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# TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

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## 2015 Point-In-Time Count

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Every year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all Continuums of Care 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 22, 2015, by members of the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC). 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 the particular areas 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 BoS CoC relies on the local homeless 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 people without homes are known to congregate. This information is used by local communities in the development of short and long-term strategies to alleviate homelessness.

### **The following coalitions and communities participated in the 2015 Point-In-Time count:**

Comal County Homeless Coalition  
Bay City, Texas  
Brenham, Texas  
Cameron County Homeless Partnership  
Central Texas Homeless Alliance  
Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition  
Denton County Homeless Coalition  
East Texas Human Needs Network  
Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition  
Hempstead, Texas  
Hidalgo County, Texas  
Homeless Issues Partnership, Inc.  
Huntsville, Texas  
Laredo Homeless Coalition  
Lufkin, Texas  
Midland Homeless Coalition  
Montgomery County Homeless Coalition  
Mt. Pleasant, Texas  
North East Texas Homeless Coalition  
Odessa Coalition for the Homeless  
South Plains Homeless Consortium  
Texarkana Homeless Coalition  
Texoma Homeless Network  
Tri-County Homeless Coalition  
Victoria Area Homeless Coalition  
West Texas Homeless Network

## Findings at a Glance

### Texas Balance of State

#### **People Counted:**

On Thursday, January 22nd, 2015, members of the Texas Balance of State counted 4,197 people experiencing homelessness; 3,265 adults and 932 children.

For Point-In-Time purposes, HUD defines who is homeless. Those households residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, places not meant for habitation, VA domiciliary, and hotels/motels paid for with vouchers are the only households considered homeless by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act.

#### **Age**

The median age of adults was 43 years and the median age of children in the household was 7 years.

#### **Living on the Street:**

There were 1,010 people (40.3%) living in a place not meant for habitation (street, car, camp, abandoned building, etc.)

#### **Families:**

The number of households with children present was 490 (16.5%).

#### **Vets:**

Veterans made up 12.1% (501 people) of those surveyed. The majority of veterans (27.9%) indicated they served in Vietnam.

#### **Newly Homeless:**

There were 1,363 households (50.1%) who became homeless for the first time in the past three years.

#### **Chronically Homeless:**

There were 735 households who met HUD's definition of being chronically homeless.

\*An individual or family with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

## Demographics

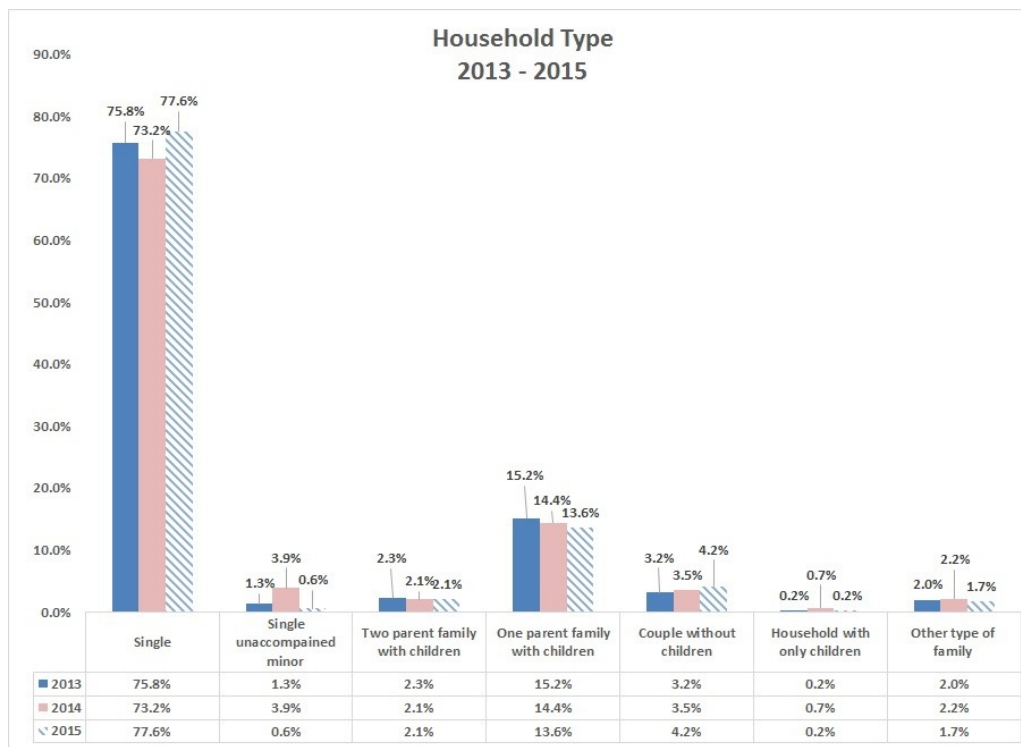
### Household Type

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 household type are graphed below the 2015 table.

**Table 1. Household Type**

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Single individual	2308	77.6
	Single unaccompanied minor	17	.6
	Two parent family with children	63	2.1
	Couple without children	126	4.2
	One parent family with children	405	13.6
	Household with only children	5	.2
	Other type of family	51	1.7
	Total	2975	100.0

**Figure 1. PIT Household Type 2013—2015**



## Demographics (Cont.)

**Table 2. Respondent Sex (observed)**

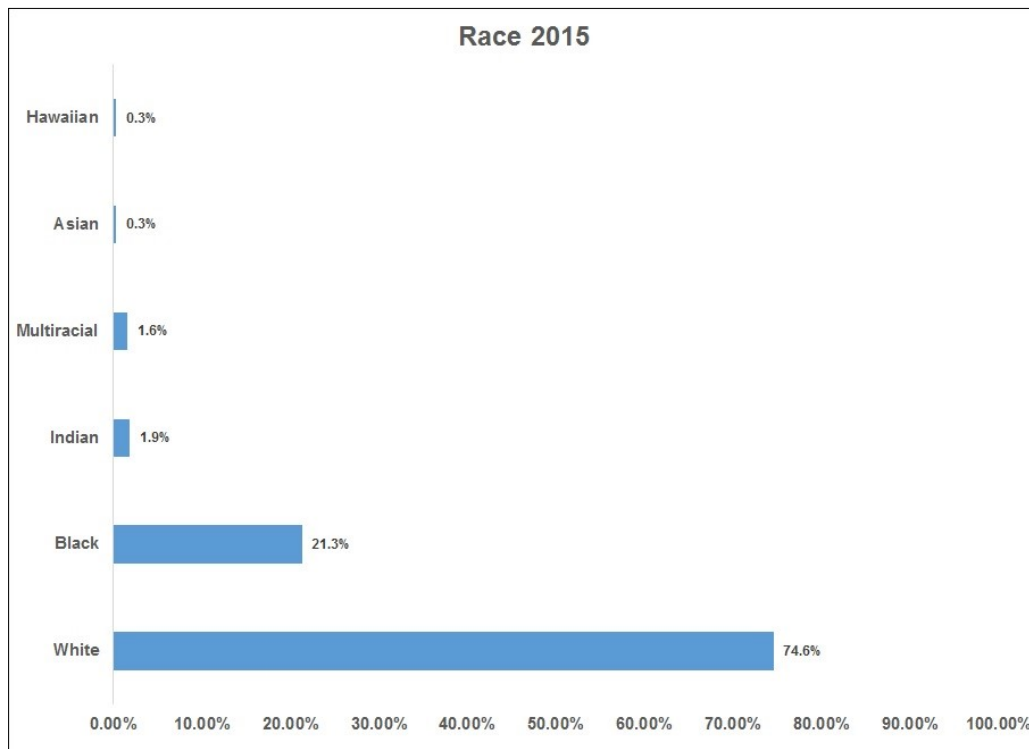
	Frequency	Valid Percent
Male	1854	62.4
Female	1111	37.4
Transgender M to F	4	.1
Transgender F to M	3	.1
Total	2972	100.0

In the overall Point-In-Time count, the majority of respondents are male, however, 85.3% of the female respondents are heads of households with children.

**Table 3. Ethnicity - Respondents**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes, Hispanic or Latino	856	30.7
No, not Hispanic or Latino	1931	69.3
Total	2787	100.0

**Figure 2. Race of Respondents**



## Risk Factors for Homelessness

### Disabilities

2015 is only the second year the Texas Balance of State CoC 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, housing, and services. HUD states that people living in shelters are twice as likely to have a disability than people who are stably housed. There were 570 people who indicated they had a serious mental illness and 36% of them spent the night of January 22nd sleeping in places not meant for habitation. Those people addicted to alcohol/drugs saw 26.5% spending the night sleeping on the streets.

Table 5 lists disabilities for heads of households.

**Table 5. Disability**

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Substance Abuse	607	16.6%	21.9%
Chronic Physical Illness	497	13.6%	17.9%
Traumatic Brain Injury	83	2.3%	3.0%
HIV/AIDS	23	0.6%	0.8%
Serious Mental Illness	570	15.6%	20.6%
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	397	10.9%	14.3%
Developmental Disability	142	3.9%	5.1%
None	1334	36.5%	48.2%
Total	3653	100.0%	131.9%

**Table 6. Reasons For Homelessness**

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Inability to pay rent or mortgage	998	19.0%	36.3%
Unemployment	1051	20.0%	38.2%
Divorce	495	9.4%	18.0%
Domestic violence	539	10.3%	19.6%
Incarceration	231	4.4%	8.4%
Family or personal illness	252	4.8%	9.2%
Physical and/or mental disabilities	386	7.3%	14.0%
Addiction	467	8.9%	17.0%
Eviction	224	4.3%	8.1%
Moved to seek work	142	2.7%	5.2%
Sexual orientation	15	0.3%	0.5%
Aged out of foster care	29	0.6%	1.1%
Other	426	8.1%	15.5%
Total	5255	100.0%	190.9%

### Factors Associated with Homelessness

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.

## Length and Episodes of Homelessness

### Length of Homelessness

Length of homelessness refers to how long a particular episode of homelessness has lasted.

**Table 7. Length of Homelessness**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Less than 1 month	423	17.6
More than 1 month to 1 year	1196	49.7
1 to 3 years	469	19.5
More than 3 years	319	13.3
Total	2407	100.0

### 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.

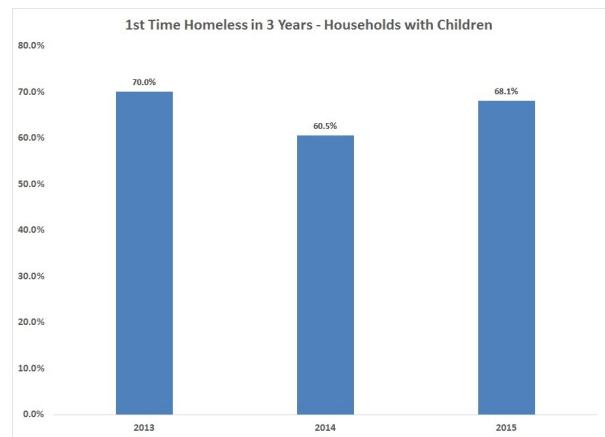
**Table 8. Episodes of Homelessness**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
1st time homeless in the past 3 years	1363	50.1
2-3 episodes in the past 3 years	625	23.0
At least 4 episodes in the past 3 years	190	7.0
Continuously homeless for a year or more	545	20.0
Total	2723	100.0

### Episodes of Households with Children

Unfortunately, in the Texas Balance of State CoC, the number of families experiencing homelessness has increased within the past year. In 2013, 70% of the households with children were experiencing homelessness for the first time in three years. This number dropped to 60.5% in 2014, but unfortunately, for the 2015 PIT, we saw the number of households with children who were experiencing homelessness for the first time in three years, increase to 68.1%.

**Figure 4. Households with Children - 1st Time Homeless in 3 Years**



## 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.”

**Table 9. Sex**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Male	533	73.5
Female	191	26.3
Transgender M to F	1	.1
Total	725	100.0

**Table 10. Nighttime Living Situation on 1/22/15**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Emergency Shelter	242	32.9
Transitional Housing	73	9.9
Place not meant for habitation	352	47.9
VA Domiciliary	63	8.6
Hotel/Motel (w/ voucher)	5	.7
Total	735	100.0

**Table 11. Household Type**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
I am a single individual	629	86.8
I am a single unaccompanied minor	4	.6
Two parent family with children	8	1.1
Couple without children	37	5.1
One parent family with children	30	4.1
Household with only children	2	.3
Other type of family	15	2.1
Total	725	100.0

**Table 12. U.S. Military Service**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	173	25.6
No	502	74.4
Total	675	100.0



## Veterans

### Military Service:

For the 2015 Point-In-Time count, 12.1% (501 people) of those counted stated they had served in the United States Military. Their median age is 53 years. There were 451 males, 42 females, and 1 transgender individual. The average length of service was 4 years and their median length of homelessness is 9 months.

**Table 13. Nighttime Living Situation on 1/22/15**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Emergency Shelter	156	31.1
Transitional Housing	41	8.2
Place not meant for habitation	132	26.3
VA Domiciliary	170	33.9
Hotel/Motel (w/ voucher)	2	.4
Total	501	100.0

**Table 14. Household Type**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
I am a single individual	433	88.0
Two parent family with children	10	2.0
Couple without children	18	3.7
One parent family with children	14	2.8
Other type of family	17	3.5
Total	492	100.0

**Table 15. Episodes of Homelessness**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
1st time homeless in the past 3 years	173	36.9
2-3 episodes in the past 3 years	119	25.4
At least 4 episodes in the past 3 years	60	12.8
Continuously homeless for a year or more	117	24.9
Total	469	100.0

**Table 16. Disability**

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Substance Abuse	169	22.3%	36.7%
Chronic Physical Illness	136	17.9%	29.5%
Traumatic Brain Injury	19	2.5%	4.1%
HIV/AIDS	6	0.8%	1.3%
Serious Mental Illness	129	17.0%	28.0%
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	144	19.0%	31.2%
Developmental Disability	20	2.6%	4.3%
None	135	17.8%	29.3%
Total	758	100.0%	164.4%

**Table 17. Job Status**

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Unemployed	224	71.6
Regular full time	26	8.3
Regular part time	20	6.4
Temporary Job	21	6.7
Day labor	16	5.1
Retired	6	1.9
Total	313	100.0