

**HOMELESS ENUMERATION
FOR THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN REGION
2005**

Prepared by:

**The Homeless Services Planning and
Coordinating Committee**

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777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Suite 300
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Introduction

Since 2001 the Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has conducted a regional enumeration of the “homeless” population. It is necessary at the outset of this report to put “homeless” in quotation marks because a significant percentage of those enumerated (26% in 2005) are *permanently housed* while another significant percentage (almost 27% in 2005) are living in transitional housing that is in most cases indistinguishable from any other rental-type housing. Less than half of those counted are living in emergency shelters (where many go back into the streets during the day) or living on the streets all the time, or seeking shelter but not able to find it – situations that the public normally understands as “homeless.”

This report tracks the number of persons found on the streets, in emergency shelters, in transitional and permanent supportive housing, or otherwise homeless and in need of help to obtain safe shelter. These data represent persons served by what is commonly called the “Continuum of Care” which refers to three competitive funded HUD programs based on the law of the McKinney – Vento Homeless Assistance Act for comprehensive service provision. It is a point-in-time snapshot of persons served by the nine Continuum of Care jurisdictions in the metropolitan region that have received grants, including Frederick County which is included herein for the first time. The City of Bowie data is included in the count for Prince George’s County and the City of Manassas and Manassas Park are included in the Prince William County count.

For persons who were once homeless on the streets or in shelters but are now *permanently housed* in supportive housing that is part of the Continuum of Care, homelessness has effectively ended; but many of these individuals would become homeless again if their supportive housing were no longer available. Using only the total count which includes this number, however, tends to obscure the number of persons who truly do not have a home and masks the increasingly successful efforts to end homelessness by producing permanent supportive housing or new “housing first” programs.¹

Given the wide circulation of this report and its extensive use by the media and philanthropic community in saying how many “homeless” there are in our region, the Committee concluded in 2004 that the summary number issuing from this report was not representing the problem or its solution as accurately as it could. Thus the Committee undertook the enumeration in a different way last year to delineate these differences in the hope that it will serve policymakers better than reports issued in the past. This 2005 report builds upon the new way of looking at the data that the Committee established in 2004 so that we can start seeing trends in the data about *solutions* to homelessness at the same time that we track the continuing problem throughout the region.

To make the point plainly, this report shows that 4,020 of the once homeless people counted are now *permanently housed*. Another 4,145 were counted in transitional housing, which means they were on the path to stable housing (see Fig. 3A). A total of 7,274 of those counted were persons

who are on the streets or in emergency shelters or on wait lists and precariously housed – all situations that are clearly “homeless” in the usual sense of that word.

A Precise Picture of the Problem *and* its Solution

Last year this report established two new baselines that more accurately reflect the number of persons who are “literally” homeless, both sheltered and unsheltered, and the number of largely disabled permanently supported homeless persons whose homelessness has effectively ended because they now have permanent housing with supportive services that helps them to remain stably housed. Because this 2005 report is the first follow-up to the new baseline data that was published in 2004, this report contrasts and compares the new baseline numbers of 2004 with what the Committee discovered in 2005.

Baseline 1: The literally homeless

In January 2005 there were **11,419** persons in the Washington region who were *literally homeless* (compared to 11,109 in 2004²), meaning that one of the following described their situation:

- They had NO shelter at all, or
- They were in emergency shelters temporarily, or
- They were in transitional housing temporarily, or
- They were in precarious housing and at imminent risk of losing it.

Baseline 2: The permanently supported homeless

In January 2005 there were **4,020** persons counted as *permanently supported homeless* (as compared with 3,428 in 2004), meaning at least one of the following described their situation:

- They were in permanent supportive housing and at risk of becoming homeless again because of extreme poverty or serious mental and/or physical disabilities, and they need ongoing supportive services, or
- They were placed directly into permanent housing in a “housing first” program, may or may not be disabled, and need supportive services to achieve long-term housing stability.

The “permanently supported homeless,” in other words, have reached stable housing which represents part of the *solution* to homelessness rather than part of the problem that remains.

These new baselines are possible because the nine COG Continuum of Care jurisdictions are now not only reporting the number of individuals and persons in families they counted but also where they counted them. COG Continua of Care jurisdictions now break out the data into persons found on the streets, in emergency shelters (both year-round and winter-only shelters) or “other” homeless situations such as waiting lists and motels, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. By doing so, it is now possible to track the number of literally homeless that everyone wants to see decrease, even as we track the number of permanently supported homeless with supportive housing that is part of the solution.

Table 1 compares the findings of 2004 with those of 2005, but presents the data in a slightly different way. Last year’s Table 1 showed the number of persons who were counted in permanent housing as a percentage of *all* persons in the count. This year the Committee decided

it is more useful to show the number and percentage of permanently housed persons *within* the two groupings of “Individuals” and “Persons in Families” since the task of housing single adults or youth is very different than the task of housing families. Thus it makes sense to look at the extent to which we are creating permanent housing for each of these groups as that gives us a more focused picture about our housing efforts.

Table 1 is also simplified this year to look only at regional changes this past year with respect to the number of literally homeless and permanently supported homeless as well as the number and percentage of Individuals and persons in Families that are no longer homeless because they have permanent housing within the region’s Continuum of Care jurisdictions. At the end of this report is a “Table 1 (by Jurisdiction)” that provides the same data for each of the nine Continua.

Table 1											
COG REGION		Literally Homeless			Permanently Supported Homeless			Total	Percent in Permanent Housing		
		All	Individ- -uals	Persons in Families	All	Individ- -uals	Persons in Families		Among All	Among Individ- -uals	Among Persons in Families
Year	2005	11,419	6,321	5,098	4,020	2,345	1,675	15,439	26.0%	27.1%	24.7%
	2004	11,109	5,887	5,222	3,428	2,030	1,398	14,537	23.6%	25.6%	21.1%
% Change over past year		2.8%	7.4%	-2.4%	17.3%	15.5%	19.8%	6.2%	10.4%	5.5%	17.1%

Discussion of Table 1

One year of collecting the data in Table 1 does not allow us to make definitive statements about trends in reducing literal homelessness or about trends in adding to the stock of permanent supportive housing, which we hope will reduce literal homelessness over time. However, it is possible to say the following:

- The number of literally homeless persons stayed essentially at the same level (up 2.8%), with most of the 310 additional persons in the count attributable to the inclusion of Frederick County’s 271 literally homeless persons for the first time in this report.
- The total number in 2005 rose by 902 persons from 14,537 to 15,439, an increase of 6.2%, including a 2% increase due to the inclusion of the Frederick County count of 296. However, 66% of the increase is due to counting more permanently supported homeless.
- The percentage of the population counted in permanent housing rose from 23.6% in 2004 to 26% in 2005, an increase of 10.4% during the year. Among individuals the increase in permanent units was lower (5.5%) than it was among persons in families (17.1%). These numbers indicate that the regional Continuum of Care is moving in the right direction.³

The Chronically Homeless

The nine COG jurisdictions that received Continuum of Care grants are working to reduce the number of “chronically homeless” persons.⁴ That task will mean increasing the number of

permanent supportive housing units available in each Continuum of Care for individuals. Over the next few years the total number of single persons counted may not fall, but the number of literally homeless should begin to decrease while the number of permanently supported homeless should continue to increase to more than the 26% (see Table 1) of the regional Continuum that we saw in 2005, which was slightly higher than in 2004.

COG grantee jurisdictions are tracking families placed into permanent supportive housing even though the HUD definition of chronically homeless does not include families. The Committee believes that some families experience repeated or long-term homelessness and will need permanent supportive housing in cases where mental illness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and other serious disabilities make complete self-sufficiency unlikely. Thus Table 1 includes persons in families (adults plus children) among the permanently supported homeless. Persons in families, however, are *not included* in the discussion of chronically homeless that follows.

Table 2 compares the number of single persons counted as chronically homeless in 2005 with what the Committee found in 2004.

Chronically Homeless Adults as Percentage of All Literally Homeless Adults and as Percentage of Single Adults Using Emergency Shelters								
	Total Chronic Homeless		as % of Literally Homeless Single Adults		Chronic Counted in Emergency Shelters		% Chronic among Single Adults in Emergency Shelters	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
District of Columbia	1,505	1,773	42%	47%	1,211	1,450	45%	57%
Montgomery County	132	144	26%	23%	93	104	39%	34%
Prince George's County	71	194	15%	42%	0	65	0%	42%
Frederick County	n/a	77	n/a	47%	n/a	46	n/a	100%
Alexandria	76	91	36%	38%	34	48	32%	40%
Arlington County	139	100	50%	35%	11	46	24%	54%
Fairfax County/City & Falls Church	293	258	48%	46%	89	109	44%	78%
Loudoun County	12	23	33%	58%	5	13	25%	65%
Prince William County	6	34	4%	22%	6	0	10%	0%
	2,234	2,694	38%	43%	1,449	1,881	40%	54%

According to providers' observations, in 2005 there are 2,694 adults in the metropolitan region that meet the definition of being chronically homeless. Not surprisingly, some 1,773 (66%) of these persons are concentrated in the District of Columbia, where about 53% of the region's literally homeless adults are found (see Figure 1 at the end of this report) and where 65% of the region's winter-only beds are located (see Figure 5). This is higher than in the previous two counts, but does not yet support the conclusion that this population is growing.

The 2003 enumeration showed 1,939 persons as chronically homeless, noting at the time that the count was "probably too low," and the figure for 2004 (2,234 persons) may also have been low as it was based more on provider observations and less on hard data that tracks length of stay and

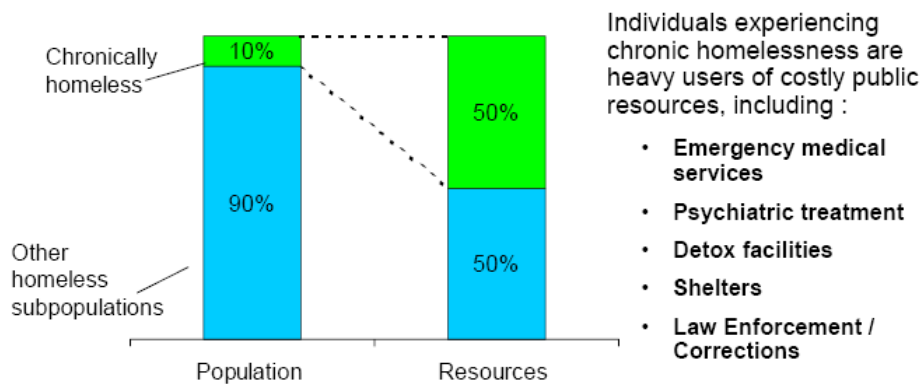
disabilities. The advent and widening use of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) in the region, with most Continuua using a product or tool that allows the recording of “chronically homeless,” may be contributing to getting more precise data.⁵ This data is not yet confirmed based on diagnosed disabilities plus length of stay, but the fact the providers may have noted in their HMIS or paper records that a client is chronically homeless before the count was conducted could be contributing to a higher and likely more accurate count.

Frederick and Fairfax counties show the highest prevalence of chronic homelessness within their emergency shelters, with Loudoun, the District and Arlington County showing more than half of their emergency shelter population as chronic, and each of these jurisdictions showing a substantially larger count this year than in 2004.

These data matter because a body of research shows that this population of chronically homeless adults comprises about one-half of all adults in shelters at any given time but only about 10% of persons experiencing homelessness in a year’s time. Thus the chronically homeless use about half of all emergency shelter resources while also exacting a great cost on other public systems as well.⁶ Since this is a relatively static population – with people tending to remain homeless over several years – providing permanent housing will relieve the burden on emergency shelters and reduce the human tragedy of people living in the streets, and reduce public costs such as those indicated in the graphic below.⁷ Table 2 shows that 54% of single adults in emergency shelters are chronically homeless, which indicates that the 2005 count of this population is likely to be more accurate than counts taken in previous years.

INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS USE A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES

10% of the homeless population consumes over 50% of the resources



Burt, Martha R., Laudan Y. Aron and Edgar Lee. 2001. *Helping America's Homeless: Emergency Shelter or Affordable Housing?* Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press. Kuhn, R. & Culhane, D.P. (1998). Applying cluster analysis to test of a typology of homelessness: Results from the analysis of administrative data. *The American Journal of Community Psychology*, 17 (1), 23-43. Community Shelter Board. *Rebuilding Lives: A New Strategy to House Homeless Men*. Columbus, OH: Emergency Food and Shelter Board.

Tracking our region’s success in ending homelessness will require a focus on what happens to these 2,694 persons over the next few years as housing with supportive services is created with enough capacity to bring them inside.

Historical Comparison

In past reports (prior to 2004) the two numbers of literally and permanently supported homeless were aggregated into one number that was interpreted by media and many others as how many “homeless” there are in the region. While this interpretation provides an overly simplistic impression of the problem, for the sake of continuity this report compares this larger number to the similar number that was generated in previous years for the region and for each jurisdiction (Table 3). At a minimum, this summary statistic provides a comparative look over the years at how many people are being served by the region’s Continuum of Care jurisdictions, albeit with 4,020 of them this year having been counted as permanently housed.

The data for 2001 has been dropped from Table 3 because the enumeration was done for the first time that year and was potentially subject to more errors of interpretation and estimation. Therefore, the Committee concluded that comparing this year (2005) with years going back to 2002 gives a more accurate reading of trends over time.

Table 3 shows again the 6.2% increase since 2004 in the aggregate number, which (as explained in the discussion of Table 1) is due in part to the inclusion of Frederick County for the first time but is largely due to the increases in permanent housing. The standout statistic of the table is the 20.7% drop in persons enumerated by Prince George’s County, one of the larger homeless systems in the region, within the past year. As detailed in “Table 1 (by Jurisdiction)” at the end of this narrative, the reduction over the past year occurred in both the literally homeless and the permanently supported homeless. At the same time the table shows that significant reductions experienced by some jurisdictions (Loudoun, Alexandria and Arlington) over the past two years have leveled off. This is the case in Prince William County where the number served by their Continuum of Care has stayed just above 500 for three years. The District’s number continued to grow, but as “Table 1 (by Jurisdiction)” shows, the increase in the District is largely due to counting more persons in permanent supportive housing.

Jurisdiction	Total Number Counted				Annual Rate of Change		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
District of Columbia	7,468	7,950	8,253	8,977	6.5%	3.8%	8.8%
Montgomery County	1,250	1,208	1,500	1,630	-3.4%	24.2%	8.7%
Prince George’s County	1,551	1,558	1,371	1,087	0.5%	-12.0%	-20.7%
Frederick County	n/a	n/a	n/a	296	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alexandria	604	515	449	465	-14.7%	-12.8%	3.6%
Arlington County	471	453	408	420	-3.8%	-9.9%	2.9%
Fairfax County/City & Falls Church	2,067	1,944	1,926	1,949	-6.0%	-0.9%	1.2%
Loudoun County	242	133	100	103	-45.0%	-24.8%	3.0%
Prince William County	329	515	530	512	56.5%	2.9%	-3.4%
	13,982	14,276	14,537	15,439	2.1%	1.8%	6.2%

Unsheltered Homeless

The unsheltered (“street”) persons, who best represent the widespread public image of homelessness, continue to be a relatively small part of the homeless population. The count (in part, an estimate) of unsheltered individuals is a number that policymakers and the public want to see reduced each year as the winter season approaches. It is difficult to get a precise number based strictly on direct observation on the night of the enumeration; so while most jurisdictions conduct a street count, the District of Columbia asks outreach providers from all over the city to report the number of persons who are “normally” on the streets and tend not to use shelters.⁸ More such persons may have used shelters this year since the District expanded its shelter capacity by 990 beds in the winter, and the COG region as a whole opened 1,525 additional beds for the winter months. The 1,082 figure is 26% higher than the 857 that were counted in 2004, which could indicate more adults are becoming literally homeless, or may reflect variation due to the difficulty in counting this population. However, Figure 3 shows that these persons account for only 7% of all the literally and permanently supported homeless.

One must bear in mind that the count of unsheltered individuals taken in the winter is reduced by the opening of 1,525 additional beds for individuals during the winter season (see Table 4). “Street homelessness” would be higher in the warmer months throughout the region, but opening the additional beds does reduce the number of persons exposed to life-threatening cold.

The Washington Region’s Current Continuum of Care

The region’s inventory of facilities to shelter the homeless has moved far beyond the 1980’s focus on “emergency” shelters to provide a multi-faceted Continuum of Care.

Table 4							
Continuum of Care: Winter and Year-Round Inventory of Beds in the Washington Region							
		Beds for Individuals	Beds for Persons in Families	All Beds: Winter	% Distribution in Winter	All Beds: Warm Months	% Distribution in Warm Months
Hypothermia/Overflow Beds	2005	1,525	186	1,711	11%		
	2004	1,037	493	1,530	10%		
Emergency Shelter Beds	2005	2,945	1,551	4,496	29%	4,496	33%
	2004	3,165	1,638	4,803	33%	4,803	36%
Transitional Housing Beds	2005	1,876	3,092	4,968	32%	4,968	36%
	2004	1,625	3,316	4,941	33%	4,941	37%
Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	2005	2,418	1,794	4,212	27%	4,212	31%
	2004	2,376	1,135	3,511	24%	3,511	26%
TOTALS	2005	8,764	6,623	15,387		13,676	
	2004	8,203	6,582	14,785		13,255	
% change since 2004		6.8%	0.6%	4.1%		3.2%	

Table 4 shows the 2005 distribution of emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing beds for individuals and persons in families, both in winter months when the point-in-time enumeration is done and during the warmer months (April-October). By tracking beds in

this manner it will become possible over time to see the growth of the permanent supportive housing inventory and the expected diminishment of emergency shelter beds both winter-only and year-round.⁹ There is some evidence in this table that this is happening, with the percentage of permanent beds growing and slight decreases in emergency and transitional beds. However, these data do not yet constitute a trend. Overall the region's response to homelessness appears to be growing as 4.1% more beds are available in winter and 3.2% more in the warm months.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The maintenance and improvement of reliable data over time is critical and necessary if elected officials in the metropolitan Washington region are to craft new policy directions for addressing affordable housing and homelessness. The Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee works to ensure that local, regional and federal policymakers, as well as the general public, will be better informed by the data in this report and thus able to shape policies more effectively. Last year, the Committee recommended and the COG Board accepted the use of the dual tracking approach used in this report. The Committee is committed to continuing its work in coming years to track the number of "literally" homeless and the number of "permanently supported" homeless whose successful housing is an important part of the solution. Also, consistent with a recommendation to the COG Board, jurisdictions are continuing to implement Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), which will continue to provide better data over time in the future.

However, well it the measures of the problem the Committee needs the COG Board to take action to help with solutions. For the past five years, we have spent a lot of effort finding out about the scope of the problem, analyzing it and reporting on it. Last year we began reporting on part of the solution: permanent supportive housing. Now we all have to work on the solutions and regional cooperation will be imperative for these solutions to work.

For that reason on October 25, 2005 the Committee will be hosting a fall conference where elected officials and policy makers can meet and learn more about ways that we as a region can work together. Part of that conference will focus on designing and implementing a regional data warehouse by which all COG Continua can track – with strict confidentiality protections for consumers – the number of individuals and families who are being served by one or more of our jurisdictions. It is technically possible, but requires political cooperation, to know how many homeless persons we have in common across the region, how many use services and shelter, and what migration patterns (if any) we can see across our jurisdictions. We can do all this without knowing specifically what persons are included in the analysis. We can know how many, but not who. That data can then be used to craft intra-regional plans and strategies to end homelessness.

A portion of the conference will take up the recommendation that the Committee made in its 2004 report, and for which we continue to advocate. The first was to encourage member jurisdictions to collaborate to produce practical plans to end chronic homelessness. Homelessness will end when there is enough affordable and supportive housing to end it. The second recommendation was that COG and its member jurisdictions should modify and update regional housing policy to include, quantify, and provide for both the preservation and development of rental and home ownership units for the extremely low income (households with

incomes less than 30% of the Area Median Income), including permanent supportive housing for disabled adults and single resident occupancy (SRO) units closely tied to public mainstream services delivered by social and medical safety net systems.

The Committee recommends that the COG Board endorse the above concept for the fall conference, and encourage the political and policy leaders in the member jurisdictions to attend and participate in the conference.

The Committee believes that ending literal homelessness is an achievable vision for this region. With the vision and the will to do it, the region’s governments can provide housing to the extremely low income population and do away with literal homelessness. As large as the numbers look in this report, they are not large when seen in context of the region’s total population and the population within each jurisdiction. Proportionally, only relatively few of the people in the region are counted among the literally homeless.

Table 5 shows that, with the exception of the District of Columbia, the number of literally homeless persons in the COG jurisdictions is quite small – about 1.4 persons per thousand for the region (not including the District) and no more than 3.2 persons per thousand in any jurisdiction except the District.¹⁰

	COG 2003 Housing Data Survey (Population Estimate)	Literally Homeless Count in 2005	Literally Homeless as % of Total Population	As % of Regional Incidence	Literally Homeless Persons per 1,000 People
District of Columbia	575,000	6,026	1.048%	408%	10.5
Montgomery County	914,900	1,068	0.117%	45%	1.2
Prince George’s County	844,190	939	0.111%	43%	1.1
Frederick County	217,653	271	0.125%	49%	1.2
Alexandria	135,000	433	0.321%	125%	3.2
Arlington County	196,925	410	0.208%	81%	2.1
Fairfax County/City & Falls Church	1,022,611	1,675	0.164%	64%	1.6
Loudoun County	221,746	93	0.042%	16%	0.4
Prince William County	321,570	504	0.157%	61%	1.6
Region with D.C.	4,449,595	11,419	0.257%		2.6
Region without D.C.	3,874,595	5,393	0.139%		1.4

At the fall conference we will look at what it would take for each COG jurisdiction to commit to providing enough housing for singles and persons in families to meet the needs of a number of person’s equivalent to what this report has identified as literally homeless. The affordable housing problem in general is bigger than these numbers, and more than double the numbers listed may experience homelessness over the course of a year.

But commitments to build or subsidize housing sufficient to provide a home to 2.6 people out of every 1,000 in the region would be a very good place to start.

Table 1 (by Jurisdiction)

	Year	Literally Homeless			Permanently Supported Homeless			Total	Percent in Permanent Housing		
		All	Individuals	Persons in Families	All	Individuals	Persons in Families		Among All	Among Individuals	Among Persons in Families
District of Columbia	2005	6,026	3,794	2,232	2,951	1,826	1,125	8,977	32.9%	32.5%	33.5%
	2004	5,828	3,605	2,223	2,425	1,466	959	8,253	29.4%	28.9%	30.1%
	% Change over past year	3.4%	5.3%	0.4%	21.7%	24.6%	17.3%	8.8%	11.9%	12.4%	11.2%
Montgomery County	2005	1,068	616	452	562	199	363	1,630	34.5%	24.4%	44.5%
	2004	1,036	500	536	464	172	292	1,500	30.9%	25.6%	35.3%
	% Change over past year	3.1%	23.2%	-15.7%	21.1%	15.7%	24.3%	8.7%	11.5%	-4.6%	26.3%
Prince George's County	2005	939	462	477	148	24	124	1,087	13.6%	4.9%	20.6%
	2004	1,111	482	629	260	153	107	1,371	19.0%	24.1%	14.5%
	% Change over past year	-15.5%	-4.1%	-24.2%	-43.1%	-84.3%	15.9%	-20.7%	-28.2%	-79.5%	41.9%
Frederick County	2005	271	164	107	25	12	13	296	8.4%	6.8%	10.8%
	2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Alexandria	2005	433	240	193	32	22	10	465	6.9%	8.4%	4.9%
	2004	414	213	201	35	25	10	449	7.8%	10.5%	4.7%
	% Change over past year	4.6%	12.7%	-4.0%	-8.6%	-12.0%	0.0%	3.6%	-11.7%	-20.1%	3.9%
Arlington County	2005	410	289	121	10	8	2	420	2.4%	2.7%	1.6%
	2004	408	279	129	0	0	0	408	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	% Change over past year	0.5%	3.6%	-6.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.9%	2.4%	2.7%	1.6%
Fairfax County/City & Falls Church	2005	1,675	564	1,111	274	236	38	1,949	14.1%	29.5%	3.3%
	2004	1,700	615	1,085	226	198	28	1,926	11.7%	24.4%	2.5%
	% Change over past year	-1.5%	-8.3%	2.4%	21.2%	19.2%	35.7%	1.2%	19.8%	21.1%	31.5%
Loudoun County	2005	93	40	53	10	10	0	103	9.7%	20.0%	0.0%
	2004	92	36	56	8	6	2	100	8.0%	14.3%	3.4%
	% Change over past year	1.1%	11.1%	-5.4%	25.0%	66.7%	-100.0%	3.0%	21.4%	40.0%	-100.0%
Prince William County	2005	504	152	352	8	8	0	512	1.6%	5.0%	0.0%
	2004	520	157	363	10	10	0	530	1.9%	6.0%	0.0%
	% Change over past year	-3.1%	-3.2%	-3.0%	-20.0%	-20.0%	0.0%	-3.4%	-17.2%	-16.5%	0.0%

Figure 1

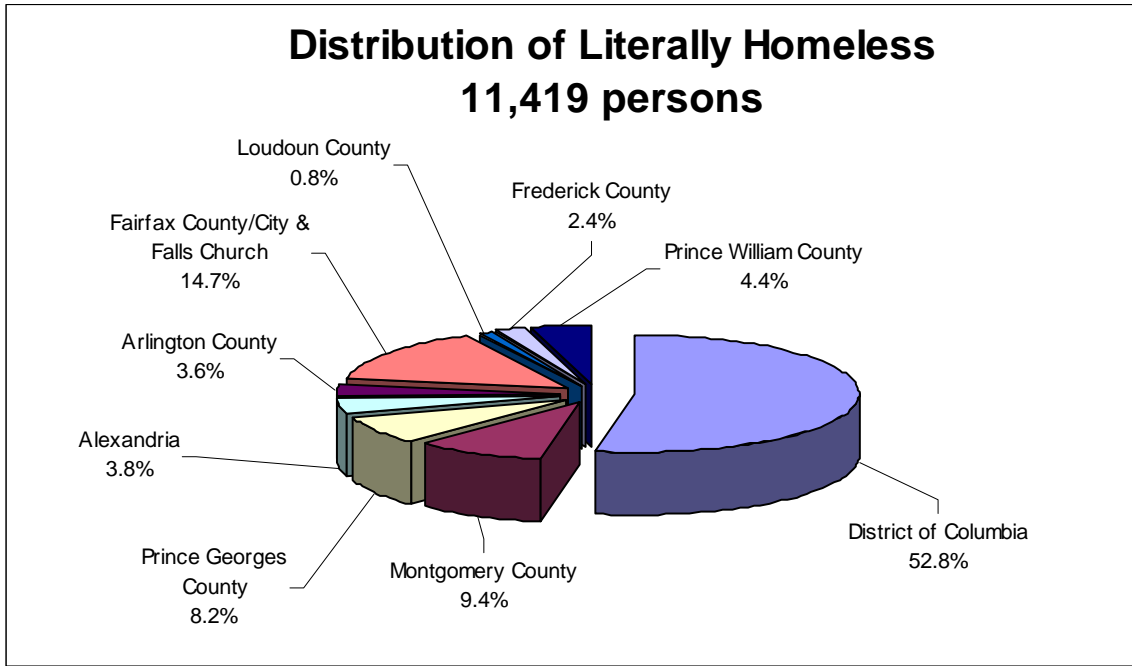


Figure 2

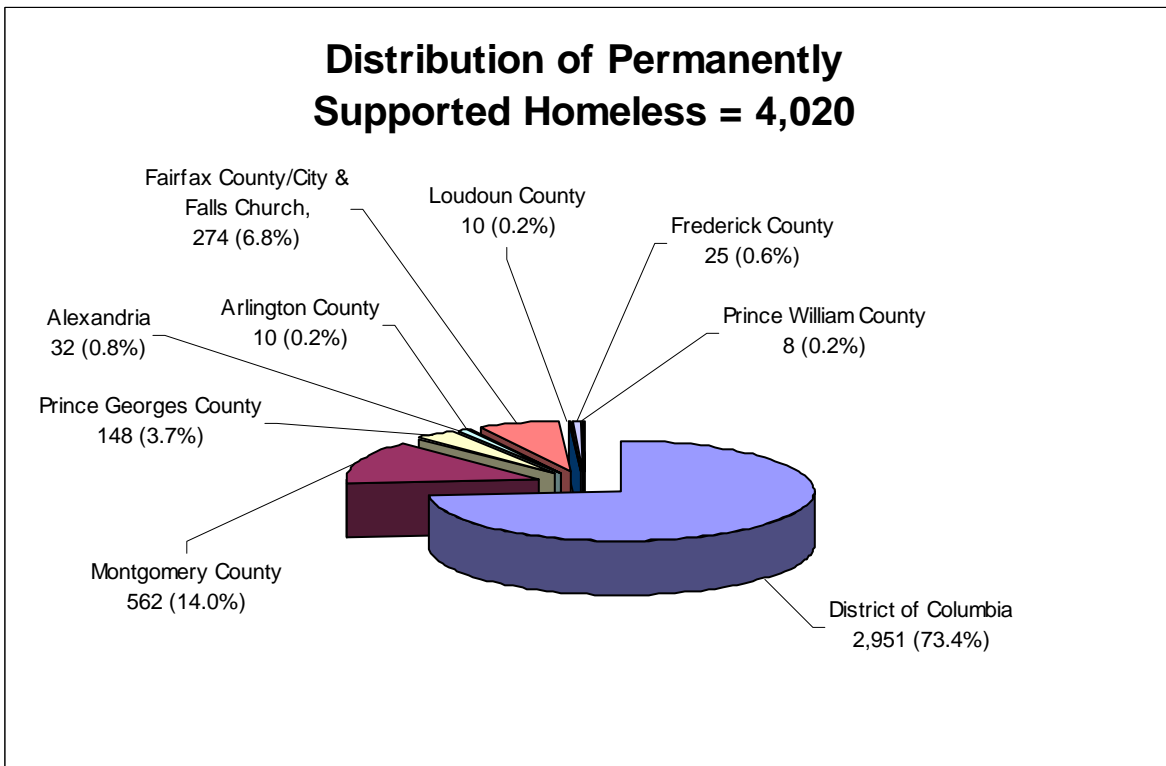


Figure 3

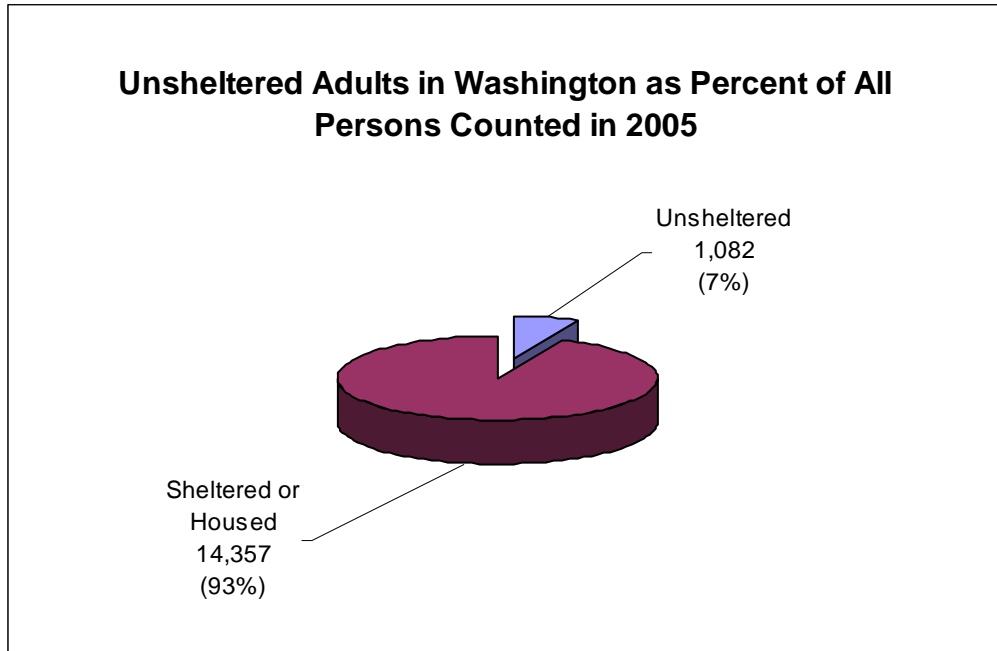


Figure 3A

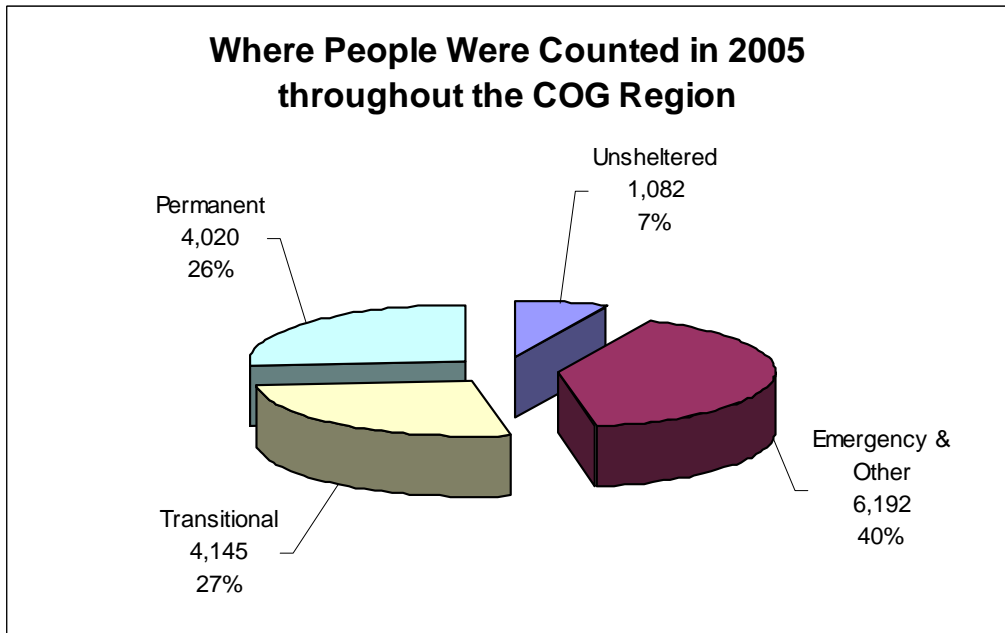


Figure 4

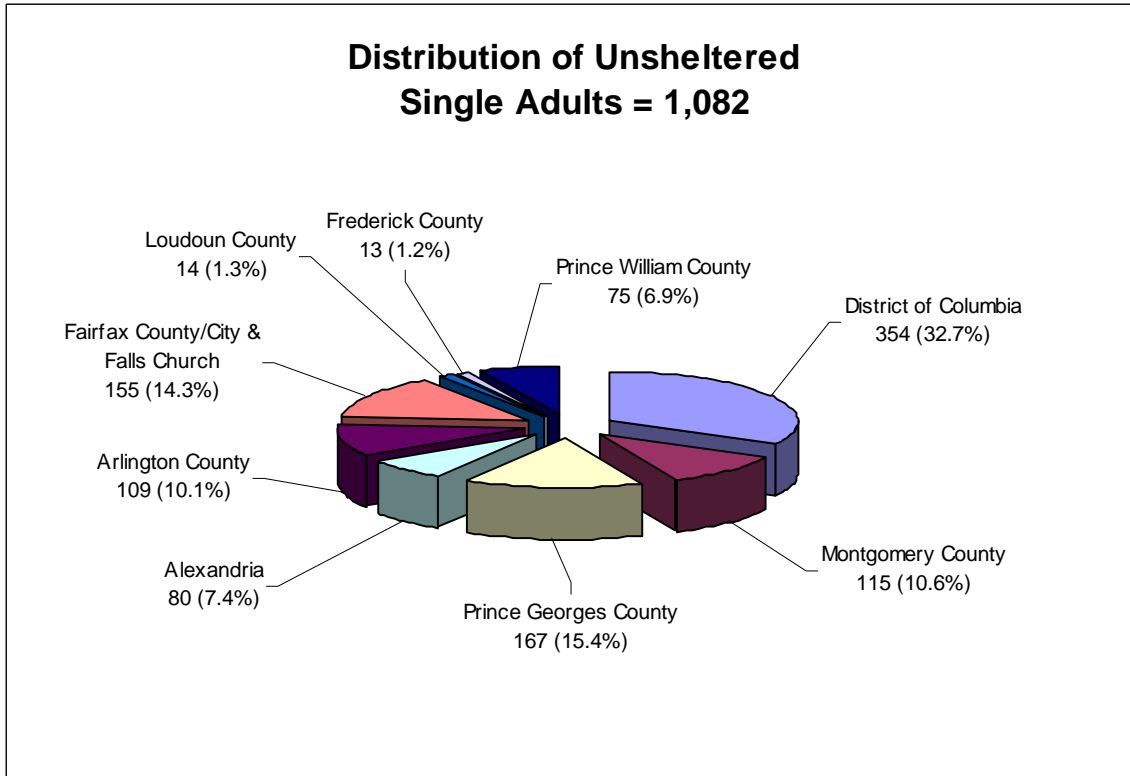


Figure 5

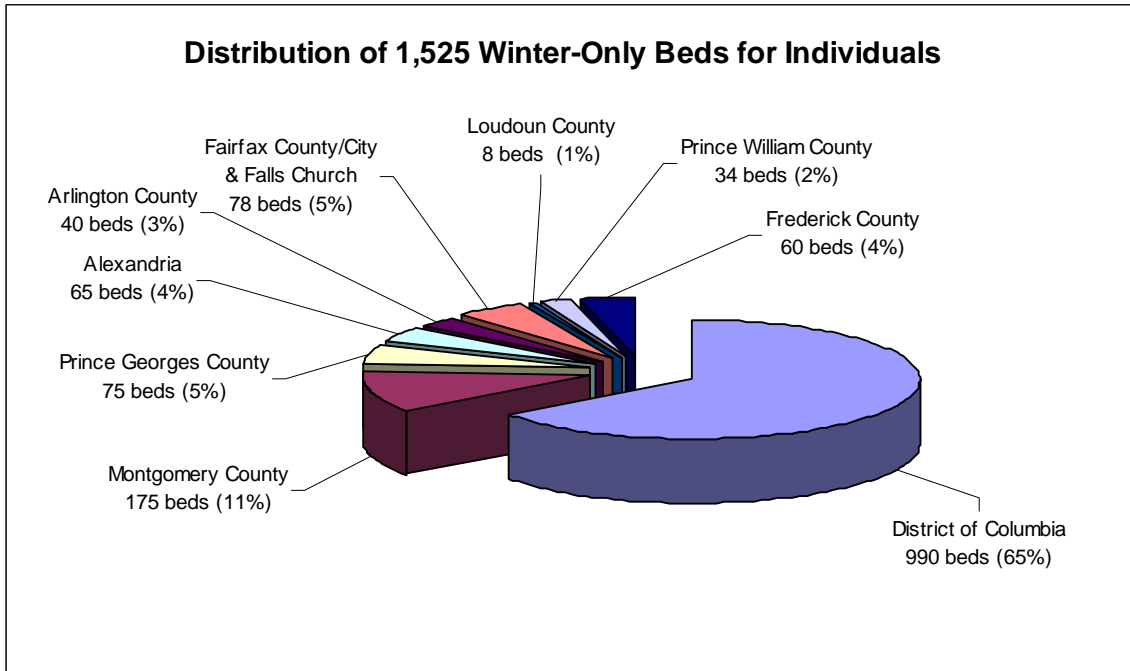


Figure 6

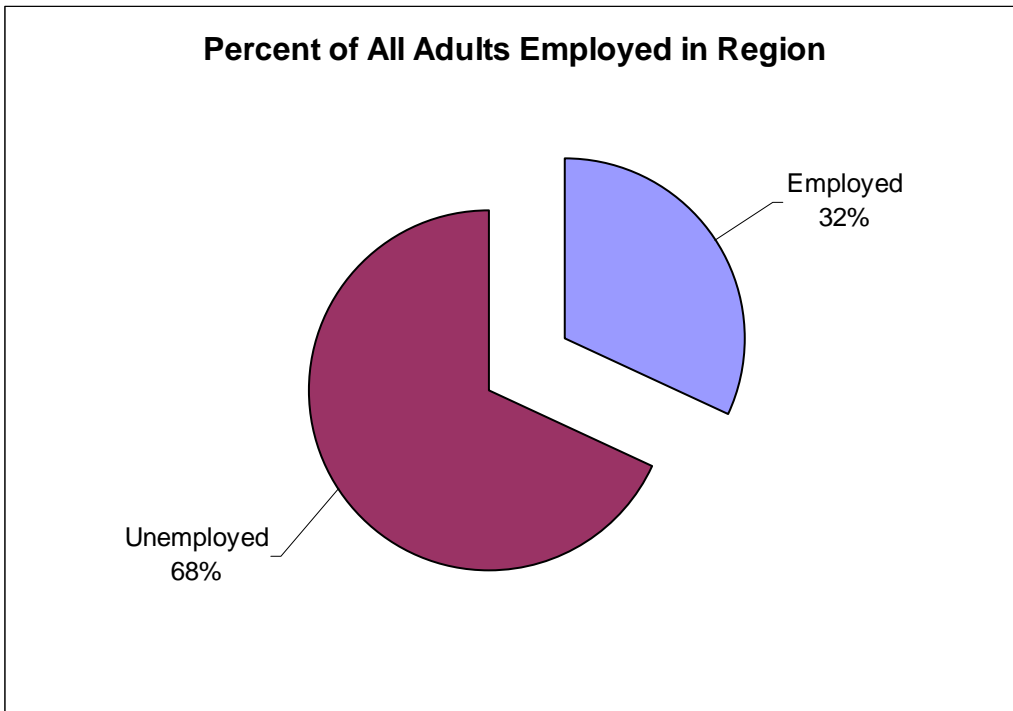


Figure 6A

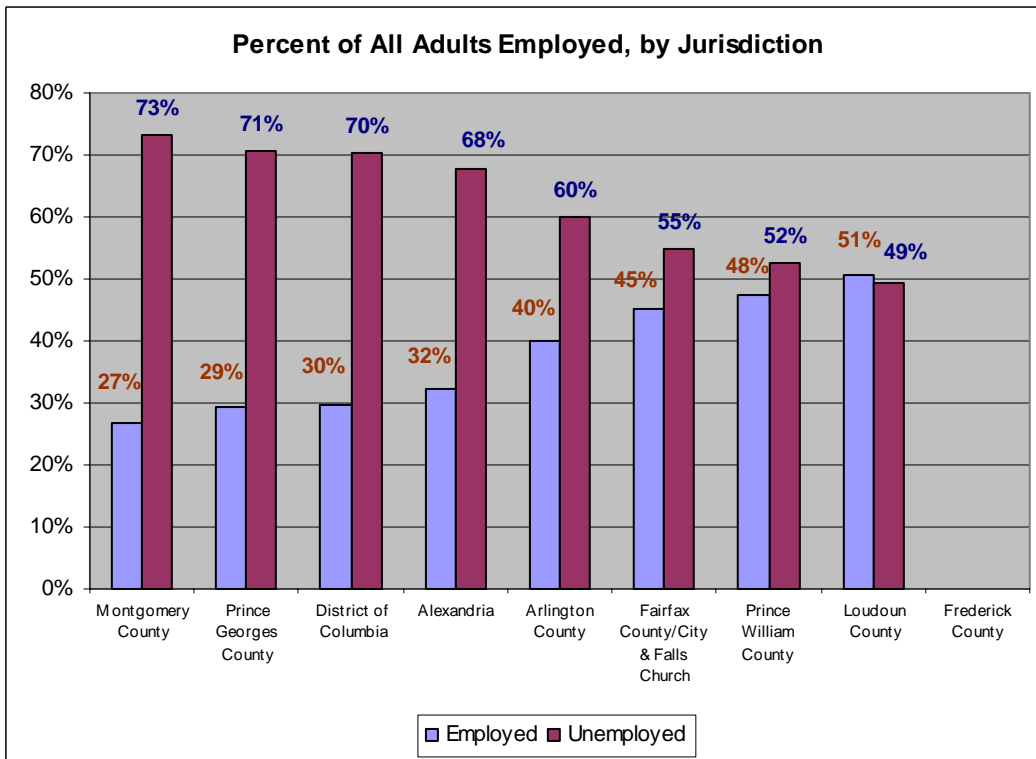


Figure 6B

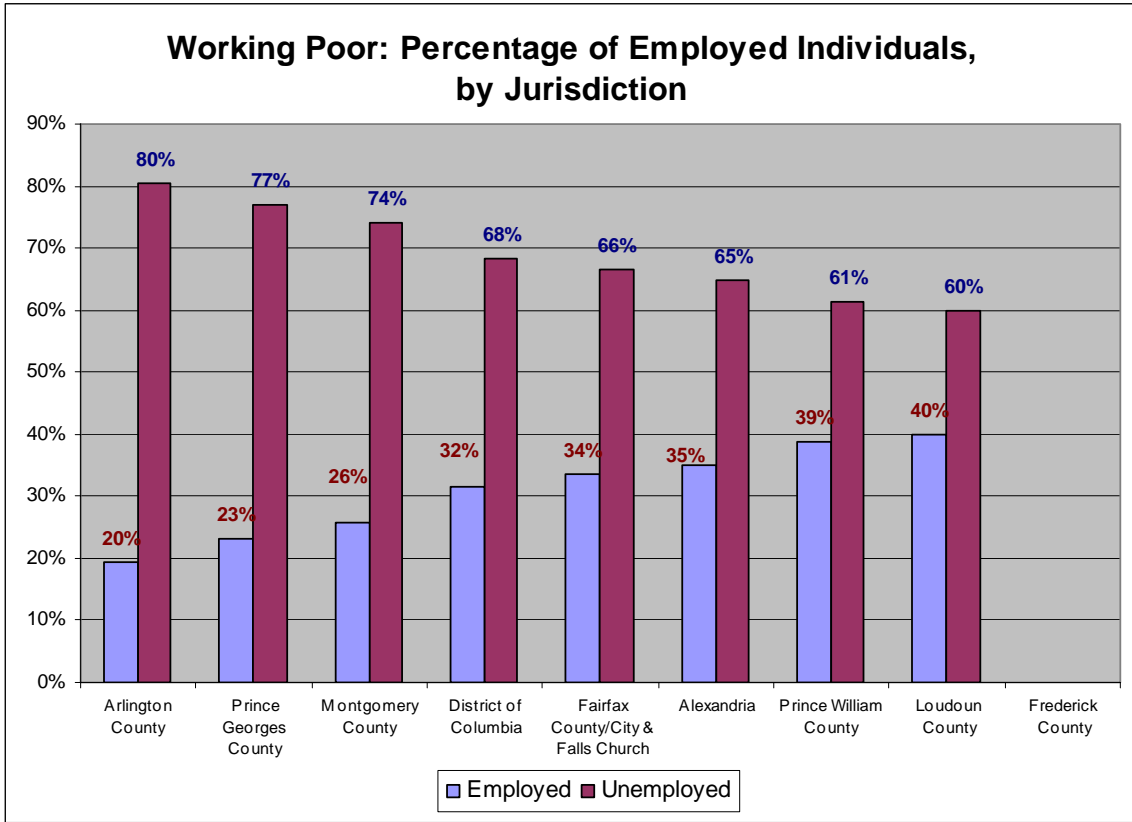


Figure 6C

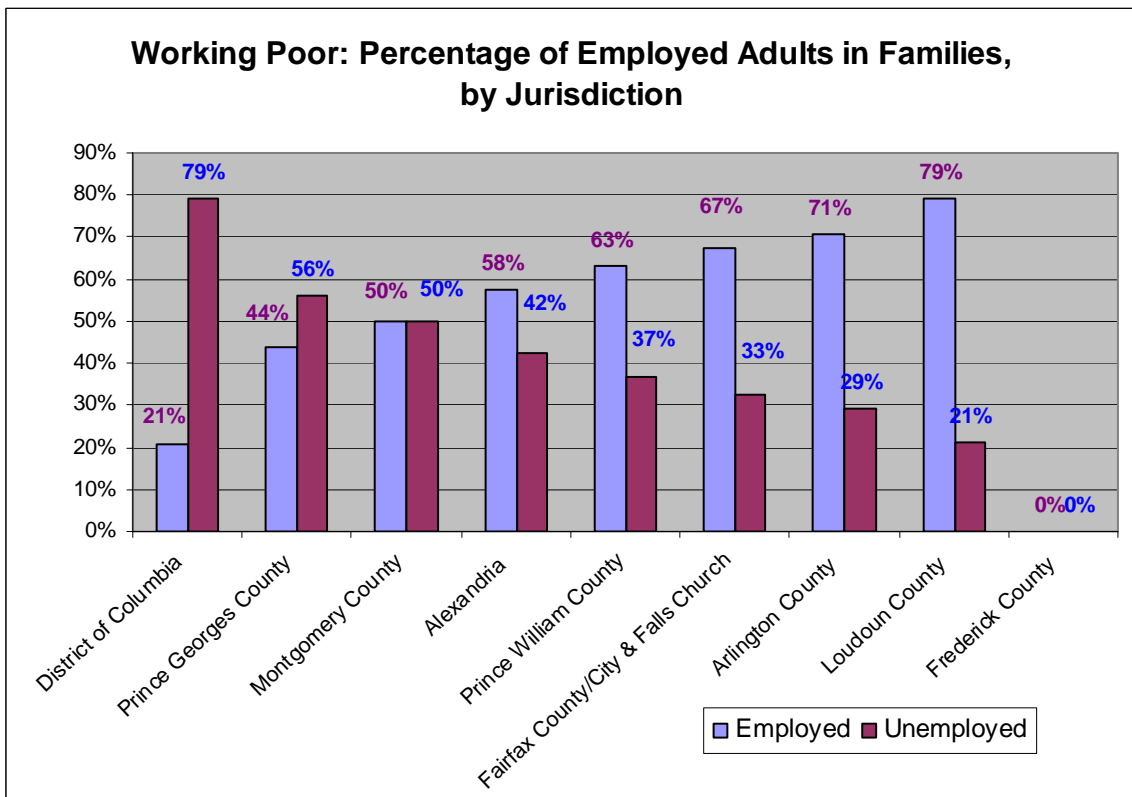


Figure 7

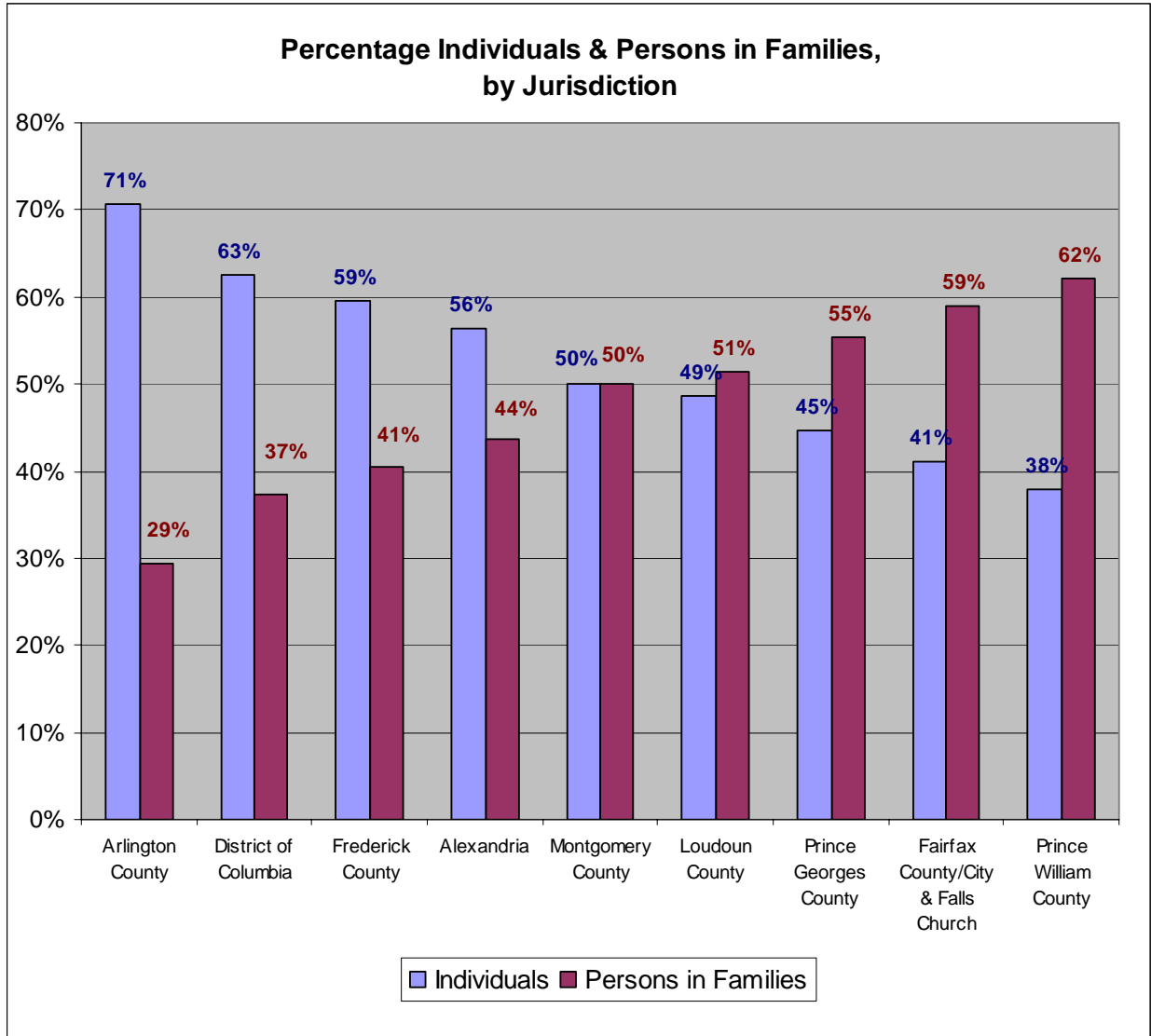
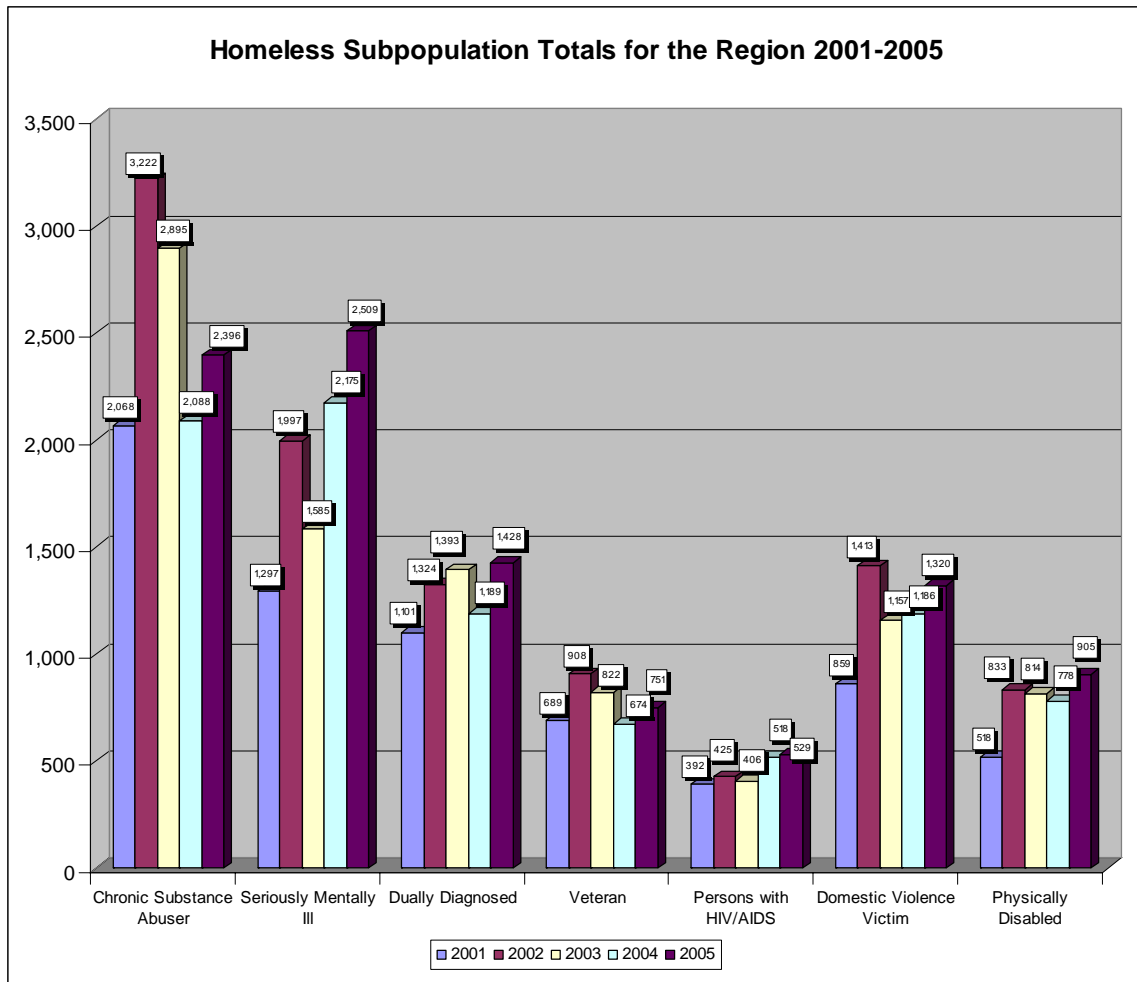


Figure 8



Notes

¹ “Housing first” programs move homeless individuals and families directly into permanent rental housing with temporary or permanent subsidies and services that help them to stay housed.

² The 2004 number is adjusted downward from what was published in last year’s report because the District of Columbia reclassified programs that contributed to the “literal” homeless count last year but are in fact part of the permanent housing inventory; thus the reclassification serves to make the comparison across the two counts consistent. The result is that the number of literally homeless in 2004 is adjusted downward slightly while the number of permanently supported homeless was higher than the 2004 report indicated.

³ On the other hand a closer examination by jurisdiction – see “Table 1 (by Jurisdiction)” at the end of this report – shows that three of the nine jurisdictions showed a decrease in the number of persons permanently housed, a fact which bears further investigation and some standardization of what gets included in the count. This is a general problem of distinguishing Continuum of Care permanent housing from special needs housing in general. Somewhat counter-intuitively, housing units that are counted as *permanent* can be difficult to track over time because there is not one standard as to what gets included in the count. For example, are the units strictly for persons who have been homeless or are they units that house persons with disabilities who would become homeless, or are they “housing first” units with a temporary subsidy that leads to a permanent subsidy or the client being self-sufficient in permanent housing.

⁴ HUD defines a chronically homeless person as “An unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.”

⁵ This was what happened in the District of Columbia where the Service Point HMIS was used to conduct the point-in-time count in most of the District’s homeless programs, and where the most chronically homeless were identified. Since October 2004 the Service Point users have had the option to identify their consumers as “chronically homeless,” and if those persons were present on January 26, 2005 then they would have already have been identified as chronic. This means that more observers over time, rather than just those filling out the point-in-time assessment on January 26, had the opportunity to identify consumers as chronically homeless. All COG jurisdictions except Montgomery County are using the Service Point HMIS, but not all have enough data yet to employ the HMIS in identifying the chronically homeless; therefore most are still collecting this information via paper surveys of providers. However, HUD requires this information for certain reports, so providers have begun to track the data in manual records as well. The District’s experience in using Service Point will be shared with other COG-area Continua at the fall conference to be hosted by the Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee.

⁶ See the landmark study: “The Impact of Supportive Housing for Homeless Persons with Severe Mental Illness on the Utilization of Public Health, Corrections and Emergency Shelter Systems: The New York/New York Initiative” in Housing Policy Debate, May 2001.

⁷ Slide from a Power Point presentation by Michael Shank, Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and Nikki Nicholau, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, presented December 9, 2004 at the Governor’s Conference on Self-Determination, Empowerment and Recovery. Available online at <http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/adm-conferenceMaterials.htm>

⁸ This number is then adjusted downward by 1/3 to account for the estimated duplication across outreach providers and the possible inclusion of some of these persons in shelter counts.

⁹ This table aggregates inventory figures supplied by all COG jurisdictions as part of the point-in-time enumeration, which represents the most current data available about the inventory of each jurisdiction and the region as a whole.

¹⁰ Population data from US Census 2003 Housing Data Survey, used in Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ 2003 Housing Data Survey. Other population figures in this paragraph are drawn from the same source except for Frederick County which is taken from the US Census 2004 estimate of the county’s population.