Homelessness in the United States

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**HOMELINESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES**

**PIT DATA**

On a single night in January 2013...

591,768 people were homeless

This is a 9.1% decline since 2007.

1 in 3 are in CA or NY

1 in 134 minorities were homeless

1 in 68 African Americans were homeless

People in sheltered & unsheltered locations

33% 67%

**HMIS DATA**

Throughout the year in 2013...

1.42 million people used shelter at some point

This is a 10.5% decline since 2007.

From 2012–2013...

People using shelter programs in

- CITIES: -2.3%
- SUBURBAN & RURAL AREAS: -9.9%

**KEY TERM**

**HOMELESS** describes a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
The Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates are one-night counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. The one-night counts are conducted by CoCs nationwide and occur during the last ten days in January. CoCs are required to conduct a point in time count in shelters every year and a street count every other year (on the odd numbered year), although many CoCs do the unsheltered count along with the sheltered count each year. In 2013, 420 CoCs nationwide supplied both sheltered and unsheltered counts.

On a single night in January 2013
- 591,768 people were homeless in the United States.
- Two-thirds of homeless people (66.7%) were in shelter on the night of the PIT count, and one-third (33.3%) were in unsheltered locations.

Between January 2012 and January 2013
- Homelessness on a single night declined by 31,214 people, a 5 percent drop.
- Sheltered homelessness increased by 4,543 people, a 1.2 percent rise.
- Unsheltered homelessness declined by 35,757 people, a 15.4 percent drop.

Between January 2007 and January 2013
- The one-night estimate of homelessness declined 9.1 percent, or 59,374 fewer people.
- Sheltered homelessness increased by 3,297 people, a 0.8 percent rise.
- Unsheltered homelessness declined by 24.1 percent, or 62,671 fewer people.

EXHIBIT 1.1: One-Night Counts of Homelessness
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2013

EXHIBIT 1.2: Change in Homelessness
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007–2013

Data Source: PIT 2007–2013
Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories
Homelessness in the United States

TOTAL ESTIMATES

EXHIBIT 1.3: Share of the Homeless Population
In the U.S. by State, 2013 (in %)

By State

On a single night in January 2013
- Together, California (20.2%) and New York (13.2%) have 1 in 3 of all homeless people in the U.S.
- The 25 states with the smallest homeless populations account for 12.3 percent of all homelessness in the U.S.
- Five states (HI, NY, CA, OR and NV) and D.C. had high concentrations of homelessness, with more than 1 of every 300 people homeless. Mississippi had the lowest concentration of homelessness (1 in 1,245 people).

Between January 2012 and January 2013
- Homelessness increased in 19 states (totaling 15,246 additional people), but were offset by larger declines in 31 states and D.C. (totaling 47,344 fewer people).
- Five states accounted for 79.5 percent of the total increase in homelessness: NY (7,864 more people), SC (1,629), MA (1,528), ME (623), and MN (470). Homelessness increased more than 10 percent in NY (7,864), SC (1,629), ME (623), and VT (294).
- Four states had increases in homelessness greater than 15 percent: GA (3,545 fewer people), LA (2,546), MO (1,656), and NE (644).

Between January 2007 and January 2013
- Increases in homelessness occurred in D.C. and 23 states, totaling 33,181 more people, but were offset by larger declines in 27 states, totaling 92,843 fewer people.
- Four states and D.C. made up 71.3 percent of the total increase in homelessness in the U.S.: NY (14,829 more people), MA (3,902), MO (2,334), D.C. (1,545), and OH (1,061).
- Seven states made up 57.6 percent of the total decrease in homelessness in the U.S.: CA (20,434 fewer people), TX (10,173), WA (5,619), NJ (5,312), AZ (4,084) NV (4,083) and OR (3,768).

Data Source: PIT 2007–2013; Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories; See Part 1 of the 2013 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state (www.hudexchange.info)
By State and Sheltered Status

On a single night in January 2013

- At least 90 percent of the local homeless population was staying in shelter rather than an unsheltered location in nine states: DE, ME, IA, MA, NY, NE, WI, RI, and PA, and in D.C.
- More than half of all unsheltered people in the U.S. were in five states: CA (23.1%), FL (14.3%), TX (6.1%), GA (4.3%) and OR (3.7%).
- The following six states had more than half of their homeless population in unsheltered locations: CA (61.6%), FL (58.9%), AR (56.3%), NV (56.2%), MS (54.9%), and OR (53.5%).

Between January 2012 and January 2013

- Sheltered homelessness increased in 30 states and D.C. (totaling 14,404 additional people), while 20 states had a decline (totaling 9,871 fewer people).
- The number of unsheltered homeless people increased in 14 states (totaling 3,698 additional people) but decreased in 36 states and D.C. (totaling 40,329 fewer people).
- The largest increases in sheltered homelessness were in New York and Massachusetts. The largest increases in unsheltered homelessness were in South Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Between January 2007 and January 2013

- Over this longer time-period, California had a 19.3 percent decline in unsheltered homelessness, a drop of 17,477 people.
- The 2012 to 2013 increases in sheltered homelessness in New York and Massachusetts reflect longer-term increases in sheltered homelessness in those states between 2007 and 2013, 27.9 percent for New York and 32.6 percent for Massachusetts.

Data Source: PIT 2007–2013
Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories
PROFILE OF A TYPICAL PERSON WHO WAS HOMELESS IN 2013

A Man in Shelter by Himself

63.4% MALE / 64.0% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

34.6% WERE AGE 31–50

41.8% WERE African American

60.5% HAD No Disability

71.9% WERE IN A City

Prior to using a shelter in 2013, 41.8% were Already Homeless

24 NIGHTS SPENT IN EMERGENCY SHELTER
The one-year estimates account for all people who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the following year. The estimates are based on a nationally representative sample of communities that submit aggregate Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data to HUD. The estimates statistically adjust for homeless people in shelter programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of shelter users in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) shelter users in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) people served by victim service providers; and (c) people in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period.

The 2013 AHAR uses data from 381 CoCs, representing 89 percent of all CoCs nationwide. The 95 percent confidence interval for the total sheltered homeless population in 2013 is ± 145,371 (1,276,989 to 1,567,731).

2013 Estimate of Sheltered Homelessness
- The estimated number of people who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at some time from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 was 1,422,360.
- 1 in 181 people in the U.S. was homeless in shelter during that year.

Changes Over Time
- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of people using shelter programs at some point during a year dropped by 66,011 people, or 4.4 percent.
- The number of homeless people in shelter programs has declined every year for the last three years following a small one-year increase from 2009 to 2010. The 2013 estimate of people using shelter programs is the lowest it has been since 2007, when HUD began tracking this information. Sheltered homelessness dropped by 10.5 percent, 166,235 fewer people, between 2007 and 2013.
Gender and Age

In 2013

- Almost two-thirds of all homeless adults in shelter (63.4%) were men, and just over a third (36.6%) were women.
- Men are overrepresented in the adult homeless population in shelter when compared to their share of the adult U.S. population (63.4% versus 48.6%).
- About one-third of homeless people in shelter are ages 31 to 50 (34.6%). Those ages 18 to 30 make up 22.9% of the homeless population in shelter, and 16.8 percent are ages 51 to 61.
- About one-fifth (22.2%) of people homeless in shelter are children.
- Only a small share of sheltered homeless people are 62 or older, 3.5 percent, compared with a much larger share of the U.S. population, 17.1 percent, and the U.S. poverty population, 10.2 percent.

Changes Over Time

- The gender profile of sheltered homeless people remained stable between 2012 and 2013, but the share of adults in shelter who are women increased slightly over the six years since 2007.
- Between 2007 and 2013, the age distribution of sheltered homelessness shifted somewhat, away from the 31 to 50 age group (a 24% decline or 152,776 fewer people). Increasing shares of the sheltered homeless population were younger adults (ages 18 to 30) and people 51 years or older.
Ethnicity and Race

In 2013

- People who identify themselves as Hispanic make up a similar share of the population using shelter programs as in the total U.S. population (16.4% and 16.9%).
- About 62 percent of the sheltered homeless population identified as members of a minority group. African Americans comprised 41.8 percent of the population using shelter programs, representing the largest single racial group in shelter programs. Other minority groups include: White Hispanic (10.1%), multiple races (6.5%), American Indian or Alaska Native (2.4%), Asian (0.8%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.9%).
- Minorities, especially African Americans, were overrepresented in the sheltered homeless population when compared to their share of the total U.S. population. People in a shelter were 3 times more likely to be African American than those in the total U.S. population.

Changes Over Time

- While the share of Hispanics in the total U.S. population increased from 14.8 percent in 2007 to 16.9 percent in 2013, the share of Hispanics in the shelter population dropped from 21.6 to 16.4 percent.
- While the number of minorities in the total U.S. population increased 15.2 percent between 2007 and 2013, the number of minorities in the sheltered population dropped 3 percent. The share of the sheltered population identifying as white, non-Hispanic increased slightly, from 36.4 to 37.6 percent over the six years, while the share of African Americans increased from 39.6 to 41.8 percent.


EXHIBIT 1.10: Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sheltered People</th>
<th>U.S. Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXHIBIT 1.11: Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sheltered People</th>
<th>U.S. Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Ethnicity is distinguished among the white race group to facilitate an understanding of minorities and non-minorities. Non-minorities are those who identify their ethnicity as not Hispanic and their race as white.
Homelessness in the United States

GEOGRAPHY

ALL SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS

HMIS
Household Size and Disability Status

In 2013
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of people using shelter programs were there alone. In contrast, a small share of the U.S. population was in one-person households, 12.8 percent.
- People in shelter were 2.6 times more likely to have a disability than were people in the U.S. population overall (39.6% versus 15.3%).

Changes Over Time
- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of sheltered homeless people in large households (5 or more people) decreased 11 percent (14,463 fewer people), but the share dropped only slightly, from 8.9 to 8.3 percent.
- The share of adults with a disability in shelter increased from 37.1 percent in 2007 to 39.6 percent in 2013.

Geographic Location

In 2013

- About 7 in 10 people used shelter programs in principal cities. A larger portion of the sheltered individual population was in principal cities than of the sheltered family population, 74.7 percent versus 66.8 percent.
- In contrast, the majority of the U.S. poverty population and the U.S. population overall live in suburban and rural areas rather than cities.

Changes Over Time

- Between 2007 and 2013, sheltered homelessness increased 8.5 percent in suburban and rural areas and declined 16.4 percent in cities. This trend is similar to the U.S. poverty population, with an increase between 2007 and 2012 that was larger in suburban and rural areas (a 26.6% rise) than in cities (a 15.6% rise). The share of sheltered homeless people in suburban and rural areas increased from 23.1 to 28.1 percent.
- The shift away from cities did not continue between 2012 and 2013. Sheltered homelessness declined in both cities (24,096 fewer people) and in suburban and rural areas (43,731 fewer people).

EXHIBIT 1.14: Geographic Distribution

EXHIBIT 1.15: Percent Change by Geography

* In the 2013 ACS, the geographic indicator used to distinguish principal cities from other areas is not yet available. The data source used to represent 2012 and 2013 are from the most recent two years available.
Characteristics by Geography

In 2013

- People using shelter programs in principal cities were more likely to be part of a minority group compared to those in suburban and rural areas, 66.7 percent versus 51.2 percent.
- Sheltered homeless people in principal cities were more likely to be African American than those in suburban and rural areas, 44.7 percent versus 34.5 percent.
- Sheltered people in cities were more likely to be homeless alone than they were in suburban and rural areas, 66.5 percent versus 57.5 percent.
- Sheltered people in suburban and rural areas were younger than their urban counterparts. For example, they were more likely to be children than those in cities (26% versus 20.8%), and they were more likely to be women (42.4% versus 34.6%).

Changes Over Time

- The share of people identifying as Hispanic using shelter programs declined within cities, from 18.3 percent in 2012 to 18.1 percent in 2013, and increased in suburban and rural areas, 11.4 percent in 2012 to 11.7 percent in 2013.
- The share of people identifying as white and not Hispanic using shelter programs in cities increased from 33.1 percent in 2012 to 33.3 percent in 2013, and in suburban and rural areas decreased from 52.7 percent in 2012 to 48.8 percent in 2013.
- The share of women in a shelter program located in suburban and rural areas increased from 37.6 percent in 2007 to 42.4 percent in 2013.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2013
Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

Information on where people lived before entering shelter was asked only of adults.

In 2013

- Just prior to their sheltered homeless experience during 2013, about 4 in 10 adults in shelter were in a housed situation before entering shelter, about 4 in 10 were already homeless, and 2 in 10 were in institutional or other settings.
- Of the 410,433 adults entering shelter from housing, 42.2 percent had been staying with family, 32.5 percent with friends and 22.7 percent in housing they rented. Less than 2 percent were in housing they owned and less than one percent left permanent supportive housing to enter a shelter or transitional housing program.
- Of the 438,243 adults who were already homeless before entering a shelter program during the reporting year, more than half (58.5%) were in emergency shelter or a transitional housing program.
- Of the 117,931 adults who entered shelter from institutional settings, 30.5 percent came from a substance abuse treatment center and 40 percent came from a correctional facility.
- Excluding adults who were already homeless before the reporting year can describe the flow into the shelter system. Of those not already homeless, more than two-thirds were housed, while 19.3 percent were in institutions, and 13.5 percent were in other settings.

Changes Over Time

- Although homelessness declined overall between 2007 and 2013, the number of people who stayed with friends—sometimes called couch-surfing or doubled-up—and then entered shelter increased by 20.3 percent (24,034 more adults).

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2013
Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

Emergency shelter and transitional housing programs are designed differently. Emergency shelters are high-volume, high-turnover programs; transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months.

In 2013
- Of the 1,422,360 people in a shelter program, 77.8 percent stayed just in emergency shelters at some time during the year, 16 percent stayed just in transitional housing programs, and 6.3 percent used both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.
- During the 12-month reporting period, about one-third of people in emergency shelter stayed one week or less, 58.1 percent stayed one month or less, and few stayed more than six months (5.6%).
- In contrast, nearly half of all people in transitional housing (46.2%) stayed between 1 and 6 months.
- The median length of stay for emergency shelter clients was 24 nights, and the average was 56 nights. On an average night throughout the year, 88.1 percent of emergency shelter beds were occupied.
- In contrast, people in transitional housing typically stayed 124 nights, with an average stay of 155 nights (about 5 months) during the reporting year. On an average night, 81.8 percent of transitional housing beds were occupied.

Changes Over Time
- The use of transitional housing declined 3.7 percent (12,052 fewer people) between 2012 and 2013.
- The number of homeless people using just emergency shelter decreased 4.7 percent (53,960 fewer people), and those using both emergency shelters and transitional housing programs increased 7.2 percent (5,957 more people).
- The smaller number of people using shelter programs at some time during 2013 compared with 2007 are using it more intensively. The average number of nights in emergency shelter rose from 46 in 2007 to 56 in 2013.

EXHIBIT 1.19: Length of Stay
People in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Stay</th>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
<th>Transitional Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days or less</td>
<td>371,212</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 30 days</td>
<td>322,060</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 180 days</td>
<td>402,512</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181 to 360 days</td>
<td>66,722</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361 to 365 days</td>
<td>29,789</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Length of stay accounts for multiple program entries/exits by summing the total number of (cumulative) days in a homeless residential program during the 12-month reporting period. The maximum length of stay is 365 days, corresponding to the total days observed for this reporting period.

EXHIBIT 1.20: Bed-Use Patterns
People in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2007–2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bed-Use Patterns</th>
<th>Emergency Shelter</th>
<th>Transitional Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median # nights</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average # nights</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average occupancy rate</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed count</td>
<td>211,451</td>
<td>229,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover rate</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note1: The average daily occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the average daily census during the 12-month reporting period by the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.
Note2: The total bed count is based on the year-round beds determined at one point in time from the HIC.
Note3: The turnover rate measures the number of people served per available bed over the 12-month reporting period, and is calculated by dividing the total of year-round equivalent beds for that year.

Data Source: HMIS, HIC 2007–2013
**EXHIBIT 1.21: Odds of Becoming Part of the Sheltered Homeless Population, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher Risk</th>
<th>Odds of Homelessness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>African Americans</strong></td>
<td>One in 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Minorities</strong></td>
<td>One in 134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Veterans</strong></td>
<td>One in 152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong></td>
<td>One in 167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adults</strong></td>
<td>One in 218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All People</strong></td>
<td>One in 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children</strong></td>
<td>One in 234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td>One in 305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower Risk</th>
<th>Odds of Homelessness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Americans</strong></td>
<td>One in 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Americans</strong></td>
<td>One in 218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children</strong></td>
<td>One in 305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children</strong></td>
<td>One in 234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source:
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Survey (2010, 2011, 2014)
- Bureau of Justice Statistics (2013)
- Veterans Affairs Benefits Assistance Service (2012)