

## 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 76,675 people are homeless. This is a 17% increase from 2000 to 2002/2003. Of that, 40% of the homeless population is families, and 35% are children. Eight percent are over 60 years old. Eighty-four percent are headed by a single mother. Forty-three percent have never been homeless before, thirty-nine percent are employed, and eighteen percent are employed full time.

**SOURCE:** Metropolitan Ministries, [http://www.metmin.org/subpages/homelessness\\_stats\\_092004.asp](http://www.metmin.org/subpages/homelessness_stats_092004.asp) (2002-2003)

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](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**

- Lack of affordable housing
- Domestic violence
- Physical and mental health care needs
- Addictions
- Unemployment and underemployment
- Lack of education and job skills
- Lack of job opportunities at wages that support a family
- Lack of life skills

**SOURCE:** Metropolitan Ministries, [http://www.metmin.org/subpages/homelessness\\_stats\\_092004.asp](http://www.metmin.org/subpages/homelessness_stats_092004.asp) and Florida Department of Children and Families

**HOMELESS POPULATION: ESTIMATED DAILY HOMELESS POPULATION  
IN THE STATE AND COUNTIES OF FLORIDA, 2001-02, 2002-03 AND 2005**

Area	2001- 02	2002- 03	2005	Percentage change
<b>Florida</b>	72,632	76,675	83,391	8.8
<u>District 1</u>	3,718	3,580	18,358	412.8
EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless, total	2,976	2,741	16,463	500.6
Escambia	2,085	1,850	9,100	391.9
Santa Rosa	891	891	7,363	726.4
Okaloosa Coalition on the Homeless, Inc., total	742	839	1,895	125.9
Okaloosa	623	703	1,755	149.6
Walton	119	136	140	2.9
<u>District 2</u>	3,677	3,894	2,217	-43.1
Tallahassee Coalition for the Homeless, total	1,107	1,114	1,160	4.1
Franklin	49	33	30	-9.1
Gadsden	198	135	135	0.0
Jefferson	57	39	42	7.7
Leon	499	703	739	5.1
Liberty	31	21	22	4.8
Madison	87	56	56	0.0
Taylor	85	58	58	0.0
Wakulla	101	69	78	13.0
Homeless & Hunger Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc., total	2,570	2,780	1,057	-62.0
Bay	1,400	1,550	1,051	-32.2
Calhoun	200	220	0	-100.0
Gulf	300	240	0	-100.0
Holmes	220	300	0	-100.0
Jackson	250	260	0	-100.0
Washington	200	210	6	-97.1
<u>District 3</u>	2,323	2,444	1,777	-27.3
Alachua County Housing Authority, Inc., total	1,762	2,256	1,625	-28.0
Alachua	870	1,364	733	-46.3
Bradford	133	133	133	0.0
Dixie	70	70	70	0.0
Gilchrist	75	75	75	0.0

Levy	170	170	380	123.5
Putnam	380	380	170	-55.3
Union	64	64	64	0.0
Suwannee Valley Coalition for the Homeless, total	561	188	152	-19.1
Columbia	284	87	77	-11.5
Hamilton	68	32	18	-43.8
Lafayette	33	9	10	11.1
Suwannee	176	60	47	-21.7
<u>District 4</u>	3,113	3,113	3,989	28.1
Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville, total	2,122	2,122	2,989	40.9
Duval	2,122	2,122	2,911	37.2
Baker	(NA)	(NA)	0	(X)
Clay	(NA)	(NA)	78	(X)
Nassau	(NA)	(NA)	0	(X)
Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County, Inc.	991	991	1,000	0.9
<u>District 7</u>	8,156	7,975	11,100	39.2
Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, Inc., total	6,300	6,260	8,800	40.6
Orange	4,000	4,137	6,500	57.1
Osceola	1,000	890	1,000	12.4
Seminole	1,300	1,233	1,300	5.4
Coalition for the Hungry & Homeless of Brevard County	1,856	1,715	2,300	34.1
<u>District 8</u>	3,767	5,046	7,628	51.2
Coalition for the Homeless of Southwest Florida, total	358	357	361	1.1
DeSoto	145	145	136	-6.2
Glades	49	46	7	-84.8
Hendry	164	166	218	31.3
Lee County Coalition for the Homeless	1,919	2,012	2,056	2.2
Charlotte County Homeless Coalition	800	1,992	4,793	140.6
Collier County Hunger and Homeless Coalition	690	685	418	-39.0
<u>District 9</u>	3,922	3,922	2,697	-31.2
Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County	3,922	3,922	2,697	-31.2
<u>District 10</u>	10,000	10,000	2,286	-77.1
Broward Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.	10,000	10,000	2,286	-77.1
<u>District 11</u>	9,040	9,373	6,141	-34.5
Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust	6,889	7,627	5,160	-32.3

Southernmost Homeless Assistance League (Monroe County)	2,151	1,746	981	-43.8
<u>District 12</u>	2,195	2,410	2,667	10.7
Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless, total	2,195	2,410	2,667	10.7
Flagler	165	137	181	32.1
Volusia	2,030	2,273	2,486	9.4
<u>District 13</u>	3,019	3,287	3,221	-2.0
Hunger and Homeless Coalition of Citrus County	448	159	461	189.9
Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition, total	1,554	1,650	806	-51.2
Hernando	501	550	409	-25.6
Lake	845	900	331	-63.2
Sumter	208	200	66	-67.0
Marion County Coalition for the Homeless	1,017	1,478	1,954	32.2
<u>District 14</u>	2,632	2,159	1,281	-40.7
Homeless Coalition of Polk County, total	2,632	2,159	1,281	-40.7
Hardee	119	12	24	100.0
Highlands	384	1,147	508	-55.7
Polk	2,129	1,000	749	-25.1
<u>District 15</u>	1,552	1,575	1,601	1.7
Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, total	1,552	(NA)	1,601	(X)
Indian River	457	457	402	-12.0
Martin	470	593	495	-16.5
Okeechobee	135	(NA)	28	(X)
St. Lucie	490	525	676	28.8
<u>SunCoast Region</u>	15,518	17,897	18,428	3.0
Hillsborough County Coalition for the Homeless	6,481	8,000	8,598	7.5
Community Coalition on Homelessness	2,047	2,047	1,419	-30.7
Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless	2,305	3,700	3,786	2.3
Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County	2,859	2,886	4,194	45.3
Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless	1,826	1,264	431	-65.9

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

Note: Prior to 2005, point-in-time surveys were conducted by each coalition on a regular schedule ranging from annually to every three years. Beginning in 2005, daily statewide point-in-time surveys were conducted during the last week of January. Caution should be used when making statistical comparisons between years.

Source: State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, Annual Report on Homeless Conditions in Florida, Internet site <<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/>> (accessed 23, September 2005).