Homeless Families in the United States

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Homeless Families in the United States

PIT Data

On a single night in January 2013:
- 222,197 people in families were homeless. This is a 5.7 percent decline since 2007.
- Over half of all states and D.C. had at least 90 percent of families in shelter.
- 24 percent of people in families were in unsheltered locations. 86 percent of people in families were in sheltered locations.

HMIS Data

Throughout the year in 2013:
- 495,714 people in 156,540 family households used shelter programs at some point during the reporting year, comprising 34.9 percent of the total sheltered homeless population. This is a 4.7 percent increase since 2007.
- About 3 in 5 homeless people in families were children.
- From 2012-2013 people in families using shelter programs decreased 2.4 percent in cities and 16.1 percent in suburban and rural areas.

Key Term

Families with children are households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Family households have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.
### One-Night Estimates of Homeless Families: PIT
(Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories)
(Data Source: PIT 2007-2013)

#### Exhibit 3-1: One-Night Counts of Homeless People in Families
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Homeless People</th>
<th>Homeless People in Families</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>Unsheltered People in Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>651,142</td>
<td>235,545</td>
<td>178,328</td>
<td>57,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>643,668</td>
<td>236,246</td>
<td>181,506</td>
<td>54,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>643,067</td>
<td>238,110</td>
<td>187,313</td>
<td>50,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>649,917</td>
<td>241,951</td>
<td>191,325</td>
<td>50,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>636,017</td>
<td>236,181</td>
<td>186,482</td>
<td>49,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>633,782</td>
<td>239,403</td>
<td>190,996</td>
<td>48,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>610,042</td>
<td>222,197</td>
<td>191,571</td>
<td>30,626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The PIT estimates from 2007-2013 are slightly lower than those reported in past AHARs. The reduction reflects an adjustment to the estimates of unsheltered homeless people submitted by the Los Angeles City and County Continuum of Care. The adjustment removed: 20,746 from 2007 and 2008; 9,451 people in 2009 and 2010; 10,800 people in 2011 and 2012; and 18,274 people from 2013. This change applies to all PIT estimates in this section. See the supporting PIT data tabulations posted on HUD's Resource Exchange at [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

#### Exhibit 3-2: Change in Homeless People in Families
PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Total Homeless People in Families</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>Unsheltered People in Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#Change</td>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>#Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 to 2013</td>
<td>-17,206</td>
<td>-7.2%</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 to 2012</td>
<td>3,222</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>4,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 to 2011</td>
<td>-5,770</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
<td>-4,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 to 2010</td>
<td>3,841</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>4,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 to 2009</td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>5,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 to 2008</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>3,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 to 2013</td>
<td>-13,348</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
<td>13,243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One-Night Estimates of Homeless Families: PIT
(Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories)
(Data Source: PIT 2007-2013)

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.

The PIT count includes estimates of people who are homeless as part of families. “Families with children” are households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Family households have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

On a single night in January 2013:
• 222,197 people in families were homeless in 70,960 family households. About 36 percent of all homeless people on a single night were in families.
• Of homeless people in families, 86.2 percent (191,571 people) were in shelters, while only 13.8 percent (30,626 people) were in unsheltered locations.

Chronically homeless people in families:
• 16.1 percent of chronically homeless people are in families.

Between January 2012 and January 2013:
• The number of homeless people in families dropped by 7.2 percent (17,206 fewer people). The number of homeless family households dropped by 8 percent (6,197 fewer households).
• 17,781 fewer people in families were unsheltered (a 36.7% drop).

Between January 2007 and January 2013:
• The number of homeless people in families on a single night dropped by 5.7 percent, 13,348 fewer people. The number of homeless family households dropped by 10 percent (7,902 fewer family households).
• The number of sheltered people in families on a single night increased by 7.4 percent (13,243 more people), while the number of unsheltered dropped by 46.5 percent (26,591 fewer people).
### PIT Estimates of Homeless Families by State
(Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories)
(Data Source: PIT 2007-2013)
(See Part 1 of the 2013 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state(www.hudexchange.info))

#### Exhibit 3-3: Share of Homeless Families In the U.S. by State, 2013 (in %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>% of Homeless Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KY</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Exhibit 3-4: Homeless People in Families by State
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>#Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>#Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012 to 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>6,762</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>-4,452</td>
<td>-33.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>1,123</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>-2,088</td>
<td>-22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>-1,896</td>
<td>-10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>-1,453</td>
<td>-27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>48.5%</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>-1,408</td>
<td>-23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007 to 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>11,650</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>-4,625</td>
<td>-34.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>-3,027</td>
<td>-42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>1,566</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>-2,947</td>
<td>-29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>1,474</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>-2,940</td>
<td>-10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-2,891</td>
<td>-37.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PIT Estimates of Homeless Families by State  
(Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories)  
(Data Source: PIT 2007-2013)  
(See Part 1 of the 2013 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state(www.hudexchange.info))

On a single night in January 2013:
- Five states accounted for about half of the nation’s homeless family population: NY (20.9%), CA (11.4%), FL (7.5%), MA (5.6%), and TX (4%).
- In six states, people in families represented more than half of the total homeless population: NY (46,195 people), MA (12,335), MN (4,486), WI (3,099), IA (1,560), and VT (753). In the average state, by comparison, 38 percent of all homeless people were in families.

Between January 2012 and January 2013:
- The one-night count of family homelessness decreased or remained constant in 34 states and D.C., totaling 27,345 fewer people. Four states comprised 41.3 percent of the decrease: TX (4,452 fewer people), WA (2,088), FL (1,896), and MO (1,453).
- Family homelessness increased in 16 states, totaling 10,278 more people. More than three-quarters of the increase, 76.7 percent, was in New York (6,762 more people) and Massachusetts (1,123).

Between January 2007 and January 2013:
- Family homelessness on a single night decreased in 27 states, totaling 40,566 fewer people.
- Family homelessness increased in 23 states and D.C., totaling 26,435 more people, with New York (11,650 more people) and Massachusetts (5,500) comprising nearly 65 percent of the total increase.
**PIT Estimates of Homeless Families by State and Sheltered Status**  
(Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories)  
(Data Source: PIT 2007-2013)

Exhibit 3-5: Sheltered Homeless People in Families by State  
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>#Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>#Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012 to 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>6,674</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>-1,908</td>
<td>-22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>1,094</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>-1,299</td>
<td>-22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>-1,226</td>
<td>-28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>-963</td>
<td>-20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>-660</td>
<td>-14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007 to 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>11,685</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>-2,115</td>
<td>-27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>5,762</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>-2,069</td>
<td>-23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>1,566</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>-1,919</td>
<td>-19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>1,144</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-1,379</td>
<td>-32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>-1,248</td>
<td>-41.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit 3-6: Unsheltered Homeless People in Families by State  
Largest Change in PIT Estimates, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>#Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>#Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012 to 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>-3,825</td>
<td>-79.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>-2,205</td>
<td>-19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>183.3%</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-989</td>
<td>-33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>-818</td>
<td>-49.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>-812</td>
<td>-66.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2007 to 2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>1,891</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>-4,054</td>
<td>-40.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>136.7%</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>-3,689</td>
<td>-81.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>5275.0%</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>-2,706</td>
<td>-72.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>145.0%</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>-1,926</td>
<td>-97.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-1,512</td>
<td>-43.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PIT Estimates of Homeless Families by State and Sheltered Status
(Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. territories)
(Data Source: PIT 2007-2013)

On a single night in January 2013:
- Twenty-eight states and D.C. had at least 90 percent of their homeless family population in shelter.
- More than 55 percent of unsheltered families were in three states, totaling 17,127 people: Florida (30.2%), California (19.7%), and Oregon (6.6%).
- Florida was the only state to report that a majority (55.5%) of its homeless family population was unsheltered.

Between January 2012 and January 2013:
- The number of people in families found in shelter on a single night increased in 24 states. New York and Massachusetts represented 74.3 percent of the total increase. Another 26 states had a decrease in sheltered family homelessness, with Washington, Ohio, and Missouri representing 45.3 percent of the total decline.
- The number of people in families found in unsheltered locations increased in 16 states, decreased in 33 states, and remained constant in D.C. and Delaware. Texas and Florida accounted for 31.5 percent of the total decrease, while California and South Carolina accounted for 20.5 percent of the total increase.

Between January 2007 and January 2013:
- The number of people in families found in shelter rose in 29 states and D.C., totaling 27,883 more people, and dropped in 21 states, totaling 14,826 fewer people. The largest increases were in New York and Massachusetts. The largest decreases were in NJ, WA, TX, OR, and KY.
- The number of people in families found in unsheltered locations dropped in 38 states, totaling 43,749 fewer people, and increased in only 12 states, totaling 3,595 more people. Unsheltered family homelessness remained constant in D.C. CA, GA, TX, NV, and OR all had substantial decreases in unsheltered family homelessness over this six-year period.
Profile of a Typical Homeless Person in a Family in 2013

- A young mother in a shelter with a child
  - 79.3 percent female / 53.4 2- or 3-person household
- 60.9 percent were under age 18
- 48.5 percent were African American
- 80.1 percent had no disability
- 66.8 percent were in a city
- Prior to using a shelter in 2013, 45.4 percent were staying with family
- 32 nights spent in an emergency shelter
One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Families: HMIS
(Data Source: HMIS 2007-2013)

Exhibit 3-7a: One-Year Estimates of Sheltered People in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>Family Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>473,541</td>
<td>130,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>516,724</td>
<td>159,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>535,447</td>
<td>170,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>567,334</td>
<td>168,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>537,414</td>
<td>172,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>535,420</td>
<td>167,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>495,714</td>
<td>156,540</td>
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</table>

Exhibit 3-7b: Change in One-Year Estimates of Sheltered People in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>#Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012 to 2013</td>
<td>-39,706</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 to 2012</td>
<td>-1,994</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 to 2011</td>
<td>-29,920</td>
<td>-5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 to 2010</td>
<td>31,887</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 to 2009</td>
<td>18,723</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 to 2008</td>
<td>43,183</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 to 2013</td>
<td>22,173</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Families: HMIS
(Data Source: HMIS 2007-2013)

The one-year estimates account for all people in families 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 people in families in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered people in families in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) people in families served by victim service providers; and (c) people in families in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period. The 95 percent confidence interval for sheltered people in families in 2013 is ± 46,639 (449,075 to 542,353).

“Families with children” refers to households composed of at least one adult and one child under age 18. Family households have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

2013 Estimate of Sheltered Families with Children:
- An estimated 495,714 people in 156,540 families used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013.
- People in families comprised 34.9 percent of the total sheltered homeless population in 2013.

Changes Over Time:
- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of people in families using shelter at some time during the year dropped by 7.4 percent or 39,706 people, marking the largest decline in family homelessness since data collection began in 2007. The number of family households dropped by 6.7 percent or more than 11,000 households.
- Sheltered family homelessness increased 19.8 percent (93,793 more people) between 2007 and 2010, but has declined by 12.6 percent (71,620 fewer people) since then.
Characteristics of Sheltered Families: Gender and Age

Exhibit 3-8: Gender
Sheltered Adults in Families and Total U.S. Adults in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Sheltered Adults in Families</th>
<th>Adults in U.S. Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit 3-9: Age
Sheltered People in Families and Total U.S. Population in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>U.S. People in Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under Age 18</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 30</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 - 50</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - 61</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 and Older</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics of Sheltered Families: Gender and Age

In 2013:
- Most sheltered adults in families were women. Sheltered adults in families were more likely to be women than adults in U.S. families (79.3% versus 54.5%), and also more likely than adults in poor families (79.3% versus 64.2%).
- Of the 301,348 children in families using shelter, most were very young: 40.8 percent were ages 1 to 5, and 10 percent were younger than age one.
- Adults in families were relatively young, with a sizable share (20.9%) between 18 and 30 years old.

Changes Over Time:
- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of sheltered women in families declined 7.1 percent (11,709 fewer women).
- While the number of children in poor families increased 23.4 percent and remained stable in U.S. families between 2007 and 2013, the number of sheltered children in families increased 4.7 percent (13,522 more children).
Characteristics of Sheltered Families: Ethnicity and Race

Exhibit 3-10: Ethnicity
Sheltered People in Families and Total U.S. Population in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>U.S. People in Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>21.2%</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.

Exhibit 3-11: Race
Sheltered People in Families and Total U.S. Population in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>U.S. People in Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Hispanic</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other One Race</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Races</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>11.3%</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.
Characteristics of Sheltered Families: Ethnicity and Race

In 2013:

- The share of people in sheltered homeless families identifying as Hispanic was similar to that of the U.S. family population, 21.9 percent versus 23.2 percent. However, a larger share of poor people in families was Hispanic, 34.9 percent.
- Sheltered people in families were 3.5 times more likely to be African American than people in U.S. families (48.5% versus 13.7%) and 2.1 times more likely than in the U.S. population of families living in poverty (48.5% versus 23.5%).
- The share of sheltered people in families who identify as white and not Hispanic is lower than that of all people in U.S. families (24% versus 54.3%) or of people in families living in poverty (24% versus 34.2%).

Changes Over Time:

- Although the number of Hispanics in families using shelter programs increased 12.2 percent (11,587 more people) since 2007, their share of the sheltered population remained stable between 2007 (21.8%) and 2013 (21.9%).
- The number of people in families who were African American and in shelter programs increased by 9,812, although the overall share declined during this time, from 55.2% (2007) to 48.5% (2013). The proportion of African Americans in U.S. families remained stable and in poor families dropped from 26.2 to 23.5 percent over the six-year period.
- The share of people in families using shelter that was white and not Hispanic rose between 2007 and 2012 and then dropped between 2012 and 2013, resulting in an overall increase between 2007 and 2013. In the U.S. poverty population in families, the share that is white and not Hispanic dropped overall from 36.3 to 34.2 percent over the six-year period.
Characteristics of Sheltered Families: Household Size and Disability Status  

Exhibit 3-12: Household Size  
Sheltered People in Families and Total U.S. Population in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>U.S. People in Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 People</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 People</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 People</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or More People</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit 3-13: Disability Status  
Sheltered Adults in Families and Adults in U.S. Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Sheltered People in Families</th>
<th>U.S. People in Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Disabled</td>
<td>83.6%</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics of Sheltered Families: Household Size and Disability Status

In 2013, 20% of adults in families using shelter programs had a disability.

In keeping with the definition of “family” in this report, a family consists of at least one adult and one child; the resulting minimum household size is two people. Family households have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families.

In 2013:
- The most common household size among sheltered families was three people (29.1%), somewhat greater than the share of three-person households among U.S. families (21.4%).
- Fewer homeless families are large, 4 people or more, than in the U.S. population as a whole. Two person families—one adult and one child—are more common among those using shelter programs (24.3% versus 4.1%).
- Disability rates are considerably higher among families in shelters than families in the U.S. population. In 2013, 20 percent of sheltered adults in families had a disability, compared to only 8.1 percent of families in the U.S. population.

Changes Over Time:
- Between 2007 and 2013, the size of homeless families in shelter remained relatively stable. The share of people in families using shelter consisting of three people rose slightly, while the share with only one adult and one child dropped slightly.
- The share of people in families using shelters with a disability increased from 16.4 percent in 2007 to 20 percent in 2013.
Geographic Location of Sheltered Families

Exhibit 3-14: Geographic Distribution
Sheltered Families, U.S. Families in Poverty, and All U.S. Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Sheltered Persons in Families</th>
<th>U.S. Families in Poverty</th>
<th>U.S. Family Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Cities</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban and Rural Areas</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.

Exhibit 3-15: Percent Change by Geography
Change in the Number of Sheltered People in Families, U.S. Families in Poverty, and U.S. Family Population, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal Cities</td>
<td>Suburban and Rural Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered People in Families</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Families in Poverty*</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Family Population*</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
Geographic Location of Sheltered Families

In 2013:
- Two-thirds of people in families used shelter programs in principal cities. A larger portion of the sheltered family population was in suburban and rural areas than of the sheltered individual population, 33.2 percent versus 25.3 percent.
- Sheltered people in families were 2.9 times more likely to be located in a city in 2013 than all people in U.S. families (66.8% versus 23.3%), and twice as likely as people in poor families (66.8% versus 34.4%).

Changes Over Time:
- Between 2007 and 2013, the number of sheltered people in families dropped by 4.3 percent (14,754 fewer people) in cities and increased by 29.1 percent (36,995 more people) in suburban and rural areas.
- In contrast, between 2012 and 2013, sheltered family homelessness declined overall, but dropped disproportionately in suburban and rural areas, with 31,608 fewer people in families using shelter programs in the suburbs (a 16.1% drop) while only 3,240 fewer people used shelter programs in cities, a 2.4 percent drop.
### Characteristics of Sheltered Families by Geography
(Data Source: HMIS 2007-2013)

Exhibit 3-16: Characteristics by Geography
Sheltered People in Families, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Principal Cities</th>
<th></th>
<th>Suburban and Rural Areas</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Homeless People in Families</td>
<td>346,032</td>
<td>339,452</td>
<td>331,278</td>
<td>127,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender of Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non–Hispanic</td>
<td>75.4%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, non–Hispanic</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Hispanic</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other One Race</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several Races</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Age 18</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 30</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 50</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 61</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 and older</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 person</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 people</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 people</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 people</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 +</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Status of Adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Disabled</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>82.4%</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics of Sheltered Families by Geography
(Data Source: HMIS 2007-2013)

In 2013:
- Homeless people in families using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas were twice as likely to be white and not Hispanic as those in cities (35.9% versus 18.1%).
- Household sizes and rates of adult disability of sheltered families were similar regardless of the type of geographic location in which families used shelter programs.

Changes Over Time:
- The share of people in families using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas who identify as Hispanic increased from 13.4 percent in 2007 to 16.1 percent in 2013.
- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of people in families who are white and not Hispanic using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas declined (29,710 fewer people, or a 34% drop) and increased slightly in cities (1,698 more people, or a 3% rise), while African-Americans showed the opposite trend.
- The number of African Americans in families using shelter programs in suburban and rural areas increased 14 percent (8,146 more people), but declined 4.1 percent (7,162 fewer people) in cities between 2012 and 2013.
- The increase in the share of sheltered adults in families with a disability was larger in cities (15.4% in 2007 to 19.8% in 2013) than in suburban and rural areas (18.7% in 2007 to 20.4% in 2013).
Patterns of Homeless Service Use among Sheltered Families: Living Situation Before Entering Shelter
(Data Source: HMIS 2007-2013)

Exhibit 3-17: Places Adults in Families Stayed Before Entering Shelter and Change over Time, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Stayed</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>2007-2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Already Homeless</td>
<td>54,610</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>-8,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltered</td>
<td>43,469</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>-4,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsheltered</td>
<td>11,141</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>-3,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>107,838</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
<td>-9,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying with family</td>
<td>48,955</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>-2,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying with friends</td>
<td>26,448</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>-687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rented housing unit</td>
<td>30,719</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>-5,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned housing unit</td>
<td>1,517</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>-409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent supportive housing</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Settings</td>
<td>3,310</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse treatment center</td>
<td>1,893</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>-198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correctional facility</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric facility</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Settings</td>
<td>14,377</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>-658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel</td>
<td>10,192</td>
<td>70.9%</td>
<td>681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster care home</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other living arrangement</td>
<td>4,017</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>-1,308</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 3-18: Places Adults in Families Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless Before Entering Shelter, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Stayed</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>87.1%</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patterns of Homeless Service Use among Sheltered Families: Living Situation Before Entering Shelters
(Data Source: HMIS 2007-2013)

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

In 2013:
- Just prior to their sheltered homeless experience in 2013, 59.9 percent of sheltered adults in families were in a housed situation. Of the 107,838 people who entered shelter from housing during the reporting period, 45.4 percent had been staying with family, 28.5 percent were in housing they rented, and 24.5 percent had been staying with friends.
- Another 30.3 percent of sheltered adults in families were already homeless at the start of their use of shelter during the reporting period. Of these 54,610 adults, 79.6 percent were in shelter programs, and 20.4 percent were in a place not meant for human habitation.
- Of those sheltered adults in families who were not already homeless, 2.6 percent (3,310 adults) entered shelter from an institutional setting, more than half of them (1,893 adults) from substance abuse treatment or detox centers.

Changes Over Time:
- Between 2012 and 2013, the number of sheltered adults in families who lived in housing prior to entering shelter declined by 7.2 percent (9,173 people). Nonetheless, the share of families entering shelter from housing was about the same in both years (about 60 percent).
- Since 2007, the number of homeless people in family coming from a housing arrangement has increased dramatically, by 47.8 percent, or about 38,000 people. Many of them are coming from housing they rent or from staying with family.
Patterns of Homeless Service Use among Sheltered Families: Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns
(Data Source: HMIS, HIC 2007-2013)

Exhibit 3-19: Length of Stay
People in Families in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Stay</th>
<th>Emergency Shelters</th>
<th>Transitional Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days or less</td>
<td>85,033</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 30 days</td>
<td>108,099</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 180 days</td>
<td>149,561</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181 to 360 days</td>
<td>28,968</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361 to 365 days</td>
<td>19,559</td>
<td>5.0%</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 3-20: Bed-Use Patterns
People in Families in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2007-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bed-Use Patterns</th>
<th>Emergency Shelters</th>
<th>Transitional Housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median number of nights</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of nights</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average occupancy rate</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bed Count</td>
<td>98,287</td>
<td>111,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover rate</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.7</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.
Patterns of Homeless Service Use among Sheltered Families: Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns
(Data Source: HMIS, HIC 2007-2013)

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 118,107 beds in emergency shelters for families, and 101,843 beds in transitional housing programs for families. Those programs were used by 353,506 people who stayed just in emergency shelter at some time during the year and by 142,208 people who stayed at least part of the time in transitional housing.
- During the 12-month reporting period, 21.7 percent of people in families using emergency shelter stayed a week or less, almost half stayed one month or less, 38.2 percent stayed one to six months, and 12.4 percent stayed more than six months.
- A typical stay in transitional housing programs was between one and six months. Only 16.2 percent of people in families were in transitional housing for the entire 12-month reporting period.
- Sheltered people in families stayed in emergency shelter 73 nights on average, or almost two and a half months. Emergency shelters served 4.3 people per available bed throughout the year.
- Sheltered people in families using transitional housing programs stayed an average of 175 nights (nearly 6 months) during the observed year.

Changes Over Time:
- The number of emergency shelter beds for people in families increased by nearly 20,000 between 2007 and 2013, and the number of people in families using just emergency shelter increased by 8.1 percent.
- The number of transitional housing beds for people in families declined by around 9,500 between 2007 and 2013, and the number of people in families using transitional housing at any point during a year declined by 3.1 percent.
- Between 2012 and 2013, bed occupancy rates in emergency shelters increased, from 82.9 to 86.6 percent. The average number of nights people in families stayed in emergency shelter also increased, from 65 to 73 nights.