



Australian Population Association

12th Biennial Conference

population and society: issues, research, policy

15-17 September 2004 - Canberra, Australia

Counting the homeless 2001

Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie (chris.chamberlain@rmit.edu.au)
RMIT University

Abstract

The 1996 census was the first census to target Australia's homeless population with a special enumeration strategy, using the cultural definition of homelessness. *Counting the Homeless 2001* (catalogue no. 2050.0) used the same definition of homelessness, as well as following the methodological precedents established for the 1996 analysis. The aim was to replicate the 1996 analysis and examine changes in the homeless population over time. This paper outlines the cultural definition of homelessness and explains how the census analysis was carried out. Census data was supplemented by information from the National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and data from the second national census of homeless school students. The paper reviews key findings from the research, and outlines how separate analyses were carried out for each state and territory.

Full papers from ACAP can be found on the ABS website. www.abs.gov.au (search for ACAP).

Paper prepared for the 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Population Association, 15-17 September 2004, Canberra.

