

Highlights of 2013 Homeless Census Point-in-Time Count for Louisiana – Region 9 Northlake Homeless Coalition

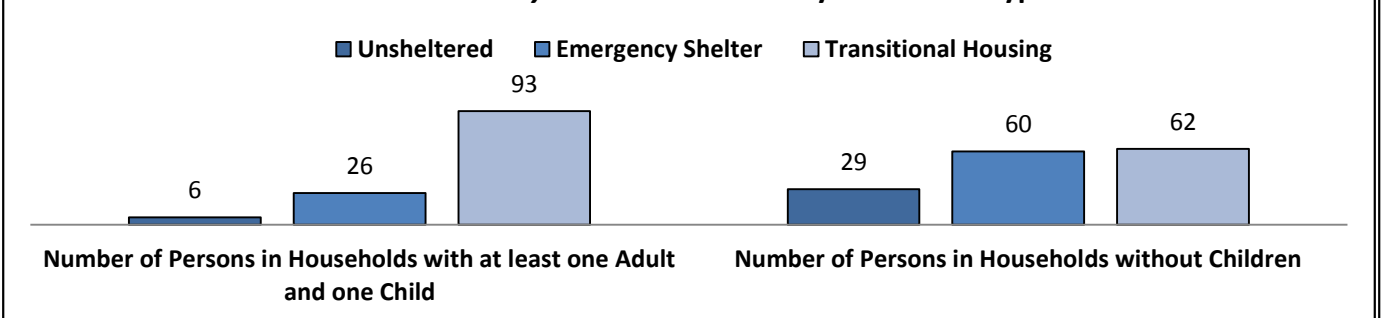
An annual count of the number of persons experiencing homelessness was conducted during the week of February 25th, 2013, wherein twenty-three partnering organizations of the Northlake Homeless Coalition surveyed persons within our community to identify those who are without permanent, stable housing on the night of Monday February 25th. In conjunction with the 2013 statewide Homeless Census in Louisiana, Region Nine (9) counted two hundred seventy-six (276) men, women, and children who were *literally homeless* in the parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a person as literally homeless only when he/she resides in:

- A place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, etc.
- An emergency shelter,
- Or a transitional housing program for persons who were unsheltered or residing in an emergency shelter prior to entering the program.

Table 1: 2013 Region IX Homeless Census: Summary of *Literally Homeless* Adults and Children

Household Type	Unsheltered ¹	In Emergency Shelter ²	In Transitional Housing ³	Total Count
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	2	8	25	35 [19% of households]
Total Persons in Households	6	26	93	125 [45% of persons]
Number of Households without Children	28	60	62	150 [81% of households]
Total Persons in Households	29	60	62	151 [55% of persons]
Total Number of Households	30 [15.8%]	68 [37%]	87 [47.2%]	185 [100.0% of households]
Total Persons in Households	35 [12.6%]	86 [31.2%]	155 [56.2%]	276 [100.0% of persons]

Chart 1: *Literally Homeless* Persons by Household Type



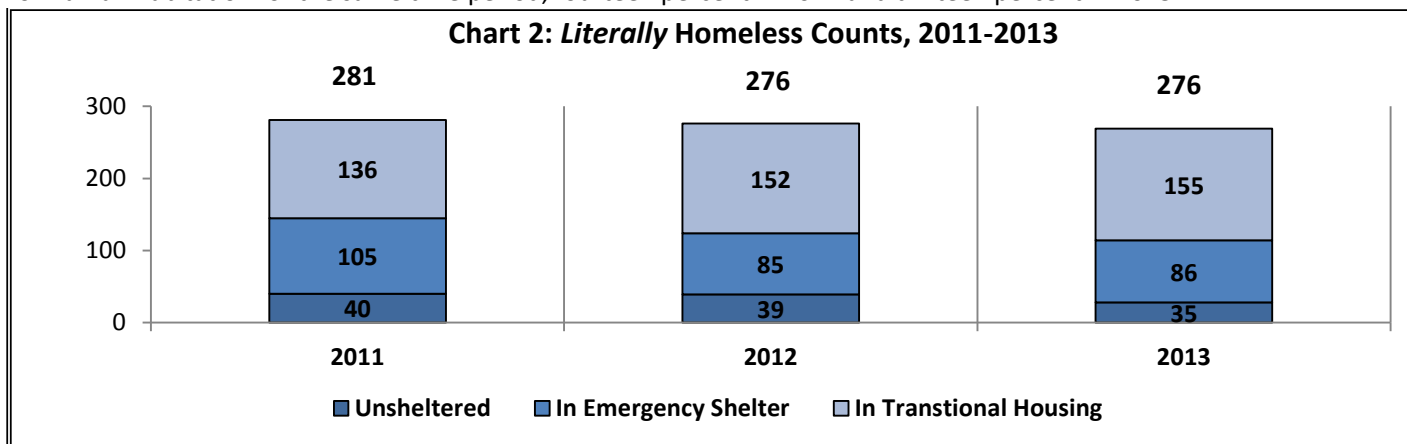
¹ Describes any location where a person may be residing that is not intended for human habitation; includes automobiles, wooded areas, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, barns, under bridges, etc.

² Emergency shelters provide a temporary places to stay for newcomers, travelers, people who are in crisis, or homeless individuals in the community

³ Transitional Housing for formerly homeless persons provide extended shelter stays and supportive services for homeless individuals and/or families with the goal of helping them live independently and transition into permanent housing; stays are generally longer than two weeks but typically 60 days or more and, in many cases, up to two years or more; may be configured for specialized groups within the homeless population such as people with substance abuse problems, homeless mentally ill, homeless domestic violence victims, veterans or homeless people with AIDS/HIV.

Why the Homeless Census Matters: Data derived from the Homeless Census provides the community partners of the Northlake Homeless Coalition with a critical “snapshot” of homelessness and the services that are in place to respond. This information is imperative to better understand how homelessness is changing, to inform the public at large, and to measure our progress towards preventing and ending homelessness. Single points in time also allow for communities to concentrate efforts for consistent data collection and integration from all service providers within the catchment area.

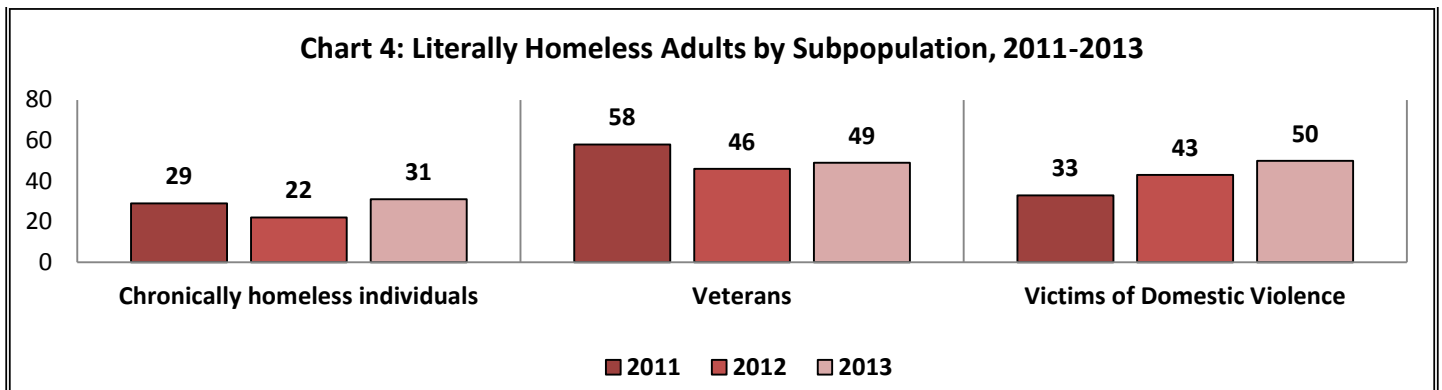
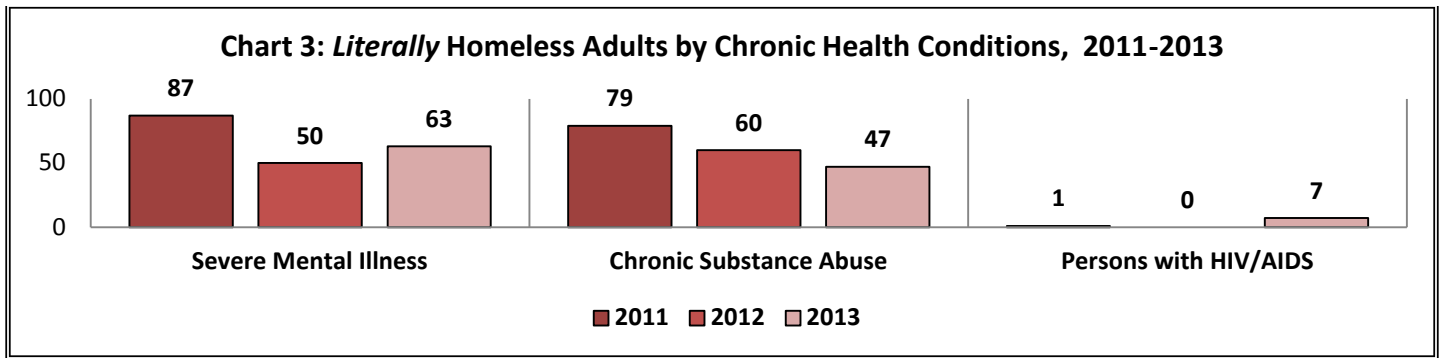
I. Populations Data: The total number of persons who were identified as literally homeless on the night of the 2013 Census was consistent the number of persons counted in 2012, which is an approximate a two percent reduction since 2011. A greater percentage of literally homeless persons were residing in transitional housing in 2013 (56%) , in comparison to 2011 (48%), while fewer were utilizing emergency shelter beds, thirty-one percent in 2013 and thirty-seven percent in 2011. There has also been a very slight decline in the number of persons counted who were residing in some place not intended for human habitation for the same time period, fourteen percent in 2011 and thirteen percent in 2013.



II. Subpopulations Data: In addition to identifying the total number of persons who were experiencing literal homelessness on the night of February 25th, survey participants were asked questions that allowed for identifying the number of persons who can be defined as members of special populations, or sub-populations, as stated by HUD. Areas of interest include certain long-term disabling health conditions, chronic homelessness, Veterans of the United States Military, and persons fleeing domestic violence situations. Charts 3 and 4 provide comparisons of special population counts for the 2011-2013.

Subpopulation	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Subpopulation Count	Total Population	Percentage of Total Population
Chronically Homeless Individuals ⁴	6	25	31	151 Individual Adults	21%
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	125 Persons in Families	0%
Veterans	2	47	49	193 Adults	25%
Female Veterans	0	1	1	71 Adult Females	1%
Victims of Domestic Violence	3	46	50	193 Adults	26%
Persons with Long-term Disabilities/Chronic Health Conditions					
Severe Mental Illness	6	57	63	193 Adults	33%
Chronic Substance Abuse	3	44	47	193 Adults	2%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	1	6	7	193 Adults	3.6%

⁴ An individual or adult family member who has a long-term disabling condition, and has been homeless in emergency shelter or places not meant for human habitation for more than one year or at least four times in the past three years.



III. Participating Organizations: Twenty-three human service agencies participated in the 2013 Census by directly surveying persons seeking/accessing their assistance, or welcoming volunteers to conduct interviews with their consumers, during the week of the Count. These service providers included emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, feeding programs, motel voucher programs, and Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

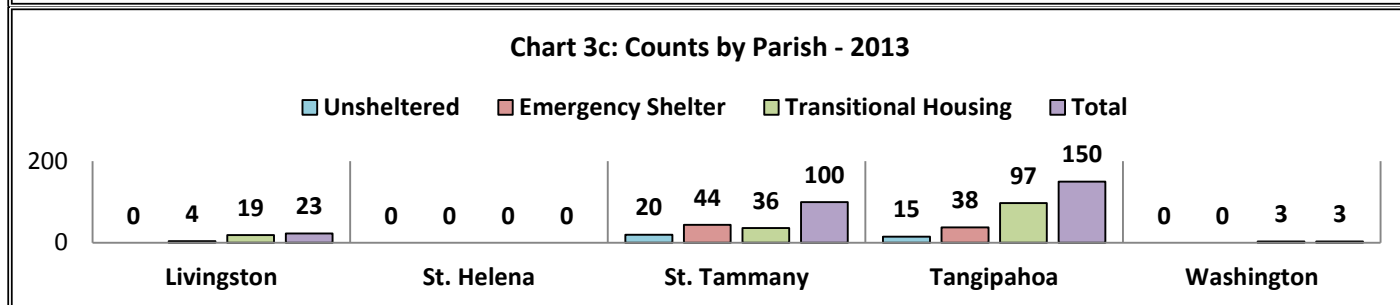
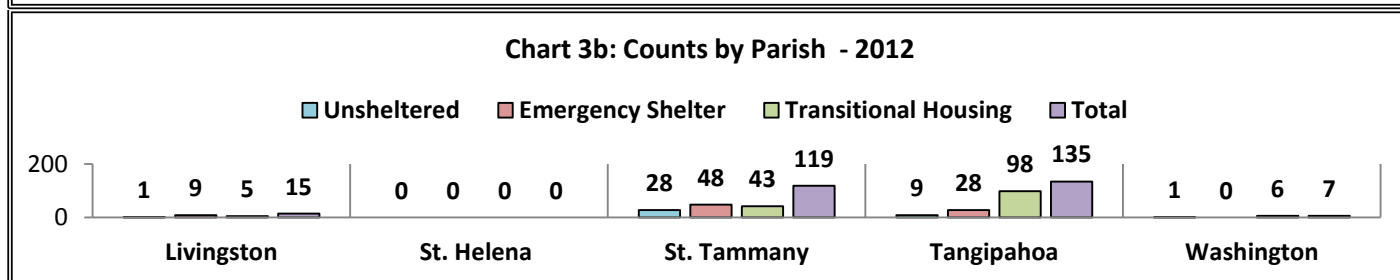
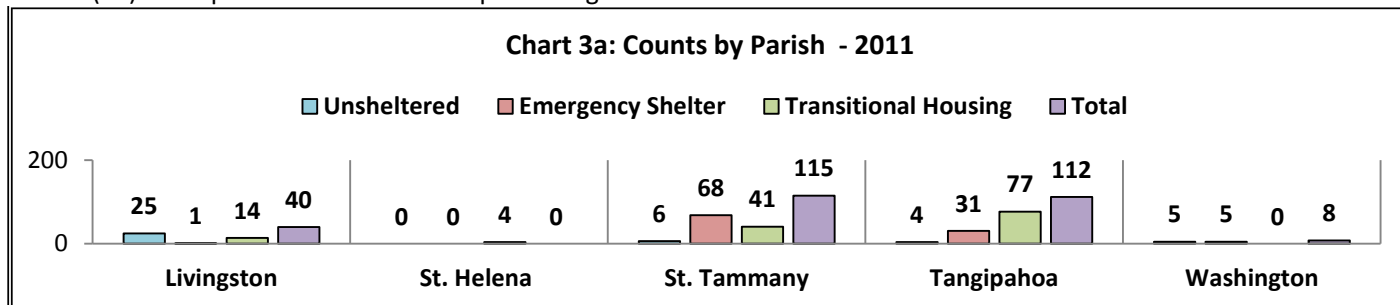
Table 3: 2013 Homeless Census Participating Organizations

Organization Name and Location	Parish of Survey Respondent				
	Livingston	St. Helena	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington
Catholic Charities Northshore, Covington			X		
Community Christian Concern, Slidell			X		
Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, Amite				X	
Good Samaritan Ministry, Slidell			X		
Hammond Housing Authority, Hammond				X	
Head Start, Robert				X	
House of Serenity, Ponchatoula				X	
Liberty Restoration CDC, Hammond				X	
Miramonte Center (CCC), Slidell			X		
Mount Olive Feeding Ministry, Slidell			X		
Our Daily Bread, Hammond				X	
Quad VETS, Hammond				X	
Safe Harbor, Mandeville			X		
Samaritan Center, Mandeville			X		
SAFE, Hammond	X			X	X
Souls Harbor, Hammond				X	
Southeast Louisiana Hospital, Mandeville			X		
St. Tammany Parish CAA, Slidell			X		
The Caring Center, Slidell			X		
Trumpet of Truth, Slidell			X		
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	X		X	X	
Volunteers of America GNO, Mandeville	X		X	X	X
Women Outreaching Women, Denham Springs	X				

IV. Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Utilization on Night of Homeless Census: A component of the Homeless Census is the enumeration of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing stock by provider and the number of beds being utilized on the night of February 23rd, 2013. The following table details the number of beds and units of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing that comprise the housing inventory for the region, as of the Census date, and the respective rates of occupancy on the night of the Census.

Table 4: 2013 Housing Inventory of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Beds								
Housing/Program Type	Parish	Populations Served	Households with Children		Households without Children # of Beds	Total Beds	# Beds Occupied	Utilization Rate
			# of Units	# of Beds				
Emergency Shelter Beds and Units: Total			8	26	60	112	86	77%
Caring Center of Slidell	St. Tammany	W, W+C	1	3	9	12	10	83%
Caring Center of Slidell— Motel Vouchers	St. Tammany	W, M, FAM	1	1	1	2	2	100%
Community Christian Concern— Motel Vouchers	St. Tammany	W, M, FAM	1	1	1	2	0	0%
House of Serenity	Tangipahoa	W, M, FAM	1	3	28	31	31	100%
SAFE (formerly SSAP)— Emergency Shelter for DV	Tangipahoa	W+C / DV	2	7	0	7	7	100%
Safe Harbor – Emergency Shelter for DV	St. Tammany	W, W+C / DV	3	18	2	20	12	60%
Samaritan Center – Motel Vouchers	St. Tammany	W, M, FAM	1	1	1	2	1	50%
The Good Samaritan Ministry— Motel Vouchers	St. Tammany	W, M, FAM	1	1	1	2	1	50%
Timothy Trumpet of Truth	St. Tammany	M / SA	0	0	25	25	18	72%
Women Outreaching Women— Emergency Shelter for DV	Livingston	W, W+C / DV	2	5	4	9	4	44%
Transitional Housing Beds & Units: Total			31	120	80	200	155	78%
Community Christian Concern— Miramon Center	St. Tammany	M	0	0	12	12	7	58%
Hammond Housing Authority— Successful Transitions Program	Tangipahoa	W+C, M+C, FAM	9	42	0	42	35	83%
Liberty Restoration CDC— Transitional Houses	Tangipahoa	M / SA	0	0	8	8	5	62%
Quad Area CAA--GDP - Quad VETS	Tangipahoa	M / VET	0	0	38	38	36	95%
SAFE --Transitional Housing for DV	Livingston	W+C / DV	6	21	2	23	17	74%
SAFE -- Transitional Housing for DV	Tangipahoa	W+C / DV	7	23	2	25	16	64%
SAFE -- Transitional Housing for DV	Washington	W+C / DV	2	7	1	8	2	25%
Southeast Louisiana Hospital— Wren Way Group Home	St. Tammany	W, M / SMI	0	0	12	12	5	42%
St. Tammany Parish Community Action-- Transitional Housing for Families	St. Tammany	W+C, M+C, FAM	6	24	0	24	24	100%
Volunteers of America, GNO— Transitional Housing for HIV/AIDS	Livingston	M, W, FAM / HIV	0	0	2	2	2	100%
Volunteers of America, GNO— Transitional Housing for HIV/AIDS	Tangipahoa	M, W, FAM / HIV	1	3	2	5	5	100%
Volunteers of America, GNO— Transitional Housing for HIV/AIDS	Washington	M, W, FAM / HIV	0	0	1	1	1	100%
Grand Total of All Beds & Units			39	146	140	312	241	77%
Populations Served Key = W: Adult Women; M: Adult Men; C: Children; FAM: Families; Subpopulations Served Key = DV: Domestic Violence Victims; VET: US Military Veterans; SMI = Severe Mental Illness; SA = Substance Abuse; HIV: HIV/AIDS Diagnoses								

V. Counts of Literally Homeless Persons by Parish: Charts 3a and 3b provide a comparison of total population counts residing in the three housing types and total for 2011-2013. The greatest growth was seen in Tangipahoa Parish, with fifteen (15) more persons identified as experiencing *literal homelessness* in 2013 than in 2012.



Counts by Parish: The following series of charts exhibits the number of persons identified as literally homeless, with the counts organized by the parishes where respondents resided during the night of the 2013 Homeless Census. The five parishes that comprise the NHC’s Continuum of Care are Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington. Please note that no persons were identified as literally homeless in St. Helena Parish during the Count.

Household Type	In Emergency Shelter		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	1	3	4
Total Persons in Households	0	2	15	17
Number of Households without Children	0	2	4	6
Total Persons in Households	0	2	4	6
Total Number of Households	0	3	7	10
Total Persons in Households	0	4	19	23

Household Type	In Emergency Shelter		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	0	0	0
Total Persons in Households	0	0	0	0
Number of Households without Children	0	0	0	0
Total Persons in Households	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Households	0	0	0	0
Total Persons in Households	0	0	0	0

Table 5c: St. Tammany Parish: Summary of Literally Homeless Adults and Children

Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	4	7	11
Total Persons in Households	0	14	24	38
Number of Households without Children	19	29	12	60
Total Persons in Households	20	30	12	62
Total Number of Households	19	33	19	71
Total Persons in Households	20	44	36	100

Table 5d: Tangipahoa Parish: Summary of Literally Homeless Adults and Children

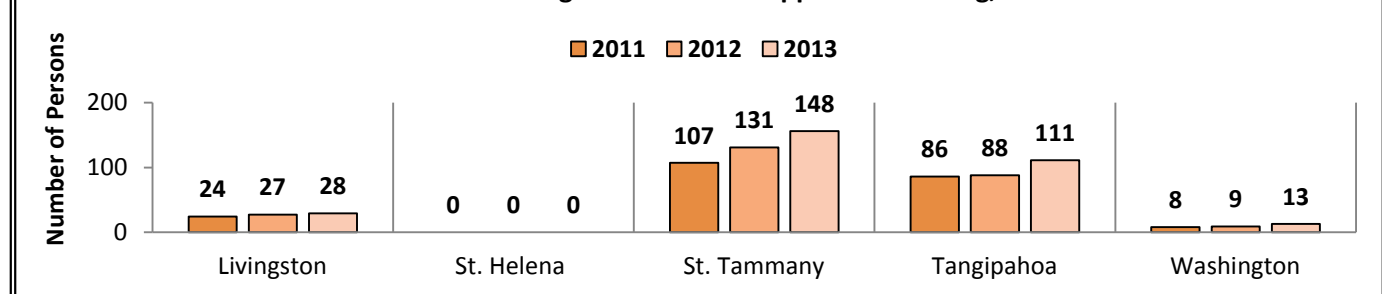
Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	2	3	14	19
Total Persons in Households	6	10	52	68
Number of Households without Children	9	28	45	82
Total Persons in Households	9	28	45	82
Total Number of Households	11	31	59	101
Total Persons in Households	15	38	97	150

Table 5e: Washington Parish: Summary of Literally Homeless Adults and Children

Household Type	In Emergency		In Transitional Housing	Total Count
	Unsheltered	Shelter		
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	0	0	1	1
Total Persons in Households	0	0	2	2
Number of Households without Children	0	0	1	1
Total Persons in Households	0	0	1	1
Total Number of Households	0	0	2	2
Total Persons in Households	0	0	3	3

VI. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Data Comparison: In addition to identifying persons who are experiencing literal homelessness, during the same data collection period, 300 persons were identified as living in Permanent Supportive Housing for formerly homeless persons who have disabling conditions. This is an increase of 75, or 33% above the number of persons residing in Permanent Supportive Housing during the 2011 Census. A significant contributor to this increase was the addition of HUD-VASH vouchers being utilized on the Northshore (totaling 38 beds), as well as twenty-nine new beds supported through Volunteers of America, GNO. Permanent Supportive Housing programs provide affordable, community-based housing for individuals and families who have been diagnosed with a physical or developmental disability, a severe mental illness, substance abuse problems or HIV/AIDS. Many persons who are in Permanent Supportive Housing programs have experienced long-term or chronic homelessness. PSH housing models include private market rental apartments and group homes. In addition to housing, these programs also provide the necessary supportive services, including case management, that help keep persons stabilized.

Chart 4: Persons Residing in Permanent Supportive Housing, 2011-2013



Counts of persons residing in Permanent Supportive Housing by Parish: The following chart details the number of persons that were residing in Permanent Supportive Housing during the 2013 Homeless Census. Fifty percent (50%) of residents were in St. Tammany Parish, thirty-seven percent (37%) were in Tangipahoa, nine percent (9%) in Livingston, and four percent (4%) in Washington. There were no formerly homeless persons residing in PSH units in St. Helena Parish during the 2013 Count.

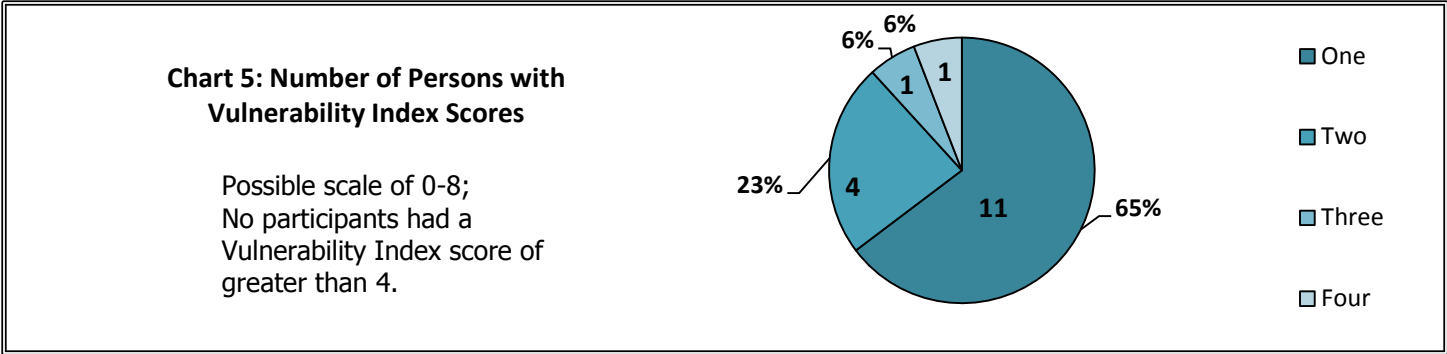
Household Type	Livingston	St. Helena	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington	Total
Number of Households with at least One Adult and One Child	4	0	18	15	3	40
Total Persons in Households	15	0	58	56	10	139
Number of Households without Children	13	0	80	45	3	141
Total Persons in Households	13	0	90	55	3	161
Total Number of Households	17	0	98	60	6	182
Total Persons in Households	28	0	148	111	13	300

Permanent Supportive Housing Utilization on Night of Homeless Census: A component of the Homeless Census is the enumeration of Permanent Supportive Housing stock by provider and the number of beds being utilized on the night of February 23rd, 2013. The following table details the number of beds and units of PSH that comprise the housing inventory for the region, as of the Census date, and the respective rates of occupancy.

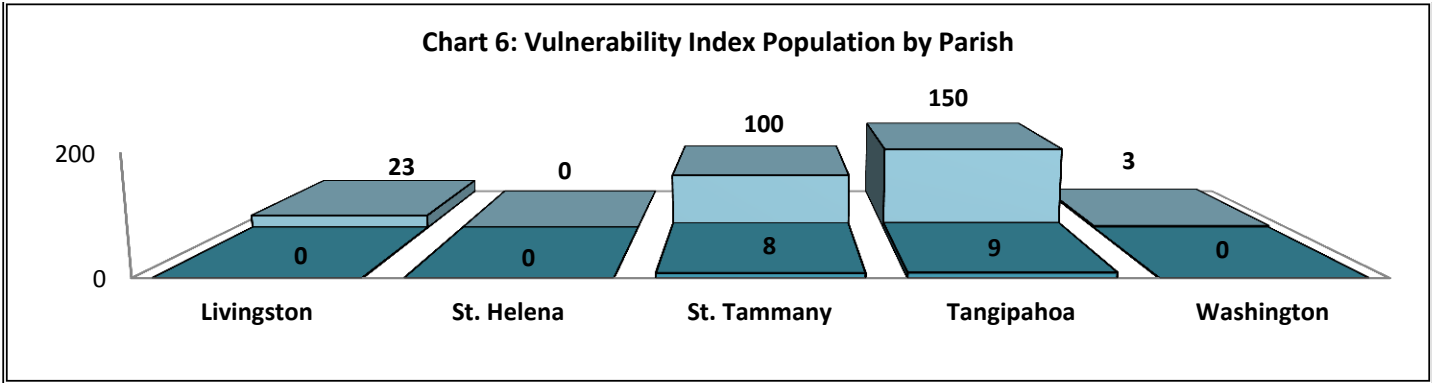
Housing/Program Type	Parish	Populations Served	Households with Children		Households without Children # of Beds	Households with Only Children # of Beds	Total Beds	# Beds Occupied	Utilization Rate
			# of Units	# of Beds					
Permanent Supportive Housing Beds & Units: Total			40	142	163	0	320	300	94%
Southeast Louisiana Hospital--Hummingbird Apartments	St. Tammany	W, M / SMI	0	0	2	0	10	2	20%
Southeast Louisiana Hospital--Hummingbird Group Homes	St. Tammany	M / SMI	0	0	6	0	8	6	75%
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – HUD-VASH	Livingston	W, M, FAM / VET	0	0	1	0	1	1	100%
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – HUD-VASH	St. Tammany	W, M, FAM / VET	5	19	6	0	25	25	100%
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – HUD-VASH	Tangipahoa	W, M, FAM / VET	2	5	7	0	12	12	100%
Volunteers of America GNO	Livingston	W, M, FAM / DIS	4	16	5	0	21	20	95%
Volunteers of America GNO	St. Tammany	W, M, FAM / DIS	13	40	76	0	119	115	97%
Volunteers of America GNO	Tangipahoa	W, M, FAM / DIS	13	52	49	0	103	99	96%
Volunteers of America GNO	Washington	W, M, FAM / DIS	3	10	3	0	13	13	100%
Women Outreaching Women--PSH Scattered Sites	Livingston	W / DIS / CH	0	0	8	0	8	7	88%

Populations Served Key = W: Adult Women; M: Adult Men; C: Children; FAM: Families;
Subpopulations Served Key = DV: Domestic Violence Victims; VET: US Military Veterans; SMI = Severe Mental Illness; SA = Substance Abuse; HIV: HIV/AIDS Diagnoses; DIS = Non-specific disabling condition; CH = Chronically Homeless

VII. Vulnerability Index: The 2013 Homeless Census also incorporated questions that allowed for respondents to be assessed for medical fragility, using the Vulnerability Index. The Vulnerability, or VI, is a nationally recognized tool⁵ for identifying who is most at risk of dying by remaining unsheltered, or in Emergency Shelters in an intermittent basis. For individuals who have been homeless for at least six months, one or more of the following markers place them at heightened risk of mortality: (1) More than three hospitalizations or emergency room visits in a year; (2) More than three emergency room visits in the previous three months; (3) Aged 60 or older; (4) Cirrhosis of the liver; (5) End-stage renal disease; (6) History of frostbite, immersion foot, hypothermia OR Heat stroke; (7) HIV/AIDS; (8) Tri-morbidity: co-occurring psychiatric, substance abuse, and chronic medical condition, lived on the streets for more than six months, as well as series of health conditions. Using these eight risk factors, a score on a scale of zero to eight is assigned to the respondent. Rank is ascending, with zero indicating the least vulnerable to mortality and eight having the greatest risk. Communities can use this data to prioritize who may benefit the most, health wise, by being placed in permanent housing. Within Louisiana, several of the Continua are using Vulnerability Index findings to help focus decision-making around limited permanent housing program funds.



Count of Persons with Vulnerability Index Score by Parish: Sixteen (16) persons in Emergency Shelters and one (1) person on the street comprise the 2013 vulnerability index report. Seventeen (17) persons total, with a 53% count of those in Tangipahoa Parish and 47% in St. Tammany. Ninety-Four percent (94%) of those most vulnerable were residing in Emergency shelters and Six percent (6%) were unsheltered. It should be noted that only one-fourth of the total count of literally homeless persons, or 71 persons, were assessed for vulnerabilities.



⁵ The Vulnerability Index is practical application of research into the causes of death of homeless individuals living on the street conducted by Boston’s Healthcare for the Homeless organization, led by Dr. Jim O’Connell. The Boston research identified the specific health conditions that cause homeless individuals to be most at risk for dying on the street.

⁶ 100,000 Homes. (2010). Retrieved September 4, 2012, from <http://100khomes.org/>