



research bulletin



Inner City Rough Sleeper Street Count May 2010

The seventh Inner City Rough Sleeper Street Count was conducted on 4 May 2010. The Count located 52 adults who were unsheltered or 'sleeping rough'.

The 'Rough Sleeper Street Counts' aim to monitor levels of homelessness in the Adelaide inner city area as well as provide information about the circumstances and profile of the population. Previous Counts were conducted on 19 June and 21 August 2007; 13 May and 12 August 2008; and 5 May and 11 August 2009. The Counts are a partnership between the Department for Families and Communities, the Social Inclusion Unit (Department of the Premier and Cabinet) and key homeless services in the inner city: Street to Home, Byron Place Day Centre, Westcare Day Centre and Hutt Street Day Centre.

The data reported in this Bulletin was collected in the morning or early afternoon of 4 May (see Appendix for questionnaire). In the early morning, Street to Home visited the parklands and other areas around the city in order to locate people 'sleeping rough'. The three Day Centres also approached people attending their services that day and invited their participation in completing a short survey. The methodology for the Count was very similar to that used by the ABS in the 2006 Census (ie the same agencies were involved in the collection of data and similar collection strategies were used).

Accommodation of all participants

Collectors completed 282 surveys on 4 May 2010. Matching of identifiers and other information indicated that four people completed the survey twice. The first and repeated surveys from those four people were combined into one record. Therefore, it is considered that a total of 278 individuals were in contact with participating services on the day of the Count. Of these, 52 reported they had slept the night before in *unsheltered* circumstances and 99 were in *other accommodation*¹ (Table 1). Given the focus on people who are 'sleeping rough' or marginally housed, analysis in this report excludes the 95 people currently living in their own home and the 32 who declined to participate in the survey (whose housing status was *unknown*).

¹ Other accommodation includes a range of short-stay arrangements, e.g. boarding house, temporarily living at a friend's or relative's house, SAAP accommodation, backpackers, hotel/motel, city watchhouse, prison, remand centre, hospital, detox/sobering up unit, caravan park, and other sheltered facilities.

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Table 1: Type of shelter stayed in last night on 4 May 2010, individuals

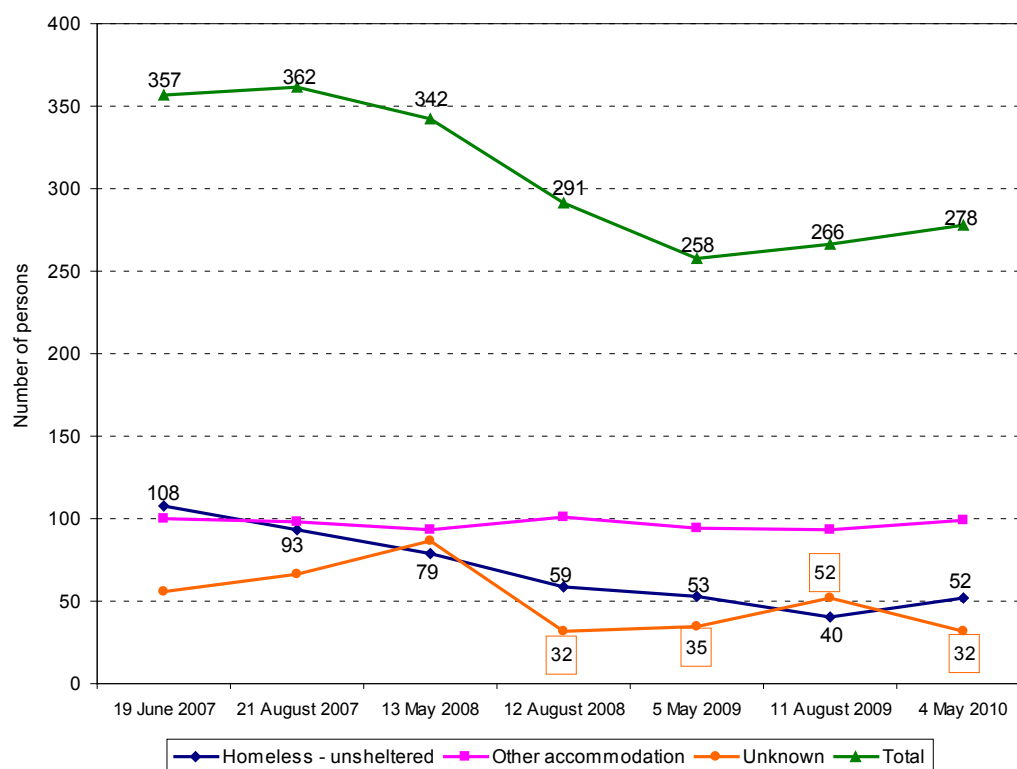
Type of shelter last night	n	%
Homeless - unsheltered	52	18.7%
Other accommodation	99	35.6%
Own home / flat	95	34.2%
Unknown	32	11.5%
Total	278	100.0%

Trends

A higher number of people were in contact with the participating services in the current Count than the two previous Counts (Figure 1). Compared with the August 2009 Count, the current Count identified a slight rise in numbers of *unsheltered*. This is likely to be a direct consequence of the reduced number of participants with '*unknown*' accommodation status. (In the August 09 Count, difficulties in rostering on survey collectors at one service led to higher numbers of incomplete surveys which were classified as '*unknown accommodation*'. This is likely to have contributed to a lower rate of *unsheltered* respondents at the time).

Over the seven Counts, the numbers of people in *other accommodation* has remained relatively stable.

Figure 1: Total number of participants, homeless - unsheltered, other accommodation, and unknown



Current accommodation

Most commonly, those who were *unsheltered* were staying in the streets or the parklands (71.2%), with all but four in the Adelaide city area (Table 2 and Table 3). The category of '*other accommodation*' includes a range of short-stay arrangements, the majority of which could be categorized as secondary or tertiary homelessness. Most respondents in this group were in boarding houses.

Table 2: Specific type of shelter used last night, 4th May 2010

Type of shelter last night	n	%
Homeless - unsheltered		
Car	5	9.6
Squat	4	7.7
Streets / park	37	71.2
Tent / camped out	4	7.7
Unsheltered (other or unknown type)	2	3.8
Total	52	100.0
Other accommodation		
Backpackers	3	3.0
Boarding house	34	34.3
Hospital	1	1.0
Friend or relative's house (temporary)	20	20.2
Hotel / motel	6	6.1
SAAP accommodation	17	17.2
Sheltered - other	11	11.1
Sobering up / Detoxification unit	7	7.1
Total	99	100.0

Table 3: Location of shelter used last night, 4th May 2010

Location of shelter last night	Homeless - unsheltered		Other accommodation	
	n	%	n	%
Adelaide city or parklands	48	92.3	72	72.7
Adelaide suburbs	4	7.7	24	24.2
Other	0	0	1	1.0
Unknown	0	0	2	2.0
Total	52	100.0	99	100.0

Recent housing history

Participants were asked how long they had been staying in the accommodation they used on the previous night (Table 4 and Table 5). The median length of stay for the *unsheltered* was 13 weeks, ranging from one night to 25 years (for one person). For those in *other accommodation*, the median was 9 weeks, with a range from one night to 20 years (for one man in a boarding house).

Table 4: Length of time at accommodation used last night, 4th May 2010

Length of time at shelter used last night	Homeless - unsheltered		Other accommodation	
	n	%	n	%
1 week or less	7	13.5	24	24.2
>1 to 4 weeks	7	13.5	16	16.2
>4 to 12 weeks	7	13.5	9	9.1
>12 weeks to 6 months	11	21.2	21	21.2
>6 to 12 months	11	21.2	9	9.1
>1 to 2 years	1	1.9	5	5.1
Greater than 2 years	4	7.7	11	11.1
Unknown	4	7.7	4	4.0
Total	52	100.0	99	100.0
Median (weeks) (range)	13 (1 night to 25 yrs)		9 (1 night to 20 yrs)	

Table 5: Length of time (weeks) at accommodation used last night, 4th May 2010*

Type of Shelter	n*	Median weeks	Minimum weeks	Maximum weeks
Homeless - unsheltered				
Car	5	5	2	26
Squat	4	3	1	1304 (25 yrs)
Streets / park	34	19	<1	520 (10 yrs)
Tent / camped out	4	13	9	52 (1 yrs)
Unsheltered (other or unknown type)	1	26	26	26
Total	48	13	<1	1304 (25 yrs)
Other accommodation				
Backpackers	3	7	2	156(3 yrs)
Boarding house	32	23.5	<1	1042 (20 yrs)
Hospital	1	<1	<1	<1
Friend or relative's house (temporary)	20	15	<1	782 (15 yrs)
Hotel / motel	6	35	<1	209 (4 yrs)
SAAP accommodation	17	1.4	<1	365 (7 yrs)
Sheltered - other	10	15	<1	130 (2.5 yrs)
Sobering up / Detoxification unit	6	2	<1	17
Total	95	9	<1	1042 (20 yrs)

* Information was not recorded for some respondents.

To provide an indication of recent housing history, respondents were asked to indicate where else they had been staying in the past twelve months². Of those who were *unsheltered*, 8 (15%) reported they had been in their own house or flat for some period (compared with 18 (18%) in *other accommodation*) (Table 6). Slightly less than 30% of respondents in *other accommodation* had 'slept rough' at some time in the past twelve months.

² Results should be interpreted with caution as information on accommodation history may be incomplete.

Table 6: Types of accommodation used in last twelve months (including current accommodation)* †

Type of accommodation	Currently Homeless - unsheltered		Currently Other accommodation	
	n	%	n	%
Primary homeless	52	100.0	29	29.3
Boarding house	8	15.4	55	55.6
Own home or flat	8	15.4	18	18.2
Friend or relative's house	8	15.4	42	42.4
SAAP accommodation	4	7.7	28	28.3
Backpackers	4	7.7	6	6.1
Hotel / motel	2	3.8	17	17.2
City Watch House	2	3.8	2	2.0
Prison	1	1.9	6	6.1
Hospital	2	3.8	4	4.0
Sobering up / Detoxification unit	3	5.8	11	11.1
Caravan	1	1.9	5	5.1
Other sheltered	0	0	17	17.2
Total	52	100.0	99	100.0

* More than one type of accommodation used in the last twelve months could be indicated.

† All respondents indicated at least one other type of shelter used within the last 12 month if they have been at their current shelter for <12 months.

Table 7: Number of types of accommodation used in past twelve months³

Types of Accommodation used in last twelve months	Homeless - unsheltered		Other accommodation	
	n	%	n	%
1	24	46.2	27	27.3
2	21	40.4	37	37.4
3	2	3.8	19	19.2
4+	5	9.6	16	16.2
Total	52	100.0	99	100.0

³ It should be noted that only moves between, rather than within accommodation types, were recorded, which means an undercount of moves is likely. For example, an individual could have moved between different boarding houses, but only one accommodation type (boarding house) was recorded.

Over half of those who were *unsheltered* reported having used another type of accommodation (i.e. aside from *unsheltered*) in the last twelve months, compared to around 70% of those in *other accommodation* (Table 7). Overall, *unsheltered* respondents had used fewer forms of accommodation than those in *other accommodation*.

In terms of the accommodation in which they spent most time in the past year, just over 25% of respondents reported having spent most time as *unsheltered* (Table 8).

Table 8: Accommodation spent most time at in past twelve months

Types of Accommodation	Homeless - unsheltered		Other accommodation		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Primary homeless	29	55.8	11	11.1	40	26.5
Boarding house	3	5.8	24	24.2	27	17.9
St Vincent de Paul	1	1.9	2	2.0	3	2.0
Hotel / motel	1	1.9	6	6.1	7	4.6
Caravan	0	0.0	2	2.0	2	1.3
Backpackers	2	3.8	1	1.0	3	2.0
Detox / sobering up unit	0	0.0	1	1.0	1	0.7
Prison	0	0.0	3	3.0	3	2.0
At friend or relative's house	3	5.8	18	18.2	21	13.9
Own house or flat	6	11.5	12	12.1	18	11.9
Other - sheltered	0	0.0	6	6.1	6	4.0
Unknown	7	13.5	13	13.1	20	13.2
Total	52	100.0	99	100.0	151	100.0

Respondents had usually spent most of the last twelve months in the Adelaide metropolitan area (Table 9). Of the 18 who had been mostly inter-state, 8 were from the Northern Territory and 5 were from New South Wales (Table 10). Four Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander participants had been mostly interstate in the last twelve months, 3 in the Northern Territory and 1 in New South Wales. Two participants reported spending most of the last year in other countries (one currently living in a car had spent most time in Germany; another currently in St Vincent de Paul Shelter had spent most time in New Zealand).

Table 9: Location of accommodation spent most time at in the last twelve months

Location	Homeless - unsheltered		Other accommodation	
	n	%	n	%
Adelaide metro	37	71.2	79	79.8
Country SA	2	3.8	6	6.1
Interstate	8	15.4	10	10.1
International	1	1.9	1	1.0
Unknown	4	7.7	3	3.0
Total	52	100.0	99	100.0

Table 10: Location of interstate accommodation spent most time at in the last twelve months

Interstate Location	Homeless - unsheltered	Other accommodation
	n	n
New South Wales	1	4
Northern Territory	4	4
Queensland	1	1
Tasmania	0	0
Victoria	0	0
Western Australia	0	0
Not Stated	2	1
Total	8	10

Demographics

There were 20 women recorded in the Count (13%), seven of whom were *unsheltered* (Table 11 and Table 12).

Whilst most respondents were aged between 35 and 64 years, 10 (6 *unsheltered* and 4 in *other accommodation*) were under 25 years old (7%), and 10 (in *other accommodation*) were aged over 65 years (7%).

Twenty-five Aboriginal participants were recorded (17%), 8 of whom were *unsheltered*.

Table 11: Demographics: Homeless - unsheltered, 4th May 2010

	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cultural background								
Aboriginal*	8	18.6	0	0	0	0	8	15.4
No (non-Indigenous)	35	81.4	7	100.0	1	50.0	43	82.7
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	50.0	1	1.9
Country of birth								
Australia	34	79.1	5	71.4	1	50.0	40	76.9
Other	8	18.6	2	28.6	1	50.0	11	21.2
Not stated	1	2.3	0	0	0	0	1	1.9
Age groups								
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 to 24	2	4.7	3	42.9	1	50.0	6	11.5
25 to 34	9	20.9	0	0	0	0	9	17.3
35 to 44	17	39.5	1	14.3	0	0	18	34.6
45 to 54	7	16.3	3	42.9	1	50.0	11	21.2
55 to 64	7	16.3	0	0	0	0	7	13.5
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not stated	1	2.3	0	0	0	0	1	1.9
Total	43	100.0	7	100.0	2	100.0	52	100.0

* No respondent identified themselves as a Torres Strait Islander.

Table 12: Demographics: Other accommodation, 4th May 2010

	Male		Female		Not Stated		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cultural background								
Aboriginal	7	8.4	9	69.2	0	0	16	16.2
Torres Strait Islander	1	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	1.0
No (non-Indigenous)	73	88.0	4	30.8	2	66.7	79	79.8
Not stated	2	2.4	0	0	1	33.3	3	3.0
Country of birth								
Australia	68	81.9	12	92.3	2	66.7	82	82.8
Other	14	16.9	1	7.7	0	0.0	15	15.2
Not stated	1	1.2	0	0	1	33.3	2	2.0
Age groups								
Under 18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 to 24	2	2.4	2	15.4	0	0	4	4.0
25 to 34	11	13.3	3	23.1	0	0	14	14.1
35 to 44	22	26.5	4	30.8	2	66.7	28	28.3
45 to 54	27	32.5	2	15.4	0	0.0	29	29.3
55 to 64	10	12.0	2	15.4	1	33.3	13	13.1
65 and over	10	12.0	0	0	0	0	10	10.1
Not stated	1	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	1.0
Total	83	100.0	13	100.0	3	100.0	99	100.0

Children

One survey form reported an *unsheltered* respondent with a child currently living with them. However, this information was inconsistent with other responses on the form and appears to be a data entry error. Another respondent (living in a domestic violence family shelter) also reported a young child in their care.

Multiple service usage

Around 30% of *unsheltered* respondents (n=16) and 35% of those in *other accommodation* (n=35) reported they had used or intended to use another inner city service(s) on the day of the Count. Westcare Day Centre was the service most frequently cited.

Individual identifiers

As in previous Counts, all respondents were asked if they were willing to have an individual identifier recorded on the form (initials; month and year of birth; gender). 202 respondents (72.7%) (including those in their own homes) provided this information (Table 13). Of these, 41 (or 20.3%) were currently *unsheltered* and 79 (39.1%) were in *other accommodation*. Slightly less than 80% of respondents in both unsheltered circumstances and *other accommodation* groups provided identifiers.

Of the 151 people who were *unsheltered* or in *other accommodation*, 34 (or 22.5%) had participated in at least one previous Count. Across the total 278 respondents, only one had participated in all six Counts. This person was *unsheltered* in August 2007, in *other accommodation* in other Counts and in May 2010 was living in their own home.

Table 13: Repeat presentations in previous Counts

	Homeless - unsheltered		Other accommodation		All Respondents	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Number of respondents	52	100.0	99	100.0	278	100.0
Respondents with identifier	41	78.8	79	79.8	202	72.7
In May 2010 and one previous Count	5	9.6	14	14.1	35	12.6
In May 2010 and two previous Counts	2	3.8	5	5.1	16	5.8
In May 2010 and three previous Counts	4	7.7	2	2.0	10	3.6
In May 2010 and four previous Counts	0	0	0	0	5	1.8
In May 2010 and five previous Counts	1	1.9	1	1.0	3	1.1
In May 2010 and six previous Counts	0	0	0	0	1	0.4

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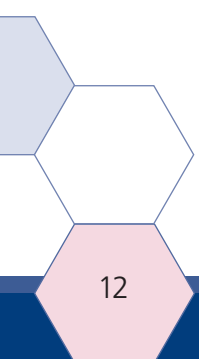
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The information in this publication can be provided in an alternative format or another language on request.

Please contact (08) 8207 0218.

For more information about the *Inner City Rough Sleeper Street Count*, including information about previous Counts, please visit the Department for Families and Communities research webpage at: www.dfc.sa.gov.au/research/.



Appendix

INNER CITY AGENCY COUNT

1. Have you already completed a survey today? (If Yes, **do not** ask any further questions or complete form)
2. **Declined to participate in the survey**
No more Questions (By observation fill out Questions 10, 11, 12 and 17)
3. **Incapacitated to participate in the survey**
No more Questions (By observation fill out Questions 10, 11, 12 and 17)
4. Where did you sleep last night?
(eg park, car, own home, boarding house or homeless shelter)

5. Where was this located? (Please tick one box only)
 Adelaide city or parklands Adelaide suburbs Other, please state

6. How long have you been staying there/ sleeping out?

(If answer is **more than 12 months** go to Q.10)
7. Where else have you been staying in the last 12 months? (Tick as many as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Primary homeless (eg streets/ park/ squat/ car)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel / motel
<input type="checkbox"/> Boarding house	<input type="checkbox"/> City watchhouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Own house or flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Prison
<input type="checkbox"/> At a friend's or relative's house (temporary)	<input type="checkbox"/> Remand Centre
<input type="checkbox"/> St Vincent de Paul shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital
<input type="checkbox"/> Catherine House	<input type="checkbox"/> Detox / sobering up unit
<input type="checkbox"/> Backpackers	<input type="checkbox"/> Caravan park
<input type="checkbox"/> Other please state _____	
8. Where did you spend most time in the last 12 months?
(please indicate one of the above from Q.7)

9. What location did you spend most of your time in the last 12 months? (Please tick one box only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Adelaide metro	<input type="checkbox"/> Country South Australia	<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate (please indicate which state)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vic
			<input type="checkbox"/> WA
			<input type="checkbox"/> Qld
			<input type="checkbox"/> NSW
			<input type="checkbox"/> Tas
			<input type="checkbox"/> NT
			<input type="checkbox"/> ACT
10. What is your age? years
11. What is your country of birth?
 Australia Other _____

12. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
 No Yes, Aboriginal Yes, Torres Strait Islander
13. Are you here by yourself or with your partner or other family member?
 Presenting Family Unit
 Single Person
 Single with Child/ren
 Couple
 Couple with Child/ren
 Other _____
14. Do you have children currently living with you?
 Yes
 No
 Noted on partner's form
15. How old are they?

16. Have you or will you use another inner city service today?
 No
 Yes Name(s): _____
17. Is this person male or female? (By observation)
 Male Female

We will be doing this survey again next year. It would be very helpful for us to have some idea of how many people who were here today are also here when we do the next count, and if their circumstances and housing have changed. It's entirely up to you, but would you mind letting me write down your initials and months and year of birth? This information will be given to the Research Unit in the Department for Families and Communities who will keep it confidential and safe and will be used for statistical purposes only.

- No Survey completed. Thank the participant for their time.
 Yes Fill out boxes below

First name initial	Last name initial

What is your month & year of birth?

MONTH	YEAR

SURVEY COMPLETED. THANK THE PARTICIPANT FOR THEIR TIME.