



## Homeless Quarterly Count: April 2013

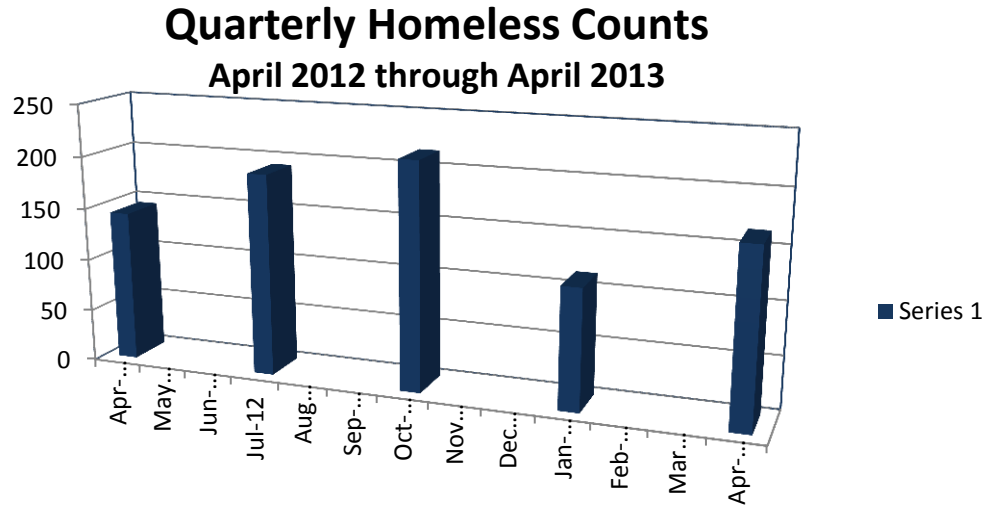
### *Methodology of the Count*

The DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID) conducts quarterly homeless counts, building upon the data received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point in Time (PIT) count. According to the 2013 PIT there are 6,865 homeless persons, including families with children, in the District of Columbia; of this number, 512 are currently unsheltered and over 4,000 are residing in emergency shelter. Quarterly counts, held within the boundaries of the BID, allow for a more accurate understanding of the current state of homelessness and the opportunity to identify trends and changes that are occurring in the Downtown region.

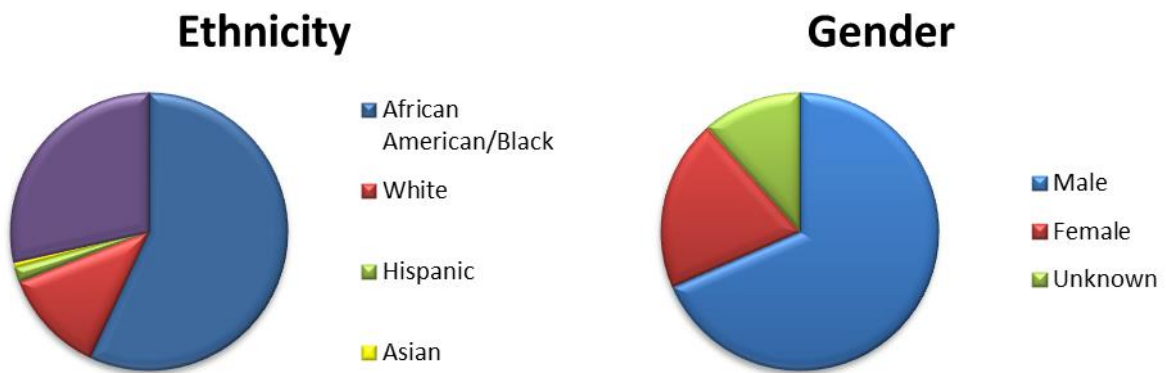
The landscape encompassing the area of the Downtown BID is divided into eight zones. Staff from the Public Space Management (PSM) department, Pathways to Housing DC, the Safety and Hospitality SAMs, along with volunteers are assigned a specific zone, capturing the location and basic demographics of the homeless. Staff utilized the *Field Asset Management Mobile Application* to record the location, race, gender, age, veteran status, recent shelter stays, health problems, and current employment (if any) of the homeless individuals. Homeless individuals were engaged directly, unless they declined or could not be woken up. In these instances, staff recorded visual observations regarding individual demographics however the presence of blankets and tarps often interfered. Therefore, each demographic category has an “unknown” percentage. The count occurred on Monday, April 15, 2013 beginning at 10:30 p.m., with staff returning between 1:30 and 2:00 a.m. The engagement teams handed out resource cards and for their participation, homeless clients received \$5 gift cards to McDonalds. The purpose of the count includes four main objectives: 1). Document the state of homelessness; 2) Identify trends and changes to the Downtown homeless population; 3). Address any unmet needs stated by individuals; 4). Justify additional funding and resources for individuals to utilize.

**Results**

During the count, the BID identified 165 homeless individuals. This number is up 44.7 percent from the quarterly count held in January 2013 and 14.6 percent from April 2012. While not proven, it is hypothesized that this total number is up from January 2013 due to the fact that hypothermia season, with the right to shelter, has ended.

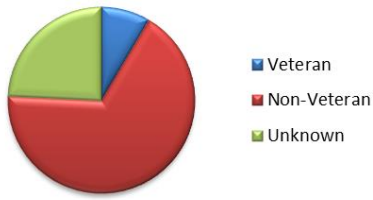


Of the 165 counted, 68.5 percent were male and 20 percent were female. The other 11.5 percent were unidentified most likely due to blankets and/or tarps covering them from the environmental elements. Of this population, 57 percent were identified as African-American or Black, with only 12.1 percent identified as White, 1.8 percent Hispanic, and 0.6 percent Asian. Additionally, 28.5 percent either didn't self-identify and/or it was not documented by the outreach teams.

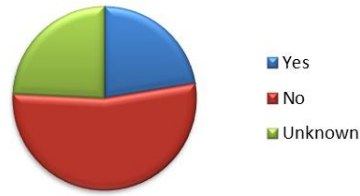


Furthermore, only 8.5 were identified as veterans, 22.5 percent had self-identified health issues, and 3 percent had some form of employment. Despite the end of hypothermia season, only 6.7 percent stated they had recently stayed in a shelter. Of the individuals engaged, 12 percent asked for further assistance and follow-up; needs that may not have been met without the engagement conducted during the quarterly count.

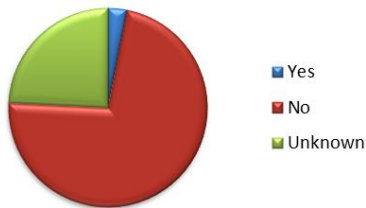
### Veteran Status



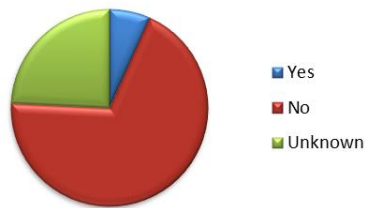
### Health Problems



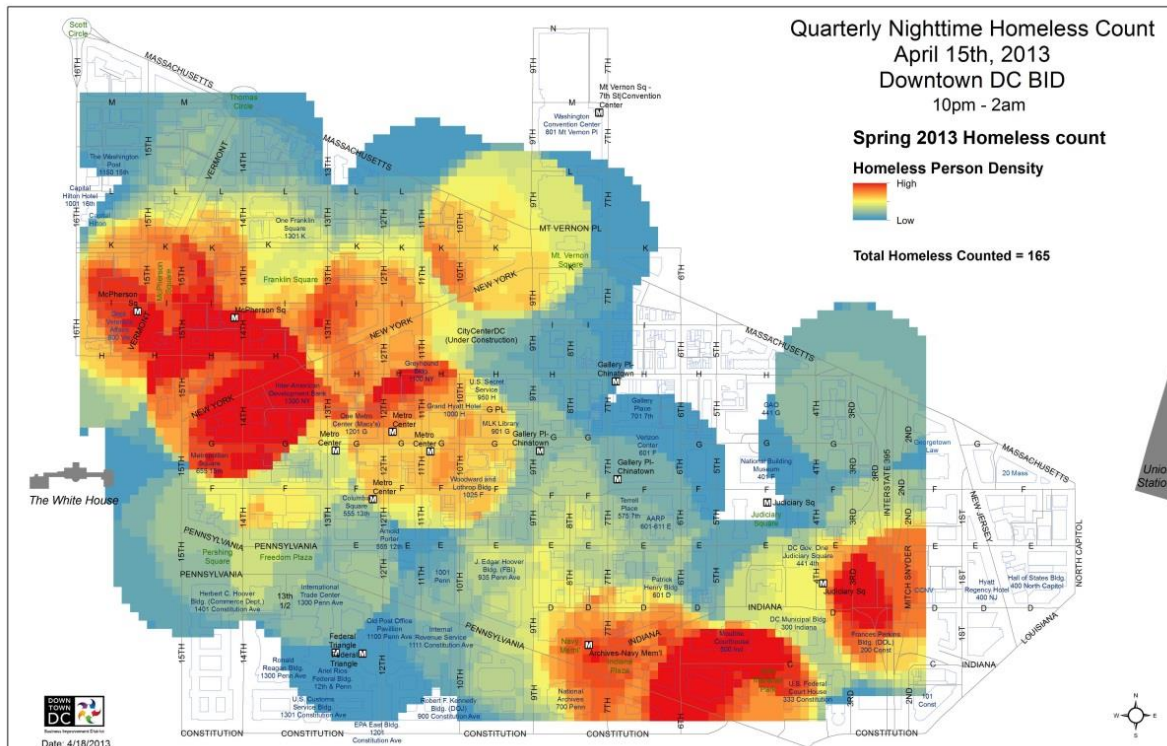
### Currently Employed



### Recent Shelter Stay



Using the *Field Asset Management Mobile Application*, the BID was able to capture the exact location of all 165 homeless individuals. Based on this data, the heat index below indicates that zones one, two, three, and eight all had a high concentration of literally homeless individuals. McPherson Square, located in zone one, had an exceptionally large high density radius. City parks often serve as a safe haven and are accessible public space for the homeless, most likely leading to the uptake of individuals in Franklin Square and John Marshall Park.



Map 1.0 April 2013 Quarterly Homeless Count

### ***Follow-up***

Any requests for service received during the count was followed up within subsequent days by staff from the Pathways to Housing outreach team. When providing follow-up, the outreach team noted that several of the requests came from individuals that do not spend the day time hours within the downtown boundaries, only seeking shelter during the night. Downtown regions often provide a safe haven for the homeless through building security and heavy night time foot traffic, which may contribute to this influx within the Downtown BID.

The BID will conduct the next quarterly count in July. With the rising number of homeless individuals identified in our monthly daytime counts, with a 77 percent increase from the 74 homeless individuals in March 2013 to 131 in April 2013, we can only anticipate that the night time population is on the rise as well. The BID, in conjunction with Pathways to Housing, continues to provide daily outreach and coordination for homeless services, along with education, consultation, and resources for businesses within our community.