

# CAPITAL AREA COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

## 2014 POINT IN TIME SURVEY

Of individuals and families who experience homelessness.

A network of twenty-seven agencies with forty-five programs conducted a 24-hour survey on January 29, 2014 to study the number of individuals and heads of households seeking homeless related services in Capital Area. These agencies are members of the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH), an extensive collaboration of non-profit agencies, city, county, and federal representatives, businesses and foundations who are addressing homelessness in the Capital Area.

The participating agencies and programs that conducted this year's survey were:

1. Bethesda Mission: Men's Shelter, Trinity House, Community Soup Kitchen, and Mobile Street Mission
2. Brethren Housing Association
3. Bridge of Hope
4. Capital Area Intermediate Unit
5. Case Management Unit of Dauphin County
6. Christian Churches United –Safe Haven
7. Dauphin County Crisis Intervention
8. Dauphin County Housing Authority
9. Dauphin County Children and Youth
10. DELTA Community, Inc. (Gaudenzia)
11. Downtown Daily Bread
12. Evergreen House, Catholic Charities
13. Family Promise of Harrisburg and Capital Region
14. Harrisburg School District
15. HELP Ministries for Overnight Winter Shelter at Downtown Churches
16. Helping Hands
17. Holy Spirit Medical Outreach
18. Interfaith Shelter, Catholic Charities
19. Isaiah 61 Ministries
20. Keystone Community Mental Health Service
21. NHS CDA-Windows
22. PinnacleHealth – Harrisburg Hospital
23. Salvation Army
24. Shalom House: Emergency Shelter, SHARP Program, Women Veteran's Services
25. St. Francis Soup Kitchen
26. St. Stephen's Soup Kitchen
27. YWCA of Greater Harrisburg: Emergency Shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter and Transitional housing program, Bridge and Transitional Housing, YW-WORKS Employment programs, SRO, Permanent housing for Disabilities Program, Veterans Permanent Housing, SSVF, Veterans Transitional housing and Veterans Reintegration Employment Program, Safe haven and Winter Overnight Program.

The 2014 Point in Time survey tracked all participants through the use of anonymous identifiers enabling an unduplicated count of homeless census participants at multiple locations. 530 surveys were enumerated. **39 persons were “unsheltered.” 192 were in emergency shelter, 138 in transitional housing, and 27 in safe havens, and were considered “sheltered.” A total of 396 persons or 297 adults and 99 children were either “unsheltered” or were “sheltered” at known temporary housing programs.** Additionally, another 49 (all were adults; no children) had listed “other” facilities as their shelter, or indicated that they were at a specific shelter or temporary housing program, but were not counted or registered in that program's census. The census also counted **133 formerly homeless individuals and children** who are now in permanent housing facilities for homelessness. **104 persons were “near homeless,”** i.e. not unsheltered or sheltered but doubled up, etc. **The total is 530 adults and 153 children or a total of 683 currently, formerly (i.e. now permanently housed), and nearly homeless persons.**

Basic client beneficiary information on gender, ethnicity, family size, marital status, residence of origin, sources of income, and veteran status was gathered. Further questions probed participants' current homeless situation, reasons for homelessness, and the pervasiveness of their homeless situation. The final set of questions queried client's type of housing that was requested or rendered.

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## I. BASIC BENEFICIARY INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS:

**Table 1:**

UNDUPLICATED SURVEY RESPONSES	2014	2013	2012
Total	530	555	540
Homeless Only (Unsheltered, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Haven only)	297	317	281

**THE FOLLOWING TABLES 2-8 ARE ON "HOMELESS" ONLY, I.E. DEFINED AS UNSHELTERED, EMERGENCY SHELTER, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, SAFE HAVEN**

**Table 2:**

GENDER – Homeless Only	2014	% of 293 responses (4 no responses)	2013	% of 285 responses (32 no responses)	2012	% of 270 responses (11 no responses)
Female	112	37.7%	115	40.4%	159	58.9%
Male	181	60.9%	170	59.6%	111	41.1%

**Table 3:**

ETHNICITY – Homeless Only	2014	% of 293 (4 no responses)	2013	% of 309 (8 no responses)	2012	% of 268 (13 no responses)
African American	151	50.8%	152	49.2%	132	49.3%
Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%
Bi-Racial	8	2.7%	6	1.9%	4	1.5%
Caucasian	103	34.7%	116	37.5%	107	39.9%
Hispanic	24	8.1%	31	10.0%	20	7.5%
Native American	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pacific Islander	1	0.3%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%
Other	4	1.3%	2	0.6%	4	1.5%

**Table 4:**

VETERANS- Homeless Only	2014	% of 297 Responses	2013	% of 317 Responses	2012	% of 281 Responses
	49	16.5%	44	13.9%	40	14.2%

**Table 5:**

FAMILY OR SINGLE STATUS -Homeless Only	2014	% of 297 Responses	2013	% of 292 (25 no responses)	2012	% of 273 (8 no responses)
Alone	229	77.1%	200	68.5%	206	75.5%
Adults as couple without children	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	4	1.5%
Adult households with child(ren)	66	22.2%	89	30.5%	63	23.0%
Children in family (male : female)	99 (35 m :64f)	35.4% (m) :64.6% (f)	134 (112 m: 22 f)	83.6% (m): 16.4% (f)	127 (79 m: 48 f)	62.2% (m) :37.8% (f)
Minor (under 18) unaccompanied	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Minor head of household (under 18) with children	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%

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**Table 6:**

DUAL PARENT STATUS – Homeless Only	2014	% of 297 Responses	2013	% of 292 (25 no responses)	2012	% of 281 Responses
	3	1.0%	5	1.70%	6	2.14%

**Table 7:**

RESIDENCE THREE MONTHS BEFORE HOMELESS- Homeless Only	2014	% of 297 Responses	2013	% of 317 Responses	2012	% of 281 Responses
City of Harrisburg	179	60.3%	192	60.6%	151	53.7%
Dauphin County outside Harrisburg	36	12.1%	28	8.8%	37	13.2%

**Table 8:**

SOURCES OF INCOME – Homeless Only	2014	% of 297 Responses	2013	% of 317 Responses	2012	% of 281 Responses
Employment	73	24.6%	25	7.9%	55	19.6%
Unemployment	8	2.7%	47	14.8%	7	2.5%
Welfare cash assistance	20	6.7%	70	22.1%	46	16.4%
Social security	47	15.8%	17	5.4%	35	12.5%
Veterans benefits	7	2.4%	6	1.9%	8	2.8%
Child support	7	2.4%	6	1.9%	3	1.1%
Food stamps	128	43.1%	146	46.1%	109	38.8%

## II. HOMELESS CAUSE AND CURRENT SITUATION

**Table 9: (RESULTS FROM ALL SURVEY RESPONSES)**

HOMELESS SITUATION - HOUSEHOLDS (ALL SURVEY PARTICIPANTS)	2014	% of 530 Responses	2013	% of 555 Responses	2012	% of 540 Responses
<b>Unsheltered</b> --Living on Streets or place not meant for habitation	39	7.4%	32	5.8%	57	10.6%
<b>Sheltered</b> --10 to 30 full-day Emergency or Domestic Violence Shelter	185	34.9%	172	31.0%	142	26.3%
<b>Sheltered</b> --Transitional Housing for only homeless persons	87	16.4%	94	17.0%	82	15.2%
<b>Sheltered</b> --Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless (e.g. Shelter + Care, SRO, Permanent housing for disabled persons)	118	22.3%	130	23.4%	106	19.6%
<b>Sheltered</b> --Safe Haven	37	7.0%	19	3.4%	14	2.6%
<b>Near Homeless</b> --Being evicted within a week with no resources and no place to go	4	0.7%	1	0.2%	64	11.9%
<b>Near Homeless</b> --Being discharged from an institution and no resources nor place to go	8	1.5%	3	0.5%	10	1.9%
<b>Near Homeless</b> --Living with others temporarily but have to leave with no resources and no place to go	52	9.8%	104	18.7%	2	0.4%

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**THE FOLLOWING TABLES 10-11 ARE ON "HOMELESS" ONLY, I.E. DEFINED AS UNSHELTERED, EMERGENCY SHELTER, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, SAFE HAVEN**

**Table 10:**

REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS - Ranked as Primary and Secondary Causes (Homeless only)	2014	% of 297 Surveys	2013	% of 317 Surveys	2012	% of 281 Surveys
Drug Use- Primary	58	19.5%	49	15.46%	47	16.7%
Drug Use- Secondary	26	8.8%	24	7.57%	10	3.6%
Alcohol Use- Primary	29	9.8%	40	12.62%	19	6.8%
Alcohol Use - Secondary	33	11.1%	35	11.04%	22	7.8%
Domestic Violence- Primary	28	9.4%	13	4.10%	23	8.2%
Domestic Violence Secondary	3	1.0%	11	3.47%	1	0.4%
Mental Health- Primary	51	17.2%	40	12.62%	18	6.4%
Mental Health - Secondary	33	11.1%	34	10.73%	13	4.6%
Eviction due to non-payment of rent - Primary	18	6.1%	25	7.89%	0	0.0%
Eviction due to non-payment of rent - Secondary	7	2.4%	21	6.63%	0	0.0%
HIV/AIDS – Primary	0	0.0%	0	0.00%	22	7.8%
HIV/AIDS – Secondary	1	0.3%	0	0.00%	7	2.5%
Job Loss – Primary	43	14.5%	51	16.09%	44	15.7%
Job Loss – Secondary	26	8.8%	40	12.62%	35	12.5%
Family break-up - Primary	23	7.7%	28	8.83%	25	8.9%
Family break-up - Secondary	20	6.7%	35	11.04%	19	6.8%
Medical problems - Primary	16	5.4%	14	4.42%	10	3.6%
Medical problems - Secondary	23	7.7%	32	10.10%	12	4.3%
Temporary living situation ended - Primary	33	11.1%	48	15.14%	42	14.9%
Temporary living situation ended - Secondary	41	13.8%	29	9.15%	23	8.2%
Other - Primary	23	7.7%	16	5.50%	47	16.7%
Other - Secondary	27	9.1%	24	7.57%	10	3.6%

**Table 11:**

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS – Homeless Only	2014	% of 297 Responses	2013	% of 317 Responses	2012	% of 281 Responses
Have a disabling condition, have been in emergency shelter or on the streets at least 4 times in 3 years or several times in the past 12 months? (Hearth/Mckinney-Vento Act definition)	80*	27.3%	69	21.8%	51	18.9%

\*This increase is because of 25 new transitional housing beds for chronically homeless for veterans through the YWCA in 2014. The # of chronically homeless who were unsheltered decreased by 2 from 2013 to 2014.

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**Table 12:** surveys the housing availability requested or rendered where applicable during the 24-hour period. All responses are categorized into one of four possible statuses; housing received, housing not accepted, housing requested but waiting/referred, and finally housing requested but unavailable.

The % of responses for each category is taken out of the total number of responses given for the particular services. N= ALL SURVEY PARTICIPANTS WHO ANSWERED.

HOUSING REQUEST	Total Resp.	RECEIVED	% of resp.	NOT ACCEPTED	% of resp.	WAITING	% of resp.	UNAVAIL- LABLE	% of resp.
Emergency Shelter	154	136	88.3%	3	1.9%	3	1.9%	12	7.8%
Transitional Housing	109	83	76.1%	5	4.6%	6	5.5%	15	13.8%
Safe Haven	50	33	66.0%	3	6.0%	3	6.0%	11	22.0%
Permanent Housing	84	64	76.2%	4	4.8%	6	7.1%	10	11.9%

### III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

27 agencies participated in the 2014 PIT and 530 adult surveys were collected. Of the 530 adult surveys collected: 39 (7.7%) were unsheltered; 309 (67.8%) said they were sheltered in an emergency or transitional housing or safe haven; 126 (24.7%) said they were no longer homeless and in permanent housing programs; and 64 (12.2%) were near homeless. The 530 surveyed adults had 153 accompanying children or 683 persons total.

445 individuals (346 adults and 99 children) were defined as “homeless” i.e. unsheltered or in shelters, transitional housing, or safe havens (396 were unsheltered or counted as sheltered since they were occupying beds in known facilities, but still another 49 adults who were not counted as occupying beds at known facilities, also stated that they were at a shelter or transitional housing or safe haven.)

Of the 396 unsheltered and sheltered homeless population the majority was male (60.9%). The majority was unaccompanied without a significant other or children (77.1%) and there were 68 families. 50.8% were African American followed by the next highest category which was Caucasian at 34.7%. 72.4% were Dauphin County residents three months prior to being homeless, including 60.3% who resided in Harrisburg. 24.6% were employed. 16.5% were veterans. 27.3% or 80 were chronically homeless.

The highest primary reason given for becoming homeless is drug use (19.5%) followed by mental health (17.2%). Job loss (14.5%) was the highest secondary reason given for homelessness, followed by mental health and alcohol use (11.1%).

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Submitted by George Payne on behalf of the CACH Data Collection Committee.