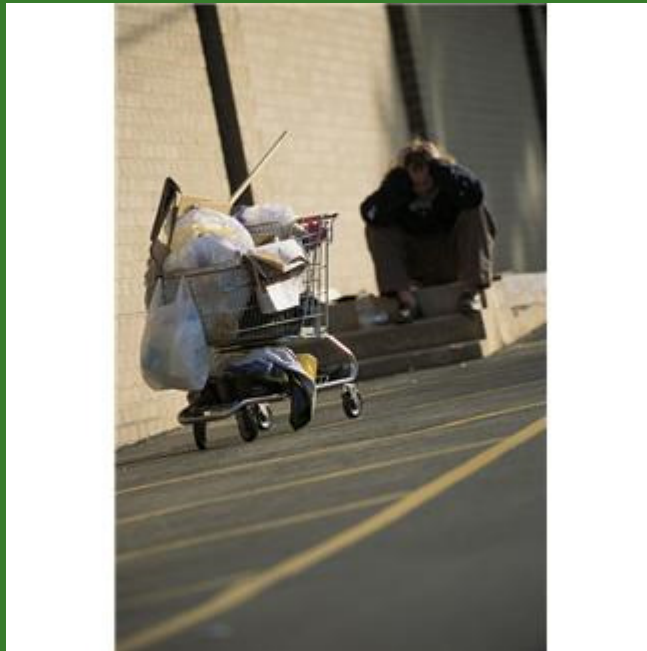


**THE 2011 METRO ATLANTA
TRI-JURISDICTIONAL
COLLABORATIVE
CONTINUUM OF CARE
HOMELESS CENSUS**



**CITY OF ATLANTA,
FULTON COUNTY AND
DEKALB COUNTY**

Acknowledgements

The Metro Atlanta Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative (Tri-J) Continuum of Care (CoC) on Homelessness (City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County) and Pathways Community Network acknowledge the time and effort of the numerous individuals and organizations that assisted in the successful 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless census. First and foremost, we want to thank the funders of this project – City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County. In addition, we wish to recognize the Pathways research team, led by Josie Parker, in coordinating the planning, data collection, data analysis and writing of the report for the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count. We express appreciation to members of the Tri-J public sector working group and Tri-J CoC homeless count advisory council for their guidance regarding methodology and implementation. We extend our gratitude to the deployment captains who made the count successful through their hard work and dedication. We also are grateful to the deployment host sites for providing a safe place to deploy enumeration teams.

The 2011 Tri-J CoC 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-J CoC and Pathways wish to express our gratitude to each of you who contributed your time and effort. We recognize the efforts of the special enumeration teams, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) - Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program, the St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services – Community Homeless Outreach Program (CHOP) and the DeKalb County, Community Development Department – homeless outreach team whose knowledge of the homeless population and geographic areas were instrumental in the data collection process. We also appreciate the Police Departments - Atlanta Community Liaison Unit, Atlanta Homeless Outreach Prevention Emergency Services (HOPE) team, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Police Section's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), DeKalb County Precincts, DeKalb County Interactive Community Police Unit (ICP), City of Decatur, City of East Point, and Fulton County - for providing additional support to the enumeration teams on count night.

Finally, we acknowledge the Atlanta Regional Commission Geographic Information Systems Department (GIS) and David Giguere for the customized, user-friendly maps and the deployment captains map training. We give special thanks to Aero Surveys of Georgia, Inc. for allowing us to use their detailed street information for the census maps. We are grateful to Druid Hills United Methodist Church for allowing the deployment captains to meet at the church on a regular basis and to Cliff Richards of Decatur Cooperative Ministries for arranging the meeting site at the church. Also, we appreciate Publix for providing gift certificates which were used to purchase some of the food for the enumerators on count night. Together we are collecting the data necessary to track our progress in the fight against homelessness.



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Section 1: Introduction	1
Section 2: Project Purpose, Coordination and Oversight	2
2.1 Project Purpose	2
2.2 Project Coordination	2
2.3 Project Oversight	2
Section 3: Methodology	3
3.1 Background	3
3.2 Date and Time	3
3.3 Operational Definition and Components	4
3.4 Unsheltered Count Method	5
3.5 Sheltered Count Method	11
Section 4: Results	14
4.1 2011 Tri-J CoC Homeless Count	14
4.2 Unsheltered Count	16
4.3 Sheltered Count (Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing)	17
4.4 Permanent Supportive Housing Count	19
4.5 Comparing Bed Capacity and Occupancy	21
Section 5: Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County	22
5.1 City of Atlanta Homeless Numbers	23
5.2 DeKalb County Homeless Numbers	25
5.3 Fulton County Homeless Numbers	27
Section 6: Trend Analysis	30
Section 7: Annualized Projection	34
Section 8: Conclusion	35
Section 9: References	37
Special Thanks	38

2011 Metro Atlanta Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative Continuum of Care Homeless Census: Executive Summary

On the night of January 25, 2011, the Metro Atlanta Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative (Tri-J) Continuum of Care (CoC) on Homelessness (City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County) and Pathways Community Network, along with over 400 community volunteers, conducted the fifth point-in-time count of homeless persons in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County. The Tri-J CoC homeless census consisted of two components of enumerations, an unsheltered count and sheltered count, which together result in a comprehensive picture of homelessness in the community. Overall, a total of **6,838 homeless people were counted in the Tri-J area on count night.**

2011 Tri-J Homeless Count by Sleeping Location and Household Type

Sleeping Locations	Individuals	Family Members (# of families)	Total # of Homeless People (%)
Emergency Shelters	2,056	404 members (132 families)	2,460 (36%)
Unsheltered	2,336	42 members (14 families)	2,378 (35%)
Transitional Housing	1,373	627 members (203 families)	2,000 (30%)
Totals (%)	5,765	1,073 members (349 families)	6,838
Percentage	84%	16%	

Five times as many individuals as family members were counted on census night. The largest number of

individuals were found sleeping unsheltered (41%). The majority of family members (58%), on the other hand, were staying in transitional housing programs.

Of the total number of homeless people counted, unaccompanied adult males comprised the largest group (68%) with unaccompanied adult females a distant second (15%). Children (10%) and single mothers (5%) were the third and fourth largest groups. The remaining groups of homeless people by household type, age and gender included youth males, two parent heads of households, single fathers, youth females and a non-head of household adult such as a grandmother.

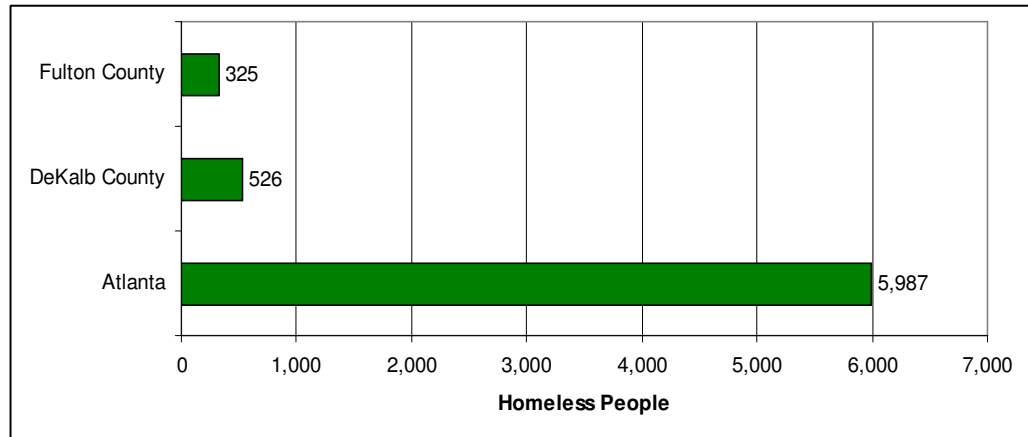
Sheltered Occupancy and Capacity

Sheltered Count	Individuals			Family Members		
	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Total Individual	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Total Family Members
Occupancy #	2,056	1,373	3,429	404	627	1,031
Capacity #	2,235	1,605	3,840	494	948	1,442
Occupancy (%)	92%	86%	89%	82%	66%	72%

The bed capacity on count night was slightly higher for emergency shelters than transitional housing programs (2,729 to 2,553 beds). Overall, the occupancy rate for individual emergency shelter beds was the highest. The lowest occupancy rate was for families in transitional housing programs.

Homelessness by Jurisdiction

Of the 6,838 homeless people counted in the Tri-J CoC, the majority were located in the City of Atlanta (87%) with DeKalb County being a distant second (8%) and Fulton County third (5%). This composition by jurisdiction is the same as that of the 2009 Tri-J CoC homeless count.

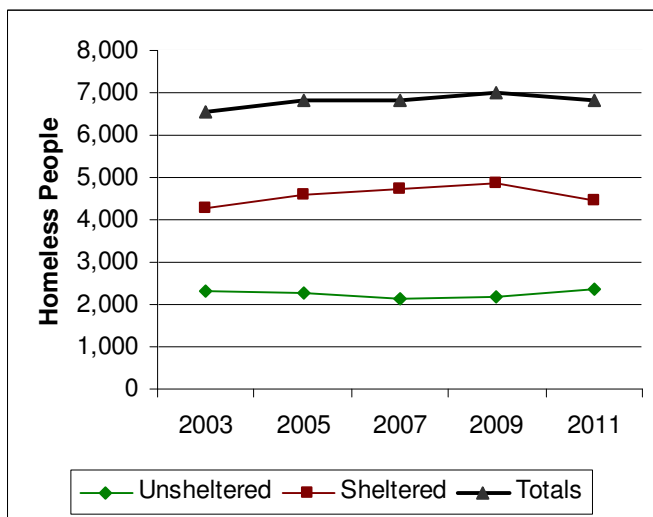


Tri-J CoC Homeless Counts over Time

Over the years, the point-in-time Tri-J CoC homeless counts have held fairly steady from year to year within an approximate range of 6,500 to 7,000 people homeless. The table shows that from 2003 to 2009 the Tri-J CoC homeless census experienced a steady increase of people homeless on count night (7%). However, over the past two years, there has been a decrease of people homeless for the point-in-time census (2.5%). Please note the similarity in homeless count numbers for 2005, 2007 and 2011.

Sleeping Locations	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Unsheltered	2,304	2,262	2,115	2,164	2,378
Sheltered	4,253	4,570	4,725	4,855	4,460
Totals	6,557	6,832	6,840	7,019	6,838
Percentage		+4%	0%	+3%	-3%

Tri-J CoC Homeless Census by Sleeping Location over Time



From 2003 to 2009, the Tri-J CoC experienced a steady decrease (6%) in the number of people sleeping in unsheltered locations on the night of the census for both individuals and family members. However, over the past two years, there has been an increase (10%) to an all time high of homeless people sleeping outdoors.

For people sleeping in sheltered locations, there was a steady increase on census night for both individuals and families from 2003 to 2009 (14%). However, over the past two years, the sheltered numbers

showed a decrease in people staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs (8%).



Section 1: Introduction


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

In 2002, the Tri-J CoC 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 CoC. While the 2003 Tri-J CoC 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 CoC and Pathways conducted the first successful homeless census. The census was designed as a full coverage count to assess the number of homeless people sleeping in unsheltered locations, emergency shelters and transitional housing programs throughout the Tri-J CoC. Because the homeless count covered the City of Atlanta and its two counties, the Tri-J CoC relied on the efforts of hundreds of people from homeless service providers, government agencies, faith-based providers, local universities and community volunteers to conduct the count. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recognized the 2003 Tri-J CoC homeless census as a national “best practice.”

The 2005, 2007 and 2009 Tri-J CoC homeless census followed the successful methodology used in the 2003 count. Improvements were made to the model for each successive count based upon feedback from Pathways research and data analysis team, Tri-J CoC public sector working group (Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County), Tri-J CoC homeless census advisory council and deployment captains committee, community volunteers and community needs. Each count was followed by an in-depth survey which gathered data on demographics, homeless history, disabling conditions and two additional topics related to community concerns regarding the local homeless population.

The planning of the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless census began in August 2010 with the actual enumeration occurring in on the night of Tuesday, January 25, 2011. This report describes the purpose, methodology and results of the count effort.



Section 2: Project Purpose, Coordination and Oversight

2.1 Project Purpose

With the initiation of the first Tri-J CoC homeless count, the Metro Atlanta Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative (Tri-J) Continuum of Care (CoC) on Homelessness 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 CoC's Housing Inventory for the annual HUD Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) Exhibit 1 report.

2.2 Project Coordination

To meet these objectives and have a successful homeless count, the Tri-J CoC asked Pathways Community Network to undertake the homeless census. Pathways is a nonprofit organization that supports communities with tools – information systems, research and data analysis, and technical assistance and training - to help human service providers work together, reduce costs and increase impact. Since 2003, Pathways has been asked by the Tri-J CoC to manage the homeless point-in-time counts. Pathways has coordinated, staffed, written the reports and presented the findings for the Tri-J CoC homeless census. Beginning in 2007, the Pathways research and data analysis team has also provided expertise in the areas of methodology, data collection, and data analysis. The research team consisted of the research manager and three research assistants.

2.3 Project Oversight

As with the previous Tri-J CoC homeless census, oversight was provided by an advisory council (AC) composed of 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 monthly basis.



Section 3: Methodology

3.1 Background

Research Atlanta (1984) provided the earliest estimates of the number of people homeless in metropolitan Atlanta based on comparative studies from other U.S. cities and interviews with local homeless service providers. They estimated that around 3,000 people would be homeless on any given night in 1984. A decade later, a point-in-time estimate was again calculated for the number of people homeless in metropolitan Atlanta. Researchers estimated that around 11,000 people were homeless on an average night in 1997 within the ten county Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) area (Jaret and Adelman 1997). The 1997 estimate was calculated from the results of a national study with adjustments made for the City of Atlanta population and its neighboring suburban counties.

In 2002, the Tri-J CoC decided that an actual systematic and comprehensive count of homeless people needed to occur for the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County. This decision to conduct a count of people homeless in the community coincided with the U.S. Congress passing legislation requiring state and local governments that receive federal 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. The first actual homeless count conducted by the Tri-J CoC was in 2003. The 2003 Tri-J CoC homeless count established the baseline data with subsequent counts providing useful tracking for the changes in the homeless population over time.

3.2 Date and Time

Along with the federal regulation as to the frequency of the homeless census, HUD also mandated the time of year for the homeless count to occur. HUD chose for CoC homeless census to be conducted during the last ten days in January. One reason for that timeframe is that homeless people are more likely to sleep indoors at shelters and in transitional housing during cold weather months thus making it easier to locate people who might otherwise be outdoors at other times of the year. In addition, cold weather and overflow shelters open for only a few months each year during the winter. Also, by using the mandated time frame set by HUD, the Tri-J CoC homeless numbers are comparable to other CoC homeless populations across the U.S.

For the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count, the advisory council (AC) selected Tuesday, January 25th as the census date, with a bad weather back-up date of Thursday, January 27th. The AC choice both homeless count dates to be mid-week to represent a typical weekday morning and to avoid the higher number of non-homeless persons on the streets during weekends. In addition, 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 people as sheltered and unsheltered, the AC decided to begin enumeration around 1 a.m. prior to the shelter early morning release times.

3.3 Operational Definition and Components

In order to calculate the size of the homeless population in our community, a definition of homelessness is necessary. The U.S. Census that occurs every decade counts people on the basis of their customary place of residence. However, since homeless people do not have permanent residences, they are instead enumerated based on their temporary sleeping locations such as on the street, in shelters or in transitional housing programs.

The Tri-J CoC homeless count methodology has two components based on sleeping location: unsheltered count and sheltered count. These two counts follow the HUD guide for counting homeless people in a CoC. Together, the two enumerations create a comprehensive picture of homelessness in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County. For the purpose of this study, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 HUD definition of homelessness was used:

- ***Unsheltered homeless people*** 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 homeless people*** occupy emergency shelters, transitional housing, treatment programs, motels (only if motel vouchers are provided by service agency) and short stay institutions such as hospitals and jails.


Emergency Shelter: 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 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

In addition, HUD began requiring an enumeration of permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs for each community starting in 2009. The Tri-J CoC community first collected PSH numbers in 2003 and then again in 2009 and for the latest count in 2011. The PSH figures are not included in the homeless count totals but are described in this report as they needed to be collected on the same night as the Tri-J CoC homeless count.

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.

Not Counted


In 2009, the U.S. Congress amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 as the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) and expanded the definition to include people who are at imminent risk of homelessness and families or unaccompanied youth who are living unstably. Imminent risk of homelessness is defined as people who must leave their current housing situation within the next 14 days with no other place to stay and no resources or support network to obtain housing. Unstably housed is defined as families or unaccompanied youth who 1) meet the definition of homelessness under other federal programs such as the Department of Education, 2) have not lived for a long period independently in permanent housing, 3) have moved frequently, and 4) will continue to experience housing instability due to chronic disabilities, history of domestic violence or multiple barriers to employment. The at risk of homelessness and unstably housed populations are often labeled as precariously housed.

For the 2011 homeless census, HUD again only wanted CoCs to count people who were literally homeless in their point-in-time counts and not those who were precariously housed. With the past homeless census, the Tri-J CoC have not counted people who were at risk of homelessness or unstably housed. However, at a meeting in late summer 2010, the Tri-J CoC public sector working group and Pathways decided to work on a baseline measurement of precariously housed people in anticipation of the application of the HEARTH Act.

Precariously housed people cannot be determined with a direct observation similarly to the homeless census. Instead people meeting the expanded HEARTH Act definition of homelessness need to be measured indirectly using a survey due to the dimensions of the variables such as frequency of moves and experiencing multiple barriers to unemployment. Therefore, for the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless survey which follows the count, questions were included to measure the precariously housed variables in order to determine people who were at risk of homelessness and unstably housed. This was a first attempt at creating a baseline calculation of the number of people who meet the expanded definition of the HEARTH Act.

3.4 Unsheltered Count Method

The methodology for the Tri-J CoC unsheltered homeless count was recognized by HUD as a “best practice” in 2003. The Tri-J CoC unsheltered count uses a combination of different methods to determine the number of people homeless on one night. The direct methods include canvassing and hot spot counts, along with an indirect method of estimations. These methods



were applied in 1985 to conduct the first systematic count of homeless people in Chicago (Rossi 1989).

The canvassing method entails enumerators covering areas in a community where they observe people, typically at night or in the early morning hours, and either identify them as homeless or housed. This method is best used in urban areas where enumerators can walk the streets of concentrated areas or drive the streets in suburban or sparser areas. The hotspot count is conducted in areas where homeless people are thought to be heavily concentrated and hidden from street view. Typically, enumerators who are experienced working with street homeless populations are sent to cover these areas. Hotspot counts offer data collection opportunities to a subpopulation that might not otherwise be included in a count.


A benefit to conducting a canvassing method is that once the unsheltered numbers are collected, they can be adjusted for the hidden homeless (Rossi 1989). 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. The 2003 AC 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.

Planning

Planning for the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless census unsheltered count began in August 2010. The first month involved setting up the advisory council and, most importantly, setting the date for the count. In addition, as with previous homeless counts, a *deployment captains* committee was formed to assist Pathways with logistics planning for the unsheltered count night process and on census night with managing deployment sites for the unsheltered count. The DC was staffed by homeless service providers, non-profit agencies, community volunteers 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 September 2010, the deployment captains met on a regular basis to prepare for the upcoming homeless count.

To develop a logistics plan for the Tri-J CoC homeless census, the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County had to be divided into manageable areas for counting. The Tri-J CoC covers over 800 square miles and comprises 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 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless census used the same enumeration areas as previous counts. The enumeration areas were divided among **12 deployment sites** (see special thanks). These sites were spaced throughout the Tri-J CoC and appropriately geo-located to provide convenient access for enumerators to their assigned enumeration areas. They served as staging areas for the unsheltered count by providing adequate well-lit parking and a large meeting area.




Once the deployment sites were confirmed, *planning and enumeration area maps* were developed. The Atlanta Regional Commission's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department created the 2011 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 had been changed slightly from the 2007 Tri-J CoC homeless count. In 2007, the maps were updated to one light pastel color for cities and no color for the county areas.

Certain enumeration areas were stratified into three specific categories – *high, low and zero count areas* – based on the numbers from previous Tri-J CoC homeless census. The AC decided in 2002 that high count areas such as downtown Atlanta or the Atlanta Airport would receive enumerators with expertise in working or experience with the street homeless population. In 2007, the AC determined that enumeration areas where no homeless people had been found in the previous census would not be counted. This would allow efforts to be focused on areas where homeless people were thought to be located. For 2009, the AC concluded that low count enumeration areas, where ten or fewer homeless people had been found on previous counts, would not have homeless enumerator guides (see below) provide assistance due to the lack of need for their expertise. Finally, the other areas had enumeration teams comprised of community volunteers and homeless enumerator guides.

Conducting a count of this magnitude required community collaboration. Because the Tri-J CoC homeless census covers the City of Atlanta and its two counties, over 400 *community volunteers* were needed to carry out the count. The Tri-J CoC relied on the efforts of homeless service provider staff, personnel from government agencies, members of faith-based organizations, college students and hundreds of community volunteers to conduct the unsheltered count. Volunteers were recruited using a number of methods including direct recruitment, public announcements, recruitment fliers and postings on websites. Soliciting the help of local stakeholders was accomplished by letting them know that the numbers can be used for planning, funding and implementing services for people who are homeless. Volunteers were assigned to deployment sites based on their preferences and on the minimum requirement of volunteers needed at each site.

As with previous Tri-J CoC homeless census, *homeless enumerator guides* assisted the community volunteers with identifying homeless persons, in pointing out locations likely to have homeless persons present and in recognizing potentially dangerous situations to avoid. The guides were recruited from various transitional housing programs in the Tri-J CoC area. They were required to have lived in the Tri-J CoC area for at least six months and to have been a participant in the transitional program for at least three months. The guides were only used at 8 of



the 12 deployment sites due to low numbers of homeless people found in the other four sites during the past census.


One area of the Tri-J CoC where community volunteers and homeless enumerator guides did not count was downtown Atlanta. The downtown area was covered by veterans participating in the *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)*, Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program. Along with the 24 current program participants, VA staff also worked in the downtown enumeration teams on census night. The VA enumerators were assigned enumeration areas in downtown Atlanta due to their experience living on the streets or working with clients on the streets. These areas are walked and can involve counting in gulleys and other hidden locations. Typically, downtown Atlanta has the highest number of unsheltered homeless people on count night.

Identifying other areas where concentrated numbers of homeless people were sleeping was critical. Several months prior to census night, *law enforcement* agencies throughout the Tri-J CoC were sent packets that included a survey 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 police escorts. With the feedback from law enforcement, Pathways was able to compile a detailed list of special coverage areas or hotspot locations.

Enumerators who work with clients on the streets or have specialized knowledge of the street homeless population counted in the hot spot locations. These areas were primarily walked because they involved counting in wooded areas and other hidden locations. *Special coverage enumeration teams* were comprised of outreach workers and other knowledgeable personnel from St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services – Community Homeless Outreach Program (CHOP), DeKalb County, Community Development Department – homeless outreach team and homeless service provider agencies. The teams were grouped into several geographic coverage areas: City of Atlanta, south Fulton County, the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Decatur, Tucker, north DeKalb County, east DeKalb County and south DeKalb County. These teams were stationed at three deployment sites: Crossroads Community Ministries, Center for Pan Asian Community Services and the Maloof Center.

In the weeks prior to count night, Pathways research staff put together *count night boxes* for the deployment captains to use at the deployment sites on count night. For the boxes, planning and enumeration maps were printed, supplies such as clipboards, flashlights and pens were purchased and count night forms from previous census were updated and printed. The forms included: *sign-in sheet, hold harmless agreement, enumerator roles description, map reading guide instruction, street tally form instructions, verification letter, deployment log, block group log and certificate of participation*. Pathways research staff passed out the boxes to the DC the week prior to the count. At the meeting, 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. This meeting also provided the DC an opportunity to meet with their fellow deployment site co-captains.

Two other *training sessions* also occurred in January. At the first January DC meeting, the captains were trained on how to read the planning and enumeration maps by a Geographic



Information System staff member. In addition to the DC, both the veteran and special coverage enumeration teams received special training on how to read the maps, to identify people who are homeless and to fill out the count form. The teams were also taught safety procedures to follow.

Data Collection

On count night, January 25th, 2011, the Pathways research team staffed the Pathways office or “command central” all day to answer any last questions regarding the upcoming count. Deployment captains arrived at the deployment sites around 10:30 p.m. to set up for the count. For each deployment site, at least one seasoned deployment captain and two other DCs coordinated the site on census night.


The deployment captains had been provided with an instructions and checklist form to assist with the count night process. The DC count night checklist provided instructions on what to do prior to count night such as organizing supplies and documents and purchasing food. The instructions for count night focused on a process for setting up and organizing the deployment site, training the enumerators, and forming and equipping enumeration teams. Also, on the checklist were procedures for what to do after deploying the teams and when the teams return.

Around 11:30 p.m., 311 community volunteers, 76 homeless enumerator guides, 32 VA enumerators and 21 special coverage team enumerators arrived at the deployment sites to participate in the homeless count. The AC decided that, for accuracy and safety, enumeration teams not covering downtown Atlanta or hotspot locations would be comprised of at least three to four members, ideally at least two community volunteers and one 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.

Training for the community volunteers and homeless enumerator guides occurred at midnight. They received training on enumerator roles, how to read the maps and enumeration process and safety tips. The tips were provided to the enumerators on what to do while at the deployment site such as reviewing their enumeration area map and while in the field counting such as spending most of their time in high-probability areas including commercial zones, industrial corridors, shut-down businesses and 24-hour businesses. The tips also focused on safety issues such as only driving around parking lots and side streets that are well lit.

Enumerators were instructed to travel all streets in their enumeration area, to drive at speeds of 10-15 miles per hour in areas where homeless people are likely to be, 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. The enumerators were also requested to stop at 24 hour businesses to ask store clerks if they are aware of where homeless people might be in that area. Another request was that enumerators stop at hospitals in their area and count homeless people in the emergency room.

An important training process was how to properly fill out the tally sheets to get an accurate count of the number of unsheltered homeless people observed. 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. The street tally forms were 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.

On census night, police officers throughout the Tri-J CoC stopped by the deployment sites to provide safety at the sites, to provide information as to where to find homeless people in the area and to let the volunteers know which areas were unsafe. In addition, the officers were available to provide police escorts as needed.


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 26th were rainy with a morning low temperature in the mid-thirties (see challenges). In an effort to ensure accuracy of 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 or emailed Pathways staff who then input the data into an online computer application.

Challenges and Suggested Modifications

After enumerators returned from their enumeration areas, they received a continental breakfast and a standardized debriefing questionnaire to fill out. Based on the feedback, volunteers indicated that they liked several things about participating in the count. First, volunteers liked that they could help homeless people and serve the community for a worthwhile cause. In addition, they enjoyed working as a team with their fellow volunteers and meeting new people. Also, volunteers found it interesting to see new and different parts of the community.

The main concern for several volunteers was not finding any or many homeless people in their enumeration areas. It is important to understand that lower count numbers will occur in the outer areas of the Tri-J CoC such as north Fulton County and that zero is a valid count number. Another major problem was that the inclement weather on count night made it harder for some enumeration teams to observe people homeless in their areas. The inclement weather may have caused problems for counting in some of the enumeration areas; however, it did not impact the overall or aggregate numbers. The probable effect of the weather was that more homeless street people sought shelter as can be seen by the extremely large number of homeless people found at the Atlanta Airport. All in all, most volunteers were glad to participate and stated that they would be willing to volunteer again. Feedback from volunteers regarding their experience with the homeless count will be used to update future census procedures.

A couple of weeks after the count, an appreciation and debriefing luncheon was held to give the deployment captains and advisory council a chance to provide feedback on the unsheltered count process and to thank them for all their time and effort. Based on the feedback from the meeting, one problem at several of the sites was that there were not enough drivers. Pathways staff dispersed drivers who signed up throughout the Tri-J deployments sites. However, people who



drove separately and signed up as willing to drive on count night often wanted to ride with their friends once they arrived at the deployment sites. In addition, a large number of residents from nearby shelters volunteered to count. Unfortunately, they did not have cars. In that situation, several deployment captains ended up driving. As a solution for the next count, the DC will be provided with the names of people who signed up as willing to drive.

Another issue was the number and types of DC meetings. It was suggested that a select few DC be involved with the planning process and that the regular DC meetings be concentrated on training such as providing more extensive map training. Other suggestions regarding the maps included using more internet technology and providing DC with their own copy of the maps for count night.


A third problem for the DC was that several DS had too many volunteers while other sites did not have enough. A minimum number of volunteers were assigned by Pathways research staff to each of the sites prior to count night. Unfortunately, volunteers showed up at sites on count night when they did not sign up at all, while other volunteers who did sign up did not show up to count. This problem can be addressed by sending people who did not sign up prior to count night to sites where there are not enough volunteers – whether they call in or show up at locations that are over flowing with volunteers. In addition, a focused recruitment of volunteers in the outlying areas of the Tri-J CoC such as north Fulton County and southeast DeKalb County needs to occur so that sites where the number of volunteers are traditionally low can be increased.

3.5 Sheltered Count Method

Emergency Shelters (ES) and Transitional Housing (TH)

In September 2010, a master list of sheltered agencies (emergency shelters and transitional housing, along with permanent supportive housing) located in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County was created based on the 2009 and 2010 Tri-J CoC Housing Inventory Charts (HIC). According to HUD, the HIC is a complete inventory of emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing beds available in the CoC on a particular night (HUD 2007). Pathways research staff contacted emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing supportive agencies via email or phone and notified them of the upcoming Tri-J CoC homeless count. In addition, announcements were made at local public meetings, via fliers and via postings on websites. Soliciting the help of local stakeholders was accomplished by letting them know that the numbers can be used for planning, funding and implementing services for people who are homeless.

As agency staff were contacted, current information was verified or corrected as needed to update the master list. If a phone number was no longer in service, Pathways research staff investigated the situation to determine if the facility was no longer open or if the number had changed. Staff also investigated any new agencies that were provided by the advisory council, deployment captains and Tri-J CoC representatives. Throughout the process, contact persons were identified who would provide the number of homeless people staying at the sheltered agencies on count night.



Several days prior to the count, Pathways staff emailed, called or faxed each agency on the master list to remind them of the upcoming homeless count, the need for their bed occupancy and capacity information for census night and to provide the agency staff with the sheltered count tally form and instructions. 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 and occupancy numbers for individuals/families and subpopulation information.

The contact person was instructed to fill out the form for all clients on site from 6 p.m. January 25th to 6 a.m. January 26th, 2011. The contact person was requested to return the sheltered count tally form to Pathways by 8 p.m. on the night of January 25th. Pathways research staff were at the office to receive the emails and faxes on count night. After 8 p.m., phone calls were made by Pathways research staff to the agencies that did not provide a count of homeless people. 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 CoC homeless census. Shortly after the homeless census, Pathways staff began making reminder phone calls and sending emails to the non-reporting sites. Some responded via 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 early March, a concerted effort was made by Pathways staff to contact the last few non-reporting sites. As the sheltered tally forms were returned, the information was verified by Pathways staff against the existing 2010 Tri-J CoC HIC. Anomalies identified at this stage were resolved, usually by emails or phone conversations with the program staff.

In the end, Pathways was able to obtain a 90% return rate on the sheltered count tally forms. Estimations were made for the agencies that did not provide their homeless count numbers. These estimates were derived using a covariate model that had been developed originally for the 2003 Tri-J CoC homeless census, which predicted occupancies based on the reporting sites and using housing type, bed capacity and demographic information.

Institutions

In 2007 and 2009, Pathways was unable to obtain the number of homeless persons staying at institutions on count night. Therefore, estimations were conducted on the ratio of homeless individuals in the City of Atlanta from 2005 to 2007 to the actual number of homeless individuals in the institutions in 2005. The estimated numbers were allocated by gender and sheltered vs. unsheltered status based on parameters from the 2005 Tri-J CoC homeless census and survey.

To address the problem from previous homeless census, packets similar to the police requests for information were created for the first time to send out to the jails and hospitals. Several months prior to 2011 homeless census night, Pathways research staff identified jails and hospitals throughout the Tri-J CoC. They received packets that included a letter notifying jail and hospital staff of the upcoming homeless count, a survey on homeless people who use the facility and a request that the institutions provide a contact person who can give the number of people homeless at the facility on count night. The packets were successful with 65% of jails and hospitals providing the number of homeless people staying at their facilities on count night.



Challenges and Suggested Modifications

One challenge for the previous sheltered counts has been the relatively lengthy return time of some of the Tri-J CoC agencies regarding the number of homeless people at their facilities on count night. To address this problem for the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count, Pathways research team had a member focus specifically on the sheltered count data and to call agencies on count night to obtain their numbers. This process reduced the return time of the sheltered count tally forms from over two months to around one and half months. For the next sheltered count, a return time of around one month would be ideal. This could possibly be achieved by having the staff member conduct site visits to non-responding agencies soon after the count has occurred to obtain the sheltered count homeless numbers in person as opposed to via email, fax or phone.

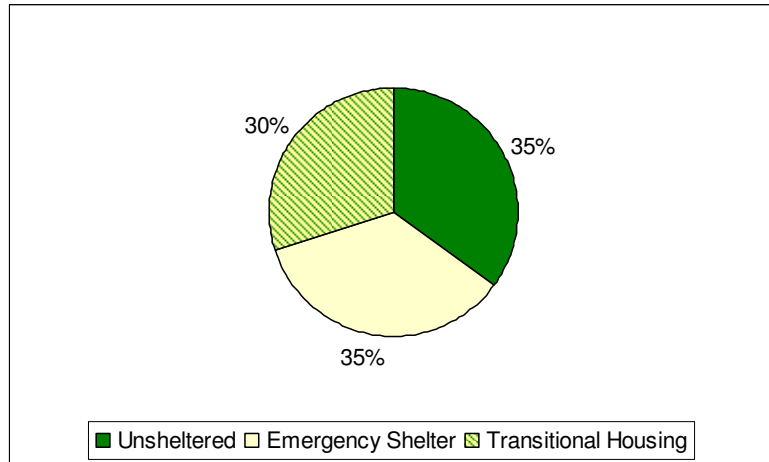
Another major issue was that the homeless census numbers provided by sheltered agencies did not often match the previous Tri-J CoC HIC. Per HUD, these numbers either needed to match or an explanation needed to be provided as to the reason for the change in numbers. The process of verifying accurate numbers was an extended process. In the past, generic mass emails were sent out to sheltered agencies with blank tally sheets. For the next sheltered count, personalized individual emails could be sent that include specific information for each agency regarding their programs, sites and the previous HIC data.

Section 4: Results

4.1 2011 Tri-J CoC Homeless Count

On the night of January 25, 2011, a total of **6,838 homeless people were counted in Atlanta, Fulton County, and DeKalb County**. The largest number of people were counted sleeping in emergency shelters (2,460 people) with people found in unsheltered locations a close second (2,378 people) and people staying in transitional housing third (2,000 people).

Figure 1: Homelessness by Sleeping Location (%)



Overall: Of the total number of homeless people counted, unaccompanied adult males comprised the largest group (68%) with unaccompanied adult females a distant second (15%). Children (10%) and single mothers (5%) were the third and fourth largest groups. The remaining groups of homeless people by household type, age and gender included youth males, two parent heads of households, single fathers, youth females and a non-head of household adult such as a grandmother. These findings reflect a homeless population that predominately lives in metropolitan areas and are literally homeless.

Table 1: 2011 Tri-J CoC Homeless Count by Sleeping Location and Household Type

Sleeping Locations	Individuals	Family Members (# of families)	Total # of Homeless People (%)
Emergency Shelters	2,056	404 members (132 families)	2,460 (36%)
Unsheltered	2,336	42 members (14 families)	2,378 (35%)
Transitional Housing	1,373	627 members (203 families)	2,000 (29%)
Totals (%)	5,765 (84%)	1,073 (16%)	6,838

Five times as many individuals as family members were counted on census night. The largest number of individuals were found sleeping unsheltered (41%). That number is concerning as the count was conducted on a rainy and cold (mid thirties) winter night. The night was so cold that earlier in the day, snow had been predicted but did not materialize. The majority of family members were staying in transitional housing programs (58%). Only four percent of families were thought to be sleeping unsheltered on that night. The identified families were comprised of at least one adult parent and at least one child under the age of eighteen. The total number of family members comprised 349 families with children. Families without children such as

couples or parents with an adult child (18 years of age or older) may have been homeless for the count but were identified as individuals for a number of reasons. First, only Zaban Couples Center takes couples without children as a household unit. At other shelters, couples are required to separate and stay as individuals. Second, two people sleeping next to each other on the streets are hard to identify as a couple in a relationship.

Individuals: The 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count composition of individuals is similar to the 2009 homeless count. Unaccompanied adult males comprised the largest group of individuals. The majority of these individual men (42%) were sleeping in unsheltered locations such as on the street or in the airport with less than a third sleeping

at emergency shelters and only a quarter staying at transitional housing programs. The next largest group of individuals was unaccompanied female adults. This was the only group with the majority sleeping in emergency shelters (40%). Over a third of the women were found in unsheltered locations with less than a quarter in transitional housing programs.

Table 2: Individuals by Sleeping Type and Gender

Sleeping Locations	Individuals				Total Individuals
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	
Unsheltered	1,936	367	30	3	2,336
Emergency Shelters	1,621	433	2	0	2,056
Transitional Housing	1,125	247	1	0	1,373
TRI-J TOTALS	4,682	1,047	33	3	5,765
Percentage	81%	18%	1%	0%	

The smallest group of individuals identified was unaccompanied females under the age of eighteen. Only three youth females were identified as sleeping unsheltered with none staying at emergency shelters or in transitional housing programs. Historically, the count numbers for unaccompanied youth have been low. Homeless youth are hard to locate because they tend to

sleep in either abandoned buildings or on people’s sofas (called “couch surfing”). In addition, unaccompanied youth (under age 18) who show up at shelters are either reunited with their parents or, if there are no parents, then the police are called and the youth are taken into the Department of Family and Children’s custody to become wards of the state.

Table 3: Families by Sleeping Type and Gender

Sleeping Locations	Family Members					Total Family Members (# Families)
	Male Adult Head of Family	Female Adult Head of Family	Two Parent Family (# of Adults)	Non-Head Adult	Kids in Family	
Unsheltered	0	13	2	0	27	42 (14)
Emergency Shelters	0	130	4	0	270	404 (132)
Transitional Housing	4	186	26	1	410	627 (203)
TRI-J TOTALS	4	329	32	1	707	1,073 (349)
Percentage	0%	31%	3%	0%	66%	

Families: The majority of families were headed by single mothers (94%). Of family members, children were the largest group (66%) with single mothers about half that (31%). The two previous findings regarding single mothers and children are consistent with past counts. For example in 2009, single mothers headed 89% of families and children were 65% of family members. The 1,073 families averaged 1.52 people per household. Over half of the families were staying in transitional housing programs (58%) with emergency shelters second (38%) and unsheltered locations a distant third (4%).

4.2 Unsheltered Count

On count night, **2,378 homeless persons were counted in unsheltered locations** in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County and DeKalb County. Individuals comprised almost all of the people sleeping unsheltered (98%). Only one family was found sleeping outdoors. The other 13 families were estimated.

Table 4: Unsheltered Count Families

Estimated Group:

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

Unsheltered	Family Members					Total Family Members (# Families)
	Male Adult Head of Family	Female Adult Head of Family	Two Parent Family (# of Adults)	Non-Head Adult	Kids in Family	
Totals	0	13	2	0	27	42 (14)
Percentage	0%	31%	5%	0%	64%	

elements and hidden from view. Pathways and the advisory council believed the number should have been higher based upon data from the 2009 Tri-J CoC homeless survey indicating that 6% 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 42 people in families were sleeping in unsheltered locations on the night of January 25th.


Table 5: Unsheltered Count Individuals

Unsheltered	Individuals				Total Individuals
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	
Totals	1,936	367	30	3	2,336
Percentage	83%	16%	1%	0%	

Overall: Of the total number of homeless people counted as unsheltered, unaccompanied adult males comprised the largest group (81.5%) with unaccompanied adult females a distant second (15.5%). The

remaining groups of unsheltered homeless people by household type, age and gender included youth males, children, single mothers, youth females, and two parent heads of households.

Geographic Areas: As with previous Tri-J CoC homeless census, the highest concentration of unsheltered homeless people (26%) were counted in downtown Atlanta. A likely cause of the large number is the high concentration of emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in the area. The downtown area measures approximately four square miles and is roughly bound



by North Avenue to the north, Northside Drive to the west, Boulevard to the east and Interstate 20 to the south.

The second highest unsheltered homeless numbers (24%) counted was in southwest Atlanta. This area covers a much larger territory than Downtown Atlanta. It lies roughly south of Interstate 20, east and west of Interstate 285, west of Interstate 75/85, and north of the City of East Point. It is comprised mainly of lower income (\$29,720 median annual income per household) neighborhoods including West End, Adamsville, and Cascade Heights (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2011), a family of four with a yearly income of \$22,350 would be living in poverty. Thus a number of households located in southwest Atlanta are living at a level close to poverty.

A high concentration of unsheltered homeless people (6%) was also found at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Typically, people who are homeless arrive at the Airport on the last MARTA train of the night and leave out the next morning on the first train. The airport usually has a large number of homeless people staying over night, but this year, the count was exceedingly high (143 people). A possible reason for the high number of people at the Airport on count night could have been people seeking shelter from the extremely bad weather. To put the Airport number in perspective, both South Fulton below City of Atlanta (141 people) and DeKalb County (132 people) had numbers slightly less than the Atlanta Airport.

The lowest percentage of unsheltered homeless people (less than 1%) were counted in north Fulton County above City of Atlanta. A possible reason for the low homeless numbers in north Fulton County is that households in that area earn annual incomes far above the poverty level. For example, Sandy Springs households earn a median annual income of \$76,477 with Roswell households at \$79,733 yearly, and Alpharetta households having a median yearly income of \$95,888 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates).

Hidden Homeless: On count night, there were two groups of unsheltered homeless people that were not counted. First, enumerators did not enter abandoned buildings to count the number of people sleeping due to safety reasons. These buildings were dark, often in disrepair and could have had drug activity occurring. Second, enumerators were asked not to get out of their cars to walk around unless escorted by police officers or as part of special teams due to safety concerns. This rule makes it difficult to count people sleeping in cars if unable to approach parked cars and look inside. Another issue with counting people sleeping in cars is that car owners, business owners and police officers do not appreciate people looking in cars and may suspect the enumerators of attempting to steal them. Unfortunately, there is no current estimation formula for calculating the numbers for this hidden homeless population.

4.3 Sheltered Count (Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing)

A total of ***4,460 homeless persons were residing in emergency shelter (ES) and transitional housing (TH) facilities*** on census night. More individuals (77%) were staying at sheltered locations on count night than family members (23%). For the sheltered count, over half of the

people (55%) were sleeping at emergency shelters (2,460 people) with the remaining at transitional housing programs (2,000 people).

Estimated Group: Occupancy figures for the seven non-reporting emergency shelter and transitional housing agencies 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.

Overall, unaccompanied male adults comprised the largest group (62%) of the total number of people staying in sheltered locations (ES and TH). Over half of these individual men (59%) were sleeping in emergency shelters with the rest staying at transitional housing programs. The next largest groups were unaccompanied female adults (680 adults) and children in families (680 children). The majority of individual women (64%) were sleeping in emergency shelters. On the other hand, most of the children (60%) were staying with their families in transitional housing facilities. The remaining groups of sheltered homeless people by household type, age and gender included single mothers, two parent heads of households, single fathers, youth males, and a non-head of household adult such as a grandmother.

Table 6: Sheltered Count Individuals

Individuals: Of the individuals in the sheltered count, adult males comprised the largest group with adult females a distant second. This composition of individuals is similar to the 2011 unsheltered count and the 2009 sheltered count (79% adult males and 21% adult females).

Sleeping Locations	Individuals				Total Individuals
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Youth Female	
Emergency Shelters	1,621	433	2	0	2,056
Transitional Housing	1,125	247	1	0	1,373
Sheltered TOTALS	2,746	680	3	0	3,429
Percentage	80%	20%	0%	0%	

Table 7: Sheltered Count Families

Sleeping Locations	Family Members					Total Family Members (# Families)
	Male Adult Head of Family	Female Adult Head of Family	Two Parent Family (# of Adults)	Non-Head Adult	Kids in Family	
Emergency Shelters	0	130	4	0	270	404 (132)
Transitional Housing	4	186	26	1	410	627 (203)
TRI-J TOTALS	4	316	30	1	680	1,031 (335)
Percentage	0%	31%	3%	0%	66%	

Families: The majority of families were headed by single mothers (94%). Of family members, children were the largest group with single mothers about half that. The remaining family members were comprised of two parent heads of households, single fathers and a non-head of household adult.

The majority of families (61%) were staying in transitional housing for the sheltered count with the remaining in emergency shelters. The 335 families averaged 3.08 people per household.

Table 8: Sheltered Count Occupancy and Capacity

Sheltered Count	Individuals			Family Members		
	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Total Individual	Emergency Shelters	Transitional Housing	Total Family Members
Occupancy #	2,056	1,373	3,429	404	627	1,031
Capacity	2,235	1,605	3,840	494	948	1,442
Occupancy (%)	92%	86%	89%	82%	66%	72%

Occupancy and Capacity: On count night, the bed capacity was slightly higher for emergency shelters than transitional housing programs (2,729 to 2,553 beds). Overall, the occupancy rate for individual emergency beds was the highest (89%). There were 179 individual emergency beds and 232 individual transitional housing beds not occupied for the count. Even if all these beds had been filled, there still would have been 1,925 individuals that were sleeping outside on count night. Beds may go vacant for a number of reasons including eligibility standards that exclude some unsheltered people such as being drug free or because homeless people are unwillingly to adhere to the shelters’ policies such as completing chores.

The lowest occupancy rate was for families in transitional housing programs (66%). One reason for the lower occupancy rate for family beds is that families with children are less likely to be asked to leave where they are staying on an extremely cold night especially if living doubled up with other family members. Another factor is that programs that serve families are often organized in units rather than beds. A unit may have several beds that go unoccupied depending on the size of the family. For example, a bedroom unit with four beds, housing a single mother and two children, will appear to have a 75% occupancy rate, but in fact the empty bed is not actually available to anyone else. Even though the occupancy rate for transitional housing beds for families was extremely low, the occupancy rate for families in permanent supportive housing (PSH) beds was extremely high. Over the past several years, there has been a focus in the Tri-J CoC to move people into PSH beds.

4.4 Permanent Supportive Housing

HUD began requiring an enumeration of permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs for each CoC starting in 2009. The Tri-J CoC community first collected PSH numbers in 2003 and then again in 2009 and for the latest count in 2011. The PSH figures are not included in the homeless count totals but are described in this report as they needed to be collected on the same night as the Tri-J CoC homeless count.

A total of **2,255 homeless persons were residing in permanent supportive housing (PSH)** on census night. Over half (59%) of the permanent supportive housing beds were occupied by individuals rather than family members.

Table 9: Permanent Supportive Housing Occupancy by Jurisdiction

Individuals					Family Members					
Jurisdictions	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Total Ind.	Male Adult Head of Family	Female Adult Head of Family	Two Parent Family (# of Adults)	Non-Head Adult in Family	Kids in Family	Total Family Members (# of Families)
Atlanta	566	357	1	924	3	164	68	2	416	653 (201)
Fulton	69	74	0	143	0	44	0	0	77	121 (44)
DeKalb	145	123	0	268	3	47	6	5	85	146 (53)
TRI-J TOTALS	780	554	1	1,335	6	255	74	7	578	920 (298)
Percentage	35%	25%	0%		0%	11%	3%	0%	26%	

Individuals: Unaccompanied male adults comprised the largest group (35%) of the total number of people staying in permanent supportive housing on count night. In comparison, individual men were about a quarter of the people staying in transitional housing programs. Among total number of individuals, adult men were over half (58%) as compared to adult women (42%) and youth.

Families: As with the unsheltered and sheltered counts, the majority of families were headed by single mothers (86%). Of family members, children were the largest group (63%) and about a quarter of the overall PSH numbers. The 298 families averaged 3.09 people per household.

Capacity: The PSH capacity on count night was 2,465 beds. Unlike both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, families (94%) in permanent supportive housing had a slightly higher occupancy rate than individuals (90%) on count night.

Figure 2: PSH Occupancy and Capacity

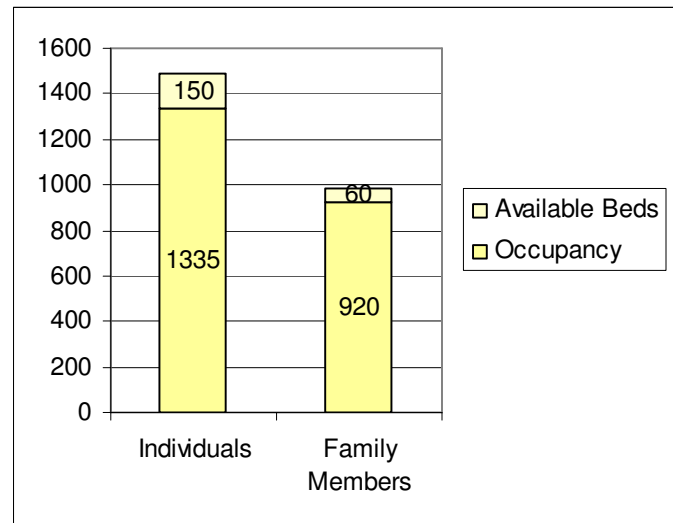


Table 10: PSH Occupancy for 2003, 2009 and 2011

PSH	2003	2009	2011
Individuals	386	876	1,335
Family Members	25	577	920
Total for Each Year	411	1,453	2,255
Percent Change		+252%	+55%

Trend Analysis: The total permanent supportive housing occupancy numbers increased dramatically from 2003 to 2009 by 1,042 people and from 2009 to 2011 by 802 people. The main reason for the rise in occupancy can be seen by the increase in PSH bed capacity over the years. Overall, from 2003 to 2011 the PSH capacity has increased dramatically by 1,994 beds (471 beds to 2,465 beds).

4.5 Comparing Bed Capacity and Occupancy

In total, there was a capacity of 7,747 emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing beds for homeless people on count night.

Overall: Emergency shelters had the highest capacity of beds (2,729 beds) with transitional housing programs second (2,553 beds) and permanent supportive housing programs (2,465 beds) third. As for the number of available beds, transitional housing programs had the most unoccupied beds, then emergency shelter beds, with permanent supportive housing programs having the least number of available beds. In other words, permanent supportive housing programs had the highest occupancy rate (91%) with emergency shelters a close second (90%) and transitional housing programs a distant third (78%).

Figure 3: Tri-J CoC Bed Occupancy and Capacity

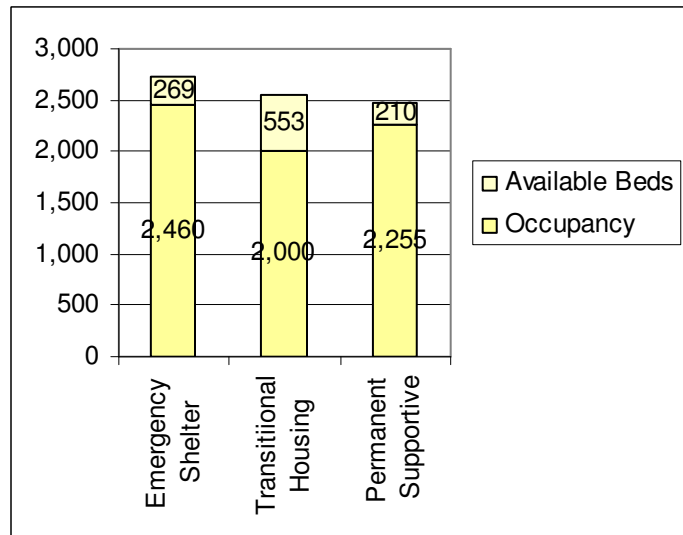
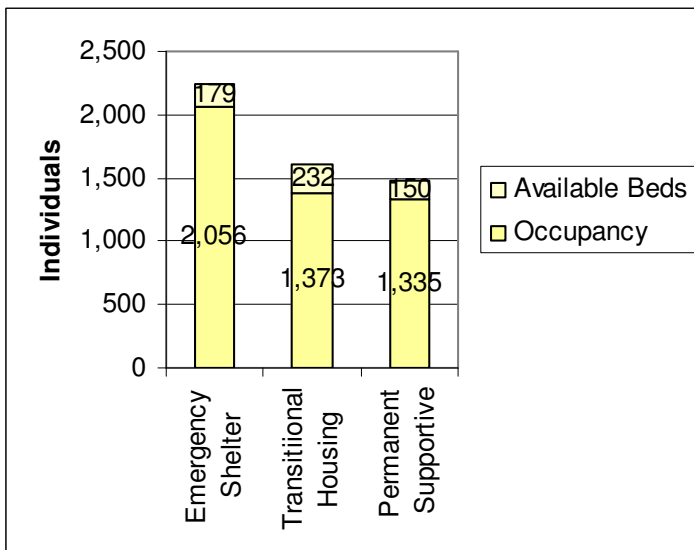


Figure 4: Bed Occupancy and Capacity for Individuals



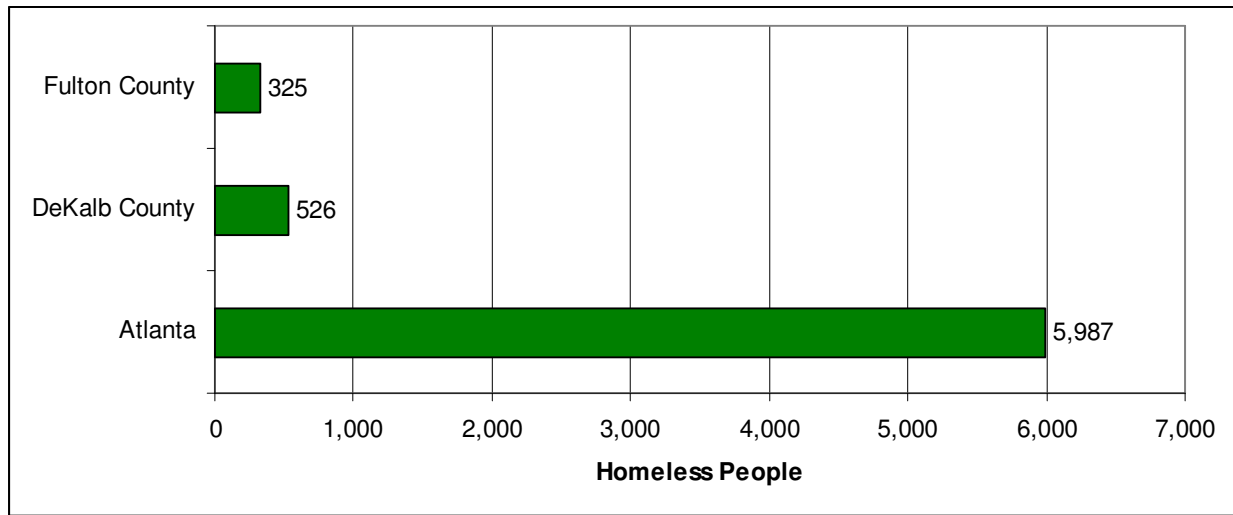
As discussed previously in the sheltered count, occupancy rates are usually lower for families than individuals because agencies often organize families into units rather than by beds. Therefore, to get a true measurement of available beds, occupancy was calculated for individuals. Emergency shelter beds for individuals had the highest occupancy rate (92%) with permanent supportive housing programs a close second (90%) and transitional housing (86%) third. By calculating available beds for individuals only, the occupancy rate for emergency shelters

became higher than that for permanent supportive housing programs while the rate of occupancy for transitional housing programs increased significantly.

Section 5: Atlanta, DeKalb County and Fulton County

Of the 6,838 homeless people counted in the Tri-J CoC, the majority were located in the City of Atlanta (87%) with DeKalb County being a distant second (8%) and Fulton County third (5%). This composition by jurisdiction is the same as that of the 2009 Tri-J CoC homeless count.

Figure 5: Homelessness by Jurisdiction



To some extent, these jurisdictional homeless counts were simply a reflection of the number of beds available in each jurisdiction. For example, 85% of Tri-J CoC emergency shelter and transitional housing beds were located in Atlanta, 10% of the beds were in DeKalb County, and 5% were in Fulton County.

Table 11: 2011 Tri-J CoC Housing Inventory Bed Supply by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Ind. Emergency Beds	Family Emergency Beds	Ind. Transitional Beds	Family Transitional Beds	Ind. Permanent Supportive Beds	Family Permanent Supportive Beds	Total
Atlanta	2,225	356	1,363	564	1,056	626	6,190
DeKalb	10	82	203	246	281	221	1,043
Fulton	0	56	39	138	148	133	514
Total	2,235	494	1,605	948	1,485	980	7,747
Percentage	29%	6%	21%	12%	19%	13%	

5.1 City of Atlanta Homeless Numbers

A total of **5,987 people were homeless in the City of Atlanta** on the night of January 25, 2011. More individuals (88%) were counted in Atlanta than family members (12%). The 2011 Atlanta composition is similar to the 2009 homeless numbers (87% individuals to 13% family members).

Table 12: City of Atlanta by Sleeping Location and Household Type

Sleeping Locations	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)	Children in Family	Total Family Members	# of Families
Unsheltered	1,715	331	26	3	2,075	0	8	2	20	30	9
Emergency Shelters	1,614	425	2	0	2,041	0	94	4	201	299	96
Transitional Housing	969	195	1	0	1,165	2	104	18	253	377	115
Atlanta TOTALS	4,298	951	29	3	5,281	2	206	24	474	706	220
% of Atlanta	72%	16%	0	0		0	4%	0	8%		

Overall: Of the total number of homeless people counted in the City of Atlanta, unaccompanied adult males comprised the largest group (72%) with unaccompanied adult females a distant second (16%). Children in families (8%) and single mothers (4%) were the third and fourth largest groups. The remaining groups of homeless people by household type, age and gender included youth males, two parent heads of households, youth females and single fathers. These findings reflect the overall Tri-J CoC homeless count numbers.

Individuals: Of the number of individuals counted for the City of Atlanta, unaccompanied male adults comprised the largest group (81%). The majority (40%) of these individual men were sleeping in unsheltered locations such as on the street or in the airport with more than a third sleeping at emergency shelters (37%) and less than a quarter staying at transitional housing programs (23%). The next largest group of individuals was unaccompanied female adults (18%). This was the only group with the majority sleeping in emergency shelters (45%). These Atlanta individual numbers reflected the larger Tri-J CoC homeless count and the 2009 Tri-J CoC homeless count.

Families: The majority of families were headed by single mothers (94%). The 220 families averaged 3.21 people per household. Among family members, children were the largest group (67%). These findings are similar to the larger 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count and the past 2009 Atlanta homeless numbers. For example in 2009, single mothers headed 90% of families and children were 65% of family members. Over half of the families were staying in transitional housing programs (52%) with emergency shelters a close second (44%) and unsheltered locations a distant third (4%).

Sleeping Location: On census night in Atlanta, a slightly larger number of people were sleeping at emergency shelters (2,340 people, 39%) as in unsheltered locations (2,105 people, 35%). In comparison, transitional housing programs (1,542 people, 26%) and permanent supportive programs (1,577 people) had similar numbers that were lower than the previous two sleeping locations. However, if the beds for the two housing program types were added together (3,119 people), than a much larger number of people were sleeping in programs with available supportive services in Atlanta on count night than in emergency shelters or on the street.

Trend Analysis: The total Atlanta homeless census number increased by 22% (1,070 people) from the first count to the latest. Over the years, there was a fairly steady increase from 2003 to 2009 (25%) with a decrease over the past two years (2%).

Table 13: Atlanta Homeless Census for 2003 to 2011

Sleeping Locations	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Unsheltered	1,943	1,888	1,861	1,851	2,105
Emergency Shelter	1,915	2,177	2,172	2,269	2,340
Transitional Housing	1,059	1,687	1,712	2,011	1,542
Total for Each Year	4,917	5,752	5,745	6,131	5,987
Percent Change		+17%	0%	+6.5%	-2%

The Atlanta unsheltered numbers experienced a steady decrease from 2003 to 2009 (by 92 people, 5%). However, over the past two years there has been an increase of people sleeping on the streets in Atlanta (by 254 people, 14%). A possible reason for the increase of people sleeping unsheltered in Atlanta is that this year there was an increased focus on special coverage areas. Along with the Veterans special team that

covered downtown Atlanta, a special team from St. Joseph’s Mercy Care Outreach focused on known locations of the hidden homeless population in Atlanta outside the downtown area. In addition, this year the Atlanta Police HOPE team which specialize in working with homeless people living on the streets provided assistance at the deployment sites throughout Atlanta.

From 2003 to 2011, the emergency shelter numbers have been increasing (by 425 people, 22%) at a fairly steady rate. The most dramatic change in numbers over the years has been with the transitional housing programs. Atlanta experienced a tremendous increase in people sleeping at transitional housing programs from 2003 to 2009 (by 952 people, 89%). However, over the last two years, Atlanta experienced a decrease in the transitional housing numbers (469 people, 23%). These changes in numbers are more than likely a reflection of the change in bed capacity in Atlanta over the years.

Figure 6: Atlanta by Sleeping Location Over Time

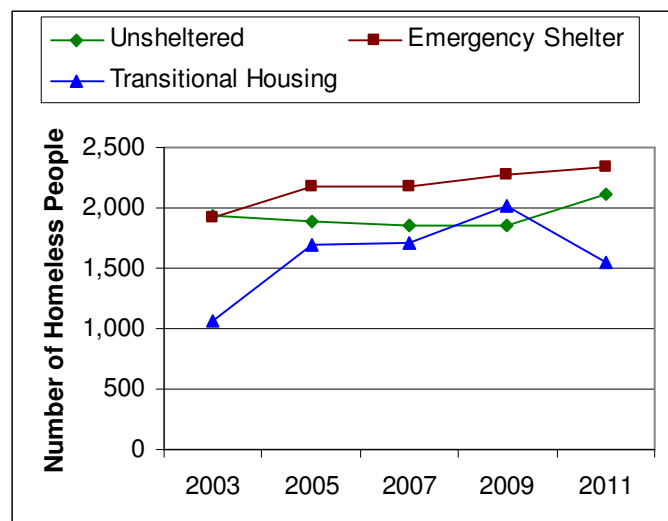


Table 14: Downtown Atlanta Unsheltered Homeless Numbers**Downtown Atlanta:**

For 2011, downtown had the highest concentration of unsheltered people in

Atlanta. The area comprised almost a quarter (24%) of the Atlanta homeless unsheltered count numbers. Overall, the downtown Atlanta homeless numbers have increased from the first count to the latest (28%). From 2003 to 2007, downtown Atlanta experienced a steady decrease in homeless people per count night (32%) with a dramatic increase since 2007 (89%). The 2011 downtown Atlanta numbers were the largest with 2007 having the smallest.

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Totals	460	373	312	440	590
Percentage		-18%	-16%	+57%	+34%

5.2 DeKalb County Homeless Numbers

A total of **526 people were homeless in DeKalb County** (not including City of Atlanta) on the night of January 25, 2011. This is the second largest number of homeless people counted among the three jurisdictions on count night. The majority of the homeless people found in DeKalb County were individuals (60%). This composition of more individuals than families is similar to the 2009 DeKalb County homeless numbers (58% individuals to 42% family members). In comparison, DeKalb count had a higher percentage of family members than the City of Atlanta (12% family members) for the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count.

Table 15: DeKalb County by Sleeping Location and Household Type

Sleeping Locations	Individuals				Family Members					
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Total Ind.	Male Head of Family	Female Head of Family	2 Parent Families (# of Parents)	Children in Family	Total Family Members	# of Families
Unsheltered	97	23	2	122	0	4	0	6	10	4
Emergency Shelters	7	8	0	15	0	21	0	43	64	21
Transitional Housing	144	33	0	177	1	40	6	91	138	44
DeKalb TOTALS	248	64	2	314	1	65	6	140	212	69
Percentage	48%	12%	0		0	12%	1%	27%		

Overall: Of the total number of homeless people counted in DeKalb County, unaccompanied adult males comprised the largest group (48%). This was similar to the overall Tri-J CoC (68%) and City of Atlanta (72%) homeless count numbers; however, the DeKalb County percentage was much lower. With the Tri-J CoC and Atlanta homeless numbers, the second largest group was unaccompanied adult females; however, for DeKalb County, the next largest group was children in families (27%). Single mothers (12%) and unaccompanied adult females (12%) were the third and fourth largest groups. The remaining groups of homeless people by household type, age and gender included two parent heads of households, youth males and a single father.

Individuals: Of the homeless individuals counted for DeKalb County, unaccompanied male adults comprised the largest group (79%). Unlike the City of Atlanta, the majority (58%) of these individual men were staying in transitional housing with more than a third sleeping in unsheltered locations (39%) and very few located at emergency shelters (3%). The next largest group of individuals was unaccompanied female adults (20%). Similarly to the individual men, the majority (52%) of these unaccompanied women were staying in transitional housing with more than a third sleeping in unsheltered locations (36%) and the rest located at emergency shelters (13%).

Families: The majority of families were headed by single mothers (94%). The 69 families averaged 3.07 people per household. Among family members, children were the largest group (67%). For example in 2009, single mothers headed 90% of families and children were 65% of family members. Over half of the families were staying in transitional housing programs (52%) with emergency shelters a close second (44%) and unsheltered locations a distant third (5%). These findings are similar to the larger 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count and Atlanta homeless numbers.

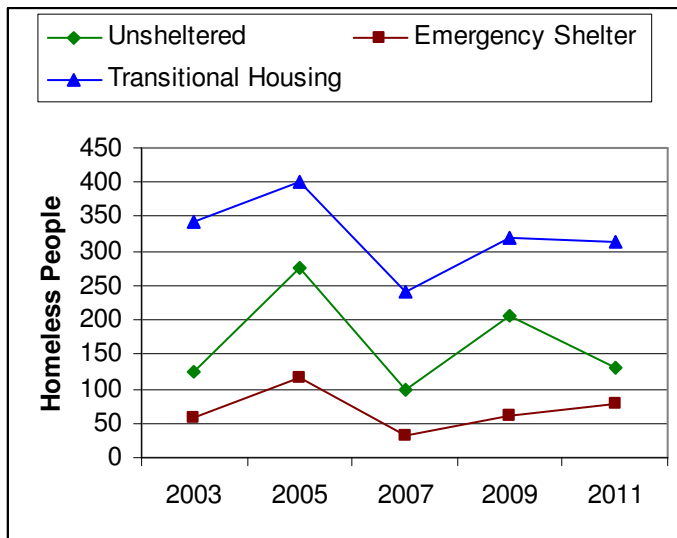
Sleeping Location: On count night, the largest number of literally homeless people were sleeping in transitional housing programs (315 people, 60%) with unsheltered locations a distant second (132 people, 25%) and emergency shelters third (79 people, 15%). This was almost opposite Atlanta where the majority of homeless people were sleeping in emergency shelters with unsheltered locations a close second and transitional housing a distant third. An interesting finding was that more people were staying in permanent supportive housing (502 people) in DeKalb County than in transitional housing, emergency shelters or unsheltered locations. These findings indicate a DeKalb County homeless population that is mainly housed in programs that provide supporting services.

Table 16: DeKalb County Homeless Census for 2003 to 2011

Trend Analysis: The DeKalb County homeless census numbers have experienced ups and downs since 2003. From 2003 to 2005, there was an increase of 265 people. Then in 2007, there was a dramatic decrease of 422 people, followed by another increase of 214 people in 2009. Finally in 2011, DeKalb County experienced a slight decrease in the homeless numbers by 59 people. The first count in 2003 and the latest count in 2011 found approximately the same number of homeless people in DeKalb County. The largest number of homeless people were counted in DeKalb County in 2005 with the least number of people found in 2007.

Sleeping Locations	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Unsheltered	126	276	99	205	132
Emergency Shelter	58	116	31	61	79
Transitional Housing	344	401	241	319	315
Total for Each Year	528	793	371	585	526
Percent Change		+50%	-53%	+58%	-10%

Figure 7: DeKalb County by Sleeping Location Over Time



Over the years, the largest number of people in DeKalb County were found staying in transitional housing programs with emergency shelters having the least number of people. Overall, the numbers for each of the counts have remained fairly steady. From the first count to the latest, people sleeping in unsheltered locations have only increased slightly (6 people, 5%) with emergency shelters also experiencing an increase (21 people, 36%). On the other hand, transitional housing experienced a decrease over the same time period (29 people, 8%). Specifically, the separate counts for

people sleeping in unsheltered locations and transitional housing programs reflected the larger DeKalb County count.

5.3 Fulton County Homeless Numbers

A total of **325 people were homeless in Fulton County** (not including the City of Atlanta) on count night. Of the three jurisdictions, Fulton County found the smallest number of people homeless. Slightly more than half of the homeless people counted in Fulton County were individuals (52%) rather than family members. This composition is in contrast to the 2009 Fulton County homeless numbers where more family members (171 people, 56%) were counted than individuals (132 people, 44%).

Table 17: Fulton County by Sleeping Location and Household Type

Sleeping Locations	Individuals				Family Members					
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Youth Male	Total Ind.	Male Head of Family	Female Head of Family	2 Parent Families (# of Parents)	Non-Head Adult	Kids in Family	Total Family Members (# of Families)
Unsheltered	124	13	2	139	0	1	0	0	1	2 (1)
Emergency Shelters	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	26	41 (15)
Transitional Housing	12	19	0	31	1	42	2	1	66	112 (44)
Fulton TOTALS	136	32	2	170	1	58	2	1	93	155 (60)
% of Fulton	42%	10%	.5%		0%	18%	.5%	0%	29%	

Overall: Of the total number of homeless people counted in Fulton County, unaccompanied adult males comprised the largest group (42%). This was similar to the DeKalb County (48%) homeless count numbers. With the Tri-J CoC and Atlanta homeless numbers, the second largest group was unaccompanied adult females; however, for DeKalb County and Fulton County, the next largest group of homeless people were children in families (29%). Single mothers (12%)

were the third largest group of homeless people with unaccompanied adult females (10%) as the fourth group. The remaining groups of homeless people by household type, age and gender included two parent heads of households, youth males, a single father and a non-head adult member of household.

Individuals: Of the homeless individuals counted for Fulton County, unaccompanied male adults comprised the largest group (80%). Unlike Atlanta or DeKalb County, almost all of these individual men (92%) were sleeping in unsheltered locations with the rest sleeping in transitional housing programs. Unaccompanied women comprised the second largest group of homeless individuals (19%) with over half staying in transitional housing (59%) and the rest sleeping outdoors. For Fulton County, there were no emergency shelter beds available for individuals on count night.

Families: Of the sixty families, almost all were head by a single mother (97%) with one family headed by a single father and one family headed by two parents. The 60 families averaged 2.58 people per household. Children comprised the largest number of family members (60%). The majority of families were staying in transitional housing (73%). These figures are similar to both City of Atlanta and DeKalb County.

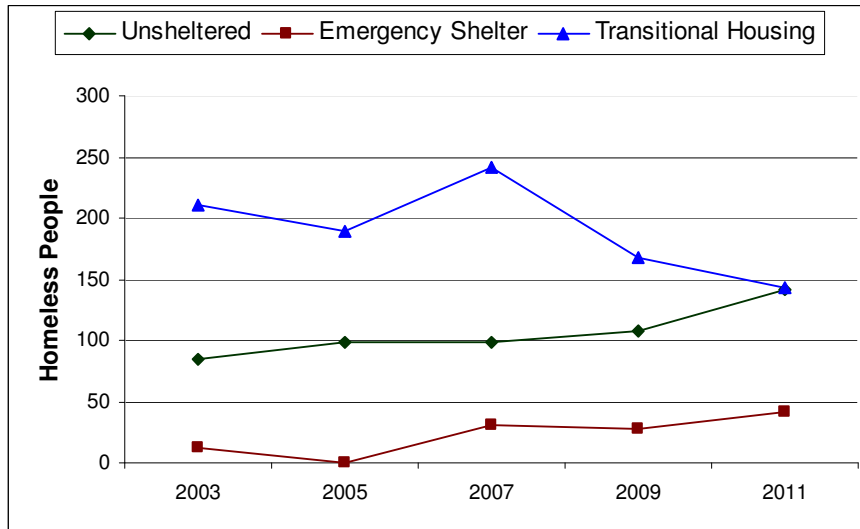
Sleeping Locations: On census night in Fulton County, about the same number of people were sleeping in unsheltered locations (141 people) as in transitional housing (143 people). The smallest number of people were staying in emergency shelters (41 people). In fact, there were no emergency shelter beds available for individuals in Fulton County on census night. An interesting finding was that more people were staying in permanent supportive housing (264 people) in Fulton County than in transitional housing, emergency shelters or unsheltered locations.

Table 18: Fulton County Homeless Census for 2003 to 2011

Trend Analysis: Overall, the Fulton County numbers have experienced an increase from the first count to the latest (by 17 people, 6%). Specifically, figures are unique in that they have fallen and risen from count to count. From 2003 to 2005, there was a slight decrease by 21 people, followed by the greatest increase of 84 people from 2005 to 2007. Then there was another decrease by 68 people, ending this year with a slight increase by 22 people. The largest number of homeless people were counted in Fulton County in 2007 with the least number of people found in 2005.

Sleeping Locations	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Unsheltered	84	98	99	108	141
Emergency Shelter	13	0	31	27	41
Transitional Housing	211	189	241	168	143
Total for Each Year	308	287	371	303	325
Total Percent Change		-7%	+29%	-18%	+7%

Figure 8: Fulton County by Sleeping Location over Time



The Fulton County unsheltered numbers saw a steady increase from the first count to the latest (by 57 people, 68%). From 2003 to 2005, the emergency shelter numbers decreased to no available beds in Fulton County. Over the past five years however, the numbers have held fairly steady ranging from 27 to 41 people in emergency shelters on a given night.

The transitional housing figures have fallen (10%), risen (28%) and then fallen again (41%) over time.

N. Fulton and S. Fulton: Of the people counted as homeless in Fulton County (not including Atlanta), over half (54%) were found in South Fulton below the Atlanta city limits (178 people) with the remaining located in North Fulton above the City of Atlanta (147 people). In South Fulton, the majority of homeless people were seen sleeping unsheltered (84%) with the rest of the people staying at transitional housing programs. There were actually no emergency shelters in South Fulton. On the other hand, in North Fulton, the majority of homeless people were staying in transitional housing programs (67%) with emergency shelters a distant second (23%). Only 18 people were found sleeping outdoors in N. Fulton on count night.

Section 6: Trend Analysis

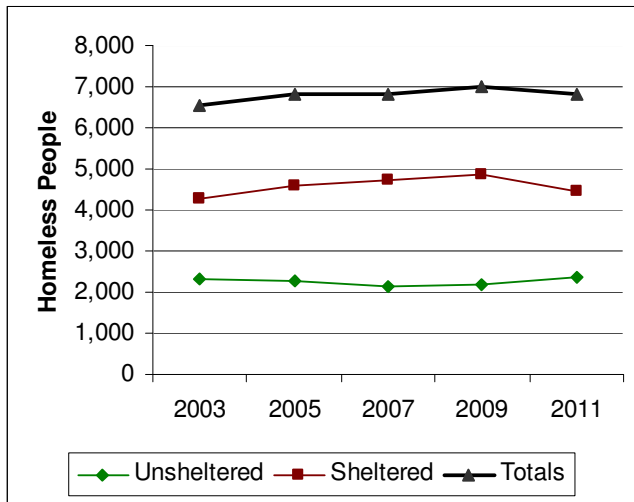
Table 19: 2003 to 2011 Homeless Counts by Sleeping Location

Overall: The point-in-time Tri-J CoC homeless counts have held fairly steady from year to year within an approximate range of 6,500 to 7,000 people homeless nightly. Only an additional 196 people were found homeless on a particular night from the first count in 2003 to the latest (4%). The trend shows that from

Sleeping Locations	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Unsheltered	2,304	2,262	2,115	2,164	2,378
Sheltered	4,253	4,570	4,725	4,855	4,460
Totals	6,557	6,832	6,840	7,019	6,838
Percentage		+4%	0%	+3%	-3%

2003 to 2009 the Tri-J CoC homeless census experienced a steady increase of people homeless on a particular night (462 people, 7%). However, over the past two years, there has been a decrease of people homeless for the point-in-time census (181 people, 2.5%). Please note the similarity in homeless count numbers for 2005, 2007 and 2011.

Figure 9: Tri-J CoC Homeless Census by Sleeping Location Over Time



Sleeping Location: Over the years, both the unsheltered and sheltered counts have held fairly steady within a particular range. The unsheltered number has stayed within a range of 2,115 to 2,378 while the sheltered count has stayed steady from about 4,250 to 4,855.

From 2003 to 2009, there was a steady decrease (140 people, 6%) in the number of people sleeping in unsheltered locations on the night of the census for both individuals and family members. However, over the past

two years, there has been an increase (214 people, 10%) to an all time high of homeless people sleeping outdoors.

For people sleeping in sheltered locations, there was a steady increase on census night for both individuals and families from 2003 to 2009 (602 people, 14%). However, over the past two years, the sheltered numbers saw a decrease in people staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs (395 people, 8%).

It is important to note that as the number of people in emergency shelter and transitional housing beds rose in the Tri-J CoC, the number of people sleeping outdoors fell. On the other hand, as the number of people in emergency shelter and transitional housing beds decreased, the number of people sleeping in unsheltered locations increased.

Table 20: Tri-J CoC Homeless Census by Sleeping Location and Household Type Over Time

	Individuals					Family Members				
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Unsheltered	2,116	2,085	2,071	2,068	2,336	188	177	44	96	42
Sheltered	3,173	3,588	3,551	3,713	3,429	1,080	982	1,174	1,142	1,031
Totals	5,289	5,673	5,622	5,781	5,765	1,268	1,159	1,224	1,238	1,073
Percentage		+7%	-1%	+3%	-.3%		-9%	+6%	+1%	-13%

Individuals: The Tri-J CoC individual numbers have held steady over the years within the range of 5,289 to 5,781 persons on a particular night. From 2003 to 2009, there was a steady increase in the number of individuals on count night (492 individuals, 6%). However, over the past two years, there was a slight decrease for individuals in the Tri-J CoC (16 individuals, .3%). The lowest number of individuals was counted in 2003 with the highest numbers found in 2009.

Figure 10: Tri-J CoC Homeless Census by Household Type Over Time

Families: The number of family members homeless in the Tri-J CoC has held steady within the range of 1,073 to 1,268 people on a particular night. For family members, there was a decrease from 2003 to 2005 with a steady increase from 2005 to 2009 and ending in a decrease for the last count. The 2011 Tri-J CoC family member numbers have been the lowest of all the counts with the highest numbers in 2003.

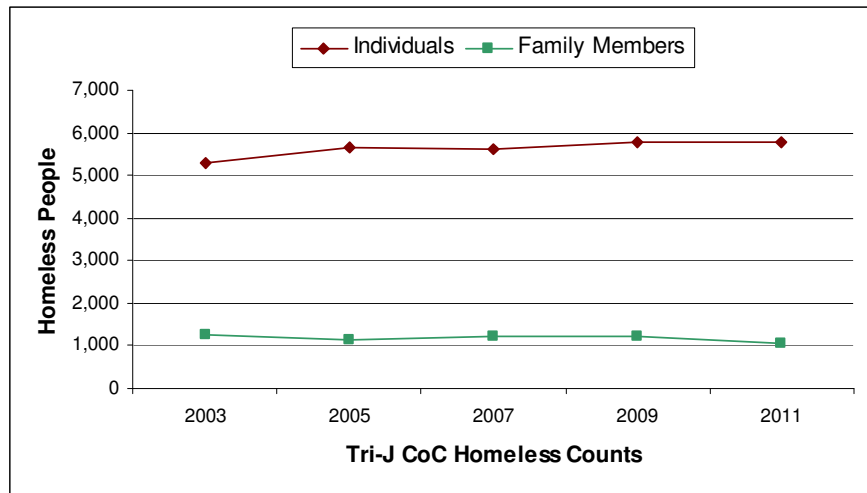
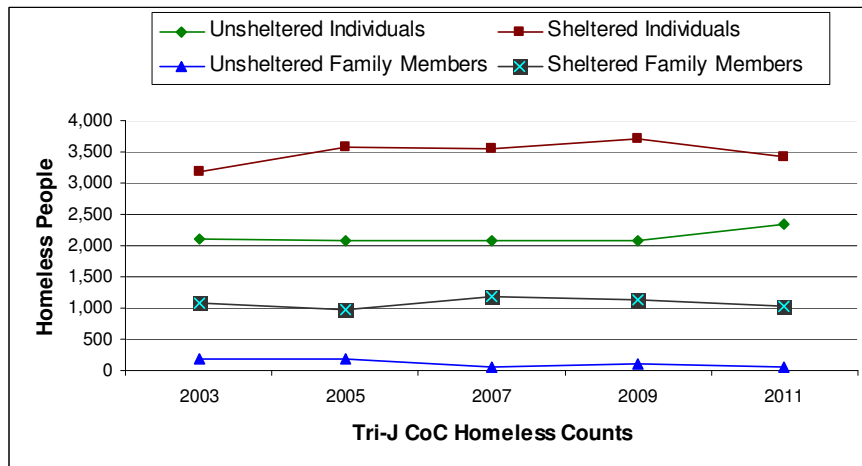


Figure 11: Tri-J CoC Homeless Census by Household Type and Sleeping Location Over Time

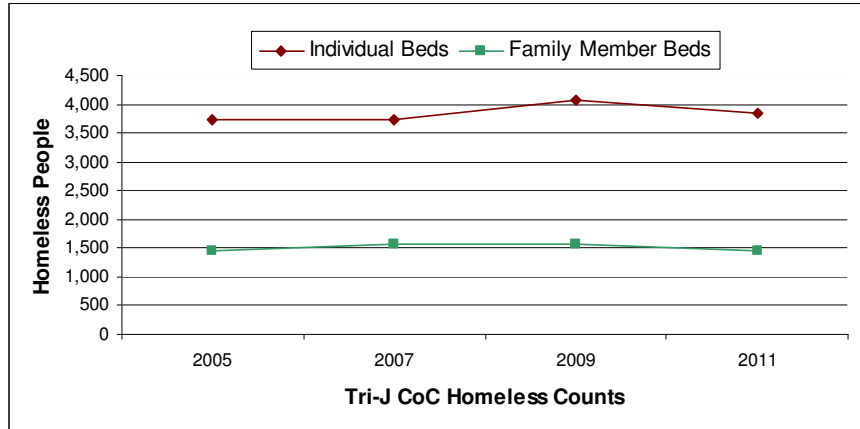


Household Type by Sleeping Location: From 2003 to 2009, there was a decrease of unsheltered individuals (2.3%) with a dramatic increase over the last two years (11%). On the other hand, sheltered individuals have experienced a steady increase from 2003 to 2009 (15%) with a slight decrease over the past two years (8%).

For the family members, there has been a fluctuation in the numbers over the years. From 2003 to 2007, unsheltered family members experienced a sharp decrease in numbers (77%). Then there was a rise from 2007 to 2009 (118%) with a final dip over the past two years (56%). The sheltered family members experienced a similar pattern over the years. From 2003 to 2005, there was a slight decrease in the number of families sleeping in sheltered locations (9%). This was followed with a rise in the numbers from 2005 to 2007 (20%). Finally, over the past four years, there has been a steady decrease of sheltered family members on count night (12%).

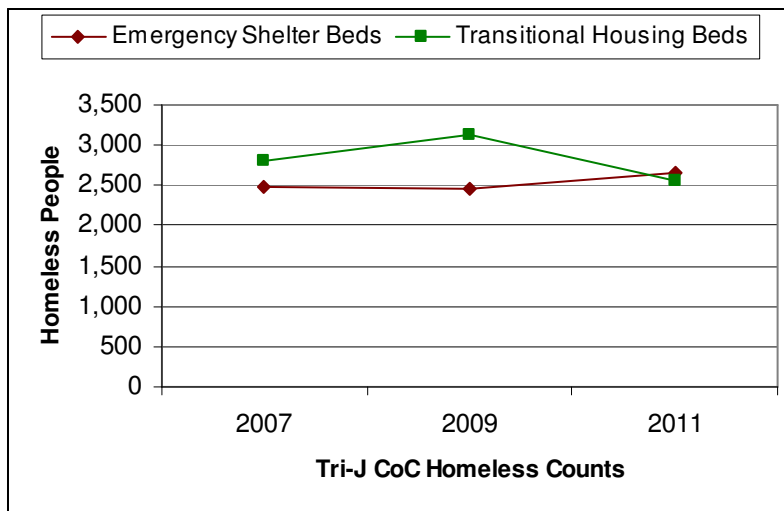
Bed Capacity: The number of people homeless on each census night is a reflection of the number of beds available. For each count, about two thirds of homeless people are sleeping in sheltered locations. From 2005 to 2009, there was a steady increase in beds for both individuals (3,722 to 4,082 beds) and family members (1,449 to 1,511 beds).

Figure 12: 2003 to 2011 Bed Capacity by Household Type



However, over the past two years, the Tri-J CoC has experienced a decrease in beds for individuals (4,082 to 3,840 beds) and family members (1,511 to 1,442 beds). Whereas there has been an increase in emergency shelter beds since the last count (269 beds), there has been a considerable decrease in the number of transitional housing beds over the past two years (580 beds). This has resulted in there being more emergency shelter beds (2,729 beds) than transitional housing beds (2,553 beds).

Figure 13: 2003 to 2011 Bed Capacity by Sleeping Location



A possible reason for the recent reduction in transitional housing beds can be the focus of the Tri-J CoC on creating permanent housing beds. Since the 2009 count, 802 permanent supportive housing beds have been added to the Tri-J CoC bed supply.

Table 21: 2003 to 2011 Bed Capacity and Occupancy

Occupancy Rate: The point-in-time Tri-J CoC homeless census occupancy rate held fairly steady from 2005 to 2007. However, the last five years has seen a

steady decrease in occupancy rates for the total Tri-J CoC homeless census. If the occupancy rate for the Tri-J CoC homeless counts is calculated based on individuals only as this is a more accurate measurement, then the community finds that the rate of individuals using the beds in the Tri-J CoC has been steadily decreasing since 2003.

Total Tri-J CoC Homeless Counts				
	2005	2007	2009	2011
Occupancy	4,570	4,725	4,855	4,460
Capacity	5,171	5,298	5,653	5,282
Occupancy (%)	88%	89%	86%	84%

Table 21: 2003 to 2011 Bed Capacity and Occupancy

Individuals				
	2005	2007	2009	2011
Occupancy	3,588	3,551	3,713	3,429
Capacity	3,722	3,741	4,082	3,840
Occupancy for Individuals (%)	96%	95%	91%	89%

Section 7: Annualized Projection

For the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count, the community collected information on persons who were homeless on a single night. This provides only a snap shot of people who are homeless on a given night in winter. Over the course of a year, individuals and families will cycle in and out of homelessness. People who are homeless for a short period will be in the situation briefly as they find a permanent place to stay usually within a few weeks or months. On the other hand, people who are homeless for the long-term will remain without housing for a year or longer. The long term homeless tend to be chronic indicating that they experience a disabling condition such as a mental illness or addiction.

To estimate how many people will be homeless over the course of an entire year, Pathways projected an annualized count of homeless people based on turnover rates (also called multipliers). Multipliers have been calculated for the 2011 Tri-Jurisdictional homeless population to estimate the number of individuals and family members who will experience homelessness this year.

Three factors were used to determine categorically specific turnover rates:

- Length of homelessness as reported by the 2009 Tri-J CoC 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 annual multiplier of 2.2 for family members ($2.2 \times 1,073 = 2,361$) and a multiplier of 3.02 for individuals ($3.02 \times 5,765 = 17,410$). On a regular basis, families are homeless a shorter time period than individuals. According to the 2009 Tri-J CoC homeless survey, more family members were homeless for 1-3 months (16%) while more individuals were homeless for 4-6 months (17.5%).

The total for both individuals and families indicated that ***approximately 19,771 people will experience homelessness in the Tri-J CoC area sometime during 2011.*** From the 2003 to 2009 Tri-J CoC homeless counts, there was a steady increase of people homeless over the years (4,816 people, 22.5%). However, over the past two years, there has been a decrease of people homeless annually (1,670 people, 8%).

Table 22: Annualized Projections for 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Totals	16,625	20,086	20,110	21,441	19,771
Percent Change		+21%	0%	+7%	-8%

Section 8: Conclusion


Historically, the homeless population has fluctuated as the U.S. economy prospers and declines. With a growing economy such as during the 1950s, the homeless population numbers were reduced. Unfortunately, over the past few years, the U.S. economy has been struggling with unemployment on the rise and house prices falling. Yet during this tough economic time, the overall 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless numbers were reduced for the first time since collecting count data.

Overall, the Tri-J CoC homeless numbers rose from 2003 to 2009 with a reduction in the homeless population for the latest count. An interesting finding was that the same trend occurred with the overall Tri-J CoC sheltered count numbers. On the other hand, the unsheltered numbers experienced a decrease from 2003 to 2009 with an increase for 2011. In other words, as the number of people in sheltered beds rose in the Tri-J CoC, the number of people sleeping outdoors fell and as the number of people in sheltered beds decreased, the number of people sleeping in unsheltered locations increased. These findings indicate that the occupancy of sheltered beds had a much larger impact on the overall Tri-J CoC homeless numbers than the unsheltered figures.

It is important to realize that the reduction in the sheltered count numbers in 2011 was probably most affected by the large decrease in available transitional housing beds for the Tri-J CoC over the past couple of years (580 beds). A possible reason for the reduction in the transitional housing beds can be the focus of the Tri-J CoC over the past few years on increasing the number of permanent supportive housing beds (PSH). In fact, there has been over 800 PSH beds added for families, unaccompanied adult men and unaccompanied adult women to the Tri-J CoC since 2009. These beds tend to have a higher occupancy rate than both transitional housing and emergency shelter beds. By moving people into permanent supportive housing programs, it reduces the number of people who are literally homeless.

On the other hand, there is concern that the unsheltered numbers were at an all time high for this homeless count, especially for unaccompanied adult men. A possible reason for the high number of unsheltered individuals is the ever decreasing occupancy rate. In addition, there were not enough beds available on count night for the street population. Even if all the Tri-J CoC empty beds were filled, there would still have been over 2,000 people sleeping outside. The need for beds can be clearly seen by the extremely large number of people found at the Atlanta Airport on count night. Currently, a majority of homeless services are focused on downtown Atlanta. Even though this area has consistently experienced the highest concentration of unsheltered people, extensive homeless services also need to be targeted in the other two areas where high numbers of homeless street people were found - Southwest Atlanta and Atlanta Airport.

The overall Tri-J CoC numbers have held fairly steady from year to year and across both unsheltered and sheltered counts. The greatest fluctuation in numbers has been experienced within each jurisdiction. For the jurisdictions, often the overall numbers rise, fall, rise and then fall again. An interesting finding is that the overall Tri-J CoC homeless count figures for individuals show a similar pattern of increasing, decreasing, increasing and finally decreasing for



2011. Another discovery is that even though the jurisdictions found a majority of individuals on count night, the percentage of individuals for each jurisdiction varied. Atlanta had the highest percentage of individuals (88%), DeKalb County was a distant second (60%) with Fulton County third (52%). Thus, to have the largest impact, City of Atlanta needs to focus homeless services on individuals, specifically unaccompanied adult males sleeping outside and in emergency shelters, while DeKalb County and Fulton County need to concentrate on services for both individuals and families.

Whereas the majority of unaccompanied adult men were sleeping in unsheltered locations on count night, the majority of unaccompanied adult women were found in emergency shelters while most families were staying in transitional housing. On the other hand, unaccompanied adult men, unaccompanied adult women and families were fairly evenly distributed among permanent supportive housing beds on count night. As seen by these figures, a strong effort by the Tri-J CoC to encourage unaccompanied adults, especially those sleeping in unsheltered and emergency shelter locations, towards staying in transitional housing and permanent supportive housing needs to continue to reduce the number of people who are literally homeless in our community.

Following the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless count, the 2011 Tri-J CoC homeless survey is conducted. The survey provides a more in depth look at the issues that homeless people face in our community. The next HUD mandated Tri-J CoC homeless census is scheduled for January 2013.



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2011 Tri-J CoC Homeless Count Report	
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