Homeless Individuals IN THE UNITED STATES

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HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES

PIT DATA
On a single night in January 2013...

369,571 individuals were homeless

This is an 11.1% decline since 2007.

Over half of all unsheltered individuals are in CA or FL

Individuals in sheltered & unsheltered locations

45% 55%

HMIS DATA
Throughout the year in 2013...

943,017 individuals used shelter at some point

This is a 15.4% decline since 2007.

Individuals in shelter were 2.3 times more likely to be disabled than those in the U.S. population

From 2012–2013...

Individuals using shelter programs in

CITIES 2%

SUBURBAN & RURAL AREAS 5.6%

KEY TERM
An INDIVIDUAL refers to a person in a household that does not have both an adult and a child. These households include people who are homeless alone, adult roommates, married or cohabiting couples without children, households comprised of multiple children (e.g., parenting teens), and unaccompanied youth.
One-Night Estimates of Homeless Individuals

This section presents the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates of homeless individuals in the U.S. The 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 PIT count in shelters every year and a street count every other year (on the odd numbered year), although many CoCs conduct an unsheltered count along with the sheltered count each year.

On a single night in January 2013

- 369,571 people were homeless as individuals, representing 62.5 percent of the total homeless population in the United States.
- Of the individual homeless population, 55 percent were in shelter programs and 45 percent in unsheltered locations.
- Homeless individuals comprise 84.5 percent of all people found in unsheltered locations and 51.5 percent of those in shelters.

Between January 2012 and January 2013

- The total number of people homeless as individuals declined by 3.7 percent (14,008 fewer people).
- The number of homeless individuals staying in shelters increased by 3,968 people or by 2 percent.
- The number of unsheltered homeless individuals decreased by 17,976 people or by 9.7 percent.

Between January 2007 and January 2013

- The number of homeless individuals declined 11.1 percent, 46,026 fewer people.
- The number of homeless individuals staying in shelter on a single night dropped by 4.7 percent, 9,946 fewer people.
- The number of homeless individuals staying in unsheltered locations dropped by 17.8 percent, 36,080 fewer people.

Data Source: PIT 2007–2013
Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

The number of homeless individuals declined 11.1% between January 2007 and 2013.
By State

On a single night in January 2013
- Almost half of all homeless individuals, sheltered and unsheltered, were in four states: California, with 25.6 percent of the national total, Florida (8.6%), New York (8.5%) and Texas (5.7%).
- In four states, homeless individuals represented more than three quarters of all homeless people: NV (90% of all homeless people), AR (83.3%), CA (78.8%), and GA (75.9%).

Between January 2012 and January 2013
- The number of homeless individuals dropped in 30 states and D.C., totaling 21,282 fewer people. Three states represented 48.4 percent of the total decrease: Florida (5,412 fewer people), Georgia (2,483), and Louisiana (2,414).
- In contrast, 20 states had an increase in the number of homeless individuals, totaling 6,251 more people. Two states represented 40.1 percent of the total increase: South Carolina (1,409 more people) and New York (1,102).
- Individual homelessness increased at least ten percent in three states: SC (1,409), IN (435), and ME (276).

Between January 2007 and January 2013
- The number of homeless individuals dropped in 26 states and in D.C., totaling 58,692 fewer people. The five states with the largest decreases were CA (17,494 fewer people), TX (5,548), AZ (3,510), NJ (2,879) and WA (2,672).
- In contrast, 24 states had an increase in the number of homeless individuals, totaling 13,161 more people. The four states with the largest increases in homeless individuals were NY (3,179 more people), MO (1,316), SC (965), and LA (935).

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
- In five states (DE, ME, NE, IA, and WI) at least 90 percent of homeless individuals were in a shelter rather than in unsheltered locations. This is not typical, as 45 percent of individuals were unsheltered nationally.
- More than half of all unsheltered individuals in the U.S. were in California (41%) and Florida (11.6%).
- Unsheltered homeless individuals accounted for the majority of homeless individuals in 13 states, including CA (71.7%), HI (66%), MS (63%), AR (62.9%), and NV (61.8%).

Between January 2012 and January 2013
- D.C. and 37 states had decreases in unsheltered individuals (totaling 21,850 fewer people). Three states—FL, GA and LA—accounted for 46.8 percent of the decline.
- Increases in unsheltered individuals occurred in 13 states totaling 2,955 additional people. South Carolina had a notable increase in unsheltered individual homelessness with 859 more people, representing a 55.9 percent increase.
- States with the largest increases in sheltered individuals were New York and Texas.

Between January 2007 and January 2013
- The one-year rise in New York’s population of sheltered homeless individuals sustained a longer-term increase, totaling 4,307 people over 6 years.
- Several states had large, long-term decreases in individual homeless people in shelter: CA, TX, NJ, WA, and MA.

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

A Man in Shelter by Himself

72.3% MALE / 97.8% 1-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

43.9% WERE AGE 31–50
44.7% WERE White, Non-Hispanic
56.2% HAD No Disability

74.7% WERE IN A City

PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER, 44.1% WERE Already Homeless

20 NIGHTS SPENT IN EMERGENCY SHELTER
The one-year estimates account for all individuals who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at any time from October 1 through September 30 of the reporting 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 sheltered individuals in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered individuals in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) individuals served by victim service providers; and (c) individuals in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period. The 95 percent confidence interval for individuals who were homeless in shelter in 2013 is ± 112,971 (830,046 to 1,055,988).

*EXHIBIT 2.7: One-year Estimates of Sheltered Homeless Individuals, 2007–2013*

- **2013 Estimate of Sheltered Individuals**
  - An estimated 943,017 individuals used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program at some time from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

- **Changes Over Time**
  - Between 2012 and 2013, the number of individuals using shelter programs dropped by 26,642 people, or 2.7 percent.
  - Between 2007 and 2013, the number of homeless individuals in shelter dropped by 172,037 people, or by 15.4 percent.
  - The number of sheltered homeless individuals declined every year except between 2009 and 2010, which saw a small, 0.8 percent, increase (8,583 more individuals).
Gender and Age

In 2013

- Adults in shelter as individuals are 2.6 times more likely to be men as they are to be women (72.3% versus 27.7%). In contrast, less than half (46.6%) of individuals in poverty are men.
- 43.9 percent of individuals in shelter are between ages 31 and 50.
- Only 5.4 percent of individuals in shelter are elderly (age 62 or older), a far lower share than those individuals living in poverty (24.5%) or nationwide (31.9%).
- While children living without adults represent 0.1 percent of the U.S. poverty population of individuals, they are almost 2 percent of the population in shelter as individuals. These are unaccompanied youth or children living together (e.g. parenting teens).

Changes Over Time

- The gender profile among adult individuals in shelter has remained stable over time, with women making up between 26 to 28 percent of the population in 2007, 2012, and 2013.
- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of children under age 18 in shelter without an adult dropped by 1.4 percent (237 fewer children).
- The number of elderly people (ages 62 and older) in shelter as individuals increased by 3,113 people between 2012 and 2013. The share of individuals in shelter who are elderly increased from 4.1 percent in 2007 to 5.4 percent in 2013. Those between 51 and 61 years of age also increased, from 18.9 percent in 2007 to 25 percent in 2013.

Ethnicity and Race

In 2013
- People in shelter as individuals were more likely to identify their ethnicity as Hispanic than were individuals in the U.S. population (13.7% versus 10.4%).
- More than half (55.3%) of people in shelter as individuals were in a minority group, comprised mostly of African Americans (38.3%).
- Individuals in shelter were nearly 2 times more likely to belong to a minority group than were individuals in the U.S. (55.3% versus 28.4%), and were more likely than individuals in the poverty population (41%).
- Whites who are not Hispanic were under-represented among sheltered homeless individuals compared to the U.S. population of individuals (44.7% versus 71.6%), while African Americans were over-represented (38.3% versus 11.6%).

Changes Over Time
- The number of Hispanics in shelter as individuals dropped by 2,910 people, or 2.2 percent, between 2012 and 2013, although the share of Hispanic individuals in shelter remained stable. Over a six-year period, the share of individuals in shelter identifying as Hispanic dropped from 21.5 percent in 2007 to 13.7 percent in 2013.
- Despite an 18.2 percent increase in the number of African American individuals in the U.S. between 2007 and 2013, their number increased by only 6.3 percent (20,785 more people) among individuals in shelter.
- Although minorities living in poverty as individuals increased substantially (by 35.2%) between 2007 and 2013, minorities among sheltered individuals dropped by 11.2 percent over the same period.


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.
Homeless Individuals in the United States

CHARACTERISTICS

HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

2-10 • The 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress
Household Size and Disability Status

An “individual” refers to a person in a household that does not have both an adult and child. These households include people who are homeless alone, adult roommates, married or cohabiting couples without children, multiple children (e.g. parenting teens), and unaccompanied youth.

In 2013

- Although the definition of individuals includes some multi-person households, 97.8 percent of sheltered individuals were homeless by themselves.
- Individuals in shelter were 2.3 times more likely to have a disability than were individuals in the general population (43.8% versus 19.2%).

Changes Over Time

- The share of individuals using shelter programs with other people has increased slightly over time, from 0.4 percent in 2007, to 2.1 percent in 2013.
- The share of sheltered individuals with a disability rose from 40.4 percent in 2007 to 43.8 percent in 2013. Since 2012, the number of homeless individuals dropped overall, resulting in a 3.2 percent decline in the number with a disability (12,638 fewer people), but the share with a disability increased.

Geographic Location

In 2013

- Three-quarters of people homeless as individuals were in shelters located in principal cities, with the remaining quarter in suburban and rural areas. This pattern is reversed for all individuals in the U.S. population, with almost three quarters living in suburban and rural areas.

- The geographic distribution of homeless individuals in shelter programs is also markedly different from that of poor individuals. Homeless individuals in shelter are about 2 times more likely to be in cities than poor individuals (74.7% versus 35.4%).

Changes Over Time

- Since 2007, the number of individuals using shelter programs in cities dropped 20 percent (175,314 fewer people), while rising slightly (by 845 people) in suburban and rural areas. As a result, the share of the individual sheltered homeless population in cities dropped from 78.7 percent in 2007 to 74.7 percent in 2013.

- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of individuals using shelter programs dropped both in cities (a 2% drop or 14,249 fewer people) and in suburban and rural areas (a 5.6% drop or 14,126 fewer people). The larger percentage decline in suburban and rural areas created an interruption in the previous year-to-year trend, with the share of individuals who are using shelters in cities increasing very slightly, from 74 percent in 2012 to 74.7 percent in 2013.


* 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
- Sheltered homeless individuals in principal cities were less likely to be women than those in suburban and rural areas. About 1 out of every 4 individuals using shelter programs in principal cities was a woman, while about 1 in 3 individuals using a shelter program in a suburban or rural area was a woman.
- Individuals using shelter programs in cities were more likely to identify as Hispanic than were those in suburban and rural areas (15.1% versus 8.6%).
- Sheltered individuals in cities were more likely to be in a minority group than those in suburban and rural areas (59.6% versus 42.2%). Of individuals using shelters in cities, 41.2 percent were African American, compared to 29.9 percent in suburban and rural areas.

Changes Over Time
- Between 2007 and 2013, the number of women using shelter as individuals increased by 8,621 (a 13% rise) in suburban and rural areas, while dropping by 36,776 (a 16.9% decline) in cities.
- The share of individuals with a disability using shelter in cities increased from 40.5 percent in 2012 to 42.5 percent in 2013.

Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

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

**In 2013**
- Just prior to their homeless experience at some time during 2013, 44.1 percent of adults in shelter as individuals were already homeless and 34.9 percent came from a housing arrangement.
- Of the 307,894 adult individuals in shelter who came from a housed situation, 41.1 percent had been staying with family, 35.2 percent with friends, and 20.7 percent in housing they rented. Only 2 percent had been in housing they owned, and only 0.9 percent entered an emergency shelter or transitional housing program from permanent supportive housing.
- Of the adult individuals in shelter who were not already homeless, almost two-thirds entered from housing, about a quarter from institutional settings, and the rest from other settings, such as motels.

**Changes Over Time**
- In 2013, 1,146 fewer adults in shelter as individuals came from institutions than had done so in 2012. Fewer adults entered shelter programs from substance abuse treatment centers (2,095 fewer adults) and psychiatric facilities (1,817 fewer adults). However, 608 more adults in shelter as individuals entered from correctional facilities (a 1.2% rise) and 2,158 more entered from hospitals (a 12.9% rise).
- The number of homeless individuals in shelter coming from a friend’s place increased substantially between 2007 and 2013, up by 33 percent or about 29,000 individuals.

**EXHIBIT 2.17: Places Adult Individuals Stayed Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2007–2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td># Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already Homeless</td>
<td>389,396</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>7,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>216,234</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>4,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>173,162</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>3,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>307,894</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>-15,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying with family</td>
<td>126,513</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>-3,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying with friends</td>
<td>108,470</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>-4,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rented housing unit</td>
<td>63,729</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>-4,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned housing unit</td>
<td>6,285</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>-2,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent supportive housing (PSH)</td>
<td>2,897</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>-308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Settings</td>
<td>115,862</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>-1,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse treatment center</td>
<td>34,443</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>-2,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional facility</td>
<td>47,612</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>17,870</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>2,158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatric facility</td>
<td>15,937</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>-1,817</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Settings</td>
<td>68,969</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>-18,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel</td>
<td>25,784</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>-734</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foster care home</td>
<td>3,259</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other living arrangement</td>
<td>39,926</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>-17,536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: To produce comparable trend information, statistical imputations were applied to missing values in this table. See the 2013 AHAR methodology document for more details.

**EXHIBIT 2.18: Places Adult Individuals Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless Before Entering Shelter, 2007–2013 (in %)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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; their primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter for homeless people. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer homeless people shelter as well as supportive services for up to 24 months and intend for people to stay longer than they do in emergency shelters.

In 2013
- The homeless services system nationwide had 120,601 beds in emergency shelters for individuals and 83,489 beds in transitional housing programs for individuals. Those programs were used by 766,845 people who stayed just in emergency shelter at some time during the year and by 176,171 people who stayed at least part of the time in transitional housing.
- During the 12-month reporting period, more than one-third of individuals using emergency shelters stayed one week or less, 62.5 percent stayed one month or less, and 6 percent stayed longer than six months.
- In contrast, within the reporting year, nearly half of individuals in transitional housing programs stayed between one and six months, 20.4 percent stayed one month or less, and 31.3 percent stayed longer than six months.
- The average length of stay for individuals in emergency shelter was 47 nights, with about 6.9 individuals served per available bed throughout the year. On an average night throughout the year, 89.2 percent of emergency shelter beds were occupied.
- The average length of stay for individuals during the 12-month reporting period within transitional housing programs is 139 nights, or about 5 months.

Changes Over Time
- Between 2007 and 2013, the median number of nights in emergency shelter increased from 14 to 20, and the average number increased from 38 to 47.

Data Source: HMIS, HIC 2007–2013