



# North Carolina Coalition

securing resources ■ encouraging public dialogue ■ advocating for public policy change

## to End Homelessness

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### Key Points from the 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR)

The AHAR provides the latest counts of homelessness nationwide – including counts of individuals, persons in families, and special population groups such as veterans and chronically homeless people.

#### Key Findings from the 2009 AHAR:

- 10% decline in chronic homelessness
- Increase in the number of families seeking shelter
- Overall homelessness relatively flat between 2008 and 2009

#### Single Night Estimates of Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless People (from the Point-in-Time Count)

On a single night in January 2009, there were an estimated **643,067** homeless people nationwide.

- 63% were sheltered, 37% were unsheltered
- 63% were individuals, 37% were people in families with children

Changes Since 2008:

- 3% decrease in overall number of homeless people (664,414 to 643,067)
- 10% decrease in number of chronically homeless people since 2008 (110,917 to 124,135)

#### One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Homeless People (from HMIS)

**1,558,917** people used an emergency shelter or a transitional housing program between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009.

- 66% were individuals, 34% were people in families with children

Changes Since 2008:

- The total number of homeless shelter users declined by nearly 30,000 people
- Family homelessness increased 7% since 2008 and 30% since 2007

## Key Findings from the AHAR Data

- Overall Homelessness:
  - Despite the worst recession in 70 years, the AHAR demonstrates that we were able to avoid massive increases in homelessness nationally through September 2009.
  - Communities implementing housing-based strategies and increasing their focus on solutions contributed to avoiding an increase in overall homelessness.
  - We have yet to witness the full effects of the economic downturn on homelessness, which is a lagging indicator.
  - **The availability of resources like the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and increased resources for the McKinney-Vento programs, if supported by Congress, will help combat the impact of the recession.**
  
- Family Homelessness:
  - The rise in shelter use among families shows that the recession is impacting vulnerable households.
  
- Chronic Homelessness:
  - The 10% decline in chronic homelessness corresponds very closely to an increase in the number of permanent supportive housing units funded through McKinney-Vento funding.

## The AHAR is based on two data sources:

- Point-in-Time Counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations on a **single night** (January 28, 2009)
  - All North Carolina communities are represented in the Point-in-Time Count.
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data on people who resided in emergency shelter and transitional housing **over the course of a year** (between October 1, 2008, and September 30, 2009)
  - In 2009, 6 North Carolina communities reported usable HMIS data for one-year estimates:
    - Asheville/Buncombe County CoC
    - Greensboro/High Point/Guilford County CoC
    - Charlotte/Mecklenburg County CoC
    - Wilmington/Pender/New Hanover/Brunswick Counties CoC
    - North Carolina Balance of State CoC
    - Gastonia/Gaston/Lincoln/Cleveland Counties CoC

Read the 2009 AHAR at [www.hudhre.info/documents/5thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/documents/5thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf)