



2016

Point-In-Time

A Snapshot of Homelessness in

Oklahoma City

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



2016 Point In Time-Acknowledgements

The Oklahoma City Continuum of Care Point In Time Planning Team would like to thank all of the individuals and agencies who contributed their time, staff, and effort toward this important event. This count could not have been completed without the support and dedication of the many service providers throughout Oklahoma City. A distinct acknowledgement is made to the volunteers who administered the Point In Time survey and to The Homeless Alliance who recruited and helped organize the over 100 volunteers.

The following organizations contributed to help make the 2016 Point In Time Count a success.

The Homeless Alliance

Jesus House

City Rescue Mission

Heartline 211

City Care

Mental Health Association-Oklahoma

Oklahoma City Veterans Administration

HOPE Community Services

The Salvation Army

Grace Rescue Mission

OKC Metro Alliance

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development-Okahoma Field Office

Red Rock Behavioral Health Services

YWCA of Oklahoma City

Upward Transitions

Oklahoma City Police Department Homeless Outreach Unit

Catholic Charities

Oklahoma Department of Corrections

Oklahoma City Public Schools

Neighborhood Services Organization

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

North Care

Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City

Community Health Centers

Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma

EMBARK

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

HOPE House OKC

Finally, this report would not have been possible without the assistance of the respondents who completed surveys and provided us with information about their experiences and reasons for homelessness. Together, these individuals provide all of us with a better understanding of the local magnitude of homelessness and inspire us to continue working to ensure that homelessness in Oklahoma City is brief, rare, and non-recurring.

In Memory

Individuals experiencing homelessness are three times more likely to die than the general population. The average life expectancy rate in the United States is almost 80 years but that rate for a homeless person is between 42 and 52 years. This year in Oklahoma City at least 14 individuals died without a roof over their heads or shortly after being housed. Those living with HIV/AIDS, street youth, the homeless mentally ill, veterans and those who are chronically homeless are the most vulnerable subpopulations. Dying on the street is not peaceful. Given that members of the homeless population experience disproportionately high rates of violence and health problems, it is reasonable to believe that the list below would be shorter if those on it had had a home and regular access to health care.



Robin Carty

Darryl Hilliar

James "Coop" Cooper

Mark Lamb

Charles "Chuck" Davis

Joel Scott Leffew

Jim Fox

Leon David Maynard, Jr.

Joshual R. Harlin

Douglas Phillips

Lisa Harper

Ron Pinwell

Gerald Hicks

Rita Pride

2016 Point In Time - Definitions

*These definitions are based on guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Chronically Homelessness refers to an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition, or a family with at least one adult or child with a disabling condition, who has either been continuously homeless for a year or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least twelve months.

Continuum of Care (CoC) refers to the local planning body responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area.

Emergency Shelter is short-term lodging for people experiencing a housing crisis.

Homeless Management Information System (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.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a report on the number of program beds and/or housing units available and in use on the night of the count.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is housing with integrated wrap-around services that is not time limited for persons who are homeless and have a disabling condition.

Transitional Housing (TH) is time-limited temporary housing and services for persons who have multiple barriers to obtaining housing and employment.

Sheltered Homeless refers to people who are living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.

Unsheltered Homeless refers to people with a nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Veteran is someone who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.



Introduction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates that all communities receiving federal funds through McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants conduct a Point In Time (PIT) Count. Each community is required to individually plan and carry out their PIT on a single day during the last 10 days in January every other year. Oklahoma City has opted to conduct the count annually. The date for this year's count was January 28, 2016. 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. The count provides one perspective on the state of homelessness in the city on only one day. It is estimated that a community's annual number is four to five times its one-night census.



The PIT collects data from each of 3 household types; households with at least one adult and one child, households without children, and households with only children. The report includes those who are living in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing Programs, and those who are unsheltered. The unsheltered population are those living in places not meant for human habitation. The PIT does not include households who are “doubling up” with family or friends, incarcerated, in treatment facilities, emergency rooms or hotel rooms. Additionally the PIT collects demographic and subpopulation information to help us better understand the situations and extent of homelessness in our city.

Methods

In 2016, the count had 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 and then data was reviewed by members of the PIT 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 data on the same day allows for easily checking for duplication and reviewing preliminary numbers with a matter of days instead of weeks or months as in the past counts.

Locations



Emergency Shelter Count: Of Oklahoma City's emergency shelters, City Rescue Mission, Jesus House, and Grace Rescue Mission, enter information about daily usage of emergency shelter beds into HMIS. A survey was utilized to gather data on residents staying in shelters that do not participate in HMIS.

Transitional Housing Count: The HMIS administrator compiled data for the night of the count from transitional housing providers that enter information into the HMIS database. 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 duplicate entries were eliminated.

Meal Site Count: On January 28, 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 did not stay in one of Oklahoma City's homeless shelters that night.

Street Count: Prior to the count, a list of locations where people who are homeless were known to sleep was compiled.

Teams of volunteers led by trained outreach workers visited these locations to engage individuals.

Day Shelter Count: Volunteers visited the city's largest day shelter on the Westtown Homeless Resource Campus and conducted surveys throughout the day.

Journey Home OKC

Journey Home OKC is a collaborative effort in Oklahoma City that combines efforts of over 40 government, faith-based, and non-profit organizations to end chronic and veteran homelessness. Working together, the group housed 319 veterans and 195 chronically homeless individuals between January 2015 and March 2016. In the past year, the group has also made great progress towards streamlining our Coordinated Entry Process and having a current and functional By Name List of everyone experiencing homelessness in our city.



Total Homeless

definition

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

On January 28, 2016, there were 1,511 individuals identified as literally homeless in Oklahoma City. It is estimated that a community's annual number is four to five times its one-night census, in this case between 6,044 and 7,555 people in a year. The total number of persons experiencing homelessness in Oklahoma City that could be located during the count increased by just over 200 people from 2016 to 2015. 20% of respondents found were sleeping outside or in a place not fit for human habitation.

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, counting methods, and successful housing efforts by service providers over the course of the previous year.

Total Count 2012-2016

YEAR	SHELTER	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
2012	630	312	361	1,303
2013	820	249	293	1,362
2014	1,029	194	258	1,481
2015	908	192	200	1,300
2016	963	241	307	1,511

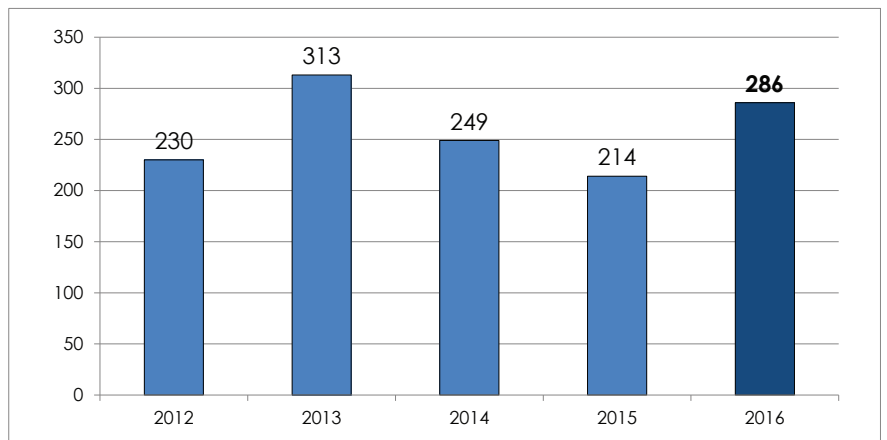
Chronically Homeless

definition

refers to an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition, or a family with at least one adult or child with a disabling condition, who has either been continuously homeless for a year or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least twelve months.

- Of the 286 chronically homeless individuals counted in 2016, 113 or 40% were staying in an unsheltered environment.

19% of individuals counted in 2016 were chronically homeless. While this number is up from 2015, it is a 17% decrease from 2013. That is the year that Oklahoma City joined the 100,000 Homes and Zero: 2016 campaigns. The emphasis of these campaigns is to house your community's most medically-vulnerable chronically homeless individuals and veterans. Since that time, homeless service providers in the City have housed hundreds of chronically homeless individuals.



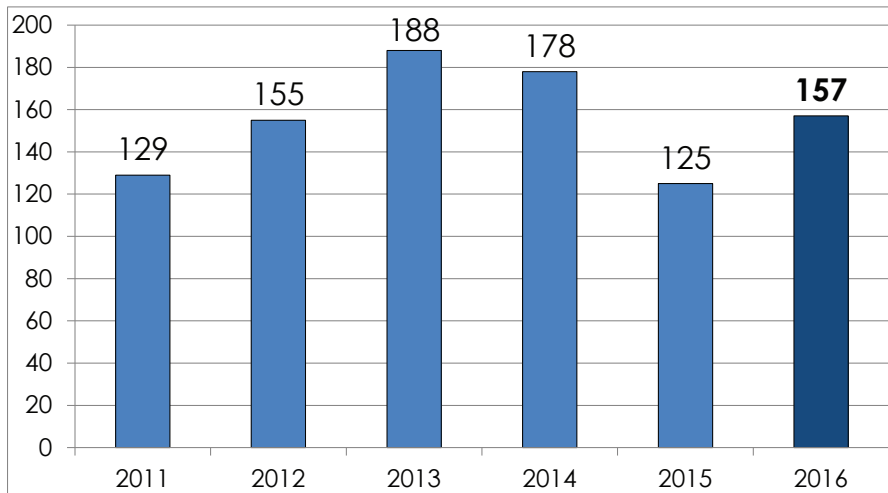
Veterans

The total number of homeless veterans located during the count increased by 32 from 2015 to 2016. To combat the problem of veteran homelessness, local housing providers have partnered together with the Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH), Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF) and other providers of veteran services to form the Oklahoma County Homeless Veteran's Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to develop and maintain processes, procedures, and resources in support of ending veteran homelessness in Oklahoma City as well as streamline those already in place. Over the past 12 months, members of this group have been responsible for putting a roof over the head of over 200 veterans.

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 National Guard unless the person was called to active duty.

- Veterans make up approximately 10% of Oklahoma City's homeless population.
- On the night of the count, 21% of homeless veterans were unsheltered.
- 7% of the homeless veterans counted identified as female.



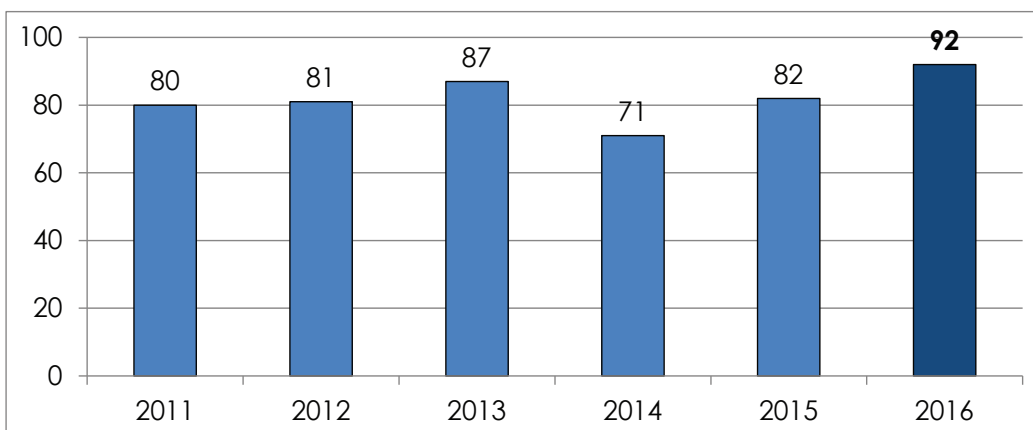
Families

On the night of the count, 92 families experiencing homelessness were surveyed. Homeless families are exposed to substantial amounts of stress that impacts the health and well-being of both adults and children and increases the chances that they will separate or disband. Oklahoma City has focused their efforts to decrease this subpopulation through the Emergency Solutions Grant and the Supportive Housing Program. These programs provide prevention assistance to help struggling families stay in their homes as well as services to rapidly rehouse those who have fallen into homelessness.

definition

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

- Individuals within a homeless family currently make up 20% of the total homeless population in Oklahoma City
- In 2016, the average size of a homeless family was three people.



Special Needs

definition

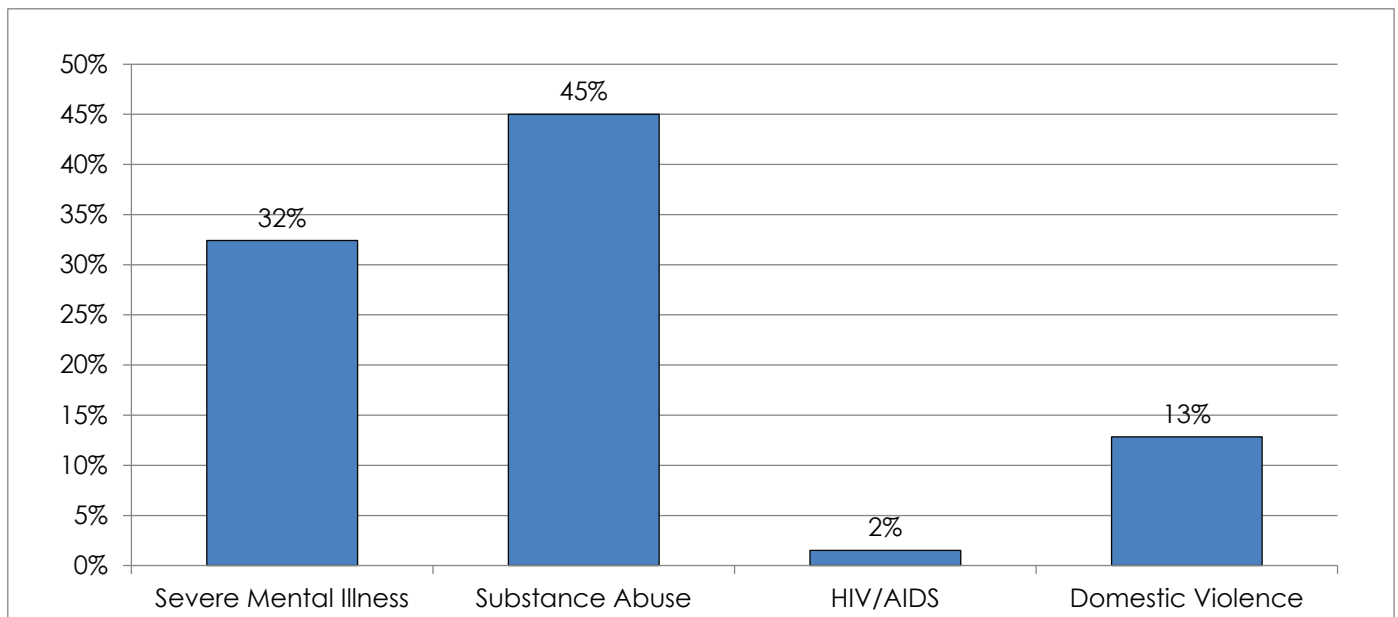
A person living in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a place not meant for human habitation who has one or more disabling conditions.

The special needs homeless population includes persons with physical, mental, or behavioral disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, and persons with alcohol or drug addictions.

Special Needs Total Count, 2012-2016

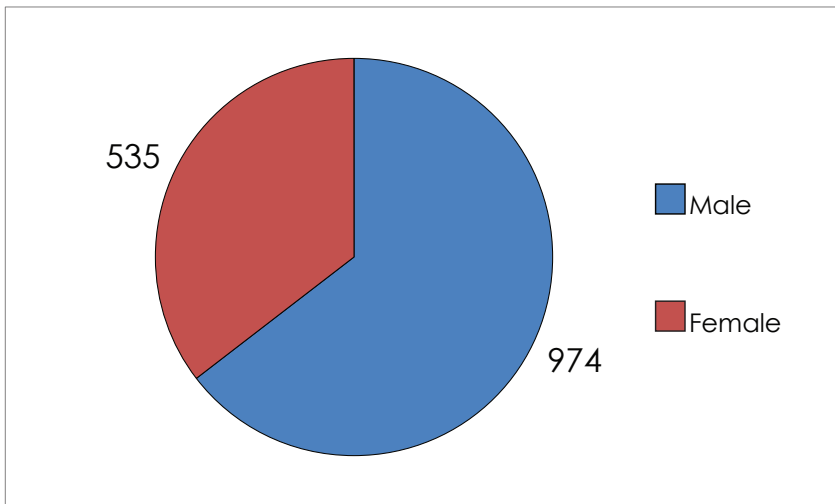
SELF REPORTED SPECIAL NEEDS	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Severe Mental Illness	304	502	522	495	490
Substance Abuse	473	571	484	603	680
HIV/AIDS	21	25	20	36	23
Domestic Violence	202	168	181	209	194

Special Needs as Percent of Total Homeless Population



- While it would appear that nearly all individuals surveyed reported they had a disabling condition, this number is actually lower. Many people reported having more than one conditions and so are included in more than one category.
- While the total number of people who are homeless increased from 2015 to 2016, those reporting special needs predominantly decreased with the only exception being in the category of substance abuse.
- Of the 194 individuals that reported to be victims of domestic violence, at least 28 were children.

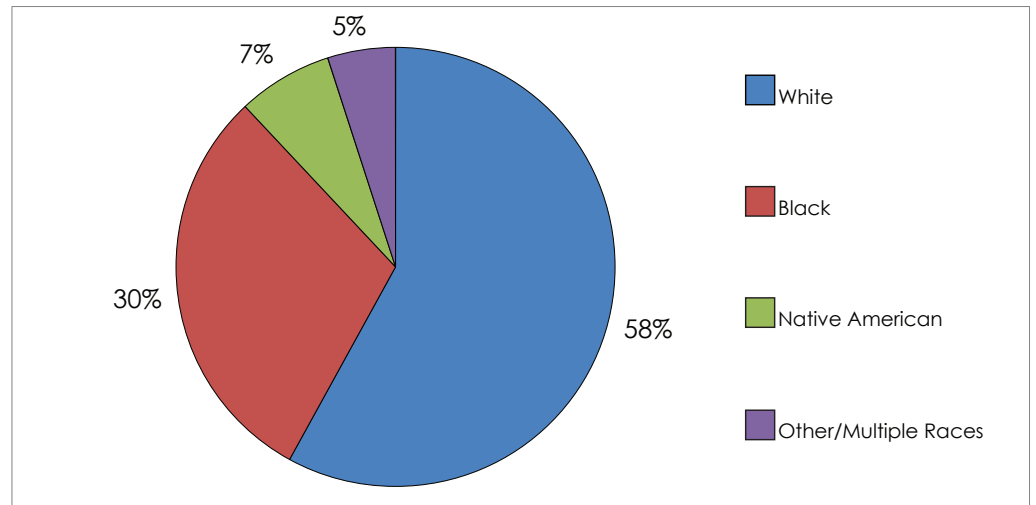
Sex



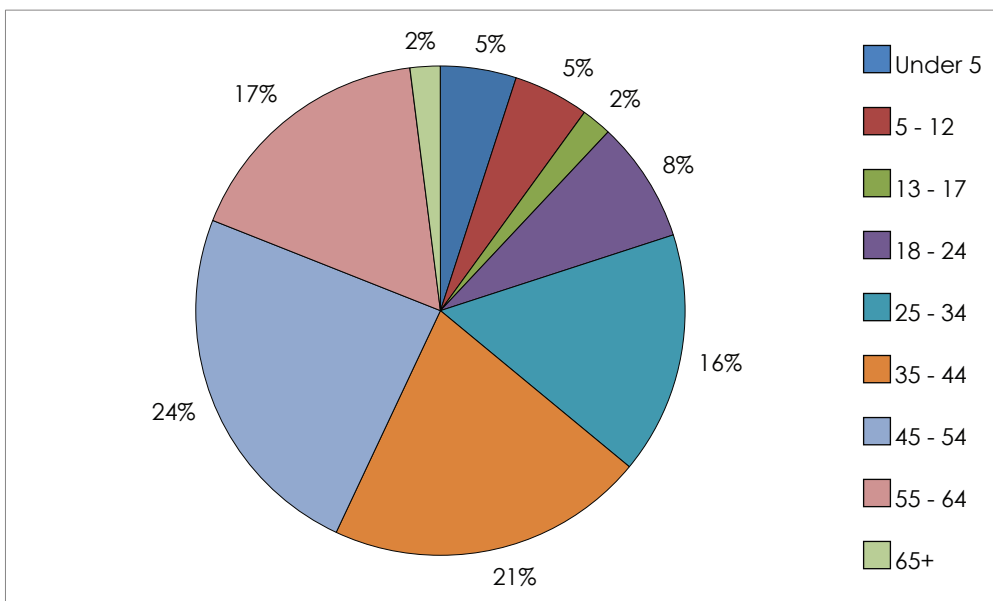
The percentage of females and males surveyed changed very little from 2015 to 2016. The percentage of females counted decreased 2% from 37% to 35%. The percentage of males counted increased by 2% from 62% to 64%. Additionally, 2 transgendered people were identified during the count. Men are less likely to be sheltered than women, 24% of all homeless men surveyed were unsheltered compared to 14% of women.

Race and Ethnicity

The number of respondents who identified as African American increased and those identifying as Caucasian decreased from 2015 to 2016. Only 10 respondents identified as Asian this year which is under 1% of the total homeless population. 7% of individuals identified as being of Hispanic ethnicity, which is consistent with the percentage in 2015.



Age



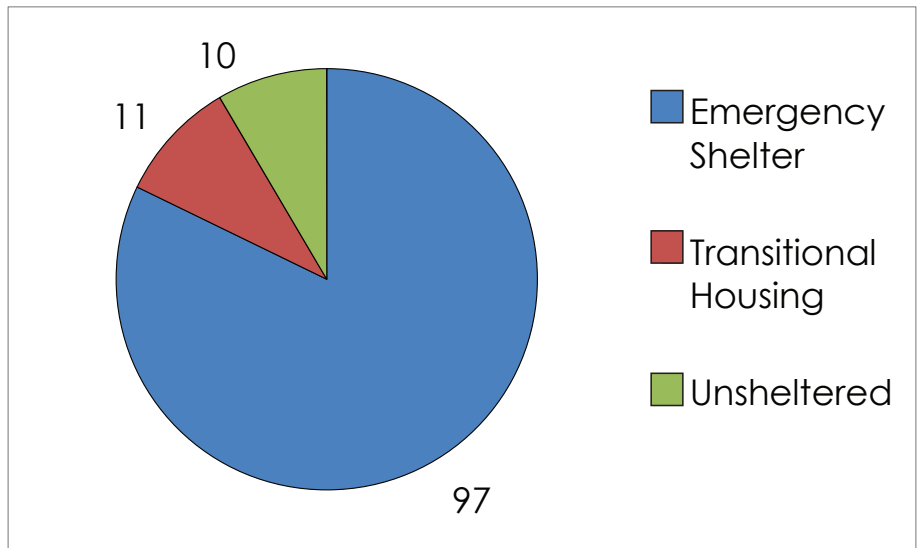
Though the overall number of individuals in each age category may fluctuate from year to year, the percentage that each group makes up of the overall total population typically remains fairly stable. 2016 was no exception as individuals between the ages of 45 - 54 years of age made up the largest age group of people surveyed.

Unaccompanied Youth

The methods regularly used for counting homeless adults do not accurately capture the number of youth experiencing homelessness. The homeless youth population tends to be hidden and transient, often trying to blend in with peers who are not homeless. They often times do not access services due to the lack of knowledge, apprehensions about mandated reporting, and the perceived rules. These youth are often times exposed to higher rates of violence, involvement in illegal activities, sexual assault and physical illness, and are at risk of anxiety and depression. Though 118 unaccompanied youth were found during the count, data from Oklahoma City Public schools showed that 2,906 homeless youth were enrolled at the end of the 2016 school year. Of that number, approximately 80% were couch homeless (temporarily staying with a friend, relative or acquaintance.)

definition
persons under the age of 25 who are not presenting or sleeping in same place as their parent or legal guardian, including: single youth, youth couples, and groups of youth.

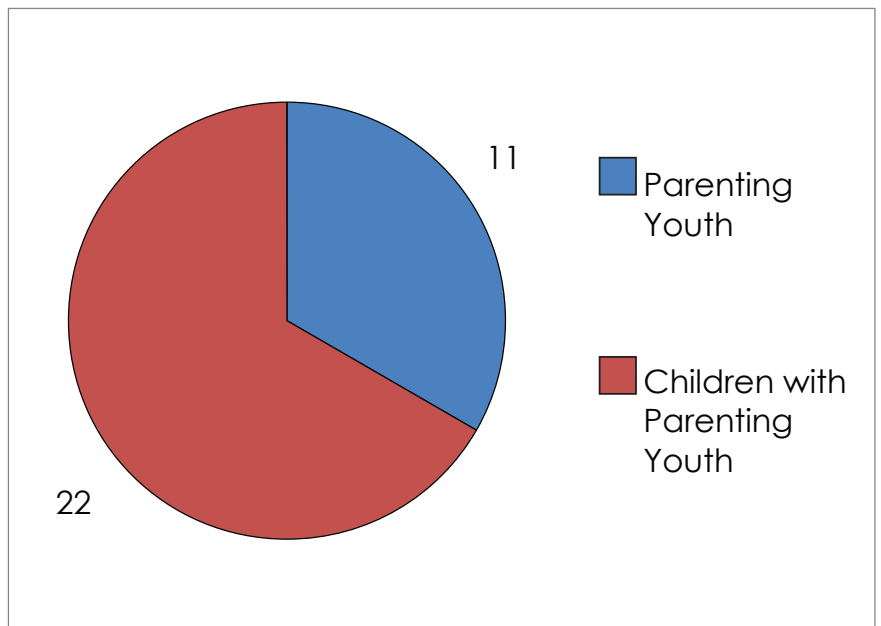
- Unaccompanied youth made up 8% of the total homeless population counted in Oklahoma City in 2016.
- 8% of unaccompanied youth that were located slept in a place not meant for human habitation on the night of the count compared to 18% the previous year.



Parenting Youth Households

definition
youth who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as the youth parent, where there is no person over the age of 24 in the household.

- 11 households with parenting youth were identified in the count.
- All 11 households were sheltered on the night of the count.



Summary and Strategies



Oklahoma City uses information obtained from the annual Point In Time count to quantify and prioritize housing and service needs of homeless persons. Simultaneously, Oklahoma City completes a Housing Inventory Count that details the number of units and beds available in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.

This snapshot allows Oklahoma City to track trends and information concerning subpopulations to better assess our community needs for housing. The Cost of

Homelessness Study conducted by the city in 2010 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 keep them in emergency shelter or leave them on the street.

With the findings of the Cost of Homelessness Study in mind, the Oklahoma City Continuum of Care (CoC) joined the national 100,000 Homes Campaign in 2013 and the Zero: 2016 Campaign in 2015. Since 2013, 261 additional permanent supportive housing beds have been added in Oklahoma City.

Additionally, for several years, local agencies have successfully used Emergency Solutions Grant funds to rapidly re-house newly homeless individuals and families or prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place. After initial assistance, a case manager works with each person or family that receives assistance to help them stabilize their housing situation and, hopefully not have to need assistance again in the future. Last year, ESG funding was used to assist over 6,000 people.



Summary and Strategies

Emergency Shelter

Organization	Program	Year Round Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate
Birth Choice	Rose Home	17	7	41%
City Rescue Mission	City Rescue Mission	525	501	95%
Grace Rescue Mission	Grace Rescue	70	70	100%
Jesus House	Jesus House	86	71	83%
OKC Metro Alliance	First Step for Women	56	56	100%
OKC Metro Alliance	First Step for Men	70	60	86%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	Parkview	6	5	83%
Salvation Army	Families	57	51	89%
Salvation Army	Men	55	49	89%
Sunbeam	Elder Shelter	11	15	136%
Oklahoma Veteran's Affairs	HCHV/EH-Serenity Recovery Outreach Community	15	11	73%
*YWCA	Passageways	120	67	56%
	Total 2016	1088	963	89%
	Total 2015	1197	1039	78%
	Change from Previous Year	-31	-131	

Transitional Housing

Organization	Program	Year Round Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate
Catholic Charities	Transitional Housing	27	27	100%
City Care Inc.	Pershing Center	60	64	107%
Hope House OKC	HopeHouse	40	32	80%
Neighborhood Services Organization	Carolyn Williams	6	6	100%
Neighborhood Services Organization	Gatewood	8	4	50%
Neighborhood Services Organization	Martha's House	28	9	32%
Phoenix House	Phoenix House	16	16	100%
RAIN OK	Bungalows	7	3	43%
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	Parkview Apartments	26	25	96%
Olahoma Veteran's Affairs	Friendship House	20	18	90%
Winds House	Winds House	11	10	91%
Wonderfully Made	Wonderfully Made Homeless Home TH	12	19	158%
*YWCA	YES!	15	8	53%
	Total 2016	276	241	87%
	Total 2015	243	194	79%
	Change from Previous Year	-5	-2	

Summary and Strategies

Permanent Supportive Housing

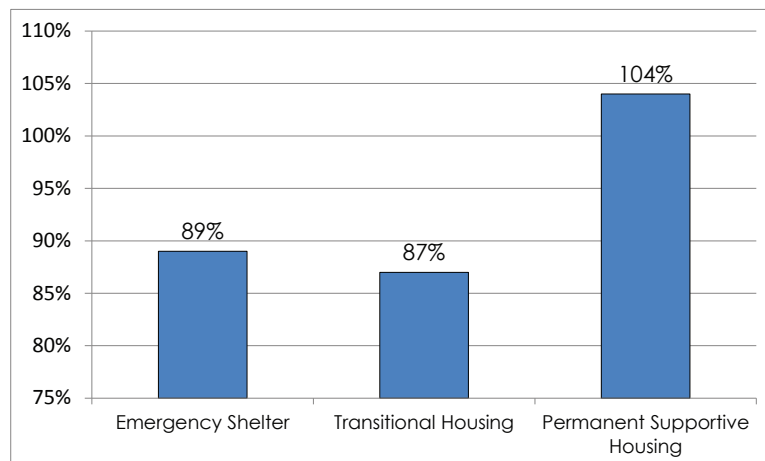
Organization	Program	Year Round Beds	PIT Count	Utilization Rate	
City Care Inc.	Westlawn Gardens (all locations)	47	43	91%	
City Rescue Mission	City Rescue Mission (all locations)	128	133	104%	
Community Enhancement Corporation	CEC-302	28	28	100%	
Community Enhancement Corporation	CEC-602	12	13	108%	
Community Enhancement Corporation	CEC-702	24	28	117%	
Homeless Alliance Inc.	Building Foundations for Families	85	70	82%	
HOPE Community Services	Hope Housing Plus	15	25	167%	
HOPE Community Services	Hope Chronic 32	32	46	144%	
HOPE Community Services	Hope Partners in Housing	25	45	180%	
HOPE Community Services	Hope S+C 8	8	8	100%	
HOPE Community Services	Shelter Plus Care Families -2	4	4	100%	
HOPE Community Services	Shelter Plus Care -39	43	52	121%	
Neighborhood Services Organization	Palo Duro (all locations)	36	31	86%	
Neighborhood Services Organization	NSO PSH Program-Men	5	6	120%	
Neighborhood Services Organization	NSO PSH Program-Women	6	8	133%	
OCHA	100K HOMES	23	20	87%	
OKC Metro Alliance	Firststep Housing Program	7	6	86%	
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	The Lodges	14	12	86%	
Red Rock Behavioral Health Services	Parkside	12	12	100%	
*Oklahoma Veterans Affairs	Vouchers for Homeless Veterans	285	285	100%	
		Total 2016	839	875	104%
		Total 2015	767	714	93%
		Change from Previous Year	72	161	

* 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.

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

Utilization Rates



On the night of the count, the utilization rate for Permanent Supportive Housing beds exceeded 100%. The utilization rates for both Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing beds were just under 90%. If these utilization rates were at 100% on the night of the count, there would have still been 147 unsheltered individuals in Oklahoma City.

Local Resources

If you are in need of assistance, please call **Heartline** by dialing **2-1-1**. They will take your information and refer you to one of the service providers listed below.

Local Service Providers:

Be The Change
bethechange.org

Catholic Charities
catholiccharitiesok.org

City Care
citycareinc.org

City Rescue Mission
cityrescue.org

Grace Rescue Mission
(405) 232-5766

Greater Oklahoma City Urban League
urbanleagueok.org

The Homeless Alliance
homelessalliance.org

Hope Community Services
hopecsi.org

Jesus House
jesushouseokc.org

Latino Community Development Agency
lcdaok.com

Neighborhood Services Organization
nsookc.org

OKC Metro Alliance
okcmetroalliance.com

Oklahoma AIDS Care Fund
okaidscarefund.com

Phoenix House
(405) 525-0201

RAIN OK
rainoklahoma.org

Red Rock Behavioral Health
red-rock.com

Salvation Army of Central Oklahoma
salvationarmyokcac.org

Sunbeam Family Services
sunbeamfamilyservices.org

Upward Transitions
upwardtransitions.org

Winds House
windshouseokc.org

The Wonderfully Made Foundation
wonderfullymadefoundation.com

Youth Services for Oklahoma County
ysoc.org

YWCA
ywcaokc.org

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"Homeless & Health: What's The Connection?" National Health Care for the Homeless Council. 2011.

HUD Homeless Data Exchange
www.hudhdx.info/

National Alliance to End Homelessness
www.endhomelessness.org/pages/issues

National Center on Family Homelessness. American Institutes for Research
www.familyhomelessness.org/facts.php?p+tm#

National Coalition for Homeless: Violence Against the Homeless.
nationalhomeless.org/category/civil-rights/violence-against-the-homeless/

National Conference of State Legislatures.
www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/homeless-and-runaway-youth.aspx

"The Hard, Cold Facts About the Death of Homeless People." National Health Care of the Homeless Council. 2006.

***Images provided by Katie Hayes Luke, The Homeless Alliance & the Curbside Chronicle.**

