

**Every Georgian Counts :  
Understanding  
Homelessness in Your  
Community**

# We Don't Have Any (or Many) Homeless People



# Definitions

- *Sheltered Homeless Persons*
  - People who reside in an emergency shelter or in transitional/supportive housing for homeless persons
- *Unsheltered Homeless Persons*
  - People who reside in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, encampments, dilapidated buildings [or who face eminent homelessness from eviction]
- *Precariously Housed Persons*
  - People who are temporarily staying with family or friends due to loss of housing or economic hardship
  - People who are living in motel situations due to loss of housing or economic hardship



# Objective

Count of homeless and precariously housed families and individuals

- Understand the scope of the problem locally and statewide
- HUD requirement for McKinney-Vento Programs



# Count Methodology for Unsheltered and Precariously Housed

- Housing screening surveys administered at service locations and other places where homeless people congregate or live
- Point In Time
- Surveys collected during the following week
- DCA will arrange for data input and analysis of surveys



# Questionnaire

- Designed to be administered by staff or by volunteers
- No more than 10 minutes
- Questions to help with problem of duplication
- Housing status questions
- Family members
- Special circumstances

Summer 2007  
Housing Survey Form

THE PORTIONS OF THIS SURVEY IN ALL CAPITALS ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWER. THE PORTIONS NOT IN CAPITALS SHOULD BE READ TO THE RESPONDENT

Hello, I am (NAME). Throughout this week, agency staff and volunteers in Newton County are asking people about their housing and various factors that affect people's ability to get housing. The survey is part of a state effort led by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Your answers are confidential and will be grouped with all of the surveys collected this week. Your name will not be recorded on the survey. You are not required to answer all of the questions and you may stop the survey at any time. I will read the questions to you and record your answers. It will only take about 10 minutes to complete.

Are you willing to participate?  Yes  No

Have you already participated in this survey some time during this week?  Yes  No  
IF YES DO NOT CONTINUE WITH THE SURVEY. THANK THEM FOR THEIR HELP.

1. What are the first three letters of your last name?  Yes  No  
First letter of first name: \_\_\_\_\_ First letter of middle name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is your date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
(month) (day) (year)

3. Gender:  Male  Female  Transgender  
(INTERVIEWER MAY OBSERVE, RATHER THAN ASK)

4. In what type of place did you spend the night of Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> (last Sunday night)? (CHECK THE ONE THAT APPLIES AND SKIP TO THE INDICATED QUESTION)

<input type="checkbox"/> My own house or apartment (GO TO Q5)	<input type="checkbox"/> With friends or relatives (GO TO Q5)
<input type="checkbox"/> On the street, under a bridge, etc. (GO TO Q7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prison/jail (GO TO QUESTION 7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus (GO TO QUESTION 7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical/Psychiatric hospital (GO TO QUESTION 7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency shelter or domestic violence shelter (GO TO QUESTION 6)	<input type="checkbox"/> In a car (GO TO QUESTION 7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/motel (GO TO QUESTION 6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm structure (GO TO Q7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping (GO TO QUESTION 6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Transitional housing (GO TO Q7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Detox facility (GO TO QUESTION 7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know (GO TO QUESTION 7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (describe location) (GO TO Q7)	

# Who Is Surveyed?

Screening Question: Have you had any difficulty with housing in the past month?



# Where To Survey

- Where people go for services
- Where people congregate
- On the telephone
- Where people live -- Count people living in dilapidated housing, abandoned trailers, farm buildings, or encampments



# Preparing for the Count

- Potential participating organizations/locations for administering the survey
  - DFACS
  - Housing Authority
  - Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens
  - Clothing Programs
  - Shelters
  - Community Service Boards
  - Health Department
  - Nonprofits
  - Day Labor Sites



# Other contacts

- Local government
- Police Chief and Sheriff
- Media
- Churches
- Family Connections
- School and hospital social workers
- Others

# What a Successful Count Needs

- All of the identified organizations on-board and organized to collect the surveys
- Trained staff and volunteers
- Community support

# Why Count? (not in order of importance)

- Learn more about housing issues in your community – focus on people
- Build a housing and social services team around a concrete activity
- Build your case for funding
- Get ready for the 2010 Census
- Build community support



Want to be part of the 2009  
count?

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