

# Homelessness in Monroe County, Florida

## 2015 Homeless Point-in-Time Report

### 2015 Point In Time Count

Sponsored by

**Monroe County Homeless Continuum of Care, Inc.**



**Let's Make  
Everyone  
Count!**



**Monroe County Homeless Street and Shelter  
Point In Time Count & Survey  
January 27, 2015**

**Please Volunteer Today!**  
**Phone (305) 998-4663**  
National Street and Shelter Point In Time Count



**Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care, Inc.**  
**Post Office Box 2410, Key West, FL 33045**  
**305-998-4663**

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

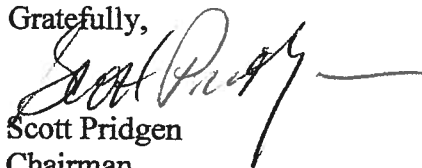
The Monroe County Point-in-Time Homeless Survey could not have been completed without the support and dedication of the many homeless service providers who comprise the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care and the dozens of volunteers who participated in the county-wide effort.

A special note of thanks goes to the hard working individuals who strive to provide a decent and safe place for homeless individuals and families to live and recover from the underlying causes of their homelessness.

Finally, this report would not have been possible without the cooperation of the survey respondents who completed surveys and provided us with confidential information about their experiences and reasons for homelessness.

Collectively, these survey responses provide all of us with a better understanding of the magnitude of homelessness in the Florida Keys and the work that lies ahead of us to ensure that all people in our community have a safe and decent place to call home.

Gratefully,



Scott Pridgen  
Chairman

Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care, Inc.

*The mission of the Monroe County Homeless Services  
Continuum-of-Care, Inc. is to promote community-wide  
commitment to the goal of ending homelessness by facilitating  
the Continuum-of-Care process in  
Monroe County, Florida.*

*On Tuesday, January 27th, 2015,  
there were 615 homeless men, women and children counted  
in the annual Point-in-Time survey in Monroe County, Florida.*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

With the help of volunteers, homeless service providers, Key West Police Department, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Monroe County Social Services, churches, hospitals, staff and outreach workers, the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care, Inc., hereafter referred to as MC-CoC, conducted a point-in-time (PIT) study of homeless persons in the Florida Keys who were both sheltered and unsheltered.

A point-in-time count provides a “snapshot” of homelessness by counting those who are homeless at a particular time; however, surveyors can easily “miss” homeless individuals and families.

The MC-CoC is a coalition working with homeless assistance agencies in the Florida Keys to coordinate the delivery of housing and services to homeless families, individuals, youth and persons with disabilities.

MC-CoC seeks to provide the leadership, support and structure necessary to develop and sustain a comprehensive system of housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.

Referred to as the Continuum of Care, this system is formally designated by the State of Florida as the local homeless coalition for the jurisdiction that encompasses all of Monroe County. The MC-CoC is one of twenty-eight (28) state-wide coalitions.

The MC-CoC works to unite housing and service providers, funders, business and non-profit organizations, government agencies, law enforcement, faith communities, health care providers and other groups and individuals throughout Monroe County in an ongoing effort to break the cycle of homelessness and help homeless persons achieve and maintain maximum self-sufficiency.

Designing, implementing and maintaining a Continuum of Care homeless service delivery system requires the on-going collection and analysis of data on the number, location and demographic characteristics of homeless persons who need access to emergency shelter, supportive transitional housing, permanent housing and specialized services.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the primary source of federal funding for housing support for homeless people, requires that each Continuum of Care across the country conduct a “point-in-time” survey every two years during the last week of the month of January.

However, the MC-CoC is committed to conducting the survey on an annual basis in order to have the most accurate and current data possible upon which to plan local services and evaluate outcomes.

MC-CoC, HUD, the State of Florida Department of Children and Families, local Governments and service providers will use the information collected by the point-in-time survey to assess, project and plan strategies and services to eliminate homelessness.

MC-CoC defines homelessness as:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings, in an emergency shelter, in transitional housing or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided for up to 90 days and were in shelter or a place not meant for habitation immediately prior to entering that institution;
- Staying temporarily (doubled up) with family or friends while looking for a permanent place to live;
- Staying temporarily in a hotel/motel while looking for shelter or housing;
- Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence; and having no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing;
- Any individual or family fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous or life threatening conditions that relate to violence;
- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age who are unstably housed and are likely to continue in that state.

Although homeless persons who are incarcerated on the date of the Point-in-Time Survey are **not** by HUD's definition homeless, the MC-CoC is including this data as an addendum to this report because of the significant number of homeless individuals who cycle in and out of the Monroe County Detention Center.

Also included as an addendum, but not in the official PIT Count, is information on homeless individuals living in Permanent Supportive Housing and homeless children who are living doubled up.

## II. UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

There is no disagreement that it is difficult to count homeless people. The one consistent finding in all the research on homelessness is that surveys undercount homeless populations. No PIT can achieve 100% accuracy. It is easy to “miss” homeless individuals and families -- they might not receive services at the agencies where homeless persons are counted on the night of the PIT, or if they do frequent a particular agency, they might not be there during the 24-hour day of the count. People enter and leave homelessness frequently and may become homeless shortly after the point-in-time study.

The comprehensiveness of a sheltered homeless count is entirely dependent upon the level of participation of agencies and organizations that serve homeless individuals and families. 100% of Monroe County shelter and homeless housing providers participated in this effort.

Unsheltered homeless people are particularly difficult to count. By definition, they are not in places where they can easily be counted, such as transitional housing and homeless shelters.

Some homeless people are not counted because they are not in locations where they can be readily found, much less where they have the opportunity to complete a survey, such as those living on the street, in automobiles, on derelict boats, in mangroves, and other kinds of crude and temporary housing.

Youth on their own (including the so-called Rainbow Children and Grunge Kids), recently homeless persons and individuals and families who are doubled up with friends and relatives are often underrepresented among those who access homeless services.

Other homeless people are likely afraid of being counted, such as undocumented persons and families who fear losing custody of their children.

MC-CoC recruited and trained 123 service providers, volunteers and outreach workers for the 2015 PIT count totaling 487 volunteer hours.

MC-CoC held several PIT planning meetings and conducted eight (8) trainings in the lower, middle and upper keys to prepare service provider staff and volunteers to collect the survey data in order to keep the cost of the Point-in-Time count affordable. Where possible, volunteers and agency staff assisted homeless (or assumed homeless) individuals to complete the two-sided survey.

The Key West Police Department and private citizens, provided boats to reach homeless individuals living on derelict vessels or outer islands.

Dozens of businesses, not-for-profits, and individuals donated items for “goody bags” to offer survey respondents as both an incentive to participate in the PIT and as a gesture of gratitude for doing so. The bags contained personal hygiene items, first aid supplies, baked goods, socks, etc.

**Survey questions included information on:**

- Age
- Chronic homelessness
- Area in county
- Gender
- Disabling conditions
- Duration of homelessness
- Time Homeless in Monroe County
- Episodes of homelessness
- Ethnicity
- History of foster care
- Family composition
- Government benefits received
- Households with and without children
- Last permanent place
- Military service
- Where slept previous night
- Newly homeless
- Reasons for homelessness
- Unsheltered/Sheltered
- Sources of income
- Services needed

**Definitions of Terms:****Homeless**

Only people who are literally homeless according to HUD's definition can be reported to HUD and the Florida State Office on Homelessness. This means that on the night of the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 count, they were living in emergency shelter, including domestic violence shelters, in transitional housing for homeless persons who originally came from the streets or emergency shelters, or in places not meant for human habitation (cars, parks, derelict boats, mangroves, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, the street, etc.)

**Sheltered/Unsheltered**

**Sheltered** homeless persons are those residing in emergency shelter (including domestic violence shelters and temporary overnight shelters) or in transitional housing on the night of the count.

**Unsheltered** homeless persons are those residing in places not meant for human habitation on the night of the count, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, derelict boats, mangroves, on the street, etc.

**Permanent Supportive Housing**

People living in Permanent Supportive Housing are **not** considered homeless and are not included in the PIT count report submitted to HUD. However, because the numbers of people and beds in Permanent Supportive Housing must be reported to HUD, and because it important for local planning and service coordination in Monroe County, this information was collected during the PIT count and included in this report.

## **Chronically Homeless**

In 2011, the definition of chronically homeless was expanded to include both individuals and families.

Definition: an unaccompanied homeless individual (18 or older) with a disabling condition **OR** a family with at least one adult member (18 or older) who has a disabling condition and has either been continuously homeless for a year or more **OR** has had a least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. The disabling condition can include mental illness, chronic substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, physical disability, or developmental disability.

## **Doubled Up**

Doubled up is defined as “Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, or economic hardship.”

## **Continuum-of-Care (CoC)**

A CoC is a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.

Essentially, a CoC is a group of service providers and stakeholders that collaborate together to address homelessness through housing and support services.

## **What are the components of a CoC?**

- Outreach, intake, and assessment
- Emergency Shelter (ES)
- Transitional Housing (TH)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Prevention and Rapid Re-housing

## **What are the primary roles of a CoC?**

1. Develop, implement, and monitor the CoC Plan
2. Apply for HUD and State CoC funding
3. Conduct the annual Point-In-Time Count

## **What does our CoC look like?**

Geographical Area:

- Monroe County, FL

Participants from the following sectors are involved with the Monroe County Homeless Services CoC:

- Service providers
- Local government agencies
- Faith-based community
- Department of Children and Families
- Law enforcement agencies
- Housing Authority
- School District
- Business Community
- Homeless/Formely Homeless
- Health Care
- Concerned citizens



### III. FINDINGS

Some survey respondents did not answer every question. As a result, the percentages reported in each sub-section of the report, in tables and in graphs represent only those people who answered the particular question and not the total number of respondents. In other words, unless otherwise noted, the percentages do not include “missing” responses. Additionally, when adding up numbers in various categories, the number will not always equal the number of “respondents” or “all homeless” due to survey questions that were not answered.

#### **Total Persons Documented in Monroe County who met the federal definition of homelessness on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 =615**

**Sheltered= 301**

**Unsheltered=314**

#### **Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless Reported County-Wide by Year:**

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
981	1122	1121	1020	1040	926	926*	658	680	615

(Note: Years 2006 -2012 as reported by the Southernmost Homeless Assistance League) (\*Estimated-unsheltered not counted. Not actual)

#### **Unsheltered on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by Region**

Lower Keys	Middle Keys	Upper Keys
204	63	47

#### **Unsheltered Homeless**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 there were three hundred fourteen (314) people living on the streets, under bridges, in a car, on a derelict vessel, in the mangroves, or other place not suitable for human habitation. This number represents 53% of all homeless persons in Monroe County, FL. There were eight (8) homeless families comprised of 10 adults with 9 children unsheltered.

#### **Chronically Homeless Unsheltered**

Out three hundred fourteen (314) unsheltered homeless individuals, one hundred eighteen (118) or 37% met the federal definition of chronically homeless (as self reported). A chronically homeless person is defined as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three years. A chronically homeless family is a household with at least one adult member who has a disabling condition and who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had a least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must

have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/safe haven during that time. Disabling condition is defined as "a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions."

### **Sheltered Homeless**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 there were three hundred and on (301) people in Monroe County emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities. This includes seventeen (17) homeless families with children for a total of 44 people. This number represents 57% of all homeless persons in Monroe County, FL.

The above referenced homeless individuals were sheltered by the following organizations:

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.
- City of Key West- Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS)
- Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc. (DAS)
- Florida Keys Children's Shelter, Inc.
- Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, Inc. (FKOC)
- Independence Cay
- Samuel's House
- Volunteers of America (VOA)

### **Gender**

<b>Sheltered</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>
Male 71%	Male 78%
Female 29% Transgender male to female ( 1 person) included in 29%	Female 22%

### **Race/Ethnicity**

<b>Sheltered</b>	<b>Unsheltered</b>
Hispanic or Latino 15%	Hispanic or Latino 7%
Non-Hispanic or Latino 85%	Non-Hispanic or Latino 88% Did not respond 5%

American Indian/Alaskan Native 4%	American Indian/Alaskan Native 4%
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Asian	.5%	Asian	0%
Black/African American	8%	Black/African American	6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%
White	84%	White	80%
Multi-racial	.5%	Multi-racial	6%
		<b>Did not respond</b>	<b>10%</b>

### Marital Status?

Sheltered		Unsheltered	
Single	58%	Single	68%
Married	5%	Married	4%
Domestic Partnership	1%	Domestic Partnership	3%
Divorced	27%	Divorced	9%
Widowed	4%	Widowed	3%
Separated	5%	Separated	3%
		<b>Did not respond</b>	<b>10%</b>

**\*\* Adults only**

### Age

Sheltered		Unsheltered	
Under 18	11%	Under 18	3%
18-24	1%	18-24	6%
25-60	69%	25-60	74%
Over 61	19%	Over 61	17%
		Did not respond	10%

**Have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Military?**

Sheltered				Unsheltered			
Yes	15%	No	85%	Yes	7%	No	93%

**Where Did You Stay Last Night?**

Place not meant for habitation (car, streets, mangroves, etc.)	36%	Apartment or house owned	0%
Emergency Shelter	31%	With family member	1 %
Transitional Housing	18%	With friend(s)	5%
Psychiatric facility	0%	Hotel/Motel paid by self	.4%
Substance abuse treatment facility	0%	Foster care home	0%
Hospital	.6%	Other (Boat )	5%
Jail/Detention	0%		
Don't Know	0%		
Refused to answer	3%		
Room, apartment, house rented	0%		

**How many separate periods of time in the past three years have you been without a regular place to stay (including right now)?**

Sheltered		Unsheltered	
1 time	42%	1 time	19%
2-3 times	31%	2-3 times	20%
4 or more times	10%	4 or more times	26%
Did not respond	17%	Did not respond	36%

**What caused you to become homeless?**

<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	
Employment/financial reasons	43%	Employment/financial reasons	47%
Substandard Housing	4%	Substandard Housing	4%
Foreclosure	2%	Foreclosure	3%
Eviction	6%	Eviction	7%
Recent immigration	0%	Recent immigration	.3%
Family Problems	13%	Family Problems	12%
Natural/other disasters	1%	Natural/other disasters	0%
Medical/disability problems	10%	Medical/disability problems	20%
Substance Abuse/Mental Illness	24%	Substance Abuse/Mental Illness	14%
Domestic Violence	5%	Domestic Violence	1%
Choice	1%	Choice	3%
Jail/incarceration	1%	Jail	1%

**Do you have a disabling condition?**

<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	
Yes	37%	Yes	40%
No	63%	No	42%
		Did not answer	18%

**What type of disabling condition do you have?** (based on “yes” answer above)

<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	
Physical	55%	Physical	56%
Developmental	3%	Developmental	6%
Mental Health	46%	Mental Health	40%
Drug or Alcohol Addiction	32%	Drug or Alcohol Addiction	33%
HIV/AIDS	4%	HIV/AIDS	1%

**If unsheltered, how long since you last has a regular place to stay?**

1 week or less	More than 1 week, but less than a month	1 to 3 months	More than 3 months, but less than a year	One year or longer
9%	4%	12%	17%	58%

\* 39% did not answer this question

**Do you receive any of the following forms of income?**

<b>Sheltered</b>		<b>Unsheltered</b>	
Earned income	28%	Earned income	18%
Unemployment	.4%	Unemployment	.3%
SSI	13%	SSI	11%
SSDI	9%	SSDI	5%
Veterans disability	2%	Veterans disability	.3%
Workers' Comp	.4%	Workers' Comp	0%

TANF	.4%	TANF	.3%
SSA retirement	2%	SSA retirement	3%
Veteran's pension	1%	Veteran's pension	.7%
Job pension	1%	Job pension	1%
Child support	.4%	Child support	.3%
Alimony	0%	Alimony	0%
Private disability insurance	.4%	Private disability insurance	0%
No financial Resources	38%	No financial Resource	57%
Food Stamps	40%	Food Stamps	37%
Other	2%	Other	2%

### **How long have you been in Monroe County?**

#### **Unsheltered**

Less than 6 months	6 months to 1 yr.	1 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11to 15 years	16 to 20 years	21 to 25 years	25+ yrs.
22%	5%	19%	11%	5%	5%	3%	9%

\*21% did not respond

#### **Sheltered**

Less than 6 months	6 months to 1 yr.	1 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11to 15 years	16 to 20 years	21 to 25 years	25+ yrs.
25%	7%	23%	12%	6%	4%	5%	7%

\*11% did not respond

### **Were you ever in foster care?**

Sheltered		Unsheltered	
Yes 9%	No 91%	Yes 5%	No 95%

**Additional Supplemental Data**  
**Sheltered Individuals and Families**

Have you ever rented/owned in Monroe County?	
• Yes	139
Why did you move to Monroe County?	
• Employment	59
• Family	24
• Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Spouse	20
• Weather/Water	60
• Born here	11
• Medical/Health	3
• Services	2
• Other: domestic violence, retire, visit and returned	55
Were you homeless prior to moving here?	
• Yes	88
• No	162
Where were you homeless?	
• Miami, FL	17
• Other area of Florida	22
• Outside of Florida	35
Have you been in contact with law enforcement in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	72
• No	171
What was the result of contact with law enforcement?	
• Arrest	30
• Warning	9
• Referral to services	7
• Assistance with crime against you	7
• Other	11
Have you seen a doctor in last 6 months?	
• Yes	176
• No	84
If yes, was it at the ER:	55
How long since you last had a regular place to stay?	
• 1 week or less	44
• More than 1 week but less than a month	22
• 1-3 months	40
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	52
• 1 year or longer	97
How long were you housed in Monroe County prior to becoming homeless?	
• 1 week or less	71



• More than 1 week but less than a month	13
• 1-3 months	20
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	32
• 1 year or longer	101
What services do you or your family need right now?	
• Food	100
• Housing	199
• Material goods (clothing)	63
• Shelter	85
• Local bus pass	74
• Moving/relocation assistance	35
• Criminal justice/legal services	9
• Education	29
• Health care	71
• HIV/AIDS services	3
• Mental Health Care	32
• Food Stamps	69
• Substance abuse services	20
• Employment	65
• Case Management	41
• Daycare/childcare	7
• Rental Assistance	82
• Prescription Assistance	42
If more shelter beds were open in the Lower Keys would you stay there?	
• Yes	142
• No	103
Have you considered going to another area of the Keys for services	
• Yes	65
• No	183
Have you lived in another area of the Florida Keys?	
• Yes ( 12 Middle Keys & 2 Upper Keys others not specified)	65
• No	188
Have you sought housing or services in the Lower Keys	
• Yes	144
• No	95
If a 24 hour shelter were offered in the Lower Keys, would you use it?	
• Yes	165
• No	82

## Supplemental Data

### Homeless persons incarcerated during the Point-in-Time

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 there were one hundred twenty-two (122) homeless individuals incarcerated at the Monroe County Detention Center (MCDC). Of those one hundred twenty-two (122), seventy-eight (78) individuals completed a Point in Time survey.

#### **Age, Gender, Race and Ethnicity of all 122**

<b>Males</b>	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
17 & under	0	0	0	0	0
18-35	15	5	1	0	21
36-65	69	16	0	0	85
66 & over	5	1	0	0	6
	89	22	1	0	112

<b>Females</b>	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
17& under	0	0	0	0	0
18-35	1	0	0	0	1
36-55	7	1	0	0	8
66 & over	1				1
	9	1	0	0	10

<b>TOTAL</b>	98	23	1	0	122
--------------	----	----	---	---	-----

#### **Homeless individuals in custody on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January for last ten years**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
161	166	182	181	138	103	111	99	144	122

Thirty-one (31) out of the one hundred twenty-two (122) homeless inmates reported above have been booked into the MCDC ten (10) or more times over the past ten (10) years with five (5) of those 25 or more times. The highest number of bookings for two (2) of these homeless offenders was seventy-eight (78) times. These thirty-one (31) individuals have spent a combined 36,643 days in the MCDC. At \$80.40 per day, per inmate over the reporting period, the cost to Monroe County was \$2,946,097.00 with an average cost per inmate of \$95,035.00 over the 10 years.

Of these one hundred twenty-two (122) homeless individuals incarcerated on January 27<sup>th</sup>,2015,

ninety-one (91) have been booked into the MCDC two (2) or more times over the past ten (10) years and spent a combined 67,285 days in jail. At \$80.40 per day, per inmate, the total cost thus far is a staggering \$5,409,488.22. Repeat inmates represent 74% of the total booked in this period.

Those who are homeless and have behavioral health disorders are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. State prisoners and local jail inmates who had a mental health problem were twice as likely as inmates without a mental health problem to have experienced homelessness in the year before their incarceration, yet few have access to adequate medical or behavioral health care in the community or during incarceration. Lack of adequate treatment only exacerbates those behaviors that lead to arrest. <sup>1</sup>

Behavioral health programs available to inmates detained in the Monroe County Detention Center include:

- JIP(Jail In-House Program)– Men and Women- Court Ordered six-month program for inmates with Drug and Substance abuse issues.
- Forensic Case Manager & Diversion Case Manager – Facilitates and assist inmates who have mental illness/substance abuse issues, needs related to referral for state hospital/forensic services and/or residential long or short term treatment in or out of Monroe County.
- Jail AA/NA Meetings.
- Behavior Modification and Life Skills Program, provided by contractor through MCDC Programs for inmates, related to Anger Management, Battery, Parenting, and Life Skills.

For Re-entry from the Monroe County Detention Center into the community, both the JIP and the Case Manager services are coordinated by the Guidance Care Center funded by a SAMSHA Grant. These community treatment programs that are targeted for inmates referrals from jail for re-entry Offender Reentry Program (ORP) Grant, a 6 month intensive outpatient treatment program, for adult men and women.

<sup>1</sup> James, D. and Glaze, L. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Mental Health Problems in Prison and Jail Inmates.

**Additional Supplemental Data**

**Monroe County Detention Center Surveys for Point in Time 2015**

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

78 surveyed out of 122 = 64%

Where were you staying right before you went to jail?	
• Homeless shelter	17
• Place not meant for habitation/streets/beach	30
• Boat without pump out	2
• Stay with friend	1
• Room, apartment, house rented	3
• In Florida but not in the Keys	2
• Another State	3
• No answer	23
How long have you been in Monroe County?	
• Less than 6 months	10
• 6 mos to 1 year	10
• 1 to 5 years	9
• 6 to 10 years	6
• 11 to 15 years	4
• 16 to 20 years	6
• 21 to 25 years	2
• 25+ years	10
• No answer	21
Have you ever rented/owned in Monroe County?	
• Yes	31
• No	24
• No answer	23
Why did you move to Monroe County?	
• Employment	13
• Family	3
• Weather/Water	13
• Services	1
• Recent Immigrant	1
• Born here	1
• Visiting and stayed	3
• New life and/or get away from family problems	11
• No answer	32
Were you homeless prior to moving here?	
• Yes	19
• No	39
• Refused or did not answer	20

Where were you homeless?	
• Miami, FL	3
• Outside of Florida	12
Have you seen a doctor in last 6 months?	
• Yes	42
• No	16
If yes, was it at the ER:	8
Are Hispanic or Latino?	
• Yes	8
• No	67
• No answer	3
What is your race?	
• American Indian/Native Alaskan	0
• Asian	0
• Black /African American	12
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
• White	54
• Other or multi-racial	3
• No answer	8
What is your Gender?	
• Male	70
• Female	8
What is your age?	
• 18 to 24	1
• 25 to 60	67
• 61 and over	7
• No Answer	3
How you ever served on active duty in the US Military?	
• Yes	8
• If yes, do you receive benefits	1
• No	6
Marital Status	
• Single	55
• Married	2
• Domestic partnership	2
• Divorced	14
• Widowed	0
• Separated	1
• No answer	4
Is this your first time homeless?	
• Yes	33
• No	33

How many separate periods of time in the last 3 years have you <b>NOT</b> had a regular place to stay (including right now)?	
• 1 time	28
• 2-3 times	12
• 4 or more times	15
• No answer	23
What caused you to become homeless?	
• Employment/financial	23
• Substandard Housing	13
• Eviction	1
• Medical/disability problems	3
• Family problems	6
• Natural or other disaster	1
• Recent immigration	1
• Domestic Violence	2
• No answer	27
How long since you had a regular place to stay?	
• 1 week or less	2
• More than 1 week but less than a month	0
• 1-3 months	12
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	17
• 1 year or longer	26
How long were you housed in Monroe County prior to becoming homeless?	
• 1 week or less	14
• More than 1 week but less than a month	1
• 1-3 months	9
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	7
• 1 year or longer	23
Do you have a disabling condition?	
• Yes	26
• No	34
If yes, type of disabling condition? More than one may apply per person	
• Physical	14
• Developmental	0
• Mental Health	7
• Drug/Alcohol abuse	2
• HIV/AIDS	1
Form(s) of income reported	
• Earned income/unemployment	6
• SSI	5
• SSDI	3

• Food Stamps	7
• No financial resources	32
What services do you or your family need right now?	
• Food	39
• Housing	44
• Material goods	29
• Shelter	33
• Local bus passes	36
• Moving/relocation assistance	18
• Criminal justice/legal assistance	12
• Education	13
• Health Care	30
• HIV/AIDS services	5
• Mental Health care	14
• Substance abuse services	11
• Employment	27
• Case Management	18
• Day care/child care	3
• Other	8
Were you ever a foster child?	
• Yes	7
Do you feel lack of permanent shelter causes you to be arrested?	
• Yes	44
• No	19
• No answer	15
Will you have a place to stay upon release?	
• Yes	19
• No	40
Do you use jail as shelter?	
• Yes	5
Do you jail for medical care?	
• Yes	6
What services if offered in jail would help you have shelter when you leave	
• None	20
• Case management	4
• Legal Aid	1
• Job assistance	6
• Substance Abuse programs	5
• Housing assistance/linkages	9
• Bus ticket	3

### Additional Supplemental Data

#### **Keys Overnight Temporary Shelter (KOTS) Surveys for Point in Time 2015**

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

110 surveyed

\*not all surveyed responded

How long have you been in Monroe County?	
• Less than 6 months	36
• 6 mos. to 1 year	5
• 1 to 5 years	23
• 6 to 10 years	19
• 11 to 15 years	7
• 16 to 20 years	5
• 21 to 25 years	3
• 25 + years	9
Have you owned/rented in Monroe County?	
• Yes	55
• No	50
Why did you move to Monroe County?	
• Employment	35
• Family	8
• Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Spouse	9
• Weather	25
• Born Here	4
• Medical/Health	1
• Other includes: ministry, festivals, Act of God, relationship issues, new start/change, eviction, fishing, shelter in Miami full, better life	22
Were you homeless prior to moving here?	
• Yes	33
• No	60
Where were you homeless?	
• Miami	10
• Other area of Florida	8
• Outside of the State of Florida	17
Have you been involved with law enforcement in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	37
• No	58
What was the result of contact with law enforcement?	
• Arrest/citation	18
• Warning	6
• Referral to services	1
• Assistance with crime against you	2



• Other: conversation, checked ID	5
Have you seen a doctor in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	69
• No	38
• If yes, Emergency room	26
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	
• Yes	6
• No	93
What is your race?	
• American Indian/Native Alaskan	2
• Asian	2
• Black /African American	10
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4
• White	85
• Multi racial	
What is your Gender?	
• Male	85
• Female	15
• Transgender male to female	1
What is your age?	
• 18-24	0
• 25-60	76
• 61 and over	34
How you ever served on active duty in the US Military?	
• Yes	14
• Veteran with services	14
Marital Status?	
• Single	61
• Married	9
• Domestic Partner	0
• Divorced	23
• Widowed	4
• Separated	5
Is this your first time homeless	
• Yes	55
• No	51
How many separate periods of time in the last 3 years have you <b>NOT</b> had a regular place to stay (including right now)?	
• 1 time	50
• 2-3 times	36
• 4 or more times	18
What caused you to become homeless most recently?	
• Employment/financial	65

• Substandard Housing	7
• Foreclosure	1
• Eviction	6
• Recent Immigration	
• Family Problems	12
• Natural/other disasters	2
• Medical/disability problems	9
• Substance Abuse or use	1
• Domestic Violence	1
• Jail/Prison	2
• Other	3
How long since you had a regular place to stay?	
• 1 week or less	8
• More than 1 week but less than a month	9
• 1-3 months	11
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	22
• 1 year or longer	51
How long were you housed in Monroe County prior to becoming homeless?	
• 1 week or less	40
• More than 1 week but less than a month	3
• 1-3 months	5
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	7
• 1 year or longer	27
Do you have a disabling condition?	
• Yes	44
• No	60
What type of disabling condition do you have?	
• Physical	32
• Developmental	1
• Mental Health	11
• Drug or Alcohol Addition	4
• HIVS / AIDS	1
Do you receive any of the following forms of income?	
• Earned Income	11
• Unemployment	1
• SSI	21
• SSDI	7
• Veterans disability	4
• SSA	1
• Veteran's pension	1
• Job pension	2

• Food Stamps	55
• Other source	4
• No financial resources	60
What services that you or your family need right now?	
• Food	58
• Housing	87
• Material goods	38
• Shelter	46
• Local bus passes	43
• Moving/relocation assistance	19
• Criminal justice/legal assistance	0
• Education	12
• Health Care	36
• HIV / AIDS services	0
• Mental Health care	13
• Food Stamps	38
• Substance abuse services	5
• Employment	37
• Case Management	22
• Day care/child care	0
• Rental Assistance	44
• Prescription assistance	16
• Other Vets benefits, phone, lockers	4
Were you ever a foster child?	
• Yes	13
• No	89
If more shelter beds were open in the Lower Keys would you stay there?	
• Yes	79
• No	25
Have you considered going to another area of the Florida Keys for services?	
• Yes	33
• No	72
Have you ever lived in another area of the Florida Keys?	
• Yes	22
• No	75
If yes, where	
• Big Pine/Cudjoe	5
• Middle Keys	7
• Upper Keys	5
Have you sought housing or services in the Lower Keys?	
• Yes	46

• No	57
If a 24 hour shelter were offered in the Lower Keys, would you use it?	
• Yes	90
• No	14

**Additional Supplemental data**

**Lower Keys Surveys for Point in Time 2015**

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

204 surveyed

Where did you stay last night?	
• Psychiatric Facility	0
• With a Friend	13
• With family member	1
• Place not meant for habilitation	167
• Boat	18
• Hospital	4
• Did not answer	14
Will you have to leave within a week?	
• Yes	31
• No	83
How long have you been in Monroe County?	
• Less than 6 months	34
• 6 mos. – 1 yr	12
• 1-5 yrs	36
• 6-10 years	22
• 11-15 years	11
• 16-20 years	11
• 21-25 years	7
• 25+ years	23
Have you rented or owned in Monroe County?	
• Yes	74
• No	83
• Did not answer	47
Why did you move to Monroe County? Includes multiple responses	
• Employment	20
• Family/friends	17
• Weather/fun/fishing/new life/change/Lord lead	41
• Born here	1
• Medical/health	2
• Services	3
• Domestic Abuse	1
• Choice	39
Were you homeless prior to moving here?	
• Yes	55
• 3 in Miami, 15 in other area of FL, out of state 36, 1 no answer	
• No	69

• Did not answer	80
Have you been involved with law enforcement in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	79
• Result: 44 arrested, 5 checked ID, 15 warning, 1 refer to services	
• No	64
• Did not answer	61
Have you seen a doctor in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	88
• 44 were seen at ER and 43 were not at ER	
• No	56
• Did not respond	60
Are Hispanic or Latino?	
• Yes	16
• No	188
What is your race?	
• American Indian/Native Alaskan	7
• Asian	0
• African American/Black	16
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
• White	163
• Multi-racial	18
What is your Gender?	
• Male	168
• Female	36
What is your age?	
• Under 18 years	8
• 18-24	8
• 25-60	154
• 61 and over	34
How you ever served on active duty in the US Military?	
• Veteran with services	2
• Veteran without benefits	38
• No	140
• Did not answer	24
Marital Status	
• Single	137
• Married	11
• Domestic partnership	3
• Divorced	28
• Widowed	5
• Separated	10
Is this your first time homeless?	

• Yes	52
• No	114
How many separate periods of time in the last 3 years have you <b>NOT</b> had a regular place to stay (including right now)?	
• 1 time	38
• 2-3 times	34
• 4 or more times	55
What caused you to become homeless most recently?	
• Employment/financial	96
• Substandard housing	7
• Foreclosure	11
• Eviction	13
• Recent Immigration	1
• Family problems	20
• Medical/disability problems	32
• Substance use or abuse	28
• Domestic Abuse	1
• Incarceration/jail	2
• Choice	5
How long since you had a regular place to stay?	
• 1 week or less	11
• More than 1 week but less than a month	5
• 1-3 months	17
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	22
• 1 year or longer	99
How long were you housed in Monroe County prior to becoming homeless?	
• 1 week or less	32
• More than 1 week but less than a month	4
• 1-3 months	12
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	15
• 1 year or longer	73
Do you have a disabling condition?	
• Yes	80
• No	85
If yes, type of disabling condition? More than one may apply per person	
• Physical	48
• Developmental	4
• Mental Health	29
• Drug/Alcohol abuse	31
• HIV/Aids	1
Form(s) of income reported	

• Earned income/unemployment	32
• Unemployment	1
• SSI	20
• SSDI	12
• SSA Retirement	6
• Veteran's pension/disability	2
• Job pension	2
• Child support	1
• Food Stamps	63
• Other: Native dividends, annuity	3
• No financial resources	101
What services do you or your family need right now?	
• Food	90
• Housing	100
• Material goods	42
• Shelter	61
• Local bus pass	37
• Moving/relocation assistance	7
• Criminal justice/legal assistance	8
• Education	18
• Healthcare	58
• HIV/AIDS service	1
• Mental health care	23
• Food stamps	23
• Substance abuse service	18
• Employment	50
• Case Management	25
• Daycare/child care	2
• Rental Assistance	22
• Prescription Assistance	8
• ID assistance	2
Were you ever a foster child?	
• Yes	10
If more shelter beds were open in the Lower Keys would you stay there?	
• Yes	70
• No	87
Have you considered going to another area of the Florida Keys for services?	
• Yes	48
• No	111
Have you ever lived in another area of the Florida Keys?	
• Yes	45



If yes, where	
• Big Pine/Cudjoe	3
• Middle Keys	8
• Upper Keys	3
Have you sought housing or services in the Lower Keys?	
• Yes	58
• No	99
If a 24 hour shelter were offered in the Lower Keys, would you use it?	
• Yes	91
• No	68

### Additional Supplemental Data

#### Middle Keys Surveys for Point in Time 2015

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

63 surveyed

Where did you stay last night?	
• Jail, prison, detention facility	3
• Place not meant for habitation (car, street, boat)	32
• Boat without pump out system	8
• Stay with family member	1
• Stay with friend	12
• Other: trailer, layover in Marathon on way Key West	2
Where were you staying before you went to jail?	
• Place not meant for habitation (car, street, boat)	3
Will you be forced to leave the place you stayed within the next week?	
• Yes	17
• No	33
Will you have a place to stay or money to that you will use to get a place to stay once you leave?	
• Yes	5
• No	25
How long have you been in Monroe County?	
• Less than 6 months	26
• 6 mos. to 1 year	3
• 1 to 5 years	9
• 6 to 10 years	5
• 11 to 15 years	3
• 16 to 20 years	2
• 21 to 25 years	0
• 25 + years	3
Have you owned/rented in Monroe County?	
• Yes	11
• No	30
Why did you move to Monroe County?	
• Employment	12
• Family	1
• Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Spouse	4
• Weather	16
• Born Here	1
• Medical/Health	1
• Other includes: domestic violence, traveling, don't know	10

Were you homeless prior to moving here?	
• Yes	30
• No	21
Where were you homeless?	
• Miami	5
• Other area of Florida	7
• Outside of the State of Florida	22
Have you been involved with law enforcement in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	20
• No	23
What was the result of contact with law enforcement?	
• Arrest/citation	7
• Warning	7
• Referral to services	1
• Assistance with crime against you	1
• Other: kicked out, checked ID	4
Have you seen a doctor in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	21
• No	30
• If yes, Emergency room	13
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	
• Yes	3
• No	47
What is your race?	
• American Indian/Native Alaskan	5
• Asian	0
• Black /African American	2
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
• White	45
• Multi racial	0
What is your Gender?	
• Male	42
• Female	21
What is your age?	
• 18-24	8
• 25-60	47
• 61 and over	8
How you ever served on active duty in the US Military?	
• Yes	10
• Veteran with services	2
• Veteran without benefits	7
Marital Status?	

• Single	45
• Married	2
• Domestic Partner	4
• Divorced	8
• Widowed	3
• Separated	1
Is this your first time homeless	
• Yes	14
• No	33
How many separate periods of time in the last 3 years have you <b>NOT</b> had a regular place to stay (including right now)?	
• 1 time	9
• 2-3 times	17
• 4 or more times	14
What caused you to become homeless most recently?	
• Employment/financial reasons	31
• Substandard Housing	3
• Foreclosure	0
• Eviction	4
• Recent Immigration	0
• Family Problems	6
• Natural/other disasters	0
• Medical/disability problems	14
• Substance Abuse or use	6
• Domestic Violence	0
• Other	3
How long since you had a regular place to stay?	
• 1 week or less	8
• More than 1 week but less than a month	2
• 1-3 months	6
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	11
• 1 year or longer	17
How long were you housed in Monroe County prior to becoming homeless?	
• 1 week or less	18
• More than 1 week but less than a month	3
• 1-3 months	6
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	5
• 1 year or longer	10
Do you have a disabling condition?	
• Yes	20
• No	31

What type of disabling condition do you have? Includes more than one per person	
• Physical	14
• Developmental	0
• Mental Health	8
• Drug or Alcohol Addition	1
• HIVS / AIDS	0
Do you receive any of the following forms of income?	
• Earned Income	8
• Unemployment	0
• SSI	6
• SSDI	1
• Veterans disability	0
• Private disability insurance	0
• Worker's Comp	0
• TANF	1
• Local Government Assistance	1
• SSA	1
• Veteran's pension	0
• Job pension	1
• Food Stamps	22
• Other source	2
• No financial resources	35
What services that you or your family need right now?	
• Food	40
• Housing	33
• Material goods	24
• Shelter	19
• Local bus passes	14
• Moving/relocation assistance	5
• Criminal justice/legal assistance	1
• Education	2
• Health Care	24
• HIV / AIDS services	0
• Mental Health care	12
• Food Stamps	21
• Substance abuse services	2
• Employment	19
• Case Management	1
• Day care/child care	0
• Rental Assistance	23
• Prescription assistance	14
• Other: boat with sails	1

Were you ever a foster child?	
• Yes	1
If more shelter beds were open in the Middle Keys would you stay there?	
• Yes	35
• No	18
Have you considered going to another area of the Florida Keys for services?	
• Yes	20
• No	33
Have you ever lived in another area of the Florida Keys?	
• Yes	24
• No	29
Have you sought housing or services in the Middle Keys?	
• Yes	24
• No	28
If a 24 hour shelter were offered in the Middle Keys, would you use it?	
• Yes	36
• No	16

### Additional Supplemental Data

#### Upper Keys Surveys for Point in Time 2015

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

47 surveyed

Where did you stay last night	
• Jail	2
• Place not meant for habitation (ie car, street, mangroves)	25
• Boat w/o pump out system	5
• Stayed with family	4
• Stayed with friend	8
• Hotel/motel paid for by self	2
Will you be forced to leave the place you stayed within the next week	
• Yes	9
• No	26
Will you have a place to stay or money to get a place	
• Yes	3
• No	13
How long have you been in Monroe County?	
• Less than 6 months	9
• 6 months to 1 year	0
• 1 to 5 years	14
• 6 to 10 years	8
• 11 to 15 years	1
• 16 to 20 years	2
• 21 to 25 years	3
• 25 + years	2
Have you rented/owned in Monroe County?	
• Yes	12
• No	25
Why did you move to Monroe County?	
• Employment	3
• Family	7
• Weather	2
• Other: snowbird, friend, needed change, likes it	11
Were you homeless prior to moving here?	
• Yes	10
• No	26
Where were you homeless?	
• Miami, FL	
• Other area of Florida	2

• Outside of the State of Florida	5
Have you been involved with law enforcement in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	10
• No	23
What was the result of contact with law enforcement?	
• Arrest/citation	4
• Family Court	1
• Accident	1
Have you seen a doctor in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	19
• No	17
• If yes, Emergency room	9
Are Hispanic or Latino?	
• Yes	3
• No	44
What is your race?	
• American Indian/Native Alaskan	1
• Asian	0
• Black /African American	1
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
• White	45
• Multiracial	0
What is your Gender?	
• Male	32
• Female	15
What is your age?	
• Under 18	1
• 18-24	1
• 25-60	35
• 61 and over	10
How you ever served on active duty in the US Military?	
• Yes	9
• Veteran with services	5
• No	37
Marital Status	
• Single	35
• Married	1
• Domestic Partnership	2
• Divorced	6
• Widowed	1
• Separated	1
Is this your first time homeless?	



• Yes	16
• No	29
How many separate periods of time in the last 3 years have you <b>NOT</b> had a regular place to stay (including right now)?	
• 1 time	13
• 2-3 times	12
• 4 or more times	12
What caused you to become homeless?	0
• Employment/financial reasons	23
• Substandard Housing	3
• Foreclosure	0
• Eviction	4
• Recent Immigration	0
• Family Problems	13
• Natural/other Disaster	0
• Medical/disability problems	16
• Substance Abuse or use	10
• Domestic Abuse	3
• Choice	3
How long since you had a regular place to stay?	
• 1 week or less	2
• More than 1 week but less than a month	3
• 1-3 months	7
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	8
• 1 year or longer	23
How long were you housed in Monroe county prior to becoming homeless?	
• 1 week or less	8
• More than 1 week but less than a month	1
• 1-3 months	3
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	2
• 1 year or longer	18
Do you have a disabling condition?	
• Yes	28
• No	15
If yes, type of disabling condition? More than one may apply per person	
• Physical	10
• Developmental	3
• Mental Health	14
• Drug/Alcohol abuse	10
• HIV/AIDS	0

Form(s) of income reported	
• Earned income	11
• SSI	4
• SSDI	1
• Veterans Disability	1
• SSA Retirement	1
• Job pension	1
• Food stamps	17
• Other source	1
• No financial resources	21
What services do you or your family need right now?	
• Food	17
• Housing	31
• Material goods (clothing)	6
• Shelter	20
• Local bus passes	6
• Moving/relocation assistance	6
• Criminal justice/legal assistance	3
• Education	9
• Health Care	15
• HIV/AIDS	0
• Mental Health care	4
• Food stamps	11
• Substance abuse services	6
• Employment	15
• Case management	5
• Daycare/Childcare	2
• Rental Assistance	11
• Prescription Assistance	13
• Other: car, transportation, none	3
Were you ever in foster care?	
• Yes	1
If more, shelter beds were opened in the Upper Keys would you stay?	
• Yes	22
• No	20
Have you ever considered going to another area of the Florida Keys for services?	
• Yes	15
• No	25
Have you lived in another area of the Keys?	
• Yes	10
• No	30

Have you sought housing or services in the Upper Keys?	
• Yes	26
• No	13
If a 24 hour shelter were offered in the Upper Keys, would you use it?	
• Yes	23
• No	16

## **Homeless children in Monroe County Schools**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 there were three hundred thirty-nine (339) homeless children in Monroe County Public Schools which is an increase of 39 from 2014. Seventy-five (75) were camping or transitional shelter; one (1) was awaiting foster placement; seven (7) in motels; twelve (12) on boats, in public space or substandard housing; two hundred forty-four (244) were doubled up. (Doubled up is defined as “Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, or economic hardship.”)

Note that national statistics indicate half of all homeless children are under age six (6) and not attending school.

## **Homeless children by school years**

<b>2005-2006</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Jan. 2013</b>	<b>Jan. 2014</b>	<b>Jan. 2015</b>
92	166	243	317	298	213	183	288	309	339

Homeless students include those who meet the definition contained in the HEARTH act of 2009:

- Someone who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Someone who has as a primary nighttime residence a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.
- Someone living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.
- Someone who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided.
- Someone who will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels, has no subsequent residence identified, and lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.
- A family that has experienced a long-term period without living independently in permanent housing, has experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment.

Children who lack a stable home are vulnerable to a number of adverse outcomes. Some threats, such as poverty and hunger, may precede episodes of homelessness; others stem directly from living without a home. Homeless children are more likely than other children to have moderate to severe acute and chronic health problems, and less access to medical and dental care.<sup>1</sup>

Symptoms of asthma, hyperactivity/inattention, and behavior problem are more prevalent among this group.<sup>2,3</sup> Children without stable homes are more than twice as likely as others to repeat a school grade, be expelled or suspended, or drop out of high school. A quarter or more of homeless children have witnessed violence, and more than half have problems with anxiety and

depression.<sup>4</sup> Family homelessness may result in children's separation from their parents—either because children are formally placed in foster care, or because parents leave children in the care of relatives and friends.

“Unaccompanied youth” are children and youth who are homeless and on their own—that is, not living with their families. This group includes “runaway” youth, youth whose parents encouraged them to leave or locked them out of their home, and independent youth from families where irreconcilable conflicts or loss of contact have made it impossible for them to return home. Many are victims of abuse; many spent time in foster care as children.<sup>5</sup> Due to the challenges in identifying them, unaccompanied youth are often excluded from estimates of the homeless population.

A number of factors contribute to homelessness among children and youth. In surveys of city officials, the most frequently cited reasons for family homelessness are a lack of affordable housing, poverty, and domestic violence; for unaccompanied youth, the chief factors cited are mental illness, substance abuse, and lack of affordable housing.<sup>6</sup>

Almost by definition, homeless children and youth are difficult to count, as their living situations frequently change. Attempts are made to estimate the extent of the homeless problem in the United States, using various methods, but all have their limitations. For this report, we use data that count children who are homeless and enrolled in school, and also data on homeless children who are served by formal shelters (either short- or long-term) over the course of a year, some of whom are also in school. Because of the different methods used to make the counts, the two measurements are not comparable.

<sup>1</sup>National Center on Family Homelessness. (2009). *America's youngest outcasts: State report card on child homelessness*. <sup>2</sup>Ibid. <sup>3</sup>Cutuli, J. J., Herbers, J. E., Rinaldi, M., Masten, A. S., and Oberg, C. N. (2010). Asthma and behavior in homeless 4- to 7-year-olds. *Pediatrics*, 125, 145-151. <sup>4</sup>National Center on Family Homelessness. Op. cit. <sup>5</sup>Burt, M. (2007). *Understanding homeless youth: Numbers, characteristics, multisystem involvement, and intervention options*. Testimony submitted to the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support. June 19, 2007. <sup>6</sup>United States Conference of Mayors. (2009). *Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A status report on hunger and homelessness in America's cities*.

## **Permanent Supportive Housing**

Permanent Supportive Housing is **not** included in the official Point-in-Time Count, but noteworthy; are an additional one hundred ninety-eight (198) persons in long term supportive housing for homeless individuals and families with disabilities operated by: AHI, Inc., Catholic Charities, Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, Key West Housing Authority, Westcare, Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens, and Samuel's House.

<b>Housing Provider</b>	<b># Persons Housed on 01/27/15</b>
AHI, Inc.	38
Catholic Charities	8
Florida Keys Outreach Coalition	45
Key West Housing Authority	11
MARC House	33
Samuel's House	48
Westcare/The Heron	15
	<b>Total 198</b>

\*This represents 95% occupancy

On January 27, 2015, these service providers participated in the Point In Time utilizing the Homeless Management Information System as well as a completing paper surveys. Some the questions on survey do not apply to the long term stayers of 5 years or more which represents 30%. 36% have remained in permanent supportive housing 1 to 5 years and 40% are 1 year and less. The average length of stay is 4.25 years.

### **Additional Supplemental Data**

#### **Permanent Housing Surveys for Point in Time 2015**

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

198 Surveys (168 Adults)

\*not all respondents answered every question

<b>How long have you been in Monroe County?</b>	
• Less than 6 months	1
• 6 mos. to 1 year	6
• 1 to 5 years	46
• 6 to 10 years	36
• 11 to 15 years	22
• 16 to 20 years	8
• 21 to 25 years	7

• 25 + years	24
Have you owned/rented in Monroe County?	
• Yes	60
Why did you move to Monroe County?	
• Employment	5
• Family	15
• Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Spouse	2
• Weather	15
• Born Here	7
• Medical/Health	10
• Other includes: better life, change, choice, easy to get around, housing, likes it	27
Were you homeless prior to moving here?	
• Yes	45
Where were you homeless?	
• Other area of Florida	4
• Outside of the State of Florida	4
Have you been involved with law enforcement in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	8
• No	
What was the result of contact with law enforcement?	
• Arrest/citation	3
• Deemed Incompetent	2
• No charges	3
• Probation	1
Have you seen a doctor in the last 6 months?	
• Yes	146
• If yes, Emergency room	7
Are you Hispanic or Latino?	
• Yes	42
• No	156
What is your race?	
• American Indian/Native Alaskan	1
• Asian	1
• Black /African American	17
• Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
• White	148
• Multi racial	1
What is your Gender? Includes 30 children	
• Male	103
• Female	94
• Transgender male to female	1
What is your age? Includes children	

• Under 18	30
• 18-24	4
• 25-60	124
• 61 and over	45
How you ever served on active duty in the US Military?	
• Yes	10
• Veteran with services	5
Marital Status?	
• Single	114
• Married	13
• Domestic Partner	2
• Divorced	31
• Widowed	6
• Separated	2
Is this your first time homeless	
• Yes	73
How many separate periods of time in the last 3 years have you <b>NOT</b> had a regular place to stay (including right now)?	
• 1 time	79
• 2-3 times	17
• 4 or more times	5
What caused you to become homeless most recently?	
• Employment/financial	45
• Substandard Housing	5
• Foreclosure	4
• Eviction	8
• Recent Immigration	2
• Family Problems	12
• Natural/other disasters	3
• Medical/disability problems	49
• Substance Abuse or use	7
• Domestic Violence	5
How long since you had a regular place to stay?	
• 1 week or less	47
• More than 1 week but less than a month	1
• 1-3 months	3
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	5
• 1 year or longer	44
How long were you housed in Monroe County prior to becoming homeless?	
• 1 week or less	47
• More than 1 week but less than a month	1



• 1-3 months	3
• More than 3 months but less than 1 year	5
• 1 year or longer	44
Do you have a disabling condition?	
• Yes	134
• No	32
What type of disabling condition do you have?	
• Physical	29
• Developmental	37
• Mental Health	69
• Drug or Alcohol Addition	26
• HIVS / AIDS	28
Do you receive any of the following forms of income?	
• Earned Income	57
• SSI	42
• SSDI	68
• Veterans disability	1
• SSA	1
• Veteran's pension	1
• Food Stamps	42
• Other source	1
• No financial resources	8
What services that you or your family need right now?	
• Food	12
• Housing	52
• Material goods	7
• Local bus passes	5
• Education	5
• Health Care	35
• HIV / AIDS services	25
• Mental Health care	12
• Food Stamps	8
• Substance abuse services	3
• Employment	4
• Case Management	34
• Day care/child care	4
• Rental Assistance	44
• Prescription assistance	1
• Other: cleaning services	1
Were you ever a foster child?	
• Yes	3
If more shelter beds were open in the Lower Keys would you stay there?	

• Yes	24
Have you considered going to another area of the Florida Keys for services?	
• Yes	52
• No	
Have you ever lived in another area of the Florida Keys?	
• Yes	20
If yes, where	
• Middle Keys	4
• Upper Keys	2
Have you sought housing or services in the Lower Keys?	
• Yes	88
If a 24 hour shelter were offered in the Lower Keys, would you use it?	
• Yes	24

## **In Conclusion**

Measuring the extent and characteristics of homelessness in Monroe County on an annual basis is essential to combating it. A combination of the CoC's Homeless Management Information System, Point-in-Time Counts, and Housing Inventory Counts will inform policy makers and advocates on demographics, trends, and the availability and usage of services among the homeless population in the Florida Keys. Improved accuracy and detail of homeless data have influenced all aspects of Federal and State funding sources and should be the basis for any local strategic planning and service development.

Since homelessness emerged as an issue in the Florida Keys over 25-years ago, a broad group of dedicated individuals and organizations including: advocacy groups, shelter and housing providers, churches, local governments, law enforcement agencies and others, have fought to help homeless persons find housing and remain stably housed. Data has become a critical component of these efforts.

Documenting the number, characteristics, and needs of homeless persons in our community, as well as the number of people receiving services and the capacity of these services, is essential to identifying the proper strategies to tackle the problem; it's very difficult to manage what you can't measure.

Because counting the homeless population is difficult and resource intensive, the Monroe County CoC will continue to improve systems for data collection so that they are flexible enough to accommodate differing circumstances throughout the Keys, yet also consistent enough to aggregate the data and get a holistic picture for the entire County of Monroe.

Even so, The Point-in-Time Homeless Count can provide only a snapshot of the scope of homelessness in Monroe County, FL.

Each year moving forward, the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care will conduct the PIT count and work hard to cast a wider net and make improvements in how the count is conducted. The next PIT Count will be during the last week of January 2015.

Two factors have clearly had a positive impact on the homeless count: improvements to the methodology and strong collaboration.

The Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care will be analyzing the data collected and considering both immediate and longer term responses, including:

- Supporting the continuation/development of Homeless Prevention programs for the precariously housed.
- Continuing to improve discharge planning protocols to ensure homeless individuals are not discharged to the streets when exiting hospitals, mental health programs, foster care, and the detention center.
- Evaluating and implementing strategies to reduce lengths of homelessness in emergency shelter and transitional housing for families and individuals.

- Increasing outreach initiatives throughout the County.
- Strengthening collaborations among providers to maximize resources and avoid duplication of services.
- Increasing our partnerships with our community partners to advance evidence-based strategies to increase housing opportunities for homeless individuals and families.
- Advocacy to restore and/or increase State & Federal funding for homeless prevention, shelter, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, outreach, mental health & substance abuse services, and coalition support.
- Implementing a Coordinated Assessment System as a uniform intake process to be used by a Monroe County Homeless Service Providers.

### **How YOU Can Help End Homelessness in the Florida Keys**

#### **You can help end homelessness by simply CAREing!**

C - Contribute (food drives, money, etc.,)

A - Advocate (speak for those who have no voice)

R - Reach Out (volunteering)

E - Educate(learn and inform others)

### **CONTRIBUTE**

While the concern and support demonstrated by volunteer work and advocacy are essential, material assistance is also a necessity. Donate today to a Monroe County based homeless service provider and keep our limited resources local.

Call the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care at 305-998-4663 for a list of homeless housing and service providers in the Florida Keys or visit our website at [www.monroehomelesscoc.org](http://www.monroehomelesscoc.org)

#### **Needed items and services might include:**

- **Clothing.** The lack of clean, well-fitting clothes and shoes causes great hardship beyond exposure to the elements—it hurts one's self-image and one's chance to get ahead. With few opportunities to safely store or adequately clean what they can't carry, people experiencing homelessness must travel light. On job interviews, a poorly dressed person has little chance for success. Give your clean clothes to those who could use them. Before you give your own clothes or start a clothing drive, talk to your local shelter and find out what items they really need. Most have limited storage space and can't use winter clothes in summer or vice versa. Please clean the clothes before you donate them.
- **In-kind services and materials.** Homeless service providers may be able to use copying, printing, food, transportation, marketing assistance, computer equipment and assistance, electrical work, building materials, plumbing, etc.
- **Household goods or other items.** Service providers may need items such as kitchen utensils, furniture, books, toys, games, stuffed animals, dolls, diapers, etc.
- **Books.** People experiencing homelessness may have limited access to a library and find that there is little for them to do when spending a night at a shelter. Find out if a local shelter or housing provider would appreciate donations of books. Consider organizing a

book drive to create a small library at the shelter if there is not already one there.

- **Computers.** Many non-profit organizations have a very difficult time purchasing expensive but essential equipment such as computers. If you have a machine you no longer need, a local shelter or service provider might greatly appreciate the donation. Shelter guests might also appreciate the donation of machines for their use, although you should check if a shelter would have space to set up public computers.
- **Homeless “survival kits.”** Create and distribute kits that include items such as cups, pots, pans, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, band-aids, bug spray, non perishable food items and cosmetics. During cold weather, organize drives for blankets, coats, hats, scarves, mittens, socks, etc.
- **Phone calls.** Help people experiencing homelessness contact loved ones by offering the opportunity to make free long distance calls.
- **Job opportunities.** Encourage your company, school, or place of worship to hire people experiencing homelessness (if they are not already working). Most unemployed homeless adults desperately want to work, but need an employer to give them a chance.
- **Support for a homeless person or family.** As people move out of a shelter or transitional housing program, consider raising money to contribute for a security deposit, or assist by contributing household goods, babysitting, or moral support. See if your local shelter has a partnering program.

**Other things you might do to contribute include:**

- **Have a fundraiser.** Donate the proceeds to a shelter, food pantry or soup kitchen. Organize a yard sale and donate the proceeds.
- **Smile.** Please don’t look away from homeless people as if they do not exist. Making eye contact, saying a few words, or smiling can reaffirm the humanity of a person at a time when homelessness seems to have stripped it away.

## **ADVOCATE**

Advocacy is critical to creating the systemic changes needed to end homelessness. Advocacy means working with people experiencing homelessness to bring about positive changes in policies and programs on the local, state, and federal levels. It means working with various sectors of the community (e.g. city/county officials, members of Congress, direct service providers, and the business community) to develop workable strategies for responding to homelessness. It also means changing your language and behaviors in small ways that may contribute to larger changes in the way people experiencing homelessness are seen and treated in our society.

## **REACH OUT**

Reaching out by volunteering your time to work directly with people experiencing homelessness is one of the best ways to learn about homelessness and help to meet immediate needs at the same time. There is a lot of “behind the scenes” work (filing, sorting clothes, cutting vegetables, etc.) to be done at shelters and other direct service agencies. Think about what you do best and the kind of setting in which you work most effectively—with individuals or groups, with men, women, or children, and so on. Then, call a few places, ask what help they need, and arrange for a visit.

Call the Monroe Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care at 305-998-4663 for service provider contact information or visit our website at: [monroehomelesscoc.org](http://monroehomelesscoc.org)

## **EDUCATE**

Learn about the root causes of homelessness and teach others.

Contact the Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care at 305-998-4663 to arrange a public education event or request additional information.

Go to [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org) for online resources.

## **Monroe County Homeless Services Continuum-of-Care**

Post Office Box 2410

Key West, FL 33045

Tel: 305-998-4663

Fax: 305-414-8573

Jeanette McLernon, MSW

CoC Administrator

Email: [MonroeHomelessCoC@comcast.net](mailto:MonroeHomelessCoC@comcast.net)

Website: [www.monroehomelesscoc.org](http://www.monroehomelesscoc.org)