LITERACY AND THE HOMELESS

Homelessness literally means 'Without a Home' yet this definition may not include those persons who live in small quarters with relatives or friends, those who face frequent evictions, or those who are just a paycheck away from homelessness.
Source: Florida Coalition for the Homeless, 2000.

In Florida, approximately 57,687 men, women and children are homeless. Florida also has the 3rd largest homeless population in the nation:

- 16 percent are children
- 32percent are women
- 17 percent are veterans
- 9 percent have a history of being in foster care
- 50 percent have never been homeless before
- 38 percent have been homeless for less than 3 months

 Source: Metropolitan Ministries, http://homelessofhc.org/HChomelessfacts09.htm

In 2004, the number of request for shelter by homeless families increased an average of 7% and 32% of families seeking shelter could not find it.
Source: Metropolitan Ministries, http://www.metmin.org/subpages/homelessness_stats_092004.asp

Children who are homeless are one of the growing segments of the general homeless population. When children become homeless, they face educational setbacks. Requirements of the legal guardianship, lack of a permanent address, and immunization records often delay or prevent homeless children from enrolling in schools and receiving an adequate education. Without a chance to get an education, children who are homeless are often unable to acquire the necessary skills they will need to escape from the poverty that led them to become homeless in the first place.
Source: National Coalition for the Homeless

The profile of Florida homeless has shifted. Although single adult males make up 41% of the total homeless population, families and children continue to be a growing segment of the homeless in Florida. Families now make up 40% of all homeless persons. Children under 18 years of age comprise over 35% of all homeless persons.

COMMON CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

- Employment / Financial Reasons   50.0 percent
- Family Problems   15.2 percent
- Housing Issues   13.1 percent
- Medical / Disability Problems   12.8 percent
- Forced to Relocate   7.3 percent
- Natural Disaster (storms, fire)   1.2 percent
- Other   0.4 percent

Source: Metropolitan Ministries 2009, http://homelessofhc.org/HChomelessfacts09.htm Facts About Homelessness and Our Homeless Neighbors

Homeless by County 2008

County	Count
Alachua	1,381
Baker	N/C
Bay	312
Bradford	67
Brevard	1,899
Broward	5,218
Calhoun	N/C
Charlotte	730
Citrus	293
Clay	25
Collier	321
Columbia	362
DeSoto	639
Dixie	N/C
Duval	2,681
Escambia	791
Flagler	38
Franklin	N/C
Gadsden	N/C
Gilchrist	N/C
Glades	172
Gulf	N/C
Hamilton	81
Hardee	835
Hendry	422
Hernando	196
Highlands	912
Hillsborough	9,532
Holmes	N/C
Indian River	462
Jackson	3
Jefferson	N/C
Lafayette	44
Lake	518
Lee	899
Leon	430
Levy	99
Liberty	N/C
Madison	N/C
Manatee	472

Marion	458
Martin	507
Miama-Dade	4,574
Monroe	1121
Nassau	111
Okaloosa	1,752
Okechobee	112
Orange	1,962
Osceola	573
Palm Beach	1,766
Pasco	4,074
Pinellas	4,680
Polk	973
Putnam	789
St. Johns	1,238
St. Lucie	964
Santa Rosa	237
Sarasota	662
Seminole	561
Sumter	97
Suwannee	220
Taylor	N/C
Union	N/C
Volusa	1,763
Wakulla	N/C
Walton	N/C
Washington	6
State Total	59,036

Source: Department of Children & Families