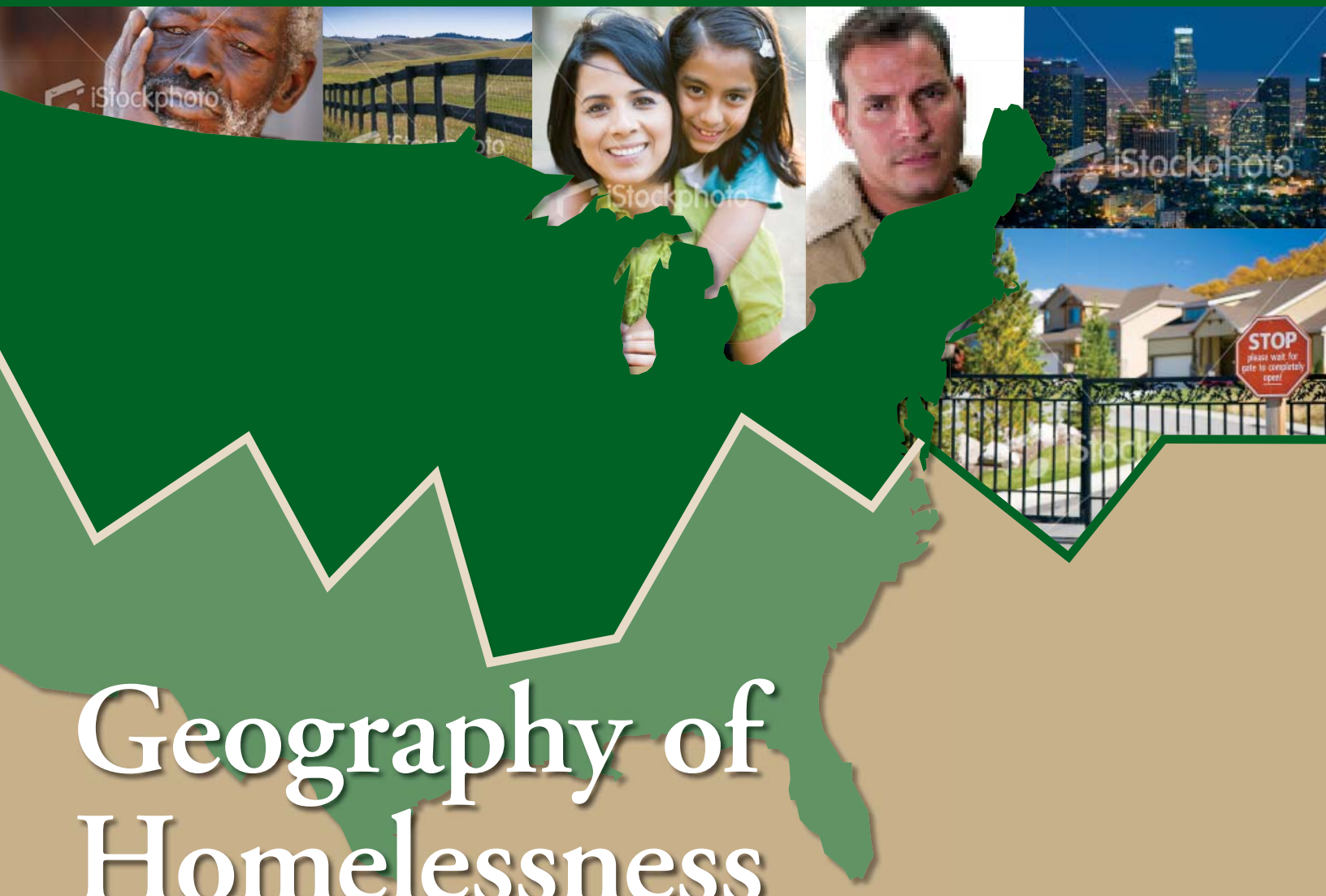
RESEARCH REPORTS ON HOMELESSNESS



Geography of Homelessness

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National Alliance to End Homelessness

Homelessness Research Institute

MARCH 2010



National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

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Geography of Homelessness

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Summary

In 2007 there were 671,859 people experiencing homelessness on any given night. These people were counted in big cities and small towns across the country. Previously, little has been known (outside of anecdotal evidence) about how many people experience homelessness in urban, rural and suburban areas. Data collected by communities and reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been aggregated and reported at the state or national level. In this report, for the first time, each community that has submitted data on homelessness has been classified into one of five categories ranging from completely urban to completely rural. Various aspects of the homeless population and homeless assistance system in each category have been analyzed to determine whether homelessness differs across disparate geographic types. This report details the findings of our analysis and provides some interesting, if sometimes unexpected, differences. This report includes the following findings:

- Approximately 77 percent of the total homeless population in the U.S. was counted in areas considered completely urban; 4 percent was counted in areas considered completely rural.
- Urban areas also have the highest rate of homelessness, with approximately 29 homeless people per 10,000. By contrast, rural areas have a rate of less than half that, with 14 people experiencing homelessness per 10,000.
- In both rural and urban areas, a majority of people who are chronically homeless are unsheltered—living on the streets, in cars, abandoned buildings, and other places not meant for human habitation.
- The percent of persons in families with children who are unsheltered is quite low in urban areas compared to the other geographies; rural areas have almost double the percent of unsheltered persons in families compared to urban areas.
- Cities with populations of over 500,000 people (Major Cities) account for 51 percent of the homeless population counted in urban areas, but only account for 34 percent of total population in those areas.
- Major Cities experienced an increase (4 percent) in homelessness between 2005 and 2007, while all other geographic areas experienced declines; Major Cities also saw an increase of over 13 percent in the number of homeless persons in families, while all other areas experienced significant declines.
- Major Cities have rates of homelessness that exceed those of other urban areas and are three times higher than the rates of homelessness in rural areas.
- Emergency shelter beds constitute a larger portion of the bed inventory in rural areas while permanent supportive housing and transitional housing make up a larger share of the inventory in urban areas.
- In all geographic areas, there are more permanent supportive housing beds under development than any other bed type.

Introduction

Homelessness is commonly thought to be an urban issue, a perception that is reinforced by the presence of homeless people on the streets of major cities and in the characterization of homelessness in the media. And while homelessness in urban areas tends to be more visible, areas outside of urban centers are also affected by homelessness. The same structural issues that cause homelessness in cities—lack of affordable housing and low incomes—exist in rural areas and contribute to the number of people who are homeless in those areas.

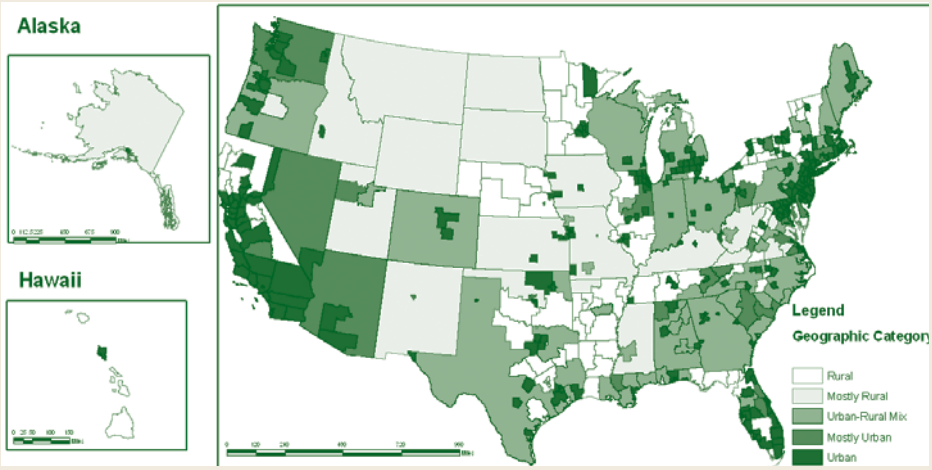
In recent years, there has been a growth in knowledge around the size and characteristics of the U.S. homeless population. Data submitted by local communities to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been analyzed and incorporated into reports produced by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, HUD, and other organizations. In all of these reports, data from communities of varying types and sizes—suburban towns, major cities, rural counties, and entire states—were aggregated to either the state or national level with limited attempt to account for differences in geographic characteristics. However, a more in-depth understanding of the geography of homelessness provides additional valuable insight into the scope of the homelessness problem and its solutions. Data collected by communities are imperfect, and come with numerous limitations and caveats. These include changes in data collection methods and coverage areas, which are a particular concern for both dense urban areas and expansive rural areas. However, they are the best available data at this time with which to analyze homelessness in the United States.

Defining the Spectrum

Data on homelessness is reported at an administrative geography unit called a Continuum of Care (CoC) through which federal homelessness funding is awarded. CoCs range widely from single cities to entire states. This heterogeneity makes it difficult to ascertain exactly what fraction of homelessness is located in rural or urban areas. In 2007, in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, there were 457 CoCs. In order to analyze homelessness by geographic community type, we classified each of the CoCs based on its urban or rural constitution into one of five categories—rural, mostly rural, urban-rural mix, mostly urban, and urban. The map in Figure 1 shows the 457 CoCs and the geographic categories to which they belong. As previously stated, CoCs are often large geographic areas made up of a combination of rural and urban counties. This report uses the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) definitions of “urban county” and “rural county,”

[1] The Housing Assistance Council Definition of Urban and Rural can be found here: http://www.ruralhome.org/dataportal/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3&Itemid=5&limit=1&limitstart=1

Figure 1 Continua of Care by Geographic Category



which are a composite of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Office of Management and Budget definitions.[1] The definitions of each category are as follows:

- "Urban" CoCs are made up of singular cities, urban counties, or regions made up entirely of urban counties.
- A CoC is considered "Rural" if it is a singular rural county or a group of counties that is almost entirely rural in composition.
- "Mostly Urban" CoCs are those in which 80 percent or more of the counties are urban and/or more than 80 percent of the general population resides in the urban areas of the CoC.
- CoCs are considered "Mostly Rural" if more than 80 percent of the counties are rural and/or more than 80 percent of the general population reside in the rural parts of the CoC.
- The "Urban-Rural Mix" CoCs are regional CoCs that are not sufficiently urban to be classified as mostly urban and not sufficiently rural to be considered mostly rural.

The numbers of CoCs that belong to each category are outlined in Table 1 along with the percent of CoCs in each category. Overwhelmingly, CoCs are urban, accounting for almost two-thirds of all CoCs. Second in number are Rural CoCs, accounting for over 16 percent. Table 1 and the map in Figure 1 show the range and level of diversity that exists among CoCs.

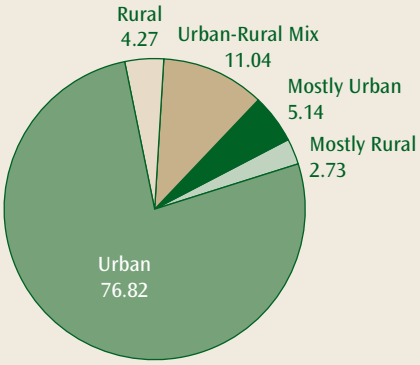
Table 1 CoCs in each Geographic Category

Category	Number of CoCs	Percent of Total CoCs
Urban	293	64.11
Rural	74	16.19
Urban-Rural Mix	48	10.50
Mostly Urban	24	5.25
Mostly Rural	18	3.94

Homelessness by Geographic Category

The share of the total homeless population counted within the 457 CoCs is broken down by category and illustrated in Figure 1. The distribution of the estimated 671,859 people experiencing homelessness in the United States is overwhelmingly urban in orientation, with almost 77 percent of people experiencing homelessness counted in Urban CoCs (see Figure 2). Together, Urban and Mostly Urban CoCs account for over 82 percent of all people experiencing homelessness. Conversely, the number of people experiencing homelessness who were counted in Rural or Mostly Rural CoCs account for only 7 percent of the total number of homeless people in the United States.

Figure 2 Percent of Total Homelessness in 2007 by Geography



Despite the sizable majority of people experiencing homelessness in urban areas nationally, homelessness within individual states has a higher degree of variability. Statewide CoCs such as Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana are mostly rural in composition and as such have high amounts of rural homelessness. Additionally, in 22 percent of states, over 50 percent of people experiencing homelessness was counted in Rural or Mostly Rural CoCs. While quantifying the level of rural homelessness is complicated by various methodological challenges, this analysis uses the best data available to determine the extent of homelessness in both Urban and Rural areas.

Subgroups by Geographic Type

Nationally, the homeless population has three primary subpopulations: persons in families with children, non-chronically homeless individuals, and chronically homeless individuals. Persons in families with children account for 37 percent of the total homeless population, chronically homeless persons account for 18 percent of the homeless population, and non-chronically homeless individuals account for the remaining 45 percent. Figure 3 below shows the distribution of the homeless population by subpopulation and geographic category. Each block represents a share of the total homeless population in the United States. For example, non-chronic individuals in Urban areas comprise 35.25 percent of the total homeless population, while persons in families with children in Rural areas account for only 1.58 percent of the total homeless population in the country.

Figure 3 Subpopulations by Geography

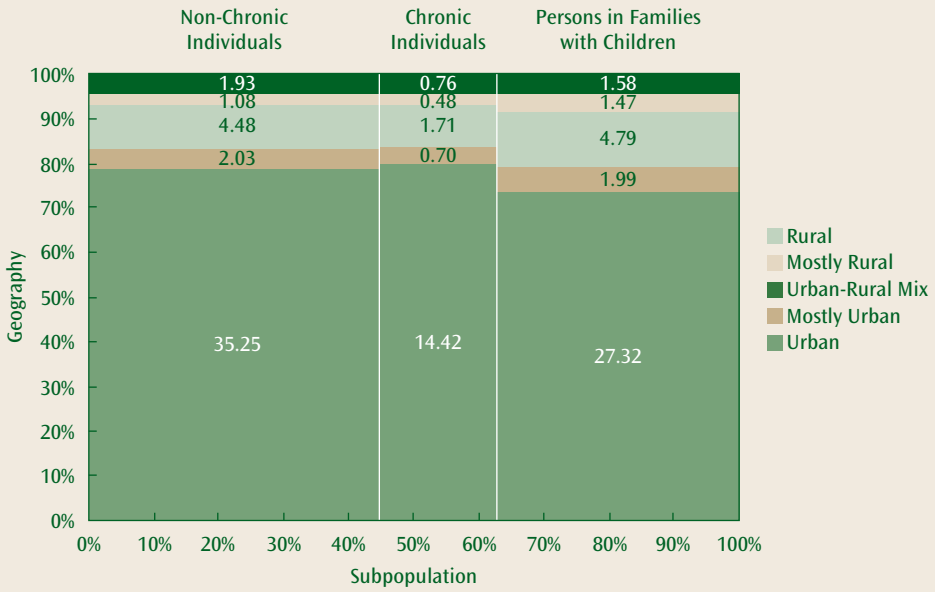


Table 2 shows the percent of each geographic category that are members of the three primary subpopulations. Interestingly, across subpopulations, the Rural category and the Urban category look the most similar. They both have relatively high rates of chronic homelessness and non-chronic individuals make up a higher share of their homeless populations than persons in families.

Table 2 Subpopulations by Geographic Category

Geography	Percent of Homeless Families	Percent of Homeless Chronic	Percent Non-Chronic Individuals
Rural	37.05	17.75	45.20
Mostly Rural	48.54	15.97	35.49
Urban-Rural Mix	43.64	15.54	40.81
Mostly Urban	42.25	14.86	42.89
Urban	35.49	18.73	45.78
US	37.17	18.07	44.76

Living situation—sheltered or unsheltered—is another important distinction. Unsheltered homeless persons account for 42 percent of the total homeless population, and persons counted in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs make up the other 58 percent. Each subpopulation can be broken out into sheltered and unsheltered subgroups. Collectively, these distinctions are used to create the following six mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories:

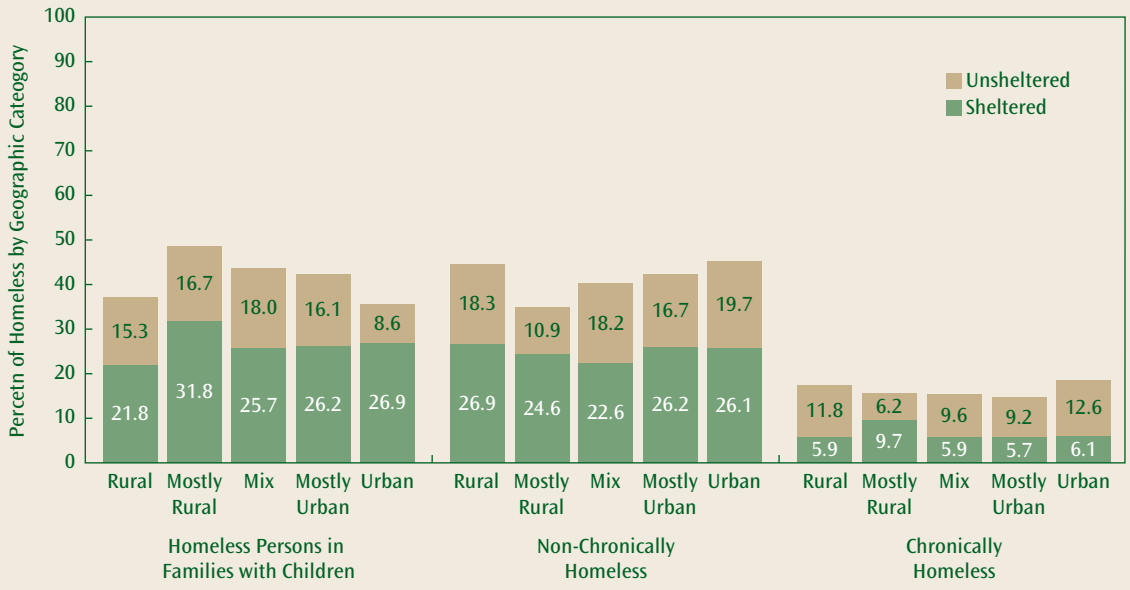
- Sheltered persons in families with children
- Unsheltered persons in families with children
- Sheltered chronically homeless individuals
- Unsheltered chronically homeless individuals
- Sheltered non-chronically homeless individuals
- Unsheltered non-chronically homeless individuals

Figure 4 shows the geographic distribution of the six exhaustive subgroups outlined above. In each geographic category across the spectrum, persons in families and non-chronically homeless individuals are the two largest subpopulations and are of similar size. In this way, each of the subpopulations is similar in geographic distribution to the total homeless population. There are, however, three observations that stand out as noteworthy.

First, the percent of persons in families with children who are unsheltered is quite low in urban areas compared to the other four geographic categories. Rural areas have a rate of unsheltered persons in families that is almost double that of urban areas. Second, the percent of the chronically homeless population that is unsheltered exceeds 60 percent in all categories but one, Mostly Rural. Both Urban and Rural areas have high rates of unsheltered chronic homelessness. While the majority of chronically homeless individuals in most categories is unsheltered, the higher rates in the Rural and Urban categories is notable.

Finally, the Mostly Rural category is different from the other categories in almost every way. Almost 50 percent of its population is persons in families with children, higher than other categories and higher than the national rate of 37 percent. This category also has noticeably fewer unsheltered individuals—both non-chronically homeless and chroni-

Figure 4 Subgroups by Geographic Category



cally homeless—and a higher rate of sheltered chronically homeless. The number of CoCs in this group is small (N=17) and is made up primarily of Statewide and Balance of State CoCs. While it is unclear how, the geographic size of these CoCs (often most or all of a state) likely plays some role.

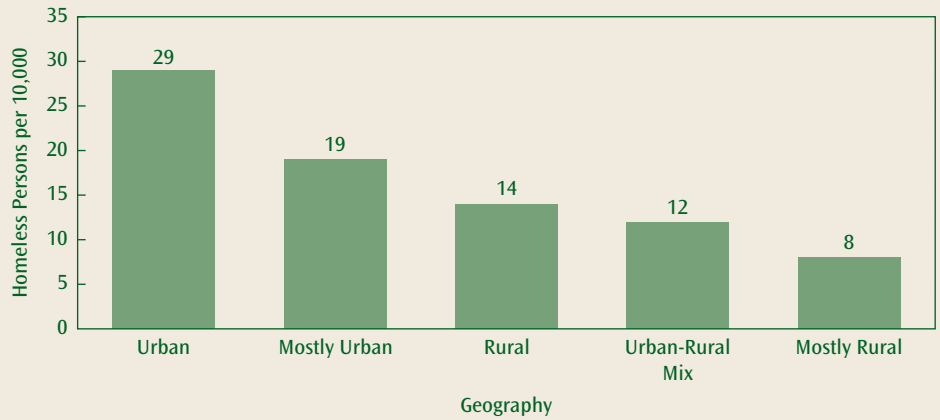
Prevalence of Homelessness

While it is unsurprising that there would be more homeless people in urban areas, the issue of prevalence is one that has been less definitive. Nationally, rural areas have higher rates of poverty, deep poverty, and unemployment, factors commonly associated with homelessness.[2] In this section, we take a closer look at CoCs to examine how rates of homelessness in Rural CoCs compare to those in Urban areas. To do this, we calculated rates of homelessness for each CoC using 2007 homelessness counts (the last year for which comprehensive data are available), and U.S. Census data.

Collectively, Urban CoCs have the highest rate of homelessness, with approximately 29 people per 10,000. Mostly Urban CoCs rank second with a rate of 19 homeless people per 10,000, and Rural areas fall third with 14 people per 10,000 (see Figure 5).

[2] Homeless Assistance Council, *Poverty in Rural America*. June, 2006.

Figure 5 Homeless Persons per 10,000 by Geographic Category



There are some Rural CoCs with very high rates of homelessness, and two of the highest rates in the country belong to Rural CoCs (see Appendix A). However, the rates of homelessness within the Rural category vary widely (wider than any other category), and as a group, Rural CoCs have a rate of only half that of Urban CoCs. There are a number of explanations for the observed rate of homelessness being lower than what might have been expected: many extremely poor people in rural areas do not stay in shelters but rather double-up with family or friends or live in substandard housing, and many leave rural areas in search of increased employment opportunities and homeless services. While rural areas certainly have poverty to contend with—1 in 5 rural counties have rates of poverty over 20 percent—homelessness as HUD defines it is less prevalent in these areas than in urban areas.[3]

Overall Distribution of CoCs by Rate of Homelessness

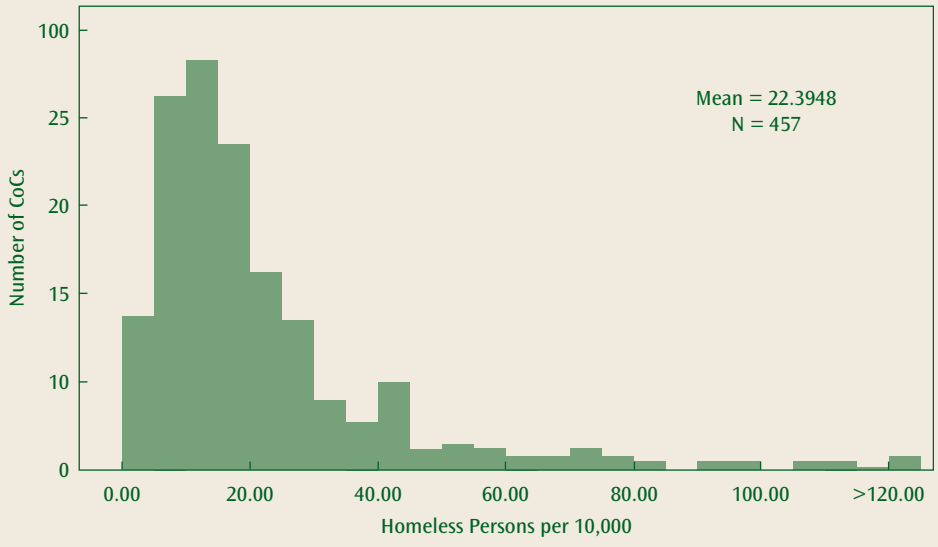
We found that the rates of homelessness in the United States vary widely, from less than 1 person per 10,000 to over 216 people per 10,000. Figure 6 shows the distribution of CoCs by their rate of homelessness. While there is a wide distribution, most CoCs (91 percent) have rates of fewer than 50 persons per 10,000, and almost one-third had rates between 10 and 20 people per 10,000.

Continua of Care with Highest Rates of Homelessness

Though the mean rate of homelessness is just under 23 persons per 10,000, there are a

[3] http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/IncomePovertyWelfare/ruralpoverty/

Figure 6 Distribution of CoC Homeless Rates by Number of CoCs



number of CoCs with very high rates—the ten highest have rates between 96 and 216 people per 10,000 (see Appendix A). While 7 out of 10 of the highest rates of homelessness are Urban, only 3 are big cities. Detroit, MI has the highest rate of homelessness in the United States, with over 216 people per 10,000. Mendocino County, CA and Monroe County, FL, both Rural CoCs, follow at second and third with 161 people per 10,000 and 147 homeless people per 10,000 respectively. Appendices A and B outline the CoCs with the highest rates of homelessness as well as the CoCs with the highest numbers of homeless people. Detroit, MI is the only CoC to appear in both tables.

Examining Urban Homelessness

As stated earlier, a majority of people experiencing homelessness are experiencing it in urban areas. Approximately 77 percent of the U.S. homeless population in 2007 was counted in places considered completely urban, and over 60 percent of the homeless population was living in metropolitan areas of greater than 1,000,000 people. Because of this heavy urban bias, trends in homelessness nationally largely reflect trends in urban homelessness. However, closer examination of urban homelessness reveals interesting variation among urban places, particularly when comparing major cities to other urban areas.

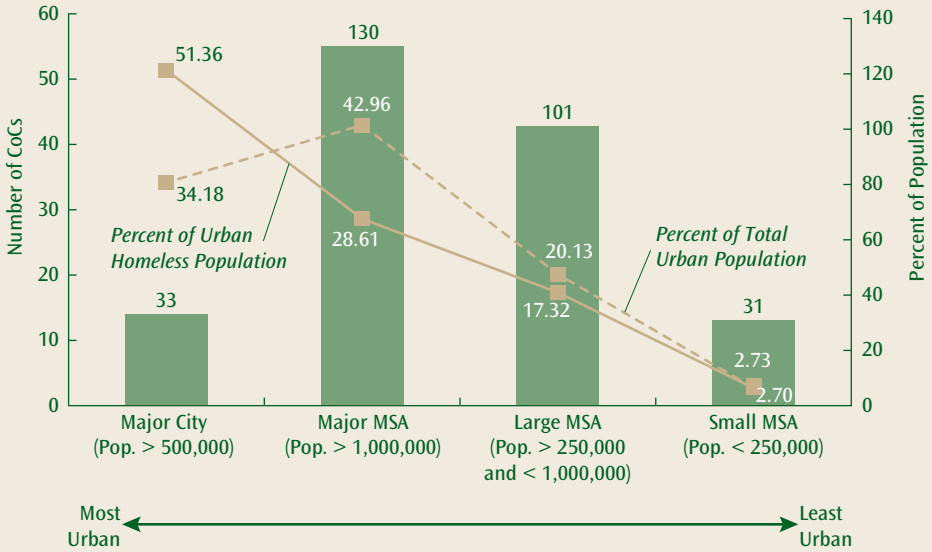
There is much variation in size, density and overall urban character of CoCs within the Urban category. It includes big cities like New York City, with over 8 million residents, suburban communities like Fairfax County, VA and small communities like Amarillo, Texas, with less than 200,000 residents. In this section, we examine homelessness within the Urban category by further categorizing the 295 Urban CoCs into smaller and more homogeneous groups and comparing homeless population size, rates of homelessness, and changes across these urban geographic types.

To determine the type of urban area we used criteria similar to that used by the Economic Research Service at the U.S Department of Agriculture to develop the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes.[4] We categorized each Urban CoC into one of four categories: Major City, Major Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), Large MSA, and Small MSA. Appendix C provides the definition of each category and examples of CoCs in each category.

The distribution of Urban CoCs by type is shown in Figure 7. Overwhelmingly, the Urban CoCs are located within Major MSAs (n = 130) or Large MSAs (n=101). Major Cities and CoCs in Small MSAs represent only a small share of the total number of Urban CoCs (n = 33 and 31, respectively).

[4] http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/RuralUrbCon/

Figure 7 Distribution of Urban CoCs by Type



Homeless Population by Urban Geographic Type

As shown in Figure 7, there is a direct correlation between how urban a category is and the percent of urban homelessness in that category. As CoCs decrease in population size, the share of the urban homeless population counted in those CoCs declines as well. Major Cities account for over half (51 percent) of the urban homeless population, followed by Major MSAs (29 percent), Large MSAs (17 percent, and finally, the least urban category, Small MSAs (2.7 percent).

Interestingly, the distribution of the urban homeless population is not reflective of the distribution of the total urban population. Though Large and Small MSAs account for similar shares of the total urban population (20 and 2.7 percent, respectively) as they do of the urban homeless population, this is not the case for the two more urban categories. While accounting for over half of the urban homeless population, Major Cities account for just one-third of the total urban population.[5] Conversely, Major MSAs comprise a larger share (43 percent) of the total urban population than they do the urban homeless population. This indicates that the higher level of homelessness, in Major Cities particularly, is not completely accounted for by population size.

Population Change between 2005 and 2007

Between 2005 and 2007, the United States population grew by 4.5 percent.[6] The total population of the 295 Urban CoCs grew by roughly the same amount (4.3 percent). Popula-

[5] Urban Homeless population and total population are defined here as the population within the 295 CoCs that are considered urban.
[6] U.S. Census Bureau, 2005, 2007

tion growth across the four urban types ranged from a low of 2.8 percent in Major MSAs to a high of 5.6 percent in small MSAs.

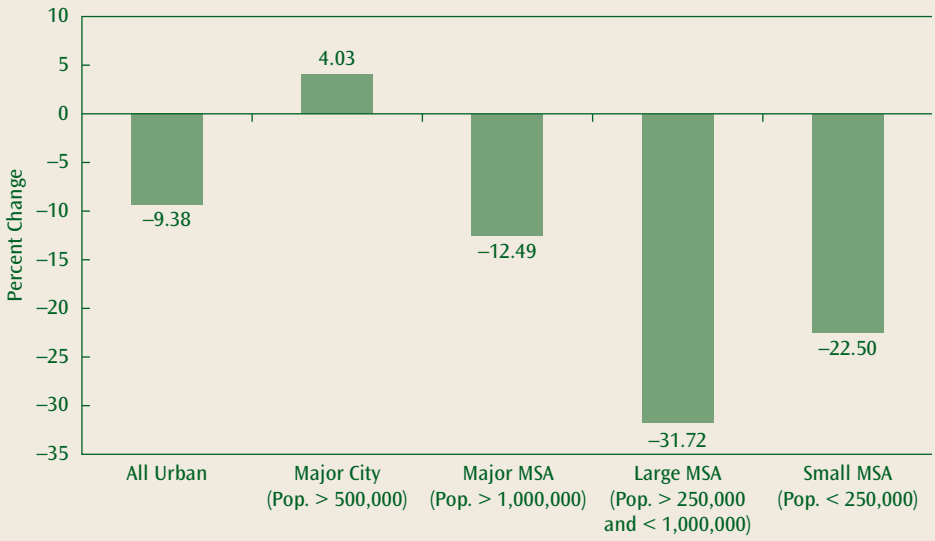
At the same time, however, most urban areas experienced declines in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness. Overall, urban homelessness declined by 9.4 percent between 2005 and 2007, a trend that corresponds to the reduction in homelessness nationally. However, as shown in Figure 8, something very different occurred in Major Cities during the same time period. This was the only group to experience an increase in homelessness (4 percent) from 2005 to 2007. Major Cities also experienced a 13.4 percent increase in the number of homeless persons in families with children, which is in stark contrast to the changes in family homelessness in the other urban types, which all experienced decreases in homelessness among persons in families. Specifically, Major, Large, and Small MSAs experienced declines ranging from just over 27 percent (major MSAs) to over 46 percent (Large MSAs) (see Appendix D).

The one population for which the direction of change was consistent across all four urban categories was the chronically homeless population. As a whole, urban areas saw a decline of just less than 29 percent among their chronically homeless population—a trend that also corresponds to the national decline of 28 percent. Major Cities and Major MSA CoCs had rates of change just less than that (both just over 26 percent) while Large MSAs and Small MSAs had rates that were higher (38 and 34 percent, respectively).

Rates of Homelessness

As previously stated, Urban Areas had the highest rate of homelessness in 2007, with 29 people per 10,000. The growth in population from 2005 to 2007 across urban types

Figure 8 Percentage Change in Homeless Population by Urban Type



matched by declines (in most categories) in homeless populations resulted in lower rates of homelessness for each urban category in 2007.

Within the Urban category, the rates of homelessness vary widely. Major Cities had the highest rates of homelessness in both 2005 and 2007, with rates of 44 and 43 per 10,000, respectively (see Table 3). Due to a growth in population that outpaced their growth in homelessness, the rates of homelessness in Major Cities still declined. CoCs in Major MSAs had the lowest rates of homelessness in both years with rates of 22 people per 10,000 in 2005 and 19 people per 10,000 in 2007. The two groups with more significant declines in homelessness experienced more significant declines in rates of homelessness, with the rates in Large MSAs decreasing by over 13 points from 38 to 25 people per 10,000 in 2007 and Small MSAs decreasing by 10 points from 39 to 29 people per 10,000.

This closer examination of the urban category has revealed some interesting if unexpected differences between urban geographic types. The trends in Major Cities departed from the other categories when comparing homeless population size, rates, and changes between 2005 and 2007.

Table 3 Rates of Homelessness by Urban Type per 10,000 people

	Rate 2007	Rate 2005
Major City *(Pop. > 500,000)*	43	44
Major MSA *(Pop. > 1,000,000)*	19	22
Large MSA *(Pop. > 250,000 and < 1,000,000)*	25	38
Small MSA *(Pop. < 250,000)*	29	39
All Urban CoCs	29	33

Homeless Assistance System—Bed Inventory

As part of an annual application for funding, CoCs are required by HUD to collect data on the number of beds available to people experiencing homelessness. The three principle bed types are emergency shelter beds, transitional housing beds, and permanent supportive housing beds (PSH). CoCs identify the number of beds in each category that are designated for each subpopulation, persons in families with children and individuals. Together, these distinctions are used to create six different bed types. The table below outlines the distribution of beds (number and percent) by bed type. With the excep-

Table 4 Bed Inventory, 2007

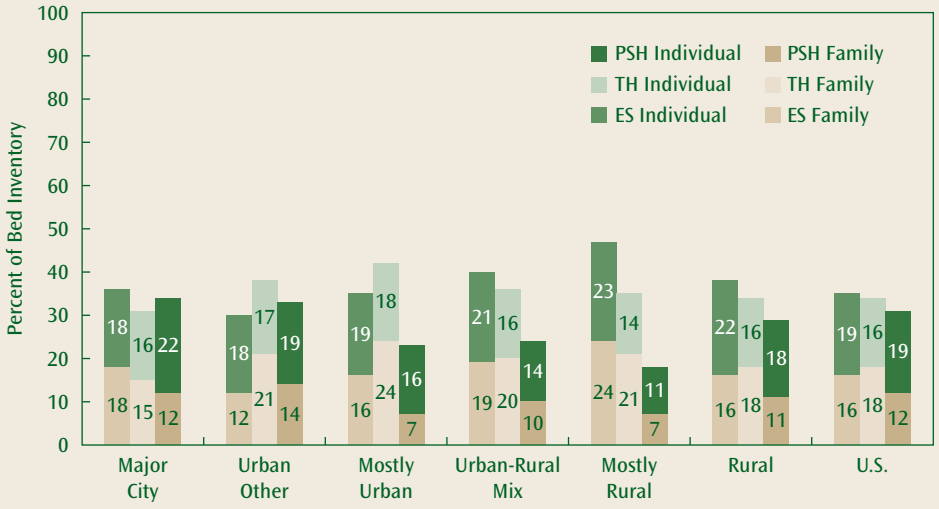
Bed Type	Number of Beds	Percent of Total Beds
Emergency shelter beds for families	98,061	16.15
Emergency shelter beds for individuals	112,640	18.55
Transitional housing beds for families	111,116	18.30
Transitional housing beds for individuals	97,886	16.12
Permanent supportive housing beds for families	72,205	11.89
Permanent supportive housing beds for individuals	115,288	18.99
Total Beds	611,159	100.00

tion of PSH for families which accounts for a much smaller share, there is only modest variation in the percent of beds in each category.

Distribution of Existing Inventory by Geography

In 2007, there were 611,169 existing emergency shelter, transitional housing, and PSH beds. Figure 9 shows the distribution of the entire existing bed inventory. Each segment represents a percent of the total number of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and PSH beds in each geographic category. While there are similar numbers of beds in each category nationally, there are differences when examining them by geographic category.

Figure 9 Entire Existing Bed Inventory



Three observations stand out as noteworthy:

- Emergency shelter accounts for a larger share of the bed inventory in the more rural categories;

- In Major Cities a notably larger share of the beds are PSH beds; and
- Transitional housing represents a larger portion of the inventory in non-Major City urban areas.

Capacity of the System

Emergency shelter and transitional housing beds are considered part of the homeless assistance system. Those who utilize PSH beds are not considered homeless by HUD's definition, and thus those beds are not included in this section which focuses on temporary beds for people who are experiencing homelessness. In 2007, there were approximately 420,000 year round beds for people experiencing homelessness. Table 5 shows the existing total, family, and individual bed inventory by geographic category. Additionally, it shows the number of homeless people in each geographic category for every bed available.

Overall, these rates range from a low of 1.0 homeless person for every bed in Mostly Rural areas to a high of 1.7 homeless people per bed in Major Cities and Rural areas. The rates vary somewhat when accounting for subpopulations. For every geographic category, the ratio of homeless individuals to the number of beds available to them is higher than the ratio of homeless family people per family bed. In Major Cities and Rural areas there are more than 2 homeless individuals per each individual bed. There is only one category in which there are fewer people than there are beds. In Mostly Rural areas, there are fewer homeless persons in families than there are beds designated for them.

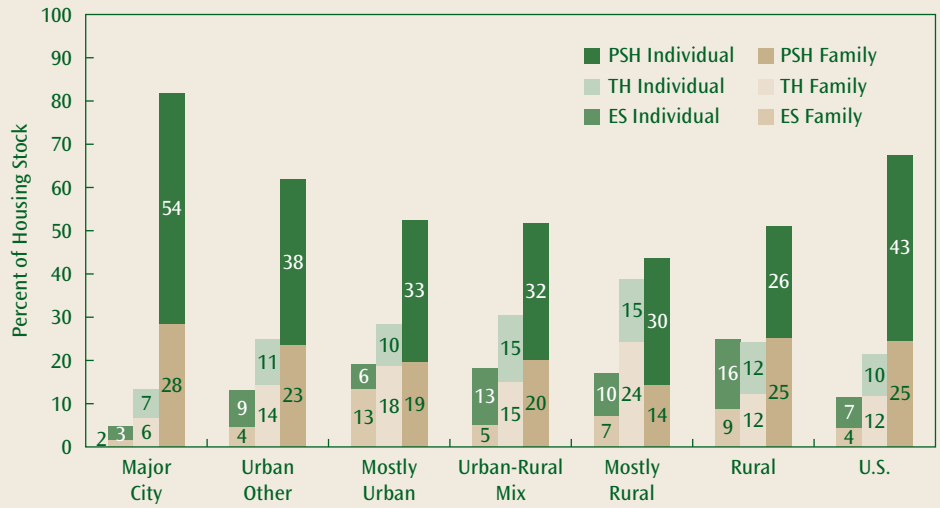
Table 5 Existing Inventory of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Beds, 2007

Geography	Family Beds	Homeless Persons in Families with Children per Family Beds	Individual Beds	Homeless Individuals per Individual Beds	Total Beds	Total Homeless People per Total Beds
Major City	78,238	1.2	79,062	2.2	157,300	1.7
Urban Other	76,363	1.2	80,504	2.0	156,867	1.6
Mostly Urban	10,429	1.3	9,921	1.8	20,350	1.5
Urban-Rural Mix	25,158	1.3	23,304	1.8	48,462	1.5
Mostly Rural	10,775	0.9	8,784	1.2	19,559	1.0
Rural	8,214	1.4	8,951	2.1	17,165	1.7
U.S.	209,177	1.2	210,526	2.0	419,703	1.6

Inventory under Development

Those beds that are fully funded though not yet available for occupancy are considered "under development." In 2007, there were approximately 43,000 such emergency shelter, transitional housing, and PSH beds. Approximately 69 percent, or 30,000, were PSH beds. About 20 percent (8,700) were transitional housing beds and the remaining 11 percent (4,700) were emergency shelter beds. Figure 10 shows the entire bed inventory under development by geographic category. Each bar segment represents a share of the total

Figure 10 Entire Inventory Under Development



number of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and PSH beds that are being added to the existing inventory. This chart deviates widely from the distribution of the existing stock shown in Figure 9. PSH comprises a majority of the new inventory in every geographic category, and in Major Cities it makes up more than 80 percent of additional beds.

The number of PSH beds under development adds roughly 18 percent to the total existing PSH stock (see Appendix G). By geography, these increases range from a low of 16 percent in Major Cities and geographically mixed CoCs to a high of 24 percent in Rural CoCs. However, the number of shelter and transitional housing beds under development would add only 3 percent to the total existing shelter inventory. By geography, the increases in emergency shelter and transitional housing inventory range from a low of 1.8 percent in Major Cities to a high of over 6 percent of added inventory in Rural areas (Appendix G).

Analysis of the housing inventory data increases our understanding of both the dimensions of the existing homeless assistance system as well as the new direction the homeless assistance system is taking. The data on beds under development show a clear and universal movement toward permanent supportive housing.

Conclusion

This report illustrates that there exist differences when examining homelessness by geography. Rural areas have a much smaller share of the overall homeless population (4 percent compared with 77 percent), and they have a much higher proportion of

unsheltered homeless persons in families with children than their urban counterparts. Rural areas also dedicate a much higher share of their bed inventory to emergency shelter compared with the more urban areas that favor PSH and transitional housing.

There are also some interesting differences within the Urban category. Major Cities account for 51 percent of the urban homeless population but only one-third of the total urban population. While other urban areas experienced declines in homelessness between 2005 and 2007, Major Cities experienced an increase. Further, the rates of homelessness in Major Cities are much higher than those of all other geographic types, and three times higher than the rate of homelessness in Rural areas

However, this report also shows that in some ways there is little difference between categories, and in some areas of this analysis rural areas and urban areas look surprisingly similar. The distribution of their homeless populations by families, non-chronic individuals, and chronic individuals are nearly identical. Both geographic types have issues of capacity, with over two homeless individuals per bed available. And while rural areas have rates of less than half that of urban areas (14 and 29 people per 10,000, respectively), two of the top three highest rates in the country belong to Rural CoCs.

This report has provided some additional insight to the problem of homelessness in the United States. Understanding the various dimensions of homelessness can help us understand the right ways to intervene, lighting the path towards ending homelessness in this country.

Appendices

Appendix A CoCs with Highest Rates of Homelessness, 2007

Geography	Continuum of Care	Rate per 10,000 People	Total Homelessness 2007
Urban	Detroit, MI	216.0	18,062
Rural	Mendocino County, CA	161.3	1,422
Rural	Monroe County, FL	146.9	1,121
Urban	Portland, ME	116.0	741
Urban	Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County, CA	111.7	2,789
Mostly Rural	Central Oregon	110.5	2,029
Urban	Merced City & County, CA	109.3	2,641
Urban	Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County, CA	106.1	4,253
Urban	Boston, MA	98.0	5,104
Urban	District of Columbia	96.6	5,320

Appendix B CoCs with Highest Numbers of People Experiencing Homelessness, 2007

Geography	Continuum of Care	Rate per 10,000 people	Total Homeless 2007
Urban	Los Angeles City & County, CA	75.0	68,608
Urban	New York City, NY	61.9	50,372
Urban	Detroit, MI	216.0	18,062
Urban	Las Vegas/Clark County, NV	66.7	11,417
Urban-Rural Mix	Texas Balance of State	18.7	10,636
Urban	Houston/Harris County	24.9	10,363
Urban-Rural Mix	Georgia Balance of State	16.8	10,255
Urban	Metropolitan Denver Homeless Initiative, CO	34.2	8,698
Urban	Phoenix/Mesa/Maricopa County Regional, AZ	23.2	8,448
Urban	Seattle/King County, WA	44.1	7,902

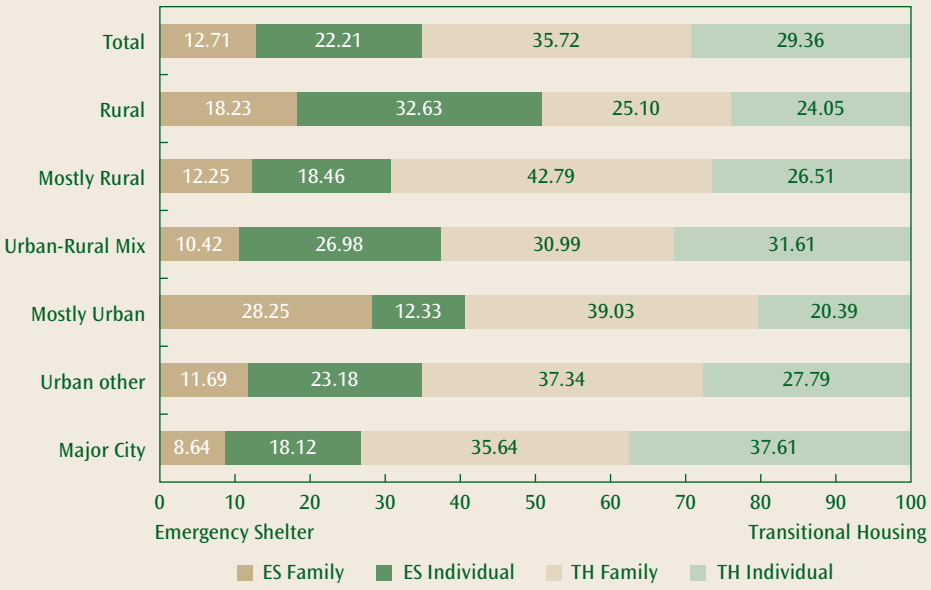
Appendix C Urban Category Names, Definitions, and Examples

Name	Definition	Examples
Major City	CoCs that contain a Major City with a population of over 500,000.	San Diego City, CA New York City, NY Columbus/Franklin County, OH Atlanta/DeKalb, Fulton Counties, GA
Major MSA	CoCs that do not contain a major city, but are within a Major Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) with a population of over 1,000,000.	Ft Lauderdale/Broward County, FL Minneapolis/Hennepin County, MN Cambridge, MA Sacramento City and County, CA
Large MSA	CoCs within a Large MSA with a population of over 250,000 but less than 1,000,000.	Colorado Springs/El Paso County, CO Honolulu, HI Albany City & County, NY Spokane, WA
Small MSA	CoCs within in a Small MSA with a population fewer than 250,000.	Bangor/Penobscot County, ME Racine City & County, WI Amarillo, TX Sioux City/Dakota, Woodbury Counties, IA

Appendix D Percent Change in Homeless Subpopulations between 2005 and 2007 by Urban Type

Urban Type	N=	Percent Change—Homeless	Percent Change—Chronically Homeless	Percent Change—Persons in Families with Children	Percent Change—Total Population
Major City	33	4.03	–26.35	13.39	5.37
Major MSA	130	–12.49	–26.07	–27.11	2.84
Large MSA	101	–31.72	–38.16	–46.43	5.32
Small MSA	31	–22.50	–34.55	–39.57	5.64
All Urban CoCs	295	–9.38	–28.75	–17.48	4.26

Appendix E Percent of Inventory Under Development by Geographic Category: Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing



Appendix F Existing Permanent Supportive Housing Stock; Units and Percent by Subpopulation

Geography	Existing PSH beds for Families	Percent PSH for Families	Existing PSH for Individuals	Percent PSH for Individuals	Existing PSH beds for Chronically Homeless	Percent PSH for Chronically Homeless
Major City	27,849	34.78	35,615	44.48	16,598	20.73
Urban Other	31,500	42.26	27,480	36.87	15,557	20.87
Mostly Urban	1,981	32.17	3,039	49.35	1,138	18.48
Urban Rural Mix	6,648	42.81	6,473	41.68	2,408	15.51
Mostly Rural	1,665	37.88	1,953	44.43	778	17.70
Rural	2,562	37.62	3,364	49.39	885	12.99
Total	72,205	38.51	77,924	41.56	37,364	19.93

Appendix G Percent Increase in Inventory After Units Under Development Are Added to Total Inventory

Geography	Increase in Total Shelter and Transitional Housing	Increase Emergency Shelter for Families	Increase Transitional Housing for Families	Increase Emergency Shelter for Individuals	Increase Transitional Housing for Individuals	Increase in Total PSH	Increase in PSH for Families	Increase in PSH for Chronically Homeless	Increase in PSH for Individuals
Major City	1.81	0.56	2.84	1.21	2.81	16.38	13.72	15.95	12.85
Urban other	4.14	2.62	4.81	3.49	4.44	18.64	11.29	19.52	9.23
Mostly Urban	5.06	6.55	6.02	2.47	4.11	26.09	17.60	27.42	8.74
Urban-Rural Mix	2.99	1.20	3.42	2.88	4.32	16.16	8.23	16.88	6.62
Mostly Rural	3.05	1.27	4.78	1.94	4.65	19.46	8.31	21.10	5.19
Rural	6.11	4.62	5.80	6.19	6.27	23.95	17.46	19.84	9.08
Total	3.21	1.72	4.15	2.59	3.88	18.03	12.33	18.15	10.69

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