered number decreased by 10 homeless people (less than 1%), while the emergency shelter and transitional housing occupancy number increased by 872 homeless persons (8%) during that time period.

## 2. DeKalb County

A total of **585 people were homeless in the DeKalb County** (not including City of Atlanta) on the morning of January 23, 2009. Individuals comprised 58% of DeKalb County homeless numbers, while family members were 42% of the DeKalb County numbers.

**Table 8: 2009 Census Numbers of Homeless Persons in DeKalb County**

2009 DeKalb County	Individuals					Family Members						
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	Total Ind.	Male Head of Family	Female Head of Family	2 Parent Families (# of Parents)	Non-Head Adult	Children in Family	Total Family Members	# of Families
Unsheltered	163	19	1	0	<b>183</b>	1	7	0	0	14	<b>22</b>	8
Emergency Shelters	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	15	4	1	41	<b>61</b>	17
Transitional Housing	113	44	0	0	<b>157</b>	1	37	14	1	109	<b>162</b>	45
<b>DeKalb TOTALS</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>% of DeKalb</b>	<b>47.2%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>.2%</b>			<b>.3%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>28%</b>		

**Individuals:** Of the 340 individuals who were homeless in DeKalb County on census morning, 81% were adult males and 19% were adult females.

**Families:** Of the 245 homeless family members in DeKalb County, 67% were children, 24% were female heads of families (single women with children), 7% were two parents in families (a male and female), with male heads of families (single men with children) and non-head adults comprising the other 2%.

**Unsheltered vs. Sheltered:** On census morning, 205 people were unsheltered (35%), 61 persons were sleeping at emergency shelters (10%), and 319 people were staying at transitional housing programs (55%) in the balance of DeKalb County.

**2003 to 2009 Numbers:** The total of DeKalb County homeless census numbers increased by 57 people (10%) from 2003 to 2009. The unsheltered numbers increased by 79 homeless people (39%), while the emergency shelter and transitional housing occupancy number decreased by 22 homeless persons (5%) during that time period.

**2007 to 2009 Numbers:** The total of DeKalb County census numbers decreased by 41 people (9%) from 2007 to 2009. The unsheltered number increased by 50 homeless people (8%), while the emergency shelter and transitional housing occupancy number decreased by 91 homeless persons (19%) during that time period.

### 3. Fulton County

A total of **303 people were homeless in Fulton County** (not including the City of Atlanta) on the morning of January 23, 2009. Individuals comprised 44% of the Fulton County homeless numbers, while family members were 56% of the Fulton County numbers.

**Table 9: 2009 Census Numbers of Homeless Persons in Fulton County**

2009 Fulton County	Individuals					Family Members						
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	Total Ind.	Male Head of Family	Female Head of Family	2 Parent Families (# of Parents)	Non-Head Adult	Children in Family	Total Family Members	# of Families
Unsheltered	75	17	0	0	92	0	5	0	0	11	16	5
Emergency Shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	17	27	10
Transitional Housing	20	20	0	0	40	2	35	10	0	81	128	42
<b>Fulton TOTALS</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>% of Fulton</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>		<b>.7%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>36%</b>		

**Individuals:** Of the 132 individuals who were homeless in Fulton County on Census morning, 72% were adult males and 28% were adult females.

**Families:** Of the 171 homeless family members in Fulton County, 64% were children, 29% were female heads of families (single women with children), 1% were male heads of families (single men with children), and 6% were two parents in families (a male and female).

**Unsheltered vs. Sheltered:** On census morning, 108 people were unsheltered (36%), 27 persons were sleeping at emergency shelters (9%), and 168 people were staying at transitional housing programs (55%) in Fulton County.

**2003 to 2009 Numbers:** The total Fulton County homeless census numbers decreased by 5 people from 2003 to 2009. The unsheltered number increased by 24 homeless people (8%), while the emergency shelter and transitional housing occupancy numbers decreased by 29 homeless persons (5%) during that time period.

**2007 to 2009 Numbers:** The total Fulton County homeless census numbers decreased by 68 people (18.3%) from 2007 to 2009. The unsheltered number increased by 9 homeless people (9%), while the sheltered number decreased by 77 homeless persons (28%) during that time period.

**N. Fulton and S. Fulton:** Of the 303 people counted in Fulton County, 192 people (25 were unsheltered and 167 were in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs) were counted as homeless in North Fulton above the City of Atlanta and 111 homeless people (67 were unsheltered and 44 were in emergency sheltered and transitional housing programs) were counted in South Fulton below the Atlanta city limits.

## VI. COMPARISON of 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009 Tri-J HOMELESS CENSUS

*From 2003 to 2009, the total Tri-J Homeless Census night numbers increased by 462 people (6.6%).*

**Unsheltered vs. Sheltered (emergency shelter and transitional housing):** From 2003 to 2009, there was a steady decrease of 140 (6.1%) in the number of people sleeping in unsheltered locations on the night of the census for both individuals and family members. On the other hand, there was an increase of 602 (12.4%) in the number of people staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing on census night for both individuals and families.

*From 2007 to 2009, the total Tri-J Homeless Census night numbers increased by 179 people (2.6%).*

**Unsheltered vs. Sheltered:** From 2007 to 2009, there was an increase of 49 (2.3%) in the number of people sleeping in unsheltered locations and an increase of 130 (2.7%) in the number of people staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing on census night.

**Table 10: Comparison of 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009 Homeless Census**

	Individuals				Family Members				Totals			
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2003	2005	2007	2009	2003	2005	2007	2009
Unsheltered	2,116	2,085	2,071	<b>2,068</b>	188	177	44	<b>96</b>	2,304	2,262	2,115	<b>2,164</b>
Sheltered	3,173	3,588	3,551	<b>3,713</b>	1,080	982	1,174	<b>1,142</b>	4,253	4,570	4,725	<b>4,855</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<i>5,289</i>	<i>5,673</i>	<i>5,622</i>	<b>5,781</b>	<i>1,268</i>	<i>1,159</i>	<i>1,224</i>	<b>1,238</b>	<i>6,557</i>	<i>6,832</i>	<i>6,840</i>	<b>7,019</b>

**Individuals vs. Family Members:** From 2003 to 2009, there was an increase of 492 individuals (6%), while there was a decrease of 30 family members (2.4%) from the same time period. From 2007 to 2009, there was an increase of 159 individual (2.7%) and an increase of 14 family members (1.1%) from the same time period.

**Housing Type/Household Type:** From 2003 to 2009, there was a decrease of 48 unsheltered individuals (2.3%), while there was an increase of 540 sheltered individuals (15%). During the same time period, there was a decrease of 92 unsheltered family members (49%) and an increase of 62 family members (5.4%) staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing.

### **Bed Supply and Occupancy Rate for 2005 to 2009**

**2005 to 2009:** Between the 2005 and 2009 Tri-J homeless census, 422 new emergency shelter and transitional housing beds were added to the Tri-J supply. During that time period, the number of beds for individuals increased by 360, while the number of beds for family members increased by 62. The housing occupancy rates for emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless individuals increased from 87% in 2005 to 91% in 2009, while emergency shelter and transitional housing occupancy rates for homeless families increased from 67% in 2005 to 77% in 2009.

**2007 to 2009:** Between the 2007 and 2009 Tri-J homeless census, 295 new emergency shelter and transitional housing beds were added to the Tri-J supply. During that time period, the number of beds for individuals in emergency shelters decreased by 34, while the number of transitional housing beds for individuals increased by 375. The number of family emergency shelter beds increased by 13, while the family transitional housing beds decreased by 59.

## VII. 2009 ANNUALIZED PROJECTION of HOMELESS NUMBERS

While the point-in-time enumeration data is the most reliable to obtain, most service providers and their funders must plan and budget their activities on an annual basis. Turnover rates (often called multipliers) are based on the understanding that more people experience homelessness annually than can be counted at any given point in time. In any year, people will cycle in and out of homelessness. A turnover rate has been calculated for the Tri-Jurisdictional City of Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County homeless population to estimate the number of people who experience homelessness annually, based on the point-in-time data collected this count.

Three factors were used to determine categorically specific turnover rates:

- Length of homelessness as reported by the 2007 Tri-J homeless survey respondents;
- Percent of respondents indicating each length, and
- Minimum turnover rate for each length category.

A weighted average was then calculated based on the relative proportion of respondents who fell within each length category. The net result of this approach suggested a point-in-time to annual multiplier of 3.05 (7,019 x 3.05), and further indicates that *approximately 21,441 persons will experience homelessness in the Tri-J area sometime during 2009.*

**Table 11: Annualized Projections for 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009**

2003	2005	2007	2009
16,625	20,086	20,110	21,441

*From 2003 to 2009, the number of people estimated to be homeless for a year time period increased by 4,816 (22.5%).*



## IX. CONCLUSION

Overall, the Tri-J homeless count numbers from 2003 to 2009 were steady. There was no dramatic change, only a slight increase of 462 homeless people (6.5%) for the point-in-time counts over six years. It is important to note that the homeless population of the Tri-J is not increasing at the same rate as the general population growth of Fulton County (24%) and DeKalb County (11%) over the approximate same time period. Additionally, the 2009 count was conducted during a severe economic downturn.

Another important trend to note with the Tri-J homeless population is that there has been an overall reduction in the number of homeless people sleeping in unsheltered locations (6%) and an increase in the number of people sleeping in sheltered facilities (12%). On Census night, 96% of the emergency shelter beds were occupied and 81% of transitional housing beds were occupied.

A major focus for the Tri-J has been to increase the bed supply for both families and individuals. Over six years there has been an increase of nearly 500 beds in the Tri-J supply for emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. Plus there has been an increase (74%) of over 1,300 permanent supportive housing beds for families and individuals. By the end of the year, another 160 family beds should also become available.

The next HUD mandated Tri-J Homeless Census is scheduled for January 2011.

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**DeKalb County, Georgia**  
**Fulton County, Georgia**

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*Manager*

**Pam Regus**  
*Research Assistant*

### Metro Atlanta Homeless Census - Advisory Council

**George Gfroerer, Chairman**  
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**Julie Boyd, Tri-J Sheltered Count Representative**  
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**Megan Anderson, Co-chair, Deployment Captains Committee**  
*Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta, Exec. Dir.*  
**Elna Sheetz, Co-chair, Deployment Captains Committee**  
*Community Action Center*  
**Protip Biswas**  
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### Metro Atlanta Homeless Census - Deployment Host Sites

**ACHOR Center**  
**Atlanta Urban Ministries**  
**Center for Pan Asian Community Services**  
**Chapel of Christian Love Church**  
**Crossroads Community Ministries**  
**DeKalb County Community Development Department**

**Mary Hall Freedom House**  
**Nicholas House**  
**Sandy Springs United Methodist Church**  
**The Temple**  
**Youth Action Center**

## Metro Atlanta Homeless Census - Deployment Captains

<p><b>Megan Anderson, Co-Chair</b> <i>Furniture Bank of Metro-Atlanta, Exec. Dir.</i></p> <p><b>Elna Sheetz, Co-Chair</b> <i>CAC</i></p> <p><b>Lorraine Andersen</b> <i>Mary Hall Freedom House</i></p> <p><b>Selina Beene</b> <i>H.O.P.E. through Divine Intervention, Exec. Dir.</i></p> <p><b>Robin Bledsoe</b> <i>Community Advanced Practice Nurses</i></p> <p><b>Dennis Bowman</b> <i>Nicholas House, Exec. Dir.</i></p> <p><b>Pam Boazman</b> <i>Jefferson Place</i></p> <p><b>Lorie Burnett</b> <i>DeKalb County, Community Development Dept.</i></p> <p><b>Rev. Melanie Conner</b> <i>Zion Hill Community Development Corporation, Exec. Dir.</i></p> <p><b>Kia Croom</b> <i>H.O.P.E. through Divine Intervention</i></p> <p><b>Cal Crutchfield</b> <i>Transition House, Exec. Dir.</i></p> <p><b>Dennis Dunn</b> <i>Atlanta Enterprise Center</i></p> <p><b>Etrinda Evans</b> <i>H.O.P.E. through Divine Intervention</i></p> <p><b>Jimiyu Evans</b> <i>Project Community Concerns</i></p> <p><b>Frantz Fortune</b> <i>Positive Outlook Foundation</i></p> <p><b>Gernita Jackson</b> <i>Genesis Shelter</i></p> <p><b>Provia Jackson</b> <i>ACHOR Center, Exec. Dir.</i></p>	<p><b>LaTrice Johnson</b> <i>City of Atlanta, Tri-J Representative</i></p> <p><b>Patrick Jones</b> <i>Project Connect</i></p> <p><b>Donica Martin</b> <i>City of Atlanta, Mayor's Office</i></p> <p><b>Ashley McBride</b> <i>Genesis Shelter</i></p> <p><b>Michelle Ramirez</b> <i>Buckhead Christian Ministry</i></p> <p><b>Cliff Richards</b> <i>Decatur Cooperative Ministry</i></p> <p><b>Melvia Richards</b> <i>DeKalb County, Tri-J Representative</i></p> <p><b>Gerry Richardson</b> <i>Jefferson Place</i></p> <p><b>Jerry Smith</b> <i>DeKalb CSB</i></p> <p><b>Tony Stone</b> <i>Gateway Homeless Services Center</i></p> <p><b>Janet Tharp</b> <i>The Salvation Army</i></p> <p><b>Nikki Viverette</b> <i>Project Community Concerns, Inc.</i></p> <p><b>Monifa Watson</b> <i>Homestretch</i></p> <p><b>Mary Wilson</b> <i>East Point Community Action Team, Exec. Dir.</i></p> <p><b>Wayne Woods</b> <i>Fulton County, Tri-J Representative</i></p> <p><b>Selam Yohannes</b> <i>Georgia Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty</i></p> <p><b>Amy Zarembo</b> <i>Georgia Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Exec. Dir.</i></p>
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## Deployment Captains – Special Teams

<p><b>Tom Capitano - Alpharetta</b> <i>Fulton County</i></p> <p><b>Herbert Elliott – Downtown</b> <i>Dept. of VA, Healthcare for the Homeless</i></p> <p><b>Thomas Fuller – Buford Highway</b> <i>Latin American Association</i></p>	<p><b>Carlos Morgan - Downtown</b> <i>Dept. of VA, Mental Health Specialist</i></p> <p><b>Claude Sandiford - Downtown</b> <i>Dept. of VA, Healthcare for the Homeless</i></p> <p><b>Calvin Scott - Downtown</b> <i>Dept. of VA, Healthcare for the Homeless</i></p>
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