



# The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress

**NOVEMBER 2015**

## **PART 2:** Estimates of Homelessness in the United States



The U.S. Department of  
Housing and Urban Development  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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# Foreword



It is my pleasure to submit to Congress the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment

Report (AHAR) Part 2. The AHAR provides national estimates of homelessness in the United States. Like previous annual reports, this report is the second part in a two-part series, supplementing the Part 1 report that was published in October 2014. This report augments our understanding of homelessness by including 1-year, national estimates of people in shelter and in-depth information about their characteristics and service-use patterns. This year, we include a new section about people who double up, or have other precarious housing situations to further our understanding of homelessness and housing instability.

HUD has released the AHAR each year since 2007, giving policymakers and local service providers the information needed to serve this vulnerable population.

At the federal level, HUD and its partner agencies on the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness are using the AHAR to track progress against the goals set forth by *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. At the local level, stakeholders are using the AHAR to inform their policy decisions and benchmark their service systems against the national estimates presented in the report. With the knowledge gained through this report, we are on the path to ending homelessness in the United States.

The report shows a nationwide decline in homelessness since HUD began tracking this information in 2007. This reduction of 6.3 percent is substantial—more than 100,000 fewer people homeless in shelter since 2007. Within the past year, we have seen an increase in the number of people who used shelter programs by 4.6 percent. This increase, however, occurred in conjunction with a 10 percent reduction in the number of people homeless in unsheltered locations. This progress is attributable to the hard work of local homeless service providers nationwide.

HUD and other federal agencies have continued to target resources and emphasize evidence-based interventions to support this work. A Housing First approach and targeted efforts to end homelessness among subpopulations resulted in a 33 percent decline in one-night counts of homelessness among Veterans and a 21 percent decline among chronically homeless individuals from 2010 to 2014. As the national economy continues to improve, we must remember those nearly 1.5 million Americans with no place to call home and judge our nation's prosperity by the number of Americans sleeping in shelters or on the streets.

Ending homelessness as we know it is the ultimate goal. To achieve this goal, we need a continued bipartisan commitment to break the cycle of homelessness among our most vulnerable citizens and prevent others from falling into homelessness. Congress must maintain its support of practices and program models that are making a measurable difference, moving our citizens out of shelters and off the streets and into stable housing. With new findings on how to achieve housing

stability for homeless families with children, we can combat the recent 4.4 percent increase in annual sheltered homelessness among this subpopulation. Finally, we must continue to press for comprehensive and accurate data that can be harnessed by policymakers and homeless services providers to advance the most effective approaches to ending homelessness.

This report shows substantial progress toward ending a social wrong that deprives people of their full potential. Ending homelessness means more than providing a roof over people's heads. It means giving people the opportunity to address their challenges in a stable and secure environment, providing families with a place to raise their children, and ensuring that our nation's Veterans can heal in their own home.



**Secretary Julian Castro**

U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development

## Key Terms

**Please note:** Key terms are used for AHAR reporting purposes and accurately reflect the data used in this report. Definitions of these terms may differ in some ways from the definitions found in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento) and in HUD regulations.

**Children** are people under the age of 18.

**Chronically Homeless Individual** refers to an individual with a disability who has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more or has experienced at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years. By definition, only an adult can be categorized as chronically homeless.

**Chronically Homeless People in Families** refers to people in families in which the head of household has a disability and has either been continuously homeless for 1 year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years.

**Continuums of Care (CoC)** are local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state.

**Domestic Violence Shelters** are shelter programs for people who are homeless and are domestic violence victims.

**Emergency Shelter** is a facility with the primary purpose of providing temporary shelter for homeless people.

**Family** refers to a household that has at least one adult and one child. It does not include households composed only of adults or only children.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** is a software application designed to record and store client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless people. Each CoC maintains its own HMIS, which can be tailored to meet local needs, but must also conform to HUD's HMIS Data and Technical Standards.

**HMIS Data** provide an unduplicated count of people who are homeless in shelter and information about their characteristics and service-use patterns over a one-year period of time. These data are entered into each CoC's HMIS at the client level but are submitted in aggregate form for the AHAR.

**Homeless** describes a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**Household Type** refers to the composition of a household upon entering a shelter program. People enter shelter as either an individual or as part of a family with children, but can be served as both individuals or family members during the AHAR reporting year. However, the estimates reported in the AHAR adjust for this overlap and thus provide an unduplicated count of homeless people.

**Housing Inventory Count (HIC)** is produced by each CoC and provides an annual inventory of beds in the CoC.

**Individual** refers to a person who is not part of a family with children during an episode of homelessness. Individuals may be homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

**Living Arrangement before Entering Shelter** refers to the place a person stayed the night before the first homeless episode captured during the AHAR reporting year. For those that were already in shelter at the start of the reporting year, it refers to the place they stayed the night before beginning that current episode of homelessness.

**Minority** refers to people who self-identify as being a member of any racial or ethnic category other than white, non-Hispanic/Latino. This includes African Americans, Asians, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians, and people of multiple races. This report uses the term "Hispanic" to refer to people who self-identify their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

**Multiple Races** refers to people who self-identify as more than one race.

**One-Year Shelter Count** is an unduplicated count of homeless people who use an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October through September of the following year. The 1-year count is derived from communities' administrative databases, or HMIS.

**Other One Race** refers to a person who self-identifies as being one of the following races: Asian, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** is a program designed to provide housing (project- or tenant-based) and supportive services on a long-term basis to formerly homeless people. McKinney-Vento-funded programs require that the client have a disability for program eligibility, so the majority of people in PSH have disabilities.

**People in Families** are people who are homeless as part of households that have at least one adult and one child.

**Point-in-Time (PIT) Count** is an unduplicated 1-night estimate of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The 1-night count is conducted according to HUD standards by CoCs nationwide and occurs during the last week in January of each year.

**Principal City** is the largest city in each metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area. Other smaller cities may qualify if specified requirements (population size and employment) are met.

**Safe Havens** are projects that provide private or semi-private long-term housing for people with severe mental illness and are limited to serving no more than 25 people within a facility. People in safe havens are included in the 1-night PIT count but are not included from the 1-year shelter count.

**Sheltered Homeless People** are people who are staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

**Total U.S. Population** refers to people who are housed (including those in group quarters) in the United States, as reported in the American Community Survey (ACS) by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Total U.S. Poverty Population** refers to people who are housed in the United States that fall below the national poverty line, as reported in the American Community Survey (ACS) by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Transitional Housing** is a type of shelter program in which homeless people may stay and receive supportive services for up to 24 months.

**Unaccompanied Children** are people who are not accompanied by adults or in a multi-child household during their episode of homelessness and who are under the age of 18.

**Unaccompanied Youth** are people who are not part of a family with children during their episode of homelessness and who are between the ages of 18 and 24.

**Unduplicated Count of Sheltered Homelessness** is an estimate of people in shelter that counts each person only once, even if the person enters and exits the shelter system multiple times throughout the year within a CoC.

**Unsheltered Homeless People** are people whose primary nighttime residence is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for people(for example, the streets, vehicles, or parks).

**Veteran** refers to any person who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. This also includes Reserves and National Guard members who were called up to active duty.

**Victim Service Provider** refers to private nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to provide direct services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This term includes rape crisis centers, domestic violence programs battered women's (shelters and non-residential), domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other related advocacy and supportive services programs.



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**PIT data** estimate the number of people homeless in shelter and on the street on a single night during the year.

**HMIS data** estimate the number of people homeless in shelter at any time during the year.

Since 2007, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has released an annual report on the extent of homelessness in the United States—the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). The report documents how many people are using shelter programs for homeless people and how many people are in unsheltered locations often referred to as “the street.” The AHAR is submitted each year to the U.S. Congress, and its contents are used to inform federal, state, and local policies to prevent and end homelessness.

This report is the second part of a two-part series. The first part is called *The 2014 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness: Part 1 of the 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress* and was published in October 2014. The Part 1 report provides estimates of homelessness based on the Point-in-Time (PIT) count data gathered by communities throughout the country in the last 10 days of January. The estimates are provided at the national-, state-, and CoC-levels.

Part 2 of the 2014 AHAR builds on the Part 1 report by adding 1-year estimates of sheltered homelessness based on data from Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). The HMIS estimates provide detailed demographic information about people who use the nation’s shelters during a 12-month period.

New to the 2014 AHAR are a discussion of domestic violence victims in the homeless shelter system and a discussion of various types of housing instability in the U.S.

## Types of AHAR Estimates and Data Sources: PIT Count and HMIS

The estimates presented throughout this report are based primarily on aggregate information submitted by hundreds of communities nationwide about the homeless people they encounter and serve.

There are two types of estimates: 1-night counts based on PIT data and 1-year counts based on HMIS data (See Exhibit A).

### PIT Count

The PIT counts offer a snapshot of homelessness—of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations—on a single night. The 1-night counts are conducted by CoCs in late January<sup>1</sup> and reported to HUD as part of their annual applications for McKinney-Vento funding. In addition to the total counts of homelessness, the PIT counts provide an estimate of the number of homeless people within particular subpopulations, such as chronically homeless people and Veterans. Typically, CoCs conduct a PIT count in shelters every year and a street count at least every other year. In 2014, PIT estimates were reported by 414 CoCs, 78 percent of which (323 CoCs) conducted an unsheltered count. For the remaining 91 CoCs, which only conducted a sheltered count, the results of their prior year unsheltered counts roll over into 2014.

Communities across the nation typically conduct their PIT counts during a defined period of time (e.g., dusk to dawn) on a given night to minimize the risk of counting any person more than once. Many CoCs also collect identifying information to unduplicate their counts of unsheltered homeless people.

<sup>1</sup> Some CoCs are given permission to conduct counts outside of the last 10 days of January for good cause.

## About This Report

### EXHIBIT A: Comparison of Data Sources PIT and HMIS

PIT		OCTOBER	JANUARY	SEPTEMBER	HMIS	TYPE OF ESTIMATE	12-month longitudinal count
TYPE OF ESTIMATE	1-day count						
PRIMARY LEVEL OF ANALYSIS	CoC & state						
REPORTING PERIOD	January						
POPULATION	Sheltered & Unsheltered						

For the 2014 AHAR Part 1, 414 CoCs in the United States reported PIT estimates of homeless people in their communities, covering virtually the entire United States. HUD has standards for conducting the PIT counts, and CoCs use a variety of approved methods to conduct the counts. Researchers review the data for accuracy and quality prior to creating the PIT estimates for this report. The previously reported PIT estimates are subject to change if communities adjust their counting methods.

PIT counts are particularly useful because they account for both sheltered and unsheltered homeless people. However, these counts may over-represent frequent and long-term users of shelters, who are more likely to be present on the night of the PIT count. Conversely, the PIT count may under-represent infrequent and short-term users of shelters. The PIT count also has little detail on the characteristics of homeless people and their patterns of homelessness.

### HMIS

The 1-year HMIS estimates provide unduplicated counts of homeless people who use an emergency shelter, transitional housing facility, or PSH program at any time from October through September of the following year. These 1-year estimates provide information about the self-reported demographic characteristics of sheltered homeless people and their patterns of service use. The 12-month counts of sheltered homelessness are produced using HMIS data from a nationally representative sample of communities. Data are collected separately by project type (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing) and for individuals, people in families, and Veterans. While the data do not include 1-year estimates for homeless youth and chronically homeless persons at this time, HUD plans on updating its AHAR data collection requirements to include further data on these subpopulations. HUD anticipates these changes to be first reported in the 2017 AHAR.

For the 2014 AHAR, the estimates were derived from aggregate HMIS data reported by 387 CoCs nationwide, representing 96 percent of all CoCs nationwide. The data are unduplicated, offering information on 1,177,448 people served by CoCs, and are weighted to provide a statistically reliable estimate of the *total number of people* who access shelter throughout the year (1,488,465 people in 2014). Excluded from the HMIS-based estimates are people in unsheltered locations, in programs targeting domestic violence victims, and in Safe Havens.

In combination, the PIT and HMIS estimates provide a comprehensive picture of homelessness in the United States that includes counts of people on the street as well as information on people who use the shelter system. The PIT estimate of homelessness will be smaller than the annual HMIS estimate because the PIT count data capture homelessness on a single night, whereas HMIS estimates capture anyone that enters the shelter system at any point during the year.

Exhibit B shows the trends in the PIT and HMIS counts since the first AHAR was released in 2007, and places them in a larger policy context.

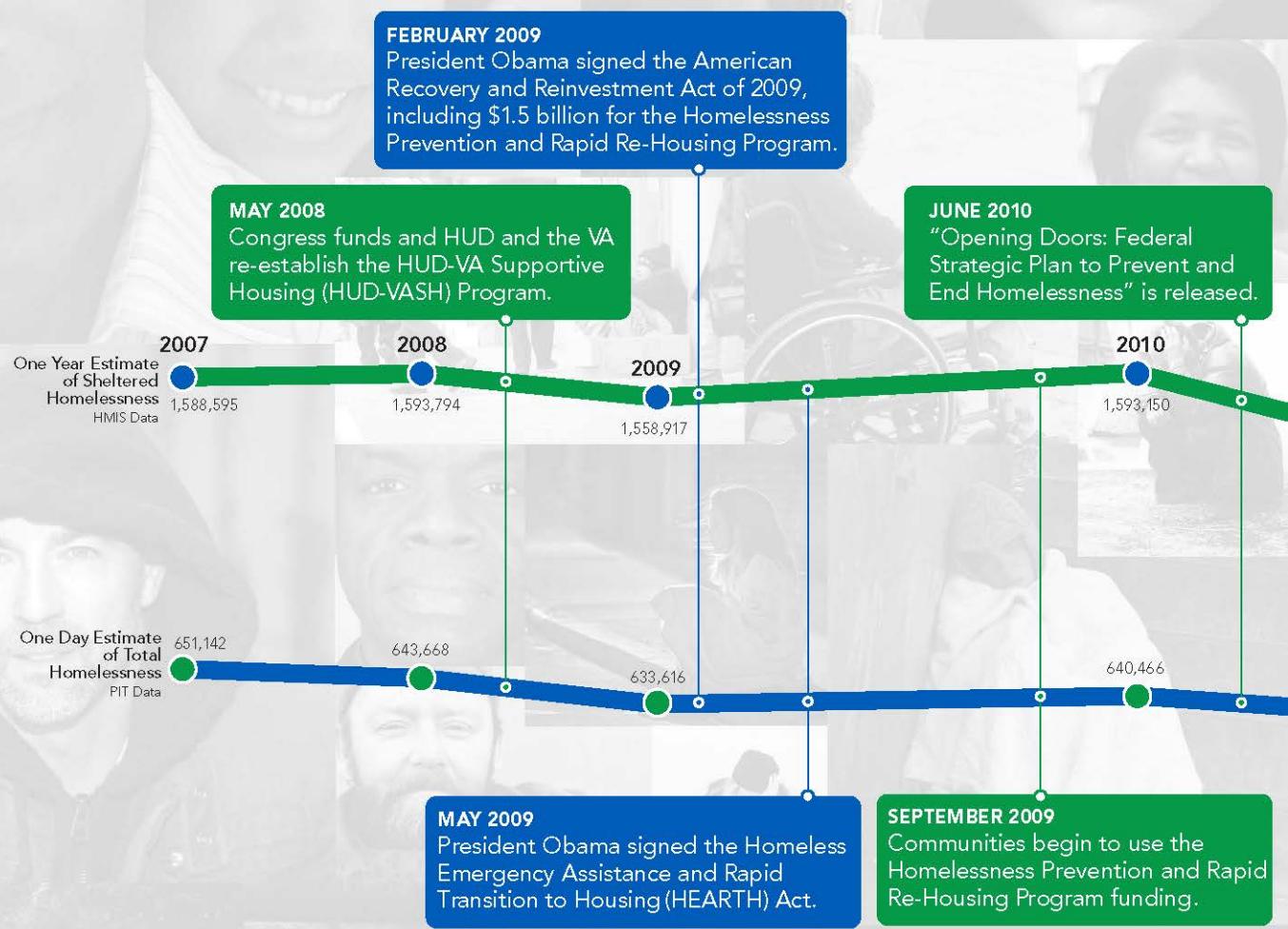
## Supplemental Data Sources

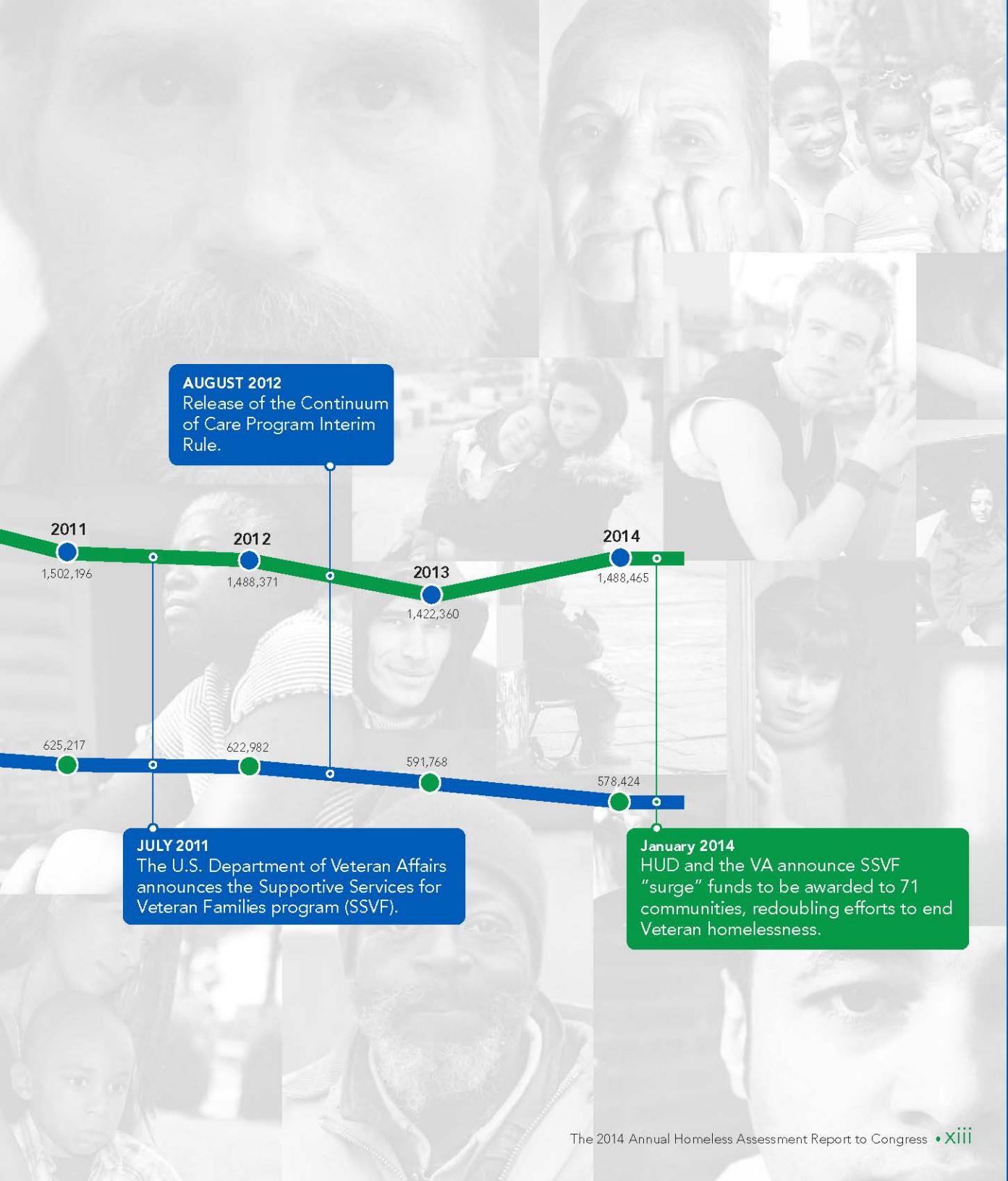
Two other data sources are used in sections 1 through 7 in the 2014 AHAR: Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data and U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) data. The HIC data provide an inventory of beds for people who are homeless and thus describe the nation's capacity to house homeless people. The HIC data are compiled by CoCs and represent the inventory of beds that are available for people who are homeless during a particular year.

ACS data are used to provide a profile of the total U.S. population and U.S. subpopulations, including households in poverty. The AHAR uses ACS data on gender, age, ethnicity, race, household size, disability status, and geographic location to serve as a comparison to the nationally representative HMIS data. The ACS data come in several forms. This report uses the 1-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) that corresponds most closely to the HMIS data for any given year.

The 2014 AHAR compares the estimate of homelessness with ACS data about all people in housing units or group quarters in the U.S. Through this comparison, the report provides a picture of how people who are homeless differ from, or are similar to, the broader population. This report on homelessness also compares the homeless population with the U.S. poverty population. Most homeless people are poor, so differences between all people who are poor and people who are homeless may highlight subgroups at greatest risk of becoming homeless.

**EXHIBIT B: Policy Context Surrounding Trends in Homelessness  
PIT and HMIS 2007–2014**





## Data Notes

Information on people's characteristics and patterns of homelessness collected as part of CoCs' PIT counts and HMIS records are generally self-reported. This information may be collected using a standard survey or intake form. Some HMIS data may reflect additional supporting documentation if the information is necessary to establish eligibility for services.

PIT and HMIS data quality has improved considerably since HUD began to compile these data resulting in more reliable estimates of homelessness. PIT count methodologies have become more robust. HMIS bed-coverage rates have increased sharply over time and rates of missing data have declined.

Not all information presented in the narrative in this report is reflected in the exhibits. For example, the exhibits may present the percentage of homeless people within a particular category, while the narrative highlights the percentage change over the years.

The supporting HMIS data used to produce the 2014 figures in the report can be downloaded from HUD's Resource Exchange at <http://www.hudexchange.info/>. Those tables are:

1. 2014 AHAR HMIS Estimates of Homelessness.xlsx
2. 2014 AHAR HMIS Estimates of Homeless Veterans.xlsx
3. 2014 AHAR\_HMIS Estimates of People in PSH.xlsx
4. 2014 AHAR\_HMIS Estimates of Veterans in PSH.xlsx

The AHAR estimation methodology and underlying assumptions for the information presented in this report are consistent with past reports, thus making data comparable over time and across AHAR reports. For more details, the 2014 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology can be downloaded from: <http://www.hudexchange.info/>.

## Broader Perspectives on Housing Instability and Homelessness

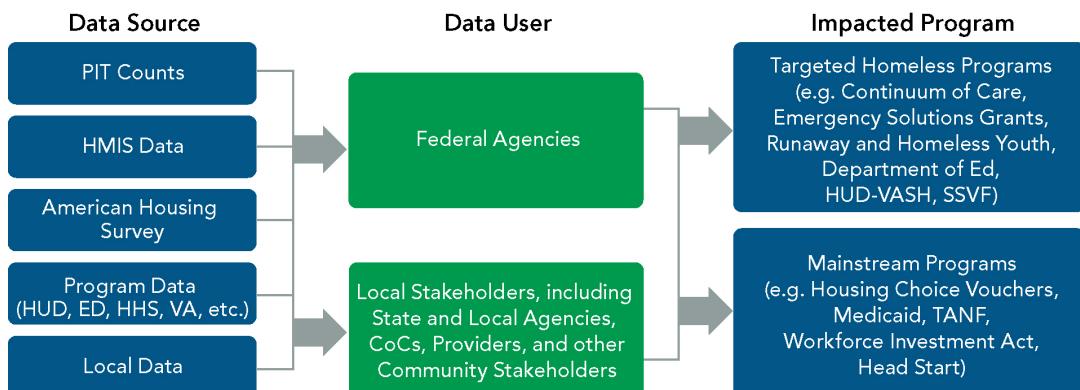
For more than a decade, HUD has supported local efforts to collect information about people experiencing homelessness. Together, the PIT count and HMIS data present a detailed picture of who is experiencing homelessness in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or in unsheltered locations; what their demographic characteristics are; and how they utilize residential services available for homeless people.

HUD and its federal partners use many other data sources to get a full picture of homelessness and housing instability, including data collected and reported by other federal agencies as well as national and local studies and evaluations. Each of these data sources provides an important perspective on homelessness. For example, the American Housing Survey (AHS) estimates the number of people who are living in overcrowded situations or living with other people temporarily. HUD produces annual reports on housing needs that use the AHS to track how many renters with very low incomes and no housing assistance have severe rent burdens or live in substandard housing. The Department of Veterans Affairs data provides crucial information about

Veterans experiencing homelessness that is not captured in the PIT count.

The AHS for 2013 included supplemental questions on the *reasons* people were living with other people temporarily. This report includes a new section that draws on those data to add to the picture of the housing instability experienced by households throughout the country, and it highlights findings on housing instability from the *Worst Case Housing Needs: 2015 Report to Congress*, which uses the 2013 AHS supplemental data. This section also draws on data from the Department of Education on students in public schools who are reported as being homeless, including those who are living with other people because of the loss of housing or economic hardship.

Federal agencies use data to inform a broad set of policy solutions across many different programs to meet the goals of ending homelessness set forth in *Opening Doors*. Ending homelessness cannot rely solely on programs that are targeted to persons experiencing homelessness. HUD and its federal partners recognize that homelessness, housing affordability, health care, service needs, and employment are closely linked, and the mainstream programs that address these needs have a substantial role in ending homelessness.



## Domestic Violence Victims in the U.S. Shelter System

Communities throughout the United States serving people who are homeless may also dedicate resources to serving any number of subpopulations. Among these homeless subpopulations are people experiencing domestic violence. While not all people who experience domestic violence use homeless shelters, shelters can serve as a resource for people in crisis seeking a safe refuge.

Domestic violence shelters operated by victim service providers are prohibited from reporting client information into HMIS. Clients accessing these shelter projects require anonymity to protect themselves from their abusers. Thus, the HMIS data used as the basis for the AHAR Part 2 report exclude information on people who use such shelters. The Point-in-Time (PIT) count, another supplementary data source for the AHAR Part 2, makes the reporting of people in domestic violence shelters optional, and that information is not collected systematically.<sup>2</sup> However, the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) can offer an understanding of how many people who are homeless and domestic violence victims may be missed by the national homeless counts in this report.

The HIC contains information on all the projects and beds available to people experiencing homelessness, including beds designated for domestic violence victims. Projects may identify a specific target population on the HIC. A population is considered a “target population” if the project intends that at least 75 percent of its total clients will be in that subpopulation.<sup>3</sup> Exhibit C displays the bed and point-in-time counts reported in the 2014 HIC.

Based on the 2014 HIC, 56,016 beds were targeted to domestic violence victims (DV), representing 7.3 percent of all beds serving the homeless population. These beds can be for individuals or families with children. Of beds that serve families, 12.8 percent are beds targeted to DV clients. Of beds that serve individuals, 2.2 percent are DV beds.

The share of beds in each Continuum of Care (CoC) dedicated to domestic violence victims varies by the type of geography the CoC serves. CoCs are divided into three geographic categories: major city CoCs (N=48); smaller city, county, and regional CoCs (N=324); and Balance of State (BoS) or statewide CoCs (N=42).<sup>4</sup> The share of the total bed inventory for the homeless population targeted to domestic violence victims in smaller city, county, and regional CoCs is 7.3 percent in 2014, matching the national average. Major city CoCs devoted a smaller share of their total bed inventory to DV beds (4.3%), while the BoS or statewide CoCs (often rural areas) devoted more than two times as much of their bed inventory to domestic violence victims (16.7%) compared to the national average.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 2014 optional PIT count of the homeless subpopulation “victims of domestic violence,” 51,908 people were reported as homeless and a victim of domestic violence, with 82.6 percent located in sheltered locations (emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens) and the remaining 17.4 percent in unsheltered locations.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Notice-CPD-13-011-2014-HIC-and-PIT-Data-Collection-Notice.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Major city CoCs cover the 50 largest cities in the U.S.; Smaller city, county and regional CoCs are jurisdictions that are neither one of the 50 largest cities nor Balance of State or Statewide CoCs; Balance of State or statewide CoCs are typically composed of multiple rural counties or represent an entire state.

All states in the U.S. have some of their homeless bed inventory targeted for domestic violence victims. In 2014, shares of the state-level total bed inventory that are DV beds range from 1.4 percent in the District of Columbia and 2.6 percent in Nevada to 20 percent in South Dakota. In addition to South Dakota, five other states had more than 15 percent of their local bed inventory targeted to domestic violence victims: Wyoming (18.1%), Mississippi (17.9%), New Mexico (17.4%), Iowa (17.3%), and Alaska (16%).

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) report, nearly 10 million people in the U.S. experienced physical violence by an intimate partner in 2010.<sup>5</sup> Many people escaping domestic violence seek refuge outside of the homeless services system, and those who use homeless shelters may use either shelters designated for domestic violence victims or shelters available to a broader population. The HIC offers an enumeration of shelter beds designated for domestic violence victims and provides a more complete picture of homelessness in America.

#### EXHIBIT C: Domestic Violence Beds and Bed-Use by Household Type and CoC Type, HIC 2014

Type	DV Beds	Total Beds	% DV Beds	# of CoCs
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,016</b>	<b>772,788</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Bed-Use By Household Type</b>				
Individuals	8,979	406,208	2.2	323
Families	47,037	366,580	12.8	392
<b>Bed-Use By CoC Type</b>				
Major City CoCs	15,848	364,824	4.3	48
Smaller City, County, & Regional CoCs	21,497	296,204	7.3	324
Balance of State & Statewide CoCs	18,671	111,760	16.7	42

Note 1: Total beds include year-round beds from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Safe Havens, and Other Permanent Housing projects.

Note 2: Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs\\_report2010-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf)

## How to Use this Report

The 2014 AHAR Part 2 is intended to serve as a data reference guide. It begins with a new section, using the AHS 2013 supplemental data, looking at additional forms of homelessness and housing instability. The rest of the report is divided into seven sections, by each subpopulation of people experiencing homelessness:

1. All homeless people,
2. Homeless individuals,
3. Homeless people in families with children,
4. Unaccompanied children and youth,
5. Homeless Veterans,
6. Chronically homeless people, and
7. Formerly homeless people in permanent supportive housing (PSH).

The sections begin with a summary of the PIT count data and an analysis by state of people who are homeless on a single night in January 2014. The HMIS data on people who were in homeless shelters at some time during the year follow. These one-year estimates include information on the gender, age, ethnicity, race, household size, disability status, geographic location, characteristics by geography, living situation before entering shelter, length of shelter stay, and bed-use patterns. HMIS data are not available for unaccompanied children and youth or for chronically homeless people. PIT count data are not available for people in PSH.

This report is intended for several audiences:

Members of Congress, staff at local service providers and CoCs, researchers, policy-makers, and advocates. These audiences may have various reasons for reading this report, but all audiences can find answers to questions that can be useful to them. For example:

**At the national level**, Congress and policymakers can mark progress on the nation's *Opening Doors* initiative to prevent and end homelessness. Key stakeholders can also identify which sub-populations require more attention in this effort and which groups are improving at a slower rate than others.

**At the state level**, policymakers and state-level CoCs can determine how they compare to other states and the District of Columbia on a range of important measures. The report shows which states experienced substantial changes in their homeless populations compared to other states, and these comparisons can foster collaborations and propel efforts towards ending homelessness.

**At the local level**, community leaders and local service providers can determine how their community compares to the nation. This comparison can highlight ways in which the community's homeless population is similar or different from the national profile of homelessness.

This report can address many questions that may be of interest across all audiences. Some examples are:

1. How many people are homeless in the U.S. in any given year? How has this changed over time?
2. Are women more likely to become homeless than men? How many people are homeless as individuals, and how many are homeless in families with children?
3. How many children are homeless in the U.S.?
4. What is the race and ethnicity of people who are homeless in the U.S.?
5. What is the rate of disability among people who are homeless?
6. Where do homeless people stay before they enter the shelter system?
7. How long do people stay in shelter?
8. How many U.S. Veterans are homeless? How has that number changed over time?
9. How many people are chronically homeless in the U.S.?
10. How many people are in a permanent supportive housing program? Where were they living beforehand? Where did they go once they left?



# Key Findings

## Homelessness in the United States

### One-Night Estimates

- On a single night in January 2014, 578,424 people were homeless in the United States, an 11.2 percent decrease since January 2007. This decline was driven by a 31.7 percent reduction in the number of homeless people living on the street or in other unsheltered locations. However, during this same time period, the number of homeless people in shelters increased by 2.5 percent. Between 2013 and 2014, the 2.3 percent decline in homelessness was also driven by a decline in unsheltered homelessness (a 10% drop) that outweighed the increased in sheltered homelessness (a 1.6% rise).
- Together, California and New York accounted for more than a third of all homeless people in the United States in 2014.
- In 2014, at least 90 percent of the local homeless population was staying in sheltered rather than unsheltered locations in 18 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, about seven in ten homeless people were staying in shelter.

### One-Year Estimates

- In 2014, an estimated 1.49 million people used a shelter program at some point during the reporting year, a 4.6 percent increase since 2013. This marked the first year sheltered homelessness has grown in the U.S. since 2010. Yet in spite of this short-term increase, the number of sheltered homeless people is 6.3 percent less than it was in 2007, when HUD began tracking this information.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of adults entering shelter after staying on the street or in other places not meant for human habitation increased by 48.3 percent.

- Minorities are among the populations most vulnerable to falling into homelessness. One in 138 people identifying as minorities, including one in 69 African Americans, stayed in a homeless shelter in 2014. Adults with disabilities are also at great risk of falling into homelessness, with one in 81 staying in a homeless shelter in 2014.
- Sheltered homelessness has declined in principal cities by 14.1 percent between 2007 and 2014, yet people in these cities are still at great risk of falling into homelessness. One in 33 people in principal cities stayed in a homeless shelter in 2014. However, between 2007 and 2014, the number of people using shelters increased by 19.6 percent in suburban and rural areas while the total population of all people in those areas declined by 24.6 percent.

## Homeless Individuals

### One-Night Estimates

- On a single night in January 2014, 362,163 people were homeless as individuals. This represents 62.6 percent of all homeless people in the United States.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of homeless individuals dropped by 12.9 percent. Declines occurred in both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, but the largest decline was among individuals staying in unsheltered locations.
- In January 2014, about three in five homeless individuals were staying in shelter, while about two in five were living on the street or in other unsheltered locations.

- The vast majority (86.3%) of homeless people found in unsheltered locations in 2014 were homeless as individuals rather than in families; 52.1 percent of homeless people in shelter were homeless as individuals. California accounted for about a quarter (25.4%) of all homeless individuals and 44 percent of all unsheltered homeless individuals in the nation.
- In six states—Nevada, California, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Georgia—more than three-quarters of all homeless people counted in January 2014 in those states were homeless as individuals rather than in families. Most states (90%) had more than half of all homeless people homeless as individuals within their state.

### One-Year Estimates

- An estimated 948,127 individuals used a shelter program in the United States in 2014 over the course of a year. The number of homeless individuals in shelter increased by 4.4 percent between 2013 and 2014; however, it has decreased by 11.7 percent since 2007.
- While still a small share of the overall population of individuals using shelter, both the number and share of elderly individuals in shelter continued to increase between 2013 and 2014.
- Although minorities living in poverty as individuals increased substantially between 2007 and 2014, minorities in shelter programs as individuals declined by 13.1 percent over the same period. The share of sheltered individuals identifying as white and not Hispanic increased from 42.6 to 47.8 percent since 2007.
- The share of sheltered individuals with a disability increased from 40.4 percent in 2007 to 46.6 percent in 2014.

- The number of individuals using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas increased 7.3 percent between 2007 and 2014, while the number of individuals using shelters in cities dropped by 16.9 percent.

## Homeless Families with Children

### One-Night Estimates

- On a single night in January 2014, 216,261 people in families with children were homeless in 67,613 family households in the United States. About 37 percent of all homeless people on a single night were in families.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of homeless people in families with children dropped by 2.7 percent (5,936 fewer people). The number of homeless family households with children dropped by 4.7 percent (3,347 fewer households).
- In 2014, 88.7 percent of all people who were homeless in families with children on a single night stayed in shelter programs. More than half of all states had at least 90 percent of their families with children homeless population in shelter.
- Since 2007, the number of sheltered people in families with children on a single night increased by 7.6 percent, while the number of unsheltered dropped by 57.4 percent.
- New York and Massachusetts had notable increases in sheltered homelessness among families with children, both between 2013 and 2014 and over the six-year period between 2007 and 2014. Unsheltered family homelessness increased substantially over the same period in several states—Utah, Idaho, and Montana.

## One-Year Estimates

- In 2014, 517,416 people in 160,301 family households used shelter programs at some point during the reporting year. People in families with children comprised 34.8 percent of the total sheltered homeless population, essentially unchanged from the previous year.
- After a decline of 12.6 percent (71,620 fewer people) between 2010 and 2013, the number of people in families with children using shelters increased by 4.4 percent (21,702 more people) between 2013 and 2014.
- While blacks or African Americans comprised 48.3 percent of people in families with children using shelters in 2014, their share of sheltered people in families with children increased by 5.8 percent between 2007 and 2014.
- In 2014, 21 percent of sheltered adults in families with children had a disability, which is 2.5 times higher than the share with a disability among all adults in U.S. families with children.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of people in families with children using shelters increased in suburban and rural areas (48.1% rise) and decreased in cities (5% drop).
- Women make up nearly 80 percent of adults in sheltered families with children, but the share of men rose from 18 percent to 21.7 percent between 2007 and 2014.

## Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth

### One-Night Estimates

- 45,205 unaccompanied children and youth were homeless on a single night in January 2014; 86.1 percent were youth ages 18 to 24, and 13.9 percent were children under 18.

- Less than half (45.6%) of unaccompanied homeless youth were on the streets or in other unsheltered locations on a single night in January, while a larger share (59.3%) of unaccompanied homeless children were unsheltered.
- Almost all homeless children were accompanied by their families, whereas the majority of homeless youth were unaccompanied. Only 4.6 percent of homeless children were unaccompanied, while about two-thirds (66.4%) of homeless youth were unaccompanied.
- The number of unaccompanied homeless youth staying in unsheltered locations declined 3.9 percent (728 fewer youth), while the number in sheltered locations increased 1.2 percent (240 more youth).

## Homeless Veterans

### One-Night Estimates

- On a single night in January 2014, 49,933 Veterans were homeless in the United States, representing 8.6 percent of all homeless people and 11.3 percent of all homeless adults.
- More than 6 in 10 homeless Veterans were using shelter programs in 2014, and nearly 4 in 10 were in unsheltered locations. A larger share of homeless Veterans were unsheltered (35.9%) compared to all homeless people (30.7%).
- Fewer Veterans were homeless in January 2014 than in 2013. Veteran homelessness declined by 10.5 percent or 5,846 fewer Veterans. Just more than half of this decline was attributable to the decrease in the unsheltered population (2,985 fewer people).

- Between 2009 and 2014, Veteran homelessness dropped 32.6 percent, or 24,117 fewer Veterans. The decline in unsheltered homeless Veterans (41.6% or 12,756 fewer Veterans) was larger than the decline in sheltered Veterans (26.2% or 11,361 fewer Veterans).

#### One-Year Estimates

- 131,697 Veterans were in shelter programs in the United States at some time between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014. The number of Veterans using shelter programs at some time over the course of a year dropped by 12 percent since 2009, totaling 17,938 fewer Veterans.
- The share of sheltered Veteran in a racial minority group in 2014 was over two times larger than the share among the U.S. Veteran population (47.6% versus 20.7%).
- The majority (73.8%) of sheltered homeless Veterans were concentrated in principal cities in 2014, while the majority of all U.S. Veterans (83.7%) and Veterans in poverty (74.1%) were living in suburban and rural areas.
- In 2014, over 95 percent of sheltered Veterans were homeless as individuals.

## Chronically Homeless Individuals

### One-Night Estimates

- On a single night in January 2014, 84,291 people were chronically homeless as individuals in the United States, representing about a quarter (23.3%) of all homeless individuals. Most chronically homeless individuals (63%) were found on the street or in other unsheltered locations.
- Between January 2007 and January 2014, the number of chronically homeless individuals declined by 30 percent. Over this same time period, the proportion of homeless individuals who were chronically homeless fell from 29 percent to 23.3 percent.
- The number of chronically homeless individuals using shelter programs rose by 6.1 percent (1,785 more people), while the number in unsheltered locations fell by 6.9 percent (3,949 fewer people).
- In 19 states, less than half of all chronically homeless individuals were sheltered in 2014. Only three states sheltered at least 90 percent of their chronically homeless individuals: Maine, Nebraska, and Rhode Island.

## People in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

### One-Year Estimates

- 285,403 people in the United States were living in permanent supportive housing in 2014. Almost two-thirds of PSH residents are individuals rather than people in families with children, and the share of people using PSH who are individuals has been increasing over time, though only slightly from 2013 to 2014.
- The number of PSH beds continued to rise, reaching 300,282 in 2014, a 5.6 percent increase from 2013.
- The share of long-term stayers (more than five years) in PSH rose from 18.3 percent in 2010 to 24.1 percent in 2014. The share of short-term stayers (a year or less) in PSH dropped from 31 percent in 2010 to 24.2 percent in 2014.
- People in families with children who moved out of PSH were more likely to move into another housed situation than were individuals who exited PSH (79% versus 59.5%). A slightly larger share of people in families with children who exited PSH to other housing moved into rental housing than did individuals (56.9% versus 55.1%), while a larger share of individuals who exited PSH to other housing went to stay with friends than did people in families with children (11.5% versus 6.8%).
- The number of Veterans using PSH increased 40.5 percent, from 22,338 in 2010 to 31,393 in 2014. However, this does not include many of the Veterans served by the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) program.

## Interpretation of the Findings

Part 2 of the AHAR amplifies and supplements each year's point in time counts by permitting us to understand more about people who become homeless over the course of a year and their patterns of use of the homeless services system. This information is important to signal needed adjustments to policy as the nation strives to end homelessness for various target groups. With this eighth annual report on homelessness, we can continue to observe how homelessness has evolved since the end of the Great Recession.

The U.S. is well under way toward meeting the goal of ending Veteran homelessness, with a remarkable 10 percent decline just between 2013 and 2014. With strong evidence that permanent supportive housing ends homelessness for Veterans with high needs for services and their families, policy makers across the executive and legislative branches committed themselves to the HUD-VASH program. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families program has helped an even larger number of Veterans transition to permanent housing.

As always, the AHAR makes a distinction between family homelessness and individual homelessness, with people homeless as members of families with children comprising 35 percent of all sheltered homeless people, and about the same percentage of all those homeless on a single night in January. (Most homeless families are found in shelter rather than in places not suitable for human habitation.) With 160,000 sheltered homeless families, family homelessness is a tragedy but also a solvable problem.

The shift away from the use of transitional housing for families continues, as the number of beds for families in transitional housing drops and communities adopt rapid re-housing approaches.

However, longer lengths of stay in emergency shelters have persisted since the end of the Recession, with the average number of nights family members spend in shelter reaching 81 in 2014. Rents have been rising, and families may be having difficulty finding a place they can afford, especially if they are trying to leave shelter without a rent subsidy. And the persistent poverty of many American families may mean that it also is hard to find relatives or friends willing to host a family leaving shelter.

Family homelessness increased between 2013 and 2014, as measured by both the one-year estimates and the point-in-time counts. Increases in both the number of homeless families and lengths of stay for families in shelter may reflect the drop in the availability of housing subsidies following the sequestration of funds for housing assistance in 2013. New evidence from a rigorous study of interventions for homeless families confirms the importance of housing subsidies for preventing and ending family homelessness.

Despite the end of the Recession, the share of homeless families found in suburban and rural areas rather than in central cities continues to increase. That shift in the geography of family homelessness may simply track the long-term suburbanization of poverty. But family homelessness, like individual homelessness, continues to be largely a big city phenomenon.

Among people homeless as individuals, the long-term trend that persisted between 2013 and 2014 is a drop in the numbers staying on the street rather than in shelters. Increased availability and better targeting of permanent supportive housing evidently is playing a role in reducing the unsheltered population and, in particular, the number of individuals who have chronic patterns of homelessness.

Lengths of stay for individuals who use emergency shelters continue to grow. The longer stays for individuals may show that outreach programs are reaching higher-needs individuals and bringing them indoors. If the supply of permanent supportive housing, both project-based and scattered-site, continues to grow, the nation will be able to see significant declines in chronic homelessness over time.

Youth homelessness is another focus of federal policy. The AHAR helps us to better understand patterns for people who become homeless from birth through age 24. Nearly all children under 18 who become homeless do so with a parent. However, three of every five children who do become homeless on their own are unsheltered and, therefore, at high risk of exposure to violence.

Among youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who experience homelessness, about two-thirds are homeless on their own, while one-third are homeless with other family members and are usually themselves the parent. Policies for homeless youth should be appropriate to that stage of development but necessarily are very different for unaccompanied youth and for families with both a young parent and young children.

Programs that target victims of domestic violence are not permitted to report data on their clients to HMIS in order to protect their anonymity and safety from abusers. This report includes information on the numbers of beds in such shelters and thus provides some indication of how many people experiencing homelessness the AHAR data may miss.

Programs targeting victims of domestic violence have only 7 percent of the entire inventory of beds for people experiencing homelessness. When victims of domestic violence use emergency shelters for homeless people, they may go to general-purpose shelters rather than to shelters specifically for domestic violence victims. In addition, most of those who experience domestic violence do not turn to the homeless services system for a place to stay.

Homelessness is not the only form of housing instability, and federal and local policy-makers use other information besides the one-night counts and the HMIS-based information to understand fully the nature of housing instability and housing needs. A special supplement of the American Housing Survey (AHS) for 2013 collected information on people who were living in a household and moved out. AHS survey questions then asked the reasons for leaving someone else's housing unit in order to explore which of these residents might have unstable housing. Tabulations of these data are presented in a new section of this report. Successive AHARs have shown that many people who become homeless do so after living with family or friends rather than in their own housing units. However, it has proven difficult to predict whether any particular individual or family will become homeless, and "doubling up" of this nature does not necessarily mean that someone will eventually stay in shelter or on the streets.



# **Additional Forms of Homelessness and Housing Instability**

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## Introduction

In addition to the data collected through PIT counts and HMIS are several other sources of information about homelessness and housing instability. This section presents information about people who share housing with others due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e., doubled up); people who are living in hotels or motels because they have no alternative adequate accommodations; and people who have housing problems such as severe rent burdens or unsafe housing. Information from the American Housing Survey (AHS) and the U.S. Department of Education<sup>1</sup> describes:

- People who live with another household and then move;
- Children who are classified as homeless following a definition used by local school administrators to report to the U.S. Department of Education. The definition includes living with others because of loss of housing or economic hardship; and
- Low-income renters who are severely rent burdened, have severe housing problems, and have other indicators of instability such as missed rent payments or no good choice for a destination if evicted.

This information sheds light on the broader spectrum of people experiencing homelessness or precarious housing situations for organizations at the federal, state, and local levels. These data also inform the need for mainstream affordable housing and benefits programs that can supplement federal and local homelessness resources. It is important to realize that individuals and families experiencing homelessness often experience multiple types of housing instability.

The data sources—the American Housing Survey and data from local education agencies—have limitations, like all sources of data, but they provide context for understanding forms of homelessness and housing instability in addition to those described in the rest of this report.

### American Housing Survey 2013 Supplement: Residents Who Have Moved Out in the Past 12 Months

“Doubling up” can mean many things and sometimes refers to multigenerational households or to people who share housing on a long-term basis in order to save on housing costs. A supplement to the 2013 AHS<sup>2</sup> was designed to learn about different forms of doubling up, including those in less stable living situations.

#### American Housing Survey Special Supplement for 2013

The American Housing Survey (AHS) is based on a representative sample of housing units in the United States and asks questions about the housing unit, the composition of the household occupying the unit, household income, and housing costs. The AHS is conducted biennially. Starting in 2011, the AHS consisted of a permanent core questionnaire plus topical supplements on a rotating basis. In 2013, the AHS included a topical supplement called “Doubling Up,” in which a subset of people were asked questions about reasons surrounding residential moves. The 2013 survey also asked renter households about some specific indicators of housing instability, such as threats of eviction, that are not part of the core questionnaire.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the U.S. Department of Education’s definition of homeless children and youth, refer to: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg116.html#sec725>.

<sup>2</sup> Details about the AHS and the Doubling Up supplement can be found here: <http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/2013/> and <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/>.

Respondents<sup>3</sup> were asked a series of questions about household members who had moved out of the housing unit within the past year. The questions were asked about households that stayed for at least two weeks and had no other usual residence.<sup>4</sup>

In 2013, there were 4.4 million households with at least one member who had moved out in the last year.<sup>5</sup> This type of doubled up situation could reflect a variety of circumstances—for example, a college student who was at home during summer break and returned to school; an elderly person who was living with family and moved into assisted living; someone who moved to a new city and stayed with a friend until finding his or her own place; or a runaway youth with no stable housing options, moving from one friend's house to another friend's house. Therefore, the 2013 AHS supplement asked questions about the nature of the mover's stay and about the mover's destination. The answers to those questions reveal a subset of people who may be particularly vulnerable to becoming homeless. Exhibit 1 summarizes the reasons household members moved out of the respondent's housing unit and the household members' destination upon moving.

## EXHIBIT 1: Reasons Household Members Moved Out of the Respondent's Housing Unit and Where They Moved

	# Housing Units	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,421,000</b>	
<b>Reason for Stay</b>		
Lack of Money	1,191,000	27.1
Other Reasons (not lack of money)	3,200,000	72.9
<b>Asked to Leave</b>		
Yes	320,000	7.3
No	4,089,000	92.7
<b>Reason for Leaving</b>		
Financial	543,000	12.4
Crowding, conflict or violence	250,000	5.7
Other Reasons <sup>a</sup>	3,585,000	81.9
<b>Destination</b>		
Moved to the home of relatives/friends	1,084,000	25.3
Moved to homeless situation <sup>b</sup>	13,000	0.3
Moved to treatment program, hospital, or nursing home	67,000	1.6
Moved to jail or prison	17,000	0.4
Moved to Foster Care	11,000	0.3
Moved to Another Situation <sup>c</sup>	3,090,000	72.2

Source: Table S-07-AO of the 2013 AHS National Summary tables

Note: The number of housing units is rounded to the nearest thousand. Those "not reported" are excluded.

<sup>a</sup> Other reasons for leaving the housing unit included a major change in the family (e.g. marriage, new relationship, divorce, death, separation), health reasons, to be closer to work or job, school or military, or to establish one's own household.

<sup>b</sup> A homeless situation was defined as staying in a shelter program or in a place not meant for human habitation such as a park, street, sidewalk, car, or abandoned building.

<sup>c</sup> Other situations included one's own place, dormitories, or barracks.

<sup>3</sup> These questions were asked of a knowledgeable household member age 16 or over. In most cases, the respondent was the head of household.

<sup>4</sup> These questions were restricted to occupied housing units where a person or group of people moved out within 12 months prior to the interview or since the current occupants moved in when that was less than a year before the interview. Household members moving out included anyone who stayed in the home for at least 2 weeks and had no other place where he or she usually lived. While respondents were instructed to only include people who had stayed at least two weeks, a small percentage of households were reported with a length of stay less than 2 weeks. They included minors who moved out without a parent or guardian. In cases where more than one person or group of people moved out during the last year, the respondent was instructed to refer to the first person of group of people listed as moving out in the last year.

<sup>5</sup> The AHS National Summary Tables (Table S-07\_AO) are available at: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/data/2013/national-summary-report-and-tables---ahs-2013.html>

Of the households with at least one member that moved out in the past year, 27.1 percent were reported by the respondent to have been staying because of a lack of money to pay for housing. In addition, 7.3 percent (320,000 movers) of household members who moved were asked to leave. Other reasons included crowding and conflict or violence in the housing unit (5.7 percent of those who moved out), and financial reasons (12.4 percent of those who moved out).<sup>6</sup>

Few household members who moved out (less than one percent) were reported by the respondent to have gone to a shelter program or a place not meant for human habitation,<sup>7</sup> but a quarter went to stay with family or friends rather than to a place of their own. Some household members went to settings that are known precursors to homelessness: institutional health facility, such as a treatment program, hospital, or nursing home (1.6 percent or 67,000 movers), jail or prison (0.4 percent or 17,000 movers), or foster care (0.3 percent or 11,000 movers).

### **U.S. Department of Education: Data from Local Education Agencies on Unstably Housed and Homeless Children**

In *Opening Doors*, the Administration set a goal of preventing and ending homelessness among families, youth, and children in 2020. The plan notes that children experiencing homelessness have high rates of acute and chronic health problems, as well as exposure to violence. The plan also notes the importance of improving enrollment, retention in, and successful completion of early childhood, elementary, and secondary education for these children.

The U.S. Department of Education collects data from local education agencies (LEAs) about children ages 3 through grade 12 who are enrolled in public schools,<sup>8</sup> including public preschool programs, whose primary nighttime residence at any time during a school year was:

1. a shelter, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement;
2. unsheltered (e.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, or abandoned buildings);
3. a hotel or motel due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or
4. in housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e., doubled-up).

The Department of Education uses these primary nighttime residence categories to provide services to students as mandated under Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The data reported by the U.S. Department of Education are used by the agency to determine whether states are providing children and youth residing in the primary nighttime residences listed above with access to a free, appropriate public education.

<sup>6</sup> Financial reasons could include the inability to contribute to the housing costs in their host's unit, but it could also include a mover's ability to pay for their own housing.

<sup>7</sup> This is a small number compared to the number of people staying in shelters at some time during 2014 who were reported by the HMIS to have come from staying with friends or relatives. These numbers are based on different methods of identifying people who become homeless.

<sup>8</sup> Some students in higher grades are youth over the age of 18.

During the 2013–2014 academic year, the U.S. Department of Education reported 1,298,236 children living in the primary nighttime residences categories used to provide services to students as mandated under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, an 8 percent increase from the prior school year (95,729 more children). Among these children, 14.3 percent were in shelters, transitional housing, or awaiting foster care placement; more than three quarters (76.2 percent) were sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; 3.2 percent were in an unsheltered location; and 6.2 percent were living in a hotel or motel because of the lack of alternate, adequate accommodations. Numbers of children in each of these nighttime residence categories, as reported by the U.S. Department of Education, increased between the 2012-2013 and 2013–2014 school years.

**EXHIBIT 2: Number of Public School Children in Homeless Situations, the U.S. Department of Education, 2012–2014**

Residence	2013–2014	2012–2013
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,298,236</b>	<b>1,202,507</b>
Shelters, transitional housing, awaiting foster care	186,265	174,715
Living with other people because of housing loss or economic hardship <sup>a</sup>	989,844	919,370
Unsheltered locations <sup>b</sup>	42,003	39,243
Staying in hotels or motels because of the lack of alternative accommodations	80,124	69,179

Source: [http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/data\\_comp.php](http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/data_comp.php). For U.S. Department of Education data about homeless children in your state, please visit:

<http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/index.html>

<sup>a</sup> Children who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

<sup>b</sup> E.g., cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailer, abandoned buildings, or other places not intended for human habitation.

#### **Local Education Agency Data, HMIS Data, and Point in Time Data**

The LEA data reported by the U.S. Department of Education differ from the HMIS and PIT data reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in several other ways:

- LEA data are reported by school administrators and generally verified by local liaisons and state Coordinators. HMIS data are reported by homeless service provider staff. PIT count data are reported by communities based on counts of people in shelter programs and unsheltered locations.
- LEA data cover a July 1 to June 30 period; however, data on school children during the summer may be limited. HMIS data used in the AHAR cover a period from October 1 through September 30. PIT count data are for a single night in January.
- LEA data include children and youth living in hotels or motels if they are judged to be there because of a lack of alternate, adequate accommodation. HMIS data include people living in hotels or motels only if those accommodations were subsidized through a homeless assistance program.
- The LEA data reports on information on public school children from ages 3 through grade 12. HMIS and PIT count data include children under age 3. The LEA data include some young adults (18 and older) who are still in public school. The HMIS data and PIT count report all people 18 and over in a separate category from those under 18. The PIT count data report all youth who are ages 18 to 24 in a separate category.

#### **American Housing Survey 2013: Renters with Worst Case Housing Needs and Other Indicators of Housing Instability**

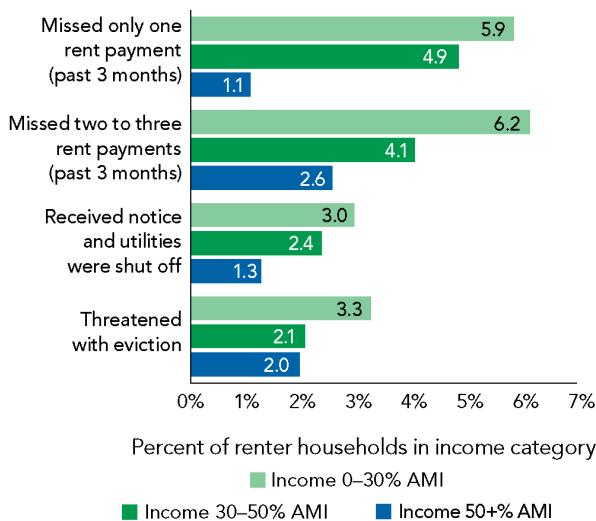
HUD submits periodic reports to Congress on renter households with severe needs for housing assistance. Submitted every other year, the reports are based on detailed information in the AHS on the quality and costs of rental housing units and the incomes of the housing's occupants. Households with worst case needs for housing assistance are defined as renters with incomes below 50 percent of area median income who do not have housing assistance and are living in severely substandard housing, paying more than half their income for housing costs, or both.

In 2015, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) released the fifteenth in a series of Worst Case Needs reports to Congress, showing that 7.72 million renter households fell into the worst- category in 2013.<sup>9</sup> Most households with worst case needs have severe rent burdens, and these households may be forced to move or may be evicted because they stop paying rent. To try to learn whether some of these households have immediate indicators of housing instability, the 2013 AHS included supplemental questions about missed rental payments and eviction threats.

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.huduser.org/portal/Publications/pdf/WorstCaseNeeds\\_2015.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/portal/Publications/pdf/WorstCaseNeeds_2015.pdf)

Most households (families and individuals) that become homeless have incomes well below the federal poverty standard. The tabulations in the 2013 Worst Case Needs report show that, among renter households with severe housing problems and incomes below 30 percent of area median income (which varies by location, but is roughly equivalent to the poverty level), 5.9 percent missed one rent payment in the last three months, another 6.2 percent missed two to three rent payments, 3 percent had their utilities shut off, and another 3.3 percent faced the threat of eviction (Exhibit 3).

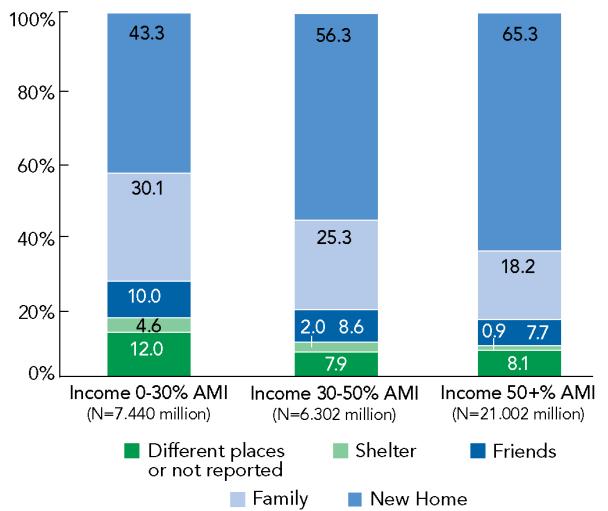
#### EXHIBIT 3: Housing Instability for Unassisted Renters with Severe Housing Problems



Source: American Housing Survey data, 2013. The exhibit is reproduced from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Worst Case Housing Needs: 2015 Report to Congress*. Office of Policy Development and Research, April 2015.

The 2013 AHS also asked renter households what they thought their housing situation would be should they be evicted (Exhibit 4). Among the households with poverty-equivalent incomes (below 30 percent of area median income) and not currently receiving housing assistance (e.g., not using a Section 8 voucher and not living in public housing), 43.3 percent said they would be able to find another place to live on their own, and 40.1 percent said they could stay with either family (30.1 percent) or friends (10 percent). About 5 percent (4.6 percent or 340,000 households) predicted that they would end up in a shelter program if they were evicted from their current residence.

#### EXHIBIT 4: Perceived Housing Destination of Unassisted Renters if Evicted



Source: American Housing Survey data, 2013. The exhibit is reproduced from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Worst Case Housing Needs: 2015 Report to Congress*. Office of Policy Development and Research, April 2015.



# 1

## Homelessness IN THE UNITED STATES

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# Homelessness

IN THE UNITED STATES

PIT DATA

On a single night  
in January 2014...

**578,424**

people were homeless



This is an  
**11.2% decline**  
since 2007



People in sheltered &  
unsheltered locations

**30.7%**



**69.3%**

HMIS DATA

Throughout the  
year in 2014...

**1.49 million**

people used shelter at some point

This is a  
**6.3% decline**  
since 2007

**1 in 138 minorities**  
were homeless and  
**1 in 69 African Americans**  
were homeless

From 2013–2014...

People using shelter programs in



**▲ 2.7%**

CITIES



**▲ 10.2%**

SUBURBAN & RURAL AREAS

KEY TERM

**Homeless** describes a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

# One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESSNESS

## PIT

The Point-in-Time estimates are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a point-in-time count in shelters and a street (or "unsheltered") count at least every other year. Historically, HUD has incentivized through the CoC Program Notice of Funding Availability annual sheltered and unsheltered counts, and many CoCs choose to conduct both counts each year. In 2014, 323 CoCs (78 percent of all CoCs nationwide) conducted both a sheltered and unsheltered count. The remaining 91 CoCs only conducted a sheltered count, and their missing unsheltered counts have been rolled over from the previous year.

### On a single night in January 2014:

- 578,424 people were homeless in the United States.
- About seven in ten homeless people (69.3%) were in shelters on the night of the PIT count, while three in ten (30.7%) were in unsheltered locations.

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- Homelessness on a single night declined by 2.3 percent, or 13,344 fewer people.
- This decline was driven by a 10 percent reduction in the unsheltered homeless population, representing a decrease of 19,697 people.
- In contrast, the number of homeless people in shelters rose by 1.6 percent, or 6,353 more people.

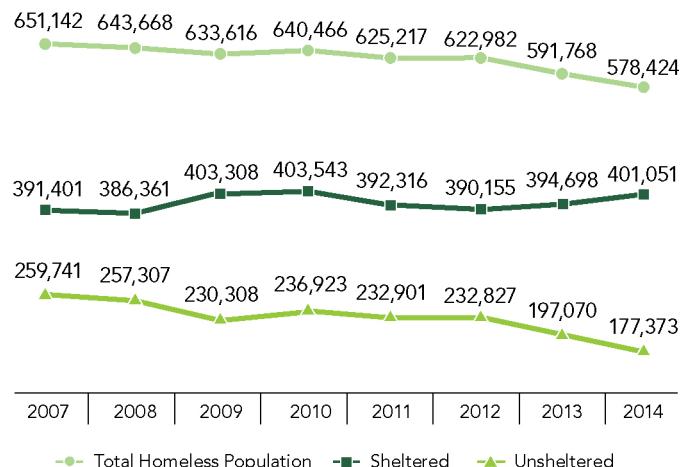
### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- The one-night estimate of homelessness declined by 11.2 percent, or 72,718 fewer people.
- The number of unsheltered homeless people declined by 31.7 percent, or 82,368 fewer people.
- Sheltered homelessness increased by 2.5 percent, or 9,650 more people.

On a single night in January 2014, 578,424 people in the United States were homeless.

### EXHIBIT 1.1: One-Night Counts of Homelessness

PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 1.2: Change in Homelessness

PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2014

Years	Total Homeless People		Sheltered People		Unsheltered People	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014	-13,344	-2.3	6,353	1.6	-19,697	-10.0
2012 to 2013	-31,214	-5.0	4,543	1.2	-35,757	-15.4
2011 to 2012	-2,235	-0.4	-2,161	-0.6	-74	0.0
2010 to 2011	-15,249	-2.4	-11,227	-2.8	-4,022	-1.7
2009 to 2010	6,850	1.1	235	0.1	6,615	2.9
2008 to 2009	-10,052	-1.6	16,947	4.4	-26,999	-10.5
2007 to 2008	-7,474	-1.1	-5,040	-1.3	-2,434	-0.9
2007 to 2014	-72,718	-11.2	9,650	2.5	-82,368	-31.7

## By State

### On a single night in January 2014:

- The highest concentration of homelessness was found in the District of Columbia, where about one of every 83 people was homeless. Mississippi had the lowest concentration of homelessness (one in 1,344 people).
- Together, California (19.9%) and New York (14.1%) account for more than a third of all homeless people in the U.S.
- Twenty-five states each accounted for less than one percent of the national homeless population.

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

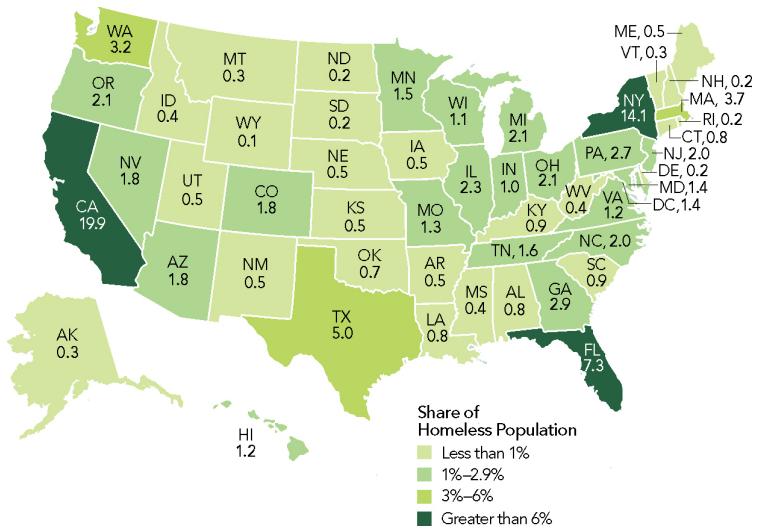
- Homelessness declined in 36 states by a total of 24,970 people, outweighing the total increase of 11,571 people across 14 states and the District of Columbia.
- The number of homeless people declined most dramatically in Florida, where 6,320 fewer people were counted in 2014 (a decline of 13.2%).
- New York experienced the largest increase in homelessness: 3,160 more people or 4.1 percent.

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- While homelessness increased in 19 states and the District of Columbia by a total of 35,261 people, this growth was overshadowed by the population's decline in 31 states by a total of 108,322 people.
- The largest decline was in California, where 25,034 fewer homeless people were counted in 2014 (a decline of 18%).
- Homelessness increased the most in New York, by 17,989 people or 28.7 percent.

### EXHIBIT 1.3: Share of Homeless Population

In the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)



### EXHIBIT 1.4: Total Homelessness by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
New York	3,160	4.1	Florida	-6,320	-13.2
Massachusetts	2,208	11.6	California	-4,600	-3.9
Nevada	2,113	25.0	Oregon	-1,658	-12.0
District of Columbia	883	12.9	South Carolina	-1,487	-22.7
Michigan	700	6.1	Missouri	-1,299	-15.1
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
New York	17,989	28.7	California	-25,034	-18.0
Massachusetts	6,110	40.4	Texas	-11,293	-28.4
District of Columbia	2,428	45.6	Florida	-6,527	-13.6
Minnesota	1,054	14.4	New Jersey	-5,643	-32.6
Missouri	1,035	16.6	Oregon	-5,426	-30.9

Data Source: PIT 2007–2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a single night in January 2014:

- At least 90 percent of the local homeless population was staying in sheltered rather than unsheltered locations in 18 states and the District of Columbia.
- In four states—CA, FL, GA, and NV—less than half of the homeless population was in a shelter program.

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- Though sheltered homelessness increased nationally by 6,385 people, 26 states experienced decreases in this population.
- The decline in unsheltered homelessness was a widespread trend, reflected in 39 states and the District of Columbia.
- California experienced the largest decline in sheltered homelessness with 3,039 fewer people (a 6.7% change), while Florida experienced the largest decline in unsheltered homelessness with 6,501 fewer people (a 23.1% change).

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- The nation was equally divided, with sheltered homelessness increasing in 25 states and the District of Columbia and decreasing in the other 25 states.
- The long-term decline in national homelessness was driven primarily by reductions in the unsheltered population found in 40 states.
- California experienced the largest declines in the number of homeless people found in both shelter programs (5,996 fewer people, a 12.4% change) and unsheltered locations (19,038 fewer people, a 21% change).
- New York experienced the largest increase in sheltered homelessness (19,206 more people, a 33.5% change), while Montana experienced the largest increase in unsheltered homelessness (539 more people, a 182.7% change).

### EXHIBIT 1.5: Sheltered Homelessness by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
New York	3,214	4.4	California	-3,039	-6.7
Massachusetts	2,299	12.6	Oregon	-331	-5.1
Nevada	1,099	29.7	Maine	-321	-10.9
District of Columbia	999	15.7	Georgia	-296	-3.5
Michigan	736	7.9	Virginia	-273	-4.1
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
New York	19,206	33.5	California	-5,996	-12.4
Massachusetts	6,765	49.3	Texas	-4,654	-20.3
District of Columbia	2,372	47.6	Washington	-4,317	-25.6
Minnesota	1,704	29.0	New Jersey	-4,100	-27.6
Ohio	1,340	14.3	Oregon	-2,228	-26.7

### EXHIBIT 1.6: Unsheltered Homelessness by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Nevada	1,014	21.4	Florida	-6,501	-23.1
Washington	849	16.8	Texas	-1,823	-15.1
Hawaii	515	19.9	California	-1,561	-2.1
Idaho	259	68.7	Oregon	-1,327	-18.0
Kentucky	77	10.2	South Carolina	-1,325	-42.3
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
Montana	539	182.7	California	-19,038	-21.0
Mississippi	295	56.1	Texas	-6,639	-39.3
West Virginia	168	64.1	Florida	-5,849	-21.2
Connecticut	108	13.3	Arizona	-3,459	-57.4
District of Columbia	56	16.5	Oregon	-3,198	-34.5

# Profile

TYPICAL PERSON WHO WAS HOMELESS IN 2014

## A Man in Shelter by Himself

**62.3% MALE / 63.9% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD**

**34.2% WERE AGE  
31–50**

**40.6% WERE  
Black or  
African American**

**57.8% HAD  
No  
Disability**

**70.5% WERE IN A  
City**



PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER, **40.7% WERE  
Already Homeless**



NIGHTS SPENT IN  
EMERGENCY SHELTER

# One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

## HMIS

The one-year estimates account for all people who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the following year. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates statistically adjust for homeless people in shelter programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of shelter users in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) shelter users in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) people served by victim service providers; and (c) people in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period.

The 2014 AHAR uses data from 387 CoCs (96 percent of all CoCs) and is weighted to represent the entire United States.

In 2014, 1,488,465 people in the U.S. were homeless in shelter, a 4.6% increase since 2013.

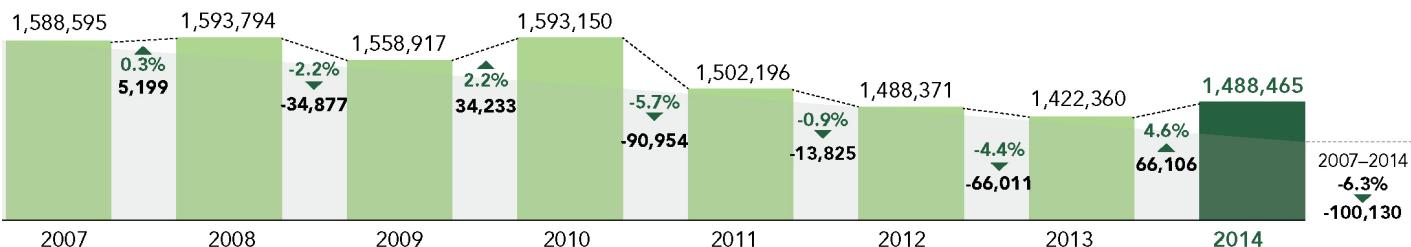
### 2014 Estimate of Sheltered Homelessness:

- The estimated number of people who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any point from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 was 1,488,465.<sup>1</sup>
- One in 212 people in the U.S. was homeless in shelter at some point during that period.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of people using shelter programs at some point during the reporting year increased by 66,105 people (4.6%), interrupting a trend of three consecutive annual declines in sheltered homelessness from 2010 to 2013.
- In spite of this short-term increase, sheltered homelessness has declined since 2007, the year HUD began tracking this information. Between 2007 and 2014, sheltered homelessness decreased by 100,130 people, or 6.3 percent.

### EXHIBIT 1.7: One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Homelessness, 2007–2014



<sup>1</sup> The 95 percent confidence interval for the total sheltered homeless population in 2014 is 1,320,128 to 1,656,802 ( $1,488,465 \pm 168,337$ ).

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2014; ACS 2013

## Gender and Age

### In 2014:

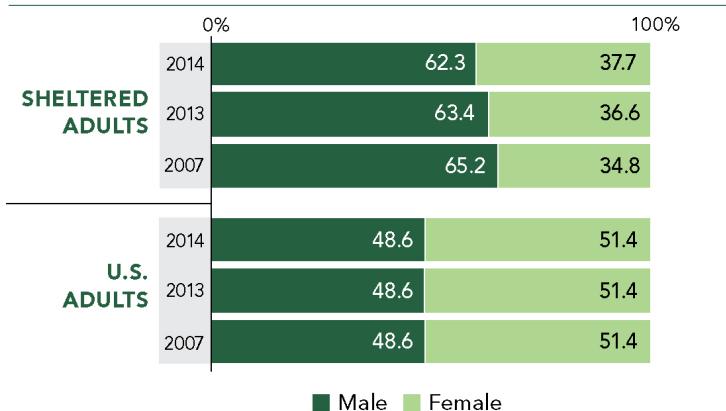
- Although the adult U.S. population was roughly evenly split between men and women (48.6% versus 51.4%), men greatly outnumbered women in homeless shelter programs (62.3% versus 37.7%).
- About one-third (34.2%) of homeless people in shelter were ages 31 to 50. Those ages 18 to 30 made up 22.8 percent of the homeless population in shelter, and 17 percent were ages 51 to 61.
- About one-fifth (22.3%) of people homeless in shelter were children.
- While 17.5 percent of all people in the U.S. were age 62 or older, this population made up only 3.8 percent of people in shelter programs.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the gender and age of sheltered homeless people remained fairly consistent.
- However, there were larger differences between 2007 and 2014 as the share of women in the adult sheltered population increased from 34.8 percent to 37.7 percent and the share of all sheltered homeless people who are ages 31 to 50 declined from 41.2 percent to 34.2 percent.

### EXHIBIT 1.8: Gender

Sheltered Homeless Adult and Total U.S. Adults, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 1.9: Age

Sheltered Homeless People and Total U.S. Population, 2007–2014



## Ethnicity and Race

### In 2014:

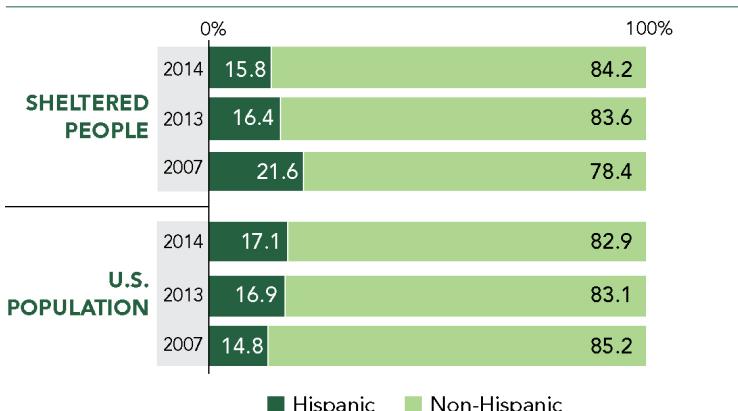
- People who self-identify as Hispanic made up a similar proportion in the sheltered homeless population as in the total U.S. population (15.8% and 17.1%).
- Three in five people in shelter programs identified as members of a minority group. African Americans comprised 40.6 percent of the sheltered homeless population, representing the largest single racial group in shelter programs. Other minority groups include: white Hispanic (10.2%), multiple races (4.8%), American Indian or Alaska Native (2.8%), Asian (0.8%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.8%).
- Minorities, especially African Americans, were overrepresented in the sheltered homeless population when compared to their share of the total U.S. population. People in a shelter were over 3 times more likely to be African American than those in the total U.S. population.

### Changes Over Time:

- While the share of Hispanics in the total U.S. population increased from 14.8 percent in 2007 to 17.1 percent in 2014, the share of Hispanics in the sheltered homeless population dropped from 21.6 percent to 15.8 percent.
- Although the proportion of all people in the U.S. identifying as minorities grew from 33.8 percent to 37.6 percent between 2007 and 2014, the proportion of people in shelter programs identifying as minorities declined from 63.6 percent to 59.9 percent over the same period.

### EXHIBIT 1.10: Ethnicity

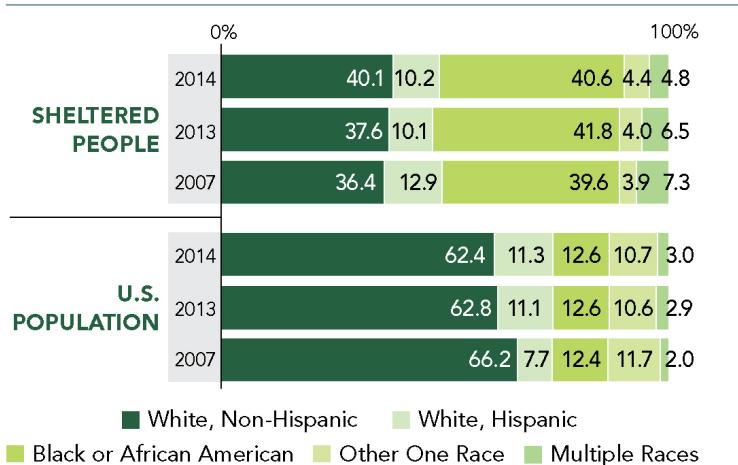
Sheltered Homeless People and Total U.S. Population, 2007–2014



■ Hispanic ■ Non-Hispanic

### EXHIBIT 1.11: Race

Sheltered Homeless People and Total U.S. Population, 2007-2014



■ White, Non-Hispanic ■ White, Hispanic

■ Black or African American ■ Other One Race ■ Multiple Races

Note: Ethnicity is distinguished among the white race group to facilitate an understanding of minorities and non-minorities. Non-minorities are those who identify their ethnicity as not Hispanic and their race as white.



## Household Size and Disability Status

### In 2014:

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of people using shelter programs were there alone. In contrast, only 12.7 percent of all people in the U.S. were living alone.
- Adults with disabilities were almost four times more likely to be in a shelter program than adults without disabilities (one in 81 adults with disabilities was in a shelter program, compared to one in 315 adults without disabilities).

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2007 and 2014, the percent of sheltered homeless people living in multi-person households increased from 29.7 percent to 36.1 percent.
- The share of adults with a disability in shelter increased from 37.1 percent in 2007 to 42.2 percent in 2014.

**In 2014, adults with disabilities were almost 4 times more likely to be homeless in shelter than adults without disabilities.**

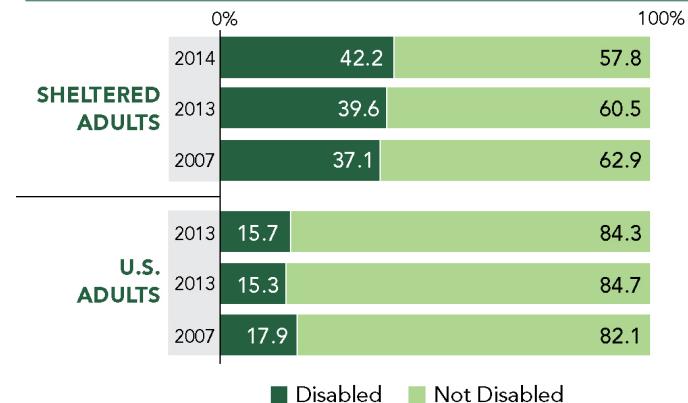
### EXHIBIT 1.12: Household Size

Sheltered Homeless People and Total U.S. Population, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 1.13: Disability Status

Sheltered Homeless Adult and Total U.S. Adults, 2007–2014



## Geographic Location

### In 2014:

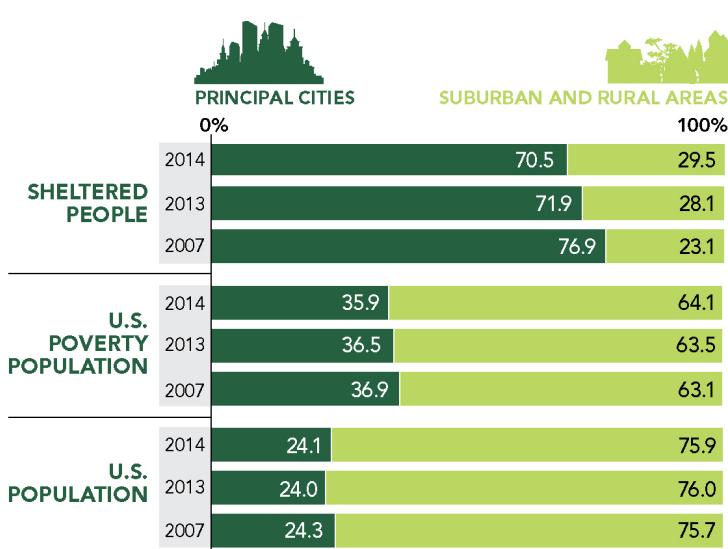
- About 7 in 10 people using shelter programs were in principal cities (70.5%).
- The share of the sheltered homeless population using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas (29.5%) is substantially lower than those in the U.S. poverty population (64.1%) and the total U.S. population (75.9%).

### Changes Over Time:

- Sheltered homelessness rose overall, from 2013 to 2014, with a larger increase in suburban and rural areas (a 10.2% increase, or 40,845 more people) compared to urban areas (a 2.7% increase, or 27,931 more people).
- Between 2007 and 2014, sheltered homelessness declined 14.1 percent (172,329 fewer people) in principal cities and increased percent (72,199 more people) in suburban and rural areas.

### EXHIBIT 1.14: Geographic Distribution

Sheltered Homelessness, U.S. Poverty Population, and Total U.S. Population, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 1.15: Percent Change by Geography

Sheltered Homeless People, U.S. Poverty Population, and Total U.S. Population, 2007–2014 (in %)

Population	2013–2014		2007–2014	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Sheltered People	2.7	10.2	-14.1	19.6
U.S. Poverty Population*	-1.2	1.5	15.6	26.6
U.S. Population*	0.8	0.5	2.7	3.4

\* The way the ACS measures geography changed in 2012, making population changes in geography before and after 2012 no longer comparable. Therefore, the 2007 to 2014 population changes reflect the 2007 to 2012 ACS results.

## Characteristics by Geography

### In 2014:

- Sheltered homeless adults in suburban and rural areas were more likely to be women (42.5%) than were sheltered homeless adults in principal cities (35.8%).
- Sheltered homeless people in suburban and rural areas were more likely to be children under 18 (26.8%) than were sheltered homeless people in principal cities (20.4%).
- Sheltered homeless people in suburban and rural areas were less likely to self-identify as a minority (48.9%) or to be living alone (55.5%) than were sheltered homeless people in principal cities (64.7% and 67.4%).

### Changes Over Time:

- While the share of sheltered homeless people identifying as Hispanic remained consistent in suburban and rural areas, it declined in principal cities from 23.9 percent in 2007 to 16.6 percent in 2014.
- Minorities make up a smaller proportion of sheltered homelessness in suburban and rural areas in 2014 (48.9%) than they did in 2007 (55.7%).
- In 2014, the share of sheltered homeless adults with disabilities remained higher in suburban and rural areas than in principal cities, but the gap has narrowed over time. Between 2007 and 2014, the proportion of sheltered homeless adults who have disabilities grew in principal cities (31.5% to 40.8%) as it declined in suburban and rural areas (52.9% to 45.9%).

### EXHIBIT 1.16: Characteristics by Geography

Homeless People, 2007–2014 (in %)

Characteristic	Principal Cities			Suburban & Rural Areas		
	2007	2013	2014	2007	2013	2014
# Homeless People	1,221,044	1,020,784	1,048,715	367,551	398,905	439,750
<b>Gender of Adults</b>						
Male	66.0	65.4	64.2	62.4	57.6	57.5
Female	34.0	34.6	35.8	37.6	42.4	42.5
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	23.9	18.1	16.6	13.9	11.7	14.0
Non-Hispanic	76.1	81.9	83.4	86.1	88.3	86.0
<b>Race</b>						
White, Non-Hispanic	33.9	33.3	35.3	44.3	48.8	51.1
White, Hispanic	14.9	10.9	10.0	6.5	7.7	10.5
Black or African American	39.7	44.7	45.3	39.3	34.5	29.6
Other One Race	4.1	4.2	4.7	3.2	3.7	3.6
Multiple Races	7.5	6.9	4.7	6.7	5.3	5.2
<b>Age</b>						
Under Age 18	21.1	20.8	20.4	24.0	26.0	26.8
18–30	20.0	22.5	22.4	22.1	24.0	23.7
31–50	41.4	35.3	35.0	40.4	32.7	32.2
51–61	14.2	17.5	18.2	11.5	14.8	14.3
62 and Older	3.2	4.0	4.1	2.0	2.5	3.0
<b>Household Size</b>						
1 Person	71.9	66.5	67.4	65.1	57.5	55.5
2 People	8.0	9.0	8.5	8.0	11.4	11.4
3 People	7.7	9.4	9.0	9.9	12.2	12.2
4 People	6.0	7.3	7.0	8.0	9.7	10.1
5 or More People	6.3	7.9	8.2	9.0	9.3	10.8
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>						
Disabled	31.5	38.9	40.8	52.9	41.3	45.9
Not Disabled	68.5	61.2	59.3	47.1	58.8	54.1

## Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

Information on where people lived before entering shelter was asked only of adults.

### In 2014:

- Prior to entering shelter, two in five adults were living in a housed situation, another two in five were already homeless, and about one in five was staying in an institutional or other setting.
- Of the adults who were living in a housed situation prior to entering shelter, about three-quarters had been staying with either family (41.3%) or friends (33.1%), while about a quarter were staying in housing they either rented (22.8%) or owned (2%). Less than one percent left permanent supportive housing to enter a shelter program.
- Of the adults who were already homeless before entering a shelter program during the reporting year, 46.7 percent were living in unsheltered locations.
- Of the adults who entered shelter from institutional settings, 29.7 percent came from substance abuse treatment centers and 39.2 percent came from correctional facilities.
- Excluding adults who were already homeless before the reporting year can describe the flow into the shelter system. Of those not already homeless, more than two-thirds were housed (68%), while 19.2 percent were in institutions, and 12.7 percent were in other settings.

### Changes Over Time:

- Although sheltered homelessness declined overall between 2007 and 2014, the number of adults entering shelter after staying on the street or in other places not meant for human habitation increased by 48.3 percent (71,458 more adults).

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2014

1–14 • The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

### EXHIBIT 1.17: Places Adults Stayed

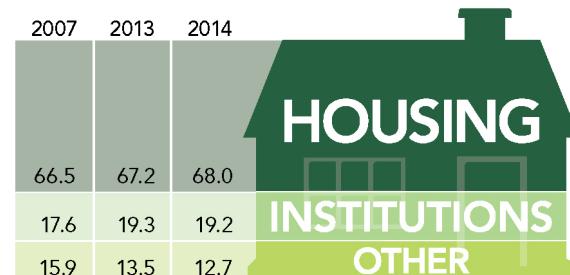
Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2007–2014

Place Stayed	2014		2013–2014		2007–2014	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Already Homeless	454,383	40.7	6,309	8.1	-39,526	-7.7
Sheltered	242,299	53.3	-22,885	-8.3	-113,894	-15.7
Unsheltered	212,084	46.7	29,194	15.3	71,458	48.3
Housing	450,742	40.4	35,960	8.1	15,125	3.2
Staying with family	186,026	41.3	11,977	6.4	2,499	1.3
Staying with friends	149,069	33.1	14,648	10.3	38,682	32.7
Rented housing unit	102,904	22.8	7,476	7.1	-10,141	-8.3
Owned housing unit	8,825	2.0	1,017	12.0	-16,758	-63.8
Permanent supportive housing (PSH)	3,918	0.9	842	25.4	843	25.4
Institutional Settings	127,357	11.4	8,728	7.0	11,369	9.4
Substance abuse treatment center	37,820	29.7	1,415	3.8	245	0.6
Correctional facility	49,928	39.2	1,810	3.6	-109	-0.2
Hospital	19,637	15.4	1,320	6.9	5,761	39.2
Psychiatric facility	19,972	15.7	4,183	25.3	5,472	35.8
Other Settings	84,358	7.6	216	0.2	-31,496	-26.2
Hotel or motel	43,827	52.0	7,968	21.4	22	0.0
Foster care home	3,355	4.0	-79	-2.2	-2,270	-39.4
Other living arrangement	37,176	44.1	-7,673	-16.1	-29,248	42.2

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2014 AHAR methodology document for more details.

### EXHIBIT 1.18: Places Adults Stayed

Who Were Not Already Homeless  
Before Entering Shelter, 2007–2014 (in %)



## Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are designed differently. Emergency shelters are high-volume, high-turnover programs; their primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless people. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months and intend for people to stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

### In 2014:

- The homeless services system nationwide had 249,497 year-round beds in emergency shelters and 173,224 beds in transitional housing programs. Of the 1,488,465 people staying in shelter programs at some point during the reporting year, 79.7 percent stayed only in emergency shelters, 15.5 percent stayed only in transitional housing programs, and 4.8 percent used both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs during the reporting year.
- During the 12-month reporting period, 28.2 percent of people in emergency shelters stayed for a total of one week or less, 55.3 percent stayed one month or less, and few stayed more than six months (9.4%).
- The median length of stay for emergency shelter clients was 26 nights. On average, 95.4 percent of emergency shelter beds were occupied per night.
- The median length of stay for transitional housing clients was about 4 months. On average, 83.5 percent of transitional housing beds were occupied per night.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, there were 12,108 fewer transitional housing beds (a 6.5% decrease), and the number using transitional housing declined by 15,163 people (4.8%).
- While the number of year-round, emergency housing beds available increased by 10,789 beds (4.5%) between 2013 and 2014, the number of homeless people using emergency shelters decreased by 8,585 people (0.7%).

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2014, HIC 2007–2014

### EXHIBIT 1.19: Length of Stay

People in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2014

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	353,506	28.2	14,492	4.8
8 to 30 days	338,225	27.0	36,350	12.1
31 to 180 days	443,215	35.4	139,819	46.4
181 to 360 days	77,016	6.2	71,382	23.7
361 to 365 days	39,675	3.2	39,458	13.1

Note: Length of stay accounts for multiple program entries/exits by summing the total number of (cumulative) days in a homeless residential program during the 12-month reporting period. The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

### EXHIBIT 1.20: Bed-Use Patterns

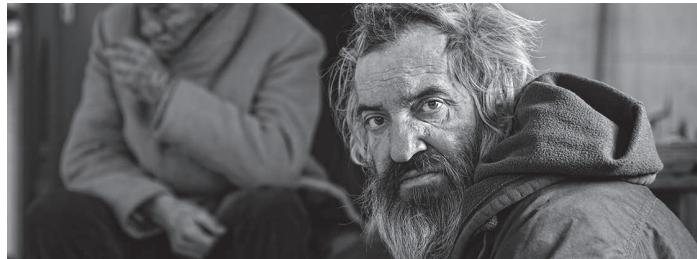
People in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2007–2014

Bed-Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2007	2013	2014	2007	2013	2014
Median # nights	18	24	26	113	124	124
Average # nights	46	56	61	149	155	155
Average occupancy rate (in %)	88.5	88.1	95.4	76.9	81.8	83.5
Bed count	211,451	238,708	249,497	211,205	185,332	173,224
Turnover rate	7.3	5.7	5.7	1.8	1.9	2.0

Note 1: The average daily occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the average daily census during the 12-month reporting period by the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.

Note 2: The total bed count is based on the year-round beds determined at one point in time from the HIC.

Note 3: The turnover rate measures the number of people served per available bed over the 12-month reporting period, and is calculated by dividing the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.

**EXHIBIT 1.21: Sheltered Homeless Population Compared to Other Populations****All People**

The number of people who were homeless in shelter in the U.S. in 2014 could fill the 2014 Super Bowl stadium in Glendale, AZ more than 20 times over.

**Children**

The number of homeless children in shelter in the U.S. in 2014 was nearly equivalent to the number of enrolled high school students in the New York City school system, the single largest school district in the country.

Number in sheltered population (2014)

**1,488,465**

Number Comparison Population (2014)

**72,200<sup>1</sup>**

**Comparison Population:**  
Super Bowl Stadium Capacity



**x 20.6**

Number in sheltered population (2014)

**330,349**

Number Comparison Population (2014)

**305,000<sup>2</sup>**

**Comparison Population:**  
High school students in NYC



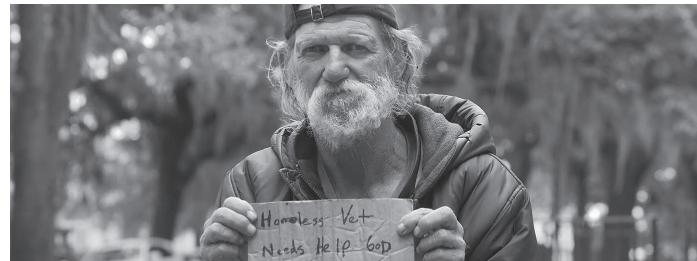
<sup>1</sup> [http://espn.go.com/blog/nflnation/post/\\_id/160614/welcome-to-university-of-phoenix-stadium](http://espn.go.com/blog/nflnation/post/_id/160614/welcome-to-university-of-phoenix-stadium)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nycscsa.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Demo-graphics/2012-2021StatisticalForecastingReport.pdf>



## African Americans

In 2014, the sheltered homeless population that is black or African American in the U.S. was nearly double the size of the full student enrollment in all of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the U.S., combined.



## Veterans

The number of homeless veterans in shelter in the U.S. in 2014 was 1.3 times the peak number of U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan.

Number in sheltered population (2014)

**583,527**

Number Comparison Population (2014)

**324,000<sup>3</sup>**

Number in sheltered population (2014)

**131,697**

Number Comparison Population (2011)

**101,000<sup>4</sup>**

### Comparison Population:

All HBCU (Historically Black College or University) enrollment



$\times 1.8$

### Comparison Population:

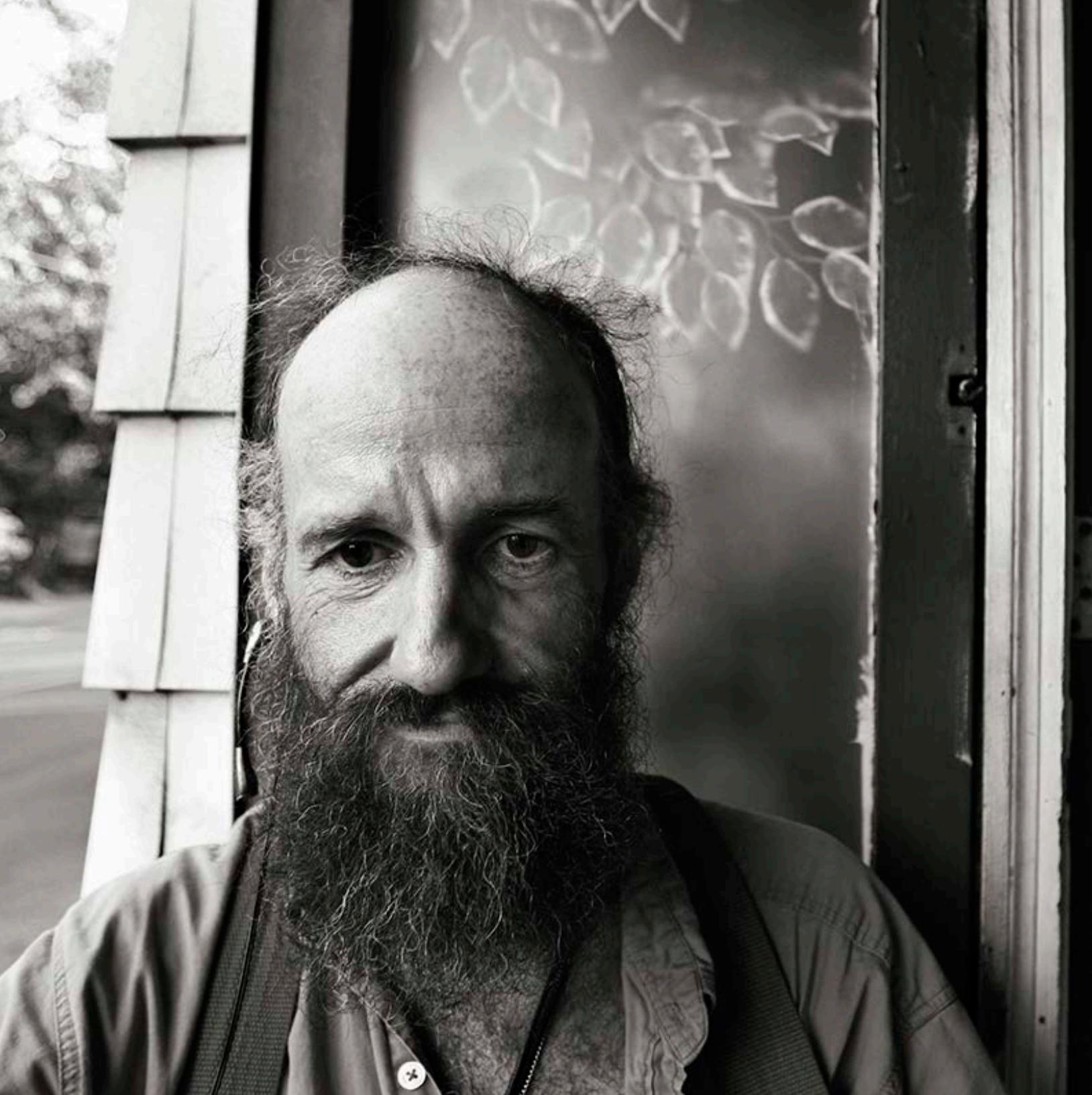
Peak number of U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan



$\times 1.3$

<sup>3</sup> <http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=667>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-11371138>



# 2

## Homeless Individuals IN THE UNITED STATES

### POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)

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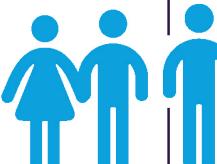
# Homeless Individuals IN THE UNITED STATES

## PIT DATA

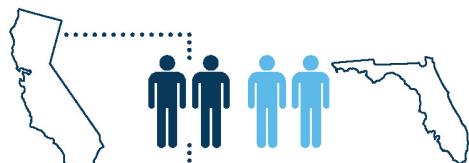
On a single night  
in January 2014...

**362,163**

individuals were homeless



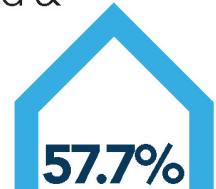
This is a  
**12.9% decline**  
since 2007



Over half of all unsheltered  
individuals are in CA or FL

Individuals in sheltered &  
unsheltered locations

**42.3%**



**57.7%**

## HMIS DATA

Throughout the  
year in 2014...

**948,127**

individuals used shelter at some point



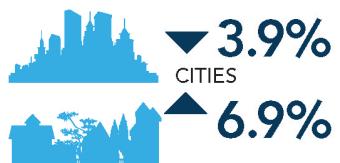
This is a  
**11.7% decline**  
since 2007

Individuals in shelter were  
**2.4 times more likely  
to be disabled**

than those in the U.S. population

From 2013–2014...

Individuals using shelter programs in



## KEY TERM

An **Individual** refers to a person in a household that does not have both an adult and a child. These households include people who are homeless alone, adult roommates, married or cohabiting couples without children, households comprised of multiple children (e.g., parenting teens), and unaccompanied youth. A person in a "family with children" is in a household with at least one adult and one child.

# One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

## PIT

This section presents the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates of homeless individuals in the U.S. The PIT estimates are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a point-in-time count in shelters every year and a street (or “unsheltered”) count every other year (in odd-numbered years), although many CoCs choose to conduct both counts each year.

### On a single night in January 2014:

- 362,163 people were homeless as individuals rather than in families, representing 62.6 percent of the total homeless population in the United States.
- Of the individual homeless population, 57.7 percent were in shelter programs and 42.3 percent in unsheltered locations.
- The vast majority (86.3%) of homeless people found in unsheltered locations were homeless as individuals rather than in families; 52.1 percent of homeless people in shelter were homeless as individuals.

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

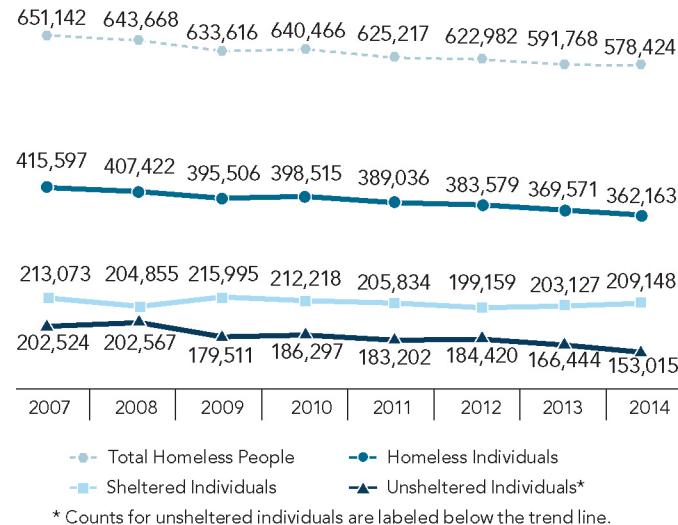
- The total number of people homeless as individuals declined by 2 percent (7,408 fewer people).
- The number of individuals staying in shelter increased by 3 percent (6,021 more people) and the number of unsheltered homeless individuals decreased by 8.1 percent (13,429 fewer people).

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- The number of homeless individuals declined by 12.9 percent (53,434 fewer people).
- The number of homeless individuals staying in shelter dropped by 1.8 percent (3,925 fewer people).
- The number of homeless individuals staying in unsheltered locations dropped by 24.4 percent (49,509 fewer people).

In 2014, 86.3% of homeless people found in unsheltered locations were homeless as individuals rather than in families.

**EXHIBIT 2-1: One-Night Counts of Homeless Individuals  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007-2014**



**EXHIBIT 2-2: Change in Homeless Individuals  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007-2014**

Years	Total Homeless Individuals		Sheltered Individuals		Unsheltered Individuals	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014	-7,408	-2.0	6,021	3.0	-13,429	-8.1
2012 to 2013	-14,008	-3.7	3,968	2.0	-17,976	-9.7
2011 to 2012	-5,457	-1.4	-6,675	-3.2	1,218	0.7
2010 to 2011	-9,479	-2.4	-6,384	-3.0	-3,095	-1.7
2009 to 2010	3,009	0.8	-3,777	-1.7	6,786	3.8
2008 to 2009	-11,916	-2.9	11,140	5.4	-23,056	-11.4
2007 to 2008	-8,175	-2.0	-8,218	-3.9	43	0.0
2007 to 2014	-53,434	-12.9	-3,925	-1.8	-49,509	-24.4

## By State

### On a single night in January 2014:

- About a quarter (25.4%) of all homeless individuals were in California. No other state accounted for more than 10 percent of the nation's homeless individuals, and only three other states accounted for more than 5 percent of the population: New York (9.1%), Florida (8.0%), and Texas (5.4%).
- In six states, homeless individuals represented more than three-quarters of all homeless people in those states: Nevada (88.4% of homeless were individuals), California (79.7%), Arkansas, (78.4%), Mississippi (77%), South Carolina (75.4%), and Georgia (75.1%).

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- Although the number of homeless individuals declined nationally, this population increased in 19 states and the District of Columbia.
- California experienced the largest decrease in homeless individuals, with 2,693 fewer people (a 2.9% change), while Nevada experienced the largest increase, with 1,733 more people (a 22.8% change).
- Individual homelessness increased at least ten percent in five states: Nevada (22.8%), Colorado (19.5%), Vermont (17.4%), Idaho (13.8%), and Hawaii (11.8%).

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

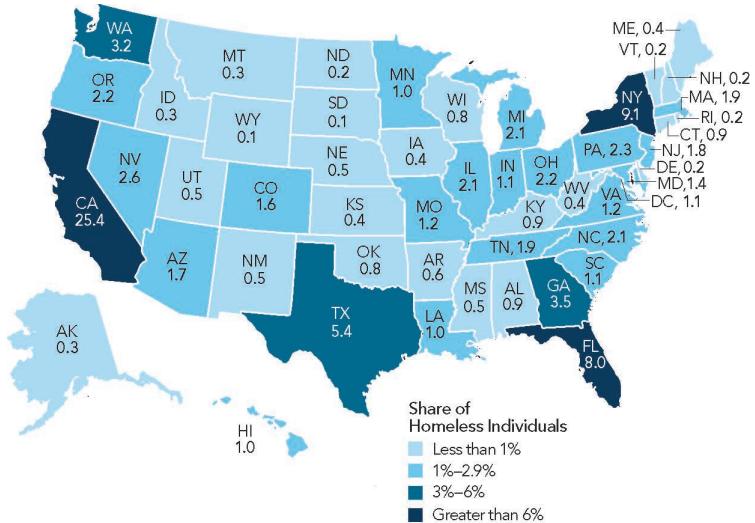
- The number of homeless individuals dropped in 29 states. California had the largest decline with 20,187 fewer people (an 18.2% decline).
- In contrast, 21 states and D.C. had an increase in the number of homeless individuals. New York experienced the largest increase with 4,587 additional people (a 16.4% rise).

Data Source: PIT 2007-2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

**EXHIBIT 2-3: Share of Homeless Individuals In the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)**



**EXHIBIT 2-4: Total Homeless Individuals by State Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007-2014**

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Nevada	1,733	22.8	California	-2,693	-2.9
New York	1,408	4.5	Florida	-2,629	-8.4
Colorado	909	19.5	Texas	-1,581	-7.6
Washington	773	7.3	Oregon	-1,006	-11.2
Hawaii	395	11.8	South Carolina	-923	-19.5
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
New York	4,587	16.4	California	-20,187	-18.2
Missouri	971	29.1	Texas	-7,129	-27.1
Ohio	834	12.1	Florida	-4,310	-13.0
Mississippi	599	53.7	Arizona	-3,826	-38.2
Montana	534	84.4	New Jersey	-2,526	-28.2

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a single night in January 2014:

- Within eight states—RI, ME, DE, NE, SD, AK, WI, and IN—over 90 percent of homeless individuals were in shelter rather than unsheltered locations.
- The majority of homeless individuals were in unsheltered locations rather than in shelter programs within seven states—CA (72.6%), HI (69%), NV (61.7%), GA (60.2%), MT (57.8%), FL (55.1%), OR (54.1%), and AR (53.5%).
- More than half of all unsheltered individuals in the U.S. were in California (44%) and Florida (10.6%).

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- 39 states and the District of Columbia each experienced decreases in the number of unsheltered individuals. Meanwhile, the population of individuals in shelter declined in 17 states and grew in 33 states and the District of Columbia.
- California experienced the largest change in sheltered individuals (1,569 fewer people), while Florida experienced the largest change in unsheltered individuals (3,185 fewer people).

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- Though the number of sheltered individuals declined nationally, this population grew in a majority of states (30 states and the District of Columbia).
- The number of unsheltered individuals decreased in 36 states and increased in 14 states and the District of Columbia.
- California experienced the largest declines in both sheltered individuals (5,640 fewer people) and unsheltered individuals (14,547 fewer people) during the seven year period.

### EXHIBIT 2-5: Sheltered Homeless Individuals by State Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007-2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
New York	1,386	5.1	California	-1,569	-5.9
Colorado	960	31.2	Georgia	-318	-6.1
Nevada	672	23.2	Illinois	-311	-5.1
Pennsylvania	653	9.6	Maine	-236	-15.5
New Jersey	620	12.6	Arkansas	-107	-9.1
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
New York	5,693	24.9	California	-5,640	-18.5
Ohio	1,177	21.0	Texas	-3,361	-25.6
Missouri	1,090	42.6	Washington	-1,856	-22.9
Minnesota	825	37.8	New Jersey	-1,498	-21.3
Wisconsin	605	29.2	Massachusetts	-1,138	-15.9

### EXHIBIT 2-6: Unsheltered Homeless Individuals by State Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007-2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Nevada	1,061	22.6	Florida	-3,185	-16.7
Washington	548	12.0	Texas	-1,658	-15.0
Hawaii	373	16.9	California	-1,124	-1.7
Idaho	77	24.9	Oregon	-1,069	-19.8
Iowa	44	33.3	South Carolina	-836	-34.9
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
Georgia	693	10.2	California	-14,547	-18.1
Montana	439	186.8	Florida	-4,424	-21.8
Hawaii	351	15.7	Texas	-3,768	-28.6
Louisiana	262	32.0	Arizona	-3,254	-58.1
Mississippi	259	49.6	Tennessee	-1,632	-43.6

# Profile

TYPICAL HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL IN 2014



## A Man in Shelter by Himself

70.8% MALE / 97.4% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

43.2% WERE AGE  
31–50

47.8% WERE  
White,  
Non-Hispanic

53.4% HAD  
No  
Disability

74.2% WERE IN A

City



PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER, 42.8% WERE  
**Already Homeless**



NIGHTS SPENT IN  
EMERGENCY SHELTER

# One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED INDIVIDUALS

HMIS

The one-year estimates account for all individuals who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the reporting year. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates statistically adjust for homeless people in shelter programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of sheltered individuals in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered individuals in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) individuals served by victim service providers; and (c) individuals in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period.

984,127 individuals used a shelter program at some time during the 2014 reporting year.

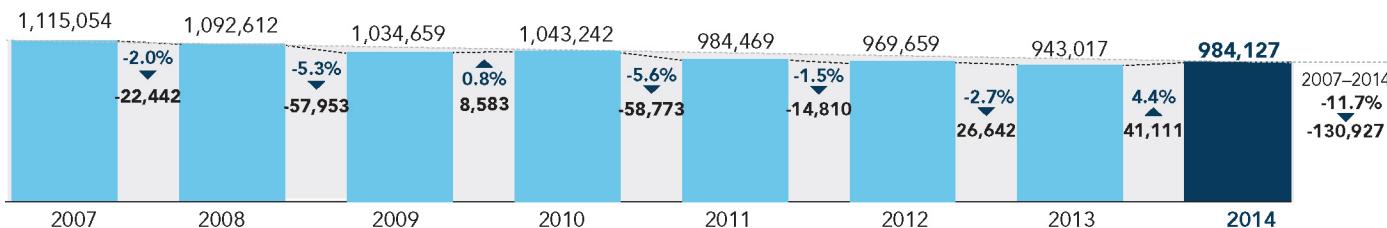
## 2014 Estimate of Sheltered Individuals:

- An estimated 984,127 individuals used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at some time from October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014.<sup>1</sup>

## Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of individuals using shelter programs increased by 41,111 people, or 4.4 percent.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of homeless individuals in shelter dropped by 130,927 people, or by 11.7 percent.
- The number of sheltered homeless individuals has declined overall since 2007 despite small increases of 0.8 percent (8,583 individuals) between 2009 and 2010, and 4.4 percent (41,111) between 2013 and 2014.

EXHIBIT 2-7: One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Individuals, 2007-2014



Data Source: HMIS 2007-2014

<sup>1</sup> The 95 percent confidence interval for the estimate is 833,541 to 1,134,893 ( $984,127 \pm 150,676$ ).

## Gender and Age

### In 2014:

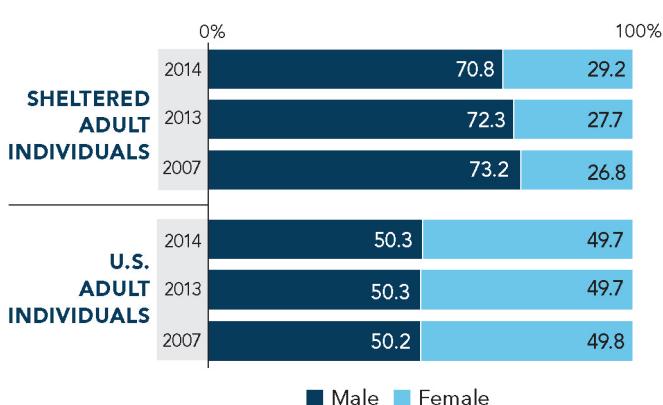
- Adults in shelter as individuals were 2.4 times more likely to be men as they were to be women (70.8% versus 29.2%).
- 43.2 percent of individuals in shelter were between ages 31 and 50.
- Only 5.7 percent of individuals in shelter were elderly (age 62 or older), a far lower share than those individuals living in poverty (25%) or nationwide (32.4%).
- While children living without an adult represented only 0.1 percent of individuals in the U.S. poverty population, they made up almost 2 percent of the population of sheltered individuals.

### Changes Over Time:

- The gender of adult individuals in shelter remained stable over time, with women making up from 26.8 to 29.2 percent of the population in 2007, 2013, and 2014.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of sheltered children under 18 in households without an adult increased by 8.6 percent (1,444 more children).
- The number of elderly individuals (ages 62 and older) in shelter increased by 5,566 people between 2013 and 2014. The share of individuals in shelter who are elderly increased from 4.1 percent in 2007 to 5.7 percent in 2014. Those between 51 and 61 years of age also increased, from 18.9 percent in 2007 to 25.4 percent in 2014.

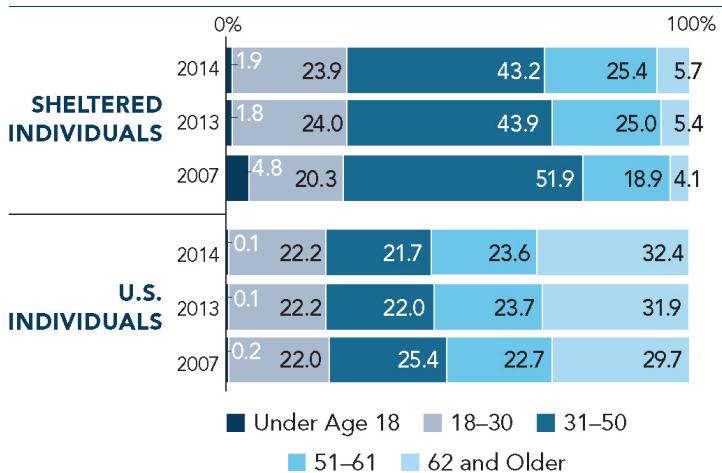
### EXHIBIT 2-8: Gender

Sheltered Adult Individuals and Total U.S. Adult Individuals, 2007-2014



### EXHIBIT 2-9: Age

Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007-2014



## Ethnicity and Race

### In 2014:

- The proportion of individuals identifying as Hispanic was similar in the sheltered homeless population (11.8%) as in the total U.S. population (10.7%).
- More than half (52.3%) of individuals in shelter identified as a member of a minority group. African Americans alone make up over one-third of all homeless individuals in shelter (36.6%). Other minority groups include: white Hispanic (7.6%), multiple races (3.6%), American Indian or Alaska Native (3%), Asian (0.9%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.6%).
- Individuals in shelter were 1.8 times as likely to belong to a minority group as were individuals in the total U.S. population (52.3% versus 29%).
- While white non-Hispanics were the largest racial group among sheltered homeless individuals, they were under-represented compared to the U.S. population of individuals (47.8% versus 71%), and African Americans were over-represented (36.6% versus 11.7%).

### Changes Over Time:

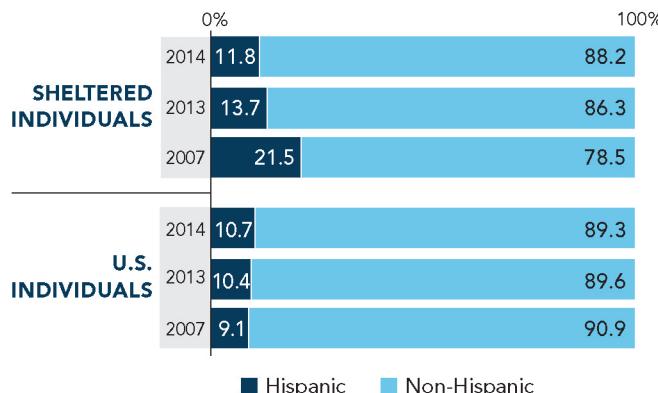
- Over a seven-year period, the share of individuals in shelter identifying as Hispanic dropped from 21.5 percent in 2007 to 11.8 percent in 2014.
- Although minority individuals living in poverty increased substantially (by 41.1%) between 2007 and 2014, minorities among sheltered individuals dropped by 13.1 percent over the same period.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of individuals identifying as members of multiple races remained consistent in the total U.S. population, but dropped by 53 percent among sheltered individuals.

Data Source: HMIS 2007-2014; ACS 2006, 2012, 2013

African Americans made up over one-third of all homeless individuals in shelter (36.6%) in 2014.

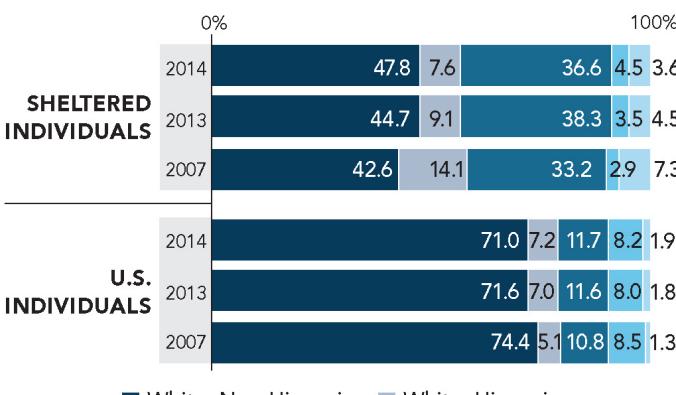
**EXHIBIT 2-10: Ethnicity**

Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007-2014



**EXHIBIT 2-11: Race**

Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007-2014



Note: Ethnicity is distinguished among the white race group to facilitate an understanding of minorities and non-minorities. Non-minorities are those who identify their ethnicity as not Hispanic and their race as white.



## Household Size and Disability Status

An “individual” refers to a person in a household that does not have both an adult and child. These households include people who are homeless alone, adult roommates, married or cohabiting couples without children, multiple children (e.g., parenting teens), and unaccompanied youth.

### In 2014:

- Although the definition of individuals includes some multi-person households, 97.4 percent of sheltered individuals were homeless by themselves.
- Individuals in shelter were 2.4 times more likely to have a disability than were individuals in the general population (46.6% versus 19.7%).

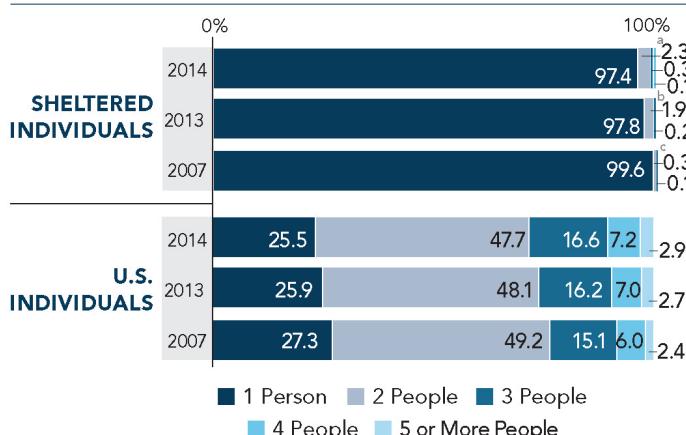
### Changes Over Time:

- The share of individuals using shelter programs with other people has increased slightly over time, from 0.4 percent in 2007, to 2.6 percent in 2014.
- While the proportion of individuals with a disability decreased in the total U.S. population from 22.5 percent in 2007 to 19.7 percent in 2014, this proportion increased among sheltered individuals from 40.4 percent in 2007 to 46.6 percent in 2014.

The share of individuals in shelter with a disability increased from 43.8% in 2013 to 46.6% in 2014.

### EXHIBIT 2-12: Household Size

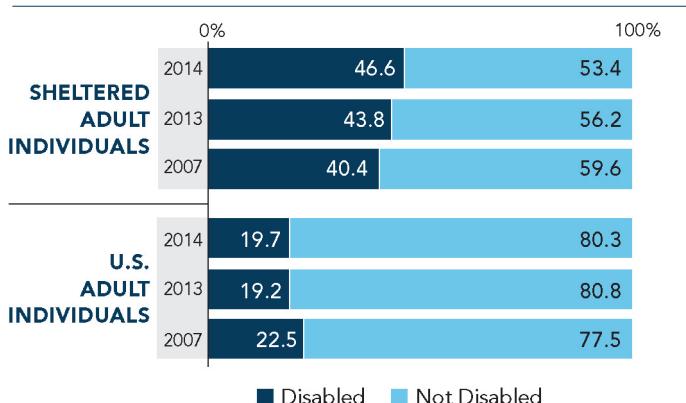
Sheltered Individuals and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007-2014



Note: a) 0.0% for 5 or more people; b) 0.0% for 4 people, 5 or more people;  
c) 0.0% for 3 people, 4 people

### EXHIBIT 2-13: Disability Status

Sheltered Adult Individuals and Total U.S. Adult Individuals, 2007-2014



## Geographic Location

### In 2014:

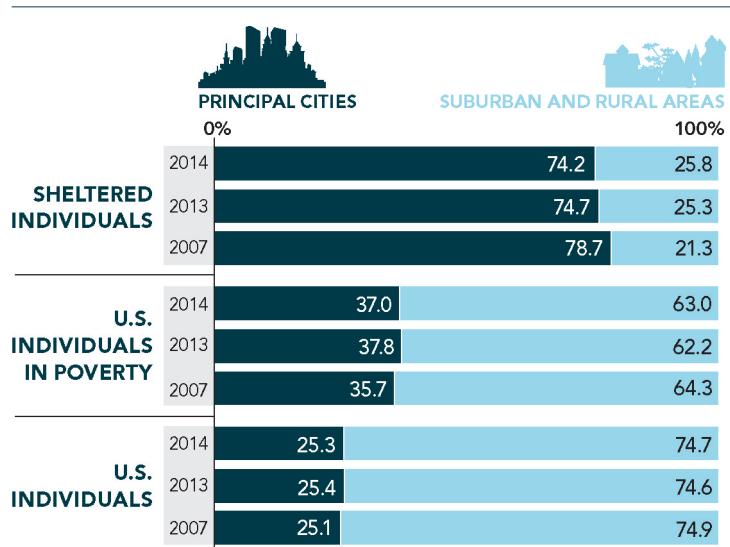
- One-quarter of homeless individuals were in shelters located in suburban and rural areas, with the other three-quarters in principal cities. This is the inverse of all individuals in the U.S. population as a whole, where almost three-quarters live in suburban and rural areas.
- Not only was the geographic distribution of homeless individuals in shelter programs different than all individuals in the U.S., but also from poor individuals in the U.S. Homeless individuals in shelter were about 2 times more likely to be in cities than were individuals in poverty (74.2% versus 37%).

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of individuals using shelter programs increased both in cities (a 3.9% rise or 27,166 more people) and in suburban and rural areas (a 6.9% rise or 16,467 more people). The larger percentage increase in suburban and rural areas created an interruption in the previous year-to-year trend, with the share of individuals using shelters in cities decreasing very slightly, from 74.7 percent in 2013 to 74.2 percent in 2014.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of individuals using shelter programs in cities dropped 16.9 percent (148,148 fewer people), while rising modestly (by 17,312 people) in suburban and rural areas. As a result, the share of the individual sheltered homeless population in cities dropped from 78.7 percent in 2007 to 74.2 percent in 2014.

### EXHIBIT 2-14: Geographic Distribution

Sheltered Individuals, U.S. Individuals in Poverty, and Total U.S. Individuals, 2007-2014



### EXHIBIT 2-15: Percent Change by Geography

Change in the Number of Sheltered Individuals, Individuals in Poverty, and All U.S. Individuals, 2007-2014

Population	2013-2014		2007-2014	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Sheltered Individuals	3.9	6.9	-16.9	7.3
U.S. Individuals in Poverty*	0.7	3.9	20.1	21.7
U.S. Individuals*	1.2	1.6	7.8	7.3

\* The way the ACS measures geography changed in 2012, making population changes in geography before and after 2012 no longer comparable. Therefore, the 2007 to 2014 population changes reflect the 2007 to 2012 ACS results.

## Characteristics by Geography

### In 2014:

- Sheltered homeless individuals in principal cities were somewhat more likely to be men than were those in suburban and rural areas (71.8% versus 68%).
- Individuals using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas were less likely to identify as Hispanic than were those in cities (9.1% versus 12.7%).
- Sheltered individuals in cities were more likely to be in a minority group than those in suburban and rural areas (56.9% versus 39.2%). Of individuals using shelters in cities, 40.4 percent were African American, compared to 25.9 percent in suburban and rural areas.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of women using shelters as individuals increased by 13,641 (a 20.6% rise) in suburban and rural areas, while dropping by 15,987 (a 7.4% decline) in cities.
- While the proportion of sheltered individuals with a disability declined in suburban and rural areas from 59.3 percent in 2007 to 53.6 percent in 2014, this proportion increased among sheltered individuals in cities, from 34.1 percent in 2007 to 44.2 percent in 2014.

**EXHIBIT 2-16: Characteristics by Geography**  
Sheltered Individuals, 2007-2014

Characteristic	Principal Cities			Suburban & Rural Areas		
	2007	2013	2014	2007	2013	2014
# Sheltered Individuals	877,974	702,660	729,826	236,990	237,835	254,302
<b>Gender of Adults</b>						
Male	73.8	73.8	71.8	71.1	67.9	68.0
Female	26.2	26.2	28.2	29.0	32.1	32.0
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	23.4	15.1	12.7	14.5	8.6	9.1
Non-Hispanic	76.6	84.9	87.3	85.5	91.4	90.9
<b>Race</b>						
White, Non-Hispanic	39.7	40.4	43.1	52.8	57.8	60.9
White, Hispanic	16.0	10.2	8.0	7.5	5.5	6.5
Black or African American	33.6	41.2	40.4	31.6	29.9	25.9
Other One Race	2.8	3.6	4.9	3.0	3.3	3.3
Multiple Races	7.9	4.7	3.6	5.1	3.5	3.5
<b>Age</b>						
Under Age 18	5.3	1.8	1.9	3.3	1.7	1.6
18 - 30	19.4	23.1	23.2	23.8	26.4	26.2
31 - 50	51.6	44.0	43.2	53.0	43.5	43.1
51 - 61	19.4	25.2	25.8	17.0	24.3	24.1
62 and Older	4.4	5.8	5.9	3.0	4.1	5.1
<b>Household Size</b>						
1 Person	99.8	97.9	97.6	98.9	97.7	96.9
2 People	0.2	1.9	2.1	0.8	2.0	2.6
3 People	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3
4 People	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
5 or More People	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>						
Disabled	34.1	42.5	44.2	59.3	47.4	53.6
Not Disabled	66.0	57.5	55.9	40.7	52.6	46.4

## Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

Information on where individuals lived before entering shelter was asked only of adults.

### In 2014:

- Prior to entering shelter in 2014, 42.8 percent of adult individuals were already homeless, while 36.4 percent came from some kind of housing arrangement.
- Of the 342,100 adult individuals in shelter who came from a housed situation, 40.2 percent had been staying with family, 36 percent with friends, and 20.6 percent in housing they rented. Only 2.1 percent had been in housing they owned and 1.1 percent had been staying in permanent supportive housing.
- Of the adult individuals in shelter who were not already homeless, almost two-thirds entered from housing, about a quarter from institutional settings, and the rest from other settings, such as motels.

### Changes Over Time:

- In 2014, 9,134 more adult individuals in shelter came from institutional settings than had done so in 2013. In particular, the number of adult individuals entering shelter from psychiatric facilities increased by 24.7 percent (4,118 more people).
- The number of adult individuals in shelter coming from a friend's place increased substantially between 2007 and 2014, up by 48.6 percent or 42,301 individuals.

**EXHIBIT 2-17: Places Adult Individuals Stayed Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2007-2014**

Place Stayed	2014		2013-2014		2007-2014	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Already Homeless	401,429	42.8	2,161	8.9	-47,933	1.2
Sheltered	201,184	50.1	-23,779	-10.2	-116,206	-18.0
Unsheltered	200,245	49.9	25,940	14.3	65,846	46.5
Housing	342,100	36.4	29,752	8.9	4,159	1.2
Staying with family	137,389	40.2	9,421	6.9	-4,873	-3.2
Staying with friends	123,125	36.0	13,508	11.7	42,301	48.6
Rented housing unit	70,632	20.6	5,104	7.2	-22,497	-22.7
Owned housing unit	7,200	2.1	866	12.7	-12,235	-61.4
Permanent supportive housing	3,754	1.1	853	27.3	1,463	58.2
Institutional Settings	125,689	13.4	9,134	7.5	12,169	10.2
Substance abuse treatment center	36,439	29.0	1,609	4.5	877	2.4
Correctional facility	49,808	39.6	2,109	4.2	-44	-0.1
Hospital	19,393	15.4	1,298	6.9	5,916	41.4
Psychiatric facility	20,049	16.0	4,118	24.7	5,420	35.2
Other Settings	69,653	7.4	-765	-1.0	-18,658	-20.2
Hotel or motel	32,468	46.6	6,319	23.2	9,595	40.0
Foster care home	3,165	4.5	-155	-4.5	-2,505	-43.3
Other living arrangement	34,020	48.8	-6,929	-15.9	-25,748	-41.3

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2014 AHAR methodology document for more details.

**EXHIBIT 2-18: Places Adult Individuals Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless Before Entering Shelter, 2007-2014**

2007    2013    2014



## Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are designed differently. Emergency shelters are high-volume, high-turnover programs; their primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless people. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months and intend for people to stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

### In 2014:

- The homeless services system nationwide had 123,173 emergency shelter beds for individuals and 77,606 beds for individuals in transitional housing programs. These beds were used by 812,947 individuals who stayed exclusively in emergency shelter at some point during the year and by 171,180 individuals who stayed at least part of the time in transitional housing.
- During the 12-month reporting period, nearly one-third of individuals using emergency shelters stayed one week or less, 59.7 percent stayed one month or less, and 6.7 percent stayed more than six months.
- In contrast, within the reporting year, nearly half of individuals in transitional housing programs stayed between one and six months, 20 percent stayed one month or less, and 31.3 percent stayed more than six months.
- The median length of stay for individuals in emergency shelter was 22 nights, with about 7 individuals served per bed throughout the year. On average, 97.7 percent of emergency shelter beds were occupied per night.
- The median length of stay for individuals during the 12-month reporting period within transitional housing programs was 104 nights, or over three months.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2007 and 2014, the median number of nights in emergency shelter increased from 14 to 22, and the average number increased from 38 to 52.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the median number of nights in transitional housing increased from 91 to 104, and the average number increased from 130 to 139.

### EXHIBIT 2-19: Length of Stay

Individuals in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2014

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	276,533	32.5	10,012	5.9
8 to 30 days	232,073	27.2	24,113	14.1
31 to 180 days	285,574	33.5	83,443	48.8
181 to 360 days	43,763	5.1	34,986	20.5
361 to 365 days	13,979	1.6	18,509	10.8

Note: Length of stay accounts for multiple program entries/exits by summing the total number of (cumulative) days in a homeless residential program during the 12-month reporting period. The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

### EXHIBIT 2-20: Bed-Use Patterns

Individuals in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2007-2014

Bed-Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2007	2013	2014	2007	2013	2014
Median # nights	14	20	22	91	104	104
Average # nights	38	47	52	130	139	139
Average occupancy rate	90.2	89.2	97.7	80.7	83.8	84.8
Bed count	113,164	117,855	120,601	99,837	87,331	83,489
Turnover rate	8.9	6.9	7.0	2.1	2.2	2.2

Note 1: The average daily occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the average daily census during the 12-month reporting period by the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.

Note 2: The total bed count is based on the year-round beds determined at one point in time from the HIC.

Note 3: The turnover rate measures the number of people served per available bed over the 12-month reporting period, and is calculated by dividing the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.



# 3

## Homeless Families with Children IN THE UNITED STATES

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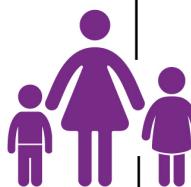
# Homeless Families with Children IN THE UNITED STATES

## PIT DATA

On a single night  
in January 2014...

**216,261**

people in families  
were homeless .....



This is an  
**8.2% decline**  
since 2007



Over half of all  
states & D.C.  
had at least  
**90%** of families  
in shelter

People in families with children in sheltered  
& unsheltered locations



## HMIS DATA

Throughout the  
year in 2014...

This is a  
**▲ 9.3% increase**  
since 2007

**517,416**

people in families  
used shelter at  
some point .....



**About 3 in 5**

homeless people in  
families were children

From 2013–2014...

People in families with children  
using shelter programs in



▼ **0.7%**  
CITIES



▲ **14.8%**  
SUBURBAN & RURAL AREAS

## KEY TERM

**Families with children** are households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Family households with children have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

# One-Night Estimates

## HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

### PIT

The Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a point-in-time count in shelters and a street (or “unsheltered”) count at least every other year. Historically, HUD has incentivized through the CoC Program Notice of Funding Availability annual sheltered and unsheltered counts, and many CoCs choose to conduct both counts each year.

The PIT count includes estimates of people who are homeless as part of families with children. “Families with children” are households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Family households with children have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

#### On a single night in January 2014:

- 216,261 people in families with children were homeless in 67,613 family households. About 37 percent of all homeless people on a single night were in families with children.
- Of homeless people in families with children, 88.7 percent (191,903 people) were in shelters, while only 11.3 percent (24,358 people) were in unsheltered locations.

#### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The number of homeless people in families with children dropped by 2.7 percent (5,936 fewer people). The number of homeless family households dropped by 4.7 percent (3,347 fewer households).
- 6,268 fewer people in families with children were unsheltered (a 20.5% drop).

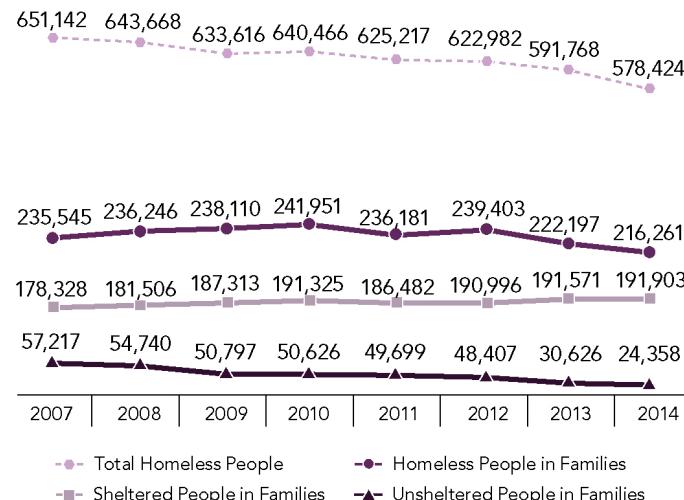
#### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- The number of homeless people in families with children on a single night dropped by 8.2 percent (19,284 fewer people). The number of homeless family households dropped by 14.3 percent (11,249 fewer family households).
- The number of sheltered people in families with children on a single night increased by 7.6 percent (13,575 more people), while the number of unsheltered dropped by 57.4 percent (32,859 fewer people).

Since 2007, the number of homeless people in families with children on a single night dropped by 8.2%, or 19,284 fewer people.

#### EXHIBIT 3.1: One-Night Counts of Homeless People in Families with Children

PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2014



#### EXHIBIT 3.2: Change in Homeless People in Families with Children

PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2014

Years	Total Homeless People in Families		Sheltered People in Families		Unsheltered People in Families	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014	-5,936	-2.7	332	0.2	-6,268	-20.5
2012 to 2013	-17,206	-7.2	575	0.3	-17,781	-36.7
2011 to 2012	3,222	1.4	4,514	2.4	-1,292	-2.6
2010 to 2011	-5,770	-2.4	-4,843	-2.5	-927	-1.8
2009 to 2010	3,841	1.6	4,012	2.1	-171	-0.3
2008 to 2009	1,864	0.8	5,807	3.2	-3,943	-7.2
2007 to 2008	701	0.3	3,178	1.8	-2,477	-4.3
2007 to 2014	-19,284	-8.2	13,575	7.6	-32,859	-57.4

## By State

### On a single night in January 2014:

- Five states accounted for about half of the nation's homeless family population: NY (22.4%), CA (10.8%), MA (6.7%), FL (6%), and TX (4.3%).
- In six states, people in families with children represented more than half of the total homeless population: NY (47,947 people), MA (14,449), MN (4,725), WI (3,126), IA (1,578), and ME (1,378). In the average state, by comparison, 36.7 percent of all homeless people were in families with children.

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The one-night count of family homelessness decreased in 32 states, totaling 13,224 fewer people. Four states comprised 54.7 percent of the decrease: FL (3,691 fewer people), CA (1,907), MO (954), and NJ (684).
- Family homelessness increased in 18 states and D.C., totaling 7,212 more people. More than half of the increase, 53.6 percent, was in Massachusetts (2,114 more people) and New York (1,752).

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

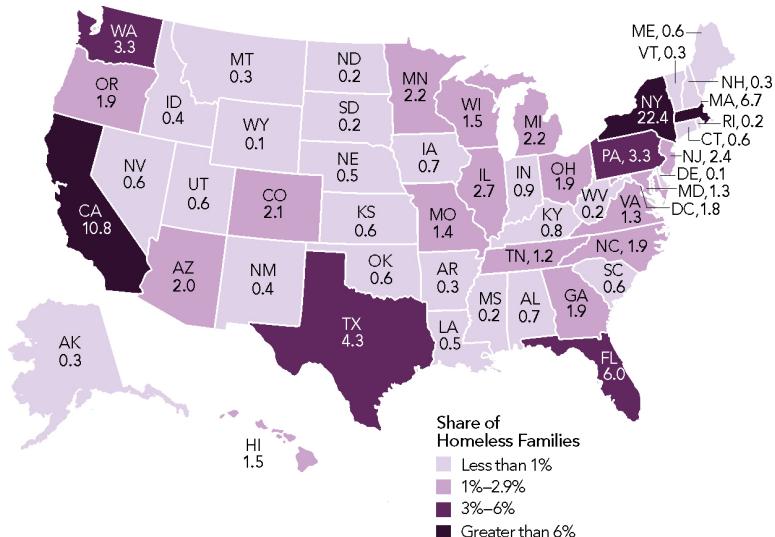
- Family homelessness on a single night decreased in 31 states, totaling 47,508 fewer people.
- Family homelessness increased in 19 states and D.C., totaling 27,365 more people, with New York (13,402 more people) and Massachusetts (7,614) comprising more than three quarters of the total increase (76.8%).

Data Source: PIT 2007–2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

**EXHIBIT 3.3: Share of Homeless Families with Children**  
In the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)



**EXHIBIT 3.4: Homeless People in Families with Children by State**

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Massachusetts	2,114	17.1	Florida	-3,691	-22.4
New York	1,752	3.8	California	-1,907	-7.6
District of Columbia	626	19.8	Missouri	-954	-24.3
Texas	461	5.2	New Jersey	-684	-11.6
Michigan	401	9.4	Oregon	-652	-13.5
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
New York	13,402	38.8	California	-4,847	-17.3
Massachusetts	7,614	111.4	Texas	-4,164	-30.9
District of Columbia	2,192	136.7	Oregon	-3,543	-45.9
Minnesota	671	16.6	New Jersey	-3,117	-37.4
North Carolina	582	17.1	Washington	-3,038	-30.1

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a single night in January 2014:

- All states had at least 50 percent of their homeless family population in shelter. Twenty-nine states and D.C. had at least 90 percent of their homeless family population in shelter.
- More than 56 percent of unsheltered families with children were in three states, totaling 13,116 people: Florida (25.3%), California (23.9%), and Oregon (7.5%).

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The number of people in families with children found in shelter on a single night increased in 20 states, with D.C., Massachusetts and New York representing 52.5 percent of the total increase.
- Another 29 states had a decrease in sheltered family homelessness, with California, Ohio, and North Carolina representing 34.9 percent of the total decline. Sheltered family homelessness remained unchanged in Iowa.
- The number of people in families with children found in unsheltered locations increased in 16 states, decreased in 32 states and remained constant in D.C., Connecticut, and New Mexico. Washington and Idaho accounted for 44.1 percent of the increase while Florida and North Dakota accounted for 51.5 percent of the decrease.

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- The number of people in families with children found in shelter rose in 25 states and D.C., totaling 29,729 more people, and dropped in 25 states, totaling 16,363 fewer people. The largest increases were in New York and Massachusetts. The largest decreases were in NJ, WA, OR, KY, and TX.
- The number of people in families with children found in unsheltered locations dropped in 41 states, totaling 34,025 fewer people, and increased in only 9 states, totaling 516 more people. CA, GA, TX, NV, and OR all had substantial decreases in unsheltered family homelessness over this seven-year period. Unsheltered family homelessness remained unchanged in D.C.

### EXHIBIT 3.5: Sheltered Homeless People in Families with Children by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Massachusetts	2,141	17.4	California	-1,470	-7.7
New York	1,828	4.0	Ohio	-564	-12.5
District of Columbia	626	19.8	North Carolina	-494	-13.6
Texas	626	8.0	New Jersey	-487	-8.6
Illinois	491	9.6	Missouri	-478	-15.2
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
New York	13,513	39.3	New Jersey	-2,602	-33.4
Massachusetts	7,903	121.0	Washington	-2,461	-28.1
District of Columbia	2,192	136.7	Oregon	-1,773	-42.1
Hawaii	1,037	64.3	Kentucky	-1,553	-51.7
Minnesota	879	23.8	Texas	-1,293	-13.2

### EXHIBIT 3.6: Unsheltered Homeless People in Families with Children by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Washington	301	64.3	Florida	-3,316	-36.2
Idaho	182	267.6	North Dakota	-504	-82.9
Hawaii	142	37.7	South Carolina	-489	-66.4
Kentucky	99	53.5	Missouri	-476	-60.0
Utah	72	138.5	California	-437	-7.3
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
Utah	124	n/a*	California	-4,491	-44.8
Idaho	115	85.2	Georgia	-3,684	-81.5
Montana	100	166.7	Texas	-2,871	-77.2
West Virginia	46	64.8	Nevada	-1,973	-100.0
Mississippi	36	900.0	Oregon	-1,770	-50.4

\* The percent change could not be calculated because the count of unsheltered families in 2007 was zero

# Profile

TYPICAL SHELTERED HOMELESS PERSON IN A FAMILY IN 2014



## A Young Mother in Shelter with a Child

**78.4% FEMALE / 51.4% 2- OR 3-PERSON HOUSEHOLD**

**61.0% WERE  
Under  
Age 18**

**48.3% WERE  
Black or  
African American**

**78.7% HAD  
No  
Disability**

**63.6% WERE IN A  
City**



PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER IN 2014, **60.1%** WERE  
**Staying in Housing**



NIGHTS SPENT IN  
EMERGENCY SHELTER

# One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

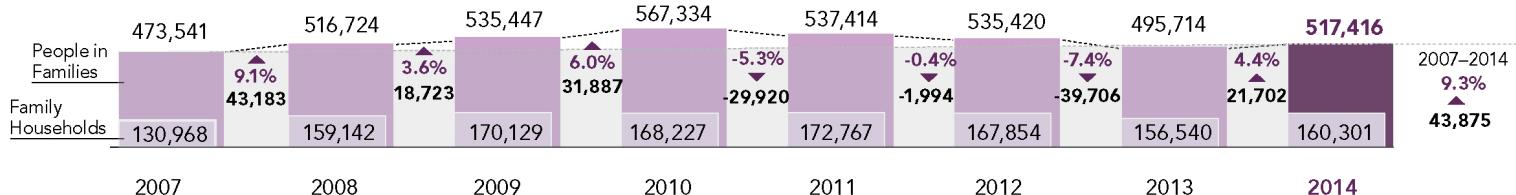
## HMIS

Between 2013 and 2014, sheltered family homelessness increased by 4.4%, the first rise since 2010, but remains 8.8% below the 2010 peak.

The one-year estimates account for all people in families with children who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the reporting year. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates statistically adjust for homeless people in shelter programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of sheltered people in families with children in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country.<sup>1</sup> The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered people in families with children in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) people in families with children served by victim service providers; and (c) people in families with children in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period.

“Families with children” refers to households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Family households have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

EXHIBIT 3.7: One-Year Estimates of Sheltered People in Families with Children, 2007–2014



<sup>1</sup> The 95 percent confidence interval for sheltered homeless people in families with children in 2014 is 464,562 to 570,270 ( $517,416 \pm 52,854$ ).

## Gender and Age

### In 2014:

- Most sheltered adults in families with children were women. Sheltered adults in families with children were more likely to be women than adults in U.S. families with children (78.4% versus 54.5%), and more likely than adults in poor families (78.4% versus 64.4%).
- Of all sheltered homeless children in families (314,877 children), 50.5 percent were under the age of six.
- Adults over 50 years old comprised 8.4 percent of people in U.S. families with children, 5.7 percent of people in poor families with children, but only 1.4 percent of people in families with children using shelters.

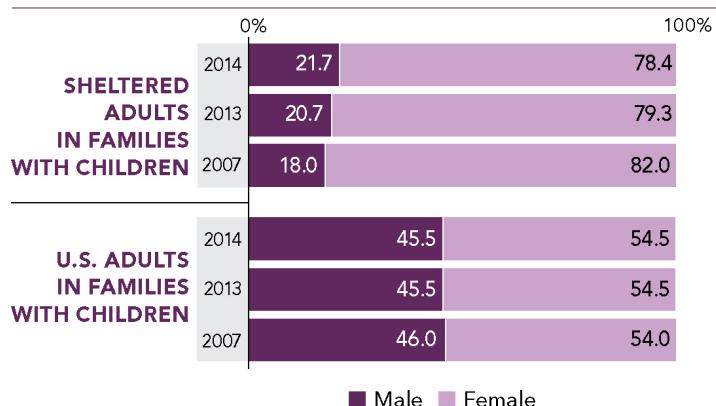
### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of sheltered adult men in families with children increased 8.9 percent (3,540 more men), which was faster than the increase among sheltered adult women in families with children (2.8% or 4,270 more women).
- Between 2007 and 2014, the share of adults age 31 to 50 in the U.S. family population decreased (32.2% to 31.1%), but the share of adults age 31 to 50 in the sheltered homeless family population increased (16% to 17.1%).

In 2014, about half of children in families using shelter programs were under the age of 6.

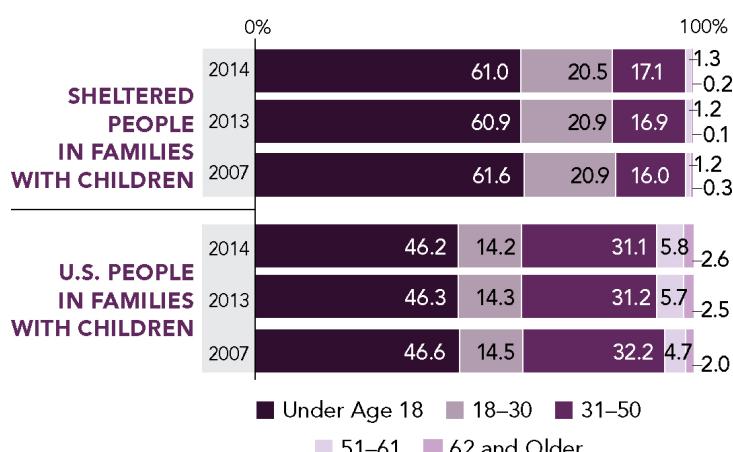
### EXHIBIT 3.8: Gender

Sheltered Adults in Families with Children and Total U.S. Adults in Families with Children, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 3.9: Age

Sheltered People in Families with Children and Total U.S. Population in Families with Children, 2007–2014



## Ethnicity and Race

### In 2014:

- About one-quarter (23.5%) of people in sheltered homeless families identified as Hispanic in 2014. A similar share of the U.S. family population (23.4%) and a larger share of poor people in families (34.6%) identified as Hispanic.
- Nearly three-quarters (74.8%) of the homeless family population in shelter identified as members of a minority group. Minority groups include: African American (48.3%), white Hispanic (15.1%), multiple races (7.3%), American Indian or Alaska Native (2.2%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (1.3%), and Asian (0.6%).
- Sheltered people in families with children were 3.6 times more likely to be African American than were people in U.S. families (48.3% versus 13.6%) and 2 times more likely than in the U.S. population of families living in poverty (48.3% versus 23.6%).
- The share of sheltered people in families with children who identify as white non-Hispanic (25.2%) is lower than that of all people in U.S. families (54%) or of people in families living in poverty (34.3%).

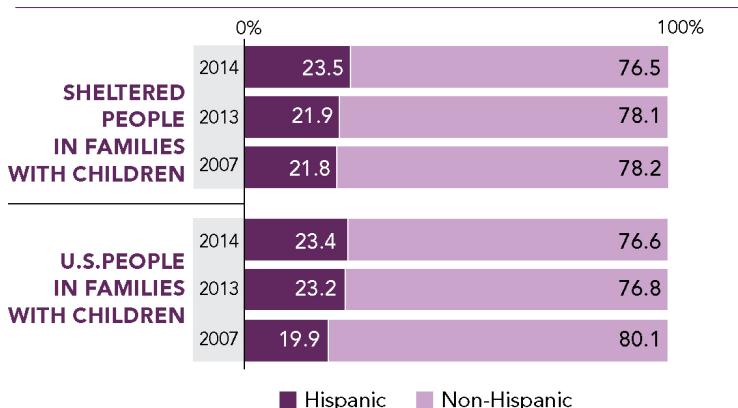
### Changes Over Time:

- Since 2007, the share of Hispanic people in families with children using shelter programs increased from 21.8 percent in 2007 to 23.5 percent in 2014.
- The number of people in families with children who were African American and in shelter programs increased 5.8 percent (13,042 more people) between 2007 and 2014; however, the overall share declined during this time, from 55.2 percent in 2007 to 48.3 percent in 2014. The proportion of African Americans fell slightly in U.S. families from 13.8 percent to 13.6 percent and dropped in poor families from 26.2 to 23.6 percent over the seven-year period.
- The share of people in families with children using shelter that was white and not Hispanic rose between 2007 and 2014 (12.1% to 15.1%). Among poor families, the share of people that is white and not Hispanic dropped from 36.3 to 34.3 percent over the seven-year period.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2014; ACS 2006, 2012, 2013

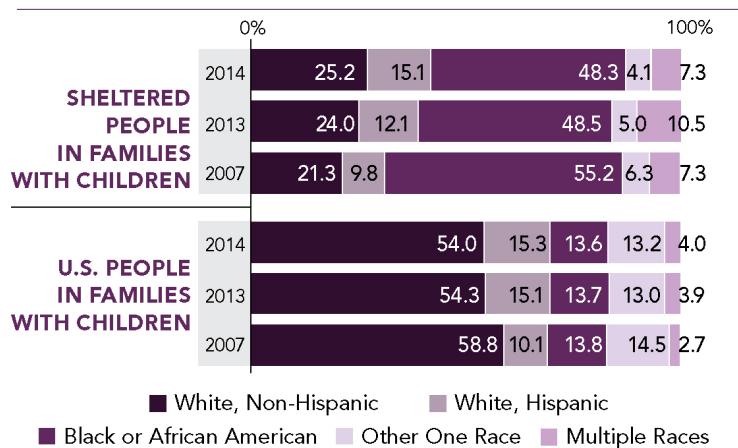
### EXHIBIT 3.10: Ethnicity

Sheltered People in Families with Children and Total U.S. Population in Families with Children, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 3.11: Race

Sheltered People in Families with Children and Total U.S. Population in Families with Children, 2007–2014



Note: Ethnicity is distinguished among the white race group to facilitate an understanding of minorities and non-minorities. Non-minorities are those who identify their ethnicity as not Hispanic and their race as white.



## Household Size and Disability Status

In keeping with the definition of “family” in this report, a family consists of at least one adult *and* one child; the resulting minimum household size is two people. Family households have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

### In 2014:

- The most common household size among sheltered people in families with children was 3 people (28.4%), while the most common household size among families with children in the poverty and U.S. populations was 5 or more people (47.6% and 41.3%).
- Two person families—one adult and one child—are 5.6 times more common among people in families using shelter programs than among all U.S. people in families (23% versus 4.1%).
- Disability rates among sheltered adults in families with children (21.3%) are 2.5 times higher than that of U.S. adults in families with children (8.5%) but still lower than that of adults in shelter as individuals (46.6%).

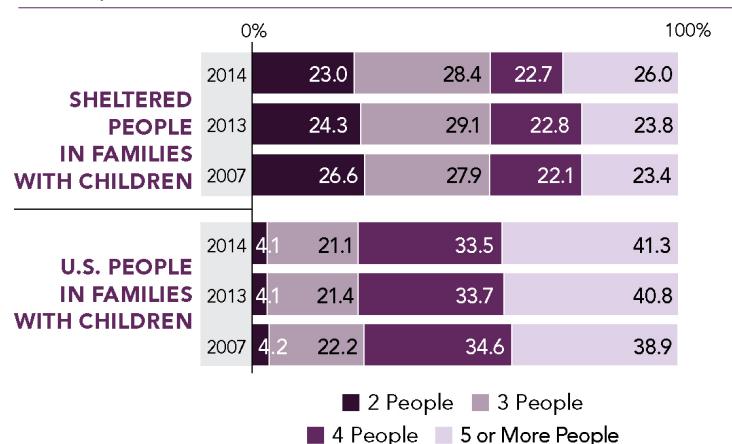
### Changes Over Time:

- The number of sheltered homeless people in families with children in households of 5 or more people increased 13.5 percent (15,915 more people) from 2013 to 2014.
- From 2013 to 2014, the number of sheltered homeless adults in families with a disability increased by 10.9 percent (4,134 more adults).
- As the disability rate among U.S. adults in families decreased between 2007 (10.1%) and 2014 (8.5%), the disability rate among homeless sheltered adults in families increased from 16.4 to 21.3 percent.

From 2013 to 2014, the number of sheltered homeless adults in families with a disability increased by 10.9% (4,134 more adults).

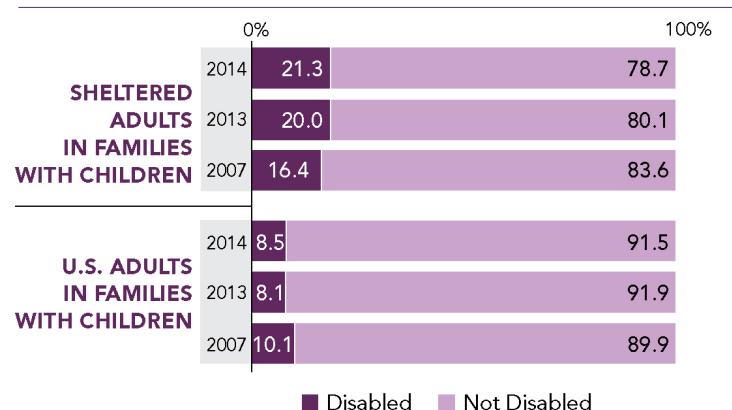
### EXHIBIT 3.12: Household Size

Sheltered People in Families with Children and Total U.S. Population in Families with Children, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 3.13: Disability Status

Sheltered Adults in Families with Children and Adults in U.S. Families with Children, 2007–2014



## Geographic Location

### In 2014:

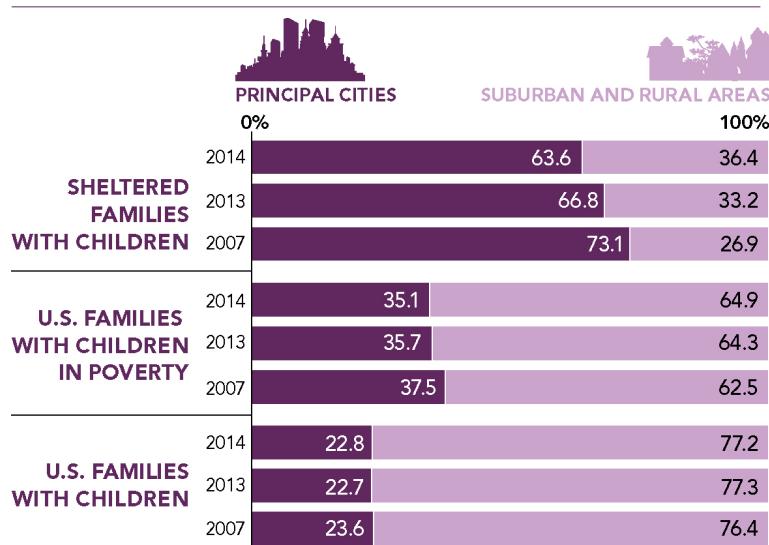
- Almost two-thirds (63.6%) of sheltered people in families with children used shelter programs in principal cities.
- Sheltered people in families with children were 2.8 times more likely to be located in a city in 2014 than were all people in U.S. families with children (63.6% versus 22.8%), and 1.8 times more likely than people in poor families with children (63.6% versus 35.1%).
- Relative to the homeless individual population in shelter, a larger portion of the homeless family population in shelter was located in suburban and rural areas (25.8% versus 36.4%).

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, sheltered family homelessness declined slightly (0.7% drop, or 2,419 fewer people) in urban areas, but increased 14.8 percent (24,279 more people) in suburban and rural areas.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the number of sheltered people in families with children dropped by 5 percent (17,174 fewer people) in cities and increased by 48.1 percent (61,275 more people) in suburban and rural areas.

### EXHIBIT 3.14: Geographic Distribution

Sheltered Families with Children, U.S. Families with Children in Poverty, and All U.S. Families with Children, 2007–2014



### EXHIBIT 3.15: Percent Change by Geography

Change in the Number of Sheltered People in Families with Children, U.S. Families in Poverty, and U.S. Family Population, 2007–2014

Population	2013–2014		2007–2014	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Sheltered Families	-0.7	14.8	-5.0	48.1
U.S. Families in Poverty*	-2.4	0.1	13.0	29.5
U.S. Family Population*	0.3	-0.5	-2.1	0.0

\* The way the ACS measures geography changed in 2012, making population changes in geography before and after 2012 no longer comparable. Therefore, the 2007 to 2014 population changes reflect the 2007 to 2012 ACS results.

## Characteristics by Geography

### In 2014:

- Homeless people in families with children using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas were more likely to be white and not Hispanic and less likely to be African American compared to those in cities.
- The age distribution, household size distribution, and rates of adult disability of sheltered families with children were similar regardless of the geographic location in which families used shelter programs.

### Changes Over Time:

- From 2013 to 2014, the share of African American people among homeless families with children located in urban shelters increased from 52.1 to 56.4 percent, and decreased in suburban and rural areas from 41.2 to 34.6 percent.
- The share of people in families with children who identify as Hispanic using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas increased from 13.4 percent in 2007 to 20.6 percent in 2014.

### EXHIBIT 3.16: Characteristics by Geography

Sheltered People in Families with Children, 2007–2014

Characteristic	Principal Cities			Suburban & Rural Areas		
	2007	2013	2014	2007	2013	2014
# Homeless People in Families	346,032	331,278	328,858	127,283	164,278	188,558
<b>Gender of Adults</b>						
Male	17.8	20.8	21.3	18.3	20.6	22.3
Female	82.2	79.2	78.7	81.7	79.5	77.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	24.6	24.8	25.2	13.4	16.1	20.6
Non-Hispanic	75.4	75.2	74.8	86.6	83.9	79.4
<b>Race</b>						
White, Non-Hispanic	18.6	18.1	17.5	28.1	35.9	38.1
White, Hispanic	11.8	12.8	14.6	5.0	10.8	15.9
Black or African American	56.0	52.1	56.4	53.3	41.2	34.6
Other One Race	7.3	5.4	4.3	3.7	4.2	3.9
Multiple Races	6.4	11.7	7.2	9.8	7.9	7.6
<b>Age</b>						
Under Age 18	60.9	60.9	61.3	63.4	60.9	60.5
18 to 30	21.5	21.1	20.6	19.2	20.6	20.3
31 to 50	15.9	16.7	16.7	16.3	17.2	17.7
51 to 61	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3
62 and Older	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
<b>Household Size</b>						
1 Person	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 People	28.3	24.0	22.9	22.0	24.8	23.1
3 People	27.6	29.0	28.4	28.9	29.3	28.3
4 People	21.6	22.5	22.4	23.4	23.4	23.3
5 or More People	22.5	24.5	26.4	25.7	22.5	25.3
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>						
Disabled	15.4	19.8	21.7	18.7	20.4	20.5
Not Disabled	84.7	80.3	78.3	81.3	79.6	79.5

## Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

Information on where people in families with children lived before entering shelter was asked only of adults.

### In 2014:

- Just prior to their sheltered homeless experience in 2014, 60.1 percent of sheltered adults in families with children were in a housed situation, and of those adults, only 1.5 percent had been living in housing they owned. Nearly all had either been staying with family (44.6%), in housing they rented (29.4%), or with friends (24.2%).
- Another 30.3 percent of sheltered adults in families with children were already homeless at the start of their use of shelter during the reporting period. Before entering shelter, 75.7 percent of these adults were in a different shelter program, and 24.3 percent were in a place not meant for human habitation.
- Of those sheltered adults in families with children who were not already homeless, 2.1 percent (2,770 adults) entered shelter from an institutional setting, more than 60 percent of them (1,695 adults) from substance abuse treatment or detox centers.

### Changes Over Time:

- The number of people in families with children entering shelter from a homeless situation increased 4.2 percent (2,341 more people) from 2013 to 2014. All of this change was due to more people in families coming from unsheltered locations.
- Between 2013 and 2014, 1,626 more people in families with children entered shelter from hotels or motels.
- The number of people in families entering shelter from institutional settings, namely substance abuse treatment centers and correctional facilities, declined by 16 percent (547 fewer people) since 2013.
- Since 2007, the number of sheltered adults in families with children coming from a housed situation increased 34 percent.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2014

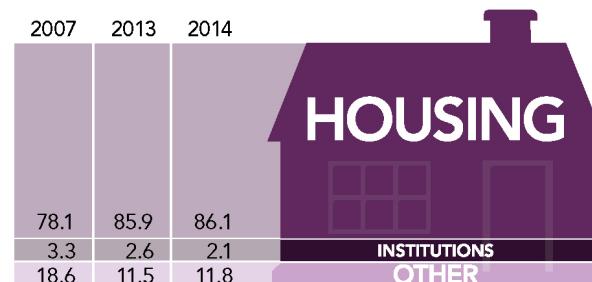
3-14 • The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

### EXHIBIT 3.17: Places Adults in Families with Children Stayed Before Entering Shelter and Change over Time, 2007–2014

Place Stayed	2014		2013-2014		2007-2014	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Already Homeless	56,911	30.3	2,341	4.2	15,058	34.2
Sheltered	43,073	75.7	-299	-0.7	5,459	7.0
Unsheltered	13,838	24.3	2,640	23.0	9,095	181.4
<b>Housing</b>	<b>112,934</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>4,917</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>43,240</b>	<b>54.0</b>
Staying with family	50,420	44.6	1,962	3.7	19,134	53.7
Staying with friends	27,380	24.2	979	3.5	9,624	49.1
Rented housing unit	33,230	29.4	1,851	5.2	19,161	105.9
Owned housing unit	1,704	1.5	119	6.8	-4,496	-70.6
Permanent supportive housing (PSH) <sup>1</sup>	200	0.2	6	2.8	-183	-45.3
<b>Institutional Settings</b>	<b>2,770</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-547</b>	<b>-16.0</b>	<b>-240</b>	<b>-7.7</b>
Substance abuse treatment center	1,695	61.2	-203	-10.4	-157	-8.3
Correctional facility	583	21.0	-369	-37.2	55	9.7
Hospital	407	14.7	10	2.4	-134	-23.9
Psychiatric facility	85	3.1	15	20.3	-4	-4.3
<b>Other Settings</b>	<b>15,440</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-2,953</b>	<b>-15.5</b>
Hotel or motel	11,758	76.2	1,626	15.6	-943	-7.2
Foster care home	222	1.4	55	30.6	190	422.2
Other living arrangement	3,460	22.4	-654	-14.8	-2,200	-36.8

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2013 AHAR methodology document for more details.

### EXHIBIT 3.18: Places Adults in Families with Children Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless Before Entering Shelter, 2007–2014 (in %)



## Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are designed differently. Emergency shelters are high-volume, high-turnover programs; their primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless people. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months and intend for people to stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

### In 2014:

- The homeless services system nationwide had 123,252 beds in emergency shelters for families with children, and 94,149 beds in transitional housing programs for families with children. Those programs were used by 385,789 people in families with children who stayed just in emergency shelter at some time during the year and by 131,627 people in families with children who stayed at least part of the time in transitional housing.
- Shorter stays were more common in emergency shelter, as 46.1 percent of people in families with children using emergency shelter and 12.9 percent using transitional housing stayed one month or less during the 12-month reporting period.
- Sheltered people in families with children stayed in emergency shelter a median of 37 nights, or just over a month. Sheltered people with children in families using transitional housing programs stayed a median of 150 nights (nearly 5 months) during the observed year.
- In 2014, emergency shelters served more people per available bed throughout the year than did transitional housing programs, as demonstrated by the higher turnover rate at emergency shelters (4.2), relative to transitional housing programs (1.7).

### Changes Over Time:

- The number of emergency shelter beds for people in families with children increased by nearly 25,000 between 2007 and 2014, and the number of people in families with children using just emergency shelter increased by 18.1 percent.
- The number of transitional housing beds for people in families with children declined by around 17,000 between 2007 and 2014, and the number of people in families with children using transitional housing at any point during a year declined by 10.3 percent.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2014, HIC 2007–2014

### EXHIBIT 3.19: Length of Stay

People in Families with Children in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2014

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	78,989	19.5	4,540	3.5
8 to 30 days	107,742	26.6	12,357	9.4
31 to 180 days	159,534	39.3	56,807	43.3
181 to 360 days	33,539	8.3	36,547	27.8
361 to 365 days	25,849	6.4	21,052	16.0

Note: Length of stay accounts for multiple program entries/exits by summing the total number of (cumulative) days in a homeless residential program during the 12-month reporting period. The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

### EXHIBIT 3.20: Bed-Use Patterns

People in Families with Children in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2007–2014

Bed-Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2007	2013	2014	2007	2013	2014
Median # nights	30	32	37	151	151	150
Average # nights	67	73	81	174	175	175
Average occupancy rate (in %)	85.9	86.6	92.5	72.9	80.0	82.1
Bed count	98,287	118,107	123,252	111,368	101,843	94,149
Turnover rate	4.9	4.3	4.2	1.6	1.7	1.7

Note 1: The average daily occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the average daily census during the 12-month reporting period by the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.

Note 2: The total bed count is based on the year-round beds determined at one point in time from the HIC.

- Between 2007 and 2014, the median length of a stay among people in families with children in emergency shelters increased by 7 nights.
- Average occupancy rates have increased since 2007 in both emergency shelters (85.9% to 92.5%) and transitional housing programs (72.9% to 82.1%).



# 4

## Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth **IN THE UNITED STATES**

### **POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)**

One-Night Estimates of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth .....	4-3
By State .....	4-5
By State and Sheltered Status .....	4-7

# Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth IN THE UNITED STATES

PIT DATA

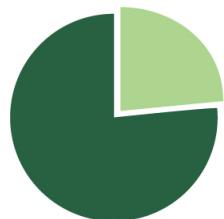
On a single night in January 2014...

**45,205**  
homeless children  
& youth were  
unaccompanied



**86.1%**  
were youth  
(18–24)

 **13.9%**  
were children  
(17 & under)



**23.3%**  
of all homeless children &  
youth were unaccompanied

Unaccompanied homeless  
children & youth in sheltered  
& unsheltered locations



**KEY TERM**

**UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN** are ages 17 or younger who are not in the company of an adult (18 or older) and alone.

**UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH** are people ages 18 to 24 who are not in the company of a child (17 or younger) and are assumed to be alone.

# One-Night Estimates OF UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## PIT

This section presents the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates of unaccompanied homeless children and youth in the U.S.

The PIT estimates are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a point-in-time count in shelters and a street (or “unsheltered”) count at least every other year. Historically, HUD has incentivized through the CoC Program Notice of Funding Availability annual sheltered and unsheltered counts, and many CoCs choose to conduct both counts each year. Since 2013, communities have submitted PIT estimates of homelessness in three age categories: 17 and under, 18 to 24, and 25 and older. This section describes the extent of homelessness among children (ages 17 and under) and youth (ages 18 to 24), focusing on those who were unaccompanied. Unaccompanied homeless children are not in the company of an adult (18 or older) and are alone. Unaccompanied youth are not in the company of a child, and are assumed to be homeless alone.<sup>1</sup>

HUD currently requires communities to report data on people experiencing chronic homelessness in the Point-in-Time count. However, HUD is in the process of improving and updating its annual data collections on this important population. HUD is making changes to the data collection on 1-year estimates now. Some of these changes will appear in the 2015 AHAR, but most will appear in two years (i.e., 2017 AHAR).

45,205 homeless children and youth were unaccompanied on a night in January 2014; 86.1% were youth, and 13.9% were children.

### EXHIBIT 4.1: One-Night Counts of Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth

PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2013–2014

Population	2013			2014		
	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Unaccompanied Children and Youth	45,616	23,463	22,153	45,205	23,735	21,470
Unaccompanied Children	6,197	2,522	3,675	6,274	2,554	3,720
Unaccompanied Youth	39,419	20,941	18,478	38,931	21,181	17,750

### On a Single Night in January 2014

- 45,205 homeless children and youth were unaccompanied in the United States. Among them, 86.1 percent were youth ages 18 to 24, and the remaining 13.9 percent were children age 17 and under.
- The vast majority of homeless children were accompanied by their families. Only 4.6 percent of homeless children were unaccompanied. In contrast, about two-thirds (66.4%) of homeless youth were unaccompanied.
- Less than half (45.6%) of homeless, unaccompanied youth were unsheltered, while about three in five (59.3%) homeless, unaccompanied children were unsheltered.

<sup>1</sup>We approximate “unaccompanied youth” by identifying people homeless as individuals ages 18 to 24. While a homeless individual age 18 to 24 is not in the company of a child under age 18, he/she may be in a household with another adult; because of the way data are collected, we cannot definitively determine if a youth is alone. However, because most (98.7%) people homeless as individuals are in one-person households, according to HMIS estimates, we assume they are unaccompanied.

**Between January 2013 and January 2014**

- The number of unaccompanied homeless children and youth declined slightly (a 0.9% drop, or 411 fewer people). This decline is entirely due to a drop in the number of unaccompanied homeless youth.
- The number of unaccompanied homeless youth staying in unsheltered locations declined 3.9 percent (728 fewer youth), while the number in sheltered locations increased 1.2 percent (240 more youth).

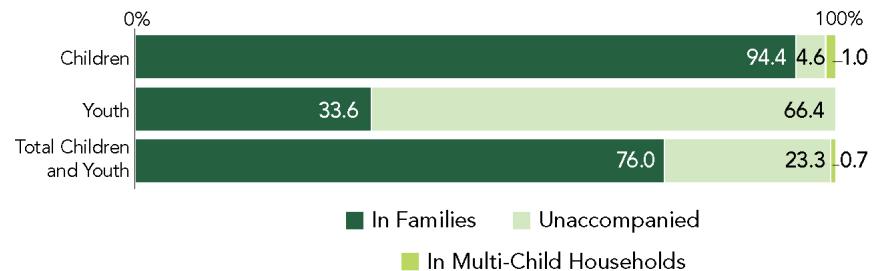
**EXHIBIT 4.2: Change in Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth**

PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2013–2014

Population	Total		Sheltered		Unsheltered	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Unaccompanied Children and Youth	-411	-0.9	272	1.2	-683	-3.1
Unaccompanied Children	77	1.2	32	1.3	45	1.2
Unaccompanied Youth	-488	-1.2	240	1.2	-728	-3.9

**EXHIBIT 4.3: Homeless Children and Youth**

PIT Estimates, 2014

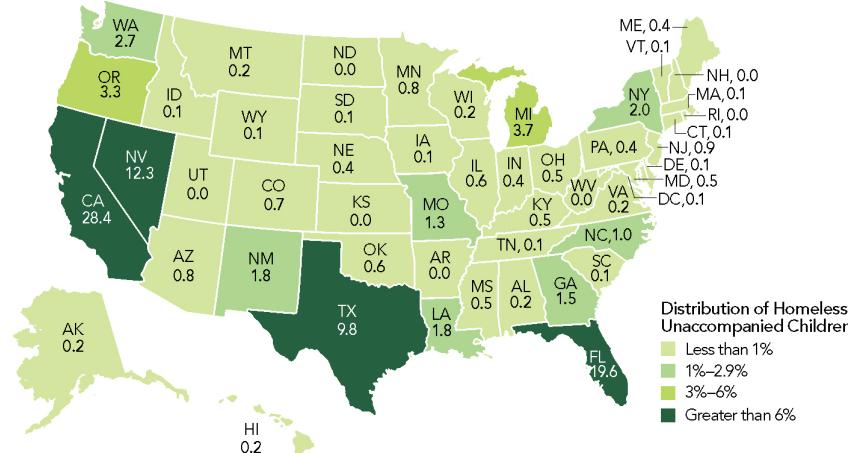


## By State

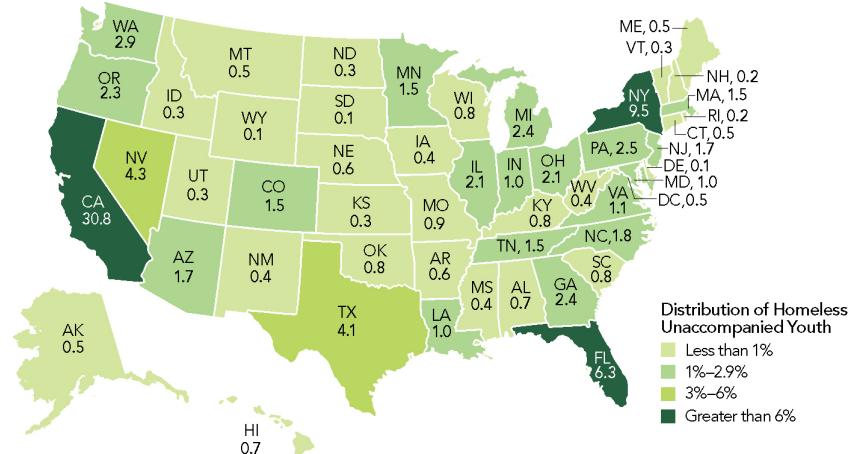
### On a Single Night in January 2014

- California (28.4%), Florida (19.6%), and Nevada (12.3%) together account for three in five homeless, unaccompanied children found in the nation.
- California also accounts for 30.8 percent of all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, the largest proportion among all states. No other state accounted for more than 10 percent of the nation's unaccompanied youth.
- In Nevada, 50.1 percent of homeless children were unaccompanied. This was the only state where a majority of homeless children were unaccompanied; the state with the next highest proportion, New Mexico, reported 14.9 percent of homeless children as unaccompanied.
- In contrast, a majority of homeless youth were unaccompanied in all but two states (New York and Massachusetts) and D.C. The largest proportion of homeless youth that were unaccompanied was in Nevada (95%).

**EXHIBIT 4.4: Share of Homeless Unaccompanied Children**  
In the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)



**EXHIBIT 4.5: Share of Homeless Unaccompanied Youth**  
In the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)



Data Source: PIT 2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state  
([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

## By State

### Between January 2013 and January 2014

- Although the number of unaccompanied children and youth experiencing homelessness declined nationally, 21 states and the District of Columbia reported increases in this population.
- Nevada experienced the largest increase in homeless, unaccompanied children, with 331 more children (a 74.9% increase). California's 82 fewer unaccompanied children qualify it as the largest decrease among all states, representing a 4.4 percent change.
- Nevada and California also experienced the largest increase and decrease in homeless, unaccompanied youth, with Nevada reporting 195 more youths (a 13.2% increase) and California reporting 370 fewer youths (a 3% decrease).

### EXHIBIT 4.6: Unaccompanied Children and Youth by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2013–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>Unaccompanied Children</b>					
Nevada	331	74.9	California	-82	-4.4
Florida	113	10.1	Illinois	-81	-68.1
Louisiana	57	98.3	Mississippi	-75	-70.1
Washington	46	36.8	Oklahoma	-69	-65.7
Texas	44	7.7	Arkansas	-49	-94.2
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>					
Nevada	195	13.2	California	-370	-3.0
New York	167	4.8	Missouri	-196	-36.3
Pennsylvania	137	16.8	New Mexico	-149	-46.3
Massachusetts	123	25.8	Illinois	-131	-14.0
Colorado	122	25.5	North Carolina	-131	-16.0

Data Source: PIT 2013–2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state  
([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a Single Night in January 2014

- At least 90 percent of homeless, unaccompanied children were staying in sheltered rather than unsheltered locations in 27 states (although, 11 of these states counted fewer than 10 total unaccompanied children). For homeless, unaccompanied youth, the sheltered rate was at least 90 percent in 11 states.
- Less than 50 percent of homeless, unaccompanied children were sheltered in each of 11 states (three of these states counted fewer than 10 total unaccompanied children). For unaccompanied homeless youth, the sheltered rate was below 50 percent in eight states.

### Between January 2013 and January 2014

- The number of homeless, unaccompanied children staying in shelter increased in 19 states, resulting in an overall national increase of 28 children ages 17 and under. Likewise, the national increase in unaccompanied children staying in unsheltered locations was driven by 15 states.
- Half of all states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia experienced increases in the number of homeless, unaccompanied youth staying in shelter, and half experienced decreases.
- While the number of homeless, unaccompanied youth staying in unsheltered locations decreased nationally, 20 states reported increases in this population.

### EXHIBIT 4.7: Sheltered Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2013–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>Unaccompanied Children</b>					
Florida	285	70.9	California	-58	-19.6
Louisiana	55	96.5	Oklahoma	-58	-68.2
Michigan	33	25.8	Mississippi	-56	-63.6
New Mexico	31	50.8	Arkansas	-51	-98.1
New Jersey	29	107.4	Illinois	-48	-56.5
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>					
Florida	239	23.3	California	-199	-6.8
New York	141	4.3	Missouri	-152	-35.3
Nevada	119	62.0	New Mexico	-149	-57.3
Pennsylvania	110	15.1	Louisiana	-83	-25.6
Colorado	104	32.3	North Carolina	-65	-12.5

### EXHIBIT 4.8: Unsheltered Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2013–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>Unaccompanied Children</b>					
Nevada	339	83.7	Florida	-172	-24.1
Washington	34	113.3	North Dakota	-34	-100.0
Georgia	24	40.0	Illinois	-33	-97.1
Texas	23	6.0	California	-24	-1.5
North Carolina	19	135.7	Minnesota	-23	-69.7
<b>Unaccompanied Youth</b>					
Texas	109	15.6	California	-171	-1.8
Washington	77	24.1	Florida	-157	-11.9
Nevada	76	5.9	Mississippi	-94	-62.3
Hawaii	69	48.3	North Dakota	-93	-73.2
Tennessee	69	45.1	Alabama	-73	-52.5

Data Source: PIT 2013–2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))



# 5

## Homeless Veterans IN THE UNITED STATES

### POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)

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# Homeless Veterans

IN THE UNITED STATES

PIT DATA

On a single night  
in January 2014...

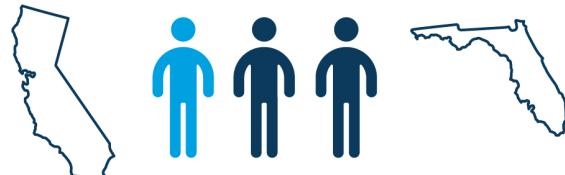


**49,933**

Veterans were homeless

This is a  
**32.6% decline**  
since 2009

1 in 3 homeless Veterans  
are in CA and FL



Veterans in sheltered &  
unsheltered locations



HMIS DATA

Throughout the  
year in 2014...

**131,697**

Veterans used shelter at some point

This is a  
**12% decline**  
since 2009

Veterans make up 9.5% of the  
U.S. adult population, but

**11.4% of the adult  
sheltered population**

From 2013–2014...

Veterans using shelter programs in



## KEY TERM

**Veteran** refers to any person who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States.  
This also includes Reserves and National Guard members who were called up to active duty.

# One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESS VETERANS

## PIT

Understanding the extent and nature of homelessness among Veterans is an important focus for both HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Estimates of homeless Veterans began in 2009. HUD and the VA have worked collaboratively for many years to produce accurate estimates of homeless Veterans and identify effective strategies for preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans. The overall framework for addressing Veteran homelessness, described in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, focuses on several key areas: providing affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, increasing meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities, reducing the financial vulnerability of Veterans, and transforming the homeless crisis response system with a focus on prevention and rapid re-housing. This chapter provides the most accurate metrics to gauge the nation's progress towards ending homelessness among Veterans.

### On a single night in January 2014:

- 49,933 Veterans were homeless in the United States, representing about 8.6 percent of homeless people and 11.3 percent of all homeless adults.
- 64.2 percent of homeless Veterans were sheltered (32,048 Veterans), and 35.8 percent were in unsheltered locations (17,885 Veterans).

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

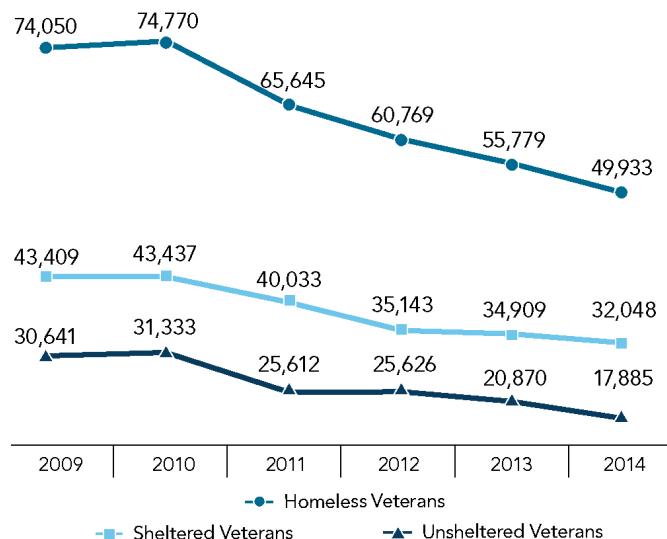
- The number of homeless Veterans declined by 10.5 percent (5,846 fewer Veterans). The number of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless Veterans dropped to result in this sizeable decline (2,985 fewer unsheltered homeless Veterans and 2,861 fewer sheltered homeless Veterans).
- The share of homeless Veterans in shelter programs increased from 62.6 percent in 2013 to 64.2 percent in 2014.

### Between January 2009 and January 2014:

- The total number of homeless Veterans dropped by 32.6 percent or 24,117 people. More of the decline was due to fewer unsheltered Veterans (a 41.6% drop or 12,756 fewer Veterans) than sheltered Veterans (a 26.2% drop or 11,361 fewer Veterans).

49,933 Veterans were homeless in the U.S. in January 2014, a 10.5% decline from 2013.

**EXHIBIT 5.1: One-Night Counts of Homeless Veterans**  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2009–2014



**Exhibit 5.2: Change in Homeless Veterans**  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2009–2014

Years	Total Homeless Veterans		Sheltered Veterans		Unsheltered Veterans	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014	-5,846	-10.5	-2,861	-8.2	-2,985	-14.3
2012 to 2013	-4,990	-8.2	-234	-0.7	-4,756	-18.6
2011 to 2012	-4,876	-7.4	-4,890	-12.2	14	0.1
2010 to 2011	-9,125	-12.2	-3,404	-7.8	-5,721	-18.3
2009 to 2010	720	1.0	28	0.1	692	2.3
2009 to 2014	-24,117	-32.6	-11,361	-26.2	-12,756	-41.6

## By State

### On a single night in January 2014:

- Two states accounted for one-third of the nation's homeless Veterans: California (24.3% or 12,096 Veterans) and Florida (9.1% or 4,552 Veterans).

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

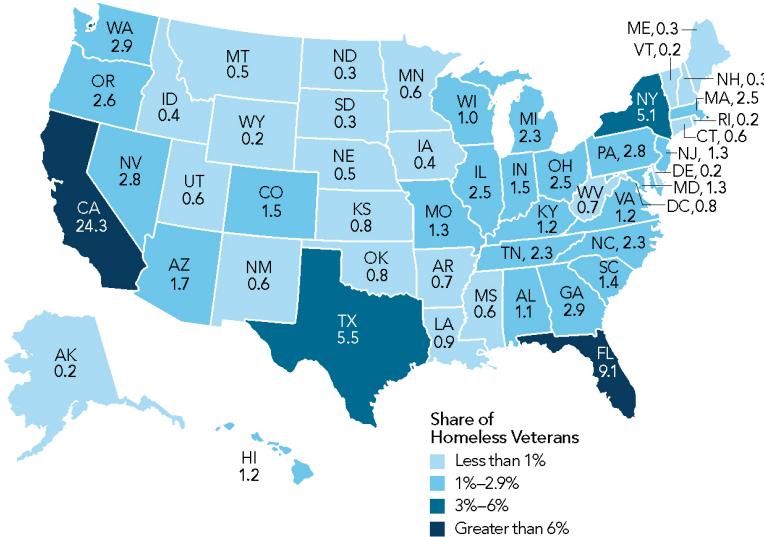
- The number of homeless Veterans decreased in 29 states and the District of Columbia, totaling 7,209 fewer Veterans.
- Increases in Veteran homelessness occurred in 21 states, totaling 1,355 more Veterans. Nearly one-third of the increase was attributable to one state, Nevada, with 419 more Veterans.

### Between January 2009 and January 2014:

- The number of homeless Veterans declined in 35 states and the District of Columbia (totaling 25,098 fewer Veterans), while 14 states had increases in homeless Veterans (totaling 982 additional Veterans). The number of homeless Veterans stayed constant in Tennessee.
- Four states represented 58.1 percent of the total decrease in homeless Veterans: California (5,877 fewer Veterans), New York (3,337), Texas (2,773), and Florida (2,583).
- Alaska and New York had declines in Veteran homeless of more than 40 percent.

### EXHIBIT 5.3: Share of Homeless Veteran Population

In the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)



### EXHIBIT 5.4: Homeless Veterans by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Nevada	419	44.1	New York	-2,117	-45.4
Tennessee	151	15.2	Texas	-1,160	-29.9
Washington	115	8.7	Florida	-953	-17.3
New Jersey	90	16.7	California	-799	-6.2
New Mexico	75	30.9	Arizona	-364	-29.8
<b>2009 to 2014</b>					
Illinois	206	20.1	California	-5,877	-32.7
Utah	151	91.0	New York	-3,337	-56.8
Arkansas	112	45.0	Texas	-2,773	-50.5
Hawaii	94	18.9	Florida	-2,583	-36.2
South Carolina	74	11.8	Louisiana	-1,548	-78.0

Data Source: PIT 2009–2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a single night in January 2014:

- In 16 states and the District of Columbia, more than 90 percent of the homeless Veteran population was sheltered rather than unsheltered. All states had more than 30 percent of the homeless Veteran population in shelter.
- In five states, more than half of the homeless Veteran population was unsheltered: California (7,639 Veterans), Nevada (823), Georgia (796), Hawaii (346), and Montana (162).
- Two-thirds of all unsheltered Veterans in the United States were in California (43%), Florida (12%), Texas (6.4%), and Nevada (4.6%).

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The number of sheltered Veterans decreased in 22 states and the District of Columbia, totaling 4,335 fewer sheltered Veterans, and increased in 27 states, totaling 1,466 more sheltered Veterans. The number of sheltered Veterans remained constant in Vermont.
- The number of Veterans found in unsheltered locations dropped in 36 states and the District of Columbia, totaling 3,553 fewer Veterans, and increased in 10 states, totaling only 568 more unsheltered Veterans. Unsheltered Veteran homelessness remained constant in Connecticut, New Mexico, Maine, and Wisconsin.
- Florida, California, and Texas alone accounted for 60.5 percent of the overall decrease in unsheltered Veteran homelessness.

### Between January 2009 and January 2014:

- Sheltered Veteran homelessness decreased or remained stable in 33 states and the District of Columbia (totaling 12,542 fewer Veterans), while 17 states had a net increase (totaling 1,155 more Veterans).
- Unsheltered homelessness among Veterans decreased or remained constant in 39 states, totaling 13,301 fewer unsheltered Veterans, and increased in 12 states and the District of Columbia, totaling 571 more unsheltered Veterans.
- The four states with the highest total homeless populations since 2007, all experienced large declines in both sheltered and unsheltered Veteran homelessness: California (2,342 fewer sheltered and 3,535 fewer unsheltered Veterans), New York (2,962 sheltered and 375 unsheltered), Texas (1,159 sheltered and 1,614 unsheltered) and Florida (483 sheltered and 2,100 unsheltered).

### EXHIBIT 5.5: Sheltered Homeless Veterans by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Tennessee	192	26.4	New York	-2,116	-50.4
New Jersey	134	31.9	Texas	-431	-21.5
Florida	96	4.1	California	-429	-8.8
Mississippi	92	71.3	Arizona	-266	-29.5
Alabama	87	24.0	Georgia	-253	-28.1
<b>2009 to 2014</b>					
Utah	183	166.4	New York	-2,962	-58.7
North Carolina	128	15.0	California	-2,342	-34.4
West Virginia	126	71.2	Texas	-1,159	-42.4
Illinois	112	14.0	Nevada	-783	-58.9
Indiana	101	17.2	Georgia	-726	-52.9

### EXHIBIT 5.6: Unsheltered Homeless Veterans by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2009–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Nevada	350	74.0	Florida	-1,049	-33.0
Washington	84	32.3	Texas	-729	-39.0
Oklahoma	36	36.4	California	-370	-4.6
Idaho	34	73.9	Oregon	-195	-24.8
Hawaii	22	6.8	North Dakota	-147	-81.2
<b>2009 to 2014</b>					
South Carolina	114	60.0	California	-3,535	-31.6
Illinois	94	41.5	Florida	-2,100	-49.7
Montana	84	107.7	Texas	-1,614	-58.6
Hawaii	81	30.7	Louisiana	-1,439	-93.2
Oklahoma	76	128.1	Arizona	-904	-80.2

# Profile

TYPICAL HOMELESS VETERAN IN 2014



## A Man in Shelter by Himself

91.6% MALE / 99.8% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

43.5% WERE AGE

51–61

52.4% WERE

White,  
Non-Hispanic

55.9% HAD

A Disability

73.8% WERE IN A

City



PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER, 48.1% WERE

Already Homeless



NIGHTS SPENT IN  
EMERGENCY SHELTER

# One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED VETERANS

## HMIS

Since 2009, HUD has estimated the annual number of Veterans who use shelter programs at some time during the reporting year, from October 1 through September 30. The one-year estimates account for all Veterans who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program, including programs that specifically target Veterans and those that do not. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates statistically adjust for homeless Veterans in shelter programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of sheltered Veterans in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered Veterans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) Veterans served by victim service providers; and (c) Veterans in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period.

Veterans experience homelessness as individuals or as part of a family. Following the definition used throughout this report, Veteran individuals are in households without any children, while homeless Veterans in families are in households that have at least one child present.

131,697 Veterans were in a shelter program in the U.S. at some time during 2014, a 12% decrease from 2009.

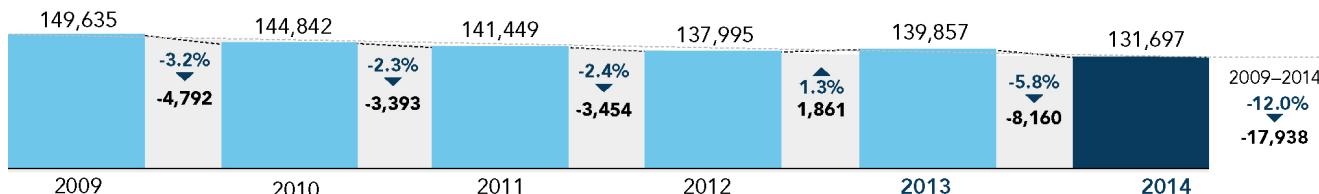
### 2014 Estimate of Sheltered Veterans:

- An estimated 131,697 Veterans used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at some time between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.<sup>1</sup>
- One in 174 Veterans in the U.S. was homeless in shelter at some point during 2014. While Veterans make up only 9.5 percent of the U.S. adult population, they make up 11.4 percent of the adult homeless population.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of Veterans using shelter programs over the course of a year decreased by 5.8 percent (8,160 less Veterans); this is the largest annual decrease recorded since records began in 2009.
- Between 2009 and 2014, the number of sheltered Veterans in the United States has dropped by 12 percent (17,938 fewer Veterans).

### EXHIBIT 5.7: One-year Estimates of Sheltered Veterans, 2009–2014



<sup>1</sup> The 95 percent confidence interval for the sheltered homeless Veteran population in 2014 is 113,923 to 149,471 ( $131,697 \pm 17,774$ ).

## Gender and Age

### In 2014:

- More than 9 in 10 (91.6%) sheltered Veterans were men, in line with the share of men among all U.S. Veterans (91.5%).
- The most common age group for sheltered Veterans was age 51 to 61 (43.5%). They are also the most overrepresented age group, with a 2.4 times higher share of the homeless Veteran population in shelter programs than the share of all U.S. Veterans (18.1%).
- Elderly Veterans (age 62 and older) was the only age group that was underrepresented in shelter compared to the total U.S. Veteran population. All U.S. Veterans were 3.9 times more likely to be age 62 and older than Veterans in shelter (54.5% versus 13.5%).

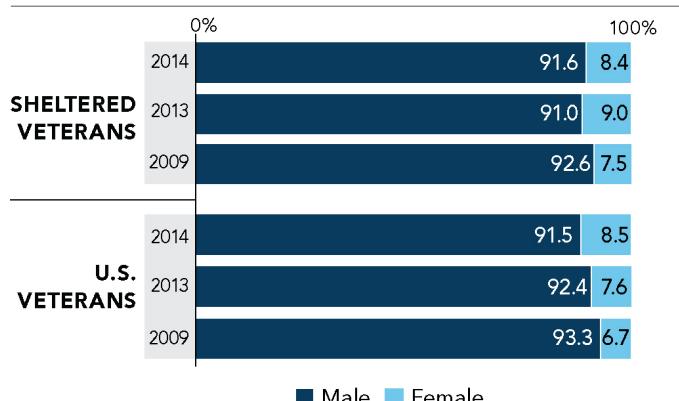
### Changes Over Time:

- While the share of women among all U.S. Veterans increased from 7.6 percent in 2013 to 8.5 percent in 2014, the share who were sheltered decreased (from 9% to 8.4%). This represented a 12.5 percent decline in sheltered female Veterans (1,570 less women) since 2013.
- Since 2009, the share of all age groups in the sheltered Veteran population increased, except the group ages 31 to 50. The share of the youngest Veterans (age 18 to 30) in shelter programs increased from 8.1 to 9.1 percent, and the share of the oldest Veterans (age 62 or older) increased from 8.7 to 13.5 percent.

**8.4% of sheltered homeless Veterans in 2014 were women.**

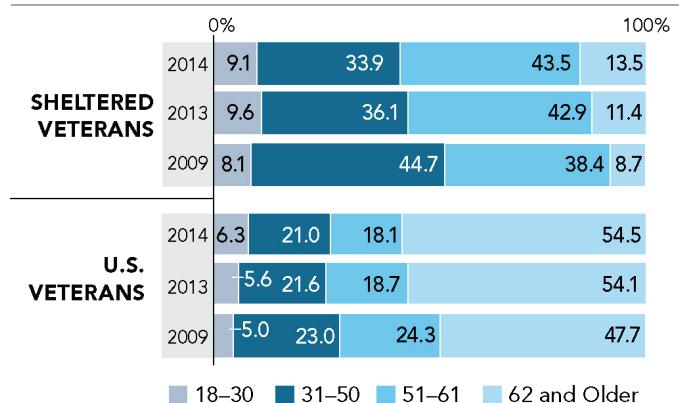
### EXHIBIT 5.8: Gender

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014



### EXHIBIT 5.9: Age

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014



## Ethnicity and Race

### In 2014:

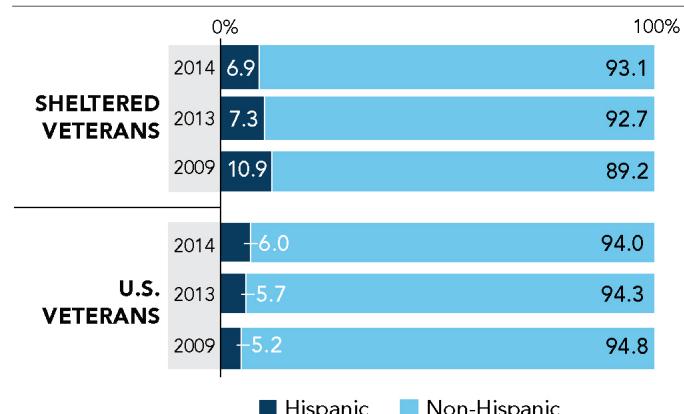
- Hispanic Veterans were slightly overrepresented in the sheltered population compared to the broader U.S. Veteran population (6.9% versus 6%).
- Veterans who identified as white and not Hispanic (non-minority) comprise slightly more than half of all sheltered Veterans, compared to almost 4 out of 5 among all Veterans in the U.S.
- Among homeless sheltered Veterans, 47.6 percent were in a minority group including: black or African American (36.2%), white Hispanic (4.8%), multiple races (3.1%), American Indian or Alaska Native (2.5%), Asian (0.5%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.4%).
- Veterans using shelter programs were 3.3 times more likely to be black or African American than were U.S. Veterans overall (36.2% versus 11.1%).

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2013 and 2014, the number of sheltered Veterans in minority groups declined by 10.3 percent (7,079 fewer Veterans), while the number of minorities in the total U.S. Veteran population increased by 9.8 percent.
- While the number of all U.S. Hispanic Veterans increased by 19.8 percent between 2009 and 2014, the number of sheltered Hispanic Veterans dropped by 43.5 percent (6,988 fewer Veterans), and the share of sheltered Veterans who are Hispanic dropped from 10.9 to 6.9 percent.
- The number of black or African American Veterans homeless in shelter decreased 6.4 percent (3,234 fewer Veterans) since 2009, while the number among all U.S. Veterans increased by 9.1 percent.

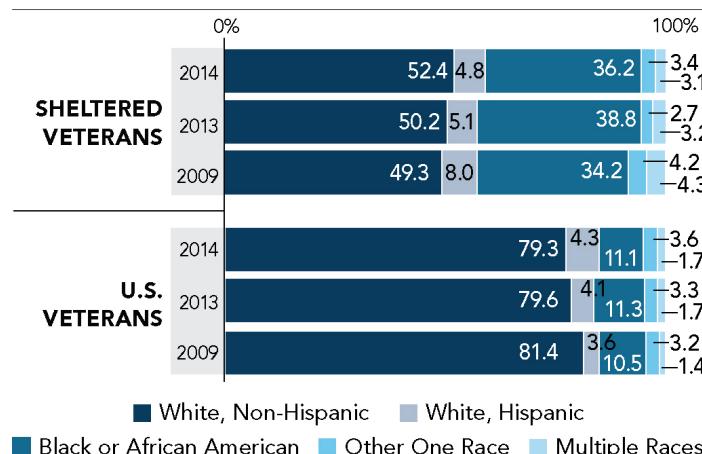
### EXHIBIT 5.10: Ethnicity

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014



### EXHIBIT 5.11: Race

Sheltered Veterans and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014



Note: Ethnicity is distinguished among the white race group to facilitate an understanding of minorities and non-minorities. Non-minorities are those who identify their ethnicity as not Hispanic and their race as white.



## Household Size and Disability Status

### In 2014:

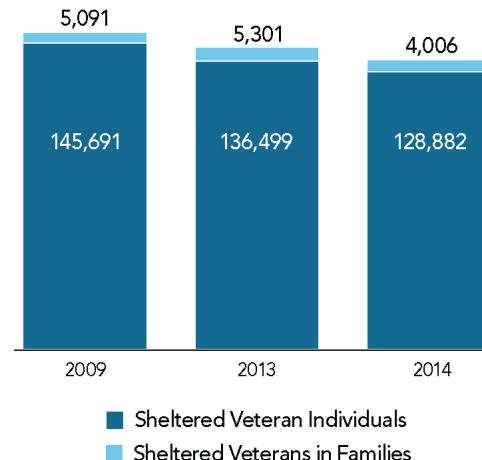
- The vast majority of sheltered Veterans were homeless as individuals (128,882 Veterans) rather than in families with children (4,006 Veterans).
- The share of Veterans in shelter programs that have a disability (55.9%) was twice as high as among the total U.S. Veteran population (27.8%) and 1.3 times as high as among the adult homeless (42.2%).

### Changes Over Time:

- The share of Veterans as individuals and as family members has remained stable between 2009 and 2014, with between 97.4 and 97.9 percent of all Veterans in shelter homeless as individuals and between 3.0 and 3.4 percent homeless in families with children.
- Between 2013 and 2014, the share of sheltered Veterans with a disability rose from 53.6 percent to 55.9 percent.

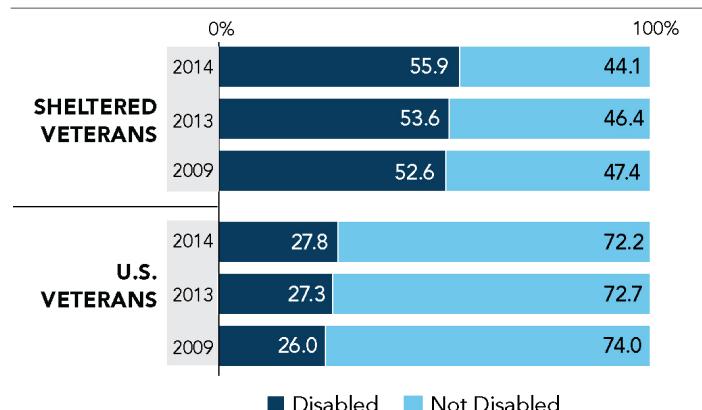
**More than half (55.9%) of sheltered homeless Veterans had a disability in 2014.**

**EXHIBIT 5.12: Sheltered Veterans Estimates**  
By Household Type, 2009–2014



Note: The number of sheltered Veterans served as individuals and in families may not sum to the unduplicated total number of sheltered Veterans because some Veterans were served as both individuals and in families at different points during the reporting period.

**EXHIBIT 5.13: Disability Status**  
Sheltered Veterans, 2009–2014



## Geographic Location

### In 2014:

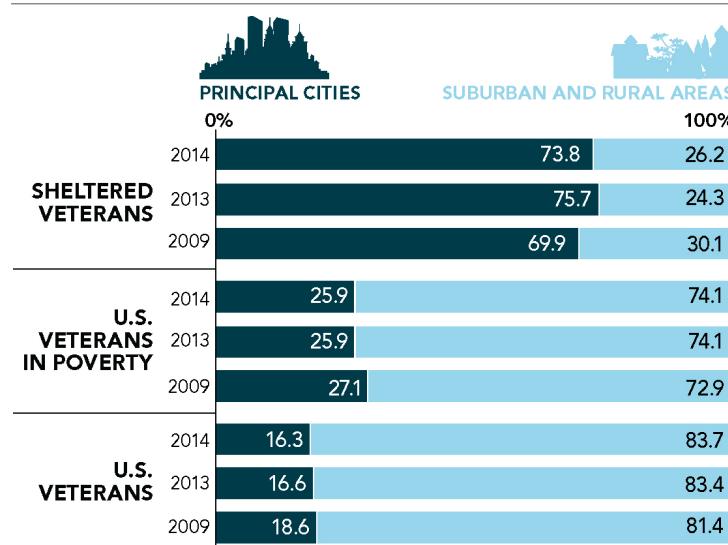
- Just under three-quarters (73.8%) of sheltered Veterans used emergency shelter and transitional housing programs in principal cities, with the remaining 26.2 percent in suburban and rural areas.
- The geographic pattern both of all U.S. Veterans and of those in poverty is the reverse of the sheltered Veteran population. About 8 in 10 Veterans (83.7%) in the U.S. population, and almost three-quarters (74.1%) of Veterans in poverty lived in suburban and rural areas in 2014.

### Changes Over Time:

- Sheltered Veterans have become increasingly concentrated in cities since 2009, with the share of homeless Veterans using shelter programs in cities rising from 69.9 percent in 2009 to 73.8 percent in 2014.
- In contrast, Veterans in the poverty and in the total U.S. populations have consistently been concentrated in suburban and urban areas.

### EXHIBIT 5.14: Geographic Distribution

Sheltered Veterans, U.S. Veterans in Poverty, and Total U.S. Veterans, 2009–2014



### EXHIBIT 5.15: Percent Change by Geography

Sheltered Homeless Veterans, U.S. Veterans in Poverty Population, and Total U.S. Veterans Population, 2009–2014 (in %)

Population	2013–2014		2009–2014	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
Sheltered Veterans	-8.1	1.3	7.0	23.5
U.S. Veterans in Poverty*	16.7	16.4	3.4	10.4
U.S. Veterans*	7.2	9.6	-7.0	-4.3

\* The way the ACS measures geography changed in 2012, making population changes in geography before and after 2012 no longer comparable. Therefore, the 2009 to 2014 population changes reflect the 2007 to 2012 ACS results.

## Characteristics by Geography

### In 2014:

- A larger share of Veterans using shelter programs located in suburban and rural areas were women compared to those in cities, 9.7 versus 7.9 percent.
- Sheltered Veterans in cities were 1.3 times more likely to be in minority groups than those in suburban and rural areas (51% versus 37.9%), and they were 1.4 times more likely to be African American (39% versus 28.6%).
- Sheltered Veterans located in cities were less likely to have a disability than those located in suburban and rural areas (54.6% and 59.9%).

### Changes Over Time:

- From 2009 to 2014, the share of Veterans with a disability using shelter programs increased in both cities (50.5% to 54.6%) and in suburban and rural areas (57.7% to 59.9%).
- The share of Veterans who were Hispanic decreased in cities (13.8% to 7.4%) but increased in suburban and rural areas (4% to 5.7%) between 2009 and 2014.

### EXHIBIT 5.16: Characteristics by Geography

Sheltered Veterans, 2014 (in %)

Characteristic	Principal Cities			Suburban & Rural Areas		
	2009	2013	2014	2009	2013	2014
# Homeless Veterans	104,596	105,794	97,255	45,037	33,993	34,442
<b>Gender of Adults</b>						
Male	92.9	91.5	92.1	91.8	89.3	90.3
Female	7.1	8.5	7.9	8.2	10.7	9.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	13.8	8.1	7.4	4.0	4.7	5.7
Non-Hispanic	86.2	91.9	92.6	96.0	95.3	94.3
<b>Race</b>						
White, Non-Hispanic	43.1	46.8	49.0	63.6	60.8	62.1
White, Hispanic	10.6	5.7	5.1	1.9	3.2	3.9
Black or African American	37.7	41.6	39.0	26.2	30.4	28.6
Other One Race	4.4	2.7	3.8	3.5	2.6	2.3
Multiple Races	4.2	3.3	3.1	4.7	3.0	3.2
<b>Age</b>						
18–30	8.0	9.3	8.8	8.6	10.5	9.8
31–50	44.7	35.9	33.2	44.6	36.9	35.8
51–61	37.9	43.2	44.5	39.8	42.0	40.9
62 and Older	9.5	11.6	13.5	7.1	10.7	13.5
<b>Household Size</b>						
1 Person	99.7	99.6	99.8	99.8	99.5	99.8
2 People	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
3 People	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
4 People	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5 or More People	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>						
Disabled	50.5	52.8	54.6	57.7	56.3	59.9
Not Disabled	49.5	47.2	45.5	42.3	43.7	40.1

## Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

### In 2014:

- Nearly half of the Veterans who used a shelter program at some time during the reporting year were already homeless, 30.3 percent came from a housed situation, and 21.6 percent from institutional or other settings.
- Of the 61,625 sheltered Veterans who were already homeless, 52.2 percent were staying in a shelter program, and 47.8 percent came from unsheltered locations.
- Excluding those who were already homeless prior to the start of the reporting period can offer a sense of flow into the shelter system. Of sheltered Veterans who were *not already homeless*, 27.5 percent entered from institutional settings. Among the 18,304 Veterans entering from institutional settings, 35.2 percent came from a substance abuse treatment or detox center, 26.2 percent from a correctional facility, 20.7 percent from a hospital, and 18 percent from a psychiatric facility.
- Of Veterans *not already homeless*, 58.4 percent came from housing. Among those 38,891 Veterans that came from housing, 34.3 percent had been staying with family, 33.7 percent had been staying with friends, and 28.2 percent were in housing they rented. Only 2.7 percent were in housing that they owned, and only 1.1 percent entered a shelter program from permanent supportive housing.

### Changes Over Time:

- The number of Veterans who entered shelter from another homeless situation decreased 9.2 percent (6,371 fewer Veterans) between 2013 and 2014. However, of these Veterans, the number who entered shelter from an unsheltered homeless situation increased by 7.2 percent (2,018 more Veterans).
- The share of Veterans who entered shelter from institutional settings increased from 13.2 percent in 2013 to 14.3 percent in 2014, including 811 more Veterans entering shelter from a psychiatric facility.

### EXHIBIT 5.17: Places Veterans Stayed

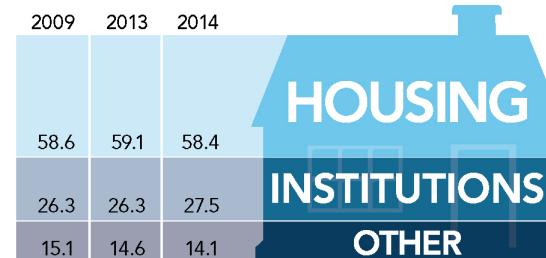
Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2009–2014

Place Stayed	2014		2013-2014		2009–2014	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Already Homeless	61,625	48.1	-6,371	-9.2	-5,883	-8.5
Sheltered	32,154	52.2	-8,389	-20.3	-5,015	-13.4
Unsheltered	29,471	47.8	2,018	7.2	-1,225	-3.9
Housing	38,891	30.3	-1,523	-3.6	-7,056	-14.9
Staying with family	13,349	34.3	-834	-5.7	-1,782	-11.5
Staying with friends	13,106	33.7	-419	-3.0	1,173	9.5
Rented housing unit	10,959	28.2	-80	-0.7	-4,341	-27.6
Owned housing unit	1,064	2.7	-121	-9.9	-2,288	-67.3
Permanent supportive housing (PSH)	413	1.1	-69	-13.8	182	72.8
Institutional Settings	18,304	14.3	401	2.2	-2,472	-11.6
Substance abuse treatment center	6,434	35.2	-236	-3.5	-1,910	-22.6
Correctional facility	4,788	26.2	63	1.3	-1,511	-23.5
Hospital	3,786	20.7	-237	-5.7	-141	-3.5
Psychiatric facility	3,296	18.0	811	31.4	1,090	47.4
Other Settings	9,361	7.3	-684	-6.6	-2,555	-20.9
Hotel or motel	5,183	55.4	220	4.3	175	3.4
Other living arrangement	4,178	44.6	-904	-17.3	-2,346	-35.2

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2013 AHAR methodology document for more details.

### EXHIBIT 5.18: Places Veterans Stayed

Who Were Not Already Homeless  
Before Entering Shelter, 2009–2014 (in %)



## Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are designed differently. Emergency shelters are high-volume, high-turnover programs; their primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless people. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months and intend for people to stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

### In 2014:

- Of Veterans using shelter programs at some point during the reporting year, almost two-thirds (64.1%) used only emergency shelter. The rest used only transitional housing programs (30.6%) or accessed both types of shelter programs during the year (5.3%).
- During the 12-month reporting year, nearly one-third of Veterans using emergency shelters stayed one week or less (31.5%), 59.1 percent stayed one month or less, and 5.6 percent stayed more than six months.
- For transitional housing programs, within the reporting year, 5.4 percent of Veterans stayed in the program one week or less, 18.5 percent stayed one month or less, and 32.7 percent stayed more than six months.
- The average length of stay in emergency shelter during the 12-month reporting period among sheltered Veterans was 49 nights, and it was 145 nights, or about 5 months, in transitional housing programs.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2009 and 2014, the length of stay for Veterans in emergency shelter increased from a median number of 21 to 23 nights. The opposite was the case for transitional housing, which decreased from a median number of 120 to 112 nights.

### EXHIBIT 5.19: Length of Stay

Veterans in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2014

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	28,655	31.5	2,530	5.4
8 to 30 days	25,067	27.6	6,200	13.1
31 to 180 days	32,200	35.4	23,031	48.8
181 to 360 days	3,596	4.0	9,925	21.0
361 to 365 days	1,435	1.6	5,543	11.7

Note: Length of stay accounts for multiple program entries/exits by summing the total number of (cumulative) days in a homeless residential program during the 12-month reporting period. The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

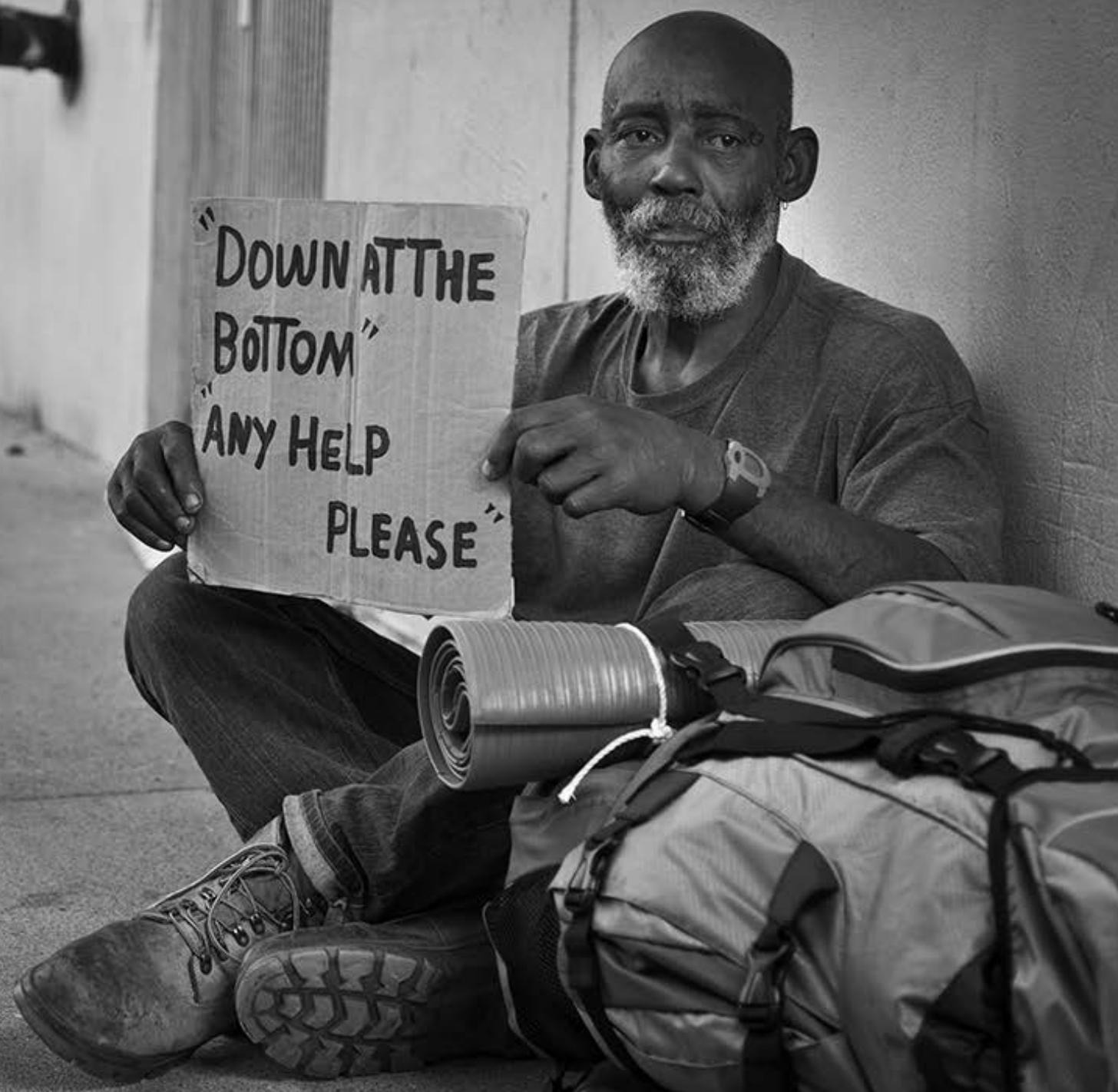
### EXHIBIT 5.20: Bed-Use Patterns

Veterans in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2009–2014

Bed-Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2009	2013	2014	2009	2013	2014
Median number of nights	21	20	23	120	113	112
Average number of nights	47	46	49	149	146	145

Note: The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

"DOWN AT THE  
BOTTOM"  
"ANY HELP  
PLEASE"



# 6

## Chronically Homeless Individuals IN THE UNITED STATES

### **POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)**

One-Night Estimates of Chronically Homeless Individuals .....	6-3
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By State and Sheltered Status .....	6-5

# Chronically Homeless Individuals IN THE UNITED STATES

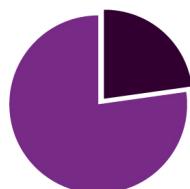
PIT DATA

On a single night in January 2014...

**84,291**

people were chronically homeless as individuals

This is a  
**30% decline**  
since 2007



**23.3%**  
of homeless individuals  
are chronically homeless

Chronically homeless  
individuals in sheltered &  
unsheltered locations



Over 75% were  
unsheltered in NV,  
HI, CA, AR, OR



Over half of all chronically homeless individuals  
were located in CA, FL, NY, and TX

## KEY TERMS

**INDIVIDUAL** refers to a person who is not part of a family with children during an episode of homelessness. Individuals may be homeless as single adults, unaccompanied youth, or in multiple-adult or multiple-child households.

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL** refers to an individual with a disability who has been continuously homeless for 1 year or more or has experienced at least 4 episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years. By definition, only an adult can be categorized as chronically homeless.

# One-Night Estimates OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

PIT

Since 2007, communities have submitted data on adults who are chronically homeless as individuals. Since 2013, the AHAR has also reported on chronic homelessness among families, where the head of a family household qualifies as chronically homeless. Of all people chronically homeless, 15.2 percent (15,143 people) are in families. This section only discusses chronically homeless individuals to allow for longer trend comparisons over time.

HUD currently requires communities to report data on people experiencing chronic homelessness in the Point-in-Time count. However, HUD is in the process of improving and updating its annual data collection on this important population. HUD is making changes to the data collection on 1-year estimates now. Some of these changes will appear in the 2015 AHAR, but most will appear in two years (i.e., 2017 AHAR).

## On a single night in January 2014:

- 84,291 adult individuals were chronically homeless, representing 23.3 percent of all homeless individuals in the U.S.
- The majority of chronically homeless individuals were unsheltered (63%). In contrast, the broader population of all homeless individuals tended to be found in homeless shelters (42.3% were unsheltered).

## Between January 2013 and January 2014:

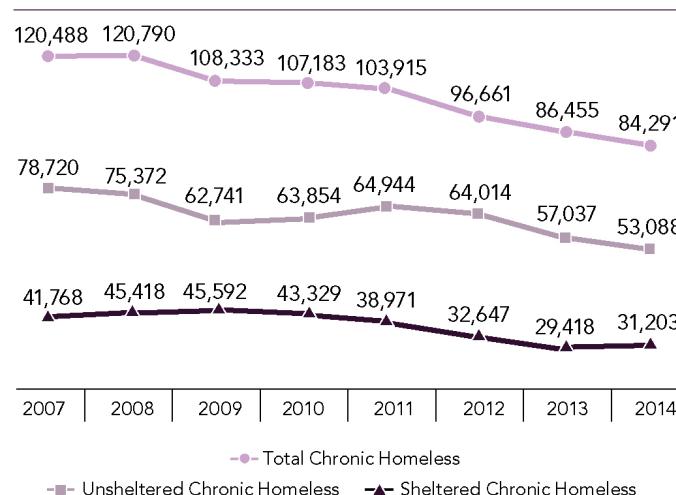
- The one-night estimate of chronically homeless individuals declined by 2.5 percent (2,164 fewer people).
- The number of chronically homeless individuals using shelter programs rose by 6.1 percent (1,785 more people), while the number in unsheltered locations fell by 6.9 percent (3,949 fewer people).

## Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- The one-night estimate of chronically homeless individuals declined by 30 percent (36,197 fewer people).
- The proportion of all homeless individuals who were chronically homeless decreased from 29 percent in 2007 to 23.3 percent in 2014.
- The number of chronically homeless individuals in shelter fell by 25.3 percent (10,565 fewer people), and the number in unsheltered locations fell by 32.6 percent (25,632 fewer people).

About a quarter (23.3%) of all homeless individuals counted on a single night in January 2014 were chronically homeless.

**EXHIBIT 6.1: One-Night Counts of Chronically Homeless Individuals**  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2014



**EXHIBIT 6.2: Change in Chronically Homeless Individuals**  
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2014

Years	Total Chronically Homeless		Sheltered Chronically Homeless		Unsheltered Chronically Homeless	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2013 to 2014	-2,164	-2.5	1,785	6.1	-3,949	-6.9
2012 to 2013	-10,206	-10.6	-3,229	-9.9	-6,977	-10.9
2011 to 2012	-7,254	-7.0	-6,324	-16.2	-930	-1.4
2010 to 2011	-3,268	-3.0	-4,358	-10.1	1,090	1.7
2009 to 2010	-1,150	-1.1	-2,263	-5.0	1,113	1.8
2008 to 2009	-12,457	-10.3	174	0.4	-12,631	-16.8
2007 to 2008	302	0.3	3,650	8.7	-3,348	-4.3
2007 to 2014	-36,197	-30.0	-10,565	-25.3	-25,632	-32.6

## By State

### On a single night in January 2014:

- About a third (34.1%) of all chronically homeless individuals were counted in California. No other state accounted for more than 9 percent of all chronically homeless individuals.
- In the District of Columbia, 40.7 percent of all homeless individuals were chronically homeless, the largest proportion of chronic homelessness in the nation.

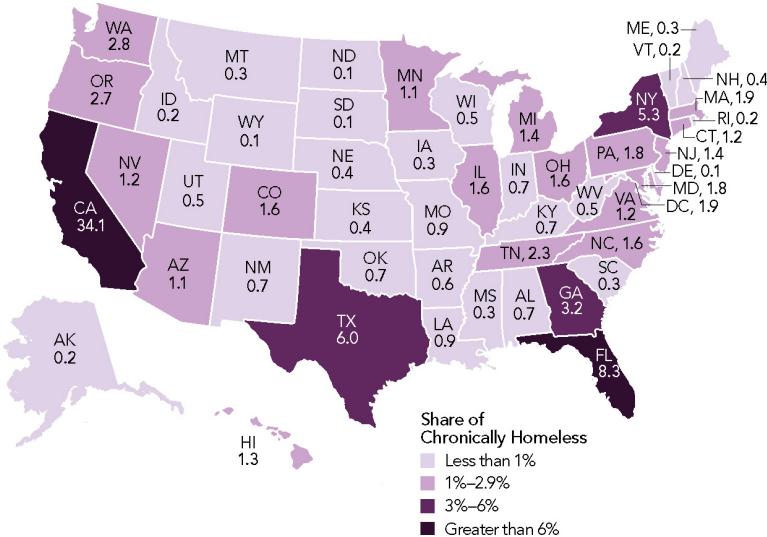
### Between 2013 and 2014:

- Although the number of chronically homeless individuals declined nationally, this population grew in 24 states.
- Washington experienced the largest increase in chronically homeless individuals (384 more people, a 19.9% change), while California experienced the largest decrease (1,048 fewer people, a 3.6% change).

### Between 2007 and 2014:

- In 37 states and the District of Columbia, the number of chronically homeless individuals declined.
- In Hawaii, the number of chronically homeless individuals increased by 331 people (a 42.5% rise), the largest increase in the nation. Meanwhile, chronic homelessness among individuals declined most dramatically in California, where 12,141 fewer people were counted in 2014 than in 2007 (a 30.1% drop).

**EXHIBIT 6.3: Share of Chronically Homeless Individuals**  
In the U.S. by State, 2014 (in %)



**EXHIBIT 6.4: Chronically Homeless Individuals by State**  
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Washington	384	19.9	California	-1,048	-3.6
New York	305	7.5	Florida	-935	-12.0
Maryland	266	21.3	Ohio	-337	-20.1
Kentucky	220	55.8	Virginia	-297	-23.5
New Mexico	218	54.6	Louisiana	-272	-26.8
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
Hawaii	331	42.5	California	-12,141	-30.1
Louisiana	181	32.2	Texas	-2,979	-37.6
Montana	173	208.4	New York	-2,126	-32.8
Georgia	161	6.5	Arizona	-1,900	-67.8
Kansas	131	82.4	New Jersey	-1,375	-54.5

Data Source: PIT 2007–2014

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2014 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a single night in January 2014:

- In each of three states, Maine, Nebraska, and Rhode Island, at least 90 percent of chronically homeless individuals were staying in a homeless shelter.
- Less than 50 percent of chronically homeless individuals were sheltered in 19 states, including Nevada, where only 9.6 percent of chronically homeless individuals were sheltered.

### Between January 2013 and January 2014:

- The national increase in chronically homeless individuals using shelter programs was reflected in a majority of states. However, the population declined in 17 states and the District of Columbia.
- While the number of chronically homeless individuals counted in unsheltered locations declined nationally, 16 states experienced increases in this population.

### Between January 2007 and January 2014:

- The long-term, national decline in chronically homeless individuals was driven by reductions in the sheltered chronically homeless population in 32 states and the District of Columbia and reductions in the unsheltered chronically homeless population in 39 states.
- California experienced the largest declines in chronically homeless individuals staying in shelter programs (1,533 fewer people, a 25.8% change) and in unsheltered locations (10,608 fewer people, a 30.8% change).
- Tennessee experienced the largest increase in chronically homeless individuals staying in shelter programs (273 more people, a 30.5% change), while Georgia experienced the largest increase in chronically homeless individuals found in unsheltered locations (407 more people, a 29.6% change).

### EXHIBIT 6.5: Sheltered Chronically Homeless Individuals by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
New York	274	16.4	Nevada	-279	-74.4
Maryland	272	37.5	Ohio	-241	-21.2
California	240	5.7	Arizona	-147	-32.7
New Mexico	218	90.8	Virginia	-123	-15.4
Texas	215	12.8	Iowa	-87	-41.8
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
Tennessee	273	30.5	California	-1,533	-25.8
Maryland	248	33.1	Texas	-1,398	-42.5
New Mexico	213	86.9	New Jersey	-822	-52.0
Maine	133	198.5	West Virginia	-779	-73.6
Rhode Island	108	120.0	Massachusetts	-771	-37.5

### EXHIBIT 6.6: Unsheltered Chronically Homeless Individuals by State

Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007–2014

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2013 to 2014</b>					
Nevada	394	77.4	California	-1,288	-5.1
Washington	324	33.3	Florida	-1,044	-16.9
Hawaii	145	17.7	Louisiana	-277	-35.2
New York	31	1.3	Pennsylvania	-181	-28.0
Minnesota	30	10.2	Virginia	-174	-37.4
<b>2007 to 2014</b>					
Georgia	407	29.6	California	-10,608	-30.8
Hawaii	318	49.2	New York	-1,660	-40.9
Louisiana	175	52.1	Texas	-1,581	-34.1
Montana	137	285.4	Arizona	-1,553	-72.1
Kansas	64	152.4	Tennessee	-1,136	-60.7



# 7

## People in Permanent Supportive Housing IN THE UNITED STATES

### HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

One-Year Estimates of People in Supportive Housing (PSH) ..... 7-3

#### Characteristics of People in PSH

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# PROFILE OF A TYPICAL PERSON LIVING IN PSH IN 2014



## A Man Living Alone

54.9% MALE / 59.1% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

32% WERE AGE  
31–50

44.7% WERE  
Black or  
African  
American

82.7% HAD  
A Disability

66.4% WERE IN A  
City

PRIOR TO ENTERING PSH, 77.2% WERE  
**Already Homeless**



YEARS SPENT LIVING IN  
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

KEY TERM

**PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)** is a program designed to provide housing (project- and tenant-based) and supportive services on a long-term basis to formerly homeless people. McKinney-Vento-funded programs require that the client have a disability for program eligibility, so the majority of people in PSH have disabilities.

## PEOPLE LIVING IN PSH IN THE UNITED STATES

HMIS DATA

Throughout the  
year in 2014...

**285,403**  
people were living in PSH

**Only 5.5%**  
of people who exited  
PSH became homeless



The number who stayed in  
PSH for more than 5 years

▲ **increased 1.3%**

# One-Night Estimates

## PEOPLE IN PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

### HMIS

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs are designed to serve people who were homeless and who have disabilities that interfere with their ability to maintain housing on their own. PSH programs provide permanent housing combined with intensive supportive services to stabilize formerly homeless people in housing. PSH has been an important priority for HUD for many years. The number of beds in PSH projects has increased by 59.2 percent since 2007, with the growing inventory of HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) program beds an important part of this increase.

In 2010, HUD began collecting aggregate one-year estimates of people in PSH from each community. People in PSH are in housing and not considered homeless, unlike people using emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. Because PSH is meant for a subset of formerly homeless people, their characteristics may not be the same as those using the shelter system, thus, comparing people living in PSH with shelter users can shed light on how client characteristics and program use may differ. People in PSH are classified by household type, following the definitions used in Sections 2 and 3 of this report: individuals are people in households that do not have at least one adult and one child, while people in families with children are in households with at least one adult and one child.

The estimates of people in PSH are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data to HUD. Data are statistically adjusted for people in PSH programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS to provide an enumeration of people in PSH in each community<sup>1</sup> and are weighted to represent the entire country.<sup>2</sup>

#### 2014 Estimate of People in PSH:

- An estimated 285,403 people lived in PSH in 2014.
- Just over one-third (36.2%) are people in families with children rather than individuals.

#### Changes Over Time:

- The total number of people living in PSH decreased 2 percent (5,949 less people) between 2013 and 2014. Among families with children in PSH, the number decreased 3.7 percent (4,008 fewer people), which was higher than the 0.9 percent decrease among individuals (1,686 fewer people).
- Between 2010 and 2014, there was a 17.8 percent decline (22,387 fewer people) among people in families with children living in PSH and a 7.7 percent increase among individuals (13,016 more people).

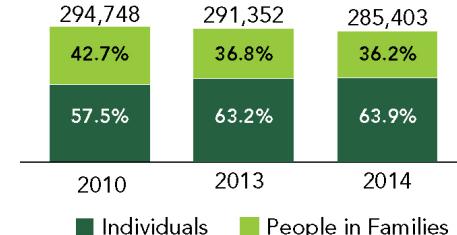
<sup>1</sup> This adjustment (and thus the enumeration) does not account for people in VASH programs not participating in HMIS. About 78 percent of all VASH beds are not participating in HMIS (HIC, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> The 95 percent confidence interval for people in PSH in 2014 is 275,249 to 295,557 ( $285,403 \pm 10,154$ )

Data Source: HMIS 2010–2014, HIC 2007–2014

285,403 people lived in Permanent Supportive Housing in 2014.

#### EXHIBIT 7.1: One-Year Estimates of People Living in PSH By Household Type, 2010–2014

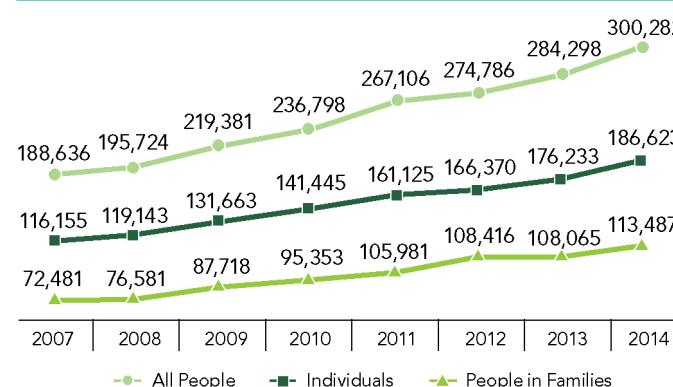


Note: The share of people in PSH as individuals and as family members may not sum to 100% because some people were in PSH as both individuals and in families at different points during the reporting period.

#### EXHIBIT 7.2: Change in the One-Year Estimates People Living in PSH by Household Type, 2010–2014

Population	2013–2014		2010–2014	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total People in PSH	-5,949	-2.0	-9,345	-3.2
Individuals in PSH	-1,686	-0.9	13,016	7.7
People in families in PSH	-4,008	-3.7	-22,387	-17.8

#### EXHIBIT 7.3: Inventory of PSH Beds in the U.S., 2007–2014



## Gender and Age

### In 2014:

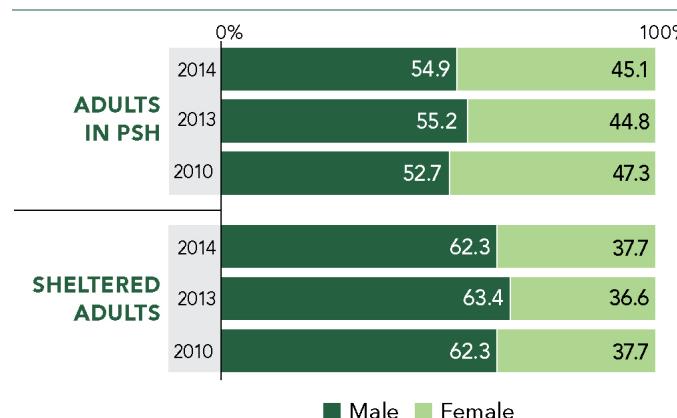
- At 45.1 percent of all adults in PSH, women represented a larger share of the PSH residents than of people using emergency shelters and transitional housing programs, 37.7 percent.
- About one in five PSH residents was a child under age 18, about the same as for people using shelter programs.
- People living in PSH are older than people using shelters, with 33.6 percent aged 51 or older compared to 20.8 percent of people using shelters.
- Almost half (45.1%) of people living in PSH fall between the ages of 18 and 50.

### Changes Over Time:

- People living in PSH were older in 2014 than in 2013. The share of people age 62 and older living in PSH grew from 6.4 percent in 2013 to 7.2 percent in 2014 (1,749 more people), and the share of PSH residents aged 51 to 61 grew from 25.1 percent to 26.4 percent (2,144 more people).
- The share of PSH residents who are women dropped from 47.3 percent in 2010 to 45.1 percent in 2014. However, this is an increase from 44.8 percent in 2013.
- A decline of women in families with children in PSH (8,026 fewer women) outnumbered an increase of women in PSH as individuals (6,106 more women).

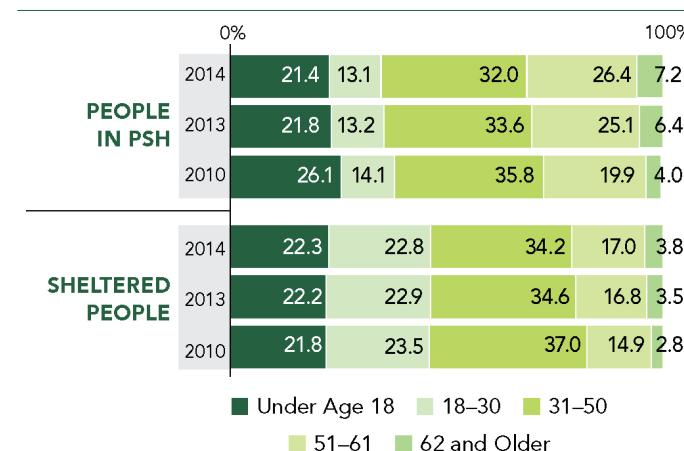
### EXHIBIT 7.4: Gender

Adults Living in PSH and Adults Using Shelters, 2010–2014



### EXHIBIT 7.5: Age

People Living in PSH and People Using Shelters, 2010–2014



## Ethnicity and Race

### In 2014:

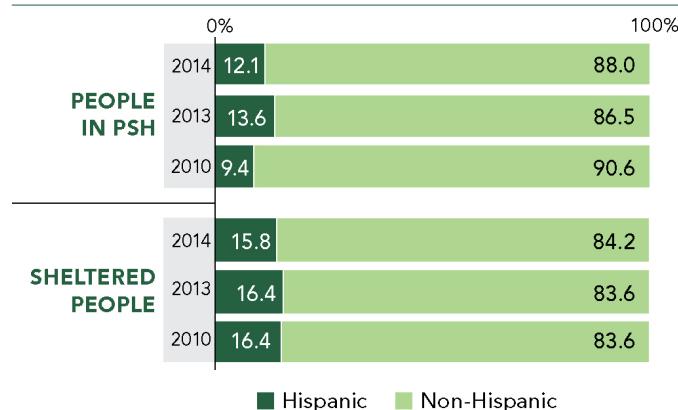
- People identifying themselves as Hispanic made up 12.1 percent of PSH residents, lower than the share of Hispanics using shelter programs, 15.8 percent.
- A slightly larger share of people in PSH were African American (44.7%) than among people using the shelter system (40.6%).

### Changes Over Time:

- The share of PSH residents who are Hispanic increased from 9.4 percent in 2010 to 12.1 percent in 2014. The Hispanic share among shelter-users dropped over the same period.
- The share of PSH residents who identify as African American increased slightly between 2013 and 2014, from 44.2 percent to 44.7 percent, while the total sheltered population decreased slightly from 41.8 percent to 40.6 percent.

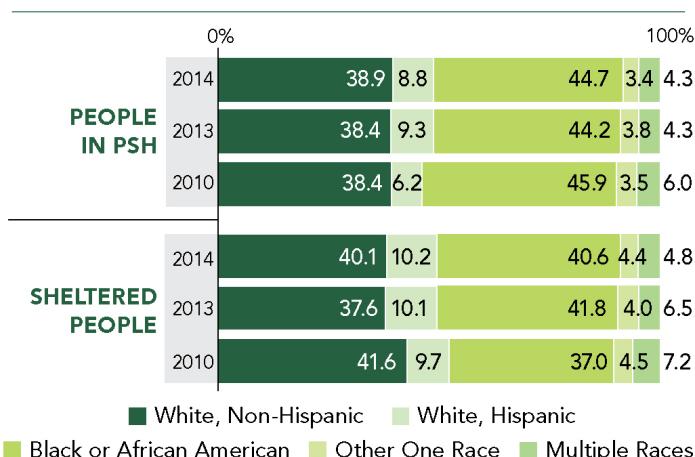
### EXHIBIT 7.6: Ethnicity

People Living in PSH and People Using Shelters, 2010–2014



### EXHIBIT 7.7: Race

People Living in PSH and People Using Shelters, 2010–2014



Note: Ethnicity is distinguished among the white race group to facilitate an understanding of minorities and non-minorities. Non-minorities are those who identify their ethnicity as not Hispanic and their race as white.



## Household Size and Disability Status

Although many people in PSH have a disabling condition, some PSH programs are restricted to clients with a disability and some are not. A household member must have a long-term disability in order to be eligible for McKinney-Vento-funded PSH programs, for instance. For this reason, HUD requests that CoCs report more detailed disability information in HMIS on adults in PSH than on adults in shelter. Adults in PSH can have multiple disabilities, and thus disability types do not sum to 100 percent.

### In 2014:

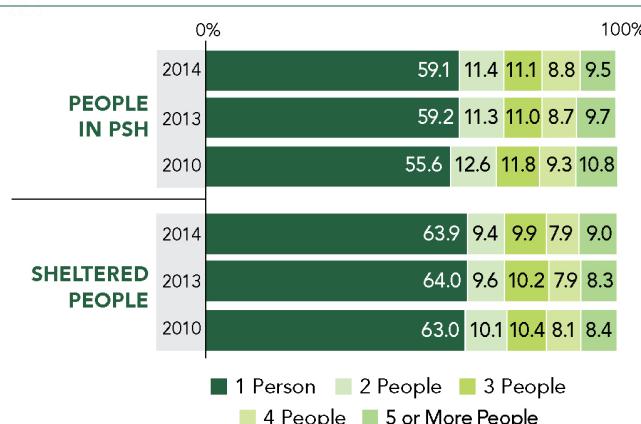
- In both PSH and shelters, more people lived alone rather than with others, including 59.1 percent of PSH residents and 63.9 percent of shelter users.
- A somewhat larger share of PSH residents were in households with four or more people than people using shelters, 18.3 versus 16.9 percent.
- In many PSH programs, only people with disabilities are eligible. As a result, 8 of every 10 adults in PSH had a disability (82.7%). This is significantly higher than the 42.2 percent of adults using shelter who had a disability.
- Mental health issues were the most common disability among residents of PSH. Over half (56.5%) of adults in PSH either had a mental health condition or had dual diagnosis that includes both mental health and substance abuse. Only 9.9 percent reported having only substance abuse issues.

### Changes Over Time:

- The share of people in PSH living alone increased from 55.6 percent in 2010 to 59.1 percent in 2014.
- Between 2010 and 2014, the share of PSH residents who have a disability increased slightly as well, especially among those who have any mental health issue (26,298 more adults) or a physical disability (19,493 more adults).
- The number of adult residents of PSH with HIV/AIDS increased slightly (0.2%) since 2010; there was a 22.6 percent decrease in the last year (3,768 fewer adults).

### EXHIBIT 7.8: Household Size

People Living in PSH and People Using Shelters, 2010–2014



### EXHIBIT 7.9: Disability Status

Adults Living in PSH, 2010–2014 (in %)

Disability Type	2010	2013	2014
Any Type of Disability	78.8	80.8	82.7
Dual Diagnosis	17.3	25.0	22.2
Mental Health	24.2	30.3	34.3
Substance Abuse	11.9	8.9	9.9
Physical Disability	13.2	20.7	21.1
HIV/AIDS	6.4	7.5	5.9
Developmental Disability	3.3	4.5	4.5

Note 1: The client self-reports whether or not they have a disability, but McKinney-Vento-funded PSH programs require documentation for disability type. Other programs may or may not rely on self-reported disability type.

Note 2: Dual diagnosis refers to people that have both a mental health and substance abuse issue. People with dual diagnosis are not included in the mental health or substance abuse categories.

Note 3: Percent of adults with disabilities will not sum to 100% because people in PSH may have more than one type of disability.

## Geographic Location

### In 2014:

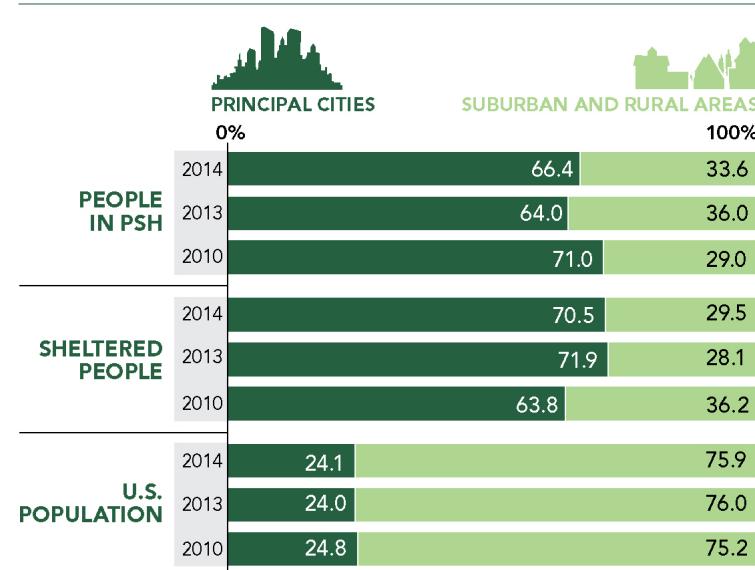
- About one-third of PSH residents were living in suburban and rural areas (33.6%), while the other two-thirds (66.4%) lived in cities. However, PSH residents were less likely to be located in cities than were people using shelter programs, 66.4 percent versus 70.5 percent.

### Changes Over Time:

- The number of PSH residents in suburban and rural areas decreased (8,733 fewer people) between 2013 and 2014, while the number of people in shelter programs increased. However, between 2010 and 2014, the number of PSH residents increased 12.4 percent (10,574 more people) in suburban and rural areas and the number of people using shelter programs decreased 23.7 percent.
- The number of PSH residents living in cities decreased 9.5 percent (19,920 fewer people) between 2010 and 2014, but it increased 1.8 percent from 2013 to 2014 (3,309 more people).

### EXHIBIT 7.10: Geographic Distribution

People Living in PSH, People Using Shelters, and Total U.S. Population, 2010–2014



### EXHIBIT 7.11: Percent Change by Geography

Change in the Number of People Living in PSH, and All Homeless People Using Shelters Programs, 2010–2014 (in %)

Population	2013–2014		2010–2014	
	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban & Rural Areas
All People in PSH	1.8	-8.3	-9.5	12.4
All Sheltered People	2.7	10.2	3.1	-23.7

## Characteristics by Geography

### In 2014:

- Women made up a larger share of PSH residents in suburban and rural areas than in principal cities, 49.6 percent versus 43 percent.
- In addition, a larger share of people living in PSH located in suburban and rural areas were children under age 18 (25.7%) or adults ages 18 to 30 (14.6%) than were those in cities (19.1% and 12.3%).
- One-person PSH households were more common in cities than in suburban and rural areas, 63.4 percent versus 50.8 percent.

### Changes Over Time:

- The number of women in PSH living in cities increased 2.6 percent (1,670 more women) and decreased 6.6 percent (2,496 fewer women) in suburban and rural areas between 2013 and 2014.
- Between 2010 and 2014, the share of African Americans in PSH living in cities dropped from 52.9 to 50.4 percent (9,335 fewer people), and the share living in suburban and rural areas rose from 29.3 to 33.3 percent (7,483 more people).

### EXHIBIT 7.12: Characteristics by Geography

People Living in PSH, 2010–2014 (in %)

Characteristic	Principal Cities			Suburban & Rural Areas		
	2010	2013	2014	2010	2013	2014
# of People in PSH	209,414	186,185	189,495	85,334	104,641	95,908
<b>Gender of Adults</b>						
Male	53.4	56.8	57.0	51.0	52.2	50.4
Female	46.7	43.2	43.0	49.1	47.8	49.6
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	9.1	14.0	12.1	9.9	12.4	12.0
Non-Hispanic	90.9	86.0	87.9	90.1	87.6	88.0
<b>Race</b>						
White, Non-Hispanic	32.0	32.0	33.4	53.7	50.0	49.7
White, Hispanic	6.2	10.0	8.6	6.2	7.7	9.3
Black or African American	52.9	50.4	50.4	29.3	33.4	33.3
Other One Race	3.1	3.8	3.4	4.5	3.9	3.3
Multiple Races	5.9	3.8	4.2	6.3	5.0	4.4
<b>Age</b>						
Under Age 18	25.5	20.3	19.1	27.5	24.3	25.7
18–30	13.5	12.6	12.3	15.8	14.1	14.6
31–50	36.3	33.7	32.1	34.8	33.3	31.8
51–61	20.6	26.5	28.5	18.4	22.6	22.2
62 and Older	4.1	6.8	7.9	3.6	5.7	5.7
<b>Household Size</b>						
1 Person	56.0	62.5	63.4	54.5	53.5	50.8
2 People	13.0	10.3	10.1	11.5	13.1	14.1
3 People	11.5	10.0	9.8	12.6	12.8	13.7
4 People	9.1	8.1	8.0	9.8	9.9	10.4
5 or More People	10.4	9.2	8.7	11.7	10.7	11.0
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>						
Disabled	78.2	80.5	82.7	80.1	81.2	82.8
Not Disabled	21.8	19.5	17.3	19.9	18.8	17.2

## Places Adults in PSH Stayed before Entering PSH

Information on where people lived before entering PSH was asked only of adults.

### In 2014:

- Of the adults living in PSH, more than three-quarters (166,838 adults) had been homeless before they moved into PSH. The majority came from shelter programs, 74.4 percent, rather than a place not meant for human habitation, 25.6 percent.
- Before entering PSH, 15 percent of adults (32,444 adults) had been in a housed situation. About a third (33.2%) were staying with family, a little less than a third (31.4%) were in housing they rented, and about a fifth (20.1%) were staying with friends.
- Of those who came from a housed situation, 13.8 percent (4,470 adults) had been in another PSH program.
- Only 4.6 percent of adults in PSH were located in an institutional setting prior to entering PSH. A little more than half of these 9,938 adults were in a substance abuse treatment center, 23.3 percent were in a psychiatric facility, 13 percent were in a correctional facility, and 10.7 percent were in a hospital.

### Changes Over Time:

- The number of people in PSH that came from a homeless situation increased substantially by 30 percent, or almost 40,000 more people, from 2010 to 2014. However, this measure decreased a slight 0.8 percent (1,426 fewer people) between 2013 and 2014.
- Between 2010 and 2014, 4,252 fewer adults in PSH were in a housed situation before entering PSH.
- The number of people in PSH that came from a foster care home decreased 41.8 percent (349 fewer people) since 2013.

Almost three-quarters of the 166,838 adults who were homeless before entering PSH in 2014 came from a shelter program rather than the street.

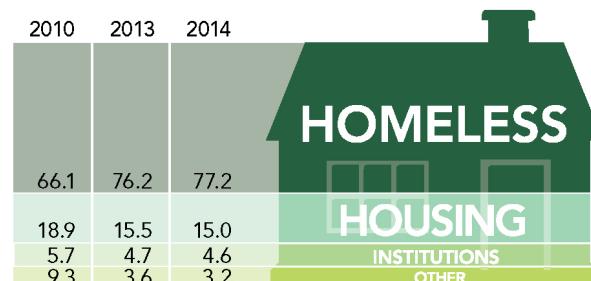
### EXHIBIT 7.13: Places Adults Stayed

Before Entering PSH and Change Over Time, 2010–2014

Place Stayed	2014		2013–2014		2010–2014	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Homeless	166,838	77.2	-1,426	-0.8	38,526	30.0
Sheltered	124,199	74.4	-4,574	16.6	21,065	47.9
Unsheltered	42,639	25.6	3,148	8.0	15,497	57.1
Housing	32,444	15.0	-1,756	-5.1	-4,252	-11.6
Staying with family	10,767	33.2	-947	-8.1	-1,455	-11.9
Staying with friends	6,509	20.1	-535	-7.6	-520	-7.4
Rented housing unit	10,178	31.4	-300	-2.9	-1,717	-14.4
Owned housing unit	520	1.6	-218	-29.5	-1,081	-67.5
Permanent supportive housing (PSH)	4,470	13.8	244	5.8	521	13.2
Institutional Settings	9,938	4.6	-438	-4.2	-1,048	-9.5
Substance abuse treatment center	5,268	53.0	74	1.4	-226	-4.1
Correctional facility	1,290	13.0	-189	-12.8	67	5.5
Hospital	1,068	10.7	-104	-8.9	-130	-10.9
Psychiatric facility	2,312	23.3	-219	-8.7	-759	-24.7
Other Settings	6,840	3.2	-1,097	-13.8	-11,206	-62.1
Hotel or motel	2,195	32.1	119	5.7	-137	-5.9
Foster care home	485	7.1	-349	-41.8	-123	-20.2
Other living arrangement	4,160	60.8	-867	-17.2	-10,946	-72.5

### EXHIBIT 7.14: Places Adults Stayed

Before Entering PSH, 2010–2014 (in %)



## Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

### In 2014:

- Almost a quarter (24.2%) of people living in PSH at some time during the reporting year stayed one year or less, and just over half (51.8%) in PSH stayed one to five years. Almost a quarter (24.1%) stayed in PSH for more than five years.
- Of the 285,403 people in PSH, 37.3 percent moved either in or out of PSH during the reporting year, with 59,866 people entering and 48,841 people exiting. The share of people in families with children in PSH that moved in and out of PSH was about the same as that for individuals.

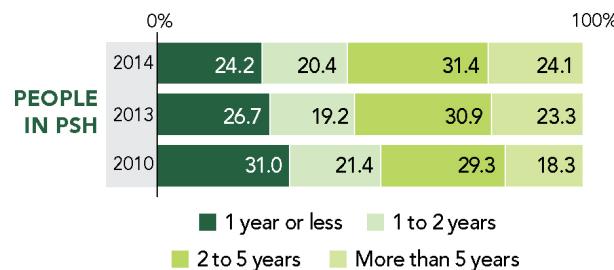
### Changes Over Time:

- The number of people in families with children moving into PSH decreased by 4,503 from 2013 to 2014, while the number moving out decreased by a larger number, 4,616, leaving more vacancies for new families with children.
- In contrast, the number of individuals moving into PSH dropped by 3,342 between 2013 and 2014, but the number of individuals moving out dropped less, by 2,432 fewer people, leaving fewer vacancies for new individuals to enter.
- The share of long-term stayers living in PSH during the reporting year steadily increased every year since 2010. The share of PSH residents living in PSH for more than five years increased from 18.3 percent in 2010 to 24.1 percent in 2014. The number of PSH residents staying in PSH for more than five years increased 1.3 percent between 2013 and 2014.
- Between 2010 and 2014, the share of people staying a year or less dropped from 31 percent to 24.2 percent. Additionally, between 2013 and 2014, those staying in PSH for less than a year decreased 11.3 percent.

The number of PSH residents staying more than five years increased 1.3% between 2013 and 2014.

### EXHIBIT 7.15: Length of Stay

People Living in PSH, 2010–2014 (in %)



### EXHIBIT 7.16: Change in the Flow of Entry and Exit by Household Type

People Entering into and Exiting from PSH, 2010–2014

Flow to and from PSH	2013–2014		2010–2014	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Entering PSH</b>				
All People	-7,881	-11.6	-20,500	-25.5
Individuals	-3,342	-8.1	-12,875	-25.4
People in Families	-4,503	-16.9	-7,619	-25.7
<b>Exiting PSH</b>				
All People	-7,080	-12.7	-4,997	-9.3
Individuals	-2,432	-7.2	-19	-0.1
People in Families	-4,616	-20.7	-4,949	-21.8

Note: Change in individuals plus change in people in families will not sum to the change in all people for two reasons: 1) an overlap adjustment factor (see discussion in the 2014 AHAR methodology document, section A.5 for more details) and 2) some people were in PSH as both individuals and in families at different points during the reporting year.

## Destination at Move-Out for PSH Residents

People in PSH exiting the program were asked where they were moving to next.

### In 2014:

- Of people moving out of PSH, only 5.5 percent left PSH and became homeless. Of those 2,702 people, about a quarter (24.4%) went to unsheltered locations, while most (75.6%) entered shelters.
- About two-thirds (66.6%) of people leaving PSH during the reporting year moved into another housed situation. More than half of those 32,515 people moved into housing they rented (55.8%). About a quarter (24.5%) moved in with family, 9.5 percent with friends, and 8 percent into other permanent supportive housing.
- People in families with children who moved out of PSH were more likely to move into housing than individuals who exited PSH (79% versus 59.5%). A slightly smaller share of individuals who exited PSH to housing moved into rental housing than did people in families with children (55.1% versus 56.9%), while a larger share of individuals who exited PSH to housing went to stay with friends than did people in families with children (11.5% versus 6.8%).
- Of people moving out of PSH, 7.1 percent (3,470 people) went to an institutional setting. Of those, over half (59.9%) entered a correctional facility, 16.8 percent a substance abuse treatment center, 12.8 percent a psychiatric facility, and 10.5 percent a hospital.
- Individuals who moved out of PSH were 2.9 times more likely to go to an institutional setting than people in families with children, 9.2 versus 3.4 percent. Individuals were more likely to exit to a hospital than were families with children (12.3% versus 1.8%), while people in families with children were more likely to exit to a correctional facility than were individuals (69.1% versus 58%).

### Changes Over Time:

- From 2013 to 2014, there was a 3 percent decrease in the number of people moving out of PSH into homelessness. However, since 2010, there has been a 28.4 percent increase in this measure, slightly higher for families with children than for individuals (33.3% versus 27.3%).

### EXHIBIT 7.17: Destination upon Moving Out People Living in PSH by Household Type, 2014

Destination	All People		Individuals		People in Families	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Homeless	2,702	5.5	2,120	6.8	585	3.3
Sheltered	2,042	75.6	1,512	71.3	532	90.9
Unsheltered	660	24.4	608	28.7	53	9.1
Housing	32,515	66.6	18,545	59.5	14,003	79.0
Staying with family	7,959	24.5	4,259	23.0	3,707	26.5
Staying with friends	3,080	9.5	2,134	11.5	949	6.8
Rented housing	18,157	55.8	10,213	55.1	7,963	56.9
Owned housing unit	712	2.2	296	1.6	417	3.0
Other PSH	2,607	8.0	1,643	8.9	967	6.9
Institutional Settings	3,470	7.1	2,879	9.2	596	3.4
Substance abuse treatment center	582	16.8	487	16.9	96	16.1
Correctional facility	2,079	59.9	1,669	58.0	412	69.1
Hospital	364	10.5	354	12.3	11	1.8
Psychiatric facility	445	12.8	369	12.8	77	12.9
Other Settings	10,156	20.8	7,632	24.5	2,540	14.3
Hotel or motel	202	2.0	128	1.7	74	2.9
Foster care home	251	2.5	87	1.1	164	6.5
Other living arrangement	2,825	27.8	1,947	25.5	884	34.8
Deceased	2,444	24.1	2,269	29.7	179	7.0
Missing Destination	4,434	43.7	3,201	41.9	1,239	48.8

### Exhibit 7.18: Percent Change in Destination upon Moving Out People Living in PSH by Household Type, 2010–2014 (in %)

Destination	2013–2014			2010–2014		
	All People	Individuals	People in Families	All People	Individuals	People in Families
Homeless	-3.0	-2.9	-2.7	28.4	27.3	33.3
Housing	-13.6	-6.9	-20.9	19.3	25.7	11.8
Institutional Setting	-11.4	-12.9	-3.1	14.1	7.1	67.4
Other Setting	-12.4	-6.8	-25.6	-52.6	-36.8	-72.8

## One-Year Estimates of Veterans Living in PSH

The final pages of this section provide information on Veterans residing in PSH. The estimates distinguish between Veterans served as individuals and Veterans who are living with at least one child (the same definition of family as elsewhere in this report), but only the Veterans are included in the counts, not other adults or children in the household.

In 2014, 31,393 Veterans lived in permanent supportive housing,<sup>3</sup> an increase of 0.8 percent since 2013 and 40.5 percent since 2010. These one-year estimates of Veterans in PSH do not include Veterans living in HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) programs if those programs do not participate in HMIS. The VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. Administrative data from the VASH program indicate that 84,983 Veterans have been housed through the program between 2008 and 2014.

### In 2014:

- 31,393 Veterans lived in PSH in 2014. More than 9 in 10 were in PSH as individuals (93.6%) rather than as members of a family with at least one child (6.5%).

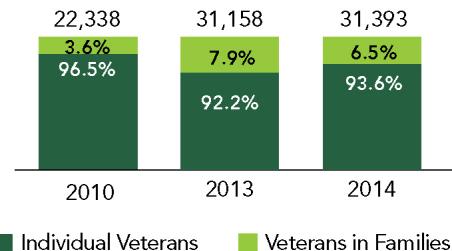
### Changes Over Time:

- The number of Veterans living in PSH has increased 0.8 percent from 2013 to 2014 (235 more Veterans), and the number has increased 40.5 percent since 2010 (9,055 more Veterans).
- Between 2010 and 2014, the share of Veterans living in PSH as individuals dropped from 96.5 to 93.6 percent, while the share of Veterans living in PSH as a family member rose from 3.6 to 6.5 percent.

**In 2014, 31,393 Veterans lived in PSH, an increase of 40.5% since 2010.**

### EXHIBIT 7.19: One-Year Estimates of Veterans Living in PSH

By Household Type, 2010–2014



Note: The share of Veterans living in PSH as individuals and as family members may not sum to 100% because some Veterans were in PSH as both individuals and in families at different points during the reporting period

### EXHIBIT 7.20: Change in the Number of Veterans Living in PSH

By Household Type, 2010–2014

Population	2013–2014		2010–2014	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Veteran Population	235	0.8	9,055	40.5
Individual Veterans	675	2.4	7,840	36.4
Veterans in Families	-415	-16.9	1,240	154.2

<sup>3</sup> The 95 percent confidence interval for Veterans in PSH in 2014 is 30,321 to 32,465 (+ 31,393 / - 1,072).

Data Source: HMIS 2010–2014

## Characteristics of Veterans Living in PSH

### In 2014:

- The typical Veteran in PSH was a man (88.7%) who identified himself either as white and not Hispanic (46.3%) or as African American (44.3%).
- Of all Veterans in families with children, 4 in 10 were women (39.4%).
- About half of Veterans living in PSH were between 51 and 61 years old (51.8%), and over 8 in 10 had a disability (82.9%).

### EXHIBIT 7.21: Characteristics by Household Type

Veterans Living in PSH, 2014 (in %)

Characteristic	All Veterans	Individual Veterans	Veterans in Families
# Veterans in PSH	31,393	29,391	2,044
<b>Gender of Adults</b>			
Male	88.7	90.7	60.6
Female	11.3	9.3	39.4
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	6.0	5.9	8.0
Non-Hispanic	94.0	94.1	92.0
<b>Race</b>			
White, Non-Hispanic	46.3	46.2	47.5
White, Hispanic	4.6	4.5	6.5
Black or African American	44.3	44.5	41.2
Other One Race	2.2	2.2	2.6
Multiple Races	2.6	2.7	2.2
<b>Age</b>			
18-30	4.2	3.1	20.7
31-50	26.4	24.5	54.7
51-61	51.8	53.9	21.8
62 and Older	17.6	18.6	2.8
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>			
Disabled	82.9	83.6	72.4
Not Disabled	17.1	16.4	27.6

Note: Counts of Veterans served as individuals and as members of families with children may not sum to the total number of Veterans in PSH because some Veterans were served in both household types.

- Compared to Veterans in PSH as individuals, those in families with children were younger, with 57.5 percent ages 31 to 50. Veterans in families with children in PSH were also less likely to have a disability than those as individuals (72.4% versus 83.6%).
- More than a third (37.9%) of Veterans in PSH had a physical disability.
- Of Veterans living in PSH, 28.6 percent had a dual diagnosis of both mental health plus substance abuse problems, with an additional 30 percent having just mental health and 13.1 percent having just substance abuse issues.

### Changes Over Time:

- The share of Veterans living in PSH with a dual diagnosis increased in 2014 (28.6%) from 2010 (23.7%), but decreased from 2013 (33.7%).
- The share of Veterans living in PSH with a physical disability increased from 22.1 percent in 2010 to 37.9 percent in 2014.

### EXHIBIT 7.22: Disability Type

Veterans Living in PSH, 2010–2014 (in %)

Disability Type	2010	2013	2014
Any Type of Disability	80.5	81.2	82.9
Dual Diagnosis	23.7	33.7	28.6
Mental Health	23.3	27.2	30.0
Substance Abuse	16.7	12.3	13.1
Physical Disability	22.1	36.0	37.9
HIV/AIDS	5.8	6.2	4.5
Developmental Disability	1.8	3.5	3.6

Note 1: Dual diagnosis refers to people that have both a mental health and substance abuse issue. People with dual diagnosis are not included in the mental health or substance abuse categories.

Note 2: Percent of Veterans with disabilities do not sum to 100% because people in PSH may have more than one type of disability.

## Places Veterans Stayed Before Moving Into PSH

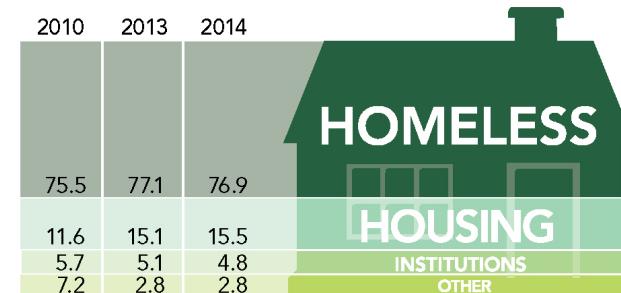
### In 2014:

- More than three-quarters of Veterans living in PSH were homeless immediately before moving in (76.9%). Most (72.7%) of those 23,023 Veterans were in a shelter program rather than in unsheltered locations.
- Of the 4,639 Veterans in PSH that moved in from another housed situation, 35.9 percent had been in housing they rented, 28.3 percent had been living with family, and 21.2 percent had been living with friends.
- Over half (55%) of the 1,445 Veterans who came to PSH from an institutional setting, came from a substance abuse treatment center.

### Changes Over Time:

- Between 2010 and 2014, the number of Veterans entering PSH from another housing situation increased 91.4 percent (2,215 more Veterans).
- Between 2010 and 2014, the number of Veterans who were homeless before moving into PSH increased 45.8 percent (7,235 more Veterans).

**EXHIBIT 7.23: Places Veterans Stayed Before Moving Into PSH, 2010–2014 (in %)**



**EXHIBIT 7.24: Change in Places Veterans Stayed Before Moving Into PSH, 2010–2014**

Places Stayed	2013–2014		2010–2014	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Homeless	1	0.0	7,235	45.8
Housing	136	3.0	2,215	91.4
Institutional Settings	-78	-5.1	264	22.4
Other Settings	-5	-0.6	-686	-45.3





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