



2012

Point-In-Time

A Snapshot of
Homelessness in

Oklahoma City

Compiled & Prepared by the Oklahoma City Planning
Department - Division of Community Development



The Coalition for the Needy



The Point In Time (PIT) count is to help Oklahoma City and service providers identify the needs of our homeless population and how resources can most effectively be used to help improve their situation. In addition to demographic information, data is collected on special needs, income, veteran status, and numbers of times and length of homelessness.

Although every attempt is made to have the PIT reflect the total number of homeless on a specific date, it is understood that some homeless go uncounted.

Oklahoma City, The Homeless Alliance, and The Coalition for the Needy partner together to conduct the PIT count and would like to thank all of the volunteers who contribute their time every year. Without the help of these dedicated members of the community this task could not be completed.

The Point in Time committee would also like to thank the following corporate sponsors and organizations who provided donations and volunteers to make this year's count a success.

Ingrid's Kitchen
Pizza Hut
Neighborhood Market Store #2875
Oklahoma AIDS Care Fund
The Oklahoma Department of Veteran's Affairs
The Salvation Army
OKC Metro Alliance
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services
Upward Transitions
Latino Community Development Agency
Sanctuary Women's Development Center
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Sunbeam Family Services
Northcare
IC Mobile Media

Youth Services of Oklahoma
Catholic Charities
Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services - Disability Determination Division
Oklahoma Department of Corrections
Subway Sandwiches
Be The Change, Inc.
Anglin Public Relations
OU School of Occupational Therapy
Regional Food Bank
Neighborhood Services Organization
Community Health Centers, Inc.
City Rescue Mission
OKC Metro Transit
Jesus House
Heartline/211

Thanks to our local media, who reported on the event and helped show the true faces of homelessness.

Point in Time Count of the Homeless - January 26, 2012

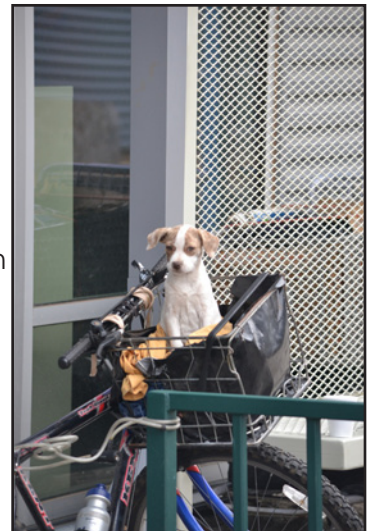
Oklahoma City conducted its annual Point In Time count of the homeless on Thursday, January 26, 2012. The intention of this one-day survey was to determine the total number of people experiencing homelessness in Oklahoma City and gather information about their characteristics and needs. It should be noted that a one day count is only a snapshot and is not designed to be a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness.

DEFINITIONS:

The following definitions apply to this report

- **Street Count.** This is a count of people who are homeless, unsheltered and staying outside, in vehicles, encampments or makeshift shelters. Outreach teams staffed by experienced volunteers perform the street count.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).** HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of adults and children experiencing homelessness over time. HMIS is designed to aggregate client-level data to generate an unduplicated count of clients served within a community's system of homeless services. For those included in an unduplicated count, HMIS can provide data on client characteristics and service utilization.
- **Emergency Shelter.** This is short-term lodging for people experiencing a housing crisis. Emergency shelters serve as the point of entry into the homeless assistance system by temporarily housing those confronted with an immediate loss of housing or those who are already homeless. Emergency shelters generally have an official length of stay ranging from one to 90 days, depending on the individual program; however, some chronically homeless people manage to live in the emergency shelter environment for years. Most emergency shelters are congregate in nature, but can also include short-term hotel or motel vouchers.
- **Transitional Housing.** This is time limited temporary housing and services for persons who have multiple barriers to obtaining housing. This type of housing, as defined by HUD, can be for up to 2 years and the living arrangements are usually similar to permanent housing. Typically, transitional housing programs provide specialized supportive services to various subpopulations with multiple barriers to housing and employment. With assistance, people in transitional housing work to resolve their housing issues within two years. Transitional housing providers are expected to help residents find permanent housing as they become stabilized.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing.** This is housing that is not time limited with integrated wrap-around services for persons who are homeless and have a disabling condition. It differs from transitional housing because tenants of supportive housing pay rent and sign leases, and there is no limit for duration of stay. Integrated services vary by the needs of the residents but can include basic healthcare, mental healthcare, support for recovery from addiction, case management, employment services and training.
- **Fair Market Rent (FMR).** Fair market rents are gross rent estimates that include shelter rent and the cost of utilities, except telephone. HUD sets FMRs to assure that a sufficient supply of rental housing is available to program participants. To accomplish this objective, FMRs must be both high enough to permit a selection of units and neighborhoods and low enough to serve as many families as possible.
- **Area Median Income (AMI).** When taking into account all of the incomes for the Oklahoma City area, the median income is the amount half way between the highest and lowest income values.

A guest of the WestTown Resource Center and Day Shelter leaves a friend in a safe place outside while going in to use some of the services.



Methods

Planning for the Oklahoma City PIT count of the Homeless is a year long process. Members of the planning committee include representation from Oklahoma City government, the Coalition for the Needy, the Homeless Alliance and other community volunteers who work to coordinate the activities on the day of the count. This Committee is responsible for locating counting sites, recruiting volunteers, providing survey instruments, entering survey data, locating and distributing the incentives and reporting the results. Planning begins during the summer months and concludes with the release of the PIT Annual Report in the spring.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to conduct the Point in Time counts on a day in the last week of January every other year, so it can collect national data that is used to calculate funding for housing and supportive services. Oklahoma City has opted to conduct the count on an annual basis.



Volunteers conduct surveys at the Jesus House during the 2012 Point In Time count.

In 2012, the count included several components including standardized survey forms that were used to collect information from people found living on the streets, at meal sites or in locations that do not participate in the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS was employed to collect information for the 24 hour period from agencies that enter data about people who are homeless. The survey instruments were designed to mirror the HMIS data elements so that the count would be more accurate.

Information from the surveys was entered into a database and subsequently merged with HMIS data. Duplicates were identified electronically through a software program and then reviewed by members of the Data Committee to check for data quality.

The Homeless Alliance was the location for real-time data entry of the surveys. Guided by the HMIS administrator from the Homeless Alliance, community volunteers assisted with entering the information from the surveys into an online database. Entering the information on the same day allows for easily checking for duplication and reviewing preliminary numbers within a matter of days instead of weeks or months as in past counts.

Increased efforts were made to identify and count unsheltered homeless persons. Be The Change, Inc. began the Coordinated Street Outreach Project in March, 2011. Prior to this, Oklahoma City has never had a coordinated effort to identify and serve street homeless. More than 20 agencies support the need for coordinated street outreach and participate in various capacities. Be The Change designed the program to provide meaningful and repeated contact with the homeless. The efforts and coordination have been successful and record keeping through HMIS has detailed all contacts made.

There was an increased effort to locate youth under 18 who are homeless. A subgroup of the Point in Time committee developed a plan to count unaccompanied youth who exist for the most part under the radar in Oklahoma City. Unaccompanied youth were found with the assistance of the young men residing at the Carolyn Williams Center.

The data collected from the expanded count of street homeless and youth will be used to provide coordinated follow up services including referrals to housing and service providers for persons needing long term support.

Locations

Emergency Shelter Count: Currently the three largest emergency shelters enter information about the daily usage of emergency shelter beds into HMIS. This totals 65% of the number of shelter beds available. In shelters that do not participate in HMIS, surveys were conducted or volunteers directly interviewed the residents of the shelter. The goal for 2012 is to have 80% of the shelter bed usage reported through HMIS.

Transitional Housing Count: HMIS was used to collect data from transitional housing providers who participate in HMIS. For agencies not using HMIS, transitional housing staff completed computer based survey forms and returned the data to the PIT committee. This data was counted separately and then aggregated to determine total counts after eliminating duplication.

Meal Site Count: On January 26, volunteers visited sites where free meals were served to the public throughout the day. The meal site count was focused on identifying and interviewing people who were homeless but not planning to stay in one of Oklahoma City's homeless shelters that night.

Street Count: Prior to the count, a list of locations where homeless people were known to sleep was identified. Teams of trained outreach workers visited these locations. Teams also walked the river banks to spot tents and engage homeless individuals. A vehicle loaned by IC Mobile Media that was easy for persons on the street to identify was used to set up counting stations in various locations throughout the city. Members of the Youth Point in Time subcommittee conducted street counts at locations that are known to be popular among homeless youth. Survey forms were distributed by volunteers and specific items such as backpacks that would appeal to youth were used as incentives.



WestTown

A new facility that served as the PIT headquarters this year was WestTown Resource Center and Day Shelter located at NW 4th street and Virginia Ave. PIT surveys were conducted at the Shelter which serves breakfast and lunch and houses a library, showers, computer workstations and a barbershop. Additionally, classroom space is provided for various educational opportunities as well as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous classes. Over 100 families with children are also provided with housing and supportive services each month. An employment placement and training service is also located at WestTown along with the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a database that allows agencies serving the homeless to share information.

Total Homeless

definition

- An individual or family that lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence.
- An individual or family who is fleeing domestic violence and has no other residence or the resources and support networks to secure one.

Oklahoma City uses the information from the Point in Time count to identify possible trends in homelessness as well as the necessary resources to combat the problems that lead to homelessness. The fluctuation in the total number of homeless individuals and families from year to year is a result of many factors including weather conditions on the day of the count. Both unsheltered homeless and those staying in transitional housing increased in the previous year with the number of unsheltered individuals being the most significant.

Total Count 2009-2012

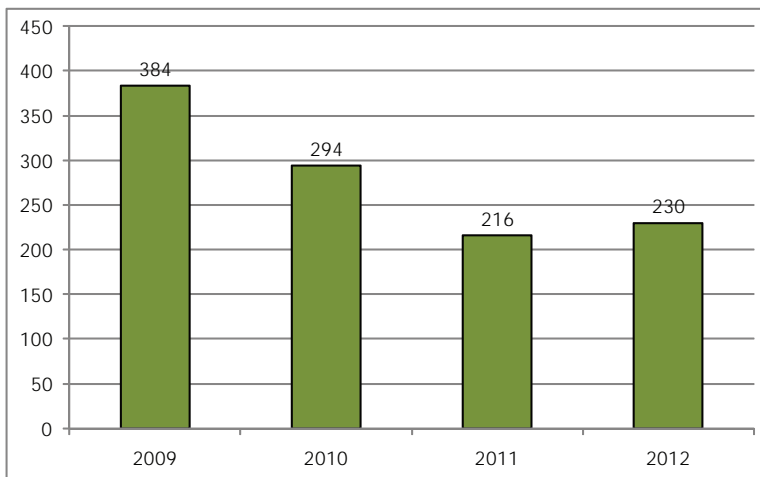
YEAR	SHELTER	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2009	803	300	372	1,475
2010	630	226	225	1,081
2011	634	258	329	1,221
2012	630	312	361	1,303

Chronically Homeless

The chronically homeless currently make up approximately 18-19% of the homeless population of Oklahoma City, a slight increase over the previous year. To alleviate this issue Oklahoma City has partnered with other community organizations in order to create supportive housing for this segment of the population so that they may have a more stable living environment. This gives these families and individuals a permanent residence and access to support services intended to help them permanently move out of homelessness.

definition

An unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition, or a family with at least one adult member who has a disabling condition, who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.



- Of the 230 chronically homeless individuals counted in 2012, 76% were staying in an unsheltered environment.
- 5 chronically homeless families were counted in 2012 of which 2 were staying in an unsheltered environment.
- The total number of chronically homeless families dropped from 15 to 5 in the past year.

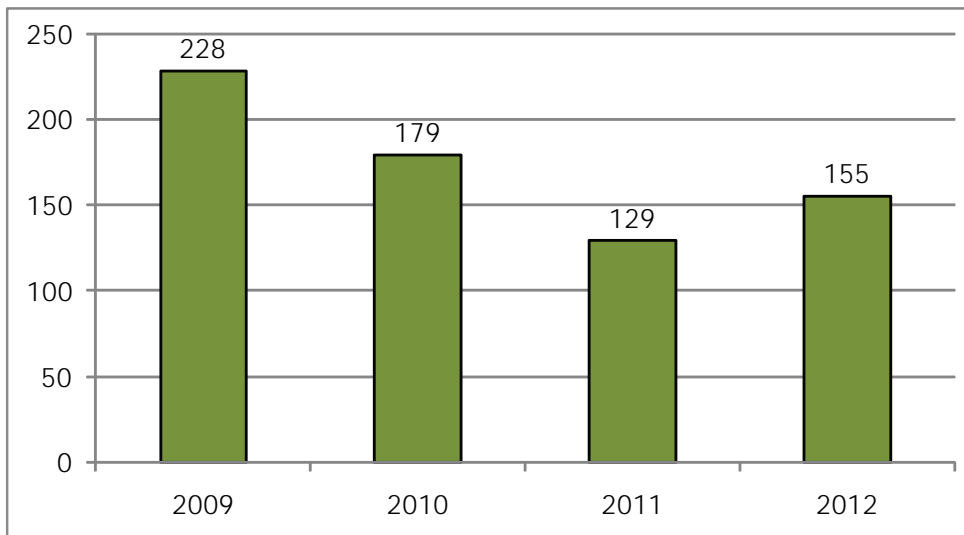
Veterans

According to the 2011 National PIT count, the number of homeless veterans in the United States dropped by almost 9,000 bringing the count to approximately 67,495. While Oklahoma City had also seen a reduction in vets over the previous three years, that number rose slightly from 2011 to 2012 by 26 individuals.

To combat this problem, local housing providers work in partnership with HUD and the Veteran's Administration to administer the Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH). Through this program, eligible participants are provided with case management and support services as well as housing vouchers. These vouchers typically allow recipients to dedicate less than 30% of their income to rental costs.

definition

A person who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This does not include inactive military reserves or the National Guard unless the person was called to active duty.



- Veterans make up approximately 12% of Oklahoma City's homeless population and 11% of the homeless population nationally.
- As of April 2012 the Oklahoma City Housing Authority and Veteran's Administration have the resources to administer 185 VASH Vouchers

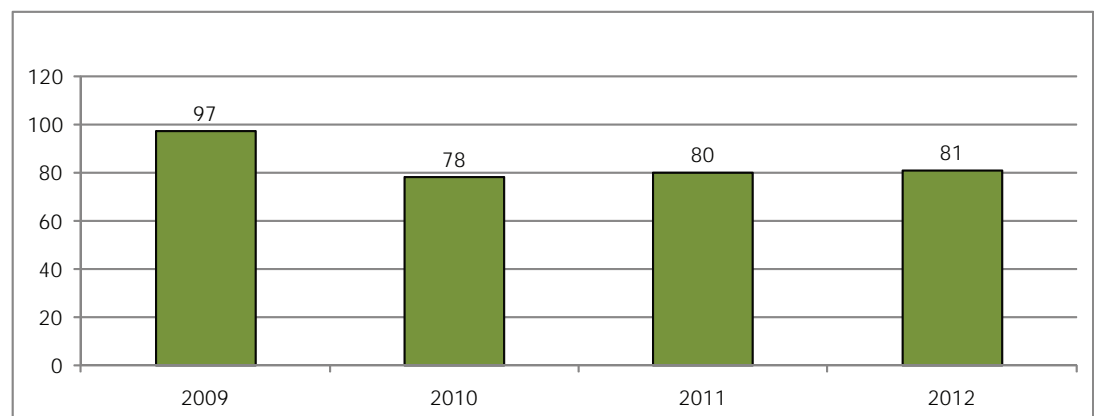
Families

From 2004 to 2009, families with children were the fastest growing sub-population. Oklahoma City has focused their efforts to decrease this subpopulation through the Emergency Solutions Grant, Supportive Housing Program, and the short-term Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. When taking into account the recent downturn in the economy, rising unemployment and the increase in the number of foreclosures, the efforts made through these targeted initiatives have had a significant impact on this population.

definition

Homeless household living with at least one child under the age of 18.

- Homeless families currently make up 12% of the total homeless in OKC.
- Services currently provided through the HPRP program to families with children include short to medium term rent and utility assistance as well as legal aid and case management.



Special Needs

definition

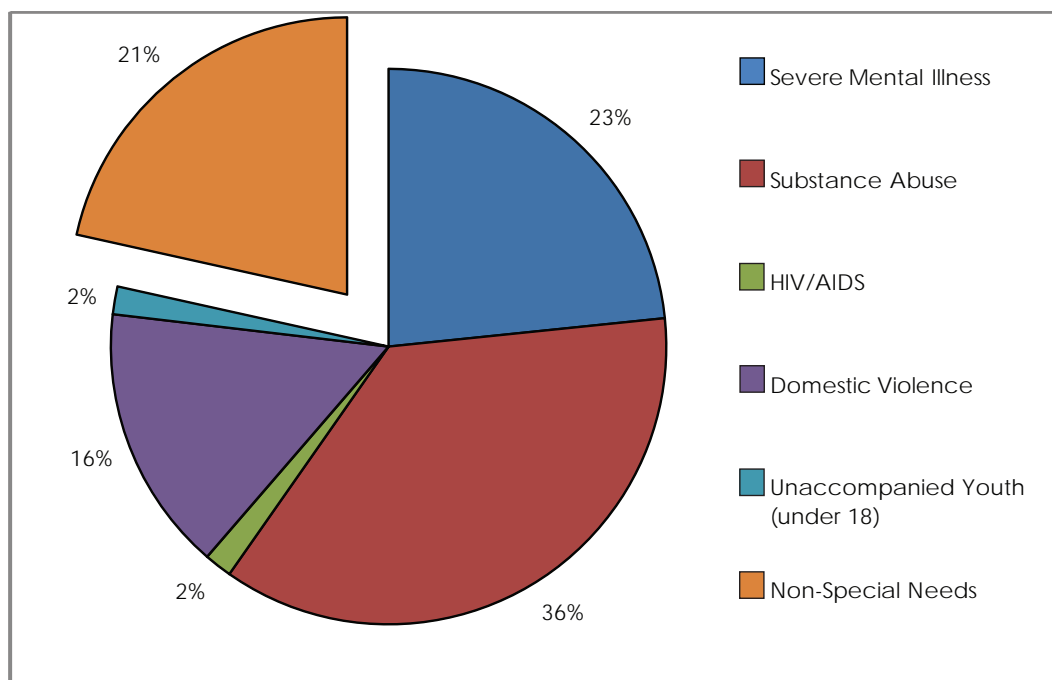
A person living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a place not intended for human habitation who has one or more disabling conditions.

A special needs individual is defined as a person suffering from substance abuse or addiction, severe mental illness, HIV/AIDS or having been a victim of domestic violence. As of 2011, unaccompanied minors were also added to this category. Oklahoma City and community agencies have had to make a more concerted effort to locate minors as they often do not want to be found. Homeless children, living on their own or in families, typically experience a greater number of health and emotional problems as well as lower academic performance than their housed peers.

Special Needs Total Count, 2009-2012

SPECIAL NEEDS	2009	2010	2011	2012
Severe Mental Illness	327	261	235	304
Substance Abuse	397	356	519	473
HIV/AIDS	17	17	20	21
Domestic Violence	38	53	97	202
Unaccompanied Youth (under 18)	0	0	10	21

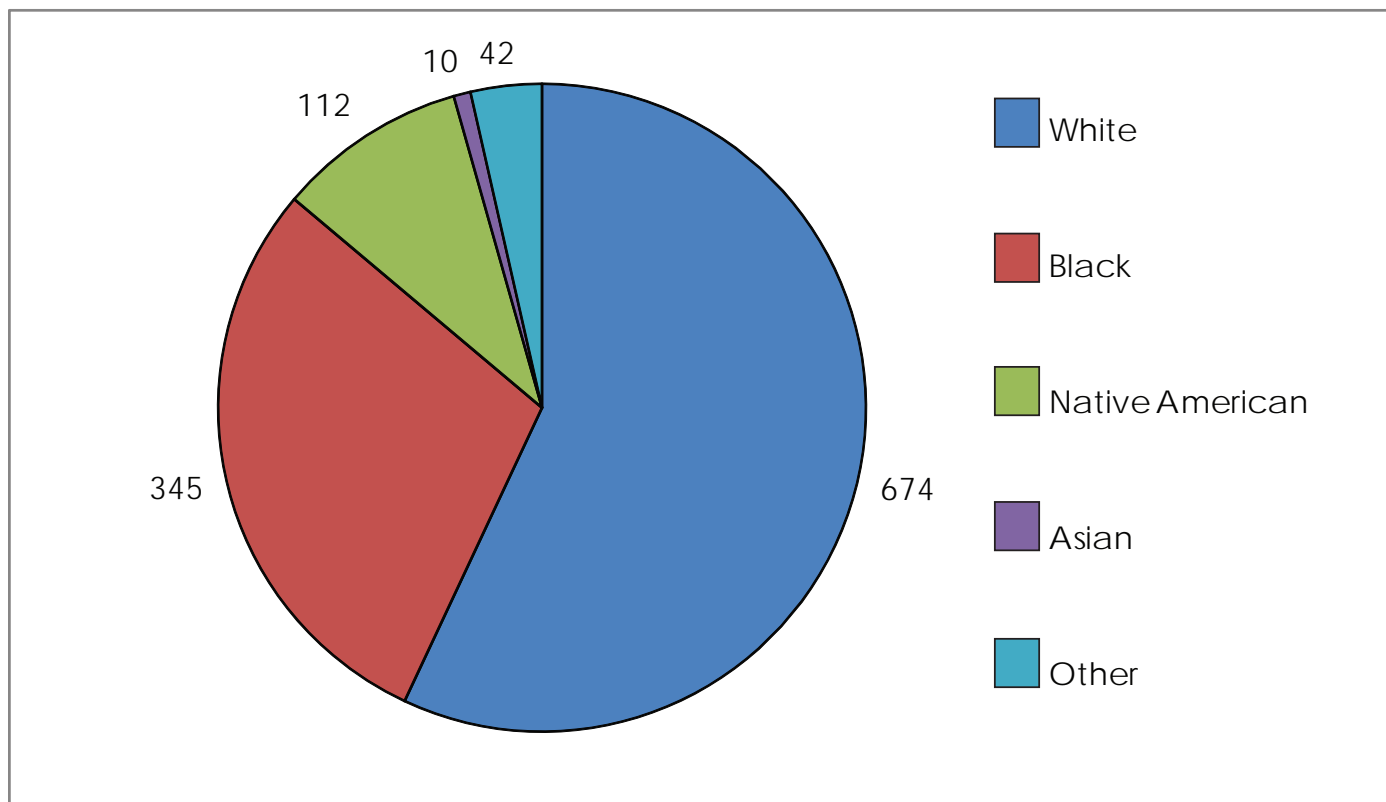
Special Needs as Percent of Total Homeless Population



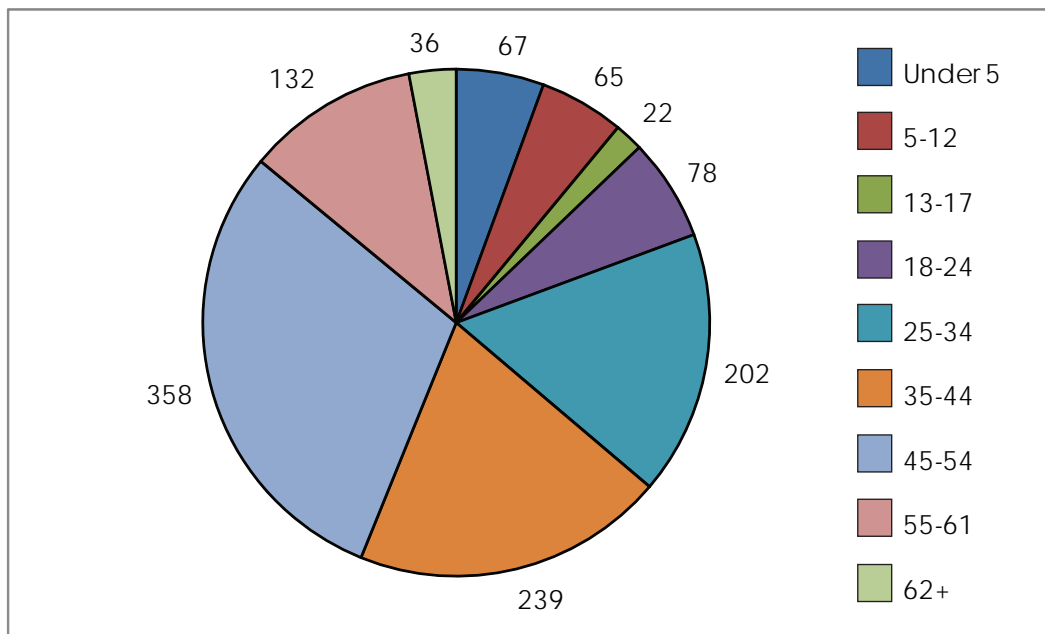
- Approximately 79% of all respondents reported having one or more disabling condition.
- Homeless who were victims of domestic violence saw the most significant increase over the past year. The number of cases increased by 105 (from 97 to 202), more than doubling those reported in the 2011 PIT.
- Individuals reporting substance abuse problems remained the highest percentage but were down slightly from the previous year.

Race/Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity of the homeless has remained fairly stable since last year with whites being the largest group. Additionally, there were 153 individuals who also identified themselves as being of Hispanic ethnicity.



Age

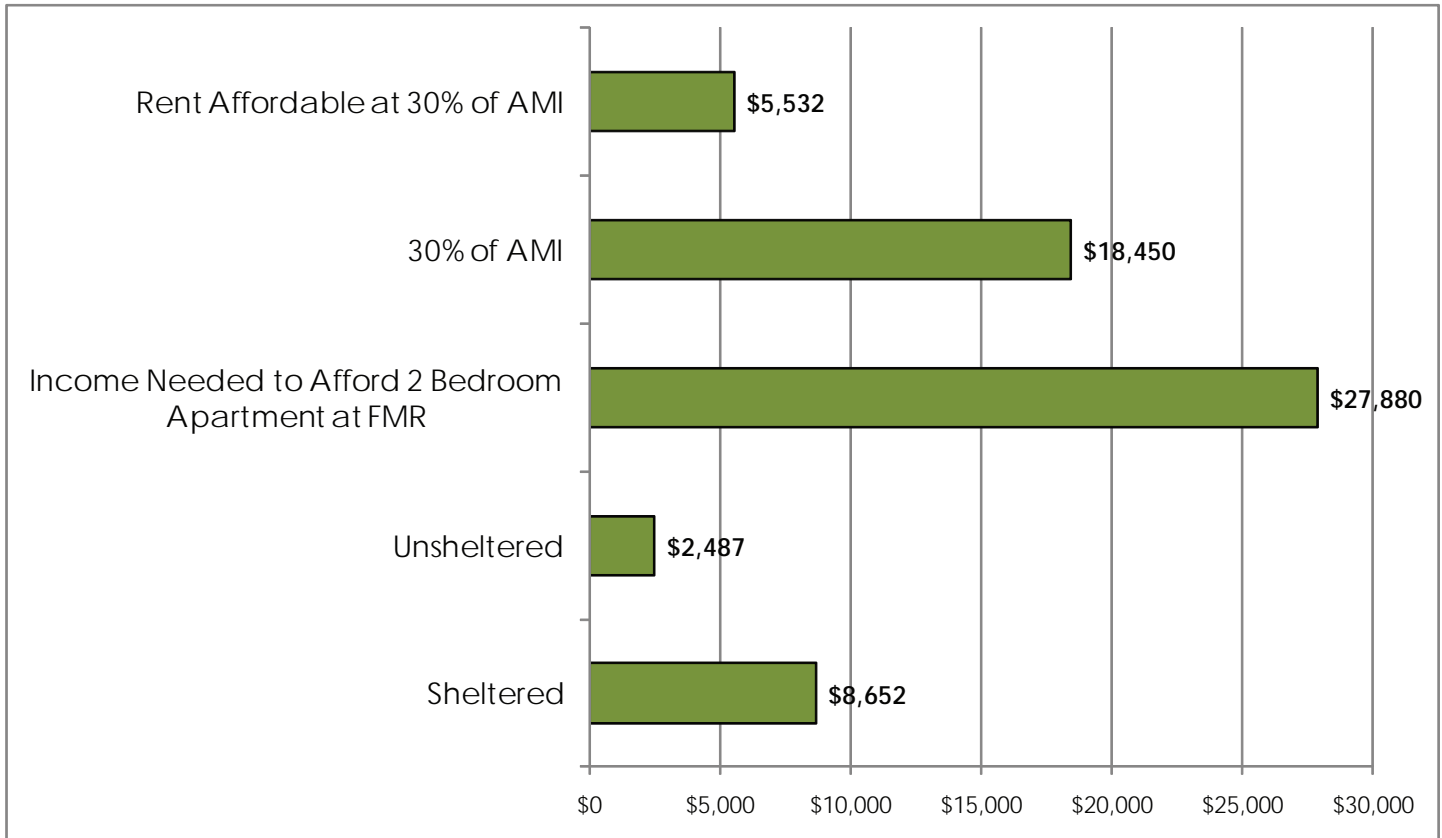


Since 2011, the percentage of homeless individuals dropped in every age category above 25-34 but unfortunately the reverse is true of individuals under the age of 25. These numbers are likely higher than the actual count as well being that children under the age of 18 often do not want to be found. Both this year and in 2011 individuals ages 45-54 made up the largest group. This year they comprised 30% of all respondents.

*Race and Age totals are lower than overall homeless total as not all individuals answered the question.

Wage and Rent

Most people who reside in shelters or transitional housing and some who are unsheltered report having some amount of income, however that income is far below what they would need to rent a two bedroom apartment at a fair market rent (FMR) which is currently \$697 a month. This would require a household to make at least \$27,880 a year in order to spend less than 30% of their income on rent. Reported earnings of both the unsheltered and sheltered were less than half of that and were only 4% and 14% respectively of the total area median income (AMI).



Summary and Strategies

Oklahoma City uses the information obtained from the annual Point in Time count to quantify and prioritize housing and service needs of homeless persons. Simultaneously, Oklahoma City also completes a Housing Inventory Chart that details the number of units and beds available in emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. The Housing Inventory Chart highlighted the need for additional units of permanent housing by showing the number of units/beds utilized on the day of the count to be 99.7% occupied, while the utilization rate for emergency shelter was only 71%.

This snapshot also allows Oklahoma City to track trends and information concerning subpopulations to better assess our community needs for housing. The recently completed Update of the *10 Year Plan to Create Lasting Solutions* highlighted the significant accomplishments guided in part by the yearly count. The *Cost of Homelessness Study* also reinforced the cost effectiveness of permanent supportive housing by pointing out that it costs 20% less to provide permanent supportive housing to people who are homeless with disabilities than to house them in emergency shelter. Oklahoma City continues to strive toward achieving the goal of adding at least 25 new units of permanent supportive housing every year. Since 2004, the number of units has increased from 120 to 408 or an average of 41 additional units per year.

This year's count reflected a much higher number of unsheltered persons as a direct result of the work done by the Coordinated Street Outreach Team. The efforts of several agencies going out on a regularly scheduled basis to locate, establish trust, and meet immediate needs (food and hygiene) have led to timely referrals for health care and other services including housing. These outreach efforts have been greatly enhanced by the provision of food from the Regional Food Bank including a truck for delivery.

The WestTown Resource Center and Day Shelter has increased coordination of referrals and services by having many agencies co-locating their various services at one location. The availability of services on the same property as the day shelter also aids in moving people from the streets to housing. The volunteers assisting with the PIT count have had the benefit of engaging people at the day shelter and having the resource center on the same property.

The success of the *Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program* (HPRP) has also served as a blueprint for quickly obtaining housing for the newly homeless as well as successfully keeping families stably housed by providing funding to prevent homelessness and re-house those who have become homeless. To date, HPRP funding has prevented 359 households (1,030 persons) from becoming homeless and rapidly re-housed 92 households (301 persons).



A visitor to the WestTown Resource Center and Day Shelter parks his bike alongside many others before going inside.

Summary and Strategies

2012 PIT by Program

Emergency Shelter				
Organization	Program	Year Round Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate
Birth Choice	Rose Home	17	10	59%
City Rescue Mission	City Rescue Mission	523	355	68%
Grace Rescue Mission	Grace Rescue	80	39	49%
Jesus House	Jesus House	87	54	62%
OKC Metro Alliance	First Step for Women	36	25	69%
OKC Metro Alliance	First Step for Men	40	59	148%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	Park View	6	6	100%
Salvation Army	Women and Families	54	33	45%
Salvation Army	Men	44	44	100%
Sunbeam	Elder Shelter	10	8	80%
Oklahoma Veteran's Affairs	HCHV/EH - Serenity Recovery Outreach Community	5	6	120%
Youth Services	Family Junction	18	12	67%
*YWCA	Passageways	55	38	57%
	Total 2012	975	689	
	Total 2011	776	751	
	Change from Previous Year	0	-62	
Transitional Housing				
Organization	Program	Year Round Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate
Catholic Charities	Transitional Housing	26	31	119%
City Care Inc.	Pershing Center	60	63	105%
*Latino Community Development Agency	Proyecto Cambio	23	19	83%
Neighborhood Services Organization	Carolyn Williams	6	6	100%
Neighborhood Services Organization	Gatewood	8	7	88%
Neighborhood Services Organization	Martha's House	28	22	79%
Phoenix House	Phoenix House	18	20	111%
RAIN OK	Bungalows	7	5	71%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	Parkview Apartments	26	25	96%
Upward Transitions	Transitional Housing	8	8	100%
Oklahoma Veteran's Affairs	Friendship House	20	16	80%
Winds House	Winds House	13	15	115%
*YWCA	YES!	23	16	70%
	Total 2012	266	253	
	Total 2011	261	258	
	Change from Previous Year	76	60	

*Client level data regarding victims of domestic violence is de-identified before aggregate reporting.

Summary and Strategies

2012 PIT by Program

Permanent Supportive Housing				
Organization	Program	Year Round Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate
City Care Inc.	WesLawn Gardens	24	26	108%
City Rescue Mission	Bridge To Life	76	68	89%
Community Enhancement Corporation	CEC-302	28	25	89%
Community Enhancement Corporation	CEC-602	12	12	100%
Community Enhancement Corporation	CEC-702	24	33	138%
Homeless Alliance Inc.	Building Foundations for Families	70	61	87%
HOPE Community Services	Hope Housing Plus	15	21	140%
HOPE Community Services	Hope Chronic 32	32	55	172%
HOPE Community Services	Hope Partners in Housing	25	44	176%
HOPE Community Services	Hope S+C 8	8	7	88%
HOPE Community Services	Shelter Plus Care Families -4	10	9	90%
HOPE Community Services	Shelter Plus Care Families -2	6	5	83%
HOPE Community Services	Shelter Plus Care -35	35	39	111%
Neighborhood Services Organization	Palo Duro (all locations)	35	35	100%
Neighborhood Services Organization	NSO PSH Program	5	2	40%
OKC Metro Alliance	Firststep Housing Program	5	3	60%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	The Lodges	16	13	81%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	Parkside	12	11	92%
YWCA	Permanent Supportive Housing	15	15	100%
*Oklahoma Veterans Affairs	Vouchers for Homeless Veterans	145	116	80%
Total 2012		598	600	
Total 2011		448	407	
Change from Previous Year		64	120	

*The VASH program is not required to enter into HMIS. Data is collected and aggregated with supportive housing programs.

Persons living in permanent supportive housing are not considered to be homeless and are not included in the total count numbers.

Summary and Strategies

Point In Time Summary for OK-502 - Oklahoma City CoC

Date of PIT Count: 1/26/2012

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Persons in Households with at least one Adult and one Child

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	43	34	4	81
Number of persons (Adults & Children)	117	103	14	234

Persons in Households without Children

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Number of Households	480	204	0	303	987
Number of Persons (Adults)	501	209	0	338	1,048

Persons in Households with only Children

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Households	12	0	9	21
Number of Persons (Age 17 or under)	12	0	9	21

Total Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Households	535	238	0	316	1,089
Total Persons	630	312	0	361	1,303

Summary and Strategies

Chronically Homeless and Veteran Subpopulations

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency Shelters	Safe Havens		
Chronically Homeless Individuals	56	0	174	230
Chronically Homeless Families	3		2	5

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Veterans in emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens			
Veterans	109		46	155

Other Homeless Subpopulations

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Persons in emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe havens			
Severely Mentally Ill	198		106	304
Chronic Substance Abuse	324		149	473
Persons with HIV/AIDS	19		2	21
Victims of Domestic Violence	196		6	202
Unaccompanied Child (Under 18)	12		9	21

Brauve, Elina, Megan Bolton, Linda Couch, Sheila Crowley. "Out of Reach 2012." The National Low Income Housing Coalition. 2012.

"Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness." United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. 2010

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD> . 2012

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For more information on homelessness in Oklahoma City

<http://www.okc.gov/planning/homelessness/>

<http://www.homelessalliance.org>

<http://www.coalitionfortheneedy.org>