

Report shows increase of veterans, children on the street

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GREENSBORO – The number of homeless veterans and children in Guilford County is increasing. In January, volunteers spent 24 hours interviewing the homeless to get an idea of how many people were without a permanent place to live, and the results were released this week.

Officials said 1,064 people reported being homeless and that there was a 55 percent increase in the number of veterans and an eight percent increase in the number of children living on the street.

Officials also said the actual number is probably much higher since not everyone was counted.

“In Guilford County, [the total was] 4,770 over the course of the year, and that was the number for 2009. And then we also worked with our school system and they do an annual count every year at the end of the school year, and they found over 1,500 children,” Jehan Benton-Clark, of Partners Ending Homelessness, said.

The data will allow officials to figure out what improvements need to be made within homeless outreach programs.