

District of Columbia 2014 Point in Time Enumeration

The Community Partnership
Policy & Programs Team
May 2014



What is Point in Time?

- **HUD-required, annual count of homeless persons in a given jurisdiction.**
 - *The Community Partnership (TCP) has conducted the count on behalf of the District of Columbia since 2001.*
- **Persons counted may choose to respond to a needs assessment survey that provides insight in to the make-up of the homeless population and helps determine where gaps exist the homeless services Continuum of Care.**
 - *TCP and our partners in District government use PIT survey information to track changes in system over time and use it to plan for the future.*

HUD requirement: Who is counted?

HUD requires a count of four populations:

- unsheltered persons (i.e. persons “on the street”),
- persons in emergency shelter (severe weather, low barrier or temporary),
- persons in transitional housing facilities, and
 - HUD refers to these three categories collectively as the “literally homeless.”
 - This **does not** include persons who are “doubled-up” or who are temporarily residing in institutional settings, i.e. hospitals, jails, treatment facilities, foster care, etc.
- persons living in permanent supportive housing (PSH) or rapid rehousing (RRH).
 - HUD refers to this category as the “formerly homeless.”
 - Must be in PSH or RRH to be counted; this is not a count of everyone that has exited the Continuum.



HUD requirement: When are people counted?

HUD requires that Point in Time be conducted:

- Within a single 24 hour period, generally overnight,
- This single day must be within the last seven days of the month of January.
 - *These requirements are the same for Continuums nationwide, regardless of climate.*
 - *Doing the count in winter helps CoCs understand utilization of all of their Continuum's resources, including shelter space that is only available during the winter months.*



HUD requirement: How are persons counted?

- Per HUD, methods for counting must be statistically acceptable.
 - *HUD will seek to verify data that appears to be inaccurate or that looks to be under- or over-reported.*
- TCP's PIT Methodology is reported on extensively during the "SuperNOFA," the District's annual application for HUD funds; HUD's scoring of our methodology can account for about a fifth of the application's score.



HUD requirement: How are people counted?

- Agencies conducting PIT must report to HUD the number of programs, if any, that do NOT report information as a part of PIT.
 - In 2014, there were no programs operating in the District that did not report at least a count of persons served to TCP.
- TCP collects information from every program operating in the District, regardless of its funding source(s).
 - *Most shelter and housing programs submit their consumer roster and survey information via the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the District's primary repository for information on persons receiving homeless services.*
 - *Agencies that do not use the HMIS submit info. on paper surveys or via phone interviews (this includes de-identified information from VAWA programs).*
 - *Unsheltered count was done with a coordinated nighttime effort involving city outreach agencies and nearly 200 volunteers; data from daily rounds, meal programs & drop in centers were also included.*

Point in Time Results

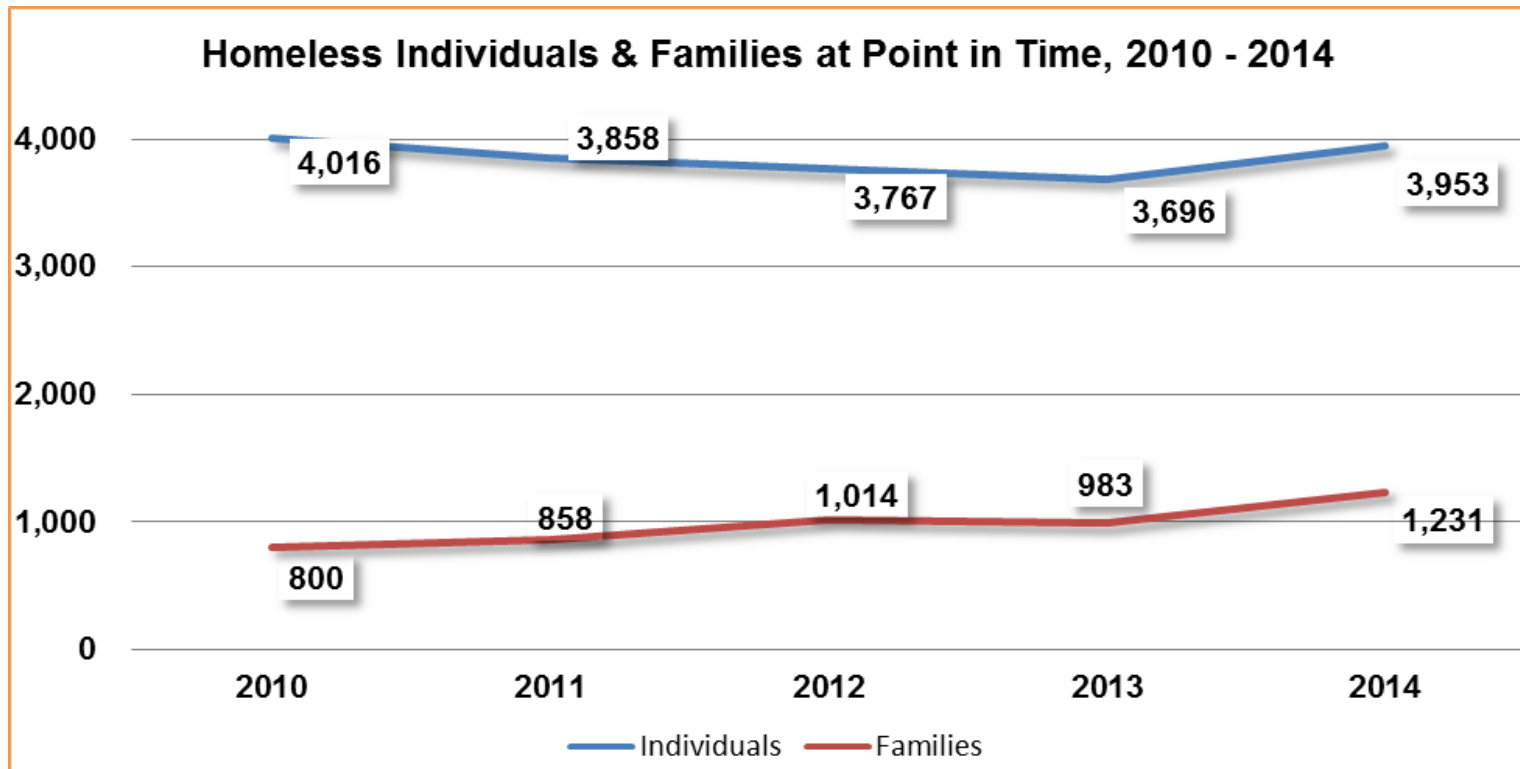
- Literally homeless persons: 7,784.
- Total count **increased by 12.9 percent** from 2013.

	2011	2012*	2013	2014	+/- Change (2013 - 2014)
Unsheltered Persons	305	679	512	396	-116
Single Persons in Emergency Shelter	2,636	2,166	2,459	2,828	+369
Single Persons in Transitional Housing	917	922	725	729	+4
Families in Emergency Shelter	326	511	464	907	+443
Families in Transitional Housing	532	503	519	324	-195

*A Hypothermia Alert was not in effect on the night of the 2012 PIT count. Hypothermia Alerts occur when the actual or forecasted temperature is 32 degrees or below; additional shelter spaces are open when this occurs.



Homeless Population Over Time





Subpopulations & Disabilities

Subpopulations			
	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total (All Adults)
Limited English Proficiency	7.2%	1.5%	5.7%
U.S. Military Veterans	10%	0.9%	7.6%
Domestic Violence History	10.4%	22.7%	6.6%
Homeless Due to DV	1.1%	8.1%	2.3%

Disabilities			
	Single Adults	Adults in Families	Total (All Adults)
Chronic Substance Abuse	12%	2.2%	9.4%
Severe Mental Illness	12.6%	10.8%	12.4%
Dual Diagnosis (CSA & SMI)	12.4%	2.3%	9.7%
Chronic Health Problem	11%	1.3%	8.5%
Living w/ HIV/AIDS	2.8%	0.8%	2.3%
Physical Disability	18.3%	5.2%	14.9%



Chronic Homelessness

- HUD defines chronic homelessness as an adult person, or family with at least one adult person, who is disabled and who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or who has had four or more episodes of homelessness within the past three years.
- At PIT, there were 1,785 unaccompanied homeless adults and 133 families in the District who met the federal definition of chronic homelessness.



Homeless Youth Counted

The Homeless Services CoC defines youth as persons aged 0 to 24 years; therefore, the count of homeless youths will not be equal to the count of homeless minor children (homeless persons aged 0 to 17 years).

- 2,216 youths, as defined above, were counted in shelter and transitional housing; of that count:
 - 642 were young adults (persons aged 18 to 24),
 - 5 were unaccompanied minors. This is down from 13 counted during PIT 2012 and 26 counted in 2011, and
 - 1,709 minors in families were residing with their parents in family shelter and transitional programs.
- There were no unsheltered minor children or unsheltered families.

Median Age

- PIT revealed that the median age of single, unaccompanied homeless adults was 49 years.
- The median age among adults in homeless families counted at PIT was 25.

Income & Employment

- 21.6 percent of all homeless adults report that they were employed as of Point in Time.
- Employment income or SSI/SSDI are the most common primary income source for single homeless persons; TANF is the most common among adults in homeless families.
- 55 percent of singles and 15 percent of adults in families reported that they had no income of any kind.

Permanent Supportive Housing

- 3,500 formerly homeless individuals and 858 formerly homeless families were counted in the District's Permanent Supportive Housing Inventory during PIT 2014.
- But for these dedicated PSH resources for persons with disabling conditions, many of these formerly homeless persons would likely still be in shelter.



Rapid Rehousing

- At PIT, 65 Individuals and 635 families were in permanent housing as a result of Rapid Rehousing initiatives funded by DHS, HUD, and the VA.



Factors Affecting the Count

- Since Point in Time 2013, the District and TCP converted a large transitional housing program to rapid rehousing, which was successful in moving nearly 200 families to permanent housing.
 - Relatedly, the number of families in transitional housing decreased; however, demand for shelter among families newly entering the homeless services system has increased, causing the count of families served at PIT to increase significantly.
- Each winter, the District government adds additional hypothermia and seasonal shelters to its emergency shelter inventory for those out in the cold. The extreme weather that occurred in winter 2013-2014 moved the District government to even more space on nights where the temperature or wind chill was below 15 degrees
 - These additional shelter beds did not affect the overall count, but did affect *where* persons were counted as many who do not normally seek shelter did so because of the temperature.



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