



**NATIONAL SURVEY  
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

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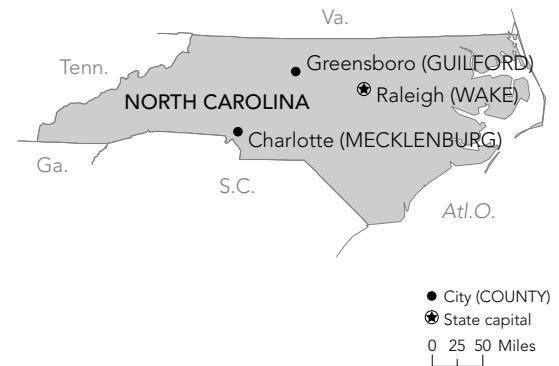
from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND POVERTY

North Carolina had an estimated 1,231 homeless families on a single night in 2008, with providers serving more than four times their bed capacity over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup> This brief summarizes the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

**State Taskforce on Homelessness**

**Taskforce:** The North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council for Homeless Programs (established in 1992 and re-established in November 2001 by executive order) advises the governor on policies and strategies to meet the needs of homeless persons and families.

**Governor's Appointee:** Linda Povlich, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, has chaired the Interagency Coordinating Council for Homeless Programs since April 2002.



**Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization**

	North Carolina	Mecklenburg County	Wake County	Guilford County
Persons in homeless families <sup>2</sup>	3,662	469	318	307
Number of family shelter beds <sup>3</sup>	3,573	551	371	404
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) <sup>4</sup>	11	14	9	19
Percent of families in poverty <sup>5</sup>	16.84%	11.31%	8.30%	16.46%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2005	2006	2005	2007
10-Year plan target population	All	All	All	Chronic
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Biannually	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness	Mecklenburg County Homeless Support Services	Wake County Continuum of Care	Homeless Prevention Coalition of Guilford County
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	North Carolina Housing Coalition	Hope Haven	Wake County Continuum of Care	North Carolina Housing Coalition
Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant or main organizing agency	North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services	Homeless Services Network	Wake County Continuum of Care	Homeless Prevention Coalition of Guilford County

**National Center for Homeless Education**

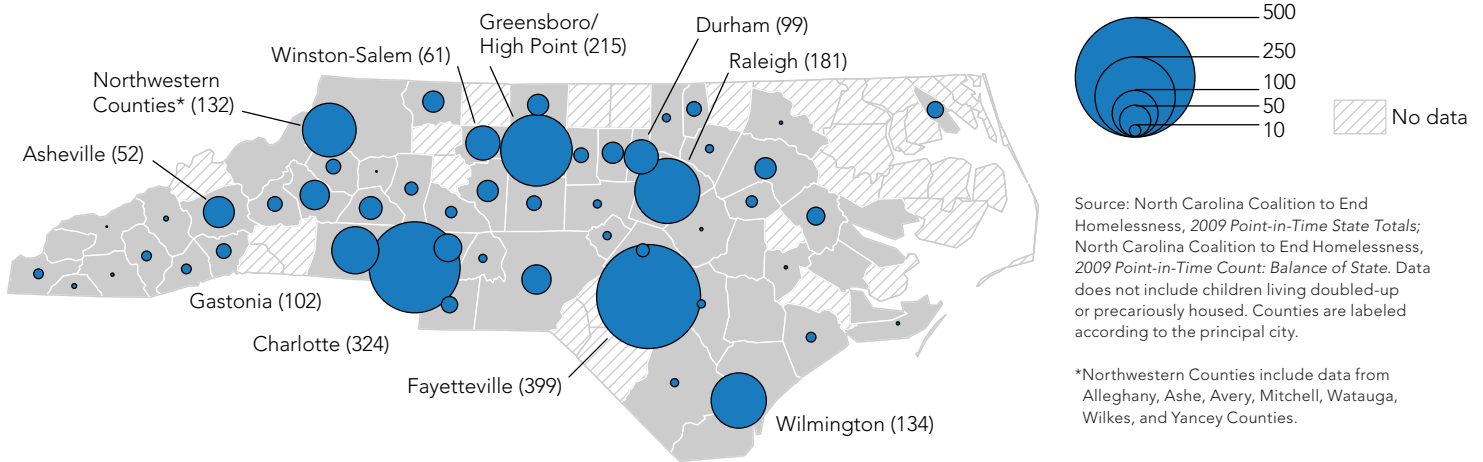
The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), housed within the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's SERVE Center, provides information and technical assistance to educators and researchers working to improve the educational opportunities of homeless children. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, NCHE is the data clearinghouse for the federal McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, which is the only dedicated funding source used by local school districts to ensure access to educational opportunities for homeless students. In this role, NCHE reports annually on the national utilization of these funds and also provides research reports, best practices, and other tools relating to serving the unique and complex educational needs of homeless children.<sup>6</sup>

The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on North Carolina and other states, visit [www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

**Homeless Children in North Carolina**

On a single night in January 2009, 2,245 children in families were homeless in North Carolina. These children comprise 18% of all homeless persons in the state



**2009 One-day Count of Homeless Children (by county)**

(12,746) and 62% of the total number of persons in homeless families (3,261). Women likely head the majority of the state's 1,238 homeless families, as only 9% of persons in families are adult men. In North Carolina, 57% of homeless children live in emergency or transitional shelter, 27% reside in permanent supportive housing, while 18% remain unsheltered.<sup>7</sup> These figures, however, do not incorporate children living doubled up or precariously housed and may greatly underestimate the number of homeless children.<sup>8</sup>

**Community-academic Collaboration in Wake County**

Collaboration between academic institutions and community stakeholders can serve as a mutually beneficial resource for both students and policymakers seeking to end family homelessness. The development of Wake County's 10-year plan to end homelessness was informed in part by education and research at North Carolina State University, Meredith College, and St. Augustine's College. Faculty and students from across disciplines formed and participated in new courses, research projects, and a lecture series. The effort culminated in two inter-collegiate conferences that involved community groups, public officials, and service providers in a policy discussion aimed at understanding homelessness to better inform the planning process. Currently, Meredith College continues this effort, offering an advanced undergraduate course on homeless policy each year.<sup>9</sup>

**Support Circles Program**

The Support Circles program calls on small groups (6–10 individuals) drawn mainly from Raleigh-area congregations to partner with homeless families transitioning from shelter into permanent housing. Coordinated and trained by Raleigh Catholic Charities, the support circles work with public, private, and non-profit organizations for one year to provide employment help, clothing and furniture, rental assistance, encouragement, and connection with case management services to assist participating families as they work toward self-sufficiency. While the program was originally created in 2005 to resettle Hurricane Katrina evacuees, earning it recognition from the United States Interagency Council for Homelessness, it has since successfully assisted 37 homeless families transition to permanent housing as of November 2009. In addition, 28 Wake County congregations from 11 different denominations have formed nearly 40 support circles across the region. The Support Circles program receives funding from private donors and matching contributions from the local faith-based community, Wake County, and the cities of Cary and Raleigh.<sup>10</sup>

**Endnotes**

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2008 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 *American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 *American Community Survey*.
- <sup>6</sup> National Center for Homeless Education, <http://www.serve.org/nche>
- <sup>7</sup> North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness, *2009 Point-in-Time State Totals*.
- <sup>8</sup> National Center for Homeless Education, *Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program: Analysis of Data*, April 2009.
- <sup>9</sup> Elizabethann O'Sullivan, Sean Hildebrand, and Fred Mayhew, "Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness: An Opportunity for University-Community Partnerships" (annual conference, National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2004).
- <sup>10</sup> Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End Homelessness, *Ending Homelessness... by the power of partnering: The Facts*, November 14, 2009.