2001 Homeless Enumeration for the Washington Metropolitan Area

Prepared by:

The Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee

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I. Executive Summary

For more than a decade the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)¹ has been concerned about the needs and problems associated with the large number of homeless families and individuals in the region. In January 2001, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee, concerned by the lack of regional data available, undertook the first attempt to produce an unduplicated point-in-time count of homeless adults and children in the Washington metropolitan region.

The Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee is the successor to COG's Homeless Task Force, which was formed in the late 1980's. The committee is comprised of local government homeless coordinators, nonprofit service providers, shelters, and faith-based organizations working with homeless individuals and families. The committee is chaired by Stephen Cleghorn, the Deputy Director of The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness—the nonprofit organization that manages publicly funded homeless services in the District.

On January 24, 2001, the committee coordinated a one-day enumeration that found that 12,850 homeless people were living in the jurisdictions represented by COG. (See Figure 1) The count included data from street outreach, feeding programs, emergency shelters and transitional housing, permanent supportive housing for disabled adults, and in some jurisdictions included families waiting to be placed in shelter.

The committee also looked at the number of persons who fall into the subpopulations of homeless persons and their service needs. The different counting methods used by each jurisdiction do not allow a precise or complete count of subpopulations or service needs, but a picture of the relative size of these subpopulations and frequency of service needs does emerge from the data. The homeless subpopulations in order of magnitude show men, chronic substance abusers, seriously mentally ill, and the dually diagnosed as the largest subpopulations, although as many as one-third of the region's homeless population are children. The three largest needs in terms of supportive services are case management, housing placement, and job training, with very significant gaps remaining in substance abuse and mental health treatment.

Reliable data are necessary as elected officials in the region consider new policy directions for addressing affordable housing and homelessness issues. This point-in-time enumeration is a first attempt in understanding the prevalence and distribution of homeless individuals

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¹ COG was established by the elected officials from the major cities and counties in the Washington metropolitan area to address regional concerns. Through cooperative efforts of its members, COG addresses issues in the areas of transportation, housing, air and water quality, crime, economic development, public health and public safety. The following local governments are members: the District of Columbia, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church in Virginia; Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties and the Cities of Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Rockville, and Takoma Park in Maryland.

and families in the metropolitan region, in order to establish the shelter and supportive services needs of this population facing the most severe form of housing crisis. (See Figure 2)

It is the committee's intent that local, regional and federal policymakers and the general public will be better-informed and thus able to shape policies more effectively. The committee has made the commitment to conduct subsequent annual regional enumerations and will continue to work to improve services and the delivery of services at the local and regional levels.

Figure 1

| Jurisdiction | Total Number Counted |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| District of Columbia | 7,058* |
| Montgomery County | 1089 |
| Prince George's County | 1218 |
| Alexandria | 543 |
| Arlington County | 419 |
| Fairfax County/Falls Church | 1,935 |
| Loudoun County | 167 |
| Prince William County | 421 |
| * Includes an estimated 1,267 | |
| homeless in DC facilities that did | |
| not respond to Jan. survey | |
| Total Number Counted | 12,850 |

II. History of Homeless Efforts by COG

COG's history of cooperating on regional issues concerning homelessness began with the creation of a Task Force on Homelessness in the late 1980s. The Task Force was created to facilitate regional cooperation within and between the region's continuum of care systems in order to improve the delivery of and access to services for the region's homeless population. The Task Force and its successor, the Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee, comprise representatives from local government, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations. For many years, the Task Force has hosted an annual regional issues conference on homelessness. It has co-published the *Emergency Food and Shelter Directory* annually, developed and published reports on homeless issues that impact the region, and has provided data to support jurisdictions and service providers in the region.

In 2000, it became clear to the Task Force leadership that its members had the capability to undertake more responsibility. With two decades of having little information in existence on the number, location, and characteristics of homeless individuals and families, the Task Force recognized a need for better regional collaboration on data collection, analysis, and management. To confront this challenge, the Task Force formulated a practical and achievable work plan to track area homeless data at a regional level. Once the data is

tracked on an annual basis, local, regional and federal policymakers and the public will be better informed on issues of homelessness. At the same time, recognizing that homelessness is deeply rooted in the region, the Task Force realized the need to elevate its status in the COG committee structure to better position the group within the decision-making structure of COG, so that its work could contribute meaningfully to regional strategies to create affordable housing and to improve human services and public safety. In January of 2001, the Task Force was therefore reclassified as the Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee².

III. Members of COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee:

Central Union Mission, Washington, DC

Child and Family Services, the Government of the District of Columbia

Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, Washington, DC

Family Services Administration, DC Department of Human Services

House of Imagene Shelter, Washington, DC

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, DC

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, DC Field Office

Bethesda Cares, Bethesda, Maryland

City of Rockville, Maryland

Community Vision, Inc., Silver Spring, Maryland

Department of Housing and Community Development, Prince George's County, Maryland

Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County, Maryland

Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Montgomery County, Maryland

Family Crisis Center, Prince George's County, Maryland

Shepherd Cove Shelter/Volunteers of America, Maryland

City of Alexandria, Virginia

Community Residence/Safe Haven, Arlington, Virginia

Department of Family Services, Fairfax, Virginia

Department of Housing and Human Services, Falls Church, Virginia

Department of Housing Services, Loudoun County, Virginia

Department of Human Services, Arlington County, Virginia

Department of Social Services, Prince William County, Virginia

Department of Systems Management for Human Services, Fairfax County, Virginia

Mt. Vernon Baptist Association (MVBA), Arlington and Fairfax Counties, Virginia

Northern Virginia Coalition for the Homeless, Fairfax County, Virginia

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² The Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee (HSPSPC)² supported the reclassification of the Homeless Task Force to that of a standing committee. Given its proven track record, the Homelessness Services Planning and Coordinating Committee (HSPCC) would continue completing the past objectives of the Task Force. However, the committee will also work to track regional homeless data in order to heighten the awareness of homelessness in the Washington metropolitan area and provide an accurate picture of the needs of the homeless in our region. The mission of the committee is to become regional partners to end homelessness in the Washington region, specifically by helping local governments understand the scope of and solutions to the problem.

IV. 2001 Survey Purpose and Methodology

Acting on the need for accurate data on the pervasiveness and distribution of homeless individuals and families in the metropolitan region, the committee commenced a project to establish the size, housing needs, service needs, and other demographic characteristics of the homeless population and its subpopulations. Developed out of a suggestion made by a committee member, a one-day enumeration of the region's homeless population was completed on January 24, 2001. Since all participating jurisdictions annually request McKinney/Vento Continuum of Care funding from HUD and other federal agencies, it was the objective of the committee to collect data consistent with the federal guideline for producing a "gaps analysis" that identifies the total need and the gaps in shelter and services for the federally defined subpopulations of homeless adults and families. In this way, the data from each individual jurisdiction's point-in-time count could be used as part of that jurisdiction's preparation for submitting its application for HUD funding.

The HUD definition of homeless was used by all jurisdictions for this count. HUD defines homeless as: sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, and sleeping in shelters or transitional or supportive housing for homeless persons who originally came from streets or emergency shelters. This includes persons who ordinarily sleep in one of the previous places but are spending a short time (30 days or less) in hospitals or other institutions. It also includes persons residing in *permanent* supportive housing that is part of a jurisdiction's Continuum of Care system and serves disabled persons who need ongoing supportive housing in order not to become homeless again. Other persons who can be counted as homeless are those being evicted within a week from a private dwelling and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing.

The committee believes that the basic information collected in this count is reliable enough and sufficiently replicable that it can serve to inform regional policy if such a count is conducted over a period of years. In the future, trend data will depict finer-grained details about subpopulation needs and the services they receive. No trend line is evident at this point since this is the first regionally collected enumeration. Yet, any significant change in the number or distribution of homeless persons will help COG jurisdictions to measure whether the problem of homelessness is increasing or abating either locally or regionally. This information could be very useful as the whole region struggles with a deepening problem of housing affordability. ³

The first count total of 12,850 thus establishes a baseline for counts that will be repeated in subsequent years. While arrived at somewhat differently by each jurisdiction (see details later in this report), each jurisdiction has produced this basic unduplicated count through a community process that has involved a wide variety of stakeholders and participants, the same ones who contribute to the jurisdiction's gaps analysis for federal funding purposes.

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³ This year the COG Board, led by Chairman Carol Schwartz, has elected to focus on efforts related to affordable housing policy and data and informational resources. Given the present focus, the Board has called on all housing-related committees at COG to focus on "enriching regional housing information and data." This was the ultimate objective of HSPCC's first attempt to collect regional data on homelessness.

Thus each jurisdiction can vouch for the number it has submitted, and the regional number simply aggregates the data from the region.

That said, it should be noted that the collection was an initial assessment. Information was collected exclusively from each jurisdiction's point-in-time survey findings. An uncomplicated and locally autonomous process of data collection was agreed to by each jurisdiction for this first attempt to quantify the region's homeless population. Thus, a regional form was not utilized for this project. A regional form would have been a very difficult to produce due to the fact that jurisdictions use the survey to collect other information important to their jurisdiction. In some instances, the surveys have been preapproved by an oversight committee and it would take months to approve a new survey instrument.

The data elements shared in this report are only a subset of information that each local government collects, and this report cannot present reliable regional counts about all the local information that was collected. In addition to the reasonably accurate unduplicated count of persons for the region, this report shows a basic picture of the relative size of subpopulations and the frequencies of supportive services needs. It cannot state definitively whether the numbers for subpopulations and service needs are complete, accurate or comparable across jurisdictions, but it can give a picture of the relative frequency in which these subpopulations and service needs occur.

Once again, the basic purpose of the point-in-time enumeration is to provide a snapshot of the number and distribution of homeless in our region. Although COG has confidence in the basic numbers reported herein, this was a pilot enumeration and the Committee hopes in the future to standardize the method of data collection.

Once the surveys were collected, the jurisdictions sent the data to COG, which then aggregated the data and prepared the draft report. The committee will work to present a case, using the data collected in the 2001 regional homeless census, for improving the services and delivery of services within the policy structure of the Council of Governments. The information obtained from the regionally gathered information will be shared with the elected officials in the region. These officials serve on the COG Board and meet every month to discuss issues and policy matters in the region.

Methodologies by Jurisdiction

In a few jurisdictions, government enumerators filled out the surveys, while in most jurisdictions volunteers and nonprofit service providers completed the surveys, and in other cases the homeless individual completed the survey. Due to many factors including literacy, the perceived threat of government intervention, the inability of enumerators to locate all unsheltered homeless (in hotels, hospitals, institutions, and unidentifiable areas of the counties), and those residents that face immediate eviction, only a few basic numbers taken from the one-day enumeration are utilized in this report.

Scores of volunteers from all jurisdictions conducted the surveys. Volunteers were selected primarily from soup kitchens, shelters and other service providers. These front-line individuals have the most contact with their clients, which prove helpful when looking for the hard to count individuals. Volunteers were recruited for the one-day enumeration to interview and obtain information on homeless found in the streets, parks, shelters, drop-in centers, soup kitchens, supportive program centers, and any other location known to provide services to homeless. Each jurisdiction scheduled meetings and training for the volunteer enumerators.

COG is made up of 17 member jurisdictions— a mixture of county, city, and town governments. Due to federal guidelines, the county jurisdictions became the lead participants for the regional enumeration completed in January of 2001. For HUD federal Continuum of Care funding, counties are required to conduct the enumeration in all of their cities, towns, and unincorporated areas. That said, the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax were included in the Fairfax County counts. Homeless totals for the cities of Takoma Park, Rockville, and Gaithersburg were integrated in the Montgomery County enumeration. And homeless populations found in Bowie, College Park, and Greenbelt were counted in the Prince George's County census. Below are the individual methodologies employed by the participating jurisdictions for the 2001 homeless enumeration.

District of Columbia

The survey was conducted by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, the agency responsible for managing the District's publicly funded homeless facilities and services. This was the first time that the District conducted such a survey, and thus the quality of responses varied widely, especially with respect to providers' input on client needs and services delivered to clients. Nevertheless the basic number of unduplicated persons who were homeless or formerly homeless (now living in permanent supportive housing that is part of the continuum of care) is considered reliable. A total of 124 survey responses were received from homeless programs offering street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. At least 50 programs representing an estimated 915 beds and 1,267 persons served did not respond. Thus the District's estimated count for January 24, 2001, consists of the number of persons identified by survey respondents plus an estimated 1,200 in other programs.

Montgomery County, Maryland

Montgomery County has conducted an annual census of the homeless for the last several years. The census has been administered in a standardized manner during this time, but has been enhanced the last three years to include outreach to street homeless. For 2001, additional questions were added to the census form for purposes of capturing increased information regarding the individual's background. The census has been used as a means to gather data regarding the homeless population until the County's homeless tracking system is fully operational. Currently, data is being input from 7/1/00 to present, and may be able to be used as part of the information submitted for the HUD Super NOFA process.

The census was performed on one day during the winter and involved each provider getting homeless individuals to complete the form used. For those who could not complete the form on their own, assistance was provided. In addition, providers of outreach services together with the police went to the places that street homeless most often go such as garages, parks, etc., and had those individuals complete a form. All providers were requested to forward the census forms to the County's Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for inputting and tabulating the data. Data from the census was shared with the Homeless Policy Development Committee, the Prioritization Selection Panel, and the public through town meetings.

Prince George's County, Maryland

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services/Housing and Homeless Services Division in collaboration with the County's Homeless Services Partnership coordinated and implemented a census of the homeless on January 24, 2001. The census provided a 24-hour, shelter-by-shelter enumeration and community outreach to places where most street homeless persons congregate: soup kitchens, Winter Haven, Warm Nights Program, parks etc. All homeless persons counted had to meet HUD's definition of homeless. The annual census is the first step of a multi-tiered process to count and determine the diverse needs of the homeless sub-populations, identify gaps in services and determine the County's capacity to provide a coordinated and integrated Continuum of Care system for the homeless.

The data was forwarded to DSS/Housing and Homeless Division for tabulation and analyses and the results has been shared with stakeholders and the Homeless Services Partnership. The survey results will be compared against the data collected during the previous years, as well as against other sources of data collection, including the Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR), Office of Transitional Service surveys and daily statistical data collected through the County's Homeless Hotline.

Alexandria, Virginia

The Alexandria Homeless Service Coordinator Committee, a consortium of homeless service providers and advocates that also serve as the Continuum of Care Planning Board for the City of Alexandria, appointed a sub-committee that would develop the count. In order to coordinate the process, the sub-committee met several times prior to the actual count.

All four emergency shelters, which provide 177 beds, had 169 persons (71 single persons; 98 persons in families) as residents on the evening of January 24. While appearing that 8 beds may have been available, the reality was that these beds were not available to household compositions and room configurations. Twelve families (49 persons) were on a shelter waiting list and another 54 utilized the overnight emergency winter shelter. A total of 6 persons utilized either the youth facility or the victims of domestic violence facility. Two transitional housing facilities for families were at maximum capacity (148 persons). Transmission Housing for persons with special needs was also at maximum capacity (34 persons). Twenty-two (22) persons, who would otherwise be homeless, were residents at three (3) Community Service Board permanent supportive housing projects.

Enumerators (winter shelter administrator, day shelter administrator, substance abuse worker, mental health worker, shelter family liaison worker, homeless services coordinator, and volunteers) met the following day of the count to coordinate for the purpose of eliminating any duplication in the count. Names of the individuals were cross-referenced. In addition to the 54 unduplicated persons who used the emergency winter shelter, 13 homeless persons were at the social detoxification center, 8 homeless persons only used a lunch meal program; another 8 persons used a day shelter only; another 30 homeless persons were unsheltered in the community.

A total of 543 homeless persons were identified (244 single individuals and 299 persons within a family). The 2000 count identified 368 homeless individuals and 223 homeless persons in families. Unlike the 2001 count, the 2000 count was not an unduplicated count so a comparison is invalid. The 2001 count was successful due to the determination of the City to provide unduplicated totals of homeless persons and report to COG the specific needs of those individuals and families.

Arlington, Virginia

Arlington's Homeless Services Coordination Committee, which is coordinated by the Department of Human Services, facilitated a one-day census of homeless persons in Arlington County from 7 a.m. to 12 midnight on Wednesday, January 24, 2001. The count revealed 419 homeless individuals, including 221 adult males, 100 adult females, and 98 children⁴. This number included those in shelters or transitional housing, as well as approximately 150 people on the street. The number of homeless people counted in January 2001 was somewhat lower than the count conducted in April of 2000. Although every effort was made to find all the homeless people on the street, the Homeless Services Coordination Committee believes that because this group is so mobile, there was an undercount of this population. In addition, no effort was made to count individuals residing in motels, staying temporarily with family, or doubled up with friends.

It should also be noted that the count used an unsophisticated methodology and the results are therefore not statistically reliable and are best used as estimates. There are many possible reasons for a lower count in January 2001, but the following totals must still be regarded as speculative. Since the 2000 count was conducted in April, there was a good chance that seasonal workers were in the area and on the street. In addition, because the 2001 count was in January, some street people were not easily visible due to finding out-of-the way places to get out of the elements.

Fairfax-Falls Church, Virginia

The Fairfax Continuum of Care planning group has conducted a "point-in-time" survey for the past several years in order to provide current data for the community grant planning process. The survey is designed to provide an unduplicated count of the number of homeless persons in the community as well as collect data on the characteristics of the homeless population and the types of supportive services needed. The survey identified a total of 1,935 homeless persons, including 742 individuals and 1,193 persons in families,

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⁴ Of the 419 counted in Arlington, 266 were single persons and 153 were persons in families.

who were homeless on January 24. The number of homeless people served fluctuates from day-to-day, and the survey data is valid for that specific date.

In January, the "point-in time" survey was mailed to more than twenty private, non-profit, and faith-based organizations that provide services to homeless persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Three County agencies (Family Services, Community Services Board and Housing and Community Development) and the City of Falls Church also participated in the survey. The survey identified and gathered information from more than 40 programs serving homeless persons, including:

- emergency shelters and overflow programs
- transitional housing programs
- permanent support housing
- outreach programs
- drop-in centers
- mobile food programs
- alcohol/drug service programs
- mental health care programs

To ensure consistency of data collected from many different programs, the guidelines described by HUD were judiciously followed. Outreach workers coordinated with each other and drop-in programs to ensure an unduplicated count of persons. The "hidden homeless", those who were doubled-up in overcrowded situations, were not counted in the survey. Housing counseling and prevention service providers, who are part of our continuum of services but not included in the survey, have reported an increase in their level of effort to prevent evictions and help people retain housing.

Loudoun County, Virginia

Loudoun County Housing Services facilitated and coordinated a census of homeless persons in Loudoun County from 7:00 a.m. through 12:00 midnight on January 24, 2001. This count revealed 167 homeless individuals (107 F & 60 M). The number of homeless counted in January was up slightly from the April 19, 2000, count (131) and the October 18, 2000, count (154) but down substantially from the June 21, 2000, count (277). The next homeless count (June 2001) will help establish if a trend exists.

The County encountered several challenges during the January 2001 survey. When enumerators called on the various churches in the area they made contact with people who did not seem to be aware of the concern, or did not know how the church was responding to this need, or who within the church could assist or direct homeless individuals to sources of help. Staff encountered people after the count who we believe, for one reason or other, evaded our efforts to accurately count the homeless. The County made no effort to count people staying in some of the newer/better hotels that put people up by the week or by the month. Loudoun officials now believe that some people in Loudoun County are using such facilities while exhausting limited money and perhaps further damaging their credit while they intake minimal efforts to address long-term solutions for housing. During the colder months there is less need for construction/landscape/seasonal workers in this

area. Below are possible reasons for Loudoun County's low number of homeless in the January 2001 count:

- More overcrowding seems to occur in this area during the colder months, which is hard to track/identify and does not meet the federal definition of homeless.
- Some homeless obtain help from family and friends for short specified stays during the cold months.
- Some people tend to move south in the colder weather.

Prince William County, Virginia

The count of homeless people (421people, 204 of them are children) was conducted from 12:00 a.m.- 11:59 p.m. on January 24. The numbers came from people in shelters, transitional living and supportive housing programs on that day, as well as those homeless counted in the woods, on the streets or in cars. Also included were all the calls for shelter that came in that day and walk-ins. The County uses a unique identifier to make sure it does not double count individuals.

In sum, COG's homeless committee selected a single date for all jurisdictions to conduct their own counts. Data from these individual counts were collected and reported to the region. The findings from the count were a first attempt to provide a more accurate picture of the number of homeless in the region.

V. Summary of Findings

Obtaining solid and useful information was the one of the objectives of this first annual homelessness regional census report. Some highlights of the report include:

- In January, 12,850 homeless people were counted in our first regional enumeration (including the homeless as a percentage of the total population for the region).
- The majority of the homeless population lives in the District. (7,058 or 56% of the total counted). While it is not possible to compare this count precisely with the study of homeless persons in the Washington region done in 1992 by the National Institutes on Drug Abuse, it is worth noting that the NIDA study showed 78 percent of the region's homeless as living in the District of Columbia, whereas the COG enumeration shows just 56 percent in the District. This may suggest that homelessness is becoming more evenly distributed across the region. It also indicates that the suburban jurisdictions have built systems since 1992 that can be used to measure the problem more completely.
- Homeless men make up the largest percentage of homeless persons in the Washington region (See Figure 3).
- Montgomery County, the City of Alexandria, Loudoun County, and Prince William
 County had more females counted as homeless. It could be concluded from this
 data that the suburbs are seeing a higher proportion of their population as homeless
 families with children.
- Homeless children make up almost 1/3 of homeless in the region (3,436 or 27% of the total counted).

- Children made up almost 50 percent of the homeless population in Prince William County (204 out of 421 reported for the County).
- In Figure 4, the chronic substance abuse population appears to be the group with the greatest service needs in the Washington metropolitan area. Homeless individuals with mental illness represent the population with the second highest need for services in the region.
- Less than 6 percent of the homeless population was classified as a veteran (686); 72 percent of the total number of homeless veterans live in the District.
- Less than 7 percent of the homeless counted were victims of domestic violence (882).
- The majority of the homeless in the region are housed in transitional housing shelters (3,861 or 41% of the total counted).
- Emergency shelters provide 33 percent of housing (2,982) and permanent supportive houses 25 percent (2,287).
- Seventeen percent of our region's homeless are employed (2,202).

VI. Recommendations

The COG's Homeless Committee has a few recommendations/goals as a result of the data collected from the regional homeless enumeration: broad policy goals for the region and HSPC Committee goals.

A) Broad Policy Goals

- 1. Information found in the 2001 enumeration will be used to assist policy makers in homeless resource allocation decisions (i.e., funding for identified supportive service needs such as substance abuse treatment, mental health care, housing placement, case management, job training and life skills services).
- 2. Consider ways to address day care for children, financial counseling, transportation needs, and the provision of additional educational training for homeless individuals and families.
- In order to achieve the regional goal of ending homelessness in the region, jurisdictions must continue to work with COG to collect annual census counts in order to provide accurate information on the prevalence of homeless in our region.

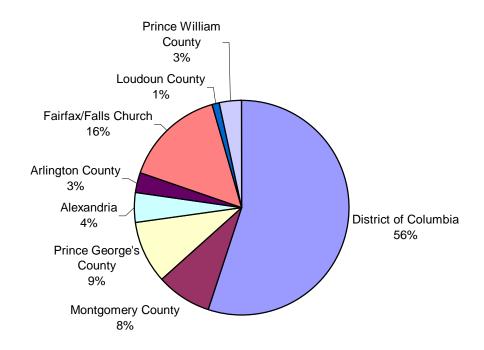
B) Committee Goals

- 1. Future homeless regional enumerations should be included in the annual HSPC Committee's work plan and budget.
- 2. Evaluate the possibility of adopting a standardized regional survey.
- 3. The Committee should develop a common methodology for the 2002 enumeration, including getting some professional expertise.
- 4. Consider conducting a count twice a year so seasonal issues can be addressed.
- 5. COG's HSPC Committee should work closely with the Housing Directors Advisory Committee at COG for policy directions on housing affordability and availability efforts.
- 6. COG's 2001 regional homeless conference in the fall should focus on issues that best reflect the findings from the January homeless census.

VII. Conclusion

The basic purpose of the point-in-time enumeration is to provide a snapshot of the number and distribution of homeless in our region. These numbers are intended to aid and inform the policy decisions of elected officials as they consider new directions for addressing homelessness in our region. As our region struggles with a deepening problem of housing affordability, the special focus of COG Board of Directors efforts this year, the Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee presents the data to bolster a regional commitment to homelessness. It is our belief that these findings and recommendations will serve to make visible those populations all too often hidden or forgotten.

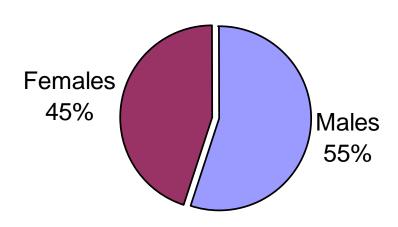
Percentage of Region's Homeless by Jursidiction Figure 2



Total Counted 12,850

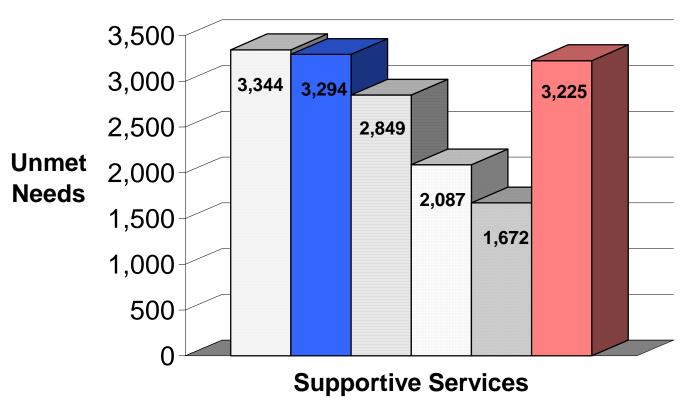
Homeless Individuals by Gender in the Washington Metropolitan Region

Figure 3



Total Counted 12, 850

Regional Supportive Service Needs Figure 5



☐ Case Management
☐ Housing Placement
☐ Job Training
☐ Mental Health Care
☐ Substance Abuse Treatment
☐ Life Skills

Regional Homeless Subpopulation Totals Figure 4

