



TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

2014 Point-In-Time Count

2014 Point-In-Time

Every year HUD requires all Continuum to collect data on homelessness at a single point-in-time during the last week in January. The Texas Homeless Network annually assists communities with their Point-in-Time homeless survey preparation and data analysis. This report is a compilation of data collected on the day of January 23, 2014, by members of the Texas Balance of State. This report captures responses from the head of each household and also provides information on any additional members of the household.

It should be noted that it is extremely difficult to count people who are experiencing homelessness; they might not have been present in any particular area when the count was being conducted or they might have actively avoided being counted. It is also difficult to count those individuals and families who are on the brink of homelessness. These are the people and families who are one missed paycheck away from ending up in a shelter or sleeping on the streets. They are utilizing services but might not have been counted for the PIT. The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care relies on the coalitions within the BoS to recruit volunteers to assist with surveying those experiencing homelessness and those in danger of becoming homeless. Individuals and families move in and out of homeless throughout the year; the Point-In-Time survey provides a rough idea of what one day looks like in the Texas Balance of State.

The “known location” methodology was used by volunteers who surveyed persons found at sites identified by the community to be where those suffering from homelessness are known to congregate. The resulting survey sample is represented by people in homeless situations and persons who are at risk of becoming homeless. The number of survey responses does not represent the total population suffering from homelessness, so estimates are provided in this report. This information is used by local communities in the development of short and long-term strategies to alleviate homelessness.

The following continuums participated in the 2014 Point-In-Time count:

Alamo Area Homeless Coalition
Cameron County Homeless Partnership
Central Texas Homeless Alliance
Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition
Denton County Homeless Coalition
Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition
Hidalgo County
Homeless Issues Partnership, Inc.
Midland Homeless Coalition
Montgomery County Homeless Coalition
North East Texas Homeless Coalition
Odessa Coalition for the Homeless
Smith County Coalition on Human Needs
South Plains Homeless Consortium
Texarkana Homeless Coalition
Texoma Homeless Network
Tri-County Homeless Coalition
Victoria Area Homeless Coalition
West Texas Homeless Network
Williamson County Consumer Housing Coalition

Findings at a Glance

Texas Balance of State

Total People Counted:

On Thursday, January 23rd, 2014, members of the Texas Balance of State counted 7,726 men, women, and children. This is an undercount and only includes those who filled out a survey and other members of their immediate household.

Living on the Street:

There were 1,069 people (14.9%) living in a place not meant for habitation (street, car, camp, abandoned building, etc.)

Families:

The number of households with children present was 1,066 (23.9%).

Vets:

Veterans made up 14.0% (611 people) of those surveyed. The majority of veterans (34.0%) indicated they served in Vietnam.

Newly Homeless:

There were 1,887 households (47.4%) who became homeless for the first time in the past three years.

Chronically Homeless:

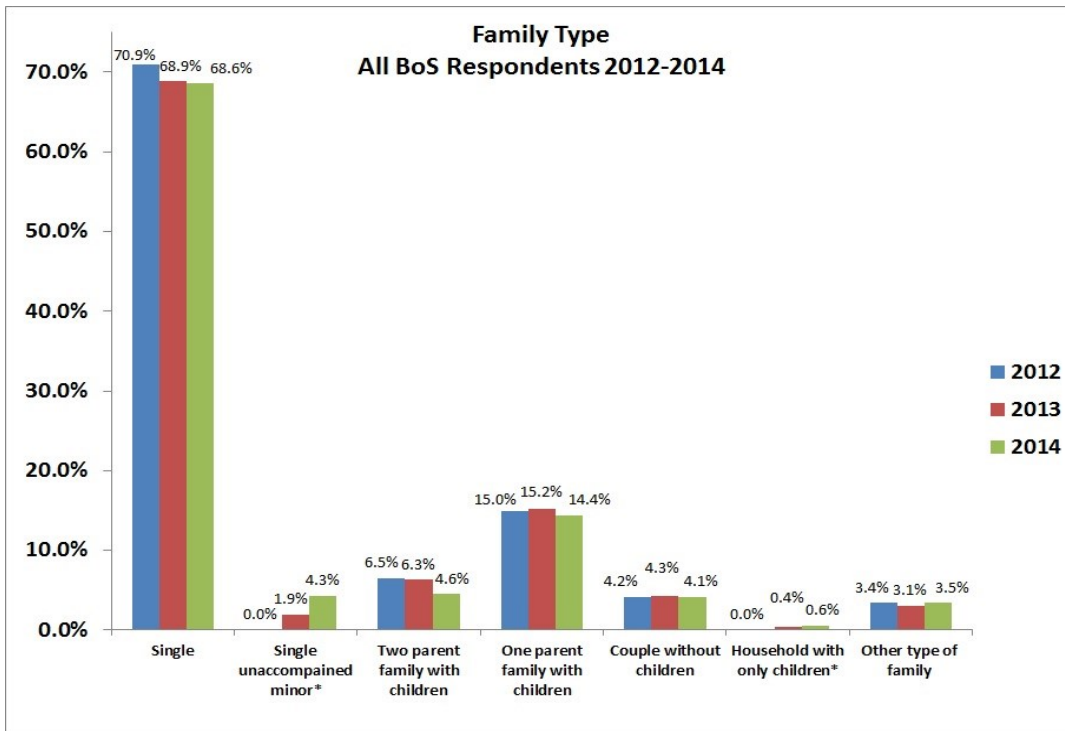
There were 528 households who met HUD's definition of chronically homeless.

Demographics

Family Type

As in years past, most of those accounted for in the Point-In-Time count are single individuals, followed by single parent families. Trends in family type are graphed below the 2014 table.

	Frequency	Percent
Single	3070	68.6
Single unaccompanied minor	192	4.3
Two parent family with children	204	4.6
One parent family with children	644	14.4
Couple without children	184	4.1
Household with Only Children	26	0.6
Other Type of Family	156	3.5
Total	4476	100.0



*The Texas Balance of State did not collect data for single unaccompanied minors or households with only children in 2012.

Demographics Cont.

Gender

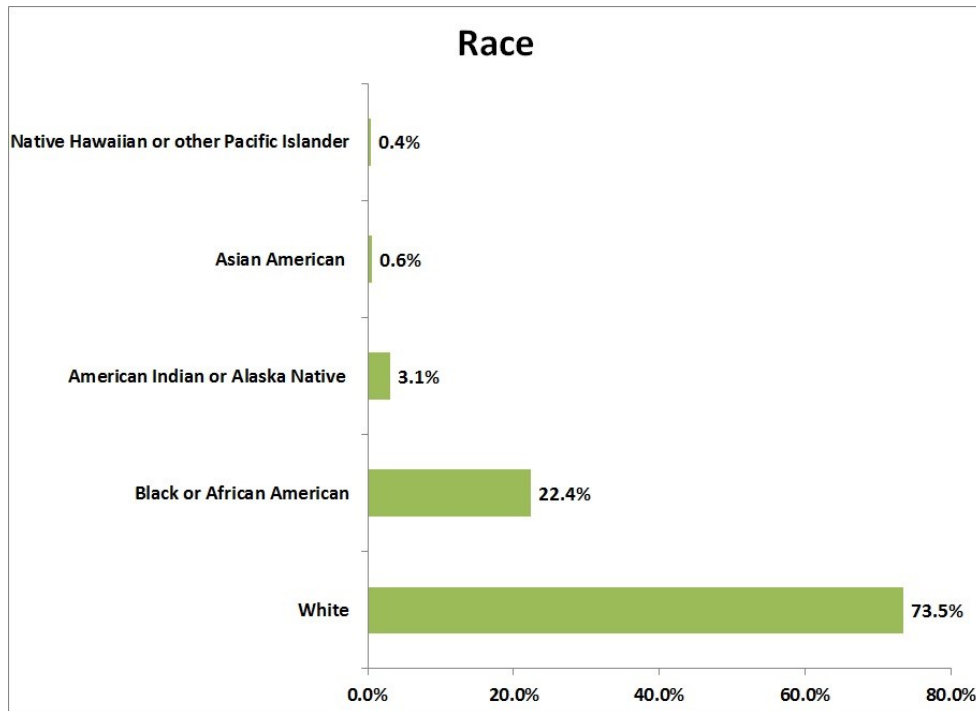
	Frequency	Percent
Male	4269	59.5
Female	2897	40.4
Transgender	13	0.2
Total	7179	100.0

Race and Ethnicity

When asked if the respondent or anyone in the household identifies as Latino, 2201 people (36.6%) identified as Latino.

Age

	Frequency	Percent
Children (0-17)	1501	24.3
Young Adult (18-24)	520	8.4
Adult (25 and up)	4150	67.3
Total	6171	100.0



Risk Factors for Homelessness

Disability

2014 is the first year the Texas Balance of State has captured specific information in regards to the respondent's disability as well as the disabilities of all members of the household. These disabilities can be a roadblock for employment and housing. HUD states that people living in shelters are twice as likely to have a disability than people who are stably housed. There were 670 people who indicated they suffered from a serious mental illness and 21.3% (143 people) of them spent the previous night in an emergency shelter, while 20.1% (135 people) slept in a place not meant for habitation.

	Responses	Percent of Responses	Percent of Cases
Substance Abuse	1042	15.1	18.7
Chronic Physical Illness	840	12.2	15.1
Traumatic Brain Injury	114	1.7	2.0
HIV/AIDS	91	1.3	1.6
Serious Mental Illness	793	11.5	14.2
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	515	7.5	9.2
Developmental Disability	292	4.2	57.4
No Disability	3198	46.4	57.4

Reasons for Homelessness

	Frequency of Responses	Percent of Responses	Percent of Cases
Inability to pay rent/mortgage	1429	19.6	40.5
Unemployment	1549	21.3	43.9
Divorce	555	7.6	15.7
Domestic Violence	584	8.0	16.6
Incarceration	463	6.4	13.1
Family member or personal illness	322	4.4	9.1
Physical/mental disability	501	6.9	14.2
Addiction	629	8.6	17.8
Eviction	413	5.7	11.7
Moved to seek work	269	3.7	7.6
Sexual orientation	23	0.3	0.7
Other	545	7.5	15.5

As in previous years, the two most cited reasons for homelessness are unemployment and an inability to pay for housing. These numbers are clearly related in that when a person, or head wage earner becomes unemployed, being able to pay for housing is almost impossible. The number of people indicating domestic violence was the main factor or a contributing factor to homelessness has been steadily increasing since 2012.

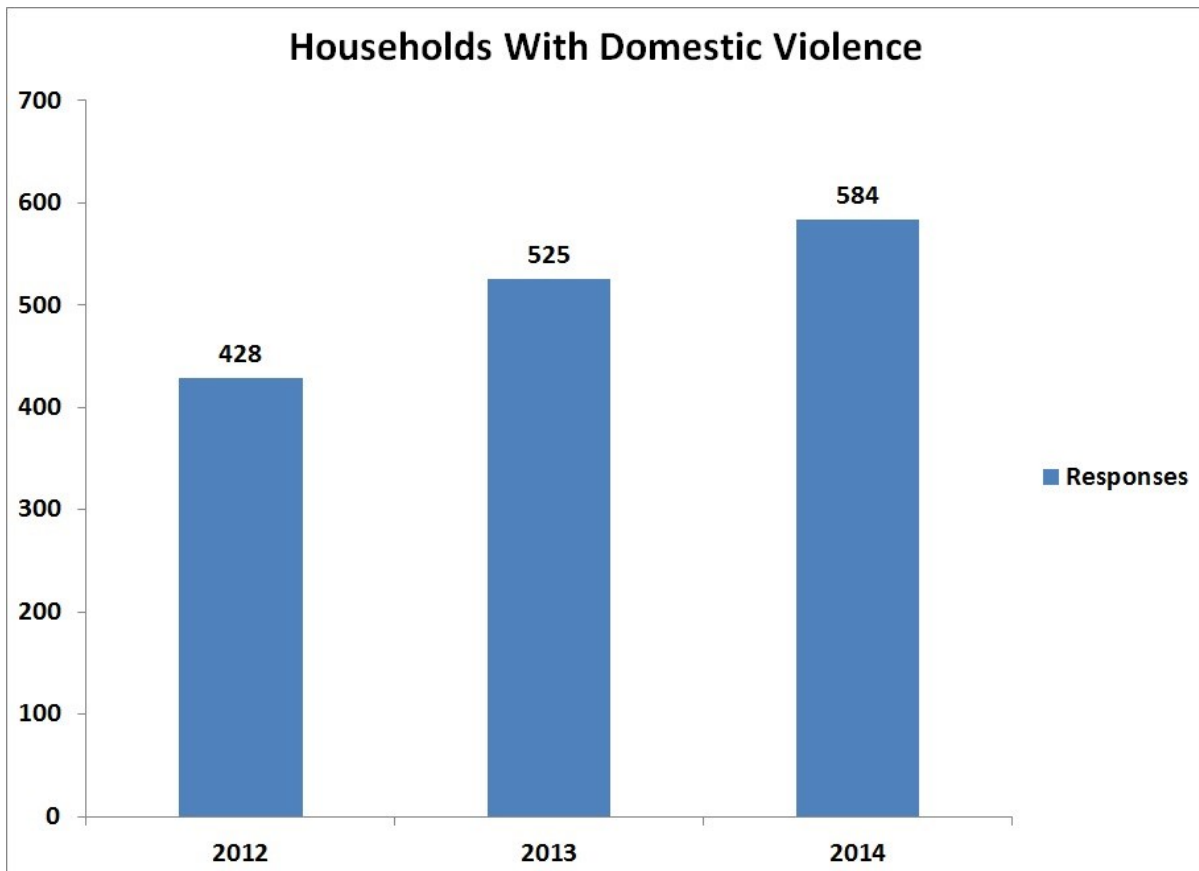
Reasons for homelessness are more complex and layered than what we have presented. We are unable to determine how many adults who were homeless on January 23, 2014, experienced homelessness or poverty as children, thus creating the cycle of homelessness that providers attempt to break.

Risk Factors for Homelessness Cont.

Domestic Violence

The graph below shows the number of respondents who have cited domestic violence as the main factor or a contributing factor in why they became homeless. Domestic violence survivors who are trying to secure a life away from their abuser, often lack a steady income source, an employment history, or a credit history. There are many areas that are unclear and underreported on this survey. Many domestic violence survivors do not want to fill out a survey (despite the anonymity) for safety reasons. We do not in any way, want to make these women feel unsafe (while men can and do experience domestic violence, the overwhelming majority of survivors are women, thus we will use the female pronoun). Domestic violence and homelessness are regrettably woven. There are countless women today who are “stably housed” in an abusive relationship. Leaving this relationship could very likely leave the woman (and children) in a situation where she would be homeless. We are unable to know how many of these survivors have suffered post-traumatic stress disorder due to experiencing domestic violence, however, we do know that this type of trauma can greatly contribute to housing instability.

- There were 1066 reported households with children. Of those, 44.4% indicated that domestic violence was a contributing factor to their homelessness and 2.3% were living in places not meant for habitation.
- There were 3410 reported households without children. Of those, 34.4% indicated that domestic violence was a contributing factor to their homelessness and 13.3% were living in places not meant for habitation.



Length and Episodes of Homelessness

Length of Homelessness

Length of homelessness refers to how long a particular episode of homelessness has lasted. 3,517 respondents answered the question “how long have you been homeless?”

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 month	529	15.0
More than 1 month to 1 year	1671	47.5
1 to 3 years	754	21.4
More than 3 years	563	16.0

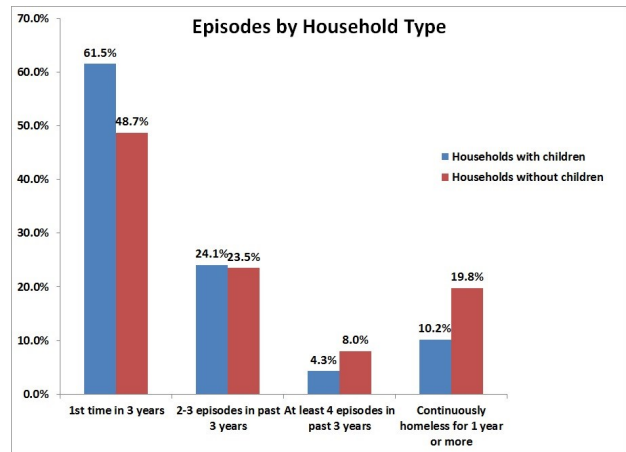
Episodes of Homelessness

Number of episodes refers to the number of separate times a household has experienced homelessness regardless of how long the episode lasted.

3,983 respondents answered when asked to describe their current situation (current episode). Of those who answered, 334 respondents said they were not currently homeless; those responses have been removed from the table below.

	Frequency	Percent
1st time homeless in the past 3 years	1887	51.7
2-3 separate episodes in the past 3 years	860	23.6
At least 4 separate episodes in the past 3 years	259	7.1
Continuously homeless for 1 year or more	643	17.6

Episodes of Households with Children



Unfortunately, in the Texas Balance of State, the number of families experiencing homelessness has increased within the past year. In 2013, there were 413 households with children who were experiencing homelessness for the first time in three years. That number increased to 521 for the 2014 Point-In-Time. For the families who have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness within the past three years, the number was 36; an increase of 19 families from 2013. Forty families, In 2013, indicated they were continuously homeless for one year or more and in 2014, that number rose to 86 families.

Chronically Homeless

Definition of chronically homeless:

HUD defines chronic homelessness as an individual or head of household who:

- Has been continuously homeless* for one year or more, and
- Has had at least four separate episodes of homelessness in the last three years, and
- Has a disabling condition**

*In its definition of a chronically homeless person, HUD defines "homeless" as "a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living on the streets) OR living in a homeless emergency shelter."

**A disabling condition is defined as "a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, a serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability."

Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	355	75.7
Female	112	23.9
Transgender	2	0.4

Living Situation

	Frequency	Percent
Emergency shelter	211	44.2
Place not meant for habitation	266	55.8

Chronically Homeless Responses

Family Type

	Frequency	Percent
Single	375	80.3
Unaccompanied minor	27	5.8
Two parent family with children	2	0.4
Couple without children	32	6.9
One parent family with children	23	4.9
Other type of family	8	1.7

Veterans

Servicemembers:

For the 2014 Point-In-Time count, 14% (611 people) of those counted stated they had served in the United States Military. Their median age is 53 years. There were 554 males, 47 females, and 1 transgender individual. The average length of service was 5.4 years and 27.7% of veterans were activated into active duty as a member of the National Guard or as a reservist. The median length of homelessness is 1.31 years.

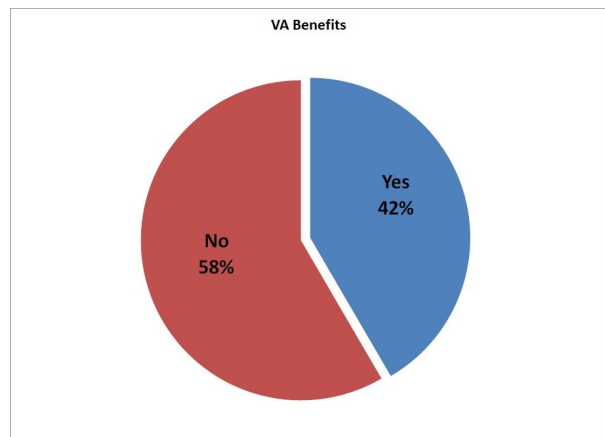
Disabilities (top 4 answers)

	Frequency	Percent of Responses	Percent of Cases
Substance abuse	165	23.8	43.7
Chronic physical illness	173	25.0	45.8
Serious mental illness	117	16.9	31.0
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	162	23.4	42.9

Episodes of Homelessness

	Frequency	Percent
1st time homeless in past 3 years	195	40.7
2-3 episodes in past 3 years	108	22.5
At least 4 episodes in the past 3 years	55	11.5
Continuously homeless for 1 year or more	121	25.3

VA Benefits



Nighttime Residence (top 4 responses)

	Frequency	Percent
Emergency shelter	143	26.3
Place not meant for habitation	105	19.3
Sharing housing with others	70	12.9
VA domiciliary	64	11.8

Employment

	Frequency	Percent
Full time	58	15.0
Part time	27	7.0
Day labor	22	5.7
Temporary job	21	5.4
Unemployed	226	58.5
Retired	32	8.3