

# 2015 Homeless Families with Children IN THE UNITED STATES

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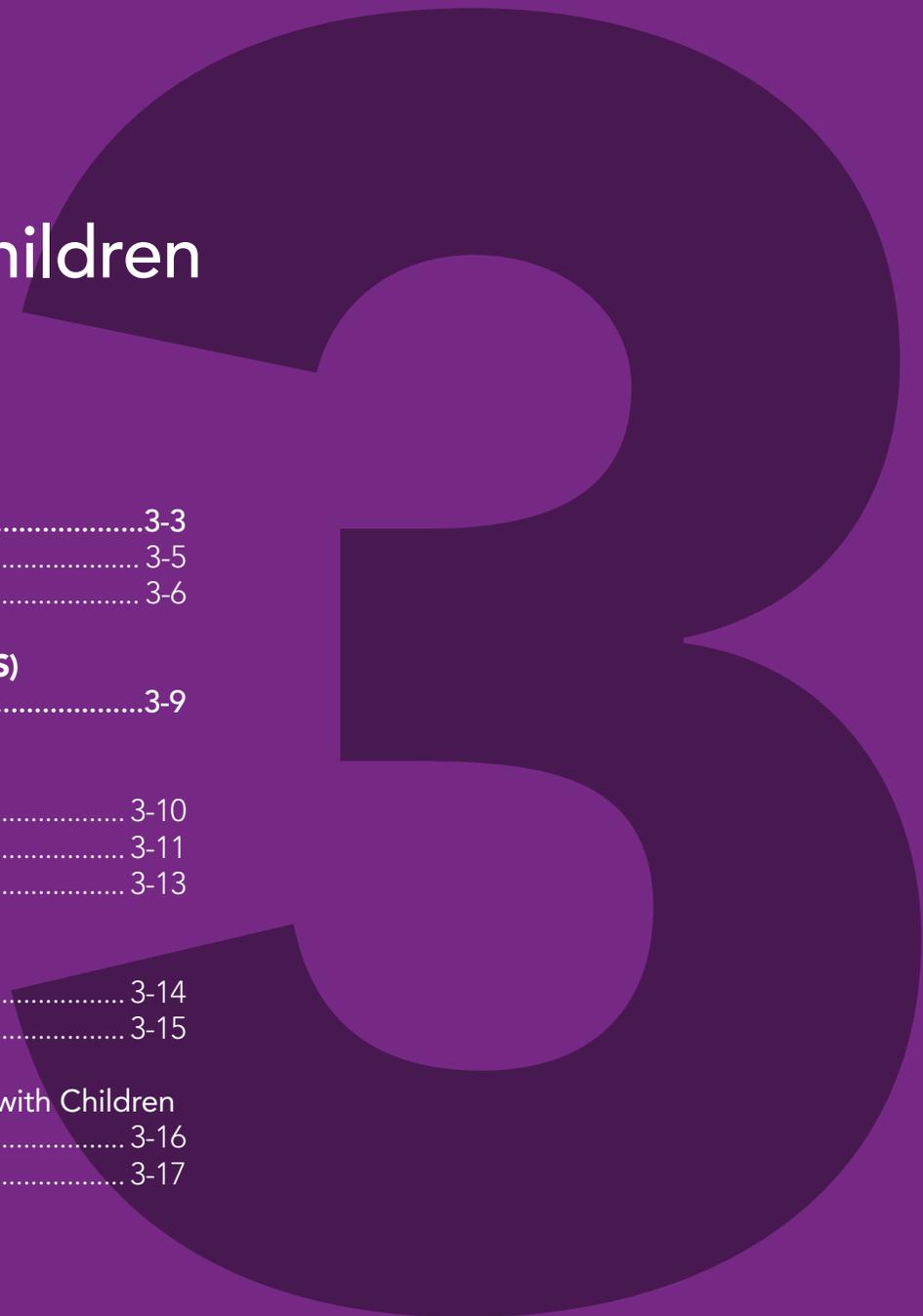
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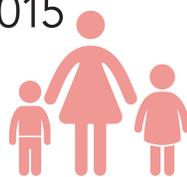
# 2015 Homeless Families with Children

IN THE UNITED STATES

## Did You Know?

PIT

On a single night in January 2015  
**206,286** people in families  
were homeless



This is a **12.1% decline**  
since 2007



Over half of all states & D.C.  
had at least **90%** of families  
in emergency shelter and  
transitional housing programs

People in families with children in  
sheltered & unsheltered locations

**9.9%** **90.1%**

HMS

Throughout the year in 2015 **502,521**  
families with children experienced  
sheltered homelessness at some point



This is a **6.1% increase**  
since 2007

About **3 in 5**  
people experiencing sheltered  
homelessness in families were  
children



**From 2014–2015...** People in families  
experiencing sheltered homelessness in



**▼ 0.6%**  
CITIES



**▼ 6.9%**  
SUBURBAN & RURAL AREAS

### KEY TERM

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

**Chronically Homeless People in Families** refers to people in families with children in which the head of household has a disability and has either been continuously homeless for 1 year or more or has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years.

**Parenting Youth** are people under 25 who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent, where there is no person over age 24 in the household.

# 2015 One-Night Estimates OF HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

## PIT

This section presents the Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates of people who experienced homelessness as members of families with children in the U.S. The PIT estimates are one-night counts of people experiencing homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered locations. 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 (emergency shelter and transitional housing programs) and a street (or “unsheltered”) count at least every other year. In 2015, both the sheltered and unsheltered counts were required.

“Families with children” are households composed of at least one adult *and* one child under age 18. Family households with children have various compositions: single-parent families, two-parent families, and multi-generation families. Most of the estimates in this section describe the people in family households rather than the numbers of households.

### On a Single Night in January 2015

- 206,286 people experienced homelessness as part of a family with children. About 37 percent of all people experiencing homelessness on a single night were in family households, and the number of such households was 64,197.
- Of all people counted in family households on a single night, 90.1 percent (185,824 people) were experiencing sheltered homelessness and only 9.9 percent (20,462 people) were in unsheltered locations.

### Chronically Homeless People in Families with Children

- Of all people with chronic patterns of homelessness in January 2015, 13.6 percent (13,105 people) are in families.

### Homeless Parenting Youth<sup>1</sup>

- On a single night in January 2015, 9,901 people were experiencing homelessness as parenting youth under age 25, together with their 13,242 children. Most parenting youth (98.7%) were ages 18 to 24.

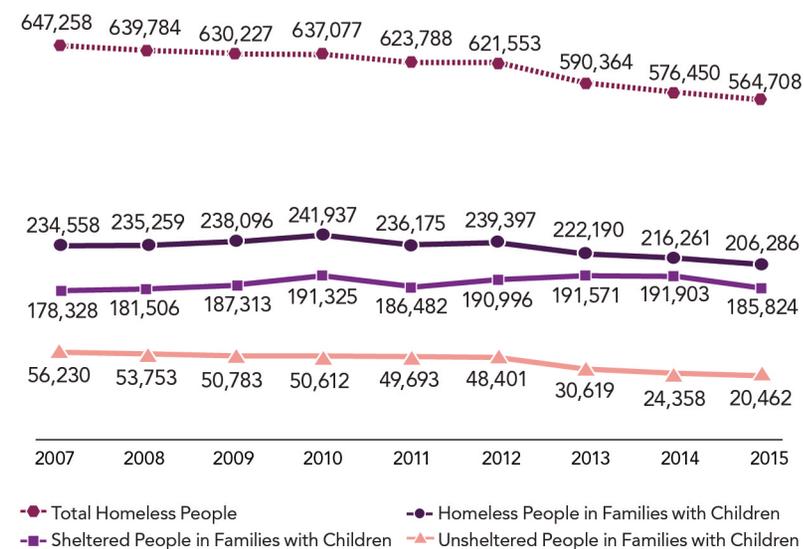
<sup>1</sup> HUD began collecting data on “parenting youth” in 2015. Section 4 of this report presents more information on this population.

Data Source: PIT 2007–2015  
Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories  
See the supporting PIT data tabulations posted on HUD’s Resource Exchange at [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

Since 2007, the number of homeless people in families with children on a single night dropped by 12.1%.

### EXHIBIT 3.1: One-Night Counts of Homeless People in Families with Children

PIT Estimates by Shelter Status, 2007-2015



Note: The PIT estimates from 2007 to 2014 are slightly lower than those reported in past AHARs. The reduction reflects an adjustment to the estimates of unsheltered homeless people submitted by the Las Vegas/Clark County CoC (NV-500). The adjustment removed: 3,884 from 2007 and 2008; 3,389 people in 2009 and 2010; 1,429 people in 2011 and 2012; and 1,404 people in 2013. Changes in NV-500 and the Anchorage CoC in 2014 resulted in 1,974 fewer people. These changes apply to all PIT estimates in this section.

### Between January 2014 and January 2015

- The number of people experiencing homelessness and counted in families with children dropped by 4.6 percent (9,975 fewer people). The number of homeless family households dropped by 5.1 percent (3,416 fewer households).
- The share of people in homeless families experiencing sheltered homelessness grew from 88.7 percent in 2014 to 90.1 percent in 2015.
- Both sheltered and unsheltered family homelessness declined, with 6,079 fewer sheltered homeless people in families in 2015 than in 2014 (a 3.2% drop) and 3,896 fewer unsheltered homeless people in families (a 16% drop).

### Between January 2007 and January 2015

- The number of people experiencing homelessness in families with children on a single night dropped by 12.1 percent (28,272 fewer people), reflecting a large decrease in the number of people in families found in unsheltered locations. A 4.2 percent increase in sheltered family homelessness (7,496 more people) was offset by a much larger decrease in unsheltered family homelessness (63.6%, or 35,768 fewer people).
- Over the eight year period, the number of homeless family households dropped by 18.3 percent (14,338 fewer family households).

### EXHIBIT 3.2: Change in Homeless People in Families with Children

PIT Estimates by Sheltered Status, 2007-2015

Years	Total Homeless People in Families with Children		Sheltered People in Families with Children		Unsheltered People in Families with Children	
	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
2014 to 2015	-9,975	-4.6	-6,079	-3.2	-3,896	-16.0
2013 to 2014	-5,929	-2.7	332	0.2	-6,261	-20.4
2012 to 2013	-17,207	-7.2	575	0.3	-17,782	-36.7
2011 to 2012	3,222	1.4	4,514	2.4	-1,292	-2.6
2010 to 2011	-5,762	-2.4	-4,843	-2.5	-919	-1.8
2009 to 2010	3,841	1.6	4,012	2.1	-171	-0.3
2008 to 2009	2,837	1.2	5,807	3.2	-2,970	-5.5
2007 to 2008	701	0.3	3,178	1.8	-2,477	-4.4
2007 to 2015	-28,272	-12.1	7,496	4.2	-35,768	-63.6

Data Source: PIT 2007–2015

Includes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See the supporting PIT data tabulations posted on HUD's Resource Exchange at [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

## By State

### On a Single Night in January 2015

- Across all states, 36.6 percent of all people experiencing homelessness were in families with children. However, people in families with children were the majority of all people experiencing homelessness in six states: NY (52,115 people), MA (14,757), MN (3,924), WI (3,065), and IA (1,580).
- More than a quarter of all people experiencing homelessness in families with children (25.5%) were in New York. Only two other states each accounted for more than five percent of the nation's family homeless population: California (11%), and Massachusetts (7.2%).

### Chronically Homeless People in Families with Children

- Just over half (54.4%) of all people experiencing chronic homelessness in families with children were located in California, New York, and Massachusetts.

### Parenting Homeless Youth

- The state-by-state distribution of parenting youth is very similar to the distribution of all people in families.
- New York accounts for 23.8 percent of all people in parenting youth households, the largest proportion of any state.

### Between January 2014 and January 2015

- The one-night count of people experiencing homelessness in families with children increased in 17 states, totaling 5,390 more people. New York comprised 77.3 percent of this increase (4,168 additional people).
- Homelessness among people in families decreased in 33 states and the District of Columbia, totaling 15,210 fewer people. Two states accounted for a third of this decrease: Florida (3,237 fewer people) and Texas (1,905 fewer people).

### Between January 2007 and January 2015

- New York and Massachusetts were the only states to have substantial increases in the number of people counted on a single night as experiencing homelessness in families with children. The number increased by 17,570 in New York and by 7,922 in Massachusetts.
- Some states had large decreases in people in families experiencing homelessness over the eight-year period: Texas (6,069 fewer people), Florida (5,454 fewer people) and California (5,452 fewer people). The largest percentage drops were in New Jersey and Oregon, with declines in people in homeless families of more than 50 percent.

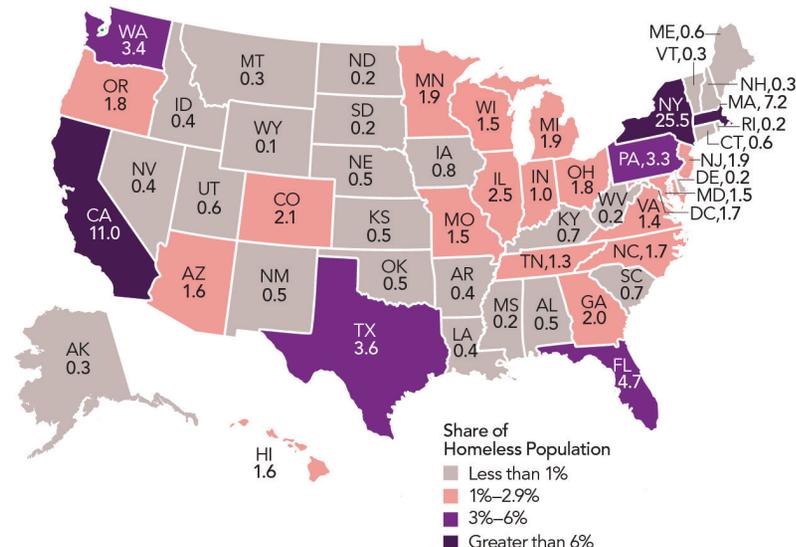
Data Source: PIT 2007–2015

Excludes Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories

See Part 1 of the 2015 AHAR for more details on PIT estimates by state ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info))

### EXHIBIT 3.3: Share of Homeless Families with Children

In the U.S. by State, 2015 (in %)



### EXHIBIT 3.4: Homeless People in Families with Children by State

Largest Changes in PIT Estimates, 2007–2015

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2014 to 2015</b>					
New York	4,168	8.7	Florida	-3,237	-25.3
Massachusetts	308	2.1	Texas	-1,905	-20.4
South Carolina	176	14.1	New Jersey	-1,316	-25.2
Hawaii	145	4.6	Arizona	-953	-22.2
Maryland	131	4.6	Minnesota	-801	-17.0
<b>2007 to 2015</b>					
New York	17,570	50.9	Texas	-6,069	-45.0
Massachusetts	7,922	115.9	Florida	-5,454	-36.3
District of Columbia	1,874	116.9	California	-5,452	-19.4
Hawaii	578	21.1	New Jersey	-4,433	-53.1
Iowa	350	28.5	Oregon	-3,954	-51.2

## By State and Sheltered Status

### On a Single Night in January 2015

- In 29 states and the District of Columbia, at least 90 percent of people experiencing homelessness in families with children were in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs. Oregon was the only state with more than 50 percent of its homeless family population in unsheltered locations.
- Three states accounted for about half of the nation's population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness as part of families with children: California (27.8% or 5,386 people), Florida (14.1% or 2,725 people), and Oregon (10.2%, or 1,982 people).

### Chronically Homeless People in Families with Children

- Nearly half (48.4%) of all people experiencing chronic homelessness in families with children in unsheltered locations were in California.
- Just over half (54.4%) of all sheltered people experiencing chronic homelessness in families with children were in New York and Massachusetts.

### Parenting Homeless Youth

- More than 90 percent of all people in parenting youth households were experiencing sheltered homelessness in 37 states and the District of Columbia. More than 30 percent of parenting youth households were found in unsheltered locations in only four states: Tennessee (46.5%), Montana (40.6%), Oregon (34.8%), and Mississippi (33.3%).

### EXHIBIT 3.5: Sheltered Homeless People in Families with Children by State

Largest Changes in PIT Estimates, 2007-2015

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2014 to 2015</b>					
New York	4,169	8.7	Texas	-1,512	-17.9
Massachusetts	291	2.0	New Jersey	-1,369	-26.3
Maryland	212	8.9	Arizona	-960	-23.6
Arkansas	156	36.0	Minnesota	-858	-18.8
Tennessee	114	6.7	Illinois	-752	-13.4
<b>2007 to 2015</b>					
New York	17,682	51.4	New Jersey	-3,971	-50.9
Massachusetts	8,194	125.4	Texas	-2,805	-28.7
District of Columbia	1,874	116.9	Washington	-2,646	-30.3
Hawaii	922	57.2	Oregon	-2,426	-57.6
Georgia	606	23.3	Kentucky	-1,832	-60.9

## By State and Sheltered Status

### Between January 2014 and January 2015

- The number of sheltered people experiencing homelessness as part of families with children increased in 14 states (5,336 additional people). New York alone accounted for 78.1 percent of the increase.
- The number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of families with children dropped in 36 states and the District of Columbia (11,401 fewer people). The largest decreases were in Texas and New Jersey.
- Florida had the largest decreases in the one-night counts of people in families with children found in unsheltered locations: 3,122 fewer people in 2015 than in 2014.

### Between January 2007 and January 2015

- The largest increases in the number of sheltered people in families with children experiencing homelessness were in New York (17,682 additional people) and Massachusetts (8,194 additional people). The largest decreases were in New Jersey and Texas.
- California, Florida, Georgia, and Texas all had substantial decreases in unsheltered family homelessness over this eight-year period. Since the AHAR began in 2007, the District of Columbia's one-night counts have found no unsheltered homeless families.

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Since 2007, the number of unsheltered people in families with children dropped by 63.6%.

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## EXHIBIT 3.6: Unsheltered Homeless People in Families with Children by State

Largest Changes in PIT Estimates, 2007-2015

Largest Increases			Largest Decreases		
State	# Change	% Change	State	# Change	% Change
<b>2014 to 2015</b>					
Colorado	422	103.7	Florida	-3,122	-53.4
Hawaii	260	50.1	Michigan	-454	-85.2
Oregon	242	13.9	Texas	-393	-46.3
South Carolina	180	72.9	North Carolina	-216	-25.2
North Dakota	109	104.8	Oklahoma	-151	-58.3
<b>2007 to 2015</b>					
Montana	163	271.7	California	-4,634	-46.2
Mississippi	56	1400.0	Florida	-4,547	-62.5
Utah	22	N/A*	Georgia	-3,636	-80.4
—	—	—	Texas	-3,264	-87.8
—	—	—	Oregon	-1,528	-43.5

\* The percent change could not be calculated because the count of unsheltered families in 2007 was zero

Note: From 2007 to 2015, the last two rows are depicted with dashes because three states alone had increases.

## 2015 PROFILE



# A Young Mother in Shelter\* with a Child

77.7% FEMALE / 50.9% 2- OR 3-PERSON HOUSEHOLD

60.9% WERE

Under Age 18

50.1% WERE

Black or African American

79.3% OF ADULTS HAD

No Disability

65.1% WERE IN A

City



PRIOR TO USING A SHELTER, 57% WERE

Staying in Housing



47 NIGHTS SPENT IN  
EMERGENCY SHELTER

\*Shelter refers to emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.



# 2015 One-Year Estimates OF SHELTERED FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

## HMIS

These one-year estimates account for all people who used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program as part of a family with children 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 people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs that do not yet participate in their local HMIS—thus providing a complete enumeration of sheltered people in families with children in each community—and are weighted to represent the entire country. The one-year estimates do not include: (a) sheltered people in families with children in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories; (b) people in families with children served by victim service providers; and (c) people in families with children in unsheltered locations who never accessed a shelter program during the 12-month period.

“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. Most of the estimates in this section describe people in families rather than family households.

### Estimate of Families with Children Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness in 2015

- An estimated 502,521 people used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program as part of a family with children between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.<sup>1</sup> These adults and children were in 154,380 family households.
- About one-third of all people experiencing sheltered homelessness (33.8%) during the one-year period were in families with children.

### Changes Over Time

- Between 2014 and 2015, the number of people in families with children using a shelter at some point during the year declined by 2.9 percent (14,896 fewer people). The number of family households declined by 3.7 percent or 5,921 households.
- Over a longer period, the number of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness increased by 6.1 percent (28,980 more people) since 2007, when HUD first began tracking this information. The number of family households experiencing sheltered homelessness over the course of a year grew from 130,968 in 2007 to 154,380 in 2015.

<sup>1</sup> The 95 percent confidence interval for the number of sheltered people in families with children in 2015 is 469,569 to 535,473 (502,521 ± 32,952).

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2015

Between 2014 and 2015, the number of people experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of families with children declined by 2.9%.

EXHIBIT 3.7a: One-Year Estimates of Sheltered People in Families with Children, 2007–2015

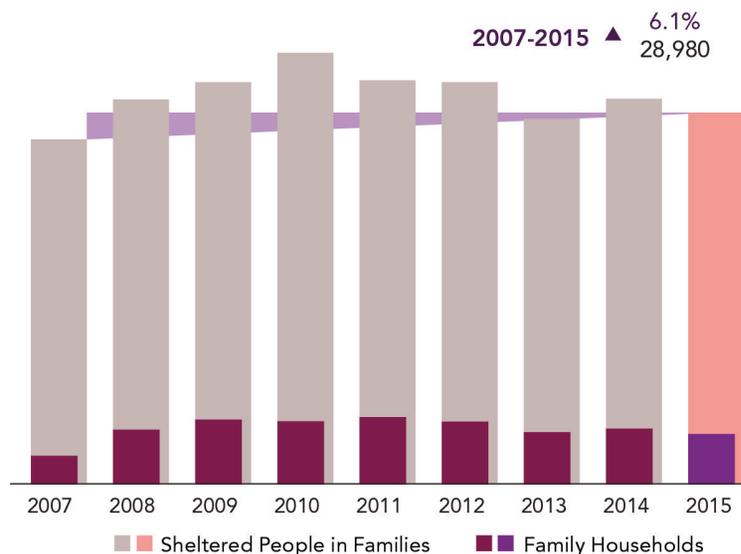


Exhibit 3.7b: One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Families with Children and Annual Change from the Prior Year, and One-Year Estimates of Sheltered Family Households, 2007–2015

Year	Sheltered People in Families with Children Estimate	# Change from Previous Year	% Change from Previous Year	Family Households Estimate
2015	502,521	-14,896	-2.9	154,380
2014	517,416	21,702	4.4	160,301
2013	495,714	-39,706	-7.4	156,540
2012	535,420	-1,994	-0.4	167,854
2011	537,414	-29,920	-5.3	172,767
2010	567,334	31,887	6.0	168,227
2009	535,447	18,723	3.6	170,129
2008	516,724	43,183	9.1	159,142
2007	473,541			130,968

## Gender and Age

Starting this year, HUD collected age information for people between the ages of 18 to 24 who experienced sheltered homelessness during the one-year period. Information is collected separately for people between the ages of 25 to 30. For more detailed information on age categories, see the supporting HMIS data available for download ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info)).

### In 2015

- More than three-quarters (77.7%) of adults experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of families with children were women. By comparison, only 64.6 percent of adults in families with children in the U.S. population living in poverty.
- About three in five people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness (60.9%) were children under 18. About half of these children (49.2%) were under six years old, and 10.4 percent were infants less than one year old.
- About two in five of the people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness (39.1%) were adults 18 years of age or older. Of these adults, 16.2 percent (48,077) were youth between the ages of 18 and 24 and 18 percent (53,370) were ages 25 to 30.
- Relatively younger adults in families with children were at greater risk of falling into sheltered homelessness than were older adults living with children. One in 220 adults in the U.S. who were between the ages of 18 and 30 and in families with children used a shelter program at some point during the year. This proportion is more than three times larger than the proportion of adults over age 30 in families with children.

Adults between the ages of 18 and 30 and in families with children were over three times as likely to use shelter programs as older adults accompanied by children.

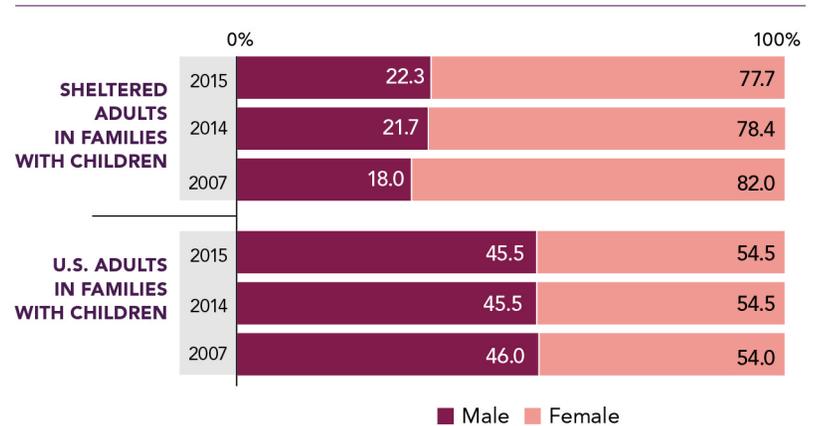
### Changes Over Time

- Though women still represent a substantial majority of adults experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children, their share of the population has declined as the number of men experiencing sheltered homelessness in families with children increased by 35.5 percent (11,450 more people) between 2007 and 2015.
- The age distribution of people experiencing sheltered homelessness as part of a family has not changed substantially since HUD began collecting these data in 2007.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2015; ACS 2006, 2013, 2014

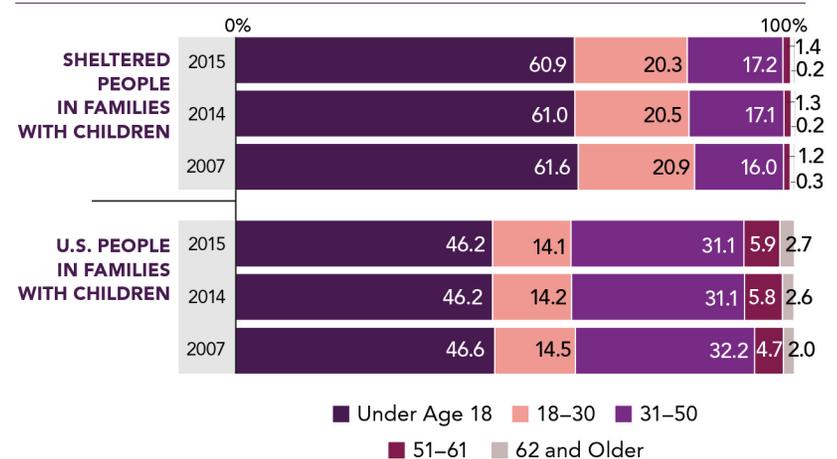
### EXHIBIT 3.8: Gender

Sheltered Adults in Families with Children and U.S. Adults in Families with Children, 2007-2015



### EXHIBIT 3.9: Age

Sheltered People in Families with Children and U.S. People in Families with Children, 2007-2015



Note: We report data for age 18-30 in the exhibit to facilitate comparisons over time. Data for those in age 18-24 and 25-30 are displayed separately in the supporting HMIS data available online ([www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info)) and are discussed in the text.

## Ethnicity and Race

### In 2015

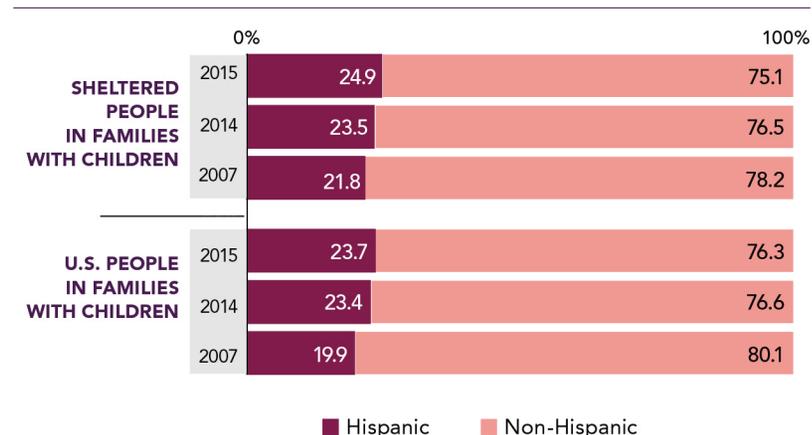
- About one-quarter of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness (24.9%) identified as Hispanic. While this proportion is similar to the share of Hispanics among all families with children in the U.S. (23.7%), it is lower than the share of Hispanics in families with children in the U.S. population living in poverty (35.4%).
- About half of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness (50.1%) identified as African American or black. This proportion is substantially higher than either the share of African Americans among all families with children in the U.S. (13.6%) or the share of African Americans in families with children in the U.S. population living in poverty (23.4%).
- About three-quarters of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness (77.6%) identified as being in non-white racial groups or white and Hispanic, a proportion much larger than that among people experiencing sheltered homelessness as individuals (53.7%).

### Changes Over Time

- As the proportion of Hispanics in all families with children in the U.S. rose from 19.9 percent in 2007 to 23.7 percent in 2015, so too did the proportion of Hispanics in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness, from 21.8 percent in 2007 to 24.9 percent in 2015.
- The proportion of African Americans in all families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness dropped from 55.2 percent in 2007 to 48.3 percent in 2014 and then rose slightly between 2014 and 2015.

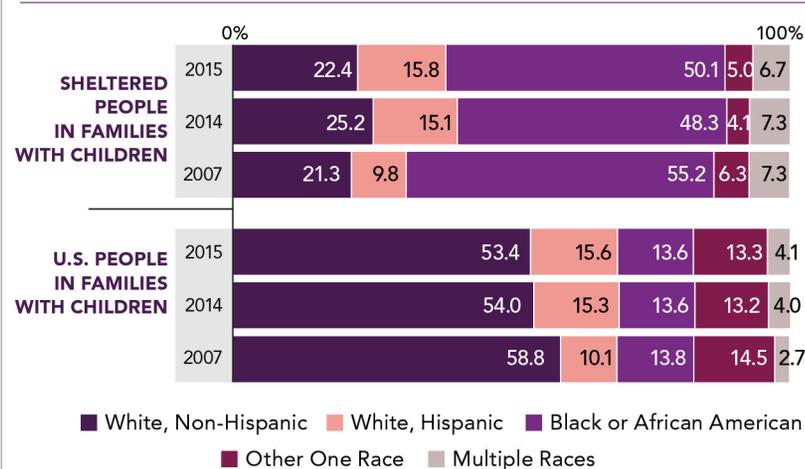
### EXHIBIT 3.10: Ethnicity

Sheltered People in Families with Children and U.S. People in Families with Children, 2007-2015



### EXHIBIT 3.11: Race

Sheltered People in Families with Children and U.S. People in Families with Children, 2007-2015



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.



## Household Size and Disability Status

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 2015

- The household sizes of families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness were smaller than those in the broader U.S. population. About half of the people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness (50.9%) were in households of two or three people. In contrast, only a quarter of people in all families with children in the U.S. (25.1%) were in households of two or three people.
- However, about a quarter of people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness (26%) were in households with five or more people.
- The disability rate among adults in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness (20.7%) is 2.4 times higher than among all adults in families with children in the U.S. (8.5%) and 1.4 times higher than among adults in families with children in the U.S. population living in poverty (15%).

### Changes Over Time

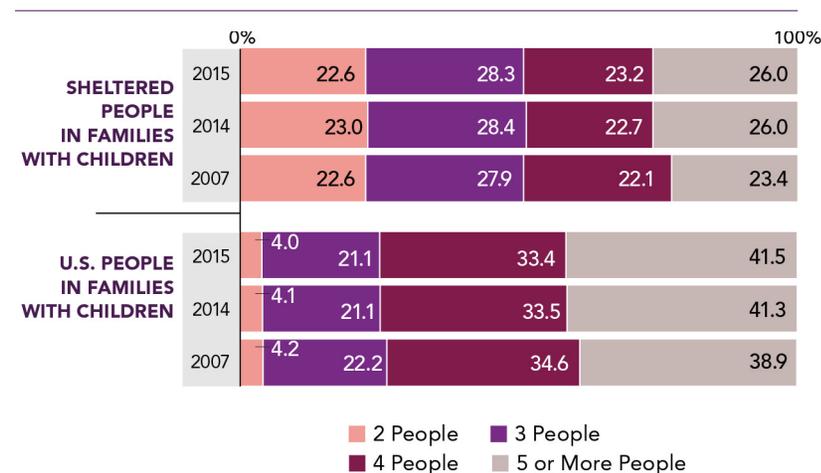
- The proportion of two-person households among people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness decreased from 26.6 percent in 2007 to 22.6 percent in 2015. Meanwhile, the proportion of households of 5 or more people grew from 23.4 percent in 2007 to 26 percent in 2015.
- The number of disabled adults in families experiencing sheltered homelessness declined by 5.9 percent (2,488 fewer people) between 2014 and 2015.

About a quarter of the people in families experiencing sheltered homelessness in 2015 were in large households of five or more people.



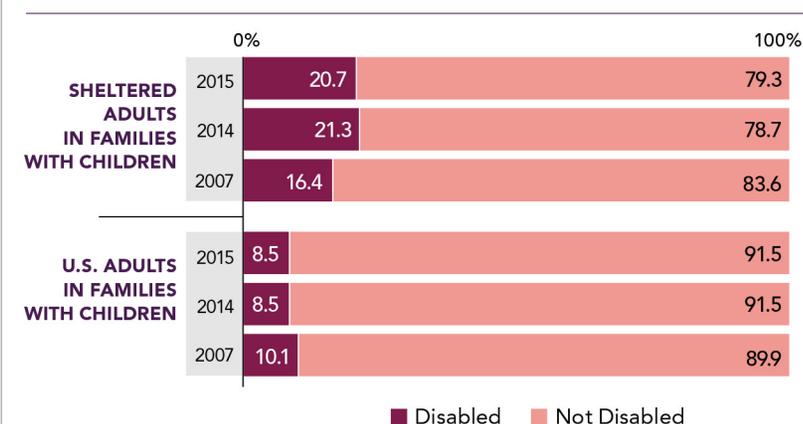
### EXHIBIT 3.12: Household Size

Sheltered People in Families with Children and U.S. People in Families with Children, 2007-2015



### EXHIBIT 3.13: Disability Status

Sheltered Adults in Families with Children and U.S. Adults in Families with Children, 2007-2015



## Geographic Location

### In 2015

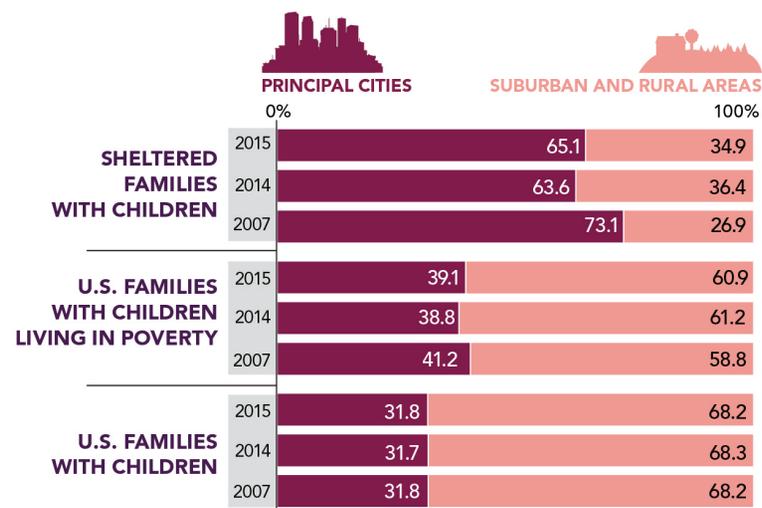
- Almost two-thirds (65.1%) of sheltered families with children experienced homeless in principal cities. By comparison, 39.1 percent of people in families with children in the U.S. population living in poverty lived in principal cities.
- A larger proportion of the sheltered family population was served in suburban and rural areas (34.9%) than of the sheltered individual population (25.6%).

### Changes Over Time

- Between 2014 and 2015, the number of people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness decreased by less than one percent (1,963 fewer people) in principal cities and declined 6.9 percent (12,933 fewer people) in suburban and rural areas.
- Between 2007 and 2015, sheltered people in a family with children experiencing homelessness in principal cities declined by 5.5 percent (19,137 fewer people) but increased 38 percent (48,342 more people) in suburban and rural areas.

### EXHIBIT 3.14: Geographic Distribution

Sheltered Families with Children, U.S. Families with Children Living in Poverty, and U.S. Families with Children, 2007-2015



Note: In 2012, the ACS changed its approach to tabulating data by geographic area. This exhibit updates the estimates for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the U.S. population as a whole to account for this change. The revised estimates result in higher proportions of people in principal cities for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the U.S. population than shown in past reports. For more information, please see the 2015 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology. This report can be downloaded from [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

### EXHIBIT 3.15: Percent Change by Geography

Change in the Number of Sheltered People in Families with Children, U.S. Families with Children Living in Poverty, and U.S. Families with Children, 2007-2015

Population	2014–2015		2007–2015	
	Principal Cities	Suburban and Rural Areas	Principal Cities	Suburban and Rural Areas
Sheltered Families with Children	-0.6	-6.9	-5.5	38.0
U.S. Families with Children Living in Poverty	-2.5	-2.3	14.8	25.3
U.S. Families with Children	0.1	0	0.3	0.5

Note: In 2012, the ACS changed its approach to tabulating data by geographic area. This exhibit updates the estimates for both the U.S. population living in poverty and the U.S. population as a whole to account for this change. For more information, please see the 2015 AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology. This report can be downloaded from [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

## Chartacteristics by Geography

### In 2015

- The proportion of Hispanics in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness was higher in principal cities (26.8%) than in suburban and rural areas (21.4%).
- African Americans represented a majority of the sheltered family population in principal cities (57.9%) and more than a third in suburban and rural areas (36.2%).
- White, non-Hispanic people experiencing sheltered homelessness were more heavily represented among families with children in suburban and rural areas (34.4%) than in principal cities (15.6%).
- The disability rate among adults in families experiencing sheltered homelessness was higher in suburban and rural areas (24%) than in principal cities (18.9%).
- For many demographic characteristics (age, gender, and household size), the profile of sheltered people in families did not differ substantially by geography.

### Changes Over Time

- Between 2014 and 2015, the number of sheltered African Americans in families with children increased 2.3 percent (3,954 more people) in principal cities, and declined 1.8 percent (1,123 fewer people) in suburban and rural areas.
- The proportion of Hispanics in families experiencing sheltered homelessness increased in suburban and rural areas from 13.4 percent in 2007 to 21.4 percent in 2015, while remaining level at about a quarter in principal cities in both 2007 and 2015.
- While the disability rate of adults in families experiencing sheltered homelessness differed little by geography in 2014, a wider gap opened in 2015 as the disability rate fell from 21.7 percent to 18.9 percent in principal cities and grew from 20.5 percent to 24 percent in suburban and rural areas.

### EXHIBIT 3.16: Characteristics by Geography

Sheltered People in Families with Children, 2007-2015 (in %)

Characteristic	Principal Cities			Suburban and Rural Areas		
	2007	2014	2015	2007	2014	2015
# Homeless People in Families with Children	346,032	328,858	326,895	127,283	188,558	175,625
<b>Gender of Adults</b>						
Male	17.8	21.3	22.5	18.3	22.3	22.1
Female	82.2	78.7	77.5	81.7	77.7	77.9
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	24.6	25.2	26.8	13.4	20.6	21.4
Non-Hispanic	75.4	74.8	73.2	86.6	79.4	78.6
<b>Race</b>						
White, Non-Hispanic	18.6	17.5	15.6	28.1	38.1	34.4
White, Hispanic	11.8	14.6	15.4	5.0	15.9	16.7
Black or African American	56.0	56.4	57.9	53.3	34.6	36.2
Other One Race	7.3	4.3	5.0	3.7	3.9	5.0
Multiple Races	6.4	7.2	6.2	9.8	7.6	7.7
<b>Age</b>						
Under Age 18	60.9	61.3	60.8	63.4	60.5	60.9
18 - 30	21.5	20.6	20.5	19.2	20.3	19.9
31 - 50	15.9	16.7	16.9	16.3	17.7	17.8
51 - 61	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.2
62 and Older	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
<b>Household Size</b>						
1 Person	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 People	28.3	22.9	22.6	22.0	23.1	22.5
3 People	27.6	28.4	27.7	28.9	28.3	29.4
4 People	21.6	22.4	22.7	23.4	23.3	23.9
5 or More People	22.5	26.4	26.9	25.7	25.3	24.2
<b>Disability Status of Adults</b>						
Disabled	15.4	21.7	18.9	18.7	20.5	24.0
Not Disabled	84.7	78.3	81.1	81.3	79.5	76.1

## Living Situation Before Entering Shelter

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

### In 2015

- Prior to entering a homeless shelter program, 57 percent of adults in families with children were in a housed situation. Of those adults, only 1.8 percent had been living in a housing unit they owned. Nearly all had been staying with family (43.8%) or friends (25.8%), or in housing they rented (28.5%).
- Another 32.8 percent of sheltered adults in families were already homeless before entering emergency shelter or transitional housing programs, and 28.7 percent of these adults were living on the street or in other unsheltered locations prior to entering shelter.
- Of those sheltered adults in families with children who were *not already homeless*, 84.9 percent were living in a housed situation prior to entering shelter, 2.5 percent were in institutional settings, and 12.6 percent were in other settings (predominantly hotels or motels not subsidized by vouchers).

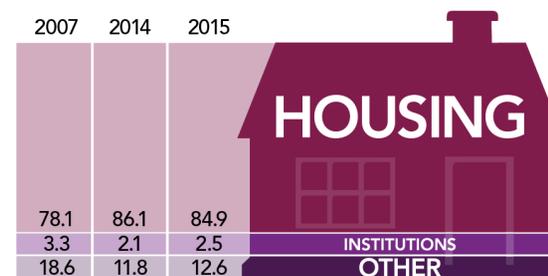
### Changes Over Time

- The number of adults in families entering shelter from the street or other unsheltered locations increased by 30.5 percent (4,310 more people) between 2014 and 2015.
- Although the number of adults in families with children entering shelter from a housed situation remains substantially larger in 2015 than in 2007 (by 38.9%), this population declined by 9.8 percent (12,110 fewer people) between 2014 and 2015.

**EXHIBIT 3.17: Places Adults in Families with Children Stayed Before Entering Shelter and Change Over Time, 2007-2015**

Place Stayed	2015		2014–2015		2007–2015	
	#	%	# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Already Homeless</b>	<b>62,925</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>5,513</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>20,571</b>	<b>46.8</b>
Sheltered	44,845	71.3	1,203	2.7	6,416	8.2
Unsheltered	18,080	28.7	4,310	30.5	13,405	267.4
<b>Housing</b>	<b>109,384</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>-12,110</b>	<b>-9.8</b>	<b>31,130</b>	<b>38.9</b>
Staying with family	47,888	43.8	-6,017	-11.0	13,117	36.8
Staying with friends	28,191	25.8	-516	-1.8	9,108	46.5
Rented housing unit	31,159	28.5	-5,650	-15.2	13,511	74.7
Owned housing unit	1,915	1.8	59	3.1	-4,437	-69.6
Permanent supportive housing (PSH)	231	0.2	14	6.3	-169	-41.8
<b>Institutional Settings</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Substance abuse treatment center	1,664	50.6	-49	-2.8	-206	-10.8
Correctional facility	912	27.8	315	50.5	370	65.0
Hospital	575	17.5	163	38.3	29	5.2
Psychiatric facility	135	4.1	47	52.8	43	46.2
<b>Other Settings</b>	<b>16,237</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>-2,471</b>	<b>-13.0</b>
Hotel or motel	12,773	78.7	905	7.5	-38	-0.3
Foster care home	150	0.9	-81	-34.5	109	242.2
Other living arrangement	3,314	20.4	-342	-9.1	-2,542	-42.6

**EXHIBIT 3.18: Places Adults in Families with Children Stayed Who Were Not Already Homeless Before Entering Shelter, 2007-2015 (in %)**



## Length of Stay and Other Bed-Use Patterns

**E**mergency 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 people experiencing homelessness. In contrast, transitional housing programs offer people experiencing homelessness 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 2015

- The homeless services system nationwide had 133,007 beds in emergency shelters for families with children and 83,693 beds in transitional housing programs for families with children. Of the 502,521 people in families with children experiencing sheltered homelessness at some point during the reporting year, 76.6 percent stayed only in emergency shelters, 16.9 percent stayed only in transitional housing programs, and 6.6 percent used both emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.
- People in families with children were less likely than individuals using emergency shelters to have stays of one week or less (15.9% versus 33.4%) and more likely to stay more than 180 days (17.7% versus. 8.2%).
- People in families with children used emergency shelters for a median of 47 nights. The median stay in transitional housing was 137 nights (about four and a half months) during the one-year reporting period.
- Over the course of the reporting year, emergency shelters served, on average, 3.8 people in families per available bed. Transitional housing programs served 1.8 people in families per available bed.

### Changes Over Time

- The emergency shelter inventory for families with children increased by 25.1 percent (52,989 more beds) from 2007 to 2015, while the transitional housing inventory for families with children decreased by an almost equal quantity (24.4%, or 51,421 fewer beds).
- Likewise, between 2007 and 2015, the number of people in families served in emergency shelters increased by 17.1 percent (60,909 more people), while the number in transitional housing declined by 18.5 percent (26,686 fewer people).
- Though emergency shelters served, in aggregate, more people in families in 2015 than in 2007, these projects served fewer people per available bed (3.8 people per bed in 2015 and 4.9 in 2007), a reflection of both the increase in inventory and the fact that clients were staying in these beds for longer periods of time. The median length of stay for people in families using emergency shelters was a month in 2007 and about a month and a half in 2015.
- Average occupancy rates have increased in emergency shelters, from 85.9 percent in 2007 to 92.6 percent in 2015, and in transitional housing programs from 72.9 percent in 2007 to 81.4 percent in 2015.

Data Source: HMIS 2007–2015; HIC 2007–2015

### EXHIBIT 3.19: Length of Stay

People in Families with Children in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2015

Length of Stay	Emergency Shelter		Transitional Housing	
	#	%	#	%
7 days or less	66,015	15.9	4,929	4.2
8 to 30 days	102,993	24.8	12,578	10.7
31 to 180 days	172,393	41.5	52,962	45.1
181 to 360 days	36,346	8.8	30,011	25.6
361 to 365 days	37,718	9.1	16,930	14.4

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 with Children in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs, 2007–2015

Bed-Use Patterns	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Housing		
	2007	2014	2015	2007	2014	2015
Median # nights	30	37	47	151	150	137
Average # nights	67	81	94	174	175	165
Average occupancy rate (in %)	85.9	92.5	92.6	72.9	82.1	81.4
Bed Count	98,287	123,252	133,007	111,368	94,149	83,693
Turnover rate	4.9	4.2	3.8	1.6	1.7	1.8

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: the total bed count count is based on the year-round beds determined at one point in time from the HIC.

Note 3: 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.

